

WYOMING TRIFECTA

HOW CAN YOU GET
THIS DONE IN ONE SEASON?



"Mr. DeBerard, this is the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and you are the lucky winner of the 2018 Super Tag Trifecta."

It took a while to sink in but when it did the goose bumps went from head to toe and lasted a couple of days. Then it turned to panic, how am I going to get all this done in one season? I have to pick three Super Tags for Wyoming. It took a lot of thought and I chose moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat.

I needed to find a guide for the bighorn and mountain goat and decided to use Shoshone Outfitters for both hunts. I just had a good feeling about Josh Martoglio while we talked about his experiences and how he would work with my busy schedule. On the second of September, I got the call and off we went to Cody, Wyoming



and sheep camp.

We followed the guide in as far as we could drive, then unloaded and got on the horses. I hadn't been on a horse for 20 years and could tell right away that my butt was not going to like this. We rode for about eight hours and when we arrived at camp it was breathtaking. Camp was next to the river with a meadow and steep mountains all around. Morning came quick and on the horses, we went up a draw to the north of camp. We made our way to a big bowl where the trail stopped. Josh and Bo went on the other side of the draw to glass, Kenny, Jeff, and I stayed with the horses glassing the south side.

They were gone about 20 minutes when Josh came back and said, "We have a shooter above us so be very quiet."

The shot would be about 350 yards. Josh told me to take my time. I finally started to settle down when the sheep stood up and started to walk around. When he stopped he was looking straight at me with rocks on both sides. I put the cross hairs in the "V" on his chest and squeezed, boom!

Josh said, "How does it feel to have gotten your first BIGHORN SHEEP?"

The rest of the day was relaxing and watching the grizzly bears on the mountain slopes. We had a good time eating backstraps until we could not move, and sat around the camp fire telling stories.

Josh suggested that we wait to hunt for goats until late October when the hair is much longer, so it was time to find a moose and find one I did, a non-typical bull with a club coming down by his left eye. Raising my bow above my head and grunting, I sauntered over to the bull, surprised that he was responsive to my trick.

I ranged him at 30 yards, drew back and let him have it. I watched my arrow disappear in his body and he ran into the trees. I got on the phone and called some friends, Jeff

and Dustin, to help me. We let him sit for about an hour before following the blood trail down to a beaver pond and sure enough, he died in the pond. It was close to a road, so we got the side-by-side with a winch and 200' of rope. We pulled him out of the water and quartered him up. That was the first time I got to touch his rack. It was crazy weird, wide, and ugly, but perfect for me.

Next on the list, the once-in-a-lifetime mountain goat. I got the call on the 27th of October to head up to Cody and get a room. The next morning, my guide Jake and I left early and the plan was to be glassing for the most part.

The glassing spot was perfect, we could see everything in all directions. As the day went on we saw about 30 goats. We tried to get to a set of billy goats but there were cliffs all around them. We sat up on the rocks watching until the sun went down.

The next morning, we were back at it, glassing the steep cliffs. There was a billy way down to the west in the same spot as the morning before. The time had come to plan a stalk. We could see a horse trail close to the goat, so Josh made a call for some horses to meet us there. We cut down a draw that looked the easiest to come out above the billy while the weather was starting to move in on us fast. We all got out on a rock outcropping so we could see the billy. He was 250 yards away, and we sat there for what felt like hours waiting for him to take a left step out from behind the trees. Playing the waiting game in the wind and snow sucks.

Finally, he took a left turn, I shot, and he started to roll downhill, then he got up and laid next to a tree. I could not see him anymore. We hurried to closer rocks to get another shot if need be. The rock cliff that I was laying over freaked me out. I wrapped my leg around a small tree and leaned out with the rifle

pointing down. I shot and he was done. Now to get to him.

I followed Josh down a steep area between the rocks and held onto the trees. Josh got there first and yelled, "We have ground growth!"

We all got around and took some pictures and then Laci, Josh's girlfriend, headed up to the horses before it got completely dark. I was so happy to see the horses. The guys came up with the billy and we rode back to the truck in the dark, which was probably a good thing because I could not see the cliffs next to us as we rode on the narrow trail.

On the way, out in the dark Jake looked back at me and asked, "How does it feel to finish the Trifecta Zack?"

I had to pause for a moment. It was a great weight off my shoulders as I had feared eating super tag soup. Instead, I had a wonderful hunting year, my best ever.



GEAR LIST

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Firearm | Best of the West 6.5 x 284 |
| Scope | Huskemaw |
| Bow | Mathews Switchback |
| Broadheads | Rage |
| Sight | Spot Hogg |
| Binoculars | Swarovski |
| Spotting Scope | Swarovski |
| Clothing | KUIU |
| Boots | Scarpa |
| Pack | KUIU 1800 |
| Rangefinder | Vortex Ranger 1000 |
| Kinfe | Buck |

Gear Giveaway
see page 4.



gp-optics.com

Outfitter Info: Shoshone Lodge Outfitters
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