

Wilderness: Hinterlands & Hearthfires

A Fate's Edge module for expeditions, survival, hunts, and camps

Version 0.1 (Playtest)

Design Goals

- **Wilds as character:** Biomes carry tags, strings, hazards, and clocks that push back.
- **From trail to hearth:** Each day's push ends with a camp where choices ripple forward.
- **Low bookkeeping:** A handful of party tracks and a simple day/leg structure.
- **Integrates cleanly:** Works with urban, caravan, political, asset, and psionic play.

Quickstart (2 minutes)

1. Pick a **Region Kit** (§1) and mark **Distance [4–8]**, **Danger [4–6]**, **Weather [4–6]**.
2. Start party tracks: **Supplies [6]**, **Weariness [6]** (fatigue), **Sign [6]** (traceability).
3. Choose a daily **Intent Dial**: **Traverse / Scout / Hunt / Hide / Endure** (§2.2).
4. Play 2–3 scenes (Navigate, Forage, Cross, Track, Parley). On any 1, GM spends SB with **Wilderness SB** (§5.4).
5. **Camp Phase:** build camp → watches → hearthfire rite → repair/recap → adjust tracks (§4).

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Region Sheet & Biomes

Region Sheet (Template)

[REGION NAME]

Biomes in play (2{3}: forest / steppe / desert / marsh / mountain / coast / tundra / badlands

Strings (2{4}): waystones • ford rights • grazing compacts • shrine hospitality • hunting warrant

Threats (2{3}): raider banners • ward-storm bands • apex predators • inquisitors • poachers • sp

Tracks:

- Distance [4{8}] to the next safe haven
- Danger [4{6}] (ambient pressure)
- Weather [4{6}] (seasonal band)
- Beast Pressure [4{6}] (apex attention; optional)

Landmarks (4{6}): short names

Notes: seasons, taboos, native trails, friendly outposts

Biome Tags & Effects

Pick two tags per biome in play.

Forest canopy; deadfalls; spoor; sap.

Effect: *Stalk/Hunt* DV -1 with *Track* or *Herbalist* tags; *Navigate* Position -1 without a trail.

Hazards: widowmakers; boggy pockets; parasite swarms.

Steppe wind-bands; wide sky; mirage; remounts.

Effect: *Chase (horse)* DV -1; *Hide Sign* Position -1 (you leave tracks).

Hazards: grassfire; stampede; dust whiteout.

Desert dunes; salt; night cold; scarce wells.

Effect: *Forage* Position -1; *Endure* DV -1 with *Water-wise*.

Hazards: heat stroke; dune slip; salt glare.

Marsh reeds; sucking mud; gnats; leeches.

Effect: *Infiltrate* Position +1; *Drive* Position -1.

Hazards: miasma; hidden channels; rot.

Mountain scree; ledges; avalanches; switchbacks.

Effect: *Navigate/Climb* DV +1 unless *Sure-footed*; *Ambush* Position +1 from above.

Hazards: fall; rockfall; thin air.

Coast cliffs; tides; riptides; sea fog.

Effect: *Chase (boat)* DV -1 with *Riverwise*; *Camp* Position -1 in exposure.

Hazards: surf; slick kelp; storm surge.

Tundra permafrost; whiteout; brittle cold.

Effect: *Endure* DV -1 with *Shelter*; *Forage* Position -1.

Hazards: frostbite; thin ice; drift.

Badlands ravines; hoodoos; echo.

Effect: *Hide/Ambush* Position +1; *Navigate* DV +1 without sun or waystone.

Hazards: collapses; blind turns; flash floods.

Expedition Procedures

Scales & Party Tracks

- **Distance** [4–8] to the next haven or objective. Tick on strong travel hits.
- **Danger** [4–6] advances on 1s or loud moves; on fill, trigger a set-piece (raid, beast strike, stormfront).
- **Weather** [4–6] seasonal pressure; see the Weather Matrix (§5.2).
- **Supplies** [6] food/fuel/repair stock. At 0, **Weariness +1** per day until replenished.
- **Weariness** [6] party fatigue/morale. At 6, someone balks or collapses; clear via Camp rest.
- **Sign** [6] spoor, smoke, rumor. At fill, you're found by a threat or rival.

Intent Dials

Choose one each day.

Traverse Move Distance efficiently; *Parley* starts one Position worse (you look hurried).

Scout Avoid Danger; *Distance* only on strong travel hits.

Hunt Focus on prey/clues; *Forage/Hunt* DV -1; Distance advances slowly.

Hide Minimize Sign; *Hide Sign* and *Infiltrate* start one Position higher; *Broker/Parley* worse.

Endure Conserve Supplies and protect Condition; ignore the first *Weather* penalty each day.

Day Flow

Morning scene → Mid-day trek → **Camp Phase**. On long pushes, insert a **Mid-day Review**: change Intent, check **Weather**, remind **Projects**.

Wilderness Actions (Common)

- **Navigate (Wits+Survey):** set course/avoid hazard. DV 2–4 by biome/Weather.
- **Forage (Wits+Survival/Craft):** gather food, water, fuel, or herbs. DV 2–5 by biome.
- **Hunt/Track (Wits+Track):** stalk prey or follow spoor. DV 2–5; Forest/Badlands help; Steppe/Desert hinder.
- **Cross Hazard (Body+Tactics/Craft):** ford, ledge, dune. DV 2–5; failure ticks **Weariness +1** or **Supplies -1**.
- **Hide Sign (Wits+Subterfuge):** erase spoor, control smoke, false trails. DV 2–4; on hit reduce **Sign -1**.
- **Blaze Trail (Wits+Craft):** leave discrete waymarks; on hit, create *Trail* tag for your party; rivals can notice on 1s.
- **Parley with Wardens/Spirits (Presence+Sway/Rites):** claim rites or hospitality; on miss start **Oath/Offense [4]**.
- **Harvest Components (Wits+Craft/Herbal):** gain one-use tags: *Hardy Rations*, *Bitter Tincture* (clear minor Harm), *Sap-Resin* (firestarter), *Smoke-Blend* (Hide Sign +1).

DV Cheats: using a relevant **String** (ford rights, shrine hospitality, grazing compact) is DV -1 or Position +1 once/scene.

Camps & Hearthfires

Camp Quality (0–3)

How well you settle (shelter, heat, dryness, watch). Improves Position next day by Camp Quality (max +1) and speeds recovery.

Making Camp

- **Build Camp (Wits+Craft):** set Quality 1 on hit; +1 with good site; on 1 start **Vermin/Leak [4]**.
- **Assign Watches:** 1–3 PCs/followers; each can pre-empt one SB spend or spot an approach early.
- **Hearthfire Rite (Presence+Rites):** claim hospitality with the land. On hit, clear **Weariness -1** and create **Audience: Warm**; on 1, add **Superstition: Ill Omen**.
- **Repair & Recuperate:** clear **Weariness -1**; step down one minor **Harm** with supplies/time; spend **Supplies** to cook → add *Heartened* tag for tomorrow (one Position +1).

Breaking Camp

Poor break (rush, storm) → **Sign +1**; careful break → **Sign -1** with time.

Hazards & Pressures

Terrain Hazards

Forest deadfall (Cross DV 3–4), widowmaker (Defense), parasite swarm (**Weariness +1** unless protected).

Steppe grassfire (Outrun DV 3–4), stampede (Shield/Drive DV 3–5), dust whiteout (Navigate DV 3–4; **Sign +1**).

Desert heat stroke (Endure DV 3–4 or **Supplies -1** water), dune slip (Cross DV 3–4; wagon **Condition +1**), night cold (**Weariness +1** if no fire).

Marsh sucking mud (Cross DV 3–5; drop gear), miasma (**Weariness +1** + start **Sickness [4]**), hidden channel (Swim/Boat).

Mountain rockfall (Defense), ledge gap (Cross DV 4–5), thin air (**Weariness +1** on failures).

Coast rip (*Chase (boat)*), surge (Cross), sea fog (Navigate).

Tundra whiteout (Navigate DV 3–4), thin ice (Cross DV 3–5; **Harm** risk), frostbite (**Weariness +1**).

Weather Matrix

Advance **Weather [4–6]** on 1s or fiction.

- **Rain/Monsoon:** fords impassable; **Distance** only on strong hits; on any 1, **Condition +1** (soak/rot).
- **Snow/Whiteout:** sight/aim Position -1; **Weariness +1** at day end unless **Shelter**.

- **Heat/Dry:** *Forage* Position -1; at camp spend **Supplies** or **Weariness +1**.
- **Dust/Sand:** *Hide Sign* Position -1; on any 1, **Condition +1** (abrasion) and **Supplies -1** (waste).
- **Ward-Storm:** supernatural; scenes start **Desperate** unless rites/wards; strong hit clears **Weariness -1**; 1 → **Sign +1**.

Predation & Territorial Response (optional)

Track **Beast Pressure [4–6]** when apex threats notice. On fill, they test your camp or claim the trail. Reduce by *Hide Sign*, tribute rites, or relocating.

Wilderness SB (GM menu)

Spook the Team (**Weariness +1** or **Supplies -1**) • Unwelcome Smoke (**Sign +1**; start **Watcher [4]**) • Bad Footing (minor **Harm** or wagon **Condition +1**) • Rumor on the Wind (rivals gain 1 **Clue**) • Foul Water (start **Sickness [4]**).

Hunts, Chases & Stalks

Pursuit Ladders

Foot: DV 2 open ground; 3 brush; 4 rocky; 5 marsh.

Horse/Beast: DV 2 steppe road; 3 ruts; 4 switchbacks; 5 dunes.

Boat (backwaters/coast): DV 2 open; 3 reeds; 4 tidal; 5 fog.

Stalk & Ambush

Create *Concealment* (Stalk DV 2–4); spend for Position +1 or DV -1 on the strike. On a 1 while stalking, the prey gains *Wind of You* (tag).

Prey & Harvest

Small game (DV 2–3) • Herd beasts (DV 3–4) • Apex (DV 4–5). On hit, take **Supplies +1** and 1 **Component** tag; on strong hit choose +1 extra or a **Clue**. On 1s, start **Retaliation [4]**.

Outposts & Strongholds (Asset tie-ins)

Treat semi-permanent bases as **Assets**: *Outpost, Hunting Lodge, Ranger Tower, Shrine Hermitage*.

Projects: *Smokehouse (4), Ward-Rings (6), Hidden Cache (4), Tethered Ferry (6)*.

Upkeep/Yield: as assets; gain **Clue/Favor/Leverage** themed to the wilds.

Denizens & Factions

Ranger Orders (Strings: watchtowers, trail codes) • Shrine Keepers (hospitality, taboo enforcement) • Game Wardens (hunting warrants) • Poacher Bands (hidden blinds, buyers) • Beast Courts/Spirits (ward-rings, omen stones) • Raid Banners (camp maps, remount chains).

Faction Clocks: Influence/Stability/Exposure work unchanged; Exposure may reflect **Sign** or rumor rather than city scandal.

Generators

Landmarks (d66)

11 stone waygate; 12 singing dune; 13 blue fenlight; 14 shattered menhir; 15 frostwell; 16 cliff hive; 21 thorn maze; 22 rope bridge; 23 kurgan field; 24 tide cave; 25 obsidian flow; 26 wolf run; 31 birch ring; 32 drowned bell; 33 salt jackstraws; 34 sky-stair; 35 whispering reeds; 36 geyser plain; 41 storm beacon; 42 peat stack; 43 hunter's cairn; 44 moon pool; 45 basalt organ; 46 amber mire; 51 stag wallow; 52 avalanche chute; 53 tide mill; 54 dead forest; 55 sunken road; 56 glacier window; 61 giant's table; 62 foxfire glen; 63 saint's anchor; 64 glass beach; 65 hanging valley; 66 dragon's brows.

Trail Complications (d12)

1 cracked axle; 2 false cairns; 3 flooded ford; 4 hostile patrol; 5 lost kit; 6 gust front; 7 slick lichen; 8 jealous spirit; 9 echo confusion; 10 fresh predator spoor; 11 smoke on horizon; 12 fire in camp.

Boons & Finds (d12)

1 ripe berries; 2 clean spring; 3 dry cave; 4 remount cache; 5 sacred ash; 6 ironwood stave; 7 resin patch; 8 herb clutch; 9 fossil charm; 10 hunter's map; 11 ferryman token; 12 storm-proof tarp.

Integration Notes

- **Urban:** Trail markets and wardens' courts are venues; district-style tags apply. Standing with local offices = Position +1 for writs.
- **Caravans:** Wilderness legs use this module; *Camp* replaces caravan stops; *Overextend* increases **Weariness/Condition**.
- **Political:** Ranger orders and wardens function as factions; Strings = warrants, towers, taboo rites.
- **Assets/Patrons:** Outposts as assets; hunting/ford rights as **Patron Strings**.
- **Psionics:** *Dream Weather*—psions may read omens for **Clue** or reduce **Weather**; *Mind Beacon*—telepathic whistles once/day at **Sign +1**.
- **Dragon's Lair:** Landmarks (kurgans, storm beacons, saint's anchors) can map to lairs/hoards; *Ward-Storms* hide wyrm traffic.

Example of Play (short)

Setup: Expedition crosses *Thornweald* → *Skybreak Pass* (Distance [6], Danger [4], Weather [4: rain]). Intent: **Scout**. Tracks: Supplies 4/6, Weariness 2/6, Sign 1/6.

Navigate the Tangle (Wits+Survey, Forest DV 3): Hit → **Distance +1**; a 1 shows → GM spends SB *Bad Footing*, minor Harm.

Hide Sign (Wits+Subterfuge, DV 2): Strong hit → **Sign -2**. You blaze a subtle *Trail* for return.

Camp Phase: Build Camp (Quality 1); Hearthfire Rite (hit) clears **Weariness -1** and creates **Audience: Warm** with a shrine keeper. Night watch pre-empts a *Spook the Team* SB.

Morning—Cross Scree (Body+Tactics, Mountain DV 4): Partial → progress with **Weariness +1**. Weather advances → **Condition +1** risk; choose **Endure** intent tomorrow to ignore first penalty.

GM Reference (one page)

- **Daily Intent:** Traverse • Scout • Hunt • Hide • Endure.
- **Tracks:** Distance [4–8] • Danger [4–6] • Weather [4–6] • Supplies [6] • Weariness [6] • Sign [6] (opt: Beast Pressure [4–6]).
- **Common Actions:** Navigate • Forage • Hunt/Track • Cross • Hide Sign • Blaze Trail • Parley (wardens/spirits) • Harvest.
- **Camp:** Build • Watches • Hearthfire Rite • Repair/Recuperate • Break.
- **Weather Matrix:** Rain/Monsoon (Distance hard; Condition +1 on 1) • Snow/Whiteout (Position -1; Weariness +1 without Shelter) • Heat/Dry (Forage -1; Weariness +1 without extra water) • Dust/Sand (Hide Sign -1; Condition +1; Supplies -1) • Ward-Storm (Desperate w/o wards).
- **SB Menu:** Spook the Team • Unwelcome Smoke • Bad Footing • Rumor on the Wind • Foul Water.
- **Integration Hooks:** Outposts as assets • Warrants/rites as Strings • Psionic omens • Dragon landmarks.

Changelog

v0.1 — First pass: region sheet, biome tags, intent dials, party tracks (Supplies/Weariness/Sign), camp phase, hazards & weather, hunts & chases, outposts tie-in, denizens, generators, integration, example, and GM one-pager.

This module adds procedures only; defer to the core SRD for roll math and adjudication.