

# New York HUNTING & TRAPPING

2021–2022 Official Guide to Laws & Regulations

Volume 15, Issue No. 1, September 2021

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Highlights of Changes for 2021-22

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DEC Adopts New Deer  
Management Plan

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Opportunities for Junior Hunters

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New Yorkers Describe Why They  
Hunt and Trap



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Environmental  
Conservation

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Most regulations are in effect September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022

# Message from the Governor



As the 2021 fall hunting and trapping seasons approach, it is worth reflecting on the life-altering events of the past year and a half and the many challenges we've faced during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Despite the disruptions to our daily routines and rituals, New Yorkers displayed exceptional resilience, finding ways to cope and adapt to a crisis unlike any we have seen before. Amid the social distancing, masks, and additional health-based guidance, New York's spectacular outdoors remained a constant source of solace. That many New Yorkers discovered or re-discovered the healing power of nature serves to remind us all of the importance of a healthy environment.

In response to the pandemic, the state's government found innovative ways to help facilitate New Yorkers' access to lands and waters and ensure that responsible recreation could flourish. By offering new, online hunter education courses to educate new hunters in safe practices and responsible hunting, we reached more than 70,000 potential new hunters, many of whom took to the woods to pursue big or small game for the very first time. Our focus now turns to engaging, mentoring, and supporting all who found enjoyment in New York's great outdoors.

In 2021, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) resumed the state's traditional in-person hunter education classes led by the agency's dedicated volunteer instructors. In addition to the online courses, these volunteer-led in-person classes continue to instill safe, ethical behavior in those who wish to venture afield during the coming hunting seasons. In addition, DEC staff are developing new content for the hunter education program to help participants build the skills that will serve new and seasoned hunters alike to remain safe and confident as they enjoy future outdoor endeavors.

This 2021-22 hunting and trapping regulations guide contains a wealth of information to help you stay safe, legal, and ethical during upcoming seasons. DEC's talented and dedicated staff work to manage and protect our wildlife resources and stand ready and able to answer any questions you may have to help get the most out of your time afield.

I wish you all a safe, successful, and healthy season.

**Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**

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## New York State

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

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#### 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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### ON THE COVER:

James Galantino on why he hunts: "The chance. The draw. The anchor. The release. The arrow's flight. The impact. The flagging run. The pause. The stumble. The crash. The silence. The feeling of accomplishment is absolute, all else pales by comparison."



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## New Deer and Bear Hunting Regulations

1. Antlerless-only deer season in mid-September (9/11 - 9/19/2021) using firearms, vertical bows, and crossbows in WMUs 3M, 3R, 8A, 8F, 8G, 8J, 8N, 9A, and 9F, and using only vertical bows in WMUs 1C, 3S, 4J, and 8C. DMPs and DMAP tags only.
2. Daily hunting hours for deer and bear are extended to 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.
3. Hunters must wear a fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink hat or vest when hunting deer or bear with a firearm.
4. Antlerless harvest allowed again during the early muzzleloader season in Northern Zone WMUs 6A, 6F, 6J.
5. Bear season in the Adirondacks is simplified by extending the regular season to cover the full hunting period. <https://www.eregulations.com/newyork/hunting/big-game-hunting>

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

In September 2020, DEC adopted new waterfowl hunting regulations that allow veterans and active-duty military service members to hunt migratory game birds for two additional days with a bag limit equal to that of the regular hunting season. For the specific veteran/active-duty waterfowl days in each zone see the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Season information on page 53.

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

Based on input from trappers and management needs for species like beaver, DEC adopted regulations modifying season dates for mink, muskrat, and beaver. For details see the trapping season maps for these species on page 63.

## Pending Revision to Fisher Permit Requirement

At press time, a regulatory proposal was pending that would remove the requirement for a free special permit for fisher trapping. Under the proposal, a trapping license and pelt sealing would still be required for fisher and a free special permit would still be required for marten. For more information and for a summary of what biologists learned from the data collected on fisher, see page 64.

## Holiday Deer Hunt

Regulations were adopted to provide an additional late bow and muzzleloading season for deer in the Southern Zone from December 26 through January 1. See page 25 for the deer hunting season map.

## New Legislation Lowered the Age for Deer Hunting with a Firearm & Crossbow

Governor Cuomo signed legislation that allows youths aged 12-13 to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow under the supervision of an experienced adult hunter in upstate counties that choose to participate. Before you head afield, be sure to check the DEC website ([www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html)) for an updated list of counties that have "opted in" to this opportunity for junior hunters.

## Pending Deer and Bear Hunting Regulations

At press time, regulations were pending to expand deer and bear hunting opportunities including a September antlerless deer season in select WMUs, longer daily hunting hours for deer and bear, allow antlerless deer take again during the early muzzleloader season in some Northern Zone units, and changes to the Adirondack bear season. Be sure to check the DEC website prior to going afield.

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

DEC's Automated Licensing System, **DECALS**, has a new look and many new and exciting features that make it easier than ever to purchase your licenses and privileges and enjoy the abundant hunting, trapping and fishing opportunities that New York State has to offer.

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- SIGN UP FOR HUNTER EDUCATION COURSES
- FIND A LICENSE ISSUING AGENT NEAR YOU
- REPORT YOUR GAME HARVESTS AND VIEW YOUR HARVEST HISTORY



To access your account visit [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) and follow the links to purchase your license. For assistance, please call 1-866-933-2257, Monday - Friday, 8:30-4:30.



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

## About This Guide

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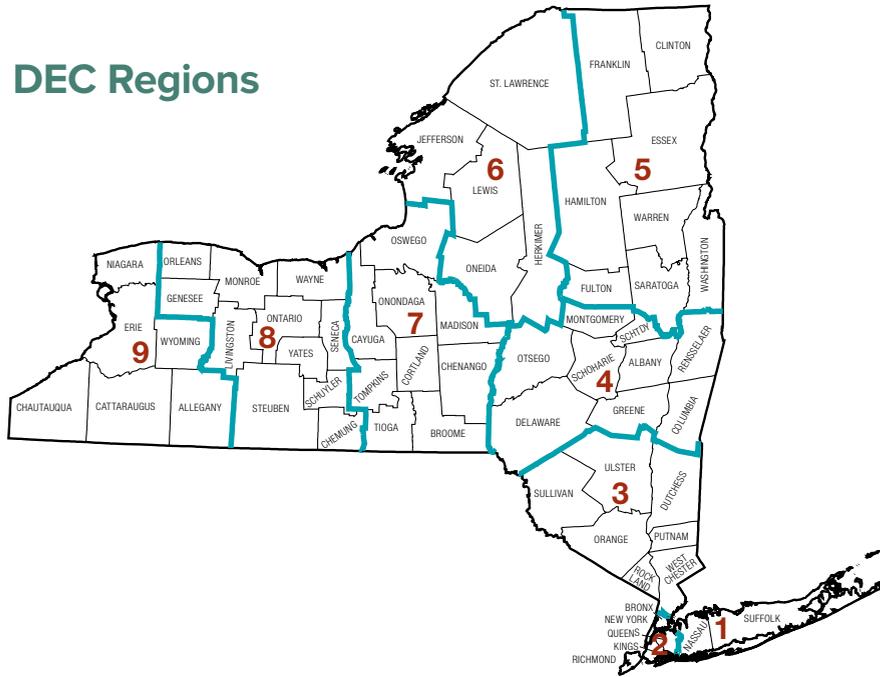
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# Important Numbers

## DEC Regions



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## Other Important Numbers

DEC Automated Licensing System	1-86-NY-DECALS (1-866-933-2257)M-F, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM
Lifetime License Information	(518) 402-8843
NYC Watershed Hunting Permits	1-800-575-5263
Hunter Ed	1-888-HUNT ED2 (1-888-486-8332)
Deer Management Hotline	1-866-472-4332
Report Game Take via DECALS	1-866-GAME-RPT (1-866-426-3778)
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>
<b>Forest Rangers</b>	<b>1-833-NYS-RANGERS (1-833-697-7264)</b>
Information on NY SAFE Act	1-855-LAW-GUNS (1-855-529-4867)
<b>Law Enforcement (ECOs)</b>	<b>1-844-DEC-ECOS 1-844-332-3267</b>

Important Numbers					
Region	Offices	Wildlife	Law Enforcement	Hunter Ed	Forest Rangers
1	Stony Brook University 50 Circle Rd. Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409	(631) 444-0310	(631) 444-0250	(631) 444-0255	(631) 444-0291
2	1 Hunters Pt. Plaza 47-40 21st St. Long Island City, NY 11101-5407	(718) 482-4922	(718) 482-4885	(631) 444-0255	(631) 444-0291
3	21 South Putt Corners Rd. New Paltz, NY 12561	(845) 256-3098	(845) 256-3013	(845) 256-3063	(845) 256-3026
4	1130 North Westcott Rd. Schenectady, NY 12306-2014	(518) 357-2355	(518) 357-2047	(518) 357-2355	(518) 357-2161
	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	—	(518) 897-1303
	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	(315) 785-2263
	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	—	(607) 753-3095 x.223
	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	(607) 622-8287
	7291 Coon Rd. Bath, NY 14810-9728	(607) 776-2165	—	—	
9	270 Michigan Ave. Buffalo, NY 14203-2999	(716) 851-7010	(716) 851-7050	—	(716) 372-0645
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# Message from the Commissioner

Living with the COVID-19 pandemic over the past year plus has been challenging and unprecedented. COVID-19 altered almost every aspect of our daily lives. However, with much of the world on lock-down to flatten the COVID curve, DEC saw record numbers of hunters and outdoor enthusiasts flocking to New York's natural resources seeking solace and a sense of normalcy.

As another year of hunting and trapping seasons approaches, many of us will once again turn to nature to rejuvenate our spirits and revive cherished annual traditions.

DEC is fortunate to have the help of many partners in the conservation community, including hunters and trappers who are among some of the strongest stewards of New York's natural resources. Throughout this guide, you'll find essays and quotes submitted by New Yorkers explaining why they hunt or trap. Several key themes emerge in these stories, highlighting the importance of these activities:

- The sense of self-confidence that comes from meeting the physical and intellectual challenge of finding and harvesting game;
- The solace of securing a sustainable, local source of food;
- The satisfaction that comes from being self-sufficient;
- The restorative quality of observing nature;
- The gratification of learning about wildlife and their habitats;
- The value in connecting to and taking care of a special piece of land;
- The joy of creating or reinforcing family traditions and strengthening bonds with family and friends; and
- The pride in helping to manage game species like deer



As a result of the pandemic, more New Yorkers sought out the experience and benefits of venturing afield. DEC adapted quickly and creatively to meet this challenge and provided online hunter safety education courses to nearly 70,000 people. In-person hunter education courses resumed last fall. Additionally, DEC adopted an updated Deer Management Plan that describes strategies for enhancing hunting opportunities for our most popular game species while addressing the challenges caused by overabundant deer.

As New York continues to put the pandemic behind us, I am more grateful than ever to be able to spend time outdoors, hunting with family and friends, and I know many of you feel the same.

Have fun afield this season, and please continue to put safety first.

## 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 1-866-472-4332.



## REPORT YOUR HARVEST

It's the **LAW** and necessary for good game management!

**TAKE IT**

**TAG IT**

**REPORT IT**

1-866-426-3778

HuntFishNY Mobile App

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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, 8AM-5PM, Sat. 9AM-5PM (extended hours Aug 1- Nov 30, M-F 8AM-7PM, Sat 9AM-5PM) and online through the DEC's Automated Licensing System, DECALS (<https://decals.licensing.east.kalkomey.com>). You can also visit this link to locate a license issuing agent near you. All major credit cards 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 online 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 that meet IHEA-USA requirements.

## Mandatory Bowhunter Education

Hunters wishing to bow hunt for big game must present either:

1. Proof that they successfully completed an approved bowhunter education course (in-person or online). (Note: Approved courses are International Bowhunter Education Program courses or an equivalent course. If in doubt, call toll free — 1-888-HUNT-ED2); OR
2. Proof that they previously held a New York State bowhunting license or stamp issued in 1980 or later; if proof is from prior to 1980, they 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

*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
<b>Junior Hunting (Ages 12–15)</b>	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$100
	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$5
	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 and deer with gun or crossbow 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). Check DEC's website (<a href="http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html">www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html</a>) for a list of counties where 12- and 13-year-olds can hunt deer with a gun or crossbow and page 37 for details.)</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>		
* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.		
<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.		
<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>		
* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.		
<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.		
<b>Muzzleloader Privilege (Ages 12+)</b> <b>Privileges:</b> Hunt deer (ages 12+) and bear (ages 14+) with a muzzleloading firearm during muzzleloading season, and the January special firearms season in Suffolk County (WMU 1C; ages 14+). Hunt deer (ages 12+) and bear (ages 14+) with a crossbow (see page 23). <b>Qualifications:</b> Current year NYS hunting license.	12–69 (NYS Resident)	\$15
	70+ (NYS Resident)	FREE
	Military Disabled <sup>1</sup>	FREE
	Patriot <sup>2</sup>	\$15
	Native American <sup>3</sup>	FREE
	12+ (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 59 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

## 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, 8AM-5PM). 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.

<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 12-15):** Hunters ages 12 and older will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag and hunters ages 14 and older will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag and 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 ages 12-13 will receive an Either Sex Tag and a Bear Tag.

Junior bowhunters ages 14-15 will receive an Either Sex Tag. Junior bowhunters may use the Either Sex Deer 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.

# General License Information

Residency continued from page 10

where a person maintains a fixed, permanent 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



**Angelina O'Neill on why she hunts: "From helping wildlife management and contributing to conservation, to feeding my family and learning about the outdoors, there truly is no better avocation. Hunting will forever be a part of who I am."**

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.

corrected as soon as possible.

- 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

Reg Season Deer Tag

Doc# 20-03-87654321 2021 - 22  
Jane Doe 05/31/1982  
ID: 314114431020 Issued 08/24/2021 10:52 AM

Fill out both sides immediately upon harvest

Kill Info: Date 11-27-21 Sex  M  F  
County Greene Antler Pts L 3 R 3  
Town Cairo  Reg Season  
WMMU 4H  Bowhunting  
 Muzzleloading  Youth

Flip tag over

### 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.

Mark or Cut Out month & day of kill

**HuntFishNY**  
Check out DEC's mobile app!  
**NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife**  
Download FREE from the  
Apple App Store or Google Play!  
Now includes an electronic license & game  
harvest reporting feature!  
For more information on the app & game harvest reporting, visit:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html)  
Report by phone: 866-426-3778  
EnCon Officer 24/7 Dispatch - call 844-332-3267

All Licensees: I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that information provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. False statements are punishable as a Class A misdemeanor pursuant to Section 210.45 of the Penal Law.

Signature Jane Doe Hole

Parents of Junior Licensees must sign and provide supervision.  
Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Hole for attaching to your game

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

### 3 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

CUSTOMER ID #

12 DIGIT DOC #

CORRECT TAG TYPE

- 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.

**REPORT YOUR HARVEST**

It's the LAW and necessary for good game management!

**TAKE IT TAG IT REPORT IT**

1-866-426-3778  
HuntFishNY Mobile App  
[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

**Gateway Properties**  
Your Gateway to the Simple Life  
315-831-8778  
[GatewayPropertiesOfUpstateNY.com](http://GatewayPropertiesOfUpstateNY.com)

**LOTS BORDERING STATE LANDS AVAILABLE Custom Built Portable Modular Cabins**

### FINANCING AVAILABLE

### ALWAYS PURCHASING LAND & CAMPS

#### TIMBER SALES & ESTIMATES

315-831-8778

1-877-NY-LANDS

(1-877-695-2637)

[GatewayProperties@frontiernet.net](mailto:GatewayProperties@frontiernet.net)



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

**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 Program Requirements

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

### In-Person Hunter Education Program Courses

In-person courses have a field day where new hunters and trappers can get hands-on experience. All courses are free of charge, but space may be limited. As hunting and trapping 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.

**Note: Due to COVID-19, in-person courses may be cancelled or limited in size or location.**

### Online Hunter Education Course

All the requirements to earn a New York State hunter education certificate or a New York State bowhunter education certificate can be met by completing DEC's online course and passing the exam. Upon passing, you will receive your hunter education certificate so you can purchase a hunting license or a bowhunter education certificate that enables you to purchase a bowhunting privilege. An online trapper education course may be available in the fall of 2021.

There is a fee and you must be a New York State resident to take the online courses. They 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

## 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 Recreation 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 treestands overnight. Please note that a pending regulatory proposal would allow properly labeled treestands to be left overnight. Check the DEC website before going afield
- Enter property posted with No Trespassing signs, except with written permission from DEC

For more information on WMAs, including updated regulations, go to: [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 Preserve Lands

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



# Report DEC State Land Violations or Complaints

## 833-NYS-RANGERS (833-697-7264)

### Search & Rescue/Wildfire/Law Enforcement

IN AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911



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 Easement Lands

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 Lands

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).

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.

To speak with a Forest Ranger regarding specific state lands and regulations including backcountry camping permits, visit <http://on.ny.gov/NYSForestRangerRoster> for a listing of Forest Rangers by county.

# Big Game Hunting

## Hunting Hours

Big game hunting hours are 1/2-hour before sunrise to 1/2-hour after sunset (see page 81). Sunday hunting is allowed in all areas of New York. For hunting on state lands confirm regulations for the area before hunting.

## Fluorescent Orange & Fluorescent Pink Clothing Requirements

Any person hunting deer or bear with a firearm or a person who is accompanying someone hunting deer or bear with a firearm shall wear:

1. a minimum total of two hundred fifty square inches of solid fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material worn above the waist and visible from all directions; or
2. a minimum total of two hundred fifty square inches of patterned fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink consisting of no less than fifty percent fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink worn above the waist and visible from all directions; or
3. a hat or cap with no less than fifty percent of the exterior consisting of solid fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material and visible from all directions.

## Legally Antlered Deer

A legally antlered deer must have at least one antler that is 3" 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.

## 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, bear, or turkey, 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 the meat is unfit due to hunter neglect. Call a Regional Wildlife or Law Enforcement office listed on page 6.

## 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.

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

## Tagging and Reporting

After killing a deer or bear:

4. Ensure that you select the proper tag for the harvested deer or bear.
5. **Immediately** fill in all information and sign the carcass tag with ink that won't erase.
6. **Immediately** cut or mark the month and date of kill on the tag reverse.
7. Write the date of kill on the report panel. This will help you when reporting a harvest.
8. **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.
9. **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

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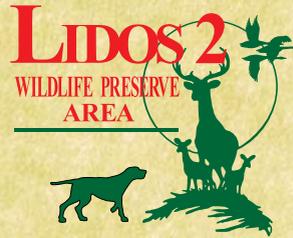
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# Big Game Hunting

Continued from page 18

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 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).

## 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

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)



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# Big Game Hunting

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 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 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 12-15 only) license and a current

muzzleloader privilege. Junior hunters (ages 14-15) may also take bear with crossbows during these seasons.

- Crossbows may be used to take deer during the regular season by hunters with a valid hunting or junior hunting (ages 12-15) license and to take bear during the early 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)



Haley Wise with the 9-point buck she harvested on Thanksgiving 2020. "I hunt for the tradition, for the challenges, for the relationships, for the competition, for the lessons, for the escape, and for my soul."

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# Chronic Wasting Disease:

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



**Deer and other CWD-susceptible cervids that are illegally imported into New York and seized by DEC Environmental Conservation Police Officers 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

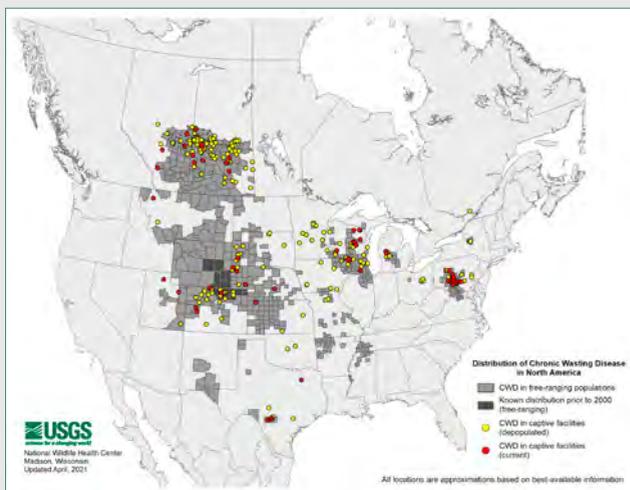
mounts, tanned hides, and cleaned upper canine teeth can be brought into NY. Hunters who improperly import whole carcasses or prohibited parts will be ticketed, and the entire animal (including antlers) will be confiscated and destroyed. If you have CWD-positive deboned meat from another state, DEC will 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 Restrictions and Allowed Parts:



Hunters may not bring whole deer, elk, moose, or caribou into New York. You may only import:

- Deboned meat
- Cleaned skull cap
- Antlers with no flesh
- Raw or processed cape or hide
- Cleaned teeth or lower jaw
- Finished taxidermy products

For information on how to bone-out deer meat to remove high-risk tissues, visit the CWD Alliance: [cwd-info.org](http://cwd-info.org)

## 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 12 or older to hunt deer and any person age 14 or older to hunt 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.

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[www.nycrossbowcoalition.com](http://www.nycrossbowcoalition.com)  
[info@nycrossbowcoalition.com](mailto:info@nycrossbowcoalition.com)

**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

[ ] Approximate Years Teaching

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

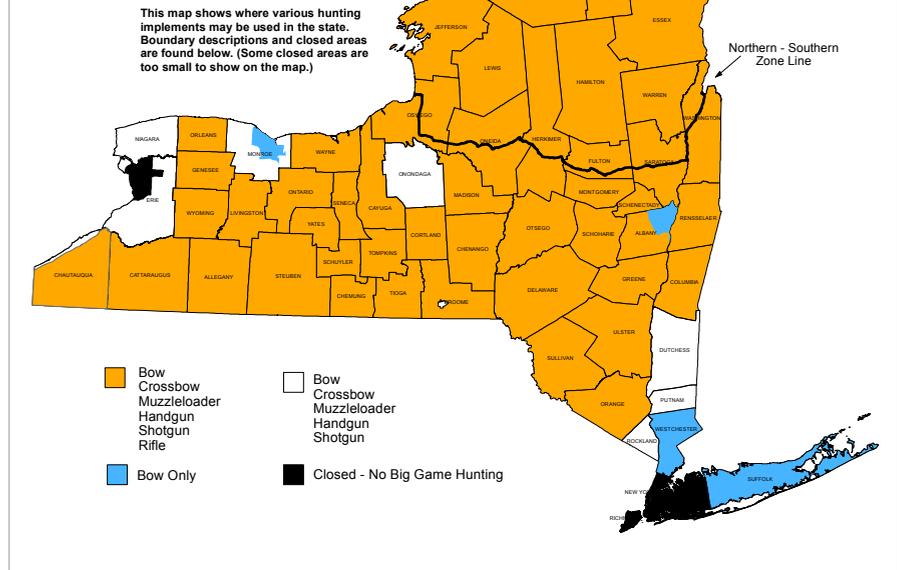
# Big Game Boundary Descriptions/Legal Implements

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.

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



## 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.

New legislation allows 12- and 13-year-olds to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow under supervision of an adult hunter in upstate counties that choose to participate. For a list of counties that have "opted in" go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html>

## 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.

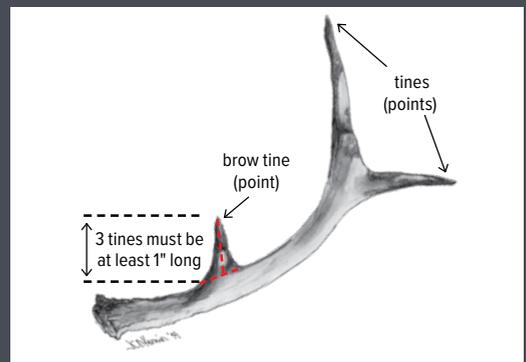
## Antler Identification

### 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



TURKEY



DEER



BEAR

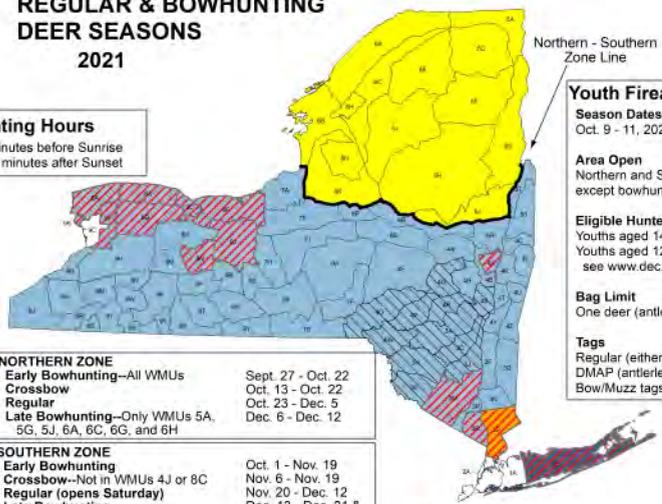
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## REGULAR & BOWHUNTING DEER SEASONS 2021

**Hunting Hours**  
 30 minutes before Sunrise to 30 minutes after Sunset



**Youth Firearms Season**  
 Season Dates: Oct. 9 - 11, 2021  
 Area Open: Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting-only WMUs  
 Eligible Hunters: Youths aged 14-15 years (all open areas) Youths aged 12-13 years (select counties, see [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html))  
 Bag Limit: One deer (antlered or antlerless)  
 Tags: Regular (either-sex), DMP and DMAP (antlerless only); Bow/Muzz tags are not valid

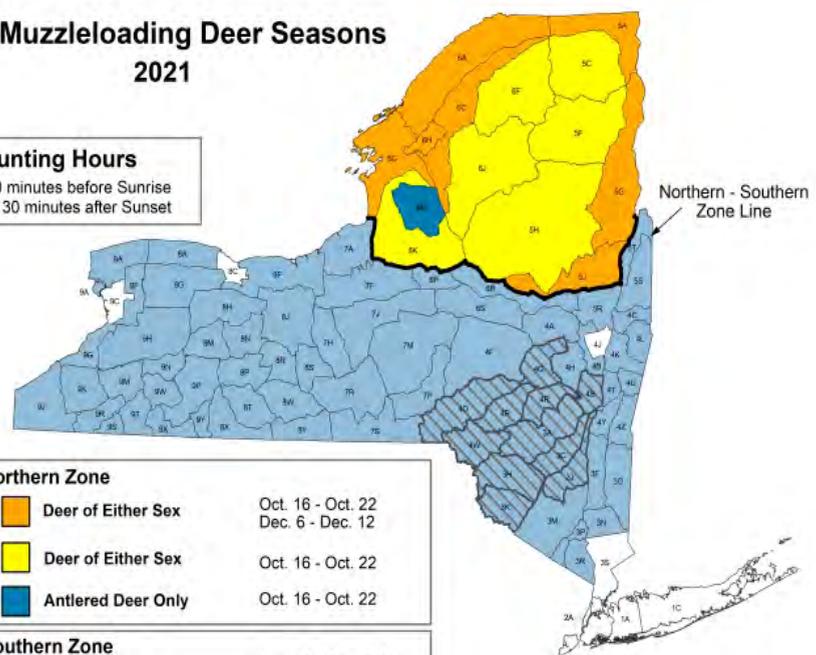
<b>NORTHERN ZONE</b>	Early Bowhunting--All WMUs Crossbow Regular Late Bowhunting--Only WMUs 5A, 5G, 5J, 6A, 6C, 6G, and 6H	Sept. 27 - Oct. 22 Oct. 13 - Oct. 22 Oct. 23 - Dec. 5 Dec. 6 - Dec. 12
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE</b>	Early Bowhunting Crossbow--Not in WMUs 4J or 8C Regular (opens Saturday) Late Bowhunting	Oct. 1 - Nov. 19 Nov. 6 - Nov. 19 Nov. 20 - Dec. 12 Dec. 13 - Dec. 21 & Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
<b>WESTCHESTER COUNTY (3S)</b>	Regular--Bowhunting Only	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31
<b>SUFFOLK COUNTY (1C)</b>	Regular--Bowhunting Only Special Firearms-(Permit Req.)	Oct. 1, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022 Jan. 2 - Jan. 31, 2022
<b>Antler Point Restrictions</b>	During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No Deer Hunting</b>	

**Early Antlerless Season** Sept. 11 - 19  
 Tags: DMP and DMAP  
 Bow-Only: 1C, 3S, 4J, 8C  
 Legal Firearms: 3M, 3R, 6A, 6F, 6G, 6J, 6N, 9A, and 9F

**Crossbows**  
 May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Regular Seasons.  
 May not be used to hunt deer:  
 - during the Youth Firearms Season; or  
 - anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.

## Muzzleloading Deer Seasons 2021

**Hunting Hours**  
 30 minutes before Sunrise to 30 minutes after Sunset



**Northern Zone**

	Deer of Either Sex	Oct. 16 - Oct. 22 Dec. 6 - Dec. 12
	Deer of Either Sex	Oct. 16 - Oct. 22
	Antlered Deer Only	Oct. 16 - Oct. 22

**Southern Zone**

	Deer of Either Sex	Dec. 13 - Dec. 21 & Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
--	--------------------	--------------------------------------

**Antler Point Restrictions**  
 During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.

**No Muzzleloading Season**

**Crossbows**  
 May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Muzzleloader Seasons.  
 May not be used to hunt deer anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.



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# Deer Hunting

## 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> <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> <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> <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> 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

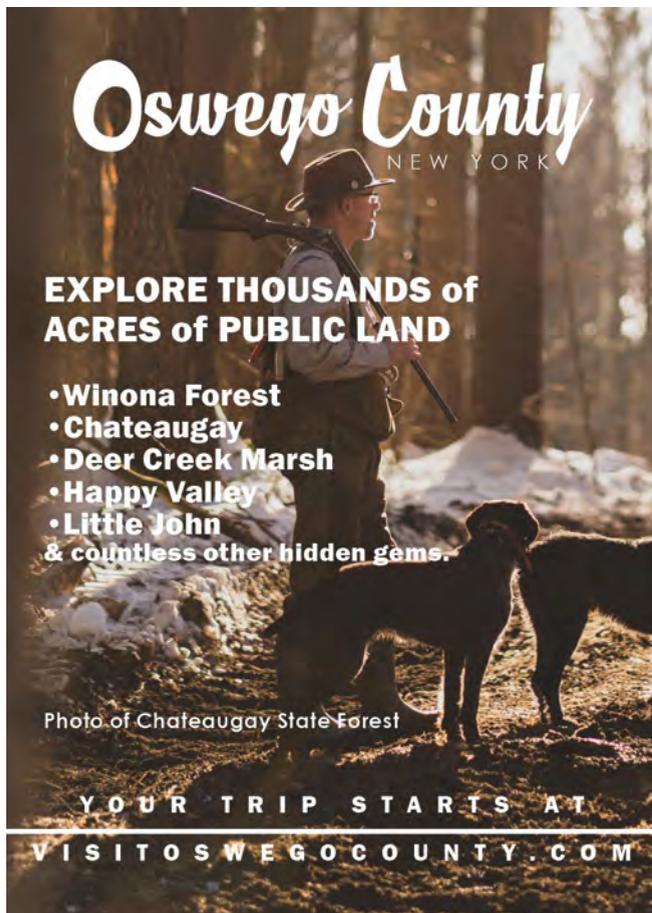
Moose are protected in New York and cannot be hunted. DEC and its research partners are currently compiling results from a multi-year research project and a series of public surveys to better understand the status of New York State's moose population, moose health, factors that influence moose survival 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).



Photo by Steve Spudie



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Vienna, VA 22180-4751  
Phone: (703) 255-2700



## 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, 2021**
- You may apply for DMPs at all license-issuing outlets, by phone or online beginning on August 2, 2021.
- 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 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. Additional 50+ acre parcels in the

## 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.

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 2020 and have a preference point for the 2021 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.

### 2020 Why I Hunt/Trap – Adult, First Hunt Category

## My First Harvest

Samantha Hollister  
Jefferson County, NY

3:30 a.m.: The alarm goes off on a Sunday morning. My partner all but leaps out of bed as I roll over and groan, sinking deeper into my cocoon of warm blankets.

“Are you coming?”

“Five more minutes,” I mumble.

4:30 a.m.: We arrive at the check-in station. I marvel at a patchwork of constellations and moonlight. I take another sip of hot coffee and let the cold, fresh air fill my lungs.

5:00 a.m.: We trudge through cattails by headlamp and moonlight. We pick a spot with the wind at our backs, strategically place our decoys, and wait.

I reflect on the challenges of the last few months: a back injury, a career change, the stress of an international pandemic...

and then, something changes. In the stillness of the swamp I sit with my partner, hidden from the world, completely alone but never more connected. I notice the sparrows rustling behind me, innately aware that dawn is about to break. They take no note of me, and I realize I bear witness to what many never see: nature as if I am not even there.

The sun peaks over the horizon, illuminating the water and sky while the rest remains shrouded in darkness. A swamp sparrow lands close enough that I see in detail his rusty crest and black eye stripes. Six or seven snow geese fly no more than twenty yards above my head. I remind myself to breathe. My heart is about to leap out of my chest at the thrill of it all, and I am overcome with gratitude. The swamp is awake, alive, thriving, and I am part of it as it is part of me.

6:45 a.m.: The swamp is thundering like fireworks on the Fourth of July. Ducks take flight, and everything comes together. The years of studying waterfowl identification, the summer I spent getting my hunter safety certification, the Sunday mornings spent at the shooting range...



A flock of mallards flies towards us – 40 yards, 30 yards, 20 yards... I lock in, lead, and shoot.

I watch as she falls from the sky. I shake with adrenaline and pride, but also sadness over intentionally ending the life of a being I so respect and admire. I reach her and silently express my gratitude: for the meal her body will provide, and for the wisdom the swamp has gifted to me.

## 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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## DMAP on State Lands

DEC has enrolled several state lands in DMAP. Tag availability is limited and hunters must apply to participate. See [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/121387.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/121387.html) for information. Properties include:

- Bully Hill State Forest, WMU 9P
- Doodletown Wildlife Management Area, WMU 4Z
- Valcour Island, WMU 5A

## 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.

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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)

## 2020 Why I Hunt/Trap – Adult, Experienced Hunter Category

### A Cook's Perspective

Joshua Briggs  
Brooklyn, NY

I come to hunting as a cook. I realized it fully one Sunday, sitting around the table eating a long-braised shoulder roast of venison with my family. I was amazed that I had provided the meal and knew which shoulder specifically we were eating. My choice to take up hunting came initially from a personal desire to minimize my carbon footprint and truly eat local. I shop at farmers' markets and try to only buy meat from small farms. But even the most sustainably raised animals have an environmental cost, and hunting was the next logical step.

Deciding to take up hunting as an adult is a challenging endeavor. Growing up, my grandfather didn't hunt, so my father didn't hunt, and thus I didn't hunt. I decided I wanted to learn when I was 26 years old. I'm 30 now. Felling a doe this year with my bow represents the culmination of four years of hard work. Between living in New York City and local regulations for firearm ownership, bow hunting is the best option

for me. It took a year before I was comfortable heading into the woods.

My first two seasons were filled with excitement and frustration, but no deer. This has been one of the most rewarding challenges of my life. It's hard to put into words what successfully harvesting a deer feels like, but it is definitely the start of something, not the end.

From the beginning I wanted to carry out the butchering process myself. Breaking down a whole animal was an intimidating prospect, but the satisfaction provided at the end of the process was immense. I have intimate knowledge of what is on my plate. I'm the only person who has laid a hand on it from the moment it was killed until all the cuts were wrapped up in the freezer.

Hunting has completely changed how I view the meat I eat, for the better. There are a lot of reasons to pick up hunting, but for me the satisfaction lies in those moments, sitting around a table with those closest to you, sharing a meal. It makes you consider how much work goes into putting that cut on your plate. You realize that what you're doing is sacred. As the world grows increasingly digital and fast paced, hunting provides a profound connection to nature. I am looking forward to deepening it for many more seasons to come.



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# DEC Adopts New Deer Management Plan

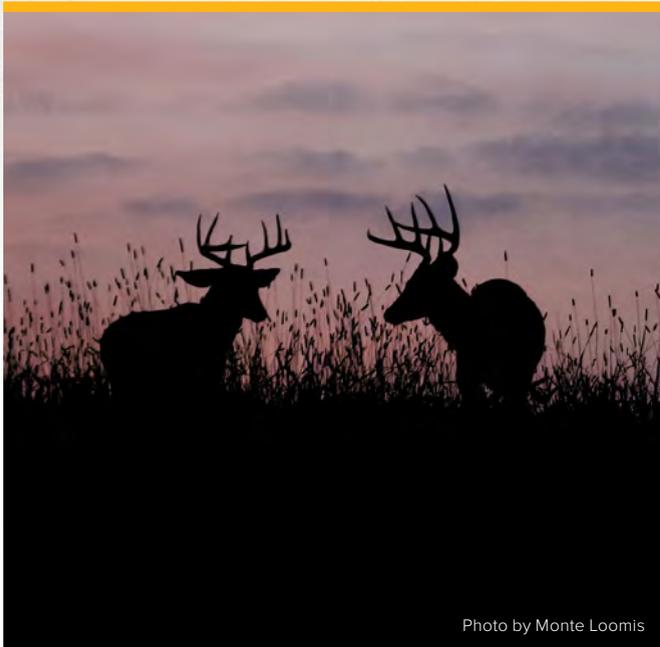


Photo by Monte Loomis

DEC recently adopted a second-edition Management Plan for White-tailed Deer in New York State, 2021-2030 ([www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7211.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7211.html)), building off progress made during the first plan and considerable research and input from the public, including hunters.

Deer management, deer hunting, and deer-related impacts to agriculture, forests, and communities across the state are important concerns for many New Yorkers. With this updated management plan, DEC is taking innovative steps to address overabundant deer in urban and suburban areas, provide relief to farmers and forest owners experiencing deer damage, protect New York's deer from the potential devastation of Chronic Wasting Disease, and enhance our great deer hunting traditions.

The plan details a new method for setting deer population objectives that integrates an assessment of deer impacts on forests with public preferences for deer population changes. It emphasizes new and adaptive approaches for harvesting antlerless deer by recommending strategic hunting season and tag changes in rural landscapes where additional harvest is needed and developing new opportunities for community-based deer management in suburban and urban areas. The plan provides greater transparency into the processes behind deer management including the methodology for setting harvest quotas for antlerless deer and estimating annual deer harvest totals. In addition, the plan identifies a series of statutory recommendations that would improve deer management capacity throughout New York.

To read the plan, go to [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) and search "Deer Management Plan."

## Some highlights include:

- Establish desired deer population trajectories (more deer, fewer deer, stay the same) for 23 regions of the state by including data on deer impacts on forest regeneration and public preferences for deer population change.
- Monitor deer populations for diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and take steps to reduce disease risk
- Recommend a number of hunting-related changes to provide additional hunter opportunity or strategically increase antlerless harvest where needed including: a September season for antlerless deer in select areas, a late bow and muzzleloader season in the Southern Zone between Christmas and New Year's Day, restoring either-sex harvest to the early muzzleloader season in several Northern Zone WMUs, extending the daily hunting hours to 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset, establishing a January season in Westchester County and a youth deer hunt with firearms in Suffolk County, creating an urban hunt program, and modifying the way that DMPs are issued.
- Continue DEC's successful effort to encourage hunters to voluntarily Let Young Bucks Go and Watch Them Grow ([www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27663.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27663.html)) which balances hunters' desire to see and take older bucks with their strong desire to maintain the freedom to choose what type of buck to harvest.
- Encourage the use of non-lead ammunition (such as copper) by deer hunters to reduce human and wildlife exposure to lead by ingestion.
- Provide technical assistance for community-based deer management including local hunting programs, suburban/urban hunter-training workshops, and explore the potential for a small grants program to assist communities in developing and implementing local deer management plans.

A close-up photograph of a hunter wearing a camouflage hat and sunglasses, aiming a rifle with a scope. The background is a blurred natural setting.

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## 2020 Why I Hunt/Trap – Junior, Experienced Hunter Category

### It's About Learning

Preston Bilotta  
Cuba, NY

There's nothing like waking up at 4 a.m. on a cool, crisp spring morning, and just listening to a tom hammer off. There's nothing like the crunching of the leaves of that buck that's closing the distance. There's nothing like that rabbit that takes off out of the bush you step on. Sitting around the fire telling old hunting stories, that's what it's all about. And until you experience it, you'll never know the integrity of it.

I am 15 years old and I have been hunting for about four years now. I absolutely love it. I've been accompanying other hunters for about as long as I can remember. My dad first took me out when I was 5 years old. If I knew my dad was going hunting, and he didn't wake me up the next morning to tag along, I would give him an earful! I thought I was the coolest person ever, walking around the woods with my dad. Rarely did we see anything, but I still had fun.

Ever since I was little, I enjoyed going out no matter the circumstance. I would walk all over the place for miles, to see no squirrels with my uncle. I would sit, not still, with my dad and see no deer; however, I enjoyed it every single time, and I still do. It doesn't matter to me if I'm going out in the middle of the rut, on the edge of a hot bedding area, or if I'm running through the weeds chasing rabbits and squirrels. It's all a learning thing for me, and I love it all. I have been fortunate enough to meet a lot of cool people who have helped me with hunting's learning curve. Meeting people like the late Dave Streb, who worked for Quaker Boy turkey calls, has helped me learn a lot.

The best part of hunting is the adrenaline rush after harvesting an animal. There's just nothing like it. This past year I broke my ankle, which held me back from being as mobile as I wanted to, but it did not slow me down from getting out there. I've been fortunate enough to have some pretty good luck. While doing what I absolutely love to do, I've been lucky enough to kill 4 deer, 3 turkeys, a coyote, and a bear.

But, there's more to hunting than just killing "the big one." Hunting is about



learning, telling stories, making friends, and having fun! At the end of the day, it's a reward if you harvest an animal. As my grandfather once told me, that's why they call it hunting, not killing. Hunting and being in the woods is my happy place.

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## The 10 Commandments of Firearm Safety

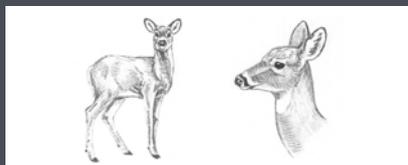
1. **Watch that muzzle!** Keep it pointed in a safe direction at all times.
2. **Treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded gun.** It might be loaded, even if you think it isn't.
3. **Be sure of your target and what is in front of it and beyond it.** Know the identifying features of the game you 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.

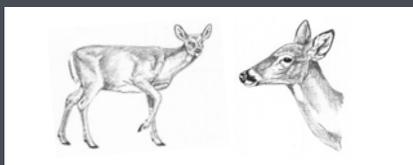
### Hunting Tips

- 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.

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**ADD \$15/25LB BATCH FOR VACUUM PACKING**  
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Future Big Game Season Dates	
Northern Zone	
<b>Early Bear</b> (some WMUs, see page 43)	The first Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the early muzzleloading season
<b>Early Bowhunting—Bear</b>	The first Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season
<b>Early Bowhunting—Deer</b>	September 27 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season
<b>Early Muzzleloading—Deer and Bear</b>	7 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday after Columbus Day
<b>Regular—Deer and Bear</b>	44 consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday after Columbus Day
<b>Late Bow and Muzzleloading—Deer</b>	7 consecutive days immediately following the regular season
<b>Youth Big Game Firearms Hunt – Deer and Bear</b>	Columbus Day Weekend; Saturday through Columbus Day (Monday)
Southern Zone	
<b>Early Bear</b> (some WMUs, see page 43)	16 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday after Labor Day
<b>Early Antlerless - Deer</b>	9 consecutive days beginning on the 2nd Saturday of September. (Only open in specific WMUs)
<b>Early Bowhunting—Deer and Bear</b>	October 1 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season
<b>Regular—Deer and Bear</b>	23 days beginning the third Saturday of November
<b>Late Bow and Muzzleloading—Deer and Bear</b>	9 consecutive days immediately following the regular season and December 26 through January 1
<b>Youth Big Game Firearms Hunt—Deer and Bear</b>	Columbus Day Weekend; Saturday through Columbus Day (Monday)
Westchester County (WMU 3S)	
<b>Early Antlerless - Deer (bowhunting only)</b>	9 consecutive days beginning on the 2nd Saturday of September
<b>Regular—Deer and Bear (bowhunting only)</b>	October 1 through December 31
Suffolk County (WMU 1C)	
<b>Early Antlerless - Deer (bowhunting only)</b>	9 consecutive days beginning on the 2nd Saturday of September
<b>Regular—Deer (bowhunting only)</b>	October 1 through December 31
<b>Special Firearms Season—Deer</b>	First Sunday in January through January 31



James Curcuruto hunted opening weekend of the Southern Zone regular deer season with his son, Jim, and grandson, Cooper. "Hunting is not only a bonding experience for my family, it is also a time of serenity and an escape from the rigors of everyday life."

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# Special Seasons Designated for Young Hunters



Zahara Petrella after a successful Youth Big Game Hunt in Cortland County.



Jaida Mendell after a successful Youth Big Game Hunt in Chautauqua County.

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

Once again, DEC is providing a special youth deer season over the three-day Columbus Day weekend. Junior hunters (ages 12-15) are eligible to take one antlered or one antlerless deer with a firearm and 14- and 15-year-old junior hunters may also take 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 be used by 12 and 13-year-old hunters only to take deer. Hunters ages 14 and 15 may use a crossbow to take deer, bear, and other game for which crossbows may be used.

**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 25-26, 2021
Western New York	October 9-10, 2021
Long Island	October 30-31, 2021
Youth Waterfowl Hunt	
Waterfowl Hunting Zone	Dates
Northeastern	September 18-19, 2021
Southeastern	September 25-26, 2021
Lake Champlain	September 25-26, 2021
Western	October 2-3, 2021
Long Island	November 6-7, 2021
Youth Wild Turkey Hunt	
Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary) and Suffolk County	April 23-24, 2022
Youth Firearms Deer and Bear Hunt	
Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary; excluding bowhunting-only WMUs)	Columbus Day Weekend; October 9-11, 2021

## New York is on Target!

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- 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)



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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

### NEW OPPORTUNITY: 12- and 13-year-olds can Hunt Deer with a Gun or Crossbow in Counties that Opt-in

A new law adopted in 2021 reduces the age for hunting deer with firearms and crossbows:

- Counties must pass a local law allowing the activity. See DEC website ([www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html)) for a list of counties that have opted-in.
- 12- and 13-year-olds can hunt deer with a rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloader during the youth deer hunt or regular season and hunt deer with a muzzleloader during the early or late muzzleloading season.
- 12- and 13-year-olds can hunt deer with a crossbow during the crossbow portion of the early bow season, the regular season and late muzzleloading season.
- The new law does not authorize bear hunting.

12- and 13-year-old hunters must meet the same requirements as 14 and 15-year-olds hunting deer with a firearm.

### 12- and 13-year-olds 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:

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print today's date above.)

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print phone number above.)

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

# Working Together to Protect Wildlife and People

The use of lead ammunition for hunting is a complex issue. We know that lead bullet fragments in hunter-killed game can harm wildlife that feed on carcasses and gut piles and may be present in processed game meat consumed by people. We also know that hunters have questions and concerns about non-lead alternatives. While many express interest in learning more about the issue and may be willing to try non-lead options, concerns about ballistic performance, cost, and availability of non-lead ammunition are often expressed. Many hunters also worry about the potential for restrictions on how they hunt and their ability to make informed choices about what ammunition to use.

There is no “quick fix” to complex issues like this. Lead based ammunition has been used

in hunting for generations, but more recently, reducing the risks lead bullet fragments can have on wildlife and people has gained attention. Coming up with effective solutions to reduce exposure to lead requires a deep understanding of the needs, interests, and concerns of all involved – hunters, conservationists, ammunition manufacturers and retailers, and wildlife managers, to name just a few.

To address this challenge, DEC convened a working group that includes representatives from DEC, the New York State Department of Health, Cornell University’s Wildlife Health Program, and organized hunting and conservation groups. Their goal is to understand all the facets of this issue including potential impacts to wildlife and human health, the economics of ammunition supply and

demand, the pros and cons of existing programs, and the attitudes and values and hunters and other constituents. This “fact finding” aspect is a critically important step that is necessary before effective solutions can be identified. Ultimately, the working group will make recommendations on ways to minimize the risks associated with lead hunting ammunition and increase acceptance and use of non-lead alternatives. Having a diverse group of partners working together on this issue will lead to actions that benefit the greatest number of people, our wildlife, and the environment for the long-term. For more information: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/48420.html>

**.270 caliber fragmented lead bullet (left) vs. intact non-lead bullet (right)**



## Attention Rabbit Hunters: Protect New York’s Rabbits and Hares

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease is a fatal virus that affects rabbits and hares. In 2010, a new strain, RHDV2 was identified. RHDV2 was first documented in pet rabbits in the U.S. in 2018. In 2020, RHDV2 jumped to wild rabbits and hares in the southwestern U.S., where it spread to six states within 4 months.

RHDV2 is extremely hardy, easily transmitted, and highly lethal to rabbits and hares. It does not infect humans or other animals. RHDV2 spreads easily through direct contact between rabbits or contact with contaminated

environments or objects. The virus can remain contagious for 3 or more months in a carcass or on inanimate objects.

If RHDV2 enters New York’s wild rabbit and hare populations, it could be impossible to control and could result in significant population declines throughout the State. To help protect these species:

- Avoid contact with domestic rabbits.
- If you are a member of a beagle club, avoid using domestic rabbits or transplanted wild rabbits for training.

- Avoid travel to states that have confirmed RHDV2 outbreaks; disinfect all gear after out-of-state travel with a 10% bleach solution (1-part household bleach, 9 parts water).
- Properly dispose of rabbit carcasses and bury carcasses deep enough to prevent scavenging.
- Do not bring rabbit carcasses killed in other states to New York.
- Report unusual rabbit mortalities to the DEC Wildlife Health Program (518-478-2203; wildlife@dec.ny.gov).

### 2020 Why I Hunt/Trap – Junior, First Hunt Category

## Hunting – Expect the Unexpected

Mike Lomascolo  
Auburn, NY

I’m a first-year youth outdoorsman. I was certified last year with an online hunter safety course. Since my other sports were cancelled because of COVID-19, I took the opportunity to hunt with my family and friends and learned a lot of things. Before COVID-19, I did not enjoy hunting as much as I do now because I had never had the chance to participate in the hunt. Now it was my turn and I was excited to go on my very first youth turkey hunt. In my turkey hunt, the turkey had gobbled, strutted, spit and drummed 10 yards away from me. It looked and sounded so cool to me

because I had never seen that before in my life. I’m sure not too many people have seen that before! After getting my first turkey ever, I wanted to go more and more often. It felt so good to accomplish something I had never done or even thought I could do.

I enjoy hunting because you never know what’s going to happen. It’s always a surprise. Things don’t always go how you would expect, and I learned that the hard way. But that’s the thing about hunting, you can’t give up because then you won’t get to experience the feeling of long-awaited success. It taught me to be patient and to persevere. I hope I will hunt for the rest of my life and get to put a lot more animals on my trophy wall. I will always enjoy the pursuit of any animal I am hunting. Thanks to my family and friends that are hunters, I now have the desire to hunt for the rest of my life. I hope my experience will help other youths enjoy hunting.



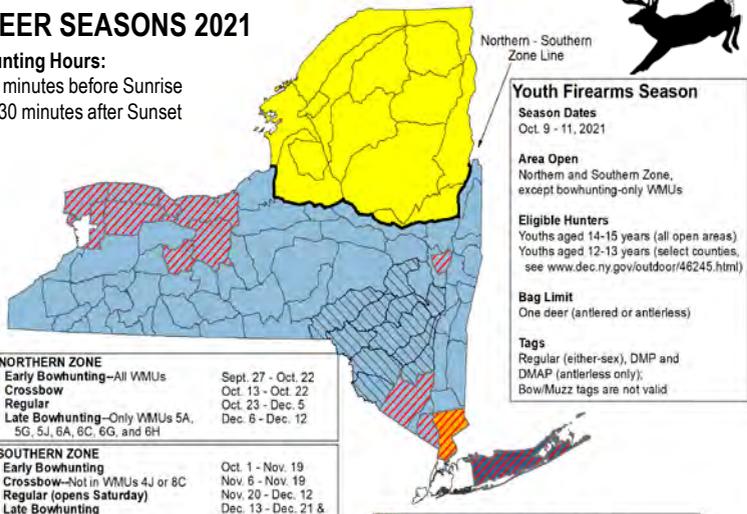


**Remember to Report Your Game Harvest**

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

**REGULAR & BOWHUNTING DEER SEASONS 2021**

**Hunting Hours:**  
30 minutes before Sunrise to 30 minutes after Sunset



**Youth Firearms Season**  
Season Dates: Oct. 9 - 11, 2021  
Area Open: Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting-only WMUs  
Eligible Hunters: Youths aged 14-15 years (all open areas); Youths aged 12-13 years (select counties, see www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html)  
Bag Limit: One deer (antlered or antlerless)  
Tags: Regular (either-sex), DMP and DMAP (antlerless only); Bow/Muzz tags are not valid

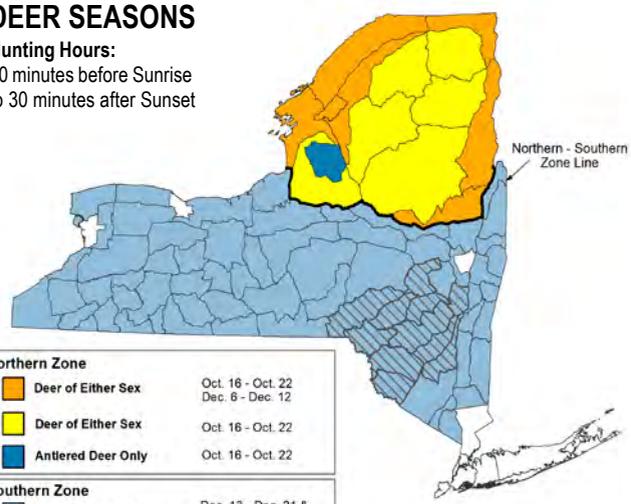
<b>NORTHERN ZONE</b>	
Early Bowhunting--All WMUs	Sept. 27 - Oct. 22
Crossbow	Oct. 13 - Oct. 22
Regular	Oct. 23 - Dec. 5
Late Bowhunting--Only WMUs 5A, 5G, 5J, 6A, 6C, 6G, and 6H	Dec. 6 - Dec. 12
<b>SOUTHERN ZONE</b>	
Early Bowhunting	Oct. 1 - Nov. 19
Crossbow--Not in WMUs 4J or 8C	Nov. 6 - Nov. 19
Regular (opens Saturday)	Nov. 20 - Dec. 12
Late Bowhunting	Dec. 13 - Dec. 21 & Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
<b>WESTCHESTER COUNTY (3S)</b>	
Regular--Bowhunting Only	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31
<b>SUFFOLK COUNTY (1C)</b>	
Regular--Bowhunting Only	Oct. 1, 2021 - Jan. 31, 2022
Special Firearms--(Permit Req.)	Jan. 2 - Jan. 31, 2022
<b>Antler Point Restrictions</b>	
During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.	
<b>No Deer Hunting</b>	

**Early Antlerless Season** Sept. 11 - 19  
Tags: DMP and DMAP  
Bow-Only: 1C, 3S, 4J, 8C  
Legal Firearms: 3M, 3R, 8A, 8F, 8G, 8J, 8N, 9A, and 9F

**Crossbows**  
May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Regular Seasons.  
May not be used to hunt deer:  
- during the Youth Firearms Season, or  
- anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.

**2021 MUZZLELOADING DEER SEASONS**

**Hunting Hours:**  
30 minutes before Sunrise to 30 minutes after Sunset

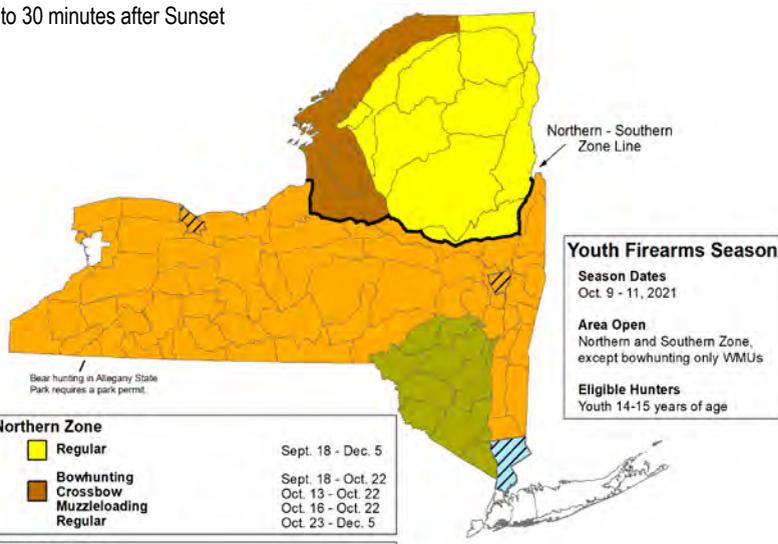


<b>Northern Zone</b>	
Deer of Either Sex	Oct. 16 - Oct. 22 Dec. 6 - Dec. 12
Deer of Either Sex	Oct. 16 - Oct. 22
Antlered Deer Only	Oct. 16 - Oct. 22
<b>Southern Zone</b>	
Deer of Either Sex	Dec. 13 - Dec. 21 & Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
<b>Antler Point Restrictions</b>	
During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler with 3 or more points that are at least 1 inch long. Young hunters (ages 12-16) are exempt.	
<b>No Muzzleloading Season</b>	

**Crossbows**  
May be used to hunt deer during the Northern and Southern Zone Muzzleloader Seasons, May not be used to hunt deer anytime in WMUs 1C (Suffolk County), 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.

**2021 BLACK BEAR SEASONS**

**Hunting Hours:**  
30 minutes before Sunrise to 30 minutes after Sunset



**Youth Firearms Season**  
Season Dates: Oct. 9 - 11, 2021  
Area Open: Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting only WMUs  
Eligible Hunters: Youth 14-15 years of age

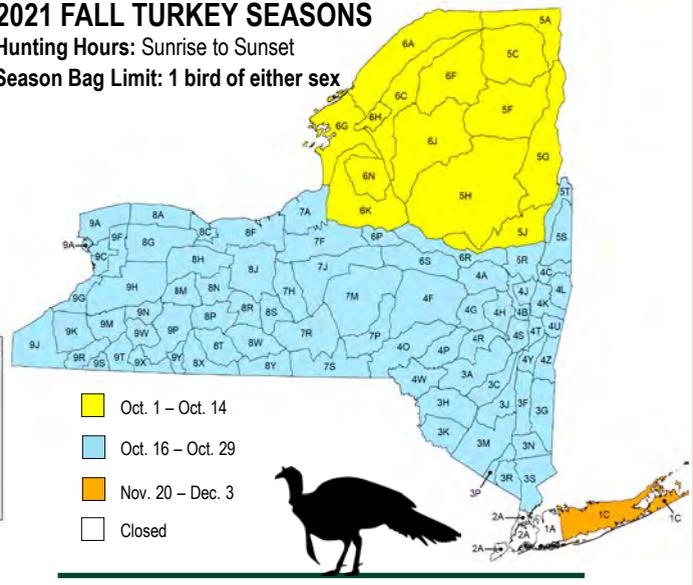
<b>Northern Zone</b>	
Regular	Sept. 18 - Dec. 5
Bowhunting	Sept. 18 - Oct. 22
Crossbow	Oct. 13 - Oct. 22
Muzzleloading	Oct. 16 - Oct. 22
Regular	Oct. 23 - Dec. 5
<b>Southern Zone</b>	
Early Bear	Sept. 11 - Sept. 26
Early Bowhunting	Oct. 1 - Nov. 19
Crossbow--Not in WMUs 4J or 8C	Nov. 6 - Nov. 19
Regular	Nov. 20 - Dec. 12
Late Bowhunting	Dec. 13 - Dec. 21
Late Muzzleloading	Dec. 13 - Dec. 21
Westchester County (3S) Regular--Bowhunting Only	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31

**Bowhunting Only WMUs**  
**No Bear Hunting**

**Crossbows**  
- May be used to hunt bear during the early bear seasons, muzzleloader seasons, and the regular firearms seasons.  
- May not be used to hunt bear anytime in WMUs 3S (Westchester County), 4J or 8C.

**2021 FALL TURKEY SEASONS**

**Hunting Hours:** Sunrise to Sunset  
**Season Bag Limit:** 1 bird of either sex



Yellow	Oct. 1 - Oct. 14
Blue	Oct. 16 - Oct. 29
Orange	Nov. 20 - Dec. 3
White	Closed

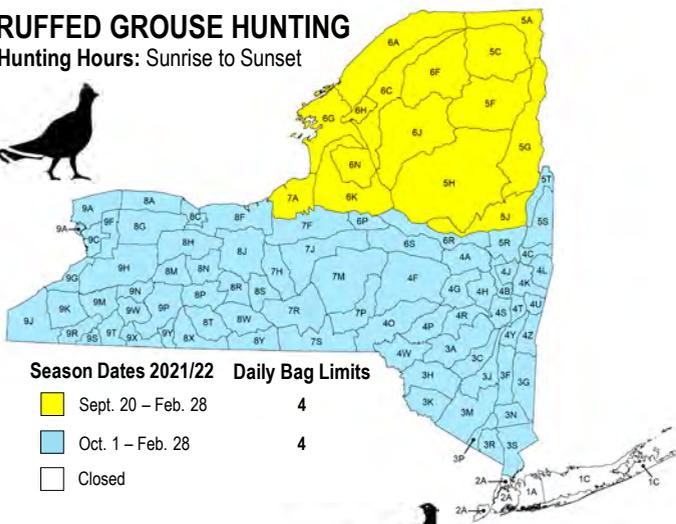
**SPRING TURKEY SEASON (no map)**

**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, 2022  
**Season Bag Limits:** Two bearded turkeys (one bird per day)

**SPRING YOUTH HUNT**  
**Season Dates:** April 23-24, 2022  
**Area Open:** Same as regular spring season Plus Suffolk County (WMU 1C)  
**Eligible Hunters:** Youth 12-15 years of age

## RUFFED GROUSE HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

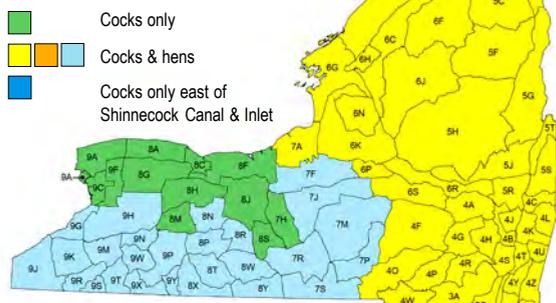


### Season Dates 2021/22 Daily Bag Limits

<span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Sept. 20 – Feb. 28	4
<span style="background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Oct. 1 – Feb. 28	4
<span style="background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Closed	

## PHEASANT HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



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

2021/22 Regular Season Dates	2021 Youth Hunt Dates	Bag Limits Daily	Season
<span style="background-color: green; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Oct. 17 – Dec. 31	Oct. 10 – Oct. 11	2	—
<span style="background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Oct. 17 – Feb. 28	Oct. 10 – Oct. 11	2	—
<span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Oct. 1 – Feb. 28	Sept. 26 – Sept. 27	2*	—
<span style="background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Nov. 1 – Dec. 31	Oct. 30 – Oct. 31 <sup>†</sup>	2*/4**	30
<span style="background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Nov. 1 – Dec. 31	Oct. 30 – Oct. 31	2*/4**	30

\* Youth Hunt  
\*\* Regular Season  
<sup>†</sup> No youth hunt in WMU 2A

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

## BOBWHITE QUAIL HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



2021/22 Regular Season Dates	Bag Limits Daily	Season
<span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Oct. 1 – Feb. 28	4	10
<span style="background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Nov. 1 – Dec. 31	6	40



## 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:

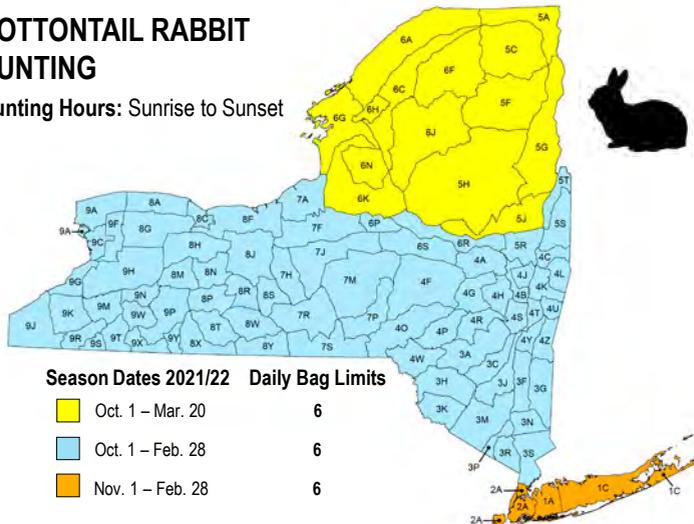
Oct. 1 – Mar. 27

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



## COTTONTAIL RABBIT HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

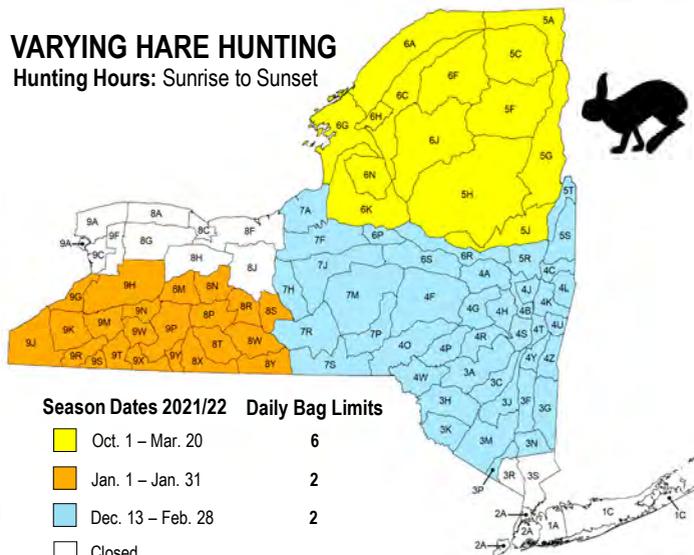


### Season Dates 2021/22 Daily Bag Limits

<span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Oct. 1 – Mar. 20	6
<span style="background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Oct. 1 – Feb. 28	6
<span style="background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Nov. 1 – Feb. 28	6

## VARYING HARE HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



### Season Dates 2021/22 Daily Bag Limits

<span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Oct. 1 – Mar. 20	6
<span style="background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Jan. 1 – Jan. 31	2
<span style="background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Dec. 13 – Feb. 28	2
<span style="background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Closed	

## 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

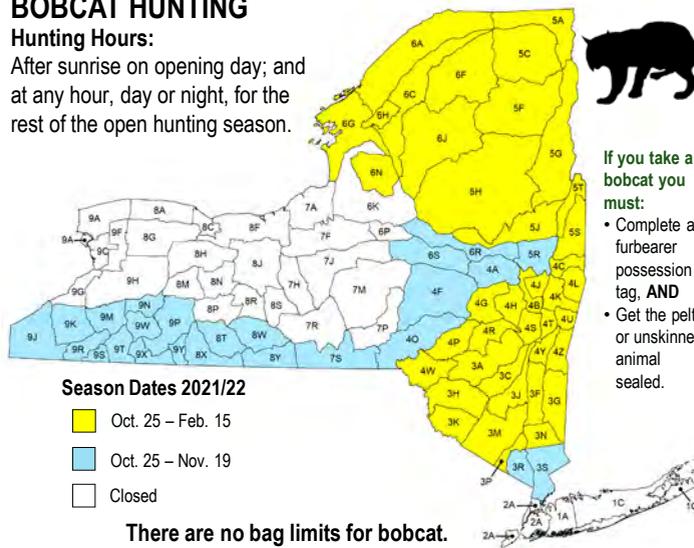


Red squirrels are unprotected, and may be hunted at any time without limit.

## BOBCAT HUNTING

Hunting Hours:

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



### Season Dates 2021/22

<span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Oct. 25 – Feb. 15
<span style="background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Oct. 25 – Nov. 19
<span style="background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Closed

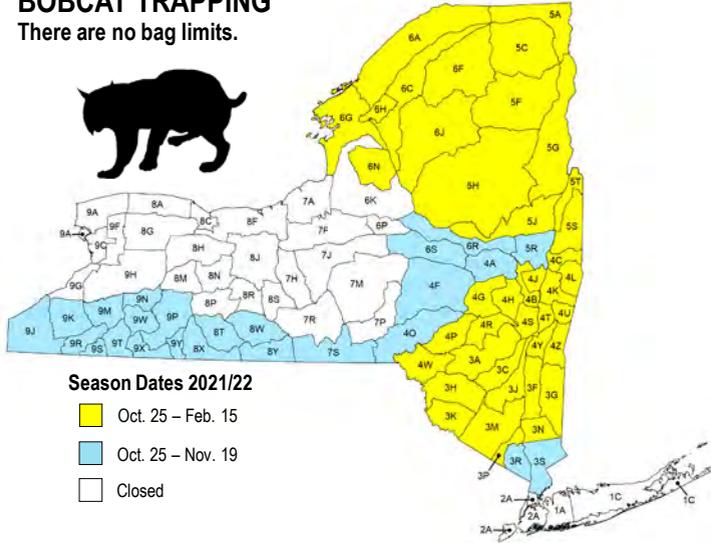
There are no bag limits for bobcat.

If you take a bobcat you must:

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

## BOBCAT TRAPPING

There are no bag limits.

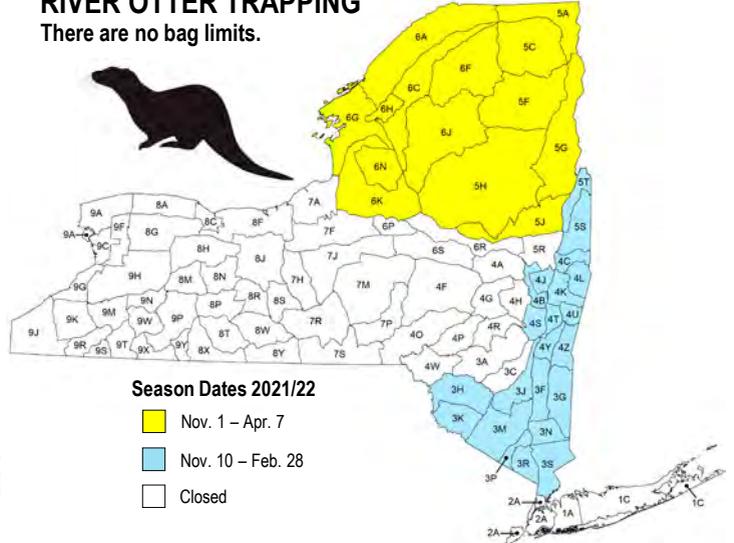


### Season Dates 2021/22

- Oct. 25 – Feb. 15
- Oct. 25 – Nov. 19
- Closed

## RIVER OTTER TRAPPING

There are no bag limits.



### Season Dates 2021/22

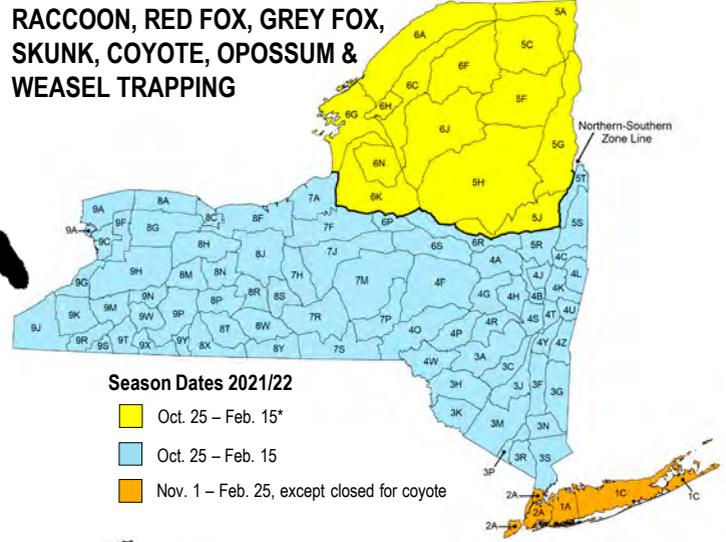
- Nov. 1 – Apr. 7
- Nov. 10 – Feb. 28
- Closed

## REMINDER

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

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

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



### Season Dates 2021/22

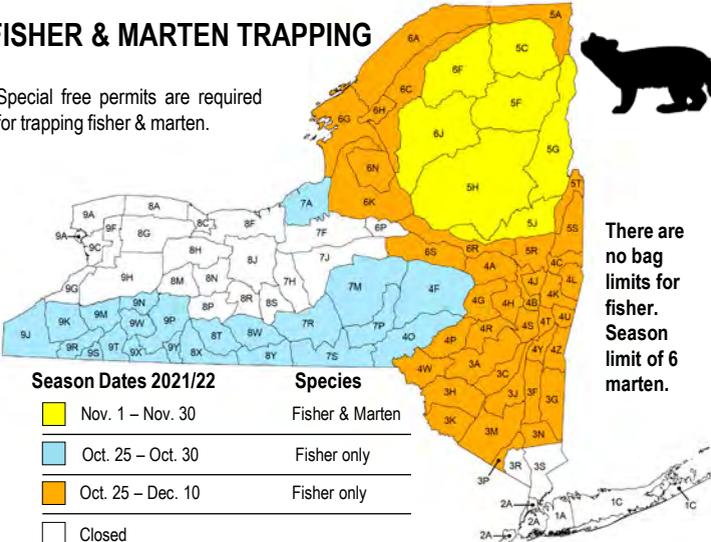
- Oct. 25 – Feb. 15\*
- Oct. 25 – Feb. 15
- Nov. 1 – Feb. 25, except closed for coyote

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.

## FISHER & MARTEN TRAPPING

Special free permits are required for trapping fisher & marten.



### Season Dates 2021/22

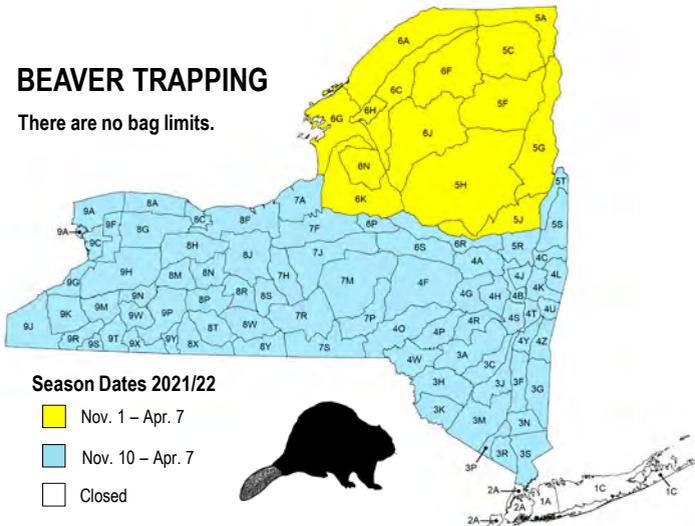
- | Season Dates 2021/22   | Species         |
|--|-----------------|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Nov. 1 – Nov. 30     | Fisher & Marten |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Oct. 25 – Oct. 30 | Fisher only     |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Oct. 25 – Dec. 10    | Fisher only     |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Closed                |                 |

There are no bag limits for fisher. Season limit of 6 marten.

\*\*A free fisher trapping permit can be downloaded from the DEC website. For a marten permit, contact the DEC Region 5 Wildlife Office at 518-623-1240.

## BEAVER TRAPPING

There are no bag limits.

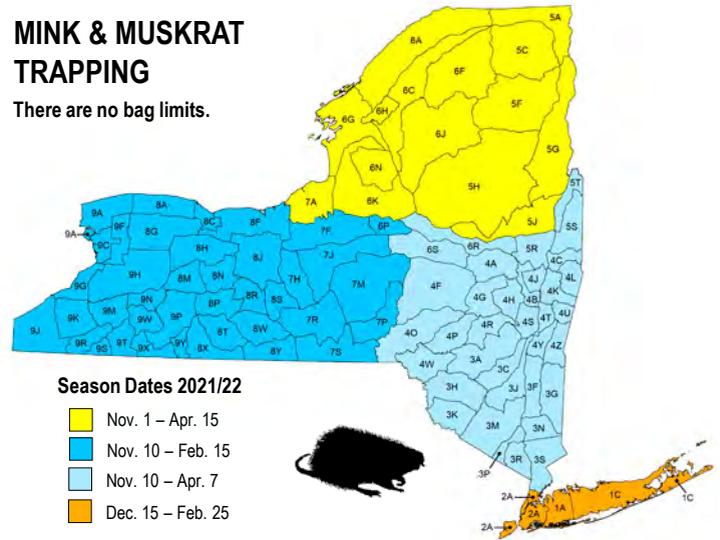


### Season Dates 2021/22

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

## MINK & MUSKRAT TRAPPING

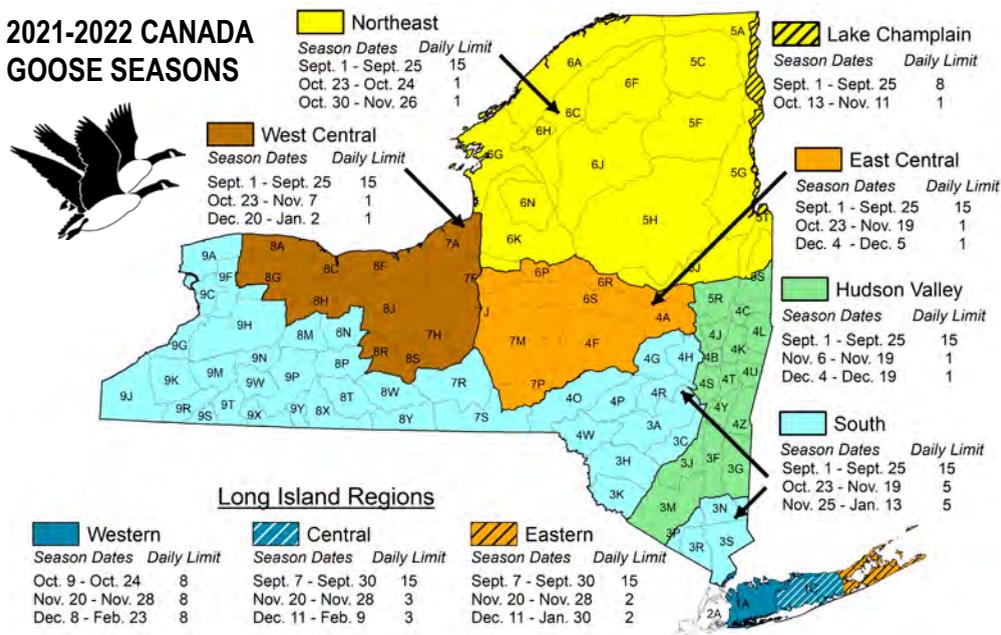
There are no bag limits.



### Season Dates 2021/22

- Nov. 1 – Apr. 15
- Nov. 10 – Feb. 15
- Nov. 10 – Apr. 7
- Dec. 15 – Feb. 25

## 2021-2022 CANADA GOOSE SEASONS



### WOODCOCK

Oct. 1 - Nov. 14

■ Closed

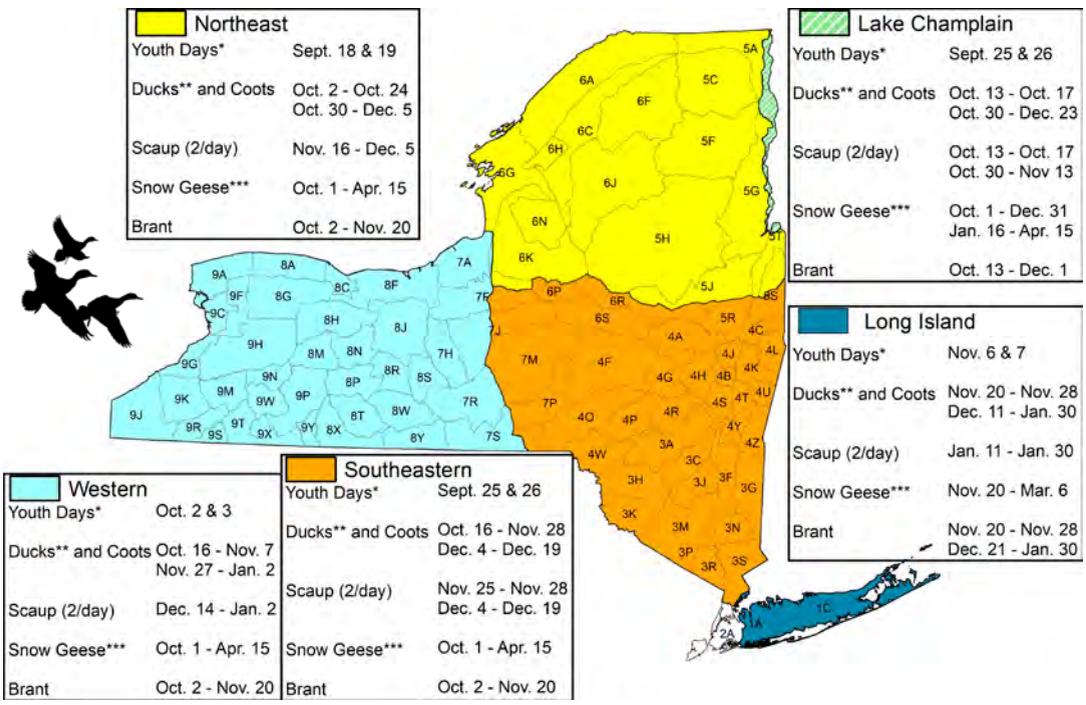
### CROW

Sept. 1 - Mar. 31 (Fridays, Saturday, Sundays & Mondays Only)

■ Closed



## 2021-2022 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 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 stream 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).

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.

## Bag Limits

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks <sup>a</sup>	6	18
Coot	15	45
Canada Geese	See Map	*3 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 canvasbacks, 4 scoters, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks or 2 hooded mergansers. For all other duck species, the daily limit is no more than 6.

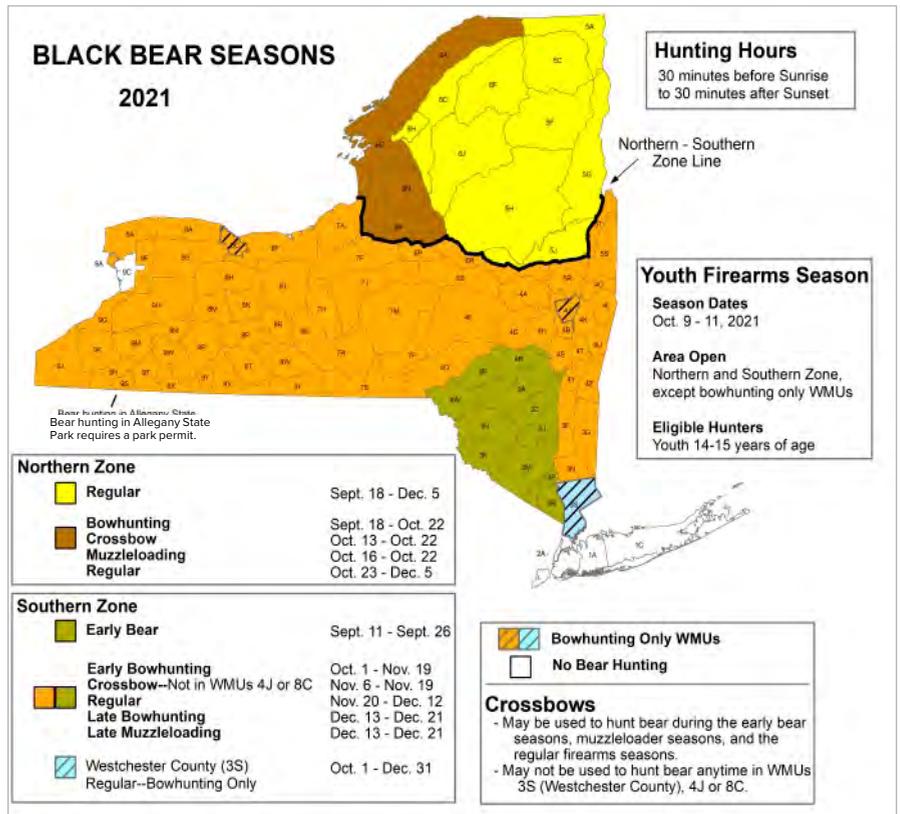
a. Cackling geese and white-fronted geese may be taken as part of the Canada goose daily and possession limits. Snow geese and Ross' geese may be taken as part of the snow goose limits.

## 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 Regional 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 2021 NYS Black Bear Cooperator Patch. Samples will be aged in the summer of 2022. Cooperating hunters will receive patches and letters indicating the age of their bear in early fall 2022.



## 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 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 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.

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

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 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.

You may not take or possess diamondback terrapins at any time.

**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/)

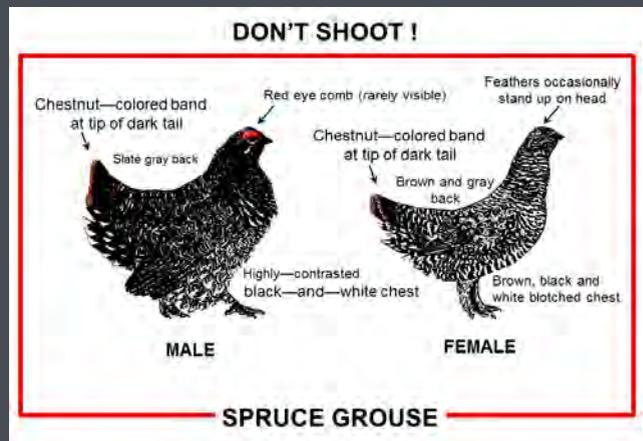
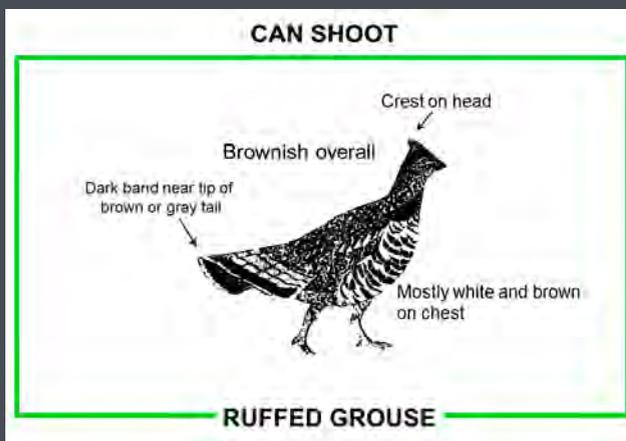
## Falconry Seasons

To hunt small game species with trained raptors, you must possess a Falconry License and a hunting license. Licensed falconers may take small game from October 1 through March 31 in any area of the state open to hunting these species EXCEPT:

## 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.



- 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 email [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.



Missy Correia training her German short-haired pointer.

## 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>.



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

The Venison Donation Coalition, Inc. is a non profit organization that coordinates the efforts of hunters, deer processors, food banks, individuals and organizations to provide a high protein, low fat meat source to the hungry.

- Established in 1999
- Services 43 counties throughout New York
- Averages 37.58 tons of venison per year
- Approx. 300,000 meals served per year

[feedingnys.org](http://feedingnys.org)  
**FEEDING**  
 NEW YORK STATE

# 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.

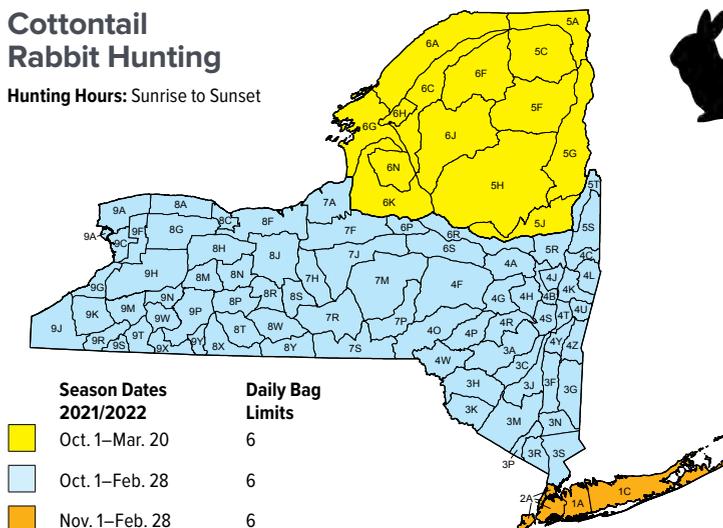
For more tips, check out:  
<https://www.hillspet.com/dog-care/resources/dog-hunting-safety>.



Deutsch Kurzhaar pup Nico on his first successful hunt of his second year. Photo by Daren Smith.

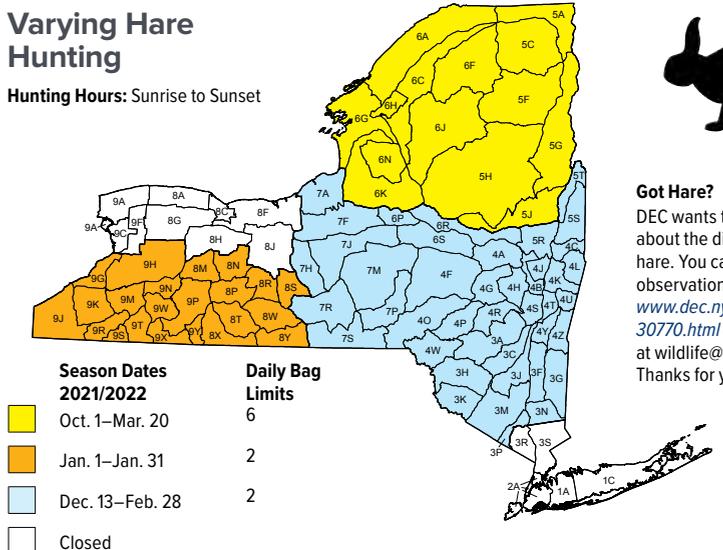
## Cottontail Rabbit Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



## Varying Hare Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

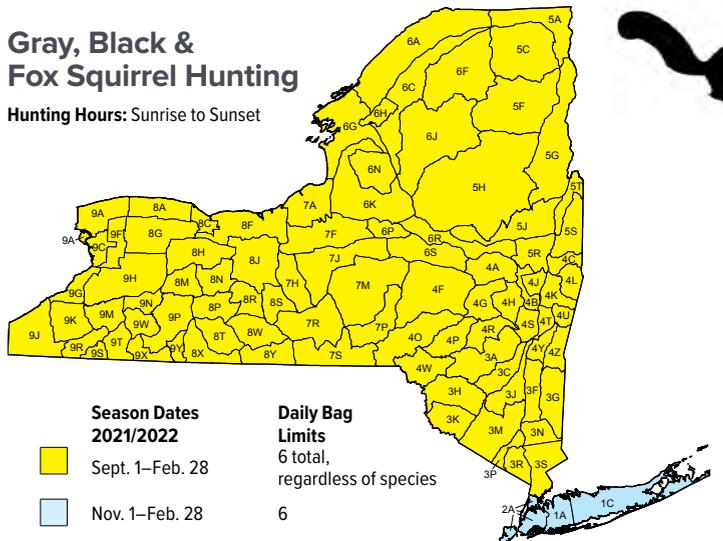


### Got Hare?

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 email us at [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov)! Thanks for your help!

## Gray, Black & Fox Squirrel Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



## Best PHEASANTRY



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

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WESTTOWN, NY 10998

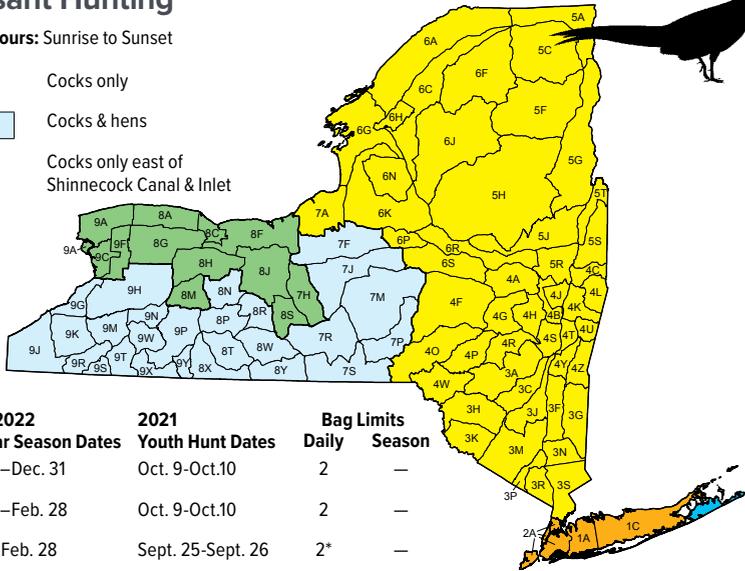
201.289.6906

[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

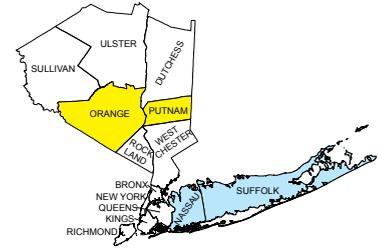


2021/2022 Regular Season Dates	2021 Youth Hunt Dates	Daily Bag Limits	Season Bag Limits
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 16–Dec. 31	Oct. 9–Oct.10	2	—
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 16–Feb. 28	Oct. 9–Oct.10	2	—
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 1–Feb. 28	Sept. 25–Sept. 26	2*	—
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFA500; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Nov. 1–Dec. 31	Oct. 30–Oct. 31†	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. 30–Oct. 31	2*/4**	30

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

## Bobwhite Quail Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



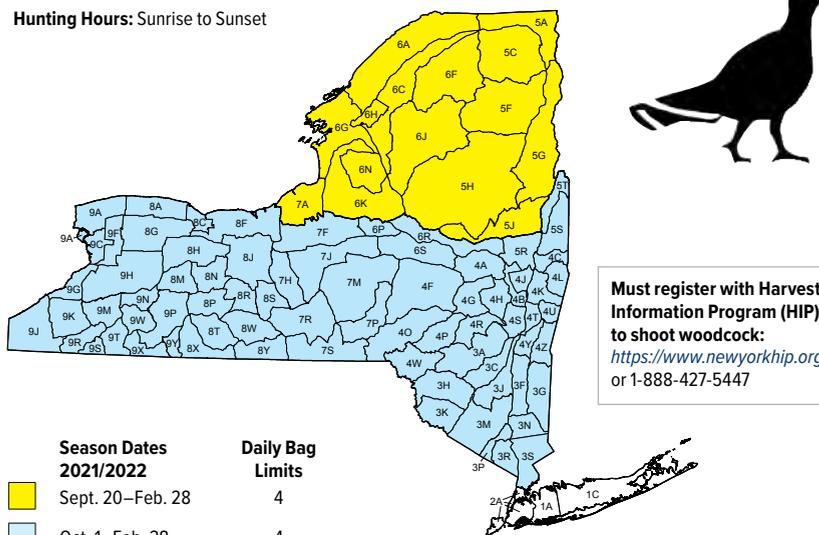
2021/2022 Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits	Season Bag Limits
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 1–Feb. 28	4	10
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px 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 email 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



2021/2022 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 only be used by hunters 14 or older and 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

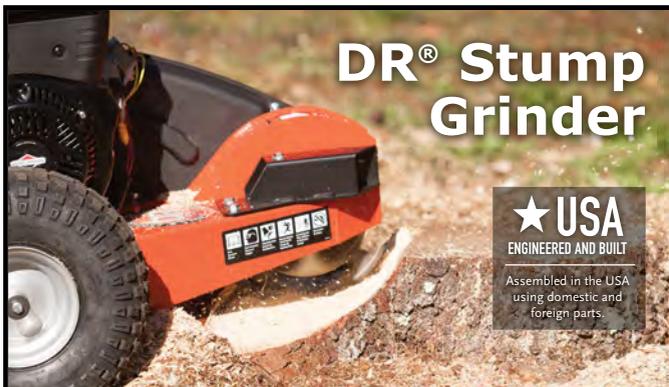
- Immediately after taking a wild turkey, you must fill out the appropriate carcass tag in ink, mark or cut out the date and month of kill, sign the back, and attach it to the carcass.
- The carcass tag must stay attached to the turkey carcass until it is prepared for eating.
- You may give your turkey 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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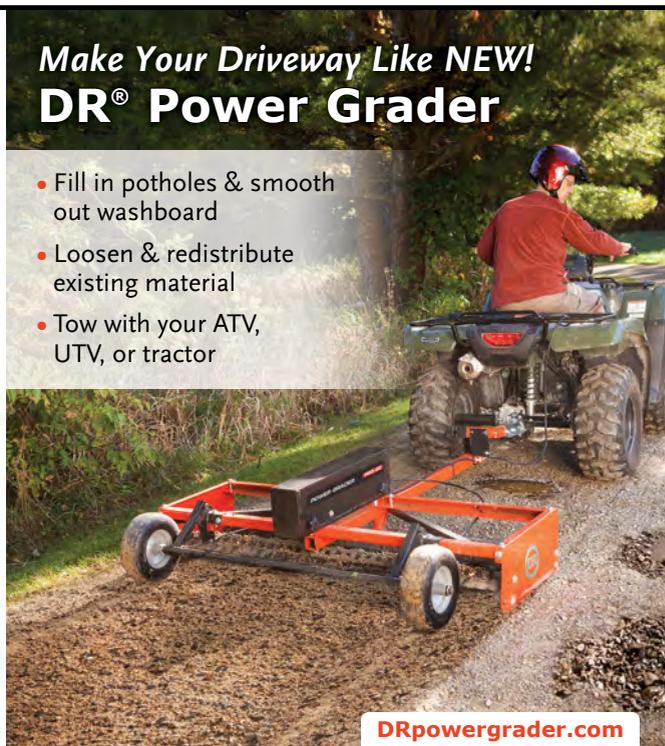
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## Fall Turkey Season

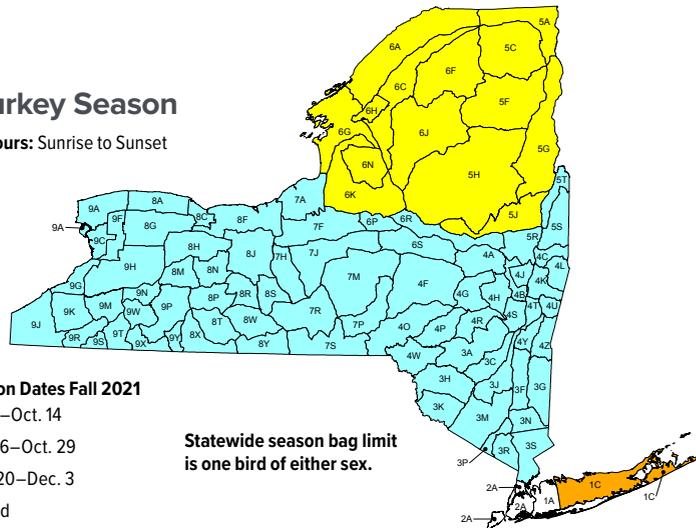
- You may take a bird of either sex.
- There is one carcass tag for the fall season and it may be used in any fall turkey hunting zone. Immediately after taking a turkey, you must fill out the carcass tag in ink and attach it to the bird.
- **If you take a turkey, save one of its legs.** You will receive 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 23–24, 2022

### 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



Zen Badoux on why he hunts: “On long, labor intensive hunts I let my mind go, check out from the reality of everyday pressures, and focus on the majestic beauty of the Adirondacks. It nourishes my soul.”

## 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."

## 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.



Francesca DeSantis got her first turkey in spring 2020 in Onondaga County.



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**Free knife with order: Use code KnifeNY**

## 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.

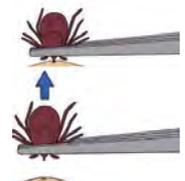


### QUESTIONS?

- 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.

## Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits

Migratory game bird hunting regulations are set by the federal government in consultation with state agencies.

## 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, 2022. This additional opportunity is offered because of concerns about impacts that snow geese are having on natural ecosystems. For more information, 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, hunting, 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 must register annually with New York’s Harvest Information Program (HIP) and carry proof of compliance whenever going afield. If you are 16 years or older and you hunt waterfowl, then you also need a federal migratory game bird hunting stamp (“duck stamp”).

## Harvest Information Program (HIP) Registration

All migratory game bird hunters must register annually for HIP through DECALS, DEC’s licensing system. Information from this survey helps the USFWS and State wildlife agencies monitor the harvest of migratory game birds and is needed to establish hunting regulations. HIP registration is valid from August 1 – July 30 annually. There are two options for registering:

- **Option 1 – Online HIP Registration:**
  - » Go to the DEC Hunting License website: <https://decals.licensing.east.kalkomey.com/>
  - » Click on the header at the top of the main page that says “REGISTER FOR HIP”
  - » A DECALS login is NOT required, but you will be prompted to provide your DEC ID and Date of Birth
  - » Click “Search”
  - » The system will then list all previous HIP registrations you have associated with your DEC ID indicating whether they have been submitted or are still pending.
    - If no results return after pressing the “Search” button, it means you currently do not have a current/valid hunting license and are ineligible for HIP registration.
  - » Once you find the current HIP year registration survey, you will select the dropdown arrow on the right-hand side, and select “Register for HIP”
    - You will be prompted to answer a series of questions pertaining to your hunting activities last year.
  - » After answering all required questions, press “Submit.” The system will then save your data and provide your HIP number. This number completes the registration process and proves your participation in HIP. You are required to carry this number with you in some form while migratory bird hunting.
- **Option 2 – HIP Registration via the automated phone system:**
  - » Call 1-866-933-2257
  - » Select the option for “HIP registration”
  - » Follow automated instructions.
  - » At the end of the call, you will be given your HIP registration number. Migratory game bird hunters are required to carry this number in some form while hunting.

## 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. E-stamps, validated as defined in the Federal Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013, are also permitted. 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. There is a shipping and handling fee for phone or internet orders.

# Migratory Game Birds

## 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, when all other waterfowl hunting seasons are closed. Otherwise shooting 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 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.
- 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. However, semi-automatic shotguns may not exceed six shells in the magazine and chamber, combined, at any time when waterfowl hunting.
- 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 furling, 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, 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.

## Military and Veteran Hunting Days

Military veterans or active duty hunters possessing the necessary licenses, HIP registration, and duck stamp, may hunt migratory game birds during two (2) special days in each zone. The daily bag limit is the same as those allowed during the regular hunting season.

In addition to the previously mentioned license requirements for adults hunting migratory game birds, participants must carry one of the following forms of identification afield:

- Active military identification card
- Actively participating Guard or Reservist identification card
- Retired military identification card New York State drivers license with Veteran Status
- Form DD214, Certificate of Discharge
- Form DD215, Corrected Certificate of Discharge

## 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.

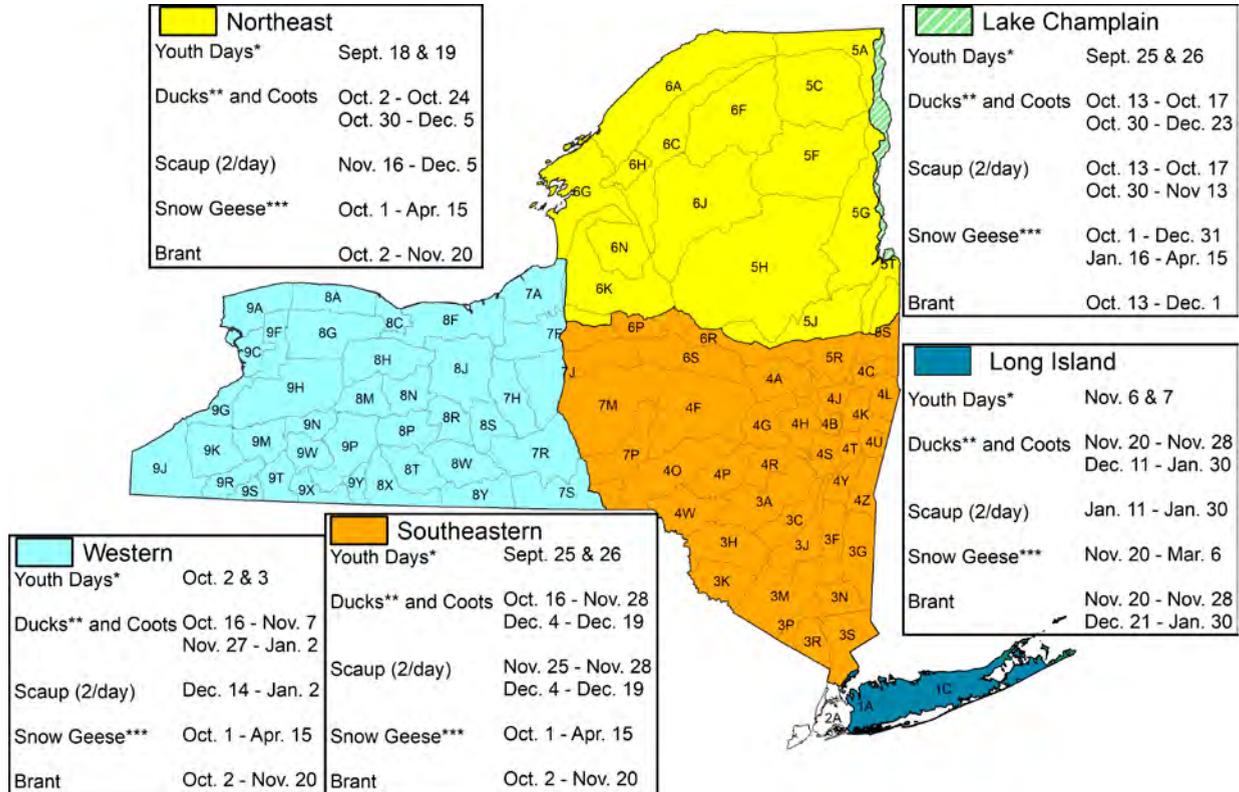
## Caution/dual violation

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.



# Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

## 2021–2022 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 <sup>b</sup>	See map	Three times the daily limit — see map page 54
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.

- \* 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, and the mentor may not carry a firearm.
- \*\* 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>

### Military and Veteran Waterfowl Hunting Days

Northeast Zone — September 18-19

Southeast Zone — October 9-10

Western Zone — November 11 and 13

Long Island Zone — November 13-14

Daily bag limit is the same as the regular season. There are no military/veteran hunting days in the Lake Champlain Zone.

# Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

## Woodcock, Crow, Snipe, Rail and Gallinule Hunting Season Dates, Bag Limits, and Regulations for 2021–2022

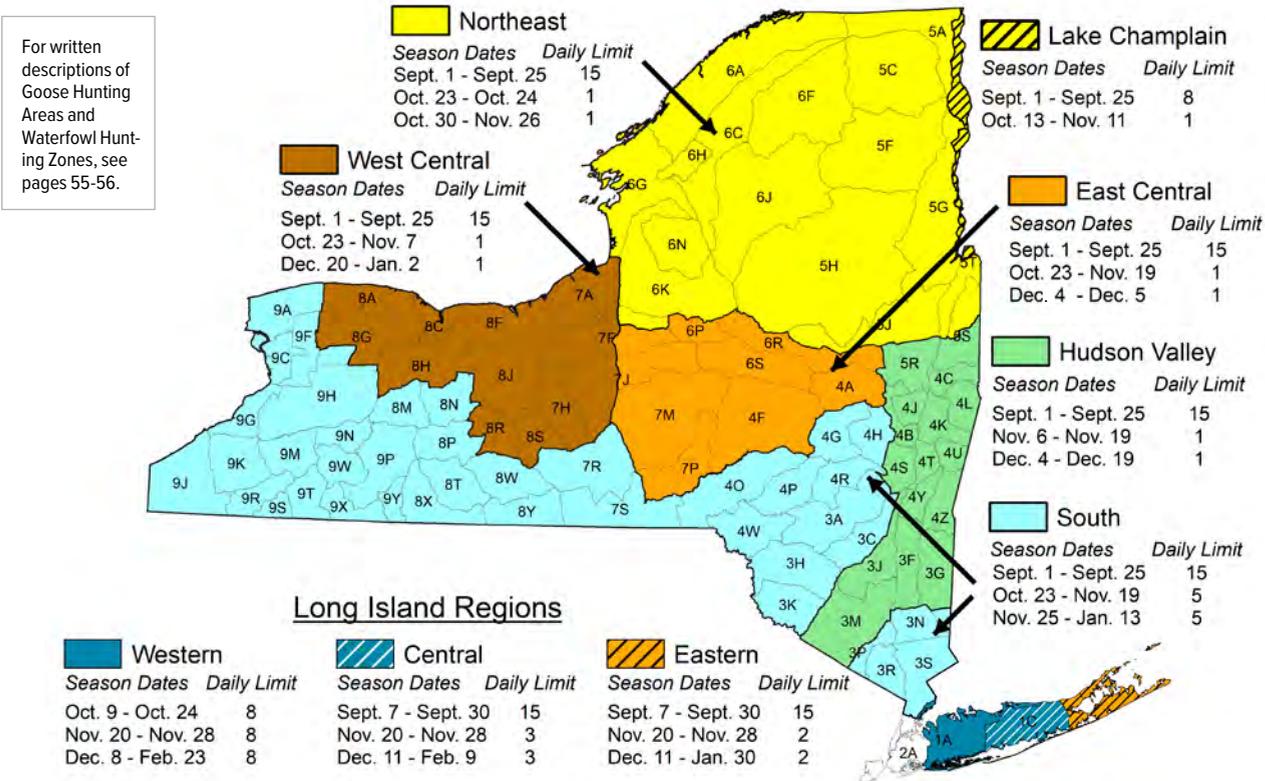
Regulations	Woodcock	Crow	Snipe	Virginia & Sora Rails	Gallinules	Clapper & King Rails
<b>Upstate New York</b> <sup>1,3</sup>	Oct. 1 – Nov. 14	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	Closed
<b>Long Island</b> <sup>2,3</sup>	Oct. 1 – Nov. 14	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31	Closed	Closed	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)

## 2021–2022 Canada Goose Seasons



## New York State Goose Hunting Areas

See road boundaries at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28496.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.



venisondonation.com

**VENISON DONATION COALITION**

The Venison Donation Coalition, Inc. is a non profit organization that coordinates the efforts of hunters, deer processors, food banks, individuals and organizations to provide a high protein, low fat meat source to the hungry.

- Established in 1999
- Services 43 counties throughout New York
- Averages 37.58 tons of venison per year
- Approx. 300,000 meals served per year

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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.

# Changes in Atlantic Population Canada Goose Seasons

Atlantic Population (AP) Canada geese nest throughout northern Quebec and winter from New England to South Carolina. The largest concentrations of AP geese occur on the Delmarva Peninsula (Delaware and the eastern shores of Maryland & Virginia) during the winter. Biologists in the Atlantic Flyway divide season zones based on the population that is most frequently harvested in an area. Although the zone boundaries may appear to be arbitrary, they were carefully developed using information from hunter band recoveries, neck collar studies, and satellite telemetry. The goal of zoning is to provide maximum opportunity in areas that mostly harvest “resident population” Canada geese (i.e., the birds that nest in southern Canada and Northeast U.S. states) while protecting the more vulnerable populations of migratory AP geese.

New York is in the heart of the Atlantic Flyway and serves as a major migration corridor for AP geese. These geese are a significant proportion of the harvest throughout upstate New York, especially in the Finger Lakes, Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, Lake Champlain, and Hudson River Valley regions. Season length and daily bag limits are more restrictive in these areas to protect migrating birds. While our local Canada geese are incredibly productive and have extremely high survival, the migratory Canada geese (that look nearly identical) are not so lucky. They take longer to sexually mature, have smaller clutch sizes, and lower survival. In some years, their breeding habitat isn’t thawed until late June. In those years, productivity can be very low to near zero, as occurred in 2018 and 2020.



Photo by John O'Connor

Canada geese in Ungava Peninsula, Canada.

The population of AP geese has fluctuated from as few as 35,000 pairs in the early to mid-1990s to over 200,000 during the 2000s. As a result of the low population in the 1990s, the hunting season was closed for a few years while the population recovered. By 2002, the population had rebounded to 180,000 breeding pairs and remained near that level until 2016. From 2010-2019 we have experienced several below-average productivity years compounded by increased harvest. The combination of poor productivity and increasing harvest caused a precipitous decline in the population from 2016 (192,000 pairs) to 2018 (112,000 pairs).

To avoid closed seasons, the Atlantic Flyway Council recommended that when seasons are restrictive, all states should have the same regulations to allow populations to rebound as quickly as possible. Therefore, the regular Canada goose season will be reduced to a 30-day season with a daily bag limit of one in the West Central, East Central, Northeast, Lake Champlain, and Hudson Valley zones. Harvest restrictions have also been made in Quebec and Ontario. The reduction in harvest will hopefully shorten the amount of time we are in a restrictive package. When the population rebounds, we anticipate season lengths and bag limits will be liberalized.

# 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

Trappers and hunters who assist with furbearer management activities are eligible to receive a special patch! You can receive a patch if you turn in an incidentally trapped animal; turn in a road-killed fisher, marten, bobcat, otter, or weasel; report a violation that results in a conviction; provide data or assist with a research project; or promote furbearer hunting or trapping. Carcasses are used for biological data, training, education, and outreach. Contact your regional wildlife office for more information.



- 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

1. Is **any deer season open** in the location you wish to hunt (including archery, muzzleloading, regular, late and Focus Area)? (pg. 25)
  - a. If **NO**, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers.
  - b. 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.

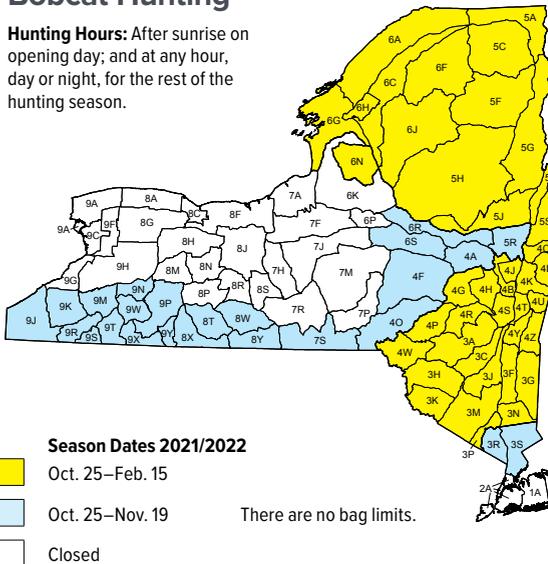
## General Regulations

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 with an open season.
- 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.



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

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



## 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. 27

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 5¼" or smaller (inside jaw spread). For information on how to correctly measure traps, see page 61.
- During beaver or otter season, foothold traps up to 7¼" are allowed if set under water.

## Reminders on Pelt Sealing

All bobcat, fisher, otter, and marten need to be sealed within 10 days after the close of the season in the WMU where the fur was taken. Some things to keep in mind to make the pelt sealing process go smoothly:

- Contact your local wildlife office to make pelt sealing arrangements prior to showing up.
- When freezing an unsealed pelt, make sure that the face is on the outside and easily accessible.
- If having an unsealed animal mounted, thaw the carcass enough so that a seal can be inserted through the eye or foot. Inserting a stick or similar object through a pre-made hole makes the sealing process much easier. If this is not done, it may be impossible to seal the animal at that time.

- 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.

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

NEW SEASON, NEW PRICES!



We Pay \$30 per oz any size Gall  
100 Gallons or more \$35 oz  
200 or more \$40 oz

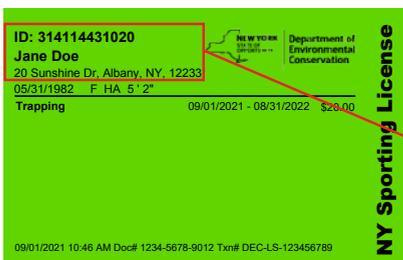
Bear Claws  
\$40 per set (no cubs)  
\$50 Claws attached to foot  
Bear Skulls  
\$20/\$25 ea.

We now buy Baculum, Deer Capes & Bear Hides  
Buying starts in September  
Call for specific dates to pick up at your  
place of business or residence  
All legal paperwork must include hunter's  
name, full address and tag number  
before purchase.

We now offer skull cleaning services!  
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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 6) 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.
  - » 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.

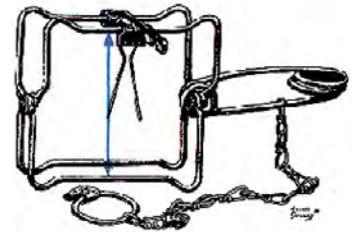
## Possession of Road-Killed Furbearers

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.

## How to Measure a Trap

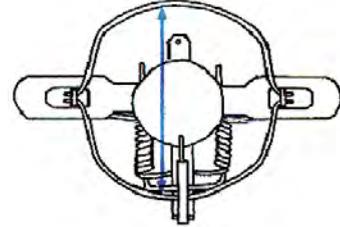
### How to measure a body-gripping trap:

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.



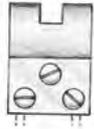
5¾" or less on land, 7¼" or less under water

## Trigger Regulations for Beaver Trappers

This regulation applies if you:

- Trap in a WMU in the Southern Zone during a closed otter season; and
- 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:**



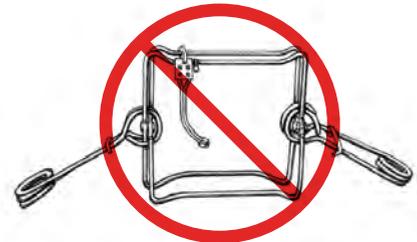
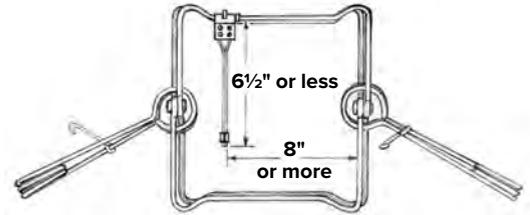
Two-way tension adjustable (legal)



Two-way non-tension adjustable (legal)

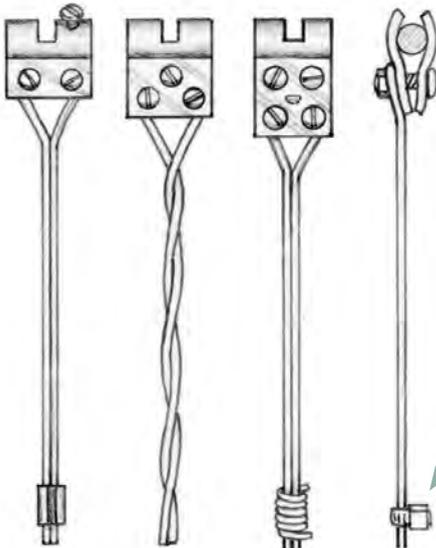


Four-way trigger (not legal)



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.

# Furbearer Trapping

## 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

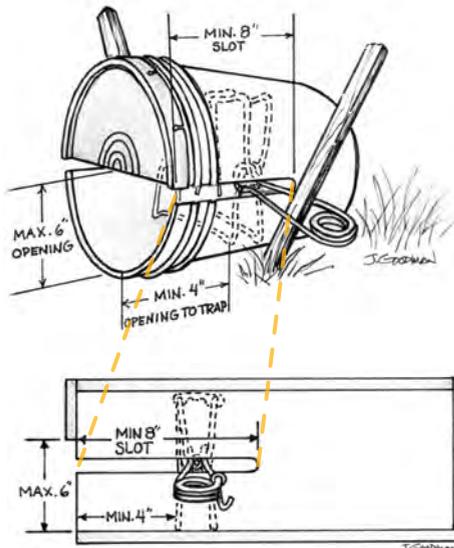
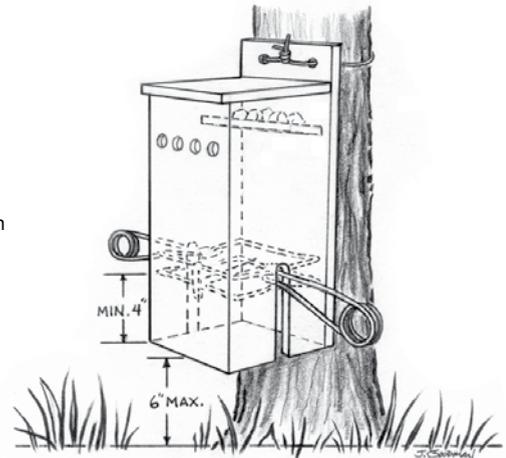
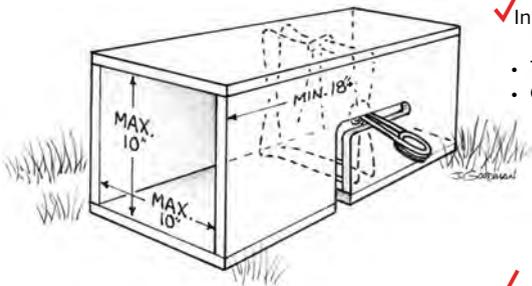
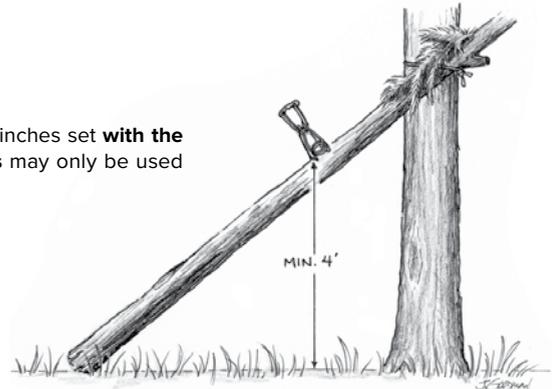
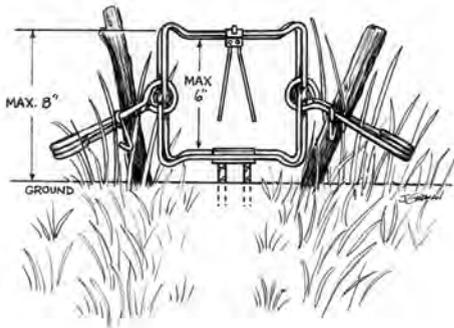
OR

- ✓ In a container of the following design:

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

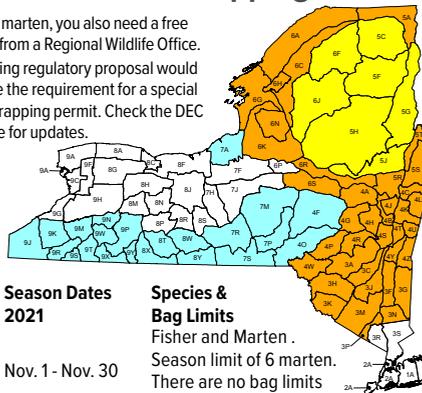
You may also build an enclosure of natural materials (e.g., logs or rocks)

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



## Fisher & Marten Trapping

To trap marten, you also need a free permit from a Regional Wildlife Office. A pending regulatory proposal would remove the requirement for a special fisher trapping permit. Check the DEC website for updates.



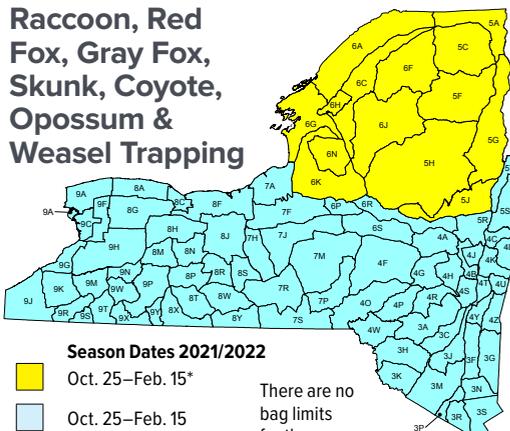
If you take a fisher or marten you must:

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

Season Dates 2021	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 2021/2022

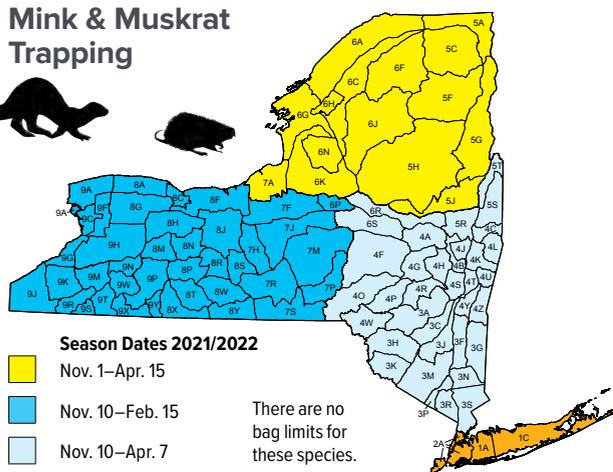
- Yellow: Oct. 25 - Feb. 15\*
- Light Blue: Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
- Orange: Nov. 1 - Feb. 25, except closed for coyote

There are no bag limits for these species.



\* 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

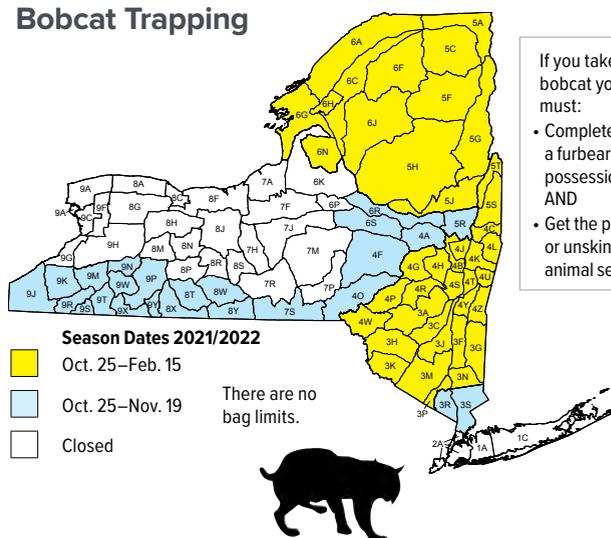


Season Dates 2021/2022

- Yellow: Nov. 1 - Apr. 15
- Light Blue: Nov. 10 - Feb. 15
- Medium Blue: Nov. 10 - Apr. 7
- Orange: Dec. 15 - Feb. 25

There are no bag limits for these species.

## Bobcat Trapping



Season Dates 2021/2022

- Yellow: Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
- Light Blue: Oct. 25 - Nov. 19
- White: Closed

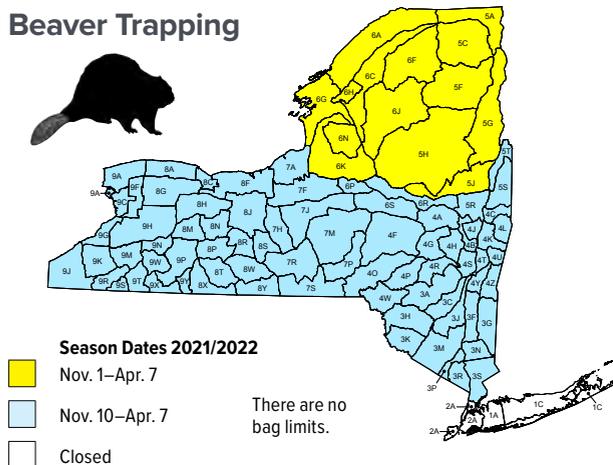
There are no bag limits.



If you take a bobcat you must:

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

## Beaver Trapping



Season Dates 2021/2022

- Yellow: Nov. 1 - Apr. 7
- Light Blue: Nov. 10 - Apr. 7
- White: Closed

There are no bag limits.

## River Otter Trapping



Season Dates 2021/2022

- Yellow: Nov. 1 - Apr. 7
- Light Blue: Nov. 10 - Feb. 28
- White: Closed

There are no bag limits.

If you take an otter you must:

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



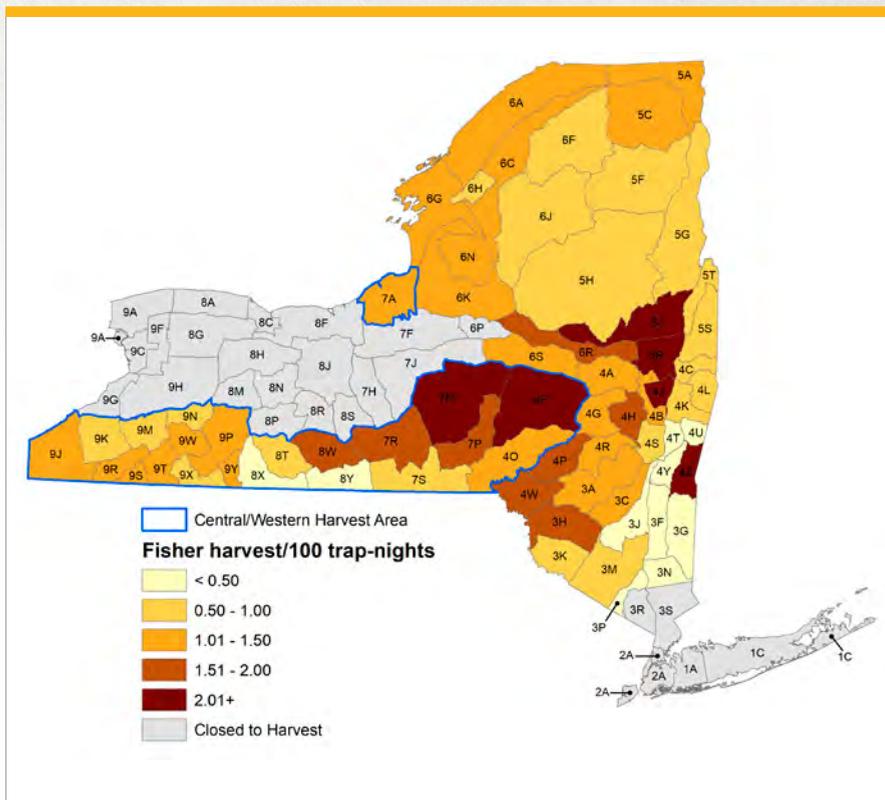
# Fisher Management in New York

After the completion of the New York State Fisher Management Plan, regulations were adopted to: (1) reduce the fisher and marten trapping season from 46 days to 30 days in select Adirondack Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in the Northern Zone; (2) establish a 6-day fisher trapping season in selected WMUs in Central/Western New York; and (3) require a free special annual permit for all fisher trapping.

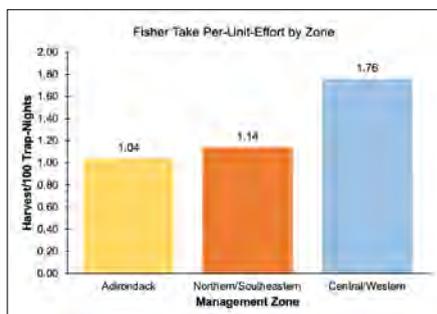
The special permit allowed DEC biologists to collect biological data on harvested fisher and trapping effort data, information necessary to ensure sustainable harvest opportunities for this popular furbearer. After 5 years of data collection, what did we learn?

Since 2016, DEC issued a total of 9,785 permits for trapping fisher and/or marten in New York, an average of 1,957 each year. Based on activity logs submitted by trappers, between 60-70% of permittees went afield each year. Overall, 1,305 trappers successfully harvested at least one fisher since 2016: 303 in the Adirondacks, 781 in Northern/Southeastern New York, and 440 in Central/Western New York.

Since trapping participation and harvest can vary based on weather, pelt prices, and other factors, an activity log is the best technique for understanding the relationship between trapping effort and animal abundance by estimating the take per-unit-effort (TPUE, expressed as "take per 100 trap-nights"). Overall, the highest TPUE was in the Central/Western zone, where the 6-day season was initiated in 2016.



**Note:** At press time, regulations were pending to remove the requirement for the free special fisher trapping permit. Under the proposal a trapping license and pelt sealing would still be required for fisher. Be sure to check the DEC website before heading afield for fisher. A free special permit is still required for trapping marten in Adirondack WMUs.



One of the permit conditions was that trappers must submit the lower jaw or tooth of all harvested fisher. It is possible to age fisher by counting the cementum rings on the teeth. We found that nearly 50% of New York's fisher harvest is comprised of juveniles and over 90% of harvested fisher are under 4 years old. The oldest fisher harvested in New York since 2016 was between 9 and 10 years old and was harvested in Central/Western New York.

DEC biologists are continuing to analyze the data collected and compare results between regions. These data are crucial to our understanding of fisher populations in New York and will be used to reevaluate harvest opportunities for this species. All of this would not be possible without the help of New York's dedicated trappers!

## Permit Requirements for Marten

A free special permit is still required to trap marten in New York. To receive a permit, contact the DEC Region 5 Wildlife Office in Warrensburg at 518-623-1240. You must provide the following information:

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

You can also apply by email to: [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov), type "Marten Permit" in the subject line. Please be sure to include the information listed above.





Tim Holt Sr. on why he traps: "Trapping is a learning experience that has stayed with me my entire life. To be a trapper is not simply an outdoors activity, rather it's a lifestyle that grows on you and stays with you forever."

Jeremy Riemersma on why he hunts and traps: "That feeling of pride after harvesting fresh meat and wild fur, helping out our neighbors experiencing damage from beavers, and keeping a family tradition alive."

## Adopt Trapping Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Learn practical traps and techniques that improve efficiency, selectivity, & welfare of trapped animals
- Find out about specifications for traps that meet BMP criteria for each species
- Instill public confidence in and maintain public support for trapping

Visit [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov) and search "Trapping BMPs"



Katherine Michalak after a successful day of beaver trapping in DEC Region 9.



George LaPoint with a bobcat he harvested in Warren County.



## 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 email us at [wildlife@dec.ny.gov](mailto:wildlife@dec.ny.gov)!

Thanks for your help!

Photo by Dale Roberts

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



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- 1-888-HUNT-ED2 (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 deer urine products 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 12 and 13-year-olds hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow in my county?**

A: Recently passed legislation allows supervised 12- and 13-year-olds to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow only in upstate counties that opt into this provision. For more details and a list of counties that have opted in, go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html>.

**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 Jonathon Walraven with two illegal deer seized in Ulster County.



ECOs from Regions 6, 7, 8, and 9 at the Finger Lakes Youth Deer Hunt.



ECO Ricardo Grisolini with an illegal turkey seized in Madison County.



Lt. Josh VerHague supporting the Wounded Veterans Deer Hunt in Naples, NY.



ECO Steve Shaw with multiple seizures from a case in Saratoga County.



Lt. Mike Terrell, along with ECOs Mark Vencak and Tim Card with a seized buck in Otsego County.

# 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		
Lt. Jason DeAngelis	(518) 357-2047	
Bevis, Kyle	(518) 626-1541	
Hameline, Michael	(518) 339-7403	
Swan, Kurt	(518) 869-5237	
Allegany		
Lt. Liza Bobseine	(716) 851-7050	
Oliver, Dustin	(607) 590-1135	
Calanni, Russell	(585) 403-2437	
Bronx		
Lt. Doreen Lum	(718) 482-4885	
Dodge, Connor	(718) 751-5701	
Michalet, Shawn	(929) 505-6878	
Broome		
Acting Lt. Anthony Rigoli	(315) 426-7431	
Templeton, Eric	(607) 621-3255	
McCormick, Andrew	(607) 621-3464	
Cattaraugus		
Lt. Liza Bobseine	(716) 851-7050	
Mead, Nathaniel	(716) 548-1482	
Powers, Jason	(716) 771-8266	
Nosal, Robert	(716) 532-0461	
Cayuga		
Lt. David McShane	(315) 426-7431	
Sincebaugh, Scott	(315) 253-8534	
Prentice, Zachary	(315) 404-6185	
Chautauqua		
Acting Lt. Jerry Kinney	(716) 851-7050	
Dougherty, Darci	(716) 316-5607	
Budniewski, Kevin	(716) 401-1163	
Freeman, Christopher	(716) 490-3947	
Chemung		
Lt. Matthew Lochner	(585) 226-6706	
Lifrieri, John	(607) 644-3815	
Dalecki, Erik	(607) 592-2783	
Chenango		
Lt. Mark Colesante	(315) 426-7431	
Wing, Ryan	(607) 242-9156	
Armstrong, Brett	(607) 895-6515	
Plows, Daniel	(607) 221-6077	
Clinton		
Acting Lt. Maxwell Nicols	(518) 897-1324	
Lagree, Christopher	(518) 319-7706	
Buffa, Bradley	(518) 354-0539	
LaCroix, Matthew	(518) 335-5422	
Fadden, Jeremy	(518) 912-4579	
Columbia		
Lt. Walt Maloney	(518) 357-2047	
Cox, Jeffery	(518) 794-8935	
Davey, James	(518) 414-6083	
Cortland		
Lt. Mark Colesante	(315) 426-7431	
Kostuk, Andrew	(315) 741-2205	
Burdick, Matthew	(315) 251-0125	
Delaware		
Lt. Terrell, Mike	(518) 357-2047	
Osborne, Dustin	(607) 206-0711	
Doig, Nathan	(607) 267-5452	
Bauer, Vernon	(845) 346-6607	
Woodin, Jared	(607) 437-6259	
Dutchess		
Lt. Christopher Lattimer	(845) 256-3013	
Read III, Deo	(845) 240-6758	
Eyler, Charles	(845) 490-9869	
Helmeier, John	(914) 474-5244	
Wamsley, Kevin	(914) 263-7819	
Erie		
Acting Lt. Scott Marshall	(716) 851-7050	
Phelps, Michael	(716) 250-8213	
Powers, Jamie	(716) 604-5353	
Gill, Carlton	(716) 908-5051	
Machnica, Timothy	(716) 262-7411	
Mathis, Shea	(716) 220-6860	
Wilson, Charles	(716) 675-1095	
Koepf, Thomas	(716) 345-4252	

Essex		
Acting Lt. Maxwell Nicols	(518) 897-1324	
Blades, John	(518) 335-5201	
Dewey, Sean	(518) 653-3077	
Franklin		
Acting Lt. Jeffrey Hovey	(518) 897-1324	
Riggs, Kevin	(518) 335-3558	
Okonuk, Jennifer	(518) 319-0064	
Cranker, James	(518) 708-1220	
Favreau, Nathan	(518) 354-9833	
Fulton		
Lt. Matthew Clemens	(518) 897-1324	
Manns, Shane	(518) 708-1168	
Hilliard, Jason	(518) 774-4517	
Pasciak, Paul	(518) 448-3103	
Genesee		
Lt. Joshua VerHague	(585) 226-6706	
Fuerch, Fay	(585) 245-4975	
Laczi, Evan	(585) 208-3571	
Greene		
Lt. Maloney, Walt	(518) 357-2047	
Palmateer, Lucas	(518) 478-1698	
Arp, Michael	(518) 966-5357	
Smith, Jason	(518) 703-3529	
Hamilton		
Acting Lt. Jeffrey Hovey	(518) 897-1324	
Pierce, Scott	(518) 866-4723	
Buswell, Peter	(518) 335-5013	
Kelly, Keith(KC)	(315) 804-9435	
Herkimer - North		
Lt John Murphy	(315) 785-2231	
Noyes, Spencer	(315) 240-8862	
Tabor, Benjamin	(315) 214-9681	
Gates, John	(315) 816-1449	
Herkimer - South		
Lt. Aaron Markey	(315) 785-2231	
Lucas, Darryl	(315) 823-4071	
Jakaub, Katie	(315) 269-7443	
Jefferson		
Lt. Steven Bartoszewski	(315) 785-2231	
Jackson, Peter	(315) 418-7380	
McFee, Evan	(315) 640-0335	
Kochanowski, Zachary	(315) 748-8041	
Woyton, Max	(315) 200-0813	
Rockefeller, Sean	(315) 830-6335	
Nicholas, Nicholas	(315) 466-4931	
Kings		
Lt. Doreen Lum	(718) 482-4885	
Brussel, Christine	(929) 505-4747	
Lovgren, Murel(Eric)	(929) 505-6875	
Lewis		
Lt. John Murphy	(315) 785-2231	
Worden, Timothy	(315) 778-9279	
Jarecki, Joshua	(315) 263-5987	
Kraeger, Shana	(315) 767-5232	
Livingston		
Lt. Joshua VerHague	(585) 226-6706	
Ward, Chris	(585) 303-0098	
Rauscher, Richard	(585) 300-7715	
Dussault, Shawn	(585) 362-0395	
Madison		
Lt. Mark Colesante	(315) 426-7431	
Chase, Harry	(315) 383-1897	
Grisolini, Ricardo	(315) 240-6966	
Monroe		
Lt. Bruce Hummel	(585) 226-6706	
Jankowski, Jacob	(585) 269-9338	
Dobies, Shane	(585) 329-8377	
Snowdon, Thomas	(585) 683-6758	
Muchow, Adam	(585) 329-9381	
Lutz, John	(585) 303-1506	
Johnston, Jeffrey	(585) 397-2746	

# Environmental Conservation Officers

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

Montgomery	
Lt. Jason DeAngelis	(518) 357-2047
Valenty, Chris	(518) 505-4104
Willson, Brian	(518) 491-2273
Bush, Kurt	(518) 813-6805
Nassau	
Lt. Sean Reilly	(631) 444-0250
Anderson, Stephanie	(929) 505-1174
Small, April	(929) 505-6894
Ferraro, Denise	(516) 826-0832
Pabes, Lawrence	(929) 505-6884
New York	
Lt. Doreen Lum	(718) 482-4885
Dodge, Connor	(718) 371-5701
Michalet, Shawn	(929) 505-6878
Niagara	
Lt. Nathan VerHague	(716) 851-7050
Scheer, George	(716) 377-2448
Wolgast, Joshua	(716) 243-9038
Holzle, Kevin	(716) 454-2623
Oneida - North	
Lt John Murphy	(315) 785-2231
Noyes, Spencer	(315) 240-8862
Tabor, Benjamin	(315) 214-9681
Gates, John	(315) 816-1449
Oneida - South	
Lt. Aaron Markey	(315) 785-2231
Hull, Jeff	(315) 408-7179
Lakeman, Steven	(315) 734-0648
Starczek, Chrisman	(315) 489-4224
Howe, Robert	(315) 382-0996
Onondaga	
Lt. David McShane	(315) 426-7431
Thomas, David	(315) 236-0307
Damrath, Donald	(315) 445-2061
Yacavone, Scott	(315) 487-4401
Sherman, Paul	(315) 484-9678
Ontario	
Lt. Tim Fay	(585) 226-6706
Thomas, Kevin	(315) 359-1122
Blanton, Paul	(585) 694-4077
Levanway, Keith	(585) 369-8116
Orange	
Lt. Michael Bello	(845) 256-3013
Schneider, Joshua	(929) 505-6891
Schuck, Dylan	(929) 505-6892
Carl, Heather	(929) 505-6863
Orleans	
Lt. Joshua VerHague	(585) 226-6706
Godson, Nathan	(585) 441-4015
Fonda, Vernon	(585) 735-6963
Oswego	
Lt. William Burnell	(315) 426-7431
Dorrett, Matthew	(315) 625-4129
Brown, Zachariah	(315) 200-2111
Foster, Matthew	(315) 405-6576
Wozniak, Michael	(315) 418-6791
Bonilla, Aaron	(315) 382-3365
Otsego	
Lt. Michael Terrell	(518) 357-2047
Card, Timothy	(607) 267-9547
Fetterman, Russell	(607) 422-8342
Vencak, Mark	(607) 221-1544
Putnam	
Lt. Dustin Dainack	(845) 256-3013
Swansen, Chloe	(914) 260-6020
Crisafulli, Evan	(929) 505-6865
Franz, Daniel	(929) 505-6873
Tompkins, Craig	(845) 216-4628
Thibodeau, Matthew	(347) 408-8724

Queens	
Lt. Doreen Lum	(718) 482-4885
Parmelee, Brennan	(929) 505-6888
McCarthy, Brent	(929) 505-6877
Milliron, Darren	(929) 505-6879
Rensselaer	
Lt. Walt Maloney	(518) 357-2047
Curinga, Jason	(518) 925-5549
Canzeri, Brian	(518) 270-5035
Crain, Zachary	(518) 424-5343
Rockland	
Lt. Michael Bello	(845) 256-3013
Mangels, Casey	(929) 505-6876
Newell, Jared	(929) 505-6883
Duchene, Nicole	(929) 505-6872
Saratoga	
Lt. Matthew Clemens	(518) 897-1324
Toth, Brian	(518) 222-1815
Klein, Mark	(518) 892-9402
Shaw, Steven	(518) 860-8675
Leubner, Wes	(518) 729-8313
Schenectady	
Lt. Jason DeAngelis	(518) 357-2047
Valenty, Chris	(518) 505-4104
Willson, Brian	(518) 491-2273
Bush, Kurt	(518) 813-6805
Schoharie	
Lt. Michael Terrell	(518) 357-2047
Bohling, Justanna	(518) 443-9156
Burgess, Melissa	(518) 603-2446
Schuyler	
Lt. Matthew Lochner	(585) 226-6706
Lifrieri, John	(607) 644-3815
Dalecki, Erik	(607) 592-2783
Seneca	
Lt. Tim Fay	(585) 226-6706
Brown, Timothy	(607) 227-8538
Rich, John	(585) 478-3505
Drahms, Anthony	(315) 209-9399
St. Lawrence	
Lt. Troy Basford	(315) 785-2231
Ryan, Jonathan	(315) 322-5106
Helmer, Ian	(315) 559-8503
Schneller, Joel	(315) 566-9258
Sherry, Michael	(315) 566-9574
Canary, Bret	(315) 489-3180
Munn, Joseph	(315) 842-2854
Atwood, Scott	(315) 262-2304
Steuben	
Lt. Matthew Lochner	(585) 226-6706
Gross, Ronald	(315) 408-6086
Lomozik, Jarrod	(607) 329-9644
Farrand, Steven	(607) 331-7549
Baker, Matthew	(607) 281-5435
Suffolk - East	
Lt. Frank Carbone	(631) 444-0250
Farrish, Brian	(516) 351-8601
McCabe, Robert	(631) 494-5229
Clark, Jacob	(929) 505-6864
Boyes, Aric	(929) 505-2244
Suffolk - Mid(Brookhaven)	
Lt. Thomas Gadowski	(631) 444-0250
Kaufherr, Robert	(718) 683-7486
Grady, Kaitlin	(631) 744-2507
Della Rocco, Taylor	(347) 308-4589
Amato, Christopher	(631) 372-2642
Paschke, Connor	(929) 505-6889

Suffolk - West	
Lt. Matthew Blaising	(631) 444-0250
Cacciola, Garrett	(929) 505-6587
Carpenter, Emma	(516) 260-3240
Perkins, Nicholas	(929) 505-6890
Dickson, Brendan	(646) 634-9219
DeRose, Christopher	(631) 601-5284
Sullivan	
Lt. Michael Buckley	(845) 256-3013
Parker, Glen	(929) 505-6887
Grose, Mary	(607) 244-4561
Wood, Ricky	(845) 665-5637
Doroski, Christopher	(929) 505-6869
Tioga	
Acting Lt. Anthony Rigoli	(315) 426-7431
Wilson, Brent	(607) 972-4435
Winnick, Stanley	(607) 245-9751
Tompkins	
Acting Lt. Anthony Rigoli	(315) 426-7431
Eisenberg, Osman	(607) 564-9458
Krueger, Jeffrey	(607) 227-9584
Ulster	
Lt. Christopher Lattimer	(845) 256-3013
Johnson, Adam	(845) 587-6397
Chomici, William	(845) 490-0875
Walraven, Jonathan	(845) 281-3408
Warren	
Lt. Robert Higgins	(518) 897-1324
Brassard, Alan	(518) 409-6299
LaPoint, George	(518) 793-3767
Gerrain, Louis	(518) 925-5560
Washington	
Lt. Matthew Clemens	(518) 897-1324
Wensley, Thomas	(518) 742-0523
Gonyeau, Stephen	(518) 567-2104
Krug, Matthew	(518) 417-9954
Goodrich, Marcia	(518) 222-4620
Wayne	
Lt. Tim Fay	(585) 226-6706
Smith, Todd	(315) 745-9371
Younglove, Geoffrey	(315) 399-3752
Westchester	
Lt. Dustin Dainack	(845) 256-3013
Swansen, Chloe	(914) 260-6020
Crisafulli, Evan	(929) 505-6865
Franz, Daniel	(929) 505-6873
Tompkins, Craig	(845) 216-4628
Thibodeau, Matthew	(347) 408-8724
Wyoming	
Lt. Nathan VerHague	(716) 851-7050
Ward, Roger	(585) 919-4465
Hunt, James	(716) 628-3488
Yates	
Lt. Matthew Lochner	(585) 226-6706
Crain, Joshua	(315) 775-7168

### Marine Enforcement Unit (Meu)

MEU - NASSAU/SUFFOLK	
Lt. Sean Reilly	(631) 444-0250
Macropoulos, Christopher	(347) 287-5217
Doroski, Jordan	(631) 599-9730
Bobseine, Ike	(631) 461-6061
Simmons, Landon	(631) 205-0470
MEU - NEW YORK CITY	
Lt. Eric Dowling	(718) 482-4885
T/Sgt Auguscinski, Waldemar	(646) 630-1534
Pansini, Paul	(929) 505-6886
Veloski, Joshua	(929) 505-6896
Currey, Shane	(929) 505-6868



## 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

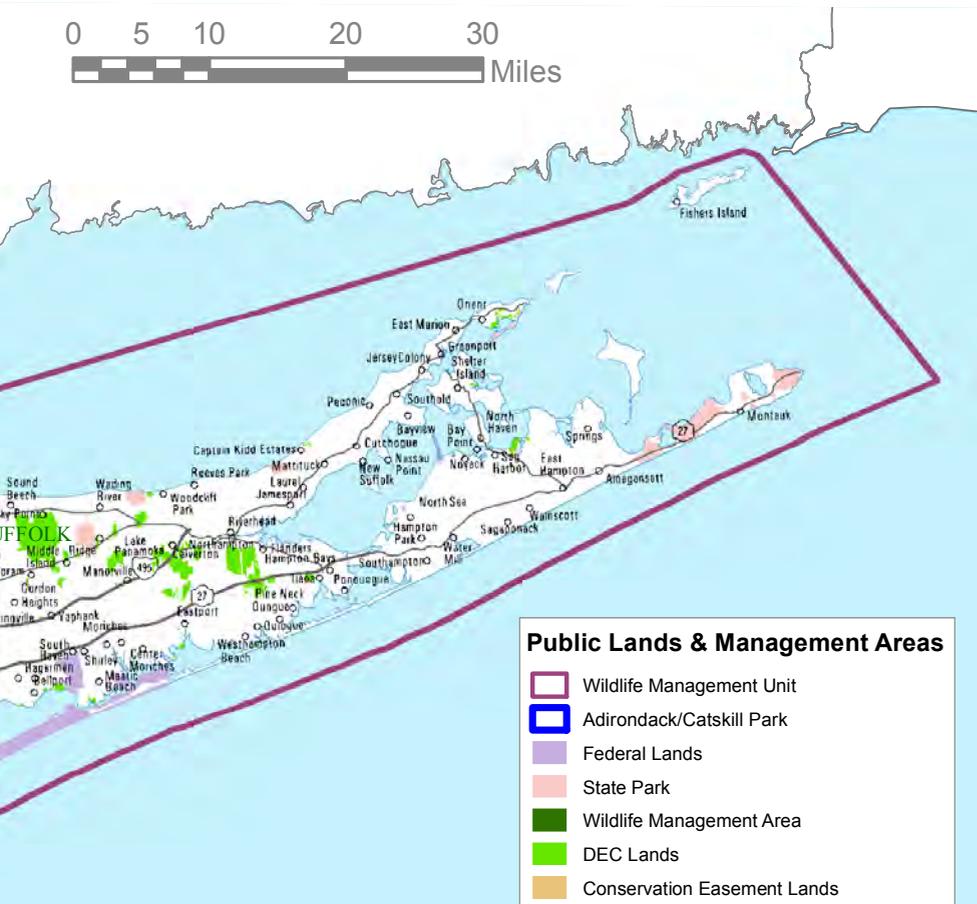
\* CP-3 - Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html> for application instructions and forms.

## Did you know, in 2020 DEC Forest Rangers:

- Inspected 15,308 occupied campsites.
- Patrolled 10,760 miles on snowmobile.
- Conducted 10,514 snowmobile law safety checks.
- Made 3,131 state land offense tickets/arrests.
- Conducted 492 search and rescue missions.

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

1-833-NYS-RANGERS (1-833-697-7264)



Atlantic Ocean

## 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".



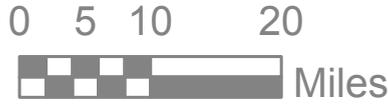
Department of Environmental Conservation



# Regional Maps

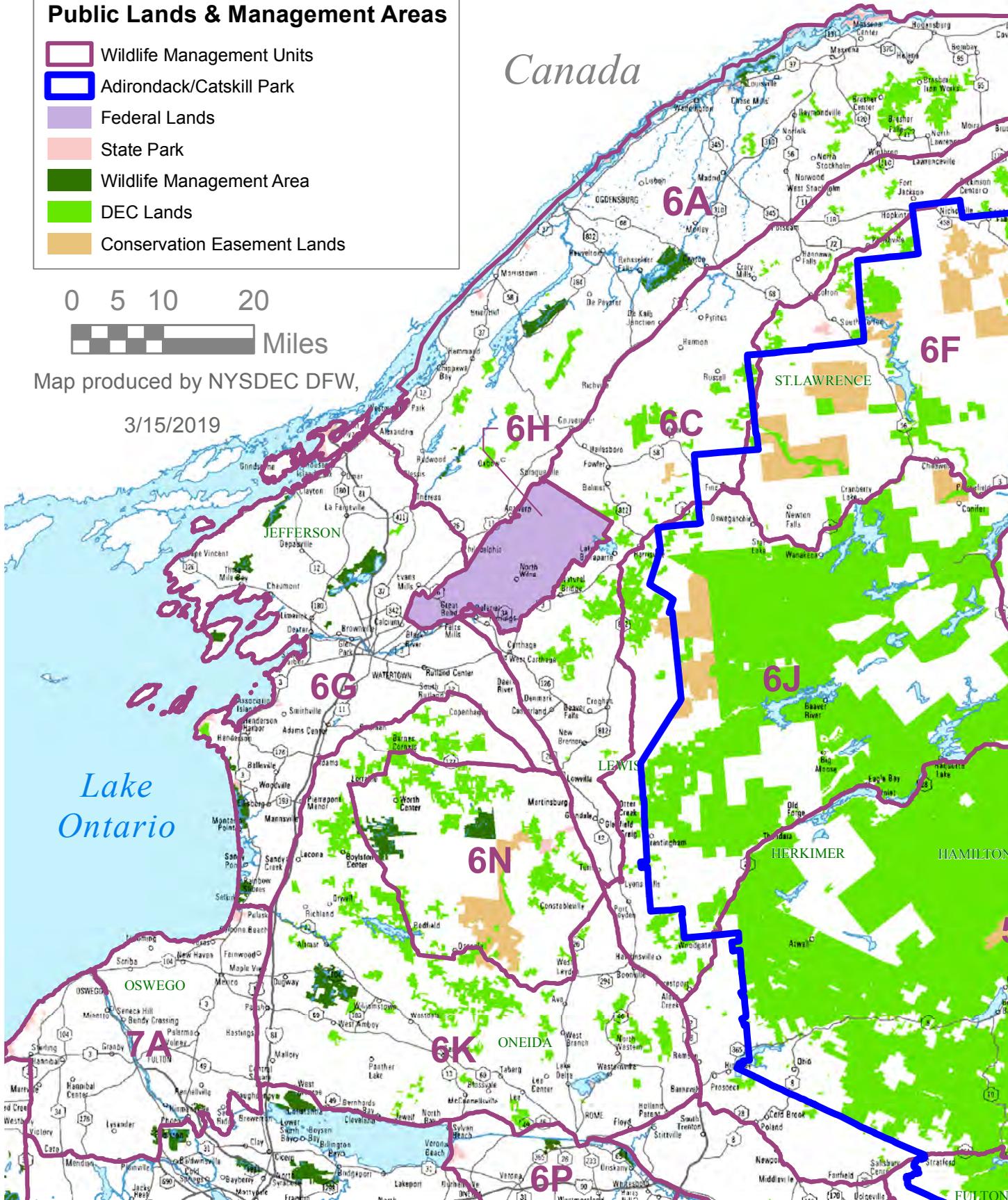
## Public Lands & Management Areas

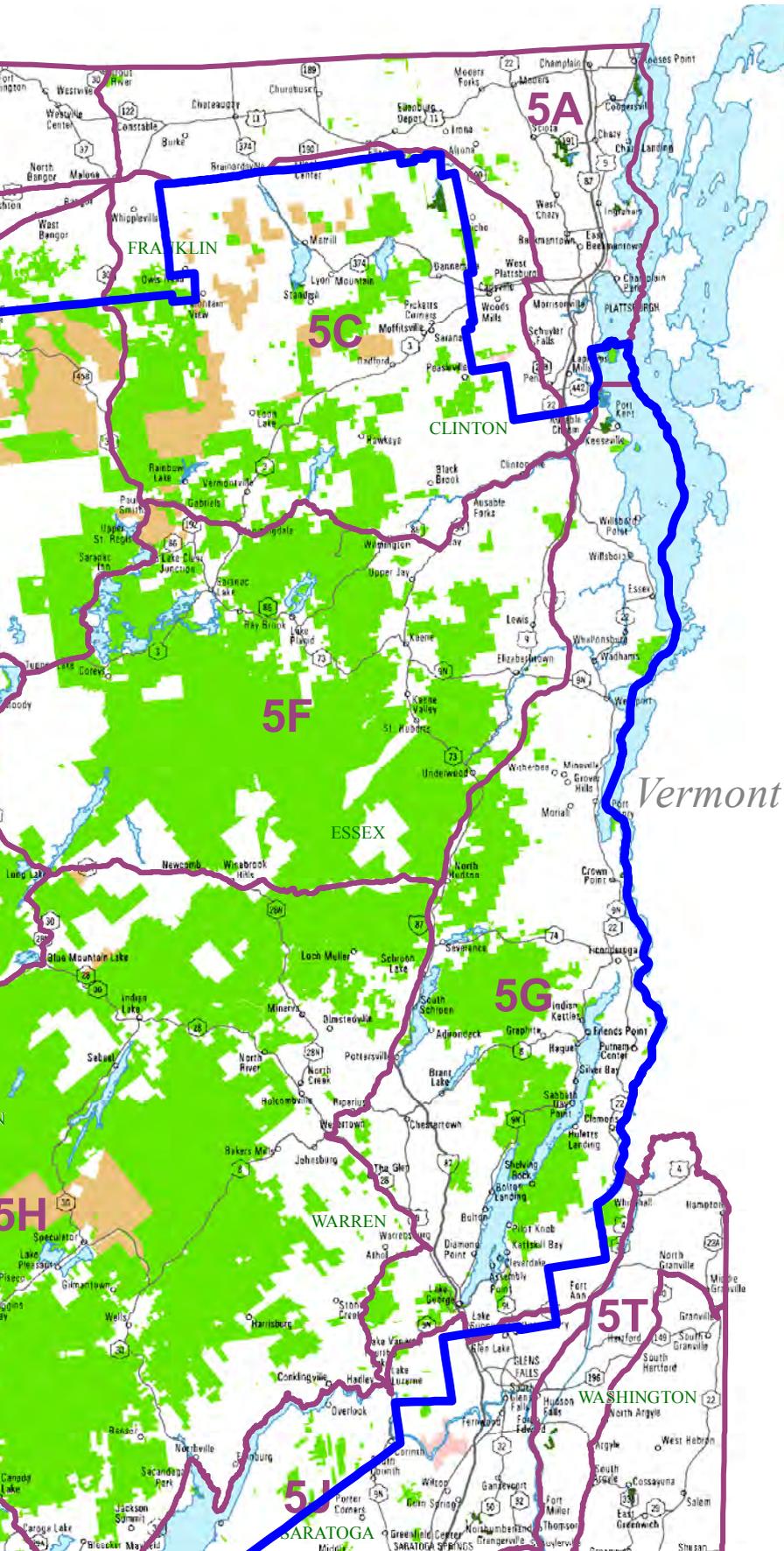
-  Wildlife Management Units
-  Adirondack/Catskill Park
-  Federal Lands
-  State Park
-  Wildlife Management Area
-  DEC Lands
-  Conservation Easement Lands



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

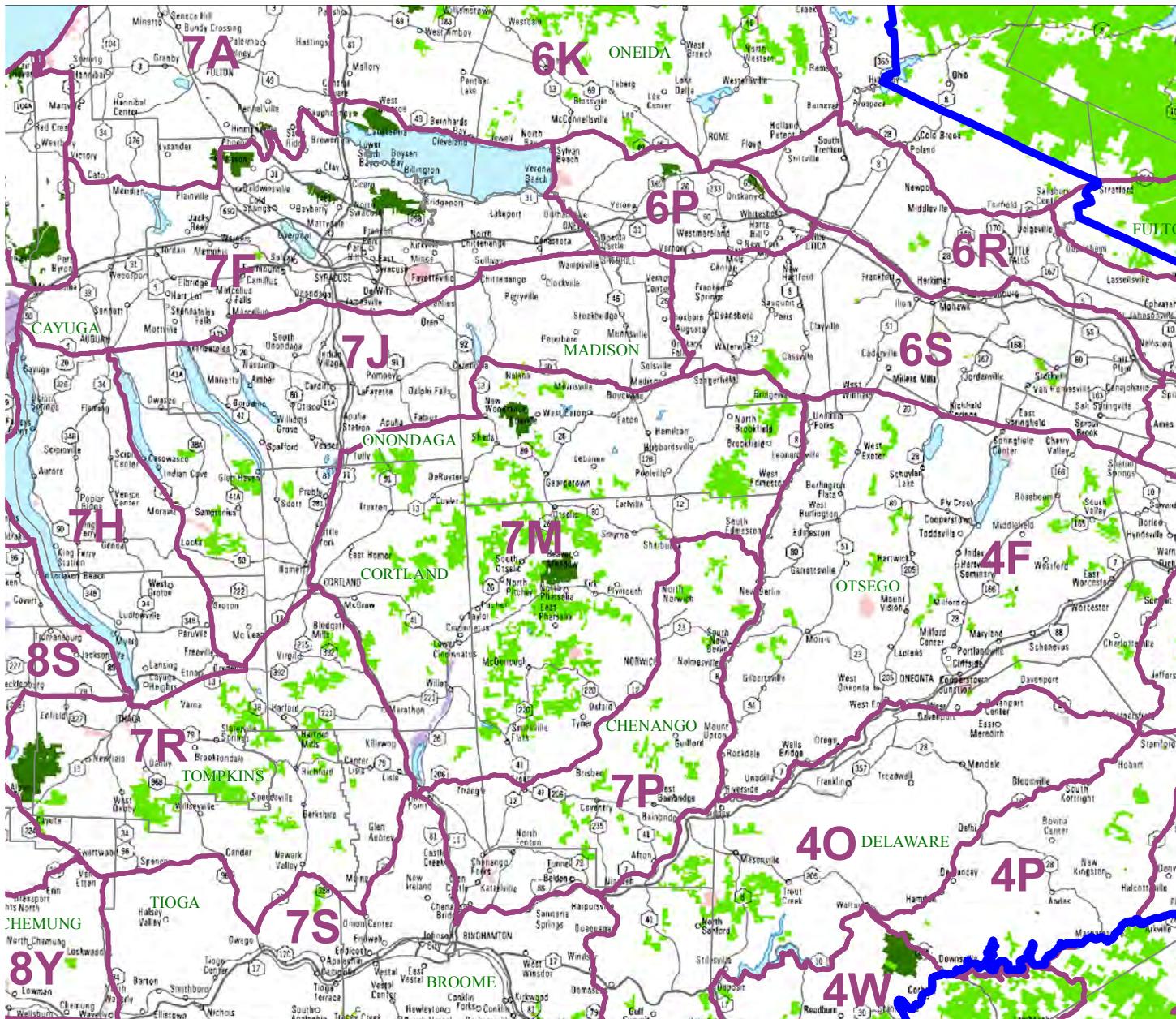
\* CP-3 - Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html> for application instructions and forms.

## 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



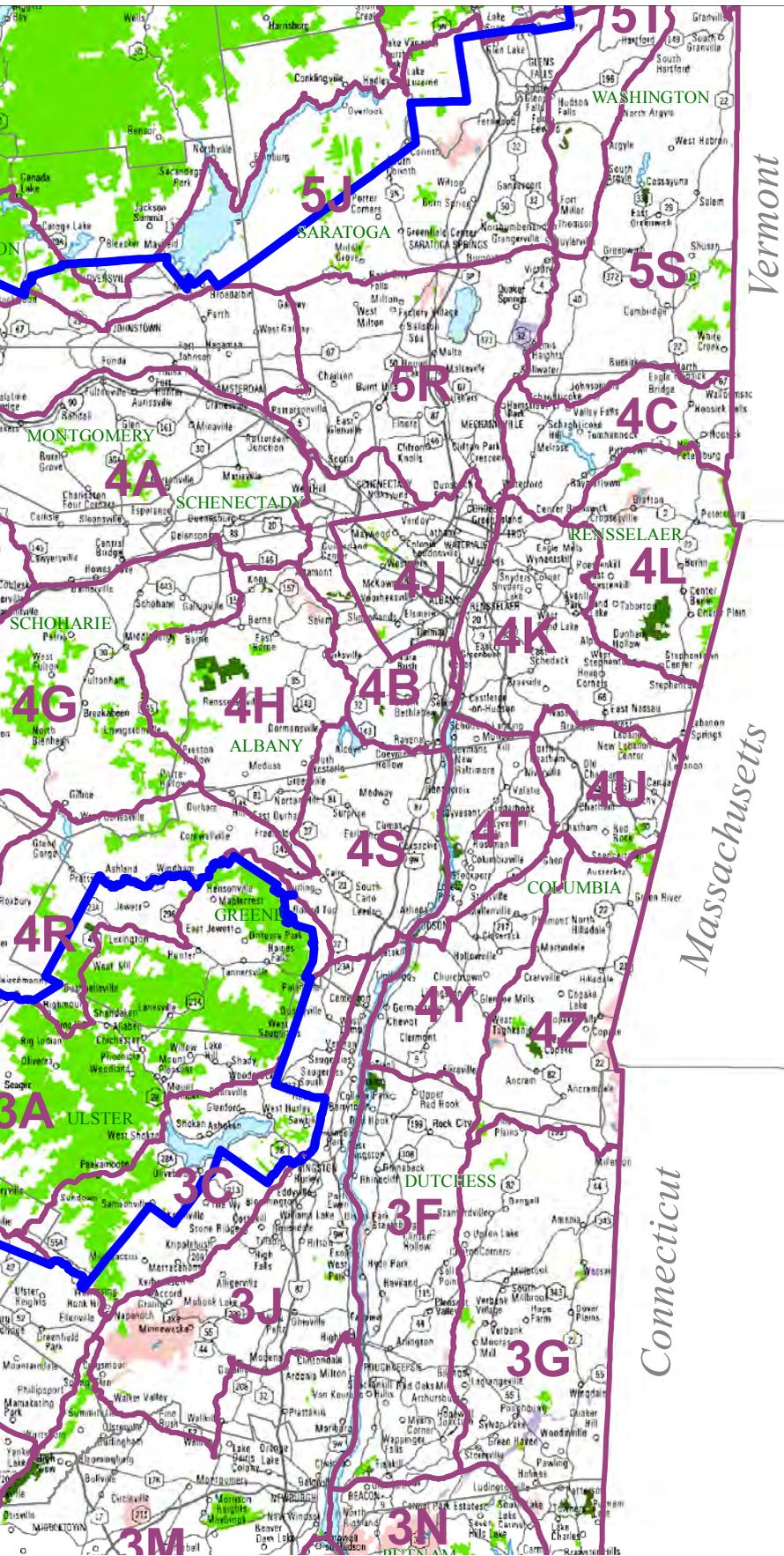
## Public Lands & Management Areas

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



*Pennsylvania*

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

<b>Albany</b>
<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>
<b>Greene</b>
<b>Vosburgh Swamp WMA (Coxsackie, Athens)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible Blind, Boardwalk, Parking</li> </ul>
<b>Onondaga</b>
<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>
<b>Oswego</b>
<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>

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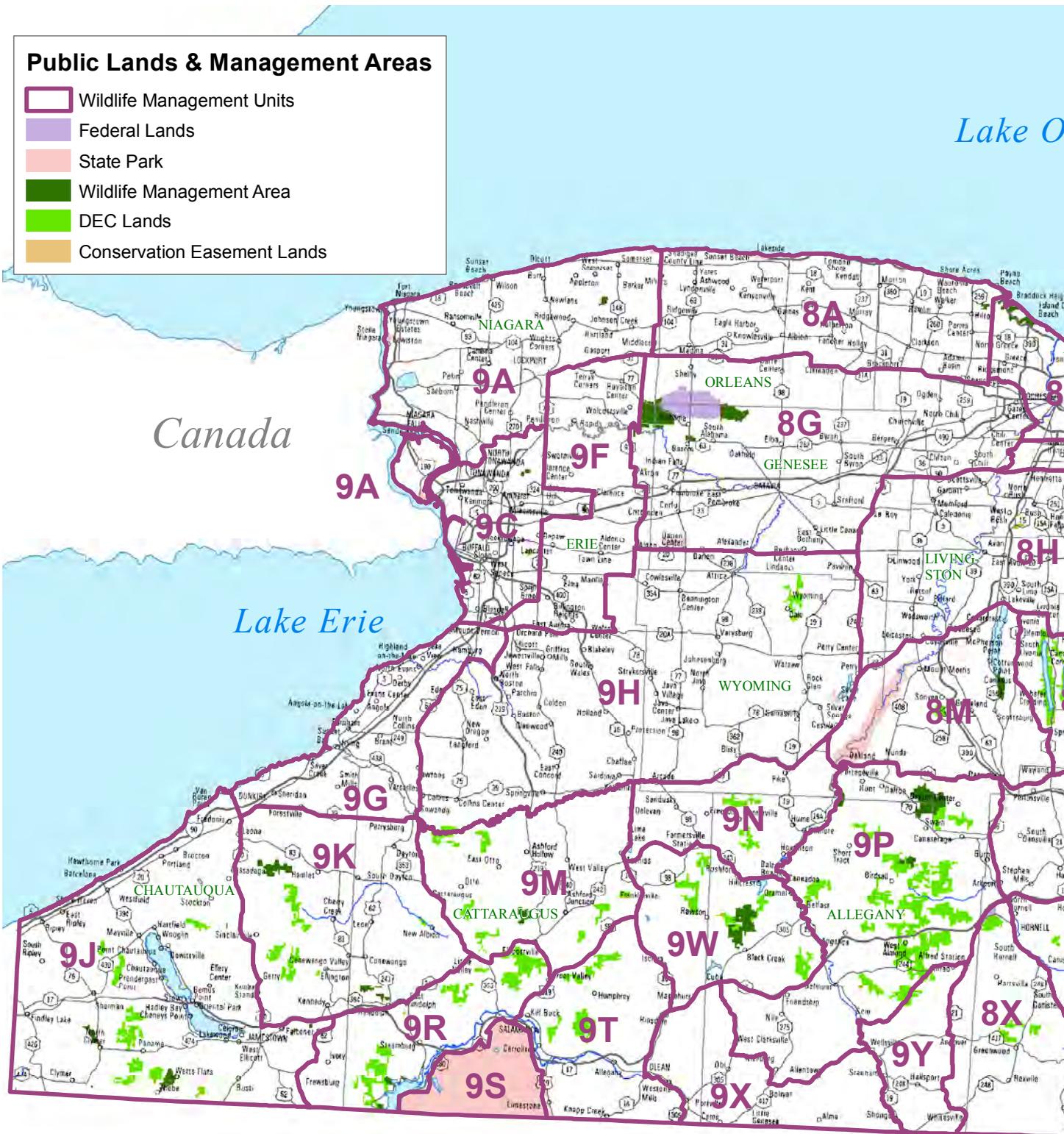
All funds from stamp purchases are used for projects aimed towards conserving habitat and increasing access to public and private lands for outdoor recreational opportunities.

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# Regional Maps

## Public Lands & Management Areas

- Wildlife Management Units
- Federal Lands
- State Park
- Wildlife Management Area
- DEC Lands
- Conservation Easement Lands

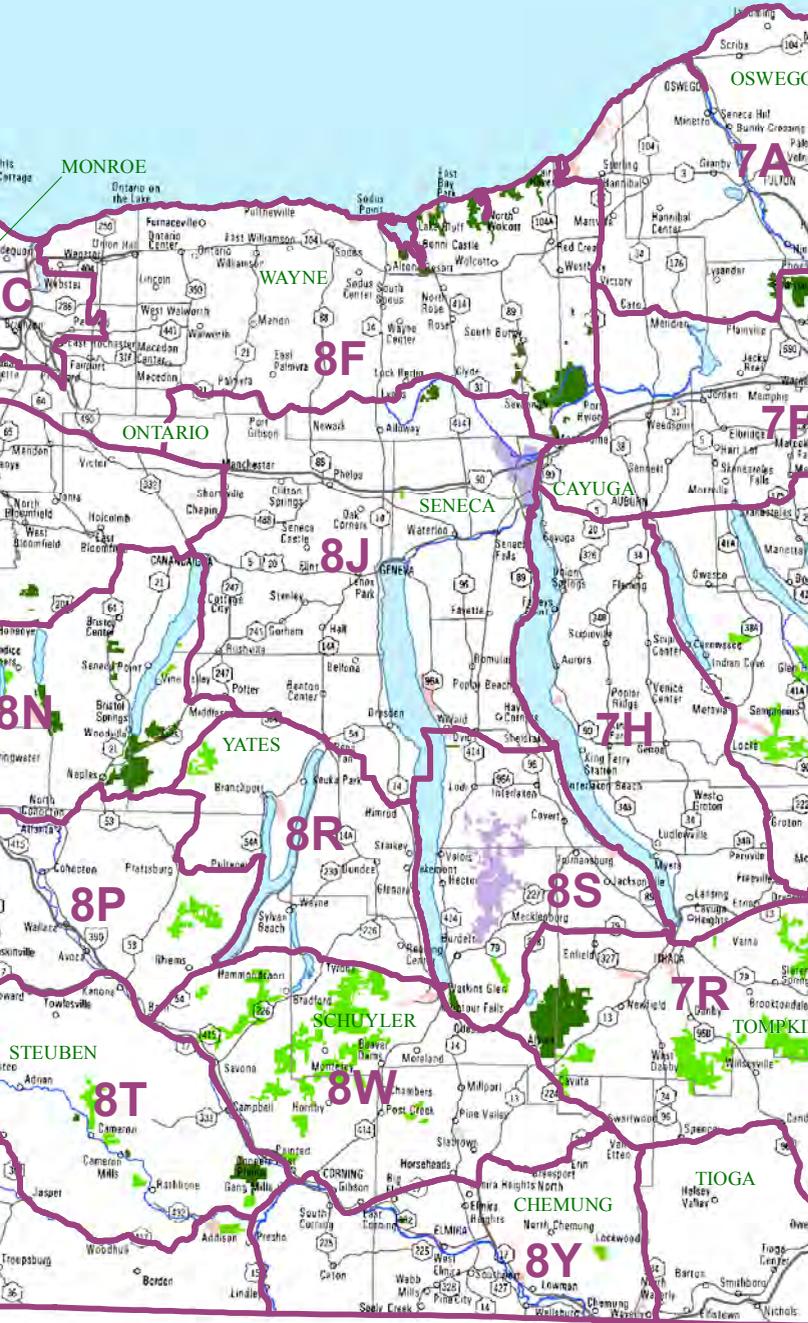


DECinfo Locator is an interactive map that includes DEC lands with public hunting access and other outdoor recreation information. Go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>



*Pennsylvania*

ntario



Map produced by NYSDEC DFW, 3/15/2019

WMA Accessible Features for Regions 8 and 9	
<b>Cattaraugus</b>	
<b>Birch Run Ponds FWMA (Allegany)</b>	
• Fishing Access, Parking, 0.3 mi foot trail	
<b>Harwood Lake MUA (Farmersville)</b>	
• Parking	
<b>Cattaraugus/Erie</b>	
<b>Zoar Valley (Otto, Persia, Collins)</b>	
• Parking	
<b>Cayuga/Wayne/Seneca</b>	
<b>Northern Montezuma WMA (Victory, Conquest, Mentz, Montezuma, Butler, Savannah, Seneca Falls)</b>	
• Accessible Blind, Parking, Restroom, Viewing Platform, 1.4 mi foot trails	
<b>Chautauqua</b>	
<b>Chautauqua Lake FWMA (Ellery, North Harmony)</b>	
• Accessible Blind, Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.2 mi foot trail	
<b>Watts Flats (Harmony)</b>	
• Blind	
<b>Erie</b>	
<b>Great Baehre Swamp WMA (Amherst)</b>	
• Parking, 0.6 mi bike trail	
<b>Spicer Creek WMA (Grand Island)</b>	
• Accessible Blind, Parking, 0.4 mi foot trail	
<b>Tillman Road WMA (Clarence)</b>	
• Boardwalk, Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.1 mi foot trail	
<b>Genesee</b>	
<b>John White WMA (Alabama)</b>	
• Accessible Blind, Parking	
<b>Livingston</b>	
<b>Conesus Inlet WMA (Conesus)</b>	
• Parking, 0.1 mi foot trail	
<b>Livingston/Allegany</b>	
<b>Rattlesnake Hill WMA (Nunda, Ossian, Grove)</b>	
• Viewing Platform, Parking	
<b>Monroe</b>	
<b>Braddock Bay WMA (Parma, Greece)</b>	
• Fishing Access, Parking, Restroom, Viewing Platform	
<b>Ontario/Yates</b>	
<b>High Tor WMA (Naples, Italy Middlesex)</b>	
• Fishing Access, Hand Launch, Parking	
<b>Orleans/Erie/Niagara/Genesee</b>	
<b>Tonawanda WMA (Shelby, Newstead, Royalton, Alabama)</b>	
• Accessible Blind, Parking, 0.2 mi foot trail	
<b>Orleans/Genesee</b>	
<b>Oak Orchard WMA (Barre, Shelby, Oakfield, Alabama)</b>	
• Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.1 mi foot trail, 3.2 mi dikes	
<b>Schuyler</b>	
<b>Catherine Creek Marsh WMA (Dix, Montour)</b>	
• 2 mi. CP-3 trail*	
<b>Waneta-Lamoka WMA (Tyrone)</b>	
• Hand Launch, Parking	
<b>Steuben</b>	
<b>Erwin WMA (Erwin)</b>	
• Parking	
<b>Wayne</b>	
<b>Galen WMA (Galen)</b>	
• 2.2 mi foot trails	
<b>Lake Shore Marshes WMA (Rochester, Oswego)</b>	
• Fishing Access, Hand Launch, Parking, Restroom	
<b>Wyoming</b>	
<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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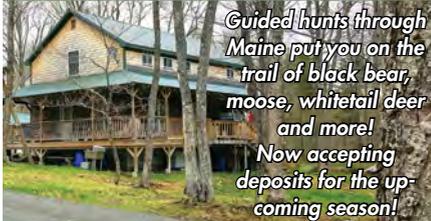
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