



Greg Dyson poses with a bull elk he killed with his bow in 2006.

# SATELLITES AND BROW TINES

KNOWING TRAVEL ROUTES, FEEDING AND BEDDING LOCATIONS PARAMOUNT

**Story by Greg Dyson**  
For the Blue Mountain Eagle

**T**here's just something about the opening couple days of the Oregon bow elk hunting season, especially in the big meadow areas like the big cattle ranches like the great Holliday Ranch, JC's, Silvie's Ranch and, of course, the great Logansport Valley area!

Fresh up and at 'em from the Parish Cabin and try to time it so we could get there right at shooting time, trying to make something happen with a herd of elk hell-bent on beating you to the cattle guard and safety. Once in a while, we would get lucky and drop a

bowhunter off at the right place, and we would have a high energy elk hunt, complete with getting some of the bulls to talk to us.

One of the amazing features of elk is their ability to cover several miles, navigating through steep, desolate terrain in the dark effortlessly. Over the first decade of bowhunting these giants of the forest, we began to understand the travel routes and schedules and learn their patterns.

One important aspect of bowhunting elk is to learn their feeding areas and where they bed up or rest for the day. This info is as important to a wapiti slayer as there is. Travel routes!

It was a no-brainer that any elk within 10 miles of Logan Valley was going to frequent that lush meadow several times a week and make it their grocery store, just as the elk found feed at

Logansport. They also held up on steep, heavily pine-covered mountaintops to rest and pump the brakes during the day.

Putting this info to the test early in the first week of the 2006 Oregon bow elk season, it was early quiet when I left the warm cab of my Chevy Avalanche that planted me on the middle to lower half of the steep and pine-covered mountain I planned to hunt that morning.

I covered the one-mile climb to the usually frequented bedding area in good time as morning began to give way to first light when I could have sworn I heard a high-pitched cow call with a bit of emotion mixed in about 100 yards or so up and to the right of my present location. It was the first and only elk call I had heard all morning.