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## What's in your elk pack?

Posted by DeRyderM - 2008/12/16 22:13

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The day before Thanksgiving my vehicle was broken into by some friendly neighborhood crackheads who were a little jazzed up about being out of crack to smoke as I am sure you have all been there:laugh: The vicious attack to my daily driver has left me shaken and scared;) . To help rid me of the devastating effects that have occurred contiguous to this invasion of my personal property, and b/c I get a poopy load of insurance \$, I feel an elk hunt is in order...

Being that I have never been on a bivy style elk hunt, 7-10 days or so, I have a few questions that I would like to ask my western brethren...

1. what are your pack essentials? (clothes, tools, water purification, etc.)
2. What type of boots (actual model would be nice, but at least one person explaining style- height, insulated or no, stiff soled, etc, would be helpful.)
3. essentials that I probably don't have and need; gps unit, binocs, calls, etc...

It is looking like a 2nd or 3rd rifle season in the Steamboat Springs area if that helps dictate your suggestions...

I already have an awesome tent and a sleeping bag. Thanks in advance for all of your input! I can't wait to be the Michigan guy lost in Colorado again... Gonna take a lot longer to find my fanny. If they come to you guys asking for leads, tell them to look 2/3rds of the way up the mountain clutching a tree, dead from cardiac failure with a Marlboro hanging out of his mouth. I'll look like this:ohmy:

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by 2rocky - 2008/12/17 01:50

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DeRyderM wrote:

The day before Thanksgiving my vehicle was broken into by some friendly neighborhood crackheads who were a little jazzed up about being out of crack to smoke as I am sure you have all been there:laugh: The vicious attack to my daily driver has left me shaken and scared;) . To help rid me of the devastating effects that have occurred contiguous to this invasion of my personal property, and b/c I get a poopy load of insurance \$, I feel an elk hunt is in order...

Being that I have never been on a bivy style elk hunt, 7-10 days or so, I have a few questions that I would like to ask my western brethren...

1. what are your pack essentials? (clothes, tools, water purification, etc.)
2. What type of boots (actual model would be nice, but at least one person explaining style- height, insulated or no, stiff soled, etc, would be helpful.)  
I like an 8 inch high boot made of leather. Danner has worked for the past 10 years. Goretex lining has been good until I go over the tops. 200 gr thinsulate is plenty unless you are in the snow.
3. essentials that I probably don't have and need; gps unit, binocs, calls, etc...  
Elknuts dvd's on elk calling, three diaphragm calls, and a hoochie mama for when your mouth is so dry you couldn't whistle if you had to.  
8 or 10x42 binos for sure.

It is looking like a 2nd or 3rd rifle season in the Steamboat Springs area if that helps dictate your suggestions...

I already have an awesome tent and a sleeping bag. Thanks in advance for all of your input! I can't wait to be the Michigan guy lost in Colorado again... Gonna take a lot longer to find my fanny. If they come to you guys asking for leads, tell them to look 2/3rds of the way up the mountain clutching a tree, dead from cardiac failure with a Marlboro hanging out of his mouth. I'll look like this:ohmy:

DEryd, I actually put together a gear list that is far from complete, but gives some brand names and links.  
<http://skinnymoose.com/racktracker/gear-list/>

Here is what is in my Badlands 2200 pack for a Weekend CA wilderness Hunt. Figure more food and more clothing in a

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4000 cu inch pack like the badlands 4500 for Colorado.

<http://i32.photobucket.com/albums/d45/2rocky/Hunting/2007%20hunting/jul07003.jpg>

Belt attachments

Fleece pouch -16 oz Nalgene container, flavor packets (propel, crystal light)

Camera Bag

Left wing outer pocket

Empty Nalgene 64 oz. collapsible H2O canteen

Left wing Spotting scope pocket

2 pair wool poly blend hiking socks

Burris Landmark 15X-45X Scope

Left Belt pocket

2 granola bars

2 power bars

4 Carb Boom energy gels

Right Wing outer pocket

Toilet paper-backpackers roll (Charmin)

Kleenex

Right wing Tripod pocket

K&K Tripod 36"

NF/Wilderness Map

Specific area topo map 1:50,000 (Topo USA)

\*50 ft 3/8" braided core rope

Right belt pocket

Compact Body Glide stick

Carmex lip balm

Kin-E-Sys sunscreen

Main Compartment

\*Down sleeping bag w/ bivy sac

Orange drawstring sack 7x15 (4-5 pounds)

Blue drawstring pouch

Hemp soap

Titanium Spork

Cooking pot

Stove and gas line, 1/2 cup plastic measuring cup

Fuel canister for stove

2- 2 serving freeze-dried dinners

2- 1 serving freeze-dried dinners

2- 1 serving freeze dried breakfasts

2- 4 oz albacore tuna steaks in foil pouch

1-3 oatmeal packets

3 instant coffee singles

3 cocoa packets

1 top ramen

Wool shirt button up

UA cold Gear top

UA Cold Gear Bottoms

\*Rain Suede Jacket

Stocking cap poly fleece

Back small outer pocket (stuff For quick access or emergencies)

Headlamp -Badlands 12 LED

Duct tape

Compass-if not in pants pocket

GPS - If not in pants pocket

Ziploc baggie

Blister kit

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Kotex pad  
Matches (in waterproof cylinder with whistle and mirror)  
Dark Blue drawstring Sack  
Space blanket  
100 ft para cord  
Glow stick  
Fire sticks  
Trioxohexane tablets  
Butane lighter  
AAA batteries-(Headlamp)  
AA batteries -(GPS)  
Maglite Solitare (1-AAA battery in backwards) attached to micra leatherman  
Mini Swiss army knife with corkscrew  
Iodine drops and neutralizer  
Basic first aid kit  
Band-aids, aspirin/ibuprofen, Immodium, pepto bismol tabs, benydryl, wet nap, alcohol wipes, gauze roll 2"x6 yds. 2 -2x2 gauze pads

Hydration bladder pocket  
32 oz camelback bladder  
MSR Miniworks EX Water filter  
Lower straps  
Thermarest z-Lite pad, Reg

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by Clan\_Cassidy - 2008/12/17 02:40

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Attached is my gear list on excel, it covers everything for various hunts including bivy hunts. I weigh everything and then once I check the take box it adds the weight to my pack I check the box off once I have packed the item. Hope it works for everyone it's in office 2007 so you might need to download a reader if you have office 2003 or eariler. Enjoy.

[http://www.bowcast.com/images/fbfiles/files/Gear\\_list.zip](http://www.bowcast.com/images/fbfiles/files/Gear_list.zip)

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by chadderbox - 2008/12/17 06:42

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Deryder there is a lot of good resources out there, check out Cameron Hanes book Backcountry Bowhunting or David Long's Public Land Mulies... Also a good check list is on the Huntin' Fool web page article by Bryan Martin. Also a lot of good gear reviews on Hardcore Outdoors.com... One more note, get ideas from everyone on gear but use what works for you... I've wore out a lot of shoes and if you're hiking in the late season for elk make it a good choice... Don't be cheap, big difference between a cheap pair of boots than a good quality boot...If you use horses, then that changes a lot of your gear choices... Backpacker magazine has a lot of good info in it also... So you are gonna jump straight into a 7 -10 day hunt? Are you going alone? :woohoo:

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by KJW - 2008/12/17 06:48

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If I were to recommend one thing for back country elk it would be boots and socks. Dont go cheap and get what feels good and has good reviews. Without your feet in the bc your nothin. Been there, done that, wont happen again

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by dustyvarmint - 2008/12/17 14:57

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Thanks to those time-consuming, in-depth answers - extremely helpful. That is why I like Bowcast more than other archery websites. Thanks again fellow bowhunters, dv

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by DeRyderM - 2008/12/17 17:27

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dustyvarmint wrote:

Thanks to those time-consuming, in-depth answers - extremely helpful. That is why I like Bowcast more than other archery websites. Thanks again fellow bowhunters, dv

+1 on that, I appreciate it so much, I have 8-9 months before it is time to go but I need to start picking this stuff up now. So much of what I buy for hunting around here has no relevance to west. I really appreciate everyone's time and great list.

Am I doing this alone? Well I have one friend, DBowhunter from this site, that has tentatively planned to go but he works for the Railroad and things tend to come up. I am going one way or another, so if I go alone, I just might get the 7-10 day view of the Rockies. Either way, I'll keep myself occupied. If I get to bored I can always play pin the tail on the baby moose or hide the feeding bear's carcass!

Seriously, if anybody else is willing to blow off 10 days as quickly as me, I could use someone that has actually hunted an elk before!

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by chadderbox - 2008/12/18 05:14

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If you were hunting a little farther north I would certainly try and help you out...

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by dbowhunter - 2008/12/18 05:55

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Deryder, you won't be alone, consider it planned...I will pick up the new and free (Thank you California Waterfowl Association) and we'll start the planning now. I'll pick up some maps and begin Topo-Scouting to pick out some areas and we'll have to see if we can somehow get out there to scout pre-season.

Mike, my Danner Pronghorn boots are the best money I've ever spent on my feet, just be prepared to spend the cash and find the ones that fit right... You can always try and make up for insulation with socks as long as the fit is right but it's never quite the same. Mine are uninsulated but my feet get so warm and sweaty that I need to funnel that moisture out of there and keeping them cool helps keep the problem from getting worse. Gortex is a must and your fat ass, sorry but i know you won't be offended, should go for a high boot like the guys reccomended because I know I can't carry you out with my lanky arms!

Check your email I sent you some bino ideas...

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by DeRyderM - 2008/12/22 16:49

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So I have been looking at packs and the Badlands 4500 is obviously one of my top choices this far. Aneal made a good suggestion in that maybe I should be looking to take a smaller pack which would limit my weight and make me think good and hard about what I need to bring. I had planned on going for 7-10 days but maybe the 2nd and 3rd CO rifle seasons aren't that long so such a big pack is not required?

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Questions:

1. How long are rifle seasons in CO typically. If I want to be gone for 10 days, will that be possible?
2. Should I go with a smaller pack and if so, how effective will they be in getting my bull off the mountain?
3. Do any of you have any experience with any of these packs that I have been eying?

Mystery Ranch NICE Crew Cab (This pack is \$700 which may be more than I want to spend but everything I have heard about this pack is awesome) <http://www.mysteryranch.com/packs/pack.php?ID=55>

Sitka Bivy 45

Any other ideas would be greatly appreciated!

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by chadderbox - 2008/12/22 17:27

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Deryder if you are planning on being away from your base camp for several days, I would suggest a larger pack. As far as getting an elk out with a smaller pack, yes you can. It will take more trips or more people. Also depends on how much of a load you can haul. If you can only carry 70 pounds, then there is no reason to carry a monster pack. Prep. and conditioning is very important. Are you gonna rent ponies? I don't know the rules for Colorado, but you might have to have a guide in wilderness areas... You can't go wrong with the 4500... Make it easy, buy one of each :woohoo: Take care and good luck!

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by JDaddy - 2008/12/22 18:15

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Deryder...I think the 4500 is one of the most popular choices out there for bivy hunting...Iv'e got a new Black's Creek Bone Collector 2.5 heading my way as we speak. It's not quite as big as the 4500 but it's still pretty large at 3100cui. It's an internal frame pack, it'll take a hydration bladder "a must i think", comes with a waterproof cover and orange safety pullout flap...I'll let you know how it is when it shows up, I think retail on these is around \$300, well more like \$275 or so. I gotta steal on mine at \$135 new, I know a guy in Utah who had an overstock on packs and he hooked me up on this one "no he doesnt have anymore". Another low cost option is to pick up a pack frame and just lash everything on to it .... Take a smaller daypack to use while hunting and if you kill go back and grab the frame to haul meat with. Cabelas has a good pack frame and honestly the old Army "alice" frames work out decent too if you get one with good straps on it. For footwear, if your gonna be bivy hunting and packing a load every day go with a good boot with good ankle support..Light is nice when running around the hills but you need something strong for bivy hunting so you dont blow an ankle out. If your looking for new optics take the time to look at the Vortex line, they are hard to beat for the money. Heck of alot cheaper than Swarovski that's for sure but still have good glass in them.

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by DeRyderM - 2008/12/22 18:16

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Appreciate it, and for what its worth, I'm a mule, might not get it down super quick but I'll get there and with a bigger load... just ask my GF!, hehehe

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by jamaro - 2008/12/22 19:45

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This would be a great question for the hotline... there is just way toooo much info to type...

J

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by DeRyderM - 2008/12/22 19:56

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Thanks JDaddy, I appreciate the time and info... Is this blacks Creek Bone Collector a Michael Waddell signature item?

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by MBurrows - 2008/12/22 23:18

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D-If I were you I would really consider buying a pack frame from Cabelas, The Extreme Alaskan Outfitter Frame. This is what I use and it carries 125 pounds or more just fine. When you pack in for your 10 day hunt buy a Badlands 2800 or similar sized pack. Leave your pack frame at base camp and use the 2800 for everyday hunting. For the items you can't pack in the 2800 on the way in to base camp get a large OR compression sack that is waterproof and put it on the shelf of the pack frame and then put the 2800 on top of that. This is what I have done before and it works great.

An internal frame pack is comfortable like the 4500 but unless you want to keep the meat loads around 75 pounds you will be fighting the pack and loose the comfort. In my opinion this is where a pack frame really helps you out. I will be posting some pictures in blog soon of what I use for getting my meat out. Also consider that you will probably get ~250 pounds of meat if you bone it out.

Matt

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by DeRyderM - 2008/12/22 23:36

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so you are suggesting that I am gonna wanna pack out more than 75 pounds at a time right? I assumed 100-125 at a time. Is this just crazy talk or am i in the ballpark?

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by MBurrows - 2008/12/23 00:08

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Yeah it all depends on the weather, person and distance. But if you want to do it in two trips then figure on 110 pounds minimum. When you first shoot one you will bone it out into ~4 game bags. I usually try to pack out as much as I can that trip on my 2800 or the day pack you are using. Take out the backstrap and tenderloin as you will want to put these in a seperate game bag. These usually weigh around 30 pounds. Take more meat if you can. Then also take the rack. I would also suggest getting the small Wyoming saw. It has a wood blade and bone blade.

On a conditioning note. I use my pack frame and hike with 60lbs of weight or more on it to get into shape. Great way to break in some new boots and test out your pack. There is a huge difference in running legs and packing legs.

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by chadderbox - 2008/12/23 00:32

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Have you tried the Just One Pack from Eberlestock? Great pack and it will haul anything you can haul. I totally agree with getting good shoes for carrying weight.

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by DeRyderM - 2008/12/23 00:57

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Chadderbox... I have looked into the Eberlestocks earlier this year but have not done so since this trip's inception... I will look now that you jogged my memory...

Matt B, I hope there is a difference b/c I sure as heck ain't got running legs!

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by dustyvarmint - 2008/12/23 15:15

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On a conditioning note. I use my pack \_frame\_ and hike with 60lbs of weight or more on it to get into shape. Great way to break in some new boots and test out your pack. There is a huge difference in running legs and packing legs.

Please note, although no boardcode and smiley buttons are shown, they are still useable

Exactly the type of tip I've been looking for.

Bowcat is great, dv

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by Archer32 - 2008/12/24 04:39

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Do yourself a favor and look into the Eberlestock JP9 Blue Widow. I had the BL's 4500. It creaked like a sonabitch, zippers constantly broke, outter side pockets didn't fit nothing, 100oz bladder had to hang off the backpack vs keeping it closer to my center of gravity along my back and never fit my torso right. I take it I got a lemon but enough was enough with that pack. I was a big fan until the 45 ruined it for me. I can tell you the BL's 2200 is a badass pack and I've packed out huge amounts of meat in it. The 4500 just didn't do it for me. The Eberle does the job of both of those packs, fits me better and I love the fact I can zip off the spike camp duffel and drop 10-15lbs of camp. It also hauled out elk and deer meat flawlessly for me this year. The Eberle can be very fined tuned in how you can make it fit you. I really like that I can keep my spotter and tripod hooked up and tucked away on the outside of the pack. I'd try a few to see what works best for you.

Attached is what I usually pack. Yes I'm that anal to weigh everything...:laugh:

[http://i234.photobucket.com/albums/ee316/Archer32\\_photo/CIMG0367.jpg](http://i234.photobucket.com/albums/ee316/Archer32_photo/CIMG0367.jpg)

Items Weight in Ounces Items in this Load Load Weight

Eberlestock JP9 110.00 x 110.00  
Eberlestock Spike Camp Duffel 11.00 x 11.00  
Eberlestock JP9 Zip In Panel 6.00 Not Packed  
Sure Fire E2 Exec 3.30 x 3.30  
Petzl Tikka XP 3.20 x 3.20  
Manfrotto Tripod 35.00 Not Packed  
Vortex Nomad 60 20-60 Spotter 36.00 Not Packed  
Vortex Razor 10X42 Bino 35.00 x 35.00  
Vortex Bino Trip Adapt 1.80 Not Packed  
Nikon 550 Rifle Hunter Range Finder 6.00 x 6.00  
Big Agnes Air Core Insul Pad 22.00 x 22.00  
Thermarest Z lite Pad 15.00 Not Packed  
WM Megalite 30degree Bag 25.00 x 25.00  
ODR Advanced Bivy 39.00 x 39.00  
Archers Allen Wrench 3.50 Not Packed  
GPS 6.10 x 6.10  
Katadyn Pro Filter 14.30 Not Packed  
Water Pur Tabs 2.00 x 2.00  
Brunton Raptor Stove/Cup/Fuel/Spork 19.00 x 19.00  
Camel Pack Bladder w/ filter adapt 8.00 Not Packed  
Nalgene Bottle Full (empty 6.6oz) 39.40 Not Packed

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Outdoor Edge Deboning Knife 3.30 x 3.30  
Buck PBS Knife w/ Sharpener 6.00 x 6.00  
4 Alaskan Game Bags / 550 cord / tape 12.00 x 12.00  
First Aid Kit 6.40 x 6.40  
Maps/Notepad/Pencil 5.40 x 5.40  
Elk Calls(reeds,Hootchie,Tube) 7.00 x 7.00  
Deer Calls(Rattle bag, Grunt, Bleat) 12.50 Not Packed  
Integral Designs Sil Tarp 7.00 Not Packed  
Fire Starter, Compass, Whistle, Lighter 6.10 x 6.10  
Sitka Rain Gear (Jacket 17, Pants 16 oz) 33.00 x 33.00  
Food Weight (apx 27oz each day) 3 days 81.00 x 54.00  
Water Weight 100oz Tops 120.00 x 120.00  
Mathews Legacy all setup! Not Packed  
TOTAL 534.80 Ounces  
33.43 Pounds

The excel sheet couldn't be attached so I pasted it. When it shows x number by x number. That just means I checked as part of my package. You'll notice not all items are selected.

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by chadderbox - 2008/12/24 06:11

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I like your gear list! It looks almost identical to mine... Hey, what's the diff between the Blue Widow and the J104. It looks to me the same except for the fanny pack and the flex chassis is wider and an optional scabbard. I haven't been sold on the 4500 either. I do love my 2200 great day pack. Is the JP9 as tough as the J104?

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by Archer32 - 2008/12/24 06:28

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The JP9 Bluewidow is basically the Dragonfly minus the scabbard layer. I've heard complaints in the past of the pack hangin too far back because of that play in the older scabbard layers of packs like the J104/105. I think this new design alleviates any of those past issues. You can still put a scabbard in the pack. I don't do much gun huntin but it fits the 30/30 awesomely. You can see the buttstock about head level coming out of the pack. Here's a pic:  
[http://i234.photobucket.com/albums/ee316/Archer32\\_photo/Muley%202008/CIMG0468.jpg](http://i234.photobucket.com/albums/ee316/Archer32_photo/Muley%202008/CIMG0468.jpg)

As far as toughness goes its all there. The zippers are allot tougher then those of the BL's from what I've seen. They don't get caught up anywhere near what I experienced with the old 4500 (07 model) also. 100+lb loads of meat is what she can easily do. The only limiting factor is my frame thus far. Polycarbonate is cool and all, but I honestly like being able to tweak the aluminum stays of the Eberle's and the 2200. The fanny with the JP9 is sweet too. It holds a 100oz Camelback bladder well. I killed my Lope with that on this year.

Take care!

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by dbowhunter - 2008/12/25 01:18

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I did not know they had come out with the JP9, the scabbard and the whole 'weight too far out' thing is what drew my attention away to other packs. I do like the new setup without the scabbard and definetly the flexibility in different setups, with/without duffell etc.

The 7lb weight seems a little high as does the almost 7lb-13oz weight of the 4500... Much higher than the weights I am used to with regular backpacking packs, I have a kelty ultralight 3500 weighing in under 3.5 lbs. But then again I am positive it would be destroyed in about a week on a hunting trip.

The lightweight of the sitka pack intrigued me, but I have hearing that they grossly stated this (i.e. the pack without the

top or straps etc.)

We'll have to look into a little further... Maybe bring a scale into sportsmans wearhouse!

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by dbowhunter - 2008/12/25 01:24

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with the JP9, where to you keep you sleeping bagand bivy or tent. It doen't seem to have a bottom compartment like the badlands 2800 (although it seems to have 300 other features the 2800 doesn't!)

I'm curious if the side rolls can fit something like that or if you keep it open and in the center duffel area.

Merry Christmas

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by Archer32 - 2008/12/25 07:31

dbowhunter wrote:

with the JP9, where to you keep you sleeping bagand bivy or tent. It doen't seem to have a bottom compartment like the badlands 2800 (although it seems to have 300 other features the 2800 doesn't!)

I'm curious if the side rolls can fit something like that or if you keep it open and in the center duffel area.

Merry Christmas

Well you got a couple choices... Use just the pack and strap your bivy/bag combo up under the chassis. Option 2 would be to stick it in the mesh meat area. You could also purchase the zipin panel that'll keep that area covered. Option 3 and my preference is sticking it in the spike camp duffel. I basically set that bad boy up with all of the sleeping / cooking needs. I always keep my Western Mountaineering Megalite stuffed in the ODR Advanced bivy than compress that in a small sack. It packs down pretty small. If I compressed the bivy and bag seperately, I could stuff one in each side pocket and keep the pack smaller. I just prefer it the way I do it now and use that area for other stuff. This thing is a Transformer, its awesome. Lots of flexibility with this bag... <http://eberlestock.com/JP9%20Blue%20Widow.htm> About half way down the link it runs you through some of the options.

Merry Christmas! Back to setting the presents up under the tree.

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by dbowhunter - 2008/12/26 01:14

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Sounds pretty awesome...One last question for a user...

What adjustabiliy does the suspension have? I am 6'6 225 so I need some torso adjustment and lengthy pads. I noticed eberlestock had long shoulder pads listed on their site but doesn't say that they fit the jp9.

Merry christmas!

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by Archer32 - 2008/12/26 23:29

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I know they sell bigger shooters harness'(shoulder straps) and big boy waist kits (belts). There is a ton of adjustability in the torso adjustment as well. It was really nice to finally have a pack that fit my torso well. For me at 5'9", 43chest and 30 waist I always had a hard time getting the BL's to fit properly. This one fit very well once I screwed around with weight

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in it and tweaked it out. Call the owner Glenn Eberle and he'll hook you up. I've spoken to him directly and he's always been more than helpfull over the phone. Goodl luck!

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by dbowhunter - 2008/12/27 08:58

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Thanks for the great advice guys...I will look into it. It just still bugs me how much these damn hunting packs weigh...seems like someone would have come up with a lighter way to be user-freindly than a 7+ pound pack... I am used to my (albeit smaller) 3.6lb kelty ultralight 3500... Anyone with trail backpacking experience... do you feel general backpacking packs just aren't built tough enough to handle the load? I don't think my Kelty could handle 70+lbs but there are others in the 4-5lb range that appear to be built tough enough too. Maybe hunting packs still have some evolving to do or the "jack of all trades" hunting pack mentality weighs it down.

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by MBurrows - 2008/12/27 18:10

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I have done a lot of backpacking and thought the same thing. I think the main reason behind the weight in the Badland packs are due to the material they use. Compare this heavy weight material to a lightweight 500 denier Codura and you can have a difference of a few pounds. Another thing is the padding that Badlands uses. It is very dense and they don't use a mesh type of material with lighter weight padding behind it that breaths better and are just as comfortable in my opinion.

I am really surprised that a company hasn't come out with a pack that is lightweight like you are saying. The technology and materials are out there a company just has to put it all together.

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by dbowhunter - 2008/12/29 04:28

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I think it is what Sitka was trying to do but came up short a little bit. They used those better materials and tweek them for hunting, aka waterproof sections, spotting scope pouch etc. In think where they fell short was with the intial pack design/layout. Sitka stuck with the standard, what I call 'tube' pack and didn't offer some of the benefits of the extra pockets and layout of say a badlands or eberlestock pack. They got pretty close though... I just wish I could get a real number for it's weight... seems i read something saying it is 'heavier than advertised' in many user reviews... guess i'll have to borrow a digital scale from the fishing section at SW at walk over to the hunting packs!

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by Archer32 - 2008/12/29 05:39

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It looks like 6#'s and some change. The main compartment is something like 3900ci. You can check this thread for more...

<http://www.sagecreekforums.com/phpforum/viewtopic.php?t=5721>

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by dbowhunter - 2008/12/29 18:10

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Thank You Sir, seems a bit small for anything over 5 days. I have a 3500 Kelty for general backpacking that I think I could go 6 or 7 days in tops but with the added hunting gear I think the Sitka might fall short for the 7 day requirement I have placed on the pack I am going to order. Then again, 3900 is more than 3500 and the added side pockets will take most of the other gear.

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Geez, what a decision. I have checked them both out but keeping holding out in hopes of a miracle bag out there that weighs 3 lbs, holds 5000CI, has the most comfortable frame, is waterproof and walks and carries quarters on its own!

I pretty much have it narrowed down to the Badlands, JP9, and Sitka 45 with preference to the Sitka and Eberlestock.

On your JP9, do you feel there is adequate compression straps when expanded with the duffel?

Also, you don't own the Sitka pack do you?

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### Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by DeRyderM - 2009/01/30 18:38

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here it is lugnut... hope it helps

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### Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by BSLugnut - 2009/01/30 19:25

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Similar to dbow, I have narrowed my search down to the following:

- Badlands OX
- Eberlestock JP9 Blue Widow
- Kifaru LongHunter
- MR Crew Cab
- Wilderness Pack Specialties Compact Frame

Or use a smaller pack like the BL 2800 for hunting and use a Kelty Cache Hauler for the meat!

I am waiting to try these on, with some bags of shot in them to see how they fit on me. Then try to see when my budget will allow the purchase, as I do not want to skimp here.

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### Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by DeRyderM - 2009/01/30 19:46

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I settled on the Badlands 4500 but I really wanted to try the Mystery Ranch packs. I have heard nothing but amazing things about them. Nowhere in my area had them though...

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### Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by BSLugnut - 2009/01/30 20:14

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Like you, nobody here in the east carries these high-end packs.

A wise man told me to never buy something twice!!!

If I have to wait another year or so, for the budget to account for it. I am okay with that.

I am planning a trip to MT in the late spring and will stop by MR and Sportsmans to try a few of the others.

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### Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by DeRyderM - 2009/01/30 20:32

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that is a great call. I know the MR packs are not cheap and I did try at least 8-10 others on my list. Everyone seemed to like the 4500 and so did I so I pulled the trigger. I am not disappointed but I sure would have liked to try the MR packs, or at least the crew cab pack frame.

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**Re:What's in your elk pack?**

Posted by BSLugnut - 2009/01/30 21:32

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Has anyone ever used a Mossback Bounty Hunter Pack? I have a buddy who may buy one, but I know nothing of them.

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**Re:What's in your elk pack?**

Posted by DeRyderM - 2009/03/20 04:05

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ttt

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**Re:What's in your elk pack?**

Posted by dustyvarmint - 2009/04/14 15:34

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ttt, I was tired of searching for it :) .

dv

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**Re:What's in your elk pack?**

Posted by FK75 - 2009/05/04 04:10

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Here you go Stoney. This will get you started.

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**Re:What's in your elk pack?**

Posted by AggielandPoultry - 2009/06/26 04:45

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Lets keep this thread rolling. Need more info on backcountry backpacking for elk!!!

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**Re:What's in your elk pack?**

Posted by ChicagoBowhunter - 2009/06/26 17:33

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Great information everyone, especially the detailed lists. I will be doing my first backcountry elk hunt this year as well in Idaho and have a question about food handling. How do you guys handle your food at night, I know the rules about hanging your pack, not cooking in the same clothes you are going sleep in etc, but talking to some of the folks at REI or other camping stores they swore by the bear cannisters (<http://www.rei.com/product/709075>) these seemed to be easier to manage than trying to hang your pack everynight however they add weight and bulk to the pack obviously. I was curious if anyone had thoughts/tips in this regard.

For reference I will be hunting on the Idaho/Montana border where black bears are the issue not brown/grizzly.

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by 2rocky - 2009/06/26 20:21

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I think those bears are less of an issue than human habituated bears in National parks that most of the REI crowd frequents. Some NF here in CA require Bear cans but most folks won't take them unless required because of the weight and bulk. A 50 ft line to hang your pack is lighter and smaller.

Also a bear TAG is the best bear repellent around.

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## Re:What's in your elk pack?

Posted by AggielandPoultry - 2009/07/03 01:02

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KEEPING THIS TOPIC UP TOP. GOT SOME BUDDIES THAT NEED TO LOOK OVER IT!!

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