

The Nevada Jarbidge Wilderness Hunt was a very tough hunt. Steep and high elevation country. We hunted hard and tried to look in the areas that would be their hidden pockets of solitude but were coming up empty. Quite a bit of sign in places but none of it was fresh. We only saw 4 elk total and that was a small bachelor herd we spotted with optics 2.4 miles away bedded just below some trees on a north slope in some snow. It pays to have good optics! We just happened to catch them while glassing from the summit of another peak. Greg and I hurried down to the base of the other peak where I dumped any extra weight and to go up the other peak. From where we spotted them to where they were bedded was probably about 5 miles by foot and 2000 feet of elevation change. It took about 4 hours to cover the distance. When I got close, they were up feeding and the day was getting late. I managed to stock in carefully and get a 75 yard shot at the bull running passing shot as they tried to escape down the draw past me. With two quick followup shots, he was down.

Saw one other hunter who got a 5 pt out of a herd of about 70 the same day. We had talked to him a few different times. He was a younger guy who was hiking long distances (16 miles a day) to try to locate elk. Others we talked to were not seeing any. Most of the fresh sign was a week or two old so maybe they were pressured out by prior hunters? My brother did make the trip and while his ribs were hurting they are healing and he managed to hang in there and be good help too.

Had a good time but feel very fortunate to have gotten one given the small number of elk and limited sign. This would probably be a lot better hunt during the rut as there was a lot of older sign and a large number of rubs visible everywhere.

## Bill Littlefield



