New York State
FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes-NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board
104th Meeting, held March 26-27, 2009 at the Clarion Hotel, Albany, NY

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chairperson Zeh
Invocation was given by Tom Grow.

Roll Call (Present at all or part of meeting)

Board Members Present

Region	Landowner	Sportsman	Legislator
3	William Wilklow	Joe Molinaro	Gerry Bierker
4	Homer Casler	Michael Zeh	Shayne Walters
5	Laurie Bruce	Robert Hinke	Robert Banks
6	Absent	William Stage	Tom Grow
7	Lance Robson	Jim Petreszyn	Barbara Brown
8	Gary Evans	Keith Kappel	Dorothy Huber
9	Philip May	Zenon Olow	Vergilio Giardini

Advisors Members Present
NYSDEC- Patricia Riexinger, Jack Cooper
NYS Farm Bureau- Absent
NY Grange- Daniel Teed
Izaak Walton League of America-Absent
NYS Conservation Council- Dan Tone
NYS Forest Practice Board- Richard Fox
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry- Dr. Jacqueline Fair

Cornell University- Dr. Dan Decker
SWDC/Ag and Markets- Cliff Frasier

Guests

Marcelo DelPuerto- Bureau of Wildlife
Gene Kelly- Director Region 4
Peter Innes- Natural Resources Supervisor, Reg 4
Peter Grannis- Commissioner, DEC
Wally John- DEC
Tom Raffaldi-DEC, Region 3 Board Secretary

Approval of Previous Minutes, Fall 2008

A motion was duly made by Jim Petreszyn and seconded by Joe Molinaro to accept the fall 2008 minutes. The motion to accept the minutes was unanimously approved.

Welcome to the Spring 2009 meeting Gene Kelly, Regional Director, Region 4.

Director Kelly urged the Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Boards, especially the Region 4 Board, to take a more active role in the region. He went on to speak about the many activities occurring in the region to improve fish and wildlife management and access, including evaluating the antler restriction program. He reminded members to look at the antler restriction program on the DEC website and to comment on the proposal. The #1 priority of this program is hunter satisfaction. There was some discussion about the upcoming regulations related to the antler restriction program. Director Kelly also talked about opening up New York City's Cannonsville Reservoir to boating.

Director Kelly introduced Commissioner Grannis. Commissioner Grannis is actively working with and talking with New York's sportsmen and women. He is committed to getting people back into the outdoors to re-connect with nature and our traditional outdoor recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping and other outdoor activities. He is working to develop key partnerships to expand access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Commissioner Pete Grannis- Working hard to develop an open line of communication between the many stakeholders that utilize our natural resources and to realize the DEC's priorities. Some of the key issues we have worked on include:

- Junior big game hunting license
- Extension of black bear season
- Hatchery upgrades
- Conservationist for kids magazine
- Many others

The Department need's to focus on the budget right now. The Commissioner talked about the state budget being affected by Wall Street and that the state will be possibly loosing 8900 jobs with 241 at the DEC. Even though we are in for some real fiscal challenges and are facing the possible loss of department staff, we hope to accomplish this through attrition. There will also be a reduction in the Environmental Protection Fund from last year by about 50 million dollars. The Department will be making some tough decisions. We are looking to institute the marine fishing license so that we will receive the funding for that. There is also a new proposal for a license fee increase. This has been worked out in cooperation with the Conservation Fund Advisory Board. This will contain a commitment to keep the pheasant farm open. The DEC has also endorsed this proposal to increase license fees to help support the Department's programs.

We still have the opportunity to accomplish many priorities such as re-connecting people to nature and safeguarding our natural resources, we all need to work closely with groups like the fish and wildlife management board.

The commissioner went on to issue a challenge to the Fish and Wildlife Management Boards to work closely with the department in this time of fiscal crisis to:

- Do more to engage the local communities to help protect our natural heritages through helping to organize useful activities such as invasive plant management.
- Work with the Department to help find good projects to be funded by the Habitat Stamp grant funds, we are proposing to streamline the process and provide each regional fish and wildlife management board through the Regional Supervisor of Natural Resources with $5,000 to find and fund projects.
- We need to increase the patronage of the habitat stamp by a wider range of users

The commissioner concluded his comments by taking questions from the members:

Q. Why can't we make the habitat stamp mandatory?
A. We are currently doing a license fee increase, we need to target other "users" such as hikers, birders to allow more people to share the cost.
Q. How is the ECO training academy development going on the new training facility?
A. We likely will not have a class this year, the facility will be our training facility but it will take a while to get it totally up an running.
Q. Could we have a season for crossbow this year?
A. Acknowledged
Q. We need to push the sales of Habitat Stamps more by license sales clerks
A. I understand that our license sales agents are not pushing them, we are looking at expanding the availability of license agents to find people who are more willing to sell stamps.
Q. More of a comment, Region 7 appreciates the work done on Fanny Pond project. We are also working on the Casanova Lake access through state parks commissioner?
A. That a great idea, I will talk to Commissioner Ash.
Q. The NYS Conservation Council supports as does the FWM Board, a mandatory habitat stamp.

A. I am concerned about that we are now seeking a license fee increase and this is not the time to seek another surcharge on people that will already be impacted by the license increase.
Q. The Board supports offering a free license to NYS residents serving on active duty within the State. These military personnel are not covered by the "Patriot Act."
A. I'm concerned about the numbers of free licenses we currently have in the system, but we will look at this proposal.
Q. Trails which have been used by snowmobiles and ATVs for many years have been placed off-limits. We would like to see some of these areas restored for use.
A. We have many responsibilities to manage these lands, we are willing to work with responsible individuals to allow certain activities.
Q. Any chance the Department will be acquiring Seneca Army Depot?
A. Not very likely with our current financial situation, we are however, hopeful on the Hemlock/Canadice Lake area.
Q. Perhaps we need to have a competition for the artwork for the Habitat pin using school age children?
A. That could be a good idea, getting people more involved in process would be very good.
Q. Would like to see more Rockland County Park land open for hunting?
A. Acknowledged and will talk about that.
Q. What would you like to see the Board do to help you?
A. As I indicated earlier; more effective habitat stamp projects, keeping people hunting, fishing, engage kids more, keep sponsoring hunting, fish and archery opportunities, keep people connected with nature, help kids go to camp.

A Re-newed Vision for the Fish and Wildlife Management Boards- Patricia Riexinger, Director, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

A Renewed Vision for
Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Boards
(post NRS meeting version)

Renewed Effort to Manage Habitat on Private Lands

Working with staff from regional DEC offices, county Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service, and through local opportunities, assist with or organize and execute projects related to habitat restoration, including:

Establish riparian buffers along streams:

* Work with others on large-scale projects to restore stream channels impacted by flood events, erosion and other human-induced disturbances.
* Coordinate projects to restore woody cover along stream segments to stabilize stream banks, mitigate flood waters, and provide cooling to stream water. This may include planting willow whips or other wood vegetation along cleared/mowed stream banks.

Restore aquatic connectivity

* Identify stream segments that have impassible culverts or other low-head barriers that impede aquatic movement.
* Coordinate the replacement of hanging culverts where appropriate.
* Assist in the coordination of removing low-head dams that meet removal criteria.

Control and eradicate invasive species

* Identify patches of priority invasive species that need to be eliminated.
* Assist with or lead efforts to eradicate or manage invasive species.
* Provide information to PRISM's and/or appropriate Department staff assigned to address invasive species.

Encourage improved terrestrial habitat

* Establish food plots/grasses for upland game birds and grassland species
* Adopt-A-WMA – Maintain/construct kiosks, boardwalks, osprey platforms, conduct habitat work days , trail cleaning, garbage pick-up, etc,
* Adopt-A- PFR, requires landowner permission

Continued Advocacy for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management and Protection

* Serve on Regional Open Space Committees.
* Provide input to and comments on Unit Management Plans.
* Provide input to and comments on legislation and regulations regarding F&W resources.
* Serve on Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs).
* Promote sale of Habitat and Access Stamps.

Continued Effort to Provide Access for F&W Related Recreation

* Work with landowners to post with "Ask Permission" signs where currently closed to access.
* Identify opportunities at local level for developing additional access.
* *Assist DEC with confirming access on streams stocked by DEC.**

Delivery

* Regional FWMBs will develop annual work plans to help focus their efforts and recruit involvement by new members. DEC will assist by providing a framework for the work plan, and in helping to identify regional needs and priorities for projects.

* Work plans will also include budgets both for administrative activities, such as attending regional and statewide meetings, and for project execution. An annual budget will also assist with allocating funds for Board administration.

* DEC will support the statewide effort by assisting with development and printing of up to five publications. One will include a "FWMB" flyer to explain what the boards are and what they do. This will assist in recruiting new membership and in explaining how boards can help landowners with habitat management. Four others would be related to the work the boards do, such as specific flyers for habitat management on private land.

* DEC will continue to provide signs for posting land for public access and "Ask Permission"

stickers for use by Boards in negotiating with private landowners for pubic access.

** This activity was not discussed at the FWMB Planning Committee meeting but subsequent to the meeting was requested by Division Management Team staff as an important need to which the Regional Boards could contribute.*

Spring Statewide Board Meeting Discussion Follows with Director Riexinger:

It appears the Board has had some mission drift since it was originally created in 1957. At that point the DEC did not have a regionalized program and the Board was to work with sportsman and landowners to deal with fish and wildlife management and access issues at the local level. We need to get back to that original mission of management and access. It is extremely important, and vital, to work on private lands to improve habitat and access. My experience with small marsh development program through the 48B program showed that an important component of the program was the connection with landowners to help develop and management wildlife habitat. Landowners become more connected to their lands when that actually do something to help improve their lands. I foresee the Board helping to get landowners to reconnect to their lands and to help sportsmen work toward this objective.

An important role would be to have the board function to take "practices" out to landowners and sportsmen. Many of these practices are already existing. They include:

- ✓ Riparian Buffers- the SWCD is a big source of information, buffers can provide habitat, shading. Global warming will affect New York's trout streams. Its possible that within 40 years, 60% of NY's streams will not support trout.
- ✓ Restoring aquatic connectivity- maintaining the up and downstream access for aquatic organisms so animals can move freely throughout the watershed
- ✓ Invasive species control- There is a lot of stuff that we can work on to make a difference if we act quickly
- ✓ Terrestrial habitat improvement- grassland management
- ✓ Access- "ask" stickers, access by permission signs. Opportunities for sportsmen's access may need to consider other options such as landowner incentives. Leasing of hunting rights has become a problem in some locations.

There was some discussion about past studies on the issue of posting lands. Cornell has conducted a couple of studies on the impacts, reasons and extent of posting. Dr. Decker indicated that he could look into summarizing these studies for the Board. We also discussed the one-page questionnaire that the board prepared to use when the hunting by permission signs were handed out.

Opportunities for Habitat Enhancement on Private Land by Marcelo Del Puerto

Education and Habitat Assessment

•Landowners need help in determining what kinds of habitat and wildlife they have.
Peers can show landowners techniques to manage and improve wildlife habitat.
Early-succession habitat management

•Ecological succession: The gradual process of change, absent of disturbance, in an ecosystem brought about by the progressive replacement of one community by another until a climax community is established.

•Ecological disturbance: Anything that disrupts succession, *e.g.* fire, mowing, ice storms, disease.
Ecological Succession in New York

Should Incentive Payments be Taxable ?

•Problem: Landowners are discouraged from participating in conservation incentive programs because incentive payments are considered taxable income. This also causes an additional administrative burden.

•Suggestion: Make incentive payments from state or federal programs tax-free. Cap tax-free payments at reasonable level.

Aquatic Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement

•Problem: Thousands of stream crossings and degraded stream segments are fragmenting aquatic habitat and limiting the distribution and dispersal of aquatic organisms.

•Landowners do not have the expertise, knowledge, or resources to replace crossing structure.

Impassable Barriers

» Undersized

»Perched

»Shallow

Aquatic Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement

•Benefits of restoring stream and floodplain connectivity.

–Improve aquatic organism passage

–Reconnect stream segments

–Reduce flooding and erosion

–Improve water quality

–Stable crossings for landowners

–Improve fishing opportunities

An incentive program for culvert replacement

•Assess and inventory streams with fragmented habitat.
•Prioritize stream sections for restoration.
•Develop ranking criteria.
•Obtain funding.
•Offer funding for landowners with impassable structures: 75% : 25% cost share.

•Enlist design and construction help: Encourage Stream Simulation design methods.
•Work with partners to perform and monitor work.

Stream Buffers

•Problem: Removal of native vegetative cover and increase in impervious surfaces have increased erosion and sedimentation and decreased water quality and riparian habitat.

•Planting riparian vegetation along stream improves water quality, decreases flooding, and provides wildlife habitat.

Benefits of Stream Buffers

•Improve water quality

•Provide corridors for wildlife

•Reduce erosion and flooding

•Sequester nutrients in runoff

•Conserve soil resources

•Provide fish, wildlife and scenic habitat

Developing an Annual Workplan for Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Boards

Discussion with Peter Innes, Region 4 Natural Resources Supervisor on using the Habitat Stamp Grant money provided to regional boards and developing workplans. Regional boards may want to convene a planning committee to evaluate these issues. It was discussed that it could be useful to partner with other groups and agencies to help design, construct or even finance a project to "get more bang for the buck."

The "workplan" will need to address things other that the Habitat Stamp Grant money. It should set the priority for those activities that the regional board hopes to complete. Keep in mind that the State Board By-Laws establishes three objectives:

Section II Objectives: Within the scope of responsibilities, authorized by Section 110501, subdivision 5, paragraph (a) of the New York State Fish and Wildlife Law, the State Board shall act to:

1. **Provide, expand and seek opportunities for public use of the fish and wildlife resources of New York State.**

2. **Improve fish and wildlife management programs, by application of modern conservation practices on the lands and waters of the state.**

3. **Provide sources of information to better accomplish these objectives, and to aid in expediting and encouraging their accomplishments.**

These three objectives would be a good starting place for developing a work plan that focuses on topics that address these objectives.

Peter suggested that regional boards could establish one objective per county to work on as a starting point.

Activities can occur on both public or private lands, it will be easier to spend money on "not for profit" or public lands. We will need to use some kind of "cooperative agreement" to work on private lands. The details will need to evolve as we work through this process.

Two issues that Marcelo talked about included:

--Taxation of insensitive payments to private landowners, he suggested that it would work better if these payments were tax exempt to some degree.

--Farmers are taxed at the Agricultural rate, if they do certain types of habitat improvement, they may no longer get taxed at the Ag rate.

Peter suggest that members go back to their regional boards and look at how best to work toward developing a work plan. Work with the Region DEC staff and board chairman to focus the meeting toward that goal. Region 4 is going to change the their meeting to deal with the business issues first and **if** time permits hear from DEC Staff.

Mike Zeh stated that with the cutback in meetings by the regional supervisor of natural resources it will be tough to get workplans completed. Patty indicated that everybody is needing to cut back because of the budget crunch, but that if boards are truly working on developing a work plan that would help them get back on track, that would be an investment that the DEC would support. The Division will be looking at whether this is working and if we are getting a return on the money being invested by the Department.

Patty wanted to emphasize the leadership role that the regional boards can play within the community through organizing activities involving youth, scouts, local clubs, and others to try to re-connect people to nature.

There was a question about providing the draft minutes to members in a more timely manner. The secretary indicated that he would send out draft minutes to all those who have email, or fax or mail.

More discussion about a mandatory habitat access stamp. Patty wanted to emphasize the fact that sportsmen consider the habitat stamp monies as "their" money. She wants to see other users pay their fair share to help spread the funding over a wider range of interests.

Friday April 27, 2009

Annual Reports

Region 3 - Pre-filed report
The Region 3 FWMA Board represents the Southeastern New York counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester.

The Board met twice since the Fall State Board meeting. Meetings are now held quarterly, in March, June, September, and December.

Election of officers was held at the March meeting. Officers for 2009 are:

Chairman, Bill Gaudette
Vice-Chairman, Bill Conners
State Board Sportsman, Ray Merlotto, Alternate Joe Molinaro Jr.
State Board Landowner Bill Wilklow,
State Board Legislator Gerry Bierker, Alternate Leigh Benton
Secretary Tom Raffaldi

- Sportsman, Landowner and Legislative representatives attended the Fall 2008 State Board meeting held October 26-27 in Dunkirk, NY

- The Board participated in the Regional Open Space Committee meeting held January 2009 at West Point. The Regional Committee is a participant in the New York State Open Space Plan

- The Board received appointments to fill several vacancies. The long vacant Westchester sportsman and alternate positions were filled, as well as Ulster county sportsman and legislator. Sullivan county and Putnam county legislator positions were also recently appointed by their respective counties.

- The Board wrote a letter to Commissioner Grannis in support of acquisition of 647 acres in Putnam County, Town of Patterson., North/South Hollow project.

- An Awards Committee was formed to recommend regional board members for consideration for conservation awards by various organizations

- Delegates from Dutchess and Putnam counties formed an East of Hudson State Parks (Taconic Region) Access Committee. The issue of opening ;up New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) lands has been a long standing access issue with the Board, as there are thousands of acres of parklands that could be open to at least some form of hunting. The Committee is exploring deer and turkey hunting on the James Baird State Park in Dutchess County., and working with OPRHP and DEC. Parks management in the Taconic Region has seemed receptive to allowing hunting at this park.

- Rockland County delegates submitted a proposal to the county to allow bow hunting in certain county parks. Included with the proposal was data supporting the necessity of allowing deer harvest by hunting on these parklands. The County Parks Commission has the authority to review this proposal and to modify existing regulations and recommend adoption by the County Legislature. As hunting access has been extremely limited in the county for many years, this proposal has the potential to greatly improve hunter access in a heavily suburbanized county with an overpopulation of deer. Rockland, Orange and Ulster county delegates formed a West of Hudson access committee to further these access proposals.

- The Board continued to monitor access facilities at regional DEC wildlife management, multiple use and fishing access areas to insure optimal access is available to the public.

- Members are coordinating and helping to run planned youth pheasant hunts for Fall 2009 in the region. Youth hunts are currently planned for Dutchess, Orange, Putnam and Ulster counties.

- The Board submitted its proposed list of management practices designed to maintain and improve access to the regional fish and wildlife resource and promote good resource management. These practices are intended to guide the future direction of the board, as well as serve as an indicator of some historic and present Board activities.

Discussion followed: There was considerable discussion related to working to get more public lands controlled by various "Park Commissions" open to public hunting. It was suggested that it might be useful to get a letter in support of this from the Board and signed by the chairman.

A motion was duly made by Barbara Brown and seconded by Gerry Bierker to draft a letter for the chariman's signature in support of allowing access for hunting and fishing on state park lands within New York State. The motion was unanimously approved. Gerry Bierker will get a draft letter to the chairman for his signature.

Region 4- Pre-filed report

Region 4 held two meetings since the Fall State Board meeting, 11/19/08, at the Middleburgh Diner and 03/25/09, at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club. Region 4 is going to change their meeting agenda to deal with FWMB dealings first and then if time permits hear from DEC Staff. Topics of discussion were as follows:

April:Seven Counties represented.

Pete Innes, DEC- Region 4 Natural Resource Supervisor: reported the finding of tuberculosis (TB) in a captive red and fallow deer herd in Columbia County. The finding of TB is the result of routine disease testing conducted by the Department. DEC is looking for 200 deer (75 checked so far) from road kills & and hunter/meat cutters. Ags & Markets is head agency.

News release came out two days before archery season. DEC also visited several sporting clubs to educate hunters. Disease can be transfer to humans from deer. (Bovine Species). The presence of TB in this captive deer herd could threaten the health of wild deer populations, as well as the health of nearby domestic animal populations. Thus, the affected herd has been quarantined and animals on nearby farms will undergo testing over the next few weeks to ensure that the disease has been contained to this one herd.

Public Hearing on River Herring & American Chad fish will be held Dec 8th, Duchess County at Norry Point 7:00PM.

Bear Take - Archery, Delaware County- average take, Greene County- take is down, Schoharie County (2)

1ST 3 days 21 totals for 2007 total harvest were 214. 1st 3days 16 total. For 2008 total harvest was 308.

DEC budget – Non personal services 25% reduction. Land & Forest Youth Facilities being shut down, Will discuss budget cuts more next meeting. West Fulton & Middleburgh Rod & Gun Clubs will host next meeting. DEC will pay mileage if budget allows. Car pooling helps!

Scotia – Oak Wilt – positive identification, DEC will irradiate. Small beetle, all trees will be cut down and wood will be run through chipper. Removing all infected trees, plowing a trench to contain. White Oaks – years to infect & Red Oak – weeks to infect. 7 different parcels identified. Less than 100 trees, no compensation to property owners.

Ticks – More ticks this year than in last 30. Ticks are active year round whenever temperatures are above freezing. Deer ticks can transmit Lyme and several other diseases.

County representatives: reviewed crossbow issues - Support handicapped restrictions use. Discuss license fee increases on senior license buyers and lifetime licenses because of baby boomers will be reaching age 65 in 20011. The results will affect Conservation Fund by $7.5 million. Reviewed bear tags, trout stamps, salmon stamps, consolidating fish hatcheries with possibilities of closing one. Supported Salt water fishing license. Term Limit Resolution, Motion made by Green County, second by Schoharie County. Pete Innes will write up and send to Mike Zeh to present to State Board. Will also be sent to NYS Senate & Assembly Reps.

February: Six Counties represented.

DEC: Pete Innes reported the promotion of Jerry Fraine to Regional Wildlife Manager (replaced Dick Henry). ECOs are checking deeds at county offices of those who applied for Deer/landowner permits last fall. Must have fifty acres. Violators will be fined!!!! Ash Bore Disease found in Glenville area. About 75 tress will be destroyed. All trees within 150 feet from host. Open Space Plan should be released in April. No funding for purchasing land for Boat Launch on Schoharie Creek near Central Bridge. Gene Kelly reports Commissioner will attend Fish & Wildlife Management State Board Mar 26th. Purchase of flood plane lands for remediation-funding from Federal Agricultural Grants. Stimulus Monies – Must be used right away, projects need to be completed within one year or sooner. Website address is Recovery.org

Water problems in Schenectady, Duanesburg landfill. Normankill Creek, 10-12 miles above drinking water source. Problem found by student study info.

Norm McBride: Region 4 Fishery Manager – Fisheries Unit will be lost because of recent promotion of Jerry Fraine. Nobody to approve fish stocking permits. PFR – Maps for region 4

will be completed by April 1st. Ten Year agreement reached on Canadarago Lake for Ice fishing. DEC will plow & maintain parking area-OLD Bakers Beach, Richfield. Because of DEC Budget crunch Bait coo-operators must pay ($900) for certifications of bait. Last year, DEC covered expense. New Fish regulations are on DEC Website. Statewide reg-for the cleaning of fish-can't be dismembered, need to be able to identify, can gut but no filleting until you're on shore. Informal comment period. Gave handout for 3 year pilot –all boats need steam cleaning – six cleaning sites Cost is $10. Must leave boat on water or clean each time the boat is launched. Gave handout on survey of fish PCB contamination – 2.0 guideline eel live 30 years (Longer life span- showing lower reduction averaging).

Jerry Fraine: Deer antler restriction survey will be compiled soon. Phone call surveys will be made to those who did not respond. WMU under consideration are 3A, 4X, 4R, 4G, 4S, 4W, 4P, and 4O. Region 4 – 2008 deer kill - 13% increase for yearlings, numbers should be out next week. DEC will meet with DOT on fishing right access within Mohawk Valley. DEC may have found possible funding for building parking areas on DEP (NYC watershed lands). This was a habitat/access project which was picked by region 4 FWMB but DEC management chose to do 10 mile Creek project last year.

Harold Palmer NYSCC President: Discuss Legislative Bills – Micro Stamp on Semiautomatics, Renewable Pistol permits every five years, Dropping age to 12 for Archery big game permits, Crossbow legal implement for 65 & Older or Disabled hunter, and last the License Fee Increase. (Conservation Fund 14 million in red). March 8th Legislation meeting in Ilion and March 10th meetings with State Legislators.

Region 4 Planning Board – Proposed projects: Boat launch by Holiday Express Schoharie Creek, Possible boat launch Otego Creek –West Oneonta, Approaching Landis Arboretum in Esperance for accessing 548 acres for Archery hunters, Some Culvert Assessments on Town Roads and Adopt a Natural Resource Project (Cleaning up & creating trails on state lands).

56 Deer Donated to Venison Donation Program Columbia County, 38 deer donated to Venison Donation Program Schoharie County, Looking for Dove Season in Montgomery County, Rabbit/coyote hunt produces 3.8 lb rabbit. Wind Farm Development Project in Schenectady County, Floating Dock on Hudson near Catskill, Otsego County sent 43 youths to DEC Camp with help from NRA & Trout Unlimited.

Elections were held: Dave McLean – President, Dave Wood – Vice President, Scott Van Arsdale – Secretary, State Board Representatives: Mike Zeh – Sportsmen, Homer Casler – Landowner, Shane Walters – Legislator. Next meeting April 22nd.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Zeh
Region 4 Sportsmen Representative

Region 5 –No report from Region 5

Region 6 Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Annual Report, Spring 2009

The Region 6 Board continues to meet quarterly. A few updates on ongoing topics of interest follow:

Habitat! Access Stamp Projects Update

- Two Habitat Stamp projects were approved for funding in Region 6
  - The Felts Mills White Creek Access Improvement project was completed and the unveiling ceremony took place the morning of the September 18th before the regularly scheduled Quarterly Meeting of the Region 6 FWMB.
  - The Habitat Improvement Project for the Deer River in Lewis County is underway and should finish up in early 2009.

Region 6 FWMB Committee to By-Laws Development:

- An Adopt-a-By-Laws committee produced a final draft of By-Laws for the Region 6 FWMB based on comments from the previous meeting and presented it to the board.
  - The newly revised version will be discussed the next Quarterly Meeting (June 2009) and then approved for adoption.

Nuisance/Invasive Species Information:

- The Region 6 Board has discussed issues relating to invasive species. In particular, a local highways department practice of washing bridge decks using water from a different water body than that being crossed by that bridge was pointed out as one potential pathway for transport of aquatic nuisance species from one water body to another. To remove this potential problem the board decided to work on getting the word out that invasive species can unknowingly be spread by moving water from one stream to another through the development of an outreach program. To that end:

  - A PowerPoint presentation is in the process of being put together. When completed it will be presented to the Region 6 FWMB for their approval as an outreach tool.
  - This presentation will be used to provide information on incorporating nuisance/invasive species control measures in daily operational activities of organizations, such as local highway departments, that may be unknowingly transporting these species.

Region 6 FWM Board Community Exposure:

- The Board has concluded that it would a help their efforts to facilitate habitat improvement or access enhancements if their presence was known in the Region 6 communities. To that end, respective county representatives will be looking into· ways to get their names out as FWM Board members. One idea involves a staffing a Region 6 FWM Board booth/display at county fairs and other local events.

Region 7 Pre-filed report

The Region 7 FWMB continues to engage projects, which allow for greater access for Sportsmen and women of New York State involving both private and public lands.

Region 7 is continuing work to provide a venue for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active duty military personnel and veterans through fly fishing education and outings.

The R7 FWMB and the R7 DEC are much nearer to acquiring a site to Sandy Pond, which will be used for a public launch and ice fishing access site using funds from the "Love Canal" settlement. Negotiations are almost complete with landowners and "Attachment A" has been approved by the DEC.

Our Habitat/Access sub committee has submitted drafting bill language to Wally John for review by the DEC. We are still waiting for feedback before approaching bill sponsors.

The R7 FWMB fought a fee increase at the Cazenovia Lake Boat Launch, operated by the Village Of Cazenovia. Despite our efforts the Village Board voted to raise the annual permit cost from $40 to $75. The R7 FWMB will now focus full attention on the McNitt State Park, also located on Cazenovia Lake, and attempt to develop a trailer boat launch where only a car top hand launch now exists

The R7 FWMB continues to work restoring trout habitat adjacent to Onondaga Lake along Geddes Brook and Nine Mile Creek. This action is part of the extensive work which has been underway to revive fisheries and wildlife habitat on and around Onondaga Lake. We foresee an excellent opportunity for additional access and habitat improvement as part of this remediation effort.

Lastly, we have finalized the 2009 Open Space Plan and have added language to the Plan which allows for the purchase of small shoreline tracts of land that can be used for waterfowl hunting, trapping, and fishing access sites along the Finger Lakes. As a result of this added language, DEC is now considering an ice fishing/waterfowl hunting location on Cayuga Lake. Through this update of the Open Space Plan, R7 has expanded two WMA's (Tioughnioga and Deer Creek Marsh) and Selkirk Shores Sate Park, a State Park that allows opportunity for deer hunting via archery.

Respectively submitted,
Jim Petreszyn, Sportsmen's Representative
Region 7 FWMB

Region 8 - Pre-filed report -New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Advisory Board

The Region 8 Board has actively discussed and provided ideas regarding the sales and promotion of the Habitat and Access Stamp, Of particular concern is the promotion of the stamp by agents at retail establishments. Board members want to ensure that agents specifically ask those purchasing sporting licenses whether they would be interested in buying a Habitat and Access Stamp. The Board also discussed the possibilities of requiring Habitat and Access Stamp

purchases by non-resident licensees. This requirement has been proven successful in other states that have similar programs.

The Western Finger Lakes, Open Space Priority Project that involves watershed lands of Canadice and Hemlock Lakes in Livingston and Ontario Counties continues to draw significant interest by the public. The Region 8 Board is extremely interested in ensuring that the lands, if acquired by the Department, are managed in the same manner as they are currently administered. To ensure that the Board's position on this matter was clear, a resolution was passed identifying the need to continue current management practices. This resolution was passed to the State Board level where it was once again approved. The Board is continually apprised of the developments of the Canadice-Hemlock Acquisition.

Canadice and Hemlock Lakes are last two Finger Lakes with largely undeveloped shorelines. The land is currently owned by the City of Rochester, who manages property primarily for watershed protection for drinking water purposes. The lands surrounding Canadice and Hemlock Lakes are also included in New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan as a priority project and has been one of the Department's highest acquisition priorities over the last 15 to 20 years. Department staff have invested considerable time and effort in developing a framework for acquisition.

Once again, Empire Farm Days and National Hunting and Fishing Days will be "highprof1le" public events during 2009. Empire Farm Days will be held in August; National Hunting and Fishing Days in September.

Because of ongoing budget issues facing New York State, the December 2008 FWMB meeting was cancelled. During the February 13, 2009 meeting, the board passed a new set of by-laws to ensure consistency with the Environmental Conservation Law the Election Committee presented a slate of FWMB nominees for 2008. In addition, the board elected new officers for 2009 as follows:

Chairman-- John Andrews- Seneca/Legislative
Vice-Chairman-- Jim DeMay - Ontario
Secretary-- Randy Nemecek - NYSDEC
State Board Legislative Rep.--Dorothy Huber - Ontario
All. Legislative Rep.-- Wayne Housemen - Ontario
State Board Landowner Rep. -- Gary Evans - Ontario
State Board Alt. Landowner Rep.-- Royce Kilmer - Steuben
State Board Sportsmen Rep. -- Keith Kappel - Yates
Alternate Sportsmen Rep. -- Marc Osypian - Livingston

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Huber, Gary Evans, Keith Kappel

Region 9 Pre-Filed Report- New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board Region 9

The Region 9 Fish and Wildlife Management Board has met only once since the Fall Meeting of the Statewide FWMB in Dunkirk on October 23 and 24, 2008. The December meeting of the Regional Board was cancelled when it became apparent that not enough members could attend to have a voting quorum.

The March 12th meeting was conducted as scheduled and seven new board members participated in the meeting. Nine of the previous board members had to step down due to term limits.

Because seven of the twelve members attending the meeting were new to the board considerable time was spent reviewing the responsibilities of board members and the bylaws for the Regional Board.

Elections were also held and the new officers are:

Ron Barvian - chairman
Zenon Olow - vice chairman

Representatives for the State Board Meeting are:

Legislative Rep. - Dick Giardini
Landowner Rep. - Zenon Olow
Sportsman Rep. - Phil May

Advisory Members Reports

Farm Bureau- No Report

Izaak Walton League Report- No Report

New York Grange – Daniel Teed

No Report

NYSCC Report to the Fall 2008 FWMB Meeting- Dan Tone

The NYSCC appreciated all the support by the sportsmen and women throughout the state

supporting the Pheasant Program and the NYS Pheasant Game Farm. Thankfully \\ith their support and various other organizations the farm will remain open. However, we do realize there is much work ahead for us.

President Palmer has been working diligently on a license fee increase along with CF AB to make the fund solvent for at least three years.

The council met on March 8, 2009 and approved or disapproved many bills dealing with conservation and sportsmen issues. The following is just a small number of bills they looked at.

Council supports:

A824 Delmonte - Reduce the minimum age to obtain a junior archery license

A923 Delmonte - Provisions relating to migratory birds, game birds, turtles, longbows, crossbows and cable restraints

A5940 Delmonte - Allows person 65 and older or disabled to hunt with a crossbow

A159 Governor's Budget Bill - Part SS - increase beverage containers cover under mandatory deposit

Department of Environmental Conservation sponsored - To increase hunting, fishing, and trapping license fees

Council supports with change:

A159 Governors Bill· Part KK - Creates a marine recreational fishing license

The council opposes the following bills:

A159 Governors Bill- Part JJ - Creates a trout and salmon stamp

A801 Paulin - Requires firearm license renewal after 5 years and taking a safety course outside of City of New York

A3211 Eddington· Ban sale, use or possession of 50-caliber or larger weapons

2009 MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT Sponsor
Delmonte
Bill A824 Co-Sponsors Schroeder, Magee, Titone
Multi Sponsors Lopez P, Lupardo, Molinaro, Quinn, Towsend, Walker

Title of Bill An act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law to obtain a junior archery

license.

To lower age from fourteen to twelve for an individual to obtain a junior archery license. Amend SSll-0701, 11-0713, 11-0719 & 11-0929, En Con L

2009 MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
Bill Number: A0924 Sponsor: Delmonte
CoSpnsr: Gordon, Giglio, Gabryzak
Mlt Sponsors Amedore, Baccalles, Crouch, Hawley, Kellner

Title of bill An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to authorizing persons to hunt with crossbow

This bill would allow the Department of Environmental Conservation to promulgate standards to allow for a legalized crossbow hunting season.
Amend3-0301, En Con L

2009 MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

Bill Number: A159 Governors budget bill part JJ

Purpose; To create a trout and salmon stamp.
(part JJ) to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to establishing a trout and salmon stamp.

This stamp would only be required by those persons fishing those waters that only trout and salmon inhabit or those anglers who actually fish for trout and salmon. This creates a law enforcement problem when someone fishing for different species catches a trout or salmon but not actually fishing for trout or salmon.

With the increase in all fishing , hunting and trapping license fees there is no need to raise additional revenue with a trout or salmon stamp.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Tone, Rep NYSCC to FWMB

Conservation Fund Advisory Board Report -

License fee increase was presented with proposed fee structure. The final bill presented to the legislature was slightly different than that originally proposed by CFAB.

New York State Forest Practices Board – Richard Fox -

New York State's forest covers over 60% of the land of which 500.000 non-industrial private owners own over 80%, the majority of whom own less than 25 acres. The current extent of this forest is in part the result of conservation and reforestation efforts of early 20th century visionaries disturbed about the less than 25% of the land in forest existing at that time.

The future of the forest is both promising, if skillfully managed, and threatened, if ignored. The promise comes from the certain economic and environmental values that wood fiber may provide by carbon sequestration, quality air & water, direct & chemically derived renewable fuel, and habitat for a rich and diverse wildlife. The threats are many both political and natural. The political threats arise from taxation and regulation and should be resolvable. The natural threats are much more serious, not easily, if at all, resolved and they affect the forest directly. Native and exotic invasive plant, fungal, and animal species may deprive the preferred forest components of light, nutrients, and space, or worse, parasitically destroy their value or existence.

In the early 1900's leaders established the NY State Forest. Starting with plots of 500 acres purchased from willing sellers (the Hewitt Amendment), the Conservation Department was empowered to buy one million acres to provide forest products and recreation for the use of the public. There is over 800,000 acres currently designated as State Forests. These land holdings pay taxes to respective town and school jurisdictions and it is important to recognize that the trees on this land are assessed by the NYS Office of Real Property Services and the results forwarded to local assessors and credited in State Aid Formulae for eligible school districts. Contrary to law and customary in some other states, trees on private property in NY State are generally not assessed. At some time in the near future, technology and law will resolve the current taxation inequities and land managed as forest will be taxed for both land values and tree values.

Presently, the forest industry and the professional community are promoting "sustainability" in the management of forestland. However, the practice of "high-grading" or "diameter-limit cutting" is typical. Sustainability requires selection of trees to be cut and includes trees which are "culls" and have only fiber value and others which may not be marketable but suppress growth of preferred stems suitable as future saw logs. Since some trees should be cut that have little economic value, they may be professionally marked and then cut at a cost that reduces the value of the purchase price and may even discourage some buyers from making an offer. Hence, "high-grading" provides the most money to the owner and the professionals doing the work, a practice described as "take the best and leave the rest." Such a practice, when repeated, degrades the future economic worth of the forest parcel, statistically may distort unfavorably the genetic pool, and may require regulation to correct.

For information regarding the value of timber species in NYS: Go to

WebPages: *http://www.dec.nys.gov;* then click: *Lands and Waters;* then: *Forest Products Utilization and Marketing;* then: *Stumpage Price Reports.*
Submitted by Dick Fox

State Soil and Water Conservation Districts/State Ag and Markets by Cliff Fraizer .

No Report

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences-Cornell University by Dan Decker

Cornell Research Briefs for NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board
Study title: Sustaining and improving hunting and trapping in New York: Public attitudes, conflict resolution, and political activism
Period of study: July 2007 – May 2010
Purpose: This research examines communication networks and attitudes of wildlife stakeholders related to waterfowl hunting and wildlife trapping. Specifically, we are seeking to understand the experiences and attitudes associated with waterfowl hunting (waterfowl hunters and waterfront residents) and wildlife trapping (wildlife trappers and licensed dog-owners). The study hopes to learn where these stakeholders receive information and examine how and why people become involved individually and as groups in trying to influence public policy affecting waterfowl hunting or trapping. Information from this study will help the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and its partners proactively develop management strategies to anticipate conflicts and to develop communication plans to be prepared when an incident of "conflict" occurs.
Study area and population: There are two study contexts for this issue, wildlife trapping and waterfowl hunting. Data collection is underway at this time.
Wildlife Trapping:

- Conduct interviews in Southampton (Suffolk County) and Queensbury (Warren County).
- Send questionnaires to random samples of 1,000 licensed wildlife trappers and 1,000 licensed dog-owners in the Southern Tier counties of Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, and Yates.

Waterfowl Hunting:

- Conduct interviews in Canandaigua (Ontario County) and Brookhaven (Suffolk County).
- Send mail-back questionnaires to random samples of 1,000 waterfront residents near Braddock Bay State Wildlife Management Area and adjacent ponds (Monroe County) and 1,000 waterfowl hunters in the greater-Rochester counties of Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

Findings: Results not yet available.
Cornell contact: Heather A. Van Den Berg, Graduate Assistant hav5@cornell.edu

Study title: Evaluation of a quality deer management (cooperative near King Ferry, NY and select Region 3 WMUs).
Period of study: King Ferry—2001- 2006; Region 3 WMUs—2005-2008.
Purpose: The main purposes of this research were to identify positive or negative *deer-related impacts* sought by hunters and landowners, monitor any changes in hunter/landowner behaviors under QDM/antler restrictions compared to conventional deer management (CDM), and determine the degree to which changes in experienced levels of impacts influenced participants' satisfaction with the change in deer management.
Study area and population: King Ferry, NY—12,000ac of privately owned lands in Cayuga County. Initially, 36 landowners and 80 deer hunters who typically accessed the properties of those landowners were involved in the study. Region 3, WMUs 3C, 3J, 3K, and 3H.
Findings: Landowners identified dissatisfaction over: (1) frustration about the persistent risk of crop damage, (2) risk of injury from a deer-vehicle accident, (3) risk of excessive cost from a deer-vehicle accident, and (4) anxiety about the possibility of being injured by hunters who shoot unsafely at deer. Deer hunters associated satisfaction with: (1) perception that a sufficient number of antlered bucks of any age/size exist in the area, (2) perception that a sufficient number of larger-antlered bucks exist in the area, (3) perceived naturalness of the ratio of older to younger antlered bucks, (4) perceived naturalness of the deer sex ratio, and (5) a sense of fairness among hunters, expressed as freedom of choice to wait for a mature buck instead of feeling like they have to shoot the first antlered buck they see. Two sources of dissatisfaction identified by hunters were (1) anxiety about possibility of being shot by other hunters who shoot unsafely at deer, and (2) a sense of urgency to shoot at the first antlered buck they observe.
Related publication(s): forthcoming
Cornell contact: Jody Enck, Research Associate jwe4@cornell.edu

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Study title: Survey of users of Wilson Hill wildlife management area
Period of study: March – June 2008.
Purpose: This study assesses users' behaviors and opinions about management of Wilson Hill WMA in northern NY. Of particular interest is information from hunters about recent changes in wetland management efforts, as well as timing and length of shooting hours during the hunting seasons. Objectives are to (1) determine factors that affect satisfaction of users of the area, (2) assess how possible changes in timing or duration of hunting hours would affect satisfaction, and (3) determine users' perceptions of the degree to which recent habitat changes reflect improvements or worsening conditions.
Study area and population: The study population is the 436 individuals who signed-in to access the Wilson Hill wildlife management area in St. Lawrence County from 2006 through 2008.
Findings: No findings to report yet as the telephone survey starts in late March.
Related publication(s): none yet
Cornell contact: Jody Enck, Research Associate jwe4@cornell.edu

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Study title: Landowner attitudes toward early success ional habitat in New York State
Period of study: 2008-2012

Purpose: Early-success ional, woody habitats (ESH) and many of the wildlife species that rely on them are in widespread decline across New York and the Northeast. Given this condition, primary study objectives are: (1) determine private forest landowner attitudes, awareness, motivating factors, actual decisions, and constraints toward various types of management practices on their lands, and (2) better understand how to reach landowners with educational outreach efforts to inform management decisions of private forest landowners.
Study area and population: Private landowners are the focal stakeholder group for this study given that about 85 % of the State's 32 million acres are privately owned, making landowners the most important group of land managers with whom DEC must work in the state.
Findings: None yet; the research is just starting.
Related publication(s): None yet.
Cornell contact: Jody Enck, jwe4@cornell.edu or Shorna Broussard Allred, srb237@cornell.edu

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Study title: Important Roles of Collaboration in State Wildlife Action Plan Implementation
Period of study: May 2008 through October 2009
Purpose: All 50 states have recently completed federally mandated State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) in an effort to protect wildlife species before they become endangered. Because these plans are generally beyond the capacity of state fish and wildlife management agencies to implement on their own, we are exploring how collaborative partnerships contribute to their implementation.
Study area and population: We are collecting data from government and nongovernmental organization representatives working to further the implementation of SWAPs throughout the U.S.
Findings: No results are available yet, but they are expected to include: (1) a description of various forms of collaborative efforts to implement SWAPs; (2) a complete list of collaborative efforts to implement SWAPs encountered during our project in all 50 states, including a description of conservation actions implemented and conservation outcomes achieved; (3) a complete list of organizations involved in collaborative efforts to implement SWAPs; (4) a description of the factors that promote or inhibit collaborative efforts to implement SWAPs, including an assessment of the collective and individual resources needed to initiate, sustain, and succeed at these collaborative efforts; and (5) a list of suggested actions for promoting collaborative implementation of SWAPs.
Related publication(s): None to date.
Cornell contact: Bruce Lauber, Senior Research Associate tbl3@cornell.edu

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Study title: Water Quality in an Urbanizing Watershed: Non-Agricultural Landowner Adoption of Riparian Best Management Practices
Period of study: August 2008 – January 2010
Purpose: The purpose of this study is to determine what influences non-agricultural, riparian landowners to adopt Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. Riparian BMPs are intended to enhance water quality and have long been promoted by government agencies and organizations for agricultural properties. However, in urbanizing watersheds, agriculture may be becoming less influential in driving water quality outcomes. As urbanization changes land use

and social contexts of riparian BMPs, non-agricultural riparian landowners may not respond to the same incentives as agriculturalists. Therefore, with increased conversion of agricultural properties to other land uses (e.g. residential subdivisions), research on non-agricultural riparian landowners is necessary.
Study area and population: The study location is the Spring Creek watershed (378km^2) of Centre County, Pennsylvania, which is a sub-watershed in the Chesapeake Bay basin. The watershed has remarkable variation in the degree of development, ranging from small-medium dairy farms to the urban centers of State College (home of Penn State University) and Bellefonte. Here, urbanization is occurring rapidly and in a variety of forms. The watershed population increased 24% from 1980 to 2000. The population of Centre County is predicted to increase by an additional 45.5% between 2000 and 2030 (Centre County Government, 2008).
Findings: Preliminary interviews of private, riparian landowners (n=17) were conducted November 2008 – February 2009. These interviews reveal differing goals and rationales for riparian BMP adoption among landowners of various parcel sizes and uses. A mail survey will be implemented in Spring 2009.
Related publication(s): None yet.
Cornell contact: Andrea Armstrong, Graduate Assistant (ala23@cornell.edu) or Dr. Richard Stedman, Assistant Professor (rcs6@cornell.edu).

Study title: Small game and furbearer harvest surveys
Period of study: 2008-09
Purpose: Monitor take of small game and furbearing animals on an annual basis
Study area and population: These annual surveys cover the entire state. The study populations are adult licensed hunters and trappers. Samples of 5,000 small game hunters and 4,500 trappers are randomly selected for these surveys each year.
Findings: The small game harvest survey is currently underway. Implementation of the furbearer harvest survey will begin in April 2009. These studies are in progress, so no findings are yet available.
Related publication(s): HDRU conducts the implementation of these surveys and returns completed questionnaires to DEC for analysis. There are no HDRU publications available for these studies.
Cornell contact: William Siemer, Research Specialist (wfs1@cornell.edu)

Study title: New York suburban coyote study
Period of study: 2008-09
Purpose: In 2006, DEC provided funding to initiate a multi-year study of human-coyote interactions in suburban areas of NY. The overall study is designed to improve understanding of both the ecological and human dimensions (HD) components of human-coyote interactions. In 2006 and 2007, data collection for the HD component of the study included telephone surveys in two NY counties (Westchester and Saratoga) with suburban areas occupied by coyotes. Last year, several publications resulted from this research project (see below). Related research continues and will add additional understanding of human-coyote interactions in residential areas

of New York.

Study area and population: Study included residents in portions of Saratoga and Westchester Counties.

Findings: Our situation analysis revealed that awareness of coyote presence and sightings of coyotes were relatively high in the study communities, but problems with coyotes were uncommon. About half of the residents surveyed reported enjoying coyotes to some extent and the majority of respondent who completed an in-depth questionnaire found the likelihood of injury from a coyote acceptable. Despite these findings, we found that concern about coyotes in suburban areas was rather high and tolerance for their presence in most suburban spaces was low. The data indicate that the potential for widespread negative human-coyote interactions is low, but concern about coyote-related issues is high. Managers and organizations wishing to engage in communication efforts about coyotes may want to target the high concern associated with coyote presence. The data also suggest that experience may play a role in attitudes and perceptions of risk about coyotes, but more research is needed to explore this relationship.

To learn more about the circumstances surrounding actual encounters between humans and coyotes in NY, the next phase of coyote-related research could focus on stakeholders who have reported coyote incidents. This line of inquiry would allow researchers to: (1) identify commonalities in human behavior or attitudes in reported cases of negative human-coyote interactions in suburban areas; and (2) estimate human attitude and behavior change (if any) associated with negative human-coyote encounters. The study is intended to inform communication, education and management efforts.

Related publication(s):

Siemer, W. F., H. Wieczorek Hudenko, and D. J. Decker. 2008. Coyote management in residential areas: human dimensions research needs. Pages 421-430 in Nolte, D. L., Arjo, W. M., and Stalman, D. (Ed.s) The Twelfth Wildlife Damage Management Conference Proceedings (April 9-12, 2007), Corpus Christi,Texas. Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, The Wildlife Society. Available from: Library, National Research Center, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Siemer, W. F., H. Wieczorek Hudenko, and D. J. Decker. 2008. Coyote management in residential areas: human dimensions research needs. Pages 131-136 in R. M. Timm (Ed.) Wildlife Damage Management Working Group of The Wildlife Society. InstantPublisher.com, Collierville, Tennessee.

Wieczorek Hudenko, H., D. J. Decker, and W. F. Siemer. 2008. Reliance on informants in wildlife management situation analysis—shortcut or shortcoming? Human Dimensions of Wildlife 13(6): 459-470.

Wieczorek Hudenko, H., D. J. Decker, and W. F. Siemer. 2008. Stakeholder insights into the human-coyote interface in Westchester County, NY. Human Dimensions Research Unit Series Publication 08-1. Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

Cornell contact: William Siemer, Research Specialist (wfs1@cornell.edu)

Submitted by: Dan Decker, Professor and Director, Human Dimensions Research Unit, Department of Natural Resources, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University

Date: 26 March 2009

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry by Dr. Jacqueline Frair

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF)
Science Advisory Report, 27 March 2009

To follow are updates on selected research projects of conservation interest in NY State. These projects were selected from among more than 20 wildlife-related studies currently underway at SUNY-ESF. The annual report of the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, which contains the full range of teaching and research activities of our faculty, is available as a handout or by contacting me (jfrair@esf.edu).

· "Poleward shifts in breeding bird distributions in NY State" is the title of a manuscript currently in press in the peer-reviewed journal "Global Change Biology". This research indicated a northward shift in the southern boundaries of various breeding bird species in NY State. After accounting for changes in overall population size and distribution, researchers observed a shift of 5.7 km/decade between approximately 1985 and 2005 (based on breeding bird atlas data) for species such as Pine Siskin, Bobolink Purple Finch, Least Flycatcher, White-winged Crossbill, NashvilleWarbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Brown Creeper. Moreover, when considering all 129 species in the survey, the center of species ranges shifted 3.58 km north on average in this period. These changes are consistent with climate change predictions, but NY is one of very few places in the world where sufficient data exists to detect such range shifts. This research was conducted by Ben Zuckerberg, Annie Woods, and William Porter. For more information on this work contact Ben Zuckerberg at bz73@cornell.edu or Bill Porter at wfporter@esf.edu.

· A study of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus prevalence in seemingly 'healthy' populations of smallmouth bass in the Thousand Islands region was recently completed by Geof Eckerlin, MS student under the direction of Dr. John Farrell. The researchers sampled the virus load of individual bass year-round and detected a spring peak in prevalence coincident with water temperatures of 10-14°C. In summer viral levels fell below detectable levels, and levels remained low until spring. Thus, effective surveillance should be timed to that critical spring peak to be effective. Due to the prolonged stress of exposure to cold temperatures in winter, followed by the additional stress of spawning in spring, bass are subject to the "perfect storm" for VHS risk in spring according to Eckerlin. Rapid temperature changes increase stress, and rapid change in spring through the 10-14C temperature range may be the key that triggers outbreaks. For the most current information on VHS visit http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs. For more information on this project contact Geof Eckerlin at geeckerl@syr.edu or John Farrell at jmfarrell@esf.edu.

· The eastern hellbender, the largest aquatic salamander in America, lives in swift-flowing, pristine stream habitats and remain active year-round. At maturity they reach 12-29 inches in size and vary in color from grayish to olive brown to black. Listed as a species of special concern in NY in 1983, a recent study was initiated to document their numbers and distribution

where they were known to occur historically in the Alleghany and Susquehanna River drainages. Data from these surveys indicate that the two drainages host different subspecies and that the Susquehanna River subspecies is nearly extinct. Land use (agricultural lands and impervious surfaces) adjacent to streams appear to be the major threat to hellbender persistence in NY State. Downstream populations in the Pennsylvania Susquehanna drainage appear secure, but locations of those populations for comparison have not been made available. There is a need for basin-wide comparisons of population status and habitat conditions so as to identify critical habitat and recovery options for NY State. In the future, captive breeding and reintroduction programs are likely to be part of their species recovery plan, and the genetics work indicates that the Alleghany stock may not be suitable for the Susquehanna drainage. This work is being conducted by Sam Quinn, MS student, under the supervision of Dr. James Gibbs. For more information on this intriguing creature go to http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7160.html. For information on this project, contact Sam Quinn at saquinn@syr.edu or James Gibbs at jpgibbs@esf.edu.

· The coyote foraging ecology study is in its second full year, and the final year for the first phase of research occurring in Otsego and Steuben Counties. This first phase focused on coyote diets, foraging behavior, and rates of killing white-tailed deer to infer their potential impacts on deer populations. To date nearly 40 coyotes have been collared, with trapping success being highest in the months of April and November. Crude survival rates in the first year of study were 53% in Otsego County and 91% in Steuben County. All mortalities were animals shot by landowners except for 1 unknown cause. Two major dispersal events were documented, the first a 70-mile trip from the Otsego study site into Sullivan County where the coyote was killed as part of an organized coyote hunt. The second was a 150-mile trip south-southeast into Northern Pennsylvania where the animal was caught by a local trapper. Analysis of more than 500 scats indicates that deer are the primary prey of coyotes in both areas, with 63-74% of the winter diet comprised of deer, and 19-41% of the summer diet comprised of adult deer and an additional 14-32% of the summer diet comprised of fawns. Researchers used high-tech GPS collars to 'back-track' coyotes and find deer carcasses they recently fed upon to determine whether coyotes were scavenging or actively killing deer. In winter 2008 the cause of death was certain on 45 carcasses coyotes fed upon, and only 3 (7%) had been killed by the coyote. Of those 3, 2 deer had previous and severe injuries such as a compound fracture of the femur. So far in 2009 11 carcasses with known causes of death have been identified, and have all been scavenged rather than killed by coyotes. These preliminary data indicate that coyote predation on adult deer is not an additive source of mortality, indicating little effect on the adult component of the deer population. In summer, two methods were attempted to quantify the number of kills of fawns by individual coyotes - the first was GPS back-tracking using collar locations collected every 20 minutes, and the second was remote cameras deployed at the entrance of coyote dens to take photos of adults returning with fawns or fawn parts. Only the GPS-backtracking method proved successful, and from 9 GPS collared animals in summer 2008, we identified 13 fawn kills. Although deployed at the dens of these 9 animals, the remote cameras failed to capture a single adult on film and so is not a useful way to quantify fawn kills. This is the second and final full winter and summer spent tracking deer kills. This project is transitioning in 2009-2010 into statewide surveys of coyote density and diet using a combination of scat searches, DNA analysis, and coyote vocalization surveys. For more information on this project visit

http://www.esf.edu/efb/frair/coyote/coyote_main.htm, or contact Robin Holevinski at rholevinski@hotmail.com or Jacqui Frair at jfrair@esf.edu.

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Chairmans Report – Michael Zeh

Mike began by recommending the members get to know their legislative reps in Albany and need to keep track of bills that are being pushed, especially by the Democrats. Some important issues include:

- 50 cal.
- Pistol permits
- Crossbow
- Hunting age
- License fee increase

He also feels that the board needs to educate the democrats on issues that are important to sportsmen. Members continue to go to the governor's office on important issues. It was suggested that a letter writing campaign would be useful in support of the boards position on bills. Mike personally prepared a letter to the Governor on the pheasant farm closing issue and on 5 year-re-licensing with training re-certification requirements and the elimination of COBIS (Combined Ballistic Identification System).

State Fish and Wildlife Management Board Committee assignments

Executive:

Michael Zeh	Region 4
Tom Grow	Region 6
Laurie Bruce	Region 5
Gerry Bierker	Region 3
Jim Petreszyn	Region 7
Dick Giardoni	Region 9
Jack Cooper	Secretary, NYSDEC

Habitat:

Richard Fox	Forest Practice Board

Homer Casler	Region 4
Lance Robson	Region 7
Barlow Rhodes	Farm Bureau
Dr. Jacqueline Frair	ESF
John Schumacher	SWCD/AG&MKS
Zenon Olow	Region 9

Access:

Dan Tone	NYSCC
Don Teed	Issak Walton
Jim Patreszyn	Region 7
Dick Fox	Forest Practice Board
Dan Decker	Cornell
Keith Kappel	Region 8
Gary Evans	Region 8
Philip May	Region 9

Resolutions:

Barbara Brown	Region 7
Bill Wilklow	Region 3
Bill Stage	Region 9
Dorothy Huber	Region 8

Nominating: (Spring Meeting)

Ray Merlotto (Joe Molinaro)	Region 3
Bill Stage	Region 9
Tom Grow	Region 6

Farm Days:

Public Relations:

Richard Fox	Forest Practice Board
Gerry Bierker	Region 3

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Fall 2009 State Board meeting will be held in Region 7, October 29-30, 2009. The Executive Committee meeting will be held September 11, 2009 at the Herkimer DEC Office. The executive committee discussed the recent license fee increase proposal that was drafted by the

CFAB and then slightly changed by DOB. The DOB version become the bill version. It was suggested that a motion be made in the full board meeting to support the CFAB version of the license fee increase.

There was also discussion about recommending that the board send members back to their regions with a charge to prepare a work plan to implement the new "Revised Vision" that was discussed at the meeting.

A motion was duly made by Gerry Bierker and seconded by Jim Petreszyn to support the license fee increase as proposed by the CFAB dated March 9, 2009. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was duly made by Jim Petreszyn and seconded by Gerry Bierker to request that Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Boards develop an annual work plan for the implementation of the new "Revised Vision" and send a draft copy to the State Board Secretary by August 31, 2009 so that the Executive committee can review them prior to the fall 2009 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Habitat Committee

Discussions focused on:

- Waterway connectivity-there was recommendations that the board follow through on proposing/endorsing best management practices.
- It was suggested that they support habitat improvement for brook trout
- It was also suggested that they get involved with some kind of resource inventory that can assist in resource protection and management (could work with BOCES, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Army National Guard units (various units may have construction equipment and personnel that could be used to help construct projects), SWCD, others)

Access Committee

Discussion focused on:

- Use of "Access by written permission only" signs
- Developing a resolution for the next meeting on the issue of public access on public lands to establish a Board position. The resolution would be forwarded to the Parks and Rec Commissioner.

Resolutions Committee

Two resolutions were submitted to the State Board for consideration from Region 4:

1) Resolution 2009-01-01 **Resolution in support of amendment to the ECL Section 11-0501 to eliminate the term limits for Fish and Wildlife Management Board members**
2) Resolution 2009-01-02 **Resolution in support of requiring the Habitat Stamp be mandatory for sporting license buyers.**

A motion was duly made by Bob Banks and seconded by Bill Stage that the State Board support and adopt resolution 2009-01-01.

Discussion followed, the question was called. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

A motion was duly made by Dorothy Huber and seconded by Homer Casler that the State Board support and adopt resolution 2009-01-02.

Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Bob Banks and seconded by Laurie Bruce to table Resolution 2009-01-02. The motion was unanimously approved. The resolution was tabled.

Election of Officers

The nominating committee submitted a slate of candidates as follows:

Chairman- Michael Zeh
Vice-Chairman- Tom Grow
CFAB Representative- Jim Petrezsyn
Executive Committee
- Laurie Bruce
- Gerry Bierker
- Dick Giardini

No other candidates were offered for consideration, nominations were closed.

The slate of candidates were unanimously elected.

New Business-

The DEC Bureau of Wildlife has requested the State and Regional Boards to review a propose plan to revise the "Ten year Management Plan for Ring-necked Pheasants in New York." The plan contains four issues:

1) Pheasant Hunting Seasons
2) Cock Only and Cock/Hen Hunting Areas
3) Adult Pheasants for National Field Trial
4) Young Pheasant Release Program

The State Board supported the following options and recommended that each regional board review the issues and develop a position.

Issue #1- Option 1, except that they do not support the closing dates for "all" areas to be February 28.

Issue #2- Option 2

Issue #3- Option 2

Issue #4- Option 2

The secretary will prepare a letter for the chairman's signature to transmit the State Board's position on this issue prior to the April 30 deadline for comments.

A motion was duly made to adjourn the Spring 2009 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board was adjourned by Chairman Zeh at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jack G. Cooper
Biologist 3 (Ecology)
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources
Statewide Fish and Wildlife Management Board Secretary

Members: Representatives of County Boards of Supervisors/County Legislators, Landowners and Sportsman

Advisory Members: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Conservation Council Inc., Farm Bureau of New York, New York State Grange, New York State Forest Practice Board, Izaak Walton League of America; New York State Division, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.