

NDG&F August 3rd Newsletter

Hunters Reminded of Big Game Transport Rules

Big game hunters are reminded of requirements for transporting deer, elk and moose carcasses and carcass parts into and within North Dakota as a precaution against the possible spread of chronic wasting disease.

Hunters harvesting a big game animal this fall in North Dakota deer unit 3F2 cannot transport a carcass containing the head and spinal column outside of the unit unless it's taken directly to a meat processor. The head can be removed from the carcass and transported outside of the unit if it is to be submitted to a State Game and Fish Department district office, CWD surveillance drop-off location or a licensed taxidermist.

If the deer is processed in the field to boned meat, and the hunter wants to leave the head in the field, the head must be legally tagged and the hunter must be able to return to or give the exact location of the head if requested for verification.

In addition, hunting big game over bait is prohibited in deer units 3C west of the Missouri River, 3E1, 3E2, 3F1 and 3F2.

Hunters are prohibited from transporting into North Dakota the whole carcass, or certain carcass parts, of deer, elk, moose or other members of the cervid family from areas within states and provinces with documented occurrences of CWD in wild populations, or from farmed cervid operations within states and provinces that have had farmed cervids diagnosed with CWD. Only the following portions of the carcass can be transported:

- Meat that is cut and wrapped either commercially or privately.
- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
- Meat that has been boned out.
- Hides with no heads attached.
- Clean (no meat or tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached.
- Antlers with no meat or tissue attached.
- Upper canine teeth, also known as buglers, whistlers or ivories.
- Finished taxidermy heads.

Hunters should refer to the [2015-16 CWD proclamation](#) on the Game and Fish Department's website, gf.nd.gov, for game management units, equivalent wildlife management units, or counties in other states that have had free-ranging deer, moose or elk diagnosed with CWD. Importation of harvested elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or other cervids from listed areas are restricted.

Federal Duck Stamps Available Electronically

This year's 2015-16 federal duck stamp is now available for electronic purchase by visiting the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov.

In addition, license vendors that are registered with the Game and Fish Department's licensing system can sell the electronic duck stamp, as does the department's instant licensing telephone number, 800-406-6409. Physical stamps are not available at North Dakota license vendors this year, but they can still be purchased at many U.S. Postal Service offices.

Game and Fish licensing manager Randy Meissner said the electronic stamp is a purchase item like any other hunting or fishing license.

"When the purchase is completed the electronic stamp is valid immediately," Meissner said. "The words 'Federal Duck Stamp' will be printed on the license certificate, along with an expiration date 45 days from the date of purchase. The actual physical stamp will be sent by postal mail."

Meissner said the physical stamp is processed and sent by the official duck stamp vendor in Texas, and should arrive to the individual buyer well before the expiration date printed on the electronic license. The physical stamp must remain in possession of the hunter after the 45-day electronic stamp has expired. Individuals who have questions regarding the status of their physical stamp can contact the federal duck stamp vendor customer service number at 800-852-4897.

This year's federal duck stamp has a fee of \$25, up from \$15 last year. In addition, there is another \$1.50 added to cover shipping and handling costs of the actual physical stamp. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said the duck stamp price increase is the first in 24 years, the longest single period without an increase in the program's history.