

Recommended Gear List

West Elk Outfitters

West Elk Outfitters wants their clients to be prepared and comfortable during their trip. Much of the gear that a person will need is up to the individual to bring depending on your hunt package.

Drop Camps: Total weight of items for drop camp hunts cannot exceed 80 pounds. Sixty pounds of gear is recommended. Items will be weighed and balanced in packs before transported into the backcountry. Below is a detailed list of recommended items to bring. Excess gear will be removed and left at your vehicle.

Emergency Communication Device

Such as: a Garmin Inreach, satellite phone, GPS tracking and transmitting system (Not necessary for Guided Hunts)

Headlamp, and flashlight

Bring at least one of each with extra batteries. Headlamps should have red light capability.

Two new, quality lighters

Quality knife set

A good all-purpose tool, like a Leatherman. Hunters should bring tools for initial processing of meat including a capping knife and a boning knife. We use Havalon and Outdoor edge replaceable blade knives. They are easy to pack.

Meat bags and cordage (para cord)

Hunters should be prepared with appropriate game bags and cordage. It is recommended that cordage is used to hang meat until the meat is packed out of the backcountry. (Not necessary for Guided Hunts)

Big game hunters will keep large meat coolers with their personal vehicles for transported to processor.

Transportation to processor by Outfitter is available.

Frame packs We use the new internal frame packs for hauling meat. (Sitka Mountain Hauler, Kuiu Pro Series 6000+ size, Stone Glacier EVO or Sky Talus. These styles of bags work well for your day pack also. Frame packs can be used by individuals whose gear exceeds the 60-pound limit to carry in excess gear (not recommended). Frame packs may also be useful to hunters needing to bring their meat to an appropriate pick-up location which is a main trail to get the horses to.

Riders should be free of any packs, bows or cumbersome equipment while riding. (Not necessary for Guided Hunts)

Daypacks

Daypacks are to be used in the backcountry by each individual whether you're guided or not and should be lightweight, durable and easily carried for long periods over tough terrain. The internal frame style expedition packs listed above work well for day packs. Recommended items to be put in daypacks include: a lighter, headlamp with extra batteries, minimal food and water, LifeStraw or water filtration system, rain gear, knives, gps, and gloves. emergency blanket, NON GUIDED ALSO NEED an emergency communication system, map, game bags.

Water

It is not practical to pack in enough bottled water into the backcountry thus the need for a water purification system. Each individual is responsible for providing for their own hydration needs.

Guests are encouraged to hydrate well prior to and throughout their trip.

Consumption of alcohol and caffeine is not recommended. (GUIDED hunters will have access to bottled water if they are staying at the base camp or the lodge and can pack bottled water and use a life straw or filtration system if they desire.)

Food Preparation

There is a cook stove and a heat stove at the drop camp. If you choose to spike out from the camp you will need the following: Mess kit including a camp cup, a spork or utensil set, MSR Stove and MSR compatible gas bottles (2), off brands are cheaper but not recommended.

Food

Our clients are responsible for bringing and preparing their own food while in the backcountry drop camps. Keep in mind that all trash items will need to be contained and packed out. Recommended items are easy to make, lightweight and nutritious. Peak Meals that just need water added are great for packing. **NO ICE WILL BE PACKED INTO THE CAMPS.**

Hard sided coolers can be packed in but **MUST** be in approved size coolers. Cooler cannot exceed 16x16x26. The 45-quart YETI works but is bulky and reduces the amount of contents. The 48-quart Rubbermaid style works fine. Care must be taken to ensure it is not left in the sun at camp during the early seasons. (GUIDED HUNTERS your food is taken care of)

Accommodations

Dependent on your West Elk Outfitters package, clients will need to bring and be responsible for setting up a light weight tent or sleeping arrangement such as a covered hammock, if not utilizing one of our pre-set drop camps. You will need to bring a sleeping bag, pillow or a bed roll for any drop camp, spike camp and guided hunt during archery season. The rifle seasons we stay in the hunting house and bedding is furnished.

Personal Apparel

Individuals should come prepared with: rain gear, clothing for active wear and inclement weather, appropriate footwear and quality socks made to be worn in the backcountry. Plan to layer. Do not bring excessive clothing.

Individuals are responsible for personal hygiene items in the backcountry as well as the appropriate disposal of all trash/waste items as arranged by Outfitter.

Please contact West Elk Outfitters for any questions or assistance: 970-210-5820 Office/Mandy 970-640-9461—call or text Jerad jerad@westelkoutfitters.com email