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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1339

2005 HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1339

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1339
House Natural Resources Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 27, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
4	x		0-3500
Committee Clerk Signature <i>K Bonnet</i>			

Minutes: Roll was taken, bill was read aloud.

Chr. Nelson: I'd like to thank the people who came here for Citizen's Night to watch committee action. I think ND has, quite possibly, the most open form of government and I'm glad that so many came out to watch. Any citizen who wishes to testify on any bill has the opportunity to do so. Every bill that is introduced in the ND House and Senate does get a full committee vote as well as full floor vote. That's very rare in the legislative process across this country. I think it's one of the things that has made our form of government as open and good as it has been over the last 130 years. thanks for your attendance here today. The first that we will be hearing is HB 1339. I will open the hearing on that bill at this time and ask the clerk to read the title. Before we start, I would ask the committee members to push the speak buttons on the microphones as you talk. Welcome to the Boy Scout troop who is visiting.

Rep. Kerzman, Dist. 31: Introduced bill. (Written testimony attached)

Chr. Nelson: Are there questions of Rep. Kerzman? Seeing none, thank you Rep. Kerzman.

Rep. Kerzman: I also have testimony for Ben Auch from Mott who was unable to be here tonight due to a school board meeting.

Chr. Nelson: You may pass that to the clerk to be entered into the public record.

Ben Auch, Mott: (Written testimony attached.)

Chr. Nelson: Committee and audience, because of the time constraints we are under, I will limit supporting testimony to 20 minutes and opposing testimony to 20 minutes as well. How many people are here to testify on this bill? Further testimony in support of HB 1339?

Terri Thiel, Dickinson Convention & Visitor's Bureau: (Written testimony attached)

Chr. Nelson: Questions of Terri?

Rep. Charging: In relationship to the changes of the last few years that have been more restrictive, have you seen that decrease in your community?

Thiel: Yes, there have been some factors. I've kept a file of letters that I have received from people coming from outside the state. We have seen a decrease in our area.

Charging: Is it restaurants, hotels, gas stations, sales tax, or is it one area in particular?

Thiel: It's a combined effect for us across the board. I haven't surveyed our recreation sporting goods stores. I deal primarily with the restaurants and hotels. That's where we have gotten the decrease.

Chr. Nelson: Further questions for Ms. Thiel? Seeing none, thank you, Terri.

Chr. Nelson: Rep. Kerzman, are you still in attendance? Rep. Drovdal has a question for you.

Rep. Drovdal: I agree with most of what you say, and I also come from the western part of the state where we have the number one tourist attraction. We appreciate people coming in,

residents or non residents alike. Can you tell me whether any state that you are aware of allows you to hunt or fish at the same fee that the residents pay?

Kerzman: No, as I say in my testimony, that is the one exception, where they do charge over. I can go to other states to enjoy their natural resources like parks and recreation, ball games and such. They treat me just like a resident and I think that's the way we should be treated.

Drovdal: So the point you are making is that what we did last time, really had an effect on non residents and we need to reverse that somehow.

Kerzman: Yes, and we have a lawsuit pending in Minnesota. I don't know the status of it.

Chr. Nelson: Further testimony in support of HB 1339.

Claude Heidt, Mott, ND: (Written testimony attached)

Chr. Nelson: Are there questions of Mr. Heidt?

Rep. Norland: I appreciated that comment about the pheasant flying. How many days would he fly before he found land in the Mott area that wasn't posted?

Heidt: We have the whole Indian Creek area that is public land and not posted. If you want to deal with pay for hunting, that's another issue.

Chr. Nelson: I would remind the committee and audience, that every dollar that was raised in the increase license fees was put into the Private Lands Program last session. I think your area of the state probably benefited more than any other area of the state. I live in the N. Central part of the state and in waterfowl areas we don't see the PLOTS areas like you do in SW ND. So there was a cost benefit ratio that had some benefit for your area, Mr. Heidt. Are there further questions for Mr. Heidt? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. Is there further testimony in support of HB 1339?

Kyle Blanchfield, ND Professional Guides & Outfitters Assoc.: We support the bill and we're not here to debate the fee issue. We're here to point out the fact that the 10-day requirement did cause pain and suffering in the guiding industry. Unlike waterfowl, we see more of a return customer base in pheasant hunting. You can debate the cost of whether they can afford to buy another one, but what was the most damaging was the public relations side of the previous bill that instituted these restrictions. That's the unwelcome, damaging side that we need to take note of and be careful for the future.

Chr. Nelson: Are there questions of Mr. Blanchfield?

Rep. Charging: Did your community of Devil's Lake see a decrease in their lodging?

Blanchfield: Our community is waterfowl based, so it's not apples to oranges with this subject, but Devil's Lake did see a reduction of between 10-15% in occupancy numbers. Our fourth quarter numbers are down. Our hunter occupancy numbers for waterfowl are down, documented for two years in a row.

Rep. Hunsakor: Is that due to the new restrictions or some other reason?

Blanchfield: We've seen a significant drop in the last two years. Those numbers have to go someplace. It's evident to me that there are fewer hunters; license sales are down, fewer hunters equal less occupancy, less money in the community.

Chr. Nelson: Any further questions?

Charging: I know that you travel the sports shows and are across the country. What are people across the country saying to you as a citizen and promoter of ND?

Blanchfield: The first year that we instituted the cap on waterfowl was a tough sports show year, especially in the Midwest where people were very knowledgeable of it. It was miserable.

Of course, we have to go through the process of, "You're talking to the wrong guy!" This year at a DU show in Oshgosh, WI, there were still some folks who were mad about it. They learned that there is no alternative but to go along with it. It's tough on public relations and marketing.

Chr. Nelson: Thank you, Mr. Blanchfield. Is there anyone else who wants to testify? I will have to stop the debate on the supporting side of this bill. Is there anyone that was missed?

Rep. Hanson: Would you read the fiscal note?

Chr. Nelson: Karen, would you read the fiscal note on this bill?

Clerk Bonnet: The FN on HB 1339, based on sales of about 28,000 non-resident small game licenses per year, the revenue reduction would be \$2, 212,000 per year or \$4,424,000 per biennium.

Chr. Nelson: I will now take opposing testimony on HB 1339.

Roger Rostvet, ND Game & Fish Dept.: (Written testimony attached)

Chr. Nelson: Are there any questions of Mr. Rostvet?

Rep. Nottestad: Previous testimony inferred that the high number of licenses sold in 2003-04 was due to multiple licenses. Do you have the figures on the numbers of multiple licenses sold to out of state hunters?

Rostvet: I don't have an exact number, because of a tracking problem. You can see that there is a difference in what we record as pheasant hunters is at 25,000 but number of upland game licenses sold is almost 28,000. I think we had it figured out that the actual number of people who bought multiple licenses was somewhere between 600-700. I did not bring that number along.

Nottestad: Based on that, that would be insignificant in the total number of licenses sold?

Rostvet: It wouldn't make up for the increase in number of hunter days.

Rep. Keiser: Do you know from tax collections whether the room, food and beverage taxes which would correlate with hunter activity are up or down during the same time period?

Rostvet: I attached three different data sheets on the back of this. It shows a variety of different things. However, we do not track the tax information by county or even city.

Chr. Nelson: Further questions?

Rep. Drovdal: On Table B, you listed it by the counties in the SW part of (the state), but your listing resident numbers. Do you have that same chart for nonresidents?

Rostvet: I don't have that particular chart with me. Those numbers do not show nearly as significant a drop as the resident hunters did. The resident hunters appeared to react because of pheasant numbers or whatever. The non-resident numbers did not drop. You can see that by the overall bag and county on Chart 3 that non-resident numbers took a drop from 2001 to 2002 in those areas as far as number of birds harvested. Not a significant drop, but they didn't increase. 5,000 hunter days, whether resident or non resident is going to show up one way or the other.

Chr. Nelson: I would remind the committee members to key their mike before they ask questions.

Rep. Porter: When we dealt with this bill last session, we recognized the need for more access across the state through the interim process. That bill came from the concept of splitting the licenses, increasing the funds brought in and putting the \$3.3 million dollars back into access. The point of the start of this bill with the money raised, how much has the PLOTS program increased the access to everyone in the state?

Rostvet: Since the last biennium, that program has more than doubled the amount of acreage available. The last year when we got the program moving forward with all the increase in revenue from the prior year, we picked another 300,000 acres alone, in addition to other tracts.

Rep. Porter: Where are the total number of acres at, at the present time?

Rostvet: It's approximately 770,000 acres.

Porter: When you surveyed the resident hunters, they seemed to be the biggest shift although non-resident hunters as in Hettinger Co. had a 22% decline. Was access brought up in any of those discussions with resident and non-resident hunters along with the new bird populations in the eastern part of the state?

Rostvet: Our surveys are geared solely to where people hunted, what they harvested, and things like that. We don't get into reasons where they hunted. Surveys done separately in prior years indicate different reasons why people hunt where do.

Porter: What have been personal comments and e-mails back to the department in regards to access in southwest ND?

Rostvet: It's mixed. I think if you're looking for an answer of why people didn't go to the SW there might be a variety of reasons. One of the things that mostly affects people is where birds are and how they can get at them. Personal choice, fun are where people go. It would simply be a guess on my part.

Chr. Nelson: Thank you, Roger. Is there further testimony opposing HB 1339?

Mike Donahue, ND Wildlife Federation and United Sportsmen of ND: (Written testimony attached)

Chr. Nelson: Are there any questions of Mr. Donahue? Seeing none, thank you, Mike. Is there further testimony opposing HB 1339?

Rep. Don Dietrich, Dist 42: (Written testimony attached) Waterfowl has been brought up; they depend on several aspects. Drought, the waterfowl produced locally, plus migration cause differences of waterfowl. This was a nice year. The geese and ducks stayed in the Yukon and Canada longer, and when it very cold, they blew through (ND) fast. Residents buy vehicles, guns and clothes in the state. Non residents bring everything with them except the gas, which we also buy here, motels and food. By the way, I don't stay in Mott any longer because there are no motels there. Strong opposition to this bill. By the fiscal note, it is really tough on the Game & Fish Dept.

Chr. Nelson: Thank you, Rep. Dietrich. Any further testimony opposing HB 1339? For the audience's sake, generally, we have a longer period of testimony, but because of the time constraints tonight we're trying to pack in as much testimony and give you a flavor of what goes in the Natural Resource Committee. So we're speeding through it tonight for that reason.

Harold Neameyer, Cass County Wildlife: (Written testimony attached.)

Chr. Nelson: Questions for Mr. Neameyer? Seeing none, thank you, Mr. Neameyer. We'll take five more minutes of opposing testimony.

Terry Fleck, Bismarck: I'm here tonight because when I first read this bill, I thought it was a really good idea. When I called Montana and Wyoming for my non resident deer licenses, I tested the theory. I said, "If we let you hunt pheasants for \$6, will you let me hunt deer as a resident?" She didn't think it was funny, and I kept trying. She said last year there were 7,262 applicants for 2000 tags. The price is \$375, do you want to hunt in Montana or don't you? My

response tonight to all of this is I find it difficult to comprehend that unless you can guarantee reciprocity in Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota and any other state where I want to hunt, I don't know why they should be able to come here and be treated as if they live here. They treat me nice, not unlike the landowners in ND. But in Montana or Wyoming, we pay the price if we want to hunt there. I believe that if you don't want to live here and share the state of ND with us, you should pay the price.

Chr. Nelson: You make a good point, Mr. Fleck. Thank you for your testimony. Any further testimony opposing HB 1339?

Curtis Blohm, ND Outdoor Heritage Coalition: (Written testimony attached)

Chr. Nelson: Are there questions of Mr. Blohm? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony. Is there further testimony opposing HB 1339? Seeing none, I will close the hearing on HB 1339.

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1339

House Natural Resources Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 1, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		771-899
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Karen Bonnet</i>			

Minutes:

Chr. Nelson: Open the hearing on HB 1339. What is the committee's wishes?

Rep. DeKrey: Motion Do Not Pass.

Rep. Nottestad: Second.

Chr. Nelson: Committee discussion. Will the clerk call the roll?

Do Not Pass Vote: 14-Yeas; 0-Nays; 0-Absent; CARRIER: Norland

FISCAL NOTE
 Requested by Legislative Council
 01/12/2005

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1339

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				(\$4,424,000)		(\$4,424,000)
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2. **Narrative:** *Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.*

This bill reduces the cost of a nonresident small game hunting license from \$85 to \$6.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

Based on sales of about 28,000 nonresident small game licenses per year, the revenue reduction would be \$2,212,000 per year or \$4,424,000 for a biennium.

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.*

Name:	Paul T. Schadewald	Agency:	ND Game and Fish Department
Phone Number:	328-3328	Date Prepared:	01/12/2005

✓
✓

Date: 2/1/05
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1339

House NATURAL RESOURCES Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken : Do Not Pass

Motion Made By : DeKrey Seconded By : Nottestad

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman - Rep. Jon O. Nelson	✓		Rep. Lyle Hanson	✓	
Vice Chairman - Todd Porter	✓		Rep. Bob Hunskor	✓	
Rep. Dawn Marie Charging	✓		Rep. Scot Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Donald L. Clark	✓		Rep. Dorvan Solberg	✓	
Rep. Duane DeKrey	✓				
Rep. David Drovdal	✓				
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓				
Rep. George J. Keiser	✓				
Rep. Mike Norland	✓				
Rep. Darrell D. Nottestad	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Norland

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 2, 2005 10:50 a.m.

Module No: HR-22-1658
Carrier: Norland
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1339: Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Nelson, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1339 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2005 TESTIMONY

HB 1339

**HB 1339
TESTIMONY
By Representative James A. Kerzman**

Mr. Chairman, Representative Nelson and members of Natural Resources Committee.

HB 1339 removes the nonresident language in subsection 1 of Section 20.1-03-07 of the North Dakota Century Code. It also makes the license fee the same for all individuals over the age of sixteen hunting small game.

The area I represent has worked hard for a number of years to develop good habitat for upland game, the results show in the population of birds. The area has also done an excellent job of promotion to bring in hunters. We have seen the results; shortage of housing during the season; eating establishments filled to capacity; sales of liquor, gas and fuel astounding. That was up until restrictions were put in place against out of state hunters. Businesses are reporting up to 25% loss as a result.

Is it fair to gear up and establish economic development just to have the state come along and restrict your business? Is it discrimination to charge 140% more for a license because you are a nonresident and then limit the number of days you can hunt upland game compared to a resident?

Many of us have enjoyed the "Natural Resources" of other states across this great country without discrimination because we were a nonresident, the exception in a few is hunting and fishing. I think we can do better, are better, and

will set the bar for other states. We should welcome nonresidents with open arms, show them what we have to offer and promote this state to the fullest extent. People bring economic development, and who knows, some may decide to relocate themselves or even their business to this fair state.

I have gotten feedback from resident hunters who feel they should be entitled to more hunting resources because they contribute to the state's economy year round. I thank them for fostering the state's economy. They have a distinct advantage with the resources basically in their backyard in that they can enjoy many times at a moments notice. We have heard "Game & Fish" claim that license sales are up, probably due to the fact that repeat hunters may have had to purchase more than one license during the season.

We can throw so called facts and figures around forever. As long as the restrictions are placed on nonresidents, the "perception" will remain that we are not welcoming. The only real way to "test the waters" is to remove all restrictions on nonresidents. If the results don't show positive, the state can always put the restrictions back on.

Let's do the right thing before we go too far down the road. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you.

By: Ben Auch
(For public record,
not read)
pg 1 of 3

Ben Auch
HB 1339 Testimony
House of Representatives
Natural Resources Committee

Dear Representatives

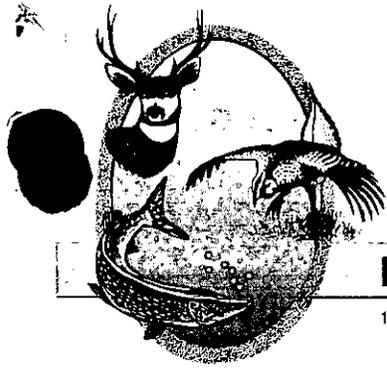
I would like to start by thanking Rep. Kerzman, and Rep. Froelich for introducing this legislation. I am a Republican from Mott I moved back to Mott from the Rapid City, SD area. I serve on the Mott school board and work on main street Mott. I would like the committee to recommend passage of this legislation. Putting non-residents back on a level playing field with residents is good business sense. The non residents are the hunters that come to town and really spend their money. They stay at the local motel or one of the many hunting lodges not at a friend's house. They buy their shotgun shells at the local gunsmith and convenience store because it is too costly to ship them in. They use the local airports and car rental stores. They buy their groceries from the local grocery stores. They eat from 1 to 3 meals a day at the local restaurants. All of this spending increases the tax base of the small towns and the entire state. Most residents do not do this they buy all their supplies before they drive out to western ND to hunt and probably from big chain stores. The issue of hunting licenses in the state is ridiculous. Game and Fish will tell you that hunters did not return to western ND multiple times the last couple of years because the bird numbers were down. This may be true for some hunters but it is not true for the numerous hunters that own houses in Mott and the other small towns. These hunters bought these houses in these small towns because they thought we were a hunter friendly state only to find out that the state decided they were a good group to gouge to get some extra money. Well not only did they get mad they decided that a state that wants to gouge them was not worth their money. Now we face a situation where many of these hunters are considering selling their homes because it does not make economic sense to keep a house that they have to pay some one to maintain the inside and outside of the house for 9 to 10 months a year. Also what you must realize is that the vast majority of these houses were owned by the city because the house could not be sold. These hunters are doing small towns a great thing because these houses are now have owners that pay property taxes to the city and the school instead of on the city expenditures for maintenance and

upkeep. Yes Game and Fish sold more licenses but the system is rigged to sell more licenses. What Game and Fish does not realize is that it makes economic sense, for the state and small towns, to sell less licenses but have hunters return multiple times to buy groceries, shotgun shells, rent lodging and eat meals, than sell a few more licenses and only have a hunter come one time and spend their money. The PLOTS system is a great idea and needs to be expanded for the residents to use if they can not find other hunting or do not want to pay for hunting. The biggest problem with the PLOTS program is that we are paying for right to land that is not huntable. There is no food and no cover and very little water. You can not expect resident hunters to be happy coming to western North Dakota and find out that the PLOTS lands are so poor. If we are going to spend the money lets spend the money on good quality lands. I realize that is not always possible so if a farmer want to put poor grade hunting lands in PLOTS then as part of the contract make them plant some food plots on that land so there is a reason for the birds to stay on that land. If the committee wants to keep the 10 day license system I do not have a problem with that concept as long as you allow non-residents to purchase a full year license also. Also price them reasonably sell a 10 day license for \$65 and them sell a full year license for \$100 to \$120. This appeals to the hunter that can only come one time a year and appeals to the hunter that comes up to 5 times a year. I know that many residents are upset over fee hunting in the southwest especially. Well what the resident hunters and mostly from the eastern third of ND need to realize is that they are the reason for the fee hunting starting up. Many of the resident hunters in the early 90's when pheasants numbers were really taking off would come out and take down gates and not put them back up. They would shoot over their limit and shoot hens and then farmers would find the piles of birds later. I used to hunt with the local sheriff and every year on opening day on his way out to hunt he would have to stop and write 3 to 6 tickets for a suburban full of resident hunters that stopped on the road stuck the guns out the window and started shooting. Now I know that not all residents are bad hunters I know that most are good ethical hunters but these practices by a few leaves a bad taste for local landowners. The reason it has stayed and gotten stronger is that when you figure out a way to make money in dying communities you do not want to stop. I urge this committee to come up with good common sense legislation that is much more favorable to non residents and show our neighboring states that we are not closing up our borders and saying that ND hunting is just for North Dakotans. We have an excellent resource in hunting. I have lived and hunted in South Dakota. South Dakota has good bird hunting but it is nothing compared to western

North Dakota yet every big hunting magazine when they talk about good bird hunting they talk about Kansas and South Dakota. I believe that no one mentions North Dakota in the top two for bird hunting because we do not market our state well enough for its hunting resources and we are not friendly to the non-residents who are the real spenders in the hunting industry. I hope this committee will recognize the economic impact that non-resident hunters can have on small dying communities and the entire state. There is always so much talk about economic development for small rural towns and this is the best and only thing many small towns have going for them. So remove the restrictions to non-residents and show them that we are not just a greedy state that does not appreciate what they can bring. Thank you very much for your time in reading this testimony as you consider better more common sense legislation.

Respectfully yours

Ben S Auch



"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501-5095 PHONE 701-328-6300 FAX 701-328-6352

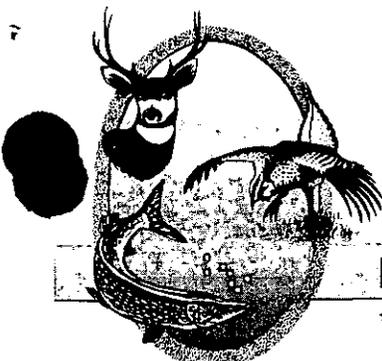
HB1339

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE

January 27, 2005

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department opposes this bill. The obvious reason would be the fiscal note that is attached. The impetuous for this bill appears to be that the increase in nonresident upland game license fees and 10 day restriction on each license caused irreparable harm to the economy of North Dakota, nothing could be further from the truth. Pheasant hunting is what most people think of when you talk about upland game hunting. The 1st year after the nonresident fees and day restrictions were implemented (2003), an all time record number of nonresident pheasant hunters visited North Dakota. These record highs were not only in the number of nonresident pheasant hunters (25,098: an increase of nearly 10%) but in the amount of time spent hunting (147,893 days, an increase of 28%).

There is information that certain parts of North Dakota especially the southwest experienced significant reductions in the amount of hunter generated revenue. We would certainly agree that this may have



"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

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100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501-5095 PHONE 701-328-6300 FAX 701-328-6352

occurred as all indications are that there was a significant shift away from the southwest. For example it is estimated that 1,152 fewer resident hunters (-28%) hunted in Hettinger Co., even though there was no change in their license structure and that the statewide number of resident hunters grew by 7,556.

Pheasant hunter numbers for 2004 are not yet available, but based on comparable nonresident upland license sales over the internet, by phone, and at our office, it appears that 2004 maybe on track for another record high (2003 – 18,900; 2004 – 20,243).

In summary, the last two falls have seen all time record highs in the number of nonresident pheasant hunter activity. It is also apparent that there were shifts in where pheasant hunters hunt, in either case it would be hard to link that change to the change in nonresident licensing structure. We would urge a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation on HB1339

Table 1. Statewide estimates for ring-necked pheasant hunting season.

	2003	2002	2001	2000
Total pheasant hunters	88,809	78,995	75,825	67,176
(resident)	63,711	56,155	53,589	52,651
(non-resident)	25,098	22,840	22,236	14,525
Kill per hunter	6.67	6.56	5.46	4.22
(resident)	6.28	7.67	4.88	3.78
(nonresident)	7.65	7.74	7.20	5.83
Total pheasant harvest	592,066	517,821	421,586	283,759
(resident)	399,994	430,821	261,514	199,021
(nonresident)	192,072	176,960	160,072	84,738
Avg. number of trips per pheasant hunter	5.03	4.30	3.59	3.52
(resident)	4.71	4.00	3.21	3.25
(nonresident)	5.89	5.05	4.52	4.53
Total hunting trips	448,229	340,063	272,655	236,721
(resident)	300,336	224,738	171,912	170,927
(nonresident)	147,893	115,325	100,743	65,794
Mean kill per trip	1.32	1.52	1.55	1.20
(resident)	1.33	1.92	1.52	1.16
(nonresident)	1.30	1.53	1.59	1.29

Table B. Resident pheasant hunters in southwest counties of ND, 2002 - 2003.

Counties	2002		2003	
	Number Hunters	% Hunters	Number Hunters	% Hunters
Adams	1,179	2.1%	1,019	1.6%
Billings	337	0.6%	319	0.5%
Bowman	1,797	3.2%	574	0.9%
Dunn	1,500	2.7%	1,338	2.1%
Golden Valley	281	0.5%	319	0.5%
Grant	2,041	3.6%	1,911	3.0%
Hettinger	5,166	9.2%	4,014	6.3%
McKenzie	625	1.1%	1,019	1.6%
Morton	2,458	4.4%	3,823	6.0%
Sioux	208	0.4%	127	0.2%
Stark	3,931	7.0%	3,886	6.1%
TOTAL	19,523	34.8%	18,349	28.8%

Table A. Highest pheasant harvest counties for resident and nonresident hunters, 2002 and 2003.

2001 - Resident

1. Hettinger - 12.9%
2. Stark - 8.3%
3. Burleigh - 7.5%
4. Morton - 7.1%
5. McLean - 8.0%

2002 - Resident

1. Hettinger - 12.6%
2. Stark - 10.4%
3. Burleigh - 8.3%
4. McLean - 7.7%
5. Mercer - 6.7%

2003 - Resident

1. Hettinger - 8.7%
2. McLean - 8.5%
3. Stark - 8.4%
4. Burleigh - 7.9%
5. Emmons - 5.2%
- Sargent - 5.2%

2001 - Nonresidents

1. Hettinger - 30.8%
2. Adams - 7.1%
3. Stark - 5.9%
4. Emmons - 5.7%
5. Dickey - 5.6%

2002 - Nonresident

1. Hettinger - 22.3%
2. Sargent - 8.0%
3. Bowman - 5.6%
4. Stark - 5.5%
5. Adams - 5.4%
- Dickey - 5.4%
- Divide - 5.4%

2003 - Nonresident

1. Hettinger - 22.4%
2. Dickey - 10.4%
3. Sargent - 6.8%
4. McIntosh - 5.6%
5. McLean - 5.3%

North Dakota Wildlife Federation

Abundant wildlife and wildlife habitat, and access to wildlife recreational opportunities

By: Mike Donahue



1/27/2005

For: House Natural Resources Committee

Ref: HB1339

The United Sportsmen of North Dakota and the North Dakota Wildlife Federation oppose this bill and ask for a do not pass.

In the 2003 session the language deleted by this bill was passed. It was a monumental effort by all.

Now we hear from some business interests in the southwest part of the state that their drop in hunter numbers was due to the license price increase.

Not so.

When you look at known data (that you will hear from others) it becomes obvious that biology, weather and habitat are the culprits.

Defeat this bill.

Thank you,
Mike Donahue
Lobbyist #275



PO Box 1091 • Bismarck, North Dakota 58502 • E-mail: ndwf@ndwf.org • Fax: 701-223-4645

Office Manager: 701-222-2557 • 1-888-827-2557 • Web: www.ndwf.org

CY 2003

By: Mike Donahue
Pg 1 of 2

NOLIC
number of
licenses

The FREQ Procedure

nolic	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
1	17719	97.19	17719	97.19
2	462	2.53	18181	99.72
3	39	0.21	18220	99.93
4	11	0.06	18231	99.99
6	1	0.01	18232	100.00

Ref HB 1339

2003 N.R. Small Game License Sales
Electronic Sales only.
Does not include over the counter

cy 2004

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Welcome, **mikeonetrack**
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Ref: HB 1339

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Folders [Add - Edit]

- Inbox (1)
- Draft
- Sent
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Credit Card to Build or re-Build

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From: "Schadewald, Paul T." <pschadew@state.nd.us> Add to Address Book

To: mikeonetrack@yahoo.com

Subject: NR Waterfowl and Small game license sales stats for 2004.doc

Date: Wed, 12 Jan 2005 11:32:50 -0600

Here is the 2004 data from electronic sales of nonresident small game licenses. There is also some other interesting info.

Number of licenses purchased by individual NR upland game hunters

2004 08:00 Wednesday, January 12, 2005

The FREQ Procedure

nolic	Frequency	Cumulative Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Percent
1	19055	97.47	19055	97.47
2	464	2.37	19519	99.85
3	25	0.13	19544	99.97
4	5	0.03	19549	100.00

nolic = number of Licenses

*electronic sales only
Does not include over the counter*



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Hunting licenses 2004

Notice: [Social Security Number collection information](#)
(Requirement as of August 1, 2003, for anyone buying hunting or fishing licenses. *Does not apply to commercial licenses.*)

Federal law requires the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to collect your Social Security Number (SSN) when you apply for a game and fish license for child support enforcement purposes. If you apply for a game and fish license and you do not have an SSN, you must give us a certification that you do not have an SSN. If you do not give us your SSN or a certification, we cannot issue you a game and fish license. The federal law is Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, U.S.C., Title 42, section 666(a)(13).

The DNR is required to provide your SSN or certification to the Minnesota Department of Human Services for child support enforcement purposes.

Click on the check marks to find license agents, get applications or purchase licenses by phone or the Internet.

Note: Fees listed here include the \$1 issuing fee. (Does not apply to commercial licenses.)

[Resident Licenses](#) | [Non-Resident Licenses](#)

Resident Licenses	Fee	DNR License Agents	DNR Special Agents	DNR (St. Paul)	Phone Sales	Internet	Mail-In Application	Deputy Registrar
Bear - application (r)	\$ 0.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Bear - license (r)	\$ 39.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bear - military (r)	\$ 0.00		✓	✓			✓	
Bear - noquota (r)	\$ 39.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bear - surplus (r)	\$ 39.00	✓	✓	✓		✓		

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<u>Deer - firearm (nr)</u>	\$ 136.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Deer - license upgrades/zone change</u>	\$ various		✓	✓			
<u>Deer - multi-zone buck (nr)</u>	\$ 271.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Stamp - turkey</u>	\$ 5.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Stamp - turkey (validation & pictorial)</u>	\$ 7.00	✓	✓	✓			
<u>Wild Rice - Nonresident Daily</u>	\$ 31.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<u>Furbearer (nr)</u>	\$ 156.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Lifetime small game renewal (nr)</u>	\$ 0.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<u>Small game (nr)</u>	\$ 80.50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Stamp - migratory waterfowl</u>	\$ 7.50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Stamp - pheasant</u>	\$ 7.50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Stamps (collectable)</u>	\$ various			✓			✓
<u>Waterfowl - fall special goose</u>	\$ 4.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<u>Waterfowl - spring light goose</u>	\$ 3.50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<u>Waterfowl/Migratory Birds - HIP Certification</u>	\$ 0.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<u>Turkey - fall license (nr)</u>	\$ 73.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Turkey - fall lottery application</u>	\$ 3.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<u>Turkey - fall surplus (nr)</u>	\$ 73.00	✓	✓	✓		✓	
<u>Turkey - spring license (nr)</u>	\$ 73.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Turkey - spring lottery application</u>	\$ 3.00	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<u>Turkey - spring surplus (nr)</u>	\$ 73.00	✓	✓	✓		✓	

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SOUTH DAKOTA HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES

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Resident Licenses	License Cost	Nonresident Licenses	License Cost
1-Day Fishing	\$7	1-Day Fishing	\$14
Annual Fishing	\$25	3-Day Fishing	\$32
Senior Fishing (age 65 and older)	\$10	Annual Fishing	\$60
Combination (Small game + Fishing)	\$49	Family Annual Fishing	\$60
Small Game	\$29	Spring Turkey-Single Tag	\$85
Youth Small Game	\$5	Spring Turkey-Double Tag	\$100
1-Day Small Game	\$10	Fall Turkey-Single Tag	\$75
Junior Combination (Ages 16-18)	\$25	Fall Turkey-Double Tag	\$85
Deer/Antelope-1-tag	\$30	Small Game (10-day Pheasants/Grouse)	\$110
Deer/Antelope-2-tag	\$45	Youth Small Game (Age 12-15)	\$25
Special Buck	\$155	Waterfowl Units 100A, 100B-33, 100D.	\$110
Youth Deer	\$5	Tundra swan (need 100B, X or Y license, apply separately using waterfowl applic.)	\$10
Landowner deer on Own Land (Landowner applic.)	\$17.50	Waterfowl Unit 100C-33 (Sept Goose)	\$45
Antlerless Deer/Antelope 1-tag	\$15	Waterfowl Unit 100X-33 (3-day, private land)	\$75
Antlerless Deer/Antelope 2-tag (Some units)	\$25	Waterfowl Unit 100Y-33 (3-day northeast)	\$75
Spring Turkey 1-tag	\$20	Spring Light Goose - Adult/Youth	\$45/\$25
Spring Turkey 2-tag	\$25	Buck-only or any-deer - single tag (archery or firearms)	\$155
Fall Turkey 1-tag	\$10	Buck-only or any-deer - double tag (Only in some firearms units, see application)	\$205
Fall Turkey 2-tag	\$15	Antlerless deer/antelope - single tag	\$55
Elk (Black Hills & prairie)	\$105	Antlerless deer/antelope - double tag	\$80
Elk (Custer State Park)	\$305/ \$205	Buck-only or any-antelope - single tag (archery or firearms)	\$155
Mountain Goat	\$105	Buck-only or any-antelope - double tag (Only in some firearms units, see application)	\$205

**Cass County
WILDLIFE CLUB**

Box 336
Casselton, ND 58012



**TESTIMONY OF HAROLD NEAMEYER
CASS COUNTY WILDLIFE CLUB
PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE**

ON

HB 1339

JANUARY 27, 2005

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Club opposes this bill because it would reduce the Game and Fish budget by 2.2 million per year. This bill is counter productive to the attempt by Game and Fish to secure more PLOTS type land by this budget reduction.

In addition, it reduces the controls over how many hunters (NR) are allowed. This bill, if passed, would in a few short years ruin small game hunting as we know it. The current law is needed to stay in place.



House Bill No. 1339

**Reference: Makes the nonresident small game hunting license
Fee the same as for a resident - \$6.00 instead of
\$85.00**

House Natural Resources Committee

Hearing Date: January 27, 2005

Good evening, Mr. Chairman and Committee members. My name is Curtis Blohm. I appear before you today representing the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Coalition. This coalition was founded out of the need for representation before the legislative committee by North Dakota citizens concerned for the preservation of our unique outdoor recreational heritage.

The ND Outdoor Heritage Coalition is opposed to the content of this bill. HB 1339 would repeal one of the most popular hunting laws passed during the last legislative session such as the split license for nonresident upland and waterfowl; the license fee increases and PLOTS areas for resident hunters only the first week. The present law relates to a cost of only \$6.07 per day for the 14 day waterfowl license and \$8.50 per day for the 10-day upland license. The cost is miniscule when compared against other expenses incurred by hunters. Giving residents preference on PLOTS land the first week and preference on license fees should be one of the perks of living and working in North Dakota. Nonresident upland hunters actually increased this past season since new licensing fees took affect showing that license cost is not a factor in determining nonresident hunter numbers.

Thank You.

Rep: Don Dietrich
Re: HB1339
1/27/05
(pg 1 of 2)

HB1339
OPPOSITION

27 January, 2005

Good evening Chairman Nelson and members of the Natural Resources Committee, I am Rep. Don Dietrich of District 42 which is located in Grand Forks

I am here to testify in OPPOSITION to HB1339.

I have been a life long resident of North Dakota and have been an avid outdoorsman and hunter since the age of 8 years, so you can be assured that hunting has been a large part of my North Dakota Heritage.

Hunting fees that have been collected for the privilege of hunting in our state by both residents and non-residents has had an extraordinary impact on how our state Game & Fish Department Operates. Without adequate fees, we simply cannot and will not provide the department with the necessary funds in which to properly operate.

Our state is public land poor, and without proper funding, our P.L.O.T.S. Program will suffer along with hunting opportunities for our citizens. The PLOTS Program probably is the most effective program in which to obtain hunting opportunities for everyone. It is a win-win situation for the land owner as well as the hunter.

Our neighbors in Minnesota and South Dakota realize the necessity to collect ample hunting fees in which to operate their departments. In the two handouts which I have provided you will find examples of these fees. Please note that South Dakota's fee is much higher than North Dakota, that it is a 10 day license, and hunters cannot begin hunting until 10AM when in North Dakota we allow hunting all day

South Dakota has reaped great benefits from their program as we should. We have a resource that out of state hunters are willing to pay for in the amount that is presently fair. A hunting license probably is the least expensive expense for the our of state hunter, but is also one of the most important funding sources for our Game & Fish Department.

The Pheasant population has greatly expanded eastward in the last few years which allows for more opportunities to hunt. More people are taking advantage of the expanded area and are not traveling as far west to Mott and other high pressure areas.

With less travel, the high price of fuel, better availability of motels as well as more access to hunting land, hunters are more spread out across the state. Mott and other high pressure areas may not be enjoying the same high success as in the past, but other areas in our state are now taking advantage of this new source of revenue. Also, hunters will go

where the game is. If upland game numbers are down in an area, hunters traveling to the area will be down.

Waterfowl is somewhat of a different situation. The heavy hunting pressure on the local raised ducks causes them to move out of the area quicker. Good weather in Canada will hold waterfowl until poor weather causes them to migrate. When this is the case, hunters do not have good opportunity to harvest waterfowl so they simply wait until there are birds to hunt. This of course will have an impact on the cafes, motels, and gas stations in waterfowl territory. Lower out of state hunter numbers may easily be blamed on high license fees or the amount of time allowed on the license when in fact, it is caused by early hunting pressure and Mother Nature.

Our North Dakota State Game and Fish Department gave compelling testimony that is based on the facts as well as biology. They have shown that opportunities for non-resident hunters are indeed great. They have also shown by the fiscal note that the department will not be able to provide the service we expect with a shortage of approximately \$2,200,000 per year. The PLOTS Program and 770,000 acres of hunting land will be lost. Hunting opportunities for "All" hunters will be lost. The negative economic impact will no doubt cause great harm to most areas of the state.

By basing our decisions on the scientific facts and the excellent studies provided, we can and will make good solid decisions which are right for North Dakota.

I urge the committee to recommend a DO NOT PASS on the bill

Thank You

Rep. Don Dietrich



Convention & Visitors Bureau

January 27, 2005

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Natural Resources Committee, my name is Terri Thiel and I am the Executive Director of the Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau is in favor of House Bill 1339.

This bill would allow nonresident upland game hunters to extend their hunting experiences, thus in turn benefiting not only incorporated cities, but also the rural cottage businesses such as the hunting lodges and other rural services.

According to the NDSU Agribusiness & Applied Economics Report No. 549 published in November 2004, entitled "Developing the Outdoor Recreation-related and Nature-based Tourism Sector in Southwestern North Dakota" page 3 states - The region's world-class uplands game hunting has become a key drawing card for visitors across the country and a key contributor to the growth in visitor numbers in the region.

Page 19 also states that - The survey of Southwest region outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism businesses revealed that a large segment of businesses had a hunting focus. Forty-three percent of respondents indicated that hunting services were the primary focus of their businesses and 58 percent provide hunting-related services.

However page 29 states - under Constraints, Challenges and Threats - Restrictions on signage, liability insurance issues and restrictions on out-of-state hunters were identified as impediments and even potential threats to the growth and expansion of the nature-based and outdoor recreation-related tourism sector in the SW region and elsewhere in the state.

Rural North Dakota is developing businesses to keep their communities alive and productive.

Please support House Bill 1339.

Sincerely,

Terri Thiel
Executive Director

TESTIMONY OF CLAUDE HEIDT
January 27, 2005

I operate a small retail and manufacturing business at Mott, ND, right in the heart of Hettinger County which is one of the most important pheasant hunting areas in the world. We have hunters from every part of the US including Alaska. These hunters spend a good deal of money in Mott and the surrounding towns. In my small business I do get a small amount of business directly from hunters, and I also benefit indirectly from the dollars other businesses such as retaraunts, gas stations and fee hunting operations bring in. I have a stake in the hunting industry.

Two years ago when these new laws came into effect it hit our community hard. First we had to explain to the out of state hunters why, after coming here for years, they were no longer welcome. With all the money ND spends on promoting tourism, why are we telling the hunting tourists they are not welcome?

The best thing I can say about the 10 day hunting law is that it is a solution in search of a problem, much like the old joke about the doctor who found a cure for which there was no disease. I can think of no group of people who gained anything from these new laws. The new law did not benefit in-state hunters by making more hunting land and pheasants

available. If you take away the farmer's ability to make money from hunting, you will also remove his incentive to maintain growth of the pheasant population.

The people of ND are the biggest losers here. We should be doing all we can to get hunters to come here, not only for economic reasons, but also for the positive experience we can provide to out of state folks.