



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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Fish and Wildlife Value to Mainstreet

Tourism is the third leg of North Dakota's economic stool and much is based on North Dakota's outdoor fame as a hunting and fishing destination. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department reports that an estimated \$400 million is spent by hunters and anglers in North Dakota in pursuit of game and fish. When those dollars are added to the many other related outdoor pursuits, that's a lot of money spent on Main Street in towns from Wahpeton to Wishek, from McClusky to Mott, from Crosby to Carson. Hunting and fishing depend on habitat and access. If the game is not there, there's no fish in the lake, or access is restricted, few go there. Sportsmen and women, and leaders of our communities must assure that habitat and access are available to bring people from Fargo, Bismarck and neighboring states to anywhere in North Dakota that offers more than they have at home. That's why support for the Game and Fish Department's PLOTS (Private Lands Open to Sportsmen), optimum management of our public lands, and strong conservation provisions in the Farm Bill are important to Main Streets across North Dakota. Hunting and fishing are not commodity-based incomes driven by world markets. Supporting conservation programs that provide habitat and access for our citizens, and support our business people and our farmers and ranchers make good sense for our State.

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)

