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Conservation Notes

Current topics and issues affecting hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation in our North Dakota.

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Outdoor Heritage Fund

The Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) was established in 2013 as a multi-million-dollar conservation program to fund locally led conservation and recreation projects, help farmers and ranchers install grazing systems, plant grass for animal agriculture and wildlife habitat, improve water quality and enhance local parks across North Dakota.

In January 2014, the Outdoor Heritage Fund awarded the first grants totaling \$5.8 million. Since that time, the OHF has gone through 17 rounds of funding totaling approximately \$55 million. Round 17 awarded a record number of dollars at \$11.6 million.

The OHF is well thought-out legislation to provide balance for conservation on the land through locally led efforts. OHF dollars are matched by multiple conservation organizations or agency dollars. There are many local projects that can take advantage of these dollars. Approximately 75% of the OHF dollars go to farmers and ranchers for improvements to their ag conservation work on the land, with around 15% going to recreation.

The ND Legislature needs to keep OHF fully funded making sure that funds are not “siphoned off” for special interests as indicated in HB 1215. North Dakota leaders need to make sure local sponsors are aware of the dollars available through OHF. Keeping ND Legendary is a grass roots effort that can be accomplished through the OHF.

For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: John Bradley, Executive Director, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, (jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com), 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)-articles.