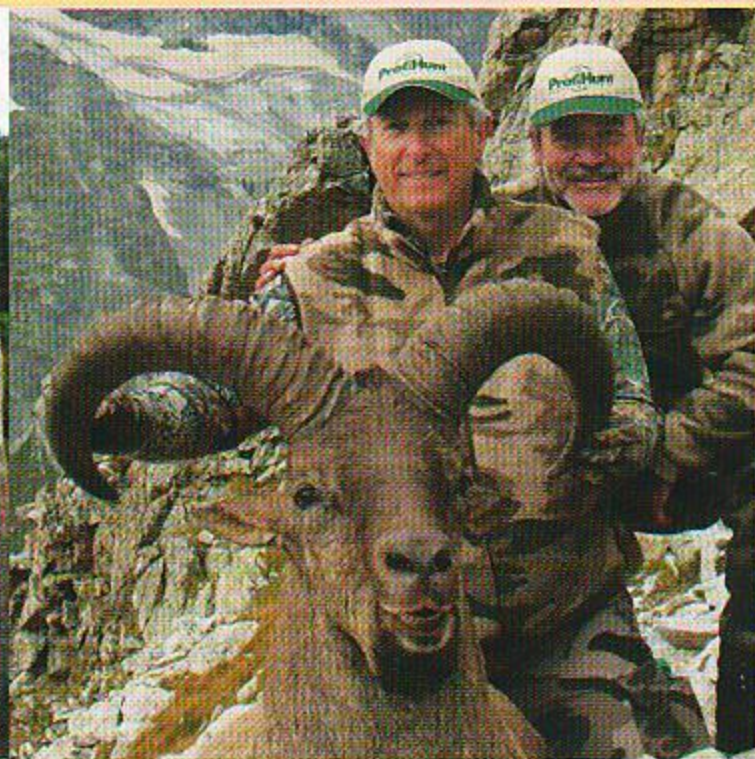


Gary Hansen (CO) took this Mid-Caucasian tur in Russia during September 2008. This completed his Ovis World Slam Super 30. Gary was hunting with Vladimir Koshcheev of ProfiHunt.



Gary Hansen (CO, left), Vladimir Koshcheev (right) and Gary's Caucasian chamois from Russia, September 2008. This chamois completed the Capra World Slam Super 20 for Gary.



Gary Hansen (CO, left) and Vladimir Koshcheev (right) with Gary's Kuban (Western) tur from Russia, September 2008. Gary was hunting with ProfiHunt.

Gary Hansen (CO) has now achieved two very lofty goals in the sheep and goat hunting world – an Ovis World Slam Super 30 AND a Capra World Slam Super 20. Gary reached these levels on a hunt he took in September 2008 in the Caucasus Mountains. Gary took a Kuban (Western) tur, Mid-Caucasian tur and a Caucasian chamois. Gary wrote a report of how it all unfolded and I'll let him take it from here:

*In September 2008, my good friend **George Harms** (NJ) and I ventured to the Caucasus Mountains in search for the Kuban (Western) tur, the Caucasian chamois and the Mid-Caucasian tur. I had previously taken the Dagestan (Eastern) tur in 2004 and since then, always wanted to get back to the beautiful Caucasus to complete my "Quadruple or Grand Slam of the Caucasus." The hunts were booked directly with **ProfiHunt**, and **Vladimir Koshcheev** was my personal guide and interpreter throughout all three hunts and accompanied me from Moscow to all three hunt areas and back to Moscow. On all three hunts, we were in wilderness areas, hunted out of tent spike camps and each utilized a local guide.*

On both tur hunts we camped at, or just above timberline near glacier fields and hiked from our spike camp to glass, spot and stalk the tur. On the Kuban hunt, once Vladimir located a band of four rams containing what appeared to be two decent rams, in a high glacial basin, it took us about three hours for the 2,500 foot ascent and to get into a good shooting position. Once there, we had to wait about 40 minutes for the high cross winds to die down before taking the shot on what I felt was the better of two good rams. The weather conditions were perfect throughout that hunt.

*The Caucasian chamois hunt took place about 50 miles north of the Kuban (Western) tur hunt but at a much lower elevation and in the spotty timber. As with other species of chamois, they also like the steep terrain. In the afternoon of the third day of the hunt, we spotted one good lone male across a canyon, feeding out of the trees and into a small opening, which provided me the opportunity I needed. This trophy marked a formidable milestone for me as it placed me at the **Capra World Slam Super 20**. Of course, later that night, George, the guides and I celebrated*

by breaking open some of that great Russian vodka!

*The Mid-Caucasian tur hunt was very similar in all aspects to the Kuban hunt, except a little more vertical and with more weather. Muaeed, my local guide, felt we needed to be up at elevation and in with the tur by daybreak and Vladimir agreed. So; the three of us were out of our tents at 2 a.m., had some hot porridge and coffee and began our two mile, 5-hour, 4,000 foot ascent in the dark, in the rain, in the fog, into tur country. How Muaeed found his way up that mountain is still a mystery to me. Once we reached the upper basin that Muaeed had in mind and daybreak was only a few minutes away, the fog began rolling out. We quickly located rams, but they were still some 800 yards above us. The sight of those rams and the adrenaline rush it caused, completely wiped out any feeling of exhaustion or chills. After a bit more climbing, I had my opportunity and my ram was down. Because of the extreme steepness, he began tumbling, losing considerable elevation, covering approximately 600 yards during his fall and to my amazement ended up in one piece with horns intact. This was another great moment for me, as well as Vladimir and Muaeed, as this marked the completion of my "Quadruple Slam of the Caucasus" as well as my **Ovis World Slam Super 30**. There we were: wet, cold and exhausted; jumping up and down hugging one another, while trying not to duplicate the tur's tumble down the steep slope. That night – more great Russian vodka!*

Without hesitation, I would say the Caucasus are some of the steepest but beautiful and majestic mountains I have ever hunted in. I would suggest one be prepared for a 400-500 yard shot, bring your range finder as well as an anemometer and a mindset for a little climbing. My sincere gratitude goes out to ProfiHunt and Vladimir Koshcheev for these three experiences. Their hard work and excellent relationships with their local hunt partners made this whole adventure come off without a hitch.