

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

In 2013, North Dakota's Outdoor Heritage fund was established. It was established to provide grant funds for many types of conservation projects, with 4 identified directives guiding the applications. It can provide up to 40 million dollars per biennium in grant funding.

From the Outdoor Heritage Fund website:

"Priority is given to projects that enhance conservation practices in the state by:

* **Directive A** - Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

* **Directive B** - Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems, and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

* **Directive C** - Developing, enhancing, conserving, and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

* **Directive D** - Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas."

Greg Powers testified that in the past 10 years fishing tournament conservation fees raised slightly more than 1 million dollars. Yet the Outdoor Heritage Fund can surpass that in a month... and funds can be used for the same projects that this "conservation fee" is used for.

I open record requested the use of these Outdoor Heritage Fund Grants by NDGF and also any fishing requests in the last 5 years. This was what I received back.

"The ND Game and Fish Dept has received the following grants from OHF:

-001-017: ND Game and Fish Dept Outdoor Heritage Habitat Initiative awarded 01/29/2014

- \$1,900,000 total grant award

- \$1,850,500 spent to date

-003-040: ND Pheasant Habitat Initiative awarded 09/17/2014

- \$3,000,000 total grant award

- \$93,219 spent to date

-017-172: Red River Basin Wildlife and Water Quality Enhancement Pilot Program awarded 11/23/2020

- \$270,000 total grant award

- \$1,241 spent to date

In the last 5 years, the following OHF projects were related to fishing:

-013-139: Schatz Point Fishing Pier, \$42,500, all spent

-013-143: Sky Chief Park Fishing Dock, \$74,000, all spent

-015-162: Sheyenne River Fish Passage at Bouret Dam, \$115,750,
\$112,891 spent
-015-163: Cannonball River Fish Passage at Karey Dam,
\$253,770, \$210,577 spent
-018-187: Bringing Fish to Glen Ullin, \$21,605, all spent"

It sure looks to me like we should be using this fund to follow Directives A, C, & D rather than charging one small group of anglers (which is just a fraction of the people who use resources). I urge a Pass on HB 1538.

Thank you,

Amy Liebel
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