

## Possible Interview questions – Hunters (can adapt to any outdoor adventure)

The basic foundations of any interview are setting, characters, conflict-resolution, overcoming challenges, fear-confidence and personal discovery. From that list, focus on the 6-W's of any story – **What, When, Where, Why, Who, and hoW**. The secret to asking revealing questions is to ask about the subject's "feelings and emotions" and to **ask the subject to tell you a story full of details**. These details should be rich in what we can't see on the video – stuff we wouldn't know unless you told us. There's a big difference between... "I shot the deer early" ... and, "I arrowed the non-typical at 38 yards using my dad's old Bear recurve just the doves started flying from the brush." So with that said, here are some possible questions to adapt to your interview. Don't barrage your subject with them all – simply pick and choose the ones that best fit the person and the hunt. **Note:** *Questions in Italics may only be foolishness or fun.*

### What – you were hunting ( again, pre-empt with "tell me a story about...what..."

- What gear were you using and why?
- What doubts did you have about your gear or failures in the past?
- What are some of the secrets to successfully hunting here for this species?
- What mistakes have you made and do others make hunting here for this species?
- What hunting technique were you trying and why?
- What hunting secrets –relative to this hunt - have you learned that others might not know?
- What made you feel this stand was the right spot today?
- What was your greatest weakness or flaw in preventing successful on this hunt?
- What was your greatest strength or asset in being successful on this hunt?
- What weaknesses in the quarry did you capitalize on and why?
- What strengths in the quarry did you have to overcome and how?
- What was the happiest moment of the hunt? (and why)
- What was the scariest moment of the hunt? (and why)
- What was the saddest or most disappointing moment of the hunt? (and why)
- What was the funniest moment in the hunt and why?
- What would your dad or granddad say if they had been with you and why?
- What would you have done differently if you could and why?
- What are you going to tell this poor dead animal's mommy and daddy?*

### When – relative to history, setting, place and events

- Tell me a story about the history of this ranch or this place.
- Tell me a past story about your dad, grandfather, or kinfolk hunting here.
- Tell me about any previous encounters you had with this particular animal (or similar).
- Tell me a story about hunting previously from this particular stand – and what you learned.
- Tell me about your past experience hunting at this ranch or in this type of country.
- When does feeding, bedding, rutting, fighting occur here and how did it affect your hunt?
- When did you first see or hear this animal and chronologically tell me the whole story of what happened?
- Tell me about the time of year, weather, temperature and conditions that affected the hunt?
- Tell me when you're going to stop playing with guns and bows and get a real job?*

### Where – place, location, stand, quarry

- Where is this ranch located in the state and what's the country like?
- Why is this place special for hunting this quarry here? Do you have an emotional connection? Explain why.
- Where is your stand located relative to other features here?

- ❑ Where was the quarry coming from and why?
- ❑ Where did you take the shot and what conditions made it challenging?
- ❑ Where did you stay for lodging-meals and how did you get to the hunting spot?
- ❑ Where did you come from to get here and where do you return to when you leave?
- ❑ Where did you hunt last and where will you hunt next?
- ❑ *Where did you put the knife that you lost?*

#### **Why – did you do this?**

- ❑ Why did you hunt here?
- ❑ Why did you use the technique?
- ❑ Why didn't you use your gun or your bow?(opposite from what they used)
- ❑ Why did you decide to shoot this animal?
- ❑ Why did you pass those other nice animals?
- ❑ Why didn't you wait longer before shooting?
- ❑ Why did you wait so long before shooting?
- ❑ Why did you wait so long before trailing – or - why didn't you wait longer?
- ❑ *Why didn't you stay home and help your wife paint the basement?*

#### **Who – others past, present, future**

- ❑ Who was with you on this hunt and why?
- ❑ Who do you wish was on this hunt and why?
- ❑ Who do you wish had stayed home on this hunt and why?
- ❑ Who do you wish was in the stand with you and why?
- ❑ Who else has seen this animal before?
- ❑ Who helped contribute to your success and how?
- ❑ *Who can you blame for missing the big one?*

#### **hoW – details of the story**

- ❑ How have you changed as a hunter in the past 5 years? Past 15 years?
- ❑ How did you modify this stand or location before the hunt?
- ❑ How does this hunt or your hunting affect the quality of your life?
- ❑ How does this animal/hunt compare to similar ones?
- ❑ How did it make you feel when you reached down and touched the animal for the first time?
- ❑ How does your family feel about your hunting?
- ❑ How will you enjoy the bounty of this hunt?
- ❑ How will you preserve the memories of this hunt?
- ❑ How do you feel at the end of the day hunting verses end of the day working?
- ❑ How do you think others see you as a hunter?
- ❑ How do you see yourself?
- ❑ How do you want others to see you as a person and a hunter?
- ❑ *How much longer will this person continue asking silly questions?*