The South Dakota Bowhunter

November 2022

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On the Front: Lifetime member Jerry Travis with first buck with longbow

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Editor's Note

Mike McKnight

I have been blessed with many things in my life to include many good hunting partners. I am including in this issue a couple of pictures taken probably over 40 years ago. Jack Lundie (not the good looking one but rather the one in the red sweatshirt) has been my hunting and fishing partner for over 40 years. A guy can't ask for much more than that. Jack is not the only hunting and fishing partner that I have had over that time frame – Dan Johnston, Mark Viehweg, Gregg Greenfield, and most importantly, my son, Ryan. All of these folks have been and continue to be a blessing to me in my life. My judge of people for many years has been whether or not I could spend a week with them in a hunting camp. All of these people pass that test (although Jack gets a little iffy but like an old married couple we don't talk much).

Phil Lentz reached out to me and wondered if I would consider running a non-bowhunting article involving his son. His son participated in the GFP three day mentored rifle deer trip along the Missouri River. I think one of the things that SDBI stands for is youth participation in outdoor activities and we try to encourage that. I agreed to run the article and pictures, and I hope you find it enjoyable.

I wrote in the last edition, a story about my paddlefish adventure. I noticed that the GFP commission has approved crossbow use for anyone, regardless of disability, during the archery paddlefish season. That is not a good development, and I am sure that we will hear about that being allowed during the next legislative fight over crossbows. They are coming folks and we better be prepared.

As you read this, I will hopefully be on a western South Dakota hill glassing for mule deer. I hope your fall is going well. It is hard to believe that 2022 is almost over.

Play hard and have fun.

There is more stupidity than hydrogen in the universe.

- Frank Zappa

Next deadline to submit articles or pictures is December 1

Email articles, photos, want ads, cartoons, and letters for newsletter submission to :
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Editor's Note

Mike McKnight

Minnesota Vikings · See more

Nick Lewis 3 7
@NickLewis37

The MGM in Mankato is finally selling enough beer to get through full Vikings game. #Skol

12:47 PM · 8/23/22 from Mankato, MN · Twitter for

President's Point

Justin Broughton

Happy hunting season bowhunters! It's a great pleasure and honor to serve as President of SDBI and to represent such an accomplished and dedicated group of bowhunters. I've had the pleasure of serving as the youth coordinator for the Pope and Young club for several years before joining the board of SDBI. I've lived in South Dakota all my life, primarily east river, and have archery hunted for nearly 35 years in South Dakota and many other states east and west of here. I have had the privilege to take a handful of different species with both a compound and traditional bow over those many years. I look forward to leading SDBI the next couple of years, and along with the board, hope we can accomplish some long overdue changes for the membership.

2022 has been an incredible year for me so far behind the bow, enjoyed a great spring turkey season, an amazing black bear hunt up in Manitoba, and recently spent the majority of September behind the bow chasing bugles like I do every September. It's hard not to find the joy in life as a bowhunter when we're so blessed, but even with all those blessings we certainly have some challenges currently facing us as bowhunters here in South Dakota. I'd like to use my column inches to talk about a few of them and our plans moving forward.

The biggest concern we have and are currently working with the Department of Game, Fish and Parks on is trying to curtail the explosion of growth we have seen in the number of nonresident archers in our state. I'd like to caveat that in part by saying I have nothing against nonresident hunters, as I am one every year on at least one or more hunts each spring and fall. They have place in our woods and fields right alongside us, but that doesn't give them carte blanche access to our public land wildlife resources. We are long overdue for limitations to be placed on the tag numbers available to nonresidents each fall here in SD and specifically for those tags that are used for antelope and mule deer.

Over the past 10 years, nonresident archery license holders have increased 87% for deer and a whopping 244% for antelope. Nonresident archers have taken a keen interest in targeting our mule deer, now accounting for nearly 50% of the total archery mule deer harvest in the state. In fact, nonresident archers now represent 18% of the TOTAL mule deer buck harvest for West River rifle. (NR archery 525 mule deer bucks harvested, WR Rifle 3026 mule deer bucks harvested). We don't have the same data available for antelope, but I can say that nonresident archery hunters represent 20% of the total of resident rifle hunters (877 NR archery versus 4715 resident rifle licenses). This continued growth is not sustainable long term, and something needs to be done about now.

SDBI has now brought forward two separate sets of well thought out petitions for the commission's consideration. These petitions have been well positioned on facts, statistics, and included considerations that would protect the landowner and outfitter lobby's interests. The department and commission's response to our petitions has not been positive. We have been met

President's Point
(continued)

Justin Broughton

with resistance each time and have received varying answers on when the best time is to bring these concerns forward and what the best venue is to address them.

We did gain a bit of traction with the commission in our last attempt. Through testimony from your board, valued members, and others in the sportsmen's community the commission has started to take notice of our concerns and is hearing us for the first time. The commission did finally task the department with acting on the concerns we have had with increased nonresident pressure. The recent survey sent out by the department is a direct result of those efforts. The survey did not, in my opinion, address the concerns in a meaningful way and did not present the questions at hand in the right way to get meaningful results. This is something we'll be sharing with the department and the commission as we hear and consider the results of the GFP's survey. The department has also mentioned that a stakeholder group will be put together in the coming months to address the concerns of increasing pressure as well. Please rest assured that SDBI's board will work hard to get someone representing our organization on that stakeholder's group.

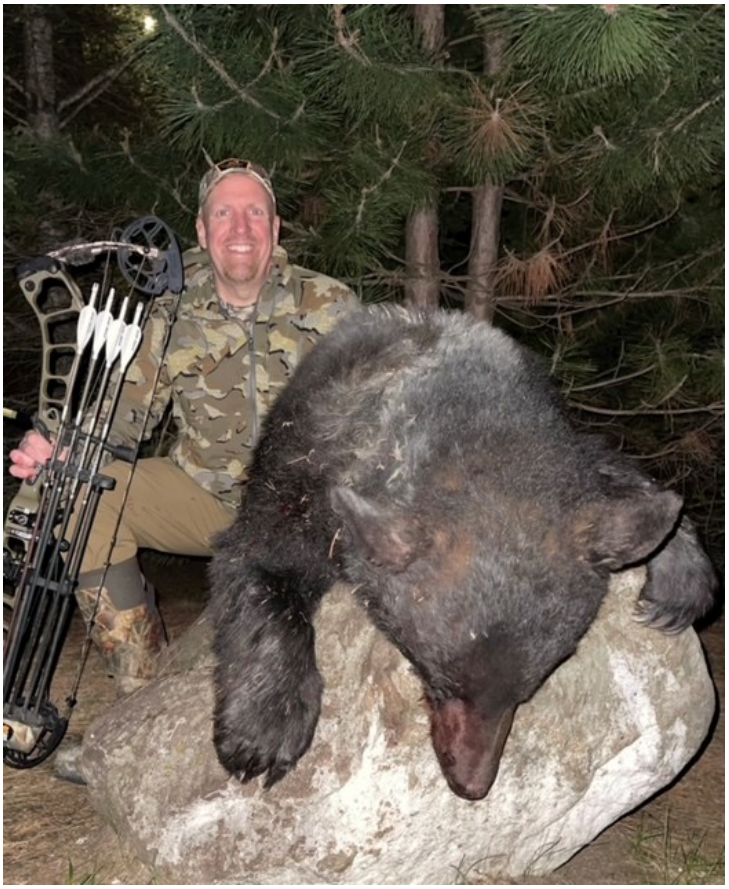
The remaining concern I have for all of us as bowhunters in South Dakota is one of unintended consequence. While we continue to fight to protect the experience, we have bowhunting in South Dakota, to protect our mule deer and antelope resource, and to push for great hunting for resident and non-resident alike we are starting to see some concerning language from the department that would lead us to believe some of our current opportunities may be on the table. Opportunities like having an east and west river tag, having an any deer tag, having the September 1 opener, and unlimited tags in general for deer and antelope. I want to assure all of you that we will fight tooth and nail to ensure that we continue to have the privileges to bowhunt in South Dakota that we have enjoyed these many years, and that those privileges will continue to be there for our kids and our grandkids.

That said, your board cannot do it alone. We need your help. Please join us in testifying at the commission meetings, join us in writing emails and contacting our commissioners, contact the department staff where it makes sense to do so, and most importantly do it in a way that is factual, respectful, and sheds a positive light on what we are trying to accomplish for the future of our sport in South Dakota. All of us together are a force to be reckoned with, more so than the few of us that are showing up and sounding like a squeaky wheel. We can achieve the goals we set out for SDBI at convention last February as a collective, and I hope the board and I can continue to provide the information and leadership to the membership to facilitate that.

Good luck to all of you this fall, stay safe, keep the wind in your face, and may your arrows fly true. If there's ever anything I can do or that we should be aware of, please do not hesitate to contact me. SDBI is here to represent all the bowhunters of this state in the very best way that we can.

President's Point
(continued)

Justin Broughton



Secretary/Lobbyist Report

Dana Rogers

The SD GF&P did put together the survey for all deer and antelope permit holders from the past three years. Hopefully, most of you received the survey and submitted your opinions. It's my feeling that this data will be pretty important for the staff and commissioners going forward. I wish a few of the questions would have been followed with an option to answer "Leave the resident archery season AS IS and limit the non-residents to the 8% of resident permits sold". Unfortunately, that wasn't an option. BUT, the options were there to provide our input on what (if any) changes we'd prefer to see. I spoke with many bowhunters that most definitely took advantage of the open comment section at the end to let staff and the commissioners know where they felt the problems lied.

I tried to get the survey data this week from one of my contacts at GF&P, but they wanted to compile the data and share it with the rest of the staff and commissioners before providing it to the public. The information should be provided at the Commissioners meeting in early October. I'm writing this at the end of September and GFP staff is planning to coordinate and invite stakeholders to meet and discuss any future changes. I'm of the opinion that the makeup and % included in these groups will tell a lot about where we go from here. For example, if outfitters, landowners and non-residents are given the same number of seats at the table as resident Bowhunters, it's going to be tough sledding.

Please keep your eyes out for these types of updates and contact your legislators and GFP staff and commissioners with your thoughts.

"Have you tried licking it for hours?"

Vice-President's Voice

Ronn McDaniel, O.D.

Well, I have spent 8 days out on the prairies already this archery season and have been keeping tabs with population changes in comparison to years past. I have hunted one area for over 20 years for Pronghorn and have never seen such a dismal sight. The total herd population is down but more noticeably was that there were few 1 1/2 yr olds and very few fawns. An issue that deserves attention.

Preferring to hunt Pronghorn in the rut rather than stalking on the flats and sitting at a water-hole or two is how I prefer to play their game. However, plans changed this fall after a good friend drew his archery elk tag and I wanted to make sure if at all possible I could be there for that dream hunt. So I planned my early season Pronghorn trip on the opening weekend, met up with Finn Sacrison for a delivery of repaired 3D targets for his fundraising efforts and target practice for his Wounded Warrior Archery hunts and then spent several dismal days in the field.

September 1st came around and it was a tough go at water for my buddy looking for a bull elk and I experienced about the same problem hunting Pronghorn (drew a BH Access Tag) and deer. I saw plenty of elk each day but in 4 days I saw 8 muley bucks, 2 muley does, no fawns in the small area that I was in. The Pronghorn herd was about the same, in a herd of 25, there were 2 bucks and only 2 fawns, a discouraging issue.

Now the one critter that continued to be everywhere was the coyote. I saw them everywhere I went, it didn't matter if it was 98 degrees in the middle of the afternoon, they were still out moving.

My take so far with our herds management just by observation while hunting is that we are experiencing a large population of coyotes taking out the young. Yes, drought and other factors do affect young of the year, but the vast numbers of tracks and after seeing so many coyotes out and about pretty much tells me we are not only competing with tag allocation issues, but predation as well. One reason for this is that the furs aren't worth very much these days. Coyote hunters and trappers don't get out to work over the population much when it takes 10 coyote hides to fill a gas tank. Maybe we archers should be thinking of the future ahead? Maybe it's time for me to make a couple coyote sets when I'm out hunting for a few days. Maybe take my call and rifle as well for a different change of pace.

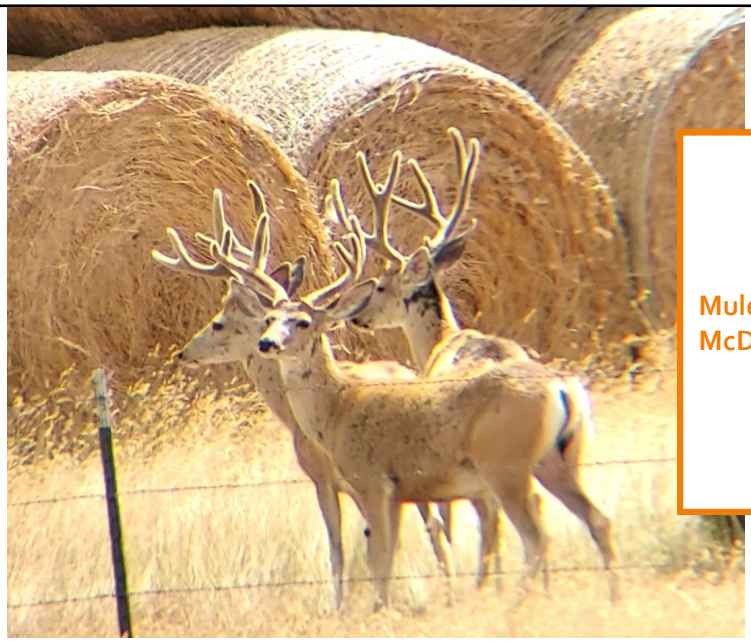
In my view, an archer is in many ways a better hunter than the average Joe and we could take out a few coyotes along the way...just hopefully Murphys Law doesn't show up after you pull the trigger on Wiley E. and then watch a bedded buck get up and clear the country!

Have a successful season and may the sunrises and sunsets be brilliant.

Vice-President's Voice

Ronn McDaniel, O.D.

3D targets donated by Minnkota Archers through SDBI for Finn's Wounded Warrior Archery hunts



Muleys from Ronn McDaniel

What Hunters and Anglers Need to Know About the CRP Improvement Act

Aaron Field, TRCP

New legislation could boost the acreage and impact of hunters' favorite Farm Bill conservation program

The Conservation Reserve Program is one of the most effective and impactful Farm Bill conservation programs ever implemented, and recently introduced legislation has the potential to make it even better. Proposed by Senators Thune (R-S.D.) and Klobuchar (D-Minn.), the bipartisan Conservation Reserve Program Improvement Act would add landowner incentives that have the potential to boost CRP acreage and improve wildlife habitat and water quality, leading directly to more and better opportunities for hunters and anglers.

Unlike other important U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs, the CRP did not get a recent boost in funding.

Legislation that is introduced before the massive Farm Bill, like the CRP Improvement Act, helps hunters and anglers push for the programs that mean the most to us just as debate is heating up. Here's what you need to know about this bill.

Conservation Reserve Program Basics

Introduced as part of the 1985 Farm Bill, the CRP pays farmers to retire highly erodible farmland from production. Its original goals were to reduce soil erosion and support farm income, but it quickly became clear that the CRP was just as valuable for wildlife and fisheries as it was for farmers. By returning marginal cropland to grasslands, wetlands, and forests, the CRP created millions of acres of wildlife habitat while also filtering water, sequestering carbon, and preserving biodiversity.

Despite this success, reduced rental rates, complicated application processes, and a lack of cost share flexibility has caused some landowners to avoid applying. Conservation-minded groups have worked for years to add commonsense flexibility and improved incentives to the program in ways that don't compromise its conservation benefits. Now, the CRP Improvement Act could make some of this happen.

What the CRP Improvement Act Does

The new legislation continues the trend of added flexibility, targeted application, and improved outcomes in the CRP. Specifically, the CRP Improvement Act would:

1. **Reinstate cost sharing for mid-contract management.** Periodic management of CRP through weed control, prescribed fire, or targeted grazing or

mowing is necessary to maintain quality habitat, so landowners in CRP contracts are required to perform management activities near the midpoint of their ten- or 15-year contracts. Unfortunately, federal cost sharing for mid contract management was eliminated in the 2018 Farm Bill, leaving landowners on the hook for these costs and discouraging new enrollment. The CRP Improvement Act reinstates this cost share for all approved practices other than grazing and haying, which will lead to both more enrollment and better management and environmental outcomes.

2. **Add cost sharing for CRP grazing infrastructure.** Depending on how and where it is applied, livestock grazing can be beneficial or detrimental to wildlife habitat. The grasslands of the Great Plains evolved with grazing, which supports wildlife by maintaining plant diversity there. The CRP Improvement Act provides cost sharing for grazing infrastructure, like fencing and water development, "if grazing is included in the conservation plan and addresses a resource concern." Having fencing and water in place makes CRP lands more valuable as emergency livestock forage reserves during drought, adding an incentive to farmers and ranchers. And after grazing infrastructure is set up, landowners are less likely to convert grasslands back into cropland at the end of a CRP contract. In the long term, this seemingly small investment has the potential to support more grass-based agriculture and more diverse farming operations, benefiting both rural economies and wildlife.
3. **Permanently authorize the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancements (SAFE) initiative.** SAFE enrolls acreage and encourages management practices that benefit priority wildlife in individual states. These practices are chosen by local biologists and tailored to a specific region. As an example, the states of South Dakota and Minnesota have used SAFE to prioritize enrolling tallgrass prairie acreage for pheasant habitat and water quality. In Georgia, SAFE acreage has been targeted toward native pine savannas, excellent habitat for bobwhite quail. Specific Farm Bill language that prioritizes SAFE ensures that the CRP is much more than a land retirement program and is a win for hunters and anglers nationwide.
4. **Increase the CRP rental payment limitation.** Enrollment in the CRP by an individual landowner is currently capped by a $50,000 limitation for rental payments. This limitation has not changed since the original Food Security Act of 1985, and simply doesn't reflect current farmland rental rates. By raising this limitation to $125,000—still less than if that $50,000 limit had been tied to inflation when created—the CRP Improvement Act would allow conservation-minded landowners to enroll more of their land in the CRP. This has the potential to create more contiguous habitat and remove a barrier to enrolling high-impact acreage.

CRP Improvement Act
(continued)

What to Watch for Next

The CRP Improvement Act is a great example of bipartisan legislation that builds on the success of Farm Bill conservation programs. It is being proposed at an excellent time, just as all parties gear up for the 2023 Farm Bill. There are a couple of things hunters and anglers should keep in mind, both in this bill and in upcoming Farm Bill discussions.

Adding flexibility, production value, and management incentives to the CRP is a great way to gain support from farmers and ranchers, but we have to ensure that it doesn't reduce the CRP's conservation value. For this bill to be successful, any haying, livestock grazing, or associated infrastructure needs to be well-planned and targeted toward conservation outcomes. The same must be true for future Farm Bill proposals.

Other tweaks to the CRP—like increased funding, more competitive rental rates, and a better application ranking process—are still needed. But this bill is a clear demonstration that across-the-aisle partnerships on commonsense legislation are still possible. We need to promote this kind of cooperation, and we should keep a close eye on upcoming proposals that would modify the Farm Bill conservation title—for better or worse. Hunters and anglers need to show a united front in support of quality habitat nationwide and supporting the CRP Improvement Act is a good start.

Missouri River Corridor Youth Hunt

Phil Lentz

Growing up in Minnesota I remember hunting opener was bigger than Christmas. Getting ready for weeks in advance, hanging out deer camp and just loving every minute no matter how cold it was. But I lost that fun, excitement and hunting anticipation after I graduated collage and moved here to South Dakota. I didn't keep going back to Minnesota for one reason or another. Then came along a great motivating factor, my son. When he was 10 or so we he was looking through the mail and the Sioux Falls community education book. He was flipping through the pages and he saw the introduction to archery class. He really wanted to try it. He had never shot a bow before and I hadn't either. All my hunting in Minnesota was shotgun. So never wanting to keep an experience from our kids we signed him up.

Class night came and he was excited. They started out with long bows. He did ok with it but they also tried a more hunting looking bow. The coaches had hung up balloons and the first shot with that bow "boom" he hit it. That smile was priceless, and he was hooked. We got home and he was begging mom to get a bow. After much debating, pleading and begging we decided Christmas was coming early.

We got our bows both dad and son and the shooting began. At first it was pretty rough, but little by little and help with some really fine folks at the Minnehaha County Archers improvements came. And Kaden got pretty good. But now was the challenge, how to keep that ember from going out and getting that fire going. Slowly then besides going the range for out bows we started shooting small rifles. He of course loved that as well.

At this time I had been bow hunting on public land for one season trying to learn how to not miss consistently and hit something instead. It was a great challenge for me but we kept working on skills. But something was missing, he couldn't hunt or so I thought. A coworker told me to get him a mentor tag and let him go. I didn't understand the South Dakota laws and didn't realize he could hunt at such a young age. We did a little bow hunting together but I myself was not doing great bow hunting so I started looking for other opportunities for him to experience hunting with solid seasoned hunters. After some looking, I found post on social media. It was the Missouri River Corridor Youth Hunt. I immediately reached out and Kendyll a GFP officer send me all the information and an application for my son to fill out. He eagerly filled it out. I had to give him a little reality check that nothing in life is assured. But he was hopeful.

About a month later I got the call. He was invited. I am not sure who was more excited Kaden or dad! Now as I am thinking back of the incredible weekend we just had on the hunt I am filled with amazing memories of his first official hunt. The hunt experience was very well structured and the people working with the kids are very dedicated to the experience.

Missouri River Corridor Youth Hunt
(continued)

Phil Lentz

Day 1:

We arrived at Browns Hunting lodge in Gettysburg on Friday afternoon and checked in. The four-hour drive was a little long when you're heading out to hunt! We were greeted by Robin, got us checked in to our cabin. We soon found out we were not roughing it too badly, well not at all. We would soon find out Robin was an amazing cook! The kids then at the lodge got to meet their guides and got to explore their new backpacks full of everything they would need on a hunt. They had the most generous donors, and each hunter received a backpack, new bino's, game processing kit, bone saw, orange vest, hat, shirt, safety book, and a headlamp. They were set up! They had provided absolutely everything. The rest of the evening they spent going over the basics. Ethical hunting shot placement and how to field dress a deer. The importance of safety and how to handle a firearm. They got the bino's and the harness set up and spent some time looking for deer on the hills on the banks of the Missouri River. Kaden went to bed that night just filled with excitement and anticipation. Back to robin, that amazing cook, I can tell you venison tortellini is amazing and I am looking for her to get me that recipe!

Day 2:
Bright and early we again enjoyed Robins incredible cooking with an amazing egg bake and all that goes with that and then it was to the range for target practice. Each hunter started with the basics and a .22 rifle led by Mark. Mark also works at the ranch but he was really just a big kid. You could tell right off he had a big passion for helping the kids get comfortable shooting. He was a great coach, he even made life size deer targets with eyelashes and prettied up faces. After the .22 Mark would introduce a little bit bigger caliber until they reached the rifle they were hunting with, a .243. Mark and all the guides worked with each hunter until they felt comfortable and confident with the rifle. They talked about how to carry the rifle into the hunt. They always pressed safety first and foremost and second was fun. After another amazing venison lunch it was time to hunt. Each hunter with their guide headed out. All three saw deer, they all had a story, but nobody harvested a deer. My son with our guide Myles hung out in the blind all afternoon. We saw some deer come and go at distance we could not reach. After some time we watched two does lay down in a harvested wheat field that was just over 700 yards away. Myles made the decision to do something different and try to stalk the does. It was on, my son loved this. We worked our way towards them wading through some cover crops and slowly working towards them. The last 100 yards or so were crawling though that wheat field to set up for a shot. We were within a range even though it was a good distance it was a makeable shot. We waited and with some persuasive whistling the deer got up, but it went fast. Kaden was on target, got the shot off but the deer only gave him a few seconds to get on target. It was a miss; the deer ran off and that was that. Kaden even though he missed just had an experience I don't think he will ever forget. He was excited, he missed but he was excited because he successfully staked two deer and got a shot off. He didn't have a harvest but he had a great story and that story was just as great. We returned back to the lodge and everyone told their stories of all the days excite-

Missouri River Corridor Youth Hunt
(continued)

Phil :Lentz

ment and the sometimes boring waiting but they had a unique experience. Again Robin made us a to die for pheasant lasagna. Bedtime was much needed after this!

Day 3: This is where our experience turned out a bit tough, Kaden got ill. Only got about 2 hours of sleep and unfortunately was in no condition to hunt the morning sit. But the other two went out again with great dreams of harvesting their first deer. There were no deer harvested this year but I doubt anyone was disappointed.

This hunt was just incredible. They were all about the kids and making a great memory in the perfect environment. A special thanks to Kendyll whom is the GFP officer who takes the lead on the project. The guides Jeanna, Brandon and our guide Myles. I know all the guides were incredible, but Myles was just the best! All the guides were intune with the kids and always knew what to do and say. They truly very much cared about the kids. And to Mark and Robin, they too played vital rolls in the hunt. Mark was always talking to kids one on one getting them fired up and making sure the experience was positive and fun. Robin in case you hadn't figured it out is an incredible cook, we never were hungry or uncomfortable. The accommodations were first class!

Finally, to all the sponsors that made this happen again this year. They provided everything for this hunt at no cost to the hunters. My only out of pocked cost for this was getting to and from the lodge. That is something that is critical to make this hunt a long-term success and available to all.

My goal in sharing our hunting story is simple, to get the word out about this incredible experience. To get more kids to apply to see this program grow and thrive! Next year I will be doing what I can to get more kids to apply for the camp. I hope this youth hunt is a very long running successful tradition.

Phil Lentz, a proud SDBH member and always a very humble student.

Missouri River Corridor Youth Hunt
(continued)

Kids get the classroom portion

Kids trying out the new equipment

Missouri River Corridor Youth Hunt
(continued)

Phil Lentz

My son, Kaden, on range day with his rifle

Kaden and I chilling in the blind

Missouri River Corridor Youth Hunt
(continued)

Phil Lentz

The whole group in front of the ranch

The whole group with the program banner

The Saga

Wyatt Skelton

Well it has been one heck of a grind. This Saga has been up and down the entire venture. Many hurdles to cross. From the heavily loaded hitch haul breaking the the camper bumper like a tin can and dragging down the hiway grinding off a generator wheel, grating the milk crate corner with propane tank in it, and wearing off the corner of the hitch haul. To losing The mega bull Brutus from a shot too high. To rain causing a mudslide destroying the best route to the hunting spot. To the like new Polaris d deer sportsman breaking down with only 267 miles on it. It's been a battle.
I hit this bull on Tuesday evening and tracked him all day Wednesday. Finally got him at dark. My friend Fred Washek helped me track and kept positive saying "We'll find him." The bull traveled big circles as we followed crimson smeared willows and grass. I said I had to go back to the truck and check on Bow in the afternoon. Fred said he'd track for 15-20 minutes more and the go back to camp and get something to eat and go out for the evening hunt. He said try taking Bow out to try track him and we just might find the bull. Bow is a bird dog, not a blood hound. Food hound for sure. But hey, I thought alright well give it a go. After a short break, I left my pack, gear, bow and arrows. Just me and Bow dog on a mile and a half hike back out in to the willows. We got to one of the last spots I marked and got his nose into some blood, he licked it and took off about pulling my arm off! In his 11 years I never knew he possessed this talent! We'd go 30-40 yds with no blood and I'd ask him him "Are you sure he went this way?" And then boom, more blood! He only got off the trail 2 times barely like 5 feet.
We heard crashing ahead as we bumped the bull from his bed only like 15 yds away. We jumped him like 4 times as we trailed through the thick willows and nasty prickly brush. We paused and wondered where the trail went for a moment and I heard a cough. I turned to spot the bull bedded only 20ish yds away barely visible through the choked out, dog hair thick vegetation. Armed with only a pocket knife, I headed back to the truck for my pack, bow and arrows. On route back we run into another hunter who had come in via boat. I asked to borrow his bow and arrows to finish the bull and he agreed. I got the bull down and said I go back to the truck and get my gear and return as quickly as possible. After I returned his leg bothered from a motorcycle accident a year earlier. He said he'd have to leave back to camp. Fortunately, I got ahold of Fred and he heroically came to my assistance to help me field dress and quarter the beast. We got lost in the dark labyrinth jungle trying to pack the meat to the nearby river bank for puck up the next day. Deciding daylight was absolutely needed, we finally found the rest of the meat again and dropped the quarters we had in our packs with the rest and put it up on branches off the ground. With rain starting to spit we boogied back to the trucks hoping and praying we wouldn't get stranded down in the bottom. I packed the back straps and loins out the 2 miles and that was enough for one night. We heard jet boats in the dark and Fred said "what the heck they doing out?" I said "I suppose going to their

The Saga
(continued)

Wyatt Skelton

stands." He said "It's already that time?!" Yup, about 6:00 am. We run into another hunter with a headlamp heading in as we trudged out. I told him it was a long night but we got him.

We got back to camp at 7:00 am. Fred hooked up to his camper and lit out just as the rain moved in. Lucky timing for sure. I crashed out for an hour and half. I was to meet up with the guy with the boat that I borrowed his bow around 10am or so. While checking to see if his boat was parked back by the ramp, I run into some other hunters with jet boats and they agreed to help me go get the quartered up elk especially since it was only .2 miles from the river or less. It wound up showing only .16 miles on the Garmin gps at closest point from the river!

Thanks Ryan, Matt, and Andy with the extraction! Thanks Chuck for loaning me the bow and arrows! And of course Super Fred thank you! And a big pat on the head to my best friend Bow for unveiling his hidden super talent! He got lots of treats and some cooked elk!

Fred's positivity, and just dogged determination, persistence and perseverance is the only way this Saga ended with a notched tag.

The Saga pictures

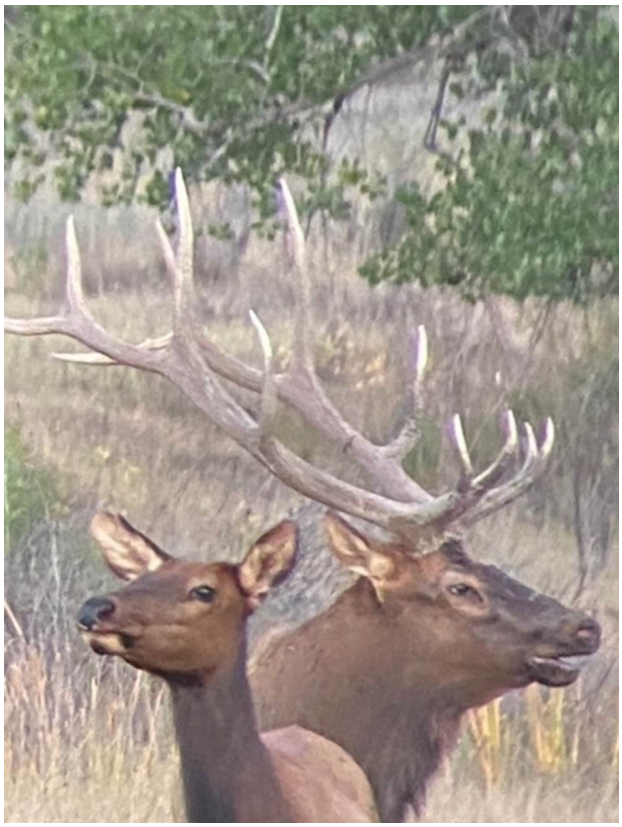
Wyatt Skelton

The Saga pictures
(continued)

Wyatt Skelton

The Saga pictures
(continued)

Wyatt Skelton



The Saga pictures
(continued)

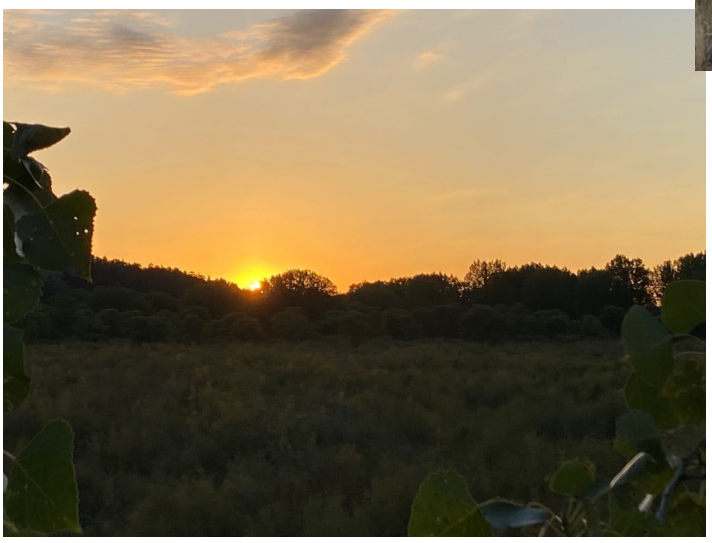
Wyatt Skelton

The Saga pictures
(continued)

Wyatt Skelton

The Saga pictures
(continued)

Wyatt Skelton



P

Prairie States Target Shoot

Pictures from the Hunt

Mark Walter, pronghorn

Pictures from the Hunt

Robert Mahaffey, 2022 pronghorn

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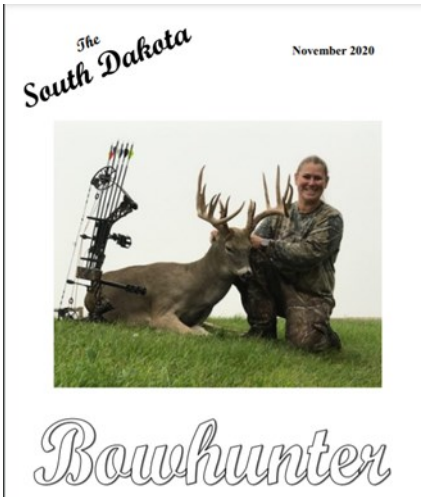
- South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. is a leader in fighting the anti-hunting movement in South Dakota.
- South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc is a strong lobbyist working in the best interest of Bowhunting.



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