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2026 Unguided Hunts

Overview

Unguided hunts are an option we provide for a limited number of hunters who have the experience and willingness to do a big game hunt themselves but do not have the gear or livestock to pull off a deep wilderness excursion. The camp we set up for unguided hunters is furnished with all camp necessities for a comfortable experience. The camp itself is set up in a nice meadow by Strawberry Creek in a productive hunting area. All you need to provide is your own provisions (food) for the hunt duration as well as your personal effects and of course hunting weapons.

The first day of your hunt your party will ride in with our packer to camp. We pack up your gear and provisions on mules and string them along as we take everyone and everything in on a 7 hour horseback ride into camp. It will take all day to get into camp. The packer will leave the next morning with all of the riding and pack stock. During your hunt your group is responsible for all camp chores and keeping the camp and equipment in a safe and clean condition. On the night before the last day of your hunt our packer will arrive with the pack stock and saddle horses in order to take you out of the mountains on the last day of your hunt.

We require a 2 person minimum in each unguided hunt, with a maximum of 4. We do not mix parties, so effectively each hunt is a private hunt for your group.

Unguided Hunt Rates

Hunt type	Season / Location	Status / Duration	Rate per person
Unguided Hunt 1 (drop camp)	Early Season Wilderness 9/13-9/21	Open 9 days	\$3,300
Unguided Hunt 2 (drop camp)	Early Season Wilderness 9/23-9/30	Open 8 days	\$3,300

Dates may move some as the hunts are confirmed. Please call with specific questions.

Deposits

We require a 30% deposit to confirm a hunt. Our deposit policy is below:

- Deposits are refundable if a hunter does not receive a license in the license drawing. If this occurs, the hunter may have the deposit refunded in full or may applied to a hunt the following year of equal price and duration.

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- In most all other cases deposits are not refundable. We encourage trip insurance to mitigate any unexpected medical or environmental issues beyond anyone's control. We recommend a trusted associate who can provide travel insurance: <https://www.montanaoutfitters.org/travelersinsurance/>

What's included in an unguided hunt?

- Minimum 2, maximum of 4 hunters in camp. Unguided hunts are single party only.
- All equipment in camp including heated wall tents, axes, saws, cook stoves, kitchen prep and serving equipment, tables, benches, lanterns, lantern fuel, cots, latrine facilities
- Gear and provisions packed into/out of camp
- Saddle stock for hunters to ride into/out of camp
- Harvested, properly attended meat packed from camp out to trailhead and to meat processor.
- Trips duration includes one day riding into and one day riding out of camp

Additional Considerations:

On National Forest lands in Montana all food must either be in bear-proof containers or lifted out of reach of bears. There is a meat pole on the camp periphery, and we provide one set of bear-proof food containers for dry goods.

Meat: Harvest, Field Prep and Transportation

Any animals harvested must be properly field dressed immediately and brought into camp as quickly as possible. This may include either boning the meat in the field or bring it in by quarters. We will discuss with you prior to departure your preferred method of field dressing the meat. It is very important that meat be taken care of as quickly as possible during the early season warm days, and also will go a long way to prevent predation of your meat from resident carnivores. We require a satellite communications device for each party. We prefer GPS-texting capability but satellite phone will work also. This is necessary for you to contact us if you have meat in camp. At that point we'll let you know when our packer will be coming by to take the meat out of camp. Our packers will not have time to retrieve meat from the field and bring it into camp for you.

2026 Big Game Seasons

- Early rifle season runs from 9/15 – 10/15

Montana Hunting Licenses

All non-resident licenses are allocated by drawing. License applications will be available in late January and must be received by the State by 4/1/2026. Prices and season dates will be finalized in early January 2023. Our policy is that we manage the license application process for all of our hunters. Once the prices are finalized, we are in touch with additional specific information we will need to complete the license application process on our end.

Non-Resident License Type	General Drawing	Comments
Elk/deer combination	\$1550	Includes upland game & fishing
Elk only	\$1200	Includes upland game & fishing
Conservation Tag	Included in pricing above	Required for any license above

Seasons and Districts

Location	Hunts	District	Season Length	Game
Early Wilderness	Unguided 1 - 2	150	9/15 – 10/15	Elk, mule deer, black bear, wolf