

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Kella Rodiek

Waterfowl Hunting Seasons Proposed

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has proposed several changes for the fall duck and goose hunting seasons this fall.

Proposed changes to the 2013 duck season include increasing the daily limit for scaup from four to six; and increasing the possession limit for ducks, coots and mergansers from two times the daily limit to three times the daily limit.

The daily limit for ducks would be six and may be comprised of no more than five mallards (including no more than two hens), three wood ducks, two redheads, two pintails and one canvasback.

The duck season would be divided into four separate zones, as it has been during the past several years. Season dates within these zones would be:

- High Plains — Oct. 12 through Jan. 16
- Low Plains North — Sept. 28 through Dec. 10
- Low Plains Middle — Sept. 28 through Dec. 10
- Low Plains South — Oct. 12 through Dec. 24

Proposed changes for the goose season include increasing the daily bag limit for Canada geese from three to five; increasing the daily bag limit for white-fronted geese from one to two; modifying the white-fronted goose season from 86 to 72 consecutive days beginning the last Saturday in September; and increasing the possession limit for geese from two times the daily limit to three times the daily limit.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's framework for the white-fronted goose season provides the option of having an 86-day season with a one goose daily limit or a 72-day season with a two goose daily limit. GFP staff have received comments from hunters indicating that this recommended change would provide additional harvest opportunity for hunters and establish a season that overlaps with the peak migration of white-fronted geese through South Dakota.

The season for light geese would run from Sept. 28 through Dec. 22; the season for white-fronted geese from Sept. 28 through Dec. 8; Unit 1 Canada geese Oct. 1 through Dec. 16; Unit 2 Canada geese Nov. 2 through Feb. 14; and Unit 3 Canada geese Jan. 11-19.

The waterfowl season proposals will be finalized at the Aug. 1-2 GFP Commission meeting, which will be at the Event Center in Watertown. To view the full proposals on those seasons, visit: www.gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/default.aspx and look under the "rule proposals" heading.

To comment on any of the proposals, send a letter to South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission, 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501; or email wild.info@state.sd.us. Comments on proposal will be taken until 5 p.m. CDT on July 31. To be included in the public record, please include your full name and city of residence.

To comment in person on these proposed rule changes, the GFP Commission will host a public hearing beginning at 2 p.m. CDT as part of their meeting on Thursday, Aug. 1.

Colo. Man Wins Buffalo Chip Toss In Nebraska

CHADRON, Neb. (AP) — A Colorado man has won the men's championship at the annual World Championship Buffalo Chip Toss at the Fur Trade Days event in Chadron.

The Panhandle Post website for station KQSK says 27-year-old Charley Teal of Fort Collins, Colo., threw a piece of dried bison dung 103 feet, 6 inches on Saturday to win the male 18-and-older competition.

His throw was well short of the world record of nearly 187 feet set in 2000.

The women's crown for those 18 and older was claimed by 39-year old Crystal Ford, of Fort Collins, Colo., who tossed a chip 62 feet, 7 inches.

Framework for Winter Big Game Depredation Hunts Proposed

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has proposed a change to the format for big game depredation pool applications.

Interested big game hunters may apply each year for a spot in a pool of hunters who may be called upon to help alleviate depredation on agricultural land caused by big game animals.

While hunters could apply for an unlimited number of counties in the past, the change proposed by the Commission will limit hunters to a maximum of 10 counties.

In recent years it has been difficult for GFP to find registered individuals that are willing to respond to GFP's request for a depredation hunt in an adequate time-frame, primarily because of weather conditions or the distance needed to travel. By limiting the number of counties to a maximum of 10 counties per individual, GFP anticipates that individuals that entered themselves for depredation hunts will participate at a higher level when called upon.

Last winter there were 147 hunting permits issued for turkey and 195 for deer. The GFP Commission also finalized provisions for potential elk depredation hunting seasons with no changes from 2012.

Unlike deer and turkey depredation hunts, unsuccessful elk license holders are used if elk depredation hunts are needed. In 2012, only elk depredation permits were issued.

The big game depredation hunt proposals will be finalized at the Aug. 1-2 GFP Commission meeting, which will be at the Event Center in Watertown. To view the full proposals on those seasons, visit: www.gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/default.aspx and look under the "rule proposals" heading.

BY KELLA RODIEK

Outdoorsmen Productions Intern

We were three fishermen, eager in the early morning just west of Gettysburg. It was a day for fishing and a day for filming, with an outcome that couldn't be predicted.

They say variety is the spice of life, well, if nothing else it sure brightens up the fishing boat.

A storm front had come in the night before, leaving us with wind gusts and remnant clouds in the morning as myself, Outdoorsmen Adventures producer/host Gary Howey, and guide Chuck Krause headed out onto Lake Oahe in search of walleye.

After launching at Sutton Bay, home to a multimillion dollar, top-of-the-line private golf course and resort, Gary and I handed our day over to

Chuck and his guiding expertise. A highly regarded tournament angler, originally from Watertown, S.D.

Krause has guided fisherman on Oahe since 1980, with over 100 days spent on the water per season.

We took off from the dock for a 25-mile jaunt across the choppy waters of the 370,000 acre reservoir, arriving

at our first sweet-spot not far from the mouth of the Cheyenne River. The spot was sweet indeed as the fish began hitting within a few minutes, just as the clouds cleared and the wind settled. Certainly not a bad start to the day.

The weather conditions, mixed with the activity and abundance of fish in the area brewed up an unpredictable day of "what's the next catch". Fishing with one-ounce bottom bouncers and live bait indented for walleye, we attracted far more than expected.

The final count of seven species that first afternoon consisted of Walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, crappie, white bass, channel catfish and drum.

By volume, Lake Oahe is the fourth largest reservoir in the US and its 205 ft maximum depth provides all the habitat needed to support a wide range of game and non-game fish.

The limit for walleye on the lake is eight. Four of the fish can be below 15" and four can be over, with only one over 20". We limited the first day despite the mixture of fish, amounting to



PHOTO: GARY HOWEY

Kella Rodiek is pictured with one of the numerous fish she caught on a recent fishing trip to Lake Oahe, where over 100 fish were caught on one day.

over 100 caught that day. Rare were the lulls of inactive water, and each new location we moved to proved as fruitful as the last.

No sooner would the motor stop and marks would appear on the locator. Down went our bait and up came the fish, always with the surprise of what would surface.

Along one of the lengthy west shoreline passes, Gary had what the catfish wanted while myself and Chuck struck bass after bass after northern after walleye.

This put a considerable dent in our minnow stock, which ran out by mid-afternoon. Without any success on a jig, we broke into the cooler for the

leeches and crawlers. The fish were far from finicky.

The smallmouth took after the worms in force with one fish often followed closely by five or so others. Amidst the frenzy, with the hooked bass still in the water, Gary would grab a rod and rush to entice a bite from another.

As the afternoon sun arched westward, we worked our way to the east. To break up the boat ride back to the bay we pulled out the poles for trolling.

We had two rigged up with lead core and one with FireLine and a larger crankbait, on which I picked up a walleye not much bigger than the lure itself.

N.D. Officials Working To Import Sage Grouse From Montana

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Wildlife officials hope to move as many as 60 greater sage grouse from Montana to North Dakota over the next two years to boost a waning population.

The proposal is part of a multi-state effort to improve conditions for the birds and keep the federal government from listing them as endangered. Officials in Western states fear that federally mandated protections could severely restrict ranching, grazing and energy development.

"We're trying to find a happy medium where we can still produce and capture the energy that we need, and still keep the birds protected," said Aaron Robinson, sage grouse biologist for the North Dakota Game

and Fish Department. "Everyone needs to give a little. The sage grouse are already giving. They're being wiped off the landscape in their entire range, and now it's time for the other side to give a little."

Scientists say the sage grouse has lost half of its traditional range and also has been hit hard by the West Nile virus. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2010 determined sage grouse deserved federal protection but that other species were of higher priority. The agency has pledged to make a final decision on listing the sage grouse by late 2015.

Far southwestern North Dakota is on the edge of the sage grouse's historic range. The bird's population in

that area peaked at 542 males in 1953, and has steadily declined in the past three decades. Sage grouse hunting was halted in the state in 2008 for the first time in nearly half a century after a steep population drop officials attributed to the West Nile virus.

This year's survey found only 50 males. Wildlife officials would like to see five times that number.

With help from a report the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued in March, North Dakota is beefing up its sage grouse conservation plan, though it's largely technical updates to its 2005 plan. It calls for measures ranging from limits on energy development to incentives for habitat conservation, and adds the proposed

bird transplant from Montana.

Montana wildlife officials are trying to determine whether its population is stable enough to lose 30 females; if so, they will be brought next spring to North Dakota's Bowman County.

It's critical that the females meld into the existing population, according to Brian Rutledge, of Fort Collins, Colo., who oversees the National Audubon Society's Sage Brush Initiative.

Moving the birds across state borders is unusual, Robinson said, though the birds in southeast Montana, northwest South Dakota and southwest North Dakota are part of one big population.

Yankton JOAD Club Fares Well At National Event



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Eight archers from the Yankton JOAD Club competed at the 2013 Easton JOAD Nationals, held in Hamilton, Ohio. They include: (front, L-R) Cedar Bartos, Hannah Bartos, Gabrielle Keiser, Owen Warren, (back) Courtney Anderson, Kendra Hunhoff, Elliot Nysven and Danielle Herrlein. Hannah Bartos finished third in the overall Grand National Championship competition.

HAMILTON, Ohio — Eight archers from the Yankton Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) Club combined to win six medals and Hannah Bartos earned third place in the overall Grand National competition at the 2013 Easton JOAD Nationals, held recently in Hamilton, Ohio.

Kendra Hunhoff and Danielle Herrlein each won gold medals in the Team Rounds, while Bartos earned silver and Owen Warren received a bronze medal.

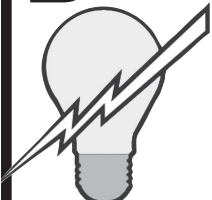
In the elimination rounds, Gabby Keiser earned a silver medal, while Bartos earned her

second medal by finishing third for bronze.

The Grand National Championship combines the placement from the three different competitions, and Bartos' fourth, second and third place finishes earned her third place overall in her division.

"I'm extremely proud of how well our archers competed in one of the largest JOAD Nationals ever held," Yankton JOAD coach Eric Tollefson said. "Other clubs from around the country are now aware of the high level of competitors coming out of South Dakota."

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