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

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(Topic submitted by University of N. D. Student Chapter, The Wildlife Society)

Environmental Degradation around Oilfields

Nationwide, North Dakota ranks high in the oil output. Waste from drilling, fracking, and spills can result in degraded land and water. Waste dumped or spilled on North Dakota's cropland and ranchland have negatively impacted farmer's and rancher's land and the source of income they depend on to support their livelihood. Wetlands, rivers, and streams have been negatively impacted by high salinity wastewater and spilled oil making them unsuitable for the plants, aquatic life, animals, and people. Many of the spills do not get reported in a timely manner and are often much larger than first reported. But this kind of damage to our land and water can be greatly reduced or eliminated by increased oversight and monitoring at all phases of production. Therefore, it is critical that the State of North Dakota develop more rigorous processes for oversight and monitoring so risks and consequences of spills will continue to go down.

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

