

– RutWear Big Game Technologies –

Back in 2000, Bobby Windham, Jr. and Tate Wood set out to create a line of quality apparel for waterfowlers. Their Drake Waterfowl Systems brand found an instant following among passionate duck and goose hunters because of its technical design, features, and fabrics. After the success of Drake, they acquired McAlister Clothing Company, and then launched Ol' Tom Technical Turkey Gear and RutWear Big Game Technologies.

The RutWear product line draws on the design expertise of the other brands and combines features and functions oriented exclusively towards big game hunters. Every feature has been thoughtfully created to reduce motion, remain quiet, and stay comfortable in the field. A few of these features (*called Trophy Points*) include vertical chest pockets with magnetic closures and D-rings for attaching included call lanyards, spring-open pockets, large cargo pockets, multiple hand-warmer pockets, neoprene cuffs, non-slip shoulder grips, and micro-fleece fabric with a waterproof/windproof and breathable membrane.

Many of the features were designed for eastern hunters, but work perfectly regardless of where you hunt or what species you're after. The line is split into three categories: Early Season Technology (EST), Mid-Season Technology (MST), and Late Season Technology (LST). The EST Apparel is designed for cool mornings and hot days. Moisture management areas and ventilation features will keep you cool. The Walk-in Pant and Shirt are extremely lightweight and perfect for high-activity hunts in hot climates. The MST Apparel is designed for cold mornings and cool days. Each product will keep your core warm without affecting your ability to move. The fleece-lined Mid-Season Layering Coat is perfect for hunters on the move in cold conditions. For anyone hunting in extremely cold temperatures without much activity, the LST line is for you. Each piece was designed for hunters in extreme conditions. Fleece lined, insulated, and completely waterproof, the 3-n-1 Parka will keep you warm and dry.

The RutWear line also includes base layers and other accessories including face masks, hats, and gloves to keep you comfortable regardless of conditions. Their products are available in a variety of different camouflage patterns including Realtree Advantage Max-1 HD, which is perfect for hunting all areas of the West. In addition, they are developing a new RutWear line geared specifically for western hunters. For more information about RutWear and its partners, visit their website at www.rutwear.com. 🗨

– Trent Swanson, Senior Editor



Photo by Trent Swanson

The RutWear Walk-In Pant and Shirt are perfect for early season western hunts.

– Vortex Kaibab 15x56 Binoculars –

Vortex burst onto the optics scene just a few years ago, but they have quickly garnered a strong following in the western hunting market, and deservedly so. Vortex entered the market at a time when the European brands were forced to make some big price increases due a declining US dollar. In what seemed like a blink of the eye, high performance binoculars shot up from about \$1,000 to \$2,000, with only minor product advancements to show for it. During this time Vortex came in with quality products and a written unconditional warranty, but at a significantly lower price point. Not that their success came easy – the decision makers for this American based company, hired the right people, and worked every show that they could get into in order to tell their story.

In 2009, Vortex has raised their own performance bar with the introduction of the Kaibab 15x56 binocular and the Razor HD spotting scope (*more on the Razor HD in the next issue*). The Kaibab is appropriately named after one of the most famous mule deer hunting areas in the country, the Kaibab Plateau, which forms the north rim of the Grand Canyon. As gorgeous as the Grand Canyon is to look at, the Kaibab binocular is almost as pleasing to look through. The proprietary XR lens coatings deliver tremendous light transmission, while the XD objective

elements (*extra-low dispersion*) allow for near-perfect color rendition. Every exposed lens surface is coated with ArmorTek, which not only improves light transmission, but is also scratch resistant while repelling oils and other corrosive elements.

Of course the Kaibab is tripod adaptable, and is even furnished with a suitable tripod adapter, but I still much prefer the Outdoorsmans tripod adapter, especially if you are using an Outdoorsmans tripod. The Kaibab is completely waterproof and the interior is argon gas purged to prevent corrosion, and eliminate internal fogging. As you can see, the Vortex Kaibab is loaded with features and with a retail price of only \$1,199, they are going to be selling fast. Availability is expected to be limited so get yours on order ASAP! Available from the Outdoorsmans by calling 1-800-291-8065. 🗨

– Chris Denham, Editor

