

NYS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, INC.
2010 RESOLUTIONS

Subject: Bears and Bees

1-10 Cattaraugus County

Whereas black bears destroying an apiary may be presently taken or killed at any time by shooting, use of leg gripping trap with teeth, snares or any device to entice or trap;

Whereas apiary owners have available to them at no cost D.E.C. personnel and materials for temporary use until apiary owners can install the specifically designed deterrents recommended by the D.E.C;

Whereas In Region 9, eight bears have been killed because there were no deterrents in place;

Whereas sportsmen, sportswomen and wildlife viewers are being disadvantaged by present law;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cattaraugus County Federated Sportsmen's Clubs requests the New York State Conservation Council and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation seek any amendment to change Fish & Wildlife Law subdivision 2 of Section 11-0523 to: Any bear killing or worrying livestock on land occupied or cultivated, or destroying an apiary thereon must be reported to the D.E.C. for their recommended deterrents or the animals be trapped and/or destroyed by the D.E.C. as they feel necessary to resolve the problem.

Contact: Thomas Vanderbosch, 7932 Utley Road, East Otto, NY 14729
· 716-257-3510 bosch257@localnet.com

Big Game Committee comments: While it appears that the history of this is targeted toward certain repeat offenders, the resources within DEC are not practical given the current economic position. The timeline which could be a safety issue of someone really in peril does not protect the individual for defending their person or property. DEC is aware of this issue and will work toward its resolve of the ethical vs. legal practice that is taking place. Votes: 2 support / 12 opposed

Legislative Committee comments: Support. This reinforces DEC existing law; landowners and bee keepers cannot destroy bear without notifying DEC that they have a problem.

Subject: Rifle Hunting

2-10 Chautauqua County

Whereas there are a number of counties in New York State that have center fire rifles that can be used legally to hunt deer;

Whereas these counties showed no or little reports of unsafe usage hunting violations due to center fire rifle usage;

Whereas Chautauqua County has sufficient public and private land to accommodate center fire rifle usage during the season;

Whereas the New York State DEC is not opposed to center fire rifle hunting where it is appropriate;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Conservation Council seek legislation which would allow the usage of center fire rifles of .243 or greater for all townships in Chautauqua County that are wholly or partially south of NYS Rte 20.

Contact: Gene Pauszek, 66 West Doughty Street, Dunkirk, NY 14048
716/366-1772

Big Game Committee comments: While in general the committee and the Council support expanded opportunities for rifle use the specification of .243 caliber does not conform to the current state regulation. There was also discussion on the boarder line and the US rte 20 vs. NYS Rte 20 designation. There are also 4 bills in the legislature regarding this change. We recommend that the submitters change the caliber designation to match current laws and the boundaries mention be clarified. While the Council can support an initiative like this, the local communities and authorities are really the ones that need to push this legislation. Based upon the format that this was written the votes were: Votes – 3 support/10 opposed/ 1 abstain

Legislative Committee comments: Support; should not list .243 or greater, as this is different than DEC Regulations; just centerfire rifle. County needs to get the support of their county and state legislators before the NYSCC can move forward with this.

3-10 Wyoming County

Whereas sportsmen who hunt big game in Wyoming County are not able to use rifles for the big game season;

Whereas at present, rifled muzzle loader and rifled barrel pistol are permitted during the big game season;

Whereas at the present time, counties that have rifle season for big game hunting season have not had any accidents since rifles were allowed in the counties;

Whereas Wyoming County is made up of rural farm lands and does not have any cities; and sportsmen feel the rifle would be safe in Wyoming County;

BE IT RESOLVED that sportsmen in Wyoming County request the NYSCC to pursue legislation/regulatory changes to allow the use of rifle in Wyoming County during the big game season.

Contact: Ronald Barvian , 360 Route 20-A, Strykersville, NY 14145
585/652-9625-H 716/863-1789-C

Big Game Committee comments: There is already a bill in the legislature for this addition to the list of counties that have allowed rifle use in the traditional shotgun areas (S7210). Votes: 14 Support/0 opposed

Firearms & Ammunition Committee comments: The resolution is generally approved with the following recommendations:

Whereas #3 be amended; although the safety record of hunting with rifles has been very good, in fact better than the record of shotgun only areas on a per capita basis, it is not entirely true to state that there have been zero accidents.

Whereas #4 be amended; the statement "Sportsmen feel the rifle would be safe in Wyoming County," is an unsupported opinion. Obviously a blanket statement of what all sportsmen feel has no demonstrable basis in fact or statistical evidence. This should be stricken. A suggested replacement statement could be "the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors has passed a resolution in support of allowing the use of rifles for big game hunting in Wyoming County."

Legislative Committee comments: Support; county needs to get the support of their county and state legislators before the NYSCC can move forward with this.

4-10 Niagara County

Whereas the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation restricts the types of implements that can be used to hunt big game to certain locations within New York State, thus preventing New York State hunters from using rifles chambered for pistol cartridges in shotgun only New York State hunting zones;

Whereas New York State hunters are required to use shotgun slugs with increased recoil and decreased accuracy to hunt big game in many hunting zones in New York State;

Whereas New York State hunters are required to purchase more costly shotgun slugs to hunt big game in many hunting zones in New York State;

Whereas younger and smaller New York State hunters are deterred from participating in big game hunting because they are prohibited from using rifles chambered for pistol cartridges which are easier for smaller or younger hunters to handle;

Whereas using rifles chambered for pistol cartridges in big game hunting in expanded areas of New York State would attract more sportsmen to big game hunting, and New York State firearm dealers would gain revenue;

Whereas increased sales of pistol cartridges to hunters that are attracted to big game hunting by the ability to use implements that fit their physical stature would lead to increased excise tax funds available for wildlife research and conservation efforts;

Whereas the flexibility to chose a hunting implement that fits the physical and marksmanship abilities of the individual hunter would increase the number of licensed hunters in New York State;

Whereas the use of rifles chambered for pistol cartridges for big game hunting is allowed in sister states that have established case length restrictions to preclude the use of cartridges with lower power and cartridges with higher velocities, and New York State hunters are prohibited from practicing hunting for big game with rifles chambered for pistol cartridges and preparing for a safe hunt in these states;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Conservation Council shall support and seek to amend the big game hunting laws to allow the use of rifles chambered for pistol cartridges for big game hunting in expanded areas of New York State.

Contact: Jacob Schuler, 3285 Coomer Road, Newfane NY 14108
716-799-3093-Cell jschuler257@yahoo.com

Big Game Committee comments: While most of those in the committee agreed with the premise that the "traditional" pistol cartridges have no more range than the modern shotgun range and that there are current pistols which use "traditional" rifle cartridges, there are no legal definitions of what caliber/cartridge defines rifle vs. pistol. This would become a very huge enforcement issue and based upon that fact the votes were: 0 support/14 opposed

Firearms & Ammunition Committee comments: This resolution should be rejected. It continually refers to "pistol cartridges." While there are many cartridges commonly used in pistols, there are no cartridges that are used exclusively for pistol ammunition. SCOPE, the NRA, and the NYSCC are continually at pains to clarify this fact to legislators who introduce legislation intended to restrict access to "pistol ammunition" to holders of a NYS License to Carry Pistol. To request the NYSCC to lobby for legislation allowing for the use of pistol cartridges for big game hunting will be contrary to the NYSCC position and undermine ongoing efforts.

The majority of the points listed as "whereas" in this resolution are poorly written, unreferenced, or unsupported statements. It is unclear exactly what types of rifles and calibers the authors of this resolution are seeking to hunt big game with, and questionable as to whether these would be suitable for taking big game. The authors should consider submitting a resolution calling for the NYSCC to support legislation authorizing the use of rifle for big game in Niagara County without

referring to pistol cartridges. Any rifle that the authors of this proposed resolution are seeking to hunt with, that is suitable for taking big game, would be covered under such legislation.

Legislative Committee comments: Oppose: What is the definition of a pistol cartridge? Handguns can shoot a wide range of ammo, the same as many rifle cartridges. Should be asking for the use of rifles for big game hunting.

Subject: Coyotes

5-10 Chemung County

Whereas coyotes now inhabit most every county in good numbers throughout New York State;

Whereas coyotes are very elusive and prolific;

Whereas coyotes have become a problem to mankind and to wildlife in New York State;

Whereas coyotes are killed by people during the closed season because people view them as a nuisance;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Conservation Council request the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to open the season on coyotes all year long to hunting.

Contact: Jack Sincok, 171 W. Hill Road, Elmira, NY 14903
607-733-4945

Small Game Committee comments: This resolution was quickly defeated after Gordon Batcheller of the DEC pointed out that the coyote is a game animal and the period in spring when they are having their young would not be a time when hunting would be allowed.

Law Enforcement Committee comments: Cannot support the resolution as written. The "whereas" referring to people killing coyotes during the closed season should be eliminated.

Legislative Committee comments: No opinion. Coyotes are listed as furbearers, so there needs to be a season. Committee agrees that more harvest of coyotes is needed.

Subject: Crossbow

6-10 Chemung County

Whereas crossbows have been used by men for hunting and war since early times;

Whereas not everyone is physically able to hunt with a long bow or a compound bow;

Whereas most states in the eastern USA have an archery season for crossbow hunting during the regular season;

Whereas NYS does NOT have a crossbow archery season for Senior Citizens or the physically challenged archery hunters;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Conservation Council put in a request to the NYS DEC to enact a regulation or law to allow seniors or physically challenged hunters to hunt with a bow during the regular archery season.

Contact: Jack Sincock, 171 W. Hill Road, Elmira, NY 14903
607-733-4945

Big Game Committee comments: Probably the next most contentious issue after AR's. Here again the law **must** be changed to **first** allow for the use of a crossbow for taking of game. Because this resolution asks specifically for its use during the special archery season, there are many opposed. Some also feel it is **discriminatory** to only allow use by seniors or disabled. There are no less than 8 current bill in the legislature looking to legalize the use of crossbows. The Council's current position is to support its use as a legal hunting implement. Votes: 3 support/ 10 opposed/1 abstain

Legislative Committee comments: Support. The "be it resolved" should state "crossbow", not "bow". NYSCC has positions to make a crossbow a legal hunting implement and to allow seniors 65 and older or disabled to use a crossbow during bow season.

Subject: Antler Restrictions/Alternate Harvest Strategies

7-10 Delaware County

Whereas there has been a sustained effort on the part of sportsmen who already have mandatory antler restrictions in their counties to impose them on Delaware County;

Whereas Ulster County has proven that the Council's help is not mandatory for implementation;

Whereas Delaware County Federation has continued to oppose the restrictions in our county which comprises WMU's 4O and 4P by an overwhelming majority vote;

Whereas the data coming out of the areas that were in a 3 year pilot program has had mixed reviews and should continue to be studied;

Whereas the most negative potential effects of the restrictions are not always quickly experienced and need time to be appropriately studied;

Whereas there is no biological need for mandatory antler restrictions;

Whereas buck take from those areas that were supposed to recover in 3 years have not recovered, and after 3 years one of the WMUs was still down 39%;

Whereas hunter satisfaction that was supposed to rise with implementation has actually fallen. Dissatisfaction has risen double and triple the rate of satisfaction.

Whereas Pennsylvania has seen an annual 4% DECREASE in the number of nonresident licenses sold since the implementation of mandatory antler restrictions;

Whereas Pennsylvania has seen a buck harvest drop from a 2001 pre-restriction harvest of 203,247 to a 2007 harvest of 109,200 after it had 6 years to start a recovery;

Whereas New York does not have a penalty that fits the offense. In New York it is a minimum \$250 fine and \$75.00 surcharge with up to \$2,000, 1 year in jail and a revoked license;

Whereas New York has by no means tried other alternate ideas to achieve the goals of the mandatory antler restriction advocates;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC oppose the implementation of mandatory antler restrictions in Delaware County's Wildlife Management Units 4O and 4P.

Contact: Dan Owen, 4935 Co. Hwy 35, Sidney Center, NY 13839
607/265-3750 dowen@mkl.com

Big Game Committee comments: Delaware's resolution revolves around the issue of "home rule" where the **organized sportsmen** of an area should have the determination regarding issues such as AR's. If other areas want to implement AR's based upon their local support, then Delaware asks that for the same reasons the Council oppose any attempt to implement mandatory AR's in 4O and 4P where the county organization is on record as opposing them. Votes: 7 support/3 oppose/4 abstain

Legislative Committee comments: Support. Many of the "whereas" statements are debatable and are **not needed, as they will create** controversy. The "be it resolved" is what we support; when a county federation asks the NYSCC to support or oppose an issue in their county, it should be done.

8-10 Nassau County

Whereas deer populations in New York State, especially buck numbers, are currently substantially down from previous numbers in many areas and the herd must be restored;

Whereas New York's basic deer management **management strategies regimes** are almost 100 years old and do not reflect recently emerging advances and techniques provided for by scientific deer management;

Whereas the deer herd should be restored in a balanced and biologically sound way by increasing the buck to doe ratio by increasing the numbers and age of the buck population;

Whereas implementation of new deer management techniques and harvest regimes could substantially increase deer hunter participation and satisfaction, and ultimately provide a better and more efficient tool to achieve the levels of annual deer harvest needed for better herd management;

Whereas there is growing interest among New York hunters to refine their role as deer herd managers and expand their hunting opportunities and satisfactions, including the opportunity to pursue and take more mature bucks and create adult sex ratios that are in balance with deer herd health;

Whereas certain areas, such as Ulster County, Sullivan County, Greene County, Delaware County, Schoharie County and other areas have overwhelming support for improving buck hunting in their local area;

Whereas the DEC implemented antler harvest restrictions in 2005 in Ulster County in two units and in 2006 in Sullivan County in two units, and sportsmen are happy with the program and would like to expand the program to include additional counties;

Whereas the expansion to include additional units is also supported by Sullivan County Federation of Sportsmen, Ulster County Federation of Sportsmen, Greene County Federation of Sportsmen, Schoharie County Conservation Association, Dutchess County Federation of Sportsmen, Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen, Nassau County Fish and Game and QDMA;

Whereas improved buck hunting could establish a statewide precedent and have far reaching implications;

Whereas improved buck hunting will benefit all New York hunters who wish to hunt in these areas;

Whereas sportsmen with the support of their communities **requested** the DEC improve buck hunting by implementing yearling buck protection in 2009, **the DEC withdrew** the proposal and other remedies have not been successful in accomplishing **this requested** change;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC position be that an alternative deer harvest strategy that includes antler harvest restrictions **needed to achieve greater levels of maturity among the buck segment of the deer population be implemented** in wildlife management units that have the support of local hunters, such as unit 3A, 4G, 4R, 4S, 4O, 4P and 4W on an unit by unit basis and that NYSCC advocate for **and support regulation** and legislative change to implement said position including conveying said **support in writing to the DEC**.

Contact: Charles A. Bevilacqua, 3 Albert Avenue, Syosset, NY 11791
516/921-1429-H

Big Game Committee comments: 3A/4G/4P/4O/4R/4S/4W – basically the same verbiage and areas but their proposal **states** it includes AR's as part of the program. Interestingly enough, the submitting organization is **not part** of these listed areas. Same discussion points as #10 and #11.
Votes: 5 support/7 oppose/2 abstain

Legislative Committee comments: Oppose: In "Be It Resolved", should not have support of local hunters. It should have support of the local NYSCC member county federations. We should support our voting members. Also, it should not include a WMU where the County Federation is opposed to antler restrictions. Should have the date listed when the buck harvest rule became effective, not just list "100 years of deer management." Many changes have been made over the years, but no change has been made in regard to the 3" rule for bucks.

9-10 Quality Deer Management Association

Whereas it is sound deer biology to have a balanced age structure of bucks in the herd;

Whereas many deer biologists support protecting yearling bucks in order to promote a balanced herd structure and sound deer management;

Whereas New York State buck harvests are comprised of 62% yearlings, one of the highest percentage of any state in the nation;

Whereas we are confident in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation deer biologists' ability to establish a standard that will protect the majority of yearling bucks while making the majority of other age classes available for harvest;

Whereas we are also confident in the abilities of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation deer biologists to objectively monitor the effects of any such program created in New York;

Whereas yearling buck protection is supported by the majority of hunters in New York State;

Whereas sportsmen in many areas of New York have requested implementing an antler restriction program to protect yearling bucks; such areas include: WMUs 3A, 4G, 4P, 4O, 4R, 4S and 4W;

Whereas we are comfortable with the levels of support and opposition in each WMU as determined by the spring 2009 hunter surveys, public meetings and public input;

Whereas furthermore we commend the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation willingness to adopt new and progressive strategies to protect the majority of yearling bucks in the above-mentioned WMUs;

Whereas furthermore we offer our assistance to help New York State Department of Environmental Conservation staff to educate and/or inform sportsmen and women on the proposed changes;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC take any and all steps to assist the DEC to adopt progressive strategies to protect the majority of yearling bucks in the above-mentioned WMUs as requested by the majority of sportsmen and that immediately a letter be sent to the DEC strongly encouraging them to adopt yearling buck protection in requested WMU's.

Contact: John Rybinski, john101@windstream.net

Big Game Committee comments: One interesting point that QDMA does not include in their YBP (yearling buck protection) is the call for AR's. They point out many of the benefits of protecting the yearlings like education and hunter support, there are many methods other than AR's to achieve this goal. With current DEC reports of yearling harvest under 60% we are not far from that goal. Part of the opposition to this resolution is the fact that they include the Delaware County WMU's 4O and 4P which are on record as opposing mandatory AR's. Shortening of seasons, single buck tag and other alternatives could help achieve this goal. Votes: 5 support/6 oppose/3 abstain

Legislative Committee comments: Oppose. In "Be It Resolved", should not have support of local hunters. It should have support of the local NYSCC member county federations. We should support our voting members. Also it should not include WMU where the County Federation is opposed to antler restrictions. Should have the date listed when the buck harvest rule became effective, not just list "100 years of deer management". Many changes have been made over the years but no change has been made in regard to the 3" rule for bucks.

10-10 Schoharie County

Whereas the white tail deer population in New York State, especially the buck numbers, is currently down from previous years in many areas, and the herd needs to be restored;

Whereas New York State's deer management models are nearly 100 years old and may not reflect the recent advances and techniques provided by some newer scientific deer management models;

Whereas the white tail deer herd might be restored by increasing the buck to doe ratio, thereby increasing the number and age of the buck population;

Whereas the proposed implementation of new white tail deer management techniques and harvest programs may increase deer hunter participation and satisfaction, thereby resulting in an improved and more efficient tool to achieve a raised level of annual deer harvest numbers needed for better herd management;

Whereas there is growing interest among New York State white tail deer hunters to participate in deer herd management, and to expand hunting opportunities and raise satisfaction levels, by

increasing the opportunity to pursue and harvest mature bucks and create adult sex ratios that are in balance with deer herd health;

Whereas the NYS DEC implemented antler harvest restrictions in 2005 in Ulster County in two DMU units, and in 2006 two DMU units in Sullivan County. The white tail deer hunters report satisfaction with the program in these areas, and would like to expand the program to include additional counties including more upstate counties in Region 4;

Whereas Schoharie County is centrally located in the NYSDEC Region 4 and has overwhelming support for improving white tail deer hunting in their local area; and proposes that DMU 4G, a unit wholly contained within the boundaries of Schoharie County, be included in the implementation of an antler harvest restriction program;*

Whereas the expansion to include Unit 4G is also supported by several county conservation federations including the Schoharie County Conservation Association, and QDMA. **This expansion would provide the first DMU in the upstate area of New York State, affording more upstate area white tail deer hunters the opportunity to experience hunting in an area with an alternative deer harvest strategy program in place.**

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC shall support an alternative deer harvest strategy that may include antler harvest restrictions, to achieve a greater level of maturity and numbers among bucks of certain area deer populations, and that such programs be supported and implemented in the NYSDEC Wildlife Management Units that have the support of the local NYSCC member county conservation or sportsman federations.

Contact: Willie Karlau, 518-295-7781, bwkarlau@midtel.net

Sponsor-suggested change: *Whereas Schoharie County is centrally located in the NYSDEC Region 4 area and has growing support for improving white tail deer hunting in their county; and proposes that WMU 4G, a unit largely within the boundaries of Schoharie County, shall be included in the implementation of an antler restriction program;

Big Game Committee comments: Specifically WMU 4G, which is wholly contained in this county, would like to see the alternate harvest strategy implemented in this area because it has the support of the "home rule" organizations in the county federation. They support programs which may include AR's but did not specifically state it had to include AR's. The issue that creeps into the conversation is that by DEC's accounts, there are more hunters from outside some of these counties who use the area than those within. Because of this the "home rule" argument makes less sense for both those organizations for and against mandatory AR's. Votes: 6 support/5 oppose/3 abstain

Legislative Committee comments: Support; would like to see the date listed when the buck harvest rule became effective, not just list "100 years of deer management". Many changes have been made over the years but no change has been made in regard to the 3" rule for bucks.

11-10 Sullivan County

Whereas deer populations in New York State, especially buck numbers, are currently substantially down from previous numbers in many areas and the herd must be restored;

Whereas New York's basic deer management strategies regimes are almost 100 years old and do not reflect recently emerging advances and techniques provided for by scientific deer management;

Whereas the deer herd should be restored in a balanced and biologically sound way by increasing the buck to doe ratio by increasing the numbers and age of the buck population;

Whereas implementation of new deer management techniques and harvest regimes could substantially increase deer hunter participation and satisfaction, and ultimately provide a better and more efficient tool to achieve the levels of annual deer harvest needed for better herd management;

Whereas there is growing interest among New York hunters to refine their role as deer herd managers and expand their hunting opportunities and satisfactions, including the opportunity to pursue and take more mature bucks and create adult sex ratios that are in balance with deer herd health;

Whereas certain areas such as Sullivan County have overwhelming support for improving buck hunting in their local area;

Whereas the DEC implemented antler harvest restrictions in 2006 in Sullivan County in two units and the sportsmen of Sullivan Federation are happy with the program and would like to expand the program to include the remainder of the county contained in Unit 3A;

Whereas the expansion to include Unit 3A is also supported by Ulster County Federation of Sportsmen, Greene County Federation of Sportsmen, Schoharie County Conservation Association, Dutchess County Federation of Sportsmen, Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen, Nassau County Fish and Game and QDMA;

Whereas improved buck hunting could establish a statewide precedent and have far reaching implications;

Whereas improved buck hunting will benefit all New York hunters who wish to hunt in this region;

Whereas sportsmen, with the support of their communities, requested the DEC improve buck hunting by implementing yearling buck protection for unit 3A in 2005, 2006 and 2009, and the DEC did not adopt the proposal and other remedies have not been successful in accomplishing this requested change;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC position be that an alternative deer harvest strategy that includes antler harvest restrictions needed to achieve greater levels of maturity among the buck segment of the deer population be implemented in wildlife management units that have the support of local hunters, such as unit 3A, on a unit by unit basis and that NYSCC advocate for and support regulation and legislative change to implement said position including conveying said support in writing to the DEC.

Contact: David Hartman, PO Box 191, Grahamsville NY 12740
845/985-0087

Big Game Committee comments: 3A – basically the same verbiage limited to WMU 3A and their proposal states it includes AR's as part of the program. Votes: 5 support/7 opposed/2 abstain

Legislative Committee comments: Support. For our support, the resolution will need wording change in "Be it resolved": take out the whole thing and use the same as Schoharie County, which reads: BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; that the NYSCC shall support an alternative deer harvest strategy that may include antler harvest restrictions, to achieve a greater level of maturity and numbers among bucks of certain area deer populations. And that such programs be supported and implemented in the NYSDEC Wildlife Management Units that have the SUPPORT of the local NYSCC member county conservation or sportsman federations. Would like to see the date listed when the buck harvest rule became effective, not just list "100 years of deer management". Many changes have been made over the years but no change has been made in regard to the 3" rule for bucks.

12-10 Ulster County

Whereas deer populations in New York State, especially buck numbers, are currently substantially down from previous numbers in many areas and the herd must be restored;

Whereas New York's basic deer management strategies and practices are almost 100 years old and do not reflect recent advances and techniques rapidly emerging from the science of deer management;

Whereas the deer herd should be restored in a balanced and biologically sound way by increasing the buck to doe ratio by increasing the numbers and age of the buck population;

Whereas implementation of new deer management techniques and harvest regimes could substantially increase deer hunter participation and satisfaction, and ultimately provide a better and more efficient tool to achieve the levels of annual deer harvest currently needed for better overall herd management;

Whereas there is growing interest among New York hunters to refine their role as deer herd managers and expand their hunting opportunities and satisfactions, including the opportunity to

pursue and take more mature bucks and create adult sex ratios that are in balance with deer herd health;

Whereas certain areas, such as Ulster County, have demonstrated strong local support for improving buck hunting in their local area;

Whereas the DEC implemented antler harvest restrictions in 2005 in Ulster County in two units and the sportsmen of New York who hunt in the affected WMU's are satisfied with the antler restriction program and furthermore would like to expand the program to include the remainder of the county that includes WMU 3A;

Whereas the expansion to include Unit 3A is also supported by Sullivan County Federation of Sportsmen, Greene County Federation of Sportsmen, Schoharie County Conservation Association, Dutchess County Federation of Sportsmen, Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen, Nassau County Fish and Game, NYS Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association, Ulster County Farm Bureau, Greene County Farm Bureau, **and** Schoharie County Farm Bureau;

Whereas improved buck hunting could serve to promote hunter participation and enhance long term hunter satisfaction;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS~~CC~~ support an alternative deer harvest strategy that includes antler harvest restrictions needed to **achieve** greater levels of maturity among the buck segment of the deer population in Wildlife Management Units that have the support of local hunters, such as WMU 3A;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DEC embrace, coordinate and promptly adopt such strategies where stakeholder interest is over 50%.

Contact: Jay Martin, P.O. Box 275, Accord, NY 12404

845/626-7659 captainjaymartin@yahoo.com

Jim Smiseth, 845/687-0738

Willard "Bill" Smith, 845/647-7246

Big Game Committee comments: basically the same verbiage limited to WMU 3A, and their proposal states it includes AR's as part of the program. They also want DEC to recognize any stake holder interest above 50% (simple majority) be the controlling percentage. Votes: 5 support/7 opposed/2 abstain

Legislative Committee comments: Support. For our support, it will need wording change in "Be it resolved": take out the whole thing and use the same as Schoharie County, which reads: BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; that the NYS~~CC~~ shall support an alternative deer harvest strategy that may include antler harvest restrictions, to achieve a greater level of maturity and numbers among bucks of certain area deer populations. And that such programs be supported and implemented in the NYSDEC Wildlife Management Units that have the SUPPORT of the local NYS~~CC~~ member

county conservation or sportsman federations. And remove the second "be it resolved" about interest over 50 %. Would like to see the date listed when the buck harvest rule became effective, not just list "100 years of deer management". Many changes have been made over the years but no change has been made in regard to the 3" rule for bucks.

Subject: Turkey Hunting

13-10 Delaware County

Whereas the present rules and regulations relating to Spring Turkey Hunting allows them to be hunted from sunrise until noon;

Whereas these hours were based upon the belief that it would protect the nesting habits of the hen turkey;

Whereas this belief has since been disproved by scientific and biological research as well as by many states that have an all day season with no detrimental effects;

Whereas the turkey population in New York State has been stable and adequate for many years;

Whereas hunting plays only a small part in the mortality of turkeys;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC seek a change in the DEC rules and regulations that would allow the hunting of turkeys during the spring season from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Contact: Dan Owen, 4935 Co. Hwy 35, Sidney Center, NY 13839
607/265-3750 dowen@mkl.com

Small Game Committee comments: Opposed. NWTF is conducting a research program in the state over the next four years at a cost of \$75,000 per year. The study will be on habitat and weather to determine what is a maximum resource that will be available to sportsmen and women in any area of the state.

Legislative Committee comments: No position. Does not require legislation, but should have input from biologists from DEC and National Wild Turkey Federation before any decision is made.

14-10 Niagara County

Whereas the Fall Turkey Season in Wildlife Management Units ends two weeks earlier in 9A, 9C, 9F, 8A ,8C, 8F, 8G, 8H and 8J than other Wildlife Management Units in the Regions, causing less recreation time for hunters pursuing their sport or causing them to drive greater distances to hunt wild turkeys;

Whereas it is strictly a social issue and that has been expressed by a person involved with small game and the NYSDEC. Another person working for the Department also wrote it will give youth a chance to hunt an hour or two after school close to their home;

Whereas it would spread turkey hunters out over a greater area and not concentrate their hunting to just the Southern Wildlife Management Units in late season. This would also result in a harvest of birds more evenly taken throughout the Regions rather than the Southern Wildlife Management Units;

BE IT RESOLVED that that NYSCC work with the NYSDEC and bring Wildlife Management Units 9A, 9C, 9F, 8C, 8F, 8G, 8H and 8J in line with other Wildlife Management Units in the Regions. To make it more uniform also include 7A to the same date closing as these units which now closes on the same date as these units. This would only consist of a regulation change for dates to coincide with the other Units in the Regions.

Contact: Dan Tone, 1829 Davis Road, West Falls, NY 14170

Jbgoodboy1@yahoo.com

Dale Dunkelberger, 7741 Lincoln Ave. Ext., Lockport, NY 14094-9321

Dunkster5@aol.com

Small Game Committee comments: Opposed. NWTF is conducting a research program in the state over the next four years at a cost of \$75,000 per year. The study will be on habitat and weather to determine what is a maximum resource that will be available to sportsmen and women in any area of the state.

Subject: Late Archery/Muzzleloader Season

15-10 Erie County

Whereas the length of the late archery/muzzleloader season is only 9 days;

Whereas archery/muzzleloader season hunters can only take one buck as it is now, thus not perpetuating a perceived "more buck opportunity";

Whereas neighboring states Ohio and Pennsylvania provide dates in January for muzzleloader hunting, and Connecticut provides time up until Dec 31;

Whereas these neighboring states may be taking licensing money from NY hunters seeking more opportunity afield;

Whereas time afield during Christmas vacation from schools will allow for high quality family time;

Whereas any opportunity to provide time afield for hunters also provides time afield for youth;

Whereas a conscious hunter can distinguish the difference between a snowmobile and a deer;

Whereas farmers who rely on hunters to control deer herds can allow or disallow hunters and/or snowmobiles through their properties at their discretion;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC pursue with the DEC that the late archery/muzzleloader season start the day after regular firearms season and end on December 30 every year.

Contact: Adam Ziccardi, 6668 Chestnut Ridge Rd, Orchard Park, NY 14127
aziccardi2025@yahoo.com

Sponsor clarification: Resolution refers to southern zone.

Big Game Committee comments: In general we are always looking at expanding opportunities, there are several problems with this resolution. This resolution does not specify northern or southern zone. While some areas of the state could tolerate an extended season some areas can't withstand taking more. Additional concerns over existing snowmobile agreements where they have agreed to not use the trails until the big game season ends could create issues between the groups. In addition states which were referenced as having extended seasons, have much shorter and limited seasons. Votes: 2 support/11 opposed/1 abstain

Subject: Public Comment Period for Rule/Reg Changes

16-10 Onondaga County

Whereas the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is responsible for regulating sport fishing, hunting and trapping within the state, and enforcing the State's environmental laws and regulations;

Whereas the NYSDEC is required by law to submit proposed rule changes, with accompanying statements, to the Department of State for publication in the New York State Register;
Whereas the NYSDEC is required by law to consider public comment for a required statutory period of time (minimum of 45 or 60 days, depending on situation). If substantial changes are required, submit a revised notice for publication in the Register, initiating another (30-day) comment period;

Whereas the NYSDEC made a regulation change in 2006 for the Black Bass (largemouth/smallmouth) season dates for the State of New York;

Whereas Oneida Lake is the largest inland body of water totally within New York State;

Whereas Black Bass are the most popular game fish species in New York State;

Whereas the NYSDEC made a regulation change in the season dates for Black Bass that are unique

to Oneida Lake and not similar to Black Bass regulations on any other body of water in New York State;

Whereas the NYSDEC did not submit this proposed unique rule change to the New York State Register and did not open this change to public comment before making the final regulation change;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Conservation Council demand that the NYSDEC submit rule/regulation changes that deal with hunting, fishing and trapping to the New York State Register and consider a public comment period as required by law.

Contact: Patrick M. Grady, 315/491-4299

Legislative Committee comments: No Position. The request in the resolution is already done. When regulations are changed they are posted on the Register for comments. In the case of bass seasons, the regulations were posted, then modified from those comments received. DEC states that when the regulation change was for the whole state, one body of water was not significant enough to warrant reposting of the change that was implemented from comments received.

Subject: Youth Hunting

17-10 Suffolk County

Background: In Suffolk County, unlike most of the rest of the State, the "regular" deer season is bow hunting only. However, in January there is a special "gun" season which is a concurrent season for both shotgun and muzzle loader. This season is fixed by Environmental Conservation Law to be limited to the 4 full weeks in January, **weekdays only. There is specific language in the current EC law which prohibits big game gun hunting on Saturdays and Sundays in Suffolk County.**

Whereas the DEC currently does not have the regulatory authority in Region #1 to **create** a separate youth Big Game hunting opportunity in Suffolk County;

Whereas current language in the Environmental Conservation Law dictates weekdays only for Big Game;

Whereas last year, the legislature lowered the Big Game Junior license age to 14. The assumption is that there is intent for youth 14 and older to have the opportunity to hunt Big Game;

Whereas teenagers 14 and older are in school from Monday-Friday during the month of January, and since Big Game hunting is closed on Saturdays and Sundays in January, there is no opportunity for high school-aged junior license holders to hunt Big Game in Suffolk County;

Whereas one of our goals as sportsmen is to facilitate youth hunting opportunities in our state;

Whereas the sportsmen of Region #1 support the idea of creating a local Big Game Youth Hunting opportunity on a weekend in January;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Conservation Council shall support any and all legislation that attempts to amend the current environmental law to allow the DEC to have the authority to provide for a youth Big Game hunting weekend opportunity in Suffolk County.

Contact: Ron Sineo, 10 Rutherford St, St James, NY 11780
631/862-8518 ducktruck@optonline.net

Big Game Committee comments: While this deals with a specific issue and area, the Council as well as DEC has long supported additional opportunities for youth hunting. While the youth do have an opportunity to bow hunt on the weekends, it would be a great addition if they could have one weekend set aside to hunt with firearms. This again delves into the issue of regulation vs. law and if DEC was granted the regulatory authority it would be much easier. Votes: 11 support/2 opposed/1 abstained.

Conservation Education Committee comments (Glen Adams): As this resolution is written it is a county issue and therefore should not be addressed or supported by the NYSCC. On the state-wide level it is questionable if this resolution is needed. I as a father of five boys, I had always put the boys hunting first during their early years of hunting. The fact that the season starts on Saturday gives parents and guardians an excellent time to work with youth. The fact that the bow season starts even earlier in October means many youth, parents and guardians have already had time to be out afield with many of these same youth. I am opposed to this only because I do not believe there is a need for this special hunt.

Legislative Committee comments: Support; county needs to get the support of their county and state legislators before the NYSCC can move forward with this.

18-10 Suffolk County

Whereas the DEC currently does not have the regulatory authority in Region #1 to create a separate youth pheasant hunting opportunity in Suffolk County;

Whereas current language in the Environmental Conservation Law dictates both the season length and the bag limits on pheasants in Region #1, thus precluding any change to include a youth pheasant hunting opportunity;

Whereas the new 10-year NYS pheasant plan includes an additional 3,000 adult birds to be released annually in youth hunt areas only, on or before youth hunting weekend each year;

Whereas the majority of sportsmen in Region #1 support the notion that the DEC should have the same regulatory authority over season lengths and bag limits on game species throughout the state, and not everywhere else in the state except Region #1;

Whereas one of our goals as sportsmen should be to encourage youth hunting opportunities in our state;

Whereas the sportsmen of Region #1 support the idea of increasing local youth hunting opportunities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC shall support any and all legislation that attempts to amend the current environmental law to allow the DEC to provide for a youth hunting opportunity on pheasants in Suffolk County.

Contact: Ron Sineo, 10 Rutherford St, St James, NY 11780
631/862-8518 ducktruck@optonline.net

Conservation Education Committee comments (Glen Adams): As this resolution is written it is a county issue and therefore should not be addressed or supported by the NYSCC. Youth pheasant hunts take place on the last full weekend prior to the start of the regular fall pheasant hunting season in each area of upstate New York. The season dates and bag limits for the youth hunt can be found on the DEC website's Pheasant Hunting Season page or in the New York Hunting and Trapping Guide. There is currently no youth pheasant hunt on Long Island because DEC lacks regulatory authority to set pheasant seasons in that area of the state.

The above statement is out of the DEC website. The issue as I see it is not the fact that it is a county issue as written, but this should be an NYSCC issue as to why the DEC lacks regulatory authority to set seasons in any area of the state. Could other areas make ordinances that remove regulatory authority of the DEC to set seasons? I back the idea of youth pheasant hunts; and this increases the possibility of youth taking one of the limited pheasant resources.

Small Game Committee comments: The Small Game Committee votes in favor of the Suffolk County resolution that would provide for a youth hunting opportunity for pheasants in Suffolk County.

Legislative Committee comments: Support; county needs to get the support of their county and state legislators before the NYSCC can move forward with this.

Subject: State Forest Funding

19-10 Sullivan County

Whereas the State of New York is facing severe financial hardship in this and future years;

Whereas the Conservation fund is also in financial stress;

Whereas attempts have been made to increase the numbers of hunters and fishermen, particularly among youth;

Whereas services and property access benefits others in addition to sportsmen such as boaters, hikers, bird watchers, horsemen, etc.

Whereas the habitat/access stamp has not provided anticipated monies and is not well supported by non-sportsmen, although many projects funded by the stamp benefit municipalities and non-sportsmen groups;

Whereas additional sources of revenue could become available if all users of state forests were to make a contribution toward improving and maintaining access;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC work with NYSDEC to increase participation in the habitat/access program by both the sportsmen and the non-sportsmen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NYSCC review the practicality of imposing and administering an access fee for use of all state forests.

It is recommended that if this is found practical, an appropriate legislation request be submitted to the NYSDEC.

Contact: Edna Calkin, 169 County Road 116, Cochecton, NY 12726
845/932-8929

Jack Danchak, 552 Equinunk Creek Road, Lakewood, PA 18439
570/798-2998

Bill Gaudette, 95 Smith Road, Parksville, NY 12768
845/295-9272

Habitat/Access Committee comments : This resolution was opposed by the H/A Committee by a vote of 1-support, 5-oppose, 1-abstention for the following reasons:

1. Would require a law change – a difficult and prolonged procedure.
2. The administration would be complicated. The resolution calls for a “contribution” by non-sportsmen. If they are not presently contributing to the voluntary H/A Stamp Program, why would this approach work? In order to have any chance of success, both programs would have to be made mandatory to realize any significant financial results.
3. If implemented in conjunction with the H/A Stamp, the non-sportsman would have the right to representation with regard to decisions regarding the project selections. Do sportsmen really want that?

Small Game Committee comments: Basically this resolution was all about the habitat stamp and the fact that non-sportsmen have not supported the program. Again, the idea was to make it mandatory to possess one if using state forests for any reason. The committee voted against this resolution unanimously, mostly by reason of the difficulty to enforce it.

Legislative Committee comments: Oppose. The way this is written, it does not state if a person with a hunting, trapping or fishing license would be exempt. It looks like they would have to buy

the Habitat and Access Stamp. The NYSCC is in favor of a mandatory Habitat and Access Stamp, but only after some changes are made to make sure the money is used correctly. As for non-sportsmen paying a fee, where should that money go? This needs more facts about what Sullivan County wants the NYSCC to do.

Subject: Wanton Waste

20-10 Tompkins County

Whereas there currently is no wanton waste law for whitetail deer in New York State;

Whereas deer and other game animals are being harvested and disposed of without being consumed or donated to the Venison Donation Coalition;

Whereas wild game, particularly, whitetail deer, are an excellent source of low fat nutrition;

Whereas it is unethical to harvest an animal without salvaging the edible meat,

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Conservation Council recommend that the NY State Legislature pass a law that requires anyone who kills or wounds a deer, including DMAP and nuisance permit holders, to make every effort to retrieve the wounded or dead animal and that the edible meat be salvaged.

Contact: James Bobnick, 1418 Ithaca Road, Willseyville, NY 13864
607/659-3791-H 607/327-0923-C
jbobnick@pleasantvalleyelectric.com

Big Game Committee comments: While the intent of this new law would be commendable, the issue of how to determine "every effort" was taken could be an issue with law enforcement officials. On DMAP it is already in the guidelines that every effort be taken, but there is no law stating that. Votes: 6 support/7 oppose/1 abstain

Legislative Committee comments: No opinion. Idea is good, but wording could present problems for hunters. It should be for anyone who takes or attempts to take deer. Also add "salvaged where it is legal to do so." This would alleviate the problem of a wounded deer that ran onto posted lands that are not accessible to the person trying to retrieve the deer.

Subject: Hunter Education in Schools

21-10 Yates County

Whereas hunting promotes responsible use of firearms and of New York State's natural resources;

Whereas hunting promotes a political climate that supports New York State's outdoor traditions;

Whereas hunting in New York State generates a large economic impact providing \$788,000,000 in revenue and creates 11,500 jobs (NSSF);

Whereas hunter safety teaches responsibility to the land, landowners, other hunters, wildlife, the public and oneself;

Whereas hunter safety highlights the hunter's importance to conservation and wildlife management;

Whereas hunter safety encourages strong ethical values and teaches the qualities of a responsible hunter;

Whereas hunter safety students are taught valuable lessons regarding how DEC programs are funded and the importance of the Pittman Robertson tax to that funding;

Whereas hunter safety students learn that the interaction with family and friends provided in the hunting experience has a strong social value which adds to their growth and development;
Whereas lessons taught in hunter safety go far beyond harvesting game--they are essentially life's lessons and are valuable to all New Yorkers;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Conservation Council introduce and promote the passage of legislation that would make instruction of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hunter Education Course mandatory in New York State's public schools when ten or more students request the course during the school year.

Contact: Stephen Weckelman, 340 East Elm Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527
315/536-3788 weckpyny@roadrunner.com

Conservation Education Committee comments (Glen Adams): As hunter educators we do promote the idea of being able to teach hunter education in schools, but the fact that this resolution asks for mandatory class within the school if 10 students request it does not address several problems: first is that hunter educators are volunteers and making a time and place mandatory may not work with the volunteer work force. Second, in this time of economic crisis making a school come up with paid teachers to train this class is not likely to fly nor would I as a tax payer support it in my school district. The group I help out in archery and I'm sure the hunter safety educators would jump at the chance to teach part of the class within school facilities.

Maybe the resolution should be re-written to mandate that school facilities be made available to NYS DEC hunter educators after the normal school hours at a reasonable time when both school facilities and volunteer hunter educators can work out a class schedule.

Small Game Committee comments: While a majority of the committee approved the resolution after a discussion, the proposal was thought to be difficult to achieve because of school policies regarding the same.

Hunter Education Committee comments: The vote was to not support the resolution from Yates County; the committee felt that it would have a better chance of becoming law if the word "mandatory" was removed from the resolution.

Legislative Committee comments: Support. "Be it resolved" needs to have added: legislation to direct the Dept. of Education to implement hunter education in schools, and that the schools must work with hunter educators in the instruction of the course. County needs to get the support of their county and state legislators before the NYSCC can move forward with this.