

## **NDG&F July 11th Newsletter**

### **Pronghorn Population Remains Low, NDGF Recommends No Season**

North Dakota Game and Fish Department biologists recently completed the 2011 pronghorn population survey, which revealed the statewide population is 30 percent lower than last year. Therefore, the Game and Fish Department is recommending the pronghorn hunting season remain closed in 2011.

Bruce Stillings, big game supervisor in Dickinson, said three severe winters with high adult mortality rates followed by poor fawn production has dropped the statewide population estimate to approximately 4,500 pronghorn. Until last year when the population fell to 6,500 pronghorn, the statewide population had been at or above 10,000 animals since 2003, including two years with more than 15,000.

“Our numbers are declining with few young animals observed due to poor production in 2009 and 2010,” Stillings said. “To make matters worse, production this year was the lowest documented since biologists began surveying in the late 1950s.”

The aerial survey is flown in late June/early July after young-of-the-year are born and visible. Five airplanes covered more than 11,000 square miles of aerial transects within pronghorn habitat. Survey results indicate the population in the western Bowman and southern Slope management regions are doing the best, while pronghorn in the northern badlands and northern Slope areas are in the poorest condition. Pronghorn in all management regions are well-below population objectives. Northern Great Plains pronghorn are susceptible to dramatic population declines due to extreme winter conditions, Stillings said. The last three years have been a worst case scenario for pronghorn in North Dakota, similar to 1977-79 when three consecutive severe winters hit the region, resulting in closed seasons from 1978-1981.

“The last thing pronghorn needed was another severe winter,” Stillings said. “A much needed mild winter would increase adult survival and leave females in good condition for fawning.”

Biologists will continue to monitor pronghorn numbers in the future, and will reopen the season when the population returns to a level capable of withstanding a harvest.

The 2011 pronghorn season will be closed to both gun and archery hunters. Applicants who have accumulated preference points will maintain their current points.

### **Deer Lottery Held, Antlerless Licenses Remain**

North Dakota’s deer gun lottery has been held and individual results are available at the state Game and Fish Department’s [Online Services/Licensing - Find Lottery Results](#) web link.

The first lottery application process – deer gun, muzzleloader, youth and landowner – had nearly 100,000 applicants, with 73 percent of the applications submitted online.

Approximately 24,000 antlerless deer gun licenses remain. Unsuccessful resident applicants in the first drawing will be mailed a second lottery application. Resident and nonresident hunters who have not yet

applied, or who want additional licenses, must submit a third lottery application. The deadline for submitting applications is Aug. 10. The second lottery will take place immediately prior to the third.

The third lottery application will be available mid-July. Applicants can apply online, or print an application, by accessing the Game and Fish website, or pick up a paper application from license vendors.

Additional concurrent season doe licenses can be used during the archery season with a bow; the deer gun season with a bow, rifle, or muzzleloader; or during the muzzleloader season with a muzzleloader. These licenses must be used for antlerless deer only, and hunters must stay in the unit to which the license is assigned.

In addition, youth deer license hunters ages 14 and 15 may purchase additional concurrent season doe licenses to use during the youth season.

Last year, licenses were sold out in all but three units prior to opening day of deer season. Hunters are encouraged to apply early if they have a specific unit in mind.

Third Lottery Deer Licenses by Available by Unit.

**Deer Types: B - Any antlerless, D - Antlerless whitetail, F - Antlerless mule.**

<b>Hunting Unit</b>	<b>Deer License Type</b>	<b>Permits Available</b>
<b>1</b>	B	500
<b>2B</b>	B	900
<b>2C</b>	B	2800
<b>2D</b>	B	1200
<b>2E</b>	B	900
<b>2F1</b>	B	2000
<b>2F2</b>	B	1300
<b>2G</b>	B	100
<b>2G2</b>	B	100
<b>2H</b>	B	300
<b>2I</b>	B	300
<b>2J2</b>	B	1200

<b>2K1</b>	B	200
<b>2K2</b>	B	3000
<b>2L</b>	B	1100
<b>3A2</b>	B	900
<b>3A4</b>	B	900
<b>3B2</b>	D	50
<b>3B2</b>	F	50
<b>3B3</b>	D	1000
<b>3C</b>	D	700
<b>3D1</b>	B	50
<b>3D1</b>	D	50
<b>3D2</b>	D	50
<b>3E1</b>	B	300
<b>3E1</b>	D	400
<b>3E2</b>	B	300
<b>3E2</b>	D	500
<b>3F1</b>	B	500
<b>3F1</b>	D	900
<b>3F2</b>	B	600
<b>3F2</b>	D	800
<b>4C</b>	D	50
<b>4D</b>	D	50
<b>4E</b>	D	100
<b>4F</b>	D	200

**Hunting Guide and Outfitter Test Set for Aug. 20**

The next guide and outfitter written examination is Aug. 20 at 1 p.m. at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department office in Bismarck. The test is given periodically to anyone interested in becoming a hunting guide or outfitter in the state.

In addition to passing a written exam, qualifications for becoming a guide include a background check for criminal and game and fish violations; certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and standard first aid; and employment by or contract with a licensed hunting outfitter.

Hunting outfitter eligibility requirements include the guide qualifications, as well as an individual must have held a hunting guide license for two years; and must have proof of liability insurance.

Interested individuals are required to preregister by calling the Game and Fish Department's enforcement office at 328-6604.