

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1019

2001 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1019

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1019

House Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Division

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 16, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1 of 1	x	x	740
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Judy Schrock</i>			

Minutes:

Representatives Aarsvold, Boehm, Gulleason, Martinson, Monson, Wald, Wentz.

Representative Dean Hildebrand: A brief 7 minute overview video. (945) I want to touch briefly on some of our major concerns. A big issue is how many non residents do we have in ND. The other issue will be, "find me a place to hunt". I am going to be asking for five additional employees, one of which is a GPS, Global Position Specialist. We now manage 450 lakes with fish. We get requests for docks, and fish cleaning stations. Wild Life Clubs help maintain. We put up a 75 percent cost and the club will do the 25. We need the help of these Wild Life Clubs, but there is high maintenance. Of course we have more and more requests. We have 150 fishing tournaments a year. These need to be monitored. These people are here for about a week. We have sold 22,000 non resident license, and not enough places to hunt. You will see some signs, PLOTS, private land open to the sportsmen. We went to the people with CRP contracts. We told them we would pay for their seed or up to 20.00 per acre. But they

would have to open it for walk in hunting, but only for the duration of the contract. This has been a vital part of our program. We have 120,000 acres and I want to get to 140,000 acres. My philosophy is I want to pay the land owner for the land we use. This has been a success story for us. We would like to plant more pheasants in other areas. We will need to get trees in those areas.

Paul Schadewald: (3320) Chief Administrator to Services Division of ND Game and Fish Department. See attached.

Representative Wald: (4275) Will that be on your campus out where you are?

Paul Schadewald: We are hoping it will be on the Fair property to the East. Continue with attached.

Representative Wald: (4604) We used to get many complaints about leafy spurge. The perception being, not enough being done to control weeds. What kind of a program with other land owners or agencies do you have on the leafy spurge.

Paul Schadewald: We have done major change on that. One of the reasons for that the flea beetle has been planted, harvested and distributed beetles to neighbors. Some cases we still do some spraying which is not very effective. It hasn't taken care of all of it, but is much more except able. Continue attached.

Representative Gulleason: (5800) Is the over abundance of deer state wide or just in certain areas.

Paul Schadewald: Not so much in the Western part of the state, but in the North West and the Eastern half there are very high levels. We have tried to issue more licenses. See attached depredation. There is no short easy policy on how you can manage deer.

Dean Hildebrand: The best way to protect them is to call the Game and Fish Department. We build hay proof hay yards. We buy the material if they put it up. It has been very effective.

Deer do bunch up in the snow. We buy hay from the farmers but they need to distribute it.

Representative Aarsvold: (69) We tried to buy fishing license in Minnesota last year. We were told you had to have certain computer linkages to St. Paul before you could get a license. I hope the Department is not looking to that as a solution to licensing.

Dean Hildebrand: We have many pages on our web site but we also know in rural ND we still need to deliver services to that customer. So we will continue the paper of licensing.

Representative Wald: (229) People are ready to pay more for license rather than give up the conveniences. Your personnel, how many have opted to move from the defined benefit retirement plan to the defined contribution?

Dean Hildebrand: I think two. We work very hard to establish a hunter, landowner relationship or relationship with Game and Fish Department. The 44 million dollar CREP Program, that goes directly to the farmers, as well as the CRP Program. With the lake levels we work with the core of engineers to try to maintain those levels. That is a real struggle.

Representative Wentz: Does anyone else wish to appear in opposition of HB1019? Seeing none we will close the hearing on HB1019.

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1019

House Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Division

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 22, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1 of 1	x		430
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Judith Schuch</i>			

Minutes:

Representatives Aarsvold, Boehm, Gulleason, Martinson, Monson, Wald, Wentz.

Representative Martinson: We did meet with Game and Fish, and our Majority Leader on these positions. It is our recommendation that we keep all of the positions in there. Two game wardens, two biologists, and one in information technology. Even if we were to pass this bill as is they would have a reserve in access of 10 million dollars in their reserve fund. I thought Dean and Paul did a good job of explaining why they needed the biologist, and also the wardens, and information. Madam Chairman I move that we approve the budget HB1019 as presented to us.

Representative Boehm: I second it.

Representative Wentz: It has been moved and seconded that we recommend the budget as presented to us to the full committee. Representative Martinson you will carry it to the full committee.

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Education and Environment Division
Bill/Resolution Number HB1019
Hearing Date January 22, 2001

The roll call vote 7 yes, 0 no on HB1019. Representatives Aarsvold, Boehm, Gulleason,
Martinson, Monson, Wald, Wentz.

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1019

House Appropriations Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 26, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
HB1019 1	X		1917 - 2840
Committee Clerk Signature <i>LZ Gosh</i>			

Minutes:

ACTION ON HB 1019.

Rep. Bob Martinson: HB1019 is the appropriation for the Game and Fish Department, these are all special funds that are no general fund dollars in this bill. The committee passed it out just as it was presented to us, and Governor Hoeven increased the Schafer budget by \$200,000, and that \$200,000 dollars is to go to the agriculture department as a grant to match federal money to control skunks, coyotes, beavers and other animals of that type. The appropriation calls for adding 5 FTE's, one is a biologist for game habitat and works with the cover lock initiative which provides for a 20 acre block of habitat for animals. That's the biologist position, the other is a biologist position for fish, there is a computer and network specialist position that will do mapping and GPS and electronic survey type things for water surveys and nesting habitat and then they add two FTE's for game warden's.

Rep. Mike Timm: Any questions for Rep. Martinson?

Rep. Kim Koppelman: Was there any indication as to why the additional game wardens are needed?

Response: Well, yes, because there are people out there that are doing things that they shouldn't be doing. They haven't added any game wardens in quite some time, and hunting and fishing is a really big opportunity in the industry in North Dakota and it brings in a lot of revenue. Its a big industry and they need more people to police it.

Rep. Bob Skarphol:It says it provides funding for the Dept. Of Agriculture in the amount of \$68,000 for veterinary services, and I'm working on that particular budget and I'm just a little curious. Could you enlighten me on that?

Response: No, I cannot

Rep. Mike Timm: Is that something to do with that one program called cover lock? Response was no. Was it \$58,000. No. It was \$68,000.

Joe Morrissette, Legislative Council. That is \$68,000 that the Game and Fish Dept. Uses to contract with the Board of Animal Health for veterinary services. But I'm not sure of what instances they would have to use that.

Rep. Ole Aarsvold: I know that they share responsibilities with the Ag. Dept. for non typical livestock, Elk, Buffalo, and that sort of thing, so it would be my guess that they are using veterinary services for that purpose, and that would account for that \$68,000.

Rep. Bob Martinson: I would move a DO PASS on HB1019 as presented. Seconded by Rep. Wald.

Rep. Jeff Delzer: On the \$50,000 for noxious weeds, I don't have a problem with that but did they give you any kind of information if they are contracting with counties, county weed boards,

and how many acres did they expect to do with this and is this infact enough to cover what they don't think their covering?

Rep. Bob Martinson: Yes they do work with the counties, I don't know how many acres and I'm sure they could use more money.

Rep. Mike Timm: Its probably noxious weeds on game refuge's.

Rep. Jeff Delzer: This is one of the issues that people are quite upset about, is the fact that we bugged all the time about noxious weeds, and yet we see Game and Fish land that doesn't have it and its more U.S. Problem than it is a state problem. I don't have a problem with it, I just wondering how much more they were hoping to do and where they were going at.

Rep. Francis Wald: I asked that same question at the hearing and if I can recall somewhat correctly, the commissioner said that yes they work with county weed boards and other people interested in particularly leafy splurge. I was satisfied at the hearing on their effort at weed control was satisfactory and their doing as much as they possibly can.

Rep. Bob Skarphol: One follow up question to Rep.Delzer's question. What kind of acreage does Game and Fish control or have oversight over?

Rep. Bob Martinson: I don't have the answer, but I will call Game and Fish and get the answer to this question and the other that was asked.

Rep. Rex Byerly: On the capital improvements line item, the cover locks program is 1.2 Million, is considered in that line item that's for capital improvements?

Rep. Bob Martinson: That capital improvements line includes \$684,000 for extra ordinary repairs spread out through different areas. And \$275,000 for the construction of the storage building and secure storage yard , and \$340,000 for habitat improvement projects.

Rep. Mike Timm: Any other discussion? We have a motion.

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House Appropriations Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HB1019
Hearing Date January 26, 2001

We will take the roll on HB1019. DO PASS

YES (20) NO (0) ABSENT (1)

Motion Passes.

Rep. Martinson will carry the bill to the House Floor.

Action on HB1019 is completed.

End tape at 2840.

Date: January 22, 01
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. Appropriations Education and Environment Division

House Appropriations Ed & E Committee

☒ Subcommittee on Game & Fish AB 1019

or

☐ Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Rep. Martinson Seconded By Rep. V. Chair Boehm

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. Janet Wentz -Chairman	✓				
Rep. James Boehm - Vice Chairman	✓				
Rep. Ole Aarsvold	✓				
Rep. Pam Guleson	✓				
Rep. Bob Martinson	✓				
Rep. David Monson	✓				
Rep. Francis J. Wald	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

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

Date: 1-26-01
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1019

House APPROPRIATIONS Committee

☐ Subcommittee on _____
or
☐ Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By MARTINSON Seconded By WALD

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Timm - Chairman	✓				
Wald - Vice Chairman	✓				
Rep - Aarsvold	✓		Rep - Koppelman	✓	
Rep - Boehm	✓		Rep - Martinson	✓	
Rep - Byerly	✓		Rep - Monson	✓	
Rep - Carlisle	✓		Rep - Skarphol	✓	
Rep - Delzer	✓		Rep - Svedjan	✓	
Rep - Glassheim	✓		Rep - Thoreson	✓	
Rep - Gulleon	✓		Rep - Warner	✓	
Rep - Huether			Rep - Wentz	✓	
Rep - Kempenich	✓				
Rep - Kerzman	✓				
Rep - Kliniske	✓				

Total (Yes) 20 No _____

Absent 1

Floor Assignment MARTINSON

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

2001 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1019

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1019

Senate Appropriations Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 15, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	44.6-50.6
2	X		0.0-21.8
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Debbie Schade</i>			

Minutes:

Senator Nething opened the hearing on HB 1019, ND Game & Fish Department.

Dean Hildebrand, Director of the ND Game and Fish Department, gave a slide presentation, handed out numerous magazines and stated his testimony was in the ND Outdoors Magazine (attached), pages 12-14, 2000 Overview, copies attached. Pages are on Public Service, Capital Improvements, 2001 Game and Fish Budget, CARA Recap, and Grassland Management.

Paul Schadewald, Chief of Administrative Services, testified on the budget (testimony attached).

Senator Solberg: Your amendment request, was this addressed in the House?

Paul Schadewald: By error it was not attached and was not amended in the House.

Senator Solberg: Hunters that hunt waterfall, do they come back to hunt deer; there has been extensive damage done by the deer population in the last couple of months; how can we control this?

Page 2

Senate Appropriations Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HB 1019

Hearing Date February 15, 2001

Dean Hildebrand: There is a 80% ratio on deer and too many make it through the winter as they group together and we try to monitor these areas.

Senator Andrist: What is the supply of deer licenses for out of state hunters for the 1%?

Dean Hildebrand: The ND hunter is very contentious with waterfall hunters; the out of state hunters or 1% of the licenses sold in ND is mandated by legislation. This really needs to be opened up; there is no restriction for out of state deer bow hunters. Only allowed with outfitters.

Senator Robinson: When is your next auction for confiscated items?

Paul Schadewald: This is an annual auction; it is not scheduled, it depends on supplies; this is on our web page when scheduled.

Senator Thang: Is the slide presentation to showed to the committee available to the public?

Dean Hildebrand: Yes, as many as you need.

Dean Hildebrand: Also I would like to state to the committee that our department has lost a lot of employees to other agencies because of wages.

Senator Nething: Explain the \$200,000 amendments?

Dean Hildebrand: For hunter education; this is volunteered with great support.

With no opposition, the hearing was closed. Tape #2, Side A, meter 21.8

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Senate Appropriations Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HB 1019

Hearing Date February 15, 2001

3-28-01 Full Committee Action (Tape #1, Side A, Meter # 26.0-27.0)

Senator Nething reopened the hearing on HB1019 - State Game and Fish Department. Review and discussion followed by Senator Nething submitting proposed amendment #18019.0101 as were requested as a result of the hearing. Discussion; Senator Bowman moved the amendments be adopted; Senator Solberg seconded. Discussion; Senator Bowman moved a DO PASS AS AMENDED; seconded by Senator Robinson. Discussion; call for the vote. Roll Call Vote: 14 yes; 0 no; 0 absent and not voting.

Senator Robinson accepted the floor assignment.

Office of Management and Budget
January 16, 2001

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1019

Page 1, line 20, replace "200,000" with "400,000"

Page 1, line 22, replace "\$34,719,641" with "\$34,919,641"

Page 2, line 18, replace "\$200,000" with "\$400,000"

Renumber accordingly

Statement of purpose of amendment:

To increase the wildlife services special line item by \$200,000 of special funds.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1019

Page 1, line 20, replace "200,000" with "400,000"

Page 1, line 22, replace "34,719,641" with "34,919,641"

Page 2, line 18, replace "\$200,000" with "\$400,000"

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

House Bill No. 1019 - Game and Fish Department - Senate Action

	EXECUTIVE BUDGET	HOUSE VERSION	SENATE CHANGES	SENATE VERSION
Salaries and wages	\$13,889,059	\$13,889,059		\$13,889,059
Operating expenses	8,320,714	8,320,714		8,320,714
Equipment	793,505	793,505		793,505
Capital improvements	1,259,488	1,259,488		1,259,488
Grants	3,578,050	3,578,050		3,578,050
Noxious weed control	250,000	250,000		250,000
Land habitat and deer depredation	4,738,476	4,738,476		4,738,476
Grants, gifts, and donations	150,000	150,000		150,000
Nongame wildlife conservation	120,000	120,000		120,000
Waterbank program	200,000	200,000		200,000
Wildlife services	200,000	200,000	\$200,000	400,000
Lonetree reservoir	<u>1,220,351</u>	<u>1,220,351</u>		<u>1,220,351</u>
Total all funds	\$34,719,641	\$34,719,641	\$200,000	\$34,919,641
Less estimated income	<u>34,719,641</u>	<u>34,719,641</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>34,919,641</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	136.00	136.00	0.00	136.00

Dept. 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Senate Changes

	ADD FUNDING FOR WILDLIFE SERVICES ¹	TOTAL SENATE CHANGES
Salaries and wages		
Operating expenses		
Equipment		
Capital improvements		
Grants		
Noxious weed control		
Land habitat and deer depredation		
Grants, gifts, and donations		
Nongame wildlife conservation		
Waterbank program		
Wildlife services	\$200,000	\$200,000
Lonetree reservoir		
Total all funds	\$200,000	\$200,000
Less estimated income	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00

¹ The Senate amendment adds \$200,000 from the game and fish fund to the wildlife services line item to provide a total of \$400,000, as recommended in the Hoeven budget recommendation.

Date: 3-23-01

Roll Call Vote #:

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. S. 101

Senate Appropriations

Committee

☐ Subcommittee on _____

or

☐ Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

OMB Amendment 1-16-01
(Kittlingworth) / S. 101

Action Taken

On Pass the Amendment

Motion Made By

Senator

Robinson

Seconded

By

Senator

Robinson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Dave Nething, Chairman	✓				
Ken Solberg, Vice-Chairman	✓				
Randy A. Schobinger	✓				
Elroy N. Lindaas	✓				
Harvey Tallackson	✓				
Larry J. Robinson	✓				
Steven W. Tomac	✓				
Joel C. Heitkamp	✓				
Tony Grindberg	✓				
Russell T. Thane	✓				
Ed Kringstad	✓				
Ray Holmberg	✓				
Bill Bowman	✓				
John M. Andrist	✓				

Total Yes

14

No

6

Absent

0

Floor Assignment

Senator

Robinson

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1019: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Nething, Chairman) recommends
AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS**
(14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1019 was placed on the
Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 20, replace "200,000" with "400,000"

Page 1, line 22, replace "34,719,641" with "34,919,641"

Page 2, line 18, replace "\$200,000" with "\$400,000"

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

House Bill No. 1019 - Game and Fish Department - Senate Action

	EXECUTIVE BUDGET	HOUSE VERSION	SENATE CHANGES	SENATE VERSION
Salaries and wages	\$13,889,059	\$13,889,059		\$13,889,059
Operating expenses	8,320,714	8,320,714		8,320,714
Equipment	793,505	793,505		793,505
Capital improvements	1,259,486	1,259,486		1,259,486
Grants	3,578,050	3,578,050		3,578,050
Noxious weed control	250,000	250,000		250,000
Land habitat and deer depredation	4,738,476	4,738,476		4,738,476
Grants, gifts, and donations	150,000	150,000		150,000
Nongame wildlife conservation	120,000	120,000		120,000
Waterbank program	200,000	200,000		200,000
Wildlife services	200,000	200,000	\$200,000	400,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,220,351	1,220,351		1,220,351
Total all funds	\$34,719,041	\$34,719,641	\$200,000	\$34,919,641
Less estimated income	<u>34,719,641</u>	<u>34,719,641</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>34,919,641</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	136.00	136.00	0.00	136.00

Dept. 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Senate Changes

	ADD FUNDING FOR WILDLIFE SERVICES ¹	TOTAL SENATE CHANGES
Salaries and wages		
Operating expenses		
Equipment		
Capital improvements		
Grants		
Noxious weed control		
Land habitat and deer depredation		
Grants, gifts, and donations		
Nongame wildlife conservation		
Waterbank program		
Wildlife services	\$200,000	\$200,000
Lonetree reservoir		
Total all funds	\$200,000	\$200,000
Less estimated income	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 29, 2001 9:21 a.m.

Module No: SR-55-7077
Carrier: Robinson
Insert LC: 18019.0101 Title: .0200

¹ The Senate amendment adds \$200,000 from the game and fish fund to the wildlife services line item to provide a total of \$1,400,000 as recommended in the Hoover budget recommendation.

2001 TESTIMONY

HB 1019

January 15, 2001

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department
House Bill No. 1019

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2001-03 Schafer Executive Budget	138.00		\$34,719,641	\$34,719,641
1999-2001 Legislative Appropriations	131.00		30,578,752	30,578,752
Increase (Decrease)	<u>5.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$4,140,889</u>	<u>\$4,140,889</u>

2001-03 Hooven Executive Budget	136.00		\$34,919,641	\$34,919,641
Hooven Increase (Decrease) to Schafer	<u>0.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$200,000</u>	<u>\$200,000</u>

The 1999-2001 appropriation amounts include \$70,426 of other funds for the agency's share of the \$5.4 million funding pool appropriated to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for special market equity adjustments for classified employees and \$2,290 of other funds for the agency's share of the \$1.4 million funding pool appropriated to OMB for assisting agencies in providing \$35 per month minimum salary increases in July 1999 and July 2000. The 1999-2001 appropriation amounts do not include additional other funds spending authority of \$177,364 carried over from the 1997-99 biennium for capital projects.

Major Schafer Recommendations Affecting Game and Fish Department 2001-03 Budget

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Provides funding for salary adjustments, in addition to the executive budget compensation package, to increase salaries to new pay range minimums established by Central Personnel.		\$7,374	\$7,374
Increases the operating expenses line item from \$7,779,014 to \$8,320,714 to reflect the following changes:			
Increases funding for utilities from \$213,000 to \$253,000		\$40,000	\$40,000
Increases funding for information technology--data processing from \$222,447 to \$313,000		90,553	90,553
Increases funding for information technology--software and supplies from \$67,000 to \$137,000		70,000	70,000
Decreases funding for operating fees and services from \$709,049 to \$567,449		(151,600)	(151,600)
Decreases funding for repairs from \$252,900 to \$212,900		(40,000)	(40,000)
Increases funding for inflationary increases in various costs, including State Fleet services		350,000	350,000
Increases from \$100,000 to \$200,000 the amount of indirect cost reimbursement paid by the department		100,000	100,000
Other		82,747	82,747
Total recommended changes		<u>\$541,700</u>	<u>\$541,700</u>
3. Adds 1 FTE biologist II and provides the following amounts for the department's proposed coverlocks initiative. (The proposed coverlocks program will provide landowner incentives to establish 20-acre blocks of winter habitat and provide a 30-year public easement on the quarter section containing the coverlock habitat.)			
Salaries and wages (land habitat and deer depredation line item)		\$81,876	\$81,876
Operating expenses (land habitat and deer depredation line item)		1,118,195	1,118,195
Equipment (land habitat and deer depredation line item)		4,000	4,000
Total recommended appropriation		<u>\$1,204,071</u>	<u>\$1,204,071</u>

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
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4. Adds 1 FTE computer and network specialist II and provides the following amounts to coordinate the department's use of geographic information systems data and technology:

Salaries and wages	\$80,295	\$80,295
Operating expenses	6,000	6,000
Equipment	5,000	5,000
Total recommended appropriation	<u>\$91,295</u>	<u>\$91,295</u>

5. Increases the grants, gifts, and donations line item from \$100,000 to \$160,000 to allow the department to accept and spend 50 percent more for special projects financed with funds from those sources.

\$50,000	\$50,000
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6. Adds 1 FTE biologist III and provides the following amounts for the department's proposed aquatic habitat improvement initiative:

Salaries and wages	\$89,529	\$89,529
Operating expenses	35,700	35,700
Equipment	5,000	5,000
Capital improvements	340,000	340,000
Grants	81,000	81,000
Land habitat and deer depredation line item	400,000	400,000
Total recommended appropriation	<u>\$951,229</u>	<u>\$951,229</u>

7. Decreases from \$248,750 to \$80,000 the amount provided to the Parks and Recreation Department; \$80,000 for costs incurred in cleaning and maintaining fish cleaning stations, boat ramps, and vault toilets (no change from the amount appropriated for the 1999-2001 biennium for this purpose); and \$0 for boat ramp repairs at state parks. The 1999-2001 appropriation included \$168,750 for the Parks and Recreation Department for boat ramp repairs at Lake Sakakawea and Lewis and Clark State Parks.

(\$168,750)	(\$168,750)
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8. Adds 2 FTE game warden II positions and provides the following amounts for the enforcement division:

Salaries and wages	\$162,452	\$162,452
Operating expenses	50,000	50,000
Equipment	12,000	12,000
Total recommended appropriation	<u>\$224,452</u>	<u>\$224,452</u>

9. Increases funding for noxious weed control by 25 percent, from \$200,000 to \$250,000 to reflect increased costs for chemical and biological control methods.

\$50,000	\$50,000
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10. Increases funding for the land habitat and deer depredation line item to enhance the department's private land habitat programs.

\$650,000	\$650,000
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11. Increases from \$45,000 to \$68,000 the amount provided to the Department of Agriculture for veterinary services utilized by the Game and Fish Department.

\$23,000	\$23,000
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12. Increases the wildlife services line item from \$100,000 to \$200,000 and provides that the \$200,000 is for a grant to the Department of Agriculture to replace \$200,000 of general fund appropriation authority previously provided for the Department of Agriculture's wildlife services line item. (The Game and Fish Department's wildlife services line item was previously used to directly reimburse the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services Agency for animal control services and was not provided as a grant to the Department of Agriculture.)

\$100,000	\$100,000
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13. Provides \$200,000 for the waterbank program (no change from the amount appropriated for the 1999-2001 biennium).

\$0	\$0
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	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
14. Provides \$1,299,486 for capital improvements, a decrease of \$342,836 compared to the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation of \$1,642,122:			
Extraordinary repairs		\$684,486	\$684,486
Construction of a storage building and secure storage yard in the Bismarck area		275,000	275,000
Aquatic habitat improvement projects		340,000	340,000
Total recommended appropriation		<u>\$1,299,486</u>	<u>\$1,299,486</u>

**Major Hoeven Recommendations Affecting Game and Fish Department 2001-03 Budget
Compared to the Bill as Introduced (Schafer Budget)**

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Increases the wildlife services line item by an additional \$200,000 (\$100,000 increase included in the Schafer recommendation), from \$100,000 in 1999-2001 to \$400,000 in 2001-03, for a grant to the Department of Agriculture. (The Game and Fish Department's wildlife services line item was previously used to directly reimburse the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services Agency for animal control services and was not provided as a grant to the Department of Agriculture.)		\$200,000	\$200,000

Major Legislation Affecting the Game and Fish Department

Senate Bill No. 2025 - This bill directs the Game and Fish Department to establish a deerproof hay yard program at no cost to landowners.

Senate Bill No. 2051 - This bill requires an applicant for a motorboat license to provide proof of payment of sales or use tax, or proof that the purchase of the motorboat was through a casual sale and is exempt from sales and use tax.

Senate Bill No. 2170 - This bill allows all nonresident youth hunters to purchase a resident small game hunting license.

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department
House Bill No. 1019

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2001-03 Schafer Executive Budget	136.00		\$34,719,641	\$34,719,641
1999-2001 Legislative Appropriations	131.00		30,578,752	30,578,752
Increase (Decrease)	5.00	\$0	\$4,140,889	\$4,140,889

2001-03 Hoeven Executive Budget	136.00		\$34,919,641	\$34,919,641
Hoeven Increase (Decrease) to Schafer	0.00	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000

The 1999-2001 appropriation amounts include \$70,426 of other funds for the agency's share of the \$5.4 million funding pool appropriated to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for special market equity adjustments for classified employees and \$2,290 of other funds for the agency's share of the \$1.4 million funding pool appropriated to OMB for assisting agencies in providing \$35 per month minimum salary increases in July 1999 and July 2000. The 1999-2001 appropriation amounts do not include additional other funds spending authority of \$177,364 carried over from the 1997-99 biennium for capital projects.

Major Schafer Recommendations Affecting Game and Fish Department 2001-03 Budget

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Provides funding for salary adjustments, in addition to the executive budget compensation package, to increase salaries to new pay range minimums established by Central Personnel.		\$7,374	\$7,374
2. Increases the operating expenses line item from \$7,779,014 to \$8,320,714 to reflect the following changes:			
Increases funding for utilities from \$213,000 to \$253,000		\$40,000	\$40,000
Increases funding for information technology--data processing from \$222,447 to \$313,000		90,553	90,553
Increases funding for information technology--software and supplies from \$67,000 to \$137,000		70,000	70,000
Decreases funding for operating fees and services from \$709,049 to \$557,449		(151,600)	(151,600)
Decreases funding for repairs from \$252,900 to \$212,900		(40,000)	(40,000)
Increases funding for inflationary increases in various costs, including State Fleet services		350,000	350,000
Increases from \$100,000 to \$200,000 the amount of indirect cost reimbursement paid by the department		100,000	100,000
Other		82,747	82,747
Total recommended changes		\$541,700	\$541,700
3. Adds 1 FTE biologist II and provides the following amounts for the department's proposed coverlocks initiative. (The proposed coverlocks program will provide landowner incentives to establish 20-acre blocks of winter habitat and provide a 30-year public easement on the quarter section containing the coverlock habitat.)			
Salaries and wages (land habitat and deer depredation line item)		\$81,876	\$81,876
Operating expenses (land habitat and deer depredation line item)		1,118,195	1,118,195
Equipment (land habitat and deer depredation line item)		4,000	4,000
Total recommended appropriation		\$1,204,071	\$1,204,071

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
4. Adds 1 FTE computer and network specialist II and provides the following amounts to coordinate the department's use of geographic information systems data and technology:			
Salaries and wages		\$80,295	\$80,295
Operating expenses		6,000	6,000
Equipment		5,000	5,000
Total recommended appropriation		<u>\$91,295</u>	<u>\$91,295</u>
5. Increases the grants, gifts, and donations line item from \$100,000 to \$150,000 to allow the department to accept and spend 50 percent more for special projects financed with funds from those sources.		\$50,000	\$50,000
6. Adds 1 FTE biologist III and provides the following amounts for the department's proposed aquatic habitat improvement initiative:			
Salaries and wages		\$89,529	\$89,529
Operating expenses		35,700	35,700
Equipment		5,000	5,000
Capital improvements		340,000	340,000
Grants		81,000	81,000
Land habitat and deer depredation line item		400,000	400,000
Total recommended appropriation		<u>\$951,229</u>	<u>\$951,229</u>
7. Decreases from \$248,750 to \$80,000 the amount provided to the Parks and Recreation Department; \$80,000 for costs incurred in cleaning and maintaining fish cleaning stations, boat ramps, and vault toilets (no change from the amount appropriated for the 1999-2001 biennium for this purpose); and \$0 for boat ramp repairs at state parks. The 1999-2001 appropriation included \$168,750 for the Parks and Recreation Department for boat ramp repairs at Lake Sakakawea and Lewis and Clark State Parks.		(\$168,750)	(\$168,750)
8. Adds 2 FTE game warden II positions and provides the following amounts for the enforcement division:			
Salaries and wages		\$162,452	\$162,452
Operating expenses		50,000	50,000
Equipment		12,000	12,000
Total recommended appropriation		<u>\$224,452</u>	<u>\$224,452</u>
9. Increases funding for noxious weed control by 25 percent, from \$200,000 to \$250,000 to reflect increased costs for chemical and biological control methods.		\$50,000	\$50,000
10. Increases funding for the land habitat and deer depredation line item to enhance the department's private land habitat programs.		\$650,000	\$650,000
11. Increases from \$45,000 to \$68,000 the amount provided to the Department of Agriculture for veterinary services utilized by the Game and Fish Department.		\$23,000	\$23,000
12. Increases the wildlife services line item from \$100,000 to \$200,000 and provides that the \$200,000 is for a grant to the Department of Agriculture to replace \$200,000 of general fund appropriation authority previously provided for the Department of Agriculture's wildlife services line item. (The Game and Fish Department's wildlife services line item was previously used to directly reimburse the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services Agency for animal control services and was not provided as a grant to the Department of Agriculture.)		\$100,000	\$100,000
13. Provides \$200,000 for the waterbank program (no change from the amount appropriated for the 1999-2001 biennium).		\$0	\$0

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
14. Provides \$1,299,486 for capital improvements, a decrease of \$342,636 compared to the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation of \$1,642,122:			
Extraordinary repairs		\$684,486	\$684,486
Construction of a storage building and secure storage yard in the Bismarck area		275,000	275,000
Aquatic habitat improvement projects		340,000	340,000
Total recommended appropriation		<u>\$1,299,486</u>	<u>\$1,299,486</u>

**Major Hoeven Recommendations Affecting Game and Fish Department 2001-03 Budget
Compared to the Bill as Introduced (Schafer Budget)**

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Increases the wildlife services line item by an additional \$200,000 (\$100,000 increase included in the Schafer recommendation), from \$100,000 in 1999-2001 to \$400,000 in 2001-03, for a grant to the Department of Agriculture. (The Game and Fish Department's wildlife services line item was previously used to directly reimburse the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services Agency for animal control services and was not provided as a grant to the Department of Agriculture.) (The House did not increase the wildlife services line item, as recommended in the Hoeven budget.)		\$200,000	\$200,000

Major Legislation Affecting the Game and Fish Department

House Bill No. 1269 - This bill establishes nonresident waterfowl hunting zones in North Dakota and limits the number of licenses to be issued in each zone. The fiscal note indicates a \$760,000 reduction in other funds revenue for the Game and Fish Department for the 2001-03 biennium.

House Bill No. 1272 - This bill allows a gratis deer hunting license to be used in the entire hunting unit in which the landowner's property is located. The fiscal note indicates a \$280,000 reduction in other funds revenue for the Game and Fish Department for the 2001-03 biennium.

House Bill No. 1468 - This bill increases fees and changes the licensing structure for nonresident hunting and fishing licenses. The fiscal note indicates one-time other funds expenditures of \$5,000 for reprinting 2001 small game stamps and additional other funds revenue of \$760,000 for the 2001-03 biennium.

Senate Bill No. 2025 - This bill directs the Game and Fish Department to establish a deerproof hay yard program at no cost to landowners. The fiscal note indicates additional other funds expenditures of \$10,000 per biennium. This bill has passed the Senate.

Senate Bill No. 2178 - This bill enacts the Interstate Wildlife Compact. The fiscal note indicates additional other funds expenditures of \$5,000 per biennium. This bill has passed the Senate.

Senate Bill No. 2394 - The bill establishes annual license fees for outfitters and guides and requires that landowners charging a fee for hunting access on their land possess an outfitter's license and a sales tax permit. The fiscal note indicates that the fiscal impact cannot be determined.

Summary of Legislative Changes to Bill as Introduced

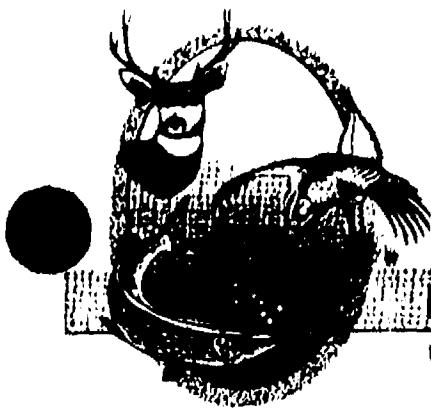
See attached Statement of Purpose of Amendment.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**House Bill No. 1019 - Funding Summary**

	Executive Budget	House Changes	House Version
Game and Fish Department			
Salaries and wages	\$13,889,059		\$13,889,059
Operating expenses	8,320,714		8,320,714
Equipment	793,505		793,505
Capital improvements	1,259,486		1,259,486
Grants	3,578,050		3,578,050
Noxious weed control	250,000		250,000
Land habitat & deer depredation	4,738,476		4,738,476
Grants, gifts, and donations	150,000		150,000
Nongame wildlife conservation	120,000		120,000
Waterbank program	200,000		200,000
Wildlife services	200,000		200,000
Lone tree reservoir	1,220,351		1,220,351
Total all funds	<u>\$34,719,641</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$34,719,641</u>
Less estimated income	<u>34,719,641</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>34,719,641</u>
General fund	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
FTE	136.00	0.00	136.00
Bill Total			
Total all funds	<u>\$34,719,641</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$34,719,641</u>
Less estimated income	<u>34,719,641</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>34,719,641</u>
General fund	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
FTE	136.00	0.00	136.00

House Bill No. 1019 - Game and Fish Department - House Action

The House did not change the Schafer executive budget recommendation for the Game and Fish Department. Governor Hoeven proposed increasing the department's wildlife services line item by \$200,000 from the game and fish fund. The House version does not include this change.



"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501-5095 PHONE 701-328-6306 FAX 701-328-6352

February 15, 2001

2001-2003 Appropriation Request North Dakota Game and Fish Department

The Game and Fish Department is a special fund agency using only hunting, fishing, and boat license revenue and federal funding. The total budget request is \$34,719,641. This is an increase of \$3,963,525 (12.9%) from the 1999-2001 appropriation. Department accounts will easily support this level of funding. This request includes the following amounts:

Game and Fish Fund	\$31,959,641
Nongame Wildlife Fund	\$60,000
Private Land Habitat Fund	\$2,700,000

Appropriation Total \$34,719,641

Paul L. Schaefer

Fund Balances - Fund balance projections are as follows:

	<u>6/30/99</u>	<u>6/30/01</u>	<u>6/30/2003</u>
Game and Fish Fund	\$16,563,854	\$16,700,000	\$13,100,000
Private Land Habitat Fund	\$2,112,959	\$2,100,000	\$1,900,000
Non-Game Wildlife Fund	\$30,560	\$5,600	\$1,500

*Have testimony on 1-10-01
re: identical
to this testimony*

Revenue - Federal revenue is expected to be as follows:

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act	\$5,381,715
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act	\$5,396,790
Recreational Boating Safety Program	\$739,084
Bureau of Reclamation(Lonetree)	<u>\$1,200,000</u>
Total Federal Revenue	\$12,698,238

State Revenue by Fund:

Game and Fish Fund(Licenses + Misc.)	\$15,675,000
Private Land Habitat Fund	\$2,700,000
Nongame Wildlife Fund(Donations)	\$75,000
Total State Revenue	\$18,450,000
Total All Revenue	\$31,167,589

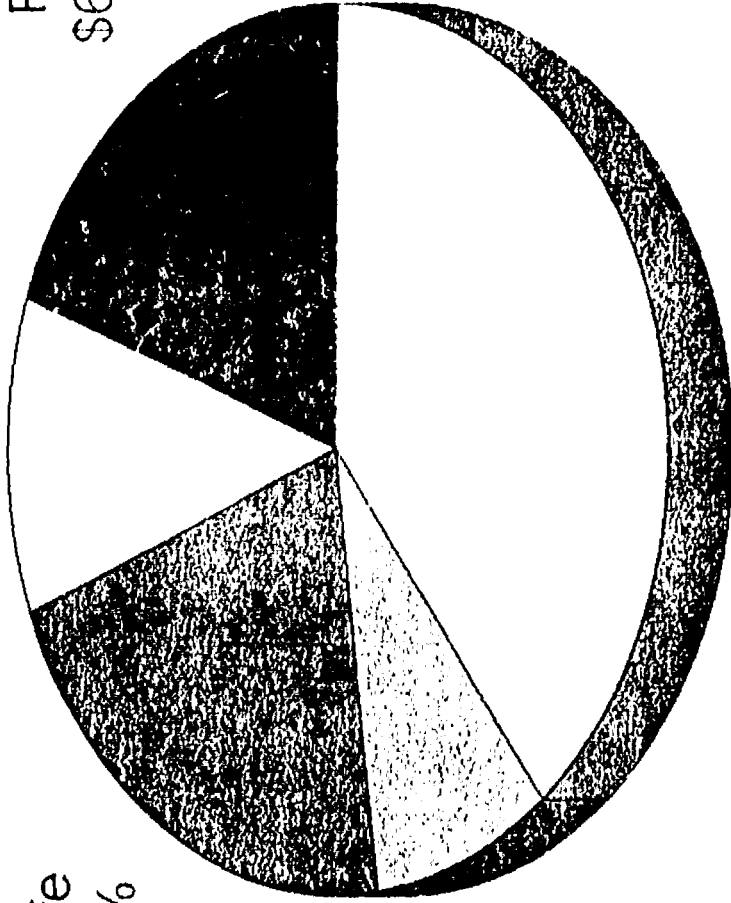
2003 Revenue

Wild Fish Department

Projection

Fishing Related-State
\$3,500,000 11.2%

Federal Aid-Wildlife
\$6,581,715 21.1%

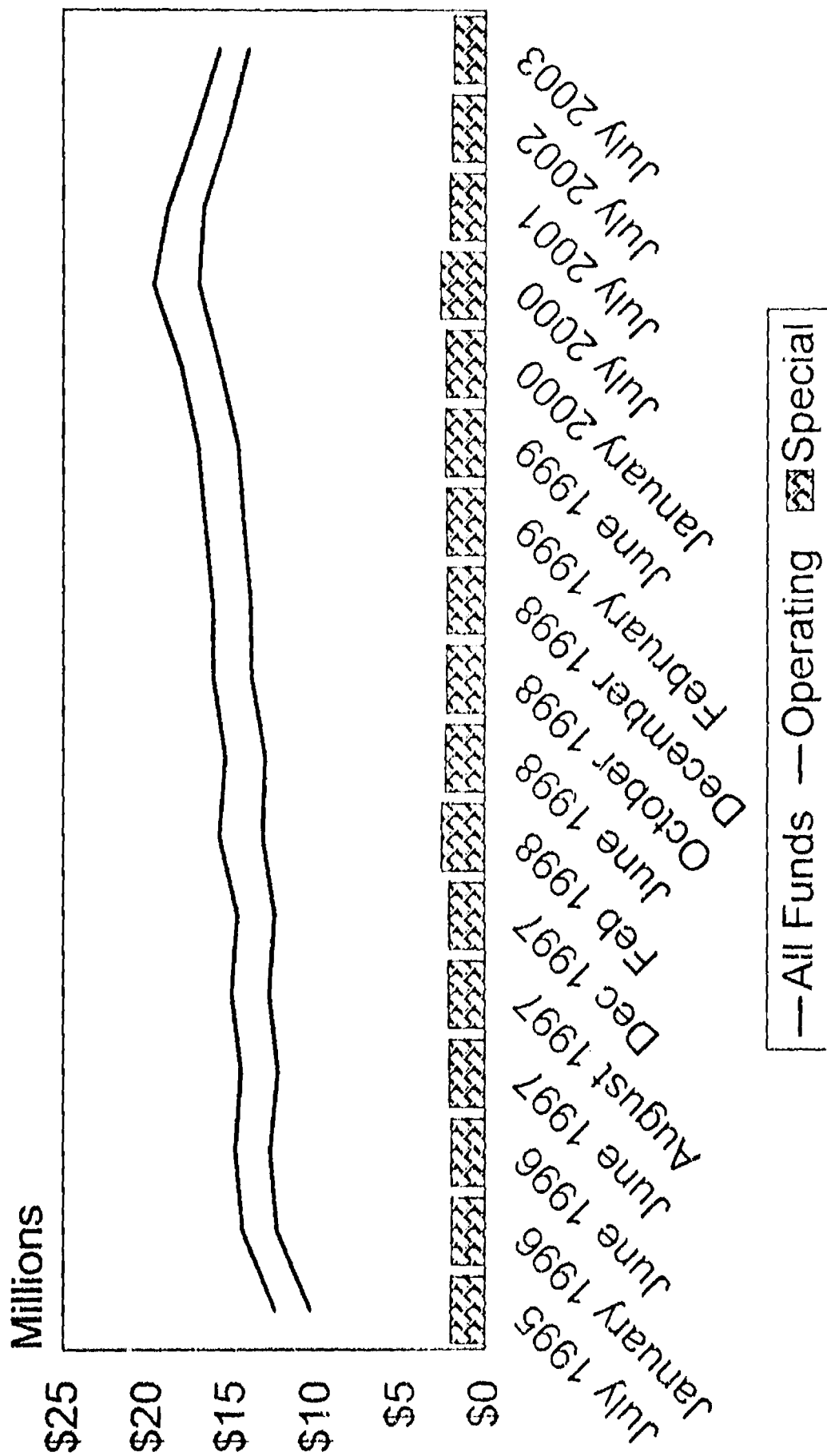


Federal Aid-Fish
\$6,135,874 19.7%

Private Land
\$2,700,000 8.7%

Hunting Related-State
\$12,250,000 39.3%

Total = \$31,167,589



Future dates are estimates as of 9/26/2000

Items of Special Interest

Brief details on the budgets for the Department's five divisions are presented below. Major new items include funding for two new game warden positions, \$1,200,000 for the CoverLocks private land habitat program and \$1,000,000 for an Aquatic Habitat Improvement Program.

1. Administrative Services Division Budget - Costs in this division include the following:

- *Secretarial support for all Divisions
- *Licensing section costs
- *Accounting costs
- *All Department utility, telephone, office rental, janitorial, office supply, insurance, postage, air craft costs, office machine rental, and other similar costs.
- *Legal services
- *Costs for the Game and Fish Advisory Board
- *In Lieu of Tax payments for all Department lands-\$900,000
- *North Dakota Wetland Trust funding-\$25,000
- *Costs for the Director, Deputy Director, Administrative Services Division Chief, Data Processing Coordinators and Planner.
- *Capital improvement funds for office and shop facilities-\$149,944
- *The Department Donation account-\$150,000
- *Statewide Cost Allocation-\$100,000
- *CoverLocks Private Land Habitat Program - \$1,200,000

The Administrative Services Division budget is increased 10% from 1999-2001. The major, most significant increase is the addition of \$1,200,000 for the Department's CoverLocks program. Inflationary increases are included in the operating expense line for travel, tax payments and printing. A Geographic Information System(GIS) position is included to direct the Department's use of this new technology.

CoverLocks Program = \$1,200,000 from the Game and Fish Operating Fund.

CoverLocks for Conservation is a private lands resident wildlife winter habitat project under the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's new Missions in Woodland Habitats program. CoverLocks addresses the need for winter habitats in the form of 20-acre blocks that include heavy winter tree block plantings, herbaceous cover and winter food. Establishment of 1,000 CoverLocks on six EPA-319 watersheds in south-central and southwestern North Dakota will further enhance proposed EPA land-use

practices or those watersheds. These areas have been identified as needing treatments to improve water quality through reduction in sedimentation and chemical and animal waste runoff while at the same time adding long-term, high quality wildlife habitat to the landscape.

This project unveils new producer incentives to participation in return for a 30-year use easement on the 20 acre CoverLock along with the right of public access on the entire quarter section on which the CoverLock sits for the same 30 years. CoverLocks answer to the concerns of private lands public access in exchange for realistic producer compensation for such rights along with the development of high quality wildlife habitat on private lands. It is the Department's view that the future of North Dakota's wildlife resources is on private lands.

The estimated \$44 million dollar project proposed by the ND Game and Fish Department - covering an establishment time line of 15 years - seeks federal cost-share dollars from USDA's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). We anticipate a positive decision on this CREP application prior to the start of the next legislative session.

The Department's request for a biennial appropriation of \$1,200,000 provides the match that we anticipate will be needed for the CREP funds. Financial commitments are subject to availability of both federal and state funds. Federal dollars continue only with the continuation of the CREP program in future farm bills, while state dollars can be appropriated only biennially by the ND legislature.

This request includes funding for one position to help administer this program. Working with a large number of landowners is very labor intensive. Additional staff is needed to implement this program.

The funds for this \$1,200,000 portion of the Private Land Habitat and Depredation program are to come from Game and Fish Department Fund, not the Private Land Habitat Fund. The Game and Fish Department Fund has a high balance. This is a good program for this funding.

2. Fisheries Division Budget - This program includes fish production and distribution, fishery research and surveys, and fishing area and boating facility development and maintenance. This division budget is increased by 26%. Almost \$1,000,000 of this increase is for the Aquatic Habitat/Save Our Lakes program described below. This increase includes the addition of one FTE position to do this work. Grants are used for cost sharing with local governments on fishing and boating facilities and to pay

the department's share of costs for the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery. Grants are also used for creel survey and other fisheries management work. Capital improvements are used for fishing and boating facilities on Department managed lands. The Department receives 75% federal funding for most of the work in this division. In some cases the 25% match comes from local partners such as park boards.

AQUATIC HABITAT/SAVE OUR LAKES

Budget = \$85,168 Salaries, \$35,700 Operating Expenses, \$5,000 Equipment, \$340,000 Capital Improvements, \$81,000 Grants, and \$400,000 in the Private Land Habitat & Deer Depredation line item.

Narrative

Good fishing has been widespread across the state in recent years. Yet the long-term trend points toward deteriorating aquatic habitat and diminishing opportunities. The number one threat to sustaining quality fisheries is loss of aquatic habitat. As water bodies in North Dakota age, their ability to produce desirable fish declines. Accumulation of silt from the watershed, shoreline erosion, increased turbidity and excessive nutrients combine to limit desirable fish populations and in turn limit the quantity and quality of fishing. Approximately 75% of managed fishing waters in North Dakota have experienced a fish kill. These kills are largely a result of reduced volume attributable to sedimentation and high oxygen demand, due to high organic content caused by excessive nutrients.

Fishing is a \$360 million per year industry in North Dakota. While the number of anglers in the United States declined between 1991 and 1996 the number of anglers in North Dakota increased 69% between 1992 and 1998. Much of this can be attributed to new waters across the state but we must prepare for the future when we return to more "normal" conditions. The ability to sustain the state's fishery into the future lies in the ability to adequately address the issues negatively affecting those fisheries.

Fisheries staff identified issues suppressing recreational fisheries across the state and prioritized 55 lakes for potential action. The actions ranged from simple fencing and alternative water sources for livestock to dredging of lakes. The cumulative cost of corrective actions for these lakes exceeds \$36 million. Dredging is many times not a feasible alternative and when removed as an option the remaining actions still entail approximately \$6.5 million on the 55 prioritized lakes. Options such as buffer strips, sedimentation dams, bypass channels, low level

evacuation tubes, etc. must be considered in lieu of expensive and infeasible methods such as dredging.

Funds for preserving and restoring aquatic habitats must be utilized in concert with other funding mechanisms and entities in order to truly be effective. This entails communication and cooperation with other entities and individuals. Some examples would be 319 projects administered by the State Health Department or Conservation Reserve Program or Emergency Watershed Program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Funding at the requested level and personnel to administer and implement projects are required in order to proactively address the challenges. Not all issues can be resolved but a concerted effort will help in reaching our goal of sustaining quality fisheries into the future. One FTE, a Biologist III level position is requested to administer this program. It is a major effort that will also require time from our current staff. We do not have staffing to handle a new program that is this large.

\$600,000 is budgeted as regular line items for work on public lands. Much of the land where lakes and reservoirs are is publically owned. \$400,000 is budgeted in the private lands line item. Dollars from this line item can be spent only on private land. A significant portion of our watershed work will be on private land. The dollars for this entire proposal, including the private land habitat portion, are to come from the game and fish operating fund, not the private land habitat fund. The game and fish operating fund is in excellent shape and can be used to fund this work.

3. Enforcement Division - This budget supports a staff of thirty law enforcement employees. This program is increased by 15%. Most of this increase is related to the addition of two additional game warden positions. The budget includes operating expenses mainly for State Fleet and travel costs. Game wardens are very dependent on vehicles to do their work. Replacement boats, motors, campers, and computers are budgeted in the equipment line item.

4. Conservation and Communication Division - Programs include aquatic and hunter education, ND Outdoors magazine, boating education, and supplying general information to the public. This Division's budget request is a 7% increase from 1999-01. The increase is entirely in the salary line item to support current staff salary levels. Equipment funds are needed to replace and enhance computer systems and video production equipment. Grants are increased to provide funding for local shooting range projects.

Natural resource related reviews and recommendations are provided to private and government entities. This division also includes the nongame wildlife program. It is supported by an income tax checkoff and federal matching funds.

6. Wildlife Division - This budget includes private land habitat and deer depredation programs, operating costs for Department managed lands, and wildlife surveys and investigations. This Division's budget is increased by about 9% from 99-01. The Private Land and Depredation Program is increased by \$400,000 to enhance the regular habitat and access programs. The Waterbank Program line is funded again at the \$200,000 level. Salaries are increased to support current staff. \$200,000 is included to support Wildlife Services's animal damage control work. \$250,000 is requested for noxious weed control on Department lands.

Lonetree Funding - A \$1,200,000 appropriation (-\$114,860) is requested to operate the Lonetree area. The Lonetree area consists of over 30,000 acres of land managed for wildlife purposes. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department provides technical services for this area for the State of North Dakota as laid out in the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act. 100% of the funding for these services come from the Bureau of Reclamation. This is the amount of funding anticipated for 2001-2003.

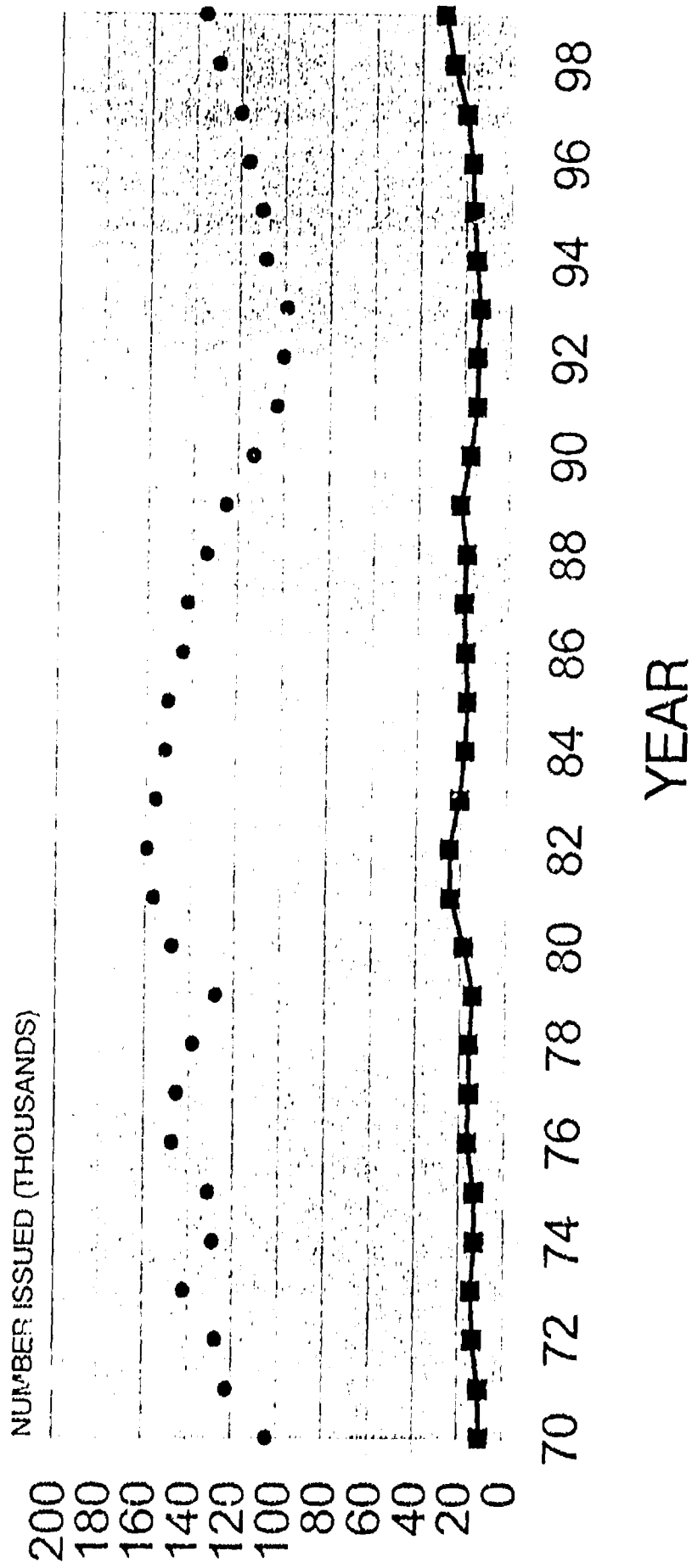
Department Appropriation Increase(12.9% or +\$3,963,525)

The Game and Fish Department's budget request is a 12.9% increase over 1999-2001. Department funds and anticipated revenue are adequate to support this increase. This money is to be used in the following areas:

Two additional game warden FTE's.	\$204,616
Private Land Habitat Program Increase	\$425,000
CoverLocks Wildlife Habitat Program w/1 FTE	\$1,200,000
GIS(Geographic Information System)FTE	\$82,310
Aquatic Habitat Improvement Program w/1 FTE	\$946,868
Storage Building and fenced storage yard	\$275,000
Operating Expenses - State fleet & inflation	\$350,000
Noxious Weed Control Line Item Increase	\$50,000
Donation Line Item Increase	\$50,000
Wildlife Services Support	\$200,000
Cost Allocation Costs - OMB	\$100,000

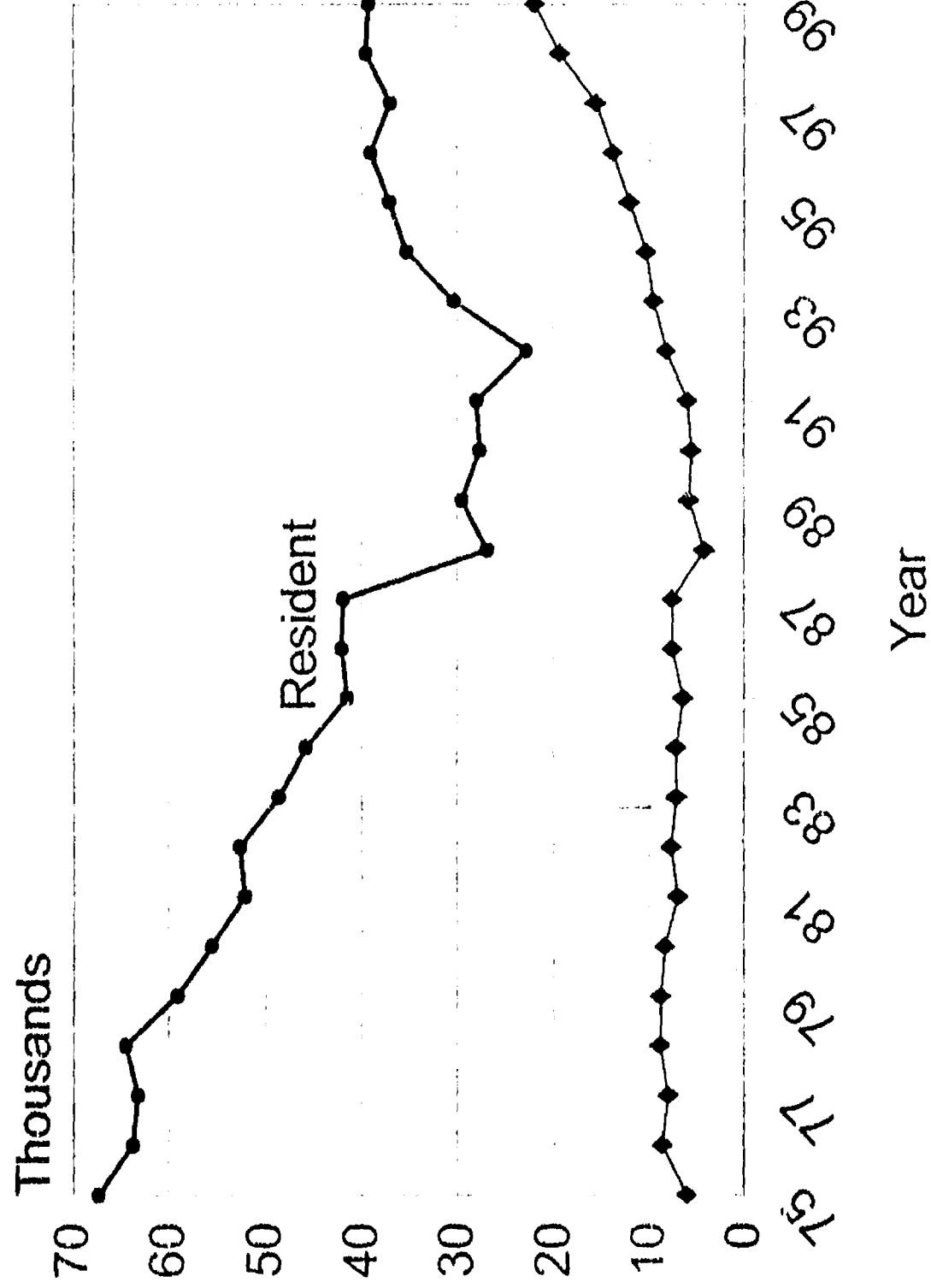
FISHING LICENSE SALES

North Dakota Game and Fish Department



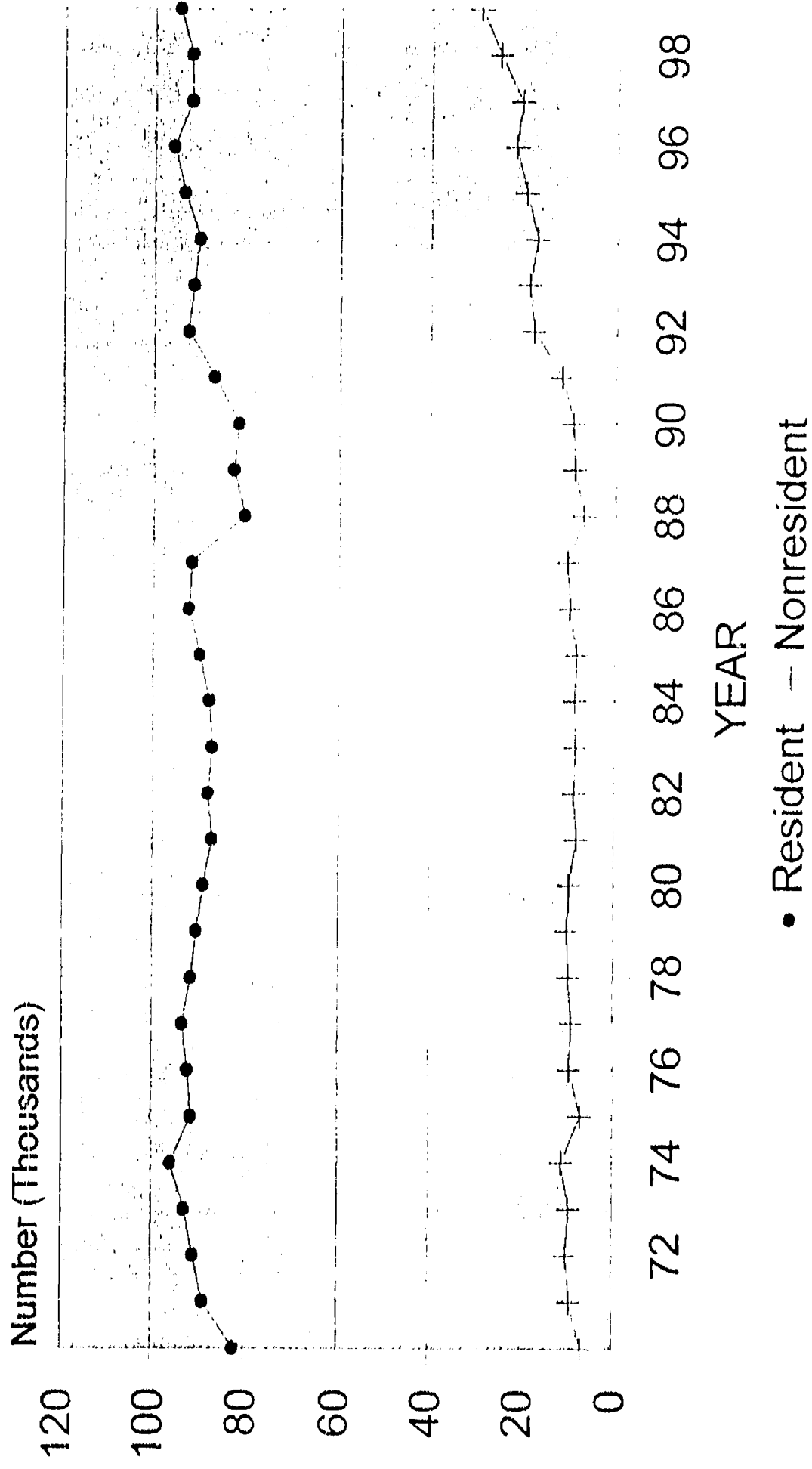
Waterfowl Hunters

North Dakota



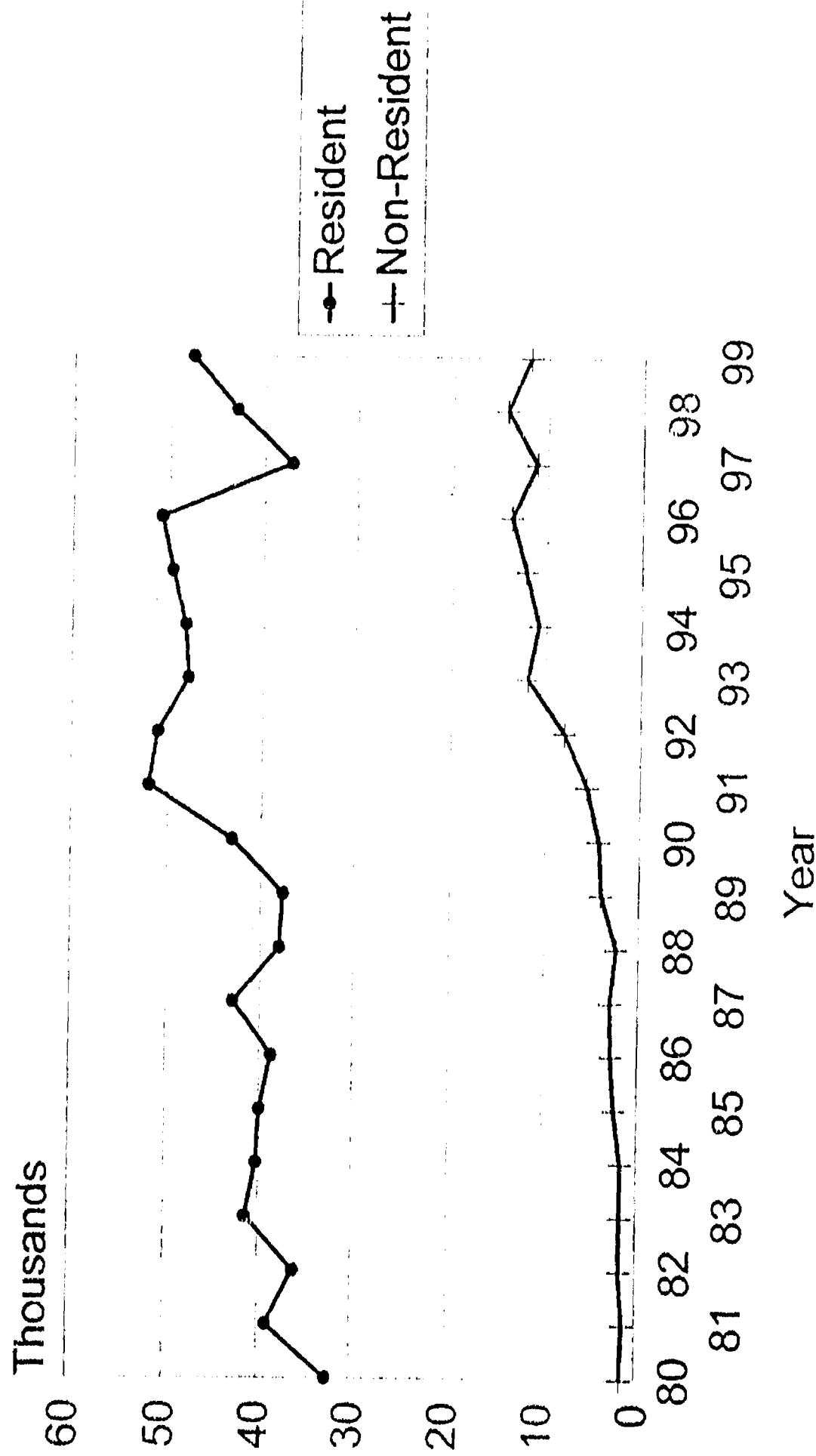
NORTH DAKOTA

GENERAL GAME LICENSE SALES

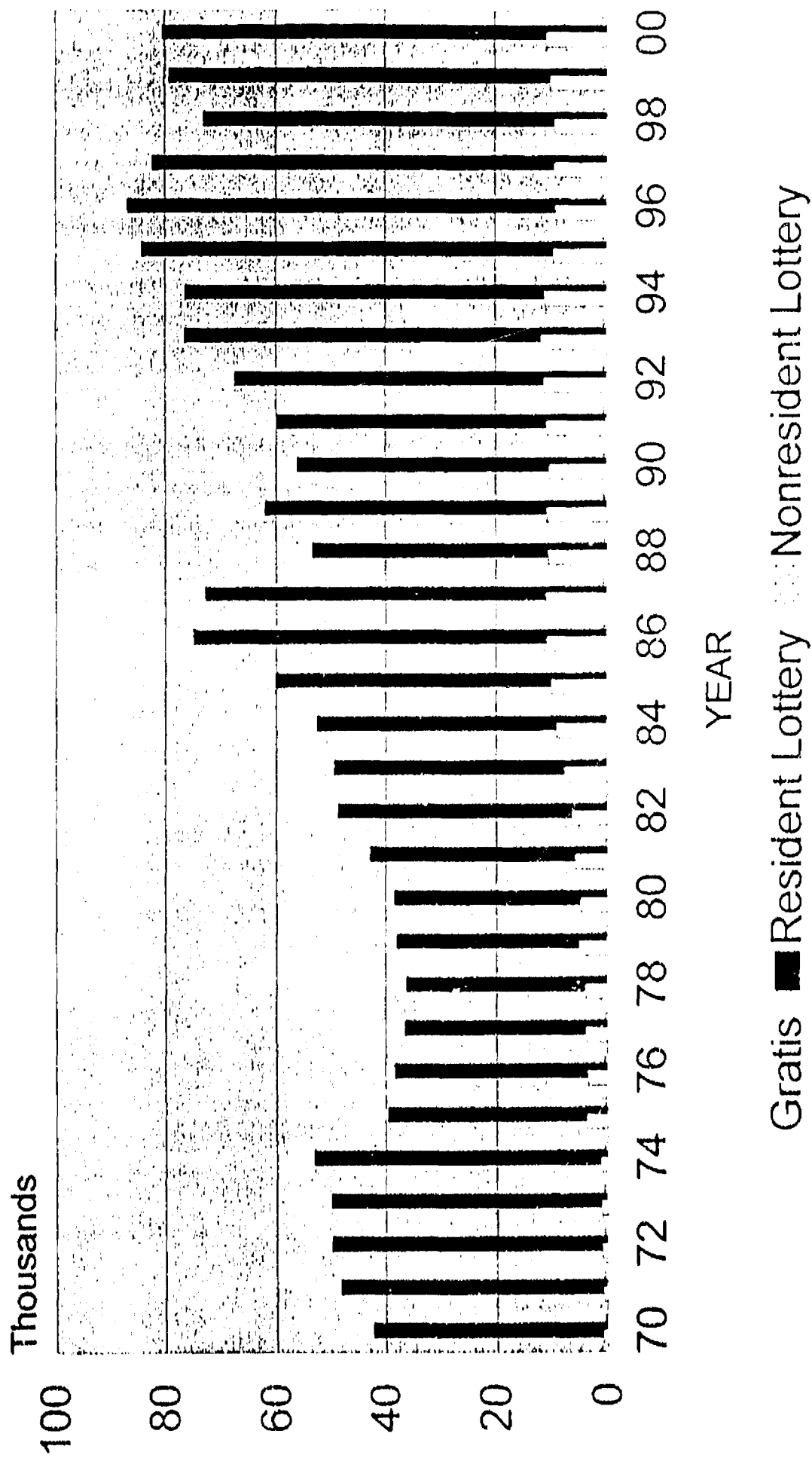


Licensed Pheasant Hunters

North Dakota

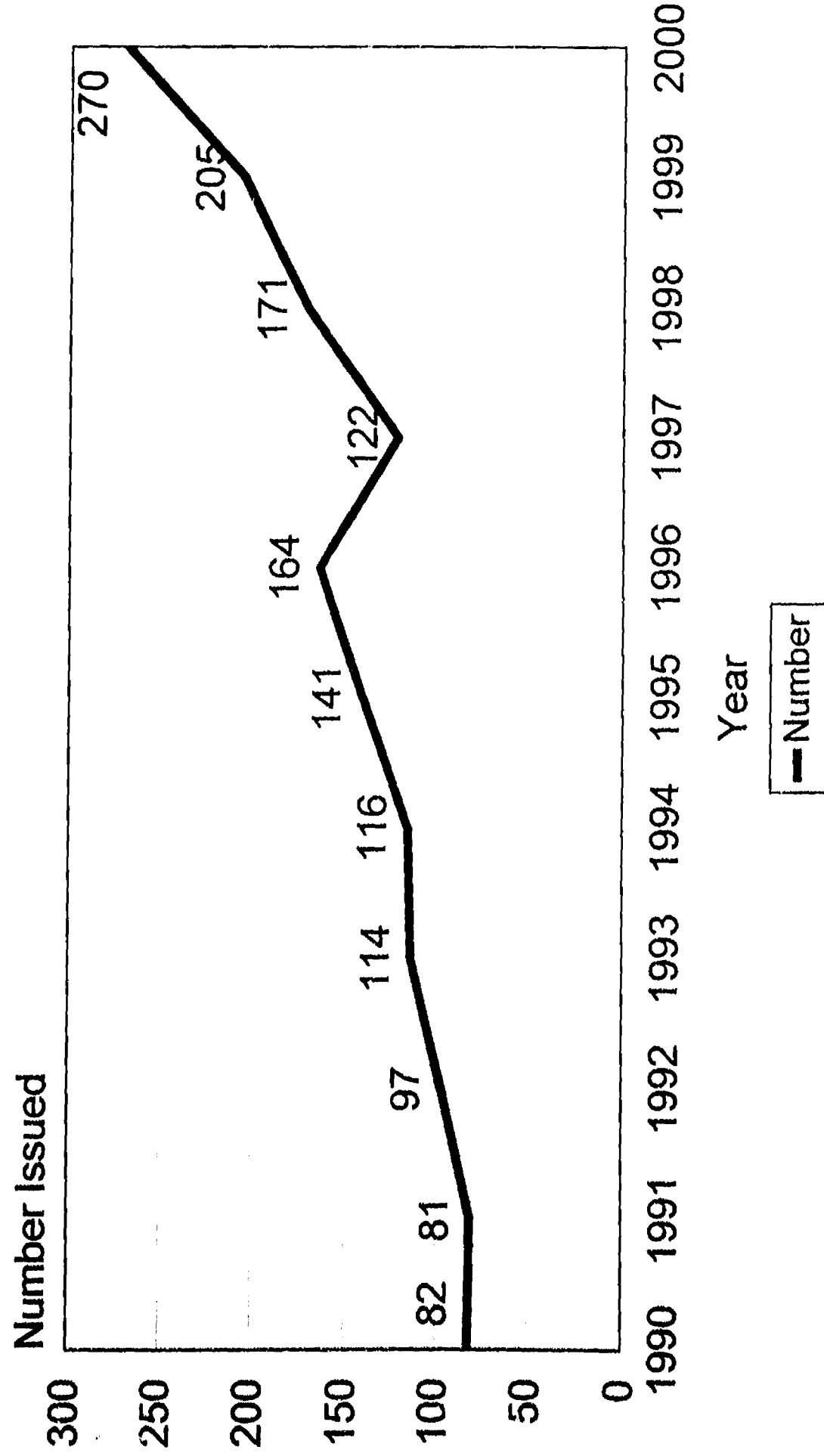


DEER GUN LICENSES ISSUED



Hunting Guide Licenses

North Dakota



1997 First aid, CPR & Insurance Required



2000 OVERVIEW

By Roger Rustvet
Game and Fish Deputy Director

Photos by Craig Bihlre

North Dakota had an exciting year 2000. Rarely have hunters and anglers enjoyed such high populations and diversity of game and fish as we have at present.

In any given year wildlife populations and their habitats are affected by environmental conditions. Snowy winters favor spring runoff, a positive for waterfowl production, but potentially devastating to pheasant populations.

This past year, for the most part, was beneficial to wildlife, with a warm spring, timely spring rains, and good weather for upland game reproduction in early season. Rarely do these conditions come together in the same year.

Summary reports later in this article will highlight the current status of our game species and fishing waters. This annual overview is also an opportunity for discussing events and issues that shaped the North Dakota Game and Fish Commission during the past 12 months.

PUBLIC SERVICE

The Department has been a state government leader in adapting and implementing new technology. Traffic at the Department home page (www.discovernd.com/gnif/) is more than doubled in the last year. From July 2000 through October 2000, the web site averaged 207,000 hits per month, compared to about 87,000 visits per month during the same period in 1999. In September, October and November in 1998, the Internet site generated just 23,000 visits per month.

Some of this dramatic increase comes from an ever-expanding base of consumers who have access to the Internet and want information on a variety of game and fish topics. But expansion of services offered through the web site attracts significant new traffic as well. In July 1999 we provided hunters the opportunity to check results of the first deer drawing through the web site. We've now added this feature for all lottery drawings.

In April 2000 we started selling fishing and hunting licenses from our web site. This convenience was used by more than 10,000 individuals and generated some \$750,000 in license sales by the end of the year. We expect much greater use of this service by hunters and anglers in 2001. In the next few months we'll also add *North Dakota OUTDOORS* magazine subscriptions to our list of online services.

For the first time last summer, hunters were able to apply online for the pronghorn lottery. This process served as a test for future computer lottery applications.

Starting in 2001, applications for all special licenses issued by lottery will be available online, including deer gun and muzzleloader, moose, elk, bighorn, turkey, pronghorn, and swan. While online applications won't replace the paper version, this service should significantly reduce the number of mailed applications that have to be re-keyed into the computer database before the drawing can be held.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Department completed construction of a new office facility at Riverdale. To better serve the state, a long-term capital improvement plan was started after completion of the Bismarck headquarters office in 1985. Since that time facilities at district offices in Devils Lake, Dickinson, Williston, Jamestown and Riverdale have been upgraded either through complete facility construction, property purchases or remodeling and upgrades. The construction of a new Bismarck district shop will occur over the next several budget cycles.

2001 GAME AND FISH BUDGET

In early 2001 the State Legislature will hold its biennial session. This is always viewed with enthusiasm by sporting and natural resource interests. One of the legislature's actions is to determine the Department's budget for the next two years.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is unique in that no state general funds are used to fund the agency. The Department's overall financial condition at this time is healthy; revenue has increased the past few years because of increasing license sales. We are mandated by law to carry a reserve fund in excess of \$10 million. Interest income is used to fund private lands programs.

The Department has submitted a budget that includes several significant enhancements, including two major habitat and access programs. We're requesting nearly \$1 million to fund our Save Our Lakes initiative to improve fish habitat and prepare for the time when Mother Nature takes back good water conditions and returns our landscape to more normal or drought conditions.

We are also requesting more than \$1 million to fund our portion of a North Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The North Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a joint project of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Commodity Credit Corporation and the Game and Fish Department. Estimated project implementation time is 2001-2016 and will require a significant effort by the Game and Fish Department.

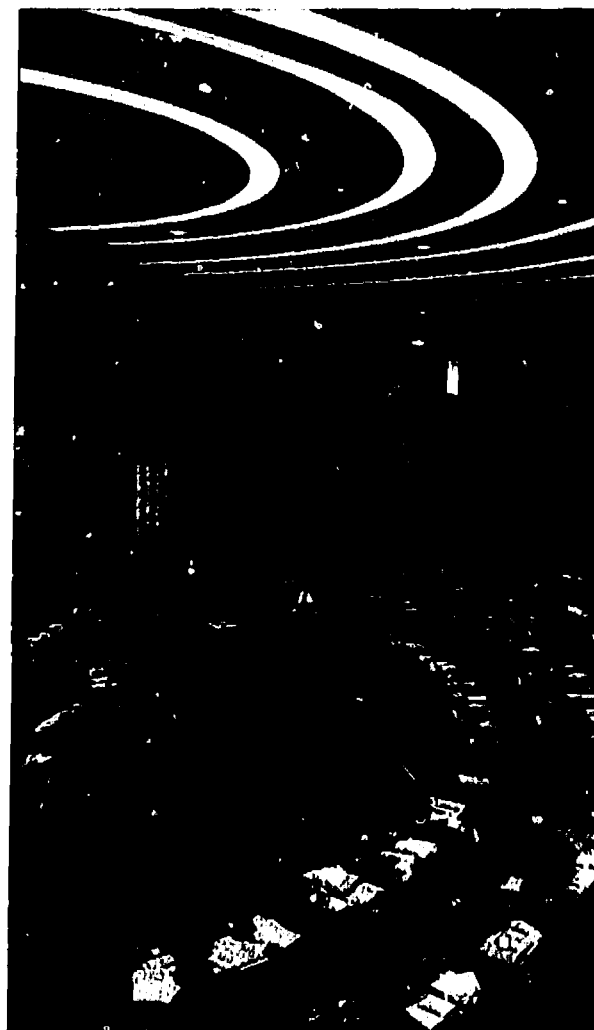
The North Dakota CREP agreement, signed by Governor Schafer before he left office in December, is designed to improve water quality in several state EPA-319 watersheds, with an emphasis on development of high quality, long-term winter wildlife habitat which benefits resident wildlife.

Approximately 20,000 acres of habitat will be established over the next 15 years in 20-acre tracts that include trees, grass-legume loafing areas, and food plot components. One thousand tracts will be located on private land, in cooperation with willing landowners, within key watersheds. Each tract will carry a 30-year use easement on 20 acres, and public access easement on the entire quarter section upon which the tract is located. This program has the potential to open 160,000 acres of private land to walking hunting access over the next 15 years.

Establishment will begin with the Beaver Creek watershed and progress to the western Wild Rice, upper James,

Heart River, Knife River and Grand River watersheds. East to west counties include Sargent, LaMoure, Dickey, McIntosh, Logan, Emmons, Grant, Morton, Oliver, Stark, Dunn, Mercer, and Hettinger.

CREP expenses, up to approximately \$44 million over the next 15 years, will be cost-shared between the Game and Fish Department and U.S. Department of



Every two years North Dakota's legislature meets. Many important decisions about the state's outdoors are made inside the capitol building.

Agriculture, with administration through the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, local soil conservation district offices, and Game and Fish field offices. The Department will also seek non-governmental organizations such as Pheasants Forever as partners.

Severe winters are a limiting factor for many North Dakota resident game species. These strategically located 20-acre plots of dense tree plantings, food plots and loafing cover will provide protective habitat under the worst conditions. This program will benefit farmers and wildlife, improve hunter access, and compliment our private lands program.

The Department is also asking for two additional game warden positions. The last time the warden force was increased

was in 1977. Since then each warden's workload has increased tremendously.

An issue that will likely receive substantial legislative interest is that of non-resident hunter numbers. Wildlife and fish populations are about as good as they get for hunting and fishing in North Dakota. Yet there is an undercurrent of dissatisfaction among resident hunters on how this bountiful resource is allocated.

the traditions of relatively easy access for hunting and fishing. Much of the current resident animosity is directed toward guides and outfitters, landowners who accept or demand fees for access, and nonresidents who are credited with creating the market. There is a fear among some that in the future, only the wealthy will be able to afford to hunt.

The other side of the coin is economic development for either the state as a whole or for individuals. Rural North Dakota has not experienced economic growth common to a large portion of the nation in recent years. Frequent poor crops and even worse commodity prices have forced individuals to seek ways of diversifying. Selling access and services to hunters has helped some.

Department leaders recently conducted a formal facilitated review of this situation. One objective was to collectively try to understand where the Department fits into the future of wildlife commercialization. One glaring, obvious fact is that access to prime hunting land and competition for access is of great concern. North Dakota is not rich with public land and major land acquisition programs are not possible or practical. Access programs such as expansion of our Private Lands Open To Sportsmen and the new CREP program will become increasingly important in the future.

The legislature will become the forum for debate and decision in many of these areas, as it should be. Hunting and economic development effect a broad spectrum of the public, and in some instances special interests. The real challenge is striking a balance.

CARA RECAP

The Conservation and Reinvestment Act, a comprehensive piece of federal legislation dealing with long-term federal funding for recreation and wildlife restoration, bumped its way through Congress and fragmented in the final days of the session. The original intent of CARA was to fund state programs such as watchable wildlife, and assist species in peril, programs not funded by excise taxes and license fees paid by hunters and anglers.

The final outcome is still uncertain, and the probable outcome is that little of the original intent of providing consistent funding for state agencies will remain, replaced instead by a federal lands legacy program.

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Another area of interest was the revision of the management plan for the Dakota Prairie National Grasslands. Ranchers, ecologists, oil and gas interests, preservationists, recreationists, etc. all weighed in on this one. The U.S. Forest Service has been tugged, pulled, and pushed from many sides of this emotional issue. Years ago such a revision was not nearly as contentious as it is today. Nationally, grassland ecosystems are receiving far more interest and scrutiny than ever before. As the demand for use and access to high quality recreation land is increasing, the U.S. Forest Service has the challenge of providing compatible multiple uses and yet preserving the integrity of the grasslands for the future.

A new part of the Game and Fish Department's biennial budget request is for a program that will protect watersheds, provide wildlife habitat, and work with landowners to provide hunting access on private land. With nonresident hunter traffic more than tripling in the last decade, access programs will become more important as competition for space increases.

Facts and trends document that hunting and fishing help North Dakota's economy. Traditionally these economic factors were confined to food, lodging, sporting goods sales, and travel. In recent years, commercial enterprises offering guiding and outfitting, and access to prime hunting lands, coupled with increased numbers of nonresidents, is creating a feeling of anxiety among North Dakota resident hunters.

While wildlife prospers, a major challenge is dealing with the social and economic aspects of resource management and determining our agency's role. Many resident hunters and landowners respect

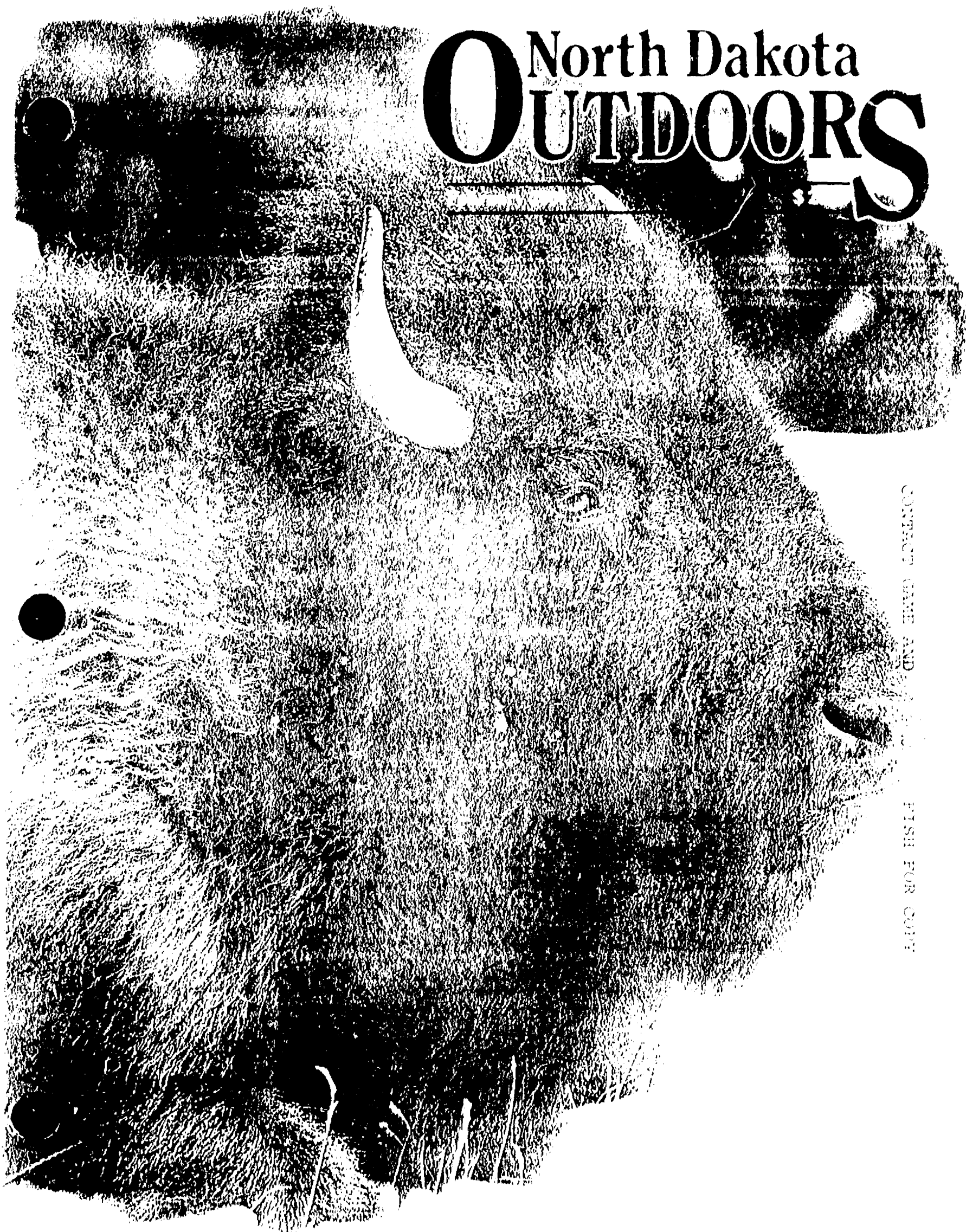
During much of 2000, discussions on use and management of North Dakota's national grasslands took place. Toward year's end, Governor Schafer's office and federal officials proposed solutions to maintain and enhance habitat and "multiple use" of these lands.



management of resident species determined by the director to be threatened or endangered species of wildlife. The authority exercised must be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Public Law 93-205. Any person who violates rules established under this subsection is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

17. Subject to the provisions of chapter 28-32, adopt rules for the licensing of guides or outfitters, and may require records and reports as the director determines necessary. The director may, after due hearing as provided in chapter 28-32, revoke or refuse to renew the license of any person who violates the rules or fails to provide the records and reports. Any person who acts as a guide or outfitter without a license is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
18. Provide for the funding of a private land habitat and access improvement program with moneys derived from the interest earned on the game and fish fund and habitat restoration stamp fees. The director shall place these funds in a special fund called the "game and fish department private land habitat and access improvement fund".
19. Carry out a private land habitat and access improvement program by:
 - a. Entering into cost-sharing, habitat enhancement, and access agreements with landowners or agencies working on private land to help defray all or a portion of their share of local, state, or federally sponsored conservation practices considered beneficial to fish and wildlife.
 - b. Leasing and developing fish and wildlife habitat or sport fishing areas on private land. Public access to leased land may not be prohibited.
 - c. Carrying out practices that will alleviate depredations caused by predatory animals and big game animals.
 - d. Publishing a brochure on an annual basis describing areas funded from the game and fish department private land habitat and access improvement fund which are open to public access in this state.
 - e. Receiving advice from the game and fish advisory board concerning expenditures from the game and fish private land habitat and access improvement fund.
20. Subject to prior approval of the attorney general, lease or exchange lands under the director's jurisdiction or control which are deemed necessary for the improved management of wildlife resources.
21. Subject to prior approval of the attorney general, impose any conditions or reservations to the leases or exchanges as the director determines necessary.
22. Adopt rules and issue permits for conducting fishing contests involving public waters of the state. The director by rule shall define the term "fishing contest" and shall set criteria for which a fishing contest permit is required. The director may deny permits. No person may conduct a fishing contest on public waters without first receiving a permit issued by the director.
23. Issue duplicates of lost or destroyed game and fish licenses or permits. The procedure for reissuing the licenses or permits and fees to be charged must be prescribed by the director by rule.
24. Establish noncriminal penalties for any rules adopted by the director. The maximum noncriminal penalty that may be set by the director is a fine of two hundred fifty dollars. Violation of any rule not designated as having a noncriminal penalty is considered a criminal violation as established in the appropriate chapter of this title.

North Dakota OUTDOORS



CONTACT GAME AND FISHERY DEPT. FOR COPIES

PLOTS GUIDE

CONTACT GAME AND FISH FOR COPY

2000
CONSERVATION
PLOTS
GUIDE

VALID THRU 1 SPRING 2001



CONTACT GAME AND FISH FOR COPY



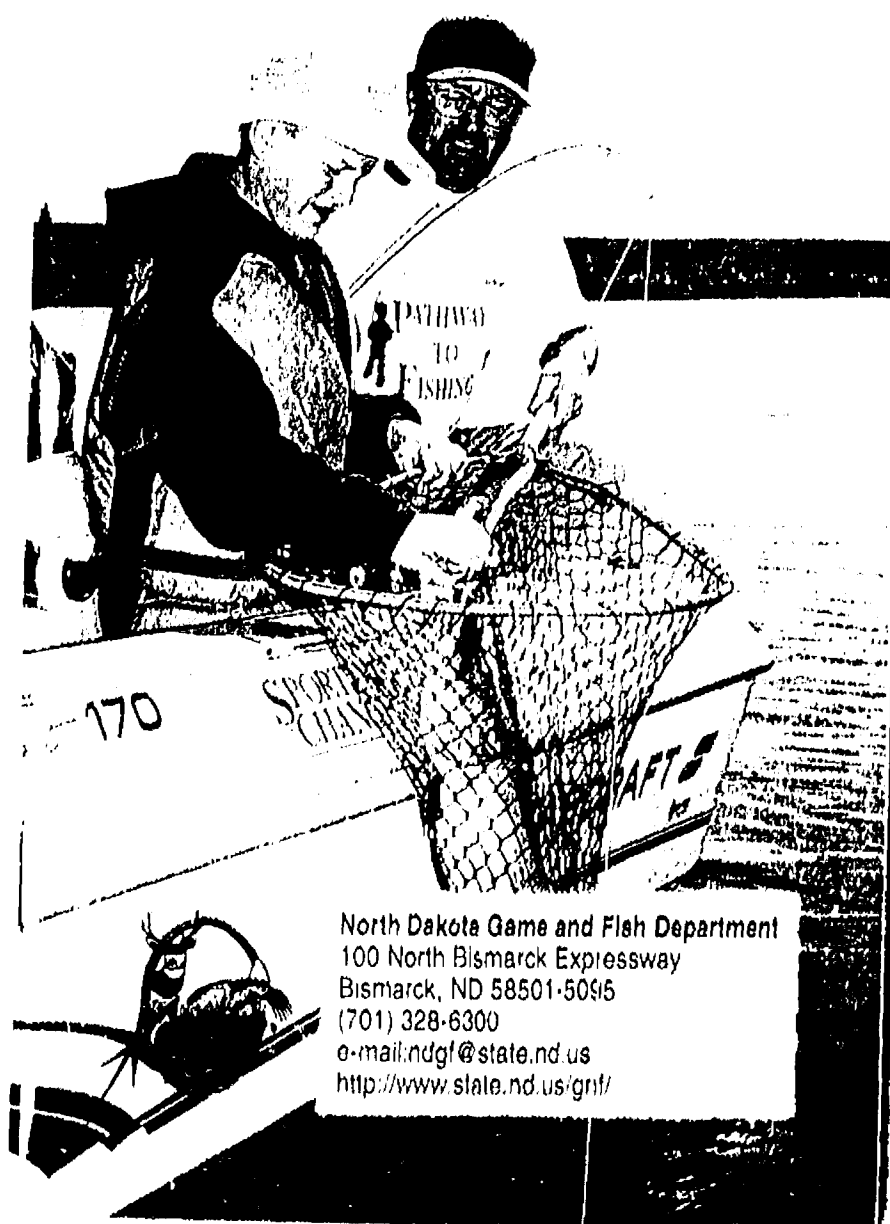
NORTH DAKOTA

2001 Travel & Outdoor Adventure Guide

Contact Game and Fish for copy

2000-2002 NORTH DAKOTA FISHING GUIDE

(Effective April 1, 2000 through March 31, 2002)



North Dakota Game and Fish Department
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095
(701) 328-6300
e-mail: ndgf@state.nd.us
<http://www.state.nd.us/gnif/>




MAIL APPLICATION AND FEE TO:
N.D. Game and Fish Department
100 N. Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095
Phone (701) 328-6300

TENTATIVE Upland Game Season Opening Dates:
 Sandhill Crane - September 18. (Subject to Federal authorization)
 Hungarian Partridge, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ruffed Grouse - September 9.
 Pheasants - October 14. (Delayed opener in small portion of McKenzie
 and Williams counties.)

PROBABLE Waterfowl Season Dates: Based on frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the duck, goose and swan seasons may open on September 30. Official season dates will not be set until mid-August, 2000. Call the department at 701-328-6300, visit our website at www.state.nd.us/gnff, or consult waterfowl regulations for final details.

1. **LICENSING REQUIREMENTS:** Nonresidents may purchase licenses to hunt upland game, crane, waterfowl, and fox, coyote, unprotected birds or animals upon making application to the department, county auditor's offices, or by phone or via the internet (see back of application for details). Exception: crane licenses are not handled by auditors offices or license vendors. Those wishing to hunt only upland game (grouse, partridge pheasants or tree squirrels), crane or fox, coyote and unprotected birds and animals are not required to possess the waterfowl license, nor are they restricted to zones or specified days. State law restricts nonresident waterfowl hunters to zones and specified days except that choosing option 3 allows hunting statewide. You may choose either option 1) a single zone for 14 consecutive days, OR option 2) two 7 consecutive day periods for the same zone each period or different zones for each, OR option 3) statewide hunting for 7 consecutive days. In addition to any zone(s) specified on their license, a nonresident may also hunt waterfowl in zone 3.

 **National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP):** All migratory bird hunters must fill out information in box below. See explanation on back.

2. INSTRUCTIONS: General Information and Fees. Select licenses at right.
(If you need any assistance in filling out this application, contact the N.D. Game & Fish Department.)

• A fishing, hunting and trapper certificate is required of all hunters prior to purchasing any other license

The general game and habitat and small game licenses are required of all small game, crane and waterfowl hunters. In addition, to hunt waterfowl you must also purchase the state waterfowl license and (if 16 years of age or older) possess a federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck stamp). A nonresident hunting only fox, coyote and unprotected species of wildlife needs only a furbearer and nongame license. A nonresident hunting only species of unprotected wildlife needs only a nongame license. Nonresident youth may qualify for reduced rate licenses (see back of application for details).

\$_____ total for all licenses purchased. Do not send cash. Personal checks, cashier's checks or money orders are acceptable.

b) If applying for a waterfowl license, see backside for map of waterfowl zones. Fill in the zone(s) and date(s) you desire for either option 1 or option 2 to the right. If choosing option 3, fill in the beginning date that you desire.

c) Fill in all information in the "Applicant Information Section." **ATTENTION!** If you were born after December 31, 1981, you must fill in your hunter education certificate number and the state or province in which you received it. Required hunter education certification must be completed prior to application being submitted. **ATTENTION:** Compliance is enforced by verification with state enforcement agencies. If your certificate is unnumbered, write "none" and the year and state in which you were certified. If you have a change in last name since completing the course, attach a note to the application.

d) Sign and date the form after carefully reading section 3, "AS AN APPLICANT, I CERTIFY THAT."

3. AS AN APPLICANT, I CERTIFY THAT:

... This is the only application being made in my name for a nonresident small game license and/or nonresident waterfowl license (it is illegal to use more than one license);

... All information provided is true and correct and I understand that providing false information may result in criminal prosecution;

... I am submitting with this application the appropriate fees;

... I am aware of the hunter safety education course requirement for persons born after December 31, 1961, and have passed an official state or provincial course (not required until age 12), or am exempt by law.

Select licenses by checking appropriate box(es) below:

<input type="checkbox"/>	NR Fishing, Hunting & Furbearer Certificate	\$2.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	NR General Game and Habitat License	\$8.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	NR Small Game License	\$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	NR Waterfowl License	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	NR Furbearer and Nongame License	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	NR Nongame License	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandhill Crane License	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non Resident Youth from MN, MI, MS, TN, TX, or CO Resident General Game and Habitat license plus Resident Fishing Hunting & Furbearer Certificate	\$9.00

WATERFOWL OPTION 1

14 consecutive days beginning on

First choice zone _____ Second choice zone _____

(Note: Zone 3 is an open zone. Anyone possessing a license for either zone 1 or zone 2 may also hunt in zone 3.)

WATERFOWL OPTION 2

First 7 consecutive days beginning on _____

First choice zone _____ Second choice zone _____

Second 7 consecutive days beginning on _____

First choice zone	Second choice zone
1	2
2	3
3	4
4	5
5	6
6	7
7	8
8	9
9	10
10	11
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98	99
99	100

(Note: Zone 3 is an open zone. Anyone possessing a license for either zone 1 and/or zone 2 may also hunt in zone 3.)

WATERFOWL OPTION 3

7 consecutive days beginning on _____

Choosing option 3 allows hunting statewide.

National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP)

All Migratory Bird Hunters must answer the following questions by circling the appropriate answer below.

Do you plan to hunt ducks, geese, doves, snipe, coots or woodcock this season? Yes No If yes, answer the questions below.
About how many of these migratory birds did you bag in North Dakota last season?

Ducks	None	1-10	11-30	31+
-------	------	------	-------	-----

Ducks	None	1-10	11-30	31+
Geese	None	1-10	11-30	31+

Geese	None	1-10	11-30	31+
Doves	None	1-10	11-30	31+

Did you hunt cools or snipe last season? Yes No

APPLICANT INFORMATION SECTION • Print one letter or number per box, leave one blank box as space between words.

[illegible][illegible]

HUNTER SAFETY NUMBER, see #21

STAFF SAVED

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (provided)

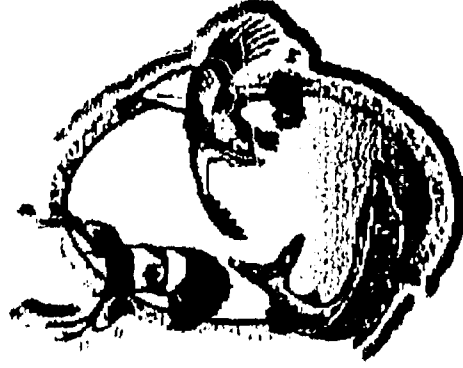
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CONTACT GAME AND FISH FOR COPY

North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Depredation

Policy, Response, & Expenditures

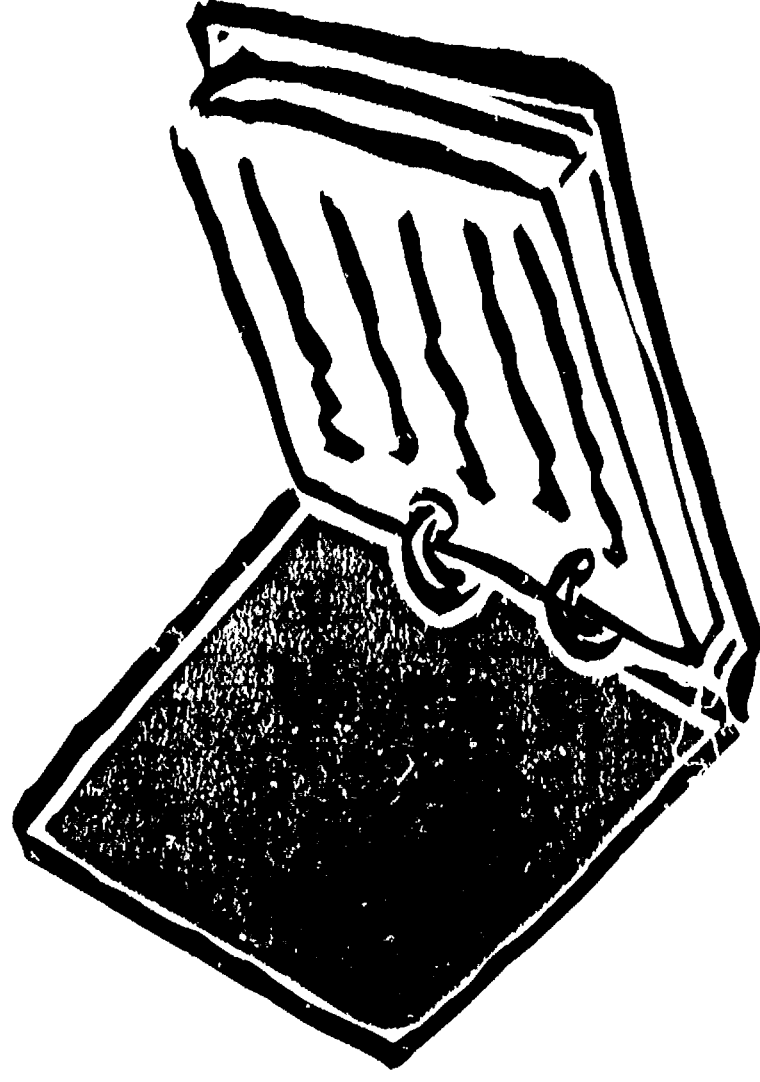


November 2000

Expenditures

Depredation Policy

Department Policy and Response Methods



Department Policy

Depredation Policy and Response Policy

- ▶ *Avoid Wildlife Feeding Operations*
- ▶ *Establish Appropriate Harvest Numbers*
- ▶ *Assist with Depredation of Livestock Feed*
 - ▶ *Intended response is contact within 24 hr & site visit within 48 hr*
 - ▶ *Respond to every depredation complaint*
- ▶ *Focus on Habitat and Food Development*
- ▶ *No Damage Compensation Payments*
- ▶ *No Assistance on Property with Commercial Hunting Operation*
- ▶ *Furbearer and Waterfowl Depredation Referred to USDA-APHIS*

Depredation Technical Assistance

► *Management Recommendations*

- Alternative Bale Stacking
- Alternative Bale Placement

► *Straw Barrier*

- Surround Best Hay with Straw Bales

► *Deterrents*

- Repellents
- Fencing
- Frightening

Depredation Tools

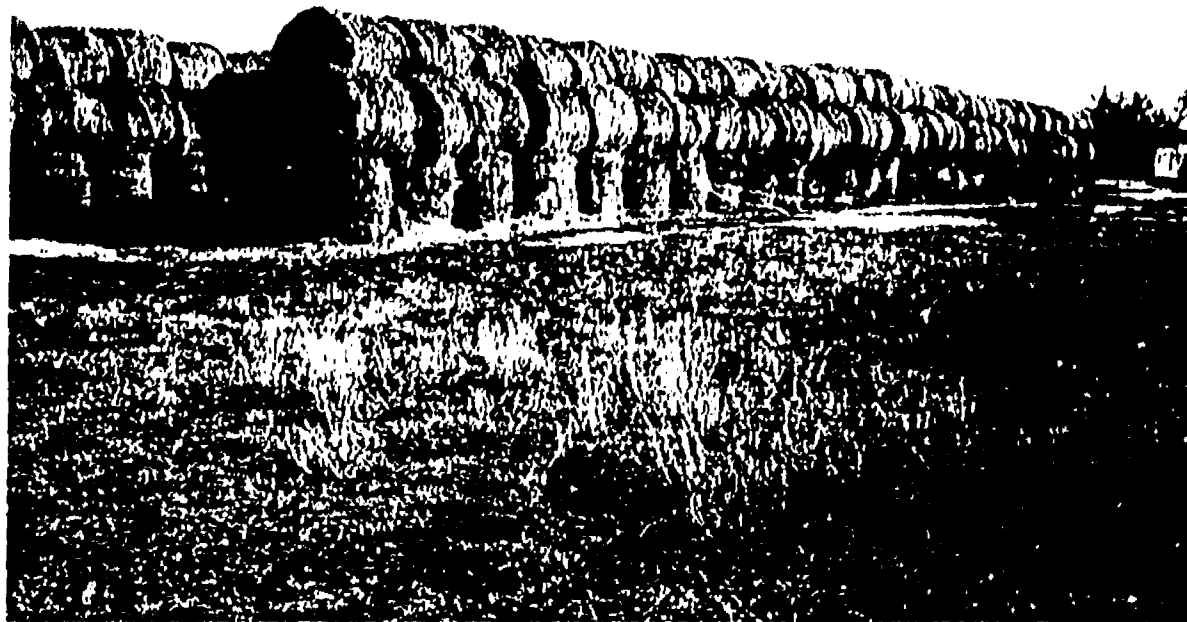
(Short-term)

- ▶ *Cracker Shells*
- ▶ *Bloodmeal & Other Repellents*
- ▶ *Propane Cannons*
- ▶ *Snowfence for Wrapping Stacks*
- ▶ *Intercept Feeding Sites*
 - ▶ Will purchase feed supplies from farmer/rancher experiencing damage if possible
 - ▶ Used as last resort basis for severe situations

Depredation Tools

(Long-term)

- ▶ *Deer-proof Hay Yards*
- ▶ *Used for chronic problem areas as long-term solution*
- ▶ *NDGFD provides materials at no cost*
- ▶ *Landowner responsible for construction*

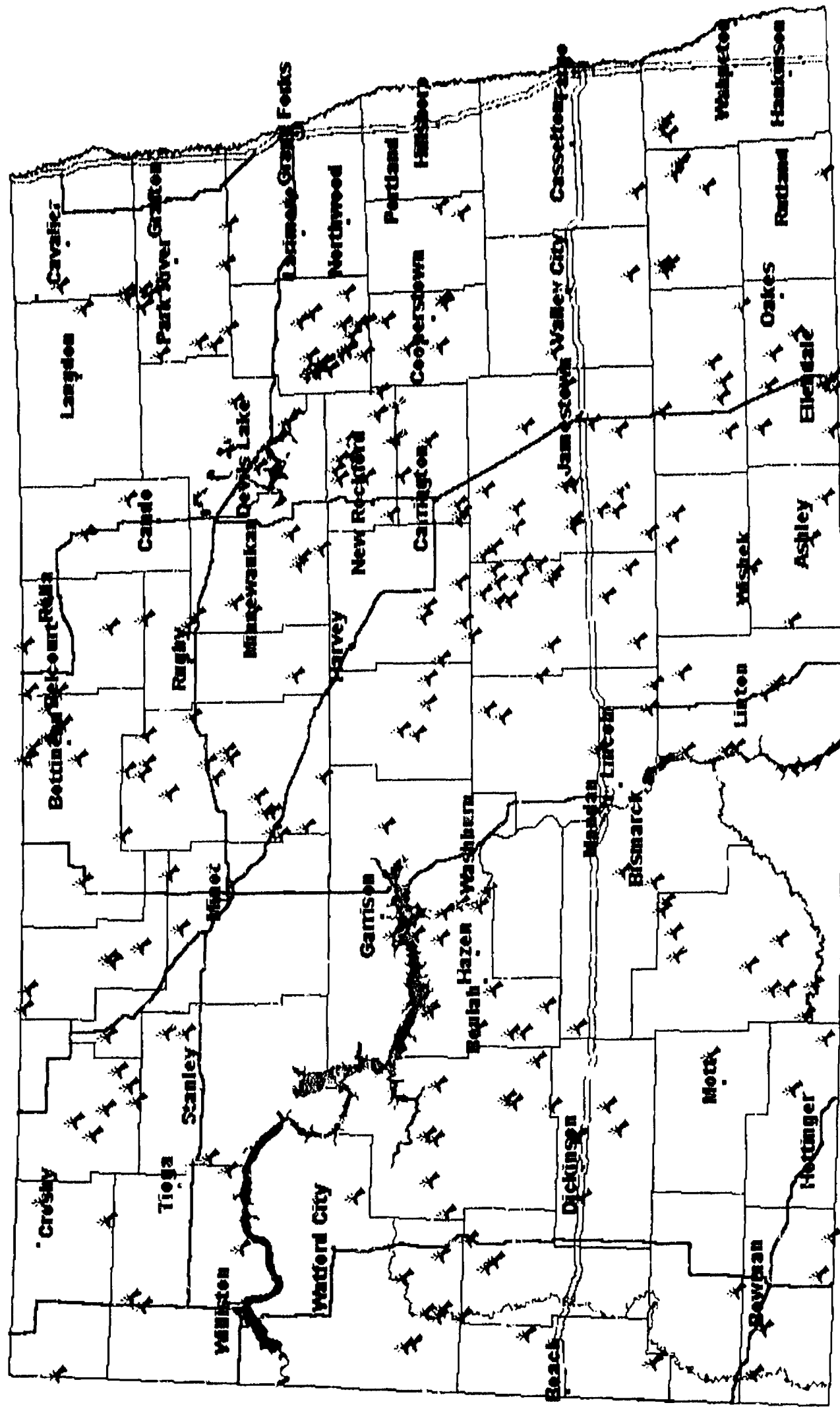


Hay Bales Properly Stacked and Effectively Protected
with NDGFD-supplied Plastic Fencing



Hay Bales Protected in a NDGFD-supplied Deer-proof Hay Yard

Hay Yard Locations



Locations of Hay Yards in North Dakota, 1999.

HAY YARD PROJECT

PROJECT BUDGET = \$500,000.00

TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFERS 1997-98 = 287

ACCEPTED OFFERS = 170

DECLINED OFFERS = 107

NOT APPLICABLE = 10

TOTAL NUMBER OF HAY YARD PURCHASED = 240

ACCEPTED OFFERS = 170

TOTAL DELIVERED TO LANDOWNERS = 191

TOTAL HAY YARDS ON INVENTORY = 49

1997-98 EXPENDITURES = \$470,229.37

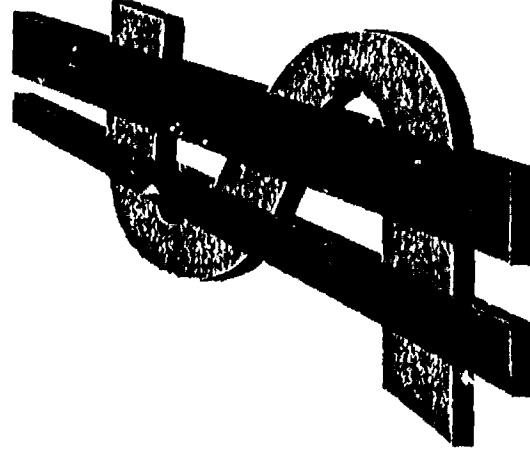
HAY YARD MATERIALS = \$397,961.72

OTHER EXPENDITURES = \$ 72,267.65

- INDIRECT COSTS (ADMINISTRATIVE)
- SALARIES
- MOTOR POOL
- TRAVEL

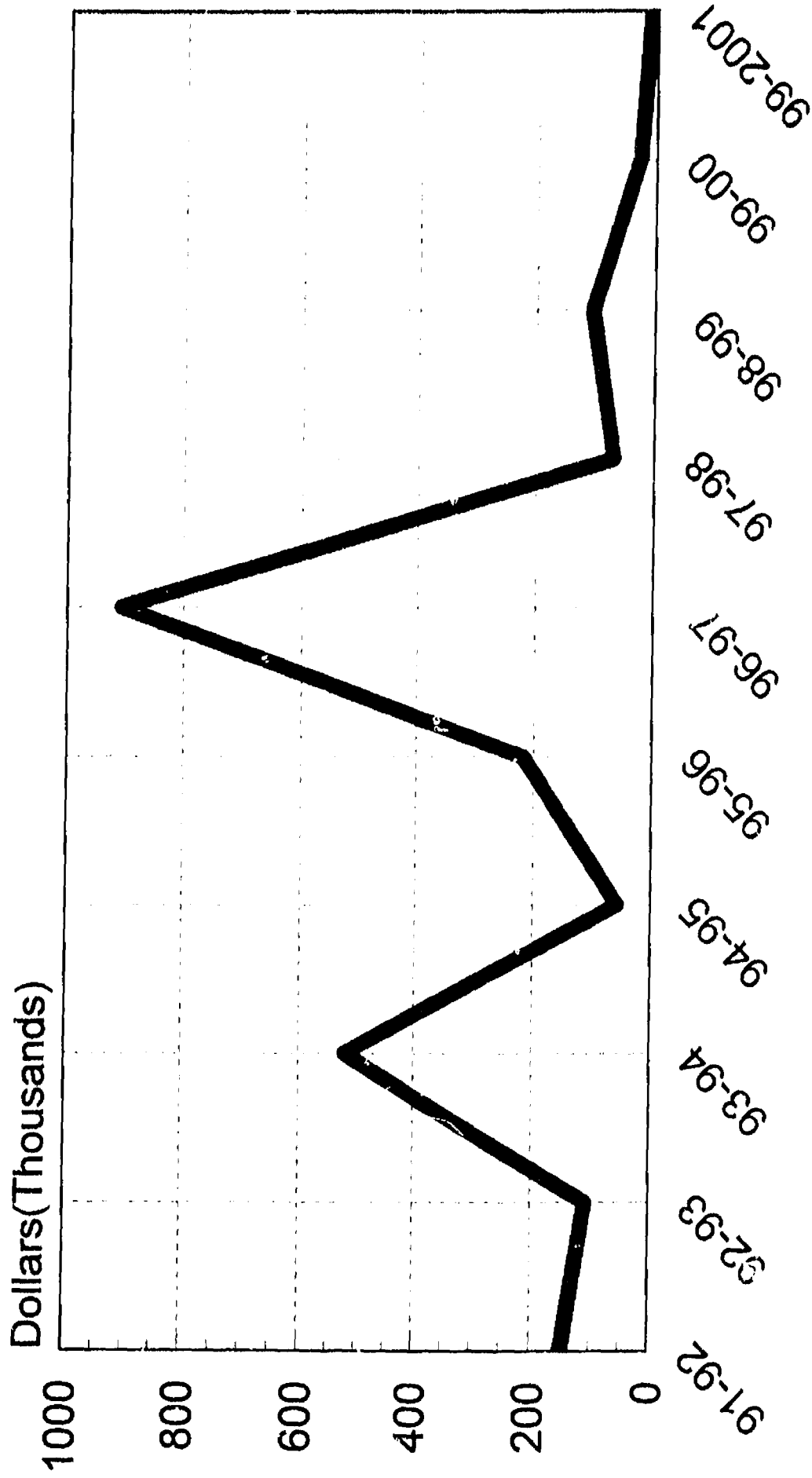
Depredation Expenditures

Fiscal Year and Biennial



Depredation Expenditures

Annual Expenses for Depredation

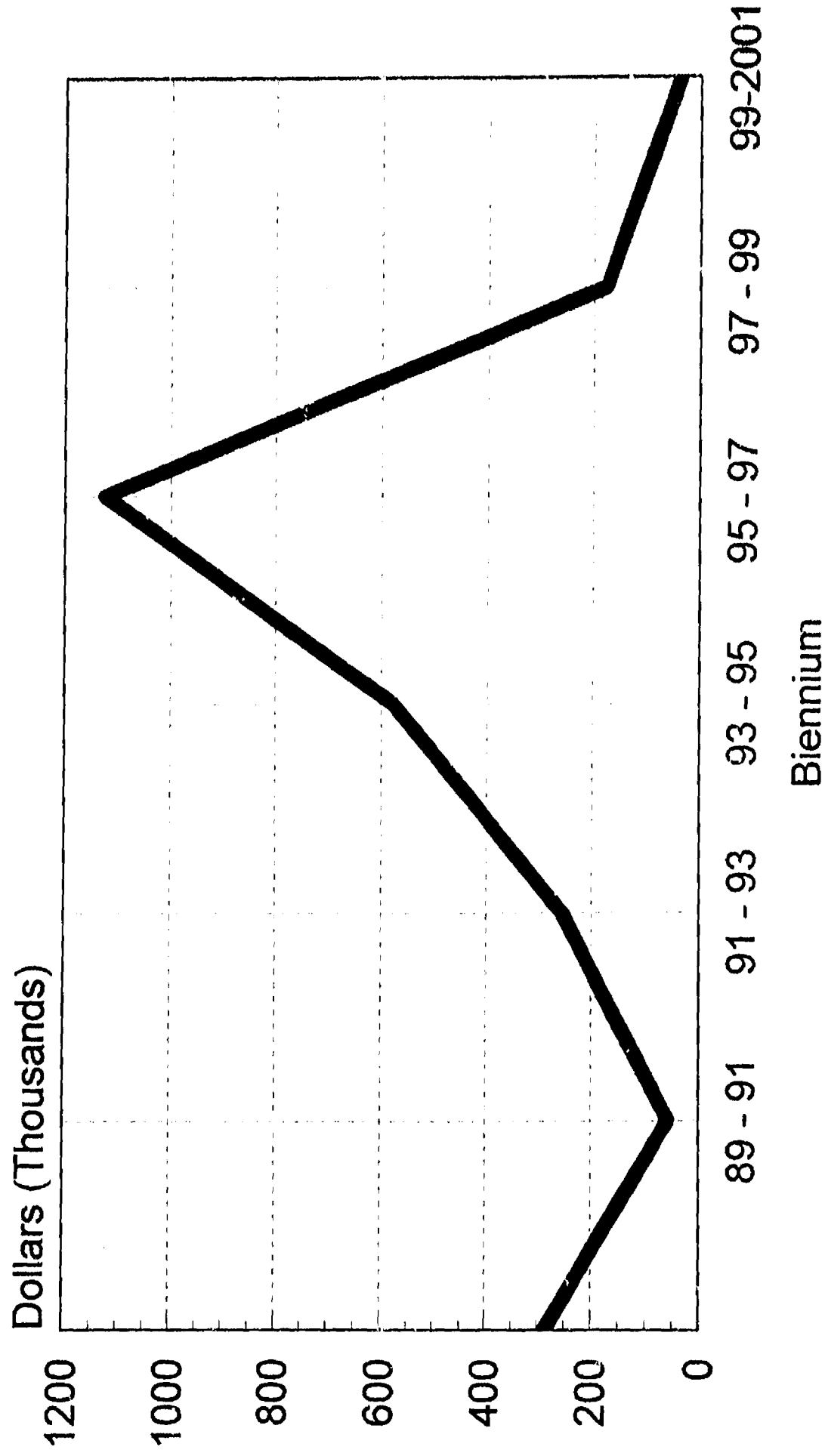


Fiscal Year

November 2000

Depredation Expenditures

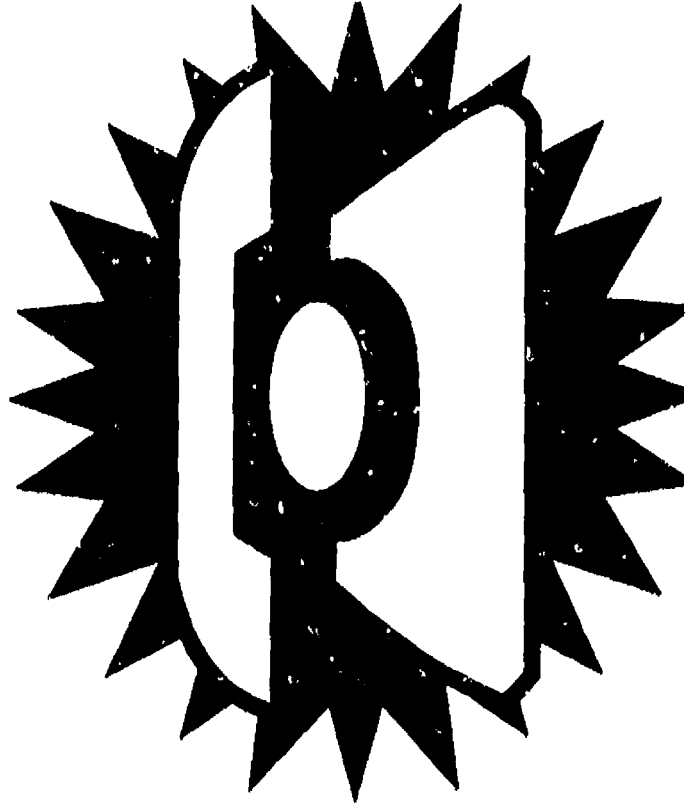
Biennial



November 2000

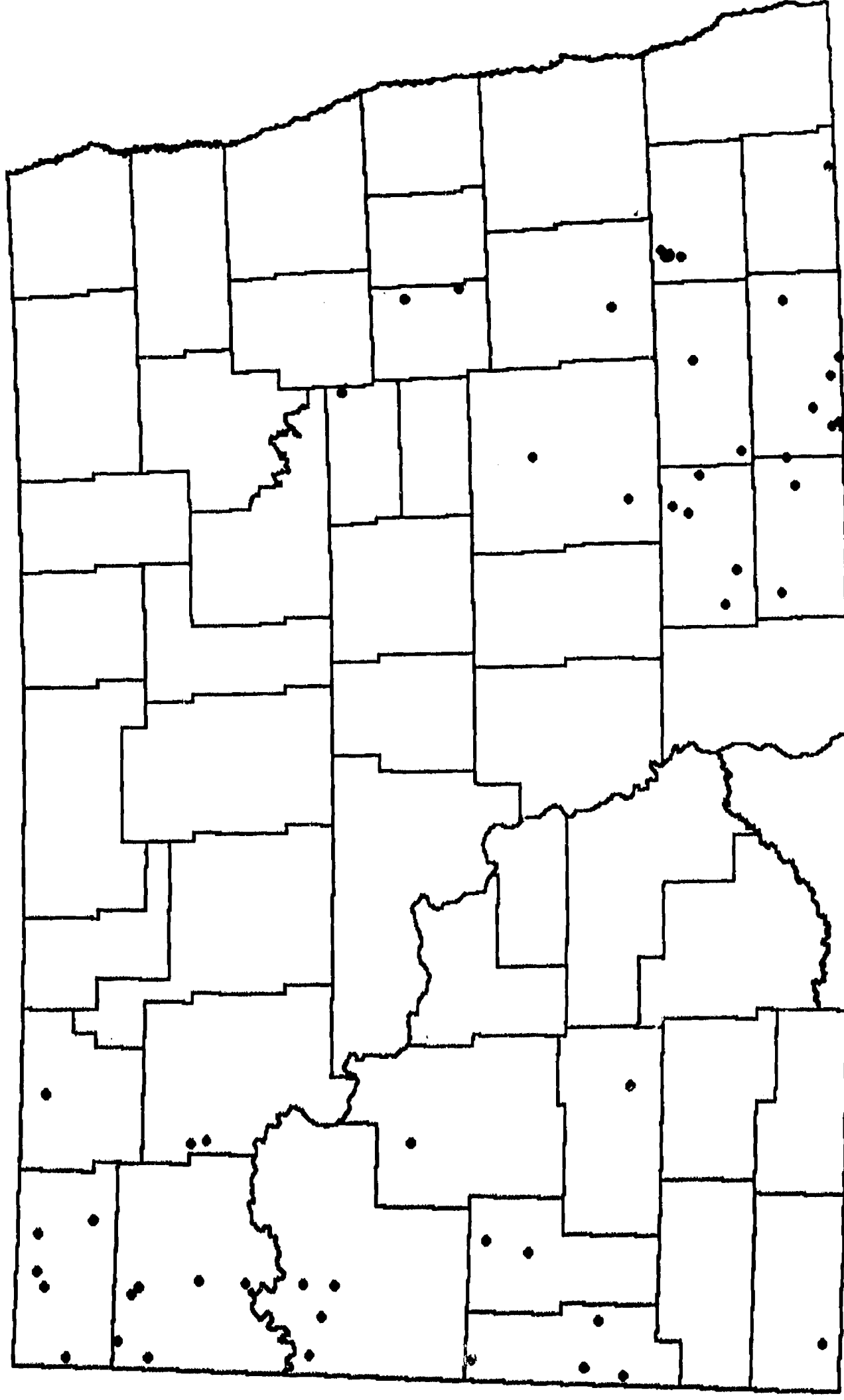
Depredation Activity

Winter 99-01

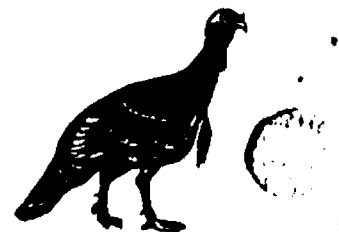


Statewide Breakdown of Reported Sites

Deer Depredation Winter 2000-2001



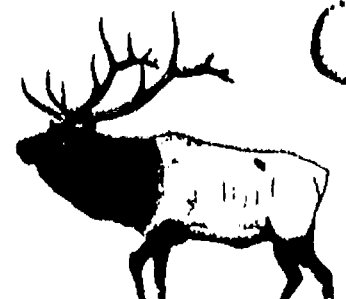
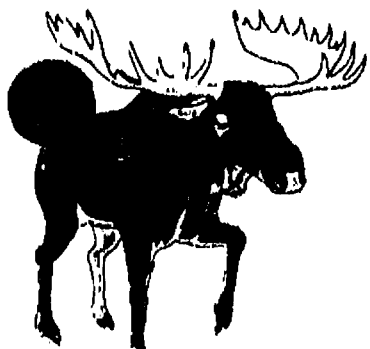
KJK_NDGF0_GIS



DEPREDATION COMPLAINTS

11/1/00 - 2/8/01

District	Deer	Turkey	Moose	Elk
Devils Lake	10			
Lonetree	7			
Jamestown	35	2		
Bismarck	11			
Riverdale	7	1		1
Williston	35	1		
Total	105	4	0	1



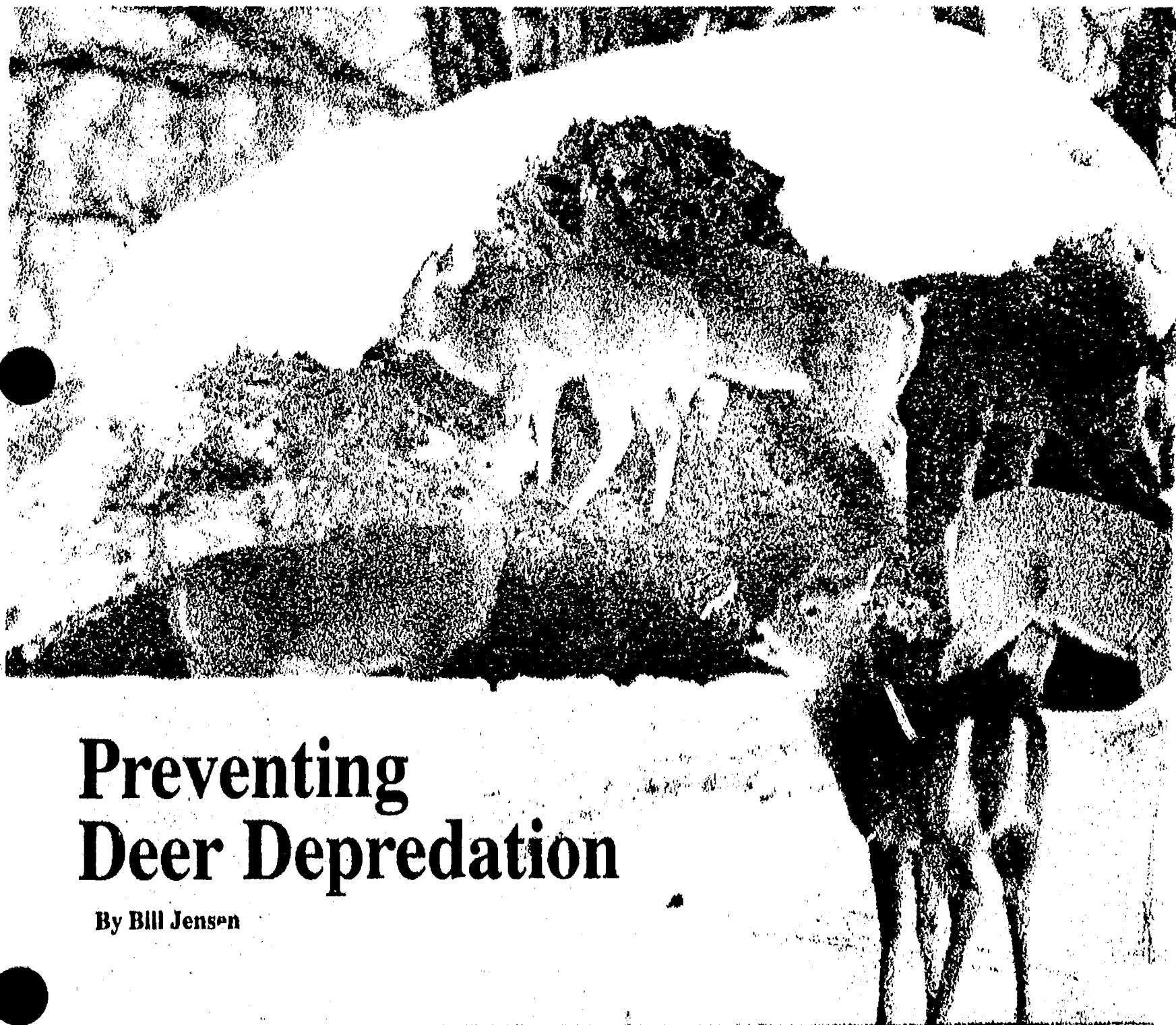
When friends or relatives drop in at mealtime, we are likely to invite them in for dinner and call it unexpected company. If a few deer do the same thing we view them in much the same manner. But when the few turn to many, we tend to see deer as creating a problem wildlife agencies commonly call depredation.

Depredation is an all-encompassing term that refers to damage deer cause to standing crops, stored cattle forage, gar-

dens and ornamental shrubs. In most cases the problem deer are whitetails.

Localized depredation problems occur throughout North Dakota. With an expanding deer population depredation cases have also been increasing.

Deer, like any other wildlife, are prone to take advantage of easily-accessible food sources. It's easier for them to belly-up to a stack of hay than it is to paw through drifted snow to get at grain stub-



Preventing Deer Depredation

By Bill Jensen

When natural food sources are covered by winter snow, deer often turn to stored hay, which can lead to problems if too many deer target the same hay source.

ble or grass. Garden vegetables and fruit are perhaps more taste-appealing than browse.

One way the Game and Fish Department can attempt to alleviate deer depredation is by increasing permit numbers in hunting units where deer are causing the most problems. However, white-tails can move more than 30 miles in search of winter food sources, so increas-

ing the harvest in certain units does not always work.

While the Game and Fish Department does not compensate landowners for damages caused by wildlife, the Department does provide technical assistance, and some materials that can help stop depredation before it starts. This is one area of wildlife management where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; or in

this instance, maybe a couple of tons of hay.

There are a number of things landowners can do to avoid big depredation problems, especially during winter. Management suggestions from other states and provinces (particularly Saskatchewan), were helpful in compiling this information for North Dakota landowners.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

If there is a primary underlying theme to preventing depredation problems on everything from hay stacks to gardens, it is: Keep it close and keep an eye on it. By storing hay (especially the best quality hay), close to home, you can more efficiently protect it. Avoid stacking hay near wooded areas. This only serves to provide deer with a resting area after they feed.

The presence of a dog in a kennel or around the farm yard is a strong deterrent against deer. However, dogs should not be used to chase deer.

It is much easier to deal with a depredation problem caused by

five or 10 animals, than with 50 to 100 deer. Getting on top of the situation is the key to successful control. If you have had a history of deer depredation problems, posting of your own or neighboring land during hunting season may be a contributing factor. Allowing hunters to harvest deer can minimize problems down the road. The Game and Fish Department has an abundant supply of "Walking Hunters Welcome - Please Park Your Vehicle and Walk," and "Ask Before You Enter - Hunting Allowed With Permission" signs available at no cost. The Department can also direct hunters to an area if that is desired.

SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

Table 1 cross-references depredation problems with the most appropriate prevention technique. Each situation presents unique concerns, and there may be options available other than those listed here.

FENCING

Hay Stack

Snow fence provides a simple and effective means of protecting hay stacks. The key to keeping fencing costs down is to keep hay stacks together in one or two accessible hay yards early in the fall. Wrap snow fence, to a height of six feet, up against the outer bales or sides of stacks. Deer will continue to nibble hay through the snow fence, but losses should be minimal.

One row of fence placed 2-4 feet from stacks will also provide protection. The fence prevents deer from reaching over and eating the hay, yet the hay is too close to allow deer to jump over the fence. Plastic snow fence costs about \$270 for a 165-foot roll.

Silage

A major problem with deer and silage is that deer walk on plastic tarps commonly used to cover pits, or paw at the sides of the bags, punching holes in the plastic and allowing some silage to spoil. Usually, silage fermentation is complete after about four weeks and then deer damage is less significant. However, continued pawing by deer will expose more silage.

Cattle or corral panels are used to keep deer away from silage stored in pits and bags. They are especially effective when used in combination with barbed wire. Construct a barbed wire fence around the silage 2-4 feet from the bags. Construct another fence made of portable cattle panels about 2-4 feet outside the barbed wire fence. In this situation, the two fences are close enough

Table One
Types of Depredation Problems
Versus Preventative Methods

	Fencing	Straw Barriers	Repellents	Frightening	Intercept Feeding
Hay Stacks	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Standing Crops				Yes	
Silage	Yes				
Orchards and Tree Nurseries	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Ornamental Shrubs and Gardens	Yes		Yes	Yes	



Putting snow fence around valuable hay can minimize or prevent deer depredation.

together so they do not allow deer to jump them and land in between. The price of cattle panels is variable, but good quality panels can be obtained for about \$60 per 12-foot section. A cheaper substitute would be to use welded wire panels (about \$14 per 16-foot section).

to construct substantial and potentially unsightly fencing around their shrubs and gardens. One way to deter deer is to wrap shrubs in chicken wire or snow fence during the fall. This will at least minimize winter browsing.

Fences around gardens should be either the slanted type discussed previously, or an eight-

foot high (12-foot posts) fence constructed of hog wire. If deer are unable to jump over a fence, they will attempt to crawl under it. Therefore, it is important to run the fencing material close to the ground, even covering the bottom wire with dirt. This type of fence will cost about \$3.50 per foot. More expensive material such as welded wire or chicken wire may increase the effectiveness of the fencing.

If there is a history of chronic deer problems in the neighborhood, a combination of fencing and repellents is the best approach. Deer can devastate a garden in one night, making a sealed approach for future protection a moot point. Again, having a dog around the yard is a strong deterrent.

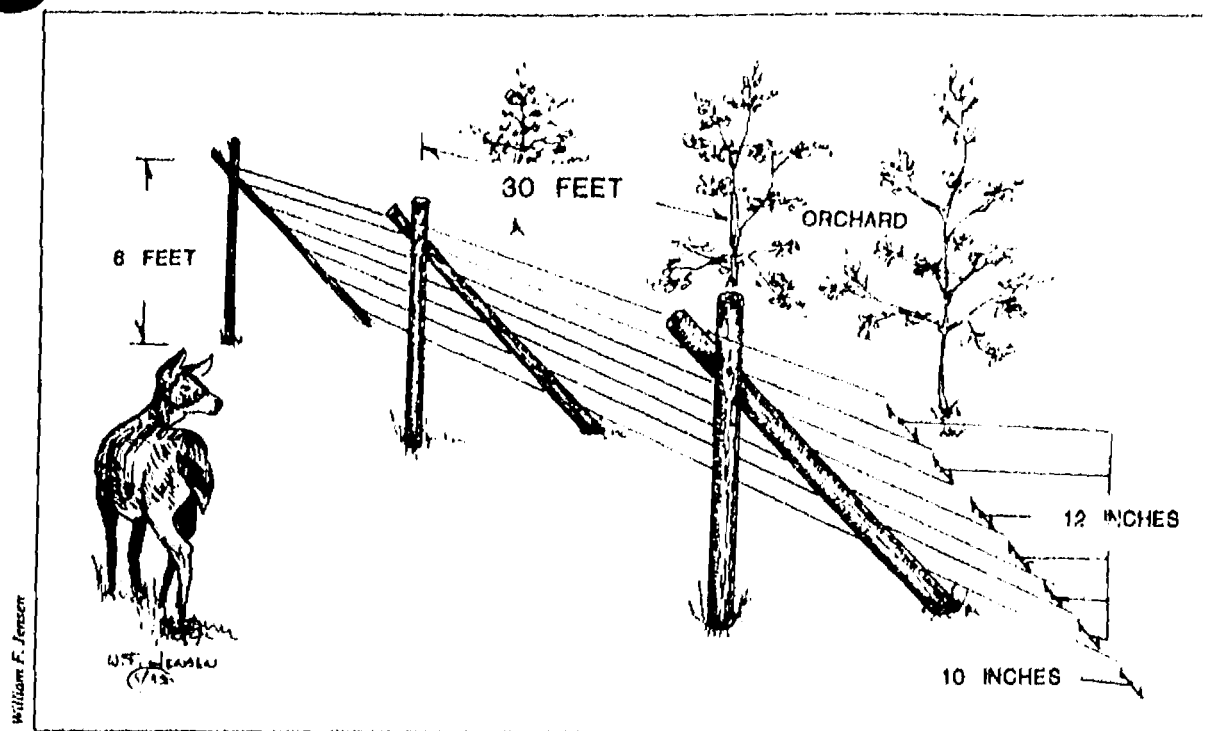


Figure 1. A slanted fence made of several strands of wire can keep deer out of orchards and gardens.

Orchards and Tree Nurseries

Deer damage to orchards and nursery stock can happen rapidly and be expensive. Much research and effort has been directed at finding new and better ways of fencing to keep deer, elk and moose away from commercially valuable trees.

A number of electrified and high tensile fence designs have been developed. One example is shown in Figure 1, where eight-foot posts are placed in the ground spaced about 30 feet apart. To each of these posts attach another eight foot post at a 45 degree angle to the ground. The angled post should slant in toward the crop you wish to protect. The high end should be at least six feet above the ground. Seven strands of high tensile wire are then stretched between the posts at 12-inch intervals, with the bottom wire 10 inches from the ground.

The strategy of using this type of fence is that the deer will walk under the overhanging fence and be unable to jump over it. To remain effective, plants under the overhang should be mowed. It has been estimated that a seven-wire slanted fence costs from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per linear foot.

Whether to fence orchards or use other control methods is a cost/benefit question. A 1984 report by Ellingwood and McAninch (Deer damage control in orchards and vineyards. Report No. 4946. NY Dept. of Ag. and Markets, Albany), found that regardless of design, material costs represented about 60 percent of the total cost. On 20 acres or more, a slanted fence costs less than three years of repellent spraying. On 40 acres or more an eight-foot woven wire fence is less costly than five years of spraying (note: cost comparisons did not include fence maintenance costs or life expectancy of fences).

Ornamental Shrubs and Gardens

Fencing ornamental shrubs and gardens around homes becomes more problematic. Homeowners are generally reluctant

STRAW BARRIERS

Hay Stacks

A simple and effective means of protecting hay is to place less palatable straw bales around the hay bales to form a barrier. A "fence" can be created by placing round bales vertically around the hay yard, then positioning other round bales horizontally on each vertical bale. The resulting barrier will be about 11 feet high. A simple gate can be constructed out of snow fence and 2 x 4s. If the problem continues, the bale barrier protection can be enhanced by placing snow fence around the perimeter of the straw bales.

REPELLENTS

There are a number of deer repellents that have been used over the years. Among these, one of the more effective is bloodmeal. Bloodmeal is dried powdered pig or beef blood. It is heated to a high temperature to kill all disease-carrying organisms. It is an effective deterrent because deer do not like putting their nose in it.

Bloodmeal can be messy, especially on windy days. Inhaling the dust should be avoided. Other similar repellents include home remedies such as egg shakes, dog hair and predator scents. There are also a number of commercial repellents on the market.

Hay Stacks

The most appropriate and cost effective repellent is probably bloodmeal. A half-gallon plastic container, such as a milk or bleach jug, makes a good scoop for handling bloodmeal.

Taking care to stand up wind, broadcast the bloodmeal into the stack up to a height of about six feet. Give areas where deer have been actively feeding an extra dose. A reddish tinge should be visible in the hay. Putting bloodmeal on snow-covered ground is not effective.

Bloodmeal costs about \$12 to \$13 for a 50-pound bag. Cattle and horses may avoid the treated portion of the bale.

Orchards and Tree Nurseries

If you have a small commercial nursery and deer depredation problems are starting to develop, use a commercial repellent. Results of testing on commercial repellents are a bit confusing, but suggest one brand is about as good as another. Follow label directions for mixing the repellents, and spray trees to a height of about eight feet (deer will feed while standing on their hind legs). Repellents need to be reapplied at least once a month; more often when deer become stressed in late winter. If problems continue, consider fencing.

Ornamental Shrubs and Gardens

Ornamental shrubs around homes can be protected, to some extent, by spraying them with an egg shake mix. This mix can be prepared by mixing two eggs with one gallon of water, and applying the solution with a hand sprayer. A bottle of tabasco sauce or an ounce of ground red pepper can be added to the egg shake, and may increase its effectiveness. This repellent should be reapplied at least once a month, or after each rain storm.

Heavily-scented deodorant soaps (e.g. Soap on a Rope, Irish Spring) have been used as deer repellents. Place the soap in old nylon stockings and hang one or two per tree at about three feet off the ground. Effectiveness of this method may vary, but it is an inexpensive approach using readily available products.

Ornamental Shrubs and Gardens

An easy-to-construct scare device can be made by placing a radio inside a metal garbage can. Position this can in the center of the garden, tune in an all-night rock music station, turn up the volume and let it play all night. Apparently this method has been successful. If you live in town, you may want to talk to your neighbor ahead of time about using this method.

INTERCEPT FEEDING

Standing Crops and Hay Stacks

Intercept or stop-gap feeding is a double-edged sword. It may solve a problem in one area, but create another one some place else, simply delaying the need to harvest more deer in that area until another year. The idea behind intercept feeding is to place a food source between a resting area and where deer are creating problems.

The feed provided should be of equal or better quality than that being protected. To be successful, placement of the feed stations must take into account:

1. Distance from other food sources
2. Snow conditions
3. Protection from wind and blowing snow
4. Livestock interference
5. Distance from roads and highways
6. Poaching
7. Predation by dogs and coyotes
8. The number of deer involved in the depredation complaint.

In short, the use of intercept feeding should be used only as a last resort and with direction and input from the Game and Fish Department.

The methods discussed above range from the simplest to the most complex techniques available. Each is effective in certain situations. Depredation by deer can be frustrating and a financial drain for a landowner. While the Game and Fish Department cannot compensate landowners for losses, the Department does have resources available to help prevent or reduce depredation problems. If you have a problem, or see potential for a problem contact the Bismarck Game and Fish office, or the district Game and Fish office in your area.

Keeping a close watch on your hay stacks, gardens and apple trees will speed response time and limit the damage. Planning ahead to prevent problems is in the long run the cheapest and best protection.

BILL JENSEN is a biologist with the Department's natural resources division.



Noise devices, such as a propane gun, will scare deer away for awhile, but deer may eventually become accustomed to the noise makers.

FRIGHTENING

Standing Crops, Orchard and Tree Nurseries

Standing crops of corn and alfalfa are particularly difficult to protect from deer damage. Short-term protection of standing crops, orchards and tree nurseries is possible with propane guns, firecrackers and other scare devices. Deer do, however, become accustomed to such noise makers. For assistance with the use of such devices, contact the Game and Fish Department.

North Dakota Game and Fish Department District Office Locations and Phone Numbers

Devils Lake — 662-3617
Dickinson — 227-2343
Jamestown — 252-4681
Lisbon — 683-4900
Harvey — 324-2211
Mott — 824-2337
Oakes — 742-2271
Riverdale — 654-7475
Williston — 774-4320