

▣ **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 high top hunting boots. Quiet 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.

▣ **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.

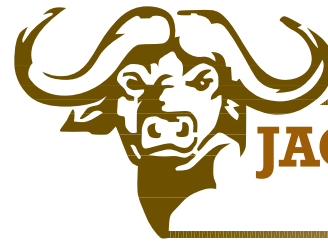
▣ **Canteen** – In drier weather, it is important to have about two quarts of water with you. In cooler weather, one quart will do. Wide-mouths are best as they are generally best, as they are easier to fill in mountain streams.

▣ **Walking Sticks** – No one likes to look like an old man with a cane, but walking sticks have their place. They can prevent you from falling down when you descent a steep slope. They are invaluable for going around side hills. We recommend every hunter going to the mountains have some sort of walking stick – a ski pole, something to act as a third leg. It will act as a rest if you are shooting at something across a wide canyon and have no time to get a better rest. A walking stick has saved me from many bad falls while returning to camp in the dark. We use them all of the time.



▣ **Spotting Scope** – A quality, high-powered spotting scope is very important for sheep, goat, deer and antelope hunting. Generally, hunters are looking for just a few inches of horn and sometimes at great distances. A 20-power scope just won't give you the view at a mile and a half to give you an idea of size. You might have to spend a half day walking in one direction just to find that it wasn't as big as you had hoped, taking time from your hunt. A good extendable tripod is also a great help if you spend a fair amount of time looking through a spotting scope. When you transport your optics to and from the hunting area, it is smart to have a handbag with a foam rubber bottom to carry fragiles.

Good optics are as important or more important than your rifle.



**JACK ATCHESON
& SONS, INC.**

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Backpack



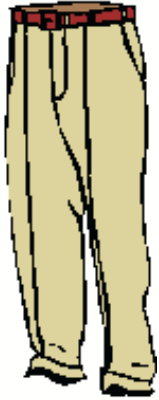
Hunting

List



Don't pack too much! But be sure you take.....

▣ **Rain Suits** – A good combo rain shell-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. You should buy the outfit a size too large to help accommodate layered clothing.



▣ **Pants** – One pair, fleece or lightweight wool.

▣ **Shirt** – One wool or fleece. If you get wet, damp shirts and pants can be stuffed into your sleeping bag at night to dry, or wear them to bed. Backpack hunts really are “no frills”. If you pack too much, you will be throwing gear away after you climb the second mountain. Take only the essentials.



▣ **Underwear**—The best underwear is generally the Capoline 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. A synthetic chamois cloth makes a great towel, and it is lightweight and compact.

▣ **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.

▣ **Boots** – A leather boot with a good lug sole is an excellent choice. The leather boots really don't need to have heavy insulation. A removable Goretex liner is handy. If the weather is warm, you can control the climate in your boots easier. If it gets cold and wet, pull on the Goretex socks. They come in insulated and non-insulated styles.

▣ **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.



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

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



▣ **Hats** – Mountainous hunting usually requires vigorous walking, so a lightweight baseball cap is usually fine as far as keeping the sun out of your eyes and offering some protection from the weather while not being too warm. Hunters should also take a second hat that is well insulated with good ear flaps. Two hats are a great idea, as a wind gust can blow a hat off a cliff and you are left without good coverage. Go prepared. Snow is possible on any mountain hunt.



▣ **Backpack (Overnight Trips)**—If you are on a backpack hunt, your backpack is a very important part of your trip. Don't just buy any pack and expect it to work perfectly for you. Packs need to be fitted to your shape. A pack capable of carrying 5,000 to 6,000 cubic inches is necessary for extended trips. Since hunters are often off the beaten path, with no trails, and will encounter brushy conditions to reach their areas, an internal frame pack is generally the best choice. Internal frame packs comfortably carry 50 to 80 pounds, which is about as much as any hunter should consider carrying. Internal frame packs have a better center of gravity, and do not stand far up above the head to catch brush, knock snow down your neck, etc. It is not particularly easy to carry a rifle with any backpack. Hunters should devise a system to hang their gun on their shoulder strap so that the gun sling will rest there without sliding off the nylon strap. The setup should also be lightweight and something that is easy to put the gun into action from.



▣ **Camera** – A lightweight 35 mm camera and a lot of film and flash units with extra batteries.