



## FISH & WILDLIFE ARE PROTECTED

Most fish and wildlife species are protected in New York State and on Fort Drum. It is illegal to pursue, shoot, hunt, kill, capture, trap or take protected fish and wildlife or engage in lesser acts that disturb or harass fish and wildlife. Protected fish and wildlife may be taken only during an open season or as permitted by law and regulation (NYS Environmental Conservation Laws, Fort Drum Regulation 420-3, Endangered Species Act, and Migratory Bird Treaty Act).

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

There is one federally endangered species on Fort Drum—the Indiana bat. All persons, including employees, housing residents and Soldiers training in the field, are responsible for ensuring no harm occurs to Indiana bats. The following are restrictions relevant to Indiana bat management and military training:

No vegetation shall be removed without prior coordination and approval from the Fort Drum NEPA and Fish and Wildlife Management Program. In general, vegetation can not be removed between April 15–October 15.



Typical tree used by bats for roosting.

No smoke operation shall be conducted within 1,000 m of the installation boundary, public roads, Cantonment Area, ammunition supply point or Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield in accordance with *Fort Drum Regulation 350-4 Range Regulation* and the Fort Drum Biological Opinion from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The infrequent use of colored smoke at three mobile MOUTs within the Local Training Areas (LTAs) is allowed. Prior coordination and approval from the Fort Drum NEPA and Fish and Wildlife Program is required.

In the LTAs, in accordance with *Fort Drum Regulation 350-6 Assignment and Operational Use of Local Training Areas*, and the Fort Drum Biological Opinion from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, vehicular traffic is restricted to open grassy areas within easy access of the road. Vehicles are not permitted to cross streams, ditches, wetlands, or dense vegetation in order to reach grassy areas without prior NEPA review, thus minimizing impacts to natural habitats.

Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricants operations are prohibited in the LTAs which minimizes the risk of accidental water/ground contamination.



## SNAKES

There are no known venomous snakes that are native on Fort Drum. Northern Water Snakes (pictured on right are common on Fort Drum. These are NOT cottonmouths or water moccasins. Snakes are beneficial to the environment. Please do not harass snakes and it is illegal to kill snakes. If a suspected venomous snake is found, contact the Fort Drum Fish and Wildlife Management Program at one of the phone numbers on the back.



## RABIES

Raccoons, skunks, and bats are known carriers of rabies in the North Country. If you see a raccoon (or skunk or other animal) behaving abnormally, do not approach it as it may be rabid and contact the federal police (315-772-5156).

QUESTIONS? E-MAIL US AT: [FORTDRUM@ISPORTSMAN.NET](mailto:FORTDRUM@ISPORTSMAN.NET)



# DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE

ALL wildlife are opportunistic feeders and will go where food is easiest to obtain. Once an animal obtains food easily at a bivouac site or other food source, they will return expecting to obtain food again and will become a nuisance and possibly aggressive. The most likely wildlife to encounter in Fort Drum training areas that may cause a conflict are black bears and raccoons. There are several ways to minimize the chances of a dangerous or damaging wildlife encounter:

## DO NOT FEED THE BEARS, RACCOONS, OR OTHER WILDLIFE.

- Keep food and cooking utensils in closed containers, preferably in sealed plastic, to prevent the scent of food from escaping. Bears and raccoons are attracted by smells. With the exception of ammonia, camphor and a few other strong chemicals, **EVERYTHING** smells like potential food. **THIS INCLUDES MRE PACKAGING.**
- Do not cook near or have food inside tents or vehicles. When setting up at a site, the cooking area and food storage area should be at least 300 feet from sleeping quarters.
- Do not dump fat drippings or food scraps on ground or into wastewater pits. Put food scraps in closed containers such as screw-lid jars before placing in garbage container.
- Remove all garbage from the site at least once each day and before nightfall. Camphor disks, mothballs, or ammonia-soaked rags can be placed in garbage cans to mask food odors until the garbage is removed from the site. Police the area thoroughly and remove all garbage from the site before departing so future units do not encounter problems.
- Do not sleep in the clothes used while cooking food. If you need to store materials that are likely to attract bears, do so by hanging them from tree branches at least 10 feet away from the main trunk and 12 feet off the ground.



# TICKS & LYME DISEASE

There are three main species of ticks in New York: the black-legged or deer tick, the lone star tick, and the dog tick (see box on left). The deer tick is the smallest of the three and the one known for carrying Lyme disease.

Ticks can be active any time the temperature is above freezing. Young deer ticks, called nymphs, are active from mid-May to mid-August and are about the size of poppy seeds. Adult ticks, which are approximately the size of sesame seeds, are most active from March to mid-May and from mid-August to November. Both nymphs and adults can transmit Lyme disease.

Deer ticks typically live in shady areas. They cling to tall grass, brush and shrubs, usually no more than 18-24 inches off the ground. Deer ticks cannot jump or fly, and do not drop onto passing people or animals. Ticks must grab on to a host by direct contact as they pass. Once on a host, they typically climb upward.

If you find a tick embedded in your body, follow the instructions on the right.

## LYME DISEASE ALERT

DO A THOROUGH BODY CHECK FOR TICKS AFTER BEING OUTDOORS.



Deer tick size (left to right)  
larva, nymph, adult

### How To Remove A Tick



- Using tweezers, grasp tick near the mouth parts, as close to skin as possible.
- Pull tick in a steady, upward motion away from skin.
- DO NOT use kerosene, matches, or petroleum jelly to remove tick.
- Disinfect site with soap and water, rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide.
- Record date and location of tick bite. If rash or flu-like symptoms appear contact your health care provider immediately.

**DISEASE RISK IS REDUCED IF TICK IS REMOVED WITHIN 36 HOURS.**

New York State Department of Health

## FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM—ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION—PUBLIC WORKS

315-772-9636 (MANAGER)  
315-772-0053 (GAME MGMT)  
315-772-6283 (FISHERIES)

315-772-6187 (MIGRATORY BIRDS)  
315-772-9303 (NONGAME MGMT)  
315-772-4999 (ENDANGERED SPECIES)

315-772-5971 (NATURAL RESOURCES BRANCH)

E-MAIL: [fortdrum@isportsman.net](mailto:fortdrum@isportsman.net)

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