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The Independent News Service For Hunters Who Travel

# Red Stag Patagonia Offers Three New Properties For Trophy Red Deer

*Editor Note: At the Safari Club International convention back in February, Editor Barbara Crown learned about three new opportunities for trophy red stag hunting that will appeal to those who want a truly spectacular stag, those who want an excellent trophy but who may not be so nimble in the field and those who would like both a great stag and a getaway that a non-hunting spouse will love. All are on offer through a new company called Red Stag Patagonia. Here's the scoop.*



DATELINE:  
**Argentina & Chile**

## TRIP-PLANNING FILE



Barbara Crown  
Editor

more about the operation and their offerings.

Casado worked as a fly fishing guide in Patagonia for seven years for both Nervous Waters and David Denies. Eventually, he started arranging his own custom fishing and wingshooting trips. When more of his clients voiced an interest in trophy red stag hunting, he approached Nervous Waters and David Denies to create Red Stag Patagonia. He is now managing

opportunity promises to produce stags every bit as good.

The hunt takes place on private property in southern Chile's IX Region, about 700 kilometers south of Santiago. This free-range property is owned by a traditional Chilean family of German descent. They introduced red stags to the area 80 years ago, and the family has closely managed the herd and the habitat since then. Their efforts, according to Casado, have produced some of the largest free-range stags in South America.

The family only harvests six stags per season, and they only allow hunters to take mature stags 10 years or older and past their breeding age. Casado

(continued on page 3)

**B**ig game hunters who also wingshoot are likely familiar with the well-respected company David Denies Wingshooting, which has been offering dove and duck shoots in **Argentina** for more than 25 years. And those who are also flyfishermen will know the high quality lodges operated by Nervous Waters, in business since 1984. What you may not know is that these are both under the same umbrella company and have now started a big game hunting operation called Red Stag Patagonia. I caught up recently with Sebastian F. Casado, the motive force behind the new company, to learn

partner in Red Stag Patagonia and does some guiding himself, especially for bowhunters. He is a bowhunter himself, having learned effective techniques in Idaho and Montana on elk and applying them to red stag.

According to Casado, Red Stag Patagonia has secured three areas offering different experiences for different hunters. Their star area is a new and very limited opportunity in **Chile** for huge stags. Continuing subscribers will remember our 2002 report on another such opportunity for stags scoring in the 370 to 380-plus SCI range. (See article ID 1001.) This new



<b>Idaho &amp; Colorado</b> Mule Deer Outlook For 2012	<b>California &amp; Oregon</b> What's MUM up to post-Santa Rosa?	<b>Africa</b> Change in Botswana; Cameroon: New Area For Korrigum, More	<b>Mexico</b> New Hurdles For Importing Ruminant Trophies	<b>Subscriber Reports</b> Two From Romania, Alaska, Nunavut	<b>6 Controversies!</b> Alaska, Montana, England, BC, Idaho, South Africa
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## ⊕ In The Editor's Sights

More than 30 years ago, *The Hunting Report* started with two absolutely radical concepts. First was to publish and establish a database of hunting reports written by actual hunters who paid for their own hunts and would give other hunters "the real skinny" on any hunt—good, bad or ugly. In those days the only information generally available (other than word-of-mouth) was from outdoor publications whose writers received free hunts in return for promoting the outfitter or the destination.

The second radical concept was actually publishing negative reports, AND allowing the hunt operator and booking agent equal opportunity to present their side of the story. We felt then, and we still feel, that this is the only fair way to handle negative reports—air both sides of the story, let informed hunters decide for themselves what the ultimate truth is and, ultimately, vote with their hard-earned cash. In today's online world of forums, blogs, advertising-driven websites, Facebook and Twitter, anyone can flame off on any subject and reach an audience, making the radical concept of balanced reporting more important than ever.

But, following up on a negative report, making sure everyone gets a fair airing of their side, takes time and effort. Frankly, it would be a lot easier to just let unhappy hunters rant about their hunts gone wrong. But that's not what we do and that doesn't always get you the full picture you need to make a judicious decision about a hunting opportunity, an operator, or a destination. We take the time to get it right, as you can see in the

SIX controversies that start on page 14.

Some of you have told us that, while we do a great job with controversies, it sometimes takes too long to get them aired. We agree, and would like to introduce Ben Badger, our new secret weapon. Ben now handles every report as it enters our office. When he spots a negative report, he'll immediately create a file and forward the report to any concerned parties. As their responses come in, he'll package the entire file for our editorial staff. If he doesn't get responses in a set time, he'll follow up; then, we publish the complaint with or without additional input.

This simple, efficient system should allow us to do an even better job of bringing you the entire picture, so you can decide for yourself if a hunting opportunity is right for you.

We'd also like to let you know that we have recently finished upgrading and streamlining our subscription software. Most subscribers aren't likely to notice any difference at all, but it does mean we'll be handling new subscriptions, renewal notices, renewals and upgrades more seamlessly. If, however, the law of unintended consequences kicks in and you notice any issues with your subscription, please let Circulation Manager Delia Keen ([delia@huntingreport.com](mailto:delia@huntingreport.com)) know, and it will be taken care of immediately.

Thank you for being a subscriber of *The Hunting Report*.



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**Argentina & Chile** (continued from page 1)

warns that clients will see some very big trophies that they will not be allowed to shoot simply because they are not old enough. Hunters can expect opportunities at trophies scoring 350 to 400 points SCI with dark antlers and thick main beams.

The 20,000-acre property is located in the central valley of Chile. While the owners grow wheat in open fields, the property also offers thick forests and dark timber over easy rolling hills. There are no game fences; habitat management keeps red deer in the area. Stags are found and hunted on neighboring farms as well. The hunting is not difficult physically; hunters can walk or ride horseback while glassing. Some of the best areas are within walking distance of the lodge, says Casado. In fact, the lodge sits on a hill overlooking one of the prime hunting areas. "You can sit on the deck and see stags in the valley below," he says.

Family members serve as guides and speak English. They manage the herd and watch them all year, so they know where to take hunters and are familiar with the habits of the old trophy stags in the area. Hunts take place during the roar; March 15 to April 5 is prime time. Only two hunters are hosted at any one time. Hunts during the peak of the roar are five nights and four days. Hunts during the early and late weeks are six nights and five days. Lodging is in cabins with separate bedrooms, baths, living areas and a fireplace, plus a dining room and a veranda and deck. Meals feature typical Chilean/Argentine-type cuisine and Chilean wines. This hunt is not cheap at \$20,000, but that flat fee covers any trophy. Hunters fly into Santiago then take one of the daily domestic flights to the city of Temuco. From there it is a 45-minute ride to the ranch by car.

Red Stag Patagonia has also secured two areas in Argentina. One is a private ranch in Junin de los Andes in the center of Patagonia, where they have access to 100,000 acres and offer 20 trophy stags a year for up to 16 hunters. This is high desert in the foothills of the Andes. Red deer hinds live in the area's green valleys throughout the year. The stags winter in the timber and come

down to the foothills during the roar in March and April. Casado estimates there are 5,000 red deer on the property during the rut.

This property takes only four hunters at a time, and they can accommodate rifle, archery, muzzleloader and handgun hunting. Hunters travel to the hunting area by truck. From there it's horseback and on foot. Terrain can range from gentle hills to steep ridges, and the hunt can be tailored to the client's physical ability, including hunting from pre-set tree stands for archery and tent or natural ground blinds.

Lodging is in a traditional Argentine ranch house that's been converted into a lodge; Casado describes it as "not fancy but comfortable and clean, with good food and wines, typical of Argentina." Rather than relying on local gauchos for guiding, they use professional hunting guides who are hunters themselves and speak English. They know how to judge trophy quality. Hunts on horseback will have a gaucho along to handle the horses.

Casado promises that hunters will glass herd after herd every day on this property. He says you may well see bulls fighting and chasing hinds and can expect plenty of opportunities to take the one you like. Trophies range from 280 to 320 points SCI. Occasionally, a huge stag is taken, but the average is 300. This ranch also offers wild boar, which may be taken as targets of opportunity during the day or specifically targeted in the evening. The roar takes place in March and through the third week in April. Casado gives the cost of this hunt as \$5,800. Hunters fly into Bariloche or San Martin de los Andes and are picked up at the airport.

The second Argentine property is in the Tupungato wine region of Mendoza Province in west-central Argentina, right in the center of the Andes. This is straight west from Buenos Aires, near the border with Chile. Some of the highest peaks in South America are in the neighborhood, including the 21,681-foot Tupungato Volcano. The hunting area, 40,000 acres in total, is in lower foothills above the vineyards. While there are open patches of trees, the hunting area is mostly grass with high fences only to keep the game out

of the vineyards and berry patches. This traditional, local family operation has been breeding red stags for 20 years, importing breeding stock from New Zealand and Europe to improve the trophy quality.

Hunters take trucks as high as they can go each day, then hunt on horseback with lots of glassing. The terrain here is steeper than the other properties Casado offers. He warns this hunt is best for the hunter who is in good shape, knows how to ride horses and is able to hike in the mountains, though it would be possible to hunt from a blind in the valleys. Lunch is in the field at a designated lunch camp, followed by a nap on a cot and continued hunting in the afternoon.

Casado tells me this property is easily reached from either Buenos Aires or Santiago. Wine tours and local resorts make this hunt attractive for nonhunting spouses. The \$6,500 price tag includes five nights and four days and one stag up to 320 points SCI. Stags here average 320 to 350; some stags reach up to 400-plus points, thanks to the careful breeding program, but not many. The guides are professional and speak English. The on-site owner supervises and also personally conducts some hunts. Lodging is on a neighboring ranch at a country-style hotel, serving great food and conveniently located below the hunting grounds. For 2013 they will have a small lodge converted from an old house they are renovating. Again, not fancy, but it will be in the middle of the hunting grounds.

As a final note, Casado tells us he can also arrange an add-on hunt for exotics 100 miles south of Buenos Aires. This area has one of the largest black buck herds in the world and great axis deer hunting, all free-range on big, flat cattle ranches. A \$550 daily fee covers guiding and lodging; trophy fees are \$1,100 for a black buck, \$2,000 for axis. For more information on all these hunts, visit their website at [www.redstagpatagonia.com](http://www.redstagpatagonia.com), or contact Sebastian Casado at 877-260-4332 or [info@redstagpatagonia.com](mailto:info@redstagpatagonia.com). As always, if you go, please file a hunting report to help fellow subscribers decide if this opportunity is right for them. ■

# The New Mule Deer Reality: Where To Tag A Trophy This Season

(Editor Note: Mule deer hunting has changed in recent years. Taking a trophy mulie was once a matter of hunting public lands with readily-available tags. But massive deer die offs in the 1990s and early 2000s changed that. Later, eastern Montana came into the spotlight for quietly producing excellent bucks, but the winter of 2010-11 ended that run with extensive deer die offs there. Now, trophy-class mule deer are one of the hardest animals to come by in the West. The days of easy hunting are long gone, and finding a 30-inch buck, the bench mark



## TRIP-PLANNING FILE



for an excellent mule deer, is exceedingly difficult. In some states, bucks with antler spreads of 24-28 inches are the new trophy class. Still, correspondent Harry Morse tells us that you may yet have a chance at a quality mulie this season in both Idaho and Colorado. Read on for details.)

**B**etween 2001 and 2011 the top 10 Boone & Crockett entries for typical and non-typical mulie bucks were scattered between five states and two Canadian provinces. Colorado and Saskatchewan produced three bucks each, Utah placed two typicals in the book, and Arizona put two massive non-typical trophies in the decade's top 10. There were also some big bucks from states like Kansas, once considered on the fringe of mule deer range. Bottom line, over the last 10 years, no one state consistently put mule deer in the book. During the same period, hundreds of whitetails made the book. Taking a trophy class mule deer has become one of the biggest challenges in North America.

For this fall, your two best options are hunts in **Idaho** and **Colorado**. Idaho still holds quality bucks. As a B&C Official Measurer, I recently scored a 204 typical buck and a 235 non-typical, both from southern Idaho. May is the application month for Controlled Deer and Elk hunts in Idaho, and the best and biggest bucks consistently

come from controlled hunt units. Idaho is one of the few states without a points system. So, everyone has the same chance of drawing a controlled hunt tag. However, only 10 percent of the controlled hunt permits are available to nonresidents, and you have to buy a nonrefundable hunting license (\$154.75 for a nonresident), to put in for the draw. If drawn, the tag is \$301.75. Fees and instructions on how to apply are available at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/huntplanner/huntplanner.aspx>.

Three controlled hunt units in southern Idaho stand out for mulies in the 22- to 24-inch range, with much bigger bucks being taken each year. Units 44, 45 and 52 offer some of the best hunting in the West for big mature bucks, with a mixture of public and private lands. Good bucks are taken on public land, but the best opportunities are private lands. The buck-to-doe ratio is over 35 bucks per 100 does, and, each year, 26- to 32-inch bucks are killed in these units scoring 180 to 200 points SCI. The odds of a nonresident drawing are over 200-1 most years. That said, three friends of mine from Washington drew this hunt on their first try and hunted DIY. The smallest buck they killed was a 24-incher. They found access to private land was tough to get without paying a landowner access fee (\$500 to \$5,000 on the best ranches). They got a list of landowners from the regional Fish and Game office in Jerome. Public Information Officer Kelton Hatch is an avid mule deer hunter and a good contact there (208-324-4359).

Also in southern Idaho, Units 54, 55

and 57 are good units with quality bucks and public access. Resident drawing odds run from one-in-five to one-in-10. Nonresidents face higher odds.

Idaho gives outfitters limited numbers of allocated controlled tags, so their clients are not exposed to the main controlled-hunt drawing. This is a great option for a guided hunt in a prime unit. Hunters need to work out arrangements with outfitters well prior to the drawing date to be assured of a tag. Submitting applications with the correct hunt numbers to go into the outfitter draw pool is critical.

Two outfitters to consider in Idaho if you are looking for a hunt this fall are War Eagle Outfitters (208-645-2455; [www.wareagleoutfittersandguides.com](http://www.wareagleoutfittersandguides.com)) in Units 55 and 57 and Bearpaw Outfitters (509-684-6294; [www.bearpawoutfitters.com](http://www.bearpawoutfitters.com)) in Unit 78. Each will have tags available for 2012.

War Eagle Outfitters is located in southern Idaho out of the small town of Malta. It is a family-owned and operated guiding outfit that gets five allocated controlled hunt tags split between Units 55 and 57. One of the tags is a youth tag. Outfitter Ken Jafek is an avid mountain lion and deer hunter, as are his two sons and son-in-law, who guide for him. They know the country intimately and have access to some excellent private ranches. The country is high desert at 3,000- to 9,000-foot elevations. They take rutted roads into the high country, where they spot-and-stalk and occasionally set up blinds to catch deer coming out of timber at sunset.



A check with regional biologist Randy Smith confirms good over-winter deer survival in this area in 2011-12, with the buck-to-doe ratio running 27 bucks per 100 does in these three units. Last year, War Eagle killed a buck in velvet on an early hunt that exceeded the 180 B&C mark. Jafek tells me they see typically three to five bucks a day, but hunters have to work hard and have a little luck to get a shot at a really big buck. The units they hunt continue to produce mature deer in the 24-inch range with a good chance of seeing much larger bucks. Hunters must have enough will power to wait and pass up smaller bucks if they want a chance at a bigger one.

Hunters can choose to hunt out of the home ranch or tent camps. Pick-ups, ATVs and horses may be used on hunts, depending on the hunters and the weather. The better shape a hunter is in, the more area he can cover. Jafek uses horses when needed to get into more remote areas of the unit. War Eagle had five allocated tags available at this writing. All hunts are five days, 1x1, \$3,200 with meals and accommodations.

On the Idaho/Wyoming border, Bearpaw Outfitters has six outfitter's tags in Idaho unit 78, which had hunting pressure greatly reduced when it became a controlled hunt. This unit historically produced some monster bucks. Currently the deer herd in this area is slowly recovering, and trophy quality bucks are seen and taken in this unit. The average buck is 22-26 inches with bigger ones being seen.

According to outfitter Dale Denney, in 2010 all the hunters guided on this hunt got shooting opportunities, and most took a mature buck.

This is a high-country hunt from October 10-14, and while the weather and scenery can be beautiful this time of year, mountains and altitude can be hard on hunters who are out of shape. High-country hunts mean using a combination of vehicles, horses and foot power, spending 10-12 hours in the field walking or riding valleys and ridge lines while doing lots of glassing. This area once produced amazing bucks. Bad winters, hunting pressure and predation knocked the herds back substantially from 1993 until recently, but this area is ready to produce some great deer. The hunt costs \$3,950, 1x1 with room and board included.

Turning now to Colorado, where the general deer tag application period is over. According to Colorado's Division of Wildlife, however, a second drawing will be held in late summer and a few good tags always go unclaimed. The nonresident deer tag cost is \$349. But your best bet for this season is to secure a good Colorado mule deer hunt through an outfitter or landowner who has landowner vouchers. The results of the landowner voucher drawing come out in May. Here are two outfitters who believe they will get voucher hunts.

Mike Bondurant of La Garita Outfitters (303-704-7765; [www.lagaritaoutfitters.com](http://www.lagaritaoutfitters.com)), out of central Colorado, was featured in our February, 2012 issue (see page 7).

Bondurant believes he will have access to several permits for the Chico Basin Ranch. One tag will be for the late archery hunt in late November during the rut, and the other will be for the muzzleloader hunt. Last year, clients on both these hunts had opportunities at record class bucks estimated to score in the 200-point range.

Last season, subscriber Noah Hiscox (see Report 8470), hunted the late bow hunt with Bondurant, giving the outfitter and trophy quality excellent marks. Hiscox took what he describes as an excellent mule deer off the Chico Basin Ranch. Bondurant believes a B&C buck will come off the muzzleloader hunt in the next few years. Muzzleloader hunts are five days 1x1 for \$4,500, and archery hunts are for seven days, 1x1, for \$3,700.

Craig Krumwiede of Ridgetrack Outfitters (970-420-1141; [www.ridgetrackoutfitters.com](http://www.ridgetrackoutfitters.com)) guides on a number of big ranches in eastern Colorado where landowner vouchers should come available. His hunters will have access to some of these tags. *Hunting Report* subscriber Lee Frudden filed a report (8469) on his 2011 hunt, noting that he took a 200-inch mule deer and rating the hunt excellent with good game availability. Krumwiede tells us success on his mule deer hunts is nearly 100 percent with B&C bucks seen on the late hunt each of the last two seasons. Krumwiede says he expects to have vouchers again for the late hunt at the end of November. Hunts are 1x1, five days and cost \$4,500. *Good luck!* ■

## A Subscriber Recommendation for Montana Mulies

Still on the subject of mule deer, subscriber David Bryer, who describes himself as an "intermediate-level deer hunter," tells us he found a place to sharpen his skills on mulies about two hours north of Billings, **Montana**. The outfit he hunted with is Twin Creek Ranch (406-429-5615; [www.tchunting.com](http://www.tchunting.com)), and Bryer tells us that whitetails up to 180-class and mulies up to 200-class(!) were abundant on the property thanks to an long-term wildlife/habitat management program. Bryer also says that the food, accommodations and guiding were all excellent.

In a follow-up phone call at press time, Bryer told us his mule deer scored in the 180-class, and that he missed a much bigger trophy. Bryer tells us that hunters travel by ATV, glassing fields and then stalking on foot, and that most of the hunting is accessible to any physical ability. He concludes, "You need to take a look at Twin Creek Ranch if you are looking for a quality mule deer or whitetail hunt. This ranch is 30 square miles of upland bird and deer habitat with river bottoms and alfalfa fields. Deer are everywhere—you see shootable mule deer bucks from the lodge. The quality of the hunt was excellent."

We also talked to Zack Taylor at Twin Creek Ranch. They only take eight deer hunters per year (four for each species), though they also offer antelope (12 hunters per year, 6 bow, 6 firearm), wild upland birds and waterfowl, and high-volume prairie dog shoots. The average whitetail they shoot scores 155; the average mulie, 175. Unfortunately, they do not have any deer openings for 2012. Their resident antelope herd has also declined drastically from over 500 animals to 80 due to an outbreak of disease, and they are only taking two hunters this season ■.

## FOCUS ON NORTH AMERICA

# The Final Days of Santa Rosa Island and The Future of MUM

*Editor Note: Back in our January issue (page 3), we printed a brief note by correspondent Harry Morse on the sad end of hunting and wildlife management on Santa Rosa Island, California. Now, Senior Western Correspondent Lance Stapleton digs deeper into the past, present and future of Multiple Use Managers (MUM), the pioneering company that developed and maintained the quality hunting on Santa Rosa. While parts of*

*Stapleton's exposé are sure to outrage any thoughtful hunter (warning: keep your blood-pressure medicine handy as you read), the full story includes a more hopeful glimpse of some of MUM's established mainland operations and the bright future of some of their newer properties. And, best of all, there are still hunt opportunities available for this fall. Read on!*

**T**he last shot on Santa Rosa Island marked the end of one of the most remarkable wildlife success stories in North America, and unfortunately, in my opinion one of the most distasteful examples of government arrogance and waste I can remember.

The Santa Rosa story has been well reported in these pages by me and others. Introduced in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, mule deer and Roosevelt elk thrived, making Santa Rosa the place to go if you wanted to tag a 200-inch mulie buck or a trophy Roosevelt. MUM's wildlife management efforts produced remarkable results: year after year, the hunting just kept getting better, culminating in the 2010 hunts where the average buck measured 30 inches wide and scored 200-1/2 SCI points. Roosevelt elk bulls averaged 270 points! In 2011, MUM again produced comparable statistics for their last 40 hunters.

The fight to eradicate wildlife on Santa Rosa and turn the island over to the National Park Service was long and fierce and, again, well-reported. You may not know that there

CLOSE-UP:  
**California  
& Oregon**



**Lance Stapleton**  
Senior Western Correspondent

was a brief time when Republicans held the majority in Congress and Representative Duncan Hunter was successful in saving hunting on the island. But then the Wicked Witches of the West (Senators Boxer and Feinstein) stepped in when the Democrats regained power and reversed Hunter's amendment.

In another slight of hand, the Park Service contracted the final

eradication to a non-profit company (White Buffalo) without going to bid. White Buffalo promptly subcontracted the project to a for-profit company, Pro Hunt, which benefitted from free services provided by the Park Service.

October 13, 2011 was the last day of legal hunting on the island. Park officials estimated that there were approximately 60 elk and 400 deer left on the island. With a newspaper crew in attendance, the slaughter began. Over the next three-days, around 60 animals were killed from helicopters and delivered back to the ranch where the meat was butchered by MUM. This meat was donated to the Ventura soup kitchens—which MUM had long supported, donating tons of meat each year. When the newspaper reporters left, the giving stopped! The Park Service said that they didn't have the budget to transport the meat back to the ranch. Makes you wonder how the eradication contract was written and if the Park's plan all along was to waste the meat. So, as many as 400 animals (by their estimate) were killed and left to rot! Wanton waste is illegal for sportsmen and carries heavy fines, but somehow it's OK for the federal government.

The final chapter has not yet been written on this disgraceful story since the Park Service has not yet produced their Management Plan for the island – a document that should have been in place for "full disclosure" during the debate. Word has it that the

Park is seeking to make Santa Rosa a "wilderness" or, at the very least, severely restrict vehicle access. Wayne Long once told me that only one party of non-hunters had ever been seen inland on the island. Anyone who has hunted there knows that restricting vehicle access will ensure that not one in 100,000 citizens will ever enjoy Santa Rosa's vistas and deep canyons. Park employees will, in effect, have their own Club Med.

If you are as disturbed as I am about the wanton waste and the way this whole program was conducted, you can contact Yvonne Menard (Public Relations, Channel Islands National Park) at 805-658-5725 and voice your opinion.

Turning the page to the next chapter on MUM's operation, Gordon and Wayne Long are currently managing and offering hunting programs on six ranches in California and Oregon. Perhaps their best known operation is on the 37,650-acre Dye Creek Preserve where they offer unguided blacktail deer hunts for their members, plus pig, turkey, waterfowl and quail hunts. Openings here are infrequent at best, so other properties are of more interest.

MUM has offered Tule elk hunts on the Connolly Ranch, since 2003. They get one or two tags a year for branch-antlered bulls scoring from 230 to 270 points. These hunts are priced at \$10,500 for a four-day, guided 1x1 hunt, a reasonable price for this uncommon trophy. Clients normally fly into Oakland and rent a car for the 45-minute drive to the 7,000-acre ranch, where they stay during the hunt. Often, they are able to hunt an adjacent ranch, for a total of nearly 12,000 acres.

Another ranch that MUM manages is the Stover Ranch in northern California. The ranch is enrolled in California's PLM (Private Land Management) program. They get four Roosevelt elk tags a year. Six-day hunts guided 1x1 cost \$14,000 with an additional \$4,000 trophy fee for any bull scoring 290 points or better B&C. There are still two openings left for

**United States: Important Deadlines***Compiled by Kate Goodin**Editorial Assistant**(Editor Note: Here are the important permit/tag developments to watch for this month in the US.)***ARIZONA****602-942-3000 - [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)***Draw results for elk and pronghorn are available. The application deadline for deer, bighorn sheep, turkey, javelina and buffalo is June 12. General season lion and bear tags are available OTC\*.***CALIFORNIA****916-928-5805 - [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)***The application period for the big game drawing (premium deer, elk, antelope and bighorn sheep) is April 15-June 2.***COLORADO****303-297-1192 - <http://wildlife.state.co.us>***OTC\* big game licenses are on sale, including mountain lion. Call 888-940-5466 to see which lion units have met quota.***IDAHO****208-334-3717 <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>***Nonresident 2012 licenses and general season tags are available. Applications for deer, elk, pronghorn and fall bear controlled hunts are due June 5. General season permits for all big game are available OTC\*.***ILLINOIS****217-782-6302 - [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)***Online applications for nonresident firearm**deer permits are available. Nonresident Combo Archery online applications are due June 30.***MAINE****207-287-8000 - [www.maine.gov/ifw](http://www.maine.gov/ifw)***Online applications for the moose lottery are due May 14. The drawing will be held June 23.***MONTANA****406-444-2950 - <http://fwp.mt.gov>***The deadline for antelope applications is June 1. Deadline to purchase SuperTags is July 5. Black bear and mountain lion licenses purchased after August 31 may not be used until five days after the license is issued AND may be purchased only at an FWP office or online.***NEVADA****775-688-1500 - [www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org)***Results of the main draw for mule deer, elk, pronghorn, bighorn sheep and mountain goat will be provided on or before June 11. Second draw deadline is June 26. 2012 regulations will be available in June.***NEW HAMPSHIRE****603-271-2461 - [www.wildlife.state.nh.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us)***Applications for the 2012 moose lottery are due May 25 and the drawing will be held on June 15.***NEW MEXICO****505-476-8000 - [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)***Regulations for the 2012 big game hunting season are available. Results for deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, Barbary sheep, oryx, ibex and javelina draw hunts will be available online May 9, and by phone May 23.***OREGON****503-947-6100 - [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us)***The application deadline for controlled hunts is May 15. Hunting regulations for 2012 are available. Big game raffle tickets are available.***TENNESSEE****615-781-6585 - [www.tn.gov/twra](http://www.tn.gov/twra)***Applications for elk are due May 31.***UTAH****801-538-4700 - <http://wildlife.utah.gov>***Results of the 2012 big game draw are available May 31. General big game regulations are available online May 25 and in print a week later.***VERMONT****802-241-3700 - [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)***Applications for the moose lottery will be available online the first week of May, at agents the first week of June and will be due July 5.***WASHINGTON****360-902-2464 <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov>***Big game regulations are available as well as applications for deer, elk, mountain goat, moose and bighorn sheep. The deadline is May 18th. General season tags are available OTC\* for deer, elk, bear and cougar.***WYOMING****307-777-4600 - <http://gf.state.wy.us>***Elk draw results are available online. Deer and antelope draw results will be available June 30. Full priced leftover licenses go on sale July 10.**\*Over-the-counter*

next season. (Editor note: for more details on this elk opportunity, see Harry Morse's cover story in our January issue.)

Long also told me that they often see from two to five bears a day during the elk hunt. This season will be their first year offering deer or bear hunts. Their three-day bear hunts cost \$1,000, plus a \$400 kill fee. Hunts are scheduled from mid-October. California has a quota system in place to control the bear harvest, but since bear hunting with dogs is only allowed in certain areas and is strictly regulated, the quota often is not met until mid-December. You can also book a five-day, 2x1, blacktail deer/bear combo hunt for \$3,500. This hunt can be scheduled from the last week in September until October 21. Hunters fly into Arcata/Eureka airport, where they are picked up and taken to the ranch.

This is the first year that MUM has offered hunts on the 3,500-acre Burrows ranch in northern California just east of Red Bluffs. Long is excited about this opportunity because the long-time owner, a retired resource professor, has already completed many habitat management projects himself. The ranch is enrolled in the PLM

program and has six blacktail deer tags. A four-day hunt on a 2x1 basis costs \$2,500, and the hunt is scheduled during the rut (end of October until mid-November. Long expects bucks scoring from 110-135 points – fine blacktail by any standard. They also offer pig, dove and quail hunts.

Another new California ranch for MUM is the 3,000-acre Hutton Peak ranch just minutes from the LA County line. Although this is the first year for hunts here, MUM has already made improvements. This ranch offers California mule deer, and the three-day, 2x1 hunt costs \$2,500. Long tells me that you can expect to see 3x3 and 3x4 bucks scoring from 90-130 points. This year a D-13 deer tag (season October 20 - November 11) is required and, if you are interested, you must apply soon. Next year, they hope to offer a late rut deer hunt.

The last property that MUM manages is a 38,000-acre ranch in northeastern Oregon that was once owned by a "hunting nut" friend of mine. This is another first-year operation for MUM, and I can assure you that this ranch has produced some big mule deer and Rocky Mountain

bull elk in the past. This ranch may well prove to be MUM's next wildlife success story. It sure has the genetics potential! Long tells me that he expects branch-antlered bulls scoring around 280-290 points and bucks scoring 150-180 points, but bigger trophies have been killed there in the past. This year, they are offering a four-day rifle mule deer hunt for \$4,000 and a five-day rifle elk hunt for \$4,500. They are also offering an archery elk/deer hunt for six days for \$4,000. These hunts are conducted 2x1. The archery tags are available over-the-counter, while the rifle deer tag is virtually a 100 percent draw, and the elk rifle tag is a 50 percent draw potential. There are also landowner tags available. Clients fly into Boise, Idaho where they are picked up and shuttled to the ranch.

The drawing deadline in California is June 2, and in Oregon it is May 15, so you have to act quickly. In a few cases, a drawing is required to take the best advantage of the hunts I've mentioned. Contact Gordon Long at [muminc@yahoo.com](mailto:muminc@yahoo.com) or 800-557-7087 or visit their website at [www.mumwildlife.com](http://www.mumwildlife.com). *Life is too short – go hunting!* ■

## Changes Coming in Botswana; A Place For Trophy Korrigum, More

As we were laying down this issue of *The Hunting Report*, we received word that **Botswana** had officially “banned” hunting. Email Extra subscribers already know that is not exactly the case. The email from operator Kgori Safaris arrived the morning of April 20, stating that hunting is officially banned in Botswana from 2013, except for plains game on game ranches and a few elephants that will be auctioned outside the wilderness areas in the cattle areas, and two areas with limited quota for 2013 namely, CH 1 and NG 41. As this isn't the first time we've received such news over the past four years, I immediately called Debbie Peake with the Botswana Wildlife Management Association to find out what is going on.

Peake confirmed that the Botswana government is restricting hunting further in 2013, as we previously reported they would. Next year, numerous concession periods come to an end, and, as we told you in January 2010 (see Article ID 2376), they will become photographic/eco-tourism concessions. You'll recall that in 2010 six concessions in the Chobe and Okavango regions had been tendered for non-consumptive use, and a number of operators were left with hunting leases that would expire over the following three years. I also told you in February 2011 that the way elephant hunting would continue in Botswana would be changing significantly. The government intended to allow hunting to continue under special dispensations as a means of management. (See article ID 2593.) I also told you that hunting for plains game, buffalo and leopard would continue on private ranches but was severely curtailed elsewhere. The Botswana Wildlife Association has confirmed all of this again in an official statement Peake sent me. It reads:



NEWS...NEWS...NEWS



Barbara Crown  
Editor

“Over the last five years, Botswana's trophy hunting industry has been subjected to some extensive changes to areas available for hunting, and changes in land use in other areas where photographic and hunting operations have been combined – these changes have given rise to much speculation amongst the international hunting fraternity: the Botswana Wildlife Management Association wishes to confirm that from the

end of this year big game hunting will continue in the following concessions:

- Butler & Holbrow Safaris / Chobe Enclave CH1/2 – end of 2013
- Calitz Hunting Safaris / Mababe NG 41 – end of 2017

“In spite of draconian cuts in quota for other species, elephant remain the flagship species in Botswana and sustainable offtake of this species will continue under the guidance and direction of the Botswana Government. Recent aerial surveys conducted by independent researchers, in collaboration with Government and the Association, have determined that the Botswana elephant population is stable and in some parts of the country are considered locally over-abundant. The Special Elephant Quota, which is auctioned annually to industry members and stakeholders, will continue in select areas for the benefit

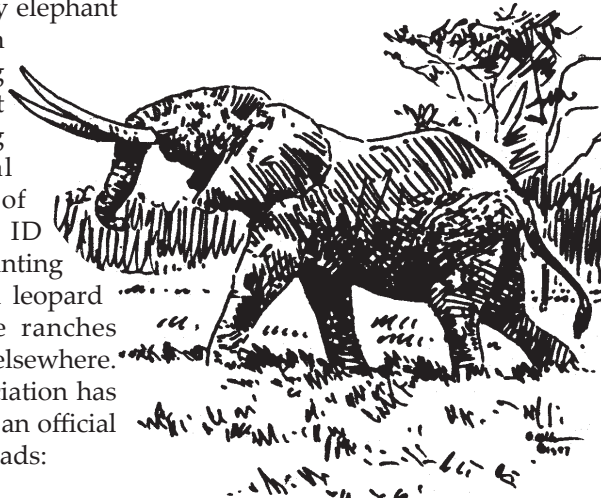
of local communities and for elephant conservation and management as a whole. Private research on tusk weights/population distribution and densities, supported by outfitters, is ongoing and will continue to inform Botswana's Wildlife Management Authority.

“Assurances have been made to the industry by senior members of Government during the course of the last five years that elephant hunting will continue in Botswana; in the meantime, outfitters remain committed to ongoing discussion and consultation with Government to determine the way forward. Hunting on game ranches is unchanged. Please contact your safari outfitter for any further information or confirmation you may require.”

Peake went on to tell me over the telephone that the Botswana Wildlife Management Association is still in negotiations to open elephant hunting in other areas. They are hopeful and determined to work something out, she said. “Dialog is ongoing, just painfully slow.”

If you have a hunt in Botswana booked for 2012, you need not worry, as the new restrictions do not take place until 2013. If you have booked a hunt for next year, contact your operator to confirm the status. Besides CH 1/2 and NG 41 there will be other opportunities available through auction. I've reported on these auction hunts in the past, too. They have included quotas in CT4, CT7, NG8, NG9 and NG35. Some auctions for this year have already taken place. Jeff Rann of Rann Safaris (830-426-3476; rannsafaris@dynabyte.bw) secured quota in CT7. This is the same area where he produced a 96 x 93 pound jumbo last year for Kip Yearwood, booking agent Beverly Wunderlich of J/B Adventures & Safaris (303-794-4485; jbsafari@comcast.net). That trophy won the APHA Dangerous Game Award for 2011.

Other operators who picked up auction quotas this year include: Johan Calitz Safaris in NG35; Clive Eaton of Tholo Safaris in NG8; and an unnamed private bidder who purchased the quota for NG9. As for other opportunities still open in 2012, I heard from John Barth of Adventure Unlimited (361-852-0537;





safaris@trip.net), who says he has access to two elephant hunts in Botswana this year. I will let you know of any other opportunities I learn of for 2012 or 2013.



This past February at the SCI convention in Las Vegas, Jean Pierre Bernon of Club Faune told me about a concession he secured that supposedly holds good numbers of korrigum. The area is in northern **Cameroon** and has a quota of eight korrigum. Bernon says he has two other areas in Cameroon and only one of them gets a quota for this species, with only two korrigum available. This new northern area also offers Lord Derby eland, roan, western savannah buffalo, etc. But Bernon pushed the area as the place to get a trophy korrigum.

Before I could mention the area in *The Hunting Report*, I received an enthusiastic report on it from subscriber Pavel Sidorov (Pavel.Sidorov@advgroup.ru) who had just returned from this hunt. I will let him tell you about it: "My main objective was one animal—korrigum. I already tried to hunt it once several years ago in northern CAR, but due to the political instability in that region the hunt was cancelled at the last moment. So, last year I realized that the only place where I could now hunt this antelope was northern Cameroon. I did some research and was about to book a hunt with Mayo Oldiri, as everybody was sure it is the only place/company to hunt korrigum, but then I got a proposal from Club Faune to hunt in an area where the number of korrigum was supposedly very healthy, whatever that meant. I was impressed by their confidence and decided to try.

"Just before the hunt, a Spanish outfitter friend told me that I was making a big mistake. He believed that no such place exists. And this man has been in northern Cameroon plenty of times.

"My hunt started the day after I arrived in the town of Garua. Late that evening we went for a short drive. Immediately, just a few kilometers from the camp, we bumped into a big herd of about 50 Lord Derby eland. Interestingly, the animals ran about 100 meters then stopped and started

feeding, not paying much attention to our car. In a few minutes a big old bull separated from the herd and started moving along the road in the open 50 meters away from us. I already had three giant eland trophies and could see that it was a nice trophy animal in a range of 48 inches. He also paid zero attention to us. That was the first surprise.



"Next day I had another. From early morning and till late evening of the next day we saw big groups of very relaxed roan about five or six times. Each group had one or two trophy males, and every time they were at a distance of about 100 meters from the car and almost wide open. One time, we photographed a group with a huge male that my PH said was well over 30 inches. During my hunt we found such big animals close to the road three or four times. The problem was, those animals were not on my trophy list. My trophy list was korrigum, Western hartebeest, Western buffalo, Western kob, Nigerian bohor reedbuck and Sing-Sing waterbuck. I got all those trophies within seven days.

"The operation is managed by a Swiss lady named Martina. Her staff is polite and efficient, although not as large as in other places. She has just the exact number necessary to maintain this area. Martina said that it was not always like that. When she arrived in the mid 90s, the area was without animals, even though it is located close to a national park. It took her about seven to eight years of effort before the animal populations returned.

"Every day I saw all the animals

that are supposed to live in northern Cameroon, all in the open and within shooting distance. No animal was shot from the car. Maybe that is one of the reasons that the animals were not really afraid of us.

"The trophies I took include a korrigum of 58 centimeters, a Sing Sing waterbuck of 76 centimeters, a nice western buffalo and a nice trophy reedbuck. The rest were fine representative trophies. Coming back to the korrigum, I saw them in groups and as solitary bulls and females every day. I think it is possible to complete a hunt for korrigum within three to four days there. The area is a hunting paradise, especially for the bow hunter."

Bernon says he also has several other new or expanded opportunities. First in Central African Republic he says he has taken over Daniel Koudoume's old area. Actually, he has leased it from Koudoume's family. You'll recall operator Rudy Lubin formerly worked here with Koudoume but moved to another area when Koudoume died of a heart attack in 2011. Lubin had told me that he simply was not in the position to take on the opening of the hunting area, rebuilding of camps and the administrative responsibilities of Koudoume's end of the business. The area is located in the center of the country and includes four hunting blocks and six camps. This gives Bernon additional quota for bongo, sitatunga, giant forest hog and Lord Derby eland.

Bernon also claims to have found two new spots for forest sitatunga in one of the concessions he has been hunting, and says he made a bid for a concession on the border that will allow for combo hunts for Lord Derby eland and sitatunga at the same time.

In Benin, Bernon says he opened a new camp last year. Anyone who has ever hunted in Benin knows how oppressively hot it can get there. Bernon says his new camp sits atop a hill where it catches good breezes and overlooks 30 kilometers worth of scenery. The camp features six tents with ensuite baths on elevated platforms and uses solar power – no noisy generators. Anyone trying any of these new hunting opportunities this season is encouraged to file a hunt report. ■

## Briefly Noted: Things To Do, Places To Go, New Developments

NEWS . . . NEWS . . . NEWS

### New Rules Affect Importation of Green Capes and Hides from Mexico

■ Correspondent Michael Bodenchuk looked into some new requirements for hunters bringing hides from **Mexico** into the US. Here's what he found out:

Some hunters and outfitters were surprised this year when the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) or Customs and Border Protection (CBP) would not allow them to enter the US from Mexico with green deer capes. The reason has to do with some "new" requirements that are part of USDA rules to prevent the importation of ticks. These rules were published in the Federal register and appear to have been in effect since January 2011, although the USDA website ([www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/animal\\_import/animal\\_imports.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports.shtml)) lists only an undated document under "New Requirements for Importing Ruminant Hides from Mexico." The document you open at that link is titled, "Clarification of NCIE Policy for the importation of hides and skins from Mexico." It appears that CBP began enforcing these new provisions late in the 2011-12 hunting season. The government website to ask questions about these new rules returns email as undeliverable and phone calls garner only the same information available on the web.

The purpose of the regulations is to prevent the importation of two diseases of concern: heartwater and cattle fever, which are carried by ticks. Wild ruminants are hosts for both species of ticks that transmit these diseases. The fever tick, responsible for cattle fever, was eradicated from the US, but still exists across the border in the Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and

Coahuila, and a very active border quarantine zone exists along the Rio Grande in Texas to prevent the reemergence of the tick in Texas cattle herds. The tick that causes heartwater is not known to occur in Mexico, but is present in some Caribbean islands and could be spread by cattle egrets into Mexico or the US.

The new regulations affect all hunters who intend to return home with the green (un-tanned) hides of ruminants (mule deer, whitetail deer, bighorn sheep and exotics such as nilgai, axis deer and aoudad). The regulations require that all hides be "free of live and dead ticks" AND be treated in one of several ways.

For the traveling hunter, the only practical requirement is that the hide be "accompanied by a certificate/documentation issued by the importer or shipper attesting to the fact that the ruminant hides and skins were frozen solid for 24 hours." The rules go on to advise that the "hides and skins need to be in a condition (thawed) to allow for inspection for ticks."

The "documentation" necessary appears to be an unresolved issue. The hunter is the "importer" under these regulations, and his statement that the hide was frozen for 24 hours should suffice. I asked the USDA this question and was told that they would be able to tell, since there "would not be any ticks on it." The hunter/importer should have a written statement attesting to the fact that the hide in question was frozen solid for 24 hours on whatever two calendar dates apply (date frozen and date thawed). If questioned, this statement should be provided to CBP, along with the clarification memo available on the USDA website above. Be sure to download a copy before exporting your hide.

Hides that do not pass inspection are not automatically confiscated, but they will be refused entry by Customs and Border Protection. If your outfitter

*(continued on page 12)*

## OUTFITTER CRITIQUES:

■ Good news about good hunts is always better than bad news and, given the recent reports of scam hunts in central Europe, we welcomed two very positive subscriber reports from that area. Jens Valdemar Krenchel and Brian Gooding both hunted in **Romania** but with different outfitters, and both recommend the hunts without reservation.

Hunters looking for a European wolf take note: Krenchel, who hails from Denmark, tells us he found an outstanding operation in the Covasna area of Romania, roughly 100 miles north of Bucharest, where he hunted this past January with outfitter Kiss Attila of Transylvaniahunt. He booked his hunt through the Austrian agency Mistral Jagreisen.

Krenchel reports: "This is my fifth wolf hunt; taking a wolf has been a life-long dream. After my previous experiences, stating that wolves are abundant sounds odd in my ears. But the number of wolves here was greater than any other area that I've hunted in Europe. Lots of tracks, lots of scat, lots of wolf kills, lots of wolves."

Wild boars were also here in high numbers according to Krenchel. "Only the best areas of Bulgaria and Turkey match this area for trophy quality wild boar – and keep in mind that this is truly free-range mountain hunting with no tricks played on the hunters!"

Krenchel's success came on his second hunt in the same area with Attila. "This was a hunting experience of a lifetime because I got my wolf. Last winter I hunted without succeeding, but it was my fault. I saw a wolf at 80 meters in a night vision scope. But in my US-made riflescope (won't mention brand, but its generally considered to be quality), it was just black. If you are going on this hunt, take first class European (Zeiss or Swarovski) optics for dedicated night hunting. That was a far more intense hunt, waiting on a mountain top, sitting on the ground in a self-made

# THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

This section of THE HUNTING REPORT features first-hand reports from our subscribers. It is intended to provide accurate, reliable, current information on what's actually happening in the field. THE HUNTING REPORT is not endorsing any outfitter, agent or guide by printing a positive report. And it goes without saying that the existence of a negative report or conflict is not necessarily reason to avoid an agent, outfitter or guide. We believe that informed hunters are capable of making wise choices, and we make every attempt to provide accurate, timely information to help our subscribers decide where to hunt and with whom to hunt. Our detailed editorial policy regarding controversies is posted on our website: [www.huntingreport.com](http://www.huntingreport.com). For a hard copy, please contact us (see page 2 for contact details).

blind of chopped-off branches, with wolves howling and fighting within 300 meters. This year it was just plenty of waiting. But the wolf came.

"My very close friend who joined me for the hunt was seeking wild boar and also wolf, but left empty handed. A German hunter in camp at the same time for that combo got a giant (CIC gold medal) wild boar. He spent a lot of time sitting in tough, cold conditions over a wolf-killed red deer waiting for that wolf, but it outsmarted the human hunter.

"Kiss Attila and Transylvaniahunt is without comparison in their dedication, camp, equipment and quality of staff. They may be vastly more expensive in their daily rate, but nowhere else in Europe have I ever had such an effort. Two hunts, two chances for wolf; try to find that anywhere else. But if you ask Attila about his success rate, he won't promise you anything.

"I have also hunted in Poland and three times in Bulgaria with Konstantin Kotsev of Bulgarian Hunt Service (011-359-2808-7059; [www.huntservice.com](http://www.huntservice.com)), who is also trustworthy (see report ID 7756). I should, of course, have shared all these experiences, but I didn't get it done until I saw your request for reports from Central Europe. I have some additional experience with Romania and Bulgaria, so feel free to email me [atjvk@krenchel.net](mailto:atjvk@krenchel.net) mail for any insights I can provide."

Transylvaniahunt's website is [www.transylvaniahunt.ro](http://www.transylvaniahunt.ro), or the company can be reached by phone from the US at 011-40-267-311259, or by email at [office@transylvaniahunt.ro](mailto:office@transylvaniahunt.ro). We emailed Transylvaniahunt and promptly received a reply in English indicating that their guides speak enough English to facilitate a hunt; they also provide translator service whenever needed and can accommodate hunters in English, Spanish, French, German and other languages.

Our second entirely positive report on hunting in Romania is from long-

time subscriber Brian Gooding who hunted Carpathian chamois in the Fagaras Range of the Carpathians last October with outfitter George Dina of Best European Hunts (mobile 011-40-732-528636; [www.besteuropeanhunts.eu](http://www.besteuropeanhunts.eu)), personal guide Andrei Vetrila. Gooding combined his hunt with sightseeing and booked the entire package through Gabrielle Conea of Corporate Leisure Specialists (305-466-9677; [www.huntingcls.com](http://www.huntingcls.com)). Note that we have two additional positive reports (4034 and 7380) in our database on other hunts in Romania booked through this agent.

Gooding reports taking a chamois green-scored at 25 2/8 SCI on a hunt he rates as excellent throughout. "I had arranged to take the day after my arrival off to get over jet lag, but because rain was forecast for the next day, George, Andrei and I started into the mountains late in the morning. Good thing, because about a foot and a half of snow fell in the mountains the next day! Made the TV news because it was so unusually early. Andrei found two chamois, and I was able to take the bigger one. The return hike was down through field-grassed slopes which looked easy but were relentlessly steep—I really wished I had brought my hiking staff. Andrei is a full-time ranger on the vast private property I hunted, and he knew the territory very well.

"George made every effort to make this both a successful hunt and an enjoyable visit to his country. My stay was in a brand new lodge in a small village just off the hunting area. Andrei's mother was the cook and her food was excellent and plentiful. My room had a king-size bed, and the bath had a jacuzzi! While I was there, various parties of Romanian hunters came and went, either hunting brown bear from permanent stands or driven hunts for boar and bear. George arranged for me to join a driven hunt

(I didn't see anything) and also took me to one of the permanent stands at dusk where, in just two hours, we saw 10 bears come in to eat chocolate bars. There was even a brief tussle between two bears over who had first dibs.

"I had also arranged to have George act as tour guide after the hunt; we visited and stayed in some ancient towns that could have been anywhere in Western Europe. Castles, fortified towns, even the house where Vlad the Impaler (look HIM up!) was supposed to have been born. We also drove through some towns that were way, WAY off the beaten track - it could have just as easily been 1911, except for a handful of cars and tractors. Great trip. George is a well-organized outfitter, a good tour guide and great company. I hope to hunt with him again."

Gooding gives the cost of his hunt as €4500, including trophy fees up to 105 CIC points.

We are gradually assembling a clearer picture of the hunting in this part of the world. If you've hunted this area recently, particularly if you've found a reliable and recommendable outfitter, please share that information with your fellow subscribers.

(continued)



**Briefly Noted** *(continued from page 10)*

drives you to the border, you could return the cape with him, but if you fly, it is impractical to send the hide back unaccompanied.

I've been to many Mexican ranches and few had freezers. As outfitters become aware of this issue, I am confident that they will provide the ability to freeze hides to meet these requirements. As you consider Mexican hunts in 2013 and beyond, be sure to ask your outfitter about his plans to meet these requirements and how you should schedule your return to be certain you allow enough time for the hide to be frozen and thawed.

These new regulations do not prohibit the importation of hides, but they do add a level of burden to the traveling hunter. While the requirements probably aren't necessary for deer taken in Sonora, the lack of internal control in Mexico makes the USDA treat the entire country with the same standard.

One of the reasons US hunters choose Mexico (or Canada for that matter) is the convenience of bringing hides back into the US. It's not always as easy, especially from those countries with endemic diseases that could affect US agriculture. For African countries, an entire industry exists supporting the documentation and treatment of hides to facilitate importation into the US and EU. This infrastructure is lacking in Mexico and will no doubt add additional costs to Mexican hunts if required.

*(Editor Note: In our Email Extra edition, we've added Bodenchuk's tips for avoiding problems when bringing capes back from Mexico. We've also posted the information along with links to the USDA website and the document mentioned in this story on the homepage of our website under "Reference" at the bottom of the page. Look for "How to Cope with New USDA Requirements to Import Ruminant Hides from Mexico."*

*(continued on page 14)*

**Outfitter Critiques** *(continued)*

■ Caribou opportunities have been shrinking in recent years especially in Newfoundland, Labrador and Quebec (see the cover story in our December 2011 issue for more details). Farther west, Northwest Territories has had its share of difficulties (see article 2449 in our Email Extra database). But still, we continue to receive enough reports (17 from hunts in 2011) to indicate that caribou are of interest to many hunters, either as primary quarry or as an add-on to a hunt for another trophy.

Parker Shipley recently sent us a report on a hunt in the **Alaska** National Wildlife Refuge north of the Brooks Range, where barren-ground caribou were the primary target. Shipley hunted from August 21 to 30 with Deltana Outfitters (907-895-5006; www.deltana.com) and reports taking two trophy-quality bulls.

"This was a hunt I will never forget. A friend and I chose Deltana Outfitters for a fully-guided caribou hunt. After bad experiences with guides in both the Lower 48 and Alaska, we made sure we did our homework. We took the time to check out the outfitter and references. All the references were excellent (*Editor note: this is the sixth positive report on Deltana we have received, going back to a sheep hunt in 2005.*) Ralph Miller and Jim Weidner were very easy to deal with, straight forward in answering questions and most of all, very honest. They provided prompt and personal service to and from the airport, with a great meal waiting for us when we arrived at base camp. Ralph and Jim were true professionals who knew all about the caribou herds in the ANWR hunting area, and they put us right where we needed to be!

"Deltana's base camp was excellent, with great food and permanent cabins for the hunters before and after hunting out of the spike camps. One thing that impressed us was that both Ralph and Jim were at the base camp for the entire caribou and sheep hunting season to ensure things ran smooth. Their pilots were highly experienced, safe and very knowledgeable of the area we were hunting. All the equipment supplied by

Deltana, from the aircraft to the back packs and camp gear, was in excellent condition and of high quality. The packing list from Deltana was perfect with no excessive or unneeded items. The spike camp was in a great location, surrounded by beautiful terrain, and it was very comfortable.

"Deltana has exclusive rights to a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Because of this, we had no hunting pressure from other hunters for the entire time of our hunt. Our guide, Logan Canton, who was very aggressive and experienced, wanted to go to the caribou and not just wait for them to come to us. This proved to be a big factor in our taking two caribou each. After I had my two caribou and my friend only had one, we decided to move our spike camp location to find more game. Ralph and Jim moved us with no problems, hassles or extra cost. They put us in another great location, where the next day my friend promptly filled his second tag.

"The care for the meat and trophies was also excellent, with fly-out service from the field to base camp, where the staff was waiting to salt and dry the hides and butcher and freeze the meat. The meat was ready to be shipped on the morning we had to fly out of Prudhoe Bay. They handled all the other logistics for the meat and trophies, which made the trip home easy. My meat and trophies arrived to me and my taxidermist in perfect condition. Overall, the hunt was outstanding, with no surprises and incredible memories."

This was the second report we received on Deltana from 2011. In report 8396, subscriber Michael Cantrell, who hunted in August for Dall sheep (taking a full-curl 9-year-old ram) and a bonus 409 3/8 (SCI) caribou, gives the outfitter across-the-board excellent ratings, saying, "This is the best guided hunt I have ever experienced. Fantastic all around. I saw four good legal rams in the first 2 1/2 days of the hunt, and took my caribou bull on the very last morning while waiting for the aircraft. Overall a great team effort – 20-plus hours of hiking, stalking and hard work for the sheep. Amazing country and amazing hunting.

"Ralph has a very good packing list for

## More Hunt Reports

*(Editor Note: Over the past month we have received reports on hunts in the following parts of the world. All of these reports have been added to our files and copies of them can be obtained through our Trip-Planning Service. See page 2 for details on how to place an order. E-Mail Extra subscribers can, of course, view the full text of these reports in the password-protected section of our web site at [www.HuntingReport.com](http://www.HuntingReport.com). You, too, can have complete access to our entire database of reports and past articles by upgrading your subscription to E-mail Extra. Visit our website or call us at 305-253-5301.)*

### UNITED STATES

#### Alaska

- Jason Campbell (mountain goat) with Pacific Mountain Guides (8615)
- Pete Mowbray (brown bear) with Glacier Guides (8591)

#### Arizona

- David E. Combs (elk) with Colburn and Scott Outfitters (8592)

#### Texas

- James Rorison (whitetail deer) with 74 Ranch Resort (8610)

#### Wyoming

- Paul Bianchi Jr. and Lu Bianchi (pronghorn) with Oxbow Outfitters (8618)

### CANADA

#### British Columbia

- Don Detwiler (wolf, bobcat, mountain lion, lynx) with Ram Creek Outfitters (8616)

#### Quebec:

- Ed Yates (whitetail deer) with Safari Anticosti (8596)

### AFRICA

#### Central African Republic

- Bob Merkley (red-flanked duiker, harnessed bushbuck, western roan, Lord Derby eland, warthog, bush duiker, blue duiker, Central Savannah buffalo, Lelwel hartebeest)

with Central African Wildlife Adventures (8607)

- Howard Ozer (bongo, Lord Derby eland, yellow-backed duiker, bush duiker) with Club Faune (8602)

#### South Africa

- Dean Castillo (nyala, springbok, blesbok) with Lalapa Safaris (8606)
- Jose Maria Sodiro (suni, Sharpes grysbok, ostrich, serval) with Stone Safaris (8601)

#### Tanzania

- Jerry Hale (impala, zebra, dik-dik, Cape buffalo, lion) with Rungwa Game Safaris (8605)

#### Zimbabwe

- Jarell W. Martin (leopard, sable, Limpopo bushbuck, klipspringer, grysbok, hyena) with Impala African Safaris (8617)
- Kevin McAdams (Cape buffalo, zebra, impala) with Threeways Safaris (8604)

### ELSEWHERE

#### Australia

- Trevor Dennis (water buffalo, feral donkey) with John Clark's Coralsea Safaris (8597)

#### Mexico

- RP Musselman (mule deer, Coues deer) with Solimar Hunting Safaris (8619)

#### New Zealand

- Bob Dobrinski (red deer, fallow deer) with Telford Fishing and Hunting Services (8613)
- Roger L. Gregg (red deer, feral sheep, tahr, feral goat) with Peel Forest Safaris (8599)

#### Pakistan

- Donald Jacklin (Punjab urial, Sindh ibex, Blanford urial) with Karakorum Treks and Tours (8600)

#### Slovenia

- Michael Cleere (alpine chamois) with Artemis Hunting Ltd. (8611)

#### Spain

- Trygve Aasvestad (mouflon, southeastern ibex) with Ibx Hunt Spain (8595)
- David F. Bishop (mouflon) with Ibx Hunt Spain (8593)
- David F. Bishop (Beceite ibex) with Ibx Hunt Spain (8594)
- Atle Brenden (southeastern ibex, mouflon) with Ibx Hunt Spain (8598)
- Darryl Hastings (southeastern ibex, Ronda ibex, mouflon, Cantabrian chamois) with Fernando Saiz (8608)
- WJ (Bill) McClelland (Ronda ibex, southeastern ibex, mouflon) with Eurohunts (8603)

this hunt. Pay attention to it, and you'll be fine. Deltana is an absolutely first-class operation - I cannot recommend them more highly. A great hunt in wild country."



■ Still on the subject of **Alaska** caribou, subscriber Larry Seidler reports taking a trophy caribou while on a combo bear and 'bou hunt with Perrins Rainy Pass Lodge (907-248-7599; [www.theperrinsrainypasslodge.com](http://www.theperrinsrainypasslodge.com)). He notes that one of the highlights of the hunt was "riding bareback to intercept caribou on the last day of the season." In Canada we received five entirely

positive reports on caribou hunts taken in 2011 in **Nunavut**, with Ryan St. John of Henik Lake Adventures (867-857-2587; [www.heniklakeadventures.com](http://www.heniklakeadventures.com)). Taken together, reports 8346 by Jery Goss, 8347 by Douglas J. Beaudoin, 8378 by Robert Di Pietro, 8379 by James Carstens, and 8380 by Jonathan Warke paint a picture of three very successful hunting weeks. Gross completed his caribou slam here with his largest trophy; Warke took what he describes as a "giant" tundra wolf. Still in Nunavut, subscriber Greg Schubert (report 9487) hunted arctic islands caribou near Cambridge Bay, with Canada North Outfitting (450-

376-4868; [www.canadanorthoutfitting.com](http://www.canadanorthoutfitting.com)) and reports taking an "average trophy with nice tops."

Schubert also hunted caribou in **Manitoba** (report 8351) with Webbers Lodges. (888-932-2377; [www.webberslodges.com](http://www.webberslodges.com)), taking a central barren-ground caribou: "Nice hunt, great guides, and a beautiful area. Hit the caribou late enough that everything was mature and out of velvet."

In the **Yukon**, subscriber Jose Marti took a 376 B&C mountain caribou while on a mixed bag hunt with South Nahanni Outfitters (867-399-3194; [www.huntnahanni.com](http://www.huntnahanni.com)).

(continued)

**Briefly Noted** (continued from page 12)

■ Last month, we told you that a former employee of **Miller Trophy Room** had been indicted in the Eastern District of **North Carolina** on federal charges relating to the alleged relabeling, misuse and misapplication of a registered pesticide. According to the indictment, Miller Trophy Room's "proprietary formula" trophy preservative was nothing more than the registered pesticide Termidor SC (a trade name for Fipronil), produced by BASF, which Miller's diluted and applied to game mounts as a preservative to prevent insect damage.

Not surprisingly, that report unleashed a flurry of phone calls and emails from subscribers wanting clear answers about how dangerous this chemical is and what to do if the charges are true and Fipronil was used on their trophies.

Unfortunately, clear, concise answers are very difficult to come by. Frankly, at this point we aren't sure that even a trained chemist or chemical engineer could give clear answers. But here's what we know so far.

Termidor/Fipronil is a very widely used pesticide typically applied by pest-control professionals around home foundations to eliminate and prevent termite and ant infestations. The general public also applies Fipronil, since it is also used in lawn care pest-control products and spot-treatment for fleas and ticks on pets. It is apparently not approved for use inside buildings except in enclosed wall voids and in the enclosed "baits" that homeowners typically put out to control ants and cockroaches.

The issue with the treatment of trophies is not as much with the chemical used as with the fact that no risk assessment had been performed on this product in this application. Typically, these risk assessments are lengthy, detailed and expensive processes, and the

(continued)

**Outfitter Critiques** (continued)**CONTROVERSIES**

■ (Editor Note: Any paid subscriber may request a free copy of any of the following files this month at no additional charge by email or fax. Email Extra subscribers already have automatic access to all of these reports, as well as our entire database of reports and articles, through the password protected section of our website. As always, we recommend that you do not make a decision on any hunting opportunity based on only one report, good or bad. Look at the total picture, then decide for yourself.)

Subscriber Robert Whyard is unhappy with the way his Kodiak brown bear hunt in **Alaska** was handled by Tim Booch of Aleutian Islands Guide Service, booked through Safari Outfitters. "Guide was a no-show," he writes. "Sent apprentice guide for two hunters." Whyard goes on to say that they had no boats, no four-wheelers and no support. He says Booch's reasons for not guiding them were that his feet hurt and his wife was sick.

In a very detailed response, Booch says that he was forced to leave Whyard and his hunting companion with his assistant guide (not an apprentice), because of a medical problem. A severe skin rash on his feet caused by an allergic reaction to the neoprene booties in his chest waders rendered him unable to conduct the hunt himself. "It had become unbearable, and I was worried that it would become septic if I didn't get to town and deal with it," he says.

Booch also says he had told the hunters prior to arrival in Kodiak that his assistant guide, Dan Ondersma, would be hunting with them. "Although Dan had not conducted a hunt from this particular camp, by the time of this hunt, he had been conducting successful hunts for me as an assistant guide for three years. He is a competent and accomplished guide," says Booch.

The reason he gives for no four-wheelers is that the hunt was on state land where motorized vehicles are illegal. Booch admits he had promised a raft, but says he decided against it due to a physical challenge one of the hunters had.

Booch says Whyard decided to leave early after an unsuccessful stalk. His

hunting partner stayed behind and had opportunities at bears, but failed to take one.

(We have three other reports on file, 2621, 5110, and 5085 for Aleutian Islands Guide Service, all positive.)



■ Subscriber Reggie Pratt is unhappy with a combo whitetail, mule deer and elk hunt in **Montana** handled for him by Brent Fitchett of Elk Creek Outfitting, in Heron, Montana. Pratt says his group took three whitetails in the 130-class, but he says he never saw an elk or mule deer. Others in his group of five reportedly saw a few elk cows. "There was no game, as the area was so heavily hunted. We had at least 16 hunters in camp with one elk and one mule deer taken during the six days we were there," writes Pratt. He goes on to say, "They wanted the five in our party to line up 1/8 mile apart and drive the elk to each other as we went down the mountain. We refused to hunt that way, so we just walked up and down steep mountains with no game in sight. I had a guide who dropped me off and let me walk five miles to where he slept in his truck waiting for me. This was my ninth elk hunt and the only bad experience I have had."

In a rebuttal Fitchett emailed to us, he says, "I am sorry, but it is impossible to make all the hunters happy. Sometimes the weather and the week they come is not as good as they had hoped. I can't control the weather and the game; we do the best we can. It was not all that bad the week they were here. They got three deer, and there were other hunters in the camp that week who had a great time. Some bulls were passed up the same week and other hunters saw elk.

"We have been in business for over 20 years, and as in any business, it is impossible to please everyone, but we do our best. We have a good, clean, respected business, and have over 50 percent return clients."

Fitchett also included some thank you letters from previous clients to support his statements.

(We have two other reports on file for Elk Creek Outfitting, 2203 and 6420, both positive.)



■ Subscriber Roger L. Gregg is unsatisfied with a hunt in **England** conducted for him by Malcom Harman of UK Outfitters. Gregg says the Pere David deer, muntjac and roe buck he hunted were scarce and generally of poor trophy quality. The Manchurian sika deer he took, he says, was less than average and that he shot the only one he saw. He says he was sold a silver medal or better Pere David deer, but that only one of this species was available and it didn't even make the SCI Record Book. Gregg says he cannot recommend the hunt because of the trophy quality he saw and a two-year delay in getting his trophies.

Harman expresses surprise in a rebuttal letter he sent us, saying he had no idea Gregg was unhappy with any aspect of his hunt and that this is the first complaint he has received in over 25 years of hunting. He says Gregg measured the Pere David deer himself after shooting it and seemed to be satisfied at the time. The other animals are representative quality, he says.

Harman does admit a delay in sending Gregg's trophies. He says he experienced a difficult recovery period after contracting Lyme disease along with some personal setbacks that affected his ability to complete certain obligations. "I apologized to Mr. Gregg, and am gradually getting my life and business back in line," he says.

*(We have four other reports on UK Outfitters in our database, 3238, 3156, 3737, and 5169, all positive.)*



■ Tom Cook does not recommend a moose hunt he experienced in **British Columbia** with Dean Roe of MVP Guides and Outfitters. While he saw four moose on his hunt, he says, "The guides had no idea where the moose were." He says they lost two entire days of hunting, plus the first couple of hours on other days, because they had to round up the horses the outfitter let out to feed every night. On another day he says the outfitter decided not to hunt so he could clean up "someone else's camp." Cook says his guide was good, but that he had never hunted

the area before and had arrived only a couple of days before Cook had. He says his hunt was supposed to be 1x1, but that a bowhunter was "tagging along," and when they saw a bull they "pretty much had to draw straws to see who was going to go after it." Finally, he says that on the last day of the hunt, the outfitter left camp for home and left his two clients and one guide in camp to finish packing up camp before the plane came to pick them up.

In a very detailed rebuttal letter, Roe counters that Cook's guide knew the area he was hunting and had actually been hunting with him since the beginning of the season. "On the hunt before Tom's, the guide had to leave camp for a few days for a family matter but came back before Tom arrived," Roe says. "The whole area is 2,200 square miles; no guide is familiar with the whole area, but all guides were familiar with the area they were hunting."

Roe says Cook had more than one opportunity for a moose but did not connect for various reasons out of Roe's control. As for the bowhunter, Roe says that both hunters were hunting 1x1. Roe was guiding the bowhunter. Both hunters stayed in the same spike camp. Roe says they went out together for four days because there were three moose in one area, and he thought there would be a good chance at harvesting two moose. "There were never any straws drawn," he says.

Roe admits that the horses did leave camp on their hobbles on two occasions and had to be retrieved. "This happens now and again," he says, but maintains that the horses cannot be tied up all day and night and not allowed to eat. Roe says Cook got full days of hunting regardless, as he left and returned in the dark each day and that he made up two days when his hunt was extended. That was because the plane was delayed due to weather, and Cook's guide continued to take him hunting until the plane was able to fly into camp. He also addresses the other issues Cook had with the hunt. Interested hunters should read the entire file before making up their mind one way or another, and we urge any subscriber who has hunted with Roe to file a report.

*(continued)*

### **Briefly Noted** *(continued)*

government takes very seriously any attempt to circumvent these safety controls.

Several of the readers who called expressed concern that the chemical might be poisoning the air inside their homes. When we called the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), (800-858-7378), we were directed to a Fipronil Technical Fact Sheet ([www.npic.orst.edu/factsheets/fiptech.html](http://www.npic.orst.edu/factsheets/fiptech.html)) which indicated that the product has a low vapor pressure. It was explained that this means the chemical is less likely to vaporize and contaminate the air inside a room or home at normal room temperatures.

The "Toxicity Classification" for Fipronil ranged from "moderate toxicity" to "very low toxicity," depending on whether the chemical was ingested, inhaled, or placed on the skin. We were also told that toxicity would likely depend on level of direct exposure to the chemical. When we asked about direct exposure, we were told that "a bear rug would obviously present a different level of direct exposure than a head mount hung on a wall." It would also obviously depend on the number of trophies treated and how they are displayed and handled.

The NPIC did point out that Fipronil degrades quickly in the presence of UV light. This may have served to break down some of the chemical on the surface of a mount, though would have less effect at the base of the hairs.

Ultimately, however, we were not able to find any guidelines which clearly indicated "safe" exposure levels, specifically because a risk assessment had not been done for this use. If it turns out your trophies were illegally treated with Fipronil, you will ultimately have to make your own decision about the level of exposure you are likely to receive and whether you consider that to be "safe."

We were also told that humans can be tested for exposure to this

*(continued)*

**Briefly Noted** *(continued)*

chemical. If you are concerned, we suggest you contact your primary care physician and have him or her contact the NPIC for testing procedures.

Like many of our readers, we continue to be troubled by the unanswered questions which still revolve around this criminal case and

the implications for hunters who may have unwittingly had their trophies treated with Fipronil. While it's now clear that most of us have probably had contact with this chemical for other uses inside and outside our homes, we still don't have any clear sense of how much exposure is too much. As they say at the NPIC, "The dose makes the poison." With

that in mind, we have attempted to contact BASF, the manufacturer of Termidor to see if we could ascertain how trophies could be tested for the presence of the chemical and what, if any, steps could be taken to minimize or remove any lingering danger—if such danger actually exists. Thus far, we don't have any answers. Stay tuned. ■

**Outfitter Critiques** *(continued)*



■ Ron Mika does not recommend a combo hunt for mule deer, whitetail and black bear in **Idaho** handled for him by Matt Craig of Boulder Creek Outfitters, based in Peck, Idaho. He hunted Boulder Creek's Joseph Camp in Unit 13 and says that although he took an "average" mule deer, he never saw a whitetail deer or a black bear and that the guides were of no help once he and his partners took mule deer. "Our guide was a lazy kid we barely could get out of his enclosed four-wheeler," he writes. "He would only look for deer above the logging roads and throw small boulders off cliffs to chase deer out of hiding. He also told us not to 'waste our time on whitetail and bear' because he 'needed to switch over to guiding some elk hunters coming to camp and there weren't many around.' "The head guides and owners were preoccupied with getting ready for a film crew coming into camp later in the week. It was also apparent that they were keeping certain hunting areas for their film crew hunters. Once hunters in camp had harvested their mule deer or elk, they were given no assistance with whitetail hunting. The camp was in very poor condition. The dining hall was always a mess. Worst hunt I've ever been on. I'd hunt the unit again, but with someone else. It is a quality mule deer area, but forget about whitetail and bear."

In a rebuttal Matt Craig emailed to us, he says, "We've done TV shows for over 20 years now and very rarely get complaints about it. We absolutely do not play favorites with the TV crews; they hunt the same exact locations as everyone else." As for Mika's guide, Craig was unsure which guide it was, and Mika could not remember his

name. But Craig says he has a good idea who it was and that he is one of his best guides, having guided many successful mule deer hunts. He says this "kid" can out work, out hike and out hunt his clients. He concludes, "I could get 50 positive reviews from this hunt for every negative one. Not all hunts go as planned all the time, but we run a successful and professional outfit and have done so for 34 years now. You don't do that by putting on bad hunts."

When asked about Mika's comments about the species available in the area, Craig responded: "In that area I would say an average buck ranges in the upper 150s to mid-160s, and about 40 to 50 percent of the bucks taken each year score roughly 170 or better, with usually four to five going 180 or better. The whitetails and bears aren't major players on this hunt. The opportunity on the whitetails is about 50 percent, and the bear are pretty low, around 20-25 percent. The main event on this hunt is the mule deer, not whitetail or bear. We don't even charge our hunters to harvest a whitetail or bear, so they are just added bonuses."

*(We have three positive reports on file, 3942, 4185, and 4245 for Boulder Creek Outfitters, and one negative, 2210, from 2000.)*



■ Mark Klapmeier is unhappy with the way Dirk Faul of Ntshonalanga Safaris handled a donated rhino dart hunt in **South Africa**. Klapmeier purchased the hunt at the Lake Superior SCI Chapter fundraiser in 2009. He postponed the hunt. In July 2010 new regulations regarding green rhino hunting were enacted in South Africa and Klapmeier's hunt was no longer viable. "I asked Dirk what my options were," says Klapmeier. "His response was, 'I have a \$4,500 cost on that

donation.' The donation was valued at \$14,250. I told Dirk I would be happy with a replacement hunt valued anywhere between \$8,000 and \$14,000, adding that most rhino hunts with other reputable outfitters were selling for around \$10,000, and I would be satisfied with that. Dirk refused, saying that he was only willing to cover the cost of the donation." Klapmeier says he requested a refund at that point. "On November 11, 2010, Dirk said he would refund the chapter," says Klapmeier. "I have repeatedly tried to contact him with no response."

Faul is no longer with Ntshonalanga Safaris, which went bankrupt in 2010. In a rebuttal statement Faul emailed to us, he says the donated hunt was originally good only for 2009 but that he agreed to extend it and later informed Klapmeier that the expire date for the donation would be June 1, 2010 due to the legal issues with dart hunts in South Africa. Five months after that date, he says he offered Klapmeier a plains game hunt equal in value to the minimum he required from the SCI chapter that auctioned it. Faul says that, after consulting financial and legal aid, "it was decided to not refund Mr. Klapmeier as the effort was great in allowing him the opportunity to do the hunt or to substitute the hunt." Faul concludes that Klapmeier should pursue Ntshonalanga Safaris for his losses. "I am more than willing to put anyone in contact with the legal firm who did the audit and the bankruptcy," he says.

We have eight previous reports on Ntshonalanga Safaris, all positive. We would very much like to hear from any subscribers who have hunted with or on hunts arranged by Faul since the demise of Ntshonalanga Safaris in 2010. We feel that such reports would help clarify this situation. ■



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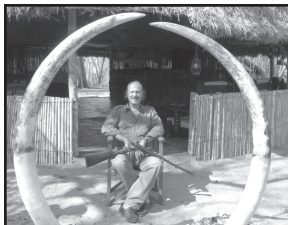
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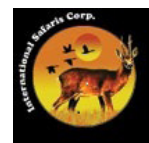
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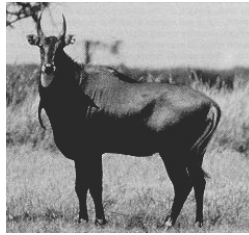
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