



Adventures above the rest.

Private Land Rifle Hunting Information Packet | 2022

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Rifle Season & Application Deadlines

General Season Rifle Dates for Elk/Deer: October 22–November 27

Application Deadline: April 1

Rifle Season Dates for Antelope: October 8–November 13

Application Deadline: June 1

Spring Black Bear: April 15–May 31

Application Deadline: April 14 (if purchased after April 14 license may not be used until 24 hours after the license is issued.)

Wolf: September 15–March 15 *

Application Deadline: August 31 (If purchased after August 31 may not be used until 24 hours after the license is issued.)

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 10 & Jan 16–20 *

Application Deadline: Purchased over the counter

*Season dates are subject to change due to [MFWP](#) release of 2022 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. All of the Big Timber ranches are hunted with a General License for elk and deer. 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 – Big Timber Ranches

RIFLE ELK HUNT- BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$6000 per hunter 2x1

\$7500 1x1

Hunt price includes meals and lodging.

RIFLE ELK HUNT- BIG TIMBER "LIMITED" RANCHES

(Special elk permit area ranches that became general tag areas in February of 2022)

\$8000 per hunter 2x1 Weeks 1 & 2

\$7500 per hunter 2x1 Weeks 3, 4, 5

\$8500 1x1 Weeks 1 & 2

\$8000 1x1 Weeks 3,4,5

Hunt price includes meals and lodging.

RIFLE ELK/DEER COMBO HUNT – BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$7000 per hunter 2x1

\$8500 1x1 weeks 1 & 2

\$8000 1x1 weeks 3,4,5

Hunt price includes meals and lodging.

Only mature deer will be allowed to be harvested. Antelope or black bear, if in season, can be substituted for deer.



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RIFLE DEER HUNT- BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$5500 per hunter Hunt price includes meals and lodging.

RIFLE ANTELOPE HUNT & PERMIT AREAS - BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$2500 per hunter 2x1

\$3000 1x1

Hunt price includes meals and lodging.

Special Permit Required *Check the draw area with us before applying

Special Permit Areas: 506-20, 576-20, 586-20, 596-20, 317-20

RIFLE SHOULDER SEASON COW ELK HUNT - BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$1500 per hunter 2x1

\$2000 1x1

Price does not include meals and lodging.

Requires special permit

Elk B Permit: 005-00 OTC Available **Aug 8, 2022** Good from Nov 28-Feb 15

RIFLE SPRING BLACK BEAR HUNT - BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$3500 per hunter (4 days hunting)

Price includes meals and lodging.

Over the counter license

RIFLE WOLF HUNT- BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$4000 per hunter (5 days hunting)

\$3200 per hunter (4 days hunting)

Price includes meals and lodging.

Over the counter licenses

Hunt Dates – Big Timber Ranches

RIFLE ELK/DEER

8-10 hunters, 7 days (arrival day, 5 days hunting, departure day).

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

Hunt #1: Oct 21-27

Hunt #2: Oct 28-Nov 3

Hunt #3: Nov 4-10

Hunt #4: Nov 11-17

Hunt #5: Nov 18-24



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RIFLE 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 7-10

Hunt #2: Oct 11-14

Hunt #3: Oct 15-18

RIFLE SHOULDER SEASON COW ELK

2-4 hunters, 4 day (arrival day, **3 days hunting**, departure at the end of the last hunt day)
Hunt does not include lodging or meals.

Hunt Dates: December 5, 2022 through January 15, 2023

Hunt dates determined at time of booking.

RIFLE SPRING BLACK BEAR

2-4 hunters, 6 day (arrival day, 4 days hunting, departure day)
Hunt includes lodging and meals at ABO Lodge in Big Timber

Hunt #1: April 15-20

Hunt #2: April 21-26

Hunt #3: April 27-May 2

Hunt #4: May 3-8

Hunt #5: May 9-14

Hunt #6: May 15-20

Hunt #7: May 21-26

Hunt #8: May 27-June 1

RIFLE WOLF

1-2 hunters, 6 day (arrival day, **4 days hunting**, departure day)
Hunt includes lodging and meals at ABO Lodge in Big Timber

Hunt Dates: December 1, 2022 through March 15, 2023

Hunt dates determined at time of booking.



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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 – The Divide Ranch

RIFLE ELK HUNT

\$8000 per hunter Weeks 1 & 2
\$7500 per hunter Weeks 3, 4, 5

RIFLE DEER HUNT

\$5500/ person

RIFLE COMBO ELK/DEER HUNT:

\$12,500 per hunter Weeks 1 & 2
\$12,000 per hunter Weeks 3, 4, 5

Hunt Dates – The Divide Ranch

RIFLE ELK/DEER

2 Hunters Per Week – 7 days (arrival day, **5 days hunting**, departure day)
Hunts includes meals and lodging at ABO Lodge in Big Timber.

Hunt #1: Oct 21-27

Hunt #2: Oct 28-Nov 3

Hunt #3: Nov 4-10

Hunt #4: Nov 11-17

Hunt #5: Nov 18-24



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Rifle Hunting on the Yellowstone

This unique hunting and fishing opportunity is conveniently located 5 minutes from Big Timber and offers 8 miles of Yellowstone River frontage. The Yellowstone ranch's landscape of brush and cottonwood trees, plenty of water and many channels make for great waterfowl and turkey hunting. The ranch has a healthy deer population and the fishing is phenomenal, so bring your fly rod! Archery and rifle hunts 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 Prairie Ranch

DUCK & GOOSE:

\$350 a gun/per day (guided)

DUCK, GOOSE, & TURKEY COMBO:

\$500 a gun/per day (guided)

FALL TURKEY:

\$300 per person/per day (guided)

SPRING TURKEY:

\$350 per person/per day (guided)

WHITETAIL DEER:

\$3500 per hunter, 3 day hunt (treestand)

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 hunt a respectable size elk. Hunting reservations are made through Absaroka-Beartooth Outfitters but to view the Lazy E-L Ranch website go to 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 – Lazy E-L Ranch

RIFLE ELK HUNT

\$7000 per hunter - 2x1 elk only hunt

Hunt Dates – Lazy E-L Ranch

RIFLE ELK

6 hunters - 7 days (arrival day, **5 days hunting**, departure day)

Hunts include lodging and meals.

Hunt #1: Oct 21-27

Hunt #2: Oct 28-Nov 3

Hunt #3: Nov 4-10 (only 4 hunters for Week 3)

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 will do everything within their power to give you the best possible hunt.



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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
- Personal toiletries
- 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 about gratuity amounts for guides, cooks and staff. Gratuities are 100% discretionary. Obviously, if you ask us, we are going to tell you to tip generously, as we know the long, hard hours our team works to give you the best possible ABO experience. Twenty percent of the cost of the hunt divided at the Client's discretion is a good place to start. Gratuity is always appreciated and provides validation to our team that the Client has had a good time and that they have done a good job.



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Deposit & Payment Policy

A partial deposit of \$1000 is required to book your hunt. If you do not draw a license, the \$1000 partial deposit will be rolled over to the following year, if we have space available, or refunded. 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 canceled. 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 added to your invoice 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 Ranches & Divide Ranch

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

The service is usually very good flying 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.

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. **We recommend you rent a car or use the limo service listed below and that you book your rental car or limo service at the same time you book your flight.** Rental cars can be in short supply in the fall, so plan ahead. This is a very busy time of year and all our “hands” are engaged in preparing a great hunt for you. Classic Limo offers an excellent roundtrip service from Bozeman to Big Timber. Last year it was cheaper than renting a car.

Classic Limo - 406-585-5466



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Travel Arrangements | 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 sight 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

The service is usually very good flying 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.

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

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

Most major car rental agencies are available at the Billings airport. **We recommend you rent a car or use a limo service and that you book your rental car or limo service at the same time you book your flight.** Rental cars can be in short supply in the fall, so plan ahead. This is a very busy time of year and all our "hands" are engaged in preparing a great hunt for you.



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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

Hotels

The Grand Hotel (thegrand-hotel.com) (406-932-4459).

The Grand Hotel Bed and Breakfast is a charming and beautifully renovated historical hotel in downtown Big Timber. It has recently been purchased and is undergoing another renovation but is still in operation. Each room is unique. A well-stocked vintage bar is popular with the locals and serves lunch and dinner.

Note: Due to labor shortages, please check the hotels website for updates on hours and food service.

The Super 8 Motel (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 Bakery, located on McLeod Street in downtown Big Timber opens at 6:00 AM.

Food & Shops

Stroll along McLeod Street for fun and unique shops with great prices. Don't miss **Gusts Department Store** (it will take you back in time), **Cinnabar Creek** for a great espresso and gifts, and the **Bakery** for breakfast, lunch and yummy treats. Stop for a delicious sandwich and cookie at **EarthWise General Store** and browse their Made in Montana and special health products. Take in the real flavor of Montana at **The Timber Bar** with its delicious "made in house" food and top it all off with a broad assortment of both local and national refreshing craft beers. For pizza and salads, check out **Iron Star Pizza Co.** and don't miss Big Timber's own microbrewery, **Circle T Taproom.** **Sweet Cast Angler** is a good place to pick up any extra flies or fishing supplies. **The Fort** offers any last-minute needs from sleeping bags, hunting & fishing gear, gifts, food and "spirits" to name a few.



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BOZEMAN, MONTANA

The Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Bozeman West (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 (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 shop and visit. Be sure to check out **HEAD WEST**, headwestbozeman.com, a western apparel and gift shop on Main Street in downtown Bozeman. If you need libations for your mountain trip, you will not want to miss a visit to **Single Barrel Liquor & Bar**. This unique boutique liquor store with an attached cozy cocktail bar is located on the West side of Bozeman and is a local favorite.
4535 Valley Commons Drive, Suite 101, Bozeman, MT 59718
singlebarrelbozeman.com 406-577-2163

BILLINGS, MONTANA

Boothill Inn & Suites (boothillin.com) (406-245-2000) 242 East Airport Road, Billings, MT 59105

Northern Hotel (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, 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. All of the ranches Absaroka Beartooth Outfitters hunt only require a general elk/deer license.

Permit Requirement for Antelope Licenses

Resident and Non-resident hunters must draw a special permit to hunt antelope in Montana. The antelope special permit areas for the ranches Absaroka Beartooth Outfitters hunt are listed on page 2 of this information packet.

Hunter Education Requirement

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

Hunter Education Requirement - 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 license 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 Requirement

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

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

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.



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Wolf

Resident and non-resident hunters can purchase a Wolf License over the counter at any FWP license provider or online at fwp.mt.gov. The general rifle season for wolves begins September 15 and runs through March 15 of the following year. For the hunting season a Wolf License purchased after August 31 may not be used until 24 hours after the license is issued. The last day to purchase a Wolf License for the September 15 - March 15 hunt season is February 28, approximately 15 days before the season closes.

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, helps alleviate errors in license and permit choices and allows us to maximize their chances of drawing.
