

Cow 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 us. We hope 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 if you prefer to email us. Our home and mailing address is:

Compass West Outfitters, LLC
PO Box 123
Pinon NM 88344

*Please note that this is our office, **not** necessarily the location closest to your hunt when looking at driving directions/airports. **Driving directions to your meeting place will be located on our website at www.compasswestoutfitters.com under the forms tab. Your guide will contact you within 24 hours of your hunt to finalize meeting times.**

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 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 helpful when preparing for your hunt:

Deposits: Your deposit is due within 14 days of booking. We accept checks, cashier's checks, or money orders. **Checks can be made payable to "Compass West Outfitters, LLC".**

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 that our hunters carry trip insurance.** You can consult your insurance agent to learn how to obtain trip insurance. You can also check out this link <https://globalrescue.com/compasswestoutfitters/index.html>

All disputes over billing will be handled by the Otero 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 New Mexico, the final payment **MUST BE PAID IN CASH BEFORE YOU HUNT.** **Checks will not be accepted in camp.**

Included in Package Price: Private land authorization (this is not a license; the license must still be purchased from NMG&F). Guided hunting for 2.5 days.

Not Included in Package Price: Lodging and meals. Travel to/from hunt meeting location. New Mexico license fee, habitat and HMAV stamps, and NM sales tax. Tips for guide, camp-helper, meat processing, meat storage, or shipping of meat.

We will help you handle your elk in the field and can help you get in touch with local meat processors.

Lodging recommendation (Unit 34 hunts): We recommend you make a reservation in Mayhill, NM, at the Mayhill Café, or in a local Airbnb. The Mayhill Café can be reached at (575)430-9120. Ask for Zack. Tell them you are hunting with Compass West Outfitters for the discounted rate. Otherwise, any Airbnb or VRBO in Cloudcroft, Mayhill, or Weed will work. They are all very close to where you will be hunting (10- 20 min).

Air Travel:

For **our unit 34 hunts,, you will want to fly into El Paso, TX (3.5 hours) or possibly Albuquerque (5 hours, but there is** a greater selection of flight times).

Unit 2 or other areas, please call me for specific information.

Gratuity:

It is customary to tip your guide based on your overall experience. \$300-500 is customary per hunter.

Our Wounded Animal Policy

A wounded animal is an animal that has been hit, and blood is drawn; this ends the hunting.

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

Gun policy: Guns must always have a clear chamber (including vehicle travel). Your guide will let you know when to chamber your weapon in the field.

Accidental discharge of a weapon AT ANY TIME will result in the immediate end of your hunt. 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/recreational marijuana.

Weather—Remember to take a peek at the weather forecast before you head out so that you can pack accordingly. If you are in unit 34, your hunt will be fairly near Mayhill, NM, so you can use this when looking up the weather forecast.

Cell Phones:

There is some spotty CELL PHONE reception in our cow elk units. If you need to make a call, please ask your guide where the closest cell phone reception is.

Drinking Water: You will want to pack drinking bottles to refill and bring with you to the field.

After Hours Emergencies:

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

Cow Elk Meeting Locations and Driving Directions: **Your guide will contact you within 48 hours of your hunt to finalize meeting times.**

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

****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. After the hunt, you will want to log on to your NM Game and Fish account 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's cell phone)**

E-mail us at: 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 into it ahead of time!

You will be hunting at an elevation of about 6800'-8500 or higher. Many of you come 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! Even just walking for an hour a day will benefit you.

Rifle Hunters: PLEASE learn to shoot standing on sticks. You will 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 rarely happen because of the terrain we hunt.

Once you have your rifle ZERO AT 200 YDS, start practicing shooting off sticks. Most guides like and will carry the BogPod tripod with the red foam grips. Primos also makes a nice trigger stick TRIPOD that is easy to use and find. The Death Grip from BogPod is great, too. **Or get some other cheap off-brand to practice, as you don't have to bring them with you;** guides will carry their own. 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, most shots for cow elk will be under 400.

Cow Hunt- New Mexico Packing List

- **Hunting License (make sure you have all the required stamps)**
- **GAME BAGS**
- **Rifle w/ 2-3 full boxes of Ammo, scope, scope cover**
- **Day pack or plastic tote to hold all your personal gear.**
- Large black garbage bags 2 in your day pack
- Binoculars
- Water Bottles
- Light-weight flashlight (extra batteries), place one battery backwards!!
- Head-lamp flashlight

Clothing

- Temperatures could be 10s to 90s. wind, rain, snow
- Sturdy, hard-soled boots (High-quality mountain boots with rubber around the toes to protect from rocks), waterproof treated and tested.
- Extra Socks (2 pair; "Darn Tough" are the best, but any Merino wool is recommended)

- 1 pair of wicking underwear Merino is best 130 or 200 wt.
- Long-sleeve shirt 1 (wicking layer) Merino or smart wool of any kind
- Mid-weight Merino top
- Lightweight rain gear (top and bottom)
- KUIU Guide Jacket or outer layer that is windproof
- Mid-layer style vest
- **Puffy down jacket and pants for cold seasons**
- Pants (fast dry, loose fit): I like the KUIU guide pants or Tiburon on hot hunts
- Long underwear, Merino, or smart wool of any kind
- Beanie hat
- Baseball cap or sun-protective hat
- Gloves/mittens (heavy pair for cold weather), waterproof and warm is a must
- Lightweight sweater or mid-weight fleece
- Any normal hunting gear will be fine on cow hunts!

Personal Items

- Sunscreen (unscented, mineral-based SPF 50+ recommended)
- SPF Lip Protection
- Sunglasses (high-quality UV protection)
- Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Floss
- Mole skin for blisters, antibiotic ointment, Band-Aids, ***ibuprofen***
- Medications
- Zip-lock bags (for personal items and trash) in gallon and quart sizes
- Gold Bond Powder or Baby powder in a small Ziploc

Food

- All the food and snacks you might like.