

November 2025

12 Months of Wildlife Management

From Joe Roy, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist



White-tailed Deer

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difficult. Deer, at times, seem to prefer to browse on many species that we would like to promote in our forests. Hunting and inviting others to hunt on your property can help decrease the deer density and benefit your forest management plans. Before hunting it is always important to understand the regulations and learn how to participate safely and legally. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has all the necessary resources to assist you in this regard. Review our website or call one of our offices.

Trail Cameras



Trail cameras are a great resource to have on your property year-round, but during November, we can sometimes begin to observe different patterns of behavior from wildlife. More food resources are beginning to die off as the winter season approaches, and wildlife like deer begin their breeding season. Monitoring your trail camera during the month of November can show you the seasonal changes taking place.

November feels like the month that marks the end of fall and the beginning of winter. The winter solstice is still a month away, but with the changing leaves now largely on the ground, and bare twigs abundant, and snow starting to speckle parts of the state in some years, winter feels like it is knocking on our door. For many Mainers, this is also the peak of their deer season, with rifle season for white-tailed deer being in full swing. With hunting taking up many folks' free time, they may not be as eager to work on habitat projects, but there is still work that can be done. Remember, when operating outside this time of year, it is important to be wearing your blaze orange, even if you aren't hunting.

Hunting

For many of us, part of our desire to improve wildlife habitat is to create better hunting opportunities, and now is a great time to be out and enjoy the fruits of our labor. That being said, hunting can be a part of a habitat management plan as well. Often, whitetail deer can make regenerating certain plant and tree species

Fields

Our field vegetation is generally starting to die off or go dormant during the colder month of November. Disking a field early this month that has grasses and leafy plants, like goldenrods and clover, can help promote leafy plant growth in spring. Sometimes folks feel like these leafy plants are “weeds,” but many of them provide excellent forage for our herbivores, and house lots of insects that our birds prey upon in the spring and summer.

Winterize Management Equipment



After all your hard work on your woodlot during the last 10 months, many of your tools are going to be put away for the winter, left untouched until spring. Remember to properly winterize your tools this month before you put them in winter storage. The last thing you want is a tool that isn't ready for use in the spring when you start up your annual projects!

Hunter Orange



I mentioned this in my intro, but I cannot stress it enough, wear blaze orange while out and about during the month of November, even on Sunday, and even if your property is posted. Make sure your four-legged friends have their orange on as well. Safety is no accident!



Joe Roy is the Private Lands Wildlife Biologist for Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Contact Joe at: joseph.roy@maine.gov or (207) 592-3344. Find more resources online at beginningwithhabitat.org.

This newsletter article was originally written for our partner Small Woodland Owners of Maine.