

NDG&F February 8th Newsletter

District Game Warden Exam Set for March 18

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has scheduled an examination to select candidates for the position of district game warden. The test is at 10 a.m., March 18, at the department's main office in Bismarck.

Applicants must register to take the exam no later than March 14 by submitting an [online application](#) through the North Dakota State Job Openings website.

Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and have a bachelor's degree at time of hire (tentative hire date is June 1), have a valid driver's license and a current North Dakota peace officer license, or be eligible to be licensed. Candidates must have excellent interpersonal skills in communications and writing, and must not have a record of any felony convictions.

District game wardens enforce game and fish laws and related regulations in an assigned district and other locations as determined by the department. Wardens normally work alone under varied conditions, at all hours of the day, night and weekends. In addition to law enforcement duties, wardens assist in the areas of public relations, education programs, and hunter and boat safety education.

Salary through training for a district game warden is \$3,600 per month. Upon successful completion of training, the monthly salary ranges are \$4,136 - \$6,894. Wardens also receive the state benefits package, including travel allowance. Uniforms and other equipment are provided.

Spring Light Goose Season

North Dakota's [spring light goose season](#) opens Feb. 20 and continues through May 15.

Residents must have a valid current season 2015-16 (valid through March 31) or 2016-17 (required April 1) combination license; or a small game, and general game and habitat license. The 2016-17 license is available for purchase beginning March 15.

Nonresidents need a 2016 spring light goose season license. The cost is \$50 and the license is good statewide. Nonresidents who hunt the spring season remain eligible to buy a fall season license. The spring season does not count against the 14-day fall waterfowl hunting season regulation.

In addition, nonresident youth under age 16 can purchase a license at the resident fee if their state has youth reciprocity licensing with North Dakota.

A federal duck stamp is not required for either residents or nonresidents.

[Resident and nonresident licenses are available](#) from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Bismarck office, website at gf.nd.gov, or by calling 800-406-6409. Licenses are also available at any vendor that is linked to the department's electronic licensing system.

Availability of food and open water dictate when snow geese arrive in the state. Early migrants generally start showing up in the southeast part of the state in mid-to-late March, but huntable numbers usually aren't around until the end of March or early April. Movements into and through the state will depend on available roosting areas and the extent of the snow line.

Hunters must obtain a new Harvest Information Program registration number before hunting. The HIP number can be obtained online or by calling 888-634-4798. The HIP number is good for the fall season as well, so spring hunters should save it to record on their fall license.

The spring season is only open to light geese – snows, blues, and Ross's. Species identification is important because white-fronted and Canada geese travel with light geese. The season is closed to whitefronts, Canada geese, swans and all other migratory birds.

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. There is no daily bag limit or possession limit. Electronic and recorded calls, as well as shotguns capable of holding more than three shells, may be used to take light geese during this season.

There are no waterfowl rest areas designated for the spring season. Hunters should note that private land within waterfowl rest areas closed last fall may be posted closed to hunting.

Nontoxic shot is required for hunting all light geese statewide. Driving off established roads and trails is strongly discouraged during this hunt because of the likelihood of soft, muddy conditions, and winter wheat that is planted across the state. Sprouted winter wheat is considered an unharvested crop. Therefore, hunting or off-road travel in winter wheat is not legal without landowner permission.

To maintain good landowner relations, hunters are advised to seek permission before hunting on private lands or attempting any off-road travel during this season.

All regular hunting season regulations not addressed above apply to the spring season. For more information on regulations refer to the [2016 Spring Light Goose Hunting Regulations](#) and the [2015 North Dakota Waterfowl Hunting Guide](#).

Raleigh Reservoir Renovation Begins Feb. 10

Ice anglers in southwestern North Dakota should note that Raleigh Reservoir in Grant County is undergoing a chemical renovation this week and will no longer have live fish throughout the rest of winter and into spring.

The under-ice chemical application of rotenone is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 10, to eliminate an overabundance of northern pike that have taken over the lake since first discovered in 2009.

"These pike are causing the decline of more desirable species such as bass and bluegill," said State Game and Fish Department southwest district fisheries supervisor Jeff Hendrickson, who mentioned that local anglers unanimously agreed to renovate the reservoir and develop a more desirable fishery.

Raleigh Reservoir was drawn down last year to allow for repairs to the water control structure. "The low water level will provide a good opportunity to conduct the eradication in an efficient and successful manner," Hendrickson said.

Rotenone should dissipate from the lake by ice melt, Hendrickson said, eliminating any danger to animals or humans.

In the future, Game and Fish plans to manage the reservoir for yellow perch, bluegill, walleye and largemouth bass.