

North Dakota outdoors: The work of a game warden

By Doug Leier



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

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

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 | Fordville Coop 63 |
| Magnusson 87 | Reallys 48 |
| JR's Bar 79 | Park River Dental 35 |
| Stellen Farm 70 | L & M 28 |
| Troftgruben Farm 68 | |
| Harrison 64 | |
| Larson Trailer Sales 52 | |
| Polar 43 | |

- TOP 10 SHOOTERS
 AFTER 275 TARGETS
 Will Magnusson 264
 Mike Stellon 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 | |

- 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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