



PROFESSIONALLY OUTFITTING SINCE 1982



FALL & WINTER HUNTING

ELK MULE DEER MOUNTAIN LION BIGHORN SHEEP

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Operating on the White River National Forest and the Flat Tops Wilderness under a special use permit from the United States Forest Service and B.L.M. Land. Equal Opportunity Services Provider

Winterhawk Outfitters wishes to say "thank you" and give photo credit to photographers Dave Goble and Jim Gallup for their assistance with this brochure.

Offering the finest in western style horseback archery, muzzleloading and rifle hunting in Colorado's primitive Flat Tops Wilderness.



Thanks for your interest in hunting with Winterhawk Outfitters in western Colorado's majestic Rocky Mountains.

Winterhawk is a professional full-time outfitter whose goal since 1982 has been to provide high quality fair chase wilderness big game horseback hunts in the true western tradition. We're dedicated to providing successful, enjoyable trips and to maintaining high ethical standards and respect for the land and animals we hunt.



Larry & Laura Amos
Laura's Bull

Our area holds thousands of elk, mature bulls and some 30" trophy mule deer bucks. We enjoy excellent success, but we don't guarantee a kill. Our hunts are strictly fair chase... real hunts in Colorado's spectacular high country, where there are definitely more challenges than guarantees.

If you're like most hunters, a western hunt is a major event. Choosing the right outfitter is important and we encourage you to look through our reference/price insert for suggestions on questions you should be asking any outfitter you're considering.

Our trips are strictly first class, as we provide seasoned, professional guides, deluxe camps, high quality meals, and personalized attention to each guest. We own our own stock and our horses and mules are the finest in the business.

If you're a serious hunter, we think you'll appreciate Winterhawk. We work hard for our hunters, and expect our hunters to do the same. We're not the least expensive outfitter, and we certainly don't want to be. We also don't want to be known for taking the most hunters.

We hunt over 250 square miles of game-rich country where motorized vehicles of any kind are prohibited.

Whether you hunt with bow, black powder or rifle, prefer full-service guided hunts, or would rather do it yourself in a high quality pack-in drop camp, we'd like to be your Colorado outfitter. If you don't see the exact hunt you're looking for, give us a call. With advance notice, we may be able to customize a hunt for you or your group.

Thanks again for considering Winterhawk. We look forward to talking with you soon.

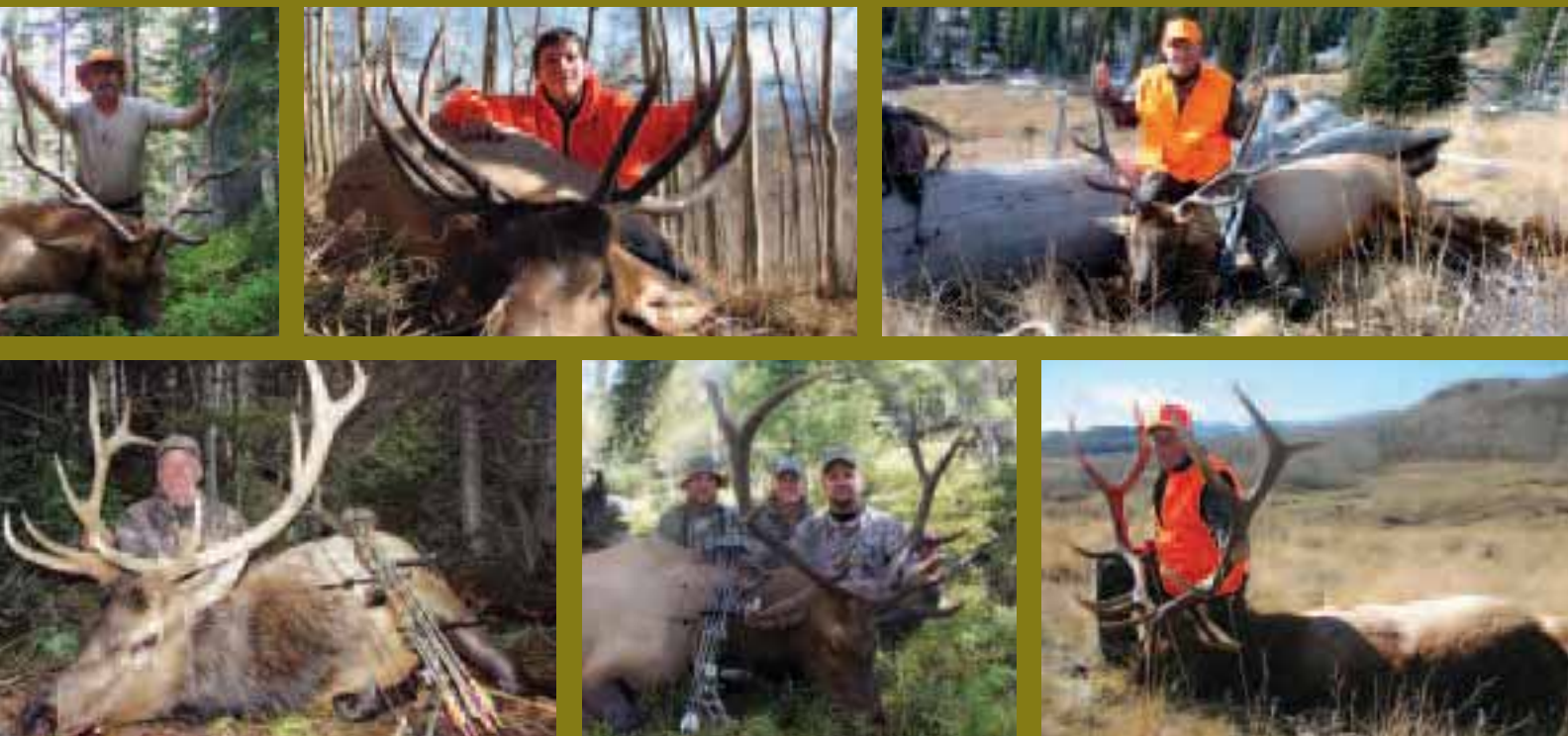
Larry & Laura

Larry and Laura Amos
Winterhawk Outfitters



WILDERNESS HORSEBACK HUNTING IN TRUE WESTERN TRADITION





OUR COUNTRY



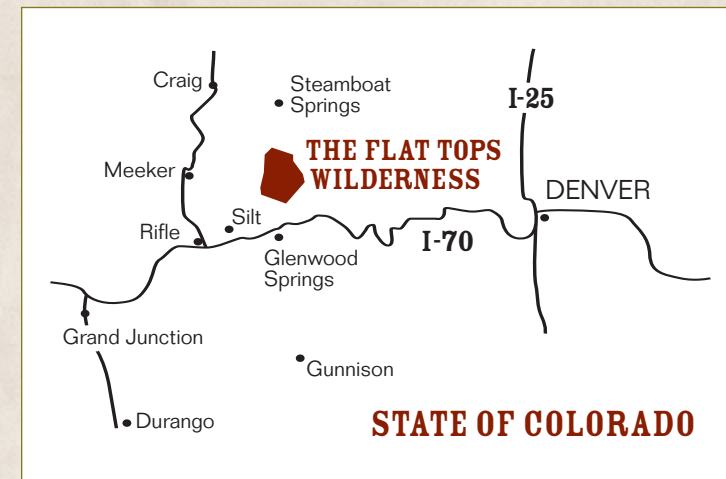
Winterhawk operates in Colorado's White River National Forest and the Flat Tops Wilderness. The White River National Forest is two million acres in central Colorado west of the Continental Divide. It is one of the largest and oldest National Forests in the Rocky Mountains. Our U.S. Forest Service permits consist of over 250 square miles of prime National Forest and Wilderness Land, which is one of the largest outfitter permitted areas in Colorado. It contains some of the Rocky Mountains' most spectacular scenery.

The Flat Tops Wilderness lies within the White River National Forest and is one of the largest primitive areas in the Rocky Mountains. It is well known as some of the very best elk and deer country anywhere. Wildlife in the area include elk, mule deer, black bear, big horn sheep, mountain lion, and an occasional moose. Colorado has more elk than any other U.S. state or Canadian province. And while it's best known for elk, it produces quality

mule deer bucks as well. In response to a question about Colorado whitetail hunting, the Colorado Division of Wildlife responded: "Colorado isn't known as a white-tailed hot spot because it's overshadowed by the finest mule deer hunting in the world. Garfield and Mesa counties lead the listings of record book mule deer taken, and Eagle and Grand counties are also well represented." Winterhawk's hunting areas are in Garfield and Eagle counties. We hunt game management areas 24, 25, 26, and S59.

In 1985, the Colorado Division of Wildlife established a four-point restriction on elk in the Flat Tops Wilderness and parts of the White River National Forest. This has greatly increased the bull to cow ratio and it's now estimated at 26 bulls per 100 cows. The regulations have dramatically improved the quality of our

bulls. The number of mature branch antlered bulls increases each season and our hunting just keeps getting better year after year.



BOW & BLACK POWDER

For the big game hunter, nothing is more exciting than hunting elk in full rut.

It's considered by many to be the ultimate hunt... period. The thrill of a close encounter with a big bugling bull is like no other, and at Winterhawk Outfitters, we specialize in making it happen.



Archery and muzzleloader hunters tend to have the woods to themselves during this special time of year.

The foliage is beautiful, the temperatures are moderate; elk are vocal and responsive to calls. It's not surprising that bow and black powder hunting has become more popular and successful.



Imagine lying in your sleeping bag at the end of a full day and listening to bulls bugling

close to camp. It makes it hard to fall to sleep no matter how tired you may be.

At Winterhawk, guided archery and muzzleloader hunting is our specialty. Our guides are serious archery hunters... experienced callers who consistently bring elk in for good close shots. Our guides love this season. They are prepared, enthused, willing, and able to do what it takes to get their hunters on a bull. We have great respect for bowhunters and appreciate the challenge and skill that the sport requires. We are not just another rifle-oriented outfit trying to sell a few bow hunts.



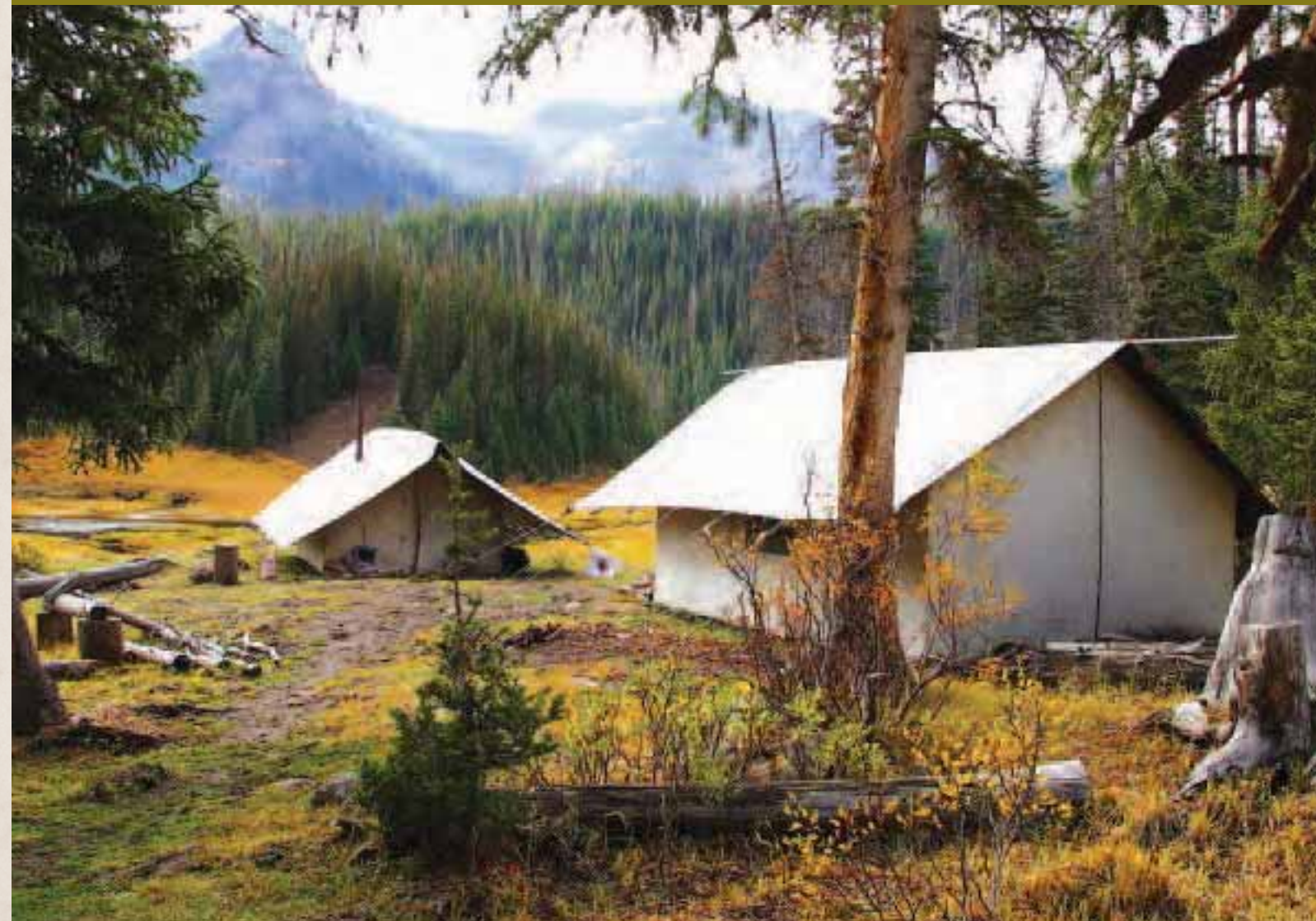
Laura Amos

During these early seasons when the elk are in rut, they tell us where they are, and we go to them. Instead of limiting our bow and muzzleloader hunters to specific camps, we take them to the elk. We may be hunting from Indian Cliffs or Big Springs Base Camps, one of our pack-in camps, or a remote spike camp location. We may also switch camps during the week. In recent years, this stay mobile and "go where the elk are" approach has dramatically improved shot opportunities to nearly 100% on good mature bulls.

Hunters should arrive in good physical shape, ready to ride, walk and hunt hard. Conditioning is important and the better shape the hunter is in, the better our chances of getting him where he needs to be to be successful. As is always the case with limited range weapons, success in taking the animal is highly dependent on the hunter's ability to make the shot. Come and join us for a great bow or muzzleloader wilderness hunting experience.



SEPTEMBER RUT HUNTS



HUNTS IN BLAZE ORANGE



With over 250 square miles of country ranging from 8,500 to 12,000 feet and including a wide variety of terrain, Winterhawk can tailor a rifle hunt for almost any hunter. We offer guided hunts from our two base camps, both of which can be reached by four wheel drive vehicle; wilderness pack-in hunts at mid elevations; and hunts from high country timberline camps.

INDIAN CLIFFS & BIG SPRINGS BASE CAMPS

Guided Elk and Deer Hunts



Our two base camps are the only camps that you can drive to, and they serve as hubs for our operation. They sit at over 9,000 feet on the edge of the Flat

Tops Wilderness at the end of rough, five and six mile roads that require a 4-wheel drive vehicle to reach.

These have been our most popular hunts, as they are less physically demanding than pack-in hunts, but they have been every bit as successful. The country is typically parks and meadows, surrounded by stands of aspens and pine thickets.

We ride out of base camp approximately an hour before sunrise and still hunt or hunt on stand. Depending on weather and game movement during mid-day, we may do some riding to spot elk and deer out feeding, still hunt the stands of aspen and spruce, or make drives through the timber.

These are fully guided two-on-one full service hunts with everything provided except hunting licenses and personal gear. For hunters, the camps have heavy-duty wall tents with carpeted floors, rain flies, and wood burning stoves. The tents accommodate two to six hunters each and are furnished with twin-sized beds, electric lights, outlets (for battery charging) and a rack for drying clothes. The camps are powered by diesel generators and in addition to the hunters' tents, they have a separate cookhouse/dining tent, guides' tent, riding saddle tent, pack saddle tent, out-house and a shower house with hot and cold running water.

Don't expect to lose weight on your hunt. A typical Winterhawk breakfast is French toast, eggs cooked to order, thick sliced bacon, potatoes, orange juice and coffee. Our hunters pack hearty lunches to



pack in daypacks or saddlebags, so lunch doesn't interrupt the hunt. Evening meals may include baked ham, roast turkey, roast beef, stuffed Cornish hens or prime rib.

WILDERNESS PACK-IN CAMPS

Guided Elk and Deer Hunts

Winterhawk's pack-in camps are typically a three-hour ride from base camp. They are set at approximately 10,700 feet, allowing us to hunt down to 9,500 or up to 11,500 depending on game movement. The country consists of stands of aspen and spruce, small parks, meadows and heavy dark spruce pockets with blow downs that somewhat restrict game to traveling on trails. This is a two-on-one guided trip and hunting is on foot or horseback depending on conditions.

The area is excellent bull country, but every year we take an occasional big timberline buck while hunting elk. A flat shooting rifle is a must here, as game is often spotted crossing or feeding in the big parks and meadows.

Our pack-in camps include hunter's tents, separate cook tent, guides tent, latrine tent and shower tent. Meals are complete, balanced and plentiful. You'll work hard on this hunt, but you'll have comfortable accommodations.

Packing-in to one of our wilderness camps puts you right in the middle of elk country which means less time riding and more time hunting. It's the ultimate Rocky Mountain hunting experience. It's not an easy hunt and to enjoy it to its fullest hunters should be in good physical condition. We have an experienced hard-working crew that will give a full 100% effort to make your hunt enjoyable and successful. If you're a serious hunter, and want to experience horseback wilderness hunting the way it was in bygone years, this is definitely the hunt for you.

HIGH COUNTRY DROP CAMPS

We understand that many experienced hunters enjoy the challenge of hunting elk and deer on their own. They are knowledgeable hunters who are comfortable in the high country regardless of the weather. For these hunters, Winterhawk's high country drop camps are a perfect fit.



and for calling when you have game to be packed out. Hunters are responsible for their food, cooking, firewood cutting, other camp chores, and field dressing and quartering game.

DROP CAMP INFORMATION

Personal gear (clothes, boots, hunting equipment, etc.) must not exceed 70 pounds and should be packed in one standard size army-style duffle bag. Food should not exceed 60 pounds per person. We must adhere to these restrictions without exception.



DELUXE DROP CAMPS

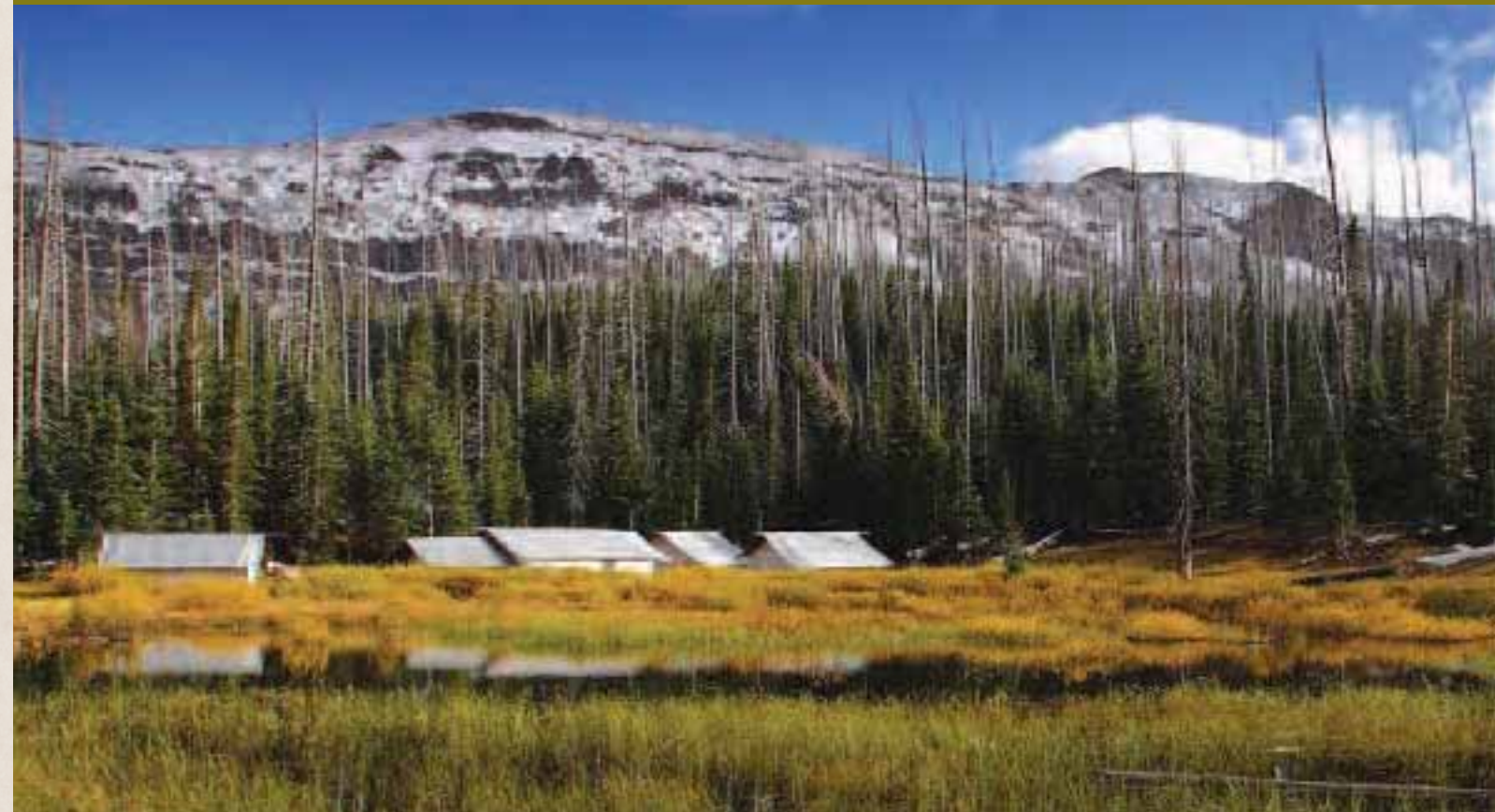
Our deluxe drop camp option requires a minimum six person camp. It is perfect for the group that would rather spend all their time hunting. We supply the food, full-time cook, and camp caretaker. They prepare meals, cut firewood and maintain the camp. Food is hearty, back-country, home-cooked and plentiful. Equipment and camp set-up is similar to our regular drop camps except there is a shower tent and a separate tent for the cook and caretaker. This is still an unguided camp, and the cook and caretaker duties are limited as described. Only one deluxe camp is run per hunt and it is available on a first-come first-served basis.

Winterhawk's drop camps are located in some of the finest elk and deer producing areas of the Flat Tops Wilderness and White River National Forest. They are accessible by horseback only and, depending on the camp, are one to four hours ride from base camp.

The country consists of small parks, rolling meadows, and stands of aspen with spruce pockets that run up to heavy dark timber near the timberline. Camps are located from 9,000 to 11,500 feet to accommodate both early and late season hunters.



Drop camps include large wall tents with floors, rain fly, wood stove for heating your tent, L.P. hotplate for cooking, cots, foam pads, Coleman lanterns, fuel, ax, bow saw, aluminum pack frame and latrine. Water is available and firewood is near each camp. A Motorola two-way radio provides 24 hour communication with base camp for safety,



FLAT TOPS WILDERNESS AND
WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST





BIG CATS AND SHEEP

MOUNTAIN LION

There never has been a better time to hunt for trophy class mountain lions. Colorado has an abundance of lions and they prey heavily on mule deer. Biologists estimate that an adult cat kills one deer a week. While none of Winterhawk's hunts are guaranteed, our success rates for quality Toms has been excellent, in most years running nearly 100%.

Our lion hunts are conducted from our ranch. Occasionally we use a travel trailer as hunt headquarters as it allows us the mobility necessary to quickly move to different country when weather conditions change.



dictate... but when the dogs push the lion into rough country, the hunter should be prepared for some tough hiking.

Success rates are highest when hunters can be "on call" to take advantage of weather conditions, but if this isn't possible, hunts may be scheduled for specific dates.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Many hunters consider the Bighorn Sheep to be the ultimate Rocky Mountain big game animal. Our sheep hunts are fully guided one-on-one from high country spike camps with hunting on foot or horse-



back depending on conditions. Sheep tags in Management Unit S59 are limited to Colorado residents only. Our unit holds trophy rams and if you can draw the tag, we can put you on the sheep.

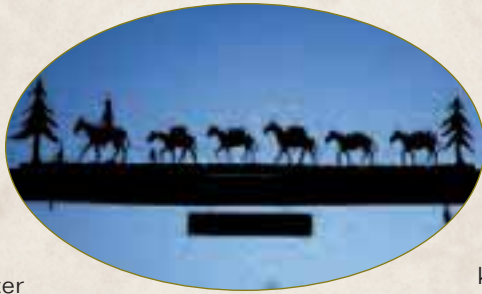
We have excellent hounds and never tire of listening to them strike a trail and work a fresh track. Our hunts are strictly fair chase. Snow machines are our primary transportation and we use mules when conditions



OUR PRINCIPLES

HUNT COST JUSTIFICATION

We're occasionally asked why outfitted hunts are so expensive. The short answer is, like any product or service, "you get what you pay for." The longer explanation details some of the out-of-pocket costs the outfitter incurs to run a hunt. First, good outfitters own or lease their exclusive hunting area. The better the ground, the higher the cost. A good outfitter pays his seasoned guides from \$80 to \$150 per day, depending on the hunt. That means on a 7-day hunt, the outfitter has already committed \$600 to \$900 of the cost of the hunt.



After the expense of land and guides comes the cost of good food, cooks, and professional packers. Keeping, feeding and maintaining 80 to 100 horses and mules year round also increases the outfitter's expense. When you add in liability insurance, quality equipment, equipment maintenance and replacement 4WD trucks, horse trailers, vehicle insurance, forest service permits, taxes, marketing expenses, etc., you can see that the amount of net profit to the outfitter is not what you may assume. You can also see that when an outfitter offers a "fully guided & outfitted" elk hunt for \$1,500, something has to be missing. Big Game hunting simply is not cheap, and we encourage you to be cautious of the hunt that sounds too good to be true.

NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME HUNTING

Hunting North American Big Game is thrilling and challenging. Most of us enjoy the beautiful country, clean fresh air, spectacular natural sights, and moments of anticipation and excitement. But there are times when things simply don't go just as planned. Weather conditions can change, forcing last minute changes of camp location; sometimes horses can't be used, planes can't

fly, and hunting schedules can change daily or hourly. These things can and do happen and good hunters have learned to accept them. When these situations occur, we encourage you to keep a good attitude and continue to do your best. Be mentally prepared for these challenges.



Over the years, we have been fortunate enough to take many beautiful trophies for our

hunters. But there have also been hunts when we have worked hard, tolerated bad weather, and have been unsuccessful in collecting a trophy. These can be enjoyable trips also, with many wonderful memories. Remember, the kill only takes a second and is a relatively small part of the trip. All of the other experiences and challenges make up the real trip, and that's why it's called hunting.

COME EXPERIENCE THE SPIRIT OF WINTERHAWK

We'd like to hear from you if you're interested in a hunt or drop camp. We also operate superb wilderness trout fishing, summer horseback vacations, and a licensed and approved Outfitters, Guides and Packers school. We'd like nothing more than to be your Colorado outfitter. For more information on our services and assistance in planning your Colorado adventure, give us a call or visit our website at WINTERHAWK.COM.



NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME

