

WE CAN HANDLE THE TRUTH



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I grew up hunting and fishing in east central Ohio. My love for the outdoors is rooted in those traditions. This photo made me look harder at what it means to be a White sportsman.

As a White man, I have never thought twice about rolling around New England in a truck full of firearms. I assume I will be treated as safe, reasonable, and like I'm in a place I belong. If I get pulled over, I do not worry that the presence of guns will change how I am seen or how the situation will end.

As a sportsman, I have not spent enough time thinking about why hunting and fishing remain so overwhelmingly white in the U.S. It is not just "interest." It is history. A history of exclusion and segregation, lack of representation in outdoor media, fear of harassment or violence, and real financial barriers to gear, land access, and time.

Putting this out there makes me uncomfortable, because I know the stereotypes that come with this image of a White guy sportsman. These do not fully represent me or my values.

But that discomfort is part of the work. I want to be honest about what I get to take for granted, and what others cannot.