

## UNIT 36 Private Land Elk -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 CWO. We trust you are as excited about this hunting season as we are!

Call or text Chris on his cell at 505-860-3197, or call our office at 505-801-7500 anytime you have a question. Our email address is [info@compasswestoutfitters.com](mailto:info@compasswestoutfitters.com) if you prefer to email us. Our home and mailing address is:

Compass West Outfitters, LLC  
33 Road 25531  
Aztec, NM 87410

\*Please note: This is our office, **not** necessarily the location closest to your hunt when looking at driving directions/airports. Driving directions to your camp will be located on our website at [www.compasswestoutfitters.com](http://www.compasswestoutfitters.com) under the forms tab.

Please **always leave a name, and a phone number in your message** as we don't always have your personal information with us. We are very good about returning phone calls, but please remember that during hunting season we are often 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. **Please call the office during hunting season first!**

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

**Deposits:** Your deposit is due within 14 days of booking. We accept personal check, cashier's check or money order. Checks can be made payable to "Compass West Outfitters, LLC" and mailed to the above address.

**Cancelation policy:** **Your deposit is refunded (less a handling fee of 15% of the total cost) only if you or we 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. You can also check out this link

<https://globalrescue.com/compasswestoutfitters/index.html> . Global rescue carries a "cancel for any reason policy" available.

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 prior to 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 New Mexico, the final payment **MUST BE PAID IN CASH BEFORE YOU HUNT.** **Personal checks will not be accepted in camp.**

**Included in Package Price:** Most bow hunts are 7 days guided hunting (1X1 or 2X1) 7 nights lodging, and all meals. Normal rifle/muzzleloader hunt packages are 5 days guided hunting (1x1 or 2x1) 6 nights lodging, and all meals.

You will be in a small cabin on this hunt. The cabin is considered “off the grid”. We do have a solar system for lights and running water.

We will help you handle your trophy in the field and can help you get in touch with local meat processors/taxidermy shops, as well as transport meat to closest butcher for you.

**Not Included in Package Price:** Travel to/from Ruidoso, NM. New Mexico – NMG&F elk license fee, game hunting license, habitat, HMAV stamps, and NM sales tax. Tips for guide and cooks/camp-helper, meat processing, meat storage (area meat lockers charge \$20-30/day for storage) or shipping of cape / meat. Taxidermy or alcohol are also not included. Sleeping bags, pillows, and towels are not provided.

Bring what you want to drink as far as alcohol, there is no access to a store once you have driven into camp.

#### **Air Travel:**

In **Unit 36 private land hunts** you will want to fly into El Paso, TX (4 hours) or possibly Albuquerque (4.5 hours, but a greater selection of flight times).

PLEASE call for airport suggestions.

#### **Gratuity:**

It is customary to tip your guides based on your overall experience. For the cooks and camp-helper/packer, Cooks \$100+ per week per person is common, a packer that gets your animal for you I would recommend \$100 unless you really wanted to pack out all that meat yourself! For guides \$600 - \$1000+, is customary, but again, please base your tip on your experience. The cost of scouting, and quality gear is increasing every year, this is where the guides recoup money they spend 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.

**Minimum size requirements for bull elk:** I don't charge a trophy fee on these ranches, I hope everyone kills a 350 – 400 bull! However, in order to maintain the quality of animals that we take on our ranches in NM we need to address **minimum size requirement.** In order to maintain this we have set a baseline. **We will not allow the killing of young bulls on this hunt. Period. It must be a mature bull, 290 plus, a huge 5X, a non-typical or cull of guide's choice if under 290.**

This is not a meat hunt. You did not book a meat hunt! If you just want to kill an elk please look at Chama, Colorado or even draw hunts in New Mexico...not these ranch hunts. You booked this hunt for a solid high harvest and trophy potential hunt, not for

meat. I am looking to maintain a 290-320+ elk average on these ranches.

**Our Wounded Animal Policy on UNIT 36 Private Land Hunts:**

A wounded animal is an animal that has been hit by a bullet or arrow. Blood drawn ends hunting.

**Should you wound an animal, you and your guide will cease hunting, and will spend the remainder of your hunt looking for that wounded animal. You will not be allowed to harvest any other animal (including cows) other than your wounded one.**

**Cell Phones:**

We have decent cell phone service on this ranch.

**Drinking Water:** we will have bottled water in camp. The water on location is safe but low quality.

**After Hours Emergencies:**

For emergencies, our best number to call is the office at **505-801-7500**. Karin mans the office during the hunting season while Chris is in the field. Should you find yourself lost on your way at night or your family needs to get in touch with you, you can call this number and she will do her darndest to get in touch with Chris, your guide, or the camp manager.

Should anyone need to reach you in camp, they may call/text Chris' cell 505-860-3197 (however he does 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 we hear it. Texting is the very best way to reach Chris the fastest

**Camp Locations and Meeting Locations:** You will meet your guides at White Mountain Taxidermy & Meat Cutters in Ruidoso, NM sometime after 2pm. Please plan to arrive after 2pm or discuss a different time with you guide in the days before your hunt. Josh, owner, 575-978-1278 office number. Driving directions are located on our webpage under the forms tab.

**Hunting License** – \*Closer to your hunt date we will email detailed step-by-step directions to walk you through the following process.\*

You will need to convert your authorization/ranch number into a hunting license through NM Game and Fish as well as purchase your game hunting license (\$65), habitat stamp (\$5) and the habitat management and access validation (\$4). You can do this online the month before your hunt, or purchase your license at a physical game and fish office, Walmart, Cabela's or Sportsman's Warehouse in New Mexico.

**Gun policy:** Guns need to have a clear chamber at all times (including vehicle travel). Your guide will let you know when to chamber your weapon in the field.

Empty chamber applies to night as well. Should you have a gun chambered in camp you will be asked to leave at once, no refunds will be given. We prefer all guns to be left in the guide's truck or your vehicle in camp.

Accidental discharge of a weapon AT ANY TIME will result in you leaving camp immediately. No questions asked. Your hunt is over. No refunds will be given.

**Drug/alcohol policy:** It is unlawful in NM to hunt while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants, including medical marijuana.

### **After you harvest your animal**

Your hunt is concluded after you harvest your animal. We will help you handle your trophy in the field and can help you get in touch with local meat processors/taxidermy shops, as well as transport meat to closest butcher for you.

If you are hunting with a partner you are welcome to hang out in camp until all hunters are tagged out. If your buddy is still hunting, let him hunt with the guide. Every additional set of boots and scent in the woods will diminish his chances of harvest. I know it's not exciting to sit around camp, but you tagged out, now let your buddy have the best chance to do the same. You are not helping by tagging along, you are hurting his chances.

**Mandatory Harvest Report after your hunt** – the state of NM requires ALL hunters to fill out their mandatory harvest report whether you were successful or not. You will want to log on to your NM Game and Fish account after the hunt to complete this step. If you don't complete this step you will not be eligible for the NM draw next year. You can also call NM Game and Fish at (888) 248-6866 to complete your harvest report over the phone.

If you have any questions, please **do not hesitate** to call us 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 about 6800' – 8500', or higher. Many of you are coming from 500' or less and you're not accustomed to the thin air like we are. Do what you can to help get your lungs get ready! 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!

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 time overall 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.

**Your Ideal Hunt:** Rain is the determining factor to the trophy quality of EVERY hunt we offer in New Mexico. I have killed 290 average elk in a unit that the year before we killed a 340 average. Precipitation levels in the spring (March - June) will dictate the horn growth of the animals we are hunting.

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 to whether or not you shoot or don't shoot. We want you to harvest the largest animal possible, but every animal you let walk is a risk of not tagging out. Remember that opportunities are not unlimited on fair chase hunts.

Please talk with Chris or the office if you feel that we have made a bad call on your guide assignment. I've been in the outfitting biz for 25+ years and do a good job at lining out people MOST of the time. Please privately make us aware if you feel I was wrong.

We are aggressive hunters. That's why we have killed over 90% harvest and 100% shot for the last 10 years. 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!

### **Bow Hunters Information:**

Please plan on shooting **fixed blade broad heads**. In the last 12 years we have recovered one animal shot with expandable blades. Yes, one! If you need help PLEASE call us anytime to talk more about ideas for fixed blades that shoot like expendables. Slicktrick 4 blade 100g, Exodus 125g, and Whack'em 125g, and Iron Will (very expensive) are some of the best shooting fixed blades you can buy. We have had BAD luck with the Montec G5's - they are dull we all hate them!!!

\*mule deer I am 50-50 on expendables here, you are permitted to use them on deer.

We also request that hunters **DO NOT use single pin adjustable sights**. They are very popular in the whitetail world now, however in the world of ELK hunting they **will** hurt your odds of harvesting 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. We like boss hog or Black gold 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. Spend some time shooting from various positions. Shoot from knees,

leaning over, around things, over things, under branches.

Please also shoot a little heavier arrow than you do for whitetail deer, we like a 500g set up for elk. We also ask that hunters learn to shoot with your quivers attached to your bows. A Primos bow sling will be your best friend on this hunt. I would be sure to pack one!!!

Call us anytime about bow or gear questions, we are ALL bow hunters in camp!

**BOW HUNTERS: I would strongly advise that you pack and pre-treat your outer gear with permethrin you'll be glad you did. (chiggers)**

**Rifle Hunters:** PLEASE learn to shoot standing and sitting on sticks. You are going to be standing 75% of the time on shots here. It's not something you should do for the first time once here. Cross canyon or over brush is almost always the way you are going to get a shot. We try for sitting shots whenever we can, but prone will almost never happen because of the terrain we hunt.

Once you have your rifle ZERO AT 200 YDS start practicing shooting off sticks. Most of the guides like and will carry the BogPod tripod with the red foam grips. Primos also makes a nice trigger stick TRIPOD that is super easy to use and easy to find. But please, for the good of your hunt, get ready to use sticks and shoot a bunch before the hunt starts. You'll be glad you did!

Zero your rifle at 200, and be ready for 100-450+ yard shots. Most shots will be 100-400, but learn to shoot at 300-400+ and you'll be happy you did! On rifle elk hunts you really need to be solid at 300-400+ yards.

Most shooting are cross canyon and these yardages are dictated by the area and the terrain we hunt, not by choice! **I can almost guarantee YOUR SHOT HERE WILL BE 400-600 YARDS.**

Take a shooting class, anything you can to get ready. Every year I hear that you can't shoot over 300 yards where you live, but just google long range shooting in your area and USE WHAT YOU FIND. You might have to join a club or travel 1-2-3-4 hours to do so. Well you are traveling 1000 plus miles and spending a great deal of money to visit us, it's a small investment to be READY.

When practicing 300+ shots we never shoot paper, what we like to do when practicing long distances (300+ yards) is to shoot at balloons. It gives instant feedback, and if you're popping a balloon that is the same size as the kill zone on an elk, guess what - you're killing any elk you are shooting at! It builds confidence at longer ranges too! Don't discourage yourself shooting and evaluating paper.

**If you are shooting MOA, please KNOW AND UNDERSTAND your gun, have a chart on your stock for the elevation and yardage the guide will tell you. I will not deal with**

another year of phone apps and in the field madness. UNDERSTAND YOUR GEAR or do what I would do, and get a turret with yardage so your guide can help! Why add a step to a stressful situation, JUST CLICK IT IN!

Please bring a 300 or better rifle. I know 6.5, 30.06, 308, 270, 280 will all kill elk, but you will not be taking all the shots you could with these rifles. They don't shoot long well. As a rule they are the guns we leave the greatest number of elk in the woods lost with.

**Back up gun - You never know, in the last 5 years more hunters than you would think have had to use backup guns, and BE SURE YOUR RINGS ARE TIGHT!!!!!!!!!!**  
**We try to have a gun in camp as a backup. If circumstances necessitate its use we do charge a \$100 ammo fee and \$500 if gun is dropped.**

We also sell the Huskamaw long range gear AND RIFLES! If you want a custom 300 win (\$4,500) let us know and I can get one to you before your hunt...all dialed in for our elevation. I also sell all the Huskamaw ammo and long range shooting supplies.

## **Packing List for New Mexico Unit 36 Private Ranch**

This list should help you get a better idea of what to bring. This is a GUIDELINE ONLY.

**Sleeping bag on all hunts 20-40 degree bag is fine**

**Pillow, and towel** either bring your own, or plan a shopping trip to Walmart once you arrive in NM.

**Gun or bow**

**Carcass Tag/Horn Tag** Check to be sure it includes game hunting license, HMAV and Habitat Stamp. If it doesn't you will need to carry a paper copy of stamps.

**Extra release, bow sling, face mask or paint, smoke in a bottle wind checker.**

**Ammo-** Bring enough to sight in once here as well as hunting. We like to see people bring 3 boxes. Area shops carry a limited choice of ammo and if you sighted in with 180 gr. and can't find them in the area we have to start over with sighting in again!

**Arrows-** plan on 15-20 for sure at a minimum.

**Quiet camouflage outer gear-** There is no hunters orange law in NM so we like to hunt in full camo. Guides almost all use UA or KUIU gear but anything is good.

**Boots-** solid leather boots are best. There are lots of cactus in our area as well as sharp rocks. Be sure to break them in before your hunt!

**Leg Gators** – good for wet mornings. Must be quiet!

**Moleskin** – great on blisters in case your boots aren't completely broken in.

**Camera/phone**

**Charger brick for phone**

**Day pack with waist belt for support- one that will hold water, camera, binoculars, compass, snacks and jacket/coat.** Any brand will do, but it needs to have a waist belt and be large enough to carry your gear. Should be around 3000 cubic inches.

**Socks-** Darn Tough are best sox made IMO, or smart wool of some kind. Avoid cotton.

**Rain gear-** We like camo if possible and packable and light weight is ideal, but overall, it must be QUIET. If it's not quiet it's likely the guide won't want you to wear it!

**Dopp kit-** un-scented everything like soap and shampoo.

**Medications-** Be sure to pack Ibuprofen or other pain killer, any and all meds you need.

**Long johns-** you never know! Check the weather report before travel.

**Warm gear-** wool and fleece with light weight layers under. The weather can change fast; you might sit still on a hill side glassing for hours. You can't have too much warm gear, the worst thing that can happen is you go home with clean un-used gear!

**Binoculars-** 10x42 for glassing .Talk to us more about best choices! Guides have spotting scopes but if you want bring one, DON'T buy one!

**Spending cash-** There are no ATM's for miles, if you want some spending cash or cash for tips, bring it.

**Hats-** Baseball and stocking bring a ball cap with a bill that you can fit a stocking cap over.

**Camp shoes-** Something that fits you like a glove. Boots get heavy after a full day in the field. Nothing beats that favorite pair of slippers or Crocs around the camp after a long day in the field!

**Favorite Snacks-** We have a ton of snacks in camp, but can't account for everyone's personal tastes. If you really like specific chips at night or snickers in the afternoon, you might want to bring it along. Power bars or Cliff bars are always a good idea if we don't make it back to the truck for lunch.