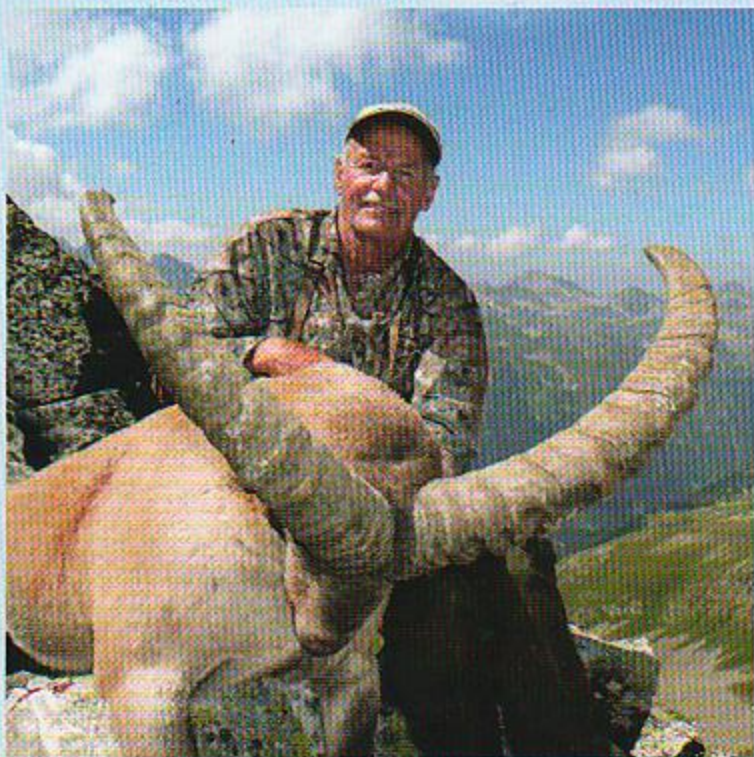


Kuban (Western) tur

I don't normally try to book two hunts in succession, but I wanted to hunt the Caucasus Mountains for both the Dagestan (Eastern) tur and Kuban (Western) tur. I set up the Eastern tur hunt in Azerbaijan with Riza and Mehmet of Caprinae and Riza introduced me to Alexy of **ProfiHunt** to hunt the Kuban (Western) tur in Russia. These men and their office staff were excellent at setting up and coordinating a very smooth transition from Azerbaijan to Moscow and then to the western Caucasus Mountains via Mineral'nyye Vody to hunt the Kuban.

The conflicts between Russia and Georgia were ongoing and it was questionable at times as to whether the hunt might ever take place. As it turned out, I was able to travel without incident even though we encountered a convoy of troops returning from the conflict. In fact, one soldier at a border check asked Alexy who I was and when he said I was American, he reached into the back seat and shook my hand telling Alexy that I was the first American he had ever seen. After



This Kuban (Western) tur was taken in Russia by Arnold Jardstrom (CA) in August 2008. Arnold was hunting with ProfiHunt.

seven hours driving and an overnight in a small village close to the hunting area, the next day we connected with a local who had horses ready for us and our gear. We rode two more hours up the mountain and set up spike camp approximately 10 miles from the border of northern Georgia.

The following morning, loaded down with backpacks, sleeping bags and food, thinking we might be camped there for the next couple of days, a hunter from Hungary, **Antel**

Beck, Alexy, my guide, two extra guides and I climbed for two hours to the top of the mountain. It was steep, rocky, and covered with areas of shale that made it very dangerous. While having lunch, we spotted some rams 800 yards away. We started to stalk the turs but the loose shale and rolling rocks spooked the animals and they disappeared over the top of the mountain.

Alexy and the other guides devised a plan to situate Alexy and me 3/4 of the way up the ridge while Antel and his guide stayed at the bottom of the mountain in case they detoured in that direction. The extra guide circled behind the opposite side of the mountain to spook the rams in our direction. It worked in my favor. It wasn't more than 15 minutes before two rams showed up above us running across the side of the mountain. Alexy told me to shoot the first ram when they slowed to a walk. The shot was true at 260 yards. I had a beautiful tur on the first day. Thank God, because we didn't get back to spike camp until two hours after dark. After 15 hours of climbing and hunting on the first day of the hunt, I was very pleased and excited for the accomplishment. This was my fourth trip hunting in the Caucasus Mountains. As every sheep hunter knows, the Caucasus are no cake walk.

I want to thank ProfiHunt, especially Alexy and the staff, for all their help in making this a very special hunt.