



Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow

Hunting Awareness & Conservation Education

Hunter Skills

Goal: To convey that the skill, enjoyment, and success of hunting involves heightened use of all senses: the development of field skills such as tracking, observational awareness, game retrieval, and stealth; and learning details of animal behavior, natural history, and habitat.

Objectives: After this block of instruction the participant will be able to:

1. Explain that hunting requires stealth, stamina, alertness, focus, patience, and sound judgement; all honed through experience and repetition.
2. Describe how the senses of hearing and smell can be as important as vision.
3. Explain how the responsibility of recovering a wounded animal is met by using skills in tracking, blood trailing, and knowledge of animal behavior.
4. Explain how hunting success is influenced by a working understanding of natural history, animal behavior, and habitat (quality, animal use, and management).
5. Explain how the skill set of experienced hunters can be of value to natural resource professionals.

Why This Is Important for a Natural Resource Professional

Understanding the breadth of skills used by hunters will improve the professional's credibility when talking with hunters. Understanding the difficulty of retrieving wounded game may assist professionals in regulations development and harvest management, or in the development of training courses for hunters. Understanding that experienced hunters often have excellent observational skills and a good knowledge of natural history and habitat management will allow professionals to utilize hunters as citizen scientists and partners to collect data, manage habitat, shape agency programs that impact hunters, and further conservation objectives.