Budget and Staffing
Staffing:

Division of Fish and Wildlife

- 333 permanent positions (299 in fall 2018)
  - 43 converted seasonal Fish and Wildlife Technicians
- Approval to move forward with 16 permanent positions
Staffing:

Waivers from Hiring Freeze

Secretary 2 – Albany, Division Director Office
Fish and Wildlife Technician 2 – Cape Vincent, Lake Ontario
Biologist 1 (Aquatic) – R1
Biologist 1 (Wildlife) – R2
Environmental Program Specialist 1 (NR) – R2, Fisheries
Biologist 2 (Wildlife) – R3, Regional Wildlife Manager
Staffing:

Waivers from Hiring Freeze

Fish and Wildlife Technician 2 – R4, Wildlife
Biologist 1 (Ecology) – R4
Biologist 1 (Aquatic) – R5, Lake Champlain
Fish and Wildlife Technician 2 – R6, Wildlife
Biologist 2 (Ecology) – R9, Regional Habitat Manager
Staffing:

Waivers from Hiring Freeze

- Fish Culturist 2 – Salmon River Hatchery
- Fish Culturist 1 – Chateauguay Hatchery
- Fish Culturist 1 – Chateauguay Hatchery
- Fish Culturist 1 – Salmon River Hatchery
- Fish Culturist 1 – Rome Hatchery
Budget: Flat for 2019-20

Division of Fish and Wildlife (projected)

- General Fund: $304,100 (OPS) $4,281,555 (NPS)
- Conservation Fund: $1,703,700 (OPS) $2,991,745 (NPS)
- Federal Aid
  - Wildlife Restoration: $22.6 M
  - Sport Fish Restoration: $4.5 M (freshwater)
  - State Wildlife Grants: $2.2 M
Habitat and Access Stamp
Promoting Habitat / Access Stamp Sales:

- Goal – 25,000 2018 H / A Stamps (Barred Owl)
- “Stickers” – agents, State Fair
- Pins – State Fair
- Agent Incentives (recognition)
- Banner-ups – State Fair, top retailers
- Posters – (image of “stickers”)
- Social Media
- Change Call-out Box in DECALS
BE A HABITAT HERO
2018 Habitat & Access Stamp

$5

Invest in the future of New York's wildlife habitat and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Whether you are an angler or hunter, birder or photographer, purchasing a $5 Habitat & Access Stamp is the perfect way to preserve New York's wildlife heritage and increase public access for fish- and wildlife-related recreation.

For more information, talk to your NYSDEC license issuing agent, or visit our website at www.dec.ny.gov.
BE A HABITAT HERO
2018 Habitat & Access Stamp

With the purchase of a $5 Habitat & Access Stamp, you can help fund projects aimed at protecting and improving fish and wildlife habitat, and improving public access for fishing and wildlife-related recreation.

New York’s habitat heroes play a vital role in maintaining healthy and sustainable fish and wildlife resources for all to enjoy. Whether you are an eagle-injured human, passionate photographer, or any type of outdoor enthusiast, purchasing a Habitat & Access Stamp is the perfect way to help conserve New York’s remarkable wildlife heritage and habitat.

Some of the projects completed by the Department of Environmental Conservation and partners with Habitat & Access Stamp funds include:

- Improving angler access and parking areas on Clove Creek (Town of Chittenango), Snyders Lake (Town of North Greenbush), and Fishkill Creek (Town of Beacon).
- Improving grassland habitats at Upper Little Kill Wildlife Management Area (WMAs) and several other WMAs in Schuyler and Seneca counties.
- Constructing accessible fishing sites with parking area on Kioskensorees Creek (Town of Milford).
- Improving accessible access at Eightmile Creek (Town of Eldred).
- Constructing a parking area and accessible fishing platform on Salmon River (Franklin County).
- Improving stream habitat on Brainen Kill (Washington County) and Wissley Creek (Wayne County).
- Building a new fishing platform on Butterwood Creek (Town of Greece).

HuntFishNY
E-License & Game Harvest Reporting App

DEC’s official mobile app, New York Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife by Pocket Ranger, has an exciting new feature.

With the integration of a new e-license and game harvest-reporting tool, called HuntFishNY, hunters, trapppers and anglers now have a quick, user-friendly way to:

- Gain instant, mobile access to an electronic version of your fishing, hunting and trapping licenses and privileges, even when you don’t have cell reception.
- Report deer, bear or turkey harvests on your smartphone immediately while afield.
- Use smart-mapping technology for easy access to town, county and Wildlife Management Unit information.
- Have quick and easy access to season dates and maps, regulations guides and important DEC contact information.

The NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife Mobile App and the HuntFishNY e-License harvest-reporting tool can be downloaded from either the Apple App or Google Play store. See the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov/oureach/66470.html for more information.

NOTE: You will need a DEC Automated Licensing System (DEALS) user name and password to securely access your license documents through the HuntFishNY e-License and harvest-reporting mobile apps. If you have not yet created an online user name and password, please visit DEALS through the link on our website at www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6101.html

Questions? Call our sporting license hotline at:

866-472-4332

Department of Environmental Conservation

NEW YORK STATE

Department of Environmental Conservation

NEW YORK STATE

Department of Environmental Conservation
Habitat Stamp Holiday Promotion

Buy a Stamp; Get a Collectible Owl Pin*!

From December 1 through December 14, if you purchase a $5 Habitat & Access Stamp, NYDEC will send you a collectible 2018-19 Habitat Patron pin featuring a barred owl. Revenue from the sale of Habitat & Access Stamps supports DEC’s efforts to improve fish and wildlife habitat and increase access for outdoor recreation. You can buy Habitat & Access Stamps online, by phone at 1-866-933-2257 (Mon - Fri 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM), or at any License Issuing Agent.

Also, during this promotional period, if you purchase 7 stamps in one transaction ($35 donation), you will receive our entire collector series of 7 pins which includes the barred owl, beaver, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, wood duck, bluebird and woodcock pins, plus an extra 2018-19 barred owl pin—8 pins in all!

*Quantities are limited; order today! Pins will be mailed in time for Christmas. If you have questions or would like to make a special pin request, call our DEC License Sales hotline at 866-472-4332, M-F, 8AM-4PM, by December 14.
Promoting Habitat / Access Stamp Sales:

To date 2018 H/A Stamp Sales = 13,724

All-time high sales = 9,961 (in 2007)
Promoting Habitat / Access Stamp Sales:

Recognition to License-Issuing Agents
- certificate
- coffee mug
- note out to all LIAs re: top sellers
Promoting Habitat / Access Stamp Sales:

Top Sellers:

- Town of New Lebanon (266)
- Oak Orchard Tackle and Lodge, Inc. (216)
- Town of Hamburg (179)
- Town of Pleasant Valley (169)
- Town of Owego (165)
Promoting Habitat / Access Stamp Sales:

Highest Percentage compared to all sales:

Accurate Sports (22.9%)
Town of Shelter Island (20.2%)
Town of Florence (18.9%)
Chester Public Library (17.7%)
Town of Wright (17.5%)
Promoting Habitat / Access Stamp Sales:

Most Improved 2018 vs 2017:

Town of New Lebanon

2017 - 2
2018 - 266
Young Forest Initiative - Progress

42 Approved Habitat Management Plans

9 additional Habitat Management Plans pending approval

15 additional Habitat Management Plans in draft

30 Public meetings held (37 WMAs)
### Young Forest Initiative - Progress

Inventories Completed (acres):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region 3</td>
<td>3,186</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 4</td>
<td>10,818</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 5</td>
<td>5,269</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 6</td>
<td>43,628</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 7</td>
<td>50,717</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 8</td>
<td>31,771</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 9</td>
<td>7,040</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>152,429</strong></td>
<td><strong>78%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seed tree cut – Indian River WMA – R6
Young Forest Initiative - Progress

Inventories completed on 72 (79%) of WMAs

Inventories underway 9 additional WMAs (37,321 acres)

Approved prescriptions 50

Projects currently under contract – 24 (930 acres)
Young Forest Initiative - **Progress**

- Projects completed – 28 (653 acres)
- Young forest created – 580 acres
- Other forest habitat improvement – 360 acres
Young Forest Initiative - Progress

Noncommercial aspen clear cutting (30 ac) and apple release (~15 ac) on Tioughnioga WMA, Region 7, completed early December 2018.
Access and Public Use Plans - WMAs
Access and Public Use Plan - WMAs

Completed for each Wildlife Management Area
Developing Template

- Inventory (existing features)
- Management Challenges
- Management Strategies
  - Habitat Management to Enhance Access
    - Physical Features (parking areas, roads, bridges, trails, blinds, observation towers, launches, etc.)
- Maps
Furbearer Management in New York

Fisher and Otter Update
Fisher Occupancy and Abundance

- Regions 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 in conjunction with Cornell University 2019-2021
- 119 occupancy sites / 442 SCR sites.
- SCR = Hair snares, which will be used to develop an abundance estimate.
- Hare surveys – 90 total sites *
  - 4-14
  - 7-27
  - 8-29
  - 9-19
Spatial Capture Recapture (SCR)
Results to Date

Region 4
128 sites, to date 69 detections 72%

Region 6
58 sites, to date 36 detections 62%

Region 7
135 sites, to date 89 detections 72%

Region 8
124 sites, to date 48 detections 54%

Region 9
140 sites
Fisher Demographic

• Regions 5 and 6 in conjunction with SUNY ESF / 2019-2022

• 8 total fisher were caught – 4 females 4 males.
  • Goal is 10 females a year per region.
  • Females GPS / Males VHF

• Tracking and observing kits at den trees via trail cameras

• For next year:
  • Reassess trapping efforts
  • PHD student will be on board
About 90 traps between regions

Baited - with beaver, moose, and muskrat.

Lured - with skunk essence, GUSTO, and fisher gland lure.
8

Yea right .......
You think I'm stupid!
Permits and Carcass Collection

• Livers – 498
• Reproductive Tracks - 338
• Stomachs - 495
• Teeth – 1,797
• Logs
Fisher/Marten Specific Trapping Efforts 2017

2017 Trapping log Summary: Deanna Kreinheder
Otter Update

Maps Provided by Jacqui Friar/ SUNY ESF
400 m shoreline (to increase detection probability)
4-8 survey sites/block (1 visit each)
Winters 2016-17, 2017-18

2017-2018 Surveys
2017-18 Survey Returns

214 blocks surveyed (323 in 2016-17) ... 34% reduction
86% surveyed 4+ times (48% in 2016-17) ... 79% increase

Survey location
Otter sign detected

Independent photo validation
Detections Combined (2017-18 & 2016-17)

- Survey location
- Otter detection winter 2017-18
- Otter detection winter 2016-17
Predicted occupancy (use)

0.00

0.98
Mean occupancy prediction

Recovery zone
Not different from southern zone

Northern zone
Higher than SZ
(harvested)

Southern zone
(harvested)

Regions 1&2
Lower than SZ
Otter Plan

• Drafts of Section 1 and 2 completed
• Draft of Section 3 in progress
• Further Monitoring
Thank You

• Tim Pyszczynski
• Wildlife Biologist
• 317 Washington St. Watertown, NY
• Timothy.pyszczynski@dec.ny.gov
• 315-785-2534

• Connect with us:
  Facebook: www.facebook.com/NYSDEC
  Twitter: twitter.com/NYSDEC
  Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/nysdec
Managing public access to the WMA system

March 21, 2019
NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board
White Eagle, NY

Marcelo J. del Puerto
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Our mission:

- Acquire and manage state land to benefit wildlife survival and reproduction.
- Provide for safe, convenient, and ecologically-sound access for wildlife-dependent recreation.
The WMA System:

- 125 Wildlife Management Areas
- 72 Coop Hunting, Multiple Use, Unique, State Forest and other areas
- 259,665 acres total and growing!
We provide a place to hunt, fish, look at birds, trap, and enjoy nature.

this

not this
Providing public access
Improving access for persons with disabilities
Management Goals

PRIMARY GOALS:

▪ GOAL 1—Provide and enhance habitat for a diversity of wildlife with an emphasis on game species and those species listed as Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern, or Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in New York’s State Wildlife Action Plan.

▪ GOAL 2—Provide and enhance opportunities to participate in wildlife-dependent recreation (e.g., hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife observation and photography) that is compatible with the ecological integrity of the area.
SECONDARY GOALS:

- GOAL 3—Foster understanding and instill appreciation of the diversity and interconnectedness of wildlife and their habitats.

- GOAL 4—Allow for non-wildlife-dependent recreation (e.g., hiking, biking, horseback riding, skiing, snowmobiling, and dog walking and trials) provided the activity is compatible with the primary goals associated with wildlife-dependent recreation and wildlife habitat enhancement.
How we decide what is allowed

A. **Primary Activities:** Wildlife-dependent, compatible
   Hunting, Trapping, Wildlife observation, wildlife and nature photography, Fishing.

B. **Secondary Activities:** May not be wildlife-dependent but generally compatible
   Non-powered boating, Hiking, bicycling on WMA roads, specific trails, or boardwalks, Cross-country (Nordic) skiing or snowshoeing.

C. **Restricted activities:** Not wildlife related, can be incompatible: horseback-riding, off-road bicycling, camping, dog trials, target shooting, group events.
Management challenges in WMAs

- “Target” shooting
- Mountain (off-road) bicycling
- Dog trials
- Snowmobiles
- Horseback riding
- Partying, alcohol, drug use
Target shooting: the notorious mounds at Tonawanda WMA