



## 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.

**SEPTEMBER 2002**

As I type this note from my air conditioned office on this hot humid summer day, I am beginning to realize that summer is slowly winding down. Earlier today, I observed the small grains changing colors and harvest will begin soon. The Canada geese broods are no longer fuzz balls. Duck and pheasant broods are a regular site. Maybe most convincing is swimming lessons, baseball, and all those other children activities are nearing completion, leaving little time to accomplish other summer projects prior to the new school year.

The Chapter has also remained busy. We continue to work on projects from big to small. Planning continues for the 9th Annual TWS Conference scheduled for Bismarck, September 24 - 28th. Bill Bicknell and Mike McEnroe have done an outstanding job of coordinating this conference. We also owe a big thanks to all the conference committee chairs for their time and hard work. We are looking forward to a strong turnout from our chapter members and we are always in need of volunteers. If you can volunteer a few hours while attending the conference, please contact Dave Azure or Jon Roaldson.

I would like to welcome Doug Staller, the Chapter's new secretary and Stacy Adolf-Whipp, our new newsletter editor. Both graciously accepted the positions without pressure point tactics. A continued thank you goes to Greg Hiemenz and Alicia Waters for all their hard work. Greg has agreed to continue handling the treasurer duties due to logistics and Alicia will be working to transition Stacy into the newsletter position. I would also like to welcome and say thanks to Terri Thorn. Terri has agreed to chair the Endangered Species Committee, the only vacant committee remaining to be filled. If anyone has an interest working with any of the committees, please contact the committee chairs, as your involvement is always appreciated.

The Chapter's June executive board meeting centered on the letter "F", Forest Service, Finances, and Files. Darla presented the group with an update of the Forest Service Mgt Plan. The executive board had a lengthy discussion on our finances ranging from investment options to check writing with regards to an insurance policy. We culminated with files. The Chapter's archive is stored at the Game and Fish Office in Bismarck. The files are currently boxed and stacked. Finding a particular piece of information can pose a real challenge. The board had a request to obtain a couple of filing cabinets and organize the archive. The board agrees and we hope to announce a work day in the future for Chapter members to meet and accomplish this task. Stay tuned!

The Chapter was again a cosponsor for "Prairie Day 2002". The event was held July 13th at USFS Denbigh Dunes - Experimental Station. The event was successful and the news release can be found on page 9 of the newsletter.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for their time and patience with me. I continue to be educated by the Chapter's diversity and hard work. The executive board meetings are open to chapter members, we encourage you to attend. I hope to see all of you in Bismarck at the 9th Annual TWS Conference, but until then, take advantage of and enjoy the remainder of our summer.

Thank you,

Tim Phalen, Chapter President

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**\* 2002 \***

**SEPTEMBER**

17 Executive Board Meeting (Tentative) - Lonetree - 11:00AM  
24-28 TWS 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Bismarck, ND

**OCTOBER**

5 Newsletter Information Deadline  
31 Proposal deadline for small grant program

**NOVEMBER**

20 Deadline for Awards Nomination

**DECEMBER**

3 Executive Board Meeting (Tentative) - Bismarck - 9:00AM  
17 Newsletter Information Deadline

**FEBRUARY**

11-13 2003 NDCTWS Annual Meeting - Mandan, ND

*If you have event dates, deadlines or other dates of interest, please send them to: Tim Phalen, NDCTWS, PO Box 217, Wyndmere, ND 58081*

## **North Dakota Chapter TWS - 2002**

### **Executive Board Members**

Tim Phalen            Randy Crooke  
Darla Lenz            Glen Sargeant  
Mike Goos            Jon Roaldson  
Dave Azure

### **President Portfolio - Tim Phalen**

Secretary: Doug Staller  
Treasurer: Greg Hiemenz  
Newsletter: Stacy Adolf-Whipp  
CMPS Rep: Jerry Heiser  
Natural Resources Trust Advisor: Scott Peterson  
Resolutions and Public Statements: Tim Phalen

### **Past-President Portfolio - Darla Lenz**

Arrangements: Darla Lenz  
Program: Darla Lenz  
Audit: Tom Sklebar  
Membership: Dave Azure  
Nominations: Darla Lenz  
2002 TWS Annual Mtg: Bill Bicknell & Mike McEnroe  
ND Action Group: Jacquie Gerads

### **President-Elect Portfolio - Mike Goos**

Bylaws: Paul Myerchin  
Prairie Resources: Karen Smith & Darla Lenz  
Legislative: Greg Link  
Awards: Mike Goos  
Prairie Chicken: Greg Link

### **Portfolio A - Dave Azure**

Wetland Resources: Scott Peterson  
Fishery Resources: Mike Olson  
Youth Education: Jack Lalor  
Historian: Chris Grondahl

### **Portfolio B - Glen Sargeant**

Western Lands: Bill Jensen  
Teaming with Wildlife: Chuck Bosch  
Education: Kristine Askerooth  
Forest Resources: John Schulz

### **Portfolio C - Jon Roaldson**

Missouri River: Randy Renner  
Red River Watershed: Mike Ell  
Devils Lake Basin: Roger Hollevoet  
Fund Raising: Brian Kietzman & Paul Halko

### **Portfolio D - Randy Crooke**

Northern Great Plains Working Group: Kevin Willis  
Endangered Species: Terri Thorn  
Law Enforcement: Jackie Lundstrom  
Wildlife Damage Management: John Paulson  
Finance: Mike Goos

## **North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Executive Board Meeting June 25, 2002**

The Executive Board meeting of the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society was called to order at 9:10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2002 at the Falkirk Mine Headquarters in Underwood. The meeting was attended by Tim Phalen, Mike Goos, Dave Azure, Randy Crooke, Darla Lenz, Jon Roaldson, and Glen Sargeant.

Tim thanked Randy for setting up the meeting at Falkirk and Doug Staller for taking notes at the meeting. Greg is still handling treasurer duties and picking up mail. Tim provided copies of new and old business.

Note : MSC = "moved, seconded, and carried" followed by those board members making and seconding the motion.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Approval of minutes from the April meeting. MSC approval (Goos and Crooke)

Treasurer's Report - There was a typo in last report resulting in \$20.00 error. March 31 amended Treasurer's report was approved MSC (Goos and Azure). May 31 2002 current treasurer's report was submitted. \$46204.24 assets as of May 31 treasurers report approved MSC (Crooke and Goos)

Correspondence Sent and Received - Miscellaneous correspondence was circulated. Tim reported that the Chapters website was generating some traffic. Other mail was sorted and sent to community chairs.

Devils Lake Comments - Comments were incorporated into a packet prepared by Roger Hollevoet. Comments can be found on page 10 of this newsletter.

Memorandum of Understanding - Tim signed MOUs for Dave Azure and Glen Sargeant. Glens has not been approved by ethics officer. The MOUs are appropriate and acceptable. Dave's and Glen's had been signed. Mike Goos's MOU was signed during the meeting.

News Release of award winners at Banquet - Information was sent out E-mail. It was reported that Brad Dokken of the Grand Forks Herald did publish the student award winners. The board will form a list of direct contacts for future use hoping for greater exposure.

Environmental Directories - Directories have been mailed. Estimate of \$117 to mail was actually only \$55.

Small Grant Program - Information on the grant program will be included in the next issue of the newsletter (August). It could be put on the Web Site also. The board will be reviewing the applications. News releases would be appropriate when the Chapter provides funding. The target was to programs that aren't getting funding elsewhere. It was established to help us deal with certain types of funding requests.

Forest Service Mgt. Plan update - Darla reported the USFS is working near completion on Record of Decision. Due to political pressure, the USFS was asked to address additional concerns, mostly related to the economic concerns. There are changes in the Plan, including Bighorn sheep areas not available for leasing may be available if oil is found. They will delay implementation of grazing systems. These will come in an addendum to the ROD. Plan and ROD will be out in the next 2-3 weeks. Because there were economic analysis differences in the loss between 100 and 3 million dollars, some of this is still in flux. No final numbers from Dept of Ag.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Finance Committee - Mike Goos addressed the board. At the last meeting it was discussed that the chapter has done well financially and is currently sitting on assets of \$11,000 in checking account and \$27,000 in money market. Both of these are paying less than 1.5% interest. Mike explored the possibility of moving money into higher yielding funds. Mike met with our financial advisor and she made suggestions. After discussion Mike and Glen agreed to work on a proposal that would be sent to the board.

Insurance Premium - Paul Myerchin received a letter from our insurance company. Due to the work of the audit committee, we can reconcile the books. The chapter should address the issue of countersigning checks. Insurance company had questions regarding how we handle our checking account.

MSC that requires two signatures on checks greater than \$500 (Azure, Crooke). Discussion on; is this the policy? This is the way that this board will conduct business. We will need to order checks with two lines next time we order checks. Discussion followed on who would sign checks. It was decided that currently, checks will be signed by the treasurer, Greg H. and if a second signature is required, it will be signed by either Tim or Darla. Every time the chapter elects a new board, the board will have to decide who will co-sign checks.

MSC This board will have the President, Past President, and Treasurer as check signers (Crooke, Sargeant)

MSC To renew Insurance policy for 3 years (Sargeant, Goos)

Old Files - Old files are in boxes at Game and Fish. The board will investigate prices of cabinets and look at having a work day in the future to organize files.

Art Gallery - MSC to donate \$250.00 to Bismarck Art and Galleries Association to support the 1st Annual Juried Wildlife Art Exhibition and a reception during the annual TWS conference. (Lenz, Goos)

Other new business - Jon Roaldson took a call from a collection agency regarding an invoice for some polo shirts for the fund raising committee in 2001. We have a bill for \$ 550.00 that is in our name. There is no blatant evidence that there was wrongdoing. Bill includes 20% collection agency charges.

MSC We should pay this bill and learn our lesson! (Goos, Crooke)

Tim read a list of outstanding bills that need to be paid. All were approved for payment.

### **PRESIDENT PORTFOLIO - Tim Phalen**

Secretary/Treasurer report - Gregory Hiemenz reported as of May 31, 2002 that the checking account held \$10,510.79, the money market savings account held \$27,435.89, and that the Life Membership Mutual funds of Oppenheimer and Putnam were \$3,683.28 and \$4,574.28, respectively. Total Assets were \$46,204.24.

Newsletter - Tim has talked to Alicia and she has been doing it a long time. Dave made a personal appeal to see if Stacy Adolf-Whipp will take it on and she accepted. Tim passed around a preliminary program for the meeting. Mike will submit announcement for nomination for awards and Darla will work on the RFP for small grants.

CMPS Representative - Jerry Heiser NTR

Natural Resources Trust Advisor - Scott Peterson reported that the Trust has not met since March meeting. They are scheduled to meet July 9 and 10.

Resolutions and Public Statements - Tim Phalen. NTR

### **PAST-PRESIDENT PORTFOLIO -Darla Lenz**

Arrangements - Darla Lenz NTR

Program - Darla Lenz , Program committee meets this Thursday. The 2003 annual meeting will be held jointly with The Dakota Chapter of AFS.

Audit - Tom Sklebar NTR

Membership - Dave Azure NTR

Nominations - Darla Lenz NTR

2002 TWS Annual Convention - Bill Bicknell and Mike McEnroe written report submitted to go in the newsletter.

ND Action Group - Jacquie Gerads NTR

### **PRESIDENT-ELECT PORTFOLIO - Mike Goos**

Bylaws - Paul Myerchin Correspondence received regarding two signatures for insurance purposes.

Legislative - Greg Link NTR. They have some names for the lobbyist position, but have not finalized this position yet.

Awards - Mike Goos will put in next newsletter.

Prairie Chicken - Greg Link NTR

Prairie Resources - Karen Smith and Darla Lenz. Karen Smith has retired as of June 1. Prairie Day will be July 13, at the USFS Denbigh Dunes Experimental Station.

### **PORTFOLIO A - Dave Azure**

Wetland Resources - Scott Peterson is monitoring Section 404 permitting by the State.

Fishery Resources - Mike Olson NTR

Youth Education - Jack Lalor will be calling for Habitat evaluation teams soon.

Historian - Chris Grondahl. NTR

NDCTWS Website - Scott Kahan. Scott has fielded several questions over the website. It is serving as a good

outlet. He will post the newsletters as he receives the PDF files. There is a \$50 annual fee for website.

### **PORTFOLIO B - Glen Sargeant**

Western Lands - Bill Jensen NTR. Plans for TRNP expansion have changed to no longer include Forest Service lands.

Teaming with Wildlife - Chuck Bosch NTR

Education - Kristine Askerooth reports that Rachel Dwyer won the national Junior Duck Stamp honorable mention.

Forest Resource - John Schulz NTR

### **PORTFOLIO C - Jon Roaldson**

Red River Watershed - Mike Ell NTR

Missouri River - Randy Renner NTR

Devils Lake Basin - Roger Hollevoet had drafted comments to the COE

Fundraising - Paul Halko and Brian Kietzmann report that preparations will be starting for the 2003 annual meeting.

### **PORTFOLIO D - Randy Crooke**

Northern Great Plains Working Group - Kevin Willis. NTR

Endangered Species - Vacant

Law Enforcement - Jackie Lundstrom. NTR

Wildlife Damage Management - John Paulson. Policy statements for a couple of other species will be coming out.

Finance - Mike Goos already discussed

MSC to adjourn meeting at 1:22p.m. (Mike, Tim)

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002 - Next Meeting of the Executive Board (Tentative) at Kulm - 11:00AM



**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY'S  
9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
September 24-28, 2002  
Bismarck, North Dakota**

In a little over three months the most extensive natural resource management conference ever held in North Dakota will begin. The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society is the host of The Wildlife Society's 9th Annual Conference at the Bismarck Civic Center, September 24-28, 2002. The 5-day event for 1,500 of our friends and colleagues from throughout North America will feature technical sessions, tours and field trips, student activities, social gatherings, and more. The Conference's Preliminary Program has been mailed throughout the world to the 9,000+ members of The Wildlife Society and biologists, students, and educators are submitting the conference registration forms.

The technical sessions, covering an extraordinary array of subjects, are planned to the minute and firmly set in place. There are an extensive number of papers featuring grassland and avian management issues in the northern Great Plains. North Dakota authors have made a significant contribution to the program and are well represented throughout the conference. The papers are also far reaching in subject and geographic scope. Technical papers to be presented include, wolf-prey interactions in Yellowstone National Park, polar bear management in Canada, prairie grouse and waterfowl management, Indian rhinoceros management, the 2002 Farm Bill, Everglades and grassland restoration, the history and significance of the Small Wetland Acquisition Program, and eradicating feral cats from the Galapagos Islands to name just a few. With over 400 technical papers summarizing cutting edge research investigations and management studies, there is sure to be valuable information for field biologists, program administrators, law enforcement specialists, educators, refuge managers, and students alike.

Planning for the 9th Annual Conference's special events is also nearly complete. Come join us Tuesday

evening, September 24th, for the Welcoming Reception, a relaxing evening of food and drink. We've stolen a page or two from the Chapter's fund raising play book and plan to have an extensive number of raffle items and other fund raising events going in the Radisson Inn's Grand Ballroom. Other events taking place throughout the week include the 6th Annual TWS Wildlife Film Festival, the music and stories of singer/song writer Chuck Suchy, the first annual juried wildlife art exhibition at the Bismarck Art and Gallery Association, Dakotah and Hidatsa stories and legends with Mary Louise Defender Wilson, a student/professional mixer, and the highly competitive Student Wildlife Quiz Bowl.

The conference will conclude with the Farewell Banquet Saturday evening at Fort Lincoln State Park. Come experience military life in the 1870's. The men and women of the 17th Infantry will be in costume and greet you on Calvary Square with stories about life in the Dakota Territory. The roar of a Gatling gun also will be heard on occasion throughout the evening. Prime sirloin, served pitchfork fondue style, and a variety of other food and drink will be available for all conference participants.

A conference of this magnitude will likely only come to North Dakota once in your career. Make the necessary plans to attend and register early. The deadline for early registration is August 26, 2002. A team of Chapter members have made a significant investment since February of 1999, when we were invited by TWS to submit a bid for the conference. Please add the conference dates, September 24-28, 2002, to your calendar and plan to join the party.

Bill Bicknell  
Arrangements Committee

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**ND Natural Resources Trust Report**  
Scott Peterson

The ND Natural Resources Trust (Trust) Board of Directors met July 9 & 10, 2002 at Grafton, ND. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

The Trust Board agreed to become a partner with the Red River Regional Council Project. The main objective of this project is to improve water quality in the Red River Basin with education playing a major role. The Trust stipulated however, that any commitment of Trust funds must be considered on a specific project approval basis.

Merle Bennett reported on the progress of the Cook Slough WRP acquisition. This project involves a 1,476 acre acquisition by the Trust which will then be enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program and ultimately managed by the ND Game and Fish Department. Wetland restorations on the tract will begin this fall and upland restoration will begin next spring.

Sharon Clancy updated the Board on the Conservation Agriculture project and progress of the demonstration farms involved in this project. A progress report was discussed on avian use, aquatic invertebrates, and wetland vegetation on demonstration farms. A second report on carbon sequestration was also provided and discussed.

Mike McEnroe, Audubon NWR, gave a brief update on the development of the concept of the Audubon interpretive center project since March. The COE and Garrison Diversion Conservancy District have each expressed some interest in this project. Additional meetings with other entities are planned.

Merle Bennett reported that the Trust continues to pursue acquisition of 415 acres of land in Pembina County. The Trust plans to purchase the property, enroll the tract in WRP, assist NRCS and other possible partners in the restoration of the wetlands and converting upland areas to native grass. The title and management of this tract will be transferred to the ND Game and Fish Department.

Merle also discussed a preliminary investigation into the possible purchase/WRP enrollment of lands located at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. There are approximately 997 acres with approximately 300 acres irrigated and about 697 acres pasture/wooded flood plain. Restorable wetlands are estimated at 40-50 acres. The Trust contracted for an appraisal on the property as a first step in the process. The Trust voted to authorize Keith Trego to proceed with brokering this project.

The next Trust Board meeting is scheduled for December 18 & 19 in Bismarck.

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**Wetland Resources Committee Report**  
Scott Peterson

In recent years, one of the primary responsibilities of the Wetland Resources Committee has been the participation in the Governor's Wetlands Working Group. This group's mission was to formulate a new wetlands policy for North Dakota as a functional replacement for the No-Net-Loss-Of-Wetlands policy which was repealed in the ND Legislature. The Governor's Wetland Working Group became inactive upon the election of Governor Hoeven. The Wetland Resource Committee will continue to monitor this effort and will remain involved in any efforts at developing new wetland policies.

Another role of the Wetland Resources Committee was to monitor the efforts of the State Water Commission (SWC) to assume the administration of the Section 404 program. The Section 404 program relates to the Clean Water Act and is currently being administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Senate Bill 2285 was passed into law by the 2001 Legislature. Funding in the amount of \$800,000 was also provided for the next biennium for the purpose of administering the Section 404 program. However, before the state can actually assume the

responsibility of administering the Section 404 program, six steps must be completed. Those six steps include 1) The governor must send a letter to EPA requesting program assumption, 2) The state must provide a complete detailed program description including several aspects of the state's current programs and anticipated workload, 3) The attorney general must send a statement confirming that the laws and regulations of the state provide adequate authority to carry out the program, 4) The state must negotiate and sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the EPA, 5) The state must negotiate and sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the COE, and 6) The state must also provide copies of all applicable statutes and regulations. This is just a partial list of some of the requirements which must be met before the state actually begins to administer the Section 404 program.

SWC is currently in the process of trying to meet all of these requirements but it will likely take some time before all of those requirements are met. The Chapter will continue to monitor this effort and will provide comments and guidance on that process. The Chapter has gone on record opposing the state's assumption of the Section 404 program and will continue to actively support the EPA's continued administration of that program.

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## **REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS NDCTWS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM**

### 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 October 31, 2002. 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:

- ! a 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- page limit. 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 October 31, 2002. Please mail proposals to: NDCTWS, PO Box 1442, Bismarck, ND 58502. Or send by email to tphalen@state.nd.us

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**Prairie Celebration by Denbigh Draws Big Crowd  
July 16, 2002  
Kristine Askerooth, Biologist  
Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge**

The prairie was carpeted with colorful wildflowers, butterflies were flying to their favorite flower, birds were singing and 100 prairie enthusiasts descended on the prairies near Denbigh to celebrate North Dakota's second Prairie Day. Participants journeyed into the prairie on North Dakota State School lands and the Denbigh Experimental Station to gain a greater appreciation for the prairie. In the morning some visitors traveled through the Denbigh Station on a horse drawn wagon driven by Tony Lemer. Others wandered through the grass searching for elusive prairie bugs and butterflies. Several people walked through the prairie to learn about the wide diversity of wildflowers and grasses. Others tromped through prairie wetlands to experience the sights, sounds, plants, insects and hydrology. And still others looked and listened for birds on the prairie.

The group met back at the Denbigh Station for a wonderful lunch prepared by the Royal Fork Buffet. The lunch was free and provided by Ducks Unlimited, the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and the North Dakota Game & Fish Department.

In the afternoon J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge staff demonstrated how their fire engine is used for prescribed fire on their grasslands and discussed fire ecology and behavior. George Good Bear and his son Rainbow Good Bear gave a special program that included Native American music and dance.

The Prairie Day committee was pleased with the turn-out and response from the participants. Many of the participants commented that they did not know about or had ever seen the prairies in this part of North Dakota. The organizers of Prairie Day 2002 wanted people to come away with an appreciation for the beauty of the wildflowers, birds and other creatures that live on the prairie and an understanding of the importance of preserving prairie for both wildlife and people.

Prairie Day 2002 was sponsored by Audubon Dakota, Ducks Unlimited, North Dakota Game & Fish, North Dakota Natural Science Society, North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Minot State University, and US Geological Survey (Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center). Special thanks go to the Terry Bailey, Marvin Zimelman, and Vernon Bailey Families.

Next year the event will be moved to another location to showcase other unique North Dakota prairies.

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**Award Nominations**

Award nominations can be sent to Mike Goos at either Audubon Refuge, 3275 11th St. NW, Coleharbor, ND 58531 or 1208 E. 5th Ave., Washburn, ND 58577. Deadline of Nov. 20, 2002.

## Devils Lake Comments:

May 3, 2002

District Engineer  
St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers  
Attn: Dave Loss, PM-A  
190 Fifth Street East  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1638

Dear District Engineer:

The North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society is an organization of professional biologists and managers interested in the natural resources of North Dakota. We would like to provide the following comments on the Draft Integrated Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Devils Lake, North Dakota Study. The report discusses the Devils Lake outlet and flooding in the Devils Lake area. We will try submit some bulleted statements and issues to consider.

\* The long term average annual streamflow of the Sheyenne River near Warwick is 62.4 cubic feet per second (cfs). The addition of 300 to 480 cfs could have degrading impacts to the river. A river that has stabilized over time within a norm of variation could experience both severe stream bank and stream bed erosion. It must be considered what actions must be taken to protect downstream resources from these additional flows and if actions can be taken to minimize those flows. Severe erosion could negatively impact wildlife, plant, fish and human resources. Erosion could create local negative impacts as well as many other downstream impacts to varied and important natural resources as well as domestic water use and adjacent lands.

\* Water quality issues as a result of an outlet to the Sheyenne River are also a concern that must be addressed. Average dissolved-solids in the Sheyenne River near Warwick currently run 480 milligrams per liter with a sulfate concentration of 96 milligrams per liter. With the addition of waters from the west end of Devils Lake, the Sheyenne River concentrations could change to 780 milligrams per liter of dissolved-solids with a concentration of 280 milligrams per liter of sulfates. What are the results of this change to the overall human and natural resource environment?

\* Devils Lake has overflowed into the Sheyenne River at least twice in the past 4000 years. In a recent USGS report, their model says, assuming recent wet conditions will continue through 2015, that there is about a 2 percent chance Devils Lake will spill to the Sheyenne River before 2015 with no outlet. With a 300 cfs emergency outlet, the chance is reduced to less than 1 percent. Are the downstream and upper basin risks associated with this project worth gambling for a 2 percent chance at this time? What other measures are being used to address the flooding problems? Has there been extensive attempts to improve or implement comprehensive watershed management into the upper Devils Lake Basin to reduce the 2 percent chance of an over flow into the Sheyenne River? We would like to recommend that upper basin management be implemented in the form of holistic farm planning, maximum use of tools like CRP, WRP, and EWP, purchasing key areas for flood water management, utilizing wetland resources to the maximum potential, implementing storage on existing and new public lands, implement comprehensive management within the

Chain of Lakes area, utilization of private lands habitat programs, perform best management practices on all lands, and investigate in stream storage to its maximum potential.

\* It was common to hear about the three part approach to flood management in the Devils Lake Basin, yet this project is only concentrating on an outlet for flood control. If flows continue into the future as we have seen in the recent past it will be imperative to focus on all possible solutions. We should look at them as solutions and not as a way to appease certain interest groups. Upper basin management must be considered and implemented concurrently with outlet considerations if we hope to have overall flood management as a consideration.

\* The fishery resource in Devils Lake is also a very important resource from a recreational and economic point of view. Caution should be taken to not reduce spawning habitats and to significantly alter water qualities for successful fisheries management. Devils Lake needs to have a wide range of fluctuating water levels for successful fishery reproduction.

\* Construction of a Devils Lake outlet could cause irreversible harm to the Sheyenne River ecosystem. The unique assemblage of mussels, freshwater fish, aquatic invertebrates, and the riparian community could be severely compromised. It would seem prudent to implement a much more comprehensive approach to flood management by looking at a broad range of flood management alternatives. This should include a much more inclusive look at upper basin management which may reduce the overall impacts to the Sheyenne River complex.

\* The solutions to Devils Lake flooding are very complicated and most of the solutions offered are responded to with anxiety or refusal. This problem cannot be solved with a single solution. The solutions must be comprehensive and understanding of the social issues both upstream and downstream. The Corps plan needs to address all solutions so not only one entity, be it upstream or downstream, takes on the resulting impact of the solution. We recommend that multi-purpose projects be implemented to address the flooding of the Devils Lake Basin. Projects should address the needs of agricultural profitability, economic diversity, wildlife habitat, recreation and tourism, and overall landscape function. This combination would provide much more palatable flood management and provide for economic opportunities. It would put some of the responsibility of water management in the watershed where the problem originates as well as addressing the issues of downstream acceptance. We recommend an aggressive plan to implement a Devils Lake basin water management plan which provides water management and storage as well as agricultural profitability, wildlife habitats, and the facilitation of recreation and tourism which would be a catalyst for economic diversity. Upper basin management needs to be part of a successful plan for Devils Lake flood management and a tool for future economic stimulus.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  
Tim Phalen, President  
North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Students or other Chapter members are asked to notify Dave Azure, 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.

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION/TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

I am \_\_\_\_\_ am not \_\_\_\_\_ a current member of the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

- Regular.....\$ 15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Available to any person employed, trained or is a student in a natural resource field. Entitled to vote in Chapter elections.*
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