

## Rifle Elk Hunt Gear List

Let me start by saying that all of the following gear is what I have found to work over the years. If you think some other gear works better for you by all means go ahead and bring it. The most important thing that you can bring with you is yourself. Physically and mentally preparing for an elk hunt are far more important than any piece of gear. In other words, GET IN THE BEST SHAPE YOU CAN BE IN AND BE ABLE TO HIT WHAT YOU ARE SHOOTING AT! As far as clothing goes you need to have some sort of layering system. Temps can range from 0-70 degrees on these hunts and it can change at a moments notice. Having some sort base layer, fleece jacket, and a medium weight jacket is usually best. Avoid any type of cotton clothing. You can bring a big parka but the only time we use them is during long periods of glassing. Most mornings we are on the move and afternoons are spent waiting for elk to come out of the timber and then we are going to them. We can drive into camp so bring as much gear as you want.

- Hunting License and Conservation Stamp- Don't forget them!
- Hunter's Safety Card- If born after Jan. 1 1966
- Rifle- 270 caliber or larger, zeroed at 200 yards and capable of shooting out to 500 yards. Practice, if you have a dial built for your scope realize we will be hunting at an average elevation of 7,000 feet.
- Binoculars- 8x42 or 10x42. The best you can afford. Leupold, Nikon, Vortex or better
- Day Pack- capable of carrying all your gear. I use the Badlands 2200, it's nice to have a pack with a rifle carrier and meat packing capabilities. Badlands Superday is also a good pack along with lots of others.
- Headwear- Ball cap, stocking cap and neck gaiter.
- Base Layer- Under Armour, merino wool, or other synthetic all are good. Light to medium weight.
- Mid Layer- Fleece jacket or pullover, wool shirt, synthetic sweatshirt. Having an extra fleece or down vest in your pack is a good idea.
- Outer Layer- Any type of medium weight coat is fine. I have used lots of different coats over the years. Something that is water resistant and offers a good warmth to weight ratio works great.
- Rain Gear- Most of the time we don't need any. But I do recommend bringing a light packable rain jacket to carry in your pack. They also work great as a wind breaker. I use Cabela's Space Rain or KUIU.
- Pants- Bring 2 pair. I like any of the synthetic or wool pants. Make sure they are made out of a quiet material and are water resistant. Cabela's Microtex, Sitka 90%, Kuiu Guide or Attack pant, or something similar.
- Gaiters- Best to have a pair that are well made and quiet. Kennetrek, Kuiu, Outdoor Research are good.
- Socks- Bring a few pairs of light and medium weight hiking socks with some padding in them. Wool or synthetic. Smartwool, Bridgedale or comparable.
- Boots- Don't skimp on your boots and make sure they are broke in. If you can bring 2 pair that's even better, just in case they get soaked. I like a pair with 400 grams of thinsulate or less. Make sure they have good ankle support. Kennetrek, Meindel, Lowa, Asolo, Irish Setter, Crispi, Hanwag are all good boots.
- Gloves- One heavy pair and 2 lightweight pairs. I like the Army Surplus wool glove liner
- Headlamp- Bring a set of extra batteries
- Knife-Bring a lightweight knife that is lightwieght. Make sure it's sharp.
- Sleeping Bag- Doesn't need to be fancy. 0-15 bag works good. Bring a pillow too.
- Chap Stick- The air is dry out here and your lips will get chapped.
- Water Bottle- Something that carries around 32 ounces is good. A gatorade bottle works
- Toiletries- All your normal bathroom stuff. There are showers available.