



RIFLE HUNTING: SUGGESTED LIST OF WHAT TO BRING

RIFLE & AMMUNITION: A big game caliber rifle (minimum .270 caliber) with scope and sling are a must. Be sure to have your rifle sighted in and practice before arrival (zeroed at 200 yards is preferred). If you do not have your own saddle scabbard, we have several that fit standard rifles and scopes. ***Don't forget your ammunition!*** Call a hunting guide at 970-879-3495 for any rifle related questions.

HUNTING LICENSE: There are two ways to get a Colorado hunting license--

Limited Seasons: To apply for a Limited License, you must apply online or submit a paper application to CDOW. For questions on Limited Licenses or preference points, contact the CDOW help line at 303-297-1192.

Over The Counter: Purchase an over the counter license from a CDOW license agent. Locally we recommend ***The Clark Store*** (970-879-3849 - 54175 RCR 129, Clark, CO 80428) or ***Straightline Outdoor Sports*** (970-879-7568 - 744 Lincoln Ave., Steamboat Springs, CO 80477). Call a hunting guide at 970-879-3495 for any licensing questions.

HUNTER EDUCATION/SAFETY CARD: Anyone (CO resident or non-resident) born on or after January 1, 1949, must have a hunter safety card, regardless of which state you are coming from. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) accepts hunter safety cards from other states. Contact the CDOW help line at 303-297-1192 for information on replacing lost hunter education/safety cards or proving course completion.

BLAZE ORANGE VEST & HAT: At least 500 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange material is required above the waist on an outer garment while hunting deer or elk during a muzzleloading or rifle season. Part of the fluorescent orange must be a hat or head covering visible from all directions. ***Camouflage orange does not meet this requirement.***

SLEEPING BAG: Minimum of -10°F or colder. ***No cotton bags!***

BACKPACK: A small or medium backpack is perfect for carrying daily hunting gear. Most of our guides prefer to use hydration packs.

BINOCULARS: Vital for tracking game. We recommend a reasonable weight with low light capability.

RANGEFINDER: Recommended for accuracy of range estimation.

GAME BAGS: Most elk & deer are quartered, so a pack of 4 is highly suggested.

BIODEGRADABLE MARKING TAPE: Reduce the impact to elk & deer habitat by using biodegradable flagging for rout finding, and removing it when finished.



SHARP KNIFE: A good hunting knife and/or small utility knives will make the hunt and camp life easier. A good sharpener will extend the usefulness of any knife after gutting and skinning your game.

SUNGLASSES: Snow is highly reflective and can damage your eyes--sunglasses are a must.

SNACKS: Elk hunting burns energy. It is always nice to have a favorite fuel boost handy.

MAPS & COMPASS/GPS: Maps and a compass are critical! Our favorite map of Steamboat Springs and the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (GMU's #14,161,214) is from Sky Terrain Trail Maps (http://skyterrain.com/map_steamboat.html). A USGS topo map of GMU #5 can be found at http://www.topoquest.com/map-detail.php?usgs_cell_id=41069. A hand-held GPS unit offers added benefits, but is not a required piece of equipment, so don't go out and buy a new GPS if you don't already have one. Our guides use Garmin Rhino GPS units for accurate 2-way communications and location finding purposes only.

PERSONAL GEAR

Weather conditions vary greatly, so always be prepared. Please review our suggested Rifle Season Personal Gear list below:

Cotton clothing is highly discouraged, except possibly for underwear. The problem is that cotton holds moisture and will make a cold, wet day unbearable. As guides, we avoid cotton at all costs.

Wool and synthetic materials are the way to go. Wool has come a long way recently. Marino wool is light, does not itch, and wicks moisture away from your body very well. Wool also absorbs body odors, and we all know how important that is for a successful hunt.

Synthetic materials such as polypropylene and fleece also work well. However, polypropylene can start to smell after a few days, so several changes are a good idea.

We hunt at a high altitude, so even in early seasons (archery in September) we can encounter very adverse weather conditions--it is not uncommon to experience snow. Fortunately early season snow usually melts quickly. By second rifle season (early November), the snow will stick around. Although snow makes for great hunting and tracking, it can also create cold feet.

FOOT CARE: Do not underestimate the importance of foot care--a couple of blisters can bring a fun hunt to a grinding halt. ***Lots of socks*** are a requirement, and again, ***WOOL saves feet***. You can never spend enough on good boots but make sure they are broken in before the hunt. Two pairs of boots are a good idea, and both should be Gore-Tex or other waterproof material. Archery hunters should have an un-insulated pair and a lightly insulated pair of hunting boots. For rifle hunters, an insulated hunting boot plus a heavy boot like Sorrels are recommended.



LAYERS: The key to comfort is layering. Layers can be shed or added as the weather quickly changes. The **primary layer**, or next to skin layer should be thin and wick moisture. Odor absorption is very important. The **second layer** is for insulation. Fleece is a perfect insulation layer -fleece is warm, breathable, packs easily and is light. The **third layer** is a shell or jacket that should be Gore-Tex or other breathable waterproof material. Camo Hush Hide and Scent-Lok materials are guide favorites.

OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS:

Medical/Survival Kit - Be safe! Adventure Medical Kits (www.adventuremedicalkits.com) are exclusively used by our guides.

Gloves

Hats - Brimmed Hat (sun protection) and Knit Hat (warmth). **Don't forget blaze orange!**

Comfortable Camp Shoes

Sunglasses

Personal Toiletries (scent-free shampoo & soap, toothpaste, etc.)

Sun Block/Lip Balm

Personal Medications

Headlamp/Flashlight and spare batteries

Camera

Foot/Hand Warmers

Water Bottle/Hydration Pack

Waterproof Matches/Lighter