

# A REPRINT ARTICLE FROM



# GRAND SLAM CLUB/OVIS

## “PACKING LIGHT” GEAR LIST

### COLD WEATHER SHEEP HUNT

**Hunting Pants** - Two pair, one is cotton 6-pocket pants and the other a little heavier canvas cotton material (one pair wool instead of cotton would be a good choice).

**Hunting Shirts** - Two; both are wool, one is heavier than the other.

**Long Underwear Bottoms** - Three pair, all lightweight synthetic (Patagonia and Helly Hansen are the brands).

**Thermal Top** - Two; long sleeve (Patagonia).

**T-Shirts, Synthetic** - Four; lightweight and they wick moisture away from the body much better than cotton.

**Sweater** - Wool, not real light or real heavy; I use this as part of my layering technique.

**Coat** - Wool (King of the Mountain brand); this coat is lined and is quite warm; a good alternative would be a down jacket or synthetic filled warm coat.

**Gloves** - Two pair of lightweight leather, wool lined.

**Mittens** - Wool mittens for extreme cold temperatures.

**Socks** - Three pair, wool blend, high quality.

**Liner Socks** - Two pair, thin socks to go under wool; this little bit adds to the boot comfort tremendously.

**Neck & Head Warmer** - Army issue, which was given to me by my Army son Seth; it is lightweight synthetic, weighing only 2 or 3 ounces; it can double as a neck scarf or be pulled up over the head and ears for cold and wind.

**Wool Cap** - King of the Mountain; very warm

**Rain wear** - Lightweight, but lined (Gore-Tex brand).

**Hunting Caps** - Two, simply because you can always lose one.

**Boots** - One pair, Danner Light II model. Vibram lugged sole is essential for rock and mountain climbing.

#### **Belt & Suspenders**

**Sleeping Bags** - I splurge here because I do not like to be cold when I sleep; I have a down filled regular mummy bag and a very lightweight down filled mummy bag that I use on colder nights by inserting it inside the regular bag; a person could avoid this by just having one bag that they knew would keep them warm; even these two bags are still very light. PACKING TIP: Pack your sleeping bag last, and do not put it in a stuff sack. It takes less room this way, and you can just stuff it around in your duffle bag to fill up empty spaces.

**Stuff Sack** - This is actually a sleeping bag stuff sack that I carry along to stuff and use as a pillow.

**Day Pack** - Cordura high quality (Jansport brand); this bag is lightweight, and I just like it.

#### **Binoculars**

**Spotting Scope & Small Tripod** - I splurge here by taking the tripod; a tripod is actually not necessary, as you can use your pack to support the spotting scope under hunting conditions. My tripod is lightweight and I like it because I can sit flat and comfortably look through the spotting scope. Also, the tripod can be used for the camera for hands-free photo taking.

#### **Range Finder & Extra Battery**

**Ammo** - 40 rounds.

**Ammo Pouch** - I use a leather belt pouch; this is not an essential item, and could be left off.

**Knife** - Extremely lightweight; one is all that is needed.

**Flashlight** - Small, with extra batteries. This is a short flightlight with a krypton bulb and uses 4 AA batteries; puts out a lot of light; I also take an extra bulb.

**Handkerchiefs** - I take two for wiping sweat and snot.

**Ear Plugs** - I take these for sighting in my rifle.

**Lens Cleaner** - I take a Leupold lens pin and also a soft binocular cloth.

**Blister Pads** - I simply use moleskin; this is essential.

**Toilet Paper** - Two rolls in zip-lock bags (essential for Asian hunts!).

**Extra Duffle Bag** - I take this to pack capes and horns.

**Duct Tape**

**Garbage Bags** - About 4 or 5 large size for capes, horns, and dirty, stinking clothes.

**Boot Grease** - Leather boots become quite dry walking in rocks over days; I take a small quantity here that weighs almost nothing.

**Water Bottle** - I use a collapsible 1-quart Platypus brand; this is not an essential item but is so lightweight that I opt for it.

**Camp Shoes**

**THIS IS ALL PACKED IN ONE DUFFLE BAG, AND WEIGHS LESS THAN 45 LBS.**

**THE FOLLOWING I USUALLY TAKE IN AN EXPANDABLE CORDURA CARRY-ON BAG:**

**Camera & Film** - I take a compact high-quality 35mm, film, and an extra battery, and I also take three of the throwaway type with flash.

**Airline Ticket**

**Passport**

**Money**

**Sunglasses**

**Medications & Toiletries** - Special for your needs; I have them in one small bag. SPECIAL NOTE: I see people go extremely overboard here. I am a pharmacist, and have narrowed my medications down to something for every hole in my body. EXAMPLES: Eye drops, ear drops, sinus medication, antibiotics, steroid cream. Use your imagination! This covers every hole and the problems that can happen associated with them! I further do not use vials or bottles, but use 3" x 4" plastic bags with prescription labels affixed. This cuts down the bulk considerably.

**Journal & Pen**

**File with Documents**

**Reading Material** - A book or two is nice for the airplane and also for camp in case you get weathered in for a day or two.

**Steel Tape** - For measuring extremely large sheep horns.

**Underwear** - As crude as it sounds, I take four briefs and four T-shirts.

**THAT ENDS MY CARRY ON.**

**Return Clothing** - One pair of pants and one shirt. I usually place these in the top of my duffle. By the way, I use the shoes that I wear as my camp shoes. I am real partial to Rockports, and they make comfortable camp shoes (Since I wrote this article initially, I have changed and take light camp shoes; this still is a good idea, and would cut out some weight)

**Rifle** - Lightweight rifle in a short, lightweight case. I also have it inside a duffle bag.

Compare this list to yours, and see how you stack (or pack) up! What are some of the things I have eliminated over the years? Too many clothes, an extra pair of boots, gaiters (duct tape pants to legs!), lots of first aid

stuff, extra flashlights, extra knives, canteen, baby wipes, gun cleaning kit, extra coat, rope, food.... Hope this helps some of you heavy packers!

**SPECIAL GEAR SUPPLIERS CONTACT INFO:**

***Double Bull Archery:** 888-464-0409. These folks sell the reinforced plastic packing bags.*

***K. K. Air International:** 800-262-3322. This company makes special gun cases & duffle bags to hold them.*

***Danner Boots:** 800-345-0430, [www.danner.com](http://www.danner.com). My favorite boots are the Danner Light II model.*

***Pendleton:** 800-568-1659, [www.pendleton-usa.com](http://www.pendleton-usa.com). They make the best wool shirts I have seen. The thin one for a little warmer weather is called Sir Pendleton, and is actually a dress shirt, but makes a great hunting shirt as well.*