2025 WEST POINT DMAP TAG AVAILABILITY NOTICE

Summary:

In 2021 in order to reduce deer browse and foster greater forest regeneration the West Point Natural Resources Section (WP NRS), 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. The initial restriction of the West Point DMAP to these areas was designed to limit deer browse and foster regeneration in areas affected by a 2021 timber harvest.

With the conclusion of the 2023 hunting season coinciding with the end of the initial three-year period of West Point's DMAP, the WP NRS has opted to re-enroll West Point in the DMAP process. As a result, **effective October 1st, 2025, hunters opting to participate may receive up to two DMAP tags to fill, one at a time. If a hunter fills one tag, he or she may return for the second. Deer harvested with DMAP tags – which must be antlerless deer - will not count against 2025 West Point individual deer harvest quota of three deer per person**.

As stated, from 2021 through 2023, West Point's DMAP applied to four specific hunting areas where WP NRS conducted a timber sale in 2021. **In 2024, the WP NRS expanded the DMAP to all hunting areas, where it also applies in 2025.** The DMAP aim is to improve the regenerating forest health and resilience via deer herd reduction 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 NRS, 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 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 military training land resiliency 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 people 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, deCalesta, McAleese, & Finley, 2013) (Tilghman 1989).

WP NRB asks your participation in this initiative. See page 3 of this notice for instructions and a sample sign-out form. Past versions of this notice contained a map showing DMAP applicable hunting areas however with expansion of DMAP across the installation, a separate DMAP map is no longer necessary.

- Regards, West Point Natural Resources Section

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HOW THE WEST POINT DMAP TAG PROCESS WORKS **DMAP Tag#_____**

STEP 1 – VISITING NATURAL RESOURCES: Eligible West Point deer hunters interested in participating in the DMAP Program in 2025 may retrieve DMAP tags in-person from West Point Natural Resources Section (NRS) staff. To coordinate a visit to retrieve a DMAP tag, see below:

- **If during Archery (OCT 01 - NOV 14)** or **Muzzleloader Seasons (DEC 07 - JAN 01):** See NRS Office, DPW Bldg (Bldg 667A), Ruger Road. Call (520) 718-0012 to arrange visit. Early sign-out may begin SEP 23.
- **If during Regular Deer Season (NOV 15 – DEC 07):** see NRS 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 NRS 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 NRS 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.**

DMAP SIGN-OUT FORM – To be completed by Natural Resources staff at sign out.

Name:_____NYS License #: _____
West Point Permit #: _____DMAP Tag#_____
Phone: _____Email:_____

	Sign Out #1	Sign Out #2	Sign Out #3	Sign Out #4	Sign Out #5
Date Signed Out					
Date Due Back					
NRS Verification					
Date Returned/Filled					
NRS Verification					

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 NRS. I acknowledge that failure to return this DMAP tag or violation of conditions may result suspension from DMAP program, end to hunting season, and other penalties.

Hunter Signature:_____ Date: _____