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*North Fork, Idaho
10H2*

BLACK BEAR HUNTING

Hunting is about the adventure, the outfitter, the weather and the prey. A great outfitter like Craig who knows his area and prey, works hard to provide an awesome adventure even when the weather makes things difficult. From Shane and Tim:

They went 1 for 2 in harvesting bears. WX conditions were to blame as they changed daily and the bears never were coming to the baits regular. Shane shot a nice blonde bear with a beautiful coat. Tim said they had to depend on the dogs a lot since the bears would not come to the bait, Tim had one opportunity at a small bear they treed but passed as it was too small. As always Craig (outfitter) is working on a reduced package getting Tim back for this fall to harvest his bear... Both Shane and Tim still highly recommend this hunt just for the effort put out by the outfitter alone. Spring 2007



Comments from other black bear hunters

Darold, spring 2005: All three hunters in our party harvested bears thanks to Craig's hard work. He let us stay two extra days to hunt with dogs (which is normally \$1000 more than the baited hunt), so we could all harvest bears. Craig worked very hard and was very accommodating. We recommend Craig for any kind of hunt.

Calvin's clients, 2005: "One took a bear, the other had a lot of opportunities just for one reason or another, decided not to shoot one. He is still very happy with Craig and had a great hunt. Both were very happy with the guides and the game. They even ran bears with dogs at no extra cost. Craig will do all he can to keep our hunters happy."

Greg, fall 2006: "Craig is the hardest working outfitter I have ever seen. You know when you leave that he put everything he had into making sure your hunt was successful... We wanted to see the dogs run but didn't know we were going to be hunting behind them. What an experience. Very exciting and a huge rush. Craig's dogs are great and he knows how to track them. To say that you need to be in shape for this hunt is an understatement. Just ask Winston, he hunted with me and thought he was going to die. We tracked his bear for almost 5 hours, but the time we got there Winston and I could only move about 25 yards at a time before we had to rest. Of course, Craig was there waiting on us telling us to hurry because the bear was going to jump. Winston took his bear with a rifle. I was fortunate enough to take mine with a bow. I would not hesitate to send anyone to Craig that was looking for a TRUE hunt. They will get 1,000% effort from Craig. Just remember to be in shape."

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MOUNTAIN LION HUNT

About Todd, Steve's client, January 2005: "The first morning they found some tracks and let the dogs loose. An hour later, they had a huge tom treed. Todd took him with a bow. Todd mentioned he was impressed with Craig's dogs. On their way back in the afternoon they found more tracks and decided to let the dogs tree another one for training. Craig took Todd out sightseeing and snowmobiling as long as he wanted to stay. Todd said he saw a lot of elk in Craig's hunting area. Todd was really happy with his hunt and wants to go back and hunt with Craig again. He had his cat scored and it is definitely going to be Pope and Young."

ELK HUNTING

About Eric, Johnny's client, fall 2005: "Eric returned from Craig's in Idaho, on an archery hunt. Eric had a great hunt; he harvested a big 5x5 bull. I asked him how big it was and he said plenty big enough for me to mount on my wall. Craig offered to let him stay and hunt bears but Eric had to get back home. Eric was very satisfied with the service and Craig's great service. Meals were great. He said "I can't wait to save some money and go back." Word of advice, get in shape before you go. The area is unforgiving and will kick your butt otherwise!"

About Joe, Steve's client, fall 2005: "Joe was unsuccessful in tagging an elk, but he said that it was by his own decision. On the last day of the hunt, Craig was calling in a group of elk, with a big bull in the middle, and someone a few hundred yards away took and shot a pike that was in a different herd, scaring off the herd with the big boy. He said they saw elk everyday, the food was wonderful, the horses were great. He was more than satisfied with the effort Craig and his crew put forth, and the animals just didn't cooperate to his liking. But as he put it, that's why they call it hunting and not killing ... that's what game farms are for."

Calvin, fall 2005: "The weather just kicked our butts. We should have had sunscreen instead of long johns." It was warm and dry, not conducive to good elk hunting, with other outfitters reporting the same issues. There were 5 of us in camp, and we were horn hunting, not meat hunting. After seven days ... 4 of us were thinking about killing a small bull ... but no one wanted a spike. Everyone had opportunity at legal bulls and some nice larger bulls were spotted. We were close on a couple of occasions but what can I say, "it is hunting." The big ones don't get big by being stupid. Long and short of it is that one pike was killed on the last evening of the hunt. The weather started to change the last couple of days and it was snowing big time when we left. Craig did a good job with the camp, guides horses and the camp cook was again, a hunt saver."