



NEW YORK



Hunting & TRAPPING

2010-11 OFFICIAL GUIDE TO LAWS & REGULATIONS
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**SUNY ESF & DEC Team
Up to Study Coyotes**
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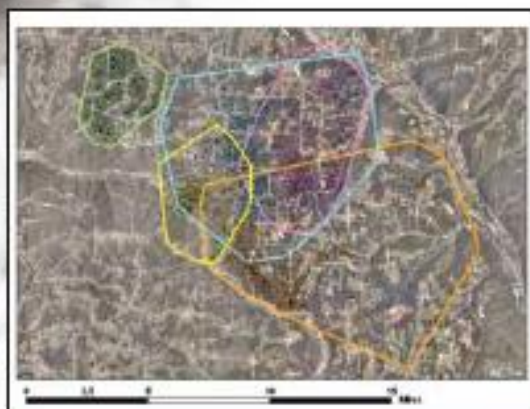
**Remember to Report
Your Game Harvest**

**www.dec.ny.gov
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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
www.dec.ny.gov

Most regulations are in effect October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011

SUNY-ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY STUDIES COYOTES' IMPACT ON DEER POPULATIONS



This image shows the locations of 5 different GPS-collared coyotes in Steuben County, indicating home range sizes and overlap. Clusters of GPS locations were used to search for deer carcasses.

Coyotes routinely make headline news, especially when they show up in New York City, and for the hunting and trapping community, the most compelling questions are: How many coyotes are there? And what is the impact of coyote predation on white-tailed deer? Gathering credible data from diverse regions of New York State requires a sophisticated set of tools and many hours of patient and meticulous work. High-tech GPS collars help researchers find deer kills, "CSI-style" genetic methods allow them to "fingerprint" individual coyotes from feces left behind, and broadcasting coyote howls at night allows them to count how many adults and pups howl back.

Why are coyotes hard to get a handle on? Many people don't realize how far a coyote can travel and how elusive they are. GPS collars recording locations every 20 minutes to 4 hours have shown home ranges averaging 12 square miles and daily movements reaching 15 miles. That makes finding deer carcasses for this predation study akin to the proverbial "needle in a haystack." "GPS collars allow us to backtrack a coyote's path to find evidence of predation. If we locate a deer or fawn carcass quickly, we can determine whether coyotes killed or scavenged it," said Robin Holevinski, Ph.D. student.

This summer, vocalization surveys set coyotes howl statewide, illuminating "how variable coyote numbers are from region to region," says Sara Hansen, M.S. student. The combination of high-tech tools, boots-to-the-ground surveys and dedicated students is the key to this important research, which will continue through 2011. For current information, please visit www.esf.edu/coyote.

SUNY Cobleskill intern Tom Cunningham prepares to release a coyote wearing a GPS radio collar in Steuben County, NY.

