

2025 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1174

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1174

1/17/2025

Relating to educational and community outreach programs established by the game and fish department.

9:38 a.m. Chairman Porter opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Vice Chair Novak,
Representatives: Dockter, Hagert, Headland, Heinert, Johnson, Marschall, J. Olson,
Ruby, Conmy, Foss

Discussion Topics:

- Job Shadow programs
- Marketing for Game and Fish programs

9:38 a.m. Representative Donald Longmuir, North Dakota Representative for District 2, introduced the bill and provided testimony #28745.

9:40 a.m. Bill Haase, Assistant Wildlife Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, testified in favor and provided testimony #29537.

Additional written testimony:

John Bradley, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, submitted testimony in favor #29657.

Brock Wahl, Chairman of the North Dakota Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, submitted testimony in favor #29666.

9:47 a.m. Chairman Porter closed the hearing.

Wyatt Armstrong for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Donald W. Longmuir

District 2
P.O. Box 1191
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dlongmuir@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Education
Political Subdivisions, Chairman

CORRECTION

Chairman Porter and esteemed colleagues of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I am appearing before you today to present a bill that is for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (G&F). G&F contacted me regarding the benefits of educational and community outreach programs they provide. Following me, Bill Haase, G&F Staff, will discuss the merits of the bill and will be able to answer any questions you may have regarding their programs.

If you have no questions for me, thank you for your time and consideration.



House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 1174

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Bill Haase, Assistant Wildlife Division Chief
January 17, 2025

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Bill Haase, and I serve as the Assistant Wildlife Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, and I am testifying in support of HB 1174.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department) relies heavily on seasonal employees to accomplish many of our most important field activities throughout the summer months. Most of these seasonal employees are enrolled at or a recent graduate of a college or university majoring in a wildlife, natural resources, or other closely related program. Many of these seasonal employees work for the Department for 2-3 summers. Several of them end up being hired on for full-time permanent positions with the Department. In fact, around 68% of our current Biologists and Game Wardens began their careers with our agency working as a seasonal employee.

Between 2014 and 2022, the number of individuals applying for seasonal positions with the Department dropped over 70%.

The proposed bill would allow the Department to establish educational and community outreach programs to promote public understanding of fisheries and wildlife management and promote interest in pursuing careers in these fields. We feel having a program in place that would allow high school students to experience our work environment is critically important before they get to college and declare a major. Importantly, this bill would allow the Department to create a program which would allow participants to be involved in field activities. This program would include riding along with Department staff in compliance with established program guidelines. Such activities may include early morning pheasant crowing count or fish spawning to provide eggs to the fish hatcheries. These types of hands-on experiences are what our agency is hoping will ignite a passion in these individuals to start their lifelong career in North Dakota's outdoors.

The language in this bill was derived from similar bills that were passed in 2019 and 2023 that granted authority to the North Dakota Highway Patrol and North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to conduct similar job-shadowing activities. The proposed bill would give the Department clear statutory authority to conduct the job shadow activities which

we believe will greatly enhance our employee recruiting efforts. Chairman Porter and committee members, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department respectfully requests a **DO PASS** on HB 1174.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
HB BILL 1174
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 17, 2024

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, executive director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. I'm here today representing our thousands of members in 16 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

NDWF supports HB 1174 relating to educational and community outreach programs established by the game and fish department to help with recruitment of conservation officers, as well as game and fish biologists. We urge a Do Pass on HB 1174.



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
NORTH DAKOTA

**TESTIMONY OF BROCK WAHL
NORTH DAKOTA BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS
HOUSE BILL 1174
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE
January 16, 2025**

Chairman Porter and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

The North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers supports H.B. 1174, which would allow the Game and Fish Department to establish educational and community outreach programs. Current projections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show a 4% increase in demand in the labor market for Wildlife Biologist and there is always a need for more Game Wardens to enforce the state's conservation laws.

By establishing these programs, where the public can see first-hand, what it means to be in a Wildlife Conservation career, we believe they're more likely to enter the career field where they may not have had an interest before.

Education is a key principle and a cornerstone of a democratic society. President Roosevelt stated, "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education." By establishing these programs, you will be arming the current and future generations with critical experiences and facts derived from science, which will shape future decisions and enable the protection of our precious wildlife resources.

We recommend a Do Pass on H.B. 1174.

Board of Directors
North Dakota Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
northdakota@backcountryhunters.org



2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1174

1/17/2025

Relating to educational and community outreach programs established by the game and fish department.

10:16 a.m. Chairman Porter opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Vice Chair Novak,
Representatives: Dockter, Hagert, Headland, Heinert, Johnson, Marschall, Olson, Ruby,
Conmy, Foss

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

10:17 a.m. Representative Dockter moved a Do Pass.

10:17 a.m. Representative Heinert seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	Y
Representative Anna Novak	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Austin Foss	Y
Representative Jared c. Hagert	Y
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Jeremy L. Olson	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y

10:19 a.m. Motion Passed 13-0-0

10:20 a.m. Representative Conmy will carry the bill.

10:20 a.m. Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting.

Wyatt Armstrong for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1174 ([25.0879.01000](#))

Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1174 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2025 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1174

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1174

3/20/2025

Relating to educational and community outreach programs established by the game and fish department.

9:00 a.m. Chairman Patten opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Boehm, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.

Discussion Topics:

- Job shadowing opportunities
- Seasonal employment trends
- Student safety
- Risk management

9:02 a.m. Representative Longmuir, District 2, introduced the bill and submitted testimony in favor #42987.

9:03 a.m. William Haase, Assistant Wildlife Division Chief, Game and Fish Department, testified in favor and submitted testimony #42999.

9:09 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

9:10 a.m. Senator Enget moved a Do Pass.

9:10 a.m. Senator Boehm seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	A
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Mark Enget	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	A
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion Passed 5-0-2.

9:10 a.m. Senator Enget will carry the bill.

9:11 a.m. Committee discussion on upcoming schedule.

Additional written testimony:

John Bradley, Executive Director, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, submitted testimony in favor #43049.

9:11 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1174 ([25.0879.01000](#))

Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1174 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Donald W. Longmuir

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COMMITTEES:

Education
Political Subdivisions, Chairman

Good morning Chairman Patten, Vice-Chairman Greg Kessel and distinguished Senators of the Energy & Natural Resources Committee. My name is Donald Longmuir and I am a Representative from District 2 which includes Burke County, Divide County and parts of Mountrail and Williams Counties. I appear before you today to introduce HB1174 on behalf of North Dakota Game & Fish Department (NDG&F) NDG&F brought to my attention that they did not have the ability to have students job shadow them. This can be an effective way to expose students to the functions of the NDG&F and possibly attract young people into careers available in NDG&F.

Following me is Bill Haase, NDG&F Department who would be able to respond to any questions you may have regarding HB1174.

Thank you for your time and attention and I will respond to any questions you may have for me.



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 1174

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Bill Haase, Assistant Wildlife Division Chief
March 20, 2025

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Bill Haase, and I serve as the Assistant Wildlife Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, and I am testifying in support of HB 1174.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department) relies heavily on seasonal employees to accomplish many of our most important field activities throughout the summer months. Most of these seasonal employees are enrolled at or a recent graduate of a college or university majoring in a wildlife, natural resources, or other closely related program. Many of these seasonal employees work for the Department for 2-3 summers. Several of them end up being hired on for full-time permanent positions with the Department. In fact, around 68% of our current Biologists and Game Wardens began their careers with our agency working as a seasonal employee.

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The proposed bill would allow the Department to establish educational and community outreach programs to promote public understanding of fisheries and wildlife management and promote interest in pursuing careers in these fields. We feel having a program in place that would allow high school students to experience our work environment is critically important before they get to college and declare a major. Importantly, this bill would allow the Department to create a program which would allow participants to be involved in field activities. This program would include riding along with Department staff in compliance with established program guidelines. Such activities may include early morning pheasant crowing count or fish spawning to provide eggs to the fish hatcheries. These types of hands-on experiences are what our agency is hoping will ignite a passion in these individuals to start their lifelong career in North Dakota's outdoors.

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we believe will greatly enhance our employee recruiting efforts. Chairman Patten and committee members, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department respectfully requests a **DO PASS** on HB 1174.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
HB BILL 1174
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MARCH 19, 2025

Chairman Patten and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, executive director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. I'm here today representing our thousands of members in 16 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

NDWF supports HB 1174 relating to educational and community outreach programs established by the Game and Fish Department to help with recruitment of conservation officers, as well as game and fish biologists. We urge a Do Pass on HB 1174.