

FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS OF SULLIVAN COUNTY, INC., minutes of July 13, 2011. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. with a salute to the flag. There were 35 delegates present. Guests: Kevin Clark, Region 3 Big Game Deer Biologist; Carl Lindsley, DEC Bear Specialist; Deming Lindsley, DEC CO. Kevin Clark indicated the Statewide Deer Plan is completed and the public comment period is ongoing until Thursday, July 28. Comments should be sent to the DEC Deer Management Plan, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754 or emailed to deerplan@new.york.state.ny.us. This proposed plan includes: a) Early Southern Zone bow season starting October 1st; b) Possibility of an early muzzleloader season in units that are chronically above objective; c) Youth Firearms Season for deer (ages 12-15) on Columbus Day weekend; d) Limit bow and muzzleloader harvest to antlered deer only in WMUs that have no DMP's e) Expand mandatory antler restrictions to WMUs 3A, 4G, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4S, 4W starting in 2012. The DEC is currently working with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation in order to open/expand deer hunting opportunities in three State Parks. 3. DEC staff and NYS sportsmen conducted approximately 15 Deer Winter Mortality Surveys in 6 WMU's (3A, 3C, 3G, 3K, 3M, 3N) in April, 2011. The only evidence of a possible winter mortality came from one deer in WMU 3K at the Lower Mongaup River Wintering Area. Winter mortality was assumed to have an impact despite these findings based on the Winter Severity Index used for making DMP decisions. Anyone wanting a Nuisance Permit MUST fill out an application. If information contained therein is not truthful person making out the application can be prosecuted. The buck harvest per mile in 3H is doing great. The deer population is increasing. For the past several years the acorn crop has been excellent. Some areas have an extremely high deer population and the DEC wants this lowered. DEC is trying to open up more hunting in 3 state parks. They are starting to work on Ulster County parks for deer hunting. Kevin Clark was questioned on why we haven't been given permission to feed deer during severe winters and to save young deer. He said the DEC was opposed to feeding deer. Carl Lindsley has had lots of bear problems with many injured and limping bear, possibly injured by being hit with cars. They have had to kill one bear who entered a building. He indicated the campers involved at Camp DeBruce do not have much interest in taking the Hunter Safety Course. Excelsior Club is having a Trapping Course July 30 from 7am-4pm. Call Ann Macnamara at the DEC 256-3122 if interested in the course. She will sign you up and send you a study brochure. Deming Lindsley indicated the DEC is holding a firewood check on Rt. 17 AT Exit 113 (by Rt. 309). Emerald Ash Borer traps have been put up for to check to see if they are in the area, etc. A fox killed at Swan Lake tested positive for rabies. Several folks bitten and must receive shots. Testing is only done if the skin has been pierced. Four men at Junction Pool were fined \$1,600. for taking trout over the limit and without licenses. The highest court in California ruled that the DEC officers can request to see licenses and it is not an invasion of privacy and they are just doing their job. Education: If kids want to go bow fishing they do not need a license and there's no age limit. Motion to dispense reading the June minutes since all delegates receive a copy. Seconded, CARRIED.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Motion to pay all bills. Seconded, CARRIED. Thank you letter received and read from Alex Lander for scholarship award. Thank you letters received from Sarah Ingolia and Scotty Herbert for Jr. Sportsmen of the Year awards. There will be a free Forage Management for Whitetails workshop for the Dr. Deer System. James C. Kroll, author of Aging and Judging Live Whitetails will be the speaker. This will take in nutritional needs, plots, how too's on planting, etc. and will be held at Cohecton Mills Store, 30 Depot Rd., Cohecton, NY 12726 at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 30, 2011, RSVP (570)224-4144 and is put on by Forage Products. A large crowd is expected. If you could use an electric trolling motor call 434-4291. It is a 12 volt, 4 speed with a 38" shaft and it's for sale.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

PRES.: No report.

SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER

JUL 18 2011

RECEIVED

V.P.: No report.

SEC.: No report.

Treas.: After paying bills we have \$10,897.25 in our account. Motion to accept report as read.
Seconded, CARRIED.

COUNCIL DEL.: Read some resolutions and they were voted on.

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

FISH: DEC public boat launch at White Lake in bad shape, Secretary to write DEC a letter.

SMALL GAME: Most female turkeys have lost their chicks. Some folks only seeing 1 or 2 chicks and some seeing 8 hens with no chicks. This is probably due to terribly rainy conditions. It was indicated they could have several more hatches yet into August but the later they are hatched the less chance they have to make it to spring. Turkey numbers will be way down come spring.

BIG GAME: See attached Big Game Report 7/13/11.

CONS. ED.: We had one cancellation but it was filled. All going well.

FWMB: In Westchester Co. access and participation in deer hunting on county properties is under review. A 250 acres piece at Basherkill to open for small game hunting. The booklet for home study for kids going to camp has been improved.

SPORTSMEN'S ED.: **Bowhunting:** 8/21, 8am-5pm, Morgan Hill Game Assoc., Hurley, Must pre-register; 9/17 9 am-5pm & 9/18 9am-finish, Frost Valley YMCA, Clayville. Call Carmel (845)985-2291 X 205. **Trapping:** Excelsior Club 7/30 8am to 4 pm, call Ann Macnamara at DEC 256-31122 for booklet and sign up or Joe Kaiser (845)557-0577, cell (845)807-6970. **Hunting:** 8/26 6pm, 9pm and 8/27 8:30 am-5pm, Walden Sportsman Club, Walden, call Joe (845)651-4023; 9/17 9am-5pm and 9/18 9am-finish, Frost Valley YMCA, Claryville, call Carmel (845)985-2291, x 205.

DEP: No report.

GRAHAMSVILLE FAIR: Kay needs people to help at Fair 8/19, 20 and 21. Call her so she can schedule a time (845)482-4987. Even an hour or two would help.

YOUTH DAY: Need folks to help cutting wood for kits for blue bird, bat and wood duck houses. Call Kay (845)482-4987.

NRA: See attached NRA Report 7/13/11.

SWEEPSTAKES: We're up \$80. From last year. More tickets call Kay.

BANQUET: Saturday 10/1, \$25. per. Call to reserve (845)482-4987. Only 160 tkts. available.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion to rescind motion made at June meeting, 13 to rescind and 15 to approve. Seconded, CARRIED. Motion to keep DEC managing our deer herd. Seconded, CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

EXPO.: Villa Roma holding S.C. Sportsmen & Outdoor Expo. 9/23 2pm, to 8pm & 9/24, 10 am-4pm. If you have ideas for this or want to help call Harvey Dickens (845)434-4291. President has appointed Harvey and Cliff Horton to set this up. S.C. Conservation Youth Camp thanked us for our donation. Motion to send letter to DEC supporting antler restriction as outlined in the Deer Management Plan. Seconded, CARRIED. Request made to send \$200. to Dutchess Federation to help pay for a newsletter. Motion made for our Federation to see a copy of this newsletter before we contribute. Seconded, CARRIED. Motion to adjourn 10:20 p.m.

Next meeting 8/10/11, 7:30 p.m. Kauneonga Lk. Fire Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Edna Calkin, Secretary

NRA REPORT 7-13-11

1. The congressional investigation into the Justice Department's operation "Fast and Furious" which allowed firearms to be transported to Mexican Drug Gangs is heating up. Congress recently found out that other divisions of the Justice Department besides the ATFE also transferred firearms to Honduran Drug Gangs and the firearms that were transferred to the drug gangs were paid for by American taxpayers. Some of these firearms were used by gang members to kill an American ATFE agent in Mexico and a US Border Patrol agent in the US. The scandal could implicate the top echelons of the Justice Department including Attorney General Eric Holder.

2. Multiple press reports indicate the Obama administration is planning to unveil new, but unspecified, gun control initiatives. These initiatives will be put through by executive order to be enforced by the Justice Department. If done this way the administration will circumvent Congress' authority as a law making body and destroy our system of checks and balances.

2. Schumer's new bill S. 436 "Fix Gun Checks Acts of 2011 sounds like it will speed up the NIC's check when purchasing a firearm but proposes that all private transfers of firearms regardless of location will be subject to a national instant background check. Even giving someone a firearm to try when you are at a range could be considered a firearm's transfer and in violation of federal law without a NIC's check.

3. This week, the most visible gun control advocate in this country, New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, appeared on MSNBC and CNN, promoting his new TV ad urging that Congress impose so-called "terrorist watchlist" gun control legislation. The ad features an edited portion of the well-known video of a scraggly-looking al Qaeda misfit claiming -- falsely -- that jihadists can buy machine guns at gun shows in the United States, without a background check.

4. After pressuring lawmakers, Sheldon Silver brought the microstamping bill to a vote this past May. It passed with a floor vote of 77-55. This was the lowest number of Yea votes supporting a gun control in the Assembly in 20 years. The state Senate is unlikely to take up the bill.

5. The NRA is looking for co-sponsors for the national pistol license reciprocity bill H.R. 822. Call Congressman Hinchey 845-311-4466 and ask him to be a co-sponsor.

BIG GAME REPORT 7/13/11

DRAFT DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The DEC now has a draft deer management plan available for your review and comment. The proposed 5-year plan is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7211.html> and we will be accepting public comment on the draft through Thursday, July 28.

The draft plan describes six primary goals that encompass the current priorities for deer management and the values and issues expressed by the public:

1. Manage deer populations at levels that are appropriate for human and ecological concerns;
2. Promote and enhance deer hunting as an important recreational activity, tradition, and population management tool in New York;
3. Reduce negative impacts caused by deer;
4. Foster public understanding and communication about deer ecology, deer management, economic aspects and recreational opportunities;
5. Manage deer to promote healthy and sustainable forests and enhance habitat conservation efforts to benefit deer and other species; and
6. Ensure that the necessary resources are available to support sound management of white-tailed deer in New York.

Key strategies and objectives

1. Initiate a process to discontinue use of either-sex and antlerless-only bow and muzzleloader tags for antlerless harvest and transition to a system based on Deer Management Permits in all areas of the state
- 2. Incorporate a firearms deer hunting opportunity for youth (ages 12-15*) on Columbus Day Weekend in all portions of New York where hunting deer with firearms is allowed.
- 3. Begin the Southern Zone bowhunting season and the regular season in Westchester County on October 1 each year.
- 4. Limit the bowhunting and muzzleloading seasons in the Southern Zone to antlered deer-only in units where no DMPs will be offered for antlerless harvest.
5. Promote efforts to reduce harvest of young (=1.5 years old) bucks.
- 6. Continue mandatory antler restrictions in WMUs 3C, 3H, 3J, and 3K.
- 7. Beginning in the 2012 big game hunting season, expand the mandatory antler restriction area to include WMUs 3A, 4G, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4S, and 4W.
8. Develop objective criteria for considering mandatory antler restrictions in other portions of New York.
- 9. Improve hunter access to public and private lands.

Changes to the Environmental conservation law

1. DEC supports the use of crossbows for hunting during all seasons in which other bowhunting equipment is allowed.
2. DEC recommends that the setback distance for discharge of bowhunting equipment (longbows and crossbows) be reduced from 500 feet to 150 feet.
- >3. DEC believes it is prudent to discontinue use of either-sex and antlerless-only bow and muzzleloader tags for antlerless harvest and transition to an antlerless harvest system based on DMPs in all portions of New York State.
4. DEC recognizes that elimination of either-sex and antlerless-only bow and muzzleloader tags may be a disincentive for some hunters to pursue antlerless deer.

Accordingly, DEC also believes that the application fee for DMPs should be reduced or removed.

Comments may be submitted in writing through July 28 to DEC Deer Management Plan, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754 or by email to deerplan@gw.dec.state.ny.us using "Deer plan" in the subject line.

EVALUATION OF PILOT ANTLER RESTRICTION PROGRAM

The DEC has completed summary evaluations of the pilot antler restriction program in the southern Catskills. DEC assessed impacts of the antler restriction by monitoring changes evident in the deer harvest and by monitoring hunter attitudes through a series of surveys. **Final reports are available at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27663.html.**

The current survey included 474 persons living in WMUs 3C or 3J who had been surveyed previously about the pilot antler restrictions, and who had responded in at least one of the years in which they were surveyed (i.e., 2006, 2007, and/or 2008) and 280 persons living in WMUs 3H or 3K who had been surveyed previously about the pilot antler restrictions, and who had responded in at least one of the years in which they were surveyed (i.e., 2007, and/or 2008). They also surveyed an additional group of hunters living outside the pilot WMUs, but who had either applied for a Deer Management Permit (DMP) in one of the pilot WMUs in 2004 (i.e., prior to antler restrictions) or 2010, and those who reported harvesting a deer in one of the WMUs in 2004 or 2010.

Responses of these non-local hunters were included only in the assessment of whether antler restrictions have caused a change in participation behavior.

All 1,388 hunters in the four samples were mailed a questionnaire on 18 February 2011. The DEC received 757 completed questionnaires. In addition, telephone interviews using a subset of the most important questions were completed with 200 nonrespondents to the mail surveys between April 6 and 20, 2011. In general, nonrespondents were less likely to have hunted deer in 2010 (68% hunted), but otherwise reported similar levels of satisfaction and opinions about the antler restriction program as respondents. Non-local hunters also reported levels of satisfaction and opinions about the pilot program that were similar to respondents from the two panels.

Summary of Findings of general hunting behavior, experiences and satisfactions of responding hunters.

- Antler restrictions had no influence on deer-hunting participation in the pilot WMUs for >70% of local hunters and >60% of non-local hunters. Most respondents hunted in the pilot WMUs every year since antler restrictions started.

- 45% of respondents from the 3C/3J and 51% of respondents from the 3H/3K were satisfied with their **overall deer-hunting experiences** during the 2010 hunting season; 35% (3C/3J) and 29% (3H/3K) were dissatisfied.

- 42% of respondents from the 3C/3J and 52% of respondents from the 3H/3K were satisfied with their **buck-hunting experiences** during the 2010 hunting season; 40% (3C/3J) and 29% (3H/3K) were dissatisfied.

- 40% of respondents from the 3C/3J and 56% from the 3H/3K reported that their buck-

hunting satisfaction had increased since the pilot was implemented; 36% (3C/3J) and 19% (3H/3K) reported that their buck-hunting satisfaction had decreased.

DEC's Key Findings:

- The pilot antler restriction (AR) program substantially reduced the proportion of yearling (1.5 year old) bucks in the harvest and shifted harvest composition to older bucks.
- The number of 2.5+ year old bucks in the harvest increased since implementation of ARs. However, the increase did not fully compensate for the reduction in yearling harvest, and total buck take has generally remained >20% below pre-AR levels. WMU 3H was the only unit where buck take returned to the level immediately prior to AR.
- A shift in sex ratios of deer observed in the pilot AR units was apparent, though a similar shift was observed in neighboring units without ARs.
- ARs had no effect on hunter participation for the majority of hunters, but overall participation by non-local hunters appeared to decline because of AR.
- The impact of ARs on hunter satisfaction was mixed. Satisfaction with buck-hunting was generally higher in the pilot AR units than the surrounding region, but similar increases in buck-hunting satisfaction were observed in the surrounding region as occurred within the pilot area. More hunters reported being satisfied than dissatisfied with the level of protection afforded to young bucks and with the level of safety they felt in the pilot area. However, a majority of hunters reported being dissatisfied with (1) the number of antlered bucks compared to antlerless deer seen, (2) the number of older, larger-antlered bucks seen, (3) their opportunity to shoot larger-antlered bucks, and (4) the number of older bucks compared to the number of young bucks seen.
- Hunter expectations for the pilot AR program were largely unmet.
- A majority of hunters in the pilot AR units prefer that the program continue. It appears that participants' belief that the AR program will eventually result in their desired outcomes has stronger influence than unmet expectations and mixed satisfaction levels on their willingness to have the program continue.
- Deer management population indices were compromised by ARs. DEC must develop additional methods for monitoring deer populations to manage effectively with ARs.

A new law that passed the legislature prohibits the possession, sale, barter, offer, purchase, transportation, delivery, or receipt of bear gallbladder, bile, or any product, item, or substance containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, bear gallbladders or bile; the law exempts federal and state government and individuals with a valid hunting license from transporting one bear gallbladder.

The DEC would like more bowhunters volunteer to participate in the Bowhunter Sighting Log program. Through the program, bowhunters count and record the number of deer, turkeys, coyotes, foxes and other animals they see while hunting, which aids in providing DEC with information on long-term population trends. Complete survey results from 2010 and information on how to participate can be found on the Bowhunter Sighting Log Webpage (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7193.html>)