



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Deer Feeding: Good Idea?

**Steven Heerkens – Region 6 Big Game Biologist
Herkimer, NY**

Acknowledgements...

- New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
- Pennsylvania Game Commission



Winter Traditions...

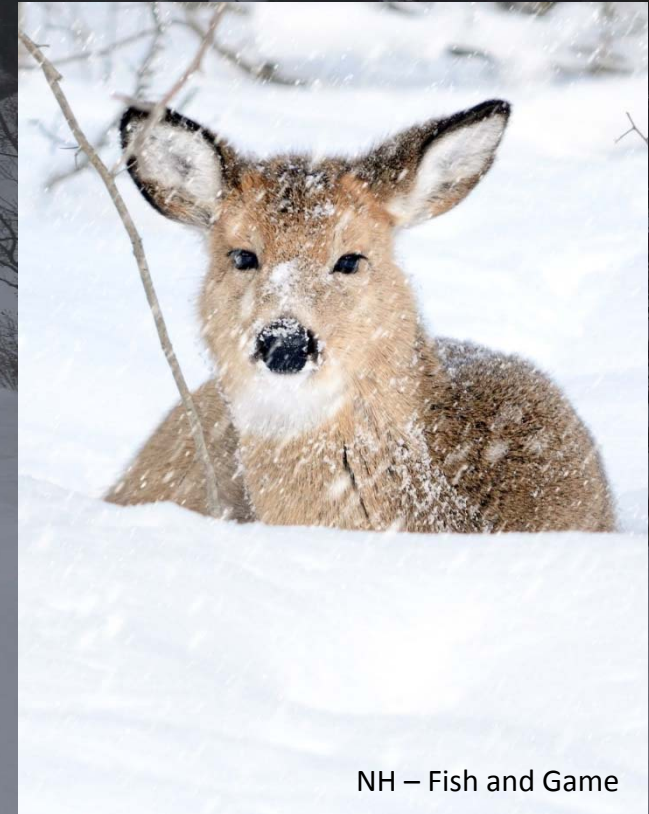


NYSDEC

Motivations...



Heerkens



NH – Fish and Game

Fort Drum



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



- We want to help animals
- We want to see animals
- We want more deer
- We want bigger bucks
- *WE WANT...*



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



Industry based on
more...



Truskowski

What does feeding create?



- Sense of ownership
- Unnatural movement
- Increased risk of disease
- Increased social stress
- Increased mortality
- Increases energy demand
- Increased over-browsing
- Increases dependency
- Minimizes the values of deer

Habitat damage...



Over-browsed landscape...



Increased Mortality...



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Cheapening of
the Resource!!!



If feeding was so beneficial, why is it illegal to hunt over bait?



NYSDEC



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Contact Us:

Website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov>

Email: steven.heerkens@dec.ny.gov

Phone: (315) 866-6330

Address: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
225 North Main Street
Herkimer, NY 13350

Social Media:



FACEBOOK



TWITTER



YOUTUBE



FLICKR



INSTAGRAM



Department of
Environmental
Conservation