

Wildlife Management in New Jersey





- The Animal Protection League of New Jersey is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization established in 1983. Our staff includes attorneys, clinical psychologists, scientists, parents, nurses, and dedicated activists.
- APLNJ promotes responsible science, ethical consumerism, and environmental awareness. APLNJ's foundation is the belief that animals are individuals entitled to compassion and respect.
- APLNJ, recipient of the prestigious Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation's Scott McVay Unity Award, assists animal welfare-rescue groups and wildlife rehabilitators throughout New Jersey. We partner with environmental and animal protection organizations on several key issues.
- APLNJ's wildlife protection initiatives are based upon the views of John Muir, the founder of the modern preservation movement. Muir opposed commercial control of our public old growth forests, and the animals who dwell within. Famously, Muir, called hunting “the murder business.” As firearms barons and trophy hunters took control, Muir wrote: “The murder business and sport . . . has been pushed ruthlessly, merrily on, until at last protective measures are being called for, partly, I suppose, because the pleasure of killing is in danger of being lost from there being little or nothing left to kill, and partly, let us hope, from a dim glimmering recognition of the rights of animals and their kinship to ourselves.”

In Good Company

An Abbreviated List

Many of our greatest thinkers were against violence toward animals.

- Harriet Beecher Stowe
- George Bernard Shaw
- Charles Darwin
- Leonardo Da Vinci
- Albert Einstein
- George Elliot
- Victor Hugo
- Abraham Lincoln
- John Locke
- Ashley Montagu
- John Muir
- Thomas Paine
- Plutarch
- Pythagoras
- Albert Schweitzer
- Seneca
- Laurence Stern
- Henry David Thoreau
- Leo Tolstoy
- Mark Twain
- Voltaire
- Emile Zola

The Opposition's Mouthpiece

Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF)

- According to SourceWatch, CCF is a front group for the restaurant, alcohol, tobacco and other industries. It runs media campaigns which oppose the efforts of scientists, doctors, health advocates, environmentalists and groups like **Mothers Against Drunk Driving**, calling them “the Nanny Culture.”
- Its advisory board is comprised mainly of representatives from the restaurant, meat and alcoholic beverage industries.

According to the Institute for Propaganda Analysis:

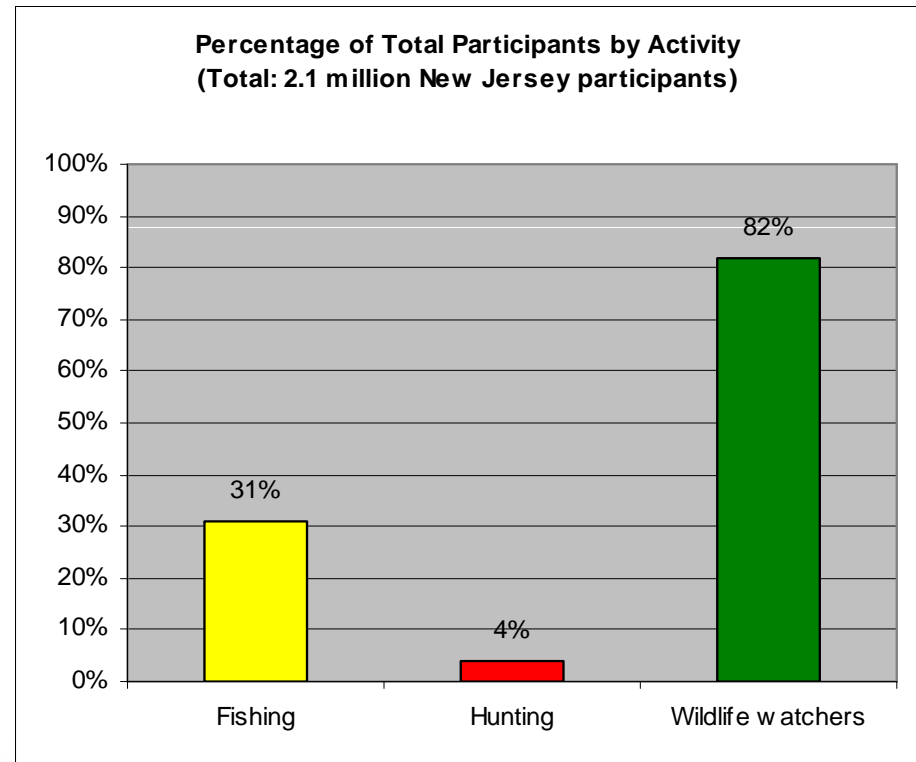
Name Calling is used as a substitute for arguing the merits of an idea, belief, or proposal. To combat its effects, the following questions can be helpful:

- What does the name mean? Is it nasty? Offensive? Designed to thwart their efforts?
- Is there a real connection between the idea and the name being used?
- What are the merits of the idea if I leave the name out of consideration?
- When examining this technique try to separate your feelings about the name and the actual idea or proposal.

Trends and Opinions

- An estimated **0.9%** of New Jersey's population hunts.
- The number of people who enjoy observing and learning about wildlife is growing steadily, surpassing hunter numbers and revenues.
- Total Participants by Activity ♦ : hunters: 4%; wildlife watchers: 82% →
- Wildlife watchers outspend hunters by a 5 to 1 ratio♦, generating appreciably more revenue for New Jersey businesses. (2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation).
- A 2002 Rutgers University Poll found that **66%** of NJ citizens want the state to spend more time and money on nonlethal ways to control deer.

♦ Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey, 2006



The Players

- Department of Environmental Department
 - The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
 - The NJ Fish and Game Council
- NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
- The Audubon Society – Pushes killing deer at every opportunity.
- National Rifle Association
- U.S. Sportsmen Alliance
- Safari Club International
- International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies: Co-mingles state and federal government wildlife agencies and all facets of wildlife use industry: archery, ammo, and gun manufacturers, trapping and wholesale fur dealers, firearms retailers and publishers.
- Commercial-conservation formal partnerships: Audubon, Wildlife Management Institute (firearms, ammo, and equipment manufacturers: ATK Ammunition Systems, Remington Arms, Archery Manufacturers Organization (AMO), NRA.

Hunting and Trapping in NJ

- **Duration**
 - Roughly 299 days of the year, including Sundays for bow hunters.
- **Age**
 - 10 through adult
 - Children 10-16 hunt free, subsidized by New Jersey taxpayers.
- **Locations**
 - Public and private land, and shooting preserves. The NRA's "Hunter Access will Not be Denied" pushed through a reduction in the safety zone from 450' feet to 150' for bow hunters.
- **Methods**
 - Bow and razor-tipped broadhead ("Rage," "Nightmare," "Grim Reaper," "After Shock," "Wac Em")
 - Crossbow
 - Muzzleloader
 - Shotgun
- **Trapping**
 - Conibear, snares. Steel-jawed leghold traps banned in 1984.

Current Management Practices

- Former Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Director, Robert McDowell: *"The Division will continue to explore ways to increase recreational opportunity for deer, wild turkey, waterfowl, upland game and furbearers, as well as to expand youth hunting programs."* State of the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife:
- **The Number of animals killed annually in New Jersey by hunters: 1,000,000.**
- "Game" species in New Jersey. **Not all animals listed have an open season because their numbers are currently below what the DFW deems a huntable threshold. Hunting pressure rendered several species threatened or endangered.

Bear	Ducks	Mourning Dove**	Skunk
Beaver	Feral Hogs	Muskrat	Snipe
Bobcat**	Fisher**	Nutria	Snow goose
Brant	Gray Fox	Opossum	Sora rail
Canada Goose	Gray Squirrel	Partridge	Tundra swan**
Canvassback**	Grouse	Pheasants	Virginia rail
Chukar	Hare	Quail (bobwhite)	Weasel
Clapper Rail	Jackrabbit	Raccoon	Wild Turkey
Coots	King Rail**	Red Fox	Woodchuck
Cottontail	Light goose	River Otter	Woodcock
Coyote	Merganser	Sandpiper**	
Crow	Mink	Scaup	
Deer	Moorhen	Sea duck	

Policy: Follow the Money

- **Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration – Dispersed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
 - Hunter recruitment and retention
 - Wildlife propagation – animal supply for gun and license sales
 - Habitat development for propagation of “game” species – over 300,000 acres. NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife Bureau of Land Management
- **Division of Fish and Wildlife salaries and benefits paid for through sale of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses.**



Who Pays for “Conservation?”

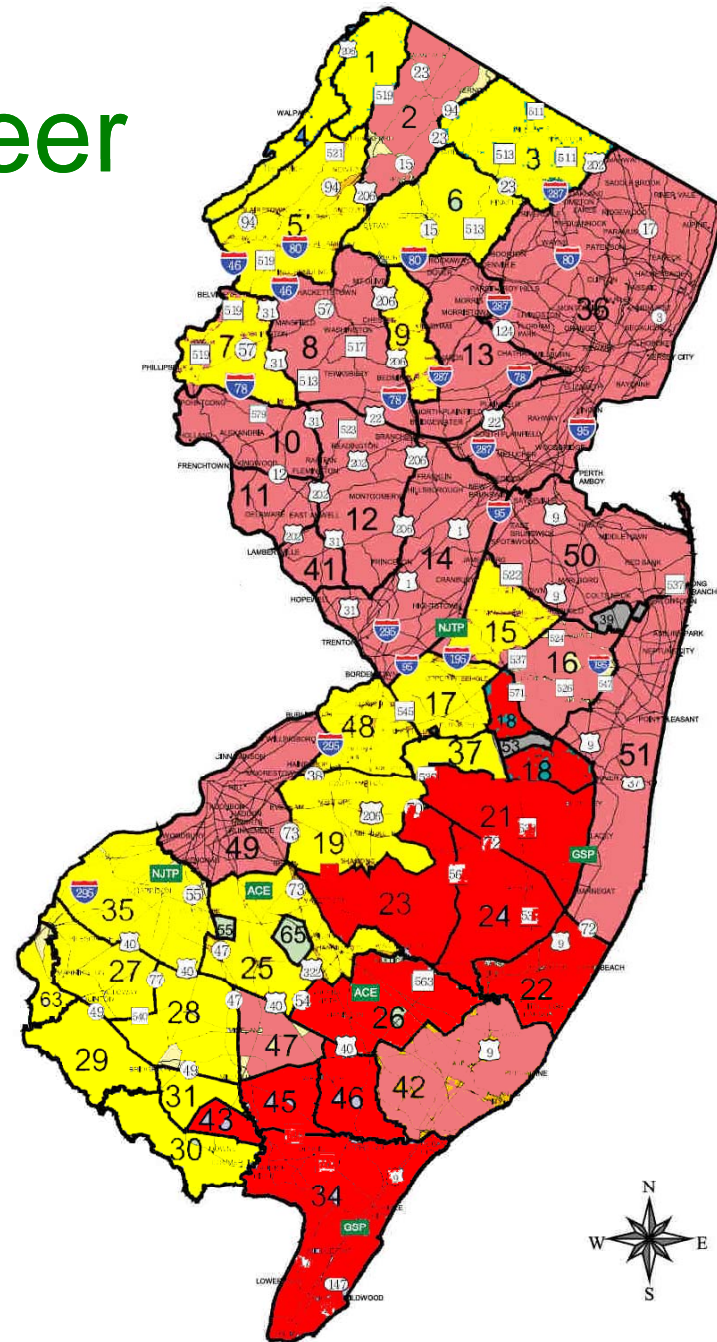
- Through Green Acres donations and funding, the taxpayers foot most of the bill. Over **66%** of Wildlife Management Areas, or public shooting grounds, were purchased with Green Acres funds.
- Excise tax collected on guns (including handguns) and outdoor equipment finance propagation of hunted animals, hunter recruitment, polls, and public attitude initiatives. The hunter portion of these taxes is **20%**.
- Hunter fees pay for the administration of hunting programs:
 - pen-raising pheasants
 - re-stocking hunted species
 - securing increased access to public and private lands
 - hunter advocacy public relations
 - issuing licenses

Debunking Myths for Deer Hunting

- **Browsing**
 - Increases plant diversity at certain successional stages
 - Prevents the spreading of fungus and other diseases
 - Prevents forest fires
- **Car Collisions**
 - Insurance company studies show accidents are 3-5 times higher on first day of hunting seasons.
- **Lyme Disease**
 - No significant relationship between deer management and the level of ticks. Well known and widely documented studies throughout US.
 - Rodents determine risk.
 - In the absence of deer, the ticks find new hosts
- **No Natural Predators**
 - Predators do not control prey. Predators diminish as prey declines.
 - Natural predators kill mostly sick, old or weak individuals in a herd.
 - Deer populations are regulated by food, habitat, predators, and other variables.
- **Starvation**
 - This argument is premised on the theory that "hunters take only surplus animals, thus helping to keep wildlife in balance with available food and shelter."

Manipulation of Deer

- 63.9% of New Jersey is managed for **stabilization** & **increase** of deer. See zone map.
- In the other 36.1% of New Jersey, Wildlife Management Areas contained within are still being managed for increase.
- Division of Fish and Wildlife's website: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/chkmamls.htm> lists deer as a decreasing species in New Jersey.
- Deer are managed for hunter recruitment, retention, and access.



Deer Biology and Hunt Objectives

- Self-regulating species based on food and habitat availability.
- 38% twins on hunted sites, compared with 14% on non-hunted sites.
- The gap is greater in poor habitat. In ideal habitat, hunting arrests deer in the rapid growth phase of the reproductive cycle.
- Females start breeding at first estrus due to hunting pressure.
- Maximum Sustainable Yield or Compensatory Rebound effect.
- Biological Carrying Capacity
- Cultural Carrying Capacity



Cruelty



- Deer are intelligent, gentle animals who live in matriarchal family groups.
- These ungulates communicate through a variety of vocalizations and physical gestures.
- Deer are social creatures. Their lives matter to them, to their offspring, and to their family units. They feel pain and suffer.
- Henry David Thoreau: “No humane being, past the thoughtless age of boyhood, will wantonly murder any creature which holds its life by the same tenure that he does.” Walden.
- All forms of hunting are cruel. Fawns are routinely orphaned. family groups are shattered.
- The intentional infliction of injury and suffering on these animals is still tolerated as “recreation.”
- *“The average youth who is allowed to hunt, gives no thought to the suffering he causes... This is because his elders, those whom he reveres and emulates are thoughtlessly doing much the same thing.”*
 - G. Searing Smith, NY Times letter, Jan 26, 1910.

Huge entry holes and wound channels for better blood trails...
Expand your KILL ZONE!™

What the State Can Do:

- Change the system. The hunting industry and its partners autonomously control U.S. wildlife policy. Little will change until the system does.
- Disentangle ubiquitous, gun-government “partnerships.”
- Seek independent assessment of hunting-based deer management programs. Include mammalogists, independent biologists, ecologists.
- Promote roadside reflectors, traffic signs, and speed limit reductions.
- Begin a gradual diminution of deer farming on all **327,295** acres of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in the state. When managers halt habitat development, there are fewer deer.
- The key to fewer deer is lower fertility. Hunting and habitat development increase fertility. Aggressively reduce doe fertility rate through kill reduction, and where merited employ contraception or sterilization.
- Halt baiting practices, which increase fertility.
- High-tensile fencing in selected areas.
- Introduce a White-tailed Deer Stamp to fund contraception, education and driver awareness.
- Implement edge reduction where possible and incorporate into statewide development plans. Establish wildlife corridors, permit re-growth in “early succession” areas maintained by Division of Fish and Wildlife and hunting clubs on leased private or state land.

What You Can Do



- We welcome and encourage you to join us in our efforts seeking:
 - Better representation for all New Jersey citizens who have an interest in wildlife issues
 - Modernization of the NJ Fish and Game Council
 - The formation of a Wildlife Council
 - Habitat protection
 - Pursue wildlife objectives via majority-preferred nonlethal and ecologically-based means
 - Respect and appreciation for native wildlife – nature is not a shooting casino
 - Visit: www.aplnj.org/project99.php for more information.

Further Reading

- www.aplnj.org
- www.savenjbears.com
- www.safebackyards.com
- www.thoreau.eserver.org/

References

- www.tinyurl.com/cqtqxy
- www.sourcewatch.org
- www.prwatch.org

