

NDG&F September 29th Newsletter

Williams Appointed Wildlife Chief

North Dakota Game and Fish Director Terry Steinwand has appointed 15-year department employee Jeb Williams as chief of wildlife. Williams succeeds Randy Kreil, who announced his retirement in August. “Jeb has a proven track record in all of his capacities with the department,” Steinwand said. “This, along with his communication skills, was a large part in his selection.”

Williams has been the assistant wildlife chief since 2011. He has also held biologist and wildlife resource management supervisor positions.

A native of Beach in Golden Valley County, he has a bachelor’s degree in biology and resource management from Dickinson State University

Young Zebra Mussels Again Found in Red River

Aquatic nuisance species surveillance efforts along the Red River in eastern North Dakota have again detected the presence of zebra mussel young at Wahpeton.

North Dakota Game and Fish Department ANS coordinator Fred Ryckman said zebra mussel larvae were also present in the same area in both 2010 and 2011, but were not found in the past two years.

“Since we have found zebra mussel young in this area before, and because there are established adult populations upstream in the Otter Tail River in Minnesota, finding a few young this year really didn’t come as a surprise,” Ryckman said.

Despite recent reports of new and expanding zebra mussel infestations in Minnesota, to date adult zebra mussels have not been found in any North Dakota waters. Young zebra mussels have only been found in North Dakota at this single site on the Red River.

Local entities and water recreationists are urged to check for ANS infestations when pulling and storing fishing piers, boat docks and lifts prior to ice up. “It is especially important to look for zebra mussels during this winter prep work to determine if mussels are present,” Ryckman said. “They attach to these types of hard surfaces.”

If mussels are found, citizens are requested to leave the suspicious mussel attached, take a digital picture, and report findings immediately to a local Game and Fish Department district office. Pictures of zebra mussels are available on the [100th Meridian Initiative website](http://100thmeridian.org/) at 100thmeridian.org/.

ANS surveillance along the Red River was conducted by Valley City State University and funded by Game and Fish.

PLOTS Regulations

Out-of-state hunters are reminded that state law does not allow nonresidents to hunt on North Dakota Game and Fish Department owned or managed lands during the first week of the pheasant season.

Private Land Open to Sportsmen acreage and state wildlife management areas are open to hunting by resident hunters only from Oct. 11-17. Nonresidents, however, can still hunt those days on other state-owned and federal lands, or private land.

The law applies to all small game, waterfowl, furbearer and big game hunting on PLOTS and state wildlife management areas during the first seven days of the pheasant season. Starting Oct. 18 this year, nonresidents may hunt on PLOTS and WMAs as long as the appropriate season is open.

In addition, all hunters are reminded that activities such as riding horses for hunting purposes or for pleasure on PLOTS require written permission from the landowner. Permission from the landowner is always required for motorized vehicle access, such as for setting decoys in a field, unless specially designated on the PLOTS sign.

Also, leaving equipment or other provisions in a PLOTS area overnight, for example tree stands or blinds, decoys, firearms and archery equipment, trail cameras, or any type of bait used to attract big game animals, is not allowed without written permission from the landowner.