



**ARCADIA**  
OUTFITTING LTD.

# MULE DEER

2019 SEASON

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## OUR FALL SEASON...

has been a warm, dry one. Just like last year, we have seen next to no snow, and very warm, mild days. The area received a nice dump of snow and a good cold snap in early October that allowed for some great still hunting in the big timber, but

otherwise, summer persisted and the days were warmer than usual. This made for a slow rut, and hard bush hunting conditions with no good way to follow tracks.

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**LUCAS GEARY**

We started off in early September with Lucas Geary, who has quickly become a good friend and hunted with us three times along with his father Jay. We first hunted together in the NWT where we were successful on two huge caribou scoring 400" and 414" B&C, a Dall Sheep Ram with horns measuring 40" and ten years old, and a monster moose that was 70" wide scoring 240" B&C. One heck of a hunt, that may never be topped. Lucas then came out to try his hand at some mule deer hunting with us, and it paid dividends.

Lucas and I headed up high into the alpine, into some new country very rarely hunted due to difficult access and hard hiking conditions. We put in a long, arduous day climbing over 5000' vertical feet, lugging our heavy 100lb backpacks full of food and hunting gear. We made it to a beautiful alpine lake the first night, exhausted and spent.

Day two found us exploring the area a bit and allowed us to find a more suitable camp farther along the ridge, where we relocated to and spiked out from thereafter. It was an ideal location and allowed us to be behind the glass right at first light, looking for those elusive, hard to spot mule deer. We were pelted by rain, and fogged in more often than not; but when it finally broke, we were given a glimpse of a nice 4x3 in the distant burn just before nightfall day 6. On day 7, we woke early to put eyes on him again, and spotted another 6 bucks in the distance, two of which were nice mature 4x4s. Just as quickly as we spotted them however, the fog rolled in and blanketed the mountainside the remainder of the day. It was a heartbreaker, knowing we had only one day left to go. The following morning was more fog, but we decided it was now or never, so we trudged our way through

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**LUCAS GEARY**

the thick soupy white mass clouding our vision over to the ridgeline where we last spotted the distant mule deer bucks. We waited, and waited,

Our second hunt of the season brought out father and son team Mark and Jacob Beardemphl from Washington. While they have mule deer of their own to hunt in their home state, Mark wanted to bring his son Jake out on a fun hunting trip to try to solidify him his first deer. Day four of the hunt saw just that happen. We had been on a nice group of deer from day one, and just couldn't put two and two together to get within range. Finally on the fourth morning, the stars aligned and Jake made a perfect, standing shot while leaning on a tree, and dropped the buck in his tracks. A very nice 4x4 with a tall frame, and an awesome first buck! What a great way to start a hunting career.

and waited, and finally; caught a small break. We found three of the six deer: one of the big ones, but he never gave us a clear shot and was quickly lost to the timber once more. We made a hasty decision to then go over and look for the other 4x3 we had spotted previously just 2kms distant, to see if we could find him and make a play before we lost daylight. As soon as we arrived, there he was! Bedded by himself in the one clear open shooting lane we could see; a clear sign that Lucas was meant to take him. He lined up, and after two nice shots, our deer was down. A great old, heavy 165" B&C 4x3, with awesome mass and character. His body was quite large, and you could tell he had seen his fair share of fights over the years. This was Lucas' first mule deer, and I think one for the books. It was a hard hike out with packs loaded, and even harder back down to the truck over 11 miles distant, but every step resounded with success. Congrats Lucas! Awesome deer my friend.



**JACOB BEARDEMPHL**



After tagging Jake out, we continued hunting for Mark to try and find another big buck, and were on mule deer bucks every day. Mark wanted to hold off for a nice big one however, so we continued the search. I pushed harder and went farther, and we discovered a hidden gem of an area, far off. It was home to a plethora of mule deer, and some great bucks. We successfully stalked to within 40m of a nice heavy buck, but he blew out before we could get a shot. And thereafter, spotted another two monster 4x4 bucks in a high bowl. We attempted for one of them, but ran out of time as the fog shrouded our last 45 minutes of good hunting light. It was a bummer, being so close, seeing the big boy come out in a far off slash, but unable to get to him in time before losing our view. This buck was easily in the 170"+ range, likely mid 170s.

Mark had one more day to hunt, but they made an executive decision that Jake had best start for home so as not to miss work. Again, another heartbreaker, but....you can't win them all, and it just leaves you with the desire to get back out and find the big one again! Hopefully we will see Mark again in the future as well, to continue what we started.

The rest of deer season found us putting our foot down and deciding to do some more outfit renovations before the onset of winter. Things that had been put off for far too long that would be nice to get done once and for all. A week was spent at our trapping cabin installing a new fireplace, propane lighting, new kitchen, cutting firewood, and fixing up the outhouse etc. A new dog kennel was built for cat season, with comfy

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dog boxes, and bunk beds, and more propane lighting was installed in our main basecamp, along with a pile of wood cut for the upcoming winter. Machines were serviced and accessories added to aid in our comfort while hunting, and in general, camp was made even more comfortable than before, adding to the experience we are trying to give our clients and friends. We can't wait to

share it with those of you who will one day come hunt with us, so if you've been thinking about it, make sure to reach out and call or email, to get the ball rolling and gain some more info on the hunts we offer. We are starting to book out a year or more in advance for all of our hunts, so best to act early before they are gone. As always, thanks for reading, and until next time, happy hunting.



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