

Upon our arrival, we were treated to a bald eagle circling the camp field (awesome!) On the morning of the 4th day of the hunt, I was asked if I wanted to move to a tree-stand bait site since the ground blinds failed to produce for me. Although Jim from our crew shot a nice 205 Lb. sow w/ a white V on her chest on the 1st day as well as a fellow from another crew & my brother in law Bill shot a bear on the 2nd. day, both from ground blinds.

My position going into the hunt was that I would be selective in choice since I scored last Yr. \$ was tight this Yr. between butchering & taxidermy fees. Besides seeing, others get their 1st bear, the annual B-busting & great food was good enough for me.

For Christmas, my family pooled in & bought me a 300 Weatherby Mag. With a nice scope that has great light retention which I feel is critical at the last ½ hr. when most bear appear. The price was right but it was R-handed & I am left but like my Father in law always says, you only get 1 shot make it count.

This stand was 12Ft. with a view strait ahead at the barrel & bait & to the left @ 40yds. On the right were thick cover & a trail that was just out of sight that Andre hand signaled to me.

After a 4hr. mind battle with sitting still & the mosquitoes I heard 2 shots in a distance. Just then, he emerged from the hidden trail. He took 3 steps to the bait pile, grabbed some granola mix, & went back in.

He repeated this again; at that point, I was having trouble gauging his size so I decided to lift my camo. Mask. The 3rd time he came out & laid belly down in front of the bait pile, ate and then went back in.

The last time he took 2 steps turned his head & looked up at me with those little piercing eyes & stared for a good 10 sec. then went back in, I knew I was busted. Immediately after, I heard branches crashing & saw movement close to the ground at my right as if he winded me. Which startled me, but then he started growling & making false charges which lasted for a good 15 min. I have to say that I was more than a little scared since I was between him & his food & it did not seem like he was leaving in fact the safety was off & I was waiting for him to appear & did not get down until my guide showed.

That evening after the razzing Andre asked if I wanted to return which I declined because I was convinced he would not return & I would see a larger bear on another stand. He then asked if I minded if Ryan our cook could sit on that stand which I agreed. Andre suggested that Ryan change to a leaf camo style. I told Ryan where he would come out & that he would look up at you. Sure enough, the bear came out & looked up at him 4X before Ryan took him.

As an added bonus of excitement, I walked up on a moose while leaving my stand. I could not tell if it was a bull or cow but it was big & standing there on the other side of the little creek bridge facing me. I tried to get him to leave by coughing & rubbing my boots across the gravel. He did not flinch; I decided to take 2 slow steps towards him but cautiously looked for a tree to jump behind just in case. Thank god, he slowly turned into the woods.

Jim S, Philadelphia, PA