



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

P.O. Box 1091, Bismarck, N. D. 58502

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.

## Conservation Notes #18, September 2017

### Extraordinary Places Policy Flawed

The Badlands are North Dakota's most important natural resource. They are being negatively impacted by the Bakken oil and gas boom. In an attempt to protect important natural areas on public lands, the North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC), developed an Area of Interest Policy (AOI) for Extraordinary Places. Extraordinary Places such as Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the Little Missouri River State Park, and the Missouri and Scenic Little Missouri Rivers, were targeted for protection from some of the impacts of oil and gas development. Unfortunately, that AOI policy mostly forced oil development on to private lands near the Extraordinary Places, where public, agency, and landowner comments were not accepted. In some cases, the natural resource impacts on private lands were more serious than would have occurred on the public lands had adequate comment and coordination been accepted by the NDIC. The State's Area of Interest policy should be revised to allow and give serious consideration to public, agency and private landowner comments and input on permits and activities in the vicinity of North Dakotas Extraordinary Places, regardless of whether or not the proposed action is on public or private land.

There are extraordinary places throughout North Dakota, but the industrialization of the Badlands by oil and gas development deserves our immediate attention.

For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: Mike McEnroe, Past President, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, ([memcenroe@bis.midco.net](mailto:memcenroe@bis.midco.net)) or Rick Nelson, President, North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, ([bluebill@bis.midco.net](mailto:bluebill@bis.midco.net)). For a complete list of Conservation Notes, go to ([www.ndctws.wordpress.com](http://www.ndctws.wordpress.com)).

