

I am in opposition of this bill. I believe it is a path to allow ND Game and Fish to eventually regulate the grazing and stocking management of the ND State Trust Lands. All Lessees are obligated to comply with laws and regulations of the Board of University and School Lands and all applicable state and federal laws. Any law enforcement including game wardens are already allowed to enter and enforce laws on state owned lands.

The terms and conditions of use and prohibited uses are spelled out on each lease agreement and are accepted when we sign and pay for the lease. Prohibited uses include: The land shall only be used for the purposes set forth above. Lessee may not cultivate additional acreage or change the location of fields. Other prohibited uses include, but are not limited to, equipment storage, hay storage, trash dumping, rock dumping, feedlots, feeding, draining water on or off the land, mining scoria, gravel, clay or any other minerals, cutting wood, or allowing others to do the same unless authorized in writing by the lessor.

I do not believe this bill is necessary and will eventually lead to full management of surface leases to ND Game and Fish and will be detrimental to farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,  
Michelle (Shelly) Ziesch  
Pettibone, ND