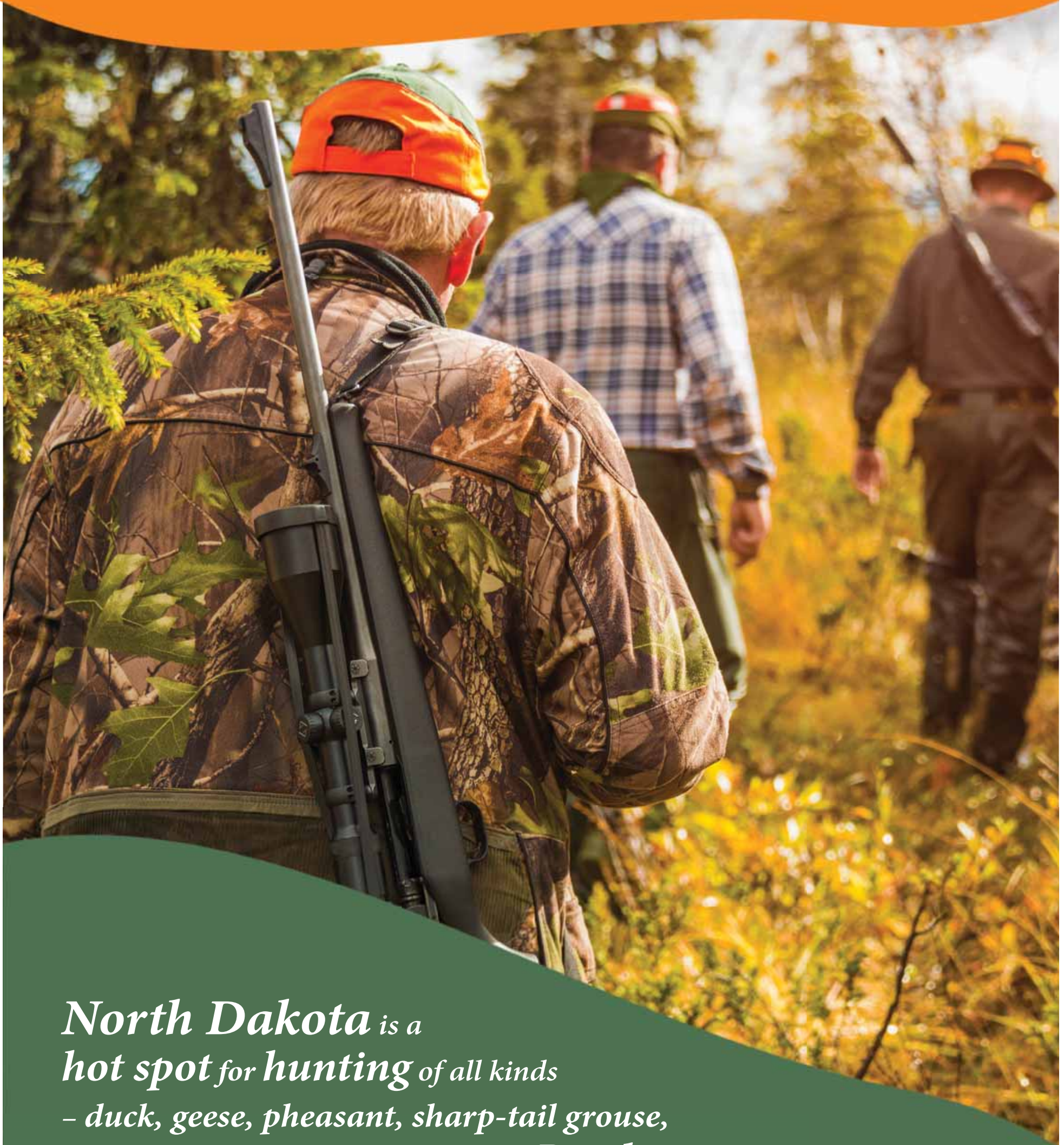


# Hunter's Haven

2021



*North Dakota is a hot spot for hunting of all kinds – duck, geese, pheasant, sharp-tail grouse, moose, whitetail deer and more. Read all about current and upcoming seasons and see messages local businesses inside!*



Molly Jochim, third from left, poses with a 200 pound black bear she shot during a hunting trip on Sept. 10. With her are her grandparents, Gary and Carol Swan, and her mother, Keri Jochim. Molly received her mentor tag from her grandmother. (Submitted)



Molly Jochim, a sixth grade student at Bob Callies Elementary School in Garrison, poses with the black bear she shot in north-central Wisconsin. (Submitted)

# Bagging a bear

Garrison youth bags 200 pound black bear during Wisconsin hunting trip

By JAMES C. FALCON  
BHG News Service

Bear hunts are nothing new for Molly Jochim. She has been on them since she was seven days old.

Of course, the now sixth-grade student at Bob Callies Elementary School wasn't holding the gun then, but she was on Sept. 10, when she shot her first bear.

Molly's trophy was bagged the first weekend of Wisconsin's bear hunting season, which started Sept. 8 and ends Oct. 12.

Through the state's mentor hunting program, Molly received a mentor tag from her grandmother, Carol Swan. Swan was also there with her granddaughter during the experience; as part of the program, it was required that she, as her mentor, was present.

Last year, Molly passed her hunter's safety course and has had her hunting license for a year. This past fall, she harvested her first deer; the black bear was the second thing she was able to harvest since she passed her hunters education course, her mother Keri Jochim pointed out.

Molly shot the bear in the area of Tomahawk, a city of about 3,400 residents in north-central Wisconsin.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the black bear population becomes more abundant as you travel north in the state. Lincoln County, a square-shaped county where Tomahawk is located, is included in that range. The department's most recent data shows that the bear population

in Wisconsin is currently estimated to be a little over 24,000 bears.

In addition to being rife with black bears, Tomahawk is where Keri was born and raised and where Molly was also born. The Jochim family moved to Garrison when Molly was five years old.

"When we used to live in Wisconsin, we used to hunt every single weekend," Molly said.

To lure the bear out into the open, bait was laid out. Once a bear stumbled across it, dogs were released to tree the bear, Molly explained.

That part of the hunt was successful. However, once the bear took to a tree, the hunt became more anxious.

"It was so scary. It jumped out of two trees. When it went up the third tree, we were all on edge and didn't know what the bear was going to do," Molly said. "I was so nervous because most bears don't do that. I've never seen anything like it. I just had to calm myself down, take deep breaths and hope everything goes as planned."

"It went up a tree, but it kept coming out of the tree," Keri said. "The dogs had a hard hunt and Molly had a hard hike through some thick tangle, a kind of brush that northern Wisconsin is known for."

But then, with a squeeze of the trigger from her rifle, the bear was down.

The bear was just shy of 200 pounds, "a nice average size bear," Keri pointed out.

Indeed a trophy, a three-quarter mount — the head and the two front feet — was created and the meat was manufactured.

Within an hour of harvest, the bear was skinned and the meat was packaged so it's good quality meat to eat, Molly said.

Bear meat can be enjoyed as if it were beef or venison, Keri said.

"You usually make hamburgers, roast, tenderloins for steak," Keri said. "The hamburger is almost a little bit of a sweeter meat, so for Sloppy Joe's or a spaghetti or chili, it's a very good meat for that."

The mentoring tag that Molly received from her grandmother had a once-in-a-lifetime use.

While she can apply for a tag,

**BEAR**  
continued on pg 3

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## North Dakota Hunting Seasons 2021-2022

### North Dakota Bighorn Sheep Seasons

General Season Oct. 29-Dec. 31  
Bighorn sheep hunting is only available by permit lottery.

### North Dakota Elk Seasons

Archery/Bow Sept. 3-26  
General Season Sept. 3-Jan. 2\*\*  
\*\*Season dates vary by zone. Elk hunting is only available by permit lottery, and dates may vary by region.

### North Dakota Moose Seasons

Archery/Bow Sept. 3-26  
General Season Oct. 8-Oct. 31  
Moose hunting is only available by permit lottery, and hunting may be limited to specific regions.

### North Dakota Pronghorn Seasons

Archery/Bow Sept. 3-Sept. 26  
General Season Oct. 1-17  
Pronghorn hunting is only available by permit lottery and may be limited by region.

### North Dakota White-Tailed and Mule Deer Seasons

Archery/Bow Sept. 3-Jan. 2  
Youth Season Sept. 9-26  
Firearms Nov. 5-21  
Muzzleloader Nov. 26-Dec. 12  
Deer hunting is only available by permit lottery.

### North Dakota Turkey Seasons

Fall General Season Oct. 9-Jan. 2  
Turkey hunting is only available by permit lottery.

### North Dakota Small Game Seasons

Tree Squirrel Sept. 11-Feb. 28  
Greater Prairie Chicken Closed Season  
Hungarian Partridge Sept. 11-Jan. 2  
Pheasant Oct. 9-Jan. 2  
Ruffed and Sharp-tailed Grouse Sept. 11-Jan. 2  
Ruffed Grouse Sept. 12-Jan. 3  
Bag limits, special seasons and hunting regulations for North Dakota hunting seasons do vary based on animal and seasons. For more information on obtaining licenses, permits and regulations, visit the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website.

Source: [www.huntingseasonhq.com](http://www.huntingseasonhq.com)

## BEAR

continued from pg 2

"usually in Wisconsin, it takes seven years approximately to get (one)," Keri noted. "Just because there are so many people that apply for them. There are many people that want to hunt in that area. Seven years is about what it takes, which is almost the same as what it takes us out here for a deer tag."

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reported that in 2020, more than 119,000

hunters applied for a permit or a preference point for 11,535 available permits.

While Molly waits for that, she did secure a doe tag and participated in the youth deer season. However, currently, she has only seen bucks and not does.

She is also in the meantime building up her hunting repertoire. Molly takes part in an archery league, but as Keri pointed out, she doesn't pull enough weight to hunt with it just yet.

## SEASON RESTRICTIONS

**Deer Bow:** See Special Herd Reduction Deer Bow Seasons. During the regular gun season orange clothing is required of all bowhunters and anyone accompanying apprentice license holders. Nonresidents are restricted to species of deer described on license. For residents, any deer is legal.

**Youth Deer:** Residents who turn age 11, 12 or 13 in 2021 – antlerless whitetailed deer only. Residents who turn age 14 or 15 in 2021 – any deer is legal. No unit restrictions, except in units 3B1, 3B2, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F, a special license is required to hunt antlered mule deer. Those possessing restricted antlered mule deer licenses may hunt only in their designated unit the entire season. Orange clothing required for youth hunters and mentors. Each youth hunter must be under direct supervision (must be able to have unaided verbal contact) of an adult who is prohibited from carrying a firearm or bow while accompanying the youth hunter during the youth season.

**Deer Gun:** Restricted to type of deer and unit described on license. Type of deer includes species and sex. See map on back for unit descriptions. Note exception for white-tailed deer hunters in units 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E (see below). Orange clothing required for all hunters, and for anyone accompanying apprentice and youth license holders.

**Muzzleloader:** Restricted to antlered or antlerless white-tailed deer only as described on license. No unit restrictions. Orange clothing required for hunters, and for anyone accompanying apprentice license holders.

### Hunting Hours

HUNTING HOURS are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset except opening day. Hunters must cease any hunting activity, leave any stand or blind, and must be in the process of leaving the field at the close of shooting hours..

### Orange Clothing Requirements

All big game hunters, including bowhunters, are required to wear orange clothing while the regular deer gun season is in progress. All youth deer season and muzzleloader season hunters are required to wear orange clothing. Legal orange clothing is a head covering and outer garment above the waistline of solid daylight fluorescent orange color, totaling at least 400 square inches.

### License Requirements

Residents must possess the following licenses:

- Fishing, Hunting and Furbearer Certificate
- General Game and Habitat License or
- Combination License, (includes Small Game, General Game and Habitat, Furbearer, and Fishing licenses)
- Deer License

Nonresidents must possess the following licenses:

- Nonresident Fishing, Hunting and Furbearer Certificate
- General Game and Habitat License
- Deer License

### Military Deer Gun Licenses

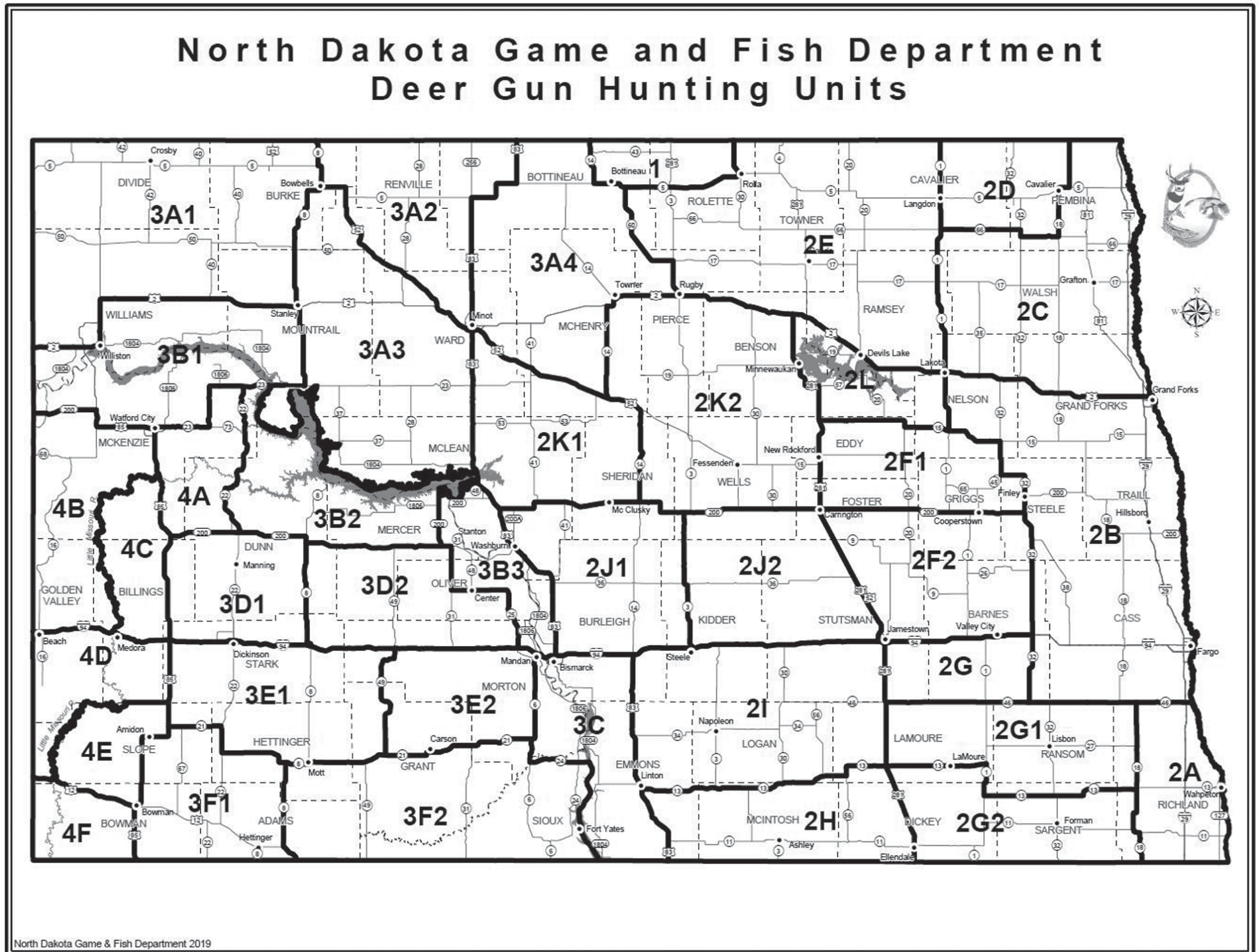
A resident of North Dakota who is a member of the United States Armed Forces stationed outside this state, who shows proof of North Dakota residency, including a driver's license number or a non-driver photo identification number from this state, and who pays the appropriate licensing fee, is eligible to be issued a deer gun season license without having to participate in the lottery.

North Dakota residents who were on federal active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces under Title 10, stationed outside of the state during the previous year's deer gun season, and who received the expeditionary medal or campaign badge, and submit an application and appropriate license fee by the deer gun application deadline, are eligible for one white-tailed deer gun license in the unit of their choice, without having to participate in the lottery. Applications received after the deer gun deadline will be issued licenses based on availability.

Source: [www.huntingseasonhq.com](http://www.huntingseasonhq.com)



# DEER GUN HUNTING UNITS



**All units are bounded by interstate highways, U.S. highways or North Dakota state highways as noted on the map, with the following exceptions:**

**Western half of boundary between units 2F1 and 2L** – Eddy County No. 1 heading east from its junction with U.S. Highway 281 at Sheyenne to its junction with ND Highway 20.

**Boundary between units 3A3 and 3B2** – North shore of Lake Sakakawea. Except for Mathews (deTrobriand) Island and Mallard Island; all islands are part of Unit 3B2. Mathews (deTrobriand) Island is part of Unit 3A3. Mallard Island is part of Unit 3B3.

**Boundary between units 3B2 and 3B3** – South shore of Lake Sakakawea heading west from U.S. Highway 83 to a point on the shore directly north of where ND Highway 200 turns southward (west of Pick City), then south to ND Highway 200. Mallard Island is part of Unit 3B3.

**Boundary between units 3F2 and 3C** – The junction of ND Highway 6 and ND Highway 21 heading south on ND Highway 6 to the junction with ND Highway 24, then east on ND Highway 24 and continuing east to a point on the west shore of the Missouri River, then following the Missouri River shoreline south to the South Dakota border.

**Boundary between units 4B and 4C** – The Little Missouri River.

**Boundary between units 4D and 4E** – The northern Slope County line heading west from its junction with U.S. Highway 85 to the Little Missouri River, then south on the Little Missouri River to U.S. Highway 12.

Source: [www.huntingseasonhq.com](http://www.huntingseasonhq.com)

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# Must-have hunting gear

Hunting is popular throughout North America. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said that 40 percent of the population of the United States ages 16 and older participated in wildlife-related activities in 2016, the most recent year for data. Hunting also is popular in Canada, where it's difficult to paint a picture of that popularity because hunting is regulated at the provincial level. However, Wild Alberta reports that, in 2020, there were 151,724 resident hunters in Alberta alone.

As is the case with many hobbies and pastimes, hunting requires some unique gear. Hunters need to bring some essential gear along on each trip to ensure their safety, while other gear and gadgets are all about convenience.

- **Proper clothing:** Hunting clothing comes in two main varieties: camouflage and blaze orange. Camo patterns mimic real-life foliage or use a digital pattern of natural colors to trick the animals' eyes, preventing them from detecting the hunters' outlines. Blaze orange hunting gear, from coats to hats to coveralls, is designed to make hunters visible to other hunters. Some game, like whitetail deer, cannot detect the orange color spectrum, so hunters need not worry that they will be compromising their hunting efforts. Depending on the hunting area and its specific regulations, camo or orange clothing will be required. Hunting clothing also should be comfortable for the weather and the conditions. Waterproof or water-resistant clothing can protect hunters from the elements as well. In cold climates, layer up and wear insulated materials.

- **Weapon and ammo:** Hunters should always look for ammuni-

tion details for the animals they will be hunting so they choose the correct weapon and ammunition type. Weapons should be maintained and cleaned for safety, and all hunters should consider taking a course in the proper handling of weapons.

- **Knife:** Knives are a staple for every hunting trip and can be used for multiple purposes. Most hunters prefer a dedicated knife for field dressing the animal, which includes gutting, boning, skinning, and butchering. Some knives fold and others are fixed blades.

- **Legal documents:** Hunters should always carry their hunting licenses and have game tags on hand to mark their kills appropriately. Depending on where one lives and hunts, licenses may need to be visible on the person.

- **Calls and scents:** It may be possible to lure game closer with special calls or scents. In addition, hunters may want to utilize scent killers, which are sprays and washes that remove human scents from clothing and gear so game are unaware that hunters are present.

- **Binoculars:** While one may be able to use the scope on a weapon to spot game, binoculars are more efficient.

- **First aid kit and other safety gear:** Hunters should stock a first aid kit, emergency phone, water and snacks to stay hydrated and fed, and a foldable paper map in the event cell phone signals fade or prove unreliable.

Hunting requires patience, dedication and essential gear.



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### Spyderco Tri-Angle Sharpener Knife Sharpener

Sharpen your hunting knife, kitchen knives, and hatchet. Using this gadget takes a little more practice and time than other knife sharpeners. There's a certain level of confidence that comes with knowing your knives are sharp and ready for any task required.

Source: [www.huntingseasonhq.com](http://www.huntingseasonhq.com)



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# How to field dress wild game properly and safely

Fishing and hunting are popular outdoor activities. Many outdoor enthusiasts engage in angling or hunting so they can have trophies to put up on their walls. Others rely on hunting and fishing for supplemental food sources. Game animals will have to be cleaned and processed properly whether they're headed to the dinner table or to the taxidermist.

Pathogen contamination is one of the biggest risks when field dressing an animal. As with any animal, game can contain harmful bacteria, such as salmonella and strains of E. coli. Other animals, such as wild hogs, can infect people with a flu-like illness called brucellosis, which can be caught through contact with blood, fluid or tissue of an infected hog. Deer, elk and moose also may have chronic wasting disease, or CWD. Although there is no evidence that links CWD to human illness, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises caution.

Proper field dressing techniques and game transport can help reduce the risk of pathogenic contamination. Here are some tips for getting started, courtesy of Penn State and the CDC.

• Wear safety gear. When handling any game animals, protect yourself with rubber gloves. This will prevent the blood and fluids from the game animal from getting on your skin. Eye protection is also advised when

handling carcasses.

• Work quickly. The elapsed time from when the animal is downed until it is processed can affect the safety and the quality of the meat if it will be consumed, according to Martin Bucknavage, food safety extension associate in the Penn State Department of Food Science. Field dress as soon as possible to ensure rapid loss of the animal's body heat, to prevent surface bacteria from growing and to preserve the quality of the meat. Eviscerate the animal to help the carcass dissipate heat and remove the internal organs, where spoilage tends to occur more quickly.

• Watch out for internal organs. Avoid cutting into internal organs, especially the intestines, where the largest amount of bad bacteria tend to reside.

• Chill the carcass. Deterioration will occur more quickly in temperatures greater than 40 F. Therefore, insert plastic bags of ice or snow into the body cavity of the animal to keep the carcass chilled. Move the carcass into a cooler or refrigerator as soon as possible after field dress.

• Choose tools wisely. Use clean, sharp knives when field dressing and butchering to make it easier to cut through and process the carcass. Use clean water, premoistened wipes or alcohol wipes to clean the knife frequently between cuts to prevent bacterial contamination.

• Hang game by hind legs.



Hang the animal by its hind legs with its head down when aging or butchering. This prevents brain and spinal fluids from contacting the meat.

Most importantly during field dress, if any of the internal organs smell or look offensive, or if there is oddly colored discharge, do not consume the meat. Hunt-

ers and anglers are advised to learn more about field dress techniques to hone their skills. Speak with local fish and game officials about nearby courses.

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# Hunters bite the bullet

BY TODD M. KJELLAND  
BHG News Service

Hunting and gun publications have been advising people to stock up on their ammunition since early this year and many have taken their advice and added to their personal stockpile throughout the last six months. This has added to price increases and placed pressure on ammunition manufacturers to meet the current demand.

Jeffery and Rhonda Martwick are the owners of Orion's Den in McClusky. Jeffery says the prices are a leading cause for smaller dealers like himself cutting back on inventory.

"Some hard-to-find hunting ammo is up 40 percent," said Jeffery. "That's if you can get it in."

While cost is one factor for smaller gun businesses, another is competing for inventory.

"I'm a small shop," said Jeffery. "I can put in larger order requests but it's hard to compete with the big sporting goods stores who place orders worth hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Jeffery has not seen a huge run of ammunition purchases this year as compared to last fall.

"Last year my shelves were cleared off," Jeffery said. "The demand was very high for certain types of hunting ammo, however other calibers such as

9mm are still readily available."

Jeffery mentioned that some hunters are simply buying other guns to match what ammo is available.

North Dakota is not alone in this ammunition shortage dilemma. Jeff said he has received out-of-state calls as far away as Pennsylvania looking for certain types of hunting ammunition.

"I'm not interested in selling to people across the country," Jeffery said. "I'll save my inventory for my local guys."

Another reason causing higher prices is the influx of new gun owners. U.S. gun sales in the first six months of 2021 surged 15 percent to 22,243,220 from the same six months last year. This makes it the largest first half of the year figure since sales were first recorded in 1998. Sales of guns in the United States rose 40 percent last year to 39,695,315. North Dakota sold 37,071 guns in the first five months of 2021.

As often happens with supply and demand economics, short supply means higher prices. First time hunters may be willing to pay the extra price to get their feet wet out in the wild, however some old timers may simply reduce the number of guns or limit the distance of their hunting trips due to the increased prices, not only of ammunition, but also travel expenses.


Avid hunters have seen this trend before when store shelves were bare around this time of year. That was during the gun control reduction efforts from 2008-2010. Hunters again saw a second shortage from 2012-2016 after additional gun control legislation created high demand.

As the hunting season gets started, the great outdoors will provide its own challenges for North Dakota and visiting hunters and huntswomen. In addition to the ammunition shortage, drought conditions located at many favorite waterfowl areas will have to find new hunting areas. Hunters are advised to check with North Dakota Game and Fish before exploring new hunting grounds.




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# The basics of hunting season

Hunting has been around a long time. According to Britannica, hunting as many know it today began in ancient Greece. Various game were hunted to provide food, fuel and materials to make clothing and blankets. In the Middle Ages, hunting was the privilege of nobility and linked to land ownership. Hunting is now strictly regulated in many countries and is typically used as a way to control wildlife populations that would otherwise over-run certain areas.

Hunting limits and clearly defined hunting seasons are often spelled out in detail in local hunting laws. Wildlife commissions across states, provinces and territories set up strict time periods that govern which game can be hunted. Legislation also dictates size limits and the amount of game that can be killed. Seasons vary depending on where hunters live.

The hunting education resource Hunter-Ed says hunting seasons are determined by the type of animal, the environment and animal characteristics like mating season. Wildlife biologists in various regions study animal populations and make recommendations on hunting seasons. "Open season" is when a species may be legally hunted, and tends to coincide with when the population of that species is at its highest, without interfering with breeding times.

Many hunters eagerly await "opening day" so they can start



their hunting right away. The season is "closed" when hunters are no longer allowed to go after that game. Food shortages, extreme temperatures and low population numbers may affect season duration. Archery seasons tend to begin before firearm seasons in many states. Hunting outside of seasons is known as poaching and is punishable by law.

Turkey is typically hunted in the spring or fall. Migratory

waterfowl hunting tends to open in late September and early October. The seasons to hunt deer, and their close cousins like caribou, moose and reindeer, open in late September and early October, continuing into November for firearms hunting.

To learn more about hunting seasons where you live, contact your local fish and wildlife organization or visit [www.hunting-seasonhq.com](http://www.hunting-seasonhq.com) for a state-by-state listing of hunting seasons.

## FALL TURKEY HUNTING

**OPENS:** October 9 – **CLOSES:** January 2, 2022

**RESTRICTIONS:** Restricted to fall season dates and unit described on license.

**HUNTING HOURS:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

**TAGGING REQUIREMENTS:** Immediately after a turkey is taken, the hunter must indicate the date of kill by cutting out the appropriate month and day from the tag provided with the license, and attach it around the leg of the turkey to prevent its removal. It is not legal to possess or transport a turkey unless it is properly tagged. The meat tag must remain with the edible flesh during any transportation and until it is processed and packaged as food. No person may reuse or attempt to reuse any tag issued.

### Hunting Big Game Over Bait

Placing of bait for any purpose is prohibited on Department wildlife management areas. Hunting over bait is defined as the placement and/or use of bait(s) for attracting wildlife to a specific location for the purpose of hunting. Baits include but are not limited to grains, seeds, minerals, salts, fruits, vegetables, hay, or any other natural or manufactured foods.

Hunting over bait is also not allowed on all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service national wildlife refuges and waterfowl production areas; U.S. Forest Service national grasslands; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers managed lands; and all North Dakota state school, state park and state forest service lands.

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A fawn moves through a grassy area alongside the author's stand site. (Simonson Photo)

# First watch

BY NICK SIMONSON  
Dakota Edge Outdoors

Opening day of North Dakota's bow season sits in that stretch of time where summer and fall mix together. Cool dewy mornings of Labor Day weekend melt into warm afternoons, and despite the fact that deer are in their warm weather patterns and most often present themselves with a reserve limited to those habits from previous months, the start of the season remains a big draw for me.

Heading out into the dark countryside, where the glow of town's lights is muted by a rise in the hills and the 30-minute drive down interstate, then blacktop, then dusty gravel that lay between my home and my stand, I took to my perch for the first sit to watch the stars fade out, the sun take to the sky, and the world come alive around me.

Adjusting to the first day back on stand is always a challenge for my eyes, like walking out of a dark theater during an afternoon matinee and letting them adjust to the light levels.

In the first light of pre-dawn, squinting at the dark shapes along the far hillside, and the cuts and tire marks in the harvested field provides the first opportunity to think I saw a deer, and to feel that slight increase in heart rate as I wonder if the slight wobble in the far off object is the animal taking steps, or the pulsing in-and-out-of-focus of my middle-aged eyes. More often this past weekend, it was the latter.

However, as dawn came on the wings of a five-bird flock of whistling wood ducks whizzing from the creek bottom and the wild flapping of scattered mourning doves, I made out the immovable objects and features on the landscape and connected my eyes on a brown form at the far side of the field, gingerly picking its way into the stubble from the western draw.

A second one joined it and the first rays of the sun lit up their auburn sides as I ranged them from my position. They were two fawns, mowing through the

shoots of green rising on recent rains over the dry area through the stalks of a drought-shortened wheat field. Without the normal parental supervision they usually still had this time of year, I began to wonder as I watched them find their breakfast.

Had their mother been taken by a predator? Was she a victim of the recent resurgence of EHD in the area? Was it possible that, as the twins were comparable in relative age to a human teenager, she had already sent them into the world on their own and was enjoying empty nest grazing elsewhere? The two provided no answers, but as they moved through the field, they seemed confident and well developed enough to allow for the last, most anthropomorphic, and certainly least morbid, explanation to take hold.

Along the low portion of the expanse, they moved in my direction from 200 yards, taking their time and soaking in the warming sunlight as they nibbled on the grasses. From time to time, they'd look around as cues from nature brought the morning into full effect.

A squawking pair of blue herons flew overhead, drawing their attention. A group of seven magpies came up from the bottom, with one landing in a nearby tree, calling while the other half dozen flapped off into the hills.

As a large red-tailed hawk circled overhead, the pair of deer closed the distance to 20 yards in the grassy area along the draw to the right of my stand.

It was there they went behind me, down into the cut in the landscape and back into the bottom where the creek wound down to the small impoundment about a mile away, leaving the slight adrenaline rush that comes with seeing an animal so close and trying not to spook it, even if the thought of taking a shot never crossed my mind. In total, the two fawns with fading summer spots were in front of me for more than an hour and fifteen minutes, providing for a good first watch of the season... in our outdoors.

## WHERE TO HUNT?

### Land Access Basics:

#### Public Lands

*Special Regulations May Apply*

- U.S. Forest Service National Grasslands
- U.S. FWS National Wildlife Refuges
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- ND Game and Fish State Wildlife Management Areas
- ND Forest Service
- ND Department of Trust Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. FWS Waterfowl Production Areas

#### State Wildlife Management Areas

State wildlife management areas are located throughout the state. Unless otherwise specified, WMAs are open to hunting, fishing and trapping. Check the current hunting and fishing regulations and proclamations for details. Most WMAs are ideal for nature study, hiking, and primitive camping.

#### Waterfowl Production Areas

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; about 263,000 acres in North Dakota. Almost all WPAs are found north and east of the Missouri River. Generally they are less than 640 acres, but some are larger.

#### National Wildlife Refuges

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, these public lands encompass more than 200,000 acres. Many refuges allow deer and upland game hunting. Hunting opportunities vary, so contact individual refuges for details.

Wildlife refuges are also excellent sites for wildlife viewing. Many have auto tours and interpretive sites. Information on specific refuges is available at each refuge headquarters.

*Note: Use of nontoxic shot for all types of bird hunting is required on all land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

#### State Trust Lands

Managed by the State Department of Trust Lands, North Dakota has more than 700,000 acres of state school trust lands, formerly known as state school land. Much of this land is leased for agricultural purposes, primarily cattle grazing. School trust land is generally open to hunting. However, operators leasing the land may close access if livestock is present.

### Private Lands

#### Can Hunt Without Permission:

- Land that is **NOT** posted physically or electronically
- Private Land Open to Sportsmen PLOTS - Walk-in access only or as signed
- To recover game without a firearm

#### A Note About Private Land Access

*While public land provides varied opportunities for hunters and anglers in North Dakota, much of the state's hunting takes place on private land. Permission is always required to hunt private land that is posted.*

#### Can Hunt Only With Permission

- Within 440 yards of an occupied dwelling
  - Through their agreement with NDGF, landowners enrolled in PLOTS have given permission to hunt within 440 yards of dwellings
- Land that is posted physically or electronically
- Rights-of-way and section lines
  - May travel (not hunt) section lines without permission
- Unharvested crops (even if not posted)



## WHERE TO HUNT?

### Posting of Land to Prohibit Hunting

North Dakota statute provides in 20.1-01-17 that an owner or individual authorized by the owner may post land, giving notice that hunting is not permitted on the land.

This notice may be done with physical signage or electronically in the Department's online application.

*Both options require the name of the person who posted the land.*

Physically signed land must be posted at a minimum of every 880 yards. Land entirely closed by a fence may be considered posted if signed at or on all gates of the enclosure.

### Penalty for Hunting on Posted Land

Hunters may not enter land legally posted (electronically or physically) without first obtaining permission of the person entitled to grant the permission. A person who violates NDCC 20.1.01-18 is guilty of a class B misdemeanor (up to \$1,500/30 days imprisonment) for the first offense and a class A misdemeanor (up to \$3,000/360 days imprisonment) for a subsequent offence within a two-year period. The court shall suspend the defendant's hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for a period of at least one year, two years for the second conviction and three years for the third or subsequent conviction.

**No hunting is allowed, without permission from the landowner or leasee, on private lands in North Dakota that have been legally posted either with physical signs or electronically.**

### Identifying Posted Lands

The Department offers map resources, mobile apps and printable maps that show lands posted electronically and lands in the PLOTS program. This information can be viewed on a computer, smartphone or printed.

*Note: If land is posted physically but not electronically, it will not be indicated on maps. In the field, hunters must determine if land has been physically or electronically posted prior to entering.*

The printable maps can be found [gf.nd.gov/plots/guide/maps](http://gf.nd.gov/plots/guide/maps)

Source: [www.huntingseasonhq.com](http://www.huntingseasonhq.com)

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## WILD GAME

### VENISON SUMMER SAUSAGE

#### Ingredients

- 1 premixed package of Leo's summer sausage seasoning
- ¼ C mustard seed
- 1/3 C pepper
- 18 lb venison
- 7 lb pork
- 3 lb mahogany-colored casings

#### Directions

Mix the cut pieces of venison and pork with spices and let sit in a cooler/refrigerator overnight. Grind the meat mixture two times through a large-screen, then through a medium screen. STUFFING -- Adding small amounts of water will help the mixture go through the stuffer more easily.



### SUMMER SAUSAGE WITH PEPPER JACK CHEESE

#### Ingredients

- 1 premixed package of Leo's summer sausage seasoning.
- ¼ C mustard seed
- 1/3 C pepper
- 18 lb venison
- 7 lb pork
- 2-1/2 lb Pepper Jack cheese (high-temp)
- 3 lb mahogany-colored casings

#### Directions

Mix the cut pieces of venison and pork with spices and let sit in a cooler/refrigerator overnight. Grind the meat mixture two times through a large-screen, then through a medium screen. STUFFING -- Mix in Pepper Jack cheese just before stuffing. Adding small amounts of water will help the mixture go through the stuffer more easily.



### BREAKFAST SAUSAGE PATTIES

#### Ingredients

- 1 premixed package of Leo's breakfast sausage seasoning
- 12.5 lb venison
- 12.5 lb pork.

#### Directions

Mix the cut pieces of venison and pork with the seasoning mix and LET SIT OVERNIGHT in a cooler/refrigerator. Grind the meat mixture two times through a large-screen, then through a medium screen. After grinding, package into 1-lb packages. If you want to stay away from salt, do not use curing salt, if you just put into patties. If you plan on stuffing and smoking it, you have to use the curing salt.



# Mark Your Calendars

BY NICK SIMONSON  
Dakota Edge Outdoors

So many big dates are on the horizon this time of year as we make the turn from summer into fall. The start of the school year, football kickoff, and of course, opening days across a wide variety of hunting seasons are among the big dates to consider. There are so many now that it makes it tough not to have the ink bleed through from one calendar page to the other from all the red Sharpie circles on the pages into November. For those looking to get the next generation into the outdoors.

Agencies across the upper Midwest have secured over the past two decades dedicated weekends for young sportsmen and women to take part in a hunt that is all their own. In North Dakota, the youth pheasant weekend happens on Oct. 2 and 3.

Many conservation groups have mentoring programs built into their fall calendars that help turn a once-a-year opportunity into a lifelong pursuit. At these events volunteers staff mentored

hunts, learn-to-shoot programs, and other autumn activities to help new hunters acclimate quickly to what can sometimes be a challenging learning curve, providing gear such as decoys and blinds, access to good hunting spots, and fun opportunities built into the events such as trap shooting, bird processing tips and a chance to taste dishes made with wild game.

Finding these events may be a bit more challenging than just logging on to an agency's website and checking out the autumn opening date calendar, however, and some may fall on these dedicated weekends and youth seasons, but others may not.

A little sleuthing on the web and social media will likely be required to connect those interested in learning the ways of calling ducks, or watching how a dog works a field for upland game, with organizations like Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, Pheasants Forever, and many local sportsman and conservation groups that host hunting events in the next month or two. Like any good hunting plan, begin preparing early and

find an opportunity close by, as spots often fill up well ahead of the event. While most events are free, expect to have to provide a firearm and ammo for your young hunter, and it's good to get some shooting practice in before the program starts, but not required.

With the stage set for fall and a number of weekends dedicated to young hunters, opportunities abound for them to try a variety of hunting techniques and pursuits in the coming weeks. Mark those calendars with the days allotted solely to them, so they can connect with birds and game on their own, but consider finding those local opportunities where mentors with decades of experience can share their wisdom and help advance them from the novice phase a little bit quicker.

Through the combination of special seasons and special events for young hunters, there's so much to look forward to not just in the circled boxes of this autumn calendar, but in the onboarding of new sportsmen and women, and securing the future of conservation for years to come.



## Simple safety protocols that can protect hunters

Hunting is big business in North America. In 2017, more than 15 million people hunted in the United States. The National Shooting Sports Foundation reports that sportsmen and women contribute nearly \$9.4 million to the economy every day.

Millions of hunters take to forests and fields every year. Seasoned hunters and novices alike can benefit from revisiting some safety procedures before their first outing this season.

### Weather

Weather should be a consideration whenever people spend a significant amount of time outdoors. Hunters typically leave before dawn and arrive home after dusk. Hypothermia is a very real risk for hunters who may be out in snow or wet conditions. It's possible to get hypothermia by overdressing as well. Sweating and then being exposed to dropping temperatures puts people at risk for hypothermia. Hunters should dress in layers with moisture-wicking materials and a water-repellant outer layer. In addition, check the weather forecast before heading out as a last second precautionary measure.

### Firearm safety

Firearm safety is a critical component of safe hunting. Hunters use rifles, shotguns and other firearms. Each gun is different, so hunters need to familiarize themselves with new firearms before using them. The following are some additional firearm safety tips, courtesy of State Farm Insurance and Southern Land Exchange.

- Always treat a firearm as if it is loaded.

- Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

- Only point at what you plan to shoot.

- Clearly identify your target and what is beyond it.

- Fire within the zone-of-fire, which is the 45-degree area directly in front of each hunter.

- Firearm chambers should be emptied when guns are not in use.

- Use appropriate ammunition.
- Never modify or alter the gun.

- Never cross a fence, jump a ditch or climb a tree with a loaded gun.

- Never rely on a gun's safety.

### Additional safety tips

Hunters should always let others know where they will be when leaving in the morning. If something should happen, people back home can alert authorities if something goes awry. Always check equipment and maintain it properly. Equipment should include gear colored in hunter's orange. That extends to dogs if they are accompanying hunters on a trip. This makes hunters more visible to other hunters. Also, carry a first aid kit, a charged mobile phone or a satellite phone to maintain contact with others in case of emergencies.

These are just some of the safety protocols that should be followed when hunting. Non-hunters should exercise caution during hunting seasons, particularly when entering forests and areas that hunters frequent.

An advertisement for Grimsley's Gas &amp; Convenience. The top part features the store's logo in a stylized blue font with a gas pump icon. Below the logo, it says "GAS &amp; CONVENIENCE UNDERWOOD, NORTH DAKOTA". The middle section shows two inset photos: one of a woman working behind a counter in the store, and another of a dining table with chairs. The bottom part shows an exterior view of the store building with a sign that lists services: "GRIMSLEY'S 24/7 PUMPS OFF SALE • PIZZA • BURGERS FOOD • ATM • LOTTO • PROPANE".



# Bearing the brunt of the statewide drought

BY RALPH MANCINI  
BHG News Service

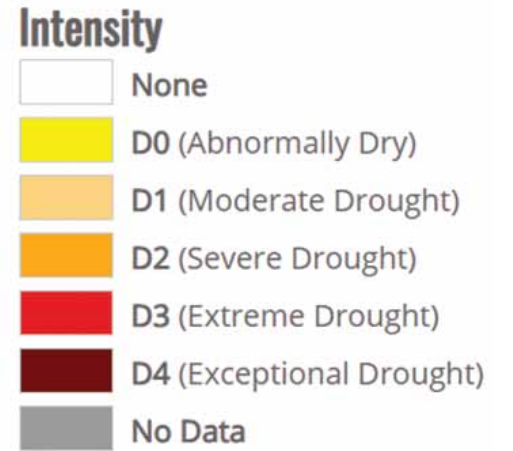
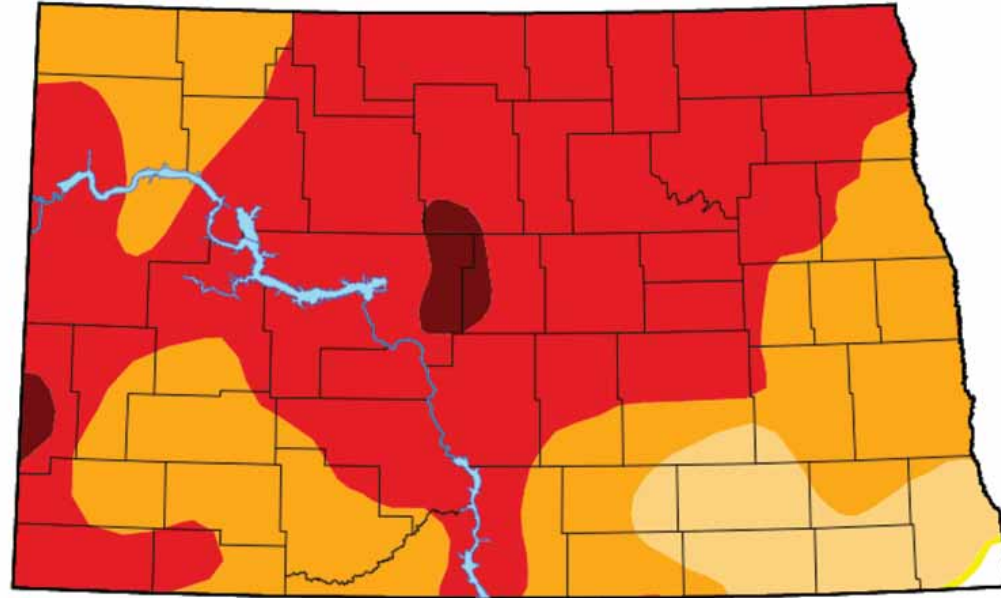
The ongoing drought's impact on wildlife population count may force hunters and outdoors people to make do with stressed habitat conditions and changing behavior patterns, according to one North Dakota Game & Fish official.

The agency's recently appointed Director Jeb Williams recently identified a host of feathered creatures that have been especially affected by the rainfall scarcity, including upland game birds, pheasants and waterfowl.

"We've had some nice rains in certain areas, but overall it's very dry and there's no doubt that from a species perspective that a lot of so-called damage has already been done with some [spots] maybe not having as good of reproduction," said the Beach native and Dickinson State graduate.

Birds, he added, tend to recognize abnormal conditions and opt to forgo breeding due to the less-than-optimal success rates of raising a brood.

"We'll then see these birds



Source: droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

eventually move to different places in order to try to find another area to raise a brood," he continued.

Hunters could begin detecting modified migration patterns for their flying prey, most notably from the Canadian Prairies region — comprising the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan — which produces

a second wave of waterfowl into North Dakota, with loads of ducks and geese.

Similarly, the pronghorn's reproduction rates in North Dakota have dropped considerably after a rebound in recent years, per Williams. And even when the hooved mammals give birth in a compromised habitat, it was noted, the newborns become

more susceptible to predation.

The far-reaching tentacles of extended periods of drier-than-normal weather can further alter gains for local anglers as well.

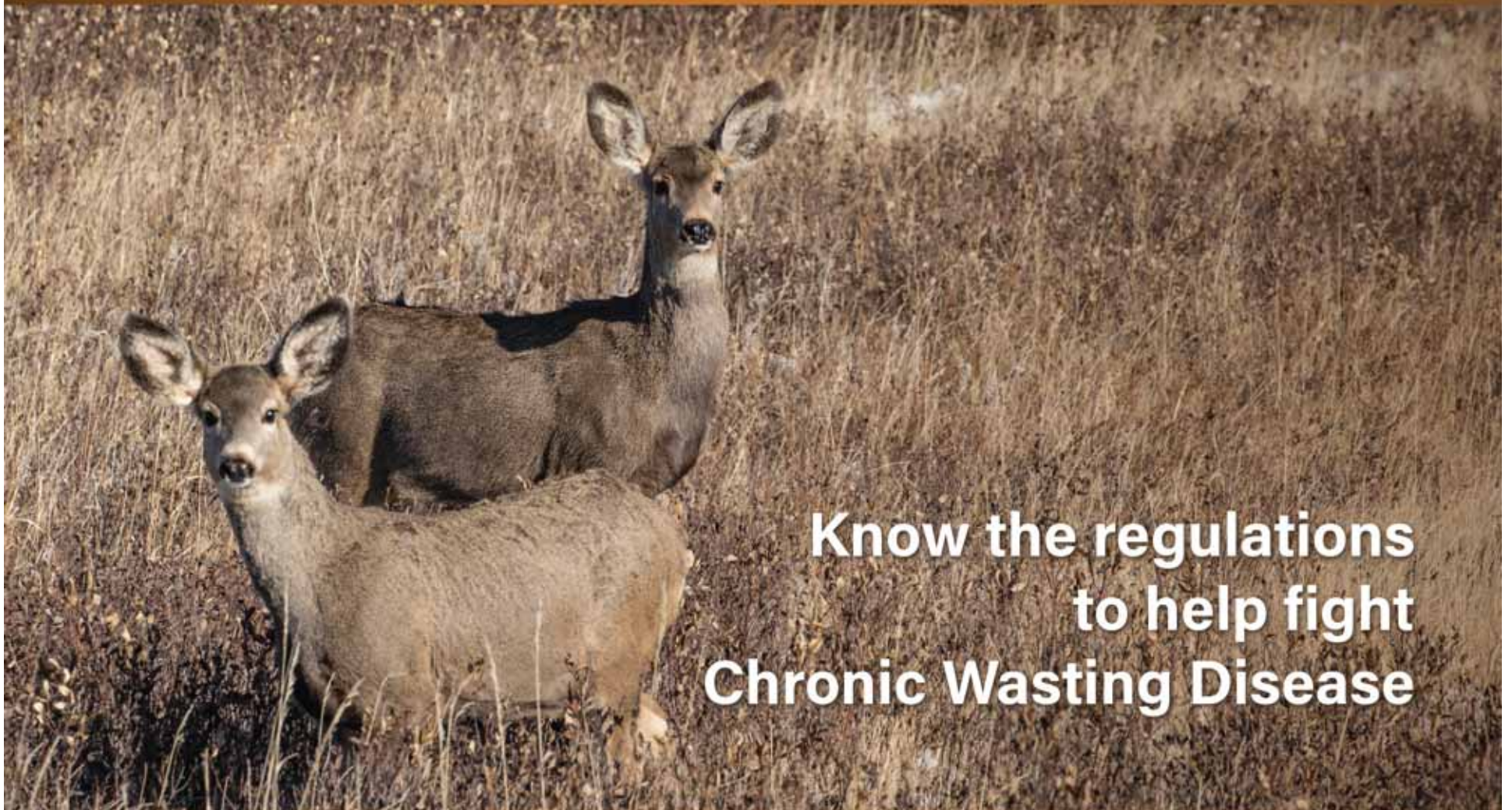
"It has an impact on access to certain water and boat ramps. With water levels getting very low and rendering boat ramps unusable. Of course, if these remain that makes a difference,

you know, with fish production and forage species."

Williams remains hopeful given how conditions have taken a slight turn for the better in the last three or four weeks. But from the sound of things, the majority of the state isn't out of the woods yet in terms of a favorable abundance of wildlife.

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