



Spot & Stalk Bear 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, 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! All items should be packed in backpack or duffle, please no giant bags, space/weight is very limited in the helicopter. 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, 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.
- ☐ (6) 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) set of Base Layer Tops and Bottoms
 - Minus 33* is my favorite, Stone Glacier are excellent as well
- ☐ (2-3) Pants, at least one warm pair and one lighter pair
 - Stone Glacier De Havilland and De Havilland Lite are my go-to pants
- ☐ (2) Mid Layer Tops and/or Vest
 - I prefer a wool long sleeve or an insulated shirt like the Kuiu Kenai paired with a soft-shell like the Kuiu Guide vest.
- ☐ (1-2) Warm Jacket and/or Puffy Coat
 - I prefer a puffy coat for weight to insulation ratio, Kuiu and Stone Glacier are my favorites, **I strongly recommend heavy fill puffy jacket and pants for early season hunts.**
- ☐ (1) Quality set of rain gear top and bottoms
 - Stone Glacier M5 and Kuiu Yukon are my favorites, they also work great as windbreakers and paired with a puffy coat makes an excellent warm jacket.
- ☐ (2-3) pair of gloves
 - I prefer at least one waterproof glove and another set of thick warm gloves for glassing. A good liner/shell style is the warmest. Outdoor Research, Kuiu, Sitka, Seal Skin, etc
- ☐ Winter hat and ball cap
- ☐ Neck warmer/balaclava
- ☐ Gaiters - Stone Glacier or Outdoor Research

☐ Backpack

- **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 4K cubic inches is great but more space doesn't hurt. A rain cover is highly recommended. I also highly recommend packing everything in compressible dry bags within your pack.

☐ 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 Vortex Diamondbacks. 10 x 42 is the best all around size. I highly recommend a harness. Stone Glacier and FHF Gear are my favorite harnesses. A tripod is optional but can make a **huge difference**. I prefer a light carbon tripod like Benro, Sirui, Slik 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 bears 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 boxes of ammo are recommended.

☐ (2) Water Bottles

- I prefer a foldable type bottle like Platypus 1L and 2L but anything will work, I am not a fan of backpack bladders as they tend to leak and freeze.

☐ Sleeping Bag and Pad

- You will be sleeping on cots, I prefer a warm bag rated for 0-20 degrees and an inflatable pad when spiking out. Western Mountaineering is what I use and Stone Glacier makes great bags. The best pad is Thermarest NeoAir XTherm. A patch kit is always smart to have.

☐ 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

☐ Glassing Pad Thermarest Z Pads are cheap and packable

☐ Headlamp(s) (+ Extra Batteries!)

☐ 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. Bags should be 50-80lbs max.