

The Importance of Glassing for Game

For what ever it is worth, most bowhunters need to improve on their glassing techniques. Why? Commonly bowhunters will overlook the glassing techniques required to spot game at a distance. This mind set likely comes from the fact that bowhunting is such a close range sport. This is exactly why we need good glassing skills and equipment. Whether you plan on still-hunting, stalking an animal or hunting from a treestand you will need to prepare for the shot before the animal appears from nowhere. The element of surprise, and the ability to plan ahead is the only advantages we have over our prey.

Get a binocular that allows you to use it for extended periods (like an hour or more) without eyestrain. Fine-detail resolution is important, but so is color. A good field of view allows you to work over larger areas more quickly, but only because you can see more when the binocular is up, not because you are frantically panning from side to side.

Tackle the task of glassing as you would paint a house: A flurried, frenzied approach never yields results that are as gratifying as a slow, methodical one. The majority of your time deer hunting should be spent glassing. If you're looking for a bedded buck, take a hillside and break it up before you sit down. Look for anything obvious, then down and get comfortable.

One of the oldest glassing techniques is still the best: Take a large area and break it into grids. Carefully study each grid until you're convinced there's nothing there. After you've examined every small section, go back and look again. Steady changes in light and shadows will often uncover something that was completely hidden the first time you looked.

Be patient and keep looking. All bedded deer get up now and again and shift position. And if you're looking in the right place at the right time, you will see them.