



Finger Lakes Land Trust

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...working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes Region.



Dear Prospective Participant in the FLLT Deer Management Program;

Thank you for your interest in applying for a permit to hunt whitetail deer on one of the nature preserves owned and managed by the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT). The Land Trust operates a controlled-access, permit-based deer hunting program on selected preserves for the purpose of controlling deer numbers to prevent or reduce excessive deer herbivory, thereby favoring native plant communities and tree regeneration in forests. Sportsmen and women who participate in this program are critical partners in helping the land trust to protect and maintain ecological communities that are important to our region. This year the Land Trust will have several properties in the Finger Lakes region that will be open for bow and gun hunting by permit.

This year the Land Trust will have several properties in the Finger Lakes region that will be open specifically for bow hunting, and approximately half of the hunters selected to receive a permit to hunt these properties will be members of the NY Bowhunters (NYB) organization. FLLT and NYB are pleased to have an ongoing partnership in selecting hunters that are committed to safety and good sportsmanship, and who will put in the effort to help achieve deer management objectives.

If you would like to receive a permit to hunt deer on a Finger Lakes Land Trust preserve, please complete, sign, and submit a Hunting Permit Application Form, which is enclosed.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- Applications must be submitted each year you want to hunt. Having been granted a permit in the past is not a guarantee that you will be granted a permit this year or in a future year.
- The application must be submitted by the **APPLICATION DEADLINE**. This date is printed on the application form, and in most cases is September 1st. The land trust will notify applicants whether or not they were chosen to receive a permit within approximately two weeks after the deadline, giving hunters enough time to apply for Deer Management Permits before the NYSDEC DMP selection deadline (which is usually on October 1st).
- In choosing hunting permit recipients, preference may be given to applicants that:
 - A. Are past permit holders who have observed all Rules and Regulations and have fully cooperated with the FLLT Hunting Program requirements, including the requirement to submit a post-season hunting report to the Finger Lakes Land Trust.
 - B. Are past permit holders who have made a significant commitment of time and effort to hunting, and/or have a track record of success in harvesting deer on a preserve.

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- C. Are past permit holders who have a track record of harvesting antlerless deer on the preserve, or new applicants that demonstrate a willingness to harvest does, in order to better control deer populations.
- D. Adjoin or live near the preserve.
- E. Are members of an organization that promotes wildlife conservation and habitat protection, sound and sustainable deer management, good sportsmanship, and safe and ethical hunting.
- F. Provide volunteer preserve management assistance to the Finger Lakes Land Trust, and/or maintain membership with the Finger Lakes Land Trust.

In the event that the number of applications received exceeds the number of available permits for a particular preserve, applicants will be chosen based on consideration of these preferential factors, or potentially by a lottery system. The Finger Lakes Land Trust has full discretion in selecting permit recipients who we feel can best help us meet our safety and deer management objectives.

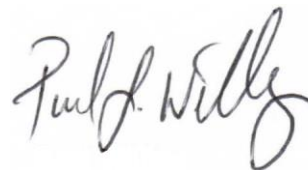
- Hunters who receive a permit and are new to the program (i.e. were not permit-holders in a previous year) will be required to attend a mandatory orientation meeting (no more than one-hour long), at which time hunting permits will be issued. If a new hunter is unable to attend this meeting, then they will need to make an appointment to go over information and pick up their permit in person at the Finger Lakes Land Trust office in Ithaca during regular business hours. If a permit recipient fails to collect their permit prior to the start of the hunting season, FLLT may select another hunter to receive that permit, and the initial recipient will have forfeited their opportunity to hunt this season.
- Hunters selected for the program will be asked to sign a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement and attest that they have read and fully understand the FLLT Hunting Program Rules and Regulations.
- Hunters are encouraged to apply for antlerless deer tags from NYSDEC for the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) where the preserve is located (*the WMU is listed on the application form*).

Thank you for taking the time to carefully read through this information and for understanding the requirements and expectations of the Finger Lakes Land Trust Deer Management Program. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Jason Gorman, Nature Preserve Manager
Finger Lakes Land Trust



Paul Willey,
New York Bowhunters