

## Archery 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 AND BE PROFICIENT WITH YOUR BOW! As far as clothing goes you need to have some sort of layering system. Temps can range from 20-70 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. All clothing needs to be extremely quiet, if you rub it together and it makes noise it is too loud! Avoid any type of cotton clothing. You 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

- Bow/Arrows- I recommend a 70lb bow with arrows that are at least 450 grains. Absolutely no expandable broadheads! You will not get the penetration with an expandable that you get with a fixed blade head. A fixed 2 or 3 blade is best. You will get the best penetration with a 2 blade. Be comfortable shooting out to 50 yards. Most shots are 30 yards and less. Practice shooting with your quiver on your bow.

- Binoculars- 8x42 or 10x42. The best you can afford. Leupold, Nikon, Vortex or better

- Rangefinder- Any rangefinder will work. You need to have it in a place that you can get to it quickly and quietly. I recommend strapping the rangefinder case on your packs hip belt and tethering the rangefinder around the shoulder strap. This way it's accessible and it won't be lost.

- Day Pack- capable of carrying all your gear. I use the KUIU 3200 or Badlands Superday. You need something big enough to carry your gear and clothing for the day. A pack with exterior straps for lashing clothing on is recommended.

- 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 pants. Make sure they are made out of a quiet material and are water resistant. Kuiu Tiburon or Attack pant, Cabela's Microtex, Sitka 90%, or something similar.

- Gaiters- Optional on this hunt but nice to have if it rains or snows. 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. Darn Tough, 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 an uninsulated light hiker. Make sure they have good ankle support. Kennetrek, Meindel, Lowa, Asolo, Irish Setter, Crispi, Hanwag.

- Gloves- One lightweight pair is fine. I like the Army Surplus wool glove liner

Cow Call- The only time you should need one is to stop a bull for a shot. I cannot stress to you enough how important it is for you to be able to effectively do this. A diaphragm call is recommended, I use my voice. Make sure you can do this when the time comes! Practice while you are shooting.

- Headlamp- Bring a set of extra batteries

- Knife- Lightweight knife. 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.