

## **NDG&F March 25th Newsletter**

### **Game and Fish Advisory Board Meetings Set**

Outdoor enthusiasts are invited to attend a North Dakota Game and Fish Department advisory board meeting in their area.

These public meetings, held each spring and fall, provide citizens with an opportunity to discuss fish and wildlife issues and ask questions of their district advisors and agency personnel.

In addition, prior to each meeting this spring, Game and Fish along with other conservation partners, will hold an informational session for landowners interested in qualifying land for the Conservation Reserve Program general signup May 20-June 14. These special sessions begin an hour before the regular meeting, with a short formal presentation at 6:30.

The governor appoints eight Game and Fish Department advisors, each representing a multi-county section of the state, to serve as a liaison between the department and public.

Any person who requires an auxiliary aid or service must notify the contact person at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting date.

District 3 – Counties: Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette and Towner

Date: April 15 – 7 p.m.

Location: Fire Hall, Esmond

Host: Buffalo Lake Wildlife Club

Contact: Wanda Bullinger, 249-3306

Advisory board member: Tom Rost, Devils Lake, 662-8620

District 8 – Counties: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope and Stark

Date: April 15 – 7 p.m.

Location: Great Plains National Bank, Belfield

Host: Belfield Sportsmen's Club

Contact: Bruce Baer, 575-4153

Advisory board member: Dwight Hecker, Fairfield, 575-4952

District 1 – Counties: Divide, McKenzie and Williams

Date: April 16 – 7 p.m.

Location: Civic Center, Watford City

Host: McKenzie County Pheasants Forever

Contact: Rick Pokrzywinski, 842-3174

Advisory board member: Jason Leiseth, Arnegard, 586-3714

District 4 – Counties: Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina and Walsh

Date: April 16 – 7 p.m.

Location: American Legion, Fordville

Host: Dakota Prairie Wildlife Club

Contact: Lynn Baier, 229-3665

Advisory board member: Ronald Houdek, Tolna, 262-4724

District 2 – Counties: Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville and Ward

Date: April 17 – 7 p.m.

Location: Grand International Inn, Minot

Host: Pheasants for the Future

Contact: Jon Hughes, 500-5478

Advisory board member: Robert Gjellstad, Voltaire, 338-2281

District 6 – Counties: Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, Logan, LaMoure, McIntosh, Stutsman and Wells

Date: April 17 – 7 p.m.

Location: VFW Club, Valley City

Host: Barnes County Wildlife Club

Contact: Perry Kapaun, 490-1797

Advisory board member: Joel Christoferson, Litchville, 973-4981

District 5 – Counties: Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele and Traill

Date: April 18 – 7 p.m.

Location: City Hall, Casselton

Host: Cass County Wildlife Club

Contact: Lorne Sterner, 347-4716

Advisory board member: Loran Palmer, Wahpeton, 274-8826

District 7 – Counties: Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan and Sioux

Date: April 18 – 7 p.m.

Location: Community Center, Tuttle

Host: Tuttle Wildlife Club

Contact: Randal Sand, 867-2513

Advisory board member: Frank Kartch, Bismarck, 516-2156

### **Whooping Crane Migration**

Whooping cranes are in the midst of their spring migration and sightings will increase as they make their way through North Dakota over the next several weeks. Anyone seeing these birds as they move through the state is asked to report sightings so the birds can be tracked.

Whoopers stand about five feet tall and have a wingspan of about seven feet from tip to tip. They are bright white with black wing tips, which are visible only when the wings are outspread. In flight they extend their long necks straight forward, while their long, slender legs extend out behind the tail. Whooping cranes typically migrate singly, or in groups of 2-3 birds, and may be associated with sandhill cranes.

Other white birds such as snow geese, swans and egrets are often mistaken for whooping cranes. The most common misidentification is pelicans, because their wingspan is similar and they tuck their pouch in flight, leaving a silhouette similar to a crane when viewed from below.

Anyone sighting whoopers should not disturb them, but record the date, time, location, and the birds' activity. Observers should also look closely for and report colored bands which may occur on one or both legs. Whooping cranes have been marked with colored leg bands to help determine their identity.

Whooping crane sightings should be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office at Lostwood, (701) 848-2466, or Long Lake, (701) 387-4397, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's main office in Bismarck at (701) 328-6300, or to local game wardens across the state. Reports help biologists

locate important whooping crane habitat areas, monitor marked birds, determine survival and population numbers, and identify times and migration routes.