

# Glossary

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## A

**Action:** *the part that loads, fires, and unloads a firearm.*

**Arrow:** *a slender shaft, or projectile, shot from a bow or crossbow.*

## B

**Bag limit:** *the number of animals that may be legally taken in a single day or season.*

**Ball starter:** *allows a ball to be started down the barrel of a muzzleloader before using the ramrod.*

**Barrel:** *the tube extending from the action that the bullet or shot passes through when a firearm is fired.*

**Blackpowder:** *the fuel that drives the projectile of a muzzleloader.*

**Bore:** *the inside of a barrel.*

**Bowstring:** *the string on a bow that fires the arrow.*

**Broadheads:** *razor-sharp arrow tips used for hunting big game.*

## C

**CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation):** *a combination of chest compressions and rescue breathing.*

**Caliber:** *the diameter of a rifle or pistol bore.*

**Capper:** *allows a percussion cap*

*to be easily placed or removed from the nipple of a muzzleloader.*

**Carrying capacity:** *the number of each wildlife species that can live within a certain area without damaging the species or habitat.*

**Cartridge:** *ammunition for a rifle or handgun.*

**Centerfire:** *ammunition where the primer is in the center of the rear of the case.*

**Choke:** *a narrow section at the muzzle end of the barrel of a shotgun that controls the spread and pattern of the shot.*

**Compound bow:** *a bow that uses a system of cams or pulleys, cables, and the bowstring to shoot the arrow.*

**Conservation:** *the wise use of natural or renewable resources.*

**Crossbow:** *a mechanical bow attached to a stock that fires an arrow.*

## D

**Draw length:** *the measurement it takes to pull the string of a bow to full draw.*

**Draw weight:** *the poundage or strength it takes to pull a bow back to shoot.*

**Dressing:** *the removal of the head,*

*feet, skin, and/or feathers of an animal.*

**Drivers:** *those hunters who walk to move deer in front of them during a deer drive.*

**Dry fire:** *to draw a bow back without an arrow and release the string.*

## E

**Ethics:** *a set of responsible values or principles that aid in making good decisions.*

## F

**Field dressing:** *the removal of only the entrails of a animal to prevent the meat from spoiling.*

**Field points:** *small arrow tips generally used for target shooting.*

**First aid:** *the immediate and temporary care of the victim of an accident or sudden illness until a professional medical person arrives.*

**Fletchings:** *feather or plastic vanes located on an arrow shaft to provide stability in flight for the arrow.*

**Flint:** *a sharp-edged stone used to create a spark when struck against steel.*

**Flintlock:** *a gunlock in which a flint in the hammer strikes a metal plate to produce a spark that ignites the powder.*

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**Frizzen:** *a metal plate that creates sparks when struck by a flint.*

**Frostbite:** *the freezing of body tissue.*

## G

**Game:** *wildlife that may be hunted or trapped according to legal seasons and limits.*

**Gauge:** *a measurement of a shotgun's barrel diameter.*

## H

**Habitat:** *an area that supplies everything wildlife needs to live including food, water, cover and space.*

**Haul line:** *a rope attached to a tree stand and left hanging to the ground in order to attach a firearm or bow and raise or lower it to the stand.*

**Heat exhaustion:** *a condition when your body becomes overheated.*

**Holster:** *a carrier that allows a handgun to be carried for easy access.*

**Hunter orange:** *fluorescent orange, which, when worn by hunters, has helped to decrease the number of hunting incidents.*

**Hypothermia:** *a condition where your body loses heat faster than it can produce heat.*

## I

**In-line percussion ignition system:** *the hammer and nipple are in-line with the barrel and powder charge, on muzzleloaders.*

## L

**Limiting factor:** *any harmful element such as disease, bad weather, or poor habitat that may cause wildlife populations to be limited.*

**Lock:** *(action) the firing assembly usually associated with a muzzleloader.*

**Longbow:** *a hand-drawn, bow.*

## M

**Magazine:** *the part of a repeating firearm that holds the ammunition until needed.*

**Master eye:** *an individual's dominant eye.*

**Muzzle:** *the end of a gun barrel, from which the bullet or shot leaves.*

## N

**Nipple:** *holds the percussion cap in a muzzleloader.*

**Nock:** *located at the back of the arrow and attaches to the bowstring.*

**Nonrenewable resource:** *a resource that can't be replaced after it is used such as coal, oil, or natural gas.*

## P

**PFD:** *personal flotation device, sometimes called a life vest.*

**Percussion cap:** *cap placed on the nipple under the hammer of a muzzleloader. The cap explodes when hit, sending a flame to the main powder charge, which fires the firearm.*

**Physical conditioning:** *the strengthening of the heart, lungs, and muscles.*

**Plucking:** *removing the feathers and leaving the skin on a game bird.*

**Plug:** *a device that is inserted into the shotgun magazine to reduce the number of shells the gun can hold.*

**Poaching:** *An illegal activity involving the pursuit of any wild animal.*

**Predators:** *animals that hunt and eat other animals.*

**Preservation:** *no use of natural resources.*

**Prey:** *the animals that are hunted and eaten by predators.*

**Projectile:** *the bullet/shot that comes out of the muzzle of a gun.*

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**Propagation**: to raise fish or wildlife in captivity for eventual release into the wild.

**Pyrodex**: a modern substitute for blackpowder.

**Pyrodex pellets**: are made for use in in-line muzzleloaders.

## Q

**Quiver**: device that holds arrows.

## R

**Ramrod**: a long rod used to push the ball against the powder in a muzzleloader.

**Recurve**: a reverse curvature near the tips of the limbs as in a recurve bow.

**Regulations**: rules or laws by which conduct is regulated.

**Renewable resource**: a natural resource that can be replaced or replenished and available for continued use such as animals, trees, and other plants.

**Rifled barrel**: the tube extending from the action, with spiral grooves cut on the inside, that the bullet passes through when the firearm is fired.

**Rifled bore**: spiral grooves cut on the inside of the barrel that causes the bullet to spin.

**Rifling**: composed of grooves cut on the inside of a gun barrel in a spiral.

**Rimfire**: a type of ammunition where the primer that ignites the powder is located in the **rim** of the cartridge.

## S

**Safe shooting zones**: direction in which each hunter in a group will fire, to be agreed upon at the beginning of the hunt.

**Safety**: a mechanical device that locks the trigger on a firearm or crossbow to prevent it from firing.

**Safety harness**: a full body restraint system that wraps around your chest, waist, and legs.

**Set trigger**: muzzleloader trigger designed for target shooting with a very light trigger pull.

**Shaft**: the main body of an arrow.

**Shot**: pellets made from lead, steel, or other material.

**Shotshell**: the shell that holds all the parts of ammunition for shotguns.

**Sights**: mechanical devices that aid in aiming a firearm, crossbow, or bow.

**Sight picture**: aligned sights that are placed upon a target before firing.

**Skinning**: removing the skin from an animal.

**Sport hunting**: a legal recreational activity involving the pursuit and/or killing of wild animals.

**Standers**: those hunters who stand ready to shoot the deer when they move past them in a deer drive.

**Stock**: the action and barrel are attached to the stock of a gun. It is the part that you hold to aim and point a firearm.

## T

**TIP (Turn In a Poacher)**: a toll-free hotline designed to involve the public in reporting wildlife violations (1-800-POACHER).

**Topography**: changes in elevation, such as hills and valleys.

**Touchhole**: a small hole in the side of the barrel of a muzzleloader that allows a small flame through.

## V

**Violation**: an act that breaks any regulation or law.

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## W

**Wad**: *a disc-shaped piece of fiber or plastic that acts as a piston to seal in the gasses that push the projectiles out of the barrel of a shotgun.*

**Wildlife**: *those animals that range freely in their natural environment, not kept in zoos or held as pets or farm animals.*

**Wildlife Management**: *The art of making land produce and sustain an annual crop of wild game for recreational use.*

**Wildlife Officers**: *Law enforcement officers who enforce wildlife laws.*