

HOLIDAY DEER HUNT

Hunters, Snowmobilers, and Others to "Share the Snow"



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Winter is a great time to be outside in New York. Winter hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, snowmobiling, hunting and trapping, and ice fishing are among the most popular activities available to residents and visitors alike. Whether you seek solitude or excitement, you can find it in New York during winter.

New Hunting Opportunity

DEC recently adopted a new deer hunting opportunity in New York's Southern Zone, between Christmas and New Year's Day. During this extension of the existing Southern Zone late bow and muzzleloading seasons, families will be able to hunt together while they are gathered for the holidays, using bows, crossbows, or muzzleloaders. Thousands of New Yorkers will make the most of this opportunity to share their hunting traditions, with as many as three or four generations participating together.

While many outdoor enthusiasts welcome this new opportunity, others are concerned that it may impinge on their preferred form of winter recreation. Some people feel this new hunt may present a conflict between different user groups wanting to pursue their favorite pastimes on the same properties, at the same time.

One Property, Many Uses

Many forms of winter recreation can and do take place simultaneously without conflict. It just takes a little advance planning, respect, and common courtesy among users. Whether recreating on public land or private land where you have permission, you should be aware of the types of activities that also may be taking place on the property you are using. It's always a good idea to ask a landowner if others will be present when you wish to pursue your pastime, whether that involves snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, trapping, or hunting rabbits or deer.

Share The Snow

Respect Other Uses and Users. Whatever your favorite winter pastime may be, we all share the outdoors, sometimes in a group setting, and at other times individually. It is important to remember we do share the snow, the woods, and the fields. Just as it is the case during warmer months, being considerate of others is vital when sharing the outdoors during winter.

Conflicts that arise between users will affect a landowner's attitudes toward sharing their property, and their willingness to allow recreation on their property in the future.

Hunters: Be aware that others may have permission to ski or hike or ride on property you hunt. Also, understand that snowmobile clubs prefer to mark trails with posts and signage before the ground freezes, so you may wish to avoid known snowmobile trails in late hunting seasons. As always, be alert to other users and practice safe use of firearms.

Recreationists: Be aware that hunters may be present at any time during the fall and winter, and deer hunting may occur between Christmas and New Year's Day. Hunters are trained to identify their target and what is beyond, and New York hunters have an exceptional safety record.



Hunters will be able to hunt deer between Christmas and New Year's Day this winter.

KEY POINTS

Holiday Deer Hunt
December 26 - January 1

- Southern Zone only
- Bow, crossbow, & muzzleloader only
- Available on state land and private land (with landowner permission)

Be Considerate of Others: Treat other users as you would like to be treated. Accept that a temporary interruption in your activity may occur, just as your presence may be a temporary interruption to others. If you see another party, announce your presence with a "hello" rather than a wave.

Practice Safety. Whether you are hunting, hiking, or skiing, it's a good idea to wear some brightly colored clothing when you are recreating outdoors, whether or not hunting seasons are open. Bright clothing will help you be seen, if you are lost, injure an ankle, or if you break a binding or have an equipment failure.

Landowners: As a property owner, you decide who is welcome on your property, and how it can be enjoyed. Your generosity is appreciated, whether you are providing a critical link in a snowmobile trail network, or serving as a gracious host to those who may use your property for other purposes. Your goodwill is recognized in the General Obligations Law (GOL), which provides protection from liability when you allow people to access your land for recreation without cost. The GOL applies whether you allow a single activity or permit multiple uses, and whether your property is posted or not.

Remember: We all share public lands and public resources.

Let's all "Share the Snow"



CONTACT INFORMATION

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