

BACK AT THE RANCH

Youth Hunters Show Up At The Ranch With Enthusiasm



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The 1997 TRM Ranch hunting season was marked by warm temperatures and extremely low hunter success. Animals remained well dispersed and concentrations on the ranch were low - greatly affecting this season's hunt.

While conservative harvests for mule deer were anticipated because of lowering our quotas - success rates for our youth hunters were also down. Of our 15 participants only 4 youth hunters were successful in harvesting an animal yet all were successful at having a great outdoor hunting

SPORTSMAN'S SUMMARY FOR 1997

| Activity | Days provided |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Spring Bear | 38 |
| Fishing | 34 |
| Upland Game Birds | 22 |
| Archery | 25 |

The TRM Ranch has not yet recorded any archery kills.

splash their enthusiasm all over the ranch and really give the hunting season an extra flavor. Having been indoctrinated into sportsman and landowner ethics as well as the concept of Fair Chase, the personal growth of these young outdoorsman is enhanced by their time spent here on the TRMR. Accompanied by adults wishing to expand the minds of these young people - shared quality time is afforded to all those involved.

Keeping a journal has proven to be a means of articulating our thoughts and dealing with our emotions. This year as part of the criteria of the youth hunt - I asked each of our young hunters to write about their experiences here at the ranch. While not being able to show our readers all of their responses, below are a few selections. ▲▲▲

1997 RIFLE SEASON (Oct. 26 through Nov. 3)

| Species | Harvest Quota | Harvested |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Mule deer bucks (early season) | 8 | 3 |
| Mule deer bucks (late season) | 4 | 4 |
| Mule deer does | 20 | 12 |
| Whitetail bucks | 5 | 1 |
| Whitetail does | 10 | 2 |
| Cow elk | 15 | 2 |
| Bull elk | 3 | 0 |
| Mountain lion | 3 | 1 |

Permission slips...88

Number of Sportsman...199

Total sporting days provided...283

Number of public accessing U.S.F.S. during rifle season at TRMR...324

experience at the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch.

Having directed a large portion of the TRMR hunt towards our youth two years ago - it's continuing to evolve as the most exciting component of our hunting season.

These young, idealistic sportsmen and sportswomen



"On my trip to the Boone and Crockett Ranch I had a good time. I was trying for a buck but I didn't get anything! (Oh, well!) I had a great time, identifying birds, smelling flowers, playing in the creek and watching the deer. My dad and I had contests at the end of the day, like throwing rocks the farthest and who can get across the creek and many more. I hope other youth hunters get to go out and have a blast like I did. This ranch influenced me to love hunting even more. I hope I get to go there next year."

Your friend, Bradley Schwartz, 12-years old, Great Falls, Montana

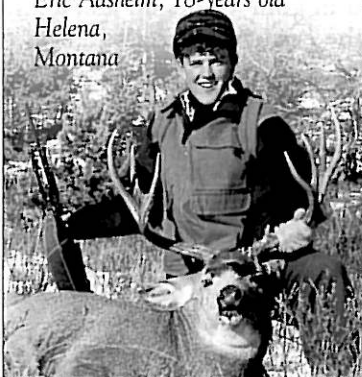
"I was carrying my .270 when we got half way up the hill in the trees. My dad saw a buck and I pulled up and shot three times...I felt really great because I shot my first deer."

Kyle Buck, 12-years old
Choteau,
Montana



"To me, the things I remember most are the things that don't involve pulling the trigger. I love...the conversations during a quick rest while sharing a Snickers bar on the mountain, and of course laying in the snow, next to my personal guide (dad), with our hearts racing, knowing that this buck is a dandy!"

Eric Aasheim, 18-years old
Helena,
Montana



"My dad looked through his binoculars and said that this buck was much bigger. So then we started sneaking up on this buck instead. This buck was not very jumpy and he was chasing after a doe. We got over a hill and I lay down on my stomach and aimed my .270 right at his front shoulder. My buck was a 9 x 10 non-typical mule deer."

Cole Jannusch, 15-years old
Valier, Montana

