

North Dakota outdoors: The work of a game warden

By Doug Leier



For many, a career as a game warden might sound like a dream job. A life spent outdoors, checking fishing licenses and keeping hunters safe and catching poachers. For most the job goes far beyond the glamour of a uniform or the thrill of patrolling the open landscapes of the state. It's a combination of passion, responsibility and dedication.

Being a game warden is about more than just enforcing the law. It's about building a relationship with the public, educating citizens on the importance of conservation, and working tirelessly to preserve the state's wildlife for future generations. It's keeping hunters safe. Making sure boating regulations are obeyed ... and that's just what you see.

In North Dakota, the life of a game warden is unique. The state's diverse landscape includes everything from the bottom of the Red River Valley to the dense woodlands in the north, to the rolling Coteau and rugged badlands in the west. This geographical variety means that every day brings something different. The weather is unpredictable, often subjecting wardens to sub-zero temperatures during winter and intense heat during summer, with a mixture of both in between.

In all corners of the state through all variety of weather conditions, game wardens of North Dakota persevere with the responsibility to uphold the law under the mission statement of the Game and Fish



North Dakota's game wardens serve as the front line of conservation law enforcement. Photo courtesy of North Dakota Game and Fish

Department: To protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use.

Every day on the job is an opportunity to interact with North Dakota's diverse population. Game wardens often engage with hunters, anglers and farmers, offering advice on hunting regulations or helping to resolve issues regarding animal management.

North Dakota's hunting and fishing culture is deep-rooted, so it's essential to emphasize the balance between ensuring people can enjoy these traditions while also protecting the fish and wildlife for the future.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's enforcement division plays a vital role in conserving the state's abundant natural resources and ensuring public safety in the outdoors.

Our team of dedicated game wardens work tirelessly to uphold wildlife laws, safeguard recreational areas, and educate the public about responsible stewardship.

North Dakota's game wardens serve as the front line of conservation law enforcement. The enforcement division embraces cutting-edge technology to enhance our work. From GPS tracking and surveillance equipment to digital reporting systems, these tools allow game wardens to cover vast territories efficiently and effectively.

However, their most valuable asset remains their knowledge of North Dakota's terrain, wildlife and communities. No matter the hurdles imposed by weather and terrain, their dedication to service never wavers.

Wardens are on call year-round to investigate violations, assist with rescues, and ensure that everyone enjoys North Dakota's outdoors safely and responsibly. Numbers and statistics don't relay a complete picture of the work done, but it does give a little insight into the past year's work from the enforcement.

Incidents 2024 – Top 10 counties

An incident is defined as any situation that requires a response from a game warden. It does not have to be a crime. The situation could be, for example, a stranded angler.

- 1. McKenzie 173
- 2. Stark 172
- 3. Ramsey 143
- 4. Williams 137
- 5. Burleigh 131
- 6. McLean 124
- 7. Mountrail 122
- 8. Ward 122
- 9. Grand Forks 95
- 10. Richland 91
- 11. Total 2,870

Citations 2024 – Top 10 counties

- 1. Ramsey 218
- 2. McKenzie 171
- 3. Benson 118
- 4. Williams 110
- 5. Stark 105
- 6. Bottineau 103
- 7. Nelson 102
- 8. Grand Forks 93
- 9. McIntosh 93
- 10. Mountrail 80
- 11. Total 2,870

2024 Field contacts

- Resident 39,531
- Nonresident 13,626
- Total 53,157

Walsh County Gun Club results

After week 11 ending July 16, 2025

BROWNING LEAGUE

- TEAM NAME
- Magnusson 87
- JR's Bar 79
- Stellen Farm 70
- Troftgruben Farm 68
- Harriston 64
- Larson Trailer Sales 52
- Polar 43

- TOP 10 SHOOTERS
- AFTER 275 TARGETS
- Will Magnusson 264
- Mike Stellan 261
- Brayden Johnson 255
- Landon Wood 253
- Cayden Quibell 252
- Dave Cyr 251
- Brian Troftruben 249
- Ryan Rosinski 248
- Ashley Larson 247
- Ryer Stark 247

- SHOOTING 50 STRAIGHT
- Brooks Stellon

- SHOOTING 25 STRAIGHT
- John Ritzke

WINCHESTER LEAGUE

- TEAM NAME
- Simplot 76
- Tallakson Farm 76
- Thompson Spuds 73
- Centrol 44
- Bremer 40
- Extra End 19

- TOP 10 SHOOTERS
- AFTER 275 TARGETS
- Alex Swanson 270
- Tom McCann x2 268
- W.D. Suda 268
- Jacob Erovick 267
- Steven Thompson 267
- Shane Feltman 266
- David Morstad 265
- Billy Thompson 263
- Doug Thompson 263
- Andy Thompson 262

- SHOOTING 50 STRAIGHT
- David Morstad
- Steven Thompson

- SHOOTING 25 STRAIGHT
- Shane Feltman
- Tom McCann
- Alex Swanson
- Nate Tallackson
- Wade Thompson

REMINGTON LEAGUE

- TEAM NAME
- Olson Oil 84
- Jim's Super Valu 71

- Fordville Coop 63
- Reallys 48
- Park River Dental 35
- L & M 28
- TOP 10 SHOOTERS
- AFTER 275 TARGETS
- Pat Bosh 272
- Grant Skibicki 270
- Josh Lien 268
- Alex Swanson 268
- Mike Forester 266
- Brock Dahlen 265
- Shane Feltman 264
- Nic Beneda 261
- Randy Hahn 261
- Dylan Feltman 258
- Jameson Hahn 258

- SHOOTING 125 STRAIGHT
- Brock Dahlen

- SHOOTING 75 STRAIGHT
- Alex Swanson

- SHOOTING 50 STRAIGHT
- Pat Bosh
- Josh Lien

- SHOOTING 25 STRAIGHT
- Rick Carlson
- Shane Feltman
- Todd Gullickson
- Nathan Lorenz
- Grant Skibicki

FEDERAL LEAGUE

- TEAM NAME
- Dakota Firearms 106
- VBHDC 80
- Kilmer Construction 71
- GLD 63
- Scary Prairie Boyz 52
- Skibicki Farm 50
- Vets 40

- TOP 10 SHOOTERS
- AFTER 275 TARGETS
- Gavin Kirkeby 271
- Seth Suda 269
- W.D. Suda 268
- John Schumacher 266
- Grant Skibicki 265
- Harold Weimer 264
- Rock Desautel 263
- Richie Schumacher 260
- Bart Swanson 260
- Braedon Weimer 255

- SHOOTING 75 STRAIGHT
- Seth Suda
- SHOOTING 50 STRAIGHT
- Mark Olson
- Harold Weimer
- SHOOTING 25 STRAIGHT
- Alex Kuzel
- Stephen Stark
- Drew Suda

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