

NORTH DAKOTA
OUTDOORS

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GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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MATTERS OF OPINION



Terry Steinwand
Director

I've written more than once on this page how seriously many North Dakotans take their deer hunting. To repeat myself, the state's deer gun season, or more so the opening weekend of the season, has a holiday feel to it. Sort of like Christmas.

Knowing this, my guess is that many deer hunters – and turkey and pronghorn hunters, too – read the February issue of *North Dakota OUTDOORS* with interest as it contains the results of the previous season's deer gun lottery.

Yet, in this issue of NDO, the results of the 2018 lottery for deer, turkey and pronghorn are presented differently than in the past. I think readers will appreciate how the results are delivered.

Also in this issue, readers will find a summary of violations for 2018 in the Game and Fish Department enforcement division review. There were more than 2,400 violations for the calendar year, everything from hunting in a closed season, wanton waste, failure to carry licenses in the field, open container, the list goes on.

The men and women – a small group of wardens compared to most other states – who represent this agency's enforcement division should be applauded for their work in all kinds of weather, in all types of situations.

As I write this in late January, we are busy with the 66th legislative assembly. As I've said before, it is our responsibility and aim to help

foster change about the natural resources that we feel so strongly about and are such a big part of our heritage.

I'm guessing if you are reading this magazine, then you, like Game and Fish Department staff, feel connected and protective of our animals and wild places. If so, I encourage you to stay abreast of natural resource bills that cross lawmakers' desks.

While our agency's effort is to provide professional and scientific guidance to legislators dealing with natural resource issues, I believe it is hunters, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts who have the ear of lawmakers.

Game and Fish Department staff is currently tracking 30-plus hunting and fishing issues on the Department's website, gf.nd.gov.

A brief description of each bill is noted, along with the bill sponsor and hearing schedule. To view each bill in its entirety, click on the linked bill number. This legislation tracking feature will remain active until the session ends.

Considering we just endured some of the lowest temperatures in late January that we've seen in some time, it's hard to imagine that it won't be terribly long before we make that anticipated transition from winter to spring and open water fishing.

While you wait, dress warm and venture out into North Dakota's great outdoors. You just never know what's waiting for you out there.

Terry Steinwand

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NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS

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Front Cover

Sharp-tailed grouse are native to North Dakota and are accustomed to the rigors of winter on the Northern Plains. Photo by Craig Bihrl.



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DRAWING A DEER LICENSE IN 2018

By Ron Wilson

Following a law initially designed to phase out old Game and Fish Department paper license books, all hunters who applied for a deer gun license in 2018 did so electronically.

That was new.

The way the results of the deer drawing – plus drawings for pronghorn and spring and fall turkey – are presented to readers of *North Dakota OUTDOORS* is new this year, too.

The tables provided show the first-choice results in the first lottery. Using deer hunting unit 2B for any antlered deer as an example, the numbers read like this: 972 hunters, with zero bonus points, applied for an any antlered deer license and 11 were successful in drawing a license (11/972); 882 hunters, with one bonus point, applied and 36 were successful (36/882); 714 hunters, with two bonus points, applied and 51 were successful; and on it goes.

In short, the tables show the results for those hunters with the same number of bonus points applying for a particular license in a particular hunting unit.

It's important to note that the deer lottery results do not include the 1 percent of licenses state law requires the Game and Fish Department make available for nonresident applicants every year.

Those nonresidents who do apply for a deer gun license in North Dakota compete only against other nonresident hunters for that 1 percent.

Also of note, the results in the 2018 deer gun lottery show only those hunters who were actually in the drawing, not those hunters who bought bonus points and had no intention of hunting deer last fall.

RON WILSON is editor of *North Dakota OUTDOORS*.

Nearly 67,000 hunters applied for a buck license as their first choice in the 2018 deer gun lottery.





2018 Lottery Notes

For the third year in a row, the number of deer gun licenses made available to hunters increased in 2018.

Here's a quick look:

- 2016 – 49,000 deer gun licenses.
- 2017 – 54,500 deer gun licenses.
- 2018 – 55,150 deer gun licenses.

Drawing a buck license in 2018 was, like most years, not easy. Randy Meissner, Game and Fish Department licensing manager, said after 13,098 resident gratis licenses and 525 non-resident licenses were subtracted from the overall license allocation, just 22,559 buck licenses were available for the 66,998 hunters who applied for them as their first choice in the lottery.

For the fifth year in a row, following hard winters that significantly impacted the state's population, Game and Fish made available 1,075 pronghorn licenses in 2018, or 665 more than 2017.

Ten pronghorn hunting units were open in 2018, five more than 2017.

How the Lottery Works

There are always questions concerning the Game and Fish Department's lottery.

Using deer as the example, though turkey works the same way, this is how it works.

If you fail to draw your first license choice in any given year, you receive a bonus point. You do not have to apply in the same unit, or for the same deer type each year, to qualify. You get an additional bonus point each year you apply and do not receive your first license choice. You maintain your accumulated bonus points as long as you apply in the first drawing at least once every two years.

You receive additional chances in the drawing for each bonus point accumulated. For points one through three, you are entered in the drawing two times the number of points you have. So, if you have two points you would get four additional chances to be drawn, compared to a person who got his or her first choice the previous year. If you're both competing for the same license, you have five chances, he or she has one.

When you accumulate four or more points, the number of additional chances is determined by cubing your bonus points. So, when you have four points, you will be in the drawing 64 additional times, 125 times if you have five points, and so on. Bonus points are accumulated as long as you do not draw your first license choice and apply in the first drawing at least every other year. You do not receive bonus points in years you do not apply.

Each drawing is still random, but the more bonus points you have, the better your odds. When you receive your first license choice, you lose your bonus points and start over. Bonus points can only be earned, or used, in the first drawing for each species in each year.

The license lottery consists of four separate drawings, one for each choice on the application. First, we hold a drawing for the first unit/first deer choice. When those are issued, we draw for the first unit/second deer choice, then the second unit/first deer choice, and finally the second unit/second deer choice.

2018 DEER LICENSE LOTTERY RESULTS

UNIT	UNIT / TYPE	POINTS											TOTAL APPS.
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
1	Any Antlered Deer	20 / 353	48 / 209	48 / 134	39 / 84	69 / 72	2 / 2	0 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	855
1	Any Antlerless Deer	129 / 135	19 / 22	8 / 8	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	166
2A	Any Antlered Deer	15 / 303	33 / 263	30 / 151	25 / 104	78 / 89	15 / 17	4 / 6	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	1 / 1	935
2A	Any Antlerless Deer	130 / 148	15 / 19	7 / 8	8 / 10	1 / 1	2 / 2	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	190
2B	Any Antlered Deer	11 / 972	36 / 882	51 / 714	65 / 640	248 / 434	96 / 135	11 / 16	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	3,793
2B	Any Antlerless Deer	132 / 506	161 / 280	81 / 118	45 / 67	19 / 23	5 / 7	0 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,002
2C	Any Antlered Deer	4 / 523	8 / 500	8 / 278	11 / 325	98 / 369	97 / 203	24 / 47	0 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	2,246
2C	Any Antlerless Deer	2 / 110	4 / 90	6 / 40	10 / 51	24 / 36	5 / 11	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	339
2D	Any Antlered Deer	5 / 364	18 / 279	17 / 141	32 / 179	135 / 176	16 / 16	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,157
2D	Any Antlerless Deer	75 / 80	8 / 8	8 / 9	8 / 9	6 / 6	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	112
2E	Any Antlered Deer	1 / 478	4 / 330	2 / 179	2 / 191	41 / 185	58 / 155	28 / 46	12 / 17	3 / 6	1 / 1	0 / 0	1,588
2E	Any Antlerless Deer	0 / 116	0 / 60	0 / 33	0 / 19	0 / 9	0 / 3	0 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	242*
2F1	Any Antlered Deer	260 / 898	407 / 616	146 / 173	31 / 34	12 / 12	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,734
2F1	Any Antlerless Deer	279 / 287	29 / 33	3 / 3	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	326
2F2	Any Antlered Deer	80 / 806	159 / 667	147 / 389	94 / 190	55 / 61	4 / 6	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	2,120
2F2	Any Antlerless Deer	355 / 367	37 / 44	15 / 21	7 / 10	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	445
2G	Any Antlered Deer	122 / 411	146 / 233	54 / 64	43 / 47	24 / 24	5 / 7	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	787
2G	Any Antlerless Deer	22 / 124	8 / 26	3 / 4	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	156
2G1	Any Antlered Deer	27 / 832	95 / 659	93 / 470	88 / 306	200 / 211	22 / 26	5 / 5	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	2,510
2G1	Any Antlerless Deer	395 / 493	72 / 88	20 / 27	13 / 17	8 / 9	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	634
2G2	Any Antlered Deer	145 / 813	236 / 504	163 / 256	86 / 125	41 / 43	3 / 3	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,745
2G2	Any Antlerless Deer	366 / 380	32 / 35	13 / 15	5 / 7	3 / 4	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	441
2H	Any Antlered Deer	224 / 820	340 / 537	137 / 170	35 / 40	10 / 11	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,580
2H	Any Antlerless Deer	131 / 136	9 / 13	5 / 5	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	154
2I	Any Antlered Deer	160 / 1,119	301 / 786	207 / 394	114 / 172	72 / 77	2 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	2,551
2I	Any Antlerless Deer	289 / 312	31 / 34	14 / 14	1 / 1	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	363
2J1	Any Antlered Deer	164 / 752	237 / 500	138 / 225	72 / 91	28 / 28	0 / 0	2 / 2	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,600
2J1	Any Antlerless Deer	167 / 170	18 / 20	6 / 6	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	199
2J2	Any Antlered Deer	271 / 1,115	364 / 650	155 / 218	52 / 61	9 / 9	2 / 2	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	2,056
2J2	Any Antlerless Deer	263 / 271	23 / 27	8 / 8	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	306
2K1	Any Antlered Deer	48 / 634	94 / 436	106 / 341	90 / 213	131 / 136	8 / 10	2 / 2	1 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,774
2K1	Any Antlerless Deer	208 / 219	22 / 23	9 / 11	2 / 2	0 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	256
2K2	Any Antlered Deer	141 / 1,286	276 / 1,017	229 / 529	136 / 240	70 / 75	6 / 6	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	3,155
2K2	Any Antlerless Deer	354 / 369	47 / 56	19 / 21	5 / 7	1 / 1	1 / 1	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	457
2L	Any Antlered Deer	72 / 245	95 / 175	37 / 49	9 / 11	10 / 10	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	492
2L	Any Antlerless Deer	81 / 83	7 / 7	1 / 1	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	94
3A1	Any Antlered Deer	123 / 1,008	227 / 746	225 / 469	126 / 243	116 / 121	14 / 16	7 / 8	3 / 4	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0	2,617
3A1	Any Antlerless Deer	119 / 124	24 / 27	10 / 10	3 / 3	6 / 6	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	170
3A2	Any Antlered Deer	196 / 863	292 / 560	152 / 221	71 / 87	18 / 18	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,751
3A2	Any Antlerless Deer	304 / 320	40 / 43	9 / 9	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	374
3A3	Any Antlered Deer	56 / 838	109 / 567	130 / 385	123 / 279	186 / 193	16 / 19	5 / 7	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	2,288
3A3	Any Antlerless Deer	310 / 323	33 / 38	16 / 22	9 / 11	5 / 5	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	400
3A4	Any Antlered Deer	69 / 962	165 / 669	140 / 432	148 / 326	112 / 116	6 / 7	3 / 3	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	2,516
3A4	Any Antlerless Deer	442 / 463	49 / 56	11 / 19	8 / 10	5 / 5	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	553
3B1	Antlered Mule Deer	44 / 320	73 / 248	67 / 137	41 / 68	40 / 41	6 / 7	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	821
3B1	Antlered Whitetail	10 / 315	24 / 242	22 / 168	25 / 137	73 / 86	11 / 12	3 / 4	0 / 0	1 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	966
3B1	Antlerless Mule Deer	18 / 18	6 / 8	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	27
3B1	Antlerless Whitetail	41 / 42	12 / 13	1 / 1	0 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	58
3B2	Antlered Mule Deer	32 / 114	66 / 104	23 / 30	7 / 7	3 / 3	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	260
3B2	Antlered Whitetail	26 / 189	54 / 119	32 / 45	14 / 18	6 / 6	1 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	379
3B2	Antlerless Mule Deer	21 / 22	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	25
3B2	Antlerless Whitetail	44 / 44	8 / 8	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	52
3B3	Any Antlered Deer	26 / 223	79 / 144	31 / 52	29 / 41	2 / 5	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	466
3B3	Any Antlerless Deer	127 / 133	5 / 6	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	139
3B3	Antlered Whitetail	503 / 709	218 / 224	25 / 25	4 / 4	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	963
3B3	Antlerless Whitetail	156 / 157	11 / 11	2 / 2	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	171
3C	Any Antlered Deer	14 / 261	26 / 193	23 / 140	27 / 81	27 / 31	0 / 4	1 / 2	1 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	715
3C	Any Antlerless Deer	69 / 102	48 / 51	11 / 14	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	169
3C	Antlered Whitetail	401 / 812	298 / 357	68 / 75	17 / 19	9 / 9	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,272
3C	Antlerless Whitetail	170 / 174	11 / 13	3 / 3	2 / 2	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	193
3D1	Any Antlered Deer	63 / 329	90 / 187	48 / 72	16 / 23	7 / 7	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	620
3D1	Any Antlerless Deer	48 / 48	5 / 5	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	54

UNIT	UNIT / TYPE	POINTS											TOTAL APPS.
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
3D1	Antlered Whitetail	147 / 149	18 / 19	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	169
3D1	Antlerless Whitetail	8 / 8	3 / 3	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	12
3D2	Any Antlered Deer	67 / 366	92 / 252	74 / 132	41 / 62	21 / 21	2 / 2	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	837
3D2	Any Antlerless Deer	144 / 145	5 / 5	4 / 4	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	155
3D2	Antlered Whitetail	129 / 197	54 / 58	10 / 10	3 / 3	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	270
3D2	Antlerless Whitetail	27 / 27	2 / 2	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	30
3E1	Any Antlered Deer	87 / 436	134 / 292	83 / 126	29 / 37	9 / 9	2 / 2	2 / 2	0 / 0	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	906
3E1	Any Antlerless Deer	85 / 88	12 / 13	3 / 3	1 / 1	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	106
3E1	Antlered Whitetail	244 / 340	110 / 115	23 / 23	3 / 3	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	483
3E1	Antlerless Whitetail	17 / 17	1 / 1	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	20
3E2	Any Antlered Deer	213 / 603	243 / 320	86 / 95	11 / 12	1 / 1	1 / 1	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,035
3E2	Any Antlerless Deer	181 / 184	19 / 19	4 / 4	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	210
3E2	Antlered Whitetail	331 / 342	24 / 24	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	368
3E2	Antlerless Whitetail	23 / 23	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	23
3F1	Any Antlered Deer	120 / 417	149 / 216	72 / 88	20 / 22	6 / 6	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	749
3F1	Any Antlerless Deer	62 / 62	7 / 7	3 / 3	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	73
3F1	Antlered Whitetail	198 / 198	12 / 13	1 / 1	1 / 1	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	215
3F1	Antlerless Whitetail	13 / 13	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	13
3F2	Any Antlered Deer	228 / 713	283 / 419	104 / 120	25 / 28	5 / 5	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,285
3F2	Any Antlerless Deer	113 / 115	17 / 17	2 / 2	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	135
3F2	Antlered Whitetail	338 / 338	21 / 21	3 / 3	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	363
3F2	Antlerless Whitetail	13 / 13	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	13
4A	Antlered Mule Deer	6 / 243	13 / 273	13 / 172	12 / 142	78 / 103	22 / 26	5 / 6	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	965
4A	Antlered Whitetail	55 / 238	77 / 148	34 / 46	13 / 14	6 / 7	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	454
4A	Antlerless Whitetail	23 / 25	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	27
4B	Antlered Mule Deer	8 / 705	8 / 629	26 / 544	26 / 363	126 / 292	103 / 164	64 / 84	23 / 30	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	2,814
4B	Antlered Whitetail	102 / 209	53 / 59	13 / 16	3 / 5	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	289
4B	Antlerless Mule Deer	36 / 38	7 / 7	4 / 4	0 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	50
4B	Antlerless Whitetail	15 / 15	2 / 2	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	18
4C	Antlered Mule Deer	5 / 673	14 / 676	19 / 493	19 / 445	109 / 348	98 / 207	74 / 113	44 / 52	12 / 15	2 / 2	3 / 3	3,027
4C	Antlered Whitetail	104 / 191	56 / 63	12 / 13	0 / 1	1 / 1	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	271
4C	Antlerless Mule Deer	46 / 47	7 / 7	4 / 4	1 / 1	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	61
4C	Antlerless Whitetail	4 / 4	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	4
4D	Antlered Mule Deer	7 / 605	27 / 515	29 / 450	29 / 333	116 / 227	90 / 114	43 / 51	8 / 9	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	2,306
4D	Antlered Whitetail	176 / 201	27 / 30	8 / 10	1 / 2	4 / 4	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	248
4D	Antlerless Mule Deer	61 / 63	6 / 7	2 / 3	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	74
4D	Antlerless Whitetail	8 / 8	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	9
4E	Antlered Mule Deer	44 / 391	75 / 293	64 / 152	42 / 72	35 / 39	12 / 15	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	962
4E	Antlered Whitetail	149 / 150	8 / 8	4 / 4	1 / 1	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	166
4E	Antlerless Mule Deer	25 / 26	2 / 2	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	30
4E	Antlerless Whitetail	2 / 2	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	3
4F	Antlered Mule Deer	86 / 213	65 / 102	21 / 22	10 / 10	4 / 4	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	352
4F	Antlered Whitetail	178 / 180	5 / 5	2 / 2	4 / 4	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	191
4F	Antlerless Mule Deer	12 / 14	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	15
4F	Antlerless Whitetail	9 / 9	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	10
MUZ	Antlered Whitetail	1 / 2,568	3 / 2,428	2 / 1,779	0 / 1,257	19 / 1,173	33 / 1,121	67 / 1,043	87 / 933	114 / 818	74 / 524	105 / 357	14,001
MUZ	Antlerless Whitetail	180 / 556	211 / 285	67 / 76	22 / 24	13 / 13	1 / 1	1 / 1	3 / 3	4 / 5	1 / 1	2 / 2	967

*In unit 2E, all of the 200 any antlerless licenses were issued to gratis applicants prior to the first lottery drawing, so no antlerless licenses were available in the lottery.

2018 PRONGHORN LOTTERY RESULTS

LICENSE TYPE	POINTS											TOTAL APPS.
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
01A	0 / 719	0 / 447	3 / 389	1 / 299	9 / 329	16 / 213	20 / 127	16 / 65	8 / 25	4 / 12	2 / 5	2,630
02A	0 / 90	1 / 64	1 / 53	1 / 45	11 / 42	14 / 21	9 / 10	6 / 7	6 / 7	0 / 0	0 / 0	339
02B	0 / 117	0 / 97	0 / 103	0 / 85	6 / 80	13 / 46	14 / 36	6 / 10	6 / 7	1 / 1	0 / 1	583
03A	0 / 33	2 / 53	0 / 31	0 / 26	5 / 28	10 / 33	4 / 10	4 / 5	0 / 0	0 / 1	0 / 0	220
03B	0 / 206	0 / 199	0 / 205	3 / 172	11 / 163	13 / 84	27 / 88	14 / 42	6 / 18	2 / 3	1 / 1	1,181
04A	1 / 696	6 / 597	5 / 538	15 / 417	86 / 432	73 / 227	54 / 105	29 / 59	7 / 10	2 / 2	0 / 1	3,084
04C	0 / 85	1 / 58	0 / 50	1 / 54	6 / 53	4 / 20	12 / 20	3 / 5	2 / 3	1 / 1	0 / 0	349
05A	0 / 124	0 / 72	1 / 65	0 / 52	11 / 55	9 / 30	4 / 20	6 / 6	3 / 3	2 / 2	0 / 0	429
06A	1 / 373	0 / 160	1 / 116	2 / 93	7 / 98	11 / 63	10 / 31	9 / 19	2 / 4	2 / 4	0 / 0	961
07A	2 / 216	0 / 68	0 / 69	0 / 47	11 / 49	13 / 27	6 / 7	1 / 2	1 / 2	2 / 2	0 / 0	489

2018 SPRING TURKEY LOTTERY RESULTS

UNIT	POINTS											TOTAL APPS.
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
02	224 / 315	24 / 24	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	340
03	41 / 41	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	41
04	62 / 143	15 / 21	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	164
06	13 / 13	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	14
13	370 / 370	14 / 14	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	384
17	58 / 196	42 / 53	5 / 5	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	254
19	230 / 230	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	231
25	491 / 491	6 / 6	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	497
27	223 / 617	113 / 160	11 / 13	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	793
30	663 / 663	6 / 6	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	669
31	12 / 12	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	12
37	331 / 640	184 / 210	26 / 27	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	879
40	37 / 69	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	70
44	79 / 79	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	82
45	57 / 57	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	59
47	28 / 28	2 / 2	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	31
50	175 / 421	76 / 86	12 / 12	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	519
51	212 / 212	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	213
53	28 / 94	14 / 18	4 / 5	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	119
98	229 / 492	55 / 63	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	557
99	132 / 132	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	132

2018 FALL TURKEY LOTTERY RESULTS

UNIT	POINTS											TOTAL APPS.
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
02	16 / 115	19 / 47	7 / 10	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	173
03	34 / 36	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	36
04	82 / 82	15 / 15	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	97
06	12 / 18	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	21
13	260 / 260	5 / 5	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	265
17	73 / 169	40 / 49	5 / 6	1 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	226
19	119 / 119	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	119
25	202 / 202	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	203
27	180 / 290	91 / 105	17 / 18	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	414
30	292 / 292	3 / 3	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	296
31	7 / 7	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	7
37	239 / 314	83 / 84	9 / 9	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	407
40	21 / 21	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	21
44	47 / 51	7 / 7	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	58
45	47 / 47	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	47
50	124 / 225	33 / 39	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	265
51	87 / 87	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	88
53	38 / 39	9 / 9	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	49
98	183 / 223	30 / 30	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	254
99	52 / 58	4 / 4	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	62

2018 Lottery Stats

Deer

- 55,150 – Number of deer licenses available, up from 54,500 in 2017.
- 79,406 – Number of people – not including 13,375 gratis applicants – who applied for deer gun lottery licenses, up from 77,622 in 2017.
- 43.43 – Percent of successful applicants, excluding gratis and non-residents, for deer gun and muzzleloader licenses.
- 1.41 – Average number of bonus points of applicants who received their first choice.
- 16 – Maximum number of bonus points for any applicant (non-resident mule deer buck applicants).
- 12,683 – Applicants with four or more bonus points.
- 13.39 – Percent of applicants with four or more bonus points.
- 4,327 – Number of applicants with four or more bonus points who drew their first choice of license.
- 34.68 – Percent of applicants with four or more bonus points who applied for a muzzleloader buck license.

Turkey

- 5,662 – Number of spring turkey licenses available to hunters, down from 5,685 in 2017.
- 71.2 – Percent of applicants who received their first license choice in the spring turkey drawing.
- 3,710 – Number of fall turkey licenses available, up from 3,505 in 2017.
- 80.2 – Percent of applicants who received their first license choice in the fall turkey drawing.

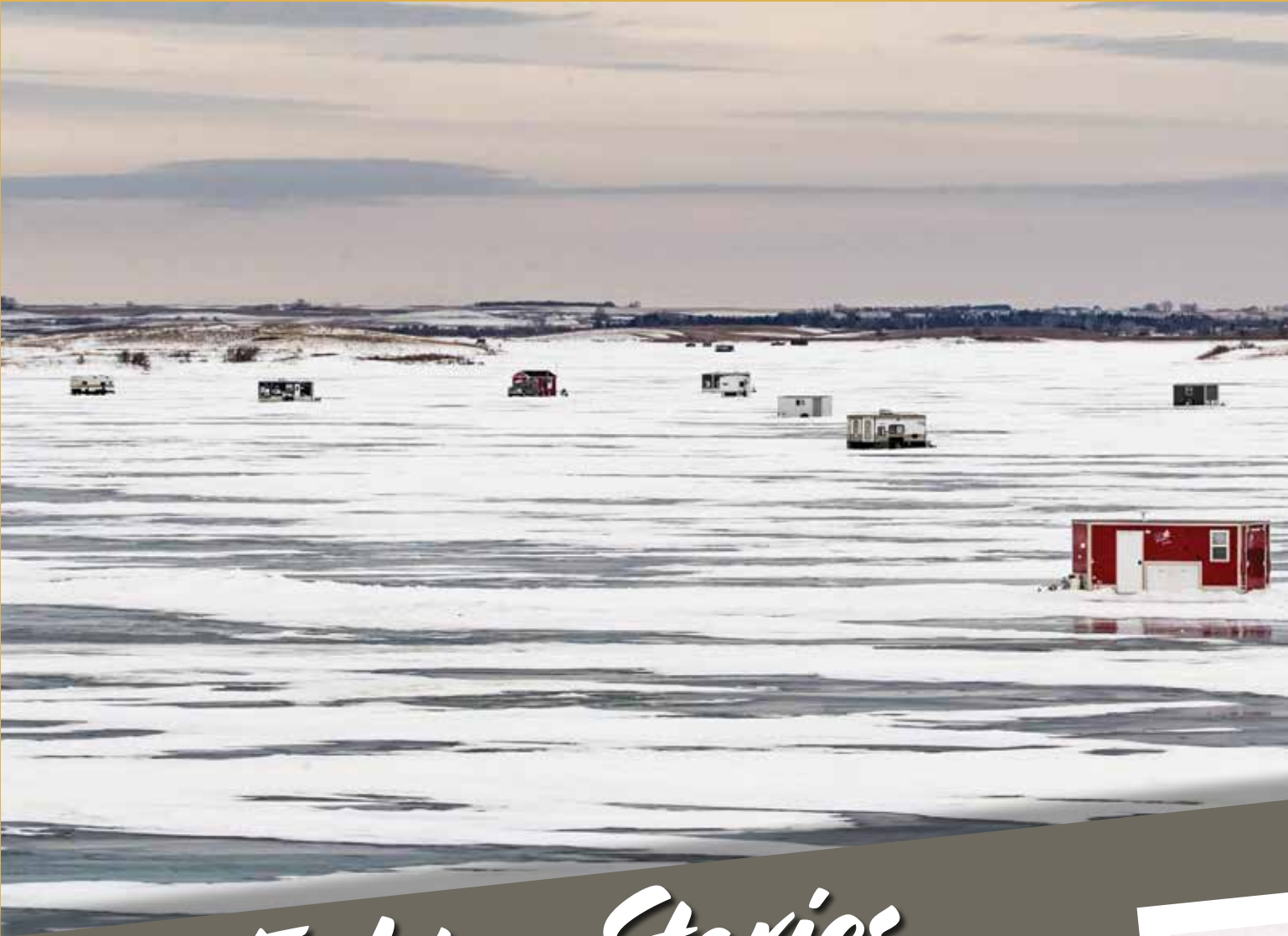
Pronghorn

- A limited pronghorn season was offered for the fifth consecutive year in 10 hunting units.
- 1,080 – Number of licenses available to hunters, up 667 from 2017.
- 11,169 – Number of people who applied for available licenses, up 2,413 from 2017.

Mule deer buck licenses are coveted and difficult to draw. This held true in 2018.



CRAIG BIRLE



Fishing Stories, Measuring Angler Success

By Ron Wilson

Erica Seigny has heard her share of fishing stories this winter. As a winter creel clerk for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department on Lake Audubon, Seigny knocks on ice house doors to ask ice anglers a few simple questions about their fishing trip.

“I haven’t run into anyone who wouldn’t answer my questions,” said Seigny, a North Dakota State University graduate who has worked with the Department’s wildlife division in summers past. “Some of them, especially if they catch a fish when I’m there, don’t want me to leave because they think I’m good luck.”





Ice fishing houses dot the frozen Lake Audubon landscape.

TY STOCKTON



MIKE ANDERSON

Erica Sevigny records creel survey information that will be analyzed by fisheries biologists down the road.



MIKE ANDERSON

Erica Sevigny, Game and Fish Department creel clerk, hasn't had any problems this winter getting ice anglers on Lake Audubon to answer a few simple questions.



MIKE ANDERSON

As luck would have it, at least for those anglers who consider Sevigny a lucky charm, Game and Fish will continue its winter creel survey on the popular fishery in central North Dakota until the end of March, or whenever anglers can no longer venture onto the ice safely to fish.

The Game and Fish Department conducts a creel survey in summer and winter on Lake Audubon every three years. During the open water months, creel clerks interview anglers at the boat ramps as they are leaving after a day of fishing.

When the lake is iced-over, creel clerks take a different approach.

“In winter, the creel clerks travel out on the ice to talk to anglers because there are just so many places to fish on the lake, including Lake Audubon

refuge, which is closed to open water fishing,” said Jason Lee, Department district fisheries supervisor in Riverdale. “They’ll work a certain area on a certain day, or a couple areas on a certain day. What they’re trying to get is complete trip information, rather than just interviewing someone who has been fishing for 15 minutes or a half-hour.”

Scott Gangl, Department fisheries management section leader, said there are three components – fish, habitat and anglers – to a North Dakota fishery, Lake Audubon included.

“As anglers are one of the main components of a fisheries management plan, we on occasion want to sample these people to gather information on fishing pressure, the number of fish caught, released and total harvest,”

Gangl said. “Creel surveys are another monitoring tool that allows us to gather information that helps in the management of a fishery.”

The angler interviews are short, simple and to the point. Sevigny asks anglers what species they are primarily fishing for, how long they’ve been fishing, zip code and what they’ve caught.

“If those anglers interviewed have fish that they’ve caught, the creel clerks ask if they can measure them, which is information that we’ll compile at the end of the year,” Lee said. “This information tells us, for example, the biggest fish they catch and keep, or the smallest fish they catch and keep.

“During the open water creel survey on Audubon, for example, we learned that 88 percent of the northern pike and smallmouth bass caught

Erica Sevigny measures a yellow perch caught on Lake Audubon earlier this winter.



were released,” Lee added. “And with walleye, 50 percent were released, I suspect because they were smaller fish they didn’t want to keep. This kind of information is interesting to fisheries biologists managing the fishery.”

With the promise of several more weeks of winter and little idea how things will unfold weatherwise, Lee said Mother Nature has so far made it easy for anglers and creel clerks to access Lake Audubon.

“The more interviews the creel clerks can conduct, the better our catch-rate information,” Lee said. “We try to randomize to some degree when we’re out checking on anglers to get a look at the entire fishing day, rather than just focusing on the sundown walleye bite.”

Anglers, no matter the time of day their ice fishing outing started, are also asked to rank the quality of their trip.

“This gives us an overall idea of how well they’re enjoying their fishing experience,” Lee said. “Without their

help in the creel survey, we wouldn’t have any of this valuable information. In general, anglers have been great about taking a few minutes out of their trip, or at the end of their trip, to talk to creel clerks about what they caught, their experiences and if they harvested any fish.”

While North Dakota’s more popular waters, such as the Missouri River System, Lake Audubon and Devils Lake, are surveyed routinely, but not every year, Gangl said the Game and Fish Department will survey other smaller waters when questions need to be answered.

In 2015, for example, a winter creel survey was initiated in the south central part of the state to learn, among other things, who was fishing, where they were from, and what they were catching.

Instead of a lake specific survey, the survey was based in a region where biologists could travel from lake to lake,

depending on where the hot bite was happening, to interview anglers.

At the time of the survey, Gangl said: “What we’re after is the size, catch rates, species and the quality of the fishing experience. Are anglers keeping medium-sized fish, small fish, only big fish, and what is their preference?”

No matter the location of the creel survey, or time of year, Gangl said the opportunity to simply talk with anglers, to put a face with the agency managing the fisheries, is important.

“A big benefit is that we, as an agency, get to interact with the angling population on things other than biology,” he said. “We learn how far anglers are traveling to fish certain waters and we get to gauge their satisfaction. We don’t have a lot of control over what makes people happy, but they are generally happy when they are catching fish.”

RON WILSON is editor of North Dakota OUTDOORS.



*Jackie Lundstrom,
Department
enforcement division
operations supervisor,
with a dandy
whitetail buck shot by
poachers in Burleigh
County.*

RON WILSON



2018 ENFORCEMENT DIVISION REVIEW

Editor's Note: For years, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department reported a summary of violations in the January issue of North Dakota OUTDOORS. Because the summary was based on the agency's fiscal year, some of the statistics were more than a year old when finally published.

Times change.

Today, and for the last several years, everyone in the Department's enforcement division, from game wardens in the field to those in the agency's headquarters in Bismarck, can immediately retrieve the current information they need.

While the goal of a contemporary records system is to assist in improving overall enforcement operations, providing a summary of violations for the calendar year that just ended is also a benefit to readers.

BIG GAME	
Hunting in closed season	3
Failure to wear fluorescent orange	10
Tagging violations	21
CWD violations	10
Killing wrong species or sex	7
Other big game violations	6
Total	57

SMALL GAME	
Using gun able to hold more than 3 shells	60
Hunting in closed season	3
Illegal possession/taking	5
Exceeding limit	17
Failure to leave identification or sex of game	56
Killing wrong sex or species	9
Nontoxic shot violation	9
Failure to carry federal waterfowl stamp	8
Wanton waste	6
Hunting in unharvested field	15
Other small game violations	54
Total	242

BOATING	
Use of unlicensed or unnumbered boat	52
Failure to display boat registration	58
Operating without lights at night	35
Inadequate number of PFDs	214
Water skiing violations	16
Reckless or negligent operation	4
Operating vessel under influence/intoxicated	9
Other boating violations	57
Total	445

FISHING	
Fishing with excessive lines	78
Exceeding limit	187
Fishing in closed/restricted area	15
Failure to attend lines	29
Use of illegal live baitfish	16
ANS violation	86
Paddlefish violations	9
Other fishing violations	67
Total	487

FURBEARER	
Shining (using artificial light)	8
Illegal possession/taking	6
Harassing furbearers with motor vehicle	1
Other furbearer violations	19
Total	34

GENERAL	
Use of motor vehicle off established trail	4
Use of motor vehicle in restricted area	34
Hunting on posted land without permission	54
Hunting before/after legal hours	34
Wanton waste	2
Aid in concealment of unlawful game	2
Hunting in wrong unit/closed area	5
Loaded firearm in motor vehicle	60
Discharge of firearm within/on motor vehicle	7
440 yard violation	10
Littering	42
Other general violations	9
Total	263

LICENSING	
Failure to sign/affix stamp	7
Hunting/fishing/trapping without proper license	219
Failure to carry license on person	347
Misrepresentation on license or application	9
Other licensing violations	12
Total	594

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS/REFUGE	
Failure to obey posted regulations	50
Tree stand violations	7
Possession of glass beverage containers	21
Baiting on WMA	1
Prohibited uses of motor vehicles	4
Other WMA/refuge violations	5
Total	88

MISCELLANEOUS	
Possession of controlled substance	25
Possession of drug paraphernalia	20
Open container	21
Minor in possession	48
Criminal trespass	27
Other miscellaneous	66
Total	180

COMMERCIAL	
Commercial violations	13
Total	13

Incidents 2018 – Top 10 Counties

(An incident is defined as any situation that requires a response from a game warden. It does not have to be a crime. The situation could be, for example, a stranded angler.)

- Ramsey – 223
- McKenzie – 213
- Burleigh – 196
- Williams – 188
- McLean – 160
- Cass – 147
- Richland – 141
- Ward – 131
- Stutsman – 110
- Morton – 110

Citations 2018 – Top 10 Counties

- Ramsey – 343
- Williams – 227
- McKenzie – 202
- Burleigh – 107
- Stutsman – 94
- Benson – 90
- McLean – 79
- Richland – 78
- Mountrail – 64
- Morton – 62



Erik Schmidt, Department district game warden stationed in Linton, checks fishing licenses on Dry Lake in McIntosh County.

TY STOCKTON



North Dakota Game and Fish Department wardens, assisted by local law enforcement officers, on patrol on the Missouri River.

CRAIG BHIRLE

a Warden's



I'm often asked ...

what I like best about being a game warden. The answer is easy: No two days are the same and the job changes with the seasons.

Every time my phone rings, it's only a guess if it's a routine call about clarifying a hunting regulation or something you'd never expect. Maybe the best way to illustrate this is to relay the events of one day in November 2017.

My neighbor asked about going on a ride-along and I suggested a weekend during North Dakota's deer gun season. When the day arrived, we met in the morning, hopped in my work truck and headed out.

Earlier, I'd made arrangements with the Game and Fish Department's warden pilot to fly an area to search for hunting activity. It didn't take long for him to find some.

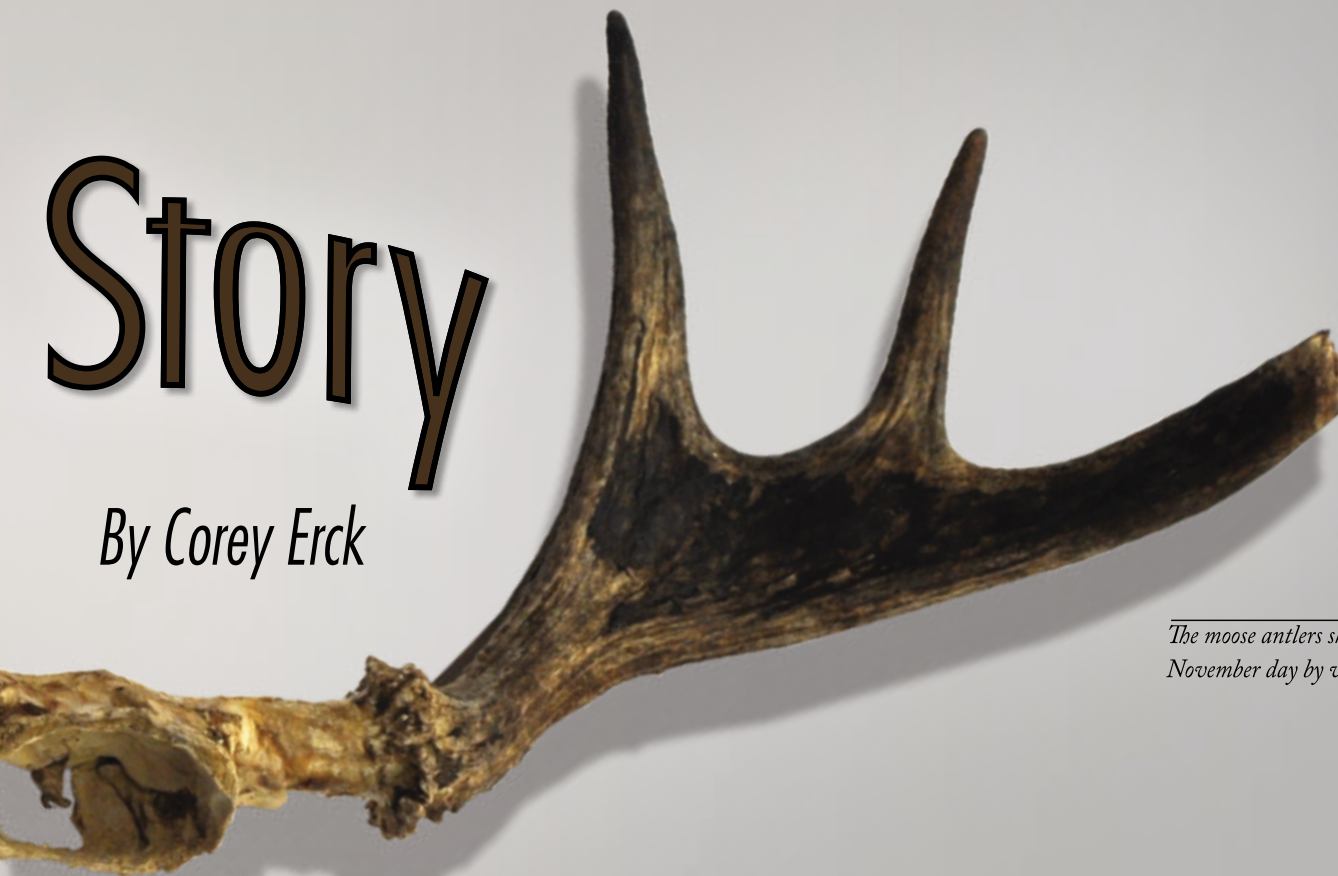
When we were northeast of Bismarck, I received a radio call from warden pilot Jeff Sieger, who was watching what he suspected was a deer hunter driving off-trail. The next thing you know we are driving down a section line, with the suspected violator driving ahead of us, and the plane above.

The driver turned off the section line down the edge of a field to drive around the next slough that he wanted to "hunt." I pulled in behind him and hit my lights. He stopped and I walked up to the pickup and confirmed my suspicions. Inside were two people dressed in blaze orange, with a rifle on the seat between them. After a short discussion about where you can and cannot drive while deer hunting, I issued a citation



Story

By Corey Erck



The moose antlers shot on that November day by warden Corey Erck.

and the driver limped his old pickup back to the section line and they headed on their way.

When deer hunting activity slowed for the morning, we pulled over to grab a bite to eat. I was feeling pretty good about how the morning went. The last thing I wanted was to take someone on a ride-along and have no excitement all day.

Then the phone rang.

The call wasn't from someone looking to get a question answered, it was a report that deer hunters found two bull moose, one of which was already dead, locked together by their antlers.

Twenty minutes later we pulled into a small grove of trees where a few vehicles had gathered. In the past I've used a rifle to shoot the antlers of deer locked together. With the moose, I decided to use my 12-gauge shotgun loaded with slugs.

As I approached the clearing that was once a small farmstead, I could only make out a mass of dark fur on the ground. The moose that was alive was bedded, exhausted from struggling with its rival.

Inching closer, trying to get a better look through the tall grass and brush, the

surviving bull stood, giving me a better view of his burden.

Using a small tree as a shooting rest, I aimed at the antlers of the dead moose, fired ... and nothing. The big bull never even flinched at the sound of the shotgun blast, so I loaded another slug. The second shot, just as loud as the first, had the same result. The moose didn't even wiggle an ear.

Aware that my audience must have wondered if I knew what I was doing, I loaded a third slug and repositioned on the little tree. I aimed at a different spot on the antlers of the dead moose, pulled the trigger and the standing behemoth reared back, finally free from his predicament.

The next thing I know, he turned toward me and the small tree between us. Thankfully, for both of us, he whirled, cleared the trees and trotted down the edge of the field out of sight.

Our attention then turned to the dead moose. I hoped that we could salvage the meat, but it was evident by the smell that the animal had been dead too long.

It was decided that the head would be collected and taken to the Game and Fish

Department's wildlife lab for testing. As I started to cut through the thick hide it was obvious what had killed the smaller moose as the base of his skull and the first neck vertebrae weren't connected. I also noticed two 12-gauge-sized holes about an inch apart on one of his ears. It was good to know that I had hit where I was aiming with the first two shots, but in the mass of antler, fur and brush I had mistaken the rounded edge of the ear for part of the antler.

Two moose locked at the antlers exceeded my expectations of hoping for some excitement for my neighbor to experience as we spent the day together. Later, I was told by the Department wildlife veterinarian that this was likely only the second instance of moose being locked together in North Dakota.

So, as this incident proves, the life of a game warden is one that sometimes revolves around what the next phone call will bring, and also why I don't have to struggle to come up with an answer when asked about my favorite part of the job.

COREY ERCK is a Game and Fish Department district game warden stationed in Bismarck.



BUFFALOBERRY PATCH

By Greg Freeman, Department News Editor



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Game and Fish Offers Wildlife Food Plot Seed

Landowners interested in planting wildlife food plots for pheasants can now sign up to receive free seed from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for the 2019 growing season.

Rather than a more traditional corn or sunflower food plot, Game and Fish is offering a seed mix that provides increased plant diversity, including flowering plants from spring through fall, which will attract insects, the major diet component of pheasant chicks. Additionally, the mix will provide needed cover during spring and summer, as well as a winter food source. Other wildlife species will also benefit from this mix.

“In the past, Game and Fish food plots have been mostly tied to a Private

Land Open to Sportsmen walking access contract,” said Kevin Kading, Game and Fish private land section leader. “This new promotion does not require a PLOTS contract, but we are asking participating landowners to allow reasonable public access, which could mean simply providing access permission to hunters from time to time, putting up ‘Ask Before You Enter’ signs around the area, or not posting the surrounding land.”

Kading added that landowners participating in this promotion cannot charge a fee for hunting.

The Department will provide enough seed to cover up to a maximum 5-acre planting at no cost to the landowner.

Landowners who are interested in

receiving the food plot seed must sign up on the Game and Fish website at gf.nd.gov by March 31, 2019.

Seed will be available in April for participants to pick up at Game and Fish offices in Bismarck and Dickinson this first year. In future years seed for this promotion may be available at other locations in the state.

Game and Fish private land biologists can provide technical assistance on food plot location and site preparation.

Landowners who are interested in additional financial incentives may be considered for the PLOTS program as well. More information is available by contacting a private land biologist at any Game and Fish office in the state, or email ndgf@nd.gov.



Hunting and Fishing Legislation

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is tracking hunting and fishing issues during the 2019 legislative session.

Interested outdoor enthusiasts can

follow proposed outdoors-related bills by visiting the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov. The legislation tracking feature will remain active until the session ends.

A brief description of each bill will be included, along with the bill sponsor and hearing schedule. To view each bill in its entirety, click on the linked bill number.

Walleye for the Ages

Someone once said, tongue in cheek, that age is not that big of a deal unless you're talking about cheese.

Russ Kinzler, Game and Fish Department Missouri River System fisheries biologist, would likely argue that in his line of work, it also matters if you're talking about walleye.

Last winter, while counting the age rings on a magnified otolith, or ear bone, from a walleye netted in Lake Sakakawea in summer 2017, Kinzler counted two dozen rings, making that 24-year-old fish the oldest known walleye ever taken from the big lake by fisheries biologists.

That mark, interestingly, stood for just one year.

In January 2019, Kinzler aged a

walleye at 27 years, making it the new old-age standard in walleye caught by fisheries biologists from Lake Sakakawea.

Kinzler said the sex of the walleye is unknown, but he did say that it measured 25.2 inches when it was collected in July 2018 during the Department's annual adult fish sampling efforts.

"This is a pretty old walleye," Kinzler said.

For comparison, Kinzler checked with a fisheries biologist in Montana and the oldest known walleye taken in the Missouri River System in that neck of the woods was 26.

"I did some looking around online and the oldest walleye I could find was 29 years old from somewhere in Canada," he said. "That doesn't mean there

aren't older ones out there ... that's just what I could find."

Kinzler said the growth data collected from counting otolith rings from Sakakawea's walleye, and also sauger and rainbow smelt, indicates how healthy the fishery is and provides an estimate on how many fish are lost out of the system each year.

Kinzler said he has aged hundreds of fish from Sakakawea this winter. One of the first walleye ear bones he examined under a microscope was 23 years old.

"I thought, geez, that's pretty close to the one last year," he said.

But it wasn't until he counted many more that he aged the 27-year-old fish.

"I thought we might hit 25 years, but not 27," Kinzler said. "I can't imagine an older one out there."



BY STOCKRON

Midwinter Waterfowl Survey

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department’s annual midwinter waterfowl survey in early January indicated about 99,000 Canada geese in the state.

Andy Dinges, Department migratory game bird biologist, said that number likely would have been higher, but the blizzard that hit North Dakota in late December undoubtedly pushed some birds south prior to the survey.

“However, with the warming period and subsequent snow melt that occurred after the storm, wintering

conditions remained generally favorable,” Dinges said. “We still ended up holding on to a fair number of Canada geese in the state.”

During the survey, an estimated 77,000 Canada geese were observed on the Missouri River, and another 11,000 were observed on Lake Sakakawea, which still had substantial open water on the lower portion of the lake. In addition, about 9,000 Canada geese were observed on Nelson Lake in Oliver County.

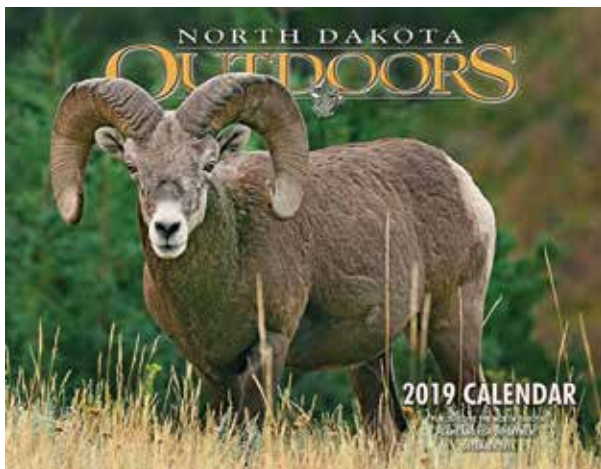
Lake Sakakawea officially iced over

on January 12, just days after the aerial survey was completed.

Dinges said after summarizing the numbers, an additional 5,300 mallards were tallied statewide, most of which were recorded on Nelson Lake.

The 10-year average (2009-18) for the midwinter survey in North Dakota is 87,800 Canada geese and 21,600 mallards.

All states participate in the midwinter survey during the same time frame, to reduce the possibility of counting birds more than once.



Order 2019 *OUTDOORS* Calendars

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is still taking orders for its *North Dakota OUTDOORS* calendar, the source for all hunting season and application dates for 2019.

To order online, visit “buy and apply” at the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov, or 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.



TY STOCKTON

NASP Tourney Slated for March

The North Dakota National Archery in the Schools Program state tournament is scheduled for March 22-23 at the State Fair Center in Minot. The tournament will feature competition in bullseye, or Olympic style, and 3-D.

The tournament consists of team and individual competition in elementary, middle school and high school, including awards and prizes, and up to \$20,000 in college scholarships available to the top 10 boys and girls in each grade division.

Additionally, the top 10 boys and girls qualify for NASP nationals in Louisville, Kentucky. The top prize in the 3-D competition is an all-inclusive pronghorn hunt in Wyoming.

The state tournament and all other local and regional NASP tournaments are open to any student in grades 4-12 who attend a school that offers NASP lessons during the school day. If a school has an after-school club, third-graders are also welcome, with permission from the coach and principal.

For a complete listing of tournaments in North Dakota, go to the official NASP tournament website at nasptournaments.org. A certified NASP archery instructor must register participants for all NASP tournaments.

For more information, or to find out if your child's school participates in NASP, contact Jeff Long, North Dakota state coordinator, at jrlong@nd.gov, or call 701-328-6322.

Hunter Education Classes

Individuals interested in taking a hunter education class in 2019 are reminded to register early as most classes are held the first few months of the calendar year.

Interested students must click on the education link at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov. Classes are listed by city and can also be sorted by start date. Classes will be added throughout the year as they become finalized.

To register for a class, click on "enroll" next to the specific class, and follow the simple instructions. Personal information is required.

Individuals interested in receiving a notice by email when each hunter education class is added can click on the "subscribe to news and alerts" link found below the news section on the Game and Fish home page. Check the box labeled "hunter education" under the education program updates.

In addition, SMS text notifications of new classes can be sent directly to a cell phone. Simply text "NDGF HunterClass" to 468311 to subscribe to this feature.

State law requires anyone born after December 31, 1961 to pass a certified hunter education course to hunt in the state. Hunter education is mandatory for youth who are turning 12 years old. Children who turn age 11 during the calendar year can take the class.



TY STOCKTON

State law requires removal of permanent fish houses from North Dakota waters by midnight March 15.

Anglers are advised to use caution because mild weather conditions can quickly result in unstable ice conditions.

Fish houses may be used after March 15 if they are removed daily.

In addition, it is illegal to leave fish houses on any federal refuge land or on any state-owned or managed land after March 15.



CRAIG BIRRIE

Spring Light Goose Conservation Order

North Dakota's spring light goose conservation order opens February 23 and continues through May 12.

Residents must have a valid current season 2018-19 (valid through March 31) or 2019-20 (required April 1) combination license; or a small game, and general game and habitat license. The 2019-20 license is available for purchase beginning March 15.

Nonresidents need a 2019 spring light goose conservation order license. The cost is \$50 and is valid statewide. Nonresidents who hunt in the spring remain eligible to buy a fall season license. The spring license does not count against the 14-day fall waterfowl hunting season regulation.

In addition, nonresident youth under age 16 can purchase a license

at the resident fee if their state has youth reciprocity licensing with North Dakota.

A federal duck stamp is not required for either residents or nonresidents.

Resident and nonresident licenses are available online at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov, at license vendors, or by calling 800-406-6409.

Hunters must register annually with the Harvest Information Program prior to hunting in each state. The HIP number can be obtained online, or by calling 888-634-4798. The HIP number obtained for North Dakota's

spring conservation order is also valid for North Dakota's fall hunting season.

The Game and Fish Department will provide hunters with migration updates once geese have entered the state. Hunters can access the department's website, or call 701-328-3697, to receive generalized locations of bird sightings in North Dakota until the season ends or geese have left the state. Migration reports will be updated periodically during the week.

The spring conservation order is only open to light geese – snows, blues, and Ross's. Species identification is important because white-fronted and Canada geese travel with light geese. The conservation order is closed to whitefronts, Canada geese, swans and all other migratory birds.

North Dakota ANS Plan on Web

The North Dakota Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan, an update of the original version prepared in 2005, is available for viewing on the state Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov.

Completed and revised by the North Dakota Aquatic Invasive Species Committee, the goal of the 25-page plan “is to prevent the introduction and spread of ANS into and within North Dakota while mitigating ecological, economic and social impacts of existing populations where feasible.”

NDAISC is comprised of state, tribal, local and private stakeholders to guide ANS efforts across the state.

Winter Anglers Reminded to Clean Up Ice

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department reminds winter anglers to clean up the ice after fishing. This not only applies to trash, but fish as well.

It is not only unsightly, but it is illegal to leave fish, including minnows used for bait, behind on the ice. According to state fishing regulations, when a fish is caught, anglers must either immediately release the fish back into the water unharmed, or reduce them to their daily possession.

It is common practice for some anglers to fillet fish on the ice, which is allowed if fish entrails and other parts are removed from the ice and properly disposed of at home.

In addition, all trash, including aluminum cans, cigarette butts and Styrofoam containers, must be packed out and taken home.

Watchable Wildlife Checkoff on State Tax Form

North Dakota citizens with an interest in supporting wildlife conservation programs are reminded to look for the Watchable Wildlife checkoff on the state tax form.

The state income tax form gives wildlife enthusiasts an opportunity to support nongame wildlife like songbirds and birds of prey, while at the same time contributing to programs that help everyone enjoy all wildlife.

The checkoff – whether you are receiving a refund or having to pay in – is an easy way to voluntarily contribute to sustain this long standing program. In addition, direct donations to the program are accepted any time of year.

To learn more about Watchable Wildlife program activities, visit the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website at gf.nd.gov.

Nonresident Any-deer Bow Licenses

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will have 607 any-deer bow licenses available to nonresidents in 2019.

Applicants must apply online at the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov. Paper applications are not available. The deadline for applying is March 1.

Up to five hunters can apply together as a party. A lottery will be held if more applications are received than licenses available. Any remaining licenses after March 1 will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

The number of nonresident any-deer bow licenses available is 15 percent of the previous year’s mule deer gun license allocation. The Game and Fish Department issued 4,050 mule deer licenses in the 2018 deer gun license lottery.

Elk, Moose, Bighorn Sheep Deadline

Elk, moose and bighorn sheep applications must be submitted online before midnight March 27.

To apply online, visit the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov, beginning in mid-March. Paper applications are not available.

Hunters who have received a license through the lottery in the past are not eligible to apply for that species again.



CRAIG BIRHLE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Randy Hiltner, Department fisheries supervisor in Devils Lake, (third from right), with members of the Harvey Wildlife Club.

Fisheries Division Recognizes Harvey Wildlife Club

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has honored the Harvey Wildlife Club for its ongoing efforts to develop and maintain public use facilities at numerous lake and recreation areas.

The club was recognized for its construction of boat ramps, courtesy docks, fishing piers, roads and parking areas at many lakes, including Harvey Dam, Antelope Lake, Goose Lake and Coal Mine Lake.

The Game and Fish Department's fisheries division annually presents a certificate of appreciation to an organization that has signed on as a cooperating partner in local projects.

STAFF NOTES

Kreft Earns NDWF Award

Bruce Kreft, North Dakota Game and Fish Department resource biologist, was named Conservationist of the Year for 2018 by the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

According to the NDWF, the award goes to an individual who is making a significant contribution to the management and/or restoration of wildlife.

Kreft is the Department's primary contact on development projects that impact aquatic resources, as well as those pertaining to highway and bridge construction. He has provided consultation and recommendations to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate the impacts to the state's wildlife and their habitats.



Bruce Kreft



The state Game and Fish Department's annual Earth Day awareness campaign is accepting entries for design of a 2019 Earth Day patch. North Dakota students ages 6-18 are eligible to participate. The deadline for submitting entries is March 15.

The Game and Fish Department will announce a winner in three age categories – 6-9, 10-13 and 14-18. Each winner will receive a pair of binoculars. The final patch design will be chosen from the three winners.

The winning design will be used on a patch given to members of Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs and any school participating in Earth Day cleanup projects on state-owned or managed lands in North Dakota in April and May.

The patch should incorporate some aspect of Earth Day – celebrated April 22 – or keeping North Dakota clean. It must be round and three inches in diameter. There is a limit of five colors on the patch, and lettering must be printed. Name, address, age and phone number of the contestant must be clearly printed on the entry form. Only one entry per person is allowed.

Earth Day contest rules and entry forms are available on the Game and Fish Department's website, gf.nd.gov. For more information, contact outreach biologist Pat Lothspeich by email at ndgf@nd.gov, or call 701-328-6332.

back cast



A record number of nearly 28,200 northern pike were taken during the 2017-18 darkhouse spearfishing season in North Dakota.

And we didn't contribute a lick.

In a land of about 450 managed fishing waters, the majority of which are open to spearfishing for pike and nongame fish, we didn't get out.

While I don't remember everything that got in the way, I do recall disappointing reports of poor visibility on those waters we typically frequented.

So, maybe we were mostly undone last winter by murky waters, plus a certain amount of indifference to exploring new lakes in the state's leanest months.

While I wouldn't call it a hot tip, we did get word sometime in January of this winter of a lake in McLean County with good visibility and a pike population to match.

The lake was roughly 90 minutes from Bismarck, I was told, there was a chance the gravel road into the lake might be blown shut, and if it wasn't, the access point on to the lake likely was, which meant we'd have to pull a sled loaded with our gear an undetermined distance.

We left the following morning.

While spearing a pike that swims into the 3- to 4-foot window in what passes for the darkhouse floor is cool, it's also the most anticlimactic part of the outing.

The intrigue is the unknown, the unanswered until it happens. Will a fish rush out of nowhere and hit the submerged, red and white decoy at full speed? Or will it slip nonchalantly into view, with the swagger of an undefeated boxer as it eyes the fake wooden bait?

If you have a new pickled pike recipe (an unbeatable appetizer with some onions and crackers, the recipe's author says) that you've been wanting to try, then you hope it's the latter because you don't stand a snowball's chance at spearing one that screams beneath the hole unannounced.

Minutes after getting set up, zipping the windows and doors to shut out the light, and settling in on camouflage stools we last used dove hunting sometime in September, we spear our first fish, a 3- to 4-pound northern.

I unzip the darkhouse door, toss the pike on the ice and look around. The area we are spearing is no secret. Old spear holes are marked here and there with tree limbs and other brush for safety reasons.

Yet, today, we have the place to ourselves.

Between pike and jigging the wooden decoy, we talk, eat chips, jerky and ham and cheese sliders leftover from the football games the day before.

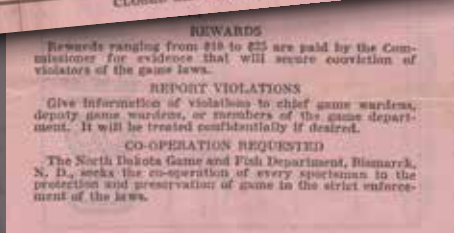
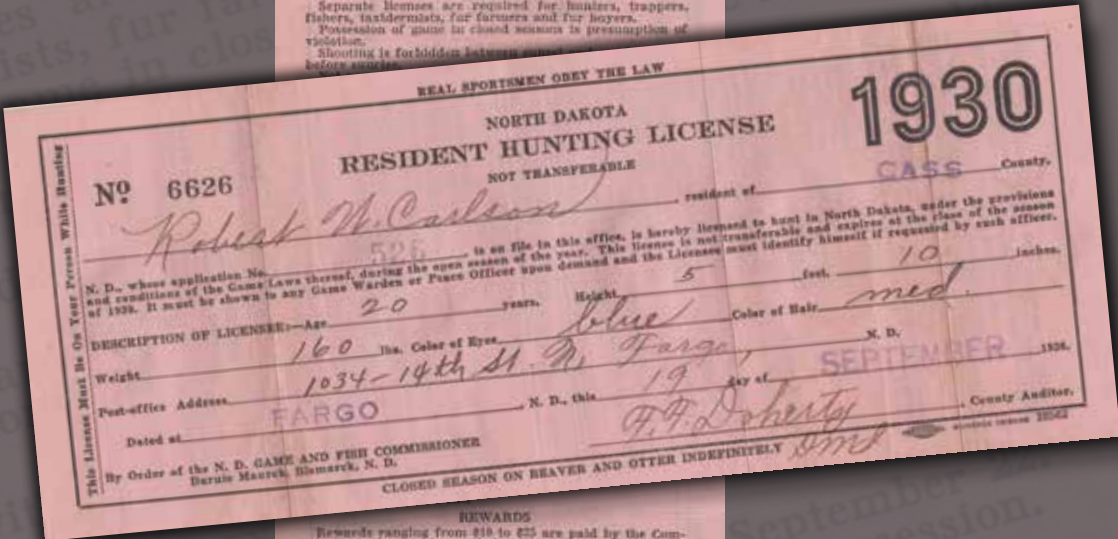
In the distance, we can hear the occasional vehicle traveling the gravel farm to market road. The unmistakable sound of a small airplane flies overhead, heading to who knows where. But there is a noise, not loud, but

unusual, that doesn't register.

Once outside, after I again unzip the darkhouse door and duck, I spy a shaggy, black and white dog lying atop the snow and ice flecked in blood, eating our pike. And as quickly as I write this sentence, the animal picks up its mostly frozen treat and beats feet, stopping only once to look back at a laughing man in dirty insulated bib overalls, before disappearing into trees surrounding a farm yard a quarter-mile south.

As I said, killing a fish with primitive gear is the most anticlimactic part of darkhouse spearfishing.

RON WILSON is editor of *North Dakota OUTDOORS*.



A LOOK BACK By Ron Wilson

This dated resident hunting license was found stored in a white envelope between pages 3-4 of the September 1931 issue of *North Dakota OUTDOORS*.

While the who and why the nearly 90-year-old hunting license was slid between those pages will likely remain a whodunit, what's interesting is the year – 1930 – the license was issued to Robert Carlson of Fargo.

In 1929, state legislators passed a law for a game and fish commissioner to take over the duties of a five-member Game and Fish Board of Control and move the operation to Bismarck.

The move, made to better conserve the state's wildlife resources, was approved by voters in June 1930, marking the beginning of the Game and Fish Department as we know it today.

So, what we have here is a resident hunting license issued the year the North Dakota Game and Fish Department officially came into being.

In those nearly 90 years, times have certainly changed. And you really don't have to look much further than the backside of this 1930 hunting license which reveals:

- No spring shooting allowed.
- No hunting with dogs.
- Quail, Hungarian partridge and pheasants are protected at all times.
- Antelope protected indefinitely.
- Deer protected indefinitely.
- Prairie chickens, grouse, or combination bag limit is five birds per day.
- Not permitted to place prairie chickens or grouse in cold storage.

Penalties for:

- Having over two days' bag limit in your possession.
- Having ducks, geese and brant in possession or in storage, unless holder has a license.
- Shooting wild game from a moving boat or from a boat in open water.
- Using artificial blinds.
- Impersonating game wardens

In closing:

“The North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Bismarck, N.D., seeks the cooperation of every sportsman in the protection and preservation of game in the strict enforcement of the laws.”

Nearly 90 years later, that certainly remains the same.

RON WILSON is editor of *North Dakota OUTDOORS*.