

The Deer Doctrine: 10 commandments to hunt by.

By Nick Gaede Co-founder publiclandhunters.com

Scout hard...hunt Easy

There is the constant evolution of the hunter, his goals, and his beliefs of what hunting should be about. For me it is something I started at a very young age and continue to love till this day.

The Deer Doctrine was typed on the Fourth of July, 2014...Independence Day, a day of freedom....things that can be just as synonymous with hunting. I sit here behind a makeshift desk, that uses two file cabinets as support, an interior door as a top, and Double Bull folding chair serves as my "office chair".

Fireworks pop and sizzle in the background. It's sunny, calm, feels like freedom in the air....a great day to think and type.

Contained within these pages is some powerful deer wisdom. Some of it seemingly simple, but yet rarely practiced or followed through on. There is no "easy button" (as Staples would put it), when it comes to killing a mature whitetail. It has the most uncanny ability to somehow detect your presence at the most inconvenient moments (such as taking a whiz from the stand...need I say more).

Take some time to read through this with a purpose, and not merely skim through its contents while watching the depressing evening news (it deserves more attention than that).

Happy Hunting,

Nick Gaede

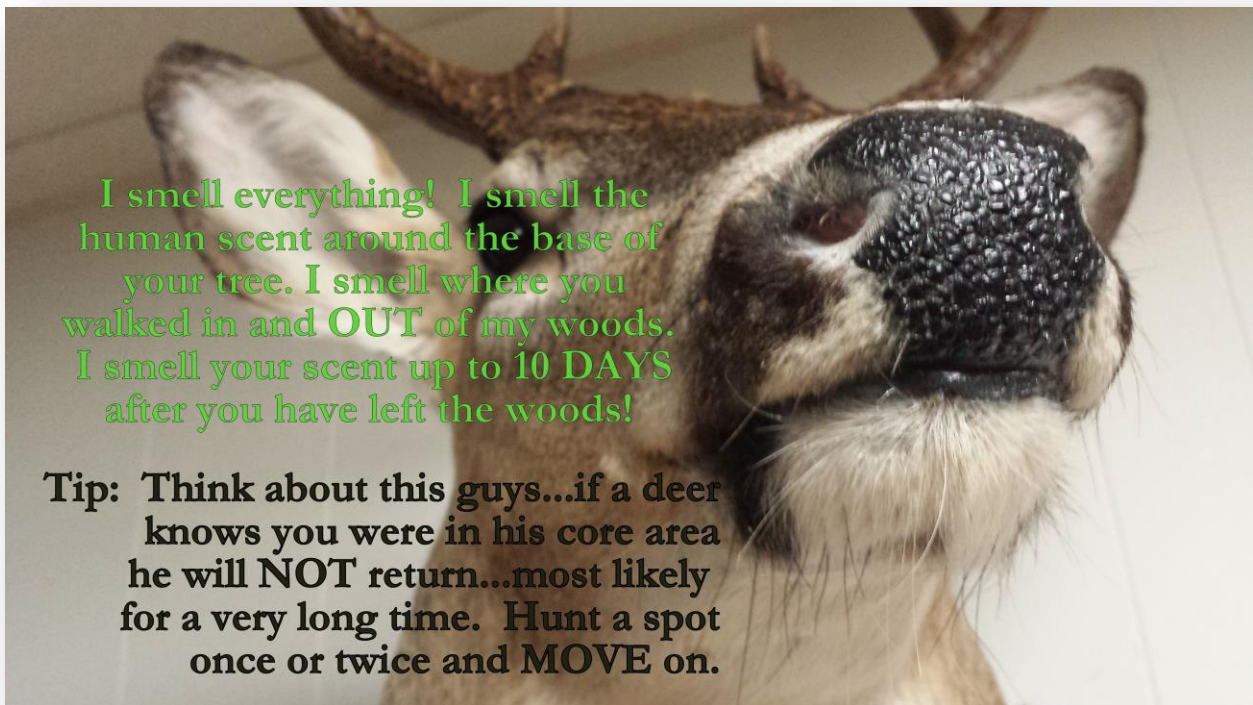
The Deer Doctrine: 10 commandments to hunt by.

#1: Hunting a spot more than once or twice in a season (outside of the rut or special situations) is NOT conducive to killing a mature deer. I learned this lesson the hard way and had to re-think the way I hunt. During the 2013 deer season here in Wisconsin 7 out of the 8 deer we killed were on 1st time sits!

The key to all of this, is of course, to have done plenty of scouting ahead of season to ensure you have plenty of spots for the upcoming season. This will eliminate overhunting areas and as a result, you will start seeing more deer and get opportunities at bigger bucks...that you probably wouldn't have ever seen.

I used to be the guy out there 2 or 3 days before rifle season preparing my ground blind, and (not thinking or knowing) that **I was leaving scent everywhere** giving a mature whitetail no reason to come anywhere near my stand opening day (don't do this).

Same goes with archery... don't go prep a treestand and come back the next day or week (rookie mistake) and hunt the spot. If you find good deer sign just set up and hunt the spot immediately.



The Deer Doctrine: 10 commandments to hunt by.

#2: Scout more than you hunt! A smart hunter knows that he will need lots of spots come fall. Get out there ahead of season and figure out the best locations to find a large buck.

You should be scouting 2 or 3 days for every day of hunting. Of course “scouting” can include shining (where legal), observation stands, trail camera info, and on the ground footwork.

Think about that for a second.
If you hunt 10 days a season
you should have scouted 20
or 30 days already.

*STOP letting these
other deer string you
along. Seeing deer is
nice, but they won't
get you closer to
finding a big buck.
You must find out
where he lives.*

#3: This is a hard one for some people to get past (not you though, I know you're here for a reason). **In order to consistently kill a mature buck you are going to have to get used to seeing LESS deer.** What! How will seeing less deer help me kill bigger bucks?

Well, does and smaller bucks are like different animals compared to 3.5+ year old bucks. Big bucks bed in different locations, are less social, and therefore less apt to be in the presence of other deer (outside of bachelor groups and during the rut).

Simply put you are not going to see deer on every sit... It's nice to sit on a field edge and see a dozen does and little bucks in an evening, but this isn't going to get you closer to a

buck to brag about!

#4: You should put as much work into patterning other hunter's as deer (especially on public grounds). As much as I dislike burning up a night or two of hunting opportunity, what I will do (usually on a Friday or Saturday evening when the most people are hunting) is drive the perimeter of my hunting areas, and all of the roads that go through them **to see where everyone is hunting.**

I can't overstate how important this is! This tells me a ton about the pressure in the area, and I find overlooked spots where no one is hunting.

#5: What's the first thing you would do when trying to find a big buck hideout on public land (or private)? Well, there are two things you NEED to look for. The 1st thing I do is cross off everything within a half mile or so of any roads (there are exceptions, wait one minute, I'll explain).

*Simply put, big bucks will NOT
tolerate human intrusion into their
core bedding areas.*

The Deer Doctrine: 10 commandments to hunt by.



... Big bucks survive by hanging out where they never smell humans... Think about that when you're deciding where to go next...

The 2nd thing I will do (and this relates to patterning other hunter's...remember) is to find overlooked, grassy, thick, brushy, wet or marshy areas next to parking lots, or in between them. **If you drove through and around your hunting areas you would know where everyone is hunting**, and now be able to look for big buck hideouts because you are smarter than everyone else who doesn't do this.

Looking at the above screenshot the area's inside the red dashed boxes are spots I doubt would hold deer (exceptions of course). The areas with the yellow highlighter are spots I would expect to find mature deer hiding out in the marsh, and NOT in the mature forest (where the rookie hunters are).

The areas with black circles around yellow highlights could be some of those overlooked areas close to the roads. Notice they appear to be marshy where they come close to the road. Deer will use these spots as travel corridors to travel from one area to the next.

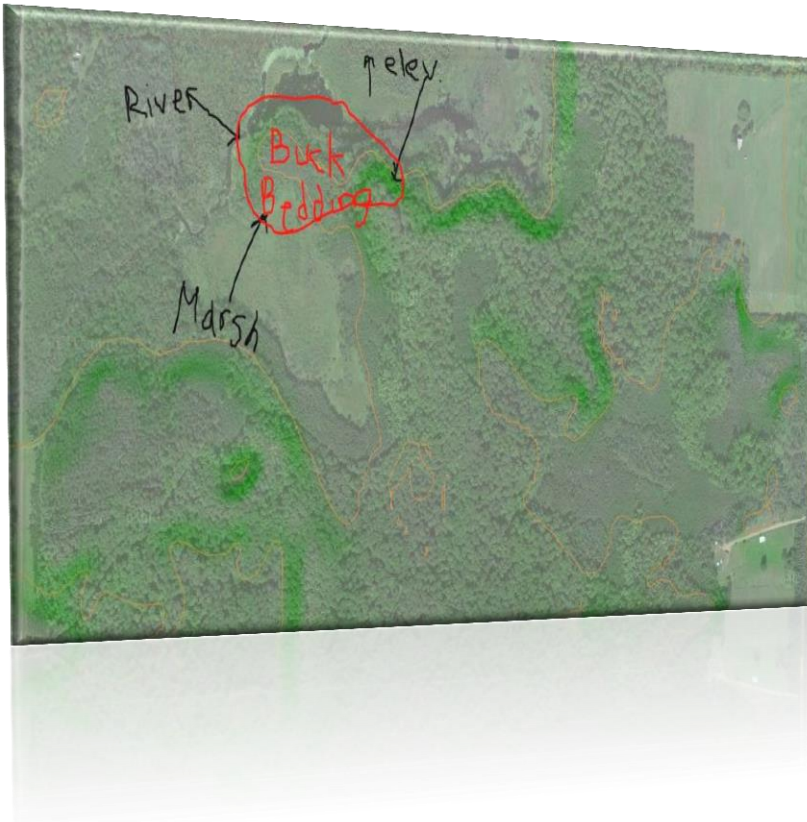
#6: Use your favorite aerial tool to eliminate everything close to the roads (except those overlooked areas we talked about)...and then **find where "multiple types of land or water masses intersect"**. Let me explain.

When everything looks the same on an aerial (I know trying to break down 10's of thousands of acres is tough) try to find where different types of topography intersect outside of the ½ mile or more dead zone, that we previously talked about.

The Deer Doctrine: 10 commandments to hunt by.

For example: If you were a fisherman and looking to catch a big walleye, bass, or musky you would find a point or island where multiple types of weeds intersect, say cabbage and coontail. Now let's say there are some nice boulders mixed in as well, and this is all next to a drop off with deep water next by. I can just about guarantee there will be fish in these spots.

Well, it is no different with deer. Just like fish deer are “edge” creatures and often move along different types of edges. **Find where three or more different edges meet and you will have a “hot zone” of deer activity.**



*Look at this picture:
We have a river
butting up next to a
marsh, then a nice
elevation change next
to that. This is off
from the main roads
and within ¾ of a
mile to the crop fields.
Looks like a nice spot!*

#7: **“Nothing moves fast through the woods except humans”** Think about that for a second. We are often in such a rush to get out of work, off to our hot spot and into a tree, that we blow the hunt before it even starts.

Smart hunters don't rush things and often take as long to go the last hundred yards as it took them to go the first mile.

One misplaced step causing a large branch to break or rushing to pull up your bow, which bumps into your stand causing a loud clank... will cause any mature buck within possibly hundreds of yard to either spook or move off in the opposite direction. This is particularly important on those dead still, frosty mornings when things are as calm as Clint Eastwood smoking a Marlboro.

The Deer Doctrine: 10 commandments to hunt by.

#8: **Most rookie hunter's hunt where they see deer sign and not where the deer are.** Let me explain. Probably 95% of the sign a mature bucks leaves (rubs/scrapes) is done and night. He isn't up running all over the place leaving the rubs and scrapes during the day. Most hunters will set up next to this sign near field edges or other places mature bucks venture under the cover of darkness.

I used to be one of those hunters when I was younger. I would think to myself...hmmm...deer sign everywhere and look at this nice trail. Let's set up here! That's what a lot of people do, and this is what I'm telling you NOT to do.

What you want to do is determine where these buck's bedding areas are.

Buck Bedding Areas = Daylight Movement = A chance to Kill One

(Remember tips 5&6 away from people and multiple habitat types)

#9: Contrary to popular belief big bucks travel with the wind to their back quite often...not into the wind like bar room banter would suggest. Of the four nice bucks my brother, dad, and I



The Deer Doctrine: 10 commandments to hunt by.

killed last year (2013) they were ALL traveling **with the wind!** By the way all of these bucks



were killed on public land in Wisconsin.

10: The last... but possibly the most important of all.

Take someone who has never been hunting (or fishing) and get em out in the woods or on the water.

It seems like every day our rights are attacked by anti-hunter's, PETA, our president, and other group's hell bent on converting us all into yuppies. We have been sustaining ourselves for 10's of thousands of years by killing our food and eating it.

Only recently, it seems, in the last couple decades has it become increasingly un-popular to take care of ourselves. More and more people expecting the gov't to take care of them, the president, or someone outside of themselves.

Hunting is not only a way of life, but a way of being, a way of living, a path that should never be apologized for or hidden from others.

Hopefully you took just one idea away from this, and will put it into action come hunting season. For more in-depth videos and sneaky hunting tactics visit:

www.publiclandhunters.com

P.S. You should subscribe below to get some scouting ideas, and see some of the tools we use to **find big bucks on public land.**

YES! SEND ME THE FREE SCOUTING VIDEO'S