



2010 Hunt Report

Well our 2010 hunting seasons have just about come to an end. Although we had a few clients go home with a tag still in their pocket, all clients had shot opportunities and either opted to pass up the shot, to wait for something bigger, or else they missed the shots they took.

Our moose hunters all had chances to shoot bulls, some, as I would have recommended they do, passed up on the 35"- 40" bulls in hopes of an opportunity at something better. One hunter had encounters with two great bulls (58"-60"), but both bulls escaped without a shot being fired. My hat is off to our moose hunter who stuck diligently to his archery tackle for the entire season. A stalk on a 50" bull was foiled by a cow with calves that got our the way. He nearly sealed the deal on the last morning with a great stalk, but the 40" bull failed to allow him a clear shot within fifty yards. A well-executed stalk nonetheless.

For me personally, it was, by far, my most productive year ever in terms of sightings and photographs of trophy moose. From September through November, I saw over 50 rack bulls, with fully half of them in excess of 45" spreads. Granted, I had a few repeat sightings, but I did see no less than 18 different bulls with better than 50" spreads, with 6 of those being OVER 60" SPREADS!!!! None of these bulls were shot during the season so next year looks like it will be a phenomenal year for trophy bulls in ZONE 'B'. What is truly amazing is that I estimate that I saw at least 8 bulls that would qualify for the Boone & Crockett record book.

Our bear hunters had numerous encounters but the large bears remained nocturnal for most of the season. A sharp increase in the number of hunters with bait sites in our areas made it hard to create a supply & demand situation necessary to get the bear to come during shooting hours, so our success was limited.

I shot a 7-point buck in PA with my recurve. I spent eight-hours tracking a 7-point buck in Maine with a rifle before shooting it. I accompanied my son on a buck track in Maine and he ended up making a great shot on it with his peep-sight-mounted pump rifle after tracking it for two hours. We'll be spending lots of time in our late-season bow stands here in NH, hoping to get a shot at a nice buck before the season comes to a close.

As we always do here in northern NH, I am praying for a reasonably mild winter to allow good carry over of our wildlife for next season. Our number of deer, bear and moose were all up from 2009. I think that we will see some great hunting next year provided Mother Nature is not too harsh this winter. I look forward to meeting and hunting with new clients next year and hope to have the opportunity to once again serve some repeat clients as well.

Thank you for a great season and all the best to everyone,

Brian Emerson
Moose Country Guide Service