



Adventures above the rest.

Wilderness Hunting Information Packet | 2022

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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 an 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 hunting. 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 for the September and early October hunts and a lodge for the general season rifle hunts beginning in late October. The lodge is located up the Boulder Road not far from Box Canyon. It borders the wilderness area, so hunts 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

\$6000 Package Deal - 2x1 Hunt - Tent Camp

\$7500 Package Deal - 1x1

EARLY SEASON WILDERNESS RIFLE BIG GAME COMBO

Elk (Priority), Deer, Black Bear, Wolf

\$6000 Package Deal - 2x1 - Tent Camp

\$7500 Package Deal - 1x1

GENERAL SEASON WILDERNESS RIFLE BIG GAME COMBO

Elk (Priority), Deer, Black Bear, Wolf

\$6000 Package Deal - 2x1 - Tent Camp At Independence

\$6000 Package Deal - 2x1 - Lodge Bordering Wilderness Hunting Area

\$7500 Package Deal - 1x1

WILDERNESS MIGRATORY DEER HUNT

\$5500

BIGHORN SHEEP

Hunt is only offered in late September or October if quota has not been met.

\$8,000 With A \$4000 Harvest Fee

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



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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 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, fwp.mt.gov.)

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 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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Seasons and Dates

Archery & General Rifle Dates To Be Confirmed March 1, 2022

Archery Hunting

September 3 - October 16

ELK, DEER, BLACK BEAR

ARCHERY WILDERNESS BIG GAME COMBO

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

Hunt #1: Sept 2-8

Hunt #2: Sept 22-28

Hunt #3: Sept 30-Oct 6

Rifle Hunting

Early Season: begins September 15

ELK, DEER, BLACK BEAR, WOLF

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 22 -November 27

ELK, DEER, BLACK BEAR, WOLF

GENERAL SEASON WILDERNESS RIFLE BIG GAME COMBO

Independence/Boulder Drainage Area Hunts

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

Hunt #1: Oct 21-27



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Rifle Hunting

September - November

BIGHORN SHEEP

September 15 - November 27

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 27

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

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

Tentative Hunt dates: Aug 31- Sept 6, Sept 14-20, Sept 22-28, Sept 30-Oct 6, & Oct 8-14

MOOSE HUNTS

September 15 - November 27

BLACK BEAR - FALL SEASON

September 15 - November 27

Hunt dates included with Big Game Combo Hunts

WOLF

September 15, 2021 - March 15, 2022

*Fall 2022 Season TBA (Fall hunt dates included with Big Game Combo Hunts)



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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
- In the backcountry, use of horses, mules, tack, camp accommodations, meals and non-alcoholic beverages
- Experienced Guides

What's Not Included

The rates for hunting trips do not include:

- Transportation to Montana
- Incoming and outgoing nights lodging before and after hunt
- Montana hunting licenses and permits
- Montana fishing licenses
- Hunting equipment including bows and arrows/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 about gratuity amounts for guides, cooks and wranglers. 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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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/early evening. 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.** Remember, you are an hour and 10 minutes from Big Timber to the Bozeman airport. Add 1½ to 2 hours for airport check-in and rental car return. Plan on leaving Big Timber 3 hours before your flight time.
- **We recommend you rent a car or use the limo service listed below.** It is an easy drive from the Bozeman airport east on Interstate 90 to Big Timber or from Billings airport west on I90 to Big Timber. This is a very busy time of year and all our “hands” are engaged in preparing a great adventure for you.



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- **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**
- **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
Alaska 1-800-252-7522

American 1-800-433-7300
United 1-800-864-8331

- Most major rental car companies are available at either airport. We recommend 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.

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.

Hotels

BIG TIMBER, MONTANA

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.



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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.

BILLINGS, MONTANA (There are many good hotels in Billings from which to choose. These are two that have consistently received good reviews.)

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

Northern Hotel (northernhotel.com) (406-867-6767) 19 N Broadway, Billings, MT 59101

Food & Shops

BIG TIMBER, MONTANA

Browse along McLeod Street in Downtown Big Timber for fun and unique shops with great prices. Don't miss **Gusts Department Store** (it will take you back in time), **Cinnabar Creek** for 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 unique health and Made in Montana products. **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. 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**.



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BOZEMAN, MONTANA

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 Montana adventures, 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



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Hunting Licenses and Permit Information for Wilderness Hunting

For more information on licenses, permits, and how to apply for the draw refer to the General Hunting Information Packet or go online to 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 but the area does have a quota of 2 Bighorn sheep. Once two sheep are harvested, the area is closed. This unlimited license can be purchased but must be purchased by the May 1st deadline.

Bow and Arrow Licenses

Archers 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. See Bowhunter Education requirement below. If you are already in the Montana system as an archery hunter, you will not be required to provide this information.

Hunter Education Requirement

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

Hunter Education Requirement 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 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.**



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Bowhunter Education Requirement

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

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. You will need the license number, date it was issued and state from which it was 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, helps alleviate errors in license and permit choices and allows us to maximize their chances of drawing.