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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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Outdoor Recreation Benefits Small Town Mainstreet

A key feature of Governor Burgum's Main Street Initiative is Healthy Vibrant Communities. In North Dakota, outdoor recreation in our prairies, lakes and wetlands, rivers and streams, and badlands, plays a major role in our quality of life and economic well-being, particularly in our many smaller communities. Over one-half of our citizens participate in the great variety of outdoor activities that contribute to the social and economic well-being of our small communities. The signs tell the story. It's hard to drive through a small community without seeing the signs welcoming hunters and anglers, bikers, campers, hikers etc. The owners of cafes, bars, grocery stores, and motels all recognize the value of those outdoor users to the success of their businesses. But the resources to support healthy small communities are declining, access is becoming more difficult and conversion of our outdoor resources to other uses negatively impacts Main Street across North Dakota. Therefore, as a part of the Governor's Main Street Initiative the state has an obligation to its communities to develop specific programs that maintain and improve our valuable outdoor resources ensuring that outdoor recreation activities will continue to be part of the social and economic well-being of our small communities.

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

