



# 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.

MAY 1998

## BADLANDS MINERAL EXCHANGE LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW

The ND Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been, and continues to be, extremely active in several natural resource issues. We often find ourselves involved in the discussion of issues that we feel are important to the conservation of our precious natural resources. Once in a while, we manage to negotiate mutually agreeable resolutions to these complex issues. One such issue is the Badlands Mineral Exchange Legislation. The referenced exchange is between the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company (formerly Meridian Oil Inc.). On April 15, 1998, President Clinton signed this bill (S. 750) into law.

This piece of legislation was introduced into the 104th Congress by Senators Dorgan and Conrad. What this legislation will ultimately allow for is the exchange of privately-owned mineral rights in environmentally sensitive areas of the badlands for the federally-owned mineral rights in other areas that are deemed not as environmentally sensitive. From a conservation standpoint, it will enable the USFS to better protect certain environmentally sensitive areas of the Little Missouri National Grasslands in Billings County by consolidating mineral estates.

This legislation is unique in that it can truly be considered a win/win situation for both the oil & gas interests and the conservation interests of our state. It does not affect the current "multiple use" concept of these lands and it does not cost the U.S. taxpayers additional monies. It will result in increased tax revenue for the people of North Dakota and Billings County by facilitating better mineral exploration and development opportunities in those less sensitive areas. In doing so, it also protects environmentally sensitive and scenic areas such as the Kinley Plateau and Bullion Butte areas ultimately benefiting species such as bighorn sheep.

We have always been diligent in pointing out when decisions are made by our state's Congressional Delegation or by the Governor's Office that we feel have not been made with our best interests at heart. We must be equally diligent in pointing out when those same people make decisions that positively affect our states natural resources. This is positive legislation. It was supported by and benefits both the environmental and oil & gas interests. And now would be a good time to call Senator Dorgan and Conrad and the Governor's Office and let them know that you appreciate all their hard work in drafting this common sense legislation.

Scott Peterson, President

NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER TWS - 1998

**Executive Board Officers:**

Scott Peterson Bill Bicknell Mike Olson  
Robert Meeks Bill Jensen Paul Halko  
Darla Lenz Dave Hirsch

**President Portfolio:** Scott Peterson

Secretary/Treasurer: Dave Hirsch  
Newsletter: Tammy Fairbanks  
Finance: Nancy Dietz  
CMPS Rep: Jerry Heiser\*  
Student Chapter Adviser: Rick Nelson\*  
Wetland Trust Adviser: Harris Hoistad

**Past President Portfolio:** Mike Olson

Arrangements 1999 Mtg: vacant  
Audit: Larry Lysne\*  
Membership: Kevin Johnson  
Program 1999 Mtg: vacant\*  
Nominations: Mike Olson

**President Elect Portfolio:** Bill Bicknell

Bylaws: Gary Rankin\*  
Fundraising: Darren Brunning  
Legislative: Nancy Dietz  
Awards: Bill Bicknell\*

**Portfolio A:** Bob Meeks

Wetland Resources: Bill Bicknell  
Fishery Resources: Eric Pearson\*  
Youth Ed/Habitat Contest: Jack Lalor\*  
Historian: Chris Grondahl

**Portfolio B:** Bill Jensen

Western Lands: Bill Jensen\*  
Forest Resources: John Schulz\*  
Education/Information: Kristine Askerooth\*  
Prairie Chicken: Paul Van Ningen\*

**Portfolio C:** Darla Lenz

Water Projects: Mike McEnroe\*  
Garrison Diversion Subcommittee: Mike McEnroe\*  
Red River Watershed Subcommittee: Mike Ell  
Lake Oahe Mitigation Subcommittee: Steve Dyke\*  
ND Action Group: Scott Peterson  
Prairie Resources: Karen Smith, Darla Lenz  
Teaming With Wildlife: Chuck Bosch

**Portfolio D:** Paul Halko

Land Use/CRP: Kevin Willis, Arnold Kruse\*  
Endangered Species: vacant\*  
Law Enforcement: Paul Freeman  
Wildlife Damage Mgt: John Paulson  
Devils Lake Basin: Roger Hollevoet\*

\* no report submitted

**ND CHAPTER - THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**April 14, 1998**

The Executive Board meeting of the ND Chapter of The Wildlife Society was called to order by President Scott Peterson at 10:05 am on Tuesday, April 14, 1998 at the ND Game and Fish Conference room. The meeting was attended by board members: Scott Peterson, Bill Bicknell, Mike Olson, Darla Lenz, Paul Halko, Bob Meeks, and Dave Hirsch. Chapter members in attendance were Alexis Duxbury, Steve Dyke, and Chris Grondahl.

The minutes of the February 11, 1998 board meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

**Presidents Portfolio - Scott Peterson**

**Secretary Treasurers Report** - Dave Hirsch reported that as of the March 25, 1998 bank statement, the checking account balance is at \$23,330.90. Account income and expenses will be updated.

**Newsletter** - There was a discussion on a mailing list of individuals, organizations, and other TWS Chapters that should be getting courtesy copies of the newsletter. An updated list was prepared and will be forwarded to Kevin Johnson.

**Finance Committee** - The Finance Committee reported that the John G. Kinnard life membership fund balance has been reinvested into the new investment portfolio as previously outlined and approved by the board and membership. Dividends earned will be reinvested into the account. The money market account portion of the new portfolio could be changed to include check writing privileges. This would allow the excess balance in the regular checking account to be stored in the market account to earn a greater amount of interest. The excess money could then be drawn back as needed.

In April, the Finance Committee completed the transfer of Life Membership funds into the investments that the Board approved at the annual meeting. On April 7, 1998, \$4,150 was invested in the Oppenheimer Champion Income Fund B and \$4,150 was invested in the Putnam Growth and Income Class B fund. The Board and the committee will continue to monitor the activities of these investments.

**Wetlands Trust Advisor** - Harris Hoistad reported that the Trust recently hired a new Executive Director. He announced the hiring of Keith Trego as the new Director. Keith's appointment will begin about June 1. The Executive Director search has occupied most of their time these past few months. Also, Ray Horn has been named as a new Trust board member.

## **Past Presidents Portfolio - Mike Olson**

**Arrangements for the 1999 Annual Meeting** - Mike Olson reported that a contract has been signed with the Seven Seas of Mandan for the 1999 annual meeting site. Dates for the meeting have been set for February 10-12. There are discussions with the American Fisheries Society on a possible joint meeting. Several meeting themes or session topics that have been proposed include information on the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and sustainable development and conservation. Mike is also interested in other ideas or themes for the meeting from anyone. Mike will need some help with the program committee if anyone is interested in volunteering. Bill Bicknell mentioned that a session on law enforcement issues would be interesting. The law enforcement session in 1990 was well received.

**Membership** - Kevin Johnson reported that Kristine Askerooth has renewed her 1998 membership at the Life Membership level. As of this meeting, there are 253 Chapter members in good standing. There are an additional 70 members that have not yet paid the 1998 dues. There was a motion, second, and a unanimous vote in favor to authorize Kevin to contact those members not yet paid.

## **President Elect Portfolio - Bill Bicknell**

**Fundraising** - The fundraising report was included in the last newsletter. Bill Bicknell wanted to thank the members of the Fundraising Committee, chaired by Darren Brunning, on an excellent job.

**Legislative Committee** - Several members are being contacted that may be interested in serving as a co-chair on this committee. Nancy Dietz has already volunteered to serve as the other co-chair.

## **Portfolio A - Bob Meeks**

**Wetland Resources** - Bill Bicknell reported that the meetings of the Governor's Wetland Working Group have been well attended but not productive. The meetings are now coming to a conclusion. Each of the three main subsets of the working group (Agriculture, Water, Wildlife/Conservation) have submitted recommendations to be included in the State Wetland Policy. A writing committee has been formed to pull the recommendations together. The Governor can accept some of these recommendations or form his own policy at anytime. The final meeting of the group is scheduled for June 1st. Bill stated that the past two meetings have been better

organized than the previous meetings.

**Historian** - Chris Grondahl reported that he has been organizing and archiving programs, pictures, and other information from past annual meetings.

## **Portfolio C - Darla Lenz**

**Red River Watershed Subcommittee** - Comments on the IJC 40 point plan to Red River basin management are being drafted.

**North Dakota Action Group** - The action group has not met since July of 1997.

**Prairie Resources** - Darla Lenz reported that there are several issues that Karen Smith would like to work on. Darla and Karen Kreil have been working on a ND native prairie exhibit at the ND Heritage Center. The Chapter may be asked for some support for the exhibit in the future.

**Teaming With Wildlife (TWW)** - Chris Grondahl provided a TWW update. Chris reported that the list of businesses, organizations, and schools that have written letters to the delegation in support of TWW continues to grow. Chris and Chuck Bosch will continue to take the lead for the Chapter regarding TWW. Chris also reported that to date, no legislation has been introduced in Congress for TWW.

## **Portfolio D - Paul Halko**

**Law Enforcement** - Paul Halko will be contacting the committee regarding the possibility of a law enforcement session at the 1999 annual meeting.

**Wildlife Damage Management** - John Paulson met with the committee at the 1998 annual meeting to outline a plan for the wildlife damage white paper.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Livestock Grazing Act Legislation** - Alexis Duxbury provided an update on the legislation status. Several conference calls with the ND Senators have been conducted to organize an upcoming meeting with the them regarding the legislation. The Chapter will be asking the Senators to withdraw support for the grazing act bills. The ND Senators are recognized as the key votes in this legislation. Some of the other groups that are also in opposition to the legislation are United

Sportsmen, Pheasants Forever, the ND Wildlife Federation (meeting coordinator), other groups affiliated with the Wildlife Federation, and The Wildlife Society. Alexis also provided copies of several letters from the Senators to the Forest Service to help explain why the legislation is being pursued. It is the general view of the ND Congressional Delegation that grazing should be the primary use of the grasslands.

Alexis also provided copies of a pamphlet assembled by the United Sportsmen organization. That group has been distributing it at sport shows recently. It contains information regarding the legislation and how it could negatively impact public use and conservation of the grasslands. The pamphlet successfully stimulated many calls to the delegation from sportsman. United Sportsmen are also planning a mass mailing of the pamphlet to mule deer hunters as a follow up to the meeting with the Senators if they still intend to support the bill. Alexis requested \$500.00 from the Chapter to cover 1/6th of the cost of the mass mailing. Alexis also requested the Chapter write a letter to the editor regarding the legislation and to develop several talking points for the meeting with the Senators. Scott Peterson and Alexis will develop a letter to the editor. Following a motion and a second, the board voted unanimously to approve \$250.00 for the mass mailing if it is needed.

**Lake Oahe Mitigation Program** - Steve Dyke provided an update on the program. Senator Daschle of South Dakota is moving forward on a bill that will provide mitigation of impacts of the Oahe reservoir in South Dakota. In mid summer of last year, the Game and Fish asked Governor Schafer to pursue getting North Dakota added to the this bill. This would allow North Dakota to receive consideration for mitigation on the North Dakota portion of Lake Oahe. Steve, Bill Bicknell, and Mike Olson have met with the Governor's Office on behalf of the Chapter to help convince the Governor to support this effort. As a result of these meetings, Governor Schafer wrote a letter to Senator Daschle urging him to include North Dakota in the bill. Oahe mitigation will be tracked by the Water Projects committee. Steve reported that a mitigation plan will be developed and provided to the Corps of Engineers as part of the mitigation process.

**Dakota Water Resources Act Legislation Update** - Bill Bicknell provided an update on the legislation. Bill reported that legislation was introduced in Congress November 10, 1997. A field hearing was held in Fargo this past February but Senate subcommittee hearings scheduled for last March are postponed. Bill will continue to track the legislation for the Chapter, provide updates and recommendations.

**Badlands Mineral Exchange** - Mike Olson reported that legislation has passed the House by a voice vote sending the bill to President Clinton for signature. That signature was expected within several weeks of this board meeting. Mike reported that the Congressional Delegation plans a press release on the exchange in the Bullion/Kinley/Moody plateau area of the badlands. Mike reported that this is culmination of approximately 12 years of effort by the Chapter.

**FWS Grassland Easement Program Update** - No report.

**Devils Lake Outlet Update** - Paul Halko reported that there have been public informational meetings in the Devils Lake Basin regarding the outlet. There has been open discussion at these meetings of further drainage in the upper basin that could be facilitated following construction of the outlet. Several areas that were mentioned at these meetings as sites for future drainage were Starkweather Coulee, Morrison Lake, and Hurricane lake. Further drainage is one of the exact concerns the conservation community has to the outlet. Mike Olson stated that the Corps of Engineers has also conducted public meetings regarding the outlet. It was hoped that these meetings would be an opportunity to begin a dialog on the issues but no microphone was provided and the meetings were only a one way lecture from the Corps to the audience.

**Brown Ranch Acquisition** - Darla Lenz reported that due to a request from Governor Schafer, The Nature Conservancy has withdrawn its proposal to acquire the ranch. The Governor also took that opportunity to unveil what could be called his no-net-loss of farmland policy. This policy would stipulate that before any new acreage of land could be purchased for conservation or preservation, a similar number of conservation acres would need to be made available for farming. Scott Peterson stated that the Chapter has written a letter to the editor asking TNC to resubmit their proposal to purchase the ranch. The Chapter is trying to set up a meeting with the Governor to discuss the acquisition and this new policy. In addition, a resolution was passed at the Republican convention this year arguing for a no-net-gain of Fish and Wildlife Service Lands.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Portfolio Assignments** - With new members on the Board, the Board had a discussion regarding which committees will be assigned to the various portfolios. Please refer to page 2 of this newsletter to review the

current portfolio structure. Also note that several committees have been combined or deleted. Several subcommittees are not listed but remain intact so they may be activated as needed. There was a motion, a second, and a unanimous vote in favor to approve the new portfolio structure.

**Over Credit to the Chapter's Checking Account from US Bank** - Treasurer Dave Hirsch was contacted by US Bank (formerly First Bank) regarding an error the bank made on a deposit to the Chapter's checking account. The Chapter's checking account was credited an excess amount on a deposit made following the annual convention. Dave Hirsch performed an audit of the registration receipts, convention income, fundraising report, membership income, and miscellaneous income to confirm the amount of the bank error. An audit report was presented (available on request) and reviewed. Following discussion, a motion, and a second, the board voted unanimously in favor to return the over credit to US Bank.

**State Water Management Plan** - Bill Bicknell reported that the State Water Commission is in the process of revising the 1992 water management plan. The legislature requested that the plan be updated for the 1999 legislative session. The meeting was not well attended by those invited to participate. Bill has prepared a list of policy considerations and recommendations that he presented at the commission meeting. Bill recommended to the Chapter that a letter for the record be drafted to ensure these considerations are reviewed by the commission in their planning process. Bill will draft a letter for the Chapter and continue to participate in commission meetings and hearings as necessary.

**The next Executive Board meeting will be held at 10:00 am, July 14th at the ND Game and Fish Department, Bismarck ND. The newsletter deadline is July 31.**

calls on ideas for sessions or a theme for the entire meeting but would be interested in hearing from you. Ideas so far have included Law Enforcement, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and Sustainable Development. We are also considering meeting with jointly with the Dakota Chapter of The American Fisheries Society. You do not need to live in or around Bismarck to assist with this effort, we can hook you up for any of the program meetings over the phone if you can't get to Bismarck. The 1999 annual meeting will be held at the Seven Seas Inn and Conference Center in Mandan from February 9-12. Write it on you calenders today.

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## **ATTENTION CHAPTER MEMBERS**

Just a few short months ago over 350 wildlifera gathered in Fargo for yet another great annual meeting. These meetings take a bit of planning in order to be events that are enjoyable and informative. Therefore, anyone interested in assisting in the development and implementation of the 1999 annual meeting program and arrangements please contact Mike Olson at 701-250-4492 (w) or 701-224-8143 (h). I have received a few

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Students or other Chapter members are asked to notify Kevin Johnson, 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 Wildlife Society.

- Regular.....\$ 15.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- Life Member.....\$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- Student.....\$ 8.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- Central Mountains & Plains  
Section TWS.....\$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society."  
Mail to: North Dakota Chapter TWS, PO Box 1442, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-1442.

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