

GEAR LIST

What to wear:

In General-- Dress in layers for temperature and moisture management. Hiking up a steep hill will make you hot and sweaty, while sitting quietly in the wind looking for bighorn will require warm, wind-proof layers. Dressing in layers allows you to adjust to the temperature before you get too hot or cold.

Materials--The best materials to wear are moisture wicking under-layers including polyester, silk, and wool, warm when wet (AKA "hydrophobic") mid-layers like synthetic fleece or wool, and an outer-layer that is wind/water resistant, which could be a softshell, or waterproof-breathable shell. *Cotton is the worst material to wear for outdoor activity; it will absorb moisture and cause evaporative cooling.*

Hiking boots with wool socks--Essential to support ankles when descending loose rocky terrain and to keep your feet dry in snow or creek-crossings. *Gaiters* are an optional accessory that can make the difference between having a boot full of snow or water, and dry feet.

What to carry:

Day pack with room for lunch, snacks, water, an extra layer, personal and emergency gear, as well as for binoculars and/or spotting scope and tripod.

Inside the pack (or on your body)

Water -At **least** 2 liters of water per person

Lunch and snacks

Sunscreen

Lip balm

Brimmed sun hat

Sunglasses

Wind/rain shell jacket (optionally; shell pants)

Warm hat and gloves (wool or synthetic; ideally wind-proof)

Extra insulating layer (e.g., fleece, lightweight down-*for sitting still*)

Extra wool socks (optional; in case you get wet crossing, e.g., SF Lytle Cr.)

Binoculars and/or spotting scope and tripod***

Ground pad/Thermarest/poncho (optional; to sit on while observing-VERY useful if there is snow)

Walkie-talkie and extra batteries (optional; FRS/GMRS radios are useful to talk with other observers in your area to find animals)

Cell phone (optional; won't work in many areas- sometimes text message may work in marginal service areas)

Head lamp (optional, but invaluable when you need it)

Knife (optional)

Gaiters (optional)

First aid kit including moleskin (optional -but someone in your group should have one)

Whistle, matches, space blanket, signal mirror, satellite beacon... (Emergency items; optional -but advisable)

Compass (optional; helpful for mapping observed bighorn)

GPS and extra batteries (optional)

Camera (optional)

***Binoculars, at minimum, are essential; a spotting scope is better. Please bring (beg, borrow, or buy) binoculars in the 7x35 - 10x42 range, which are optimal for spotting wildlife. An objective lens much smaller than 40 mm will not allow enough light to clearly resolve subjects, magnification above 10X require a tripod or other support. 10x40 or 10x42 are favorites of experienced observers. Compact binoculars, such as 8 x 25 are better than nothing, but are dim , with a small field of view. A spotting scope with an objective lens of 50-80 mm and magnification of 20-60X is a great tool for those serious about watching wildlife.