

NOWA FIELD NOTES

JUNE 2023



***A NOWA CONFERENCE IS COMING TO THE TRI-CITIES - CRAFT
IMPROVEMENT – BETTER GRAMMAR (PART TWO) – WHEN IT COMES TO
WRITING, IT’S NOT ABOUT YOU – EIC RESULTS ARE IN! – MEMBER
STORIES AND SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS***

NOWA FIELD NOTES – APRIL 2023

NOWA FIELD NOTES

The NOWA newsletter is published six times a year by the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association, a registered nonprofit, tax-exempt, public supported organization under IRS 501 c3 Code. Newsletter contributions in the form of craft improvement articles, photos, member photo portfolios, news items, letters to the editor and more are welcome but cannot be compensated. Send submissions by email in Microsoft WORD format. Photos can be sent in JPEG Format. The Deadline for submissions is the 15th day of the month prior to the next edition being published. Send them to:

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THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO – Bradly Trumbo – Lupine and Paintbrush

NOWA OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND MORE

The NOWA website can be found at <http://nowaoutdoors.com>

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The NOWA Facebook Page can be found at www.facebook.com/NorthwestOutdoorWritersAssociation/



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – GETTING TOGETHER AGAIN



Well, we've finally gone and done it. After four years we (NOWA) are finally going to meet again as an organization. I am very excited at the prospect of seeing all of you again and getting reacquainted over a coffee or beer (or two). I won't go into the details in my little message here, details are in this newsletter. Please read the announcement and mark the dates. While the get together will be fun to say the least, some serious discussions regarding our organization need and will take place at this get together. Please plan to attend; it's important. I would like to ask that you all take a bit of time to turn your minds to the ways we might address the induction of new, younger outdoors communicators. Our membership numbers

are dwindling and new blood, ideas and strategies are needed to keep NOWA vibrant and relevant. Write down your ideas and bring them to our meeting in January for discussion. Seriously.

On a lighter note, the sunshine and heat has finally arrived where I live. Thank You, Lord! The insects are hatching and annual fishing trips are in the works. I hope you are all getting out and enjoying the late spring.

On the writing front, I've been busy conjuring up my annual stories of trout and salmon adventures, as well as whitetail and mulie hunting. One of my online magazines got moved to New York from B.C. and so I'm the grateful recipient of American dollars now for my work (aren't the exchange rates great... for us Canadians anyway.) Nice raise. 😊

Stay safe my friends.

Bill Luscombe

FROM THE EDITOR – GOING TO MY HAPPY PLACE

The first time I went duck hunting as a kid in Washington was in the sand dunes at the north end of 27,000-acre Potholes Reservoir in the Columbia basin. The lake is an irrigation reservoir that goes to full pool in May and drops after that to a low point in the fall, leaving a series of ponds amongst the sand dunes known as potholes that attract waterfowl, wading birds and other wildlife.

At the south end of the Reservoir is MarDon Resort and above the resort on a hill is a small community of stick built and manufactured homes favored by retirees, summer home owners and local guides and workers.



It's easy to get turned around in the sand dunes in the middle of the night lugging a bag of decoys and I learned to use the lights on the hill near MarDon as a guide point to tell me where I was. In the early 1990's my best friend Rusty Johnston started hunting with me in the sand dunes and we would camp out there every opening day weekend for years. We also fished the main reservoir in small boats and always talked about how great it would be to live by MarDon Resort next to the place we did so much of our fishing and hunting.

In 2012 Rusty and his wife made the move over and managed the restaurant at the resort for a couple of years. Rusty is a supervisor at the local Lowes Hardware store now but lives right next to Potholes State Park and as you might imagine, I visit him often to fish and hunt in the area.

In the wake of my recent divorce, I decided I wanted to go to what has truly become my happy place and now, with an accepted offer on our home in the Wenatchee Valley, it looks like that is going to happen in about a month. I was able to find a newly constructed rambler on a golf course directly across the road from Potholes State Park and about a half-mile from my best friend's house, which just happens to be the same distance we lived from each other when we were kids.

The nice thing about being an outdoors writer and independent radio broadcaster is that you can do it from anywhere and the way I figure it, I may as well do it at the place where I've always dreamed of living. I'm looking forward to the next chapter which will include learning how to golf!

John Kruse

BETTER GRAMMAR – PART TWO

This is the second of five articles that will share with you some of the secrets that many professional writers and editors use to avoid falling into embarrassing grammatical traps. Author Bob Mottram spent more than 40 years as a writer and editor in daily print journalism, including eight years working at warp speed for The Associated Press. What follows are some of the secrets that he and his colleagues used to stay out of trouble.

By Bob Mottram

In the last article, we considered how fluent users of languages worldwide routinely and correctly make their many-per-minute grammatical decisions based not on formal grammatical rules, but rather on HOW THE RESULT SOUNDS. It's a system that works remarkably well, and we got some practice using it to select the correct pronouns when using multiple pronouns or nouns and pronouns together in the same sentence. We call that the SOUNDS RIGHT shortcut. Use that shortcut properly, and you'll never make a mistake in separating grammatically correct choices from incorrect ones.

But, what do you do in the less frequent situation when more than one option may actually be correct? Yes, that is possible. Which one do you choose, and why is that choice important?

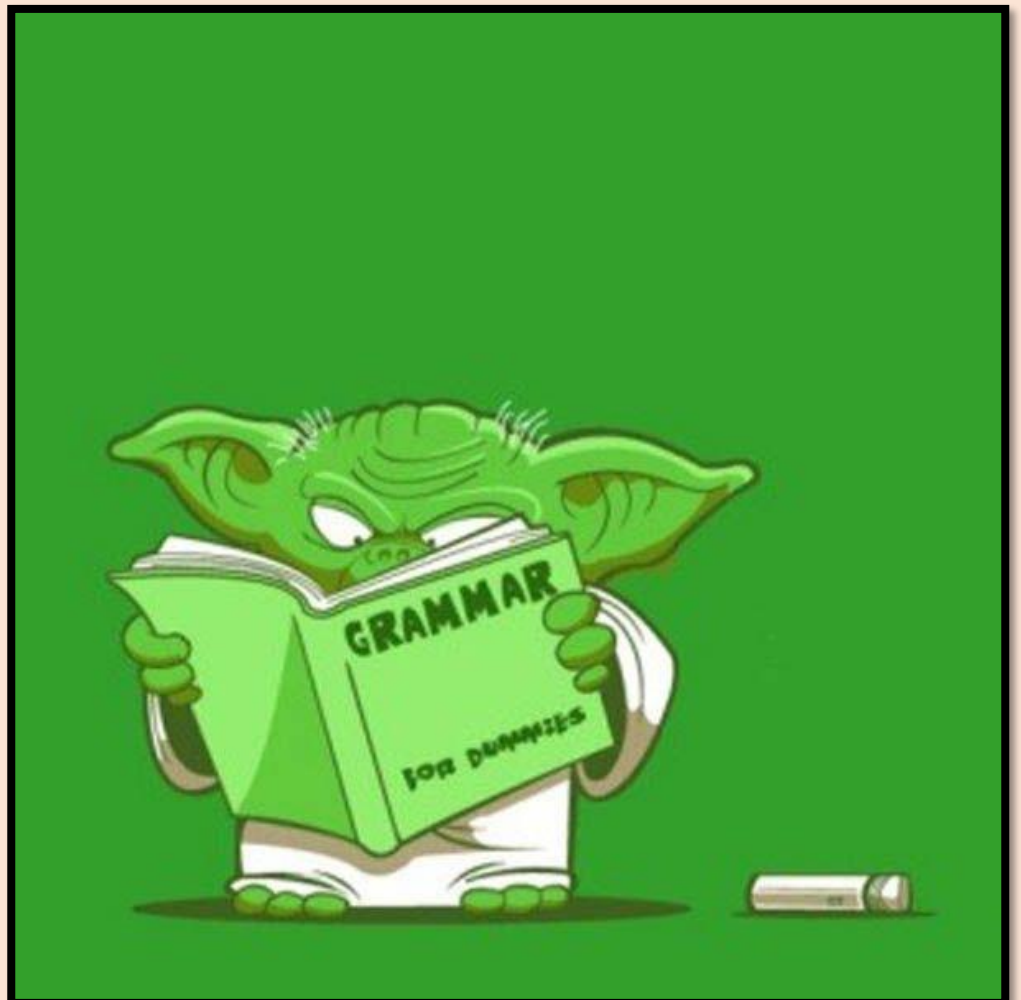
Let's say you're writing a story, and you're considering these two sentences: "She loves him more than me," and "She loves him more than I." With which should you go?

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT – BETTER GRAMMAR PART 2

Both sentences sound right, because both sentences are right, from a grammatical standpoint. So, does it matter which one you pick? Absolutely. Because, although it might not immediately be apparent, only one of those sentences will work for you. You can figure out which one it is by using the FINISH THE SENTENCE shortcut. The trick to selecting the correct pronoun in a case like this simply is to restore the words that have been dropped from the sentence.

Huh? You don't know what words I'm talking about? Well, the fact is, we often drop words both in speaking and in writing, and we count on the recipient of the sentence to restore, often subconsciously, what we dropped. It happens so often that we're rarely aware that we're doing it, whether we're the creators of the sentence or the recipients of it. Follow along, and you'll see what I mean.

Let's say you're a writer who is trying to avoid falling into another pesky pronouns trap. Consider this. "She loves him more than me." This sounds grammatically correct, and it is. But, does it actually mean what you may think it does? We'll find out by silently restoring dropped words, and seeing where that takes us. How tough is it to figure out what words were dropped? The answer is, it's easier than you might think, using logic and common sense to determine what the words should be and where they should be placed in the sentence.



CRAFT IMPROVEMENT – BETTER GRAMMAR PART 2

Here we go, (putting possible dropped words into parentheses). “She loves him more than me (loves him).” This clearly doesn’t sound right, and we learned in the last article that if it doesn’t sound right, you toss it. So, let’s try again, simply modifying the potential dropped words and moving them to the other side of “me.” “She loves him more than (she loves) me.” Hey, this looks okay. The sentence works, and we know by using the SOUNDS RIGHT shortcut that “she loves me” is grammatical.

But, wait a minute. Is that the message we really intended to send when we selected the pronoun? What if, when we were writing that sentence, we had substituted “I,” a subjective pronoun, for “me,” which is an objective one?

“She loves him more than (she loves) I.” This clearly sounds bad, so toss it, but don’t give up yet.

“She loves him more than I (love him).” Another winner.

That leaves two grammatical sentences that work. “She loves him more than me.” And, “She loves him more than I.” But you can see by restoring each sentence’s dropped words, “She loves him more than (she loves) me,” and “She loves him more than I (love him),” that each sentence has a very different meaning, and that your selection of the right pronoun is critical to delivering the meaning that you hope to convey.

One more thought about pronouns:

Personal pronouns are unusual, perhaps unique, in the English language, in the way they change form depending on what role they play in a sentence. A problem often raises its head with possessive pronouns, many of which – but not all of which – end in “s,” like most other words do to indicate that they’re possessive. “Yours” means belonging to you. “Hers, his and its” means belonging to her, him and it. “Ours” means belonging to us. “Theirs” means belonging to them. You’ve probably noticed by now that, unlike other possessive words, the possessive pronouns ending in “s” DO NOT take an apostrophe before the “s.” The pronoun that seems to cause the most trouble for writers in this context is “it.” So, remember, if you see an apostrophe there, it’s not a possessive. “It’s” ALWAYS means “it is.” “Its” ALWAYS means “belonging to it.”

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT – BETTER GRAMMAR PART 2

Your takeaways:

Sometimes a subjective pronoun and an objective one both will appear to work in a sentence, and mentally restoring the sentence's dropped words is the only way to determine which pronoun is the correct one for your purpose. Because, once the words are dropped, the pronoun's subjective or objective status is the only clue a reader or a listener has to figuring out correctly what you were trying to say.

And,

“It’s” ALWAYS means “it is.”

“Its” ALWAYS means “belonging to it.”

Don’t miss-use them.

Coming next:

The two most mixed-up words in the English language: how to sort them out, and a mental trick that will enable you never to confuse them again.

NOWA NEWS

THE EIC CONTEST RESULTS ARE IN!

The results are in for our annual Excellence in Craft Contest! A special thank you goes out to Michelle Peters and Visit Lewis Clark Valley for being a sponsor of the contest this year and to those who served as judges and coordinators (Dennis Dauble, Dave Kilhefner, John Kruse, Wayne Heinz, Robert Mottram, Gary Lewis, Matt Liere, Brad Trumbo, Natalie Bartley, Lisa Maloney, Betrand Brown, Alan Liere, Tom Knight, Risa Wyatt, Rob Phillips and John McFarland.

Congratulations to all of the winners and if you didn’t win, don’t give up. There was a lot of competition from our talented members but hey, there’s always next year!

You can see the results for the EIC Contest at [2023 NOWA EIC Contest Winners | NOWAoutdoors.com](https://www.nowaoutdoors.com/2023-nowa-eic-contest-winners/)

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT FISHING

By Gary Lewis



One of the principles I have learned about writing a column for a newspaper or a magazine is that the best stories are not about me. I try to take myself out of it every chance I get. The short way of saying that is I don't want to be the expert. I want to be the conduit.

In the best of our newspaper and magazine columns, we involve the reader as much as we can, because, to the reader, the reader is the most important person in the story. To the extent we can, we allow the reader to imagine himself or herself in the circumstances and inspire, educate and entertain.

To that end, I often find myself asking questions of experts, questions I could answer myself.

Once I asked a young fishing guide a series of questions as I crafted a story that turned out to be a boon to his business. Sometime later a mutual friend told me he overheard the young fishing guide say he was surprised that I was so dense I had to ask such questions. He missed the point of my interview; the point was to make him look good.

A good way to circumvent this is to say (when it is true), "I know the answers to most of these questions, but I want them in your words, because you are the star of this story." This sentence establishes the writer's position as conduit and the expert's position as "expert."

In truth, there is so much to learn in our respective fields that it is impossible to know everything. In fact, the more I learn about fish and fishing, the more I realize, in the context of the world's body of knowledge about the subject, I don't know much at all.

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT – DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT FISHING

In fact, most of us write for an audience that, to a degree, is more knowledgeable than we are. If we continually portray ourselves as the experts in every topic we cover, soon some in our audience will see through the façade. That's why, in a story I am working on right now, about rifle optics, I will ask two more experts questions that I know the answers to already.

Funny things happen when we pursue this course of making others look good. Their expertise is enhanced and, if they are honest, they will attribute good things that happen to the communicator who helped them. And the editors that we write for and the audience that reads our works ascribe credit to us for helping them, entertaining them, inspiring them.

Gary Lewis is a recovering twice past president of NOWA

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NOWA NEWS

NOWA PLANS 2024 CONFERENCE IN THE TRI-CITIES!

NOWA is planning to hold its annual conference in Pasco, Washington, in conjunction with the Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show. Dates are January 26-28, 2024.

“After a four-year hiatus, NOWA members will come together for an annual get-together with the added attraction of the largest sportsmen show in central Washington,” says Bill Luscombe, NOWA President. “It’ll be wonderful to see each other again after so many years.” No NOWA conferences were held in 2020, 2021, or 2022 because of the pandemic. and the untimely death of NOWA president Dennis Clay, who had planned for a conference at The Dalles that never took place.



The 2024 gathering reverts to an earlier conference model that began when the organization was founded in 1973. For the first 24 years, NOWA’s conferences took place in conjunction with the annual Sportsmen’s Show at the Seattle Kingdome held in January or February each year. For several hours on the Saturday afternoon, NOWA members met in a conference room at the show for the annual business meeting, as required by the by-laws, and a short program that concluded with a social hour. Afterwards attendees were anxious to return to the Show to visit the exhibitor booths in search for ideas for their writing, photography, and broadcast markets. In 1998, the NOWA Board started moving the conference to different locations in the four Northwest states and British Columbia where it had continued until the pandemic turned the world upside-down.

NOWA NEWS – 2024 CONFERENCE

Plans for the 2024 gathering will follow the same model as in these early years. The Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show, held at the HAPO Center, includes scores of exhibitors covering outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from archery to rafting to fishing and game hunting. It also offers outdoor seminars, hands-on demonstrations, and speaker presentations. Boats, campers, and vehicles will be on display, and at the Sportsmen’s Marketplace visitors can purchase, trade, or barter with their own outdoor equipment.

NOWA 2024 Conference activities are free for members. The program features a business meeting on Saturday afternoon (January 27), in a conference room either within the exhibition hall or nearby motel followed by discussions about the future direction of the organization. Afterwards a social hour will include appetizers and BYO bottles of wine as well as the traditional T-shirt exchange. Members then move to a private dining area for dinner and wine, all hosted by NOWA. (Other alcohol drinks are at people’s own expense.)

“In addition to re-connecting with old friends and colleagues, the tie-in with the Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show offers many benefits for our members,” says Luscombe. Some highlights:

- The Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show covers varied activities for outdoor enthusiasts throughout the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia.
- Tri-Cities is geographically central for our membership. In winter, major highways are cleared quickly after snowstorms.
- Press Passes will be accepted for free admission to the Show.
- The Show provides a great opportunity to network with vendors and tour operators to research story angles and arrange bookings to cover upcoming assignments later in the summer.
- The event is not hosted by a tourist board, so there’s no obligation to write about the destination and its activities.

NOWA NEWS – 2024 CONFERENCE

- The only personal expenses are for travel, one- or two-nights’ accommodations, and meals except for the Saturday night dinner hosted by NOWA. In addition, NOWA has been offered by the Show organizers part of their block of discounted rooms at a nearby motel, A fund has been set up for anyone who wishes to apply for financial travel assistance.
- Supporting members would likely want to participate with display booths not only for the benefit of NOWA members, but also for the wider audience the show will attract.
- NOWA has been offered by the Show organizers a double booth free where members can sell books, promote their expertise, and mingle with colleagues. With brochures on hand to promote NOWA, this would provide an excellent opportunity to recruit new members.

“More details will follow as we get closer to the meeting date, so stay tuned to the NOWA newsletter.” Says Bill. “Looking for a festive gathering of all NOWA members in seven months.”

#

For questions or suggestions, please contact:

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Peter Schroeder [Conference Organizer]: ptrschrdr@aol.com / 206-295-6362

MEMBER STORIES

CONSERVATION OF NATIVE POLLINATORS

By Mike Denny

We all keep hearing about the loss and threats to this continent's pollinators. Here in the Pacific Northwest, when we think of pollinators we instantly think of the non-native European Honeybee and maybe butterflies. This note is intended to push your mind to include many other native pollinators that we seldom if ever think of.

Early in the year here in the Lower Columbia Basin the first wildflowers to bloom can



emerge as early as the 19th of January. This is the Salt and Pepper Lomatia a multi-floral small flowering plant whose many tiny blooms are white with purple centers. Along with this plant springing to the surface also comes the emergence of a small dark fly and the arrival out of the ground of a small bumble bee species ready to pollinate the minute blooms of the lomatium. By mid-March the Sagebrush Buttercups, Prairie Stars and Grays Lomatium are blooming and with these flowers come several early native ground bees and mid-sized flies. After the first of April and the blooming of the Balsamroots the Gray Hairstreak butterflies and several more species of bumble bees, ants and beetles arrive to pollenate these big composite blooms. This is also when the first Syrphid Flies appear. These amazing mimics of wasps are also known as hoverflies. As summer progresses dozens of beetle species, ants, flies, wasps, and over 400 species of native bees arrive and set to work pollinating. The largest known diversity of native bee species in North America is right here in the Pacific Northwest. Other pollinators to conserve and protect are hummingbirds, moths, many butterfly species and even small rodent species and some bats. Please consider setting up a ground nesting bee site by allowing for vegetation free sites. Once done, never use insecticides near these sites. Remember all those plants that require pollination for the fruits and vegetables on your plates.

- Photo of a blue bee, photographed in Malheur County, Oregon by Mike Denny

NOWA FIELD NOTES – JUNE 2023

SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS – ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

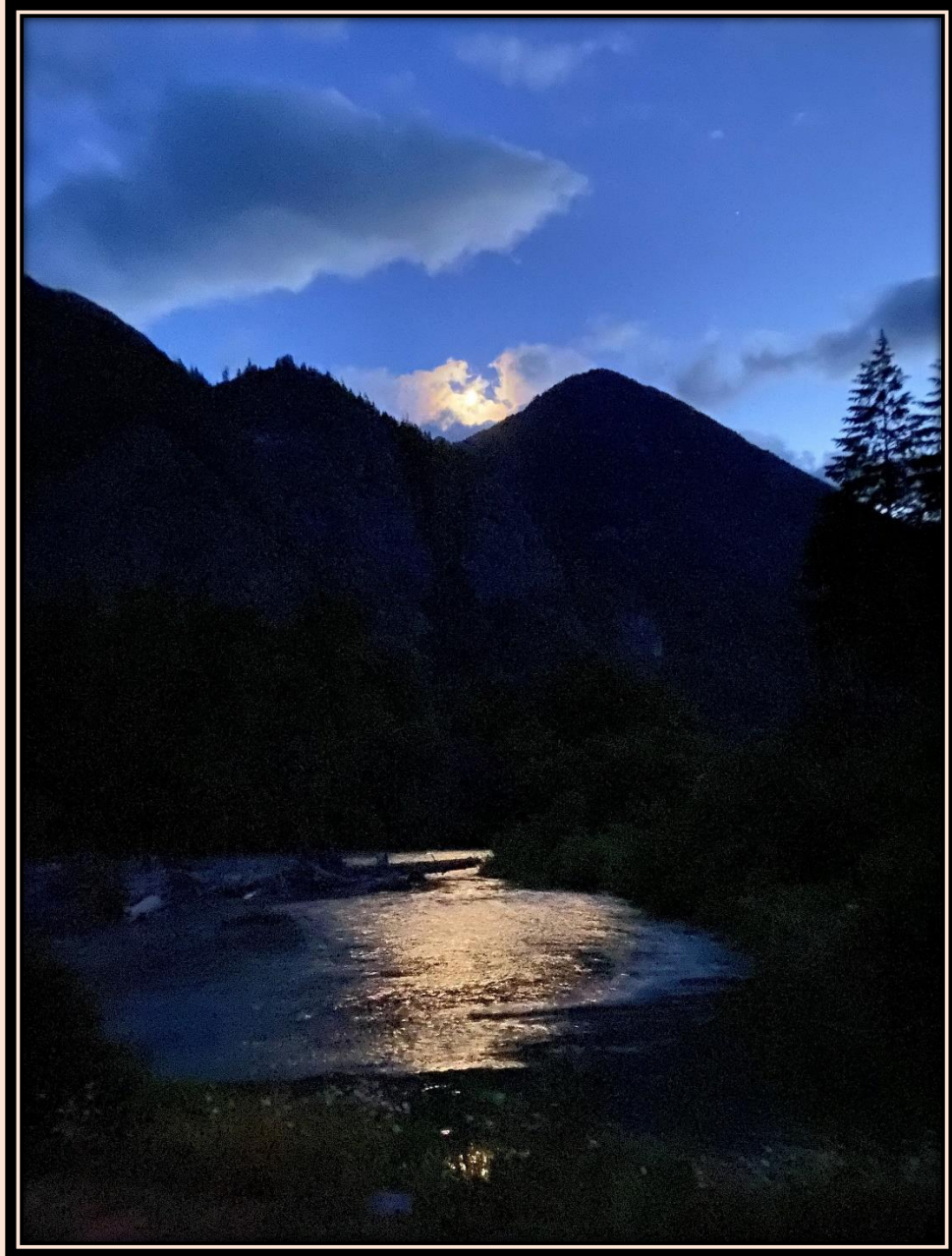
RMEF, PARTNERS CELEBRATE HISTORIC OPENING OF BIG SNOWY MOUNTAINS WMA

Submitted by Mark Holyoak, RMEF



Last month Montana Governor Greg Gianforte opened the gates to the state’s newest swath of public elk country, welcoming a surge of shed hunters to the Big Snowy Mountains Wildlife Management Area. Located about 20 miles south of Lewistown, the 5,677-acre property was gifted by the Forrest Allen Estate. The gift of this land unlocks a total of 100,000 acres of public land to hunters and outdoors enthusiasts. Find out more about this new WMA at [RMEF, Partners Celebrate Historic Opening of Big Snowy Mountains WMA | Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation](#)

FINAL SHOT



Supporting member Bob Loomis with Mack's Lure likes to spend time at his riverside cabin in Stehekin, WA and shot this beautiful evening photo. A view like this is certainly a good way to end the day and to end this edition of *NOWA Field Notes* as well.