

# THE BIG BULL

FOR SALE THIS YEAR  
LIVE AUCTION

The winter of 2012/2013 saw the arrival of a special Rocky Mountain bull elk on the National Elk Refuge. Due to the bull's large antlers and wide spread, he became quite a celebrity with visitors to the National Elk Refuge. As his celebrity status grew, some of his fans began referring to him as "Brutus."

While the National Elk Refuge refrains from assigning human names to any wildlife, they fully acknowledge the legendary status this animal has received from wildlife enthusiasts. The refuge refers to him as "The Big Bull." His status and antler size surpass any bull elk that refuge staff or folks in the Jackson Hole area can remember.

Most of the Scouts were unaware of this celebrity. As we were sorting antlers in the spring of 2013, we came across a huge single antler. One of our volunteers, Wayne Boyd, was determined to find the



match. You can imagine our amazement when he showed us the match he had made. We knew these antlers must be one for the record books. And so began the legacy of **The Big Bull**. His antlers were so unique that the refuge decided not to sell them. These antlers have a Boone and Crockett score of 431<sup>7/8</sup> and were displayed in the 2013 auction to the excitement and pleasure of all who attended. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation took that first pair and mounted them, then took them on the road in the 2014 Great Elk Tour to delight elk and antler enthusiasts at every stop.

With the sad news of **The Big Bull's** demise in November of 2017, he left us his last set of antlers, still attached to his skull. **Now you can own a piece of history from the National Elk Refuge.** His beetle cleaned, European skull mount will be sold at our live auction this year.

To see more photos and information about The Big Bull, visit [www.elkfest.org/bigbull/](http://www.elkfest.org/bigbull/)  
For information about registration and forms, visit [www.elkfest.org](http://www.elkfest.org)  
See the backside of this flyer for the story of his antlers over the years.

*Make plans to see the only public display we can provide. Get your picture with The Big Bull.*

## Here is the story, year by year, of this amazing bull and his antlers.

**2012/2013** The first set of antlers was collected in the spring of 2013. The antlers have 6 points on the right and 8 points on the left including a drop tine. Because of the drop tine, this set of antlers is considered non-typical. The gross score for these antlers is  $431^{7/8}$ . The right main beam is 5 feet long; the left is 59 inches. This set of antlers is thought to be the largest pair found in recent history on the refuge. The antlers were mounted courtesy of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and were on display in the 2014 Great Elk Tour in 2014. From 2015 to 2017, the antlers were on display at the Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center. They went on tour again during the 2018 Great Elk Tour. Currently, the antlers are on display at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Visitor Center in Missoula, MT.



Photo credit: Lori Iverson/USFWS

**2013/2014** No antlers were collected. Former Refuge Manager Steve Kallin evaluated a photo of **The Big Bull** from that winter and estimated the inside spread of his antlers was 52 inches.

**2014/2015** The second set of antlers was collected in the spring of 2015. This is a 6 x 7 set that lacks a drop tine. The antlers were mounted courtesy of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. This set is on display at the National Elk Refuge Headquarters.



Photo credit: Steve Kallin/USFWS

**2015/2016** The third set of antlers is a 6 x 7 set collected in 2016. The Boone and Crockett gross score for these antlers is  $432^{1/2}$ . The antlers were mounted courtesy of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. They are currently on display at the Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center at the north end of town.

**2016/2017** The gross score for the fourth set of antlers collected is  $415^{6/8}$ . This 7 x 7 set weighs 28 pounds and has an estimated spread of 57 inches. It has not been mounted.

**November 2017** A skull with 6 x 7 antlers was collected by refuge staff on the National Elk Refuge. While it cannot be confirmed with absolute certainty, refuge staff believe the skull is from **The Big Bull**. This skull has been beetle cleaned and has a gross score of  $382^{5/8}$ .

**The Big Bull** spent several winters occupying areas on the National Elk Refuge. During his time on the refuge, staff observed visible signs of aging based on **The Big Bull**'s size and body conformation. The diminishing gross scores for his sheds also seem to indicate **The Big Bull** was aging. He may be gone, but he certainly is not forgotten. This is your one chance to make "his" story a part of yours.