



Press Releases

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE

Press Release

For Immediate Release: October 1, 2012

Media Contacts: Adam Murkowski, 802-786-3860;

Scott Darling, 786-3862; Mark Scott, 802-583-7194

Hunters Reminded of Rules on Importing Deer, Elk

Hunters traveling outside Vermont to hunt deer or elk need to keep in mind that the regulation designed to protect Vermont's wild deer from chronic wasting disease remains in effect, according to a reminder from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the brain and nervous system in deer and elk. Abnormal prion proteins produce lesions in the brain that cause disorientation and emaciation in conjunction with other abnormal behaviors. For the latest information on CWD, check these websites: www.vtfishandwildlife.com and www.cwd-info.org.

The potential exists for CWD prion proteins to be introduced to the environment through the bodily fluids of CWD-positive ungulates and then persist in the environment for extended periods of time. Thus, hunters are reminded to help reduce the risk of disease transmission through limiting the utilization of real deer urine attractants while hunting.

Vermont rules on importing and possession of deer or elk from areas with chronic wasting disease (CWD) and captive hunt areas or farms:

- It is illegal to import or possess deer or elk, or parts of deer or elk, from states and Canadian provinces that have had chronic wasting disease, or from captive hunt or farm facilities with the following exceptions:
- Meat that is cut up, packaged and labeled with hunting license information and not mixed with other deer or elk during processing;

- Meat that is boneless;
- Hides or capes with no part of the head attached;
- Clean skull-cap with antlers attached;
- Antlers with no other meat or tissue attached;
- Finished taxidermy heads;
- Upper canine teeth with no tissue attached.

Vermont's CWD importation regulations currently apply to hunters bringing in deer or elk carcasses from the following states and provinces:

Alberta, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

“CWD is a very persistent disease that can resurface after years of absence,” said Adam Murkowski, Vermont’s deer project leader. “Vermont’s CWD regulation is designed to help prevent CWD from infecting Vermont’s deer and the drastic de-population measures that would be required if it appears here.”

“Hunters bringing deer or elk from any of the CWD-listed states or provinces into or through Vermont simply have to get them processed according to the regulation before doing so.”

A fine of up to \$1,000 and loss of hunting and fishing licenses for one year are applicable for each deer or elk imported illegally.

September 27, 2012

Bats Most Common Cause of Rabies in Humans

The importance of vaccinating pets against rabies was recently illustrated in Vermont when a skunk crawled into an outdoor crate that housed a Newfoundland dog and puppy. The puppy was bitten and had to be euthanized, while the mother, who had received a rabies vaccine and booster shot, was saved.

The skunk crawled under the porch, was later trapped, and will likely test positive for rabies.

“When a house pet is bitten by a wild animal we have to assume they have been exposed to rabies if we’re not able to catch the animal that applied the bite,” said Public Health Veterinarian Robert Johnson, DVM. “At that point we have only two choices, to confine and observe the pet for six months, or have it euthanized. Both options are not pleasant for either the animal or the owners.”

World Rabies Day is Sept. 28, a day to remind pet owners about the dangers of the rabies virus, which is fatal to animals and humans.

Johnson said he has been particularly concerned this year about the number of bats that have flown into homes.

“We’ve had five or six rabid bats this season, and for awhile we were getting calls from people reporting

bats in their homes nearly every day,” Johnson said. “Bats are an important part of our ecosystem but they should be appreciated from a safe distance.”

Any bat found in the same room as a sleeping person or an unattended child, or any bat that has had physical contact with a person should be safely collected and tested for rabies. First call the Vermont rabies hotline 1-800-4RABIES (1-800-472-2437vt) or 1-802-223-8697 from out of state for instructions.

The majority of bats (99 percent) are not infected with the rabies virus – and each year approximately 50 to 100 bats are tested for rabies in Vermont.

“Be sure to see your veterinarian every year to be sure your pets, including cats, are currently vaccinated against rabies,” Johnson said.

For more information visit the Health Department’s website at healthvermont.gov, follow us on Twitter and join us on Facebook for health information and alerts.

Source: Department of Health

Last Updated at: September 27, 2012 12:58:37

Press Release

For Immediate Release: October 3, 2012

Media Contacts: Media Contacts: Adam Murkowski, 802-786-3860; Scott Darling, 802-786-3862;

Mark Scott, 802-583-7194

Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer Permit Winners Announced

The winners of Vermont’s muzzleloader season antlerless deer permits are listed on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department’s website: www.vtfishandwildlife.com .

“Hunters who applied for muzzleloader antlerless deer permits may check our website to find out if they will be receiving a muzzleloader season antlerless permit,” said Adam Murkowski, Vermont’s deer biologist. “Knowing the answer will help them in planning their hunt and making informed harvest decisions this fall.”

The Fish and Wildlife Board approved the number of December muzzleloader permits at 12,425 for 15 of the state’s 24 Wildlife Management Units. The taking of antlerless deer with archery equipment is permitted in all WMUs except WMU-E. However, youth hunters are allowed to harvest any deer, regardless of WMU, during the youth deer hunting weekend on November 3 and November 4.

“The antlerless permit allocation represents a conservative approach to antlerless deer hunting this fall,” said Murkowski. “Deer herds throughout the state are at or below population objectives. Thus, the number of

muzzleloader season antlerless permits for this year will allow for slow growth in the deer herd throughout much of the state.”

Biologists expect hunters who receive the permits will take about 2,200 antlerless deer in the muzzleloader season and an estimated 3,000 antlerless deer in youth and archery seasons.

“The winter of 2011-2012 was the mildest recorded in recent decades,” said Murkowski. “It will be important for hunters to continue to manage their local deer herds for deer herd health to ensure the number of deer remains appropriate for the available habitat.”

Press Release

For Immediate Release: October 3, 2012

Media Contacts: John Buck, 802-476-0196; Steve Parren, 802-338-4880

Vermont’s Bald Eagles Nested More Successfully

Our national symbol, the bald eagle, is staging a dramatic comeback in the Green Mountain State. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department reports that bald eagles had a very successful nesting season this year with 15 nests documented in the state and 23 eaglets fledged -- leaving the nest to be on their own.

“Last year a total of 13 eaglets fledged,” said John Buck, the state wildlife biologist in charge of migratory birds for the department. “Three of this year’s 15 nests were newly discovered, and two of the nests produced three eaglets, which is excellent when you consider that one or two is the norm.”

Bald eagles first began nesting in Vermont in 2002 after a 60-year absence. Habitat loss and environmental contaminants, such as DDT, were the cause of the alarming decline of bald eagles here and throughout the country.

The Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act are important laws that were instrumental in the recovery of the bald eagle across the US. The bald eagle was removed from the list of endangered species at the national level in 2007. It remains listed as an endangered species in Vermont, as it does in many New England and surrounding states, because its resurgence has come later than in many other states.

“Vermont has excellent eagle habitat and it has just taken longer for the eagles to discover it,” said Buck. “The reasons for this are unclear but territoriality, disbursement patterns and their five-year age at sexual maturity are likely involved.”

“It is encouraging to see our eagles building more nests and having higher productivity per nest,” added Buck. “We will continue to protect and monitor the success of bald eagles every year in accordance with the Bald Eagle Recovery Plan. When it is evident through nest distribution and productivity the eagle population is capable of withstanding naturally occurring losses it will be considered for de-listing in Vermont.”

Press Release

For Immediate Release: October 3, 2012

Media Contacts: Lilla Lumbra (802) 241-3700

Dave Sausville (802) 759-2398

Dead Creek Wildlife Day is this Sat., Oct. 6

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department reminds us the annual Dead Creek Wildlife Day in Addison, Vermont will be held this Saturday, October 6.

Dead Creek Wildlife Day has been listed as one of Vermont's "Top 10 Fall Events," and with good reason. Activities at Dead Creek Wildlife Day are especially for people who enjoy hunting, fishing, birdwatching, or learning about Vermont's diverse wildlife. The event will be held at the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's **Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA)** on Route 17 west of Route 22A.

Early risers can begin the day with bird banding demonstrations at 7:00 a.m. Two large tents at the Dead Creek WMA headquarters will open at 9:30 a.m. and feature wildlife-related exhibits and kids' craft activities such as decoy carving, face painting and building bluebird boxes.

The day's main activities run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and include nature walks, illustrated talks, live wildlife presentations, hunting dog demonstrations, fishing and hunting tips, and much more. All events are free, and a free shuttle bus will provide regular access to nearby field events throughout the day.

The festival is hosted by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Otter Creek Audubon Society, Addison County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited and Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

For more information and a schedule of events, visit Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website:
www.vtfishandwildlife.com/Dead_Creek_Wildlife_Days.cfm.

Press Release

For Immediate Release: October 3, 2012

Media Contacts: Shawn Good, 802-786-3863; Eric Palmer, 802-751-0107

Baitfish Rule Changes, Public Hearing Dates Set

Anglers will have the opportunity to comment on proposed changes to Vermont's existing baitfish regulation at three Fish and Wildlife Board public hearings in October.

The proposed amendments are intended to minimize risk associated with the use and movement of baitfish while allowing anglers more flexibility with the species they can use as bait and how and where they can transport them.

Shawn Good, the Fish & Wildlife Department fisheries biologist heading the Aquatic Nuisance Species Team, says that while regulations restricting the movement and use of baitfish remain necessary to control the potential introduction of fish diseases and invasive species, the department has been working closely with the Fish and Wildlife Board to implement several changes that may address some of the concerns anglers have with the existing rule.

“Over the last four years, most of our anglers have come to the realization that baitfish regulations are necessary to protect the great fishing we have in Vermont. The complaints from anglers have fallen into two pretty clear categories – the approved list of baitfish and the prohibition on baitfish transport – and we have identified some steps we can take to address those,” explained Good.

The primary changes to the regulation are:

adding pumpkinseed, bluegill, rock bass, and banded killifish to the statewide approved baitfish list

creating a list of approved baitfish for Lake Champlain that includes alewife and white perch

allowing anglers to transport commercially purchased baitfish home after use on a waterbody, and return to the same waterbody within 96 hours to use up that lot of baitfish

“Under the proposed rule, anglers will have four days to move their store-bought baitfish back and forth between their home or camp, and a single lake as indicated on their baitfish receipt when they bought them,” explained Good. “However, if they decide to go to a different lake in that time period, they will have to buy new baitfish and get a new receipt.”

Information on using baitfish in Vermont and a link to the complete text of the proposed regulation is available at:

http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/fish_baitfish.cfm .

Public hearings will be held 6:00-8:00 p.m. for each of the following dates and locations:

Monday, Oct. 22 – Conference Room at the Emory Hebard State Office Building, 100 Main Street, Newport, VT

Tuesday, Oct. 23 – Kehoe Conservation Camp, Bomoseen, VT

Wednesday, Oct. 24 – St. Albans Town Education Center Cafeteria, 169 South Main Street, St. Albans, VT

For additional information on the current regulation, please contact Shawn Good, 802-786-3863, or

Shawn.Good@state.vt.us.

Press Release

For Immediate Release: October 4, 2012

Media Contact: Col. David LeCours, 802-583-7173

Big Game Reporting Stations Designated for 2012

Hunters who take a bear, deer, turkey, or moose during the Vermont hunting seasons must, by law, bring the animal, within 48 hours, to the nearest game warden or to the nearest Vermont Fish & Wildlife reporting station. Below is a list, by county, of wardens and reporting stations for the 2012. The list also appears on Fish & Wildlife's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

A list of biological check stations for youths who take deer on youth deer hunting weekend, November 3-4, will be issued soon by the department.

ADDISON

State Wardens

Chad Barrett, Waterbury Center – 244-1680

Chris Clark, Huntington – 434-3463

Keith Gallant, East Braintree – 728-9215

Sgt. George Scribner, Cornwall – 462-3595

Robert Sterling, Fair Haven – 265-4602

Deputy Wardens

James McKnight, New Haven – 545-2660

Eugene Stearns, Addison – 759-2944

Reporting Stations

Bridport Town Clerk – 758-2483

Buxton's Country Store, Orwell – 948-2112

C & S Hunting Supplies, East Middlebury – 388-8401

Jerusalem Corners Country Store, Bristol – 453-4056

Lincoln General Store, Lincoln – 453-2981

Midstate Sports Inc, Ferrisburg – 877-3776

Panton General Store, Panton – 475-2431

Vermont Field Sports, Middlebury – 388-3572

Village Green Market, New Haven – 453-2163

West Addison General Store, Addison – 759-2071

BENNINGTON

State Wardens

Sgt. Travis Buttle, Shaftsbury – 442-4383
Greg Eckhardt, Lnadgrove – 824-5785
Lt. Paul Gaudreau, West Rupert – 394-2973
Justin Stedman, West Pawlet – 287-4500
Richard Watkin, Wilmington – 368-7302

Deputy Wardens

Joseph DeForge, Bennington – 447-8753
Wynn Metcalfe, Shaftsbury – 447-7877

Reporting Stations

Bennington Fish Hatchery, Bennington – 447-2844
H. N. Williams Store, Dorset – 867-5353
Lost Target Shooting Supplies, Bennington – 442-8953
Manchester Town Clerk – 362-1315
Marty's Sports & Gunsmithing Inc, Bennington – 442-8826
Sherman's Store, West Rupert – 394-7862
Stamford Town Clerk – 694-1361
Tiff's Trading Post, Woodford – 753-7941

CALEDONIA

State Wardens

Dennis Amsden, Danville – 751-7695
David Gregory, Lyndon Center – 626-4390
Mark Schichtle, Wells River – 757-2121
Russell Shopland, East Hardwick – 472-3040

Deputy Wardens

Marc Luneau, East Hardwick – 563-2352
Martin Montour, St Johnsbury – 748-5057
Chris Raymond, Lyndonville – 626-9321

Reporting Stations

Alley's Market, South Ryegate – 584-4416
Paul's Whistle Stop, McIndoes Falls – 633-4189

Rick's Gun Shop, East Burke – 626-1014
Riteway Sports Inc, Hardwick – 472-5916
Upper Valley Grill, Groton – 584-3101
The Village Sport Shop, Lyndonville – 626-8448
West Barnet Quick Stop, West Barnet – 633-2624
Wheelock Village Store, Wheelock – 626-8030

CHITTENDEN

State Wardens

Christopher Clark, Huntington – 434-3463
Tom Cook, Essex Jct. – 878-0094
Jenna Reed, South Burlington – 660-7965

Deputy Wardens

Dave Lewis, Essex Jct – 879-6561

Reporting Stations

Dattilio's Gun & Tackle, South Burlington – 862-5516
Hinesburg General Store, Hinesburg – 482-2820
Jericho General Store, Jericho – 899-4661
Lakeshore Ace Hardware, Colchester – 863-4910

ESSEX

State Wardens

Jason Dukette, Island Pond – 723-4131
Trevor Szymanowski, North Concord – 695-1314

Reporting Stations

Barnie's Market, Concord – 695-8133
Debanville's General Store, Bloomfield – 962-3311
Holmes Gulf Station, Canaan – 266-8900
Lake View Store, Averill – 822-5570
Lunenburg Variety, Lunenburg – 892-1147
Northern Wildlife, Island Pond – 723-6290

LAMOILLE

State Wardens

Jason Batchelder, Eden – 635-9190

Russ Shopland, East Hardwick – 472-3040

Deputy Wardens

Ronald Audet, Morrisville – 888-4488

Reporting Stations

Beagle Outdoor Wear, Johnson – 635-9200

Cambridge Village Market, Cambridge – 644-2272

Elmore Store, Lake Elmore – 888-2296

Fly Rod Shop, Stowe – 253-7346

Ingalls Market & Deli, Eden Mills – 635-2692

River Valley Store, Johnson – 635-6144

The Old Fishing Hole, Morrisville – 888-6210

Wolcott Store, Wolcott – 888-3792

ORANGE

State Wardens

Paul Brown, Northfield – 485-4432

Keith Gallant, East Braintree – 728-9215

Mark Schichtle, Wells River – 757-2121

Jeff Whipple, Chelsea – 685-7813'

Reporting Stations

Bradford Bottle Shoppe, Bradford – 222-9348

Coburn's General Store, South Strafford – 765-4421

East Corinth General Store, East Corinth – 439-5525

Farm 'N Country Hardware, Williamstown – 433-1158

Flanders Market, Chelsea – 685-3085

Floyd's General Store, Randolph Center – 728-5333

Middle Branch Market & Deli, East Randolph – 728-5750

Mid State Sports, Randolph – 728-3100

Newbury Village Store, Newbury – 866-5681

North Tunbridge General Store, North Tunbridge – 889-3312

Orange Town Clerk – 479-2673

FRANKLIN

State Wardens

Lt. Curtis Smiley, Fairfax – 849-2156

Jenna Reed, South Burlington – 660-7965

Matthew J Thiel, Alburg – 796-3061

Carl Wedin, St. Albans – 868-9110

Deputy Warden

Dave Gibson,

Reporting Stations

Back Country Sports, St. Albans – 782-8270

Bakersfield Village Market & Deli, Bakersfield – 827-6570

Byam's Quick Stop, Franklin – 933-4100

Fletcher General Store, Fletcher – 849-6292

Franklin General Store, Franklin – 285-2033

Georgia Market, Georgia – 527-1100

M & R Guns & Ammo, Highgate Center – 868-5271

Pauline's Quick Stop, Sheldon Springs – 933-4810

Ste Marie's Inc, Swanton – 868-3538

TJs Country Store Inc, Montgomery – 326-4104

Wetherby's Quick Stop Inc, Richford – 848-3550

GRAND ISLE

State Wardens

Jenna Reed, South Burlington – 660-7965

Matthew J Thiel, Alburg – 796-3061

Reporting Stations

A and B Beverage, Grand Isle – 372-4531

Isle LaMotte Town Clerk – 928-3434

Robert's Country Store, Washington – 883-2220

Snowsville General Store, Braintree – 728-5252
Thetford Center Village Store, Thetford Center – 785-4655
Washington Town Clerk – 883-2218
Wing’s Market, Fairlee – 333-9568

ORLEANS

State Wardens

David Gregory, Lyndon Center – 626-4390
Lt. Kim Klein, Barton – 754-9464
Sgt. Bradley Mann, Derby Line – 895-2993
Russ Shopland, Hardwick – 472-3040

Deputy Wardens

Kirk Martin, Orleans – 754-6616

Reporting Stations

Bob’s Quik Stop, Irasburg – 754-2104
Currier’s Market, Glover – 525-8822
C. Village Store, Craftsbury – 586-2554
Degre Auction Service, Westfield – 744-2427
E.M. Brown & Son, Inc, Barton – 525-3422
Evansville Trading Post, Brownington – 754-6305
Four Corners Mini Mart, North Troy – 988-4600
Green Mountain Sporting Goods, Irasburg – 754-6165
Lanoue’s General Store, Orleans – 754-6365
Lowell General Store, Lowell – 744-6858
The Lucier Store, Newport Center – 334-8056
Mr. O’s Sporting Goods, Newport – 334-5525
Smith’s Grocery, Greensboro Bend – 533-2631
Wright’s Sports Shop, Derby – 334-6115

RUTLAND

State Wardens

Keith Gallant, East Braintree – 728-9215
Justin Stedman, Pawlet – 287-4500
Robert Sterling, Fair Haven – 265-4602

Deputy Wardens

Rick Hedding, Pittsford – 247-3476
Brian Roberts, Brandon – 247-6343

Reporting Stations

Belmont General Store, Belmont – 259-2292
Benson Village Store, Benson – 537-2041
Corey’s RV Supplies, Wallingford – 236-0149
Engine Joe’s Guns & Bows, Hydeville – 265-8155
G & L General Store, Benson – 537-4041
Grant’s Village Store, Middletown Springs – 235-2251
Junction Store & Deli, Brandon – 247-3794
Keith’s Country Store, Pittsford – 483-6489
Kelley, Betsy, East Poultney – 287-5800
Mach’s General Store, Pawlet – 325-3405
Mart’s Sporting Goods, Poultney – 287-9022
Otter Creek Campground, Danby – 293-5041
Pittsfield Pitt-Stop, Pittsfield – 746-9939
Tinmouth Town Clerk – 446-2498
Wooden Barrel Country Store, Chittenden – 775-5355

WASHINGTON

State Wardens

Dennis Amsden, Danville – 751-7695
Chad Barrett, Waterbury Center – 244-1680
Paul Brown, Northfield – 485-4432
Sean Fowler, Plainfield – 454-9919
Keith Gallant, East Braintree – 728-9215
Russ Shopland, Hardwick – 472-3040

Reporting Stations

Duxbury Country Store, Duxbury – 244-7546
Kenyon’s Hardware & Farm Supply, Northfield – 485-9676
Marshfield Village Store, Marshfield – 426-4321
Mountain Deer Taxidermy, Northfield – 485-7184
Parro’s Gun Shop & Police Supplies Inc. Waterbury – 244-8401
R and L Archery, Barre – 479-9151

Riverbend Country Store, North Montpelier – 454-7101
Roxbury Country Store, Roxbury – 485-8857
Tim's Convenience Center, Marshfield – 454-7111
Village Grocery, Waitsfield – 496-4477

WINDHAM

State Wardens

Greg Eckhardt, Landgrove – 824-5785
Steve Majeski, West Windsor – 674-6044
Kelly Price, Brattleboro – 251-2171
Richard Watkin, Wilmington – 368-7302

Deputy Wardens

Gary Sherer, Guilford – 254-9172

Reporting Stations

C&S Beverage & Dairy, Wilmington --
D and R General Store, Cambridgeport – 869-2372
Exit 4 Sunoco Station, Putney – 387-2234
Mike & Tammy's Main Street Market/Deli, South Londonderry
824-8100
M P Gouin Co, Inc., Brattleboro – 380-6275
Paradise Farm Sugarhouse, Brattleboro – 258 -2026
Rockingham Shell, Rockingham – 463-3960
Schoolhouse Grocery, Vernon – 257-1160
Vernon Town Clerk, Vernon – 257-0292
Wardsboro Country Store, Wardsboro – 896-6411
Whitingham Country Store, Whitingham – 368-2797

WINDSOR

State Wardens

Greg Eckhardt, Landgrove – 824-5785
Keith Gallant, East Braintree – 728-9215
Jason Gravelle, West Windsor – 484-5589
Steve Majeski, West Windsor – 674-6044
Jeff Whipple, Chelsea – 685-7813

Deputy Wardens

Roni Johnson, Royalton – 763-8451
Ed Patriquin, Wilder – 296-8259

Reporting Stations

Back Forty Guns and Ammo, Windsor – 674-4145
B and B Repair Service & Mini-Mart, Andover – 875-3774
Barrows Trading Post, Quechee – 295-1050
Bridgewater Corners Country Store, Bridgewater Corners – 672-6241
Chester Hardware, Chester – 875-2693
Chester Town Clerk – 875-2173
The Hardware at Rochester, Rochester – 767-4200
Joe's Taxidermy, Reading – 484-7221
Locust Creek Outfitters, Bethel – 234-5884
Reading Country Store, Reading – 484-7700
Singletons Store, Proctorsville – 226-7666
Springfield Professional Firefighters, Springfield – 885-4546
Steve's Bait Shop, North Hartland – 296-7331
Teago General Store, South Pomfret – 457-1626
Tracys Midway Station, Sharon – 763-8177
Tyson Village Store, Ludlow – 228-2284

VERMONT FISH and WILDLIFE

Press Release

For Immediate Release: October 4, 2012

Media Contact: Kimberly Royar, 802-583-7501; Scott Darling, 802-786-3862

Hunters and Landowners Can Connect on F&W Website

*VT Fish & Wildlife's website helps forestland owners find
hunters to help control deer population*

Vermont owners of forest lands who are concerned about keeping deer numbers managed can now connect with hunters who register their interest to hunt in the area by using a new feature on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

Following a recommendation from an advisory group of landowners, hunters, foresters, wildlife biologists, and Fish and Wildlife Board members to investigate the issues of deer doing damage as well as hunters unable to gain access to private lands, the department created an online system where hunters can register for permission to hunt in an area of the state. Landowners can go to the website and then contact hunters they would like to invite to hunt deer on their property. There are no restrictions on whether or not the land is posted.

This new initiative is in response to hunters' concerns about access to private lands, and because foresters and forest landowners are increasingly reporting that deer are causing damage to young seedlings and saplings -- preventing them from growing into valuable commercial trees. Red oak, white ash and sugar maples in southern Vermont appear to be especially vulnerable to deer feeding on them.

Less obvious are the effects heavy understory browsing by deer is having on the overall health of the forest. Studies in urban areas of southern New England and in National Parks where deer are not hunted have documented not only problems with tree regeneration, but also marked decreases in numbers of flowering plants such as orchids and lilies, fewer songbirds due to a loss of nesting habitat, as well as reduced populations of upland game species such as snowshoe hare, woodcock and ruffed grouse.

A "Get Connected" quick-link for interested hunters and landowners is on the website under "Items of Special Interest."

"We believe this is a win-win situation where landowners can proactively coordinate hunter access to their lands, and hunters willing to put additional effort into landowner relations will benefit by finding more forest lands open to deer hunting," said Deputy Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Kim Royar. "It also enables deer hunters a chance to manage deer populations where it is most needed. The success of the program will depend on the interest of foresters and landowners to participate so that such lands become available to hunters."

VT Fish & Wildlife Links.....

[Conn. River dam licensing offers chance for change](#)

Businessweek-Sep 23, 2012

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Five big hydroelectric projects on the ... regional assistant director for *fisheries* with the U.S. *Fish and Wildlife Service*.

[CT River Dam Licensing Offers Chance for Change](#) Product Design & Development



[A New Breed of Hunter Shoots, Eats and Tells](#)

New York Times-11 hours ago

Mr. Cerulli, who lives in *Vermont*, was a vegan for many years and ... He adds, "If this first experience of killing a *deer* was any indication, ...



[Photo Gallery: Coon Club Supper](#)

The Vermont Standard-Sep 19, 2012

Brownsville's Wild **Game supper** was held at the Coon Club in Windsor on ... in the September 20, 2012 print edition of the **Vermont Standard**.

[Vt. village gets grant to conserve flood plain](#)

Boston.com-Sep 27, 2012

CAMBRIDGE, Vt. (AP) — The **Vermont** village of Jeffersonville has ... while allowing for public recreation and wildlife **habitat** preservation.

[Jeffersonville receives \\$125000 grant to support floodplain ...](#) Vermont Biz (press release)

[Meyer: The Connecticut River for the next half-century](#)

vtdigger.org-Sep 25, 2012

... spawning success of the federally **endangered** shortnose sturgeon. ... to historic spawning and nursery grounds near Bellows Falls, **Vermont**.

[More Louisianans are hunting, fishing, wildlife watching](#)

Shreveport Times

Vermont led the way in **wildlife** watching at 53 percent. "Hunting, **fishing and wildlife** watching are part of our national heritage, and the trip and ...

