

Choosing the right rain gear

With the rainy season upon us, I thought it would be appropriate for us to discuss protection from those mountain summer rains. Rain gear should have a pretty simple goal, keeping you dry.

It is not quite so simple, however.

The rain wear of today has many different things for us to consider, such as waterproof, water resistant, soft shell, hard shell, air flow rates and breathability to name just a few. Let's sort them out a bit and see if we can help you make the right choice.

The old time raincoat was made of a rubberized shell. This did a very good job of keeping the rain off you but it caused you to immediately start sweating, soaking you from the inside.

This would lead to other problems, such as becoming chilled and a pathway to hypothermia.

If you are going to do any

activity outside at all, you need a material that breathes. Breathing means allowing the water vapors from your body to escape and having an air-flow so you do not get soaked from the inside from your own perspiration. An active outdoorsman would do well to stay away from the rubber slickers like the fisherman used to wear.

There is a big difference between waterproof and water repellent. Waterproof means that in a downpour, the rain will not soak through the garment. Water repellent means during a passing shower or a light rain of short duration, you will probably stay dry.

Waterproof clothing will usually have a storm flap around all the zippers.

The coatings used for making jackets water repellent wear off with time and use. The waterproof materials usually hold up to abuse better.

Our summer mountain

storms can be pretty torrential, so I would opt for waterproof.

Choose a set of gear that will fit your needs. For many, a poncho that fits over you, and possibly your pack, works best.

For rains of a relatively short duration, a poncho works well. It can be difficult to move around well in a poncho because they don't snug up against your body.



Tips from the Posse

By Mark Rackay

Personally, I prefer a rain suit. This is waterproof pants and a jacket.

These are large enough that they fit over your clothes and even a jacket. With these, you have the option to wear just the jacket for a quick passing shower, or to gear up completely for a downpour.

My favorite material for waterproof rain gear is Gore-Tex. This material has been around since the '70s and there are many other materials now with similar properties.

These are the materials that are waterproof but breathable.

One other consideration in choosing rain gear is size and weight. Some of my old boating rain gear is very large and cumbersome, making it very difficult to fit in a pack.

Look for lightweight and less bulk for your gear. Unfortunately, less size and weight usually means a heavier price tag.

You can find rain gear for

just about any budget. I spent around a hundred fifty bucks for my set about four years ago. This set has been all over North America and is still going strong.

You can find a set cheaper but it may not last as long, or put up with the abuse of a better set. As with so many of our outdoor gear you get what you pay for.

I would add that a cheap set is far better than no set when you are in a rainstorm. I throw one of those "emergency ponchos" that sell for around a buck in the pack.

It is better than nothing and can be used to cover gear in a pinch. Until next time, stay dry and see you on the trail.

Mark Rackay is a freelance writer who serves as a director for the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse. For information about the Posse call 970-252-4033 (leave a message) or email info@mcspi.org.

CPW launches survey for elk-management plan

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is seeking public input through an online survey regarding a new elk-management plan for an area near Gunnison.

The new plan will guide elk management in Game Management Units 66 and 67, which are located south of Gunnison and north of Lake City.

Hunters and other interested in providing comments can fill out a survey and comment form on-line at

www.research.net/r/GunnisonDAU.

Anyone who did not have an opportunity to attend the public scoping meetings in July in Lake City or Gunnison is especially encouraged to participate in the poll.

The survey will be available through Aug. 16.

Management plans are written for specific elk and deer herd areas — known as Data Analysis Units — and are updated about once every 10 years.

The plans, which

include individual population objectives, take into consideration a variety of factors and influence management related to hunter harvest and hunter opportunity.

Factors include: agricultural, range and ecological conditions, socio-economic considerations, input from other state and federal agencies, and input from hunters and the general public.

CPW wildlife managers expect to have the management plan completed early in 2017.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife Manager Daniel Findlay accepts an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award from Adam Smith in Denver. (Courtesy Photo)

CPW manager earns Patriot Award

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Manager Daniel Findlay, who oversees the agency's procurement section, was on Wednesday honored with an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award in a small ceremony in Denver.

"Dan lets me use military leave without hassle, even when minimal notice is given for my National Guard duty," said Missouri National Guardsman, Capt. Brandon Kimble, a judge advocate with the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade based in Sedalia, Mo., in his nomination of Findlay.

"In my work as a JAG officer, I've seen others who haven't had it as easy; manager support goes a long way."

Kimble's remarks were shared in a CPW news release announcing Findlay's honor.

Findlay accepted the award on behalf of his whole team, which he said willingly shares the burdens of extra work that come along when Kimble is away on duty.

"Brandon makes the sacrifice and we happily do what we can to support him," Findlay said, in a provided statement.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense program, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component service members and their civilian employers.

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The fee for a cat is \$30. Kittens younger than 1 year are \$50. Dogs are \$60, and puppies are \$75.

The shelter is open from **9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, except for Fridays.**

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For more information about Hamlet and other available pets, call 240-1487, or visit www.montrose.animalshelter.net

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