

Colorado Hunting with Compass West Outfitters  
Booking Packet

Thanks for booking with Compass West Outfitters. We are honored that you are trusting us with what we hope will be one of many great hunts with us! We hope you are as excited about this hunting season as we are!

Call me at 505-801-7500 (office) or 505-860-3197 (cell) anytime you have a question. Feel free to text me on my cell. Our email address is [info@compasswestoutfitters.com](mailto:info@compasswestoutfitters.com) if you prefer to email us. We do not take credit cards for payments, our mailing address for payments is:

Compass West Outfitters  
33 Road 25531  
Aztec, NM 87410

Please **always leave a phone number in your message** as I don't always have your personal information with me. We are very good about returning phone calls, but please remember that during hunting season we are in very remote areas and may only be able to retrieve our messages every couple of days as many of the areas we hunt still lack cell phone service.

***The following is information we hope you find useful when preparing for your hunt:***

Deposits: Your deposit is due within 14 days of receiving invoice. Quoted prices are good for 30 days. We accept personal check, cashier's check or money order. Checks can be made payable to "Compass West Outfitters".

Cancelation policy: **Your deposit is refunded (less a handling fee of 15% of the total cost) only if you can fill your spot with a new hunter. No-shows will be charged the full amount. We HIGHLY recommend our hunters carry trip insurance. You can consult with your insurance agent to learn how to obtain trip insurance. All disputes over billing will be handled by the San Juan County court in New Mexico between March 1st and August 15th.**

Final Payments: Final payment is due no later than 60 days before your hunt date. If you are less than 60 days out please call us to arrange your payment. If you have a balance due when you arrive in Colorado, the final payment **MUST BE PAID IN CASH BEFORE YOU HUNT**. Personal checks will not be accepted in camp.

Included in Package Price for **GUIDED** hunts: Normal rifle/muzzleloader hunt packages are a total of 6 nights lodging, all meals and 5 days guided hunting (1x1 or 2x1). Most bow hunts are 7 nights lodging, all meals, and 7 days guided hunting (1X1 or 2X1). All Colorado hunts are based from TENT camps unless we have talked and stated in the contract differently. One (1) primary animal is included in the price (elk or deer hunt) additional animals are for trophy or kill fee price also stated in the contract.

Not Included in Package Price: Travel to/from hunt camp or airports. Colorado license fee, habitat stamp. Tips for guide and cooks. Game bags (Alaska game bags small size, 4 pack), meat processing, meat storage (area meat lockers charge \$20-30/day for storage), taxidermy or alcohol are also not included. Bedding and towels are not provided.

We will help you handle your trophy in the field and can help you get in touch with local meat processors/taxidermy shops. Meat butchers are 1.5 to 2 hours away, you will want to plan on driving your meat to butchers, or hiring the camp cook or wrangler to do so.

Closest liquor store to camp could be 2.75 hours. You can get beer about 1 3/4 hours from camp, so please plan ahead if you desire alcoholic beverages.

#### Air Travel:

Please talk with us about your specific hunt area and best choice!

#### Gratuity:

It is customary to tip your guides based on your overall experience. For the cooks, \$75 -100+ per week per person is common. For guides \$600-700+ or 10-15%, of trip cost per person is the most is customary but again please base your tip on your experience. The cost of scouting is increasing every year, this is where the guides can make back the money they spent looking for your dream bull or buck. Gratuity should not reflect number of days in the field or harvest, but rather the experience you enjoyed.

#### Our Wounded Animal Policy on Public Land Hunts:

A wounded animal is an animal that has been hit by bullet or arrow and a single drop of blood has been found. You and your guide will spend the next **24 hours** looking for that animal. If you are unable to find this wounded animal in that time you may continue to hunt under special conditions. If 2<sup>nd</sup> animal is wounded, this will be the end of the hunt. We would also desire that the 2<sup>nd</sup> animal be a trophy or mature animal only (the meat bull was lost). If 2 are wounded, you will spend the remainder of your hunt looking for both wounded animals until the end of your hunt or until you choose to depart camp.

### Cell Phones:

There is NOT ALWAYS CELL PHONE reception in our camps, If you must have cell service during your hunt, talk with me about your location and I can give you a heads up to the service quality/location available. Rental of a satellite phone or an in-reach system is a good choice if you NEED service.

Drinking Water: I will **not** have bottled water in camp. I always have clean safe drinking water in camps that you can use to fill your refillable bottle. If you must drink bottled water please bring some to base camp. You will want to pack a Camel Back or other drinking bottles to re-fill in camp and bring with you to the field. In spike camps you will drink water treated with tablets or boiled. Sorry if this is a problem for some people, that's why some water flavor or powder is a great idea on spike trips.

### After Hours Emergencies:

For emergencies, our best number to call is the office number 505-801-7500. My wife Karin mans the office during the hunting season while I am in the field. Should you find yourself lost on your way at night or your family need to get in touch with you, you can call this number and she will do her darndest to get in touch with me.

Should anyone need to reach you in camp, they may call/text my cell 505-860-3197 or call the office for camp manager phone or sat phone number, (however I do NOT always have service every day). Should they call this number after hours a voice messaging system is in place and we will give you the message when I hear it. Texting me is the very best way to reach me the fastest.

Camp Locations and Meeting Locations: We will provide you detailed directions to camp closer to your hunt date. We spend the summer tracking animal movements, and use this information to determine our camp location. As a result, most years we will not have a set location until later in August or even later on some hunts. You may need a 4x4 to access any of our camps in Colorado.

Hunting License – If you drew a tag or purchased leftover tags, Colorado Dept. of Parks and Wildlife will be mailing it you. If you are purchasing over-the counter tags we HIGHLY recommend you purchase these in advance through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website <https://www.cpwshop.com/licensing.page>

**Hunters Education Card- You MUST have your card on you at all times in Colorado, unless you are verified or born before Jan. 1, 1949. NOT having your card will result in termination of your hunt and no refunds. BE SURE YOU BRING IT WITH YOU!**

If you have any questions, please **do not hesitate** to call me any time: **505-801-7500 (office) or 505-860-3197 (Chris' cell phone)** E-mail us at: [info@compasswestoutfitters.com](mailto:info@compasswestoutfitters.com)

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR HUNT:

**GET IN SHAPE AND PRACTICE WITH YOUR WEAPON!** – You will get out of a hunt what you put in to it ahead of time!

You will be hunting at an elevation of at about 9800' or higher. Many of you are coming from 500' or less and you're not used to the thin air like we are. Do what you can to help get your lungs ready! It's your hunt - guides will let you set the pace, but they will push you as they want to see you have a successful hunt. For what you are paying per day, spend some time getting ready! YOU are the one that will pay for it with a sub-par hunt, blistered feet and a crappy over-all time if you don't shoot on sticks and get some exercise before you get here. Anything you can do to get ready is going to help you. There is nothing more depressing than seeing that big buck/bull on day 3 and having to run as fast as you can up a steep hill and just not having the energy to do it. Even just walking for an hour a day will benefit you. Use a backpack with sand or other weight in it when you walk to get ready. If you can ride a bike or stair stepper you're going to be happy you did! Swimming is best, whatever you can find please try.

### Your Ideal Hunt:

Please be sure to talk with your guide about the quality of animal that you're looking for. In the field, your guide can help advise you as to the quality of animals you are seeing, but remember that ultimately you make the call as whether or not you shoot or don't shoot.

We are aggressive hunters. We like to walk and hike and glass for animals along the way. We are not trying to kill you, we just really want you to harvest as badly as you do! This means if you need a break you're going to have to tell us when YOU need to sit on waterholes and feeding areas to take a break and recharge. It's your hunt, you need to set the pace!

In the Field: Once you have killed an animal, guides will then help you as little or much as you like in dealing with the downed animal. If we are in an area that we can drive to we'll load it in the truck, or help to pack it out on our backs or call horses. Spike camp hunters should plan on helping pack meat to a pick up location for the wrangler, that's why you want to pack garbage bags to keep your pack clean! Guides can also always pack out the whole animal if you are not able to deal with the heavy pack.

### Bow Hunters Information:

I have guided elk full time since 1992, and here in Colorado and New Mexico since 1997. Over the years I have guided well over 300 (+/-) elk kills, in all my time as a guide I have never (yes never) recovered a single elk shot with expandable blades as a guide. And as a business we have recovered 2-3 in the past 12 years total.

Please plan on shooting **fixed broad heads**.

If you need help PLEASE call me anytime to talk more about ideas for fixed blades that shoot like expendables. Slicktrick, Exodus and Whack'em are some of the best shooting fixed blades you can buy. We also request that hunters **DO NOT use single pin adjustable sights (PLEASE)**. They are very popular in the whitetail world now, however in the world of ELK hunting they will hurt you and hurt your odds of harvest a great deal. You will NOT have the time to set the yardage on the sight when you are calling in elk since you never know where they are coming from. I like 5-7 pin sites 30-80 yard pins and you will have no reason not to get the shot you want! Just spend a little time shooting instinctively at ranges from 0-30 yds.

Please also shoot a little heavier arrow than you do for whitetail deer (500gr plus is best). We also ask that hunters learn to shoot with your quivers attached to your bows. I'm not sure where guys develop the habit of shooting with quivers off your bows (I think tree stands) but every year we waste an afternoon backtracking for a quiver that got put down. Remember also to get a Primos bow sling, it will be your best friend on this hunt. I would be sure to pack one!!!

Call me anytime about bow or gear questions, we are ALL bow hunters in camp! For the good of your hunt get the right arrows and go take a shooting class. 1x1 shooting instruction will help you more than you know!!! And study kill charts, they are not whitetail deer. 1 lung on an elk, you will never find him same with gut or high lung shots.

Rifle Hunters: PLEASE learn to shoot standing and sitting on sticks. You are going to be standing 75% of the time on shots here. Cross canyon or over brush is almost always the way you are going to get a shot. It's not something you are going to just start once here. You will need to practice this ahead of time. Most the guides like the BogPod tripod with the red foam grips! Primos makes a nice trigger stick TRIPOD that is super easy to use and easy to find as well (be sure to get the Gen 2 so you can shoot sitting with it). But please, for the good of your hunt, get ready to use it and shoot a bunch before the hunt starts off sticks. You'll be glad you did! We try and get all hunters sitting or prone for the shots but don't often have time!

Zero your rifle at 200, and be ready for 100-450 yard shots. Most shots will be 100-350, but learn to shoot at 300-400+ and you'll be happy you did! On rifle elk hunts you really need to know how to shoot at 300-400 yards. Google long range shooting clubs or classes in your area. It's a small investment in your success. Guys tell me all the time 300 yard shooting ranges are hard to find in their area, well... 3-5 hour drive to a range is nothing, make the time! You're driving 20+ hours to hunt with us and lots of money, show up with the confidence to shoot 0-400. Most shooting is cross canyon and these yardages are dictated by the area and the terrain we hunt not by choice!