Free sample from The Trail Camera Scouting Plan & Pattern Log. This is worksheet 3 of 11. Get all 11 worksheets: trailcamsetup.com/kit/trail-camera-scouting-plan-and-pattern-log

Map Scouting & Site Selection Sheet

Mark the features, score the sites, choose the few worth a camera

Name	**Date**
Property	**Map or app used**

Cameras sample the places animals pass; they do not cover acreage. This sheet finds those places on a map before you set foot on the property, then scores each one so the first cameras go where movement concentrates rather than on a grid.

Sketch the property



Mark food (F), water (W), bedding cover (B), pinch points (P), access routes (dashed) and the usual wind (arrow) · North: ↑

Features to find

- [ ] Food: food plots, crop field edges, oak flats dropping acorns, fruit trees
- [ ] Water, and whether it is scarce or everywhere on the property
- [ ] Bedding cover: thickets, cutovers, tall grass, south-facing slopes with cover
- [ ] Pinch points: fence gaps, saddles between ridges, creek crossings, narrow strips of cover joining bedding to food
- [ ] Field corners and inside corners where cover meets an opening
- [ ] Access routes you can walk in and out on without crossing the travel routes
- [ ] Property lines, neighbors' houses and roads, so no camera looks across them

Candidate sites, scored

Site	Feature	Signal bars (cellular)	Access keeps wind off travel routes? (Y/N)	Can face north or south? (Y/N)	Score 1 to 5	Camera here?

Which feature first (from this site's early-season guide)

Placement	Priority	Recommended mode
Active food source	Highest	Time-lapse or wide motion detection
Corridor between bedding and food	High	Motion photo or short video, cellular preferred
Scarce water source	Medium (high if water is limited)	Motion photo
Fence or trail crossing	Medium	Motion photo

A camera on the food source tells you which animals use it. A camera on the corridor tells you which direction and roughly what time they commit, which is the information that sets up everything after it.

How many cameras (this site's camera-per-acre rules)

Purpose	Rule of thumb	Your property
Deer population survey	About 1 camera site per 100 acres	
General scouting	About 1 camera per 30 to 50 acres, where travel pinches	
Intensive scouting (small tract, one animal)	About 1 camera per 15 acres, on every major crossing and food source	
Security	Count gates, drives and doors, not acres	

Field rules of thumb from this site's coverage pages, not measured figures. Two or three well-placed cameras usually teach more than six scattered ones, and they are easier to check without pressuring the property.

Researched guidance, not professional advice. Check your state wildlife agency's current rules before placing any camera on land you hunt, on public land or near a property line, and get the landowner's permission on land that is not yours. Estimates in this kit come from this site's own models; real cameras vary.