

Unit 34 North 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 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
5123 Rock House Rd, Las Cruces, NM

*Please note: When looking at driving directions/airports, this is our office, not necessarily the location closest to your hunt. Driving directions to your camp will be on our website at 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 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, and the price is valid within 14 days of booking. We accept checks, cashier's checks, and 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 at full price. Any re-booking discounts or booking agent fees will be taken out of possible refund. 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 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.**

Package Price includes private land authorization (this is not a license; the license must still be purchased from NMG&F). Bow hunts are 7 days of guided hunting (1X1 or 2X1).

Rifle/muzzleloader hunt packages are 5 days of guided hunting (1X1 or 2X1). Meals and lodging are included.

Not Included in Package Price: Travel to/from hunt camp from home. New Mexico license fee, game hunting license, habitat and HMAV stamps, and NM sales tax. Tips for guide and cooks/camp-helper, meat processing, meat 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 be 2+ hours for anything other than basic whiskey and beer.

Air Travel:

For **Unit 34 north private land 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).

Gratuity:

It is customary to tip your guides based on your overall experience. When hunting from our main camp in September and October, plan for the following: \$200 for chefs per week per person is common. Packer: This packer gets your animal for you; I recommend a minimum of \$300, they work for tips! For guides, \$800-\$1000+ is customary, but again, please base your tip on your experience. The cost of scouting and quality gear increases yearly; this is how the guides recoup money spent looking for your dream bull or buck. Gratuity should reflect the experience you enjoyed, not the number of days in the field or the harvest.

Minimum size requirements for bull elk: I don't charge a trophy fee on these ranches; I hope everyone kills a 350+! However, to maintain the quality of animals we take on our ranches in NM, we need to address the minimum size goals. **We will not allow the killing of young bulls on this hunt. It must be a mature bull.**

This is not a meat hunt. You did not book a meat hunt! If you just want to kill an elk, please look at cow hunts (\$2500) or Chama, Colorado, or even draw hunts in New Mexico...not this ranch. You booked this hunt for a solid, what we hope is a high harvest and trophy potential hunt, not for meat. I am looking to maintain a 280-300+ elk average on these ranches.

Our Wounded Animal Policy on UNIT 34 North Private Land Hunts

A wounded animal is an animal that a bullet or arrow has hit. Blood drawn ends 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 animal other than your wounded one.

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.

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 some cell phone reception at the cabin and on the 34 North Ranch.

Drinking Water: We will not have bottled water in camps, but we always have clean, safe drinking water that you can use to fill your refillable bottle. If you must drink bottled water, please bring some to camp. You will want to pack drinking bottles to refill in camp and bring them 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.

Camp Locations and Meeting Locations: Driving directions to your camp or cabin are on our website at www.compasswestoutfitters.com under the forms tab. You do not need a 4x4 to access any of our camps.

Unit 34 North Hunters: Use our 30/34 South directions as a baseline for planning. Guide will call 24-48 hours before with final directions. DO NOT USE A GPS to find camp—you will be taken terrible routes. * Do NOT take 506 for any reason on your way from El Paso to the cabin in 34 North!!

Hunting License – *Closer to your hunt date, August on bow and 2 weeks before your dates on rifle. 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. Use a backpack with sand or other weight 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 determines the trophy quality of EVERY hunt we offer in New Mexico. In a dry year, 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 animal we 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 on the quality of animals you see, 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 talk with Chris or the camp manager if you feel 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 privately inform us if you feel I was wrong.

We are aggressive hunters. That's why we have had over 90% harvest 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 want you to harvest as badly as you do! If you need a break, you must 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**. In the last 12 years, we have recovered two animals shot with expandable blades. Yes, two! 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. We have had BAD luck with the Montec G5's - they are dull, and we all hate them!!! Plan on lighted nocks if you can!!!!

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 is another great choice with a single-pin slider behind a 5-pin setup. Spend some time shooting from various positions. Shoot from on knees, leaning over, around, and under things.

Please also shoot a slightly 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 their quivers attached to their bows.

ELK BOW HUNTERS: I strongly advise you to pack and pre-treat some of 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 and sitting. 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. It is a great choice! **Or get some cheap off-brand to practice; 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 100-300, 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. You will regret not being ready for longer shots; it will happen.

Most shooting is cross-canyon, and these yardages are dictated by the area and the terrain we hunt, not by choice!

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. 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 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 more extended 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 and get the stickers!** 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 or the stickers so your guide can help! Why add a step to a stressful situation, CLICK IT IN! It's been a nightmare for us with MOA crap, and people not knowing how their gear works!!!

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

We try to have a gun in camp as a backup. If circumstances necessitate its use, we charge a \$100 ammo fee and \$1500 if the gun is dropped.

We also sell some finished long-range rifles! If you want a custom 300win (\$ 4500ish), let us know, and I can get one to you before

New Mexico Unit 34 North Elk Hunt
Packing List

Kuiu discount code and Bergara discount code on the forms page for you

- **Hunting License (make sure you have all the required stamps)**
- **Rifle w/ 2-3 full boxes of Ammo, scope, scope cover**
- **Bow 2 dozen arrows, extra release**
- **Day pack 1000-2000 max here with waist belt**
- Large black garbage bags 2 in your day pack
- Binoculars (Swarovski, Zeiss, Leica 10x42) with Bino Straps
- Range Finder
- Water Bottle (Lightweight Nalgene)
- Head-lamp flashlight (extra batteries), place one battery backwards!!
- Lightweight camera, batteries if needed, or phone with 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 (2-4 pair; “Darn Tough” are the best, but any Merino wool is 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
- 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
- Crocks or camp shoes
- Gaiters - waterproof and quiet for early bow or snowy 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
- 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

*Minimize personal toiletries to essential items.

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

Food

- I have become a fan of MTN Ops and Wilderness Athlete!
- ***Please call to discuss any allergies, special food requirements.***