



P.O. Box 1442, Bismarck, N.D. 58502



P.O. Box 1091, Bismarck, N. D. 58502

## Conservation Notes

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

**Issue #61, April 2021**

### How Do You Eat an Elephant? Answer: One Bite at a Time

We have talked about the economic value of hunting, fishing and myriad outdoor recreational opportunities tied to abundant habitat. The influx of money from our resident and non-resident recreationists is important for the economic well-being of our small towns. In past **Conservation Notes** we have talked about the **Million Acre Habitat Plan** that would ensure we have a thriving recreation industry in North Dakota for years to come.

But some people have dismissed the idea as being too big or asking for too much habitat. If we implement the proposal over 20 years by adding 1,000 acres per county over those 20 years then we can create 50,000 acres of private and public habitat per year. That is 1000 acres per county. If we strategically select small projects then we can create habitat that benefits wildlife, landowners, and continues to support the local economy.

Therefore, we can identify and create small-scale projects that can be easily funded and implemented such as: A local wildlife club in Case County partners with a farmer to develop a food plot and shrub planting next to a new Game and Fish PLOTS tract.

A 40 acre tract of abandoned oil wells and a tank farm can be rehabilitated and planted to native grasses by the ND Natural Resources Trust using an Outdoor Heritage (OHF) grant. Local wildlife clubs and the NDWF can pay for the seeding of 35-acres of native grass in Barnes County on a new Waterfowl Production Area.

In Ramsey County, 20 acres of grass and nesting cover can be planted on a new USDA wetland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) tract in an odd corner of poor-quality cropland. Salt tolerant grasses and forbs can be planted on a 15-acre tract on unproductive wetland soils around a saline seep in Lamoure County.

The State needs to endorse and support this plan for its citizens. **A million acres. One bite at a time.**

For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: John Bradley, Executive Director, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, ([jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com](mailto:jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com)), Mike McEnroe, Past President, North Dakota Wildlife Federation([memcenroe@midco.net](mailto:memcenroe@midco.net)) or Rick Nelson, Past President, North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, ([bluebill@bis.midco.net](mailto:bluebill@bis.midco.net)). For a complete list of Conservation Notes visit ([www.ndctws.wordpress.com](http://www.ndctws.wordpress.com))-articles.