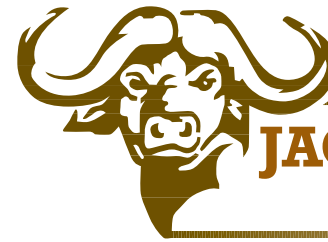


❏ **Walking Stick** - No one likes to look like the old man with a cane, but walking sticks have their place. They can prevent you from falling down when you descend a steep slope. They are invaluable for going around side hills. We recommend that every hunter going to the mountains have some sort of walking stick - a ski pole - something to act as a third leg. It will work as a rest if you are shooting at something across a wide canyon and have no time for a better rest. I know of more than one time when my walking stick saved me from a bad fall returning to camp after dark. We use them all of the time.

❏ **Sleeping Bags** - Because of the varied conditions a hunter can experience in mountainous terrain, if you are going to a tent camp, 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. 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. Since sleeping bags are bulky, hunters should obtain a compression stuff sack to help bind the bags into a smaller parcel for easier transportation. Keep a set of down underwear in your sleeping bag if you are a cold sleeper. If you are hunting from a lodge, you may not need to take a sleeping bag. Ask your outfitter.

❏ **Spotting Scope** - A lightweight 20-power scope is usually plenty to determine the size of a stag. Heavyweight, high-powered scopes are usually not that essential when hunting game with body size and large antlers that are more easily seen, unlike antelope or goat. A good, extendable tripod is also a great help if you spend a fair amount of time looking through a spotting scope. If you are hunting from a vehicle, be sure to take a window mount for the scope. When transporting your optics to and from the hunting area, it is smart to have a handbag with a foam rubber bottom to carry fragile items. Good optics are as important, or more important, than your rifle.

❏ **Personal Sundries:**



**JACK ATCHESON
& SONS, INC.**

Hunting Consultants ♦ Butte, Montana

NEW ZEALAND OR ARGENTINA RED STAG HUNTING



Gear List

❑ **Rain Jacket & Pants** - Nylon-coated with rubber on the outside of the garment is quiet and lightweight, but does not breathe. A Gore-Tex jacket and pants will work, but they are noisy. If you are stalking at close range, remove the rainwear. Wear wool or fleece. You may still get wet, but you will notice it less. A good trophy is worth it anyway.



❑ **Shirts** - Three lightweight shirts with long sleeves. Wool is generally best.

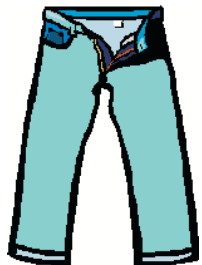
❑ **Jacket** - Midweight wool or fleece in March through April. Go with heavyweight wool or fleece in May and July. The layer system is applicable during any period.

❑ **Vest** - A good down or synthetic fill vest with a collar.

❑ **Underwear** - The best underwear is generally the capoline synthetic fiber. Lightweight is generally adequate on these hunts, except in late May or July; then take the heavyweight long handles. 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.

❑ **Coveralls** - Insulated coveralls are a good idea on all hunts. If you are riding horses, you will find the back of a horse to be one of the coldest places on earth. The same goes for a hunt where you might still hunt. It can be cold. When you are inactive, sitting on a stand or riding a horse, put on a set of insulated coveralls, ones that you can remove easily, so that you can shed them to pursue game in less cumbersome clothing.

❑ **Gators** - Quite often you will be traveling in wet grass or snow. Staying dry becomes critical. Snug-fitting Gore-Tex 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 are the lightest and, if they fit well, are generally the best choice (not too noisy, either!)



❑ **Pants** - If you are hunting during March and April, generally the weather can be quite warm, so lighter weight wool or fleece is a good choice. Stags have incredibly keen hearing, and quiet clothing is a must. If you are hunting late April through July, you should have a good pair of suspenders. Not only will they improve your stride, they will make you look less cumbersome to any stags that happen to be watching. The best suspender setup is generally the button-on model that attaches to the front and back of your pants.

❑ **Gloves** - You will need two pairs. One pair of light finger gloves; a Gore-Tex or wool is fine. One pair of mittens, preferably with leather exteriors with a good fleece or wool liner. Quite often hunters use a fire for heat or cooking at night. A leather mitten makes a handy potholder and won't burn as easily as fleece or cotton. Make sure you don't burn up your gloves around the fire while drying them. Maybe you should take an extra set of finger gloves to replace the ones you will probably lose.



❑ **Canteen** - When hunting in drier weather, it is important to have two quarts of water with you each day. In cooler weather, one quart will do for most people. A wide-mouth canteen is generally best, as they are easier to fill in mountain streams.

❑ **Daypack** - A good 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 any zippers on the sides. Zippers often break, making the pack useless. Nylon is the toughest and lightest, although some fleece models work well also. Hunters should devise some type of 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 makes it easy to put the gun into action.

❑ **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 weather while not being too warm. Hunters should also take a second hat that is well insulated and has good earflaps. Two hats are a great idea. A gust of wind can blow a hat off a cliff, leaving you without good coverage. Go prepared. Throw in a lightweight ski mask.

❑ **Camera** - A lightweight digital camera with flash and extra batteries.

❑ **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.

