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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.

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Wildlife Heritage in Crisis

It should come as no surprise that North Dakota's key game species have crashed with the huge loss of CRP **habitat**, and the ever-increasing amounts of **habitat** loss from tile drainage, shelterbelt removal, plowing native pastures, urban expansion, and energy development. Creating **habitat** is the key to overcome the ongoing losses and maintaining abundant wildlife; it protects against tough winters, and promotes quick recovery. Abundant wildlife is important to our people, our small towns and businesses, and our economy. Wildlife **habitat** conservation programs have been well accepted by our agricultural producers in the past as evidenced by more applications for programs than can be funded. The continued loss of **habitat** cannot be ignored without dire results. Maintaining **habitat** is not a new concept. The N.D. Wildlife Federation and N.D. Chapter, The Wildlife Society through a series of Future of Hunting Workshops identified the need and support for a State-wide **habitat** program. This proposal was sent to Governor Burgum and the Game and Fish Department in December 2016 and April 2017, but has gotten no response. Saving our wildlife heritage is even more crucial now and for our future. Without adequate **habitat** on the ground, the States wildlife populations, outdoor and hunting heritage, along with small-town economies are at great risk. Therefore, it is time to act and address the **habitat** loss by developing state programs to reverse the **habitat** decline.

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). For a complete list of Conservation Notes visit (www.ndctws.wordpress.com)

