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## Why the Wilderness Is So Much Worse Than the Zombie Apocalypse: Mountain Men Season 3

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Like millions of people, you've spent a lot of time thinking about how you'd come through a zombie apocalypse. You may have even started a zombie survival kit. But with Season 3 of [HISTORY's "Mountain Men"](#) upon us, it might be time to turn your thoughts to things that could actually happen – like being chased by wild animals in Montana or getting stranded in the Alaskan wilderness.

As Tom Oar, a grizzled ex-rodeo cowboy who lives off the land in the Montana mountains and has almost certainly never even heard of a zombie apocalypse, says, "If you've got to worry about something, worry about getting mauled by a grizzly bear."

It's good advice. Especially for Oar and the five other cast members we'll revisit or meet in Season 3.

If you've seen the first two seasons (full episodes are available at [www.history.com](http://www.history.com)) you know "The Mountain Men" is reality television at its best: no producer manipulation, no staged scenarios, just the real life stories of a half-dozen hardcore heroes surviving in some of America's most remote mountain regions.

These guys literally live off the land, eating what they kill or grow, solving real-world problems with must-do solutions that would make MacGyver cry. Heading out into the snow to hunt, Oar says, “If I don’t kill a deer I’m gonna starve this winter.”

It takes a minute to sink in: What’s shocking about Oar’s statement is that, presence of the TV crew aside, it’s an actual fact. It’s really, really hard to get a pizza delivered in this part of the world.



Or any of the other places the show goes: North Carolina’s Blue Ridge Mountains, the wilds of Maine south of the Canadian border, the rocky wilderness of New Mexico, the Grand Tetons of Idaho. They are all terribly beautiful -- gorgeous and horrifying at the same time in the way that only the most foreboding and impressive of nature’s wonders can be.

Here’s the most disturbing real-world fact revealed in the first two seasons of [“Mountain Men”](#): After decades around humans, grizzly bears now run towards the sound of gunfire, anticipating an easy meal (and perhaps a bonus dessert).

And you’re worried about zombies?

It’s time for some real-world tips. Understand that much of what you’ve already collected for your zombie kit can be repurposed, but here are a few items and skills that will prove indispensable if you ever find yourself accidentally stuck in any of the settings [“Mountain Men”](#) embrace on purpose.

First let’s make the kit:

1. A really sharp, really big knife.
2. Several other sharp things (axes, arrows, more knives, perhaps another knife).
3. As many large-caliber weapons as you can get your hands on.

4. Anything that will start a fire (except that weird kid you knew in middle school).
5. Food, you would think, but apparently not – go get your own with the above, like the guys on the show do.

Now for some skills

1. Learn to shoot. Well.
2. Learn to use those knives and other sharp thingies.
3. Learn to fly an Alaskan bush plane.
4. More importantly, learn to land that plane in the Alaskan bush
5. Learn to put skis on that plane instead of wheels when the weather turns from horrible to more horrible.
6. Learn to hunt (that's why steps 1 and 2 are important). If you want vegetables with dinner, better learn to grow those, too.
7. Learn to track a poacher, like Eustace Conway did in the Blue Ridge Mountains at the end of Season 2. The problem with folks taking things from your land in the middle of nowhere is that to get replacements you'd need a rocket ship to reach the nearest supermarket in the dead of winter.
8. Those are the kinds of things we don't have to deal with in our daily lives. We can have a little fun and think about how we'd survive in similar circumstances. But for the actual Mountain Men, life's not pretty no matter how many times they're on TV.

Tom Oar does manage to get that deer. He finishes butchering it by cleaving the animal's head into equal parts with three sharp blows from a hatchet. He feeds the middle piece – including most of the face – to his dog. Neither of them bats an eye (to be fair, the same can be said of the deer).



That's not mean, folks – that's real life, not the sanitized, concrete-covered, WIFI-enabled, fast food-fueled world we consider tough enough. For some reason these guys feel the need to get out and do it old school, like our ancestors. Remember them? They worked hard so we could have

frappuccinos and LOL about everything. [“Mountain Men”](#) are taking it back. The least you could do is watch.

And start working on that survival kit.

[Learn More about HISTORY's Mountain Men](#)



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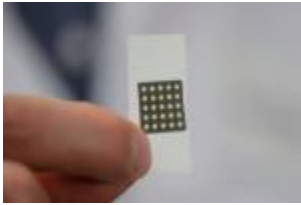
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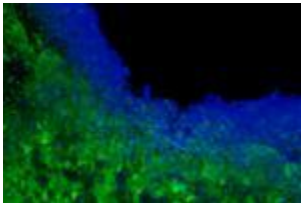
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