



## Late Season Hunter's 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. 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 best 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.

☐ (1-2) pairs of HIGH QUALITY BOOTS

- Stiff boots work the best in our steep country: Scarpa, LaSportiva, Whites, 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. Insulated boots are optional.

☐ (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

☐ (1) sets of Base Layer Top and Bottom

- Minus 33\* is my favorite, Stone Glacier are excellent as well

☐ (1-2) Pants

- One warm pair and possibly one lighter pair. Stone Glacier M7's paired with Stone Glacier puffy pants are my go to late season setup. If it's warm I also use the Stone Glacier De Havilland Pant.

☐ (2) Mid Layer Tops and/or Vest

- I prefer a wool long sleeve or an insulated lightweight synthetic jacket like the Duckworth WoolCloud.

☐ (1) Puffy Coat

- I prefer Kifaru and Helly Hansen, **I strongly recommend heavy fill puffy jacket and pants for late season hunts.**

☐ Quality set of rain gear top and bottoms

- OR Allies, Arc'teryx Leaf/Pro, Helly Hansen, 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 a good liner/shell style and find it is the warmest. I usually carry an extra pair of thinner wool liner gloves. Outdoor Research, Stone Glacier, Black Diamond, Kuiu, etc

☐ Winter Hat

☐ Neck Warmer

☐ Gaiters - Stone Glacier or Outdoor Research

☐ 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 may be backpack based so a good pack is critical. Anything around 7-8K cubic inches is great but more space doesn't hurt. **A rain cover is highly recommended.**

☐ Pack Cover

- I also highly recommend packing everything in compression dry bags within your pack. Sea to Summit Event, compressible dry bags are perfect.

☐ 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 can be extremely helpful for deer. 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 and personally use a Leofoto 224C or 324C 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 .260 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 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.** 1 box of ammo is 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 and freeze. Nalgene are nice to heat your sleeping bag

☐ 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 warm bag rated for 0 degrees and an inflatable pad/pillow when spiking out. Western Mountaineering is what I use.

☐ 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.

☐ Hand/Toe Warmers

☐ 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

☐ 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) in order to travel best. Total Weight 50-60lbs max.

## **Optional Gear**

☐ Wiggy's Overboots - Amazing at helping keep your feet warm when glassing

☐ Trekking Pole(s) - These can be very helpful, I prefer a MtnGearNZ Mtn Stick.

☐ Spotting Scope - If you will use it they can be very helpful. Swarovski and Kowa are the best

☐ USB Battery Pack

☐ RangeFinder - Your guide will have one, but if yours is programmed to your gun bring it.