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Private Land Rifle Hunting Information Packet | 2021

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Rifle Season & Application Deadlines

General Season Rifle Dates for Elk/Deer: October 23–November 28

Application Deadline: April 1

Rifle Season Dates for Antelope: October 9–November 14

Application Deadline: June 1

Spring Black Bear: April 15–May 31

Application Deadline: April 14

Turkey Season: Spring: April 10–May 16, **Fall:** Sept 1–Jan 1 *

Application Deadline: **Spring:** March 8, **Fall:** July 26

Duck Season: Oct 3- Jan 7 Geese Season: Oct 3- Jan 7 & Jan 16-20

Application Deadline: Purchased over the counter

*Season dates subject to change due to [MFWP](#) release of 2021 Hunting Information in early March.



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Rifle Hunting on the Big Timber Ranches

Absaroka-Beartooth Outfitters is lucky enough to headquarter in Big Timber, Montana with some unique ranches just minutes away. Local landowners of these properties have been gracious enough to allow us the opportunity to offer our hunters and anglers access to some very special hunting and fishing areas. One such ranch is 20,000 acres of rolling hills just twenty minutes north of Big Timber in the foothills of the mountains. Though this is a special permit area for elk, if you are lucky enough to draw a permit, there are opportunities for trophy bulls. Of the many Big Timber ranches we currently hunt only two require a special permit for elk. The remaining Big Timber Ranches are hunted with a general elk or deer license. All antelope hunts require a special permit. Our ranch hunts are fully guided, spot and stalk hunts. We use 4x4 vehicles to access the ranches we hunt. Accommodations include a comfortable lodge in Big Timber with all meals provided. *A plus for our private land hunters is our ability to move from ranch to ranch during the hunt to provide them with the best possible hunting experience.

Hunt Prices & Special Permit Areas – Big Timber Ranches

RIFLE ELK HUNT- BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$6000 per hunter 2x1

ELK/DEER COMBO RIFLE HUNT - BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$7000 per hunter 2x1

Only mature deer will be allowed to be harvested

DEER HUNT- BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$5500 per hunter 2x1

SPRING BLACK BEAR HUNT - BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$3500 per hunter 1x1

ANTELOPE HUNT- BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$2500 per hunter 2x1

Requires special permit



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Most of our ranches only require a General License to hunt elk and deer. However, we do have a couple of ranches that require a special elk permit to hunt. We suggest when you apply for your General License you also apply for an elk permit for the areas listed below.

Special Permit Areas:

Elk either-sex Rifle: 570-20 & 580-20

Antelope Special Permit Areas for Rifle: 510-20, 340-20, 570-20, 540-20

*Check the draw area with us before applying.

Rifle Hunt Dates – Big Timber Ranches

Elk/Deer: 4-6 hunters, 7 days (arrival day, **5 days hunting**, departure day).

Hunt includes lodging and meals at ABO Lodge in Big Timber.

Hunt #1: Oct 22-28

Hunt #2: Oct 29-Nov 4

Hunt #3: Nov 5-11

Hunt #4: Nov 12-18

Hunt #5: Nov 19-25

Antelope: 4-6 hunters, 4 days (arrival day, **3 days hunting**, departing at the end of the hunt day). Hunt includes lodging and meals at ABO Lodge in Big Timber

Hunt #1: Oct 8-11

Hunt #2: Oct 12-15

Hunt #3: Oct 16-19

Spring Black Bear: 4-6 hunters, 6 day (arrival day, **4 days hunting**, departure day)

Hunt includes lodging and meals at ABO Lodge in Big Timber

Hunt #1: April 20-23

Hunt #2: April 25-28

Hunt #3: May 2-5

Hunt #4: May 7-10

Hunt #5: May 12-15

Hunt #6: May 17-20

Hunt #7: May 22-25



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Rifle Hunting on the Divide Ranch

For the rifle hunter focused on trophy elk, mule deer and whitetail deer, ABO has added a special trophy opportunity ranch that can be hunted with a general license. I have been guiding and outfitting for twenty years and the topography of the landscape of this ranch provides the most unique combination of land management, wildlife conservation and trophy hunting opportunity with a general tag that I have ever encountered. We use a combination of 4 wheelers, hiking and horses for this hunt.

Hunt Prices & Special Permit Areas – The Divide Ranch

ELK HUNT

\$7500 per hunter Weeks 1 & 5

\$8000 per hunter Weeks 2, 3, & 4

COMBO ELK/DEER HUNT:

\$12,000/ per hunter

DEER HUNT:

\$5500/ per hunter

This ranch is hunted with a general license. A portion of the ranch is a special permit area. The ranch provides plenty of great hunting without the special permit area. However, we encourage you to apply for the special permit unit along with your general license application.

Rifle Special Permit Area: 580-20

Rifle Hunt Dates – The Divide Ranch

2 Hunters Per Week – 7 days (arrival day, **5 days hunting**, departure day)

Hunts include lodging and meals.

Hunt #1: Oct 22-28

Hunt #2: Oct 29-Nov 4

Hunt #3: Nov 5-11

Hunt #4: Nov 12-18

Hunt #5: Nov 19-25



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Rifle Hunting on the Yellowstone

These unique hunting and fishing opportunities are conveniently located 5 minutes from Big Timber and offer 8 miles of Yellowstone River frontage. The Yellowstone ranches landscape of brush and cottonwood trees, plenty of water and many channels make for great waterfowl and turkey hunting. Both ranches have a healthy deer population. The fishing is phenomenal so bring your fly rod! Archery and rifle hunting are available for deer and turkey. These combo hunts are based on the season and what licenses you hold. Accommodations and meals are not included with these hunting options. We recommend the Grand Hotel in Big Timber.

Hunt Prices – The Yellowstone Ranches

DUCK & GOOSE:

\$350 a gun/per day (guided)

DUCK, GOOSE, & TURKEY COMBO:

\$500 a gun/per day (guided)

DEER:

\$3500 per hunter, 3 day hunt

FALL TURKEY:

\$300 per person/per day (guided)

SPRING TURKEY:

\$350 per person/per day (guided)

WALK & WADE FISHING:

\$440 per guide/per half day (lunch not included)

\$560 per guide/whole day (lunch included)



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Rifle Hunting on the Lazy E-L Ranch

The Lazy E-L Ranch is a working cattle ranch nestled at the foot of the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness. With five miles of river frontage, wildlife abounds in this spectacular, unspoiled setting. The ranch offers a high quality hunt with the opportunity to see many animals and to pick a respectable size elk or deer. Hunting reservations are made through Absaroka-Beartooth Outfitters but to view the Lazy E-L Ranch website go to www.lazyel.com.

When booking a rifle hunt with Absaroka Beartooth Outfitters on the Lazy E-L Ranch, your accommodations will be a lovely vacation lodge on the West Rosebud River. This spacious, charming retreat offers comfortable beds and full bathrooms. It is located just outside the Lazy EL Ranch with a lovely view of the river.

Clients staying at the retreat will enjoy eating in the dining room at The Grizzly Bar & Grill, located just outside the ranch. The Grizzly Bar & Grill, a favorite local spot and known for its' good food, is owned and operated by Patrick and Jennifer O'Shea. Patrick guides and Jennifer cooks for all ABO's Lazy EL Hunts. Hunters love Jenn's food!

Hunt Prices & Special Permit Areas – Lazy E-L Ranch

ELK ONLY HUNT:

\$7000/ per hunter/lodge 2x1 hunt

Rifle Hunt Dates – Lazy E-L Ranch

6 hunters - 7 days (arrival day, **5 days hunting**, departure day)
Hunts include lodging and meals.

Hunt #1: Oct 22-28

Hunt #2: Oct 29-Nov 4

Hunt #3: Nov 5-11 (only 4 hunters for Week 3)



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What's Included and Not Included For Private Land Hunting

What's Included

The rates include:

- Comfortable sleeping accommodations in lodge with bedding and towels.
- All meals during your hunt
- Field care of trophies
- Experienced Guides

What's Not Included

The rates do not include:

- Transportation to Montana
- Montana hunting licenses and permits
- Hunting equipment including guns & ammo
- Fishing Licenses
- Fishing equipment including rods and flies
- Transport of trophies to final destination
- Any additional transportation cost
- Gratuities for guides and cook

Gratuities

Clients often ask how much to tip their guide and cook. Standard in the industry is 15-20% of the cost of the trip, divided between your guide and cook at your discretion. For example, a \$7000 hunt @ 15% = \$1050 tip (\$850 guide/\$200 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.



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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 and is non-refundable. 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 hunts will include an additional fee of \$50 for the Hunter/Angler Defense Fund.

This fund was set up by Montana Outfitters & Guides Association for the purpose of defending non-resident hunting and fishing rights in the State of Montana. (Information on HADF can be found in the General Hunting Information Packet.)



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Travel Arrangements | Big Timber & Divide Ranches

Plan to arrive in Big Timber the afternoon before your hunt begins and plan to depart the morning after your hunt ends. You will be staying in the ABO Lodge at ABO Headquarters. Check in time is 4:00 pm. Check out time is at 10:00 am.

ABO Headquarters & Lodge

[1263 Hwy 10 West](#)

[Big Timber, MT 59011](#)

Driving to Big Timber

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.

Flying into Bozeman or Billings

Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN) and **Billings Logan International Airport (BIL)** are the two closest airports to Big Timber.

The following airlines service Bozeman and Billings:

Delta 1-800-325-1999,

American 1-800-433-7300

United 1-800-864-8331

Alaska 1-800-252-7522

Most major rental car companies are available at either airport.

The service is usually very good into Bozeman and Billings. However, Bozeman is a college town, home to Montana State University, so make your reservations early. Remember, Montana is on Mountain Time so keep that in mind when making your travel arrangements.



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Travel Arrangements | The Lazy E-L Ranch

Driving to Roscoe:

The ranch is located in Roscoe, MT.

The Lazy E-L Ranch
Lazy E-L Ranch Rd.
Roscoe, MT 59071

Grizzly Bar and Grill
1 Main Street,
Roscoe, MT 59071

Directions from Billings: Go west on Interstate 90 to Columbus; at Columbus go south on 78 to Roscoe. Driving time from Billings to the ranch is approximately 1.5 hours.

Directions from Bozeman: go east on Interstate 90 to Columbus; at Columbus go south on 78 to Roscoe. Driving time from Bozeman to the ranch is approximately 3.5 hours.

Plan to arrive by 3:00 pm the day before your hunt begins. You will meet your guides at the Grizzly Bar & Grill located just before you get to the ranch. This gives the guides time to get you settled and you time to site in your rifles or bows before dark.

Please check in with Patrick to confirm your arrival time.

Patrick O'Shea – cell 406-425-4333

Cell service is not very good at the ranch so two good emergency numbers are:

(406) 328-6789 (the Grizzly Bar & Grill) or 210-722-3817 (Sarah Mayo)

Flying into Billings

Plan to fly into the **Billings Logan International Airport (BIL)**.

Most major car rental agencies are available at the Billings airport.

The following airlines service Billings:

Delta 1-800-325-1999

American 1-800-433-7300

United 1-800-864-8331

Alaska 1-800-252-7522



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The service is usually very good into Billings. However, there are limited flights into Montana, so make your reservations early. Remember, Billings is on Mountain Time so keep that in mind when making your travel arrangements.

Special Note to Hunters from the Outfitter, Cameron Mayo

I will not be guiding the Lazy EL Ranch hunts as I will be guiding ranch hunts in Big Timber during that time. However, I have carefully chosen Patrick O'Shea as your lead man. Patrick is an experienced guide who has hunted with me for many years. He knows every inch of the ranch! Patrick along with our other experienced guides Justin Hash and Bob Lile will do everything within their power to give you the best hunt possible.



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Hotels, Food & Local Shops

If you plan to stay in Big Timber, Bozeman or Billings prior to your hunt we recommend the following:

BIG TIMBER, MONTANA

The Grand Hotel (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) (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. Opens at 6:00 AM.

The Timber Bar - Serves delicious “made in house” food and has a broad assortment of both local and national refreshing craft beers. Located on McLeod Street across from the Grand Hotel.

The Frosty Freeze - Best milkshakes in town! Try the Huckleberry Milkshake...a favorite of the guides.

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

Gusts Department Store - For a back in time experience, shop here for any clothing items you might have forgotten. Quality goods at great prices.

The Fort - offers any last-minute needs from sleeping bags, hunting & fishing gear, hunting licenses, gifts, food, fuel and “spirits” to name a few.

Sweet Cast Angler - Big Timber’s local fly-fishing shop offers anglers rods, flies and other fishing supplies.



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BOZEMAN, MONTANA

The Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Bozeman West (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) (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. Check out **HEAD WEST** www.headwestbozeman.com, a western apparel and gift shop on Main Street. 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) (406-245-2000) 242 East Airport Road, Billings, MT 59105

Northern Hotel (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.



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Hunting Licenses And Permit Information

For more information on licensing, permit prices and how to apply for the draw refer to the General Hunting Information Packet or go online to Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, www.fwp.mt.gov.

General Non-resident Elk and Deer Licenses

Resident and Non-resident hunters will need general licenses to hunt elk and deer in Montana. We have a few Big Timber ranches that in addition to your general license also require an elk permit to hunt. However a general elk/deer license is all you will need to hunt the majority of our ranch offerings, including most of the Big timber ranches, the Divide Ranch, and the Lazy EL Ranch. Hunters who want to hunt the special elk permit ranches will need to apply for an elk permit for those areas. (Special Permit Areas listed under hunt dates in the Big Timber Ranches offerings.)

Special Permits Elk and Deer

You can apply for a special elk or deer permit at the same time you apply for a general elk/deer license through the draw. Remember most our private land ranches are hunted with a general elk/deer license, so you will still be able to hunt if you do not draw a special elk permit area.

Hunter Education Requirements

Before you go online to apply, be aware of the following requirement.

Hunter Education Requirements for Hunters - If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license, whether the hunting licence is for the rifle or archery season. **When you apply online for your license, you will need to have your certificate number, the date you received it and the state in which you received it as proof that you have completed a hunter safety course.**

Black Bear Requirements

Before you go online to apply, be aware of the following requirement.

A hunter must take and pass a "Black Bear Identification test" before purchasing a Black Bear hunting license.

The test is available online at: fwp.mt.gov/hunt/education/bear-identification



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A free Black Bear Identification Test Certificate is required to obtain a license. A hunter must present a certificate of completion issued by FWP at the time of purchase. A Black Bear License purchased after April 14 for the spring season or after August 31 for the fall season may not be used until 24 hours after the license is issued.

Licensing Process Summary

Our ABO staff is ready to assist you with any questions you may have about hunting in Montana with our outfit. Our office will walk you through each aspect from booking, to licensing to arrival and everything in-between.

Special Note: As a service to our booked hunters, we do all their online license applications due to the complexity of the licensing process in Montana. This takes the burden off of them and helps alleviate errors in license and permit choices.