

# Responsible Hunting and Fishing

When you are in a survival situation, homesteading, or trying to become more self-sufficient hunting and fishing skills can be great assets. But there is nothing worse than an irresponsible one. The damage to the local animal population and local environment that a bad hunter or fisherman can do has effects not only in the immediate but for the future as well. If you are going to hunt or fish your lands, and both are resources that you can use, do it correctly and with respect.

**Know Local Regulations:** Familiarize yourself with local fishing and hunting regulations, including seasons, bag limits, and licensing requirements.

**Safety First:** Prioritize safety by wearing appropriate gear, practicing firearm safety, and informing others of your hunting or fishing plans.

**Safety Zones:** Establish safety zones where hunting is prohibited to protect family and livestock.

**Practice Marksmanship:** Regularly practice shooting and archery skills to improve accuracy and hunting success.

**Ethical Hunting:** Follow ethical hunting practices, including making clean and humane kills.

**Respect Wildlife:** Respect all wildlife on your property, not just game animals, to maintain ecological balance.

**Record Keeping:** Keep records of hunting and fishing activities, including dates, locations, and observations.

**Map Your Property:** Create a detailed map of your homestead property to identify prime hunting and fishing locations.

**Scout Year-Round:** Continuously scout your property throughout the year to understand wildlife movement and behavior patterns.

**Camouflage:** Wear appropriate camouflage clothing and use scent-blocking techniques to minimize detection.

**Tree Stands and Blinds:** Invest in tree stands or ground blinds to conceal your presence while hunting.

**Trail Cameras:** Set up trail cameras to monitor wildlife activity and identify the presence of game animals.

**Game Processing:** Learn to field dress and process game animals to utilize meat efficiently.

**Wildlife Conservation:** Contribute to wildlife conservation efforts by supporting local conservation organizations.

**Food Plots:** Plant food plots with deer and other game animals in mind to attract wildlife to your property.

**Hunting Seasons:** Understand the hunting seasons for different game animals to plan your activities accordingly.

**Non-Lead Ammunition:** Consider using non-lead ammunition to reduce environmental impact and lead exposure.

**Tree Pruning:** Prune trees strategically to create clear shooting lanes for hunting.

**Bait and Lures:** Use bait and lures suitable for local fish species when fishing in ponds, rivers, or lakes.

**Fish Habitat:** Create fish habitats like submerged logs, rocks, or artificial structures in ponds or water bodies on your property.

**Fishing Gear Maintenance:** Maintain and clean fishing gear, such as rods and reels, to ensure their longevity.

**Fish Stocking:** Consider stocking your ponds or water bodies with fish species suitable for your region.

**Fishing Techniques:** Learn a variety of fishing techniques, such as fly fishing, casting, and trolling, for diverse fishing experiences.

**Waterfowl Hunting:** If applicable, set up decoys and blinds for waterfowl hunting near water sources.

**Invasive Species Control:** Manage invasive species that may negatively impact local wildlife and ecosystems.