

Big Game Management Licences

High numbers of deer in the some portions of Wildlife Management Zones (WMZs) are not adequately harvested during regular either-sex seasons. In order to increase harvest and direct hunting pressure on antlerless white-tailed deer, new licences called Big Game Management Licences (BGML) were developed in 2004. These licences have greater flexibility for directing hunting pressure than the regular seasons.

This fall Big Game Management Licences will be available in portions of WMZs 31, 32, 34, 37, 39 and the Saskatoon Wildlife Management Zone. The \$19.81 licence is valid for antlerless animals only and may be purchased in addition to the regular either-sex white-tailed deer licence. Licences are valid during regular white-tailed deer seasons including archery, muzzleloader and rifle. They will be available on a first come first serve basis but in some areas will be restricted to two licences per hunter. A map and list of special provisions will be included with each licence.

Licences (500) valid for portions of WMZs 31 and 32 in RMs 1 and 31 will be available from A&H Farm Supplies & Insurance in Gainsborough, Centre Street Groceries in Alida and Carnduff Esso. Licences for RM 3 will be available from Doan's Lucky Dollar & Convenience Store in Oxbow.

Licences (150) valid for a portion of WMZ 34 (all of RM of Kingsley #124,) will be available from Broadview Co-op in Broadview and Kipling Home Hardware in Kipling.

Licences (1000) valid for a portion of WMZ 37 (RMs 183 & 184, portion of RM 185 (east of Grid Rd 617), RM 213, RM 214, portion of RM 215 (east of Grid Rd 617), portion of RM 245 (east of Grid Rd 617 & south of Hwy 52), portion of RM 244 (south of Hwy 52), RM 241, RM 243 and portion of RM 273 (south of Hwy 5) will be available from Saskatchewan Environment Offices in Melville and Yorkton and Stockholm Agencies Ltd. in Stockholm.

Licences (600) valid for all of WMZ 39 (last year licences were only valid in the northern portion of the WMZ) will be available from Saskatchewan Environment Offices in Wadena, Preeceville and Yorkton.

Licences (500) valid for the Saskatoon Wildlife Management Zone will be available from the Saskatchewan Environment Office in Saskatoon. These licences will be valid for antlerless mule deer or antlerless white-tailed deer.

Harvest by BGMLs is not monitored by the regular hunter questionnaire. Therefore a condition of the BGML is that hunters must report to the Saskatchewan Environment Office whether or not they harvest a deer. Co-operation by hunters in providing harvest information was poor in 2006. Hunters are encouraged to provide harvest information to assist wildlife managers to manage populations more effectively. This condition does not apply to regular either-sex licences, which are sampled through a harvest questionnaire.

For more information, contact the Saskatchewan Environment Office closest to the WMZ with BGMLs.