

# BUFFALOBERRY PATCH

By Greg Freeman, Department News Editor



## Deer Licenses Available

Interested deer hunters still have time to purchase a license for the 2009 hunting seasons.

More than 20,000 antlerless deer licenses remain for the 2009 season. There is no limit on the number of licenses a hunter can receive. Check the Game and Fish Department website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov) for a list of units and licenses available.

These remaining antlerless licenses – and doe licenses that have already been issued and are printed with second, third or additional concurrent season designations – can be used during any open season: bow season with a bow; the deer gun season with a bow, rifle, or muzzleloader; or during the muzzleloader season with a muzzleloader. Hunters must stay in the unit to which the license is assigned.

North Dakota's 2009 deer gun season runs from November 6-22. The archery season extends through January 3, 2010, and muzzleloader runs from November 27 through December 13. License fees are \$20 for residents and \$55 for nonresidents.

Resident and nonresident deer hunters can apply online at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov). Applications are also available by calling the Department's Bismarck office at (701) 328-6300.



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## Landowners Seek Doe Hunters

Landowners in 9 hunting units across the state – 2K2, 3D1, 3E1, 3E2, 3F1, 3F2, 4A, 4D and 4E – are still looking for doe hunters.

Interested hunters can get their name on a list of possible participants by accessing the Game and Fish Department's website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov). Hunters who do not have Internet access can call the Department's main office in Bismarck at (701) 328-6300.

Not everyone who signs up will end up with a new place to hunt because not everyone's schedule will match up with a landowner's, and more people could put their name on the list than there are landowners.

## Hunt Today for Your Deer License

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department encourages deer hunters to find and check their licenses for accuracy.

Every year Department staff get inquiries from hunters at the last minute, including the morning of opening day, who can't find their license. It's difficult to try to get a replacement quickly, as it takes time to process a license.

Another reason to find your license now is to check it for accuracy. Make sure the unit, species and deer sex is what you thought it should be.

Deer hunters in need of a replacement license can print out a duplicate (replacement) license application from the Game and Fish website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov), or can call (701) 328-6300 to have an application mailed or faxed.

The form must be completely filled out and notarized, and returned to the Department with a fee. The application will be processed the day it is received, and the license will be mailed out the next day.

## Game and Fish Concerned with Zebra Mussels in Western Minnesota

The recent discovery of zebra mussels in the Red River watershed of western Minnesota has North Dakota Game and Fish Department personnel stepping up efforts to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species into North Dakota.

Lynn Schlueter, Department ANS coordinator, said finding zebra mussels in such close proximity to North Dakota could represent a multitude of problems. "It is the closest they have ever been found to North Dakota, and have the potential to be extremely detrimental to our state's waters," he said.

In addition to the location, also troubling to Schlueter is that the zebra mussel discovery comes from an area in western Minnesota that is a popular destination for many North Dakota recreationists. "Furthermore, these same people also recreate on many North Dakota waters, thus the potential for movement is very real," Schlueter said.

Because of this discovery, Schlueter said it is important for everyone to be vigilant about prevention. "Now is the time to take action," Schlueter added. "If zebra mussels show up in inland waters in North Dakota, we won't be able to get rid of them."

Robert Timian, Department chief of enforcement, said game wardens and fisheries personnel will conduct ANS compliance check stations in popular duck hunting locations during the waterfowl hunting season. "Many waterfowl hunters will be transporting duck boats and decoys into and through North Dakota over the next several weeks, and we need to make sure hunters follow proper protocol as well," Timian said.

People caught in violation will be cited, Timian said, and all boats and equipment found to be contaminated with ANS will be held until they are properly disinfected. "This is a serious situation," Timian added. "To allow a boat or equipment to leave before it is disinfected would be irresponsible of us."

Waterfowl hunters must clean boats, decoys, waders and other hunting equipment before leaving a water body. Hunters must also drain water from all hunting equipment prior to leaving the water, and are encouraged to brush their hunting dogs free of mud and seeds.

To comply with regulations, anglers, hunters and other water enthusiasts must:

- Inspect and remove all aquatic vegetation from boats, personal watercraft, trailers, and associated equipment such as fishing poles 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 water.
- Not transport nongame fish (other than legal live baitfish) in water away from the water body in which they were taken.

Schlueter said as people are beginning to remove their boats, boat lifts and docks from the water, it is a good time to inspect every square inch for any suspect weed or species. "Notify the Department with any concerns you might have," he added. "If you have problems with identification, contact us and we will help."

More ANS information can be found by accessing the Game and Fish Department website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

## Preventing Spread of CWD

The 2009 proclamation establishing guidelines for transporting deer, elk and moose carcasses and carcass parts into North Dakota is now in effect as a precaution against the possible spread of chronic wasting disease into the state. To date, CWD has not been diagnosed in North Dakota, but has been found in a growing number of locations across North America in recent years.

Hunters are not allowed to transport into North Dakota the whole carcass, or certain carcass parts, of deer, elk, moose or other members of the cervid family from areas within states and provinces with documented occurrences of CWD in wild populations, or from any farmed cervid operation in states and provinces with documented occurrences of CWD in their farmed cervids. Only the following portions of the carcass can be transported:

- Meat cut and wrapped either commercially or privately.
- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
- Meat that has been boned out.
- Hides with no heads attached.
- Clean (no meat or tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached.
- Antlers with no meat or tissue attached.
- Upper canine teeth, also known as buglers, whistlers or ivories.
- Finished taxidermy heads.

A complete list of states and areas with documented cases of CWD is available on the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov). Because each state or province has its own set of rules and regulations, hunters should contact the state or province in which they hunt to obtain more information.

## Bighorn Sheep Population Remains High

North Dakota's bighorn sheep population is in excellent shape.

A July-August survey in western North Dakota showed 309 bighorn sheep, down only seven from last year's record summer survey. "Last year I remarked that our bighorn sheep population was thriving, so needless to say I am very pleased with our current numbers," said Brett Wiedmann, North Dakota Game and Fish Department big game biologist, Dickinson. "In fact, I feared our counts would be much lower due to the severity of last winter. However, despite

the extreme conditions, the adult segment of our population is in great shape, along with a surprisingly high number of lambs."

Survey results revealed 98 rams, 161 ewes and 50 lambs – 242 in the northern badlands (an increase of 10 from last year) and 67 in the southern badlands (down 17). "To help bolster the southern herds, this winter we plan on translocating sheep from the northern population," Wiedmann said. "We will relocate some of the Montana sheep (transplanted to North Dakota in January 2006) that continue to do very well."

Annual bighorn sheep survey statistics are not recorded using a calendar year,

but instead are done over a 12-month period beginning each April and ending the following March. Each summer, typically in August, Game and Fish Department biologists count and classify all bighorns, a process that takes nearly six weeks to complete as biologists radio-collar 3-5 sheep in each herd, locate them from an airplane, and then hike into each band to record population demographics via spotting scope. Biologists then recount lambs in March to determine lamb recruitment.

North Dakota's bighorn sheep hunting season opens October 9 and continues through October 25. Five licenses were issued.

## Be Safe, Wear Orange While Pheasant Hunting

North Dakota's pheasant hunting season opens October 10, and approximately 100,000 hunters will participate in the upcoming season. With that many hunters, it's important to take proper safety measures in the field.

Jon Hanson, North Dakota Game and Fish Department hunter education coordinator, said 10 hunting incidents were reported in 2008, and six were shotgun related.

"The majority of shotgun-related hunting incidents reported in North Dakota each year are caused by hunters swinging on pheasants and not seeing other members of their hunting party," Hanson said. "And typically, they are not dressed in orange."

While wearing orange clothing is not required for upland hunters, it is strongly recommended. "Each year, most incidents could have been avoided if the victims were wearing orange," Hanson said. "The importance of being visible cannot be underscored, especially with so many hunters in the field."

Hanson suggests mapping out the hunt so all members of the hunting party know each other's route.

Accidental discharge of a firearm in or near vehicles or along fences also happens in most years. "This is a matter of common sense," Hanson said. "A shotgun should always be unloaded in these situations."

Another important recommendation Hanson stresses is to let those left behind know your destination. "Let someone know where you are going and how long you will be gone," Hanson said.

Limits are three roosters daily and 12 in possession. Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

Hunters, regardless of age, must have a fishing, hunting and furbearer certificate and general game and habitat license. In addition, hunters ages 16 and older need a

small game license.

For further season information and regulations, hunters should consult the *North Dakota 2009-10 Small Game Hunting Guide*.



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# GAME & FISH STAFF



## Tucker Hired as Furbearer Biologist

Stephanie Tucker, a Glen Ullin native, has accepted the furbearer biologist position in Bismarck. She replaces Dorothy Fecske.

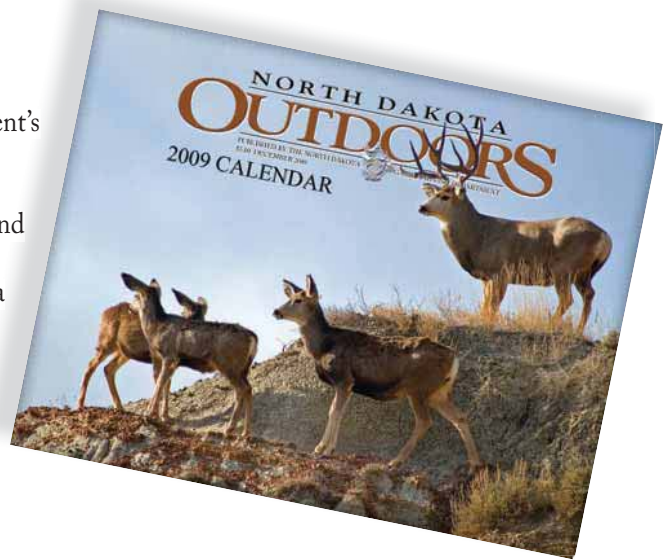
Tucker received an undergraduate degree in zoology from North Dakota State University and a master's in ecology and evolutionary biology from Iowa State University. She was most recently employed by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks as an upland game resource biologist.

## Ordering 2010 OUTDOORS Calendars

Now is the time to order the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's *North Dakota OUTDOORS* calendar, the official source for all season and application dates for 2010. Along with outstanding color photographs of North Dakota wildlife and scenery, it also includes sunrise-sunset times and moon phases.

To order, send \$3 for each, plus \$1 postage, to: Calendar, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095. Be sure to include a three-line return address with your order, or the post office may not deliver our return mailing.

The calendar is the *North Dakota OUTDOORS* magazine's December issue, so current subscribers will automatically receive it in the mail.



## New Tree Stand Regulations on WMAs

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department reminds hunters of two regulation changes involving placement of tree stands on state wildlife management areas.

One new regulation requires tree stands left unattended on Game and Fish Department wildlife management areas to have an identification tag displaying the owner's name, address and telephone number. This will allow Game and Fish personnel to contact the owner if a conflict should arise, and most likely will deter theft of tree stands on public land.

The other regulation change extends the deadline for removing tree stands from WMAs an additional three weeks to January 31. The archery season has been extended into January in recent years, and this will allow archers plenty of time to remove tree stands.

The Game and Fish Department also recommends that hunters check with landowners before erecting or using tree stands on private property; do not use the tree stand of another hunter without that hunter's permission; and do not remove or tamper with a tree stand without the owner's or landowner's permission.

Tree stands are private property, and theft constitutes a criminal violation that should be reported to the local sheriff's department.

Bowhunters are reminded that additional concurrent season deer gun licenses can be used with a bow during the archery season in the designated hunting unit.