



Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow

Hunting Awareness & Conservation Education

A Hunt: Before, During, and After

Goal: To clearly convey that hunting, for many individuals, is a 365 day a year activity, a culture, and for many, a way of life. To convey the time commitment needed for a person to hunt safely and responsibly, including physical demands, pre-planning, and scouting. To convey that after hunting, proper care of hunting dogs, hunting equipment, and self, usually in that order, are a hunter's responsibility and expedients for the next safe hunt.

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

1. Describe the need for planning, logistical organization, and communication
2. Describe the need for proper physical conditioning and fitness prior to hunting.
3. Explain the importance of proper clothing and the importance of proper gear, all in relation to the type, location, duration, and other parameters of a specific hunt, including potentially hazardous events and weather.
4. Explain the importance of familiarization with quarry physiology, habits, and habitats, and with the landscape, including ownership of the area to be hunted
5. Explain the importance of knowing (and abiding by) pertinent wildlife laws and regulations including season dates, permit application deadlines, etc.

Why This Is Important for a Natural Resource Professional

The process of going hunting often includes numerous pre- and post-hunt activities that cannot and do not occur a day or two prior to going. These include reviewing laws and regulations, scouting trips, practice with hunting equipment, and physical and mental conditioning. Agencies have a role to play in providing clear regulations and boundary descriptions to game management units and in ensuring hunters have places to practice, as well as access to hunting areas. Knowing the kinds of information that hunters require, and providing it in a timely manner, will improve hunter compliance and increase support for agency programs.

Proper care of hunting equipment, dogs and self will make preparation of future hunts easier and the hunts themselves more enjoyable, minus defects, injuries, and other problems. Hunting preparation and hunting enjoyment bear significantly on hunter retention.

Additional Resources:

Stedman, R.C., and T. A. Heberlein. 1997. Hunting and the heart: Physiological response to seeing, shooting, and bagging game. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 2(2): 21-36.