

# New York HUNTING & TRAPPING

2020–2021 Official Guide to Laws & Regulations  
Volume 12, Issue No. 1, September 2020

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Conservation



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Most regulations are in effect September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021

# Message from the Governor



New York is blessed with an abundance of hunting opportunities, from the tip of Long Island to the shores of Lake Erie. Whether you're looking for big game, waterfowl, upland gamebirds, small game, or furbearers, we have a season for you. This year amidst all of the challenges and pain we've faced with the COVID-19 crisis, time spent responsibly outdoors is an especially comforting release that is important to our physical and mental well-being. And there's no better time to be afield than in the fall.

DEC's 50th anniversary commemoration this year offers a great opportunity to reflect on all of the significant progress New York has made to restore healthy ecosystems and the wildlife they support. Thanks to the hard work of DEC and other state agency partners over the years, our state has made great strides in removing environmental contaminants from our lands and our

waters. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons are thriving again in New York, and many of our game species have recovered and are expanding their range.

While there is much to celebrate, there is always more that we can do, especially as New York rises to take on new challenges such as invasive species and climate change. New York is up to the challenge and our hunting and trapping community will continue to play a leading role in conservation.

Each year, some 600,000 hunters and 14,000 trappers go afield in pursuit of their favorite game. DEC's dedicated volunteer hunter education instructors have done a remarkable job of instilling safe practices in New York's hunters. While 2019 was the safest year on record, tragic incidents still occur. These incidents are most often preventable, and it is incumbent on hunters to always put safety first.

In this year's hunting and trapping guide you will find information to keep you legal, safe, and informed about wildlife conservation issues. I wish you all a safe, enjoyable, and successful season in New York's magnificent great outdoors. Stay healthy, recreate responsibly, and be safe.

Excelsior!

**Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**

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## New York State

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

### NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

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**Anthony Wilkinson**, Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
**James Farquhar**, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife  
**Michael Schiavone**, Section Head, Game Management

#### How to contact us:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Game Management Section  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-4754  
Website: [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

#### Division of Fish and Wildlife's Mission:

The mission of DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife is to serve the interests of current and future generations of New Yorkers by using our collective skills, in partnership with the public, to describe, understand, manage, and perpetuate a healthy and diverse assemblage of fish, wildlife, and ecosystems.

This guide is a summary that is intended for convenience only — for complete references, consult the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and Volume 6 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of New York State. These are available at:

[www.dec.ny.gov/regs/2494.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/regs/2494.html)

[www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/) (Environmental Conservation Law)

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At press time there were no closures or restrictions to hunting and trapping seasons expected due to COVID-19, but be sure to check the DEC website for updates ([www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov))



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## Changes to Regulations to Prevent the Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

To prevent the introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) to New York, hunters are prohibited from returning to the state with whole carcasses or intact heads of deer, elk, moose, or caribou that they harvest anywhere outside of New York. For more information read the CWD information on page 22 and visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8325.html>.

## Deer and Moose Feeding Prohibited

DEC adopted regulations to strengthen and clarify the existing prohibition on feeding deer and moose. Intentional feeding, including placing mineral blocks, is prohibited at all times of year. Products packaged to be sold as a food or attractant for deer or moose are required to carry a label stating that such use is illegal in New York. For more information visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7197.html>.

## New Early Bear Hunting Opportunity in Wildlife Management Unit 4W

Regulations were adopted to offer an early bear season in Wildlife Management Unit 4W (portions of Delaware and Sullivan counties) to address a growing bear population and associated human-bear conflicts in this area. WMU 4W joins 10 other WMUs in southeastern New York with September bear hunting opportunity. For details see the Bear Hunting Seasons map on page 43.

## Additional Waterfowl Hunting Opportunity for Active-Duty Military and Veterans

As of 2020, states can offer two additional dates that allow active-duty military and veterans to hunt waterfowl. DEC worked with the Waterfowl Task Forces in each zone to select two days for this purpose. When this guide was printed regulations to provide additional hunting days for active duty military personnel and veterans were still pending. If approved, dates for each zone will be posted on the DEC website. Visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28888.html>.

## Changes to Trapping Season Dates for Mink, Muskrat, and Beaver

Based on input from trappers and management needs for species like beaver, DEC proposed regulations modifying season dates for mink, muskrat, and beaver. When this guide was printed the proposed regulations were still pending. If approved, revised season dates for these species will be posted on the DEC website. Visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/45551.html>.

## New Hunting Season Summary

New in this year's Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide is a four-page summary of hunting season maps and dates that you can pull out of the guide and take with you into the field.

### DEC HAS A NEW HUNTING, TRAPPING & FISHING LICENSING SYSTEM!

You can purchase new licenses and privileges, apply for deer management permits, track online orders, register for HIP, view an events calendar, report your game harvest & view your harvest history and much more!

**Here's how to access your account and get started today:**

- STEP ONE:** Go to DEC's website [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) and follow the links to purchase a sporting license online, then click 'Sign Up.'
- STEP TWO:** Locate your existing file by entering your current Customer ID # from your sporting license or your driver's license # and date of birth, OR create an account if you have never purchased a NYS sporting license.
- STEP THREE:** Create a user name (email address) and password.
- STEP FOUR:** Review your personal information and verify all the information is up to date.
- STEP FIVE:** Add qualifying education & eligibilities; view your order history, license holdings, game harvest reports and deer management permit history.
- STEP SIX:** Select the 'Buy a License' link at the top of the page to purchase a license!

For more information on the new system, including details on how to locate your profile, create a new one, add education and eligibilities and how to purchase licenses, privileges and products, visit our YouTube channel for tutorials or the DEC website.



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

## About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

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This guide is also available online at

[eRegulations.com](http://eRegulations.com)



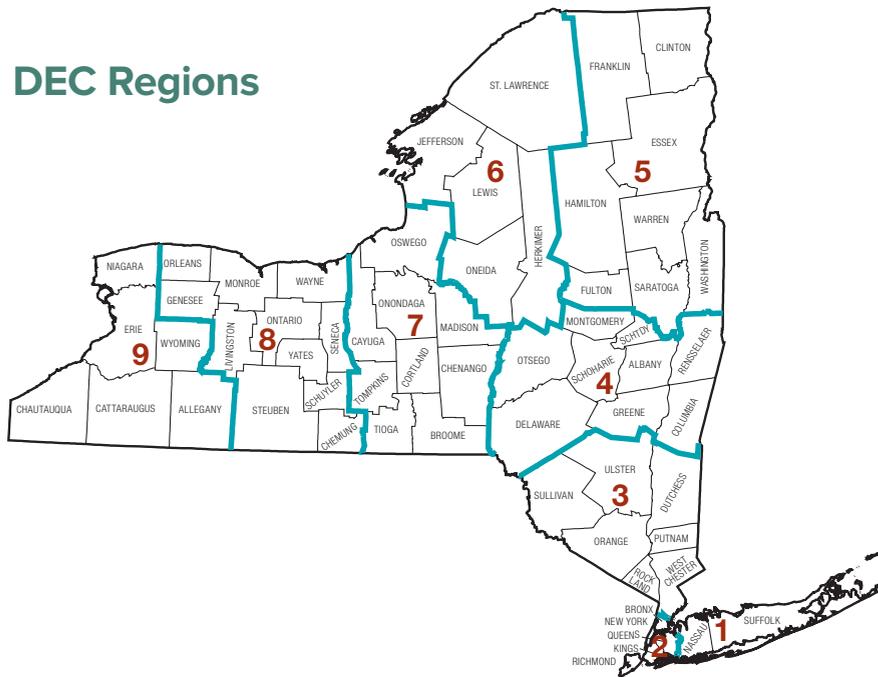
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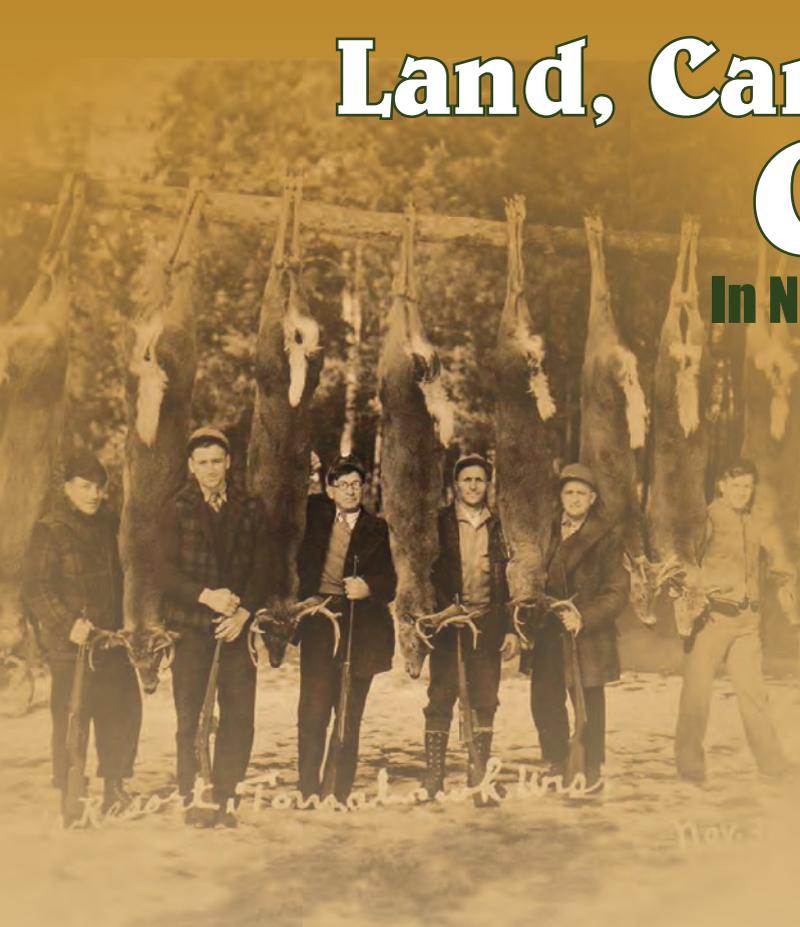
Region	Offices	Wildlife	Law Enforcement	Hunter Ed
1	Stony Brook University 50 Circle Rd. Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409	(631) 444-0310	(631) 444-0250	(631) 444-0255
2	1 Hunters Pt. Plaza 47-40 21st St. Long Island City, NY 11101-5407	(718) 482-4922	(718) 482-4885	(631) 444-0255
3	21 South Putt Corners Rd. New Paltz, NY 12561	(845) 256-3098	(845) 256-3013	(845) 256-3063
4	1130 North Westcott Rd. Schenectady, NY 12306-2014	(518) 357-2355	(518) 357-2047	(518) 357-2355
	65561 State Hwy 10, Suite 1 Stamford, NY 12167-9503	(607) 652-7367	—	—
5	1115 Route 86, PO Box 296 Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296	(518) 897-1291	(518) 897-1326	—
	232 Golf Course Rd. Warrensburg, NY 12885	(518) 623-1240	—	(518) 623-1240
6	317 Washington St. Watertown, NY 13601-3787	(315) 785-2263	(315) 785-2231	(315) 785-2533
	225 North Main St. Herkimer NY 13350	(315) 866-6330	—	—
	190 Outer Main St, Suite 103 Potsdam, NY 13676	(315) 265-3090	—	—
	17893 Game Farm Rd. Dexter, NY 13634	(315) 639-6122	—	—
7	615 Erie Blvd. West Syracuse, NY 13204-2400	—	(315) 426-7431	—
	1285 Fisher Ave. Cortland, NY 13045	(607) 753-3095 ext. 247	—	(607) 753-3095 ext. 242 or 247
8	6274 E. Avon-Lima Rd. Avon, NY 14414-9519	(585) 226-5380	(585) 226-6706	(585) 226-5463
	7291 Coon Rd. Bath, NY 14810-9728	(607) 776-2165	—	—
9	270 Michigan Ave. Buffalo, NY 14203-2999	(716) 851-7010	(716) 851-7050	—
	182 East Union St., Suite 3 Allegany, NY 14706	(716) 372-0645	—	(716) 372-0645

### Other Important Numbers

DEC Automated Licensing System	1-86-NY-DECALS (1-866-933-2257)M-F, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM
NYC Watershed Hunting Permits	1-800-575-5263
Deer Management Hotline	1-866-472-4332
Report Game Take via DECALS	1-866-GAME-RPT (1-866-426-3778)
Report Poachers and Polluters Hotline	1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)
Lifetime License Information	(518) 402-8843
Hunter Ed	1-888-HUNT ED2
Reporting Banded Waterfowl	<a href="http://www.reportband.gov">www.reportband.gov</a>
Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP)	1-888-427-5447 <a href="http://www.newyorkhip.org">www.newyorkhip.org</a>
Information on NY SAFE Act	1-855-LAW-GUNS
<b>Law Enforcement (ECOs)</b>	<b>1-844-332-3267</b>

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# Message from the Commissioner



In 2020, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is commemorating 50 years since its inception. I am proud to work with the people at DEC, our partners, and the public to continue the stewardship of New York's natural resources. The unprecedented crisis we are facing this year during the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the response of all New Yorkers to persevere in the face of adversity is emblematic of what we can accomplish when we work together toward a common goal.

Prior to the creation of DEC in 1970, its precursor, the New York State Conservation Department, was one of the first state agencies of its kind when it began in 1895. For over 100 years, New York's hunting and trapping community has taken an active role in conservation efforts and we have a lot of success stories to show for it. Game species like deer and turkeys that were once either greatly reduced in number or were gone from the state entirely are now abundant. Furbearers like otter, fisher, and bobcat that were restricted in their distributions can now be found across upstate New York. In addition to the many success stories for game species, hunter and trapper supported conservation efforts have benefited a multitude of non-game species through protection, habitat improvement, and management. The amount of land with public access for hunting and trapping has steadily increased, now totaling millions of acres across the state including 260,000 acres of Wildlife Management Areas.

Whereas the goal of hunters and the Conservation Department was once the restoration and recovery of game populations, our focus now shifts to protecting habitats and providing access to those habitats for wildlife-related recreation and other sustainable uses. In some parts of the state, species like deer are now overabundant, negatively affecting residents in these communities. Hunters, who were advocates for setting hunting seasons and bag limits 100 years ago to foster population recovery are now helping to manage overabundant deer and the impacts they cause on people and habitats. As new challenges emerge which impact at-risk species, our hunters continue to be a strong voice for conservation efforts which protect all of our native wildlife. The role of the hunter-conservationist is as important as it has ever been — protecting and managing habitat, managing species like deer and bear, and preventing the spread of diseases like Chronic Wasting Disease, to name but a few important management issues.

As New York's landscape and the wildlife that inhabit it change, so too does our relationship with the natural world. Engaging with that world during these challenging times is more important now than ever, and hunting and trapping are great ways to do so. In addition, when you head afield this fall you are continuing not only New York's hunting legacy, but its long legacy of conservation.

I hope to see you out there. Remember to recreate responsibly and safely to protect yourself and others. Good Luck and be safe!

## Basil Seggos

Commissioner

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

## Game Harvest Reporting

Hunters are required to report the harvest of deer, bear and turkey within 7 days of take. You may report your harvest using one of these methods:

- **Online:** [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html)
- **By phone:** 1-866-GAME-RPT (1-866-426-3778).
- **Game Harvest Mobile App** (see below for details).

### DID YOU KNOW?

You may be fined up to \$250 for failing to report your deer, bear or turkey take.

### Take it • Tag it • Report it

Harvest reporting is the **LAW** and necessary for wildlife management!

## Report your Game Harvests via Mobile App!

DEC's mobile app, *HuntFishNY* provides hunters with an e-license and game harvest reporting tool. Hunters now have a quick, user-friendly way to:

- gain instant, mobile access to an electronic version of sporting licenses and privileges;
- report the harvest of deer, bear and turkey on a smartphone immediately while afield, even when out of cellular range;
- view current and past harvest reports.

The *HuntFishNY* App can be downloaded from the **Apple App store** or **Google Play store**.

**NOTE:** You will need a DEC Automated Licensing System (DECALS) user name and password in order to access your license documents through the app. If you have not yet created an online user name and password, visit the **DECALS** website today. Questions? – Call our sporting license hotline at 866-472-4332.



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# HUNTERS: Want Older Bucks in New York?

## It's Your Choice

You can increase the availability of older bucks by choosing to pass up shots at young bucks.

- Older bucks create more rubs and scrapes, vocalize more, and yield more meat – all things that create unforgettable hunting experiences.

You can boost deer condition and body and antler size by balancing the deer population with the habitat:

- Take a doe if permits are available in your area
- Create young forest to enhance natural forage and cover for deer

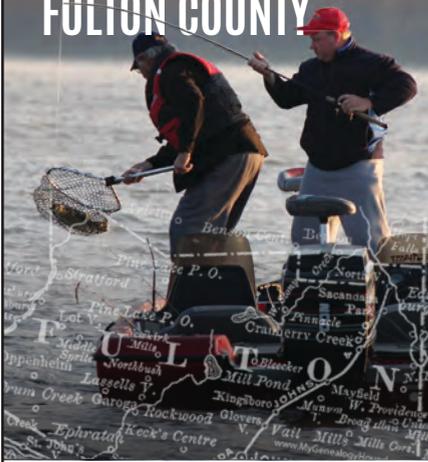


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# General License Information

## Purchasing a License

Hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses can be purchased at over 1,200 agent locations throughout NYS, over the phone via the DEC call center (1-866-933-2257/M-F, 8:30-4:30) and online through the DEC's Automated Licensing System, DECALS ([www.dec.ny.gov/permits/365.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/365.html)). To find an agent near you, visit [www.dec.ny.gov/permits/95448.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/95448.html). Visa & Mastercard are accepted online and over the phone.

## Mandatory Hunter Education

A hunter education course is required for persons who cannot provide proof that they have ever possessed a hunting license. You must be at least 11 years of age to take this class. The general course is an in-person or on-line course offered by DEC and is a minimum of seven hours in length. Once the course is complete, the individual must have the DEC hunter education certificate added to their DEC licensing profile. This can be done anywhere licenses are sold or by calling 1-866-933-2257. DEC honors hunter education certificates and sporting licenses from all other states and countries.

## Mandatory Bowhunter Education

Hunters wishing to bowhunt for big game must present either:

1. Proof that he or she successfully completed an approved bowhunter education course. (Note: Approved courses are International Bowhunter Education Program courses or an equivalent course conducted in 1974 or later. If in doubt, call toll free — 1-888-HUNT-ED2) OR
2. Proof that he or she previously held a NYS bowhunting license or stamp issued in 1980 or later; if proof is from prior to 1980, he/she must take an additional 7-hour minimum bowhunter education course.

## Mandatory Crossbow Requirement

Hunters wishing to use a crossbow must complete qualifications in the safe use of hunting with a crossbow and responsible crossbow hunting practices. See page 23 for details.

## Residency

To qualify for an annual resident license, a person must live in New York State for more than 30 days immediately preceding the date of application. To qualify for a Lifetime License, a person must live in New York State for at least one year immediately preceding the date of purchase. Land ownership in New York does not make you a resident. Residency is that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent

*Continued on page 12*

### Licenses, Privileges and Permits

Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
<b>Hunting (Ages 16+)</b> <b>Privileges:</b> Hunt small game species with gun, bow or crossbow (see page 23). Hunt deer or bear with gun, muzzleloader, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege), or crossbow (see page 23) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the January firearms season (permit required — see page 18) in Suffolk County (WMU 1C). You may hunt frogs with a valid hunting or fishing license. <b>Qualifications:</b> Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license. Certificates to possess firearms do not qualify. <b>Note:</b> Those less than 18 years of age who are hunting big game for the first time as a holder of a hunting license must be accompanied for the entire season by a parent or legal guardian, or a person 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37) with at least one year's experience hunting bear or deer. Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.	16–69 (NYS Resident)	\$22
	70+ (NYS Resident)	\$5
	Military Disabled <sup>1</sup>	\$5
	Patriot <sup>2</sup>	FREE
	Native American <sup>3</sup>	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$100
	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$5
<b>Junior Hunting (Ages 12–15)</b>	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$5
	<b>Privileges:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ages 12–13:</b> Hunt small game species with gun or bow during appropriate seasons when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian, or person 21 years of age or older with written permission from parent or guardian (see permission form on page 37).</li> <li>• <b>Ages 14–15:</b> Hunt small game with gun, bow or crossbow (see page 23) when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or person 18 years of age or older with written permission from parent/guardian. Hunt deer or bear with a gun, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege) or crossbow (see page 23) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the January firearms season (permit required — see page 18) in Suffolk County, when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or "youth mentor" 21 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37).</li> </ul> <p>* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.</p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license (certificates to possess firearms do not qualify). Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase. First-time applicants must show proof of age (birth certificate or passport). Junior hunters do not need a Federal Duck Stamp but are required to register in NYS's Harvest Information Program (<a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html</a>) to hunt migratory game birds.</p>		
<b>Bowhunting Privilege (Ages 16+)</b> <b>Privileges:</b> Hunt deer and bear with a bow during bowhunting seasons. <b>Qualifications:</b> Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education Certificate, OR NYS Bowhunting Stamp issued in 1980 or later, OR NYS Junior Bowhunting License issued 1980 or later. <b>Note:</b> To hunt deer or bear with a bow during the regular season, hunter must possess both a valid hunting license and either a current bowhunting privilege or a valid Bowhunter Education Certificate. This includes Westchester and Suffolk counties.	16–69 (NYS Resident)	\$15
	70+ (NYS Resident)	FREE
	Military Disabled <sup>1</sup>	FREE
	Patriot <sup>2</sup>	\$15
	Native American <sup>3</sup>	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$30
<b>Junior Bowhunting (Ages 12–15)</b>	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$4
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$4
<b>Privileges:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ages 12–13:</b> Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season or the regular season or bear during the early bear season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian, or a "youth mentor" 21 years or older and designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). Youth hunter will receive a deer of either sex carcass tag for use in the regular season, instead of a regular season buck tag.</li> <li>• <b>Ages 14–15:</b> Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season and the regular season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or "youth mentor" 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37).</li> </ul> <p>* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.</p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education OR previous Junior Bowhunting License. Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase.</p>		
<b>Muzzleloader Privilege (Ages 14+)</b> <b>Privileges:</b> Hunt deer and bear with a muzzleloading firearm during muzzleloading season, and the January special firearms season in Suffolk County (WMU 1C). Hunt deer and bear with a crossbow (see page 23). <b>Qualifications:</b> Current year NYS hunting license.	14–69 (NYS Resident)	\$15
	70+ (NYS Resident)	FREE
	Military Disabled <sup>1</sup>	FREE
	Patriot <sup>2</sup>	\$15
	Native American <sup>3</sup>	FREE
	14+ (Non-Resident)	\$30

## Licenses, Privileges and Permits

Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
<b>Deer Management Permit Application (Ages 12+)</b> <b>Privileges:</b> Application for up to two antlerless deer tags issued through a random computer selection process. Tags are valid for hunting antlerless deer only (both antlers less than 3" long) in a specified Wildlife Management Unit. See DMP information on pages 28–29. Application deadline is October 1 annually. <b>Qualifications:</b> Must hold a current year NYS hunting license to apply and pay a non-refundable \$10 application fee. <b>Fee is waived for hunters 12–15 years of age and holders of Lifetime (Sportsman) Licenses purchased prior to October 1, 2009.</b>	12–15 (NYS Resident)	FREE
	16+ (NYS Resident)	\$10
	Military Disabled <sup>1</sup>	\$10
	Patriot <sup>2</sup>	\$10
	Native American <sup>3</sup>	\$10
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$10
<b>Turkey Permit (Ages 12+)</b> <b>Privileges:</b> Hunt turkey during fall and spring turkey seasons (see page 45). To hunt turkey, all hunters must possess a turkey permit. There are no exceptions. <b>Qualifications:</b> Current year NYS hunting license. Turkey tags are included with a Lifetime License (formerly Lifetime Sportsman).	12+ (NYS Resident)	\$10
	Military Disabled <sup>1</sup>	\$10
	Patriot <sup>2</sup>	\$10
	Native American <sup>3</sup>	\$10
	12+ (Non-Resident)	\$20
<b>Trapping</b> <b>Privileges:</b> Set traps for species during their appropriate seasons (see page 55 for detailed information). <b>Qualifications:</b> Trapper Education Certificate or previous trapping license. See page 37 for additional information on the mentoring program for trappers under 12 years of age.	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$5
	16–69 (NYS Resident)	\$20
	70+ (NYS Resident)	\$5
	Military Disabled <sup>1</sup>	\$5
	Patriot <sup>2</sup>	FREE
	Native American <sup>3</sup>	FREE
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$5
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$275

## Lifetime Sporting Licenses

The following Lifetime Licenses are available to New York State residents only and may be purchased at all license-issuing outlets throughout New York State. Applicants must prove NYS residency for one year prior to application (proofs are the same as annual licenses with the exception of the one-year requirement). For additional information and clarification on Lifetime License sales, contact our License Sales Unit, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790, call 518-402-8843, or visit our website [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov). Lifetime License Holders should expect to receive their annual carcass tags in the mail by no later than Sept. 1 annually. License Issuing Agents will replace licenses and tags free of charge between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1. After Nov. 1, there will be a charge up to \$15. If you have a lifetime license card, you will only have to replace carcass tags at a fee of \$10.

### Lifetime License (Sportsman) (combined hunting and fishing licenses, includes turkey permits):

For a person age 0–4	\$380
For a person age 5–11	\$535
For a person age 12–69	\$765
For a person age 70 or older	\$65

### Other Lifetime Licenses/Privileges

Hunting License	\$535
Fishing License (age 0–69)	\$460
Fishing License (age 70 and older)	\$65
Trapping License	\$395
Bowhunting	\$235
Muzzleloading	\$235

<sup>1</sup>**Military Disabled:** Permanent status — must be a NYS resident and provide a letter from the Department of Veterans' Affairs stating the disability is "permanent" and rated at a 40% or greater service-connected disability. Once permanent eligibility is determined, it will stay in your customer profile. Annual Status — must be a NYS resident and provide a letter ANNUALLY from the Department of Veterans' Affairs stating the disability is service connected and rated at 40% or more. The letter must be dated in the current year. **Note:** The first purchase of either a hunting, fishing or trapping license within a calendar year will cost \$5. Subsequent purchases of these license types within the same calendar year will be free for qualifying customers.

<sup>2</sup>**Patriot:** Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to NYS residents who have the appropriate hunting or trapping education and are active members of the NYS National Guard, US Reserve Forces or certain members of the US Armed Forces. For more detailed information, visit our website or call (518) 402-8843.

<sup>3</sup>**Native American:** Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to members of the Shinnecock and Poospatuck tribes and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations wholly or partially in New York State. Licenses must be obtained from participating tribal councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

## Deer Hunting Privileges and Tags

### Resident and non-resident hunter licenses

- **Hunting or Junior Hunting (ages 14-15 only):** You will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag and a Regular Season Bear Tag.
- **Muzzleloading privilege:** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.
- **Junior bowhunting or bowhunting privilege:** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag. Junior bowhunters may also use this tag during the regular season, with bowhunting equipment.

Residents and non-residents must purchase a hunting license to be eligible for bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges. **If you purchase both bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges, you will receive one Bow/Mz Either Sex Deer Tag and one Bow/Mz Antlerless Deer Tag.** Both tags may be used in either season, with the appropriate implement.

## Lifetime Licenses and Tags for Young Hunters

Young hunters who hold a lifetime hunting privilege and wish to receive their tags must first take the appropriate hunter safety training course and have it entered in their DECALS profile. To have the course added, please call the DEC call center at 1-866-933-2257 (M-F, 8:30-4:30). Young hunters should take the appropriate training course well in advance of the season to allow adequate time for their tags to be mailed. Tags cannot be obtained from a license-issuing agent.

When purchasing a lifetime license for a child, the purchaser must bring proof of the child's age (e.g., birth certificate or passport) and a copy of the parent's proof of residency.

## Remember to Report Your Game Harvest

Visit [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html) for details. It's the law!

See page 13.

# General License Information

Residency continued from page 10

and principal home (regardless of where temporarily located), such as where a person is registered to vote. If under 18, the residence of parents or legal guardian shall be deemed such person's residence. For a complete list of valid residency proof documents please see [www.dec.ny.gov/permits/95452.html#Res](http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/95452.html#Res).

Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in New York and full-time college students in residence in the state during the school year (proof required) qualify for annual resident licenses.

## Minimum Hunting Age

Minors under the age of 12 may not obtain a hunting license or hunt wildlife.

## License Year

Licenses and permits are valid from September 1 through August 31.

## License Responsibilities

- A license or tag is not transferable and may be used only by the person to whom it was issued (except for Deer Management Permits—see pages 28–29).
- It is illegal to possess another person's license while hunting.
- A license to hunt, trap or fish does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
- You can legally purchase and possess only one hunting license per year.
- Your license must be carried on your person when hunting or trapping.
- It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.
- Make sure that your license has all the correct information. Carefully check it immediately after receipt. If you discover an error, have it corrected as soon as possible.



Lauren Nowak in Monroe County with her first deer.

Stamps / Donations		
Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
<b>Habitat &amp; Access Stamp</b> Donations are used to create or improve fish and wildlife habitat and improve access to those resources for recreational or educational activities.	Any	\$5
<b>Venison Donation</b> Help feed the hungry by supporting NY's venison donation program.	Any	\$1 or more
<b>Federal Duck Stamp</b> Available at most post offices and some sporting goods stores.	16+	\$25

**Privileges:** Hunt migratory waterfowl. It is not needed for gallinules, coot, crows, rails, woodcock or snipe. All migratory game bird hunters, including junior hunters, must register with the Harvest Information Program by calling toll free 1-888-427-5447 or registering online at: [www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html)

**Qualifications:** Validated by holder's signature on the face of the stamp. Hunter must also possess a current year NYS hunting license.

- Do NOT heat laminate your license. High temperatures will destroy the license and tags and turn them black. If destroyed, there is a fee for replacement.
- Sign the back of your license/privilege panel.

## Back Tags

Must be visibly displayed on the middle of your back while hunting, except in the Northern Zone and Catskill Park.

## Hunting License Exceptions

All residents must have a valid hunting license in their possession except:

- Resident owners primarily engaged in farming, lessees and members of their immediate families do not need a hunting license when hunting small game on farmlands they are occupying and cultivating.
- Native Americans living on a reservation do not need a hunting license while hunting on reservation lands.

## Free Licenses/ Patriot Licenses

Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to members of the Shinnecock and Poospatuck tribes and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations in the state. They must be obtained from some tribal councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are also available to NYS residents who have the appropriate Hunter Education and are active service members of the NYS Guard, US Reserve Forces or certain members of the US Armed Forces. For more detailed information, visit our website or call (518) 402-8843.

## Lost Licenses

A lost current year license may be replaced at any license-issuing outlet at a cost of \$5 for a license panel. Big game carcass tag sets or turkey carcass tag sets may be replaced at a cost of \$10. There is no charge to replace a lost backtag.

## Special Licenses for Hunters with Disabilities

### Non-ambulatory hunter permit

This permit allows qualified hunters to shoot a firearm from a motorized vehicle (including an off-road vehicle) that has the motor turned off and that is completely off the highway right-of-way.

To qualify for a Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit, a person must be physically unable to move about except with the use of a mechanized aid such as a wheelchair.

### Modified longbow authorization

This authorization allows qualified people to hunt big or small game with a legal bow that is equipped with a device to hold it in a drawn and cocked position. It does not allow for the use of a crossbow.

To qualify for a Modified Longbow Authorization, a person must be permanently physically unable to draw and hold a legal bow.

### Modified crossbow permit

This permit allows qualified people to hunt big or small game during bowhunting season with a crossbow that has been specifically modified with a device that only allows it to be discharged (fired) by means of a breath tube. This permit does not allow the use of an unmodified crossbow.

To qualify for a Modified Crossbow Permit, a person must be permanently physically unable to hold or draw a legal bow or to fire a legal bow that has been modified to hold and release the string.

If a person can pull the trigger on a gun, he or she will not qualify for a Modified Crossbow Permit.

For more information on these permits, write the NYS DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752, email [speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov](mailto:speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov) or call (518) 402-8985. The application process takes time; write or call well before you intend to hunt.

## How To Properly Fill Out Your Carcass Tag and Report Your Harvest

### Carcass Tag



### It's as Easy as 1 - 2 - 3!!

- 1 Fill in the date, location, biological and season information on the front of your tag.
- 2 Mark or cut out month and day of kill AND sign the back of your tag.
- 3 Report your harvest! See details below.

Use pen or permanent marker.

Hole for attaching to your game

It is against the law to improperly or incompletely fill out your carcass tag.

## Remember: Take It • Tag It • Report It

### Reporting Your Game Harvest

- Deer, Bear and Turkey harvests must be reported within 7 days of take.
- You can report your harvest by phone, online or through our new mobile app (see page 8 for details).
- Reporting online and through the new mobile app is simple, fast and convenient!

Remember to save the bear's skull so DEC can collect a tooth to age the bear.



### Information You Will Need When Reporting

- For Spring Turkey:
  - » Spur length (none, less than 1/2", 1/2" or longer)
  - » Beard length (less than 3", 3" or greater but less than 7 1/2", or 7 1/2" or longer.
  - » Estimated weight
- For Fall Turkey:
  - » Remember to save a leg. We will request it to determine age and sex.

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ADIRONDACKS, TUG HILL AND SOUTHERN TIER AREAS

### PRIME HUNTING LAND FOR SALE

# General Hunting Regulations

The following are general hunting regulations. Specific regulations for various game species are in the Small Game, Big Game and Trapping sections of this booklet.

## Definitions

**Air gun**—a firearm that uses spring or compressed air (not gunpowder) to propel a single projectile that is .17 caliber or larger and produces a muzzle velocity of at least 600 feet per second. You may use a smooth or rifled bore.

**Bow**—includes long (stick), compound, or recurve bow.

**Crossbow**—consists of a bow, a string, and either compound or recurve limbs with a minimum width of 17 inches (tip of limbs, uncocked), mounted on a stock. The stock shall have a trigger with a working safety that holds the string and limbs under tension until released. It shall have a minimum overall length from the butt of the stock to the front of the limbs of 24 inches and be able to launch a minimum 14-inch arrow/bolt, not including the legal arrowhead. It shall have a draw weight of 100 to 200 pounds. Optical sights are allowed on crossbows.

**Firearm**—all guns, including handguns, rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, BB and pellet guns.

**Handgun**—is any pistol or revolver intended to be aimed and fired with one hand and having a barrel length not exceeding 16 inches. Possession of handguns in New York State requires a NYS Pistol Permit. New York does not recognize permits issued by other states.

**To hunt**—means to pursue, shoot, kill or capture (other than trap) wildlife and includes all lesser acts that disturb or worry wildlife, whether or not they result in taking. Hunting also includes all acts to assist another person in taking wildlife.

**Motor vehicle**—means every vehicle or device operated by any power other than muscle power including but not limited to automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, tractors, trailers, motorboats, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, whether operated on or off public highways.

**Muzzleloading firearm**—is a firearm loaded through the muzzle, shooting a single projectile and having a minimum bore of .44 inch. Scopes or fiber-optic sights may be used at any time. You must possess a New York State Pistol Permit to hunt with a muzzleloading pistol.

**Public highway**—means any road maintained by a state, county or town. A private road is one maintained by a person or corporation.

**Rifle**—is a firearm with a barrel length of 16 inches or more with rifling in the barrel that uses metallic cartridges.

**Shotgun**—is a firearm with a barrel length of 18 inches or more that uses shells that are non-metallic except for the base.

## Hunt Safe — Hunt Smart

- Assume every gun to be loaded.
- Control the muzzle, point in a safe direction.
- Keep finger off the trigger until firing.
- Be sure of your target and beyond.
- Wear hunter orange.

**To take**—means to pursue, shoot, hunt, kill, capture, trap, snare or net wildlife and game—and all lesser acts that disturb or worry wildlife—or to place or use any net or other device commonly used to take wildlife.

**To trap**—means to take, kill or capture wildlife with traps, deadfalls and other devices commonly used to take wildlife, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. It also includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking or checking traps or assisting another person with these activities.

## Manner of Taking

It is illegal to take or hunt wildlife:

- While in or on a motor vehicle (except by special permit—see page 2)
- With the aid of a vehicle's lights
- On or from any public road
- With any firearm equipped with a silencer
- With any firearm which continues to fire as long as the trigger is held back (an automatic firearm)
- With any semi-automatic firearm with a capacity to hold more than 6 rounds, except:
  1. Firearms using .22 or .17 caliber rimfire ammunition, or
  2. Firearms altered to reduce their capacity to no more than 6 shells at one time in the magazine and chamber combined, or
  3. Autoloading pistols with a barrel length of less than 8 inches
- With a spear
- With a bow equipped with any mechanical device which is attached to the bow (other than the bowstring) for drawing, holding or releasing the bowstring except for a person with a physical disability in possession of a Modified Longbow Authorization (compound bows are legal)
- With a spear gun or modified crossbow except for a person with a physical disability in possession of a Modified Crossbow Permit
- With an arrow with an explosive head or shaft.
- With any device designed or intended to deliver drugs to an animal
- With a crossbow if you are under 14 years old

**Baiting**—It is illegal to hunt with the aid of bait or over any baited area when hunting big game, upland game birds, turkey or waterfowl.

**Fish**—Crossbows may not be used to take carp or any other fish.

## Spotlighting

You may use lights to observe wildlife under the following conditions:

- You are not within 500 feet of a home or farm

building, unless you have permission from the owner or lessee (when looking for deer or bear)

- While in or on a motor vehicle and operating a light and no person has a firearm, bow, or crossbow, or if:

- » the implement is taken down, or
- » the implement is securely fastened in a case, or
- » the implement is locked in the trunk of the vehicle, or
- » the implement is a handgun

For information on hunting furbearers at night, see page 55.

## Possession of Firearms and Crossbows

During the open season for deer, it is illegal to:

- Possess shotgun shells loaded with slug or ball, unless holding a valid license (including carcass tags) or permit to take deer or bear, or
- Possess a rifle larger than a .22-caliber rimfire in areas where rifles are banned for taking deer (**Centerfire rifles less than .22-caliber and muzzleloading rifles are legal**)

In Westchester County and on Long Island, it is illegal to use any rifle for hunting or to carry one afield. In Suffolk, Nassau and Westchester counties, it is illegal to use a crossbow to hunt wildlife.

In the Northern Zone, it is illegal to carry a rifle larger than .22 rimfire or a shotgun loaded with slug, ball or buckshot afield if accompanied by a dog, except when coyote hunting.

Possession of handguns in New York requires a NYS Pistol Permit. New York does not recognize permits issued by other states.

## Transportation of Firearms

A person may not transport or possess a shotgun, rifle or crossbow in or on a **motor vehicle** unless the firearm is unloaded in both chamber and magazine or the crossbow is unloaded or taken down. While legally hunting migratory game birds, a loaded firearm may be possessed in a motorboat not under power OR in a motorboat under power only while retrieving dead/crippled birds.

A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when the cap is off the nipple, the primer is removed, the primer powder is removed from the flintlock pan, or the battery is removed from an electric-fired muzzleloader.

A crossbow is considered unloaded when the arrow/bolt is removed and the crossbow is uncocked.

## Discharge of Firearms, Crossbows and Bows

It is illegal to discharge a firearm, crossbow or bow:

- So that the load or arrow/bolt passes over any part of a public highway
- Within 500 feet for a firearm, 250 feet for a crossbow or 150 feet for a bow of any school, playground, or an occupied factory or church
- Within 500 feet for a firearm, 250 feet for a crossbow or 150 feet for a bow of a dwelling, farm building or structure in occupation or use unless you own it, lease it, are an immediate member of the family, an employee, or have the owner's consent

You may hunt waterfowl over water within 500 feet of a dwelling or public structure as long as neither are within 500 feet in the direction you are shooting.

## Protected and Unprotected Wildlife

In New York State, nearly all species of wildlife are protected. Most species, including endangered species, songbirds, hawks and owls are fully protected and may not be taken. The few unprotected species include porcupine, red squirrel, woodchuck, chipmunk, English sparrow, starling, rock pigeon and monk parakeet.

## Hunter Education

### Hunter Education Requirements

All first-time hunters, bowhunters, and trappers must pass one or more courses before they can purchase a license. Traditionally, hunter and trapper education have been in-person courses taught by trained volunteer instructors certified by DEC. In April 2020, DEC began offering an on-line hunter education course in response to COVID-19. Be sure to check the DEC website about the availability of both in-person and on-line courses before registering.

### In-Person Hunter Education Course

In-person courses have a field day where new hunters can get hands-on experience. All courses are free of charge, but space may be limited. As hunting seasons approach, classes fill quickly. **SIGN UP EARLY!** All in-person hunter and trapper education courses require the completion of homework prior to attending the course. Proof of completed homework must be brought to the course. Homework may take several hours to complete, so start it well in advance.

To obtain study materials to complete the homework requirement, download the free manual and worksheet from the DEC website. Visit [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7860.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7860.html) for more information on materials, including a list of courses and course registration.

### On-line Hunter Education Course

All the requirements to earn a New York State hunter education certificate can be met by completing DEC's on-line course and passing the exam. Upon passing, you will receive your hunter education certificate so you can purchase a hunting license.

You must be a New York State resident. The cost of the course is \$19.95 and can be accessed at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/92267.html>.

Unprotected species may be taken at any time without limit. However, a hunting license is required to hunt unprotected wildlife with a bow, crossbow or firearm.

Game species may be taken only during their open seasons and as summarized in this guide. Persons taking wildlife on licensed shooting preserves must comply with regulations governing those shooting preserves.



Left & right: © Erika Bailey. Center: © John DiGiacomo

Our scientists are working to create a world where people and nature thrive. In the Adirondacks, this means finding innovative ways to tackle the threat of climate change and conserve the lands and waters we all depend on. Our efforts to reconnect rivers and streams by upgrading road crossings ensure that fish can thrive and communities won't flood. We're working hard to make the region a better place to live for future generations of all species.



**The Adirondacks  
depend on us.**

**Adirondack Office | Keene Valley, NY  
(518) 576-2082 | [adirondacks@tnc.org](mailto:adirondacks@tnc.org)**

# Access to Hunting Areas

The focus of this year's Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide is "access and accessibility." There is information throughout the guide on accessing waterfowl blinds, accessing private land for deer hunting, best practices for trapping on public and private lands, and access for hunters with disabilities. Enjoy!

## Places to Hunt in New York

DECinfo Locator is an interactive map that includes DEC lands with public hunting access and other outdoor recreation information. Go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>.

For additional information about places to hunt in New York, go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html>.

## Private Lands

Always ASK the landowner for permission to hunt and trap on private land. If it were your land, how would you want a visitor to act?

- Be courteous — ASK permission well in advance.
- ASK what is permitted. What species can be hunted? Are tree stands allowed?
- ASK if friends can join you.
- Exercise safety—always!
- Thank the landowner.

Many landowners use "ASK permission" stickers on their signs which show the landowners' willingness to allow access to their lands. Stickers are available for free from your local Regional Wildlife Office (see page 6) or from DEC Central Office, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754. For more information on hunting on private lands, visit our website: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7844.html).

## ASK Permission

"ASK Permission" stickers, a brochure explaining the program, Landowner Permission forms, and information about fish and wildlife conservation are available for free from DEC Regional Wildlife Offices or by writing:

NYSDEC, 625 Broadway,  
Albany, NY 12233-4754

OR ONLINE  
at [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8371.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8371.html)



**Remember:** Damaging bark or cutting trees, branches or plants is illegal without permission of the landowner.

Rights of way that cross private property, such as for power lines and railroads, are NOT public land. Trespassing on these areas without permission from the landowner is illegal.

## FWMA cooperative areas

Through cooperative agreements under New York's Fish and Wildlife Management Act (FWMA), Cooperative Hunting Areas provide access and management services to privately owned lands in order to increase public hunting opportunities. When using these areas, remember that you are a guest on private property. Littering and other abuses will only result in closure of many excellent hunting areas.

## A word about liability

Whether or not the land is posted, New York State General Obligations Law protects landowners from liability for non-paying recreationists engaged in hunting, trapping and fishing on their property. Because of this protection, recreational liability lawsuits against rural landowners are uncommon. This protection does not apply in cases of willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against dangers.

## State Lands

For information on hunting and trapping opportunities and rules governing the use of state land, contact the regional office for the county where you would like to hunt or trap (see page 6). Wildlife staff can provide information on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Cooperative Hunting Areas. DEC Forestry staff and Forest Rangers can provide details on state forest lands and forest preserve lands. In some instances, written permission or permits are required to use state lands. These are available from DEC regional offices during normal business hours.

## Motorized access to state lands

DEC has designated routes on state forests, wildlife management areas, forest preserve lands and conservation easement lands for motor vehicle use by people with a qualifying mobility disability. For a list of these opportunities, along with information on how to obtain a motorized access permit, please visit the DEC website at: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html).

## Wildlife management areas

The Division of Fish and Wildlife manages about 187,000 acres of wildlife management areas (WMAs). These areas are located throughout the state and contain a variety of different types of habitat and wildlife. They are managed primarily for wildlife and wildlife-related public use.

WMAs have specific use regulations in addition to the general use regulations for state land. Hunting, trapping, and fishing are permitted, except as specifically restricted by posted notice.

**On wildlife management areas, it is unlawful to:**

- Camp without written permission
- Travel off-road by use of motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds, trail bikes, snowmobiles or any other motorized vehicle, except as specifically allowed by a permit or posted notice
- Remove, cut or willfully damage or destroy living vegetation of any kind
- Construct or place a permanent structure, blind, stand or platform (including placement of nails or other hardware into trees)
- Leave any personal property when leaving the area, including leaving tree stands overnight
- Enter property posted with No Trespassing signs, except with written permission from DEC

For further information on wildlife management areas, please visit the DEC website at: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8295.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8295.html)

## Lands and forests

The Division of Lands and Forests manages nearly five million acres of land, located in almost every county of the state. From the remote locations of the Adirondack and Catskill mountains to the rolling hills of the western parts of the state and the forested areas on Long Island, a wide range of hunting and trapping opportunities await the outdoor recreationist.

## Forest Preserves

Hunting and trapping are permitted in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. State-owned lands located within these preserves are designated "Forever Wild." All state land rules and camping requirements apply to the preserves, as well as additional rules specific to certain areas. Contact the regional DEC office (see page 6) of the county where you would like to hunt or trap for more information. For further information on Forest Preserve lands, please visit the DEC website at: [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4960.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4960.html)

## Conservation easements

Conservation easements are tracts of privately owned property on which New York State has acquired certain public recreation rights. These rights are outlined in the easement document as well as in a recreation management plan jointly developed by the DEC and the landowner. Public hunting and trapping is allowed on many conservation easements, but due to the individual nature of each conservation easement, members of the public wishing to hunt or trap on a given easement property are strongly encouraged to contact a local DEC office (see page 6) of the county where you would like to hunt or trap for details on how to properly access the property and the hunting and trapping regulations unique to the easement. For further information on DEC held Conservation Easements, please visit the DEC website at: [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41156.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41156.html)

## State forest (reforestation land)

Outside the Adirondacks and Catskills, State Forest lands are the most common type of state lands. Many recreational activities can be pursued on these lands, including hunting and trapping.

In some instances, permits are required to camp overnight on undeveloped state forest lands. Unless specifically prohibited, groups of less than 10 people may camp on state forest lands (other than developed campgrounds and wildlife management areas) for three consecutive nights without a permit. To camp for four consecutive nights or more, a permit must be obtained. Groups of 10 or more people need a permit to camp on such lands for one night. Further information may be obtained from DEC regional offices for the county you want to camp in (see page 6). For further information on State Forest Lands, please visit the DEC website at: [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/40672.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/40672.html)

## Remember, it is unlawful to:

- Cut or injure trees (including construction of permanent tree stands, construction of natural blinds, clearing of shooting lanes around portable stands, placement of nails or other hardware into trees, or use of live trees as targets while sighting-in firearms).
- Store personal property. Tree stands or hunting blinds that do not injure a tree, and are properly marked or tagged with the owner's name and address or valid hunting license number, may be placed during the appropriate hunting season, but must be removed at the end of the season.
- Erect, use or maintain a building or structure.
- Deposit or leave any litter or rubbish.
- Operate a motor vehicle, including an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), off maintained roads except where specifically allowed.
- Camp without a permit when a permit is required.

- Possess a rifle, shotgun or firearm in or upon buildings or grounds used for educational purposes (see Penal Law Section 265.01-a).

## State Parks

Many state parks offer waterfowl, small game and big game hunting. For more information, contact the appropriate DEC regional office (see page 6) or visit the State Parks website ([www.parks.ny.gov](http://www.parks.ny.gov)). Call each state park to find out specific hunting and access regulations. For a listing of state parks that allow deer hunting, visit the DEC website: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/88898.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/88898.html)

## Other Areas to Hunt

- **Finger Lakes National Forest (federal):** Located east of Seneca Lake in Schuyler and Seneca counties. Small and big game hunting opportunities. Special hunting permits are not required.
- **Fort Drum Military Base (federal):** Wildlife Management Unit 6H, located in Jefferson and Lewis counties. Over half of the 107,000-acre U.S. Army military installation is open to the public for hunting and trapping. See the Fort Drum Fish and Wildlife Management Program website for more information: <https://fortdrum.isportsman.net/> or call (315) 772-9303.
- **Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (federal):** Located at the north end of Cayuga Lake in Seneca County. Offers small game and waterfowl hunting opportunities. This area is also open for deer hunting on a controlled basis during both the bowhunting and regular seasons. Permits are required. When deer management permit use is allowed, WMU 8J permits are valid. For current information on seasons, permits, maps and regulations visit Montezuma's website at: [www.fws.gov/refuge/Montezuma/visitor\\_activities.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Montezuma/visitor_activities.html)
- **Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (federal):** Located east of Lockport in Genesee and Orleans counties. Offers small game and waterfowl hunting opportunities. This area is also open for deer hunting during both the bowhunting and regular seasons. For further information visit: [www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois/)
- **Long Island:** For a brochure on areas to hunt and for access permits, write to  
» Hunting Opportunities, NYS DEC  
SUNY Stony Brook  
50 Circle Rd.  
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3404
- **New York City Watershed Lands:** The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) allows trapping, as well as deer, bear, turkey, and small game hunting on specially designated city water supply lands. Hunters

and trappers must possess the appropriate, valid New York State sporting license and a valid access permit to hunt or trap on designated hunting and trapping areas on city water supply lands. For more information, including maps, go to: [www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/recreation/hunting-trapping/page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/recreation/hunting-trapping/page)

## DEC Campgrounds

DEC operates 52 public campgrounds in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Hunting is not permitted within these campgrounds, although some campgrounds allow camping during big game season. Unloaded firearms are allowed on public campgrounds only during the spring and fall hunting seasons for hunting. A valid hunting license is needed. Firearms cannot be discharged in the campground or day use facilities at any time. For more information on DEC's campgrounds visit: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7825.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7825.html)

Campgrounds outside the Forest Preserves are operated by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) (see State Parks below).

For all campgrounds, reservations can be made by calling 1-800-456-CAMP or online at <https://newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com>

## Licensed Guides

For information on licensed professional guides in New York, contact NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, NY 12233-2560, call (518) 402-8838, or visit the DEC website at: [www.dec.ny.gov/permits/30969.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/30969.html).

## Native American Tribal Lands

Some tribal governments have made provisions for limited public hunting, trapping and fishing access, while others do not permit non-tribal members to hunt, trap or fish on their land. Check with the governing tribal office to determine the requirements for hunting, trapping and fishing within the reservation boundaries. A special permit is required.

Use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-road vehicles (ORVs) is restricted on most state land.

# Big Game Hunting

Please read **General Hunting Regulations** first. See page 14.

## Maps Showing Season Dates

- **Legal Implements:** see page 24
- **Deer:** see page 25
- **Bear:** see page 43

## Hunting Hours

Big game hunting hours are sunrise to sunset (see page 81). Sunday hunting is allowed in all areas of New York. For hunting on Wildlife Management Areas or in state parks, confirm regulations for the area before hunting.

## Legally Antlered Deer

A legally antlered deer must have at least one antler that is three inches or longer. Antlerless deer are those without antlers (does and fawns) and deer with antlers less than 3" long. Special regulations apply in the Antler Restriction areas. See page 24 for details.

## Defining “Early” and “Late” Seasons for Deer and Bear

When you see the term “early” muzzleloader or bowhunting season, it means before the regular season for that particular zone. “Late” means after the regular season for that zone.

## Feeding & Baiting Prohibited

Intentional feeding or baiting of deer or bear is prohibited at all times of year. This includes use of mineral blocks or powders. Exempt activities include agricultural plantings, wildlife food plots, and cutting of trees or brush to provide winter forage.

## CWD Import Restrictions

Hunters are prohibited from returning to New York with whole carcasses or intact heads of deer, elk, moose, or caribou that they harvest anywhere outside of New York. Only the deboned meat, cleaned skull cap, antlers with no flesh adhering, raw or processed cape or hide, cleaned teeth or lower jaw, and finished taxidermy products of CWD-susceptible animals may be brought into New York. See page 22 (CWD page) for more information.

## Manner of Taking

Big game may be taken with centerfire rifles, shotguns, handguns, muzzleloading firearms, bows, and crossbows during appropriate

seasons and in areas designated (see maps, pages 24 and 25). You may use decoys, calls and attractant scents to hunt big game.

It is unlawful to:

- Take big game while the deer or bear is in water.
- Possess a firearm of any description when bowhunting or accompanying a person bowhunting during bowhunting seasons.
- Possess a firearm other than a muzzleloading firearm when hunting deer or bear or when accompanying a person hunting deer or bear during a muzzleloading season.
- Make, set or use salt licks or other attractants, whether block, liquid or powder that contains ANY amount of salt, upon lands inhabited by deer or bear at any time of year.

In addition to the general hunting regulations for manner of take listed on page 14, it is unlawful to hunt big game with:

- Dogs or aircraft of any kind, including drones.
- The aid of a pre-established bait pile.
- A firearm or bow aided by any artificial light or a laser that projects a beam toward the target (use of illuminated reticle scopes, red dot scopes, or illuminated sight pins is allowed, provided no light is projected toward the target).
- An autoloading firearm with a capacity of more than 6 shells (one which requires that the trigger be pulled separately for each shot), except an autoloading pistol with a barrel length of less than 8 inches.
- A firearm using rimfire ammunition.
- A shotgun of less than 20 gauge or any shotgun loaded with shells other than those carrying a single projectile (rifling in the barrel or choke is allowed).
- A bow with a draw weight less than 35 lbs.
- Arrows with barbed broadheads; arrowheads less than 7/8 inches at the widest point or with less than 2 sharp cutting edges.
- Double-barreled muzzleloaders or percussion cap revolvers during the special muzzleloading seasons.
- An air gun or air bow.

## Deer Management Focus Area

See [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/82382.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/82382.html) for information on the **Deer Management Focus Area** in Tompkins County. Expanded antlerless bag limits and a January antlerless season in this area provide additional opportunities for hunters and help to reduce deer-related conflicts.

## Long Island Opportunities

All hunting on state-managed land requires a DEC permit. The archery deer season runs from October through January. There is a January firearms season during which shotguns and muzzleloading firearms can be used. Firearms users must obtain a landowner's endorsement to hunt during this season, and may also need a town permit. For more information

on LI hunting opportunities visit our website, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8373.html>.

## Prohibited Sale of Deer or Bear Meat

It is unlawful to sell deer or bear meat. Other than meat, the parts (e.g., hides, skulls, claws, antlers, and taxidermy mounts or rugs) from legally taken and reported deer and bear may be sold. Bear gallbladders and bile shall not be possessed or sold unless a valid bear tag (original or copy) is attached.

## Tagging, Reporting and Transporting

Deer and bear are in legal possession only when tagged with the appropriate carcass tag, valid for that season, implement, and sex of animal. See page 26 for clear tag descriptions.

## Tagging and Reporting

After killing a deer or bear:

1. Ensure that you select the proper tag for the harvested deer or bear.
2. **Immediately** fill in all information and sign the carcass tag with ink that won't erase.
3. **Immediately** cut or mark the month and date of kill on the tag reverse.
4. Write the date of kill on the report panel. This will help you when reporting a harvest.
5. **Attach the tag** to the carcass upon arrival at your camp, home or vehicle. You do not need to attach the tag while it is being dragged or physically carried from the place of kill to a camp or point where transportation is available.
6. **Report your harvest** online, by phone or mobile app within 7 days as required by law. See page 8 for details.

After you have used your last deer tag, you may help others hunt deer. You must have your hunting license with you and you may not shoot or attempt to shoot a deer.

## Transporting

Deer and bear may be transported either inside or outside the vehicle.

- A deer carcass with head and deer carcass tag attached may be transported with the taker in attendance.
- If someone other than the taker is transporting the deer or bear, the taker must attach an additional tag to the carcass and include the names and addresses of both the taker and the transporter. The tag may be handwritten in ink or typed on any paper.
- All portions of deer or bear meat being transported by the taker shall be individually tagged and the tags shall include the name, address, big game DOC #, the date that the

*Continued on page 20*



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# Big Game Hunting

Continued from page 18

portions were cut, and the signature of the taker. Packaged or boxed portions of venison need only one tag and must be labeled "venison" on the outside of the box. If someone other than the taker is transporting the portions, an additional tag signed by the taker with the names and addresses of the consignee and taker are required for each portion.

- Non-resident hunters: If your home state prohibits the importation of whole deer carcasses from New York, you will need to follow the above guidelines for transportation of individual or packaged portions of deer meat while in New York State.
- A deer carcass minus the head may be transported as above, but evidence of the sex of the deer must be intact. The deer carcass tag must be affixed to the carcass, and a tag

supplied by the taker must also be attached showing the name and address of the taxidermist where the head was sent.

- Heads of male deer may be transported to a taxidermist only if a tag supplied by the taker is attached bearing the taker's signature, address, big game DOC #, number of points on each antler and the name and address of the taxidermist.
- The head of a doe with antlers that are 3 inches or more can be removed for mounting. Follow the same procedure that you would use for a buck you are having mounted (see above).

Broadheads for Big Game		
Type	Legal	Illegal
Fixed Blade		
Mechanical Blade (shown in position of being withdrawn from an animal)	 Blades pivot forward (no longer barbed)	 Blades do not pivot (remain barbed)

## Muzzleloader Hunting

Muzzleloading firearms may be used during the muzzleloader and regular seasons, and during the January Firearms season on Long Island.

- Hunters must possess a current muzzleloader privilege to participate during the muzzleloader seasons.
- The muzzleloader privilege is not needed for hunters to use a muzzleloading firearm during regular seasons.
- Muzzleloaders may not be used in WMUs 3S, 4J, 8C, and may only be used in 1C during the Special Firearms season in January.
- Bow/Muzz either-sex or antlerless-only tags may not be used during the regular seasons, except in WMUs 1C and 3S.
- Hunters participating in the muzzleloader season shall not have in their possession, or

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# Big Game Hunting

be accompanied by a person who has in his or her possession, a bow or firearm other than a legal muzzleloading firearm or crossbow.

## Bowhunting

Bowhunting opportunities include both the bowhunting and regular seasons:

- Hunters must possess a current bowhunting or junior bowhunting privilege to participate during the bowhunting seasons.
- The bowhunting privilege is not required to hunt with a bow during regular seasons, but hunters must possess proof of eligibility (either a valid bowhunter education certificate or prior bowhunting license).
- Bow/Muzz either-sex or antlerless-only tags may not be used during the regular seasons except by junior bowhunters or in WMUs 1C and 3S.
- In WMUs 4J and 8C, only bows may be used to take deer during the regular and bowhunting seasons.
- Suffolk (WMU 1C) and Westchester (WMU 3S) counties have separate regular seasons restricted to bows for taking deer.

## Crossbow Use

Crossbow opportunities include portions of bow seasons in addition to muzzleloader and regular seasons:

- Crossbows may be used to take deer or bear during muzzleloader seasons and a portion of the early bow seasons (see maps on pages 25 and 43) by hunters with a valid hunting or junior hunting (ages 14-15 only) license and a current muzzleloader privilege.

- Crossbows may be used to take deer during the regular season and bear during early bear and regular seasons by hunters with a valid hunting or junior hunting (ages 14-15 only) license.
- See page 23 for the required Crossbow Certificate of Qualification. The NYS Legislature does not allow all crossbows to be used to hunt big game in NY. See page 14 for the definition of a legal crossbow.

## Barbed Broadheads

Barbed broadheads are illegal for hunting big game. A barbed broadhead is one in which the angle formed between the trailing or rear edge of any blade and the shaft is less than 90 degrees. A notch at the base of the blade extending no more than two millimeters from the shaft shall not be considered a barb. Broadheads with mechanical blades are legal if the blades DO NOT form a barb or hook when the arrow is pulled from the flesh of a deer or bear. (See graphic on page 20.)



The Wild Harvest Table is a celebration of the culinary bounty represented by wild game and fish in New York State.

Visit the website for game and fish recipes, nutrition information, and preparation techniques.

[www.wildharvesttable.com](http://www.wildharvesttable.com)



Carl Kitching used a crossbow to harvest this buck in 2019 in Dutchess County.

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# Chronic Wasting Disease:

We Need Your Help to Protect New York’s Deer and Moose



DEC Environmental Conservation Officer with antlers from elk that were illegally imported into New York. Antlers from cervid carcasses that are seized because they are illegally imported into New York are destroyed.

## What is CWD?

A contagious, fatal disease of cervids (deer, elk, moose, and caribou) that is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion, which causes holes to form in the brain. Animals become diseased from direct contact with live infected animals, animal parts, or contaminated soil and plants. Infected animals shed prions in saliva, feces, and urine before they die. An infected deer can look healthy for months to years before dying.

## Why is CWD a Problem?

There is no cure, vaccine, or genetic resistance to CWD. Prions can last in the environment for decades. Once CWD is established in an area, eliminating the disease is virtually impossible. Deer populations and deer hunting will be impacted! Although there are no known human cases, the Centers for Disease Control recommends no one consume a CWD-positive animal. New York randomly tests thousands of deer each year. Hunters can make arrangements to have their deer tested: <https://cwhl.vet.cornell.edu/hunter-cwd-testing>.

## Don't Be a CWD Risk!

The actions of a few careless hunters can put all deer and moose at risk. The most likely modes of CWD introduction into New York are through: (1) illegal movement of infected carcasses or carcass parts of deer or elk taken by hunters in other states; (2) illegal import of live deer or elk for fee-based shooting of confined animals; or (3) use of infected urine-based lures by hunters.

## How Can You Help?

Don't let CWD into the state again! Know your regulations: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8325.html>.

## Here Are Some Things You Can Do:

**Debone your harvest if you hunt outside of New York** – Meat, hide and cape, antlers, cleaned skull cap with antlers attached, finished taxidermy mounts, tanned hides, and cleaned upper canine teeth can be brought into NY. Hunters who improperly import whole carcasses or prohibited parts will be ticketed, and the entire animal (including antlers) will be confiscated and destroyed. If you have a CWD-positive harvest from another state, DEC will assist with safe disposal of the animal and recommend disinfection methods.

**Avoid natural deer urine products** – Commercially produced urine products may claim to be CWD-free, but manufacturers cannot guarantee their safety. There is currently no direct regulatory oversight of these products and purported testing has not been validated. Choose synthetic alternatives. You don't want to contaminate your favorite hunting spot!

**Take precautions when handling deer** – Wear rubber or latex gloves when field dressing or processing. Remove internal organs with knives or utensils dedicated for hunting. If you use lead ammunition, bury or landfill the organs to ensure scavengers, like bald eagles, do not accidentally ingest lead fragments. Trim generously around the wound channel and bag remaining carcass waste for the landfill.

**Do not feed wild deer** – Feeding deer is illegal year-round. Concentrating deer around food sources can facilitate the spread of diseases like CWD. Report sick and abnormal deer to DEC. DEC would like to examine any deer that are very thin, drooling, standing with legs splayed and head lowered, listless, circling, or are easily approached. Contact the DEC Regional Wildlife Office near you (see page 6) or visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/558.html>

Import Restriction	Allowed Parts	Species Affected
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deboned meat</li> <li>• Cleaned skull cap</li> <li>• Antlers with no flesh</li> <li>• Raw or processed cape or hide</li> <li>• Cleaned teeth or lower jaw</li> <li>• Finished taxidermy products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White-tailed deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>)</li> <li>• Black-tailed &amp; Mule deer (<i>O. hemionus</i>)</li> <li>• Red deer (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>) &amp; Elk (<i>C. e. canadensis</i>)</li> <li>• Moose (<i>Alces alces</i>)</li> <li>• Sika deer (<i>Cervus nippon</i>)</li> <li>• Caribou and Reindeer (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>)</li> </ul>

## Crossbow Hunting Qualifications and Safety Information

A crossbow must have compound or recurve limbs with minimum width of 17 inches (outer tip of limbs excluding wheels and cams, uncocked); a minimum overall length from butt of stock to the front of the limbs of 24 inches; and be able to launch a minimum 14 inch arrow/bolt, not including the legal arrowhead. It must have a draw weight of 100 to 200 pounds.

Crossbows may be used by any person age 14 or older to hunt deer, bear, unprotected wildlife and **most** small game species except waterfowl and other migratory game birds. Crossbows may not be used to take carp or any other fish.

**Hunters who plan to hunt with a crossbow must have in their possession while afield either their completed Hunter Education Certificate of Qualification card dated on or after April 1, 2014 OR the completed Crossbow Certificate of Qualification located below.**

### Crossbow safety information

- Before shooting your crossbow, read and thoroughly understand your crossbow owner's manual.
- Make sure your fingers are well AWAY (below rail) from the path of the bow string and cables.
- Never dry-fire a crossbow (cock and fire without an arrow placed on the rail).
- Make sure the crossbow limbs are free of obstructions before shooting.
- Never carry a cocked crossbow with an arrow in it while walking.
- If hunting from a tree stand, always cock (but do not load) the crossbow on the ground before climbing into the stand.
- Once seated and secured in the tree stand, pull up your unloaded crossbow with a haul line.
- Do not place an arrow on the crossbow until you are safely secured in your stand.

- Never use a cocking device to uncock a crossbow.
- To uncock a crossbow, shoot an arrow tipped with a field point into the soft ground or a target.
- Always identify your target and the area beyond it before shooting.
- To prevent wounding game, practice often and do not take shots at game that are beyond your effective range, generally less than 30–40 yards, similar to a modern compound bow.
- To better understand how an arrow functions and the skill required for hunting with an arrow, DEC recommends all crossbow hunters take a bowhunter education course.

### NYSDEC Crossbow Hunting Qualifications:

[www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/98061.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/98061.html)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

### Crossbow Certificate of Qualification

I certify that I have read and understand the safety recommendations, license requirements and legal specifications for crossbow use in New York.

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

DEC ID# (this is your back-tag number) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Fill in, cut out, and carry afield with your hunting license while hunting with a crossbow.*

## Attention Crossbow Hunters

*Promoting Your Right To Hunt Statewide With The "Bow" of YOUR Choice During The Entire Bow Season*



*Join New York Crossbow Coalition Today to secure your right to Hunt with your Crossbow during the Entire Archery Season*

Crossbows became a legal hunting implement in 2014. Crossbows are permitted during a portion of the bow season but have restrictions on maximum draw weight, width and are prohibited in "Archery Only" areas. Hunters also must use the Muzzleloader Privilege instead of the Bow Privilege.

New York Crossbow Coalition is dedicated to seeing the Crossbow Classified as a Bow and allowing its use during the entire Archery Season without restriction.

**For the latest information on Crossbow Legislation in NY, go to our web page and sign up for our email alerts and follow us on Facebook or mail a request for information at the address below.**

**New York Crossbow Coalition**  
 PO Box 316 Pulaski, NY 13142  
[www.nycrossbowcoalition.com](http://www.nycrossbowcoalition.com)  
[info@nycrossbowcoalition.com](mailto:info@nycrossbowcoalition.com)

  
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### Join NY's Full Inclusion Archery Organization TODAY!

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

911 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No Do you currently Crossbow Hunt?

Yes  No Do you currently Bow Hunt? (Compound, recurve or Longbow)

Yes  No If you do not currently bow hunt, are you a former bow hunter? (If current bow hunter leave blank)

Yes  No Do you believe crossbows are another form of bow and should be allowed in all seasons and areas archery equipment is permitted?

Yes  No Do you believe crossbows should ONLY be permitted for seniors and handicapped persons?

Yes  No Are you a NYS Bow Hunter Education instructor?

Current  Former

No [ ] Approximate Years Teaching

Include \$20 Check or Money Order payable to NYCC with your Application

# Big Game Boundary Descriptions/Legal Implements

Complete descriptions of all wildlife management units are available on DEC's website [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html)

## Northern-Southern Zone Line

A line commencing at a point at the north shore of the Salmon River and its junction with Lake Ontario and extending easterly along the north shore of that river to the Village of Pulaski, thence southerly along Route 11 to its intersection with Route 49 in the Village of Central Square, thence easterly along Route 49 to its junction with Route 365 in the City of Rome, thence easterly along Route 365 to its junction with Route 28 in the Village of Trenton, thence easterly along Route 28 to its junction with Route 29 in the Village of Middleville, thence easterly along Route 29 to its junction with Route 4, thence northerly along Route 4 to its junction with Route 22, thence northerly and westerly along Route 22 to the eastern shore of South Bay on Lake Champlain in the Village of Whitehall, thence northerly along the eastern shore of South Bay to the New York-Vermont boundary.

## Closed Areas

The following closed areas are specific portions of the state where the taking of deer and bear is prohibited by the Environmental Conservation Law. This section does not include areas covered by town laws, local ordinances or posting by landowners.

### Albany County

Area around Alcove Reservoir: bounded by Albany County Rt. 111 from Rt. 143 to Albany-Greene County line to Albany County Rt. 411 to Rt. 143 to point of beginning. Closed except to landowners and lessees of lands in the area actually occupying and cultivating such lands.

### Erie County

Area around Buffalo: bounded by Tonawanda Creek from East Branch Niagara River to Rt. 78 to Greiner Rd. to Rt. 268 to Rt. 5 to Ransom Rd. to Rt. 33 to Rt. 78 to Rt. 20 to Rt. 20A to Lake Erie.

### Herkimer County

Area along Big Moose Lake: bounded by Judson Rd. from Herkimer-Hamilton County line to Higby Rd. to Big Moose Rd. to Martin Rd. and along it to its eastern end and then to the lake shore and back (starting westerly) along the shore to Herkimer-Hamilton County line and along it to Judson Rd.

### Herkimer and Hamilton Counties

Area bounded by Rt. 28 from Old Forge to Inlet and by South Shore Rd. from Inlet to Old Forge.

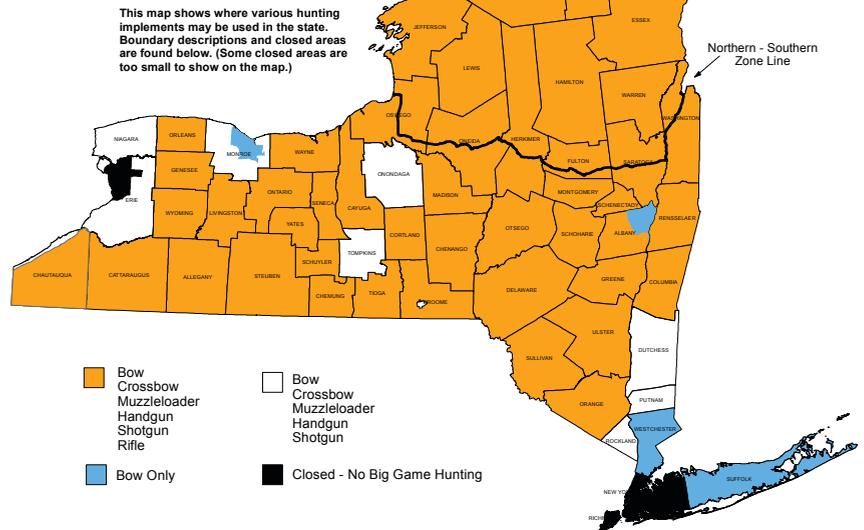
### Nassau County

All of Nassau County.

### New York City

All of the city.

## Legal Implements for the Regular Deer Season, Early and Regular Bear Season



At press time, legislation was pending to allow the use of rifles for big game hunting in Tompkins County. Be sure to check the DEC website for an updated legal implements map before going afield (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/35010.html>)

## Boning Out Deer

Some hunters who take a deer in remote areas may wish to bone out the deer and pack out the meat. This is lawful but you must retain the carcass tag with the boned out meat.

## Antler Restriction Program

A mandatory antler point restriction exists in WMUs 3A, 3C, 3H, 3J, 3K, 4G, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4S, and 4W in southeastern New York (see deer hunting season maps). This program will continue as DEC encourages hunters elsewhere to practice voluntary restraint. Over time, as more and more hunters in the broader region opt to pass on young bucks voluntarily, it may be appropriate to lift the restrictions.

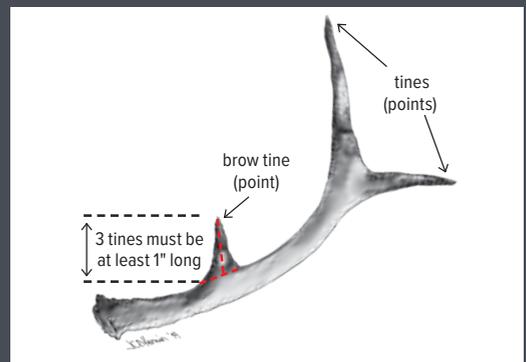
## Antler Identification

### Antler Point Restriction

- At least 1 antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1" long
- Applies to all public and private land and all seasons
- Hunters aged 12-16 are exempt and may take any buck with antlers 3" or longer

### Antlerless Deer

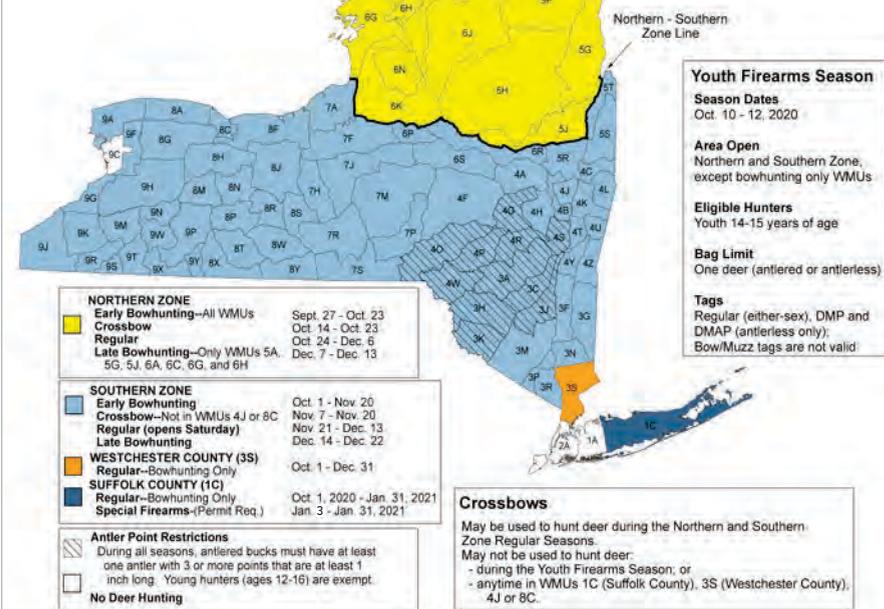
- Adult does, doe fawns, buck fawns (button bucks), adult bucks without antlers, or with antlers less than 3" long
- May be tagged with your DMP or Bow/Muzzleloading antlerless or either-sex tags.



# Deer Hunting

## 2020 REGULAR & BOWHUNTING DEER SEASONS

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



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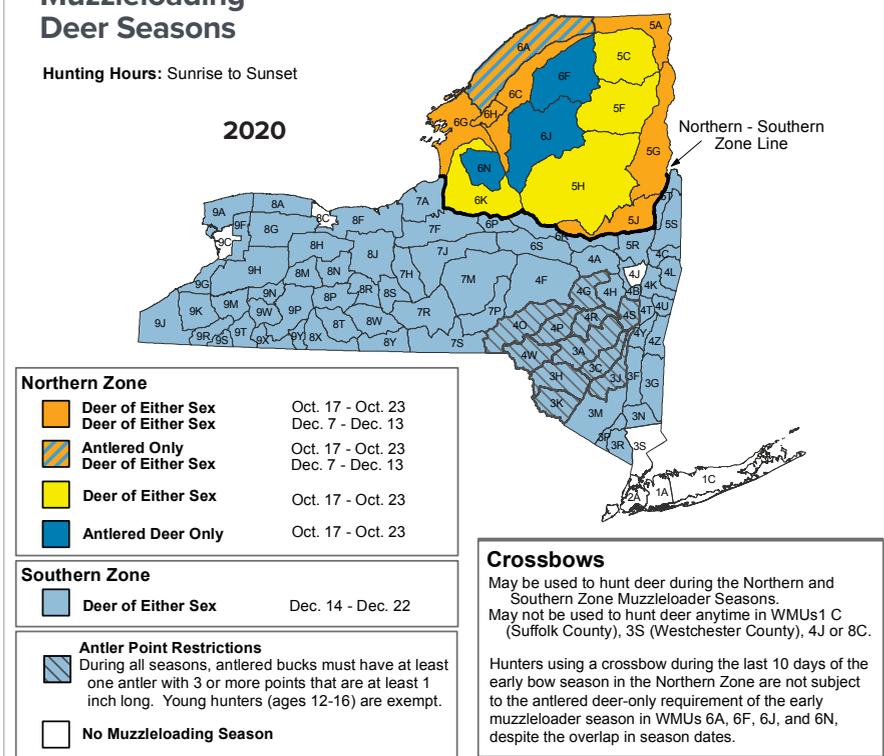
[www.BigGameHuntingNY.com](http://www.BigGameHuntingNY.com)

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## Muzzleloading Deer Seasons

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

2020



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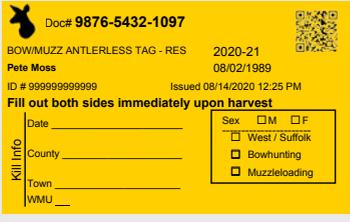
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## Deer Tag Descriptions

For all season dates, see page 25. See page 11 for privilege information.

Tag Name	Tag Can Be Used In	Tag Is Valid For
<p><b>Regular Season Deer Tag</b> Only you may hunt with this tag. No transferring tag to another hunter.</p>	<p><b>Regular Season</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Zone</li> <li>Southern Zone</li> </ul> <p><b>Westchester County</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular (bowhunting only)</li> </ul> <p><b>Suffolk County</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular (bowhunting only)</li> <li>Special Firearms (special permit, see page 18)</li> </ul> <p><b>Late Season Bowhunting (privilege required)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Zone</li> <li>Southern Zone</li> </ul> <p><b>Late Season Muzzleloading (privilege required)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Zone (check open areas and dates on map on page 25)</li> <li>Southern Zone</li> </ul> <p><b>Youth Deer Season</b></p>	<p><b>Antlered Deer Only</b></p> <p><b>Except:</b> May be used for Antlered or Antlerless Deer as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Westchester County (WMU 3S)</li> <li>In Suffolk County (WMU 1C)</li> <li>In areas restricted to bowhunting only (WMUs 4J and 8C)</li> <li>In late seasons (with bowhunting or muzzleloading privilege)</li> <li>By Junior Hunters during the Youth Deer Hunt</li> <li><b>IF</b> you have a non-ambulatory permit.</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag</b> Only you may hunt with this tag. No transferring tag to another hunter.</p>	<p><b>Bowhunting Season (privilege required)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Zone</li> <li>Southern Zone</li> </ul> <p><b>Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Zone (check open areas and dates on map on page 25)</li> <li>Southern Zone</li> </ul> <p><b>Westchester County</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular (bowhunting only)</li> </ul> <p><b>Suffolk County</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular (bowhunting only)</li> <li>Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)</li> </ul> <p><b>Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt.</b></p>	<p><b>Antlered or Antlerless Deer</b></p> <p><b>Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only</b> (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County) Junior Bowhunters will receive this tag, which will be valid in the special bowhunting seasons and during the regular season, with bowhunting equipment only.</p> <p><b>Except:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be used for antlered deer only during muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs (see map page 25).</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Bow/Mz Season Antlerless Tag</b> Only you may hunt with this tag. No transferring tag to another hunter.</p>	<p><b>Bowhunting Season (privilege required)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Zone</li> <li>Southern Zone</li> </ul> <p><b>Muzzleloading Season (privilege required)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Zone (check open areas and dates on map, page 25)</li> <li>Southern Zone</li> </ul> <p><b>Westchester County</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular (bowhunting only)</li> </ul> <p><b>Suffolk County</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular (bowhunting only)</li> <li>Special Firearms (special permit; see page 18)</li> </ul> <p><b>Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt.</b></p>	<p><b>Antlerless Deer Only</b></p> <p><b>Bowhunting OR Muzzleloading seasons only</b> (including the regular season in Westchester County and any season in Suffolk County)</p> <p><b>Except:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May not be used during muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs that are Antlered Deer Only areas (see map page 25).</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Deer Management Permit Deer Tag</b></p>	<p><b>Any Open Deer Season</b></p>	<p><b>Antlerless Deer Only</b></p> <p>Valid ONLY for the WMU specified and printed on the DMP Deer Tag (Deer Management Permit) See page 29.</p> <p><b>This is the only tag that can be transferred to another hunter (see page 29 for How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag).</b></p> 

For information on which tags may be used when hunting with a crossbow, see page 21.

## Moose In New York

Moose are protected in New York and cannot be hunted. DEC and its research partners are currently compiling results from a multi-year research project and a series of public surveys to better understand the status of New York State's moose population, moose health, factors that influence moose survival and reproductive rates, and to better understand the public's experience with moose and desires for future moose populations. The goal of the study and surveys is to gather information to develop a moose management plan for New York State.

### Report your Moose Sightings

If you have seen a moose, DEC wants to know about it. Your observations help DEC track moose distribution in New York. To report a moose sighting, go to [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6964](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6964).



## Meat Unfit for Consumption

If a deer, bear or turkey is found to be unfit for human consumption, a special permit may be issued that allows the hunter to take another deer, turkey, or bear, provided the season is still open. The entire animal, including the antlers, must be forfeited to get a permit. A permit will not be issued if meat is unfit due to hunter neglect. Call a wildlife or law enforcement office listed on page 6.

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Photo of Chateaugay State Forest

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Phone: (703) 255-2700

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## Deer Management Permits (DMPs)

Hunters possessing a DMP may take one antlerless deer per permit in addition to any deer that may be taken with a regular hunting license or bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges.

- DMPs may not be used for legally antlered deer (at least one antler 3" or longer).
- DMPs may only be used in the WMU for which they are issued.
- Hunters may transfer or receive up to 2 DMPs from other hunters (see page 29).
- Refer to chart on page 26 for information on when DMPs may be used.

### Applying for a deer management permit (DMP)

- **DMP Application Deadline: Close of business on October 1, 2020**
- You may apply for DMPs at all license-issuing outlets, by phone or online beginning on August 10, 2020.
- DMPs are available to all hunters age 14 years or older who purchase or possess a regular hunting license (12 years old for Junior Bowhunting license holders).
- There is a \$10 non-refundable application fee for all applicants. The fee is waived for holders of Lifetime Sportsman licenses purchased prior to 10/1/2009, and Junior Hunters and Junior Bowhunters.
- **Know your Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) before you apply.** If you are unsure of your unit, see the WMU maps on pages 70–77 of this guide or visit [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html) for written boundary descriptions. You may also call the DMP Hotline for

additional information at 1-866-472-4332.

- You may apply for up to two DMPs. Both must be applied for at the same time. Application can be for DMPs in the same WMU or different WMUs.
- **Disabled veterans** with a service-connected disability rated at 40% or greater (who are residents of New York) will receive preference on DMPs. Annually, you must bring a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs, dated in the current year, with your case number and your disability percentage. If you are claiming permanent disabled status, the letter must clearly state that the 40% or more service-related disability is permanent.
- **Landowners: It is illegal for more than one person per 50+ acre tax map ID to apply as a landowner.** If you own 50 or more contiguous acres of land within the WMU you will be hunting in, you will receive preference on DMP selection. Annually, you must bring your tax map identification number and SWIS code (found on your tax bill) with you when you apply. Be sure to tell the license-issuing agent PRIOR to applying that you are a landowner. Lessees do not qualify as landowners. Corporate ownership: **It is illegal for more than one person to apply as a corporate landowner no matter how many 50-acre parcels are owned.** The corporation must submit an original letter or certified copy of a resolution, dated in the current year, designating one individual and must include the tax map ID and SWIS code information.
- **Group ownership: It is illegal for more than one person per 50+ acre tax map ID to apply as a landowner,** regardless of how many co-owners.

## Chances of DMP Selection

Your chances of selection for first and second DMPs by Wildlife Management Unit are available online at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/30409.html>, posted at all License Issuing Outlets or by calling our Deer Management Permit hotline at 1-866-472-4332. Chances of DMP selection remain the same throughout the entire DMP application period.

Additional 50+ acre parcels in the same WMU require separate tax IDs.

### • Preference points:

- » Preference points are won and lost on first permit selection only.
- » If you do not receive a DMP in your first choice WMU, you will receive a preference point for the following year.
- » If you were rejected for a first permit in 2019 and have a preference point for the 2020 hunting season, this information is stored in DECALS and will be available to all license-issuing agents.
- » Preference points do not guarantee selection. Any preference points contained in your file are automatically applied to your first-choice WMU selection. If you do NOT receive your first choice, the points are applied to your second choice but will remain in your file for the following year, regardless of your second choice selection results.



Tara Schaefer after a successful deer hunt.

## DMP selection order

During the instant issuance, an applicant's chances of selection are determined by an applicant's category. The categories, in priority order, are as follows.

1. Landowners (50 or more acres of land within a WMU) and Disabled Veterans (40% or more service-related disability). All applicants in this category will receive their first-choice DMP.
2. NYS Residents and Non-residents with 3 Preference Points
3. NYS Residents with 1–2 Preference Points
4. NYS Residents without Preference Points
5. Non-residents with 1–2 Preference Points
6. Non-residents without Preference Points

## Additional DMP opportunities

**Bonus DMPs:** If you fill a DMP in bowhunting-only WMUs 1C, 3S, 4J and 8C, you can apply for a bonus permit for another antlerless deer. Bonus permits may only be obtained from regional wildlife staff at predetermined locations. For complete information, visit our website or call a DEC Regional Wildlife Office as follows:

- WMU 1C.....1-631-444-0310
- WMU 3S.....1-845-256-3098
- WMU 4J.....1-518-357-2154
- WMU 8C.....1-585-226-5380

**Leftover DMPs:** If there are still permits remaining after the initial DMP instant-issuance period closes on October 1 and the back-end correction selections have occurred, the remaining DMPs may be available on a first-come/first-served basis, beginning on or around November 1. These DMPs are only available in person at license-issuing agents. Leftover DMPs will not be available by phone or online. The Wildlife Management Units with permits available will be announced by news release and on our website ([www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)). If you already applied for a Deer Management Permit during the initial application period, there is no additional application fee. If you are applying for the first time this hunting season, you will have to pay a \$10 application fee. Fee is waived for Resident and Non-resident Junior Hunters and Junior Bowhunters, and for Lifetime license holders who purchased prior to October 1, 2009. You will be allowed up to two DMPs during the first-come/first-served application period in addition to any you may have received during the initial application period.

## Deer Management Assistance Program

The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) enables wildlife biologists to help landowners and resource managers implement site-specific deer management on their lands. In doing so, DEC issues a special permit for use only during the open deer hunting seasons and a determined number of antlerless deer tags to landowners or resource managers whose property is in need of site-specific deer management efforts. Hunters are expected to report their harvest. For more information on the program, refer to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/33973.html>.

## How to Transfer a DMP Deer Carcass Tag

Hunter Jane Doe wants to transfer her DMP tag to hunter Pete Moss.

Step 1. Jane Doe signs the bottom of her DMP tag.

Step 2. Jane Doe gives the DMP tag to Pete Moss.

Step 3. Pete Moss records the DOC# of the DMP tag on his reporting panel, completing the transfer.

Step 4. If Pete Moss takes an antlerless deer with the transferred DMP, he is required to report the deer by calling the automated reporting system (1-866-426-3778) or by reporting online at [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) using the transferred DMP DOC# and his own date of birth.

- Hunters are allowed to receive only two transferred DMPs per year.
- DMPs can be transferred from the receiving hunter back to the original hunter or to another. The other hunter must record the DOC# on his/her reporting panel, as in Step 3 above, to complete the transfer.

**Remember:** Hunting licenses are not transferable. Only DMP carcass tags can be used by another hunter. **A hunter must be in physical possession of a DMP when taking antlerless deer pursuant to a DMP.** It cannot be "shared" by a group afield.

**Note:** To report a deer taken on a transferred DMP, the hunter who took the deer must call the automated reporting system (1-866-426-3778) or report online at [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) using the transferred DMP carcass tag DOC# and his/her own date of birth, along with other required information (see page 13).

DMP carcass tag of hunter Jane Doe

Reporting panel of hunter Pete Moss

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## Feral Swine Cause Damage!



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Your anonymous participation advances  
fish and wildlife conservation, helps  
protect your right to hunt, fish and shoot,  
and guides companies in developing  
better outdoor products.

## DMAP Tags

The DEC Office in Sherburne, Chenango County, will have DMAP tags available for use only on Beaver Meadow State Forest in Chenango County this hunting season for interested hunters with a valid license. Tags are valid only for antlerless deer and will be loaned out on a weekly basis, depending on demand. Hunters may apply in person at DEC's Sherburne Lands and Forests office. Find the application on the DEC website, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/66900.html>, contact [Info.R7@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Info.R7@dec.ny.gov) or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the DEC Lands and Forests office in Sherburne requesting an application: NYS DEC, Division of Lands and Forests, 2715 State Hwy 80, Sherburne, NY 13460.

## Eurasian Boar

Eurasian boars are a destructive invasive species that damage habitat and crops, and threaten native wildlife and domestic livestock. DEC and USDA have worked hard to eradicate these animals from the state's landscape. We are now working to prevent their reintroduction into New York.

- It is illegal to possess, sell, distribute, trade or transport Eurasian boars or their hybrids.
- It is illegal to import, breed or release Eurasian boars or their hybrids.
- It is illegal to hunt, trap or take free-ranging Eurasian boar or their hybrids.

Although DEC's eradication efforts have been very successful to date, we must remain vigilant. Anyone who sees a Eurasian boar should report it to DEC as soon as possible by emailing [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov) or calling 518-402-8883.

## Become a Hunter Education Program Instructor

*Safety. Responsibility. Ethics.*



*"I volunteer my time to the Hunter Education Program because I get more out of it than I give. Those few hours give me a greater appreciation for all things conservation. The smiles of a child that can now go afield with purpose, men and women who will get to put fresh game on their tables, and a new group of people with a greater understanding of the wildlife and nature around them."*

Ann Wilcox-Swanson, Instructor



### Qualifications

- At least 18 years of age
- Good communication skills
- Hunting experience preferred
- Good moral character

**APPLY TODAY!** 1-888-HUNTED2 [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9189.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9189.html)

# Accessibility for All

By Josh Carney

I've always been fascinated by the outdoors. As a child, I hunted small game with my family in Louisiana; eventually that led to pursuing white-tailed deer and wild turkeys.

At age 13, I became fascinated with turkey hunting. I watched television shows and read articles describing how incredible it was. I wanted to find out for myself. When turkey season was a few months away, I bought every turkey call I could find. I drove my family crazy as I practiced, trying to perfect the sound. As the season approached, I begged my dad to take me; he promised he would. I grew more anxious with each passing week: each day I'd wake up knowing that opening day was one day closer.

On April 17, 2005, it was finally my day to shine. As my dad and I walked down a gravel road, I found a feather; I knew it was a sign: this was our spot. We crossed the ditch and headed to the timber. My dad picked a place to sit and I picked another 20 yards away. This was our first turkey hunt; neither of us were very knowledgeable. We began to call but got no response. I patiently waited before calling again. As a novice, I figured turkey hunting would be like the TV shows: rub two sticks together to make a turkey call and the bird would run right in. But that was not the case. After a while, I saw movement out of the corner of my eye: a turkey had come in behind me. I caught a glimpse of my father aiming his shotgun in my

direction. Before I knew it, his gun went off, my body went numb, there was ringing in my ears, and my vision started to blur. I had been shot. My dad rushed me out of the woods and called 911.

I spent the next three months in the hospital. I endured lots of surgeries before going home. After just two weeks, the only thing I could think about was going hunting again. So I did. In fact, I haven't stopped, even as a paraplegic in a wheelchair.

Hunting from a wheelchair takes extra planning; many questions cross a hunter's mind. Is the area I want to hunt easily accessible? What is the terrain like? Will my chair get stuck? How about the parking? My truck is modified to lift my wheelchair, but it requires extra space.

Many technological advances and site modifications help those with disabilities enjoy hunting. Specially designed hunting trailers can be placed at remote locations. Some states allow track chairs on state lands, which is great because these chairs are game-changers. Some locations have raised, ramp-accessed hunting platforms overlooking food plots—I'd like to see more of those. Packed gravel paths and bridges allow me to get deep into the deer and turkey woods. Some states have programs that allow people with disabilities to hunt in warmer weather under special permits.

Several organizations have programs to help hunters with disabilities get outdoors, fostering the sense of reward and empowerment that



comes with hunting. I'm thankful for these programs, and for land managers' efforts to make the outdoors accessible to all.

**Hunter and motivational speaker Josh Carney is featured on the cover of this guide.**

For more information about accessible hunting opportunities on DEC lands, see page 38.

## Remember the cardinal rules of firearm safety:

- Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- Keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond it.
- Stalking stinks! Set up with your back against a tree or other object wider than your shoulders and call birds to you.

## Whatever the job, we've got the solution.

The Yamaha family of outdoor power equipment is the economical, full-featured choice from contractors to the residential homeowner. From its family of rugged, heavy-duty generators and dirt-vanquishing pressure washers to water-clearing pumps, Yamaha has a power product for every need and every job.

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# Permission Granted!

Ask, or you'll never know...

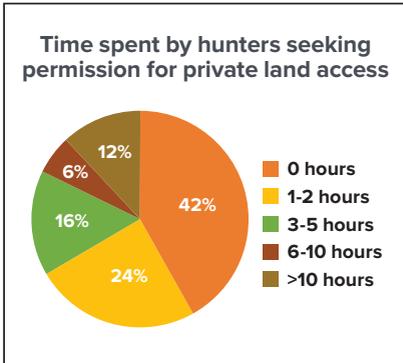


For decades, hunter access to private lands has been on the decline. As properties subdivide, develop, and transfer, more land has been labeled as **POSTED**. Trespassing is illegal whether the land is posted or not, but there is a certain stigma associated with posted property that deters many hunters from even asking. Some landowners may be resistant to providing hunting access due to fears of liability, safety concerns, unruly guests, or personal objection to hunting, but many others readily allow hunting to occur on their land.

Declines in access can reduce efficient deer population control and negatively impact hunter enthusiasm. When hunters ask for permission and landowners grant hunting access, it's a win-win! But hunters must start this relationship by **ASKING**.

An on-line survey conducted by DEC revealed something interesting about hunters' attitudes towards access. More than 55% of respondents believed that lack of access was directly linked to their lack of hunting success. Yet, more than 40% of these same respondents admitted they did not spend time seeking permission. Opportunities for hunters to gain access to private property exist, but many hunters are simply not asking.

Hunters wanting to increase their success must take initiative. Though past research indicates that landowners are most comfortable only allowing family and friends to hunt their property, 15-35% of landowners did grant hunting access to strangers who asked permission. This should be encouraging for hunters hoping to find a new piece of ground.



"When I first moved to the Albany area, I hunted public land and spent a lot of time knocking on doors asking permission. Posted signs actually helped because it told me who the landowner was. I got turned away from probably 90% of the people I asked, mostly because they already had other hunters.

But all it took was permission from 2 or 3 landowners, and I was set."

Jeremy Hurst, DEC Big Game Unit Leader

**ASK PERMISSION** stickers and record cards are available upon request. These items are a great way for landowners to encourage hunters to ask permission, improving the communication process.

[www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife\\_pdf/askperm.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/askperm.pdf)



## Misconceptions: Private Land Access

- **POSTED—THE LAND IS CLOSED TO HUNTING:** Most landowners want to control access, not eliminate it. In fact, *less than 25% of landowners post because they disapprove of hunting*. Show respect and **ask** in person.
- **POSTED PROPERTIES ALREADY HAVE HUNTERS:** Posted signs can lead hunters to believe the property is already being hunted. This could be true, but some owners might not have contact with any hunters. You won't know unless you **ask!**
- **SMALL/SUBDIVIDED PARCELS—NOT WORTH IT:** Small parcels can deter hunters looking to maximize hunting ground acreage. However, more landowners means better chances of finding one who will grant access. But you must **ask!**
- **HUNTERS—A RISK TO MY FAMILY AND PROPERTY:** Careless and irresponsible behavior by one hunter can ruin public perception for others. It's up to hunters to change this stereotype. **Ask** permission, hunt safe, and treat the land and wildlife with respect.
- **GRANTING ACCESS INCREASES LIABILITY:** The New York State General Obligations Law protects landowners from liability for nonpaying recreationists engaged in hunting and many other outdoor activities.

## SHOOT with COMBAT

Proven performance from a platform with no-nonsense features that maximize accuracy.

### X-BOLT® HUNTER LONG RANGE RIFLE

Designed to capitalize on velocity & range in a lighter weight platform. One of the highest performing production rifles in the world.

# KITTERY TRADING POST

Rte 1 Kittery, ME / 888-587-6246 / for Store Hours

# MAKING IT LAST

## Continuing the Tradition.

Jeff Liddle, late Hunter Education Coordinator for New York's Department of Environmental Conservation, taught a new hunter critical firearm handling skills. Jeff inspired countless new hunters during his long career with DEC. Conservation is dependent on funding provided by hunters and trappers. Our Hunter Education Program – with the help of volunteer hunter and trapper education instructors – are working hard to continue the tradition and conserve beautiful New York for years – and generations – to come. For more information, or to volunteer as an instructor, visit: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7860.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7860.html)



Department of Environmental Conservation

CONFIDENCE

for hunters  
features  
accuracy.



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for details

# BROWNING

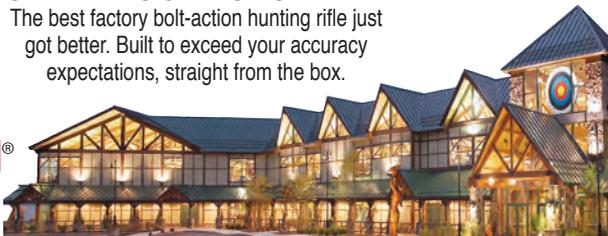
## X-BOLT



### X-BOLT® HELL'S CANYON SPEED RIFLE

The best factory bolt-action hunting rifle just got better. Built to exceed your accuracy expectations, straight from the box.

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## The 10 Commandments of Firearm Safety

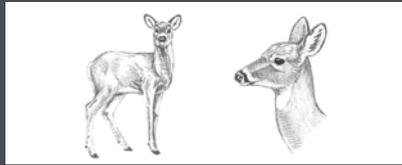
1. **Watch that muzzle!** Keep it pointed in a safe direction at all times.
2. **Treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded gun.** It might be loaded, even if you think it isn't.
3. **Be sure of your target and what is in front of it and beyond it.** Know the identifying features of the game you hunt. Make sure you have an adequate backstop—don't shoot at a flat, hard surface or water.
4. **Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.** This is the best way to prevent an accidental discharge.
5. **Check your barrel and ammunition.** Make sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions, and carry only the proper ammunition for your firearm.
6. **Unload firearms when not in use.** Leave actions open, and carry firearms in cases and unloaded to and from the shooting area.
7. **Point a firearm only at something you intend to shoot.** Avoid all horseplay with a gun.
8. **Don't run, jump, or climb with a loaded firearm.** Unload a firearm before you climb a fence or tree, or jump a ditch. Pull a firearm toward you by the butt, not the muzzle.
9. **Store firearms and ammunition separately and safely.** Store each in a secured location beyond the reach of children and careless adults.
10. **Do not consume alcoholic beverages before or during shooting.** Also avoid mind- or behavior-altering medicines or drugs.

## Doe or Fawn?

During the fall, it can often be difficult to distinguish adult does and fawn deer, particularly if seen alone. In recent years, about 30% of the total antlerless deer harvest has been fawns (5–7 months old), split roughly as 13% doe fawns and 17% buck fawns. Though fawns provide excellent table fare, some hunters prefer to target adult deer. Taking adult female deer contributes to management objectives, and passing buck fawns may allow some of them to be available later as antlered bucks. By learning the differences between antlerless deer, hunters can make more informed harvest choices.

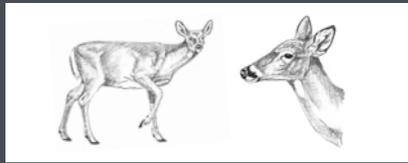
### Hunting Tips

- Button bucks often travel alone, but adult does rarely do. Wait until several antlerless deer are present before making a harvest decision.
- It is easier to identify sex and age when animals are standing still or moving slowly.
- Harvest antlerless deer early in the season when differences between fawns and adult does are most noticeable.



Fawn

- Body about as long as tall (square)
- Short neck and compact nose/head
- Eyes look large for head
- Doe fawns have a more rounded head shape between their ears
- Buck fawns' heads appear flattened and may have visible antler nubs or "buttons"



Adult Doe

- Body longer than tall (rectangle)
- Long neck and elongated nose

## Tree Stand Safety — Hunt Safe, Hunt Smart

- Read the manufacturer's instructions. Replace worn/missing parts.
- Use a full-body harness with a foot strap to relieve harness leg pressure.
- Use a "lifeline" or safety rope that is secured at base of the tree or stand and to the tree just above your head when sitting in the stand. Stay connected to a lifeline from the time you leave the ground to the time you get back down.
- Attach the tether from your full-body harness to the lifeline using a carabiner and prusik knot, which easily slides up and down the lifeline.
- Once secured in your stand, use a haul line to raise/lower unloaded implements and quiver. Do not tie the haul line around the trigger or trigger guard. Haul unloaded guns, bows, and cocked (but unloaded) crossbows pointed down.
- Carry emergency equipment (knife, phone, flashlight, whistle) in your pockets at all times, not in your pack.
- Tell someone where you will be hunting and when you will return.

# KELLEY MEATS



8937 Beckwith Road, Taberg, NY • 315-337-4272

**Fresh & Fully Cooked & Smoked Wild Game Products**

To make your venison products, you will need to save your boneless venison, or other boneless wild game, bagged and frozen. Kelley Meats starts accepting meat for processing in JANUARY until JULY 1st.

Products are made in 25lb. batches, which takes 18lbs. of your wild game and 7lbs. of our pork (at an additional cost).

**THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE PRODUCTS YOU CAN HAVE MADE!**



**SNACK STICKS \$4/lb** - many flavors to choose from!

**SUMMER SAUSAGE \$3.50/lb** • **LEBANON BOLOGNA \$3.75/lb**

**HOT DOGS \$3.80/lb** - German style, Sriracha, Chili

**KEILBASA \$3.50/lb** • **BOLOGNA/SALAMI \$3.50/lb**

**RING BOLOGNA \$3.75/lb**

**JERKY \$4.75/lb** - You need to save whole, lean muscles & bag separate

### FRESH PRODUCTS

**BULK SAUSAGE \$1.50/lb** Tube-wrapped, add \$.25/lb

**LINK SAUSAGE \$2/lb** - Italian sweet & hot - vac/pak \$.60/lb

**BRATS \$3.75/lb** • **GROUND MEAT \$.75/lb** Tube-wrapped, add \$.25/lb



**ADD \$15/25LB BATCH FOR VACUUM PACKING**  
**ALL PRODUCTS CAN HAVE CHEESE AND JALAPENO ADDED!**

# Big Game Season Dates

Future Big Game Season Dates	
Northern Zone	
Early Bear (some WMUs, see page 43)	The first Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the early muzzleloading season
Early Bowhunting—Bear	The first Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season
Early Bowhunting—Deer	September 27 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season
Early Muzzleloading—Deer and Bear	7 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday after Columbus Day
Regular—Deer and Bear	44 consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday after Columbus Day
Late Bow and Muzzleloading—Deer	7 consecutive days immediately following the regular season
Youth Big Game Firearms Hunt—Deer and Bear	Columbus Day Weekend; Saturday through Columbus Day (Monday)
Southern Zone	
Early Bear (some WMUs, see page 43)	16 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday after Labor Day
Early Bowhunting—Deer and Bear	October 1 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season
Regular—Deer and Bear	23 days beginning the third Saturday of November
Late Bow and Muzzleloading—Deer and Bear	9 consecutive days immediately following the regular season
Youth Big Game Firearms Hunt—Deer and Bear	Columbus Day Weekend; Saturday through Columbus Day (Monday)
Westchester County (WMU 3S)	
Regular—Deer and Bear (bowhunting only)	October 1 through December 31
Suffolk County (WMU 1C)	
Regular—Deer (bowhunting only)	October 1 through December 31
Special Firearms Season—Deer	First full week in January, through January 31

**WANTED**  
**\$1 or more of your money!**

**HELP!**  
**Send a check or PayPal**  
**@VenisonDonation.org**

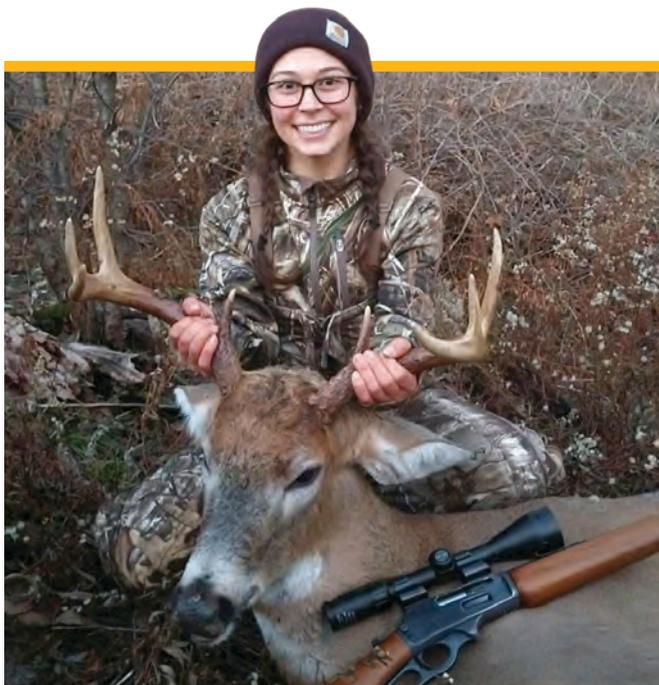
Photo: Charles J Alsheimer



With over HALF a million deer hunters in NY state, if every one donated just one dollar we could feed OVER 1 MILLION SERVINGS to those in need!

**CASH & DEER DONATIONS NEEDED**

**THIS IS NOT A STATE PROGRAM, WE ARE VOLUNTEERS for a worthy cause!**  
 An incorporated non-profit grassroots group.



On a hunting trip with her dad and cousin, Lauren Maynard harvested her first deer with a Marlin 30/30 lever-action rifle.

# Special Seasons Designated for Young Hunters

## Share Your Knowledge, Reconnect with Nature — Take a Junior Hunter Afield During These Special Seasons!



Youth Pheasant Hunt at the Wood and Brook Sportsman Club in Crittenden, NY.



Hailey Masterson with her first pheasant.

Once again, DEC is providing a special youth deer season over the three-day Columbus Day weekend. Junior hunters (ages 14–15) will be eligible to take one antlered or antlerless deer and/or a bear with a firearm during this season. Rules of the Junior Hunter Mentoring Program (page 37) also apply.

DEC also offers special opportunities for junior hunters (ages 12–15) for waterfowl, wild turkey, and pheasants.

For all youth hunts, junior hunters must be accompanied by an adult hunter. Both the junior and adult hunters are required to have a hunting license for the youth deer season, a hunting license and a turkey permit for the turkey hunt, and a hunting license and current HIP registration for the waterfowl hunt. During the youth waterfowl hunt the accompanying adult must have a federal duck stamp. Adults are not allowed to possess a firearm, crossbow or bow or to harvest an animal while accompanying a junior hunter during the youth hunts.

Crossbows may only be used by licensees who are 14 years of age or older.

**Note:** Junior hunters (ages 12-15) must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter whenever they are afield in pursuit of game, not just during designated special youth seasons.

Youth Hunts	
Youth Pheasant Hunt	
Northern and Eastern New York	September 26-27, 2020
Western New York	October 10-11, 2020
Long Island	October 24-25, 2020
Youth Waterfowl Hunt	
Waterfowl Hunting Zone	Dates
Northeastern	September 19-20, 2020
Southeastern	September 19-20, 2020
Lake Champlain	September 26-27, 2020
Western	October 3-4, 2020
Long Island	November 7-8, 2020
Youth Wild Turkey Hunt	
Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary) and Suffolk County	April 24-25, 2021
Youth Firearms Deer and Bear Hunt	
Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary; excluding bowhunting-only WMUs)	Columbus Day Weekend; October 10-12, 2020

## New York is on Target!

The National Archery in the Schools Program:

- Is an archery program for grades 4-12
- Is taught during school in the curriculum
- Includes instructor training
- Uses standardized equipment
- Has 40,000 students participate annually



For more information, please contact NY NASP at 518-402-8967, or [jillian.trunko@dec.ny.gov](mailto:jillian.trunko@dec.ny.gov)



Take them outside the classroom. Way outside.

**EXPLORE**  
BOWHUNTING



The NYSDEC has partnered with the Archery Trade Association to bring you a next step archery program with curriculum that includes over 20 introductory lessons to bowhunting for youth ages 11-17.

Contact the NY Explore Bowhunting coordinator for local instructor training opportunities.  
P: 518-402-8967 E: [jillian.trunko@dec.ny.gov](mailto:jillian.trunko@dec.ny.gov)

## Junior Big Game Hunting

### 12- and 13-year-old junior bowhunters can hunt deer and bear with a bow if they meet the following requirements:

- Have completed a course in both Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education.
- Purchase a Junior Bowhunting License.
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a "youth mentor" who is 21 years or older and designated in writing by the junior hunter's parent or legal guardian (use the form below).
- The accompanying adult needs to have at least 3 years of experience in hunting deer or bear by longbow AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.

### 14- and 15-year-old junior hunting license holders can hunt deer and bear with a gun if they meet the following requirements:

- Have completed a course in Hunter Education.
- Purchase a Junior Hunting License.
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a "youth mentor" who is 21 years or older designated in writing (use the form below).
- The accompanying adult needs to have at least 3 years of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.
- The Junior Hunter must stay on the ground and cannot use an elevated (tree) stand.

- Both junior hunter and accompanying adult must wear fluorescent orange or pink: a shirt or jacket with 250 sq inches of solid/patterned fluorescent orange or pink (the pattern must be no less than 50% fluorescent orange or pink) OR a hat with no less than 50% of the exterior consisting of solid fluorescent orange or pink AND visible from all directions.

### 14 and 15-year-old junior bowhunters and first-time 16 and 17-year-old big game hunters must:

- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or person 18 years or older designated in writing (use form below).
- The accompanying adult needs to have at least 1 year of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.

## Junior Trapping

### Trappers under 12 years of age:

- May accompany and assist a licensed trapper in all aspects of trapping without possessing a trapping license themselves.
- The licensed trapper must have at least 3 years of trapping experience and may be a parent, legal guardian, or someone 18 years or older designated in writing (use the form below).

### Junior Trappers 12 years or older:

- Must complete NY's Trapper Education Program whether they will be trapping alone or with an adult licensed trapper.

## Share Your Hunting and Trapping Photos With Us!

Help us celebrate the successes of young and first-time hunters and trappers by submitting photographs to DEC's Hunting and Trapping Photo Gallery. Instructions for submitting photographs are included on the photo gallery webpage.

[www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/54055.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/54055.html)

Hunters Lucas, Nick, and Merganzer the lab after a successful youth hunt at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

## Mentored Youth Hunter and Trapper Permission Form

Use this form to designate a licensed adult hunter or trapper to accompany young hunters or trappers.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am the parent/legal guardian  
(Print name of parent or legal guardian above.) (Please circle one.)

of \_\_\_\_\_, and I hereby give permission for him or her  
(Print name of young hunter/trapper above.)

to be accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_ whom I acknowledge meets  
(Print name of adult hunter/trapper above.)

the legal age, experience, and licensing requirements to function as a mentor during hunting and trapping seasons.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or legal guardian sign above.)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print today's date above.) (Print phone number above.)

*Attention Young Hunter or Trapper: carry this form with you while afield.*

# Hunt Smart

## Choose Non-lead Bullets & Slugs

You wait all year for this. Big game season is just around the corner and you've been scouting, preparing your gear, and practicing at the range. Now you're about to pick up a fresh box of that ammunition that has served you well in the past or perhaps something different based on cost or a friend's recommendation. Pause a moment. Let's think about the bullet or slug you'll use this year. Traditional lead-based bullets and slugs fragment to varying degrees, leaving small lead particles distributed along the wound channel and some distance into the meat of your deer or bear. They may be small enough not to be visible to the naked eye. As a result, you and those you share your bounty with can be exposed to lead, a well-known toxin. In addition, scavenging animals feeding on the gut pile left behind

can ingest lethal and sub-lethal doses of lead. Why chance it?

Today's alternative ammunitions choices, typically copper bullets or slugs, are engineered to expand reliably for a quick kill and perform excellent in most rifles, shotguns, and muzzle-loading firearms. They are a bit more expensive, typically costing about \$5-10 more per box than a high-quality lead-based option. When you consider all that you put into your big game season, the investment is small compared to the benefit to you, your family, and non-target wildlife.

Non-lead ammunition; it works, it reduces exposure to lead, and it is good for conservation. It's a smart choice. Try it this year!

For more information: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/48420.html>



### Non-Lead Ammunition for...

- Good Hunting
- Improved Conservation
- High-Quality Meat
- Safer Consumption

## Accessible Hunting Opportunities on DEC Lands

Hunters and trappers with disabilities can find accessible features at several Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and State Forests such as accessible parking areas, hunting blinds, platforms, boardwalks, trails, and motorized access routes (MAPPWD). See the maps on pages 67-73 for facilities and specific features, which can also be found on the **Accessible Recreation Destinations** webpage (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/34038.html>).

There are many great DEC lands to explore across the state. Below is a summary of features that can be found at select sites. Visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7768.html> for more about these sites, WMAs, and other state lands.

### Western NY

**Tonawanda WMA** (Orleans, Erie, Genesee, and Niagara Counties) has an accessible parking area and kiosk off of Route 77, as well as an accessible parking area, path, and waterfowl hunting blind off of Owen Road (hunting by permit only; call 585-948-5182 for more information).

**Spicer Creek WMA** (Erie County) has a universally accessible parking area, trail, and two hunting blind/observation decks. A free permit is required from Beaver Island State Park to hunt at these blinds. For more information, call 716-773-3271.

**The Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD)** provides access to vehicular routes for hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation for qualified people with disabilities. Qualified individuals must obtain a permit from the appropriate DEC region to use these routes. To apply for a MAPPWD permit visit [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html).

### Northern NY

**Upper and Lower Lakes WMA** (St. Lawrence County) features two accessible trails. The trails lead to pads suitable for use with portable hunting blinds and are located off of County Route 14 on Middle Access Road. Off of County Route 15 is an accessible trail and waterfowl blind. The covered blind is large enough for two people and a dog. It has a dog door and ramp for retrieval of game.

### Upper Hudson Valley

**Vosburgh Swamp WMA** (Greene County) has an accessible waterfowl hunting blind at the north end of Vosburgh Swamp, along the eastern shore. A trail and short boardwalk to this blind begin at the middle parking lot off of Four Mile Point Road.

**Partridge Run State Forest and WMA** (Albany County) together have nearly five miles of MAPPWD routes.

### Mid-Hudson Valley

**Bashakill WMA** (Orange and Sullivan Counties) has an accessible waterfowl hunting/wildlife observation blind and a 600-foot trail from the western parking area on Haven Road. Waterfowl hunting at Bashakill WMA requires an area-specific permit. Contact the Region 3 office at 845-256-3098 or [wildlife.r3@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife.r3@dec.ny.gov).

**Stewart State Forest** (Orange County) has an accessible boardwalk and parking lot on Great Swamp Road. There are also over 15 miles of MAPPWD routes. Special arrangements must be made to obtain combinations for entry at selected gates.



Accessible path and waterfowl hunting blind at Tonawanda WMA.

## Permits for Hunters with Disabilities

Eligible hunters with a physical disability can get a permit to use a modified crossbow or longbow and to hunt from a motorized vehicle. All permits require verification of a qualifying disability from a licensed physician. More information, including applications, is available at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/30419.html> or through the Special Licenses Unit (518-402-8985 or [speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov](mailto:speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov)).

**Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit** authorizes hunting with a firearm from a motorized vehicle with the motor turned off and completely off the highway right-of-way, with its motor turned off.

**Modified Longbow Authorization** allows hunting with a legal bow equipped with a mechanical device to aid in the drawing, holding, and releasing of the bowstring.

**Modified Crossbow Permit** authorizes hunting using a modified crossbow and use of a crossbow equipped with a breath-tube apparatus to release the bowstring.

**Preference for Deer Management Permits and reduced fees for hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses** are available to resident military veterans with a service-related disability of 40% or more. Hunters need to provide a letter from the Veteran's Administration. Visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6097.html>.



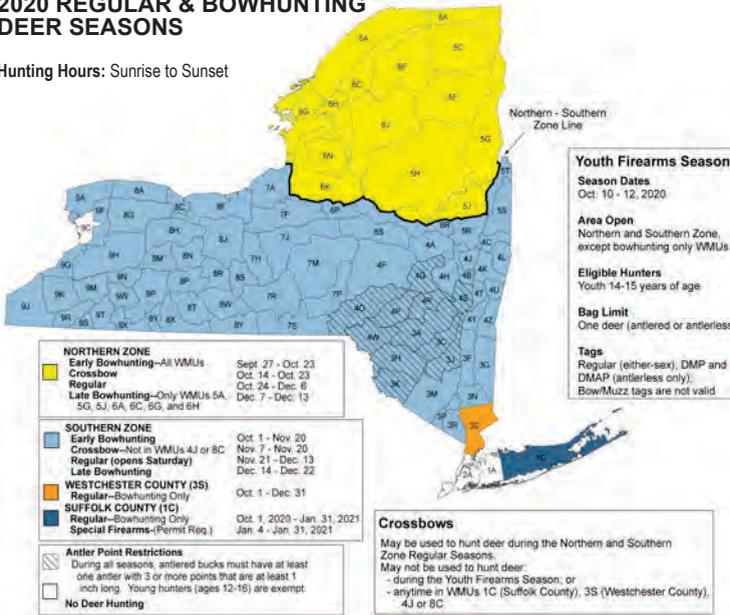
Remember to Report Your Game Harvest

HuntFishNY Mobile App \* 1-866-426-3778 \* www.dec.ny.gov

Most regulations are in effect September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021

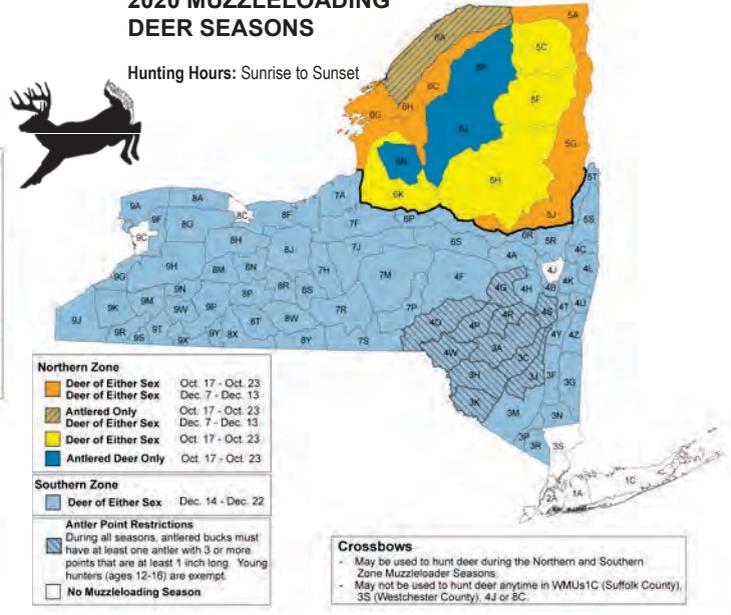
2020 REGULAR & BOWHUNTING DEER SEASONS

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



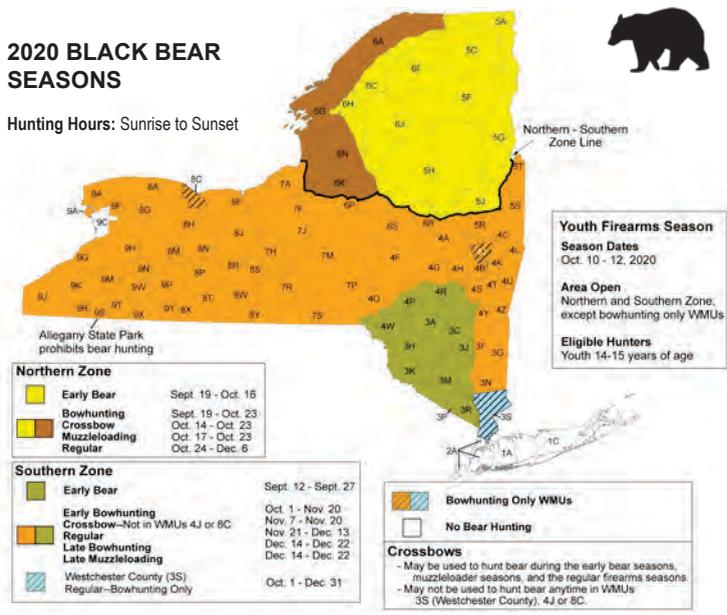
2020 MUZZLELOADING DEER SEASONS

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



2020 BLACK BEAR SEASONS

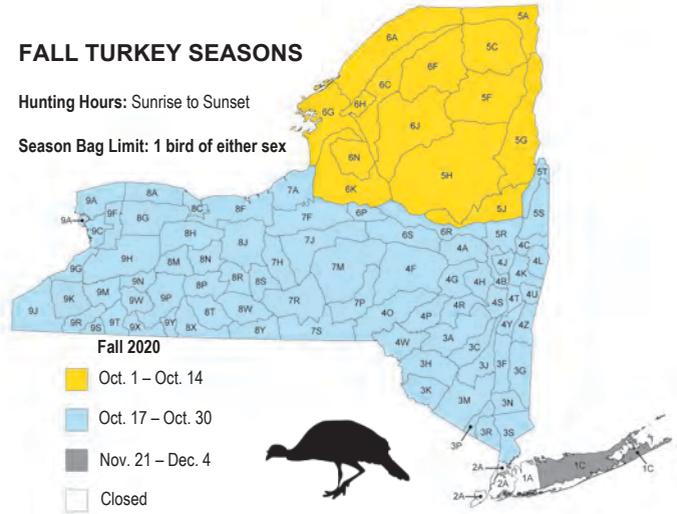
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



FALL TURKEY SEASONS

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

Season Bag Limit: 1 bird of either sex



SPRING TURKEY SEASON (no map)

Hunting Hours: One half - hour before sunrise to noon

Area Open: All of upstate New York north of the Bronx-Westchester County boundary

Season Dates: May 1 - May 31

Season Bag Limits: Two bearded turkeys (one bird per day)

SPRING YOUTH HUNT

Season Dates: April 24 - 25, 2021

Area Open: Same as regular spring season Plus Suffolk County (WMU 1C)

Eligible hunters: Youth 12 - 15 years of age

How To Properly Fill Out Your Carcass Tag and Report Your Harvest

Instructions for filling out a carcass tag. Includes a sample tag form with fields for date, location, biological information, and harvest details. A diagram shows how to flip the tag over and use a pen to fill it out. A list of steps: 1. Fill in the date, location, biological and end season information on the front of your tag. 2. Mark or cut out month and day of kill AND sign the back of your tag. 3. Report your harvest! See details below.

Reporting Your Game Harvest

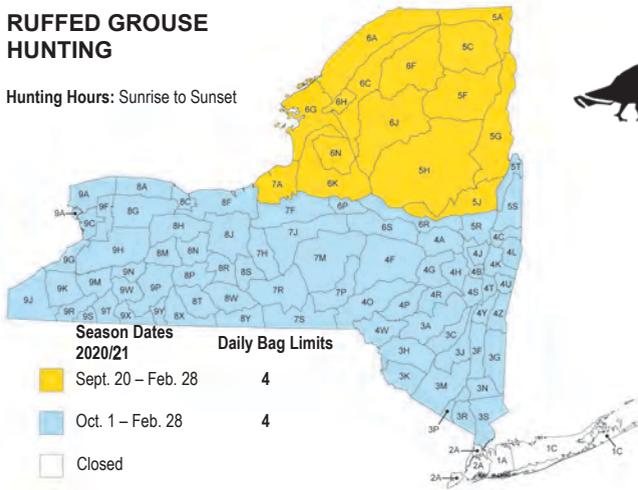
- Deer, Bear and Turkey harvests must be reported within 7 days of take.
You can report your harvest by phone, online or through our new mobile app (see page 8 for details).
Reporting online and through the new mobile app is simple, fast and convenient!

Take It \* Tag It \* Report It

Contact information: 1-866-426-3778 or the HuntFishNY Mobile App www.dec.ny.gov

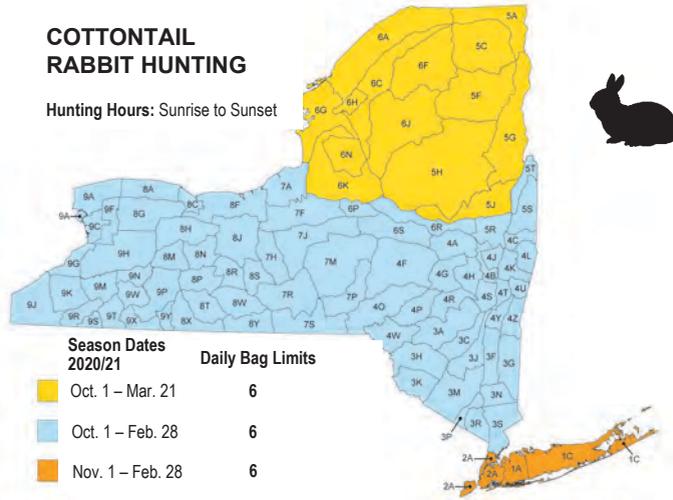
## RUFFED GROUSE HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



## COTTONTAIL RABBIT HUNTING

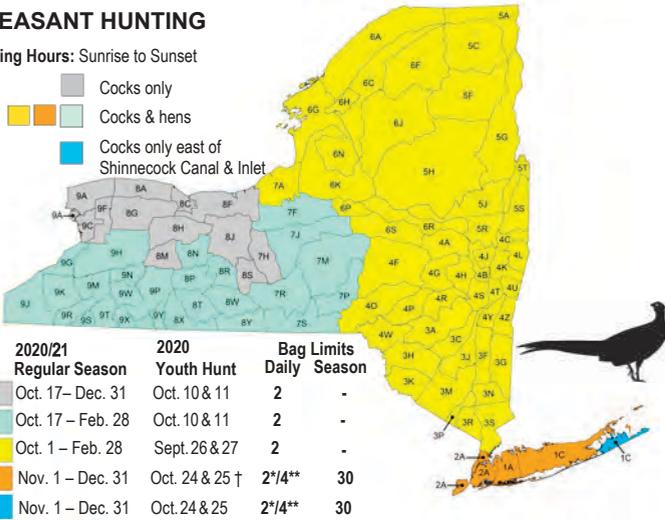
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



## PHEASANT HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

- Cocks only
- Cocks & hens
- Cocks only east of Shinnecock Canal & Inlet

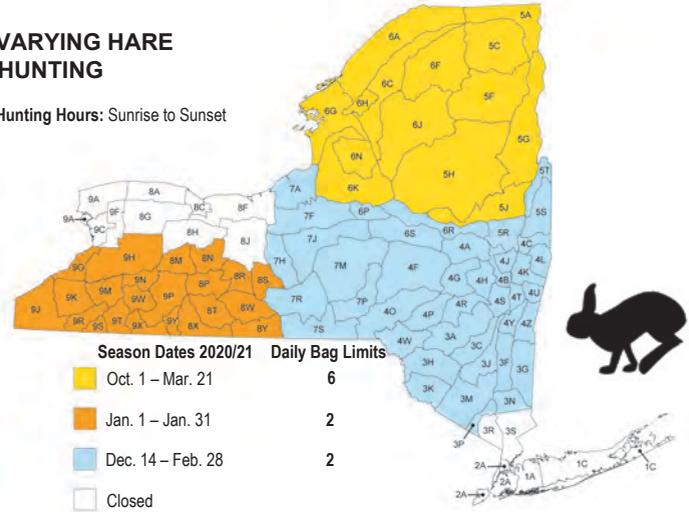


†No Youth Hunt in WMU 2A / \*Youth Hunt / \*\*Regular Hunt

Junior hunters (ages 12-15) must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter. Only the junior hunter may carry a firearm.

## VARYING HARE HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



## GRAY, BLACK & FOX SQUIRREL HUNTING

Daily bag limit of 6 total, regardless of species.

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



Long Island: Nov. 1 – Feb. 28

All other areas of New York: Sept. 1 – Feb. 28

Red squirrels are unprotected, and may be hunted at any time without limit.

## BOBWHITE QUAIL HUNTING

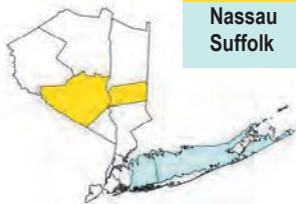
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



### Counties

Orange  
Putnam  
Nassau  
Suffolk

Season Dates 2020/21	Bag Limits Daily	Season
Oct. 1 – Feb. 28	4	10
Nov. 1 – Dec. 31	6	40
Closed		



## RACCOON, FOX, SKUNK, OPOSSUM, & WEASEL HUNTING

Long Island: Nov. 1 – Feb. 25

All other areas of New York: Oct. 25 – Feb. 15

There are no bag limits for these species. They may be hunted during the day or night, except weasel which may only be hunted from sunrise to sunset.

## COYOTE HUNTING

Statewide except Long Island and New York City:  
Oct. 1 – Mar. 28

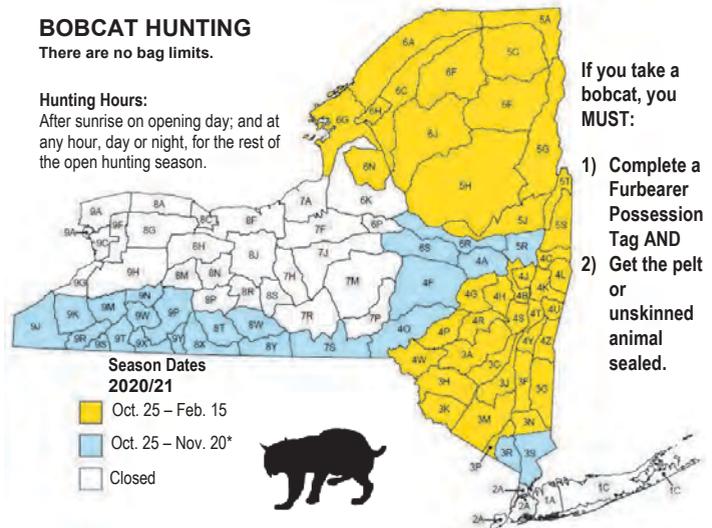


There are no bag limits for coyotes. They may be hunted during the day or night.

## BOBCAT HUNTING

There are no bag limits.

Hunting Hours:  
After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the open hunting season.



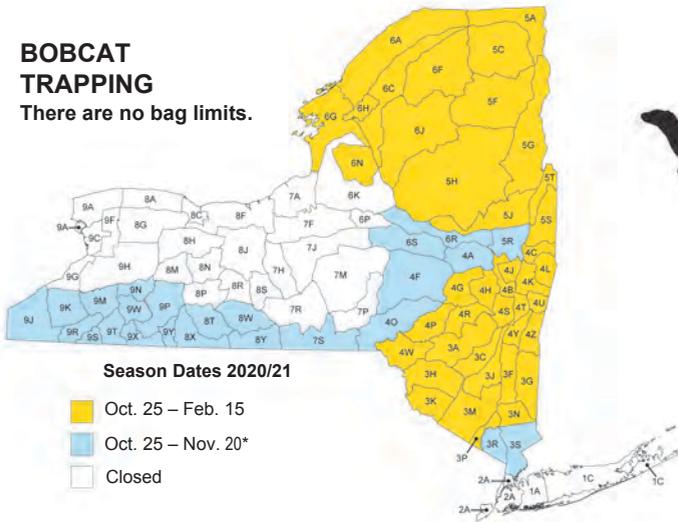
If you take a bobcat, you MUST:

- 1) Complete a Furbearer Possession Tag AND
- 2) Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

\*A free special harvest expansion area permit is no longer required. You must still have a valid hunting license.

## BOBCAT TRAPPING

There are no bag limits.



## RIVER OTTER TRAPPING

Season Dates 2020/21

- Nov. 1 – Apr. 7
- Nov. 10 – Feb. 28
- Closed

There are no bag limits.



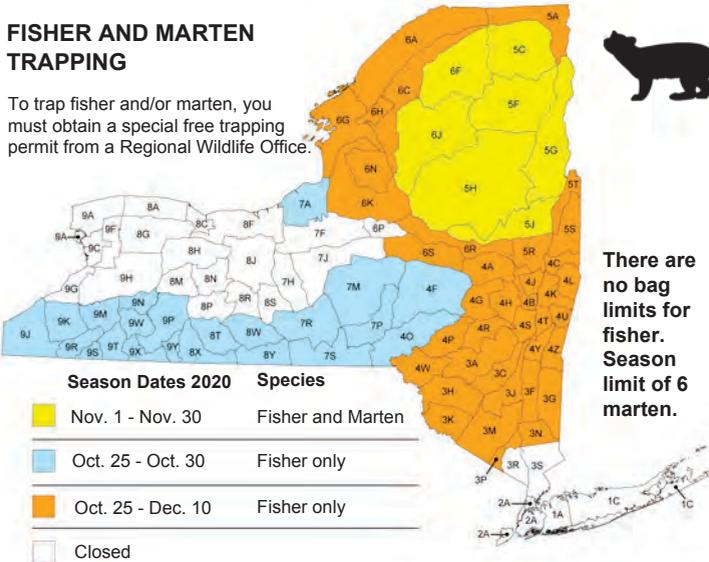
## Reminder

If you take a fisher, marten, bobcat, or river otter, YOU MUST

1. Complete a Furbearer Possession Tag AND
2. Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

## FISHER AND MARTEN TRAPPING

To trap fisher and/or marten, you must obtain a special free trapping permit from a Regional Wildlife Office.

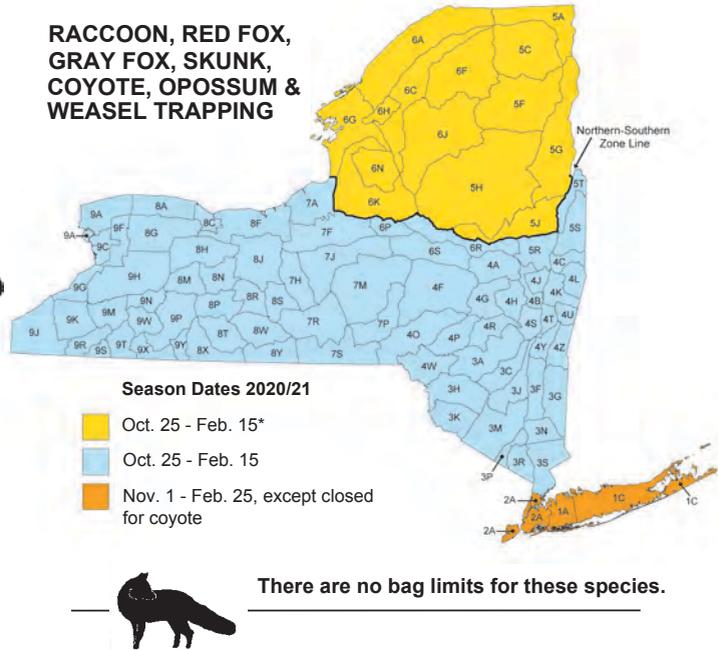


## RACCOON, RED FOX, GRAY FOX, SKUNK, COYOTE, OPOSSUM & WEASEL TRAPPING

Season Dates 2020/21

- Oct. 25 - Feb. 15\*
- Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
- Nov. 1 - Feb. 25, except closed for coyote

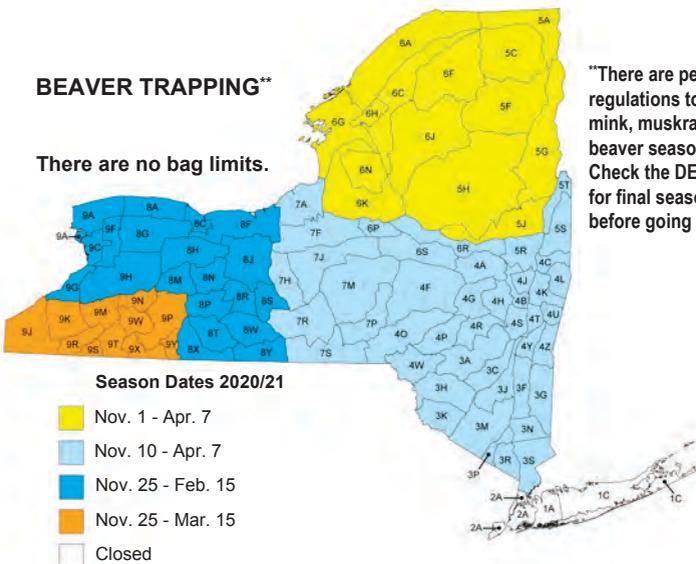
There are no bag limits for these species.



\* In the Northern Zone body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure if the fisher and marten season is closed.

## BEAVER TRAPPING\*\*

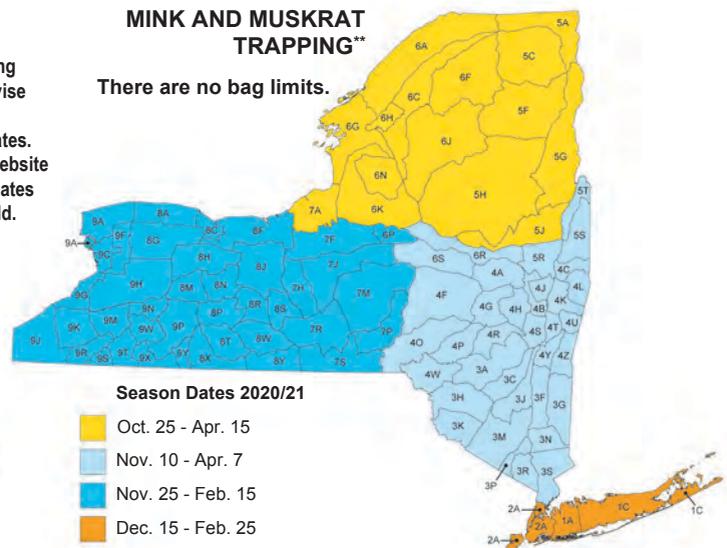
There are no bag limits.



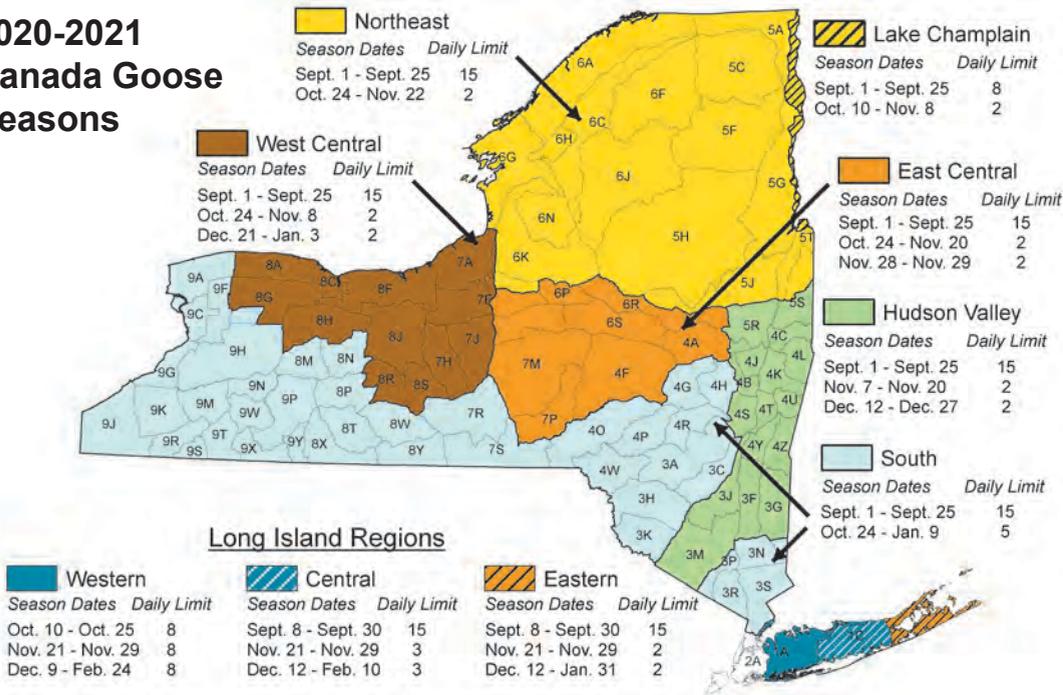
\*\*There are pending regulations to revise mink, muskrat, & beaver season dates. Check the DEC website for final season dates before going afield.

## MINK AND MUSKRAT TRAPPING\*\*

There are no bag limits.



# 2020-2021 Canada Goose Seasons

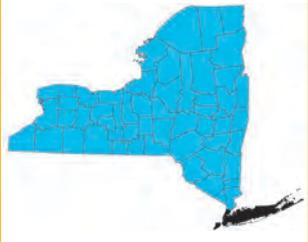
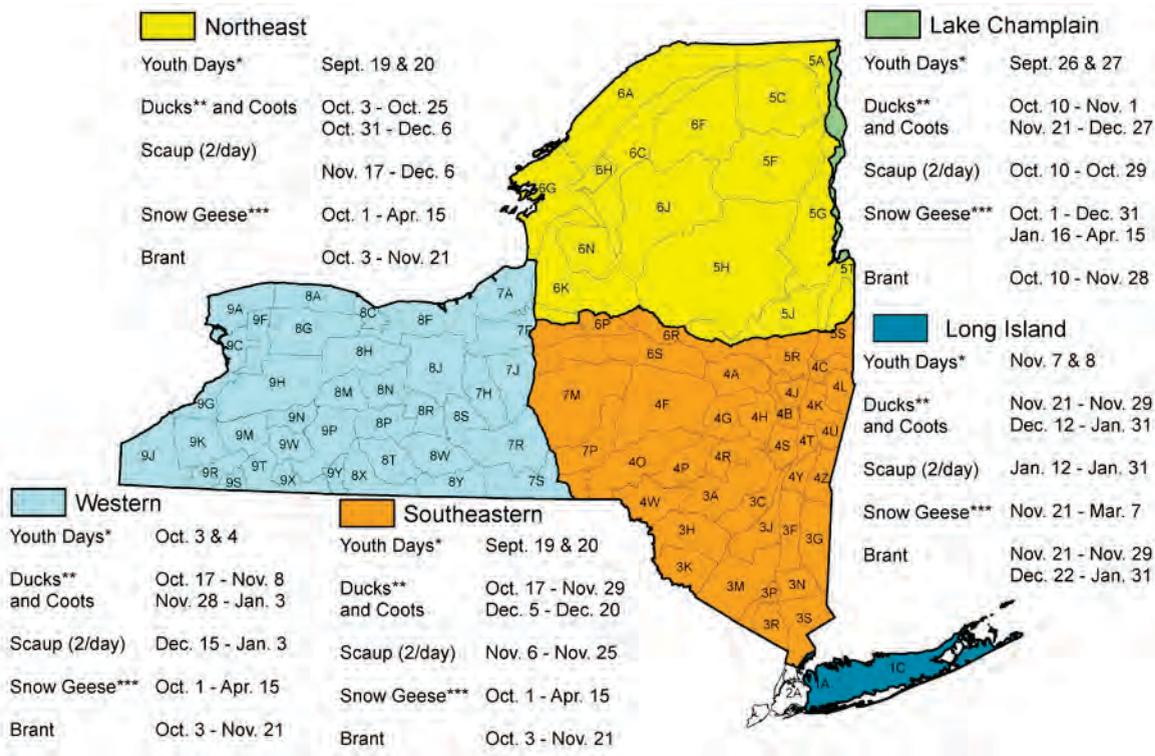


**WOODCOCK**  
 Oct. 1 - Nov. 14  
 Closed



**CROW**  
 Sept. 1 - Mar. 31  
 (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays only)  
 Closed

# 2020-2021 Waterfowl Seasons



**SNIPE, RAILS AND GALLINULES**  
 Sept. 1 - Nov. 9  
 Closed

A migratory duck stamp is not required to hunt these three groups of birds.  
 HIP registration is required for each of these species except crow. To register: [www.newyorkhip.org](http://www.newyorkhip.org) or 1-888-427-5447.

\* Youth hunters, 12 to 15 years of age, possessing a junior hunting license and HIP registration, may hunt ducks, mergansers, Canada geese, brant, gallinules, and coot on two (2) special days in each zone. Daily bag limits for all species are the same as those allowed during the regular hunting season for all species. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (including current HIP registration and duck stamp) adult hunter, but the adult hunter may only shoot migratory game birds if the respective hunting season is open for hunters of all ages.

\*\* Crippled sea ducks may be taken under power in the Special Sea Duck area, only. The Special Sea Duck Area is defined as all coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams in New York State seaward from the first upstream bridge.

\*\*\* Snow goose seasons include both the regular hunting season and the Conservation Order that runs from January 16 - April 15 in all zones (except Long Island).

## Bag Limits

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks <sup>a</sup>	6	18
Coot	15	45
Canada Geese	See map	* Three times the daily limit
Snow Geese <sup>b</sup>	25	No limit
Brant	2	6

a The daily limit of 6 ducks includes all mergansers and sea ducks (scoters, eiders and long-tailed ducks) and may include no harlequin ducks and no more than 2 mallards (1 of which may be a hen), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 1 scaup (2 scaup are allowed during the special 20 days specified above for each zone), 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, 4 scoters, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks or 2 hooded mergansers. For all other duck species found in New York, the daily limit is no more than 6.

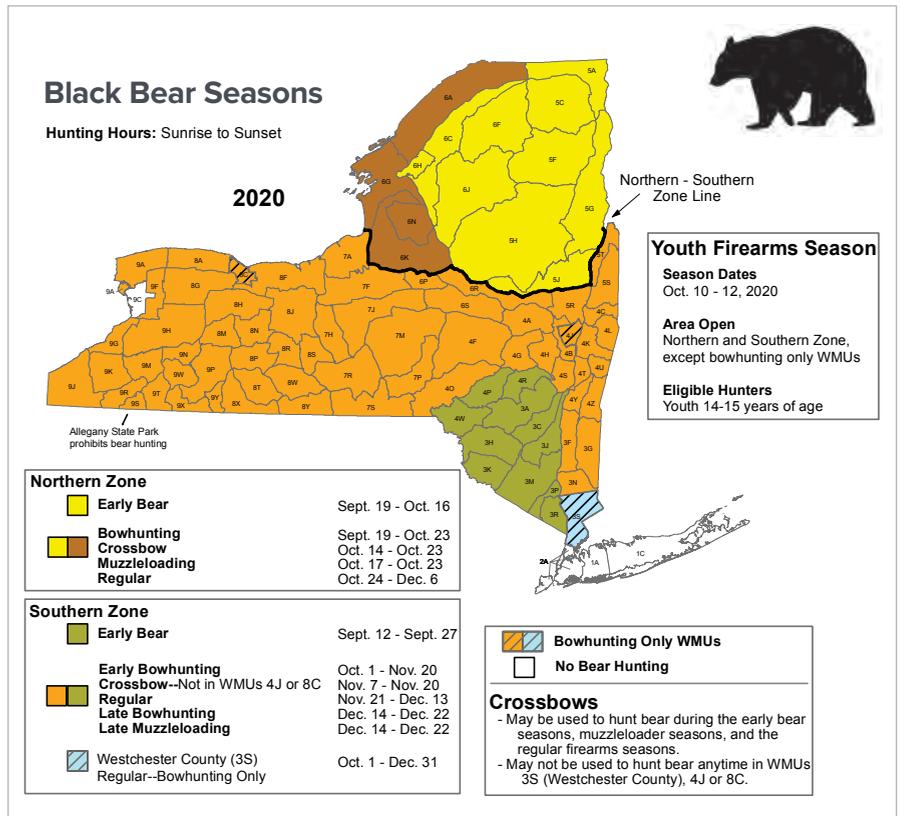
b Cackling geese and white-fronted geese may be taken as part of the Canada goose daily and possession limits. Snow geese and Ross' geese may be taken as part of the snow goose limits.

## Bear Hunting

- Resident and non-resident hunters require a bear carcass tag with their hunting license and may take one bear per year.
- In the Southern Zone, hunters may not shoot a cub or a bear that should be known to be a cub, shoot any bear from a group of bears, or shoot or take a bear from its den.
- Hunters may use and carry up to 1.5 fluid ounces of a liquid scent or lure, though such scent or lure may not be placed in a manner that it may be consumed as bait.
- Hunting bear with the aid of bait or dogs is prohibited.

## Bear age and weight data

Hunters who harvest bears in New York are asked to submit a premolar tooth or part of the lower jaw of the bear for DEC to determine the bear's age and to record the dressed weight of the bear (see [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/45598.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/45598.html) for more information). A collection packet including instructions and a postage-paid return envelope will be mailed to each hunter that reports taking a bear. There are many cooperating taxidermists in New York that can extract the requested premolar teeth, weigh bears, and submit the data to DEC on your behalf, so check with your taxidermist. Generally, taxidermists do not use teeth or the lower jaw when preparing mounts or rugs. All successful hunters are still required to report their bear harvest online, via the mobile app, or via the automated phone system.



\*See map on page 24 for information on legal implements during the early and regular bear seasons.

## Attention Bear Hunters and Taxidermists

Bear gallbladders and bile shall not be possessed or sold unless a valid bear tag (original or copy of bear carcass tag) is attached. A new law now also requires taxidermists to keep records of all bear gallbladders and bile received or sold.

## Know of Any Active Bear Dens?

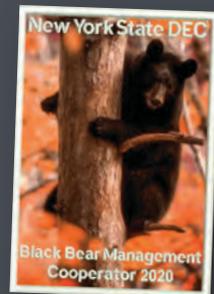
DEC wants to know about occupied dens. Please call the nearest DEC wildlife office. See page 6.

## New York State Bear Management Cooperator Program

The Bureau of Wildlife is requesting the assistance of successful black bear hunters in New York State.

Hunters who harvest a bear in New York are required to report their harvest through the DECALS telephone system at 1-866-426-3778 (1-866-GAMERPT), via the mobile app, or use the new online Harvest Reporting System at [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov). Successful bear hunters will be sent a tooth collection packet with premolar removal and submission instructions. Hunters may be contacted by a DEC wildlife biologist to examine your bear and extract a premolar tooth for aging.

Report your bear and return a bear tooth to receive a commemorative 2020 NYS Black Bear Cooperator Patch. Samples will be aged in the summer of 2021. Cooperating hunters will receive patches and letters indicating the age of their bear in early fall 2021.



## iSeeMammals

Help researchers study NY bears!

Collect data about presence and absence from your observations + hikes + trail cams

[iseemammals.org](http://iseemammals.org)



## "Living with New York Black Bears"

(Great Outdoors Multimedia 2007).

Take an inside look at the mysterious world of black bears and learn some secrets to sharing the landscape with bears. This video will explore the history of black bears, the challenges that face New York black bear biologists, and how landowners can responsibly and safely share their neighborhood with bears.

Available for viewing or loan from your local library or local DEC Regional Wildlife Office.



# Small Game Hunting

Small game includes upland and migratory game birds, small game mammals, certain furbearers, and reptiles and amphibians.

Please read general hunting regulations first on page 14.

## General Regulations

- You may not use a rifle or handgun to hunt pheasant or migratory game birds. See page 48 for more information on turkeys.
- See pages 51–52 for additional information on migratory game birds.
- Air guns (see page 14) may be used to hunt squirrels, rabbits, hares, ruffed grouse, furbearers that may be hunted (e.g., raccoons and coyotes) and unprotected species (see page 15). Air guns may not be used to hunt waterfowl, pheasant, wild turkey, or big game.
- Crossbows may not be used to take waterfowl or other migratory game birds. Crossbows may not be possessed afield in the Northern Zone when hunting small game (except coyotes) with the aid of a dog or when accompanied by a dog. Crossbows may be used to take any other small game or upland game birds during their respective open seasons except in Westchester and Suffolk counties.
- In Wildlife Management Unit 2A, hunting is permitted by falconry only.

## Reptiles and Amphibians

**Frogs**—“Frogs” are defined as eastern spadefoot toad, eastern American toad, Fowler’s toad, northern cricket frog, northern gray treefrog,

northern spring peeper, western chorus frog, bullfrog, green frog, mink frog, wood frog, northern leopard frog, southern leopard frog, and pickerel frog.

Reptile and Amphibian Hunting Seasons	
Frogs	
Open Season	June 15–Sept. 30
Open Area	All wildlife management units except that (1) leopard frogs shall not be taken in Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1C, or 2A; and (2) northern cricket frogs and eastern spadefoot toads shall not be taken in any area of the state.
Size Limit	None
Daily Bag	None
Season Bag	None
Hunting Hours	Any time of the day or night, except that no person shall use a gun to take frogs when hunting at night (sunset to sunrise).
Snapping Turtles	
Open Season	July 15–Sept. 30
Open Area	Statewide
Size Limit	The upper shell (carapace) must be 12 inches or longer, measured in a straight line.
Daily Bag	5
Season Bag	30
Hunting Hours	Any time of the day or night

A fishing or hunting license is required to take frogs with a spear, club, hook, or by hand. A hunting license is required to take frogs with a gun, bow or crossbow.

**Snakes, Lizards, and Salamanders**—You may not harvest, take, or possess any native snakes, lizards, or salamanders at any time.

**Turtles**—The only turtle species for which there is an open hunting season is the snapping turtle. You may not harvest, take, or possess any other turtle species at any time.

The final diamondback terrapin season was April 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018, with licenses expiring June 4, 2018. **You may no longer take or possess diamondback terrapins.**

**Snapping turtles**—A hunting license is required to take snapping turtles. The only legal implement for taking snapping turtles is a gun, bow or crossbow.

If you choose to eat snapping turtles, you should carefully trim all fat and discard fat, liver and eggs prior to cooking to reduce exposure to contaminants. For information on these health advisories, call 1-800-458-1158 or visit the website [http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health\\_advisories/](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/)

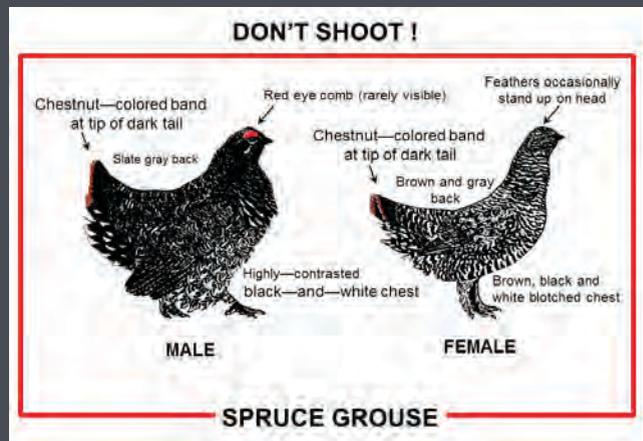
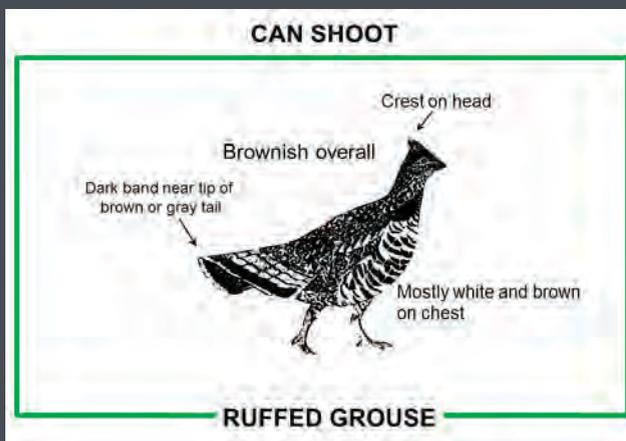
## Falconry Seasons

To hunt small game species with trained raptors, you must possess a Falconry License and a hunting license. Licensed falconers may take

## Spruce Grouse vs. Ruffed Grouse

Male spruce grouse are very distinctive (mostly black with white markings and a red comb over each eye), but female spruce grouse are similar in color to ruffed grouse. By knowing the differences, hunters can avoid accidentally shooting spruce grouse. Loss of a female spruce grouse could be a significant setback for a small local population.

In New York State, the spruce grouse is an endangered species and not legal to hunt. Spruce grouse exist in lowland conifer forests in the Adirondacks. Although ruffed grouse occur in upland hardwoods statewide, during the fall and winter ruffed grouse may be found in spruce grouse habitat. Small game hunters in the Adirondack region must learn to distinguish between these species so that spruce grouse are not shot by mistake.



small game from October 1 through March 31 in any area of the state open to hunting these species EXCEPT:

- Waterfowl may be taken only during the regular firearm hunting season or during a specific period outside of the firearms seasons as specified by DEC.
- Common crow may only be taken during the open firearms season.
- A licensed falconer may take both male and female pheasants anywhere in the state when hunting under a Falconry License.

For more information on falconry, contact the DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752 or call 518-402-8985.

## Possession and Release of Game Birds

It is illegal to possess or release migratory game birds and upland game birds without the proper license(s) from DEC. Before you take possession of any captive-reared or wild game birds, contact the DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752 or call 518-402-8985 or e-mail [speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov](mailto:speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov).

## Use of Hunting Dogs

Dogs may be used to hunt small game, except:

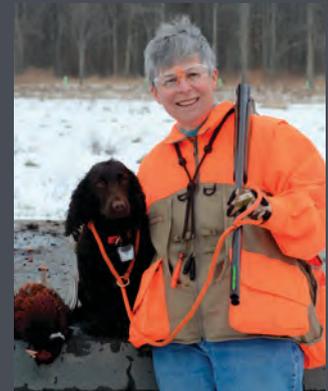
- You may not use dogs to hunt wild turkey in the spring.
- In the Northern Zone, if you are hunting with a dog, or accompanied by a dog, you may not possess a rifle larger than .22-caliber rimfire or possess a shotgun loaded with slug, ball or buckshot unless you are coyote hunting with a dog. In the Northern Zone, crossbows may not be possessed afield when hunting small game (except coyotes) with the aid of a dog or when accompanied by a dog.

## Training

You may train dogs on raccoon, fox, coyote, and bobcat from July 1 through April 15. You may train dogs on other small game only from August 15 through April 15. You may train dogs at any time on lands you own, lease, or have written permission to use, if you are not training on wild game. You may only use blank ammunition when training dogs, except during an open season.

## Control

Hunting dogs should remain under control of the hunter or trainer, especially on lands inhabited by deer. Do not allow your dogs to pursue game on any posted land without the landowner's permission. Do not shoot dogs; report stray dogs to a local Environmental Conservation Officer or your local animal control officer.



Jean-Marie Tate with her English Cocker Spaniel in Tonawanda, NY.

## Hunters: You Can Help Combat the Illegal Wildlife Trade

One of the biggest threats to New York's turtles is illegal collection. What to look for: people with bags poking around wetlands and streams; unmarked traps in wetlands (a trap set for legitimate purposes will be clearly labeled); sheets of metal/plywood laid out on the ground to attract reptiles; cars with collection equipment like nets, containers, pillowcases visible inside; unattended backpacks/bags left in the woods along a trail or road. If you see or hear about suspicious behavior that may be connected to poaching call DEC Law Enforcement - 1-844-DEC-ECOS. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also has an anonymous tip line - 1-844-FWS-TIPS. For more visit: <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/lawEnforcement/report-wildlife-crimes.php>.





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# Small Game Hunting



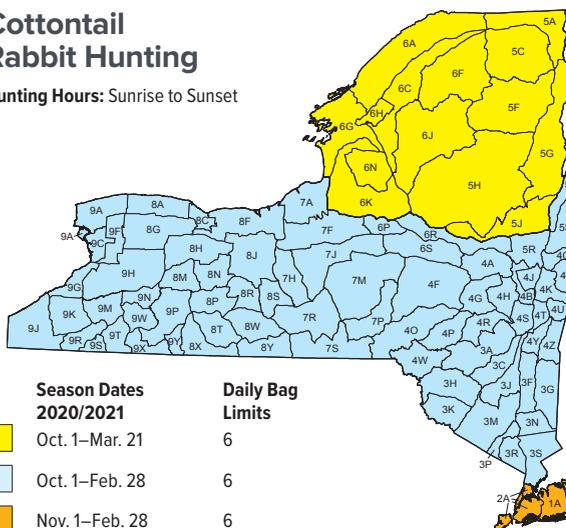
## Keep Your Hunting Dog Safe

- Keep your dog visible and identifiable! Blaze orange isn't just for you.
- Watch for hypothermia, especially if dogs are going to be in the water.
- If the weather is warm, watch your dog carefully for signs of heat exhaustion, including heavy panting, drooling, weakness and confusion.
- Provide only small meals or snacks prior to the hunt and throughout the day. Overfeeding can lead to bloat and gastric torsion.
- Make sure your dog has access to plenty of fresh water.
- Carry a dog first aid kit.
- Be sure to check your dog for ticks.

For more tips, check out:  
<https://www.hillspet.com/dog-care/resources/dog-hunting-safety>.

## Cottontail Rabbit Hunting

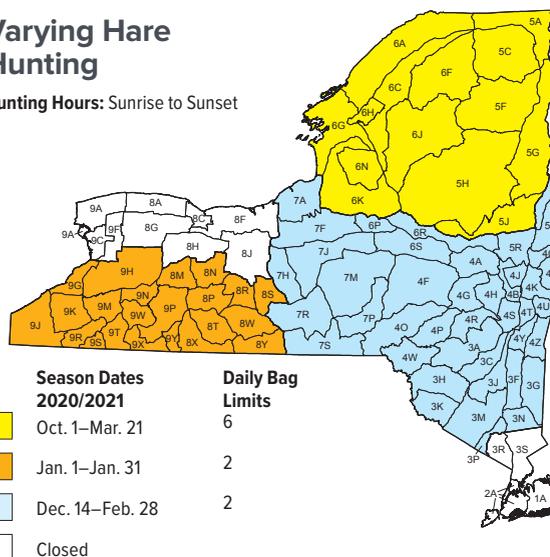
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



Season Dates 2020/2021	Daily Bag Limits
Oct. 1–Mar. 21	6
Oct. 1–Feb. 28	6
Nov. 1–Feb. 28	6

## Varying Hare Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



### Got Hare?

DEC wants to learn more about the distribution of hare. You can report your observations online at [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html) or e-mail us at [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov)! Thanks for your help!

Season Dates 2020/2021	Daily Bag Limits
Oct. 1–Mar. 21	6
Jan. 1–Jan. 31	2
Dec. 14–Feb. 28	2
Closed	

## Gray, Black & Fox Squirrel Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



Season Dates 2020/2021	Daily Bag Limits
Sept. 1–Feb. 28	6 total, regardless of species
Nov. 1–Feb. 28	6

# Best PHEASANTRY

– PHEASANT HUNTING –  
 – PHEASANT AND GAME BIRD SALES –  
 – GUN DOG TRAINING AND FACILITIES –

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN ORANGE COUNTY, NY

**145 BUSHVILLE ROAD,  
 WESTTOWN, NY 10998**

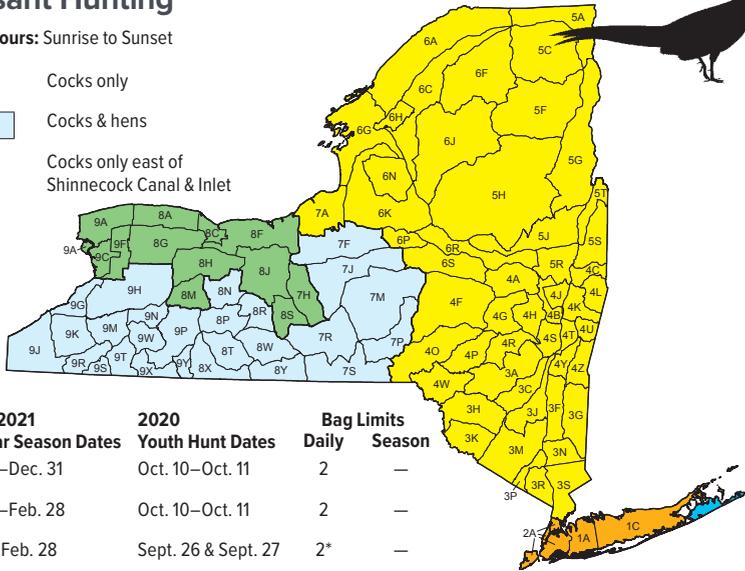
201.289.6906

[www.bestpheasantry.com](http://www.bestpheasantry.com)

## Pheasant Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

- Cocks only
- Cocks & hens
- Cocks only east of Shinnecock Canal & Inlet

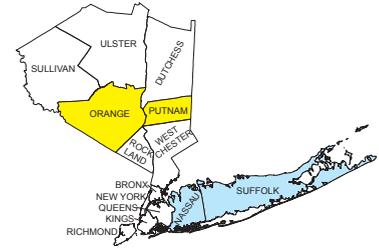


2020/2021 Regular Season Dates	2020 Youth Hunt Dates	Daily Bag Limits	Season Bag Limits
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 17–Dec. 31	Oct. 10–Oct. 11	2	—
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 17–Feb. 28	Oct. 10–Oct. 11	2	—
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 1–Feb. 28	Sept. 26 & Sept. 27	2*	—
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFA500; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Nov. 1–Dec. 31	Oct. 24–Oct. 25†	2*/4**	30
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #00B0F0; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Nov. 1–Dec. 31	Oct. 24–Oct. 25	2*/4**	30

\* Youth Hunt  
 \*\* Regular Season  
 † No youth hunt in WMU 2A

## Bobwhite Quail Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



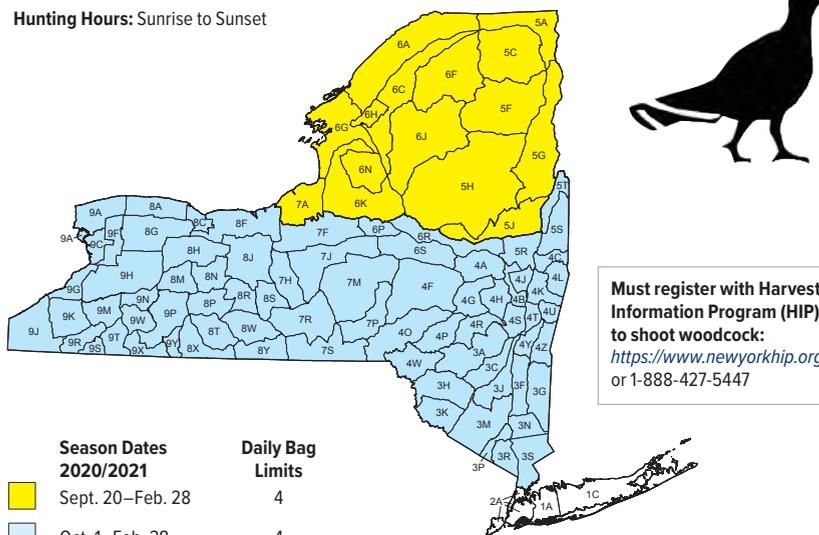
2020/2021 Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits	Season Bag Limits
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 1–Feb. 28	4	10
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Nov. 1–Dec. 31	6	40
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFFFFF; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Closed		

## Attention –

If you would like to raise and release pheasants to increase pheasant hunting opportunities, please e-mail us at [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov) and type "pheasants" in the subject line or call (607) 273-2768. For a list of hunting areas where pheasants are released, contact a DEC Regional Wildlife Office (on page 6) or visit our website at [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9349.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9349.html)

## Ruffed Grouse Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



2020/2021 Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Sept. 20–Feb. 28	4
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 1–Feb. 28	4
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFFFFF; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Closed	

Must register with Harvest Information Program (HIP) to shoot woodcock:  
<https://www.newyorkhip.org/>  
 or 1-888-427-5447

## Grouse Hunters Needed!



*Easy as 1-2-3!*

- 1 Collect 1 central tail feather
- 2 Pluck 2-5 rump feathers
- 3 Collect outer 3 wing feathers

DEC is embarking on a study of ruffed grouse age and sex composition. You can help by sending a sample of rump, wing, and tail feathers from all NY harvested ruffed grouse.

To request more information and supplies, please call 518-402-8929 or email [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov).

# Turkey Hunting

## General Regulations

- You may buy only one turkey permit per year.
- If you have filled your bag limit, you may call turkeys for another hunter, but you may not carry a bow, crossbow, or firearm. You may call turkeys to aid another hunter only if you are licensed to hunt wild turkey in New York and have a valid turkey permit.
- If you have taken a turkey that is unfit for consumption, authorized DEC staff may issue a special permit to take another. You will have to surrender the carcass. Call your wildlife or law enforcement office (see page 6).

## Turkey Hunters Needed for Grouse Survey

DEC is seeking spring turkey hunters to participate in a survey to help monitor grouse populations.

For more information:

- E-mail us at [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov) and type "Grouse Drumming Survey" in the subject line, or
- Call 518-402-8883, or
- Visit [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) and search for "drumming survey."

## Manner of Taking

- You must carry your hunting license and turkey permit while you hunt.
- You may hunt with a bow or crossbow; however, crossbows may not be used to take wild turkeys in Westchester or Suffolk counties.
- You may hunt with a shotgun or handgun only when using shot no larger than #2 and no smaller than #8.
- You may not take a turkey with a rifle or air gun, or with a handgun firing a bullet.
- You may use a muzzleloading shotgun.
- You may not hunt with a dog during the spring season. You may hunt with a dog during the fall season.
- You may not use bait to hunt turkey.
- You may not use an electronic calling or amplifying device to locate or hunt turkeys during the open season.
- You may use decoys. You may not use a live decoy when turkey hunting.
- A scope of any type is allowed.

## Tagging, Possession and Reporting

- Immediately after taking a wild turkey, you must fill out the appropriate carcass tag in ink, mark or cut out the date and month of kill, sign the back, and attach it to the carcass.
- The carcass tag must stay attached to the turkey carcass until it is prepared for eating.
- You may give your turkey to another person.
- You must attach a tag with the following information to the turkey carcass:
  - » Your name
  - » Your address
  - » Your hunting license number
  - » Turkey permit carcass tag number
  - » The recipient's name
  - » The recipient's address
- You must report your harvest within 7 days via phone (1-866-GAMERPT), online ([www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)) or through our HuntFishNY mobile app (see page 8).

## Reward

Protect wild turkeys against illegal hunting. Their future depends on you!

The National Wild Turkey Federation is offering a \$200 reward to anyone giving information and testimony leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone illegally hunting or killing a wild turkey in New York State.

1-844-DEC-ECOS

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## Fall Turkey Season

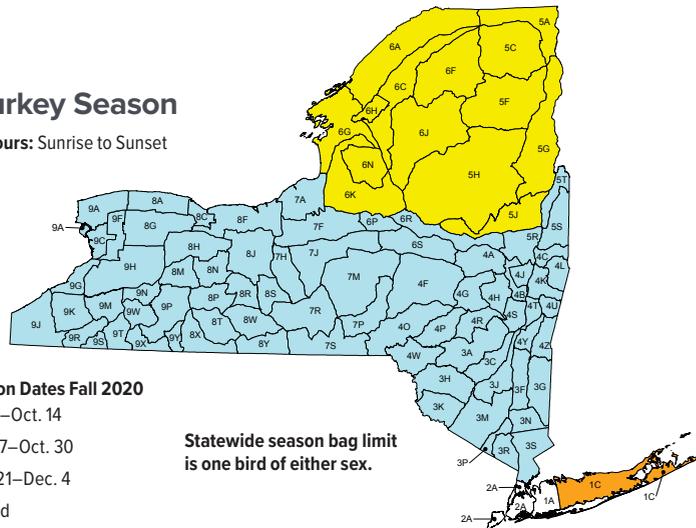
- You may take a bird of either sex.
- There is one carcass tag for the fall season and it may be used in any fall turkey hunting zone. Immediately after taking a turkey, you must fill out the carcass tag in ink and attach it to the bird.
- **If you take a turkey, save one of its legs.** You will receive instructions about what to do with the leg when you report your harvest. The legs are used for age and sex information.

## Spring Turkey Season

- In the spring, you may take two bearded birds. You may only take one bird per day.
- Fill out the carcass tag and attach it to the bird.
- You do not need to save and send in turkey legs in the spring. You do need to take careful spur, beard, and weight measurements for harvest reporting.
  1. Spur measurements: Spurs should be measured from the tip of the spur to the base of the spur, where it emerges from the scaly part of the leg. Measure to the nearest ¼ inch. Do not measure to the forward edge of the leg, only to the base of the spur.
  2. Beard measurements: Beards should be measured from the tip of the beard to the base, where it emerges from the skin. Put the end of your ruler against the base of the beard and extend the beard along the body of the ruler. Measure to the nearest ¼ inch.
  3. Record the weight of the turkey to the nearest pound.

## Fall Turkey Season

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



## Spring Turkey Season (no map)

### Hunting Hours

One half-hour before sunrise to noon

### Area Open

All of upstate New York north of the Bronx-Westchester County boundary

### Season Dates

May 1–May 31

### Season Bag Limits

Two bearded turkeys (**one bird per day**)

## Spring Youth Hunt

### Season Dates

April 24–25, 2021

### Area Open

Same as regular spring season plus Suffolk County (WMU 1C)

### Eligible Hunters

Youth 12–15 years of age

### Bag Limit

One bearded turkey

## Turkey Hunting Tips

Successful turkey hunters sit and call.

Don't wear red, white, blue or black.

Most turkey hunting injuries happen when one hunter stalks another hunter.

### DON'T TRY TO STALK TURKEY!

Assume anything that sounds like a turkey is a human (calls, footsteps).

If you see another hunter:

- Don't move, wave or nod.
- Don't make turkey or animal sounds.
- Do speak up clearly, saying "STOP."

If you see a turkey:

Be 100% sure of your target and beyond. To prevent another hunter from mistaking you for a gobbler, avoid using a turkey "reaper fan".



Hunter Jennifer Kailbourne after a successful turkey hunt.

## NYS 4-H Shooting Sports



Cornell Cooperative Extension  
50 West High Street  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
518-885-8995

4-H Shooting Sports is a statewide youth development program focusing on the safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment. Six disciplines are offered:

### Archery, Muzzleloading, Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun & Hunting

All disciplines are taught by certified instructors. Youth gain knowledge and understanding while developing valuable vocational and life-long recreational skills. Contact Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension or visit NYS 4-H Shooting Sports on the web for more information.

<http://www.NYS4HShootingSports.org>

# Turkey Hunting

## Spring Youth Hunt

Eligible hunters are 12–15 years of age and hold a Junior Hunting License and a Turkey Permit.

All youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult, as required by law for a Junior Hunting License (see pages 36 and 37).

The accompanying adult must have a current hunting license and Turkey Permit. He/she may assist the youth hunter (including calling), but may not carry a firearm, crossbow or bow, or kill or attempt to kill a wild turkey during the youth hunt. Crossbows may only be used by licensees who are 14 years of age or older.

The bag limit for the youth hunt is one bearded bird. This bird becomes part of the youth's regular season bag limit of two bearded birds. A second bird may be taken beginning May 1.

All other wild turkey hunting regulations remain in effect.



Lori Suave, her daughter Alexis, and her daughter's friend Jessica.

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## BE TICK SAFE!

Ticks can spread disease, but not all bites will make you sick. Deer ticks may carry Lyme disease, the most common tick-borne disease in New York.



Deer Ticks Actual Size

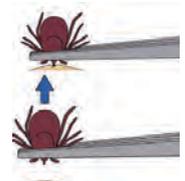


## QUESTIONS?

- Contact the NYS Department of Health or your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of fever, rash, body aches or fatigue after a tick bite.
- See [www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/)

## TICK REMOVAL

- Using tweezers, grab the tick as close to your skin as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure.
- Clean the bite area with soap and water, rubbing alcohol, or hydrogen peroxide.



**Check yourself, your children and pets for ticks daily.**

## What is a “Migratory Game Bird”?

Under state and federal laws and regulations, all of the following are considered migratory game birds in New York:

- All wild ducks, mergansers, geese, and brant (“waterfowl”)
- All coot, rails, and gallinules (moorhens)
- Woodcock and snipe

Crows are not considered migratory game birds under federal regulations, but most of New York’s migratory game bird hunting regulations apply to crows. You should assume they are the same except where differences are noted.

Mourning doves are considered migratory game birds under federal regulations, but they are not defined as such under New York State law so no hunting season has been established for this species.



## Help Monitor Woodcock Populations

Join our grouse and woodcock hunting log: [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9351.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9351.html) or call 518-402-8886.

## Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

Migratory game bird hunting regulations are set by the federal government in consultation with state agencies. A pocket reference for migratory game bird seasons is also available from regional DEC offices upon request or by emailing [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov).

## Consumption of Wild Waterfowl

The New York State Department of Health recommends that you remove the skin and fat of wild waterfowl before cooking, and eat no more than two meals containing waterfowl per month (with the exception of mergansers). Mergansers are fish-eating birds that tend to be the most heavily contaminated waterfowl and should not be eaten.

Recent data indicate that waterfowl residing in the Hudson River between Hudson Falls and Troy have higher PCB levels than waterfowl from other portions of the Hudson River and are likely to have higher PCB levels than waterfowl from other areas of the state. Because PCBs may have a greater effect on young children or an unborn child, it is particularly important for women under 50 and children under 15 to minimize their PCB exposure. For more information visit: <https://www.health.ny.gov>.

## Waterfowl Hunting in Populated Areas

Some excellent waterfowl hunting opportunities occur in shoreline areas of New York that are becoming more populated and developed. Waterfowl hunters have special privileges in New York, but please consider the possible concerns that nearby homeowners may have about noise, safety or invasion of privacy before you go afield. Avoiding such conflicts will help ensure that waterfowl hunting remains an accepted tradition in fast-developing shoreline areas. For more information, go to: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/94213.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/94213.html).

DEC, in cooperation with the South Shore

Waterfowlers Association (SSWA), has produced *A Pocket Reference for Police Officers and Waterfowl Hunters* that summarizes the state laws that pertain to waterfowl hunting in general and includes a “code of ethics” for waterfowl hunters to help ensure that waterfowl hunting remains a viable recreational opportunity in New York. For a copy, call (518) 402-8883 or email [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov).

## Snow Goose Conservation Order

Waterfowl hunters in New York will have a special opportunity to harvest snow geese in most areas of the state from January 16 through April 15, 2021. This additional opportunity is offered because of concerns about impacts that snow geese are having on natural ecosystems. For more information, including harvest regulations for 2020–21, go to: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/50514.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/50514.html).

## General Regulations

Following is a summary of state and federal rules that apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of all migratory game birds in New York. For more complete information, consult the specific federal (50 CFR Part 20) and state (6 NYCRR Part 2.30) regulations. You can find links to both of these at: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28175.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28175.html).

### Definitions

Migratory game birds are wild ducks, geese, brant, coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock and snipe. Migratory waterfowl are wild ducks, geese, brant and coot.

### License requirements

All migratory game bird hunters must carry a valid New York State hunting license, except for persons not required to have a hunting license. All migratory game bird hunters in New York must also register annually with New York’s Harvest Information Program (HIP) and carry proof of compliance whenever going afield. To register visit the website ([www.newyorkhip.org](http://www.newyorkhip.org)) or call toll-free 1-888-4ASKHIP (1-888-427-5447).

You will be given a confirmation number that you can record on the back of your hunting license as proof of participation in HIP. HIP registration is valid from August 1 - July 30 annually.

If you are 16 years or older and you hunt waterfowl, then you also need a federal migratory game bird hunting stamp (“duck stamp”). The stamp is not needed to hunt coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock, snipe, or crows.

### Migratory bird hunting stamp

Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must carry on his/her person a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (“duck stamp”) signed in ink across the face. Stamps do not have to be attached to your license. Duck stamps are not required to hunt coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock or snipe. Duck stamps are not required of minors 12 to 15 years of age hunting migratory waterfowl in New York State.

Federal duck stamps are sold at most post offices and many sporting goods stores and cost \$25.00 each. They may also be ordered by calling 1-800-852-4897 or visiting the website [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com). There is a shipping and handling fee for phone or Internet orders.

### Hunting hours

Woodcock may be taken from sunrise to sunset. All other migratory game birds may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset in all hunting zones. Canada geese may be taken until one-half hour after sunset during the September seasons, except on Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days, when hunting hours end at sunset. Snow geese may be taken until one-half hour after sunset during January 15–April 15 whenever all other waterfowl hunting seasons are closed.

### Non-toxic shot requirement

Non-toxic shot is required for hunting any migratory game bird, except woodcock, everywhere in New York State. Possession or use of shells loaded with shot other than steel, bismuth-tin, iron-tungsten, iron-tungsten-nickel, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel

# Migratory Game Birds

or other shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is strictly prohibited when hunting waterfowl, snipe, rails or gallinules.

## Duck hunting blinds

NYS Navigation Law Section 33-b requires that duck blinds placed in the waters of lakes within New York State be prominently marked with the owner's full name and address. All duck blinds placed in lakes must be removed no later than March 15 annually.

## Prohibitions on methods of take

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance. However, semi-automatic shotguns may not exceed six shells in the magazine and chamber, combined, at any time when waterfowl hunting.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun. This does not apply to the taking of snow geese in any area or zone, or taking of Canada geese during September, when all other waterfowl seasons are closed.
- From a sink box (a low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may, with a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation, take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord.
- From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased. Motorboats and sailboats under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power except in the Special Sea Duck Area described in the Hunting Seasons Table.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- Using recorded migratory bird calls or sounds or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls. This does not apply to the taking of snow geese in any area or zone, or taking of Canada geese in September, when all other waterfowl seasons are closed.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn,



Rowan and Keegan Usherwood in the duck blind.

wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement) or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation. Migratory game birds may be taken on or over standing crops, flooded harvested crop lands, grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown or grains found scattered solely as a result of the normal agricultural planting or harvesting.

## Wanton waste/possession of live birds

No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and retain it in his/her actual custody. Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be killed immediately and included in the daily bag limit.

## Field possession limit

No more than one daily bag or aggregate daily bag limit of migratory game birds may be possessed or transported, tagged or untagged, at or between the place of taking and:

- His or her automobile or principal means of land transportation
- His or her personal abode or temporary place of lodging
- Migratory bird preservation facility
- Post office or common-carrier facility

No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird and then transport the bird from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported.

## Possession, tagging, shipment and importation

The possession limit is the maximum number of migratory game birds that any person may possess in total in his/her automobile or principal means of land transportation, personal abode, or in his/her name at any migratory bird preservation facility, post office or common-carrier facility.

The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all waterfowl species except snow geese.

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than personal abode) or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, storage (including temporary storage) or taxidermy services, unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

- Hunter's name, address and signature
- Total number of birds involved, by species
- Dates such birds were killed

For more information on regulations pertaining to possession, tagging, shipment and importation of legally killed migratory game birds, consult the specific federal and state regulations cited above.

## Caution/dual violation

More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges and state wildlife management areas (WMAs) open to public hunting. Violation of New York State migratory bird hunting regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.



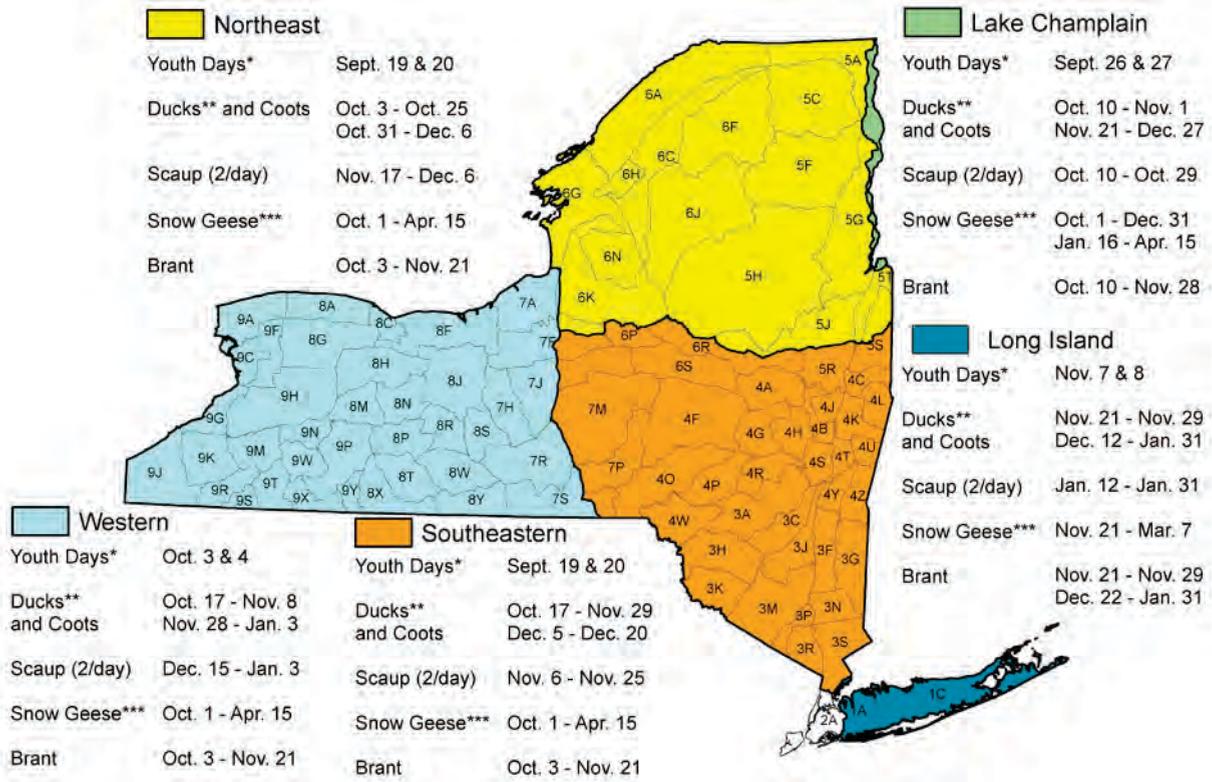
Report band recoveries online at:  
[WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV](http://WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV)

or send your information to:  
Bird Banding Lab  
12100 Beach Forest Road  
Laurel, MD 20708



# Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

## 2020–2021 Waterfowl Seasons



### Bag Limits

The daily bag limit is the maximum number of birds of each species that any person may take or possess in the field during any one day. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all migratory game birds except snow geese.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks <sup>a</sup>	6	18
Coot	15	45
Canada Geese	See map	* Three times the daily limit – see map page 50
Snow Geese <sup>b</sup>	25	No limit
Brant	2	6

- a The daily limit of 6 ducks includes all mergansers and sea ducks (scoters, eiders and long-tailed ducks) and may include no harlequin ducks and no more than 2 mallards (1 of which may be a hen), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 1 scaup (2 scaup are allowed during the 20 days specified above for each zone), 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, 4 scoters, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks or 2 hooded mergansers. For all other duck species found in New York, the daily limit is no more than 6.
- b Cackling geese and white-fronted geese may be taken as part of the Canada goose daily and possession limits. Snow geese and Ross' geese may be taken as part of the snow goose limits.

### Additional Veteran Hunting Days

When this guide was printed, regulations to provide additional hunting days for active duty military personnel and veterans were still pending. If approved, dates for each zone will be posted on the DEC website.

- \* Youth hunters, 12 to 15 years of age, possessing a junior hunting license and HIP registration, may hunt ducks, mergansers, Canada geese, brant, gallinules, and coot on two (2) special days in each zone. Daily bag limits for all species are the same as those allowed during the regular hunting season for all species. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (including current HIP registration and duck stamp) adult hunter, but the adult hunter may only shoot migratory game birds if the respective hunting season is open for hunters of all ages.
- \*\* Crippled sea ducks may be taken under power in the Special Sea Duck area, only. The Special Sea Duck Area is defined as the coastal waters of New York State and all waters of streams and rivers seaward from the first upstream bridge.
- \*\*\* Snow goose seasons include both the regular hunting season and the Conservation Order that runs from January 16 - April 15 in all zones (except Long Island).

### Attention Boaters!

Before you launch your boat or leave a site you are required to clean all visible plant and animal material from your boat, trailer, and associated equipment. Drain your boat's bilge, livewell, baitwell, and other water-holding compartments.

### Brianna's Law – New Boating Safety Law!

If you were born on or after:	You will need a boating safety certificate when operating a motorized vessel in:
January 1, 1993	2020
January 1, 1988	2022
January 1, 1983	2023
January 1, 1978	2024

All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, will need a boating safety certificate by January 1, 2025. For more information and to find courses: <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx>

# Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

## Woodcock, Crow, Snipe, Rail and Gallinule Hunting Season Dates, Bag Limits, and Regulations for 2020–2021

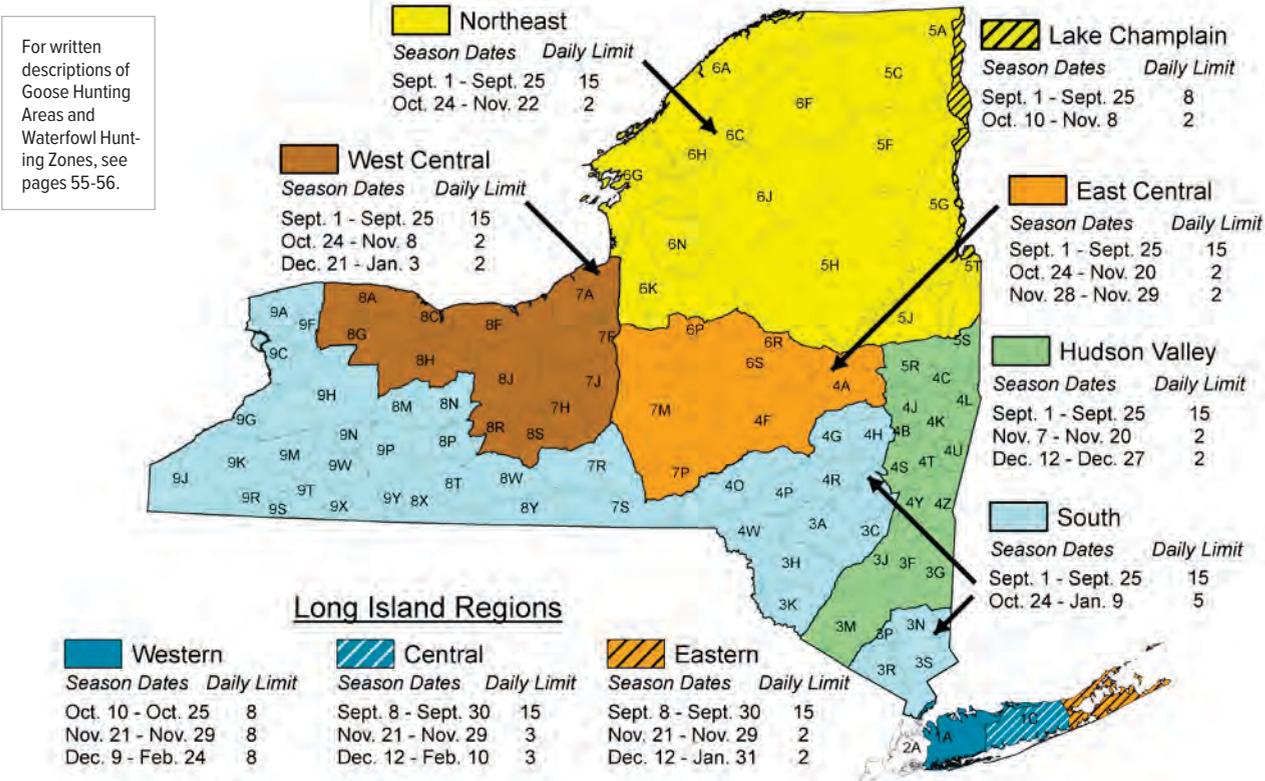
Regulations	Woodcock	Crow	Snipe	Virginia & Sora Rails	Gallinules	Clapper & King Rails
<b>Upstate New York</b> <sup>1,3</sup>	Oct. 1 – Nov. 14	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	Closed
<b>Long Island</b> <sup>2,3</sup>	Oct. 1 – Nov. 14	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
<b>Bag Limit</b>	3/day 9 in possession	None	8/day 24 in possession	8/day 24 in possession	8/day 24 in possession	n/a
<b>Shooting Hours</b>	Sunrise to Sunset	Sunrise to Sunset	1/2-Hr Before Sunrise to Sunset	1/2-Hr Before Sunrise to Sunset	1/2-Hr Before Sun- rise to Sunset	n/a
<b>Non-Toxic Shot</b>	NOT Required	NOT Required	Required	Required	Required	n/a
<b>HIP Registration</b>	Required	NOT Required	Required	Required	Required	n/a
<b>Other</b>	Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required	Hunting on Fri., Sat., Sun. & Mon. ONLY; Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required; Rifles and electronically amplified bird calls or sounds permitted	Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required	Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required	Fed Migratory Bird Stamp NOT Required	n/a

1 Upstate New York includes all of New York State north of the Bronx-Westchester County boundary

2 Long Island includes all of WMUs 1A and 1C (Nassau and Suffolk counties)

3 Hunting season closed in New York City for all species listed in table; New York City includes all of WMU 2A (Bronx, Kings, Queens, New York, and Richmond counties)

## 2020–2021 Canada Goose Seasons



# Waterfowl Hunting Zone Descriptions

## NY State Goose Hunting Areas

See road boundaries at: [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28510.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28510.html)

1. The Lake Champlain Goose Hunting Area is the same as the Lake Champlain Waterfowl Hunting Zone (see below).
2. The Northeast Goose Hunting Area is the same as the Northeastern Waterfowl Hunting Zone (see below).
3. The West Central Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 7A, 7H, 8A, 8C, 8F, 8H, 8J, 8R and 8S. The West Central Goose Hunting Area also includes: that part of WMU 6K lying west of a continuous line extending along the north shore of the Salmon River from US Route 11 to Interstate Route 81, then south along Route 81 to Route 49; those parts of WMUs 7F and 7J lying west of Route 81; and that part of WMU 8G lying north and east of a continuous line extending along the New York State Thruway from Crittenden-Murrays Corners Road (near the Erie-Genesee county line) to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along Route 98 to Route 20.
4. The East Central Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 4A, 4F, 6P, 6R, 6S, 7M and 7P. The East Central Goose Hunting Area also includes those parts of WMUs 7F and 7J lying south of Route 31 and east of Route 81.

5. The Hudson Valley Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 3F, 3J, 3M, 4B, 4C, 4J, 4K, 4L, 4S, 4T, 4U, 4Y, 4Z, 5R; that part of WMU 5S lying south of a continuous line extending east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Washington County Route 153, then east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary; and that part of WMU 3G lying in Dutchess County.
6. The South Goose Hunting Area consists of the following WMUs: 3A, 3C, 3H, 3K, 3N, 3P, 3R, 4G, 4H, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4W, 7R, 7S, 8M, 8N, 8P, 8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y, 9A, 9C, 9F, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9W, 9X and 9Y. The South Goose Hunting Area also includes: that part of WMU 8G lying south and west of a continuous line extending along the New York State Thruway from Crittenden-Murrays Corners Road (near the Erie-Genesee county line) to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along State Route 98 to State Route 20; that part of WMU 3G lying in Putnam County; and that part of WMU 3S lying north of Route 1-95.
7. The Western Long Island Goose Hunting Area is that area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95 and that area of Nassau and Suffolk counties lying west of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Sound Road (just east of Wading River

- Marsh); then south on Sound Road to North Country Road; then west on North Country Road to Randall Road; then south on Randall Road to Route 25A, then west on Route 25A to Sunken Meadow Parkway; then south on Sunken Meadow Parkway to the Sagtikos State Parkway; then south on the Sagtikos Parkway to the Robert Moses State Parkway; then south on the Robert Moses Parkway to its southernmost end; then due south to international waters.
8. The Central Long Island Goose Hunting Area is that area of Suffolk County lying between the Western and Eastern Long Island Goose Hunting areas, as defined above and below.
  9. The Eastern Long Island Goose Hunting Area is that area of Suffolk County lying east of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Roanoke Avenue in the Town of Riverhead, south on Roanoke Avenue (which becomes County Route 73) to State Route 25, west on Route 25 to Peconic Avenue, south on Peconic Avenue to County Route (CR) 104 (Riverleigh Avenue), south on CR 104 to CR 31 (Old Riverhead Road), south on CR 31 to Oak Street, south on Oak Street to Potunk Lane, then west on Stevens Lane, then south on Jessup Avenue (in Westhampton Beach) to Dune Road (CR 89), then due south to international waters.



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# Waterfowl Hunting Zone Descriptions

## Waterfowl Hunting Zones

**Western Zone** – That area west of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate Route 81 and then south along Interstate Route 81 to the New York-Pennsylvania boundary.

**Northeastern Zone** – That area north of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate Route 81, south along Interstate Route 81 to Route 31, east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along Route 28 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Route 153, east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

**Lake Champlain Zone** – That area east and north of a continuous line extending along Route 11 from the New York-Canada boundary south to Route 9B, south along Route 9B to Route 9, south along Route 9 to Route 22 south of Keeseville, south along Route 22 to the west shore of South Bay along and around the shoreline of South Bay to Route 22 on the east shore of South Bay, southeast along Route 22 to Route 4, northeast along Route 4 to the New York-Vermont boundary.

**Southeastern Zone** – That area east of Interstate Route 81 that is south of a continuous line extending from Interstate Route 81 east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along

Route 28 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Route 153, east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, and northwest of Interstate Route 95 in Westchester County.

**Long Island Zone** – That area consisting of Nassau and Suffolk counties and their tidal waters, and that area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95. (See map page 53).

**Special Sea Duck Area** – All coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams in New York State seaward from the first upstream bridge.

## Accessing Great Waterfowl Hunting in New York State

New York boasts a variety of waterfowl hunting opportunities on private lands, public lands, and public waterways. As a “pinch point” in the Atlantic Flyway, almost all species found in the flyway can be found or hunted in New York (33 species to be exact!). Hunters can experience duck and goose hunting in diverse habitats from tidal marshes on the south shore of Long Island, to small beaver ponds in the Adirondacks and Catskills, to large open waters of the Finger Lakes and Great Lakes. DEC divides the state into five hunting zones with independent season dates to maximize hunting opportunity that overlaps with waterfowl migration, weekends, and holidays. The result is that hunters can find an open waterfowl season somewhere in the state from September through April!

Although the many waterways across the state provide great hunting opportunities, goose hunters will typically need access to private lands where fields can be very productive hunting locations. Approaching landowners can be an intimidating experience, but keep in mind that Canada geese can damage agricultural plantings and hunting can be a useful management tool to reduce damage. As a result, many farmers and property owners are open to allowing hunting. Taking the time to scout and politely ask permission can greatly improve your odds of having a successful hunt.

Aside from field hunting opportunities, waterfowl hunters have the distinct advantage that many of the best hunting areas and waterways around the state are publicly owned. Hunters without access to private lands can concentrate on larger bodies of water such as Lake Ontario, Lake Champlain, Great South Bay, or the Finger Lakes in Central New York. If hunting from shore, hunters should be aware

that most shorelines above the mean low tide mark are private property and hunters may not hunt from or anchor on private property without permission from the landowner. On these larger bodies of water, housing or other developments often are near high quality waterfowl habitats and the State Legislature determined that special considerations were warranted. As a result, hunters pursuing waterfowl on public property or private property with the permission from the landowner may discharge their firearm over open water within 500 feet of a dwelling, provided there is not any dwelling, public structure, livestock, or person within 500 feet of the shooter in the direction they are shooting. When hunting ducks or geese that congregate on near-shore waters, it is safer for a hunter to shoot away from shore than to shoot toward shore from open water. DEC encourages hunters to be considerate of residents living along shorelines who may not be knowledgeable about duck hunting seasons and methods. Abusing this exemption from the 500' setback distance could result in areas being permanently closed to hunting.

If hunters do not have access to the necessary equipment to hunt larger bodies of water, there is an abundance of opportunity on DEC managed wetlands that can be accessed on foot and by canoe or kayak and with minimal equipment. On many Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), DEC manipulates water levels to maximize food availability for waterfowl and to provide migratory and breeding habitat for a variety of game and non-game species throughout the year. Places like Northern Montezuma, Tonawanda, Oak Orchard, Perch River, and Wilson Hill WMAs provide excellent viewing and hunting opportunities.

For a list of public properties with waterfowl hunting opportunities in each waterfowl hunting zone, visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/103606.html>

## Waterfowl Blinds for Hunters with Disabilities

Duck hunting is available for people who require easier access to hunting locations. DEC and cooperating state and federal partners have developed blinds on WMAs accessible for people of all abilities:

- » Region 1: Otis Pike Preserve
- » Region 4: Vosburgh Swamp WMA
- » Region 6: Upper and Lower Lakes WMA
- » Region 7: Hamlin Marsh WMA
- » Region 8: Northern Montezuma, Tonawanda, John White WMAs
- » Region 9: Spicer Creek WMA, Chautauqua Lake FWMA

For more information on hunting at these locations contact the regional wildlife office. To see the full list of accessible duck hunting blinds and other recreation opportunities visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/34038.html>

# SHOOTERS & HUNTERS: HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES.

**T**he target shooting and hunting community prides itself on being safe and responsible with firearms in all situations—from using them outdoors to storing them safely at home. Sometimes, however, unusual conditions such as extremely dry environments require an extra level of awareness and safety on the part of shooters.

Wildfires have many possible causes. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry, reminds all shooters that during dry and hot weather conditions their use of certain ammunition and targets could accidentally ignite a wildfire. NSSF reminds all target shooters and hunters, as well as other outdoor enthusiasts, to consider the potential consequences of their activities in fire-prone environments.

- **Make it a point to know the regulations and rules related to shooting in areas experiencing dry and hot conditions, whether on public or private land or at shooting ranges. Many national forests, for example, do not allow recreational shooting when fire restrictions are in effect.**
- **Consider the type of ammunition and targets you are using. Minimize the risk of fires by not using steel-jacketed ammunition, ammunition with steel-core components, tracer rounds or exploding targets in fire-prone areas.**
- **Remember that equipment, such as cars and ATVs, can have extremely hot exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, so park only in designated areas.**
- **Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials safely.**
- **Follow guidelines to extinguish campfires.**
- **Warn others of potential dangers and behaviors for starting wildfires.**
- **Report any wildfire you see to authorities.**
- **Spread this message to other target shooters, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.**



NSSF.ORG



# Furbearer Hunting



Precious Smith, after a successful fox hunt.

- You may use a call, including an electronic call.
  - Mink may only be hunted in the Southern Zone with a firearm not larger than .22 caliber during their open trapping season. Mink may not be hunted with a firearm in the Northern Zone.
  - Muskrat may only be hunted on Lake Champlain during the open trapping season with a firearm not larger than .22 caliber.
  - You may not hunt from any motor vehicle, including an ATV or snowmobile.
  - Except as noted above, you may hunt furbearers using any handgun, shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, bow, crossbow or air gun.
- If **YES**, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers during any open deer season.
  - If **NO**, you may only possess afield rimfire rifles .22-caliber or smaller, or centerfire rifles **LESS THAN** .22 caliber (.204, .17, etc.) during any open deer season. Once all deer seasons are closed, the restriction ends, except:
    - You may **NEVER** possess a rifle afield in Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk counties.
    - In the Northern Zone, it is illegal to carry a rifle larger than .22 caliber rimfire (or .22-caliber or larger centerfire rifles) at any time if accompanied by a dog, except when coyote hunting.

## Possession and Use of Rifles for Hunting Furbearers

- Is **any deer season open** in the location you wish to hunt (including archery, muzzleloading, regular, late and Focus Area)? (pg. 25)
  - If **NO**, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers.
  - If **YES**, can deer be hunted with rifles in that location during the regular season? (pg. 24)

## Hunting Furbearers at Night

- Spotlights, night vision, thermal and laser devices are permitted for furbearer hunting. They may be attached to the firearm. All laws pertaining to the use of a spotlight apply.
- Hunters should consult with local government officials for any laws that may prohibit the discharge of firearms at night.

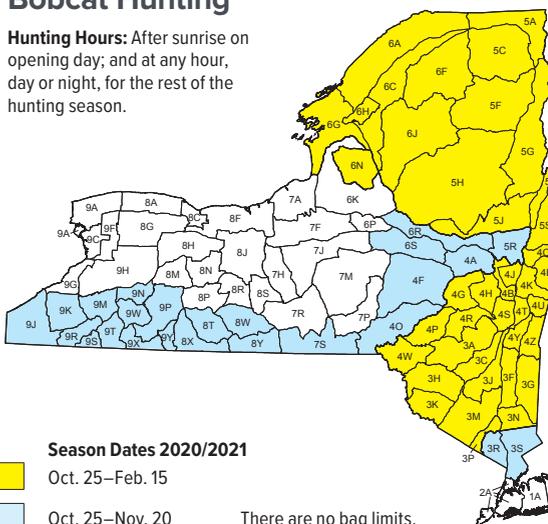
## General Regulations

To hunt furbearers, you must possess a resident or non-resident hunting license. A trapping license does not allow you to hunt furbearers. Furbearers may be hunted with a bow, crossbow or firearm as described below.

- You may hunt red and gray fox, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, skunk, weasel and opossum anywhere in the State.
- If you take a bobcat, it must be tagged and sealed.

## Bobcat Hunting

**Hunting Hours:** After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the hunting season.



- Season Dates 2020/2021**
- Yellow: Oct. 25–Feb. 15
  - Light Blue: Oct. 25–Nov. 20
  - White: Closed

There are no bag limits.

### If you take a bobcat, you must:

1. Complete a Furbearer Possession Tag **AND**
2. Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.



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## Weasel, Opossum, Skunk, Raccoon and Fox Hunting

**Long Island:** Nov. 1–Feb. 25  
**All other areas of New York:** Oct. 25–Feb. 15

There are no bag limits for these species. Hunting Hours: After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the hunting season.



## Coyote Hunting

**Statewide except Long Island and New York City:** Oct. 1–Mar. 28

There are no bag limits for coyotes. They may be hunted during the day or night.



## Definition of Trapping

To trap means to take, kill or capture wildlife with traps, deadfalls and other devices commonly used to take wildlife, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. It also includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking or checking traps or assisting another person with these activities. You do not need a hunting license to shoot a trapped animal.

## Other Definitions

- **Public Highway:** The traveled portion of a public highway. Culverts, drainage ditches, and the area under bridges are not considered the traveled portion of a public highway.
- **Carcass:** The body or parts thereof, meat, organs or viscera of an animal, including fish. Feathers (including feathers with attached skin or entire bird wings), hair (with or without skin or hide), and bones that include no attached meat, organs or viscera, are excluded from this definition.
- **Suspension:** This term applies to animals fully suspended in the air by means of the trap anchoring system (typically a chain, cable or wire). It does not apply to traps set in water or to traps that are directly and firmly attached to an elevated structure, such as a tree.
- **Restraining trap:** A device used to capture and restrain a mammal. These traps include leg-gripping traps ("foothold traps"), foot encapsulating traps, and cage or box traps.
- **Foot encapsulating trap:** A trap with the following mechanical attributes: The triggering and restraining mechanisms are enclosed within a housing; the triggering and restraining mechanisms are only accessible through a single opening when set; the opening does not exceed 2 inches in diameter; and the trap has a swivel-mounted anchoring system.
- **Cage or box trap:** A type of restraining trap that fully encloses a captured animal within wood, wire, plastic, or metal.

## Legal Traps

- You must put your name and address or your DEC customer identification number (see your hunting or trapping license) on all your traps.
- Foothold traps larger than 4" set on land must have a pan tension device and be covered when set.
- Teeth are not allowed on foothold traps.
- On land, foothold traps must be 5¾" or smaller (inside jaw spread). For information on how to correctly measure traps, see page 62.
- During beaver or otter season, foothold traps up to 7¼" are allowed if set under water.

Trappers, furbearer hunters, and members of the public who assist with DEC furbearer management activities are eligible to receive a special patch! You can receive a patch if you: voluntarily turn in an incidentally trapped animal; turn in a road-killed fisher, bobcat, marten, otter, or weasel; report a violation involving a furbearer species that results in a conviction; provide data in response to a DEC request or to assist with a DEC study; or promote trapping or furbearer hunting in NY. Carcasses are used for staff training, biological data, trapper education, and outreach programs. Contact your regional furbearer biologist (see page 64) for more information about getting a patch.



- When the beaver or otter season is closed, foothold traps set in water may not be larger than 5¾".
- A foothold trap larger than 7¼" is never legal to use.
- Body-gripping traps more than 7½" may never be used on land.
- Body-gripping traps more than 7½" may only be used in water during an open beaver or otter season.
- Snares may not be used for trapping.
- Box or cage traps are legal for all species.
- You may not use a cage trap that is designed to take more than one muskrat at a setting.

and must completely cover the carcass so that it is not visible from directly above.

## Land trapping

- You may not set a trap in such a manner that it causes a captured animal to be fully suspended in the air.
- In the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure when the fisher and/or marten seasons are closed.

## Water trapping

- You may set a trap in a permanent body of water only when the mink, muskrat, otter, or beaver season is open.
- You may not disturb a muskrat house or den.
- You may not set a trap on or within 5 feet of a muskrat house.

## Trapping Methods

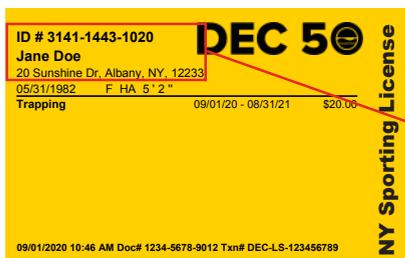
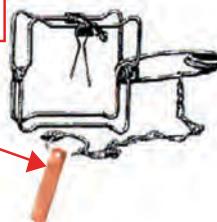
### Checking traps

- In the Southern Zone: You must check traps once in each 24-hour period.
- In the Northern Zone, follow these rules:
  - » **WMU 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J and 6N:** Visit once in each 48-hour period
  - » **WMU 5A, 6A, 6C, 6G, 6H and 6K:**
    - **Traps set in water during the open season for beaver, otter, mink and muskrat:** Visit once in each 48-hour period
    - **Body-gripping traps set on land:** Visit once in each 48-hour period
    - **Restraining traps:** Visit once in each 24-hour period

### Use of carcasses as bait

Any carcass, as defined above, used as bait and placed or used in conjunction with a foothold trap shall be completely covered at the time the trap is set or visited. Coverings shall include but not be limited to brush, branches, leaves, soil, snow, water, or enclosures constructed of wood, metal, wire, plastic or natural materials,

Place your name & address or Customer ID # on all your traps.



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# Furbearer Trapping

## Land or water trapping

- You may use any legal method to kill a trapped animal. You do not need a hunting license to use a firearm to kill a legally trapped animal.
- You may not set or stake a trap prior to 7:00 AM on opening day.
- You are not allowed to set a trap within 100 feet of a house, school, playground or church unless you have permission from the owner of the land where the trap is set.
- You may not set a trap on a public road. You are allowed to set a trap in a culvert or ditch unless the property is posted or the landowner does not allow trapping.

## Trapping near beaver dams and lodges

- You may not disturb a beaver lodge or beaver dam.
- You may not set a trap on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, den or house, measured at ice or water level, except under the following conditions:
  - » during an open otter season, traps of any legal size may be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, but not on or within 15 feet of a beaver den or house;
  - » during an open or closed otter season, any of the following traps may be set on or within 15 feet of a beaver dam, den, or house:
    - body-gripping trap that measures less than 5.5 inches;
    - foot-encapsulating trap
    - foothold trap that measures 4¾ inches or less;
    - cage or box trap.

By limiting the trap sizes that are usable on beaver dams, this regulation provides opportunities for trappers while minimizing the accidental capture of otter.

## Pelt Sealing

Otter, bobcat, fisher and marten must have a plastic seal attached to the pelt or unskinned animal before:

- It is sold or ownership is transferred to another person, or
- It is mounted or tanned, or
- It leaves New York State, or
- Ten days have passed since the close of the season where the fur was taken

The plastic pelt seals can be removed when the pelt is processed for taxidermy, tanning or manufacturing.

## How to get your pelts sealed: a two-step process

- **Step 1:** Fill out your furbearer possession tag.
  - » A possession tag must be filled out for each animal you take.
  - » Possession tags must be filled out immediately after you reach your motor vehicle, camp or home, whichever comes first.
  - » Possession tags must stay with the animal or pelt at all times, but they do not need to be attached to the pelt.

- » Furbearer possession tags can be obtained from your Regional Wildlife Office (see page 64) or at [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/29046.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/29046.html)
- **Step 2:** Get your pelt sealed (see below).
  - » A completed furbearer possession tag must be submitted to obtain a plastic pelt seal.
  - » You can give your pelts to another person (other than a taxidermist) so he or she can get the pelts sealed or get them skinned. You must give that person your trapping license or a copy of your license and your completed possession tags while he or she has your pelts.
  - » Only authorized DEC representatives can attach the plastic pelt seals to otter, bobcat, fisher or marten.
  - » Call a Regional Wildlife Office (see page 6) to make arrangements to get your otter, bobcat, fisher, or marten sealed. Seals for these species cannot be sent through the mail.
  - » Special arrangements for no-contact sealing of pelts related to COVID-19 concerns can be made by contacting a regional wildlife office.
  - » Prior to having a marten sealed, you must submit the entire carcass. Prior to having a fisher sealed, you must submit the skull or lower jaw.
  - » If the plastic pelt seal is broken or damaged, contact your Regional Wildlife Office for a replacement seal.

## Buying and Selling Fur

- Species requiring a pelt seal cannot be bought or sold or given to another person unless they have the plastic pelt seal attached to the animal. All other species may be bought, sold, and transported without restriction.
- Furbearers may be bought or sold either skinned or unskinned.
- People who buy fur do not need a fur buyer's license in New York.

## Rights of Trappers

- No one may disturb a trap lawfully set by another person.
- No one may remove a lawfully trapped animal from another person's trap.
- No one may harass a trapper while he or she is trapping.

## License Responsibilities

- A license is not transferable and can be used only by the person to whom it was issued.
- A license to trap does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
- It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.

## Trapping License Exceptions

All residents must have a valid trapping license in their possession except:

- Resident owners primarily engaged in farming, lessees, and members of their immediate families do not need a trapping license, when trapping on farm lands they are occupying and cultivating, for bobcat, coyote, fox, mink, muskrat, raccoon, opossum, weasel, skunk and unprotected wildlife that may be lawfully taken by trapping. (**Note: beaver, otter, fisher and marten are not included.**)
- Native Americans living on a reservation do not need a trapping license while trapping on reservation lands.

## Incidental and Accidental Captures of Trapped Animals

There are no provisions in the Environmental Conservation Law allowing trappers to possess animals that are taken outside of the open trapping season.

You must attempt to release any animals that are accidentally captured when the season is closed or if the area is not open for trapping that species.

If the animal is injured to the extent you believe it will not survive, humanely dispatch it. If you are not sure, contact a DEC Regional Wildlife Office or ECO for assistance.

When you find an unintentionally captured animal dead in the trap, or when you must dispatch an unintentionally captured animal due to a serious injury, you may remove it and lay it in the vicinity of the trap. There are no legal provisions for you to keep it, and you may not possess it even to take it back to your vehicle without permission from DEC.

DEC seeks information on all accidentally taken bobcat, otter, fisher and marten as well as other species of unusual nature. If the animal is dead, a DEC biologist will want to collect the carcass. Using the location and carcass data, biologists will be able to track the status of these species and study the age and reproductive data from the individual. The pelts from these carcasses will also be utilized in our trapper education classes.

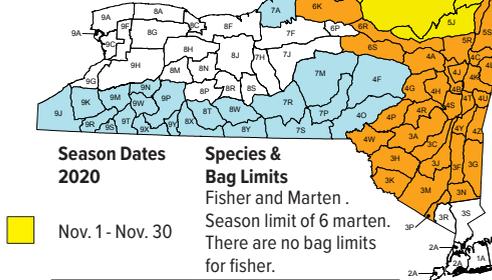
Remember, you must contact the Regional Wildlife Office or an ECO as soon as possible to report the catch. You will receive instructions on what to do and information to provide.

## Possession of Road-Killed Furbearers

If the trapping or hunting season is open for the species in a WMU, you may keep a dead furbearer found on roads within that WMU. The requirements for possessing road-killed furbearers are the same as for trapping and hunting. For example, if you find a road-killed bobcat in an area with an open bobcat season, you can possess it if you have a hunting or trapping license, but you must fill out a furbearer possession tag and have the pelt sealed.

## Fisher & Marten Trapping

To trap fisher or marten you must obtain a free annual trapping permit from a Regional Bureau of Wildlife Office (see page 64).



If you take a fisher or marten you must:

- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

Season Dates 2020	Species & Bag Limits
Nov. 1 - Nov. 30	Fisher and Marten. Season limit of 6 marten. There are no bag limits for fisher.
Oct. 25 - Oct. 30	Fisher only. There are no bag limits.
Oct. 25 - Dec. 10	Fisher only. There are no bag limits.
Closed	Fisher and Marten



## Raccoon, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Skunk, Coyote, Opossum & Weasel Trapping

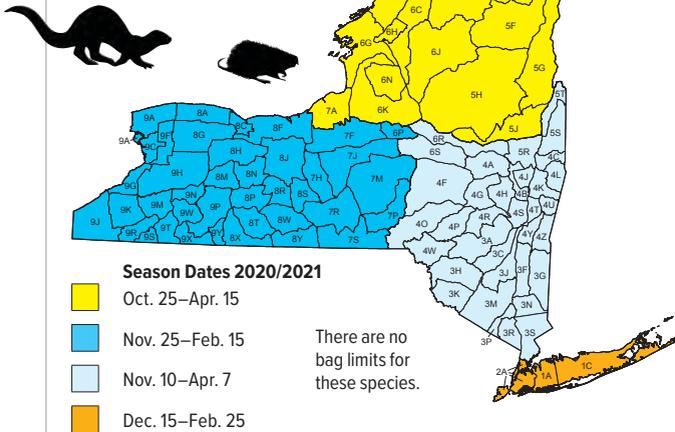


Season Dates 2020/2021	Notes
Oct. 25 - Feb. 15*	There are no bag limits for these species.
Oct. 25 - Feb. 15	
Nov. 1 - Feb. 25, except closed for coyote	



\* In the Northern Zone (see page 24) body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure if the fisher and marten season is closed.

## Mink & Muskrat Trapping

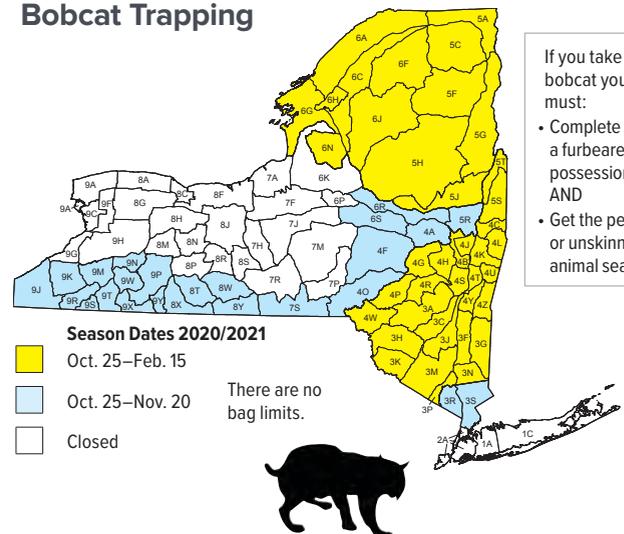


Season Dates 2020/2021	Notes
Oct. 25 - Apr. 15	There are no bag limits for these species.
Nov. 25 - Feb. 15	
Nov. 10 - Apr. 7	
Dec. 15 - Feb. 25	



There are pending regulations to revise mink, muskrat, & beaver season dates. Check the DEC website for final season dates before going afield.

## Bobcat Trapping



Season Dates 2020/2021	Notes
Oct. 25 - Feb. 15	There are no bag limits.
Oct. 25 - Nov. 20	
Closed	



If you take a bobcat you must:

- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

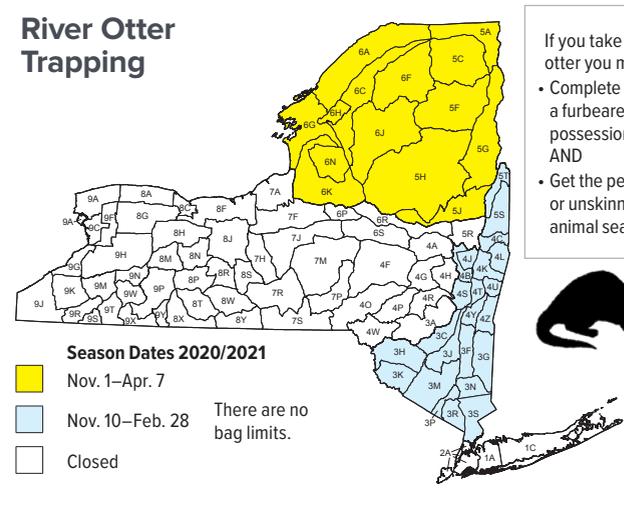
## Beaver Trapping



Season Dates 2020/2021	Notes
Nov. 1 - Apr. 7	There are no bag limits.
Nov. 10 - Apr. 7	
Nov. 25 - Feb. 15	
Nov. 25 - Mar. 15	
Closed	



## River Otter Trapping



Season Dates 2020/2021	Notes
Nov. 1 - Apr. 7	There are no bag limits.
Nov. 10 - Feb. 28	
Closed	

If you take an otter you must:

- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

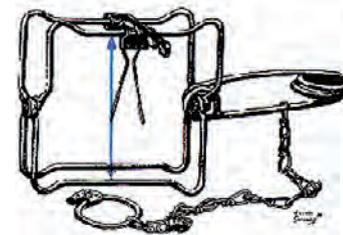


# Furbearer Trapping

## How to Measure a Trap

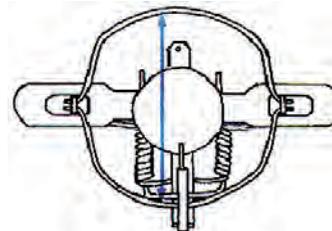
### How to measure a body-gripping trap:

Measure the inside distance between the outer frames of the trap. The addition of one or more bars to the inside of the frame does not change the way these traps are measured. The measurement is still the MAXIMUM distance as shown in the top picture.



### How to measure a foothold trap:

Measure the inside distance between the jaws excluding the gripping surface as shown. If the jaws have inside laminations, the measurement is the inside distance between the laminations. If the trap has double jaws, measure the inside distance between the outer jaws.



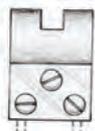
5¾" or less on land, 7¼" or less under water

## Trigger Regulations for Beaver Trappers

This regulation applies if you:

- Trap in a WMU in the Southern Zone during a closed otter season
- Use a body-gripping trap larger than 8½ inches (these are "330" size traps)

1. **Body-gripping trap with off-set parallel trigger:**
2. **Example of non-legal vs. legal trigger brackets:**



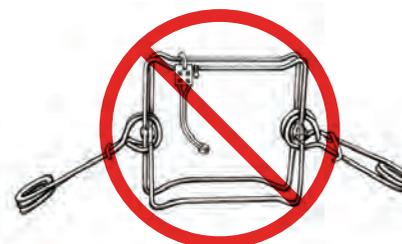
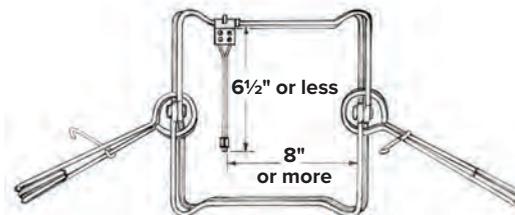
Two-way tension adjustable (legal)



Two-way non-tension adjustable (legal)

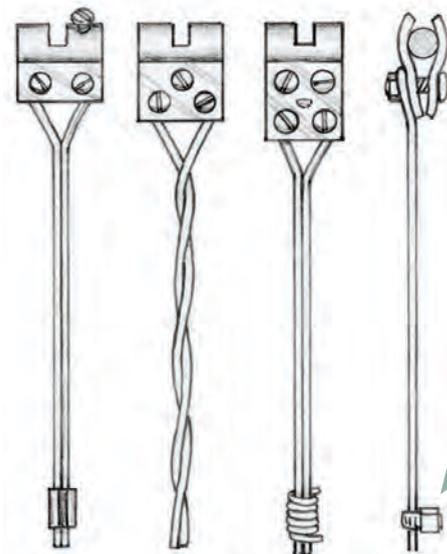


Four-way trigger (not legal)



Legal: square-notch, two-way trigger

3. **Examples of acceptable parallel triggers:**



4. **Tension-adjustable triggers and trigger stops are no longer required.**

The trigger must be 6½" or less.

Recommended tension: 8 to 12 oz.

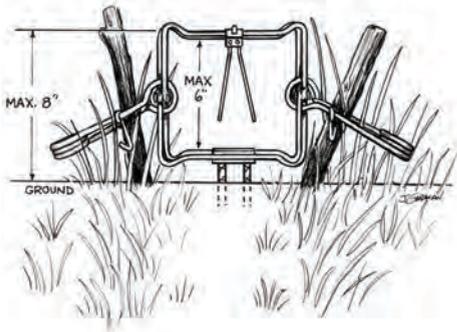
Trigger wires must be joined together.

### NOTE:

1. You can bait these traps in any manner. However, the trap must have all of the features noted above.
2. There is no exception for traps set under ice; traps set under ice, whether baited or not, must have all of the design features noted above.
3. There is no tension requirement. However, DEC research showed that 8 to 12 oz. of tension works best for protecting otter and catching beaver.

## Regulations for Body-Gripping Traps Set on Land

Body-gripping traps set on land shall not be within 100 feet of a public trail except on Wildlife Management Areas.



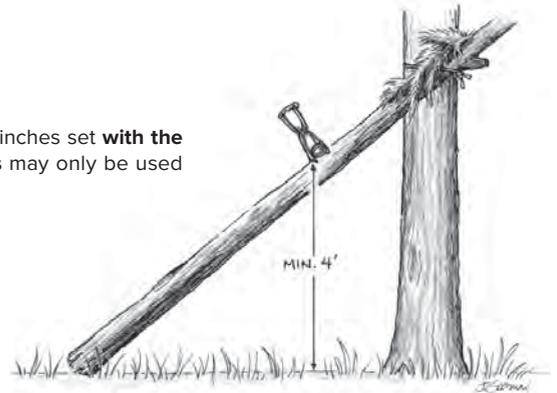
A body-gripping trap measuring less than 5½ inches may be set in any manner **with or without the use of bait**. Body-gripping traps measuring 5½ inches to 6 inches, set without the use of bait, must be set so that no part of the trap is 8 inches or more above the ground. Body-gripping traps measuring more than 6 inches to 7 1/2 inches may never be set in this manner.

**NOTE:** During a closed season for fisher and/or marten in the Northern Zone, body-gripping traps set on land may not be set with bait or lure.

Body-gripping traps 5½ inches to 7½ inches set **with the use of bait, lure, or other attractants** may only be used as follows:

- ✓ Four or more feet off the ground

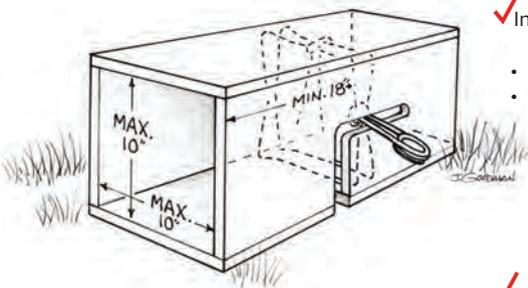
OR



- ✓ In a container of the following design:

- Trap recessed minimum of 18 inches
- Opening height and width 10 inches or less

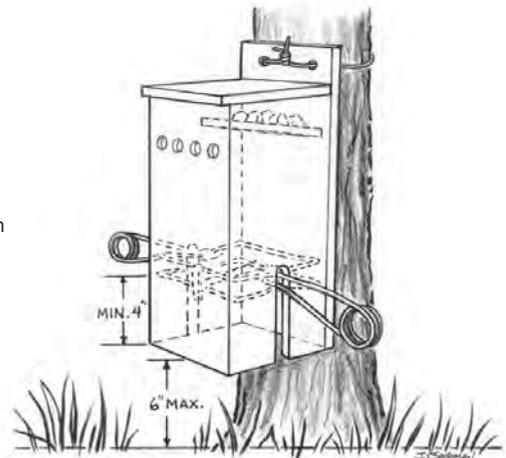
OR



- ✓ In a container of the following design:

- Only one entrance, facing the ground
- Container set so entrance is no more than 6 inches from ground
- Trap recessed minimum of 4 inches

OR

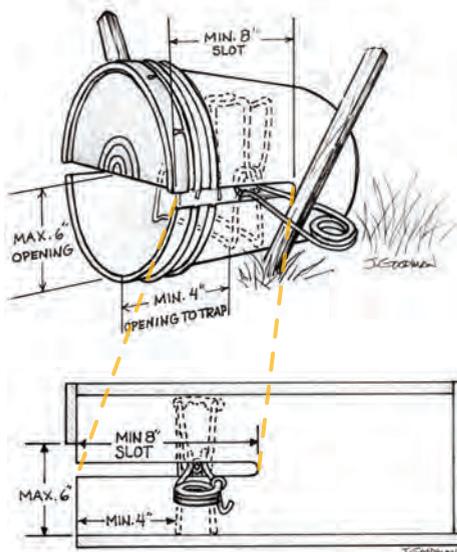


- ✓ In a container of the following design:

- Opening height 6 inches or less
- Eight-inch minimum spring notches
- Trap recessed minimum of 4 inches

You may also build an enclosure of natural materials (e.g., logs or rocks)

- Opening height 6 inches or less
- Trap recessed minimum of 8 inches



# Permit Requirements for Fisher and Marten

Following completion of the New York State Fisher Management Plan, regulations were adopted to:

- Reduce the fisher (and marten) trapping season from 46 days to 30 days in select Adirondack Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in the Northern Zone (yellow area on the map).
- Establish a 6-day fisher trapping season in selected WMUs in Central/Western New York (blue area on the map).
- Require a free special annual permit for all fisher trapping. The special permit will enable DEC to collect important data for managing fisher harvests.

## Permit Conditions:

- To trap fisher anywhere in the state or marten in Adirondack WMUs, obtain a Special Free Annual Fisher Permit or combination Fisher/Marten Permit (yellow area on map) from DEC Regional Bureau of Wildlife offices as outlined in the table below.
- Submit the skull or lower jaw of all harvested fishers and the entire carcass of all harvested martens at the time of pelt sealing.
- Complete and submit a trapping activity log, even if you did not trap, within 10 days after the close of the season.

## To Obtain a Free Annual Fisher or Fisher/Marten Permit:

Only one fisher or fisher/marten permit is needed to trap these species anywhere in New York where the season is open.

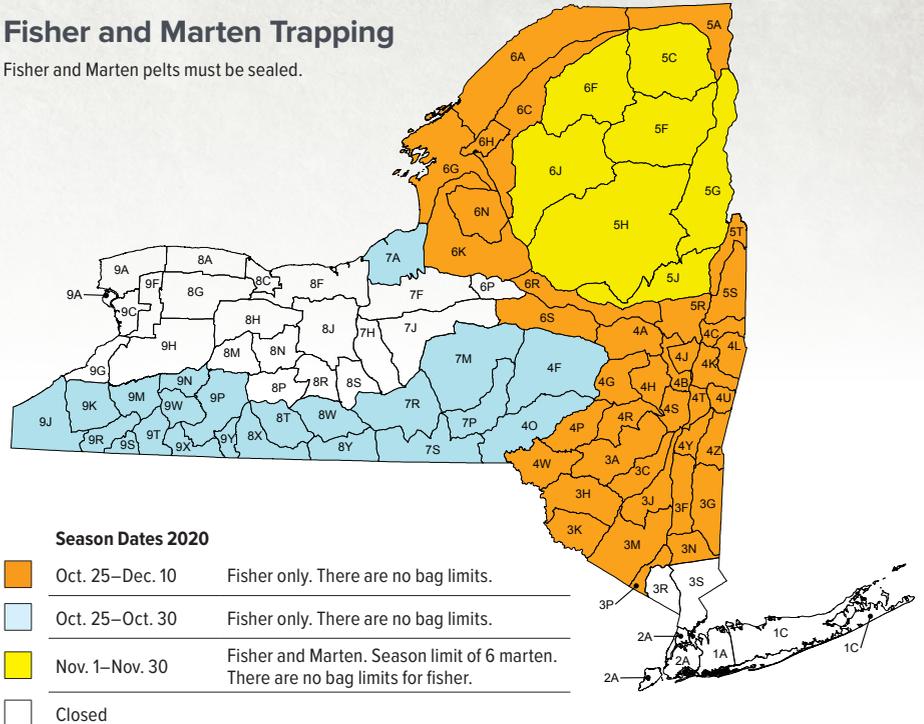
Contact your Regional Wildlife Office (see table below), or apply by e-mail. You must provide the following information:

- Name
- Species (fisher or fisher/marten)
- Mailing address
- DEC ID # (from your trapping license or backtag)
- Phone number and/or e-mail address

Apply by e-mail to: [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov), type "Fisher/Marten Permit" in the subject line. Please be sure to include the information listed above and the primary county where you plan to trap.

## Fisher and Marten Trapping

Fisher and Marten pelts must be sealed.



Apply in person or by phone to any office listed below:

DEC Region	Fisher/Marten	Fisher	Address	Phone
3	N/A		21 S Putt Corners Rd, New Paltz, NY 12561	845-256-3088
4			65561 State Hwy 10, Stamford, NY 12167	607-652-2302
5	5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6F, 6J	Contact any Regional Wildlife Office to obtain a free annual permit to trap fisher in any WMU with an open season (other than those listed for fisher/marten).	232 Golf Course Rd, Warrensburg, NY 12885	518-623-1240
6			317 Washington St, Watertown, NY 13601	315-785-2534
7			1285 Fisher Ave, Cortland, NY 13045	607-753-3095, x. 247
8	N/A		7291 Coon Rd, Bath, NY 14810	607-622-8271
9			182 E Union St, Suite 3, Allegany, NY 14706	716-372-0645

Or apply by email to: [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov) and type "Fisher/Marten Permit" in the subject line.

## Keeping the Trapping Tradition Alive

### Adopt “Best Practices” when Trapping on Private Lands

While many of New York’s trappers stick to setting traps on public land, trapping on private lands can be a win-win for all involved. With roughly 80% of New York’s land privately owned, getting permission to trap on private property helps open up additional opportunity for trappers while helping landowners manage local wildlife populations and reduce potential nuisance issues on their land. Trappers are likely familiar with “Best Management Practices” or “BMPs” which evaluate the efficacy and humaneness of many different trap systems. Below are a different kind of BMPs - recommendations for trapping private lands that reduce the chance that conflicts between trappers and landowners will occur, protecting the legacy of trapping for future generations.

- Communication is key when talking to landowners! A report done in 2019 found that a majority of Americans support regulated trapping. Take the time to explain the reasons why you trap, and keep the following in mind.
  - » Approval is highest for trapping if it is for subsistence, population control, or to reduce damage to property, crops, or gardens.
  - » Approval is lowest if trapping is for recreation, fur clothing, or money.
- Be sure to talk to landowners well before the season begins and identify any concerns that they may have or special rules they would like you to follow.
- Ask the landowner who else might be using their property during trapping season. Be sure to communicate with them regarding when others may be on the property and what they may be doing.

- Work with the landowner to clearly define where on their property you are allowed to set traps and when you will be there.
- Follow the regulations associated with setting body-gripping traps on land including specifications for cubby sets (see page 63).
- Know and use selective trap sets. For example, use foot-encapsulating traps for raccoons whenever possible.
- Avoid areas that have a high risk of trapping domestic animals. Keep traps covered and do not bait traps with pet food or meat-based baits.
- Check traps regularly and as early in the day as possible.
- Fully use trapped animals to the greatest extent possible, and dispose of carcasses properly.
- Offer to help out landowners with nuisance wildlife problems.
- Be respectful. Don’t damage vegetation when making sets, do not drive in areas where you don’t have permission, and make sure to close gates behind you.
- Give the landowner your contact information so they may call you with questions or concerns while you are trapping on their property.

Most importantly, remember that you are the future of trapping. One negative incident can have a substantial impact on New Yorkers’ support for this activity. Be an advocate for the respectful, sustainable use of wildlife, wildlife management, and the benefits of trapping.

For more information read “Bodygrip Traps on Dryland: A Guide to Responsible Use” (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/81564.html>). For guidance on how to effectively talk about trapping with the public, check out the “Communication Strategy for Trapping and Furbearer Management” (<https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-inspires/furbearer-management>).



Devon Morris in Washington County (top).

Khalei Holbert and Mike Williams in Madison County (bottom left).

Maria Smith in Steuben County (bottom right).



## Report Your Furbearer Sightings!

DEC wants to learn more about the occurrence of various furbearers throughout New York such as bobcat, otter, fisher, weasel, and snowshoe hare. Your observations help biologists understand the distribution and abundance of these elusive or inconspicuous mammals.

You can report your observations online, and you can even include photos!

Go to [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html) or e-mail us at [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov)!

Thanks for your help!

Photo courtesy of Natalie Werner, sighting in Allegany County

TRAPPING IS OUR HISTORY.  
WILL TRAPPING BE IN OUR FUTURE?



BECOME A TRAPPER  
EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR!

APPLY TODAY!

- 1-888-HUNT-FD2 (1-888-486-8332)
- [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9189.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9189.html)

## New York State Environmental Conservation Police

**Q: Can I use a carcass tag from a friend or family to put on a deer, bear or turkey that I shot?**

A: No - it is unlawful to possess or use tags of another person, except properly consigned Deer Management Permits (DMPs) or land-owner DMAPs. DMP instructions can be found in this guide.

**Q: I'm using an "app" that shows land owned by NY State - can I hunt on that land?**

A: State lands are owned by DEC, DOT, SUNY, NYS Parks, Thruway, and others. It's your responsibility to check the rules for each property, as even some DEC lands are off limits to hunting.

**Q: What documentation must I carry when hunting?**

A: You must carry your hunting license, plus carcass tags (deer, bear, turkey), any special permits (e.g., turkey permit), and a "duck" stamp with HIP# (if hunting migratory game birds), plus a back tag (where required). "Hunting license" means the printed license listing privileges or a lifetime license card or NY driver's license with an "Adventure" hunting icon. You may also use your HuntFishNY app for proof of a hunting license, provided you still have your back tag (where required) and carcass tag(s), or the quarry you're hunting doesn't require a carcass tag. Special hunts or hunt areas may require additional paperwork.

**Q: Why can NY stores sell deer bait and salt blocks when it is illegal to use them for hunting in NY?**

A: The law and regulation do not prohibit sale, but they prohibit the use of bait to aid in hunting and feeding deer (and bear) at all times. If the material is placed where the animal may ingest it, it is likely to be considered baiting or feeding.

**Q: Are deer urine scents legal in NY?**

A: Yes, but DEC strongly urges hunters not to use natural urine or animal-based scents. To protect NY deer from Chronic Wasting Disease hunters who want to use deer attractant scents should only use synthetic products.

**Q: Why aren't food plots considered feeding or baiting?**

A: DEC regulations exempt wildlife food plots from feeding and baiting prohibitions as "areas established by standard agricultural production practices." Wildlife food plots do not concentrate deer in the same way as supplemental feed sites and do not entail the same risk of disease spread, behavioral changes, or localized ecological damage.

**Q: Can I hunt small game with a rifle in counties where deer hunting with a rifle is prohibited?**

A: Yes, but if any deer season is open, you cannot use a rifle larger than .22 caliber. You may not possess rifles afield on Long Island or in Westchester Co.

**Q: If the trapping season is open, can I hunt for that species?**

A: It depends on the season and species. Some furbearers may only be trapped, while some can also be hunted, but with different seasons. Coyote is a good example of a species that can be hunted and trapped, but season dates for hunting and trapping this species are different, so be sure to check the guide before going afield.

**Q: I found a live wild animal in a trap. What can I do?**

A: Unless you own the trap or have permission (and are licensed to trap), it is illegal to release, dispatch or steal a trapped furbearer or tamper with legally set traps.

**Q: After reporting my deer, transporting and cutting it up, what do I do with the carcass tag?**

A: The tag stays with the carcass and is not needed after the deer is prepared for consumption. DEC strongly encourages all hunters to dispose of your carcass waste in a landfill as a "best practice" for minimizing disease risks.

**Q: How can I transport a crossbow in a vehicle?**

A: A crossbow must be decocked to be legally possessed in or on a motor vehicle. Simply removing the bolt does not meet the requirement. When spotlighting deer, a crossbow must be taken down, securely fastened in a case, or locked in the trunk.

**Q: What basic steps should I follow when an ECO approaches me while I am afield hunting?**

A: Most importantly, keep firearms pointed in a safe direction with the safety "ON." Do not try to unload them, which can lead to accidents.

**Q: Without permission, how far must I be from a house to discharge an implement?**

A: You must be a minimum of 150 feet to discharge a bow, 250 feet for crossbow and 500 feet for firearms including muzzleloaders. Local laws or ordinances on firearm discharges may also apply.

**Q: May I hunt small game with an air gun?**

A: You may use an air gun to hunt any species that may legally be taken with a .22 caliber rim fire rifle, provided the air gun is no smaller than .17 caliber and has a muzzle velocity of at least 600 f.p.s.

**Q: May I take a child younger than 12 with me while hunting? What about a spouse?**

A: Yes, a person of any age may accompany a hunter afield to observe as long as they do not assist in the taking of wildlife, such as calling animals or actively participating in a deer drive. If unsure, consult an ECO.

**Q: I own a camp and property in New York. Can I purchase a resident hunting license?**

A: Residency is a fixed, permanent and principal home to which a person always intends to return. Simply owning land or paying taxes does not make one eligible for resident license fees. More information on residency is found in the front of this guide.

**Q: Can our hunting party "share" Deer Management Permits (DMPs) on a deer drive?"**

A: Only the person possessing the DMP may take an antlerless deer. DMPs may be consigned from one hunter to another, but this needs to happen before the deer is harvested. See the DMP consignment rules for more info.

**Q: Can I target shoot on DEC lands?**

A: Yes, on some DEC lands. Many DEC state lands, including State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) have specific rules prohibiting target shooting in some or all areas - call ahead. Where target shooting is allowed, you may not damage live trees and must remove all litter.

**Q: Can I carry a handgun while bowhunting deer/bear during the special bowhunting seasons?**

A: No, you may not possess a firearm of any type while bowhunting during those seasons. Possession of a handgun in NY requires a NY Pistol Permit. NY does not recognize any permits from other states.

**Q: Can I shoot a deer at first light?**

A: No. For deer and bear hunting, legal shooting is between the minute of local sunrise to the minute of local sunset, NOT just when it's light enough. Sunrise/sunset charts are available in this guide.

**Q: May I transport an entire deer carcass into NY from another state?**

A: No. Chronic Wasting Disease regulations ban importation of whole carcasses from anywhere outside of New York State. See the CWD pages of this guidebook.

Please contact your local Environmental Conservation Officers (ECOs) for answers to your specific questions (see pages 68–69).



# Polluters Hotline — 1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)



ECO Chris DeRose and K-9 Cramer next to an illegally taken deer hidden under a pile of leaves by a violator. DEC K-9s have typical police dog skills and can detect scents including gunpowder/shell casings and venison, trout or turkey.



ECO Jared Lomozik assisted the Wounded Warrior in Action Foundation, NY Conservation Officers Association and other non-profits who fully sponsored regular season deer hunts for these three Purple Heart recipients in Yates County.



ECO Kevin Holzle with baby raccoons seized from a Niagara County suspect. ECOs routinely investigate complaints of illegally possessed wild animals. "If you care, leave it there" and call DEC to contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.



ECO Brian Canzeri's dedicated tipsters put him on investigations in Rensselaer County that led to three subjects being charged with numerous tickets including baiting, taking over the limit of antlered deer and failure to report harvests.



ECO Mark Colesante observed a pile of snow geese on the porch of a Cayuga County resident. Several youths were charged after his investigation revealed that they were all illegally taken from the highway and from a motor vehicle.



A happy youth hunter and ECO Lt. Liza Bobseine after a Seneca County youth deer season hunt. ECOs regularly attend Hunter Education classes and mentor hunters during the youth seasons for deer, turkey and waterfowl.

# Environmental Conservation Officers

## Report All Poachers and Polluters

1-844-DEC-ECOS (844-332-3267)

Approximately 250 field ECOs patrol the entire state. Their job includes enforcement of fish and wildlife laws and state environmental quality laws. ECOs rely on the eyes and ears of our dedicated members of the sporting community to report suspected violations. Poachers and other violators are stealing from you, your children and our environment.

**As soon as possible**, call the hotline to report suspected violations. Dispatchers will assist you in filing a complaint. You may ask to have your name kept confidential or file anonymously. File complaints online at [www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/67751.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/67751.html)

Complaints are forwarded to an ECO for investigation. The sooner you call and the more detailed information you provide, the more likely the violator will be apprehended. Try to remember the “who, what, when, where and how” of the event.

**Keep your distance.** Do not approach or confront suspects. They may be dangerous, destroy evidence, or simply evade officers if forewarned.

**Who did it?** Provide names, age, sex, height, weight, clothing or vehicle descriptions, etc.

**What occurred?** What exactly is the nature of the violation? Examples — taking deer using bait, over limit, shooting from roadway, trespass, using tags of another, after hours, non-resident buying resident license.

**When did it occur?** Dates and times. Is it still in progress, ongoing or yet to happen?

**Where did it occur?** Provide exact street addresses, town/county, GPS locations or other ways the officer can locate the scene, suspects and evidence.

**How did it occur?** What methods or circumstances were used in the violation?

## Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

New York State is a member of IWVC, which is an agreement between 47 states to share information regarding hunting, fishing and trapping convictions.

The IWVC gives members the capability to honor each other's license revocations so a violator convicted in one state may be barred from hunting, fishing or trapping in all member states, at the discretion of each state.

Call NYSDEC Law Enforcement at (518) 402-8816 or visit <http://wildlifecrimestoppers.org/>

ALBANY COUNTY		
ECO BEVIS	(518) 626-1541	
ECO SWAN	(518) 869-5237	
SUPERVISOR - LT. DEANGELIS	(518) 357-2047	
ALLEGANY		
ECO CALANNI	(585) 403-2437	
ECO OLIVER	(607) 590-1135	
SUPERVISOR - LT. BOBSEINE	(716) 851-7050	
BRONX		
ECO DODGE	(718) 751-5701	
ECO MICHALET	(929) 505-6878	
ECO VELOSKI	(929) 505-6896	
SUPERVISOR - LT. GALVIN	(718) 482-4885	
BROOME		
ECO MCCORMICK	(607) 621-3464	
ECO RIGOLI	(607) 766-1375	
ECO TEMPLETON	(607) 621-3255	
SUPERVISOR - LT. WARNER	(315) 426-7431	
CATTARAUGUS		
ECO MEAD	(716) 548-1482	
ECO NOSAL	(716) 532-0461	
ECO POWERS, JASON	(716) 771-8266	
SUPERVISOR - LT. BOBSEINE	(716) 851-7050	
CAYUGA		
ECO PRENTICE	(315) 404-6185	
ECO SINCEBAUGH	(315) 253-8534	
SUPERVISOR - LT. MCSHANE	(315) 426-7431	
CHAUTAUQUA		
ECO BUDNIEWSKI	(716) 401-1163	
ECO DOUGHERTY	(716) 316-5607	
ECO FREEMAN	(716) 490-3947	
ECO KINNEY	(716) 401-1187	
SUPERVISOR - LT. BOBSEINE	(716) 851-7050	
CHEMUNG		
ECO DALECKI	(607) 592-2783	
ECO LIFRIERI	(607) 644-3815	
SUPERVISOR - LT. LOCHNER	(315) 836-6137	
CHENANGO		
ECO ARMSTRONG	(607) 895-6515	
ECO PLOWS	(607) 221-6077	
ECO WING	(607) 242-9156	
SUPERVISOR - LT. COLESANTE	(315) 426-7431	
CLINTON		
ECO BUFFA	(518) 354-0539	
ECO FADDEN	(518) 912-4579	
ECO LACROIX	(518) 335-5422	
ECO LAGREE	(518) 319-7706	
SUPERVISOR - LT. PHELPS	(518) 897-1326	
COLUMBIA		
ECO COX	(518) 794-8935	
ECO DAVEY	(518) 414-6083	
SUPERVISOR - LT. MALONEY	(518) 357-2047	
CORTLAND		
ECO BURDICK	(315) 251-0125	
ECO KOSTUK	(315) 741-2205	
SUPERVISOR - LT. COLESANTE	(315) 426-7431	
DELAWARE		
ECO BAUER	(845) 346-6607	
ECO DOIG	(607) 267-5452	
ECO OSBORNE	(607) 206-0711	
ECO WOODIN	(607) 437-6259	
SUPERVISOR - LT. BEITER	(518) 505-4123	
DUTCHESS		
ECO EYLER	(845) 490-9869	
ECO HAMELINE	(845) 423-1018	
ECO READ III	(845) 240-6758	
SUPERVISOR - LT. LATTIMER	(845) 256-3013	
ERIE		
ECO GILL	(716) 908-5051	
ECO KOEPF	(716) 345-4252	
ECO MACHNICA	(716) 262-7411	
ECO MATHIS	(716) 220-6860	
ECO MARSHALL	(716) 537-2464	
ECO MAZURKIEWICZ	(716) 537-2533	
ECO WILSON, C.	(716) 675-1095	
SUPERVISOR - LT. LOHR	(716) 851-7050	

ESSEX		
ECO BLADES	(518) 335-5201	
ECO DEWEY	(518) 653-3077	
ECO HOVEY	(518) 354-9014	
ECO NICOLS	(518) 338-2908	
SUPERVISOR - LT. PHELPS	(518) 897-1326	
FRANKLIN		
ECO CRANKER	(518) 708-1220	
ECO FAVREAU	(518) 354-9833	
ECO OKONUK	(518) 319-0064	
ECO RIGGS	(518) 335-3558	
SUPERVISOR - LT. HIGGINS	(518) 897-1326	
FULTON		
ECO HILLIARD	(518) 774-4517	
ECO MANN'S	(518) 708-1168	
ECO PASCIAK	(518) 448-3103	
SUPERVISOR - LT. CLEMENS	(518) 897-1326	
GENESEE		
ECO FUERCH	(315) 542-4290	
SUPERVISOR - LT. VERHAGUE, J.	(585) 226-6706	
GREENE		
ECO ARP	(518) 966-5357	
ECO PALMATEER	(845) 663-3112	
SUPERVISOR - LT. BEITER	(518) 505-4123	
HAMILTON		
ECO BUSWELL	(518) 335-5013	
ECO KELLY	(315) 804-9435	
ECO PIERCE	(518) 866-4723	
SUPERVISOR - LT. HIGGINS	(518) 897-1326	
HERKIMER - NORTH		
ECO TABOR	(315) 214-9681	
ECO NOYES	(315) 240-8862	
ECO GATES	(315) 816-1449	
SUPERVISOR - LT. MURPHY	(315) 785-2231	
HERKIMER - SOUTH		
ECO JAKAUB	(315) 269-7443	
ECO LUCAS	(315) 823-4071	
ECO SCHOONOVER	(315) 269-6646	
SUPERVISOR - LT. MARKEY	(315) 785-2231	
JEFFERSON		
ECO JACKSON	(315) 418-7380	
ECO MCFEE	(315) 640-0335	
ECO NICHOLAS	(315) 466-4931	
ECO ROCKEFELLER	(315) 830-6335	
ECO WOYTON	(315) 200-0813	
ECO KOCHANOWSKI	(315) 748-8041	
SUPERVISOR - LT. BARTOSZEWSKI	(315) 785-2231	
KINGS		
ECO ANDERSON	(929) 505-1174	
ECO BRUSSELL	(929) 505-4747	
ECO LOVGREN	(929) 505-6875	
ECO PARMELEE	(929) 505-6888	
SUPERVISOR - LT. DAINACK	(718) 482-4885	
LEWIS		
ECO KRAEGER	(315) 767-5232	
ECO NICHOLAS	(315) 466-4931	
ECO ROCKEFELLER	(315) 830-6335	
ECO WOYTON	(315) 200-0813	
SUPERVISOR - LT. MURPHY	(315) 785-2231	
LIVINGSTON		
ECO RAUSCHER	(585) 300-7715	
ECO DUSSAULT	(585) 362-0395	
ECO WARD, C.	(585) 303-0098	
SUPERVISOR - LT. VERHAGUE, J.	(585) 226-6706	
MADISON		
ECO CHASE	(315) 662-3412	
ECO GRISOLINI	(607) 316-2574	
SUPERVISOR - LT. COLESANTE	(315) 426-7431	
MONROE		
ECO DOBIES	(585) 329-8377	
ECO JANKOWSKI	(585) 269-9338	
ECO JOHNSTON	(585) 397-2746	
ECO LUTZ	(585) 303-1506	
ECO MUCHOW	(585) 329-9381	
ECO SNOWDON	(585) 683-6758	
SUPERVISOR - LT. HUMMEL	(585) 226-6706	

# Environmental Conservation Officers

## ECO Dispatch — 1-844-332-3267 for General Questions

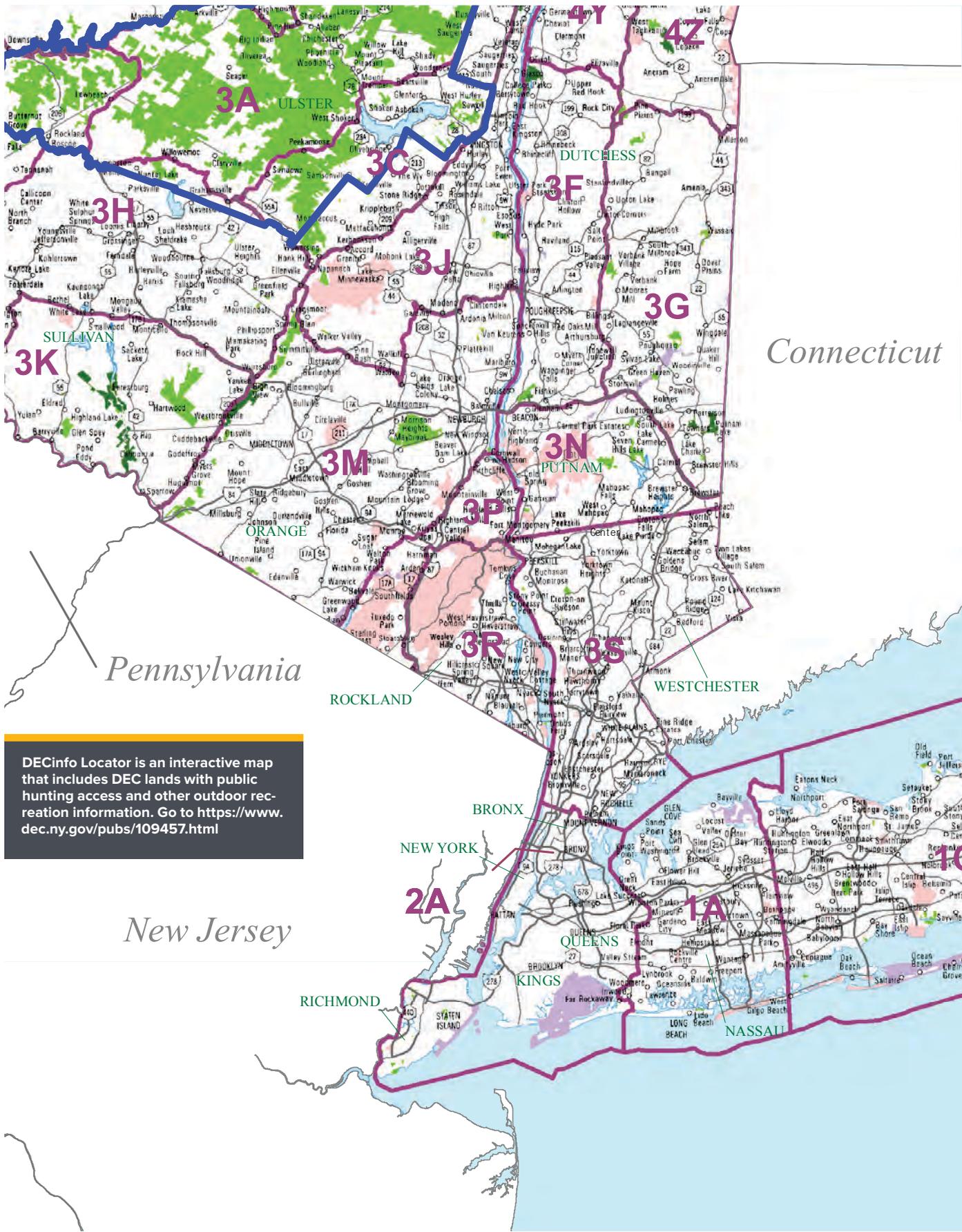
MONTGOMERY	
ECO BUSH	(518) 813-6805
ECO VALENTY	(518) 505-4104
ECO WILLSON	(518) 491-2273
SUPERVISOR - LT. DEANGELIS	(518) 357-2047
NASSAU	
ECO FERRARO	(516) 826-0832
ECO KAUFHERR	(718) 683-7486
ECO PABES	(929) 505-6884
ECO SMALL	(929) 505-6894
SUPERVISOR - LT. FAY	(631) 444-0250
NEW YORK	
ECO SHEA	(929) 505-6893
SUPERVISOR - LT. GALVIN	(718) 482-4885
NIAGARA	
ECO HOLZLE	(716) 454-2623
ECO SCHEER	(716) 377-2448
ECO WOLGAST	(716) 243-9038
SUPERVISOR - LT. VERHAGUE, N.	(716) 851-7050
ONEIDA - NORTH	
ECO TABOR	(315) 214-9681
ECO NOYES	(315) 240-8862
ECO GATES	(315) 816-1449
SUPERVISOR - LT. MURPHY	(315) 785-2231
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ECO HULL	(315) 408-7179
ECO HOWE	(315) 382-0996
ECO LAKEMAN	(315) 734-0648
ECO STARCZEK	(315) 489-4224
SUPERVISOR - LT. MARKEY	(315) 785-2231
ONONDAGA	
ECO DAMRATH	(315) 445-2061
ECO SHERMAN	(315) 484-9678
ECO THOMAS, D.	(315) 236-0307
ECO YACAVONE	(315) 487-4401
SUPERVISOR - LT. MCSHANE	(315) 426-7431
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ECO BLANTON	(585) 694-4077
ECO BROWN, T.	(607) 227-8538
ECO LEVANWAY	(585) 369-8116
SUPERVISOR - LT. BURNELL	(585) 226-6706
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ECO CARL	(929) 505-6863
ECO SCHNEIDER	(929) 505-6891
ECO SCHUCK	(929) 505-6892
SUPERVISOR - LT. BELLO	(845) 256-3013
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ECO FONDA	(585) 735-6963
ECO GODSON	(585) 441-4015
SUPERVISOR - LT. VERHAGUE, J.	(585) 226-6706
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ECO BONILLA	(315) 382-3365
ECO BROWN, Z.	(315) 200-2111
ECO DORRETT	(315) 625-4129
ECO FOSTER	(315) 405-6576
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SUPERVISOR - LT. REITMEIER	(315) 426-7431
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ECO CARD	(607) 267-9547
ECO FETTERMAN	(607) 422-8342
ECO VENCACK	(607) 221-1544
SUPERVISOR - LT. TERRELL	(518) 357-2047
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ECO FRANZ	(929) 505-6873
ECO SWANSEN	(914) 260-6020
ECO THIBODEAU	(347) 408-8724
ECO TOMPKINS	(845) 216-4628
ECO WAMSLEY	(914) 263-7819
SUPERVISOR - VACANT	(845) 256-3013
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ECO JARECKI	(347) 426-8118
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ECO CRAIN, Z.	(518) 424-5343
SUPERVISOR - LT. MALONEY	(518) 357-2047
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ECO CURREY	(929) 505-6868
ECO MILLIRON	(929) 505-6879
ECO TRAYNOR	(929) 505-6895
SUPERVISOR - LT. DAINACK	(718) 482-4885
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ECO DUCHENE	(929) 505-6872
ECO MANGELS	(929) 505-6876
ECO NEWELL	(929) 505-6883
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ECO KLEIN	(518) 892-9402
ECO LEUBNER	(518) 729-8313
ECO SHAW	(518) 860-8675
ECO TOTH	(518) 222-1815
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ECO BUSH	(518) 813-6805
ECO VALENTY	(518) 505-4104
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SCHOHARIE	
ECO BURGESS	(518) 603-2446
ECO BOHLING	(518) 443-9156
SUPERVISOR - LT. TERRELL	(518) 357-2047
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ECO DALECKI	(607) 592-2783
ECO LIFRIERI	(607) 644-3815
SUPERVISOR - LT. LOCHNER	(315) 836-6137
SENECA	
ECO DRAHMS	(315) 209-9399
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ECO ATWOOD	(315) 262-2304
ECO CANARY	(315) 489-3180
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ECO BAKER	(607) 281-5435
ECO FARRAND	(607) 331-7549
ECO LOMOZIK	(607) 329-9644
SUPERVISOR - LT. LOCHNER	(315) 836-6137
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ECO CLARK	(929) 505-6864
ECO FARRISH	(516) 351-8601
ECO MCCABE	(631) 494-5229
SUPERVISOR - LT. CARBONE	(631) 444-0250
SUFFOLK - MID (BROOKHAVEN)	
ECO AMATO	(631) 372-2642
ECO DELLA ROCCO	(347) 308-4589
ECO GRADY	(631) 744-2507
ECO PASCHKE	(929) 505-6889
ECO SIMMONS	(631) 205-0470
SUPERVISOR - LT. GADOMSKI	(631) 444-0250
SUFFOLK - WEST	
ECO CACCIOLA	(929) 505-6587
ECO CARPENTER	(516) 260-3240
ECO DEROSE	(631) 601-5284
ECO DICKSON	(646) 634-9219
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SUPERVISOR - LT. BLAISING	(631) 444-0250

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ECO WOOD	(845) 665-5637
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ECO YOUNGLOVE	(315) 399-3752
SUPERVISOR - LT. BURNELL	(585) 226-6706
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ECO FRANZ	(929) 505-6873
ECO SWANSEN	(914) 260-6020
ECO THIBODEAU	(347) 408-8724
ECO TOMPKINS	(845) 216-4628
ECO WAMSLEY	(914) 263-7819
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ECO CRAIN	(315) 775-7168
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SUPERVISOR - LT. LOCHNER	(315) 836-6137

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MEU - NASSAU/SUFFOLK	
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ECO DOROSKI, J	(631) 599-9430
ECO LACZI	(631) 304-3508
ECO MACROPOULOS	(347) 287-5217
SUPERVISOR - LT. REILLY	(631) 444-0250
MEU - NEW YORK CITY	
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ECO PANSINI	(929) 505-6886
SUPERVISOR - LT. DOWLING	(718) 482-4885

# Regional Maps



DECinfo Locator is an interactive map that includes DEC lands with public hunting access and other outdoor recreation information. Go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>

## WMA Accessible Features for Regions 1 and 3

### Suffolk

**Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve** (Babylon, Huntington, Islip)

- 1.7 mi CP-3 trail\*

**Otis Pike Preserve** (Riverhead, Brookhaven)

- Accessible Blind, Parking

**Randall Pond, Ridge Conservation Area** (Ridge)

- Fishing Access, Parking, Permit Station, Restroom, Viewing Area, Viewing Platform, 2.1 mi foot trails

### Sullivan/Orange

**Bashakill WMA** (Mamakating, Deerpark)

- Fishing Access, Parking

**Mongaup Valley WMA** (Forestburgh, Highland, Lumberland, Deerpark)

- Blind, Parking, Restroom

\* CP-3 - Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html> for application instructions and forms.

## Did you know in 2019, DEC Forest Rangers:

- Walked, snowshoed, and skied 26,297 miles of trails
- Inspected 10,409 occupied campsites
- Patrolled 18,593 miles on snowmobile
- Conducted 19,312 snowmobile law safety checks
- Made 1,018 state land offense tickets/arrests

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/41086.html>

518-402-8839 or 518-408-5250



0 5 10 20 30 Miles



**Public Lands & Management Areas**

- Wildlife Management Unit
- Adirondack/Catskill Park
- Federal Lands
- State Park
- Wildlife Management Area
- DEC Lands
- Conservation Easement Lands

**FIREWOOD WARNING** Your firewood may be hiding invasive pests that are killing our trees and forever changing the forests we love. Protect our trees.

**Buy Local, Burn Local.**

- It is illegal to bring untreated\* firewood into New York State
- It is illegal to transport untreated firewood more than 50 miles from its source or origin
- When transporting firewood, you must carry proof of source (receipt from a vendor), origin (self-issued certificate from DEC website), or treatment (label showing treatment method)

\* Treated firewood has been heated to 160°F for 75 minutes to eliminate pests living inside the wood. Treated firewood can be moved without restriction.

**Failure to follow these regulations may result in a ticket.**

For questions, call toll-free: **1-866-640-0652**

State and federal quarantines exist that further restrict the movement of firewood. For more information, visit [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) and search for "invasive insects".

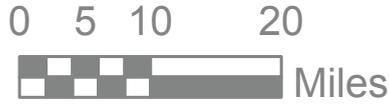
**Department of Environmental Conservation**



# Regional Maps

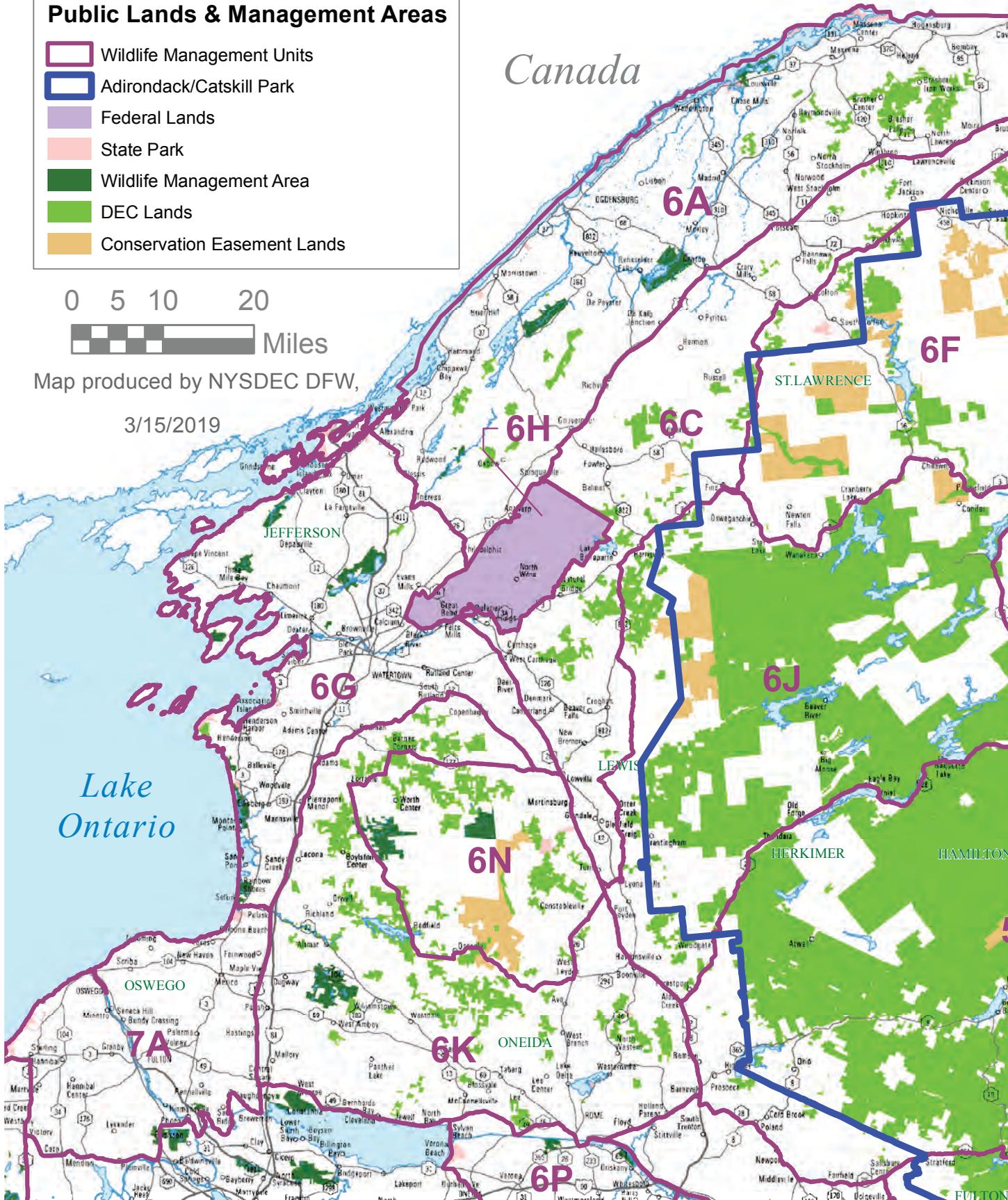
## Public Lands & Management Areas

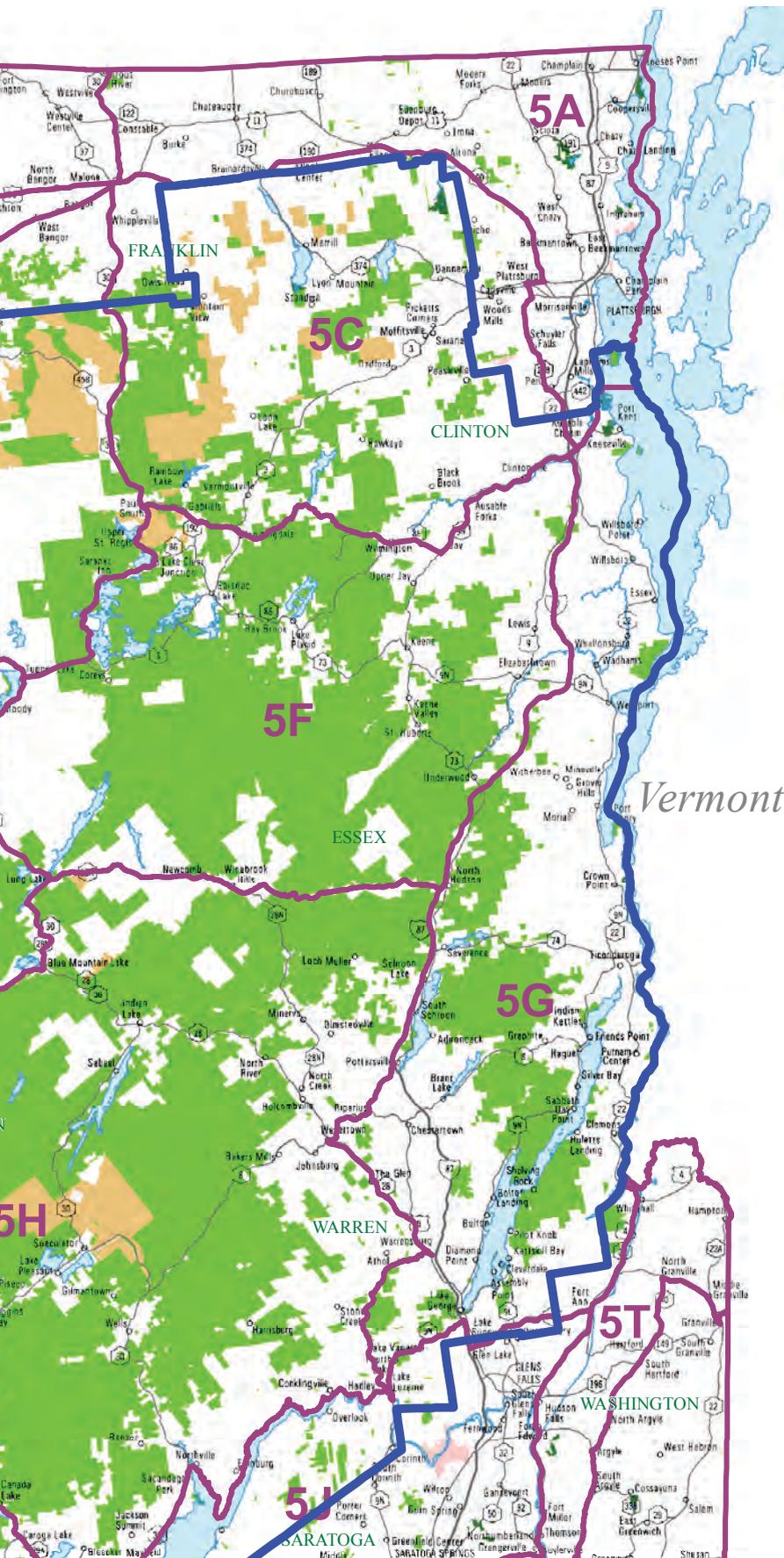
-  Wildlife Management Units
-  Adirondack/Catskill Park
-  Federal Lands
-  State Park
-  Wildlife Management Area
-  DEC Lands
-  Conservation Easement Lands



Map produced by NYSDEC DFW,

3/15/2019





## WMA Accessible Features for Regions 5 and 6

Clinton
<b>Ausable Marsh WMA (Peru)</b>
• Parking, Viewing Platform
<b>Lake Alice WMA (Chazy)</b>
• 0.4 mi CP-3 trail*
<b>Kings Bay WMA (Champlain)</b>
• Parking, Viewing Platform
Essex
<b>Wickham Marsh WMA (Chesterfield)</b>
• Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.1 mi foot trail
Jefferson
<b>Black Pond WMA (Ellisburg)</b>
• Fishing Access, Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.3 mi foot trail
<b>Lakeview WMA (Ellisburg)</b>
• Fishing Access, Parking, Restroom, 0.6 mi foot trails
<b>Perch River WMA (Orleans, Pamela, Brownville)</b>
• Parking
Oneida
<b>Utica Marsh WMA (Marcy, City of Utica)</b>
• Parking
St. Lawrence
<b>Fish Creek WMA (Macomb, DePeyster)</b>
• Fishing Access, Hand Launch, Parking
<b>Upper &amp; Lower Lakes WMA (Canton)</b>
• Accessible Blind, Blind, Parking, 0.5 mi foot trails
<b>Wilson Hill WMA (Louisville)</b>
• Blind, Boardwalk, Viewing Platform, 1.2 mi foot trails
Washington
<b>Carters Pond WMA (Greenwich)</b>
• Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.2 mi. foot trail
<b>Washington Co. Grasslands WMA (Fort Edward)</b>
• Parking, Viewing Platform

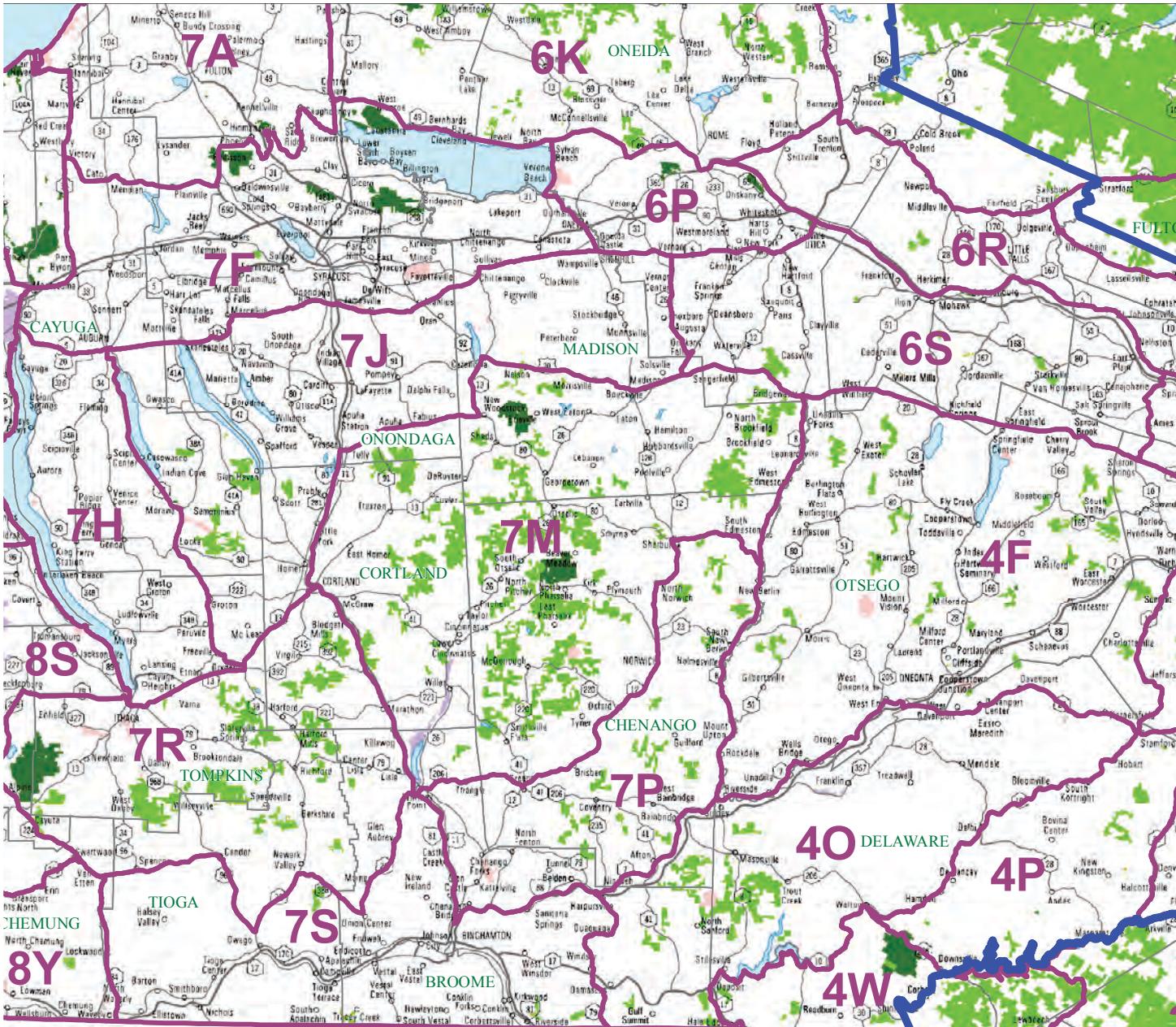
\* CP-3 - Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html> for application instructions and forms.

## Conservation Easements

Public hunting and trapping is allowed on the conservation easements shown on these maps, but because rules and regulations are different for each conservation easement, members of the public wishing to hunt or trap on a particular easement property are strongly encouraged to contact the local DEC office (see page 6) before planning a trip.

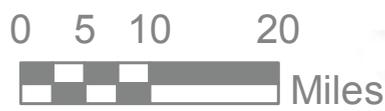
For more information on Conservation Easements, visit: [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41156.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41156.html)

# Regional Maps

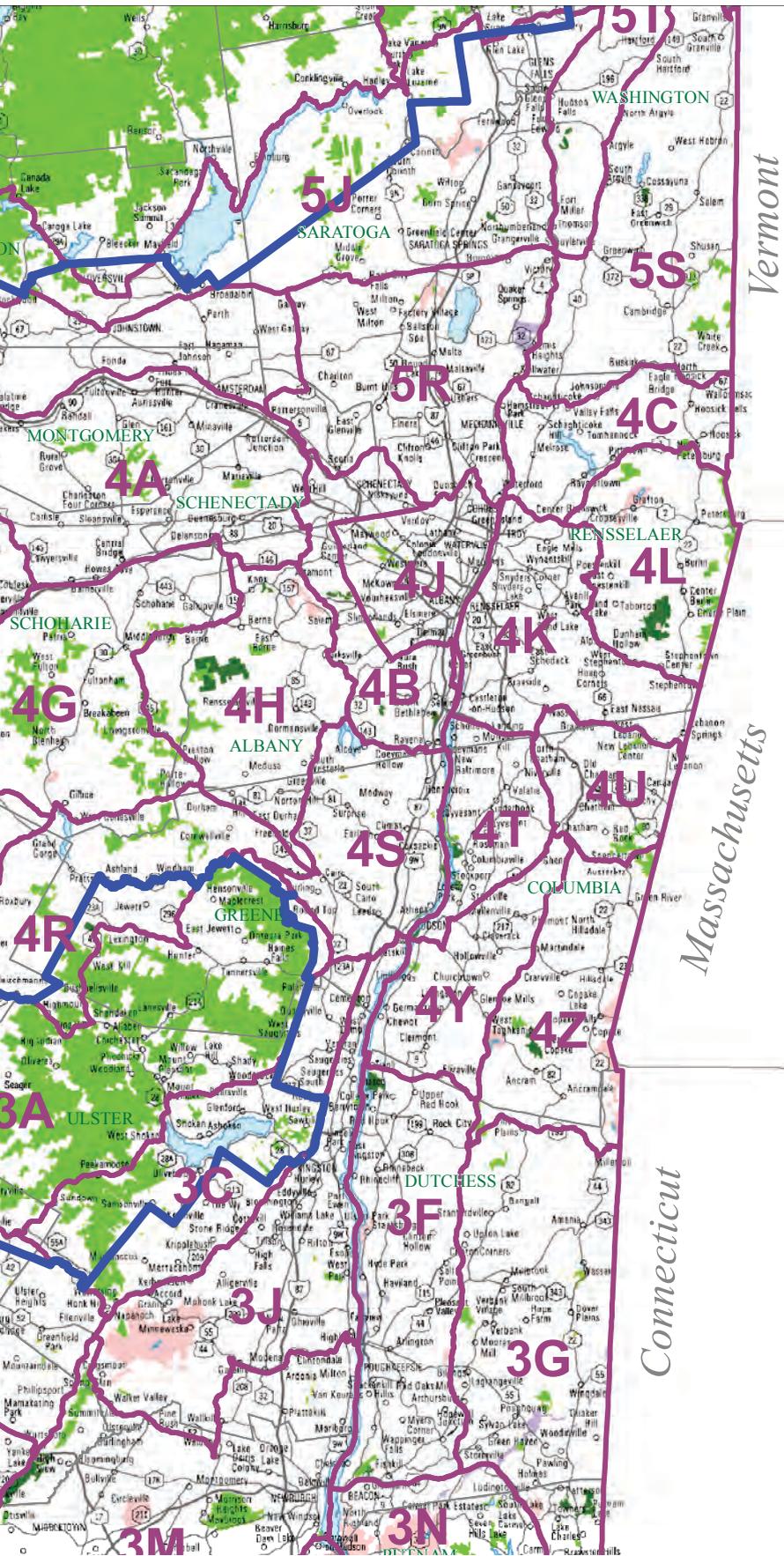


## Public Lands & Management Areas

-  Wildlife Management Unit
-  Adirondack/Catskill Park
-  Federal Lands
-  State Park
-  Wildlife Management Area
-  DEC Lands
-  Conservation Easement Lands

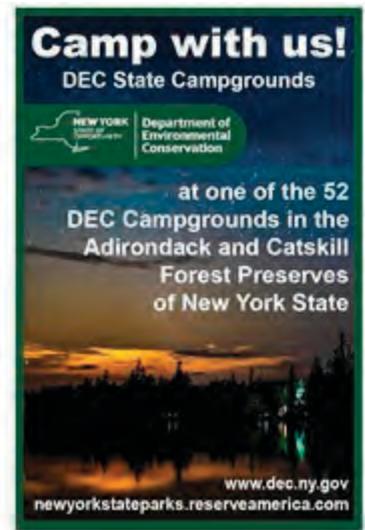


DECinfo Locator is an interactive map that includes DEC lands with public hunting access and other outdoor recreation information. Go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>



## WMA Accessible Features for Regions 4 and 7

Albany
<b>Partridge Run WMA (Berne)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CP-3 — Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to <a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html</a> for application instructions and forms.</li> </ul>
Greene
<b>Vosburgh Swamp WMA (Coxsackie, Athens)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible Blind, Boardwalk, Parking</li> </ul>
Onondaga
<b>Hamlin Marsh WMA (Clay)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible Blind, Boardwalk, Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.1 mi foot trail</li> </ul>
<b>Three Rivers WMA (Lysander)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.1 mi foot trail</li> </ul>
Oswego
<b>Deer Creek Marsh WMA (Richland)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dock, Boardwalk, Hand Launch, Parking, 0.1 mi foot trail</li> </ul>



## 2020–21 Habitat & Access Stamp

Invest in the future of New York's wildlife habitat and outdoor recreational opportunities by purchasing a \$5.00 Habitat & Access Stamp!



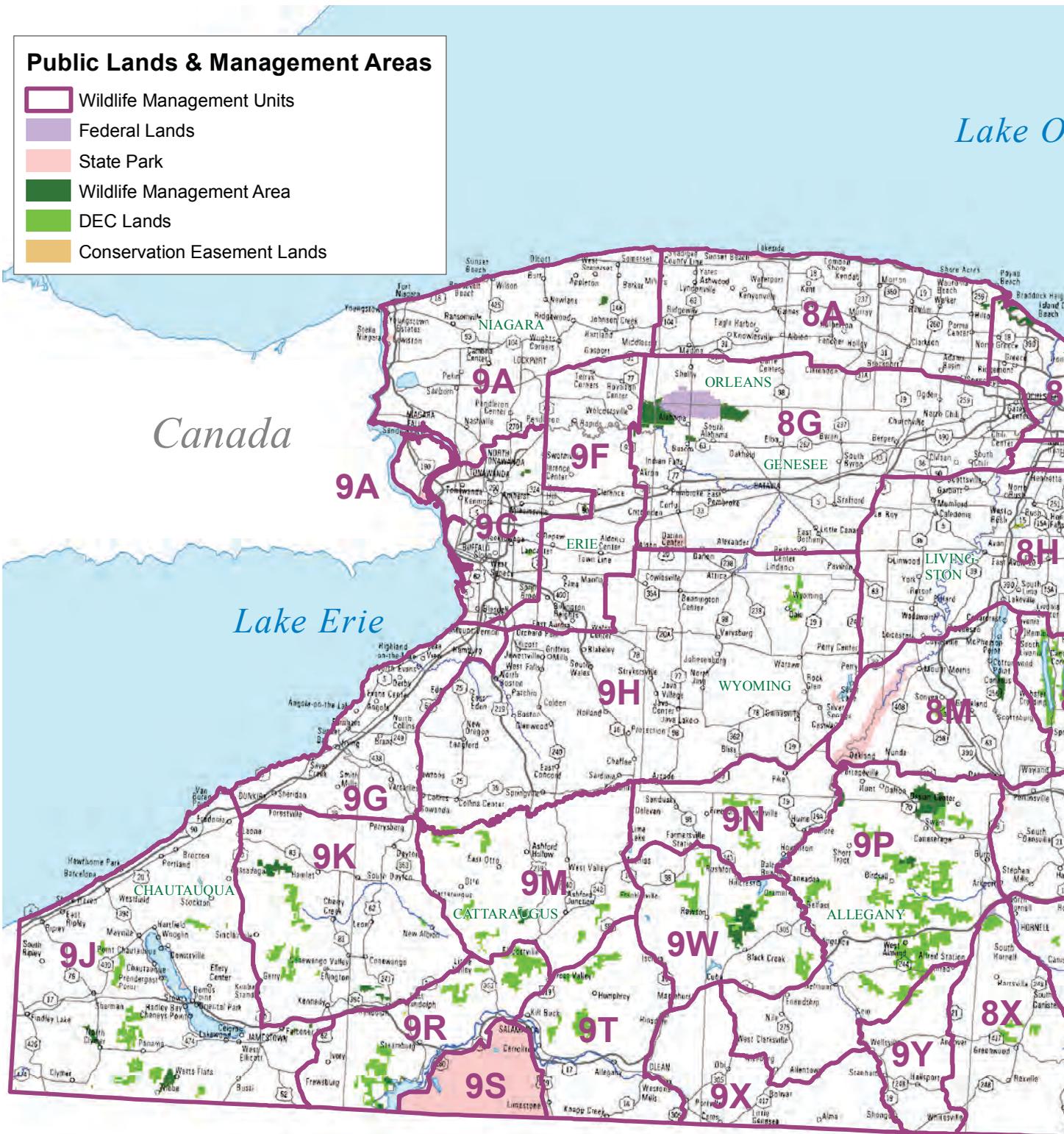
All funds from stamp purchases are deposited directly into the DEC Habitat Conservation and Access Account (HCAA) and used for projects aimed towards conserving habitat and increasing access to public and private lands for outdoor recreational access.

Whether you are a hunter or angler, birder or photographer, the purchase of a Habitat & Access Stamp is the perfect way to conserve New York's remarkable wildlife heritage. Buy today at your local license issuing agent, online ([www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html)) or by phone (1-866-933-2257).

# Regional Maps

## Public Lands & Management Areas

- Wildlife Management Units
- Federal Lands
- State Park
- Wildlife Management Area
- DEC Lands
- Conservation Easement Lands

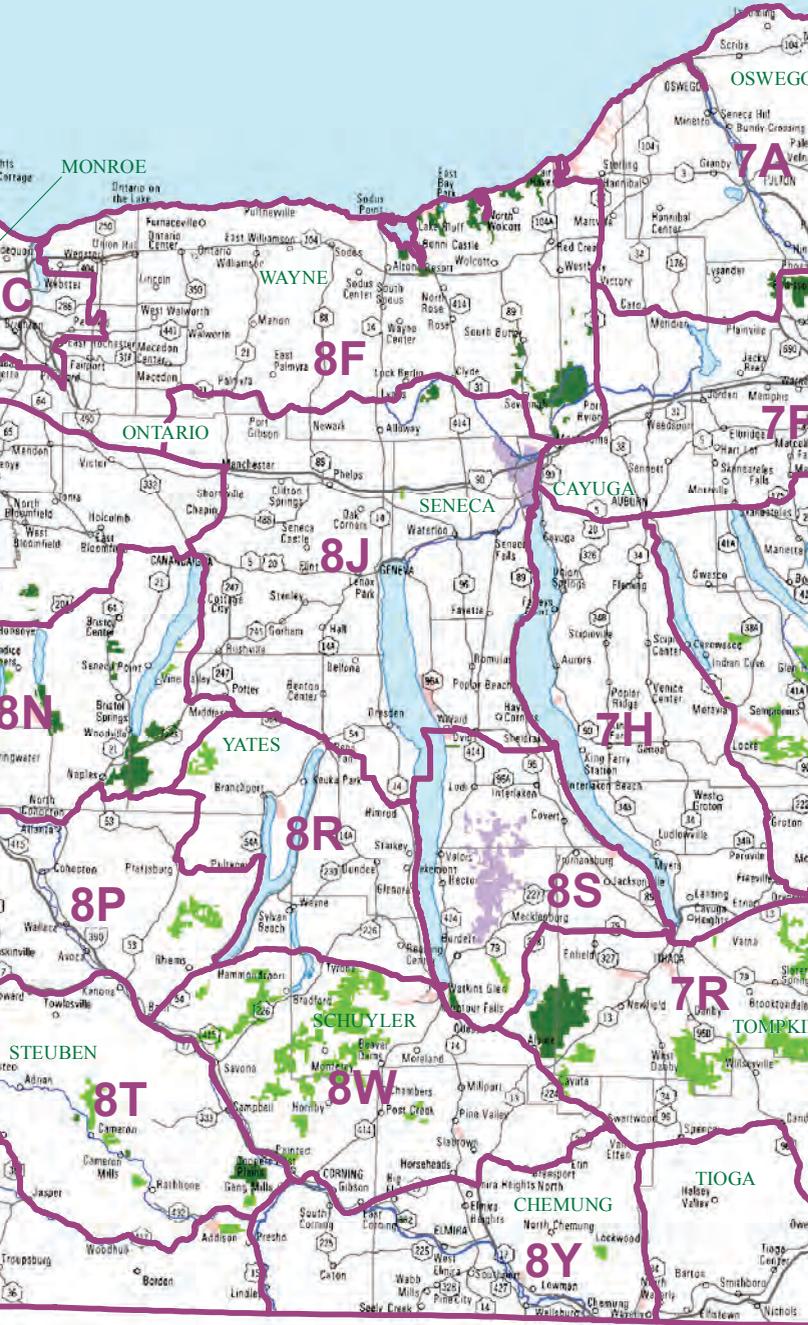


DECinfo Locator is an interactive map that includes DEC lands with public hunting access and other outdoor recreation information. Go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>



*Pennsylvania*

ntario



Map produced by NYSDEC DFW, 3/15/2019

## WMA Accessible Features for Regions 8 and 9

Cattaraugus
<b>Birch Run Ponds FWMA (Allegany)</b>
• Fishing Access, Parking, 0.3 mi foot trail
<b>Harwood Lake MUA (Farmersville)</b>
• Parking
Cattaraugus/Erie
<b>Zoar Valley (Otto, Persia, Collins)</b>
• Parking
Cayuga/Wayne/Seneca
<b>Northern Montezuma WMA (Victory, Conquest, Mentz, Montezuma, Butler, Savannah, Seneca Falls)</b>
• Accessible Blind, Parking, Restroom, Viewing Platform, 1.4 mi foot trails
Chautauqua
<b>Chautauqua Lake FWMA (Ellery, North Harmony)</b>
• Accessible Blind, Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.2 mi foot trail
<b>Watts Flats (Harmony)</b>
• Blind
Erie
<b>Great Baehre Swamp WMA (Amherst)</b>
• Parking, 0.6 mi bike trail
<b>Spicer Creek WMA (Grand Island)</b>
• Accessible Blind, Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.4 mi foot trail
<b>Tillman Road WMA (Clarence)</b>
• Boardwalk, Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.1 mi foot trail
Genesee
<b>John White WMA (Alabama)</b>
• Accessible Blind, Parking
Livingston
<b>Conesus Inlet WMA (Conesus)</b>
• Parking, 0.1 mi foot trail
Livingston/Allegany
<b>Rattlesnake Hill WMA (Nunda, Ossian, Grove)</b>
• Viewing Platform, Parking
Monroe
<b>Braddock Bay WMA (Parma, Greece)</b>
• Fishing Access, Parking, Restroom, Viewing Platform
Ontario/Yates
<b>High Tor WMA (Naples, Italy Middlesex)</b>
• Fishing Access, Hand Launch, Parking
Orleans/Erie/Niagara/Genesee
<b>Tonawanda WMA (Shelby, Newstead, Royalton, Alabama)</b>
• Accessible Blind, Parking, 0.2 mi foot trail
Orleans/Genesee
<b>Oak Orchard WMA (Barre, Shelby, Oakfield, Alabama)</b>
• Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.1 mi foot trail, 3.2 mi dikes
Schuyler
<b>Catherine Creek Marsh WMA (Dix, Montour)</b>
• 2 mi. CP-3 trail*
<b>Waneta-Lamoka WMA (Tyrone)</b>
• Hand Launch, Parking
Steuben
<b>Erwin WMA (Erwin)</b>
• Parking
Wayne
<b>Galen WMA (Galen)</b>
• 2.2 mi foot trails
<b>Lake Shore Marshes WMA (Rochester, Oswego)</b>
• Fishing Access, Hand Launch, Parking, Restroom
Wyoming
<b>Carlton Hill MUA (Middlebury)</b>
• 0.6 mi CP-3 trail*

\* CP-3 - Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html> for application instructions and forms.

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 Donation Coalition  
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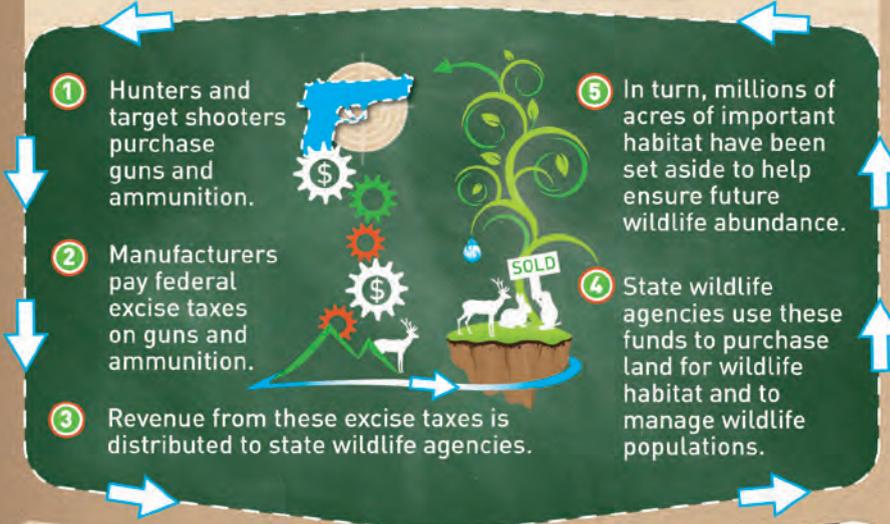
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Remember to Report Your Game Harvest  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

# HOW WILDLIFE IS THRIVING BECAUSE OF GUNS & HUNTING

Since the late 1930s, hunters, target shooters and the firearms industry have been the nation's **LARGEST** contributors to **conservation**, paying for programs that benefit America's wildlife and all who love the outdoors.

## HOW IT WORKS



This System Has Provided **MORE THAN \$12.5 Billion** For Conservation So Far

### Where the Money Goes

Buy, develop, maintain and operate wildlife management areas



Research projects focused on wildlife conservation

Hunter safety and education programs

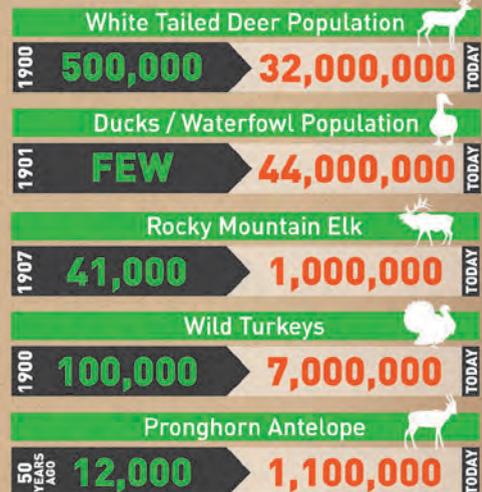


Construction and maintenance of public target shooting ranges

### Quick History

- Early 1900s**  
As many wildlife species are dwindling in numbers or disappearing, firearms industry steps forward and asks Congress to redirect excise tax on sale of guns and ammo to help fund wildlife conservation.
- 1937**  
Congress passes and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act into law.
- 1938 to today:**  
Revenue from this act has purchased millions of acres of prime habitat that is maintained by state wildlife agencies. These lands, where game and non-game species flourish, are purchased with sportsmen's dollars but used by all Americans.

## THEN & NOW



## OTHER WAYS SPORTSMEN CONTRIBUTE

Excise taxes combined with revenue from hunting and fishing license sales fund the majority of state wildlife agency budgets.



**\$81 Million** CONTRIBUTED ANNUALLY

Duck stamp proceeds are used by the government to buy or lease wetland habitat for ducks, geese and hundreds of non-game birds and animals.



### SOME HEROES OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION MODEL IN THE WORLD ARE:



Theodore Roosevelt



Aldo Leopold



Key Pittman



Willis Robertson





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