



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.

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North Dakota Trust Lands

North Dakota Trust Lands, commonly known as school lands, are one of our State's greatest public land assets. The Department of Trust Lands manages over 700,000 acres of school lands to generate funding for Common Schools, North Dakota Universities and schools for the deaf and blind. This management provided North Dakota over \$200,000,000 in the 2015/2017 biennium. Access to these public trust lands also provides hunters and other outdoors users with great outdoor recreation opportunities. Hunter access is a sought-after commodity in North Dakota bringing hundreds of hunters to small communities throughout the state, enhancing the economy for main street North Dakota. It is important to recognize the value and opportunity for enhancing and maintaining this asset for the future.

The current economic value of these lands is derived from minerals, agricultural production, investments, etc. But not accounted for in the direct income stream are the untold recreation opportunities and economic value these public lands provide to citizen users such as hunters, bird watchers, hikers and other recreationists, as well as water quality and soil quality health benefits. Management of these lands that includes enhancing their values for outdoor recreation can provide increased economic benefits to the state.

So, keeping these Trust Lands in public ownership and improving management for outdoor recreation will increase economic benefits to our main street businesses.

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)

