

NDG&F June 20th Newsletter

Game Warden Exam Set for Aug. 5

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., Aug. 5, at the department's main office in Bismarck. Applicants must register to take the exam no later than Aug. 1 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 Oct. 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 \$3,800 per month.

Upon successful completion of training, the monthly salary ranges are \$4,260 - \$7,100. Wardens also receive the state benefits package, including travel allowance. Uniforms and other equipment are provided.

National Campaign Focuses on Boating Under Influence

North Dakota Game and Fish Department law enforcement personnel will participate in a national campaign designed to reduce the number of boaters operating under the influence.

Operation Dry Water runs June 24-26, and involves having an increased enforcement presence on the water. "It's an effort to raise awareness about the dangers associated with boating under the influence," said enforcement division operations supervisor Jackie Lundstrom. "With the assistance of some county and federal agencies, we will have additional officers on the water at different times of the day, especially in high traffic areas."

Water safety is a major enforcement issue for the Game and Fish Department, as the number of anglers, boaters, jet skiers and other recreationists has continued to grow during the past decade. "With that said, our main focus is to ensure safety by providing a larger enforcement presence," Lundstrom said. "Our goal is to heighten awareness that driving a boat under the influence is the same as driving your vehicle under the influence."

If you know you are too intoxicated to operate your motor vehicle, then you should not be operating your boat.” Operation Dry Water is coordinated by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard and local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Boaters Should Check Border State and Provincial ANS Regulations

North Dakota boaters who are traveling to other states or Canadian provinces should check the aquatic nuisance species regulations of their destination to make sure they are in compliance.

While many of North Dakota’s ANS prevention regulations are similar to surrounding states and provinces, State Game and Fish Department ANS coordinator Jessica Howell says there are some subtle differences that could lead to travel interruption or citations depending on the circumstances.

“Removal of all water and vegetation, as well as pulled plugs while traveling, are generally the rule in neighboring states and provinces,” Howell said, “but there are some places where ‘dry’ is also a requirement, meaning no residual water anywhere in the boat.” In addition, mandatory boat inspections may be required based on destination or route taken.

For example, Howell said anyone pulling a boat into Canada will likely have it inspected at a border crossing, some states have inspection checkpoints along highways, and some lakes have inspectors at boat ramps.

Any boats that are not in compliance will likely get delayed in their travels or be prevented from launching, Howell added. Boaters should be aware of regulations for not only their destination, but for any states they are traveling through.

More information on bordering state and provincial ANS regulations is available at the following web addresses. ·

South Dakota Fish and Parks at sdleastwanted.com

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks at fwp.mt.gov/fishing/guide/ethics

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment <http://environment.gov.sk.ca>

Manitoba Department of Sustainable Development, <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/waterstewardship/stopais/index.html>

[North Dakota ANS regulations](#) are as follows:

All aquatic vegetation must be removed from boats, personal watercraft, trailers and fishing equipment such as fishing poles, bait buckets, lures and waders before leaving a body of water. That means "vegetation free" when transporting watercraft and/or equipment away from a boat ramp, landing area or shoreline. Time out of the water needed to remove aquatic vegetation at the immediate water access area is allowed.

All water must be drained from boats and other watercraft, including bilges, livewells, baitwells and motors before leaving a water body.

All drain plugs that may hold back water must be removed, and water draining devices must be open, on all watercraft and recreational, commercial and construction equipment bilges and confined spaces, during any out-of-water transport of same.

Transportation of fish in or on ice is allowed.

Live aquatic bait or aquatic vegetation may not be transported into North Dakota.

All legal live aquatic organisms used by anglers, including legal baitfish (fathead minnows), amphibians (salamanders and frogs), invertebrates (crayfish and leeches) and insects must be purchased and/or trapped in North Dakota.

Anglers may not transport live bait in water away from the Red River (Class I ANS infested waters). All water must be drained from bait buckets as anglers leave the shore, or remove their boat from the water. Anglers must properly dispose of unused bait away from the river, as dumping bait in the water or on shore is illegal.

In all other waters not infested with Class I ANS species, anglers can transport live bait in water in containers of five gallons or less in volume.

Fireworks Prohibited on Wildlife Management Areas

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department reminds citizens that possession or use of fireworks on state wildlife management areas is prohibited.

The primary objective of a wildlife management area is to enhance wildlife production, provide hunting and fishing opportunities, and offer other outdoor recreational and educational uses. Only activities that would not disrupt the intentions of how these areas are managed are encouraged, and a fireworks display is not compatible.

Excessive noise and commotion that come with fireworks disturbs wildlife, and their explosive nature is a potential source of wildfires.

Chances of a wildfire developing are greatly enhanced when explosives, such as fireworks, come in contact with tall grasses in rural areas.

A complete list of the [WMA regulations](#) is available on the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov.