

## Bio

Justin Joiner is the creative director for Wyoming Wildlife magazine and the graphic designer for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department headquartered in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Justin spent more than a decade editing a handful of daily and weekly newspapers in the West before transitioning to graphic design. As part of his editorial duties, Justin was the primary photographer at the papers he edited. In addition to his work at Game and Fish, Justin frequently freelancers as a photographer and graphic designer. He can be reached at [jjoiner85@gmail.com](mailto:jjoiner85@gmail.com).

## How you got the shot?

This photo was taken as part of a photo-heavy feature on an antler-carving artist in Dubois, Wyoming.

As soon as I walked into Monte Baker's studio and saw him wearing an old-timey outfit complete with bowler hat and vest, I knew a portrait of him, rather than some of his outstanding work, would lead off a feature on his unique business. The only thing he was missing was a white handlebar mustache.

At Wyoming Wildlife magazine, almost all of our photos are candid shots. We strive to make sure all our shots of our Game and Fish personnel and others featured in our pages are all as candid and natural as possible. This was also the case with this photograph. I asked Monte if he had any work he needed to get done and thankfully he still had some finish to put on an eagle that was carved into a moose's paddle.

I set up a single strobe above and to his left about five feet from him and told him to pretend as if I wasn't there. I crouched down to the level of his work table so I could use his brushes as a framing component and give the readers a glimpse of some of his tools and then just started shooting until I got a shot I was happy with.

Had I decided to bring in another light or two, told him how to pose and what tools and art he should hold onto, the shot would have been quite different, but not authentic enough to stay true to what typically is seen in Wyoming Wildlife magazine.