

# **BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN -FLORIDA**

## **Introduction to Deer Hunting**

### **Getting Started Checklist**

#### ➤ **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE EDUCATION**

- ✓ Complete a Hunter Education Course.
- ✓ Complete a BOW “Introduction to Deer Hunting” workshop.
- ✓ Read and understand FWC’s “Rules and Regulations for Hunting”.
- ✓ Read books, magazines and articles about hunting.
- ✓ Talk with experienced hunters.

#### ➤ **MAKE SURE YOU KNOW LAWS AND ETHICS**

- ✓ Read and understand FWC’s “Rules and Regulations for Hunting”. Be sure you are using current issue. Review all changes in regulations.
- ✓ Read and understand individual Management Areas’ “Rules and Regulations”.
- ✓ Make sure you are using current issue.
- ✓ Purchase all necessary licenses, management area permits, and special hunting permits.
- ✓ Understand hunting ethics! Read, talk with other hunters, know the rules for the hunting club you may be at, and most of all, apply common courtesy.

#### ➤ **KNOW WHERE YOU WANT TO HUNT**

- ✓ Decide how you want to hunt...still hunting, trail hunting, dog hunting.
- ✓ Check out State management areas. Know what, management areas are, read FWC’s “Rules and Regulations” as well as individual pamphlets for each area, obtain a map, talk with local hunters or check station operators, and most of all, WALK AND SCOUT the area to get familiar with it before you start hunting there.
- ✓ Research private land areas. Use the internet, talk with other hunters, meet with owners, ask for history, visit the area, etc.
- ✓ SCOPE IT OUT BEFORE YOU BEGIN HUNTING SO YOU KNOW THE AREA.

#### ➤ **HAVE THE SUPPLIES YOU NEED TO BE LEGAL**

- ✓ Do you have the right license? Is it current? Make sure to have it with you at all times along with any permits necessary for your hunt.
- ✓ Get your hunter’s orange requirement. However you do it, be sure other hunters can see you and that you are wearing your orange.
- ✓ Use a legal firearm for the type of hunt you are participating in.

#### ➤ **HAVE YOUR HUNTING SUPPLIES**

- ✓ Have your firearm and ammunition. Are you familiar with it all?
- ✓ Have a good stand or climber, in excellent working condition.
- ✓ Have your safety harness on when you are in stand or climber.
- ✓ Good boots! Waterproof and warm.
- ✓ Mosquito, tick, red bug and insect repellants. Thermacell, DEET, Repel, ETC.

- ✓ Gloves for all conditions.
  - ✓ Camouflage clothing, hat with visor, rain gear – layer clothing!
  - ✓ Water, snack, water, compass, water, flashlight, water, tape, water, water, water.
  - ✓ Fanny pack or backpack for supplies.
  - ✓ Flashlight, compass, extra supplies for climber/stand, radio, etc.
  - ✓ Partner – make sure someone knows where you are!
  - ✓ Prepare for weather.
- **HAVE A PLAN TO REMOVE THE DEER**
- ✓ Know what to do when you kill the deer.
  - ✓ Fix location in mind while in stand. Establish some landmarks from the tree because when you hit the ground, it will look different.
  - ✓ Be sure to mark the area while you are searching for the deer so you can find your way back.
  - ✓ Upon approaching the deer, be sure it is dead.
  - ✓ If in a management area, do NOT field dress the deer.
  - ✓ Have a rope, tarp or carrier so you can get the deer back to you truck.
  - ✓ Know where to get help if you need it.
- **HAVE A PLAN TO FINISH YOUR HUNT**
- ✓ Know where to go with your deer to check it in.
  - ✓ Know how to clean it or get someone to clean it for you.
  - ✓ Know a good butcher who can take care of the meat for you.
  - ✓ GET PICTURES!
- **SHORT CUTS (OR LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY)!**
- ✓ COMFORT – FIT – EASE –OF –USE
  - ✓ List of things needed for different hunts to be sure you remember everything.
  - ✓ It's better to have something you need, than not have it and wish you did.
  - ✓ Clothing can be layered. It's easier to take it off than freeze.
  - ✓ Wear new boots before a hunt to break them in.
  - ✓ ALWAYS have tape and whenever you move, mark your way back to where you started.
  - ✓ Practice with climber/stand until you can use it in the dark.
  - ✓ Take extra latches, bungee cords, screws, toggle bolts, etc., just in case.
  - ✓ Practice or familiarize yourself with firearm before hunt.
  - ✓ Have a camera!
  - ✓ MOST IMPORTANT, HAVE FUN!

**HAPPY HUNTING!**