

## **2022** Hunter Testimonials

Back in February I got a call from Terry and he informed me that I had been drawn for a deer hunt in October. Fast forward to October, and I can't tell you how great of an experience my wife and I had. Wyoming Disabled Hunters had a Hoyer lift delivered for us to help get me in and out of bed. The wonderful ladies with WDH made sure that we had plenty to eat for each meal. We hunted with Scott Smith and I've got a hunting story to tell for years. Thank you to everyone that supports WDH. Thank you to the landowners that allow us to hunt their ground. WDH has definitely got things figured out and they run one of the best organizations to help those with disabilities. **Nathan Brandon (UT)** 





Wyoming Disabled Hunters didn't disappoint. Easy application, great communication, beautiful venue, good meals, knowledgeable companion hunters and a great opportunity to have a hunt you'll never forget. Got to meet some great people from around the country. Wyoming Disabled Hunters knocks it out of the park bringing the power of the outdoors to those who may not be able to take advantage of what's still out there for us. Through their organization, I was able to accomplish something I thought may never be obtainable again. My accident knocked me down. Ones mind can be tough on itself. Joining 7 other hunters on this hunt, I somewhat forgot my limitations. We all had our own disabilities. WDH allowed me to forget that disability by replacing it with equal peers and one heck of a hunt that held no limitations for me thanks to everyone involved! Thank you for a wonderful anniversary trip for me and my wife. Definitely one we will never forget.

Gary Krueger II (WI)

I got my Wyoming Whitetail Buck! My hunt may have been short lived, but was a dream hunt of a lifetime. I had two amazing hunting companions, Jerry and Lena. We head out to the blind around 6:45am and we all pile in the blind including my husband Junior around 7am. We had deer coming in all around us in every direction within 20 minutes of getting settled. There were five really nice bucks that came out in front of us about 60-75 yards. All of sudden, this handsome 10 point made his entrance and he was the one I wanted; he made my heart speed up and gave me butterflies just like on a first date. As I pulled the gun up, nothing but brown filled the scope, I got the crosshairs on him for the shot, I took a deep breath and exhaled and, in that moment, for one second, I had no problems, no worries, no stress, nothing, but living in that moment - the moment before my accident when life for me was normal and I felt like my old self. That one second was worth it all! As I was finishing exhaling, I gently squeezed the trigger and he dropped in his tracks. As we waited a few moments to make sure he didn't jump and run, I was overwhelmed with emotions flowing from shaking, not from the 16-degree weather, but from the tears of happiness, excitement and peacefulness. This hunt was perfect! It was a special hunt as I was able to hunt once again with my husband Junior, one to remember for sure. I was on a hunting high, telling everyone my hunting story and showing off my pictures and I still am today.

I cannot thank the <u>Wyoming Disabled</u> <u>Hunters</u> enough for the opportunity to take this buck in a hunt of a lifetime! I have to thank the land owners who allowed me to hunt their land, my two hunting companions Lena and Gerry who are just amazingly awesome, Terry (president), Marvin for pairing me with the two best companion hunters, the board members of the foundation, the owner of <u>Bull Moose Retreat</u> for allowing us to stay there, all of the volunteers, and all of the ones who donated - they all made this hunt a dream come true for me! I don't know all of their names, but they all are amazing people who work hard and put a lot of time into this! **Brittany Whitener (GA)** 





I would like to thank the Wyoming Disabled Hunters for an excellent hunt on a Monday. It was an amazing way to kick off a week. I found the process for applying for the program very easy. I didn't have to figure anything out and if I did have questions, Terry was always there to answer my questions. This was my first year applying and I felt so honored that I was drawn. WDH set myself and caregiver up with top notch accommodations for four nights. And a pocket full of memories. We were scheduled for a 3-day hunt but on day 0 of the hunt (we were scheduled to start the hunt the next day) while they were assisting with sighting the rifle, the guides called and said there was a herd of 10-15 elk on the property where I was to hunt. We had a quick bite for lunch and met back at 1:00. We loaded up in the WDH state-of-the-art wheelchair accessible van and headed out to the property. We met up with our guides and they quickly spotted the herd. Our guides helped get me situated in their truck and in a shooting position that I felt comfortable with. The guides made me feel reassured about the safety of my shot and beyond. At no point did I feel rushed to take or not take the shot. It was 30 minutes from the time we loaded into the truck till I took down my Elk! The guides made the process easy as heck and had the elk quartered in 20 minutes. The guides really knew what they were doing before I spoke. WDH also covered the expense of processing the elk too. And, for all this I am thankful. Joe Jaumotte (MT)

I am Joe's caregiver of almost 7 years and accompanied him on his trip. This opportunity for him did more than fill his freezer; the experience gave him a moment of adventure and memories that will last forever. I would like to thank everyone that made this all possible for him. From the organizers to the land owners, guides and people who donate tags not to mention the donations that made all of this possible. We will forever be grateful for this lifetime memory.

**Daisy Hoffmann (MT)** 

I just want to say a HUGE THANK YOU TO WDH!! The hunt I had for a deer and an antelope was amazing. When I found out I could go hunt for a deer I was so excited and could not wait to go. A few weeks before I was going to leave I got a call that I could hunt for an antelope as well. I was beyond excited. When I got out there with my mom and brother we were treated like royalty. The owner of the house we stayed in even came to talk to all of us. The people in the kitchen were so friendly too. The food was great, the accommodations were awesome and the hunter companions were amazing. They were all so friendly. They take time off from their jobs and families to help us hunt. The whole experience was one I will never forget!!! Matt DeWild (IA)





From the hunting application to the good! good-by breakfast it was a friendly and well put-together organization. The people that volunteer for this hunt are some of the best, especially the cook. This hunt allowed me to spend valuable time with my sons, that I will never forget. Jess my hunting companion was great. He made you feel like you knew him forever and was a very good guide. He showed me a buck antelope that someday soon will be on my cabin wall. Thank You WDH for an unforgettable hunt. **Tom Desaveur (MT)** 



WOW!!! What a hunt! It started early. I met my team from Wyoming Disabled Hunters in the parking lot of the Cody Holiday Inn way before the sun was up. Probably a little before I was awake too! The WDH crew was well organized and ready to go. We had sighted my rifle in the day before. At the ranch I boarded the Track Chair, and away we went. I got situated in some tall bushes, and shortly thereafter we heard a bull bugle in the distance. I was awake now! That bugle caught the attention of my whole team! We were all looking, but he never showed up.

Later we had a great picnic lunch and returned to hunting. We soon heard our second bugle of the day. Ten or so cows moved up from the river bottom. My tag was for either cow or bull, so I was trying to figure out which cow to choose. This was the first time I hunted elk, and to tell the truth they all looked the same! While I was trying to solve my dilemma, out from the woods stepped this harem's bull! And a great one he was! 6x7 and heavy bodied. My guide started to call out distances, and when the bull got close enough, I took the shot. Down he went, and I had filled my tag. Many thanks go out to Wyoming Disabled Hunters: Terry Skinner, Scott Smith, Marvin Blakesley, Sean Burke, Neil Boluyt, Darkie Jones, and all of the people behind the scenes. Thank you especially to the landowner who gave us permission to hunt and to the folks who donated their tags. I met so many friendly people in Cody - Sulphur Creek Taxidermy and Wapiti Meats. My WDH team was a great support and did a tremendous amount of work to make my hunt successful - many thanks guys!!! It was the trip of a lifetime.

Forest Vannier (WY)

I will never be able to express enough how grateful I am for Wyoming Disabled Hunters! From the moment I got a phone call from Terry telling me that I was drawn for an antelope hunt, to the first day showing up at Bull Moose Retreat with all the help from the volunteers, to my very first antelope hunt and all the way up until the end and even after on the trip home they have been so extremely helpful with any questions or problems that arise! I'm from Sioux Falls South Dakota so I had an amazing drive through the beautiful mountains over to Cody Wyoming. I have not been to Cody, Wyoming since I was about seven years old so it was a wonderful refresher! This was my very first antelope hunt. It seemed to go by so fast. Less than an hour of driving around before we found my buck at about 100 yards. It will definitely be a memory of a lifetime! WDH is amazing at making sure you are set up with the right equipment and accommodations to get the job done. I was also fortunate enough to ride in their four-wheel-drive sprinter van that made it a breeze for getting offroad to the hunting spots! If you are disabled and looking to get back into hunting, I would definitely check them out and apply for one of their hunts! Again, thank you so much to Terry, the board members, volunteers, companion hunters, donors, and anyone else who helps with this amazing group. We would not be able to do any of this without you!

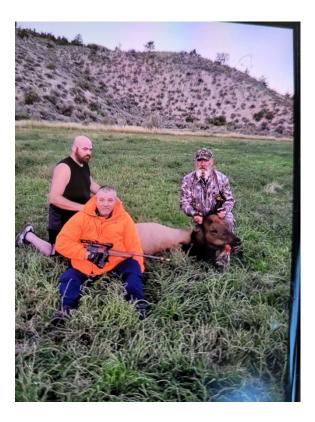
**Dylan Lesselyoung (SD)** 



WOW...Thanks Wyoming Disabled Hunters for an absolutely incredible Adventure. Early spring, I get an email saying I was not successful in the hunt drawing so I thought I'll try again next year. Then about July I get a message from Terry saying a hunter wasn't going to be able to make it and I was next on the list. Game On...everything about this was a Class Act. Terry stayed in contact with me to talk me through the process. Scott took me through the licensing process without any problems. Terry even checks in on me to make sure everything was going ok on the 1700-mile trip from Michigan. As we arrive at the Bull Moose Retreat, they meet us at our vehicle with a warm welcome and help us unload and get settled in. As soon as we get inside the volunteers are offering us drinks and snacks. We get all our paperwork signed and then have an excellent meal with everyone included. Then, get paired up with our guides Neal (a Michigander too) and Adam who get us amped up for morning. Neal had spent countless hours patterning these deer and knew right when and where they would be. We weren't out but about 2 hours and I had a buck in my crosshairs and nailed a beautiful buck. Neal was even generous and helped us process my deer at his place. Back to the lodge to share stories and eat more great food. Soo Grateful for everyone involved in making this World Class event take place and allowing us to be part of it! Thanks for Everything **Brent Christensen (MI)** 

I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity, I had a blast! Your organization is amazing, everyone I was involved with was helpful, friendly & full of knowledge! You can't beat the comradery, beautiful views or the one-on-one guide service! My guide never got irritated or impatient with me, he explained how to field judge a buck & answered all my questions! Our cabin was spectacular & the gals that cooked for us made outstanding meals.....felt like home away from home! [SEP]This is a top-notch service & I was honored to be there! I hope to see you again in the future! **Scott Holley (SD)** 





Before my injury, I was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing. After a couple of years adjusting to my new way of life as a C5, incomplete quadriplegic. I happen to discover the wonderful program known as the Wyoming Disabled Hunters Organization. I completed the necessary tasks to apply for a chance to participate in a deer hunt and was graciously accepted. The results far exceeded my expectations. I traveled to places and experienced moments I never thought I would be able to again. Better still, I had the opportunity to meet and make what I now consider lifelong friends. The administration as well as the companion hunters, land owners and all the other volunteers who selflessly met our needs and made us feel like family cannot be praised enough. If afforded the opportunity to participate again, I wouldn't think twice about going! I hope this testimony may help any others that are wanting to get back to the outdoors again feel at ease and know they can trust everyone at Wyoming Disabled Hunters for a wonderful experience. Jonathan Nash (FL)

First of all, I need to thank Terry, Matt and Walt and all the volunteers at Wyoming Disabled Hunters, what a great organization! I would also like to thank the folks at Mooncrest Ranch for letting us hunt and the tag donors. I was able to fill my tag on day two of the elk hunt. This hunt was the greatest hunting experience I have every had! I would go back anytime! Matt and Walt were prepared prior to my arriving to Wyoming, such as scouting, setting ground blinds. They also did the field dressing and took the meat to the locker the same morning so we could get the elk processed. Without the help of WDH and the volunteers and land owners a successful hunt like this for a wheelchair bound person is not likely. Thanks again for the great experience.







I would like to thank the Wyoming Disabled Hunters organization along with all the folks that come together to make this happen. The trip itself was amazing, I was lucky enough to be selected as an alternate hunter for the 2022 Antelope hunt and what a trip it was. I started out spending 4 days in Yellowstone National Park and seeing all the amazing sites that is offered there. I then made my way back to Cody WY and the Lodge where all the hunters stayed. I found their facilities to be 100% wheelchair accessible and were able to accommodate all my needs. We were fed well and heard some great stories, even from the founder of WDH which was quite the privilege. Our hunt consisted of myself and 1 other disabled hunter along with 2 guides to show us around. Their knowledge of the area and the wildlife that would be present was unbelievable. They talked us through the antelope behaviors and what to expect throughout the day. My partner was able to get the first kill which left me a bit unsettled thinking that I may have missed my opportunity, however our guides were dedicated and knew exactly what to expect. In the afternoon we spent the time locating herds and glassing the fields and mountain sides to find the perfect buck for my harvest. Even though I would be anxious to pull the trigger I was advised that I should wait as there may be better opportunities. As the afternoon rolled on I was getting more and more anxious but the patience paid off. With the guidance provided I was able to harvest a nice buck measuring just over 15 inches in length and a 6.5 in diameter. I could not be happier; this is my first trophy buck and I am having it mounted by Sulphur Creek Taxidermy which was conveniently located just up the road from Bull Moose Retreat where we stayed. I am not great about remembering names but between all the staff at WDH and the volunteer guides that took time out of their day to help us out I could not be happier. I hope to be selected for another trip in the future. THANK YOU!!!

Joel Fini (IA)

Thank you for letting me participate in this. I had a great time getting to know the other disabled hunters, their caregivers, and the other volunteers. For me this was a humbling experience. I often get depressed and upset about my pain, my inability to do certain things, and my situation overall. This experience helped me remember that even though I am in so much pain I am still able to do many things that others are not able to do. I was inspired by the other hunters as I am not "as disabled" as them and they continue to get out there and look for new and exciting experiences like hunting. I hope that I will have the same attitude one day when I am in a wheelchair. Overall, we had an amazing experience. The food and lodging were great. Everyone was so kind and courteous. You all do a great job! It's such a beautiful place up there and it makes me joyful to know you all share it with others. Your organization is uplifting and helps me know that there are still good people in this world. Of course, they are from Wyoming! I would highly recommend this experience to anyone interested! Thanks again for the good time.

Brent Babcock BSN, RN (WY)





From the time I was contacted from WDH to the time I left, they were the nicest people to deal with. Once I got there, every single person involved with these hunts was the greatest, nicest and caring people; they made you feel like family! The companion hunters went above and beyond! They were the funniest, most awesome group of guys I've ever hunted with. We met as strangers but left as friends. For anybody with a disability and is worried about going, don't be because they will take care of you with no problems at all!! Thank you WDH for everything, all the lifelong memories made!! Hope to be out there again in years to come thank you again! God Bless. **Gary Clark (KY)** 

I can't thank you, the board, guides, and everyone else enough for allowing me to come out and experience Wyoming for the first time! It was truly the experience of a lifetime and something I'll never forget. I want to come back with my family and hopefully chase some mule deer. Life has a way of well, getting in the way. When I was injured on active duty, my life changed forever. I couldn't do things I once did, and other things I wanted to try seemed nearly impossible. When I got into hunting, it was a form of therapy but it was also very difficult to do on my own. I never expected to be able to hunt the fastest mammal in North America. Thanks to Wyoming Disabled Hunters, I was fortunate to do just that, and be successful at it! The harvest of an antelope was just the icing on the cake. Everyone involved with the organization made me feel like family and genuinely wanted me to feel as comfortable as possible. Everyone went out of their way to provide the best hunt, lodging, meals and even site seeing during my stay. The impact from this trip will last a lifetime! **Timothy Curran (PA)** 





Let me start out by saying I cannot express how amazing it is that an organization like WDH exists to help people like they do. We see a lot of places set up like this for Veterans, rightfully so, however it's nice that WDH also includes people that are not veterans as well. The hunt was awesome and I can't say enough good things about the crew and the set-up. The Companion Hunters went above and beyond to help us and make sure we had a great hunt. Again, I could go on forever but it was a great experience and I've been singing the praises of the whole program! Jeff Short (TN) I am honored to be chosen this year to be one of the 8 hunters to be able to participate in this year's hunt. The people responsible for this are to be commended. From the board all the way to the volunteers. It allows the opportunity to participate in, and be successful at, an activity that would be out of reach. It is an extended family. They treated everyone like family; from the hunt to the accommodations. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

## Tim Sappington (MO)





Hunting with Wyoming Disabled Hunters was such an amazing experience. The guides were very knowledgeable of the area and knew exactly what to do and where to go to provide me with the most successful hunt. I cannot say enough great things about this organization as a whole. It was an experience to remember and I hope to be able to return in the future. Thanks again to the companion hunters, guides, and everyone else that makes this organization as great as it is. **Paul Hogue (MS)**