



In our previous Hunt Prep topics, we discussed being prepared for your hunt from a physical and gear standpoint. This Hunt prep topic regards a couple other areas of importance everyone should be prepared for, so let jump into it:

### **What to Expect on your hunt**

We have quite a few clients who will be new to western hunting joining us this fall. Many of you are from back east and have hunted whitetails for many years. I remember my first elk hunt; I had no idea what to expect but I learned very quickly that elk were completely different from whitetails. As I was exposed to more western big game including western whitetails, I started to understand that most eastern hunting tactics were not as successful in the western states. Even our western whitetails are completely different than their eastern cousins, and elk and mule deer behavior is completely different from anything back east. The main reasons for this are:

- Open country that is less productive per acre regarding food
- Species migratory habits for food and seasons (winter, spring, summer, and fall)
- Most western big game animals are of the herd variety, most eastern game are more of the solitary or small group variety
- Eastern game does not migrate and lives within a much smaller home range preferring thick cover.

In my opinion, part of booking with an outfitter is to enjoy an experience in which you only must think about the hunt, not cooking, cleaning, scouting, and game retrieval. The other advantage to booking your hunt is learning " from professionals who hunt western game over 165 days a year.

We use elevated hunting blinds to hunt elk and mule deer during our later rifle seasons on our high-country ranches. Our blinds are heated and amazingly comfortable. Our blinds are not the same as eastern blinds in that you can see for miles and miles from our blinds. They are amazingly comfortable staging points from which on any given year we harvest around half of our elk and deer from these proven high spots where critters regularly commute from the timber to the open sage flats. Being patient and letting the elk or mulies come to you is a particularly good strategy which works very well for our clients.

Many times, clients and their guides will leave the blinds when game animals are spotted elsewhere giving the client an opportunity to spot and stalk, so being prepared to leave the blind quickly is especially important and will be communicated more than

once when you all arrive in camp. Most of our blind hunting takes place in the later rifle seasons. The early rifle hunters (prior to October) will be set up over hay fields, willow choked river bottoms, and timber flats. Archery clients will spot and stalk all our ranches.

Our eastern plains whitetail clients will be in elevated blinds as well. Our eastern plains mule deer clients will be travelling around in the truck looking for that buck of a lifetime. Once the buck is spotted, getting out to make a finishing stalk that could be 250 yards, or 2.5 miles helps seal the deal on an open high plain giant. As with all of our western hunts, you can see for miles and miles in open terrain, so getting used to spotting game in the far reaches of your vision is something you can only experience once you arrive and are set up for the first morning of your hunt and the reason that excellent optics are very important!

The bottom line is to always be ready for your opportunity which can happen at a moment's notice. We have seen more clients miss opportunities because they are not prepared when the moment of truth comes. We will help prepare you for your hunt in our pre-hunt meeting, conducted prior to each hunt.

### **Broadheads and Bullets:**

There are always a lot of questions on ammo whether it be a broadhead or a bullet. In my last email I discussed the topic of practicing and sights/scopes, now let's look at the other very important factor, the tool that does the actual work after you pull the trigger of your archery release or rifle trigger.

### **Bullets:**

Grain of bullet is especially important, but even more important is how your rifle groups certain grain and manufacturer of bullets. The first factor to look at when purchasing ammo is to make sure that the lot number on all your bullets is the same. The lot number can be found on the side of the box of ammo you're purchasing. Lot numbers are assigned when ammunition is manufactured. The lot number identifies an item constructed according to pertinent specifications. It is an essential part of the markings and is required for record keeping, but it also changes once a run of ammo is complete, and new lot number is assigned when a new batch of ammo is manufactured. The changeover that happens from one batch of ammo to another may have slight differences in the amount of powder, or a new batch of primers or cases. These changes can cause ammo to group differently, so ensuring all of your ammo is of the same lot number is especially important.

Every rifle is different, so every rifle "likes" certain ammo better than other ammo. This is true for bullet manufacturer type (Barns, Remington, Winchester, Burger, Hornady) as well as bullet weight (grains). We recommend heavier bullet weights for larger animals such as elk, moose, and mule deer. More importantly, finding a bullet manufacturer and bullet weight (grain) that your rifle groups best is more important. Start out by purchasing a couple different boxes made by different manufactures at different weights and see what works best. Once you figure out what works best, then stick with that

bullet manufacture and bullet weight (grain) through your summer practice and bring 2-3 boxes of that ammo for your hunt.

There has been a lot of information on lead vs. copper bullets, from what I have read the lead pattern that happens when a lead bullet impacts big game it leaves a much wider spread than anyone ever thought years ago. This effect has little to do with the actual shock that kills the animal, but it does have more to do with what is left over in the meat after processing. We pride ourselves on making sure client's game meat is cared for with the utmost care. Antlers are awesome, but the real prize is the meat that sustains us as sportsman and humans who elect to take responsibility for the meat that ends up on our table.

Some people are not concerned with the amount of lead that may be in their meat, I am one who is concerned...in past blood tests I have had a higher level of lead in my blood than both my doctor and I have felt comfortable with. Lead is extremely toxic to humans, being concerned about my health, I want to make sure I avoid lead at all costs. A few years ago, I went to all copper bullets as studies have shown that the pattern from copper is smaller and of course, no lead in the bullet, no lead in the meat.

There are several companies that design copper bullets for big game animals. Barnes and Berger are two of those companies that I prefer for my own bullets. To be clear, I am not recommending Barnes or Berger, but rather stating that it is my preference. For most, ammo brand is such a personal choice for clients I do not want to recommend something that offends anyone.

If lead is something that concerns you, then please investigate a copper style bullet designed for big game, if not, no worries, lead bullets perform just as well as copper bullets!

### **Hunt Day Logistics - Pre-Hunt Meeting Document**

I have attached our pre-hunt meeting outline; we will review these guidelines prior to each hunt, however, take a few moments and look it over so you know what is expected.

The hunt days start out long in the early seasons and gradually get shorter as the year progresses. Hunt days start out around 2 -3 hours before first light as the smell of coffee fills the lodge. Breakfast will consist of a continental style layout with breakfast burritos and sandwiches, oatmeal, bagels/toast etc. Most people do not eat a lot as their so excited for the day. There will be plenty of snacks and fluids to take in your pack, so you can keep from being hungry or thirsty during the morning hunt.

We are normally back to the lodge by 11 AM for a couple hours of relaxation and the large meal of the day. Some of you will be in spots where you will hunt all day, in those cases we will bring hot lunch out to your location in order maximize opportunities.

After the mid-day meal, we will head back out to hunt the afternoon/evening. In the early seasons, this is around 4 PM, but in the later seasons this will be closer to 2 PM. Our evening meals consist of lighter fare, soups, chili, and other entrees that will not put you into a "food coma". Finally, we will have plenty of sweets and snacks for those of you who have a sweet tooth or live for dessert!

We will discuss all of this in more detail in your pre-hunt meetings, but I wanted to share some of this logistics to have you as prepared as possible for your hunt before you arrive in camp. We hope you are all extremely excited about your experience with us, now you are a bit more prepared!



## Rand, CO

Welcome to Ivory & Antler Outfitters LLC. Upon your arrival feel free to enjoy the facilities, unpack, and get prepared for the start of your hunt.

We are here to help you experience an Elk/Antelope/Moose/Mule Deer/Bear/Lion hunt you'll never forget. In order to accomplish this, please join us at 6:30 for a meeting with dinner to follow. Please bring your hunting license and hunter safety certificate to the meeting. Your hunting license and hunter's safety card MUST be checked by one of Ivory & Antler Outfitters staff before you are allowed to hunt.

**Internet Network: Ivoryantlersguest – trophybullek**  
**Internet Password: mango35 (JCH) – bigmoose (Hepps)**

### Staff

Earl Oesterling	(720)-218-4677
John Pezzin	(419)-340-9280
Caleb Luikens	(308)-765-0171
Ryan Perdue	(970)-381-6015
Adam VanValkenburg	(970)-819-5677

### Important Phone Numbers

Ranch House: (970)-723-8557 - Calling card needed to make outgoing calls

Medical Emergency:

- Walden: (970) 723-4586  
396 Lafever St
- Granby: (970) 887-5800  
1000 Park St, Granby Co

Fire Department:

- Walden: (970) 723-4747  
513 Harrison Street

Sherriff's Department

- Walden (970) 723-4242  
396 Lafever St

# **Pre-Hunt Meeting**

## **State Rules & Regulations**

1. Check for proper license.
2. Must carry Hunter Safety Card.
3. Firearm Season - 500 inches of solid florescent orange must be worn above the waist including a hat or head covering, all orange must remain on at all times, no exceptions!!!!
4. Party hunting is not allowed.
5. No loaded weapons in a motor vehicle. Loaded is defined as a weapon with ammunition in the chamber. It is legal to carry an uncased weapon with ammunition in the magazine in a motor vehicle.
6. No shooting from a vehicle, on or across a public road. Must be 50 feet from the centerline of a road before discharging a weapon.
7. Elk Antler Restriction: A bull elk must have 4 points or more to be legal.
8. Scopes or any sighting device using artificial light, batteries, and electronic gear are prohibited during all hunting seasons.
9. Scopes, electronic, or battery powered devices cannot be incorporated into or attached to bow.
10. Semiautomatic rifles can hold a maximum of 6 rounds in the magazine and chamber combined. Can not have a magazine that holds over 6 rounds.
11. Minimum .40 cal. muzzleloader to hunt deer, pronghorn, and bear.
12. Minimum .50 cal. muzzleloader to hunt elk or moose.
13. Pelletized powder systems prohibited during muzzleloading season.
14. Only open or iron sights allowed during muzzleloading season.
15. Sabots are prohibited during muzzleloading season.

1. ALWAYS carry your hunting license and hunter safety card!!!
2. Your rifle must be checked for zero prior to hunting.
3. You are not allowed to shoot any other animal than what your license permits, including small game animals and birds!
4. Inform us of any health conditions or dietary restrictions at the time of the Pre-Hunt Meeting.
5. BE VERY CAREFUL ENTERING AND LEAVING ALL BLINDS, ESPECIALLY THE ELEVATED BLINDS. STAIRS CAN BE SLIPPERY, TAKE YOUR TIME AND GO SLOW, HANG ON TO THE RAILS AT ALL TIMES, USE EXTREME CAUTION ENTERING AND EXITING THE BLIND DOORS AND STAIRS!!
6. You must remain in your stand/blind/spot always unless directed by your guide. Please do not wander around the area.
7. Please remove all trash from stand/blind/spot after each hunt.
8. Please pack out whatever you pack in as well as picking up any other trash you may encounter. Please use the 'cathole' method of handling human waste, must be a minimum of 50 yards from any water, biodegradable paper must be used and all traces must be buried completely.
9. Remain in your stand/blind/spot after the shot, whether the animal goes down or flees and tracking is required to recover. Call your guide immediately and we will be there as quickly as possible.
10. Only the hunter that took the shot can follow up with the guides.
11. We encourage safe and ethical shots which result in the harvest of the animal as quickly as possible. All wounds will be treated as a harvested animal and the hunt will be over.
12. If a client misses two animals, the hunt will be over.
13. Elk or Moose? Beware of your target.
14. Be aware of Property Boundary Signs, and No Trespassing Signs.
15. No fires or smoking in the field.
16. Keep radios on at all times and at a volume allowing you to hear communications from guides.
17. Return radios to your guide after each hunt.
18. Emergency numbers are listed on the 1<sup>st</sup> page of this document, posted on the refrigerator and next to the phone in the ranch house.
19. First Aid kits are located in each guide's vehicle as well as at each of the lodges.
20. Please recycle all aluminum cans and plastic bottles; recycle bins are located: JCH - outside the kitchen door – Hepps – in hallway by kitchen.
21. Please write us a Google Review on your experience, its very simple, only takes a few minutes and helps us when it comes to booking new clients!



## **Eastern Colorado**

Welcome to Ivory & Antler Outfitters, LLC. Upon your arrival feel free to enjoy the facilities, unpack, and get prepared for the start of your hunt.

We are here to help you experience a deer hunt you will never forget. In order to accomplish this, please join us at 6:30 for a meeting with dinner to follow. Please bring your hunting license and hunter safety certificate to the meeting. Your hunting license and hunter's safety card **MUST** be checked by one of I&A Outfitters staff before you are allowed to hunt.

### **Staff**

Earl Oesterling (720)-218-4677  
Jed Prendergast (720)-289-5600

### **Important Phone Numbers**

Medical Emergency: (970) 848-5405  
Yuma County Medical Center  
1000 W 8th Ave, Yuma, CO 80759

Fire Department: (970)-332-4421  
145 Main St, Wray, CO 80758

Sherriff Department: (970)-332-4805  
6671 US-36, Joes, CO 80822



# Pre-Hunt Meeting

## State Rules & Regulations

1. Check for proper license.
2. Must carry Hunter Safety Card.
3. 500 inches of solid florescent orange must be worn above the waist including a hat or head covering.
4. Party hunting is not allowed.
5. No loaded weapons in a motor vehicle. Loaded is defined as a weapon with ammunition in the chamber. It is legal to carry an uncased weapon with ammunition in the magazine in a motor vehicle.
6. No shooting from a vehicle, on or across a public road. Must be 50 feet from the centerline of a road before discharging a weapon.
7. Scopes or any sighting device using artificial light, batteries, and electronic gear are prohibited during all hunting seasons.
8. Scopes, electronic, or battery powered devices cannot be incorporated into or attached to bow or quiver included lighted nocks.
9. Rifles must use bullets that weigh a minimum 70 grains for deer, pronghorn, and bear. 85 grains for elk and moose.
10. Semiautomatic rifles can hold a maximum of 6 rounds in the magazine and chamber combined.

## **Ivory & Antler Outfitters LLC Hunt Procedures**

11. Your rifle must be checked for zero prior to hunting.
12. You are not allowed to shoot any other animal than what your license permits.
13. You must remain in your stand/blind/spot at all times, unless directed by your guide.  
Please do not wander around the area.
14. Please remove all trash from stand/blind/spot after each hunt.
15. Remain in your stand/blind/spot after the shot, whether the animal goes down or flees and tracking is required to recover. Call your guide immediately and we will be there as quickly as possible.
16. We encourage safe and ethical shots which result in the harvest of the animal as quickly as possible. All wounds will be treated as a harvested animal and the hunt will be over.
17. We understand and agree although each situation is different, if a shot is taken and I&A Outfitters determines it was a poor judgment call by the hunter, whether blood is drawn or not, it will be treated as a harvested animal and the hunt will be over.
18. Be aware of Property Boundary Signs, and No Trespassing Signs.
19. No fires or smoking in the field.
20. Emergency numbers are listed on the 1<sup>st</sup> page of this document.
21. First Aid kits are in the guide's vehicles and at the camp house.
22. Harvest Restriction: Our goal is to harvest mature bucks only, by definition, mature bucks meaning at least 5 ½ years of age or older. As you will see, the deer herd has a real chance to mature, and we work with our landowners to ensure the management of game takes place as much as possible. We ask you to please make sure the deer you would like to harvest is a mature buck to protect our younger deer to help realize their potential.
23. **NO SHOOTING AT ANYTHING EXCEPT THE BUCK OR DOE YOU ARE GOING TO HARVEST ANYWHERE ON ANY OF THE PROPERTIES OR AROUND THE CAMP HOUSE OR AGRICULTURAL FIELDS/ROADS**