

# HUNTER INFORMATION MANUAL

## 1

### **Introduction**

This packet is designed to assist you in preparing for your upcoming, hunting trip with North River Stone Outfitters Inc. and North River Outfitting Ltd. It covers equipment lists, equipment preparation, personal preparation, area information, travel arrangements, guide relations and anything else that can make your trip more enjoyable. I hope you can use it as a reference for future hunts.

The following information is based on personal experiences, research, advice from professionals and general industry knowledge. Please keep me informed of products, regulations, personal experiences, etc. that can be added to this packet. We strive to do the best job possible and are open minded to your suggestions and advice.

### **Mission**

Our goal is to be one of the most respected, knowledgeable and professional operations in Canada; to have guides and clients who want to return; to make a difference in people's lives; help people experience nature; to promote mature game hunting in a positive and ethical way so that future generations may enjoy the same; to have our clients have a special hunt, and to feel that we have worked hard to provide that experience. We want our Clients to have a Adventure of a lifetime while with us.

### **3 Hunting Ethics**

Ethics and Fair Chase Hunting is of the utmost importance. Illegal activities jeopardizes the future of our operation, the potential confiscation of a harvested animal and ultimately the future of hunting. Your guides are aware and have been informed of the wildlife regulations and are expected to obey the laws. Please do not ask them to knowingly take part in illegal or unethical activities. If an honest mistake is made, proper steps need to be taken to correct the situation with the help of a Conservation Officer.

### **The Outfitting Area**

North River Outfitting is in business since 1979. We have been Outfitting in the Cassiar Mountains for 8 years. Ron has worked all over the Arctic, BC, NWT, Mexico, Saskatchewan, and many other places all his life. Our area has an excellent variety of game and terrain. Much of the area has been under hunted due to its remoteness. There are over 20 lakes and one river which offer some type of floatplane access. Aluminum boats and Zodiaks w/motors are used on the other larger lakes. These varied bodies of water are exceptionally clear and pristine and provide excellent fishing. The elevations of the lakes and rivers range from 3,000 – 5500 feet. The mountains in the area are very diverse, with some being mild, while others are quite rough and steep with the highest peaks stretching to 8,000'. We are the most remote area in British Columbia.

### **Wildlife**

The area has a diverse game population: Stone Sheep, Grizzly Bear, Mountain Goat, Mountain Caribou, Moose, Wolf and even a few elk. Several species of grouse and ptarmigan also live in the area. The following is a brief overview of the species of game.

**Stone Sheep:** Our area has a yearly quota of about 12 rams. The average sheep ranges from 35+ inches with 40"+ rams having been taken in the past. Our Stone Sheep hunts are accessed by plane, then you will need to do some hiking and backpacking. We have little resident hunting pressure in the sheep hunting areas.

**Grizzly Bear: *The Government of British Columbia has closed the Grizzly harvest for the moment.***

The population of Grizzlies is good. Grizzly bears congregate to feed on berry crops in the area's old burns. This is a spot and stalk hunt. The Grizzly quota is 4 - 5 Bears/year. The area has produced Record Class Bears, over 25". Typically, bears will square 7-8 ½ feet.

**Mountain Goat:** Goat is our most plentiful animal, offering a great opportunity to harvest a trophy animal. Our goats do not get quite as big as coastal goats, but the hunting for them is more pleasant (no Devils Club or coastal rain/fog). The goats range in size from 9 - 11". The area can produce record class animals. The largest goat ever harvested was over 11" long and scored between 53-54 B&C. Hunt mid-late August for the best weather and after mid-September for the best hair. Some Goat hunting is strenuous and requires good

physical conditioning. If you want a big goat, be prepared to turn down smaller Billies. We do not encourage or promote shooting nannies, even though they are legal.

**Moose:** The average moose is in the 53-56" (190 B+C) and several over 60" moose have been taken. The largest taken in the area was in the low 60" range. The Moose hunting is fair in late August & early September, but the best rut hunting/calling is in mid-late September and early October. Moose make a great combination hunt with Goat or Caribou in September. Moose hunts can be taken in the Alpine, on the lakes and rivers with boats or by backpack in the harder to access areas.

**Mountain Caribou:** Very large animals are taken regularly. In August, the Caribou are scattered and found higher on the ridges or in the brush. By mid to late-September, the animals have grouped for the rut and are found on the plateaus and open mountain sides.

**Black Bear:** We do not have a lot of black bears, but there are some big bears in the area, with most of them being jet black. We see black bears every year, we do not hunt the black bears.

**Wolf:** Wolves are taken on an opportunity basis at no cost. A hunter can purchase a maximum of 3 wolf tags/season. We normally take 1-2 wolves/year. Wolves are very smart and hard to find, but a very unique trophy.

### **Fishing**

We have excellent fishing in our many lakes and rivers. If you finish your hunt early, you are welcome to fish as much as you'd like. We have some rods/reels in camp, but you may wish to bring your own, especially if you are a serious fisherman. Fly, spin and casting methods all work well. There are boats w/motors on most of the lakes for your use. The most common fish in our area include Lake Trout, Bull Trout, Rainbow Trout, Arctic Grayling & Whitefish, Dolly Varden. We ask that you keep only enough fish to eat in camp (stay within your daily limit) and release the others. Fishing License is about 120.

### **Personnel/Guide Profiles**

We have a young, energetic, hardworking and professional guiding staff working for us this year. We have arguably, some of the most fit and enthusiastic staff. If there are any personality conflicts during your trip, they need to be addressed so that we can correct the match up with the guides. An open communication policy will help avoid problems and hard feelings. The following is an overview of our guiding staff:

**Ron Nemetchek** is the owner of North River Outfitting. He has extensive hunting experience in Canada, USA and Mexico, and has been involved in the outfitting industry since 1979, having guided hunters to a variety of trophy animals. An avid hunter himself, he has hunted with rifle, bow with a passion for backpack hunting alpine country.

Ron loves guiding and loves to see the clients harvesting a mature animal. He is a bush pilot for the past 35 years and has flown all over the Arctic.

### **Tipping**

Our crew is in the service business, and tipping them is customary and greatly appreciated, but not required. What you tip a person is between you and them. For the guide and crew, 12% of the hunt cost is average, depending on their level of service. Your guide will normally get the larger portion of the tip, but if you have a cook or packer/wrangler on your trip (many of the hunters will), camp staff at the main lodge take care of infield needs, please don't forget them. Our guides and staff work long hours and guide because they love it. Regarding tips, cash is always great. If you do not feel your guide deserves a tip, let us know.

### **Harvest Fees**

Make sure you bring sufficient funds for harvest fees, if they apply to your hunt. Harvest fees need to be cash, bank drafts/cashiers checks or Visa payments, there will be 3% surcharge on Visa. Please note that GST/HST is also applied to your harvest fees (see brochure and/or hunt contract for details). Certified cheque is preferred.

### **Licenses and Tags**

You included money for your licenses and tags with your hunt contract. We will purchase those for you before you arrive in camp. If you want to purchase additional tags, you will need to let us know in advance

as you will not be able to purchase a tag once in camp, and we DO NOT allow hunters to shoot game and then purchase the tag for it. After you receive your licenses/tags in Camp from Maria. Also, make sure you have the proper licenses before leaving for camp as we just can't run back to town to get a replacement.

### **Government Royalties**

Government royalties are charged by Maria and submitted by Maria to the Canadian Government.

### **Traveling to Canada**

**Commercial Airlines** – Most of you will enter Canada via a commercial airline. Even with connections you should be able to accomplish the trip in one day. Smithers has good service with 2 daily flights into the airport. Once you've arrived in Canada, most of the flights are direct from Vancouver, BC via Air Canada. Air Canada may be charging an additional fee for flying with a firearm. We recommend using a professional travel agency to book your flights, unless you are quite experienced with the process. If you have questions about airline travel within the US, call or email TSA at: (866) 289-9673 or [www.TSATravelTips.us](http://www.TSATravelTips.us). It appears that there will not be problems with taking meat, capes and skulls back across the border, but you might want to call US Customs (360) 988-2971 (Sumas, WA).

I would recommend using one of two companies to book your flight: **Jim or Evelyn, Travel Canada (877) 608-3500** or **Doug Gray, Gracy Travel (800) 299-8558**. Travel Canada is based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and specializes in working with outfitters and hunters/fishermen and understands their travel needs. They are available 24/7 should you need assistance before, during or after your trip. They get good rates on Air Canada, even on short notice, and make hotel bookings. If you don't have travel/health insurance protection, I strongly suggest getting coverage through one of these agents. Another company I really recommend is [www.globalrescue.com](http://www.globalrescue.com) and Med Jet or [www.metjetassist.com](http://www.metjetassist.com). If you are injured in Canada or overseas, they will fly you back to the US for medical attention.

Another option is to use a travel website (Sidestep, Expedia, Travelocity or Cheapest Fare) to buy tickets. Make sure that the tickets you purchase have some flexibility regarding cost and convenience of rescheduling flights should weather cause us any delays, which has happened.

The dates of your hunt include the days you'll be flying in and out of the area. Arriving a day early in Smithers is helpful in the event the airlines lose your luggage, arriving early will give hunters another day to get your gear to Smithers. Book your flight departing Smithers for the day after your hunt is completed, or even one day later. If you have to depart the same day you arrive back in Smithers from hunt camp, schedule your departure as late in the day as possible. If you need help, or have questions in arranging flights, please let us know. Allow several hours between when you land in Vancouver, BC and your connecting flight to Smithers, so that you have time to clear customs. This is where you'll present your Firearms Declaration that we've provided.

Important: When flying to Canada, obtain a **Passport**. A passport is valid for 10 years and can be obtained online, like [www.tds.com](http://www.tds.com) or by going to your local courthouse or police department. You'll also need several passport photos (these can be taken at a photo or print shop). You might not need a passport to drive to Canada, just a current driver's license, but you should bring one anyway. A passport will soon be required for all travel to/from Canada and the US

The following should be kept in mind regarding baggage and taking trophies home: Due to high fuel prices, many airlines are charging a fee for all checked baggage, plus a fee for overweight baggage. If you wish to take some meat and your antlers/cape home the commercial carrier will charge you for it. Some airlines permit antlers as baggage as long as there is no blood/hair/skin & if all points are covered to prevent damage to other luggage. They will also require you to sign a liability release form. It is common to split the skulls on animals such as moose, caribou and elk to facilitate easier shipping. If an animal is record book size, this should not be done. We recommend using a local taxidermist, or our recommended taxidermists to mount or transport your trophies back to the US. Sheep and goat horns are easier to take with you, as they will fit into small duffels. You'll need to obtain a CITES Permit before exporting any Grizzly to the US, so you'll have to leave it with the taxidermist to have it shipped.

**Driving** – Canada is a beautiful country. If you are driving to Smithers, buy a good road map of British Columbia when you cross the border. It's much easier to take home moose and caribou meat and horns in your vehicle than by plane. If you are coming from a state east of Montana, drive into Alberta and go to Calgary. From there, take Hwy 1 and then Hwy 93 into Banff & Jasper National Parks. At the town of

Jasper, you'll head West on Hwy 16, entering British Columbia through Mount Robson Park. Stay on Hwy 16, heading NW to Smithers, through McBride, Prince George, Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Houston & Telkwa.

If you'll be driving up through Western Montana or Idaho, take either Hwy 93 or 95. You'll go through Cranbrook and Invermere then continue North into Banff and Jasper Parks and then West on Hwy 16.

When coming from Washington, there are two good routes. One is through the Sumas border crossing NE of Bellingham, WA. From here, take Hwy 1 to Hope. You can then stay on Hwy 1 to Cache Creek or take Hwy 5 through Merritt and Kamloops and then to Cache Creek. From Cache Creek, you'll take Hwy 97 through Clinton, 100 Mile House, Williams Lake & Quesnel and into Prince George. The other route is through Osoyoos and up Hwy 97 through Penticton, Kelowna and Kamloops to Cache Creek or you can take Hwy 3 NW through Princeton and up through Merritt to Cache Creek. After arriving in Prince George, head NW on Hwy 16 to Smithers. Smithers is approximately 750-800 miles from the BC/US border. Enjoy the drive.

#### ***Metric/Standard Conversions:***

Distance: 1 km = 0.62 miles; 1 meter = 3.28 feet.

Weight: 1 kg = 2.2 lbs.

Temperature: Fahrenheit = Celsius x (9/5) + 32

Volume: 1 US gallon = 3.78 liters

***Firearms*** - Canadian Customs will generally inspect all firearms brought into Canada. As long as you do not bring a handgun, there should be no problems. You must declare any firearm you are bringing in. Beginning in the year 2001, Customs officers began recording the serial numbers on your guns when you enter Canada, and they will check them again when you exit Canada on the way home. There will also be a \$50 (Cdn) fee required to buy a Firearms Declaration, a temporary permit to take your gun into Canada. Other firearm restrictions are in the works. You'll need to complete the form that is enclosed. Sign the form when you get to Canada Customs, which will be the at Vancouver, BC Airport if you are flying or a border crossing if driving. If you have any other questions regarding the matter, call the firearms office: 1-800-731-4000.

***Alcohol & tobacco*** – You can bring up to 40 ounces of liquor or a case of beer/ale and up to 200 cigarettes & 50 cigars into Canada from another country without paying a tax. Any amount more than this will be charged tax.

***Medical Insurance*** – Call your provider to make sure that your coverage is good while traveling/visiting in Canada. You can also use Medjet Assistance, [www.medjetassist.com](http://www.medjetassist.com) : (800) 963-3538, which will take you back to the US via Jet should you get injured while in Canada or on any foreign trip.

***Money Exchange*** – To get the best exchange rate, exchange your US currency at a bank or bank-operated currency exchange before you leave home or at an International airport. This can be done in the US or Canada, but tends to be easier at locations closer to the border. American Express Traveler's Checks work great also. When traveling, a credit card works very well for most purchases, and as a bonus you won't have to do another currency exchange when re-entering your own country. It automatically converts the Canadian purchases you make into US dollar values. For current exchange rate please check with your bank.

***GST*** – (Goods and Services Tax). Canada has quite high taxes. This tax applies to almost any service or product you purchase. The GST rate is 5%. British Columbia a 7% PST (Provincial Sales Tax) also. If you have any questions, call a Customs office: Alberta (403) 292-8750.

#### ***Arrival in Smithers***

Smithers is your departure point into our camp. If you are flying, and stay at the Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge, (Phone (250) 847-4581). If you can't get lodging at the Hudson Bay, stay at the Stork Nest Inn (250) 847-3831. There is a local cab company: (250) 847-9605. Smithers is a nice town, often called "Little Switzerland". If you arrive early, you may want to rent a car to check out the area or consider fishing in one of the famous local Steelhead fishing rivers, like the Bulkley. If you are driving to Smithers, plan on staying at the Hudson Bay Lodge or the Stork Nest Inn. The Shuttle bus will be booked already for you at the Hudson Bay Lodge.

When you arrive in Smithers and check into the hotel, call us (780-675-1942), to advise of your arrival, and to confirm your morning pickup. If there is an emergency and you can't reach us, call us in the early AM. The Hudson Bay will have a locked room where you can store extra bags, town clothes and your hard gun case until you return from your hunt.

We will already have arranged to have the Hudson Bay Shuttle service take you to the floatplane dock or Airport for your flight into hunt camp. Unless there are weather delays, flights take place in the late morning or early afternoon, the day after your arrival in Smithers. Hunters have the choice driving to Tatogga Lake then flying into the area from there (about 80 miles). It is a 6 hr drive to Tatogga and it will help with weather delays and meat flights also. Please keep in mind that we have no control over the weather. Everyone will do his or her best to get you safely to our hunting area in a timely manner. If the weather is not cooperating, please do not harass pilots to get them to fly when the risk is too high. It is their judgement call, not yours. Most hunts are long, 10 days, and have built in time for delays. Besides, if the weather is bad enough we can't fly, the hunting is probably crappy also.

All Licenses will be given to you in Camp. Getting a tag once you've arrived in camp is not possible, and it is extremely expensive to schedule another flight. It is your responsibility to keep these tags on your person during, and after the hunt. As soon as you shoot an animal, immediately have the guide help you cut your tag.

### **Arrival in Camp**

You'll leave your extra bags and clothes in base camp before departing for a spike camp location. You will have an opportunity to shoot your rifle or bow. If you have any trophy fees (Cash, Bank/cashiers checks or Traveler's Checks) associated with your hunt, you will pay these upon arrival or will be asked to keep them in a safe place until the end of your hunt unless other arrangements have been made. If you do not harvest an animal requiring a trophy fee, the fee will be completely refunded at the end of your hunt.

Depending on the time of day, weather and your energy level, you may head to the field right away or you may stay in base camp for the afternoon and leave the next morning. This will depend on weather, what you feel like doing and what your guide feels will work best for the hunt. If you are going to do a backpack hunt using an airplane, you must wait 6 hours after any unscheduled flight before shooting/hunting. If the crew just finished a hunt late on the previous day, this is their day to rest, do laundry and prepare for the next hunting trip so please be patient with everyone. If this is the case, you'll leave early the next morning.

Our crew is expected to be courteous to you, and we expect the same in return. We will work hard to make sure our service exceeds your expectations. We do not provide beer and alcohol for our guests. If you wish to bring some, you may do so as long as it does not cause an unpleasant or unsafe situation for others in camp. If you want to celebrate at the completion of your hunt, that is fine. If you celebrate before your hunt is over, and we feel you are unfit to head to the field, you may be asked to stay in camp that day. There will be no handling of firearms while drinking. This is not a party camp, but we don't mind some responsible celebrating.

### **The Hunt**

You will be provided with transportation (airplane and/or boat), food, shelter, guide, etc. while in camp. Your guide and our crew will do everything possible to make the hunt enjoyable and memorable. We have excellent equipment and supplies. The only things we can't control are the weather and your attitude. Most of our hunts are quite long. If there are weather problems/delays, please deal with them as best as you can to make the hunt more pleasant for all those involved. Although most of our hunts are highly successful, we do

not guarantee a kill, just a great hunt with a hardworking crew. Most hunters should have an opportunity at the species being hunted. One of the most important things to ensure a good relationship between you and your guide is good communication. If you'd like to do something differently than the guide has planned, discuss it with him. Don't wait till the end of the hunt to tell him. This is your hunt, and you have a right to voice your opinion. If you want to hunt harder, or easier, tell your guide. Communication is the key. Most of the guides have InReaches, if you need to talk with me about any aspect of the hunt please text me on the InReach or if you have a personal Sat phone call camp. I'm usually available on a daily basis to discuss these situations.

For the backpack hunts, you'll be dropped off by an airplane, boat or horse and will be required to have a frame (internal or external) backpack. The hunt could last for a couple days or over a week. You'll need to let me know in advance how much weight you think you'll be able to pack. You'll be responsible for packing your own personal gear, rifle or bow and part of the food and maybe some cook gear and some of the meat or cape from your trophy. If you don't think you can pack much, I can arrange to have a packer assist you on the hunt for a reasonable cost (these are included on all sheep hunts). You'll still have to pack some of your own

personal gear though. Weight and physical preparation are the two biggest things you'll have to deal with. Pack light and get in shape! Be honest with yourself. Many hunts, take place in country that is rough..

If you finish your hunt early, you may wish to hunt for wolves or enjoy our fishing and beautiful country. The fishing and photographic opportunities are excellent. If you have a friend or family member interested in coming with you a day rate applies, we will do what we can to accommodate them. This is your trip. Do not be afraid to ask if you can do something of interest to you. We don't want you sitting around camp if you'd rather be out looking at new country. If you are serious about fishing, (we don't have enough fishing tackle to supply everyone with equipment), bring your own rod (telescopic or 3 -4 piece takedown), reel, spinners/lures/flyes and a few misc. supplies. A good spinner, like a Panther Martin, will work if you want to keep it simple. Common fish are Rainbow, Bull Trout and Lake Trout. The river and one lake have a few Grayling also.

I prefer that hunters do not try and win any long range shooting competitions when hunting with us. I feel that the following are realistic maximums for most hunting situations and should not be exceeded (even when using a range finder): Rifle (400-500 yards), Bow (40-60 yards), and Muzzleloader (125-175 yards). Shots longer than these can be made, but we will not encourage it and then only under unique circumstances and by very experienced shooters. The likelihood of wounding animals at extreme ranges is significantly higher.

### **Wounding an animal, is a harvested animal.**

There are situations that can be discussed with me and in that case Ron and I will make a judgement call.

### **Safety/First-Aid**

All of our base camps are equipped with large first-aid kits and medical supplies. Our Guides have a compact first-aid kits and are familiar with backcountry first aid requirements. You should still bring a small first aid kit with a few basic essentials. Please bring a compact, safety blanket/tarp or light weight Goretex Bivy with you, in the event you get stuck out on the mountain. We have Satellite Phone communications for emergency and business needs. If you require special medications, please bring this with you and let us know of any allergies or special food requirements. You should bring anti-inflammatory medication and jock-itch/athletes foot ointment with you. Wet-wipes and Baby wipes are a good idea for keeping certain body parts clean.

Note: If you are worried about giardia, you may wish to bring Iodine or Katadyn Aqua Pure tablets or a small Katadyn Hiker water filter.. We have always obtained our drinking from springs, streams, rivers & even lakes. This is remote country, with relatively no human impact, but if you are worried, bring your own filter to purify the water.

### **Communications**

The Stikine River base camp will have an Xplornet Satellite Internet with a Satellite phone. You should let your family know before you leave that there is a potential for weather delays and not to panic if you're a day late. If you wish to use our phones for personal or business use, you can do so. If you happen to be at a base camp, equipped with Xplornet, there is no charge for any US or Canadian call. Wireless is not available, due to be very limited on our internet and we need it to run our business. If you feel you'll need to use a Satellite phone for business during the trip, I recommend that you purchase or rent a handheld satellite phone (Iridium or Globalstar).

If you use one of our Satellite Phones, we will have to charge per minute.

### **Early Departures**

If you wish to leave early due to quick success, emergency reasons or business/personal reasons, we may be able to quickly schedule a plane to come in and pick you up. You will need to pay the cost of the unscheduled flight (over and above the cost of your regular scheduled aircharter), as it is 225 -250 miles to Smithers from our base camps. It is helpful to us to know in advance of you plan to leave early. We may be able to schedule you on another flight, saving you money and us time. We will do our best to work with you regarding this. It is easier on everyone if you'd stay for the duration of the hunt, but things happen and some people have tight schedules.

### **Hunt Completion**

You will fly out on the last day of your hunt date. You will need to arrive back in camp the evening before. We will need to fill out a hunt report/declaration for you. Before you leave, sometimes we will take measurements and age your animal(s) for our records. If your hunt is delayed due to weather, you can use our

base camp Satellite phone to help reschedule your flight and contact your family. When you arrive in Smithers, you'll be picked up by the Shuttle bus at the dock from the Hudson Bay Shuttle.

Arrangements will be made to get your heads inspected and shipping/taxidermy arrangements made. Rick Marshall will do the CI's (compulsory inspection) on our hunter's animals, he has done so for the past few years. If you are successful in taking a Wolf, you'll have to leave your animal with the Taxidermist for shipping to the US, as they require a CITES permit. You'll spend that night at your lodging in Smithers, and fly home the next morning.

### **Meat**

When you harvest an animal, you will be able to take 50pd of meat with you. You will need to bring game bags, compactor bags & plastic, Rubbermaid Tupperware containers that you can use for taking meat home with you. Make sure before you leave your hides are labeled with your name and license information, once you get back to base camp and before flying to town. British Columbia law requires that we pack out the 4 quarters and loins from the harvested animals, unless the meat is inedible, due to blood shot or infection. We will likely use some of the meat in camp for basic meals, etc. If several hunters shoot large animals (moose, caribou or goat) during the same hunt and wish to take the meat out, we will need to schedule another aircharter trip, which is expensive. This cost will be split evenly among those involved. If you plan on taking your meat home with you, bring extra money for this. You can leave meat with the Sausage Factory in Smithers. They will cut, process, freeze and ship the meat to you, but it is expensive. We donate all the meat left to a local community approx 100 miles from our camp.

This is really appreciated by the native community and the white community that lives there. It goes mostly to elders, poor families and we been asked to donate it also to meals on wheels.

### **Trophy Care & Shipping**

Our guides will cape and flesh your trophies for you. If you want a life size mount, you should talk with your taxidermist about whether they prefer a Dorsal or Standard cut. A Dorsal cut is great for standing and laying animals. A Standard cut is better for unique or jumping type mounts. If you'll be doing a Pedestal mount, you'll need to let your guide know, as more hide is required than just a shoulder mount. The fleshed and turned hides will be salted or frozen for your return trip. We ask that you bring a pillowcase or similar stuff sack for taking your cape to town. It will keep salt from spilling all over the place.

If you shoot an animal at the end of your trip (last day) and we do not have time to flesh/salt it in camp, the local taxidermist can do this. You might have to pay a small fee to finish the fleshing and salting your animal, unless you wish to freeze it at the hotel and take it home with you. Your animals have to be inspected in Smithers before you can take them with you. Larger antlers (moose or caribou heads) can be split, taped & secured for putting in your duffel (not recommended) or left with us, that we then deliver to the Taxidermist for shipment to the US (best option). Before you can take any animal home with you, a CI (Compulsory Inspection) is required. It is often not available the day/evening you arrive and before your flight, the next day. That is why leaving the trophy with us is often the best choice.

The Trophy's left with us will be CI'd (Compulsory Inspection).

Then taken to the Taxidermist.

Daryn Eakin

Northern Wildlife Designs

23035 Hwy 16 West

Burns Lake, BC, V0J1E1

[www.northernwildlife.net](http://www.northernwildlife.net)

250-698-7577

Daryn does very good work and loves his work. He gladly will mount your Trophy for you. Please contact Daryn with any questions relating to the Trophy's

### **Physical Fitness/Hunt Preparation**

The success of your hunt may very well depend on your physical and mental preparation and ability. Except for some riverboat/lake moose hunts, there are no "easy" or "canned" hunts in this part of Northern British Columbia. Hunting here is the Real McCoy. You only live once and you might as well take care of the one body you have. You've likely heard this before, but because it is so important, I'll repeat it again. You should



be doing some type of physical exercise (aerobic and anaerobic) at least 3-4 times/week and more is better. If you really want to burn calories, exercise first thing in the morning and if time allows, once or twice a week, add a workout in the afternoon. Remember to eat healthy and balanced meals. With proper exercise and eating habits, you'll be healthier, stronger, happier and a better hunter.

The following are things I would suggest depending on your physical ability and age. In order to get aerobic exercise you need to do these for at least 20 minutes straight, each time. I'd recommend 30-60 minutes/time.

#### **Activities:**

- Running or brisk walking – at least 2-3 miles.
- Biking (mountain or road bike)
- Organized sports – (Basketball, Hockey, Soccer or Tennis)
- Exercise machines (Stairmaster, Nordic Track, Treadmill, Bike)
- Circuit training w/free weights or universal system
- Swimming
- Aerobic type classes (Tai Bo, step aerobics, etc.) – don't laugh as you be surprised as to how well this improves agility and coordination and the scenery is usually great.
- Make sure you hike around town or the local hills with the boots and pack you'll be wearing on the hunt because if you have sore feet, everything else is secondary.

Some good resource sites, for helping you do workouts are:

[www.crossfit.com](http://www.crossfit.com); and [www.gymjones.com](http://www.gymjones.com); these website have daily programs you can follow (not easy)  
[www.beachbody.com](http://www.beachbody.com) – look at the P90X if you want a difficult program.  
[www.xvest.com](http://www.xvest.com) – this is a weighted chest/back system for training and is easier than a backpack.  
[www.huntready.com](http://www.huntready.com) – this is a personalized training program, specifically for hunters.

**Backpack Hunts** – These types of hunts require special preparation in order for it to be comfortable & enjoyable. I'd suggest taking the pack you'll be using on the hunt and hike with it several times/week. Start with 20 or 30 pounds if you haven't backpacked before and work your way up, over a 1-2 month period to 45-65 pounds. If you've backpacked before you should know the routine. For your backpack hunt, you will need to be in good enough shape to hike with a medium weight pack for up to 8 hours/day.

#### **Shooting Competency**

Whether you'll be bow, rifle or muzzleloader hunting, there are many philosophies regarding the "best" one to use. I tend to prefer moderate calibers and draw weights as they are easier on the shooter and are more reliable. You should be familiar with your firearm or bow. If you are using a muzzlebrake, please be aware of your guide's location before shooting, as they can cause serious hearing damage. You should bring a set of earplugs for your practice-shooting session in camp. Some camps have a Harris Bipod for hunters to use for checking their firearms or you may need to lay over your pack if hunting out of a spike camp.

#### **Photography**

You only get one chance to take good photos of your hunt. Bring a good, Digital Camera (5-12 Megapixel), like the Canon Powershot or Nikon compact models, with an extra battery and memory card. If you have some exceptional photos, please send me a CD as they are easier to use than prints; or, email me photos. If using a digital camera, I take photos of each animal on 2 different memory cards, to be safe. Your guide will help you obtain nice shots of you and your animal. Try to get pictures, with the use of the tripod and timer, with the two of you. Make sure to take pictures of camps and people. Having people in a picture will give you a better perspective as to the size and splendor of the landscape.

The following are important things to consider before taking photos: 1) Clean the blood off the animal as best as possible and stick the tongue back in it's mouth. While taking pictures, the mouth can be held closed with your hand, by the ground (Moose, Bear and Caribou) or with some string/dental floss. To do this, cut a slit in the upper and lower lip or use needle and floss/thread and tie/sew the two together. 2) Maneuver the animal into a natural position with a nice background. Pictures that include a view of a far-off mountain and sky in the background are nice. 3) Remove all blood, rags, backpacks, etc. from the foreground and backgrounds. 4) Take pictures with and without your weapon, and make sure the barrel is not pointed at anyone. 5) Take both horizontal and vertical pictures and some that are up close and some farther away (more scenery) 6) To best show the animal, sit behind the body (but not directly behind the horns/antlers) but behind the plane of the animal. It is better to keep the horns against a natural background (earth or sky), not a shirt, jacket or



beaming white face. Take pictures in several poses as you never know what will turn out the best 7) Fill the frame, but do not cut off the animals legs, your gun barrel or head/hat. 8) Pay attention to the sun – it is best if the sun is behind the photographer. 9) Make sure the soles of your boots or palms are not pointed at the camera, keep a low profile (sit or kneel) behind and to the side of the animal and don't wrap your hands around the horn tips so that they are concealed. 10) Take a lot of pictures, and I'd even suggest shooting some slide film (Fuji Sensia) if the animal is particularly large.

**Note: We will be asking you for the sim card so we can download the photos in camp on the computer. Bring a empty Sim card that you will take photos of your hunt onto the card, so that we can download them in Camp.**

### **Detailed Equipment Information**

The following information will give you a more in depth view of equipment. Purchase the best equipment you can afford, as it will last a long time. Your equipment should make your hunt more comfortable and productive. Purchase items that are simple and reliable. Gimmicks and gadgets add confusion, waste money and generally will not make up for a lack of skill and hard work.

#### **Clothing:**

**Outerwear** – In general, stick with synthetics (Fleece, Schoeller, Saddlecloth, nylon/poly blends etc.) or wool. For backpacking, synthetics tend to be lighter and quicker to dry. Wool is hard to beat, but is a little heavier than fleece, especially when wet. Wool is more odor & wind resistant than fleece, unless you use Windstopper fleece like Beyond Clothing or Mountain Hardware (highly recommended for colder weather) or soft shells products but Sitka Gear or Arcteryx. A jacket or parka with a hood is a good idea unless you like to wear a brimmed hat. Make sure you have a belt or suspenders for your pants. Collared shirts or Zipped pullovers work the best. A vest makes a great layering tool. Down vests are very warm and work well late in the fall. A fleece or wool vest will work most of the season. A lightweight jacket made with synthetic fill (Brooks Range Jacket – Barney's Sports) is a good idea if you get cold easily.

A good hat and gloves are vital to staying comfortable. A brimmed hat works well for warmer weather, rain and horseback hunts and for people who don't like hoods. They can get in the way on a backpack hunt. In cooler weather, a hat with earflaps will keep your neck and ears warm. Windbloc fleece gloves w/a shell is a good all weather combination. For cold weather, a pair of waterfowl type, Goretex gloves (Cabela's MT050) works well as does a mountaineering type glove w/removable liner made by Hestra, OR, Patagonia, Mountain Hardware or Black Diamond. Wool, fleece and/or simple knit/control dot, synthetic gloves work well also. You can get these knit gloves through Kifaru, Barney's Sports, etc. Leather gloves are good in dry weather, for riding horses and for going through the brush. Some people like to wear a heavy rubber glove (like the chemical style gloves) in wet conditions. I always pack an extra set of gloves as the temperature can change at anytime. If you get cold hands easily, bring a pair of mittens.

Cabela's makes a wide variety of clothing that works well. In warmer weather, their Microtex (Burr Barrier) and lightweight fleece is great. Day One Camouflage makes some of the nicest camo fleece, especially for

bowhunters. They have a huge selection of patterns to choose from. Barney's Sport Chalet sells some excellent Windbloc Fleece and lightweight backpacking clothing (The Black, 3SP Sporthill Mountain Pants are great – maybe the best all around backpacking pant made for the money). Mountain Hardware (Windbloc) and Arcteryx (Gamma MX) make excellent Windbloc pants and jackets. Cloudveil, Westcomb (a great new company), Mountain Hardware and Arcteyrx (Gamma LT) also make excellent early season backpacking/mountain/rock pants made from a Schoeller Fabric that breathe well and are very tough. Another great line of Windbloc items if made by Beyond Clothing. They can custom make any size, color, feature you want. Regarding wool, King of the Mountain is the best all around for cold weather, but is very expensive and a bit heavy. You can go the King of the Mountain webpage and order underneath my outfitting name. Another company that makes excellent technical wool clothing is Ibex Wear. Filson, Sleeping Indian Desings, Pendleton & Woolrich also make nice wool clothing. If you'll be backpacking, the clothing should be light, quick drying and layering is a key. Wool is excellent for horseback, boat and late season hunting. Quiet clothing is important for bowhunting and moose hunting. For the mountain/backpack type hunts, noise and camouflage are not as important as warmth, weight, durability, comfort, fit and layering. For backpacking clothing, Arcteryx is probably my favorite all around company. If they make it, it is good and the fit is incredible.

Camouflage, it is not necessary, but it will help you blend into the environment. The pattern you choose is not critical. If you are doing a mountain hunt, choose a color that is open and blends with rocks and ledges.

Mossy Oak, Advantage, ASAT, Predator & Realtree will all work. If you want camouflage mountaineering style clothing, then Sitka Gear is excellent and your best choice. Again, King of the Mountain makes great wool camo for moose type hunts. Their heavy weight material is too warm for anything but boat and horseback hunting in late September and October. Their lightweight (Omnilight) is better for all around use, but not as durable. You do not need to purchase a special color to hunt with us. I often just wear natural plaids and earth tone colored clothes. The quality and warmth of the clothing is more important than the color. You are not required by law to wear hunter orange.

Raingear is likely the most debated subject in the clothing department. If you want rain gear that is maintenance free, affordable, relatively light weight, durable and fairly quiet, consider a set of Helly Hansen Impertech in Olive Green. You can purchase it from Cabela's or Barney's Sport Chalet. Pella makes an affordable set of light wt, quiet, camouflage rain gear also (contact Jeff at Adventure Outfitters). Frogg Toggs are another light wt option. None of these are good for backpack hunting though. Mountain Hardware is making a light weight set that Barney's Sports will also be selling. It is the lightest, most compact, comfortable, and affordable that I've found. A company called Cloud Veil also makes some excellent, light wt, nylon raingear. These products are excellent for August sheep and goat backpack hunts. None of these are extremely durable, but they will keep you dry. Gore-Tex raingear works and is more breathable, but requires more maintenance. The toughest is by Otte (Barney's Sports). The new Sitka Storm Front is also excellent. Other, high quality, 3-ply Gore-Tex (XCR or Pro Shells are best) products to consider include: Patagonia, Mountain Hardware, Taiga Works, Arcteryx and the North Face. These are not camo or quiet, but can work well for mountain type backpack hunts, especially in September and later. When a Gore-Tex jacket becomes dirty and loses its DWR coating, the water will not bead up on the surface, causing it to work poorly. Gore makes a product called Revivex that works on most outerwear. For Backpack hunting (later season goat and sheep), I recommend this group of 3-ply Gore-Tex raingear as it does not absorb water and is easier to dry in the wind, without a fire or stove. To keep your pants from giving you saggy crotch syndrome, make sure they come with a set of suspenders or use a bib instead.

There is no rain gear that is absolutely quiet, but Swazi Gear, Cabela's MT050, Browning Hydrofleece and Rivers West Light weight (laminated fleece) are excellent. Browning also makes a lightweight set of quiet, packable, camo Goretex. I'm really impressed with the Swazi gear. When you combine a waterproof layer and a quiet outer material in one package, you get a quieter product, but it also becomes heavy and more difficult to dry when saturated. These types of rain gear are better for the moose, caribou and Grizzly type hunts where horses will be used more often, when noise is a factor and/or when we will be returning to a heated wall tent or cabin at night to dry the clothing. Saddlecloth works also, but becomes noisier in cold weather. KUIU and ONCA is making a new, fairly quiet, rain gear, worth considering – for either backpack style hunts. Coated nylon type rain gear works, but tends to be noisier and does not breathe. If anyone can help solve this dilemma, they will be able to retire and hunt forever. This is not so much an issue cabin/wall tent type hunts, but is very important on extended backpack style hunts. If you are comfortable hunting naked, then you will not have to worry about this dilemma. We and most of our Guides use KUIU rain gear, we have found that it has suited us for our environment the best.

**Underwear** – Layering with multiple items is better than wearing just one or two heavy layers. Synthetics are the way to go for comfort, moisture wicking and warmth. In August, bring lighter weight material; in mid-September and later, you should bring heavier weight underwear. Try products made with Thermax, MTP, Thermastat, Capalene, Polarmax and Micro Fleece. Polypropylene is not as good as it holds odor and should not be dried in a dryer. Merino Wool underwear can work well and is my personal preference; Smartwool, Ibex Wear, Wool Power, Arcteryx RHO wool and Ice Breakers are great, especially in late September and October. I prefer neutral colors: gray, brown, green or black as they can be worn by themselves. If you have long legs, get tall bottoms or you'll experience high-water syndrome. Tops with a zip-top and longer neck are warmer and more comfortable when wearing binos. Arcteryx, Cabela's & Patagonia made great synthetic products.

Regarding underwear, either briefs or boxer briefs will work. I like boxer briefs when worn alone with just pants, and regular briefs when wearing long underwear bottoms. Make sure that whatever you wear does not chafe your privates (some guides call this "Baboon Butt") as you'll be walking bow-legged and your smile will fade away. I recommend that you carry a tube of Tinactin, Desenex or Sport Shield in your daypack. Some people don't wear underwear underneath long underwear bottoms. I tend to prefer dark colored underwear as white ones have a tendency to turn dark after a week or so. Cotton underwear will work, but again, synthetics are better when wet. Wool is the best choice. Cabela's MTP, Capalene, Polarmax and

Sporthill make great synthetics. Ibex Wear, Smart Wool and Ice Breaker also make a set of Wool, no-itch briefs worth trying.

### **Footwear:**

Your boots are the most important pieces of equipment you will bring. You can borrow a gun, jacket or pack but rarely will you be able to borrow boots. The most important aspects are fit and comfort, followed by durability. If you have foot problems or you just want your feet to feel good, I'd recommend visiting a foot specialist and getting a set of custom orthotics made. You should at least get an after-market insole/footbed like Superfeet or similar. Different boots fit different feet types. If the boot does not feel good, don't buy it.

Concerning boots, I prefer all leather for most mountain hunting situations. Rubber bottom/leather upper boots, such as Kenetrek or Schnee's, work well in colder and wetter climates, but they do not provide great support in rough terrain. If you'll be hunting in mid-September or later without horses and/or will be primarily hunting for moose, you should get a pair of the new Kenetrek Rubber bottom/leather upper and/or Rubber style hip boots (the best are Cabela's Ultimate Contour Ankle fit w/airbob soles or similar). If you want to go lighter, get a set of the new Barney's Sourdough Slippers. The Sourdough Slippers are what I recommend. If you are going on a Grizzly or moose hunt you need to purchase a set of sourdough slippers. Plastic boots are okay in cold weather and rough terrain, but are not real comfortable to walk in over flat ground. In general, boots with less side stitching are good. Gore-Tex boots work well, but I also recommend getting a pair of 13" tall, non-insulated Gore-Tex socks from Cabela's or another laminated sock brand called Seal Skins, in the event you step in water or your feet get wet from sweat. This is cheap insurance for dry feet. Airbob type soles work well in mud and soft terrain, provide good traction, but are not very durable in rock.

Most leather boots that you see advertised for hunting are insufficient and fall apart quickly. The following are some recommendations: . Barneys Sports sells boots from Scarpa and Lowa. Lathrop and Sons also sells a great German boot, made by Hanwag. Cabela's sells a couple good boots for mountain hunting: The Canada Hunter, Alaskan Hunter, Teton Hiker and the Denali's. A small specialty shop is Smithers, Outdoor Essentials (owned by Sieghard Weitzel), sells the top of the line Meindl boots (Canada Pros). You can call Sieghard and order your boots from him, he will send them to you. Ron and most of our guides buy their boots from Sieghard and we have been very happy with his service. They have a big rubber rand and very little side stitching and hold up well in the rocks. Danner boots work, but are not overly durable. Other excellent

boots to consider are made by Kayland, Technica, Asolo, Garmot, One Sport, Vasque, Merrell, La Sportiva (very good) & Salomon. Buy leather boots or Kevlar boots that will handle abrasive from rocks and brush and do not break down when wet. Boots for low volume/narrow feet are the Lowa Sheep hunters and Kenetrek Mountain Extreme. Another good boot for low volume feet is the Kayland.. If you have a wider type foot, try the Meindl Boots by Cabelas or the Lowa Sheep hunter or Kenetrek in a Wide. If you need a really supportive & stiff boot, you may want to try some plastic double boots by Scarpa, Koflach or Lowa (Barney's Sport Chalet sells them). Make sure to purchase a pair of Glacier Socks from Barney's also if you get a set of Plastics. These turn your boots into a set of "mountain waders".

Your boots will last much longer if you take care of them. Wear your boots around a while before you "grease" them. I'll clean any oil or dirt off exposed side stitching with rubbing alcohol or acetone, then coat the stitching with Seam Grip or Freesole to prevent it from getting cut on rocks and brush. Several light coats work well. For waterproofing boots, Nikwax paste or Grangers works well. Meindl makes a good Wax also. Use Montana Pitch Blend on Schnee's or Kenetrek pack boots. An old toothbrush works well for applying Nikwax. I generally heat MT Pitch Blend in a microwave or pot of hot water and apply it with a paintbrush. Use your fingers to rub the stuff into the leather grain. Snoseal and Mink oil are not as good as those mentioned.

A trick for comfortable feet, especially on a backpack trip where you'll be unable to pack an extra pair of boots, is to bring another set of insoles that fit your feet slightly differently than your others. This may help prevent hot spots from forming. On a horseback or riverboat hunt you'll be able to pack another set of boots. If you'll be doing a backpack hunt you will need a set of lightweight waders. Wiggy's Inc. makes a very lightweight over -boot (nearly 3' tall) that you can slip over your boots for stream crossing. You'll need a pair to keep your feet dry. A Leki telescopic hiking pole is highly recommended for most people and mandatory for people with bad knees and/or poor balance. Another trick for people with weak or sensitive knees is to wear a set of lightweight kneepads when hunting in rocky terrain or for stalking sheep and goats in the sharp rocks. I use a set of black Bike kneepads; you can find them in athletic stores where they sell Volleyball kneepads. Arcteryx also sells a very good, more durable set.

After you've spent all that money and time finding the right set of boots, don't cut corners on cheap socks. Bridgedale and Lorpen makes the very best. Smartwool, Kenetrek, Wigwam & Thorlo are excellent too. There are other brands of decent socks, but these are great. If you have high volume feet, one sock may work. I usually wear a liner under a heavy sock or I'll wear two medium thick socks together. Experiment to find out what feels best. Of all the clothes you wear, socks are the most important to keep clean and fresh. It is a good idea to change them every 2-3 days. Athlete's foot and blisters are not fun. Take care of your feet.

### **Sleeping:**

You'll be sleeping in your sleeping bag every night, either on a cot or bunk at the base camp or on the ground in a spike camp. A mummy bag is the warmest and lightest and what I recommend. If you'll be doing a horseback moose/caribou hunt, you can bring a semi-rectangular bag as long as it is reasonably light. You need to bring a Thermarest.. A full length is the most comfortable, but a  $\frac{3}{4}$  length will also work. We also have cots for people that have a problem sleeping on the ground. For sleeping at night, you want a headband or stocking cap. Sleeping in long underwear will keep your bag cleaner and it will be easier to face the morning cold. For a pillow, I generally put my fleece jacket in my stuff sack or a pillowcase.

**Synthetic vs. Down** – if you won't be using a sleeping bag very often and/or are worried about getting it wet, then buy a synthetic. One of the most popular synthetic fills is Polarguard 3D – Mountain Hardware, Sierra

Designs, North Face, Go-Lite, Marmot & Moonstone make good bags. Primaloft bags by Integral Designs (like the Marco Polo by Barney's Sports) are also good. Snug Pacs by Gun Accessories and Lamalite by Wiggy's are two other synthetics to consider. A decent synthetic will cost \$150-300 dollars. If you use your bag a lot and want the best, buy a Dryloft Down or Event Bag with 700 - 900 fill quality down. They will cost around \$400-500 but will last much longer. The best down bags are made Western Mountaineering, Feathered Friends, and Integral Designes. Mountain Hardware, Northface & Marmot make some excellent down bags also. A 15-25 degree type bag will work well for August and early September. In later September a bag rated somewhere between – 10 to 15 degrees would work. If you want one bag for all seasons, get a bag in the – 5 to 10 degree range.

A lightweight, summer/early Fall Synthetic Mummy bag will weigh 3-4 lbs. A heavier, late fall, bag will weigh 4-6 lbs.; down is generally  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. lighter than a synthetic of the same temperature rating. If you use your bag a lot, purchase a silk liner and you won't need to wash your bag as much.

To care for your sleeping bag when at home, leave it in a loose bag (many of the good bags come with one) or hang it in your closet. Keeping one in a stuff sack breaks down the loft. You will need a waterproof stuff sack for your hunt. OR (Outdoor Research) makes one called the Hydroseal that is excellent. Granite Gear, Sea to Summit and Integral Designs also make great compression sacks (recommended to keep bulk down). If you're worried about getting your bag wet, you can line the stuff sack with a plastic garbage bag before stuffing.

### **Packs:**

If you'll be backpacking, you'll use an internal or external frame pack. External frames are cheaper and pack uneven loads more easily and seem to be easier on people with really bad low backs. Internal frames are easier to pack on a horse or in a plane and are more comfortable and quieter for hunting (my preference), especially when hunting in the brush or cliffs for goats and sheep. You'll need at least a 4500 cubic inch external or a 5000-7000 cubic inch internal. If you bring an external pack, get one with a built in sleeping bag compartment. In that case, you'll want one that holds at least 5,000-6,500 cubic inches also.

Put your backpack (if external type) in a large duffel for the commercial flight as it will be less likely to get damaged by the airlines. When packing a pack, put the lightest items at the bottom of the pack. Pack the heavy items near your shoulder blade/lower neck level and close to your body. It is better to have a big pack and cinch it up close to your body than to use a small pack and have it barrel out with too much gear.

Barney's Sport Chalet sells the best external frame packs for hunters. I like their Pinnacle model. Dana Designs, Alaska Gear, Kelty, Gregory, Cabela's and Camp Trails will all work. The Canadian made Wilderness Wanderer is big and well made, but heavy. The best internal frame packs I've seen are the NICE System and the G5000, G6000 or G7000 by Mystery Ranch. The NICE systems is what our guides and I use. Most hunters would be fine with the G6000 if they can back a fairly large load and the G5000 if they don't want to pack big loads. They come in black, brown (coyote), camo or Titanium (Grey), and although designed for mountaineering, they have excellent pocket design, fit and durability and are easy to adjust for

different users. Another good pack designed for hunting is the Kifaru Longhunter (Guide Bag). It is designed for hunters by a hunter. It is more difficult to adjust though and doesn't have as many pockets as the Mystery Ranch Packs. The old Dana Design (Astralplane or Terraplane), Osprey, Gregory, Mountain Smith, Granite Gear and Arcteryx (Bora 95) make excellent internal framed packs. Kelty, Eureka & Vortex also make some less expensive, but good packs. Packs with removable tops that convert into a fanny pack are a bonus. The best packs will cost \$375-750. Cheap packs will run \$150-250, but you get what you pay for. Make sure you get an extra 2" waste belt buckle and chest strap buckle (these should be left in your pack at all times). If you have an aluminum-framed pack, you should pack several extra pins/rings. I also like to have a couple 2-3' long, 1" wide nylon straps w/buckles for tying on loads and antlers. A pack/fly rain cover is a **necessity**. I like the Kooldri model by Barney's Sports or the Sea to Summit or OR models. Two other items that one should consider getting are the Rifle Gun Bearer System and Rifle rainfly by Kifaru. Even on the backpack hunts, you should bring a small daypack on the plane as a carry-on. If you finish your backpack trip early, this small pack will come in handy for day hunts around camp or fishing. If you won't be doing a backpack hunt, you'll need to bring a medium sized daypack.

For Daypacks, I prefer ones that have a small internal frame, unless you are unable to pack much weight. The Hunt Pak by Janssens is excellent. The Mystery Ranch Deluxe and Cakewalk & the Kifaru Spike Camp and Late Season are excellent choices. Barney's Sports sells several nice, light weight packs by Granite Gear that are worth considering. Crooked Horn makes a nice camo daypack called the Guide Model, but it doesn't have an internal frame. King of the Mountain make good quiet, wool packs. Nimrod, Eberlestock and Badlands also make good, quiet, camo internal framed packs. Many of the other large pack companies also make excellent internal framed packs. Camouflage is not necessary, but a quiet pack is good for moose and bear hunting. A daypack should hold 2,000-3,500 cubic inches, depending on how much you'd like to carry.

Ones without internal frames are great for packing food, raingear and a few necessities, but they can hurt your back if you put too much weight in them. I'll leave this up to you.

### **Optics:**

Regarding optics, a good pair of binoculars is one of your best investments. Leica & Swarovski are the best. Nikon makes the best Japanese glass. I feel that the 8.5 or 10 x 42 Swarovski EL's, the Nikon EDG and the Leica Ultravids are the best all around binoculars, period. Zeiss, Leupold, Brunton, Pentax, Burris, Minox, Kahles, Nikon and Bushnell also make decent glass. Good sizes are the 8x30s, 8x32s, 8x42s, 8.5x42s, 10x42s and 10x50s. Compacts (20 – 25 mm objectives) are light and will work, but they are not as good as a mid or full size. The Duovids by Leica (8-12x and 10-15x) might be a good choice for all situations, but they are heavy. If you want to save weight, leave your spotting scope at home as your guide will have one. If you have a really nice one, you may want to bring it and let the guide use it. Good, lighter weight spotting scopes include the Zeiss 15-45x65, Swarovski 20-60x65 HD, Leupold 12-40x60, Leica 20-45x62, the B&L Elite and the Nikon 20-60x60 ED Field Scope III (this is my favorite for the money). The Zeiss 65 is a great mid-sized scope for brightness. The 77 to 85-mm Leica, Zeiss, Nikon and Swarovski products are great but a little heavy. If you bring a spotting scope, a good lightweight (under 3-lbs.), aluminum or carbon fiber tripod is a necessity; ones with quick detach heads are even better. Gitzo makes probably the best models (legs only) from \$200-350. I use the Jim White Head on Gitzo Carbon Fiber Legs (\$250 for the head). Bogen makes a couple great models for around \$125-150, including the head. You can find inexpensive tripods for \$50-70, but quality is marginal. Adventure Outfitters & Kauffman Knives & Optics (Dave Kauffman) are the best places to get optical products. Jeff Janssens, owner of Adventure Outfitters is especially helpful in answering technical questions and he has excellent service and prices. He sells a tripod called the hunt pod. Dave also sells a line of Custom, handmade knives that are some of the best anywhere, period.

### **Rifle Preparation:**

Your gun should be sighted in for a 200 (best) or 300 yard zero. If you go higher or lower than this, you will have to compensate too much with your hold. Sighting a gun in for 300 yards is for people experienced with long range shooting and who don't have a scope with adjustable turrets or a specialty reticle. If you fall into that category, then it is up to you. Bullets should be premium type and accurate in your rifle. If you can shoot a rifle without a muzzlebrake, that is best as the brake's small holes are difficult to plug from rain, snow and mud and they can cause severe ear damage to people near the muzzle. You should bring a Laser Rangefinder if you like shooting long distances. The Leica 1200 is the best.

I do not think Magnums are necessary for killing animals. If you can shoot one well, great, but most people flinch with big guns. I prefer standard calibers for most game. The 30's are the best all around magnums.

The .338 and .375 calibers are good for Moose and Grizzly Bear. If you hit where you aim, they all die the same.

The best all around calibers and bullets for most hunting situations are the .257 – (117 & 120 gr.), .264/6.5mm – (120 & 140 gr.), .270 – (130 & 140 gr.), .280/7mm – (160 gr.), 30's (165, 180 or 200 gr.), .322/8mm (200 or 225) and .338 – (210 and 225). Bring at least 1 box (20 rounds) but not more than 2 boxes (40 rounds) of ammunition. Bring only one rifle, but you may wish to bring an extra scope. Synthetic stocks, stainless steel barrels, Teflon coatings and synthetic (rubber or neoprene-coated nylon) slings will make for a more maintenance free firearm. I like the Quake Industries rubber coated nylon style.

Buy Premium Bullets. For long range mountain shooting, pointed boattails the best. I recommend the Barnes TSX, Tipped TSX or MRX. The new Nosler E-Tip looks promising. The Swift Scirroco, the Nosler Accubond, Berger VLD and the Hornady Interbond will work too. Other premium bullets to consider are the Swift A-Frames, Winchester Fail Safe, Trophy Bonded, and Nosler Partitions.. The higher the Ballistic Coefficient, the better the long-range performance will be (retained energy and velocity), the flatter your rifle will shoot and the less your bullet will be affected by wind drift.

For scopes, a variable is nice, but a straight 4x or 6x would work. You will not need an oversized objective (larger than 42 or 50mm); besides, they get knocked out of alignment easier than a smaller scope because they stick out past the rifle and they don't fit rifle scabbards as well. Good magnification ranges include 1.75-6x, 2.5-8x, 2-7x, 3-9x, 3-10x, 3.5-10x, 2.5-10x, 4-12x & 4.5-14x, 4-16x, etc. Leupold, Nikon, Schmidt & Bender, Swarovski & Zeiss make the best, lightweight hunting scopes. Two of my personal favorites include the 3.5-10x40 Leupold VX III & the 3-10x42 Swarovski, if you want a small scope. A 1" tube is all you need; 30-mm tubes are slightly stronger and sometimes brighter, but are heavier and more expensive. Personally, I now use the 30mm scopes, because they have more long range capabilities and are stronger. Do not bring up a scope with large Target Turrets, as they won't fit scabbards and can get damaged on the commercial flight! There are many good scope mounts. Two of the best, all around and also quick detachable mounts are the Talley Mounts, made in Wyoming (now moving to SC) and the new, Leupold QRW/PRWs. The Leupold QD and Warne are also good. For a fixed mount, the Leupold standard, double dovetail or the Conetrol are very strong. I recommend 2-piece bases, as they are lighter and make it easier to pack your rifle than a 1-piece base. In general, stick with Steel rings/bases over aluminum, as they are stronger. If you want a light weight, quality aluminum ring/base combo, go with the Talley's. The very strongest and most repeatable mounts are the military style Piccatiny one piece rails and rings sold by Night Force or Badger Ordinance. This is what I use.

To help prevent rust, remove your rifle from the stock and cover the non-moving metal parts with gun grease or wax. The barrel, action and receiver can be coated with a spray-on Teflon type lube (Shooter's Choice Rust Preventative – aerosol, is the best). You should take the firing pin out and degrease and clean it. I like Rem Oil for cold weather use on the action as it stays smooth when cold, but it doesn't prevent rust. Tape the end of your barrel with electrical tape. About 12" from the end of your rifle's barrel make 4 or 5 wraps with electrical tape. This is here for when you shoot and need to quickly re-cover the muzzle with electrical tape. Bring a compact cleaning rod or cable, brush, patches and solvent to keep debris & rust out of your barrel. I also pack a couple of oiled patches and steel wool in a Ziploc to prevent surface rust while out on a hunt. Your rifle will thank you. The Acu-Site, sold by Hunts Inc., is a great product I'd recommend. It is a laser bore sight, in the form of a cartridge case. They are very accurate and will tell you if your gun is sighted in should you take a fall or need a quick check. Purchase the .223 cartridge with Laser, then purchase sleeves for your different calibers.

Pack your rifle in a high quality, aluminum or hard plastic case for the commercial flight. Starlight cases, Browning, Pelican and TuffPak (very good) are good, waterproof and strong plastic cases. ICC makes nice aluminum cases. If you do a lot of flying, I'd recommend their 4.5x14x36 (0.063 thick) or 4.5x16x36 (0,080) thick cases and duffel combos. You can take your rifle apart from the stock and it will fit in a 36" case or use the Tuffpak, so that you can carry other items in your gun case. This way, your rifle case doesn't look like a rifle case and with the airline wt. restrictions and you can keep your other duffel lighter. Cabela's sells duffels for holding the aluminum take down gun cases. You still have to let the airlines know that you have a rifle.

You will need a soft case to transport your gun on the Charter flight to camp.  
Leave the hard gun case at the Hutson Bay Lodge

### **Archery:**

The most important part of an archer's equipment are the arrows. Use good broadheads (3 blade/replacement razor and 2, 3 or 4 blade fixed). A newer head, called the G5 Montec, should be one of the best out there, if



you can get them to fly well. It is a 3 blade, one-piece stainless steel construction and looks indestructible. Expandable head broadheads fly well, but the penetration on large animals and odd angles is not always consistent (they are not recommended). Carbon arrows are the most durable and least likely to get bent during your trip. Aluminum arrows are a good choice also. Wood arrows are my least favorite, but will work if you take care of them. Because of possible rain, plastic fletching is preferred. If you shoot traditional, you'll need to keep your feathers protected. Bring a bow that you have shot a lot and are comfortable with. If using a compound, use a good solid rest and sight, as you don't want these to break during the hunt. Bring an extra set of cables and a bowstring and record your bow's measurements. If you hunt with a compound, a Bowmaster compact press is handy to have in camp. Bring two release aids. If you are uncomfortable with judging distances, I'd highly recommend a compact rangefinder (Bushnell 600 or 800 or the new Leica 800 or 1200 (the best one)), as you'll be hunting unique animals in new terrain. For angled shots, the new Nikons are the easiest to use. On backpack hunts for goats or sheep, you may need to strap your bow to your pack for climbing in rough terrain (bring a couple 1" wide nylon straps w/buckles or fasteners). A bowsling is also a good idea.

### **Muzzleloaders:**

Keeping a muzzleloader and the components dry is really important. Because rain, or snow, is likely at some time during a hunt, a waterproof bag or case is needed for carrying a muzzleloader in the field. Based on my conversations with Jim Shockey, a well-known hunter, 100-150 grains of Pyrodex or Triple 7 (powder or pellets) behind a 250-300 grain Barnes X, Nosler Partition or Swift A-Frame in 50 caliber is hard to beat. You can shoot more powder, but it is generally not needed. Round balls work, but do not have the knockdown power of a Sabot or conical bullet. Sight the gun dead on somewhere between 100 and 150 yards. Most people use a scope, but a good set of open sights can be very accurate. If you want to shoot over 200 yards, you might as well use a rifle. They are much easier to clean and provide a quicker follow-up shot. Also, bring the right equipment to take your gun apart for cleaning or for extracting a bullet from the barrel.

### **Packing:**

It is easy to bring more than you will need and I know that I've listed a lot of items. If you have any questions, call. It is important that weight be kept down for the floatplane flight to the area. Try to keep the total weight, including gun or bow to 60-75 pounds. We will feed you well, so there's no need to bring extra food. You should be able to get all of your gear in one large duffel (including your backpack), a carry-on (daypack) and a gun or bow case. Don't bring any hard suitcases w/wheels to camp! You'll leave your hard case at the hotel (they'll have a locked room) and transfer your gun to a soft case or scabbard for the trip to camp. Bowhunters who keep their arrows in the same case as their bow may bring the case to camp. In the event any luggage is lost, I'd recommend putting a pair of hunting boots, a change of hunting clothes including a jacket, hat, gloves, etc., licenses and tags, binoculars and personal items such as medication and glasses in your carry-on bag/daypack. These are the basic items you need to enjoy a hunt. We have extra guns, optics and backpacks in case of an emergency. Waterproof dry bags work well to keep your items dry, as they are light and compact. You can use one of your smaller duffels (lined with a heavy-duty garbage bag) or a waterproof bag for flying your capes and horns home on the plane.

### **Equipment Retailers:**

You can purchase most, or all, of the equipment you'll need at the following retailers. Better yet – visit my website and use the links I've posted. Good equipment is not cheap, but it will last. If I've mentioned a person's name, use my name as a referral when calling them, as he or she is familiar with what you'll need and will be able to help you with questions and technical details.

#### **Company/Products:**

Cabela's/hunting and outdoor products

Northwest R. Supply (NRS)/dry bags

Barney's – Alaska/clothes, packs/Bob

Kenetrek Boots/Jim Winjum

Kifaru Packs (Patrick Smith)/backpacks/tents

The Works-Mystery Ranch/backpacks/Dana G.

Mountain Gear - technical gear/backpacking

Hilleberg Tents – tents (Petra Hilleberg)

Kauffman Knives & Optics (Dave)

Gun Accessories/Wayne

Book Trail/hunting books/Wayne

Day One Camouflage/fleece clothing (Gary)

Adventure Outfitters (Jeff Janssens)/optics

#### **Phone Number**

1-800-237-4444

1-800-635-5202

1-907-561-5242

1-800-232-6064

1-303-278-9155

1-406-585-1428

1-800-829-2009

1-425-883-0101

1-877-872-4264

1-704-821-4079

1-704-821-4079

1-800-347-2979

1-888-935-4868

#### **WebSite:**

[www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com)

[www.nrsweb.com](http://www.nrsweb.com)

[www.barneyssports.com](http://www.barneyssports.com)

[www.kenetrek.com](http://www.kenetrek.com)

[www.kifaru.net](http://www.kifaru.net)

[www.mysteryranch.com](http://www.mysteryranch.com)

[www.mgear.com](http://www.mgear.com)

[www.hilleberg.com](http://www.hilleberg.com)

[www.hunttools.com](http://www.hunttools.com)

[www.gunaccessories.com](http://www.gunaccessories.com)

[www.booktrail.com](http://www.booktrail.com)

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|--|----------------|--|
| Summit Hut – Arizona/outdoor products    | 1 800-827-4653 | <a href="http://www.summithut.com">www.summithut.com</a>                 |
| Outdoor Essentials (Seighard) – Smithers | 1-250-877-7744 | <a href="http://www.bvoutdoors.com">www.bvoutdoors.com</a>               |
| Ibex Wear – Wool Clothing                | 1-800-773-9647 | <a href="http://www.ibexwear.com">www.ibexwear.com</a>                   |
| Arcteryx/Mountaineering/outdoor clothing | 1-800-985-6681 | <a href="http://www.arcteryx.com">www.arcteryx.com</a>                   |
| Westcomb clothing                        | 1-604-420-8964 | <a href="http://www.westcomb.com">www.westcomb.com</a>                   |
| River’s West/Quiet-Fleece Raingear       | 1-800-683-0887 | <a href="http://www.riverswest.com">www.riverswest.com</a>               |
| King of the Mountain/Wool Clothing       | 1-970-962-9006 | <a href="http://www.kingofthemountain.com">www.kingofthemountain.com</a> |
| Crooked Horn Outfitters/Lennis           | 1-877-722-5872 | <a href="http://www.crookedhorn.com">www.crookedhorn.com</a>             |
| Hunts Inc./Acu-site (Kelly Davis)        | 1-888-777-8098 | <a href="http://www.huntsinc.com">www.huntsinc.com</a>                   |

17

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| Wiggy’s Inc./sleeping bags/overboots | 1-970-241-6465 | <a href="http://www.wiggys.com">www.wiggys.com</a>                       |
| Starlight Cases/Guncases             | 1-877-782-7544 | <a href="http://www.starlightcases.com">www.starlightcases.com</a>       |
| Talley Mounts – Gary/scope mounts    | 1-803-854-5700 | <a href="http://www.talleyrings.com">www.talleyrings.com</a>             |
| Explorer Satellite – Andy Cool       | 1-954-763-8650 | <a href="http://www.explorersatellite.com">www.explorersatellite.com</a> |

**Informational Sources:**

|   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| Doug Gray, Gracy Travel:  | 1-800 299-8558 | <a href="mailto:doug@gracytravel.com">doug@gracytravel.com</a>               |
| Travel Canada/Jim or Evelyn   | 1-877-608-3500 | <a href="mailto:evelyn@travelcanada.to">evelyn@travelcanada.to</a>           |
| Information on outdoor equipment and technical ?’s – excellent site |                | <a href="http://www.adventurenetwork.com">www.adventurenetwork.com</a>       |
| GOABC (Guides and Outfitter’s Association of BC)                    |                | <a href="http://www.goabc.org">www.goabc.org</a>                             |
| British Columbia Hunting Regulations                                |                | <a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca/wlap">www.gov.bc.ca/wlap</a>                   |
| Canadian Firearms Center  |                | <a href="http://www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca">www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca</a>                   |
| Canada Customs  |                | <a href="http://www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca/customs">www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca/customs</a> |

**Hunting Organizations:**

|   |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| GOABC – Guides and Outfitters Assoc. BC | Richmond, BC   | (604) 278-3440 |
| FNAWS – Foundation for Wild Sheep       | Cody, WY       | (307) 527-6261 |
| GSC - Grand Slam Club                   | Birmingham, AL | (205) 674-0101 |
| SCI – Safari Club International         | Tucson, AZ     | (520) 620-1220 |
| RMEF – Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation    | Missoula, MT   | (406) 523-4500 |
| MDF – Mule Deer Foundation              | Reno, NV       | (800) 344-2825 |
| NAHC – North American Hunting Club      | Minnetonka, MN | (612) 988-7400 |
| NRA – National Rifle Association        | Washington, DC | (800) 368-5714 |
| CBA – Christian Bowhunters of America   | Greenville, OH | (937) 548-0623 |
| ORION – The Hunters Institute           | Helena, MT     | (406) 449-2795 |

**Good Taxidermists:**

Daryn Eakin  
Northern Wildlife Designs  
23035 Hwy 16 West  
Burns Lake, BC, V0J1E1  
[www.northernwildlife.net](http://www.northernwildlife.net)  
250-698-7577

**Good Rifle for the mountain hunts:**

Sako Tika T3  
we recommend it with a Huskemaw scope.

**Good Custom Rifle Makers:**

|   |                    |                |
|---|--------------------|----------------|
| Jim Bordon – Borden Accuracy            | Springfield, PA    | (570) 965-2505 |
| Bansner’s Ultimate Rifle – Mark Bansner | Adamstown, PA(717) | 484-2370       |
| Rifles, Inc. – Les Webernick            | Cedar City, Utah   | (435) 586-5995 |
| Bill Wiseman & Co.                      | Bryan, TX          | (409) 690-3456 |
| Romain’s Custom Guns                    | Brockport, PA      | (814) 265-1948 |

**Good Custom Bows:**

|                                    |               |                |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Schafer Silvertip – Dave Windauer  | Kalispell, MT | (406) 257-0740 |
| Robertson Stykbow – Dick Robertson | Kalispell, MT | (406) 538-2818 |

Mariah Bows – Rick Anderson  
Wapiti Bows – Keith Chastain  
Blacktail Bows – Norm Johnson  
Archery Past – Dave Doran

Whitefish, MT  
Lakewood, CO  
Reedsport, OR  
Bend, OR

(406) 257-0590  
(303) 989-1120  
(541) 271-2585  
(541) 388-8400