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Conservation Notes

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

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Youth Shooting Sports Pays Long-Term Benefits

Nearly 1700 student athletes participated in the North Dakota State High School Clay Target Leagues (NDCTL) spring league this year. Approximately 1300 shot at the State Tournament in Horace, N. D. on June 15-16. The expansion of the NDCTL has been a bright spot for youth shooting sports in North Dakota.

While the conversion rate isn't necessarily one-to-one, a large percentage of NDCTL participants will have a chance to become hunters and take advantage of our State's great outdoor experiences. The increased skill level and confidence obtained will spur more trips to the field than those that do not have this experience of organized shooting sports. "The thing we see for a lot of young shooters, and for those not growing up around firearms, is that it makes them comfortable with their firearm" said Joe Courneya, NDCTL State Director, "The thing we see next is how they connect it to hunting in the state...NDCTL is a nice transition for young people who want to explore getting out in the field and taking advantage of the hunting opportunities we have here in North Dakota" he concluded.

The NDCTL is a great example of the 3R's being promoted by our Game and Fish Department, Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation. The NDCTL provides shooters with the skills and experience leading to more hunters enjoying North Dakota's hunting heritage.

For more information on NDCTL contact Nick Simonson at (njsimonson@yahoo.com) or visit (ndclatarget.com.)

For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: 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.

