

EFFICIENT HUNTING

quick reference guide

Hunting SOP



Hunting Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

Thanks for your interest in the Efficient Hunting Standard Operating Procedures.

In this quick reference guide you'll get the top layer of procedures for the hunting process.

It doesn't matter if you're new to hunting or a seasoned hand, you can reap many benefits from this SOP cheat sheet.

- **As a field guide.**
- **To help you identify knowledge gaps.**
- **As a tool for your practice sessions.**
- **Input to validate and improve your own SOP.**

More detail: Email companion course

This is a high-level summary.

I've created an email companion course for you as well.

You'll get more detail on each of the SOP, as well as a couple of sub-processes.

[Click here](#) to sign up for the course if you haven't already done so.

By the way, on the course page you can also download the Efficient Hunting e-book. It gives you a summary of the entire framework.

Spread the word

Do you know another hunter who is learning the ropes?
Or someone with a thirst for learning and improving.
Then please share this guide with them.

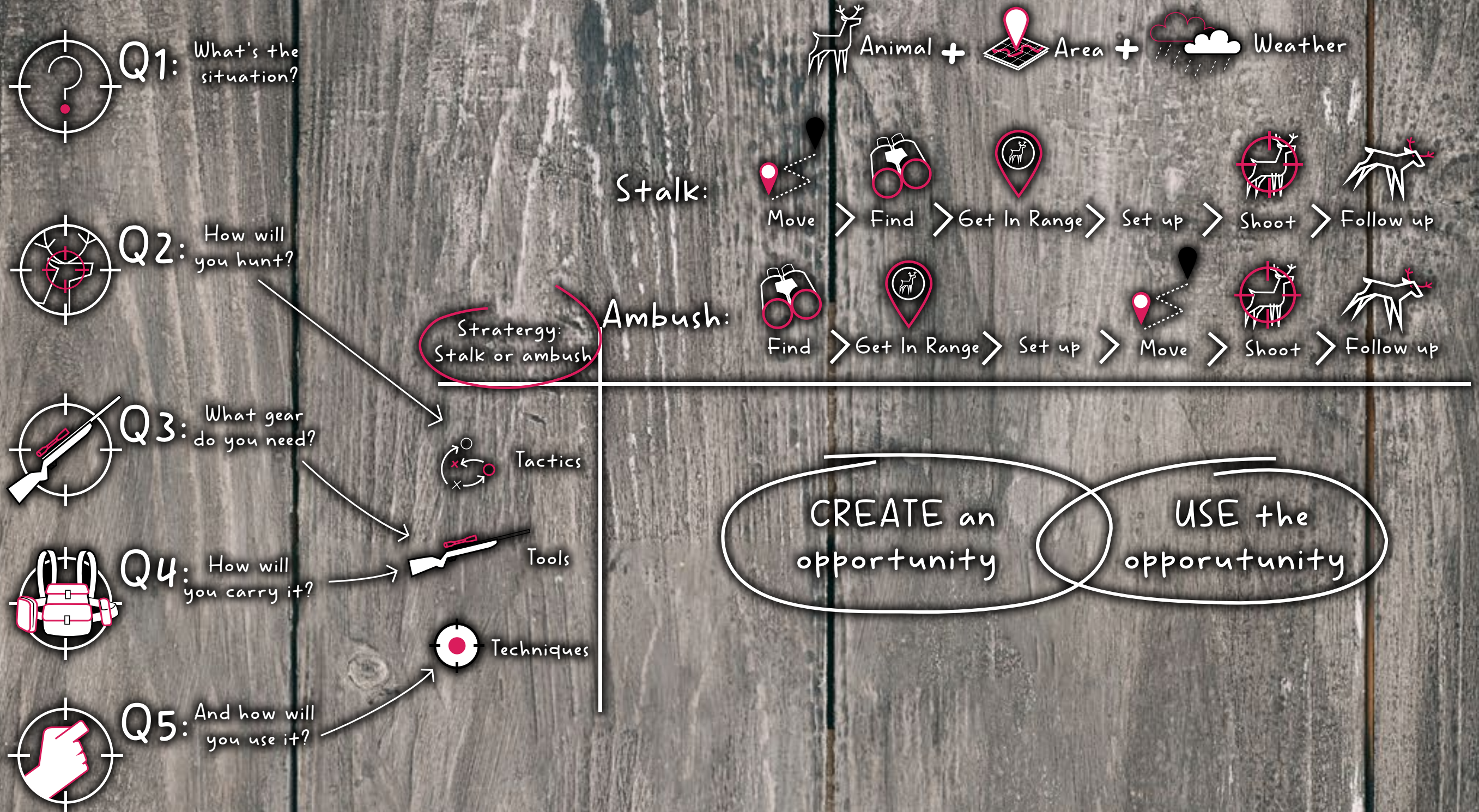


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The hunting process



The hunting process is one of the core elements in the Efficient Hunting framework.

It's a step-by-step approach that describes how you hunt.

It provides three overall benefits:

- **A tool for planning, training, preparation, and coordination.**
- **A reference point for optimization (effectiveness and efficiency).**
- **A set of procedures to help you execute in the field.**

It consists of six universal phases.

- **the move phase**
- **the find phase**
- **the get in range phase**
- **the set up phase**
- **the shoot phase**
- **the follow up phase**

You need to add tactics to describe how you will use the checks and process for a given hunt (time and place).

The process, a stalk and a treestand

When hunting and scouting, you use the process in two main ways.

As part of your planning you will have decided on one of two overall hunting strategies. Static hunting or dynamic hunting.

The former is hunting from a prepared position like a hide or a treestand. Where you wait for the animal to come to you.

The latter is when you move through the terrain to find and stalk the animal you're hunting.

The order of the process phases is pretty much the same for the two types of hunting.

Static hunting

For static hunting, steps 1-4 is scouting and preparation.

On the day of your hunt, you return to your set-up point and get ready. You might run through the setup phase checks again, but you should be good to go.

Dynamic hunting

For dynamic hunting, you might plan your overall route in advance. Other than that, you execute most of the procedures in the field.

One important note. The above description assumes you are familiar with your hunting ground, the animal you hunt in, and all the procedures. And that you use all of your gear confidently and effortlessly.

If that's not the case you must use the hunting process and the wider framework as a tool to help you experiment and practice until you've found the right gear set-up.

“Move” phase SOP

Your objective with the move phase is to cover ground so you can find the animal or the spots it hangs out.

Use the following four steps to execute the move phase:

- 1. Plan an appropriate macro route.**
- 2. Identify navigational macro guides.**
- 3. Move according to your macro plan, adjusting for micro factors.**
- 4. Combine with the find phase.**

Macro means the things you can identify on a map. Micro factors is vegetation and terrain features not on the map. As well as any relevant events (spotting an animal or a change in the wind direction).



"Find" phase SOP

You have two objectives in the find phase, and you cycle through five checks.

The objectives are:

1. **Find the animal.**
2. **Look for a suitable set-up point.**

The "find" phase checks are:

- **Tune in (to new terrain).**
- **Scan in sectors.**
- **Look, smell and listen for animal indicators.**
- **Look for animals.**
- **Confirm it's the right animal.**

"Get in range" phase SOP

Your objective for the "get in range" phase is to identify and reach your set-up point.

Consider these four general scenarios for the "get in range" phase.

- **Abandon**
- **Set up**
- **Pursue**
- **Stalk to a point**

You follow a three-step procedure when stalking to a point.

1.

Identify your setup point.

2.

Plan your route using macro and micro factors.

3.

Move undetected to your setup point.

It's the same approach as for the "move" phase. Just on a smaller scale and with more emphasis on avoiding detection. Conceptually the steps are simple. In reality, they can be challenging. But usually a lot of fun.

Consider the following three checks to avoid detection when planning and executing your stalk.

- **Stay out of sight (avoid being seen).**

- **Stay quiet (avoid the animal hearing you).**

- **Hunt with the wind in your face (Avoid the animal smelling you).**

Staying out of sight means managing three factors.

- **When and how the animal is able to see you.**
- **Visual factors you must manage.**
- **Your options for concealment.**

Consider these factors to stay quiet.

- **How fast you move.**
- **The way you move.**
- **Your spatial awareness.**

"Set up" phase SOP

Your objective with the set-up phase is to ensure you can hit and kill the animal without causing unintended damage.

Your set up includes two things.

- 1. establish your set up point**
- 2. establish your shooting position**

The approach is the same for dynamic and static hunting.

If you're shooting from a static position, you will establish both the setup point and test your shooting positions.

And then return to the spot on the day of your hunt.

Please note. From a fixed setup point, you may need to validate several positions.

For dynamic hunting, you go to work after you've run through the procedure below.

Step 1-4 in the sub-process are concerned with the setup point.

Step 5 is where you build your shooting position.

You complete the setup phase with the following five-step procedure.

- 1. Confirm it's a safe shot.**
- 2. Confirm it's a clear shot.**
- 3. Confirm you're (sufficiently) concealed.**
- 4. Confirm you will hit and kill.**
- 5. Establish your shooting position.**

There's a lot to a good shooting position. Including the specifics of each variant, and the general marksmanship principles.

For static hunting, you often need to test several positions to be able to cover all your arcs of fire.

Here are the overall procedure required to establish your shooting position.

1.

Select an appropriate shooting position.

2.

Ensure the position is solid and you have a firm hold on your rifle.

3.

Ensure the position is sufficiently durable and sufficiently stable.

4.

Confirm all contact points facilitate good harmonics.

5.

Confirm you have a natural point of aim.

"Shoot" phase SOP

Your objective with the "shoot phase" is to take the shot and call the impact.

You complete the "shoot" phase in five steps:

- 1. Adjust or check sights, and chamber a round.**
- 2. Confirm safe and clear.**
- 3. Shoot when ready.**
- 4. Maintain stock weld and sight picture.**
- 5. Reload the rifle.**
- 6. Call the shot.**

The "shoot when ready" step is critical for this procedure. And it has its own procedure.

Here is a program you can use to help you execute the shot correctly and consistently.

1. Point your rifle at the target.

2. Safety off.

3. Await the correct presentation.

4. Aim.

5. Reach the natural respiratory pause.

6. Pull the trigger.

7. Follow through.

"Follow up" phase SOP

Your objective with the "follow up" phase is to secure and prepare the animal for transport and entry into the food chain. And, perhaps, prepare the trophy for transport and for the taxidermist.

You use this four-step procedure to complete the follow up phase.

- 1. Locate the animal.**
- 2. Dispatch if necessary, and secure the animal.**
- 3. Confirm the animal can enter the food chain.**
- 4. Field process and prepare for transport.**

The overall procedure for the follow up phase is the same for dynamic hunting and static hunting.

It is helpful to prepare for the following four scenarios.

- **The animal might be dead and in sight.**
- **You may have wounded the animal and need to take a follow-up shot.**
- **You called the shot as good, but you need to locate the animal.**
- **You're concerned about the shot and need to track and possibly use a dog.**

Here's the procedure for locating the animal:

1. Mark the spot you shot from.

2. Find and mark the spot where the animal stood when hit.

3. Look for signs that indicate if and where you hit the animal.

4. Confirm what direction the animal ran.

5. Determine next step.

1. Basic search.

2. Tracking.

3. Trailing with a dog.

Practical notes

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Efficient Hunting is a RedKettle concept. It's part of the wider Steward of Nature framework.

[Click here](#) for more information on how to act as a Steward of Nature (the five roles).

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