

BUFFALOBERRY PATCH

By Greg Freeman, Department News Editor



Deer Applications Available in May

Deer applications for the 2008 deer gun, youth and muzzleloader seasons will be available in May. The deadline for applying is June 4.

Applicants can access the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website at gf.nd.gov to submit a lottery application online, or to print an application for mailing.

Lottery and gratis applications will be available at Game and Fish offices, county auditors and license vendors. You can also apply by calling 800-406-6409.

Dollars for Bighorn Sheep Management

Three checks totaling \$73,000 were given to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at the Minnesota-Wisconsin Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep annual meeting in Minneapolis.

North Dakota's 2008 bighorn sheep auction license, which allows the winning bidder the rare privilege of pursuing a bighorn on a self-guided hunt in

the state, sold for \$35,000. Along with an annual grant of \$25,000, Minnesota-Wisconsin FNAWS, the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management presented the Department with \$13,000 for bighorn sheep transplants.

The grant and license auction are part of a 10-year agreement, signed in 1999, between the Department and Minnesota-Wisconsin FNAWS.

Educator Workshop Goes WILD

WILD About Art, a workshop for teachers, environmental educators and others who instruct youth, will be offered June 11-12 at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in Bismarck.

Teachers completing this course will have a basis for teaching ecological concepts and environmental stewardship to students through visual arts using Project WILD materials.

Project WILD is a Game and Fish Department educational program that uses environmental education to teach concepts in math, science, social studies, language arts, physical education and art.

A preregistration fee of \$30 is required by May 16. Graduate credit is available through the University of North Dakota for an additional \$50. For more information or registration materials contact Sherry Niesar, program director at Bismarck Art and Galleries Association, 701-223-5986, or e-mail baga@midconetwork.com.



2007 Deer Season Review

North Dakota deer hunters took approximately 100,000 deer during the 2007 hunting season.

Deer gun hunters harvested more than 98,100 deer, muzzleloader hunters took more than 1,000, and youth hunters accounted for more than 1,400. Deer bow statistics are not yet available.

The overall hunter success rate was 74 percent.

Hunter success for antlered white-tailed deer was 79 percent, and antlerless whitetail was 71 percent.

Mule deer buck success was 77 percent, while mule deer doe hunters had a success rate of 81 percent.

The success rate for young hunters during the youth season was 45 percent. However, combined with the success rate by youth license holders during the regular season, overall success jumped to 80 percent.

Muzzleloader season hunters had a success rate of 44 percent.

The Department made available 148,550 deer gun licenses in 2007, and more than 97 percent were issued to hunters.

Success for mule deer doe hunters in 2007 was high.

Public Use Regs on WMAs

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department reminds outdoor enthusiasts of public use regulations on state wildlife management lands established for hunting, fishing and wildlife production.

Regulations are available on the Game and Fish website at gf.nd.gov. Some of the regulations include:

- Unless otherwise designated, the use of motorized vehicles is restricted to constructed roads, well-worn trails and parking areas typically used for passenger cars.
- Watercraft cannot be left unattended unless used on a daily basis.
- Littering or the disposal of waste material is prohibited, except in garbage containers where provided.
- Property may not be removed without a permit from the Game and Fish Department.
- Commercial enterprise, including guiding, is prohibited except by lease or permit from the Game and Fish Department.
- Camping for longer than 10 consecutive days is prohibited.
- Group activities involving more than 25 people require a permit issued by the Game and Fish Department.
- Training of bird dogs is prohibited April 1 through August 15.
- Glass containers are prohibited.
- Fireworks, model rocket engines, or combustible or explosive materials are prohibited.
- Putting out bait to attract wildlife for any purpose is prohibited.

Youth Conservation Camp

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation will hold a youth conservation camp August 3-9 at the Triangle Y Camp near Garrison on Lake Sakakawea. Boys and girls ages 12-16 are invited to participate.

Hands-on activities include archery, canoeing, dog training, fishing, outdoor survival, trap-shooting and wetland studies.

Cosponsored by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the camp is limited to the first 80 individuals registered. Cost is \$290, which covers all meals and accommodations. For more information, contact the North Dakota Wildlife Federation at 888-827-2557.

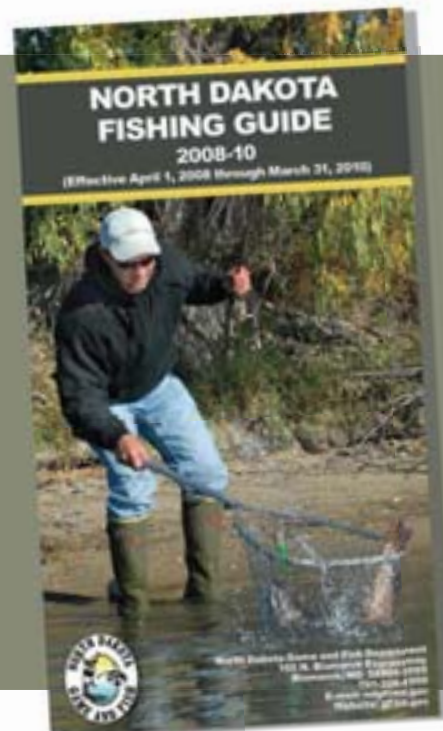
FREE FISHING June 7-8

Fishing for Free

North Dakota anglers are reminded they can fish for free June 7-8.

That is the weekend North Dakota residents may fish without a license, except for paddlefish. All other fishing regulations apply.

Refer to the 2008-10 North Dakota Fishing Guide for season information.



ANS Regulations in Effect

Anglers, boaters and personal watercraft users must abide by new regulations intended to prevent the introduction or spread of aquatic nuisance species into and within North Dakota.

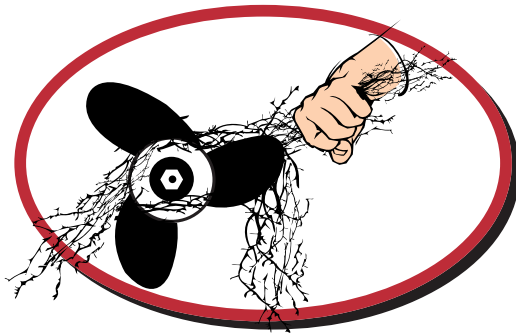
ANS include aquatic animals, plants and diseases which are not native to North Dakota and have the likelihood to become well-established if introduced.

Greg Power, fisheries chief for the state Game and Fish Department, said North Dakota does have some problem areas, such as curly leaf pondweed in the Missouri River System, Eurasian water milfoil in parts of the Sheyenne River drainage, and common carp in a number of waters.

“In the past, anglers and boaters were encouraged to practice ANS guidelines,” Power said. “Now, these guidelines are rules that must be followed. It is vital that water users understand these important requirements. If introduced, ANS can devastate a fishery and cause serious ecological and economic damage to our state.”

To comply with these regulations, water enthusiasts must:

- Inspect and remove all aquatic vegetation from boats, personal watercraft, trailers, and associated equipment such as fishing rods and lures before leaving a body of water.
- Remove all aquatic vegetation from bait containers when leaving the water.



- Drain all water from boats and other watercraft, including bilges, livewells and motors, at the ramp site before leaving a water body. The only exception is livewells used to transport game fish or baitfish, and potable water and sewage water which must be disposed of properly.

- Not transport live aquatic bait or aquatic vegetation into North Dakota. All water must be drained from watercraft before entering the state.
- Not dump bait into any North Dakota water.
- Not introduce any fish into North Dakota waters.
- Not transport nongame fish (other than legal live baitfish) in water away from the water body in which they were taken.

More ANS information can be found in the 2008-10 North Dakota Fishing Guide or by accessing the Game and Fish Department website at gf.nd.gov.

NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS
REGULATIONS BY THE GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

On Television

 WILLISTON KJMD - Tuesday - 10 pm KXMD - Monday - noon	 MINOT KMOT - Tuesday - 10 pm KJMC - Monday - noon	 GRAND FORKS WDAZ - Wednesday - 5 pm
 DICKINSON KQCD - Tuesday - 9 pm (MT) KJMA - Sunday - 9 pm (MT)	 BISMARCK KFYZ - Tuesday - 10 pm KJMB - Sunday - 10 pm CATV - Saturday - 9:30 am	 FARGO KVRV - Sunday - 9 pm



Jon Gossett of Fargo with a bighorn sheep ram he shot in 2007 in Unit B4.

2007 Sheep, Moose and Elk Harvests

Game and Fish Department harvest statistics show overall hunter success during the 2007 season was 100 percent for bighorn sheep, 92 percent for moose and 60 percent for elk.

Four bighorn sheep units were open in 2007. One license was issued in units B1, B2 and B3, and two licenses were issued for Unit B4. One additional auction license holder was able to hunt any open area. All six hunters tagged adult rams.

The Department issued 146 moose licenses last year. Of that, 130 hunters were successful, harvesting 71 bulls and 59 cows/calves. Harvest for each unit follows:

MOOSE HUNTING UNIT	LICENSES ISSUED	BULLS	COW-CALF
M4	24	12	10
M5	6	4	2
M6	16	12	2
M8	36	16	18
M9	24	11	8
M10	40	16	19

The Department issued 435 elk licenses last year. Of that, 242 hunters were successful, harvesting 156 bulls and 86 cows/calves. Harvest for each unit follows:

ELK HUNTING UNIT	LICENSES ISSUED	BULLS	COW-CALF
E1	49	6	13
E2	89	19	26
E3	200	102	33
E4	97	29	14

Check Out Baitfish Regulations

Anglers are reminded to check the baitfish regulations in the new 2008-10 North Dakota Fishing Guide.

Spottail shiners are no longer considered a legal live baitfish. Fathead minnows, creek chubs and sticklebacks are the only legal live baitfish that can be used in most North Dakota waters. In addition, white suckers can only be used in the Red River. There are also 20 state waters where no live baitfish are allowed.

Bait buckets, or any container used to hold bait, must be free of aquatic vegetation when transported away from a water body. Furthermore, any watercraft entering the state must be drained of all water.

All legal live aquatic organisms used by anglers – including fathead minnows, salamanders, frogs, crayfish and leeches – must be purchased or trapped in North Dakota. They cannot be imported into the state. The purpose of this regulation is to provide better control against unintentional introduction of aquatic nuisance species.

Using game fish or parts of game fish as bait is illegal, except for perch eyes, and trout and salmon eggs.

The North Dakota Fishing Guide is available at license vendors, or online on the Department's website at gf.nd.gov.



Department Sponsors Earth Day Project

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is celebrating Earth Day by sponsoring a youth clean-up day on public-owned or managed lands this spring.

If your school, Girl Scout, Boy Scout, 4-H club or any youth organization participates in cleaning up public lands in May, each participant will receive a specifically designed conservation patch.

The patch was chosen through a Department-sponsored contest. Winners in three age categories were Jacob Langerud, Bismarck, (6-9); Schanen Mendez, Belfield, (10-13); and Fernanda Simoes, Parshall (14-18). Langerud's design was chosen as the patch winner.

Groups taking part in clean-up activities should take the following precautions to ensure safety: keep young people away from highways, lakes and rivers; and only allow older participants to pick up broken glass.

"We hope these projects help build an understanding of wildlife habitats, and how human activities can negatively influence those habitats with pollution," said Nathaniel Umphrey, Game and Fish Department outreach biologist.

Interested participants are asked to call Umphrey at 701-328-6332 to receive a reporting form for their project.



*Patch Design Winner
Jacob Langerud, Age 9*

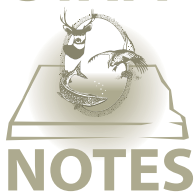


*Fernanda Simoes
Age 16*



*Schanen Mendez
Age 12*

GAME & FISH STAFF



Jon Hanson

Carter Retires, Jon Hanson Hired

Lisbon native Jon Hanson has been hired as hunter education coordinator for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department following the retirement of Jim Carter. Carter had been in the position since 1992.

Hanson has been living in Bismarck the past 23 years working full-time for the Army National Guard. He started with the Department in April.

"Jon brings a high level of management, organization and communication skills to the Department," said Chris Grondahl, Department outreach supervisor. "He is looking forward to being part of the organization and working with our outstanding group of hunter education volunteers."

Approximately 650 volunteer instructors certify more than 5,000 students each year.