

SB2036

Presentation by Dave Dewald and Brian Schanilec

– Section 6 of House Bill No. 1021, passed during the 2019 Legislative Session, called for a legislative management to study access to public and private lands for hunting, trapping, fishing, and related issues, including trespass violations and penalties, and provide recommendations regarding a land access database with the capability of electronic posting. Under the leadership of Senator Erbele, this Interim Legislative committee made progress discussing access issues but mainly dealing with electronic posting. SB2036 is an excellent way to keep the dialog going, on a legislative level, to come up with solutions on hunter and angler access. Further discussion and debate needs to be had dealing with the process that the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and Non-Profit Organizations go through to purchase land that is made available to hunters and anglers. In addition, this committee needs to look for solutions for landlocked property. Through improving relationships between landowners and operators, more access is granted to landlocked public land tracts such as US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, ND Department of Trust Lands and yes even ND Wildlife Management Areas that are landlocked with no hunter access. Ice fishing access is another issue that needs further study. North Dakota is an ice fishing destination with some lake lacking proper access to accommodate that fishing pressure. This bill received unanimous support from the Interim Legislative Committee and will continue the dialog started between sportsmen and women, landowners, and legislatures.