

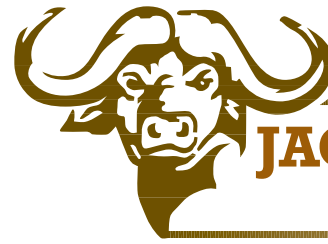
▣ **Sleeping Pad** – The best on the market is the Thermarest pad. A ¾-inch pad is ample and a lot more compact for transportation by backpack or horseback. If space permits, a full-length pad, two inches thick, goes well under old bones. Outfitters often supply pads.

▣ **Sleeping Bag** – Because of the varied conditions hunters can experience in mountainous terrain, it is often better to take two lightweight sleeping bags. I prefer synthetic bags, such as Hollofil, etc. Place one bag inside the other. The inside bag should be the mummy style, a more compact model. The outside bag can be a rectangular one that offers a little more room. Because you have two bags, you can leave the outside bag open if you encounter warmer weather. Should it get cold, zip both bags up and you can brave subzero temperatures. Sleeping bags are bulky, so hunters should obtain a compression stuff sack that helps bind the bags into a smaller parcel for easier transportation. Air dry your bag as often as you can, but watch out for rain showers and campfires.

▣ **Daypack** – Your daypack should have approximately 2,000 square inches of capacity. Roughly enough to stuff your coat, lunch, and survival kit into. A few extra pockets on the outside are handy for flashlights, extra batteries, maps, etc. The best packs are the top-load models, without zippers on the sides. Zippers often break, making the pack useless. Nylon is the toughest and lightest, although some fleece models work well also. Fleece tends to pick up burrs and brush. Pick what is right for your area.



▣ **Canteen** – In drier weather, it is important to have about two quarts of water with you. In cooler weather, one quart will do. Wide-mouths are best, as they are easier to fill in mountain streams.



**JACK ATCHESON
& SONS, INC.**

Hunting Consultants ♦ Butte, Montana

Moose, Caribou and Bear

Combo Hunting

Gear List



Much of the hunting for moose, caribou and bear takes hunters into low rolling mountainous regions with heavy brush and timber at the lower elevations. Rainy or snowy weather is common. Valley areas often have lakes, rivers, streams, or swamps. Hunters need more specialized clothing. Snow and cold are possible any month of the year. A typical day on a hunt is to walk or ride out of a spike camp into a higher piece of ground, then sit and watch for game, sometimes for hours. Layered clothing is important. Dress lighter when on the move and carry a daypack with heavier clothing to keep you warm and comfortable while you sit and glass for game. Be prepared for a sudden brisk hike when your quarry is spotted. Go light, but go prepared for any occasion.

▣ **Rain Suits** – Hunters should take rubberized rain suits on all hunts. Generally, if it rains, it really rains—often pushed along by strong winds. Since the areas can be brushy, hunters are often pushing their way through brushy regions, and there is nothing worse than wet brush! A regular rubberized suit is best for this type of hunt. A ¾-length jacket with a zipper or button-front to provide ventilation is essential. Buy at least one size larger to accommodate layered clothing. The ¾-length is especially important because most hunters will be wearing hip boots. If you have a parka-length jacket, the rainwater will drain nicely into the top of your hip boots! Three-quarter length jackets reach to your knees and drain water off you, not into your boots. Take rain pants, too, for maximum protection.

▣ **Hip Boots** – Hip boots are a necessary evil. Because of the wet, marshy areas and high brush, hip boots are the best choice for the hunter. Since considerable walking may be necessary, specialized ankle-fit boots are best. These boots are designed a little snugger around the ankle and it makes it a lot easier to walk. Buy the boots about a half-size larger and put in a polypropylene inner sole to give you a little more protection from rock bruising and additional warmth. Be sure to buy two extra inner soles and change them every day.

▣ **Gloves** – Due to the inclement conditions, Goretex gloves or mitts are probably the best bet for the hunter. Take three or four pairs. Also take a pair of leather mittens with fleece liners and a pair of insulated finger gloves.



▣ **Hats** – A water resistant, insulated hat with warm earflaps and visor to keep water off your glasses. Wind is often a problem. You may be sitting for hours glassing for game. Use the hood on your jacket to keep water from running down your neck.

▣ **Shirts** – Three lightweight shirts with long sleeves. Wool is generally best.

▣ **Pants** – A lightweight wool or fleece model is ideal. Try to find pants with extra pockets in the legs (cargo pockets). You never have enough pockets for handkerchiefs, flashlights, etc. Take two pairs. Clothes that fit a bit loose are a good idea.

▣ **Jacket**—Midweight wool or fleece.



▣ **Vest** – A synthetic fill vest with a collar is a small investment that can save your day.

▣ **Socks** – Three pairs of heavy socks and three pairs of lightweight socks preferably designed for anti-blistering. The socks can be washed and dried daily.

▣ **Underwear**—The best underwear is generally a synthetic fiber. Lightweight is generally adequate on these hunts. We suggest a zip-down turtleneck so you can control the warmth of the garment and provide better venting. It is a great idea to take two pairs of long underwear. Store one pair inside your sleeping bag so that you can use them as pajamas. If you sleep warm, you will be in good shape to hunt the next day. Take two pairs.

▣ **Sitting Pad** – Since you will be sitting for hours, often on damp ground, it is pretty handy to have some type of pad to sit on. A small, waterproof insulating pad is a good bet. It will keep your bottom warm and dry; you can sit on your extra gloves.

▣ **Suspenders** – A lot of my friends have developed potbellies; if they wear a pair of heavy pants or carry around a pocket full of cartridges or candy bars, the pants start sliding down over their ankles. Not only does this look bad, it makes walking difficult. If you are backpacking, the pack will often push your trousers down as well. Every hunter should have a good pair of suspenders. Not only will they improve your stride, they will make you look less cumbersome to any animals that happen to be watching. The best suspender set-up is generally the button-on model that attaches to the front and back of your pants, but the claw-snap is fine.

