

BACK AT THE RANCH

1999 Hunting Season Report on the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch

1999 SPORTSMAN'S SUMMARY

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch

Spring Bear	12 Hunter days provided
Fishing	7 Sportsmen days provided
Upland Game Birds	14 Hunter days provided
Archery	9 Hunter days provided
Cougar	7 Sportsmen days provided

1999 Rifle Season October 24 - November 28

Category	Quotas	Harvests
Mule deer bucks (early)	8	2
Mule deer bucks (late)	4	3
Mule deer does	20	6
Whitetail bucks	5	2
Whitetail does	10	0
Cow elk	15	1
Bull elk	3	0
Fall bear	2	0
Cougar	2	0
Bobcat	0	0

Total Permission Slips.....	70
Total number of sportsmen	152
Total sporting days provided	204
Total number of people accessing USFS land via TRM during rifle season ...	288

An additional 2 people/day use the TRM Ranch to access USFS land from September 1 - October 4, adding another 98 people

I encourage other kids to try to get a chance to hunt there (TRM Ranch). Because I had lots of fun, and it was an adventure for me. Thank you for letting me hunt. Tyler Eisenzimer - Age 14

The 1999 hunting season

was dominated by unseasonably mild temperatures. These conditions detained mule deer and elk migrations down out of the high country. The warm weather was also a deterrent to hunters themselves and both wildlife harvests and hunter use were down from last year.

Those hunters who did use the ranch reported that even though the hunting wasn't up to par, camping was great and many were able to do a little fishing or hunt for sharptail grouse. Several bear sightings were also acknowledged and this was especially exciting for our youth hunters.

A large portion of hunting that occurs on the TRM Ranch is from our youth hunter program (ages 12-16). These hunters are accompanied by an adult and they are asked to write about their experiences on the TRM Ranch. This is an effective way to recap the day's events, and more importantly to analyze what was really meaningful about their hunting experience. We are publishing portions of several letters we received from the youth hunters in hopes that other private land owners across the country might adopt similar youth programs. ▲▲▲

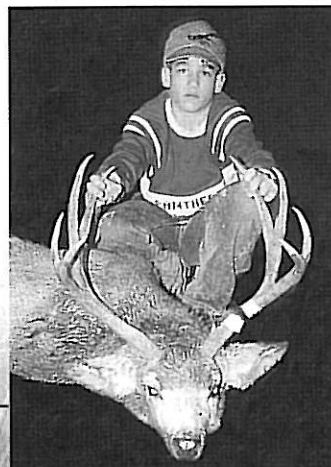
I had an awesome hunt. The first day we saw a lot of bucks, but none were shootable. They were either out of range or on someone else's property. The next morning as we were walking down the road on High Tower, my dad spotted a nice mule deer buck coming out of the trees. I walked about ten yards to a tree and used a branch for a rest as I prepared to shoot. My heart was pounding. My first shot hit the deer from about 200 yards... and I shot it two more times. I had killed my first deer! It was a 5 x 5 with antlers that were 21 inches tall and 24 inches wide. Even though shooting a big buck like the one I got was the highlight of the trip, I also had a lot of fun watching the deer and other animals on the ranch. One of the coolest things was seeing a big black bear. My Boone and Crockett Ranch hunt was one I will always remember. Blake Kinna - Age 12

We walked around and look down into the valley then we stopped and looked in our binoculars. We looked for a short while when I spotted my buck, he was in a herd with about 14 does and 4 smaller bucks which he was chasing off. He was standing in an intimidating posture toward the other bucks. There was a ravine between the buck and us, he was about 1,000 yards away. As we planned a strategy I got really excited and nervous, it all came down to this. We started walking towards the deer on the top of the hill then I spotted the buck at the bottom of the hill along with 10 does. They spotted us and started to jog away. I rested my gun (.25-06) on a tree and shot the buck, he

stopped and the does ran off. The deer measured 24 inches wide and 23 inches tall with 4 points on each side. The butcher said it was the biggest deer he had processed all year. Pat Wheeler - Age 14



Robert K. Peebles
Ranch Manager
Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch



The best part was... seeing elk, being with my dad and seeing the big buck. I am very glad I hunted this year! Terra Opheim - 13 years old (no photo)

