

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

12000

2007 HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1200

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1200

House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 25, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 1869

Committee Clerk Signature

Jurey Oersted

Minutes:

Vice Chairman Damschen opened the hearing on HB 1200.

Representative Porter introduced HB 1200. This bill looks at programs that are available to our youth in the state of North Dakota. As the enrollment in the schools decrease, so does the participation in programs such as hunting. The competition for participation in these programs is also very great. It takes a considerable amount of dedication to get our youth involved in hunting. This bill creates a plots program specifically for youth. We have heard in the past that access has been one of the key components in these programs. This plots programs is directed to access for our youth. This bill will allow an adult to hunt along with the youth on land that is specifically leased by the ND Game and Fish for the purpose of youth hunting. The definition of an urban area is a city of at least 5,000 or more. The adults and the youth in these areas have a more difficult time with the access situation than the other communities do. As discussed the other night, there is a controversy on the statistics of hunters. This particular bill is not saying that we are in a crisis, but it is saying that we have an investment to make in our youth to get them involved in hunting and other outdoor activities.

The intent is to keep the sport active and growing. The second part of the program directs the director of Game and Fish to carry out a grant program. This will include programs for the

youth at the local gun clubs, archery programs in local schools, and a whole array of programs designed to capture groups of our youth and get them interested in these outdoor activities. There is also a position inside Game and Fish called the Youth Program Coordinator who would work with the outreach biologists and getting involved in local schools and programs to find out what the needs are for the involvement of our youth. Section 3 of this bill will be deleted because of the language in another bill. Section 4 would include a comprehensive study in North Dakota to see what is going on in North Dakota, as well as what are needs are and what our focus should be. We want to make sure that when this next generation moves forward we are recruiting more of that group and get them interested in hunting, fishing and the great outdoors of North Dakota.

Vice Chairman Damschen asked about line 17 and adults accompanying the youth; do you envision any problem with a group of adults wanting to accompany one youth and is this worded satisfactorily?

Representative Porter said that he did not think that it would necessarily be a problem. The whole idea is to get kids out and get them interested so that group may include his Dad and some uncles.

Representative Hunskor asked that if a Dad hunting with his son would be able to carry a rifle and hunt and shoot at the same time as his son.

Representative Porter said absolutely. The encouragement is to have both of them out hunting.

Representative Hunskor asked that if in the past it has just been the youth that would carry the gun. If this is the case, what is the rationale for Dad being able to shoot with his son?

Representative Porter said that in those special youth seasons, this is absolutely correct. The only restriction would be in the youth deer season. In the pheasant youth season, other

bird seasons are open so other adults could be hunting at this time. The only real restriction would be in the youth deer hunt.

Representative Solberg asked if there was a restriction on the number of adults that could be with one youth.

Representative Porter said no there is not.

Representative Keiser said that if that is the intent, he thought the bill should be amended. The bill clearly states "an adult family member" or a legal guardian.

Representative Porter indicated that would be an easy fix.

Representative Hunskor said that he had heard from towns in his district that are just below that 5,000 level and they have some concerns that the larger urban areas have this and not them.

Representative Porter said it certainly was a number that can be up for discussion. As they wrote up this piece of legislation, the access concerns were in those areas greater than 5,000. He said there was concern about investing money in the areas that do not have an access problem and that do not have a high concentration of youth. He has been contacted by landowners that are asking for this program and are excited to have the youth hunt on their land.

Representative Hunskor asked if the grant program was new or has Game and Fish been doing some of this in prior years.

Representative Porter indicated that Game and Fish has had some of these programs and that this would just be an enhancement to those programs.

Representative Meyer asked if it was the intention to eliminate the ten dollar fee for the license on page 2.

Representative Porter said that was intentional. This was dealt with in the bill on Tuesday night.

Representative Nottestad asked about lines 19-21 on page 1. Is there any stipulation that the money for shooting ranges has to be within North Dakota? The Grand Forks gun clubs serve both cities.

Representative Porter said absolutely not. The rules can be adopted by the Game and Fish and can create the rules of the program to meet the needs. He did not see any restrictions.

Representative Drovdal said he was not familiar with the populations in North Dakota, but would like to know how many communities have 5,000 or greater.

Representative Porter did not have that information. He asked the intern to get that information for him.

Representative Ron Carlisle came forward in support of HB 1200. He said that he like the concept of the bill and thought that it would encourage youth to hunt in North Dakota. He likes the idea of investing in our youth.

Mr. Darin Goens of the NRA came forward in support of HB 1200. He wanted to highlight that land is a key issue here for kids to get out hunting. He wants hunting to be a good experience for them. This requires a good place to hunt with birds or animals to hunt and this bill is going in the right direction. He also indicated that it is very important to have the parents with them on this hunting experience. He asked for a do pass on HB 1200.

Representative Don Dietrich of District 42 came forward in support of HB 1200. He believes in advancing the hunting opportunities for youth of not only North Dakota but the surrounding areas. This would allow others to come into North Dakota and hunt so it would include residents and non-residents. He likes the idea of the grant program as well. This will allow for

the advancing of rifle ranges, skeet ranges, trap ranges, and pistol ranges throughout the state.

Representative Drovdal asked if the grants were limited to communities over 5,000.

Representative Dietrich thought the grants would be open to all communities, regardless of the size.

Vice Chairman asked for further testimony of HB 1200. There was none. He asked for testimony in opposition to HB 1200.

Mr. Terry Steinwand, Director of ND Game and Fish came forward in opposition to this bill.

See testimony marked as Item #1. They believe that Game and Fish is already addressing the intent of the bill with the current staffing that they have. They recommended a do not pass on HB 1200.

Representative Hanson asked if there were federal grants available for shooting ranges.

Mr. Steinwand said yes. He said that about \$600,000 per year was available.

Representative Hanson asked if the Game and Fish was currently using that money for the shooting ranges.

Mr. Steinwand said absolutely. He said that there was a gorgeous facility in Minot.

Representative DeKrey asked if the \$2,000,000 would be appropriated out the money you already have and if they were trying to keep that amount steady. Where would the two million come from?

Mr. Steinwand said he assumed that this was additional money and they already have twelve million in the plots program. This would make it fourteen million.

Representative Charging asked for an additional explanation of this.

Mr. Steinwand said they currently have ten million baseline but they requested an additional two million to get more of the CRP for the plots program. The two million in this bill would be additional.

Representative Charging said there were other drought needs in North Dakota. Where is the twenty five million in the fund and how do you access that?

Mr. Steinwand said that it is basically a savings account fund. He said family was very important to him and he did agree with the concept of the bill, but he thought there were other ways to address this. He said they were asking for a fifty three million dollar biennium budget, and this would move that to fifty five million.

Mr. Dennis Daniel came forward in opposition to this bill. He said there was more than one road into Bismarck. There is more than one way to access land for the public to hunt on.

Montana has a plot management program where the landowner is compensated by user days. There is a box to sign in when you hunt the land and they are paid according to how many hunters use their land. This encourages these landowners not to graze cattle on the land so that there is actually game to hunt on these plots. If there is no game, no hunters use the land and they do not get paid. They also only have walking access to the land. The Plots program is not the only way to help the youth. They should address a better way to manage plots and other ways to help our youth with hunting.

Mr. Foster Hager representing the Cass County Wildlife Club came forward in opposition to this bill. See attached written testimony marked as Item #2.

Chairman Porter asked about his testimony that the bill was too expensive. He asked if they didn't start investing in the future of hunting in North Dakota, what good will the money do sitting in a bank account. He said that he would wait patiently for Mr. Hager to offer some new ideas.

Mr. Hager said the money could be spent in better ways but offered no new ideas. His club felt that there were already enough plots in the urban areas for the youth to hunt.

Representative Nottestad said he saw no reference to the youth hunting season in this bill. What correlation do you bring back to this bill?

Mr. Hager said that there are already tremendous amounts of plot lands that the youth can hunt on and his club feels that this money can be spent in better ways.

Representative Nottestad said Mr. Hager just gave the strongest recommendation of this bill he could because of his comment that this provided a place for them to go hunt with no competition and this is what the bill is all about.

Mr. Hager said there are plenty of places for them to hunt today and the support by the farmers and ranchers for youth hunting is already tremendous. They feel the two million should be spent in other ways.

Mr. Jim Redlin from Ellendale said he was originally excited about this bill. He is currently doing a great deal with the youth and has 160 acres of CRP that he opens currently to youth under the age of 18 accompanied by non-hunting adults. He does not allow deer hunting because of the high powered rifles. He is against this bill because he thinks that it can be done by others like him.

Mr. Mike Donahue from the North Dakota Wildlife Federation came forward in opposition. They applaud the work done with youth and have a number of programs in place to do that now. They do not think this bill is a necessary vehicle but should use the programs currently available by Game & Fish. They do not think you should preference to certain pieces of ground for youth.

Chairman Porter asked if this should be available for everyone.

Mr. Donahue said that the two million should be available for everyone. He also said that there currently are 214,000 acres within these areas right now.

There were no more questions and no further testimony.

The hearing was closed on HB 1200.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1200

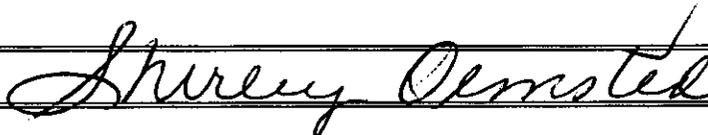
House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 1, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 2560

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Porter opened the discussion on HB 1200. He said there was a set of amendments passed out on this bill.

Representative DeKrey made a motion to accept the amendments.

Representative Damschen seconded the motion.

Chairman Porter said the amendments remove the population restriction on this bill and makes plural the words "members" and "guardians" and on page 2 it removes lines 12 through 16.

Chairman Porter asked for discussion. Hearing none a voice vote was taken and the motion prevailed.

Representative DeKrey made a motion for a do pass as amended with a rereferral to appropriations.

Representative Damschen second the motion.

Chairman Porter asked for discussion. Hearing none, the clerk was asked to call the roll. Let the record show 6 yes, 7 no with 1 absent. The motion failed.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1200

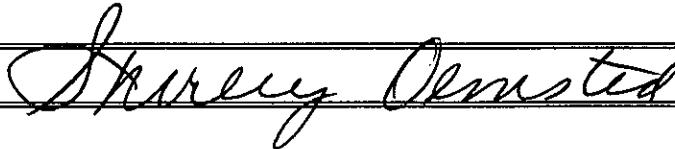
House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 1, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 2584

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Porter asked the committee to look at HB 1200.

Representative DeKrey moved for a do pass as amended with a rereferral to appropriations .

Representative Keiser second the motion.

Chairman Porter asked for discussion.

Representative Charging asked about the amendments.

Chairman Porter said it takes out "within 30 miles of an urban areas" and it changes on line 16 from a singular member to members, a singular guardian to guardians and it takes out the word is and replaces it with are. Page 2, section 3 is removed from the bill.

Representative Drovdal said asked if there was a reason to have a youth coordinator in there. Don't they have a program coordinator?

Chairman Porter said during the testimony Mr. Steinwand informed them that they currently do not have a youth coordinator in the department. They rely on different biology outreach positions so they have no central coordinator.

Representative Drovdal asked about the funding.

Chairman Porter said it comes form the game and fish general reserve fund.

Representative Hanson asked if we really want to hand out the hunting on these PLOTS to the youth.

Chairman Porter said this was a big discussion and in order to keep everyone as interested parties that we should have the adults being able to hunt. It just fits into the whole hunting experience.

Representative Hanson said there are only so many birds on the PLOTS land and they won't last for the whole season.

Representative Charging what happened when I left the room on this bill.

Chairman Porter said they amended it. We had a motion that failed. We recessed. The motion that failed was a do pass 7 to 6. The bill is still before us with a do pass as amended with rereferral to appropriations.

Representative Keiser said that the amendment reduces this to one adult, before it could have been a number of adults.

Chairman Porter said that is how he took your concern from before. You wanted it to be that two family members could have one youth out hunting.

Representative Nottestad said that this could be incorporated into the PLOTS program. He is still going to vote against it because I don't feel it has merit.

Representative Hofstad said in the hunting experience if you are going to go out with a party I think you allow that hunting experience to happen.

Representative Hunskor said as he understands this, the private land open to youth could be anywhere in the state and doesn't have to be near an urban area.

Chairman Porter said that is correct.

The clerk took the roll call. Let the record show 11 yes, 2 no with 1 absent. The motion prevailed for a **do pass as amended with rereferral to appropriation.** Representative DeKrey will carry the bill to the floor.

FISCAL NOTE

Requested by Legislative Council

02/05/2007

Amendment to: HB 1200

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures				\$2,230,000		
Appropriations				\$2,230,000		

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

This bill creates a Private Land Open To Sportsmen program for youth under age 18 and provides an appropriation and a grant program.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

A new PLOTS program is established for youth hunters and a grant program is established to encourage youth hunting. A youth hunting study is required and funded. The bill would use \$2,230,000 of Game and Fish funds.

3. State fiscal effect detail: *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. Revenues: *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

B. Expenditures: *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

\$2,000,000 is provided for leasing of land in the PLOTS program. \$200,000 is provided for a Youth Grant Program to encourage hunting. \$30,000 is provided for a youth hunting study.

C. Appropriations: *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

This bill provides \$2,230,000 in new appropriations above what is in the Game and Fish Department budget, Senate Bill 2017.

Name:	Paul T. Schadewald	Agency:	ND Game and Fish Department
Phone Number:	328-6328	Date Prepared:	02/05/2007

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/08/2007

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1200

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures				\$2,230,000		
Appropriations				\$2,230,000		

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

This bill creates a Private Land Open To Sportsmen program for youth under age 18 and provides an appropriation and a grant program.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

A new PLOTS program is established for youth hunters and a grant program is established to encourage youth hunting. A youth hunting study is required and funded. The bill would use \$2,230,000 of Game and Fish funds.

3. State fiscal effect detail: *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. Revenues: *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

This bill eliminates the \$10 fee for big game licenses for youth under age 16, but does not state what the cost would be, if anything. This evidently is a bill drafting error and is not addressed in this fiscal note.

B. Expenditures: *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

\$2,000,000 is provided for leasing of land in the PLOTS program. \$200,000 is provided for a Youth Grant Program to encourage hunting. \$30,000 is provided for a youth hunting study.

C. Appropriations: *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

This bill provides \$2,230,000 in new appropriations above what is in the Game and Fish Department budget, Senate Bill 2017.

Name:	Paul T. Schadewald	Agency:	ND Game and Fish Department
Phone Number:	328-6328	Date Prepared:	01/09/2007

Proposed Amendments to House Bill 1200
Prepared for Representative Porter

Page 1, line 12, remove "within thirty miles [48.28 kilometers] of urban areas. As used"

Page 1, line 13, remove "in this subsection, urban area means a city of five thousand or more in population"

Page 1, line 16, replace "member" with "members", replace "guardian" with "guardians", and replace "is" with "are"

Page 2, remove lines 12 through 16

Re-number Accordingly

February 1, 2007

**House Amendments to HB 1200 (70094.0201) - Natural Resources Committee
02/02/2007**

Page 1, line 4, remove "and subsection 3 of section 20.1-03-12"

Page 1, line 6, remove "and big game hunting fees"

Page 1, line 12, remove "within thirty miles [48.28 kilometers] of urban areas. As used"

Page 1, line 13, remove "in this subsection, urban area means a city of five thousand or more
in population"

**House Amendments to HB 1200 (70094.0201) - Natural Resources Committee
02/02/2007**

Page 2, remove lines 12 through 16

Re-number accordingly

Date: 3-10-7 AM
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1200

House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken No pass as amended & refer to approp

Motion Made By DeKrey Seconded By Damschen

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman - Rep. Porter	✓		Rep. Hanson	✓	
Vice-Chairman - Rep Damschen	✓		Rep. Hunsakor		✓
Rep. Charging		✓	Rep. Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Clark	✓		Rep. Meyer		✓
Rep. DeKrey	✓		Rep. Solberg		✓
Rep. Drovdal		✓			
Rep. Hofstad		✓			
Rep. Keiser					
Rep. Nottestad		✓			

Total Yes 6 No 7

Absent 1 Keiser

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Motion failed

Date: 2-1-07 PM
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1200

House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken To Pass as Amendment w/ referral to approp

Motion Made By DeKrey Seconded By Keiser

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman - Rep. Porter	✓		Rep. Hanson	✓	
Vice-Chairman - Rep Damschen	✓		Rep. Hunskor	✓	
Rep. Charging		✓	Rep. Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Clark	✓		Rep. Meyer	✓	
Rep. DeKrey	✓		Rep. Solberg		
Rep. Drovdal	✓				
Rep. Hofstad	✓				
Rep. Keiser	✓				
Rep. Nottestad		✓			

Total Yes 11 No 2

Absent 1 Absent Solberg

Floor Assignment DeKrey

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

pre vails

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1200: Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (11 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1200 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 4, remove "and subsection 3 of section 20.1-03-12"

Page 1, line 6, remove "and big game hunting fees"

Page 1, line 12, remove "within thirty miles [48.28 kilometers] of urban areas. As used"

Page 1, line 13, remove "in this subsection, urban area means a city of five thousand or more in population"

Page 2, remove lines 12 through 16

Renumber accordingly

2007 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

HB 1200

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1200

House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 8, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3247

Committee Clerk Signature

Shirley Branning

Minutes:

Chm. Svedjen called the meeting to order to take up Engrossed HB 1200, a bill related to the power of the director of the game and fish department and a private land open to sportsmen program for youth and a youth hunting grant, by calling on **Rep. Todd Porter**, District 34.

Rep. Porter: This bill comes as a rereferral from the natural resources committee. The information received in testimony discussed the declining rate of youth in hunting and fishing. It is felt by Natural Resources that reinvestment in the program is necessary to encourage youth to become involved in hunting and fishing. The total appropriation is \$2.23m out of the Game and Fish fund with a \$15m cap in the fund. The \$200,000 youth grant program goes out to communities.

Rep. Ekstrom: Earlier today we said no to dental care for children, etc. Is this more important than these other programs?

Rep. Porter: This is not general fund money. There is no impact on the funds you talk about. This is funded by people who participate in sports. We look at it as a reinvestment. The funds are generated by hunting and fishing licenses.

Rep. Carlisle: The funding source is the key. It is not coming out of the general fund.

Rep. Wald: When there is a request for a study in a bill, is it mandatory that that study be done or does the Legislative Council still have the option of picking and choosing?

Rep. Porter: This is not a Legislative Council study, it is an outside consultant looking at what we are doing for recruitment techniques.

Rep. Wald: What is the policy on the Legislative Council doing the study?

Allen Knudson, Legislative Counsel: It depends on the language, if it says "Legislative Council shall consider study" it is not mandatory but if it says "The Council shall study" than it is mandatory.

Chm. Svedjen: It is usually identified as a legislative council study but this one is not.

Rep. Nelson: In the Game and Fish's priority list for new FTEs, was the youth program coordinator as high on their list as more wardens?

Rep. Porter: The department did not give us a priority listing.

Rep. Williams moved a Do Pass to Engrossed HB 1200. Rep. Kempenich seconded the motion. The Do Pass motion carried by a roll call vote of 23 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent. The carrier of the bill will be Rep. DeKrey.

Date: 2/8/07
 Roll Call Vote #: _____

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1200

House Appropriations Full Committee _____

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass as proposed

Motion Made By Williams Seconded By Kempenich

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Svedjan	✓				
Vice Chairman Kempenich	✓				
Representative Wald	✓		Representative Aarsvold	✓	
Representative Monson	✓		Representative Gulleson	✓	
Representative Hawken	✓				
Representative Klein	✓				
Representative Martinson	✓				
Representative Carlson	✓		Representative Glasheim	✓	
Representative Carlisle	✓		Representative Kroeber	✓	
Representative Skarphol	✓		Representative Williams	✓	
Representative Thoreson	✓				
Representative Pollert	✓		Representative Ekstrom		✓
Representative Bellew	✓		Representative Kerzman	✓	
Representative Kreidt	✓		Representative Metcalf	✓	
Representative Nelson	✓				
Representative Wieland	✓				

Total (Yes) 23 No 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment De Krey

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 8, 2007 8:27 p.m.

Module No: HR-27-2629
Carrier: DeKrey
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1200, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Svedjan, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (23 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HB 1200 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2007 SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1200

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1200

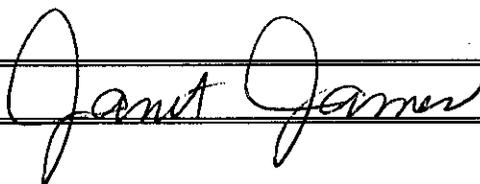
Senate Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 8, 2007

Recorder Job Number: # 4691

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Senator Stanley Lyson, Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee opened the hearing on HB 1200 relating to the power of the director of the game and fish department and a private land open to sportsmen program for youth and a youth hunting grant program.

All member of the committee were present.

Representative Todd Porter of District 34 prime sponsor of HB 1200 introduced the bill (see attachment #1) stating it focuses on where hunting and fishing is going in North Dakota. This bill is part of the whole package of hunting bills introduced this session. Section 1 of the bill directs the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to create a youth only areas for hunting within their PLOTS program. The program would have the flexibility to incorporate within the existing PLOTS acres which are leased from landowners designated area for youth hunting up until the second week of the deer season and after that used by anyone. All of the upland game season, the first three weeks of the pheasant season and then right up until the middle of the deer season it would be for youth only. The proclamation would state that after a certain date, the land would be open to any one for hunting. Youth under the age of 16 with an adult would be allowed so it could be a family sport and time. He referred to an article in the North Dakota Game and Fish Department magazine *Conservation PLOTS Guide* explaining the

youth number in the state and involved in hunting. This bill is for the retention of the sport in North Dakota. Granting language is included in the Section 1, line 18 for different programs and events. This will help get programs in schools as a promotion. A youth program coordinator, although not a new FTE but a renaming of a position is included on Page 2, line 8. In section 3 is for a study and asked the committee to amend the language for retention of hunters in the state. It is an outside agency with a \$30,000 budget that will report back to the legislative council... Section 4 is the appropriation as the bill is the fiscal note and is a 10% investment back into the youth program out of the \$24 million department budget. There is a \$12 million budget for the PLOTS program plus the \$2 million increase for this bill.

Senator Constance Triplett: questioned the renaming of the position of the youth coordinator and if it takes away from any other program.

Representative Porter: the new position name is the Youth Education Coordinator and is not changing the responsibilities of the position.

Senator Layton Freborg: will we not have more people hunting on the youth PLOTS that aren't youth and are youth.

Representative Porter: we discussed that after the bill went through the house and North Dakota Game and Fish Department felt that inside of the existing language, that they could set up the ratio they felt was the best. So it is not an adult finding a kid to go hunting with during this season.

Senator Freborg; under these conditions can the youth and the adult hunt on PLOTS land.

Representative Porter. Yes.

Mike Donahue representing the North Dakota Wildlife Federation and the United Sportsmen for North Dakota testified in support of HB 1200 stating that originally they were opposed but since the amendments and the other agreements they support the bill.

Senator Lyson asked for testimony in opposition to HB 1200.

Foster Hager representing the Cass County Wildlife Club testified in opposition of HB 1200 (see attachment #2). He also referred to the Conservation PLOTS Guide (see attached) and the highlighted reference. The PLOTS program is intended to be increased and that some of these acres could be designated as youth hunting acres. For the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to spend \$2 million for additional acres when existing acres could be designated is unnecessary.

Senator Herbert Urlacher questioned if it is \$2 million or \$14 million.

Foster Hager; in the bill it is \$2 million to be spent in two years.

Senator Lyson asked testimony in a neutral position to HB 1200.

Jim Collins testified on his on behalf in a neutral position to HB 1200 stating he loves the concept of the bill. He is concerned about the language of a family member accompanying the youth and thinks the word adult would be more inclusive. The other change would be the restriction of traveling distance and should be reinstated. He also agrees with the designation of PLOTS land for the youth hunting.

David Munsch testified in a neutral position of HB 1200 stating the youth season should be extended and give them all the PLOTS land for a longer period of time before it returning it back for all to use it. He told of his personal experience of misuse of hunters.

Roger Rostvet, Deputy Director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department testified in a neutral position of HB 1200 stating the original bill has changed a lot. Flexibility has been added to the bill and existing PLOTS lands could be designated for the youth program because this is a one time appropriation and they do not want to write short contracts. Current contracts would be used and specific areas would be designated for the youth. It is important some of these areas be used for a short time by the youth and then be opened to all hunting.

Area of adjustment is on Line 14 and the adult accompanying the youth as it should be broader allowing more possibilities. Not all youth have a hunting parent to be with the youth and should be changed.

Discussion was held as to the language regarding the adult accompanying the youth, liability and written permission by the parent.

Senator Ben Tollefson asked for clarify if the \$2 million for the PLOTS program was needed or was money from the existing program was to be used.

Roger Rostvet responded the \$2 million was additional appropriation added to the budget request of \$12 million for the PLOTS program.

Senator Freborg: how many acres for \$2 million.

Roger Rostvet; it would vary because there a many levels of payments for different lengths of contract. Maybe a 100 -200,000 acres. If this bill is passed about 10% of the PLOTS land would be designated as youth hunting area.

Senator Constance Triplett: is this law necessary or can this be accomplished within the general authority of the department.

Roger Rostvet: the question needs to be asked, on a program such as this, the governor set a goal of 1 million acres in the access program and it will be reached in this biennium under the current budget request. Is this a good long term investment?

Senator Triplett: if the bill does not pass, there is already a youth coordinator conducting a program, so what is there to gain.

Roger Rostvet; this will not take away from the current budgeted programs but add to the appropriation for youth hunting recruitment and retention. Will we get the bang for the buck?

Senator Heitkamp: is there concern of the negative reaction from those adults who have paid into the program for years and now are not able to access hunting land because it is set aside specifically for youth.

Roger Rostvet: the fashion of the program will hopefully strengthen some hunting areas instead of over hunting it.

Senator Lyson closed the hearing on HB 1200.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1200

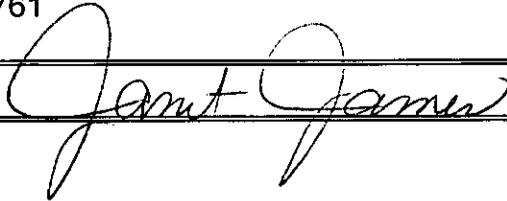
Senate Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 9, 2007

Recorder Job Number: # 4761

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Senator Stanley Lyson, Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee opened committee work on HB 1200.

All members of the committee were present.

Senator Joel Heitkamp: has been struggling with e-mail messages regarding youth hunting before taking youth hunter safety classes. Doing this is limiting 11 year olds from hunting.

Senator Lyson: another issue with the bill is the definition of the adult accompanying the youth hunter.

Senator Constance Triplett: she struggled as to why the bill is necessary. North Dakota Game and Fish Department must have enough authority to do projects like this. Changing the name of the youth program coordinator and writing proclamations as to who can hunt on which land and when is confusing.

Senator Heitkamp: one other point with the bill is when going into the PLOTS program and designating it solely to youth, there will be feedback from a lot of hunters who have been paying into and building the surplus of game and fish. I do not know if there was public input from hunters to know their response to this concept. But to take \$2 million from that surplus and goes only to a certain group of individuals might not be well received.

Senator Layton Freborg: sometimes the bill appears to have been submitted for the family members going along with the youth hunting. If we are going to spent \$2 million, why not put it into PLOTS and if game and fish wishes they can designate a couple of weeks of hunting for youth on certain areas and it could be moved around to different places. Youth can hunt now with a guardian now and can hunt any place on PLOTS. This amount is about 13 – 14 % of the total acreage, it will be well used especially by the adults accompanying the youth.

Senator Ben Tollefson made a motion for a Do Not Pass of HB 1200.

Senator Freborg second the motion.

A roll call vote for a Do Not Pass of HB 1200 was taken indicating 7 Yeas, 0 Nays and 0 absent or not voting.

Senator Freborg will carry HB 1200.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 9, 2007 1:13 p.m.

Module No: SR-45-4879
Carrier: Freborg
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1200, as engrossed: Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Lyson, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HB 1200 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

HB 1200

**NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
TESTIMONY FOR HB 1200**

January 25, 2007

PLOTS

1. Original intent was to identify areas where hunting access was limited.
2. Pheasant hunting areas in prime pheasant areas was priority.
3. Secondary priorities are waterfowl and deer.
4. Subsequently developed based on geography and species.

We knew we could never buy sufficient access to satisfy all hunting needs but recognized PLOTS as a valuable augmentation for hunting access. Try to provide the greatest amount of hunting opportunity for the greatest number of hunters.

Recent PLOTS Survey

1. Purpose was to gain feedback from users to guide future direction.
2. PLOTS hunted because of:
 - a. private land being posted or otherwise 'tied up'
 - b. close to home
 - c. limited amount of time to hunt

Future PLOTS

1. Requested an additional \$2 million in the Governor's budget to offer incentives to producers who re-enroll or extend CRP contracts.

Tools Already Implemented by Game and Fish for Youth

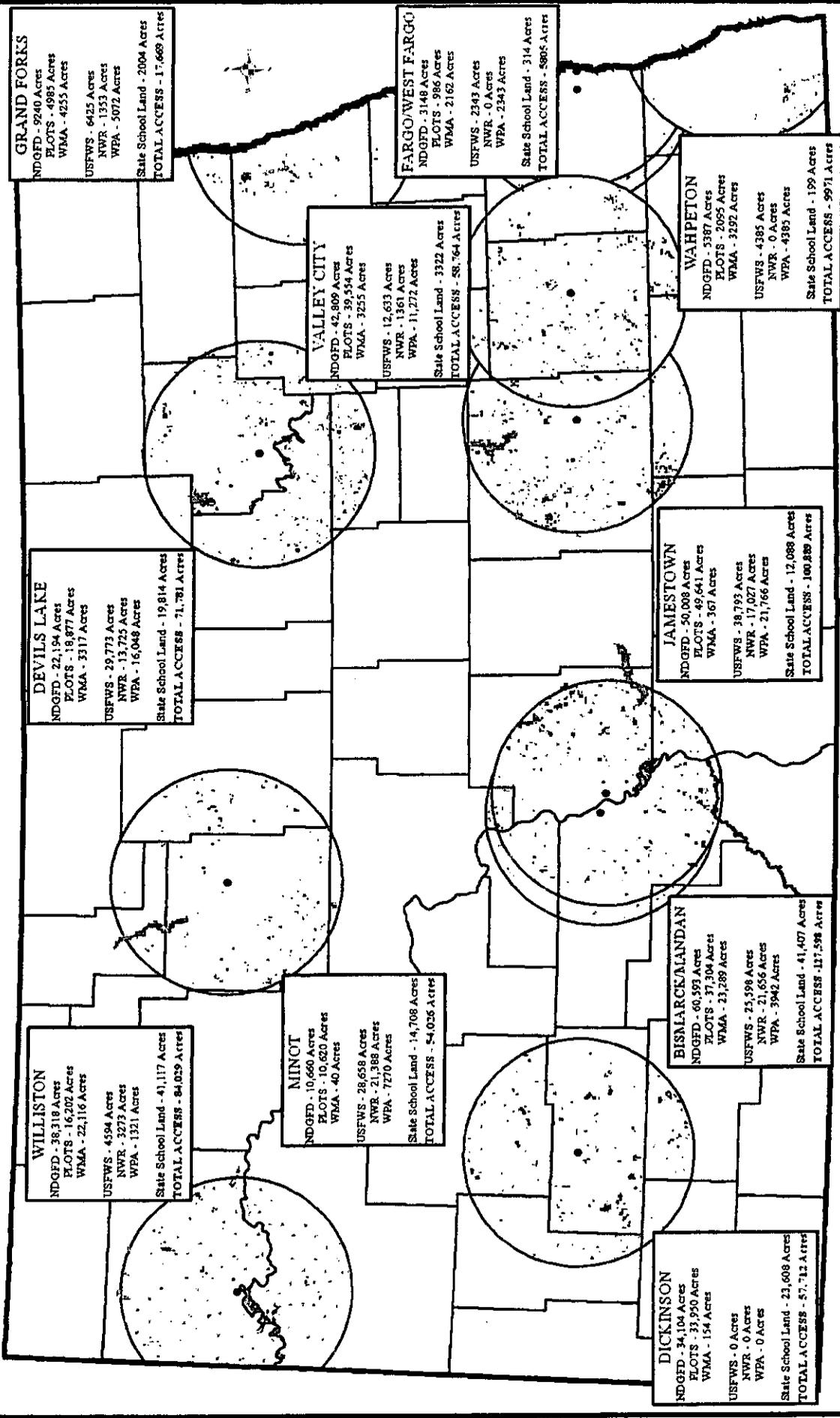
1. Pathways to Hunting and Fishing at ND State Fair
2. Special youth seasons
 - a. deer
 - b. waterfowl
 - c. pheasant
 - d. YOUTH access program
 - e. Organizations and civic groups that provide special activities to promote youth hunting and fishing.

Youth Recruitment and Retention

1. Study by Department
 - a. currently experiencing a replacement rate of 1.19.
2. Points of concern
 - a. reduction in the total number of youth in the future
 - b. ageing population
 - c. smaller number of females that hunt
 - d. retention of hunters after the age of 18
3. Activities currently in Department
 - a. Hunter Safety coordinator. Responsible for volunteer teachers and a \$500,000 biennial budget for shooting ranges.
 - b. Education coordinator. Responsible for working hunting, fishing, and natural resource issues into teaching criteria. Also responsible for developing activities targeting youth hunting and fishing.
 - c. Outreach biologists. Part of their responsibility is to encourage participation by all age groups but focus on the youth.

PUBLIC ACCESS

30 Mile Radius of Major Cities



GRAND FORKS
 NDGFD - 9240 Acres
 PLOTS - 4985 Acres
 WMA - 4255 Acres
 USFWS - 6425 Acres
 NWR - 1353 Acres
 WPA - 5072 Acres
 State School Land - 2004 Acres
TOTAL ACCESS - 17,669 Acres

FARGO/WEST FARGO
 NDGFD - 3148 Acres
 PLOTS - 986 Acres
 WMA - 2162 Acres
 USFWS - 2343 Acres
 NWR - 0 Acres
 WPA - 2343 Acres
 State School Land - 314 Acres
TOTAL ACCESS - 5805 Acres

WAHPETON
 NDGFD - 3387 Acres
 PLOTS - 2055 Acres
 WMA - 3292 Acres
 USFWS - 4385 Acres
 NWR - 0 Acres
 WPA - 4385 Acres
 State School Land - 199 Acres
TOTAL ACCESS - 9971 Acres

VALLEY CITY
 NDGFD - 42,809 Acres
 PLOTS - 39,554 Acres
 WMA - 3255 Acres
 USFWS - 12,633 Acres
 NWR - 1361 Acres
 WPA - 11,272 Acres
 State School Land - 3322 Acres
TOTAL ACCESS - 58,764 Acres

JAMESTOWN
 NDGFD - 50,008 Acres
 PLOTS - 49,641 Acres
 WMA - 367 Acres
 USFWS - 38,793 Acres
 NWR - 17,027 Acres
 WPA - 21,766 Acres
 State School Land - 12,088 Acres
TOTAL ACCESS - 100,839 Acres

DEVILS LAKE
 NDGFD - 22,154 Acres
 PLOTS - 18,977 Acres
 WMA - 3317 Acres
 USFWS - 29,773 Acres
 NWR - 13,725 Acres
 WPA - 16,048 Acres
 State School Land - 19,814 Acres
TOTAL ACCESS - 71,781 Acres

BISMARCK/MANDAN
 NDGFD - 60,593 Acres
 PLOTS - 57,304 Acres
 WMA - 33,289 Acres
 USFWS - 25,598 Acres
 NWR - 21,656 Acres
 WPA - 3942 Acres
 State School Land - 41,407 Acres
TOTAL ACCESS - 137,598 Acres

WILLISTON
 NDGFD - 38,318 Acres
 PLOTS - 16,202 Acres
 WMA - 22,116 Acres
 USFWS - 4594 Acres
 NWR - 3273 Acres
 WPA - 1321 Acres
 State School Land - 4,117 Acres
TOTAL ACCESS - 84,029 Acres

MINOT
 NDGFD - 10,660 Acres
 PLOTS - 10,620 Acres
 WMA - 40 Acres
 USFWS - 28,658 Acres
 NWR - 21,368 Acres
 WPA - 7270 Acres
 State School Land - 14,708 Acres
TOTAL ACCESS - 54,026 Acres

DICKINSON
 NDGFD - 34,104 Acres
 PLOTS - 33,950 Acres
 WMA - 134 Acres
 USFWS - 0 Acres
 NWR - 0 Acres
 WPA - 0 Acres
 State School Land - 23,608 Acres
TOTAL ACCESS - 57,712 Acres

ND Game and Fish Department - 256,842 Acres
 Wildlife Management Areas - 60,883 Acres
 Private Land Open to Sportsmen - 195,959 Acres

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - 146,356 Acres
 National Wildlife Refuge - 78,743 Acres
 Waterfowl Production Areas - 67,613 Acres

ND State School Land - 156,657 Acres

STATEWIDE TOTAL PUBLIC ACCESS - 559,855



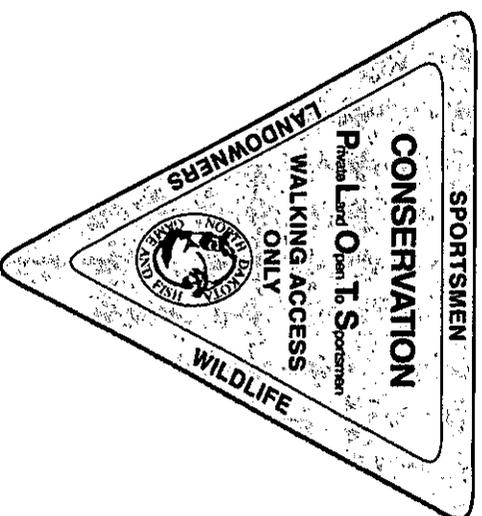
Private Land Initiative

Access Acres Provided 2007-PLOTS Program

• Working Lands Plots	414,016 acres
• CRP Cost-sharing Plots	321,785 acres
• Habitat Plots	137,305 acres
• Native Forest Plots	13,576 acres
• CREP/Coverlocks	13,941 acres
• WRP Incentive Plots	6,434 acres
• Tree Planting Cost-share Plots	3,257 acres
• Beginning Farmer Plots	2,720 acres
• Food Plots	1,287 acres

Total Public Access Available : **914,321 acres**

(as of January 10, 2007)



HB 1200

Item #1

1/12/07
from State
Road Map.

BISMK	55,532
DL	7,222
DICK	16,010
Fgo	90,599
G-F	49,321
Jamestown	15,527
Mandan	16,718
Minot	36,567
VC	6,826
Wahpeton	8,586
West Fgo	14,940
Williston	12,512

330,360

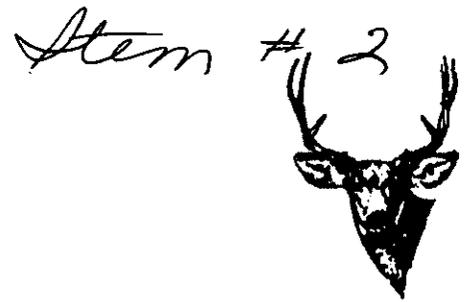
△ preference of
certain Dollars. (12 cities)

310,000 no preference.



Cass County
WILDLIFE CLUB

Box 336
Casselton, ND 58012



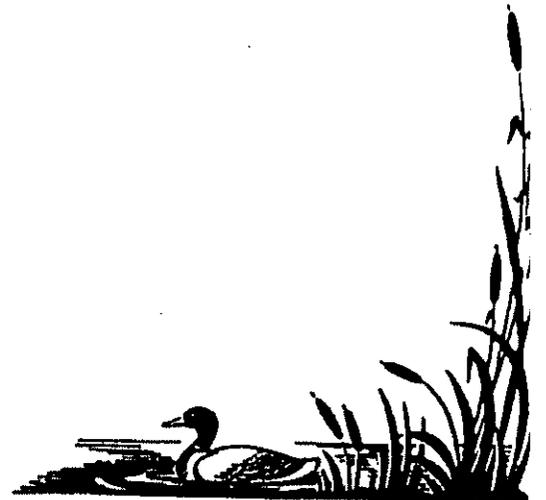
TESTIMONY OF FOSTER HAGER
CASS COUNTY WILDLIFE CLUB
PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ON

HB 1200
January 25, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The CCWC is opposed to HB 1200 for two reasons:

1. The bill is too expensive - two million dollars.
2. There are PLOTS lands now that are within 30 miles of urban areas.



Attachment #1

TRADITIONS

States Lift Barriers For Youth Hunters

Restrictive regulations cited for low hunter recruitment

Three states recently made it easier for minors and novices to carry a gun into the marsh, and efforts by pro-hunting organizations to remove or reduce barriers in other states are building steam. Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Ohio recently passed versions of "Families Afield" legislation. The bills were designed to lower age and hunter education requirements for youth and beginning hunters in an effort to boost lagging hunter recruitment.

"We aren't trying to eliminate hunter education requirements, but many states force all beginning hunters to pass a safety course before they can even accompany a mentor," says Doug Jeanneret, vice president of marketing for the U.S. Sportsman's Alliance. "We want to allow new hunters to have the opportunity to sort of try before they buy. If they are allowed to go and decide they like it, they can then enroll in a hunter education

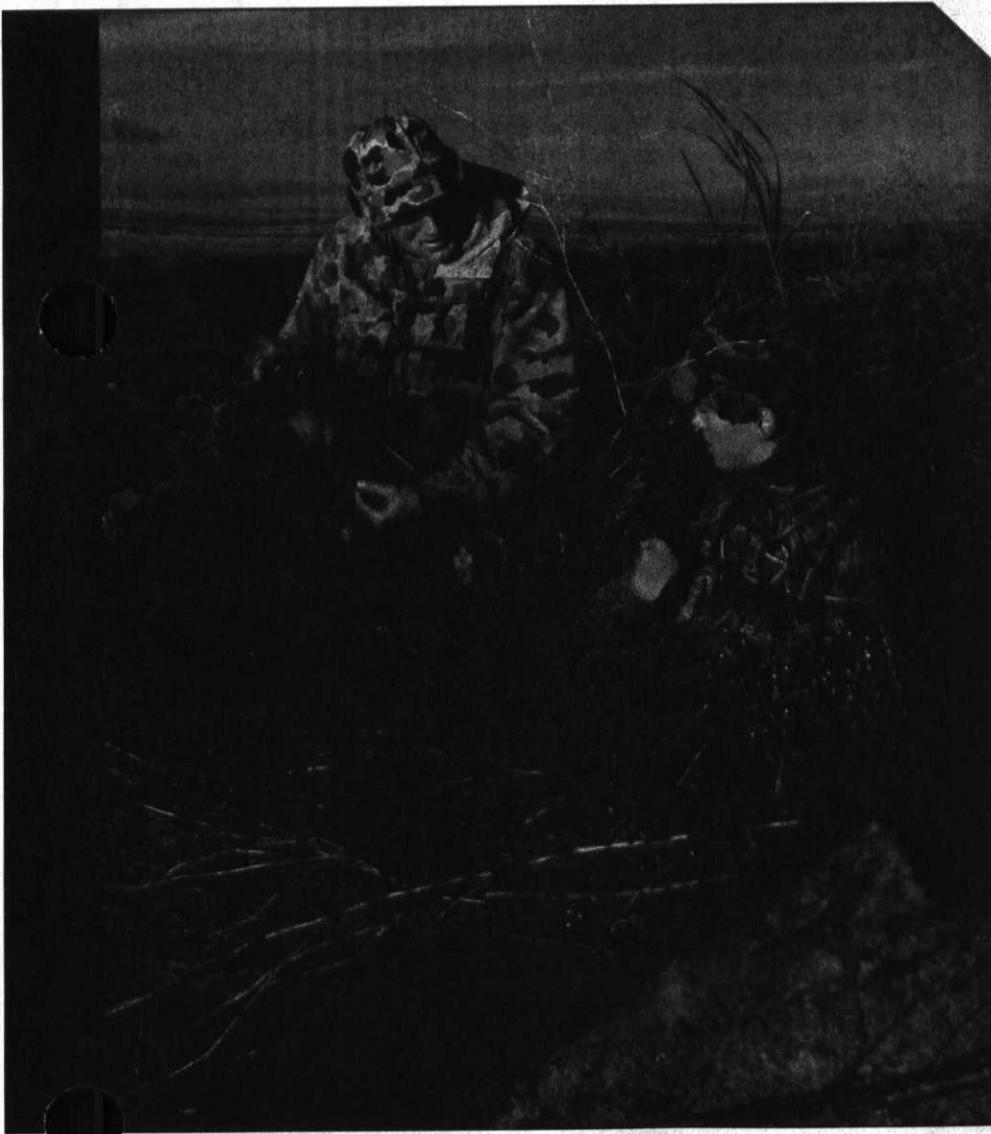
course. We believe that by allowing new hunters the opportunity to accompany a responsible mentor, they will be much more likely to continue hunting."

A recent study sponsored by the U.S. Sportsman's Alliance, National Shooting Sports Foundation, and National Wild Turkey Federation found the national hunter replacement rate was only .69, meaning that for every 100 people who quit hunting (due to old age, poor health, etc.), only 69 are entering the sport. Wisconsin's replacement rate was only .53; Pennsylvania's was .62; and Ohio was adding 76 hunters for every 100 it lost. Michigan had the lowest replacement rate at a mere .26.

In many states, youth hunters must take a safety course before they can carry a gun, even if they hunt under strict adult supervision. Twenty states were deemed "very restrictive" in their youth hunting regulations, while 17 were considered "somewhat restrictive." Only one state listed as "very restrictive" (Rhode Island) had a replacement rate greater than one, while 16 out of 20 in that category had replacement rates lower than the national average. In contrast, states grouped in the "least restrictive" category consistently had the largest number of new hunters entering the sport.

Opponents of efforts to remove or reduce barriers for youth hunters cite safety concerns, but the same study found young hunters to be safer than adults, averaging only .000005 percent of all firearms-related hunting accidents. Even more telling, youth hunters under direct adult supervision accounted for just .0000016 percent of hunting accidents. —David Hart

Recruitment of new hunters is vital to the future of both hunting and conservation. Legislation has recently been passed in some states to encourage more young people to try hunting.



©CRAIG BIHRLE

NEXT GENERATION The nation's 1,727,000 hunters between the ages of six and 15, the ages considered "youth," comprise nearly 12 percent of all hunters.



Cass County
WILDLIFE CLUB

Box 336
Casselton, ND 58012



TESTIMONY OF FOSTER HAGER
CASS COUNTY WILDLIFE CLUB
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ON

HB 1200
March 8, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Foster Hager representing the Cass County Wildlife Club. We are not against the PLOTS Program. We feel the program should be left up to the Game & Fish Department.

There are 914,000 acres in the PLOTS Program now and the Game & Fish Departments goal is to reach one million acres by 2009.

The 914,000 acres in the PLOTS Program equals 1,428 square miles or 26.9 is the average square miles per county. We all may like more acres in PLOTS but to dictate 2 million dollars in the next 2 years just because the Game & Fish Department has the money, we feel this is wrong.

The Game & Fish Department could designate youth PLOTS from the PLOTS we have now.

We are asking you to let the Game & Fish Department spend the 2 million dollars as they deem necessary. Leave it in the hands of the experts.

Please vote NO on HB 1200.



YOUTH HUNTING REPORT

The Success of Youth Recruitment

The Impact of Youth Hunting Restrictions

**The Future of Hunting, Conservation and the Shooting
Sports Industry**

The Safety Record of Youth Hunters

Research compiled by

*Silvertip Productions, Southwick
Associates and the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance*

for the

National Shooting Sports Foundation

and

National Wild Turkey Federation

5500 per year - Hunter Ed grads

Introduction

There is a growing concern about the ability to increase youth participation in hunting. These concerns are shared by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA). It is the position of the three organizations that recruitment efforts are hampered by state laws and regulations that restrict youth hunting. This position is reinforced by the findings reported in this paper.

It is the intent of the three organizations to educate the general public, elected officials and sportsmen about the need to lower barriers to youth hunting. Further, the organizations are launching a campaign to work in the states with local sportsmen to enact legislation or regulations to achieve that goal.

Purpose of this Report

This report examines the success of youth recruitment, compares the impact of youth hunting restrictions, projects future hunting numbers, and looks at safety statistics for youth hunters. The majority of the research was compiled by Silvertip Productions. Projections on hunting numbers and expenditures were provided by Southwick Associates, Inc. The report was written by USSA, Silvertip and Southwick. The findings were peer reviewed for statistical validity by the Triad Research Group. The research was funded by NSSF. The project, Families Afield, is a collaborative effort between NSSF, NWTF and USSA.

Finding #1: The Need For Aggressive Recruitment Is Urgent

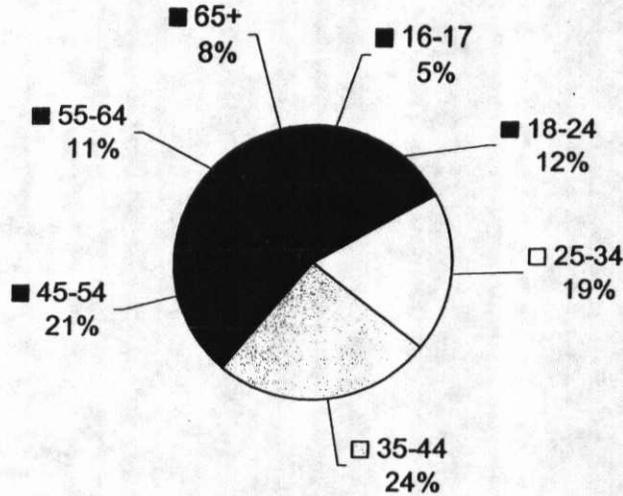
While all agree that youth recruitment efforts must increase, the time to act is now. The reason: hunters ages 35-54. This segment of hunters represents a disproportionate share of the U.S. hunting population (45.8%). The younger age segments are considerably smaller. If attracting new hunters is indeed a high priority, it is imperative to take advantage of this large group of hunters.

Why are 35-54 year old hunters so important? People in this age group are more likely to have children that are old enough to introduce to hunting and mentor them throughout their youth. For this report, this group will be called the *teaching class*.

The 25-34 year old age group is 25 percent smaller than the 35-44 year old group. In other words, the *teaching class* of tomorrow will be significantly smaller than the current group. Fewer teachers will result in fewer pupils.

What these statistics tell us is that steps must be taken now to maximize future hunter numbers or even hold the line on current numbers.

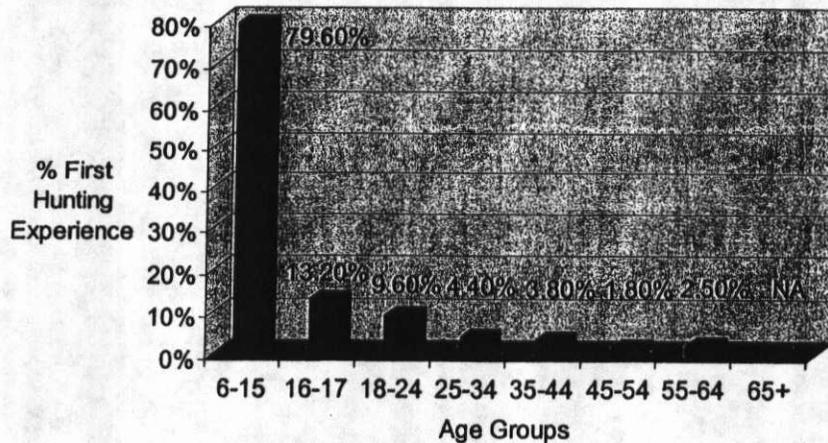
ADULT HUNTERS YEAR 2000



Source: National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation. (2001)

Youth must continue to be the primary focus of hunter recruitment efforts. This is the age group when the overwhelming majority of first time hunting experiences take place.

**RATE OF FIRST HUNTING EXPERIENCE
Sorted by age group**



Source: National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation. (2001)

Growth Rates by Age Groups

Hunter numbers in general have fallen over the past 15 years in every age category except 65+. Participation rates are declining the fastest in the youngest age groups.

AGE	ANNUAL GROWTH RATE, 1985-2001
16-17	-2.77%
18-24	-3.50%
25-34	-2.60%
35-44	-1.89%
45-54	-1.31%
55-64	-0.42%
65 Plus	0.18%
TOTAL	-2.27%

Source: Southwick Associates, Inc. (2005)

Finding #2: Youth Participation Rates Are Not Keeping Pace

There are strong indicators that youth participation rates will not be sufficient to replace current hunters.

At the age of 16, most states allow youth to hunt with the same privileges as adults provided they complete a hunter education course and purchase a license. For that reason, youth hunters will be defined as a hunter between the ages of six and 15.

National Figures

4.23 percent of Americans age 6-15 hunted in 2000.

6.15 percent of Americans 16 + hunted in 2000.

Dividing the youth participation percentage by the adult participation percentage provides a ratio of the total population of youth who hunted compared to the total population of adults who hunted during the year 2000. We call the resultant number the national hunter replacement ratio.

While current data is insufficient to pinpoint a ratio that will sustain the current numbers of hunters into the future, we believe that a ratio higher than 1.0 is needed for the following reasons:

- Most adult hunters started hunting at a very young age.
- New adult hunters are more likely to desert hunting.
- Demographics point to an aging population: populations of younger Americans are smaller, so even if we maintain the same percentage of youth compared to adults, total numbers of hunters will likely drop.
- Some youth become temporary or permanent dropouts when they go to college, join the armed services, or move away from home.

The national hunter replacement ratio for 2000 is .69.

State by State

We then sorted the results by state.

- State ratios ranged from .26 – 1.16.
- Seven states are performing at a level above one.
- Eleven states are at a level of .9 or above.

State By State Hunter Replacement Ratios-2000

State	Population Ages 6 - 15	Hunters Ages 6 - 15	Percent Hunters	Population Ages 16+	Hunters Ages 16+	Percent Hunters	Hunter Replacement Ratio
Missouri	809,000	92,000	11.37%	4,206,000	413,000	9.82%	1.16
Oklahoma	498,000	51,000	10.24%	2,587,000	241,000	9.32%	1.10
New Hampshire	182,000	11,000	6.04%	954,000	53,000	5.56%	1.09
Rhode Island	144,000	2,000	1.39%	765,000	10,000	1.31%	1.06
Delaware	106,000	3,000	2.83%	599,000	16,000	2.67%	1.06
Arizona	806,000	28,000	3.47%	3,700,000	124,000	3.35%	1.04
Mississippi	438,000	54,000	12.33%	2,111,000	257,000	12.17%	1.01
Alabama	618,000	56,000	9.06%	3,427,000	316,000	9.22%	0.98
West Virginia	233,000	37,000	15.88%	1,447,000	235,000	16.24%	0.98
Indiana	874,000	51,000	5.84%	4,558,000	284,000	6.23%	0.94
Florida	2,159,000	43,000	1.99%	12,171,000	270,000	2.22%	0.90
Illinois	1,833,000	60,000	3.27%	9,244,000	340,000	3.68%	0.89
Maryland	778,000	21,000	2.70%	4,078,000	124,000	3.04%	0.89
Iowa	413,000	33,000	7.99%	2,201,000	203,000	9.22%	0.87
California	5,239,000	46,000	0.88%	25,982,000	277,000	1.07%	0.82
Tennessee	790,000	48,000	6.08%	4,317,000	320,000	7.41%	0.82
Vermont	83,000	10,000	12.05%	479,000	75,000	15.66%	0.77
Georgia	1,224,000	58,000	4.74%	6,096,000	377,000	6.18%	0.77
North Carolina	1,171,000	47,000	4.01%	5,918,000	314,000	5.31%	0.76
Ohio	1,637,000	69,000	4.22%	8,645,000	482,000	5.58%	0.76
Texas	3,276,000	175,000	5.34%	15,445,000	1,126,000	7.29%	0.73
South Dakota	112,000	13,000	11.61%	559,000	90,000	16.10%	0.72
Kansas	392,000	28,000	7.14%	2,017,000	202,000	10.01%	0.71
Colorado	623,000	23,000	3.69%	3,215,000	168,000	5.23%	0.71
Virginia	977,000	38,000	3.89%	5,471,000	309,000	5.65%	0.69
Kentucky	557,000	32,000	5.75%	3,121,000	273,000	8.75%	0.66
Wyoming	71,000	8,000	11.27%	377,000	65,000	17.24%	0.65
Hawaii	160,000	2,000	1.25%	916,000	18,000	1.97%	0.64
South Carolina	553,000	26,000	4.70%	3,080,000	232,000	7.53%	0.62
Pennsylvania	1,656,000	96,000	5.80%	9,303,000	867,000	9.32%	0.62
New Mexico	285,000	15,000	5.26%	1,337,000	114,000	8.53%	0.62
Nebraska	248,000	15,000	6.05%	1,266,000	128,000	10.11%	0.60
Alaska	112,000	11,000	9.82%	454,000	75,000	16.52%	0.59
Utah	384,000	26,000	6.77%	1,554,000	178,000	11.45%	0.59
Minnesota	733,000	68,000	9.28%	3,688,000	582,000	15.78%	0.59
Maine	170,000	12,000	7.06%	1,005,000	123,000	12.24%	0.58
Montana	132,000	18,000	13.64%	699,000	171,000	24.46%	0.56
New York	2,597,000	65,000	2.50%	14,201,000	642,000	4.52%	0.55
New Jersey	1,192,000	13,000	1.09%	6,300,000	125,000	1.98%	0.55
North Dakota	89,000	9,000	10.11%	483,000	92,000	19.05%	0.53
Wisconsin	778,000	60,000	7.71%	4,059,000	591,000	14.56%	0.53
Massachusetts	848,000	7,000	0.83%	4,837,000	78,000	1.61%	0.51
Arkansas	373,000	28,000	7.51%	1,999,000	309,000	15.46%	0.49
Connecticut	478,000	4,000	0.84%	2,536,000	46,000	1.81%	0.46
Washington	869,000	20,000	2.30%	4,516,000	231,000	5.12%	0.45
Louisiana	677,000	27,000	3.99%	3,306,000	314,000	9.50%	0.42
Idaho	206,000	13,000	6.31%	972,000	151,000	15.53%	0.41
Oregon	476,000	15,000	3.15%	2,630,000	235,000	8.94%	0.35
Nevada	302,000	3,000	0.99%	1,454,000	48,000	3.30%	0.30
Michigan	1,498,000	37,000	2.47%	7,587,000	725,000	9.56%	0.26
Totals	40,859,000	1,727,000	4.23%	211,872,000	13,039,000	6.15%	0.69

Source: National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation. (2001)

Finding #3: Youth Recruitment Is Less Successful In States With Higher Youth Hunting Restrictions

We classified all 50 states according to the level of restrictions on youth hunting opportunities. Criteria included the age at which youth may hunt and hunter education requirements. Due to the shift over the years from small game hunting to big game hunting, we weighed heavily whether or not youth are permitted to hunt big game. The states are placed in three categories: very restrictive states, somewhat restrictive states and least restrictive states.

We then sorted the states into the three categories and examined their hunter replacement ratios.

Very Restrictive States

Twenty states have very restrictive regulations or laws. These restrictions include minimum age requirements for youth hunting for those under 13 and high hunter education requirements before most participation is permitted.

Sixteen of the 20 states performed at a level lower than the .69 national average.

Rating (Regs)	State	Ratio
Very Restrictive	Rhode Island	1.06
Very Restrictive	California	0.82
Very Restrictive	South Dakota	0.72
Very Restrictive	Colorado	0.71
Very Restrictive	Wyoming	0.65
Very Restrictive	Pennsylvania	0.62
Very Restrictive	Nebraska	0.60
Very Restrictive	Utah	0.59
Very Restrictive	Maine	0.58
Very Restrictive	Montana	0.56
Very Restrictive	New York	0.55
Very Restrictive	New Jersey	0.55
Very Restrictive	North Dakota	0.53
Very Restrictive	Wisconsin	0.53
Very Restrictive	Massachusetts	0.51
Very Restrictive	Connecticut	0.46
Very Restrictive	Idaho	0.41
Very Restrictive	Oregon	0.35
Very Restrictive	Nevada	0.30
Very Restrictive	Michigan	0.26
Subtotals		0.53

Somewhat Restrictive States

Thirteen states have some restrictive regulations or laws. These include requiring hunter education certification prior to permitting many youth hunting opportunities.

Five of the 13 states performed at a rate lower than the national average.

Rating (Regs)	State	Ratio
Somewhat Restrictive	Delaware	1.06
Somewhat Restrictive	Arizona	1.04
Somewhat Restrictive	Indiana	0.94
Somewhat Restrictive	Illinois	0.89
Somewhat Restrictive	Maryland	0.89
Somewhat Restrictive	Ohio	0.76
Somewhat Restrictive	Kansas	0.71
Somewhat Restrictive	Virginia	0.69
Somewhat Restrictive	Kentucky	0.66
Somewhat Restrictive	Hawaii	0.64
Somewhat Restrictive	South Carolina	0.62
Somewhat Restrictive	New Mexico	0.62
Somewhat Restrictive	Minnesota	0.59
Subtotals		0.74

Least Restrictive States

Seventeen states have regulations or laws that 1) permit youth hunting largely at the parents' discretion and 2) hunter education requirements that largely permit youth participation before passing hunter education tests.

Only four of the 17 performed at a lower rate than the national average.

Rating (Regs)	State	Ratio
Least Restrictive	Missouri	1.16
Least Restrictive	Oklahoma	1.10
Least Restrictive	New Hampshire	1.09
Least Restrictive	Mississippi	1.01
Least Restrictive	Alabama	0.98
Least Restrictive	West Virginia	0.98
Least Restrictive	Florida	0.90
Least Restrictive	Iowa	0.87
Least Restrictive	Tennessee	0.82
Least Restrictive	Vermont	0.77
Least Restrictive	Georgia	0.77
Least Restrictive	North Carolina	0.76
Least Restrictive	Texas	0.73
Least Restrictive	Alaska	0.59
Least Restrictive	Arkansas	0.49
Least Restrictive	Washington	0.45
Least Restrictive	Louisiana	0.42
Subtotals		0.80

Summary

The average hunter replacement ratios for least restrictive states and somewhat restrictive states are .80 and .74. The ratio for restrictive states is .53.

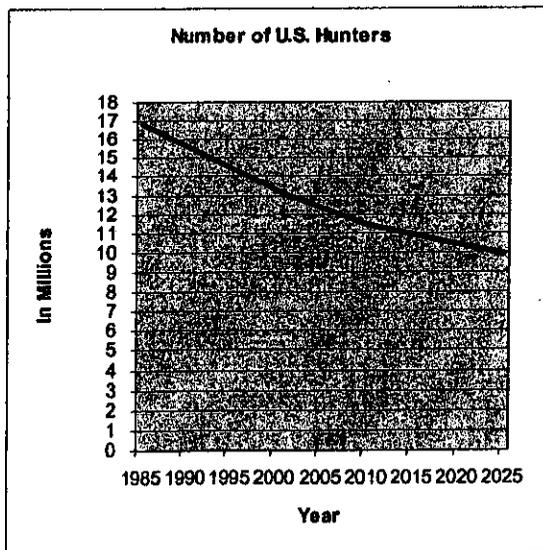
- Four of the seven states performing at a ratio above 1.0 are least restrictive states.
- Two of the seven are somewhat restrictive states.
- Twelve of the 15 worst performing states were classified as very restrictive.

Clearly regulations that limit youth participation have an impact on a state's ability to attract new hunters.

Restrictions on youth hunting are not the only variable that may affect a state's hunter replacement ratio. Urbanization and access to public land are also barriers among others.

Barriers must be lowered to facilitate youth participation. Lowering or eliminating youth restrictions are an area where this goal is attainable.

Finding #4: Without Changes, The Future of Hunting is Bleak



Source: Southwick Associates, Inc. (2005)

Unless changes are made to address poor hunting replacement numbers, the future of hunting, conservation, and the shooting sports industry is in jeopardy.

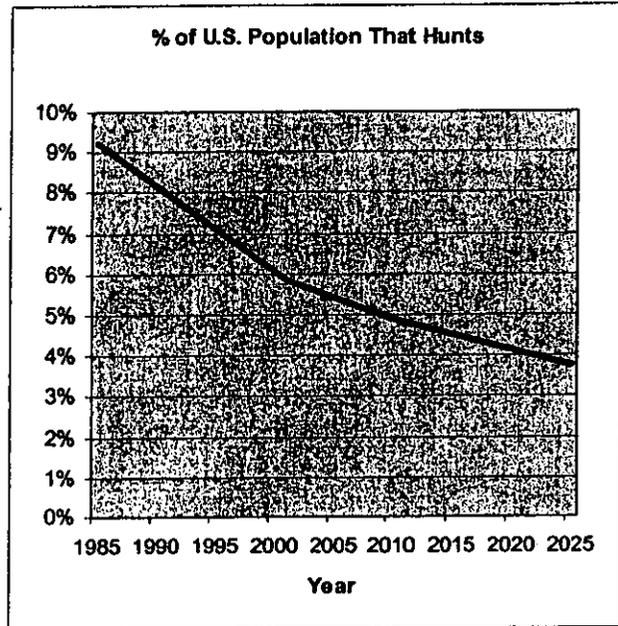
Hunter Numbers

The overall hunter population peaked in the mid 1980s with 16.8 million in 1985. By 2001, hunter populations had dropped 23 percent. By 2025 numbers are expected to drop another 24 percent to 9.9 million.

Hunters as a Percentage of U.S. Population

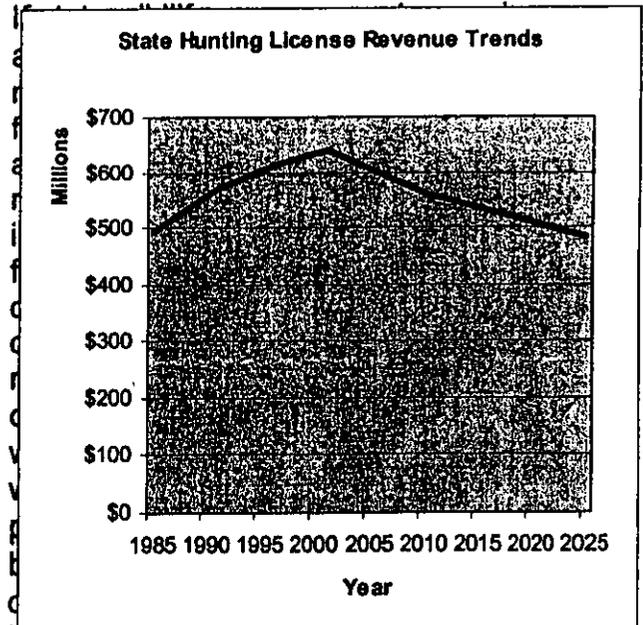
This chart shows the percent of the U.S. population that is projected to hunt. In 1985 9.23 percent of Americans hunted. By 2001 it had dropped to 5.85 percent. Projections indicate that it will drop to 3.78 percent by 2025.

The decrease of hunters as a percentage of the population bodes ill for the future of hunting. Politically, numbers make the difference. Elected officials, the large majority of whom do not hunt, have been reluctant to challenge hunting in many instances for fear of alienating such a large potential voting bloc. As the hunting demographic decreases as a percentage of U.S. population, so does the political strength that has been key to its defense.



Source: Southwick Associates, Inc. (2005)

The Impact on Conservation

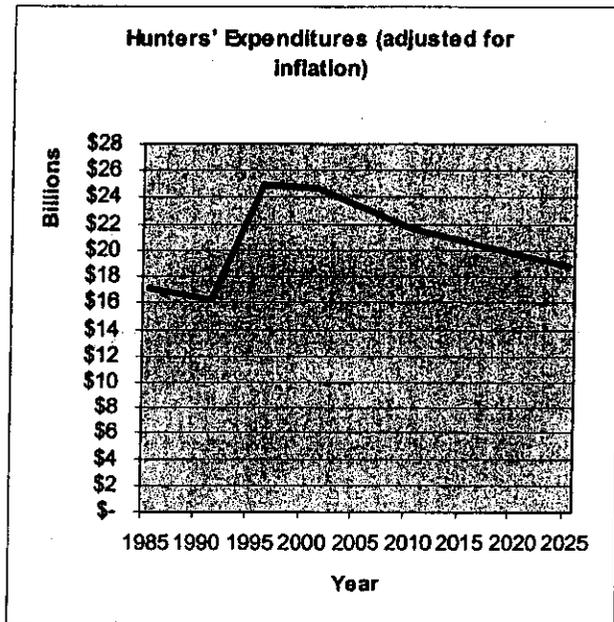


increased personnel, land and regulatory costs.

Source: Southwick Associates, Inc. (2005)

The Impact on the Hunting Economy

Basically, any given industry can only squeeze a limited amount of revenues per customer. This chart represents recent and expected future trends regarding hunter expenditures. From 1991 through 2001, an expanding economy and a trend towards increased purchases of specialized, higher-priced items actually increased hunters' dollars while the number of hunters decreased. This trend is not expected to continue. By 2025 expenditures are expected to decrease 24 percent from 2001 levels, impacting sales and earnings for nearly all companies in the hunting industry.



Source: Southwick Associates, Inc. (2005)

Finding #5: Hunting Is Safe

For some members of the public and opinion leaders (elected officials and media) however, the question about youth hunting is safety. Before hunters, the public or elected officials will consider lowering these barriers, they must be assured that youth hunters are safe.

Statistically, the numbers of people injured or killed in hunting-related shooting incidents are similar to the number of people injured or killed by lightning strikes.

In the year 2000, hunters enjoyed over 243 million days of hunting. In 2002, forty-five states reported 623 non-fatal hunting related shooting incidents and 66 fatalities. The International Hunter Education Association estimates approximately 700 non-fatal injuries, and 75 fatal shootings occurred in 2002 if non-reporting states were included. This provides an estimate of one non-fatal injury for roughly every 347,000 days of hunting activity, and a shooting fatality rate of one for every 3.2 million days of hunting.

Few sports or other forms of outdoor recreation can match this record of safety. It is a testament to the passionate focus hunters and wildlife agencies have placed on hunter safety in the last 50 years.

The relative risks of all sports injuries compared to hunting is illustrated in A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF SPORTS INJURIES IN THE U.S. published by American Sports Data, Inc. This extensive study examined more than 100 sports and activities. Hunting ranked 29 on the list in terms of injuries per 100 participants.

Rank	Sport/Activity	Injuries per 100 Participants
1	Football (Tackle)	18.8
2	Ice Hockey	15.9
3	Boxing	12.7
5	Soccer	9.3
6	Cheerleading	9.0
7	Basketball	7.6
10	Baseball	5.8
14	Football (Touch)	4.4
16	Volleyball	3.1
21	Tennis	2.5
24	Horseback Riding	1.8
25	Aerobics	1.7
28	Roller Hockey	1.3
29	Hunting	1.3
30	Mountain/Rock Climbing	1.2

Source: *A comprehensive study of sports injuries in the U.S. (2002)*

Even when factoring in all injuries that occur during hunting such as twisted ankles, cuts, broken bones etc., hunting is remarkably safe. In 2002, the researchers reported 207,000 injuries during 250 million days of hunting (a rate of one injury for every 1,207 days of hunting).

Finding #6: Youth Hunters Are Safe Hunters

Experienced hunters know that hunting is a safe activity but most are diligent in their efforts to make it even safer. All 50 states and all Canadian provinces offer hunter safety education programs. Nearly 70,000 adults volunteer time to help agencies teach basic and advanced courses. The National Shooting Sports Foundation reports that hunting related shooting incidents have declined by 31 percent in the last 10 years.

Youth hunters are indeed safe. In 2002, with 1.7 million young hunters spending over 15.3 million days in the field, there were 77 hunting related shooting incidents reported.

This information is backed up by comments returned to Timothy J. Lawhern, the Hunter Education Administrator with the Bureau of Law Enforcement, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Lawhern surveyed state wildlife agencies about youth hunting ages and found that thirty-five states permitted some hunting before age twelve. Thirty-four of the thirty-five agencies responded that they had no safety concerns.

Supervised youth hunters have a remarkable safety record.

Further analysis of youth hunting shooting incidents shows that the major factor affecting youth hunting safety is the presence of an attentive, responsible adult hunter to supervise youth. Most of the 2002 incidents happened in the absence of an adult supervisor, or during a lapse in the adult supervision. With 1.7 million young hunters spending more than 15 million days in the field, the number of hunting related shooting incidents dropped to 20 when the hunter was supervised.

Recommendation:

It is the conclusion of NWTF, NSSF and USSA that barriers must be lowered to facilitate more youth participation. The three organizations recommend that all states examine the institutional impediments that may prevent increases in youth participation. In the short term, efforts will be implemented to address the states in which the hunter replacement ratio is alarmingly low.

It is our strong conviction that permitting parents to decide at what age their children can hunt, and permitting youth to participate in hunting before obtaining a hunter education certificate will result in positive gains.

Sources:

National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation. (2001) - U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. Youth data collected via screening survey. Adult data based on full survey.

Compilation of State Youth Hunting Laws and Regulations. (2004) - Specifically youth hunting ages and hunter education requirements. U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance and Silvertip Productions, Ltd.

A Comprehensive Study Of Sports Injuries in the U.S. (2002) - Published by American Sports Data, Inc. American Sports Data, Inc. (ASD) is a specialist in consumer survey research for the sporting goods, fitness and health club industries.

The Hunter Incident Clearinghouse (data from 2002) - A project of the International Hunter Education Association in association with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Wildlife Restoration Act, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, National Wild Turkey Federation, Silvertip Productions, Ltd.

The Future of Hunting [projections on hunting numbers and the hunting economy.] (2005) - Southwick Associates for U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance.

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