

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 3M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2122

2001 SENATE AGRICULTURE

SB 2122


2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2122

Senate Agriculture Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 18, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		46 - END
		X	0.0 - 20.6
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes:

LARRY KOTCHMAN; State Forester testified in favor of this bill, see attached testimony.

SENATOR KROEPLIN; Is there a management fee for this program?

LARRY KOTCHMAN; There is no management fee.

SENATOR WANZEK; Do you have a figure of how many dollars come in from that one dollar check off to trust fund?

LARRY KOTCHMAN; The contributions to the Centennial Trees from individual income tax check off since July 1, 1995 to June 30, 2000 brought in \$73,988.85, which is very consistent from year to year.

TOM CLAEYS; Centennial Trees Coordinator, also testified in favor of this bill. See attached testimony.

The hearing was closed.

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Senate Agriculture Committee

Bill/Resolution Number SB 2122

Hearing Date January 18, 2001

SENATOR KLEIN moves to DO PASS. SENATOR KROEPLIN seconded the motion. Roll

call vote carried 6 - 0 - 0. SENATOR NICHOLS will carry the bill.

FISCAL NOTE
 Requested by Legislative Council
 12/26/2000

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2122

Amendment to:

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

	1999-2001 Biennium		2001-2003 Biennium		2003-2005 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				\$28,000		
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

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

1999-2001 Biennium			2001-2003 Biennium			2003-2005 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

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

Based on historical data on similar voluntary contributions, Section 4 of SB 2122 could result in approximately \$14,000 per year for the Trees for North Dakota Program Trust Fund.

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

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

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

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

Name:	Kathryn L. Strombeck	Agency:	Tax Dept.
Phone Number:	328-3402	Date Prepared:	01/04/2001

Date: 1-18-01
Roll Call Vote #:

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2122

Senate _____ Agriculture _____ Committee

☐ Subcommittee on _____
or
☐ Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By SEN. KLEIN Seconded By SEN. KROEPLIN

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Wanzek - Chairman	✓		Senator Kroeplin	✓	
Senator Erbele - Vice Chairman	✓		Senator Nichols	✓	
Senator Klein	✓				
Senator Urlacher	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment SENATOR NICHOLS

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 18, 2001 12:52 p.m.

Module No: SR-08-1214
Carrier: Nichols
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2122: Agriculture Committee (Sen. Wanzek, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2122 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2001. HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES
SB 2122


2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2122

House Natural Resources Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 9, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
I		x	408 to 2583
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes:

Chairman Earl Rennerfeldt, Vice Chair Jon O. Nelson, Rep. Brekke, Rep. DeKrey, Rep. Drovdal, Rep. Galvin, Rep. Keiser, Rep. Klein, Rep. Nottestad, Rep. Porter, Rep. Weiler, Rep. Hanson, Rep. Kelsh, Rep. Solberg, Rep. Winrich,

Chairman Rennerfeldt: I will open the hearing on SB 2122.

Larry Kotchman - State Forester, ND Forest Service: I am here to speak in support of SB 2122.

(See written testimony).

Rep. Drovdal: In section 4 of the bill, it establishes a new way to contribute above your tax liability on your tax form. Is this going to appear on both the long form and short form of ND income tax?

Kotchman: This would continue an existing authority that is there, but it expires so it shows up as a new section of the bill. It does appear as a check off on both the long and short form.

Rep. Nottestad: I commend you for what you are doing. The amount of trees being ripped out for the irrigation development is huge. It certainly would replace some of that. My question would be, how much money do you get for that check-off and has it increased in the past three years?

Kotchman: The amount of contribution from the income tax check-off have remained relatively stable and steady since we have been involved with the program. In the 1995-97 biennium we received contributions from 4692 returns that total'd approximately \$29,700. Since that time, each biennium has been similar to that.

Rep. Droyda: What is a check-off as opposed to a contribution? If I owed a \$100 tax and checked this off, I would owe only \$99 to state and \$1 to fund. This is above my liability to the state, is it not?

Kotchman: Our understanding is that this is strictly voluntary on the part of the tax payer. If they do have a refund coming, they can elect to make a contribution of \$1 or more.

Vice Chair Nelson: Earlier in a bill we had, Commissioner Hildebrand talked about a program that Game and Fish is doing creating PLOTS for pheasant. Part of that program would include a tree planting. Do you partner with Game and Fish on projects like that?

Kotchman: Yes, we do partner with ND Game and Fish along with a lot of other agencies. The program you are talking about is the Cover Lot program.

Vice Chair Nelson: What is the general level of participation in cost share in programs like the living snow fence?

Kotchman: The level of participation and cost share in living snow fence is part of the program is 80/20 match and 80% is Federal and 20% is private source. Some packages we can get 100% of the cost. For example on private land adjacent to a local township, county road or highway

wanted to plant a living snow fence, they could put together a package that would cover 100% of the cost.

Vice Chair Nelson: From the Trees for ND Program, what is the usual participation level that your program goes into that with?

Kotchman: Our cost share level is 50/50. We are required to be matched using trust fund money.

Vice Chair Nelson: So if it is an 80/20 split and 80% is Federal, the 20% match the local level has to have, you will go up to 50% of the 20% match.

Kotchman: That is correct.

Rep. Keiser: In your program, how do you insure you are not competing with the local business people, the nursery people?

Kotchman: What has been done in North Dakota, there are pretty clear distinctions made on the types of tree plantings there are done. For example, in Trees for North Dakota has not only a component that involves conservation tree planting but it also does family forests geared to planting in communities using landscape trees. They are produced by the local nurseries. Our advisory members consist of several private sector members. There is not a problem in that regard. We work pretty closely with the conservation districts and the trees are produced by Lincoln Oaks Nursery. Landscape type plantings are produced by the private nursery sector and planted by them as well.

Chairman Rennerfeldt: Any other questions?

Bill Becker - ND Tax Department: I wish to address Rep. Drovda's question on check off versus contribution. In most other states it is generally a true check-off. Generally there is a box and there is a fixed amount coming off your refund. The contribution is done from the refund or

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House Natural Resources Committee

Bill/Resolution Number SB 2122

Hearing Date February 9, 2001

payment due side. You can designate the amount you wish to contribute. It is referred to as a check off, but it is in the nature of a contribution.

Chairman Rennerfeldt: Any other tax questions? Anyone else to speak in favor of SB 2122?

Rep. Keiser: If you contributed a \$100. Would that be a tax deduction?

Kotchman: On the tax return, if you have a refund of at least \$200. You can choose to contribute \$1 to \$200 to that fund. No, we owe the tax payer the \$200. They are just saying don't give it to me, give it to the fund. On the tax due side it works the same way, it does not affect your liability in any way.

Rep. Keiser: I was just wondering if that contribution constitutes a tax deduction?

Kotchman: You are asking if that is a charitable contribution or not? I would guess it is.

Rep. Winrich: I assume the only reason for the emergency clause is the expiration date of June 30 on the previous fund?

Kotchman: That is correct. Since you can't amend expired legislation you need to have that emergency clause.

Chairman Rennerfeldt: Any opposition to SB 2122? If not, I will close the hearing on SB 2122.

COMMITTEE WORK

Chairman Rennerfeldt: (Some discussion on handling Senate Bills before cross over). Okay, why don't we take action on this.

Rep. Drovda: I move a Do Pass.

Rep. DeKrey: I second.

Chairman Rennerfeldt: Is there any further discussion on SB 2122? Call the roll.

MOTION FOR A DO PASS

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House Natural Resources Committee
Bill/Resolution Number SB 2122
Hearing Date February 9, 2001

YES, 15 NO, 0

CARRIED BY REP. KELSH

Date: 2/9/01
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2122

House Natural Resources Committee

☐ Subcommittee on _____
or
☐ Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Rep. Drovdal Seconded By Rep. DeKrey

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Earl Rennerfeldt - Chairman	✓		Lyle Hanson	✓	
Jon O. Nelson - Vice Chairman	✓		Scot Kelsh	✓	
Curtis E. Brække	✓		Lonnie B. Winrich	✓	
Duane DeKrey	✓		Dorvan Solberg	✓	
David Drovdal	✓				
Pat Galvin	✓				
George Keiser	✓				
Frank Klein	✓				
Darrell D. Nottestad	✓				
Todd Porter	✓				
Dave Weiler	✓				

Total (Yes) 15 No 0

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Rep. Kelsh

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 9, 2001 4:12 p.m.

Module No: HR-24-2965
Carrier: S. Kelsh
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2122: Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Rennerfeldt, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (15 YEAS, 0 NAYS, ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2122 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2001 TESTIMONY

SB 2122

57TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

January 18, 2001

Senate Bill 2122 - "TREES FOR NORTH DAKOTA"

Testimony Submitted by:
Larry Kotchman, State Forester, and
Tom Claeys, Centennial Trees Coordinator

Purpose:

The proposed legislation is introduced at the request of the Board of Higher Education for the State Forester and seeks to continue successful components of the Centennial Trees Program by amending N.D.C.C. chapter 4-21.2. Creation of "Trees for North Dakota" and transferring assets from the Centennial Trees Program will allow tree planting efforts begun during the centennial decade to carry on into the new millennium. Duplicates the mechanism to allow income tax check-off contributions to "Trees for North Dakota" by creating a new section to N.D.C.C. chapter 57-38.

Background Information:

In honor of the tree planting tradition started by the state's early pioneers, leaders of government, business and citizen groups selected planting 100 million trees by the year 2000 as the focus for celebrating the 1989 state centennial. Slated as a ten-year effort, the Centennial Trees Program encourages North Dakotans to plant one million trees for each year of statehood. The program challenges every resident, community, organization and school to create a living legacy that will serve as a lasting reminder for future generations to enjoy.

The 1995 Legislature placed the responsibility for administering the Centennial Trees Program with the North Dakota Forest Service. The agency coordinates promotional, educational and fund raising activities. A seven-member Centennial Trees Advisory Committee, appointed by the Governor, works with the State Forester to promote the program. Funding is provided by the Centennial Trees Program Trust Fund, a special fund generated from voluntary contributions received from individual tax returns and other private donations. On June 30, 1995, the balance in the trust fund was \$164,776.77.

North Dakotans have raised annual tree planting accomplishments to over 6 million trees. The official Centennial Trees Count now stands at 66,734,025 trees and is expected to top 73 million. The Centennial Trees Program and its goal of planting 100 million trees by the year 2000 will sunset on June 30, 2001. It will cease to function as a program within the North Dakota Forest Service. A state-wide celebration is planned for Arbor Day, May 4, 2001, in Bismarck, to commemorate the program's success.

The proposed "Trees for North Dakota" legislation is a result of a motion passed by the Centennial Trees Advisory Committee on July 27, 2000. The Committee, chaired by Lt. Governor Rosemarie Myrdal, recommended the State Forester introduce legislation to continue selected authorities of the Centennial Trees Program that are slated to expire on June 30, 2001, and encouraged the development of new private and public tree planting partnerships.

This proposed "Trees for North Dakota" legislation seeks permission to utilize the existing framework for tree planting efforts begun during the centennial decade to continue into the new millennium. Its goal is to strengthen the tradition of annual tree planting and management in North Dakota. "Trees for North Dakota" will facilitate tree planting grants for continuing efforts such as the Living Snow Fence Initiative, Family Forests, Mitigation Tree Planting Partnership, Trees Bowl and other expenses associated with perpetuating annual tree planting accomplishments including promotional, educational and fund raising activities.

The NDFS has established an effective granting mechanism for funding tree planting projects under the Centennial Trees Program. Grants and private donations to the Centennial Trees Trust Fund have financed these efforts. The Centennial Trees Trust Fund is a special fund established in the state treasury under N.D.C.C. chapter 4-21.2. Trust fund revenues include volunteer income tax contributions authorized under N.D.C.C. chapter 57-38 and other private donations to the Centennial Trees Program. The trust fund's balance as of December 31, 2000, is \$337,668.41.

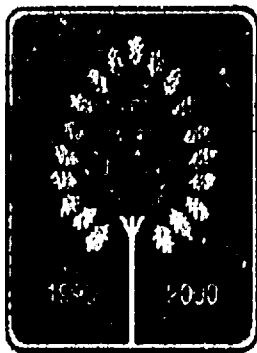
In 1996, the Community "Family Forest" Grant Program was created to honor each family in the state. To date, 83 communities across the state have received 147 Community "Family Forest" grants from the trust fund. Since 1995, expenditures from the trust fund have totaled \$222,538.18. The agency is also currently responsible for administering over \$1.5 million in federal grant funds for the Living Snow Fence Initiative. Overall, 32 counties have initiated 222 projects and 347 miles of trees are scheduled to be planted to protect 104 miles of roads.

The history of the Centennial Trees Program has demonstrated that a successful state-wide tree planting effort requires strong partnerships, adequate funding and incentives. Program interest and private donations for tree planting remains strong, as evidenced by a recent partnership with the Dakota Gasification Company resulting in a \$314,012 contribution to the trust fund.

The primary purpose of SB 2122 is to perpetuate the Centennial Trees Trust Fund authorities by removing the expiration date and renaming it the "Trees for North Dakota Trust Fund." The secondary purpose is to duplicate the mechanism allowing the continuation of income tax check-off contributions to "Trees for North Dakota." Continued coordination by the State Forester with legislative oversight will ensure that the funds are used for tree planting grants to public and private landowners.

Tree planting is a part of North Dakota's past, its present and its future. "Trees for North Dakota" will accomplish a strategic conservation need by protecting vital soil, water, air and wildlife resources. SB 2122, "Trees for North Dakota," will increase tree planting, conserve natural resources to the benefit of all North Dakotans and enhance the quality of life in communities and on family farms. We respectfully urge your support for this legislation.

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CENTENNIAL TREES PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

In honor of the vision shown by the state's early pioneers, North Dakotans selected the "planting of 100 million trees by the year 2000" as the theme for the Centennial in 1989. Stated as a ten-year effort, the Centennial Trees Program encourages North Dakotans to plant one million trees to represent each year of statehood.

Tree planting was chosen as the focal project during the centennial decade because all North Dakotans could become involved, projects could encompass the entire state, and due to the long-lasting benefits of trees. Every resident, community, organization and school is challenged to participate by creating a living legacy that will serve as a lasting reminder for future generations to enjoy.

The Legislature placed the Centennial Trees Program into the hands of the North Dakota Forest Service effective July 1, 1995. A seven-member Centennial Trees Advisory Committee, chaired by the Lt. Governor, provides direction for the program.

Lt. Governor Rosemarie Myrdal - Bismarck

Ms. Suzette Bieri - Grand Forks

Mr. Daniel Cashman - Bismarck

Mr. Duane Hauck - Fargo

Mr. Gary Krantz - Devils Lake

Ms. Christine Kuntz - Burlington

Ms. Audrey McElmury - Bowman

The Centennial Trees Program Mission Statement is as follows:

"The mission of the North Dakota Centennial Trees Program is to lead the effort in achieving the goal of planting 100 million trees in the state during the decade of the 1990s. The goal will be reached by:

- *Encouraging public agencies, private companies, and individuals to plant more trees;*
- *Stimulating greater public demand for trees and shrubs;*
- *Organizing volunteer participation in local tree committees;*
- *Coordinating information, education, and promotion efforts of tree planting professionals; and*
- *Conducting tree planting recognition events."*

BUDGET

Funding for the Centennial Trees Program is provided by the Centennial Trees Program Trust Fund, a special fund generated from voluntary tax contributions received from the North Dakota individual tax returns and other private donations.

North Dakotans have an opportunity to give to the Centennial Trees Program while filing their Individual Income Tax. The Centennial Trees Program is authorized to receive funds through a special income tax check-off. Donations are deposited directly into the Centennial Trees Trust fund each month.

North Dakota Individual Income Tax Check-Off Donations				
July 95-June 96 \$14,076.62	July 96-June 97 \$15,691.38	July 97-June 98 \$14,444.46	July 98-June 99 \$15,041.72	July 99-June 00 \$14,734.67
95-97 Biennium Total \$29,768.00		97-99 Biennium Total \$29,486.18		99-01 Total to date \$14,734.67

Interest Generated by CDs

A portion of the Centennial Trees Trust Fund is retained as a CD in the Bank of North Dakota. While the rate fluctuates slightly, the CD yields approximately 3% interest. Each month, the interest generated is directly deposited into the trust fund.

Interest Generated by CDs		
95-97 Biennium (July 1, 1995 - June 30, 1997) @\$1,968	97-99 Biennium (July 1, 1997 - June 30, 1999) @\$1,682	99-01 Biennium (July 1, 1999 - December 31, 2000) @\$5,149.21

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Centennial Trees Program is an expansion of existing tree planting efforts from a wide variety of private and public tree planting partners. The program operates on the practical assumption that citizens will create tree planting projects that meet local needs.

The North Dakota Forest Service is responsible for program administration and coordinates promotional, educational, and fund-raising activities.

Centennial Trees Count

As a result of North Dakotans' willingness to expand their tree planting efforts, tree planting numbers have increased significantly since 1989 when the program was initiated.

The official tree count record is compiled by the State Forester and released annually on Arbor Day to track the progress toward the goal of "planting 100 million trees by the year 2000."

The Official Tree Count includes the following reporting categories, as well as a cumulative total for the entire project: public tree nurseries, commercial tree nurseries, other tree planters, forest regeneration projects, and pre-1989 projects.

Official Centennial Trees Program Yearly Totals	
Pre-1989 Centennial Trees Projects	1,906,035
1989 Plantings	5,030,766
1990 Plantings	4,950,146
1991 Plantings	5,044,206
1992 Plantings	5,790,362
1993 Plantings	6,046,766
1994 Plantings	7,037,836
1995 Plantings	7,004,425
1996 Plantings	6,083,969
1997 Plantings	5,446,577
1998 Plantings	6,027,776
1999 Plantings	6,345,161
OFFICIAL CENTENNIAL TOTAL	66,734,025

Arbor Day

The Official State Arbor Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the planting of trees and also release the Official Tree Count. Tree planting celebrations and festivities highlight this annual event which is hosted by communities on a rotating basis.

State Arbor Day Celebration Sites - Since 1996

- X 1996 - Bismarck, Original "Family Forest" - NDG&F OWLS Site
- X 1996 - Whitman Reservoir, Nelson County - "Family Forest"
- X 1997 - Minot, "Family Forest"
- X 1998 - Fargo, Living Snow Fence
- X 1999 - Hazen, Community Forestry Pioneers
- X 2000 - Grand Forks, A Tree-mendous Millennium
- X 2001 - Bismarck, Celebrate the Success, Sunset Celebration

Long-Range Strategic Plan

A long-range strategic plan was completed in 1996, based on input from the Centennial Trees Advisory Committee and tree planting partners. The plan:

- Provides direction for the program through the year 2000 and beyond.
- Identifies cooperative efforts involving the North Dakota Forest Service and public and private partners.
- Provides a base for financial planning for the program.
- Increases program efficiency.
- Improves program delivery by proactively managing program needs.

Centennial Trees Program Long-Range Strategic Plan

Tree Promotion

Since 1996, a series of statewide meetings have been held with tree planting partners to develop strategies to increase tree planting in rural North Dakota. The resulting "Statewide Conservation Tree Planting Promotional Plan" identifies goals, processes, champions, and partners to promote tree planting. Tree planting partners meet annually to share ideas and promotional opportunities in a continuing effort to increase rural tree planting.

Tree Promotion Meetings have been held annually since 1996. A series of Living Snow Fence Meetings were held across the state in 1999 and 2000. All together, over 625 individuals have participated, sharing ideas and learning about opportunities to plant trees.

"Statewide Conservation Tree Planting Promotional Plan," "Tree Promotion Tips," "North Dakota Tree Handbook," and annual "Tree Planting Calendar - Monthly Planters" have been created and distributed.

Centennial Trees Bowl

The Centennial Trees Program annually sponsors a NDSU Bison football game known as "The Centennial Trees Bowl." This well attended Fargo-based event is highlighted by a recognition ceremony and seedling giveaway.

Individuals and organizations who contribute in an outstanding way to forestry activities are presented a personalized engraved plaque and recognized during half-time at the game. The event provides an opportunity to publicly thank tree planting leaders for their accomplishments.

Centennial Trees Awards Winners 1991-Present

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION		COMMUNICATOR		RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL	
1991	Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce	1991	Grand Forks Herald	1991	John Schultz, NDSU
1992	Greater Gateway Association	1992	Valley Press, Bismarck	1992	Marcel Hupik, Diverse Environmental Services
1993	Shawco, Inc., Fargo	1993	Minuteman Press, Fargo	1993	Marcel Hupik, Diverse Environmental Services
1994	Lincoln Oakmont Properties	1994	KTVE-TV, Fargo		
1995	Amoco Corporation - Mandan	1995	Marilyn Haasly, Grand Forks Herald	SERVICE CLUB	
1996	NDASCU	1996	Terry Zeman, Devils Lake	1991	Bismarck Rotary Club, Bismarck
1997	Northern Sun - ADM, Enderlin	1997	Melanie Thorsenga, NDSU Radio	1992	Towner Jaycees, Towner
1998	Northwest Bank, Jamestown	1998	Mary Hahn, Keesee	1993	Bismarck Jaycees, Bismarck
1999	North Valley Water Assoc., Inc., Cavalier	1999	Emmons County Gazette, Emmons	1994	Mandan Lions Club
2000	Minnesota Recycling, Fargo	2000	Larry Erdman, ND State Forestry	1995	Brighthelm Homeowners Assn.
CITIZEN FORESTER		FOREST RESOURCE EDUCATOR		1996	Emmons County Gazette, Emmons
1991	Florenz Byrneson, West Fargo	1991	Tom McCarthy, ND State Forestry	1997	Emmons County Gazette, Emmons
1992	Paul "Bud" Wainor, Hazen	1992	Kenneth Voliva, Towner	1998	Dickinson Urban Forestry Association
1993	Connie Nicholas, Cando	1993	Dave Zimmerman, Towner	1999	Bismarck-Haley Anglers Association
1994	Mike Martin, Enderlin	1994	Carol Byrneson, Cavalier	2000	Enderlin GFWC Study Club
1995	Larry Kuk, Towner	1995	Tom McCarthy, ND State Forestry		
1996	Mrs. Clarence Gorman, Minot	1996	Dorothy Wanz, Minot	STUDENT TREE PLANTERS	
1997	M. Donald Linsen, Cando	1997	John F. Farnsworth, Towner	1991	Dickinson Day Camp, Dickinson
1998	David Byrneson, New Rockford	1998	Mark Pyberg, New Rockford	1992	Heather Giles & Larry Nelson, Fargo
1999	Kenneth Koehn, Devils Lake	1999	Hazel Hunkan, West Fargo	1993	Karen Brown, Bismarck
2000	In Memory of Peter Ellichuk, Williston	2000	Dr. Zina Mina Shera, Williston	1994	New England/Regent FFA
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPER		FOREST RESOURCE YOUTH LEADER		1995	Helping Hands 4-H Club, Minot
1991	Glory Harwood, Fargo	1991	Nedra Frolich	1996	Southwest 4-H Club
1992	E.W. Wylie Corp., Fargo	1992	Becky Olson, Bismarck	1997	Northern Night Owls 4-H Club
1993	Douglas Edwards, Hazen	1993	Walt C. Johnson, Towner	1998	Prarie Learning Center Students
1994	Annie Hafner, Burleigh County	1994	Robert Merrill, Drayton	1999	Agniesz M.S. Manthornian, Fargo
1995	Larry Nygaard, & Fred & Eudene Hector	1995	LaVita Beach, Devils Lake	2000	Justin Grouha, Boy Scout Troop #15
1996	Eld Company, Fargo	1996	Joseph Raymond, Towner		
1997	Roger Evensen, Enderlin Oak Mountain	1997	Cathy Johnson, Bismarck	TREE STEWARD	
CITY		1998	Jerry Larson, Dickinson	1991	William K. Fager, Grand Forks
1991	Conway and Forman	1999	Tom McCarthy, ND State Forestry	1992	Martin C. Lund, Grand Forks
1992	Grand Forks and Towner	2000	Angie Bartholomay, Dickinson	1993	Ron Giffert, LaMoure
1993	Ellendale	FOREST STEWARDSHIP LANDOWNER		1994	Lloyd Giffert, Grand Forks
1994	Watford City	1991	Keith and Leola Olson, Cavalier	1995	Howard Olson, Fargo
1995	Drayton	1992	David & Shirley Papp, Towner		
1996	Chauville and Pekin	1993	Paul Kiser Bible Camp	WILDLIFE LANDOWNERS	
1997	Lisbon	1994	James & Karen Lindberg, Mandan	1991	Arthur & Arlene Heston, Bismarck
1998	Fargo	1995	Philip & Cynthia Johnston, Enderlin	1992	James K. Miller, Bismarck
1999	Devils Lake	GOVERNMENT AGENCY		1993	Douglas Alm, Bismarck
2000	Hazen	1991	Towner Agency, Towner	1994	Douglas Alm, Bismarck
COMMERCIAL DEVELOPER		1992	Grand Forks Forestry Department	1995	Harold Miller & W. Heston, Bismarck
1991	Swanson and Hagen, Inc., Bismarck	1993	MAFES & Nelson County Water Board	1996	Byron & Carol Nelson, Grand Forks
1992	Dean Caldwell, Minot	1994	ND Game & Fish Department	1997	Ewald Wetzel, Bismarck
1993	M. Donald Linsen, Cando	1995	Richland Soil Conservation District	1998	Dave & Renee Larson, Towner
1994	Rehder, Minot	1996	NDSU Program of Restoration, Bismarck	2000	Mary Lou Larson, Towner
		1997	NDSU Extension Service, Fargo		
		1998	Living Oak Farm Park, Fargo	WORTHINGTON AWARD FOR YOUTH	
		1999	Port Lincoln Park, Bismarck	1991	Rene Lahan-Borer, Towner
				1992	William Moffet, Bismarck
				1993	Edward Johnson, Towner
				1994	Ned K. Johnson, Minot
				1995	Paul Giffert, Grand Forks
				1996	Martin & William Heston, Bismarck
				1997	Dave & Renee Larson, Towner
				1998	John Johnson, Towner

At the eleven Centennial Trees Bowls 33,200 trees have been distributed to 131,294 fans.

138 awards have been presented to the various Trees Awards Winners

Family Forests

The Community "Family Forest" Grant Program was initiated to honor each family in the state. Grant funds are available annually to communities interested in establishing Community "Family Forests" to meet local tree planting needs. Among the many eligible community projects are beautification, memorial, park and recreation area plantings; arboretums; outdoor classrooms; community windbreaks; and living snow fences.

These unique tree planting projects will contribute to the Centennial Trees Program goal of planting "100 million trees by the year 2000."

83 Communities across the state have received 147 "Family Forest" grants. Together they have planted 32,677 trees at a cost of @\$3.85/tree. Since 1990, the CTAC has provided \$170,700 in grant funds for these projects.

Amidon	Drayton (3)	Lakota	New Town	Towner (2)
Argusville	Edinburg	Lakshur	Northwood (2)	Turtle Lake (2)
Arnegard	Enderlin (2)	Linton	Maddock (2)	Underwood (2)
Avilla (5)	Emond (2)	Lisbon (3)	Felin (4)	Vespa (3)
Beach (2)	Fort Totten Historic Site	Mandan (2)	Pembina	Walhagen (2)
Berthold	Fort Yates	Mandaree	Pettibone	Walhalla (2)
Bismarck	Garrison (3)	Medora	Powers Lake	Watford City (4)
Botineau (3)	Glenburn	Menoken	Pringle	West Fargo
Burlington	Goodrich (2)	Millon (2)	Riverdale	Wheatland
Calvin	Grafton (4)	Minot (4)	Rolla (2)	Whitman Precinct
Cando	Grandin	Minot AFB (4)	Ross	Williston (4)
Cannon Ball	Granville (6)	Mohall (2)	Sandborn	Willow City
Cavalier	Harvey	Mott (2)	Sawyer	Wilton (3)
Center	Hatton	Napoleon	Sherwood	Wing
Crosby	Hazen (3)	Neche (3)	Standing Rock (2)	Wishek
Dea Lake (4)	Hettinger	New England	Stanley	
Devils Lake (2)	Kensal	New Rockford (2)	Surrey	

() Denotes the number of grants received by the community.

Living Snow Fences

The Centennial Trees Advisory Committee, in partnership with the Living Snow Fence Task Force, launched the Living Snow Fence Initiative in 1997. The CTAC made trust funds available for living snow fence grants. Funds were used to cover the landowner's share of tree and shrub planting costs and the first year of maintenance for landowners willing to establish living snow fences to protect adjacent priority county and township roads. This pilot project paved the way for FEMA HMGP-Living Snow Fence, LSF-Transportation Enhancement, and CIP Mitigation Tree Planting Partnership grant programs. Between the three new grant programs, \$1.5 million dollars are available to establish Living Snow Fences along Interstate, State, BIA, County and Township roads.

To date, 32 counties have initiated 222 projects. Approximately 347 miles of trees are scheduled to be planted to protect 104 miles of roads. \$837,163 in grant funds have been allocated which includes \$34,041 in CIP trust funds. Total project costs exceed \$936,295.

School Tree Program

The School Tree Program provides the tools for young people to learn about tree planting and the benefits of trees. Students learn how trees enhance the quality of life for future generations. Participating schools receive a free tree for every student in grades K-4, which may be used as a part of a school planting project or planted at home.

Tree planting benefits local communities, wildlife populations, the environment, soil stewardship, sustainable agriculture and, best of all, future generations. Today's children are the tree planters and stewards of tomorrow.

Since 1989, school children have planted 544,615 trees as a result of the School Tree Program! Support has been excellent with more than 270 schools participating each year. Private donations exceed \$6,000 annually.

Centennial Trees Commissioned Prints

The Centennial Trees Commissioned Print was created to be used for fund raising, donor recognition, increasing public awareness, and as a lasting remembrance. Longtime North Dakota artist Burdette Calkins was commissioned to create an original work embodying the spirit of the Centennial Trees Program.

Burt's original watercolor entitled, "For the Next Hundred Years," exemplifies the efforts of North Dakotans, young and old, to annually plant trees. Limited edition signed prints, remarked prints, poster prints and greeting cards are available to those who contribute to the Centennial Trees Trust Fund.

Print Requests				
Remarked (17) @\$2,125	Limited Edition (29) @\$2,900	Posters (8) @\$160	Greeting Cards (21) @\$315	Total Donations \$5,480 generated

Patch Program

The Centennial Trees Program complements many of the Scouting goals, therefore, a partnership is only natural. Scouting provides activities designed to encourage leadership, life skills, racial and ethnic pride and concern for the environment. Tree planting allows scouts an opportunity to enhance their environmental awareness and to learn about the positive benefits of trees.

The Centennial Trees Advisory Committee encourages everyone to become a part of the effort to plant "100 million trees by the year 2000." The Centennial Trees Patch Program has been created for scouts to offer them a way of participating in the centennial goal. To earn a patch, scouts must fulfill the requirements appropriate for their age, and a star may be earned each subsequent year.

551 Centennial Trees Patches and 119 stars have been distributed to scouts across the state.

☛ Mitigation Tree Planting Partnership ☛

Dakota Gasification Company, a subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, has been required by the Public Service Commission (PSC) to plant on a 2:1 ratio trees and shrubs removed during construction of a new carbon dioxide pipeline. The PSC advocated mitigation options be sought for landowners that did not desire to have replacement trees planted on their land. Dakota Gasification turned to the Centennial Trees Program as an effective statewide delivery system that involves the planting, care and maintenance of trees to complete their obligations. A partnership with the Centennial Trees Program, resulting in a \$314,012 donation to the Trust Fund, was established.

Tree planting opportunities are targeted at the entire state of North Dakota. Willing landowners, both public and private, will be encouraged to participate. Grant funds will be made available for a variety of tree planting projects. With support from natural resource agencies and tree planting partners, together we will successfully plant 36,484 shrubs and 15,991 trees. By following established tree planting specifications, at least 75% of these trees and shrubs can be expected to be growing vigorously after a period of three years.

Mission Statement:

"Successfully plant 52,075 trees and shrubs by coordinating with natural resource partners; utilizing existing delivery mechanisms; and offering incentives to public and private landowners while taking advantage of a combination of currently available and creative new funding sources."

In only the second year of the partnership,
26,018 trees and 15,835 shrubs are scheduled to be planted in
living snow fences and family forests across the state.

☛ Other ☛

1995-present: Partner in Keep North Dakota Clean.

1996: ISA Gold Leaf Award - 1995 Centennial Trees Program "Family Forest."

1997: Ceremonial Tree Planting at Sertoma Park in Grand Forks with local legislators and city officials.

1997: National Arbor Day Foundation - Celebration Award - 1995 Centennial Trees Program "Family Forest."

1999: National Arbor Day Foundation - Certificate of Merit - Living Snow Fence Initiative

57TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

February 9, 2001

Senate Bill 2122 - "TREES FOR NORTH DAKOTA"

Testimony Submitted by:

**Larry Kotchman, State Forester, and
Tom Claeys, Centennial Trees Coordinator**

Purpose:

Senate Bill 2122 is introduced at the request of the Board of Higher Education for the State Forester and the Centennial Trees Advisory Committee. The proposed legislation seeks to continue successful components of the Centennial Trees Program by amending N.D.C.C. chapter 4-21.2. Sections 1,2 and 3 rename the trust fund and transfer assets from the Centennial Trees Program to "Trees for North Dakota." Section 4 duplicates the current mechanism allowing income tax check-off contributions to "Trees for North Dakota" by creating a new section to N.D.C.C. chapter 57-38. These amendments will allow tree planting efforts begun during the centennial decade to carry on into the new millennium.

Background Information:

In honor of the tree planting tradition started by the state's early pioneers, leaders of government, business and citizen groups selected planting 100 million trees by the year 2000 as the focus for celebrating the 1989 state centennial. Slated as a ten-year effort, the Centennial Trees Program encourages North Dakotans to plant one million trees for each year of statehood. The program challenges every resident, community, organization and school to create a living legacy that will serve as a lasting reminder for future generations to enjoy.

The 1995 Legislature placed the responsibility for administering the Centennial Trees Program with the North Dakota Forest Service. The agency coordinates promotional, educational and fund raising activities. A seven-member Centennial Trees Advisory Committee, appointed by the Governor, works with the State Forester to promote the program. We have complied with the Legislature's intent to finance the Centennial Trees Program through donations from the private sector. Funding is provided by the Centennial Trees Program Trust Fund, a special fund generated from voluntary contributions from individual tax returns and private donations.

North Dakotans have raised annual tree planting accomplishments to over 6 million trees. The official Centennial Trees Count now stands at 66,734,025 trees and is expected to top 73 million. The Centennial Trees Program and its goal of planting 100 million trees by the year 2000 will sunset on June 30, 2001. It will cease to function as a program within the North Dakota Forest Service. A state-wide celebration is planned for Arbor Day, May 4, 2001, in Bismarck, to commemorate the program's success.

The proposed "Trees for North Dakota" legislation is a result of a motion passed by the Centennial Trees Advisory Committee on July 27, 2000. The Committee, chaired by Lt. Governor Rosemarie Myrdal, recommended the State Forester introduce legislation to continue selected authorities of the Centennial Trees Program that are slated to expire on June 30, 2001, and encouraged the development of new private and public tree planting partnerships.

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This proposed "Trees for North Dakota" legislation seeks permission to utilize the existing framework for tree planting efforts begun during the centennial decade. Trees for North Dakota will continue into the new millennium using private sector support. Its goal is to strengthen the tradition of annual tree planting and management in North Dakota. "Trees for North Dakota" will facilitate tree planting grants for continuing efforts such as the Living Snow Fence Initiative, Family Forests, Mitigation Tree Planting Partnership, Trees Bowl and other expenses associated with perpetuating annual tree planting accomplishments including promotional, educational and fund raising activities. "Trees for North Dakota" will not be funded through the state's general fund.

The NDFS has established an effective granting mechanism for funding tree planting projects under the Centennial Trees Program. Grants and private donations to the Centennial Trees Trust Fund have financed these efforts. The Community "Family Forest" Grant Program was created to honor each family in the state. Since 1995, 83 communities across the state have received 147 Community "Family Forest" grants from the trust fund. Expenditures from the trust fund have totaled \$222,538.18. The agency is also currently responsible for administering over \$1.5 million in federal grant funds for the Living Snow Fence Initiative. Overall, 32 counties have initiated 222 projects and 347 miles of trees are scheduled to be planted to protect 104 miles of roads. None of the trust funds or grant funds have been expended on personnel or any indirect costs incurred by the North Dakota Forest Service in administering the program.

The history of the Centennial Trees Program has demonstrated that a successful state-wide tree planting effort requires strong partnerships, adequate funding and incentives. Public interest and private donations for tree planting remain strong, as evidenced by a recent partnership with the Dakota Gasification Company resulting in a \$314,012 contribution to the trust fund. The trust fund's balance as of December 31, 2000, is \$337,668.41. The Centennial Trees Trust Fund is a special fund established in the state treasury under N.D.C.C. chapter 4-21.2. Trust fund revenues include volunteer income tax contributions authorized under N.D.C.C. chapter 57-38 and other private donations to the Centennial Trees Program.

In summary, the primary purpose of SB 2122 is to perpetuate the Centennial Trees Trust Fund authorities by removing the expiration date and renaming it the "Trees for North Dakota Trust Fund." The secondary purpose is to duplicate the mechanism allowing the continuation of income tax check-off contributions to "Trees for North Dakota." Continued coordination by the State Forester with legislative oversight will ensure that the funds are used for tree planting grants to public and private landowners.

Tree planting is a part of North Dakota's past, its present and its future. "Trees for North Dakota" will accomplish a strategic conservation need by protecting vital soil, water, air and wildlife resources. SB 2122, "Trees for North Dakota," will increase tree planting, conserve natural resources to the benefit of all North Dakotans and enhance the quality of life in communities and on family farms. We respectfully urge your support for this legislation.

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