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Conservation Notes

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

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Energy Policy

Each of our energy sources; coal, oil, natural gas, wind, solar, and hydropower have advantages and disadvantages. Citizens concerned about social, economic and environmental costs and impacts are often accused of favoring one source over another or supporting one source because of opposition to another source. Citizens' concerns are often dismissed by elected officials and the energy industry as always "just saying no" to energy development.

But in North Dakota energy is developed in a haphazard manner. Many citizens believe that the industry calls the shots. And too often, elected officials give the same impression because there is no overarching State energy policy in place that fosters a well-balanced approach.

Therefore, development of all forms of energy in North Dakota should be undertaken using a long range coordinated and strategic planning process. A process that incorporates social, economic and environmental concerns. A plan that reduces impacts to soil, water, and air. A plan that creates a smaller footprint and reduces impacts to farms, ranches, towns and cities.

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.