

Todd Black is a Community Based Conservation Program Specialist.

As soon as I was old enough to draw and color I was constantly drawing pictures of deer or elk. Most of them involved my dad or me shooting at some big buck or bull on a far away hill. My mother said I always had a one track mind, my wife says it's an addiction but someone has to do it right?

As I grew up I spent a considerable amount of time in the outdoors mostly with my dad then with all my best friends and younger brothers. I did it at the time because I loved it and still do. Growing up in a small rural town it was about the only thing you could do and stay out of trouble. So we lived outdoors, it was here that I knew that I wanted to have a job where I could be outside in the hills enjoying Mother Nature.



Having a love for archeology as well, I knew I needed to be an archeologist or a biologist. I choose to be a biologist. In my illustrious career, I have worked for state wildlife agencies, federal land management agencies, private consulting companies, and now for a state university as a research specialist. I spend a big share of time either working with upland game birds or big game mostly mule deer. I count animals, observe and document wildlife behaviors, write reports (which I hate), attending meetings (more than I would like), more counting, checking and tracking, making recommendations, traveling from here to there, and trying to spend as much time as I can out in the hills doing what I love. I am fortunate enough to have the job that I do and a kind enough boss that allows me to take several weeks off in the fall where I outfit/guide for deer and elk all in my spare time. Through it all, I still manage to stay married to my wonderful wife of 21 years and am fully devoted to her and my three children who are tolerant enough to allow me to work and play in the field I love.