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**10 Things to Consider when Choosing an Elk Hunting Outfitter**

This a just a partial list. The main thing is that you question and interview your potential outfitter/guide with the right questions. Calling them up and interviewing them is much more effective than emailing them a long list of questions to answer. You can get a better sense of the answers when you speak to the actual outfitter. The point of this list is for you to ask the right questions. Surprises are only good if they are positive. Ask a lot of quality questions and assume nothing. Be sure to take notes while going through this interview process, inconsistencies are red flags.

**1. Locate** a selection of elk hunting guides and outfitters for the state where you will be hunting. Lists are available on guide and outfitter directories such as Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association (www.wyoga.org). Additionally, request referrals from friends and your local pro shop for guides and outfitters.

**2. Select** your outfitter early. One or two years in advance is not to early. Most good outfitters are booked in advance. Many hunters have fallen into the trap of using "Point Firms" to administer when they will hunt. With no hunt booked when you draw your coveted license you may be forced to go with a less than desirable or mediocre outfitter. The "Good Outfitters", typically will manage your points for you.

**3. Spend** more time interviewing the references. Ask for the uncut list or at the very least interview several hunters that did not kill an animal. Take notes of each interview.

**4. Will the outfitter use horses?** How much riding will you be doing? What kind of terrain is it. What is the typical and the longest possible ride out of camp. Do you ride in the dark and why?

**5. Will we hunt on public or private land**? What is the outside hunter pressure like?

**6. Ask the outfitter** about any hidden or other charges. Examples: Trophy fees, transportation fees, license fees and caping fees etc... Good Outfitters are not afraid to discuss this information.

**7. How experienced** are the guides? How long have they worked for you? How much experience do they have in the area that you will be hunting? How does the outfitter decide which guide to put with which hunter? Will you be hunting with the outfitter himself?

**8. How will the outfitter** take care of the meat and hide of your animal and will there be additional costs?

**9. How long has the outfitter been in business?** What is his state or provincial license number? Has the outfitter ever lost his license due to a game violation convictions? Is the outfitter properly insured? Cross check these answers with the State Board of Outfitters and Guides (Wyoming: **http://outfitters.state.wy.us/, phone** **(800) 264-0981**)

**10. Ask these same questions** of the references and write down your findings so you can compare them later. Be sure to ask the references this important question "Would you hunt with this outfitter again and why?"

**Call Taylor, and talk about elk hunting or how you "Select an outfitter."**

**307 399 8141**

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**Part II**

**Things to consider when Selecting an Elk Hunting Outfitter**

This is the second 10 Things to Consider when selecting an Elk Hunting Outfitter. Keep in mind in order to be successful in your search for the right outfitter be sure to write down the answers and be able to cross reference between visits with the outfitter and his references.

**1. Ask the outfitter** about any hidden or other charges. Examples: Trophy fees, transportation fees, license fee, caping fees etc... Good Outfitters are not afraid to discuss this information.

**2. A very important** question for the references: Did you see of any questionable or unethical behavior on the part of the guides, cooks, staff or outfitter during your hunt? If so please explain.

**3. What happens** when you shoot and wound an animal...is the hunt over? This is not a bad thing...but you should know up front.

**4. When are payments due?** Terms, deposit, schedule of payments, and means of payment should be well defined. Cash...Money Order...Checks...Credit Card. This should be clear with no surprises.

**5. What does the outfitter** do if the Forest service closes the area due to danger..such as fires, natural disasters

**6. Should I purchase** trip insurance? And which companies do you recommend.

**7. Should I take riding lessons** or ride before coming out?

**8. What kind of** **horses** does the outfitter use? Quarter horses, drafts, part drafts,

Arabs, Foxtrotters etc...

**9. Can I bring** a non-hunting friend? And how does it work? Is there an additional

cost?

**10. Talk to your outfitter** at least 4 times before choosing him, make sure that you talk to him primarily in his off season, he will have more time to answer your questions. Make sure you are getting consistent stories.

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