



Archery Hunter's Check List

Be prepared for frosty mornings and warm afternoons, dress in layers. It can snow anytime in the mountains of Colorado. Keeping clean and scent free is important! ***NO NOISY PLASTIC OR NYLON CLOTHING!***

This list also pertains to ***Muzzleloader Hunters*** except for bow specific equipment which you will replace with what you need for your muzzleloader. Additionally, per state law, Muzzleloaders must wear a blaze orange hat and vest at all times.

Footwear

- 1 pair waterproof (Gore-Tex or equivalent) hiking boots
 - recommend 7-8" height minimum with aggressive tread for good footing and support in tough terrain
- 1 pair of backup hiking boots
- Waterproof Gaiters
- 1 pair light camp shoes
- 3 pair of hunting socks (i.e. medium merino wool blend, or some type of breathable synthetic)
 - ***Do not use cotton***; they are a sure recipe for blisters and cold feet.

Base Layers

- 2 pair lightweight long underwear
 - recommend merino, capeline or polypropylene type synthetics

Mid-Layers

- 1 lightweight hunting shirts, camo
- 1 mid-weight hunting shirt, camo
- 2 pair lightweight hunting pants, camo
- 1 insulating vest (windstopper, down or primaloft), camo
 - For all mid-layer pieces, recommend avoiding cotton or cotton blends. It holds moisture, is slow to dry and is heavy when wet. Merino wool or microfleece are great options!

Outerwear

- 1 lightweight hunting jacket, camo
 - We recommend soft shells or other quiet, breathable fabrics
- 1 rain suit, (jacket and pants), camo
 - recommend gore-tex or equivalent; lightweight and quiet!

Clothing Accessories

- 2 pair gloves
- Ball cap style hunting hat, camo
- Warm stocking style hat, camo
- Camo face mask or paint
- Neck Gaiter

Archery/Hunting Gear

- Bow, arrows (including 5 extra arrows/broadheads), broadheads, field points or a couple of practice tips, grouse tips (optional if have small game license)
- Release and an extra
- Arm guard if used
- Spare sight, pins, string w/ accessories, nocks, cable set, arrow rest, glue
- Allen wrench set
- String wax
- Head lamp (2; one for pack and one for camp), preferably with a red light in addition to white light
- Extra batteries
- Binoculars (recommend 10X or 12X)

- Rangefinder
- Knife
- Small Thermos (if you use one for coffee or hot drinks)
- Day pack (recommended 2000 – 2,500 cubic inches)
- Water bottle or hydration bladder
- Camera (likely your phone) with a power pack to recharge it
- Personal first-aid kit
- Hunting license (make sure you sign the license portion)

Personal/Camping Gear

- Extra pair eyeglasses or contacts if you wear them
- Duffle bag(s) – 2 smaller is better than one large one
- Quality Sleeping bag (during archery season, +15 degree minimum rating to ensure warmth)
- Personal toiletries and medications
- Chapstick (with sunscreen) and sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Any specific personal snacks (we provide some with lunch but there may be other items you want to bring; protein and / or energy bars are a good choice)
- Scent control products – soap/shampoo, deodorant, scent killer spray
- Towel for showers (back packer's towel is best as light weight and packable)
- Wet scent free wipes

Optional items

- Waterproof matches
- Whistle
- Small piece of rope

Pack-in hunters:

Do not over pack. Personal gear should not exceed 50 pounds, packed in a medium size duffle bag or 2 smaller ones. Sleeping bag is included in weight limit but does not need to be in the duffle bag. We do not pack in bow cases.

Drop Camp Hunters: Bring your own food and game bags too!

Tips for a better experience and to increase your chances for success:

1. Come in the best shape possible! Archery season, we generally cover some miles. Establish a plan if need be to drop a few undesired pounds and a regular exercise routine. Better yet if done with your hunting partner to help keep each other on track! Be sure to do some hiking (or just walking with hills) with weighted pack.
2. Once your bow is sighted in properly, practice shooting “real field positions” including with your quiver on (kneeling, sitting, standing, leaning around a tree or bush) and “odd distances” so you know where to hold. Ideally, we like our bow hunters to be able to shoot accurately to 40 yards; practice further if you can as it builds confidence! Ensure to practice with your broadheads too.
3. If you happen to buy new boots, be sure to use them a few times prior to your hunt! You don’t want to come out here and then find out they are not comfortable for hiking or give you blisters!
4. If you have never been at altitude before, plan to come a couple days early to adjust doing some sight seeing if you can. If you are concerned about altitude, discuss it with your doctor. While most don’t get altitude sickness if you have concerns, you can get a prescription from your doctor.
5. As a rule of thumb, plan on drinking about ¾-1 gallon of water a day when hunting at high elevation in the interest of staying hydrated. This will prevent dehydration issues like headaches and muscle cramps.
6. For more on what to bring and how to pack for our hunts, please see our informational videos at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-hyoNWNr1mZILdQNZ1b74KRj0-QLvhg>