



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Testimony of John Bradley
North Dakota Wildlife Federation
Senate Bill 2017
Senate Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Division
January 25, 2023

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). I am here today representing our thousands of 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 (attached), and federal excise taxes based on the sale of sporting goods. The Department does not receive any money from the state's general fund. The 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.

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 and practices 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 2023 legislation should support a strong, robust Game and Fish budget and provide an increase to the Department's PLOTs and Aquatic Nuisance Species 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

01/17/2023

* This report displays change in license sales from 03/01/2022 - 01/14/2023 compared to the same date range of the previous year.

License Name	2021	2022	Percent Change	License Totals
NR FISH LIC	17,793	16,192	-9.0%	-1,601
NR 3-DAY FISH	21,439	18,111	-15.5%	-3,328
NR 10-DAY FISH	6,898	5,076	-26.4%	-1,822
NR MARRIED COUPLE FISH LIC	5,941	5,377	-9.5%	-564
NR SPOUSAL FISHING	5,934	5,378	-9.4%	-556
NR GEN GAME & HABITAT	41,282	42,717	3.5%	1,435
NR 14-DAY SMALL GAME LIC	21,209	21,996	3.7%	787
NR 14-DAY WATERFOWL LIC	15,963	16,969	6.3%	1,006
NR 14-DAY STATEWIDE WATERFOWL LIC	7,099	7,658	7.9%	559
NR EARLY CANADA GOOSE LIC	1,813	1,788	-1.4%	-25
NR SPRING SNOW GOOSE LIC	1,402	1,231	-12.2%	-171
NR CRANE	2,316	2,686	16.0%	370
NR WHITETAIL DEER BOW	2,721	2,491	-8.5%	-230
NR NONGAME	1,278	1,248	-2.3%	-30
NR FURBEARER & NONGAME	2,376	2,235	-5.9%	-141
RES FISH LIC	42,177	39,040	-7.4%	-3,137
RES MARRIED COUPLE FISH LIC	11,924	11,175	-6.3%	-749
RES SPOUSAL FISHING	11,929	11,176	-6.3%	-753
RES SR CIT FISH LIC	14,670	15,084	2.8%	414
RES COMBINATION LICENSE	63,760	61,838	-3.0%	-1,922
RES GEN GAME & HABITAT LIC	42,281	41,592	-1.6%	-689
RES SM GAME HUNTING	12,714	13,181	3.7%	467
RES DEER BOW LIC	24,383	22,656	-7.1%	-1,727
RES DEER BOW - YOUTH	1,855	1,739	-6.3%	-116
RES EARLY CANADA GOOSE LIC	5,978	5,420	-9.3%	-558
RES CRANE	2,581	2,857	10.7%	276
RES FURBEARER	6,427	6,277	-2.3%	-150