

Open

YOUR GUIDE
TO HUNTING IN
THE MONTROSE
AREA

SEASON

AUGUST 11, 2017

INSIDE: TROPHY SHOTS

SUBMITTED BY
MONTROSE DAILY
PRESS READERS

Prepare for the
unexpected

Hunting Tips

Care & handling
of game meat



Special to the
MONTROSE PRESS

COLORADO HUNTING SEASON

2017

ARCHERY SEASON

ELK & DEER August 26 – September 24
 MOOSE Sept 9–24
 PRONGHORN(BUCKS ONLY) August 15–31
 PRONGHORN (EITHER SEX) September 1–20

MUZZELOADER

DEER/ELK/MOOSE September 9–17
 PLAINS DEER EAST OF I-25 October 14–22
 PRONGHORN September 21–29

RIFLE DEER/ELK/MOOSE

MOOSE October 1–14
 1ST SEASON ELK ONLY October 1–18
 2ND SEASON DEER/ELK COMBINED
 October 21–29
 3RD SEASON DEER/ELK COMBINED
 November 4–12
 4TH SEASON ELK (LIMITED DEER) November 1–19



JARED GEIGLEY
 WITH A BULL ELK
 TAKEN ON THE
 UNCOMPAGRE PLATEAU

BEAR SEASON DATES

ARCHERY September 2–30
(over-the-counter with caps)
 MUZZELOADER September 9–17
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Open SEASON

AUGUST 2017

COVER HEIDI GEIGLEY

with a nice Mule Deer buck taken south of Montrose.



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PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED

TIPS FROM THE POSSE

BY MARK RACKAY

WHEN you are daydreaming about your 2017 Colorado hunting trip, you're probably envisioning beautiful, warm weather, with elk and deer everywhere the eye can see. If you are like me, you probably forgot that there just might be an unexpected person tagging along on your trip. Mr. Murphy of Murphy's Law fame, my constant companion, may make an unexpected visit to your camp. Here are a few things you can do to lessen his effect if he shows up.

Begin with making a small survival kit. Keep it small and lightweight so you can carry it with you all the time. Keep it with you everywhere you go, as it will not help you if it is sitting in the truck. Probably 90 percent of the rescues the Sheriff's Posse conducts are for folks who have no survival kit with them. Being unprepared turns a minor inconvenience into a life-threatening emergency.

AT YOUR STARTING POINT OF YOUR HUNT EACH DAY LEAVE A NOTE

HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTED ITEMS TO INCLUDE:

- Compass, maps and GPS with extra batteries
- Signal mirror and whistle, sound making device to help searchers locate you
- Knife and Multi-tool
- Flashlight with extra batteries-I prefer lithium as they hold power better in the cold than alkaline and they don't leak
- Fire starter-waterproof matches, metal match and flares, carry at least two types and d some tinder for wet conditions

- Drinking water-a hydration bladder or camel back works well
- Life Straw-this is a small, personal water filtration device
- Food-high energy foods, power bars, nuts, trail mix
- Cell phone and extra power source
- Rain Gear or poncho
- Space blanket bivy-much better than a blanket as you can crawl into a bivy to stay warm, like a sleeping bag
- Duct tape-good for just about anything from first aid to repairs
- Toilet paper-you just never know about them snacks

Carry a small, personal first aid kit. Don't buy one of those pre made kits from the grocery store. They are equipped with lots of things you don't need and lack many things you do need. Keep the kit light and bring just the life saving items.

I carry a light Swat-T tourniquet, an Israeli Bandage, a few ibuprofen and a couple Band-Aids, just the necessary life-saving items. The minor injuries can be dealt with back at the camp where you can keep a full kit.

Keep your cell phone off during the day. The phone will use up it's battery while constantly searching for service. Turn it on when needed and carry an extra power supply. They are lightweight and inexpensive put irreplaceable when needed.

If you do need help, make certain you contact 911 with your phone. Many people make the mistake of calling someone back home and having them make the call. When you make the call, 911 personnel will get a GPS ping on your location that will save many hours for search and rescue folks in finding you.

If you have no service, try moving around to higher locations. If all else fails, send 911 a text. Sometimes a text will go through when a call will not. Remember the motto: call when you can and text when you can't.

Have a responsible contact person back home. This person should have names, descriptions, vehicle, and personal information of everyone on the hunt.

Make certain this contact person knows your itinerary and where your camp is. Notify them of any changes and have set check in times. Instruct them to call the Sheriff's Office if you are overdue. Information they provide to search and rescue

folks will save countless hours searching for you. Again, make sure this is a responsible person. We had a single dad who went up hunting and left his teenage daughter as his contact. Dad called in at the prearranged time but daughter did not answer. Dad left a voicemail that daughter never listened to, telling her he was fine and had to move his camp several miles up the road from where originally planned.

The daughter never heard the message and notified the Sheriff's Office that he missed a check-in call. Hours later, search and rescue found the dad enjoying a midday siesta in his tent. He had no idea he was lost.

At your starting point of your hunt each day, leave a note. This note, sometimes referred to as a "backpacker note" can be left on the windshield of your vehicle, tied to the tent or taped to your ATV. Just state which direction you went off on foot and the area you plan on hunting in. This gives search and rescue a great start on finding you, again, saving time that could be life saving.

On the western slope of Colorado, it seems that nature always sides with the hidden flaw. That flaw is usually the weather. Those fall cold fronts move in quickly, dropping temperatures as much as 30 degrees in a matter of minutes. They can bring in winds, rain and snow. Even if it is nice, carry extra warm clothes along because weather changes are inevitable. My pack has outside straps where I tie down an extra jacket.

Take some time to prepare in case things don't go as planned. Maybe Mr. Murphy will be out of town while you are on you hunt, but in case he is around, you will be glad you prepared. Until next time, have a great hunt and see you on the trail.

Mark Rackay is a freelance writer who serves as a Director and Public Information Officer for the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse. For information about the Posse call 970-252-4033 (leave a message) or email info@mcspi.org ★

ADAM MURDIE
WITH HIS PRONGHORN BUCK
TAKEN NEAR CRAIG, COLORADO.



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WHAT TO DO WHEN MURPHY CALLS

TIPS FROM THE POSSE

BY MARK RACKAY

It is October and you are hunting elk in Western Colorado. As you work your way through a stand of aspen, you trip over a deadfall and sprain your ankle. While you were in that stand of aspen, trying to figure out how to get back to camp, a strong weather system moves in with winds and snow.

As you work your way out of the timber, you realize all your landmarks are hidden because of the falling snow. You are 100 miles northwest of nowhere and you realize Mr. Murphy has paid you a visit: you are lost.

The very first thing to do is STOP. There is no sense continuing unless you have a plan of action. Just stop; sit down and think for a few minutes. A person who walks without using landmarks is destined to wander in a circle.

If you have properly prepared for this trip, you're carrying a pack with some supplies. Take a drink of water and munch down a snack. This will help you to relax and to think clearly. This is the type of situation that you should have mentally and physically prepared for, long before the trip.

Remind yourself that this is only a temporary situation. You have a person, in town or at home who will summon help if you miss the prearranged call in time. This person should provide your description along with the location of your camp or vehicle, which should be the starting point of searchers who will look for you. Hopefully, you left a note indicating your direction of travel and your hunt plan.

Try and orient yourself with a map and compass using terrain features. Perhaps a large peak, stream or river is visible. If you can find it on the map, you might be able to locate your position. In your mind, you might be able to think back to where you last knew where you were. Maybe you crossed a creek a little ways back or had a view of a large peak from the top of a ridge. You might be able to backtrack some to find something familiar but with falling snow it may be impossible to see any landmarks.

If all of this fails, take note of how late in the day it is. If nightfall is not closing in, or a storm does not limit your visibility, you might consider a move. If you move higher, you might get a better view of the surrounding landscape. From a higher point, you may get cell service on your phone, allowing you to contact help. Your phone call or text could possibly provide a GPS location of your position to rescuers.

You might also move in an attempt to locate some drinking water or shelter. Fortunately, Western Colorado Mountains are usually abundant with water sources. From snow that could be melted to small streams and ponds, there is usually drinking water. All you need is a life straw or similar filtration device and you are good to go.

If it is late in the day, think about staying put. Sheltering (to stay dry and warm) may be far better than wandering in the darkness. You may move to a clearing to be more visible to searchers, but if spending the night, look for a spot with shelter. Fortunately, the forests around us are full of spruce trees which make an excellent shelter.

THREE WHISTLE BLASTS

THREE GUNSHOTS

THREE FIRES BURNING

Spruce trees that have long and low hanging branches make an excellent shelter. The depression in the snow around a tree trunk formed by the protective canopy of the hanging branches above it is called the tree well. Reinforce this natural enclosure by propping up additional branches around the lowest ones. Dig out the accumulated snow from around the trunk of the tree.

Fill the floor area of your tree well with additional evergreen boughs. Pile them up at least eight inches, as this will insulate you from the cold ground. It will also make a comfortable sleeping place. The temperature inside your finished tree well can be as much as forty degrees warmer than it is outside.

Building a fire is an important step but plan your shelter set up first. A fire may keep you warm but not if a snow or winds come into play. You never want to sleep in the open. A combination of both shelter and a fire is best. Gather as much dry wood as you can find to keep your fire going all night long. Bring in twice as much as you think you will need,

as it goes pretty quickly. Dry wood is often found still hanging in the trees, not lying on the ground. Once wood is on the ground, it absorbs moisture and is much harder to light.

Stay put in your shelter for the night. Staying warm and dry are the two most important things you can do for your survival. If you become wet or cold, hypothermia becomes a problem. Prevention is key. Try to conserve your body heat and energy reserves. Avoid exertion that leads to sweating, wet clothing and possible hypothermia.

One of the things you will want to consider is getting the attention of rescuers. That fire is a good start. At night, the light or glow can be seen while during the day you will want much smoke. Experiment with available foliage to see which creates the thickest smoke cloud. Remember, your rescuers may come by land or air.

In the United States, we have the rule of three. Three whistle blasts, three gunshots, or three fires burning are all signals that help is needed. Blow a whistle for three blasts, evenly spaced and wait a few minutes. Try to repeat this every few minutes. Even when visibility is poor because of the snow, sound will still carry.

Keep a positive mental attitude. The majority of lost persons are found within 24 to 36 hours. Most snowstorms will move on within 24 hours, and are usually followed by clear skies after the front passes. Once clear, you can concentrate on your visual signaling. Occupy your time with signaling and making your shelter more comfortable. Remember, if you did your homework, search and rescue is likely on the way.

Mark Rackay is a freelance writer who serves as a Director and public Information Officer for the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse. For information about the Posse call 970-252-4033 (leave a message) or email info@mcspi.org. ★

GARRET WATSON
WITH A PRONGHORN BUCK
TAKEN NEAR CRAIG, COLORADO



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AND WHAT LIES
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BE A SAFE HUNTER

TIPS FROM THE POSSE

BY MARK RACKAY

ANYONE who uses firearms or hunts has probably had safety drilled into their head. Nonetheless, excitement comes into play and accidents happen. I have found that a safety reminder is always welcome.

Colorado requires that anyone born after January 1, 1949 must successfully complete a hunter education course. I took my Colorado course in 1972. The course is full of safety information and useful survival tips as well. The course is really time well spent.

Colorado also requires firearm hunters (for big game hunting) to wear at least 500 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink, on an outer garment above the waist while hunting. The law also requires a fluorescent orange or pink head covering, visible from all directions to be worn.

This law applies to all firearm hunters, including muzzleloaders, who hunt deer, elk, pronghorn, moose or bear. It is a good idea for any non-hunters

in your party to wear the fluorescent orange or pink while outdoors.

Hunting is one of the safest outdoor activities there is. Still, accidents do occasionally happen, usually when excitement enters into play. The number one cause of hunting accidents is judgment mistakes. Mistaking a person for game, not sure of what is in front or beyond your target, or getting too excited, can all cause a mistake.

Muzzle control is the most important rule to follow. Never point the muzzle of your firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot. Do not rely on your rifle's safety. The safety is a mechanical object and is subject to failure. Control that muzzle at all times. Keep your finger off that trigger until you are ready to fire.

One of the biggest problems I encounter is people that have not spent enough time practicing with their firearms. The more range time you put in, the more proficient you will be with your weapon.

Trigger control, basic operation and function, and aiming should all become second nature with enough practice. You want to be able to take your game cleanly, safely, ethically, and with a quick kill. This only happens with lots of practice. Many accidents occur because of firearms loaded in vehicles. Not only is it illegal to have a round chambered in a vehicle, it is just poor judgment. It is not legal or ethical to fire from a vehicle anyway, so there is no sense keeping a rifle loaded.

At days end, returning to camp, or at rest breaks, be certain to clear all firearms. Never leave a loaded firearm unattended or leaning against something. Someone could knock it over and cause an accidental discharge. In camp, I like to unload my rifle and secure it in a case.

Before you take a shot, be certain of what is in front of you and beyond your target. If you are not sure, don't take the shot. Remember that you own that bullet all the way up to, and

WE ALL NEED A REMINDER AT TIMES

after, it's terminal resting spot.

Don't hunt alone. Hunting with a partner is safer than hunting alone. A partner can help you be more aware of your surroundings, assist you with carrying out game, and be there to help if someone gets hurt. Besides, it is more fun to share the experience with someone.

Here are the ten commandments of firearm safety

1. Watch that muzzle.
2. Treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded gun.
3. Be sure of the target and what is in front and beyond it.
4. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.
5. Check your barrel and ammunition.
6. Unload your firearm when not in use.
7. Never point a firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot.
8. Don't run, jump or climb with a loaded firearm.
9. Store firearms and ammunition separately and safely.
10. Avoid alcoholic beverages before and during shooting.

I would also throw in there to wear eye and ear protection whenever you are shooting. I shot many years as a youngster without using any ear protection and am nearly deaf now because of it.

I have found that a safety reminder never hurts. When someone in your crew does something unsafe, point it out to them and discuss it. We all need a reminder at times. Enjoy your hunting seasons and hunt safely. Until next time, see you on the trail.

Mark Rackay is a freelance writer who serves as a Director and Public Information Officer for the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse. For information about the Posse call 970-252-4033 (leave a message) or email info@mcspi.org ★

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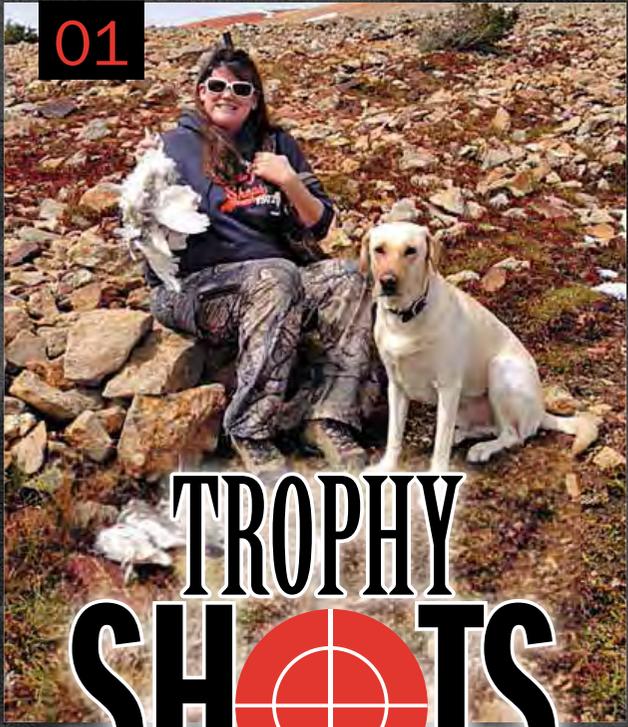
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TROPHY SHOTS



02

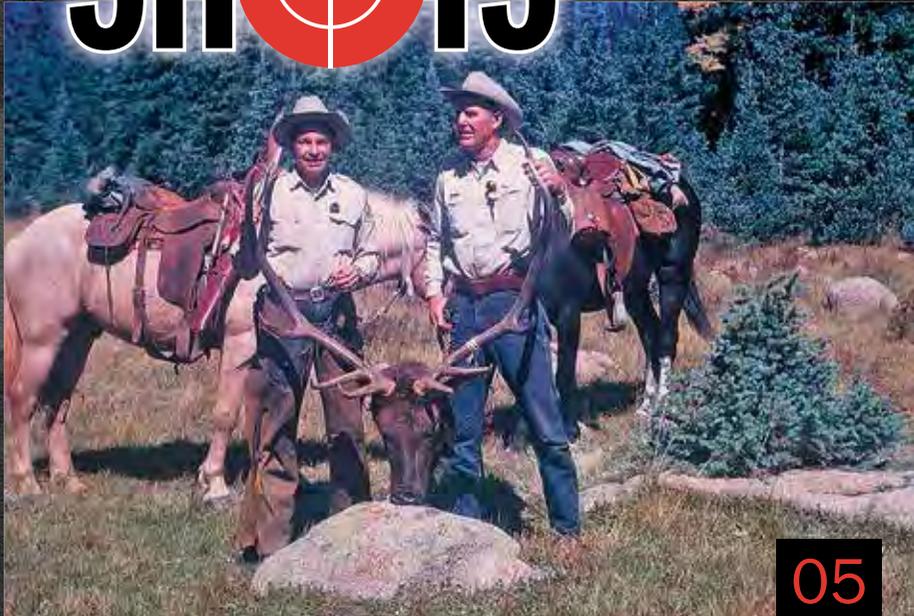


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01 ASHLEY BROGDEN
and her dog moose hunting ptarmigan.

02 ELIZABETH CARTER
This buck was harvested on the south slope of the Grand Mesa near Molina, CO on 10-30-16.

03 MICAH BROGDEN & KIP YEAGER

04 DENISE DISTEL

05 KIRBY KLINE & ROY POPE
Share adventure on the Continental Divide in Conejos County.

06 MICHEAL JENKINS
A bull I killed last muzzleloading season.

07 QUAIL HUNTERS

08 JENKINS
A nice buck a couple years ago.

09 BRIAN HOOPS

10 FRED PENASA
with a Red Stag taken in New Zealand this past June 2017.



11



12



13



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15



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17



18



19



20

11 DAVE HOOPS

12 PETE KLINGSMITH
My "speed goat" from last fall!

13 MIKE SERRA III

14 JENKINS
Her last year's buck.

15 ZEISS & CORT
Relaxing after a pheasant hunt.

16 KARLIE ROSS

17 BUD CURTIS
2016 High Country Buck.

18 SUCCESSFUL
hunt outside of Montrose.

19 COREY COPELAND

20 DEBBIE & MARK HARMON
Poses with her first elk with a bow.
It was taken in Western Colorado in 2013.

A LIFE'S WORK OF HUNTING

RESIDENT DISPLAYS DIFFERENT KIND OF TROPHIES

BY ANDREW KISER

- **Trophies include a bear, moose and deer**
- **Local man's hunting territory ranges across America**
- **Mauer stays active with golf as hunting days wind down**

At 82-years young Ken Mauer has a life's worth of animal hunting trophies to his name.

His love of hunting is apparent the instant one steps into his home, where a large moose head mount greets visitors. In the living room, several deer and an Alaskan brown bear trophies Mauer and his wife, Doris, have harvested are on display.

"Every one of these animals are unique in their own right," Ken said.

Ken said there might not be many wives who would like to have mounted animals, but Doris is more than OK with it.

"There's probably a lot of women that are not fond of killing animals, but she loves it," he said.

Doris confirmed she enjoys having a houseful of trophies. She added when she and her husband moved to Montrose almost a decade ago, she told him where certain stuffed animals should go.

"In fact, when we built this house... I said why don't you put your bear (in the living room) it's the perfect place there," Doris said.

Although Ken has numerous mounted animals, he receives more enjoyment in finding what he calls "extraordinary animals."

"It wasn't always going out and shoot an animal," Ken said. "It was the challenge of it."

During his time big game hunting he faced the challenge of finding the "extraordinary" takes in many different locations — Alaska, Utah, Arizona, Canada, Zimbabwe, and Mexico were among his hunting grounds.

His love for hunting would have never come to fruition if his father hadn't stuck a rifle in his hands over half a century ago.

He grew up as an only child in Chicago. His dad would drive him out of the big city on the weekends to go hunting. In the beginning, Ken started off with little animals.



Ken Mauer in July sits beneath a chandelier made from antlers he 'found lying around the yard,' in the den of his home. He said it was made by a friend who specializes in such things. (Paul Hurschmann/Montrose Daily Press)

"At that time we only hunted small game: Rabbits, pheasants," Ken said.

Ken and his father would also go fishing on Lake Michigan, he said.

While talking about his weekend trips with his dad, Ken reminisced about the exciting times he experienced.

"I had a lot of fun growing up," Ken said. "We spent a lot of time outdoors."

As he was growing up and getting bigger, so were the animals he was hunting. Ken said he started to look for deer (his favorite to harvest).

He hunted more frequently when he discovered Boone and Crockett world records. (The Boone and Crockett Club maintains the records of native



A mounted brown bear that Ken Mauer took in Alaska stands in the living room of his home. He said the bear probably weighed around 1,200 pounds or more when it was alive. The red poppy behind the bear's ear was his wife's idea. (Paul Hurschmann/Montrose Daily Press)

North American big game as a vital conservation record in assessing the success of wildlife management programs). Inspired by looking at the list, Ken said he wanted to see if he could etch his name into history.

"Later in life I started looking at world record animals and what would it take to get in the record book," Ken said.

But he didn't want the glory.

"It wasn't necessarily looking for recognition, but it was for my own personal accomplishment," Ken said.

Those achievements took time. Although he has traveled all across North America, Ken noted during a week or two-week trip, he wasn't always able to harvest an animal.

"But on a lot of them I was fortunate and killed some pretty good stuff," Ken said.

To find the "pretty good stuff" could take over a week to discover. He added the Alaskan brown bear displayed in his living room is a world record which took him 10 days to hunt.

Although Ken has hunted for about 60 years, with Doris at his side for more than 30 of them. Doris had never hunted before meeting Ken, but she said she realized she had to if she wanted to be with him.

"I knew if I wanted to spend time with him I had to go hunting," Doris said.

Doris isn't exactly a stranger to the outdoors. As both are lovers of the open air, they went bass fishing in Mexico for their honeymoon, Ken said.

Although he spent his free time in the outdoors for several years, he was in an office building. Ken said before he moved out West he ran a company in Houston, Texas.

According to Ken, as an engineer his business designed and manufactured instruments for the oil industry. Then one day a couple of businessmen came through the door and wanted to buy his company.

Ken agreed to the deal and decided to move out of the big city to "retire."

"After I sold my company we moved out and I started a new career: ranching," Ken said.

Ken and Doris lived on a ranch and ran cattle in Wheatland, Wyoming. After five years, Ken noted he grew tired of the weather.

"The reason we moved out of Wyoming is that it's

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

the windiness place in the world," Ken said.

The married couple then moved North to Montana

where Ken kept raising cattle. But, once again the weather played a factor.

During one cold winter day in Montana when Ken was feeding his animals at a temperature of -35 degrees, he said he realized he should not be working so hard.

"I said to my wife one day, 'Wait a minute, we're supposed to be retired,'" Ken said.

They soon moved to Colorado. As his favorite places to hunt are "mountain states" he said several of the animals that are on display come from this area.

Although he is in his 80s, Ken is still active. He hits the links at least two to three times a week at Cobble Creek Golf Course.

Now, after having hunted for several decades, his days of trophy collecting are winding down, Ken said.

"I don't want to sound boisterous, but I feel I've harvested mostly everything," he said. ★

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

ERVIN CASEBIER, RICHARD (DICK) CASEBIER (13 YRS OLD), AND DUTCH HOTH, BOTTOM RED CRANFORD
PICTURE TAKEN BY CALEB CASEBIER (DICK'S FATHER)

14 Large bucks killed that morning in 1952 on Long Point on the Uncompaghre Plateau, Montrose county.

1952 you could kill 2 bucks per hunting licence. All the bucks were killed before noon and this was the first real hunting for Dick with his dad and uncles. Dick shot 2 himself at 13 yrs old he used a 25300 savage rifle, right threw the neck.

Back in 1952 the deer were a lot bigger and more plentiful.



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COLORADO HUNTING TIPS

CLOTHING, CONDITIONING, GENERAL & MISCELLANEOUS

COLORADO HUNTING TIPS: CLOTHING

Hunting Tip #1. You'll need at least two and possibly three types of boots/shoes. The first is camp shoes. If your hunting boots are wet, they can't get dry with your feet in them. Plus, camp shoes, which may be some sort of tennis or deck shoe, are lighter and will give your feet a break. Of course, weather conditions will dictate whether you can wear them. The second is your hunting boots, which are typically all leather or a leather-insulation combination. Do not come hunting without these boots being well worn in. Do not borrow someone else's well worn boots that fit your feet. If you do, make sure you wear them a bunch to adjust to your own feet's peculiarities. The third is insulated pack boots for extremely cold or snowy conditions. Even though these boots will keep your feet warm, they may not be very good for climbing or rough terrain. Make sure they have a tough exterior and inflexible spine to give your feet good arch support.

HUNTING TIP #2 Wool socks, at least 85%, work much better than cotton. They are already thick and retain their heating properties while wet cotton socks do not. If your feet sweat a lot and get cold as a result, carry an extra pair of socks in your daypack. You can also go to an outdoor specialty store and get wicking socks. These will draw moisture away from your skin. For a little bit of extra protection, douse the inside of your boots and socks with some baby powder.

HUNTING TIP #3 Wool pants with skin friendly lining are the best unless it is hot and dry. They will provide warmth similar to wearing levis and long handles but won't absorb water like levis when walking through wet grass or snow.

HUNTING TIP #4 If you don't have rain pants, then gators are a great substitute. Gators are a nylon covering that hooks on to your boots and covers up your legs just below the knee. They are great when walking through wet grass and weeds.

HUNTING TIP #5 Your head is the best temperature regulator. Put on a stocking cap, or toboggan as Southerners call it, for that extra warmth and take it off at the first signs of getting heated up. A popular favorite is a neck and head cap combination, such as a Loki. You can pull it down below your chin after heating up, while the rest stays around your neck.

A stocking cap is also great for keeping your head warm on those cold nights.

HUNTING TIP #6 For extra cold conditions, ski-type gloves are the best. However, they don't do very well when trying to pull the trigger or clasping your mechanical bow release around your wrist. Many hunters prefer wool gloves with half fingers. Wool is the best for warmth while retaining heating qualities if wet. With the ends of your fingers exposed, you retain maximum dexterity. The next best option are those gloves that have the fingers hinged, which allow you to fold back the glove to expose your fingers.

HUNTING TIP #7 If you plan on wearing leather boots, you may want to rub them with bees wax in the same manner as shining a shoe. Turn on the oven to minimum heat and place the boots in there long enough to warm up the leather. This allows them to better absorb the wax. Use a cloth and do multiple applications. All this makes your boots water resistant. If your boots get wet and the wax wears off, allow them to dry and repeat the process.

COLORADO HUNTING TIPS: CONDITIONING

Conditioning and hunting success are directly linked because elevation and terrain can make Colorado a difficult place to hunt. The following tips may not make you a candidate for the Boston Marathon, but they will make you physically able to hunt in terrain that may have a higher degree of success. Road hunters and those with limited physical ability will fill tags, but they are in the minority. Improve your health and you will automatically improve your chances of a successful hunt and a trophy animal.

HUNTING TIP #1 Conditioning falls into two categories: aerobic and strength. Aerobic training will help you adapt to the lack of oxygen at higher elevations and strength training will help you adapt to carrying loads that you are not accustomed to. Since it takes a few weeks for the body to totally adjust to the lack of oxygen at higher elevations, aerobic conditioning will help you adjust quicker and lessen your recovery time. If you are not already on a workout routine, set one for which you can maintain for at least 6 months prior to your hunt. A workout routine will neither

be convenient nor fit into your schedule, it's just something that you must do.

HUNTING TIP #2 For aerobic training, just about anything is better than doing nothing at all. Your heart rate needs to be elevated and maintained for at least 30 minutes three times a week. The "benchmark" aerobic heart rate is determined by taking the number 200, reduced by your age, and multiplied by 80% [Of course, you may get different opinions on this.]. For example, if one is 50 years of age, his aerobic heart rate is 120 beats per minute (200-50(.80)). However, as your conditioning increases, your "upper" workout heart rate will increase as well. Popular exercises are running (high impact), hiking, hiking with a loaded daypack, fast-paced walking, treadmill, stairmaster, cross-country, bike riding, etc. Low impact cross training is great for someone who doesn't really like any particular exercise routine and only wants to commit a minimum amount of time per routine; for example, 15 minutes for treadmill and 15 minutes for stairmaster. Strength/weight training is not recommended as a primary means of aerobic conditioning. As always, you should get a doctor's opinion before pursuing any workout routine.

HUNTING TIP #3 Strength training is always needed because you will carry loads that you are not accustomed to. For example, most hunters carry some sort of backpack or daypack that may weigh up to 30 pounds, more clothes than normal, heavy boots, gun, shells and the possibility of packing out an animal. Field dressing an animal even takes its toll. In addition, there is always the impact of this additional weight on the body as one is climbing in difficult terrain. Knees, ankles and joints become more susceptible to injury than before. Weight training should be done three times a week with one to two days in between each workout but never three. Each exercise should be done three times with 10 reps each time and your routine should include the entire body because you will use muscles that you never thought you had. When lifting weights, you should also do 'opposites.' For example, if you exercise your stomach muscles (abs), you must also exercise your lower back muscles. If you don't (and especially if you are older), this may cause a disequilibrium and lead to injury or soreness.



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COLORADO HUNTING TIPS: GENERAL

HUNTING TIP #1 If you are hunting with a partner and one of you has an animal down, work together to locate it. Sometimes, the distance between the felled animal and the hunter can be quite vast with lots of uncertain terrain in between. One hunter needs to stay put and direct the other hunter to the kill. If you do not have radios, get your hand signals worked out before you split up. The tracker can periodically look at the signaller through his binoculars or gun scope to ensure he's on the right track.

HUNTING TIP #2. If you are certain that you've made a solid shot on an animal but can't locate it, then use the wind to assist. The mountains generally have some sort of breeze - going down in the cool of the morning and up during the heat of the afternoon. This method is best used on elk because they have a strong odor. You need to make a wide circle downwind of where you think the animal has travelled - if you have to err, err on the side of going too far downwind. Walk very slowly, sniff frequently, and follow the scent upwind paying attention to the direction from where it came. If at any time you lose the scent, go back into the previous mode and walk back and forth downwind until you pick it up again. Be patient - the breeze shifts and you must take your time.

HUNTING TIP #3 If you ever get lost and don't have a clue as to where you are at, stay put and start a fire. Assuming others know that you are out and the general vicinity of where you are, then help search and rescue efforts by not leaving excessive and extra sign and staying in one place. A fire keeps your spirits up, keeps your mind occupied, keeps you warm, and is easy to spot from the air. If you start roaming around, get tired, wet, and cold, your ability to start a fire and stay alive until rescued drops dramatically.

HUNTING TIP #4 If you are hunting with a rifle or muzzleloader in wet conditions, you risk getting mud inside your barrel. Take a strip of electrical tape and overlap/cover the end of the barrel. Take another strip and wrap around the barrel over the ends of the first strip to hold it in place.

HUNTING TIP #5 It is better to hunt in cold weather using layers of clothing with the outside being a rain-proof windbreaker. Layers can be removed and put back on as conditions dictate. This will mitigate sweating, which should be totally avoided. Think ahead - if you are about to hike an uphill stretch, remove layers at the point of getting chilled. It'll only take a few steps before you start to warm up again.

HUNTING TIP #6 It's not uncommon for rifle hunters in Colorado to take very long shots. Here's a few things to consider. One should always know his ballistics, distance, and drop (don't forget about the wind if significant). Ammo manufacturers always produce ballistics information which is useless if one does not know the distance. Knowing the drop, as in knowing the Pythagoreum Theorem, may also make a significant difference depending on the terrain - the horizontal travelling distance may be much less than the distance to the animal, causing many to shoot over the animal. Next, one's rifle needs to remain perfectly still and stable, which either means one should use hunting sticks or lay the rifle on a solid surface. Never shoot from a prone position with just the elbows to stabilize your rifle, or sit with legs crossed and use the knees and elbows. Both may look pretty macho, but you'll probably be eating crow instead of wild game.

HUNTING TIP #7 Once you shoot an animal, remain perfectly still. If a wounded animal sees your jubilation, that may just give it that extra adrenaline boost to put it in the next county until it kills over. This is even more important when rifle hunting - the animals don't exactly know where the blast came from so they are basically disoriented and don't

know which way to escape. So, don't give away your position just in case you are given the opportunity to take another shot.

HUNTING TIP #8 When tracking a wounded animal, they generally always go downhill. If there are lots of tracks in the area, look for the ones that look out of character (assuming no blood or other physical sign) with the rest and that also tend to go down hill.

HUNTING TIP #9 Scent Control. Generally speaking, the Colorado mountains always have some degree of breeze. Cool air sinks, warm air rises. Beware of this if you are hunting ridgelines or valley bottoms. A good rule of thumb is to hunt in the direction of the breeze coming within the limits of your peripheral vision. Any breeze coming from outside those limits is your immediate sign that you are hunting in the wrong direction.

Besides clothing, scent sprays also need to be used on the bottom of boots, inside of boots, backpacks/daypacks, and hair.

One of the best natural scent blockers is sage brush, if available, and it can be used in conjunction with manufactured scent blockers. Once you get to your hunting spot, cut off some sage and rub over every exposed piece of clothing; you can even rub it in your hair. However, keep it away from the eyes and family jewels.

HUNTING TIP #10 Trekking poles or hiking sticks.

This tip can be used in any scenario, but it's mostly applicable when packing out an animal in difficult terrain. Level terrain or kills close to the road are not as critical.

When packing out an animal with a backpack, maintaining balance is very important, very difficult, and very strenuous on the joints and muscles. If you lose your balance the slightest bit with a heavy load on your back, it will cost you lots of precious energy and a possible injury.

It is unlikely that you will be carrying any trekking poles with you while hunting, which means you'll have nothing on that first packout. Either before or during your trek out with the first load, find a decent stick to substitute for a trekking pole. If you don't have any trekking poles, you can continue to use this stick until you're finished and then throw it away.

or snow. A narrow tire can push through much easier than a wide tire. Most truck tires are 16" and have a fairly high profile. Typical tire manufacturing makes a tire wider as it gets taller, aka "aspect ratio." You can, however, buy tires that have a specific width and buy ones that are much narrower than the norm.

HUNTING TIP #2 Most out-of-state hunters do not carry tire chains in their vehicles. DO NOT hunt in Colorado without a good set of tire chains and tighteners.

Tighteners are big rubber bands that clip on to the chain to take up any slack and to hold it firmly around the tire. If your chains are extra heavy duty, then two tighteners should be put on each chain. Bungees for "big rigs" or tractor trailer rigs are great. You will also need to check the inside clearance for your chains. Some trucks have over-sized tires and lift kits that lessen the tire-to-load spring clearance and may pose a banging problem. This can sometimes be resolved by 'clipping down' the extra unused links of your chain with the tightener. One of the best places to store chains and tighteners in is a plastic, square kitty litter container such as Scoop Away or a 5-gallon bucket.

HUNTING TIP #3 Putting on chains is not an exercise most hunters are accustomed to, so they usually run into trouble before chains get put on. If driving conditions begin to get a little uncomfortable, stop and put on the chains. Get used to it and become accustomed to putting them on. Think ahead and put on chains when it is convenient and you are in a good place. Drive a short distance and take a relook. Driving will cause the chains to shift and you may need to retighten, relocate, or even add more tighteners to get a snug fit.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



COLORADO HUNTING TIPS: MISCELLANEOUS

HUNTING TIP #1 It's not uncommon for hunters to use a different set of tires for hunting country. In Colorado, road conditions can dramatically change within the same day. In adverse road conditions, thin is in, that is, thin tires do a much better job than wide tires. Thin tires allow the tire to sink through snow or mud to a more solid bottom. Wide tires tend to make the tire stay on top of the snow or mud. Tires also have to push their way through mud



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

There is nothing un-macho about having on chains; so, don't risk damaging your vehicle or getting you or someone in your vehicle hurt because you're uncomfortable or too macho to put them on. Before you come hunting, practice putting on your chains and tightening them up - at home.

HUNTING TIP #4. If one does much off-highway travel, which is typical for hunting in Colorado, some necessary equipment that may keep you from spending the night in the boonies is a "come-along," 30 foot towing strap/chain, and shovel. Many times other hunters will not be available to assist if you get into a jam, so be prepared with the right equipment. The 30 foot tow strap will typically reach a tree big enough to ratchet out with the come-along. A shovel is always handy to dig out mud or snow from under stuck tires or from being high-centered. It is also good to use for digging "poop" holes at camp as well as a "fire pit" instead of trying to find a bunch of rocks for a fire ring. For those instances where trees may be in short supply, you may want to consider a long, heavy metal rod and sledge hammer. The rod can be driven into the ground at a 45 degree angle and then secure the tow strap to it.

HUNTING TIP #5 Depending upon the ground conditions, screw type jacks can be useless; therefore, always carry a handyman bumper jack. In very muddy or snowy conditions, a rock or piece of wood can serve as a base plate. But, these type of jacks can be very dangerous if used carelessly.

HUNTING TIP #6 Take multiple types of gloves. Other than gloves for hunting, you should also have one set of tough leather gloves for putting on chains and to wear when busting brush. Walking through oak brush and serviceberry can be hazardous to healthy hands, not to mention clothes. These gloves will protect your hands from scrapes, punctures and wounds. If you find yourself in a situation that requires chains, and depending upon the weather, you may have to use more than one pair of gloves to get the job done before sacrificing your hands to frostbite or injury.

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COLORADO HUNTING: TAG OPTIONS

Colorado is the only state that still offers over-the-counter bull elk tags, which allows you to hunt in most of the state's GMUs just by applying for it. Other than that, it's pretty much by draw only unless you apply for a bear tag with caps, which means tags are on a first-come first-served basis until a specific number is reached. For someone that may have missed the drawing, and depending upon the GMU, there may be some leftover tags. To learn more about the Draw system, you can go to the Hunting section of the Colorado Division of Wildlife. You can also ask to be put on their mailing list to receive an annual big game hunting brochure.

Another option is to participate in a draw for private land hunts via Ranching For Wildlife (RFW). Private ranches with at least 12,000 acres may partner up with the Colorado Division of Wildlife to provide Colorado hunting opportunities to help manage game on large tracts of private land. Currently, there are over one million acres of available hunting land in the RFW program.

All private landowners in Colorado with at least 160 acres can register their property with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and apply for special vouchers. Up to 15% of hunting tags per species (only in limited draw areas) may be allocated to private land owners who can apply for his or her share of vouchers (up to a max of six) via the lottery or draw system. Any Colorado hunting adventure that includes private property will certainly add more hunting options. Interested hunters must contact the landowner for permission to hunt and to receive a voucher, which will probably mean paying a fee. For more information about where you may hunt (private land vs. public land) with a private land voucher, please go to www.thecoloradohunter.com/faqs.

COLORADO HUNTING: REGULATION

There are multiple ways to find out about Colorado hunting laws and regulations. The easiest and most recommended is to contact the Colorado Division of Wildlife and request a Big Game Hunting Brochure, aka Big Game Regulations Brochure.

As you already know, "situational" regulations are not always easy to find. So, there are two ways to get your answers to specific or situational questions. The first is to go to www.thecoloradohunter.com/faqs and see if your question is already posted. If not, feel free to send us an email (info@thecoloradohunter.com) and we will inquire on your behalf. We will notify you when we get the answer and also post it to our FAQs page for the benefits of others. The second is to contact the Colorado Division of Wildlife directly.

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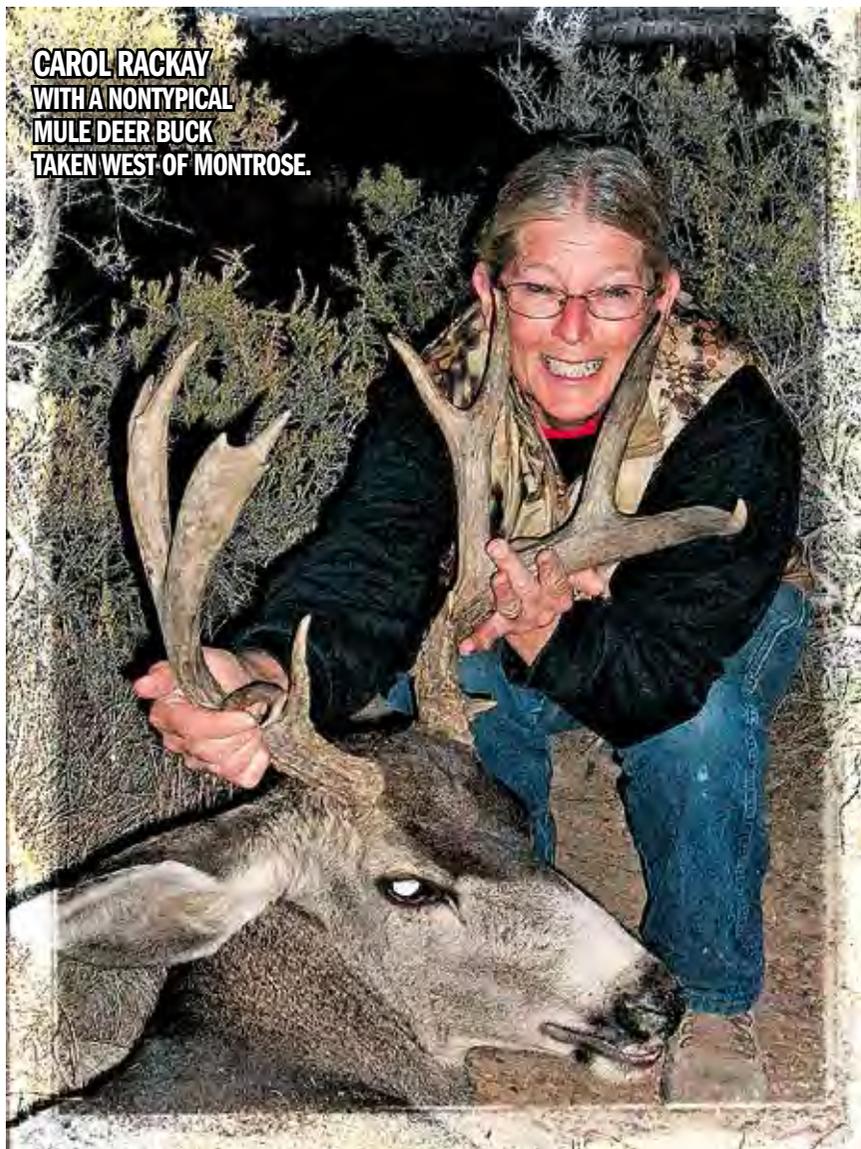
CONCERN has grown in recent years about diseases affecting wild animals that could potentially cause sickness in humans. In most situations there is little reason to believe that properly handled and prepared game meat is of greater risk as a source of human disease than domestic meat.

Hunters are encouraged to contact the local public health department or Colorado Division of Wildlife for information on wildlife diseases that might be present in the areas they plan to hunt.

Based on advice from public health officials, hunters should follow these basic precautions when handling and preparing game meat:

- Do not handle animals that are obviously sick or found dead.
- Report sick or dead animals found in Colorado to your local Colorado Division of Wildlife Service Center.
- Keep your game cool, clean, and dry.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while dressing game.
- Use rubber or disposable gloves when cleaning game.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol wipes after dressing game.
- Clean all tools and surfaces immediately afterward; use hot soapy water then disinfect with a 10% chlorine bleach solution.
- Cook game meat to an internal temperature of at least 165° F to kill disease organisms and parasites. Juices from adequately cooked game meat should run clear.
- Do not eat any raw portions of wild game.
- Do not feed raw portions of wild game to your domestic pets.

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COLORADO HUNTING TIPS

SAFETY KIT



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PEOPLE die in the Colorado mountains every year. Most of the time, deaths are caused by ignorance, complacency or carelessness and could have been avoided. Hunters get lost, that's a fact of hunting in the mountains. If you hunt here long enough, you may get lost as well. Those who die usually do so from the elements. Most of the time, they are not very far from safety, camp or other hunters. Do a little preplanning for such an unlikely event and make it part of your hunting "standard operating procedure." For example, there are certain items you always carry when you go hunting: water, gun & ammo, bow & arrow, hunting cap, etc. You should make up a Safety Kit with standard items in it, which may grow over time. Many prefer to use a nylon stuff bag with a draw string to hold items. No matter where you go in the woods or the purpose, this kit should always go with you - in your daypack or backpack. Here's a list of some of the items that, at a minimum, should always be in the kit:

■ CHAPSTICK AND HAND LOTION

The dry Colorado air will dry out your lips and hands quickly; therefore, you should apply chap stick and hand lotion daily whether you think you need it or not.

■ BABY POWDER

Apply baby powder to your feet at the end of each day to keep the moisture off. You should also put some inside your boots when you put them on in the morning. Walking will cause your feet to sweat and to move around in your boots. Baby powder will absorb any moisture and help prevent blisters. The ole butt crack (and family jewels) can get a little chapped if you sweat too much so a little baby powder can literally save your butt.

■ DUCT TAPE

Duct tape has multiple uses. Take a pencil and saw/break a piece a little wider than your roll of duct tape and roll on several feet. This will take up very little space. One unknown use is to put duct tape across the back of the heel of your foot at the beginning stages of developing a blister, called a "hot spot." This will cushion your skin from the abrasive rubbing that causes blisters. Most hunters don't carry band aids, so duct tape can close up wounds and cuts. Just make sure the wound is properly cleaned before taping it. Also, be careful to not pull off the tape against the grain, which will tend to pull the skin apart. You will find many other uses for duct tape as needs arise.

■ WHISTLE

Your voice cannot compete with a whistle, especially if you are hoarse or even lose your voice. A metal whistle won't break but will rust. A plastic whistle won't rust but may break. Whichever you choose, the sound carries much farther than your voice - just in case you get lost.

■ FIRE STARTER

You should have multiple ways to start a fire, such as waterproof matches, cigarette lighter, candle, packaged fire starter, or moth balls encased with petroleum jelly.

■ MIRROR

Mirrors can be used to signal people on the ground and planes in the air. Probably the best to have is the Survival Signal Mirror. It's compact, has its own protective pouch, and comes with instructions. Caution, never use it in a non-life threatening situation with aircraft - the feds tend to get a little upset.

■ ORANGE ENGINEER'S TAPE

Besides being used to mark a kill, it can also be used as "bread crumbs" to mark where you are heading or where you've come from.

■ COMPASS

If you are in a snow storm, cloudy night, or in thick forest at night, you will not be able to see very far or any points of reference. If you are in fog, you'll be completely disoriented. So, if you are lost or don't know which way to go, and if you know the "lay of the land" or the direction of certain things, such as a highway or a point of reference, only a compass can tell you where to go.

■ WATER BOTTLE

This is a no-brainer, but, believe it or not, there's lots of people that go into the woods without a water bottle thinking that they'll only be going a short distance and time. If you are alone, this is wrong thinking - always be prepared.

■ WATER PURIFICATION

Water purification may come from various sources such as a bottle with built-in filter, water filtration pump, tablets, iodine, or even clorox bleach. You will want to read up on the pros and cons of each to find the one(s) you feel comfortable with.

Even though always and formally recommended for most of Colorado, this may not be necessary. The mountains are full of natural springs, but there are also parts that are considered desert-like. Even though many say to never drink from an unpurified source, necessity may dictate otherwise. If you drink water tainted with Giardia, the after-effects, which hopefully won't occur until after you are rescued or find your way to safety, may be less than the risks of dehydration. If, however, you find a natural spring, drinking from the "source," that is, right where the water comes out of the ground, has been known to pose little or no risk of Giardia. Of course, you may be the exception.

Fact or fiction? There are even some outdoorsmen that say drinking from still-water sources such as small ponds and stock tanks are safe if you get the water in the middle of the pool, that is, away from the edges. Why? Giardia cannot swim and is only found next to the water's edge or along the bottom.

■ BANDAIDS/LIQUID SKIN OR SUPER GLUE

Keep wounds clean, covered, and sealed.

■ BIVVY BAG

This takes up very little space and only weighs a few ounces. If you have to spend a cold or freezing night out in the boonies, this "sleeping bag substitute" may help you retain enough heat to survive.

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COLORADO HUNTING: MAPS

To hunt in Colorado means one must study maps. Nowadays, with the use of GPS and mapping programs, you can just about find any type of mapping system that fits your needs. Our recommendations: learn to read maps, declination, GPS and compass, longitude (long) and latitude (lat). Don't bother with UTMs because most coordinates are provided via long and lat. However, if you get lost, you may want to know how to easily convert long/lat to UTM because that is the system that some search and rescue teams use.

Maps come in various topographical scales that determine the extent of detail. For example, a typical BLM map is 1:100,000 scale, which basically means that each centimeter on the map equals one kilometer on the ground. For those of us who aren't exactly up with the metric system, one inch on the map would equal 1.58 miles on the ground. Obviously, this scale doesn't provide much detail. The most popular map is the 1:24,000 scale, which is also known as the 7.5 minute series or quadrangle. This scale works out to be 6 2/3 football fields or 667 yards per inch on the map, which means a lot of detail.

Unlike many states, Colorado is laid out in a North-East-South-West grid, which makes it much easier to follow property lines. Since all maps don't show private property, you may need to have more than one map. Original survey markers in Colorado, which are not vastly numerous, were used to provide the theoretical geographical coordinates statewide. So, a good rule of thumb is to assume that coordinates provided by any source are only approximate and you should leave a buffer between you and private property. If you are using a GPS to track your line of travel, please note that each "second" of long or lat is approximately 100 feet on the ground.

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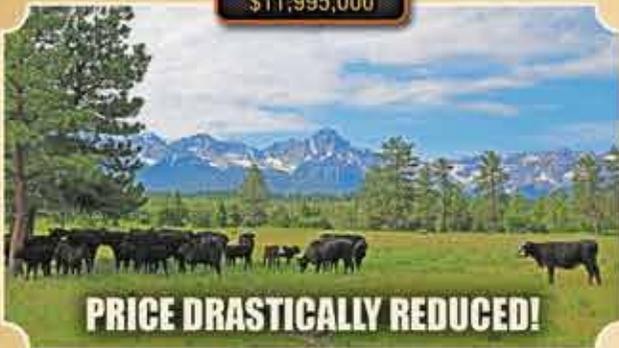


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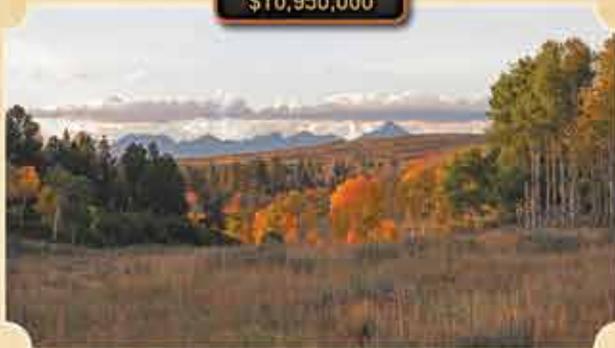


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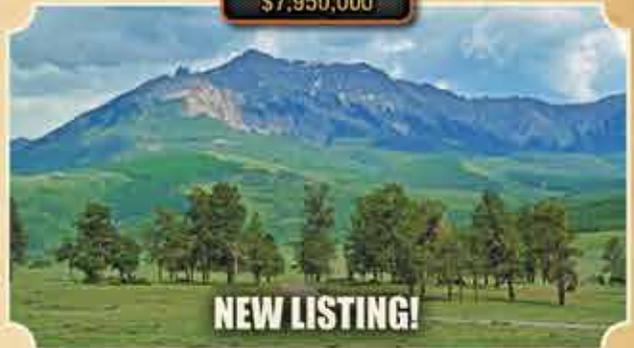
\$10,950,000



OLD CURRY RANCH

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\$7,950,000

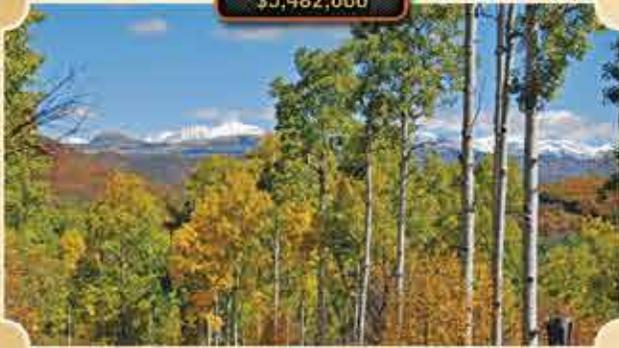


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Paoia, Colorado 4,294± ACRES

\$5,482,000



DRY CREEK BASIN RANCH

Naturaia, Colorado 3,000± ACRES

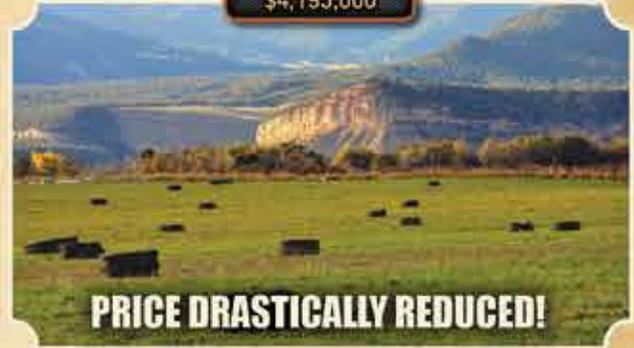
\$4,750,000



SHADOW MESA RANCH

Cedaredge, Colorado 708± ACRES

\$4,195,000



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KM RANCH

Montrose, Colorado 767± ACRES

\$2,950,000



NEW LISTING!

HIDDEN VALLEY RANCH

Colbran, Colorado 482± ACRES

\$2,500,000

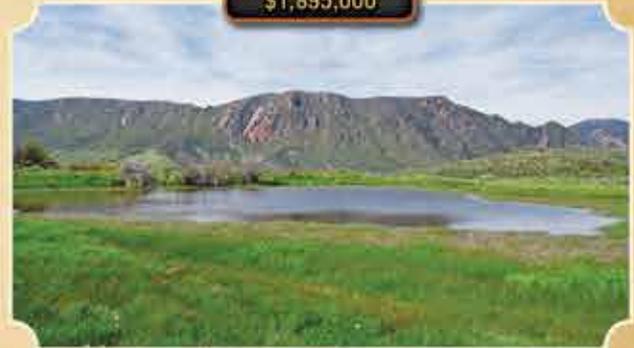


NEW LISTING!

CIMARRON CERRO RANCH

Cimarron, Colorado 1,163± ACRES

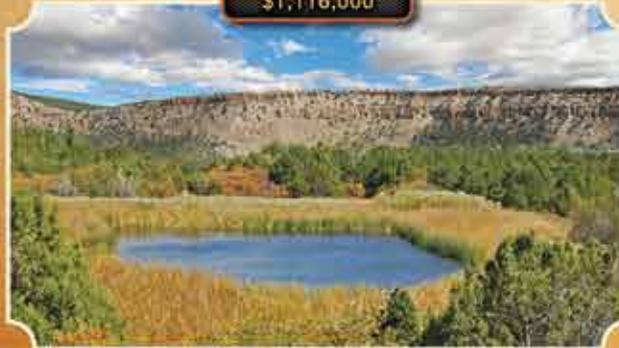
\$1,895,000



MOORE RANCH

Montrose, Colorado 720± ACRES

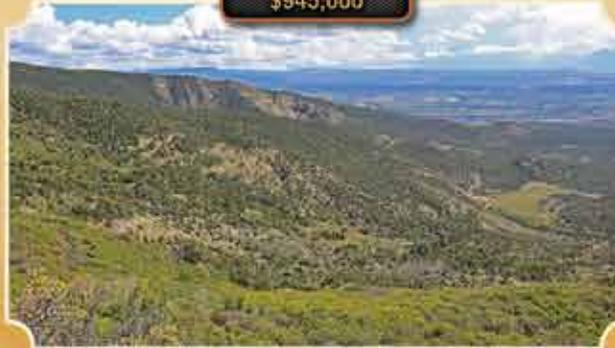
\$1,116,000



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Cedaredge, Colorado 1,195± ACRES

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Montrose, Colorado 1,079± ACRES

\$895,000



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