



## **Bighorn Sheep Packing List**

This is a list of what I highly recommend to bring. I have found this list to cover just about any weather scenario we may encounter. I cannot stress enough how quality gear will impact your hunt, year after year I see people struggle unnecessarily because they bought a cheap pair of boots or rain gear. Don't let a few hundred dollars keep you from having an enjoyable hunt. Remember, this is a fully guided hunt, you will not need things like skinning knives or large first aid stuff, your guide will have that on him. Almost everything I have listed can be rented from [www.RGunsNGear.com](http://www.RGunsNGear.com), use code "WildMule10" for 10% off. Along with each item listed I have noted some brands and particular items I have found to work for me personally that I highly recommend. I have found a layering system to work most efficiently when mountain hunting. Not only does it pack lighter, but it also allows you to be comfortable in adverse conditions while carrying less items. I strongly advise you avoid cotton clothing at all cost, fast drying synthetics or wool can save your life! If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

☐ **(1) pair of HIGH QUALITY BOOTS**

- Stiff boots work the best in our steep country: Scarpa, La Sportiva, Zamberlan, Crispi, Lathrop & Sons, etc. Good Boots are the #1 most important piece of gear aside from your rifle. Buy quality and break them in prior to coming. No insulation.

☐ **(7) pairs of Socks**

- I highly recommend merino, plus liner socks for blisters if you are prone: Darn Tough makes the best sock I have ever seen.

☐ **Underwear**

- Whatever works for you, I prefer Minus 33\* merino

☐ **(2) Base Layer Top**

- Minus 33\* or Stone Glacier are my preferred but anything will work. I bring a t-shirt and long sleeve.

☐ **(1-2) Pants**

- Something light, it is warm. I really like the Stone Glacier De Havilland lites.

☐ **(1) Mid Layer Tops and/or Vest**

- I prefer a thin synthetic down insulated mid layer like the Stone Glacier Cirque or Kuiu Kenai.

☐ **(1) Puffy Coat**

- I prefer Stone Glacier, Kuiu and Helly Hansen.

☐ **Quality set of rain gear top and bottoms**

- Stone Glacier M5 is what I use, but any lightweight gore-tex set is fine, rain is pretty unlikely this time of year but it can be a good wind breaker.

☐ **(1) pair of gloves**

- something lightweight

☐ **Backpack & Rain Cover**

- **Stone Glacier** is my #1 choice but other quality brands include: EXO Mtn gear, Kifaru, Eberlestock, Mystery Ranch, etc. Unlike our general season hunts, we will be backpack based so a good pack is critical. Anything around 4-6K cubic inches is great but more space doesn't hurt. A rain cover is highly recommended. I also highly recommend packing everything in compression dry bags within your pack like the Event compression sacks from Sea to Summit.

☐ **Headlamp(s)** - I prefer rechargeable Fenix lights and use USB battery packs to charge

☐ **Binoculars**

- Quality optics make a **big difference**. Swarovski, Leica, and Maven are some of the best. For a very inexpensive but quality pair I recommend the Maven. 10 or 12 x 42 is the best all around size however 15-18x binos are great too. I highly recommend a harness. Stone Glacier and Marsupial are my favorite harnesses. Alpine Bino Bandits are another cheap and very beneficial upgrade.

☐ Tripod

- Tripods can make a **huge difference**. I prefer a light carbon tripod and personally use a Leofoto 324CL+MA-30L and use the Outdoorsmans Bino Adapter. This tripod is ideal for shooting as well and practicing getting comfortable using it in different positions will make you far more effective than a bipod.

☐ Rifle and Ammo

- This is the **#1 most important piece of gear** you will bring. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you bring a rifle you are confident and well practiced with. Any caliber above .260 and shooting at 156gr or heavier bullet will work when paired with appropriate loads, although these are tough animals and you certainly can't overkill one. With modern technology, long range rifles are becoming very popular and shooting over 500 yards is very attainable. My advice is to shoot as far and as often as you possibly can before you come. The further you can be proficient the better chances you will have success. We will always try to get as close as possible, but given the terrain, a long range rifle does have a clear advantage in the right hands. **This is the one area you cannot be over prepared for, it is your sole job on this hunt to make sure you are the best marksman you can be.** 1-2 boxes of ammo are recommended.

☐ (2) Water Bottles

- I prefer a foldable type bottle like Hydrapak 2L but anything will work, I am not a fan of backpack bladders as they tend to leak.

☐ Sleeping pad

- The best pad is Thermarest NeoAir XTherm. A patch kit is always smart to have.

☐ Sleeping Bag & Pillow

- You will be sleeping on cots, I prefer a midweight bag rated for around 20 degrees and an inflatable pad/pillow when spiking out. Western Mountaineering is what I use and Stone Glacier also makes great bags.

☐ Toiletries & Medications

- Any prescription medications as well as some basic stuff like Ibuprofen, allergy medication, cold medicine, vitamin C, cough drops, etc

☐ Blister Kit/ First Aid

- Moleskin, LeukoTape, non stick pads, and antibiotic ointment is what I recommend.

☐ Long Spoon - For freeze dried meals

☐ Camp Mug/Cup - I like the light Ti cups

☐ Game Bags - Argali are what I use

☐ Glassing Pad - Thermarest Zseat Pads are cheap and packable

☐ Camp Chair

- Helinox makes a nice packable chair called the Chair Zero and it weighs just 1lb .

## **Suggested/Optional Gear**

☐ Trekking Poles - I love my MTN Gear Stick, but anything will work.

☐ Spotting Scope - If you will use it they can be very helpful. Swarovski and Kowa are the best. Your guide will have a large scope, an excellent light weight option for clients is the Swaro ATC/STC 17-40x56.

☐ USB Battery Pack

☐ RangeFinder - Your guide will have one but if yours is programmed to your gun bring it. If you are looking for the very best option for your custom rifle, the Revic BR4 is what I use.

☐ Buff/Sunscreen - I like to use a buff to keep from getting a sunburn but sunscreen works too.

☐ Crocs - a great camp shoe to let your feet air out and can be used to cross the river as well if needed.