

### NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

The mission of the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society is to provide a forum for discussion of ecological issues among natural resource professionals; to enable its membership to pursue conservation of natural resources; and to inform the public on ecologically wise uses of natural resources in support of a conservation ethic.

#### October 2004

#### MEMBERS ALERT!!!!

In this newsletter, the draft position statements from the Commercialization of Wildlife Committee are published. The Commercialization Committee has been working very hard on the issue and I would like to thank each member for all of the work. Please take the time to review them. The Board needs your comments. Most position statements are brought before the whole membership at the annual business meeting but the Board feels a position statement needs to be in place before the issue arises again with the legislature in January. We are going to take action on this position statement at the December Board meeting. If have any comments, please forward them to Mike McEnroe via email at <a href="Michael\_McEnroe@fws.gov">Michael\_McEnroe@fws.gov</a> before NOVEMBER 15, 2004. If you would like to attend the December Board Meeting it will be in Jamestown on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center at 10:00 am.

The Chapter intended to host a debate of the two candidates for Governor to bring to the forefront some of the issues important for natural resource conservation in North Dakota. Unfortunately, the debate will not happen. We were turned down by one of the candidates. I feel this election could have major implications for the conservation of natural resources in the state and our whole country, so get out and vote.

The Board did not get much feedback to the suggestion of moving the annual meeting to the Bismarck area on a permanent basis. There was one response in favor and one response opposed; it will probably be a topic at the annual business meeting. Maybe it is not that big of a deal to most of the membership. You can still provide feedback to any one of the members of the Board.

The December Executive Board meeting is always one of the busiest and most rewarding as we look at budgets, awards, and grant proposals. We also begin to wrap up Chapter business for the year. Please make sure you check out the reminders in this newsletter and send in your budget requests and award nominations. Last year we were a little short on nominations, so please take the time to nominate one of your colleagues for an award. I know we have many deserving members.

By the time you receive this newsletter it will be October. October to me is the most magical time on the prairies, migration is in full swing, resident wildlife is gearing up for winter and it can be experienced with old friends and relatives while hunting across this wonderful state. This can only be experienced if we as natural resource professional protect and conserve it. Most of do this as part of our jobs, but the Chapter provides another outlet and voice to conserve what most of us hold dear to our hearts. This can only be accomplished by members volunteering to be on committees, serving as committee chairs or as Chapter officers. So if you are interested please contact one of the Board members and let them know of your interest.

Have a great fall.

Randy

# C a l e n d a r o f E v e n t

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#### \* 2004 \*

#### **N**OVEMBER

15 Position Statement Comments DUE

#### **DECEMBER**

- 1 Last Call for Papers for 2005 NDCTWS Meeting
- 1 Funding Requests Deadline
- 1 Project Proposals for Small Grants Program Due
- 1 Nominations Due for The North Dakota Award, The North Dakota Wildlife Habitat Award and Special Recognition Awards.
- 14 December **Board Meeting** in Jamestown at Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center at 10:00 am.

#### JANUARY 2005

12-14 22ND Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference - "Shared Resources, Shared Responsibilities" January at the Ramada Plaza, Fargo, ND

If you have event dates, deadlines or other dates of interest, please send them to: Randy Renner, NDCTWS, 2525 River Road, Bismarck, ND 58503

#### North Dakota Chapter TWS - 2004

#### **Executive Board Members**

Randy Renner Dave Azure
Mike Goos Jacquie Ermer
Mark Sherfy Allyn Sapa
Will Meeks Kristine Askerooth

#### President Portfolio - Randy Renner

Secretary/Treasure: Mark Sherfy Newsletter: Stacy Adolf-Whipp CMPS Rep: Jerry Heiser

Natural Resources Trust Advisor: Scott Peterson Resolutions and Public Statements: Randy Renner

#### Past-President Portfolio - Mike Goos

Arrangements: Mike Goos Program: Mike Goos Audit: Tom Sklebar

Membership: Brian Wehausen Nominations: Mike Goos

ND Action Group: Jacquie Ermer

#### President-Elect Portfolio - David Azure

Bylaws: Paul Myerchin

Prairie Resources: Karen Smith & Darla Lenz

Legislative: Greg Link Awards: David Azure Prairie Chicken: Greg Link

#### Portfolio A – Jacquie Ermer

Wetland Resources: Cami Dixon Fishery Resources: Mike Olson Historian: Chris Grondahl

Website: Scott Kahan

Wildlife Commercialization: Mike McEnroe

#### Portfolio B - Allyn Sapa

Western Lands: Bill Jensen Teaming with Wildlife: Chuck Bosch Education: Kristine Askerooth & Jack Lalor

Forest Resources: Brian Prince

Invasive Species: Will Meeks & Scott Kahan

#### Portfolio C - Kristine Askerooth

Missouri River: Randy Renner Red River Watershed: Jack Lalor Devils Lake Basin: Roger Hollevoet

Fund Raising: Brian Kietzman & Paul Halko

Small Grants: Darla Lenz

#### Portfolio D - Will Meeks

Northern Great Plains Working Group: Kevin Willis Endangered Species: Sandy Hagen & Anne Coyle

Law Enforcement: Jackie Lundstrom

Wildlife Damage Management: Jacquie Ermer &

Phil Mastrangelo Finance: Mike Goos

#### North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

#### Executive Board Meeting Minutes September 14, 2004

#### **Lonetree Wildlife Management Area**

The Executive Board Meeting of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society was called to order at 10:00 AM at Lonetree Wildlife Management Area. Board members in attendance were Kristine Askerooth, Dave Azure, Jacquie Ermer, Mike Goos, Will Meeks, Randy Renner, Al Sapa, and Mark Sherfy. Mike McEnroe also attended the meeting.

Notes: MSC = "Moved, seconded, and carried" followed by names of board members making and seconding the motion.

NTR = "Nothing to Report" from the committee chair.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Treasurer's Report—Mark Sherfy provided a summary of the Chapter's financial status. We are ahead of our 2004 budget, but there are several expenses that have not yet been incurred. In accordance with the Finance Committee's recommendations, the Chapter has recently moved \$10,000 into a Certificate of Deposit and \$10,000 into a conservative mutual fund (Vanguard Wellesley). The Board voted to accept the Treasurer's report (MSC Goos/Askerooth).

Correspondence Sent & Received—Randy Renner circulated copies of recent correspondence. Highlights included our recent letter to the parent society regarding the Steady State Economy Position Statement, and a nomination form we received from American Rivers for Most Endangered Rivers. The nomination form was forwarded to the Missouri River Committee for their consideration.

Mercury Letter—Kevin Johnson drafted a letter on behalf of the Chapter that was sent to all 3 members of the Congressional delegation. There was a recommendation that future letters to politicians include a request for a response advising us of their action on the issue.

Chapter of the Year Award—Randy Renner was contacted by the parent society and asked to submit a nomination for our chapter to receive the Chapter of the Year Award in Calgary. With the help of Mike Goos and Bill Bicknell, Randy completed the nomination package on a very short turnaround. However, we were not selected to receive the award.

TWS Position Statement on Steady State

Economy—We have not received a response from the parent society to our request for an extension of the comment period on this position statement. Mark Sherfy is attending the Annual Conference in Calgary, and will advise the Board on any action taken on this position statement.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### New Members—None

Commercialization Position Statement—Mike McEnroe presented copies of draft position statements on 6 topic areas in wildlife commercialization. The Board discussed the need to focus these statements on science and natural resource consequences of wildlife commercialization. Mike stated a goal of using the statements, in conjunction with the committee's definition of commercialization, as an anchor point for any relevant testimony during the upcoming legislative session. To meet this goal, the Board is seeking comments from the membership prior to voting on these position statements at the December meeting. The Board voted to publish the draft position statements in the October newsletter with the Wildlife Commercialization Committee accepting comments by November 15, 2004 and the Board taking action at its December meeting (MSC Goos/Meeks).

<u>Governors Debate</u>—The Chapter has not received feedback from Governor Hoeven's staff regarding our request for a candidate's debate.

Joe Satrom has indicated his willingness to participate in a debate. Randy Renner has been in contact with the North Dakota Wildlife Federation regarding co-sponsorship of a debate, and will also investigate the alternative of submitting written questions to the candidates.

<u>Newsletter Deadline</u>—All materials must be to Stacy by September 30.

CMPS Meeting—The Annual Meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section will be held in Medora on August 10-12. Jerry Kobriger is taking the lead on organizing the conference. Mike McEnroe, Randy Renner, and Mark Sherfy agreed to assist with program and arrangements.

Lobbyist Issues Meeting with Eide Bailly—Randy Renner is taking the lead on arranging a meeting with Eide Bailly, a consulting firm in Fargo with expertise in legal and financial matters for nonprofit corporations. The meeting will focus on our allocation of resources to lobbying and education, and how our activities are treated by IRS regulations for nonprofit corporations. Meeting attendees will include Randy Renner, Mike McEnroe, Dave Azure, Mike Goos, and Mark Sherfy. A tentative date of October 4 has been set for the meeting.

<u>Circle of Conservation Advisors</u>—The Chapter has been invited to join this coalition of groups in support of conservation and educational opportunities surrounding the Lewis and Clark Trail. Although the Board did not object to the COCA mission, consensus was to avoid relinquishing control on use of the Chapter's name.

# PRESIDENT'S PORTFOLIO (Randy Renner)

Secretary/Treasurer (Mark Sherfy)—NTR.

Newsletter (Stacy Whipp)—There is a need to ensure that submissions to Stacy are timely. The Board discussed procedures for archiving permanent copies of the newsletter in the Bismarck Game and Fish office.

CMPS (Jerry Heiser)—NTR.

NRTA (Scott Peterson)—Scott Peterson provided a written summary of the July 13 & 14 meeting. The Trust has recently obtained a NAWCA grant for the Missouri River confluence area. Scott's meeting notes are published in this issue of the newsletter.

Resolutions & Public Statements (Randy Renner)—The principal activity right now is the Wildlife Commercialization position statements. The Board discussed lack of passing and sunset dates on our existing statements. The Board's preference is to include a sunset date in the text of each position statement rather than changing the bylaws so that position statements automatically sunset after 5 years. Dave Azure continues to work with Paul Myerchin regarding possible changes in the bylaws. Al Sapa will distribute a list of known position statement to the Board and Committee Chairs.

# PAST PRESIDENT'S PORTFOLIO (Mike Goos)

Arrangements (Mike Goos)—The Annual Meeting will be held at the Seven Seas in Mandan, February 9-11, 2004. Mike and others will visit the Seven Seas in January to make final arrangements for meals and facilities.

<u>Program (Mike Goos)</u>—Initial discussions regarding the theme are occurring. The Wildlife Commercialization Committee has requested a half day for a special session.

#### Audit (Tom Sklebar)—NTR.

Membership (Brian Wehausen)—The Chapter has 270 paid members. The Board is concerned that membership is declining over time, although our current low numbers are related to weather and location of the 2004 Annual Meeting. Brian is following up with former members who have not renewed for 2004. Members are also reminded that the newsletter is available to view online.

<u>Nominations (Mike Goos)</u>—This committee is heading into its main activity period. Mike reports that a few ideas for officer nominations have been received.

NDAG (Jacquie Ermer)—NTR.

# PRESIDENT ELECT PORTFOLIO (Dave Azure)

Bylaws (Paul Myerchin)—NTR.

Legislative (Darla Lenz)—The legislative workshops that were originally planned for this fall have not come about and probably won't. After the November election, Bill Pfeiffer and Mike McEnroe will work on drafting a letter to the legislators. Al Sapa and Mike Goos are reviewing the Work Agreement for Mike McEnroe. Completing this agreement is a priority, but its content hinges on the Chapter's standing with respect to IRS rules for lobbying by nonprofit corporations.

Awards (Dave Azure)—NTR.

Prairie Chicken (Greg Link)—NTR.

<u>Prairie Resources (Darla Lenz)</u>—Prairie Day 2005 will be held in the Kulm Wetland Management District.

#### **PORTFOLIO A (Jacquie Ermer)**

Wetland Resources (Cami Dixon)—NTR.

Fishery Resources (Mike Olson)—NTR.

Historian (Jeremy Duckwitz)—NTR.

NDCTWS Website (Scott Kahan)—Scott recently looked into the possibility of having our website hosted by the parent society, but it is more desirable to retain our existing web host. The membership is reminded that two versions of the newsletter are available on the website. One version is formatted for easy on-screen reading, and the other is formatted for printing.

Wildlife Commercialization (Mike McEnroe)—The committee is working on another half-day special session for the Annual Meeting, and is exploring the possibility of co-sponsoring Dr. Valerius Geist as a keynote speaker. Dr. Geist is an internationally known expert in big game research who has a European background and extensive knowledge of wildlife commercialization, confined animal

management, and ungulate biology. He is being sought to participate in the half-day session, a joint Game & Fish / NDCTWS public forum on February 11, and the Game & Fish Hunter Safety Instructor's Workshop on February 12. The Board voted to provide \$1200 in the Wildlife Commercialization Committee's 2005 budget to support Valerius Geist for the Annual Meeting, with the understanding that he will also participate in the February 11 public forum sponsored by the chapter (MSC Goos/Azure). Dr. Geist will also be invited to provide an informal presentation to our membership at the banquet.

#### PORTFOLIO B (Allyn Sapa)

Western Lands (Bill Jensen)—NTR.

Teaming With Wildlife (Chuck Bosch)—NTR.

Education & Outreach (Kristine Askerooth)— Kristine reported that scholarship letters have been sent to North Dakota universities. Projects this year include Junior Duck Stamp and Keep North Dakota Clean. Next year's activities will include sponsorship of 4 Girl Scout merit badges (North Dakota Prairie, North Dakota Wetlands, North Dakota Endangered Species, and National Wildlife Refuges). The committee will also be cosponsoring the 4th graders in the 2005 Keep ND Clean Poster Contest. The theme will be Habitat - Homes for Wildlife.

Forest Resources (Brian Prince)—NTR.

Invasive Species (Will Meeks)—Will reported that good progress is being made on both the workshop and the website. A company in Bismarck has been selected for the website, with a December 2004 target startup date. The Forest Service is assisting with registration and administrative support for the April 2005 workshop.

#### **PORTFOLIO C (Kristine Askerooth)**

Red River Watershed (Jack Lalor)—Governor Hoeven has announced an expansion of the Greenway on the Red. Further information can be found in this issue of the newsletter.

Missouri River (Jeb Williams)—NTR.

Devils Lake Basin (Roger Hollevoet)—NTR.

<u>Fundraising (Brian Kietzman/Paul Halko)</u>—The committee has applied for its 2005 raffle permit. Raffle tickets will be coming to the membership separately from the newsletter this year and are scheduled to arrive in early December.

#### PORTFOLIO D (Will Meeks)

Northern Great Plains Working Group (Kevin Willis)—Kevin Willis provided a written report. Primary activities include CRP and GRP. A proposed change to the primary nesting season dates did not occur. Supporting letters for this decision were provided by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, the Working Group, and many other groups. New ranking criteria for GRP have been developed. Further information on the Group's activities is available from Kevin.

Endangered Species (Sandy Hagen, Anne Coyle)—The black-tailed prairie dog has been removed from the Federal candidate list. No word is available on the status of sage grouse.

Law Enforcement (Jackie Lundstrom)— NTR.

Wildlife Damage Management (Phil Mastrangelo, Jacquie Ermer)—The committee is tracking HR3320, which relates to transferring migratory bird depredation authority from the Fish and Wildlife Service to USDA-Wildlife Services, and would also exempt these activities from NEPA.

Finance Committee (Mike Goos)—The committee has completed its selection of a conservative investment for \$10,000, resulting in our recent investment in the Vanguard Wellesley mutual fund. The committee has spent a substantial amount of time developing an endowment proposal for the Chapter, with the primary focus being on the reasons for seeking endowment funds. Consensus is that the hiring of an Executive Director is the most supportable and achievable long-term goal. An Executive Director would be responsible for coordinating committee activities, attending meetings, providing testimony, writing letters, maintaining

position statements, preparing grant proposals, and other duties. This idea represents an opportunity for our Chapter to demonstrate its long-term vision and provide for the future of North Dakota natural resources with a minimal up-front cost. The committee stressed that this long-term goal is achievable through compound interest, but only if we take the initiative to start. Current activity centers on investigating compliance with Chapter and parent society bylaws. This will be a topic of discussion at the Members' Forum in February.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM (MSC Goos/Askerooth)



The next Executive Board meeting will be at Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown on December 14, 2004 at 10:00.

#### Red River Committee: Greenway on the Red River

Excerpts taken from a 9/16 article in the Grand Forks Herald.

On Wednesday, September 15th Governor Hoeven announced plans to expand the Greenway on the Red River at the Joliet Ferry Crossing Wildlife Management Area about 10 miles east of Grafton. The 560-acre WMA was initially purchased by the American Foundation for Wildlife and the ND Natural Resources Trust. The land was then donated to the NDG&F Department. There are an additional 400 acres east and south of the area that will be included in the WMA. A total of about 10,000 acres of land along the Red River Valley in Walsh and Pembina counties are under floodplain easements with the federal government, and the NDG&F has identified 6,000 of those acres that it would like to include in the Greenway on the Red expansion plan. Hoeven intends to provide \$700,000 in the NDG&F Department budget next biennium to pay the landowners for the residual value of the land. The goal of the Greenway on the Red project is to provide a continuous area for public recreation along the Red River from Lake Traverse in South Dakota to Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba.

To view the complete article:

http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/9665825.htm

#### Maple River Dam

Report from the Red River Basin Commission newsletter: The US Army Corps of Engineers has granted the Cass County Joint Water Resource District their Section 404 permit - to proceed with construction on the Maple River Dam. The Maple River Dam will be located in southeast North Dakota, approximately eight miles north of Enderlin. When completed, the dry dam will be a 70-foot high earthen embankment, capable of retaining 60,000 acre-feet of floodwater. The Maple River Dam is designed to provide flood protection along the Maple, Sheyenne and Red Rivers and it is the fourth phase of the Sheyenne River Flood Control Project. There are still a few items for the project sponsors to address before construction is completed, including a vote by downstream properties to create an assessment district to finance 10% of the total project costs and acquisition of the remaining 75% of land rights required for the dam and its flood pool. The project is scheduled to be operational by the fall of 2005 with completion by the fall of 2006. Ground breaking ceremony for the Maple River Dam was held on Wednesday, September 15th.

#### ND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST REPORT

#### **SCOTT PETERSON**

The ND Natural Resources Trust (Trust) Board met on July 13/14, 2004 at the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center near Williston, ND. A summary of the major topics of discussion include:

- Kevin Willis, State Private Lands Coordinator for the USFWS, gave a presentation on the NAWCA program. Kevin gave a history of the program and where it stands in North Dakota.
- Terry Allbee presented the current financial report. The recommendation to the Board was to continue to reduce the grant solicitation for another year, with limited grants available for 2004.
- Bruce Adams reported on the SEI (Trust Financial Firm) conference that he attended in Naples, FL. He indicated that the conference sessions and speakers were very good and very informative.
- A draft of the Trust's updated investment policy was distributed to all Board members and ultimately approved.
- Dan Devlin, SEI, presented a report on investment trends and what was happening in the market. The board also reviewed the investment report.
- Scott Peterson presented the Performance Evaluation Committee report. Scott reviewed the process used in the performance evaluation. The Performance Evaluation Committee Report was approved as presented.
- Scott Peterson also presented the Trust Pay Plan Proposal to the full Board. The five steps of the proposed pay plan include a salary administration policy, position description development, salary survey/review, pay range selection, and the development of a pay plan within that pay range. This pay plan, as proposed, applies to the Executive Director and Trust Staff. The pay plan was unanimously approved by all board members present.
- Merle Bennett gave a presentation on the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence project. The project was approved for funding through the NAWCA program. The final decision should be announced in September 2004.
- Keith Trego gave a report on the Farm and Ranch Protection Program.
- Linda Roeder gave a report on the status on a website for the Trust. This website has now been launched and can be accessed at <a href="https://www.ndnrt.org">www.ndnrt.org</a>.
- Arnie Kruse gave a presentation on the status of the Renewable Energy Partnership Coalition.
- Sharon Clancy and Jessica Gregory (Graduate Student) gave an update on the Conservation Agriculture Program.
- A report was given by the Partners for Grassland Stewardship on what their position is on the possible acquisition of the Elkhorn Ranch Site and other grassland management issues.
- The Board was also given a tour of Fort Union, Fort Buford, the Confluence Project (Ochs & Neu Properties), and the Elkhorn Ranch Site.

The next NDNRT Board Meeting is scheduled for December 15/16, 2004 at the Expressway Suites, Bismarck. As always, if any Chapter member has questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Chapter's involvement in Trust activities, they are encouraged to contact Scott Peterson.

# Invasive Species Workshop Call for Papers

Do you have interesting research pertaining to invasive species and their impacts on Great Plain's resources?

Do you have noxious weed problems and are concerned with the economic impacts they have?

Are you a land manager that struggles with invasive species management and its effects on native ecosystems?

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ND Game and Fish Department, ND Parks and Recreation Department, ND Chapter of The Wildlife Society, ND Weed Control Association, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and U.S. Forest Service are pleased to announce a call for papers for an invasive species workshop to be held in Bismarck, ND, April 5-7, 2005.

The concurrent session workshop will focus on both noxious weeds and other invasive species which have ecological impacts on native habitat. An "invasive species" is defined as a species that is 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration **and** 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. (Executive Order 13112). The workshop is designed to promote management and conservation of habitat while focusing on the control of noxious weeds and invasive species.

What? The program committee encourages presentations on all topics related to noxious and invasive species. The two concurrent sessions will focus on noxious weeds and invasive species, respectively. General topics for the sessions will include, but are not limited to, definition of the problem, ecological impacts, economic impacts, management, and control measures. The table below identifies, more specifically, topics which are of interest.

Noxious Weeds	<u>Invasive Species</u>
Collaborative management efforts	Smooth brome ecology
Control/management techniques	Kentucky bluegrass ecology
- Fire effects	Management including reclamation
- Biological control	Current research
- Cultural control	Control efforts
- Mechanical control	Ecological impacts
Species specific ecology/information	Woody species concerns
Aquatic species of concern	Aquatic species
Economic impacts	Effect on N. Gt. Plains Fauna

Horticultural industry concerns	
Policy	

Who? Researchers, land managers, students, and others with interest in, or experience with noxious weed management and/or invasive species should send in abstracts. Presenters will be given twenty minutes for their talk, with a ten minute question and answer period.

When? The workshop is scheduled for April 5-7, 2005.

Where? The workshop is will be held in Bismarck, ND at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel (800 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St., 701-258-7700).

How? Please provide a title, abstract, author's name, contact information (be sure to provide email address), and media required for presenting (i.e., Power Point, slides, overhead projector) by October 31, 2004. You will receive notification of abstract receipt via email. Notice of acceptance will be sent by December 31, 2004 via email.

Abstract guidelines. Your abstract should briefly summarize the contents of your presentation. It should present your methods, results, discussion, and implications and written in a manner that would encourage participation for the presentation. Abstracts must be error free, 12-point font (Arial or similar), single spaced, and contain no more than 300 words. Please bold the title in UPPER CASE, and if there are multiple presenters, please place an asterisk (\*) by the presenter. Skip one line and begin the body of the abstract. Italicize all scientific names, if used. Abstracts should be saved in Microsoft Word format (97 or more recent).

Submit your electronic abstract and other information to lostwood@fws.gov.

If email submission is not possible, we will accept abstracts on a floppy disk (IBM formatted) or CD. Mail the disk to Will Meeks, Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge, 8315 Highway 8, Kenmare, ND 58746.

**Workshop Proceedings**. The workshop will also prepare abstract proceedings of the presentations. Those accepted to present will receive further instruction on submission with their acceptance information.

For more information, contact Will Meeks (Workshop committee, chair) at 701-848-2722, ext 27 or send inquiries to <a href="mailto:lostwood@fws.gov">lostwood@fws.gov</a>.

#### COMMERCIALIZATION OF WILDLIFE

A standard principle of wildlife management in the United States is that wildlife belongs to the public. This principle goes back to the founding fathers of this Nation and has been supported by the Supreme Court. Commercialization of wildlife occurs when the public wildlife (or fish) resource is used or exploited by individuals for financial gain. Examples of commercialization include fee hunting, guiding and outfitting for compensation, and hunting derbies or contests. Under certain circumstances, activities such as taxidermy, emphasis on trophy hunting, shooting preserves and game farms, sales of trophy animals or heads, and certain non-traditional livestock may be considered as commercialization of wildlife.

Commercialization of wildlife becomes a wildlife management issue when commercial interests interfere with or conflict with the ability of a wildlife management agency to manage the public's wildlife. Other aspects of commercialization include efforts by commercial interests to influence or interfere with wildlife or natural resource management or the public's opportunity to access their wildlife and natural resources. This may include lobbying efforts by commercial interests and landowners to secure guaranteed access to licenses or permits or access to public lands for fee operations. Commercialization may result in law enforcement issues because of the need to provide success to paying clients. Commercialization may conflict with the public's access to its wildlife resources, may directly or indirectly impact those wildlife resources, or affect a wildlife or natural resource agency's management programs.

Commercial interests who use or exploit wildlife seldom make a financial or meaningful contribution to the production, conservation, or protection of that wildlife resource. While commercialization of wildlife may impart a monetary value to wildlife and to natural resource experiences, it seldom provides a benefit to the resource or to the agencies charged with managing wildlife and natural resources.

This committee recognizes that there are differences between commercial interests use of the public's wildlife resource and an individual's right to conduct commercial activities involving wildlife on his or her own land. Landowners have the right to limit or manage access and trespass on their lands. However, landowners, guides, outfitters, clients, or other commercial interests should have no special consideration in the issuance of licenses or tags.

Commercial activities that provide recreational opportunities to the public, but do not require the exploitation of the public wildlife resource or restrict the public's access to wildlife are generally not an issue.

#### **Commercialization of Wildlife Committee**

#### Law Enforcement Issues

I. Introduction: Many of the various aspects of commercialization of wildlife require state and/or federal game wardens and law enforcement officers to inspect operations, investigate violations, work big game depredation complaints, assist the Board of Animal Health with non-traditional livestock operations, and other duties that relate to commercial use of wildlife. As the commercialization of wildlife grows in North Dakota, more time will have to be directed at these commercial activities.

II. Potential Aspects of Commercial Uses of Wildlife that require additional Law Enforcement:

#### A. Guides and Outfitting and Fee Hunting:

- 1. May be more inclination to commit violations when a hunter pays for the right to hunt an exclusive area, such as in a fee operation or a guided hunt, that hunter may expect more. Bag limits may become meaningless, especially behind locked gates and in an area were there are few wardens. Guides may feel pressured to give clients what they want even if it means braking wildlife laws.
- 2. More time-consuming investigations increased costs and time will be needed to investigate illegal activities associated with guides and outfitters. Such investigations are of high importance but detract from other duties performed by law enforcement staff, or other conservation responsibilities from the Game and Fish Department. Illegal guiding cases consume huge amounts of staff hours bringing a case to trial.
- 3. Ties up land as more hunters lose their favorite place to hunt, some may become frustrated and tend to violate laws. One estimate claims that guides and outfitters have leased or tied up approximately 70 % of Hettinger County and 50 % of Adams County One survey reveals that the average guide controls almost 16,000 acres of land, and that the average hunting/lodging provider controls over 5,500 acres.
  - 4. Additional time is required to inspect records and operations one full-time warden position has been added to the NDGFD to oversee commercial hunting operations.
  - 5. Increased depredations Due to a limited harvest of big game animals on fee hunting and leased land operations, there may be increased wildlife depredations during the fall and winter.

#### B. Non-traditional Livestock Operations:

- 1. Inspections state wardens usually inspect big game enclosures for the State Board of Animal Health (BOAH).
- 2. Escapes wardens are the first notified and usually assist BOAH with the capture or euthanasia of escaped big game animals.
- 3. Wildlife Disease Testing wardens assist BOAH with collecting samples for disease testing.
- 4. Utilizing sportsmen's' dollars for monitoring private ventures all dealings with BOAH issues not only detracts from NDGFD wardens time to conduct other duties, but uses sportsmen's' dollars/license fees to do so.

#### C. Hunting Contests:

- 1. Require extra patrols for surveillance and compliance for coyote, pheasant, and snow goose contests.
- 2. Potential illegal activities associated with big buck contests.
- D. Other Commercial Uses of Wildlife: All these activities require conservation agencies' staff time and funds for monitoring and regulation. As these businesses and other commercial operations

involving wildlife increase, additional time and funds will be required and taken from other resource management activities.

- 1. Taxidermists
- 2. Shooting Preserves and Game Farms
- 3. Bait vendors
- III. Recommendations: The North Dakota Game and Fish Department should regulate all aspects of commercialization of recognized game species.

The NDCTWS supports increased civil penalties involving illegal commercial take of wildlife.

#### Commercialization of Wildlife/Nature Based Tourism

- I. Introduction: Nature Based Tourism (NBT) is a general term to cover that portion of the tourism industry that relies on wildlife and natural resources as its drawing card, with the exception of hunting and fishing. NBT may take on many forms in North Dakota from visiting the scenic and historic Badlands along the Little Missouri River, birding festivals and contests, berry-picking, harvesting wild native plants for private or commercial use, fossil digs, harvesting "caviar" from legally caught paddlefish, and crafts that depend on natural resources such as driftwood, bark, "weeds" for their components.
- II. Definition: This broad topic can include activities such as photography, camping, hiking, biking, wildlife watching, horseback riding, canoeing, water skiing, and others when done commercially or as part of a paid tourism activity.
- III. Potential impacts to the natural resource base in North Dakota due to NBT: As with any activity based on the consumptive use such as collection or harvest, or the non-consumptive use such as access to certain sites, views, or vistas, there is the potential for over harvest, overuse, or the diminished quality of the experience from the volume of people using the resource or competing for use of the resource at the same time.
- IV. Private vs public land: Development of new visitor services (travel, interpretive, others) or commercial development intended to accommodate the NBT industry should not impact public lands, public access to public lands, the public's natural resources, or the funding generated by user group to support these resources.
- V. Funding of NBT industry/activities: The NDCTWS opposes having the natural resource agencies having to pay or support the development of commercial NBT industry. Funding for infrastructure development should come from the beneficiaries of the NBT industry, not from re-direction of wildlife and natural resource management funds.
- VII. Support of NBT: The NDCTWS supports further development of NBT on private lands, and supports NBT on public lands where compatible or consistent with area objectives and management plans. It is not acceptable to make a private profit on public land or from the public resources.

VIII. Recommendation: The NDCTWS recommends that natural resources agencies work up front with NBT groups, the North Dakota Department of Tourism, and others to identify areas of support and agreement and areas of potential conflict, in order to work together more efficiently.

#### Commercialization of Wildlife Fee Hunting and Fishing (Includes Guides and Outfitters)

- I. Mission of NDCTWS: To provide a forum for discussion of ecological issues among natural resource professionals; to enable its membership to pursue conservation of natural resources; and to inform the public on ecologically wise uses of natural resources in support of a conservation ethic.
- II. Introduction: Providers of hunting and fishing opportunities for fee gain financially from public resources and often attempt to influence the management of those resources. As a result, this topic is of great interest to professional wildlife managers and to consumptive and non-consumptive users of public wildlife and other natural resources.
- III. Definition of fee hunting and fishing: Fee hunting and fishing occurs when money or other tangible payment is made to a party in exchange for assistance to locate, pursue, or access public wildlife for the purpose of taking that wildlife. Public wildlife includes all fish and wild animals held in trust and managed by state or federal agencies for the people of North Dakota and the Nation.
- IV. Potential negative impacts to wildlife management in North Dakota due to fee hunting:
  - A. Less opportunity for the public to access wildlife resources.
  - B. Interference with wildlife management decisions by wildlife professionals.
  - C. Potential for increased illegal take of wildlife; i.e., over-bagging justified because of costs and fees, over-bagging because of high wildlife populations on fee operation lands.
  - D. Unfavorable distribution of harvest (geographically, and demographically) which may lead to disease or depredation problems on private lands, and over harvest and over- use of public lands.
  - E. Reduced hunter numbers which results in reduced license revenues, reduced advocacy for hunting, agency conservation programs, and reduced support for public wildlife conservation agencies.
  - F. Undesirable consequences to habitat.
- V. Beneficiaries of fee hunting and fishing:
  - A. Individuals, guides, and outfitters who receive payment from hunters and fishermen.
  - B. A select group of hunters and fishermen who can afford or chose to pay for hunting access or trophy fees.

- VI. Funding for fee hunting: In most cases fee hunting is an extractive business where a select group of individuals benefit at the expense of a larger public that provide funding for wildlife management and conservation. Public agencies should not subsidize or fund the management of habitat, hunter numbers and permits, or wildlife populations that primarily benefit fee hunting operations.
- VII. Recommendation: Oppose any fee hunting or fishing operations/activities in which the participants;
  - A. Restrict hunting/fishing access to wildlife by the public.
  - B. Influence or attempt to influence the distribution of hunting licenses or permits to benefit their fee hunting or fishing operations.
  - C. Influence or attempt to influence wildlife population or habitat management by public agencies primarily to benefit their fee hunting or fishing operations.

#### **Commercialization of Wildlife Hunting and Fishing Contests**

- I. Introduction of Hunting Contests and how they relate to the NDCTWS Mission: Hunting and Fishing Contests promote a use of natural resources, therefore an issue of concern to the NDCTWS. Many related issues; ethics, the potential for cheating/poaching, public perceptions, especially with regard to contests for the most animals killed, i.e., prairie dog or coyote shoots, or the fastest limit of snow geese; also affect wildlife and natural resource management.
- II. Definition of Hunting Contests: Any organized hunting activity that establishes competition and/or a scoring system with prizes or money awarded based on the number of or size of wildlife. Examples include: biggest buck, heaviest doe, longest pheasant tail, largest goose, most waterfowl, most coyote/fox, most prairie dogs, or most rattlesnakes, etc. In North Dakota, hunting contests generally involve a consumptive use of wildlife, but there is potential for non-consumptive uses such as birding contests.
- IV. Potential impacts to natural resources in North Dakota due to Hunting Contests:
  - A. There is potential that Hunting or Fishing Contests could promote illegal activities that may require management agencies to redirect staff time to monitor or regulate these activities that may interfere with the management agencies ability to manage natural resources.
  - B. There is potential for Hunting and Fishing Contests to interfere with the general public's (not participating in the contests) ability to access and enjoy either consumptive or non-consumptive uses of wildlife.
  - C. There is potential for Hunting Contests to negatively impact local wildlife populations and associated species (i.e. prairie dogs and associated burrowing owls, mountain plovers, etc).
- V. Beneficiaries of Hunting Contests: Hunting Contests may enhance the enjoyment of outdoor recreation for some of the general public and promote support for wildlife, natural resource protection and management. Certain businesses and chambers of commerce that support and/or promote the contest likely benefit from an increased customer base and sales during the contest period. These beneficiaries rarely contribute to the management of the natural resource base that supports their commerce.
- VI. Private vs. Public lands: Hunting Contests occurring on private lands are generally not a natural resource agency concern unless the contest has a significant negative impact on wildlife populations.

Hunting Contests that occur on public lands and interferes with the general public's ability to access and/or enjoy wildlife on these public lands is a concern for the managing agency.

VII. Funding for Hunting Contests: The general public should not have to pay for Hunting Contest, their promotion, or regulation.

VIII. Support for Hunting Contests: Recommendation to maintain a neutral position on Hunting Contests in general. However, Hunting Contests should not have a significant negative impact on wildlife populations and associated species/habitats. Hunting Contests should not interfere with the general public's ability to access and/or enjoy wildlife/natural resources on public lands. Hunting Contests should not interfere with a natural resource agencies ability to manage wildlife/natural resources or redirect staff time to regulate these contests.

#### **Commercialization of Wildlife: Allocation of Lottery Licenses**

Introduction: Many surrounding states already allocate a portion of their lottery licenses to guides and outfitters for sale to clients. In Montana, two-thirds of the big game licenses are allocated to guides/outfitters to sell as a part of their package hunts. The South Dakota State Legislature in 2004 considered a proposal to allow ranchers and farmers to sell West river deer licenses. One half of the non-resident allocation of white-tailed deer licenses per unit are available to licensed guides and outfitters in North Dakota.

Issue: Such allocations remove licenses from the public that does not want to or need to hunt with a guide. They may re-distribute harvest in an area above or below what the wildlife management agency intends or proposes. Such allocation may alter the age structure and /or sex ratio in a big game population over a small area, or even a large area, depending on the percentage of licenses that are allocated to guides, outfitters, ranchers or farmers.

Position: The NDCTWS recommends and strongly supports that all license sales and allocation be conducted through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in order to assure fair distribution of licenses, and maintain desired harvest levels and wildlife populations.

#### **Game Farms and Shooting Preserves**

- I. Introduction: Two components in the commercialization of wildlife that are on the increase in North Dakota are shooting preserves and game farms or non-traditional livestock operations. Both are designed to diversify or increase on-farm income, and shooting preserves may provide outdoor recreation opportunities. For purposes of the NDCTWS discussion, the two operations are defined as follow:
- II. Definition: A shooting preserve is a facility where native, introduced, or exotic species of wildlife are propagated, raised, released and are hunted on a per gun, per animal released, or per animal shot payment basis. In North Dakota, these facilities raise and shoot primarily upland game birds such as pheasants and chukars. There are currently thirty-three shooting preserves licensed by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Current regulations call for the maintenance of records on the number of animals raised and killed. Although birds released by shooting preserves are somewhat free to fly anywhere, mammals are generally confined by high fences or enclosures.

Game Farms or non-traditional livestock operations raise and sell animals for meat, horns/antlers, hides or feathers, or to sell as breeding stock. Species raised in North Dakota include native, non-native, and

exotic game animals such as white-tailed deer, mountain lions and fallow deer or exotic livestock species. These facilities are licensed by the State Board of Animal Health within the State Department of Agriculture, and must maintain defined standards for animal health and sanitation. The Board of Animal Health currently licenses about 35-40 game farm/non-traditional livestock operations in the State. In addition, there are 103 farmed elk operations licensed in North Dakota. Farmed elk operations are not included as non-traditional livestock operations, and farmed elk or captive deer herd operators can develop shooting operations without having to be licensed as a shooting preserve.

Issues: Proponents of preserves and game farms often suggest that there are wildlife benefits due to good land stewardship and herd management. Although this may be true in some cases, it is not universally true, and in many cases the high fences are needed to confine animals within poor quality habitats.

Both types of facilities maintain confined wildlife or semi-wild species of wildlife or exotic species and run risks of having disease outbreaks which could spread to either unconfined wildlife populations or to domestic livestock operations. In addition, shooting preserves by their nature of providing animals to shoot or to release and shoot, decrease the need for traditional hunting and outdoor skills, and emphasize the kill of animals at the expense of the total hunting experience or exposure to the relationship between wildlife and habitat.

The following is the position of NDCTWS with regard to shooting preserves and game farms:

- 1. Oppose further conversion of the public's native wildlife to private ownership.
- 2. Oppose high-fenced enclosures, regardless of size, if they exclude free-ranging native wildlife from critical seasonal habitats or migration routes.
- 3. Support regulations and enforcement to prevent escapes and facilitate the recovery in the event of an escape.
- 4. Support the state wildlife agencies as the primary regulatory agency over native North American ungulates, including those confined by high fences.
- 5. Encourage anyone using a high fence to confine ungulates to thoroughly analyze and understand potential effects and commit to minimizing the risks to native species.
- 6. For all ungulates confined by high fences, encourage management at or below natural carrying capacity in a manner that prevents inbreeding, disease, habitat degradation and effects on non-target species.
- 7. Encourage authorized agencies to collaborate with interested parties on funding and development of systems for detecting and monitoring wildlife diseases within enclosed and free-ranging native and exotic ungulate populations.
- 8. Support a moratorium on further construction of high-fenced facilities and the shipment of live ungulates until live animal diagnostic tests are available for detecting and monitoring important infectious diseases such as chronic wasting disease (CWD), brucellosis, and tuberculosis.
- 9. Oppose the use of funds generated from traditional sources (recreational licenses, tags, and other fees) for confined-ungulate inspections and regulatory programs.
- 10. Oppose all high fences as a management tool except for those associated with research facilities.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS & POSTERS**

#### The 2005 Theme is "Managing and Conserving the Prairie."

If you are interested in giving a paper or poster at the 2005 annual meeting, please send the title, author(s) name, address and phone number, audio visual equipment needs, and a brief abstract by **DECEMBER 1** $^{ST}$  to:

#### NDCTWS Program Committee P.O. Box 1442 Bismarck, ND 58502

Abstracts can also be submitted directly to members of the program committee. Mike McEnroe, Dan Svingen, Rick Nelson, Jacquie Ermer, Sandra Hagen, Marsha Sovada, Tim Phalen, Will Meeks, and Mike Goos.

The Arrangements Committee is working to organize the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society's 2005 Annual Meeting. Mark your Calendars! The meeting will be held at:



Seven Seas Inn Mandan, North Dakota February 9-11, 2005

Reservations: 1-701-663-0025



# FUNDING REQUEST DEADLINE DECEMBER 1, 2004



The Executive Board asks that funding requests be submitted prior to the December executive meeting. The Board recognizes that funding requests requiring immediate attention may still occasionally arise throughout the year. However, funding requests received prior to the December Executive Board meeting will receive priority and ensure equitable funding consideration for Chapter committee projects and partnerships with other organizations.

If you are a Chapter standing committee chairman or represent an organization considering Chapter funding during the upcoming year, please contact your respective Executive Board portfolio representative or Mark Sherfy, Chapter Treasure prior to December 1, 2004

# NDCTWS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

#### REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the NDCTWS Small Grants Program is to encourage projects that promote the wise management and conservation of wildlife, plants, and other natural resources in North Dakota. Priority will be given to projects in areas that have been traditionally underfunded, such as nongame species conservation and conservation education.

#### **Guidelines**

The grant program consists of one or more awards of up to \$1000 for project work occurring in North Dakota. The grant is available to any university, student, professional individual, group, agency, or organizational project. Grants are awarded annually; therefore, successful applicants must reapply each year for future funding.

The grant may be used for travel (within North Dakota) to/from study sites, lodging, expendable equipment, salaries, and supplies. Administrative overhead expenses are ineligible, as are those for durable field equipment such as cameras, computers, GPS units, or surveying equipment. Proposals must be received by December 1, 2004. All proposals are reviewed at the final executive board meeting of the year by the NDCTWS executive board and ranked on the basis of (1) quality of project, (2) meeting the purpose of the NDCTWS Small Grants Program, and (3) budget needs. Grant recipients will be notified by the executive board and will be announced in the newsletter.

Project leaders will submit a 1 to 2 page report summarizing the results of the project to the NDCTWS executive board. Also, an article summarizing the results of the project must be submitted for inclusion in the Chapter newsletter. Grant recipients are encouraged to do an oral presentation or poster at the annual NDCTWS meeting. The name of the Chapter should be acknowledged as a financial supporter on any final reports or publications.

#### **Proposals**

Written proposals should not exceed 2 single spaced typewritten pages. The proposal narrative must address the following criteria:

- ® statement of purpose
- ® project objectives
- methods ®
- ® study area
- ® target species or audience
- ® project duration
- ® benefits to the conservation of natural resources in North Dakota

Literature citations and an itemized budget should be included but do not count toward the 2 Other sources of support for the project must be identified in the budget. Subcontracting is not allowed. Grantee will be expected to obtain any necessary permits.

#### **Deadline and Mailing Instructions**

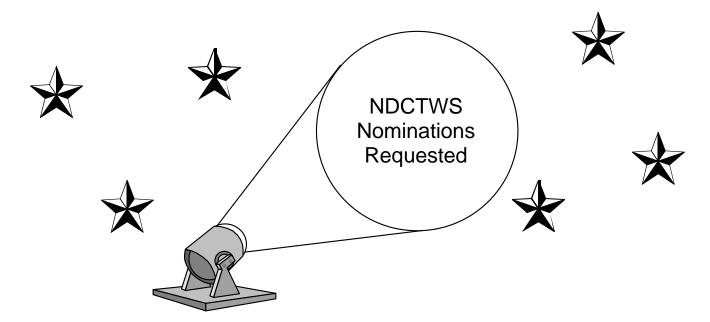
Deadline for submission of proposals is December 1, 2004. Please mail proposals to: NDCTWS, P.O. Box 1442, Bismarck, ND 58502. Or send by email to Mike Goos@fws.gov

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS**

The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society has maintained a proud tradition of active involvement on issues affecting North Dakota's natural resources. We have been able to make significant contributions because Chapter members have been willing to take time from their demanding schedules to take an active role in guiding the Chapter. If you know someone who is willing to be a candidate for the



Executive Board or President-elect, please contact the Nominations Committee or submit written recommendations to Mike Goos, 3275 11th St. NW, Coleharbor, ND 58531. If you are interested in being a candidate, do not wait for a formal request, nominate yourself. All nominations are greatly appreciated. The Nominations Committee will select four candidates for the Executive Board and two individuals to run for President-elect.



Each year the Chapter recognizes outstanding achievements at the awards banquet. This banquet, when we pause to recognize the contributions of our peers, is truly the highlight of each annual meeting. Please take time this fall to nominate deserving candidates for **The North** Dakota Award, The North Dakota Wildlife Habitat Award and Special Recognition Awards.



The North Dakota Award (Professional Award) is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution towards furthering the aims of professional wildlife endeavors in North Dakota.



The North Dakota Wildlife Habitat Award is presented to an individual or group that has made a substantial contribution toward preserving and/or establishing high quality wildlife habitat in North Dakota.



In addition, the Chapter presents **Special Recognition Awards** to individuals or groups for their commitment to special projects, issues, or ongoing programs Concerning North Dakota's natural resources. During the past few years individuals have been recognized for efforts concerning prairie education, media coverage of natural resource issues, and the conservation of North Dakota's badlands.

If you know an individual or group deserving of recognition for their contribution, please submit a written nomination.

If an award candidate you nominated last year was not selected, please resubmit the nomination for consideration.

Nominations must be submitted by **DECEMBER 1, 2004.** 

Award nominations should be sent to:

Dave Azure c/o Kulm Wetland District PO Box E Kulm, ND 58456

Email: Dave\_Azure@fws.gov

# NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

#### AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Nominee:		
Award: Professional:	Wildlife Habitat:	Special Recognition:
Address:		
Phone number:		
Present position:		
Education:		
Professional Career:		
Nomination statement:		
recognition. Pleas accomplishments the Chapter. Include involvement in Chapother relevant inform	e explain fully the sing nat are noteworthy and nformation concerning ot ter and other professional nation that will help in the	ividual or group is deserving of le accomplishment or series of should be acknowledged by the her awards and honors received, and community organizations, and selection process. Pertinent news, nomination may be attached.
Submitted by:		
Address:		Phone:

#### NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY DECEMBER 1, 2004

Return to: Dave Azure c/o Kulm Wetland District PO Box E, Kulm, ND 58456

Email: Dave\_Azure@fws.gov

#### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Students or other Chapter members are asked to notify Brian Wehausen, Membership Chairman, of any address changes. Please mail the change to ND Chapter Wildlife Society, PO Box 1442, Bismarck, ND 58502-1442. This is greatly appreciated and helps to keep our expenses down.

#### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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MPLOYER	
m am not a current member of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society	
<ul> <li>Regular\$ 15.00</li> <li>Available to any person employed, trained or is a student in a natural resource f</li> <li>Entitled to vote in Chapter elections.</li> </ul>	ield.
<ul> <li>Patron, Sponsor or Benefactor \$ 10.00</li> <li>Available to any person or organization which is interested in supporting the Chas it is operated by membership. Non-voting status.</li> </ul>	ıaptei
~ Life Member\$200.00	
~ Student\$ 8.00	
~ Central Mtn. & Plains Section TWS\$ 5.00	
TOTAL anclosed \$	

Make checks payable to North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Mail to: North Dakota Chapter TWS, PO Box 1442, Bismarck, ND 58502-1442

NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER C/O STACY ADOLF-WHIPP, EDITOR P. O. BOX 1442 BISMARCK, ND 58502-1442

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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