

# MUZZLE LOADER ELK AND MULE DEER GEAR LIST

Congratulations! If you have drawn a license for the September Muzzleloader Elk or Mule deer, you are in possession of a highly coveted tag. Through the years, we have taken our most impressive trophies during this September hunt. The weather in September is generally very mild. Elk are bugling, aspen leaves are turning and mule deer are in velvet. It has long been my favorite hunt.

Both Elk and Mule deer tags are available by drawing only. The application deadline is generally the first of April. Remember that any Colorado hunter utilizing a firearm is required to wear 500 square inches of blaze orange.

I recommend .54 calibers for elk although .50 is legal in Colorado. Colorado does not allow sabot bullets, pyrodex pellets or scopes. I have found that round balls are not nearly as effective as say Maxi balls, Buffalo bullets, or the Hornady Great Plains bullet. (I would be happy to discuss bullets and our experiences with them in over 30 years of guiding black powder hunters.) Many traditional black powder guns such as the original Hawkins have a slow rate of twist meaning that they will not stabilize conical projectiles. If your rifle has a twist rate of one in 60, 66 or 72 it may only shoot patched round balls accurately.

The key to a successful Muzzleloader hunt is to be thoroughly familiar with your chosen weapon. Please note that certain factory sights such as those found on Thompson Center Hawkins and Renegades are unsuitable to be carried in a rifle scabbard unless they are shimmed. These sights employ a spring which is often depressed as the rifle is thrust into the scabbard. When withdrawn they will often stay depressed, particularly if there is a good deal of moisture in the air. I have seen this happen several times through the years, resulting in some missed opportunities! I recommend that these sights be replaced with Williams's peep sight.

## RECOMMENDED RIFLE ACCESSORIES:

Sling	Fiberglass Ramrod	Nipple cover	Nipple Wrench
Extra Nipple	Nipple Prick	Patch Puller	Bullet Remover
Percussion Caps	Powder	4 Speed Loaders	2 Boxes of Bullets
Cleaning Patches	Solvent		

## The following personal gear is recommended

Camo Clothing	2-heavy chamois shirts	1-wool shirt
2- long underwear bottoms	3-long underwear tops	Regular underwear
4-heavy socks	Down vest, sweater or polar fleece top	Handkerchiefs
1-Goretex boots	1-rubber bottom un-insulated boots	Brimmed hat
Camp shoes	Camo gloves	Binoculars
Sunglasses	Sleeping bag rated to 10 degrees	Camera and film
Flashlight and batteries	Quiet Gore-Tex rain suit	Fanny or day pack
Water bottle	Compass	Knife