

POSITION STATEMENT
OF THE NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
INITIATED MEASURE PROHIBITING FEE SHOOTING OF BIG GAME ANIMALS
IN AN ENCLOSURE

The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society has adopted the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation as guiding principles to measure and decide its actions. Shooting captive big game animals within an escape proof fence for a fee violates four of these seven principles:

- Captive wildlife are not within the public trust, and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department has little say in how these animals are managed;
- Fee shooting of captive wildlife provides commerce in dead wildlife;
- People entitled to shoot big game animals within the enclosures are selected by their ability to pay rather than by equal chance under the law; and
- Fee shooting does not provide an equal opportunity to hunt under the law.

In addition, fee shooting of captive wildlife within an enclosure presents an unsportsman-like distortion of fair chase hunting, and thereby threatens the future of hunting as a traditional recreational activity enjoyed by millions of people within the United States, and as a management tool used by wildlife agencies. Confined captive wildlife have the potential to spread wildlife diseases, and necessitate the destruction of wild big game animals when the public wildlife are exposed to captive herds.

For these reasons, the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society supports the Sportmen for Fair chase Hunting initiated measure to prohibit fee shooting of big game and exotic mammals within fenced enclosures.

Approved by the membership,
January 31, 2008