

A Lazy H Outfitters

Recommended hunting equipment and gear list.

Common note: I suggest wool as this is what I'm most comfortable with. Many prefer synthetics like Sitka and other brands. These are good also and would substitute for wool.

- Sleeping bag (10 degree rating or better) We have liners to bring a 30 degree bag down to this range). While we have wood stoves in all tents, fires go out and nights can be cold.
- One light weight wool or similar outer jacket
- One medium weight or parka style jacket (down or wool)
- Wool pants or field pants - 1 pr These are primarily what you'll wear in the field each day guiding.
 - Light or Medium weight (Sept- early Oct) – I have one of each.
 - Medium or heavy (late Oct – Nov)
- Long underwear (2 sets)
 - Medium weight (Sept – Oct)
 - Heavy or Polar weight (late Oct – Nov)
- Light weight silk or synthetic underlayer to augment long underwear on cold/wet days and to wear in warm weather as layer between skin and wool (if applicable).
- Blue jeans or similar – 1-2pr for riding into/out of camp as well as around camp
- Wool or heavy cotton shirts (2)
- Lightweight cotton shirt
 - (2) in Sept – Oct
 - (1) in late Oct - Nov
- Cotton Tee shirts and underwear
- One set of rain gear (tops + bottoms) emphasis on quiet material. If you wear wool you really don't need raingear in the field. This would be primarily for the riding into and out of camp (1st day, last day of each hunt).
- Hats (2)
 - One wool or similar for adverse wet weather
 - One for fair weather (think baseball hat or similar)
- Hunter Orange vest (minimum 400 square inches)
 - Do not bring orange hats
 - Camo style orange is fine for vest or outer style sweater
- Gloves
 - 2pr light wool or rag wool type
 - 2pr heavier wool and water proof gloves
 - Later hunts may prefer adding a set of each as well as liners to change during day
- Wool socks
 - medium weight (Sept – Oct) 4 pair
 - heavy weight (late Oct – Nov) 3 pair
- Lightweight socks
 - Cotton 2pr for around camp
 - Silk or merino wool for underlayer during late Oct – Nov 2pr
- Field Boots broken in, good tread and ankle support, waterproof, and comfortable.

- 2 pair in Sept – Oct. Recommend one pair similar to light field boots. Second pair should be waterproof in snowy/wet conditions and able to put wool socks into for warmth. Can consolidate into 1 pr if comfortable and waterproof and can line with wool socks. I like 2 pr simply because if one gets wet you can dry it and wear the other around camp and to accommodate weather changes.
- 2 pair in late Oct – early Nov. First pair should be insulated, waterproof, and warm in snowy/wet conditions. Strongly recommend primary pair should be boot pack or similar (removable liner – bring extra liners).
- Optional sneakers or very light shoes for around camp.
- Towel & wash cloth
- Personal toiletries (ibuprophen, aspirin, Tylenol, etc as necessary). Shaving kits, etc.
- Smaller size daypack capable of carrying lunch, water, change of socks & gloves, knife, other ancillaries. This daypack will be with you all day and on a horse so you do not want it too big or heavy. Don't bring an excursion type pack for overnight camping.
- Binoculars
- Rifle w/sling (as applicable) and ammunition
- Knives for field dressing and camp use.
- Camera
- Headlamp flashlight (suggest 2) & extra batteries
- Alarm clock
- Lighter
- Water bottle or camel bladder
- All gear must be in army style GI duffle bags approximately 36" long or similar

I supply all the common camp equipment including axes for quartering game, and cots, etc. You will not need anything like that. Ask if something specific comes to mind.

Please keep in mind the type of terrain and the season that your hunt occurs. This will help you further refine the list above or customize it to your unique requirements. Also keep in mind we have total weight requirements and we need everyone's bag to be right at 40 lb. excluding the sleeping bag.

Terrain:

Our terrain is mountainous of course. We are a good day's horseback ride into Montana's Rocky Mountains. We are at the headwaters of major North American rivers, and the camps are in the smaller valleys nestled along the Continental Divide. The bottom areas are largely timbered save where fires have gone through and removed the older trees and brush. They are not terribly thick timber and you can get around the thickest areas. There is almost always a small stream in the bottom of any drainage, and there are innumerable small springs and bogs scattered about which are used by the elk and deer during the hottest times of summer to stay cool.

As you get towards the ridgetops they open up quite a bit. Generally any ridgetop allows for good viewing for many miles and allows for quick orientation. Our mountain peaks are largely bare rock and scree slopes. The degree of ascent out of the valleys varies greatly, but suffice it to say that you can

climb out of almost any valley to the upper benches and ridges with a little bit of trial and error. There are many game trails that are decades old and older, so it's easy to see the most traveled wild paths.

The camps are generally around 6,000ft of elevation, with the ridges and peaks getting to 8,000ft of elevation. There are occasional peaks approaching 9,000ft.

Seasons:

Our early rifle season begins in mid-September and this can be a pretty warm time of year. It's not unusual for the days to be in the 70's, although the mornings are generally much cooler and frequently in the low 40's. We can get rain during storm fronts as they move through, though they often move through quickly. In the first week of the season snow is not common but possible. By the end of September the weather is cooling dramatically and our daytime highs drop to low 60's at best, and below freezing nights are common. Snow is likely, but not with much accumulation. As we move into October the temperatures continue to cool and snow becomes likely and common. Rain is less common in October, and it will be generally below freezing every night and well into the morning.

By the end of October expect snow to be on the ground most of the time, particularly in the higher elevations. Rain is rare by this time. Daytime high temperatures will be in the 30's and 40's, and nighttime and morning temperatures will often be in single digits. November continues to accumulate more snow and the temperatures will drop further to highs in the 20's normally and around 0 or below at night.