

## **NDG&F April 11th Newsletter**

### **Paddlefish Snagging Season Opens May 1**

A paddlefish tag is required to participate in North Dakota's paddlefish snagging season, which opens May 1 and is scheduled to continue through the end of May. However, depending on the overall harvest, an early in-season closure may occur with a 24-hour notice issued by the state Game and Fish Department.

Snag-and-release of all paddlefish is required on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays; therefore, the first two days of the 2016 snagging season will be snag-and-release only. Mandatory harvest of all snagged paddlefish is required on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. On these days, all paddlefish caught must be kept and tagged immediately.

All paddlefish snagged and tagged must be removed from the river by 9 p.m. of each snagging day.

Those planning to participate during snag-and-release-only days need to have in their possession a current season, unused paddlefish snagging tag. Use or possession of gaffs is prohibited on snag-and-release-only days, and, if it occurs, during the snag-and-release extension period.

Legal snagging hours are from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. One tag per snagger will be issued. Snagging is legal in all areas of the Yellowstone River in North Dakota, and in the area of the Missouri River lying west of the U.S. Highway 85 bridge to the Montana border, excluding that portion from the pipeline crossing (river mile 1,577) downstream to the upper end of the Lewis and Clark Wildlife Management Area (river mile 1,565).

If the season closes early because the harvest cap is reached, an extended snag-and-release-only period will be allowed for up to four days immediately following the early closure, but not to extend beyond May 31. Only snaggers with a current season, unused paddlefish snagging tag are eligible to participate. Only a limited area at the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers is open to this extended season snagging opportunity.

All paddlefish snaggers must possess a paddlefish tag in addition to a valid fishing license. Cost of a paddlefish tag is \$10 for residents and \$25.50 for nonresidents.

Addresses and phone numbers of vendors selling tags:

#### **Bismarck Game and Fish Office**

100 N. Bismarck Expressway

Bismarck, ND 58501

701-328-6300

#### **Sportsman's Warehouse**

925 32nd Avenue West

Williston, ND 58801

701-572-2500

**Scenic Sports**

1201 East Broadway

Williston, ND 58801

701-572-8696

**Wal-Mart, Inc.**

4001 2nd Avenue West

Williston, ND 58801

701-572-8550

**Runnings Farm and Fleet**

2003 3rd Avenue West

Dickinson, ND 58601

701-483-1226

**Camping Restrictions on Some WMAs**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will continue to implement camping restrictions on some wildlife management areas in western North Dakota and along Lake Sakakawea.

Overnight camping is prohibited on the following WMAs: Antelope Creek, Lewis and Clark, Big Oxbow, Ochs Point, Neu's Point, Overlook, Sullivan and Tobacco Garden in McKenzie County; Van Hook in Mountrail County; and Hofflund and Trenton in Williams County.

Lewis and Clark and Trenton WMAs are closed from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise unless users are legally engaged in fishing, hunting or trapping. However, camping is allowed for paddlefish snaggers only during the open paddlefish season, at the Lewis and Clark WMA Pumphouse area, and by boat access only at Neu's Point WMA.

In addition, the following WMAs are closed to camping on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but open to camping Thursday-Monday: Bull Creek in Billings County; Alkali Creek and Spring Creek in Bowman County; Smishek Lake and Short Creek Dam in Burke County; Apple Creek in Burleigh County; Harris M. Baukol in Divide County; Killdeer Mountains in Dunn County; Camels Hump Lake in Golden Valley County; Audubon, Custer Mine, Deepwater Creek, deTrobriand, Douglas Creek and Wolf Creek in McLean County; Beaver Creek and Hille in Mercer County; Crown Butte Lake and Storm Creek in Morton County; Cedar Lake and Speck Davis Pond in Slope County; and McGregor Dam in Williams County.

On those WMAs where camping is allowed Thursday through Monday, all equipment must be removed on Tuesday and Wednesdays when camping is not allowed.

The Game and Fish Department will lift the Tuesday-Wednesday camping restriction for the week of Memorial Day, May 30 – June 3. This same waiver will allow camping on those WMAs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during all state-recognized holiday weeks throughout the year, including 4th of July week (July 4-8), and Labor Day (Sept. 5-9).

Glass bottles are prohibited on all WMAs. Other camping restrictions at all WMAs are posted at entry points. Additional WMA rules and regulations are available on the Game and Fish website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

These rules ensure that WMAs are available for hunters and anglers.

### **Game and Fish, UND to Survey Deer Hunters**

The State Game and Fish Department and University of North Dakota are collecting information from resident deer hunters who either applied for or received a 2015 hunting license.

UND will mail a questionnaire in mid-April to 4,000 randomly selected deer gun, archery, muzzleloader and gratis applicants. Questions will focus on hunter satisfaction and experiences, and public perception related to recent declines in deer numbers and corresponding licenses. Hunters who receive a questionnaire are asked to complete the form and return to UND. The return postage is prepaid.

Information collected will help with future deer management decisions, and all feedback is confidential.

More information about the survey is available by contacting UND graduate student researcher Kristen Black at [k.black@und.edu](mailto:k.black@und.edu); or 404-561-9029.