

RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT 2018 NYSCC ANNUAL MEETING

Two resolutions have been submitted for consideration at this year's NYSCC Annual Meeting. They are presented below along with committee opinions.

01-2018 REQUEST FOR DEC TO MAKE A REGULATION MANDATING HUNTER ORANGE FOR BIG GAME SPORTSMEN IN NY - Greene County Federation of Sportsman

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

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, and;

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, and;

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

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

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 Environment Conservation issue and enforce mandatory hunter orange for all big game hunters any time the hunter is moving in the field during an open big game firearms season.

Specifically, all big game hunters would be required to wear enough hunter orange above the waist to be visible in all directions. 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 and covers at least 200 square inches, approximately the equivalent of a baseball cap. 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 and those helping to haul a carcass, would also be required to wear hunter orange. The regulation would cover all land within the state, both public and private. An exception should be made for seasons limited to bowhunting and/or primitive firearms with limited range.

Contact:

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Committee Comments:

Firearms Committee - OPPOSE

All were against it being mandatory. Some also pointed out that if mandated, anyone who is in or near woods (bow hunters, muzzleloader hunters, hikers, people walking alongside the road, etc.) should also be mandated to wear orange, not just rifle hunters. All agreed it was a good idea but it should be optional.

Fur Resources - OPPOSE

Small Game - SUPPORT 2, OPPOSE 2, ABSTAIN 2

02-2018 Hound Training Season - New York Houndsmen Conservation Association Inc.

Whereas: The hound training season is a valuable and necessary tool in preparing a hound for hunting as it often takes a considerable amount of time and effort by the trainer, and;

Whereas: Training season is non-consumptive and has no affect on the population of any species, and;

Whereas: The training season for bear has been shortened by the October 1 deer season and now the new early bear season in the Southern Zone, and;

Whereas: Training season on raccoon, fox and coyote have been, in essence, shortened because houndsmen are hesitant to train during open deer season, and;

Whereas: This change would make it possible for our youth to prepare their hounds for national competitions they will be competing in;

Therefore be it resolved: The NYSCC support legislation that would change the opening of hound training season on Raccoon, fox, coyote and bear to June 1st from the present July 1st.

Contact:

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Committee Comments:

Firearms Committee - SUPPORT

Small Game - OPPOSE