

Greetings,

Theodore Roosevelt, a resident of your state, rancher and conservationist cherished this state, especially the Bad Lands, that for the most part, remain as pristine as in Roosevelt's day. As the birth place of conservation for Roosevelt's interest it is only fitting that this great state should embrace the vision of care for it's natural resources.

Today, the debate is over hunting over "food plots" and the spread of CWD as a result. As a life long naturalist and firm believer in conservation I would pray you hear my observation.

As a border neighbor, I was employed in "Respiratory Care" providing good people with oxygen to help them maintain a quality of life, while living in their home.. One of my patients, a more mature fellow, desperately wanted to hunt at least one more time with his family before his health deterred any further.

Against my better judgement I agreed to bring a humongous oxygen tank out to his home. With the help of his son, we struggled to place the tank along a tree belt, so his father could lean against the tree and possibly score in his hunting pursuit.

Ed, didn't get a shot off. He did however get a wonderful memory hunting along side his boys one last time. "Relationships" that is what it is about.

Certainly, I cursed myself at the time, however the reward for my efforts: "PRICELESS". Beautiful memories for Ed, his family and selfishly myself.

Now following the CWD issue in a number of states, it seems we are all chasing the same rabbit without much success. Maybe, just maybe, we should be listening to the many private citizen conservationists, in the various states and take into consideration what they are doing to help control the spread. Counting died carcasses doesn't cure the problem, it only makes you aware of the problem.

However, today you are discussing whether the good people of North Dakota can hunt over "Baited Plots". I beg you to consider Ed's story and his family memories. There is a "better way" rather than an "easy way" to this situation.

May the peace of Christ be with you in this decision...

Rich Hallstrom