

FREE SCOUTING TOOL

Trail Camera Placement & Scouting Log

Set cameras smarter. Pull cards with purpose. Build a pattern before opening day.



From the Field Dispatch

Ridgeline Supply Co.

ridgelinegearco.com

Where to Hang Cameras

Location beats trigger speed and image resolution. A well-placed 12MP camera out-produces a poorly placed 32MP camera every time.

TIER 1 — HIGHEST VALUE

Primary Sign Locations

- 📍 **Active scrapes with licking branch** — hang camera at 5–6 ft height, angled 45° down. Check weekly during pre-rut.
- 📍 **Rub lines** — find the freshest rub, back 10 ft. Buck may return same hour.
- 📍 **Pinch points / funnels** — saddles, creek crossings, field corners. Set facing the funnel entrance.

TIER 2 — HIGH VALUE

Food & Water Sources

- 📍 **Field edges** — at entry/exit trails, not the middle of the field (reduces human intrusion)
- 📍 **Mast crop trees** — white oak dropping acorns. Move camera weekly as acorn crop shifts.
- 📍 **Water sources in drought conditions** — ponds, streams, seeps

TIER 3 — INVENTORY SCOUTING

Perimeter & Travel Routes

- 📍 Main deer trails through bedding-to-feeding transition zones
- 📍 Property entry/exit points (inventory, not hunting)
- 📍 Known bedding area edges — set back, non-invasive

CAMERA SETTINGS

Recommended Defaults

- 📷 **Photo + video burst:** 3 photos per trigger
- ⌚ **Detection delay:** 10–30 seconds (scrape: 10s, trail: 30s)
- 🌙 **Night mode:** Black flash for low-pressure sites
- 📅 **Time stamp on.** Date, time, temp, moon phase.
- 🔋 **Lithium batteries** for cold weather performance

Low-Impact Camera Checks

A camera check that blows out a deer's pattern is worse than no camera at all. Every access matters.

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{[ ['Before You Go','Spray boots, pants, and gloves with scent eliminator. Store camo in sealed bag with earth scent. Shower with unscented soap.'], ['Access Routes','Only approach cameras during favorable winds. Never walk through feeding areas. Use field edges and ridge lines.'], ['At the Camera','Handle SD card only — gloves on. Spray the tree at and below camera height. Minimize time at location.'], ].map(([title, text]) => ({title}{text})))}
PRINTABLE LOG
```

Camera Location Log

Fill out one row per camera location. Photocopy for multiple seasons.

{[1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8].map((n, i) => ())}

Cam #	Location / Description	GPS / Pin	Date Set	Last Checked	Buck Activity	Bucks ID'd	Notes / Move?
{n}							

Cameras Are a Tool, Not a Strategy

Pattern data is only useful if you act on it. Identify a mature buck, map his core area, pick your entry, and go — before his pattern shifts.

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{[[ July 17', 'Check Less', 'Pull cards no more than every 2 weeks in high-value areas. Intrusion pressure kills patterns.'], [ , 'Lithium Batteries', 'Alkaline fails below 20°F. Lithium holds power in cold and extends battery life 2–3x.'], [ , 'Cellular vs. Standard', 'Cellular cams let you check remotely — critical for high-intrusion areas or remote stands.']].map(([icon, t, d]) => ({icon}, {t}, {d}))}
```

SHOP TRAIL CAMERAS

Cellular & Standard Trail Cameras

Standard, cellular, and black-flash models — tested for trigger speed, battery life, and image quality.

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