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## Gage Ranch Mule Deer Hunt

Thank you for choosing WSI as your outfitter for your mule deer hunt you have scheduled. We intend to provide you with a safe and enjoyable experience which begins with proper pre-hunt planning. We have enclosed our Hunter's Prep Packet with this letter. It is also provided on our website. Read through the entirety of this information and use this information as a general guideline in preparing for your hunt.

1. Please fill out and send in "**Hunter Profile**," even if you have sent one in from a previous trip. Indicate if you want WSI to process your hunting license, and if you do, please send license fees (\$315 for a non-resident) in with your profile. All payments should be made payable to Wildlife Systems, Inc.
2. WSI does not provide airport shuttle on mule deer hunts. Should you fly, it is best to schedule flights into Midland and rent vehicle. We will send your directions to the camp.
3. Please note that Gage Ranch mule deer hunts are based on a base fee which is prepaid prior to the hunt, plus a \$1,000 kill fee. Please plan on making that payment prior to departure from the ranch should you harvest a mule deer buck.
4. Don't forget to practice with your firearm.
5. We encourage you to consider taking out a travel insurance plan. We are currently working with Travel Guard International who provides an economical plan that will assist you with any travel problems. Go to our website at [www.wildlifesystems.com](http://www.wildlifesystems.com) and click on [Travel Guard](#), which is on our home page on the lower left hand corner
6. Be sure to review your booking agreement for suggested arrival times, as some of our mule deer hunts begin with an afternoon hunt, while others begin with a morning hunt. Check with the WSI office if uncertain.

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance. We look forward to serving as your host on a great hunt. Thanks once again for your interest in our service.

To a good hunt,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Simons".

Greg Simons

# WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS

Thank you for choosing to be our customer and for the confidence you have placed in us. The staff of WSI, from our office to our camp, will do everything within our means to earn your continued trust and goodwill. Your hunting success and personal satisfaction are very important to us.

We have been serving hunters from around the globe since 1987. Our customers' loyalty and continued participation within our hunting programs is what has fueled the growth of WSI.

Just as you have certain expectations of us, we have certain expectations of you. Here are a few ideas that will help ensure a successful hunt:

- Read through this packet to familiarize yourself with various aspects regarding your hunt.
- Know what is included with your package. Refer to your contract if you are uncertain.
- Attend your hunt with an open frame of mind. There are many variables we deal with in conducting hunts, thus, we ask you to be understanding of various situations that are inherent to a hunting trip.

Once again, thank you for being our customer. We look forward to seeing you in camp. You have my personal promise that we will do the best we can to ensure an enjoyable hunting experience for you.

## PAYMENT POLICY

- Deposits may be paid with personal or business check, so long as this payment precedes hunt by 30 days.
- **Balance is due 30 days prior to start day of hunt.** You might not receive a 30-day notice, so let this serve as your reminder. Failure to pay balance by 30-day period may result in cancellation of your hunt and forfeiture of any previously paid fees.
- **If for any reason there are fees due at time of hunt (i.e., trophy fees on additional animals), these fees must be paid at time of hunt with either cash, credit card, or you can pay electronically through our invoice system.**
- All credit card payments will be assessed a 3% processing fee on the amount being charged. We accept Visa, Master Card, and American Express.

**Cancellation Policy** – No payments will be refunded unless cancellee can be replaced at the standard hunt cost.

We will make every effort possible to replace cancellee at full hunt value, but WSI is not responsible for replacing cancellee, and no refunds will be granted unless cancellee is replaced at full price.

**Rebooking Policy** – WSI generally offers our clients “first right of refusal” in rebooking their hunt for the following year, but to ensure this, a \$300 Rebooking Fee must be paid within 30 days of completion of hunt. Once dates and prices have been established for next year's hunts, client will have option of either confirming with remainder of first 50%, or Rebooking Fee will be refunded. Once hunt is confirmed, Cancellation Policy does apply.

# WHAT TO BRING

Having the proper equipment, clothing, and travel items can make for a much more comfortable and enjoyable hunting trip. It is better to be over prepared than under stocked, but remember there are certain weight and baggage restrictions when traveling by airplane. The following checklist should cover some of the essentials.

## Primary Checklist

- gun(s)
- ammo (40 rounds)
- binoculars
- flashlight
- hunting clothes\*
- hunting boots
- hunting cap
- rain parka
- flight tickets
- camera
- gloves
- pajamas or warm-up's
- water bottle
- knife
- day or fanny pack

## You May Also Want To Bring

- sunglasses
- book for reading
- ice chest
- spotting scope
- special medication
- preferred snacks
- video camera (recommended)
- sun screen
- bug spray
- bit of string and tape
- liquor or alcohol\*
- shooting bipod

- ❖ Clothing should be suited for temperatures ranging from 20 degrees to 80 degrees. Check internet weather forecast prior to hunt. Clothing that allows you to layer up is best. Camo is recommended but not essential.
- ❖ We do not provide alcoholic beverages in camp. We will allow you to BYOB, but we will enforce certain drinking/hunting policies.

# HUNTING LICENSE

- WSI can obtain your necessary hunting license. **Please indicate on the "Hunter Profile" if you do wish for us to obtain your license.** If you do not indicate that you do want us to obtain your license, we will assume you are bringing it with you. If you choose for us to obtain license, it will be given to you upon your arrival.
- **General Nonresident Hunting license (#105) is \$315.** Please send license fees along with Hunter Profile 30 days prior to hunt. **Note:** Be sure to include social security number on Hunter Profile as it is required by the state of Texas for the purchase of hunting license.
- For nonresidents who are less than 17 years of age, **Youth Hunting license (#169) is \$7.00** and covers anything they may take, except waterfowl.
- All Texas hunters who were born on or after September 2, 1971 must have successfully completed a "Hunter Education Training Course." However, if you have not taken this course and were born after this date, you can purchase a **Deferred Hunter Education Option (#166)** for an additional \$10.

- If you would rather purchase your license yourself, you can do so by going online at [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#). It will take up to 6 weeks to receive your license so make sure you go online and purchase with enough time for them to mail you the license.

## TRAVEL TIPS

A hunter's journey to and from their hunting destination is a major part of the trip. Because of great distances between point of origin and hunt location, many hunters choose to fly to eliminate road time. There are a few regulations that hunters need to keep in mind that will make their trip more smooth and enjoyable. Additionally, there are certain procedures that if followed, make your airport transition much easier.

### Helpful Hints:

- Try to never over pack suitcase any more than what is necessary. Duffel bags work well for most hunters' needs.
- When possible, lock all luggage with a TSA approved lock.
- Whether its carry-on or checked luggage, be sure to attach your name, address, and phone number on each item.
- Pack your highly valuable items, if possible, in a carry-on, particularly those items that are fragile.
- Always check in approximately 1.5 hours prior to scheduled departure. At that time, your firearm will be subject to inspection to ensure no shells are in the chamber.

### Requirements and Restrictions:

- On most airlines, each person is allowed to have one carryon bag, free of charge. You can also check your luggage, with the most common charges being: first checked bag fee: \$25; second checked bag fee: \$35; additional bags fee: \$150 per bag. Thus, you might consider bringing a large duffel bag, gun case, and carry-on's (i.e., camera bag). Check with your airline to make sure of their specific charges.
- Most airlines will charge additional fees for overweight and oversized bags. The most common charges being: Overweight bags: \$100 for 50 – 70 lbs and \$200 for 70 – 100 lbs. Oversize bags generally run around \$200. Check with your airline to make sure of their specific charges.
- All firearms must be transported in a hard-sided container capable of being locked with TSA approved lock.
- While ammunition can be carried in the gun case in a separate container, shells cannot be in the chamber. You are allowed up to ten pounds of ammo, which must be shipped in checked baggage. We recommend transporting ammo in a duffel bag. Ammo must be in some type of ammo container.
- Law prohibits the transportation of hazardous materials such as compressed gasses, flammable solids and liquids, poisons, and corrosives, which includes lighters.
- You are not allowed to carry on knives of any sort, but you can put them in your checked baggage.
- Check with your airline or travel agent to see any other rules, limitations and additional fees that they may charge.

### Shipment of meat, hides, and antlers:

- For those hunters interested in keeping their meat, you must take back with you, either on airplane in ice chest or in vehicle if you drive. **We do not ship meat.**
- If hunter would prefer to have animal fully processed and packaged, we can sometimes arrange for such, but meat will probably be shipped by meat processor to hunter "over-night delivery" at

hunter's expense which will include processing fees, shipping expenses, and occasionally a service charge (see "Miscellaneous Expense" Sheet).

- All trophies are caped and frozen. If hunter prefers to have a taxidermist of his own do the work, we either ship the cape and antlers back with the hunter in a container (i.e., ice chest, box, duffel bag, etc.), or we can ship at a later date to them or their taxidermist, and hunter will incur shipping and service charge fees.
- If hunter wishes to leave their trophy to be mounted at our taxidermist, we will put taxidermist in touch with hunter to discuss pose and payment, and taxidermist will ship mount to hunter upon completion of work.

**One other matter:**

Always keep in mind that certain unexpected occurrences can and do happen from time to time when traveling by air. Such things as delayed or canceled flights, and luggage not arriving with hunter, are but a few things that are possible. When this happens, it is recommended that you understand that throwing a tantrum is not going to do you a bit of good. For missing luggage, when you arrive, we will file necessary claims, and luggage will generally arrive on the next flight. If worse comes to worse, we will do what we have to do to outfit you with necessary gear so that you lose no hunting time. Just try to take all this in stride, and your trip will be much more enjoyable.

**If you drive:**

Let us know if you decide to drive to our camp, and we will send a map or directions to you. Please refer to booking agreement or check with our office to confirm recommended arrival times.

**Airport Shuttle:**

We do not provide airport shuttles on our mule deer hunts. Thus, if you are flying, please plan on renting a vehicle and driving to the ranch. We will provide directions.

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

It is generally understood that nobody likes hidden expenses when on a hunting trip. Services included in your hunting package are outlined in your contract. As with most hunting excursions, there are a few miscellaneous expenses that may or may not be incurred during your WSI hunting trip. The following is a summary of various costs, in addition to your package, that you should bear in mind.

1. **Airfare** – WSI hunt packages do not include airfare. We do provide shuttle to and from the nearest airport on most hunts, but this is subject to arrival and departure times. Check with us about details.
2. **Shipping of meat, capes, and antlers** – Many of our hunters take their meat and trophy back with them on the airplane. However, we do sometimes ship cape/antlers to hunter or their taxidermist. We do not ship meat. If you are interested in the meat, you need to take it back with you. All shipping charges will be reversed and some form of crating/handling fee will be charged to the hunter. The following price structure will generally prevail on crating/handling fees, plus cost of materials:

- White-tailed Deer \$30
- Mule Deer \$30

- Elk (unsplit) \$150
- Elk (Split) \$50
- Turkey \$30
- Exotics (Small) \$30
- Exotics (Large) \$40 - \$75

These fees include boxing/crating of both the cape and antlers/horns. Price on a per animal basis may be reduced when multiple animals are shipped in a single container. The above prices do not include shipping costs or material costs for boxes or crates which are extra.

3. **Taxidermy** – WSI can arrange for providing taxidermy services at hunter’s expense payable to the taxidermist. We only work with reputable, award-winning taxidermists.
4. **License and Tags** – All hunting/fishing licenses are at hunter’s expense. WSI generally takes care of obtaining licenses, but hunter is charged exact cost of license. Make sure you have the hunter profile with license info to us at least 10 days prior to hunt if you want WSI to obtain your license for you.
5. **Gratuities** – Though gratuities are not required on WSI hunts, it is customary for hunters to tip both their guide and the cook. Use your discretion in determining what you feel is a fair amount. Tips are always appreciated by camp staff. Here is a suggested “rule of thumb” on tipping amounts, but please consider that the cook’s tip may need to be higher if there are only a few hunters in camp:

<u>Hunt Price</u>	<u>Gratuity Amount Per Hunter</u>	
Up to \$1,500	\$200 - \$300 (Guide)	\$50 - \$75 (Cook)
\$1,500 - \$3,000	\$300 - \$400 (Guide)	\$75 - \$100 (Cook)
\$3,000 - \$5,000	\$400 - \$500 (Guide)	\$100 - \$125 (Cook)
\$5,000+	10% - 12% Hunt (Guide)	\$125 - \$150 (Cook)

6. **Other** – It is always wise to carry some extra cash with you for incidental travel expenses (gifts, airport meals, parking fees, etc.). It is also a good idea to have several \$1.00 and \$5.00 bills for airport gratuities.

It is our intention to provide you with a comfortable, fun hunt with no unwanted surprises. Make sure you are familiar with what is included with your hunt package to ensure that no hassles are encountered.

# HUNTING/CAMP POLICIES & RULES

1. No drinking of alcoholic beverages is allowed in the field. If drinking of alcohol is done during daylight hours, it is up to a WSI staff member to decide whether or not that particular hunter will be allowed to hunt that day. **Safety first!**
2. If hunter is dropped off at a blind, hunter shall not leave that blind to hunt on foot. Walk hunting is allowed only when accompanied by a guide. In the event that a game animal is wounded, but not killed, hunter is to stay in blind until guide arrives to assist in trailing.
3. Any wounded animal will be treated as a kill. If blood, bone, or meat is found, animal will be considered wounded, and we will make a reasonable effort to recover such animals. Even if no blood, bone, or meat is found, if it is obvious that the animal was hit, this will be treated as a wounded animal; guide will make the call. Hunter may or may not be allowed to continue to hunt if they wound a buck, depending upon WSI ability to harvest extra bucks from that particular property and depending upon the specific situation. A WSI staff member will make the final decision on whether the hunter will have an option to hunt for another buck, and hunter will pay a predetermined harvest fee if another buck is taken.
4. When being transported in a guide's vehicle, no shells are allowed in the chamber, and barrels should be pointed toward the floor of the vehicle. No loaded guns are allowed in or around the camp area.
5. Hunters are forbidden to shoot any animals that are not specified in their contract, unless given permission by guide. In the event that a hunter kills game in excess of his allowed limit, hunter will be charged a harvest fee comparable to the standard hunt price for that animal.
6. Hunters are expected to not leave trash in the field or in the blinds.
7. If hunters should open any gates while on the premises, gates should be locked or latched the same way they were found.
8. Should any hunter's action become an unreasonable risk factor to other individuals attending the hunt, hunter may be immediately dismissed from the premises, and no money will be refunded.
9. Should any hunter's behavior become unruly, hunter may be dismissed from premises with no money refunded.
10. No pets allowed.

*Let's all have a safe and enjoyable hunt.*

# FIREARMS & SHOOTING

Your firearm and your ability to adequately handle and use this piece of equipment with proficiency play a critical role in the ultimate outcome of your hunting trip.

## **Mule Deer Calibers & Loads**

Mule deer can be hardy big game animals, requiring a bit more bullet energy than on a typical Texas whitetail hunt. Calibers such as .270, 7mm, .30-06, .300 Win Mag and all other similar size calibers are good choices. A minimum of a 130-grain bullet is required on this hunt. Use a well-constructed bullet such as a partition, A-frame, or bonded bullets; do NOT use highly expandable bullets, such as Nosler Ballistic Tips, hollow points, or Berger bullets. Be sure to do enough practicing to establish which loads shoot the best for your choice of caliber.

## **Shooting Practice**

It cannot be overemphasized how important it is for you to put some time in at the range. We recommend you visit the range a minimum of two times during the six-week period preceding your hunt, firing a minimum of ten rounds per trip. Make sure you practice from shooting positions that are realistic field situations, such as prone, elbows on knees, leaning against a tree, etc. If you plan on using a gun-mounted bipod, be sure to practice with one.

We recommend that your gun be sighted in for 100 yards dead on. If you decide to sight your gun high at 100 yards, it should not be more than 1.5 inches high at that distance. A common mistake we see hunters make is having gun sighted in 2" - 3" high at 100 yards.

# HUNTER PROFILE FORM

We need to receive a Hunter Profile on all our hunting clients. Even if you have previously filled one out on a previous hunt, please fill one out for your upcoming hunt with WSI. The Hunter's profile is the last page of this packet. You can either print the form out and mail or fax to us, or you can fill it out on-line and email back to us. Our fax number is 325-947-7703.



# HUNTER PROFILE

(Mule Deer Hunt)

**Please complete and return either by mail, email or fax to 325-947-7703**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Name on Driver's License)

Phone: (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (WK) \_\_\_\_\_ (Hm) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ (SS# required if WSI obtains license)

Drivers License # \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Hunter Safety # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Required in TX if born on or after 9/2/71)

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (you can pay a one-time \$10.00 waiver fee)

- Do you want Wildlife Systems to obtain your Hunting License? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (If yes, include payment with profile.) Nonresident Deer #105 (\$315), Youth #169 (\$7), Turkey #118 (\$126), Exotic #157 (\$48) (Texas Resident license also available) or Purchase your license online at: [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#).
- Person/Company responsible for payment (if other than yourself): \_\_\_\_\_
- Please list members of your hunting party: \_\_\_\_\_
- Please list Taxidermy and/or shipping info for your antlers, capes, etc...: \_\_\_\_\_

## Medical Information

Do you have any Special Dietary Needs or Request: \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you have any physical impairment that we should know about? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you have any allergy problems that we should know about? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the most common problems or dislikes you have observed while on your hunting trips: \_\_\_\_\_
- What hunting trips (game animals & birds) do you plan on trying to attend over the next five years? \_\_\_\_\_
- Can we use your name and telephone number on a reference list? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_
- Can we use your hunting photo on our website, brochures or advertisements? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Please let us know your travel arrangements. Please list all flight details; or if driving, please list arrival and departure times. **Arrival:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Departure:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*We do not provide shuttle service from airport on our mule deer hunts.\*