

2023. HB 1377

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Bill Helphrey and I am with the North Dakota Bowhunters Association.

There is an adage that says, "those that cannot remember history are destined to repeat it."

Section 3 of this bill is a re-run of similar language in a bill that was introduced when Wilber Boldt was the Game & Fish Commissioner and Jim McKinzie was the big game guru. The Game & Fish office was located on the corner of third and main in Bismarck. I spoke on that bill at that time. Yes, it was defeated.

I believe this bill would create a major problem for game management. When the Game & Fish establishes the number of licenses for a given hunting unit it is based upon the present deer population and the projected success rate which would indicate how many may be harvested and still maintain a viable population.

What happens when a party of ten with three tags spreads out and ends up shooting five deer. Do they pick the ones they want to tag and leave the others to go to waste? What happens when the harvest success percentage goes from the targeted 75% up to 90 or 95%? Does that mean that the next year the total number of tags available will go down because the success rate skyrocketed? Fewer tags available will mean a lot of hunters will go without a tag. They won't be happy with the reduced tags available.

Situations like this would throw the management part of wildlife management out the window.

The present laws and system of harvesting of wildlife are working. Let's not try to fix something that isn't broken.

Vote for a do not pass on this legislation.