NEWS
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Joe Martens, Commissioner

NYS DEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1016
www.dec.ny.gov

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Contact: Lori Severino
(518) 402-8000

DEC SEEKING LANDOWNERS TO ASSIST WITH WILD TURKEY RESEARCH

Wild Turkey Survival Study to Begin in January; Findings Will Improve Wild Turkey Management

A third year of a research project on wild turkey survival to help improve the management of this popular game bird will kick off in January, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joe Martens today announced.

"Wild turkey populations have changed dramatically in New York over the past decade," Commissioner Martens said. "This project will provide valuable information on turkey survival rates and harvest to help guide management of this important game species. I encourage landowners that have wild turkey on their property this winter to consider participating in this study."

Over the past 10 years wild turkey populations have declined in many parts of New York State. To better understand the factors influencing population changes and how these changes affect turkey management, DEC is beginning the third year of a four-year study. This project will provide wildlife managers with current estimates of harvest and survival rates for female wild turkeys, or hens, in New York and guide management efforts.

Beginning in January, DEC will embark on a statewide effort to capture wild turkey hens and fit them with leg bands to obtain accurate data on survival and harvest. A small number of these birds will also be tagged with satellite radio-transmitters. All of the work will be done by DEC personnel on both public and private lands from January through March. The research will be concentrated in DEC Regions 3 through 9, across the state from the Hudson Valley to North Country and Western New York.

DEC is looking for landowners in DEC Regions 3 through 9 interested in allowing birds to be trapped on their land, as well as alerting project coordinators when they see turkeys on their property on a regular basis. Once turkeys are trapped and banded, they will immediately be released at the same location. Not all locations are suitable for deploying capture equipment, so landowners should contact their regional project coordinator to discuss the suitability of their property. Observations of turkey flocks during January through March can be reported to the project coordinator for that region or can be reported using the Winter Flock Survey form found on DEC's website at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48756.html.

(MORE)

Governor Cuomo's NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative is an effort to improve recreational activities for in-state and out-of-state sportsmen and sportswomen and to boost tourism opportunities throughout the state. This initiative includes the streamlining of hunting and fishing licensing and reducing license fees, improved access for fishing at various sites across the state, and increasing hunting opportunities in various regions.

For more information on this project, contact the regional project coordinator below or DEC by e-mail at wildlife@dec.ny.gov. "Turkey Study" should be listed as the subject line in any e-mails.

Interested landowners should contact the project coordinator for their region listed below:

(MORE)

DEC Region	Project Coordinator	Counties	
3	Patricia Vissering (845) 256-3090 NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife 21 South Putt Corners Rd. New Paltz, NY 12561	Dutchess Orange Putnam Rockland	Sullivan Ulster Westchester
4	Karl Parker (518) 357-2154 NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife 1150 N. Westcott Rd. Schenectady, NY 12306	Albany Columbia Delaware Greene Montgomery	Otsego Rensselaer Schenectady Schoharie
5	Melissa Neely (518) 623-1273 NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife Hudson St. Extension Warrensburg, NY 12885	Clinton Essex Franklin Fulton	Hamilton Saratoga Warren Washington
6	Jeff Eller (315) 785-2262 NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife 317 Washington St. Watertown, NY 13601	Herkimer Jefferson Lewis Oneida St. Lawrence	
7	Lance Clark (607) 753-3095 NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife 1285 Fisher Ave. Cortland, NY 13045	Broome Cayuga Chenango Cortland Madison	Onondaga Oswego Tioga Tompkins
8	Scott Smith (607) 776-2165 (ext. 16) NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife 7291 Coon Rd. Bath, NY 14810	Chemung Genesee Livingston Monroe Ontario Orleans	Schuyler Seneca Steuben Wayne Yates
9	Emilio Rende (716) 372-0645 NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife 182 E. Union St. Allegany, NY 14706	Allegany Cattaraugus Chautauqua Erie Niagara Wyoming	
Central Office	Michael Schiavone (518) 402-8886 NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife 625 Broadway, 5th Floor Albany, NY 12233-4754	Statewide Coordination	

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