



P.O. Box 1442, Bismarck, N.D. 58502



P.O. Box 1091, Bismarck, N. D. 58502

Conservation Notes

Current topics and issues affecting hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation in our North Dakota.

Issue #89, August 2023

Fewer Deer Licenses Means Loss of Hunting Traditions

Deer hunting in North Dakota is steeped in tradition and may be the most important hunting season. For hunters, deer season and all it offers is a true indicator of quality of life in our state. The importance of deer hunting doesn't end with the hunt. It continues with the enjoyment of processing the meat with family and friends.

The winter of 2022-23 was one of the worst in many years and the deer herd suffered. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department had no choice but to decrease the number of available licenses for 2023 in order to protect the herd. As a result, a significant number of hunters won't be able to participate in our deer hunting traditions in 2023.

But lack of abundant, quality habitat exacerbates bad winters. We know that an abundance of good habitat not only helps deer make it through the winter it also helps the population recover from winters like 2022-23.

So, more quality habitat is needed if we want to reduce the impacts of diseases and bad winters on deer. We need legislation that provides funds to landowners and state agencies specifically for habitat improvements. Improving the deer population with habitat will ultimately improve the chances of drawing a coveted North Dakota deer license. And that will greatly improve the quality of life for many citizens.

For more information on this or other conservation topics, contact: John Bradley, Executive Director, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, (jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com), Mike McEnroe, Past President, North Dakota Wildlife Federation (memcenroe@midco.net) or Rick Nelson, Past President, North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, (bluebill@bis.midco.net). For a complete list of Conservation Notes visit (ndctws.org)-Library.