23 Field Card: Fieldcraft

Where you'll hunt and how, written down before opening day so you aren't deciding it on the walk in.

Start this card at home with your maps and regulations, and finish it on your daylight scouting walks. A pencil lets you change a stand spot or a site rule mid-season.

01 / WHERE I'LL HUNT

CHAPTER 16

Area and unit: _____

- Managed by: ☐ national forest ☐ BLM ☐ refuge ☐ state land ☐ walk-in area ☐ private, with written permission

Manager's map (MVUM, atlas or BLM map): _____ ☐ saved offline

Site rules on vehicles and camping: _____

Parking: _____ Distance in, by GPS: _____ yd

02 / SIGN I FOUND

CHAPTER 17

Sign	Pin	Date

03 / MY WIND PLAN

CHAPTER 18

Main stand: _____ Good on a _____ wind

Backup stand for the opposite direction: _____

- Route in (breeze in my face, no trails or bedding cover crossed): _____

☐ Wind checker (powder, milkweed fluff or ribbon) in my pocket

- Sun on the slope: scent rises, so hunt across or from above. In shade or before the sun hits it: scent sinks, so hunt across or from below. A steady wind can override both.

04 / STAND OR BLIND

CHAPTER 19

☐ Tree stand ☐ Ground blind

Can stay up from _____ to _____

☐ On a travel route, outside bedding cover

☐ Must come down each day

Orange required on the stand or blind: _____

☐ No heater or open flame in the blind

☐ Bow: fixed blades only through mesh

☐ Gun: window all the way open, never through mesh

05 / MY METHOD

CHAPTER 20

☐ Sit ☐ Still-hunt ☐ Spot and stalk ☐ Drive

Drive leader: _____

☐ Plenty of orange when I move

Party limit in my state: _____

☐ Direction and my zone of fire agreed before we start (Chapter 7). If I'm not sure where everyone is, I don't shoot.

- Standers shoot only at deer that have already gone past.

06 / GLASSING AND CALLS

CHAPTERS 21 AND 22

Binoculars: _____

Glassing spots: _____

- I glass with binoculars, never through the rifle scope.

Calls in my pack: _____

- Electronic calls legal for my species: ☐ yes ☐ no (some states ban even carrying one)
- Once something is coming in, call little or not at all. It may be a hunter, so identify every shape before the gun or bow comes up.