

# Wapiti Outfitters



## What Hunters Need to Know Before Hunting with Wapiti Outfitters

Inspired by Past Elk Hunts

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This is a small packet Wapiti Outfitters has put together to inform you of what to expect. In our business we have learned to not assume the obvious. You may find some things in this packet to be commonsense, but I feel you'll appreciate having the information and find most of it beneficial to you. Below is a small description of each document in the packet. Please read them, it will make your hunt more satisfying and successful.

**Waiver:** There are separate hunting waivers in each envelope for every individual to read, initial, and sign. Once you have signed both waivers please send them back with your \$500 deposit. Make deposits out to Charles Barrett.

**Things to Bring:** This list is a great reference to help you from forgetting something. If you are an avid hunter you probably already have everything on this list. If you do not have something on the list, I recommend you buy it because you can use them for future hunts..... Page 1

**List of Rules:** This list will provide you with hunting fishing and cabin rules. These rules are intended to make the guides lives more pleasant. Also, this list will help you to understand what to expect, what to bring, and what not to do.....Page 2

**Preparation for the Hunt:** This portion of the packet is to help you prepare for a successful hunt. If you cover this part of the packet I guarantee your hunt will be more successful when an opportunity presents itself.....Page 3

**Things to Know:** This portion of the packet is to inform you of what to bring, how our cabin is set up, how we hunt, how to determine a legal bull, processing directions and frequently asked Questions.....Pages 4 & 5

**Tag Description:** This portion will explain what tags you should draw for, as well as hunt codes and how to apply for them.....Page 6

**Big Game Brochure:** In this brochure you will find your elk tag application, and Colorado rules and regulations.

### **List of Things to Bring:**

1. Rifle: 243 is the smallest caliber allowed in Colorado with at least an 80 grain bullet.  
We recommend that rifles are bolt action with a quality scope.
2. Binoculars
3. Range finder
4. Hunting knife
5. Clothes for sitting in sub zero temperatures
6. Day pack
7. Rain/snow gear
8. Shooting sticks, 48" or greater, preferred bipod
9. Sleeping bag, pillow
10. Two way radio with privacy channels
11. Minimum of an orange vest and orange hat
12. Bring a reusable water container to drink out of in the field, this helps eliminate littering of water bottles
13. Extra batteries
14. Lighter or waterproof matches
15. An extra pair of boots
16. Headlamp/flashlight
17. Extra bullets
18. Gun sling
19. Seat pad if needed

### List of Hunting/Fishing Rules:

1. No littering
2. Always be sure of your shot
3. If animal is harvested stay in your stand until a guide gets to you. The only exception is if you have a visual of the animal and will not lose sight of the animal; or if you are hunting with another person in which one person can guide the other person to the animal.
4. Bolt action rifles are preferred
5. Keep radio traffic to a minimum
6. If you shoot an elk and we find a blood trail and are unable to recover the elk, that will count as a filled tag and you are unable to keep hunting. **Be sure of your shot!**
7. When your group arrives we will transport all of your gear to camp. No hunter vehicles are allowed in camp unless you have quality tire chains. War Wagon not Draggin' Wagon.
8. Use **good judgment**
9. We have blinds set up in the best spots for shooting elk on our property. If we have you sitting in a blind you need to stay there unless instructed otherwise by a guide.
10. Fly rods are preferred
11. If you do not fly fish, spinners only with one treble hook cut off and the barbs pinched on the remaining two. No worms, power bait, or salmon eggs
12. The cabin is my summer home; please treat it as if it was your own we are not a Bed and Bath.
13. Wearing your hunting boots in the cabin is ok but not upstairs, so bring slippers or some other foot ware
14. Do not light matches on the top of the wood burning stove
15. Don't boil over the coffee
16. Don't crush cans on the cabin floor
17. There are mice in the cabin so keep food in closed containers
18. Clean up after yourself
19. Turn lights off in the cabin and on porches when leaving to go hunting
20. Make sure cabin doors are latched when leaving the cabin; there are a lot of critters running around that we don't want to let in.

### **Preparation for the Hunt:**

1. **Use high weight retention bullets.** Examples are bonded bullets, barns, and partition; stay away from soft point, core locks, and ballistic tips.
2. **Practice shooting before you arrive.** The more comfortable you are at long range, the better your chances are of harvesting an animal. It always improves the success rate when we have hunters that are comfortable out to 400 yards.
3. **Practice shooting using shooting sticks.** This makes you more comfortable when hunting in the field. This is important so you learn the position where you are the most steady and comfortable while shooting.
4. This hunt is not that strenuous but we do recommend hunters to walk or perform some kind of exercise before you come. It will help you acclimate to the altitude much faster. There are certain spots that are short in distance but a fast gain in elevation. The better shape you are in, the less over heated you will be when you get to the top.
5. Hunters will be responsible for walking and sitting in the blinds by themselves. Therefore, you are responsible for making your own decisions in the field as well as using **good judgment**. Most seasoned hunters or beginner hunters who are eager to learn will not have an issue.

## Things to Know:

Most of the hunting will be out of blinds or stands. We shoot a large number of elk in the afternoon due to the hunting pressure around us so be prepared to sit all day. Our blinds are built out of natural material, and some blinds do not have roofs. So have your gear prepared for varying weather conditions.

It is mandatory for all hunters to shoot their guns when they get to the ranch to make sure your gun is shooting at the same spot it was before you left to come on this hunt. We do not want to shoot your gun in for you, for example, we have had clients that hadn't shot their gun in two years and we ultimately spent two hours sighting their guns in.

Processing Elk: There is a meat processing place where we take all game unless you want to process it yourself. For basic processing it cost \$285.00 for an elk. We will take your elk to the processing plant; you're responsible for pick up at the end of your hunt.

The living quarters is a 100-year-old cabin which is my summer home. It has a loft with six beds, wood burning fire place, electricity, cooking oven, microwave, plates, silverware, coffee pot, barbeque, pots and pans, kitchen sink, running hot water, outdoor shower and outhouse. We do not supply bedding so bring a sleeping bag and a pillow. There is no washer and dryer.

This is not a catered hunt therefore you are responsible for bringing all food and beverages, coffee, and paper products including paper towels and toilet paper.

Generally in the fall there are a lot of flies in the cabin, fly traps or fly tape are helpful.

Weather can change daily, be prepared for anything from snow to rain, to -10 degrees to 75 degrees. If the weather gets too bad you will never be more than a couple of miles from the cabin or a vehicle.

Be aware that there are moose in the area. **Be sure of your target** before pulling the trigger. The penalty for shooting a moose is greater than \$30,000.

There are mule deer in the area as well; know the difference between a deer and an elk.

A legal bull, in our area, must have a five inch brow tine or have more than four points on one side. If it has a five inch brow tine, than it is legal to have less than four points on one side. A yearling bull would be considered a spike only having one beam on each side which can fork at the top. A spike is illegal to shoot.

## **FAQ's:**

**Q:** What is your kill rate?

**A:** Our average kill rate for the past 10 years is 68%, with over 80% being bulls. Our average opportunity rate is 90%.

**Q:** If I have a shot on a smaller bull on the first day should I hold off for a bigger bull?

**A:** No, elk are where you find them. There have been instances when we see elk everywhere for two days straight, and then the last three days of the season we see no more than ten elk (This is the nature of a migratory herd).

**Q:** How big of an elk will I get?

**A:** Typically we harvest 2-3 year old 5x5 bulls, but sometimes we get big 6x6's.

**Q:** What should I tip my guide?

**A:** What do you tip your waiter? It is customary to tip an average of 10%-15%. If you feel you had an exceptional hunt tip more.

**Q:** Is your herd a resident elk herd?

**A:** No, it is a migratory herd. Some elk in the White River herd have been known to migrate over 100 miles.

**Q:** What is the elevation we are hunting?

**A:** 7400 to 8800 feet above sea level.

## Directions

Heading east out of Meeker go 1.5 miles and take a right on CR 8

3.1 miles take left on CR 6

6.5 miles take right for on dirt road

.5 miles stay left on upper road

2.5 miles cross 2<sup>nd</sup> cattle guard there are a set of cattle pens we will meet you there