Rene Anderson is pictured behind the gray wolf she shot when she was bow hunting elk on Sept. 25. The wolf weighed in excess of 100 pounds.

Woman charged by wolf while elk hunting above Eureka Meadows

By Alannah Allbrett

Rene Anderson is a 55 year old woman from Headquarters, who loves to hunt. She was bow hunting for elk on Sept. 25, when she reported she was charged upon by a Canadian gray wolf weighing in excess of 100 pounds.

Rene's husband Denny Anderson dropped her off via a four-wheeler on top of a ridge between Eureka Meadows and Alder Creek. He was going to pick her up later in the day, down at the bottom of the ridge.

The afternoon was clouded over, and Rene said she forgot her glasses – making it difficult to see well. She had bugled beforehand and was just starting to hunt – trying to see if she could spot any elk. She came out of a slight draw and began climbing a small ridge in a heavily timbered area.

Rene said she heard a crunch off to her right and thought she spotted a wolf going through the trees. "I backed off about 30 feet down ridge so I could see," she said. "The wind was at my back, so the wolf could smell me and knew what I was. I could hear him coming at me," she said.

"I saw it through the timber. It was coming down a spur ridge directly at me at a trot. He jumped up on a pile of logs in front of me, in full view, about 10 feet away. I laid down my bow and reached for my 44 magnum, Smith and Wesson pistol because I felt more confident with that."

Rene fired a shot and hit the wolf on the left side of its head, wounding, but not killing it. She reported, "It was jumping around, and rolling down the hill, trying to get up and get away." She fired a total of four rounds to kill it.

Rene radioed her husband from the two-way radio she was carrying, asking him to come get her at the top of the ridge instead of at the bottom as originally planned. She was not sure if other wolves were in the area as well. He arrived about 30 minutes later to pick her up.

With her neighbor and hunting buddy, Shane Richards, Rene came back for the carcass later that night. "It was hard to pull it out because it was so heavy," she said.

Idaho Fish and Game's website reports open hunting season on wolves for that area and surrounding areas is from Aug. 30 to March 31. Idaho's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan states wolves molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals may be disposed of, and one has the right to protect oneself in self-defense.