

NDG&F March 15th Newsletter

NASP State Tournament a Hit with Student Archers

North Dakota's National Archery in the Schools Program is growing fast, if this year's state tournament is any indication.

"It was a great turnout," according to Jeff Long, NASP coordinator for the State Game and Fish Department. "We had 160 student archers, more than twice as many as last year. Our goal is to have 50 percent of the schools participating in NASP within the next five years."

NASP is a national program that helps schools incorporate archery target shooting into physical education curriculums. The Game and Fish Department provides grants to help schools purchase equipment, and also has equipment that schools can share.

The 2010 state tournament was the first held on-site at a central location, at the NISHU Bowmen's indoor archery range in Bismarck on March 6. Last year, students completed their tournament rounds at local sites and scores were compared statewide.

Griggs County Central and Medina claimed top honors in the team competitions. Middle (grades 7-8) and high school (grades 9-12) students from Griggs County Central won their respective divisions, while Medina students finished first in the elementary school (grades 4-6) competition.

The first-place team and top five boys and girls in each division qualify for the national tournament in Louisville, Kentucky. Additionally, teams that achieve minimum scores set by NASP also qualify for the national tournament.

Top individual honors in the high school male and female divisions went to Jordan Bruce, Dunseith, and Ashley Landsiedel, Wing. Middle school honors went to Griggs County Central students Kevin Heinz and Tristin Johnson. Elementary student winners were Tyler Gravseth and Deena Monson, also from Griggs County Central.

Also qualifying for the national tournament in the high school boys division were Griggs County Central students Adam Larson and Josh Johnson, Dunseith student Zach LaFloe and Mandaree student Dylan Costello; high school girls Amanda Young and Jaci Fayant of Dunseith, Beth Jochim of Griggs County Central and Abby Dalin of Burke Central; middle school boys Ben Halvorson, Justin Hanson, Gavin LaPlant and Rusty Stokkeland, all of Griggs County Central; middle school girls Shayla Zaun of Griggs County Central, Amy Landsiedel of Wing, Katie Pflieger of Bismarck St. Mary's, and Keirra Hawkins of Burke Central; elementary boys Ashton Synnes of Killdeer, and Nick Muncy, Jesse Iverson and Jacob Heinz of Griggs County Central; and elementary girls Maddy Vincent and Alison Goplen of Griggs County Central, Micayla Brown of Hope-Page and Aidan Bird of Killdeer.

Grant Program Aims at Recruiting Young Hunters, Shooters

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department invites clubs and organizations to submit an application for the Encouraging Tomorrow's Hunters program, a grant program developed to assist in recruitment of the next generation of hunters and shooters.

Past funding has enabled several groups to conduct youth pheasant and waterfowl hunts, while others have sponsored trap and shooting events, including archery and rifle shooting.

Any club or organization interested in conducting a youth hunting or shooting event can get more information, including a grant application, from outreach biologist Pat Lothspeich at (701) 328-6332. The deadline to apply for a 2010 grant is April 21.

2009 Bighorn Sheep, Moose and Elk Harvests

Harvest statistics released by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department show overall hunter success during the 2009 season for bighorn sheep was 100 percent, 90 percent for moose and 42 percent for elk.

Three bighorn sheep units were open in 2009. One license was issued in units B1 and B3, and two licenses were issued in unit B4. One additional auction license holder was able to hunt any open area. All five hunters tagged adult rams.

The department issued 147 moose licenses last year. Of that total, 133 hunters were successful, harvesting 83 bulls and 50 cows/calves. Harvest for each unit follows:

| Unit | Issued | Bulls | Cow/Calf | Success Rate |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| M4 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 71 |
| M5 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 100 |
| M6 | 15 | 12 | 2 | 93 |
| M8 | 25 | 13 | 10 | 92 |
| M9 | 25 | 14 | 8 | 88 |
| M10 | 60 | 31 | 23 | 90 |
| M11 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 100 |

The department issued 577 elk licenses last year. Of that total, 245 hunters were successful, harvesting 141 bulls and 104 cows/calves. Harvest for each unit follows:

| Unit | Issued | Bulls | Cow/Calf | Success Rate |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| E1 | 70 | 15 | 17 | 46 |
| E2 | 90 | 32 | 20 | 58 |
| E3 | 290 | 64 | 44 | 37 |

Department Receives \$54,000 for Bighorn Sheep Management

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department received two checks totaling \$54,000 at the March 6 Midwest Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation annual meeting in Bloomington, Minn.

North Dakota's 2010 bighorn sheep auction license, which allows the winning bidder the rare privilege of pursuing a North Dakota bighorn on a self-guided hunt, sold for \$35,000. The department also received \$19,000 to cover the costs of last February's bighorn capture and transplant.

One hundred percent of the auction license proceeds are used to enhance bighorn sheep management in North Dakota.

Zone 2 Mountain Lion Season Closes March 31

While the 2009-10 mountain lion season in zone 1 closed Dec. 11 after the zone's predetermined quota of eight cats was filled, the majority of the state remained open. But that will change the end of the month when zone 2 closes March 31.

Zone 2 is the remainder of the state outside of the badland's unit in western North Dakota. No mountain lions have been taken by hunters in zone 2 so far this season.