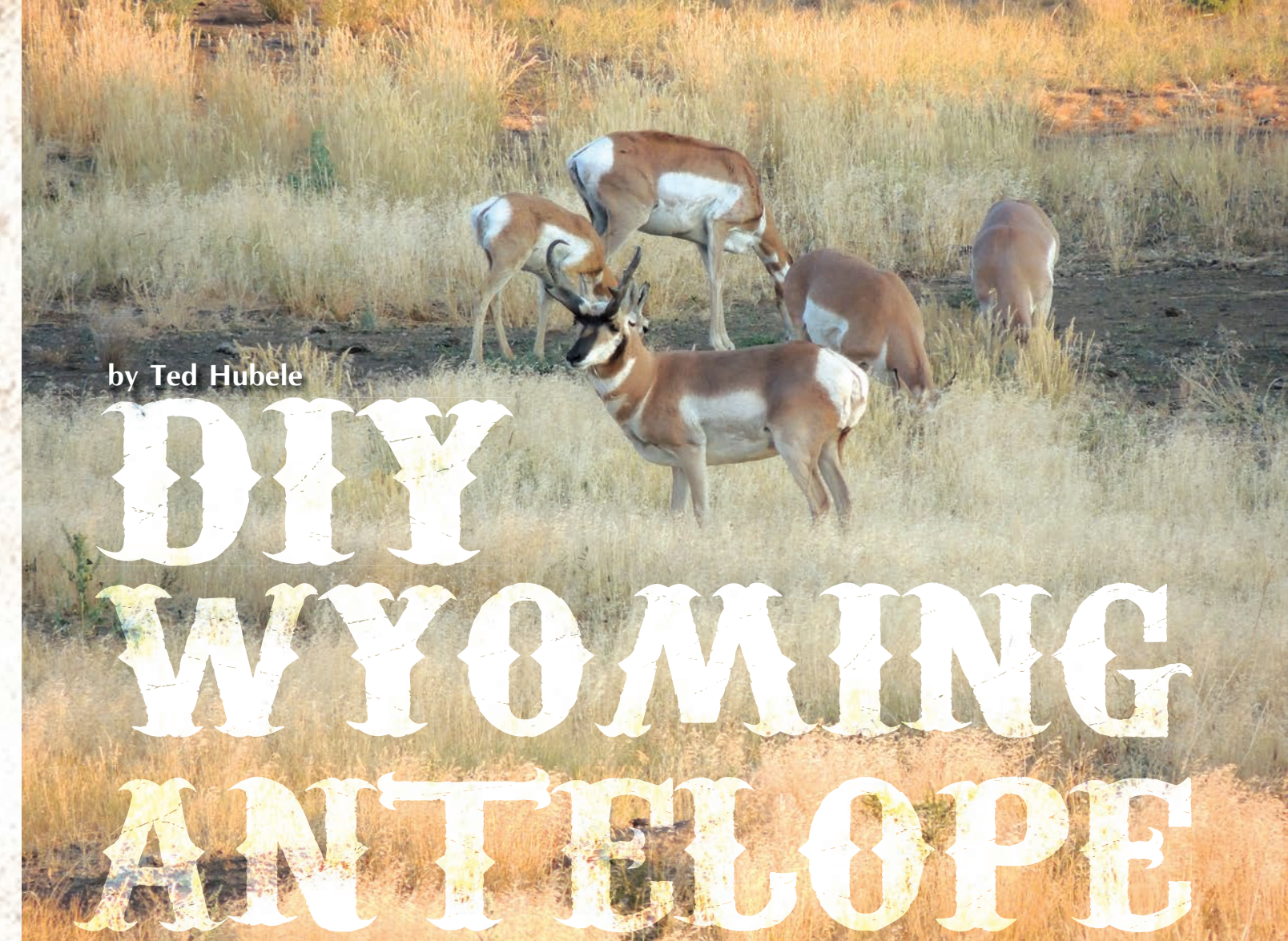




by Ted Hubele

DIY WYOMING ANTELOPE

A friend of the family, Joe Lyman from Anchorage, Alaska, applied for a limited draw antelope tag for Wyoming after talking to my dad about our previous antelope hunts. He applied for a Type 1 buck tag and saw there was a second choice area in the draw forms. There was a Type 2 buck tag for the same area so he filled it in for the second choice slot. After the draw results were posted he found that he drew the Type 2 tag. He contacted my dad and told him the news. The Type 2 was an early season rifle tag, valid on or within 1/2 mile of irrigated land. The bad news is there is not a whole lot of irrigated land in this unit. My dad was not able to be there for Joe's hunt so I started looking for places to hunt and did the pre-season scouting for Joe.

After many trips out and talking to local ranchers I was able to gain him access on a private ranch that was open to antelope hunters but there were not as many antelope this season as in the past.

I took a few more trips out scouting before Joe arrived from Anchorage and located 2 nice bucks within 1/2 mile of the rancher's hayfield. Both were good bucks. The smaller of the two had really heavy bases and matching cheater knobs that were 1 1/2 inches long growing off each digger. The other was a 14 1/2" buck with good diggers and good mass.

The season opened Aug 15th and Joe arrived Aug 13th for a few days of scouting. After canceled flights and lost bags he visit us on the web at... www.trophyhuntermag.com

made it to Wyoming. We had to drive around the 14th to pick up his bags at a different airport. After some confusion, we were able to head out and look at the 2 bucks the night of the 14th.

After talking with the ranch and a short look around we spotted the 2 bucks just a few hundred yards apart. We got a good look at both of the bucks and it was a hard one to pick between. We agreed whichever buck gave us an opportunity in the morning was going to be the one.

Before we went home, we stopped to shoot my rifle a few times so he could get used to it. A few shots at 100 yards and it was good. I then had him try a 615-yard shot. He ranged the target and dialed the knob on my scope and Joe smoked it...he was good to go!

Opening morning we were up at 5:30 a.m. After a cup of coffee, we headed out to be at the hayfield at first light. A 30-minute drive and we were there. We were both excited and had high hopes that both bucks were going to be in the field.

On the way in to the field there was a good buck and some does in the dark right off the main road but they looked to be headed to the field so we did not spook them and just drove off.

As the sun came up we could see a few antelope in the field, but after searching there were no bucks visible. They moved off the field before light. We drove to the other end of the area to see what was moving and saw two new bucks we



Badlands

Ted will receive a pack from Badlands for his story. See page 40 for more information.



Gear List

- **RIFLE:** Gunwerks Remington 7mm Mag
- **BULLET:** 168 gr Berger VLD
- **CAMO:** Sika
- **RANGEFINDER:** Swarovski

had not seen before. They were moving through some thick greasewood. We started our stalk and walked to within 200 yards of the bucks before they saw us and ran straight back the way they came from.

We set up on the bigger buck 2 or 3 times but it was too brushy to get a shot. They moved off and over the hill and out of the 1/2 mile we had to hunt but I knew they would be back that evening, so we let them go.

We remembered the buck we saw in the dark on the way to the field and drove around to where we saw the buck and he was still there with 10 does. He was chasing them around and we were able to take some good still photos of him and size him up. This buck was bigger than the two original bucks we were hunting. Joe was ready and I told him if he shot this buck it would be an awesome trophy for his first antelope.

He was in an open area and we needed him to move more up into the hills. We didn't want to push him so we just waited to see what he would do. Down the road, a semi loaded with big hay bales was approaching. I could see it was going to spook the antelope. They were going to run up the hill where we could go after them. Joe was ready and he loaded the 7mm.

As the semi passed by, the antelope ran up the ridge and we followed. The antelope stopped halfway up and we were right behind them. The buck was in the back and I ranged him at only 55 yards. Joe was set up and looked back at me and I said to go ahead and shoot.

The shot rang out and the antelope scattered. The buck ran 20 yards and started to sway side to side and crashed to the ground. Just like that, Joe's first antelope hunt was over and it was only 7:30 a.m. opening morning.

We gave high fives and Joe was super excited. As we walked up to his buck I could see super mass and great prongs. I looked at Joe and said, "This buck is way bigger than I thought." Joe thought I was joking but I was not.

We got him back home and put a tape on him. He was 14 5/8" tall, with 6 6/8" bases, 6 1/8" diggers and had great top mass. I came up with a gross score of 81 2/8". I look at Joe and told him he had shot a monster. He was extremely happy with his antelope and decided to shoulder mount him.

Joe is hoping to return to Wyoming in the future to hunt again. Congrats, Joe, on this awesome goat. I had a good time with Joe and look forward to future hunts like this one. 