

The **Blackjack** Buck

SAM JONES

While hunting elk sheds in my home state of Arizona, my hunting partner, Scott Muzzy, and I passed the time on rainy days playing blackjack. We played all day. I couldn't lose, and Scott wouldn't give up. By the end of the day, Scott was down a considerable amount of money. I let him off easy, telling him to apply both

holding out for a 180 or better buck, and after raised eyebrows from the guides, we assured them we would go home without a buck if we didn't find a good one.

We saw 10 to 12 bucks each day. The best buck was a heavy 3x4 around 27 inches wide. On the fourth morning, the guides suggested we push an area where two great bucks had often been seen in preseason scouting. One was a 35" wide typical and the other, a heavy-horned 30" buck. The public land area had been hunted hard on opening weekend, but nobody had heard of anyone harvesting either buck.

Scott and I were positioned above timberline. As my view was terrible, I moved slightly higher for a better view. Within seconds I spotted what I thought was a bull moose emerging from the timber 300 yards away. What came out was the

biggest buck I had ever seen! I only had a 30-yard opening, so I quickly aimed the crosshairs on the buck's front shoulder and fired. The buck turned downhill, and I could see the shot had hit him in the back leg. I quickly worked over to Scott, who had watched my buck bed in the edge of the pines. I took one more shot, and the monster was down for good. As we approached the fallen buck, I couldn't believe the size. It was an absolute giant.

My buck has seven points on the left and six points on the right, including eye guards. The outside spread is 30 inches wide with 20-inch G2's and 21 inches of mass on each side. The massive buck officially scored 223 4/8" gross and 218 5/8" net non-typical.



ELK SCORE **223 1/2** | POINTS **7x6** | SPEED **30** | LOCATION **REGION G**

Christensen Arms
www.christensenarms.com

WYOMING

of us for Wyoming deer tags. I couldn't believe it when we actually drew out.

The hunt would take place in September of 2001 in the high mountains of Wyoming's Grey's River Range. Because of the difficulty of the terrain, we decided to hire a guide. We booked a hunt with Gary Amerine of Grey's River Trophies. Gary's track record is great for consistently taking some of the best bucks from the region.

The weather was hot, and the deer were bedding quickly after first light. Midday drives in secluded timber pockets proved to be very successful, but with the intense hunting pressure, the bigger bucks rarely left the timber. Both Scott and I were