

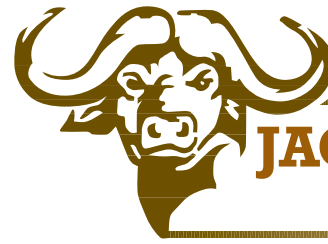
▣ **Rain Jacket & Pants** -- A good combo rainshell/windbreaker jacket and pants are essential. A *Goretex* jacket that breathes is best. It may be worn as much to cut wind while hiking as to protect you from driving rain or snow. Buy the outfit a size too large to help accommodate layering of clothing. Since most hunting for alpine animals is near or above the treeline, quiet clothing is not as important. In most cases, animals are sighted from great distances and an intricate stalk gets hunters into position. Noisy clothing can be removed during that portion of your hunt. Suspenders are a must to keep rain pants up.



▣ **Boots** —8 to 10 inch tall boots with at least 200 grams of insulation. It is a lot colder on top of that peak! *Goretex* leather boots with a heavy lug sole.

▣ **Gators** —Quite often you will be traveling in wet grass or snow. Staying dry becomes critical. Snug-fitting *Goretex* gators are best. They come in various sizes, but generally large or extra-large is necessary to fit over hightop hunting boots.

Wool and fleece gators are available, but snow and ice cling to them. Nylon gators are the lightest, and if they fit well, they are generally the most quiet. Gators prevent moisture from wicking up your pants. The best on the market are made by Outdoor Research, Inc.



**JACK ATCHESON
& SONS, INC.**

Hunting Consultants ♦ Butte, Montana

ALPINE HUNTING



GEAR LIST

Weather on high country hunts can change from extremely warm to bitter cold within hours, or visa versa, during almost any month of the year. A lot of sitting and glassing from windswept ridges will convince you to take enough clothes, but mostly, the right clothes, to reduce weight. All clothes should be dull, blending colors.

Our gear suggestions include the following:

▣ **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. Damp socks or underwear can be dried out at night by keeping them inside your sleeping bag. Countless gloves and socks are devoured by campfires each year - Be Careful!

▣ **Towel** – A chamois cloth towel is good for cleaning up; it is lightweight and dries quickly.

▣ **Sleeping Bags** – Because of the varied, often unexpected, conditions a hunter can experience while hunting 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 type, a more compact model. The outside bag can be a rectangular one that offers a little more room. Since 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. Since sleeping bags are bulky, hunters should obtain a compression stuff sack to help bind the bags into a smaller parcel for easier transportation. I carry a set of down underwear tops and bottoms in my sleeping bag. Air dry your sleeping bag as often as you can, but watch out for rain showers and campfires!

▣ **Sleeping Pad** – The best on the market is a *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.

▣ **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.



▣ **Jacket**—Midweight wool, with new miracle fleece-type fabric is generally best, especially when the new *Windstopper* technology is applied.

▣ **Vest** – A good down or synthetic fill vest with a high collar is a small item that can save your day.

▣ **Underwear** – The best underwear is made of *Capoline* synthetic fiber. The lighter weight underwear is generally adequate on these hunts. We suggest the zip-down turtleneck. 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 that you can use at night instead of pajamas. If you sleep warm, you will be in good shape to hunt the next day. Take two pairs.

▣ **Shirt** —Two lightweight shirts with long sleeves. Wool is generally best.

▣ **Pants** – A lightweight wool or fleece pant is ideal. Medium weight fleece is by far the most durable of all fabrics, but like wool, it burns easily. Be sure the pants have belt loops. Suspenders are great, too! Try to find pants with extra pockets in the legs (cargo pockets). You never have enough pockets for handkerchiefs, flashlights, etc. Take two pairs of pants, but in some spike camp conditions you may be wearing the same clothes for a week.