

NDG&F August 1st Newsletter

Swan Hunt Application Available Online

The [online application](#) for North Dakota's 2016 tundra swan license lottery is available on the State Game and Fish Department's website, gf.nd.gov. The deadline for applying is Aug. 17.

Applicants can also apply by calling 800-406-6409. A service fee is added for license applications made by phone.

North Dakota residents and nonresidents are eligible to apply. The resident swan license is \$10, while the nonresident fee is \$30.

The statewide tundra swan hunting season is Oct. 1 – Jan. 1, 2017. A total of 2,200 licenses are available. Successful applicants will receive a tag to take one swan during the season. Since swans are classified as waterfowl, nonresidents may hunt them only during the period their nonresident waterfowl license is valid.

Early Canada Goose Season Announced

North Dakota's early Canada goose season is set, and bag limits and licensing requirements are the same as last year.

The season will open Aug. 15 and continue through Sept. 15, except in the Missouri River Zone where the season ends Sept. 7. The early Canada goose season has a limit of 15 daily and 45 in possession.

Limits and shooting hours for the early season are different from the regular season. Shooting hours during the early season are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily.

Residents need a \$5 early Canada goose license and a general game and habitat license. Also, residents age 16 and older need a small game license. Nonresidents need only a \$50 early Canada goose license, and the license is valid statewide without counting against the 14-day regular season license.

A federal duck stamp for hunters age 16 and older, and Harvest Information Program certification, are both required beginning Sept. 1.

Hunters who do not HIP certify when they buy a North Dakota license, can add it later through the Game and Fish website at gf.nd.gov, or by calling 888-634-4798 and recording the HIP number on their printed license. Those who registered to hunt the spring light goose season in North Dakota do not have to register with HIP again, as it is required in each state only once per year.

Waterfowl rest areas, closed to hunting during the regular season, are open during the early season. Most land in these rest areas is private, so hunters may need permission to hunt.

The early hunting season is intended to reduce local Canada goose numbers. Despite liberalized regulations the past several years, with longer seasons, large bag limits and expanded shooting hours, the statewide population remains high, with numbers well above population goals.

For additional [information and regulations](#), hunters should refer to the Game and Fish Department website.

2016 Waterfowl Regulations Set

North Dakota's 2016 waterfowl season is set, with the season framework similar to last year.

Opening day for North Dakota residents is Sept. 24 for ducks, geese, coots and mergansers. Nonresidents may begin hunting waterfowl in North Dakota Oct. 1. The season for swans opens Oct. 1 for both residents and nonresidents.

Hunters may take six ducks per day with the following restrictions: five mallards of which two may be hens, three wood ducks, three scaup, two redheads, two pintails and two canvasbacks. Similar to last year, hunters can take an additional two blue-winged teal from Sept. 24 through Oct. 9. The daily limit of five mergansers may include no more than two hooded mergansers. For ducks and mergansers, the possession limit is three times the daily limit.

The hunting season for Canada geese in the Missouri River zone will close Dec. 30, while the remainder of the state will close Dec. 22. The season for whitefronts closes Dec. 4, while the season on light geese is open through Jan. 1, 2017. Shooting hours for all geese are one-half hour before sunrise to 1 p.m. each day through Nov. 5. Beginning Nov. 6, shooting hours are extended until 2 p.m. each day.

Extended shooting hours for all geese are permitted from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset on Saturdays and Wednesdays through Nov. 23, and on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays from Nov. 24 through the end of each season.

The bag limit for Canada geese during the regular season is eight daily and 24 in possession, except in the Missouri River zone where the limit is five daily and 15 in possession.

The daily limit on whitefronts is three with nine in possession, and light goose is 50 daily, with no possession limit.

The early Canada goose season will open Aug. 15 and continue through Sept. 15, except in the Missouri River Zone where the season ends Sept. 7. The early Canada goose season has a limit of 15 daily and 45 in possession.

The special youth waterfowl hunting season is Sept. 17-18. Legally licensed residents and nonresidents 15 years of age or younger can hunt ducks, coots, mergansers and geese statewide. Youth hunters must have a general game and habitat license and a fishing, hunting and furbearer certificate. A licensed adult of at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field.

Nonresidents have the option of buying either a statewide waterfowl license or one with zone restrictions. Nonresidents who designate zones 1 or 2 may hunt that zone for only one seven-day period during the season. Nonresident hunters who chose to hunt in zone 1 or 2 and wish to use the full 14 consecutive days allowed, must use the other seven days in zone 3. Hunters in zone 3 can hunt that zone the entire 14 days.

In accordance with state law, nonresidents are not allowed to hunt on North Dakota Game and Fish Department wildlife management areas or conservation PLOTS (Private Land Open To Sportsmen) areas from Oct. 8-14.

Hunters who do not HIP certify when they buy a North Dakota license, can add it later through the Game and Fish website at gf.nd.gov, or by calling 888-634-4798 and recording the HIP number on their printed license. Those who registered to hunt North Dakota's spring light goose season or early Canada goose season do not have to register with HIP again, as it is required in each state only once per year.

Hunters should refer to the *2016 North Dakota Waterfowl Hunting Guide* for further details on the waterfowl season. Paper copies will be at license vendors in early September.

2016 Small Game and Furbearer Regulations Set

North Dakota's 2016 small game and furbearer regulations are set and most season structures are similar to last year.

Notable changes include:

The overall harvest limit on mountain lions is reduced from 21 to 15, and the early season limit is reduced from 14 to eight. If the early season ends before the season limit is reached, the season could reopen if the late season limit is reached prior to March 25. The late season limit is seven total lions, or three female lions, whichever comes first.

Trappers are no longer required to register with the State Game and Fish Department prior to setting cable devices.

Night vision, electronically enhanced light gathering optics and thermal imaging equipment can be used during the portion of the red fox, gray fox and coyote seasons that is open to night hunting (Nov. 21 – March 15). Spotlights or any other artificial lights are still prohibited.

Prairie chicken and sage grouse seasons will remain closed due to low populations.

In accordance with state law, nonresidents are not allowed to hunt on Game and Fish Department wildlife management areas or conservation PLOTS (Private Land Open To Sportsmen) areas from Oct. 8-14.

Hunters should refer to the [*North Dakota 2016-17 Small Game and Furbearer guides*](#) (available mid-August) for more details on small game and furbearer seasons. Printed waterfowl guides will be available in early September.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Opens</u>	<u>Closes</u>	<u>Daily Limit</u>	<u>Poss Limit</u>
Early Canada Goose	Aug. 15	Sept. 15 (Sept. 7 Missouri River Zone)	15	45
Crows (fall)	Aug. 20	Nov. 7	No limit	No limit
Mountain lion zone 1 early (zone limit 8)	Sept. 2	Nov. 20 (or when zone limit is reached)	Season limit of 1 per hunter	
Mountain lion zone 1 late (zone limit 7 or 3 females)	Nov. 21	March 31 (or when zone limit is reached)	Season limit of 1 per hunter	
Dove	Sept. 1	Nov. 29	15	45
Mountain lion zone 2	Sept. 2	March 31	Season limit of 1 per hunter	
Hungarian partridge	Sept. 10	Jan. 8	3	12
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Sharp-tailed grouse				
Ruffed grouse	Sept. 10	Jan. 8	3	12
Tree squirrels	Sept. 10	Jan. 8	4	12
Sandhill crane unit 1	Sept. 17	Nov. 13	3	9
Sandhill crane unit 2	Sept. 17	Nov. 13	2	6
Snipe	Sept. 17	Dec. 4	8	24
Woodcock	Sept. 24	Nov. 7	3	9
Tundra swan	Oct. 1	Jan. 1	Season limit of 1 per hunter (license issued by lottery)	
Pheasants	Oct. 8	Jan. 8	3	12

Weasel trapping	Oct. 22	March 15		
Mink, Muskrat trapping	Oct. 22	May 10		
Fisher trapping	Nov. 21	Nov. 27	Season limit of 1 per trapper	