

## **NDG&F February 21st Newsletter**

### **Remaining Deer Samples Negative for CWD**

The remaining 3,600 North Dakota deer samples that were tested for chronic wasting disease are negative, according to Dr. Dan Grove, wildlife veterinarian for the State Game and Fish Department.

In all, more than 4,200 targeted and hunter-harvested samples from 2010 were sent to a lab at Michigan State University. One mule deer taken last fall in unit 3F2 in western Grant County tested positive for CWD, the second positive sample taken from a North Dakota animal. The first was taken during the deer gun season in 2009, also from a mule deer in unit 3F2.

The hunter-harvested surveillance program annually collects samples from hunter-harvested deer in specific regions of the state. In addition to unit 3F2, samples during the 2010 deer gun season were collected from units in the eastern third of the state.

In addition to hunter-harvested deer, the Game and Fish Department has a targeted surveillance program that is an ongoing, year-round effort that tests animals found dead or sick.

Since the department's sampling efforts began in 2002, more than 20,000 deer, elk and moose have tested negative for CWD.

CWD affects the nervous system of members of the deer family and is always fatal. Scientists have found no evidence that CWD can be transmitted naturally to humans or livestock.

### **Comments Accepted on Public Access, Habitat Program**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Commodity Credit Corporation and the state of North Dakota propose to enhance existing public access programs in the state through a new federal grant.

The grant, Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Program, Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Program was authorized by the 2008 farm bill.

A Programmatic Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact are available for review February 22, 2011, at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ecrc&topic=nep-cd>.

Public and agency comments for this project are being accepted until March 23, 2011, and can be sent to Kevin Kading, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 North Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND, 58501, or by e-mail at [Kevin Kading at NDGF](mailto:Kevin.Kading@NDGF).

## **Hunter Education Classes Filling Up**

Adults and children looking to take a hunter education class in 2011 are reminded to enroll now as the majority of all classes are held by the end of May.

Jon Hanson, hunter education coordinator for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, said classes held early in the year fill up quickly because of the deer application deadline. "There is a major demand for classes held before June because they will qualify students for submitting a deer application," Hanson said.

Hunters who had an apprentice hunting license in 2010 are also reminded they will need to take a hunter education class to continue hunting in 2011. The apprentice license provides individuals age 16 and older with a one-year hunter education exemption for small game and deer.

To register for a class, students should access the Game and Fish Department website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov) and click on the education/outreach link and "[hunter education](#)." Classes are listed by city, and can also be sorted by start date. Click on "enroll" next to the specific class, and follow the simple instructions. Personal information is required.

Those who do not have access to the Internet and want to sign up for a class can call the hunter education program in Bismarck at (701) 328-6615.

The Game and Fish website also provides a free hunter education study guide and a tree stand safety course.

State law requires anyone born after Dec. 31, 1961 to pass a certified hunter education course to hunt in the state. Hunter education is mandatory for youth who are turning 12 years old, and children can take the class at age 11.