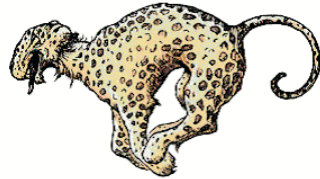


GOOD SHOOTING IS  
AN OBLIGATION,  
**NOT** AN  
ACCOMPLISHMENT.

*Go Hunting While You Are Physically Able!*



*Fair Chase Hunting Only!*

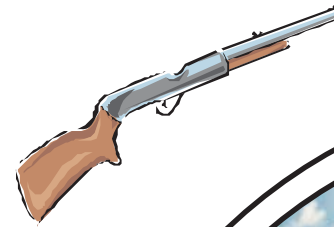


**JACK ATCHESON  
& SONS, INC.**

Hunting Consultants ♦ Butte, Montana

**NORTH  
AMERICAN  
HUNTING**

**GEAR LIST**



**Worldwide Hunting Since 1955**

**Without question, your choice of equipment is one of the single most important factors on any hunting trip. If you are ill-equipped for your hunt, it is unlikely you will be able to stay afield, and for certain that your hunt will be a failure.**

☒ **Good clothing** is more important than binoculars or your rifle. There are a wide variety of opinions as to what should be worn and taken on a hunting or fishing trip, as weather can change rapidly, particularly in the mountains. Sometimes these changes can be severe, so it is best to be prepared for every situation, yet not overburdened with useless items. We once had a client who arrived with seven duffel bags, a dozen pairs of boots, and several rifles for a 10-day hunt. Being prepared is important, but moderation is advisable. Try to keep your baggage under 100 pounds, including your rifle. Different airlines have different weight limits. Excess baggage is very costly. Ask your travel agent.

☒ **Foot Care** - Many hunters have cold feet and they probably deserve it; much of the footgear they take on a hunting trip is atrocious, amusing, and can end up being downright painful. Footgear, or lack of it, can make or break your hunting trip in many cases. First, the hunter should trim toenails. Long toenails jam up against the ends of boots. If you have had sore spots on your feet before, tape them with first aid tape before you leave camp. Wear a lightweight pair of blister-reducing socks and a heavyweight pair; two pairs of socks add warmth and protection to your feet. Hunters are often going to find themselves in uneven, steep terrain and often encounter slippery patches of mud and snow. Deep lug soles are generally best. What we have found is that Vibram soles tend to have stiffer, harder rubber which performs better in warmer conditions. Softer air bob soles seem to work better in

colder, snowy conditions. If your boot has a liner, be sure to take extras. Even though the boot may be protected by a rubber outside or a Gore-Tex liner, sweat from your feet will dampen the interior of the boot in a few days. The dampness will greatly reduce insulating capabilities of the boot. Go to great lengths to change your liners each day. Stuff newspaper inside the boots - it will draw some of the moisture out of the liners at night. Take plenty of moleskin to help in case of blisters. Breaking in leather boots is a real problem for some people. The easiest method we have found is to put on the new boots with the standard number of socks you wear in the field, dump a cup of lukewarm water into each boot, then wear the boot for several days. The water dampens the leather and shapes the boot to your foot for a custom fit. Be sure to oil the exterior of the boot regularly.



☒ **The Correct Rifle** - You can take game with about any center-fire cartridge, but some animals are big and tough, and may have to be taken under adverse conditions. Classic broadside standing shots are few. Game animals are often obscured behind rocks or brush, perhaps moving, or standing at odd angles. Hunt with the largest caliber rifle you can shoot accurately. Large caliber rifles can help on poorly hit game animals.

Take a hunting rifle, not a showpiece that you are afraid of getting scratched or marred. A synthetic or laminated wood stock is more durable and better suited for hunting camp. We suggest rifles with open sights as well, in case you damage your scope, then your rifle is still a usable tool. Take an extra scope and mounts, as these are generally the most vulnerable part of your rifle. Practice a lot of fast, off-hand shooting, as well as shooting from unusual angles. Bench rests or convenient rocks or stumps to shoot over may be scarce at a particular moment. Hunters should put a piece of black tape over the end of the barrel to prevent snow and dirt from entering the barrel. Don't worry about the tape; when you shoot, expanding gases will blow the tape away from the end of the barrel before the bullet ever touches it.

Bolt-action rifles are more likely to operate in cold, freezing, or dirty conditions. If you are hunting areas where temperatures may go below 20 degrees, place your rifle in the freezer overnight before you go to check its performance in cold temperatures. Many rifles will not fire, much to the delight of the game. Always take a cleaning kit and clean your gun every few days.

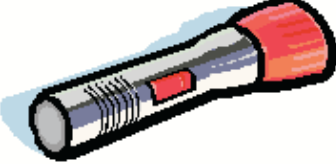
Use a heavy-jacketed bullet that can often make up for a poor hit. Shoot any downed animal an extra time and shoot as long as it is standing. We have seen many supposedly dead animals get up and disappear. Probably the most ideal cartridge for hunting North America is the 30.06. A wide range of bullet weights make it perfect for antelope hunting to even taking Alaskan brown bear. Plus, 30.06 ammo is a pretty universal cartridge and easy to locate should you lose or run out of ammo. If you can handle recoil, a .300 or .338 Winchester are real game getters. Sight your gun in for the particular conditions of the hunt. Never have your gun sighted in higher than two inches at 100 yards. In most cases, dead on at 100 yards is perfect. Most game is taken under 150 yards. Take plenty of ammo. You may need to resight your rifle. Be sure you check it as soon as you arrive in the hunting area. If you bump the scope or miss something, check it again. Remember – more game is missed than shot. Practice at least 100 rounds before the hunt. Run every cartridge through your rifle, especially reloads. Don't take a pistol until you check the laws. Avoid single-shot rifles. On most hunts worldwide, take 60 rounds. On dangerous game hunts, 20 solids and 40 soft points.

In North America, you often will be shooting while laying down on your belly with your gun resting on a jacket or daypack.

To really sharpen your eye, buy a quality .22 bolt-action rifle. Equip it with a full-size quality scope, just like your big game rifle. Shooting is eye-to-finger coordination. Shooting a .22 is easy on your shoulder and wallet, and makes you a better shot.



☒ **Flashlights** - Flashlights are a critical part of any hunting trip. In many cases, you will travel from hunting areas in the dark, sometimes walking or riding a horse for hours. Take at least two flashlights with you. Small, lightweight flashlights are the best. Buy extra bulbs for the flashlights. Use a lanyard to hang the flashlight around your neck. This way, even during midday, the flashlight can be stuck in your pocket and you always have one with you. Headlamps with straps that encircle your head leaving both hands free are particularly handy when riding or trying to do any type of chore that requires the use of both hands. Take extra for your partner, who is always under equipped.



☒ **Emergency Kits** - A hunter should always have an emergency kit along wherever the hunt is. A lightweight kit that can be carried at all times is preferred. It should contain: a waterproof match case (check your matches every year; they go stale); a small lighter; fire ribbon; petroleum-based jelly that can be smeared on wet wood or in windy conditions to start a fire; a lightweight folding saw; space blanket; a lightweight flashlight; batteries; extra bulbs; small pocketknife; about 30 feet of lightweight twine; heavy-duty needles; dental floss (it makes a great heavy-duty thread); 20 feet of 6-pound fishing line; a few spinners and flies; a compass; police whistle (try hollering for help for several hours and see where your voice goes) - a police whistle can really save the day; a small signal mirror; first aid tape; gauze (take enough to patch up your friend, who forgot); antacids; aspirin. Remember, you are a long way from a doctor or a drug store. Items you should always have in base camp include a compact rifle cleaning kit; sharpening stone; rubber boat repair kit; insect repellent; 50 feet of 500-pound test nylon rope; one small towel; two paperback books; Leatherman tool; a few nails; 10 feet of thin wire.



☒ **Gun Cases** - A good gun case is an important part of your trip. Airlines are not noted for their gentle baggage handling. Most airlines allow two firearms per hunter. Take a soft case with you; in most cases, after arriving your outfitter will ask you to leave the big gun case in storage. A light cloth or leather scabbard is fine for protecting your gun for the duration of the trip.

☒ **Showers** - Showers are the normal type of bath on most lodge-type hunts. If you are in a mountain camp, showers may be a problem in cold weather. Hot water and a basin are always available. Take a towel.



☒ **Fire** - Always carry matches and a small lighter in separate containers. You are not likely to get lost, but anything can happen. Fires are nice during the middle of the day to toast a sandwich or heat up a cup of soup. I always carry a little metal cup with me. A spot of hot tea can brighten your day. There is nothing quite so comforting. Besides that, in the middle of the day there is sometimes not much to do. The game is lying up tight and if you walk around in the heavy brush too much, you may scare away more animals than you see. Sometimes patience is a real virtue in hunting. It is usually better to just lay back and get an hour's sleep in the middle of the day and let your big buck or bear wander out to the edge of the forest so you can get a good shot. Patience, patience, patience. Relax. Have two cups of tea and a candy bar.



☒ **Binoculars** - Hunters should buy the best binoculars they can afford. Most hunting worldwide requires the use of binoculars to either find or evaluate the quarry. Poor optics are hard on the eyes and, as a result, they don't get used as much as they should. If you don't use your binoculars, you'll definitely get less game. Generally speaking, hunters should avoid small, lightweight binoculars; they tend to have a smaller field of view and due to their lightweight nature, the image tends to jiggle more from breathing, shaky hands, or light breeze. Binoculars weighing about 25 to 30 oz are generally the best for extended use. People who wear glasses should get binoculars with eye cups that fold down and they should also obtain binoculars with a greater field of view. Seven to ten power with 35 to 50 degree field of view is best. Most binoculars come with a thin nylon strap that has a habit of cutting into your neck. Purchase after market binocular straps made out of neoprene, about 1.5-inches wide. Many people consider a guide lazy because he/she spends a lot of time sitting and watching a certain hillside. This, of course, depends on the guide and the situation; but in most cases, the guide who does a lot of sitting and watching is the best guide you can find. The guide is not lazy, just plain smart. In open country it is often common to be looking through binoculars for at least four to five hours a day.







❏ **Dress To Walk The Walk, Stalk The Stalk!** Clothes wet from sweating while rigorously walking is the biggest reason hunters get cold. Expect weather to be both warmer and colder than you thought. If you are riding a horse or doing a lot of sitting, there is no question you will need more of the right clothing to stay warm. We all know that a patient hunter is usually the best hunter. If you are not warm enough to remain at a good stand, you are unlikely to score. I have seen very little game taken back at the hunting lodge or at camp. Hunters should always have a daypack to haul warmer clothing in. As you start to hike, gear down to a lightweight sweater or shirt. Within a few minutes of walking, your body temperature will be plenty warm. You should wear lightweight long underwear tops, bottoms, and socks that help wisk perspiration away from the body, allowing it to evaporate naturally. Gore-Tex and rubber, while being great for keeping water out, will not make you sweat less. When you get to your stand or the area you will be glassing from, put the warm clothes on. Keep some hard candy in your coat pocket.

❏ **Midday Hunting (Take A Nap!)** - Midday is usually a slow time for sighting big game. Critters are often sleeping and resting at this time. Maybe it is not a bad idea for hunters to consider a little of this themselves. Find a good vantage point where you can relax for an hour or so, maybe even take a short nap, which can make you a lot more alert. Build a nice warm fire, toast your sandwiches, be careful not to burn your gloves, and keep using those binoculars.



❏ **Charter** - Always inquire as to the cost of air charter. Usually the prices quoted are round trip for the use of the aircraft. The air charter is usually the same price for one person or an entire party. Most aircraft suitable for handling two to three hunters and their gear are \$800-\$1,000 per hour. The outfitter will coordinate arriving parties with departing parties so that the cost can be shared. Arriving late or departing early can be very costly to you. All light aircraft have cargo weight limitations. Taking too much gear, or flying out large amounts of meat, may result in a second flight costing lots of extra dollars. Ask questions. Assume nothing. Discuss this with your outfitter.

❏ **Visas, Birth Certifications, Passports & Proper Identification** - Hunters should always take proper identification when hunting anywhere in the world. A driver's license will suffice anywhere in the U.S. However, if you travel, you need a passport. Passports are a must for all foreign travel. Be sure to keep your passport current. Visas to enter certain countries may be necessary. Obtain visas three to four months in advance of departure. Ask your travel agent. Politics change frequently.



❏ **Gun Permits** - Gun permits are not necessary for travel in most of the United States and Canada. However, local ordinances can vary. Ask your outfitter; they know local situations best. Handguns are usually a problem and are forbidden in Canada. Leave them at home.

❏ **Meat Shipments** - In all areas, great effort is made to retrieve all edible meat. It is the law. Wild meat is used to feed hunters in most camps. Most wild meat is considered a delicacy. I have seen a group of hunters consume an entire Dall sheep in just a couple of days. In areas of the West, where meat cutting and UPS shipment is convenient, shipping meat home is not a problem. Your outfitter will transport your meat out of the mountains and help you drop it off at the nearest meat processor, where it can be cut and sent to you by express delivery. Or you can take it back with you in coolers. Keep each parcel under 40 pounds to avoid overweight freight charges. If you are hunting in remote areas of North America that are generally accessible only by air, retrieving meat becomes a large problem. Most charter flights only have a payload of 1,000 pounds total. If you and your buddies weigh a couple hundred pounds each, and have a few hundred pounds of gear, you have a plane load. If you want to retrieve meat, that means a second charter flight, and at \$800-\$1,000 an hour, an ounce of venison starts to rival an ounce of gold. We recommend that if you enjoy wild meat and are hunting in a remote area, take a small, collapsible, soft sided cooler with you. At the end of the hunt, raid the meat shack. Discuss this with the outfitter. Take perhaps 40 pounds of the primest cuts of meat; don't fly home hamburger. Usually there are several different species of game available, so it can make for some interesting dining back home. Meat is usually not hard to place on a charter flight. Once you are back in town, most of the meat can be flown home as excess baggage. If you have a chance to spend the night in town before you leave for home, most motels have restaurants with walk-in freezers. As long as you have bagged the meat up and it is not melting or leaking, most restaurants don't mind placing it in their freezer. Hunting and fishing is part of the local culture in these areas, and they are used to handling sportsmen's requests. The balance of the meat can be left at the outfitter's camp where they can take care of it at their leisure. A great deal is used by hunters in camp; the balance is often used to feed winter caretakers at the lodge, or it is often flown to nearby villages that are thrilled to have the additional protein. No meat is wasted. A cut and wrapped elk shipped by USP is \$600 to \$700.

