

A Lazy H Outfitters 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 Gear:

- Sleeping bag (10 degree rating or better) If your bag isn't quite there we suggest flannel 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, particularly in Oct/Nov.
- Small pillow
- We supply foam pads that go on the cots under your sleeping bag

Outer Layers

- One light weight outer jacket
- One medium weight (Sept) or Heavier weight (Oct/Nov) jacket
- Wool pants or field pants - 1 pr These are primarily what you'll wear in the field each day.
 - Light or Medium weight (Sept- early Oct)
 - Medium or heavy (late Oct – Nov) – you will use these in Oct or Nov.
- Blue jeans or similar – 1-2pr for riding into/out of camp as well as around camp
- One set of rain gear (tops + bottoms) emphasis on quiet material. Wear something that will fit over your outer gear and can be easily taken off.
- Hats (2)
 - One heavy hat adverse wet and snowy weather
 - For general season hunts I like a heavy wool hat like "mad-bomber" style
 - For general season hunts I like to have a lightweight baclava
 - One for fair weather (think baseball hat or similar) which you will use quite a bit in September.
 - In below-freezing nights its nice to have a scotch hat to wear while sleeping
 - Scarf, baklava, or similar to protect your neck from cold windy weather
 - In the early season (Sept/early Oct) you will want to have a scotch hat that you can wear at night as well as in the field on cold mornings.
- Hunter Orange vest (minimum 400 square inches) is required
 - Camo style orange is fine for vest or outer style sweater
 - Any lightweight material will work fine
 - Orange camo jacket/shirts are ok but still bring a vest as it will layer over anything you might wear as an outer layer
 - I have a super light fabric vest I wear over everything except my backpack.
- Gloves
 - 2-3pr light wool or rag wool type
 - 2pr heavier and water proof gloves
 - Later hunts may prefer adding a set of each as well as liners to change during day
 - Glove get wet quickly so having several to cycle through during the day is a good thing
 - Light weight gloves are great in September as they provide warmth in early morning then can be easily packed during the day

- For late Oct/Nov hunts I recommend hand/foot warmers. Also in these hunts you will want at least one pair of heavy duty gloves or preferably mittens for the horse ride. The mornings can be very cold.

Inner Layers

- Long underwear (2 sets)
 - Medium weight (Sept – Oct)
 - Heavy or Polar weight (late Oct – Nov)
- Light weight synthetic or merino wool underlayer to augment long underwear on cold/wet days and to wear in warm weather as layer between skin and wool (if applicable).
- Chamois or wool or heavy cotton shirts (2)
- Lightweight cotton shirt
 - (2) in Sept – Oct
 - (1) in late Oct - Nov
- Cotton Tee shirts and underwear
- Wool socks
 - medium weight (Sept – Oct) 3 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

Boots

- Field Hiking 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. 600-800 gram thinsulater boots are ideal here. You 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.
 - 1 pair in late Oct – early Nov. 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).
 - In late Oct-Nov
 - Sneakers or light shoes for around camp in September
 - Hiking shoes or muck boots for around camp in Oct and Nov

Miscellaneous

- Towel & wash cloth
- Package of wet-wipes to clean off blood and grime in the field
- Personal toiletries (ibuprophen, aspirin, Tylenol, etc as necessary). Shaving kits, etc.
- Binoculars
- Rifle w/sling and ammunition
- Knives for field dressing and camp use. Guides have gear but it never hurts to have an extra hand.
- Camera
- Headlamp flashlight (suggest 2) & extra batteries

- Rang finder if you have one
- Alarm clock
- Lighter
- Battery and charging cord for cell phone. You will not have cell service but you will need to recharge cell phones for photos.
- Water bottle (750ml) or camel-back bladder
- All gear must be in army style GI duffle bags approximately 36" long or similar. You will certainly have 2 bags.

Backpacks

- I recommend a backpack that can fit your gear, lunch, water, misc, and ammo for the day. Figure 2,000 – 3,000 cubic inch size.
- You do not internal frames or backpacks sized do carry your extended excursion gear.
- We do not get lost, and we almost always have horses in the vicinity. The additional gear weighs and slows you down, and we want you to be as nimble as possible.

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 each bag to be less than 40#. Your total gear generally will include 2 bags, (not to exceed 55# total) plus a sleeping bag if it's larger. Often a sleeping bag will fit into one of your other bags.

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.