



Hunter's Packing List

This is a list of what I highly recommend to bring for clothing, if you have something you prefer that you find works for you then bring it. 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. Almost everything I have listed can be rented from www.RGunsNGear.com, use code "WildMule10" for 10% off. Along with each item listed I have noted some brands or particular items I have found to work and 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. I highly recommend 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.

- ☐ (1-2) pairs of HIGH QUALITY BOOTS
 - Stiff boots work the best in our steep country: Scarpa Zodiac Tech, LaSportiva Trango Alpine, Zamberlan, Schnees, 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.
- ☐ (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. I prefer full cushion.
- ☐ Underwear
 - Whatever works for you, I prefer Minus 33* merino
- ☐ (1) set of base layer top and bottom
 - Minus 33* is my favorite, Stone Glacier are excellent as well
- ☐ (2) pants, one warm pair and one lighter pair
 - Stone Glacier, FjallRaven, Kuiu and are my favorites. I love puffy pants for glassing in the cold.
- ☐ (2) t-shirts
- ☐ (2) mid layer tops and/or vest
 - I prefer a wool long sleeve or an light synthetic insulated jacket pair with a vest. Duckworth WoolCloud are an excellent option.
- ☐ (1-2) warm jacket and/or puffy coat
 - I prefer a puffy coat for weight to insulation ratio, Kifaru, Helly Hansen, and Kuiu are my favorites, I strongly recommend heavy fill puffy jacket and pants for late October hunts.
- ☐ (1) Quality set of rain gear top and bottoms
 - OR Allies, Arc'teryx Leaf/Pro, and Kuiu Yukon are my favorites, they also work great as windbreakers and paired with a puffy coat makes an excellent winter jacket.
- ☐ (2-3) pair of gloves
 - I prefer at least one waterproof glove and another set of thick warm gloves for glassing. Outdoor Research, Stone Glacier, Black Diamond, etc
- ☐ Winter hat
- ☐ (1) neck warmer/balaclava

☐ Backpack

- **Stone Glacier** is my favorite but other quality brands include: EXO Mtn gear, Kifaru, Eberlestock, Sitka, Mystery Ranch, etc. You do not need a giant pack, in fact its less than enjoyable to ride with, anything around 2-4K cubic inches is great. A rain cover is highly recommended.

☐ 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 Maven. 10 or 12 x 42 is the best all around size and I highly recommend a harness. Stone Glacier and Marsupial are my favorite harnesses. A tripod is optional but can make a huge difference. I prefer a light carbon tripod like Leofoto LS224c and use the Outdoorsmans Bino Adapter. Alpine Bino Bandits are another cheap and very beneficial upgrade.

☐ 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 .284 will work when paired with appropriate loads, although elk 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 and on average shots are under 300 yards, 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.**

☐ (2) Water bottles

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

☐ Sleeping bag and pillow

- You will be sleeping on padded cots in wall tent with a wood stove, I prefer a more comfortable rectangular bag rated for around 15-0 degrees and a small pillow

☐ Toiletries & Medications

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

☐ Blister Kit

- Moleskin, LeukoTape, and Antibiotic ointment is what I like to carry

☐ Hand/Toe warmers

☐ Glassing pad Thermarest Zseat Pads are cheap and packable

☐ Headlamp (+ Extra Batteries!)

☐ Camera

☐ Game bags - Argali or similar bags with tight weave keep flies off the meat the best.

☐ Duffle Bag

- Stone Glacier STOHL bags in Large are perfect but anything waterproof will work. Everything should be packed in a duffle bag (or 2), that includes your backpack, in order to be packed on mules to camp. Total weight of all gear should be **50-75lbs maximum.**