

AVID HUNTER PUTS HIS SUPER TAG TO WORK

Alan Ennis poses with
the buck he took in the
Red Desert with his
Remington .338

In 2015 Alan Ennis won one of the Super Tag raffle drawings. He used that tag and his working knowledge of the Red Desert to nab this big buck.



From very early on Alan Ennis was an avid hunter. For him it has always been about testing himself against the wits of his prey, the weather and the terrain. For Alan hunting is more about a fair chase, a successful stalk and a good time spent with family and friends. Over 40 years he's hunted all around the state of Wyoming and his successes include tags filled for high quality specimens of moose, bighorn sheep and mountain lion. But finding and taking an excellent mule deer buck has been a lifelong goal as fleeting as the animal itself.

On July 6, 2015 Alan was in his truck driving to the Red Desert to inspect natural gas wells as part of his ordinary duties as the Rock Springs Operations Manager for Yates Petroleum Corp., when he received a call from the Director of the Wyoming Fish and Game Department, Scott Talbot. Scott was calling to notify Alan that he was the winner of the 2015 Super Tag hunting license raffle for deer. As someone who waited decades to finally win an earlier tag for big horn sheep, Alan still could not believe his good fortune.

A Wyoming Super Tag allows winning hunters to hunt any open area in the state for the species they have selected. The Super Tag raffle offers licenses for nine of Wyoming's most sought after big game trophy species. For winners, it truly can be the best opportunity for a hunt of a lifetime. For Alan, it truly was.

With so many options on where to hunt choosing just one would prove to be difficult. Alan long knew about the quality of the mature bucks in the rough country of the southern end of the Wind River Range so his hunt started there.

From several earlier scouting trips and during

his first hunt there in mid-October of last year, Alan always found numerous groups of does with fawns and smaller bucks. But catching sight of a quality shooter began to get somewhat frustrating. Returning again to the area on October 24th a recent change in the weather had apparently been favorable for Alan. Bigger, much more desirable bucks began to show. In fact, the number of deer overall increased with some days anywhere from 40 to 60 deer being counted.

By now his daughter, Amy Scharf, and his eight-year grandson Cooper Scharf had joined Alan's hunt. Four days in on this trip, the three made another pre-dawn hike to glass from the nearby high ground. Just as the sun inched above the distant horizon, Amy whispered:

"Dad, I think I found a nice buck, take a look."

The deer was below them in the sage and ranging at just beyond 700 yards distant. The buck was in a group of 10 to 15 other deer still bedded down from the night before. As the sun moved higher, the group of deer rose to their feet and began feeding. As they browsed the deer made their way over a nearby hill. Alan quickly decided this was his chance to close the distance.



Reaching the hillside where Amy initially spotted the big buck, the group of deer were now about 300 yards out. A few moments more of careful glassing and Alan knew his buck was much bigger than he first thought. "We were all very excited by now," and "my pulse was ramping up!" said Alan.

While he was confident of managing the shot at the distance, the position of the sun was still low enough to be a glaring obstacle in sighting-in for his target. Patiently waiting seconds that seemed like hours, the sun's glare diminished and the buck turned to a position for a clean shot. Alan's Remington

.338 boomed through the morning quiet and his buck went down.

His walk to the downed buck was a few moments of mixed emotions. While very happy to take such a beautiful animal and to have his family by his side making it all more memorable, Alan also knew the sadness that a once-in-a-lifetime Super Tag experience was now over.

"I am very grateful for this hunt and I am thrilled with the buck and this truly unique Wyoming hunting opportunity," says Alan.

For more information about the Wyoming Super Tag Raffle and to view trophies taken in 2015 and 2014, visit Wyoming Super Tag.