



Geoff and Jennifer Burbey  
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### **Questions to ask before booking a hunt?**

- Is the outfitter licensed, bonded, and insured?
  - Should be easily answered by the outfitter...Company, limits, renewal dates, etc..
- Is the license in good standing?
  - For Colorado outfitters use: [www.dora.state.co.us/Outfitters](http://www.dora.state.co.us/Outfitters)
- How long have they been in business?
  - Make sure that the individual has been in business that long. Not the business name being in business that long.
- Is outfitting all they do? Or is it more of a “hobby” business?
  - This should matter to you. Would you hire a plumber that is a bartender for a real job?
- Are there employees and is the person you speak to going to be your primary service provider?
  - Will you ever see this person again? Will they be there at the end of your trip also? Not just to collect your check.
- Ask for references. Successful and ask for unsuccessful references as well.
  - Successful hunters might forget leaky tents, rank stock or?. Unsuccessful hunters will remember the service and the area (and might offer extra insight).
- If success rates are given ask how they are calculated. Kill? Opportunity?
  - Remind yourself that success rates can be easily skewed by number of hunters, number of tags, sex of tags, by season, etc...
- What is the return client percentage?
  - This is good barometer of client satisfaction.
- Ask the general location of the camps?
  - How far in? Would they hunt there if they were hunting for themselves?
- What is the average occupancy of a camp and how many hunters do they service annually?
  - Are you booking a camp for your group or will you have strangers in it?
- Be a label junky.
  - What gear do they use? From camp equipment, tack, to personal gear...If you are not familiar with it look it up on the internet. This will give a flavor of the outfit you are booking with.
- Biggest two things to remember...
  - 1. You get what you pay for.
    - A bargain hunt is just that. Some bargains are great, many are not so great.
  - 2. Make sure you are comfortable with the person you give your money to.
    - Professional outfitters can control a lot of things, but the nature of most of this business involves Mother Nature and she controls everything.



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### **Questions to ask yourself before shopping?**

- What type of hunt do I want?
  - Fair chase
  - High fence
  - Wild land
  - private land
  - Pack in
  - Fly in
  - Tent or Lodge
  - Computer (Yes, these are available.)
  - Single species or combo
  
- Am I more interested in my weapon than the game I am hunting? Do I want to hunt or shoot?
  - This may seem a funny question, but think about all the hunting videos and shows out there. When you daydream about this hunt are you picturing the 500 yard kill shot or the “belly crawl through the thick for two hour” spot and stock hunt? Book accordingly.
  
- Am I in good enough physical condition for the hunt I am booking?
  - Be honest with yourself; try not to plan on getting “in” shape before the hunt. Getting into better shape is more reasonable.
  - Think about everyone in your group. Be sure to book to the lowest physical capabilities.
  
- When I heard the success rates did I put myself on both sides? What if I am the unsuccessful hunter?
  
- Again, the Biggest two things to remember...
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    - A bargain hunt is just that. Some bargains are great, many are not so great.
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    - Professional outfitters can control a lot of things, but the nature of most of this business involves Mother Nature and she controls everything.
  
- Did I get answers to all my questions?