

# FLYING B BRANCH

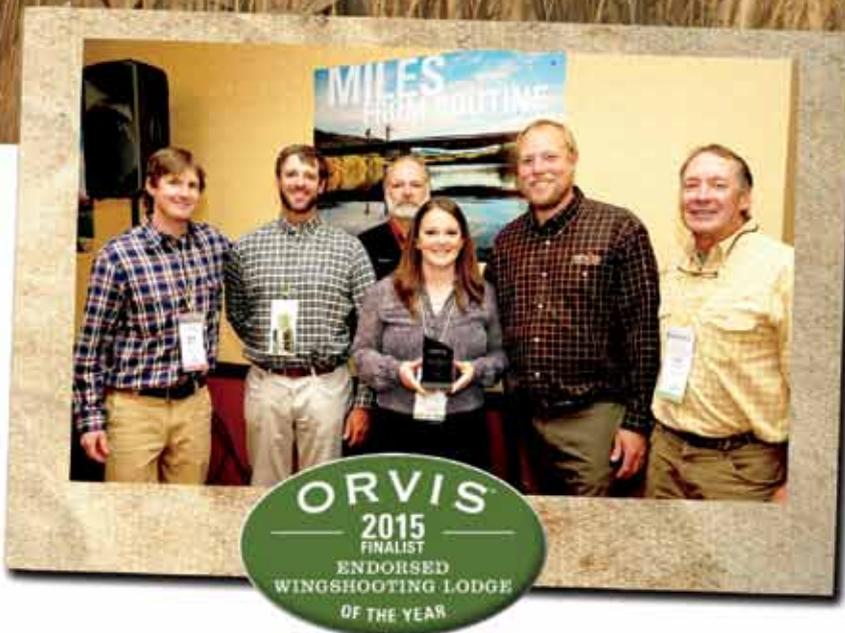
KAMIAH, ID EST. 1985



## SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT SUMMER 2015

The day began like any other at this magnificent sporting lodge. Atop the mountain side I watched the dog lift from the valley below. Blank, the German short haired pointer, nosed eagerly at the ground as I waded through the back brush. It's paws stoned as something caught his attention. My pulse quickened as I shouldered my shotgun and waited for the morning quarry.





## Orvis Final Four

Having been named the 2014 Orvis Wingshooting Lodge of the Year, we were honored to have been one of the 4 finalists named by Orvis for the same award in 2015 announced this April at the Orvis Guide Rendezvous in Missoula, Montana. This is an elite group of lodges and this recognition we receive from Orvis is due largely to our guest reviews, so we want to thank our guests again for your loyalty and support; you are the key to our success.

*L to R: Reid Bryant (Wingshooting Service Manager at The Orvis Company), FBR staff Rich Coe, Joseph Peterson, Karen Syron, Jeremi Syron, and Dave Perkins (Vice Chairman at The Orvis Company)*



## CALENDAR

**August 6-12:** Orvis fly-fishing school at Osprey Camp

**August 15:** Wingshooting season opens

**August 30:** Archery season opens for deer and elk

**September:** Steelhead make their way up the Clearwater River for steelhead season

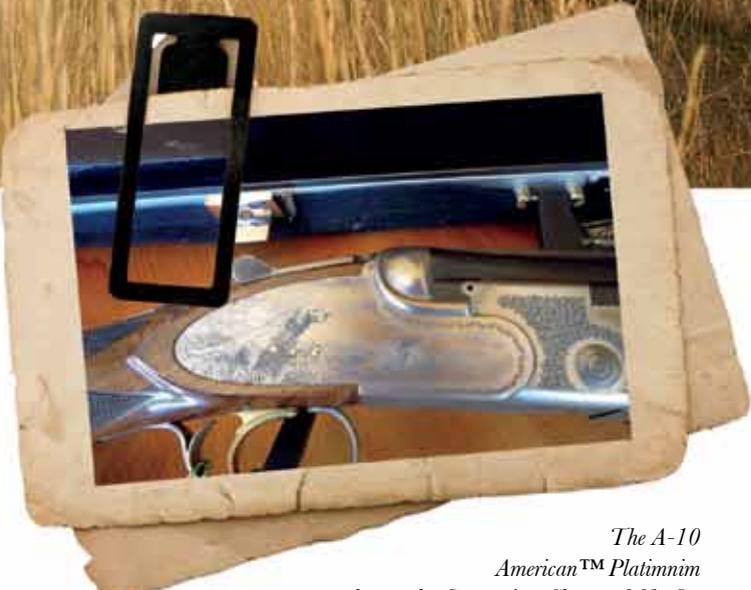
**September:** Special rifle season for elk in Selway Wilderness

**October 10:** Beginning of rifle deer & elk season

**December 1:** Beginning of mountain lion season

Hunting is a good excuse for buying new guns.

Our General Manager, Joseph Peterson, is as serious about guns as he is about hunting. He selects quality firearms to carry in our pro shop with the same care a curator would select paintings for a national museum. Guns are investments, selected for function and beauty. We are a licensed FFL gun dealer with a diverse selection of quality firearms for bird and big game hunting.... or just plain collecting. We don't stop at what's on the gun rack; we are glad to assist you in searching for and purchasing firearms specifically to meet your wants and needs.



*The A-10  
American™ Platinnim  
shotgun by Connecticut Shotgun Mfg. Co.  
epitomizes what a truly fine shotgun should be.*



## Make Your Fate

A guide's advice on deer hunting success

By Jeremi Syron

When people think big game hunting, most people envision deer hunting. Whitetail and mule deer hunting is a treasured pastime among sportsmen. Some of us are fortunate enough to deer hunt multiple times throughout the year. However, many of us plan and prepare a year or more in advance for one deer hunt. You can never be too prepared for a hunt. If you are going on a guided deer hunt you are relying on the knowledge and experience of your guide. However, your chances for success are also largely dependent on your preparation for the hunt. Over the last 12 years of guiding big game hunts, I have guided hunters of all ages and experience levels and found that they can greatly increase their odds of success by considering the following when preparing for their hunt.

The first big decision is whom to hunt with. Although we hunt whitetail and mule deer at the Flying B Ranch, we hunt wild, free-ranging deer without high fence and although we want you to consider us when looking at a guided deer hunt, we know that we're not taking all of you in the field. Regardless of who you go with, these tips are first-hand from a guide that loves nothing more than to see hunters succeed in the field.

Before contacting outfitters, ask yourself what your primary goal is for your deer hunt. Although all hunters hope to get a deer, that may not be the first thing that comes to mind. Your first thought may be that you are wanting to go on a hunt with your aging father while he can still do so. You may want to go for your first mule deer, experience a traditional wilderness hunt, or maybe take your first deer with your bow. Perhaps

it isn't even related to your success, but rather to be there when your son or

grandson shoots his first deer. If you think about it, many of us hunt for many reasons aside from just wanting a trophy. Deer hunting is a tradition among hunters that strengthens bonds between family and friends. Some of my best memories of time spent with my brother, father, and grandfather were centered around deer hunting as a young man. Not every deer shot was big enough to mount, but we kept them all because each had a story worth telling years down the road.

If you are looking for a deer hunt for yourself or another person new to hunting, ask potential outfitters about how that will influence your hunt experience. Some outfitters like us may even offer hunter safety certification programs on-site. And don't feel shy about asking for references. Any outfitter who honors their commitments to their hunters should be more than willing to provide you with contact information from some past hunters. Booking a deer hunt is a big decision. If you purchase a new pair of boots online you probably look at some of the reviews or at least what the average star rating is for the product. A hunt is a big purchase, and hunter references, like customer reviews, are just one more tool available to you in making that big decision.

Having assessed what your goals for the hunt are, begin talking with outfitters about how they can focus on helping you to achieve those goals. One of the biggest suggestions I can make is to be honest with yourself and the outfitters you talk to about any physical limitations. If you have any physical limitations such as a bad knee, previous heart surgery, medical conditions, asthma, or you're just out of shape...those are not deal-breakers when it comes to deer hunting. No denying that deer hunting can be extremely physically demanding, and the better

“Be present in the hunt, enjoy the pursuit, and when the opportunity arises, take great pleasure in knowing that you were responsible for your own success.”



*Opposite Page: Mark and Ariel Brasel with a mule deer taken on a hunt with the Wounded Warrior Project.*

*Center: Jeffery Hicks with his whitetail buck from our Gedney backcountry camp.*

*Far Right: Riley Jalinski from Boise, Idaho with her mule deer*

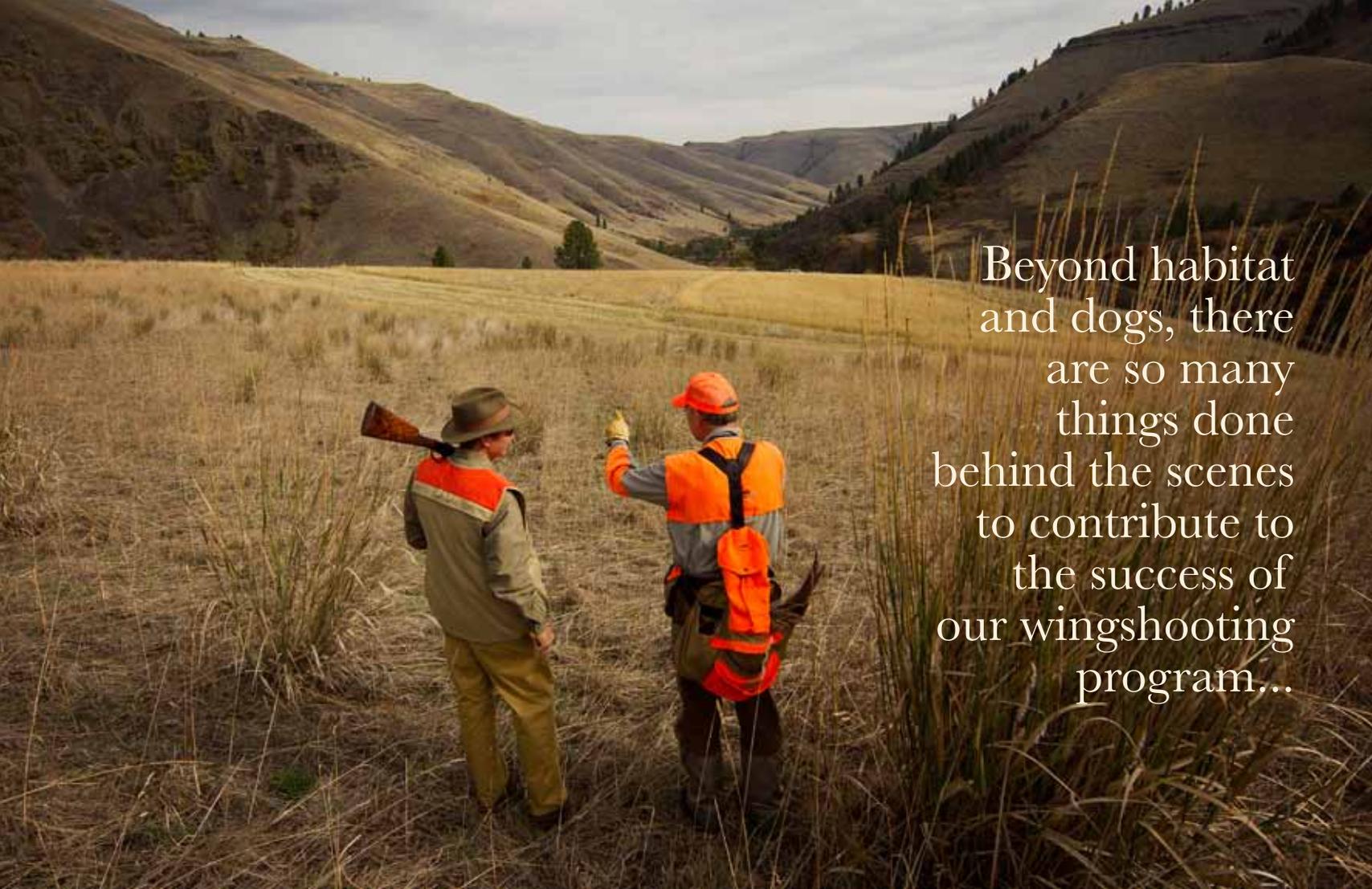
shape you are in, the more options you will have when hunting. However, if you discuss your limitations openly, you would be amazed at what an outfitter can do to customize a hunt to meet your needs and still present you with great deer hunting opportunities. In the past I have guided veterans wounded in service, men with Parkinson's, and numerous other challenges and helped them to achieve success in the field.

You know the expression “you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink”.... I can present a hunter with a shot opportunity, but I can't pull the trigger. We do all we can to put you in front of a deer, taking into account our experience with the location, what we've seen scouting of the deer habits, feeding, weather, moon phase, etc. Despite scouting and preparation on our end, we cannot guarantee a shot opportunity, although we are fortunate to have relatively high success in comparison to industry standards. I know as a guide and hunter myself, that to spend hours or days in pursuit of a deer and finally get a shot opportunity, just to mess up the shot is beyond disappointing. You must practice with your weapon before arriving for your hunt. Whether rifle, bow, or even handgun, you need to be proficient at shooting that weapon in a variety of positions and all possible angles. In the field you aren't shooting from a bench at a level target. You may have time to take a knee, shoot off sticks, you may be resting against your hunt pack, or even lying prone in open country scenarios. In addition to shooting stance, try to find a place to practice

shooting at angles such as shooting uphill, downhill, across a draw, etc. Understandably it may be difficult to find a range/ location to practice these scenarios, but if you are fortunate to have the ability, please take advantage of it. If nothing else, try to plan your time of arrival for the hunt so that you can get in some shooting practice at their range on site which may present some of these variables in practice.

Lastly, ask your outfitter for a gear list so that you are clear on what they provide for you and what they suggest you bring. Guides are used to hunting in that area and most likely will have their own suggestions on what they bring into the field with them. Take their advice because they want you to be successful too. They may suggest things you wouldn't have thought of while also thinning out some items you won't need and lightening your hunt pack. Don't bring every hunting gadget you have available to you; bring the correct things to be comfortable and prepared and it will increase your odds for success.

Preparation is key to success. Do your part to prepare for the hunt so that when the time comes to embark on your deer hunting adventure, you can focus on enjoying the moment. Be present in the hunt, enjoy the pursuit, and when the opportunity arises, take great pleasure in knowing that you were responsible for your own success.



Beyond habitat  
and dogs, there  
are so many  
things done  
behind the scenes  
to contribute to  
the success of  
our wingshooting  
program...

## Before the Flush: Behind the Scenes of our Wingshooting Program

By Karen L. Syron with Rich Coe

Everyone who has experienced wingshooting at the Flying B Ranch first-hand knows how to have a good time. The terrain is varied and breathtaking, the guides and dogs unmatched, the birds plentiful, and the accommodations make the time out of the field an experience to talk about in itself. But before the season starts (and even before it ends) there is a lot of work that goes into our wingshooting program, specifically our habitat and dog training work. If you are someone who sees an exciting new gadget for the first time and wants to know “how does it work?!”..... then this is for you.

Our wingshooting program is based on a foundation of focused planning and team effort to create optimal bird habitat. On the Flying B Ranch property we hunt primarily ringneck pheasant, Hungarian partridge, chukar, and valley quail. These bird species have their individual preferences when it comes to habitat, and if you have experienced hunting at the Flying B Ranch you know there is no other wingshooting destination that offers the variety of terrain that we can with this unique property. But beyond what nature and God has provided, we must do our part. This is where our planning comes in. Habitat is a three-part project of weed abatement, planting, and fertilizing focused at improving our bird cover and food resources. Before the wingshooting season even ends in the Spring we begin doing as much grass burning as we can in preparation for the work going into next season. The burning helps to make the grass grow back thicker, maintaining moisture and helping to choke out weeds.

If done well, this can substantially reduce the amount of spraying we do. In past years we have used other methods in addition to spraying—renting a herd of 500 goats under the direction of a Basque shepherd to target thistle across the ranch. Weed abatement is a necessary part of the project. Following burning we do some localized weed spraying by tractor and 4-wheeler wherever able. And for those areas where tractors and 4-wheelers are not enough, we do precision spraying by helicopter on approximately 400 acres each year.

In early Spring we also do our fertilizing and planting of our food crops. Although our planting is focused on doing the best for our birds, the food crops provide valuable resources to our whitetail deer, mule deer, and turkey populations as well. We do all of our own crop planting by tractor, planting primarily wheat and sorghum. At the same time of year we are fertilizing as well, most of which we have applied aerially by local crop-dusters.

In addition to food crops, we do extensive grass seeding to maintain our excellent bird cover. We seed for grass in the Fall, using our tractors where able. However, most of our seeding is applied aerially by plane dropping intermediate wheatgrass and tall wheatgrass, both prime cover crops for upland game birds.

Now that we have provided full bellies and the cover to hold these birds, we need well-trained bird dogs to locate and flush them from their hiding places. Like habitat, dog training involves careful planning, team effort, and constant work. It’s an amazing feeling, that moment when the hours of training and natural drive come together and the dog just “gets it.” But just because they got it doesn’t mean the work is over, constant reminding and correction is essential.

Our dogs are the heart of our wingshooting program. We actively manage our kennel of bird dogs to ensure that we have well-trained

dogs in the field this year and next. The Flying B Ranch usually has a litter every year at the start of Summer and will begin working with these dogs almost immediately. As soon as they are able to stumble around in the grass, we are dragging wings from twine for them to chase. It is remarkable how these dogs are born “birdy”; they have the born desire to hunt, but lack the know-how; that is where we come in. Although you could say that every time a dog hunts they are constantly being trained, the majority of our training is done in the Summer. We maintain high Summer temperatures, commonly above 90 and exceeding 100 at some points of the Summer, so our guides are out at the break of dawn to get in their training time. We focus on training these young dogs and refreshing older dogs with pigeons, using auto-backers and bird launchers. We put young dogs on pigeons, enforcing the “whoa.” With our older dogs we also use pigeons to enforce the behavior of “honoring a point.”

To keep our experienced dogs keen on commands, we force break those dogs that may still have some trouble with retrieving as well. All of this training is essential to good dog work, but beyond discipline and precision, these dogs are athletes and physical conditioning is just as much a part of it. When hunting season starts these dogs run hard, nose to the ground in search of birds and that takes stamina. In order to get them in shape for the start of our wingshooting season we swim the dogs a lot during the Summer months as well as running them. Beyond habitat and dogs, there are so many things done behind the scenes to contribute to the success of our wingshooting program at the Flying B Ranch. We will save these other components for another time. For now, we hope that the next time you are at the Flying B Ranch, wading through the 6’ tall cover grass of Stillman, unable to see your feet in front of you and your guide says “we’ve got a point here”.... you will appreciate that next flush just a little bit more.



## Chef Says...

### Going Dutch: pineapple upside down cake

By Ryan Nelson

#### You will need:

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 20 ounce can sliced pineapple
- 1 8 ounce jar maraschino cherries
- 1/3 cup unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 10 inch Dutch oven
- 20 charcoal briquettes

Follow directions on cake mix box but use 1/2 pineapple juice from the can and 1/2 water (use all pineapple juice if you have a sweet tooth). Melt butter in the Dutch oven and sprinkle brown sugar evenly over the melted butter. I like to drain the pineapple rings well and place on paper towels before putting them on top of the butter and brown sugar mix. Place a well drained cherry in the middle of each pineapple ring as well as on the outside of the rings. Pour cake mix on top of pineapple rings. Douse the briquettes with lighter fluid and set fire to them. Once the edges are starting to get gray, they’re ready (usually about ten minutes). Place five coals on a heat safe area and put the Dutch over them. Place the remaining 15 coals on top of the Dutch oven and let cook for 25 minutes or so. Once you can smell the cake, it usually means it is done. Don’t lift the lid until you can start to smell the cake or you will lose all of the heat from the oven and will take much longer to cook. You can stab the cake with a toothpick to check if it is done. The toothpick will come out clean if it is indeed done. I like to let the cake rest for about fifteen minutes before I place a plate over the Dutch oven and carefully turn it upside down. The sugar and butter should be a nice golden brown and the cake nice and moist. You can make this up to a day ahead of time, but I like to serve it within a few hours of cooking. This is a staple at every backcountry hunt I do and gets great reviews.



# 30 years of outstanding service

By Joseph Peterson

The Flying B Ranch has been providing service to outdoorsmen for 30 years- hunting, fishing, and enjoying the outdoors in its many facets. I have been a part of the "B" team for 20 of those years- managing for the last 10. I am asked quite often what sets the Flying B Ranch apart from other similar companies in this industry and that attribute is easy to identify- our people. "A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher."—Jesus

*General Manager Joseph Peterson and long time guest Judge Brozen from Chattanooga TN*

The above quote is sometimes shortened to "The student shall be as his teacher" and that is the case with the staff at the Flying B Ranch. The B in our name stands for the Burlingame family with Mr. Robert Burlingame being the teacher in treating team members, suppliers and customers with respect, dignity and hospitality. Mr. Burlingame and his two sons Kevin and Seamus have set a very high

standard through the years for making people feel comfortable and welcome. Their attitude flows to our management and then to all of our team members.

The average time of employment with the Flying B Ranch for our team members is over 10 years. We pursue our employment out of passion and not simply a paycheck. We are wingshooters, fishermen, dog handlers, big game hunters and servers first, and employed by the Burlingame family second. We take vacation to do the same things we do on the job- fish, hunt, enjoy the outdoors and serve others at church, school and in the community. This shows how our service to you comes from the heart and not just done to fulfill our job description.

There are places that provide aspects of the outdoor experience and accommodations better than we may. There are better buildings than our almost 20 year old structure- but none more welcoming. There are destinations where one could shoot more game than they do here- but not with more accommodating guides. There are facilities with nationally famous chefs, but no place has food prepared with more heart. There are places that are bigger, newer, fancier and have more "fluff", but there is not an outfitter in the world who has what we have the best of- and that of which I am personally most proud of- our team of people who take such great joy in working on your behalf. All you who have been here can attest to this high level of welcoming to our hunting "cabin" and those who have not, you will experience it as a breath of fresh air in the world of declining service.



*The B in Flying B: (Center) Owner Robert "Bob" Burlingame with his sons Seamus (Left) and Kevin (Right)*

"We are wingshooters, fishermen, dog handlers, big game hunters and servers...

Our service to you, comes from the heart..."

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