



*New York State Archives*

**New York State Conservation Department Photographic  
Prints and Negatives 14297**

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## Overview of the Records

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<b>Repository:</b>	New York State Archives
<b>Summary:</b>	The series consists of glass plate and film negatives and photographic prints compiled by the Forest, Fish and Game Commission, the Conservation Commission, and the Conservation Department. They illustrate activities of these predecessors of the Department of Environmental Conservation. The images document fish and game control; forest management and conservation; protecting the wilderness; maintaining historic sites and recreational areas; and wide-ranging locations and activities.
<b>Creator:</b>	New York (State). Conservation Department
<b>Title:</b>	Conservation Department photographic prints and negatives
<b>Quantity:</b>	74 cubic feet
<b>Quantity:</b>	5100 glass plate and film negatives; 2,910 photographic prints
<b>Inclusive Date:</b>	circa 1904-1953
<b>Series:</b>	14297

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## Arrangement

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Roughly chronological.

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## Scope and Content Note

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The series consists of over 5,100 glass plate and film negatives and approximately 2,340 photographic prints compiled by the Forest, Fish and Game Commission (1900-1911), the Conservation Commission (1911-1926), and the Conservation Department (1926-1970). They constitute a visual record illustrating the many activities conducted by these predecessors of the Department of Environmental Conservation to preserve and administer New York State's natural resources and environment, and to publicize them through exhibits and publications.

Records include photographs (black and white, and color), negatives (black and white, and color inter-negatives), transparencies (35 mm color, 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 color), and index material. The majority of the series is comprised of 8 x 10 inch glass plate negatives, 5 x 7 inch glass plate negatives, and 5 x 7 inch film negatives.

Images document myriad functions including fish and game control; forest management and conservation; protecting the wilderness; and maintaining historic sites and recreational areas. The images depict wide-ranging locations and activities. Examples include tree nurseries; hatcheries; game preserves; landscapes; historic sites; department educational promotional exhibits; recreational facilities; and Civilian Conservation Corps projects of the 1930s. In addition, there are images of department officials, as well as a few negatives and prints of Kate Smith visiting Lake Placid, and of Franklin D. Roosevelt on a forestry tour.

14297-86: This accretion consists of about 175 black-and-white photographic prints depicting department exhibits and demonstrations at the New York State Fair, various county fairs, sports shows, expositions, and schools. Some prints were apparently used for publication. Most prints are 8 x 10 inches. Dates and locations are noted on the versos of most prints. Some negative numbers are also given.

14297-19: This accretion consists of a scrapbook containing about 460 black-and-white photographic prints. Photos depict game investigation activities conducted by the Bureau of Fish and Wildlife between the years 1945 and 1953. The scrapbook is divided into sections focusing on ecology, species characteristics, management, and research methods and techniques. Most prints measure 2.25 x 2.25 inches. A description of the subject depicted (sometimes including a date) is handwritten on each print's verso.

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## Related Information

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### Related Material

B1786Series B1786, Index to Department of Environmental Conservation Photographic Prints and Negatives, indexes this series and

B2010Series B2010, Glass Plate Negatives of Logging and Lumbering, contains related records.

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## Other Finding Aids

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### Available at Repository

An original partial card index to the negatives, arranged by negative number and using alpha-numeric subject codes which are not easily deciphered, is available at the repository.

A database indexes prints by locality, subject, date, and alphanumeric code.

An item list of reformatted negatives, giving date, title, and subject, is available at the repository.

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## Use of Records

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### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of this material.

### Alternate Formats Available

### Items Online

The bulk of photographic prints and negatives in this series have been digitized and are available in New York State Archives Digital Collections.

[Conservation Department photographic prints and negatives, circa 1904-1953](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Existence and Location of Originals

Originals held by New York State Archives.

### Acquisition Information

This disposition supersedes records disposition numbers 12557 and 12559.

## Processing Information

As part of a project funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, State Archives staff selected 5,206 photographic negatives from the original accession for reformatting. The original partial card index was superseded by a database produced by staff to provide item level access to the resulting contact prints. At the conclusion of the project, long roll interpositive film was sent to the State Records Center for secure storage; duplicate negative film of the 5,206 images (made from the long roll interpositive) was reserved at the State Archives as the series print master; and 5,206 positive contact prints (made from the duplicate negative film), accessioned as series B1786, became the State Archives use copy and graphic index.

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## Access Terms

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- Photographic prints
- Ecology
- Wildlife research
- Recreation areas--New York (State)
- Monitoring environment
- New York (State)
- Historic sites--New York (State)
- Hunting
- Photographs
- Wilderness areas--New York (State)
- Documenting wilderness
- Transparencies
- Publicizing natural resources
- Glass plate negatives
- Conservation of natural resources
- Indexes (reference sources)
- Wildlife management
- Environmental policy
- Environmental education
- Negatives (photographs)
- New York (State). Forest, Fish and Game Commission
- New York (State). Department of Environmental Conservation
- Smith, Kate, 1907-1986.
- New York (State). Conservation Commission