

NDG&F May 24th Newsletter

Free Fishing Days June 1-2

North Dakota anglers are reminded they can fish for free June 1-2.

That is the weekend North Dakota residents may fish without a license. All other fishing regulations apply.

Refer to the [2012-14 North Dakota Fishing Guide](#) for season information.

Spring Mule Deer Survey Complete

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department conducted its annual spring mule deer survey in April and results indicate western North Dakota's mule deer population increased 15 percent from last year.

However, the 2013 spring mule deer index is still 22 percent lower than the long-term average.

Bruce Stillings, big game supervisor, said the increase is a result of no antlerless deer harvested in 2012, and relatively mild winter conditions across much of mule deer range.

"It's encouraging, but challenges remain for further population growth, including changes in habitat, energy development, predators and weather patterns," Stillings said.

The population change from 2012 was not consistent across the entire mule deer range. Stillings said hunting unit 4F in the southern portion of the badlands stayed the same, while the core mule deer range covering hunting units 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E had a healthy increase. The northernmost mule deer unit, 4A, experienced a substantial population decline.

Biologists counted 1,638 mule deer in 306.3 square miles during this year's survey. Overall mule deer density in the badlands was 5.3 deer per square mile, which is up from 4.6 deer per square mile in 2012, but less than the long-term average of 6.8 deer per square mile.

The spring mule deer index is used to assess mule deer abundance in the badlands. It is conducted after the snow has melted and before the trees begin to leaf out, providing the best conditions for aerial observation of deer. Biologists have completed aerial surveys of the same 24 study areas since the 1950s.

Summer Workshop Schedule for Educators

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is announcing its summer schedule of conservation workshops for educators.

National Archery in the Schools – June 4-5, Nishu Bow Range in Bismarck. Workshop participants are provided the fundamentals to teach archery in grades 4-12, either indoors or outdoors, and will be able to implement an archery unit in the classroom and an afterschool activity. A preregistration fee of \$10 payable to North Dakota Bow Hunters Association is required. Register by calling Jeff Long, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, at (701) 328-6322, or email jrlong@nd.gov.

Science Resources for Elementary Educators – June 19-20, North Dakota Game and Fish Department in

Bismarck. This workshop provides participants with an overview of resources available to educators, including Wildlife of North Dakota, Elementary Aquatic Education, and Habitats of North Dakota. Sponsored by the Lake Region Teacher Center.

Birds of North Dakota – June 26-27, North Dakota Game and Fish Department in Bismarck. Teachers completing this workshop will have a basis for teaching bird studies relevant to North Dakota by integrating life science techniques with visual arts found in the Lewis and Clark journals. Links will be made between birds and their habits. Materials meet North Dakota curriculum standards. Registration fee of \$40 is done through the [Bismarck Art and Galleries Association website](#) or by calling (701) 223-5986.

Information for each workshop is available by contacting Sherry Niesar at (701) 527-3714.