

## **NDG&F July 22nd Newsletter**

### **2012 Pheasant Season Summarized**

Wildlife populations were flourishing in 2006-07 when Conservation Reserve Program acres peaked at more than 3.25 million in North Dakota. Since then, as CRP acres have steadily declined, so has the overall harvest of game species.

This is never more evident than with pheasant. According to statistics released by the State Game and Fish Department, while the number of pheasant hunters increased by 4 percent from 2011 to 2012, overall harvest fell 10 percent.

“There is a direct correlation between habitat and wildlife populations, and this is apparent when analyzing pheasant numbers,” said Stan Kohn, upland game management supervisor for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. “For instance, in 2007 habitat was at a premium, the pheasant population was strong and total number of hunters surpassed more than 100,000 for the first time.”

Last year, nearly 86,000 hunters harvested 616,000 roosters. In 2007, more than 107,000 hunters took nearly 908,000 roosters.

The number of resident hunters in 2012 was up 1 percent from 2011, while nonresident pheasant hunters increased 9 percent. Birds bagged per hunter decreased from 8.2 to 7.2, and each hunter spent an average of 5.4 days afield.

Counties with the highest percentage of pheasants taken by resident hunters in 2012 were Hettinger, 7.7; Burleigh, 7.7; McLean, 6.7; Morton, 5.7; and Stark, 4.7.

Top counties for nonresident hunters were Hettinger, 20.1 percent; Bowman, 8.8; Adams, 6; Emmons, 5.9; and McLean, 5.2.

Annual pheasant season statistics are determined by a mail survey of resident and nonresident hunters.

### **Online Swan App Available July 25**

The [online application](#) for North Dakota’s 2013 tundra swan license lottery will be available July 25 on the state Game and Fish Department’s website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov). The deadline for applying is Aug. 14.

Paper applications will be available the end of July from Game and Fish offices, county auditors and license vendors. Hunters can also apply by calling (800) 406-6409. A service fee is added for license applications made by phone.

The statewide tundra swan hunting season is Sept. 28 – Dec. 29. A total of 2,200 licenses are available. Successful applicants will receive a tag to take one swan during the season. Since swans are classified as waterfowl, nonresidents may hunt them only during the period their nonresident waterfowl license is valid.

North Dakota residents and nonresidents are eligible to apply.

