

2023 WEST POINT DMAP TAG AVAILABILITY NOTICE FOR AREAS I, L, N, & Q

Do you want to harvest more deer, harvest quality bucks, improve forest ecology, and improve training land resiliency at West Point? If so, consider filling a DMAP Tag in 2023!

Summary:

In 2021, as part of an initiative to achieve these objectives, the West Point Natural Resources Branch (WP NRB), in collaboration with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), began a Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP), offering antlerless deer tags to eligible West Point hunters for select hunting areas L, I, N, & Q of the reservation. This program continues in 2023. Effective October 1st, 2023, hunters opting to participate may receive up to two DMAP tags, one at a time. If a hunter fills a first tag, he or she may return for the second. These deer will not count against 2022 West Point individual deer harvest quota of three deer per person.

By implementing a DMAP in these four specific hunting areas, the areas in which WP NRB conducted a timber sale in 2021, WP NRB aims to improve the health and resilience of the regenerating forest by locally reducing the deer herd in those specific areas. A secondary potential benefit of the DMAP program is to the deer herd itself in the form of improved average individual deer body size and antler quality. Twenty-five (25) permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please consider participation in this initiative.

Why You Should Consider Participation:

On-the-ground research and observations by WP NRB, NYS DEC, NYS Extension Offices, US Forest Service, and visiting universities have identified a deer population above the tolerable threshold for multiple objectives. Supporting evidence includes published, peer-reviewed, and statistically valid studies conducted at WP over a number of years. The 2021-2030 Deer Management Report by NYS DEC set a population reduction goal for our Wildlife Management Unit, WMU 3P. This initiative is in alignment with these local elements and recommendations from the larger body of research on deer management. This initiative is a necessary step in achieving improvements in forest ecology, forest renewal, and quality deer management (QDM).

Findings from relevant research – some done right here at West Point - have shown that high deer densities degrade forest ecosystems (Gorchov, Blossey, Averill et al., 2021) (Dávalos, et al. 2015) and prevent successful forest regeneration (Blossey et al., 2019). These impacts reduce the resiliency of the military training land and increase invasive species establishment (Gorchov et al., 2021) (Dávalos, Simpson, Nuzzo et al., 2015) (Dávalos et al., 2015). High deer densities increase exposure of military personnel and hunters to Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses (Kilpatrick, LaBonte, & Stafford, 2014). In relation to QDM, increasing forage base for deer in combination with a higher doe take will increase average weight for residual deer and improve antler quality of residual bucks (Royo, Kramer, Miller, Nibbelink, & Stout, 2017) (Stout, Royo, deCaleta, McAleese, & Finley, 2013) (Tilghman 1989).

Together we can improve deer herd quality, improve forest ecosystem health, and improve your hunting experience! For these reasons, WP NRB asks your participation in this initiative. See page 3 of this notice for instructions and a sample sign-out form and page 4 for a DMAP map.

- Regards, West Point Natural Resources Branch

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HOW THE WEST POINT DMAP TAG PROCESS FOR AREAS I, L, N & Q WORKS

STEP 1 – VISITING NATURAL RESOURCES: Eligible West Point deer hunters interested in participating in the DMAP Program in 2023 may retrieve DMAP tags in-person from West Point Natural Resources Branch (NRB) staff. To coordinate a visit to retrieve a DMAP tag, see below:

• **If during Archery (OCT 01 - NOV 17) or Muzzleloader Seasons (DEC 11 - JAN 01):** See NRB Office, DPW Bldg (Bldg 667A), Ruger Road. Call (845) 938-2314 to arrange visit. Early sign-out may begin SEP 25

• **If during Regular Deer Season (NOV 19 – DEC 10):** see NRB at Hunt Control at Snake Pit (Bldg 1666) at the corner of Route 293 and Mine Torne Road.

STEP 2 - SIGNING OUT A TAG: A hunter and NRB staff will complete a copy of the “USAG West Point DMAP Sign-Out Form” (Page 4) and NRB will issue the hunter a DMAP tag valid for use in Areas I, L, N & Q - ONLY.

• **Archery and Muzzleloader Season DMAP Tag Issue Periods:** Tags issued for archery season shall be valid until season’s end but unused tags must be returned or renewed.

• **Regular Deer Season DMAP Tag Issue Period:** Tags issued for the Regular Season shall be valid on a weekly basis. Tags must be returned or renewed every seven days.

STEP 3 – FILLING OR RETURNING A TAG: Once a hunter has signed out a tag, he/she is responsible for the tag and must either fill it by attaching it to an antlerless deer he/she harvests in one of the eligible areas or by returning the unfilled tag to NRB at the end of the issue period.

• **If filling a tag:** comply with all reporting requirements. All harvests must be reported on iSportsman at checkout and deer in Regular Season must be brought to Hunt Control.

• **If returning a tag:** All unused DMAP tags must be returned at the end of issue periods – season’s end if outside of Regular Season or every seven days within Regular Season.

**** NOTE: Failure to return tags or violation of tag conditions (i.e. using tag to take antlered deer or to take a deer in a non-DMAP area, etc.) may result in loss of ALL West Point permits for, at minimum, one (1) year and potential account cancellation.**

USAG WEST POINT DMAP SIGN-OUT FORM:

Name: _____ NYS License #: _____
West Point Permit #: _____ Phone: _____
Sign-Out Date: #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____ #5 _____
Due By Date: #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____ #5 _____
DMAP Tag #: _____

I hereby acknowledge that I am obligated to report harvest with this tag. If unsuccessful, I acknowledge that I am obligated to return it, on the assigned date, to WP NRB. I am aware and acknowledge that failure to return this DMAP tag or violation of DMAP area restrictions may result in loss of ALL permits at USAG West Point for, at minimum, one (1) year from date of infraction and potential cancellation of account.

Signature: _____ Date: _____








----- **BELOW IS COMPLETED UPON TAG RETURN** -----

Dates Renewed (if renewed) #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____ #5 _____
Date Returned: #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____ #5 _____

NRB Staff Acknowledgment _____

West Point Deer Hunting Map & 2021 DMAP Availability Areas

Legend

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|---------------|
|  | DMAP Hunting Areas |  | State Roads |
|  | Non-DMAP Hunting Areas |  | Roads |
|  | Non-Hunting/Off-Limits Areas |  | Trails |
| | |  | Lakes & Ponds |

NOTE: This map only displays West Point deer hunting areas with respect to the 2021 DMAP program. For more information on other hunting area regulations e.g. pursuable game allowed, hunting implements allowed, etc. see the current West Point Hunting Map. Deer hunters should also consult the 2019 APR Map for information on antler point restrictions.

