# NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
## PUBLIC STATEMENT ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

The North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society represents many natural resource professionals in the State of North Dakota. The Chapter takes the following position on the conversion of fossil fuels to alternative forms of energy and the emerging wind and biofuels industries in North Dakota. In order to maintain the native prairie habitat and the quality of life in North Dakota, the Chapter recommends that the following principles be applied to alternative energy projects:

1. Alternative energy projects should have a minimal ecological impact on native prairie in North Dakota;
2. Maintain the acreage and wildlife benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program and other similar conservation programs;
3. North Dakota's grasslands and wetlands should be valued for their ability to sequester carbon;
4. Encourage the Public Service Commission to advance wind-energy siting guidelines that promote
   - development of new wind facilities in previously disturbed areas such as cropland or hayland;
   - mitigation strategies for wildlife and habitat impacts;
   - decommissioning plans for non-operational facilities;
   - and a discussion of the merits of and possibilities for community-based wind development
5. Encourage the development of biofuel production from perennial grasses on existing cropland using best management practices that benefit wildlife and protect our water and soil resources;
6. Encourage projects that require process energy to use waste energy by siting them with other energy-production facilities; and
7. Regarding the conversion of fossil fuels to alternative forms of energy, the coal, oil and gas, and related industries should continue to comply with or improve upon current state and federal regulations for the extraction of fossil fuel resources, air and water quality standards, reclamation of disturbed lands, and operation of energy-production facilities.

Approved by the Membership,
January 31, 2008