



P.O. Box 1442, Bismarck, N.D. 58502



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## Conservation Notes #4, July 2016

### **State Needs To Play A Bigger Role In Conservation !**

Conservation of wildlife and natural resources in North Dakota has been largely a federal activity. This includes most of the conservation programs and managed public lands that support the State's sportsmen and outdoor recreation. Short term programs like the Conservation Reserve Program managed by U.S. Department of Agriculture, and permanent programs such as the U.S Forest Service's Little Missouri National Grasslands, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Waterfowl Production Area and National Wildlife Refuge programs, and the Corps of Engineer's Lakes Oahe and Sakakawea wildlife management areas form the majority of conservation activities in the State. Many of the State Game and Fish Department's Wildlife Management Areas are leased from the Corps or from the Bureau of Reclamation, or were purchased with federal-aid Pittman-Robertson funds. About 45 percent of the Game and Fish Departments biennial budget is federal funding. **Times are changing;** federal programs are changing; federal funds are short. It is time for North Dakota to play a bigger role in enhancing, managing and protecting the State's fish and wildlife resources and developing management opportunities and access for resident and non-resident sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts

For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: Mike McEnroe, President, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, ([memcenroe@bis.midco.net](mailto:memcenroe@bis.midco.net)) or Rick Nelson, President elect, North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, ([bluebill@bis.midco.net](mailto:bluebill@bis.midco.net)).