

nephew or family friend out for this weekend," said Van Horn. "It's a great time to share your experience with a new or prospective waterfowler, outside of the regular duck seasons, when there are fewer hunters competing for spots and when warmer weather can be anticipated."

Canada geese

The state is apportioned into two goose hunting zones: Horicon and Exterior. Other goose management subzones within the Exterior Zone include Brown County and the Mississippi River.

* Early Canada goose: Sept. 1-15.

* Exterior Zone: 85 days. Daily bag of two Canada geese.

* North Zone: Sept. 16-23 and Sept. 24, (9a.m.)-Dec. 9.

* South Zone: September 16-30, October 1 (9 a.m.)-Oct. 9 and Oct. 15-Dec. 14.

* Mississippi River Subzone: Sept. 24 (9a.m.)-Oct. 2, Oct. 15-Dec. 29.

Horicon Time Periods: Hunters with Horicon zone permits will be issued six tags for the time period that they are awarded. The daily bag limit will be two geese with a possession limit of six.

Horicon : 92 days Period 1 Sept. 16-Oct. 30, Period 2 Oct. 31 -Dec. 16

Other Geese: Brant and Light geese Seasons will be the same as for the Canada goose zones/subzones. The daily bag limit will be one brant and 20 snow, blue or Ross' geese. White

fronted geese season will be the same as Canada geese for the Exterior zone and within the Horicon zone the season will be from Sept. 20-Dec. 16. The daily bag limit will be one.

Third Waterfowl hunting zone added

The new three-zone season structure adds a third waterfowl zone to the existing northern and southern duck zones. The new third zone consists of the Mississippi River from roughly Prescott to the Wisconsin - Illinois border, west of the railroad, and is identical to the current Mississippi River Canada goose subzone. What is now identified as the Mississippi River Zone for duck hunters will open Sept. 24 - Oct. 2; reopening Oct 15 through Dec. 4. Goose seasons in this zone will continue through Dec. 29.

Mentored Hunting

Wisconsin's mentored hunting law allows any registered hunter age 18 and older to introduce anyone age 10 and older to hunting without the mentee first passing a hunter safety education course. It's a great way to generate excitement and interest in adding hunting to a lifestyle. Interested hunters can learn more at the Mentored Hunting Law page of the DNR website.

DNR firmly supports removing gray wolf from federal endangered species list

The Department of Natural Resources firmly supports the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in delisting the wolf in the upper Great Lakes states. Wisconsin has exceeded its delisting goal eight times over and must have flexibility to manage problem wolves if any support for wolves by the public is to continue.

While the department is committed to long-term conservation of wolves in Wisconsin, it is critical that we be allowed to manage wildlife populations within our borders. Wisconsin has approximately 800 wolves; this is the most wolves ever counted in the state. Wolf numbers far exceed the federal delisting recovery goal of 100 wolves for both Wisconsin and Michigan, and are causing real problems.

It is time for management of wolves in Wisconsin to be turned over to us. The same is true for Minnesota and Michigan. For this to happen, the wolf must first be removed (delisted) from endangered or threatened status under the Endangered Species Act.

We support the USFWS in its current attempt to delist, but we also strongly disagree with its conclusion that a newly discovered and separate species of wolf exists in the Western Great Lakes. Wisconsin's wolves are the same species that was listed in 1978, and are most closely associated with the gray wolf. Recent genetic analyses refute the existence of Eastern wolves as a separate species. Wisconsin's wolves are of mixed genetics, but they are physically indistin-