

2022-02 - OPPOSE GROUND HUNTING RESTRICTIONS FOR LICENSED YOUTH HUNTERS OVER THE AGE OF 12 YEARS-OLD WHOM HUNT DEER WITH A RIFLE, SHOTGUN, CROSSBOW OR MUZZLELOADING FIREARM

FROM: ERIE & GENESEE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

Whereas, In 2021, Provisions of the new law (ECL 11-0935) the NYS Legislature adopted a temporary program through 2023 for young hunters in counties that choose to participate, and;

Whereas, ECL 11-0935 Allows 12- and 13-year-old licensed hunters to hunt **deer** with a rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloading firearm in areas where and during the hunting seasons in which such firearms may be used, including during the Youth Firearms Big Game Hunt over Columbus Day weekend, and;

Whereas, 12- and 13-year-old licensed hunters can also hunt deer with a crossbow during the times when other hunters may use crossbows, and;

Whereas, youth must be supervised by a licensed adult hunter (aged 21 years or older) with at least 3 years of experience hunting deer who maintains physical control over the youth hunter at all times and;

Whereas, the youth hunter and adult mentor must wear fluorescent orange or pink clothing and to remain at ground level while hunting deer with a crossbow, rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloader, and;

Whereas, adult mentors must always maintain physical control over the junior hunter while hunting. This means the mentor and junior hunter must be close enough to talk without the aid of a radio and must be able to see each other, and;

Whereas, the 12-15 year old Junior bowhunters do NOT have to wear orange and/or hunt from the ground, and;

Whereas, passing legislation (laws) or making regulations forcing any licensed youth hunter over the age of 12-years-old to remain at ground level while hunting deer with a crossbow, rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloader. However, NOT regulating 12–15-year-old Junior bowhunters to remain on the ground removes the expertise of the mentor to properly manage the safety of the youth hunter, and;

Whereas, there are no published data and/or facts that prove ground hunting is safer than elevated hunting, and;

Whereas, New York State is the only State that forces regulations for licensed youth hunter over the age of 12-years-old to hunt deer with a rifle, shotgun, crossbow or muzzleloading firearm, to remain at ground level, and;

Whereas, the evolution of the sport and the availability of ladder stands, and elevated platforms designed for multiple persons allows for the proper mentoring to apply applicable safety guidelines and devices in the use of elevated hunting positions, and;

Whereas, hunting in the same elevated platform and/or ladder stand ensures that the mentor shall be able to maintain physical control over the youth hunter at all times.

Therefore, be it resolved; that the NYSCC will pursue changes in legislation / regulation to permit mentors and their youth hunters to hunt big game from elevated positions that allow the mentor and their youth hunter to be in immediate physical contact with each other.

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