

Proposed Regulations in Process

At press time, DEC had several proposed regulations in process. Check DEC's website for updates prior to the hunting season.

• E-Licenses, E-Tags, & Harvest Reporting:

DEC has proposed to allow hunters and trappers to possess only an e-license while hunting or trapping and use e-tags for deer, bear, or turkey. An e-license is the electronic record of your hunting, fishing, and trapping license privileges in DEC's HuntFishNY mobile app. E-tags are electronic records of your unreported and reported carcass tags for deer, bear, and turkey in the HuntFishNY app. The app works even without immediate cell service, as it stores the harvest report and transmits it to DEC upon reconnection to cell service. Paper licenses and paper tags will still be available. See page 13 for more information.

With this potential change, DEC also proposed changing the time frame for required reporting of your harvest of deer, bear, or turkey. If adopted, users of e-tags will be required to report immediately upon harvesting the animal. Users of paper tags will be required to report within 48 hours of the harvest. Hunters will no longer have 7 days to report their harvest.

- **Bonus Youth Tag:** Some young hunters who are successful during the Youth Big Game Hunt weekend may not have another tag available to use during the subsequent regular firearms season. DEC has proposed to provide these youth hunters a bonus or replacement tag for the regular firearms season. Bonus regular season tags would be for the opposite sex deer as was harvested during the youth hunt.

Printing and Mailing Fee

DEC has transitioned from special license stock (valeron) to printing all sporting licenses, carcass tags, and other items on plain paper. License Issuing Agents (LIAs) are now supplying their own paper, printers, and ink, and license buyers purchasing their paper licenses and tags at LIAs may be charged a \$1 printing fee to cover costs. Additionally, DEC's license fulfillment vendor may levy a \$2 fee when the customer requests the license be printed and mailed to them. All customers who purchase online, by phone, or at an LIA can avoid the printing fee by choosing to receive their licenses and tags by email for printing at home.

Pending Legislation on Crossbows

At press time, legislation was pending that, if adopted, will allow crossbows to be used during the entire bowhunting season by hunters

with the bowhunting privilege in all areas where other bowhunting equipment can be used. All crossbow users would be required to have a certificate of bowhunter education. Additionally, the law would remove the minimum limb width and maximum draw weight restrictions for crossbows. The discharge setback for crossbows would remain at a minimum of 250' from certain structures, except it will be 500' in Suffolk and Westchester counties. Check DEC's website for the status of the pending legislation.

Backtags No Longer Required

As a result of law change, backtags are no longer required while hunting anywhere in New York State.

Legislation – Rifles in Niagara County

Legislation adopted in 2024 allows use of rifles for big game hunting in Niagara County except within the cities of Niagara Falls, Lockport, and North Tonawanda.

HuntFishNY Events – Mentored Hunt Opportunities and More!

HuntFishNY is your one-stop resource for events offered by DEC and a network of partners and instructors. Events are hands-on and designed to teach you the basics about hunting, fishing, trapping, outdoor safety, wildlife, and other outdoor skills. You can find sponsored pheasant hunts, mentored hunts, target shoots, hunting seminars, social events, and more. Events are designed for all ability levels. See DEC's Learn to Hunt Opportunities in New York page (<https://on.ny.gov/learntohunt>) for information about HuntFishNY Events, the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program, sponsored pheasant hunts, and mentored hunts. These programs help new hunters develop the skills they will need to be safe and successful.

Non-lead Ammunition Rebate Program – Continuing Statewide

DEC has partnered with researchers 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 to hunters for purchase of certified non-lead ammunition. For more information about this program, please refer to page 34.



About This Guide

This high-quality reference guide is brought to you by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through a partnership with Kalkomey, a trusted leader in outdoor safety education since 1995. In addition to producing this guide, Kalkomey also offers a suite of educational courses to help people enjoy the outdoors safely.

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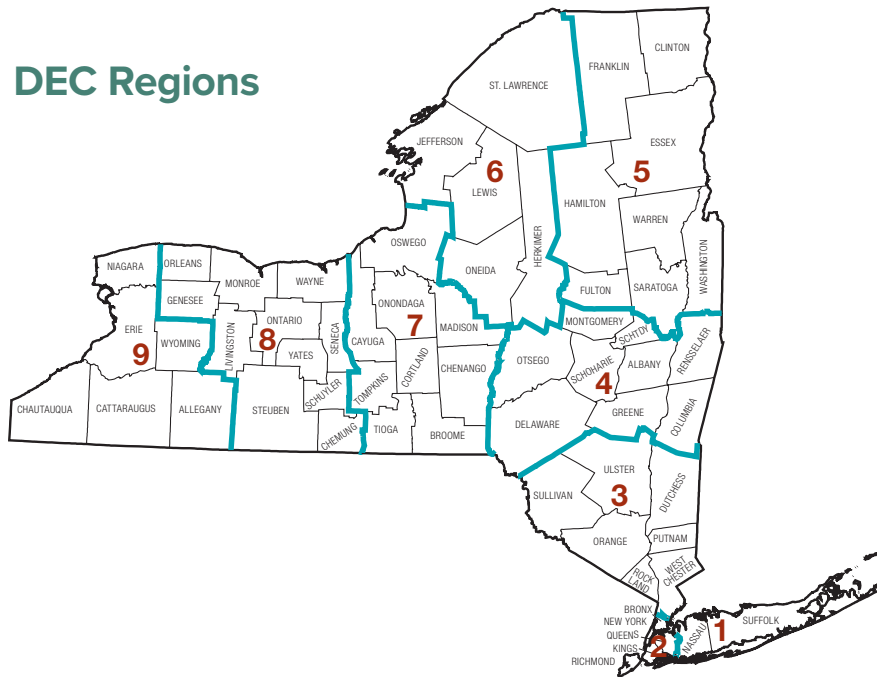
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**The hunting and trapping regulations
in this guide are online at:**

eRegulations.com

Important Numbers

DEC Regions



www.dec.ny.gov
Search 'Becoming an Outdoors Woman'
518-402-8963

Hands-on workshops where adult women can learn outdoor skills like how to fish, hunt, shoot, kayak, or backpack in a supportive atmosphere with patient, enthusiastic instructors.

Other Important Numbers

DEC Automated Licensing System	1-866-933-2257 M-F 8AM-5PM, Sat 9AM-5PM
Lifetime License Information	518-402-8843
NYC Watershed Hunting Permits	1-800-575-5263
Hunter Ed	1-888-HUNT ED2 (1-888-486-8332)
Deer Management Permit (DMP) Hotline	1-866-472-4332
Game Harvest Reporting via DECALS	1-866-GAME-RPT (1-866-426-3778)
Reporting Banded Waterfowl	www.reportband.gov
Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP)	decals.east.licensing.app
Information on NY SAFE Act	1-855-LAW-GUNS (1-855-529-4867)
Forest Rangers	1-833-NYS-RANGERS (1-833-697-7264)
Law Enforcement (ECOs)	1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)

Important Numbers					
Region	Offices	Wildlife	Law Enforcement	Hunter Ed	Forest Rangers
1	Stony Brook University 50 Circle Rd. Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409	631-444-0310	631-444-0250	631-444-0255	631-444-0291
2	1 Hunters Pt. Plaza 47-40 21st St. Long Island City, NY 11101-5407	718-482-4922	718-482-4885	718-482-6429	631-444-0291
3	21 South Putt Corners Rd. New Paltz, NY 12561	845-256-3098	845-256-3013	845-256-3122	845-256-3026
4	1130 North Westcott Rd. Schenectady, NY 12306-2014	518-357-2355	518-357-2047	518-357-2158	518-357-2161
	65561 State Hwy 10, Suite 1 Stamford, NY 12167-9503	607-652-7367			
5	1115 Route 86, PO Box 296 Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296	518-897-1291	518-897-1326	518-623-1240	518-897-1303
	232 Golf Course Rd. Warrensburg, NY 12885	518-623-1240			
6	317 Washington St. Watertown, NY 13601-3787	315-785-2263	315-785-2231	315-785-2533	315-785-2263
	225 North Main St. Herkimer NY 13350	315-866-6330			
	190 Outer Main St, Suite 103 Potsdam, NY 13676	315-265-3090			
	17893 Game Farm Rd. Dexter, NY 13634	315-639-6122			
7	615 Erie Blvd. West Syracuse, NY 13204-2400	—	315-426-7431	607-753-3095 ext. 242 or 247	607-753-3095 x.223
	1285 Fisher Ave. Cortland, NY 13045	607-753-3095 ext. 247			
8	6274 E. Avon-Lima Rd. Avon, NY 14414-9519	585-226-5380	585-226-6706	585-226-5463	585-226-5319
	7291 Coon Rd. Bath, NY 14810-9728	607-776-2165			607-622-8287
9	700 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209	716-851-7010	716-851-7050	716-372-0645	716-372-0645
	182 East Union St., Suite 3 Allegany, NY 14706	716-372-0645			

General License Information

Purchasing a License

Hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses can be purchased at over 1,200 agent locations throughout New York State, over the phone via the DEC call center at 1-866-933-2257/M–F, 8AM–5PM, Sat. 9AM–5PM (extended hours Aug. 1–Nov. 30, M–F 7AM–7PM, Sat. 9AM–5PM), and online through DEC’s Automated Licensing System (DECALS) at dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/sporting-and-use/sporting/decals.

You can also locate a license-issuing vendor from the DECALS website. All major credit cards are accepted online and over the phone.

Mandatory Hunter Education

A hunter education course is required for persons who cannot provide proof that they have ever possessed a hunting license. You must be at least 11 years of age to take this class. The general course is an in-person or online course offered by DEC and is a minimum of seven hours in length. A hunter education certificate will be provided upon completion of the course. This certificate must be added to the individual’s DEC licensing profile before purchasing a license. This can be done anywhere licenses are sold or by calling 1-866-933-2257. DEC honors hunter education certificates and sporting licenses from all other states and countries that meet IHEA-USA requirements as proof of hunter education in order to purchase a New York State hunting license.

Mandatory Bowhunter Education

Hunters wishing to bowhunt for big game must present either:

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

Mandatory Crossbow Requirement

Hunters wishing to use a crossbow must complete qualifications in the safe use of hunting with a crossbow and responsible crossbow hunting practices. See page 25 for details.

Residency

To qualify for an annual resident license, a person must live in New York State for more than 30 days immediately preceding the date

Licenses, Privileges, and Permits

Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
Hunting (Ages 16+) Privileges: Hunt small game species with gun, bow, or crossbow (see page 25). Hunt deer or bear with gun, muzzleloader, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege), or crossbow (see page 25) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the Jan. firearms season (permit required — see page 20) in Suffolk County (WMU 1C). You may hunt frogs with a valid hunting or fishing license (see page 46 for more details). Qualifications: Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license. Certificates to possess firearms do not qualify. Note: Those 16-17 years of age who are hunting big game for the first time as a holder of a hunting license must be accompanied for the entire season by a parent or legal guardian, or a person 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 45) with at least one year’s experience hunting bear or deer. Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 45.	16–69 (NYS Resident)	\$22
	70+ (NYS Resident)	\$5
	Military Disabled ¹	\$5
	Patriot ²	FREE
	Indigenous Peoples ³	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$100
Junior Hunting (Ages 12–15)	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$5
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$5
Privileges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 12–13: Hunt small game species with gun or bow and deer with gun or crossbow during appropriate seasons when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian, or person 21 years of age or older with written permission from parent or guardian (see permission form on page 45). Check DEC’s website (dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/deer-bear/junior-big-game) for a map of counties where 12- and 13-year-olds can hunt deer with a gun or crossbow and page 37 for details.) • Ages 14–15: Hunt small game with gun, bow, or crossbow (see page 23) when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or person 18 years of age or older with written permission from parent/guardian. Hunt deer or bear with a gun, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege), or crossbow (see page 23) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the Jan. firearms season (permit required — see page 18) in Suffolk County, when accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or youth mentor 21 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). * Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 45. Qualifications: Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license (certificates to possess firearms do not qualify). Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase. First-time applicants must show proof of age (birth certificate or passport). Junior hunters do not need a Federal Duck Stamp, but are required to register in the NYS Harvest Information Program (dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/sporting-and-use/sporting/hunting-license/harvest-information-program) to hunt migratory game birds.		
Bowhunting Privilege (Ages 16+) Privileges: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during bowhunting seasons. Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education Certificate, OR NYS Bowhunting Stamp issued in 1980 or later, OR NYS Junior Bowhunting License issued 1980 or later. Note: To hunt deer or bear with a bow during the regular season, hunter must possess both a valid hunting license and either a current bowhunting privilege or a valid Bowhunter Education Certificate. This includes Westchester and Suffolk counties.	16–69 (NYS Resident)	\$15
	70+ (NYS Resident)	FREE
	Military Disabled ¹	FREE
	Patriot ²	\$15
	Indigenous Peoples ³	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$30
Junior Bowhunting (Ages 12–15)	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$4
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$4
Privileges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 12–13: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season or the regular season, or bear during the early bear season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian, or youth mentor 21 years or older and designated in writing (see permission form on page 45). Youth hunter will receive a deer of either sex carcass tag for use in the regular season, instead of a regular season buck tag. • Ages 14–15: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season and the regular season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or youth mentor 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 45). * Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 45. Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education OR previous Junior Bowhunting License. Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase.		
Muzzleloader Privilege (Ages 12+) Privileges: Hunt deer (ages 12+) and bear (ages 14+) with a muzzleloading firearm during muzzleloading season, and the Jan. special firearms season in Suffolk County (WMU 1C; ages 14+). Hunt deer (ages 12+) and bear (ages 14+) with a crossbow (see page 25). Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license.	12–69 (NYS Resident)	\$15
	70+ (NYS Resident)	FREE
	Military Disabled ¹	FREE
	Patriot ²	\$15
	Indigenous Peoples ³	FREE
	12+ (Non-Resident)	\$30

Licenses, Privileges, and Permits

Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
Deer Management Permit Application (Ages 12+) Privileges: Application for up to two antlerless deer tags issued through a random computer selection process. Tags are valid for hunting antlerless deer only (both antlers less than 3" long) in a specified Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). See DMP information on pages 30–31. Application deadline is Oct. 1 annually. Qualifications: Must hold a current year NYS hunting license to apply and pay a non-refundable \$10 application fee. Fee is waived for hunters 12–15 years of age and holders of Lifetime (Sportsman) Licenses purchased prior to Oct. 1, 2009.	12–15 (NYS Resident)	FREE
	16+ (NYS Resident)	\$10
	Military Disabled ¹	\$10
	Patriot ²	\$10
	Indigenous Peoples ³	\$10
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$10
Turkey Permit (Ages 12+) Privileges: Hunt turkey during fall and spring turkey seasons (see page 45). To hunt turkey, all hunters must possess a turkey permit. There are no exceptions. Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license. Turkey tags are included with a Lifetime License.	12+ (NYS Resident)	\$10
	Military Disabled ¹	\$10
	Patriot ²	\$10
	Indigenous Peoples ³	\$10
Trapping Privileges: Set traps for species during their appropriate seasons (see pages 61–65 for detailed information). Qualifications: Trapper Education Certificate or previous trapping license from any state or country. See page 45 for additional information on the mentoring program for trappers under 12 years of age.	12+ (Non-Resident)	\$20
	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$5
	16–69 (NYS Resident)	\$20
	70+ (NYS Resident)	\$5
	Military Disabled ¹	\$5
	Patriot ²	FREE
	Indigenous Peoples ³	FREE
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$5
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$275

Lifetime Sporting Licenses

The following Lifetime Licenses are available to New York State residents only and may be purchased at all license-issuing outlets throughout New York State. Applicants must prove NYS residency for one year prior to application (see **Residency information** on page 10). For additional information and clarification on Lifetime License sales, contact our License Sales Unit, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790; call 518-402-8843; or visit dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/sporting-and-use/sporting/lifetime.

Lifetime License holders should expect to receive their annual carcass tags in the mail no later than Sept. 1 annually. Lifetime License holders can also sign up to have their qualifying license and tags emailed to them, see Lifetime License Delivered Via Email below. License Issuing Agents will replace licenses and tags free of charge between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1. After Nov. 1, there will be a replacement charge up to \$15. If you have a lifetime license card, you will only have to replace carcass tags at a fee of \$10.

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

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

Other Lifetime Licenses/Privileges

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

¹**Military Disabled:** Must be a NYS resident and provide a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs showing a 40% or greater service-connected disability. Once the disability is confirmed and entered, it will stay in your customer profile. **Note:** The first purchase of either a hunting, fishing, or trapping license within a calendar year will cost \$5. Subsequent purchases of these license types within the same calendar year will be free for qualifying customers.

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

³**Indigenous Peoples:** Recognizing the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations and their governments, tribal members do not need a hunting, fishing, or trapping license from DEC when engaged in these activities on Nation territory. Members of the Shinnecock and Unkechaug Nations, and members of the Haudenosaunee Nations enrolled on reservations wholly or partially in New York State may hunt, fish, and trap off of tribal lands using their tribal identification card or by obtaining a free hunting, fishing, and trapping license from DEC. Licenses can be obtained from participating tribal and nation councils or by calling DEC headquarters in Albany at 518-402-8843.

of application. To qualify for a Lifetime License, a person must live in New York State for at least one year immediately preceding the date of purchase. Land ownership in New York State does not make you a resident. Residency is that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent, and principal home (regardless of where temporarily located), such as where a person is registered to vote. If under age 18, the residence of parents or legal guardian shall be deemed such person's residence. For a complete list of valid residency proof documents, please see dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/sporting-and-use/sporting/general-info#Res.

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

Lifetime License Delivered Via Email

As a Lifetime License holder, you now have the option to have your license and tags emailed directly to you each year instead of being mailed. By choosing to have your license and tags emailed, you will receive them sooner and avoid the possibility of having them get lost in the mail. Once you receive the email, you can print your license and tags and be ready for the season. To sign up call 1-866-933-2257 or sign into your online DECALS account at <http://decals.east.licensing.app/>. Click on Lifetime Delivery Preference under My Account and change your Current Selection to Send Tags Via Email.

Lifetime Licenses and Tags for Young Hunters

Lifetime licenses can be purchased only as a gift for children under 16. Young hunters who hold a lifetime hunting privilege and wish to receive their tags must first take the appropriate hunter safety training course and have it entered in their DECALS profile. To have the course added, please call the DEC call center at 1 866 933 2257 (M F, 8AM 5PM). Young hunters should take the appropriate training course well in advance of the season to allow adequate time for their tags to be mailed. Tags cannot be obtained from a license issuing agent.

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

Remember to Report Your Game Harvest



It's the law!

For more information see page 15.

General License Information

Deer Hunting Privileges and Tags

Resident and Non-resident Hunter Licenses

- **Hunting or Junior Hunting (ages 12–15):** Hunters ages 12 and older will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag and hunters ages 14 and older will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag and Regular Season Bear Tag.
- **Muzzleloading privilege:** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.
- **Junior bowhunting or bowhunting privilege:** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag. Junior bowhunters ages 12–13 will receive an Either Sex Tag and a Bear Tag. Junior bowhunters ages 14–15 will receive an Either Sex Tag. Junior bowhunters may use the Either Sex Deer Tag during the regular season, with bowhunting equipment.

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

Minimum Hunting Age

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

License Year

Licenses and permits are valid from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31.



Paul D. hunting in Wayne County.
Photo taken by Anthony F.

Stamps / Donations

Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
Habitat & Access Stamp Donations are used to create or improve fish and wildlife habitat and improve access to those resources for recreational or educational activities.	Any	\$5
Venison Donation Help feed the hungry by supporting NYS's venison donation program.	Any	\$1 or more
Federal Duck Stamp Available at most post offices and some sporting goods stores.	16+	\$25
Privileges: Hunt migratory waterfowl. It is not needed for gallinules, coot, crows, rails, woodcock, or snipe. All migratory game bird hunters, including junior hunters, must register with the Harvest Information Program by calling toll free 1-866-933-2257 or dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/sporting-and-use/sporting/hunting-license/harvest-information-program . Qualifications: Validated by holder's signature on the face of the stamp. Hunter must also possess a current-year NYS hunting license.		

License Responsibilities

- A license or tag is not transferable and may be used only by the person to whom it was issued (except for Deer Management Permits [DMPs]—see pages 30–31).
- It is illegal to possess another person's license while hunting.
- A license to hunt, trap, or fish does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
- You can legally purchase and possess only one hunting license per year.
- Your license must be carried on your person when hunting or trapping.
- It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the land owner, lessee, or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.
- Make sure that your license has all the correct information. Carefully check it immediately after receipt. If you discover an error, have it corrected as soon as possible.
- Sign the front of your license/privilege page.

Valid Proof of Licenses and Carcass Tags

You must carry valid proof of your license(s), privilege(s), permit(s), and all applicable tags. Valid proof of license(s), privilege(s), permit(s) includes: print out on 8.5" x 11" paper, digital copy, or electronic license in HuntFishApp. Carcass tags must be printed on 8.5" x 11" paper. You must be able to fill out your paper tag upon harvest. See pages 14-15 for more information on tagging your harvest.

Backtags

As a result of law change, backtags are no longer required while hunting anywhere in New York State.

Hunting License Exceptions

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

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

Indigenous Nations Licenses/ Patriot Licenses

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

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

Lost Licenses

License holders can replace licenses and tags for free by accessing their sporting license account, online at decals.east.licensing.app. License holders can login to their online DECALS profile and print a copy of their license and tags free of charge. Additionally, a lost license may be replaced at any license issuing agent (LIA) at a cost of \$5 for a license sheet. Big game carcass tag sets or turkey carcass tag sets may be replaced at a cost of \$10. Licenses and tags replaced at a LIA or over the phone (1-866-933-2257) may be subject to the applicable printing/ mailing fee.

Special Licenses for Hunters with Disabilities

Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit

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

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

Modified Longbow Authorization

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

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

Modified Crossbow Permit

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

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

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

Reasonable Accommodation To Use an Unmodified Crossbow During the Regular Bow Season

This reasonable accommodation may be requested by an individual who is incapable of holding a bow or operating a mechanical device attached to a legal longbow for drawing, holding, and releasing a bowstring due to a temporary or permanent physical disability and whose needs are not met by the Modified Longbow Authorization or Modified Crossbow Special Permit.

To qualify for a Reasonable Accommodation To Use an Unmodified Crossbow During the Regular Bow Season, an individual must obtain certification of disability from a physician and submit a reasonable accommodation request form.

For more information on these permits, visit dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/sporting-and-use/sporting/hunting-license/permits-for-hunters-with-disabilities; write the NYS DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752; email speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov; or call 518-402-8985. The application process takes time; write or call well before you intend to hunt.

E-Licenses, E-Tags & Paper Tags

Note: At press time, regulation changes were pending that would authorize use of e-licenses and e-tags and would change the length of the harvest reporting period. Check DEC's website before hunting seasons to see if e-tags were adopted.

Q: What is an e license and an e tag?

A: An e license is the electronic record of your hunting, fishing, and trapping license privileges in DEC's HuntFishNY mobile app. E tags are electronic records of your unreported and reported carcass tags for deer, bear, and tur key in the HuntFishNY app. The HuntFishNY mobile app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and the Google Play store (see <https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/huntfishny> mobile app for more information). Once you are signed into the app you can tap on My Licenses & Tags/Report Harvests to view your licenses and tags.

Q: Will I still have the option to use paper tags?

A: Yes. Plain paper licenses and tags will still be available and a valid option while hunting.

Q: How do I purchase my license(s) and tags?

A: You may still purchase your licenses and tags online, at an LIA or over the phone. You'll now have the option to choose an e license and e tags or to receive a paper license and paper tags.

Q: Is harvest reporting changing?

A: Yes. E tag users must report immediately after taking a deer, bear, or turkey. Paper tag users must report within 48 hours (no longer 7 days) of taking an animal.

Q: Do I need internet service to view my e licenses or report my e tags?

A: No. As long as you sign into your HuntFishNY account while online before going afield, your licenses and tags continue to show in the app even while offline. You can report an e tag without internet service. The report will be uploaded as soon as you regain internet service.

Q: If I use an e tag, do I have to attach anything to the deer I harvest?

A: Hunters using e tags who harvest a deer, bear, or turkey must immediately electronically "tag" the animal by reporting the harvest via the HuntFishNY mobile app. They do not need to attach anything to the carcass while they remain in possession of the carcass, including in their vehicle and at their home. If the carcass is not in their possession, the hunter must attach to the carcass a tag of their making that includes their name and reporting confirmation number (available in the mobile app). They can also print, fill out (including reporting confirmation number), and attach the carcass tag from their DECALS account.

E-Tag → Take it → Report it → Tag it if you Leave it

Paper Tag → Take it → Tag it → Report it

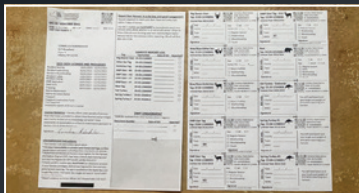
Print and Tag



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Steps for attaching your new plain paper tag to your harvest:

1. Get your paper tags from a license-issuing agent or print them from the PDF sent to your email



2. Cut the appropriate tag from the sheet of paper



3. Upon harvesting, fill in the tag with the harvest information and sign it



4. Place the tag in a weatherproof case or bag (see below for examples)



5. Attach weatherproof case or bag to the animal, keeping the tag visible



Remember: Hunters are responsible for protecting their paper tag so it remains intact and legible and must attach the tag so it is visible. Tags do not need to be attached to deer or bear until arrival at home, camp, or vehicle.

Examples of weatherproof casings:



Reusable
sandwich bag



Reusable plastic
tag holder



ID holder



Plastic
sandwich bag



Report Your Harvests with the HuntFishNY App

Use DEC's HuntFishNY app as an e-license and to report your game harvest. HuntFishNY gives you a quick and easy way to:

- Access your sporting licenses, privileges, and permits
- Submit game harvest reports, even when out of cellular range
- View current and past harvest reports
- Look at season maps and a sunrise-sunset table
- Read DEC's current Hunting & Trapping Guide

HuntFishNY now includes the Tackle Box feature for anglers!

Get the HuntFishNY app free from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Note: You will need a DECALS username and password to access your license documents through the app. If you don't have a username and password, visit <https://on.ny.gov/3KXkt5n> to get yours today.

Questions? Call our sporting license hotline at 1-866-472-4332.



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

Reg Season Deer Tag
Tag: 25-03-12340001
License Year 2025/2026

Kill info
 Date 11/27/24
 County Greene
 Town Cairo
 WMU 44

Signature Cornelius Raberdasher

Antler Pts: L 3 R 3

Sex ☒ M ☐ F
☒ Regular Season
☐ Bowhunting
☐ Muzzleloading
☐ Youth

DOB: 05/31/1982
ID: 100409008941
Issued: 08/06/25 11:50AM

Affirmed under penalty of perjury pursuant to PL 210.45

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

- 1 Fill in the date, location, biological, and season information on your tag.
- 2 Sign your tag.
- 3 Report your harvest! See details below.

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

E-Tag → Take it → Report it → Tag it if you Leave it
Paper Tag → Take it → Tag it → Report it

Reporting Your Game Harvest

- Deer, Bear, and Turkey harvests must be reported.
- At press time, DEC proposed regulations to reduce the time period for reporting. See DEC's website for updates.
- You can report your harvest by phone, online, or through our HuntFishNY mobile app (see page 8 for details).
- Reporting online (dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/report-your-harvest) and through the mobile app is simple, fast, and convenient!

Information You Will Need When Reporting

12 DIGIT TAG #

Reg Season Deer Tag
Tag: 25-03-12340001
License Year 2025/2026

Kill info
 Date 11/27/24
 County Greene
 Town Cairo
 WMU 44

Signature Cornelius Raberdasher

Antler Pts: L 3 R 3

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☒ Regular Season
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☐ Muzzleloading
☐ Youth

DOB: 05/31/1982
ID: 100409008941
Issued: 08/06/25 11:50AM

Affirmed under penalty of perjury pursuant to PL 210.45

CORRECT TAG TYPE

HARVEST REPORT LOG

Tag	Tag Number	Date of Kill	Reported?
Bear	24-02-12340001		<input type="checkbox"/>
Reg Season Deer	24-03-12340001	<u>11/27/2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Either Sex	24-19-12340003		<input type="checkbox"/>
Antlerless	24-20-12340002		<input type="checkbox"/>
Fall Turkey	24-02-12340002		<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring Turkey 1	24-02-12340003		<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring Turkey 2	24-02-12340004		<input type="checkbox"/>

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

For Black Bear >> Remember to save the bear's skull. DEC will request a tooth to determine the bear's age.

Camp with us!



at one of the 51
 DEC Campgrounds in the
 Adirondack & Catskill
 Forest Preserve
 of New York State

newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com

If you SEE something, SAY something

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ADIRONDACKS, TUG HILL AND SOUTHERN TIER AREAS

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General Hunting Regulations

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

Definitions

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

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

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

Dwelling—a permanent place where people live and sleep. Excluded are temporary residential units including camping trailers, motor homes or other portable shelters. Also excluded are abandoned dwellings, detached garages, tree houses, "playscapes", decks, pool areas, storage sheds and out-buildings - even when/if they are temporarily occupied. A permanent camp or cabin may qualify as a dwelling house.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Manner of Taking

It is illegal to take or hunt wildlife:

- While in or on a motor vehicle (except by special permit—see page 12)
- With the aid of a vehicle's lights
- On or from any public road
- With any firearm equipped with a silencer
- With any firearm which continues to fire as long as the trigger is held back (an automatic firearm)
- With any semiautomatic firearm with a capacity to hold more than 6 rounds, except:
 1. Firearms using .22 or .17 caliber rimfire ammunition, or
 2. Firearms altered to reduce their capacity to no more than 6 shells at one time in the magazine and chamber combined, or
 3. Autoloading pistols with a barrel length of less than 8 inches
- With a spear (except for frogs—see page 46)
- With a bow equipped with any mechanical device which is attached to the bow (other than the bowstring) for drawing, holding, or releasing the bowstring except for a person with a physical disability in possession of a Modified Longbow Authorization (compound bows are legal)
- With a spear gun or modified crossbow except for a person with a physical disability in possession of a Modified Crossbow Permit
- With an arrow with an explosive head or shaft
- With any device designed or intended to deliver drugs to an animal

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

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

Spotlighting

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

- You are not within 500 feet of a home or farm building, unless you have permission from the owner or lessee (when looking for deer or bear)
- While in or on a motor vehicle and operating a light and no person has a firearm, bow, or crossbow, or if:
 - » the implement is taken down, or
 - » the implement is securely fastened in a case, or
 - » the implement is locked in the trunk of the vehicle, or
 - » the implement is a handgun

For information on hunting furbearers at night, see page 60.

Possession of Firearms and Crossbows

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

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

Donate \$5 to the Habitat & Access Stamp Program

This year's Habitat & Access Stamp features an American kestrel. All funds from stamp donations are used for projects aimed at conserving fish and wildlife habitat and increasing access to public and private lands for outdoor recreation.

To make your donation today, scan the QR code, visit your local license-issuing agent, or call **1-866-933-2257**.



deer. A rifle larger than .22-caliber rimfire means a rifle chambered for a rimfire cartridge greater than .22-caliber or any centerfire rifle. Centerfire rifles less than .22-caliber and muzzleloading rifles are legal.

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

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

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

New York State recently adopted legislation governing the purchase or transfer of ownership of semiautomatic rifles. Go to www.dec.ny.gov or <https://safeact.ny.gov/resources-hunters> for more information.

Transportation of Firearms

A person may not transport or possess a shotgun, rifle, or crossbow in or on a motor vehicle unless the firearm is unloaded in both chamber and magazine or the crossbow is taken down or unloaded (bolt removed and crossbow uncocked).

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

A crossbow is considered unloaded when the arrow/bolt is removed and the crossbow is uncocked. While legally hunting migratory game birds, a loaded firearm may be possessed in a motorboat not under power or in a motorboat under power only while retrieving dead/crippled birds.

Whenever a gun is in a vehicle and an adult is not present, the gun must be locked in a plastic or metal hard-sided case or safe and be hidden from view. See <https://gunsafety.ny.gov/resources-gun-owners> for more details about gun transportation.

Discharge of Firearms, Crossbows, and Bows

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

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

You may hunt waterfowl over water within 500 feet of a dwelling or public structure as

Hunter Education

Hunter Education Program Requirements

All first-time hunters, bowhunters, and trappers must pass one or more courses before they can purchase a license. New York State offers both in-person courses and online options. For more information, visit: <https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/hunter-education/courses-certifications>

In-Person Hunter Education Program Courses

Free of charge – Hands on experience – Homework – Exam

In-person courses are taught by DEC trained and certified volunteer instructors and are offered throughout the year in all regions of the state. Homework must be completed in advance and brought to the class. Visit https://www.register-ed.com/programs/new_york for available in-person courses near you.

Online Hunter Education Program Courses

Has a fee – Take at your own pace – Question Modules – Exam

NY's online course options meet all the requirements to earn your hunter education or bowhunter education certificate. You must be a NYS resident to take the online courses.

Visit <https://www.hunter-ed.com/newyork/> to access online courses.

long as neither are within 500 feet in the direction you are shooting.

Protected and Unprotected Wildlife

In New York State, nearly all species of wildlife are protected. Most species, including endangered species, songbirds, hawks, and owls are fully protected and may not be taken. The few unprotected species include porcupine,

red squirrel, woodchuck, chipmunk, English sparrow, starling, rock pigeon, and monk parakeet. Unprotected species may be taken at any time without limit. However, a hunting license is required to hunt unprotected wildlife with a bow, crossbow, or firearm.

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



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Regulations for Land Types

Places to Hunt in New York

DECinfo Locator is an interactive map that includes DEC lands with public hunting access and other outdoor recreation information. Go to dec.ny.gov/maps/interactive-maps/decinfo-locator.

For additional information about places to hunt in New York State, go to dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/places.

Private Lands

Always ASK the landowner for permission to hunt and trap on private land. Consider if it were your land and how you would like a visitor to act.

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

Many landowners use "ASK permission" stickers on their signs, which show the landowners' willingness to allow access to their lands. Stickers are available for free from your local Regional Wildlife Office (see page 6) or from DEC Central Office, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754. For more information on hunting on private lands: dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/places#Hunting.

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

ASK Permission

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

NYSDEC, 625 Broadway,
Albany, NY 12233 4754

OR online
at dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/places



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

FWMA Cooperative Areas

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

A Word About Liability

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

State Recreation Lands

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

Motorized Access to State Lands

DEC has designated routes on State Forests, WMAs, Forest Preserve lands and conservation easement lands for motor vehicle use by people with a qualifying mobility disability. For a list of these opportunities, along with information on how to obtain a motorized access permit, visit: dec.ny.gov/places-to-go/accessible-recreation/mappwd.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

The Division of Fish and Wildlife manages over 211,000 acres of WMAs. These areas are located throughout the state and contain many different types of habitat and wildlife. They are managed primarily for wildlife and wildlife-related public use.

WMAs have specific use regulations in addition to the general use regulations for State land, and some WMAs also have area-specific regulations. Hunting, trapping, and fishing are allowed, except as specifically restricted by posted notice.

On WMAs, it is unlawful to:

- Target shoot unless posted as an allowed activity
- Camp without written permission
- Travel off-road by use of motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds, trail bikes, snowmobiles, or any other motorized vehicle, except as specifically allowed by a permit or posted notice
- Remove, cut, or willfully damage or destroy living vegetation of any kind
- Construct or place a permanent structure, blind, stand, or platform (including placement of nails or other hardware into trees)
- Leave any personal property when exiting the area, including trail cameras. Tree stands labeled with name and address or DEC ID number may be left overnight, but must be removed at the end of the hunting season
- Enter property posted with "No Trespassing" signs, except with written permission from DEC

For more information on WMAs, go to:

dec.ny.gov/places-to-go/wildlife-management-areas.

Lands and Forests

The Division of Lands and Forests manages nearly 5 million acres of land, located in almost every county of the state. From the remote locations of the Adirondack and Catskill mountains to the rolling hills of the western part of the state and the forested areas on Long Island, a wide range of hunting and trapping opportunities await the outdoor recreationist.

Forest Preserve Lands

Hunting and trapping are permitted in the Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves. State-owned lands located within these preserves are designated Forever Wild. All State land rules and camping requirements apply to the preserves, as well as additional rules specific to certain areas.

Need help? Call a Ranger 833-NYS-RANGERS (833-697-7264)

Call a Forest Ranger for assistance with search and rescue, wildfires, reporting violations on DEC lands, obtaining backcountry camping permits, and more.

For a list of Forest Rangers by county, visit dec.ny.gov/about/contact-us/forest-ranger-rosters or scan the QR code.

If you need immediate assistance, dial 911.



Contact the regional DEC office (see page 6) of the county where you would like to hunt or trap for more information. For further information on Forest Preserve lands, visit: dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/forest-preserve.

Conservation Easement Lands

Conservation easements are tracts of privately owned property on which New York State has acquired certain public recreation rights. These rights are outlined in the easement document as well as in a recreation management plan jointly developed by DEC and the landowner. Public hunting and trapping are allowed on many conservation easements, but due to the individual nature of each property, members of the public wishing to hunt or trap on a given easement are strongly encouraged to contact a local DEC office (see page 6) in the county where the property is located. The office can provide details on how to properly access the property and the hunting and trapping regulations unique to the easement. For further information on DEC-held conservation easements, visit dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/conservation-easements.

State Forest Lands

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

In some instances, permits are required to camp overnight on undeveloped State Forest lands. Unless specifically prohibited, groups of less than 10 people may camp on State Forest lands (other than developed campgrounds and WMAs) for three consecutive nights without a permit. To camp for four consecutive nights or more, a permit must be obtained. Groups of 10 or more people need a permit to camp on such lands for one night. Further information may be obtained from DEC regional offices for the county you want to camp in (see page 6). For further information on State Forest lands, visit: dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/state-forests.

Remember, it is unlawful to:

- Cut or injure trees (including construction of permanent tree stands, construction of natural blinds, clearing of shooting lanes around portable stands, placement of nails or other hardware into trees, or use of live trees as targets while sighting-in firearms).
- Store personal property, which includes:
 - » Trail cameras.
 - » Tree stands or hunting blinds that do not injure a tree and are properly marked or tagged with the owner's name and address or valid hunting license number may be placed during the appropriate hunting season, but must be removed at the end of the season.

- Erect, use, or maintain a building or structure.
- Deposit or leave any litter or rubbish.
- Operate a motor vehicle off maintained roads, except where specifically allowed.
- Operate an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) other than designated by posting or by permit.
- Camp without a permit when a permit is required.
- Possess a rifle, shotgun, or firearm in or upon buildings or grounds used for educational purposes (see Penal Law Section 265.01-a).

State Parks

Many State Parks offer waterfowl, small game, and big game hunting. For more information, contact the appropriate DEC regional office (see page 6) or visit the State Parks hunting website (parks.ny.gov/recreation/hunting). Call each State Park to find out specific hunting and access regulations. For a listing of State Parks that allow deer hunting, visit dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/places/state-parks-that-allow-hunting.

Other Areas to Hunt

- **Finger Lakes National Forest (federal):** Located east of Seneca Lake in Schuyler and Seneca counties, small and big game hunting opportunities are available. Special hunting permits are not required.
- **Fort Drum Military Base (federal):** Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 6H, located in Jefferson and Lewis counties includes over half of the 107,000-acre U.S. Army military installation, which is open to the public for hunting and trapping. See the Fort Drum Fish and Wildlife Management Program website for more information at fortdrum.isportsman.net or call 315-772-9303.
- **Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (federal):** Located at the north end of Cayuga Lake in Seneca County, this site offers small game and waterfowl hunting opportunities. This area is also open for deer hunting on a controlled basis during both the bowhunting and regular seasons. Permits are required. When deer management permit use is allowed, WMU 8J permits are valid. For current information on seasons, permits, maps, and regulations visit Montezuma's website at fws.gov/refuge/montezuma/visit-us/activities/hunting.
- **Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (federal):** Located in Genesee and Orleans counties in western New York, this site offers small game and waterfowl hunting opportunities.

This area is also open for deer hunting during both the bowhunting and regular seasons. For further information, visit fws.gov/refuge/iroquois/visit-us/activities/hunting.

- **Long Island:** For a brochure on areas to hunt and for access permits, please email the DEC regional office at wildlife.r1@dec.ny.gov.
- **New York City Watershed Lands:** The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) allows trapping, as well as deer, bear, turkey, and small game hunting on specially designated city water supply lands. Hunters and trappers must possess the appropriate, valid New York State sporting license and a valid access permit to hunt or trap on designated hunting and trapping areas on City water supply lands. For more information, including maps, visit nyc.gov/site/dep/recreation/hunting-trapping.page.

DEC Campgrounds

DEC operates 52 public campgrounds in the Adirondack and Catskill parks. Hunting is not permitted within these campgrounds, although some campgrounds allow camping during big game season. Unloaded firearms are allowed on public campgrounds only during the spring and fall hunting seasons. A valid hunting license is needed. Firearms cannot be discharged in the campground or day-use facilities at any time. For more information on DEC's campgrounds, visit dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/camping/campgrounds-day-use-areas.

Campgrounds outside the forest preserves are operated by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (see State Parks).

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

Licensed Guides

For information on licensed professional guides in New York State, contact NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, NY 12233-4752; call 518-402-8985; or visit dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/fish-wildlife-plant/licensed-guide-program.

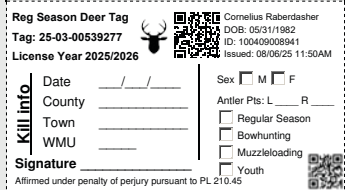


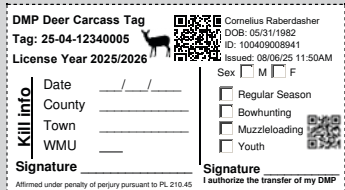
Use of ATVs and off road vehicles (ORVs) is restricted on most State lands.

Indigenous Nations Territories

New York State shares borders with nine sovereign Indigenous Nations. Nation territories or lands, most often being reservations, are reserved for the exclusive use of recognized Nation citizens. While most Indigenous Nations do not permit non Nation citizens to hunt, trap, or fish on their land, some have made exceptions for limited public hunting, trapping, and fishing access. New York State sporting license privileges do not extend to Indigenous Nations lands. Check with the respective Nation's office to determine the requirements for hunting, trapping, and fishing within the Nation's boundaries, and whether a special permit may be required if these activities are allowed. As a responsible New York State hunter, it is important to know where you are; any trespass onto Indigenous Nations land while hunting or trapping or afield is enforceable by community or tribal police, DEC Environmental Conservation Police Officers, and NYS Police.

Deer Tag Descriptions

For all season dates, see page 27. See page 12 for privilege information.

Tag Name	Tag Can Be Used In	Tag Is Valid For
Regular Season Tag Only you may hunt with this tag. This tag cannot be transferred to another hunter.	Regular Season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Zone Southern Zone Westchester County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular (bowhunting only) Suffolk County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular (bowhunting only) Special Firearms (special permit, see page 20) Late Season Bowhunting (privilege required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Zone Southern Zone Late Season Muzzleloading (privilege required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Zone (check open areas and dates on map on page 27) Southern Zone Youth Deer Season	Antlered Deer Only Except: May be used for antlered or antlerless deer as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Westchester County (WMU 3S) In Suffolk County (WMU 1C) In areas restricted to bowhunting only (WMUs 4J and 8C) In late seasons (with bowhunting or muzzleloading privilege) By Junior Hunters during the Youth Deer Hunt IF you have a non-ambulatory permit. 
Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag Only you may hunt with this tag. This tag cannot be transferred to another hunter.	Bowhunting Season including dates when crossbows can be used (privilege required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Zone Southern Zone Muzzleloading Season (privilege required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Zone (check open areas and dates on map on page 27) Southern Zone Westchester County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular (bowhunting only) Suffolk County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular (bowhunting only) Special Firearms (special permit; see page 20) Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt except as specified in right-hand column.	Antlered or Antlerless Deer Bowhunting or Muzzleloading seasons only (including the regular season in Westchester County and the regular and special firearms seasons in Suffolk County), corresponding to the privileges purchased. Junior Bowhunters will receive this tag, which will be valid in the special bowhunting seasons and during the regular season, with bowhunting equipment only. Except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be used for antlered deer only during muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs (see map page 27). 
Bow/Mz Season Antlerless Tag Only you may hunt with this tag. This tag cannot be transferred to another hunter.	Bowhunting Season including dates when crossbows can be used (privilege required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Zone Southern Zone Muzzleloading Season (privilege required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Zone (check open areas and dates on map, page 27) Southern Zone Westchester County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular (bowhunting only) Suffolk County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular (bowhunting only) Special Firearms (special permit; see page 20) Not valid during the Northern or Southern Zone Regular Seasons or Youth Hunt except as specified in right-hand column.	Antlerless Deer Only Bowhunting or Muzzleloading seasons only (including the regular season in Westchester County and the regular and special firearms seasons in Suffolk County), corresponding to the privileges purchased. Except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May not be used during muzzleloading seasons in certain Northern Zone WMUs that are Antlered Deer-Only areas (see map page 27). May be used by junior Bowhunters during the Bowhunting and Regular Seasons. 
Deer Management Permit Tag This is the only tag that can be transferred to another hunter (see page 31 for how to transfer a DMP carcass tag).	Any Open Deer Season	Antlerless Deer Only Valid only for the WMU specified and printed on the DMP Deer Tag (Deer Management Permit). See page 29. 

For information on which tags may be used when hunting with a crossbow, see page 23.

Special Seasons Designated for Young Hunters



Cooper B. after a successful harvest this past bear season



Vincent T. with his successful harvest in Columbia County

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/Indigenous Peoples' 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 45) 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	Sept. 27–28, 2025
Western New York	Oct. 11–12, 2025
Long Island	Oct. 25–26, 2025

Youth Waterfowl Hunt

Waterfowl Hunting Zone	Dates
Northeastern	Sept. 27–28, 2025
Southeastern	Sept. 27–28, 2025
Lake Champlain	Sept. 27–28, 2025
Western	Sept. 27–28, 2025
Long Island	Nov. 8–9, 2025

Youth Wild Turkey Hunt

Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary) and Suffolk County	Apr. 25–26, 2026
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Youth Firearms Deer and Bear Hunt

Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary; excluding bowhunting-only WMUs)	Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day Weekend; Oct. 11–13, 2025
--	--

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



For more information,
please contact NY NASP

at 518-402-8855 or
katelyn.ritzko@dec.ny.gov



Junior Big Game Hunting

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

A 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 (dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/deer-bear/junior-big-game) for a map 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).

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:

dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/hunting-trapping-photo-gallery



- 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 big game 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 NYS's Trapper Education Program whether they will be trapping alone or with an adult licensed trapper.

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.

New York State & Environmental Conservation Police

Q: I'm using an app that shows land owned by New York 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 (page 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). "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.

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: 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 during different seasons. Coyote is a good example of a species that can be hunted and trapped, but season dates for hunting and trapping this species are different, so be sure to check the guide before going afield.

Q: I 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 11.

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

A: No, only the person possessing the DMP may take an antlerless deer. DMPs may be consigned from one hunter to another, but this needs to happen before the deer is harvested. See the DMP consignment rules (page 31) 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 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: 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.

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 Mar. 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 underwater 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: May I use a remote camera on public land to monitor wildlife activity?

A: No. Remote cameras may not be left on State Forests or Wildlife Management Areas unless specifically authorized by DEC.

Q: Can I use a remote camera to meet the trap check guidelines?

A: No, you need to physically check the traps within the trap check time regulations.

Q: Can I waterfowl hunt on a stream designated and posted as a NYSDEC "Public Fishing Stream"?

A: No, Public Fishing easements are for fishing only. Access for other recreational activities would require landowner permission.

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

New York State is a member of Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (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 wildlifecrimetoppers.org.



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

dec.ny.gov/about/website-usage-and-policies/language-assistance

Kathy Hochul, Governor |

www.dec.ny.gov

Translation Available. Don't see your language? Ask!

English

To have sections of this document translated into a language you can understand, use the contact information below. There is no charge for the translation.

**Español
Spanish**

Si necesita la traducción de este documento a un idioma que pueda entender, utilice la información de contacto indicada abajo. La traducción es gratis.

Call: 518-402-8044 or email: public@dec.ny.gov

Contact an Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) — 1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)

Scan QR code for an up-to-date
list of ECOs in each region.



ECOs Manns, Bohling, and Bevis with an illegally harvested buck dubbed as "King Louie" by the locals in Montgomery County due to his enormous size.

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. Has it already happened, is in progress, 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 were the exact circumstances or actions associated with the violation?



A photo of the first annual woman's pheasant hunt sponsored by The Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the NYS Conservation Officers Association organized by Lt. Gonyeau.

JOIN THE THIN GREEN LINE

Become an
**Environmental
Conservation
Police Officer**



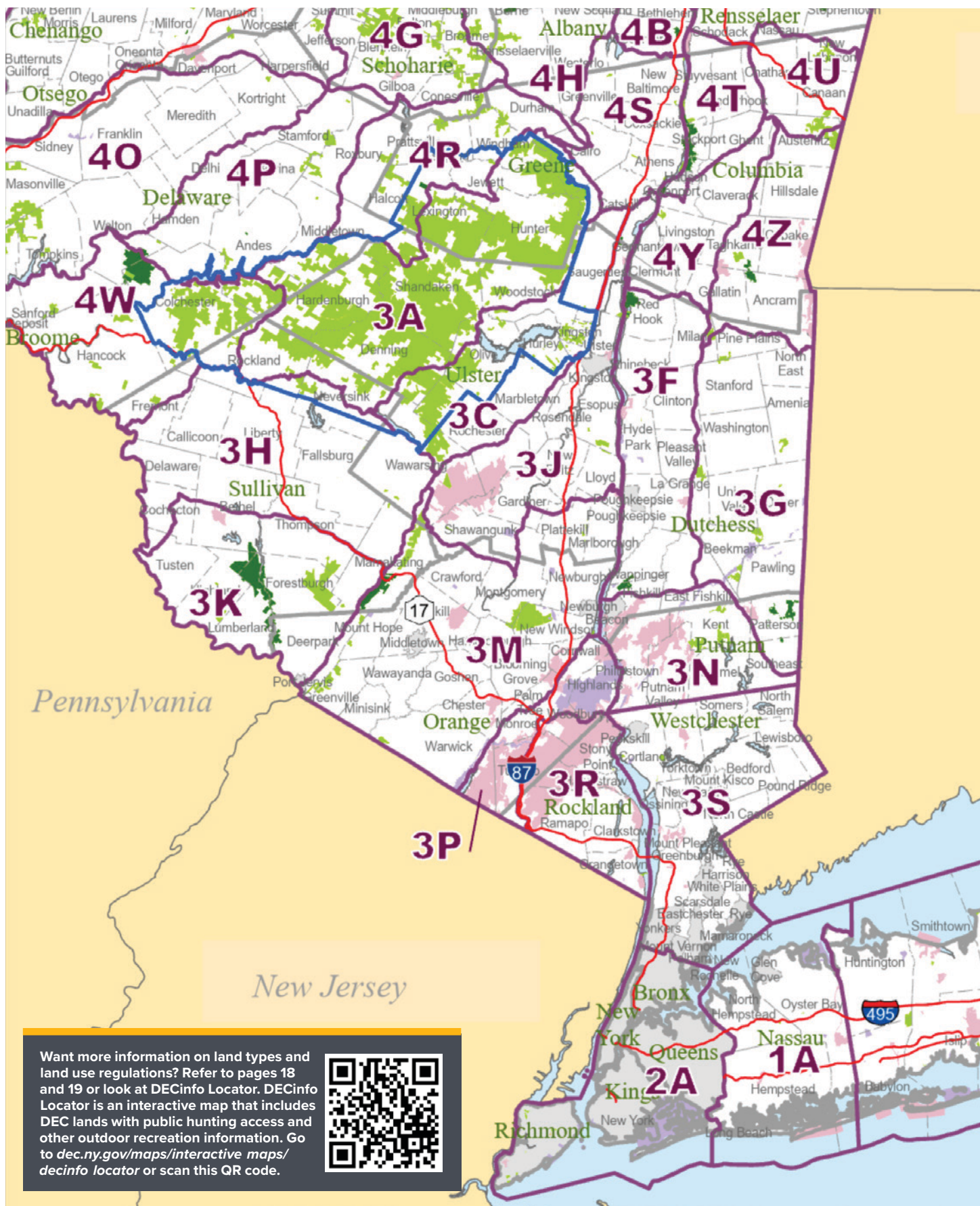
Department of
Environmental
Conservation



LEARN MORE AT:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/about/746.html>

Regional Maps



Want more information on land types and land use regulations? Refer to pages 18 and 19 or look at DECinfo Locator. DECinfo Locator is an interactive map that includes DEC lands with public hunting access and other outdoor recreation information. Go to dec.ny.gov/maps/interactive_maps/decinfo_locator or scan this QR code.



WMA Accessible Features for Regions 1 and 3

Suffolk

Otis Pike Preserve (Riverhead, Brookhaven)

- Parking, blind

Randall Pond, Ridge Conservation Area (Ridge)

- Parking, fishing access, permit station, viewing area, viewing platform, 2.1 mi foot trails, restroom

Sullivan/Orange

Bashkill WMA (Mamakating, Deerpark)

- Parking, blind, fishing access

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

- Parking, eagle blind, restroom

* CP-3 - Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to dec.ny.gov/places-to-go/accessible-recreation/mappwd for application instructions and forms.



Did you know, in 2024 DEC Forest Rangers

- Patrolled 30,781 miles of trails by foot,
- Patrolled 2,034 miles of interior boundary line,
- Participated in 417 public outreach events,
- Conducted 362 search and rescue missions.

dec.ny.gov/environmental/protection/public-safety/forest-rangers

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

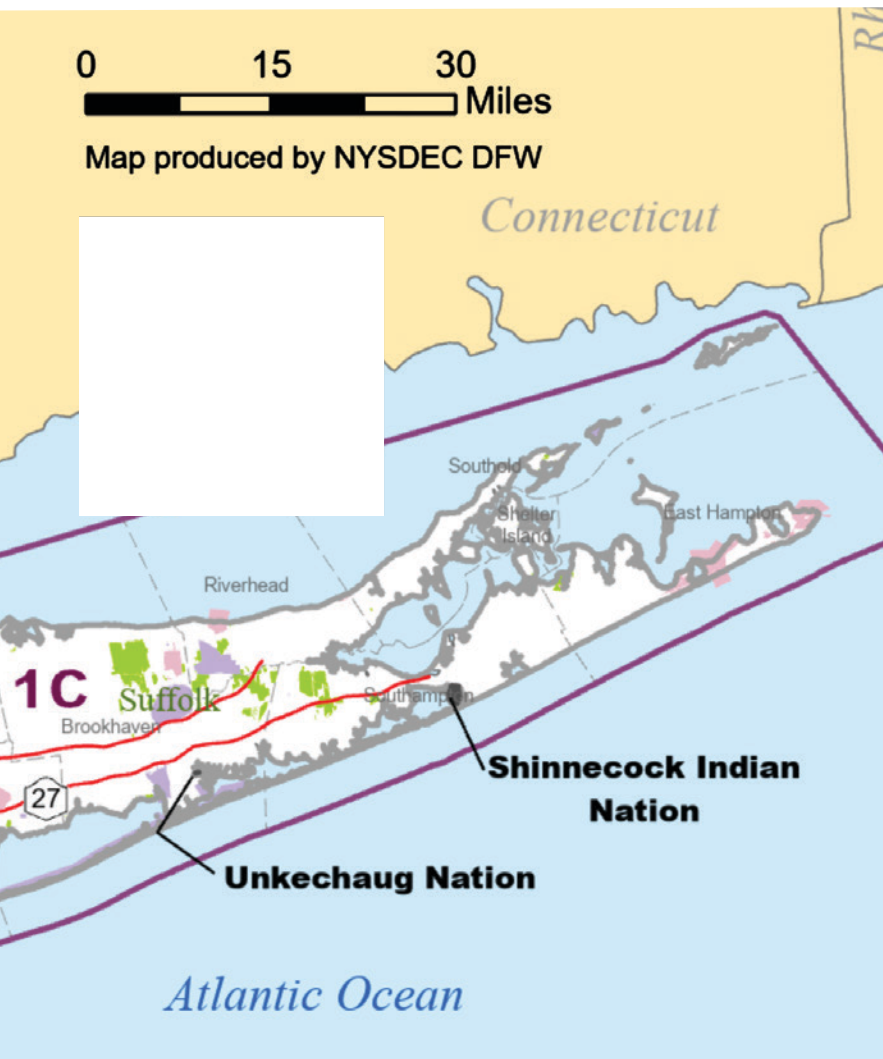
PROTECT YOUR WATERS

Clean. Drain. Dry.
Boating and Fishing Equipment



0 15 30 Miles

Map produced by NYSDEC DFW



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!



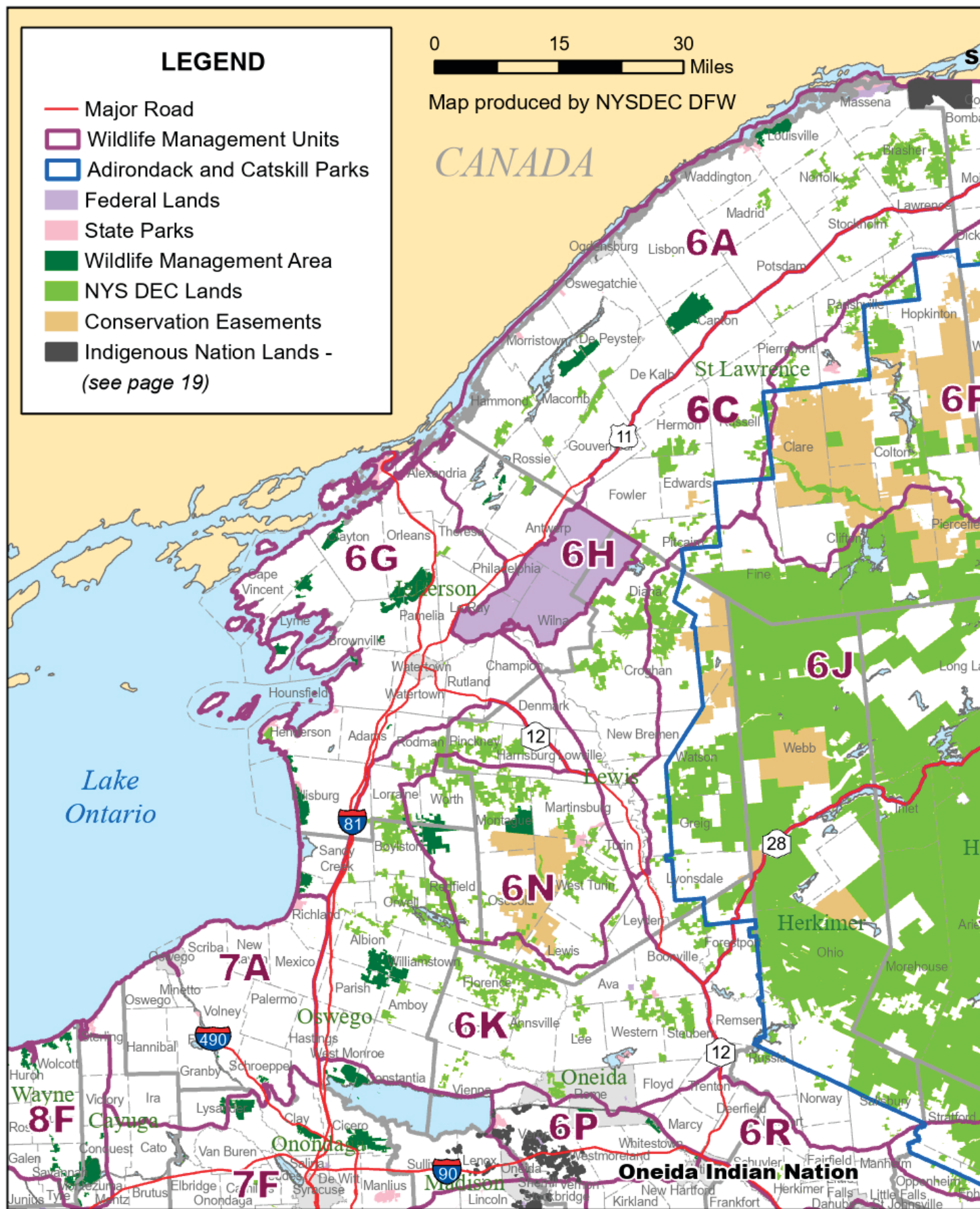
Department of Environmental Conservation

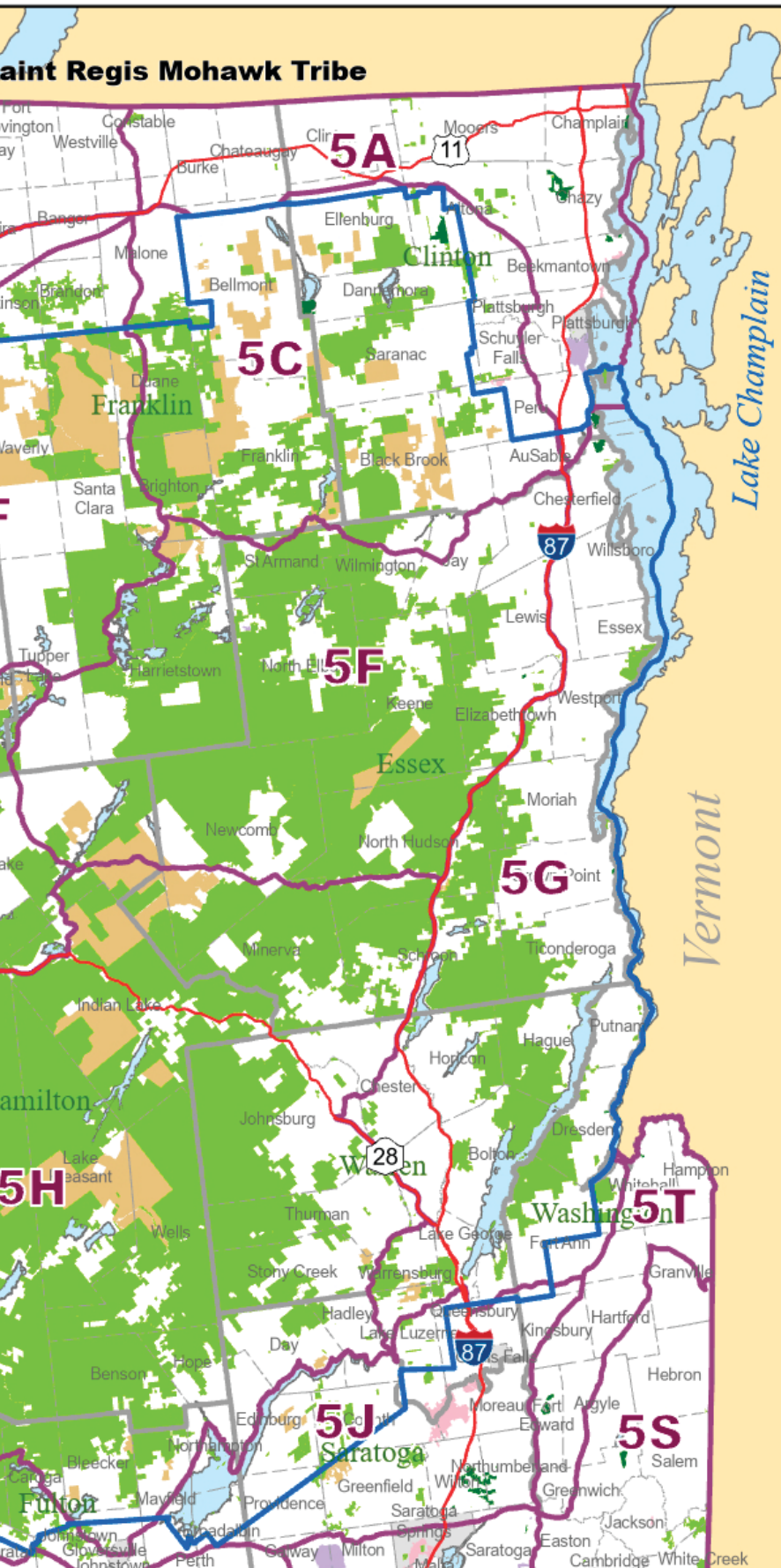


IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL: 911

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
Kings Bay WMA (Champlain)
• Parking, 150 ft path, viewing platform
Lake Alice WMA (Chazy)
• Parking, 2 blinds, fishing access, nature trail, 0.4 mi CP-3 trail*
Essex
Wickham Marsh WMA (Chesterfield)
• Parking, viewing platform, 0.1 mi foot path
Jefferson
Ashland Flats WMA (Lyme)
• Parking, observation tower
Black Pond WMA (Ellisburg)
• Parking, fishing platform, viewing platform, 0.3 mi foot trail, 0.88 mi CP-3 trail*
French Creek WMA
• Parking
Lakeview WMA (Ellisburg)
• Parking, fishing platform, 0.6 mi foot trails, restroom
Lewis
Tug Hill WMA
• Parking
Oneida
Oriskany Flats WMA (Rome)
• 1.16 mi CP-3 trail
Saratoga
Saratoga Sand Plains WMA Archery Range (Wilton)
• Parking, path
St. Lawrence
Upper & Lower Lakes WMA (Canton)
• Parking, portable blind pads, 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

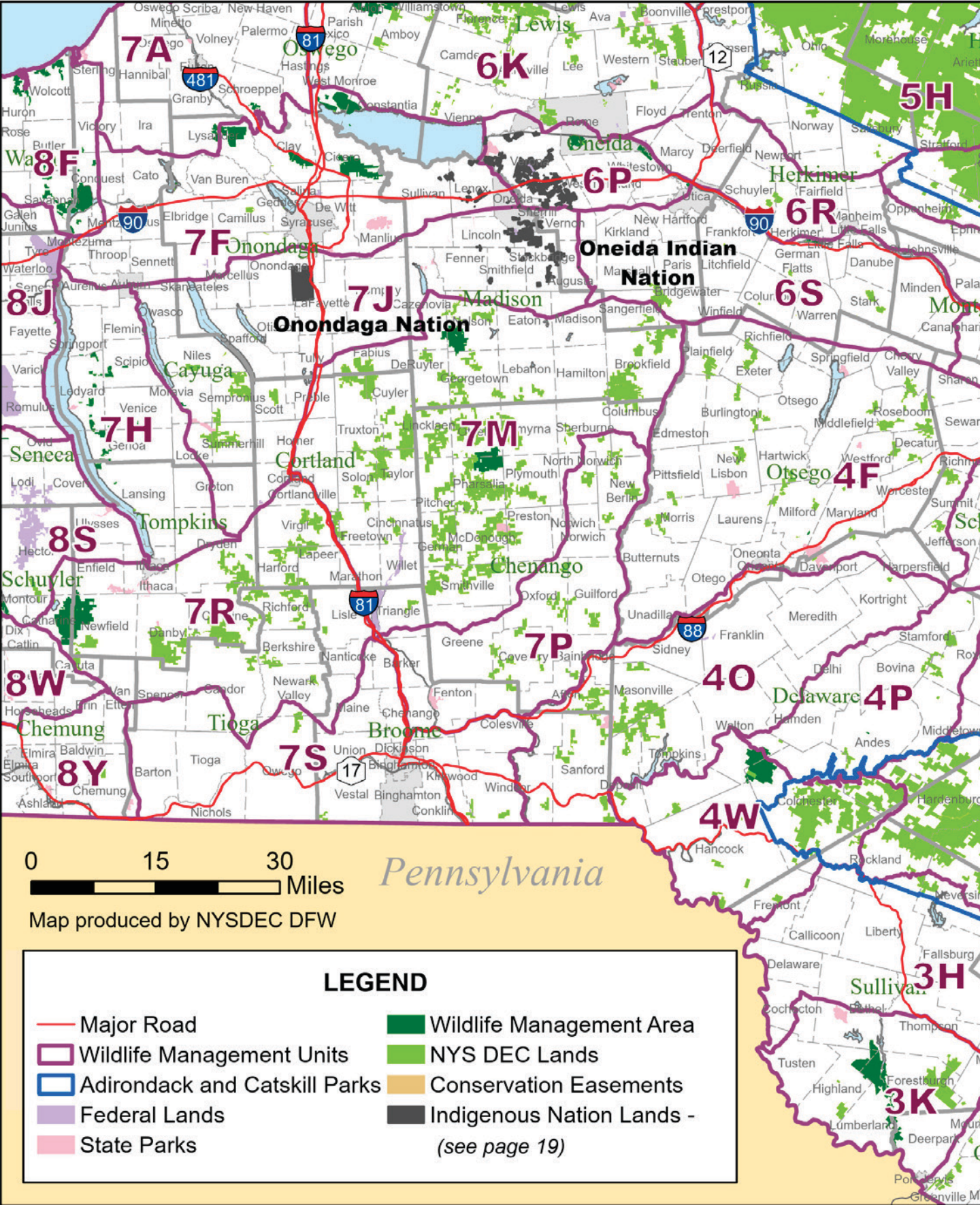
* CP-3 - Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to dec.ny.gov/places-to-go/accessible-recreation/mappwd for application instructions and forms.

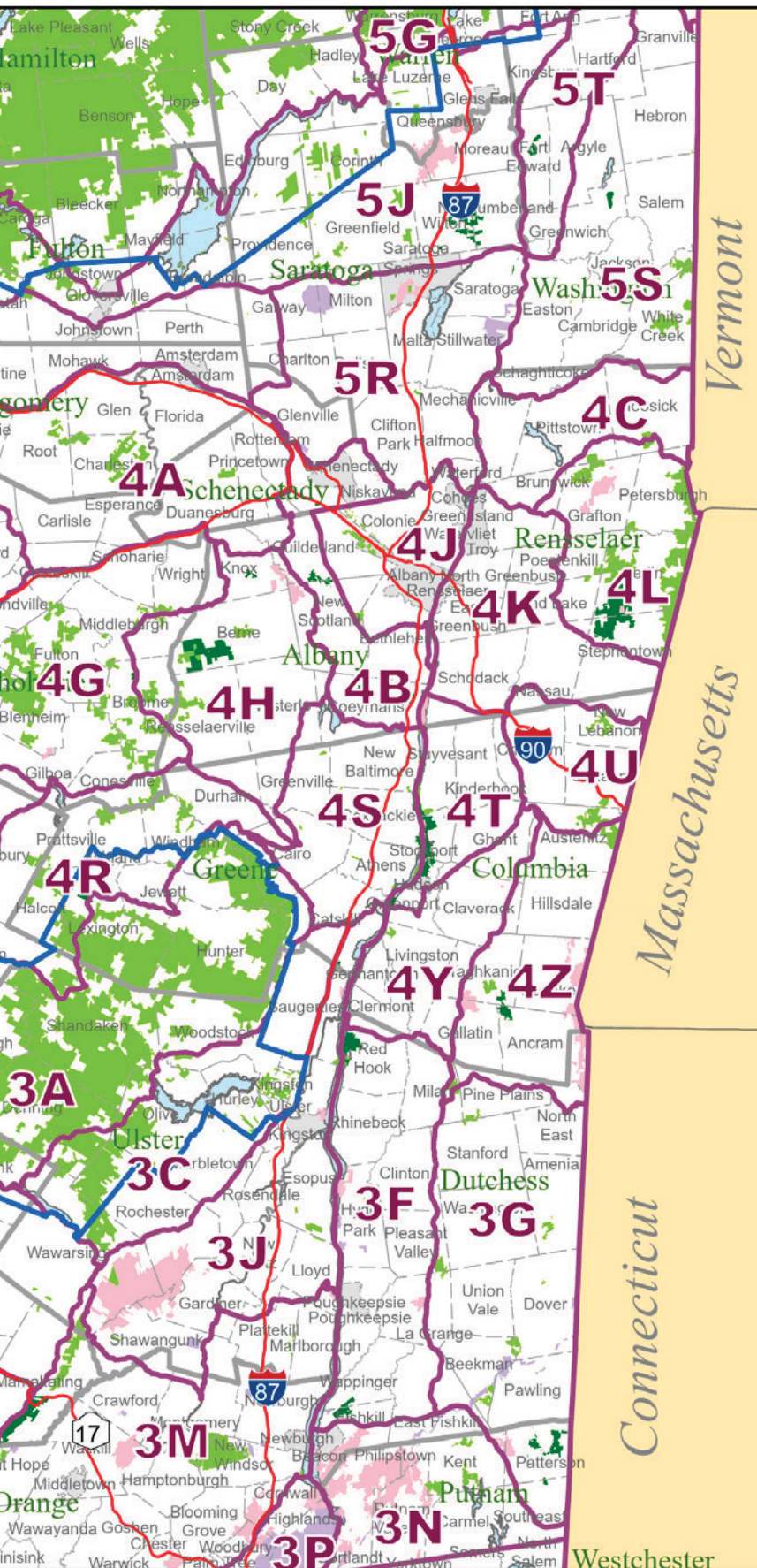
Conservation Easements

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: dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/conservation-easements.

Regional Maps





WMA Accessible Features for Regions 4 and 7

Albany
Partridge Run WMA (Berne)
• Parking, observation tower/ADA trail, CP-3 trails*
Delaware
Bear Spring Mountain WMA (Walton)
• CP-3 trails*
Greene
Vosburgh Swamp WMA (Coxsackie, Athens)
• Parking, boardwalk, waterfowl hunting/viewing blind
Onondaga
Hamlin Marsh WMA (Clay)
• Parking, boardwalk, blind, viewing platform, 0.1 mi foot path
Three Rivers WMA (Lysander)
• Parking, viewing platform, 0.2 mi gravel foot path to hunting blind
Oswego
Deer Creek Marsh WMA (Richland)
• Parking, 0.1 mi foot path
Rensselaer
Capital District WMA (Stephentown and Berlin)
• CP-3 trails*
Schoharie
Franklinton Vlaie WMA (Broome)
• Parking, viewing pavilion, fishing/viewing 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



**What's lurking in
your firewood?**

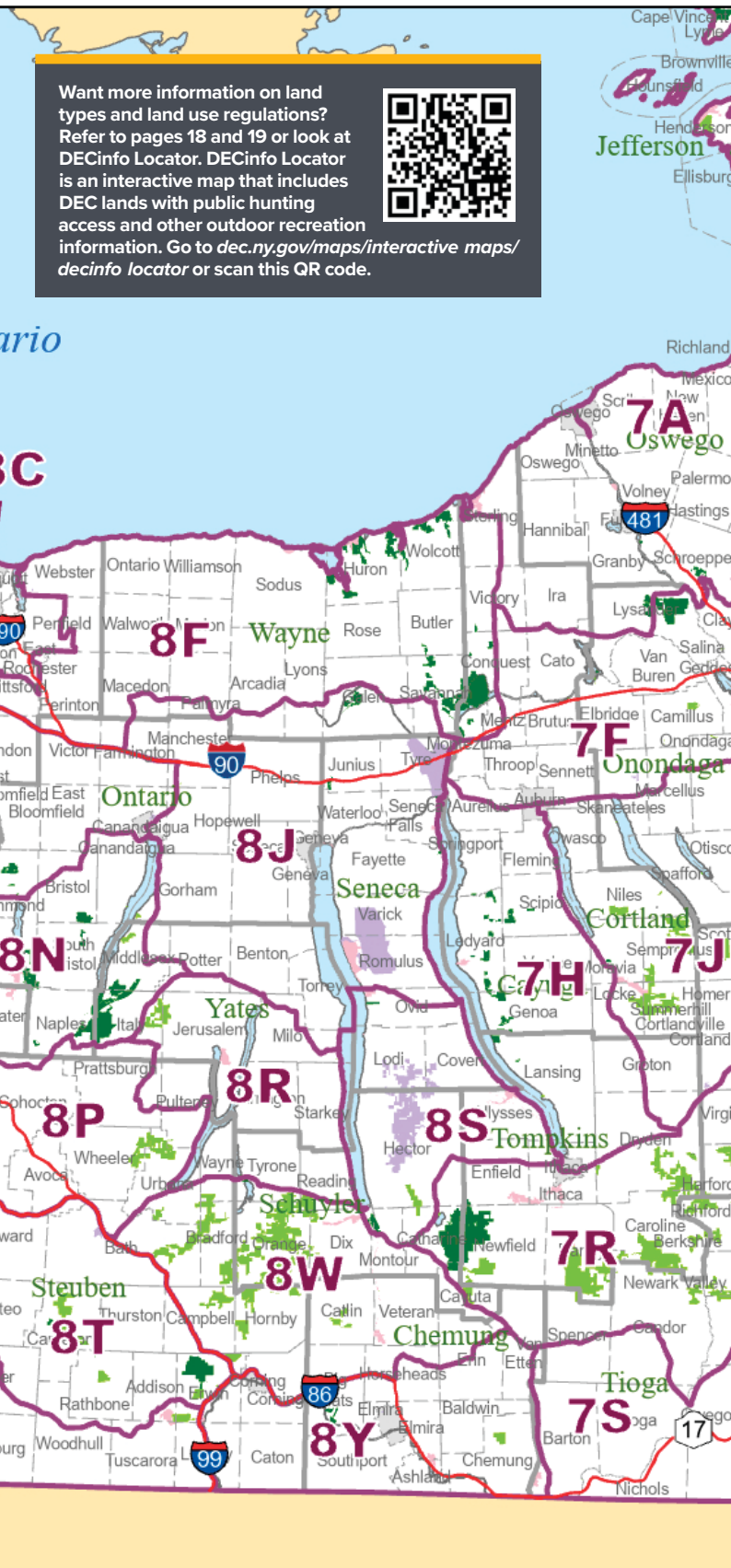
ASIAN LONGHORNED
BEETLE

EMERALD
ASH BORER

Regional Maps



Want more information on land types and land use regulations? Refer to pages 18 and 19 or look at DECinfo Locator. DECinfo Locator is an interactive map that includes DEC lands with public hunting access and other outdoor recreation information. Go to dec.ny.gov/maps/interactive_maps/decinfo_locator or scan this QR code.

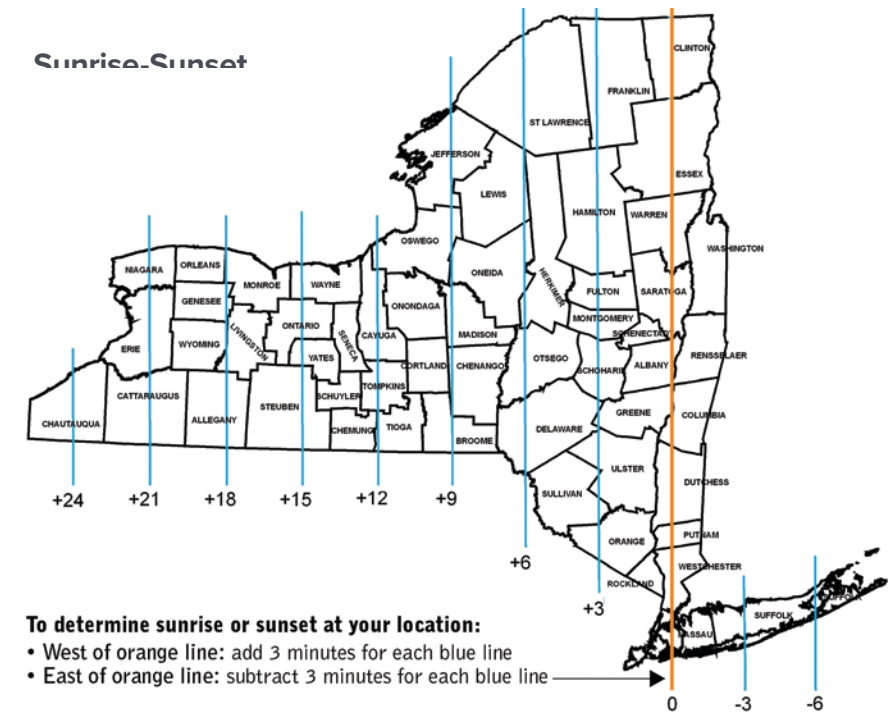


WMA Accessible Features for Regions 8 and 9

Allegany
Hanging Bog WMA (New Hudson)
• 0.14 mi CP-3 trail*
Cattaraugus
Birch Run Ponds FWMA (Allegany)
• Parking, fishing access, 0.3 mi foot trail, seasonal restroom
Cayuga/Wayne/Seneca
Northern Montezuma WMA (Victory, Conquest, Mentz, Montezuma, Butler, Savannah, Seneca Falls)
• Parking, viewing platform, 1.4 mi foot trails, restroom
Chautauqua
Chautauqua Lake FWMA (Ellery, North Harmony)
• At Stow Farm: parking, blind/viewing platform, 0.2 mi foot trail
Watts Flats (Harmony)
• Parking, viewing platform
Erie
Spicer Creek WMA (Grand Island)
• Parking, 2 blinds, 0.4 mi foot trail
Genesee
John White WMA (Alabama)
• Parking, blind, 0.62 mi CP-3 trail*
Livingston
Conesus Inlet WMA (Conesus)
• Parking, 0.1 mi foot trail, viewing area, 1 mi CP-3 trail*
Livingston/Allegany
Rattlesnake Hill WMA (Nunda, Ossian, Grove)
• Parking, viewing platform, 9.3 mi CP-3 trails*
Monroe
Braddock Bay WMA (Parma, Greece)
• Parking, fishing access, viewing platform, kayak launch
Ontario
Honeoye Creek WMA (Richmond)
• 2.8 mi CP-3 trails*
Ontario/Yates
High Tor WMA (Naples, Italy Middlesex)
• Parking, fishing access, hand launch, 8.4 mi CP-3 trails*
Orleans/Erie/Niagara/Genesee
Tonawanda WMA (Shelby, Newstead, Royalton, Alabama)
• Parking, blind, 0.16 mi foot trail
Orleans/Genesee
Oak Orchard WMA (Barre, Shelby, Oakfield, Alabama)
• Parking, viewing platform, pavilion, 0.14 mi foot trails, 3.2 mi CP-3 trails*
Schuyler
Catharine Creek WMA (Dix, Montour)
• 2 mi CP-3 trails*
Waneta-Lamoka WMA (Tyrone)
• Parking, hand launch
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)
• Parking, fishing access, hand launch, seasonal restroom
Wyoming
Carlton Hill MUA (Middlebury)
• 0.6 mi CP-3 trails*

* CP-3 - Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities. Go to dec.ny.gov/places-to-go/accessible-recreation/mappwd for application instructions and forms.

Sunrise & Sunset



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