

## **NDG&F May 19th Newsletter**

### **MacLean Shooting Range to Close for Renovation**

The MacLean shooting range located 15 miles southeast of Bismarck will be closed this summer for reconstruction and expansion. A closed sign will be posted at the entrance.

Improvements will include a shotgun range, handgun range, and a 100- and 200-yard rifle range.

Construction is scheduled for June, July and August, with the range slated to open late summer.

MacLean Bottoms is 2 miles south of ND Highway 1804.

Two alternate public ranges that are open are Schmidt Bottoms and Wilton Mine Wildlife Management Area.

Schmidt Bottoms, located 13.4 miles south of Mandan on ND Highway 1806, was already reconstructed with a shotgun range, handgun range, and a 100- and 200-yard rifle range.

Wilton Mine Wildlife Management Area is approximately 2 miles east of Wilton.

### **Threat of Exotics in State Waters Continues**

Outdoor water recreationists are once again reminded to help prevent the introduction and spread of [aquatic nuisance species](#) in North Dakota.

State Game and Fish Department ANS Coordinator Fred Ryckman said there are more than 400 recreational fishing waters across the state, making it imperative for watercraft owners to obey regulations.

“It is the same message year after year, but that just shows how important it is to keep our waterways free of unwanted species,” Ryckman said. “Full public participation and compliance is critical if we want to ensure ANS is not transferred from one lake to another.”

Current law states all water must be drained from watercraft prior to leaving a water body, including livewells. This means fish, including bait, cannot be transported in a livewell containing water. However, bait buckets and/or any container of 5 gallons or less in volume can be used to transport legal live baitfish or other bait in water. All other fish species may not be held in water and/or transported in bait buckets/containers when away from a water body. Transportation of fish in or on ice is allowed.

In addition, no aquatic vegetation, or parts thereof, shall be in or on watercraft, motors, trailers and recreational equipment when out of water. Time out of the water needed to remove aquatic vegetation at the immediate water access area is allowed.

All built-in structures to boats, including livewells and bait compartments, and containers (bait buckets) used to transport legal live bait, must also be free of aquatic vegetation.

### **Be Courteous at Boat Ramps**

Boaters are reminded to exercise patience and plan accordingly when heading to a lake or river this summer.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department receives a number of complaints every year about overly aggressive behavior at boat ramps. A few simple reminders will help ensure a fluent transition when

launching and loading a boat.

### Launching

Don't pull onto ramp until your boat is ready to launch.

Prepare for launching in the parking area. Remove covers, load equipment, remove tie downs, attach lines and put in drain plug, before backing onto the ramp.

When ready, pull into line to launch. Wait your turn. Be courteous.

It takes at least two people to efficiently and courteously launch a boat: one to handle the boat and one to take care of the tow vehicle.

### Loading

Don't block the loading area with your boat until your tow vehicle is ready to load. Wait until you are clear of the launch area to unload gear.

As soon as your trailer is in the water, load and secure your boat to the trailer.

Remove boat and trailer from the water as quickly as possible.

Get clear of the ramp. Pull into the parking area to finish securing your boat and unload gear.

## **Women Invited to Hike Maah Daah Hey Trail**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program has openings for "Hike the Maah Daah Hey Trail" June 21-22.

This workshop is designed for women with previous hiking or backpacking skills, or who are in good physical condition. Participants will hike a 13-mile portion of the trail near the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Activity is strenuous due to rough terrain. The \$30 fee includes group gear and transportation to and from the CCC Campground. Each participant must provide their own personal gear and meals.

BOW workshops are designed primarily for women with an interest in learning skills associated with hunting, fishing and outdoor endeavors. Although open to anyone age 18 or older, the workshops are tailored primarily to women who have never tried these activities or who are beginners hoping to improve their skills.

[Women interested in attending the workshop](#) can enroll online, or print an information brochure and enrollment form, at the Game and Fish website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov). More information is available by contacting Nancy Boldt at 701-328-6312, or email [ndgf@nd.gov](mailto:ndgf@nd.gov).