



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



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## Conservation Notes

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

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### **The North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund - A Big Success**

The North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) was established in 2013 as a program, funded by oil taxes to enhance outdoor conservation. Through this program grants are provided to state agencies, tribal governments, political subdivisions, and nonprofit organizations. Since 2013, the OHF fund has received \$81.6 million. Matching funds from conservation groups, project sponsors, farmers, and ranchers, etc., have increased the value of all these projects to a whopping \$210.7 million.

Priority is given to projects that enhance conservation practices in North Dakota by supporting one or more statutorily identified directives. 55% of OHF dollars have gone to agricultural stewardship (OHF Directive C); 24% to habitat enhancement (OHF Directive C); 11% to recreation projects (OHF Directive D); and only 10% to sportsmen access (OHF Directive A). Project proposals recommended by the OHF Advisory Board are provided to the Industrial Commission for approval.

The Outdoor Heritage fund has been in operation for only ten years. During this brief time, the OHF has funded 224 projects that have made a significant improvement in the outdoor environment in North Dakota by providing needed funding for agriculture, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and land access for sportsmen.

The ND Wildlife Federation and ND Chapter - The Wildlife Society strongly support the ongoing, important mission of the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The program provides significant benefits to the citizens of North Dakota.

For more information on this 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 ([ndctws.org](http://ndctws.org))-Library.

