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February 11 Iowa Outdoors

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Press Releases from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEBRUARY 11, 2014

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1. Hunter Ed Classes Available Ahead of Spring Turkey Season
2. Ice Shelter Removal Deadline Extended North of Hwy. 20
3. DNR to Hold Listening Session on Fall Hunting and Trapping Regulations

HUNTER ED CLASSES AVAILABLE AHEAD OF SPRING TURKEY SEASON

A number of hunter education courses are scheduled across the state over the next few weeks for prospective turkey hunters to become certified in time for the spring season.

Iowa hunters born after Jan. 1, 1972 are required to successfully complete a certified hunter education

course in order to purchase a hunting license. Hunter education courses are open to students 12 years old and older. Students who are 11 years old may take the course, but the certificate of completion will become valid on their 12th birthday.

The DNR has a list of safety education courses online at <http://reservations1.usedirect.com/IowaWeb/> Students can search for class type, city, by month or zip code.

Megan Wisecup, hunter education administrator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, said students who are thinking about taking the course should decide soon.

“Our hunter education courses are a popular afterthought for some of our older students who realize late in the process that they need to get a certificate to buy a license. The sooner a student decides, the more options they have to get certified,” Wisecup said.

Iowa’s spring turkey hunting begins with a youth only season April 5-13, followed by Season 1, April 14-17; Season 2, April 18-22; Season 3, April 23-29; and Season 4, April 30-May 18.

For more information on the options to complete hunter education in Iowa visit www.iowadnr.gov/huntered

MEDIA CONTACT: Megan Wisecup, hunter education administrator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-238-4968.

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ICE SHELTER REMOVAL DEADLINE EXTENDED NORTH OF HWY. 20

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is extending the deadline to remove permanent ice shelters from state owned lakes north of Hwy. 20, to February 27. Favorable ice conditions currently across north Iowa should allow shelters owners plenty of time to remove their shelters from Iowa lakes.

At Clear Lake, some shelter owners are not waiting for the deadline to remove their permanent shelter.

“We are down from our peak of about 90 permanent shelters on the lake,” said Scott Grummer, fisheries biologist for the DNR at Clear Lake. “We want to encourage the shelter owners to use this extra week to get their shelter off of the lake. We have good ice conditions right now, but that can change fairly quickly when you are talking about getting a truck or ATV out to remove the shelter. The biggest issue in late winter is lake access. Melting snow and runoff from parking areas can deteriorate ice near the shoreline quickly.”

Permanent ice shelters south of Hwy. 20 must be off the ice by February 20, or ice melt, whichever comes first.

Owners with shelters remaining on state owned land or water after the deadlines pass will be subject to fines. If a shelter falls through the ice, the owner is responsible for its removal.

MEDIA CONTACT: Scott Grummer, Fisheries Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, [641-357-3517](tel:641-357-3517).

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DNR TO HOLD LISTENING SESSION ON FALL HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is hosting public meetings over the Iowa Communications Network on February 26 from 6 to 9 p.m., to listen to the public's thoughts on the hunting and trapping regulations for this fall.

These meetings are part of the process for making rules in state government.

"Any rule changes must be discussed with Iowa's citizens who might be impacted by the changes before the rule changes are proposed. The process helps ensure that rule changes serve the public's wishes and do not impact Iowa's economy," said Dr. Dale Garner, chief of the wildlife bureau.

At each meeting DNR staff will facilitate a discussion about what went well last fall, what didn't, and what changes hunters and trappers would like to see for this fall.

These discussions along with the data that the wildlife bureau collects on harvest and population numbers will be used to develop recommendations for any rule changes this fall. Any changes must be approved by the Natural Resource Commission and then go back to the public for further comment before taking effect next fall.

Meetings will be held in Boone, Calmar, Cedar Falls, Chariton, Council Bluffs, Creston, Davenport, Forest City, Fort Dodge, Johnston, Marshalltown, Ottumwa, Peosta, Sac City, Sergeant Bluff, Sheldon, Solon, Spencer and West Burlington.

Complete ICN locations are available online at www.iowadnr.gov/hunting

MEDIA CONTACT: Willie Suchy, Wildlife Research Supervisor, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, [515-281-8660](tel:515-281-8660).

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