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## Hess Ranch Elk Hunt

This letter and packet is a generic packet of information intended to prepare you for your hunt. Here are some important points to bear in mind.

1. Please fill out and send in **"Hunter Profile,"** even if you have sent one in from a previous trip. Indicate if you want WSI to process your hunting license, and if you do, please send license fees (\$48 for a nonresident license fee) in with your profile. All payments should be made payable to Wildlife Systems, Inc.
2. **Remember, all trophy fees must be paid in cash, cashier's check, credit card (we adjust by 3%), or electronically through our invoice system.**
3. No airport shuttles are provided on this hunt, so hunters who are flying will need to rent a vehicle; the closest commercial airport is Midland/Odessa, which is a ~3 hour drive from the ranch.
4. Depending upon the exact time of the year, you may either be staying at the Gage Ranch and commuting to the Hess or you will be staying in Marathon. Please check with the guide or with Greg Simons prior to the hunt to ensure that you go to the appropriate location.
5. Check with weather forecast on internet to determine what type of clothing to wear.
6. Bring sunscreen and bug repellent.
7. Trophy fees are assessed on any wounded animals.
8. Read through this packet of information to familiarize yourself with general details.

We look forward to serving as your host on this hunt. Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Simons".

Greg Simons

*"Serving Hunters' and Landowners' Needs Since 1987"*

# WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS

Thank you for choosing to be our customer and for the confidence you have placed in us. The staff of Wildlife Systems, from our office to our camp, will do everything within our means to earn your continued trust and goodwill. Your hunting success and personal satisfaction are very important to us.

We have been serving hunters from around the globe since 1987. Our customer's loyalty and continued participation within our hunting programs is what has fueled the growth of Wildlife Systems.

Just as you have certain expectations of us, we have certain expectations of you. Here are a few ideas that will help ensure a successful hunt:

1. Read through this packet to familiarize yourself with various aspects regarding your hunt.
2. Know what is included with your package. Refer to your contract if you are uncertain.
3. Attend your hunt with an open frame of mind. There are many variables we deal with in conducting hunts, thus, we ask you to be understanding of various situations that are inherent to a hunting trip.

Once again, thank you for being our customer. We look forward to seeing you in camp.

## HUNTING LICENSE

- All Texas hunters who were born on or after September 2, 1971, must have successfully completed a Hunter Education Training Course. However, if you have not taken this course and were born after this date, you can purchase a **Deferred Hunter Education Option (#166)** for an additional \$10.
- Wildlife Systems can obtain your necessary hunting license. **Please indicate on the enclosed "Hunter Profile" if you do wish for us to obtain your license.** If you do not indicate that you do want us to obtain your license, we will assume you are sending off for it yourself. If you choose for us to obtain license, it will be given to you upon your arrival.
- **Nonresident Five-Day Special Hunting license (#157)** is \$48.00 which covers a 5-day period.
- For nonresidents who are less than 17 years of age, purchase a **Youth Hunting license (#169)** \$7.00 and covers anything they may take, except waterfowl.
- If you would rather purchase your license yourself, you can do so by going online at [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#). It will take up to 6 weeks to receive your license so make sure you go online and purchase with enough time for them to send you the license.

# TRAVEL TIPS

A hunters journey to and from their hunting destination is a major part of the trip. Because of great distances between point of origin and hunt location, many hunters choose to fly to eliminate road time. There are a few regulations that hunters need to keep in mind that will make their trip more smooth and enjoyable. Additionally, there are certain procedures that if followed, make your airport transition much easier.

## Helpful Hints:

- Try to never over pack suitcase any more than what is necessary. Duffel bags work well for most hunters' needs.
- When possible, lock all luggage with a TSA approved lock.
- Whether its carry-on or checked luggage, be sure to attach your name, address, and phone number on each item.
- Pack your highly valuable items, if possible, in a carry-on, particularly those items that are fragile.
- Always check in approximately one hour prior to scheduled departure. At that time, your firearm will be subject to inspection to ensure no shells are in the chamber.

## Requirements and Restrictions:

- On most airlines, each person is allowed to have one carryon bag, free of charge. You can also check your luggage, with the most common charges being: first checked bag fee: \$25; second checked bag fee: \$35; additional bags fee: \$150 per bag. Thus, you might consider bringing a large duffel bag, gun case, and carry-on's (i.e., camera bag). Check with your airline to make sure of their specific charges.
- Most airlines will charge additional fees for overweight and oversized bags. The most common charges being: Overweight bags: \$100 for 50 – 70 lbs and \$200 for 70 – 100 lbs. Oversize bags generally run around \$200. Check with your airline to make sure of their specific charges.
- All firearms must be transported in a hard-sided container capable of being locked by a TSA approved lock.
- While ammunition can be carried in the gun case in a separate container, shells cannot be in the chamber. You are allowed up to ten pounds of ammo, which must be shipped in checked baggage. We recommend transporting ammo in a duffel bag. Ammo must be in some type of ammo container.
- Law prohibits the transportation of hazardous materials such as compressed gasses, flammable solids and liquids, poisons, and corrosives, which includes lighters.
- You are not allowed to carry on knives of any sort, but you can put them in your checked baggage.
- Check with your airline or travel agent to see any other rules, limitations and additional fees that they may charge.

## Shipment of meat, hides, and antlers:

- We generally ship all hunters' meat in ice chests that are provided by the hunter, which are checked at the airport as luggage. We freeze all meat and tape each chest. If hunters want meat, they need to take it back with them.
- If hunter prefers, we may be able to arrange to have meat fully processed by a local commercial processor. If so, the arrangement is solely between hunter and processor. We do not ship meat.
- All trophies are caped and frozen. If hunter prefers to have a taxidermist of his own do the work, we either ship the cape and antlers back with the hunter in a container (i.e., ice chest, box, duffel bag, etc.), or we can ship at a later date to them or their taxidermist.
- If hunter wishes to leave their trophy to be mounted at our taxidermist, we will put taxidermist in touch with hunter to discuss pose and payment, and taxidermist will ship mount to hunter upon completion of work.

**One other matter:**

Always keep in mind that certain unexpected occurrences can and do happen from time to time when traveling by air. Such things as delayed or canceled flights, and luggage not arriving with hunter, are but a few things that are possible. When this happens, it is recommended that you understand that throwing a tantrum is not going to do you a bit of good. For missing luggage, when you arrive, we will file necessary claims, and luggage will generally arrive on the next flight. If worse comes to worse, we will do what we have to do to outfit you with necessary gear so that you lose no hunting time. Just try to take all this in stride, and your trip will be much more enjoyable.

# WHAT TO BRING

Having the proper equipment, clothing, and travel items can make for a much more comfortable and enjoyable hunting trip. It is better to be over prepared than under stocked, but remember there are certain weight and baggage restrictions when traveling by airplane. The following checklist should cover some of the essentials.

**Primary Checklist**

- gun(s)
- ammo (40 rounds minimum)
- binoculars
- flashlight
- hunting clothes\*
- flight tickets
- camera
- hunting boots
- hunting cap
- rain parka
- gloves
- pajamas or warm-up's
- canteen
- knife
- back or fanny pack

**You May Also Want To Bring**

- sunglasses
- book for reading
- ice chest
- spotting scope
- special medication
- liquor or alcohol\*\*
- video camera
- sun screen
- bug spray
- bit of string and tape
- preferred snacks
- shooting bipod

\* Texas weather can be highly variable from day to day, with daily temperature swings ranging 40 degrees or so. As a rule of thumb, we recommend clothing be based on the following norms.

<u>Time of Year</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
November – February	25	75
March – May	40	85
June – August	60	100
September – October	45	90

**\*\*Check the weather on your computer for local forecasts a few days prior.\*\***

\*\* We do not provide alcoholic beverages in camp. We will allow you to BYOB, but we will enforce certain drinking/hunting policies.

# MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

It is generally understood that nobody likes hidden expenses when on a hunting trip. Services included in your hunting package are outlined in your contract. As with most hunting excursions, there are a few miscellaneous expenses that may or may not be incurred during your Wildlife Systems hunting trip. The following is a summary of various costs, in addition to your package, that you should bear in mind.

1. **Airfare** – Wildlife Systems’ hunt packages do not include airfare. We do provide shuttle to and from the nearest airport on most hunts, but this is subject to arrival and departure times. Check with us about details.
2. **Shipping of meat, capes, and antlers** – Many of our hunters take their meat and trophy back with them on the airplane. However, we do sometimes ship cape/antlers to hunter or their taxidermist. We do not ship meat. If you are interested in the meat, you need to take it back with you. All shipping charges will be reversed and some form of crating/handling fee will be charged to the hunter. The following price structure will generally prevail on crating/handling fees, plus cost of materials:
  - White-tailed Deer \$30
  - Mule Deer \$30
  - Elk (unsplit) \$150
  - Elk (Split) \$50
  - Turkey \$30
  - Exotics (Small) \$30
  - Exotics (Large) \$40 - \$75

These fees include boxing/crating of both the cape and antlers/horns. Price on a per animal basis may be reduced when multiple animals are shipped in a single container. The above prices do not include shipping costs.

3. **Taxidermy** – Wildlife Systems can arrange for providing taxidermy services at hunter’s expense payable to the taxidermist. We only work with reputable, award-winning taxidermists.
4. **License and Tags** – All hunting/fishing licenses are at hunter’s expense. Wildlife Systems generally takes care of obtaining licenses, but hunter is charged exact cost of license. Make sure you have hunter profile with license info sent to us at least 10 days prior to hunt if you want WSI to process your license.
5. **Gratuities** – Though gratuities are not required on Wildlife Systems’ hunts, it is customary for hunters to tip both their guide and the cook. Use your discretion in determining what you feel is a fair amount. Tips are always appreciated by camp staff. Here is a suggested “rule of thumb” on tipping amounts:

<u>Hunt Price</u>	<u>Gratuity Amount Per Hunter</u>	
Up to \$1,500	\$200 - \$300 (Guide)	\$50 - \$75 (Cook)
\$1,500 - \$3,000	\$300 - \$400 (Guide)	\$75 - \$100 (Cook)
\$3,000 - \$5,000	\$400 - \$500 (Guide)	\$100 - \$125 (Cook)
\$5,000+	10% - 12% Hunt (Guide)	\$125 - \$150 (Cook)

6. **Other** – It is always wise to carry some extra cash with you for incidental travel expenses (gifts, airport meals, parking fees, etc.). It is also a good idea to have several \$1.00 and \$5.00 bills for airport gratuities.

It is our intention to provide you with a comfortable, fun hunt with no unwanted surprises. Make sure you are familiar with what is included with your hunt package to ensure that no hassles are encountered.

# PAYMENT POLICY

- Deposits may be paid with personal or business check, so long as this payment precedes hunt by 30 days.
- Balance payments are due 30 days prior to beginning of hunt. On hunts involving trophy fees, those fees may be paid at time of hunt in cash, cashier's check, or credit card.
- **All credit card payments will be accessed a 3% processing fee on the amount being charged.** We accept Visa, Master Card, and American Express.
- You can also electronically, via Intuit with your checking account, with no processing fee. If you prefer this payment method, just ask us to send you an invoice with our online secure instructions.

Cancellation Policy – No payments will be refunded unless cancellee can be replaced at the standard hunt cost.

We will make every effort possible to replace cancellee at full hunt value, but Wildlife Systems is not responsible for replacing cancellee, and no refunds will be granted unless cancellee is replaced at full price.

## FIREARMS & SHOOTING

Your firearm and your ability to adequately handle and use this piece of equipment with proficiency play a critical role in the ultimate outcome of your hunting trip.

### **Elk**

#### **Calibers & Loads**

Elk are big, hardy animals. Minimum bullet weights on this hunt should be 160 grain bullet, that is well constructed...no Nosler Ballistic Tips, hollow points, or Berger bullets. Partitions, A-frames, and bonded bullets are good choices. Recommended calibers are 30-06, 300 Win Mag, 7 MM, 338, or other calibers in that range.

#### **Shooting Practice**

It cannot be overemphasized how important it is for you to put some time in at the range. We recommend you visit the range a minimum of three times during the six-week period preceding your hunt, firing a minimum of ten rounds per trip. Make sure you practice from shooting positions that are realistic field situations, such as prone, elbows on knees, leaning against a tree, etc. If you plan on using a gun-mounted bipod, be sure to practice with one.

We recommend that your gun be sighted in for 100 yards, dead on. If you decide to sight your gun in high at 100 yards, it should not be more than 1.5 inches high at that distance.

# HUNTING/CAMP POLICIES & RULES

1. No drinking of alcoholic beverages is allowed in the field. If drinking of alcohol is done during daylight hours, it is up to a Wildlife Systems staff member to decide whether or not that particular hunter will be allowed to hunt that day. **Safety first!**
2. If hunter is dropped off at a blind, hunter shall not leave that blind to hunt on foot. Walk hunting is allowed only when accompanied by a guide. In the event that a game animal is wounded, but not killed, hunter is to stay in blind until guide arrives to assist in trailing.
3. Any wounded animal will be treated as a kill. If blood, bone, or meat is found, animal will be considered wounded, and we will make a reasonable effort to recover such animals. Even if no blood, bone, or meat is found, if it is obvious that animal was hit, this will be treated as a wounded animal; guide will make this call. Hunter may or may not be allowed to continue to hunt if they wound an animal, depending upon Wildlife Systems' ability to harvest extra bucks from that particular property and depending upon the specific situation. A Wildlife Systems staff member will make the final decision on whether the hunter will have an option to hunt for another animal, and hunter will pay a predetermined harvest fee if another animal is taken.
4. When being transported in a guide's vehicle, no shells are allowed in the chamber, and barrels should be pointed toward the floor of the vehicle. No loaded guns are allowed in or around the camp area.
5. Hunters are forbidden to shoot any animals that are not specified in their contract, unless given permission by guide. In the event that a hunter kills game in excess of his allowed limit, hunter will be charged a harvest fee comparable to the standard hunt price for that animal.
6. Hunters are expected to not leave trash in the field or in the blinds.
7. If hunters should open any gates while on the premises, gates should be locked or latched the same way they were found.
8. Should any hunter's action become an unreasonable risk factor to other individuals attending the hunt, hunter may be immediately dismissed from the premises, and no money will be refunded.
9. Should any hunter's behavior become unruly, hunter may be dismissed from premises with no money refunded.
10. No pets allowed on the ranch.

***Let's all have a safe and enjoyable hunt.***

# HUNTER PROFILE

(Elk Hunt)

**Please complete and return either by mail, email or fax to 325-947-7703**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (WK) \_\_\_\_\_ (Hm) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ **(SS# required if WSI obtains license)**

Drivers License # \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Hunter Safety # \_\_\_\_\_

**(Required in TX if born on or after 9/2/71)**

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ **(you can pay a one-time \$10.00 waiver fee)**

- Do you want Wildlife Systems to obtain your Hunting License? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ **(If yes, include payment with profile.) Nonresident Deer #105 (\$315), Youth #169 (\$7), Turkey #118 (\$126), Exotic #157 (\$48)** (Texas Resident license also available) or **Purchase your license online at: [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#).**
- Person/Company responsible for payment (if other than yourself): \_\_\_\_\_
- Please list members of your hunting party: \_\_\_\_\_
- Please list Taxidermy and/or shipping info for your antlers, capes, etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

## Medical Information

Do you have any Special Dietary Needs or Request: \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you have any physical impairment that we should know about? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you have any allergy problems that we should know about? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the most common problems or dislikes you have observed while on your hunting trips: \_\_\_\_\_
- What hunting trips (game animals & birds) do you plan on trying to attend over the next five years? \_\_\_\_\_
- Can we use your name and telephone number on a reference list? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_
- Can we use your hunting photo on our website, brochures or advertisements? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Please let us know your travel arrangements. Please list all flight details; or if driving, please list arrival and departure times. **Arrival:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Departure:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **\*We do not provide shuttles on our elk hunts\***