

REQUEST FOR DEC TO MAKE A REGULATION MANDATING HUNTER ORANGE FOR BIG GAME SPORTSMEN IN NY

By the Greene County Federation of Sportsman

WHEREAS: Hunters wearing hunter orange are seven times less likely to be shot than those that do not.

WHEREAS: Forty of the fifty states already have some form of hunter orange law or regulation and, where records were kept, all experienced a decline in firearms-related hunting accidents after the requirement was instituted.

WHEREAS: All recent incidents of accidental line-of-sight hunting-related shootings in New York State have involved victims failing to wear hunter orange voluntarily.

WHEREAS: Deer cannot distinguish between hunter orange and colors in the green-gray-brown range because they are red/green colorblind.

WHEREAS: It is in the interest of all hunters in New York state to minimize the number of hunting-related firearms incidents.

WHEREAS: A significant and increasing portion of New York big game hunters do not wear hunter orange on a voluntary basis,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The New York State Conservation Council requests that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation mandate and enforce hunter orange for all hunters any time a hunter is moving in the field during an open firearms season.

Specifically, all big and small game hunters would be required to wear enough hunter orange above the waist to be visible in all directions during daylight hours. For example, this could be in the form of a hat, bandana, vest, jacket, shirt, sweater, rain gear or combination of these, but is not limited to these items of clothing as long as the high visibility color can be seen from every direction. Hunter orange camouflage, fluorescent pink, or fluorescent pink camouflage is also acceptable. Those accompanying or assisting any hunter afield, such as (but not limited to) guides, spectators, and those helping to haul a carcass, would also be required to wear hunter orange. The regulation could cover all land within the state, both public and private. An exception should be made for seasons restricted to primitive firearms with limited range.

Respectfully submitted by the Councilwoman for Greene County

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