

Camouflage_Cover_2004.txt

CAMOUFLAGE COVER Generally, there are two kinds of cover: primary and secondary. Primary cover is anything that conceals your whole body, whereas secondary cover just breaks up your outline. If you're stalking upright in thick woods, you may use trees as primary cover, occasionally peeking through the secondary cover afforded by leaves and branches. If you're crawling or on your belly, try to conceal most of your body behind the primary cover offered by bushes and grasses, while keeping an eye on the animal through the secondary cover near the tops of the vegetation. A general rule of thumb is to stay behind primary cover whenever possible, and to utilize secondary cover mainly for observation. However, this is not always necessary and in some cases not even possible. If you move carefully (using wind, shadows, and other forms of camouflage), you can get by with just enough cover to break up your outline. Before you even start to stalk, scan the terrain and decide how you can best approach the animal without being seen. Decide what trees or bushes will hide you or at least break up your outline, and think about how much effort it will take to get through them. If you're stalking through an area with very thin cover, such as a grassy meadow, you're probably going to have to be down on hands and knees most of the time. Thick brush affords good cover, but it's often next to impossible to work through it without getting tangled or causing a lot of noise. Try to find a middle ground between these two extremes. If you have to stalk through thick brush, do so with the utmost care. Don't jar any branches or leaves. Step over small obstacles and go around large ones. If you can't do either, look for holes in the vegetation and slide your limbs through them. If you have to stalk upright through an open area, go carefully, paying particular attention to sound, movement, shadow, and sunlight.