



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Testimony of John Bradley North Dakota Wildlife Federation House Bill 1017 House Appropriations Committee January 12, 2021

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). I am here today representing our 1,500 members and 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's club across North Dakota. While I cannot speak for the 100,000 plus hunters and anglers that took to the field last year, I would say our views are representative of many of them.

The Department's budget has always been comprised of revenue from hunting and fishing licenses, and federal excise taxes based on the sale of sporting goods. The Department does not receive any money from the state's general fund. Game and Fish Department programs provide habitat for fish and wildlife, access for hunters and anglers, and other programs which result in billions of dollars to lodges, restaurants, gas stations, bars, and other small-town businesses. 2020 saw an increase in hunting and fishing licenses in North Dakota as residents and non-residents alike, took to the great outdoors to escape the confines of lockdowns, quarantines, and Zoom calls. (License numbers attached) The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent Canadian border being closed resulted in increased numbers of sportsmen and women on PLOTS tracts, WMAs, and in the National Grasslands.

But the need for funding has surpassed the amount of funding available to effectively deliver Department programs. If more money is made available, then the Department can significantly improve programs such as PLOTS, land purchases, access to land locked tracts, ice fishing access, habitat enhancements, etc., along with many other important programs benefiting our state's outdoor recreation economy.

Therefore, the 2021 legislation should support a strong, robust Game and Fish budget and provide an increase to the Department's PLOTS and land acquisition line items in the budget. An investment in these programs will benefit our citizens and our local economies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that the committee might have.



North Dakota Game and Fish Department License Sales Trend

01/08/2021

* This report displays change in license sales from 03/15/2020 - 12/31/2020 compared to the same date range of the previous year.

License Name	2019	2020	Percent Change	License Totals
NR FISH LIC	18,171	19,186	5.6%	1,015
NR 3-DAY FISH	19,172	18,747	-2.2%	-425
NR 10-DAY FISH	5,648	5,859	3.7%	211
NR MARRIED COUPLE FISH LIC	5,461	6,277	14.9%	816
NR SPOUSAL FISHING	5,449	6,278	15.2%	829
NR GEN GAME & HABITAT	36,579	41,265	12.8%	4,686
NR 14-DAY SMALL GAME LIC	18,047	20,568	14.0%	2,521
NR 14-DAY WATERFOWL LIC	15,639	17,068	9.1%	1,429
NR 14-DAY STATEWIDE WATERFOWL LIC	5,094	6,995	37.3%	1,901
NR EARLY CANADA GOOSE LIC	1,279	2,300	79.8%	1,021
NR SPRING SNOW GOOSE LIC	551	586	6.4%	35
NR WHITETAIL DEER BOW	2,071	2,521	21.7%	450
NR NONGAME	1,519	1,398	-8.0%	-121
NR FURBEARER & NONGAME	2,221	2,480	11.7%	259
NR PADDLEFISH	662	0	0.0%	-662
RES FISH LIC	43,472	50,904	17.1%	7,432
RES MARRIED COUPLE FISH LIC	13,161	14,350	9.0%	1,189
RES SPOUSAL FISHING	13,146	14,349	9.2%	1,203
RES SR CIT FISH LIC	12,208	14,951	22.5%	2,743
RES COMBINATION LICENSE	58,007	63,103	8.8%	5,096
RES GEN GAME & HABITAT LIC	41,155	45,963	11.7%	4,808
RES SM GAME HUNTING	13,664	15,123	10.7%	1,459
RES DEER BOW LIC	23,104	25,155	8.9%	2,051
RES EARLY CANADA GOOSE LIC	6,448	6,798	5.4%	350
RES PADDLEFISH	2,287	0	0.0%	-2,287
RES FURBEARER	12,343	13,146	6.5%	803