

# River Keepers

## STEVE HERTER

"When the owners of Marabou told me to dream my biggest fly fishing dream, I took them seriously. I think we have brought the best of the brightest scientists and guides together to design and build a unique quality fishery like no other." ~ Steve Herter

Steve Herter, our Master Fishing Guide, is helping plan our River Enhancement, Meadows Fishery, Wildlife Habitat Restoration and River Core Trail concepts. Herter is a nationally-known flyfisherman, aquatic restoration expert and has developed 3 of the top 10 fly fishing lodges in North America. He has lived in Northwest Colorado for 35 years and has extensive knowledge of many secret hunting and fishing wilderness spots around Steamboat.

## PAT STEFANEK

"I have guided 15 years from Alaska to Colorado. Combining the fly-fishing opportunities at Marabou with the diversity that North Park offers, truly represents the best trout fish experience anywhere in North America." ~ Pat Stefaneck

Pat Stefaneck is another Flyfishing Master Guide for Marabou. What do you do with a Wildlife Biology degree? You fish and hunt the best places in the West and Alaska. Pat put his education and great love for wilderness into his work. Stefaneck, a long time Steamboat resident, has guided top fishermen and hunters from Alaska to the American West for 15 years. He founded and owns the prestigious North Park Fishing Club in nearby Walden, Colorado, to which Marabou owners have exclusive access. His passion for true wilderness adventure is instrumental to Marabou's commitment to world-class adventures in our own backyard.

# Marabou Fly

Marabou feathers, used in fly tying for a century, give a fly pattern life and vitality. Flies tied with this special feather pulse, swim, and dance in the water like no other, just as we have created a ranch community that has vibrancy like no other.

## Artist JOHN KOBALD

John's paintings and sculptures reflect his passion for outdoor sport. His experience as a fly-fishing and hunting guide gives him an intimate relationship with the natural world, which he translates into his art.



## Riparian Restoration and Habitat Enhancements

Marabou's extensive Riparian Restoration and Habitat Enhancement provides our ranch community with quality sanctuary for all the ranch wildlife. The river corridor (over 2 miles in length) has great river trout pools, and our meadow lakes project, with 14 acres of lakes and meadow meanders, give our owners quality private trout fishing like no other place.

## Resident Fish

- Brook Trout** ~ The beauty queen of the stream is not a trout at all, but a char. She was originally brought out from the east to bejewel the Rocky Mountain waters.
- Rainbow Trout** ~ Originally from the Pacific slope, this tremendous fighter puts on a spectacular aerial display and makes awesome runs when hooked. Many anglers have been 'spooled' by large Rainbow's racing downstream after being duped by a fly.
- Brown Trout** ~ We call him the Marabou Marauder! The fish that legends are made of - The fabled finned ogre occasionally coming out to strip the angler of his smaller hooked fish and all the terminal tackle at the end of his line.
- Cut Bow** ~ A beautiful cross between the native Cutthroat and the fighting Rainbow Trout, this trout has flourished in the Rocky Mountain waters and is a common catch on the Elk River.
- Colorado River Cutthroat** ~ The native of the Colorado Rockies - A beautiful reddish-orange slash on the throat gives this salmonid its name. A Colorado River Cutthroat has larger but fewer spots more concentrated toward the tail than its cousin the Rainbow.



## Resident Birds

- Bald Eagle** ~ Our nation's symbol, the Bald Eagle, is always an awesome sight, keeping a commandful watch over the meadows and rivers below.
- Canadian Goose** ~ With a black head and distinctive white "chinstrap," these geese can be seen flying in a V-shaped formation over Marabou.
- Kingfisher** ~ With its penetrating rattling call, the Kingfisher cruises and perches above the rivers and ponds in search of small fish.
- Osprey** ~ A better angler than we will ever be, the Osprey cruises above the water in search of fish. It dives steeply into the water with its talons outstretched to capture its prey.
- Sandhill Crane** ~ Among the tallest birds in the world and a wing span of almost 7 feet, the Sandhill Crane is easily recognized in flight, having both its neck and legs extended out.
- Ducks** ~ Many varieties of duck can be seen dabbling and cruising in the waters of the Elk River. The colorful plumage of the males identifies each species.

## North Park

Marabou owners have full access to the private waters of the North Park Fishing Club. North Park consists of seven ranches that compose over 76,000 deeded acres, most of which are hayfields and river bottoms. As a Marabou landowner you have private access to over 50 miles of rivers and four lakes! The nearest town is Walden, which is the moose viewing capital for the state; in fact moose outnumber people. North Park area is listed as the last frontier of Colorado.

The Four major waterways that run through the properties are the North Platte, the North Fork of the Platte, the Michigan and the Canadian rivers, in addition to smaller spring-fed creeks and four lakes. The diversity of these waters will appease any type of angler.

The famous North Platte River is a slow moving, floatable river, our reach winds 10 miles through luscious hay fields, with deep oxbow bends. It is perfect for the angler who likes to throw a steamer or a hopper. There are also abundant insect hatches for the technical dry fly, nymph and wet fly enthusiasts. If smaller freestone streams are to your liking, the North Fork of the Platte, the Michigan and the Canadian rivers will supply you with the kinds of challenges you are looking for.

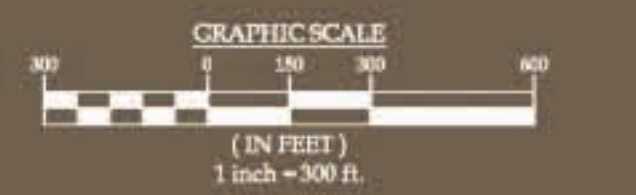
Wherever you choose to fish, you will be overwhelmed with the incredible wild trout fishing, the majestic beauty and the absolute privacy available on each piece of water.

## Our Cottonwoods

Marabou's Habitat Enhancement plan involves a great team effort of sportsmen, cowboys and scientists to plant native trees, grasses, create "Bio-Island" sanctuaries, and protect our wonderful riverside Cottonwood Groves. Mike Middleton, Colorado Division of Wildlife officer, notes that, "Eighty percent of Northwest Colorado cottonwood groves are in rough shape." These groves provide security and sustenance for much of the wildlife on our ranch. The combination of Wetlands Restoration, planting Cottonwood seedlings, fencing, sensible range grazing and our Core Trail System will help our Cottonwood Groves come back to the real job of protecting our river, wetlands and wildlife.



# Marabou STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

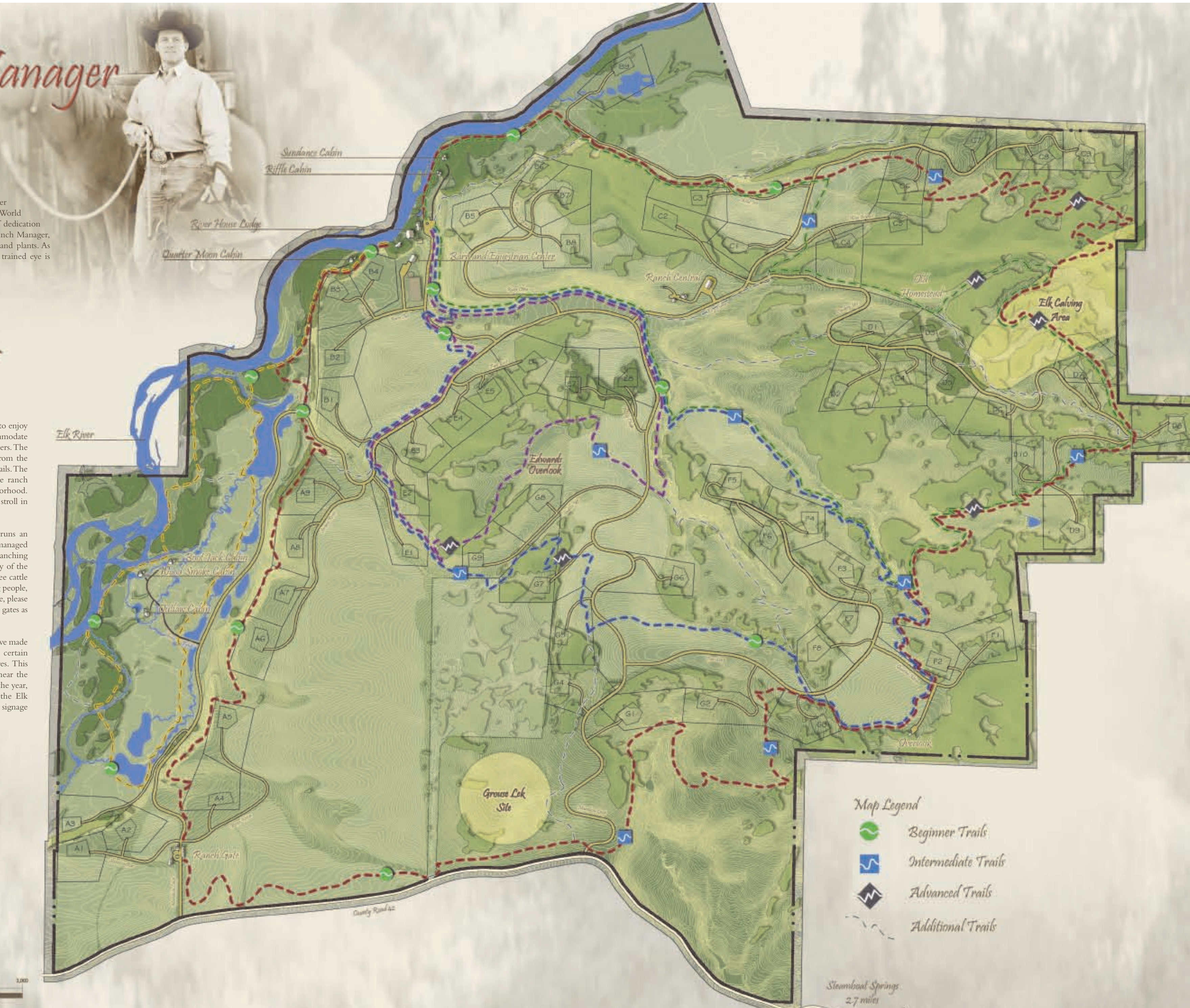


# Ranch Manager

## CHAD BEDELL

"The wonderful diversity of wildlife and flora that inhabit Marabou make for one of the most enjoyable opportunities to interact with nature in the Yampa Valley." Chad Bedell

Chad Bedell was born and raised in the Elk River Valley. A true cowboy, Chad won the title of World Champion Steer Wrestler in 1996, after years of dedication and commitment to the sport. As Marabou's Ranch Manager, Chad enjoys sharing his knowledge of wildlife and plants. As you ride with Chad along one of the trails, his trained eye is sure to spot wildlife invisible to most.



# The Land

The Marabou Trail system is one of the best ways to enjoy Marabou. The trails have been designed to accommodate mountain bikers, hikers, skiers, and horseback riders. The trails are ranked for their degree of difficulty—from the very easy to the more difficult and challenging trails. The Grand Tour Trail encircles the perimeter of the ranch and link to shorter trails within each neighborhood. Neighborhood loops make for a nice 30-minute stroll in the evenings.

Marabou boasts 1300 acres of open space and runs an average of 100 head of grass-fed cattle, which are managed on a rotational grazing program. This sustainable ranching practice ensures the land is not overgrazed. Many of the trails will pass ranching operations, and you may see cattle along the trails. The cattle are accustomed to seeing people, horses and bikes. If you pass through a closed gate, please close it behind you. Always remember to leave the gates as you find them.

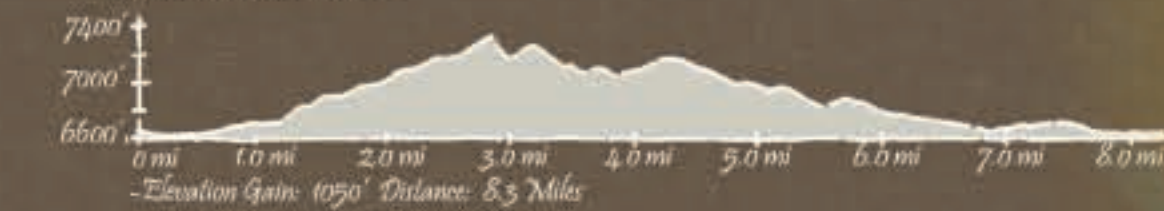
The wildlife at Marabou is highly valued and we have made a special effort to respect their needs. During certain times of the year there will be seasonal trail closures. This will occur in the elk calving area and at times near the Sharp-tailed Grouse lek. During certain times of the year, the Sandhill Crane activity will mean parts of the Elk River Trail will be closed. Be sure to check trail signage for specific closures.

# The Trails

The recreational trail system at Marabou is as vast as it is diverse - nearly 20.7 miles of trails have been developed that provide access to virtually all corners of the ranch. While trails have been constructed for use by hikers, bikers, nordic skiers, and horseback riders, they have been designed for all skill levels - everyone from the novice hiker to the expert rider. Five trails are described below, but these are just a few examples of the wide variety of loops that can be taken throughout the ranch. As described below, the trails start and finish at the River House Lodge, but the trail opportunities are endless!

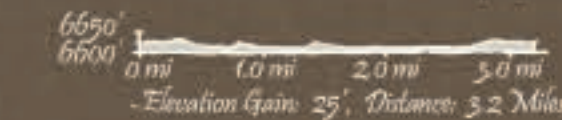
## The Grand Tour (8.3 miles)

8.3 miles in length, the Grand Tour has it all - starting with a gentle meander along the Elk River, the Grand Tour transitions to steeper climbs as you approach the base of Deer Mountain. For those on horseback, this ride is probably an all-day venture. For the mountain biker, there is no way to avoid the climbing necessary to complete this epic ride, but the Tour is probably easiest when ridden in a counter-clockwise direction. Seasonal trail closures do occur where the Tour passes by the grouse lek and through elk calving areas.



## Elk River Trail (3.2 miles)

This is a fantastic hike or ride for all levels. It is very flat, making it a perfect trail for the entire family. The trail follows the Elk River for 1.3 miles and then loops back to the River House Lodge along a series of ponds and meandering streams. Sandhill Cranes occasionally nest in the lower end of the meadow, which requires seasonal closure of portions of this trail. As an alternative route, make a short climb up to a portion of the Grand Tour at the lower end of the meadow. This section of trail overlooks the meadow and offers excellent views to Sleeping Giant.



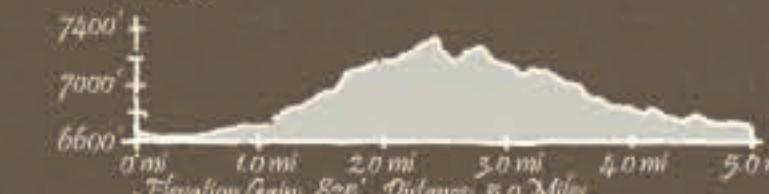
## The Overlook Loop (4.3 miles)

This loop involves a fairly rigorous climb up to the Overlook and, as a reward for your efforts, it provides an exhilarating ride back down to the River House Lodge. Once there, the Overlook provides an excellent place to take a rest and enjoy the views to Mount Werner, Emerald Mountain and the Flattops Wilderness Area. As an alternative route, try climbing to the Overlook via the lower portion of the Grand Tour, then take your pick of descents back to the River House Lodge.



## Deer Mountain Trail (5.0 miles)

This trail is sometimes called the "mini-Grand Tour" because it has some, but not all, of the climbing and only about half of the distance of the Grand Tour. The climb rewards the hiker or rider with panoramic views of Marabou and long range views to the Flattops Wilderness Area. In addition to the route depicted on this plan, there are many different ways to make this climb and then descend back to River House Lodge. Portions of these trails will be closed during the late-spring and early summer when elk are calving.



## Giant View Loop (3.0 miles)

This loop is short, but very sweet! It can be ridden on horseback in about an hour and a strong biker can probably do it in less time (for the biker this loop is easiest when ridden in a clockwise direction). The views of Mount Werner and Sleeping Giant from the highpoint of this trail are spectacular. Warm up on this one before you tackle the Grand Tour or Deer Mountain Trail!



Note: All profiles are generated in a clockwise direction.



# The Wildlife

**Elk** - Forty percent of the elk population in Colorado is found in Northwest Colorado. Elk can be seen on Marabou from April until December when they begin migrating to their winter feeding grounds. Some elk will stay on the ranch all winter. Elk are typically viewed in pairs or small groups until breeding season which occurs in September when they are typically found in larger herds. Female elk (called cows) typically produce one calf per year; however, they are sometimes seen with twins. Marabou has designated a protected area for elk during calving season. The Deer Trail and Grand Tour Trail run through the elk calving area. Trail signage will be in place restricting access during the months of May and June.

**The Red-tail** is the largest hawk and is easily identified. When it leaves its perch on slow, measured wing beats, or turns while soaring overhead, the broad, rounded tail shows a rich, russet red, hence the name. Its frequent soaring and loud voice are a good way to spot this beautiful bird.

The Grand Tour Trail runs right by the Columbian **Sharp-tailed Grouse lek** which is located on the southern boundary of Marabou. This lek is a dancing ground for their mating ritual, which is performed from April through June. Residents are encouraged to observe this unusual behavior from a Colorado Division of Wildlife approved observation blind. The blind is carefully located where it will not disrupt grouse activity. If you are up at dawn during these spring months, you will have an excellent chance to observe this wonder of nature.

**Mule Deer** are aptly named due to their large ears. The Mule Deer which inhabit Marabou follow a migratory pattern similar to that of the elk, being most visible in summer months. Mule Deer are more solitary than elk with small groups being seen in the fall months and into breeding season which occurs in November. Mule Deer are often seen with twins.

# Marabou

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



TRAIL & RIVER MAPS  
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