



Adventures above the rest.

Wilderness Hunting Information Packet

2021

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Wilderness Hunting Information

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, allowing 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

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

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 archery and rifle season. The species hunted out of Independence are elk, deer, wolf, black bear, mountain goat, and Bighorn sheep. These are horseback hunts with the exception of Bighorn sheep, which is a backpacking hunt. Accommodations include a tent camp at Independence or a lodge, which is available for rifle hunters the first week of the general rifle season. The lodge is located up the Boulder Road not far from Box Canyon. It borders the wilderness area, so hunts will begin on horseback directly from the lodge.



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Summary

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.



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Price Information

ARCHERY WILDERNESS BIG GAME COMBO

Elk (Priority), Deer, Black Bear, Wolf
\$6000 Package Deal - Tent Camp

EARLY SEASON WILDERNESS RIFLE BIG GAME COMBO

Elk (Priority), Deer, Black Bear, Wolf
\$6000 Package Deal -tent Camp

GENERAL SEASON WILDERNESS RIFLE BIG GAME COMBO

Elk (Priority), Deer, Black Bear, Wolf
\$6000 Package Deal - Tent Camp At Independence
\$6000 Package Deal - Lodge Bordering Wilderness Hunting Area

WILDERNESS MIGRATORY DEER HUNT

Migratory Deer
\$5500

BIGHORN SHEEP

Hunt only offered in October is quota has not been met.
\$8,000 With A \$4000 Harvest Fee - October

MOUNTAIN GOAT

\$5000 September
\$5500 October
\$6500 November

WOLF

\$3800 General Season Wilderness

MOOSE

\$900 Per Day

GRIZZLY BEAR

Coming Soon- Price To Be Determined

DROP CAMP PRICING

The cost of a drop camp is \$2,250.00 for one person. The cost for additional hunters or ride-a-longs 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



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determined by Outfitter's approved Forest Service area and best opportunity for game without infringing on other hunters. Hunting Season is a very busy time of year for Absaroka Beartooth Outfitters. Drop camps may not be possible due to lack of availability of stock and staff.

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.)

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 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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Seasons and Dates

Archery & General Rifle Dates To Be Confirmed March 1, 2021

Archery Hunting

September 4 - October 17

ELK, DEER, BLACK BEAR, WOLF

ARCHERY WILDERNESS BIG GAME COMBO

7 days (day in, 5 days hunting, day out)

Hunt #1: Sept 3-9

Hunt #2: Sept 22-28

Hunt #3: Sept 30-Oct 6

Rifle Hunting

Early Season: begins September 15

ELK, DEER

EARLY SEASON WILDERNESS RIFLE BIG GAME COMBO

Hellroaring Camp

7 Days (Day In, 5 Days Hunting, 1 Day Out)

Hunt #1: Sept 14-20

Hunt #2: Sept 22-28

Rifle Hunting

General Season: October 23 -November 28

ELK, DEER

GENERAL SEASON WILDERNESS RIFLE BIG GAME COMBO

Independence/Boulder Drainage Area Hunts

7 Days (Day In, 5 Days Hunting, Day Out)

Hunt #1: Oct 22-28



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Rifle Hunting

September - November

BIGHORN SHEEP

September 15 - November 28

8 days (day in, 6 days hunting, day out)

Hunt Dates: To be determined with Outfitter at time of booking.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

September 1 - November 28

7 days (day in, 5 days hunting, day out)

Hunt Dates: To be determined with Outfitter at time of booking.

Tentative Hunt dates: Sept 14-20, Sept 22-28, Sept 30-Oct 6, & Oct 8-14

MOOSE HUNTS

September 15 - November 28

BLACK BEAR - FALL SEASON

September 15 - November 28

WOLF

September 15, 2020 - March 15, 2021

*Fall 2021 Season TBA



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What's Included and Not Included

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 and 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 15-20% of the cost of the trip, divided between your guide and cook at your discretion. For example, a \$6000 hunt @ 15% = \$900 tip (\$750 guide/\$150 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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Travel Arrangements

- **All Hunters** – If you are hunting out of ABO's **Hellroaring camp, plan to stay in Big Timber the night before your hunting trip begins.** If you are hunting out of **Independence camp or Hawley Mountain Lodge, plan to be in Big Timber by late morning the day your hunting trip begins.**
- **You will need to make hotel reservations for your incoming and outgoing nights if you are going to Hellroaring.** On the day we depart for camp, we leave early in the morning. On the day we return from the mountains, we return in the late afternoon. Hotel information is listed on the next page.
- **Check in with ABO (406-579-3866) upon arrival in Big Timber. Leave your cell phone number so we can call and confirm the morning departure time.**

Driving to Big Timber

- **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 make your hotel reservations in Big Timber for your incoming and outgoing nights.**

Flying to Montana

- **If you are flying** into Bozeman or Billings, you will want to
 - **Make a hotel reservation in Big Timber for your incoming night and possibly in Bozeman or Billings for your outgoing night, depending on your departure airport and how early your flight departs the following day.**
 - **Plan to fly into the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN) or Billings Logan International Airport (BIL) the day before your trip begins.** The following airlines service Bozeman and Billings.

Delta 1-800-325-1999

American 1-800-433-7300

Alaska 1-800-252-7522

United 1-800-864-8331



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- Most major rental car companies are available at either airport. We recommend you book your rental car at the same time you book your flight. Rental cars can be in short supply in the fall, so plan ahead.

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.

Hotels, Food & Local Shops

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.



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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.

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 Wilderness Hunting

(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.)

General Non-resident Elk and Deer Licenses

Resident and Non-resident hunters will need general licenses to hunt elk and deer in Montana. We recommend the Big Game Combo License for all our wilderness elk and deer hunters. Archery hunters must also obtain a Bow & Arrow License. See below two of Montana's requirements to purchase a license.

Special Permits for Mountain Goat, Moose and Bighorn Sheep

You can now apply for all of your special permit licenses at the same time you apply for a general elk/deer license through the draw. Remember to check our permit areas with us to make sure you have the correct permitted areas.

Bighorn Sheep - Unlimited Area

Our Bighorn sheep hunts are in an unlimited area. This means that MFWP does not limit the number of licenses sold so there is no draw for an unlimited sheep area. This license can be purchased but must be purchased by the May 1st deadline. Note: The area does have a quota of 2 Bighorn sheep. Once two sheep are harvested, the area is closed.

Bow and Arrow Licenses

Archers will need to purchase a bow & arrow license. You can purchase your bow & arrow license at the same time you apply for the general draw or you can wait until you draw to purchase it. In order to purchase a Bow & Arrow License in Montana, you will be required to provide a bow and arrow safety certificate or a previous bow and arrow license from another state before you can apply for the special elk permit. If you are already in the Montana system as an archery hunter, then you will not be required to provide this information.

Hunter Education Requirements

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

Hunter Education Requirements for Archery & Rifle 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**



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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.

Bow Hunter Education Requirements

To purchase a Montana Bow and Arrow license, a hunter must: provide a certificate of completing the National Bowhunter Education Foundation Course, or provide any prior year's bowhunting/archery stamp, tag, permit, or license from any state or province.

For more information about licensing and how to apply for the draw, see the General Hunting Information Packet.

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.