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Conservation Notes

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

Issue #75, June 2022

Keeping Our Hunting and Fishing Legendary

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (GFD) manages fish and wildlife in the 17th largest state, with the 3rd smallest department. The GFD does not receive any money from the state's general fund, instead the budget is comprised of revenue from hunting and fishing licenses, and federal excise taxes based on the sale of sporting goods. GFD programs provide habitat for fish and wildlife, access for hunters and anglers, and other programs which result in **billions** of dollars spent in motels, gas stations, restaurants, bars, and other small-town businesses. But the funding need has surpassed the funding available to account for rising costs, and to maintain and effectively deliver GFD programs. If more money is made available, the GFD can significantly improve programs such as PLOTS, access to land locked tracts, fishing access, habitat enhancements, along with many other important programs benefiting our state's outdoor recreation economy. Therefore, the GFD should increase fees on hunting and fishing licenses and charge a processing fee on online sales to address funding shortfalls. Additional funding will greatly increase the GFD programs that benefit our citizens (and non-resident guests), local economies, and fish and wildlife resources.

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