

Successful Elk Hunting Tips

from the REO library of filled and unfilled tags

at 1 PM Today

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REO co-owners/guides



ROOSEVELT ELK OUTFITTERS

Introduction

- Paul Ockerman
- Kevin Ceurter
- Roosevelt Elk Outfitters
- Today's seminar



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Control What You Can Control: Preparation

- GEAR
 - Boots: top notch in-soles, waterproof, breathable, low insulation, socks
 - Rain gear: top end waterproof, breathable, lightweight, durable
 - Waterproof electronics
- Your weapon
 - Accurate: Well tuned, sighted in, familiar
 - Secure: everything mechanically functioning, backup plan
 - Silent: squeaks, clanks, rattles, mole skin, dampers, oil
 - Ready: field kits, weather ready, broadheads/speed loaders/ammo
- Meat care plan ... bags, knives, packs, meat wagon, cooler



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Control What You Can Control: Preparation

- Shooting
 - Start with Good form and posture, muscle memory, strength/endurance
 - Situational shots (cow call stop, tree near target, crouched/knees, walking at full draw, AM one and done, wind, rain ...)
 - 3D shoots, elevations, **range estimation**, shooting in brush, close shot
 - Know your effective range (coffee can)
- Scouting
 - Not just looking for elk, look for locations ... confidence elk will be there
 - Learn the area, wallows, beds, wind patterns, terrain, routes,
 - Prepare the area: clear trails, land closures, cameras
 - Elk's behavior patterns: Look, Listen, Learn



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Control What Can Control: You

- Off season conditioning (hiking, biking, strength)
- Eat well
 - avoid foods that don't agree (Greasy, spicy, acidic, heavy)
 - Proteins, carbs, fats, fluids
- Sleep Well ... consider Mid day Cat naps
- Baby wipes, chap stick, fiber, ibuprofen



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Finding Elk

- Find water, find Rockies; not so with Roosies
- Hot weather → cooler timber, NW benches, deeper holes
- Roosie country = logging country
 - Constantly changing
 - Clearcuts (2-8 yrs: primary feeding, 8-12 yrs: feeding & beds)
 - “Dog hair” and Jack fir (12-20 yrs)
 - **Heavy canopy** (20-30 yrs)
 - Big timer (30+ yrs)
 - **Timber snacks** (selective logging)
- Others: Sloughs, abandoned homesteads, creek bottoms

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Clearcut



- Best high energy density feed
- Social gathering
- Safety in high wind



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Doghair / Jack Fir



- Good high energy density feed
- Best cover
- Safety in high wind



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Heavy canopy timber



- Best bedding area
- Minimal feed
- Good cover, quiet
- Moderates weather (cold, heat, wind)



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Timber snacks



- Good high energy density feed
- Social gathering
- Fair cover
- Some bedding



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Bare floor Big Timber



- no high energy density feed
- Good travel route
- Fair cover
- rare bedding



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Beat The Sun

- Hunting first light is essential
- At least ½ hour prior to legal shooting which is ½ hour prior sunrise
- During hot weather or clear moonlit nights, make that even earlier to locate elk in darkness
 - Location bugle
 - Silent “patterning/shadowing” elk movement



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Send off the Sun

- Last light hunt 2nd highest priority
- Evening hunt starts at least 2 hours prior to sunset
- Opportunity to re-engage a herd you previously backed off
- Typically a “run and gun” hunt – stay mobile
- Going in or putting them to bed?
- Stay past dark to locate elk/bulls for morning



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Locate the Ladies

- Find the cows, the bulls are around
- Calf calls, lost cow, locator bugle
- Calves give up the herd
- Works in late season too



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Throw the playbook at them

- Ambush
- Spot and stalk
- Long call setup
- Call and pressure
- Tree stand/ground blind
- Push ... focuses elk on pusher
- ... and more
- COMBINE into a complete situational playbook



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Avoid detection

- The nose knows
 - Wind, Wind, Wind
- Beat the eyes with a good disguise
 - Break up your pattern (camo, facepaint, cover)
 - No movements when close
 - 270 degree ungulate vision
- No reason to fear the ears
 - When calling, sound like an elk
 - When silent go stealthy, no unnatural noises



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Speak the Language

1. Locator bugle
2. Grunt
3. Chuckle
4. Glunk
5. Huffing
6. Popping grunt
7. Breaking branches/brush
8. Raking/scraping/rubbing a tree
9. Cow talk
10. Calf calls
11. Lost cow
12. Excited cow
13. Estrus scream; buzzing mew



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Put on a sneak with a Deek (BOW and BP SEASONS ONLY !)

- try a decoy like Miss September
- Cross an open/exposed area
- Draw him in, help him commit
- Create a distraction and Move in
- **BE CAREFUL !!!**
 - Hang a flag/streamer/caution tape (windicator)



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The Shot! Be ready

Anticipate the shot before it's time,

- draw bow or raise gun proactively
- Find a good shooting spot
 - Don't hide, just don't stand out and don't move
- Range possible shooting lanes
- Check wind direction (always)
 - Never upwind of elk, be ready to move fast
 - Make sure you have a shooting lane before elk get your wind
- Shooter/Caller Dynamics
- Seal the Deal with an aggressive move
- Know when to call it and back out ... shooter is the eyes of the team



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Shot Placement

- Quartering away is best case scenario



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Murphy was an archery elk hunter

- Elk hunting is not for pansies
 - Physical and mental toughness
 - Persistence: beginners, just kill a few elk
 - Handling failure
- Prepare for anything (weather, terrain, injury, overnighnter)
- So many things can go wrong, control what you can
 - Arrow off rest, twigs, wrong range, electronics noises, “that’s a hunter”,



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Bottom Line

There's a long line of things we must get right to get that rare shot opportunity and we owe it to ourselves to be ready when that opportunity comes ...

PREPARE: CONTROL WHAT WE CAN CONTROL



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Where to get more

- Magazines (Extreme Elk, Elk Hunter, Horns and Hooks)
- Videos (Born and Raised Outdoors, Angry Spike, ZMA, Titan Outdoors, Larry D Jones)
- TV (Uncommon Ground, Team Elk, Horns and Hooks TV)
- Audio (Larry Jones, Steve Chappell, Elknut Paul Medell)



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Q & A



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THANK YOU

- GOOD LUCK OUT THERE
- PRESENTATION POSTED ON REO WEBSITE
 - WWW.ROOSEVELTELKOUTFITTERS.COM
- FIND US ON FACEBOOK



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