



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



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Current topics and issues affecting outdoor recreation in our State. Prepared by the North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, and the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

Conservation Notes #8, November 2016

Habitat, Habitat, Habitat

Without wildlife habitat, there is no wildlife. Grasslands, wetlands, and woodlands are essential for all the seasonal and life phases of wildlife. Habitat makes hard winters less hard, and recovery from those hard winters faster. Habitat provides sustainable, consistent and predictable wildlife populations that allows for sportsmen's participation. Maintaining adequate habitat for our wildlife is good for our economy, our quality of life, and our reputation of being a quality outdoor State. For many years, North Dakota has had an abundance of habitat that has been gradually declining. But the times they are a changing. Habitat has taken a more drastic decline and so have our wildlife populations. In our agricultural State, the farm program is critical to maintaining habitat and vibrant wildlife populations. Our recent highly successful Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) produced vigorous wildlife populations. That program has now shrunk from 3.4 million acres to about 1.4 million acres, and the precipitous decline in wildlife followed. Many of our communities and businesses depend on quality hunting seasons in their business models. Without abundant wildlife populations, they cannot benefit from this important contribution to the economy. Therefore, protecting our existing habitat, and supporting State and Federal conservation programs that are important to our sportsmen and women, and our farmers and rancher's business plans will produce habitat to maintain our valuable wildlife and our outdoor recreation economy.

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

