



SBO

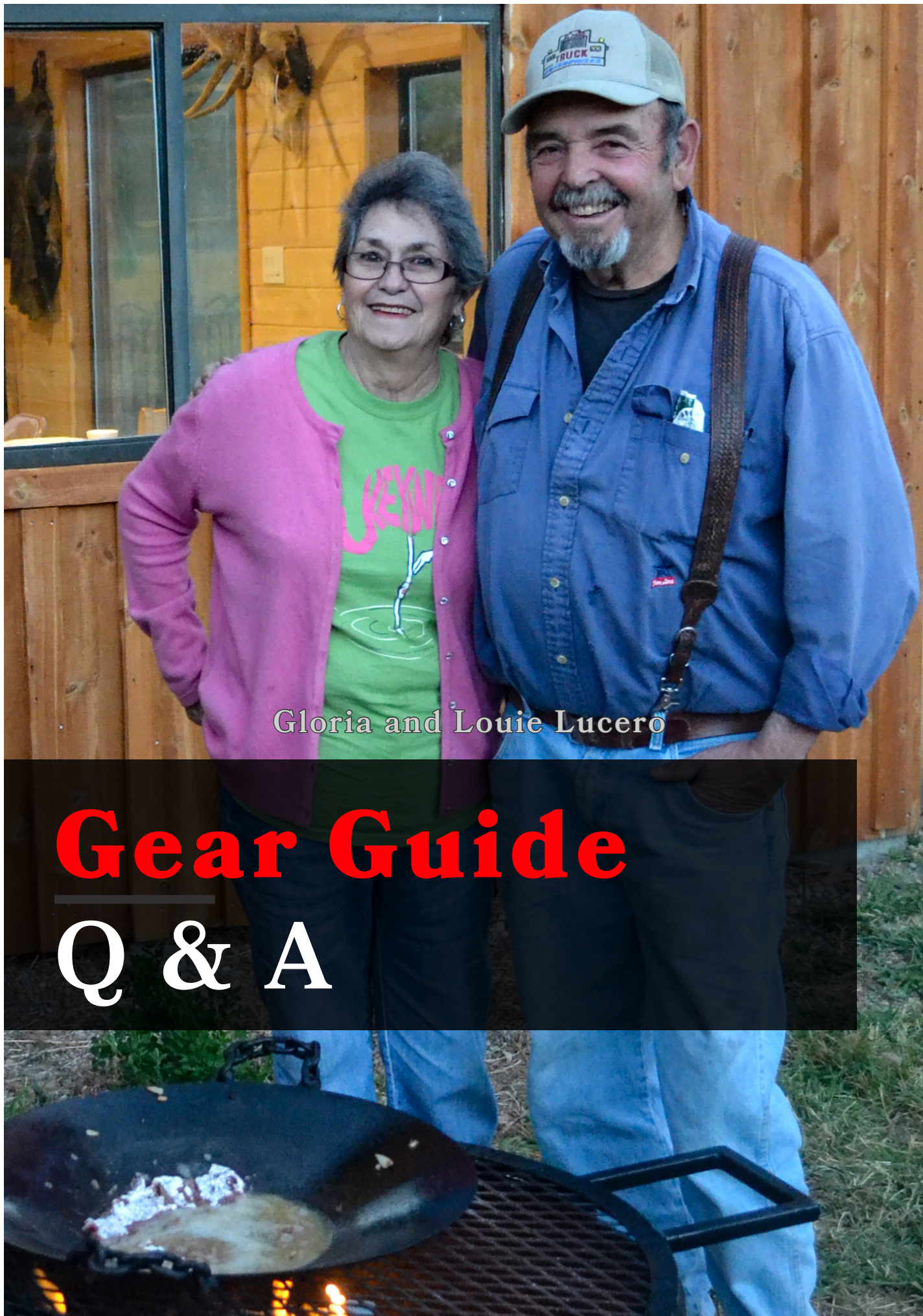
Elk Hunts

Trophy, archery and rifle, private land, elk hunts on the Rio Costilla Park Ranch of Northern New Mexico.

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Gloria and Louie Lucero

Gear Guide

Q & A

Your Hosts

Screamin' Bull Outfitters (SBO) was established in the late 1970's by **Louie Lucero**. It was not long after that his son, **Chris Lucero** (below) joined his father in the business of outfitting private land elk hunts on the Rio Costilla Park Ranch and they have both been instrumental through the years in helping to shape not only the management of the area elk herd but also its other natural resources. Fifteen years ago, Chris took over the business, although Louie still guides and helps Chris' mom, **Gloria**, with cooking and housekeeping duties at the Lodge. Offering one-on-one guided hunts, SBO has a number of very experienced and qualified guides, most of whom were born, raised, and live in the area and have spent many years roaming these mountains.

The Rio, as it is known, (managed by the **Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association, RCCLA**) is bordered on the east by the famous Vermejo Park Ranch owned by Ted Turner, the Carson National Forest's Valle Vidal on the south/southeast, NM's Urraca Game Mgt Unit to the southwest, and the Cielo Vista Ranch on the north in Colorado. Wheeler Peak can be seen to the south, at 13,159 ft. elevation, the highest natural peak in New Mexico.



SBO Outfitter & Guide, Chris Lucero (L) and Huntress, Sharon Conley (R).

The Hunt

You will be hunting trophy elk on the **Rio Costilla Park Ranch** (82,000 acres) in North Central New Mexico in the town of Amalia. SBO, its guides, and hunters will be hunting the north half of the ranch (over 40,000 acres) at elevations of 8,000 to perhaps over 12,000 feet in the Cimarron Range of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. These **managed, private land (no draw) hunts, are fully guided, one-on-one for great bulls 5 X 5 or better.** Opportunities and success rates on bulls of 300 class or better are excellent.

Transportation to Camp

If you elect to fly to Camp, SBO can only make arrangements to pick you up at the Alamosa, CO airport connecting/commuter flight from the Denver/Colorado Springs airports. Alamosa is about an hour away. If you fly into either ABQ, DEN, or COS airports, you will have to rent a vehicle and drive on into Camp. All of these are a 3-hour plus drive to Camp. Depending on where you live, many hunters elect to drive from home to Camp, especially if they plan to take their elk meat, antlers, etc. back home with them, as opposed to having them shipped. If you are coming with a buddy or two, although a longer trip timewise, it is the most economical.

Accommodations

SBO's Lodge is located in **Amalia, NM** and can accommodate up to 10 hunters, plus their guides and guests (sleeps up to 20). It features a large dining/kitchen and gathering area at the east end with another lounge area at the west end. There is **Dish Network TV** and also **Wifi** so you can stay connected. There are multiple bedrooms and restrooms with hot showers. Beds with mattresses are included but you will need to **bring a sleeping bag, pillow, and towel**.



Licenses, Shooting Capability

On the day of your arrival, and the day before your hunt starts, you will be taken to the Rio Costilla Park Office where you will be assisted in purchasing your hunting license and then to the shooting range to check your rifle/bow for zero. Your ability to shoot is very important and a responsibility you have to the game you hunt. **Know your shooting capabilities** before you come to camp. If you are rifle hunting, know your weapon. Spend time at the range and make sure your gun is zeroed before you leave home. Shots are possible at 300-400 yards although the majority are less. Are you capable of making that shot? Do you know where your gun shoots at various distances? If not, don't take that shot! Archery shots could be up to 40 yards or more. Are you proficient at that distance? If not, don't take that shot! Ranch policy is, if you wound an animal and all efforts are made to recover it, and it cannot be found, it's your animal and your hunt is over. So, practice before you come on the hunt. Don't be the one that shows up and you haven't shot your gun, or bow, since last year and you waste everyone else's time at the range while SBO tries to help you get sighted in!



Daily Schedule, Meals, Conditioning

A typical day starts 4-4:30am with hunters and their guides congregating in the dining room for a light continental breakfast including coffee, juices, milk, fruit, cereal, pastries etc. There is a large selection of various snack items along with bottled water and Gatorade for hunters to stuff their pockets or daypacks with for the morning hunt. After this breakfast, the guides and their hunters will depart up the mountain (all guides have 4-wheel drive vehicles) to their chosen hunting spots trying to get there up to one hour before daylight. Morning hunts are typically on foot and spot and stalk. The elk are normally bedding by late morning so everyone heads back to the Lodge where the staff is preparing a big buffet breakfast which may include, eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, French toast, hash browns etc. Your guide will have already discussed with you your **physical conditioning** and will have planned your hunt accordingly. So, don't be concerned about that. But, this hunt can be as physical as you make it, and can have an impact on your success, as will the higher altitudes. Therefore, SBO will accommodate you and put you in the best position for success. At least consider your health and current level of conditioning, and think about starting, 2 or 3 months ahead of your hunt, a regular schedule of brisk walking a couple of miles or so several times a week. If you can do more like jog, or other cardio, do it. Due to the big brunch breakfast, close to midday, there is not a scheduled lunch, but there will be sandwich items etc. available for those wanting to make their own snack or to

take a lunch out with them on the afternoon hunt. Usually by mid-afternoon or before (On the rut bow hunts, hunters may be hunting all day and take snacks, sandwiches, with them accordingly and the guides always have a cooler with cold drinks with them) the guides and hunters are again heading up the mountain for the evening hunt. This may be either sitting in a blind, spot and stalk, or a combination as the elk dictate. At dark, everyone heads back down to the Lodge where a large dinner is being prepared. A variety of main entrees will be served during your stay with some Southwestern Cuisine mixed in. There will be socializing after dinner, but it usually doesn't last long because 4:00am comes early. Weather permitting, there are outside tables, chairs, and a fire pit for hunters to gather during the day or evening.



Trophy & Meat Care

When you have your trophy bull down, your SBO guide(s) will take over, field dress, skin, and quarter as necessary and then get it transported down to the Lodge. There, they will finish it as necessary and hang the quarters, backstraps, tenderloins etc. in the refrigerator trailer. They will also cape out your bull and cut off the antlers and clean the skull plate in preparation for your taxidermist (or the skull if you prefer a European mount).

Preparing your meat for transport home: 1) We do not process your elk. If you would like to process your elk right there on site, please bring appropriate knives, packaging items, and cooler(s) with you. There is an area by the Lodge for you to do so. When cut up, packaged, and in cooler(s), it can be stored in the refrigerator trailer until you depart for home. Remember, if you are transporting to a **CWD** state, it may be required that the meat be completely deboned, the skull or skull cap be cleaned of all brain matter. Some states also required proof of sex be left on the animal. 2) About 45 miles away, just north of Taos, NM is a processor SBO has used for some years now. They do a good job at a reasonable cost and can package and quick freeze it for your trip home. For an extra charge they can process complete in 24 hours. You can also discuss with them shipping your meat home, if you desire. Transportation to the processor for you and your elk can be arranged, if necessary.



Climate & Recommended Gear List

The climate in the mountains of Northern New Mexico between mid-September and mid-October can be a mixed bag which you will have to prepare for. Temperatures can range from daytime highs of the 50-60's to low 80's (more likely 70's) to lows of the teens to the 40's in the mornings. Also, snow can occur at any time with heavy wet stuff in September to light and fluffy in colder October possibly as much as 8-10." So, your hunting clothing should be layered accordingly so you can put on or take off as needed. Warm pairs of socks, long underwear, vests, light and heavier jackets, rainwear (packable works well so you can carry with you in your **daypack**), hats, skull caps/beanies, light and heavy gloves, hunting knife, flashlight, **headlamp**, cell phone/camera, binoculars, and rangefinder. Hunter orange is not required so most bring camo.

Probably the **#1 most important item** is a great fitting, warm (insulated), waterproof, good ankle/foot supporting, pair of leather type hiking

boots (above the ankle). The mountains are most often rocky, uneven (you are either going up, down, or side-hilling) and nothing will ruin your hunt more than a poor fitting pair of boots causing blistered, cold and wet feet, and sore legs. Rubber style boots do not offer the kind of fit, support, footing, or abrasion resistance you need, so make sure you have a great fitting pair of leather waterproof boots that you have already broken in before you come on the hunt. Do some research on what others are wearing for this type of hunting.

As previously mentioned, SBO will provide bottled water, Gatorade, and juices. If you want other kinds of **beverages** like soft drinks or alcoholic, you must bring them.



After You Bag Your Bull And Your Hunt Is Over

All SBO's elk hunts are 5 days in length. You arrive the day before, have 5 full days of hunting and head for home the day after. However, your choice is this. If you bag your animal as soon as the first day or the following days, you are welcome to continue your stay up through the end of the hunt. Or, you can elect to head for home. If you stay, you will have time to finish taking care of processing your animal, have chances to visit and see a lot more of the ranch or the nearby Valle Vidal, help guide(s) spot for other hunters, photograph and/or video, lounge around and enjoy camp life, even pitching in and helping staff, or perhaps even get some trout fishing in on nearby Costilla Creek.



Your Weapon Of Choice

Generally, we leave this choice up to the hunter. Just consider the large animal you will be hunting and choose accordingly. For **Archery hunters**, we do not have an established policy on fixed vs mechanical blades. Higher poundage bows will give you flatter trajectory and better penetration on your shots. Make sure you bring an extra release, broadheads, and other maintenance items. There will be target(s) at the Lodge.

Rifle hunters, larger caliber rifles like 7mmMag and 300WinMags or equivalent are preferred for their long-range capability, penetration, and bullet performance. Bonded bullets are preferred. Bring 2 boxes of shells.

Any further questions on bows, arrows, guns, bullets, please contact us when you book your hunt.

We very much look forward to you joining us on a hunt. If you have any questions, whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact us. These hunts book early, so if you are interested, please contact us as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lucero (Outfitter, Guide, Screamin' Bull Outfitters)

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