

## BEFORE THE

watched them take numerous world-class mule deer over the years. If I was going to be guided, it would be by SHHC.

The summer prior to my hunt, my guide, Russell sent me pictures of numerous bucks. Two of the bucks was a beautiful clean typical; the other, a big nontypical with numerous kickers and in-lines. If you've ever received summer velvet photos from your guide, I can assure you, it messes with your mind. The anticipation was now killing me! It would be nearly 3 months before I would have a chance at the buck of my dreams!

October 24th finally came and I found myself sitting at a table across from Russell making a plan for the first morning of our hunt. He was extremely excited about the bucks he had been scouting and we spent

Tn 2020, I decided to entrust my rifle hunt to time reviewing numerous pictures of them, but I Sandy Hills Hunting Company. I have known knew which one I would want to pursue - the big non-Lone of their guides for quite some time and have typical. The bucks were still in bachelor groups and holding a pattern. This would be a huge advantage to us. With a large storm forecasted, we knew the first two days would be our best opportunity to hunt before the weather likely change everything.

Opening morning found us on a high vista glassing were the world-class deer I mentioned above. One for the bachelor group that contained the big nontypical. For the first hour of sunlight all we were able to turn up were does and small bucks. Then, Russell was able to glass up a couple of the bucks that had been hanging with the big non-typical. To our horror, they were on a neighboring property that was being hunted by the landowner and his family. Luckily, we were able to glass the big buck laying in some scrub brush 200 yards off to the side of the main group of bucks. He was so well hidden we didn't feel anyone else would be able to see him. At around 8:30 we backed off of our vantage point and decided to go check another property for the big typical.







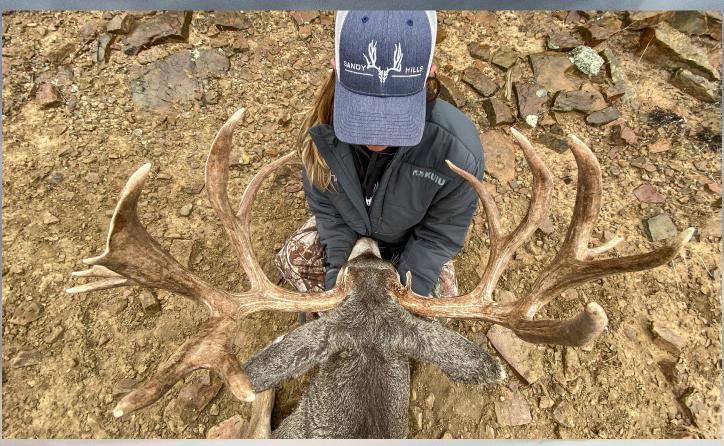
truly magnificent to watch.

The second morning of the hunt we woke up to a dense fog and anyone that has hunted mule were making our way up the draw Russell suddenly attempting to do the impossible and top this buck!

was still bedded in the same place we had left him. dropped to one knee! He turned and whispered that We stared at him for the entire afternoon hoping that the big non-typical was 100 yards in front of us just he would move onto property. The other hunters on the edge of the pinon trees. I quickly chambered came and went throughout the afternoon but never a round and rested the gun on Russell's shoulder. left their vehicles. As big bucks do, he never moved The buck was quartered to me and getting ready to an inch all evening. It gave me a whole new respect bolt! I put the crosshairs on the point of his shoulder for how smart large Mule Deer bucks are, he was and squeezed the trigger. As soon as I squeezed the trigger, I heard that beautiful "whap" we all love! My dream buck ran 60 yards and was down!

As we walked up to the buck, I don't know who deer knows that isn't exactly a recipe for success. was more excited, me or Russell? These guys truly Undeterred, we headed to the ranch to look for the love what they do. The non-typical is a buck of many non-typical. It was pretty evident that long range lifetimes! He had everything you could ever want in glassing was not going to work as visibility was about a mature mule deer. As we sat there admiring him, 150 yards. We decided we would work into a draw the snow began to fall and it seemed as if all was on the backside of a hayfield along some thick pinon right with the world. I want to thank SHHC for the country and see if the bucks had lingered on the amount of work these guys put in trying to ensure field a little longer than usual due to the fog. As we my success. It goes without saying, "I'll be back"









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