

Disease Issues

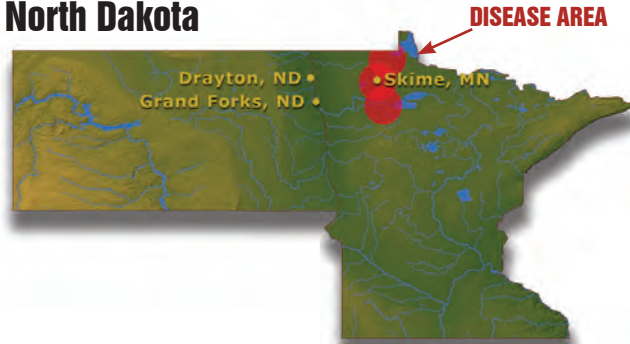
- Wildlife diseases such as bovine tuberculosis (TB) and chronic wasting disease have a greater chance of spreading when animals are congregated.
- Diseases are transmitted between animals by nose-to-nose contact and ingesting saliva and feces from infected animals.
- The frequency of these activities is greatly increased at a hunter's bait site.



- Disease control and monitoring costs ranchers, state wildlife departments and taxpayers millions of dollars.
- Livestock herds positively identified with TB are eradicated.
- Since deer can contract TB, the deer population must also be significantly reduced in areas where disease is found to minimize the potential for transmission to livestock.



Proximity of Bovine Tuberculosis to North Dakota



- TB is currently being battled in northwestern Minnesota at a cost of millions as well as the loss of a significant portion of the local deer population.
- There is a concern that TB-infected deer may move the 50 miles into North Dakota.



Social Issues

- Fair chase is the ethical, sportsmanlike and lawful pursuit and taking of free ranging wild game animals in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage. Does hunting over bait create an unfair advantage?
- The majority of the public does not hunt, but certainly has the voice to weigh in and make changes that negatively affect hunters if methods are viewed as unfair.
- Are we raising a generation of hunters who don't scout, learn deer behavior and read deer sign?

The NDGFD receives federal financial assistance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the NDGFD joins the US Department of the Interior and its Bureaus in prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex (in education programs or activities) and also religion for the NDGFD. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or you desire further information, please write to: ND Game and Fish Department, Attn: Chief Administrative Services, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095 or to: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn: Civil Rights Coordinator, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSA-4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203. The TTY/TTD (Relay ND) number for the hearing or speech impaired is 1-800-366-8888.

CONCERNS WITH



HUNTING BIG GAME OVER BAIT

Using bait to attract deer for hunting has grown in the last 5-10 years. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has concerns with this practice.



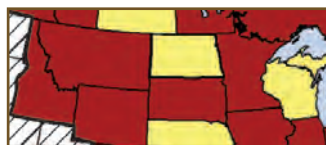
Definition of Hunting Big Game Over Bait:




The placement and/or use of bait(s) for attracting big game and other wildlife to a specific location for the purpose of hunting. Baits include grains, minerals, salts, fruits, vegetables, hay or any other natural or manufactured food.

What is Not Considered Bait?

Normal farming and ranching practices such as grain spilled by farm trucks and combines, or foods used to feed livestock, are NOT considered bait. Food plots, scents or lures used to attract deer are NOT considered bait.

Current Restrictions on Hunting Big Game Over Bait in the North Central U.S.



-  No Restrictions
-  Baiting Prohibited
-  Partial Baiting Restrictions

Access and Opportunity



- Deer are a public wildlife resource to be enjoyed by all.
- Bait sites alter natural deer movements and generally congregate deer on a few select properties, which reduces public hunting opportunity (it also reduces private land opportunity).
- White-tailed deer and mule deer are attracted to bait sites. This artificial food source can “pull” deer out of natural habitats on both public and private land from miles away.
- Many deer attracted to one location generally results in loss of deer hunting opportunity on neighboring land, whether it is public or private.



For more information on hunting big game over bait, view the video presentation on the Game and Fish Department's home page at gf.nd.gov or e-mail us at ndgf@nd.gov.

Deer Management

- Even though deer have a natural behavior of “yarding” in winter, hunters often begin congregating deer at bait sites in late summer and continue throughout the hunting season.
- Deer attracted by baits often become “habituated” to artificial food sources and seek out “easy” food such as agricultural commodities when hunters quit maintaining their bait sites.



- Deer management depends on an adequate harvest of antlerless deer during the regular gun season.
- Deer congregated in large groups on private lands with little access creates the potential for lack of adequate harvest.
- High deer numbers reduce landowner tolerance for all deer and deer hunting.

