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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 Legislature Should Use Science on Wildlife Bills

Using science to make sound wildlife management decisions seems quite logical and acceptable. Wildlife management agencies, such as the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, use science-based information to make management decisions relating to habitat development/management, harvest rates, hunting pressure, disease and disease impacts to wildlife populations, fishing stocking decisions, etc. With science to back up their decisions, the results are defensible and support our hunting and fishing heritage. But when hunters and anglers don't like or agree with science driving wildlife management or harvest decisions, they attack science with their self-serving "opinions" to anyone with sympathetic ears. Often in support of a constituent, legislators will ignore or refuse to acknowledge good science when it doesn't agree with their biases. Poor legislation is introduced, or good science-based legislation is not passed.

Therefore, North Dakota Legislators need to rely on science-based information by professional wildlife biologists in the process of sorting out good and bad legislation affecting fish and wildlife. North Dakota wildlife populations and our hunting and fishing heritage deserve legislators listening to the experts and making defensible science based legislative decisions affecting fish and wildlife.

For more information on this 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.