

NDG&F April 5th Newsletter

Spring Turkey Season Opens April 10, Licenses Remain

North Dakota's spring turkey season opens Saturday, April 10 and continues through May 16.

Hunters are reminded a 2010-11 hunting license is required, as last year's 2009-10 licenses expired March 31. In addition to the spring turkey license, hunters must have a fishing, hunting and furbearer certificate, and a general game and habitat license. Also, hunters ages 16 and older must possess a small game license, or combination license.

Hunters who do not have a spring turkey license for the 2010 season can still apply in either Bowman (Unit 06) or Stark (Unit 45) counties. Only those hunters who do not have a license are eligible to apply.

These first-come, first-served licenses are available online at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website, gf.nd.gov, or call (701) 328-6300 to request an application. Only North Dakota residents are eligible to apply.

Game and Fish Sponsors Earth Day Project

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is once again celebrating Earth Day by sponsoring a youth clean-up day on public-owned or managed lands in April and May.

Each member of a school, Girl Scout, Boy Scout, 4-H club or youth organization who participates in cleaning up public lands during April and May will receive a specifically designed conservation patch.

Last winter the Game and Fish Department sponsored a contest for students ages 6-18 to design a North Dakota Earth Day Patch. Winners receiving a \$75 savings bond in the three age categories were Ben Zuther of Buchanan (6-9), Michelle Risan of Parshall (10-13), and Alyssa Hanson of Bismarck (14-18). Risan's design was chosen the patch winner, and will be used on this year's Earth Day patch.

Groups participating in the Earth Day project are encouraged to take the following precautions to ensure safety: keep young people away from highways, lakes and rivers; and only allow older participants to pick up broken glass.

Interested participants are asked to contact Pat Lothspeich at 328-6332 to receive a reporting form for their project.

Spring Mule Deer Survey Begins April 12

The state Game and Fish Department's annual spring mule deer survey is set to begin April 12 in western North Dakota. Weather permitting, the survey takes a week to complete.

Bruce Stillings, big game biologist in Dickinson, said biologists have completed aerial surveys of the same 24 badlands study areas since the 1950s.

"The survey allows us to obtain solid mule deer population data for the badlands, such as demographic trends and production ratios (buck-to-doe and fawn-to-doe)," Stillings said.

The mule deer population index for western North Dakota continues to remain higher than the long-term average. In 2009, biologists counted 2,483 mule deer in 291 square miles.

Fishing Tournaments Require 30-Day Notice

Organizers planning fishing tournaments are reminded to submit an application to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at least 30 days prior to the start of the event.

The 30-day advance notice allows for review by agency staff to ensure no negative effect will result from the proposed tournament, and there are no conflicts with other proposed tournaments for the same location and/or time.

Tournaments may not occur without first obtaining a valid permit from the department.

To print a fishing tournament application, access the fishing link on the Game and Fish Department's website, gf.nd.gov. Otherwise, call (701) 328-6300; or e-mail ndgf@nd.gov.