

Hunter's Haven



2022

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 from local businesses inside!



Four generations hunting. Forrest Hirsch, second from left, with his father-in-law Dan Noreen (far left), son Brookston Hirsch and grandfather-in-law Bob Olson. After Hirsch took Olson hunting, he said Olson was "like a kid on Christmas." (Submitted)



Forrest Hirsch and Jaaron Kamp pose with the spoils from a hunt. The two Garrison men are endeavoring to create a program to help integrate youth and the elderly into hunting. (Submitted)

HUNTERS WITH ALTITUDE, NOT ATTITUDE

BY JAMES C. FALCON
james@nordaknorth.com

What started as a brand between hunting buddies a few years ago has slowly turned into an idea that will help those who want to hunt achieve that goal.

Forrest Hirsch of Garrison explained that the idea for Zero Altitude, the brand that he and hunting buddy Jaaron Kamp created, came about a few years ago while the two were out goose hunting.

"It just started as a brand thing for hunting," Hirsch explained. "(Kamp) said 'Hey, I got this idea for a brand'. I said lay it on me."

Kamp's original idea, Low Altitude, soon changed to Zero Altitude. Then, a couple of years went by when Kamp presented the idea for a logo. The two applied for the trademark in August of last year; this past month, they received the allowance to use it.

The focus of Zero Altitude is to help integrate youth and the elderly into hunting, whether because they have never done it or because it was a passion from yesteryear.

"It's really more of a focus on trying to instill the passion that I have for the outdoors for people who don't have the capabilities, the resources or doesn't have someone to take time (to go with them)," Hirsch explained.

Make no mistake, though. Zero Altitude doesn't want to be known as a guide service,

Hirsch said. Instead, Zero Altitude would help get people involved in hunting in "more of a rental situation," he said; they would "get involved and show people the fun of the outdoors."

"It's just something different and still not necessarily a guide service," Hirsch said. "It's more like a mentorship and an experience for people who don't get to do it as much."

One such person was 85-year-old Bob Olson, Hirsch's grandfather-in-law who lives in Minnesota.

"He was literally like a kid on Christmas," Hirsch recalled, noting that Olson "had all granddaughters" and none of them hunted. "Then Jenny married me - and I love duck hunting."

"That was just so cool to let someone relive what they did as a kid or what they were involved in," Hirsch added.

His own passion for hunting started when he received his first shotgun at the age of 15.

"I've been hunting on and off since (then)," Hirsch said, adding that for the past decade, he has been an avid waterfowl hunter.

In fact, it was the presence of waterfowl in the Garrison area that encouraged the Hirsch family to move here. When his wife Jenny was offered a job at the Garrison High School, Hirsch

said he encouraged her to take the job. At the same time, he applied for a job at the hospital in Garrison, where he has been a family medical practitioner for the past four years.

It's really more of a focus on trying to instill the passion that I have for the outdoors for people who don't have the capabilities, the resources or don't have someone to take time (to go with them).
- FORREST HIRSCH

Another focus - one that wouldn't be pushed upon anyone, Hirsch said - is a faith-based aspect to hunting. Before hunts, a prayer would be said; a hunting devotional would be said following the hunt.

"Something I feel strongly about is God and His creation, and I want people to enjoy that,"

Hirsch said. "God is great, and I think that having that ability to have a platform to lift that up is important."

And that would include creations "from Canada all the way to Louisiana," Hirsch said, noting that while it was "a lofty goal" to expand across the entire geography of the United States, Zero Altitude would definitely extend into Minnesota - the Hirsch's are originally from there - or to Montana, where they have friends. But for now, the Garrison area is a more realistic approach.

"If it takes off, I would absolutely love it," he said.

Zero Altitude doesn't involve just Hirsch and Kamp but also Kamp's father, Dave Kamp, as well as others who all have the same mission: "We want to bestow that passion on to others. We want it to be an enjoyable

thing," Hirsch said.

Jenny, who refers to herself as a "supportive spouse" when it comes to hunting, said that she "deals with the feathers that come home with the hunt." Sometimes, though, she comes along for the hunt. Hirsch has also taken their four-year-old son Brookston along.

"It's a cool experience. He definitely enjoys waterfowl hunting," he said, adding: "You don't have to be quiet when you are waterfowl hunting."

This fall, Hirsch said he will take a few of Jenny's students - they had expressed an interest in hunting - once the waterfowl season starts.

At that time, they will see the logistics of bringing those without experience out.

Then, by next summer, Zero Altitude will get their ducks in a row - so to speak, and perhaps waterfowl - and launch in 2023.

Zero Altitude is currently online on Instagram @zeroaltitudeco.

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2022 North Dakota Hunting Season

BIGHORN SHEEP SEASONS

General Season Oct. 28-Dec. 31
Bighorn sheep hunting is only available by permit lottery.

ELK SEASONS

Archery/Bow Sept. 2-Sept. 25
 General Season Sept. 2, 2022-Jan. 1, 2023*
 *Season dates vary by zone. Elk hunting is only available by permit lottery, and dates may vary by region.

MOOSE SEASONS

Archery/Bow Sept. 2-Sept. 25
 General Season Oct. 7-Oct. 30
Moose hunting is only available by permit lottery, and hunting may be limited to specific regions.

PRONGHORN SEASONS

Archery/Bow Sept. 2-Sept. 25
 General Season Oct. 7-Oct. 23
Pronghorn hunting is only available by permit lottery and may be limited by region.

WHITE-TAILED & MULE DEER SEASONS

Archery/Bow Sept. 2, 2022-Jan. 1, 2023
 Youth Season Sept. 16-25
 Firearms Nov. 11-Nov. 20
 Muzzleloader Nov. 25-Dec. 11
Deer hunting is only available by permit lottery.

TURKEY SEASONS

Fall General Season Oct. 8, 2022-Jan. 1, 2023
Turkey hunting is only available by permit lottery.

SMALL GAME SEASONS

Tree Squirrel Sept. 10, 2022-Feb. 28, 2023
 Hungarian Partridge Sept. 10, 2022-Jan. 1, 2023
 Ruffed Grouse Sept. 10, 2022-Jan. 1, 2023
 Light Geese - Resident Sept. 24-Dec. 30
 Male Pheasant Oct. 8, 2022-Jan. 1, 2023
 Weasel - Traps Oct. 22, 2022-Mar. 15, 2023
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: gf.nd.gov



Millions of individuals across the globe are avid hunters. The passion many of those people have for hunting began on their first childhood hunting trip, and countless hunters fondly recall this milestone moment in their lives.

If there's a first time for everything, parents know that kids' initial forays into any activity comes with ups and downs. Hunting is no exception to that trend, but parents can consider these measures as they prepare their youngsters to go hunting for the first time.

- Emphasize the importance of safety. Safety is of the utmost importance on any hunting trip. Kids should be aware of all safety protocols pertaining to their guns and the hunting grounds. Hunter's education courses can teach kids about hunting safety, but parents can quiz youngsters in the days leading up to the trip to reinforce safety protocols.

- Explain how hunting trips typically unfold. Giving kids an idea of how a hunting trip may unfold is another good idea. Explain the timing of the trip and why it's beginning when it is. Kids without such knowledge may be less enthusiastic about

- Emphasize the importance of safety.
- Explain how hunting trips typically unfold.
- Bring some extra activities for kids to do.
- Purchase comfortable hunting attire.
- Recognize the day could be emotional.

early morning hunting excursions if they don't understand why they need to get out of bed early on a day off. But they might be more excited if they recognize they're more likely to see wildlife and enjoy a successful trip if they're willing to sacrifice sleeping in.

- Bring some extra activities for kids to do. Screens are a no-no, as they could deter wildlife. But hunting requires patience, which is not exactly a virtue

many youngsters possess. So bring some books along or encourage kids to keep a diary of their first trip, describing it in detail so they have something to look back on as they get older.

- Purchase comfortable hunting attire. Kids will likely be wearing new attire on their first trip, so parents should have them try the clothing on prior to the trip. When shopping for hunting clothing, make sure it meets all safety standards and is functional for hunters, but don't overlook comfort. Hunting involves a lot of waiting, and the trip will be more enjoyable for everyone if kids are comfortable throughout the slow periods.

- Recognize the day could be emotional. A child's first hunting trip can be an emotional roller coaster, as kids may feel excited, bored, nervous, sad, and even guilty at any point during the day. Parents must allow kids to express any of these emotions during the day and emphasize that it's alright to express their emotions.

A child's first hunting trip is a milestone moment. Parents can take steps leading up to the trip to ensure their children are ready for what's to come.

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Where to hunt?

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 Forest Service

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.

- ND Department of Trust Lands
- ND Game and Fish State Wildlife Management Areas
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. FWS Waterfowl Production Areas

U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service manages three national grasslands in North Dakota, totaling about 1.1 million acres. The largest, the Little Missouri National Grasslands, is about 1 million acres and contains much of western North Dakota's badlands. Much of this land is leased for agricultural use, but is open to public access.

Bureau of Land Management

The BLM manages nearly 70,000 acres in North Dakota, much of it in the western part of the state. Much of this land is leased for agricultural use, but it is open to public access.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Corps of Engineers manages more than 500,000 acres, much of which is under the water of the state's major reservoirs like Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe, and a number of smaller lakes. The Corps manages some of the land surrounding these reservoirs, with public access usually available. The Corps also leases many thousands of acres to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for use as wildlife management areas.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

The USBR manages close to 100,000 acres, much of which lies along the Garrison Diversion Canal project. A good share of this land is open to public access, while vehicle use on some roads is restricted.

North Dakota Forest Service

The state forest service owns land, primarily small parcels, in the Turtle Mountains and Pembina Hills. These areas are generally open to public access.

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.

Source: gf.nd.gov

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UNIQUE GEAR FROM A UNIQUE FIND

BY DANIEL ARENS
hazeneditor@centralnordak.com

It's not uncommon for hunters to turn the skins of animals they find into products that they themselves can enjoy, or that can be purchased by others. Sometimes, a hunter's own gear might reflect such choices.

But there was one unique request that a local business had from a hunter (admittedly not from an animal the person had actually hunted) that raised some eyebrows.

Dana and Rita Wright own Promiseland Designs in Hazen and make and repair many things for people, but a snakeskin gunsling and shoulder strap

isn't a normal request. But when, eight years ago, a man came in looking to have the bull snake skin he had found made into gear for his hunting trip, the Wrights didn't say no.

"It was hard to work with, cause it wasn't tanned quite right," Rita said. "We ended up having scales all over."

Of course, snakeskin itself is too thin and fragile to be made into any kind of gear; the skin had

to be attached to a leather base.

"Because snakeskin is so thin, we had to stitch it on the other piece of leather," she said. "We actually had to lather it in oil to get that sheen out of it."

While a person asking for bull snake skin was perhaps the most unique hunting upholstery that Promiseland Designs has done, it's not the only one. Dana recalled another hunter who brought in a moose hide which

he wanted to get made into a vest and mitts.

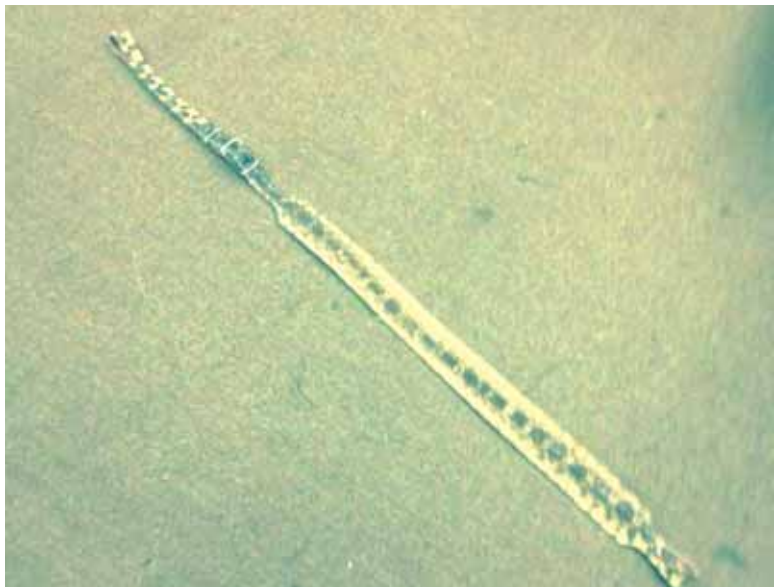
"And you're talking like all the hair there," Rita said. "It's everywhere. I think I itched for two weeks after that."

Dana pointed out some other items Promiseland Designs have that are more unique, including belts made from cobra (obviously not a direct request from any local hunters), and a request for alligator hide to be used in making

belts, a bag and a purse.

Rita said it's fun to work on some of these special requests, but also said she tries to inform people to keep their expectations realistic, saying some items might not hold up to time and weather as well as others. She said she is willing to work with requests, but wants to make sure the people making the requests know exactly what they're getting themselves into.

Rita said it's fun to work on some of these special requests, but also said she tries to inform people to keep their expectations realistic



This gun sling was made by Promiseland Designs out of a bull snake skin. The middle adjustment measures 46 inches. (Submitted)



Different items were done up in real alligator hide by Promiseland Design several years ago, one of several requests they've had over the years for turning animal hide, fur or skin into unique items. (Submitted)



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WETLANDS ARE UP, BUT STILL BELOW AVERAGE

BY CAMMIE WRIGHT
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The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) released its annual fall wetland survey, which indicated fair wetland conditions for duck hunting across the state.

The amount of duck hunting wetlands statewide increased about 26 percent from extreme drought conditions experienced last fall, but are still 29 percent below the long-term average, according to Andy Dinges, migratory game bird biologist for NDGF. The number of duck hunting type wetlands counted on the survey was the sixth lowest since 2003.

He said all regions are still below average for the number of duck hunting wetlands observed, but the northwest region of the state increased by 102 percent and the north central region increased by 51 percent.

While the number of wetlands recorded in the northeast and south central regions were similar to fall 2021, Dinges said the southeastern part of the state saw about a 30 percent increase in the number of duck hunting

wetlands.

"Wetland conditions were pretty good this spring and early summer throughout most of the state following spring blizzards and above average rainfall through early summer, but much of the state has received below average precipitation for the last two to three months causing most of our ephemeral wetlands to dry up," Dinges said. "However, we are still holding on to most of our semi-permanent wetlands. Most of these remaining wetlands are in good shape, providing a promising outlook for the season. However, some semi-permanent wetlands are certainly beginning to dry up and hunters should expect mud margins around some wetlands, possibly making hunting more difficult."

The quality of waterfowl hunting in North Dakota is largely determined by weather conditions and migration patterns. Dinges said fair to good reproduction for ducks in traditional breeding areas this year still makes for good fall hunting opportunities.

"Hunters should always scout because of everchanging conditions and distribution of water-



fowl," he said. "Hunters should also be cautious driving off-trail to avoid soft spots, and while encountering areas of tall vegetation that could be a fire hazard." The fall wetland survey is conducted in mid-September, just

prior to the waterfowl hunting season to provide an assessment of conditions duck hunters can expect. Duck hunting wetlands are classified as seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands.

Be Safe & good luck to all the hunters!

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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.

Source: www.huntingseasonhq.com



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HIGH COST, LOW SUPPLY PLAGUES AMMO SELLERS

BY DANIEL ARENS
hazeneditor@centralnordak.com

4J Gun Pro in Hazen is not unique in seeing challenges in the wake of a global pandemic, international conflicts and rising inflation. But their position, both in selling firearms and ammunition, and in being a small business in a rural community, has made their situation especially dire.

"It's been two years it's been tougher than heck," Joel Wood said. "Actually, probably more like two and a half or three years."

Ammunition, in particular, has been a challenge. The ammo that gun shops like 4J Gun Pro sell must be manufactured and distributed, and both of those industries have seen definite challenges lately.

"For a long time, you pretty much couldn't buy any cartridges of any caliber," Wood said. "One of the distributors we bought our shotgun shells from went under, so we lost that supplier."

Wood said that 9 millimeter and 5.56 were among the first to start becoming available again, but there are still some (like 410 shotgun shells) that are almost non-existent. He said the .204

Ruger, .17 HMR and .22 Magnum are in particularly short supply at present.

Supply issues started during the pandemic, which also saw a massive spike in demand, as many people who had not owned guns before came out and bought their own (and ammunition) in a panic buying

Pro. A box of shells that used to sell for \$55 or \$60 now costs \$90 or more. Even the basic X-TAC ammo went from \$5 before the pandemic to over \$12 now, accounting for both pandemic-era hikes and today's inflation.

The impact of inflation is felt up and down the supply line, including at the customer's end.

"People can't drive as much, since gas is so expensive, so they don't go out to the range as much," Wood said. "And when they do go, they can't afford to shoot as much."

Wood said some of this cost increase comes from manufacturing and what the product is made of. He said there is a push to develop copper instead of lead,

with this new ammunition entirely or almost entirely copper in composition. He said this is actually a better ammo to use, but it comes with a higher price tag as well.

"For a long time, you pretty much couldn't buy any cartridges of any caliber"

- JOEL WOOD

spree with fears stemming both from the virus and the election spurring the resolve.

Wood said that the gun shop in Hazen managed to maintain a decent amount of the high-end "boutique" quality ammo, of the kind used by hunters on African safaris and similar expeditions, because they had a good stock of this on hand. But the regular shotgun and revolver cartridges soon became very hard to come by.

It's not just availability, however, that's impacting 4J Gun



Many common types of ammunition are in short supply, seeing costly increases to purchase, or (more likely) both. The challenges facing 4J Gun Pro and other local gun stores comes from a complicated variety of factors, ranging from pandemic-era panic shopping for guns to shipping challenges and from the impacts of foreign conflicts on manufacturing to current skyrocketing inflation. (Daniel Arens)

AMMO

continued on page 9

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BE PREPARED WHEN HUNTING WITH DOGS

BY JOSH HEDSTROM
District Game Warden

As we head into the fall hunting season, we prepare with our tags, licenses, and stamps and ready our firearms, bows, and the necessary hunting gear. Another responsibility is to be prepared with our hunting companions. Our trusty canines are excited to get out in the field, too.

Risks of accidents in the field are more common than we'd like to think. Whether it is a face full of quills after a run-in with a porcupine, cuts to the eyes or paws from barbed wire or wayward branches, hyperthermia or hypothermia, snake bites, or the seemingly inevitable run in with a skunk, it is essential to be prepared with a canine first aid kit and to talk with a veterinarian in your area. Just like I did while writing this to share with you.

Before even heading out, make sure your canine is up to date on vaccinations and tick control treatment. If available, take a course on canine first aid. Familiarizing yourself with canine first aid can help you keep calm so you can care for your dog in the event of an emergency.

Familiarize yourself with signs of hyperthermia (heat stroke) – excessive panting, drooling, trouble breathing, disorientation, vomiting, bright red tongue, or increased heart rate. At the first sign of heat stroke, remember to lower your dog's body temperature gradually. Get your dog to shade and use cool water to lower its body temp. Give it cool water to drink slowly so it does not vomit.

Hypothermia is another danger to watch for, especially when your dog is venturing through water or snow. A dog's typical body temperature is between 100.5 and 102.5 degrees. Signs for hypothermia can be a challenge to identify. Is your dog shivering in anticipation or is it cold? Is its

breathing labored because it is having trouble breathing or is the dog winded from physical exertion? Is your dog weak, lethargic, or confused? All of these can be signs of hypothermia.

Get your dog to a warm place. Put him or her on your lap (body heat) and wrap in dog blankets or a jacket. Hypothermia is more likely to set in if your canine's blood sugar is low. Keep your dog hydrated with warm water and if it has been a while since it has eaten, give your dog an energy boosting treat, such as honey.

Before you head for home, check your dog for any cuts, wounds, thorns or ticks.

If the eyes have become dilated and lethargy has gotten worse, get your dog to a vet immediately.

If your dog is bitten by a snake, try to keep it calm. It is important to prevent an elevated heart rate, so you will need to carry the dog instead of letting it walk. Try to keep the wound below heart level. Keep in mind when a dog is hurt their behavior can be unpredictable. Carry Benadryl and know in advance the correct dosage for your dog's size. Do not apply a tourniquet or cut the wound. Do not apply ice or any topical medications. Get your canine partner to a vet immediately.

If your dog sustains a cut and is bleeding, apply pressure to stop the bleeding and check for debris that may be stuck in the wound. Minor cuts may only require washing out and bandaging the wound; however, deep cuts or punctures should be checked out by a veterinarian.

Another unfortunate but common occurrence is being sprayed

by a skunk. First, rinse your canine's eyes with cool water. Give it a bath as soon as possible to remove the oil from the coat. There are numerous recipes for how to get rid of the skunk smell online, but I recommend talking to the veterinarian in your area to be sure it's safe for your dog.

Probably one of the toughest things to watch your dog go through is a run-in with a porcupine. Try to keep your canine from rubbing the affected area against anything. Get your dog into the vet. They will be able to better assess the number and location of quills and whether some have broken off.

If quills are around the eye, that could cause serious damage. Quills near the mouth can be difficult to locate and remove. If you are comfortable attempting to remove the quills, keep your dog relaxed as possible by speaking softly. Firmly grasp a quill near the base with a flat pliers and quickly pull out in a straight line. Clean wounds with disinfectant or antiseptic.

I have had the misfortune of encountering (in some way shape or form) most of these ailments with my own dogs throughout the years. I can tell you firsthand it is important to have this information in case of an emergency.

Before you head for home, check your dog for any cuts, wounds, thorns or ticks. Check the eyes for scratches. Observe for any unusual behavior – limping, whimpering, unusual aggression – these could be signs for a sprain or broken bone.

Best practice is to be prepared...not just with your gear! Always have a first aid kit with you because you never know what could happen. Many first aid kits are available online. Do your research and talk to your vet. A good hunting experience is more than filling your tag or catching your limit... come home safely.

still able to keep going.

"We are retired people doing this for the fun of it, and we're able to pay our bills. Period," he said. "And we enjoy it. We get more visitors than customers here, and that's OK. But I sure wouldn't want to be trying to make a living with it right now."

Wood estimated that the gun shop is conducting business at about a third of the level that it was prior to the pandemic. But he also said he continues to enjoy what he's doing, and is grateful for support from other businesses, including helping with storage for supplies when they do come in, and for the people that continue to frequent 4J Gun Pro for their ammunition and firearms needs, or simply for a chance to visit.

Gifting Game

Gifting While in the Field

Gifted game and fish must have all required identification attached to the animal(s). Tagging requirements may be found in the hunting and fishing guides and proclamations.

Gifted game and fish must also be tagged with the following information:

- Hunter/angler's name
- Hunter/angler's license number
- Harvest date
- Species
- Animal count

When gifting a whole big game animal before it is processed, the animal needs to be properly tagged by the original license holder, the carcass tag needs to remain with the animal, and a transportation permit (available from Game and Fish game wardens) is needed if the carcass is transported by someone other than the license holder.

Frequently Asked Questions

If I reached my daily limit but then gift some of that game to someone else, can I continue to hunt?

No. Once you have reached your daily limit, you cannot continue to hunt that species regardless of whether you keep them or gift them.

If I gift game in the field, how does it affect my possession limit?

Your possession limit is different than your daily limit. You can reduce your possession limit by giving them to someone else for their use, provided it is done legally.

I accepted game from a friend, but that game was not properly labeled. Can I get in trouble for that?

No. The responsibilities associated with giving game are on the person who is giving it, not on the person who is receiving it.

Source: gf.nd.gov/regulations/gifting-game

AMMO continued from page 8

In addition, manufacturing for ammo primarily comes from out of the country, from Brazil or Mexico and from overseas. These manufacturers have also been impacted by the pandemic, by the major delays with shipping and by internal or international turmoil as well. He said the crisis of Russia's invasion of Ukraine is one example of this, leading to embargoes on certain Russian products used in gun manufacturing.

Even things like the pitch used to make the targets at ranges like the Zap Sportsman's Club is in short supply, or the optics or gunpowder needed to make shooting successful.

"It affects everything, sooner or later," Wood said.

Another challenge is that, as a small business in a rural area,

4J Gun Pro is likely to be near the bottom of the queue when it comes to distributors, who (once a particular kind of firearm or gun is available) are going to first get them sent into larger conglomerates that sell larger quantities to more people.

"The manufacturers aren't able to just switch over," he said, referring to making one type of ammo when 4J Gun Pro or other gun shops are looking for other types. "They have to prioritize what types they make and when."

Even things like repairing guns for people is challenging for 4J Gun Pro, as it's difficult to get the parts needed to repair it.

Wood said he is officially retired, and that not having to make an actual living out of the business is the only reason it's

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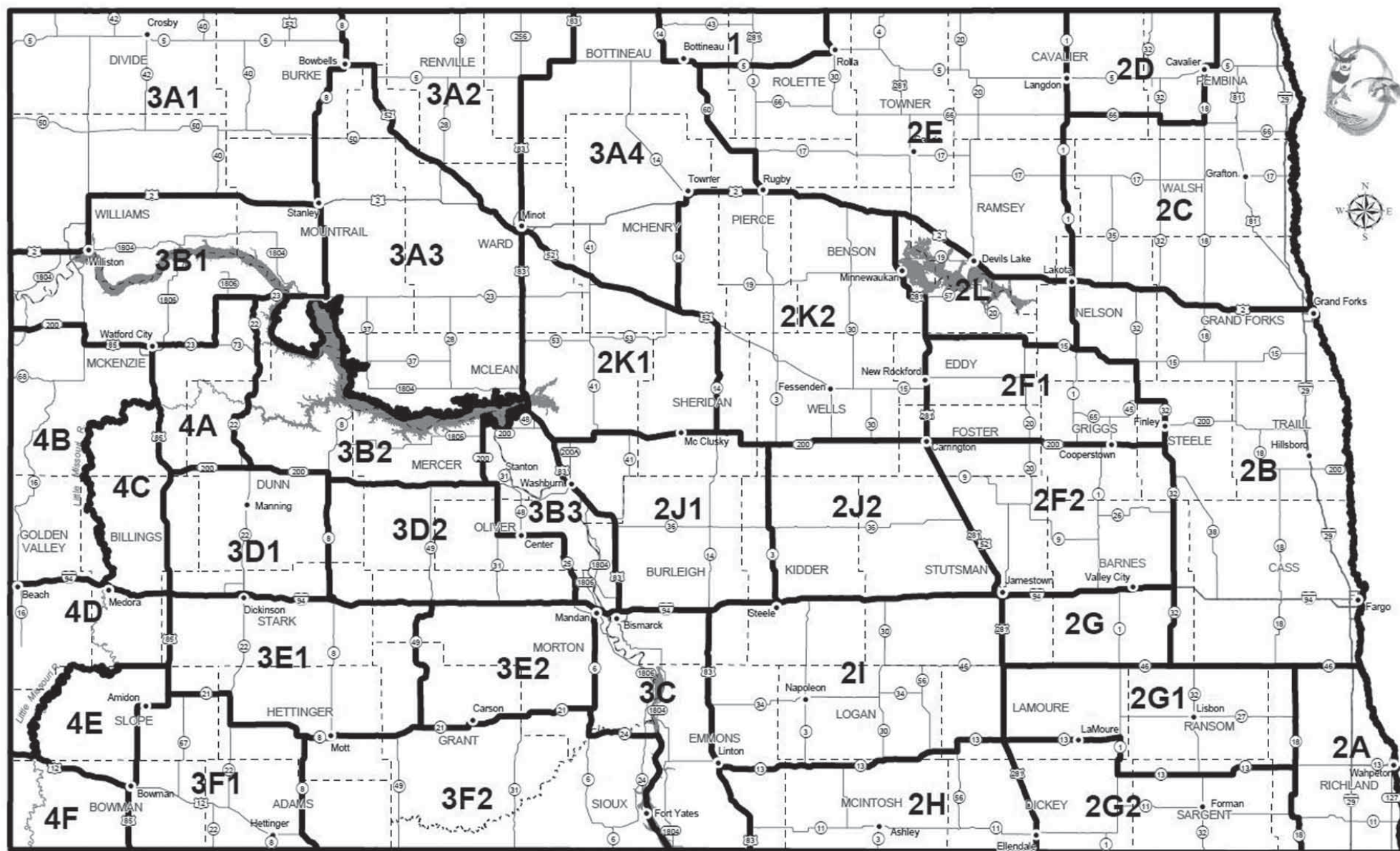
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Deer Gun Hunting Units

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
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:

North Dakota Game & Fish Department 2019

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

Hunting Hours

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.

Source: www.huntingseasonhq.com

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EHD RESULTS IN REDUCED WHITETAIL HARVEST DENSITY FOR YOUTH HUNTERS

BY BILL SCHMALFELDT
bill@centralnordak.com

The youth deer season in Mercer County was fraught with disappointment for young hunters.

It wasn't weather, it wasn't bad shooting conditions that caused the problems during the youth hunting season, Sept. 16-25.

It was a lack of deer that caused many youngsters to be unable to fill out their tags.

According to big game biologist Bruce Stallings with the North Dakota Game and Fish department, the culprit was a virus.

"Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) is an illness affecting the whitetail deer population," Stallings said. "It's caused by a virus spread by biting midges, which are prolific during hot

and dry summers, like the one just experienced in the area, although this year's reduced harvest density was a result of the infection that spread during the summer and fall of 2021."

According to the department, EHD has been documented in southwestern North Dakota for decades, the hardest hit areas of the state in 2021 were along the Missouri River north and south of Bismarck-Mandan, as well as a smaller area near Williston. EHD causes dehydration and a high body temperature, causing deer to seek water prior to death. Other clinical and behavior symptoms may include respiratory distress; swelling of head, neck, and tongue; lesions on tongue and roof of mouth; indifference to humans; and in later stages, hemorrhaging from body

orifices.

EHD is not a danger to humans. However, hunters should not shoot or consume a deer if it appears sick, according to the department website.

Stallings said that while herd numbers were reduced, it's hard to say for sure just how much of a dent the disease made in the whitetail population. Although the disease hit the herd during the summer and fall of 2021, the number of licenses issued for this year have been reduced and harvest density was down, he said.

Herd numbers should rebound in future seasons, Stallings said.

Hunters should report any dead deer observations to the Game and Fish Department online, or by phone 701-328-6351, according to the website.



A hot, dry summer in 2021 resulted in an outbreak of EHD, which caused a reduction in the whitetail harvest density for hunters during the recent youth deer season. (North Dakota Department of Fish and Game photo)

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