

## HUNT 2: Late-Season Rifle Elk

This hunt takes place from late October through the end of November. The mountains are tall and the weather can be cold and rough. The pack is going to be heavier from the start because of the additional cold weather gear.

This is a trip you'll want two hunters for, so the

pack weight is based on two people splitting some essential gear. Oftentimes, I'll also split up the spotting scope and tripod if we'll be hunting together and we have only one. On this hunt, you want to be prepared for bad weather, so this list will get you through until the season's end. This same kit can be expanded to any late-season elk or deer hunt in the Rocky Mountain West.

For this particular pack dump, the hunt takes place in a general elk area. The goal for gear on this hunt is comfortable and bombproof in bad weather, while still being light enough to get into the backcountry where the untouched elk are hiding.

**Hunt plan:** The hunt is five days. The style of hunt is by setting up a solid base camp after packing in from the trailhead and hunting from camp

## Late-Season Rifle Elk Hunt

### 5-day Backcountry Gear List

|              |                         |  |
|--------------|-------------------------|--|
| Pack         | Bag & Frame             | Outdoorsmans Long Range                                      |
| Clothing     | Jacket                  | UA Ridge Reaper Infil Windstopper Jacket                     |
|              | Pants                   | UA Ridge Reaper Infil Windstopper Pant                       |
|              | Shirt                   | UA Mid Season Reversible Wool Base Crew                      |
|              | Socks (2 changes)       | Heavyweight wool or synthetic (NO COTTON!)                   |
|              | Underwear (1 change)    | Synthetic (NO COTTON)  |
|              | Insulation layer bottom | UA Ridge Reaper Alpine Ops Pant (down)                       |
|              | Insulation layer top    | UA Ridge Reaper Alpine Ops vest (down)                       |
|              | Ballcap                 | Solid back type for late season                              |
|              | Beanie                  | Ridge Reaper Beanie  |
|              | Gloves (2)              | (1) heavyweight waterproof outer glove, (1) midweight liner  |
| Optics       | Bottom Base             | UA Mid Season Reversible Wool base                           |
|              | Boots                   | Kenetrek Mountain Extreme                                    |
|              | Insoles                 | Superfeet (green)  |
|              | Raingear top and bottom | UA Ridge Reaper Gore-Tex Pro Shell                           |
|              | Spotting Scope          | Vortex Razor HD 11-33x50                                     |
|              | Tripod                  | Vortex Summit SS-P   |
|              | Binoculars/Rangefinder  | <b>10x42 Vortex Fury Rangefinding Binoculars</b>             |
|              | Cooking                 | Stove and pot system   |
|              |                         | MSR Reactor 1.7 L  |
|              |                         | Fuel   |
| Game Care    |                         | MSR 8 oz. Iso-Pro  |
|              | Spoon                   | Titanium Long-Handle Spoon                                   |
|              | Cup                     | Plastic backpacking cup                                      |
|              | Game bags (2)           | Caribou Gear bags (28" x 48")                                |
|              | Game bags (2)           | Stone Glacier Load Cell Dry Bag game bags                    |
|              | Pack liner (1)          | Contractor garbage bag                                       |
|              | Knife                   | Gerber Vital big game knife with extra blades                |
|              | Rope                    | <b>Rapid Rope (15 ft)</b>                                    |
|              | Water                   | Bottle   |
|              |                         | Nalgene bottle: 32 oz. with some duct tape stored around it! |
| Sleeping     |                         | Camp water   |
|              |                         | MSR 10L Dromedary  |
|              | Purification            | <b>Steripen Quantaum</b>                                     |
|              | Pad                     | Thermarest Prolite   |
|              | Bag                     | Mountain Hardware Phantom, 15 degree                         |
|              | Liner                   | Sea to Summit Thermolite Reactor Extreme Mummy Bag Liner     |
|              | Tent                    | Stone Glacier Skyscraper 2P tent (4-season)                  |
|              | Electronics             | Phone – mapping/camera                                       |
|              |                         | Smartphone with On-X maps off-line downloads                 |
|              | Charger                 | Dark Energy Poseidon   |
| Pocket Items | Headlamp                | <b>Black Diamond Revolt (with batteries)</b>                 |
|              | Batteries               | 8 extra AAA batteries for headlamp                           |
|              | Satellite messenger     | Garmin InReach   |
|              | Storage bag             | Outdoor Products drybag (small)                              |
|              | Multitool, Lighter      | Gerber Suspension Tool, Standard Bic                         |
|              | Rifle Setup             | Rifle  |
|              |                         | <b>Christensen Ridgeline .300 WSM</b>                        |
|              | Scope                   | Vortex Viper HS Long Range 4-16x50                           |
|              | Ammo                    | Nosler 180-grain AccuBond (10)                               |
|              | Cover                   | Solo Hunter Mountain Lite rifle cover                        |

The total pack weight for this hunt with this gear is 38 lbs. including food. If it's really cold, you may want more calories. This weight also includes one 32 oz. Nalgene bottle filled with water. The tent and stove weight are split between two hunters. The pack is holding the down base layers and Gore-Pro raingear, but the jacket and thermals are worn. The weight doesn't include the rifle or items in my pockets and assumes using phone as a camera. The rifle weight is 8 lbs, 3 oz. An extra camera and batteries weigh in at 2 lbs.

### Vortex Fury 10x42



These binos integrate the rangefinder into the binocular. They are consistent ranging out to 1000 yards and streamline two vital pieces of gear into one unit. The optics are good and it's nice to be able to range at the higher power. They are perfect for this type of hunt and the rangefinder does a good job of angle compensation at longer ranges. **Cost:** \$1599.

### Rapid Rope



I prefer this to p-cord in late season because it's a little wider and easier to handle in the cold. It has a strength of 1100 lbs. and works great for dragging quarters, hanging meat, or tying off an elk to keep it from sliding down the mountain. It's also great for things around camp. I like to carry 15 feet or so. **Cost:** \$16.99.

### Steripen Quantaum



The Steripen is great because it takes up less space than a pump and works faster than iodine tablets. Plus, for longer trips, you start to get sick of weird-flavored iodine water. The total weight with batteries is 6.2 oz. The light weight and size allows you to carry it in your pocket if you need. You also don't have to worry about it freezing on late hunts. **Cost:** \$49.95

### Black Diamond Revolt



This headlamp is 300 lumens and can be charged or take AAA batteries. The weight with the batteries in is 3.5 oz (eight extra AAA batteries weighs 3.5 oz). It's extremely bright and rugged. It also features green and red lights, and can easily be dimmed, brightened, or locked to prevent battery loss by accidentally turning on. **Cost:** \$45.

### Christensen Ridgeline .300 WSM



Super lightweight carbon-fiber barrel, and sub MOA accuracy. The stiff carbon fiber barrel allows for more accurate shots in succession than a thin barrel. It acts like a heavy bull barrel without the weight. These are top-of-the-line firearms that are easy to carry and shoot extremely well. **Weight:** 6.3 lbs. **Cost:** \$1995.