

## NM PUBLIC LAND ELK 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](mailto:info@compasswestoutfitters.com) if you prefer to email us.

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.

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

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

**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 at full price. Otherwise, a refund may reflect the handling fee + discounts/commissions to booking agents to sell the hunt. 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 from March 1st to August 15th.

**Final Payments:** **Your 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: Most bow hunts are 7 days guided hunting (1X1 or 2X1), 7 nights. Extra days can be added at the front end of the bow hunt for an additional fee. Normal rifle/muzzleloader hunt packages are 5 days of guided hunting (1X1 or 2X1). Extra days are NOT available for muzzleloader or rifle hunts, as your season is only 5 days. Meals and lodging are included unless specified otherwise or other arrangements have been made.

New Mexico hunts may be based from tent camps, RVs, hotels, motels, or cabins. We will talk with you personally about the plan. You should plan on a mix of any of the above, but we will know 100% 30 days before your hunt starts.

Not Included in Package Price: Travel to/from hunt camp, New Mexico license fee, habitat and HMAV stamps, and NM sales 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. **Sleeping bags, pillows, and towels are not provided.**

We will help you handle your trophy in the field and can connect you with local meat processors/taxidermists and arrange transport to the closest butcher and taxidermist.

Many times, the closest liquor store to camp could 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:

In **Unit 34**, you will want to fly into El Paso, TX (3.5 hours), or possibly Albuquerque (5 hours, with a greater selection of flight times).

**Unit 36** should consider El Paso, TX (3.5 hours) or Albuquerque, NM (4 hours, but with a greater selection of flight times). If you have questions, talk with us about your airport choice before you book your flight.

**For Unit 2, 6A, 6C, and the Gila**, we recommend flying into Albuquerque for the number of flights available and best rates; however, for **Unit 2**, Durango, CO, is very close as well.

Other units, please call for suggestions.

#### Gratuity:

For the cooks, we recommend \$200/person (+/-). For a packer, we recommend \$300. Tipping your guides based on your overall satisfaction with their service is customary. For guides, \$800-1000+ 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 the 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. **SO THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU SHOOT!**

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 bull.” You will be hunting for 300+ bulls only; **There will be no harvest of any bull smaller than this, even on the last day of the hunt. Under 300-inch SCI bulls will incur a \$1,500 penalty.**

**If a 2<sup>nd</sup> animal is wounded, the hunt will end.** 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.

An empty chamber applies to the 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, not in tents.

Accidental discharge of a weapon AT ANY TIME will result in your 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 legal marijuana.

### Cell Phones:

There is NOT ALWAYS CELL PHONE reception in our camps. 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. In Unit 34 and 36, we most often have service in camps. 6A, 6C, and 16 hunters will most likely have to drive to a spot to receive cell phone service. Verizon cell service is solid; AT&T cell service is abysmal.

Drinking Water: We will not have bottled water in the camps, but we always have clean, safe drinking water available for you to fill your refillable bottle. If you must drink bottled water, please bring some to camp. You will want to pack a Camel Back or other drinking bottles to refill in camp and bring 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 if your family needs to contact 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's cell is 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 deliver your message when we hear it. Texting is the fastest way to reach Chris.

Camp Locations and Meeting Locations: We will provide you with detailed directions to the 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 will not need a 4x4 to access any of our camps.

**Unit 34 hunters:** The camp will be on land that I own here. We will provide you with detailed driving directions to the camp (on the FORMS page of the website). DO NOT USE A GPS to find camps in unit 34—you will be taken terrible routes. \* Do NOT take 506 for any reason on your way from El Paso to camps in 34!!

**6C, 6A, and 16's:** We will provide you with special instructions for meeting up with guides and finding camps for these hunts 24-48 hours before the start of your hunt. Animal movements and late summer rain play a significant role in camp locations for these hunts. One of the guides or the cook will reach out before the start of the hunt.

**Unit 36 hunters:** Unit 36 hunters almost always meet guides in Ruidoso, NM, at a White Mountain taxidermy studio. It's a great, easy-to-find meeting place. Specific instructions will follow closer to the hunt date.

**Unit 2:** Camps in these locations are generally difficult to find on your own. As such, we have hunters meet guides 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, to be escorted into camp. We will provide the camp manager with your contact phone number. Later in the year, he will reach out regarding meeting times and places.

Hunting License – \*Closer to your hunt date, we will email detailed step-by-step directions to walk you through the following process.\* If you drew through us, you are all set, and it should come in the mail. If you drew on your own or through a service, be sure you have both the HMVA and habitat stamps!

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 (HMAV). 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.

If you purchased a landowner tag, you will need to purchase the same licenses/stamps as above, but you will also need to convert your authorization/ranch number into a hunting license.

After your harvest: In the Field: Once you have killed an animal, guides will help you as little or as much as you like in dealing with the downed animal. If we are in an area where we can drive, we'll load it into the truck, help pack it out on our backs, or use mules.

Your hunt is concluded at this point, after your meat and cape are dropped off at the meat processor/taxidermist. You can hang out in camp until all hunters are tagged out. 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](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 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 a 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, take some time to get ready! YOU are the one who 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 will help you. Nothing is more depressing than seeing that big buck/bull on day 3 and having to run as fast as you can up a steep hill, only to not have the energy to do it.

Your Ideal Hunt: **Rain is the determining factor in the trophy quality of EVERY hunt we offer in New Mexico.** In a dry year, I have killed an average of 290 elk per unit, while the year before we killed an average of 340 elk during a wet year.

Please be sure to talk with your guide about the quality of the animal that you're looking for. In the field, your guide can advise you on the quality of the animals you are seeing, but remember that ultimately you make the call on whether to shoot or not. 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 talk with Chris or the office in private if you feel that we made a bad call on your guide assignment. I've been in the outfitting business for 25+ years and do a good job of lining out people most of the time. Please let us know privately if you feel I was wrong.

We are aggressive hunters. That's why we have over 90% harvest and 100% shot on most hunts for the last 10 years. We like to walk, hike, and glass for animals along the way. We are not trying to kill you; we just 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 broad heads and lighted nocks**. In the last 12 years, we have recovered two animals 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 or whatever you shoot well. We have had BAD luck with the Montec G5's - they are dull, and we all hate them!!! If you choose to hunt expandable heads (it's your choice), your hunt will conclude when you wound an animal.

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 calling in elk, as you never know where they are coming from.

We like Boss Hog or Black Gold 7-pin sites, with 30–80-yard pins, and you will have no reason not to get the shot you want. The option is a great choice as well, with 5 pins and a single pin slider for when you have more time. Just spend a little time shooting instinctively at ranges from 0 to 30 yards. Spend some time shooting from various positions. Shoot from knees, leaning over, around things, over things, and under branches.

Please also shoot a slightly heavier arrow than you do for whitetail deer; we like a 500g setup for elk. We also ask that hunters learn to shoot with their quivers attached to their bows. A Primos bow sling will be your best friend on this hunt for pack-in and pack-out times. I would be sure to pack one!!!

**Bow hunters in 34 a little in 36 and Gila: I would strongly advise that you pack and pre-treat your outer gear with permethrin; you'll be glad you did. (chiggers)**

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 50% of the time on shots here. It's not something you should do for the first time once here. Cross-canyon or overbrush is almost always the way you will get a shot. We try to take sitting shots whenever possible, but prone positions rarely occur due to 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. **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 100-500+ 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 300-500 yards.

Most shooting is cross-canyon, and these yardages are dictated by the area and the terrain we hunt, not by choice! Unit 36 hunters will want to talk with us about 450+ shots!

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, say 18-20", guess what—you're killing any elk you are shooting at! It builds confidence over a wider 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 (buy the little stickers so guide can help). 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 or yardage stickers for the MOA so your guide can help! Why add a step to a stressful situation when you could JUST CLICK IT IN? It's been a nightmare for us with MOA crap!!!

Please bring a solid ELK rifle. I know 6.5, 30.06, 308, 270, 280, 264 will all kill elk, but you will not be taking all the shots you could with these rifles. They don't shoot

long well or carry the power. 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 up front \$100 ammo fee and \$1500 if the gun is dropped.

We also sell long-range gear AND RIFLES! If you want a custom 300win (\$4500ish), let us know, and I can get one to you before your hunt all dialed in for our elevation.

## New Mexico Public Lands Elk Hunt Packing List

- **Please note: I have a discount card and free shipping for Kuiu products on the forms page. And a discount code for Bargara rifles. Call or text with any questions!**
- Hunting License (make sure you have all the required stamps)
- Day pack (2000-3000 cubic inches)
- Sleeping bag 20–30-degree, pillow, towel Many people pack a sheet and a fleece blanket for early hunts in Sept, Oct. I have extra bags if you get cold.
- Rifle w/ 2-3 full boxes of Ammo, scope, scope cover
- Bow + 2 dozen arrows, **extra release!!**
- Hiking Pole if you like
- Large black garbage bags 2 in your day pack
- 2-gallon zip lock bags
- Binoculars (Swarovski, Zeiss, Leica 10x42) with Bino chest Straps
- Range Finder
- Water Bottle (Lightweight Nalgene)
- Head-lamp flashlight (extra batteries), place one battery backwards!!
- battery booster

### 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 (4 pairs; “Darn Tough” are the best, but any Merino wool is recommended)
- Extra Sock Liners (2 pairs, silk or?) if you like
- 1 pair of wicking Kuiu zip-off underwear Merino is best 130 or 200 wt. if cold is possible
- Long-sleeve shirts 2-3 (wicking layer) kuiu 135 merino or smart wool of any kind
- Mid-weight Merino top
- Lightweight rain Gear (top and bottom)

- Kuiu Peloton 240 is one of the best pieces of gear made!
- Mid-layer style vest
- **Puffy down jacket and pants if cold season (Late season for sure)**
- Pants (fast dry, loose fit): I like the KUIU guide pants or Tiburon in hot weather
- Beanie hat (for cold weather and sleeping, Merino or fleece)
- Baseball cap or sun-protective hat
- Gloves (light pair for hiking)
- Gloves/mittens (heavy pair for cold weather), waterproof and warm is a must
- Lightweight sweater or mid-weight fleece
- Crocks, slippers or camp shoes
- Gaiters - waterproof and quiet

#### Personal Items

- Sunscreen (unscented, mineral-based SPF 50+ recommended)
- SPF Lip Protection
- Sunglasses (high-quality UV protection)
- Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Floss
- Mole skin for blisters or even better luko tape, antibiotic ointment, band aids, **ibuprofen**
- Bic Lighter in day pack
- Medications
- Pre-moistened facial towelettes
- Zip-lock bags (for personal items and trash) in gallon and quart sizes
- Gold Bond Powder or Baby powder
- Parachute cord 50' any color

**\*Make sure your toenails are trimmed short 3-5 days before hunt.**

#### Food

- Feel free to bring your favorite mountain snacks; we have lots in camp also
- I have been turned into a fan of the drink powders Apex, MTN Opps, wilderness athlete is the once we are using now!