

Round two on the whitetail rut may be something for archery hunters to think about in the days to come. Does that have not been bred may come into estrous again 30 days after their last cycle, and it results in bucks doing some rutting behavior, although it usually is not so intense as the first time around. Lately I've been noticing signs where bucks have been coming back to freshen some scrapes and hit some rubs here in northeast Oklahoma. This might be a good time to scout a little and consider putting a portable stand into use to close the gap on areas where you see increased activity. These bucks are going to be around thick cover and following groups of does out to agriculture fields or acorn ridges where they are searching for food. Colder weather would help in patterning the deer but, generally, younger and older does will travel to favored food sources and those older bucks will just kind of roll out behind them. It's a good opportunity for an archery hunter. Scents and sounds can come into play but be aware the rut is less intense this time around. That said, it's not a bad idea to have a grunt call or rattling antlers along in case you spot a buck and think you might be able to get him to come closer. A mock scrape isn't a bad idea if you want to see if you can draw something around, but I wouldn't put one up without a trail camera to let you know if it draws some interest. Mostly, it's a time to be aware of bedding areas, feeding areas, and to target those scrapes and rubs on the travel corridors between those locations. Jack Morris is a professional guide and host of Outdoor Trails Thursday nights at 6 p.m. on KTBZ am1430. Contact him at 918-691-3840, jackswildlife@cox.net or see tulsaworld.com/jackmorris.