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Current topics and issues affecting outdoor recreation in our State. Prepared by the North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, and the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

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Irreversible land use Eliminates Future Opportunities

North Dakota's land is our life blood and our most treasured natural resource. For most of the State's history the primary uses of our land have been ranching and production agriculture. As our state has developed, we have found many other uses for the land and have converted hundreds of thousands of acres from agriculture to meet other needs; cities and towns, roads, reservoirs, air bases, and energy development. But land use changes to buildings, concrete and asphalt are mostly irreversible and result in permanent loss of agricultural productivity and natural resource functions such as watershed management and flood control, recreation, wildlife habitat, and peace and tranquility. Therefore, land use planning in North Dakota must consider land uses that offer flexibility and that are reversible. Conservation programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), conservation easements and the maintenance of open space must be included in North Dakota's future.

For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: Mike McEnroe, Past President, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, (memcenroe@bis.midco.net) or Rick Nelson, President, North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, (bluebill@bis.midco.net). For a complete list of Conservation Notes visit (www.ndctws.wordpress.com)