

OUTDOORS DIGEST | Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

GFP Extends Deer Online Applications Deadline

PIERRE - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is extending the online application deadline for the East River, Muzzleloader and Refuge Deer hunting seasons through Sept. 9 at 8 a.m. CDT.

"Hunters are used to being able to apply for these deer hunting seasons through Labor Day weekend. Many of them apply during the South Dakota State Fair at the GFP booth so we decided to extend the deadline to make sure hunters who have yet to apply for these seasons still have the time to do so," said Shon Eide, GFP Licensing Supervisor.

The previous deadline was set for Sept. 2, 2015.

Goose Lake Wildlife Management Area Closed Due to Invasive Plant  
LINCOLN, NEB. -- Goose Lake Wildlife Management Area, located southeast of Chambers in southern Holt County, has been closed to public access by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission until further notice. The closure is necessary due to a heavy infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive aquatic plant, at the lake.

Eurasian watermilfoil can spread rapidly because a single fragment of stem or leaf can take root and form a new colony, and plants can grow up to two inches per day. Once established, the plant can form dense surface mats that interfere with boating, fishing, swimming, and other forms of recreation. Plant fragments can be transported on boats, trailers, and other aquatic sporting equipment, so the closure is necessary to assure that fragments are not transported to other waterbodies.

The Commission is developing a plan to eradicate Eurasian watermilfoil from Goose Lake. Eradication has been successful for a number of lakes in other states. The area will reopen once the risk of transporting plant fragments to other areas has been reduced to an acceptable level.

The Commission reminds all water users to clean, drain, and dry their equipment (boats, waders, decoys, etc.) when they leave any body of water to prevent the spread of invasive species.

State Parks Camping Reservations Available Year Round

PIERRE - South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is reminding campers that the end of the summer doesn't mean the end of camping at South Dakota state parks.

"We take camping reservations for stays year-round," said state park director Doug Hofer. "In the past, camping was on a first-come, first-served basis after Labor Day."

Additionally, campsites and cabins at Custer State Park can be reserved up to one year in advance, and up to 90 days prior to arrival at all other campsites and cabins.

Group campsites located at Custer State Park and Lewis and Clark Recreation Area can also be booked one year in advance. Group lodges that can be reserved one year ahead of time include:

- Lake Thompson Recreation Area near Lake Preston
  - Mina Lake Recreation Area near Aberdeen
  - Newton Hills State Park near Canton
  - Oahe Downstream Recreation Area near Fort Pierre
  - Palisades State Park near Carretson
- Camping reservations can be made online at [campsd.com](http://campsd.com) or by calling 1.800.710.2267.

Golf: Parkston Takes Home Invitational

MITCHELL - Parkston finished 10 strokes ahead of Mitchell in winning the Parkston Invitational boys' golf course, held on Friday at Mitchell's Lakeview Golf Course.

Parkston finished at 313, followed by Mitchell (323) and Chamberlain (330).

Parkston's Garret Hohn shot a 71 for medalist honors, five strokes better than Mitchell's Cade Carpenter. Parkston's Jacob Lee was third at 77.

TEAM SCORES: Parkston 313, Mitchell 323, Chamberlain 330, Pierre White 373, Pierre Green 387, St. Francis 421, Parkston JV 441

TOP 15: Garret Hohn, Parkston 71; Cade Carpenter, Mitchell 76; Jacob Lee, Parkston 77; Adam Hutmacher, Chamberlain 80; Alex Scott, Parkston 80; Tieggen Priebe, Chamberlain 80; Ryan Solberg, Mitchell

# Using The 'Edge Effect'

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

I have hunted for as long as I can remember, cherishing every trip and the memories they created!

My first hunting trips were with my Dad, Cal near Watertown, S.D., where the pheasant population was +unbelievable. It was more of a long walk than a hunt for us kids, because Dad had only one shotgun, his old Model 97.

When we were young, Dad would take us along hunting which we loved, as we would always stop at Tinker Town west of town for an early lunch.



Gary HOWEY

That was where we got our first store bought hamburger and a pop. We were not really hunting, just sharing the experience, as my brother and I were Dad's bird dogs, flushing, running down and retrieving the birds.

Even though I never had the opportunity to shoot a bird, I could not wait until opening day to spend some quality time with my Dad in the outdoors.

Back then, I noticed certain areas always held more birds, so if I wanted to be where the action was, I needed to be with the group of hunters walking through those areas. At times, there would not be a whole lot of difference from one spot or another, but these subtle changes seemed attract and hold the birds.

As I grew older and started to hunt more, I would always hunt these types of areas as something drew both the birds and me to these spots.

These areas were not always the best habitat in the field, with the most cover, sometimes they would be the worst cover in the fields, but they held birds.

I noticed the same thing when I did a lot of depredation trapping; some areas just had more sign than others did, so the furbearers were relating to these areas just as the pheasants had.

What I am referring to is an edge, a change or something that stands out in



The edge of a woodlot and pasture is a good location for a deer house, as deer will travel along the edge to and from feeding and bedding.

PHOTO: GARY HOWEY

a field. It does not have to be a drastic change, just a change, as wildlife, just as I was attracted to the change or something that is different.

It can be a location where the pasture comes up against a shelterbelt or a slough or as simple as a big cottonwood standing alone in the middle of a pasture. It creates an edge or a change, these areas attract the animal's eye just as it attracts ours, they are curious, and they have to go over to see what is there.

I call it the edge effect, as all wildlife will relate to these edges.

It is a fact; a section of pastureland will hold less wildlife than a field with several edges.

Anytime I am hunting and have an option as to which area I want to hunt or walk through, you can bet that my dog Mojo and I will take the area with some type of land or terrain change or an edge. I have found these areas will always hold more birds, deer and other species of wildlife.

So if the edge or a change in terrain or crop holds attracts birds, it just makes sense, that if you are developing some type of land for habitat to attract and hold wildlife an edge effect should be figured into the plan! Instead of planting one

solid field of grass, why not mix in a strip of legumes, shelterbelts, food plot or some other type of planting, creating edges in the field.

If you are lucky enough to have a slough in the same field, you will have all the edge you need and what wildlife needs to survive and flourish.

Not only will wildlife use the area to loaf or nest in; they will have several food sources and shelter when the weather gets bad. Which means, your pheasants and deer, the critters you are trying to attract and hold on your land will not need to go to the neighbor's land for food, water etc? They will have everything they need on your land. Because you have what the critters need and your neighbor won't shoot those birds or that buck you've been watching all year, as, they won't see as many birds or that buck you've been watching all

year, as they will take up residence in the excellent habitat on your land?

You have created several different areas or changes in your field, edges the wildlife will relate to and use.

What you have also created is an ideal hunting scenario, because you know the critters will be moving along the edge of these areas and by hunting them properly, you will become a much more successful hunter.

At the same time you will get satisfaction from knowing this was something you developed, creating not only an area where good numbers of birds hatch and live, the deer breed, raise their young and bed, so you have created an area where through proper management, excellent bird populations and trophy bucks will be found.

It is simple, the edge attracts wildlife and by developing, more edges or changes in your fields, and hunting

the edges, your success and enjoyment will increase every season.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He is the Producer/Host of the award winning *Outdoorsmen Adventures* television series, seen locally in Channels 2 and 98 at Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am. It airs on KTTM/KTTW-TV Fox, Sioux Falls/Huron, S.D. on Saturdays at 6:30 am and on the MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. The show can be seen in nine states in the upper Midwest. He and Simon Fuller Co-Host the *Outdoor Adventures* radio program on *Classic Hits 106.3*, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in Southeastern South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. In Northwest Iowa, it airs on KCHE 92.1 FM. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com).

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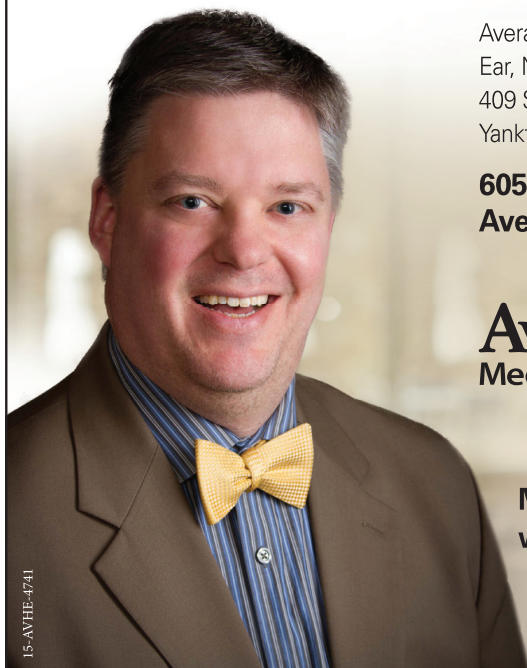
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