

BACKCOUNTRY JOURNAL

The Magazine of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Fall 2017

PLUS: HANGING WITH MY CHUMS,
FOUR-YEAR VIRGINIA DEER HUNT, FIND
YOUR EAGLE EYES, A CONVERSATION
WITH REMI WARREN AND MORE



ON  HUNT

The call of the wild is in all of us... It provokes that first solo exploration, whether at 16 or 60. It propels us to ridgelines, highlines, coastlines, high crags, deep crannies, those spaces and moments when our heart forges ahead, because our head says, "No way."

We empower your desire for adventure. Whether it's your first step into the uncharted or your annual backcountry hunt, we unlock confidence in the unknown so you can create successful outdoor experiences.

Where the pavement ends, onX begins...



For more information on the most comprehensive hunting maps available visit:

onXmaps.com/hunt



TRUE GRIT

"TEN MORE MINUTES, CID." She had stopped talking a few minutes before, a telltale sign of something awry. It's a trait we share. We were on a trip of a lifetime put together by First Lite to celebrate her 9th birthday: her first backpacking trip into the storied Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in central Idaho.

It was hot – too hot. The first mile of the hike had been easy going along Marsh Creek. The excitement was heavy and the promise of hungry cutthroat trout motivating. But the next mile got steeper. Cid's llama, Marshall, ate some yarrow, which made its mouth numb, which in turn made him slobber incessantly. In good time, said slobber dripped on the back of Cid's calves.

As happens with a group, our plans to stop for lunch in "another 15 minutes" turned into 20, then 30 minutes. Finally, we found a respite next to the creek and I got Cid to dunk her head in the cool, clean water. Tears commenced, along with pleas to head home. My young daughter had hit her limit.

If you've spent any time in the woods or on the water you know the feeling: a conviction that it can't get any worse and won't get any better. It doesn't matter if you hunt, fish, kayak, mountain climb or mountain bike, you know that feeling and how hard it is to overcome.

Grit. That word best describes the moment when it's all up to you, no one else, to carry onward. The mountains, streams and cliffs don't care who you are. They give handouts to no one. There are no shortcuts, no one to do it for you. When the chips are down, you have to dig deep inside and find that spirit to carry you through. Grit is one of the endearing qualities that only public lands and waters can create.

Cid's face gradually changed from bright red to a softer shade of pink. Her breath had returned to normal and she had added some much-needed fuel to her tank. She still wasn't convinced she could power through, but her mood was changing. She started to talk again.

I decided to tell her a story about Theodore Roosevelt, an often-discussed icon in the Tawney household. Roosevelt grew up with debilitating asthma. Instead of succumbing to the affliction, he worked hard to overcome it. He climbed peaks, boxed and lived the strenuous life. He and no one else made the choice to overcome something that could have easily hampered his lifestyle. He showed grit.

After finishing the story, I let the words linger and left Cid by herself to contemplate. When I came back minutes later, she was ready to roll.

Cid crushed it on the remaining mile of trail – a mile even steeper than the last. She beat many of the adults and raised her arms in triumphant joy upon reaching our alpine lake destination. Her exuberance had returned, and she promptly jumped into the icy waters and, for effect, ate a black stonefly nymph. While my story about T.R. may have motivated her, she did it herself. She learned a life lesson, and I couldn't be more proud.

Each and every day, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers members, dedicated volunteers and badass staff work to protect and promote your public lands and waters, those place where you too can challenge yourself and find that inner grit.

We covet those places. We need those places. They're part of our DNA. Not only do we channel that grit in the field, it also drives us to protect and promote those very places.

Enjoy all that fall has to offer, and I hope to see you on the trail. Stay gritty! 



Cidney Tawney and her pack llama, Marshall, take a much-needed breather on their way to go fish some high alpine lakes deep in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

Onward and Upward,

Land Tawney
President & CEO

WHAT IS BHA?

BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS & ANGLERS is a North American conservation nonprofit 501(c)(3) dedicated to the conservation of backcountry fish and wildlife habitat, sustaining and expanding access to important lands and waters, and upholding the principles of fair chase. This is our quarterly magazine. We fight to maintain and enhance the backcountry values that define our passions: challenge, solitude and beauty. Join us. Become part of the sportsmen's voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife. Sign up at www.backcountryhunters.org.

STATE CHAPTERS

BHA HAS MEMBERS across the continent, with chapters representing 35 states, the District of Columbia and two provinces. Grassroots public lands sportsmen and women are the driving force behind BHA. Learn more about what BHA is doing in your state on page 26. If you are looking for ways to get involved, email your state chapter chair at the following addresses:

- alaska@backcountryhunters.org
- alberta@backcountryhunters.org
- arizona@backcountryhunters.org
- britishcolumbia@backcountryhunters.org
- california@backcountryhunters.org
- capital@backcountryhunters.org
- colorado@backcountryhunters.org
- idaho@backcountryhunters.org
- michigan@backcountryhunters.org
- minnesota@backcountryhunters.org
- montana@backcountryhunters.org
- nevada@backcountryhunters.org
- newengland@backcountryhunters.org
- newmexico@backcountryhunters.org
- newyork@backcountryhunters.org
- oregon@backcountryhunters.org
- pennsylvania@backcountryhunters.org
- southeast@backcountryhunters.org
- southdakota@backcountryhunters.org
- texas@backcountryhunters.org
- utah@backcountryhunters.org
- washington@backcountryhunters.org
- wisconsin@backcountryhunters.org
- [wyoming@backcountryhunters.org](mailto>wyoming@backcountryhunters.org)



THE SPORTSMEN'S VOICE FOR OUR WILD PUBLIC LANDS, WATERS AND WILDLIFE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ryan Busse (Montana) Chairman	Ben Bulis (Montana) Vice Chairman
J.R. Young (California) Treasurer	Heather Kelly (Alaska)
Sean Carriere (Idaho)	T. Edward Nickens (North Carolina)
Ted Koch (New Mexico)	Mike Schoby (Montana)
Ben O'Brien (Texas)	Rachel Vandervoort (Montana)
Michael Beagle (Oregon) President Emeritus	

STAFF

President & CEO Land Tawney, tawney@backcountryhunters.org	Southeast Chapter Coordinator Josh Kaywood, josh@backcountryhunters.org
Alberta Public Lands Coordinator Aliah Adams Knopff, aliah.knopff@gmail.com	Backcountry Journal Editor Sam Lungren, sam@backcountryhunters.org
Donor and Corporate Relations Manager Grant Alban, grant@backcountryhunters.org	Operations Director Frankie McBurney Olson, frankie@backcountryhunters.org
Southwest Chapter Coordinator Jason Amaro, jason@backcountryhunters.org	Central Idaho Coordinator Mike McConnell, whiteh2omac@gmail.com
State Policy Director Tim Brass, tim@backcountryhunters.org	Communications Director Katie McKalip, mckalip@backcountryhunters.org
Campus Outreach Coordinator Sawyer Connelly, sawyer@backcountryhunters.org	Social Media and Online Advocacy Coordinator Nicole Qualtieri, nicole@backcountryhunters.org
Collegiate Curriculum and Outreach Assistant Trey Curtiss, trey@backcountryhunters.org	Northwest Outreach Coordinator Jesse Salsberry, jesse@backcountryhunters.org
Office Manager Caitlin Frisbie, frisbie@backcountryhunters.org	Membership Coordinator Ryan Silcox, ryan@backcountryhunters.org
Conservation Director John Gale, gale@backcountryhunters.org	Merchandise and Membership Specialist Ty Smail, smail@backcountryhunters.org
New York and Pennsylvania Public Lands Coordinator Chris Hennessy, c.hennessey@comcast.net	Chapter Coordinator Ty Stubblefield, ty@backcountryhunters.org
Great Lakes Coordinator Will Jenkins, will@thewilltohunt.com	Interns: Ryan Hughes, Carter Birmingham, Alex Kim, Emily Madieros, Maddie Vincent, Dakota Wharry

JOURNAL CONTRIBUTORS

Jack Ballard, Reid Bryant, Jan Dizard, Natalie England, Ryan Hughes, Mark Hurst, Ken Keffer, Paul Kemper, Emily Madieros, Spencer Neuarth, Jared Oakleaf, Tim Romano, Dusan Smetana, Dale Spartas, Maddie Vincent, George Wallace, Merv Webb, Dakota Wharry

Cover photo: Dusan Smetana

Backcountry Journal is the quarterly membership publication of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. All rights reserved. Content may not be reproduced in any manner without the consent of the publisher. Writing and photography queries, submissions and advertising questions contact sam@backcountryhunters.org. Published October 2017. Volume XII, Issue IX

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



BHA LEGACY PARTNERS

The following Legacy Partners have committed \$1000 or more to BHA for the next three years. To find out how you can become a Legacy Partner, please contact grant@backcountryhunters.org.

Lou and Lila Bahin, Bendrix Bailey, Mike Beagle, Sean Carriere, Chris Cholette, Dave Cline, Dan Edwards, Todd DeBonis, Blake Fischer, Sarah Foreman, Whit Fosburgh, Stephen Graf, Ryan Huckleby, Richard Kacin, Ted Koch, Peter Lupsha, Robert Magill, Cholly McGlynn, Nick Miller, Nick Nichols, William Rahr, Adam Ratner, Jesse Riggelman, Jason Stewart, Robert Tammen, David Tawney, Lynda Tucker, Karl Van Calcar, Michael Verville, Barry Whitehill,

BHA HEADQUARTERS

P.O. Box 9257, Missoula, MT 59807
www.backcountryhunters.org
admin@backcountryhunters.org
(406) 926-1908

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, ALASKA

BY MADDIE VINCENT

IMAGINE A PLACE UNTOUCHED BY THE WORLD as we know it, where your eyes never find an end to the tundra, rivers, mountains. Where there is more wild than your mind can comprehend and the stillness moves every inch of your being into a state of calm isolation. No filters. No friend requests. Just raw life.

Few places offer an escape more real than the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, America's 19.6 million-acre, multi-faceted crown jewel of the wildlife refuge system. The refuge is home to 47 mammal, 42 fish and 201 bird species that span a wide range of arctic and subarctic ecosystems. But it's the number with a dollar sign that's grabbing people's attention: \$3.5 billion of total oil revenue the Trump administration believes is beneath the refuge's Coastal Plain.

However, these numbers are questionable, and the threat of oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge is not new. Conservationists have been fighting attempts to open the area to development since the late '70s. But with the nation's current political climate, coupled with the state of Alaska's voted-on support, oil drilling is closer to becoming a reality.

The Coastal Plain is a 1.5 million-acre biodiversity hotspot, known as the biological heart of the refuge. Oil drilling would disrupt the habitat of hundreds of species, including the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. The Porcupine Caribou are the furthest migrating mammal herd on earth and are sacred to the native Gwich'in people.

"Drilling in the refuge would impact the caribou and exacerbate climate change. The last thing we need is to put the pedal to the gas on climate change," said Barry Whitehill, a BHA Legacy Partner and Alaska Chapter board member.

Whitehill hunts the refuge every year, as well as guiding white-water floats through the Brooks Range, one of the most remote areas within an already isolated refuge. This isolation draws a special kind of adventurer willing to be exposed to the elements.

"When hunting in the refuge, you feel like you're part of a process that's been going on for eons," Whitehill said. "It's the last place you can feel what Lewis and Clark felt."

Hunting in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is unique for more than just its challenging landscape. In 1980, it was established as the refuge it is today under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Under ANILCA, the secretary of the interior had to identify special values of the refuge, from scenic to archeological, before a conservation plan could be considered. Roger Kaye, a 30-year U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service employee and the first BHA member from Alaska, helped develop hunting as one of these special values. He sees it as a key to the refuge's protection.

"Hunting is not recreation here. It's not the place to just get your animal. It is a place to hunt in the wilderness and become a part of the natural scheme for a moment. Hunters feel it in their bones," Kaye said.

Kaye's book, *Last Great Wilderness: The Campaign to Establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge* (2006), details the movement to protect the Arctic Refuge and the conservationists who were instrumental in its designation. He believes the campaign was rooted in a growing fear for the technological future – and that hunters played a crucial role in proposing and supporting the refuge.

"Some guys were concerned with the ethics of hunting and thought there ought to be a place that exemplifies a venerable hunting experience," Kaye said. "So, this is the place where we draw the line. It's a place of skill, effort and perseverance, not gadgets and vehicles."

Kaye says that because the refuge is renowned, it attracts a special segment of hunters, like Whitehill, who help maintain the wilderness character and ecological integrity. He believes that if the area is open to drilling, the quality of the wilderness and hunting experience will vanish.

"People are concerned with the numbers of caribou and muskoxen that will be impacted, but the whole issue is not a numbers issue. The essential wildness is the concern because when you put oil fields out there, more than 10 generations of caribou will be displaced and will lose their migratory knowledge. Their wildness will be lost."

Now, almost 30 years after its establishment, ANILCA is getting a second look. In a government memo issued Aug. 11, 2017, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service outlines its request from the secretary of the interior to amend the section of ANILCA that restricts oil exploration plan submissions in the Arctic Refuge. The department must respond to this request by Sept. 30, 2017, and if these changes are accepted, companies will be able to apply to explore oil drilling within the refuge's boundaries.

Dean Westlake, an Alaskan Inuit and state representative, supports oil exploration and helped draft a resolution in support of drilling that made it through to Washington, D.C., last March. Westlake believes that drilling on the Coastal Plain will help protect the refuge by getting more people to have a vested interest.

"A lot of times, it's the commercialization of something nearby that makes it pertinent to what you'd like to see in perpetuity," Westlake said in a phone interview with BHA. "If we develop, now everyone is going to be in this to make sure this wildlife is secure. What company wants to get in there and be accused of wildlife extinctions?"

Kaye and Whitehill disagree and are working with the Alaska BHA Chapter to educate people about the refuge and to broaden their support base, which they believe will help protect the refuge.

"The biggest thing we're trying to do is take people out, expose them to the refuge's fragileness and exponentially increase the voices that say it's not a barren wasteland – it should be fought for and protected," Whitehill said. 🐾

Maddie is a journalism graduate student, University of Montana soccer team member and Backcountry Journal intern.

BACKCOUNTRY JOURNAL

The Magazine of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Fall 2017
Volume XII, Issue IX Table of Contents

Features

Speechless: Dreams, Nightmares and Wyoming Moose <i>By Jared Oakleaf</i>	32
My Chums <i>By David Zoby</i>	36
For the Love of the Hunt <i>By Natalie England</i>	42
Poem: Do the Math <i>By George Wallace</i>	45
Sweat Equity <i>By Mark Hurst</i>	48
A Conversation with Remi Warren <i>By Ryan Hughes and Sam Lungren</i>	54

Departments

President's Message <i>True Grit</i>	3
Your Backcountry <i>Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska</i>	5
BHA Headquarters News <i>Podcast & Blast, New Staffers, Photo Contest Winners, Elliott State Forest, National Monuments Review</i>	8
Backcountry Bounty	11
Faces of BHA <i>Katie DeLorenzo - Albuquerque, New Mexico</i>	13
Public Land Owner <i>Sabinoso Wilderness, New Mexico</i>	15
Stream Access Now <i>BHA members defend and improve sportsmen's access to lakes in LA, SD and WA</i>	16
Backcountry Bistro <i>Venison Chislic</i>	19
Beyond Fair Chase <i>Fair Chase and Public Access</i>	21
Kids' Corner <i>Nuts About Fall</i>	23
Opinion <i>Worth Fighting For</i>	24
Chapter News	26
Instructional <i>Eagle Eyes</i>	56
End of the Line <i>Black Out Pack Out III</i>	62

Dusan Smetana photo



NEW

MOUNTAIN JACKET

Light and minimal, the Mountain Jacket is built for disappearing acts. The seam-taped WINDSTOPPER® makes you invisible to the wind, while the nylon face ghosts through brush and scrub. Imperceptible in your pack, it's our lightest windproof jacket for the early and mid season.

SITKAGEAR.COM



SABINOSO WILDERNESS, NEW MEXICO

BY RYAN HUGHES

NEW MEXICO'S SABINOSO WILDERNESS is 16,030 acres of remote desert. Creeks lined with cottonwoods and willows flow through the bottoms of massive canyons cut into the landscape. Rocky cliffs loom over groves of pines and junipers where elk, mule deer, black bears and turkeys may be caught roaming. The Sabinoso is a landscape that is equally beautiful as it is unforgiving. It is also completely surrounded by private land, making it the only wilderness area that is inaccessible by overland travel.

Legislation to designate the Sabinoso as wilderness failed several times before finding its way into Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, where it received President Obama's signature. But since its designation, the Sabinoso has remained effectively closed to any who wish to hunt, hike or explore. In 2016, the Wilderness Land Trust purchased the adjacent Rimrock Rose Ranch with plans to donate the ranch to the BLM. If accepted, this donation would allow passage into the Sabinoso through the southwestern boundary.

A chorus of conservation organizations have since urged Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to accept the donation of the 3,314 acre ranch and open the Sabinoso. At press time, the secretary had not officially accepted the donation, although he has indicated that he plans to do so.

"I originally had concerns about adding more wilderness-designated area," Zinke said in a statement. "However, after hiking and riding the land it was clear that access would only be improved if the U.S. Department of the Interior accepted the land and maintained the existing roadways."

As it stands, the only way to gain entry into the wilderness is by obtaining permission to cross a surrounding ranch or by miraculously dropping in from the sky. The lack of opportunity for hunting the Sabinoso leaves curiosity in the minds of many hunters. This makes any insights and experiences of hunting in the Sabinoso valuable. With a special draw archery mule deer tag in hand, New Mexico BHA member Joel Gay was able to secure permission to cross a surrounding private property. Though he was not sure what to expect there, Joel was enthused to have the opportunity to venture into an untouched landscape surrounded by both controversy and curiosity.

"This is some really tough country. And it's beautiful country. And it probably hasn't been hunted in many years," Joel said.

What Joel found was rugged terrain and a desolate landscape. Trails were scarce. The September heat was practically begging

him to pack up his gear and end his hunt, but the sight of fresh game tracks kept him on his toes as he glassed his way through the southern portion of the wilderness. Though he walked out of the Sabinoso emptyhanded, Joel gathered a rare perspective, piquing curiosity of what game might inhabit the northern regions.

"It's criminal that we have a wilderness area in the United States that's currently landlocked with no access to it," Joel said. "We need to get access to it. It will be great for anybody who wants to see some beautiful country and try to get a turkey in the spring or fall – and even knock themselves out by trying to get a deer."

Zinke made his statements following a visit to the Sabinoso, where he toured the area on horseback alongside Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, both of New Mexico and vocal supporters of the Rimrock Rose Ranch donation. They were joined by BHA President and CEO Land Tawney. In a press release, Sens. Udall and Heinrich show appreciation for Zinke's support, along with a recognition for the importance of public lands.

"This is a major gain for New Mexico and would not be possible without the generosity of the Wilderness Land Trust and the dedication of the local community and sportsmen who have championed this effort for many years," Heinrich said. "I am grateful that Secretary Zinke visited our state and recognizes just how special the Sabinoso truly is. Traditions like hunting, hiking, and fishing are among the pillars of Western culture and a thriving outdoor recreation economy."

BHA Southwest Chapter Coordinator Jason Amaro helped lead a grassroots campaign to secure access to the Sabinoso Wilderness. He believes that Zinke deserves recognition for taking a pro access stance, but as a New Mexican hunter, he is still awaiting the land donation to be finalized.

"If there was any doubt that sportsmen and women have a voice, the secretary's announcement should settle that debate," Jason said. "Together, hunters and anglers unanimously urged Secretary Zinke to do the right thing, and now we've taken a step to securing public access to one of New Mexico's premier wilderness areas. We thank Sens. Heinrich and Udall for their leadership to get us here and look forward to continued partnership with Secretary Zinke and his staff to finalize this long awaited agreement."

As hunters dream of entrance into the Sabinoso, hunting season inches closer. Though Zinke's plan to accept the land donation is worthy of applause, his actions will be the true testament to his commitment to both public lands and American sportsmen. 🐾

Ryan is an intern at Backcountry Journal.