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Conservation Notes

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

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Strengthening Our Outdoor Heritage

The Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) Program

Outdoor recreation is an important aspect for quality of life for North Dakotans. Hunting, fishing, trapping, bird watching, and many other outdoor pursuits contribute significantly to local economies and the well-being of citizens.

But, on a national scale, as well as in North Dakota, there is a decrease in participation in many outdoor recreation opportunities, especially in hunting. The Game and Fish Department's analysis showed a 9+% decline in resident and non-residents licenses for 2020 to 2021. If we lose significant numbers of people from outdoor activities, then we lose the social and economic benefits we have enjoyed for many decades, and we lose a very attractive reason for people to stay in our state or move here.

As part of a national effort, the ND Game and Fish Department has engaged in a program titled **Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation, or R3**. The Department has developed a strategic plan for our state's R3 efforts with two main goals: 1) maintain and diversify participation in hunting and fishing, trapping, and shooting sports in ND to ensure a secure future for our outdoor heritage, and 2) increase public support and understanding of our outdoor assets and the role they play in wildlife conservation and our economy.

Therefore, if we want our outdoor heritage to continue and prosper, we need to actively assist the Department in their **R3** efforts. We do this by supporting the program and the strategic plan to **Recruit Retain and Reactive** people. Doing so will ensure opportunities for more participation and create understanding and appreciation for conservation and North Dakota's outdoor heritage.

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 (ndctws.org)-library