

# WATERFOWL IN NORTH DAKOTA

# NORTH Dakota

Be Legendary.

North Dakota is home to the Central Flyway, a virtual super-highway for millions of migrating ducks and geese. Our rivers, lakes and wetlands stretch far and wide, offering premier waterfowl habitat. Come experience it for yourself and have the hunt of a lifetime.

## WATERFOWL SEASONS

North Dakota's waterfowl season kicks off an early resident opener at the end of September. The regular waterfowl season opens to everyone typically in early October. Additional opportunities exist with an early season for Canada geese that opens in August and a spring season for snow geese that runs mid-February through mid-May. Official Snow goose dates typically become available in August. Find details and online licensing at [gf.nd.gov/hunting](http://gf.nd.gov/hunting).

## DUCKS

Breeding duck index is 38% above the long-term (1948-2021) average." Mallards, ruddy ducks, shovelers and pintail population increases ranged between 58% and 157% over the previous year and continue to be far above the long term average.

### Bag limit

Daily Limit — 6

Possession Limit — 18

### Where to hunt ducks

Central to east-central North Dakota is famous for waterfowl hunting. Access is easy with our PLOTS (Private Lands Open to Sportsmen), wildlife management areas and waterfowl production areas. [www.ndtourism.com/best-places/ducks-almost-unlimited](http://www.ndtourism.com/best-places/ducks-almost-unlimited)



[BeLegendary.link/Waterfowl](http://BeLegendary.link/Waterfowl)

Landowners may post land with physical signage or electronically. Visit [gf.nd.gov/hunting/where](http://gf.nd.gov/hunting/where) for publicly accessible hunting lands.



For more information visit [BeLegendary.link/Waterfowl](http://BeLegendary.link/Waterfowl) or reach out to Mike Jensen at [mjjensen@nd.gov](mailto:mjjensen@nd.gov) or 701-328-2525.



## CANADA GOOSE

The Canada goose is common to abundant during migration and nesting seasons in North Dakota. Some geese will winter along river systems where open water is available providing more opportunities to hunt waterfowl later in the season. There are 11 races of Canada geese. In North Dakota, numbers of temperate-breeding Canada geese, Western Prairie Canada geese, arctic nesting Tallgrass Prairie Canada geese as well as snow geese and Ross's geese all remain high. Large-type Canada geese in the state are very abundant because of banner production in the Dakotas the last two years.

## SNOW GOOSE (SPRING LIGHT GOOSE)

Snows and blues are medium-sized geese measuring 25-31 inches from beak to tail, and weighing 4-6.5 pounds. There are different color phases of the same species, and is no daily limit nor is there a possession limit for snow geese in the spring season

## LICENSES

All hunters must possess a certificate, a general game & habitat license, a federal waterfowl stamp and HIP registration as a prerequisite.

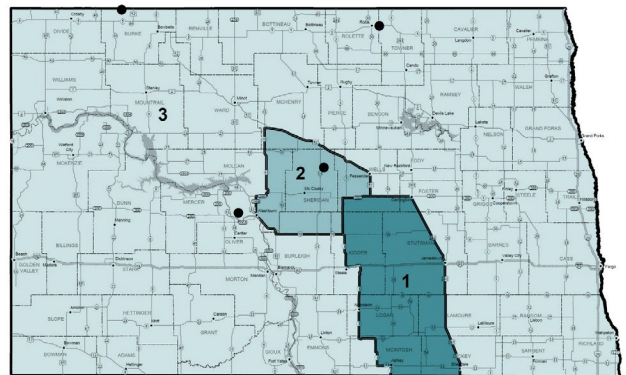
NONRESIDENT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS (HUNTERS AGES 16+)	
Fishing, Hunting, and Furbearer Certificate	\$2
General Game and Habitat License	\$20
Federal Waterfowl Stamp	\$27
Harvest Information Program (HIP) Registration — All hunters regardless of age must obtain a new Harvest Information Program registration number each year for each state in which they hunt ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, cranes, snipe, doves, and woodcock.	FREE
Either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statewide license — allows hunting statewide for two 7-day periods or one 14-day period</li> <li>Zone-restricted license — requires selection of hunting zones</li> </ul>	\$153 \$103
Nonresident Spring Light Goose License	\$50

### Zone restricted license

There are three zones for nonresident waterfowlers to choose from. A nonresident must select one of the following:

OR	Zone 1 or Zone 2 for one seven-day period and Zone 3 for the other seven-day period
	Zone 3 for the full 14 days or two seven-day periods
	Zones 1 and 3 concurrently for the same 7-day period or zones 2 and 3 concurrently for the same 7-day period. This option effectively reduces the license to seven days only, as the two 7-day periods are run at the same time.

### NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL HUNTING ZONE MAP



The black circles represent locations of waterfowl rest areas.

UPDATED 07/06/2022

