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## Conservation Notes #7, October, 2016

## **Protect Our Public Lands!**

Over one-half of our States citizens participate in some form of outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, bird watching, photography, and other outdoor pursuits. This demand is increasing as our population grows. Much of this activity takes place on North Dakota's public lands. These important public lands form the basis of outdoor recreation in the State and serve the whole States population. Public lands, both State and Federal offer convenient access, and are managed to maximize their public use. Maintaining our opportunities on these areas in the future will be critical to adequately meeting our population demands for quality outdoor experiences. But our public lands are threatened by encroachment, development and even divesture. Therefore, maintaining this valuable resource to meet public demands for recreation will require protection from outside intrusion, degradation or divestiture.

For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: Mike McEnroe, President, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, (<u>memcenroe@midco.net</u>) or Rick Nelson, President elect, North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, (<u>bluebill@bis.midco.net</u>).