

NYS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, INC.
2009 RESOLUTIONS

Subject: ATV Weight Classification

09-1 Chenango County

Whereas there has been an increase in sales of UTV's and RTV's off road vehicles, commonly referred to as side by side ATV's, in the state of New York;

Whereas these side by side UTV's and RTV's exceed the maximum dry weight of 1000 lbs. defined by the current New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, as the maximum for an ATV;

Whereas this current law prevents these side by side ATV's from being legally registered by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles as ATV's;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC work with the NYDEC and State legislature to amend the current NYSVTL to increase the defined weight of an ATV from 1000 lbs. to 1500 lbs. dry weight, creating a Class I and Class II system for ATV weight limits.

Contact: John Fuller, 739 County Road 33, Norwich, NY 13815
607-336-3316 randj farms@frontiernet.net
Al Zogg, 1440 Preston Hill Road, Hamilton, NY 13346
315-825-5848 azogg@orconind.com

Legislative Committee comments: Support; consider raising the 1500 lb. limit to 2000, as the ATV's and UTV's are constantly growing in nature. By the time this would see legislation, there may be a need to change the 1500 lb. classification.

Subject: Antler Restrictions

09-2 Delaware County

Whereas Delaware County Federation of Sportsmen strongly opposes Antler Restrictions;

Whereas Delaware County Federation of Sportsmen believes that for the purposes of the NYSCC the county federations should always be looked to as the voice of the local sportsmen / stakeholders;

Whereas the wording of the present position of the Council on alternate harvest strategies clearly gives the local sportsmen/stakeholders the right to decide what the NYSCC's position will be, but does not clearly state it will be established by vote of our member county federations. **Our present position reads:**

“Support strategy that includes antler harvest restrictions for a period of 3 years in WMU’s supported by local hunters; to additionally work with NYSDEC’s ongoing efforts in portions of New York State where stakeholders’ interest is high enough to warrant consideration.”

Whereas not recognizing the member federations as the voice of the local sportsmen completely undermines the very reason for paying their dues;

Whereas a lengthy discussion by the Council Board failed to recognize Delaware County Federation as the voice of the local sportsmen/stakeholders;

Whereas a lengthy discussion of a motion made by Delaware County Federation of Sportsmen at the 2008 fall convention to have county federations recognized as the voice of the local sportsmen/stakeholders on NYSCC issues needed to be withdrawn due to confusion that was created;

Whereas much of the opposition to last year’s resolution was said to be the desire to use “home rule” on the issue of antler restrictions and avoid a position that could in any way affect areas that presently have a pilot program;

Whereas the present 2 pilot programs need much more time to be evaluated as studies show that the number of hunters becoming more **dissatisfied** in **Ulster doubled** and in **Sullivan tripled** as compared to those becoming more satisfied;

Whereas statewide 55-65% of hunters hold “freedom of choice” as very important to their overall satisfaction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the NYSCC will support **or** oppose alternate deer harvest strategies such as antler restrictions in Wildlife Management Units throughout New York State as established by a majority vote of their member county federation(s) in the unit.

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

Big Game Committee comments: Pending.

Legislative Committee comments: Opposed as written. We need a better definition of REGIONAL or ALL SPORTSMEN. This seems to be a regional issue which may be in direct conflict with the by-laws of the NYSCC. WMU’s are a statewide issue. Suggest removal of antler restrictions as an example. Need a better definition of statewide issues.

Subject: Archery Season Opening Date

09-3 Greene County

Whereas prior to October 1st, 2005 the early archery-only big game season in the Southern Zone opened annually on October 15th and extended through the Sunday before the big game firearms season, which opened on the first Monday after November 15th;

Whereas bowhunters agreed to support opening the big game firearms season on a Saturday in order to increase youth and hunter participation if the early season bowhunter was compensated for the loss of a very valuable weekend of hunting opportunity and the loss of time hunting during the whitetail deer November rut by annually opening the Southern Zone archery-only season at the beginning of the license year on October 1st;

Whereas as of October 1st, 2005 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) enacted big game hunting regulation changes that opened the Southern Zone early archery-only season on the Monday after Columbus Day, extending through the Friday before the big game firearms season opened on the 3rd Saturday in November, which can result in a significantly shorter Southern Zone early archery-only season, including the loss of weekend hunting opportunity;

Whereas as a result of the 2005 DEC big game hunting regulation changes, the Southern Zone early archery-only season is up to 10 days shorter when compared to the old season structure that annually opened on October 15th and ended on the Sunday before big game firearms season;

Whereas the additional 4 hunting days during the late Southern Zone combined archery and muzzleloading season, as a result of the 2005 DEC big game regulation changes, is by no means compensation for the loss of significant hunting opportunity during Southern Zone early archery-only season; nor did the change increase youth bowhunter participation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Conservation Council pursue a DEC big game regulation change that would annually open the Southern Zone early archery-only season on October 1st, ending on the Friday before the opening of the big game firearms season on the 3rd Saturday in November.

Contact : Walter Bennett, 32 Saybrook Hill Rd., Oak Hill, NY 12460
518/279-6569

Archery / Big Game Committee comments: 10 support / 5 oppose. Correction to stated opener; should be on first Saturday after Columbus Day, not first Monday. Mentions this is warranted; however, we would recommend Saturday before Columbus Day. Looking to gain back days that were lost, but a compromise to the first Saturday before Columbus Day would be a set Saturday, and on a "holiday" weekend is feasible. While the archers have lost some days from their old

season structure, they still enjoy a far better deal than the southern zone muzzleloaders have to work with.

09-4 Monroe County

Whereas prior to October 1st, 2005 the early archery-only big game season in the Southern Zone opened annually on October 15th and extended through the Sunday before the big game firearms season, which opened on the first Monday after November 15th;

Whereas bowhunters agreed to support opening the big game firearms season on a Saturday if the early season bowhunter was compensated for the loss of a very valuable weekend of hunting opportunity and the loss of time hunting during the whitetail deer November rut by annually opening the Southern Zone early archery-only season at the beginning of the license year on October 1st;

Whereas as of October 1st, 2005 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) enacted big game hunting regulation changes that opened the Southern Zone early archery-only season on the Monday after Columbus Day, extending though the Friday before the big game firearms season opened on the 3rd Saturday in November, resulting in a significantly shorter Southern Zone early archery-only season, including the loss of weekend hunting opportunity;

Whereas as a result of the 2005 DEC big game hunting regulation changes, the Southern Zone early archery-only season is up to 10 days shorter when compared to the old season structure that annually opened on October 15th and ended on the Sunday before the big game firearms season;

Whereas the addition of 4 hunting days during the late Southern Zone combined archery and muzzleloading season, as a result of the 2005 DEC big game regulation changes, is by no means compensation for the loss of significant hunting opportunity during the Southern Zone early archery-only season;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Conservation Council pursue a DEC big game regulation change that would annually open the Southern Zone early archery-only season on October 1st, ending on the Friday before the opening of the big game firearms season on the 3rd Saturday in November.

Contact: Donald Plant, 993 Guinevere Drive, Rochester, NY 14626
585/370-0954

Archery / Big Game Committee comments: See 09-3.

09-5 Onondaga County

Whereas prior to October 1st, 2005 the early archery-only big game season in the Southern Zone opened annually on October 15th and extended through the Sunday before the big game firearms

season, which opened on the first Monday after November 15th;

Whereas bowhunters agreed to support opening the big game firearms season on a Saturday in order to increase youth and hunter participation if the early season bowhunter was compensated for the loss of a very valuable weekend of hunting opportunity and the loss of time hunting during the whitetail deer November rut by annually opening the Southern Zone early archery-only season at the beginning of the license year on October 1st;

Whereas as of October 1st, 2005 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) enacted big game hunting regulation changes that opened the Southern Zone early archery-only season on the Monday after Columbus Day, extending though the Friday before the big game firearms season opened on the 3rd Saturday in November, which can result in a significantly shorter Southern Zone early archery-only season, including the loss of weekend hunting opportunity;

Whereas as a result of the 2005 DEC big game hunting regulation changes, the Southern Zone early archery-only season is up to 10 days shorter when compared to the old season structure that annually opened on October 15th and ended on the Sunday before the big game firearms season, which can be up to a 26% loss of available bowhunting time when comparing a 38 day season to a 28 day season;

Whereas the addition of 4 hunting days during the late Southern Zone combined archery and muzzleloading season, as a result of the 2005 DEC big game regulation changes, is by no means compensation for the loss of significant hunting opportunity during the Southern Zone early archery-only season nor did the change increase youth bowhunter participation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Conservation Council pursue a DEC big game regulation change that would annually open the Southern Zone early archery-only season on October 1st, ending on the Friday before the opening of the big game firearms season on the 3rd Saturday in November.

Contact: Lenny Morgese, 4955 Harvest Lane, Liverpool, NY 13088
315/453-1413 lmorgese@twcny.rr.com

Archery / Big Game Committee comments: See 09-3.

Subject: Moose

09-6 Onondaga County

Whereas moose are currently listed as a protected animal in New York State;

Whereas the population of moose may exceed 500 animals in New York State according to the NYSDEC;

Whereas auto-moose collisions have been in the double digit numbers in recent years;

Whereas listing moose as a game animal does not mean that the NYSDEC needs to start a management program until felt the moose population is in need of one;

Whereas currently the NYSDEC is exceedingly in the red and should explore new avenues of raising funds for wildlife and habitat projects;

Whereas an annual moose lottery used not as a management tool, but a fundraiser to have a opportunity to harvest one bull moose by the lucky winner;

Whereas removal of one bull moose per year will have no effect on the population growth and health of the herd;

Whereas any person purchasing moose lottery tickets must purchase a NYS big game license and a habitat stamp beforehand to be an eligible winner;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC introduce and encourage passage of legislation to list moose as a game animal in New York State and to start the first annual New York State Moose Lottery, where all funds are to be earmarked and go toward wildlife conservation.

Contact: John Rybinski, 120 Mill Street, Manlius, NY 13104
315/682-9682 john101@windstream.net

Big Game Committee comments: 12 would support resolution if amended as noted / 3 oppose. With the population as it is, we should get creative to find ways to raise funds for the Conservation Fund. This would not require a management plan, and would act as a fundraiser rather than a management scenario, as one animal harvested per year will not hurt the growing populations. Also notes that anyone who would oppose this is "anti-hunting." Although some support the listing of moose as a game animal in New York State, we are vehemently opposed to using any animal as a Chinese Auction prize for the sake of fundraising. This is contradictory to the North American Wildlife Conservation Model, as this principle we are bound to demand a management plan based on science and biology, for the benefit of the wildlife, ecosystems and all NYers, not just a small group, or even just our own ranks. Evidence suggests a management plan and moose hunting opportunities would benefit all NYers, as is evidenced by the growing car-moose collisions. Moose are already listed as a game animal.

Habitat/Access Committee comments: Support.

Subject: Youth Hunting Age

09-7 Oswego County

Whereas the youth hunting age in NY for small game begins at 12; and Penal Law Article 265 prohibits any youth under the age of 12 from handling any firearms, thus preventing the youth from becoming familiar and proficient in the proper and safe handling of firearms prior to their ability to acquire their license;

Whereas the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF) Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) is prohibited from allowing any youth below the age of 12 to participate in their programs in NY due to Penal Law Article 265;

Whereas the New York 4H Shooting Program is prohibited from allowing any youth below the age of 12 to participate in their programs in NY due to Penal Law Article 265;

Whereas early exposure to proper and responsible handling of firearms at younger ages reduces a youth's curiosity about firearms and increases their awareness of firearms dangers;

Whereas the "*Youth Hunting Report*" compiled by Silvertip Productions, Southwick Associates and the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance for the National Wild Turkey Federation and the National Shooting Sports Foundation indicates the ability to retain a new hunter increases when introduction of safe gun handling occurs at ages as low as 6, it is important to increase our youth's interest in the sports at earlier ages than what is permissible at this time;

Whereas the youth hunting age in adjoining states is either lower or no minimum age limits exist; our youth are prohibited from preparing for a safe hunt in these states by practicing with their firearm;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Conservation Council shall support and seek to amend Penal Law 265 to allow youth to handle firearms with parental or adult supervision (with parental approval) from age 8 and above.

Contact: Rick McDermott, 491 Albion Cross Road, Pulaski, NY 13142
315/882-1540 tughillmcd@yahoo.com

Big Game Committee comments: 15 support / 0 opposed. Some confusion exists with this proposal, as some believe this involves lowering the hunting age to 8 and there could be big problems in pursuing this. It does not affect hunting or hunter education, but this is to allow parents the choice to teach their children firearms handling lawfully at an earlier age. It could reduce curiosity and increase responsibility earlier in our youth if the parents so choose. DEC states it would like to lower age to 12 across the board; good idea to train before they can hunt so they know how to shoot before going afield.

Small Game Committee comments: Unanimously support.

Firearms & Ammunition Committee comments: Unanimously support. The committee recommended adding wording to allow youth to handle firearms under supervision of a Certified Range Instructor.

Hunter Education Committee comments: Support as long as language in the bill states the same as this resolution.

Legislative Committee comments: Support.

Subject: Venison Donation

09-8 Steuben County

Whereas NY sportsmen called for the creation of a "Free Processing" Venison Donation Program in the year 2001;

Whereas NYSDEC has provided seed money of \$100,000.00 per year 2002-2007 via contract with Division of Fish Wildlife & Marine Resources;

Whereas voluntary donations collected at all DECALS outlets was legislated in 2005, establishing a sub-account for venison donation in the Conservation Fund;

Whereas since 2001 venison donations statewide are averaging over 90,000 lbs. annually, and are directly correlated to the number of Deer Management Permits issued;

Whereas venison donations are projected to reach 200,000 lbs. per year in the next decade;

Whereas voluntary, contract and matching funds are not keeping pace with the total operating costs of all of NY's Venison Donation program;

Whereas other states in the nation have successfully maintained venison donations as a sportsmen supported program via dedicated portion of license fees;

Whereas NY sportsmen, NYSDEC and the NYS Legislature are discussing a possible license fee increase;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Steuben County Federation of Conservation Clubs does hereby propose that a \$ 0.50 portion of all big game licenses sold be dedicated to Venison Donation Programs statewide as specified by the Venison Donation sub-account of the Conservation Fund.

Contact: Dick Stephens, 47 Fourth Street, Canisteo, NY 14823
607/698-2675

Big Game Committee comments: 5 support / 10 oppose. General Fund money is dwindling on this; shortfall is there. Bad precedence; this is for feeding the hungry, not conservation. Could set us up for continual increases, while exposing the Conservation Fund to potential raiding for social programs. Because this benefits those outside the hunting community, funds should come from the General Fund, not the Conservation Fund.

Legislative Committee comments: Support.

Subject: Additional State Forest Funding

09-9 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 the sportsmen have suffered reduction in services, including recent loss of the pheasant farm;

Whereas sportsmen face additional burdens, including proposed salt water license fees and a proposed trout and salmon fishing fee;

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 hikers, bird watchers, horsemen, etc.

Whereas the habitat/access stamp has not provided anticipated monies and is not well supported by non-sportsmen;

Whereas additional source 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 use its position to encourage sportsmen's organizations, including county federations, to develop projects for consideration for grants from habitat/access funds.

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, 165 County Road 116, Cohecton, NY 12726

845/932-8929

Jack Danchak, 552 Equinunk Creek Road, Lakewood, PA 18439

570/798-2998

Bill Gaudette, 95 Smith Road, Parksville, NY 12768-5321

845/295-9272

Habitat/Access Committee comments: Some of the contents of the resolution are no longer valid. When removed, resolution basically calls for non-sportsmen to pay a user fee to use state forests. Committee voted 5-0 not to support this. Resolution was withdrawn.

Subject: Wanton Waste

09-10 Tompkins County

Whereas there currently is no wanton waste law for deer, bear, turkey, and other popular game animals in New York State;

Whereas fur bearers, by definition, are not game animals;

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 many people lack the financial resources to buy meat from commercial sources;

Whereas it is unethical to harvest an animal without the intent to process it for consumption;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Conservation Council recommend that the state Legislature pass a law that requires anyone who kills or wounds a game animal, including DMAP and nuisance permit holders, to make every effort to retrieve the wounded or dead animal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the retrieved game animal be utilized fully.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the animal be processed for consumption.

Contact: James Bobnick, 1418 Ithaca Road, Willseyville , NY 13864

607/659-3791-H 607/327-0923-C jbobnick@pleasantvalleyelectric.com

Big Game Committee comments: 2 support / 8 oppose / 5 abstain. Intent is great, but technically all animals that have seasons are considered game animals, including furbearers. This could adversely affect harvest of raccoons and coyote, among other species requiring management. The

resolution needs to be re-written. Standard conditions call for strong recommendations for DPP and DMAP to use the meat for consumption or for donation program. The norm is to strongly recommend, rather than require. Use peer pressure and education, not regulation.

Small Game Committee comments: The committee agreed with this resolution in principal but opposed it because of the language in the resolved statements.

Legislative Committee comments: Support.

Subject: Hunting Guides

09-11 Yates County

Whereas currently licensed guides who violate any provision of Environmental Conservation Law or related rules and regulations may have their license revoked; and the revocation period will not exceed one year. Upon completion of the revocation period the Department will return to the licensee the identification, certificate and card previously surrendered to the Department, provided that the license has not expired and all requirements are current.

Whereas any non-licensed person who meets hunter safety requirements and holds a hunting license of any of the various types who violates hunting regulations is subject to fines and/or license suspension and is subject to penalties similar to that of a licensed guide.

Whereas the licensed guides who have received hunter safety training when first becoming a hunter, who then became an experienced hunter, and who then have met the requirements for and taken the NYS forest ranger examination for licensed guides and passed same should be well aware of NYS Environmental Laws. Licensed guides should be aware that they themselves are stewards of the outdoors and of the great guiding tradition in New York State and who professionally represent the hunting industry.

BE IT RESOLVED that NYSCC work with the NYS Departmental Environmental Conservation to hold licensed guides to a higher standard. Any licensed guide who knowingly participates in illegal hunting practices, illegal guiding in NYS, as well in any other state that participates in the (IWVC) Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact agreement, should surrender the remainder of the license period and not be allowed to reapply for a minimum period of two years or the termination date of their original license, whichever is greater. A second offense should result in a permanent loss of guiding license.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NYSCC work with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to require licensed guides to provide their clients with written regulations of the game being sought such as season dates, hunting hours, manner of taking and other pertinent information as set forth by the NYSDEC. The client should also acknowledge receipt of this information and the guide is required to keep said information on file for NYSDEC investigation. In the case of a client found to be in violation of environmental laws and regulations, and if guides'

records are found to be inadequate, the guide should also be subject to fines to be determined by NYSDEC.

Contact: Stephen J. Weckelman, 340 East Elm Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527
315/536-3788

Big Game Committee comments: 2 support/ 7 oppose / 6 abstain. Applications for guides are handled by the Forest Service. Procedures are already in place for granting license and procedures for revocation as well. Due process is paramount. Is this really worth it? Laws are already in place. The additional length of time in loss of license is good, but not putting the responsibility for the client on the guide. The compact between the state and the hunter is the fact that you agree to read the regulations and abide by them upon purchase of a sporting license; the guide is not and should not be responsible for that, as it removes personal responsibility from the license holder who agrees to be responsible upon signing the license.

Small Game Committee comments: Support.

Legislative Committee comments: Support.

Subject: Hunter Education Review Course

09-12 Yates County

Whereas firearm related hunting accidents have been decreasing over the last fifty years; (Ave./year/decade: 1960s-137, 1970s-102, 1980s-85, 1990s-6, 2000 to 2002-54, 2003 to 2007-33.) After a steep drop in 2003, the incidents have remained fairly level for 5 years. These numbers represent a reduction in the number of incidents per 100,000, rather than just reduced number of hunters. The fatalities have stayed about the same, around 4 per year average, even as the number of incidents is reduced.

Whereas the probable cause in the reduction in the accident numbers is the Safety Training required for new hunters and the retirement of the untrained or partially trained hunters. From the DEC 2000 Hunting Safety Report: "Since establishing the first mandatory program back in 1949, our instructors have certified 3,040,627 students, more than any other state or province. As older hunters, many of whom never took a hunter safety course, stop going afield and are replaced by today's Junior Hunters - who have received over 10 hours of instruction in our Sportsman Education Program, we expect the number of hunter-caused injuries will decline even more." An interesting analysis; why just wait for the population to change? If training is the reason for the reduction, extend the opportunity for training to those older hunters. The safest hunting group is the young, trained, supervised hunter. This may be because of the course content and interest in the training by the parent or guardian along with the young hunter.

Whereas one and maybe the only way to effect a reduction in the firearm accident rate is training. This is a proposal for a voluntary course for those who have not taken the present ten hour course

and then could evolve into a voluntary review course for all hunters. It is proposed that there be no exams of pass/fail grading; attendance would be sufficient for a certificate of some type. While course content would be the responsibility of the DEC and the Master Instructors, this could be an opportunity to stress hunter orange and tree stand safety along with the basic firearm safety and target identification. A three or four hour session should be adequate. There could be some incentive to attend the course, i.e., license cost reduction, permit preference or other.

Whereas no other state currently has required a refresher course, this should not be a deterrent as our state has always been in the forefront of hunter education. The DECALS system could be expanded to cover the increased record keeping. This writer believes the present instructors would be agreeable to this extra work load, although an increase the number of instructors would be a benefit. The experience with the adult students has been overwhelmingly positive.

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC request the DEC to design a Hunter Education Review Course to address the above concerns, train the trainers, prepare a course handbook and do the required public notifications, etc.

Contact: Charles R. Britton, 4721 C R 11, Rushville, NY 14544
585/554-3571

Big Game Committee comments: 1 support / 11 oppose / 3 abstain. Hunters can already take a course again as review; there is no need for this. There are troubles already with hunter ed instructors; why increase the pressure? Should defer to the Sportsmen's Education Committee.

Small Game Committee comments: Support.

Firearms & Ammunition Committee comments: The members could not make a decision and were split 50/50 on the value of a 3- or 4-hour hunter safety course for hunters who received their licenses before the first mandatory program in 1949. They unanimously agreed that wording should be changed to a regular 10-hour course for receiving a certificate.

Hunter Education Committee comments: Oppose for two main reasons: instructors are already pressed on teaching new students; and cost of materials would not be a good idea at this time.

Legislative Committee comments: No position.

Subject: Removal of Dog Collars

09-13 NY Houndsmen

Whereas the removal of collars from hunting dogs make retrieval and identification much more difficult;

Whereas the removal of collars from a hunting dog leaves the dog more vulnerable to negative experiences;

Whereas Ag and Markets law already makes it illegal to remove the collar with the license tag;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC seek legislation that would make it illegal for anyone except the owner or authorized person to remove any collar from a dog.

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

Small Game Committee comments: Support unanimously.

Legislative Committee comments: Is this not already covered under Ag & Markets?

Subject: Separate Bear Tag

09-14 NY Houndsmen

Whereas the conservation fund is in need of more funding to support our many programs;

Whereas nonresidents already must purchase a separate bear tag;

Whereas a separate bear tag for residents would elevate bear to the status of a game animal deserving of being hunted and not just shot while deer hunting;

Whereas the Council is already on record of supporting a separate pheasant stamp as a source of revenue;

Whereas the Council is already on record of supporting a separate trout/salmon stamp as a source of revenue;

Whereas there is an expanding bear population as well as expanded areas open to hunting that now provides more bear hunting opportunity;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC seek to establish a separate bear tag for resident hunters in New York to purchase when hunting bear.

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

Big Game Committee comments: 8 support / 7 oppose. Some opposed; we don't sell the wildlife. Does not benefit everyone; removes value from hunters. Believe it is contradictory to the conservation model and sets a dangerous precedent in NYS. Could benefit the Conservation Fund

and protect the bear or assure bears are being used by those wanting to hunt them, rather than killing it and "throwing it away." DEC mentions bear harvest could be very negatively affected; and it is a high priority of the Department to better manage bears to address the growing conflicts between black bears and NY residents. They are opposed to such an idea. Could make bear management more effective, and increase opportunity, spring seasons, etc. while making sure we encourage bear hunters, rather than reliance on chance encounters and opportunity-only harvest.

Legislative Committee comments: Opposed. DEC has opposed this, as it's a loss of a management tool. Currently most bear are shot during deer season by hunters specifically targeting deer. A separate bear tag will lessen the number of hunters who kill bear, lessening the DEC's ability to control the bear population.

Subject: Shooting Distance

09-15 NYS Muzzleloaders Assn.

Whereas the current law allows for discharge of a firearm or bow a minimum of 500 ft from a dwelling;

Whereas the difference in the effective/danger range of these two hunting implements is vastly different;

Whereas urban sprawl is reducing the available habitat in many areas of the state and forcing game closer to dwellings;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Conservation Council initiate and support a change in the law/regulation to lower the discharge minimum distance for archery equipment to 250 ft.

§ 11-0931

4. a. No person shall:

(2) discharge a firearm ~~or long bow~~ within five hundred feet OR LONG BOW WITHIN 250 FEET from a dwelling house, farm building or farm structure actually occupied or used, school building, school playground, or occupied factory or church;

Contact: Eric Bratt, 1680 Mudge Road, Delanson, NY 12053
grizekb@aol.com

Big Game Committee comments: 14 support / 1 oppose. Resolution is self-explanatory. John Major explained the 250' number, arrived at by conversations with law enforcement and others. Does much for archery hunting; opens opportunity. Will not affect safety while still providing a buffer area.

Small Game Committee comments: Support.

Legislative Committee comments: Support.

Subject: License Year Date Change

09-16 NYS Muzzleloaders Assn.

Whereas the current license year runs October through September;

Whereas this timing divides not only various big and small game hunting seasons as well as fishing seasons into different license years;

Whereas we should strive to make the process simpler;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Conservation Council initiate and support a change in the license year to begin on April 1st instead of the current October 1st. This will have the least impact on dividing any of the hunting, fishing, or Trapping seasons.

Contact: Eric Bratt, 1680 Mudge Road, Delanson, NY 12053
grizekb@aol.com

Big Game Committee comments: 8 support / 4 oppose / 3 abstain. Yes, costs involved; couldn't dispense the DMP at time of license purchase. Impacts of tradition; old habits die hard. Other options could be calendar year or September 1 start date. DECALS license issuance – would cost licensing agent more in labor and duplicate work (since DMP could not be issued at same time if license year is structured this way). This topic is on the Commissioner's to-do list.

Small Game Committee comments: Oppose; there are reasons to have the license year begin on January 1. ... there is nothing in the resolution to suggest how to make up the loss in revenue from October to April.

Fish Committee comments: Oppose.

Legislative Committee comments: No position. There are so many changes to dates out there; leave this alone. For example, the salt water license date is stated as January 1.

Oswego County Federation of Sportsmen

Club name: _____

I am the delegate/president of the above club and am authorized by my club to vote on these NYSCC Resolutions. (If returned by email, electronic signature will be assumed)

(PRINT Name)

(Signature)

(Date)

NYS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, INC. , 2009 RESOLUTIONS

Subject: **ATV Weight Classification** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

09-1 Chenango County

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC work with the NYDEC and State legislature to amend the current NYSVTL to increase the defined weight of an ATV from 1000 lbs. to 1500 lbs. dry weight, creating a Class I and Class II system for ATV weight limits.

Subject: **Antler Restrictions** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

09-2 Delaware County

BE IT RESOLVED the NYSCC will support **or** oppose alternate deer harvest strategies such as antler restrictions in Wildlife Management Units throughout New York State as established by a majority vote of their member county federation(s) in the unit.

Subject: **Archery Season Opening Date** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

09-3 Greene County

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Conservation Council pursue a DEC big game regulation change that would annually open the Southern Zone early archery-only season on October 1st, ending on the Friday before the opening of the big game firearms season on the 3rd Saturday in November.

09-4 Monroe County IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Conservation Council pursue a DEC big game regulation change that would annually open the Southern Zone early archery-only season on October 1st, ending on the Friday before the opening of the big game firearms season on the 3rd Saturday in November.

09-5 Onondaga County IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

BE IT RESOLVED that the New York State Conservation Council pursue a DEC big game regulation change that would annually open the Southern Zone early archery-only season on October 1st, ending on the Friday before the opening of the big game firearms season on the 3rd Saturday in November.

Subject: **Moose** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

09-6 Onondaga County

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC introduce and encourage passage of legislation to list moose as a game animal in New York State and to start the first annual New York State Moose Lottery, where all funds are to be earmarked and go toward wildlife conservation.

Subject: **Youth Hunting Age** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

09-7 *Oswego County*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Conservation Council shall support and seek to amend Penal Law 265 to allow youth to handle firearms with parental or adult supervision (with parental approval) from age 8 and above.

Subject: **Venison Donation** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

09-8 *Steuben County*

BE IT RESOLVED that the Steuben County Federation of Conservation Clubs does hereby propose that a \$ 0.50 portion of all big game licenses sold be dedicated to Venison Donation Programs statewide as specified by the Venison Donation sub-account of the Conservation Fund.

Subject: **Additional State Forest Funding** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

09-9 *Sullivan County*

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 use its position to encourage sportsmen's organizations, including county federations, to develop projects for consideration for grants from habitat/access funds.

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

Subject: **Wanton Waste** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

09-10 *Tompkins County*

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Conservation Council recommend that the state Legislature pass a law that requires anyone who kills or wounds a game animal, including DMAP and nuisance permit holders, to make every effort to retrieve the wounded or dead animal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the retrieved game animal be utilized fully.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the animal be processed for consumption.

Subject: **Hunting Guides** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____

09-11 *Yates County*

BE IT RESOLVED that NYSCC work with the NYS Departmental Environmental Conservation to hold licensed guides to a higher standard. Any licensed guide who knowingly participates in illegal hunting practices, illegal guiding in NYS, as well in any other state that participates in the (IWVC) Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact agreement, should surrender the remainder of the license period and not be allowed to reapply for a minimum period of two years or the termination date of their original license, whichever is greater. A second offense should result in a permanent loss of guiding license.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NYSCC work with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to require licensed guides to provide their clients with written regulations of the game being sought such as season dates, hunting hours, manner of taking and other pertinent information as set forth by the NYSDEC. The client should also acknowledge receipt of this information and the guide is required to keep said information on file for NYSDEC investigation. In the case of a client found to be in violation of environmental laws and regulations, and if guides' records are found to be inadequate, the guide should also be subject to fines to be determined by NYSDEC.

Subject: **Hunter Education Review Course** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____
09-12 Yates County

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC request the DEC to design a Hunter Education Review Course to address the above concerns, train the trainers, prepare a course handbook and do the required public notifications, etc.

Subject: **Removal of Dog Collars** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____
09-13 NY Houndsmen

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC seek legislation that would make it illegal for anyone except the owner or authorized person to remove any collar from a dog.

Subject: **Separate Bear Tag** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____
09-14 NY Houndsmen

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCC seek to establish a separate bear tag for resident hunters in New York to purchase when hunting bear.

Subject: **Shooting Distance** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____
09-15 NYS Muzzleloaders Assn.

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Conservation Council initiate and support a change in the law/regulation to lower the discharge minimum distance for archery equipment to 250 ft. § 11-0931

4. a. No person shall:

(2) discharge a firearm ~~or long bow~~ within five hundred feet OR LONG BOW WITHIN 250 FEET from a dwelling house, farm building or farm structure actually occupied or used, school building, school playground, or occupied factory or church;

Subject: **License Year Date Change** IN FAVOR _____ OPPOSED _____
09-16 NYS Muzzleloaders Assn.

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Conservation Council initiate and support a change in the license year to begin on April 1st instead of the current October 1st. This will have the least impact on dividing any of the hunting, fishing, or Trapping seasons.

Return signed forms at a delegate meeting before August 17, 2009, or mail forms to:
KKTP2001@twcny.rr.com
OCFS V. President
445 Maple Avenue Fulton.N.Y. 13069