

NM PUBLIC LAND MULE DEER - Hunt Information and 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: When looking at driving directions/airports, this is our office, not necessarily the location closest to your hunt. We will supply driving directions closer to your hunt date.**

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 useful when preparing for your hunt:

Deposits: Your deposit is due within 14 days of booking or the draw. We accept check, cashier's check or money order. 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 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 billing disputes 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 still 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: Bow hunts are 7 days of guided hunting (1X1 or 2X1). Extra days can be added at the front end of the bow hunt for an additional fee.

Rifle/muzzleloader hunt packages are 5 days of guided hunting (1X1 or 2X1). Meals and lodging are included unless specified otherwise or other arrangements have been made.

Not Included in Package Price: travel to/from hunt camp, NM license fee, tax, tips for guide and cooks/camp-helpers, meat processing, meat storage (area meat lockers charge \$20-30/day for storage), or shipping of cape or meat. Taxidermy or alcohol are also not included.

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

The closest liquor store to camp could often be 2+ hours away for anything other than basic whiskey and beer. You can get beer about 45 minutes from most camps, so please plan ahead if you desire alcoholic beverages.

Air Travel:

For units 2 a-b-c, 6, we recommend flying into Albuquerque (3 hours) for the number of flights available and best rates or Durango, CO (50 min).

Gratuity:

It is customary to tip your guides based on your overall experience. For cooks, \$200 per week per person is common. Camp-helper/packer - a packer that gets you animal for you. I would recommend \$300 unless you really want to pack out all that meat! For guides \$700-1000+, 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 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 a bullet or arrow has hit, and a single drop of blood has been found. Should you wound an animal, you and your guide will cease hunting and will spend the next **48 hours** looking for that wounded animal.

If you are unable to find this wounded animal after 48 hours, you may continue to hunt under certain conditions: **you will no longer have the option of harvesting a “meat buck.” You will be hunting for a mature mule deer buck only. There will be no harvest of any buck smaller than this, even on the last day of the hunt.** You already shot your “meat animal.”

If a 2nd animal is wounded, this will end the hunt. You will spend the remainder of your hunt looking for both wounded animals until the end of your hunt or until you depart. This policy applies to any species of animal we are hunting.

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.

The empty chamber applies to night as well. If you have a gun chambered in camp, you will be asked to leave immediately; 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/recreational marijuana.

Cell Phones:

There is CELL PHONE reception in most camps here. If you must have cell service during your hunt, talk with us about your location, and we can give you a heads-up on the service quality/location available.

Drinking Water: You should pack drinking bottles to refill in camp and bring them 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 contact you, you can call this number and she will do her Best 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's cell at 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: We will provide detailed directions to the camp closer to your hunt date, generally within 2 weeks of your hunt. 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 will not need a 4x4 to access any of our camps.

Unit 2 B-C and 6: Camps in these locations are generally difficult to find on your own, and as such, we have hunters meet guides to be escorted into camp in the parking lot of the Farmers Market grocery store on the corner of HWY 550 and HWY 64 in Bloomfield, NM, after **2 PM**. If you arrive early, relax and have lunch. In 6, we use Cuba, NM, as a generic meeting location until we lock in a spot.

If you drew your tag, NM Game and Fish will mail you the licenses and carcass/horn tag. Be sure it includes your game hunting license, the habitat stamp, and the habitat management and access validation. If not, you will need to purchase/print the stamps at home or purchase your license at a physical game and fish office, Walmart, Cabela's, or Sportsman's Warehouse in New Mexico.

After your harvest, in the Field, Guides will help you as little or as 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 pack it out on our backs.

Your hunt is concluded at this point, after your meat and cape are dropped off at the meat processor/taxidermist. You are welcome to hang out in camp until all hunters are tagged out, but this is discouraged, as you will not return to the field with guides after you have tagged out if you were on a 1x1 hunt. If your buddy is still hunting, please, for the good of his hunt, let him hunt with the guide. I know it's not exciting to sit around camp, but YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED. 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. 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 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! 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'll 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. Nothing is more

depressing than seeing that big buck/bull on day 3, 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

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 on the quality of animals you are seeing, but remember that ultimately you make the call whether you shoot or don't shoot. We want you to harvest the largest animals 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 discuss with Chris or the office if you believe we made an incorrect guide assignment. I've been in the outfitting business for over 30 years and do a good job of lining people out, most of the time. Please let us know privately if you believe I was incorrect.

We are aggressive hunters. That's why we have over 90% harvest and close to 100% shot for the last 10 years. We enjoy walking, hiking, and spotting wildlife along the way. We are not trying to kill you; we just really want you to harvest as badly as you do! If you need a break, you will 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 broadheads, but expendables will also work on deer. One wound and done with expendables.**

Slicktrick 4 blade 100g, Exodus 125g, 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 G5s—they are dull, and we all hate them!!!

We also request that hunters **DO NOT use single-pin adjustable sights.** They are very popular in the whitetail world now; however, in 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 call 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! The Option site makes a great choice, 5 pins and a single slider. 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, over, and under branches.

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

Rifle Hunters: PLEASE learn to shoot standing on sticks. You will be standing or sitting on shots 75% of the time 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 super easy to use and find. **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, 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 need to be solid at 300-400+ yards.

Take a shooting class or do 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+ miles and spending a great deal of money to visit us, so 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 a longer range! Don't discourage yourself by 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! 2019 was a nightmare for us with MOA crap!!!

If you want a custom 300win or whatever (\$4500ish), let us know, and I can get one to you before your hunt all dialed in for our elevation.

New Mexico Mule Deer Hunt Packing List

- **Hunting License (make sure you have all the required stamps)**
- **Sleeping bag, pillow, towel**
- **Rifle w/ 2-3 full boxes of Ammo, scope, scope cover**
- **Bow/3 dozen arrows/extra release**
- **Day pack, 2000-3000**
- **GAME BAGS**
- Large black garbage bags 2
- Binoculars (Swarovski, Zeiss, Leica 10x42) with Bino Straps
- Range Finder
- Water Bottle (Lightweight Nalgene)
- Light-weight flashlight (extra batteries), place one battery backwards!!
- Head-lamp flashlight (extra batteries), place one battery backwards!!
- Lightweight camera, batteries if needed, or phone with battery booster.

Clothing

- Temperatures could be -0s 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 (4 pairs, "Darn Tough" are the best, but any Merino wool recommended)
- Extra Sock Liners (2 pairs, silk or?)
- 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
- Light rain Gear (top and bottom)
- KUIU Guide Jacket or outer layer that is windproof
- Mid-layer style vest
- **Puffy down jacket and pants for the cold season**
- Pants (fast dry, loose fit): I like the KUIU guide pants or Tiburon for hot hunts
- Long underwear, Merino, or smart wool of any kind
- Beanie hat (for cold weather and sleeping, Merino or fleece)
- Baseball cap or sun-protective hat
- Gloves (light pair for hiking (important in the rocky terrain) and
- Gloves/mittens (heavy pair for cold weather), waterproof and warm is a must
- Lightweight sweater or mid-weight fleece
- Crocks or camp shoes

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*
 - Bic Lighter
 - Medications
 - Pre-moistened facial towelettes
 - Zip-lock bags (for personal items and trash) in gallon and quart sizes
 - Gold Bond Powder or Baby powder in a small Ziploc
 - Parachute cord 50' any color
- *Make sure your toenails are trimmed short 3-5 days before hunt.**

Food

- I have been turned into a fan of MTN Opps and Wilderness athlete!
- *Please call to discuss any allergies, special food requirements.*