

Montana

HUNTING & FISHING

May 2014

News



The Spawn Is On At Canyon Ferry

Trevor Johnson
Owner, Kit's Tackle
34.5" post spawn walleye
Yellow Perch Glass Minnow
Canyon Ferry

**SPRING BEAR STRATEGIES
THE UNEXPECTED HUNTER**

- **WHEN A PIKE COMES CALLIN'**
- **WISHING FOR WALLEYES**

\$2.50US



THE HUNTING SHACK, INC.
Ammunition. New Look Same Dead on Accuracy
Made in Montana. Available at your local retailer.



EVERY SPORT. EVERY ADVENTURE. EVERY TIME.

BOB WARD

& Sons SPORTING GOODS

YOUR LOCAL SPORTS & OUTDOOR STORE SINCE 1917



NEVER COMPROMISE ON GEAR



MISSOULA

3015 Paxson St.
728-3220

BOZEMAN

3011 Max Ave.
586-4381

HELENA

3323 Dredge Dr.
443-2138

BUTTE

1925 Dewey Blvd.
494-4452

HAMILTON

1120 N. 1st. St.
363-6204

LOOKING FOR AMMO?

The most readily available, inexpensive ammunition is American Eagle 223.

Grab a couple boxes at Bob Ward's.

**Priced from:
9.99 per box***

*for AE.223J



BOB WARD
& Sons SPORTING GOODS


**FEDERAL
PREMIUM**
AMMUNITION

MISSOULA

3015 Paxson St.
728-3220

BOZEMAN

3011 Max Ave.
586-4381

HELENA

3323 Dredge Dr.
443-2138

BUTTE

1925 Dewey Blvd.
494-4452

HAMILTON

1120 N. 1st. St.
363-6204



Budweiser Miller Lite & Coors **\$21⁴⁹**
 30pk Cans

Fritos & Cheetos **\$2⁴⁹**
 8.75-10.25oz

REALTREE ENERGY **2/\$3**
 16oz

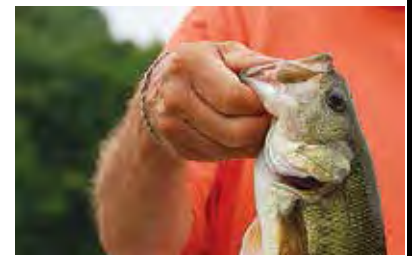
Snapple Cans **2/\$1**
 16oz

Hi-Country Jerky **\$6⁹⁹**
 7.2-8 oz

Prices good through June 2, 2014

CORRALLING CRUISERS WITH A FLOATING WORM

Berkley Fishing www.berkley-fishing.com



©Scout24dreamstime.com

If you spend time at the lake, either at the marina or around the boat slips, undoubtedly you've noticed bass cruising around. You've probably been on the water since before sunrise, made a long run to an end of the lake and all the while there are bass within a short walk of a hot cup of coffee and an indoor restroom. It can be frustrating.

But to experience true frustration, try your hand at catching one of these cruisers. The frustration seems to ratchet up even higher as the cruising bass get bigger. Sure, they're swimming around and you can see them, but it's hard to make them bite. There's no shortage of ways to try to target these cruisers, but one of the most effective ways I've found is to use a floating worm. A floating worm can help you catch fish whenever they are refusing to eat, but only if you know how to use it.

What could be so hard about using a floating worm? A lot of people just cast it out, let it fall and twitch the bait a little. But there's more to it than that. First, I like to use floating worms in shallow water (5 feet or less) or when the bass are high in the water column around structure – like boat slips. I use them a lot during spring and fall because the differences in water temperature between day and night draw more bass into shallow water. As the sun gets higher on these spring and fall days, the shallow water warms faster than the deeper water. So, the bass will migrate into these areas mid- to late morning (that's why you see them cruising the boat slips when you come back to the marina for a sandwich), so focus on areas around the docks, heavy vegetation and willow trees.

I don't consider the floating worms a go-to bait. I usually reserve these for really tough days. When the bass are shallow, I'd much rather be flipping or throwing a spinnerbait. **But when I am seeing them cruising and they won't eat, the floating worm is my last resort.** When the bass seem to have lockjaw, it can be because the conditions are tougher than normal. But if the conditions turn windy, I prefer a spinnerbait.

When using a floating worm, the most important thing to do is establish a cadence, a walk-the-dog-type rhythm like those used on big top-water baits. As the bait passes cover, pause your retrieve and hang on: stopping the bait sometimes drives bass crazy and strikes can range from dead weight to a slight tug or violent flash and boil.

My floating worm rig stays pretty much the same wherever I go: I use a Berkley Power Bait 6-inch Bubblegum Pink Floating Steelhead Worm.



I use 14- or 20-pound Fireline mainline (depending on the amount of cover in the area) and use 8-pound Trilene XL as a leader, connected with a Double Uni Knot, and spooled on a Size 3 spinning reel and a 6-foot finesse-action spinning rod. I never weight the floating worm (so it will float) and rig the bait with a 4/0 offset worm hook.

Sometimes the fishing gets so tough that you run out of ideas. When that happens, try a floating worm in shallow water around cover and see if you can entice a big cruiser to come crash into your bait. Once you figure out how to make the floating worm work for you, you'll be hauling in fish while everyone else struggles.

BEST-IN-CLASS POWER, MAX TOWING, FUEL ECONOMY*

EFFICIENT MOBILE OFFICE
VOICE ACTIVATED SYNC®
LCD PRODUCTIVITY SCREEN
TOW/Haul MODE WITH ENGINE BRAKING
INTEGRATED TRAILER BRAKE CONTROLLER
TRAILER SWAY CONTROL
TOUGH BED® BEDLINER
ALTERNATIVE FUEL CAPABILITY
NEW, LARGER TURBOCHARGER
AVAILABLE IN 15 HARD-WORKING MODELS

*When properly equipped. Class is Full-Size Pickups over 8,500 lbs. GVWR. Fuel economy claim based on Ford simulated city-suburban drive-cycle tests of comparably equipped 2015 Ford and 2011-2013 competitive models, consistent with SAE Standard J1321.

All NEW 2015 Ford Super Duty

SEE OUR SELECTION
TODAY!



BROADWATER FORD & MARINE

Come see our huge selection of Fords. "Drive A Little, Save A Lot!"

Ask for
Michael Anderson at
406.980.0167 or
406.266.5207

7675 U.S.Hwy. 287, Townsend
Three Forks exit at I-90
or from Helena Hwy. 287.
or visit
www.broadwaterford.net



Scent Control Is A Global Challenge

By Jason Herbert Sponsored By Robinson Outdoors, Tree Spider & Scentblocker Products

Reprinted with permission from Bowhunting.net

For more please go to: www.bowhunting.net



Wild man and host of Nosler's Magnum TV, Rob Dunham has the chance to hunt big game across the world. Growing up loving the wilds of the beautiful Saskatchewan province of Canada quickly helped Rob become the outdoorsman he is today. Cutting his teeth guiding bear and deer hunters, Rob soon graduated to running his own outfitting business while becoming a popular television personality. Rob's one of the most well traveled hunters that I've had a chance to work with and we spoke recently about how he practices scent control throughout his adventures across the globe.

"Animals depend on their sense of smell- across the world- no matter what species they are. Scent control is an important part of my plan regardless of where I am hunting." To Rob, and many other successful trophy hunters, scent control is an important piece of the hunting puzzle- it's one aspect of their plan.

First Dunham starts by scouting. "I like to focus on areas with superior genetics." Rob explained that regardless of where he is hunting, he scouts way more than he hunts and makes sure that the caliber of animal he's after is in fact living in the area. If there's not a trophy buck or ram living in the area, then there's not a lot of sense hunting there. "I literally spend hundreds of hours each season scouting."

"I use ScentBlocker gear and liquids to mask my scent plus take care of any odors on all of my gear. **That's the thing many hunters overlook- their gear.** With the help of my scent control routine I was able to get within 60 meters of a world class Marco Polo ram in Kyrgyzstan and almost too close to several "Dugga Boy" Cape Buffalo in Africa." Rob explained that like most North American whitetail hunters he stores his clothes in scent free containers, showers, uses all the liquids and sprays and basically does everything we coach whitetail deer hunters to do with their ScentBlocker gear. Depending on the terrain, temperature and animal- Rob will adjust what gear he's using accordingly. When it's hot and he's hiking a lot, Rob utilizes the lightweight, moisture wicking scent killing gear like the Trinity 1.5 shirt. When it's cold with blistering winds, it's warmer gear like the Outfitter series which contains a reversible and removable WindBlocker fleece vest. (continued on page 43)



Rob Dunham depends on ScentBlocker scent controlling power no matter where or what he hunts.



Superior Construction
Quality Craftsmanship



NOBODY OFFERS A
BETTER
WARRANTY
THAN WE DO

JAYCO EAGLE HT 5TH WHEEL

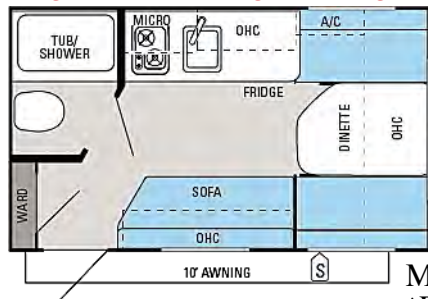
- Half ton towable Shown in above photo
- 4 Season Engineered with Climate Shield to protect against extreme heat and extreme cold (tested in 0 to 100 F over an extended period of time)

3 Models to choose from 26.5RKS, 26.5RLS and 26.5BHS

3 models
on sale
\$29,995

Jayco Jay Flight Swift SLX

Big on amenities, light on weight.



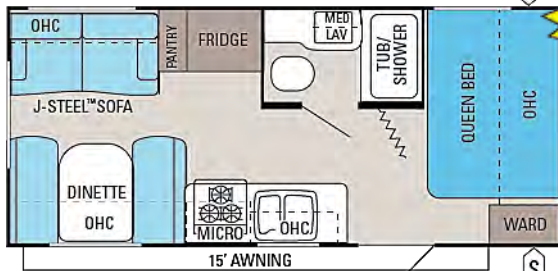
- Lightweight and towable with a number of minivans and crossovers

Model 145RB shown 2250 UVW
Fully self-contained

Many floorplans to choose from.*
*Prices vary by model.

Starting at only
\$9,995

Jayco Jay Flight 19RD



Also Equipped With:

26" LED HD TV w/CD/DVD Player, Power Awning w/LED Light, a Power Tongue Jack, 4 Electric Stabilizers, and the thermal package which includes a heated enclosed underbelly with complete foil wrap in the floor, roof and sidewalls.

Starting at only
\$16,995

- Standard:
- 8 Cu. Ft. Fridge
- Denver Pillowtop Mattress
- Magnum Truss Roof System up to 50% stronger than the competition

Available with
Fiberglass exterior
for an additional
\$836

We have a Large Inventory of New & Pre-owned Units & Are
Western Montana's Largest Jayco Dealer

NEW UNITS ARRIVING DAILY!

TRUSTED SINCE 1958
Rangitsch Bros. LLC

2001 W. BROADWAY, MISSOULA

1-800-823-2221 • 406-728-4040

www.rangitschbrosv.com



Things To Think About While Wishing For Walleyes



Northland Fishing Tackle
www.northlandtackle.com

By Pro Staffer - "Bro" Brosdahl

It's early in the season. The labor of spawning is a fling of the past – the breeders are well rested. Water temps are in that magical range – above 50 but no higher than the low 70s. Walleyes are licking their chops and under the impression that the next minnow or jig that eases by is a complimentary meal – big mistake.

The fishing IS good, so don't over-think your approach. Trust me, if you write down these tips on your hand with a Sharpie – ala Sarah Palin's cheat-sheet technique – you will get bit and not blow a brain chip doing so.

Unearthing Eaters Sort of hate the term because it implies certain fate by fryer. But you know what I'm talking about – small to midsize fish, typically males. They're the easiest to locate and lasso this time of year. And without giving it a second thought, my initial probing starts over gravel flats. On a typical natural lake that puts you in 6 to 12 feet of water. If the water's clearer than moonshine, though, slip out into the 18 to 22 foot range. In both instances, if weeds and or a shoreline point are involved, more power to you.

My second nod goes to a raging river mouth – something significant that walleyes either use to breed or chokes-up with baitfish. A river mouth is actually a broader, more dynamic area than the name implies, too. Relative to that reality, check the actual mouth, upstream a spell if navigable, as well as the spillway up to a quarter mile out into the lake. Watch your electronics and pay close attention for signs of a deeper river channel. Those cuts can be killer.

Satisfying Slobs These are not for eating. Got it? Trusting that you're an ethical angler, I'm going to give you my top terrain for finding giant early season walleyes. Ready? Rocks, big rocks. Deep or shallow, I've caught more slovenly, spawned out females amongst boulders than anywhere else. These sows are hungry, too, but not inclined to chase bait around. Rather, they hunker down in an ambush stance and wait for deliveries. I'm convinced that they're waiting for me to lower a sumo-sized minnow on a rig or jig. Rarely does a year pass when I don't pin a couple of trophies on the Minnesota Opener using Popsicle sized shiners or chubs.

Secret Structure Rocks are regular. Sand the same. And points, well, very predictable. So here's an arrow to add to the quiver that you might not already own. Clam beds. They're pretty prevalent on large lakes and generally colonize in 6 to 10 feet of water inside, or just beyond the outside weedline. And with foliage not yet totally in place, now's the time to find them. (By midsummer clam beds can get buried in greens and be virtually undetectable.) (continued on page 15)

ADVERTISING
RICK HAGGERTY (406) 370-1368
Publisher - Amy Haggerty - Helena, MT.
huntingfishingnews@yahoo.com
www.huntingfishingnews.net

THE ENTIRE CONTENTS IS © 2014. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT. THE MATERIAL AND INFORMATION PRINTED IS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES FROM WHICH THERE CAN BE NO WARRANTY OR RESPONSIBILITY BY BIG SKY OUTDOOR NEWS & ADVENTURE, INC. NOR DOES THE PRINTED MATERIAL NECESSARILY EXPRESS THE VIEWS OF BIG SKY OUTDOOR NEWS & ADVENTURE, INC. ALL PHOTO & EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS BECOME THE PROPERTY OF BIG SKY OUTDOOR NEWS & ADVENTURE, INC. TO USE OR NOT USE AT THEIR DISCRETION. VOLUME 11 ISSUE 3

Please support the advertisers you see in this publication and let them know you saw their advertisement in the Hunting & Fishing News. Thank you and thanks for reading the Hunting & Fishing News.



Photo Bob Humphrey

Off-Season Bowhunting Practice

By Bob Humphrey

Yamaha Outdoors Tips

Archery season is still a ways away, but that's no reason to slack off. Keeping your shooting muscles in shape will help make you a better shooter come fall. And it's also a great way to while away the days until fall. Here are a few ideas on how to stay in shape and be ready for the early bow seasons.

Simulate Field Conditions.

Most folks practice by shooting at a square target on an open range and level ground. That kind of practice will only go so far in helping you in the field. Substitute a 3-D deer target (or whatever species you're hunting). If you hunt from a tree stand; practice from a tree stand. If you hunt in thick cover; practice in thick cover. If you hunt sitting down; practice shooting from a seat.

Practice estimating distance.

Range finders are helpful, if you have time to use them. Otherwise, you've got to be a good judge of distance. Have someone toss out four-inch-square blocks of styrofoam or ethafoam around your practice stand at various random distances; then shoot at them. Or, shoot from various, random locations.

Practice in your hunting clothes.

Practice with your face mask, if you hunt with one. You'd be amazed how much your shots can differ with and without.

Also be aware of how bulky clothing could affect, or even interfere with your shooting.

Don't forget fundamentals.

Practice makes perfect, but you can also learn bad habits.

Remember the mantra: pick a spot, breathe, squeeze and follow through. Squeeze the trigger on your release aid - like a gun, it should be a surprise when it goes off. And concentrate on holding your sight on target after the shot. Don't try to look around the bow to see where you hit.

Best Tire Value PROMISE

FREE WITH EVERY PASSENGER CAR AND LIGHT TRUCK TIRE PURCHASE



Peace of Mind Tire Protection

- If a Tire is Damaged Beyond Repair, We'll Replace its Value
- Our Workmanship is Guaranteed for the Life of Your Tires
- We Offer Free Pre-Trip Safety Checks



Lifetime Tire & Mileage Care

- Free Flat Tire Repairs
- Free Tire Rotations
- Free Tire Rebalancing
- Free Air Checks
- Free Brake & Alignment Checks
- Hundreds of Les Schwab Locations to Serve You



Doing the Right Thing Since 1952

15 MONTANA LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!

KALISPELL 1015 W Center Street (406) 755-1940	WHITEFISH 6355 US Hwy 93, S (406) 862-4523	POLSON 36030 Memory Lane (406) 883-1099	STEVENSVILLE 4026 US Hwy 93, N (406) 777-4667	MISSOULA 2605 Brooks Street (406) 721-0888
KALISPELL 2335 US Hwy 2, E (406) 755-1212	HELENA 2970 Prospect Avenue (406) 495-0070	RONAN 63360 US Hwy 93, S (406) 676-7800	LIBBY 32032 Hwy 2 (406) 293-7797	HAMILTON 211 N 1st Street (406) 363-3884
COLUMBIA FALLS 1737 9th Street W (406) 892-3223	BUTTE 290 Holland Street (406) 782-3866	DEER LODGE 217 Main (406) 846-2205	MISSOULA 2800 W Broadway (406) 721-1770	DILLON 1035 Selway Drive (406) 683-8884

8th Annual
DIESEL DYNO DAY
June 7th 2014 - 9am to 3pm

Montana's Largest Diesel Truck Event



See some of the Baddest Diesel Trucks Around and Support the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation!

- Family Fun
- Show & Shine
- Vendor Specials
- Door Prizes - Cash Prizes
- Free Lunch Served by HOOTERS



~ It's a Diesel Truck Showdown ~

GOMER'S
US DIESEL PARTS
.COM

2400 Palmer - Missoula, MT 59808
1(800)823-4444

SPRING BEAR CALLING STRATEGIES

By Mark Kayser



The first time I called in a bear wasn't in the spring, but it gave me the confidence that you could call a bear in using game calls. It was September and the elk rut was roaring. I'd eased out onto a rocky outcropping to cow call and see if any interested bulls would respond below.

None did, but within minutes I spotted a milk-chocolate sow and her cub strolling toward me 600 yards in the distance. A few minutes later I spied them again as they flanked my position in the adjacent timber. I thought the sight of them so close was just a coincidence. I was wrong. Minutes later the pair popped up 15 yards behind me effectively cutting off my escape from the rocky ledge. They definitely came to the call because clamoring up the rocks and out onto the ledge required an intentional road map. Were they going to tromp closer? What were their intentions? Was I about to dive off these rocks like an Olympic diver with no swimming pool below?

Fortunately the bears looked me over and decided I wasn't much of an elk. They turned and tiptoed back down the rocks disappearing in the forest below. Then it hit me. I had just called in my first black bear.

Calling spring black bears opens up another avenue for success in Montana and elsewhere. It's a way to accentuate spot-and-stalk opportunities, plus a way to get a bear from across an impassable canyon to come to you. Do you need more reasons to try bear calling?

First, as more and more individuals add their two cents into wildlife management, fewer and fewer opportunities exist for hunting black bears in traditional manners such as over bait or behind a dog. Look to California and Colorado as examples in addition to regulations in Big Sky Country. Second, even if bait or dogs are legal in your wilderness neighborhood (Wyoming allows baiting), the time involved with keeping a bait active or maintaining a pack of hounds for a brief window of opportunity requires dedication that few career-oriented people have time to add into their busy schedules. Lastly, consider the "wow" factor. Having a bear show up at a bait or meeting up with a bruin bayed up by a rowdy pack of dogs sparks an adrenaline rush. But consider having a black bear stalk you thinking it's about to come face to face with its next meal. If that experience doesn't give you goose bumps I suggest selling your hunting equipment on eBay.

If your adventuresome side is calling then give bear calling a try this spring. It's solid strategy that can be added to your spot-and-stalk playbook. And to make sure you get it right follow these 10 steps if you want to increase your heart rate and spring predator pursuits.

Hunt with a partner. Not all bears are bold when they come to a call, but do you really want to find out without backup? Have a partner watch the backdoor while you focus on the front door. Some bears charge boldly in, especially those backed by sheer size, but most will come looking for danger and a meal at the same time. (continued on page 17)

RSX850i

GO RUGGED.
GO BIG.
GO GATOR.

3.9%
FOR
60 Months¹

ON ALL GATOR
UTILITY VEHICLES

**Recreational
Utility Vehicles**

- 62 hp*,
- 53 mph (85 km/h)
- 839-cc, V-Twin engine
- Multi-link independent suspension
- 400-lb., 9-cu.-ft. cargo box

THE WEEKEND IS WAITING. GO GATOR



Gator XUV825i S4

Heavy-Duty Crossover Utility Vehicles

- Two- or four-passenger capacity
- 50 hp* EFI, 44 mph (70 km/h)
- Fully independent suspension
- 1,000-lb., 16-cu.-ft. cargo box



Gator XUV550 S4

Mid-Duty Crossover Utility Vehicles

- Two-passenger 550 starting at \$8,399[§]
- Four-passenger 550 S4 starting at \$9,999[§]
- Fully independent suspension
- 400-lb., 9-cu.-ft. cargo box

JOHNDEERE.COM/GATOR



JOHN DEERE

Triple W Equipment

MISSOULA
(406) 549-4171

KALISPELL
(406) 752-2828

Full Parts & Service Departments

¹Offer valid from March 4, 2014, until July 31, 2014. 3.9% for 60 months only on all Gator Utility Vehicles, excluding TX Turf and ProGators. Subject to approved credit on a Revolving Plan account, a service of John Deere Financial, f.s.b. For commercial use only. Other special rates and terms may be available, including financing for consumer use. Available at participating dealers. [§]Starting-at price \$8,399 on Gator XUV550 and \$9,999 on Gator XUV550 S4. Prices are suggested retail prices only and are subject to change without notice at any time. Dealer may sell for less. Taxes, setup, delivery, freight and preparation charges not included. Attachments and implements sold separately. Shown with the optional equipment not included in the price. Prices and models may vary by dealer. Manufacturer-suggested list price. Before operating or riding, always refer to the safety and operating information on the vehicle and in the operator's manual. Actual vehicle top speed may vary based on belt wear, tire selection, vehicle weight, fuel condition, terrain and other environmental factors. *The engine horsepower and torque information are provided by the engine manufacturer to be used for comparison purposes only. Actual operating horsepower and torque will be less. Refer to the engine manufacturer's website for additional information. John Deere's green and yellow color scheme, the leaping deer symbol and JOHN DEERE are trademarks of Deere & Company.

The Trijicon RMR®

(Ruggedized Miniature Reflex)
The most rugged miniature
red dot sight available

Trijicon

Brilliant Aiming Solutions™

**Illuminates
in any
lighting condition**

**Appropriate for nearly
any style or caliber
of weapon**

**Reliable illuminated
aiming point
and intuitive aiming**

**NOW Available
in the NEW
Cerakote™**

RM01 C-700101 in NEW OD Green

**Purchase yours at
Bob Ward & Sons**

Available in LED, Adjustable LED, or Dual Illuminated Versions,
and with dot sizes ranging from 3.25 MOA to 13 MOA
you are sure to find what fits your needs.

HUNTING THE WALKING AND TALKING GOBBLER BY RICK WHITE

Hunter's Specialties www.hunterspec.com

Editor's Note: Rick White of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, longtime Hunter's Specialties' pro and avid turkey hunter, hunts turkeys all over the country. White not only is a professional hunter, he's also a videographer, a video editor and a seminar speaker. He also appears on Hunter's Specialties' videos and TV shows. We've asked White to tell us how he takes the walking and talking gobbler.

Question: Rick, last week we talked about hunting a gobbler in love with a harem full of hens. What's another bad bird our readers may encounter during hunting season, and how do you deal with him?

White: A tough turkey to take is the gobbler that will gobble back to your calls, but because his gobbles continue to get softer every time you call to him, you know he's gobbling and walking away from you. Most people refer to this gobbler as being call-shy. He's an ole, smart bird that knows when he gobbles, a hen's supposed to come to him, regardless of his direction and his behavior. If the hen doesn't come, he doesn't really want to go to her. When I realize this is the type of turkey I'll be hunting, I'll close the distance to him, making sure I'm far enough away that he can't see me. Don't spook this turkey by trying to get too close to him, if you expect to take him home to dinner with you that night.

I want to keep that turkey gobbling, so I know where he's located and can determine in which direction he's going. Too, I want to keep him gobbling, so I know where he stops and/or when he turns around and starts coming back to me. To do this, I may use a Hunter's Specialties crow call, if the gobbler will gobble at a crow call, instead of using hen yelps. However, if he won't gobble at a crow call, I'll often yelp to him as I walk behind him. This way, he thinks a hen is following him.

When the gobbler reaches his destination and knows a hen's been following him, oftentimes he'll decide to come back and meet her. You must know where the gobbler is positioned because when he comes back to meet the hen and sees you, the game is over. If the turkey doesn't turn and come back to you, that gobbler is on a mission to reach one particular spot in the woods.

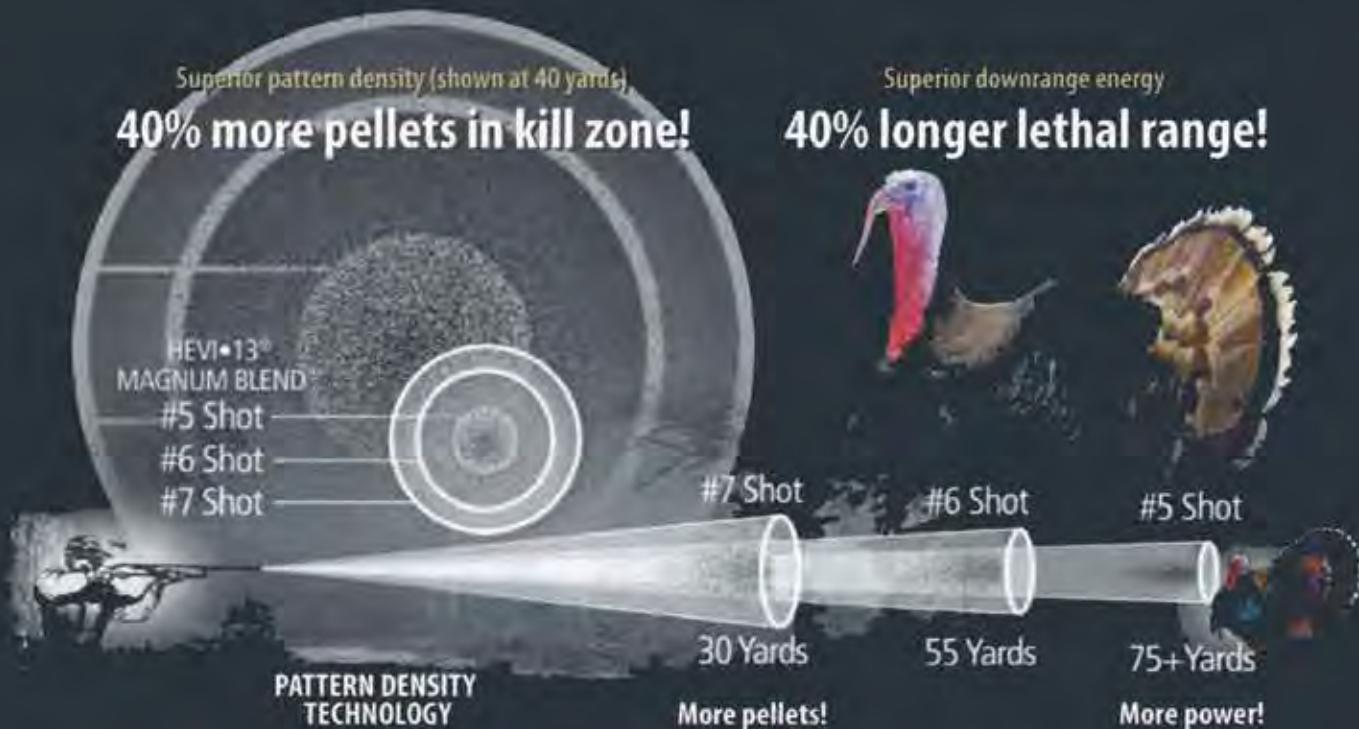
Generally a walking and talking tom already has decided where he's going and why. Once he reaches the spot he wants and stops to start calling from that place, you can move in closer. But be sure not to let him see you. Then start calling to him and you'll have a really good chance of getting him to come to you.

To take a turkey like this, I also will freeze him out. When I realize a turkey is walking away from me, I'll often put my turkey call on the ground, look at my watch and decide to sit in my location and not call anymore for 30 minutes. You have to put your call on the ground and watch your wristwatch because with your call on the ground, more than likely you won't pick it up and use it, if you decide to wait 30 minutes. Waiting those 30 minutes is the most difficult part of this tactic. If you don't look at your wristwatch to know exactly when 30 minutes has elapsed, 10 minutes in turkey woods easily can feel like 30 minutes anywhere else.

Like me, there aren't many turkey hunters disciplined enough to wait the full 30 minutes without calling and without looking at their watches. But many times if you wait 30 minutes, that old gobbler will come in and respond to your calling. During those 30 minutes, the gobbler realizes this particular hen that has just talked to him won't come running to him. If he's out there by himself, he doesn't have hens, and he hasn't been able to attract hens with his gobbling, he'll start looking for a girlfriend. And, he'll remember where he's heard that last hen. So, oftentimes he'll return to the spot where she's talked to him last to see if she's still there. That's when you can take him.

Superior pattern density (shown at 40 yards)
40% more pellets in kill zone!

Superior downrange energy
40% longer lethal range!



HEVI-SHOT[®] Magnum Blend[™] gives you superior pattern density AND superior downrange energy!

With a combination of HEVI-SHOT[®] #5 Shot, #6 Shot and #7 Shot, Magnum Blend puts more pellets where it counts (at close and medium range) and packs more punch where you need it (at long range) compared to lead. Plus, HEVI-SHOT[®]'s innovative shaped pellets dramatically outperform traditional round pellets when it comes to tissue damage!

More pellets in the kill zone

We invite you to test this for yourself. Our tests show **294 pellets** in the 10-inch halo around the turkey's head at 40 yards compared to 214 with lead! The HEVI-SHOT #7 Shot spreads quickly. Miss by a few inches and you still have a dead bird!

More knockdown power at extreme ranges

HEVI-SHOT's Magnum Blend really shines at longer ranges! Misjudge a distant bird with lead and you'll surely watch him fly away. The #5 Shot in Magnum Blend knocks 'em dead much further away than lead!

More tissue damage than round pellets

Hitting hard is one thing. Doing damage is another! The shaped HEVI-SHOT #3 shot dramatically increases the resulting tissue damage which, in turn, means more dead birds!



"WOW! What a difference!"

"Best turkey loads I have ever shot."

"Extremely deadly."

"Why would you shoot anything else?"



OFFICIAL LICENSED PRODUCT
OF THE NATIONAL WILD
TURKEY FEDERATION



P.O. Box 7791 1307 Clark Mill Road
Sweet Home, Oregon 97386

www.hevishot.com



ELK COUNTRY VISITOR CENTER

- Trophy Elk Display • Elk Country Wildlife Diorama
- Hands-On Exhibits For All Ages • Wildlife Theater
- Elk Country Gift Shop • Walking Trail



Directions: Take I-90 to Exit 101 in Missoula. Drive ¼ mile north to 5705 Grant Creek Road. ♿ accessible with RV parking. Open year round. For information, call 406-523-4545 or 866-266-7750 or visit www.rmf.org.

Valid through May 31, 2014

\$5 gift to you

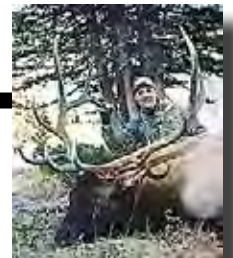
\$5 off a single purchase of \$10 or more at the Elk Country Visitor Center Gift Shop

Coupon must be surrendered at time of purchase. One coupon per customer. Discount does not apply to memberships, gift cards, prior purchases, or in combination with any other discounts. No cash value. Reproductions not accepted. Certificate cannot be redeemed as cash or merchandise credit if merchandise is returned.

Choosing An Elk Outfitter

By J.R. KELLER

Hunter's Specialties
www.hunterspec.com



EDITOR'S NOTE: Master Western hunter J.R. Keller of Delta, Colorado, a member of Hunter's Specialties' Hunt Team, is one of the most-versatile hunters in the U.S.

QUESTION: What do you look for when choosing an outfitter for an elk hunt?

ANSWER: I'll ask myself what type of hunt I want. Do I want to go on a drop hunt, where an outfitter drops me off in the woods with my basic essentials, or do I want a lodge-style hunt, where I can come back each night to a good dinner and a nice warm bed. When you look into some of these outfitters, you want to call some of the past customers to make sure the outfitter is a reputable organization that will give you a good quality hunt. You need to call successful hunters and non-successful hunters. You want make sure your money and your time is well spent when you are out there.

Next, I'll ask an outfitter about the success rate. Some guys ask how many hunters harvested an animal last year. But you need to take into consideration that the outfitter may have had a bad year as the result of bad weather. Ask about the success of the last three years to give you a better outlook on his success.

Next, I want to ask what all will be included in the hunt. Will the price include my hunting license and food? With most outfitters, you are responsible for your transportation there. Will they pick you up from an airport if you fly? Consider how much the hunt will cost you and how many days you'll be hunting.

QUESTION: What do you usually tip?

ANSWER: The tip depends on whether I've experienced a bad or successful hunt. I usually split it up between the outfitters. When I work with an outfitter who has a cook in the camp, I like to tip the cook as well. Generally, I tip between \$300 to \$400. I will spend \$300 for the guide and \$100 for the cook. But it really depends on how you feel you've been treated. That is a general rule of thumb.

QUESTION: What else do you recommend when picking a guide?

ANSWER: Like I said earlier, most guides will run you into the ground the first day to tire you out, and then they have you for the duration. So get in shape, and know your limitations. If you have any medical problems, be up front with those guys, so they know what you can handle. Being upfront with them is just as important as their being upfront with you.

REAL PEOPLE. STIHL PEOPLE.

DAN EDDY FIREFIGHTER

STIHL®

JOIN US. #RealSTIHL

Meet a Man Who Fights Fire with STIHL

Dan Eddy has been a firefighter for over 15 years. In that time, he has developed an appreciation for the dependability of STIHL. That dependability is why Dan's firehouse uses and maintains over 200 STIHL chain saws, including 60 rescue saws. It's also why Dan uses STIHL equipment at home.

"The way I look at it, we're trusting that equipment to save our lives. I'm already running into a situation that most people are running out of – the last thing I need is equipment that I question. And if I trust it on the job, why wouldn't I trust it at home?" – Dan

†The actual listed guide bar length can vary from the effective cutting length based on which powerhead it is installed on. All prices are IMS-SRP. Available at participating dealers while supplies last. © 2014 STIHL IMS14-4MFHN12-112763-4

    /stihlusa

To find a Dealer: STIHLdealers.com



MS 391
CHAIN SAW

\$569⁹⁵

★★★★★ 20" bar†

"If I could give the MS 391 6 or 7 stars for power I would. Cuts through anything I throw at it like butter."

– user copper13



Indicates products that are built in the United States from domestic and foreign parts and components.

Check out this review and others on the product pages at STIHLdealers.com

FREE

EXTRA CHAIN LOOP



WITH SELECT
CHAIN SAW PURCHASE

Offer valid through 11/30/14 with purchase of MS 271, MS 311 or MS 391 at participating dealers while supplies last.

Up to a \$36.45 IMS-SRP

Don't Miss a Day on the Water!

DING, DENT OR MAJOR BODY WORK LET US HELP.

- * Vehicles, boats, trailers
We repair them all.
- * Affordable prices
- * Lifetime guarantee

Call today and
let us help you
get out on the water.



**Mountain States
Collision Repair, Inc.**
"Where Honesty & Quality Come Together"

1944 Birch St., Missoula, MT
Call for a free estimate (406) 721-0881
visit us on the web at www.mountainstatescollisionrepair.com

Comment Sought on Stocking Tiger Muskies in Ackley, Martinsdale ^{FWP}

Fish, Wildlife and Parks is seeking comments on a draft environmental assessment (EA) proposing to stock tiger muskies in Ackley and Martinsdale reservoirs.

Ackley Reservoir covers 226 acres in Judith Basin County. Martinsdale Reservoir is 946 acres, stretching across the Wheatland and Meagher county line. Both water bodies are used for irrigation storage.

Ackley is stocked annually with 30,000 fingerling fish (3-4 inches). Other species present include brook trout, brown trout, longnose sucker, mountain whitefish, and white sucker.

Martinsdale is stocked each year with 70,000 fingerling rainbow trout, supplemented with up to 7,000 westslope cutthroat trout when available. Other species present include brown trout, longnose sucker, mountain whitefish, and white sucker.

Stocking the reservoirs with tiger muskie would help the rainbow trout fisheries by controlling the sucker populations and providing an additional trophy fishery.

Tiger muskies are a hybrid of northern pike and muskellunge.

A draft EA on the proposed stockings is available for public viewing on the FWP website: <http://fwp.mt.gov>

On the website, go to public notices, then environmental assessments and species stocking.

Comments can be sent to: FWP, Attn: Fish Stocking in Ackley & Martinsdale
215 W. Aztec Drive, PO Box 938, Lewistown, MT 59457;
or to clsmith@mt.gov

Comments must be received by 5 p.m., May 16, 2014.

BOB WARD & SONS NEW GEAR REVIEW

Gerber River Shorty

An excellent water sports knife, the Gerber River Shorty excels in responding to the unique requirements of rafting, paddling and diving. With its sturdy stainless steel blade, extremely light glass-filled nylon handle, and deliberately stunted tip, the River Shorty can be carried into a myriad of high-difficulty water-related situations in its sheath designed expressly for mounting onto a PFD. The blade offers major versatility, with a small partial serration on the lower edge, and a longer, beefier serration on the upper edge, and is well-polished to limit corrosion. The glass-filled nylon handle of the River Shorty is not only super-lightweight, but offers great grip. Constructed of hard plastic, the River Shorty's sheath serves adeptly in the world of outdoor water sports. It can engage with the knife in two ways, and can be clipped to a belt, onto a boot, or attached to a flotation vest.

Overall length: 6.75" Blade length: 3.0" Weight: 4.0 oz



St. Croix Trout Series



Walk softly and carry a light stick. To paraphrase Theodore Roosevelt, it's not the size of the fish in the fight, but the size of the fight in the fish. You have to figure Teddy would have had his eyes keenly focused on the new Trout Series spinning rods. Like the popular Panfish Series, the new Trout rods offer the perfect blend of weight, sensitivity and balance.

Features:

- Premium-quality SCII graphite combined with high-modulus/high-strain SCVI graphite for optimal weight, sensitivity and balance.
- Designed to provide superior performance specifically for trout anglers.
- Pac Bay Minima guides for 20-30% weight savings and greater sensitivity.
- Pac Bay Minima reel seat with custom insert for improved sensitivity and comfort.
- Premium-grade cork handle.
- Two coats of Flex Coat slow-cure finish.

Allen Fly Fishing Reels

Trout II
Reel
Shown



Founded in 2008, Allen Fly Fishing provides value in their products, value in your experience, and value in their approachability, with a wide range of fly fishing reels available to meet your specific needs, whether looking for a quality all around budget reel, one that can handle the biggest, fastest fish the sport has to offer, or a reel for trout and other light tackle fishing, Allen has it. Allen's dependable, proprietary, bearing-less disc drag system (patent pending) adds to the performance of these reels. Their warranty is simple; if it breaks, they'll fix it. If they can't fix it, they'll replace it.

Airflo Super-Dri Elite Fly Line

Developed for the serious floating line angler, featuring a friction reducing coating which lets the line glide through the rod rings and adds yards to your cast. The SuperDri's coating gives you unparalleled floatation with the ability to repel water, dirt and surface scum. Another new feature is 'Zone Technology', a new concept that uses a low compression compound in the part of the line exposed to the most stress, ensuring the line doesn't stick to the rod guides when hauling and shooting. This new line technology will minimize friction during the cast, helping with distance and extending the life of your floating line. Coupled with Airflo's revolutionary ridge and power core, you will notice the difference from your very first cast.



See these and other fine products at one of the 5 Montana Bob Ward & Sons stores in Missoula, Bozeman, Helena, Butte, and Hamilton or shop 24/7 at www.bobwards.com

SPRINGDALE *Springdale*



\$97/Mo*

SPRINGDALE 189FL MSRP \$21,348
 Power Awning, - \$ 7,353
 Front Diamond Plate, - \$ 13,995
 Spare Tire, Stereo, - \$ 1,000
\$12,995

* Financing required through Bretz RV & Marine preferred lenders.
 \$3,600/100, 30mo, 7.99% APR, DAC. Local Payment \$0.416 15 \$21/mo program applies with a cash price of \$12,995.

WE WILL BUY YOUR USED RV

WHETHER YOU BUY FROM US OR NOT!

FREELANDER *Coachmen*



2013 COACHMEN 23CB MOTORHOME
 Ford V10, Great Floorplan, Awning, Onan Generator
 Reg: \$49,995
Only \$43,995
\$379/Dn
\$379/Mo
 180 Mo, 6.50% APR, DAC

Sign up for **BRETZ CAMP CLUB** to be entered **WIN A**



visit **BretzRV.com** to register!

Rules & conditions apply, see website for details. www.bretzrv.com/travel-trailer-giveaway-rules.aspx
 All offers subject to change without notice.

TOY HAULER *VENGEANCE*



2014 VENGEANCE 2 Slides, Power Awning, Fuel Station, Colored Fiberglass, & More!

REG: \$57,405
 SALE: \$39,995
\$339/Dn • \$339/Mo
 180mo, 5.99% APR, DAC

DUTCHMEN *KODIAK*



KODIAK 200QB Power Awning, Heated & Enclosed Underbelly, Outside Grill, Power Tongue Jack, TV, & More!

MSRP \$26,928
 - \$ 4,933
\$ 21,995
 ONLY - \$ 2,000
\$199/Dn • \$199/Mo
 144mo, 5.99% APR, DAC

SMOKER CRAFT



1620 PRO CAMP SC 16' Aluminum Fishing Boat, 40 HP Motor, Trailer, and More!

REG: \$19,995
 SALE: \$16,995
\$199/Dn • \$199/Mo
 120mo, 6.99% APR, DAC

MB BOATS



Fits easily into a standard garage!

Tower, Cruise Control, Ballast, Bimini Cover, Premium Stereo

STARTING AT: \$59,995
ONLY: \$439/mo
 15% Down, 180 mo., 6.29% DAC



www.BretzRV.com facebook.com/bretzrvandmarine
 4800 Grant Creek Road • Missoula, MT 59808 • PH: 406-541-4800

Things To Think About While Wishing For Walleyes

(continued from page 6)

Paramount to fishing clam beds is not dragging the bottom or you'll get cut-off more times than a Vespa in downtown New York traffic. Clam beds are constructed of both the living and the dead. And the last gasp of a clam leaves an open shell that's sharpened to slash fishing line.

With that in mind, I "float" a jig overhead. Close to the bottom, maybe ticking it once to get a reference point, but then maintain a lofting and swimming motion that steers clear of the cutlery. Hair jigs are the ultimate vehicle for hovering over clam beds. The plume of a marabou tail or airy hairs of a bucktail jig provide a tempting target with a relaxed fall fit for such operations. And there's no doubt, Northland's new Buck-A-Roo hair jig is the ultimate anti clam digger. It floats like a butterfly and stings like a bee.

Rigging Ritual Launch and look around. There's probably a 50/50 split between guys jigging and rigging. I have no qualms with either party, either. Both are classic methods for rolling cold water walleyes. But this year, just for poops and giggles, experiment with my hybridized presentation. It blends the best of both worlds.

Think of it like an undersized live bait rig that can be pitched like a jig. Build it this way: Space roughly 18-inches between your hook and a fixed position bullet sinker. I use Northland's ingenious Sling-Shot Worm Weight because they affix to the line – without nicking and twisting it – and stay put without a swivel. Moreover, you can change weights without retying. To complete the rig, simply tie in a #6 or even smaller #8 hook. In this application, smaller hooks are preferred because they aren't prone to snagging.

Dress the rig with minnow, half a crawler, or my favorite, especially in early summer, a medium black leech. Rear back and pitch it like a jig. Twitch it back in 2-foot strides, each action followed by a 3-second settling period to let the bait fall to a potential death by walleye.

I haven't officially named the rig yet, but will, and shortly, so nobody else claims it... Oh, and by the way, the No Name Rig is most effective over shallow rocks and for slipping through emerging vegetation.

Alive and Kicking That Buck-A-Roo jig I just mentioned? You can bet it'll be buddy-buddy with a live minnow in my boat. In fact, other than stroking my No Name Rig and a leech at rocks and weeds, minnows will be responsible for the rest of the dirty work. And hands-down, locally-trapped, shiner minnows are the best of show. Nothing outdoes what the lake is actually serving. The shiners are in. The walleyes are in because of the shiners. So don't fool with Mother Nature.

Fragile as they are, the slightest scrape of a hook puts a shiner into a traumatized twist that walleyes enjoy to watch, albeit sadistically. The flashing silvery sides are like flicking a flashlight at night when you're trying to hide in the woods playing tag. (That was a childhood reference by the way, not something I do on weekends.) A flash of a flank of a shiner and the jig is up, literally.

That delicate nature also presents a problem. Shiners are easily shocked and you can burn a lot of hard earned money if they aren't handled with TLC. For the big transport – going from the bait store to camp, which might be hours away – I transfer them into Frabill's 6-gallon Personal Bait Station. The insulated, highly-oxygenated container is my brother's keeper when it comes to mobilizing shiners. Once in the boat, I'll divide the minnows into smaller 8-quart Personal Bait Stations. The low-profile, rectangular container is stable and as easy to pass around as a cold one...

Editor's Note: Brian "Bro" Brosdahl headmans Bro's Guide Service in North Central Minnesota. Spring, Summer, Winter or Fall, the northwoods fish stalker chases everything from walleyes and panfish to bass and perch. Bro can be reached at 218-340-6051 or visit his website at www.brosguideservice.com.

HONDA
Power
Equipment

Power You
Can Trust

HONDA
GENERATORS



DOUBLE YOUR POWER WITH
PARALLEL CAPABILITY
**EU2000i &
EU2000i Companion**

EU6500is
• 6500 Watts Max
• Super Quiet (60db)
• Runs up to 14 hrs on
4.5 gallons of fuel

EB1000AH
• 10,000 Watt, 120/240
• Better fuel efficiency &
lowest noise rating

EM5000sx
• 5000 Watts Max
• Runs up to 11.2 hrs
on 6.2 gallons of fuel

Break New Ground
Without
Breaking a Sweat



HHT25SLTA Trimmer
Honda's lightest 4-stroke
trimmer doesn't skimp on
power and performance



HRR216VKA Lawn Mower
• Smart Drive™ - Choose your own walking speed
• Twin Blades - Better mulching and Finer Clippings
• 3 in 1 Standard - Bag, Mulch & Rear Discharge

**Honda Lawn Mowers.
Very Smart.**



FRC800 Tiller
• 20" Tilling Width • 12" Tine Diameter

HONDA
Lawn & Garden

HONDA
PUMPS



WMP20X

WT20

GLASGOW
Farm Equipment Sales, Inc.
54275 Hwy. 2 East
(406) 228-2496
fesmt.com

PLENTYWOOD
Farm Equipment Sales, Inc.
804 East 1st Ave.
(406) 765-1531
fesmt.com

CULBERTSON
Farm Equipment Sales, Inc.
21 West 2nd St.
(406) 787-6201
fesmt.com

CIRCLE
Farm Equipment Sales, Inc.
Hwy. 200 East
(406) 485-2145
fesmt.com

BILLINGS
Billings Construction Supply
5514 King Avenue, East
(406) 248-8355
billingsconstructionsupply.com
Generators only

BOZEMAN
Owenhouse Hardware
36 East Main St.
(406) 587-5401
owenhouse.com

HELENA
One Way Marine & Motor Sports, Inc.
3186 Hwy. 12 E.
(406) 443-7373
onewaymarine.com
Generators only

See one of these Honda dealers today
for your Honda product.

www.powerequipment.honda.com

Read the owner's manual before operating Honda Power Equipment. Connection of a generator to house power requires a transfer device to avoid possible injury to power company personnel. Consult a qualified electrician. Not all dealers carry all products. Consult your local Yellow Pages. © 2014 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

HONDA
Power
Equipment

SPRING BEAR CALLING STRATEGIES

(continued from page 9)

Call where bears want to be in the spring. Like elk and deer, bears have certain areas they like better than others and densities vary depending on the habitat in an area. Visit with a local biologist to gather information on bear densities and habitat preferences. In the spring bears first look for grass to jumpstart their digestive system. Thereafter they eat anything.

Watch the downwind alley. Like all predators bears like to circle for a downwind confidence boost, but they may ignore the wind if they're the toughest bear in the woods.

Have ample openings to see incoming bears. Black bears can be as sneaky as a mountain lion and turn up unexpectedly. Don't let them surprise you. Have large openings all around you to guarantee you'll see them before they see you.

Focus on big prey. Spring black bears are hungry as they emerge from winter dens so use elk calf distress calls or fawn distress bawls. Anything will work, but these represent bear-sized meals.



You can use any commercial call on the market to make your own distress calls. Diaphragm calls work especially well for calf or cow in distress calls, but if you gag on diaphragms check out easy-to-use calls that have internal reeds. Since bears are opportunists and omnivores, any prey in distress is likely to get a second look from a hungry bear.

Hunter calling spring black bears using a predator call.

Watch bear reaction. If a young bear approaches and suddenly bolts it may mean Mr. Big is about to hit the scene.

Carry enough gun. Even if you want to hunt with a bow it's best that your backup partner be armed with a firearm. If a bear decides to challenge you for a meal a bullet might be a better choice than an arrow for standing your ground.

Don't be afraid to call to a distant bear. If you're using spot-and-stalk tactics and see a bear in the distance, use your calls to bring it to you if you don't have a shot.

Keep an eye out for other predators. If you call in grizzly crossover country you might lure in a curious humpback. And of course you could call in a wolf almost anywhere in Montana so be prepared and know your target.

Contact Information:

To keep up with Mark Kayser visit his Facebook account.
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mark-Kayser/119789001392664?fref=ts>

THE COOLER YOU'VE
**ALWAYS
WANTED**
THE LAST YOU'LL
EVER NEED



**WILDLY
STRONGER!
KEEP ICE
LONGER!**

YETI Coolers are roto-molded, the same process used to make kayaks. So, they're tough! With thicker walls, more than twice the insulation and a full-frame gasket, YETI's ice retention is unmatched.

YETI Coolers are certified bear-proof by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee!



- T-Rex™ Lid Latches
- Cold Lock™ Gasket
- Perma Frost™ Insulation
- Never Fail™ Hinge System
- Double Haul Handles
- Vortex Drain System
- Bear Foot™ Non-Slip Feet

Find us!



www.owenhouse.com

www.yeticoolers.com

Owenhouse ACE Hardware

Downtown · 36 E. Main · 406.587.5401

West Main · 8695 Huffine Lane · 406.582.7330

The helpful place in Bozeman, Montana since 1879!

See us for your TRACKER Boat today!
We have a wide variety of models to choose from!



NEW 2013 TRACKER 1542 LW TOPPER



NEW 2012 TRACKER PRO 165

Fish the Finest!



NEW 2014 TRACKER PRO GUIDE V-175 COMBO



NEW 2013 TRACKER
 GUIDE V-16 LAKER DLX T

TRACKER
 boats

HELENA - MONTANA MOTORSPORTS & MARINE - 3654 Hwy. 12 East
406-449-6595 | montanamotorsportsandmarine.com
BILLINGS - MONTANA HONDA & MARINE - 2124 Goodman Road
406-248-8261 | montanahondaandmarine.com

2 GREAT LOCATIONS - LOTS OF SELECTION!



Montana Motorsports & Marine - 3654 Hwy. 12 East, Helena 406-449-6595 or Montana Honda & Marine - 2124 Goodman Road, Billings 406-248-8261

The Spawn Is On At Canyon Ferry

By Trevor Johnson, owner Kit's Tackle



This spring has already proven to be an amazing jig fishing bonanza...but it will continue to explode throughout May. And who wouldn't like the opportunity to have a chance to land a bathtub full of big rainbow trout in one day??

The north end of Canyon Ferry is quite possibly some of the best rainbow trout jig fishing action in the northwest. The super awesome thing about the Canyon Ferry jig fest is that shore access is very available and anglers can get big rewards...This is single handedly some of the most exciting spring fishing Montana has to offer...especially if you're a jig fisherman!!

I have a special connection with Canyon Ferry this time of year and chasing big bruiser bows on their beds...it is where I learned to jig fish. This is also where I acquired the famous "Johnson Jig" style that has filled the box time after time for all species. There aren't many feet of shoreline on the north end of Canyon Ferry I haven't pitched a jig into. In fact, when I was a child, I would tell my dad and grandpa that if there was walleye in the lake this would be a "hot" spot. Some of those childhood "hot" spots actually did turn into good walleye shorelines. In fact, so good that we cashed a ten thousand dollar check two years ago in the Canyon Ferry Walleye Festival. But THIS is an article for the action packed adventure of Canyon Ferry's springtime trout explosion.

Rainbow trout build vast spawning beds and protect them with all their life. They are very ready strikers and will often attack anything that nears their nest. And just to clarify, the north end Canyon Ferry spawn is actually a mock spawn and is not successful so we don't mind fishing near the beds. Normally you would want to avoid fishing any kind of trout on their red (spawning bed). While fishing rainbows during the spawn most strikes come from irritation and not predation. **So in other words, using bright colored visibly noisy jigs is your best bet to getting bit!** Also, certain imitator jigs like the ESL (Egg Sucking Leech) can be smashingly effective this time of year. The leeches are just starting to come out and are looking for food. A trout egg makes a great meal for a leech right...wrong!! When a momma trout sees an intruder swimming off with one of her babies she is going to be very upset. In other words, if you want to get bit like you've never been bit before...this is the jig pattern for you.



Leeches are notorious for robbing nest...mama trout gets very angry when she sees a leech swimming off with one of her babies. The best way to describe what happens next...do you remember the game Hungry Hungry Hippos??

MARABOU IS KING FOR THIS APPLICATION!! BUT YES, THE GLASS MINNOWS WORK VERY WELL ALSO!! We recommend you approach this adventure with ultralight tackle for the most fun you'll have all spring. We use short five to six foot rods in an ultralight power and extra fast action. The extra fast action is critical in the world of jig fishing...regardless of species. Leave the soft tips for the bait fishing applications. We use 4 pound test Stren-Maganathin which is a monofilament and has incredible feel and ease of use. We like the Magnathin, because it has a fine diameter like the braided superlines, but still holds true to its breaking strength. Then all you need is a pocket full of Kit's jigs and you're set...and don't forget the camera or lunch. I promise you'll need the camera, but you might be having too much fun to eat lunch.

Now let's talk execution of the famed jig fishing application for the north end of Canyon Ferry. Whether you are angling from a boat or from shore...you are trying to accomplish the same thing right? To get your jig in front of the fish so you will get bit. Why this is such an effective time for shore anglers to reap big rewards is because all the fish are shallow. They are either protecting their beds or cruising along the shorelines on the prowl to fill their bellies. Take a moment and picture how big Canyon Ferry really is...now think about how deep it is and all the places the trout could be. During the month of May almost 100% of the adult rainbow trout in Canyon Ferry are within twenty yards of shore. Almost like shooting fish in a barrel right? BOOM!

Here is a Google earth map zoomed in on the north end of Canyon Ferry with the green lines indicating the best seven places to target spawning rainbows!!



Google earth map

When jigging from the shore there is a great technique we have developed that you should try for yourself. Instead of casting your jig as far out as possible and letting it sink forever (usually where the fish are earlier in the spring) try this method. I like to stand on the shore and look at the lake like it's a half of a clock (from the 9:00 position to the 3:00 position). The shore where your standing is the pilot line that runs straight through three and nine o'clock position. Then I mentally cast my jig toward every hour on the clock until I catch a fish. Some days I will catch my first fish at 10:00 meaning I cast very close to shore up the left bank. After fishing around the clock a few times you can usually pinpoint the most productive depth for the day. For example, if most fish are being caught at 1:00 then as I walk up the shoreline I continuously focus on that depth for the day. This is just a tool to maximize your efficiency on the water... it's always fun to kick some major trout butt!!

A FEW SOLID TIPS:

-Jig it like you mean it. These big rainbows are very ready strikers and love the aggressive jigging style.

-Check out the how to videos on Kit's Tackle's YouTube channel for a good starting point to creating your own personal jigging rhythm.

-This is a great opportunity to introduce someone into the magical world of "Jiggin' the Dream"



FOR ALL YOUR WALLEYE NEEDS

- KIT'S TACKLE
- WORM HARNESES
- LEECHES & NIGHT CRAWLERS

Fishing Gear & Bait

Biggest Cigar Selection • Coldest Beer Around

Novelty Section

2 LOCATIONS

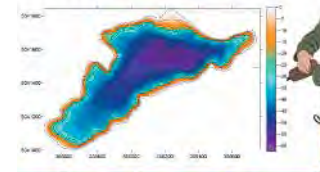
615 Helena Ave. corner Last Chance Gulch & Helena Ave. 406.443.8084

OR ON YOUR WAY TO THE LAKE

at 200 S. Montana Off Highway 12 East - East Helena 406.227.6519

COONEY RESERVOIR NOW AVAILABLE!

KNOW YOUR FISHING HOLE



MARK'S LAKE MAPS

mreller@mt.net
(406) 457-9197

www.Markslakemaps.com
Box 949, Helena, MT 59624

Reel time. Your time.

Mobile banking gives you access to your accounts when and where you need them. Make deposits, transfer funds, and pay bills with your smart phone!

 **Valley Bank**
OF HELENA
Division of Glacier Bank

(406) 495-2400

3030 North Montana Ave
Helena, MT 59601

www.valleybankhelena.com

MEMBER FDIC, EQUAL HOUSING LENDER



Say Hello To Success: Where to chase the Fish this Month

Brought to you by **BOB WARD**
& Sons SPORTING GOODS

It's time to go fishing! The anticipation is high for some of the best fishing of the year right now here in Montana, and in the West. All area lakes, rivers, and streams that are legal to fish will be open for business starting the third Saturday in May. What a perfect time to be outdoors! As the weather heats up, so will the fishing in these waters. All of your favorite fish species become very aggressive now as the water warms up and the bugs that these fish desire become available. On lakes and reservoirs, it's a phenomenal opportunity to catch a trophy fish as the walleye, northern pike, bass and trout will be nearing their annual spawning time. Like anything else, timing is everything, so you will need to spend as much time on the water as you can to catch that fish of a lifetime, and whether it happens or not, you'll have fun trying. Here's a run down of a few spots you might consider fishing in May.

FORT PECK RESERVOIR

Let's start with the big lake first. Giant predators will be roaming close to shore now looking to gorge themselves on bait fish, and with reports of the cisco having a record spawn, the fish will be very active now. You'll want to match the colors of these bait fish - blue/silver and purple colors imitate the cisco. Perch colors will work as well, so go with orange, yellow, green or chartreuse for good results. A feeding frenzy will occur with the walleye just after the spawning season ends here. For big walleye and northerns, you can fish out of Hell Creek near Jordan, Mt. or Rock Creek on the east side of the lake. However, this big body of water holds fish in most any of it's



Will McCall
Brown trout-Argentina

inlets. You can pull crankbaits in around 20 feet of water or pitch a jig or your favorite spinning gear near the shorelines. According to our friends at Montana Pikemasters, reports are that water levels should be around 2.5 feet higher than they were one year ago, heading into our summer months. That's good for the fish and good for fishing at Fort Peck.

FLATHEAD LAKE

Another big game fishing lake well known for it's big lakers (lake trout). May is also a good time to fish for a mixed bag here - crappie, perch, smallmouth bass, northern pike or even arctic grayling in some of the bays and river inlets around the lake. For the next few weeks these fish will be red hot and ready to rumble, until the water warms up and the rivers get blown out from the runoff. Fishing the main lake will also produce some fine fishing. Be ready to move until you find good concentrations of fish and then concentrate on the water depth. Typically, between 80 feet to 200 feet. It's big water here, so keep an eye on the weather patterns for productive days on the water. There is no shortage of exceptional waters to fish in Northwest

Montana, so if you have the time, try Lake Koocanusa, Lake Mary Ronan, Ashley Lake, Whitefish Lake or the Thompson Lakes.

CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR

Some of the finest fishing for rainbow trout will be here at Clark Canyon, located 20 miles south of Dillon. This lake produces monster trout in the 20 to 24 inch category. Large streamers will work well right now, as will dry flies fished off the top. Trollers can catch hungry fish dragging a Rapala or a Kastmaster in a brown trout pattern or rainbow colors. Jigging with these same colors works until the weeds start to grow back. Access to this 5,000 acre lake is excellent and lies just off of Interstate 15. You can also fish the headwaters of the Beaverhead River or the nearby Red Rock River. Look for extraordinary fishing from now through the summer months in Southwest Montana.

BIGHORN RIVER

The Bighorn River begins at Boysen Reservoir in Wyoming and enters Montana more than 150 miles

downstream where it flows into Bighorn Lake, formed by Yellowstone Dam, and is one of the premier trout steams in all of the West. It is well known for its big brown trout and outstanding rainbows. The river flows are a bit higher than normal now, but the fish are loving it and will be eating like crazy for awhile. A fly fishing mix of nymphing and streamer fishing will produce big ones right now. If you like more of a lake to fish, head to the Dam or Bighorn Canyon for good walleye, crappie and smallmouth bass fishing.

NELSON RESERVOIR

Looking for another big walleye destination? Look to Nelson. Fish the sunken humps along the northern shoreline that will hold some chunky walleye. Big northern pike will be found here too. You can fish the shoulders of Pelican Island. This area consistently produces big springtime fish. A worm tipped on a crawler harness can be effective here. Northern pike in the 6 to 8 pound category are pretty normal here, so be ready and hold on for a good ride! Pitch a jig or a spinner towards the shorelines here for positive results. Nelson is located 19 miles northeast of Malta with 4,320 water surface acres.

STILLWATER RIVER

The Stillwater River flows south of Kalispell, and is well known for it's northern pike fishing, and some truly GIANT pike lurk in these waters. Fish in the 20 pound category are not uncommon here. You can fly fish for these monsters using streamers, (man, what fun!), or use large spoons tossed near the many deep pools that are found along the river. Concentrate on the backwaters where the current is slow. That is where you'll find the pike.

THE BEST FISHING BRANDS!



Stores in Bozeman, Butte, Hamilton, Helena and Missoula. Or shop online 24/7 at bobwards.com



Specializing In Jigs, Spinners and
Hand made Soft Plastics
Walleye, Bass, Pan Fish, Salmon, Trout & Ice Fishing

owner
Pete Jellar
phone
406-756-0031
406-871-7990

Proudly made
in Montana.



Making your fishing adventures come to life
one jig at a time!

Whitefish, cutthroat trout and brook trout are also found in the river. Duck Lake, Stillwater Lake, and the Lower Stillwater Lake also provide good fishing.

KOOTENAI RIVER

Located near Libby, MT. this river will heat up here in May and into the summer with some tremendous trout action. Expect good fishing action above Kootenai Falls as the water warms. Black and olive Woolly Buggers, Beadhead Prince, Hare's Ear are on the fly. Spinners work well for big trout that are ready to smash your gear! Bull trout are protected, so catch and release on the bull trout. It's another of Montana's most scenic areas with a lot of camping spots. It's worth the trip to Libby to fish this area.

IDAHO

Chinook Salmon Moving Toward Idaho
Idaho Fish and Game

Idaho born Spring Chinook salmon are starting to show up in the Columbia River, the gateway to their spawning grounds in the Gem State.

As of Sunday, April 13, 603 Spring Chinook salmon have been counted going past Bonneville Dam, the first place they are counted on their 700-plus mile journey to the Salmon and Clearwater river drainages.

While predicting returning numbers of salmon is a very tricky business, early season forecasts indicate the number of spring Chinook returning this year will be much higher than in 2013.

Early projections indicate around 80,000 hatchery and wild salmon will make it to Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River. If projections hold true, Idaho anglers will be allowed to harvest 4,800 hatchery spring Chinook on the Clearwater River and its tributaries, 5,900 on the lower Salmon and Little Salmon rivers and 700 on the Snake River in Hells Canyon.

Seasons will begin on April 26 on the mainstem Clearwater, Middle Fork Clearwater, North Fork Clearwater, South Fork Clearwater, Lochsa, Lower Salmon and Little Salmon rivers and on the Snake River in Hells Canyon from Dug Bar upstream to Hells Canyon Dam. Fisheries will be open seven days per week. Closing dates will be determined and ordered by the Commission based on harvest quotas.

Daily limits will be 4 fish per day. Only 2 of the daily limit of 4 fish may be adult salmon (24 inches or larger) on the Lower Salmon, Little Salmon, Snake River and South Fork Clearwater rivers. Only 1 of the daily bag limit of 4 fish may be an adult salmon on the Main stem Clearwater, North Fork Clearwater, Middle Fork Clearwater and the Lochsa rivers. Salmon anglers should refer to the salmon season rules brochures for more information on limits and the season.

A special restriction will be placed on a short stretch of the Clearwater River known as Big Eddy. That stretch will be closed to fishing from watercraft. Only fishing from the bank will be allowed in that section and boundaries will be clearly posted.

For more detailed season information, salmon anglers should refer to the seasons and rules pamphlet available at license vendors, at Fish and Game offices and online at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/fish/?getPage=110>.

Email your
fishing photos to:
huntingfishingnews@yahoo.com

Crazy BLOW OUT PRICING

on all NEW-2013-Models

Ranger 1850 LS Reata

2 in stock



Ranger 2050 Reata

1 only



Starting at
ONLY \$35,995
Very Nicely Equipped



STRATOS 386 XF

2 in stock

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO OWN ONE OF
THE BEST FISHING BOATS AROUND!

Sleeping Giant Prop Repair On Site To Repair Your Props!

WE'VE GOT YOUR RIDE

RANGER•CRESTLINER•LARSON•SEA-RAY•SUPRA•STRATOS•MOOMBA
PREMIER PONTOONS•SEA-DOO•CAN-AM•SKI-DOO
MERCURY•YAMAHA•EVINRUDE•HONDA MARINE



406-443-7373
3186 Hwy. 12 East, Helena
www.onewaymarine.com
Full Parts & Service Departments
31 years in business!

WALLEYE HUNTER

outfitters



~ WALLEYE HUNTER TRIPS ~

FORT PECK, CANYON FERRY, HOLTER LAKE

TROUT HUNTER (JET BOAT TRIPS)

~ MISSOURI RIVER (LAND OF GIANTS)

DRIFT BOAT TRIPS

~ MISSOURI, YELLOWSTONE, MADISON & BIG HORN RIVERS

MONTANA TRIPLE HEADER

MONTANA 6/PACK

FISH 3 DIFFERENT RIVERS

FISH 6 DIFFERENT RIVERS

OR LAKES IN 3 DAYS

OR LAKES IN 6 DAYS

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

CAPTAIN- FORREST FAWTHROP - OUTFITTER #20194

315 N. YELLOWSTONE - BOZEMAN, MT 59718

~ US COAST GUARD LICENSED ~

www.walleyehunteroutfitters.com

(406) 459-5352

Latest Fort Peck Reservoir Research Findings & Fishing Outlooks Released MFWP

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks biologists say lower Fort Peck Reservoir water levels have had an impact on some fish populations, but benefits are still being realized from good water years in 2008 through 2011.

“Since 2011, water levels have dropped 29 feet and approximately 65,000 surface acres have been lost on Fort Peck,” said FWP Biologist Heath Headley. “That acreage equals nearly two Canyon Ferry Reservoirs.”

Fort Peck Reservoir elevations rose only a foot from January through June of 2013. The impact of these operations is that no shoreline vegetation was flooded during the spring and early summer, resulting in significantly less habitat available for fish to use. With declining reservoir elevations, most fish populations have generally followed a similar declining pattern, Headley said.

Annual netting surveys in 2013 indicated relative abundance of walleye decreased from a record 6.8 per net in 2012 to 4.8 per net. However, Headley noted that this is still above the long-term average of 3.6 walleye per net.

“Walleye in the 15-to-20-inch range continued to be the most abundant due to a very large group of five-year-old fish, but anglers should be encouraged because good numbers of walleye more than 25 inches long continue to be measured during these sampling efforts,” he said.

Northern pike relative abundance decreased from a record 5.0 in 2012 to 3.2 per net in 2013. Similar to walleye, however, northern pike relative abundance is still above the long-term average. Headley said this is attributed to increased spawning and rearing habitat created by the flooded shoreline vegetation over the past few years. Most pike sampled during this time were between 20 and 28 inches long and averaged close to four pounds.

Abundance of shoreline forage fish such as yellow perch, crappie, spottail shiners and emerald shiners decreased in 2013 following declining reservoir elevations. Most of these shoreline forage fish are now at or below long-term averages, he said.

“Unlike the high water years of 2010-12, young-of-year and age-one-plus yellow perch numbers in 2013 declined greatly due to the lack of spawning and rearing habitat as well as increased predation from a growing walleye and northern pike population,” Headley said. “It should also be noted that we observed a decrease in condition of the small-to-medium-sized walleye during our annual sampling. Shoreline forage fish are a critical component for the growth and survival of these smaller walleye.”

In contrast, netting results for cisco, an important coldwater forage fish, showed a substantial increase in young-of-year individuals from less-than-one per net in 2012 to 191 per net in 2013.

“This was more than double the long-term average and the fifth-largest year class recorded,” Headley said. “While this is great news for the medium-to-larger-sized walleye, northern pike, Chinook salmon, and lake trout, it may make things a bit more difficult for anglers. Anglers may have to change tactics in 2014 by fishing deeper as summer progresses and when corresponding water temperatures warm. Warmer temperatures will force cisco to head to deeper, cooler water where larger predatory fish will pursue this abundant food source.”

Several record-breaking fish from Fort Peck Reservoir were also noted in 2013. One angler caught a smallmouth bass that went 6.7 pounds, and another angler caught a channel catfish that weighed in at 34.8 pounds. Also, fisheries staff captured one of the largest Chinook salmon ever during last fall's egg-taking operation, a lunker that tipped the scales at 29.5 pounds. “The surge in all types of forage fish numbers created from the high water years clearly gave these species the extra boost they needed to attain trophy weights,” Headley explained.

If Fort Peck continues to be operated in the same manner and there is not a substantial increase in reservoir levels, anglers can expect to see reduced growth and survival of their favorite game fish species. And that's despite a snowpack in the Missouri River drainage above the reservoir that currently sits about 122 percent of the 30-year average. If retained in the reservoir – instead of being largely allowed to flow through it -- that runoff would contribute to rises in water levels that would benefit fish, Headley said.

Bottom Bouncer Rigging

Berkley Fishing <http://www.berkley-fishing.com>

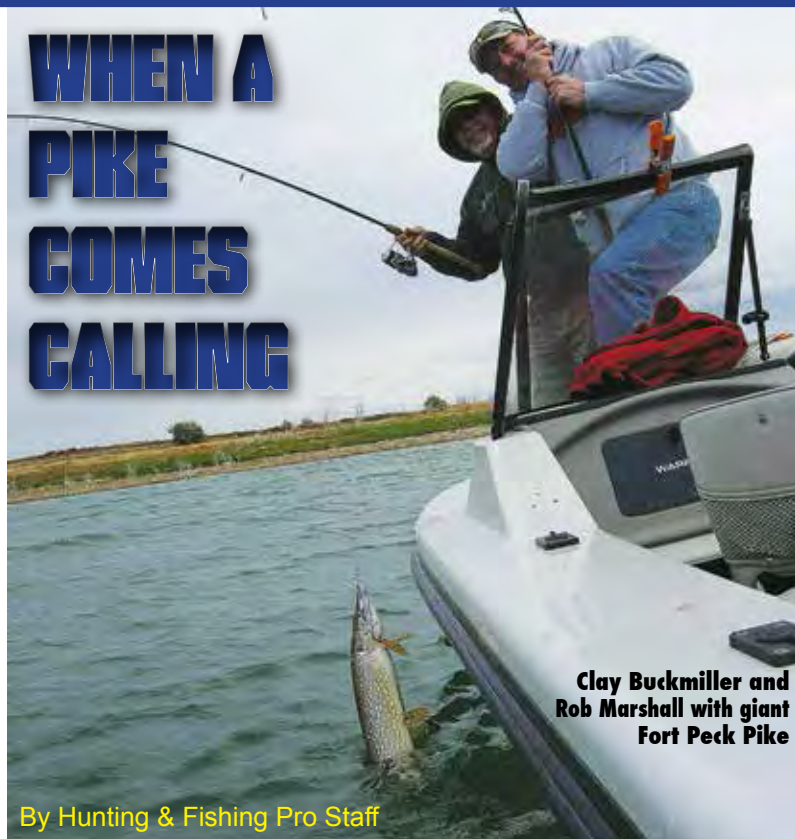
Bottom Bouncer Live Bait Rigging is a great tactic to use when walleyes are relating tight to deep structure and are considered to be in a neutral or negative feeding mood.

The weight of bouncer you choose will depend on the depth you're marking fish at, but a typical range would be 1.5 to 2.5 ounces. A six-foot snell tipped with a crawler or leech will trigger bites, but large minnows often are more productive especially on western reservoirs. This is a slow and methodical technique for targeting walleyes that are tight to specific structural elements such as deep breaks, cups and points. This is not a search technique, but rather a tactic used once you've located a tight concentration of fish on deep structure.

Use your electronics to scan likely points, cups and deep structure. Working from the bow and using the bowmount trolling motor to position the boat, lower the bottom bouncer rig when you locate fish, making sure you let out just enough line so that the bouncer's leg just touches bottom. As you slowly work the immediate area, make sure you're keeping the bouncer as vertical as possible. This will give you much better control and help allow you to feel even light bites. Often, when using large minnows, particularly large Creek Chubs, you'll be able to feel the bait get very active when a predator walleye is close. The bite may feel like nothing more than the rig getting heavy, or you may feel a “tug”. At that point, drop the rod tip slowly toward the fish, giving it time to take the bait and turn its head. When you feel the fish has the bait and the line is tight, set the hook with an upward sweeping motion and fight the fish in.

Make no mistake, this is a finesse technique, demanding precise boat control and a sensitive touch. A good quality set-up for bottom bouncer rigging would include a 6'6" to 7' medium action baitcast rod and reel combo spooled with 10 pound test Berkley FireLine tied to a bouncer rigged with a 6 foot leader of 8 pound test Berkley Vanish Fluorocarbon and a super sharp live bait hook. The rod coupled with the no-stretch FireLine give you excellent feel of what's going on below, and the Vanish Fluorocarbon makes the leader virtually invisible to the fish. It's a deadly technique for those situations where walleyes are tough to catch by most any other method. *

WHEN A PIKE COMES CALLING



Clay Buckmiller and
Rob Marshall with giant
Fort Peck Pike

By Hunting & Fishing Pro Staff

When the Boogie Man comes a callin' you best be ready.

Be ready for the unexpected. This is the way you'll need to think when you are fishing for northern pike. They get big, they're aggressive, and they will steal your favorite lure or bait and be gone before you know what happened.

Spring pike fishing can be some of the best fishing adventures of the year, and if you are in the right location at the right time, you will be in for a treat.

Catching a bunch of northern pike to kick off the fishing season is not only a lot of fun, but also more predictable than you might think - find warm water, cover, and baitfish and that is where you'll find the pike. The classic early-season pike spot is a shallow bay protected from colder main-lake waters by islands or points, but with deep water access nearby. The shallows will absorb the heat from the sun, typically on the north side of most lakes, or whichever area receives the most direct sunlight. An incoming stream can also attract fish as the warm water seeps in. Target these areas and once the water hits the magical 52 to 60 degree mark, it's game on!

As the hungry pike cruise the warming shallows, they are looking for smaller bait fish to devour. You'll need to "match the hatch" so to speak. As you would with a trout, only you are trying to emulate the colors of a small bait fish - the minnow, perch, cisco crawdads, frogs.

-----**Top choice lures for pike include these crank-baits, spinners and spoons:**

- Rapala J-13 in orange and white
- Rapala Husky Jerk No. 14 in clown, glass perch, or firetiger patterns
- Shad Rap SR-9 in crawdad color
- Reef runner in blue and silver
- Mepp's Syclops spoons
- Eppinger Dardevle
- JDR Specialty Tackle casting spoons
- Spinnerbaits - various colors work - white or chartreuse

Spring pike in Montana can also be caught using a dead smelt suspended from a slip bobber, about 1 foot from the bottom.

Experience The Lund Difference

Sure to make a positive impact on your musky (muskie), walleye, crappie, or bass fishing experience.



1775 Impact Sport

LARGEST LUND DEALER IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



The Ultimate Fishing Experience



It's worth a drive to Townsend. Three Forks exit at I-90 or from Helena Hwy. 287.
7809 Hwy. 287 S., Townsend
(406) 266-5700
www.townsendmarine.com



See us for our Large Selection of Boats, ATVs & Accessories
PLUS Our Exceptional Customer Service.



Top waters for northern pike in Montana include:

- Ft. Peck Reservoir
- Nelson Reservoir
- Fresno Reservoir
- Kalispell area/Flathead River sloughs (backwater arms)
- Noxon Rapids Reservoir
- Tongue River Reservoir
- Tiber Reservoir
- Seeley Lake

Pike Fishing Tips:

Ever wonder why the teeth of a pike can shear your line, while those of an equally toothy walleye rarely do? A walleye's teeth are round, but those of a pike or muskie have a razor-sharp edge, so don't forget to put on a wire leader when you're chasing a northern.

Pike want to consume high-protein meals that are easy to catch. Remember, it's the time of the year where they'll graze on winterkill - fish that have perished during the cold months - ideal for a slip bobbers/dead bait combo.

Pike prefer shallow, weedy water (less than 20 feet deep) during their early years of life, but as they grow larger, they spend more time in deep water.

Areas that you will be fishing for northern pike also allow you to fish for other species of fish that co-exist with northerns. You'll be able to target walleye, bass, perch and trout in most northern tier waters.

Bonus - these fish are fun to catch, and are delicious table fare as well. The adventures of a fishing trip, along with camping and spending time with family and friends is what makes these times so memorable.

Good fishing this year!

Studio Pandora
Custom Jewelry Design

Elk Ivory Jewelry

Handcrafted in Missoula, Montana.

Customize
Any Piece

Using Your Ivory or Ours.

Your Choice
of Gold, Silver or Platinum.



RL95



N115



RG60



N114



P170

B310

211 North Higgins Avenue • Downtown Missoula, MT 59802 • (406) 549-5100
Toll Free: 1-877-549-5101 • www.studiopandora.com

2014 SuperTag Chances On Sale Now

MFWP

Montana's SuperTag chances for the hunt of a lifetime are on sale.

Hunters can win the SuperTag drawing by purchasing one or more \$5 SuperTag chances for the fall 2014 hunting season.

Eight SuperTag hunt licenses are offered—moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, elk, deer, antelope, mountain lion and bison. Winners may hunt any district open to the species for which they won a tag.

SuperTags are available at all FWP offices, license providers, or online at fwp.mt.gov. Click "Montana's SuperTag."

SuperTags can be purchased using FWP's online licensing service. A 2014 conservation license is needed to purchase a SuperTag.

Proceeds from SuperTag sales go to enhance hunting access and enforcement. The deadline to purchase SuperTag chances is July 3.

Don't Miss the Tap Into Ennis Brew and Spirit Festival May 17 at Lion's Club Park

Don't Miss the Ennis Chamber of Commerce's "Tap Into Ennis Brew and Spirit Festival". This event will be held in Ennis at the Lion's Club Park on May 17, 2014.

**This is opening day of small streams and rivers...
Fly Fishing Season!!! There is no better way
to celebrate than spending a day in Ennis.**

Whether fishing the Madison for large rainbow and brown trout, or driving up the road to the Big Hole River and Beaverhead rivers, you'll find plenty of good water to fish near Ennis.

The group is proud to be promoting only Montana Breweries and Distilleries, and as of this printing, there were 43 event sponsors including Shedhorn Sports, Sportsman's Lodge, Madison Foods, Madison River Fishing Company, Ennis Village RV, Madison River Foundation, Lure Me Inn, Mad River Adventures, Bear Trap Express, The Tackle Shop and more. For a complete list, visit "Tap Into Ennis" on Facebook.

This event will also be helping Madison ByWays, a local non profit group dedicated to developing and maintaining a trail and pathway system to promote safe and healthy travel in and around Ennis.

Mark your calendars for May 17th from 3-7pm. Beer tasting, food vendors, craft vendors, silent auction and music. More activities are in the making!!

Make sure to check out and like "Tap Into Ennis" on Facebook for all event details and happenings.





ENNIS - SINCE 1979

SHEDHORN SPORTS™

Now ONLINE!
CHECK OUT OUR
GUN POWDER INVENTORY

PICK SOME UP TODAY...
PLUS RELOADING EQUIPMENT TOO.



REGISTER TO WIN A FREE SPOTTING SCOPE

ENTER ONLINE AT
WWW.SHEDHORN.COM/GIVEAWAY-CONTENT.ASPX
WITH PROMO CODE: HNF2014SX1



LEUPOLD
AMERICA'S OPTICS AUTHORITY™

SX-1 VENTANA 15-45X60MM
ANGLED SPOTTING SCOPE

#111357 -- VALUED AT \$374.99

ONE WINNER TO BE DRAWN ON 6/1/2014

** Do NOT Need To Be Present To Win.*

SHOP SHEDHORN'S OPTICS DEPARTMENT ONLINE

LEICA
LEUPOLD
NIKON
SWAROVSKI
VORTEX
ZEISS

NOT SURE WHICH ONE TO PURCHASE?
GIVE US A CALL OR COME IN SO ONE OF OUR EXPERTS CAN ASSIST
YOU WITH MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR ANY OUTDOOR ACTIVITY!

Ennis, MT • 406.682.4210 • Sales@Shedhorn.com

SHEDHORN.COM

Hunting & Conservation News Proudly Sponsored By Republic Services of Montana



NWTF Montana Pledges \$17,000 to Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. in 2014

National Wild Turkey Federation

National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) chapters in Montana budgeted more than \$17,000 to further the new Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative within the state in 2014.

The NWTF's Montana State Chapter board of directors reviewed and allocated funding. Valuable partners will provide \$305,000 in match funding.

"The Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative is supported by our state boards and chapter members," said Becky Humphries, executive vice president of conservation. "Hunting Heritage Super Fund money is critical to implementing the initiative, and investing in focal landscapes and hunter recruitment."

The NWTF's Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative is a charge that mobilizes science, fundraising and devoted volunteers to give the NWTF more energy and purpose than ever. Through this national initiative, NWTF has committed to raising \$1.2 billion to conserve and enhance more than 4 million acres of essential upland wildlife habitat, create at least 1.5 million new hunters and open access to 500,000 new acres for hunting, shooting and outdoor enjoyment. Without hunters, there will be no wildlife or habitat. The NWTF is determined to Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.

The board of directors dedicated \$15,000 in NWTF funding to proposed Hunting Heritage Super Fund projects that focus specifically on saving habitat; \$2,167 will support projects to save hunting.

These projects will save vital habitat in Montana. Funding includes: \$4,000 to support U.S. Forest Service (USFS) fuel-reduction treatments and wildlife habitat enhancement on the Ashland Ranger District of Custer National Forest.

\$3,500 to reduce fuel through prescribed fire on the Frenchtown Face Prescribed Fire Project on Lolo National Forest.

\$3,000 to enhance wildlife habitat by supporting Bureau of Land Management fuel-reduction treatments on Tin Can Hill Travel Management Area and Musselshell Breaks Watershed in Petroleum County.

\$2,500 to help USFS plant native forbs and shrubs on Bitterroot National Forest in southwest Montana.

\$2,000 to improve riparian areas through the NWTF's Northern Plains Riparian Restoration Initiative.

The following projects support education, outreach and hunter access efforts in Montana. Funding includes:

\$1,000 to help secure an easement at Cub Creek for hunters to access USFS land on the Custer National Forest near Ashland.

\$667 to uphold outdoor traditions in the Manhattan School District through the National Archery in the Schools Program.

\$500 to support Montana's Audubon Conservation Education Center classes at Pompeys Pillar National Monument.

For more information, visit www.nwtf.org or contact Melanie Swearingen at mswearingen@nwtf.net or (803) 637-7634.

HUNTING & CONSERVATION NEWS

Land Exchange Falls Short For Elk And Elk Hunters

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation



Durfee Hill - Photo courtesy Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation maintains that elk and elk habitat need to be the major points of focus regarding a proposed land exchange in central Montana involving two major land parcels: one south of Grass Range and one north of the Missouri River in the CMR Monument with additional smaller parcels added in both areas.

Dan and Farris Wilks own large tracts of private land surrounding more than 4,860 acres of landlocked Bureau of Land Management (BLM) tracts in Fergus County, south of Lewistown. They submitted a proposal to the BLM to acquire those lands in exchange for 5,250 acres of land that would provide additional access to the Snowy Mountains and the Upper Missouri River Breaks in Blaine County.

"At the core of this issue, it is more about elk than anything else. What's at stake here is the vital importance of elk and the ability of state wildlife managers to implement elk management," said David Allen, RMEF president and CEO. "If this exchange goes through, that ability will be further compromised in a hunting district where elk are already well above management objectives."

"Those Blaine County lands have alternative access options that should not require trading critical elk habitat. RMEF is willing to help finance efforts to improve access as needed in this region. We would like to see a more of an apples-to-apples exchange proposed." Allen added.

Right now, access to the BLM land is extremely limited, including the 2,785-acre parcel best known as Durfee Hills which contains prime elk habitat and a healthy elk population. Hunters and others currently reach those landlocked parcels by plane or helicopter.

The BLM previously stated its principal motivation in considering the land exchange is the potential to restore improved access to about 50,000 acres of backcountry in the Missouri Breaks. Historic access routes to the Blaine County lands north of the Missouri River go through lands the Wilks offered for exchange.

"This is not a black and white issue and it's much more than just the amount of acreage or land mass involved. On one hand, we already have access to the Big Snowies and we can improve access to the Breaks, but if this deal goes through we lose a key piece of elk habitat in the Durfee Hills that the public will never get back. If the public is going to trade this amazing elk country, the public should receive a much better deal if any deal is made," added Allen.

The BLM is preparing an environmental assessment and ask for public comment on the proposed exchange.

HUNTING & CONSERVATION NEWS

Wyoming Hunters Enjoy Near Record Elk Harvest

Wyoming Game and Fish Department



© WildlifeDreamstime.com

Hunters often talk about the good ol' days when it comes to their favorite fall ritual, but for elk hunters the good ol' days are now as revealed by recently completed Game and Fish harvest surveys.

For the second year in a row, Wyoming elk hunters had a banner year with the elk harvest for 2013 topping more than 25,000 animals. Estimated harvest was 25,968 elk for the year, surpassed only by the record 26,365 elk taken in 2012. By comparison, in 1995, elk harvest was 17,695 elk, more than 8,000 fewer than the Wyoming harvest of the past few years.

According to the Game and Fish harvest surveys, elk hunting in Wyoming is as good now and over the past five years as it has ever been. During that time period hunter success was consistently greater than 40 percent. Elk hunters experienced 45 percent success in 2013 and enjoyed more than 461,000 recreation days afield.

The increased harvest is a result of good habitat conditions resulting in increased population along with favorable hunting conditions. In addition the Wyoming Legislature and the Game and Fish Commission have given the Game and Fish tools to help with management and increasing hunter opportunity. An example is the change in statutes two years ago allowing the Commission to authorize the take of up to three elk per hunter in select areas. Additionally, the Commission has supported and provided funding for hunter access in key areas where the Department is addressing elk population above established management objectives.

"Increased elk harvest and hunter opportunity is a testament to how we can be effective in accomplishing both objectives when sportsmen, landowners, sporting organizations and the Game and Fish work together," said chief game warden Brian Nesvik.

Nesvik said the Game and Fish is grateful to landowners who provide habitat for elk. "Most elk herds in Wyoming rely on private lands to provide habitat for at least part of the year," Nesvik said. "Landowners providing hunting access are absolutely key to harvest success and managing elk herds. The Department and sportsmen appreciate landowners providing habitat for elk," Nesvik said.

Citing the contribution of sportsmen organizations, Nesvik said that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) has raised more money for elk in Wyoming than in any other state for the past three years indicating people in Wyoming value their elk herds. In addition to providing hundreds of thousands of dollars for habitat work, the RMEF recently provided \$45,000 for hunter access.

Wildlife managers continue to monitor the decrease in elk productivity and subsequent hunter opportunity in some areas of northwest Wyoming near Yellowstone National Park. Nesvik notes that while hunter success is high on a statewide basis, there continues to be elk herd units in the Jackson and Cody Regions where hunters are concerned about lower elk numbers and lower hunter success. The Department has documented lower calf productivity in many of these areas.



Best Value In Montana Lodging.



Lodge Like Atmosphere With Resort Amenities

- Spacious & Comfortable Rooms • Free Hot Breakfast
- Large Indoor Pools & Jacuzzis - All Hotels • Business Meeting Facilities
- High Speed Internet Access • Exercise & Game Rooms • iPod Docking Stations In All Rooms
- Refrigerators, Microwaves, Coffee Makers In Every Room • 42" or 50" Flat Screen TV In Every Room

BILLINGS - 800-655-1170 • BOZEMAN - 866-782-2717

MISSOULA - 888-989-5569

www.cmoninn.com

Nebraska Governor Stands Up For Sportsmen, Veto's Hunting Ban

US Sportsmen's Alliance 3/28/14



Today, Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman vetoed a bill that would have banned Mountain lion hunting in Nebraska. The measure, LB 671, sought to remove the authority of the state's wildlife management professionals in favor of legislative ban on mountain lion hunting.

In his veto message, Governor Heineman stated "Nebraskans expect responsible wildlife management. LB 671 eliminates an important tool used to accomplish it. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission should retain the ability to determine those management actions which are necessary to protect both the health and safety of our citizens and the wildlife in our state. Removing the agency's authority to manage mountain lions through hunting at this time is poor public policy."

The bill will now be returned to the legislature where they would need 30 yes votes to override the Governor's veto.

"Our system of wildlife management is designed to remove political influence and allow wildlife management professionals to do their jobs," said Nick Pinizzotto, USSA's president and CEO. "We're extremely proud of Governor Heineman for standing up to protect sportsmen. This action speaks volumes about his view of hunting and scientific wildlife management. Nebraska sportsmen should call Governor Heineman today and thank him for this stance."

On Monday, March 24, the Nebraska legislature passed the bill that removes the authority of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to manage the state's growing mountain lion population. The effort to ban Mountain lion hunting is being driven by Senator Ernie Chambers. Senator Chambers has vowed to oppose every proposal of the state's Game and Parks Commission until the mountain lion season is banned. Nebraska added Mountain lions to the state's list of game animals in 2012 when Governor Heineman signed LB 928 into law.

REGIONAL NEWS



California Poachers Confess To Multi-State Crimes

After a Colorado Parks and Wildlife investigation spanning several states and two hunting seasons, a trio of men from California have pleaded guilty to numerous wildlife violations in Colorado and New Mexico, dating back to 2011 through 2013. Upon being confronted with extensive evidence of their crimes, the three men admitted to their illegal activities and accepted a plea bargain in Rio Blanco County Court in late February.

Throughout their crime spree, the men hunted on private property without permission, illegally killed an elk, nine mule deer, one turkey and a blue grouse. In several instances, the poachers only removed the head, cape and antlers from their illegal kills, or abandoned the entire animal leaving the meat to waste, which could have brought felony charges and a prison sentence.

During the investigation, wildlife officials gathered a variety of evidence including taxidermy mounts from their homes and numerous photos of the men posing with the illegally taken wildlife.

"These individuals showed complete disregard for the wildlife laws of several states in a brazen and arrogant manner," said Northwest Regional Manager Ron Velarde of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. "Citizens have every reason to be outraged by their destructive behavior and we, along with the other agencies we worked with on this case, are satisfied to see that these individuals have been brought to justice."

Ringleader Anthony Bauer, 35, of Palm Desert, California, was convicted of willful destruction of big game wildlife - a felony in Colorado, four counts of hunting without a proper and valid deer license and illegal take of a mule deer. He was ordered to pay \$5,754 in fines, make a \$10,000 donation to the Meeker Sportsman's Club and forfeit all evidence seized, including hunting gear and personal computers. Bauer also pleaded guilty for the illegal take of a bull elk in New Mexico. As part of his plea, Bauer was ordered to return the illegally taken elk mount, a mule deer mount and a Barbary sheep mount to New Mexico.

Bauer is the owner of 'Live2Die', an outdoor-themed hat and clothing company based in California. The company's website is where investigators discovered the incriminating photos, eventually removed from the site under the terms of the plea bargain.

"Ironically, it was the discovery of two hats emblazoned with the company's logo found hidden in some brush on private property near two poached deer that led us to these individuals," said Area Wildlife Manager Bill de Vergie of Meeker. "The landowner found the hats and let District Wildlife Manager Jon Wangnild know right away. It once again shows how important the public's help can be in bringing violators to justice."

De Vergie praised the work of all of the officers and investigators involved in the case, including wildlife officers from New Mexico and California and a forensics laboratory in Wyoming. He noted the outstanding work of DWM Wangnild of Meeker who initiated the two-year investigation after receiving a tip from a local outfitter.

Wangnild passed away after being injured in a horseback riding accident in June, 2013, eight months before the case was resolved in court...

Also pleading guilty in the case was Frank D'Anna, 29, of San Diego and Hank Myll, 33, of Palm Desert. Myll pleaded guilty to hunting mule deer without a proper and valid license and illegal take of a mule deer. D'Anna agreed to pay a citation for hunting blue grouse without a license, hunting mule deer without a license, illegal take of a blue grouse, illegal take of a mule deer and hunting on private property without permission. Several other men allegedly involved in illegal hunting with Bauer, D'Anna and Myll and are facing possible charges in New Mexico, pending further investigation...



Social Networking, Colorado Style

Big-Game Over-The-Counter and Leftover Licenses on Sale:

Aug. 5, 2014 9 a.m. MDT

For help planning your hunt call: 303-291-7526

cpw.state.co.us



CPW Attempts To Reintroduce Sheep Herd To Gribbles Park

A return to greatness. That's what Colorado Parks and Wildlife hopes will happen with a new herd of bighorn sheep that's been relocated to Badger Creek to the south of Gribbles Park.

Badger Creek was once a popular home for bighorn sheep after a herd was introduced there in 1991 by CPW. The original sheep were transplanted from the Rampart Range herd, located near Colorado Springs.

"For many years they did really well and had a great history of not only population growth but also harvest," said Brian Dreher, senior wildlife biologist.

However, starting in 2004 the population began to decline. CPW staff tried treating the herd for multiple diseases but without any success. In 2013 CPW removed the last remaining 13 ewes to a disease research facility in Wyoming in an attempt to explain the population loss.

"Unfortunately, disease can have a major impact on bighorn sheep populations and in this case, we could not reverse the decline," said Dreher.

Earlier this month CPW decided to reintroduce bighorn sheep into Badger Creek in hopes of reestablishing a successful population. With the permission of the State Land Board, fifteen sheep were captured using a helicopter from a herd on the Chancellor Ranch in Chacuaco Canyon located in SE Colorado. "We appreciate the access granted by the State Land Board to complete this operation," said Dreher.

The sheep were captured by helicopter using a net gun and were airlifted to Badger Creek, south of Gribbles Park. Some of the sheep were fitted with satellite transmitters which will email the sheep's location two times a day to biologists for the next several years.

"We want to reestablish that herd so we can return that herd to the greatness that it once had," said Dreher.

REGIONAL NEWS



Annual Wolf Report Available Online

The 2013 annual summary of wolf monitoring in Idaho is now available, and shows wolf numbers remain well above the 150 wolves and 15 breeding pairs required to keep gray wolves off the endangered species list under the 2009 de-listing rule...

Biologists documented 107 wolf packs in Idaho at the end of 2013, fewer than the 117 documented at the end of 2012, but still the second highest documented since reintroduction. Seven additional packs were added to the 2012 total based on evidence collected during 2013, bringing that total to 124 packs. Not all packs are presumed documented. An estimated 659 wolves were associated with documented packs of wolves in Idaho at the end of 2013.

In addition, 28 documented border packs were counted in Montana, Wyoming and Washington that established territories overlapping the Idaho state border and spent some time in Idaho.

Of packs investigated for evidence of reproduction, 49 were known to have reproduced. Of those, 20 qualified as breeding pairs at the end of the year.

In Idaho, wolf packs ranged from the Canadian border south to the Snake River Plain, and from the Washington and Oregon borders east to the Montana and Wyoming borders. Dispersing wolves were occasionally reported in previously unoccupied areas.

Harvest by hunters and trappers accounted for 356 wolves killed during 2013. Control efforts and legal landowner take in response to wolf-livestock depredation accounted for the deaths of 94 wolves.

The Idaho progress report is available online at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/wolves>.



Fish And Game To Study Raven Predation On Sage-Grouse

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will conduct lethal control actions on ravens in three study areas in southern Idaho beginning this spring, and evaluate whether the removal improves sage-grouse populations. Sage-grouse are a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a permit to Idaho Fish and Game to conduct the 2-year study. Raven numbers have risen dramatically in the western U.S. and ravens are a primary nest predator of sage-grouse eggs and chicks.

The three study areas are the Greater Curlew Valley near the Idaho/Utah border, a northern area of the Idaho National Laboratory into Birch Creek, and an area in Washington County in western Idaho. In these areas, sage-grouse populations have declined significantly in the past few years and previous studies have documented high densities of ravens in two of these areas.

View a map of the study area - <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/media/ravenControlMap.pdf>

Raven control will occur mid-March through mid-June, this year and next, during the sage-grouse nesting season. Control efforts will be conducted by authorized Fish and Game personnel. Fish and Game has requested assistance from USDA, Wildlife Services.

Lethal control may include shooting, removal of raven nests and eggs, and poisoned bait in chicken eggs. USDA, Wildlife Services can use an EPA regulated poison, or corvidicide, that affects ravens. Toxicity of this poison to other animals is negligible including to those that may eat poisoned ravens. Use of the poison will be highly selective and placed in areas designated by Idaho Fish and Game.

Win
the **Hunt**
of a
Lifetime!

Every year
thirty-four hunters
win the hunt of a lifetime
by entering **Idaho's Super Hunts**.
It's your chance to hunt
world-class big game in any open hunt.

No license required to enter drawing
fishandgame.idaho.gov/superhunt 208-334-3700

Minnesota's Moose Population Trend Shows No Significant Change

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Aerial moose survey results for 2014 show no significant change in Minnesota's moose population even though more animals were seen than last year.

Results of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' annual aerial moose survey place the 2014 statewide moose population estimate at 4,350. The 2013 estimate was 2,760 but due to variability in the estimates, this year's estimate does not represent a statistically significant change.

"The higher estimate this winter likely is related to ideal survey conditions rather than any actual increase in the population," said Lou Cornicelli, wildlife research manager for the DNR. "This year's heavy snows across northeastern Minnesota made it comparatively easy to spot dark-bodied moose against an unbroken background of white..."

"Mortality rates of 21 percent among adult moose and 74 percent for calves in the first year of the studies illustrate the complexity of Minnesota's moose population problem," Cornicelli said. "Even though we counted more moose on this year's survey than last year, the radio-collar data and overall population trend over time indicate a continuing population decline."


No final decision about moose hunting will be made until after the DNR consults with the affected Chippewa bands in the 1854 Treaty ceded territory of northeastern Minnesota. The DNR suspended the season in 2013 because of last year's low population estimate.



The DNR has conducted aerial moose population surveys in northeastern Minnesota since 1960. The survey involves flying a helicopter across 52 randomly selected areas of northeastern Minnesota to count moose. The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the 1854 Treaty Authority contribute funding and provide personnel for the annual survey.

BULL OF THE MONTH
ALL-TIME #5 TULE

BOONE & CROCKETT
Score: Gross 352 $\frac{3}{8}$, Net 343 $\frac{1}{8}$
Date: 1996
Location: Grizzly Island, CA
Elk Found By: Richard Cox

View this magnificent bull and more at the Elk Country Visitor Center.

Directions: Take I-90 to Exit 101 in Missoula. Drive 1/4 mile north to 5705 Grant Creek Road.  accessible with RV parking. Open year round. For information, call (406) 523-4545 or 866-266-7750 or visit www.rmef.org.

720-0314-005

Game Farm, CWD Concerns Rise At Boone And Crockett Club

Boone and Crockett Club

Concerned about captive deer operations transmitting diseases to wild herds, the Boone and Crockett Club now officially supports state bans on commercial import and export of deer or elk.

The Club also opposes efforts to relax regulation of captive cervid breeding operations or to remove management authority over such operations from state wildlife agencies...

The Club's concerns were reinforced at the recent Whitetail Summit hosted by the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), the first summit to focus on key issues and challenges facing free-ranging white-tailed deer.

"Of all the presentations, seminars and findings, I was most pleased to see the attention given to the connections between chronic wasting disease (CWD) and the game farming industry. This has been on our radar, and on the radar of QDMA, other conservation groups, state agencies and sportsmen for quite some time," said Richard Hale, chairman of the Club's Records Committee...

Documented cases of CWD have been found in captive and/or wild deer and elk in 22 states and two Canadian provinces. In some, but not all, cases where the disease has been found in wild populations, the disease is present in captive populations within these regions.

In 2002, the Boone and Crockett Club, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Mule Deer Foundation formed the CWD Alliance. Its purpose was to pool resources, share information and collaborate on ways to positively address the CWD issue. Other organizations have since joined the Alliance, including QDMA and the Wildlife Management Institute, which now administers the Alliance website www.cwd-info.org.

"Evidence strongly suggests that captive animals infected with CWD can serve as the source for the spread of the disease to other captive animals, and between captive animals and wild populations," said Hale.

Check Opening Days For Shed-Antler Hunting On Wildlife Management Areas

MFWP

Shed-antler hunters and other recreationists planning to visit a Montana Wildlife Management Area are reminded that while many popular WMAs open at noon on May 15, several do not open until June 1. It is illegal to enter a state WMA prior to its formal opening day.

Buck deer and bull elk and moose grow antlers each year, some to magnificent size, which drop off to regrow each spring. Hunting for and collecting these "shed" antlers in spring has become a popular activity on more than 30 WMAs managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Many of Montana's WMAs provide security to wintering wildlife during the most vulnerable time of the year. These WMAs are closed to public use following the end of the hunting season and do not reopen until mid-May or June 1.

In the past, some WMAs have opened at midnight, but current regulations require all WMAs statewide with winter closures to reopen at noon to help with consistency and public safety.

In addition to WMAs, any other public land that offers good wintering range for wildlife offers shed antler hunting opportunities. FWP wildlife managers say hunters who search for antlers where they plan to hunt in the fall can gather valuable information about the age and size of the animals in the area and their movement patterns. If that location is on private land, remember to get landowner permission prior to making an antler hunting trip.

Springtime searching for shed antlers, hiking, and other such activities are not allowed through the Block Management Program, but instead require permission from the private landowner. Block Management only covers public hunting and typically is only in effect during fall hunting seasons.

To learn more about Montana's WMAs—and to confirm specific opening dates—visit FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov.

I-169, Oppression Versus Sound Science

By Keith Kubista

President Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

We are at a very perilous crossroads with regard to the future of proven and sustained wildlife management, our rural Montana heritage, and multiple public land use traditions. Animal rights activists want to eliminate trapping and the truth is they are abusing the ballot box to accomplish this emotional and biologically deficient endeavor.

Trappers have a deep appreciation for wildlife and have always been respectful of our natural and renewable resources. Trappers work tirelessly with wildlife conservation professionals, fish and game agencies, and other user groups to avoid conflicts where they arise or may exist, rather than attempt to exclude any use or activity by others. Montana is a very large state with multiple opportunities for all forms of recreation including sustainable harvest of individual animals by the use of trapping.

The history of Montana is steeped in the beneficial use of our natural resources including trapping, and throughout the years trappers have implemented Best Management Practices and use the very same equipment wildlife agencies use when they trap animals for research purposes.

Many of our wildlife populations from deer, moose, antelope, and even sage grouse are under constant threat of mortality from an abundance of predators. Trapping is a significant, effective, and practical tool used to manage predators to ensure other wildlife numbers do not decline. Montana FWP utilizes sound science for resource management and recognizes trapping to be biologically sustainable. In fact so do many professional wildlife authorities such as the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and The Wildlife Society, North America's association of wildlife scientists.

As Montanans we must protect our rights to public land use and guard against those who wish to eliminate our way of life just because they don't agree with what we do. The long standing tradition of trapping lives large across our treasured state, I urge you to reject I-169 and ponder this question; what outdoor activity prohibition is next on the animal rights activists agenda?



Drawing will be held on December 17th, 2014

2014 MONTANA ELK COUNTRY RAFFLE

Buy 20 Tickets for \$100 and get a chance to win an **Additional Gun Prize!**

OVER \$6500 VALUE!



\$100 Bonus Item: Proof Research Bolt Action Rifle

This lightweight rifle features a Defiance right hand short action with Jewell trigger and BDL hinged-floorplate, carefully bedded in a hand-laid Monte Carlo-style carbon fiber/Kevlar composite stock in Granite Green with Black Cerakote finish on all metal surfaces. A 24.5" carbon fiber-wrapped PROOF Research barrel (includes thread protector) ensures match-grade accuracy in all conditions. PROOF Research's carbon fiber-wrapped barrels and composite stocks give the long-range hunter the best of both worlds—extreme accuracy with substantial weight reduction. The Vortex Viper PST 4-16x50 FFP that sits atop this rifle makes this a deadly combination for any big game.



www.proofresearch.com | www.vortexoptics.com | www.defiancemachine.com

1st Prize: Montana Rifle Company .300 WSM Bolt Action Rifle



www.montanarifleco.com



2nd Prize: Montana Canvas Wall Tent 10x12



www.montanacanvas.com

3rd Prize: 2000w Honda Generator



www.sportsmanswarehouse.com



4th Prize: Elk Shoulder Mount

WILDLIFE Artistry
www.wildlifeartistryinc.com

5th Prize: Leupold VX-3 4.5-14x50mm Scope

LEUPOLD
AMERICAN OPTICAL CORPORATION
www.leupold.com



6th Prize: Howa Stainless 7mm Rifle

www.legacysports.com



7th Prize: Sitka Gear Optifade Package

www.sitkagear.com



SITKA

8th Prize: Kayak & Float Tube

www.realestateauctions.com



RealEstate AUCTIONS.com



9th Prize: 4 Person Flathead Ice Fishing Trip

<http://aablefishing.com/>



10th Prize- Oregon 600 GPS and Montana Map Chip

<http://www.onxmaps.com/>



11th Prize- Cabela's 10X42 Binoculars

www.cabelas.com

Cabela's



1 FOR \$10 / 3 FOR \$20 / 20 FOR \$100 + an additional chance to win a gun prize!

TRIM AND RETURN FORM BELOW

TWENTY TICKETS FOR \$100 + ADD. CHANCE FOR GUN PRIZE

ONE TICKET FOR \$10

THREE TICKETS FOR \$20

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

CHECK AMEX VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

RETURN TICKET PURCHASE SLIPS TO: Montana Elk Country Raffle, P.O. Box 2194, Cut Bank, MT 59427

If you want a hardcopy of your tickets, send a SASE with your donation submittal. Void in Washington and where prohibited by law.

Additional ticket forms can be found here: <http://www.rmef.org/Events/rafflessweepstakes.aspx>. Drawing will be held on December 17, 2014



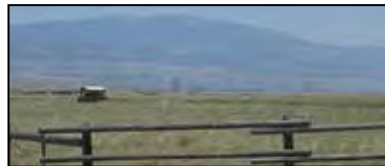
004-1213-002

Dallas Land COMPANY

112 Willow • Helena, MT. 59602

443-5110

www.dallas-land.com



20 Acres near Elkhorns

1 mile west of Winston on Weasel Creek Rd. which is direct access into the Elkhorns. Close to Canyon Ferry. Newly fenced.

\$95,000 MLS# 286550



20 Acres w/Cabin Started

Off grid but w/year round access. Alternative power system included in price. Finish cabin started or start new.

\$130,000 MLS# 286312



5 Acres- Sunny Side Raptor Ridge

Stunning views of Elkhorns!
Well in. Excellent building site.

\$139,000 MLS# 282716



Scenic 20 acres

Off Hwy 12 W w/breathtaking views looking down the Ten Mile Creek Valley, Priests and McDonald Pass.

\$169,900 MLS# 283432



23 Acres overlooks Hauser Lake

Paved access w/utilities available.

\$180,000 MLS# 287461

Contact one of our qualified Agents

Don Dallas 410-0406
Curt Dallas 410-0769
Ken Rudio 439-5541
Larry Johns 227-1590

The Unexpected Hunter

By Karin Holder

Sponsored by Raised Hunting, HECS Stealthscreen, Bohning Archery, Mathews, Carbon Express

Reprinted with permission from Bowhunting.net

For more please go to: www.bowhunting.net



It happens at least once a day. The same question gets asked over and over, or maybe it is a comment rather than a question. It doesn't really matter what it is, it gets asked. It usually goes something like this.... "I wouldn't expect a woman like you to be a hunter." My question would be, "What is a hunter supposed to look like?"

The point is, I hunt with my husband, David and my two boys Warren and Easton. I started doing this over twenty years ago when David and I started to date. It was important to me to be interested in what he was doing and to be a part of it. Even though I grew up around hunting, I rarely, if ever, got to go because I was a girl. In that day and age, girls didn't hunt. But I loved to be out in the wilderness and exploring nature. To me it was peaceful and has always been a place I feel close to my creator.

So this was a large learning curve for me to be out with David. What do I wear? Where do I go to the bathroom? What do I use for a bow? Can I just use his or what? Can I wear my make-up or will it have a scent to it that will alarm the animals that a human is near? What about the treestand? Do I have to stand on that tiny platform while the wind is blowing the trees from side to side, not to mention I'm afraid of heights? How will I shoot my bow if I'm holding on to the tree so hard my knuckles are white. All of these things were running through my mind and had me quite anxious as a new hunter.



Author with her trophy buck.

Excitement, however and the desire to be outside and to start to experience wildlife up close and personal pushed all that anxiety to the side. I will never forget one of my first experiences with deer was when a doe and her fawn laid down under my tree stand. As the doe relaxed in the warm sun, her eyelids got heavy and her eye lashes were so long they laid on her cheeks. She never knew I was there and I got to witness nature in one of its purest forms.

My point with this story is everyone has to start somewhere. Being a hunter has nothing to do with how a woman or a man looks on the outside, but everything to do with what is inside. A hunter or huntress, as I hear more and more often, is someone who respects wildlife. Someone who believes in conservation. Someone who wants to share experiences and the journey with their loved ones. Someone who wants to push their own limitations physically and mentally. Someone who is patient and understands they aren't in control of every situation. Life and wild-life can take unexpected turns and as a huntress or hunter you need to be ready for them.

As for equipment, the hunting industry has come far in the past 20 years. There is a better selection of bows, arrows, guns and clothing now than ever before. In addition, there are more than enough resources of other hunters willing to share their knowledge.

More women are hunting every year as they are gaining the knowledge, experience, equipment and confidence in the sport. This is a movement that is powerful and important. It brings you close to your family and close to nature in a way that is beautiful. Give it a shot, you may find this is right for you.

For more please go to www.RaisedHunting.com Be sure to visit Raised Hunting on Facebook

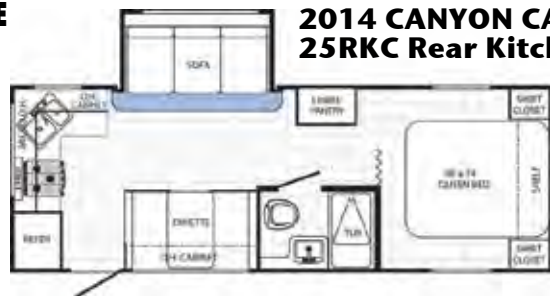
WHOLESALE PRICING TO THE PUBLIC - ALWAYS



DOUBLE SLIDE

Our Price
\$26,716

2014 PUMA 281RBKS Bunks
List Price: \$34,594
We Save You: \$7,878



2014 CANYON CAT 25RKC Rear Kitchen



NEW UNITS ARRIVING DAILY!

Our Price
\$18,999

List Price: \$24,354
We Save You: \$5,355



WE SAVE YOU
\$20,676

List Price: \$79,901
Our Price \$59,225



Affordable Quality Family Fun!

\$20,999

List Price: \$30,338 We Save You: \$9,339

2014 ASPEN TRAIL 2810 BHS Bunks

Super Slide! Private Master!



Our Price
\$24,179

List Price: \$30,803
We Save You: \$6,624

2014 PUMA Travel Trailer 26RLSS Rear Living

2014 RAPTOR 300 MP TOYHAULER

DEEP DISCOUNTS on ALL REMAINING 2013 Models!



Arctic Fox, Canyon Cat, Carbon, Denali, Fox Mountain, Nash, Laredo, Avalanche, Puma, Wolf Creek, Snow River, Raptor, Alpine, Aspen Trail & INTRODUCING SABRE & COLUMBUS FROM PALOMINO RV!

HELENA, MT. 406-442-8542
1-800-246-8542
www.ddrvcenter.com

Late-Season Spring Gobbler Tactics

By Steve Hickoff Yamaha Outdoors Tips



Photo: Steve Hickoff

Yep, spring turkey season is done in some parts of the country. In places...it runs until the end of May. Maine even ends at noon on June first.

But maybe you've hit a wall. You sell those calls like a hot hen, but gobblers aren't buying. They'd rather run with the red heads. When male turkeys don't want your sweet hen yelps you need to rethink your hunting tactics. First half, halftime and second half birds can respond differently. You may have to call like a gobbler to pull one into range.

FIRST HALF: Male turkeys might still travel in small gobbler gangs after leaving larger winter flocks. Tracking studies show jakes (juvenile gobblers) often cover the most ground. A dominant longbeard and subordinate male (tom or shortbeard) are common sightings too in transition.

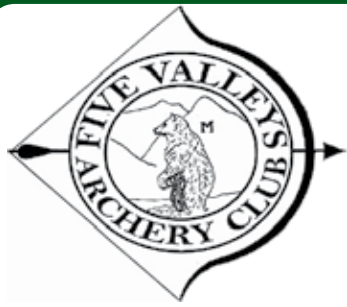
Calling Tip: Gobblers draw gobblers. When spring hunting early male groups without hens, locate roosted turkeys by: 1) listening without calling, 2) drawing shock gobblers with an owl, crow or other locator call, or 3) gobbling. Gobble sparingly. Just one well-timed call after fly-down might bring those red heads running. As safety goes, watch for other hunters too.

HALFTIME: Mid-season flocks are pretty much established. A dominant strutter shadows his hens, waiting to breed one. They move from the roost to nearby food sources, where female turkeys later raise broods. Subdominant male birds, toms or jakes, hang close to the boss. Call one away from live hens? Maybe if you act like another interloping gobbler.

Calling Tip: Gobble or gobbler yelp to do one of several things: 1) pull in a subdominant gobbler, 2) call in the whole group, as gobblers draw hens too, or 3) fire-up gobblers to fix the flock's position before your next move. Staking a gobbler decoy at your setup, especially a Jake, might seal the deal. Throw in some fighting purrs and gobblers might come running to the fight.

SECOND HALF: Hens disappear and are likely nesting. Days heat up. Gobblers travel together again. Some are still driven to find hens; still others return to male turkey groups, or will soon, and stay this way through summer and autumn. Your waning spring hunt might now do better with some fall turkey calling tactics.

Calling tip: Soft-selling gobbler yelps can interest late-season male spring turkeys just as these calls do in autumn. This call is deeper with a slower cadence—yawp-yawp-yawp—than faster, higher-pitched hen yelps. Make it and keep your eyes and ears open for an approaching red head bobbing through the greened-up woods. I once killed a three-bearded Memorial Day longbeard. You can too if the season is still open where you hunt.



Don't Miss the
**FIVE VALLEYS
ARCHERY CLUB**
Annual Bear Shoot
June 14 & 15



Two days of nothing but
shooting your bow.

This will be the **BIGGEST
ARCHERY EVENT OF THE YEAR.**
Come have fun with friends,
family,
and other Bowhunters.

**FIVE VALLEYS ARCHERY CLUB
BEAR SHOOT 2014
JUNE 14th & 15th**

36th ANNUAL FAMILY FUN SHOOT

80 3-D TARGETS: 40 each day.

Four separate loops of 20 targets.

Shoot two different loops of 20 targets each day.

**These two shoots are at the same location
for a weekend full of archery fun.**

Saturday afternoon - additional fun shoots to be announced on site.

Trophies awarded to top 3 places in each flight on Sunday afternoon.

Participation awards for all Cubs.

You must shoot both days **and** be flighted on Sunday to be eligible for trophies.

Shoot all of Green Course one day and all of Orange Course the other day to be eligible for trophies.

Saturday's top shooters in each division will be flighted and groups will leave at 8:00am on Sunday.

**Primitive camping available on site.
Bring your own firewood.
Bear proof gear required.**

**Contact: Paul Roush
@ 406-544-2169 or
FVAC@Live.com or visit
Five Valleys Archery Club on Facebook**

**Held at The Clearwater Junction,
45 miles East of Missoula on Hwy. 200.
Concessions by Pards Tummy Teasers**

The Turkey Hunting Connection

By Babe Winkelman Sponsored by Mathews Archery

Reprinted with permission from Bowhunting.net

For more please go to: www.bowhunting.net



Want To Become A Better Deer Hunter? Master The Challenge Of Bowhunting Spring Gobblers

The crack of a broadhead hitting a drumstick is wonderful, because a gobbler without gams can't run or fly. I recently heard that magnificent sound in South Dakota. So did 10 other folks in camp, including Joel Maxfield of Mathews. For years, Maxfield has been a fixture at my annual sponsor-appreciation turkey hunt in Gregory County, S.D., just west of the Missouri River and north of Nebraska. The event features a who's-who of archery industry professionals and Maxfield makes the hunt every year.

It's easy to understand why. The thrill of calling a drumming, spitting, strutting gobbler into bow range is amazing. Turkeys fill the void bowhunters experience between deer seasons, and the camaraderie at spring turkey camp is no less magical than that of November deer camp. Of course, delicious turkey meat is an added bonus.

LESSONS IN THE TURKEY WOODS:

At camp this past spring, the pre-hunt conversation focused on how turkey hunting can make you a better deer hunter. Woodsmanship is a major factor. Although turkeys can't really smell, their eyes and ears are phenomenal, and when they get spooked, they're gone. Savvy turkey hunters must use supreme stealth when moving, including walking silently, reading sign to identify ambush areas, and using cover and terrain to avoid being skylined. These talents are also critical when bow-hunting for whitetails or other big game. If you can put the sneak on a wary longbeard, you'll be better prepared for spot-and-stalk deer hunts.



Turkey hunting also increases your observational skills. After setting up, it's imperative to sit statue-still and be on constant watch. Turkey hunters learn to scan the landscape using only their eyes, because even a slow turn of your head can alert a sharp-eyed gobbler.

Concentrate when studying the terrain, and train yourself to not look for turkeys. Rather, look for parts of turkeys, just as you watch for a buck's white throat patch or the flick of a deer's tail. The best hunters can spot game before animals see them.

Turkey hunting also teaches you to look with your ears. Train your ears to pinpoint scratching or soft calling from an unseen bird.

EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

If you lure a gobbler within bow range, you must still close the deal, which means drawing your bow without getting busted. A smooth draw is critical, but that can only happen if the bow is set at your ideal draw weight.

(continued next page)

Too many bowhunters have their bows set at their peak draw weight. Drawing your top weight requires lots of excessive movement, especially during cold weather, when your muscles are chilled and you're wearing more clothing. I can pull 83 pounds if I put some snot into it, but my Mathews Creed is a modest 70-pounder, so I can draw it in one smooth move. Believe me, 70 pounds from a Mathews generates the speed and kinetic energy to send any creature on the planet to the butcher shop.

If you're unsure about your ideal draw weight, see a Mathews retailer for help. Mathews only sells through pro shops with seasoned archery experts who know their stuff. I rely on my retailer to work with me on paper tuning and peep installation. When I leave with my bow, I have 100 percent confidence in the equipment and setup. I take that confidence into the field, whether for turkeys, bull elk or big whitetails.

It's wise to routinely draw your bow in slow-motion during pre-season practice. In addition to strengthening your shooting muscles, this prepares you if you must use a super-slow draw on a skittish animal. If you can't draw your bow in slow motion, decrease the poundage, or keep strengthening your muscles until you can.



BACK TO HUNTING:

Let's say you've picked a good spot, sneaked in silently, called a bird close and come to full draw on a gobbler. The turkey is quartering away at a slow walk, getting farther with every step. Do you know the distance?

Your distance judgment on a turkey must be more precise than with a whitetail, because a gobbler's vitals are the size of a baseball instead of a dinner plate. And if you don't bust bone or put that broadhead into the vitals, the bird will be gone. It's a shame to let a wounded turkey get away.

Get good at judging distance. Use a range-finder, and even put rocks, sticks or stakes at known distances so you can pick the right pin at the moment of truth. Do this for turkeys and all other fixed position bow-hunting.

Some bow-hunters put color-coded flags at 20, 30 and 40 yards to match the color sequence of their sight pins. It's a great idea, and because it eliminates the need for a rangefinder, it can mean the difference between a kill and a lost opportunity.

CONCLUSION:

On that beautiful spring day in South Dakota, my Mathews Creed came to full draw on my Merriam's gobbler, and I knew the bird was dead before I shot. I had total confidence in my equipment, yardage and marksmanship. The sound of crushed bone told me I was right, and the hunt brought me one step closer to becoming a better bow-hunter.

If you've never bowhunted for turkeys, start. It will be one of the most fun and rewarding adventures you've had. If you've tried it, keep going. Remember, the next time you're in the spring woods, pay attention to the ways turkey hunting can enhance your archery deer hunting skills. Come September, you'll be glad you did.

For more please go to www.winkelman.com

The Game Season Starts Now!



See These and other
Vortex Products today!



Spotting Scopes•Red Dots•Tripods•Binoculars
Monoculars•Riflescopes•Rangefinders

BOB WARD
& Sons SPORTING GOODS

2014 MONTANA VORTEX DEALER OF THE YEAR

Missoula • Bozeman • Helena • Butte • Hamilton
or shop 24/7 at www.bobwards.com

Custom Long Range Precision Rifles

Photo courtesy of MT Wild



Custom Rifle Builds • Gunsmithing
Optics • Suppressors • Bipods
Slings • Magazines & More...

www.SNOWYMTNRIFLES.com



FACEBOOK.COM/SNOWYMTNRIFLES | INFO@SNOWYMTNRIFLES.COM | 406-546-8732 | MISSOULA, MT

THE BEAR THAT KILLED A BEAR

By Larry Potterfield, Midway USA

We saw him just at last light, way off to the south, as he lumbered down out of the willows toward the lakeshore – wow, was he big!

Next morning we climbed a steep hill on the opposite side of the lake, which gave us a great perspective of that entire area from about 1200 to 1500 yards distance. It was a beautiful, but hazy, October day and we saw several bears come and go around the lake. Early in the afternoon a large sow and two cubs walked down the far shoreline and a big bear suddenly came out of the bushes and chased them away – it was our bear.

We quickly descended from our perch and crossed the lake in a small boat, landing a half-mile down the shore, for the best wind. Our stalk was inland at first, aiming to cut off his escape to the willows at the base of the mountain, should he sense us.

Then we turned back toward the shore and my guide put me up front as we got near. I led quietly onward, through intermittent waist-high brush, with my 375 H&H at the ready. The bear was lying out of sight on a large mound of sod, but at 60 yards he sensed our presence and raised up on all four legs, giving me a two second broadside opportunity. One 300 grain Nosler Partition in the shoulder as he started to move, and another as he tumbled around on the ground, and the first part of this story was over – but wait, there is more!

Walking up on the kill site we found that our bear had stripped most of the sod in a circle nearly 50 feet in diameter and formed the mound he was standing on when I shot – interesting! We presumed he had killed a moose the night before.

While the guides were skinning the bear, Brenda got a shovel and started digging in the mound of sod. Oh my gosh; the bear had killed another bear, and not a small one either. We dug out both front feet and the head to get an idea of his size, but then left him to nature.

So, that's the story of the bear that killed a bear.



Here is an unusual picture that provides a good perspective of the size of a coastal brown bear. To size the bear (how big he was), we measure the extreme length and width of the hide (after skinning), then average the two. This bear is 10' 0". Photo Midway USA

Gun Report

The Model 48 Outfitter™ Rifle by Nosler



The Model 48 Outfitter provides the same rugged reliability of the Model 48 Patriot, but in a more compact and hard hitting package. Designed for dense brush hunting, the Model 48 Outfitter is fitted with a twenty-two-inch stainless steel barrel and a robust set of adjustable open sights for snap shots or backup in case of a scope malfunction in the field.

Includes:

Nosler Model 48 Custom Action
Stainless Match-Grade Barrel (22")
Lightweight Aramid Fiber Reinforced Composite Stock
Glass & Aluminum Pillar Bedding
Blind-bottom Internal Magazine
2-Position Rocker Safety
Crisp, Hand-Tuned Trigger Pull
Cerakote® All-Weather Finish
Guaranteed M.O.A. Accuracy with prescribed Nosler Ammunition
MSRP \$1,895

MVP Varmint, Scoped From Mossberg



Caliber: .204 Ruger
Capacity: 11
Barrel: 24 Med. Bull, Fluted
Sights: None (Scoped Model)
Scope: 4-16X50MM Scope
Twist: 1:12
Length Of Pull: 13.25"
Finish: Matte
Stock: Laminate - Bench Rest (Includes Bipod)
Weight: 9.25 lb
Overall Length: 43" MSRP: \$912.00

Gamestalker by Olympic Arms



Engineered specifically for big game hunting

This Gamestalker model features .300 OSSM, .243 WSSM or .25 WSSM in a 22" stainless steel fluted barrel.

Upper type: Forged flat top w/ picatinny rails

Front sight: Gas block no rails

Handguard: Free floating slotted aluminum tube

Barrel: 22", button rifled, 416 Stainless steel

Chambering: 243 WSSM, .25 WSSM or .300 OSSM

Bore: Long-life non-chromed bore

Twist rate: 1x12 (243 WSSM) 1x10 (25 WSSM) 1x12 (300 OSSM)

Stock: ACE FX skeleton stock

Length/Weight: 40.25" / 7.5 lbs

MSRP: \$1,363.70



Before you hit the road

KUMHO TIRE

Get **\$80**
back* on

ROAD VENTURE AT

The Road Venture KL78 provide drivers of pickups, SUVs and on-off road vehicles with versatility that will get you going both on road and off road.



TIRE SUPPLY

SERVICE CENTERS

TOTAL TIRE PROTECTION
PACKAGE
REPAIR WARRANTY
COMPLETE NATIONWIDE

SEE YOUR LOCAL DEALER

Anaconda	Lisac's of Anaconda	406-563-6110
Billings	Lisac's of Billings	406-656-7502
Bozeman	Eagle Tire Brake & Alignment	406-587-5414
Broadus	Hi-Tech Auto Repair, Inc.	406-436-2378
Butte	Lisac's Tire	406-782-4294
Butte	Lisac's American Car Care Center	406-494-4450
Conrad	Conrad Tire	406-278-3422
Darby	Automotive Solutions, Inc.	406-821-3440
Ennis	D&D Auto	406-682-4234
Glendive	Berg's Tire	406-377-5286
Great Falls	Falls Tire Service	406-453-1418
Helena	Eagle Tire Brake & Alignment	406-443-5910
Kalispell	M&C Tire	406-752-9662
Missoula	Big Sky Tire	406-251-5988
Phillipsburg	Bob's Quality Auto	406-859-2725
Ronan	Arnie's Gas & Tire Center	406-676-0400
Shelby	Mark's Tire & Alignment	406-434-5118
W.Yellowstone	Jake's Automotive & Tire	406-646-9500
Whitehall	Full Circle Tire	406-287-5682
Williston, ND	OK Tire Store	701-774-0233
Ashton, ID	Tri-State Tire	208-652-3344
Rupert, ID	Nick's Quality Tire	208-436-3900

*See dealer for details. Must buy tires by May 31, 2014 for this rebate offer.

GO WHERE ADVENTURE LIVES WITH CAN-AM

Industry leading performance, precision-engineered handling, and rider-focused design.

The Ride Says It All Drive one today!



2014 Can-Am Maverick™ Max X^{rs} DPS™ 1000R

2014 Can-Am Commander™ XT™ 1000

2014 Can-Am Outlander™ Max XT™ 1000

2014 Can-Am Outlander™ XT™ 500

ON THE TRAIL, IN THE MUD OR ON THE TRACK...



We've Got Your Ride!

3186 Highway 12 E. Helena 406-443-7373

onewaymarine.com • Full Parts & Service Depts.

**Ask about
current offers**

©2014 Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. (BRP). All rights reserved. ®, TM and the BRP logo are trademarks of BRP or its affiliates. In the U.S.A., products are distributed by BRP US Inc. Some models depicted may include optional equipment. BRP highly recommends that all ATV drivers take a training course. For safety and training information, see your dealer or call the ATV Safety Institute at 1-800-887-2887. ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety: always wear a helmet, eye protection, and other protective clothing. Never carry passengers on any ATV not specifically designed by the manufacturer for such use. All adult model Can Am ATVs are Category G ATVs (General Use Models) intended for recreational and/or utility use by an operator age 16 or older. For side-by-side vehicles (SxS): Read the BRP side-by-side Operator's Guide and watch the Safety DVD before driving. For your safety: wear a helmet, eye protection and other protective gear. Fasten lateral net and seat belt at all times. Operator must be at least 16 years old. Passenger must be at least 12 years old and able to hold handgrips and plant feet while seated against the backrest. ATVs and SxS are for off-road use only; never ride on paved surfaces or public roads. Always remember that riding and alcohol/drugs don't mix. Never engage in stunt driving. Avoid excessive speed and be particularly careful on difficult terrain. Ride responsibly.



Lessons Learned From the Lake Commandos

By Steve Pennaz

What happens when you dump two expert anglers on unfamiliar water and tell them to conquer it ... and each other?

A Texas buddy of mine and I pulled up to a bar that started in 19 feet of water and topped out in 5. We were both fishing a Carolina rig, and both using a Berkley Chigger Craw for bait. So why did he catch five bass in the next 10 minutes while I remained skunked?

It's hard not to be fascinated with the factors that affect fishing success. And as much as one tries to break things down to key elements such as bait selection, speed, location, color, etc., the more frustrating it can be—the number of possible combinations is endless.

When we launched Lake Commandos our goal was simple: to highlight the thought processes successful anglers use when developing effective patterns. Each week my guest and I fish unfamiliar water. And before we even launch the boat, we each announce our chosen pattern for the day. Then we fish my guest's pattern for two hours, then switch to my pattern for the next two; the most productive of the two are then used the rest of the day.

Weird? Yes. Tough? Always! Effective? Most of the time.

So why do it this way? Because when you are forced to fish a single pattern and trying to beat the guy with you, you do whatever it takes to catch fish. And that's when you really start to push the envelope.

Ponder the following questions a moment: When's the last time you burned a bass jig over shallow grass? Tossed a lipless crank in two feet of water? Compared your flippin' efficiency with someone using a reel geared a speedy 7.9:1 (or even 9:1)? Made a color change simply because a cloud bank moved in? Tried fluorocarbon for vertical jigging in rivers?

Lesson One—Getting on Fish Fast

One of the best ways to get on fish fast is offering the fish multiple choices. That means, using your partner to help eliminate bait options. Try not to use the same bait as others in your boat, and if you do settle on the same make and model lure, play with different lure colors until a clear winner emerges.

Also experiment with line choice, speed, hook size, leader length, and other factors in your offering. Time and again I've seen how subtle choices make big differences in success. Case in point, that day on a classic Texas reservoir I mentioned earlier. At first, I couldn't wrap my head around why I was getting thumped so bad. We were both throwing a 4-inch Berkley Chigger Craw in green pumpkin and our casts were landing just five feet apart.

(continued on page 44)



LINCOLN

PART PARADISE, PART WILDERNESS



**LEEPER'S
PONDEROSA
MOTEL**

Nestled in 2 acres of ponderosa pines
All rooms have cable TV, microwave,
refrigerators, coffee pot •
Kitchenettes • Laundry room
Sauna • Free WiFi

Reasonable rates

The heart of hunting, fishing & snowmobiling

110 1st Avenue, Lincoln, MT.

(406) 362-4333

Pets welcome

Southwest Montana Grizzly Bear Management Plan Available MFWP

As grizzly bears begin to emerge from winter dens in southwestern Montana, state wildlife officials say a recently updated conservation plan shows Montana is well prepared to take over management of the federally threatened species.

The plan, presented to the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission in February, was developed over the past year in conjunction with a programmatic environmental impact statement. The update addresses state management options once the Greater Yellowstone Area's more than 700 grizzly bears are removed from the federal list of threatened species.

"Over the past four decades, Montanans have worked hand in hand with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' bear experts to reduce conflicts with grizzly bears," said Jeff Hagener, director of FWP in Helena. "Communities have deployed bear-resistant garbage bins; landowners have erected electric fence systems to deter bear depredations; and hikers, campers, hunters, anglers and outfitters have followed through on conflict-prevention tips gleaned from hundreds of educational programs."

The result, Hagener said, is a healthy and growing grizzly bear population ready for state management. That's where the new grizzly bear conservation and management plan comes in. "The plan calls for Montana to stay the course," Hagener said. "Status quo management of grizzlies in southwestern Montana allows FWP to continue its work to prevent human-grizzly and livestock-grizzly conflicts before they occur."

Hagener noted that preventative actions can include public outreach efforts to ensure recreationists are familiar with smart hiking and camping practices in grizzly country in addition to livestock conflict preventative work, like electric fencing of apiaries or overnight sheep pens.

"FWP also remains committed to conflict management that can include lethal removal of problem grizzlies," Hagener said. The plan applies to a seven-county area of southwestern Montana, including Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Park, Gallatin, Madison, and Beaverhead counties. Hagener stressed that FWP will not relocate grizzlies within the area to expand the current distribution. "Grizzlies will move into areas on their own and we hope they move into suitable habitats," he said. "FWP will, however, capture, relocate or remove grizzlies that get into trouble."

Among the issues considered in the plan are population monitoring, habitat management, nuisance grizzly bear management, future distribution and the potential for grizzly bear hunting. While the plan anticipates the removal of the Yellowstone area's growing grizzly bear population from the federal list of threatened species, successful delisting requires that the bears be able to disperse naturally into areas where adequate habitat exists. Upon delisting, grizzly bears will be considered game animals in Montana and could be hunted at some point. Details of any hunting opportunity would be developed through standard Fish & Wildlife Commission processes...

**Auto
CONCEPTS**
THE AUTO ENHANCEMENT PROFESSIONALS

Performance parts &
Custom Accessories

**Pace Edwards
Switchblade**
Retractable Truck Bed Covers



SEE US FOR
YOUR TOWING
HITCHES & ACCESSORIES

**TONNEAUS* CARGO CONTAINMENT
BED LINERS* CARGO MATS* BEDRUGS**

**NEW!
LEER
LOCKER**

Ceiling mounted storage system utilizes space of your truck cap

LEER

SPYDER INDUSTRIES, LLC

GO INDUSTRIES, INC

Grill Guards
Brush Guards
Steps
Sport Bars
Rack Systems
Air Flow Tailgates

WeatherTech®

HOT-ITEM! **TUNERS* GAUGES* TOWING**

PROCHARGER

45-65% More Power

Superchips

THE POWER IS UNDENIABLE

EXHAUSTS* FILTERS* INTAKES* SPACERS* LIGHTS

KC HILITES

FLOWMASTER

MAGNAFLOW
Exhaust

LIFT KITS* SHOCKS* LEVELS* SPRING SYSTEMS

BDS

FABTECH

RANCHO

OFF ROAD

SKIDACKER

CAR STEREO & ELECTRONICS DEPT.

Leer Truck Caps and Tonneaus • Scorpion Spray On Bedliners
3M Window Tint and Clear Hood Protection (**Helena's Only 3M Dealer**)
Crystal Fusion (Glass Protection) • Paint Chip Repair
Car Stereo/Electronic Department • Truck and Car Accessories
Full Service Detail Shop • Custom Graphics • Full Service Sign Shop

**PROFESSIONAL AUTO DETAILING - WINDOW TINTING
& CRYSTAL FUSION GLASS PROTECTION**

We specialize in
custom illustrated,
one-of-a-kind graphics.

Owner, Todd Sullivan has been customizing vehicles for over 20 years and has received national awards for his graphics.

3242 Centennial St. Helena (406) 457-0700
www.autoconceptshelena.com

Reel in the Goodness with Hi-Country Brines & Fry Mixes!



Make-Your-Own Smoked Fish



- Easy to follow instructions
- Custom formulated
- Soak in brine & smoke!



Easy-To-Use Fish Fry Mix



- Use as dry breading or wet batter
- Great beer batter recipe inside
- Simply roll your fish & fry!

Hi-Country Products are
Available at a Store Near You...

or check us out online at
www.hicountry.com



HI-COUNTRY SNACK FOODS, INC.
Lincoln, Montana
1-800-433-3916 • (406) 362-4203

HI-COUNTRY
Since 1976

Up in Smoke?

Whitetails Unlimited www.whitetailsunlimited.com



Smoking food is a preservation technique that predates written history, but today's sophisticated options can produce truly outstanding vittles. With a little research, planning, and equipment, you can turn out restaurant-quality dishes at home, and amaze your friends and family with your culinary skills....

Tip 1: Rinse, Lather, Repeat?

Success in smoking food depends on controlling variables so you can get repeatable results. Smokers can use charcoal, propane, wood, or electricity. My Camp Chef Smoke Vault model runs on propane, and will hold a steady temperature for hours, easily controlling one of the most important variables.

Tip 2: Do Research & Start Small.

There are many good resources on the Internet, and many, many, great cookbooks out there. Find one you like and follow the directions exactly. Start small—if it is your first time making ribs do one rack, not a dozen. If something doesn't work out, try to figure out what went wrong, and try again. My first rack of ribs was good, but not great. I did two racks the second time, and they were nearly perfect. My third time was when I invited everyone over, and six racks quickly disappeared.

Tip 3: Keep a Little Black Book.

Keep a record of everything you do, so you can refer back to it later. A notebook of recipes, processes, time, weather conditions, and results will allow you to repeat your successes and avoid your failures.

Tip 4: Don't Get Freaked Out.

Every cookbook or Internet site has its own procedures and processes, and many times the advice between them is mutually exclusive. One will say to never go under 225 degrees, while another will say to never exceed 190 degrees. Don't worry, just pick out what you think sounds good, try it, and modify it if needed to suit your taste. So, if you really like Carolina-style ribs, don't buy a Texas-style cookbook.

Tip 5: Gather Your Tools.

I've bought a number of things to make cooking with a smoker easier, and I don't regret spending the money. One website said to use a screwdriver to remove a membrane from the back of pork ribs, so I bought a long, thin one that I now use only in the kitchen. Other things I have found helpful came from a restaurant supply store, not the barbeque aisle in a big box store. Commercial grade tongs, several half-sheet pans commonly used in baking, square plastic containers (for brining) and a waterproof pad to protect my driveway and catch drips and spills under the smoker are all very useful.

Tip 6: Brine is Your Friend.

Some foods (often poultry and some cuts of pork) call for brining overnight, and if the recipe calls for a brine do not skip this step. A brine is a simple salt and sugar solution, but will produce an amazingly tender, juicy result.

Tip 7: Temperature Rules.

Many meats should be cooked to a particular internal temperature, and a thermometer that is inserted in the meat and left in place is the best way to get accurate results. Get one with a cord so the readout can be on the outside of the smoker. They can be set with the target temperature and start beeping when the meat reaches the final temperature, and a wireless model can make things even easier.

Tip 8: Take a Rest.

Many meats need to rest before serving, and you should not skip this step. This will let the moisture redistribute throughout the meat and prevent all the juices from escaping when it is cut.



**REAGAN
WITH BIG
RAINBOW TROUT**

Every spring around the 3rd week in March large Rainbow Trout migrate up the Missouri River from Holter Reservoir for the annual spawn. I have been teaching my 4 year old grand daughter the art and sport of Fly Fishing. As you can see from the photo she is picking it up. Teaching kids how to fish and fly fish is very rewarding and it helps to encourage another generation to protect and use our wonderful natural resources. I also teach Montana's Fish, Wildlife, and Parks "Youth Angler Education" class to the local 6th Grade Class. Taken on the Missouri River below Hauser Dam, and of course she needed some help to get this large 24" male Rainbow Trout in.
Jim Bosshardt

LODGING FISHING HUNTING HIKING & MORE!



Stay in one of our four creekside cabins on the ranch, or our Lodge in Augusta that sleeps up to 10.



A Dream come true for the fly rodder and small stream angler.



BOOK YOUR BIG GAME HUNT TODAY!



406-562-3553
3506 Hwy 435
Augusta, MT.
www.shocoranch.com
birds@shocoranch.com

Recipe Corner: Tex Mex Whitetail

Kris Winkelman
www.babewinkelman.com

Tex Mex Whitetail

Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 15 minutes
Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup mayo
- 1 tsp Cajun seasoning
- 1-1 1/2 pounds ground whitetail (venison)
- 1 jalapeno (seeded & chopped)
- 1/2 cup onion (diced)
- 2 cloves garlic (minced)
- 1 tbsp Cajun seasoning
- 4- 6 slices pepper jack cheese
- 4-6 buns
- Lettuce and tomato slices to garnish

Preheat grill. In bowl add mayo and 1 tsp Cajun seasoning (set aside).

In large bowl combine ground meat, jalapeno, onion, garlic with 1 Tbsp. Cajun seasoning mix well. Make into patties, place on grill and cook approximately 5 minutes on each side until done, the last 2 minutes place a piece of sliced cheese on each patty. Spread mayo on each bun, place patty on bun and then garnish with lettuce and tomato



Bear Meatballs

Prep Time: 20 minutes
Ingredients:

- 1 lb ground bear meat
- 1/3 cup bread crumbs
- 1 onion (chopped)
- 1 8oz mushrooms fresh (sliced)
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- egg noodles
- granulated garlic to taste

Cook Time: 20 minutes

- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 cups beef broth
- 2 T flour
- fresh dill
- salt and pepper to taste
- olive oil

Directions: In bowl combine: meat, egg, onion, breadcrumbs, milk, garlic, salt, pepper and garlic. Form in to balls. In large skillet add meatballs, add broth and flour together turning meatballs once until done and add mushrooms, sour cream and dill. Cook noodles until done and drain, place in serving dish, pour meatballs and sauce on top and serve.

MAKE QUICK WORK OF TRIMMING

STIHL®
FS-38 Trimmer
\$129.⁹⁵



- Lightweight
- High cutting speed
- 15" cutting width

All products backed by your full service dealer

MOUNTAIN
STIHL
Sales & Service

442-1788
1650 ASPEN ST., HELENA
mtnstihl@yahoo.com
Lawn & Garden equipment

WE BUILD "MAN CAVES"

We also sell building kits



If you have something that needs put away

CALL US RIGHT AWAY!

1-855-746-BARN

Free Estimates
Insured

H&H CUSTOM BUILDINGS East Helena, MT.

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED www.handcustombuildings.com



STIHL®
Chainsaws

Over
100+ chainsaws
in stock!

Triple W Equipment

Missoula 406-549-4171 • Kalispell 406-752-2828

TIZER MEATS

Mobile & Custom
Slaughtering

FILL YOUR FREEZER

with Beef & Pork Whole, 1/2 or 1/4

BEEF	PORK
Burger - Steak	Ham- Bacon - Chops
Roast - Ribs	Roast- Ribs
Stew Meat	Bulk Breakfast Sausage

The **MOST**
Economical
Way to
BUY MEAT

Whole or 1/2 cut to your specs

3558 Tizer Rd, Helena
across from Warren School & 4-H Community Center
Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm www.tizermeats.com

CALL FOR PRICES



406-442-3096

YAMAHA

GET OUT AND RIDE

SALES EVENT



AS LOW AS

3.99%
APR

FOR 36 MONTHS*

UP TO

+\$500

CUSTOMER CASH**

SEE ONE OF THESE YAMAHA DEALERS TODAY.

Great Falls

Steve's Sports Center
4700 9th Ave. South
406-727-8607

Hamilton

Al's Cycle
619 Highway 93N.
406-363-3433

Helena

**Montana Motorsports
& Marine**
3654 Hwy. 12 E.
406-449-6595

Missoula

Five Valley Yamaha
5900 Hwy. 93 S.
406-251-5900

Missoula

Maverick Motorsports
4950 North Reserve St.
406-549-4260

Townsend

Townsend Marine
7809 Hwy. 287 So.
406-266-5700



REAL WORLD TOUGH.



*Finance offer subject to credit approval, applies to purchases of new 2010-2014 Yamaha Motorcycles, ATVs & Scooters made on a Yamaha Installment Financing loan account from 2/1/14-6/30/14. Min. contract length 24 mos, max. 36 mos. Min. amount financed \$5,000. Fixed APR of 3.99%, 5.99%, 6.99% or 12.99% assigned based on credit approval criteria. Monthly payments per \$1,000 financed based on 36-mo. term are \$29.52 at 3.99% and \$33.69 at 12.99%.

**Customer Cash offer good on select 2010-2014 models between 2/1/14-6/30/14. Offer good in the U.S., excluding the state of Hawaii. ATV models shown are recommended for use only by riders 16 years and older. Yamaha recommends that all ATV riders take an approved training course. For safety and training information, see your dealer or call the ATV Safety Institute at 1-800-887-2887. ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety: Always avoid paved surfaces. Never ride on public roads. Always wear a helmet, eye protection and protective clothing. Never carry passengers. Never engage in stunt riding. Riding and alcohol/ drugs don't mix. Avoid excessive speed. And be particularly careful on difficult terrain. Shown with optional accessories.
©2014 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved. • YamahaMotorsports.com 3/14



Photo: Bob Humphrey

Wet-Weather Camping---

By Bob Humphrey
Yamaha Outdoors Tips

EQUIPMENT A variety of equipment exists to keep you and your camping gear warm and dry. What you can and should bring will vary according to the type of camping you're doing.

Backpackers should carry some means of keeping dry. Packable rain wear is one option. In a pinch, you can fashion rudimentary rain covers for you and your pack out of plastic trash bags. If you planned on sleeping out under the stars but there aren't any, a Space blanket weighs just a few ounces and makes a serviceable overnight shelter.

Tent campers bring their shelter with them, but must keep it dry too. Most tents come with a rain fly, and are made of waterproof or water-repellent material. Silicone sprays will enhance that. It's also a good idea to put a tarp under the tent to keep water from soaking up through the bottom. If you are car or ATV camping you can also bring along a larger tarp to cover everything.

LOCATION Where you set up camp can also determine how dry you stay. Select a site up and away from water. Heavy rains may result in flash floods, which cause streams, rivers and even small ponds to rise suddenly. Also be alert for surface flooding in hilly terrain.

Trees trap rain and funnel it in to the trunk and out to the edges of the outermost branches - the drip-line. Underneath the canopy and between the trunk and drip line you can stay a little dryer.

CLOTHING Hypothermia is the number-one killer in the outdoors, and a wet body loses heat faster. Wear a moisture-wicking base layer. Over that wear fleece or wool - something that continues to insulate when wet. Outside that wear Gore-Tex or other waterproof breathable laminate. You should also carry light gloves and a hat.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES ARE IN OUR BLOOD.

THE POWERFUL, QUIET AND RELIABLE EF2000iS.

Want to enjoy Mother Nature on your terms? Then put the Yamaha EF2000iS at the top of your packing list before you RV. It's got ample power to charge your batteries, a TV, microwave, and even the AC when two are run in parallel — so you can enjoy creatures and creature comforts. Plus, quiet-preserving Noise Block™ technology means it won't drown out the crickets. And the most important feature of all? It's a Yamaha.



406.541.4800-BRETZR.V.COM



@bretzrv



facebook.com/bretzrvandmarine

I-90 & RESERVE
EXIT 101 MISSOULA



YAMAHA



Scent Control Is A Global Challenge

(continued from page 5)

Dunham also added in that he tries to equip his PH, trackers, and cameramen in ScentBlocker Trinity gear as well. Along with having everyone on the team wear scent control clothing, they spray down all of their extra gear such as backpacks, tripods, shooting sticks, camera equipment, etc. Needless to say, a lot of spraying gets done in Rob's camps and experience has shown- that's what a successful hunt takes.

"Confidence is huge when trophy hunting. I might only get a split second to take that shot of a lifetime, and I need to believe that I can do it." Rob practices all possible shots, stays in great physical shape, and does several other things to make sure that when he does finally get a shot, he's not gasping for air, shaking like a leaf, and in a clear state of mind. "When the time comes-I need to know I can get it done."

When asked about any last tips or advice, Rob had these things to say. "Adventure hunting is a lot different than chasing whitetails. When you're next to a 13,000 pound angry African elephant, or three fired up Dugga Boy's, and the wind shifts- it's important to know that ScentBlocker provides real technologies to combat scent and help us remain undetected. These are life and death situations, scent control can save your life." Also Rob added, "Like any whitetail hunter, always keep the wind in mind. Pay attention to how the animals use it, and be sure to pay attention to the small details. Spray down your boots, pack, and binoculars- anything that may have come in contact with your skin."

As a hunter you should always spray down before going into your hunting area.

Rob is a wealth of knowledge and a great guy to talk to. I'm glad for the chance to work with him and can't wait to hear more adventure hunting stories. Africa sounds fun, but I think for now I'll stick with whitetails who run away from me when they spook instead of try to kill me- at least until I get into better shape. When adventure hunting- you don't have to be the fastest guy in camp- you just don't want to be the slowest! To learn more about Rob, book a hunt with him, or see what he's been up to, be sure to visit his website at <http://dunhams.ca/>. To find local show times for Nosler's Magnum TV, please visit <http://magnumglobalmedia.com/noslers-magnum-tv>. To learn more about ScentBlocker gear useful for global hunting adventures, please visit www.scentblocker.com. For more please go to www.robinsonoutdoors.com. For more great reading go to Nothing Gets You Closer





GREAT COMMERCIAL LOCATION & BUILDING IN GREAT FALLS!

Well known profitable wild game processing shop. Locally owned & operated with a 6000 +/- s.f. building with all the amenities & equipment to continue operating your business. Call for more details.

MLS#14-659



\$645,000

"MUST SEE" EVERYTHING!

This home is well manicured & this place has it all. 2 bedrooms, 2 bath, stone fireplace and vaulted ceilings. Beautiful landscaped yard, springs flowing into rock garden & then a pond & creek flowing out of the pond. 2 guest homes, 2 wood sheds, storage shed, finished 3 stall garage, 18x36 hay/storage shed, fenced pasture, on 2.57 acres with Highway frontage and option to purchase additional acreage.

MLS#14-460



\$424,000

UPDATED HOME IN THE COUNTRY!

On 25 acres just 10 miles east of Dutton off paved Hwy. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath with +/-2,528 sq. ft. of living space. 2 shares of Tri-County Water System. Heated, Insulated Shop with Metal Siding & Roof. Detached Garage with Metal Siding & Roof. Several additional Outbuildings, Extensive Grain Storage Bins can be rented for income. Pasture with a pond area.

MLS# 14-131



\$350,000



Sharon Virgin
sharon@argmt.net
868-2014



John Virgin
john@argmt.net
868-1078



Ron Muzanna
rmsledden@gmail.com
899-9317

www.montanarealestatesearch.com

Lessons Learned From the Lake Commandos

 (continued from page 38)

But, when I looked closer at what he was doing, I noticed he was fishing a fluoro-carbon main line, a 3/4-ounce sinker and clacker bead on an 18-inch fluoro leader. My line choice was braid, my sinker was slightly lighter at a 1/2-ounce, my leader was only 12 inches, and I purposely rigged without a bead.

You guessed it. As soon as I switched from braid to fluoro, increased my leader length and opted for a heavier sinker and bead, I started getting bit. It's not that his rig was "better" than the rig I was using, it was simply better that day.

Speed is another factor to consider, especially now that companies like Abu Garcia are offering models that cover the speed spectrum. Surprisingly, fast is often better than slow. Recently, we fished a 160-acre natural lake known for producing trophy fish. Yet, two hours into the day we had yet to boat a decent bass throwing swim jigs, pitching to holes in the dense weeds or drop-shotting.

Out of desperation, I started burning a jig over shallow grass, a technique that has produced well in the past. Within minutes a solid 4 pounder slammed the jig, and in the next 10 minutes three more quality fish joined him.

Here's the "take home" message: Most baits are a lot more versatile than most anglers realize. That's the deal. Lake Commandos has taught me to fish creatively with attention to the details, making subtle, on-the-fly adjustments, when necessary to provoke strikes.

Lipless Cranks Where? Just weeks ago I was on another...reservoir fishing with Tony Owens, biologist/tournament angler with the Texas Freshwater Fishery Center in Athens. Tony chose rattlebaits as his pattern, so I picked jerkbaits. The water temperature was trending upward all week, jumping from 50 to 60 degrees in a matter of days. All indications pointed to bass starting to move up toward spawning habitat. So we targeted shallow areas with the warmest water we could find in the system.

We gave ourselves the choice between two different rattlebaits for the episode: the Sebile Vibe Machine and the slightly bigger and heavier Sebile Lipless Seeker. My opponent was running the boat and throwing the Vibe Machine into shallower water. I was probing slightly deeper with the Seeker. We fished an entire hour or more without a bite. Then we moved up even shallower into a back bay, where I never in a million years would have considered fishing a rattlebait. It was only two feet deep with intermittent grass! A traditional rattlebait would have been hard to fish, but the Vibe Machine runs shallow and when fished on a slightly faster 7.1:1 reel on heavier line, we were able to keep our baits grass-free and in the strike zone. The result? We smoked the bass! Again, it seemed counter-intuitive, but it worked!

This particular outing also illustrated just how important color can be once the pattern is set. My guest fished natural shad color and I picked chartreuse. We fished the same baits on the same gear in the same areas and chartreuse flat-out caught more fish than natural shad. Of course, once he switched, it was game on! Left to fish intuitively, I would've thrown a spinnerbait, jig, or a Texas-rigged worm, but never a rattlebait. But by being forced to do something different, I learned an entirely new way to catch bass.

Here's one last example. This past summer we were stormed off our objective lake and onto a smaller, 500-acre lake picked at random. My opponent chose a medium-diving crankbait and I went with a shallow diver. It wasn't long before I was up 10 or 12 fish to his zero. Again, it came down to details. I was fishing a shallow-diving bait on a 7.9:1 retrieve ratio reel, which simply put the bait in front of more fish faster than his medium-diving bait on a slower retrieve. It's a good example of identifying what to do when the fish are "on," in terms of tweaking speed or bait selection.

There are countless more examples from filming that I could use to convince you to fish outside the box. But I won't belabor the point. For more examples, kick back and watch an episode or two of Lake Commandos.

I challenge you to Go Commando. Grab a buddy, head to water you haven't fished before (or recently), pick a couple patterns, and stick with one for the first part of the day. Then switch. See who catches the most fish. More importantly, figure out why they were more successful. After all, in a sport rich with bait, tackle and gear choices, the best choice is not always what you might think. The fish will let you know when you've picked a winner, that I can guarantee.*

WE HAVE A WIDE SELECTION OF NEW FORD VEHICLES



**2014 Ford Mustang
GT Coupe**



2014 Ford Focus



2013 Ford C-Max SEL



**2014 Ford Fusion
Titanium AWD**



**2014 Ford Escape
Titanium AWD**



**2014 Ford Expedition
EL XLT 4WD**



**2014 Ford F-150 XLT
Supercab 4WD**



**2013 Ford F-150
FX4 Supercrew 4WD**



**2014 Ford F-250 XLT
Crewcab 4WD**



**2014 Ford F-350
Platinum 4WD**

BROADWATER FORD & MARINE

Come see our huge selection of Fords. "Drive A Little, Save A Lot!"

Ask for
**Mike or Justin at
406.980.0167 or
406.266.5207**

7675 U.S.Hwy. 287, Townsend
Three Forks exit at I-90
or from Helena Hwy. 287.
**or visit
www.broadwaterford.net**

MONTANA'S BOAT & ATV SUPER-CENTER! Montana's Best Deals & Selection!



2013 Alumacraft Fisherman 145 F25
WAS \$15,998 **NOW \$12,995**



2014 Alumacraft Classic 165 F150
WAS \$25,995 **NOW \$23,995**



2013 Alumacraft Competitor 175 F150
WAS \$37,895 **NOW \$34,995**



2013 Alumacraft Trophy 185 LT F150
WAS \$42,995 **NOW \$39,995**



2013 Southbay 522 CPTX 115 HP YAMAHA
WAS \$43,995 **NOW \$39,995**

NOW SELLING HISUN ATVs visit www.broadwatermotorsports.com

2014 HISUN
HS500-EFI
was \$9,495
Now \$8,995



2014 HISUN
HS700-EFI
was \$10,495
Now \$9,995



2014 HISUN
OUTFITTER
800UTV-EFI
was \$11,495
Now \$10,995



2014 HISUN
AXIS
was \$7,995
Now \$6,995



BROADWATER FORD & MARINE



406.266.5207 • 800.336.2263

www.BroadwaterFord.net | www.BroadwaterPreowned.com

7675 Hwy. 287 N., Townsend

HOURS: Monday - Friday 8am-6pm • Saturday 9am-4pm



1710 Brooks St
At the corner of Brooks & Bancroft
(across from Pierce Flooring)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MAP GALLERY

MAPS, ATLASES & GUIDEBOOKS

Open
Mon. - Fri. 10am - 6pm
Sat. 10am - 2pm

542-1541

USGS / USFS / BLM Maps
River Rat Maps
Montana Afloat Maps
Constellation Lake Maps
Cairn Cartographics Maps
Beartooth Publishing Maps
Benchmark Maps & Atlases
Rocky Mountain Survey Maps
Summit Raised Relief 3-D Maps
National Geographic Maps & Atlases

"TRY OUR IN-STORE, CUSTOM TOPO MAP KIOSK"

ROCKYMTNMAPS.COM



DECOYING AND CALLING SPRING BEARS

Montana Decoy Co. www.montanadecoy.com

Coyote hunters love Montana Decoy's line of portable predator decoys, and bear hunters are learning that sitting over bait is not the only effective way to shoot a spring black bear. (Editor's Note: Baiting bears is not legal in Montana, but is legal in some states). Bears are hungry this time of year, and fawning season and rabbits reproducing like, well...bunnies, has set the table. This spring, set your table with the Fawnzy and Miss Hoptober predator decoys, and ring the dinner bell with a prey-in-distress call to lure big bruins into bow range.

The recipe for successful bear decoying and calling is not that complicated with proper preparation. Look for an area with bear sign, and choose a spot that provides good shooting lanes. The edge of a meadow or open timber is ideal. Also, choose a spot that allows some protection. A cluster of trees or boulders to your back will provide some peace-of-mind when you are calling in bear country. There's a chance mountain lions will respond to your call, and no one wants a mountain lion crawling up behind them. Protect yourself with the natural cover, or if you are hunting with a partner, sit back-to-back so you can watch each other's six o'clock positions. Once you've found a good place to sit, set-up your bear hunting decoys downwind of your location.

You want to pick a decoy to "match the hatch." If you are in deer country, use a fawn decoy, if you are in rabbit territory, use a rabbit decoy. We have even heard about customers painting spots on a Miss September cow elk decoy to use around the Rockies. Generally, a decoy like Fawnzy is better in spring. Set the decoy up off to the side of where you will be sitting, and not too far in front of you. Bears, unlike coyotes, tend to hang up before coming all the way to the call or decoys.

Once you have your main course figured out, ring the dinner bell with mouth calls or electronic callers, if legal in the state you are bear hunting. Begin a calling session with low-volume notes, just in case there is a bear nearby to your set. Bears have shorter attention spans than other animals. Coyotes will pinpoint your calls immediately and rush to your set. Calling bears successfully requires continuous calling rather than sporadic calling because they will trail off if they stop hearing the call.

This technique of calling bears and using a decoy can be so effective, hunters have noticed sometimes bears are aware of their presence, but simply ignore it once they see the decoy – especially younger bears...

More Tips for Calling and Decoying Bears:

- Calling tends to bring in older bears who have heard the distress calls from a fawn or rabbit before. They know it means an easy meal and seeing the decoy adds to their hunger of coming in for a bite. Decoying bears is a great tactic for hunters targeting Boone and Crockett class bears.
- If you stop calling, and the bear trails off, call again with increased intensity. Sometimes you can get the bear's attention again, but it's better to call constantly from the get go.
- Scouting for sign will determine the best areas to set up around. Look for bear trails and tracks (often wider than deer trails) around food, water and cover sources.

MAPPED BLACK BEAR HUNTING BMU 420

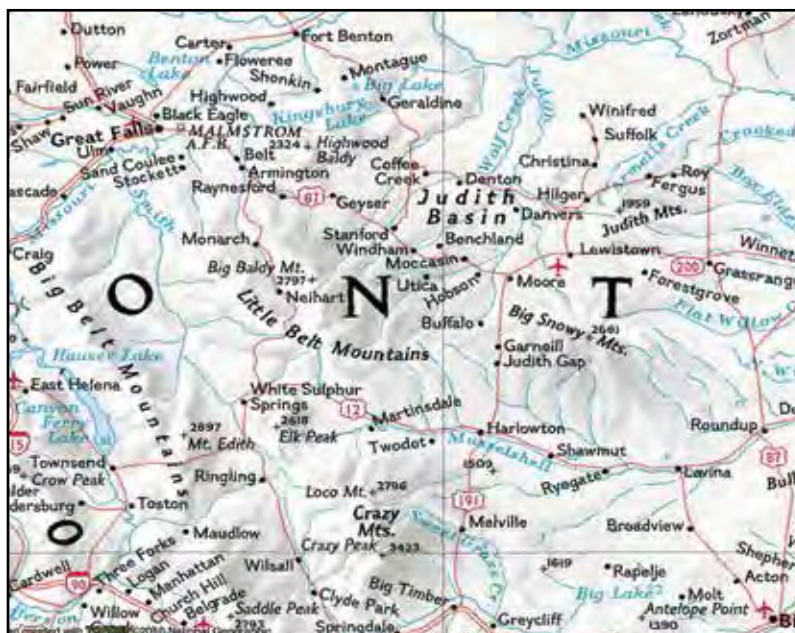
2013 Spring Black Bear Harvest Report MFWP
9 females - 11 males - 20 total

General Season

- Apr 15 - May 31 Either-sex Black Bear.
- Sep 07 - Sep 14 Either-sex Black Bear. Archery Only Season.
- Sep 15 - Dec 01 Either-sex Black Bear.

Always check current MFWP regulations.

Little Belts/Castle/Highwoods Mountains - 420 Little Belts/Castle/Highwoods Mountains: Those portions of Teton, Cascade, Judith Basin, Chouteau, Meagher, Wheatland and Fergus Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at White Sulphur Springs, then northwest along State Route 360 (Fort Logan-Millegan Road) to its junction with the Smith River, then downstream (northerly) along the Smith River to Ulm, then at Ulm and its junction with Interstate 15 northeasterly along said Interstate thru Great Falls, continuing northerly along Interstate 15 to its intersection with the Teton River, then easterly along said River to its confluence with the Missouri River near Loma, then downstream (easterly) along said River to the mouth of the Judith River near the PN Bridge, then upstream (southerly) along said River to MT Route 547 (Bear Springs Road at the Anderson Bridge), then southerly and westerly along said Route to Denton, then westerly along MT Highway 81 to its intersection with MT Highway 80, then southerly along said highway to Stanford and its intersection with US Highway 87, then easterly to its intersection with US Highway 191 at Eddies Corner, then southerly along said highway to Harlowton and its junction with US Highway 12, then westerly along said Highway to its intersection with State Route 294 north of Martinsdale, then southwesterly along said Route to its intersection with US Highway 89 north of Ringling, then northerly along said Highway to its intersection with Route 360 at White Sulphur Springs, the point of beginning.



Map produced using National Geographic TOPO
Courtesy Rocky Mountain Maps www.rockymtnmaps.com

Got Varmints?

Try Varmint Gold™



Pick up a box or more at your local sporting goods store

THE HUNTING SHACK, INC.

MANUFACTURED IN STEVENSVILLE *When you buy local your money stays here in Montana supporting Montanans.*

- For All Of Your Shooting Needs -

**Bear Load • Dangerous Game • Rifle • Handgun • Lead Free • Reduced Ricochet
Reloading Components • Firearms • Law Enforcement Ammunitions
Cowboy Action • Cleaning Supplies**



A portion of each sale of our Bear Load ammunition goes to support events for our Veterans.



visit us online at thehuntingshack.com

Memories made.



2014 Subaru Forester 2.5i Touring

With Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, more interior space and an available power rear gate, there's a whole lot to love about the 2014 Subaru Forester® *Motor Trend's* 2014 Sport/Utility Of The Year®.



SUBARU.

Confidence in Motion

PLACER MOTORS

406-442-2603 | 1-888-433-0119

See our full line of Subaru vehicles.

1515 EUCLID AVENUE, HELENA, MT. 59601