A VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE ROCKIES

COPPER MOUNTAIN RANCH

CABIN PROJECT

We originally had this 12x16 Tuff Shed constructed for storage of camping gear & supplies in October 2013; however, we decided to turn this into a small cabin (178 total square feet that also has an upper loft area) as it might be several years before building a log home.

Another reason for the cabin is it gets quite cold at the property in the winter, so tent camping is not really an option.

Planning for the cabin transformation began in February 2014 and work began in May. The pictures to the right show the exterior and interior before work began.

First order of business was to pull county permits. Then the shed was wired for electrical by a contractor and passed inspection by mid-May. From this point on in the project, we chose DIY for all remaining work.

Two high altitude casement windows were installed on the west facing wall so we could take advantage of the beautiful views.

Since we have an abundance of trees on the property, we purchased a wood burning stove for heat. A hole for the chimney vent was cut on the east wall and the chimney was installed on the exterior and extended about 1 foot over the roof line (about 16 feet high).

With all the rough-in work completed, the ceiling and walls were insulated (that went relatively quick). Next, the ceiling was finished with pine planking to give it a rustic feel.   The pictures to the right shows "before and after" progress to this point.

With the ceiling completed, we laid down a floating durable tile floor that was in 3-foot sections (installed really quick). Bead board was installed and painted to cover the walls.

We built a hearth out of paver stones with a wood base to hold the stones in place. The wood stove was placed upon the hearth and connected to the chimney (The wood stove can heat up to 2,600 square feet and is purposely oversized to heat the cabin. We plan to install this wood stove in the log home once it is completed).

Kitchen cabinets and a countertop were installed for storage. Western cedar was used to trim out all the walls, windows & floor moulding, again, to give the cabin a rustic feel.

The last part of the project was to finish the loft area, which will hold a queen size mattress for sleeping. You can see a redwood ladder in the picture to the right that was built and leads to the loft.

In addition to building the loft ladder, a redwood railing system was built to prevent someone from accidentally falling out of the loft as it's a long drop down (8.5 foot drop).
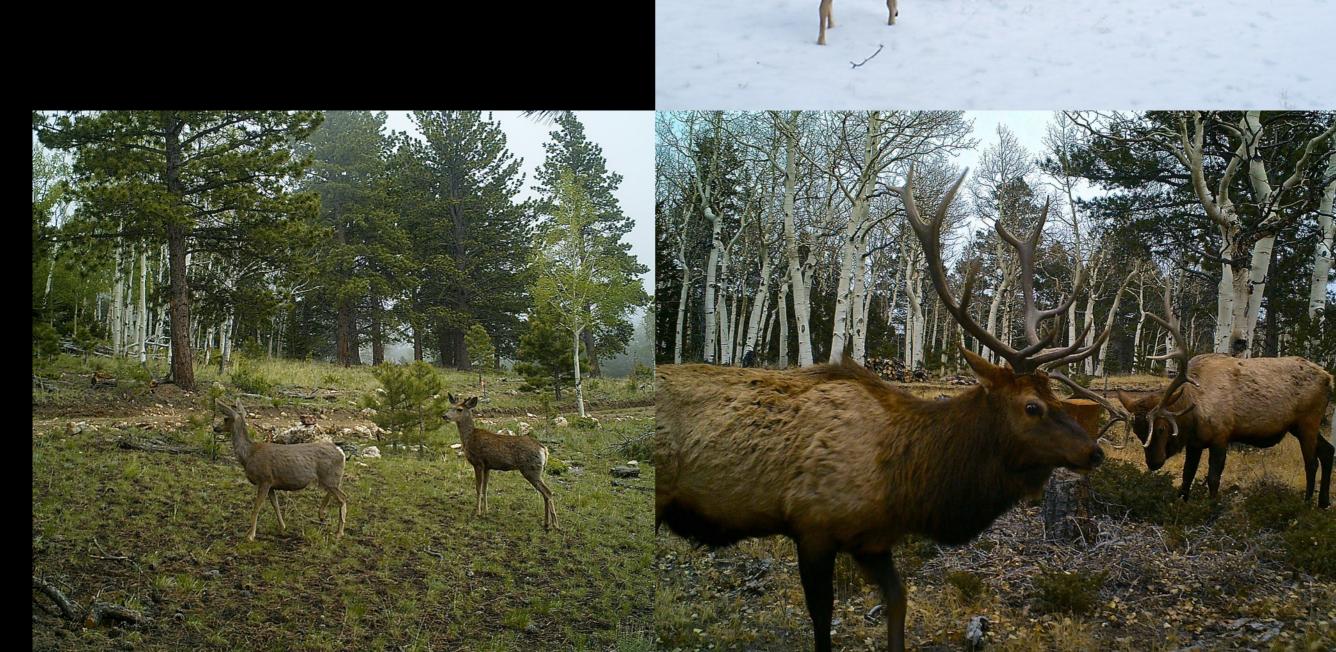
With the loft area completed, that essentially finished the interior of the cabin. We furnished the cabin with items from IKEA (i.e space saving table that collapses down to 1-foot wide by 3-feet long, fixtures for hanging pans, dishes and utensils, etc…). With such a small space (only 178 square feet), everything must be carefully planned out.

All told, it took about 10-months from planning to completion given that we had to work full-time jobs and could only get to the property on occasional weekends or during a vacation period. But it was well worth it as we look forward to spending many weekends at the cabin.

WILDLIFE

We setup trail cameras at two locations on the property to capture pictures of local wildlife. There is an abundance of elk and deer that pass through the property at least several times each week.

The property is located near ranching communities and is zoned for grazing livestock, which keeps the property taxes extremely low. In the bottom right, cows are making their way up the property to graze during the summer. Other animals that feed or hunt on the property include wild turkeys and owls.

Naturally, where there is big game, there are predators. Our trail cameras took these night time shots of various predators. In the top right picture is a mountain lion. The bottom right picture is a bobcat walking by the cabin. The bottom left picture is a coyote also walking by the cabin. Luckily, we've not encountered any of these animals while staying at the property.

Future Site of Our Log Home