



MASS**W**ILDLIFE

Massachusetts Bowhunter Education



Bowhunter Education Objectives

Instructors

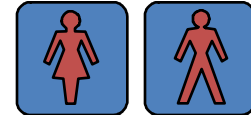
- Name
- Background/Profession
- Hunting/Shooting Interest

Housekeeping

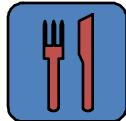
Parking



Rest Rooms



Breaks



Firearms



Phones



Agenda

- 8:00AM – 5:00PM
- Some topics we'll discuss:
 - Bowhunter Ed
 - Ethics/Laws
 - Equipment
 - Treestands
 - Shot Placement
 - Distance Estimation
 - Game Recovery
 - Game Care
- Exam

Activities

- Lecture
- Open discussion
- Hands-on activities
- Small group work



Successful Completion

- **All graduates receive a certificate of completion**
 - 80% or better on exam
 - Express mature and responsible attitude
 - Give honest effort in class
 - Demonstrate safe bow handling
- **Certificate of completion used** in any state which requires a specific bow hunter education course
- **Certificate recognized throughout North America**

Questions?

Chapter 1

Introduction to Bowhunter Education

Objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- identify the purpose and importance of bowhunter education;
- identify the differences in hunting with a bow from hunting with a firearm;
- describe the central principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation;
- and describe how license fees and excise taxes support wildlife conservation.

Course Importance

Bowhunter Education is important because it:

- decreases hunting incidents;
- promotes responsible bowhunter behavior to ensure the future of the tradition;
- and helps identify necessary equipment.

Course Purpose

The purpose of bowhunter education is to produce hunters that are

safe, responsible, and law abiding.

Bowhunting vs. Gun Hunting

- Bowhunters must typically get closer to game
- Source of power is from limbs and cams rather than gunpowder
- Bowhunting relies on the use of an arrow for killing

Conservation Funding

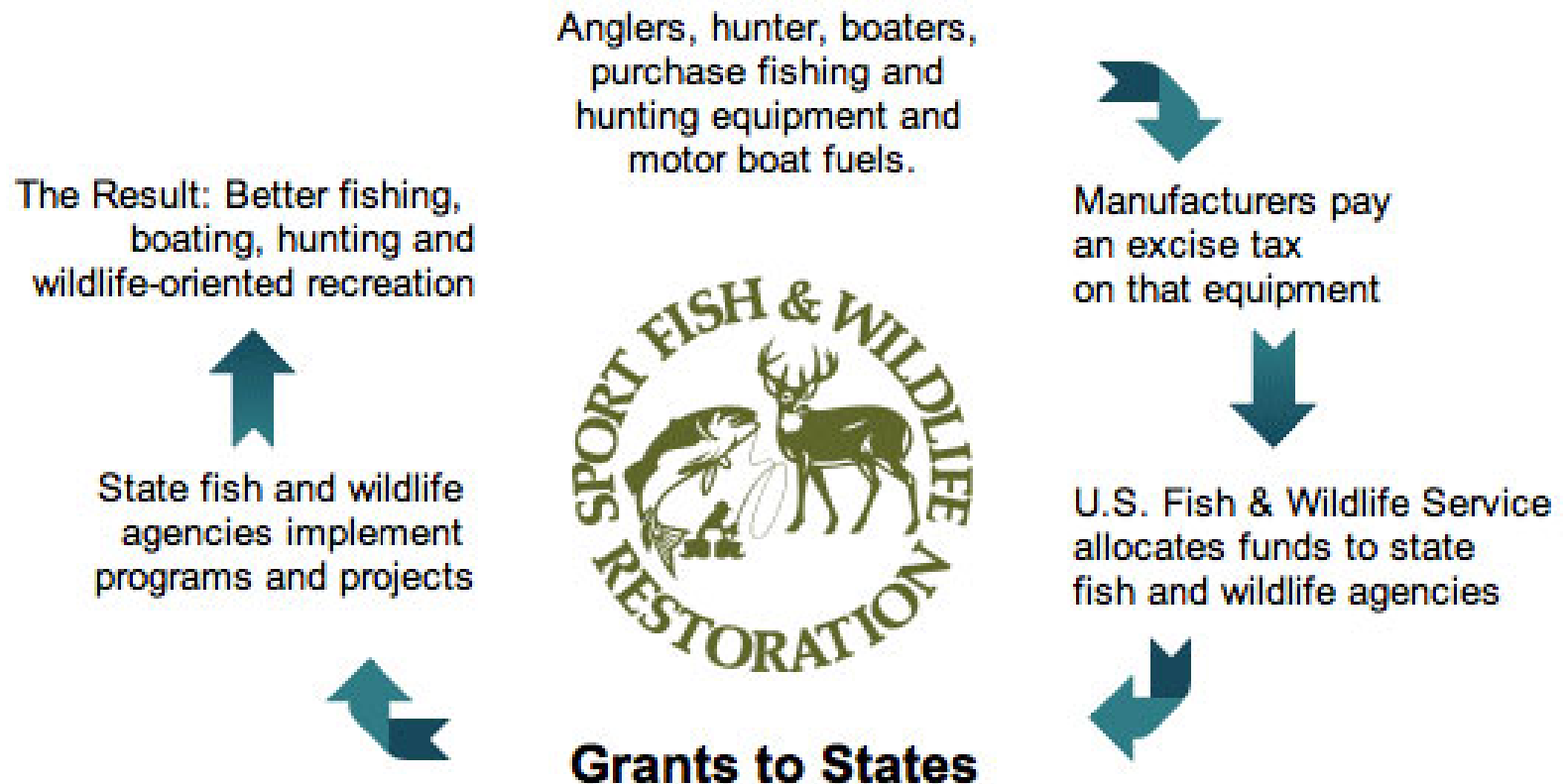
- State/Provincial Wildlife Agencies
 - Sportsmen and Sportswomen pay for conservation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Federal Aid in Wildlife
Restoration Act – 1937
“Pittman-Robertson”

Cycle of Success

for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs



Conservation Funding cont...

- International Hunter Education Association
- Other Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)
 - Some promote shooting sports
 - Some work for species/habitat conservation
- Local Sportsmen's and Civic Clubs
- Local Businesses

N.A. Model of Wildlife Conservation

The Seven Pillars:

- Wildlife as a Public Trust Resource
- Elimination of Markets for Game
- Allocation of Wildlife by Law
- Kill only for legitimate purposes
- Wildlife as an International Resource
- Science-based Wildlife Policy
- Democracy of Hunting

Questions?

- What is the purpose of the bowhunter education program?
- What does the Pittman Robertson Act accomplish?
- What makes the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation so unique?



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Bowhunting Ethics, Laws, & Regulations

Hunting Laws & Regulations

- What is a right? What is a privilege?
- Is bowhunting a right or a privilege?

Objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to...

- explain why hunting laws and regulations are enacted;
- list official resources that contain bow hunting rules/regulations including federal, state/provincial, and county/local information/access;
- know where/how to find agency and landowner rules that apply to bowhunting in addition to regulations;
- and explain why developing responsible bowhunting behavior is important for every hunter and the future of bowhunting.

If someone were to describe you as a hunter, what terms would you want them to use?

Safe

Ethical

Successful

Fair

Lawful

Confident

Responsible

Responsible to Whom or What?

Themselves

Other Hunters

Non-Hunters

Landowners

Natural Resources

What is the MA legal definition of the verb 'to hunt'?

“To Hunt...”

M.G.L. c131, S. 1

“The verb ‘to hunt’, in all of its moods and tenses, includes pursuing, shooting, killing, and capturing mammals and birds and all lesser acts such as disturbing, harrying or worrying, or placing, setting, drawing or using any device commonly used to take mammals and birds, whether or not such acts result in taking; and includes every attempt to take and every act of assistance to any other person in taking or attempting to take mammals and birds.”

“Why do hunting laws exist?”

There are four reasons...

- Protect people
- Protect wildlife
- Fair distribution
- Fair chase



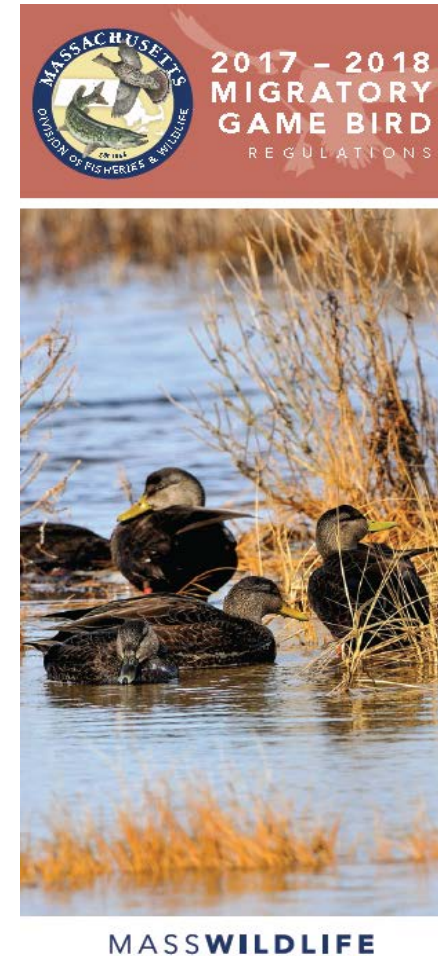
“Where do they come from?”

There are 3 sources of hunting laws...

- Federal
- State
- Municipal



“How do you find these laws?”



Group exercise

1. Bowhunting deer in zone 10 during the primitive arms season
2. Bowhunting deer in October within 500' of a dwelling
3. Bowhunting deer from a permanently built tree stand
4. Bowhunting black bear during the Shotgun Deer Season
5. Bowhunting turkey in the spring in Zone 3
6. Bowhunting turkey with a crossbow during the spring season
7. Bowhunting turkey during the fall season on a Wildlife Management Area

Summary

- What is the difference between a right and a privilege?
- What are the 4 reasons we have hunting laws?
- What are the 3 sources of hunting laws?



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Introduction to Bowhunting Equipment

Objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- identify common types of bows, components, and characteristics of each type;
- identify and describe components of a finished arrow, uses of each component, and types of arrow points used in shooting/hunting;
- describe the benefits of stated accessories;
- list the common types of bowhunting injuries and how to prevent them;
- describe how to properly inspect bows and arrows and use a quiver and a broadhead wrench for safety;
- and list the proper broadhead/game point for game hunted.

Bows

- Traditional bows
 - Longbow
 - Recurve bow
- Compound bow
- Crossbow



Traditional Bows



Longbow



Recurve

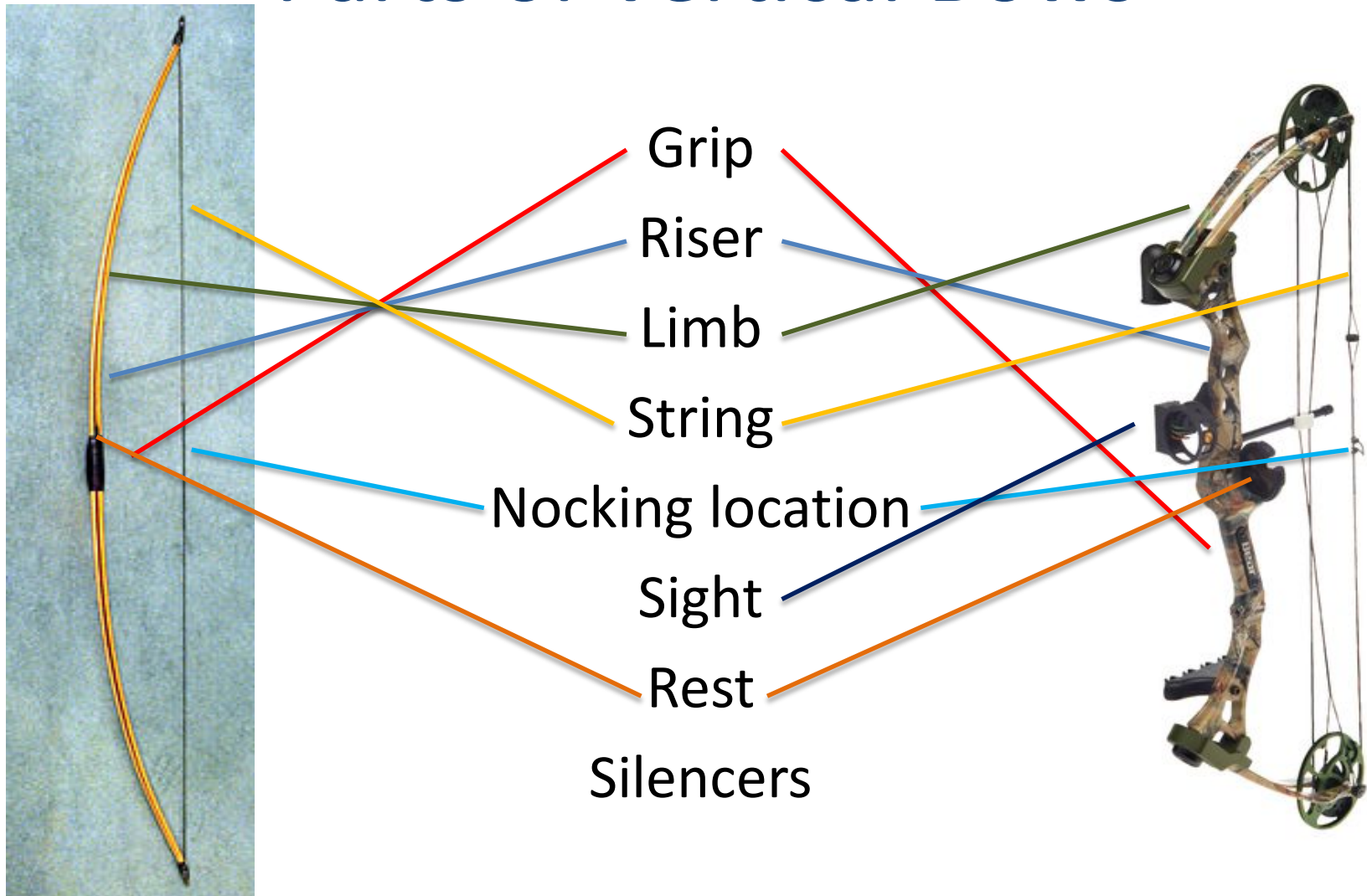
Compound Bows



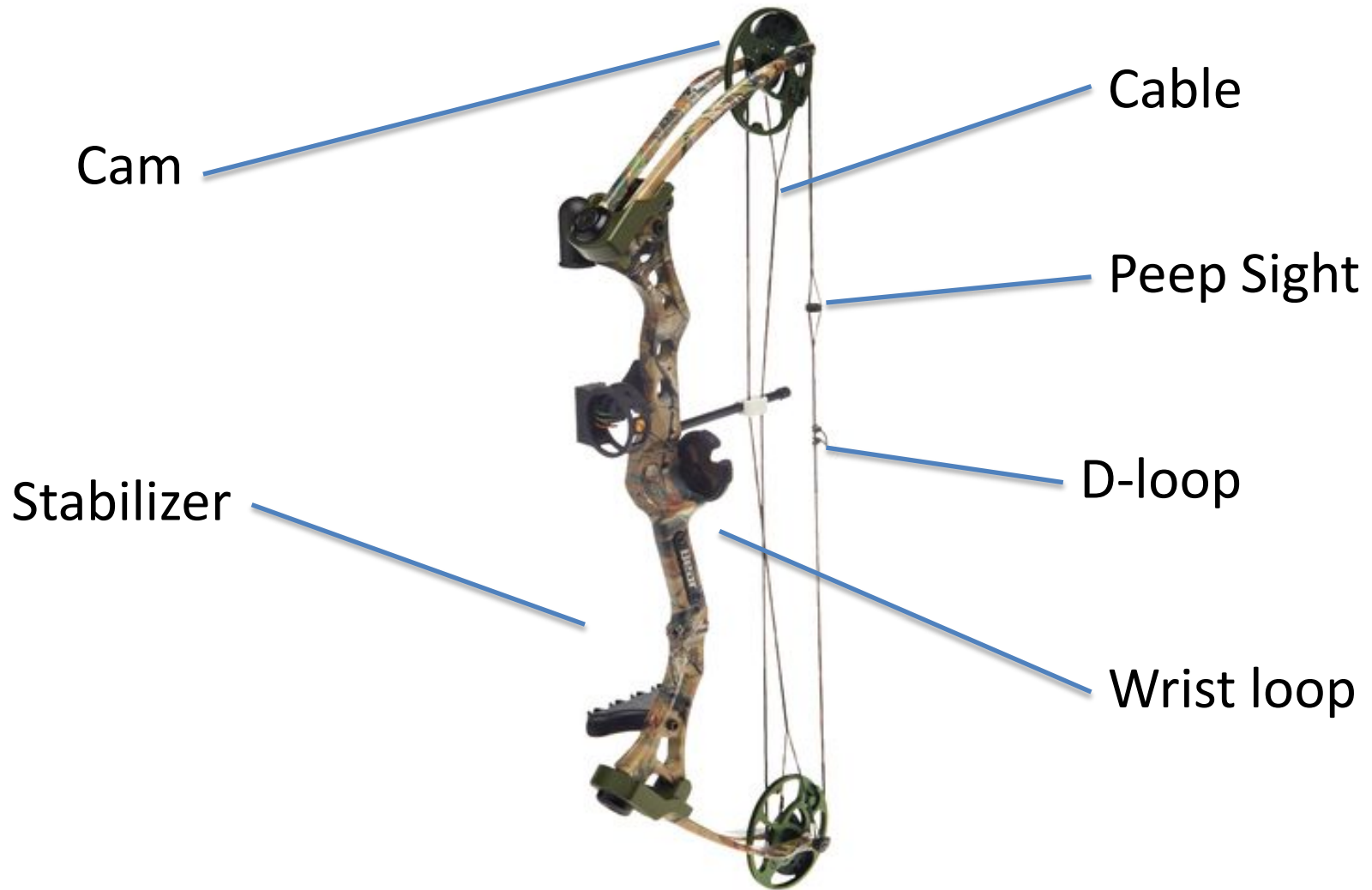
Crossbows



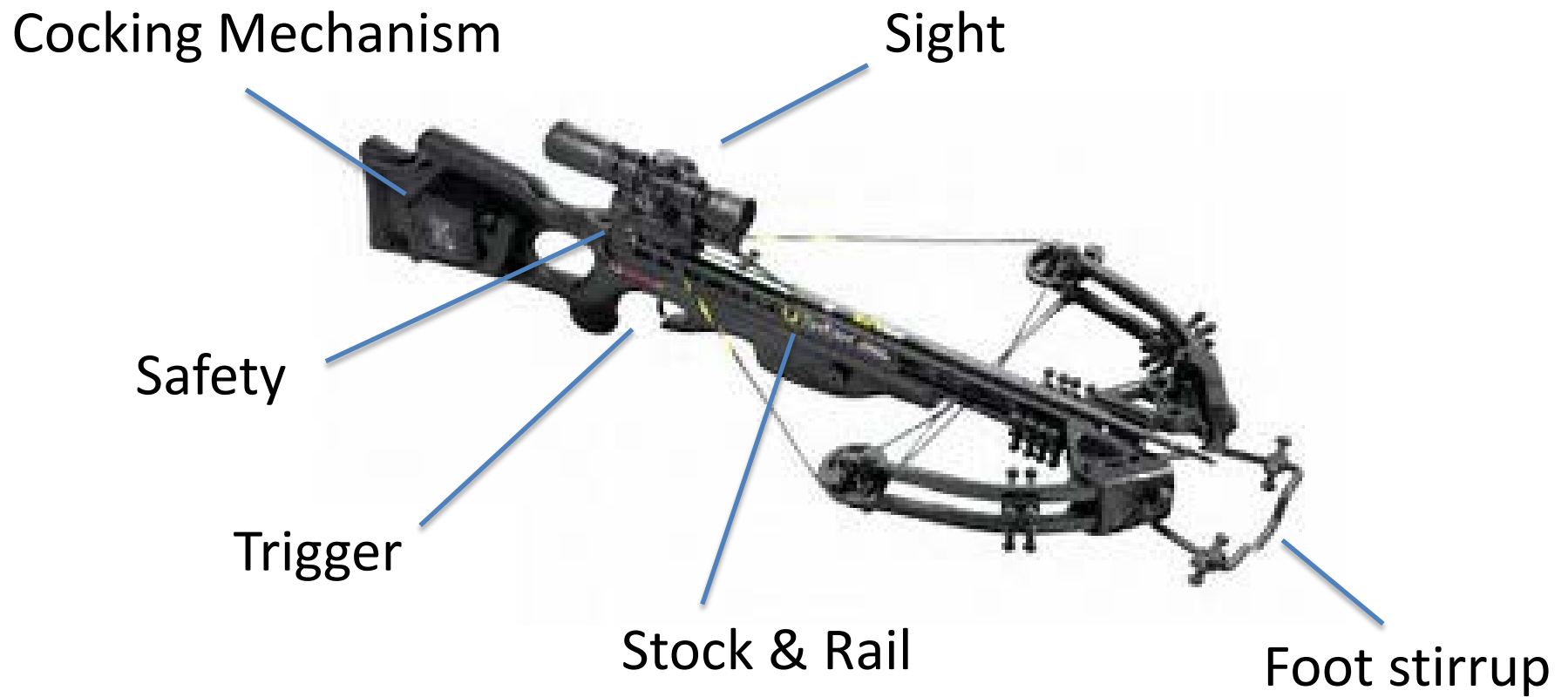
Parts of Vertical Bows



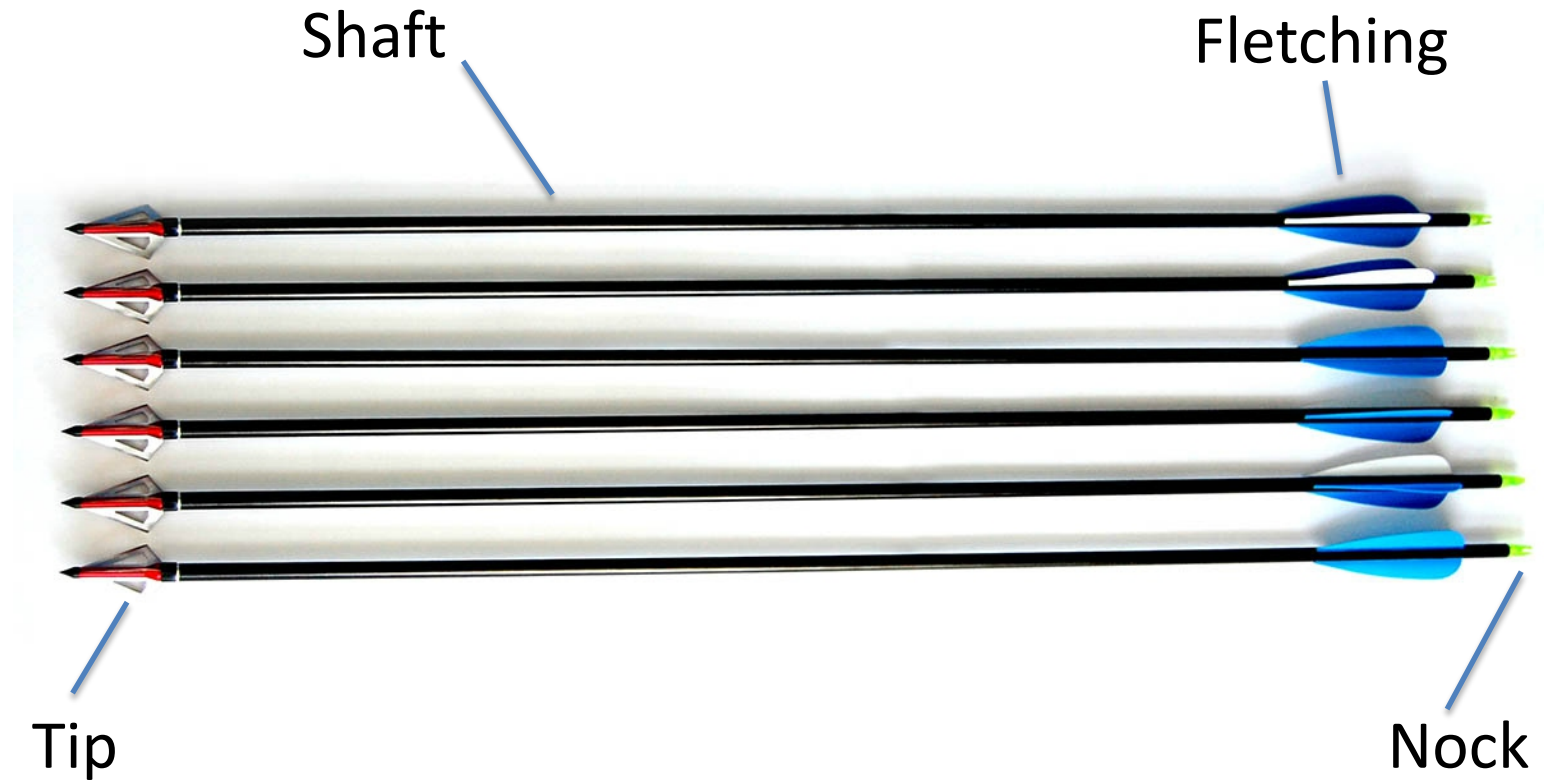
Parts specific to Compound Bows



Parts of Crossbows



Arrows



Arrow Shafts

- Wood
- Fiberglass
- Aluminum
- Carbon
- Carbon/Aluminum combo



Arrow Nocks

Notched Wood



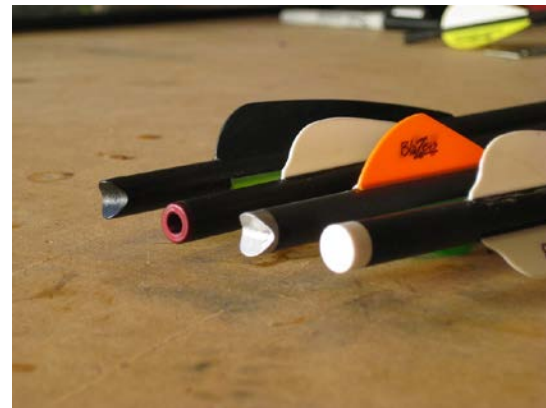
Glue on



Insert



Crossbow



Arrow Fletching

Feathers



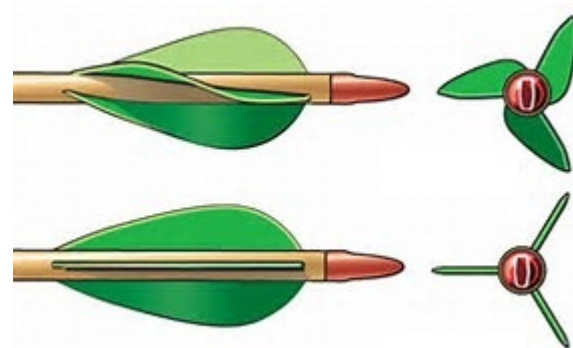
Vanes



Flu-flu



Straight vs. Helical



Arrow Tips

Target Points



Field



Bullet

Small Game Heads



Judo



Blunt/Bludgeon



Bowfishing

Broadheads



Fixed Blade



Replaceable Blade



Mechanical/Expandable

Accessories



Mechanical Release-aid



Finger Tab/Glove



Arm Guard



Bow Stringer



Quiver

Inspect Equipment

- Cracked bow limbs
- Loose screws
- Frayed strings
- Dry-rotted peep tube
- Cracked arrows/nocks
- Damaged fletchings



Summary

- What are the four types of bows?
- What are the four components of a finished arrow?
- What is the difference between a fixed-blade broadhead and a mechanical broadhead?
- What accessory do archers use to prevent the bowstring from slapping their arm?



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Bow Hunting Tips and Tactics

Lesson 10

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- describe why people want to bow hunting
- define hunting the wind
- describe at least three methods of bow hunting
- and list two decoying techniques that raise safety concerns for a hunter when hunting with or near decoys

What are some of the disadvantages of using archery gear versus a firearm?

What are some of the reasons why someone would want to bow hunt?

- Added challenge
- Extended seasons
- Getting outdoors at different times of the year
- Gaining access to more area
 - properties only open to bowhunting (e.g. state park)
 - areas with discharge restrictions
 - Bowhunting is often more accepted by landowners



Common Bow Hunting Methods

Spot and Stalk

- identify an animal at a distance
- attempt to sneak within your effective range without being noticed



Still Hunting

- Slipping through the terrain quietly
- Moving slow enough to observe game before they observe you



Elevated Stands

Treestands



Box Blinds



Ground Blinds

Commercial Blinds
(pop-up blinds)



Brush Blinds/Natural Blinds



Why is it important to practice with the equipment you will be using?

- Practice shooting from a treestand
- Practice shooting from a seated position
- Practice in 3D archery shoots
- Practice shooting with your hunting clothes on

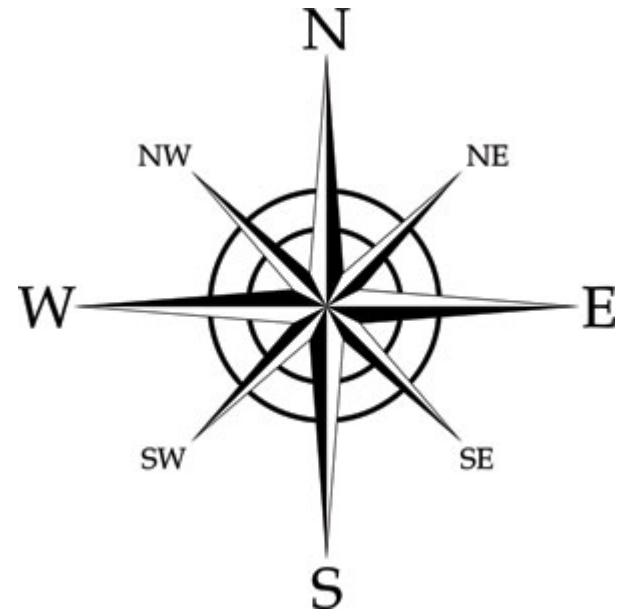


WIND

What importance does the wind play while hunting?

Prevailing Winds

- Knowing what direction the wind most commonly comes from helps a hunter identify where to place stands/blinds in advance of the hunt
- The prevailing winds in the Northeastern United States is West - Southwest

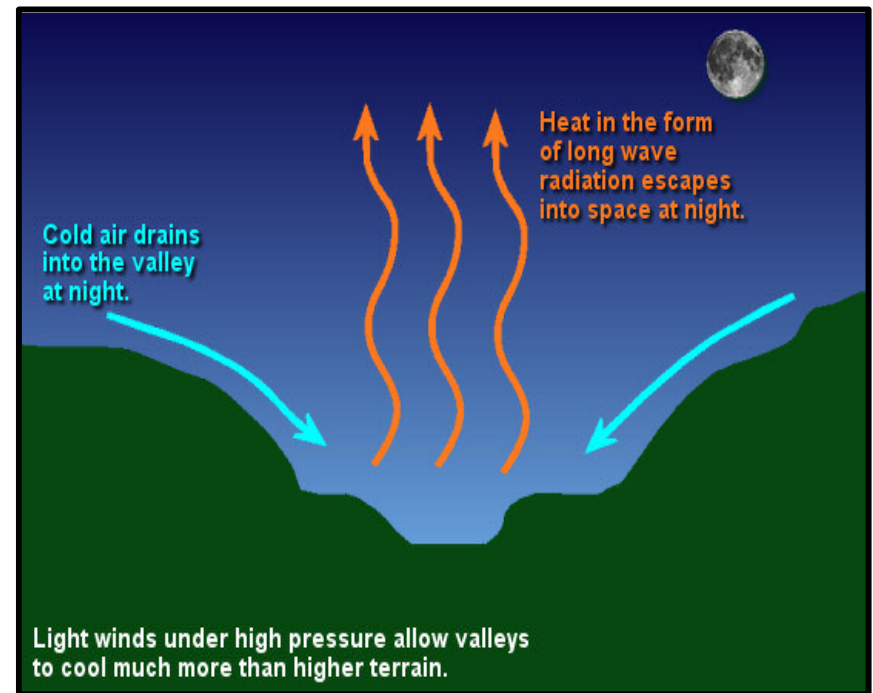


Thermal Winds

Thermals are winds created by the heating and cooling of air temperature

As air temperature starts to increase, the heat will cause the air to rise thus the wind will move uphill

Air cools in the evening or waning daylight thus the wind will move downhill



Wind Detection Methods

Windcheck Powder



Natural plant tinder



Ribbon



Decoys

Advantages

- Calm the animal
- Bring animals closer
- Give animal something to focus on



Hazards

- Mistaken for live animals by other hunters
- Never attach a decoy to your person or use a decoy to conceal yourself



Questions???