



NYSMLA, Inc.

200 Clifford Drive
Vestal, NY 13850



NEW YORK
BOWHUNTERS, INC.

P.O. Box 1157
Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424

Dear Commissioner Grannis,

September 11, 2009

New York Bowhunters (NYB) and the New York State Muzzleloaders Association (NYSMLA) have developed the following southern zone big game season compromise that encompasses the desires of both organizations as well as that of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

The DEC Bureau of Wildlife desires to increase the harvest of antlerless deer in their effort to effectively manage the whitetail deer herd in NYS as well as allow for a weekend of early hunting opportunity for junior big game firearms hunters. The NYSMLA wishes to have an early "primitive" muzzleloading season and NYB seeks to restore lost hunting opportunity that occurred with the implementation of 2005 big game restructuring regulations.

We highly recommend that the DEC implement the following big game regulations in the southern zone.

1. Open the 23-day regular firearms season on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.
2. Open the early archery season on October 1st, ending on the Friday prior to the beginning of the regular firearms season.
3. Allow for a weekend of junior (ages 14 & 15) big game hunting opportunity on the weekend prior to the opening of the regular firearms season.
4. Open a 5-day antlerless-only "primitive" muzzleloading season on the Monday prior to the beginning of the regular firearms season, ending on the Friday prior to the beginning of the regular firearms season.

The DEC follows a progression of weaponry in the northern zone, starting with archery season, muzzleloader season and then progressing into the regular firearms season. The above proposal follows the precedence already set by the DEC.

Definition of a "primitive" muzzleloader: A rifle or musket with a smooth or rifled barrel loaded through the muzzle and shooting a round patched ball. It will possess a side lock in the form of an external hammer design (serpentine, cock or hammer) that either holds a rope (slow match) or flint or has a hammer that fires a percussion cap. It will also possess a flash pan, touchhole or nipple which is situated on the side, top or bottom of the barrel with sights that are open or peep in design (no optics allowed).

Sincerely yours,

Gary J. Socola - President
New York Bowhunters, Inc.

Bill Brookover - President
New York State Muzzleloader Association