

# TROPHY TALK

## Gross Scores Listed in Latest Awards Book



**Jack Reneau**  
DIRECTOR  
Big Game Records

Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system is the result of the diligent deliberations of a special committee chaired by Samuel B. Webb in 1949.

Members of this committee included Dr. Harold B. Anthony, Milford Baker, James L. Clark, Grancel Fitz, and Frederick K. Barbour. Prior to publication in 1950, the system was reviewed for suggestions and acceptance by 250 noted outdoor writers, sportsmen, wildlife biologists, museum curators, and other interested parties.

Not only are a number of measurements taken of each trophy to arrive at a

score by which trophies are ranked, but lack of symmetry is accounted for by deducting for differences between right and left sides. Even, well-balanced trophies score better and rank higher than mismatched trophies of similar size. Since its acceptance by the public, trophies are ranked in B&C's records books by this score—a score that is frequently referred to as the final score, net score, or B&C score.

Since the inception of B&C's scoring system, some hunters have begun referring to gross scores to indicate the amount of antler or horn material "on top of the animal's head," without any deductions for lack of symmetry. As a result, unsymmetrical heads score higher than evenly balanced heads.

The Records Committee announced that both B&C's final score and gross score will be listed in all future records books for

informational and comparative purposes. While gross score may mean different things to different people, B&C's gross score for antlered animals is the typical frame (including the inside spread), without deductions for lack of symmetry, plus the total of the lengths of the abnormal points. The gross score for horned and tusked animals is the total of the measurements of the left and right sides without deductions for lack of symmetry. The first B&C book that will list both the final and gross scores for each trophy is *Boone and Crockett Club's 26th Big Game Awards* that will be released this fall. Trophies will still be ranked by the final score, but trophy owners and the hunting public will have the gross score as additional information.

Obviously, gross scores do not apply to bear and cat skulls because only the length and width measurements are added together to arrive at the final score of each trophy.

**TABLE A.** Locations from which B&C currently accepts bison entries

Alaska	Copper River
	Delta Junction
	Farewell
Arizona	House Rock Herd   Coconino County
Montana	Areas adjacent to Yellowstone National Park   Park County
	Portions of the Crow Indian Reservation
South Dakota	Custer State Park   Custer County
Utah	Antelope Island   Davis County
	Henry Mountains   Garfield, Wayne, and San Juan Counties
	Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation
Wyoming	Areas adjacent to Yellowstone National Park   Teton County
British Columbia	Pink Mountain
Northwest Territories	Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary
Yukon Territory	Aishihik Wood Bison Herd

### Bison Eligible for Entry— New Area

While bison once covered the plains for "as far as the eye could see," hunting opportunities today are limited. B&C currently accepts bison from states and provinces where they are classified as game animals and hunting licenses are issued. B&C accepts bison from specific locations within Alaska, Arizona, British Columbia, Montana, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Northwest Territories, and Yukon Territory. Table A lists the specific areas from which entries are accepted. It is known that there are trophy-class bison roaming the wilds of Alberta, but they are not eligible for entry because they are not classified as game animals, nor does anyone need a hunting license to take one.

Free-ranging bison taken on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in northeastern Utah, within the 500,000-acre Hill Creek Extension, are now eligible for entry in the records books. This decision was made after the Records Committee reviewed a very thorough management plan submitted by the reservation.

The tribe currently issues seven bull and 17 cow permits to tribal members and one bull and ten cow permits to non-tribal members. The first bull accepted from this new area is a trophy animal taken by tribal member Robert Chapoose in 2005



that scores 122-6/8 points. The records department has received reports of another trophy-class bull being taken in 2006, but its paperwork hasn't yet been submitted to B&C.

The non-tribal member bull permit is auctioned off to the public each year at the Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife Banquet in Utah. For information on bison hunting opportunities on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation, contact Roland McCook in Fort Duchesne, Utah, at 435-823-1834.

McCook says that the bison population on the reservation has reached its management goal of 600 four-year-old and older animals. There is an additional unspecified number of bison in the younger age classes. McCook is optimistic that there will be additional bison hunting opportunities in the future. The reservation is also working with state and federal agencies to make animals available for transplant to other suitable habitats.

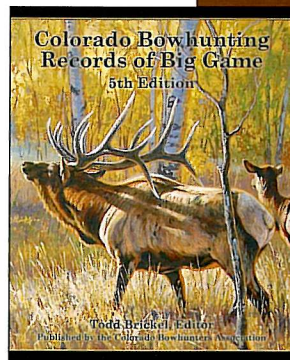
### Party-Hunted Deer Eligibility Change

"Party hunting," as defined in B&C's Official Measurer's manual, *Measuring and Scoring North American Big Game Trophies*, is a practice whereby one hunter tags an animal he has killed with the tag of another person in his hunting party. This practice is illegal in most states and provinces and has been

a Fair Chase concern of the Club for many years. Party hunting for whitetail deer is legal in three states (Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) and two Canadian provinces (Manitoba and Ontario).

Until recently, B&C only accepted trophies taken in these states and provinces if the deer was the first one killed by the hunter during that season and then only if the hunter used his or her own tag on that deer. If a hunter used someone else's tag on the deer he took, that trophy was not eligible for entry.

At its November 2006 meeting, the Records Committee ruled that B&C now accepts all trophies taken while party hunting in those states where it is legal, so long as the animal is taken in Fair Chase. However, the hunter's name will only be listed in B&C publications for trophies killed by the hunter and tagged with the hunter's own tag(s). The hunter's name field for trophies tagged with the tag of another hunter will be blank. A copy of the license/tag for each trophy must be included with the entry materials, regardless of whose tag was used. This change is retroactive. ■



## BOOK REVIEW

### Colorado Bowhunting Records of Big Game, 5th Edition

Colorado Bowhunters Association has announced that the 5th edition of its records book, *Colorado Bowhunting Records of Big Game*, will be released in mid-July.

This edition will include the data for more than 10,000 Colorado entries taken with a bow, including 3,000 more than the 4th edition published 11 years ago. Other features of this book include a history of CBA and a section on Special Achievement Awards. *Colorado Bowhunting Records of Big Game* will be available in soft- and hard-cover editions, as well as a limited edition of 100 signed and numbered copies. The editor is Todd Brickel and the featured cover artist is Jocelyn Russell.

For ordering information, go to [on.line@www.coloradobowhunting.org](http://on.line@www.coloradobowhunting.org).

### BOOK REVIEW NOTICE

There are many state, provincial and private organizations publishing local records books that use the Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system with the express written permission of the Club. Since there is no single reference source for these books, and because there are many hunters who collect them, we will review them as time and space permit. Only those books that use the Boone and Club's copyrighted scoring system and terminology with permission will be considered for review. However, the Boone and Crockett Club cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data contained in these publications. Many of the books include trophies that were not scored by certified Boone and Crockett Club Official Measurers. If there is a question about the status of a trophy listed in any of these books, the Boone and Crockett Club's records books/archives are the final reference to settle any and all discrepancies.