

I don't have a huge Brown Bear to show for my efforts. Not because I didn't see enough bears, I saw over forty brown bears. Not because I didn't get close enough, I had eight at 30 yards or less at full draw, most were 8.5 feet tall but I had seen 9.5 – 10.5 foot bears and that's what I was waiting for.

On day 9 of a 10 day hunt, my guide Chris and I hiked about 1 mile to a bend in the creek we had hunted for 8 days. The salmon were still running in this part of Alaska and the Brown Bears were traveling up and down the river hunting for fish.

We headed towards a bend where we had seen several 9 to 10 foot bear coming in and out of all week, but from where we sat on a high hill it did not look like you could get in there because of all the thick alders. Once we arrived it was perfect, we were on a bend in the creek about 20 feet above a bank and no brush to hinder a shot but just enough to hide in. About 20 minutes after setting up, here comes a huge 9.5 foot brownie about 100 yards up stream. He was huge, no doubt a shooter. As he was approaching I made sure everything was perfect and got set to draw. Out of the corner of my eye to my left I saw another bear right in front of me staring at the larger bear. I looked back to see were the big boy was. He was gone now and had come out of the creek 12 yards to my right. I turned and went to full draw but there was a small bush right in front of him covering the kill zone. So I waited. About 20 seconds later he turned slowly and picked us off 12 yards away, facing us head on. Thank God Chris had a locked and

loaded 375 H & H Magnum. The big brown finally started turning to leave and I waited for him to get broad side. I cut the shot behind the front leg about 8 inches above his brisket; it looked like a perfect shot. After spending the following day looking for that bear, it was determined my shot was too low and forward, there was not enough blood for a bear to have bled to death.

## HE PICKED US OFF 12 YARDS AWAY, FACING US HEAD ON

I will be going back in the fall of 2005. I wrote this story to talk about my adventure but also to tell my fellow bow hunters how awesome Tracy Vrem, the outfitter of Blue Mountain Lodge was. Tracy made me feel like I was the only hunter he had. Tracy only takes 5 hunters at a time. All had guides one on one, my guide Chris was great. My camp was comfortable and the food was good. But the most important factor was that Tracy would fly over camp at least every other day to make sure we were happy where we were at and were seeing plenty of bears. He was ready to relocate us if things were not working out at a moments notice. I have been on lots of hunts in my life and by far Tracy Vrem was the best I have ever met. I have never fished with Tracy but hope to soon. Whatever Tracy is selling, I will have no reservation going with him. I've been on big dollar hunts that were disappointing. Just because you pay a lot of money doesn't mean you'll get a great outfitter that knows about bow hunting. You need a person that will give you a lot of tender loving care, because it's all about chance and opportunities. So to my fellow sportsmen, if you're looking for trips that Tracy offers, you can't go wrong.

### Tracy Vrem's Blue Mountain Lodge

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Alaska 2003