



We have had some particularly good questions regarding shot placement and practicing shot placement base from the first couple of Hunt Prep topics, so this hunt prep document will deal with answering these questions as well as covering some health issues that may impact your trip.

Lodging/Meals/Medical Questions

Meals are currently being prepared for the year, our resident chef's Lori Sabata and Jessie Wilson are amazing, you will all enjoy what they will be cooking up for this year!

Anyone with any food allergies (dairy, gluten, onions, nut allergies) please let me know of any food allergies as soon as possible.

Anyone with any special needs, please let us know as quickly as possible.

Anyone with any other general medical issues, please let us know as quickly as possible. We are at least 20 miles from any medical facilities, so it is important to know of any and all issues.

I have been getting several questions on lodging arrangements, please use the link below to our website and look under the "Accommodations" tab to look at pictures of where you will be staying. We have towels, blankets, pillows, toilet paper, eating utensils, and all that jazz, so all you will need are your camp clothes, hunting gear/weapon, and personal items.

<https://www.coloradobghunting.com/accommodations/>

Shot Placement

Shot placement is vital to taking any game down quickly. Elk are large tough animals that can take a broadhead in the right spot and still manage to get out of sight. The most important point I would like to get across is not to shoot an elk through the shoulder, this shot placement leads to elk we never find. The correct shot placement is behind the shoulder just above the elbow, pretty much center mast. This shot placement will be in the lungs and will be the quickest most humane shot placement possible.

Practicing Shot Placement

Shot placement on larger ungulates like elk and moose is extremely critical. Mule deer and whitetail are not nearly as large as elk or moose; however, they are still significantly larger than deer that inhabit the east and west coasts. The difference is not just body weight, but the thickness of the skin and the size of bones and tendons.

Elk are the toughest animals we hunt, followed by mule deer, bear, whitetail, moose, and finally pronghorn. Pronghorn are hardy, but they have extremely thin skin and very lean muscle which allows clients to harvest them with smaller caliber rifles and lighter archery tackle. Moose are the largest animals we hunt, but for whatever reason, a well-placed shot almost always anchors the animal very quickly.

Many clients like to try to aim for a shoulder shot, in their experience with eastern whitetails, which average around 160 lbs. and western coastal/desert black tail deer which are much smaller, a shoulder shot can be an effective shot which results in an ethical kill. When it comes to elk, which can weigh up to 1,000 lbs. This shot placement normally results in a wound and in most cases, this means a long day of tracking and a lost animal. Over 10 years of guiding and keeping records, shoulder shots have resulted in 15 lost bull elk, 26 lost cow elk, 2 lost mule deer, and 3 lost whitetail deer. This is proof positive that a shoulder shot results in an incredibly low recovery percentage.

The last thing anyone wants to deal with is a situation in which we are tracking a wounded animal, it requires a ton of man hours, and it is devastating to both the client and the guides. Wounds do happen, they are part of guiding, however a good number of wounds we have dealt with over the last 10 years could have been avoided if shot placement was behind the shoulder vs right into the shoulder.

The best way to prepare yourself for proper shot placement is to practice on a target that shows animal anatomy. There are a lot of archery targets that show heart and lungs overlaid with the normal shot rings we are all used to using. In our opinion these targets are the BEST to use once your weapon is sighted in as it will make you think about the placement of the vitals.

The most effective shot placement for all weapons is behind the shoulder, center mass, this ensures a lung/heart shot and is the most humane and highest recovery percentage.

We have archery targets at the lodge which include 3D Deer and a 3D Mini-Bull Elk, and two other shooting targets that show anatomy to practice during the hunt. We use a deer target as the vitals are smaller than elk or moose but being able to hit a smaller target with a bow, makes for an easier hit on a larger target.

Archery shots can be out to 60 yards. The most effective strategy for shooting your bow longer distances (over 40 yards) is to practice every day shooting at longer and shorter distances. Start your practice session shooting at further distances, then move to closer distances. A few shots at 60 yards at the start of your practice, makes your practice

shots at 20 and 30 yards seem extremely easy, however starting close and moving out further normally causes some stress because it looks so far away, not to mention the more shots you take, the more fatigue sets in, making longer shots much less consistent and more intimidating from both a mental and physical standpoint.

Make sure you know our wound and miss policies; the wound policy is written in your contract and it states:

CLIENT understands and agrees LLC encourages only safe/ethical shots which result in the harvest of the animal as quickly as possible. All wounds will be treated as a harvested animal and CLIENT's hunt will be over.

CLIENT understands and agrees although each situation is different, if a shot is taken and the LLC determines it was a poor judgment call by the hunter, whether blood is drawn or not, it will be treated as a harvested animal, and the hunt will be over.

The miss policy is new this year. It is not written in your contract as it is a case-by-case issue. We manage our ranches to provide the best opportunity for all clients, this includes keeping pressure on our game species and predators as low as possible to provide a safe place for all the critters to live. In the past, we have had clients miss several shots at their quarry, and it has led us to establish a policy that says that if a client misses on two opportunities (shots at animals), their hunt may be called. I know this is going to make some of you nervous, but rest assured we will work with everyone to ensure their experience is the best it can be, however, think about following a group that "shot the ranch up" and ask yourself if you would like to follow that group. Again, this is a new policy so we will be flexible, but please understand, we are trying to ensure everyone has the best experience possible!

Please let me know if anyone has any questions or concerns on any of the information above.