

2026 WEST POINT DMAP TAG AVAILABILITY NOTICE

Program: In 2021, West Point joined New York's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP), a nuisance deer harvest enhancement program, in order to help reduce local deer browse and improve forest regeneration after a recent timber sale. For that reason, from 2021- 2023, the West Point DMAP was limited to areas L, I, N, and Q. When DMAP enrollment was renewed in 2024, West Point expanded the DMAP to all hunting areas. The program supports the deer management goals of New York State and West Point by reducing deer populations to improve forest regeneration, ecosystem health, and, for West Point, training area resilience.

Participation: West Point's DMAP continues in 2026. **Starting Tuesday, October 13, 2026, eligible West Point hunters may visit Natural Resources for a DMAP tag. Each tag authorizes the harvest of one antlerless deer. Tags are issued one at a time, with a maximum of two per hunter per year. A second tag may be issued after the first is filled.** The annual bag limit increased from three to five deer (see the West Point Hunting Notice) so in 2026 DMAP harvests will count toward both seasonal and annual bag limits. All hunters except General Public hunters are eligible. Unfilled tags must be returned. See the process explained below.

Purpose: Why should hunters participate in West Point's DMAP? Well, research and field observations by West Point, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), NYS Extension Offices, the U.S. Forest Service, and visiting universities indicate deer populations exceed levels compatible with multiple management objectives. The result of this research has been compiled in published, peer-reviewed, statistically valid studies, including some conducted here over many years. The NYS DEC 2021–2030 Deer Management Report established a deer population reduction goal for West Point's Wildlife Management Unit, WMU 3P.

West Point's DMAP supports this goal for forest recovery and quality deer management (QDM). Relevant research, including studies conducted at West Point, shows that high deer densities **1.** degrade forest ecosystems. **2.** inhibit regeneration, **3.** reduce training land resilience, and **4.** Encourage invasive species (Gorchov et al., 2021; Dávalos et al., 2015; Blossey et al., 2019). It can also **5.** increase human exposure to Lyme disease and other tick diseases and vehicle strikes (Kilpatrick et al. 2014). QDM benefits of increased forage base and fewer does include increased average deer weight and buck antler quality (Royo et al , 2017; Stout et al., 2013; Tilghman, 1989).

Works Cited: 1. Blossey B, Curtis P, Boulanger J, Dávalos A. 2019. Red oak seedlings as indicators of deer browse pressure: Gauging the outcome of different white-tailed deer management approaches. *Ecol Evol.* 2019;00:1–19. 2. Dávalos, A., et al. Single and interactive effects of deer and earthworms on non-native plants. *Forest Ecol. Manage.* (2015), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2015.04.026> 3. Dávalos, A., Simpson, E., Nuzzo, V. et al. Non-consumptive Effects of Native Deer on Introduced Earthworm Abundance. *Ecosystems* 18, 1029–1042 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10021-015-9881-x>. 4. Gorchov, D.L., Blossey, B., Averill, K.M. et al. Differential and interacting impacts of invasive plants and white-tailed deer in eastern U.S. forests. *Biol Invasions* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-021-02551-2> 5. Kilpatrick HJ, LaBonte AM, Stafford KC. The relationship between deer density, tick abundance, and human cases of Lyme disease in a residential community. *J Med Entomol.* 2014 Jul;51(4):777-84. 6. Royo, Alejandro A.; Kramer, David W.; Miller, Karl V.; Nibbelink, Nathan P.; Stout, Susan L. 2017. Spatio-temporal variation in foodscapes modifies deer browsing impact on vegetation. 7. Stout et al. 2013: Kinzua Quality Deer Cooperative: Can adaptive management and local stakeholder engagement sustain reduced impact of ungulate browsers in forest systems?. *Boreal Env. Res.* 18(A): 50-64. 8. Tilghman, Nancy G. "Impacts of White-Tailed Deer on Forest Regeneration in Northwestern Pennsylvania." *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, vol. 53, no. 3, 1989, pp. 524–532. JSTOR,

Please consider participating to support training land quality and a healthier forest and deer herd.

HOW THE WEST POINT DMAP TAG PROCESS WORKS

Step 1 – Natural Resources Visit: Hunters retrieve DMAP tags in-person from Natural Resources staff. **In Early (Oct 01 – Nov 20) or Late Deer Seasons (Dec 14 – Jan 01).** Visit the Natural Resources Office (Bldg 667A, 1st floor), Ruger Road. Call or email (see contact info below) to arrange visit. **In Regular Deer Season (NOV 21 – DEC 13):** see NRS at Hunt Control (Bldg 1666) at the corner of Route 293 and Mine Torne Road.

Step 2 – DMAP Tag Sign-Out: A hunter and NRS staff will complete, sign "USAG West Point DMAP Sign-Out Form" (Page 4) and NRS will issue the hunter a DMAP tag valid for use in Areas I, L, N & Q - ONLY. **Early/Late Season DMAP Tags are issued to hunters until end of season. Regular Deer Season DMAP Tags must be returned every seven days before Dec 6. After Dec 6. tags may be kept until end of the season.**

Step 3 – Fill or Return Tag: Once a hunter signs out a tag, he/she is responsible for the tag and must either fill it if he/she harvests deer with it or return the unfilled tag to Natural Resources. **If filling a tag:** comply with all reporting requirements: Report all deer harvests at check-out on iSportsman at checkout, bring all Regular Season deer harvests to Hunt Control. **If returning a tag:** Comply with issue periods above.

**** For Any Questions or to arrange a visit to Natural Resources to procure DMAP:** Call (520) 718-0012 or email: Christopher.w.killough3.civ@army.mil with "DMAP" in title.

- West Point Natural Resources Section