



Professional Wilderness Guides
Since 1931

7 Lazy P Outfitting, LLC Hunt Overview & Gear List

We feel that proper preparation and communication = a memorable trip.

If you ever have any questions, by all means call or email us anytime!

All dates given for your hunt are the actual hunt dates. You will need to arrive at the 7 lazy P Guest Ranch no later than the afternoon prior to the date of your hunt. Guests should plan to leave the lodge mid morning the day after your trip ends. In other words, an 8 day hunt will require a 10 day time commitment. So you will need to make your travel arrangements accordingly. If you would like to arrive early or stay later, please contact us for availability. The closest air service is Great Falls, MT which is about 80 miles from the Guest Ranch. We provide complimentary airport shuttle. We may ask guests to be patient and flexible as often times there is more than one person/group arriving at different times throughout the day and it helps us out if we can make one airport pick-up.

All lodging and meals the night prior to and after your trip are included in the price of your hunt. We have 5 guest cabins of various configurations to accommodate singles, couples, families, or small groups of friends. Meals are served in the lodge and guests are free to relax in the lodge or make their way up to the corral to get introduced to some of the horses and mules. The afternoon of your arrival is a good time to go through your bag to make sure you are ready and ask last minute questions about gear. There is also an opportunity to check your rifle, especially if you brought it on an airline. We have a small range set up with targets. We will ask for your final payment, get a liability waiver signed, and make sure we have a copy of your hunting license.

The place will be alive with activity as food and supplies are prepared and the crew is busy assembling gear and getting organized for the hunt. After dinner, there will be a group meeting to go over final details regarding the hunt you are on and any last minute questions.

FULLY GUIDED PACK-IN ARCHERY OR RIFLE WILDERNESS HUNTS

These traditional pack-in, fully-guided hunts will generally consist of a maximum of 6 hunters. The crew will consist of a guide for every two hunters, a packer, and a wilderness chef. The camp will be a traditional, backcountry tent camp with nice wall tents that will all have a wood stove in them along with cots and pads. The large cook tent will be the hub of the camp. The cook will have everything to prepare excellent meals. You can expect a table with chairs and nice warming stove to make for a comfortable place to relax and visit. There is a tent for the guides and packer and one or two tents for the hunters depending on how many hunters there are. There is an outhouse and a shower tent. You will access these camps on horseback and mule train. Hunting will usually be on foot, with horses being used to extend the hunting range. Scabbards are provided.

UNGUIDED PACK-IN ARCHERY OR RIFLE WILDERNESS HUNTS

These hunts are set up the same as the fully-guided camps described above. The only difference is the crew will just be a packer and a wilderness chef, and no guides. The hunters will go out on their own. The packer will tend to the stock and retrieve and pack out any game that is taken and can offer some suggestions on how to maneuver through the area. The wilderness cook will prepare and take care of all the meals and manage the food. The hunters will just need to bring their weapon & ammunition, personal gear, hunting license, etc. Hunting will be done on foot with the packer using the mules to retrieve game. This is a very comfortable camp.

DROP CAMPS

Drop camps are a great option for those do-it-yourselfers. They are best for 2-4 guests. They will generally consist of one wall tent with cots, a wood stove, and all the necessary kitchen essentials. The hunter/guest is responsible for food, personal gear, weapon & ammunition, hunting license, etc. Those that take advantage of a drop camp will get specific instruction on how to care for food. Bear-proof boxes will be provided for food storage. A packer will pack your gear and food into the camp and you will ride horses to the location. The packer will then take all the stock back out and will pick you up at the end of the trip. We require guests in the drop camps to have some form of communication (satellite phone) so that someone back at the Guest Ranch can be contacted should game need to be packed out.

GENERAL SEASON GUIDED BIG-GAME HUNTS

The general season big-game hunts are based from the 7 Lazy P Guest Ranch. These are fully-guided hunts with 2 hunters : 1 guide unless arrangements are made for a 1:1 hunt. Cabins with beds and bathroom facilities are provided for the guests on these hunts. Guests on these hunts will need to bring personal gear, weapon & ammunition. All meals are provided. Hunting will be on foot or horseback. Scabbards will be provided when riding.

HUNTER GEAR AND EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

I'm sure most of you who have hunted and spent time in the outdoors have come to know the type of gear and clothing that work best for you. We have compiled this checklist from our experiences in the area and terrain that we hunt. You can use this as a guide and final check when packing your gear. Keep your clothing functional. You want to be comfortable for temperatures from the 70's to the teens. If we get inclement weather it will be wet rain or snow.

The choices available now for clothing and gear is mind boggling, but the comfort and quality has never been better either. It is our opinion that you usually get what you pay for in gear. That being said, with a little research you can often find really good stuff for a lot less than the 3 or 4 premium brands that seem to always be in our view.

CLOTHING

Footwear

You need two pairs of boots. If you are coming on an early hunt, maybe one pair of lighter boots for mild weather, and a warmer, completely waterproof pair if it gets cold or wet. The rubber-bottomed, leather-topped boots are fine too, especially later in the fall. You will want some tennis shoes or rubber soled moccasins for camp, and you may want a pair of Crocs or water sandals for the shower. You do not need to bring western boots for riding. Make sure your boots fit and are broken in. Each year we get some hunters who get blisters and awfully sore feet from boots that are not broken in, don't fit properly, or are of poor quality.

Socks

You will sure want to have good quality socks, maybe a variety of medium and heavier weight. One pair for every other day should be adequate.

Underwear

Lots of options here. You should have 3 or 4 extra T-shirts, and again, depending on what time of the year your hunt is, you will want at least 1 long sleeve top. Two pair of long underwear, a nice light pair and maybe another a little warmer. We strongly suggest you shy away from cotton. There are lots of synthetics to choose from.

Pants

Jeans or similar trousers for riding and camp wear. You will want some lighter hiking type pants, especially in the early season. You will also need something for cooler, wetter weather. Many still use and swear by wool, there are also many hi-tech options that turn water but are lighter than wool.

Shirts

You should bring a couple of extra shirts in addition to what you wear in. Again avoid all cotton.

Outer Clothes

Personal preference and temperature tolerance will dictate what you want for outer clothes but along with your boots

Gloves and Hat

You need a couple pair of lighter gloves that can be dried out, and a couple pairs of warmer ones. Wool gloves are hard to beat, but there are lots of different choices so bring what works for you. Also bring a warm cap with ear flaps or a stocking cap as well as a baseball cap or cowboy hat for mild weather.

Rain Gear

If you have one of the waterproof hooded shell parkas you just need pants. There is some nice stuff that is quiet and gore-tex. The mountaineering shells are way to noisy. Just make sure you have enough to stay dry, especially when riding.

Toiletries

Everything has to be packed the day before we leave so bring a separate toothbrush, razor, etc. to use the night before we leave.

Bath towel

Prescriptions-

Duffel Bag

We see all shapes and sizes but please, try and bring a long rectangular bag. Small short or square bags are hard to put into loads and pack on the mules.

HUNTING GEAR

Orange vest - make sure it is of quiet material (Montana requires 400 square inches of hunter orange). An orange hat is not required.

Pack- A moderate sized pack is all you need. If they are very big they are too heavy and difficult to wear when you are horseback. You may want to consider one of the Cabelas Pack vests. They will hold all you need and meet the orange requirement

Hunting license - *Don't forget your license!* It has happened.

Binoculars - Good quality optics speak for themselves. Spotting scopes are really not necessary or practical for our early season elk hunts. If you are going to be on one of the later hunts looking for Mule Deer then a spotting scope can be useful.

Fire- Fire starting capability should be with you when hunting as well as Band-Aids for cuts.

Flashlight and/or headlight- headlights are great and can be a lifesaver. Doesn't hurt to bring a spare.

Electricians tape- for taping gun barrel and affixing tag to game.

Hunting knife - sharp, maybe also a steel.

Cartridges- one box will be adequate. Cycle any hand loads through your rifle to make sure they chamber properly. Bring some extra cartridges if you would like to shoot your rifle after your arrival. There will be a 100 yd range to check rifles.

Camera- bring an extra card and battery. If you are just using your phone for photos be sure and have a small battery pack to recharge your phone.

Water bottle- bring two.

GPS If you so desire. You may want to put in a roll of flagging to mark a route to an animal.

If you have other items you like to have with you when you hunt, that's fine, but save room for lunch, and remember that you have to carry it all and some of the hills can get steep.

FISHING GEAR

We only ask that you remember this is a hunting trip and that you keep fishing gear minimal. "Pack" rods only please. If you are with a group, just bring one or two rods and share if you need to. Check with us about fishing opportunities at the camp you will be going to.

SLEEPING BAG

Bring a good sleeping bag!! If you don't have one, get one! In Sept and early Oct it is usually in the 30's or low 40's at night. But we have seen it get into the low teens or single digits from time to time so you won't be sorry for having a bag of zero or lower temperature rating. The mummy, or semi-mummy style are warmer and save on space when it all has to go in on mules. On the backcountry hunts, we provide good cots with foam pads and there is a wood stove in each tent.

Now that you have all your stuff together, weigh it. If it weighs around 40 lbs, good job! If it is over 50lbs, dig through it. If you are with a group, get together and plan a little. Don't double up on items that you can all share. We will have lots of things in camp for you, like a gun cleaning kit, sharpening stones, etc. We will have all the food you can eat, including lunch goodies and trail snacks. There will be some courtesy beer available in camp for you beer drinkers. If you want to take extra beer or liquor, remember that there are only so many pack mules available so the amount of beer that you take is proportional to the amount of duffel you bring.

Your rain gear and light jacket will go with you on your saddle at all times. We will provide horn bags for your lunch, water bottles, camera, gloves, etc. There will also be a mule (the consumer protection mule) that travels with the group getting to a backcountry camp that will have the **first aid kit, satellite phone**, and room for any miscellaneous articles.

We want everyone to have a great trip and be comfortable. Bring what you think you need. We will help you go through it here if you have any questions or an exceptional amount of gear.

BEAR AWARE

We frequently get asked about bears and any risk they might present. Native wildlife, rugged country, weather, fire, horses & mules all present risk. It is the element of some risk that gives Wilderness its allure, but know that bear encounters in the Bob Marshall Wilderness are rare. Being mindful and aware is the best frame of mind for all activities. We have bear spray available on the trips for our staff and guests to carry when on hikes and fishing. Guests are welcome to bring their own. Be aware that bear spray is not allowed on any flights.

It is important to not have food in or near your sleeping tent. Any food or snacks should be stored in with the camp groceries which are in bear-proof boxes.

For more information about bear encounters, visit www.bebearaware.org.

FIREARMS

If you have questions about calibers we are happy to discuss recommendations with you.

Some guests inquire about bringing a handgun. Please contact us if you are considering bringing a handgun. If your intent is for protection against bears, know that bear spray is much more effective.

WATER FILTERS

We often get questions about drinking water in the backcountry. We have good water sources at our established camps. If you have concerns, feel free to bring your own tablets, steripen, straw, filter, etc.

COMMUNICATION

Being in the Wilderness is the perfect time to unplug and lose track of time!! There is not cell service where we are going, however, we do have a satellite phone on the trip for emergencies. If you choose to bring your own satellite phone (which is not necessary), we ask that you keep it discreet.

ALCOHOL POLICY

Moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages is allowed. 7 Lazy P Outfitting, LLC offers no alcohol for sale, obtaining libations is the responsibility of the client. Canned beer and boxed wine only, liquor should be in plastic to save weight. Staff will make final decisions on amounts taken based on available space and weight with other cargo. Inappropriate behavior, including vulgar language, will not be tolerated. 7 Lazy P Outfitting, LLC staff will intervene, and may remove, any individual who becomes disruptive or a threat to safety.

WHAT TO CARRY WITH YOU ON YOUR HORSE

Guests will be issued horn bags. We find these superior to traditional saddle bags, to carry lunch, 2 water bottles (the giant nalgene-type will not fit so bring a more moderate sized water bottles that you can easily drink from while riding), camera, gloves, ibuprofen, etc. Horn bags place that extra weight over the horse's center of gravity where it should be. Rain gear and extra jackets will be tied behind your saddle. There will be one mule that accompanies the guest group, who the crew will refer to as the Consumer Protection Mule. This mule will have a first aid kit and satellite phone. There is also room for extra gear that folks might have that does not safely fit on their saddle.

CAN I BRING MY PERSONAL SADDLE OR SADDLE BAGS?

We get more than a few folks who would like to bring their personal saddles. We understand the desire to do this, however there are lots of different saddles out there and many are not configured the best for what we are doing. If you are driving and you would like to bring your saddle along that is fine. Just know that we are very particular and 7 Lazy P Outfitting, LLC reserves the right to determine if your saddle will be acceptable.

Behind the cantle saddle bags are another item that guests sometimes show up with. We feel the horn bags are so superior to saddle bags that we now use them exclusively.

HORSEMANSHIP

An important part of our operation is our riding and pack stock. Without them, you and I wouldn't get very far. They're not just essential transportation, they are creatures we care deeply about and their welfare is one of our highest priorities. Making sure that you have a safe experience with your horse is important to us. We give a short seminar prior to departure from the trailhead, but here are some things to ponder in the meantime. Many of you have at least some riding experience, some may even have their own mounts, and some may have never been on a horse before. If this is your first time riding, or it has been years since you were on a horse, getting some riding in before the trip is great if you can do it. It should sharpen your skills and raise your confidence level.

- Your horse is a thinking, feeling creature. Be kind and don't ask him to do the impossible. He is your partner, not your slave. Treat them with respect and they will take care of you.
- When riding the trail, one of the crew will usually be in the lead. We will always stop and start together. Don't hesitate to call out anytime you need to stop for any reason. The entire group will wait, otherwise your horse will probably not stand still for you to remount as he will want to catch up to the other horses. This may be the number one opportunity for an accident. Make sure the person in front of you waits for you to get back on. Before re-mounting it is also a good time to check your cinch, especially if it has been awhile.
- Try not to become dead weight on your horse's back. This is really hard on them. It may not seem like it, but you can make a dramatic difference with your posture. Stay up on your stirrups and help the horse out when going up or down hills and crossing bogs and logs. Riding a horse should be an interactive endeavor. Put some life in your seat and try to move with the horse and not against him. They will appreciate it and so will we.
- We will get off and walk periodically. This is really important to avoid sore knees. Your butt may be tired at the end of the day, but that will recover quickly. Knees that are tweaked and sore from riding too long can give you trouble the whole trip. So, when you feel your knees getting stiff, get off and walk for 15-20 minutes. We will let everyone know when we are on a good stretch of trail to walk.
- The crew will do the saddling, but it doesn't hurt for you to keep an eye on your equipment. Make sure your cinch is snug before mounting and watch the position of your saddle and pad, especially going downhill. If you think there is a problem with any of your equipment be sure and let your guide know. It will probably only take a second to fix and could prevent a wreck.
- The best way to avoid any problems is to use good sense when riding. If it doesn't look or feel right, don't get yourself into a jam by ignoring your gut feeling.

DIRECTIONS TO THE 7 LAZY P

The 7 Lazy P Guest Ranch is located 27 miles west of Choteau, Montana. The physical address is 2250 Teton Canyon Road, Choteau, MT. If you plan to use google maps or siri to get you there, you probably won't make it as cell service ends before you get there. So here are some old fashioned directions.

From Choteau, Montana head north on highway 89. 4 miles north of Choteau, you will turn left or west onto Teton Canyon Road. There are signs at the junction for Teton Pass Ski Resort, Deep Canyon Guest Ranch, and 7 Lazy P Outfitting. This is a blacktop road to mile marker 18. After mile marker 18, the road turns to gravel. Go approximately 4 miles. Watch for signs for Cave Mountain Recreation Area and a sign for 7 Lazy P Guest Ranch. Turn left at those signs. Across the bridge and around the corner, and there you are at the 7 Lazy P!! The lodge phone is 406-466-2222. You can also text Danelle at 406-781-7496 if you need anything.

