

Non-Lead Ammunition Rebate Program:

Hunters For Eagle Conservation in New York



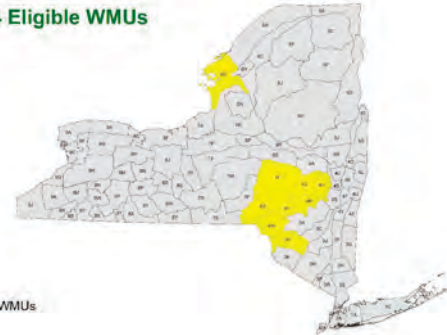
Lead rifle bullets and shotgun slugs are relatively soft and heavy, but can fragment into hundreds of small pieces upon impact. Gut piles from field-dressed deer can be contaminated with these small lead fragments, making them available to Bald and Golden Eagles and other scavenging wildlife that readily consume these gut piles. In recent years, ingestion of lead fragments has resulted in the impairment and death of Bald and Golden Eagles in New York.

While Bald Eagle abundance has been increasing in New York, the population growth is reduced due to lead poisoning. Golden Eagles commonly stop in New York during migration and feed upon gut piles and dead deer. Unlike Bald Eagles, the eastern population of Golden Eagles is not increasing. Therefore, lead poisoning from consuming contaminated gut piles makes the Golden Eagle more susceptible to potential population declines.

Non-lead Ammunition Rebate Program for Deer Hunters

DEC has partnered with the New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Cornell University, United States Geological Survey, and Conservation Science Global to implement a multiyear study to determine the reduction in eagle deaths resulting from use of non-lead ammunition for deer hunting. Researchers are offering a rebate of up to \$60 for purchase of certified non-lead ammunition and for participation in pre- and post-hunt surveys. Certified non-lead ammunition has <1% lead content and a list of manufacturers and non-lead bullet calibers can be found at huntersforeagleconservation.org/new-york/.

2023-2024 Eligible WMUs



To Learn More and Sign-up!

This is a voluntary program limited to wildlife management units (WMU: 3H, 4F, 4G, 4H, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4W, and 6G). Only hunters who possess a 2023–24 DMP for a WMU in the project area are eligible, and they must participate in an associated pre- and post-hunting season surveys. To learn more and sign-up, go to huntersforeagleconservation.org/new-york/. For more information on DEC efforts to minimize risks from lead ammunition please visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/48420.html.

Questions? wildlife@dec.ny.gov (subject: non-lead ammo study).

4 Rules of Firearm Safety

1. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times!

2. Treat every firearm as though it is loaded!



3. Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond it!

4. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot!



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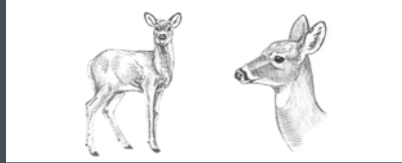
Hunter Education Program

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 20% of the total antlerless deer harvest has been fawns (5–7 months old), with nearly even proportions of doe fawns and buck fawns. Though fawns provide excellent table fare, some hunters prefer to target adult deer. Taking 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.

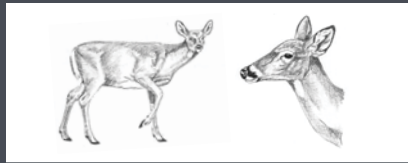
Hunting Tips

- 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.



Photo by Gary K.

In addition to the Tree Stand Safety steps above, it's important to know the health and species of the tree you choose to support your stand. In New York State there are a handful of tree species that are currently being impacted by non-native pests and pathogens that should be avoided. The most common trees that are either dead or are in the process of dying are: Ash species (*Fraxinus spp.*), Butternut (*Juglans cineria*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), and American elm (*Ulmus americana*).

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.



Let go

YOUNG BUCKS and watch them

GROW

YOUR CHOICE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



Department of
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Conservation

Big Game Season Dates

Future Big Game Season Dates			
Northern Zone			
Bear	Adirondacks (WMUs 5A, 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6C, 6F, 6H, and 6J)	Regular	First Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Sunday immediately following the first Saturday in December.
	Western Periphery (WMUs 6A, 6G, 6K, 6N)	Early Bowhunting	First Saturday after the second Monday in September through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season (crossbows can be used during the last 10 days of this season).
		Early Muzzleloading	7 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday after Columbus Day.
Deer		Regular	Second Saturday after Columbus Day through the Sunday immediately following the first Saturday in December.
		Early Bowhunting	September 27 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season (crossbows can be used during the last 10 days of this season).
		Early Muzzleloading	7 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday after Columbus Day.
		Regular	44 consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday after Columbus Day.
		Late Bow and Muzzleloading (some WMUs)	7 consecutive days immediately following the regular season.
		Southern Zone	
Bear		Early Antlerless (some WMUs)	16 consecutive days beginning the first Saturday after Labor Day.
		Early Bowhunting	October 1 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season (crossbows can be used during the last 14 days of this season).
		Regular	23 consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in November.
		Late Bow and Muzzleloading	9 consecutive days immediately following the regular season.
Deer		Early Firearms (some WMUs)	9 consecutive days beginning the second Saturday of September.
		Early Bowhunting	October 1 through the Friday immediately preceding the regular season (crossbows can be used during the last 14 days of this season).
		Regular	23 consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in November.
		Late Bow and Muzzleloading	9 consecutive days immediately following the regular season and December 26 through January 1.
Northern & Southern Zone			
Deer & Bear	Youth (ages 12-15)		3 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday of Columbus Day Weekend.
Westchester County			
Deer & Bear	Regular (bowhunting only)		October 1 through December 31.
Suffolk County			
Deer	Regular (bowhunting only)		October 1 through December 31.
	Special Firearms Season		First Sunday in January through Jan 31.

Special Seasons Designated for Young Hunters



Jack R. after a successful harvest



Jason B. with a 9 point taken with a bow



Sam D. had a victorious hunt with his father

Introducing a new generation to the outdoors – Take a youth hunter afield this fall

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 supervising adult must also have a federal duck stamp. During the youth pheasant, turkey, and big game hunts, adult hunters are not allowed to possess a firearm, crossbow, or bow, or to harvest an animal while accompanying a junior hunter. During the youth waterfowl hunt the adult hunter supervising the junior hunter may not carry a firearm, longbow, or crossbow afield, but the prohibition does not apply to other hunters in the party that are not mentoring the junior waterfowl hunter.

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 23–24, 2023
Western New York	October 14–15, 2023
Long Island	October 28–29, 2023
Youth Waterfowl Hunt	
Waterfowl Hunting Zone	Dates
Northeastern	September 23–24, 2023
Southeastern	September 23–24, 2023
Lake Champlain	September 23–24, 2023
Western	September 30 and October 1, 2023
Long Island	November 4–5, 2023
Youth Wild Turkey Hunt	
Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary) and Suffolk County	April 20–21, 2024
Youth Firearms Deer and Bear Hunt	
Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary; excluding bowhunting-only WMUs)	Columbus Day Weekend; October 7–9, 2023

Take them outside the classroom. Way outside.

EXPLORE BOWHUNTING

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

Contact the NY Explore Bowhunting coordinator for local instructor training opportunities.
P: 518-402-8967 E: hunter@dec.ny.gov

New York is on Target!

The **National Archery in the Schools Program:**

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

NASP
NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

For more information, please contact NY NASP at 518-402-8967, or hunter@dec.ny.gov

Junior Big Game Hunting

NEW OPPORTUNITY: 12- and 13-year-old can hunt deer with a gun or crossbow in counties that opt in

A new law adopted in 2021 reduced 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) 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-old junior bowhunters can hunt deer and bear with a bow if they meet the following requirements:

- They have completed a course in both Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education.
- They have purchased a Junior Bowhunting License.
- They are 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:

- They have completed a course in Hunter Education.
- They have purchased a Junior Hunting License.
- They are 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

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.)

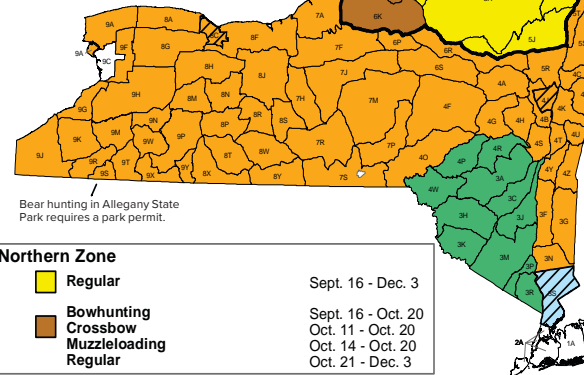
Attention Young Hunter or Trapper: carry this form with you while afield.

Bear Hunting



Evan F. after a successful hunt

Black Bear Seasons — 2023



Bear hunting in Allegany State Park requires a park permit.

Hunting Hours

30 minutes before Sunrise to 30 minutes after Sunset

Northern - Southern Zone Line

Youth Firearms Season

Season Dates
Oct. 7 - 9, 2023

Area Open
Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting only WMUs

Eligible Hunters
Youth 14-15 years of age

Northern Zone

Regular	Sept. 16 - Dec. 3
Bowhunting	Sept. 16 - Oct. 20
Crossbow	Oct. 11 - Oct. 20
Muzzleloading	Oct. 14 - Oct. 20
Regular	Oct. 21 - Dec. 3

Southern Zone

Early Firearms	Sept. 9 - Sept. 24
Early Bowhunting	Oct. 1 - Nov. 17
Crossbow--Not in WMUs 4J or 8C	Nov. 4 - Nov. 17
Regular	Nov. 18 - Dec. 10
Late Bowhunting	Dec. 11 - Dec. 19
Late Muzzleloading	Dec. 11 - Dec. 19
Westchester County (3S)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31
Regular--Bowhunting Only	

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.

Bear Hunting

- Resident and non-resident hunters can receive 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.



iSeeMammals

Help researchers study NY bears!



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

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

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. Successful bear hunters are also 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 for more information). 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 2023 NYS Black Bear Cooperator Patch. Samples will be aged in the summer of 2024. Cooperating hunters will receive patches and letters indicating the age of their bear in early fall 2024.



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. New York State law requires taxidermists to keep records of all bear gallbladders and bile received or sold.

Become BearWise

In 2022, DEC became a cooperating partner of BearWise®, a multi-state campaign focused on educating people on how to live responsibly with black bears. The campaign provides sound information and smart solutions that help homeowners, businesses and communities coexist with black bears. Visit <https://bearwise.org/> to learn the BearWise basics, bear safety tips, and to download educational resources. Become NYS BearWise to help keep New York State's black bears healthy and safe.





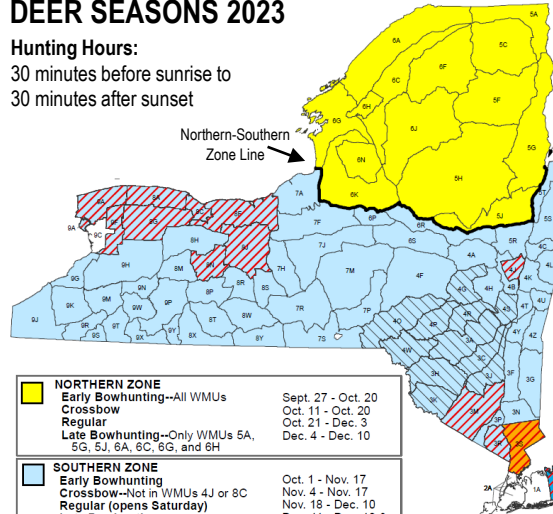
Remember to Report Your Game Harvest

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

Most regulations are in effect September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024

REGULAR & BOWHUNTING DEER SEASONS 2023

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset



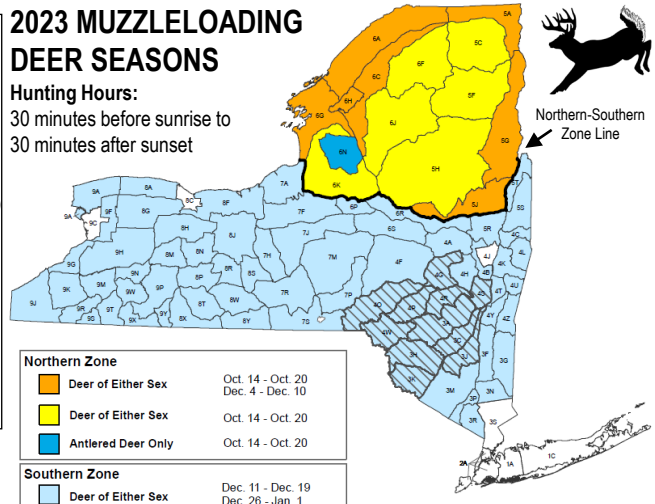
Youth Firearms Season Season Dates Oct. 7 - 9, 2023 Area Open Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting-only WMUs Eligible Hunters Youth 14-15 years (all open areas) Youth aged 12-13 years (select counties, see www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/46245.html) Bag Limit One deer (antlered or antlerless) Tags Regular (either-sex), DMP and DMAP (antlerless only); Bow/Muzz tags are not valid

- NORTHERN ZONE Early Bowhunting--All WMUs Sept. 27 - Oct. 20 Crossbow Regular Oct. 11 - Oct. 20 Regular Late Bowhunting--Only WMUs 5A, 5G, 5J, 6A, 6C, 6G, and 6H Dec. 4 - Dec. 10 SOUTHERN ZONE Early Bowhunting Crossbow--Not in WMUs 4J or 8C Oct. 1 - Nov. 17 Regular (opens Saturday) Nov. 4 - Nov. 17 Late Bowhunting Dec. 11 - Dec. 19 & Dec. 26 - Jan. 1 WESTCHESTER COUNTY (3S) Regular--Bowhunting Only Oct. 1 - Dec. 31 SUFFOLK COUNTY (1C) Regular--Bowhunting Only Oct. 1, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024 Special Firearms-(Permit Req.) Jan. 7 - Jan. 31, 2024 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 Deer Hunting

Early Antlerless Season Sept. 9 - 17 Tags: DMP and DMAP Vertical Bow--Only: 1C, 3S, 4J, 8C Firearms, Bow, & Crossbow: 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.

2023 MUZZLELOADING DEER SEASONS

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

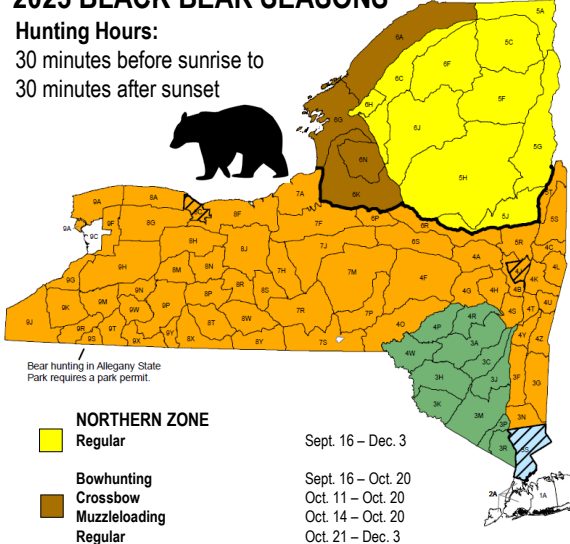


- Northern Zone Deer of Either Sex Oct. 14 - Oct. 20 Dec. 4 - Dec. 10 Deer of Either Sex Oct. 14 - Oct. 20 Antlered Deer Only Oct. 14 - Oct. 20 Southern Zone Deer of Either Sex Dec. 11 - Dec. 19 Dec. 26 - Jan. 1 Antler Point Restrictions During all seasons, antlered bucks must have at least one antler 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.

2023 BLACK BEAR SEASONS

Hunting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

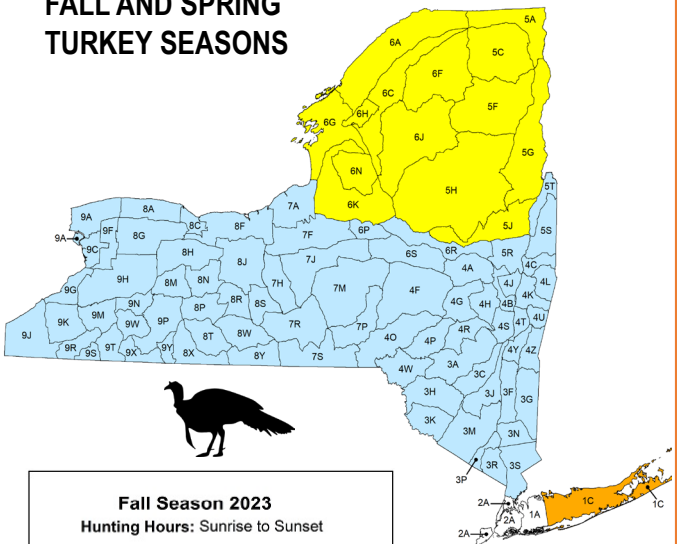


Youth Firearms Season Season Dates Oct. 7 - 9, 2023 Area Open Northern and Southern Zone, except bowhunting-only WMUs Eligible Hunters Youth 14-15 years

- NORTHERN ZONE Regular Sept. 16 - Dec. 3 Bowhunting Crossbow Muzzleloading Regular Sept. 16 - Oct. 20 Oct. 11 - Oct. 20 Oct. 14 - Oct. 20 Oct. 21 - Dec. 3 SOUTHERN ZONE Early Bear Sept. 9 - Sept. 24 Early Bowhunting Crossbow - not in WMUs 4J or 8C Oct. 1 - Nov. 17 Regular Nov. 4 - Nov. 17 Late Bowhunting Dec. 11 - Dec. 19 Late Muzzleloading Dec. 11 - Dec. 19 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.

FALL AND SPRING TURKEY SEASONS

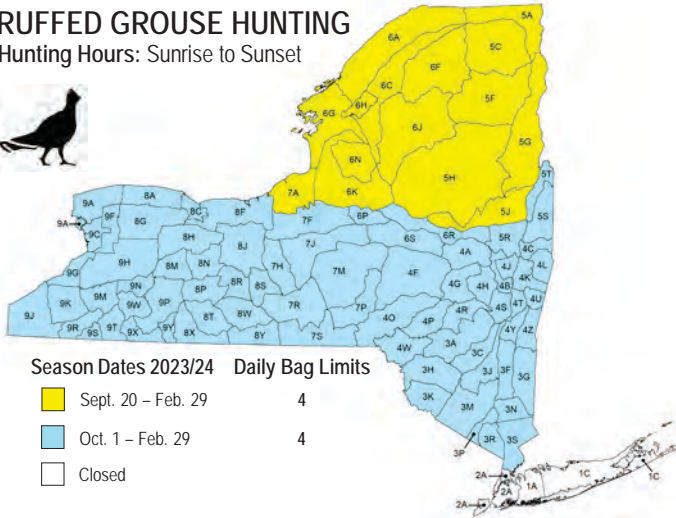


- Fall Season 2023 Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset Season Dates: Oct. 1 - Oct. 14 Oct. 21 - Nov. 3 Nov. 18 - Dec. 1 Statewide Bag Limit: 1 bird of either sex Closed Spring Season 2024 Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before Sunrise to Noon Season Dates: May 1 - May 31 in all open areas Statewide Bag Limit: 2 bearded birds, no more than 1 in WMU 1C Closed

Youth Turkey Season 2024 Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before Sunrise to Noon Statewide Bag Limit: 1 bearded bird Season Dates: April 20 and 21, 2024 Open Areas: Same as Regular Spring Season

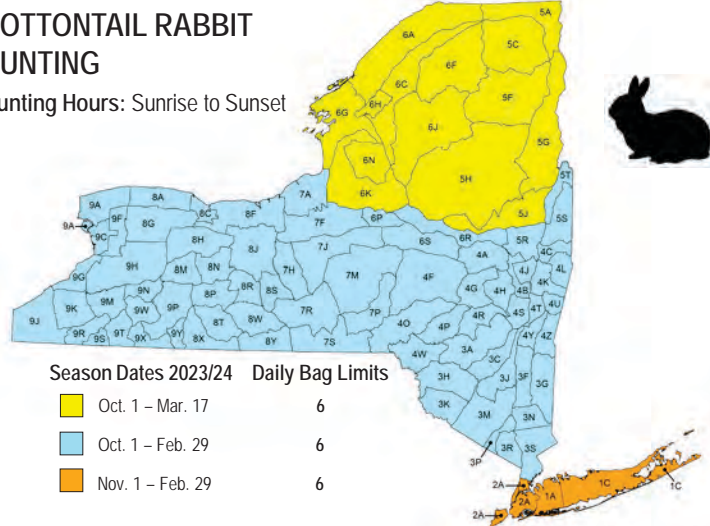
RUFFED GROUSE HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



COTTONTAIL RABBIT HUNTING

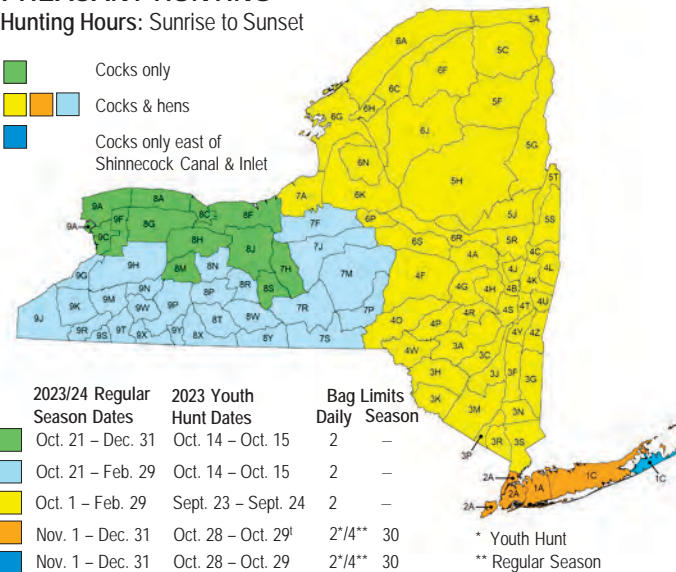
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



PHEASANT HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

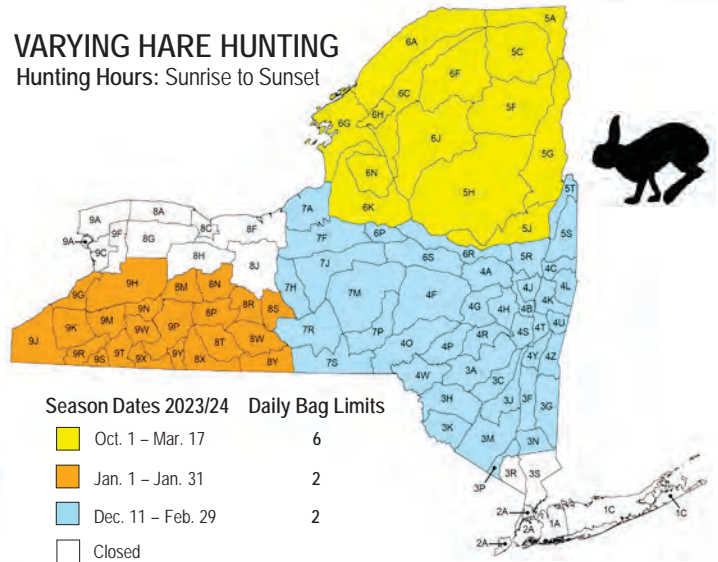
- Cocks only
- ■ ■ Cocks & hens
- Cocks only east of Shinnecock Canal & Inlet



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

VARYING HARE HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



GRAY, BLACK & FOX SQUIREL HUNTING

Daily bag limit of 6 total, regardless of species.
 Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



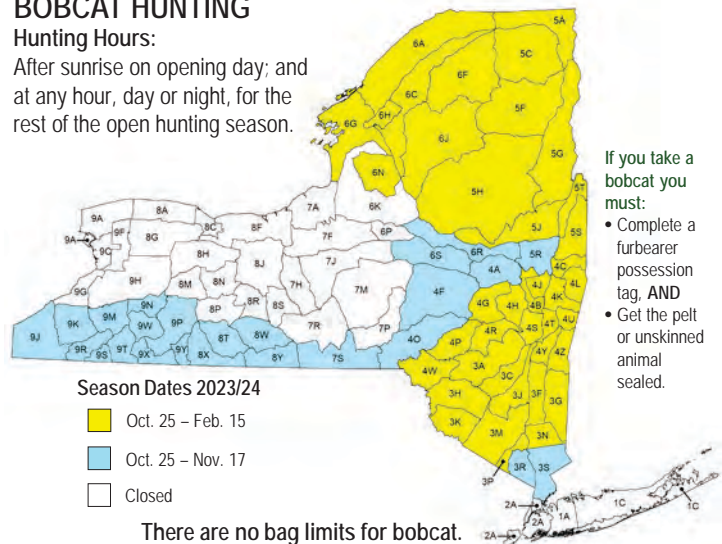
Long Island: Nov. 1 - Feb. 29
 All other areas of New York: Sept. 1 - Feb. 29

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.



If you take a bobcat you must:

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

There are no bag limits for bobcat.

BOBWHITE QUAIL HUNTING

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



2023/24 Regular Season Dates	Bag Limits Daily	Season
Oct. 1 - Feb. 29	4	10
Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	6	40
Closed		

RACCOON, FOX, SKUNK, OPOSSUM & WEASEL HUNTING

Long Island: Nov. 1 - Feb. 25

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



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

COYOTE HUNTING

Statewide except Long Island and New York City:

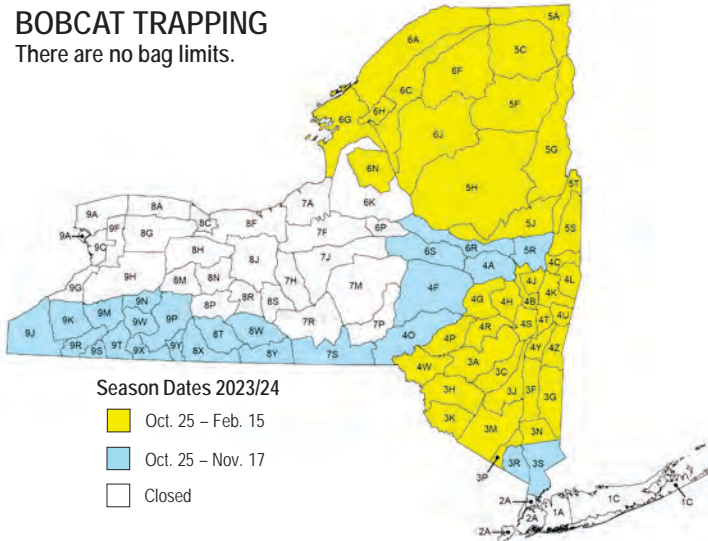
Oct. 1 - Mar. 31



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

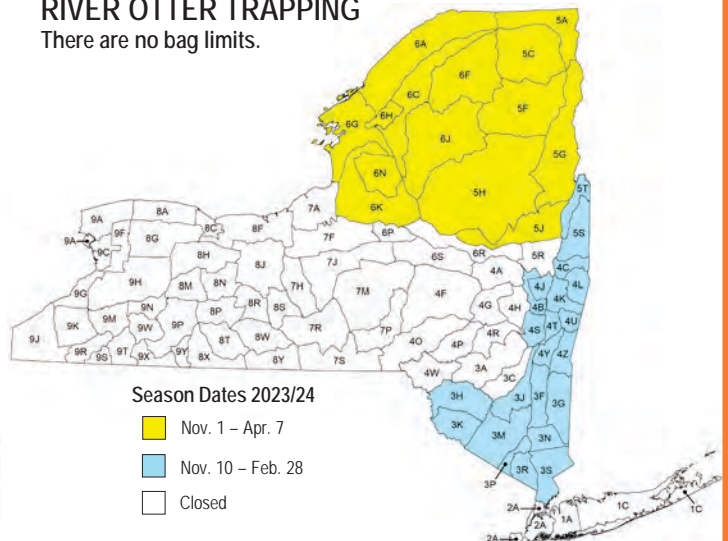
BOBCAT TRAPPING

There are no bag limits.



RIVER OTTER TRAPPING

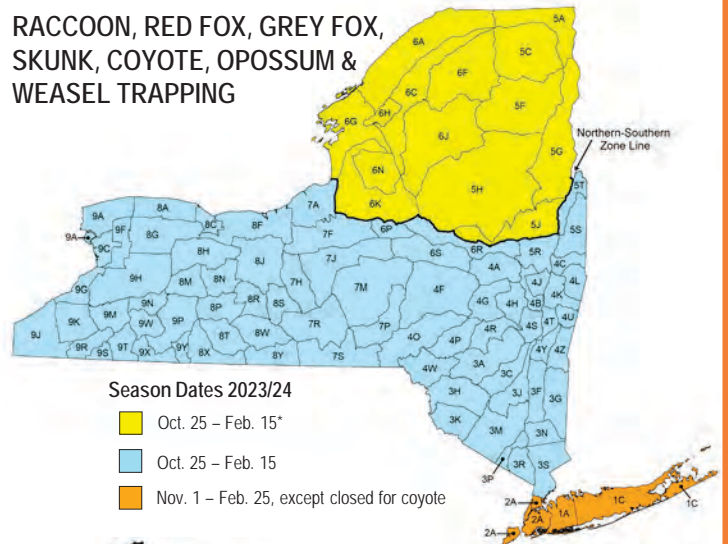
There are no bag limits.



If you take a bobcat, otter, fisher, or marten, you must:

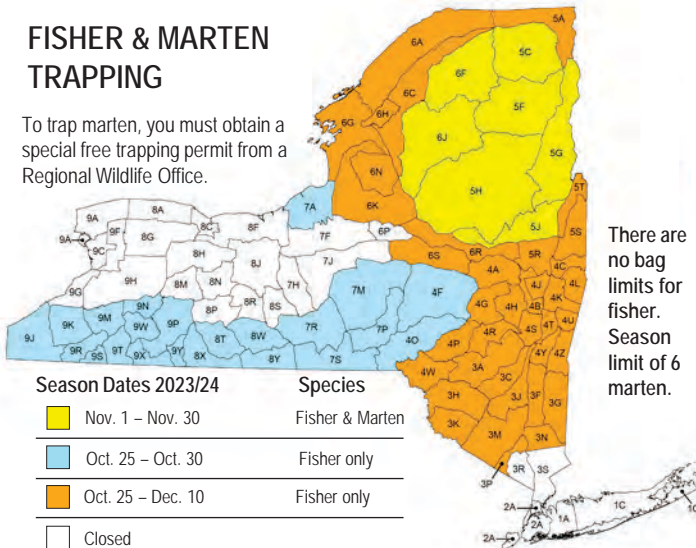
- Complete a furbearer possession tag, AND
- Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed.

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



FISHER & MARTEN TRAPPING

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

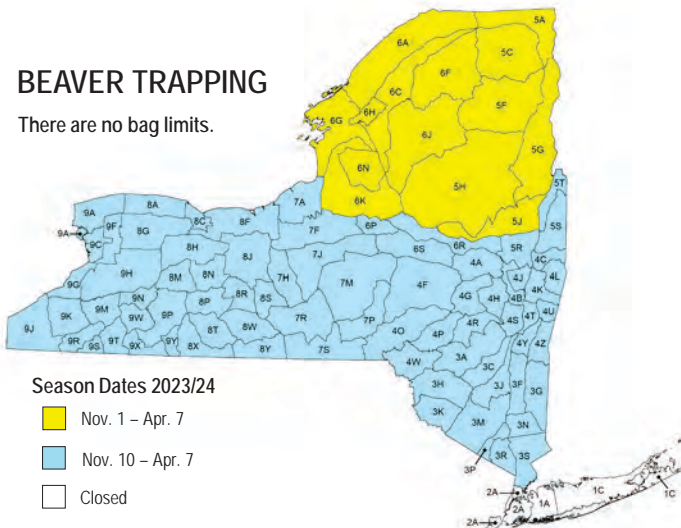


There are no bag limits for these species.

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

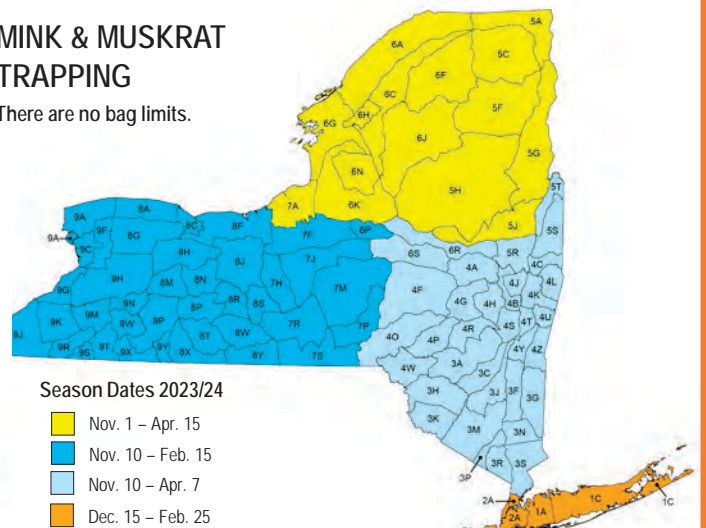
BEAVER TRAPPING

There are no bag limits.

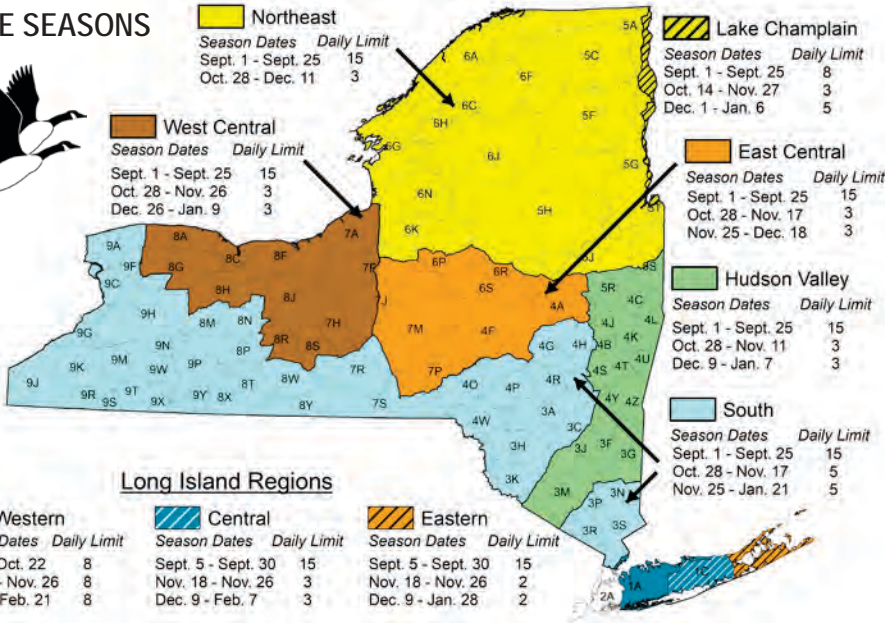


MINK & MUSKRAT TRAPPING

There are no bag limits.



2023-2024 CANADA GOOSE SEASONS



WOODCOCK

Oct. 1 - Nov. 14

Closed

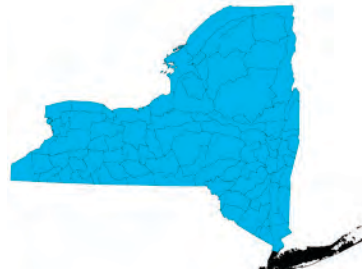
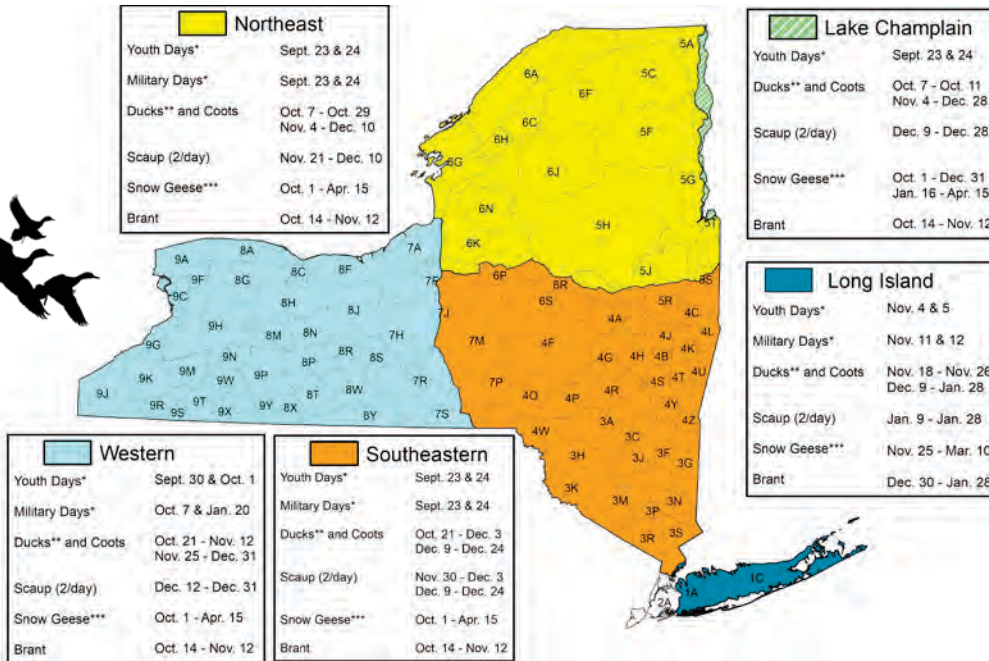
CROW

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

Closed



2023-2024 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 or 1-888-427-5447.



2023-2024 Hunting & Trapping Seasons Pull-out Summary

* 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, and the mentor may not carry a firearm. This prohibition does not apply to other hunters in the party that are not mentoring the youth.

** 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).

Bag Limits

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks ^a	6	18
Coot	15	45
Canada Geese ^b	See Map	3 times the daily limit
Snow Geese ^b	25	No Limit
Brant	1	3

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.

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 4 mallards (2 of which may be hens), 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, or 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders and no more than 1 female eider). For all other duck species, the daily limit is no more than 6.

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

The Partnership Between Hunter and Hound

By John Jarzynski

“Did you load the hounds in the truck?” Of the many chores I had as a kid (and those I didn't get to) “loading the hounds in the truck” was one I actually enjoyed. It meant that I was going to spend the day with Dad and a pack of beagles.

I was ever so fortunate to grow up in a family that raised beagles. In a world before cell phones and most video games, beagles were my entertainment. Their unconditional joy and cheerful disposition never failed to put a smile on my teenage face.

Fast forward forty-five years and that smile endures. If I ever need a reminder that someone could enjoy rabbit hunting more than me, I need look no further than the four barking dogs in my kennel or their wiggling tails. It is their dedication to their purpose that has drawn me to them for all these years. They love what they do. It's what is pure about all hunting dogs: their love for what they were bred to do. It's clear to see each time we collar up the dogs on the tailgate. Their undulating bodies shake and shimmy, begging to begin their task. It's electric.

Here in New York State, we are fortunate to have a small game season that lasts through the month of February and even into March. As a result, cold, late winter mornings will find me, along with a few hearty souls listening to the enchanting sounds of a pack of barking hounds as they pursue a cottontail through arrowwood or a snowshoe hare across alder swamps. While technology has changed in the way we track our hounds from the days when my father and his father hunted with beagles, what remains constant is the relationships between hunter and hound and nature. And while the harvesting of game is still the goal, it sometimes takes a backseat to enjoying the sounds of the hunt for this old beagler.

Like today, three hounds are currently bellowing and bawling a few hundred yards away. It echoes through the valley and becomes a musical symphony for all to hear. Unabashed and free, the hounds sing their melody into the February sky warming the hearts of the four brave souls who joined me today.

I marvel at these hounds.

Though each hound has its own subtle personality, tis true: some like to lead while others prefer to make corrections from the back of the pack. Some dogs are more liberal with their barking than others. Ideally, the pack should work in unison, so that when one dog falters or loses the line, the next dog makes the correction, and the run continues with dogs weaving in and out as a dance company or a chorus line. The number of dogs varies depending on scenting conditions and hound availability. Two to five is preferred.

Our three beagles were headed back in my direction. Another miss by me would mean more good-natured ribbing from my hunting partners for sure. As the barking grew louder it was clear that this rabbit would be headed in my direction. I unholstered my Thompson Contender .410 pistol and steadied my feet (rabbits have acute hearing and a good shot is often thwarted by the shuffling feet of a nervous hunter).

John J. and Jack B. with their successful hunt thanks to beagles Mabel and Joe Pickett.



John Jarzynski is the VP of NorthEast Beagle Gundog Federation, an AKC beagle field trial judge, a member of New York Outdoor Writers Association (NYSOWA) and award winning author of two books: *Tally Ho: Confessions of an Old Beagler* and *Beagle Boy: A Lifetime with Hunting Dogs*.



From left to right: Peter D. with beagle, Josie; Quentin J. with beagles Joe Pickett and Mabel; and John J. with beagle Terlingua.

“Don't look in the direction of the hounds. Look in front of the hounds.” Words my father repeated some 45 years ago still ring true each hunt.

A flash of fur, some dazzling rabbit footwork and a blur, and this rabbit was across the path with nary a shot from me. This brought me to laughter. What a joyful moment as the three hounds in hot pursuit followed right behind, their long ears scooping up the fresh scent of rabbit and the chase continued.

“Something wrong with your gun?” asked my friend Pete.

“Maybe it's time for new glasses,” chided another friend.

All ribbing humbly accepted as we laughed and joked about the day. Fortunately, Pete was able to harvest the rabbit after another circle and my rabbit jambalaya dinner plans would remain.

We emptied our guns and loaded the tired hounds onto the tailgate where they lapped water, then stepped into the safety of their dog box, weary but proud. This intrinsic partnership between hunter and hound exists quite naturally. It is a relationship nurtured and celebrated by both hound and hunter each hunting season. It's a winsome work of art and I've been in the front row my whole life.



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 WMU 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 WMUs except that (1) leopard frogs shall not be taken in WMUs 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 implements for taking snapping turtles are 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 www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/advice_on_eating_game.htm.

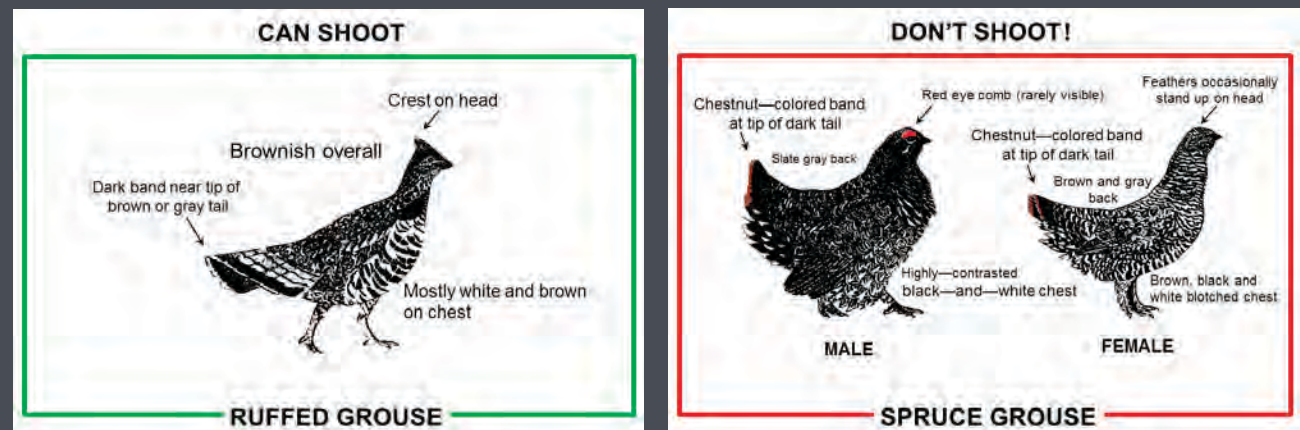
Possession and Release of Game Birds

It is illegal to possess or release migratory game birds and upland game birds without the proper license(s) from DEC. Before you take

Spruce Grouse vs. Ruffed Grouse

In New York State, the spruce grouse is endangered and is not legal to hunt. Spruce grouse occur in evergreen forests in the Adirondacks in Wildlife Management Units 5C, 5F, 6F, and 6J. During the fall, spruce grouse frequently make their way to roads to eat gravel and often travel into upland hardwood forests where ruffed grouse occur. Small game hunters in the Adirondack region must be able to distinguish between these species so that spruce grouse are not shot by mistake.

Spruce grouse are similar in size and color to ruffed grouse, making distinguishing between them difficult. One notable difference is that spruce grouse have an orangish-brown band at the tip of their tails, which contrasts with ruffed grouse’s black tail band. By noting the differences in the images here, small game hunters can avoid accidentally shooting a spruce grouse. The loss of a single female spruce grouse could be a significant setback for a small local population.



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.

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:

- 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.

Waterfowl may be taken via falconry during the following seasons:

- **Northeast, Southeast, and Western Waterfowl Zones:** Oct. 1–Jan. 13
- **Long Island Waterfowl Zone:** Nov. 1–Feb. 13
- **Lake Champlain Waterfowl Zone:** Only during the regular hunting season for each species (see map on page 49).

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

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 (ECO) or your local animal control officer.



Mike S's dog Bump in action

Small Game Hunting

Protect Rabbits and Hares from RHDV2

Rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus 2 (RHDV2) is highly lethal to rabbits and hares. It is easily transmitted through direct contact between rabbits or contact with contaminated objects. RHDV2 is extremely hardy, remaining contagious on surfaces for 3 months. If it enters NY's wild rabbit and hare populations, it will be impossible to control and could result in significant population declines. To protect these species:

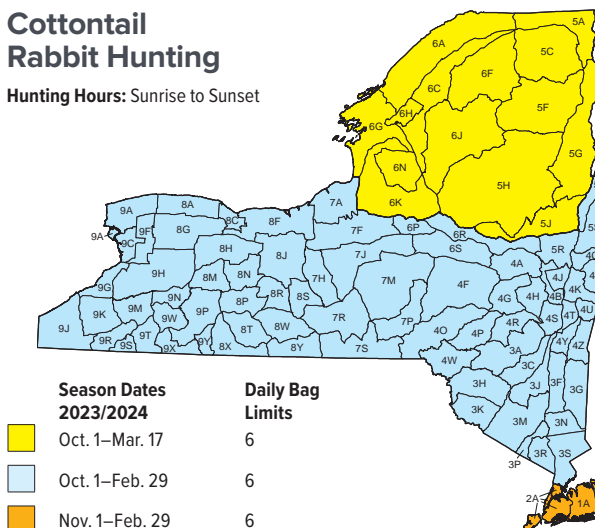
- Avoid contact with domestic rabbits.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling rabbit and hare carcasses.
- Properly dispose of rabbit carcasses in trash that's taken to a landfill or by burying deep enough to prevent scavenging.
- Disinfect all hunting gear after out-of-state travel with a 10% bleach solution (1 part household bleach, 9 parts water).
- Avoid travel to states that have confirmed RHDV2 outbreaks, and do not bring rabbit carcasses killed in other states to New York.
- Avoid transporting rabbits or hares to train hunting dogs.
- Although dogs cannot get sick from RHDV2, they can transmit the virus, so minimize contact between dogs and rabbit carcasses.
- Immediately report sick rabbits or unusual rabbit mortalities to DEC's Wildlife Health Program (518-478-2203; wildlife@dec.ny.gov).

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 (USFWS) also has an anonymous tip line - 1-844-FWS-TIPS. For more visit: www.fws.gov/story/how-report-wildlife-crime.

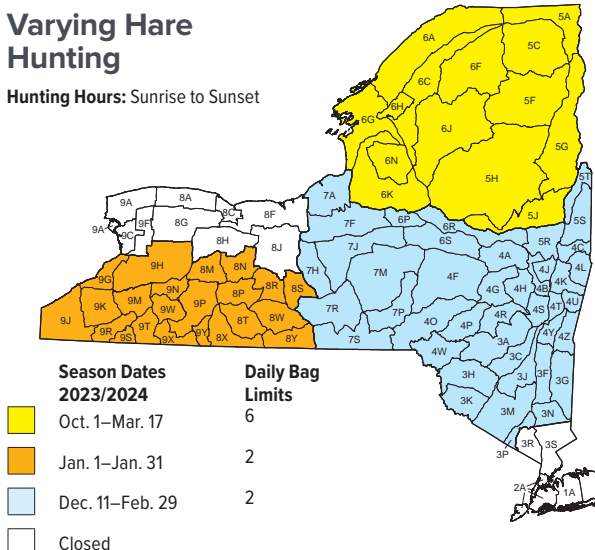
Cottontail Rabbit Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



Varying Hare Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

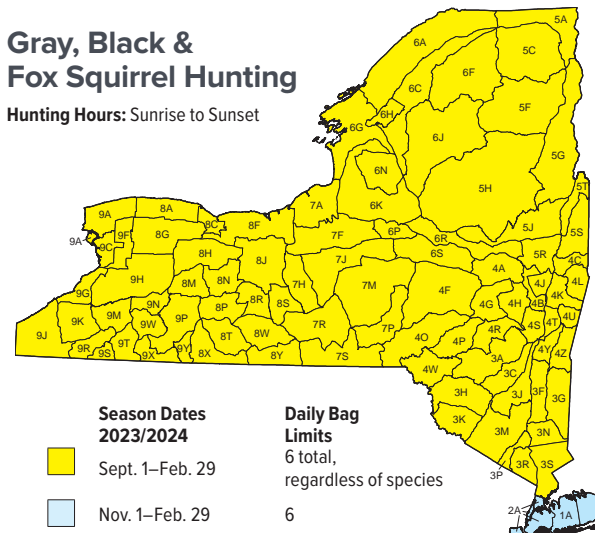


Got Hare?

DEC wants to learn more about the distribution of hare. You can report your observations online at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/30770.html or email us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov! Thanks for your help!

Gray, Black & Fox Squirrel Hunting

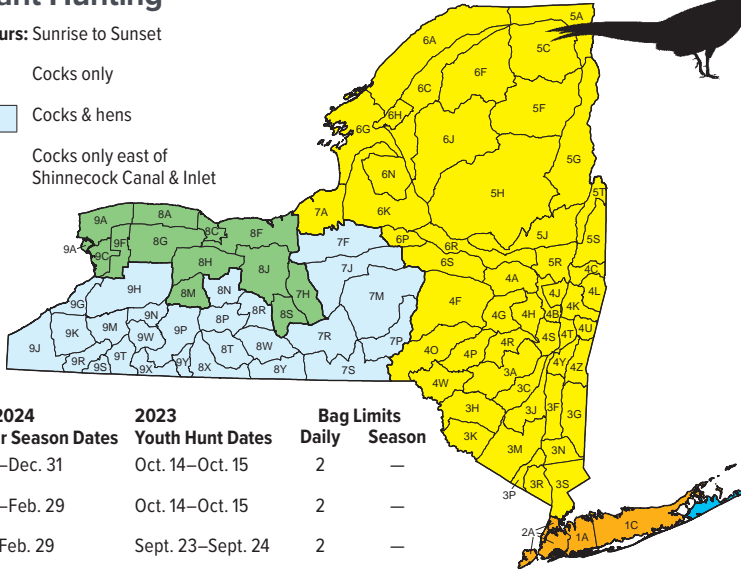
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



Pheasant Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

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

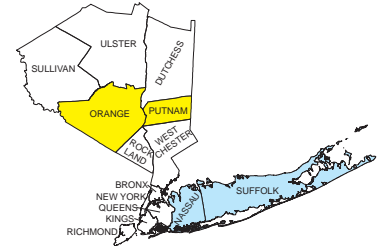


2023/2024 Regular Season Dates	2023 Youth Hunt Dates	Bag Limits	
		Daily	Season
 Oct. 21–Dec. 31	Oct. 14–Oct. 15	2	—
 Oct. 21–Feb. 29	Oct. 14–Oct. 15	2	—
 Oct. 1–Feb. 29	Sept. 23–Sept. 24	2	—
 Nov. 1–Dec. 31	Oct. 28–Oct. 29 [†]	2*/4**	30
 Nov. 1–Dec. 31	Oct. 28–Oct. 29	2*/4**	30

* Youth Hunt
 ** Regular Season
[†] In WMU 2A no youth hunt; hunting is by falconry only

Bobwhite Quail Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



2023/2024 Season Dates	Bag Limits	
	Daily	Season
 Oct. 1–Feb. 29	4	10
 Nov. 1–Dec. 31	6	40
 Closed		

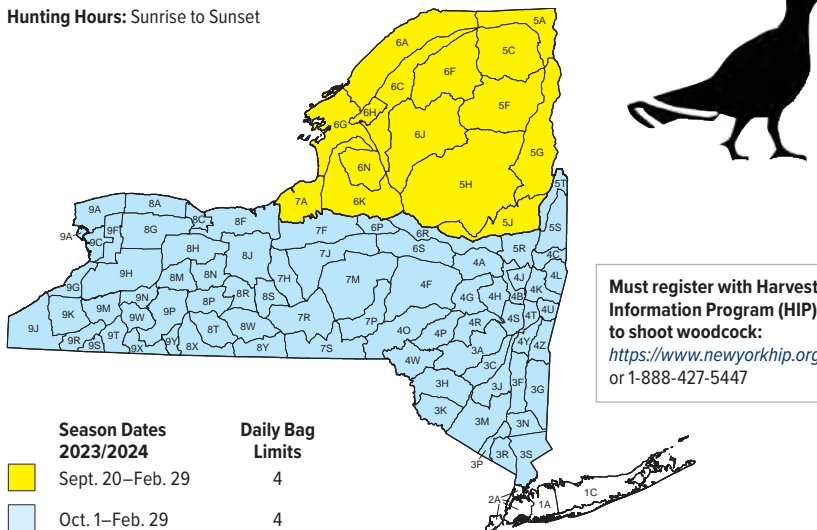


Where does DEC stock pheasants?

In 2022, DEC launched an interactive mapper that shows where pheasants are released throughout New York. Please note that many of these lands are privately owned and pheasant stocking is only permitted with the participation of landowners. Be sure to respect the land and any special rules that may be in place. To view the map, visit: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8363.html

Ruffed Grouse Hunting

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



2023/2024 Season Dates	Daily Bag Limits
 Sept. 20–Feb. 29	4
 Oct. 1–Feb. 29	4
 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.

Turkey Hunting

General Regulations

- You may buy only one turkey permit per year, which includes three carcass tags, two for spring and one for fall.
- 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:

- Email us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type "Grouse Drumming Survey" in the subject line, or
- Call 518-402-8883, or
- Visit 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 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 #9.
- 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), 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



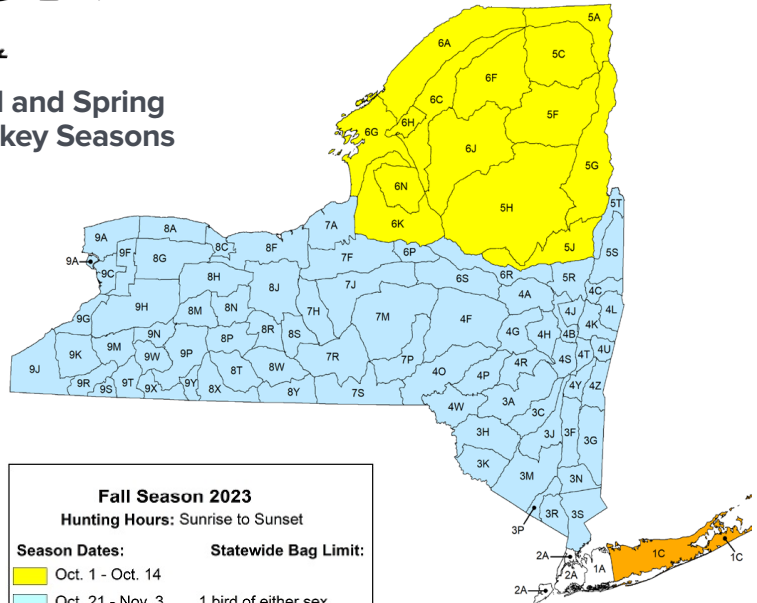
Fall Turkey Season

- 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 and Spring Turkey Seasons



Fall Season 2023	
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset	
Season Dates:	Statewide Bag Limit:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct. 1 - Oct. 14 Oct. 21 - Nov. 3 Nov. 18 - Dec. 1 Closed 	1 bird of either sex
Spring Season 2024	
Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before Sunrise to Noon	
Season Dates:	Statewide Bag
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 1 - May 31 in all open areas Closed 	2 bearded birds, no more than 1 in WMU 1C

Youth Turkey Season 2024	
Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before Sunrise to Noon	
Statewide Bag Limit:	Season Dates:
1 bearded bird	April 20 and 21, 2024
Open Areas:	Same as Regular Spring Season

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.



A successful hunt for Mandy W., posing with her dogs Boone and Gannet after her hunt.

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.



A proud father moment with Autym D. after a successful turkey hunt.

Why Do We Have a May 1 Opener?

Research has found that the optimal start date for the spring season is the median date of incubation (when about half of hens are on nests). In New York and much of the Northeast this is around May 1st. A May 1 opener provides the best opportunity to pursue gobblers when they are vocal and responsive to calling while minimizing disruption to reproduction. An earlier season start can disrupt breeding behavior and nesting, negatively affecting long-term turkey abundance and hunt quality.

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.

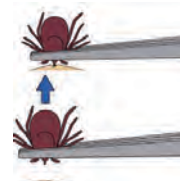


QUESTIONS?

- 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/

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 www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/advice_on_eating_game.htm.

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.

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.

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, 2023. 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.

General Regulations

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

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: decals.licensing.east.kalkomey.com/
 - » Click on the header at the top of the main page that says "Report Game Harvest/ 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.

Migratory Game Birds

Federal duck stamps are sold at most post offices and many sporting goods stores and cost \$25 each. They may also be ordered by calling 1-800-852-4897. There is a shipping and handling fee for phone or internet orders.

Hunting hours

Woodcock may be taken from sunrise to sunset. All other migratory game birds may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset in all hunting zones. Canada geese may be taken until one-half hour after sunset during the September seasons, 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 DEC, take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the

body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord.

- From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or sail furled, and its progress 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, or grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown or grains are 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 and 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.

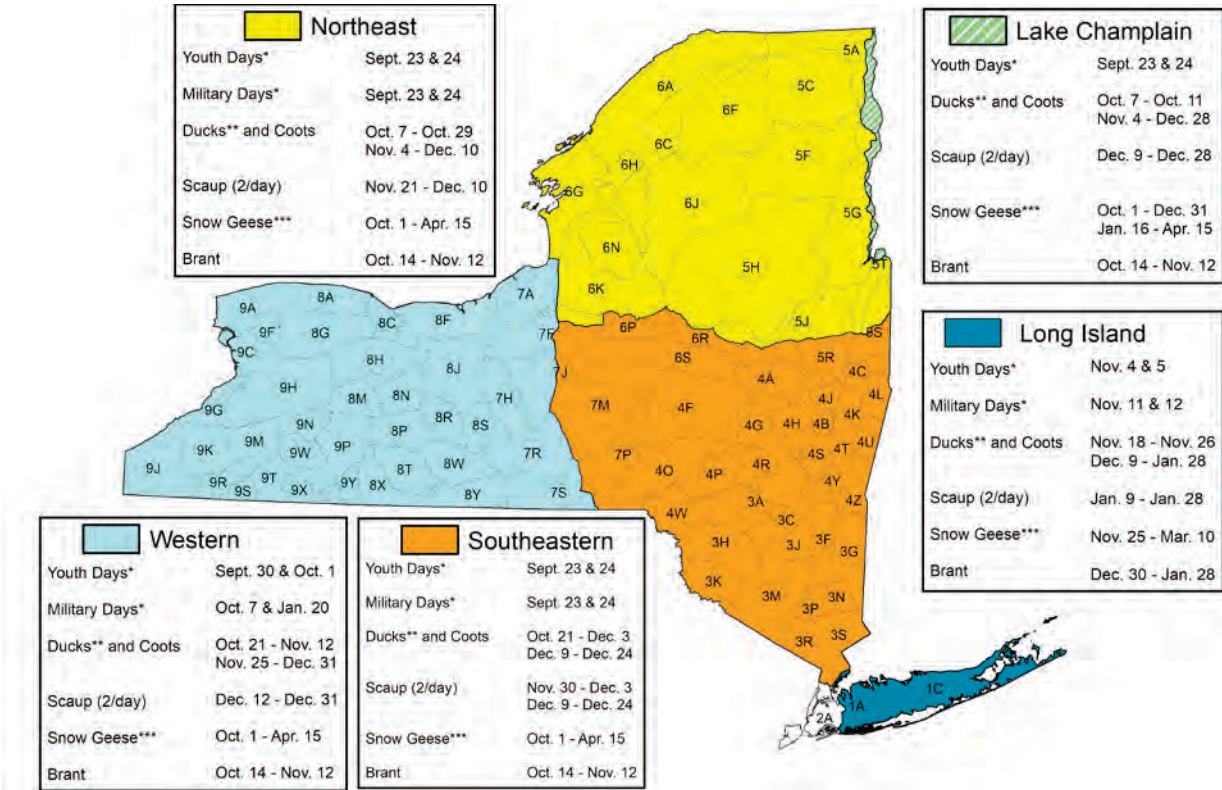
Caution/dual violation

More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges and state 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

2023–2024 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 ^a	6	18
Coot	15	45
Canada Geese ^b	See map	Three times the daily limit — see map page 54
Snow Geese ^b	25	No limit
Brant	1	3

- 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 4 mallards (2 of which may be hens), 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, or 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders and no more than 1 female eider). 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 supervised by a licensed (including current HIP registration and duck stamp) adult hunter, and the mentor may not carry a firearm. This prohibition does not apply to other hunters in the party that are not mentoring the youth.
- ** 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. For more information on aquatic invasive species, visit: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50121.html.

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: parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/.

Military and Veteran Waterfowl Hunting Days

Northeast Zone — September 23 and 24

Southeast Zone — September 23 and 24

Western Zone — October 7 and January 20

Long Island Zone — November 11 and 12

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 2023–2024

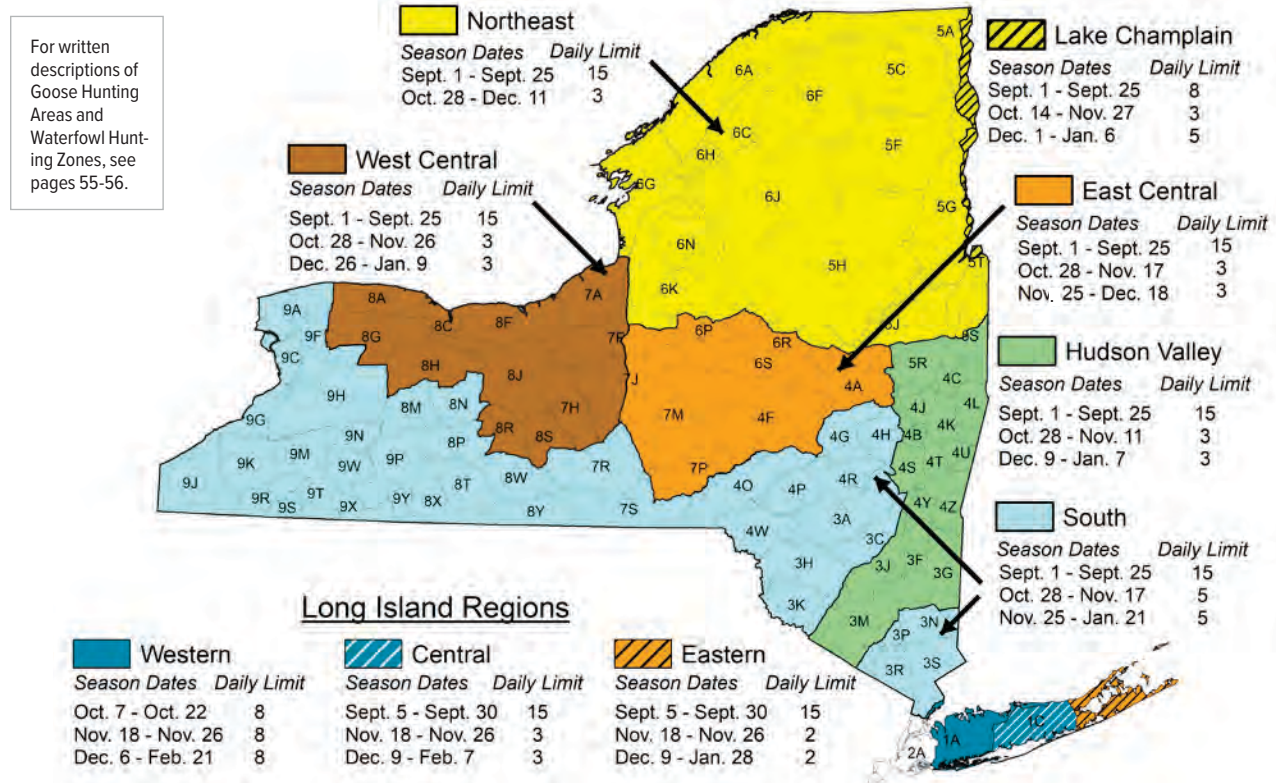
Regulations	Woodcock	Crow	Snipe	Virginia & Sora Rails	Gallinules	Clapper & King Rails
Upstate New York ^{1,3}	Oct. 1 – Nov. 14	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	Sept. 1 – Nov. 9	Closed
Long Island ^{2,3}	Oct. 1 – Nov. 14	Sept. 1 – Mar. 31	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Bag Limit	3/day 9 in possession	None	8/day 24 in possession	8/day 24 in possession	8/day 24 in possession	n/a
Shooting Hours	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
Non-Toxic Shot	NOT Required	NOT Required	Required	Required	Required	n/a
HIP Registration	Required	NOT Required	Required	Required	Required	n/a
Other	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)

2023-2024 Canada Goose Seasons



New York State Goose Hunting Areas

See road boundaries at 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 page 56).
2. The Northeast Goose Hunting Area is the same as the Northeastern Waterfowl Hunting Zone (see page 56).
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.

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.



Jake, Bill S.'s hunting companion after a successful goose hunt

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 49).

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

Choosing Duck Season Dates

New York has five waterfowl zones, which allow DEC flexibility to select duck season dates that match hunter values and duck migration in each zone. In 2019, DEC implemented a new process for selecting duck seasons that pairs input from a large portion of New York duck hunters with data of duck movements and in-season patterns of duck abundance. Duck season frameworks are set on a 5-year cycle. The 2023–2024 duck season is the final year of the cycle.

During the winter of 2023, DEC surveyed all duck hunters that registered for HIP via an email survey to re-assess what factors are the most important to duck hunters in each zone. DEC added questions to understand the relative importance of icing (freezing of smaller ponds, lakes, and streams) in relation to hunter satisfaction with season dates. Icing concentrates duck activity on larger lakes and rivers with open water and may be viewed positively or negatively by hunters depending on the types of equipment (i.e. boat) duck hunters use or the habitats in which they typically pursue ducks. The survey also specifically asked duck hunters about which species are most important to them.

This spring, DEC met with the Waterfowl Hunter Task Force in each zone to develop a list of possible season date options that might meet the range of varying hunter objectives. These season options will be evaluated relative to data trends (abundance, migration timing, ice/temperature) and important hunter values identified in the survey to determine which season date option best aligns with what hunters value. The results of the process will be used to set the duck season dates for each zone from 2024–2029.





John Mack

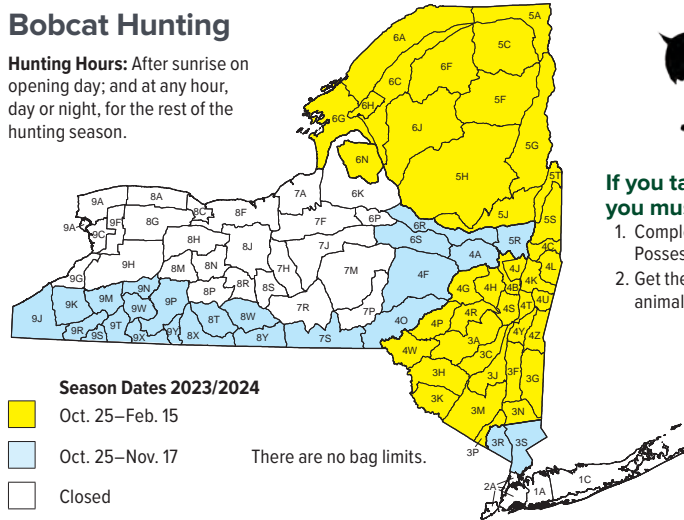
General Regulations

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.
- 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.

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. 31

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



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)
 - i. If **YES**, you may use any caliber rimfire or centerfire rifle for hunting furbearers during any open deer season.
 - ii. 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:
2. You may **NEVER** possess a rifle afield in Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk counties.
3. 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.

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.

Trappers and hunters who assist with furbearer management activities are eligible to receive a special patch!

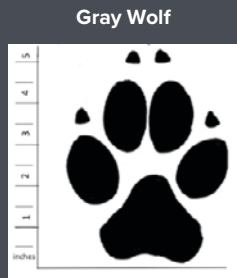
You can receive a patch if you turn in an incidentally trapped animal; turn in a road-killed fisher, marten, bobcat, otter, or weasel; report a violation that results in a conviction; provide data or assist with a research project; or promote furbearer hunting or trapping. Carcasses are used for biological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



Distinguishing Wolves from Coyotes

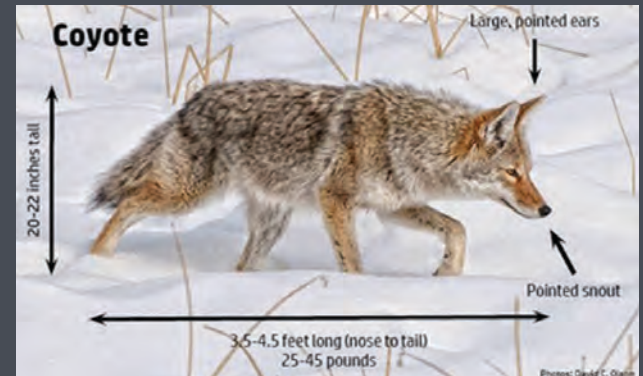
Wolves

Wolves are very rare in New York, with only three confirmed in the past 25 years, including one harvested by a coyote hunter in 2021. Wolves are protected in NY as an endangered species. They can be distinguished from coyotes by their larger size, typically weighing between 70–100 pounds and measuring over 2 feet tall at the shoulder. Wolves have proportionally small, rounded ears and a shorter, blockier snout than coyotes. Their feet are larger, with tracks measuring about 5 inches long by 4 inches wide.



Coyotes

Eastern coyotes are common in New York, found throughout the State. There are regulated hunting and trapping seasons for coyotes in NY. Eastern coyotes have a mix of coyote, wolf, and dog ancestry and are larger in size (about 40 pounds, on average) than coyotes west of the Mississippi. They are smaller than wolves, rarely weighing more than 50 pounds and standing less than 2 feet tall at the shoulder. Coyotes have long, narrow snouts that end in a point. Their ears are large relative to the head and are pointed in shape. Coyotes have smaller feet than wolves; their tracks typically measure 3 inches long by 2 inches wide. If you have a canine in a trap that is over 4.5 ft in length and is over 50 pounds, contact DEC law enforcement (1-844-332-3267) before dispatching the animal.



Definition of Trapping

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

Other Definitions

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

Legal Traps

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

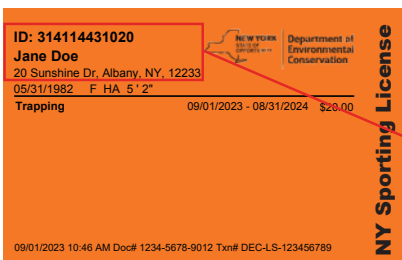
Trapping Methods

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.



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



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/9209.html#Seals.
- **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.

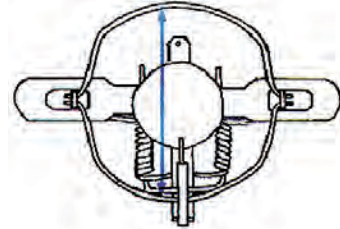
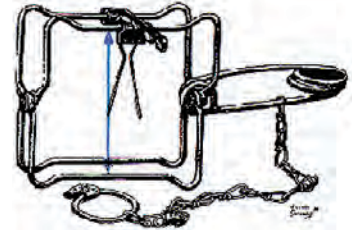
How to Measure a Trap

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:**

Non-legal: V-notch, four-way trigger



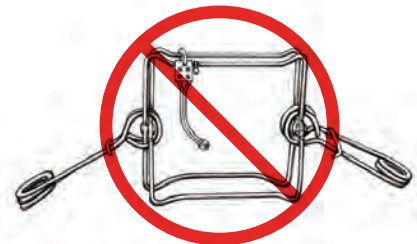
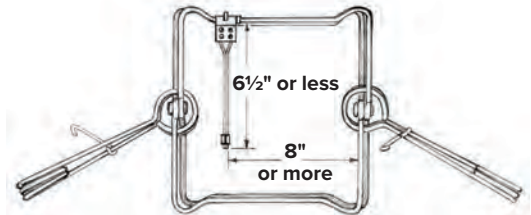
Two-way tension adjustable (legal)



Two-way non-tension adjustable (legal)

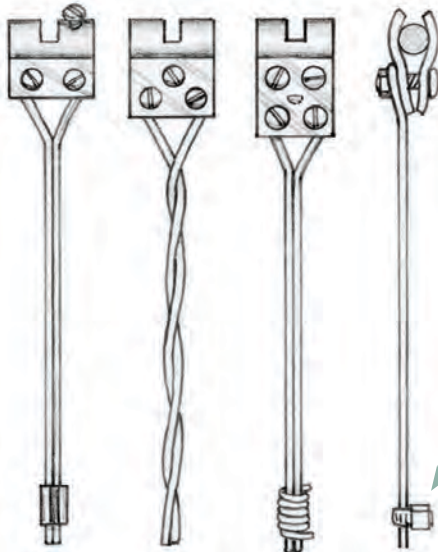


Four-way trigger (not legal)



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

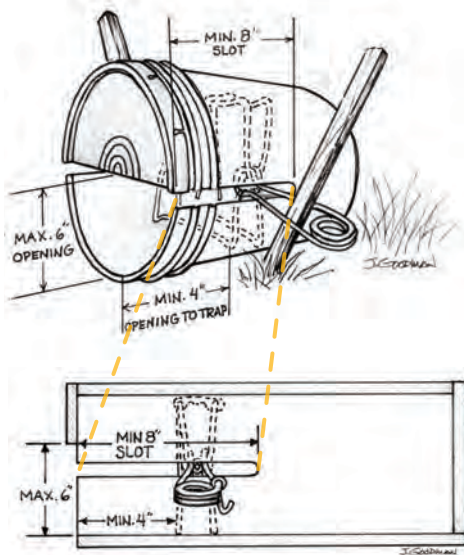
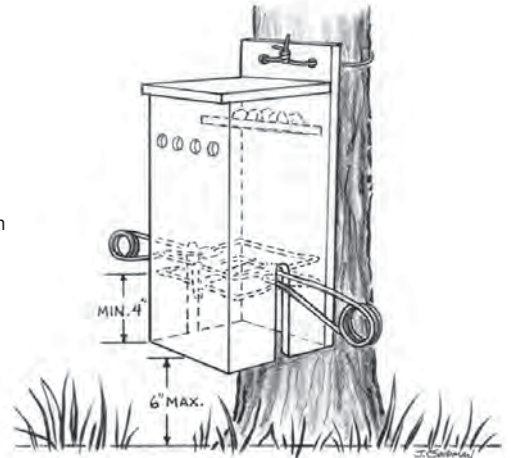
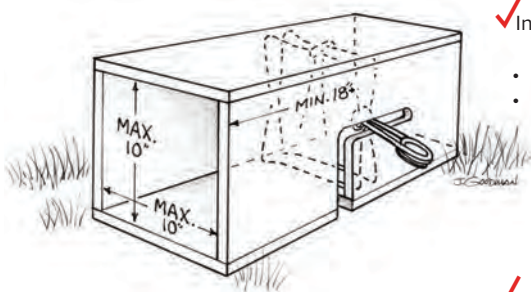
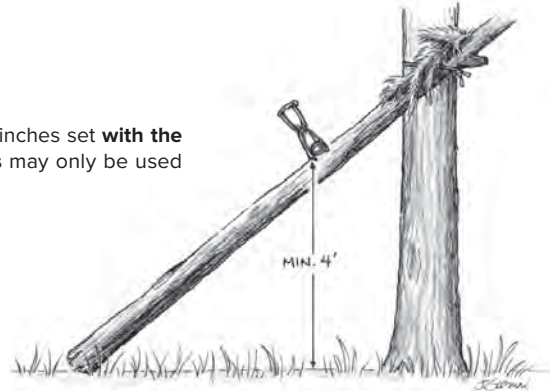
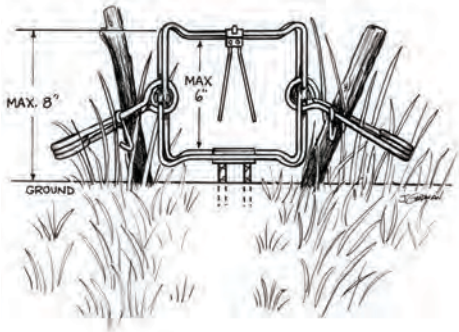
OR

- ✓ In a container of the following design:

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

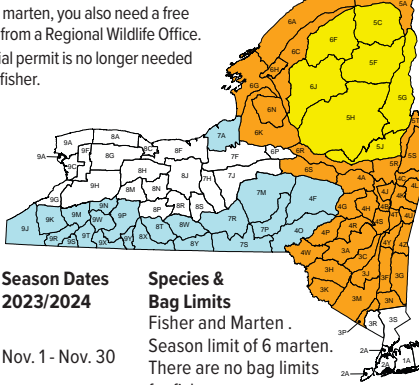
You may also build an enclosure of natural materials (e.g., logs or rocks)

- 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 special permit is no longer needed to trap fisher.



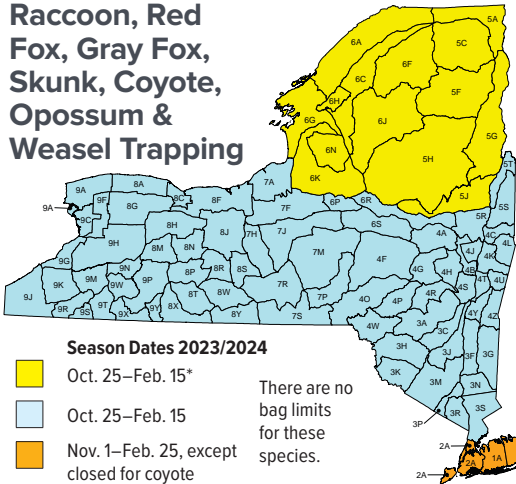
If you take a fisher or marten you must:

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

Season Dates 2023/2024	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 2023/2024

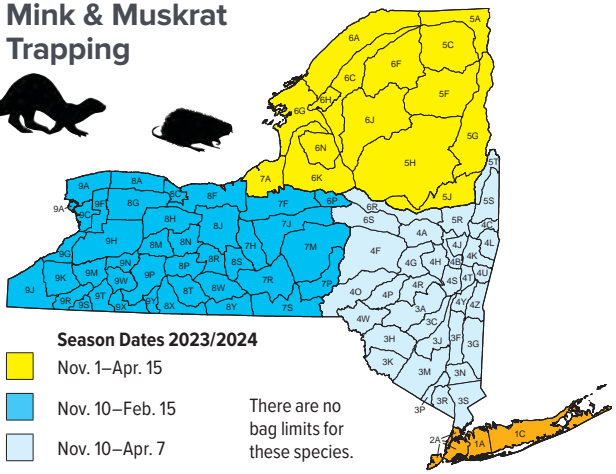
- Yellow: Oct. 25 - Feb. 15*
- Light Blue: Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
- Orange: Nov. 1 - Feb. 25, except closed for coyote

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

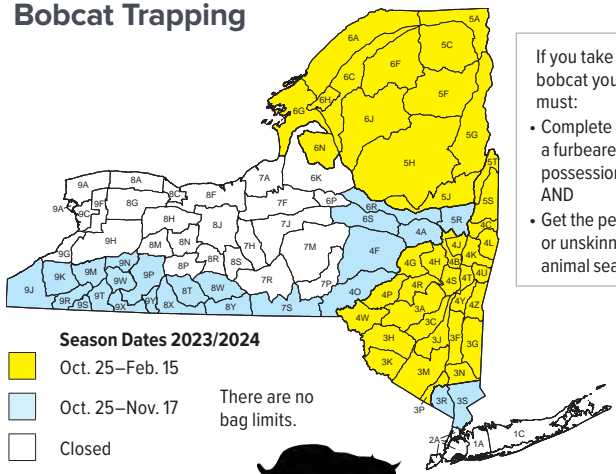


Season Dates 2023/2024

- 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 2023/2024

- Yellow: Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
- Light Blue: Oct. 25 - Nov. 17
- White: Closed

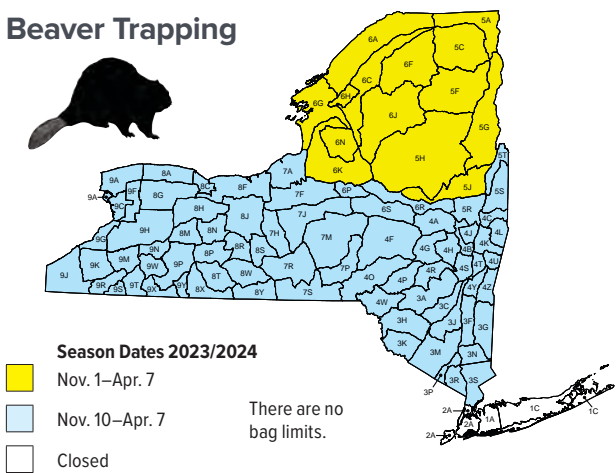
There are no bag limits.



If you take a bobcat you must:

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

Beaver Trapping

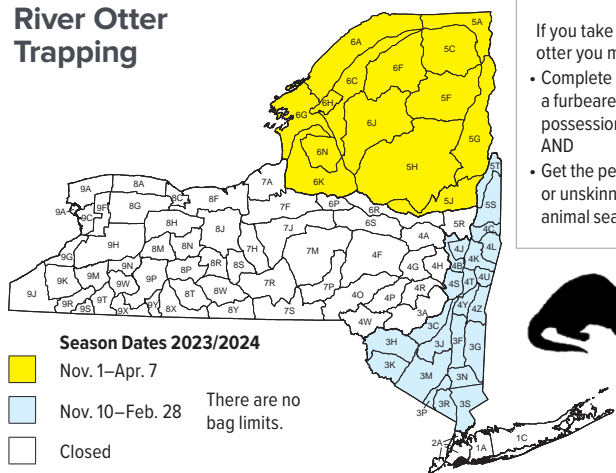


Season Dates 2023/2024

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

There are no bag limits.

River Otter Trapping



Season Dates 2023/2024

- 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.

Furbearer Trapping

Game Recipe: BEAVER-CUE

Prep time: 30 minutes active, 24-36 hours total

Yields 4-6 sandwiches

Ingredients:

- 2 beaver front or hind quarters
- 8 cups Carolina brine (recipe below)
- 1 quart light to medium stock (chicken, goose, duck, or beaver)
- 1 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 onion, roughly chopped
- Salt to taste

Carolina Brine:

- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup salt
- 8 cups water
- 1 tbsp mustard seeds
- 1 tsp red pepper flake
- 2 bay leaves

Method:

Combine all brine ingredients and bring to a simmer, then allow to cool completely before submerging the meat in the brine. Allow to sit, refrigerated, for 24-36 hours. Remove from brine.

If you have a smoker, go ahead and smoke the meat for 1-2 hours over low heat (under 200 degrees).

Place the meat in a crockpot or Dutch oven and add stock, onion salt and vinegar. Cook on low heat for 6-8 hours until the meat is easily pulled from bone with a fork. Allow it to cool in the cooking liquid until ready to serve. Remove from the liquid, shred from bone, and serve with your favorite BBQ sandwich fixin's.

Recipe provided by Wade Truong and Rachel Owen of Elevated Wild. For more delicious recipes, visit their website (elevatedwild.com) or Instagram ([elevatedwild](https://www.instagram.com/elevatedwild)).



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 or email address.

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



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 or email us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov

Thanks for your help!

Adopt Trapping Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Learn practical traps and techniques that improve efficiency, selectivity, and the 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 and search "Trapping BMPs"

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



BECOME A TRAPPER
EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR!

APPLY TODAY!

- 1-888-HUNT-ED2 (1-888-486-8332)
- 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 landowner DMAPs. See DMP tag transfer instructions on page 29.

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. You can always contact your local ECO to determine legality (pages 68–69).

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). Crossbow hunters need to carry their hunter education certificate or the crossbow certificate. 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 county.

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: Are there exceptions to the 500' rule for discharge of a firearm?

A: You may discharge a firearm within 500' of an occupied dwelling or structure only under the following situations: 1) you own it, lease it, are an immediate member of the family, an employee, or have the owner's consent; 2) if you are hunting waterfowl over open water, provided there are no dwellings, public structures, or people within 500' of the direction you are shooting.

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: I shot an animal and it died on a neighboring property. Can I legally go retrieve it?

A: You must obtain permission from the property owner to retrieve the animal.

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 on page 10.

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 consentment 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. If a portion of a DEC property is posted as being open to target shooting, you may not damage live trees and must remove all litter.

Q: Can junior hunters (12–15-year-old) hunt deer with a firearm?

A: 12- and 13-year-olds can hunt deer with a firearm only in counties that have opted into this opportunity. 14- and 15-year-olds can hunt deer with a firearm in any county open to deer hunting with a firearm. All junior hunters must be supervised by a licensed adult hunter. NYS law requires that the junior hunter and their mentor wear blaze orange/pink and remain on the ground.

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

A: No. DEC prohibits importation of whole deer, elk, moose, or caribou carcasses from anywhere outside of New York State to protect our deer and moose from Chronic Wasting Disease. See page 18 for details.

Q: When do tree stands have to be removed from state-managed lands?

A: On DEC-managed lands, tree stands (including scaffolds, raised platforms, ladders, steps, and other devices to assist in climbing) labeled with a name and address or DEC ID number may be left overnight but must be removed at the end of the hunting season. Tree stands (including ladders and steps) may not injure the tree. A permanently placed raised platform or tree stand may be used for hunting on private land with the permission of the landowner.

Q: When do duck blinds have to be removed?

A: Hunting blinds placed in navigable waters must be labeled with the owner's name and address then removed from navigable waters no later than March 15 each year.

Q: When waterfowl hunting, how far offshore are you allowed to anchor down? Is this considered trespassing?

A: Where a waterfowl hunter can anchor varies depending on the location. Ultimately, it is the hunter's responsibility to ensure they can legally anchor and hunt where they are discharging their firearm. In most non-tidal areas, the property boundary is the mean low water mark and hunters can legally anchor below this mark. However, the hunter should confirm the under water lands are within the public domain. Most counties now have publicly accessible property boundary maps online. In tidal areas, the public domain typically extends to the mean high-water mark.

Q: What animals require pelt seals in New York? How do I get them sealed?

A: Fisher, Marten, Otter (trapped), Bobcat (hunted or trapped) require a pelt seal. To have a pelt sealed, bring your game to your local DEC office, or contact an ECO in your area.

Q: What are the legal specifications for a crossbow?

A: They must have a minimum overall length from the butt of the stock to the front of the limbs of 24 inches, a minimum limb width of 17 inches, and be able to launch a minimum 14-inch arrow/bolt (not including arrowhead). The draw weight must be 100–200 pounds. Crossbow specifications, like all aspects of crossbow use for hunting, are established in law by the NYS Legislature and Governor.

Q: Can I use a semi-automatic rifle for hunting?

A: You may use a semi-automatic rifle for hunting game that may be taken with a rifle. As of September 3, 2022, to take ownership of a semi-automatic rifle you must be at least 21 years old and must first apply for and acquire a New York State semi-automatic rifle license. A person of any legal hunting age may temporarily possess/borrow a legal semi-automatic rifle for hunting. Note, the SAFE Act also governs the features allowed for semi-automatic firearms and magazine capacity in all guns. Visit the "SAFE Act Resources for Hunters" website (safeact.ny.gov/resources-hunters) for a description of these features. Also note, rifles may not be used for hunting wild turkeys, pheasants, or migratory game birds (except crows).

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

Report Poachers and Polluters Hotline — 1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)



ECOs Wing, Armstrong, and K9 Falcon with two seized deer in Chenango County.



ECO Hull with a seized buck in Oneida County.



Region 9 ECOs participate in a youth pheasant hunt in Genesee County.



ECO Johnson and Walraven with a seized bear hide in Ulster County.



ECO Holzle with an illegally shot raccoon in Niagara County.



ECO McCabe with a seized buck in Seneca 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.

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 a 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 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. RJ Ward	(716) 851-7050	
Calanni, Jr., Russell	(585) 403-2437	
Oliver, Dustin	(607) 590-1135	
Bronx		
Lt. Keith Levanway	(718) 482-4885	
Korey, Joan	(929) 895-2313	
Broome		
Lt. Anthony Rigoli	(315) 426-7431	
McCormick, Andrew	(607) 621-3464	
Templeton, Eric	(607) 621-3255	
Cattaraugus		
Lt. Liza Bobseine	(716) 851-7050	
Nosal, Robert	(716) 532-0461	
Powers, Jason	(716) 771-8266	
Cayuga		
Lt. Mark Colesante	(315) 426-7431	
Sincebaugh, Scott	(315) 253-8534	
Prentice, Zachary	(315) 404-6185	
Chautauqua		
Lt. Liza Bobseine	(716) 851-7050	
Mead, Nathaniel	(716) 548-1482	
Freeman, Christopher	(716) 490-3947	
Kinney, Jerry	(716) 401- 1187	
Chemung		
Lt. Matt Lochner	(315) 836-6137	
Dalecki, Erik	(607) 592-2783	
Lifrieri, John	(607) 644-3815	
Chenango		
Lt. Matthew Foster	(315) 426-7431	
Wing, Ryan	(607) 242-9156	
Armstrong, Brett	(607) 895-6515	
Plows, Daniel	(607) 221-6077	
Clinton		
Lt. Geoffrey Younglove	(518) 897-1200	
Lagree, Christopher	(518) 319-7706	
Fadden, Jeremy	(518) 912-4579	
LaCroix, Matthew	(518) 335-5422	
Columbia		
Lt. Walt Maloney	(518) 357-2047	
Cox, Jeffrey	(518) 794-8935	
Cortland		
Lt. Matthew Foster	(315) 426-7431	
Burdick, Matthew	(315) 251-0125	
Kostuk, Andrew	(315) 741-2205	
Delaware		
Lt. Anthony Glorioso	(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	
Wamsley, Kevin	(914) 263- 7819	
Helmeier, John	(914) 474-5244	
Erie — Northern		
Lt. Nathan VerHague	(716) 851- 7050	
Gill, Carlton	(716) 908-5051	
Wilson, Charles	(716) 675-1095	
Powers, Jamie	(716) 604-5353	
Erie — Southern		
Lt. RJ Ward	(716) 851- 7050	
Bobseine, Ike	(631) 461-6061	
Machnica, Timothy	(716) 262-7411	
Damrath, Donald	(716) 261-5112	

Essex		
Lt. Stephen Gonyeau	(518) 897-1200	
Buffa, Bradley	(518) 354-0539	
Hovey, Jeffrey	(518) 354-9014	
Dewey, Sean	(518) 653-3077	
Nicols, Maxwell	(518) 338-2908	
Franklin		
Lt. Geoffrey Younglove	(518) 897-1200	
Riggs, Kevin	(518) 335-3558	
Okonuk, Jennifer	(518) 319-0064	
Favreau, Nathan	(518) 354-9833	
Fulton		
Lt. Matt Clemens	(518) 897-1200	
Manns, Shane	(518) 708-1168	
Pasciak, Paul	(518) 448-3103	
Genesee		
Lt. Shea Mathis	(585) 226-6706	
Fuerch, Fay	(585) 245-4975	
Laczi, Evan	(585) 208-3571	
Greene		
Lt. Anthony Glorioso	(518) 357-2047	
Palmateer, Lucas	(518) 478-1698	
Smith, Jason	(518) 703-3529	
Hamilton		
Lt. Robert Higgins	(518) 897-1200	
Pierce, Scott	(518) 866-4723	
Newell, Jared	(518) 257-9690	
Herkimer — North		
Lt. Aaron Markey	(315) 785-2231	
Gates, John	(315) 816-1449	
Noyes, Spencer	(315) 240-8862	
Tabor, Benjamin	(315) 214-9681	
Herkimer — South		
Lt. Aaron Markey	(315) 785-2231	
Jakub, Katie	(315) 269-7443	
Jefferson		
Lt. Steven Bartoszewski	(315) 785-2231	
Jackson, Peter	(315) 418-7380	
McFee, Evan	(315) 640-0335	
Woyton, Max	(315) 200-0813	
Rockefeller, Sean	(315) 200-0813	
Nicholas, Nicholas	(315) 466- 4931	
Kings		
Lt. Waldemar Auguscinski	(718) 482-4885	
Rappold, Justin	(929) 493-8231	
Kortz, Abigail	(929) 598-5860	
Lewis		
Lt. Steven Bartoszewski	(315) 785-2231	
Jarecki, Joshua	(315) 263-5987	
Kraeger, Shana	(315) 767-5232	
Worden, Timothy	(315) 778-9279	
Livingston		
Lt. Shea Mathis	(315) 836-6137	
Dussault, Shawn	(585) 362-0395	
Rauscher, Richard	(585) 300-7715	
Ward, Chris	(585) 303-0098	
Madison		
Lt. Matthew Foster	(315) 426-7431	
Grisolini, Ricardo	(607) 316-2574	
Monroe		
Lt. Timothy Fay	(585) 226-6706	
Dobies, Shane	(585) 329-8377	
Jankowski, Jacob	(585) 269-9338	
Johnston, Jeffrey	(585) 397-2746	
Lutz, John	(585) 303-1506	
Muchow, Adam	(585) 329-9381	
Snowdon, Thomas	(585) 683-6758	
Montgomery		
Lt. Jason DeAngelis	(518) 357-2047	
Valenty, Chris	(518) 505-4104	
Willson, Brian	(518) 491-2273	

Environmental Conservation Officers

Nassau	
Lt. Michael Unger	(631) 444-0250
Carpenter, Emma	(516) 260-3240
Brussell, Christine	(929) 505-4747
McCarthy, Brent	(929) 505-6877
Dickson, Brendan	(646) 634-9219
Michalet, Shawn	(929) 505-6878
Kochanowski, Zachary	(315) 748-8041
Pabes, Lawrence	(929) 505-6884
Smith, Bradley	(646) 629-0054
New York	
Lt. Keith Levanway	(718) 482-4885
Goonan, Christopher	(917) 636-3880
Ableson, Tyler	(929) 895-2307
Niagara	
Lt. Nathan VerHague	(716) 851-7050
Holzle, Kevin	(716) 454-2623
Scheer, George	(716) 377-2448
Wolgast, Joshua	(716) 243-9038
Oneida — North	
Lt. Aaron Markey	(315) 785-2231
Gates, John	(315) 816-1449
Noyes, Spencer	(315) 240-8862
Tabor, Benjamin	(315) 214-9681
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. Mark Colesante	(315) 426-7431
Thomas, David	(315) 236-0307
Yacavone, Scott	(315) 487-4401
Scalisi, Heather	(315)412-5110
Ontario	
Lt. Kevin Thomas	(585) 226-6706
Blanton, Paul	(585) 694-4077
Brown, Timothy	(607) 227-8538
Orange	
Lt. Michael Bello	(845) 256-3013
Schneider, Joshua	(929) 505-6891
Schuck, Dylan	(929) 505-6892
Lovgren, Erik	(929) 505-6875
Orleans	
Lt. Shea Mathis	(585) 226-6706
Fonda, Vernon	(585) 735-6963
Godson, Nathan	(585) 441-4015
Oswego	
Lt. William Burnell	(315) 426-7431
Dorrett, Matthew	(315) 625-4129
Brown, Zachariah	(315) 200-2111
Grogan, Ryan	(315) 726-5227
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
Franz, Daniel	(929) 505-6873
Tompkins, Craig	(845) 216-4628
Queens	
Lt. Christopher Macropoulos	(718) 482-4885
Parmelee, Brennan	(929) 505-6888
Swart, Brandon	(917) 636-2436
Milliron, Darren	(929) 505-6879
Keegan, Frank	(917) 636-2279

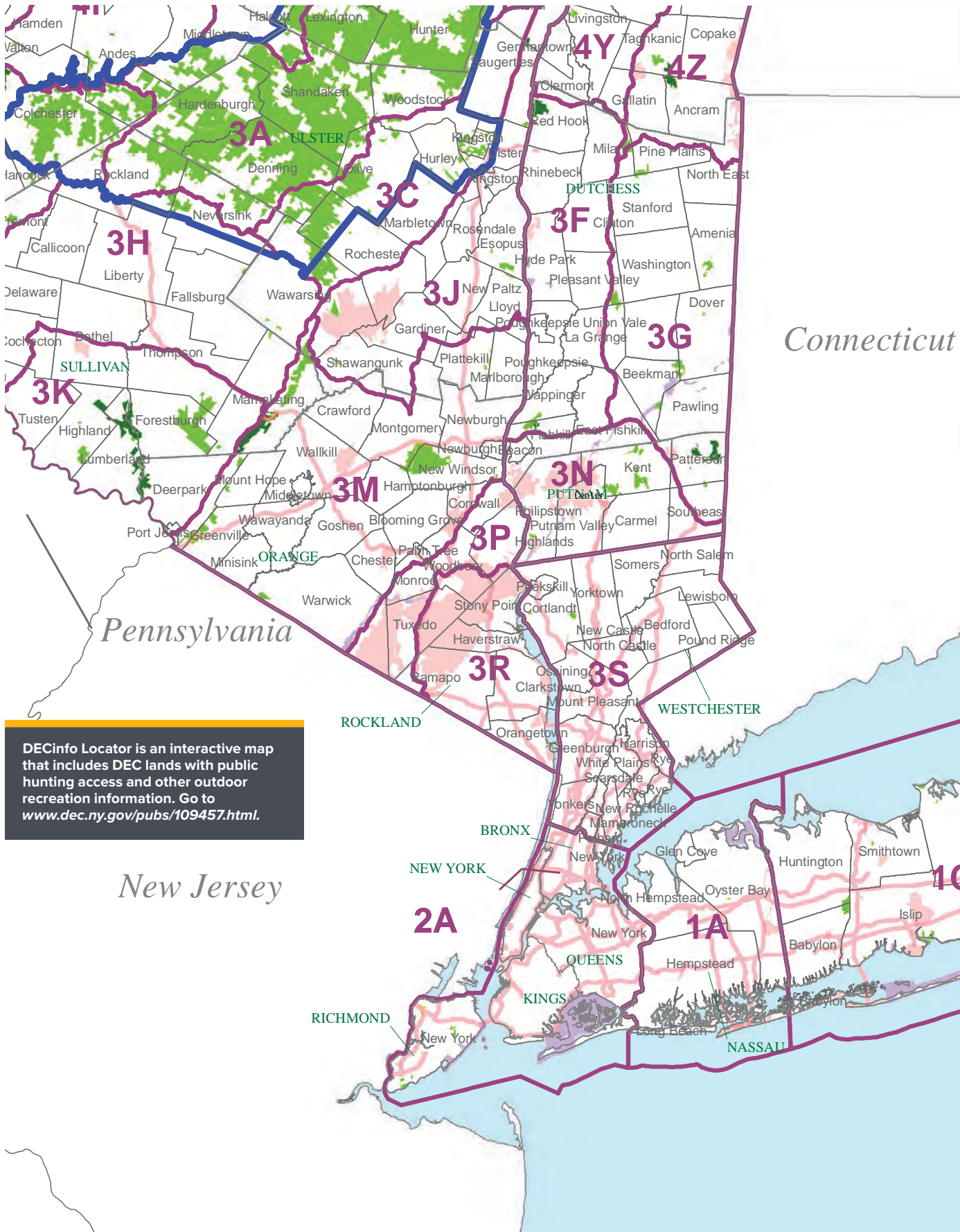
Rensselaer	
Lt. Walt Maloney	(518) 357-2047
Crain, Zachary	(518) 424-5343
Bush, Kurt	(518) 813-6805
Curinga, Jason	(518) 925-5549
Richmond	
Lt. Waldemar Auguscinki	(718) 482-4885
Farner, Kyle	(917) 636-2348
Clinger, Benjamin	(646) 369-0088
Rockland	
Lt. Michael Bello	(845) 256-3013
Boyes, Aric	(929) 505-2244
Lovgren, Erik	(929) 505-6875
Saratoga	
Lt. Matt Clemens	(518) 897-1200
Doroski, Jordan	(518) 788-8544
Klein, Mark	(518) 892-9402
Shaw, Steven	(518) 860-6875
Leubner, J. Wesley	(518) 729-8313
Schenectady	
Lt. Jason DeAngelis	(518) 357-2047
Valenty, Chris	(518) 505-4104
Willson, Brian	(518) 491-2273
Schoharie	
Lt. Michael Terrell	(518) 357-2047
Bohling, Justanna	(518) 443-9156
Burgess, Melissa	(518) 603-2446
Schuyler	
Lt. Matt Lochner	(315) 836-6137
Dalecki, Erik	(607) 592-2783
Lifrieri, John	(607) 644-3815
Seneca	
Lt. Kevin Thomas	(585) 226-6706
McCabe, Robert	(631) 494-5229
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. Matt Lochner	(315) 836-6137
Baker, Matthew	(607) 281-5435
Farrand, Steven	(607) 331-7549
Suffolk — Eastern	
Lt. Christopher Amato	(631) 444-0250
Kaufherr, Robert	(718) 683-7486
Small, April	(929) 505-6894
Cacciola, Garrett	(929) 505-6587
Day, Timothy	(347) 461-0183
Anderson, Stephanie	(929) 505-1174
Paschke, Connor	(929) 505-6889
Perkins, Nicholas	(929) 505-6890
DeRose, Christopher	(631) 601-5284

Suffolk — Western	
Lt. Thomas Gadomski	(631) 444-0250
Zullo, Emilio	(917) 636-2344
DeVito, Laura	(347) 533-0175
McGhee, Justin	(929) 598-5872
Vandenbos, Nicholas	(929) 493-8055
Della Rocco, Taylor	(347) 308-4589
Sullivan	
Lt. Michael Buckley	(845) 256-3013
Parker, Glen	(929) 505-6887
Wood, Ricky	(845) 665-5637
Doroski, Christopher	(929) 505-6869
Tioga	
Lt. Anthony Rigoli	(315) 426-7431
Wilson, Brent	(607) 972-4435
Tompkins	
Lt. Anthony Rigoli	(315) 426-7431
Eisenberg, Osman	(607) 564-9458
Krueger, Jeffrey	(607) 227-9584
Ulster	
Lt. Christopher Lattimer	(845) 256-3013
Walraven, Jonathon	(845) 281-3408
Johnson, Adam	(845) 587-6397
Chomicki, William	(845) 490-0875
Frano, Mary	(607) 244-4561
Warren	
Lt. Robert Higgins	(518) 897-1200
Brassard, Alan	(518) 409-6299
LaPoint, George	(518) 793-3767
Gerrain, Louis	(518) 925-5560
Washington	
Lt. Stephen Gonyeau	(518) 897-1200
Thibodeau, Matthew	(518) 605-4932
Krug, Matthew	(518) 417-9954
Wayne	
Lt. Kevin Thomas	(585) 226-6706
Rich, John	(585) 478-3505
Westchester	
Lt. Dustin Dainack	(845) 256-3013
Swansen, Chloe	(914) 260-6020
Franz, Daniel	(929) 505-6873
Tompkins, Craig	(845) 216-4628
Wyoming	
Lt. RJ Ward	(716) 851-7050
Koepf, Thomas	(716) 345-4252
Yates	
Lt. Matt Lochner	(315) 836-6137

Marine Enforcement Unit (MEU)		
County	Name	Number
MEU- Nassau/ Suffolk	Lt. Sean Reilly	(631) 444-0250
MEU- Nassau/ Suffolk	Giarratana, Casey	(929) 493-8079
MEU- Nassau/ Suffolk	Hilton, Derek	(929) 493-8241
MEU- Nassau/ Suffolk	Simmons, Landon	(631) 205-0470
MEU- New York City	Lt. Waldemar Auguscinki	(718) 482-4885
MEU- New York City	Pansini, Paul	(929) 505-6886
MEU- New York City	Veloski, Joshua	(929) 505-6896
MEU- New York City	Currey, Shane	(929) 505-6868
MEU- New York City	Traynor, Loren	(929) 505-6895
MEU- New York City	Broughton, Michael	(646) 916-0541

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

Regional Maps



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

Bashkill WMA (Mamakating, Deerpark)

- Blind, Fishing Access, Parking

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

- Eagle Blind, Parking, Restroom

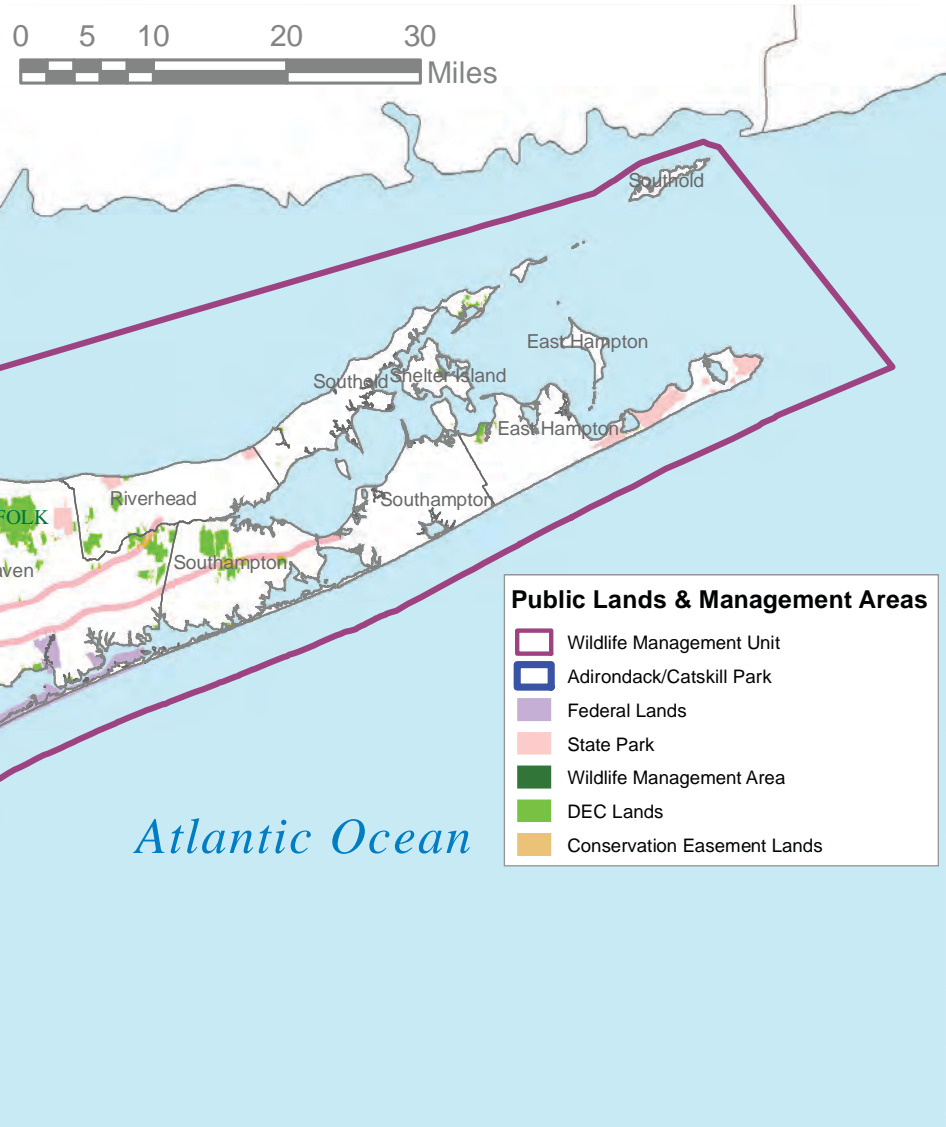
* CP-3 - Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html for application instructions and forms.

Did you know, in 2022 DEC Forest Rangers:

- Patrolled 22,612 miles of trails by foot.
- Patrolled 2,610 miles of interior boundary line.
- Participated in 331 public outreach events.
- Conducted 349 search and rescue missions.

www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/41086.html

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



10 HIKING ESSENTIALS

Carry these essentials on all hikes for a safe and enjoyable experience.

- 1 NAVIGATION** – map, compass, GPS system, extra batteries
- 2 INSULATION** – waterproof/windproof jacket, hat, gloves, thermals, wool socks. Pack extra in case you get wet.
- 3 LIGHT** – headlamp, flashlight, lanterns, extra batteries
- 4 FIRST-AID SUPPLIES** – use a pre-made kit or build your own.
- 5 EMERGENCY KIT** – whistle, signal mirror, duct tape, pocket knife/multi-tool, etc.
- 6 FIRE** – matches in waterproof container, lighter, fire starters
- 7 NUTRITION** – choose high-protein and high-calorie items, and be sure to pack extra food.
- 8 WATER** – carry more than you think you need and a water filtration system.
- 9 SUN PROTECTION** – sunglasses, sunscreen, hat
- 10 EMERGENCY SHELTER** – tent, space blanket, tarp

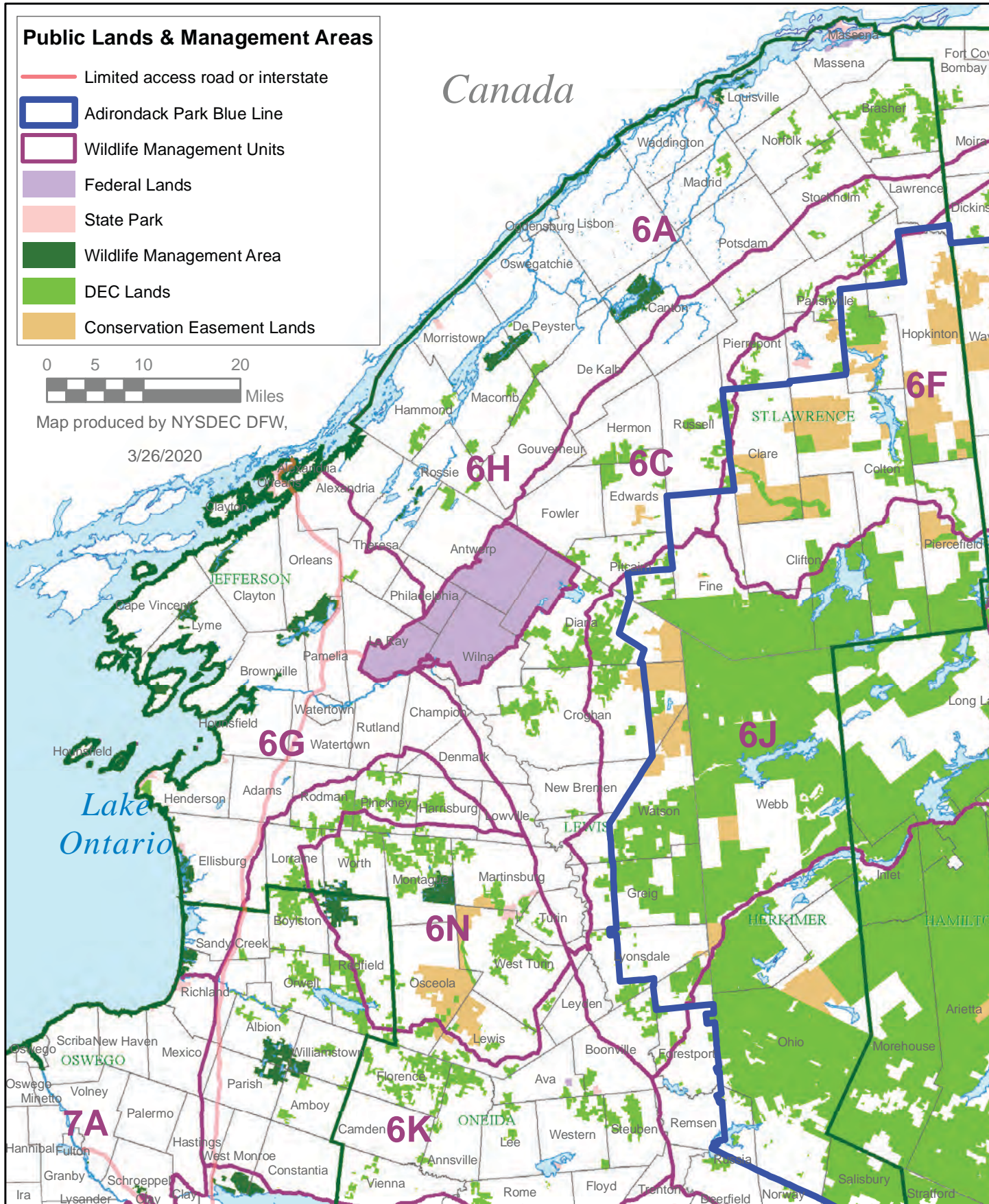
★ CARRY OUT WHAT YOU CARRY IN!

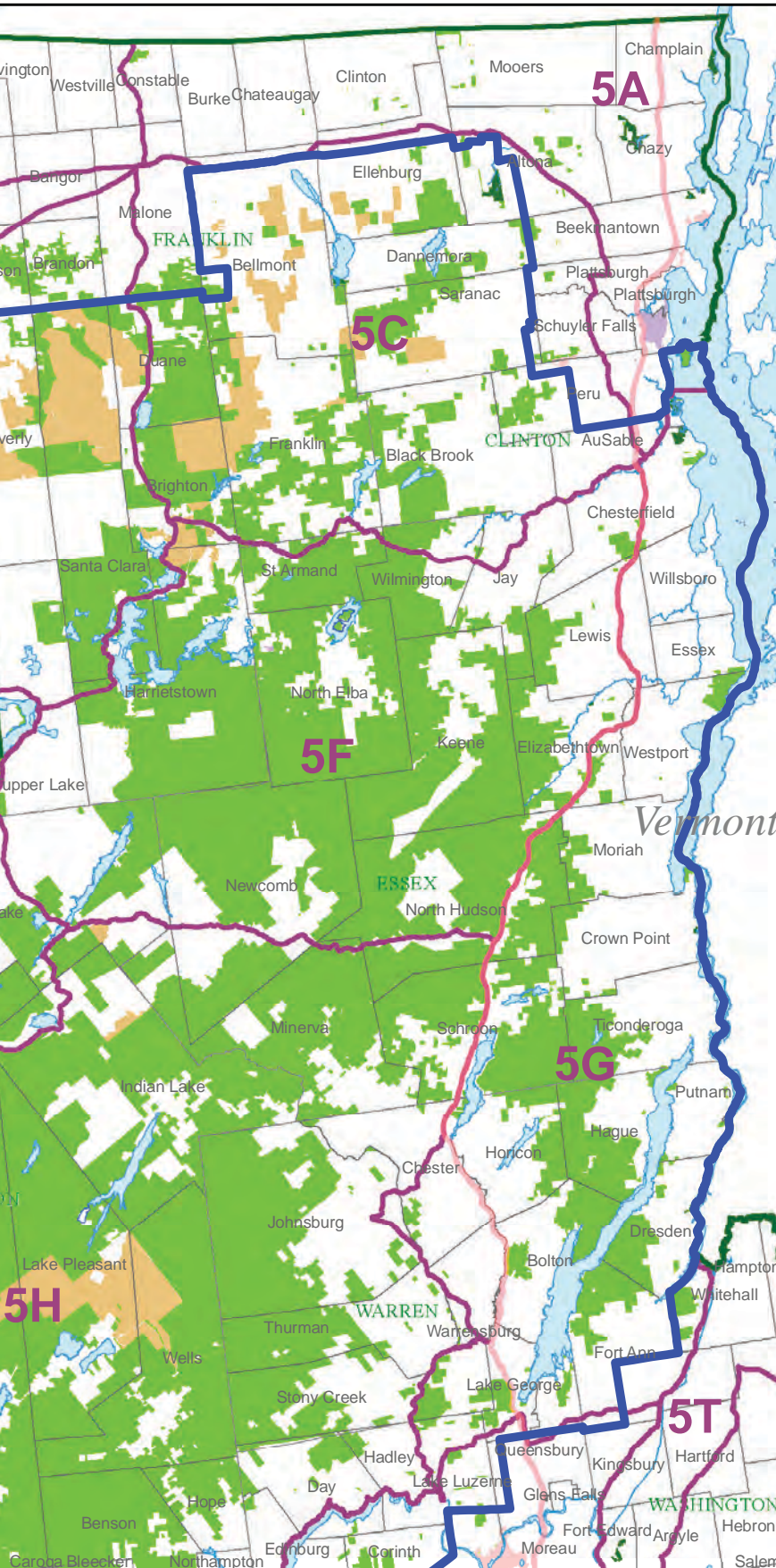
NEW YORK STATE Department of Environmental Conservation

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL: 911

833-NYS-RANGERS (833-697-7264)
<http://on.ny.gov/NYSForestRangerRoster>
 Cell service not available in all areas.

Regional Maps





WMA Accessible Features for Regions 5 and 6

Clinton
Ausable Marsh WMA (Peru)
• Parking, Viewing Platform
Lake Alice WMA (Chazy)
• 0.4 mi CP-3 trail*, Parking, Blind, Fishing Access
Kings Bay WMA (Champlain)
• Parking, Viewing Platform
Essex
Wickham Marsh WMA (Chesterfield)
• Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.1 mi foot trail
Jefferson
Ashland Flats WMA (Lyme)
• Parking, Observation Tower
Black Pond WMA (Ellisburg)
• Fishing Access, Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.3 mi foot trail, 0.88 mi CP-3 trail
Lakeview WMA (Ellisburg)
• Fishing Access, Parking, Restroom, 0.6 mi foot trails
Perch River WMA (Orleans, Pamela, Brownville)
• Parking
Saratoga
Saratoga Sand Plains WMA Archery Range (Wilton)
• Parking
St. Lawrence
Upper & Lower Lakes WMA (Canton)
• Portable Blind Pads, Parking, 0.5 mi foot trails, Viewing Area
Wilson Hill WMA (Louisville)
• Parking, Blind, Boardwalk, Viewing Platform, 1.2 mi foot trails
Washington
Carters Pond WMA (Greenwich)
• Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.2 mi. foot trail
East Bay WMA (Whitehall)
• Parking, 0.1 mi Path, Viewing Platform
Washington Co. Grasslands WMA (Fort Edward)
• Parking, Viewing Platform

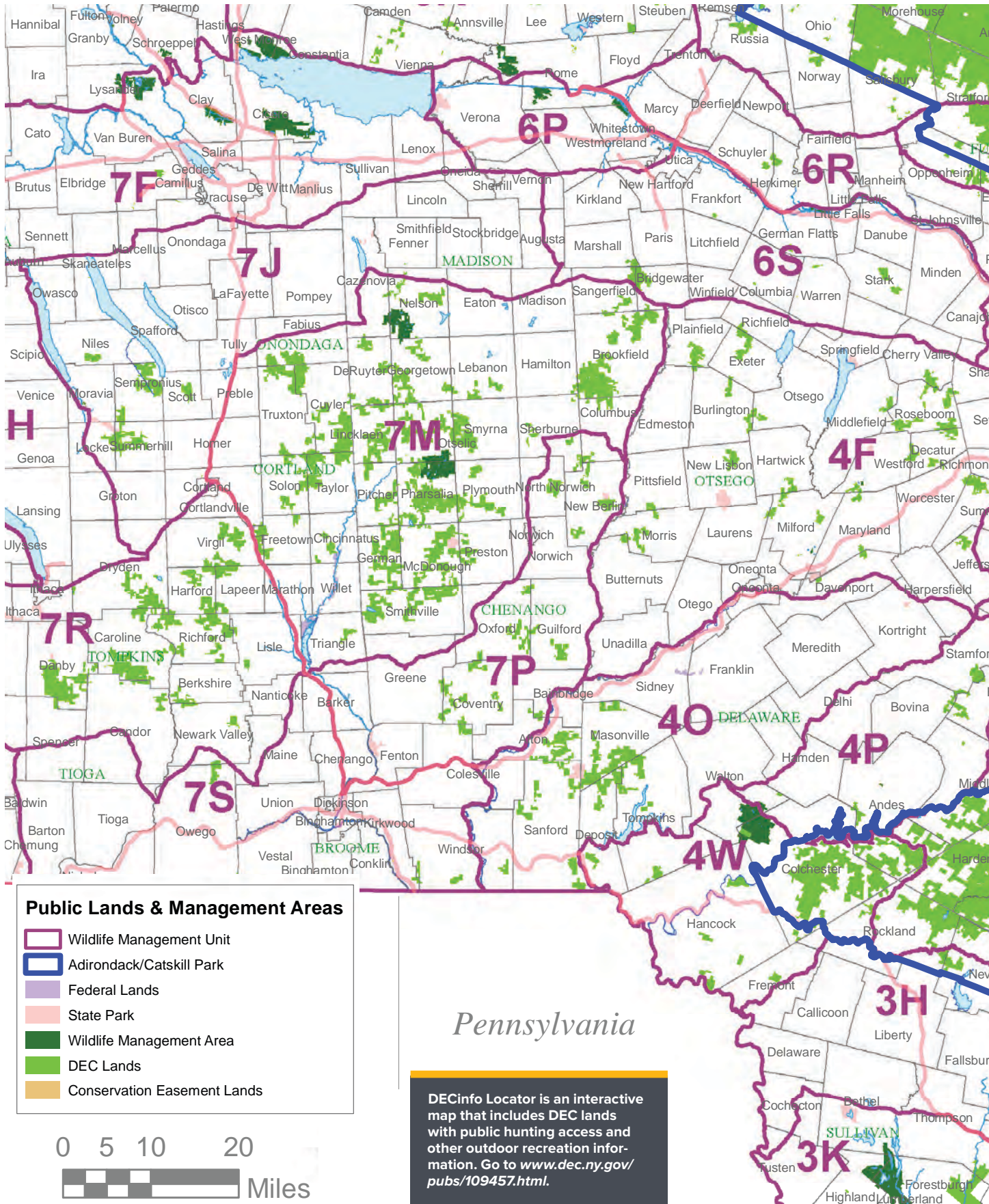
* CP-3 - Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html for application instructions and forms.

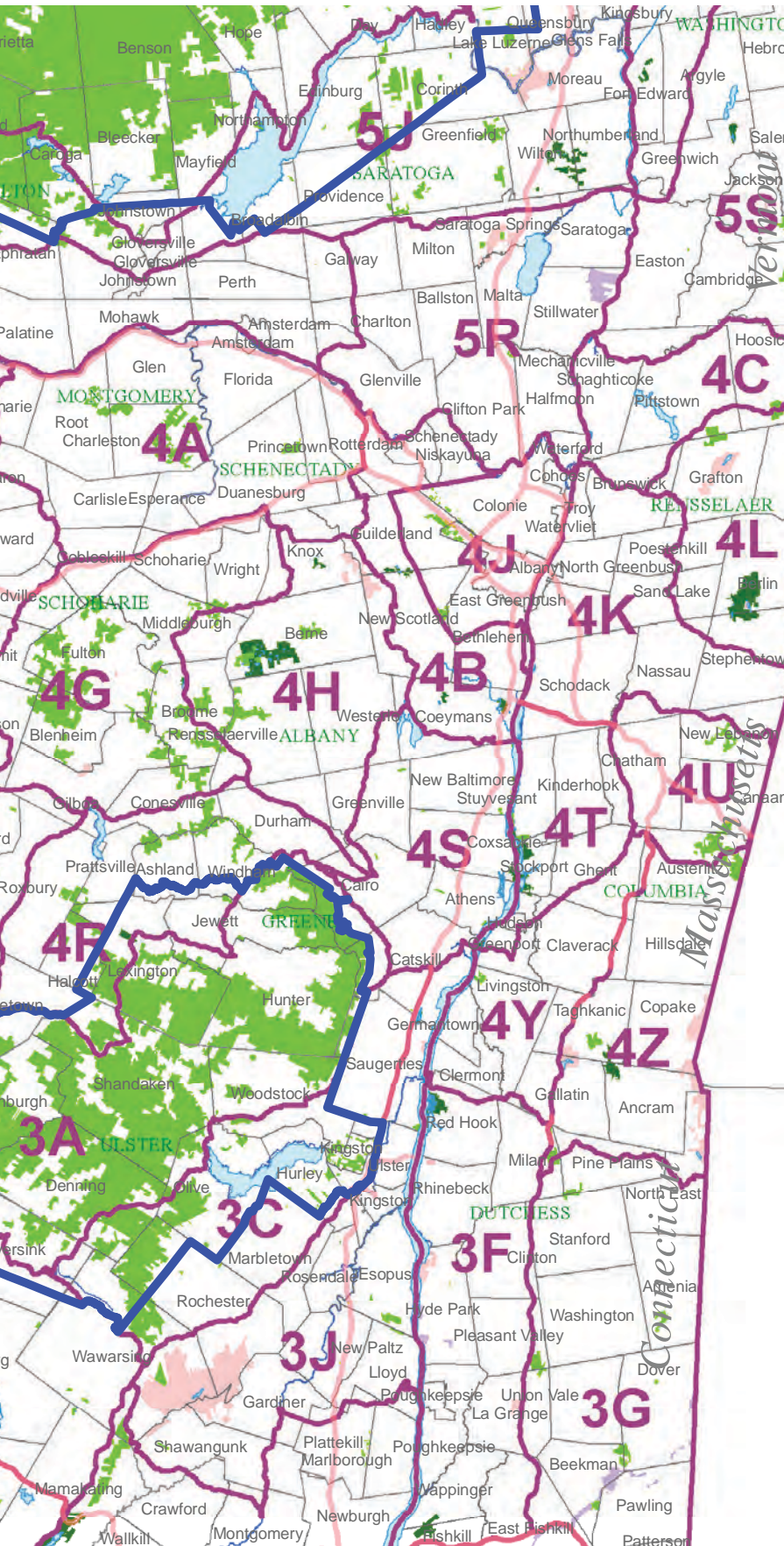
Conservation Easements

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.

Regional Maps





WMA Accessible Features for Regions 4 and 7

Albany
Partridge Run WMA (Berne)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CP-3 — Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/2574.html for application instructions and forms.
Delaware
Bear Spring Mountain WMA (Walton)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CP3 trails
Greene
Vosburgh Swamp WMA (Coxsackie, Athens)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible Blind, Boardwalk, Parking
Onondaga
Hamlin Marsh WMA (Clay)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boardwalk, Parking, Viewing Platform, Blind, 0.1 mi foot trail
Three Rivers WMA (Lysander)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking, Viewing Platform, Blind, 0.2 mi gravel foot trail
Oswego
Deer Creek Marsh WMA (Richland)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Hand Launch (May-October), Parking, 0.1 mi foot trail
Rensselaer
Capital District WMA (Stephentown and Berlin)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CP3 trails
Schoharie
Franklinton Vlaie WMA (Broome)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking, Viewing Pavilion, Viewing Site, Fishing Access

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.

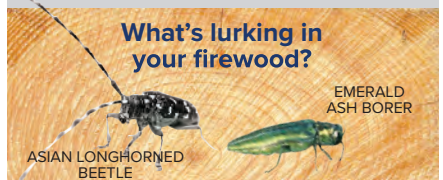
Failure to follow these regulations may result in a ticket.

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 and search for "invasive insects".



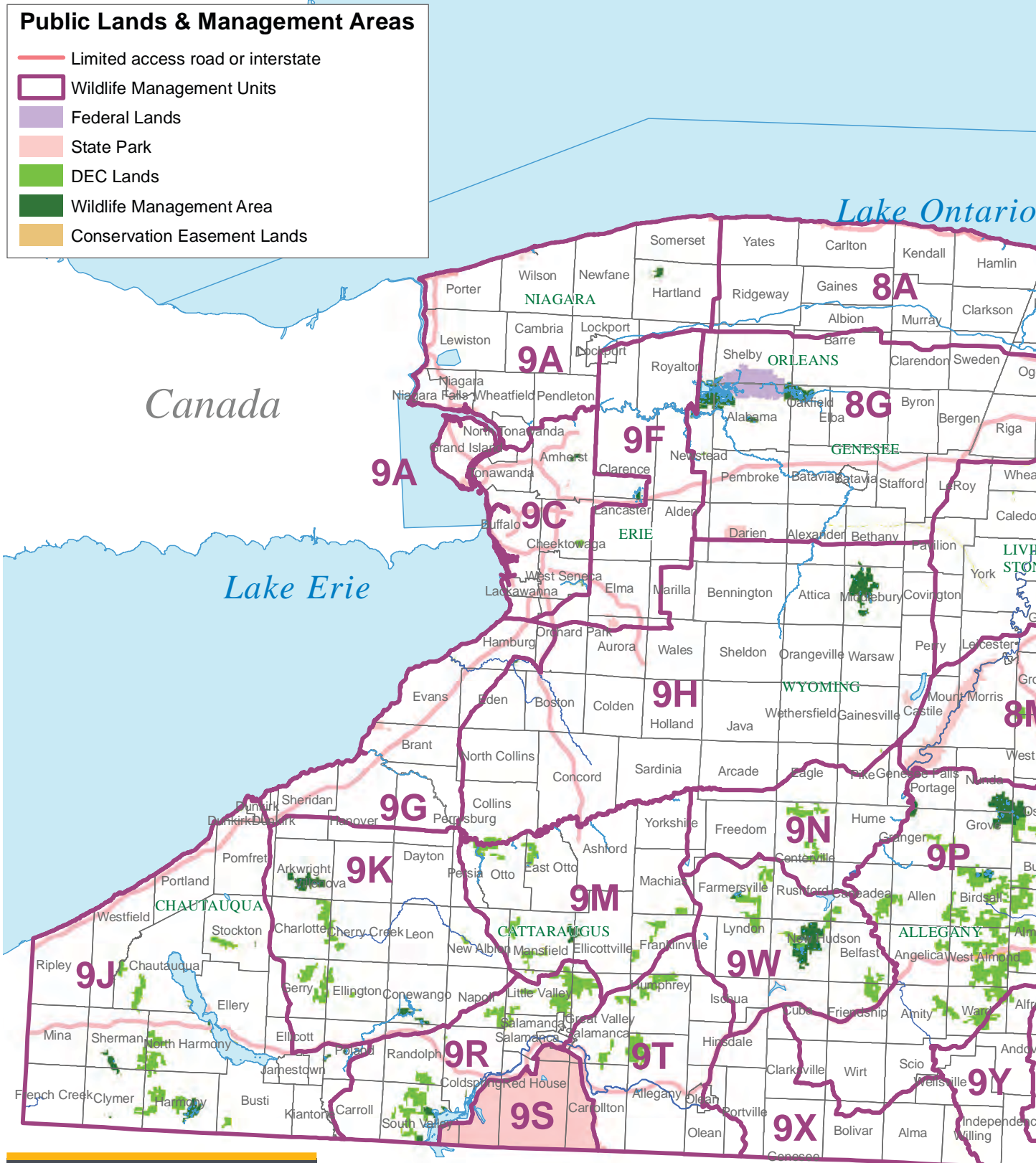
Department of Environmental Conservation



ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

EMERALD ASH BORER

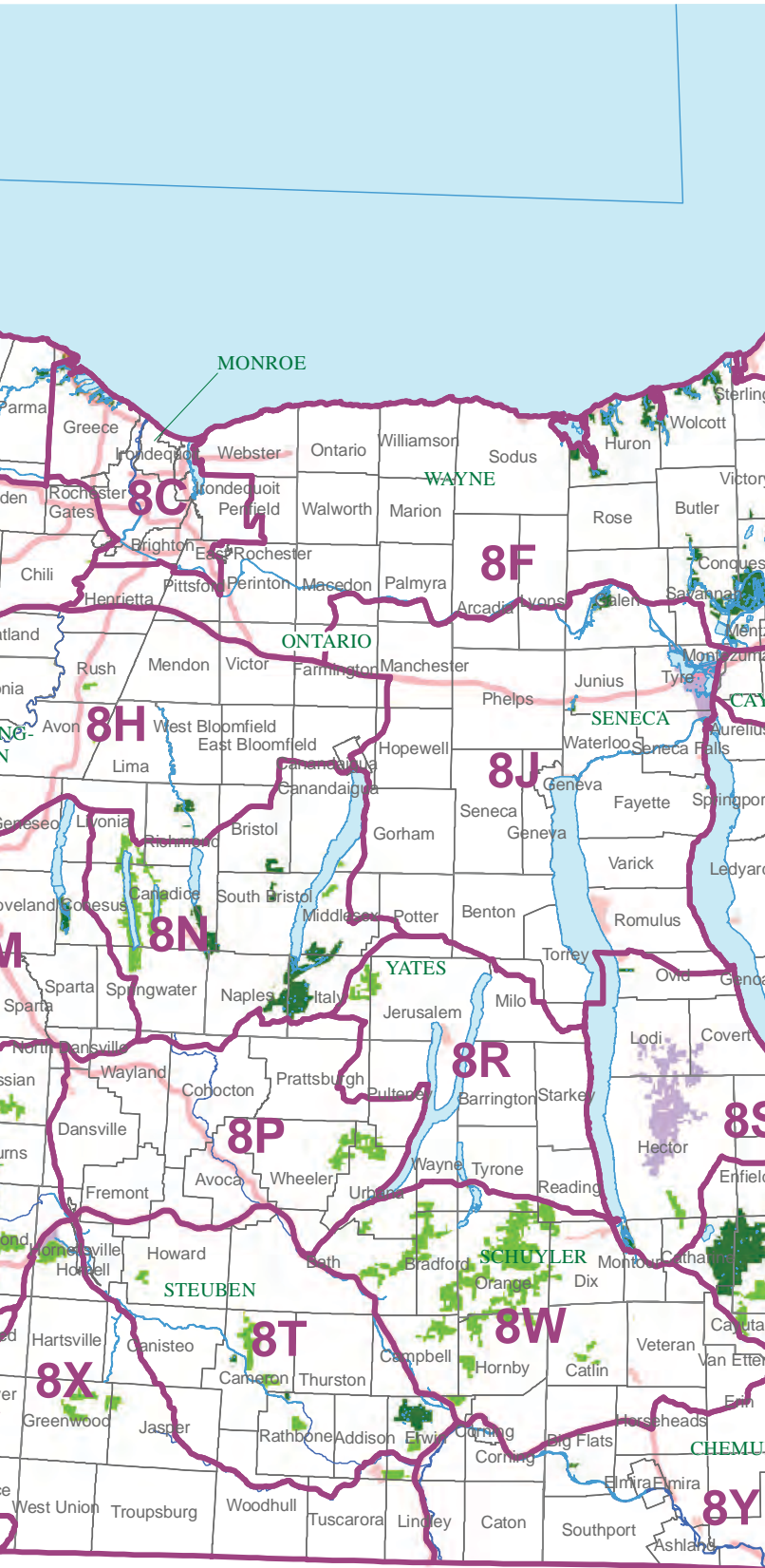
Regional Maps



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



Map produced by NYSDEC KFB, 3/26/2020



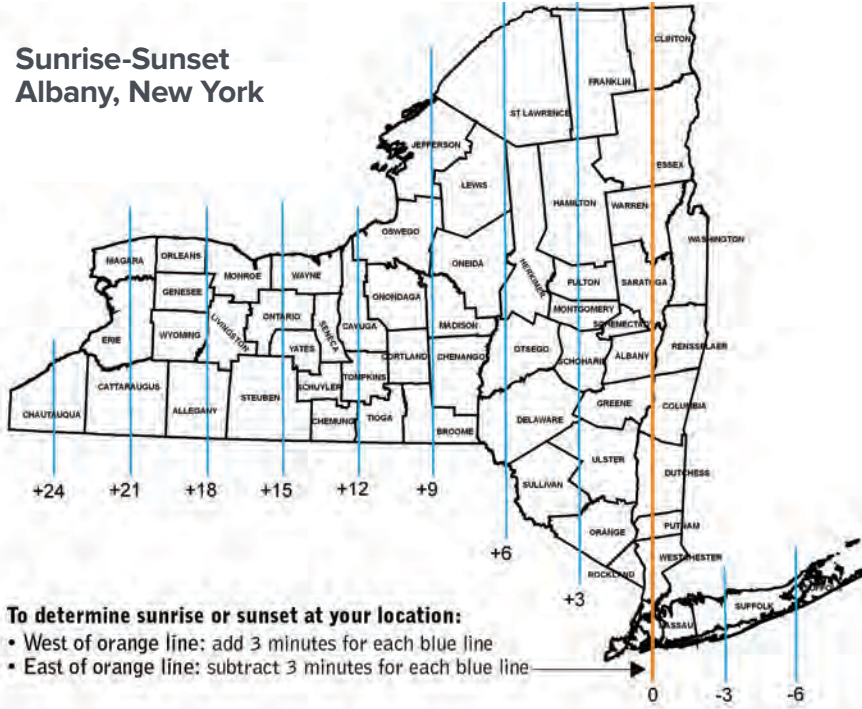
WMA Accessible Features for Regions 8 and 9

Allegany
Hanging Bog WMA (New Hudson)
• CP-3 trail
Cattaraugus
Birch Run Ponds FWMA (Allegany)
• Fishing Access, Parking, 0.3 mi foot trail
Harwood Lake MUA (Farmersville)
• Parking
Cattaraugus/Erie
Zoar Valley MUA (Otto, Persia, Collins)
• Parking, Parking Area, Short Trail, Viewing Platform
Cayuga/Wayne/Seneca
Northern Montezuma WMA (Victory, Conquest, Mentz, Montezuma, Butler, Savannah, Seneca Falls)
• Parking, Restroom, Viewing Platform, 1.4 mi foot trails
Chautauqua
Chautauqua Lake FWMA (Ellery, North Harmony)
• Parking, Blind/Viewing Platform, 0.2 mi foot trail
Watts Flats (Harmony)
• Parking, Viewing Platform
Erie
Great Baehre Swamp WMA (Amherst)
• Parking, Boardwalk
Spicer Creek WMA (Grand Island)
• Accessible Blind, Parking, 0.4 mi foot trail
Tillman Road WMA (Clarence)
• Boardwalk, Parking, Viewing Platform, 0.1 mi foot trail
Genesee
John White WMA (Alabama)
• Accessible Blind, Parking, 0.62 mi CP-3 trail
Livingston
Conesus Inlet WMA (Conesus)
• Parking, 0.1 mi foot trail, Viewing Area, 1mi CP-3 trail
Livingston/Allegany
Rattlesnake Hill WMA (Nunda, Ossian, Grove)
• Viewing Platform, Parking, 9.3 mi CP-3 trails
Monroe
Braddock Bay WMA (Parma, Greece)
• Fishing Access, Parking, Viewing Platform, Kayak Launch
Ontario
Honeoye Creek WMA (Richmond)
• 2.8 mi CP-3 trails
Ontario/Yates
High Tor WMA (Naples, Italy Middlesex)
• Fishing Access, Hand Launch, Parking, 8.4 mi CP-3 trails
Orleans/Erie/Niagara/Genesee
Tonawanda WMA (Shelby, Newstead, Royalton, Alabama)
• Accessible Blind, Parking, 0.2 mi foot trail
Orleans/Genesee
Oak Orchard WMA (Barre, Shelby, Oakfield, Alabama)
• Parking, Viewing Platform, Pavilion, 0.1 mi foot trail, 3.2 mi CP-3 trails
Schuyler
Catharine Creek WMA (Dix, Montour)
• 2 mi. CP-3 trail*
Waneta-Lamoka WMA (Tyrone)
• Hand Launch, Parking
Steuben
Erwin WMA (Erwin)
• Parking, 5.38 mi CP-3 trails
Wayne
Galen WMA (Galen)
• 2.2 mi CP-3 trails
Lake Shore Marshes WMA (Rochester, Oswego)
• Fishing Access, Hand Launch, Parking, Seasonal Restroom
Wyoming
Carlton Hill MUA (Middlebury)
• 0.6 mi CP-3 trail*

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

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise-Sunset Albany, New York



When Hunting for Wildlife, All Shooting Hours are Sunrise to Sunset, Except:

- Unprotected wildlife — any hour.
- Furbearers — after sunrise on the opening day of each respective season, bobcat, raccoon, skunk, red fox, gray fox, opossum, and coyote may be taken at any time of day or night.
- For most migratory game bird species, including ducks, geese, snipe, rails — ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Spring turkey — ½ hour before sunrise to noon.
- Big game — ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

Day	SEPT		OCT		NOV		DEC		JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY	
	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM
1	6:19	7:29	6:51	6:36	7:28	5:48	7:05	4:22	7:25	4:31	7:09	5:07	6:29	5:45	6:36	7:21	5:48	7:55
2	6:20	7:27	6:53	6:34	7:29	5:46	7:06	4:22	7:25	4:32	7:08	5:09	6:28	5:46	6:34	7:22	5:47	7:57
3	6:21	7:26	6:54	6:33	7:31	5:45	7:07	4:21	7:25	4:33	7:07	5:10	6:26	5:47	6:32	7:23	5:46	7:58
4	6:22	7:24	6:55	6:31	7:32	5:44	7:08	4:21	7:25	4:34	7:06	5:11	6:24	5:48	6:31	7:25	5:44	7:59
5	6:23	7:22	6:56	6:29	7:33	5:43	7:09	4:21	7:25	4:35	7:05	5:13	6:23	5:50	6:29	7:26	5:43	8:00
6	6:24	7:21	6:57	6:28	7:34	5:41	7:10	4:21	7:25	4:36	7:04	5:14	6:21	5:51	6:27	7:27	5:42	8:01
7	6:26	7:19	6:58	6:26	7:36	5:40	7:11	4:21	7:25	4:37	7:02	5:15	6:19	5:52	6:26	7:28	5:41	8:02
8	6:27	7:17	6:59	6:24	7:37	5:39	7:12	4:21	7:24	4:38	7:01	5:17	6:18	5:53	6:24	7:29	5:39	8:03
9	6:28	7:15	7:00	6:22	7:38	5:38	7:13	4:21	7:24	4:39	7:00	5:18	6:16	5:54	6:22	7:30	5:38	8:04
10	6:29	7:14	7:02	6:21	7:39	5:37	7:13	4:21	7:24	4:40	6:59	5:19	6:14	5:56	6:21	7:31	5:37	8:05
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13	6:32	7:08	7:05	6:16	7:43	5:34	7:16	4:21	7:23	4:44	6:55	5:23	6:09	5:59	6:16	7:35	5:34	8:09
14	6:33	7:06	7:06	6:14	7:45	5:33	7:17	4:21	7:23	4:45	6:53	5:25	6:07	5:59	6:14	7:36	5:33	8:10
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22	6:42	6:52	7:16	6:02	7:54	5:26	7:22	4:24	7:18	4:54	6:42	5:35	5:58	5:59	6:01	7:45	5:25	8:18
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27	6:47	6:43	7:22	5:54	8:00	5:24	7:24	4:27	7:14	5:01	6:34	5:41	5:53	5:59	6:00	7:51	5:22	8:22
28	6:48	6:41	7:23	5:53	8:01	5:23	7:24	4:28	7:13	5:02	6:32	5:42	5:52	5:59	6:00	7:52	5:21	8:23
29	6:49	6:40	7:24	5:52	8:02	5:23	7:24	4:29	7:12	5:03	6:31	5:44	5:51	5:59	6:00	7:53	5:21	8:24
30	6:50	6:38	7:26	5:50	8:04	5:22	7:24	4:30	7:11	5:05			5:50	5:59	6:00	7:54	5:20	8:25
31			7:27	5:49			7:25	4:30	7:10	5:06			5:49	5:59	6:00		5:20	8:25