



## *Rifle Hunter's Check List*

We recommend being prepared for all types of weather. It varies with daytime highs 20's to low 50's to bitter cold (i.e. single digits to teens and even below zero) at night. We suggest you layer clothing rather than wearing heavy, bulky clothes. ***NO NOISY PLASTIC OR NYLON CLOTHING!***

Hunting License (be sure to sign it)	Hunter Safety Card	Warm Jacket (outer layer)
Vest (insulating fleece or down)	Rain/Snow Gear	Hunting Pants (light/heavy)
Hunting Shirt	Sweater/Sweatshirt	Binoculars / range finder
Waterproof Boots - 2 pairs (insulated)	Waterproof Gaiters	Knife & Sheath
Warm base layers (merino wool or equivalent)	Sun/Wind Location	Towel/wash cloth
Wool or wool blend socks (3 pair)	Personal Medications	Head lamps (2) one for camp, one for your pack, extra batteries
Gore-Tex Gloves/Mittens (lined & unlined)	Compass	Game Bags (Drop camps only)
Towels/Washcloth/Soap/wet wipes	Underwear (3 pair)	Medium size duffle bag(s)
Waterproof Matches or Lighter	Handkerchiefs	Day Pack (2000-2500 cu in)
Chapstick (with sunscreen)	Survival Kit	Water bottle (2) Bladders not recommended as they can freeze.
Personal snacks and drink mix	Phone (Camera)	Rifle
Glasses - Prescription & Sun, extra pair	Ammunition – 1 box	Small Thermos for hot drinks
Blaze Orange Vest and Hats	Camp Shoes	Toiletries

## ***A few tips on what to bring:***

***Base Layers:*** Merino wool or synthetics that dry quickly and don't absorb scent are best. For socks, no cotton! Wool or wool blend will keep your feet dry and warm even when wet.

***Boots:*** Wear new boots for a few hikes before you come to ensure they fit and don't give you blisters! They should be Gore-Tex or equivalent offering good support and traction in mountainous terrain. Late season hunts, it can be a good idea to bring one pair of hiking style hunting boots and one pair of felt lined pacs for cold/snowy conditions.

***Rain Gear:*** Bring the best Gore-Tex (or equivalent) hunting rain gear you can afford. Plan to carry it in your pack everyday if not wearing it.

***Sleeping Bag:*** Good quality, minimum 4 lb. down or rated for -20 F. The nights are cold and your stove won't burn all night. (Pack in camps).

***Optional:*** Small repair kit for weapon, gun cleaning kit, hand warmers.

***Drop Camp Hunters:*** bring your food and associated supplies. Pre-plan and portion your meals so you bring enough but don't over pack. Do plan on bringing a couple extra backpackers meals for emergency purposes.

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

1. Come in the best shape possible! Elk hunting at altitude requires you to be in decent shape. 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. We suggest you sight your rifle in at 100 yards before coming to camp. If possible, shoot at longer distances too in the interest of knowing your rifle and ensuring you're dialed in at long distance. Strive to be able to shoot 300 yards accurately if possible. Many times, shots are closer but building confidence in your rifle is a good thing! Once your rifle is zeroed in, be sure to practice some "real" in the field shooting positions (i.e., sitting on the ground, kneeling, leaning against a tree, etc.)
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 sightseeing 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  $\frac{3}{4}$ -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. Drinking hot water in cold weather will make it easier to ensure you drink enough!
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>