

EXPLORE

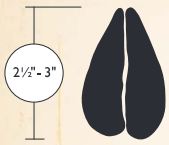
BOWHUNTING

STUDENT HANDBOOK

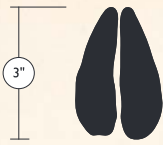


WILD TURKEY

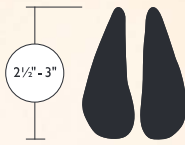
TRACKING QUICK GUIDE



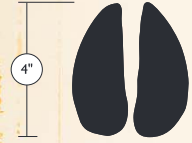
WHITE-TAILED DEER
Odocoileus virginianus



MULE DEER
Odocoileus hemionus



BLACK-TAILED DEER
Odocoileus hemionus



ELK
Cervus elaphus



MOOSE
Alces alces



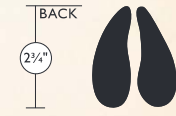
BIGHORN SHEEP
Ovis spp.



MOUNTAIN GOAT
Oreamnos americanus



AMERICAN BISON
Bison bison

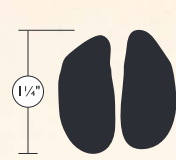


PRONGHORN
Antilocapra americana

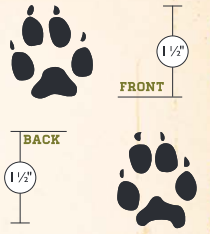
TRACKING QUICK GUIDE



FERAL HOG
Sus scrofa



JAVELINA
Tayassu tajacu



GRAY FOX
Urocyon cinereoargenteus



RED FOX
Vulpes vulpes



COYOTE
Canis latrans



GRAY WOLF
Canis lupus



BOBCAT
Felis rufus



LYNX
Felis lynx



COUGAR
Felis concolor



PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE

To prepare for your hunt, practice these shots to make sure you're ready:



HOLD YOUR BOW AT FULL DRAW FOR 30 SECONDS BEFORE TAKING THE SHOT.

PRACTICE WEARING YOUR HUNTING CLOTHES.

SHOOT FROM A KNEELING POSITION.

You should be able to shoot for 30 minutes or more without your arms becoming tired. If your arms get tired after 15-20 shots, then your draw weight may be too heavy.



RUN IN PLACE FOR 3 MINUTES AND TAKE A SHOT WITHIN 1 MINUTE TO PRACTICE SHOOTING WHEN YOUR HEART IS BEATING FASTER.

SHOOT FROM A SITTING POSITION.



GROUND BLINDS

Getting close to wildlife is exciting! In order to get close to wildlife, many people use ground blinds, a structure that hides people who want to get close to wildlife.

HOW TO BUILD A GROUND BLIND

- 1 Find a tree with forked branches about four to six feet above the ground.
- 2 Lean a fallen limb into the fork to serve as the anchor post. Make sure it's long enough to allow at least one person to sit under it comfortably.
- 3 Lean as many short limbs as you can find against the anchor limb, angling the limbs to create a triangular lean-to. Make sure the limbs are placed close together and extend far enough to the sides, leaving enough room for a seated or kneeling person. For bowhunting, ground and tree blinds must have space for the bowhunter to sit, kneel or stand comfortably, and enough space to hold, draw and shoot a bow and arrow.



- 4 Pile leaves, twigs and other debris on top and against the structure. Limbs with leaves attached or evergreen branches can be cut in 6- to 8-foot lengths and used to lean against the sides of the blind. This will help hide a bowhunter inside.

STRIDE WORKSHEET

TRIAL ONE

$$\frac{300 \text{ feet}}{\square \text{ steps}} = \text{_____} \text{ feet per step (stride)}$$

TRIAL TWO

$$\frac{300 \text{ feet}}{\square \text{ steps}} = \text{_____} \text{ feet per step (stride)}$$

AVERAGE STRIDE

$$\text{Trial 1 Stride _____} + \text{Trial 2 Stride _____} / 2 = \text{_____} \text{ feet per step}$$

CONVERT TO YARDS

TRIAL ONE

$$\frac{100 \text{ yards}}{\square \text{ steps}} = \text{_____} \text{ yards per step (stride)}$$

TRIAL TWO

$$\frac{100 \text{ yards}}{\square \text{ steps}} = \text{_____} \text{ yards per step (stride)}$$

AVERAGE PACE

$$\text{Trial 1 pace _____} + \text{Trial 2 pace _____} / 2 = \text{_____} \text{ yards/step}$$

SPOT-AND-STALK

You glass the hillside and see a bull elk moving slowly to the east about a quarter mile away. The wind is in your face, blowing your scent away from your target. It rained hard last night, making the ground soft and quiet for your approach. Your heart pounds as you realize these are perfect conditions for a spot-and-stalk hunt.

“Glassing” is when you use binoculars or a spotting scope to find game animals from a distance. The goal of spot-and-stalk hunting is to see the animal before it sees you, and craft an approach plan for a good shot opportunity. This technique is used most often in Western prairie and mountainous regions for bowhunting elk, pronghorns and mule deer.

TIPS FOR SPOT-AND-STALK HUNTING:

- 1 FIND AN ELEVATED VANTAGE POINT**, such as trees, rocks or hilly terrain. Check the area thoroughly. If you see nothing, move to another vantage point and check the next area.
- 2 LOOK FOR FRESH TRACKS AND SIGN**, moving slowly, walking a few steps at a time, and stopping often to scan and study the surroundings. Always be ready because a shot might suddenly present itself.
- 3 KNOW YOUR WIND DIRECTION** to avoid an animal catching your scent as you approach. Stay downwind of the animal (the wind is in your face) to avoid being detected.
- 4 WALK QUIETLY THROUGH THE TERRAIN**. Avoid stepping on sticks and other debris that could make noise and alert animals to your presence. Wet or damp conditions create better stalking conditions because the terrain becomes quieter when leaves, pine cones and other woodland debris are wet, soggy and less brittle.

WILD TURKEY

Meleagris gallopavo



PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Wild Turkeys have long, powerful legs, brown and black barred wing feathers, and a large fan – shaped tail. The body feathers have an iridescent bronze sheen. The head and neck are bare. The male has red wattles and a beard below the beak.

HABITAT

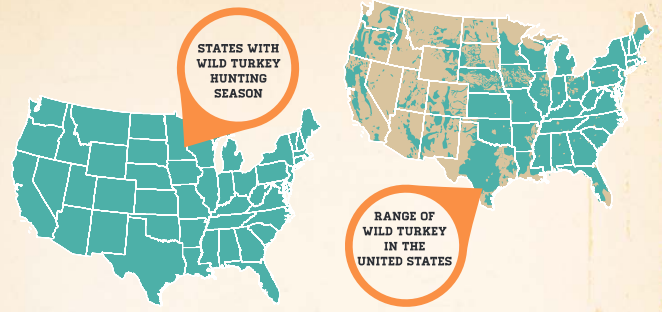
The Wild Turkey are found in many different habitats, including oak hardwood forest, swamps, pastures, open fields, chaparral and ponderosa pine forests.

FOOD: OMNIVORES

Acorns form a major portion of their diet, but wild turkeys also feed on seeds, nuts, fruits, insects, buds, fern fronds and, surprisingly, salamanders.

REPRODUCTION

Males (Toms) and females (hens) reach sexual maturity at about 10 months of age. Turkeys breed in early spring, starting as early as late January in some southern climates. Toms strut and fan their tails to attract a female. Hens will lay 4 to 17 eggs over a period of two weeks in a ground nest scratched out of leaves, twigs or grasses. The hen incubates the eggs for an average of 28 days. Young poults fledge after only 24 hours. Wild turkeys usually have only one brood per season. Average life span in the wild is only 1.3 to 1.6 years.



WILD TURKEY THROUGH THE SEASONS

WINTER: SURVIVAL

The day is spent in search of food and conserving energy. The nights are spent in above-ground roosts trying to keep warm. Toms and hens flock according to their gender.

SPRING: BREEDING

Mating begins in early March. Toms fan their tails, gobble and strut to attract several breeding females. The hens scratch out a nest, forming a shallow depression surrounded by vegetation to help hide it.

SUMMER: REARING

Young poults spend the summer with their mother. She will fend off predators and also roost with them at night. Hens and their poults flock together. Toms become solitary by late summer.

FALL: FOOD

Their main source of food in fall is acorns and other tree nuts. Acorns are a valuable food source and can provide enough fat reserves to sustain turkeys through the winter.



WHITE-TAILED DEER