

# TAKING THE HUNT TO A HIGHER LEVEL

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## HUNTING IS HARD ENOUGH. BUT DOING IT WITH BOW AND ARROW DEMANDS EVEN MORE COMMITMENT, KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILL



*Bowhunting seemingly defies logic. Roughly three of four rifle hunters don't get their elk each season, so why make it even harder by using arrows, rather than bullets? Some die-hard bowhunters may hunt for decades before finally calling in a bull elk close enough for a clear shot. Some never get the chance. Yet bowhunting's popularity grows each year.*

*Bowhunters say they do it for the challenge. They must stalk (or attract) quarry to within 30 yards or less (some firearms hunters can kill an animal at ten times that distance). Such hunting requires an extraordinary amount of patience, ability, and woodsmanship.*

*Another appeal is the link to hunting's origins. Though bows have changed, the basic concept of firing a sharply tipped projectile using the energy of bent limbs is still the same as it was when prehistoric bowhunters killed mammoths...*



TIM CHRISTIE



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*This is a silent, solitary sport. No gunfire shatters the backcountry stillness. And few other hunters are afield during the early archery seasons, allowing for privacy impossible during the later gun hunts. Because bowhunters must get so close to their quarry, they become experts at camouflaging themselves and their movements. To be a bowhunter is to disappear, however briefly, into the natural world. . .*



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*Some archers still use traditional longbows or more advanced recurves. But most depend on compound bows, which have cams and pulleys that make it far easier to hold a draw while waiting for the perfect shot. Such technological advancements have made bowhunters more successful than in years past.*



*But just barely. There's still no getting around the fact that sneaking close to a wary elk or deer, then finding a clear shot through the thick foliage that hid your approach, is not just a challenge. It's a downright miracle. 🐻*



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