

## **NDG&F October 26th Newsletter**

### **District Warden Looking to Solve Poaching Incidents**

North Dakota Game and Fish Department district game warden Keenan Snyder is seeking information on several illegal-taking-of-wildlife incidents over the last month in the Williston and Watford City areas. Anyone with information on the following incidents is asked to call the Report All Poachers telephone number at 800-472-2121, or contact Snyder at 701-770-1072. RAP is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any of these individuals.

- Sept. 10 – a headless whitetail buck was found at Demicks Lake;
- Sept. 23 – a mule deer doe had been shot and left on an approach at Tobacco Gardens along N.D. Highway 1806;
- Oct. 16 – at approximately 6 p.m. a pronghorn buck was shot and left at the Demick's Lake area. Reporting individuals stated the poachers were driving a lifted four-door red Chevrolet pickup with no rear license plate;
- Oct. 17 – during the evening hours a 5x5 whitetail buck was shot and left at Ochs Wildlife Management Area southwest of Williston;
- Oct. 17 – three mule deer does were shot and left approximately 8 miles north of Watford City. One had the hind quarters and backstraps removed, another had the backstraps removed and one was left intact.

In addition, on Oct. 18 at noon a concerned citizen reported an individual shot and killed a pronghorn buck and two does approximately 5 miles northeast of Watford City off of N.D. Highway 1806. The individual was tracked down by warden Snyder and charges are pending.

The RAP line offers rewards for information that leads to conviction of fish and wildlife law violators. Reporting parties can remain anonymous.

### **Donate Deer to Sportsmen Against Hunger**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is reminding deer hunters to keep in mind the Sportsmen Against Hunger program this fall.

While this year's deer proclamation allows only one deer gun license per hunter, families with more than one license might want to consider donating a deer to this worthy cause. In addition, hunters with an archery and muzzleloader license can help as well.

The list of [participating processors](#) is available on the Game and Fish Department website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov), and the [Sportsmen Against Hunger](#) link at the North Dakota Community Action Partnership website, [www.capnd.org](http://www.capnd.org).

Sportsmen Against Hunger is a charitable program that raises money for processing of donated goose and deer meat, and coordinates distribution of donated meat to food pantries in North Dakota. It is administered by NDCAP, a nonprofit agency that serves low-income families across the state.

For more information, visit the NDCAP website, or contact program coordinator Sarah Hasbargen at 701-232-2452.

### **CWD Surveillance Continues**

The State Game and Fish Department will continue its [Hunter-Harvested Surveillance program during the 2015 hunting season](#), by sampling deer for chronic wasting disease and bovine tuberculosis from 17 units in North Dakota. In addition, all moose and elk harvested in the state are eligible for testing.

Samples from hunter-harvested deer taken in the western portion of the state will be tested from units 3A1, 3A2, 3A3, 3B1, 3B2, 3D1, 3D2, 3E1, 3E2, 3F1, 3F2, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F.

Every head sampled must have either the deer tag attached, or a new tag can be filled out with the license number, deer hunting unit and date harvested.

Hunters are encouraged to drop off deer heads at the following locations:

- Belfield – Superpumper
- Bowman – Frontier Travel Center
- Bismarck – Game and Fish Department headquarters, West Dakota Meats, Call of the Wild Taxidermy
- Crosby – Crosby Water Plant
- Dickinson – Dickinson Game and Fish district office
- Dunn Center – Lake Ilo National Wildlife Refuge
- Elgin – Gunny’s Bait and Tackle, Melvin’s Taxidermy
- Glen Ullin – Kuntz’s Butcher Shop
- Hazen – Hazen Meats
- Hettinger – Dakota Packing
- Kenmare – Des Lacs NWR, Lostwood NWR, Kenmare Meat Processing
- Mandan – Butcher Block Meats
- Minot – Johnson Taxidermy
- Mohall – Engebretson Processing
- New Leipzig – Hertz Hardware
- Parshall – Myers Custom Meats
- Riverdale – Riverdale Game and Fish district office
- Roseglen – Giffey Taxidermy
- Scranton – Wolf’s Processing
- Stanley – Farmer’s Union
- Washburn – Enerbase

- Williston – Williston Game and Fish district office, Mertin Kirschbaum, Scenic Sports, Bickler Taxidermy
- Wilton – Cenex.

Moose and elk heads should be taken to a Game and Fish office.

CWD affects the nervous system of members of the deer family and is always fatal. Scientists have found no evidence that CWD can be transmitted naturally to humans or livestock.

### **Deer Season Questions and Answers**

Every year the [North Dakota Game and Fish Department](#) receives questions from deer hunters who want to clarify rules and regulations. Some common questions are listed below. Hunters with further questions are encouraged to call the Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6300, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. weekdays, or access the department’s website, [gf.nd.gov](#).

*What licenses do I need for deer gun season?* A fishing, hunting, and furbearer certificate, the general game and habitat stamp or a combination license, and the deer license. Gratis license holders need only the gratis license.

*Can I use my gratis license to take a mule deer doe?* Not in units 3B1, 3B2, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F.

*I shot a deer in Unit 3F2. What field dressing restrictions must I follow?* Hunters cannot transport a carcass containing the head and spinal column outside of the unit unless it’s taken directly to a meat processor. The head can be removed from the carcass and transported outside of the unit if it is to be submitted to a State Game and Fish Department district office, CWD surveillance drop-off location or a licensed taxidermist. If the deer is processed in the field to boned meat, and the hunter wants to leave the head in the field, the head must be legally tagged and the hunter must be able to return to or give the exact location of the head if requested for verification.

*I received a lottery license, and I own land in another unit. Can I hunt on my land in the other unit with my lottery license?* Only if the unit in which your land is located adjoins the unit in which you have the lottery license.

*I can’t find my deer license. What should I do?* You must obtain an application for a duplicate license from the Game and Fish Department – by calling 701-328-6300 or printing it off the website at [gf.nd.gov](#) – or from a county auditor. Fill out the form, have it notarize and return it to the Department along with a fee. You may not hunt without the deer license in your possession. If you find the original license after receiving a replacement, you must return the original to a local game warden or Game and Fish office.

*Can hunters age 14 or 15 (and qualifying 13 year olds) with a youth season license who did not harvest a deer during the youth season hunt the regular deer gun season with this license?* Yes, but you are subject to the restrictions listed on the license.

*I was unsuccessful in filling my mule deer buck license in a restricted unit during the youth season. Can I hunt the remainder of the state during the regular gun season?* No. You are restricted to the same unit as during the youth season.

*I shot a deer, but it is rotten. What can I do?* You must take possession of the animal by tagging it. A license only allows you the opportunity to hunt. It is not a guarantee to harvest a deer, or to the quality of the animal.

*What should I do if I find a wounded deer?* Contact a game warden. Do not shoot the deer unless you want to tag it, or are instructed by the warden to do so.

*Is camouflage blaze orange acceptable for the deer gun season?* No. You must wear both a hat and outer garment above the waistline totaling at least 400 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange.

*I hunt with a bow. When do I have to wear orange?* Only during the regular deer gun season.

*Can I hunt road rights-of-way?* Do not hunt on road rights-of-way unless you are certain they are open to public use. Most road rights-of-way are easements under control of the adjacent landowner and are closed to hunting when the adjacent land is posted closed to hunting.

*Can I hunt on a section line if it is posted on both sides?* No. If the land is posted on both sides, the section line is closed to hunting, but is still open for travel.

*Can I retrieve a wounded deer from posted land?* If the deer was shot on land where you had a legal right to be and it ran on posted land, you may retrieve it. However, you may not take a firearm or bow with you. The department suggests contacting the landowner as a courtesy prior to entering.

*What if the landowner says I cannot retrieve a deer from posted land that was shot on land where I had a right to be?* Contact a game warden.

*Can I drive off a trail on private land to retrieve a deer?* Unless prohibited by a landowner or operator, you may drive off-trail on private land once a deer has been killed and properly tagged. You must proceed to the carcass by the shortest accessible route, and return to the road or trail by the same route. However, off-trail driving is prohibited in all circumstances on state wildlife management areas, Bureau of Land Management lands, national wildlife refuges, national grasslands, federal waterfowl production areas and state school land.

*Can I transport someone else's deer?* Yes, but you will need a transportation permit from a game warden. The license holder, person transporting the animal, and the carcass must be presented to the game warden before the permit is issued.

*What if I am going to take my deer head to a taxidermist and meat to a butcher shop? How do I keep the tag with it all?* The tag should remain with the head and the carcass tag should remain with the meat.

*May I carry a pistol when I am hunting with a deer rifle?* Yes, but the handgun must meet minimum requirements listed in the deer hunting regulations to be legal for taking deer.

*Can I use a bow to fill my regular deer gun license?* Yes. You may use any legal firearm or bow during the regular deer gun season.

*Can I carry both bow and gun afield during deer gun season if I have both licenses?* Yes, but only if you are going to fill your gun license. No firearms, except handguns, may be in the hunter's possession while

hunting with a deer bow license. However, handguns may not be used in any manner to assist in the harvest of a deer with an archery license.