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# **WILDERNESS HUNTING INFORMATION PACKET 2019**



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## 2019 WILDERNESS HUNTING PRICE INFORMATION

**EARLY RIFLE SEASON BIG GAME - ELK (priority), DEER, BLACK BEAR, WOLF**  
\$5700 package deal –Tent camp

**ARCHERY WILDERNESS BIG GAME - ELK (priority), DEER, BLACK BEAR, WOLF**  
\$5700 package deal - Tent camp

**GENERAL SEASON WILDERNESS BIG GAME - ELK (priority), DEER, BLACK BEAR, WOLF**  
\$5700 package deal - Tent camp at Independence  
\$5700 package deal – Lodge bordering wilderness hunting area

**GENERAL SEASON WILDERNESS – MIGRATORY DEER - \$5500**

**BIGHORN SHEEP - \$10,000 with a \$2000 harvest fee – Opening Week in September**  
**\$8,000 with a \$4000 harvest fee - October**

**MOUNTAIN GOAT - \$4500 September    \$5500 October    \$6500 November**

**WOLF - \$3800 General Season Wilderness**

**MOOSE - \$850 per day**

**GRIZZLY BEAR – Coming Soon – Price to be determined**

**Hunting Licenses/Permits are not included in the price of the hunt.**

(For more information on license & permit prices refer to the General Hunting Information Packet or go online to Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, [www.fwp.mt.gov](http://www.fwp.mt.gov).)

### **Deposit & Payment Policy**

A partial deposit of \$1000 is required to book your hunt. The \$1000 partial deposit will be refunded if you do not draw a license. The drawing takes place in mid-April. The remainder of the deposit (50% of the cost of the hunt) is due when the draw is posted. The balance of the hunt is due 30 days prior to your hunt and is non-refundable. Hunts not fully paid by this date will be considered cancelled. We recommend Trip Cancellation Insurance. Montana Outfitters & Guides Association suggests Global Rescue travel insurance.

<http://www.montanaoutfitters.org/travelersinsurance/>

We accept Credit Cards (Visa/MasterCard only) and Checks  
Make Checks Payable to: Absaroka-Beartooth Outfitters, Inc.

**All Hunt Prices include a \$50 fee for the MOGA Hunter/Angler Defense Fund**



## **2019 WILDERNESS HUNTING SEASONS AND DATES**

Archery & General Rifle Dates To Be Confirmed in early February 2019

**ELK, DEER, BIGHORN SHEEP, MOUNTAIN GOAT  
BLACK BEAR, WOLF, MOOSE**

**ARCHERY HUNTS – ARCHERY ONLY SEASON: SEPTEMBER 7 - OCTOBER 14**

**WILDERNESS ARCHERY HUNT DATES - 7 DAYS (DAY IN, 5 DAYS HUNTING, DAY OUT)**

**Independence**

**Hunt #1 Sept 6-12    Hunt #2 Sept 14-20**

**EARLY SEASON RIFLE WILDERNESS HUNT– SEASON BEGINS SEPT. 15**

**Hellroaring Camp 7 DAYS (DAY IN, 5 DAYS HUNTING, 1 DAY OUT)**

**Hunt #1 Sept 14-20**

**GENERAL SEASON RIFLE HUNTS – SEASON: OCTOBER 26– December 1**

**Independence/Boulder Drainage Area Hunts**

7 DAYS (DAY IN, 5 DAYS HUNTING, DAY OUT)

**Hunt #1 Oct 25-31**

**BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTS – SEASON: SEPTEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 1**

8 DAYS (DAY IN, 6 DAYS HUNTING, DAY OUT) **Hunt Dates:** To be determined with Outfitter at time of booking.

**MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNTS - SEASON: SEPTEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 1**

7 DAYS (DAY IN, 5 DAYS HUNTING, DAY OUT) **Hunt Dates:** To be determined with Outfitter at time of booking. **Tentative dates: Sept 14-20, Sept 22-28, Sept 30-Oct 6 & Oct 8-14**

**MOOSE HUNTS - SEASON: SEPTEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 1**

**BLACK BEAR - FALL SEASON: SEPT 15-DEC 1**

**WOLF – SEPTEMBER 15, 2018 – MARCH 15, 2019 \*Fall 2019 Season TBA**

### **Drop Camp Pricing**

The cost of a drop camp is \$2250.00 for one person. The cost for additional hunters or ride-alongs is \$500 per person. The location for the drop camp will be discussed between client and outfitter. Outfitter will have final say in drop camp determination. Location is determined by Outfitter's approved Forest Service area and best opportunity for game without infringing on other hunters.



## INFORMATION FOR WILDERNESS HUNTING

Our wilderness hunts are in rugged, rigorous country, typical of the great hunting areas in North America. The area in which we hunt is prime habitat for elk, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, moose, black bear and wolf. The elk in this area are a resident and migratory herd. The area is rough and remote, which allows the elk the years necessary to develop quality antlers. The landscape varies from large open meadows to lightly timbered south slopes and long benches. This area is also grizzly bear habitat; however, encounters are rare. The weather in September is usually in the sixties and seventies during the day and in the thirties at night. It gets cold in October and much colder in November. It can snow in September and be mild in November. One thing you can always count on is that mountain weather is unpredictable.

ABO operates two wilderness hunting camps: Hellroaring and Independence.

**Hellroaring**, is our early season camp. It is located in Bull Moose Meadows, 8 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. We hunt elk, deer, mountain goat, black bear, moose and wolf out of Hellroaring. It is accessed by a 12-mile horseback ride. Getting to Hellroaring from Big Timber takes the better part of a day. Accommodations in Hellroaring include comfortable carpeted wall tents with cots, foam pads and wood stoves. There are 3 or 4 hunters per tent. A shower is available, which is always medicine for the weary. Hearty meals are prepared by our camp cook and are served in a central eating tent.

**Independence** is a multi-purpose camp. It is located 55 miles south of Big Timber at the head of the Boulder River. Independence is accessed with 4x4 vehicles from the trailhead at Box Canyon. Independence is used for bow & arrow, Bighorn sheep, mountain goat and general season rifle hunting. Archery, mountain goat and general season rifle are horseback hunts. Bighorn sheep is a backpacking hunt. Accommodations include a tent camp at Independence or a lodge. The lodge is located up the Boulder Road not far from Box Canyon. It borders the wilderness area, so you would hunt on horseback directly from the lodge. Independence camp is available for archery hunting the first week of archery season. The Lodge is available for rifle hunters the first week of the general rifle season.

A typical day of hunting consists of leaving after breakfast and riding before daybreak. Some days we will hunt until late morning, return to camp, and then hunt again in the late afternoon until dark. Other days we will stay out all day. Walking and/or riding are mandatory. Being in good condition for hiking and riding will help you have a more successful hunt. We hunt as hard as you choose to hunt. Mountain goat and bighorn sheep hunters should expect long days of glassing.

Fair chase hunting in the Montana wilderness is a challenging and memorable experience. We have experienced guides who know the area and very good horse and mule stock for packing and riding in the mountains. Our backcountry camps are some of the best in Montana including comfortable accommodations and a great cook.



## **WHAT'S INCLUDED AND WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED WILDERNESS HUNTING**

### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

The rates for hunting trips include:

- Field care of trophies and transportation of your animals to our local taxidermist and/or your meat to the local butcher
- Incoming nights land outgoing nights lodging before and after trip with meals. In the backcountry, use of horses, mules, tack, all camp accommodations, all meals and non-alcoholic beverages
- Experienced Guides

### **WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

The rates for hunting trips do not include:

- Transportation to Montana
- Montana hunting licenses and permits
- Montana fishing licenses
- Hunting equipment including guns and ammunition
- Transportation of trophies to final destination
- Fishing equipment including rods and flies
- Sleeping bags (for tent camp)
- Any additional transportation costs
- Gratuities for guides and cook

### **Gratuities**

Clients often ask how much to tip their guide and cook. Standard in the industry is 10-20% of the cost of the trip, divided between your guide and cook at your discretion. For example, a \$5700 hunt @ 15% = \$850 tip (\$700-\$750 guide/\$150-\$100 cook). Gratuities are 100% discretionary. Always appreciated, they provide validation that our clients have had a good time and that we have done a good job.



## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS WILDERNESS HUNTING

- ✦ **All Hunters** – Whether hunting out of ABO’s Hellroaring or Independence camps, plan to stay in **Big Timber** in the ABO lodge the night before your hunting trip begins. We will have dinner at the lodge for you on your arrival day and breakfast before we leave for camp. Hellroaring hunters will leave for the mountains very early the following day. Independence hunters will depart for camp around mid-morning the following day.
- ✦ On the day hunters return from the mountains, Hellroaring hunters will arrive back at the ABO Lodge by late afternoon and Independence hunters by early afternoon. We will have dinner that evening at the ABO Lodge and breakfast the next morning before you depart.
- ✦ Check in time at the ABO Lodge is at 4:00 pm and check out time is at 10:00 am. The lodge furnishes bedding and towels but you will need to furnish your own sleeping bag and towel for the mountain camps.
- ✦ **Guests Driving:** Big Timber is located off Interstate 90 between Bozeman and Billings. Bozeman to Big Timber is 60 miles, driving time 1 hour. Billings to Big Timber is 90 miles, driving time 1½ hours.
- ✦ **If you are driving,** you will want to stay at the ABO Lodge for your **incoming and outgoing nights.**
- ✦ **If you are flying** into Bozeman or Billings, you will want to stay at the **ABO Lodge for your incoming night. You will want to stay at the ABO Lodge for your outgoing night unless you have an early flight the next morning. You are still welcome to stay at the ABO Lodge, but remember,** we are an hour and 10 minutes from the Bozeman airport and an hour and 30 minutes from the Billings airport. Give yourself 2 hours in Bozeman or Billings to return your car, check in for your flight, and check bags. Hence, you will need to leave Big Timber 3 to 3 ½ hours before flight time.
- ✦ Hotel information is listed on the next page for anyone coming to Montana early or staying over to enjoy some additional time in the big sky country.
- ✦ **Guests Flying:** Plan to fly into the **Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN)** the day before your trip begins. The following airlines service Bozeman:

Delta 1-800-325-1999      American 1-800-433-7300  
Alaska 1-800-252-7522      United 1-800-864-8331

The service is usually very good into Bozeman. However, this is a college town, home to Montana State University, so make your reservations early. Check out **Montana Travel** (1-800-247-3538) or ([info@mttravel.com](mailto:info@mttravel.com)) for some of the best airfares available. Remember, Bozeman is on Mountain Time so keep that in mind when making your travel arrangements.



## HOTEL INFORMATION

### Big Timber, Montana

**The Grand Hotel** ([www.thegrand-hotel.com](http://www.thegrand-hotel.com)) (406-932-4459). **The Grand Hotel Bed and Breakfast** is a charming and beautifully renovated historical hotel in downtown Big Timber. The hotel provides a wonderful full breakfast but not before 8:00 am. It has a well-stocked vintage bar, which serves lunch and dinner. For those with a "grander" palette it sports a fabulous restaurant that serves delicious gourmet dinners. The dining room is very popular so be sure to **make a reservation**.

**The Super 8 Motel** ([www.super8.com](http://www.super8.com)) (406-932-8888). **The Super 8 Motel** has comfortable rooms with small refrigerators and serves a light breakfast. For a heartier breakfast, the Country Skillet is across the street and opens at 6:00 AM.

The Bakery – Great bakery, coffee and tea plus delicious breakfasts and lunches. Located on McLeod Street in the same block with the Grand Hotel.

Cinnabar Creek – Unique Montana gifts for the family. Good coffee bar. Located one block south from the Grand Hotel.

### Bozeman, Montana

**The Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Bozeman West** ([www.holidayinnexpress.com](http://www.holidayinnexpress.com)) (406-582-4995). The **Holiday Inn Express** is a small, friendly hotel conveniently located at 2305 Catron Street. The Inn has a breakfast bar that opens at 5:30 each morning, comfortable rooms, pool and exercise facility. They provide shuttle service to the airport. Make your reservations early. The summer is a busy time for tourists while the fall is filled with college related activities.

**The C'mon Inn** ([www.cmoninn.com](http://www.cmoninn.com)) (406-587-3555). The **C'mon Inn's** heavy timbered look with Montana's big game animals perched on rocks and above waterfalls has the charm and feel of a mountain lodge. Comfortable rooms, an indoor pool, several hot tubs, a breakfast bar and shuttle service to the airport leave you wanting for little. The Outback Steakhouse is conveniently located next door. The C'mon Inn is located off Interstate 90 at Exit 305 on East Valley Center Road.

Bozeman is a delightful old western town with great restaurants, wonderful art galleries, the Museum of the Rockies and many other fun places to visit. If you have the time, arrive a day or two early or stay over a day after your ABO trip to enjoy some of what Bozeman has to offer.

### Billings, Montana

**Boothill Inn & Suites** ([www.boothillin.com](http://www.boothillin.com)) (406-245-2000) 242 East Airport Road, Billings, MT 59105

**Northern Hotel** ([www.northernhotel.com](http://www.northernhotel.com)) (406-867-6767) 19 N Broadway, Billings, MT 59101

There are many good hotels in Billings from which to choose. These are two that have consistently received good reviews.