

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



Statewide Fish and Wildlife Management Board Meeting

September 20-21, 2018
White Eagle Conference Center
Hamilton, New York

10:08 Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call and Introductions

Fish and Wildlife Management Board Members Present:

Bill Conners ^{1,3}	Region 3	FWMB to Conservation Fund Advisory Board
Raymond Merlotto	Region 3	Sportsmen Representative
John Metzger	Region 3	Legislative Representative
David McLean	Region 4	Sportsmen Representative
Richard Steele	Region 4	Legislative Representative
Robert Hodorowski	Region 5	Sportsmen Representative
Jackie Mahoney	Region 6	Landowner Representative
Walt Paul ³	Region 6	Sportsmen Representative
Jim Petreszyn ^{2,3}	Region 7	Legislative Representative
Stephen Wowelko	Region 7	Sportsmen Representative
Tom Grasek	Region 8	Sportsmen Representative (Alt.)
Tom Ryan	Region 8	Sportsman Representative
Matt Foe ³	Region 9	Landowner Representative
Dan Tone	Region 9	NYSCC Representative
Zen Olow ³	Region 9	Sportsman Representative
Patrick McBrearty	Region 4	Otsego County FWMB
Mike Zagata	Region 4	Regional FWMB Chair
Fred Neff	Region 7	Sportsman
Michael Candella	Region 6	Oneida County FWMB

¹Statewide FWMB Chair

²Statewide FWMB Vice-Chair

³Statewide FWMB Executive Committee

Paul Curtis

Cornell

Cornell University Advisor to FWMB

Guests and Presenters:

Chuck Parker	New York State Conservation Council
Mark Rogers	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation
Peter Innes	NYSDEC – Lands and Forests
Jim Farquhar	NYSDEC – Fish and Wildlife
Josh Stiller	NYSDEC – Fish and Wildlife
Tony Wilkinson	NYSDEC – Fish and Wildlife
Dave Nelson	NYSDEC – Fish and Wildlife
Stephen Hurst	NYSDEC – Fish and Wildlife
Douglas Stang	NYSDEC – Fish and Wildlife

Regional, NYSCC, and CFAB reports were available to meeting participants and are attached to the meeting notes

Updates, Discussions and Presentations

Allowable Uses on Wildlife Management Areas

In response to continued concerns regarding certain uses (e.g. snowmobile, UTV / ATV trails) on Wildlife Management Areas (WAMs) that are counter to intended purposes of WAMs (wildlife propagation and wildlife-dependent uses), FWMB Executive Committee drafted a letter to DEC Commissioner Seggos requesting that inappropriate uses be curtailed and DEC make publish guidelines for use of WAMs that conform to intended purposes of WAMs (draft letter attached).

Concerns were voiced that snowmobile clubs are experiencing higher priority than wildlife interests based on actions (trail grooming, use of bulldozers, etc.) of snowmobile club on Happy Valley WMA. Assertion by FWMB members that snowmobile trails increased in 2017 compared to 2016

Action: FWMB Executive Committee to redraft letter and send to FWMB members

Note: DEC has guidelines for public use on Wildlife Management Areas available via DEC website: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/publicuseofwmas.pdf (and attached to notes). Guidelines have been available via DEC website since March 2018.

Request that TRPs issued for uses on WAMs be a standard agenda item at all regional FWMB meetings to monitor non-conforming uses on WAMs – this should foster oversight and understanding of permitted activities and consistency with the intended uses

Peter Innes, DEC Lands and Forests – Conservation Easements

[note: see presentation]

DEC has 900,000 acres of Conservation Easements

- 9 large Working Forest Easements: Cedarlands; Hyslop Tract; Perkins Clearing/Speculator Tree Farm; Santa Clara; Croghan; Grass River; Oswegatchie; Tooley Pond; and Kildare

Recreation Management Plans (RMPs) describe appropriate uses for a given tract of land and all uses must be consistent the terms of the easement

RMPs are not static documents as they are periodically revised and amended

FWMB concerned that interested parties in favor of traditional uses (hunting, fishing, and trapping) are not being heard and considered during development of RMPs and concerned about political influence and adjacent landowners' desires being addressed compared to more broad recreational access to easement lands

Aging outdoor recreationists are seeking additional motorized access opportunities to continue to enjoy natural resources

FWMB voiced concerned about Land trusts purchasing property and shutting off access and Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) lobbying for uses via RMP / UMP process and then securing contract(s) for trail maintenance on same lands

Jim Farquhar, DEC Fish and Wildlife – update on spruce grouse restoration effort and proposal to close 293,000 acres to grouse hunting

Translocated spruce grouse seem to behaving “naturally” and are producing broods

Overlap of spruce grouse and ruffed grouse habitat generally only occurs during the early fall (e.g. on-set of grouse hunting season)

Potential for amended (if any) regulation proposal in the future (e.g. more specific areas – lowland boreal forest habitats) that would close smaller area or smaller area for a shorter period of the hunting season

FWMB desire for additional outreach instead of regulation that closes area to hunting:

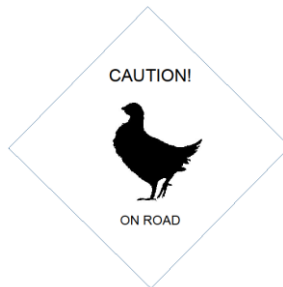
- Differentiation in looks (see page 40 in 2018-19 hunting/ trapping guide)
- Better signage
- Distribute information via news releases, DEC Delivers, and direct outreach to impacted landowners and hunters

Motion - spruce grouse to be the animal for the 2019-20 Habitat Access Stamp to foster outreach about the bird and aid in identification of spruce grouse vs ruffed grouse

Motion – Bill Connors

Second – Walt Paul

Motion carried unanimously



Josh Stiller, DEC Fish and Wildlife – Multi-Stock Management of Waterfowl in Atlantic Flyway and new process for duck season setting in New York

[note: see presentation]

1996 – implemented eastern mallard adaptive harvest management schema

- 1997 – 2018 – eastern mallard-based decision
- Assumes mallard represent all ducks in Atlantic Flyway
- 22 straight years of liberal seasons

20-year trend of declining eastern mallard population (42% decline) would likely result in closed or very restrictive hunting seasons led to new multi-stock approach as other duck populations are stable to increasing

Reasons for decline are uncertain, but point to: overharvest, large-scale habitat changes, and release of large numbers of captive mallards

Beginning in 2019-2020 duck season, mallard bag limit to go from 4/ day to 2/ day

Representative species of all Atlantic Flyway ducks: wood ducks, ring-necked ducks, American green-winged teal, and common goldeneye

Objectives of Multi-Stock Management:

- Sustain Atlantic Flyway duck populations at levels that meet legal mandates and demands for recreational uses
 - o No species below sustainable level
 - o Harvest decisions based on representative species
- Maximize hunter satisfaction with harvest opportunity and regulations

- No closed seasons
- Maximize percentage of satisfied hunters
- Simple regulations (reduce complexity)
- Minimize annual regulation changes

New York Duck Season Setting – new process

- Survey hunters to determine what duck hunters value:
 - Seeing / shooting wood duck and teal?
 - Seeing / shooting black duck and mallard?
 - Seeing / shooting diving ducks?
 - Seeing / shooting any duck?
 - Maximize opportunity to go duck hunting?
 - Minimize overlap of waterfowl and deer hunting seasons?
- 47% response rate on survey – currently analyzing data

Tony Wilkinson, DEC Fish and Wildlife – various discussion topics

CWD Risk Minimization

- DEC has plan (handout available)
- DEC and PA Game Commission to reach out NY hunters that hunt in PA and PA hunters in NY to inform about deer carcass transportation rules

Legislative ideas / initiatives

- Allow 12 year olds to hunt big game in NY with firearms
- Eliminate requirement for back tag while hunting (already do need to wear in northern zone and Catskill Park, NY only state to require)
- Increased use of crossbows during the archery season under bow hunting privilege (not muzzleloader privilege as currently set in law)

Fish and Wildlife agencies need to increase relevancy with broader constituent base(s) as motivations, pathways, and avenues for introduction are different than traditional ones

Division of Fish and Wildlife in process of hiring 21 new staff

DEC / DFW increasingly addressing issues with human-wildlife conflicts

Dave Nelson, DEC Fish and Wildlife – outreach and communication

DFW to ramp up outreach and communication efforts (inside and outside DEC) to foster increased understanding of DEC's programs and efforts and foster increased awareness of and appreciation for NY's natural, wild resources and opportunities to enjoy them

Also increase knowledge about and appreciation for the economic impact of outdoor recreation and DEC's fish and wildlife program

Approach: "Get people's attention with something they want and while you have their attention, give them something you want to tell them"

Suggestions from FWMB:

- DEC has the subject material and technology/ equipment to produce podcasts
- DEC reintroduce deer check stations to foster one-on-one with staff
- Use Conservationist for Kids to promote hunting, fishing, and trapping
- Make hunting and fishing opportunities info available at Catskill Interpretive Center
- Foster increased awareness of Venison Donation Program (including those efforts that are conducted in addition to those by the Venison Donation Coalition)
- Make habitat / access stamp posters larger (11" X 17") and increase availability
- Use "sportsmen" / constituents to help disseminate outreach materials and messages

Mark Rogers, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation – increased opportunities

Taconic State Park – allow for deer and bear hunting, small game hunting – November 1st and shotguns for turkey hunting

Lake Taghkanic State Park – allow archery hunting and use of crossbows

Coles Creek State Park – permits for waterfowl hunting available from OPRHP, identified hunting areas that hunters set up blinds

Glimmerglass State Park – DEC and OPRHP working together to identify possible site for modest boat launch site

Doug Stang, DEC Fish and Wildlife – update on young forest initiative, DFW staffing

WMA Habitat Management Plans

- 38 Approved
- 5 additional pending approval
- 22 additional in draft

28 Public meetings held (35 WMAs covered)

81% of forested lands on WMAs has been inventoried (approximately 158,000 acres)

On-the-ground habitat management occurring

- 24 completed projects totaling 584 acres (498 acres of young forest created)
- 11 additional projects under contract (459 acres)

Division of Fish and Wildlife staffing

- 299 permanent positions (306 in spring 2018)
- Approval to move forward with 21 permanent positions (waivers from hiring freeze)
- 49 seasonal positions converted to permanent positions @ 80%

Waivers from Hiring Freeze

- Biologist 2 (Wildlife) – Albany, Hunter Education Coordinator
- Biologist 3 (Wildlife) – Albany, Outreach and Communication
- Biologist 1 (Ecology) – R2
- Biologist 2 (Aquatic) – Lake Erie Unit Leader
- Biologist 2 (Aquatic) – R1, Regional Fisheries Manager
- Biologist 2 (Wildlife) – R2, Regional Wildlife Manager
- Biologist 1 (Aquatic) – R6
- Biologist 1 (Aquatic) – R9
- Fish and Wildlife Technician 2 – R6
- Administrative Specialist 2 – Albany
- Administrative Specialist 1 – Albany
- Environmental Chemist 1 – Hale Creek, contaminant analysis
- Research Scientist 1 – Delmar, Wildlife Health Unit
- Captain, Fisheries Research Vessel – Lake Erie Unit
- Biologist 1 (Wildlife) – R8, big game biologist
- Biologist 1 (Wildlife) – Albany, bird population monitoring
- Fish Culturist 5 – Albany, hatchery infrastructure
- Fish Culturist 3 – Salmon River Hatchery
- Fish Culturist 3 – Rome Hatchery
- Fish Culturist 3 – Caledonia Hatchery
- Fish Culturist 1 – Randolph Hatchery

Seasonal Conversion (49)

- Central Office – (12): License Sales (2), Ecosystem Health (1), Lake Ontario Unit (1), Wildlife (5), Wildlife Health Unit (1), Game Farm (2)
- Region 1 – (4): Ecosystem Health (1), Wildlife (3)
- Region 3 – (4): Ecosystem Health (1), Wildlife (3)
- Region 4 – (5): Ecosystem Health (1), Wildlife (4)
- Region 5 – (4): Ecosystem Health (1), Wildlife (3)
- Region 6 – (5): Ecosystem Health (2), Fisheries (1), Wildlife (2)
- Region 7 – (3): Ecosystem Health (1), Fisheries (1), Wildlife (1)
- Region 8 – (7): Ecosystem Health (1), Wildlife (6)
- Region 9 – (5): Ecosystem Health (1), Fisheries (1), Wildlife (3)

Promoting Habitat / Access Stamp Sales

- Goal: sell 25,000 of the 2018 H / A Stamps (Barred Owl)
- “Stickers” – agents, State Fair
- Pins – State Fair
- Agent Incentives (recognition)
- Posters – (image of “stickers”)
- Social Media
- Change Call-out Box in DECALS

Sales to date 2018 H/A Stamp Sales = 7,463 (compared to 2,816 same time in 2017)

All-time high sales = 9,961 (in 2007)

Stephen Hurst, DEC Fish and Wildlife – update on DEC fisheries program and request for assistance with public access to Public Fishing Rights

[note: see handouts]

Adirondack Hatchery – selected a contractor to install alarm system (and associated valves) to guard against future power outages and malfunctions. Working new house for hatchery manager as current one has been determined to be unlivable and not repairable

DEC has developed and keeps updating Hatchery Infrastructure Report identifying needs and DEC will partner with SUNY-Cobleskill to hire a position to assist with modernizing DEC hatchery system to improve efficiency

Trout Stream Management Plan – draft plan to be completed by 3/31/2019. Regional Fisheries Managers are meeting every 6-8 weeks to develop / refine the plan

Bureau of Fisheries is taking a structured approach – development of plans to guide efforts and increase transparency with objectives, actions (e.g. Salmon River Fishery Management Plan)

FWMB member concerns and questions:

- Electrofishing the Charlotte Creek revealed no fallfish, rock bass, other fish – concerns about possible chemical contamination (working with R4 Fisheries Manager – Chris VanMaaren)
- Potential to acquire new parcel immediately adjacent to Skaneateles Lake Boat Launch Site to expand current parking for boat launch
- Need to include access to waters on easement lands via input to RMPs
- Landowners shutting off access to Catskill Creek (near Round Mills) and Kaaterskill Creek

Request of FWMB – Assist with assessment of current Public Fishing Rights (PFR) holdings

- DEC to develop a “charge” to describe the desired outcome and effort involved

- DEC provides PFR maps to FWMB members and FWMB members visit holdings to ensure that PFR holdings are properly identified and not posted
 - Identify a couple of counties to serve as pilot program for the effort
 - FWMB County representatives can look at tax parcels to see if lands are becoming available (e.g. tax liens) and try secure access easements on those lands that become County property – work with County planning departments
 - For non-PFR areas that are stocked – work with landowners to post **ASK permission** signs (DEC to provide list of reaches and stocking points)
 - DEC to provide list of DEC Real Property leads in each DEC Region to FWMB members
- FWMB members – highly supportive of the effort

Discussion Topics / Concerns from the floor

Need to update the FWMB Orientation Manual

- Wat Paul provided copy to DEC for updating
- Include information about providing input to development of UMPs and RMPs

Regional FWMB members need to share reports from their meetings:

- all regions have quarterly (at least) meetings and notes should be shared with the 21 members of the Statewide FWMB

If DEC is funding land trusts – must ensure that land holdings and lands acquired are open to hunting, fishing, and trapping

DEC divisions of Fish & Wildlife and Lands & Forests should work better together to foster input to development of RMPs

Nominating Committee

Patrick McBrearty (Chair), Dave McLean, Ray Merlotto

Election Slate

Chair – Bill Conners
 Vice-Chair – Jim Petreszyn
 Secretary – Mike Zagata

Motion: Nominating Committee cast a single ballot

Motion: Ray Merlotto
 Second: Tom Ryan
 Motion carried unanimously

FWMB Executive Committee

Bill Conners (Chair), Jim Petreszyn (Vice Chair), Mike Zagata (Secretary), Matt Foe, Zen Olow, and Dave McLean

Next meeting: March 21-22, 2019 – White Eagle Conference Center

Agenda items:

- Update and progress with fisheries access project
- Otter management plan – update on research efforts and status of management plan
- Fisher study – results and implications for seasons / future plans
- Fostering access to private lands – brainstorming discussion
- Habitat management on state lands (other than young forest habitat)
- Update of the FWMB handbook for new members
- Impacts of deer browsing on forest regeneration (Paul Curtis and Jacki Frair)

Meeting Adjournment –Approval

Motion to adjourn – Matt Foe

Second – Bob Hodorowski

Motion carried unanimously

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233



State FWMB Fall Agenda 2018 (DRAFT)

White Eagle Conference Center

September 20—21, 2018

Thursday, September 20, 2018

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Check In

Correspondence and Regional Reports, etc.

10:00 AM Roll Call

Welcome - Adopt Draft Agenda

10:15 Comments from Division Director

10:30 AM Discussion of Conservation Easements—Peter Innes - Assistant Dir Lands and Forests

To include discussion of connector road on Lassiter tract

Report from Division of Fish and Wildlife - Assistant Dir Doug Stang

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Afternoon Agenda

Spruce Grouse Program & Status of proposal to close 193,120 Ac to grouse hunting

Jim Farquhar - Chief, Bureau of Wildlife

Discussion of WMAs - Allowed uses and permit process—PR compliance

Bureau of Wildlife - waterfowl season setting framework and movement away from Mallard

Based System - Josh Stiller - Waterfowl Specialist

Status/Progress - Young Forest Initiative—Doug Stang

Resolve concerns re: Glimmerglass Launch

Friday, Sept. 21, 2018

Steven Hurst, Chief, Bureau of Fisheries - Discussion of progress on hatchery infrastructure including monitoring, assistance with posted lands and stocking sites, , and gaining ingress/ Egress for current PFRs

Business—elections, exec. Board, other business as needed

12:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM

Unfinished business

Adjournment

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



September XX, 2018

Department of Environmental Conservation
Commissioner Basil Seggos
625 Broadway
Albany, New York

Re: Wildlife Management Areas

Dear Commissioner:

The NYS FWMB members represent more than 1.5 million members of the sporting public, the state's landowners and the county governments of 55 of the state's 62 counties. The board's main charges are to advise the Department of Environmental Conservation on matters of fish, wildlife and habitat management, and access for the sporting public.

Over the past decade, the NYS FWMB has spent a great deal of time reviewing many of the activities being conducted on New York State's Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), as well as the programs which manage these activities.

The state's Wildlife Management Areas are lands that have been acquired primarily for the propagation and enjoyment of wildlife, including hunting, trapping, and wildlife observation. These areas provide and protect wildlife habitats that are particularly significant in their capacity to harbor rare, threatened or endangered species, that host unusual concentrations of one or more wildlife species, provide important resting and feeding areas for migratory birds or other wildlife, or, provide significant value for wildlife and for human enjoyment of wildlife.

As a long-standing matter of principle, the NYS FWMB is strongly opposed to any encroachment by groups or individuals not taking part in hunting, trapping, or wildlife observation, on our WMAs. Most problematic are uses activities involving motorized vehicles, such as trucks, motorcycles, ATVs, and snowmobiles. These uses are not necessarily compatible with the purpose of a WMA. Encroachment from these vehicles creates disturbances to wildlife and wildlife habitat and can affect the activities of legitimate users of a WMA. Arguably, snowmobiles have less of an impact than other motorized vehicles on wildlife or their habitats because they are used during the winter when there is snow cover, the ground is frozen, and much migratory wildlife has left the

area. However, snowmobiles can still have significant and undesirable impacts if their use is abused, especially when connector trails across WMAs are expanded into loop trails that can disrupt wildlife and impact habitat.

Concerns about noise and disturbance to wildlife will apply to snowmobiles, just as it does for other motorized vehicles. The effects of disturbance is exacerbated because most animals are at higher levels of stress during the winter. In addition, the packed trail created by a snowmobile track may create access routes for predators into critical winter cover. Snowmobiles can also crush small animal burrows under the snow.

Connector trails that allow snowmobiles to cross the land for the purpose of connecting one designated and maintained snowmobile trail network to another are often compatible. Connector trails should generally be located along the shoulder of public roads or over the administrative roads within Wildlife Lands when possible, and all should follow the most direct path to connect the trail networks, the use of road shoulders and administrative roads notwithstanding. Trails on Wildlife Lands are not be developed to form loops or as destination trails. Nor should off-trail riding be permitted.

Lax attitudes and guidelines for dog trials, mountain bikes, and other use not specifically authorized may be as much a threat as those previously mentioned.

Our Wildlife Management Areas represent an important resource for the sportsmen and women of New York. Excise taxes levied on the sale of firearms and ammunition under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (the Pittman-Robertson Act), provide a portion of the funding necessary for the restoration of wild birds and mammals, and to acquire, develop and manage their habitats here in New York. Activities on land purchased under Pittman-Robertson must be limited to uses stipulated under the Act. In the opinion of the state Fish and Wildlife Management Board, trail development on WMAs goes beyond what is permitted under the Act. Connector trails may be permitted, however, loop trails clearly go beyond the intention of the Act and may impede permitted uses by disturbing wildlife and causing unnecessary damage to habitat.

DEC's stated intention to generate internal guidelines for the use of WMAs make it all but impossible for the sporting community to determine if activities are authorized and fully permitted, and to effectively monitor compliance to the guidelines established by the Department. The state FWMB is anxious to have DEC publish guidelines for the use of WMAs that conform to the intent of the Pittman-Robertson Act, and the Act's requirements for use of those lands.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue and look forward to working with the Department to develop guidelines for uses of the Wildlife Management Areas that are consistent with the intention of the Pittman-Robertson Act.

Sincerely,

William R. Conners, Chairman
NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board

CC: Governor Andrew Cuomo

Public Use of Wildlife Management Areas

What is a Wildlife Management Area?

The Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Fish and Wildlife administers 128 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) which comprise nearly 235,000 acres of lands and waters. These are special places, acquired and managed to: provide quality wildlife habitat; foster wildlife reproduction and survival; promote wildlife-dependent recreation and enjoyment-including hunting, trapping, wildlife observation and photography; and protect soil and water quality. Wildlife Management Areas provide and protect natural habitats that are particularly significant in their capacity to host unusual concentrations of one or more wildlife species; provide important resting and feeding areas for migratory birds or other wildlife; harbor rare, threatened, or endangered species; or provide significant value for wildlife or human enjoyment of wildlife.

How do they differ from State Forests?

Wildlife Management Areas should not be confused with State Forest Lands, which were acquired primarily to offset agricultural abandonment and deforestation, and are managed by the Division of Lands and Forests for multiple purposes, including water quality, ecosystem health, forest management, and recreational opportunities. New York's 442 State Forests greatly outnumber WMAs and comprise nearly 800,000 acres.

Please see: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7768.html>, for information regarding WMAs and <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/44115.html> for rules regarding the use of Lands and Forests properties.

How does DEC determine what activities are allowed on WMAs?

To ensure WMAs provide benefits for wildlife and for New Yorkers, DEC adheres to a set of broad goals based on statutory, regulatory, and policy guidance, as a basis to determine compatibility of public uses.

PRIMARY GOALS

GOAL 1—Provide and enhance habitat for a diversity of wildlife with an emphasis on game species and those species listed as Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern, or listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in New York's State Wildlife Action Plan --please see <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html> and <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7179.html>).

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

SECONDARY GOALS

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

GOAL 4—Allow for non-wildlife-dependent recreation (e.g., hiking, biking, horseback riding, skiing, and dog training or trials) provided the activity is compatible with the primary goals associated with wildlife-dependent recreation and wildlife habitat enhancement.

The lists below summarize compatibility of public use activities on WMAs.

Primary, secondary, and restricted uses of WMAs:

- A. **Primary Activities:** Wildlife-dependent activities consistent with the primary goals and purposes of WMAs. These may be restricted during certain times or in specific areas to protect sensitive species or habitats or to reduce conflicts with user groups.
 1. Hunting
 2. Trapping
 3. Wildlife observation
 4. Wildlife and nature photography
 5. Fishing
- B. **Secondary Activities:** Not necessarily wildlife-dependent but generally compatible with the goals and purposes of WMAs.
 1. Non-powered boating with a canoe, kayak, or rowboat.
 2. Hiking
 3. Bicycling on WMA roads, specific trails, or boardwalks
 4. Cross-country (Nordic) skiing or snowshoeing
- C. **Restricted activities:** These activities are typically *not* wildlife-dependent and have the potential to adversely affect wildlife or wildlife-dependent recreation. On WMAs, they are allowed on a limited basis, with conditions, and may require a temporary revocable permit (TRP) or Volunteer Stewardship Agreement (VSA) issued by the regional DEC office. *Please view the specific WMA web page or contact the regional DEC office for additional information (see <http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/50230.html> for the DEC regional office directory).*
 1. Horseback riding: allowed only on roads and specifically-signed trails and typically limited to certain times of the year.
 2. Snowmobiles: Restricted to designated trails, along roads, and marked connector routes between trail systems.
 3. Motorized vehicles, including ATVs: Restricted to designated and posted roads.
 4. Collecting edible plants, fruit, or fungi: Immediate personal consumption allowed. All other collection requires a permit on a case-by-case basis. No collection for commercial use or resale is allowed.
 5. Training dogs on wild game during the training season (August 16 to April 15) does not require a permit. All other dog training, all dog trials, and any training outside these dates require a TRP from the regional DEC office.

Restricted activities authorized only under permit issued through the Regional DEC Office:

1. Dog trials and group training events: Restricted to applicable training periods per New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), August 16-April 15.
2. Camping: where permitted; restricted to designated locations
3. Organized competitive races or group events: Considered on a case-by-case basis and only allowed if there will be no adverse impacts to habitat, wildlife, or priority uses.
4. Geocaching: Requires written permission from regional DEC office; must avoid sensitive habitats and expected user conflict areas.
5. Drone flying: Not allowed unless it is a permitted wildlife, habitat management, or research flight.

Other Activities:

Other non-wildlife dependent activities not listed above are generally not compatible with the intended purposes and management of WMAs. Wildlife Management Area regulations contained in 6NYCRR, subchapter G cover prohibitions and limitations for some activities, but others are addressed on a case-by-case basis to determine if they can or should be allowed. Use compatibility is then determined by examining the proposed activity's impact on wildlife conservation and wildlife-dependent uses.