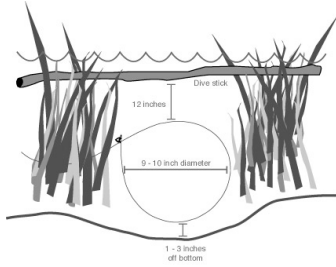


Traps and Snares

Another Key to Wilderness Survival



To be effective with traps and snares, you must...



- Be familiar with the species of animal you intend to catch.
- Be capable of constructing a proper trap.
- Not alarm the prey by leaving signs of your presence.

Set traps and snares near

- Runs and trails
- Tracks
- Droppings
- Chewed or rubbed vegetation
- Nesting or roosting sites
- Feeding and watering areas



The difference between a “run” and a “trail”

- A trail will show signs of use by several species and will be rather distinct.
- A run is usually smaller and less distinct and will only contain signs of one species.



Why placement is important



- You may construct a perfect snare, but it will not catch anything if haphazardly placed in the woods.
- Animals have bedding areas, waterholes, and feeding areas with trails leading from one to another.
- You must place snares and traps around these areas to be effective.

Concealment

- It is important not to create a disturbance that will alarm the animal and cause it to avoid the trap.
- Therefore, if you must dig, remove all fresh dirt from the area.
- Most animals will instinctively avoid a pitfall-type trap.
- Prepare the various parts of a trap or snare away from the site, carry them in, and set them up.
- Such actions make it easier to avoid disturbing the local vegetation, thereby alerting the prey.
- Do not use freshly cut, live vegetation to construct a trap or snare.
- Freshly cut vegetation will "bleed" sap that has an odor the prey will be able to smell. It is an alarm signal to the animal.

Human Scent

- Remove or mask human scent on and around traps
- Nearly all mammals depend on smell even more than on sight
- Even the slightest human scent on a trap will alarm the prey and cause it to avoid the area.
- Removing the scent from a trap is difficult but masking it is relatively easy.
- Use the fluid from the gall and urine bladders of previous kills.
- Do not use human urine.

Masking human scent with mud and fire

- Mud, particularly from an area with plenty of rotting vegetation, is a good mask
- Use it to coat your hands when handling the trap and to coat the trap when setting it
- In nearly all parts of the world, animals know the smell of burned vegetation and smoke
- It is only when a fire is actually burning that they become alarmed
- Therefore, smoking the trap parts is an effective means to mask your scent.

Time also masks

- If one of the previous techniques is not practical, and if time permits, allow a trap to weather for a few days and then set it.
- Do not handle a trap while it is weathering.
- When you position the trap, camouflage it as naturally as possible to prevent detection by the enemy and to avoid alarming the prey.

Channelization

- To build a channel, construct a funnel-shaped barrier extending from the sides of the trail toward the trap, with the narrowest part nearest the trap.
- Channelization should be inconspicuous to avoid alerting the prey.



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Why create a channel?



- As the animal gets to the trap, it cannot turn left or right and continues into the trap.
- Few wild animals will back up, preferring to face the direction of travel.
- Channelization does not have to be an impassable barrier.
- You only have to make it inconvenient for the animal to go over or through the barrier.

The best channels

- For best effect, the channelization should reduce the trail's width to just slightly wider than the targeted animal's body.
- Maintain this constriction at least as far back from the trap as the animal's body length, then begin the widening toward the mouth of the funnel.



Bait

- Increases your chances of catching an animal
- Draws animals to the trap or snare
- Peanut butter and salt are good!
- Something animals already have easy access to is not a good idea - a piece of corn in the middle of a corn field is not going to catch anything

How do traps and snares work?

- They crush prey
- They choke prey
- They hang prey
- They entangle prey



Difference between traps and snares

- Traps either “catch and hold” prey or “catch and kill” prey
- Snares use either of these methods and include a NOOSE to accomplish the function



The Trigger: The Heart of Traps and Snares

- The heart of any trap or snare is the trigger.
- When planning a trap or snare, ask yourself how it should affect the prey, what is the source of power, and what will be the most efficient trigger.
- Your answers will help you devise a specific trap for a specific species.

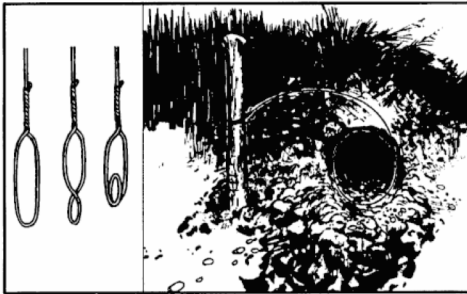


Figure 8-5. Simple snare.

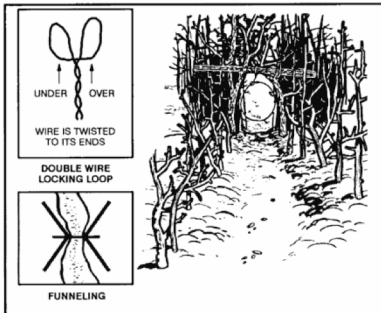


Figure 8-6. Drag noose.



Figure 8-7. Twitch-up snare.

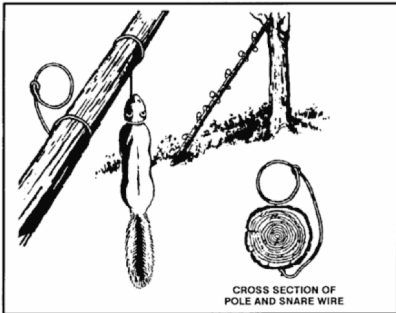


Figure 8-8. Squirrel pole.

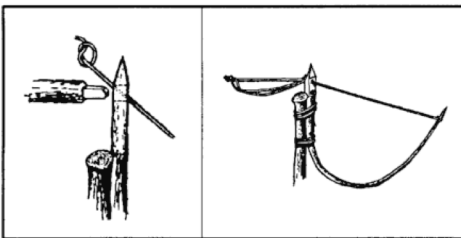
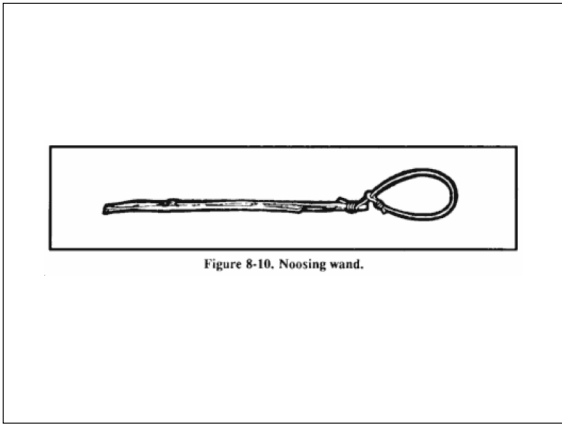
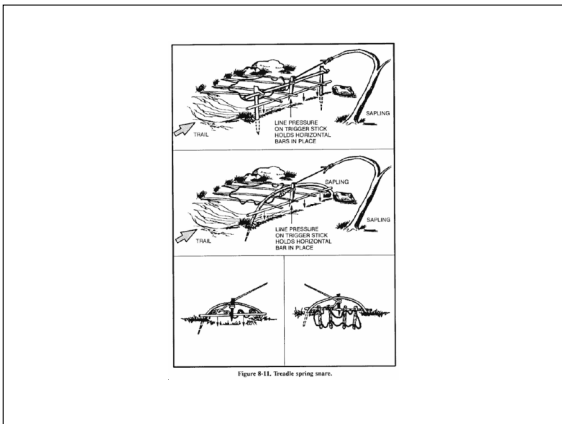
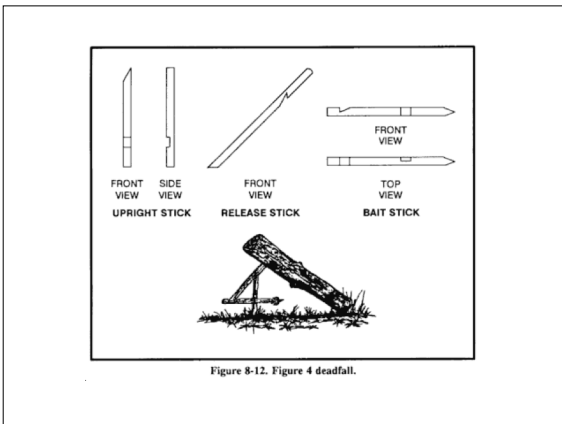


Figure 8-9. Ojibwa bird pole.







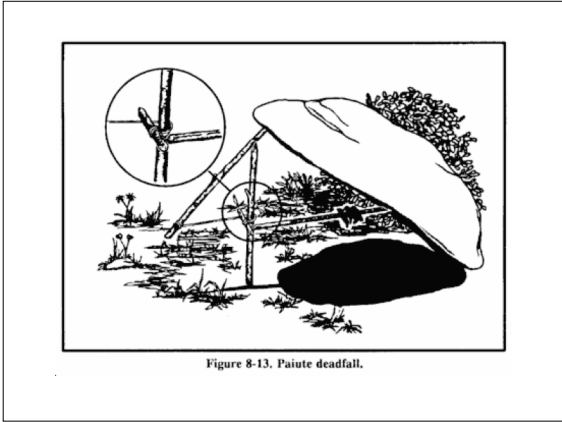


Figure 8-13. Paiute deadfall.

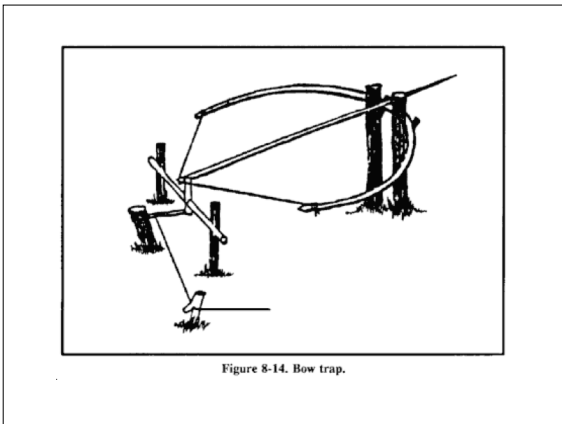


Figure 8-14. Bow trap.

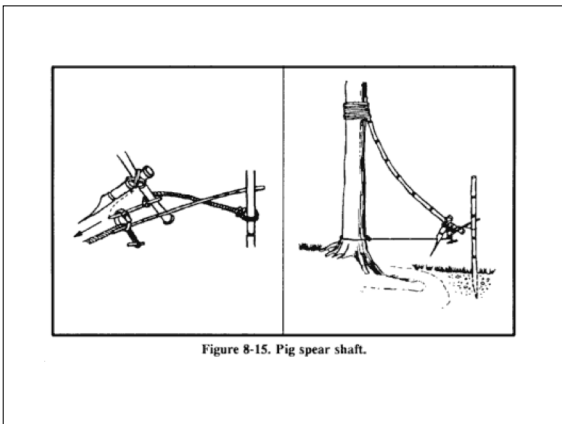


Figure 8-15. Pig spear shaft.

