

SURVEY OF GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS ON PROPERTY CONTROLLED FOR HUNTING PURPOSES - RESULTS

At the September 2001 meeting of the Legislative Council's interim Judiciary B Committee, the committee asked for a survey of guides and outfitters to determine the amount of land controlled by guides and outfitters in this state. At the October 2001 meeting of the committee, the committee reviewed the survey and requested the survey be sent to the guides and outfitters. This survey was sent in mid-October 2001 with an enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope. The Game and Fish Department provided 340 addresses of individuals who are licensed guides or outfitters. In mid-October, the Legislative Council sent the survey to the addresses, with an enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The survey asked for the name of the business, the acres controlled for hunting, and comments. The acres for controlled for hunting question asked for the county, the number of acres in that county, and the game hunted on those acres. A copy of the survey is attached as an [appendix](#).

One hundred one responses were returned to the Legislative Council office. The responses include some duplicate surveys sent to the same address and some duplicate information provided by guides who work for larger guiding companies that also returned surveys.

The responses are sorted by the type of game hunted on each distinct portion of land by the guides and outfitters and the table headings reflect this organization. A summary of the comments is at the end of this memorandum. Attached as part of the [appendix](#) are typed comments received.

| BIG GAME HUNTING ON CERTAIN PROPERTY CONTROLLED BY GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS (Ranked by Most Property Controlled by County) | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Responses for Acres Owned in Each County | Total Acres | Rank for Group |
| McKenzie - 6,500; 5,000 (lease); 4,200 + 600 (same company, different survey); 1,500 (own); 1,200 (own); 500; 500 | 20,000 | 1 |
| Mountrail - 10,000; 4,300; 2,000 | 16,300 | 2 |
| Billings - 8,580 (own); 1,000 (lease); 320 | 9,900 | 3 |
| Bottineau - 5,000; 1,000; 680 (own); 600; 320 (lease) | 7,600 | 4 |
| Burleigh - 6,720; 40 | 6,760 | 5 |
| Dunn - 6,500 (own) | 6,500 | 6 |
| McHenry - 4,000 (ranch purposes); 2,000 (for agriculture, hunting secondary; same company, different survey) | 6,000 | 7 |
| Williams - 4,000; 800 | 4,800 | 8 |
| Eddy - 4,400 | 4,400 | 9 |
| Golden Valley - 2,360 (own) | 2,360 | 10 |
| Dickey - 2,000 (own) | 2,000 | 11 |
| Pembina - 500 | 500 | 12 |
| Bowman - 400 (own) | 400 | 13, 14 |
| Cavalier - 400 | 400 | 13, 14 |

| UPLAND GAME HUNTING ON CERTAIN PROPERTY CONTROLLED BY GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS (Ranked by Most Property Controlled by County) | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Responses for Acres Owned in Each County | Total Acres | Rank for Group |
| Hettinger - 30,000; 1,500 approximately; 3,000; 1,200 (own) | 35,700 | 1 |
| Morton - 6,000; 640 | 6,640 | 2 |
| Adams - 2,000 (own); 2,000 (lease); 160 (landowner) | 4,160 | 3 |
| Grant - 3,000 (landowner) | 3,000 | 4 |
| McKenzie - 2,500 | 2,500 | 5 |
| Bowman - 960 (own); 1,000 (own) | 1,960 | 6 |
| Mountrail - 1,000; 640 (preserve) | 1,640 | 7 |
| Griggs - 1,000 | 1,000 | 8, 9 |
| Slope - 1,000 | 1,000 | 8, 9 |
| Stark - 320 (landowner) | 320 | 10 |

| UPLAND GAME AND BIG GAME HUNTING ON CERTAIN PROPERTY CONTROLLED BY GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS (Ranked by Most Property Controlled by County) | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Responses for Acres Owned in Each County | Total Acres | Rank for Group |
| Mercer - 7,000 (for agriculture, hunting secondary); 2,800 approximately | 9,800 | 1 |
| Adams - 4,000 approximately; 2,000 | 6,000 | 2 |
| Sioux - 2,500 | 2,500 | 3 |
| Grant - 1,500 | 1,500 | 4 |
| Williams - 700; 320 | 1,020 | 5 |
| Eddy - 878 (own) | 878 | 6 |
| Dickey - 140 | 140 | 7 |

| WATERFOWL HUNTING ON CERTAIN PROPERTY CONTROLLED BY GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS (Ranked by Most Property Controlled by County) | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Responses for Acres Owned in Each County | Total Acres | Rank for Group |
| Towner - 65,000 approximately | 65,000 | 1 |
| Cavalier - 15,000 approximately | 15,000 | 2 |
| McLean - 6,000+ approximately; 600 (pay per hunter) | 6,600 | 3 |
| Benson - 3,000 | 3,000 | 4, 5 |
| Rolette - 3,000 | 3,000 | 4, 5 |
| Ramsey - 2,500 | 2,500 | 6 |
| Mercer - 1,280 | 1,280 | 7 |
| Bowman - 200 (own) | 200 | 8 |

| WATERFOWL AND BIG GAME HUNTING ON CERTAIN PROPERTY BY GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS (Ranked by Most Property Controlled by County) | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Responses for Acres Owned in Each County | Total Acres | Rank for Group |
| Eddy - 2,500 (lease); 2,000; 2,000 (same company, different survey) | 6,500 | 1 |
| Nelson - 5,600 | 5,600 | 2 |
| Benson - 2,800 (owned and rented for farming); 960 (own) | 3,760 | 3 |
| Walsh - 1,840 (own for agricultural purposes) | 1,840 | 4 |
| Logan - 1,000 | 1,000 | 5 |
| Ramsey - 800 (own for agricultural purposes) | 800 | 6 |

| WATERFOWL AND UPLAND GAME HUNTING ON CERTAIN PROPERTY BY GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS (Ranked by Most Property Controlled by County) | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Responses for Acres Owned in Each County | Total acres | Rank for Group |
| Stutsman - 7,000; 4,000 (own); 4,000 (own most) | 15,000 | 1 |
| Burke - 6,000 | 6,000 | 2 |
| Kidder - 3,000 (own most); 2,000 | 5,000 | 3 |
| Dickey - 3,300 approximately | 3,300 | 4 |
| Burleigh - 1,800; 560 (own) | 2,360 | 5 |
| Logan - 2,000 | 2,000 | 6, 7 |
| Williams - 2,000 (own and rent for agricultural purposes) | 2,000 | 6, 7 |
| Mountrail - 1,600 (own) | 1,600 | 8 |
| Wells - 1,200 | 1,200 | 9 |

| WATERFOWL, UPLAND GAME, AND BIG GAME HUNTING ON CERTAIN PROPERTY BY GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS (Ranked by Most Property Controlled by County) | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Responses for Acres Owned in Each County | Total Acres | Rank for Group |
| Sargent - 25,000+ | 25,000 | 1 |
| LaMoure (and Dickey) - 10,000 (for agriculture, hunting secondary) (owned and leased) | 10,000 | 2 |
| McHenry - 5,810 (owned); 960 (hunting rights); 500 (permission) | 7,270 | 3 |
| Barnes - 5,000 | 5,000 | 4, 5 |
| McKenzie - 5,000 approximately | 5,000 | 4, 5 |
| Benson - 4,000 | 4,000 | 6 |
| Renville - 2,400 | 2,400 | 7 |
| Dickey - 2,000 (for agriculture, secondary) | 2,000 | 8 |
| Mercer - 1,640 (lease) | 1,640 | 9 |
| Pierce - 1,200 | 1,200 | 10 |
| Cavalier - 400 (own) | 400 | 11 |

| UNKNOWN HUNTING ON CERTAIN PROPERTY BY GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS (Ranked by Most Property Controlled by County) | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Responses for Acres Owned in Each County | Total Acres | Rank for Group |
| Walsh - 500 | 500 | 1 |

| TOTALS | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Type of Hunting by Guides and Outfitters | Total Acres | Rank for Group |
| Waterfowl | 96,580 | 1 |
| Big game | 87,920 | 2 |
| Waterfowl, upland game, and big game | 63,910 | 3 |
| Upland game | 57,920 | 4 |
| Waterfowl and upland game | 38,460 | 5 |
| Upland and big game | 21,838 | 6 |
| Waterfowl and big game | 19,500 | 7 |
| Unknown | 500 | 8 |
| Grand total | 386,628 | |

| ALL HUNTING ON CERTAIN PROPERTY BY GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS (Ranked by Most Property Controlled by County) | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | Total Acres | Rank for Group |
| Towner - 65,000 | 65,000 | 1 |
| Hettinger - 35,700 | 35,700 | 2 |
| Mountrail - 1,600; 1,640; 16,300 | 19,540 | 3 |
| McKenzie - 5,000; 13,580 | 18,580 | 4 |
| Stutsman - 15,000 | 15,000 | 5 |
| McHenry - 7,270; 6,000 | 13,270 | 6 |
| Eddy - 4,400; 878; 6,500 | 11,778 | 7 |
| Benson - 3,000; 3,760; 4,000 | 10,760 | 8 |
| Adams - 4,160; 6,000 | 10,160 | 9 |
| LaMoure - 10,000 | 10,000 | 10 |
| Burleigh - 6,760; 2,360 | 9,120 | 11 |
| Williams - 2,000; 1,020; 4,800 | 7,820 | 12 |
| Bottineau - 7,600 | 7,600 | 13 |
| Morton - 6,640 | 6,640 | 14 |
| McLean - 6,600 | 6,600 | 15 |
| Dunn - 6,500 | 6,500 | 16 |
| Dickey - 200; 3,300; 140; 2,000 | 5,640 | 17 |
| Barnes - 5,000 | 5,000 | 18, 19 |
| Kidder - 5,000 | 5,000 | 18, 19 |
| Mercer - 1,280; 2,500 | 3,780 | 20 |
| Ramsey - 800; 2,500 | 3,300 | 21 |
| Grant - 3,000 | 3,000 | 22, 23, 24 |
| Logan - 1,000; 2,000 | 3,000 | 22, 23, 24 |
| Rolette - 3,000 | 3,000 | 22, 23, 24 |
| Sioux - 2,500 | 2,500 | 25 |
| Renville - 2,400 | 2,400 | 26 |
| Golden Valley - 2,360 | 2,360 | 27 |
| Walsh - 1,840; 500 | 2,340 | 28 |
| Bowman - 400; 1,960; 200 | 1,560 | 29 |
| Pierce - 1,200 | 1,200 | 30, 31 |
| Wells - 1,200 | 1,200 | 30, 31 |
| Griggs - 1,000 | 1,000 | 32, 33 |
| Slope - 1,000 | 1,000 | 32, 33 |
| Cavalier - 400; 400 | 800 | 34 |
| Pembina - 500 | 500 | 35 |
| Stark - 320 | 320 | 36 |

COMMENTS

There were six topic areas to which the comments related--land usage, waterfowl hunting, nonresident hunters, guides, resident hunters, and other.

Land Usage

The most common comment relating to land usage was that the individual completing the survey was primarily a farmer and that the land used was for agricultural purposes. These comments included that guiding was done as a source of secondary income or as a means to provide compensation for depredation. The second most common comment was that the individual completing the survey did not own or lease land for hunting purposes. In addition, these types of comments sometimes included that most hunting was done on private land after asking permission or that the guide used public land. All other comments were that guides should be limited to land they own, limited in the number of acres the guide may lease, or prohibited from using public land. However, there were two comments that guides should be able to use more public land.

Waterfowl Hunting

As the comments relate to waterfowl hunting, the most common comment was that the numbers of nonresidents hunters should not be limited. However, the second most common comment was that there should be a limit on nonresident hunters. There were comments that if there is a limit on nonresident hunters, guides and outfitters should be guaranteed licenses. In addition, there were three other comments that may be construed as pro nonresident hunter. These comments were against a nonresident lottery, for the removal of hunting zones, and for increased bag and position limits.

Nonresident Hunters

As the comments relate to nonresident hunters, apart from waterfowl hunting, the No. 1 overall comment in the survey was nonresident hunters are good for economic development and tourism. In addition, there were comments in favor of more nonresident deer licenses and for nonresident turkey licenses.

Guides

As the comments relate to guides, the most common comment was that guides let nonclients hunt. Other comments included that there are too many guides and that out-of-state "outfitters" are the major source of controlling tracts of land.

Resident Hunters

There were a few comments directed at resident hunters which all said the same thing--hunters can find access if they ask.

Other

The final category of other included a couple of comments against a sales tax on guides and one unfavorable review of the survey form. There were other comments that were not included in this summary because they did not appear to be directly related to the study or were not conducive to summarization.

ATTACH: 1