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**PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY ~**

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING WHAT THIS PACKET SAYS**

This packet is to help you finalize your hunting plans and to welcome you to experience a hunt with TROG. We are sending you this packet to provide helpful hints, outline the few rules that TROG has, and basically help you better prepare for your hunt. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call us. The better you are informed about the hunt the better trip you will have.

**Conservation Stamps: Each hunter needs one and cannot hunt without it.** Most of the time the Wyoming Game and Fish will go ahead and charge you for a conservation stamp when you draw your license. You will want to double check your license to be sure. If they do not include it with your license, you can purchase a stamp online @[Wyoming Game and Fish Department - Apply or Buy](http://Wyoming Game and Fish Department - Apply or Buy) or you can buy one pretty at most sporting goods stores, Wal-Mart, and some convenience marts. Refer to the Wyoming Game and Fish regulations booklet...it is mandatory to possess one for hunting.

**Hunter Safety:** Anybody born after January 1, 1966, must have an approved hunter's safety course to hunt in Wyoming. You will be asked to provide proof of passing the class if checked in the field or at a check station. WE CANNOT TAKE ANYONE HUNTING THAT DOES NOT HAVE ONE! If you or someone you know needs a class, enroll in one now. If you have lost your verification, check with your Game & Fish Dept. for a copy of your certificate or card.

**The Hunt: Remember that you are purchasing a fair-chase hunt, not an automatic kill.** We understand that for many a guided hunt is a big financial commitment, and we will do our best to fulfill all your expectations both in and out of the field. The better shape you are in mentally and physically the more it will improve your chances of success on the hunt, as well as your enjoyment of the hunt. Be prepared to work for your trophy-we always get some easy kills, but that is not the norm. Most hunters have to work for their game, and a few go home empty handed occasionally. If you have any medical problems, please tell us ahead of the hunt, remind us at the beginning of the hunt and do not be bashful about telling your guides or others in camp when necessary. We will do what it takes to accommodate your needs as best we can. Keep in mind that even those in the best physical condition will be tested with the altitude here. It is to your advantage to be in the best physical and mental condition possible.

**Signing Licenses:** WHEN YOU GET YOUR LICENSE FROM Wyoming Game & Fish, **DO NOT SIGN IT!** If you sign the right-hand side of the license (the carcass coupon that you cut out when you make a kill) you will invalidate the license. We will then have to go to the Game & Fish District Office to obtain a duplicate. This will take time out of your hunt. We also suggest you familiarize yourself with the regulations. The regulations can be found on the Wyoming Game and Fish website.

**When to Shoot:** We do not force you to shoot an animal, but we might strongly recommend that you shoot. Your guides are experienced in the areas you will be hunting and are familiar with what kind of animals you will be seeing. **Listen to your guide** as they will tell you what they think of the animal. Often

hunters ignore their guides' advice and refuse to shoot an animal because it is early in the hunt. This is your choice, but we cannot guarantee that you will see anything else as big or bigger later in the hunt. However, we want to stress that ultimately the decision to shoot or not to shoot is yours. Sometimes, you will have ideas of how you think the hunting should be done. We encourage you to discuss these with your guides but ask that you keep in mind that these guides are very knowledgeable of the hunting area, the game and their habits, the do's and don'ts of hunting in specific area, and the physical capabilities needed to traverse the terrain to get to an area to shoot, and to retrieve an elk. We would not come to your place of employment and suggest we know how to do your job and so before you judge the choices your guide is making, please keep that thought in mind.

**Evidence of Sex on Carcasses:** It is not likely in most cases but, if you are by yourself and harvest an animal, DO NOT REMOVE ANY SEX ORGANS FROM IT WHILE GUTTING IT! In Wyoming it is the law that evidence of sex remains attached to the carcass. The head being attached to the carcass is not enough evidence. Leave sex organs attached!

**Weather:** Often hunters call at the last minute before departing to get the weather report. Since we are in the field and sometimes in remote areas, we recommend checking with the weather channel or the internet. But keep in mind the weather changes RAPIDLY in these areas. Stick with the recommended clothing and gear list included in this packet. For late Oct. through Jan. figure on colder weather, especially at night.

**Alcohol:** Simply stated, "Alcohol and hunting does not mix." After a day's hunt drinking in moderation is allowed, but the situation will be monitored by TROG personnel. If you wish to consume alcohol in the morning or afternoon, do not expect to hunt for the rest of the day. At no time will wild drunken situations be tolerated or allowed. Under no circumstances are firearms allowed out, cleaned, or displayed when alcohol is being consumed. Also please remember that you won't be the only hunter in camp. Be a courteous neighbor to other guests in camp. We also request that you don't bring glass bottles into the camp; cans or plastic are allowed. **Tangle Ridge Outfitters does not provide alcohol in the camp.** If you want to bring alcoholic beverages into camp, please plan to have purchased the alcohol before heading into camp.

**Clothing:** Pay attention to your clothing and how much noise it makes. Some hunting clothes are extremely noisy. Wool is great out here. Flannel and denim are also good. Avoid garments that are noisy especially for elk hunting. All firearm hunters must wear one garment of fluorescent orange, from the waist up on the outside of your clothes. There is no minimum square inch requirement. When you approach or stalk an animal, YOU CANNOT TAKE YOUR ORANGE OFF! You will be expected to wear orange at all times because the law requires it.

**Meeting time and place:** This is something that we need to arrange. Keep us posted about your travel plans i.e. are you flying or driving? Forwarding your flight itinerary is recommended. We will keep it in your file. Once we set a time and place it is important to stick to the plan. Many hunters get excited and anxious at the last minute; alter their plans so they arrive earlier than planned. Those of you that are considering showing up several days early for your hunt please be aware that although you arrive in town early, we will NOT be able to meet you until the scheduled time. Most likely we will be in camp with another group and will not be able to be reached until we are back in town. Sometimes things don't always go as planned and there have been instances when we are late. We try not to let this happen, but we ask that you be patient with us.

**Archery Hunters:** Practice shooting in full gear. Wear either a net on your head or face paint and gloves. If there is a chance you may be hunting out of a tree or windmill stand you will be required to use a safety harness. If you have your own, you may want to bring it. You WILL NOT BE ALLOWED in a TROG tree or windmill stand without a safety harness. We discourage mechanical broadheads, as their performance has been less than stellar. Archery Antelope hunters should practice shooting through a hole about 8-16 inches, to simulate blind conditions. It is important that you are comfortable with your bow and that you know what your shooting range is.

**Rifle Hunters:** We strongly suggest you use some sort of bipod to increase your accuracy on offhand shots. Practice using the bipods often, practice with it on your rifle. Most of the time the wind blows hard in Wyoming, and it is very difficult for most hunters to shoot accurately in the wind. Also, sometimes they are huffing and puffing because of the elevation. We cannot stress enough the ability to shoot accurately offhand (sitting, lying down, leaning against a tree, resting rifle on logs, branches, rocks, etc.). You should be prepared to crawl to get into position for a shot. Those of you with bad knees or joints might want to consider bringing knee pads. Generally, it is acceptable to have cartridges in the magazine at all times while in the field. NEVER chamber a cartridge until instructed to do so by your guide! NEVER HAVE A CARTRIDGE IN THE CHAMBER WHILE ON YOUR HORSE!

**Rifles:** THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT YOUR FIREARM IS THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH IT AND FEEL

CONFIDENT USING IT. We prefer hunters to have a bolt action rifle with a variable powered scope. If you do not have such a weapon or do not agree do not be alarmed—we are only stating our opinion for the ideal weapon. You should sight in your gun for 150-200 yards so that just in case a long shot does occur, you'll be ready. We feel that too much emphasis is placed on bullet weights, caliber vs. caliber, etc., and not enough discussion about physical condition, bullet placement and staying calm when preparing to shoot an animal. Again, practice shooting off hand. PLEASE do not purchase a new gun just before your hunt. If you feel you do need to purchase a new gun do it ahead of time, allow yourself plenty of time to practice and become familiar and comfortable with your weapon. Keep in mind that we will have firearms for you to use in the case something malfunctions with your weapon.

**Draw Blood Policy:** In cooperation with our ranch owners, we have established a “draw blood policy”. In the event that an animal is wounded and blood is found and the animal is not recovered your tag is considered filled. Guides will do everything possible to recover the wounded animal. We have implemented this policy to be able to continue to offer quality hunts and to comply with good management policies.

**Packing:** Pack-in hunts have a 70lb. limit on gear. You will pack-in the day before you are to begin your hunt. If you are flying you will need to arrive 1-day prior to your pack-in date. You should also plan to depart the day after you pack out. You will need to plan a motel stay the day you arrive and the night before you depart. Please see hotel information sheet for phone numbers. Please refer to the gear list for our suggestions on necessary gear.

**Cooperation:** This is such an important factor in the success of your hunt. We want you to be pleased with your hunt. If there are any problems, we encourage you to let Brent, Becky or the camp manager know about it ASAP, thus we will try to correct the situation immediately. It does not let us give you a better hunt if you wait until after the hunt to inform us about a problem.

Cooperation also includes listening to our suggestions. Don't be discouraged if you don't make a kill on the first day of the hunt. You are just as likely to kill a nice trophy in the middle or later part of the season as you are on opening day.

**Listen to your guide! Let him direct you in the best ways to be successful in the field. If your guide puts you on a stand, stay there. Do not wander off to do your own thing!** We conduct our camps on the basis that we have HUNTERS in our camps—not foreigners, races, old men, nuisance youngsters, or women, everybody deserves to be treated with the same respect as you expect.

**Expectations:** We run an ethical, fair chase, by-the-book operation. If any game violation, mishap or accident occurs by or through any hunter, it MUST and will be reported to the Wyoming Game & Fish Department. Our policy on wounded animals is if an animal is wounded it will be considered your trophy even if the animal is not retrieved. We are an honest, hardworking outfit, but make no guarantees related to hunt success. We have no control over any adverse weather conditions, nor do we have any control over a hunter's physical condition or shooting abilities. Although we all hope for ideal weather and premium shooting conditions for each hunt, we are totally at the mercy of Mother Nature. Whatever the conditions, your hunt will be a real-life experience, not necessarily like the “picture perfect” hunting video you may have seen. Prepare yourself mentally and physically for foul weather, long hard days in the field, and short nights. However, we do guarantee to do everything in our control to see that our guests have a safe, successful, and memorable experience with Tangle Ridge Outfitters and Guides. We believe hunting success is a great reward, but quality hunts are a must!

**Leave No Trace:** We participate in “Leave No Trace” practices in all of our camps. Basically, “Leave No Trace” is a commitment to leaving the area in better condition than we found it in. Please be courteous of taking care of ALL of your trash and the impact you have on the area. These practices are mandatory on the National Forest Service lands and we carry them over to our private ranches and leases.

**Physical Condition:** We believe a hunters' physical condition is directly correlated with hunting success. Hunters who can get out and travel with their guides almost always tend to “see” or “kill” animals, while those who cannot, limit their chances at success. Some of our hunts take place in semi-rugged terrain at an elevation of 6000-9000 ft. We recommend you prepare yourself, and now you have months to prepare. A lot of times committing yourself to a low impact exercise regime will get you pretty close to the physical condition you will need to be in to have an enjoyable and successful hunt. Also keep in mind that horseback riding is a part of our operation. While you need not be an equestrian expert some experience is helpful. However, if you have absolutely no horse experience rest assured, we have a horse for you. As with many other things in life, experience is helpful but not required.

**Flying:** This is covered on the enclosed flying hints sheet. Do not purchase tickets for flights until final arrangements with TRO are made. Leave a little time at the end of your hunt for meat processing. Expect to spend one evening before and after the hunt in a motel if you are flying.

**Tips:** Many of you have questions about the subject so we thought it best to discuss it. We do not favor mandatory tipping in any business. Tips are important ways to let your guide, cook, etc. know that you really appreciated their ability, work, and efforts. Another question often asked is what is the proper amount in which to tip? Several factors

should be considered when making this decision. For example, how much fun did you have? How hard did your guide work for you? Was the food good? Were accommodations satisfactory? We cannot say enough about our guides and cooks, they truly are the heart and soul of this operation. After doing some research we have found that 10% of your total hunt price is reasonable and customary to tip your guide and about 1-2% for your cooks, camp-jacks, wranglers etc. There are some situations when you may have two guides and, in that case, it is appropriate to split the tip however you deem necessary. Our intentions are not to imply that you should tip or say that you must, these are just simply suggestions to questions we have been asked before. Just keep in mind that these individuals are the ones who make your trip an exceptional experience for you. The workdays are long, and they do this type of work because they love the outdoors and hunting. Also consider that when you go out to a restaurant you usually expect to tip around 20% if the service is good and they are only giving you about an hour of their time. Your guides, cooks, and camp jacks are working around the clock for several days on your behalf. When you think of it in those terms 10% seems fair. Finally, when you do present the tip to your guide or cook it is best to do it in the field or immediately when you return to camp. A meaningful Thank You or discussion is appreciated, helps morale, and encourages the personnel to maintain a high level of performance.

**Taxidermy Work:** This is one of the most important factors of a big game hunt. Most of you will want to get the animal you harvest mounted. We have a taxidermist that we go to for our own personal mounts and that many of our clients have also used. For those of you who are flying you will not have to deal with the airline's extra-fees or miss-routed baggage if you use our preferred taxidermists here. However, you can take the animal to your own taxidermist and in this case our staff will help you prepare it for the trip home. We do have a couple of taxidermists that we recommend, please ask if you are interested in knowing who we suggest.

**Booking and Cancellation Policy:** No trip date is reserved until we have received deposits and completed booking contracts.

\*\*\* Hunts with draw type licensing require a \$500 deposit at the time of booking. Once a license has been secured a deposit of 1/3 of the remaining balance will be collected. A second deposit of 1/3 will be due in July/August and the final 1/3 will be paid before the hunt begins. Once a license has been secured through a draw the deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE, unless extenuating circumstances apply.

\*\*\*Hunts with over the counter or left-over licenses require a 1/2 booking deposit. Another 1/2 will be collected before your hunt begins.

\*\*\* You will also be required to provide credit card information for your license fees for the species you are hunting BEFORE the license application deadline (Elk- Jan. 31, Deer & Antelope May 31).

\*\*\* Personal checks and other forms of guaranteed funds will be accepted for initial and secondary deposits. Hunt balances must be paid by cash, money order, or Travelers/Cashiers/Certified checks, or credit cards (note that there is a 3.5% fee on credit card payments) unless paid in full prior to arrival. NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR YOUR HUNT BALANCE. NO LICENSE APPLICATIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE WYOMING GAME AND FISH UNLESS YOUR ACCOUNT IS CURRENT.

\*\*\*We do accept credit cards but there is a 3.5% fee added as a convenience charge.

**BY SUBMITTING YOUR BOOKING DEPOSIT YOU ARE AGREEING TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS STATED ABOVE!**

**In the event that a license is not drawn the options for return of the deposit are as follows. . .**

\*The deposit can be returned to the hunter no later than August 15<sup>th</sup>.

\*The deposit can be held for the following seasons drawing, if you choose to leave your deposit on your hunt the price you booked in at will only ever increase by the same percentage that the then

\*The deposit can be rolled into another hunt.

We cannot make any refund or adjustment for late arrivals, early departures, or "no shows" for any outing. NON- REFUNDABLE MEANS NON-REFUNDABLE. We reserve the right to return deposits and refuse service to anyone. While we try to accommodate everyone, hunters are our priority. So please call before booking a non-hunter as spaces are very limited. Please ask any questions(s) that you may have! We want you to feel 100% comfortable booking with Tangle Ridge.

**Clients will be responsible for meat processing, all taxidermy expenses, and all shipping charges, as well as motel expenses before and after your actual hunt dates.**

**--The "draw blood" policy states that if an animal is wounded, and blood is found your tag is considered filled. We have adopted this policy to be able to continue to offer quality hunts and to comply with good management policies. The decision will be made at the guides' discretion.**

**If you have questions or concerns, please ask.**

Please feel free to contact us to discuss and make arrangements for a deposit schedule that will work for you if the above policy presents problems. We are always willing to work with hunters to satisfy both parties. Let's Talk!

We want you to be fully informed about your hunt so you know what we expect of you and what you can expect of TROG. If you have any questions about the enclosed literature, do not hesitate to contact us. Our goal is to get most of the paperwork and questions out of the way so we can focus on providing a great hunting experience when you arrive.

Thanks for booking a hunt with Tangle Ridge Outfitters and Guides! We will be in touch with you throughout the year and look forward to hunting with you this fall.

Brent and Becky Sorensen ◊ Tangle Ridge Outfitters and Guides

## ***Motel List***

***Below are names and numbers of motels that we recommend. You are free to choose any lodging you would like.***

***Shell Campground- Before and after cabin or camp hunts, Mtn Lion Hunts,  
307-765-9924***

***Flying V Lodge-Perino Ranch Antelope and Deer Hunts  
307-746-2096***

## **Gear List**

*These are suggestions of what you should bring-if you are not sure please ask*

*Warm Sleeping bag and Pillow (we recommend a bag good for at least 0 degrees)  
Cot pad if hunting in the backcountry tent camp  
Pillow  
Waterproof hunting boots  
Cold weather, waterproof pack boots  
Cool weather jacket  
Cold weather coat  
Light leather gloves  
Cold weather gloves  
Warm weather brimmed hat or cap  
Cold weather brimmed hat w/ earflaps  
Sneakers or camp shoes  
Blue jeans or wool pants  
Wool or flannel shirts, sweaters  
Polypropylene or Thermax long johns  
Plenty of warm socks and underwear  
Rain suit, top and bottom  
Frameless day-pack or fanny pack  
Washcloths, towels, soap, Shaving kit, toothbrush, etc. Aspirin, sunscreen, chap stick etc.  
Dude wipes, body wipes, baby wipes etc.  
Any needed medications  
Flashlight and extra batteries, headlamp  
Phone charger or solar charger for the tent camp  
Water bottle x 2  
Binoculars  
Hunting knife  
Lighter  
Sunglasses  
Thermos for hot drinks  
**LICENSE, CONSERVATION STAMP and HUNTER SAFETY CARD**  
Rifle and 3 boxes ammunition  
Fluorescent orange vest and/or cap  
Bow and 3 dozen arrows, broadheads  
Camouflage clothes, headnet or face paint  
Any specialty drinks you prefer including alcohol and or soda  
Game bags in the appropriate size for the game you are hunting  
A good attitude*

## ***Flying Tips***

- Please check in at least two hours prior to your scheduled flight departure time.
- All firearms must be inspected in view of an airlines representative to verify they are unloaded. A signed declaration must be attached to all gun cases.
- Do not tape your gun case before you check-in with the airlines. Plan to carry a partial roll of duct tape in your carry-on baggage for sealing up your case in the presence of airline personnel.
- To avoid damage to firearms, only firearms stored in a lockable hard-sided container are permitted for transport. Regulations do not allow soft type gun cases.
- Each passenger may check up to 10 pounds of ammunition packed in either the manufacturer's original carton, or in a wood, metal, or fiber storage box.
- Some routine camping items are considered hazardous materials and are unacceptable for transport. If you are concerned, you may want to check with the airlines before arrival.
- Please note the maximum free allowance for checked baggage per person: Every airline differs so please be sure to check with your airline regarding luggage as well as the weapon, and transporting meat, hide, etc. Game meat shipped as baggage or freight must be frozen and we have found that no dry ice is allowed on most flights. If your meat is frozen solid, you should be fine. Also, some meat packers will ship for you.
- Do not purchase any airline tickets or make any reservations until finalizing your hunt schedule with us.
- Usually in mid to late August when the summer rush subsides, ticket prices drop considerably. We will pick up hunters at the recommended airports OR we will utilize airports that have shuttle service available at no charge.
- Carry all hunting licenses, medications, and extremely fragile items such as binoculars, cameras, and spotting scopes on your person or in your carry-on baggage. Remember no pocketknives.
- YOU CANNOT HUNT WITHOUT A LICENSE! Make sure that the license is on your person when you depart.
- Do not have knives, ammo, or other dangerous items in your carry-on baggage.
- If you plan on taking game meat back with you, please be prepared to either purchase waxed shipping boxes or bring a cooler with you. Sometimes processors can ship game meat to you. **The hunter will be responsible for all processing bills on any game meat left behind after the hunt.** There are several places which allow you to donate your meat or even a portion, ask for details at the processors.
- We urge hunters that are flying to leave their trophies at our recommended taxidermist here. This will save the airline shipping fees and not assume the risk of the airlines losing a trophy set of horns and/or hide. Replacement capes can be obtained but if your horns are lost or stolen, the hunt ends in tragedy.