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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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Shared Values

Conservation is the wise use of our natural resources. It contributes to our quality of life as individuals and as a society. This makes conservation everyone's business. Application of good conservation practices nourishes the land we all depend on and are financially advantageous. Conservation programs designed to protect natural resources and contribute to our economy are often wrongly criticized as being contrary to our State agriculture and energy businesses. Considering the role conservation plays with North Dakota's largest economic drivers, there are many values which we all can agree on. We all want and need clean air and clean water and productive soils. We enjoy our State's wonderful open spaces, wildlife and fisheries. We need a vibrant pollinator population to sustain plant growth and productivity on rangeland and cropland. So, what's the rub? The three major economic sectors in North Dakota, agriculture, energy, and tourism, can all infringe on each other, but a blend of diversified land uses that first support land values are in everyone's best long-term interest. Conservation programs maintain land values short and long-term. Most of our State's economic uses of land will regularly compete for space as our State moves forward. What is clear, is that we all share many of the values sustaining productivity of our land. Therefore, every effort should be made to recognize the benefits of and encourage conservation programs and projects resulting in clean air, clean water, our wildlife, and soil productivity.

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)