

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2017

2007 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2017

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No2017

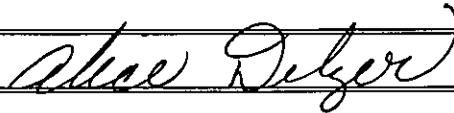
Senate Appropriations

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 01-15-07

Recorder Job Number 1133

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Holmberg opened the hearing on SB 2017 on 01-15-07 regarding the Game and Fish Department. He also announced a subcommittee has been appointed as follows: Senator Christmann – Chairman, Senator Grindberg and Senator Lindaas.

Terry Steinwand, Director of Game and Fish Department (G&F) presented written testimony (1A) and gave testimony to support the budget for G&F. He stated there are 152 FTE in the department. The department does have a Strategic Vision, which is updated every 5 years. The department's mission is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations in their habitat for sustained consumptive and nonconsumptive use. The department also has an Operational Plan that is updated every 2 years. The Evaluation Plan is done on an annual basis. The department is separated into 5 divisions: Wildlife, Fisheries, Enforcement, Conservation and Communications, and Administrative Services. Comments were made concerning the habitat conditions in relation to the animals on that habitat, the effect of the drought on the fishing industry and the success of the Private Land Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) program.

Senator Krauter raised questions concerning the PLOTS program, habitat for wildlife and whether the department provides food sources for the animals in their habitat.

Paul Schadewald, Administrator of Services Division presented written testimony (1B) and testified concerning funding for 3 more FTE's, Fisheries Technician, Game Warden Investigator and a Bighorn Sheep Biologist.

Written testimony (1C) was presented which consisted of charges concerning the revenue the department receives concerning licenses sold and the amount of people participating in the different divisions the department offers to the public. Mr. Schadewald shared about the private land increase (1B) and the indoor shooting ranges provided for the public and training use. Questions arose concerning ramp maintenance on low-water lakes, short term interest rates, where are we in the construction process for storage units, the age of fishermen (if the youth is on a decline) professional guides or outriggers in the state, the selling of the license and if there is enough funds to do ramp improvements as needed. Written testimony (2A) The Proposed Work to Maintain Access at Elevation 1801 on Lake Sakakawea and (2B) Other Proposed Activities to Take Advantage of Low-water Conditions on Lake Sakakawea was distributed to the committee.

Chairman Holmberg stated there is a subcommittee appointed to address this bill. Senator Christmann is Chairman, with Senators Grindberg and Lindaas on the subcommittee. There were no more questions. Meeting was closed on SB1017.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2017

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 01-31-07

Recorder Job Number: 2358

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Christmann opened the Subcommittee hearing on SB 2017 on January 31, 2007.

Others present at this meeting were committee members **Senators Lindaas and Grindberg;**
Game and Fish Department- Kim Molesworth, Terry Steinwand, Paul Schadewald; and
Sheila Peterson, OMB.

Discussion was held regarding access to ramps on the Missouri River system, the involvement of Parks and Recreations regarding this bill, the role of the Water commission, the serious water problems at Devils Lake, questions arose regarding the State parks and how much the ramps at these parks are used, and the funding available through the federal government.

There were questions regarding the Minot Magic Fund, the excise tax, the maintenance of the parks around the state, the fuel cost issue, the volunteer program at the parks, the Wild Life Services, and questions were raised concerning the financial status within the Agriculture Department and the reclassification of some employees. There were also questions raised concerning the PLOTS Program and habitats and the cost of CRP seed.

Sheila Peterson, OMB explained some of the financial questions that were raised.

It was noted that Mike Donahue wants to be present at any future hearings; he is opposed to Game and Fish spending on Wild Life issues.

Senator Christmann closed the Subcommittee hearing on SB 2017.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2017

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02-09-07

Recorder Job Number: 3334

Committee Clerk Signature

Alice DeLuz

Minutes:

Chairman Holmberg opened discussion on SB 2017.

Senator Christmann stated they were just waiting for the amendments to come down from Legislative Council. He stated that the big changes to the budget are we're expecting that the Agriculture Committee is going to add \$200,000.00 of general fund money that would go to Wildlife Services and that would be enough to keep Wildlife Services at 10 field offices as they traditionally have been. They've been down to nine for about the last year. It would also with an emergency clause trigger \$130,000.00 of Game and Fish money that we had intended to have spent on Wildlife Services but there was some trigger mechanism regarding the federal budget, that never occurred, but they spent the money anyway and this would release that even though the trigger that used to hinge on never occurred. In the last budget, 05—07, we had \$800,000.00 for ramp improvements and marina development. These are not the big marina, but little things. The governor had taken that out but with low water levels they are asking to have that restored. This again out of Game and Fish fund. Plus another \$300,000.00 that they need to fix the Sweet Briar Dam. That \$800,000.00 for ramp improvements that is the emergency clause. Now we have to deal with the marina deal at Garrison that came up in SB 2376. Look on your green sheets regarding boat ramp improvements for both Fort Stevenson and Graham's Island. Game and Fish feels they are

alright for a couple of years. There is a Coast Guard Money Fund that has to do with marina development, it's federal money, it's sitting in the Game and Fish hasn't been used, they feel they can use that \$400,000.00 on the marine stuff. We would take directly from the Game and Fish Department Fund and all in all it would get us a pool of 1.1 million dollars. And this bill would say that if locally they raise \$100,000.00 and if that federal money is released, we'd give them that 1.1 million and they could build their 6.some million dollar marina. However, if by March 31st of next year, nothing has happened with that federal money, or they haven't gotten their \$100,000.00 raised locally, we scrap the marina idea, release the \$260,00.00 for the regular boat ramp work at Graham's Island and Fort Stevenson. And lastly then, we would give a do not pass to SB

2376. The actual marina project ought to go in Parks and Recs, since that's who will be owning and operating the marina.

Chairman Holmberg asked if amendments are being prepared.

Senator Krebsbach stated she thought they adopted the amendments already.

Senator Bowman asked what is coming out of Wildlife Services.

Senator Christmann There are two things coming out of Wildlife Services. For this biennium that won't impact. You won't need to do anything for 05 – 07. We're going to release the \$130,000.00 from Game and Fish to take care of what you are asking about.

Chairman Holmberg closed the discussion on SB 2017.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2017

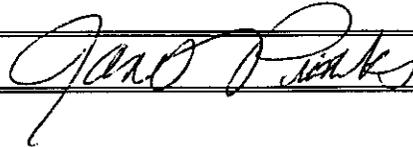
Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02/12/07

Recorder Job Number: 3418

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Holmberg opened the hearing on SB 2017.

Senator Randel Christmann, District 33, Hazen, testified in support of SB 2017, discussing the proposed amendments; giving background information on past appropriations and the trigger clause in the past biennium. He then discussed the emergency clause which will trigger the use of those funds. In section 5 the money will be utilized. The grant line item which will be removed and the funding for that will go toward the big marina. The money on the next line item would be covering the repairs for Sweet Briar Dam. Additional appropriations to cover the Fort Stevenson marina were discussed and it was indicated this would go through the Department of Parks and Rec.

Senator Christmann moved a do pass on the amendments, **Senator Fischer** seconded.

Discussion was held. An oral vote was taken resulting in a do pass.

Senator Christmann moved a do pass with amendments, **Senator Wardner** seconded. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 14 yes, 0 no, 0 absent. **Senator Christmann** will carry the bill.

Chairman Holmberg closed the hearing on SB 2017.

[Handwritten signature]
2-13-02
1 of 2

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2017

Page 1, line 2, after "department" insert "; and to declare an emergency"

Page 2, line 2, replace "(911,938)" with "(871,688)"

Page 2, line 7, replace "(800,000)" with "0"

Page 2, line 8, replace "3,690,052" with "4,530,302"

Page 2, line 18, replace "5,252,184" with "5,292,434"

Page 2, line 24, replace "680,000" with "680,000"

Page 2, after line 24, insert:

"Ramp improvements and marina development 800,000"

Page 2, line 25, replace "54,891,111" with "55,731,361"

Page 2, after line 25, insert:

"SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - WILDLIFE SERVICES - AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER. There is appropriated from special funds the sum of \$130,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the game and fish department to be provided to the agriculture commissioner for the payment of wildlife services for the period beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2007.

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. The \$800,000 included in the ramp improvements and marina development line item included in section 3 of this Act and the appropriation provided in section 4 of this Act are declared to be emergency measures."

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - Senate Action

	EXECUTIVE BUDGET	SENATE CHANGES	SENATE VERSION
Salaries and wages	\$19,033,535		\$19,033,535
Operating expenses	11,690,087		11,690,087
Capital assets	3,284,241		3,284,241
Grants	5,252,184	\$40,250	5,292,434
Land habitat and deer degradation	12,286,351		12,286,351
Noxious weed control	450,000		450,000
Grants, gifts, and donations	500,000		500,000
Nongame wildlife conservation	120,000		120,000
Lonetree Reservoir	1,594,713		1,594,713
Wildlife services	680,000		680,000
Ramp improvements and marina development		800,000	800,000
Total all funds	\$54,891,111	\$840,250	\$55,731,361
Less estimated income	<u>54,891,111</u>	<u>840,250</u>	<u>55,731,361</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0

2 of 2

FTE 155.00 0.00 155.00

Dept. 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Senate Changes

	REMOVES FUNDING FOR BOAT RAMP IMPROVEMENTS 1	ADDS FUNDING FOR SWEETBRIAR REPAIRS 2	ADDS FUNDING FOR RAMP IMPROVEMENTS AND MARINA DEVELOPMENT	TOTAL SENATE CHANGES
Salaries and wages				
Operating expenses				
Capital assets				
Grants	(\$259,750)	\$300,000		\$40,250
Land habitat and deer depredation				
Noxious weed control				
Grants, gifts, and donations				
Nongame wildlife conservation				
Lonetree Reservoir				
Wildlife services				
Ramp improvements and marina development			\$800,000	800,000
Total all funds	(\$259,750)	\$300,000	\$800,000	\$840,250
Less estimated income	(259,750)	300,000	800,000	840,250
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1 Removes funding for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson State Park and Graham's Island. This funding is declared an emergency.

2 Increases the grants, gifts, and donations line item by \$300,000 for Sweetbriar repairs.

Adds a separate section appropriating \$130,000 for wildlife services for the 2005-07 biennium and declares this an emergency.

Date: 2/12/07
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2017

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 0101

Action Taken DP w Amend

Motion Made By Christman Seconded By Wardner

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Ray Holmberg, Chrm	✓		Senator Aaron Krauter	✓	
Senator Bill Bowman, V Chrm	✓		Senator Elroy N. Lindaas	✓	
Senator Tony Grindberg, V Chrm	✓		Senator Tim Mathern	✓	
Senator Randel Christmann	✓		Senator Larry J. Robinson	✓	
Senator Tom Fischer	✓		Senator Tom Seymour	✓	
Senator Ralph L. Kilzer	✓		Senator Harvey Tallackson	✓	
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	✓				
Senator Rich Wardner	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Christman

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2017: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2017 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

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Less estimated income	<u>54,891,111</u>	<u>840,250</u>	<u>55,731,361</u>

General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	155.00	0.00	155.00

Dept. 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Senate Changes

	REMOVES FUNDING FOR BOAT RAMP IMPROVEMENTS ¹	ADDS FUNDING FOR SWEETBRIAR REPAIRS ²	ADDS FUNDING FOR RAMP IMPROVEMENTS AND MARINA DEVELOPMENT	TOTAL SENATE CHANGES
Salaries and wages				
Operating expenses				
Capital assets				
Grants	(\$259,750)	\$300,000		\$40,250
Land habitat and deer depredation				
Noxious weed control				
Grants, gifts, and donations				
Nongame wildlife conservation				
Lonetree Reservoir				
Wildlife services				
Ramp improvements and marina development			\$800,000	800,000
Total all funds	(\$259,750)	\$300,000	\$800,000	\$840,250
Less estimated income	<u>(259,750)</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>800,000</u>	<u>840,250</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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2007 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2017

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2017

House Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Division

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 22, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3713

Committee Clerk Signature

Shirley Branning

Minutes:

Chairman Wald: Opened the hearing on SB 2017, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, NDGFD by introducing Terry Steinwand, Director NDGFD.

Steinwand: (See Handout #1, SB 2017, NDGFD) provided testimony describing the department and presenting the budget requests. This department is one of the smallest in the nation with 152 employees. The budget request is based on the anticipated loss of CRP land that will not be renewed.

Representative Martinson: It is \$600,000 that was put in by the Senate for the boat ramp.

Steinwand: It was \$1.1m that was put in and we are asking for \$800,000 for boat ramp facilities.

Representative Martinson: They took it in the Senate from several repairs to one marina type place?

Steinwand: The funds were to be moved from Game and Fish to Parks and Recreation for the marina and Devils Lake boat ramps.

Representative Hawken: Does that mean there is no money for Devils Lake?

Steinwand: To come up with the additional \$5.5m, if that money doesn't come by March 1, 2007 it will be released for those projects at Devils Lake.

Representative Hawken: If we do the marina, it would take that money.

Steinwand: That is correct.

Representative Martinson: You don't support that.

Steinwand: Not the way it is currently configured.

Paul Schadewald, Chief of Administrative Services Division: (See Handout #1, SB 2019, North Dakota Parks and Recreation, NDPR) provided testimony related to the 2007-2009 budget request. This is a 7.6% increase from the last biennium. FTEs, three new. Game and Fish is locked into a dedicated source of revenue.

Representative Gulleason: There was a high profile arrest at Devils Lake, snagging a large amount of fish. Are you continuing to see that sort of thing?

Schadewald: There are a variety of cases. There is an FTE needed to manage the big horn sheep herds in the Bad Lands.....

Chairman Wald: How are the herds of Big Horns doing in the Bad Lands?

Schadewald: We've had some problems but the herd is holding its own. They pick up diseases from domestic sheep

Vice Chairman Monson: How many head are there?

Schadewald: It is somewhere in the neighborhood of 300-400 head.

Vice Chairman Monson: Who is working on this project now? You want a specialist in this area?

Schadewald: We have a biologist located in Dickinson who is doing this work, and would change from a temporary to a full time salaried employee.

Chairman Wald: Is the oil activity having any impact with the sheep.

Schadewald: They would do better in some areas of there weren't roads. It is the additional traffic in that area.

Page 2 of Handout # 1 has a description of the private lands program request.

Vice Chairman Monson: The land acquisition is decreased to \$100,000. What was it before?

Schadewald: It was \$500,000.

Chairman Wald: Define animal damage control.

Schadewald: That would be coyote, beaver, blackbirds, Canada Geese, other wild life damage problems. There are 15 people in the whole office, partially federally funded and partially state funded.

Representative Aarsvold: What was the expenditure on predator control this biennium?

Schadewald: The \$680,000 is what was appropriated but only \$550,000 is available because of a trigger mechanism, in the event of federal fund cuts to fill in.

Representative Aarsvold: \$130,000 is above what we had this biennium?

Schadewald: It is an add on.

Representative Aarsvold: That goes to the Ag Department.

Schadewald: It goes to the Ag Department then Wild Life Resources.

Vice Chairman Monson: Back up to major increases in operating expenses, \$2.9m increase and \$2m in private lands program increases. Is that in here or is this a whole new \$2.9m.

Schadewald: Private lands funding is in a special line item.

Vice Chairman Monson: You are moving \$900,000 from operating, capital assets. Then you're adding \$2.9m, what is the reason for adding that amount?

Schadewald: It will be used for a variety of things, in lieu of taxes it will be used for lands, operating costs, for utilities, and do more work in the field with our staff.

Vice Chairman Monson: Confused on the increases.

Schadewald: The operating money will not be for that, it will come out of the capital assets line.

Vice Chairman Monson: You're looking at \$2m increase in PLOTS and minus \$400,000 on the next line from your land acquisitions. No change in the \$900,000 but adding another \$2.9m so now we are at \$4.5m increase. Then we get to the wild life services and we're increasing by \$130,000 so we are looking at \$4. whatever m.

Schadewald: No, right now we are looking at \$3.9m increase from the current biennium's budget and some shifting around is being done. This includes the salary adjustments.

Representative Klein: The deferred maintenance item on the green sheet at \$1.6m, do you have a listing of what those items are?

Schadewald: We have not discussed that, we do not provide a specific listing on that in the budgeting process. It is an extraordinary repair type thing.

Representative Klein: Next question is on the Lone Tree Reservoir at \$1.2m. What is that?

Schadewald: Land was purchased, over 30,000 acres but was not developed. It was decided a state agency should manage it, not a federal agency. So the land is being managed by the North Dakota State Game and Fish Department and owned by the Bureau of Reclamation which provides 100% of the funding and listed as a special line in our budget.

Chairman Wald: You say you don't own a hatchery anymore?

Schadewald: We have a cooperative type project where we transport the eggs and plant them to lakes all over the state.

Vice Chairman Monson: On the bottom of page 2, are they included on the top of page 2?

Schadewald: There is no duplication, for the most part grants at the bottom of the page.

On page 3, programs for fishing.

Chairman Wald: Is there an emergency clause?

Schadewald: There is \$800,000. the revenues are listed on page 4 such as fishing licenses.

Representative Klein: What do PR and DJ stand for?

Schadewald: They are fisheries and DJ stands for Dingle-Johnson and PR stands Pittman-Robinson, it goes back to 1937.

There are three other bills that affect the Game and Fish fund.

Representative Aarsvold: The \$810,000 in House amendment 2009 is that included with the \$680,000 or is it additional?

Schadewald: \$680,000 for the 07-09 appropriation plus \$130,000 for the emergency clause that is provided in the ag commissioner's bill, 2009.

The spread sheets and graphs on pages 6-14 detail general game license sales, etc.

Representative Gulleson: There seems to be a decline in young hunters. Could you break this down by age?

Schadewald: In North Dakota we are not seeing the decline in young hunters. Deer hunting and pheasant hunting bring people out in North Dakota.

Vice Chairman Monson: On page 4 of your budget bill, your salaries and wages have increased by \$2m, some of that is for more FTEs but one of those is already paid through temporary salaries. That is 150 employees.

Schadewald: The big horn biologist wages is coming out of the donation account. Not the salary line item. We have authorization to receive donated money and spend it on programs they want.

Representative Martinson: Do you get 4 and 4?

Schadewald: We get the same as other state employees. There is some carryover from previous pay increases.

Vice Chairman Monson: I would like to see real good detail on that because \$2.1m for 150 FTE, even if you are paying for a big game biologist and two more FTEs is way more than 4 and 4 in my calculation.

Schadewald: The pay plan is broken down by division, with amounts and temporary salaries. There are no especially large increases in that area.

Chairman Wald: How much is a non-resident fishing license?

Schadewald: It is \$35, the same as Minnesota and considerably lower than Montana and South Dakota.

Chairman Wald: Why is this agricultural in the ag commissioner's budget, the \$800,000 for wild life, why isn't that in Game and Fish?

Schadewald: Twenty years ago, it was 100% run in the ag budget with general funds.

Representative Aarsvold: Most of the deprivation impacts the industry of agriculture.

Schadewald: Yes.

Representative Klein: Your investments, what is the source of that?

Schadewald: 100% of that comes from the Bank of North Dakota, in short term CDs.

Chairman Wald: Complaints come in all the time about the deer population and today the highest cost for comprehensive insurance is from deer hits. What can we do to cut down on the deer population?

Schadewald: We are trying to manage them with the gun and in some areas there is a decline but there is still more work to do.

Chairman Wald: Youth hunting, is that up or down?

Schadewald: There are special programs, but there is a loss of youth population.

Chairman Wald: is there a program to recruit to harvest the elk in the park. Are you in support of that?

Schadewald: The Senators, Dorgan and Conrad, voiced our position on that.

Vice Chairman Monson: I had heard of poisoning them.

Schadewald: Drugs are a more likely possibility.

Chairman Wald: Question regarding transporting fish and game wardens' fines. Is this a proclamation?

Schadewald: It is a proclamation but also the game warden's call. Stay with your own fish and leave identification on it.

Chairman Wald: On the marina, I can't believe the game and fish or the park service should be in the marine business. You would add on or whatever and also build slips?

Schadewald: We can't believe it either but that is the way it came out of the Senate with general fund money. The marina has nothing to do with our boat ramp money, it is a parks project and the city of Garrison. It would set up a protective bay and a vendor would come in and set up with the Parks. We don't get involved in that.

Chairman Wald: If we took it out, it would be OK with you.

Schadewald: We've been encouraged to cooperate somewhat but not at \$1.1m. The Coast Guard has some money that may be able to help on that project. It ended up to be \$400,000 of Coast Guard money and \$700,000 of Game and Fish money.

Vice Chairman Monson: You would be in competition with private marinas.

Schadewald: Yes, there would be competition. Capital improvements are a large part of that project.

Representative Gulleson: Understands that this is initiated by friends of Lake Sakakawea.

Mike McEnroe representing the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society: (See Handout #2, SB 2017, NDGFD) provided testimony regarding the increasing costs of the Wildlife Services program and the marina at Ft. Stevenson State Park.

Mike Donahue, representing the Wildlife Federation and United Sportsmen of North Dakota: Added comment similar to the preceding.

Chairman Wald: Beaver are invading private property.

Representative Todd Porter, District 34: Stated that he personally has problems with the Wild Life Services regarding control of problem animals. These services should be kept within the Game and Fish Department. He spoke in favor of PLOTS.

Chairman Wald: How does CRP tie into PLOTS? What happens if the land is sold, does the PLOTS arrangement go with the land?

Porter: Directly, PIOTS does flow forward with the sale of land.

Animal health is a concern, owner should have the responsibility and not passed on the Game and Fish if the animal escapes. The fund balance of \$20m should be kept at the \$15m mark.

Duane Ash, Lobbyist for Friends of Lake Sakakawea and the North Dakota Sports Fishing Congress: Testified that the Marina should not be in the Game and Fish arena, however a marina is needed.

Chairman Wald: How many members in your organization?

Ash: About 400 with businesses and counties.

David Munch, representing him: Spoke in favor of funding programs

Chairman Wald: On the question of boat ramps at Devils Lake, why were they left out?

Schadewald: It is a good facility right now, it needs to be widened.

Representative Gulleason: On predator control, landowners look on this as something the Game and Fish does to help landowner relations. Do you feel it strengthens relationships?

Schadewald: They may not be fully aware of the funding source.

Vice Chairman Monson: Is this the same fund that reimburses farmers and ranchers that have deer damage?

Schadewald: It is a different program; we do not pay directly for damages but do help with fences, etc. They are different services.

Representative Aarsvold: I get a lot of calls about beaver; the dams are a huge issue.

Chairman Wald: The hearing on SB 2017 is closed and I have assigned this bill to Representatives Klein, Gulleason and myself.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. Engrossed SB 2017

House Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Division

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 14, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 5032

Committee Clerk Signature

Shirley Branning

Minutes:

Chairman Wald: Called the meeting to order to take up Engrossed SB 2017 .0201, State Game and Fish Department.

Representative Klein: Explained the amendment and moved a Do Pass to amendment .0201

Representative Hawken: Second

Chairman Wald: Motion to adopt the amendment, all in favor say "I". Motion carried.

Entertain a motion Do **Pass** SB 2017 as amended.

Representative Hawken: Move to further amend.

Vice Chairman Monson: Second

Chairman Wald: All in favor signify by saying "I". Motion carried.

Entertain a motion **Do Pass** as amended.

Representative Klein: So Move.

Representative Hawken: Second

Vote: 7 Yes 0 No, 0 Absent, Motion Carried

Carrier: Representative Klein

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. **SB 2017**

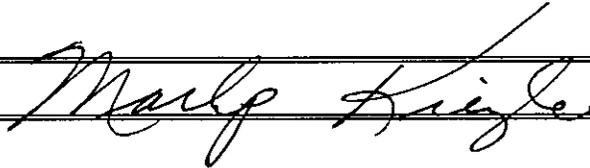
House Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3/16/07

Recorder Job Number: 5183

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Svedjan: Asked that they have hearing that relate to budgets. They will begin with SB 2017, the Game and Fish Department. He asked that they review amendment .0202 which is handed out. Rep Klein is the carrier of the bill. I would like to point out the high points on the green sheets so we all have a better understanding of these budgets.

Rep Klein: made a motion to adopt the amendment of .0202 and seconded by Rep Wald.

Rep Klein: What we have here is amendment .0202, which is attached. If you go down to section 5, the legislative attend, there we are going back to where we are putting \$100,000 in the grants item to carry the hunting program. The Director of State Game and Fish will provide these funds to local communities to fund shooting ranges etc. This is a bill similar to what was passed in our assembly by an 89 to 2 vote.

Section 6 also relates to study to report to LC.

Bottom of the page where we are discussing the Executive Budget in the Senate version, the Senate did nothing in with this bill and the House Version added and I would like to go over those items. You see the Youth Hunting Program and the Sweetbriar Dam Project. What happened as we were in discussion is the Sweetbriar Dam just west of Mandan has some serious problems with it and we tied that in to use some money from the Game and Fish, if the matching funds are available, and tied that all together.

In the footnotes;

The first one was the Plotts Program for the Youth under the age of 18.

The second provides a study for the retention of hunters in North Dakota.

The third footnote is the local communities to fund shooting ranges.

The Forth footnote provides a \$1,000,000 from the Game and Fish Fund for the State Water Commission for Sweetbriar Dam Project. The funding from the Game and Fish Fund is contingent upon other funding being made available to the project by the State Water Commission.

Footnote five this amendment provides funding to the Park and Recs to assist in funding the Fort Stevens Marina Project, of the \$500,000 provided \$100,000 from the Game and Fish and \$400,000 from the other funds is available to the Game and Fish Department.

Foot note six provides funds to the Park and Rec from the Sate Game and Fish Department for maintenance operation and extra ordinary repairs relating to boat ramps in various State Parks, specifically Devils Lake and Fort Stevenson.

Basically what you see is the changes we made up above in the total of all funds, is the boat ramp improvements, the marina project and the Sweetbriar Dam Project.

Chairman Svedjan: Can you tell us the status of the Game and Fish Fund.

Rep Kroeber: Last time we increased the amount that we require in the Fund and the total all funds, according to the orange book, is between \$54 and 55 million.

Rep Kemenich: What did they have in mind with the grant for the 1.7 milllion?

Rep Klein: that is the total of the footnotes.

Rep Skarphol: Footnote five says that \$400,000 funds that is available to State Game and Fish. What is that mean?

Rep Wald: There is some Coast Guard money in the Game and Fish that could be made available for that money in the project.

Rep Carlson: I would like a further explanation on footnote five as to what they are going to do at this Fort Stevenson Marina?

Rep Klein Part of the project is that if the Federal Money comes through, then this money could be used, if that doesn't happen than a portion of this money, the \$100.000 would be used else ware.

Rep Carlson: is it to build a new marina?

Rep Wald: Yes.

Rep Carlson: Kitt Henniger, has Captain Kitts and this is a private venture. He leases the land from the state he takes the risk and spent a lot of money on that marina. This one would be right next door and would be funded with state dollars. He had some real concerns with the funding being put in the budget to establish something that would directly compete with him. It seems odd to me that we would be in a hurry to chase federal dollars, to directly compete with a guy who has barrowed money and set up his marina in that same area.

Rep Klein: There were several versions to this think. What we finally came up with is the federal money does not come through, which is large portion of it, this money would not be spent.

Rep Carlson: That is not my point. My point is, that we are enabling legislation to compete against a guy that is there already doing the same thing and established. If there is a tremendous need and he can't handle all of the people. He has slips that he rents to people and if the state does the same thing down the way and it is government owned, who is going to win that battle.

Rep Nelson: The Youth Plots Program, there was a bill that defeated in the Legislative process and now the money is put back in amendment. What was the thought process of that?

Rep Klein: That was a bill that was passed in the House and the Senate did not see eye to eye and was defeated.

Rep Nelson: Is there any off set in income that the department can receive for those 2 million dollars as far as the expenditure? In most areas of increasing the public lands programs there has been an increase of revenues to off set the expenditures. Is there in this program an off set?

Rep Klein: And this is the same version

Rep Nelson: I have a problem with that and the other question that I have is the Sweetbriar Dam project. What is the contingency obligation of the State Water Commission? Is that a 50/50 match or what?

Rep Klein: No it is not, we tried to get the Department of Transportation, the Game and Fish and the State Water Commission and Morton County. When the road was build, Morton County signed the responsibility for that Dam. Morton County has \$15,000 in their budget for that dam. We are looking at around 3 million to fix it. We really tried work with the Game and Fish and the Water Commission. DOT does not have a horse in that battle. When we built the Interstate Morton County signed for the dam we do not have any responsibilities. We can not use DOT funds. This is something we have to do. It is the number one fishing hole in the state according to Game and Fish. We have a dam that is failing.

Rep Nelson: I do think Game and Fish does have some responsibility her, but I would like to know what level of responsibility they are going to be required. If it is 3 million dollars, it looks like they are responsible for one third?

Rep Klein: I think they had 1 million available and Morton County had \$15,000 and the Water Commission was looking at their priorities to see if they could come up with the remainder.

Rep Nelson: Is there any requirement that before they go into that project that the funding is in place?

Rep Klein: The whole project has to be funded or we can't go ahead.

Rep Gulleson: I would like to give a little back ground to Rep Carlson's concerns because they are legitimate and I served with Kitt and appreciate what he has done.

It is the contention of the large group up there, the friends of Lake Sacagawea, who have been working on the project for many years, that capacity that Kit has primarily full and the demand is much higher. So I think it is at least 5 years that they have been working with the Corp of Engineers as they have assessed all of this and laid out the plans. The Corp has come on board now and agreed to put money in their budget to fund a portion of this. And this gets at the heart of what we have been hearing for a long time about the concerns about the whole recreational industry along the lake. If we don't do more, from the Corp's perspective, to invest in it we are going loose a tremendous amount of the tourism potential for that whole area. This is certainly not to anyway jeopardize or replace Kitt's, it actually to strengthen that whole region and bring more. The comments that Rep Carlson has made are true, there has been, not only state investment, but there has been some Federal Investment in the property that Kitt is on as well over the years.

Rep Wald: On the Sweetbriar dam. The Game and Fish has 15 priorities and the testimony and Sweetbriar Dam is #2. Sweetbriar Dam was build in 1964 and their sepsis under the road way and the comment made by Rep Klein, it has high hazard priorities.

They estimate the cost to repair about 1 to 3.5 million dollars to repair.

In reference to the Marina, that the Federal Funds are being worked on in Washington, if the Federal Funds do not come forward for that marina in Fort Stevenson Park , then the Game and Fish money and other local money can not be spend.

Rep Monson: I was not a real big supporter of the Marina. One of the things that came out in testimony was that it was kind of safety issue. Captain Kitts is on the south end and this is about 24 or 25 miles to the north. Rep Charging has an interest in another marina off to the west. She was in and said she is not opposed to this at all, in fact likes this for a safety issue, because if there is a storm on the lake they will need a place to dock and it is a long ways between hers and Captain Kitts.

Rep Kerzman: I would like a little discussion on the FTE's. I realized that the Senate did not make any changes on the Executive Budget nor did the house but they are asking for 3 FTE's and there are 5 vacant positions. It was my understanding in the last biennium that we authorized another warden. I don't know if we have ever seen it out there.

Chariman Svedjan: On the green sheet it is addressed there but is there further explanation?

Rep Carlisle: We had that budget last time the other warden was not biologist. There are about 400 commercial vendors and that was what that warden was hired for.

Rep Kerzman: With the 5 vacant, are they going to be fill plus 3 additional?

Rep Carleisle: I can't speak on that.

Rep Wald: If you go to item 2 in the green sheets it says provides funding for 3 new FTD's positions including a game warden investigator, big horn sheep biologist and fishery division technician.

Rep Kempenich: Are they having trouble retaining people? I see that there is a study and what kind of equity pool do they have?

Rep Klein: That study is the same study we have had in the previous bill we past.

Becky Keller: Are you speaking from the 10 million equity pool? The Game and Fish is expected to receive \$193,674. That will be other funds.

Rep Kreidt: When we met with the DOT on the Sweetbriar Dam project, there was some work that last year or the year before. Did they discuss anything regards to that?

Rep Klein: We did not talk about that.

Rep Kreidt: There are a lot of problems with that lake, there are small feed lots above and a lot of the drainage is going into that Sweet Briar River.

Rep Wald: The information we got when we met in the coffee shop to get a handle on the Sweet briar project was that the DOT only has responsibility for the surface and if that Dam is not fixed and they have to tear up the road or put in a bridge it then becomes a entire DOT responsibility.

Rep Monson: It is a Catch 22. If the road washes out the DOT will fix it. The dam was build to speck when it was build but doesn't meet specks now. In order to make it up to code they totally have to redo the thing. Game and Fish and Water Commission have a stake in it and both want to save the dam.

Rep Carlson: I would like to go back to the marina thing. What we need, in my opinion, is not more marinas, what we need is water. If we want to spend money on something, then maybe we should put more efforts and money at our Congressional level to securing water we that we need to make that a tourist attraction they are talking about. Ask anyone of those people, what is their priority, it is not a longer ramp, it is more water.

Rep Aarsvold: Part of that discussion, as I recall, involved the engineering department at the DOT exploring some other funding opportunities as well. Primarily litigation of potential hazard and the road was resurfaced this past summer.

Rep Nelson: Game and Fish shouldn't be the only one responsible. The DOT just seems to get off the hook. The Water Commission should obviously need to be a player.

Rep Wald: People from the DOT sited to us the Federal Code that they are only responsible for the surface and they are not walking away from it. They can not spend Federal Money on that project as the Federal Law is currently written. The trigger again is that if the State Water Commission does not step forward, then the State Game and Fish and the Morton County money will not be triggered.

Rep Gulleson: In response to Rep Carlson's comments. The Corp has been slow in rewriting the plan and basically has been dragging their feet and resisted it. We had a hearing a few weeks ago where a few Rep had attended. The Corp was told that the plan will be completed, but they will address the water concerns of the tribes. Because they have basic safety there because they do not have access there for the basic residential drinking water that they need, and then the recreational.

Chairman Svedjan: We have the amendment before us is there any other discussion.

On the motion to adopt the amendment 0202 to SB 2017 I will take a voice vote.

The motion carried and amendment has been adopted.

Rep Klein made a motion to do pass as amended and seconded by Rep Wald.

A roll call vote was taken 18 yes 6 no and 0 absent.

The motion carried and Rep Klein will carry the bill.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2017

Page 1, line 2, after "department" insert "; to provide for a statement of legislative intent; to provide for a study"

Page 2, line 2, replace "(871,688)" with "(771,688)"

Page 2, line 3, replace "1,058,372" with "3,058,372"

Page 2, after line 6, insert:

"Recruitment and retention study 30,000"

Page 2, line 8, replace "4,530,302" with "6,660,302"

Page 2, line 18, replace "5,292,434" with "5,392,434"

Page 2, line 19, replace "12,286,351" with "14,286,351"

Page 2, after line 24, insert:

"Recruitment and retention study 30,000"

Page 2, line 26, replace "55,731,361" with "57,861,361"

Page 2, after line 31, insert:

"SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the sixtieth legislative assembly that \$100,000 contained in the grants line item in section 3 of this Act be used to carry out a grant program to encourage hunting by youth. The director of the game and fish department may provide grants under this program to local communities to fund shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth. It is the intent of the sixtieth legislative assembly that \$2,000,000 contained in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 3 of this Act be used by the department to develop a private land open to sportsmen program for youth under age eighteen.

SECTION 6. GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT TO STUDY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF HUNTERS IN NORTH DAKOTA - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. The game and fish department shall study the recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota. The study must include identification of programs to recruit and retain hunters in this state. The department shall report its findings to the legislative council before September 1, 2008."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3/16/07
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2017

House Appropriations Full Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 78041.0202

Action Taken Adopt amendment 0202

Motion Made By Klein Seconded By Wald

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 Glassheim		
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) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

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

Vote - carries

Date: 3/16/07
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2017

House Appropriations Full Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 78041.0202

Action Taken Do Pass as amended

Motion Made By Klein Seconded By Ward

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Svedjan	✓				
Vice Chairman Kempenich	✓				
Representative Wald	✓		Representative Aarsvold	✓	
Representative Monson	✓		Representative Guleson	✓	
Representative Hawken	✓				
Representative Klein	✓				
Representative Martinson	✓				
Representative Carlson		✓	Representative Glassheim	✓	
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) 18 No 6

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Klein

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2017, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Svedjan, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (18 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2017 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 2, after "department" insert "; to provide for a statement of legislative intent; to provide for a report to the legislative council; to provide for a study"

Page 2, line 2, replace "(871,688)" with "828,312"

Page 2, line 3, replace "1,058,372" with "3,058,372"

Page 2, after line 6, insert:
"Recruitment and retention study 30,000"

Page 2, line 8, replace "4,530,302" with "8,260,302"

Page 2, line 18, replace "5,292,434" with "6,992,434"

Page 2, line 19, replace "12,286,351" with "14,286,351"

Page 2, after line 24, insert:
"Recruitment and retention study 30,000"

Page 2, line 26, replace "55,731,361" with "59,461,361"

Page 2, after line 31, insert:

"SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the sixtieth legislative assembly that \$100,000 contained in the grants line item in section 3 of this Act be used to carry out a grant program to encourage hunting by youth. The director of the game and fish department may provide grants under this program to local communities to fund shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth. It is the intent of the sixtieth legislative assembly that \$2,000,000 contained in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 3 of this Act be used by the department to develop a private land open to sportsmen program for youth under age eighteen.

SECTION 6. GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT TO STUDY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF HUNTERS IN NORTH DAKOTA - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. The game and fish department shall study the recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota. The study must include identification of programs to recruit and retain hunters in this state. The department shall report its findings to the legislative council before September 1, 2008."

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - House Action

	EXECUTIVE BUDGET	SENATE VERSION	HOUSE CHANGES	HOUSE VERSION
Salaries and wages	\$19,033,535	\$19,033,535		\$19,033,535
Operating expenses	11,690,087	11,690,087		11,690,087

Capital assets	3,284,241	3,284,241		3,284,241
Grants	5,252,184	5,292,434	\$1,700,000	6,992,434
Land habitat and deer depredation	12,286,351	12,286,351	2,000,000	14,286,351
Noxious weed control	450,000	450,000		450,000
Grants, gifts, and donations	500,000	500,000		500,000
Nongame wildlife conservation	120,000	120,000		120,000
Lonetree Reservoir	1,594,713	1,594,713		1,594,713
Wildlife services	680,000	680,000		680,000
Ramp improvements and marina development		800,000		800,000
Recruitment and retention study			30,000	30,000
Total all funds	\$54,891,111	\$55,731,361	\$3,730,000	\$59,461,361
Less estimated income	<u>54,891,111</u>	<u>55,731,361</u>	<u>3,730,000</u>	<u>59,461,361</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	155.00	155.00	0.00	155.00

Dept. 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of House Changes

	YOUTH PLOTS ¹	RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STUDY ²	YOUTH HUNTING GRANT PROGRAM ³	SWEETBRIAR DAM PROJECT ⁴	FORT STEVENSON MARINA PROJECT ⁵	BOAT RAMP IMPROVEMENTS ⁶
Salaries and wages						
Operating expenses						
Capital assets						
Grants			\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$100,000
Land habitat and deer depredation	\$2,000,000					
Noxious weed control						
Grants, gifts, and donations						
Nongame wildlife conservation						
Lonetree Reservoir						
Wildlife services						
Ramp improvements and marina development						
Recruitment and retention study		\$30,000				
Total all funds	\$2,000,000	\$30,000	\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$100,000
Less estimated income	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL HOUSE CHANGES					
Salaries and wages						
Operating expenses						
Capital assets						
Grants	\$1,700,000					
Land habitat and deer depredation	2,000,000					
Noxious weed control						
Grants, gifts, and donations						
Nongame wildlife conservation						
Lonetree Reservoir						
Wildlife services						
Ramp improvements and marina development						
Recruitment and retention study	30,000					
Total all funds	\$3,730,000					
Less estimated income	<u>3,730,000</u>					
General fund	\$0					
FTE	0.00					

¹ This amendment provides funding to develop a private land open to sportmen (PLOTS) program for youth under age 18.

² This amendment provides funding for a study on recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota.

- 3 This amendment provides funding for a grant program to local communities to fund shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth.
- 4 This amendment provides \$1,000,000 from the game and fish fund to the State Water Commission for the Sweetbriar Dam project. The funding from the game and fish fund is contingent upon other funding being made available for the project by the State Water Commission.
- 5 This amendment provides funding to the Parks and Recreation Department to assist with funding for the Fort Stevenson Marina project. Of the \$500,000 provided, \$100,000 is from the game and fish fund and \$400,000 is from other funds available to the Game and Fish Department.
- 6 This amendment provides funding to the Parks and Recreation Department from the game and fish fund for maintenance, operating and extraordinary repairs relating to boat ramps at various state parks.

A section is added providing legislative intent relating to the grant program to encourage youth hunting and the youth PLOTS program.

A section is added directing the Game and Fish Department to conduct a study on recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota.

2007 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2017

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2017

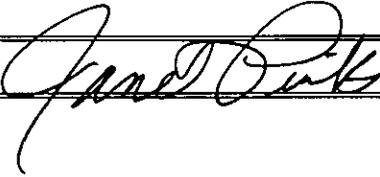
Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 04-06-07

Recorder Job Number: 5809

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Senator Christmann opened the conference committee on SB 2017.

Representative Klein discussed the amendment 0202. The House added section 5, legislative intent, which is the youth hunting and safety and section 6 the study on hunters. Changes we made include page 2 is an addition to the game and fish money for the youth block grant of \$ 2 million, the sweetbriar dam project in Morton County. Morton County had taken responsibility for it and now it is leaking The responsibility for it is a combination between Game and Fish and state Water Commission to repair that. The Senate put something in for Sweetbriar Dam of \$300,000. He indicated the House thought the Highway Department should be responsible but they cannot contribute under federal rules for anything other than the road bed. The House put in an additional \$1 million and the \$300,000 from the Senate to cover a portion of the estimated costs of repair of \$2.6 million. The road is the dam. Discussion followed about the dam and the procedure of the County taking over dams and maintenance.

Representative Klein indicated the only change he thought they could make is the Ft Stevenson project and take that money back out. However, the money could be shifted to boat ramp improvements. As I understand the coast guard money is available for boat ramp improvements and the money in this bill is contingent on the feds coming up with their portion.

Senator Grindberg discussed the marina project money being transferred.

Representative Klein indicated the coast guard money is for safety projects.

Representative Klein indicated we could put language in place that if the funds are not needed for these projects at this time make it contingent

Senator Grindberg questioned the youth plots language and what we currently need for that program.

Representative Klein indicated the plot program is for youth hunting.

Senator Grindberg indicated this is obviously reducing the trust a fund. But how does this work. The response was that adults can accompany the youth but cannot carry a weapon. The Game and Fish want to continue this program. Are the payments the same as regular plots program.

NOTE ** have someone from Game and Fish at the next conference committee to discuss the plots program. ********

Senator Grindberg questioned the study to look at recruiting and retention of hunters.

Representative Klein indicated that in discussions with the Game and Fish, they are committed to continuing to keep up the interest in hunting and getting young people involved.

Senator Lindaas asked if that includes fishing also. The response was they don't recall anything about fishing only the loss of young people to hunting.

Senator Grindberg discussed the 07-09 budget together with the increases.

Senator Christmann adjourned the conference committee on SB 2017.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. **SB 2017 Conference Committee**

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: **April 9, 2007**

Recorder Job Number: **5850**

Committee Clerk Signature



All members present.

Chairman Randy Christmann, Sen. Troy Grindberg, Sen. Elroy Lindaas

Rep. Mathew Klein, Rep. Francis Wald, Rep. Ole Aarsvold

Becky Keller from Legislative Council and Joe Morrissette from OMB present

Conference committee – Game and Fish Department

Chair Christmann: Reviewed the youth PLOTS program, addition of \$2 million dollars, where it would be spent and what the program is about.

Terry Dwelle from Game & Fish Dept. talked to Rep. Porter. We don't believe we need that amount, we are not opposed to the concept, encourages youth to get out there. We're not sure \$2 million dollars is the best way to do it. There are new seasons they would like youth to participate in waterfowl, deer and pheasants.. Rather than make it specific for youth, maybe could compromise with the game season, and work around that, leave it up to you if whether the additional funding is required. The payment structure varies and will depend on the habitat availability.

Rep. Wald: Could you live with \$1 million?

Terry D: Yes, we're going to be chastised, we could, it might be what we need to say, if we wouldn't need it, we would be in agreement, it would be totally irrelevant..

Rep. Wald: Look at the demographics, hunting is going down, we have to get the young people involved in hunting and generate interest for young hunters, if this is a tool or mechanism, it would be good.

Terry D: The report came out from Shooting Sports Foundation, and they said .53 recruitment rate. Calculation shows 1 kid for ever 200 we're losing. Our calculations show 1.19. The 11-year-olds hunting, outnumber the 62-year-olds. We are becoming more urbanized, and losing the connection with the rural woods, we DO need to make the connections.. PLOTS are creating a generation.

Sen. Grindberg: This is a great discussion to have, at the end of the day, dad and grandfather hunt, the kids will hunt. With \$2 million dollars into more acreage, if the kids don't have a connection to go hunting, they aren't going to go anywhere. In the trust fund balance, \$19 - \$21 million in the trust fund, they can use the earnings for opportunities. Where would \$2 million leave the trust fund 2 years from now?

Terry D: My hope is that we will end the next biennium with dependable biennium sales, have a little room there, and it will depend on the type of year, are we going to lose a lot of pheasants or deer because of the seasons? Then we will lose license sales, that's our backbone. .

Rep. Klein: \$30,000 is for recruitment and retention study, is that a good idea?

Terry D: We argued, Rep. Porter convinced me, that is a really good idea. We think we have ½ of that going in the recruitment portion already. The retention part, basically between age 18, 35-40 when people are going off to school and not having buying a license, not having enough money or time to get out of there. \$30,000 would be money well spent, well into the future.

Rep. Wald: Without \$22 million

Rep. Aarsvold: Do you seek out properties for CRP?

Terry D: We send postcards out, reenrollments and extensions, letting the know that there are programs available. We don't knock-in doors, they come in voluntarily, we explain the program, what the payment would be based on habitat, it's going to vary. .

Rep. Aarsvold: To achieve the balance, between the balance and the properties, the proposition is with representation with PLOTS.

Terry D: We are asking \$2 million to capture this, cash rent goes up, hard pressed to compete with that.

Rep. Wald: We put money in the marina at Garrison, all the news accounts, Federally they will pay.

Terry D: If what I'm hearing from Senator Dorgan, there is money available from the Feds..

These are not earmarked monies. They start with the Garrison project, going to the district division and then nationwide. They have not yet found \$10 million dollars.

Sen. Grindberg: What was the original request?

Terry D: It is rational, it inflates rather quickly.

Sen. Lindaas: There is a note on paper with Fish & Wildlife Services, did they decrease their support?. Federal part.

Terry D: I believe they're the same. It's a contentious issue.

Chair Christman: It is in the ag budget. You didn't change it? My thoughts on PLOTS, has some concerns on how far and how rapidly we grow that program. They're buying access to property, someone else has to NOT use it, it seems to me, we're raising the money by 10%, adding \$2 more million.

Rep. Wald: The owner's voluntarily offering it, we're not going through eminent domain to take this property from them, he's doing it voluntarily.

Sen. Christman: That is true, but when we use the tax dollars to keep CRP off-limits to ag production, we're bidding it away from someone who in a dry year would otherwise be able to hay 1/3 of that. CRP land on a dry year, you would be able to go in and hay it. If we come in and outbid, it will sit there and not get used because they have other opportunities. If it goes into the PLOTS program it will sit there and go unused. I'm not opposed to the whole PLOTS program, but it's a pretty dramatic increase. People are being paid to keep that land open for a reason, and they don't open it up.

Rep. Aarvold: They are not tax dollars, but sportsman dollars, they put in a couple hundred dollars a year in the special fund.

Rep. Klein: If we get this thing moving, I'd suggest we reduce that \$2 million figure to \$1 million and take the Fort Stevenson marina project out and proceed from there.

Chair Christmann: Take it out all together or use the Fort Stevenson money for something else? Fort Stevenson job is \$400,000 of Coast Guard money, and \$100,000 of Game and Fish fund money. It was close to \$1 million.

Rep. Wald: That land owner is voluntarily working on an agreement, if you believe in property rights, which I certainly do. He's voluntarily coming to Game and Fish and saying, "hey, let's work out a deal on this agreement." That should be that land owner's prerogative.

Chair Christmann: Rep. Wald, you don't go in and buy all kinds of businesses.

Rep. Wald: We're not buying ANY businesses.

Chair Christmann: Well, we're leasing it, and it is business property. We wouldn't go down and buy an insurance office and start selling insurance. Let me ask another question for discussion. If we know the solution is to put another million dollars into youth plots, and \$100,000 to encourage youth hunting, it sounds to me, if we're spending 1.1 or 2.1 million

dollars on something, we must feel like we know what the answer is. Why do we have a \$30,000 study if we're sure enough that 2.1 million dollars is a good investment into this?

Rep. Klein: That's why I asked the question on how he felt about that \$30,000, I remember his answer, he was very positive about it.

Chair Christmann: It's not like we're sticking \$50,000 into it, we're putting almost a million dollars into it, we must feel we know the answer.

Sen. Grindberg: I'm assuming all the agreements on PLOTS program expires June 30th? Does it follow our fiscal biennium?

Terry D: No, it varies, 1 year contracts, some are 15 year contracts.

Sen. Grindberg: Would it go to the next biennium, is it done? It depends on negotiations.

Terry D: We felt under the current price structure, there will be some future costs. We could maintain a million acre base for \$8 million a biennium. It would be all one payment for all the years so we don't have the future budgets.

Chair Christmann: Would it be up front payment, and then lower annual payments?

Terry D: All one payment, about \$10 million.

Chair Christmann: How much of the \$12.3 million is for PLOTS land? The cost goes up. How can you maintain it for \$8?

Chair Christmann: How could it possibly be less if it's \$10 now, how can it ever be 8?

Terry D: Trying to get a million acre goal, there are so many programs. Working lands program is one of our most popular. Try to maintain an \$8 million base, with one million acres. We would not have the administrative costs for that either.

Rep. Aarsvold: What are the costs?

Terry D: There are administrative costs.

Rep. Klein: There was a motion on the floor.

Chair Christmann: I didn't realize you were making an action on the motion. You had talked about making a motion, I didn't know you had actually made one, tell me exactly what it is.

Rep. Klein: I'll make that motion in reducing youth PLOTS program to \$1 million, and taking \$500,000 out of Fort Stevenson marina project.

Second by Rep. Wald

Joe: You're reducing the House changes from 2 million down to 1 million so they get a total of \$2 million more?

Comment: The changes we made in the House, yes.

Joe: Comment, looking at the House amendment with footnote 6 that adds \$100,000 for the boat ramp improvements, in order to make this bill match the parks bill that you already acted on, you need to increase \$100,000 to \$259,000 to match the amounts you put in the park's budget to potentially come from this budget. \$150,000 is intended for Graham's Island, \$109,750 for Fort Stevenson of Marina if it doesn't go forward.

Chair Christmann: So, is the intention with this motion, that everything else is the same or are you just trying to resolve a couple of issues first.?

Rep. Klein: We need to resolve the 2 issues, then leave the rest the same, that was the major changes we made in the House. .

Chair Christmann: Do you know, Joe, the status of the Park & Rec conference committee?

Joe : It's been agreed to. That would match the amounts agreed to.

Chair Christmann: So we would need to ADD \$259,00 or bring it up to \$259,000?

Joe: Bring it up to \$259,000. Add \$159,750 to that \$100,000.

Chair Christmann: Where would those monies end up?

Sen. Grindberg: The Coast Guard money is not committed. These are safety projects determined by Game and Fish department.

Chair Christmann: If we did that, how much would we spend on water & boating?

Terry D: With what Joe talked about, you'd have \$259,750 going to Parks & Rec for Fort Stevenson, and in Devils Lake, \$600,000 along baseline budget would be for boating access work an additional \$800,000 that we requested on the Senate side as an emergency appropriation for Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe.

Chair Christmann: How is that going to compare to the current biennium?

Terry D: Very similar, other than the Parks and Rec. We asked for \$900,000 last biennium for emergency for Lake Sakakawea because of low water levels.

Chair Christmann: Is part of your motion to add the other \$259,000?

Terry D: Yes it is.

Chair Christmann: I personally think with the water levels in the basin up there, that rather than eliminate the \$500,000, some of it would be going into this. There are ramp after ramp up there are out of service because of the low water levels. Our department is bringing in a lot of money from the fishing folks, too, we have almost no access on that big lake.

Rep. Klein: Didn't I hear that another \$600,000 going in the boat ramp on Lake Sakakawea?

Chair Christmann: Which is what we did in the last biennium and we're falling short more and more and going out of service.

Rep. Wald: Can we use Coast Guard money for boat ramps?

Terry D: Coast Guard money is for boating safety type issues, we can't use them for boat ramps.

Chair Christmann: I would support your proposal if that \$500,000 and some would go to Fort Stevenson and Graham's Island, but if the rest of the \$500,000 were diverted from the marina were diverted to Lake Sakakawea boat access, I'd be more inclined.

Rep. Klein: Be reminded of what he said, \$400,000 of that \$500,000 can't use for boat ramp improvements. .

Chair Christmann: We are saving \$1 million of getting fish-fund money on the PLOTS that was \$2 million, going down to \$1 million.

Rep. Klein: So your suggestion is to add to the boat ramp improvements, some additional money above the \$259,000 that's in here plus what's already in.

Rep. Wald: You want to make it \$500,000 even?

Terry D: Approximately \$260,000, that was transferred at Parks and Recreation for two specific locations. I believe Sen. Christmann is talking about free public access.

Chair Christmann: Yes

Terry D: Assuming that the \$800,000 is going to be granted, authorized by the Legislature, we will have 1.4 million for state-wide ramps, with \$800,000 specifically ear-marked for the Missouri River system. With current projections, we originally had Partial Bay as a site, we're still working on it, we have Federal obstacles to over come with cultural resources.

Chair Christmann: If you don't get to everything because you run to those kinds of obstacles, you will carry some money over. If we can't get on there for 2 year, we don't have money to fix the ramps. If we make the money available and other if the other obstacles are overcome, we can get the problem solved.

Terry D: I couldn't agree with you more because using, Dakota Waters, is a wonderful area, but they constantly need to dredge to get through.

Rep. Wald: Department has no objections, I can live with another quarter million, that's what you're saying. So what you're saying is we should move the \$259,750 up to \$500,000?

Chair Christmann: The would probably have to go on different lines. We would eliminate the \$500,000 for Fort Stevenson, cut the \$1 million out of youth PLOTS, and add another

\$249,750 for Fort Stevenson and Graham's Island, and add another \$240 for general boat ramp improvement at Game & Fish.

Rep. Wald: \$240, is that what you're saying, add \$240,000? You only would have to have \$159,750 to the existing \$100,000 that's there already if I read you correctly.

Joe: That's correct. That's in the Grant 1, it's in the Grant 2 that Parks and Rec Dept., So it's \$100,000 in the bill that came to the House, you could add to that. You can add \$340,000 for boat ramps.

Rep. Klein: I want to amend my motion then, to take a million out of the youth PLOTS program, delete the Fort Stevenson project, \$500,000, and \$159,750 to the boat ramp improvements and add an additional \$240,000 for boat ramps on the Missouri system.

Chair Christmann: Is that what you seconded Representative Wald?

When the amendments are done, I'll run them by all of you and if anyone wants another meeting, we'll have another meeting.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in 6 yeas, no nays. Motion passed.

The Conference Committee on SB 2017 closed.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2017

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 04-19-07

Recorder Job Number: 6139

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Senator Christmann opened the hearing on SB 2017 indicating the bill was not acceptable.

Representative Wald indicated there have been new ideas that have come forward on the youth hunting initiative. He then presented a proposed amendment.

Senator Christmann indicated he doesn't mind going ahead with this at this time.

Senator Grindberg indicated the Senate was loud about what they wanted.

Representative Porter some of this is that anyone 18 or under could hunt on land. The other concern as the season progresses the department needs to open up to everyone. What the youth plots turns into is upland game for pheasant, grouse, and partridge and game and fish required to report results, so this is substantially different then in the original bill.

Senator Lindaas indicated his take on this and the inclination from the senate is they don't want new programs such as this. If we look at changes in policy and new programs, young folks can still hunt on the land and this expansion with little change in policy

Senator Christmann indicated in discussion with non committee members this will be an optional thing. Is that how it is drafted?

Representative Todd Porter indicated that is his understanding and in order for game and fish to make it successful they need to look and see what the best area is. There is flexibility in the program so game and fish so that can designate where the plots should be.

Senator Lindaas stated that infers a lack of plots in certain areas and that can be adjusted by game and fish.

Representative Wald indicated Senator Stenjhem has input and agrees as to what amendments can do. I would like to conclude the conference committee this morning and finish this.

Senator Grindberg indicated he is not willing to finish this morning and he is not going to support this.

Senator Christmann indicated he wants to see this amendment drafted first and he will have one draft without this and take it from there.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2017

Senate Appropriations Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 04-20-07

Recorder Job Number: 6199

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Christmann opened the Conference Committee Hearing on SB 2017 at 11:00 am on April 20, 2007. He stated the clerk made note that all conferees are present. They are Senators Grindberg and Lindaas; Representatives Porter, Wald and Aarsvold. He asked before we talk about the 0208 and 0209 amendments is there anything we have in disagreement other than the Youth Plots Program. My understanding is between these two amendments that is the only difference, one has it and one doesn't. He asked Representative Porter to explain how the plots program would work in amendment # 0209.

Representative Porter said in 0209 based on our last discussion the dollar amount was moved from \$1 million down to \$500,000 and then the program itself would be just for youth under age 18 so that any adult that would be present on those enrolled lands would not be carrying a firearm and would not be participating in hunting while on those lands. It also would take the lands inside of the proclamation and say that after November 1st of each year the land would be open to all sportsmen. When I talked with the Game and Fish Department they felt that there would not be any additional regulatory expenses and that will fit into their existing program and that they would have the ability to go out and pick those areas where they felt that would be the best use of those lands and just change the color of the sign in order to freely identify what it is for that particular season and it would also kind of be a rotating

program over the two years. If they found a bigger need in certain areas they would certainly have the ability to manage the program. That's really where the differences are from our standpoint. (meter 02-50)

Representative Aarsvold asked how would they assess the need to allocate in these areas.

Representative Porter said I guess in going off of their biological expertise and utilization they would certainly be in those areas where large concentrations of youths would be and then it would also kind of fall back to concentrations of specific types of habitat and birds. He gave an example referring to south of Glen Ullin. (meter 03.59)

Representative Wald stated I am making reference to footnote 5 about the \$109,750 for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson and over by Devil's Lake. He asked the director of Game and Fish how much is in their budget for boat ramps.

Commissioner Dwelle, Game and Fish Department said right now for boat ramps we would have 1 million 440 thousand. He was asked if that would be at his discretion and he replied yes. He was asked if he would address those needs as they would be in terms of water levels. That is correct. Missouri River system, Devils Lake and all other lakes around the state and we prioritize those on an annual basis.

Representative Potter moved amendment .0209 with the additional language changed on page 2, at the bottom of Section 8 where the language says to the Legislative Council before September 1st of 2008, if you would overstrike the Legislative Council before September 1st of 2008 and just write in there Budget Section by December 31st of 2008. That will keep it consistent with the other language. **Seconded by Representative Wald.**

Chairman Christmann said for the other committee members yesterday the commissioner pointed out that, when we were talking about the youth part of it, they kind of weren't clear on

exactly who they are suppose to report to and when and so we had fixed up in Section 6, now I look at Section 8 and see it will be the same thing so this just lets them do all their reports at the exact same time and I think that is an improvement.

Representative Porter said we are back to what was discussed from the House side and House version (meter 06.44) of the budget. When the policy committee looked at the improvement and attention of hunters across the nation there is a rapid decline going on. North Dakota is fortunate for the moment that we are holding our own, All indications seem to show, even with the declining number of enrollments in schools that if we maintain the same percentage of recruitment that we will have a lower number eventually and that the entire Game and Fish of North Dakota is based upon license sales and participation in sports. It was felt that the more we can do to make it easier for kids to participate in hunting we'll be better off in the future. That's where the Youth Plots Program came from. (meter 08.16)

Senator Grindberg stated he didn't think having additional land for youth is going to make a difference in the big picture. The connection between hunting is because of your father, uncle or grandfather hunts and I am not convinced that having the land is going to make a significant impact on the challenge.

Representative Aarsvold asked the Commissioner to respond to the deer depredation program and the appropriations regarding this.

Commissioner Dwelle He said certainly not if the winters continue on as they have. And even if we have an extremely hard winter the depredation problems do become very severe at times, we'll make it work.

Representative Wald stated Senator Grindberg made a comment and he is right in terms of the father takes these kids hunting. The complaint I hear from hunters is there is no place to hunt. The farmers post their land, the doors are closing for the hunters to find land to hunt on

so I think we've addressed that with the PLOTS program. He commended the Department for the wonderful job they do concerning the PLOTS program and hunter-landowner relations and that sort of thing, but the reoccurring theme all the time is "I need a place to hunt". That is the issue. Making more ground available for this grandfather that wants to take his grandchild hunting. I think it is something we need to address and I would hope that the Senate could support this. It's really not a lot of money, it's not general fund money. Game and Fish seem to be on board and I would hope that we could agree.

Senator Lindaas said with the previous argument I would rather see the \$500,000 go to extended PLOTS program for everyone.

Senator Christman asked for the clerk to call the roll on amendment .0209. **A roll call vote was taken resulting in 4 yeas, 2 nays. The motion failed.**

Senator Grindberg moved amendment .0208. **Seconded by Senator Lindaas.** Discussion followed. (meter 13.46) **A roll call vote was taken on amendment .0208 resulting in 4 yeas, 2 nays. The motion failed.**

Representative Porter moved amendment .0208 with budget Section language on the bottom of page 1 like we said and then on page 2 the Conference Committee version on line item on Land habitat and deer depredation would read \$12,586,351. It should be \$12,786,351. **Seconded by Representative Wald. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 6 yeas, 0 nays. The motion carried.**

Senator Christmann stated we completed our work. He thanked the committee. The hearing was closed and the Conference Committee was dissolved.

93
4-16-07
1043

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2017

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on pages 1200 and 1201 of the Senate Journal and pages 1180 and 1181 of the House Journal and that Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2017 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 2, after "department" insert "; to provide for a statement of legislative intent; to provide for a report to the legislative council; to provide for a study"

Page 2, line 2, replace "(871,688)" with "488,062"

Page 2, line 3, replace "1,058,372" with "2,058,372"

Page 2, after line 6, insert:

"Recruitment and retention study 30,000"

Page 2, line 7, replace "0" with "240,000"

Page 2, line 8, replace "4,530,302" with "7,160,052"

Page 2, line 18, replace "5,292,434" with "6,652,184"

Page 2, line 19, replace "12,286,351" with "13,286,351"

Page 2, after line 24, insert:

"Recruitment and retention study 30,000"

Page 2, line 25, replace "800,000" with "1,040,000"

Page 2, line 26, replace "55,731,361" with "58,361,111"

Page 2, after line 31, insert:

"SECTION 5. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION - GRANTS. The grants line item in section 3 of this Act includes \$109,750 for a grant to the parks and recreation department for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson state park. The \$109,750 may be spent only if the corps of engineers does not begin construction of a marina at Fort Stevenson state park by March 31, 2008.

SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the sixtieth legislative assembly that \$100,000 contained in the grants line item in section 3 of this Act be used to carry out a grant program to encourage hunting by youth. The director of the game and fish department may provide grants under this program to local communities to fund shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth. It is the intent of the sixtieth legislative assembly that \$1,000,000 contained in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 3 of this Act be used by the department to develop a private land open to sportsmen program for youth under age eighteen.

2013

SECTION 7. GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT TO STUDY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF HUNTERS IN NORTH DAKOTA - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. The game and fish department shall study the recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota. The study must include identification of programs to recruit and retain hunters in this state. The department shall report its findings to the legislative council before September 1, 2008."

Page 3, line 1, replace "\$800,000" with "\$1,040,000"

Re-number accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - Conference Committee Action

	EXECUTIVE BUDGET	SENATE VERSION	CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHANGES	CONFERENCE COMMITTEE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION	COMPARISON TO HOUSE
Salaries and wages	\$19,033,535	\$19,033,535		\$19,033,535	\$19,033,535	
Operating expenses	11,690,087	11,690,087		11,690,087	11,690,087	
Capital assets	3,284,241	3,284,241		3,284,241	3,284,241	
Grants	5,252,184	5,292,434	\$1,359,750	6,652,184	6,992,434	(\$340,250)
Land habitat and deer depredation	12,286,351	12,286,351	1,000,000	13,286,351	14,286,351	(1,000,000)
Noxious weed control	450,000	450,000		450,000	450,000	
Grants, gifts, and donations	500,000	500,000		500,000	500,000	
Nongame wildlife conservation	120,000	120,000		120,000	120,000	
Lone-tree Reservoir	1,594,713	1,594,713		1,594,713	1,594,713	
Wildlife services	680,000	680,000		680,000	680,000	
Ramp improvements and marina development		800,000	240,000	1,040,000	800,000	240,000
Recruitment and retention study			30,000	30,000	30,000	
Total all funds	\$54,891,111	\$55,731,361	\$2,629,750	\$58,361,111	\$59,461,361	(\$1,100,250)
Less estimated income	<u>54,891,111</u>	<u>55,731,361</u>	<u>2,629,750</u>	<u>58,361,111</u>	<u>59,461,361</u>	<u>(1,100,250)</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	155.00	155.00	0.00	155.00	155.00	0.00

Dept. 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Conference Committee Changes

	YOUTH PLOTS 1	RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STUDY 2	YOUTH HUNTING GRANT PROGRAM 3	SWEETBRIAR DAM PROJECT 4	BOAT RAMP IMPROVEMENTS 5	ADDS FUNDING FOR RAMP IMPROVEMENTS AND MARINA DEVELOPMENT 6
Salaries and wages						
Operating expenses						
Capital assets						
Grants			\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$259,750	
Land habitat and deer depredation	\$1,000,000					
Noxious weed control						
Grants, gifts, and donations						
Nongame wildlife conservation						
Lone-tree Reservoir						
Wildlife services						
Ramp improvements and marina development						\$240,000
Recruitment and retention study		\$30,000				
Total all funds	\$1,000,000	\$30,000	\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$259,750	\$240,000
Less estimated income	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>259,750</u>	<u>240,000</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

TOTAL
CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE
CHANGES

Salaries and wages	
Operating expenses	
Capital assets	
Grants	\$1,359,750
Land habitat and deer depredation	1,000,000
Noxious weed control	
Grants, gifts, and donations	
Nongame wildlife conservation	
Lone Tree Reservoir	
Wildlife services	
Ramp improvements and marina development	240,000
Recruitment and retention study	30,000
<hr/>	
Total all funds	\$2,629,750
Less estimated income	<u>2,629,750</u>
General fund	\$0
FTE	0.00

- 1 This amendment reduces funding for a youth PLOTS program from \$2,000,000 as provided by the House to \$1,000,000.
- 2 This amendment provides funding for a study on recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota.
- 3 This amendment provides funding for a grant program to local communities to fund shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth.
- 4 This amendment provides \$1,000,000 from the game and fish fund to the State Water Commission for the Sweetbriar Dam project. The funding from the game and fish fund is contingent upon other funding being made available for the project by the State Water Commission.
- 5 This amendment increases funding for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson State Park and Graham's Island. This is an increase of \$159,750 from the House version. The Senate had removed all funding for the improvements.
- 6 Increases funding for ramp improvements and marina development from \$800,000 as provided by the Senate to \$1,040,000.

A section is added providing legislative intent relating to the grant program to encourage youth hunting and the youth PLOTS program.

A section is added directing the Game and Fish Department to conduct a study on recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota.

A section is added providing a contingent appropriation of \$109,750 for a grant to the Parks and Recreation Department for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson State Park if the Corps of Engineers does not begin construction of the marina by March 31, 2008.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
(ACCEDE/RECEDE)**

Bill Number 2017 (, as (re)engrossed):

Date: 4-6-07
4-9-07

Your Conference Committee Sen Approp.

For the Senate:

For the House:

	<u>4/6</u>	<u>4/9</u>		<u>4/6</u>	<u>4/9</u>	<u>yes</u>
<i>ch</i> SEN Randy Christmann	✓	✓	<u>yes</u>	Rep Mathew Klein	✓	✓
Tony Grindberg	✓	✓	<u>yes</u>	Francis Wald	✓	✓
Elroy Lindas	✓	✓	<u>yes</u>	Ole Aarsvold	✓	✓

recommends that the (SENATE/HOUSE) (ACCEDE to) (RECEDE from)

the (Senate/House) amendments on (SJ/HJ) page(s) 1200 - 1201

✓ and place 2017 on the Seventh order.

✓, adopt (~~farther~~) amendments as follows, and place 2017 on the Seventh order:

having been unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed.

(~~Re~~)Engrossed) 2017 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

DATE: _____

HOUSE CARRIER: _____

SENATE CARRIER: _____

LC NO.	of amendment
LC NO.	of engrossment
Emergency clause added or deleted	
Statement of purpose of amendment	

MOTION MADE BY: Klein

SECONDED BY: Wald

VOTE COUNT: 6 YES 0 NO 0 ABSENT

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2017, as engrossed: Your conference committee (Sens. Christmann, Grindberg, Lindaas and Reps. Klein, Wald, Aarsvold) recommends that the **HOUSE RECEDE** from the House amendments on SJ pages 1200-1201, adopt amendments as follows, and place SB 2017 on the Seventh order:

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on pages 1200 and 1201 of the Senate Journal and pages 1180 and 1181 of the House Journal and that Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2017 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 2, after "department" insert "; to provide for a statement of legislative intent; to provide for a report to the legislative council; to provide for a study"

Page 2, line 2, replace "(871,688)" with "488,062"

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Page 2, line 26, replace "55,731,361" with "58,361,111"

Page 2, after line 31, insert:

"SECTION 5. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION - GRANTS. The grants line item in section 3 of this Act includes \$109,750 for a grant to the parks and recreation department for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson state park. The \$109,750 may be spent only if the corps of engineers does not begin construction of a marina at Fort Stevenson state park by March 31, 2008.

SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the sixtieth legislative assembly that \$100,000 contained in the grants line item in section 3 of this Act be used to carry out a grant program to encourage hunting by youth. The director of the game and fish department may provide grants under this program to local communities to fund shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth. It is the intent of the sixtieth legislative assembly that \$1,000,000 contained in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 3 of this Act be used by the department to develop a private land open to sportsmen program for youth under age eighteen.

SECTION 7. GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT TO STUDY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF HUNTERS IN NORTH DAKOTA - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. The game and fish department shall study the recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota. The study must include identification of programs to recruit

and retain hunters in this state. The department shall report its findings to the legislative council before September 1, 2008."

Page 3, line 1, replace "\$800,000" with "\$1,040,000"

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - Conference Committee Action

	EXECUTIVE BUDGET	SENATE VERSION	CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHANGES	CONFERENCE COMMITTEE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION	COMPARISON TO HOUSE
Salaries and wages	\$19,033,535	\$19,033,535		\$19,033,535	\$19,033,535	
Operating expenses	11,690,087	11,690,087		11,690,087	11,690,087	
Capital assets	3,284,241	3,284,241		3,284,241	3,284,241	
Grants	5,252,184	5,292,434	\$1,359,750	6,652,184	6,992,434	(\$340,250)
Land habitat and deer depredation	12,286,351	12,286,351	1,000,000	13,286,351	14,286,351	(1,000,000)
Noxious weed control	450,000	450,000		450,000	450,000	
Grants, gifts, and donations	500,000	500,000		500,000	500,000	
Nongame wildlife conservation	120,000	120,000		120,000	120,000	
Lonetree Reservoir	1,594,713	1,594,713		1,594,713	1,594,713	
Wildlife services	680,000	680,000		680,000	680,000	
Ramp improvements and marina development		800,000	240,000	1,040,000	800,000	240,000
Recruitment and retention study			30,000	30,000	30,000	
Total all funds	\$54,891,111	\$55,731,361	\$2,629,750	\$58,361,111	\$59,461,361	(\$1,100,250)
Less estimated income	<u>54,891,111</u>	<u>55,731,361</u>	<u>2,629,750</u>	<u>58,361,111</u>	<u>59,461,361</u>	<u>(1,100,250)</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	155.00	155.00	0.00	155.00	155.00	0.00

Dept. 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Conference Committee Changes

	YOUTH PLOTS ¹	RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STUDY ²	YOUTH HUNTING GRANT PROGRAM ³	SWEETBRIAR DAM PROJECT ⁴	BOAT RAMP IMPROVEMENTS ⁵	ADDS FUNDING FOR RAMP IMPROVEMENTS AND MARINA DEVELOPMENT ⁶
Salaries and wages						
Operating expenses						
Capital assets						
Grants			\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$259,750	
Land habitat and deer depredation	\$1,000,000					
Noxious weed control						
Grants, gifts, and donations						
Nongame wildlife conservation						
Lonetree Reservoir						
Wildlife services						
Ramp improvements and marina development						\$240,000
Recruitment and retention study		\$30,000				
Total all funds	\$1,000,000	\$30,000	\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$259,750	\$240,000
Less estimated income	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>259,750</u>	<u>240,000</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

TOTAL CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE CHANGES	
Salaries and wages	
Operating expenses	
Capital assets	
Grants	\$1,359,750
Land habitat and deer depredation	1,000,000
Noxious weed control	
Grants, gifts, and donations	
Nongame wildlife conservation	
Lonetree Reservoir	
Wildlife services	
Ramp improvements and marina development	240,000
Recruitment and retention study	30,000
Total all funds	\$2,629,750
Less estimated income	<u>2,629,750</u>
General fund	\$0
FTE	0.00

- 1 This amendment reduces funding for a youth PLOTS program from \$2,000,000 as provided by the House to \$1,000,000.
- 2 This amendment provides funding for a study on recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota.
- 3 This amendment provides funding for a grant program to local communities to fund shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth.
- 4 This amendment provides \$1,000,000 from the game and fish fund to the State Water Commission for the Sweetbriar Dam project. The funding from the game and fish fund is contingent upon other funding being made available for the project by the State Water Commission.
- 5 This amendment increases funding for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson State Park and Graham's Island. This is an increase of \$159,750 from the House version. The Senate had removed all funding for the improvements.
- 6 Increases funding for ramp improvements and marina development from \$800,000 as provided by the Senate to \$1,040,000.

A section is added providing legislative intent relating to the grant program to encourage youth hunting and the youth PLOTS program.

A section is added directing the Game and Fish Department to conduct a study on recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota.

A section is added providing a contingent appropriation of \$109,750 for a grant to the Parks and Recreation Department for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson State Park if the Corps of Engineers does not begin construction of the marina by March 31, 2008.

Engrossed SB 2017 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
(ACCEDE/RECEDE)**

Bill Number 2017 (, as (re)engrossed):

Date: 4/20/07
#1

Your Conference Committee Sen Approp

For the Senate:

For the House:

<u>Christman</u>	<u>yes</u>	<u>Wald</u>	<u>yes</u>
<u>Burkling</u>	<u>no</u>	<u>Porter</u>	<u>yes</u>
<u>Serdas</u>	<u>no</u>	<u>Barwood</u>	<u>yes</u>

recommends that the (SENATE/HOUSE) (ACCEDE to) (RECEDE from)

the (Senate/House) amendments on (SJ/HJ) page(s) _____ -- _____

_____ and place _____ on the Seventh order.

_____, adopt (further) amendments as follows, and place _____ on the Seventh order:

having been unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed.

((Re)Engrossed) _____ was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

DATE: _____

HOUSE CARRIER: _____

SENATE CARRIER: _____

Amend. 0209

LC NO.	of amendment
LC NO.	of engrossment
Emergency clause added or deleted	
Statement of purpose of amendment	

MOTION MADE BY: ~~Porter~~ failed

SECONDED BY: Serdas Wald

VOTE COUNT: _____ YES _____ NO _____ ABSENT

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
(ACCEDE/RECEDE)**

Bill Number 2017 (, as (re)engrossed):

Date: 4/20/07
2

Your Conference Committee Sen approp

For the Senate:

For the House:

<u>Christmann</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Wald</u>	<u>no</u>
<u>Brunberg</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Porter</u>	<u>no</u>
<u>Lindaas</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Aarsvold</u>	<u>Yes</u>

recommends that the (SENATE/HOUSE) (ACCEDE to) (RECEDE from)

the (Senate/House) amendments on (SJ/HJ) page(s) _____ -- _____

_____ and place _____ on the Seventh order.

_____, adopt (further) amendments as follows, and place _____ on the Seventh order:

having been unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed.

((Re)Engrossed) _____ was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

DATE: _____

HOUSE CARRIER: _____

SENATE CARRIER: _____

amend 208

LC NO.	of amendment
LC NO.	of engrossment
Emergency clause added or deleted	
Statement of purpose of amendment	

MOTION MADE BY: Brunberg failed

SECONDED BY: Lindaas

VOTE COUNT: _____ YES _____ NO _____ ABSENT

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
(ACCEDE/RECEDE)**

Bill Number 2017 (, as (re)engrossed):

Date: 4/20/07
#3.

Your Conference Committee _____

For the Senate:

For the House:

<i>Choi</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>Wald</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>Leg</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>Porter</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>yes</i>		<i>yes</i>

recommends that the (SENATE/HOUSE) (ACCEDE to) (RECEDE from)

the (Senate/House) amendments on (SJ/HJ) page(s) _____ -- _____

_____ and place _____ on the Seventh order.

_____, adopt (further) amendments as follows, and place _____ on the Seventh order:

having been unable to agree, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed.

((Re)Engrossed) _____ was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

DATE: _____

HOUSE CARRIER: _____

SENATE CARRIER: _____

*new amend to
be drawn
by Leg
Council*

LC NO.	of amendment
LC NO.	of engrossment
Emergency clause added or deleted	
Statement of purpose of amendment	

MOTION MADE BY: Porter

SECONDED BY: Wald

VOTE COUNT: ___ YES ___ NO ___ ABSENT

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2017, as engrossed: Your conference committee (Sens. Christmann, Grindberg, Lindaas and Reps. Wald, Porter, Aarsvold) recommends that the **HOUSE RECEDE** from the House amendments on SJ pages 1200-1201, adopt amendments as follows, and place SB 2017 on the Seventh order:

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on pages 1200 and 1201 of the Senate Journal and pages 1180 and 1181 of the House Journal and that Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2017 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 2, after "department" insert "; to provide for a statement of legislative intent; to provide for a report to the legislative council; to provide for a study"

Page 2, line 2, replace "(871,688)" with "488,062"

Page 2, line 3, replace "1,058,372" with "1,558,372"

Page 2, after line 6, insert:
"Recruitment and retention study 30,000"

Page 2, line 7, replace "0" with "240,000"

Page 2, line 8, replace "4,530,302" with "6,660,052"

Page 2, line 18, replace "5,292,434" with "6,652,184"

Page 2, line 19, replace "12,286,351" with "12,786,351"

Page 2, after line 24, insert:
"Recruitment and retention study 30,000"

Page 2, line 25, replace "800,000" with "1,040,000"

Page 2, line 26, replace "55,731,361" with "57,861,111"

Page 2, after line 31, insert:

"SECTION 5. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION - GRANTS. The grants line item in section 3 of this Act includes \$109,750 for a grant to the parks and recreation department for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson state park. The \$109,750 may be spent only if the corps of engineers does not begin construction of a marina at Fort Stevenson state park by March 31, 2008.

SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the sixtieth legislative assembly that \$100,000 contained in the grants line item in section 3 of this Act be used to carry out a grant program to encourage hunting by youth. The director of the game and fish department may provide grants under this program to local communities to fund shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth.

SECTION 7. GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT TO STUDY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF HUNTERS IN NORTH DAKOTA - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. The game and fish department shall study the recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota. The study must include identification of programs to recruit and retain hunters in this state. The department shall report its findings to the budget section by December 31, 2008."

Page 3, line 1, replace "\$800,000" with "\$1,040,000"

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - Conference Committee Action

	EXECUTIVE BUDGET	SENATE VERSION	CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHANGES	CONFERENCE COMMITTEE VERSION	HOUSE VERSION	COMPARISON TO HOUSE
Salaries and wages	\$19,033,535	\$19,033,535		\$19,033,535	\$19,033,535	
Operating expenses	11,690,087	11,690,087		11,690,087	11,690,087	
Capital assets	3,284,241	3,284,241		3,284,241	3,284,241	
Grants	5,252,184	5,292,434	\$1,359,750	6,652,184	6,992,434	(\$340,250)
Land habitat and deer depredation	12,286,351	12,786,351	500,000	12,786,351	14,286,351	(1,500,000)
Noxious weed control	450,000	450,000		450,000	450,000	
Grants, gifts, and donations	500,000	500,000		500,000	500,000	
Nongame wildlife conservation	120,000	120,000		120,000	120,000	
Lonetree Reservoir	1,594,713	1,594,713		1,594,713	1,594,713	
Wildlife Services	680,000	680,000		680,000	680,000	
Ramp improvements and marina development		800,000	240,000	1,040,000	800,000	240,000
Recruitment and retention study			30,000	30,000	30,000	
Total all funds	\$54,891,111	\$55,731,361	\$2,129,750	\$57,861,111	\$59,461,361	(\$1,600,250)
Less estimated income	54,891,111	55,731,861	2,129,750	57,861,111	59,461,361	(1,600,250)
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	155.00	155.00	0.00	155.00	155.00	0.00

Dept. 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Conference Committee Changes

	RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STUDY 1	YOUTH HUNTING GRANT PROGRAM 2	SWEETBRIAR DAM PROJECT 3	BOAT RAMP IMPROVEMENTS 4	INCREASES FUNDING FOR RAMP IMPROVEMENTS AND MARINA DEVELOPMENT 5	ADDS FUNDING FOR LAND HABITAT AND DEER DEPREDEATION 6
Salaries and wages						
Operating expenses						
Capital assets						
Grants		\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$259,750		
Land habitat and deer depredation						\$500,000
Noxious weed control						
Grants, gifts, and donations						
Nongame wildlife conservation						
Lonetree Reservoir						
Wildlife Services						
Ramp improvements and marina development					\$240,000	
Recruitment and retention study	\$30,000					
Total all funds	\$30,000	\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$259,750	\$240,000	\$500,000
Less estimated income	30,000	100,000	1,000,000	259,750	240,000	500,000
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**TOTAL
CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE
CHANGES**

Salaries and wages
 Operating expenses
 Capital assets

Grants	\$1,359,750
Land habitat and deer depredation	500,000
Noxious weed control	
Grants, gifts, donations	
Nongame wildlife conservation	
Lonetree Reservoir Wildlife Services	
Ramp improvements and marina development	240,000
Recruitment and retention study	<u>30,000</u>
Total all funds	\$2,129,750
Less estimated income	<u>2,129,750</u>
General fund	\$0
FTE	0.00

- 1 This amendment provides funding for a study on recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota.
- 2 This amendment provides funding for a grant program to local communities to fund shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth.
- 3 This amendment provides \$1,000,000 from the game and fish fund to the State Water Commission for the Sweetbriar Dam project. The funding from the game and fish fund is contingent upon other funding being made available for the project by the State Water Commission.
- 4 This amendment provides funding to the Parks and Recreation Department from the game and fish fund for maintenance, operating, and extraordinary repairs relating to boat ramps at various state parks.
- 5 This amendment increases funding for ramp improvements and marina development from \$800,000, as provided by the Senate, to \$1,040,000.
- 6 This amendment increases the land habitat and deer depredation line item by \$500,000.

A section is added providing legislative intent relating to the grant program to encourage youth hunting.

A section is added directing the Game and Fish Department to conduct a study on recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota.

A section is added relating to a contingent appropriation of \$109,750 for a grant to the Parks and Recreation Department for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson State Park if the Corps of Engineers does not begin construction of the marina by March 31, 2008.

Engrossed SB 2017 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

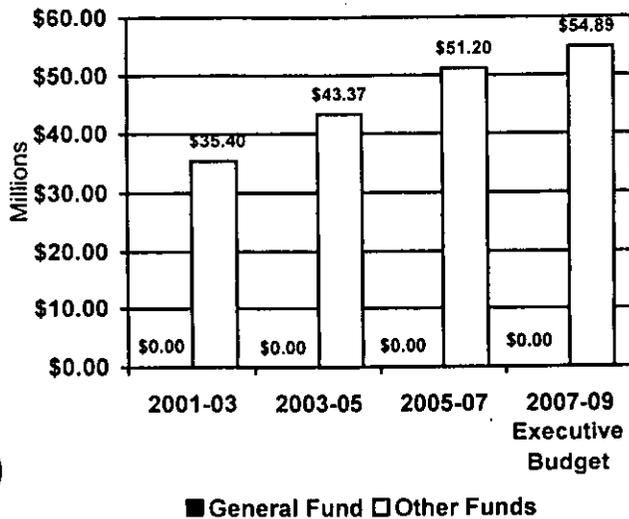
SB 2017

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department
Senate Bill No. 2017

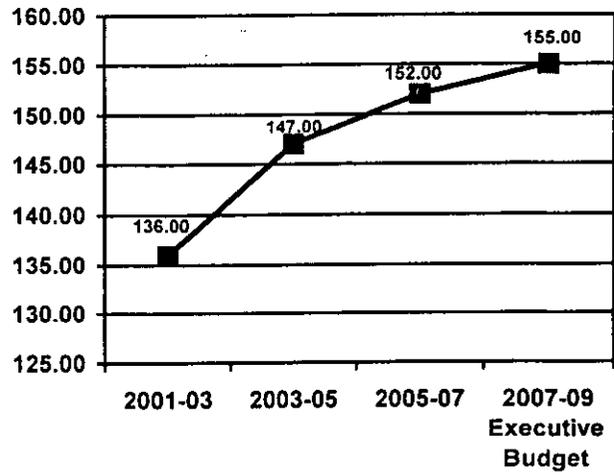
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2007-09 Executive Budget	155.00	\$0	\$54,891,111	\$54,891,111
2005-07 Legislative Appropriations	152.00	0	51,201,059	51,201,059 ¹
Increase (Decrease)	3.00	\$0	\$3,690,052	\$3,690,052

¹The 2005-07 appropriation amounts do not include \$900,000 of capital construction carryover and do not include \$310,757 of emergency spending in the 2003-05 biennium.

Agency Funding



FTE Positions



First House Action

Attached is a summary of first house changes.

**Executive Budget Highlights
 (With First House Changes in Bold)**

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Provides funding for 2007-09 biennium capital assets, including deferred maintenance (\$1,629,241), capital payments and land acquisition (\$1,000,000), equipment over \$5,000 (\$605,000), and information technology equipment over \$5,000 (\$50,000)		\$3,284,421	\$3,284,241
2. Provides funding for 3 new FTE positions, including a game warden investigator, bighorn sheep biologist, and fisheries division technician		\$268,900	\$268,900
3. Increases funding for land habitat and deer depredation		\$1,058,372	\$1,058,372
4. Increases funding for operating expenses primarily due to mileage and motor vehicle rate increases		\$1,953,652	\$1,953,652
5. Removes funding for 2005-07 biennium capital projects and capital construction carryover		(\$4,093,054)	(\$4,093,054)
6. Adds funding for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson State Park and Graham's Island. The Senate removed this funding (see Major Related Legislation in Senate Bill No. 2019).		\$259,750	\$259,750
7. Increases funding for the State Board of Animal Health costs for a total of \$209,684		\$59,684	\$59,684
8. Increases funding for the federal wildlife services program for a total of \$680,000		\$130,000	\$130,000

Continuing Appropriations

No continuing appropriations for this agency.

Major Related Legislation

House Bill No. 1200 - This bill provides an appropriation of \$2.25 million from other funds to the Game and Fish Department for private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) for youth, a youth grant program, and a youth hunting study.

House Bill No. 1459 - This bill provides an appropriation of \$1,629,241 of other funds to the Game and Fish Department for extraordinary repairs.

Senate Bill No. 2009 - Section 6 of this bill provides \$889,684 from the game and fish operating fund for various Department of Agriculture programs for the 2007-09 biennium.

Senate Bill No. 2019 - Section 4 of this bill provides that \$381,750 from the game and fish operating fund, or federal or other funds available to the Game and Fish Department, must be transferred to the Parks and Recreation Department for maintenance, operating, and extraordinary repairs expenses relating to boat ramps at various state parks for the 2007-09 biennium. Section 6 provides a contingent appropriation of \$259,750 to the Game and Fish Department if the Parks and Recreation Department does not receive sufficient federal funds.

Senate Bill No. 2058 - This bill provides that the Game and Fish Department may transfer land to adjacent landowners around Golden Lake in Steele County for a price determined by the department.

Senate Bill No. 2059 - This bill removes the \$5 fee for a permit to propagate, domesticate, or possess protected wildlife. The permit will continue to be issued at no charge.

ATTACH:1

02/19/07

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:**Senate Bill No. 2017 - Funding Summary**

	Executive Budget	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Game and Fish Department			
Salaries and wages	\$19,033,535		\$19,033,535
Operating expenses	11,690,087		11,690,087
Capital assets	3,284,241		3,284,241
Grants	5,252,184	40,250	5,292,434
Land habitat and deer depredation	12,286,351		12,286,351
Noxious weed control	450,000		450,000
Grants, gifts, and donations	500,000		500,000
Nongame wildlife conservation	120,000		120,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,594,713		1,594,713
Wildlife services	680,000		680,000
Ramp improvements and marina development		800,000	800,000
Total all funds	<u>\$54,891,111</u>	<u>\$840,250</u>	<u>\$55,731,361</u>
Less estimated income	<u>54,891,111</u>	<u>840,250</u>	<u>55,731,361</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	155.00	0.00	155.00
Bill Total			
Total all funds	\$54,891,111	\$840,250	\$55,731,361
Less estimated income	<u>54,891,111</u>	<u>840,250</u>	<u>55,731,361</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	155.00	0.00	155.00

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - Senate Action

	Executive Budget	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Salaries and wages	\$19,033,535		\$19,033,535
Operating expenses	11,690,087		11,690,087
Capital assets	3,284,241		3,284,241
Grants	5,252,184	40,250	5,292,434
Land habitat and deer depredation	12,286,351		12,286,351
Noxious weed control	450,000		450,000
Grants, gifts, and donations	500,000		500,000
Nongame wildlife conservation	120,000		120,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,594,713		1,594,713
Wildlife services	680,000		680,000
Ramp improvements and marina development		800,000	800,000
Total all funds	<u>\$54,891,111</u>	<u>\$840,250</u>	<u>\$55,731,361</u>
Less estimated income	<u>54,891,111</u>	<u>840,250</u>	<u>55,731,361</u>
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	155.00	0.00	155.00

Department No. 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Senate Changes

	Removes Funding for Boat Ramp Improvements ¹	Adds Funding for Sweet Briar Repairs ²	Adds Funding for Ramp Improvements and Marina Development ³	Total Senate Changes
Salaries and wages				
Operating expenses				
Capital assets				
Grants	(259,750)	300,000		40,250
Land habitat and deer depredation				
Noxious weed control				
Grants, gifts, and donations				
Nongame wildlife conservation				
Lonetree reservoir				
Wildlife services				
Ramp improvements and marina development			800,000	800,000
Total all funds	(\$259,750)	\$300,000	\$800,000	\$840,250
Less estimated income	(259,750)	300,000	800,000	840,250
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

¹ Removes funding for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson State Park and Graham's Island.

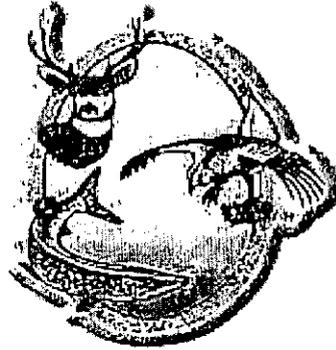
² Increases the grants, gifts and donations line item by \$300,000 for Sweet Briar repairs.

³ Adds funding for ramp improvements and marina development. The funding is declared an emergency.

Adds a separate section appropriating \$130,000 for wildlife services for the 2005-07 biennium and declares this an emergency.

North Dakota Game and Fish Department

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
2007-2009 Budget Request



2007-2009
Budget Request

2007-2009 Budget Request

- \$55,731,361 Total Request
- Increase of \$3,941,059 or +7.6%
- Fisheries Technician: FTE
- Game Warden Investigator: FTE
- Bighorn Sheep Biologist: FTE

- Private Lands Program increased \$2,000,000

▪ Land Acquisition decreased to \$100,000

▪ \$900,000 in lieu of tax payments moved to Capital Assets line from Operating

▪ Major increases in operating expenses for all divisions +\$2,900,000

▪ Wildlife Services \$680,000 for animal damage control work plus \$130,000 for the 2005-2007 Biennium

- \$500,000 for shooting range grants
- \$440,000 for Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery operations

▪ \$225,000 for an office addition at the Dickinson Game and Fish office

▪ \$122,000 for ND Parks and Rec boat ramp O&M and possibly \$259,750 more depending on marina project Lake Sak

▪ \$209,684 for the Ag. Department Board of Animal Health—Increase of \$59,684

Game and Fish Requested Additions For Fishing Programs

- \$800,000 added in the Senate as a special line for Missouri River boating access work needed due to low water levels
- \$300,000 added to the Grants line item for repair work on Sweetbriar Dam/Interstate 94 roadway

Federal Funding

- Total = \$18,700,000
- Fisheries Restoration-DJ \$7,300,000
- Wildlife Restoration-PR \$7,000,000
- State Wildlife Grants \$1,300,000
- Boating Safety \$800,000
- Bureau of Reclamation \$1,500,000
- Misc. Programs \$800,000

State Revenue

■ Fishing Licenses	\$3,000,000
■ Hunting Licenses	\$20,000,000
■ Habitat Stamp Sales	\$3,200,000
■ Interest Income	\$1,700,000
■ Motorboat Licenses	\$800,000
■ Motorboat Fuel Tax	\$200,000
■ Donations	\$400,000

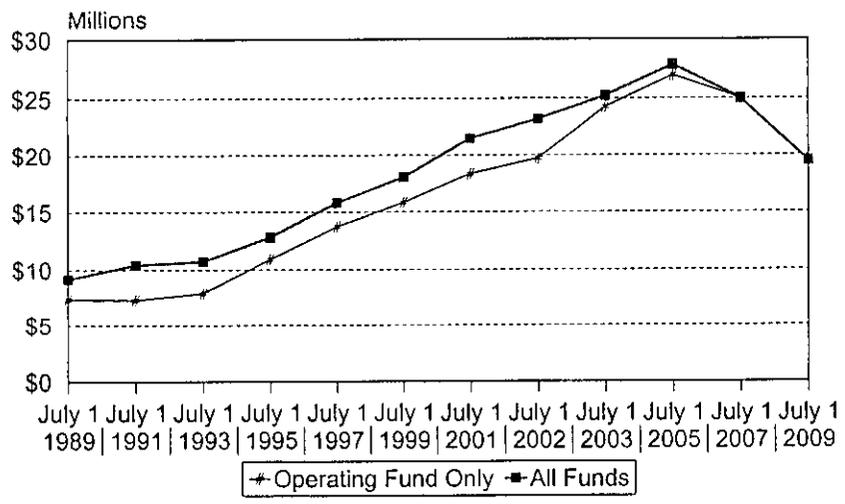
ND Game and Fish Budget

	2005-07	2007-09
■ Salaries	\$16,933,000	\$19,033,535
■ Op. Expenses	\$9,736,435	\$11,690,087
■ Capital Assets	\$2,961,116	\$3,284,241
■ Capital Carryover	\$900,000	0
■ Grants	\$6,164,122	\$5,292,434
■ Private Lands	\$1,127,979	\$12,286,351
■ Gifts and Donations	\$350,000	\$500,000
■ Nongame Wildlife	\$120,000	\$120,000
■ Lonetree Reservoir	\$1,528,407	\$1,554,500
■ Wildlife Services	\$680,000	\$680,000
■ Ramp and Marina Imp.	\$489,243	0
■ Noxious Weed Control	\$350,000	\$450,000
■ Total	\$51,790,302	\$55,731,361

Other Bills Affecting Game and Fish Fund

- SB 2019 Parks and Recreation Department Budget - Marina Construction \$1,100,000
- HB 1200 Youth PLOTS Program \$2,230,000
- SB 2009 Agriculture Commissioner's Budget \$810,000 Wildlife Services
- \$209,684 for Board of Animal Health

Fund Balances ND Game and Fish Department

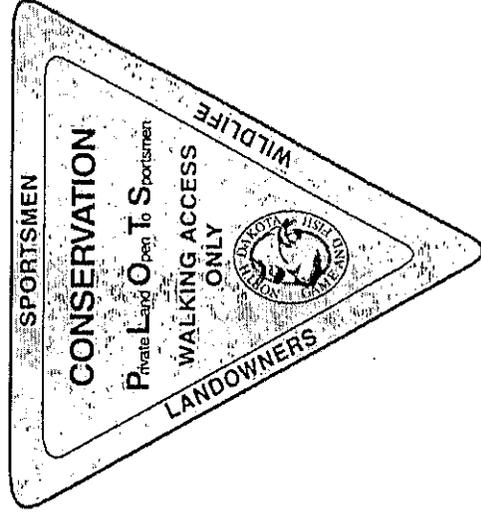


12/2006

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)

Private Land Initiative

Access Acres Provided - PLOTS Program

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Working Lands Plots			4,802	285,689	393,197	416,913	414,016
CRP C/S	82,428	127,735	229,431	261,957	264,499	310,978	321,785
Habitat Plots	53,874	98,410	146,103	159,811	146,697	138,310	137,305
Native Forest	7,728	8,991	13,585	15,598	14,017	13,942	13,576
CREP/Coverlocks		640	7,782	13,621	13,941	13,941	13,941
WRP	2,754	3,154			5,690	6,434	6,434
CRP C/S Replacement		10,250	5,000	-----	-----	-----	-----
Waterbank	2,793	3,053	4,256	-----	-----	-----	-----
Tree Planting C/S		568	1,527	2,471	2,361	3,257	3,257
Beginning Farmer			1,200	1,600	2,720	2,720	2,720
Food Plots	695	231	1,501	4,626	932	1,287	1,287
TOTALS	149,577	253,032	415,187	745,373	844,054	907,782	914,321

* as of January, 2007

Agency Name: GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT		Agency Number: 00720				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Description	2003-05 Biennium Expenditures	2005-07 First Year Expenditures	2005-07 Biennium Balance	2005-07 Biennium Appropriation	2007-09 Budget Recommendation	Change from 2005-2007
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	9,714,544	6,013,047	6,735,383	12,748,430	9,712,320	(3,036,110)
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT	4,089,307	1,976,342	4,070,268	6,046,610	6,569,238	522,628
FISHERIES	4,918,751	2,374,128	2,646,778	5,020,906	6,610,473	1,589,567
WILDLIFE	6,876,896	3,118,168	4,857,892	7,976,060	8,548,604	572,544
TOTAL BY APPROPRIATION ORGS	17,238,100	7,544,548	12,453,748	19,998,296	23,450,476	3,452,180
	42,837,598	21,026,233	30,764,069	51,790,302	54,891,111	3,100,809
SALARIES AND WAGES	15,000,181	8,042,870	8,890,130	16,933,000	19,033,535	2,100,535
OPERATING EXPENSES	9,149,525	4,611,517	5,124,918	9,736,435	11,690,087	1,953,652
CAPITAL ASSETS	1,694,363	827,534	2,133,582	2,961,116	3,284,241	323,125
CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION CARRYOVER	482,000	900,000	0	900,000	0	(900,000)
GRANTS-GAME AND FISH	4,282,306	1,324,067	4,840,055	6,164,122	5,252,184	(911,938)
LAND HABITAT & DEER DEPREDDATION	9,607,383	4,036,785	7,191,194	11,227,979	12,286,351	1,058,372
NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL	295,784	257,365	92,635	350,000	450,000	100,000
GRANT-GIFT-DONATION	121,502	156,393	543,607	700,000	500,000	(200,000)
NONGAME WILDLIFE CONSERVATION	63,475	4,042	115,958	120,000	120,000	0
LONETREE RESERVOIR	1,280,322	558,878	969,529	1,528,407	1,594,713	66,306
WILDLIFE SERVICES	550,000	131,066	548,934	680,000	680,000	0
RAMP AND MARINA IMPROVEMENTS	310,757	175,716	313,527	489,243	0	(489,243)
TOTAL BY OBJECT SERIES	42,837,598	21,026,233	30,764,069	51,790,302	54,891,111	3,100,809
Federal Funds	15,977,556	5,580,066	10,571,398	16,151,484	19,987,849	3,836,365
Special Funds	26,860,042	15,446,147	20,192,671	35,638,818	34,903,262	(735,556)
TOTAL BY FUNDS	42,837,598	21,026,233	30,764,069	51,790,302	54,891,111	3,100,809
FTE	147.00	0.00	151.00	151.00	151.00	0.00
VACANT	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	4.00	3.00

720 - Game and Fish Department - Request and Recommendation Summary

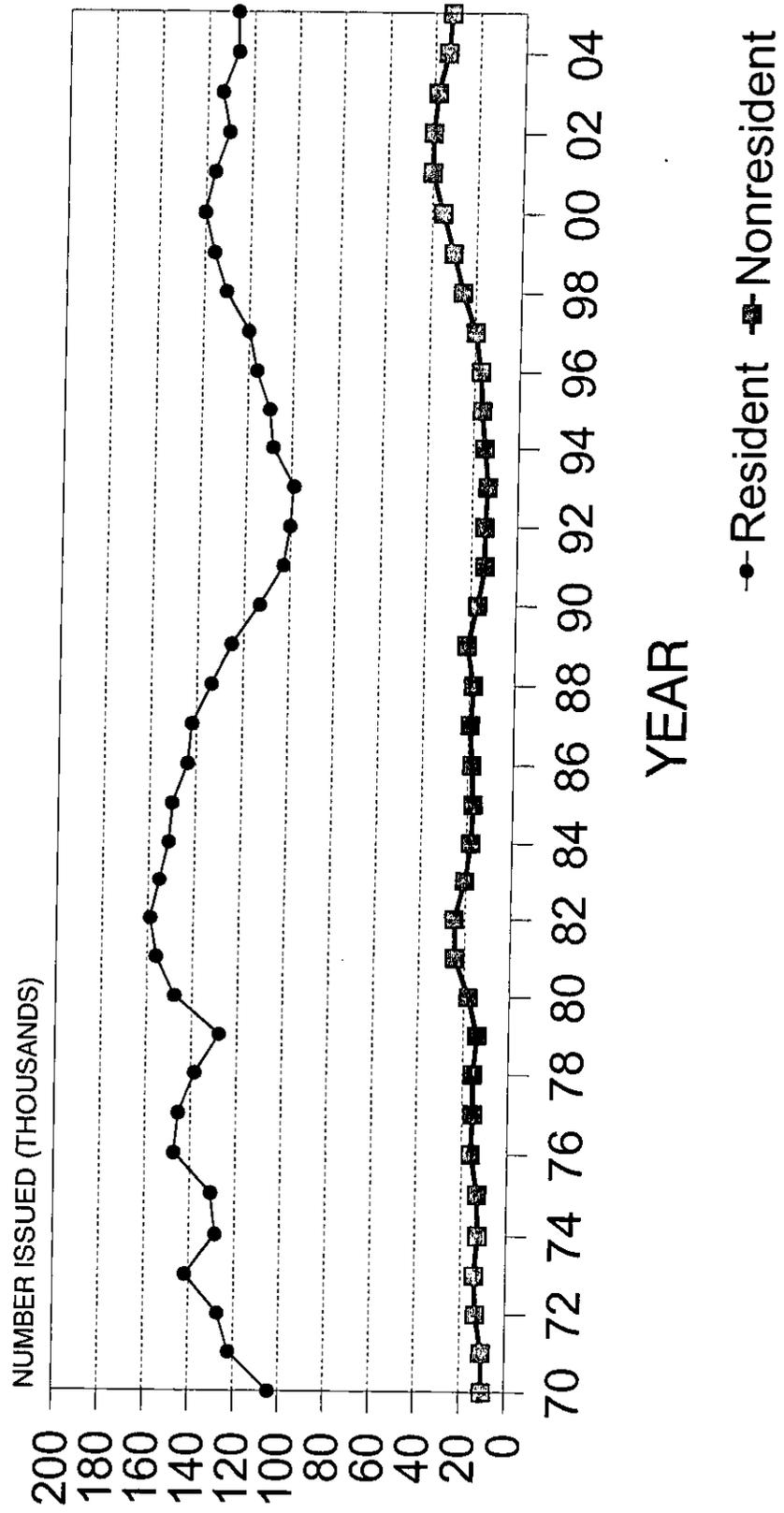
2003-05	2005-07	2007-09	2007-09	2007-09	2007-09	2005-07		2007-09		2007-09		2005-07		2007-09		3	4	5	6	7	8	
						Request	Inc(Dec)	% Chg	Request	Inc(Dec)	% Chg	Request	Inc(Dec)	% Chg	Request							Inc(Dec)
MAJOR PROGRAMS																						
Administra	\$9,714,544	\$12,748,430	\$9,484,994	(\$3,263,436)	-25.6%	\$5,484,994	\$0	0.0%	(\$3,263,436)	-25.6%	Wildlife	130,000	130,000	59,684	259,750	259,750						
Communic	4,089,307	5,046,610	6,378,156	331,546	5.5%	6,378,156	0	0.0%	331,546	5.5%	Animal	386,384	386,384	59,684	59,684							
Enforceme	4,918,751	5,020,906	6,277,100	1,256,194	25.0%	6,277,100	0	0.0%	1,256,194	25.0%	Health Inc.	130,000	130,000	59,684	59,684							
Fishenes	6,678,896	7,976,060	8,096,674	120,614	1.5%	8,096,674	259,750	3.2%	386,384	4.8%	Parks	259,750	259,750	259,750	259,750							
Wildlife	17,238,100	19,998,296	22,858,963	2,860,667	14.3%	23,048,647	189,684	0.8%	3,050,351	15.3%		130,000	130,000	59,684	59,684							
TOTAL	\$42,837,598	\$51,790,302	\$53,095,887	\$1,305,585	2.5%	\$53,545,321	\$449,434	0.8%	\$1,755,019	3.4%	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$59,684	\$259,750								
LINE ITEMS																						
Salaries ar	\$15,000,181	\$16,933,000	\$17,786,330	\$853,330	5.0%	\$17,786,330	\$0	0.0%	\$853,330	5.0%												
Operating	9,149,525	9,736,435	11,690,087	1,953,652	20.1%	14,690,087	0	0.0%	1,953,652	20.1%												
Capital As	1,694,363	2,961,116	3,284,241	323,125	10.9%	3,284,241	0	0.0%	323,125	10.9%												
Capital Co	482,000	900,000	0	(900,000)	-100.0%	0	0	0.0%	(900,000)	-100.0%												
Grants - G	4,282,306	6,164,122	4,932,750	(1,231,372)	-20.0%	5,252,184	319,434	5.5%	(911,533)	-14.8%												
Habitat am	9,607,383	11,227,979	12,227,979	1,000,000	8.9%	12,227,979	0	0.0%	1,000,000	8.9%												
Noxious W	295,784	350,000	450,000	100,000	28.6%	450,000	0	0.0%	100,000	28.6%												
Grant-Gift-	121,502	700,000	500,000	(200,000)	-28.6%	500,000	0	0.0%	(200,000)	-28.6%												
Nongame	63,475	120,000	120,000	0	0.0%	120,000	0	0.0%	0	0.0%												
Lone tree F	1,280,322	1,528,407	1,554,500	26,093	1.7%	1,554,500	0	0.0%	26,093	1.7%												
Wildlife Se	550,000	680,000	550,000	(130,000)	-19.1%	680,000	130,000	23.6%	(489,243)	-100.0%												
Ramp and	310,757	489,243	0	(489,243)	-100.0%	0	0	0.0%	(489,243)	-100.0%												
TOTAL	\$42,837,598	\$51,790,302	\$53,095,887	\$1,305,585	2.5%	\$53,545,321	\$449,434	0.8%	\$1,755,019	3.4%	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$59,684	\$259,750								
FUNDING SOURCES																						
General	15,977,556	16,151,484	19,480,028	3,338,544	20.7%	\$0	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%												
Federal	26,860,042	35,638,818	33,605,859	(2,032,959)	-5.7%	19,480,028	0	0.0%	(3,338,544)	-20.7%												
Special	\$42,837,598	\$51,790,302	\$53,095,887	\$1,305,585	2.5%	\$53,545,321	\$449,434	0.8%	\$1,755,019	3.4%												
TOTAL	\$42,837,598	\$51,790,302	\$53,095,887	\$1,305,585	2.5%	\$53,545,321	\$449,434	0.8%	\$1,755,019	3.4%	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$59,684	\$259,750								
FTE	147.00	152.00	155.00	3.00	2.0%	155.00	0.00	0.0%	3.00	2.0%												

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Approve budget as submitted, with changes to fund amounts requested by Ag. Dept. and boat ramps at Parks
- Budget recommendation includes:
 - \$680,000 for Wildlife Services, a \$130,000 increase. Current appropriation includes one-time funding of \$130,000 to offset federal funding reductions
 - \$209,684 for the Ag Department Board of Animal Health, \$59,684 more than 2005-07
 - \$381,750 for Parks and Rec boat ramp maintenance and improvements, including \$259,750 for Ft. Stevenson and Graham's Island
 - New game warden investigator position
 - New fisheries technician position
 - New big horn sheep biologist position (converting existing temp to FTE)
 - \$2 million increase in private lands initiatives
 - \$225,000 for an addition to the Dickinson regional office

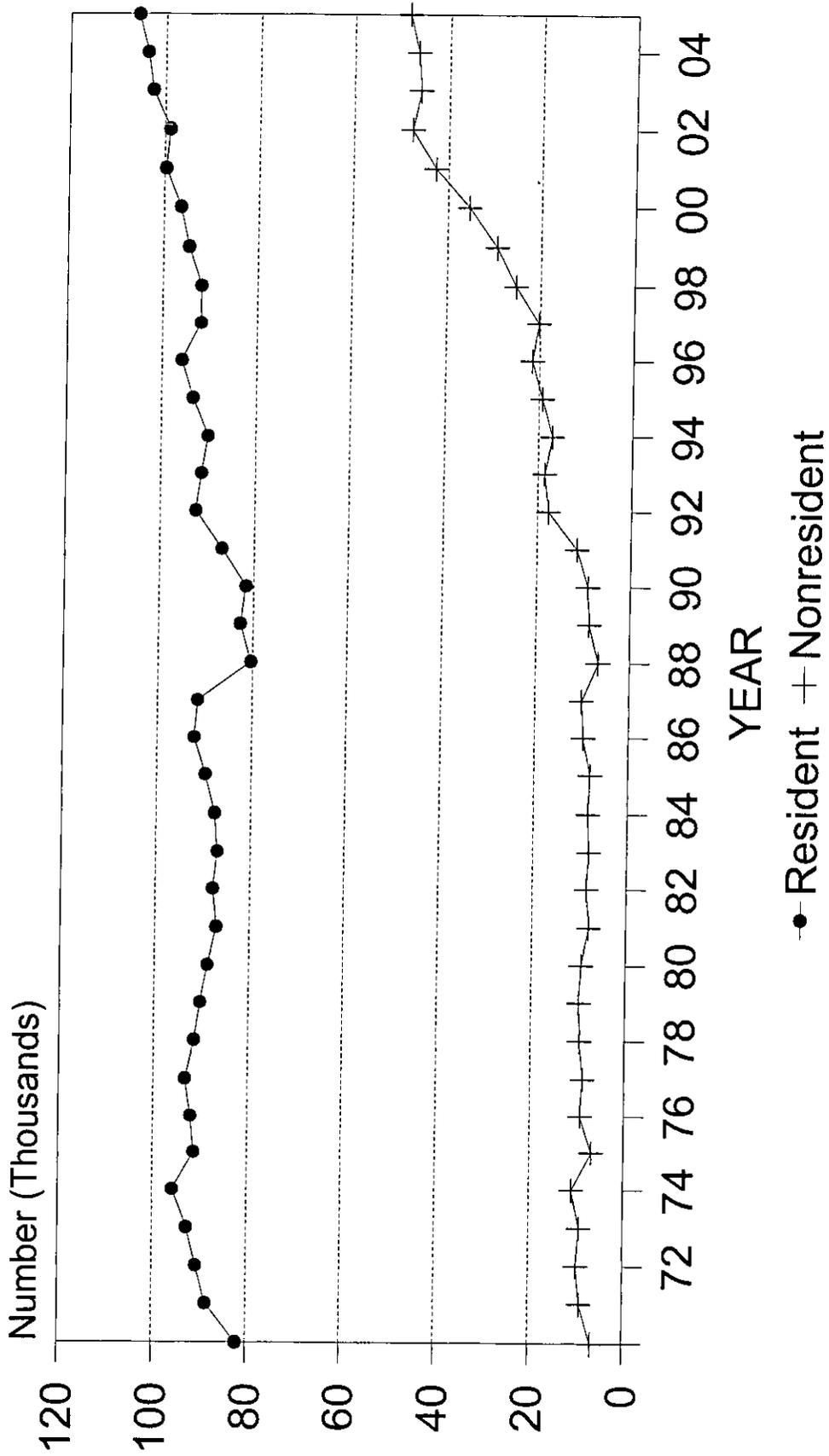
FISHING LICENSE SALES

North Dakota Game and Fish Department



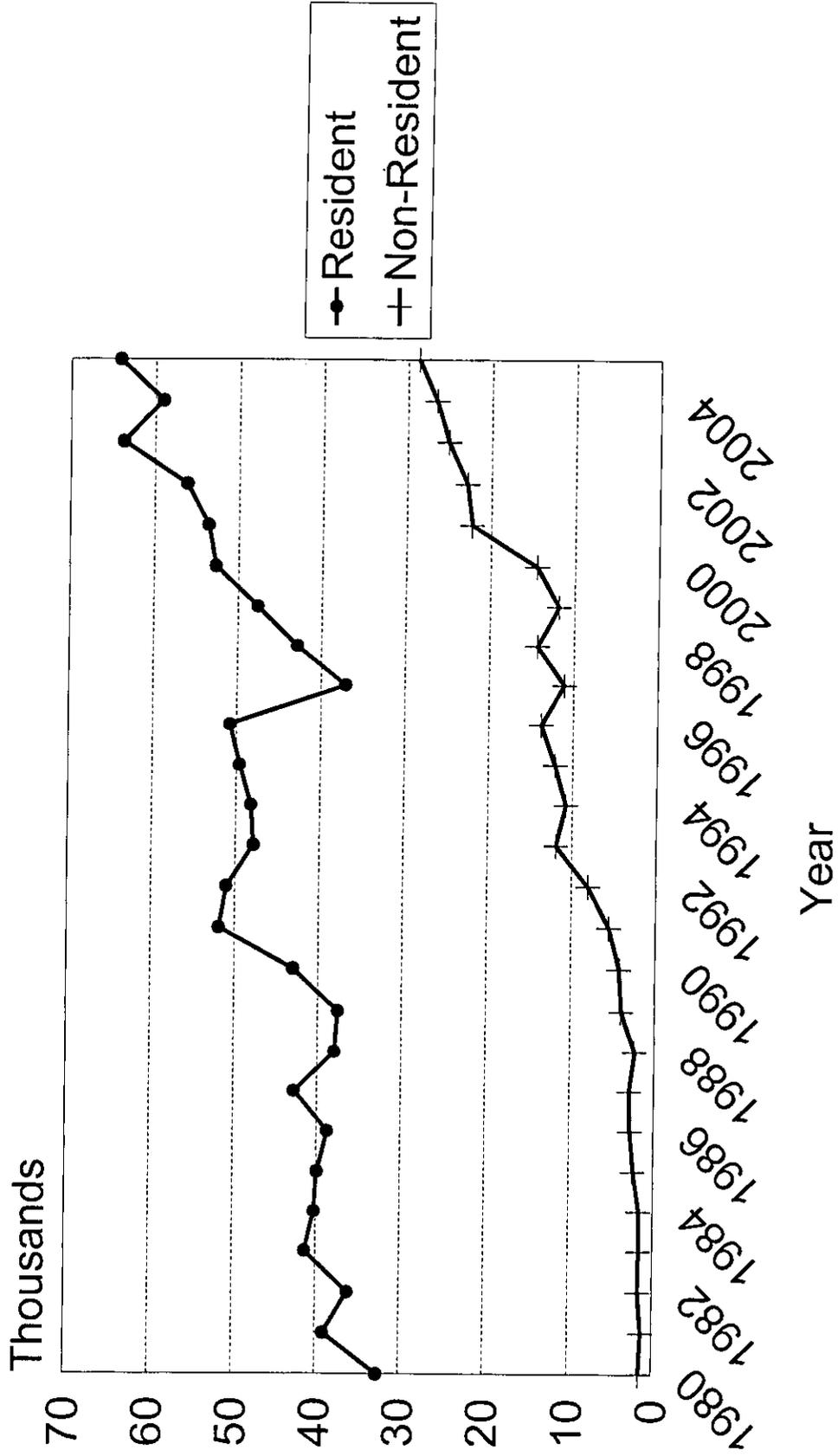
NORTH DAKOTA

GENERAL GAME LICENSE SALES



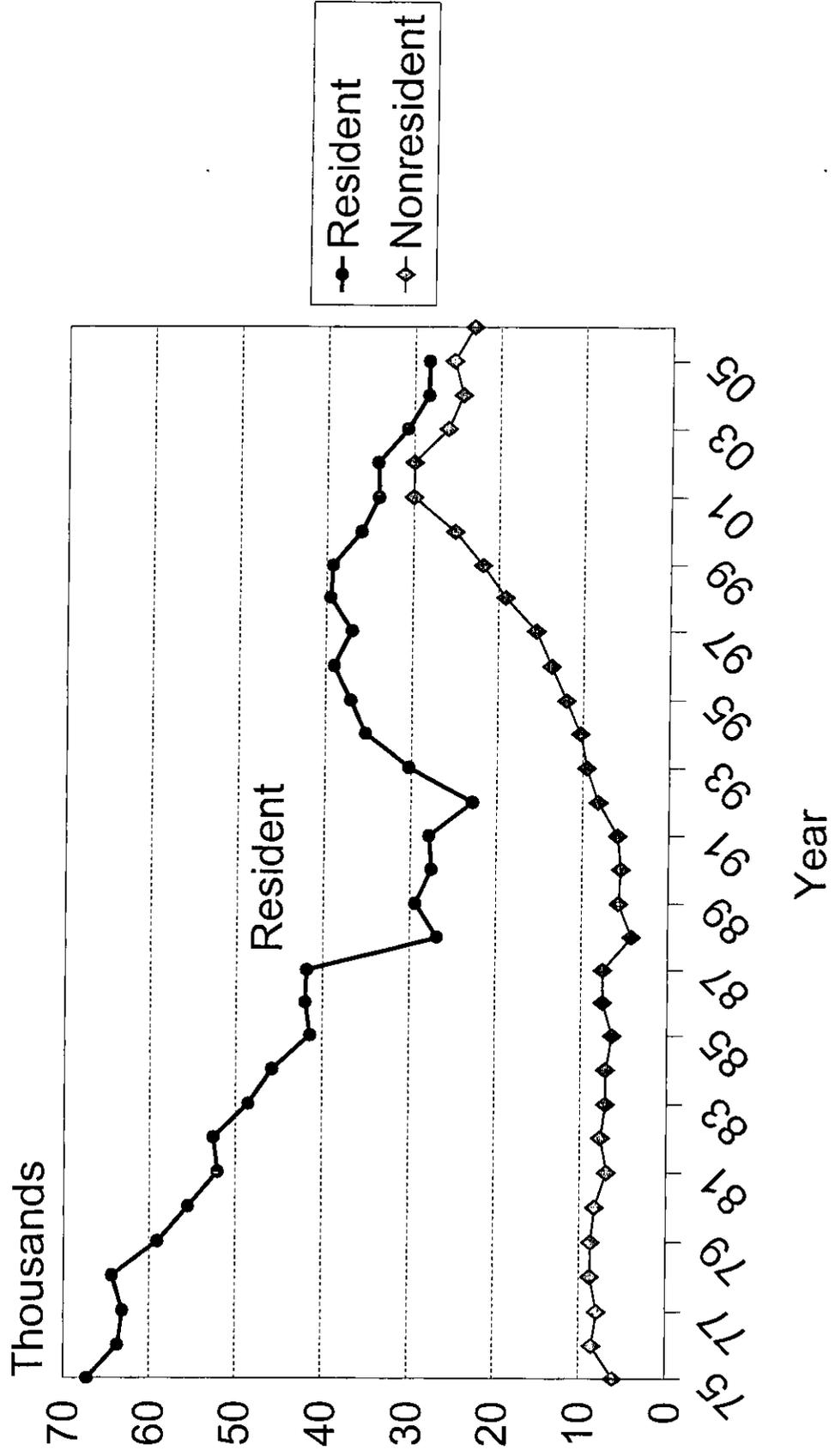
Licensed Pheasant Hunters

North Dakota

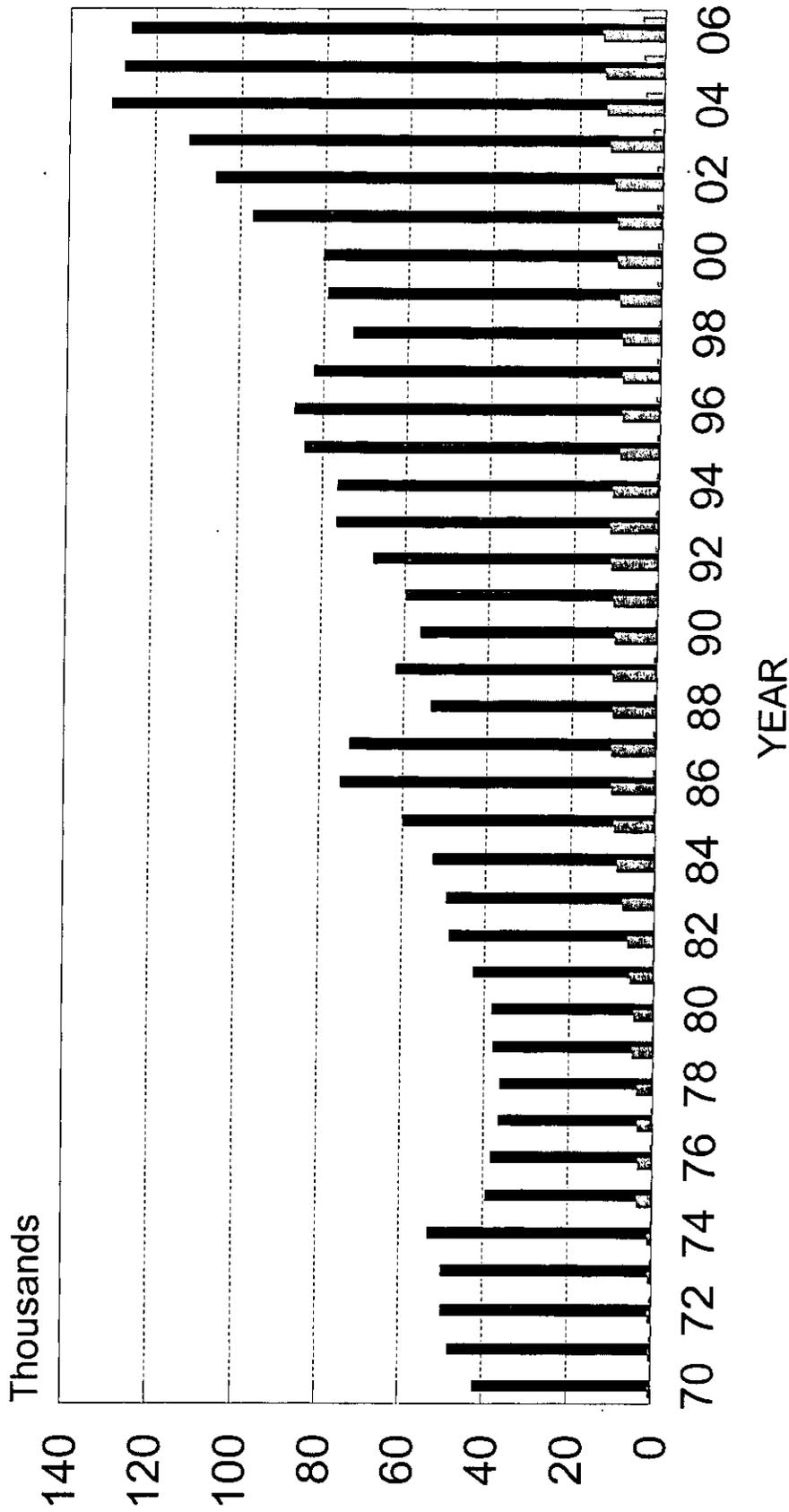


Waterfowl Hunters

North Dakota



DEER GUN LICENSES ISSUED

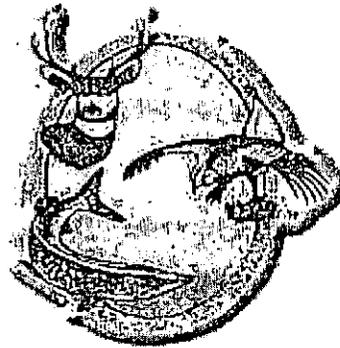


Gratis
 Resident Lottery
 Nonresident Lottery

Reg. and youth gun seasons only Includes NR landowner as paid NR lic.

North Dakota
Game and Fish
Department

2007-2009
Budget Request



2007-2009 Budget Request

- \$54,891,111 Total Request
- Increase of \$3,100,809 or +6%
- All Special and Federal Funds
- Fisheries Technician FTE
- Game Warden Investigator FTE
- Bighorn Sheep Biologist FTE

- Private Lands Program increased \$2,000,000
- Land Acquisition decreased to \$100,000
- \$900,000 in lieu of tax payments moved to Capital Assets line from Operating
- Major increases in operating expenses for all divisions +\$2,900,000
- Wildlife Services \$680,000 for animal damage control work

- \$500,000 for shooting range grants
- \$440,000 for Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery operations
- \$225,000 for an office addition at the Dickinson Game and Fish office
- \$381,750 for ND Parks and Rec. boat ramp maintenance and improvements
- \$209,684 for the Ag. Department Board of Animal Health – Increase of \$59,684

Federal Funding

- Total = \$18,700,000
- Fisheries Restoration-DJ \$7,300,000
- Wildlife Restoration-PR \$7,000,000
- State Wildlife Grants \$1,300,000
- Boating Safety \$800,000
- Bureau of Reclamation \$1,500,000
- Misc. Programs \$800,000

State Revenue

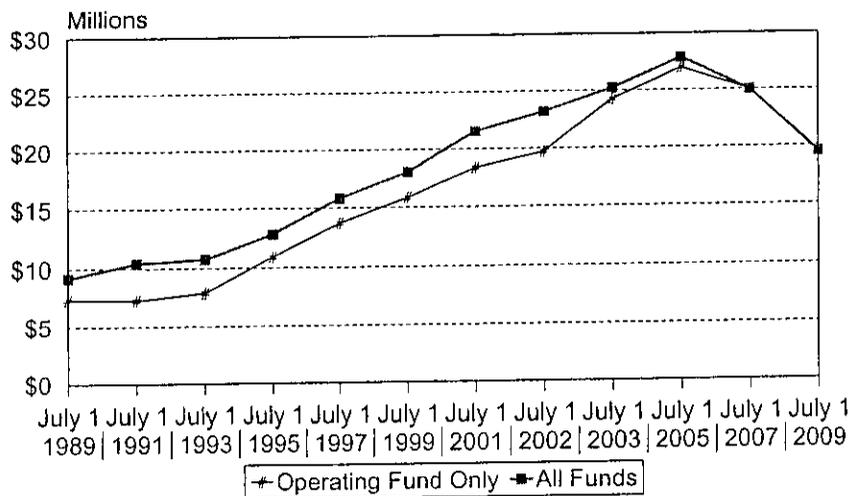
- Fishing Licenses \$3,000,000
- Hunting Licenses \$20,000,000
- Habitat Stamp Sales \$3,200,000
- Interest Income \$1,700,000
- Motorboat Licenses \$800,000
- Motorboat Fuel Tax \$200,000
- Donations \$400,000

ND Game and Fish Budget

	2005-07	2007-09
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• Lonetree Reservoir	\$1,528,407	\$1,554,500
• Wildlife Services	\$680,000	\$680,000
• Ramp and Marina Imp.	\$489,243	0
• Noxious Weed Control	\$350,000	\$450,000
• Total	\$51,790,302	\$54,891,111

Fund Balances

ND Game and Fish Department



12/2006

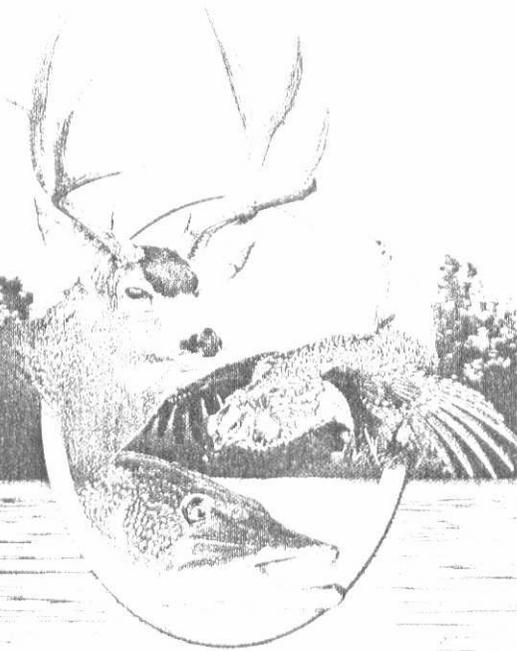
Handout #1

*2011
February 23, 2007*

STRATEGIC VISION

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

2005-2010



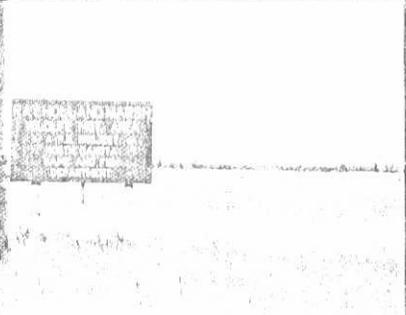
*Resource
Familiarity
and Enjoyment*



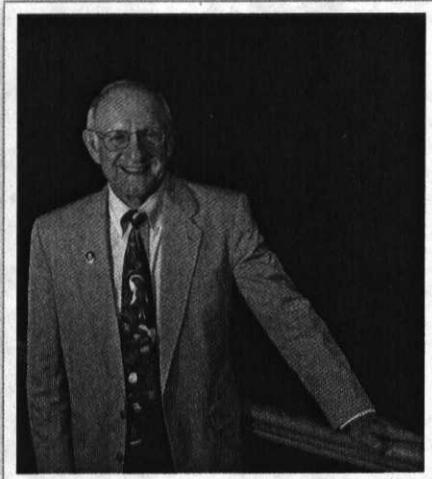
*Hunting and
Trapping*



Fishing



Public



Dean Hildebrand
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Director

director's message

IT IS A GENUINE PLEASURE TO SHARE WITH YOU THIS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's strategic plan for the future.

Game and Fish employees, and many representatives from other agencies, organizations and the public developed the Department's first strategic plan in the early 1990s. Since then, every five years or so, the plan has been updated.

This summary provides a look at the land, fish and wildlife that Game and Fish manages as public resources of the state. It describes in brief where things are at, where we want them to be five years down the road in 2010, and some of the things we need to do to accomplish that vision.

We started with an assessment of where we are. This document states where we want to go. Another says how we get there. The cycle then repeats itself through an evaluation of whether we accomplished what we set out to do, and another assessment of where we want to go.

We strive to work with landowners, hunters, anglers, trappers and others who simply enjoy viewing wildlife in our great outdoors. With all of us working together in a synergistic manner, we can meet projected future demands.

Only through a sound Department plan can we do our best to meet our goals.

And we will. This publication basically skims the highlights of a detailed strategic plan that amounts to a few hundred pages. The final version of this plan will be available for public review.

The Game and Fish Department has a mandate to care for the state's fish and wildlife resources. Our employees take this responsibility very seriously. We want abundant game and fish, clean lakes and rivers, and safe and ethical hunters, anglers and boaters.

This plan provides the guidelines for what we need to do to maintain or improve what we have. We share it with the people of North Dakota because we want our citizens to know what we're doing and why. And we want to be held accountable if we're not following through.

The Game and Fish Department looks forward to the next five years, and we think this plan gets us started in the right direction.

Published May 2005

table of contents

Director's Message.....	1
How the Plan is Set Up.....	2
75 Years of History.....	3
Hunting and Trapping Emphasis Area.....	5
Fishing Emphasis Area.....	9
Habitat Emphasis Area.....	11
Resource Stewardship and Enjoyment Emphasis Area.....	13

All photographs by Craig Bihrlle, Game and Fish Department communications supervisor, except: front cover WMA photo, page 5 trapping, page 6 moose and coyote, page 11 and 12 WMA photos by Harold UMBER; and pages 3 and 4 photos from Game and Fish archives.

how the plan is set up



FOR THE NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE the state's fish and wildlife resources, it needs a plan. Not just an itinerary of tasks for tomorrow and the next day, but a vision of how tomorrow's work will influence wildlife populations and hunter and angler opportunities many years into the future.

Often, that means doing exactly what has been done for years. In other instances, however, it means phasing out an old way of doing things and replacing it with a new method, or simply eliminating projects and redirecting resources to something else.

This Strategic Vision is part of a continuing process that began in 1992, when the Game and Fish Department developed its first strategic plan. That initial effort involved hundreds of people across the state – hunters, anglers, trappers, landowners, wildlife watchers, Game and Fish staff and others in the conservation profession.

Since then, Game and Fish has updated the plan several times, revising objectives to account for things like weather, staffing, legislative mandates and changes in expectations by resource users.

One thing missing from those previous strategic plans, however, was the operational component – the part that described what exactly the agency and its people would need to do to reach those objectives. This current revision effort, which began in 2002, includes that operational blueprint, and will also have an evaluation component.

Many programs described elsewhere in this publication highlight objectives for 2010. The details for how Game and Fish managers hope to accomplish those objectives – the operational components – are contained in a much larger master document. Contact information is found on the back page of this publication.

The plan consists of four major Department emphasis areas: Hunting and Trapping, Fishing, Habitat, and Resource Stewardship and Enjoyment. Each emphasis area involves several programs, and each program has its own strategic and operational phases. As with any plan, the priorities and activities are dynamic, subject to change and reevaluation when unforeseen circumstances arise.

The plan states openly and clearly the expectations for the Department. By describing those expectations and what it will take to make them come true, the agency holds itself accountable to the owners of North Dakota's fish and wildlife – the public – for successful implementation.

“The mission of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for sustained public consumptive and appreciative use.”

75 years of history

IN JUNE 1930, NORTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS VOTED TO RATIFY LEGISLATION that created a State Game and Fish Commission, which marked the beginning of the Game and Fish Department as we know it today.

At that time the agency consisted of a commissioner, deputy commissioner, chief game warden, deputy game warden and a couple of clerks housed in office space at the Capitol. Today, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department has more than 140 full-time employees and six district offices besides its headquarters in Bismarck.

But progress and service, especially in government, is not necessarily measured by growth alone. Citizens demand value for money spent on government. With most North Dakota state agencies, that means tax dollars. For the Game and Fish Department, which does not receive any state general fund dollars, the money comes mostly from licenses purchased by hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters and others, from federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment, and boat gas taxes.

And so, the Game and Fish Department is primarily accountable to the people who pay the bills. In addition, the agency is required to manage the state's public wildlife resources in the best interest of all citizens, not just hunters, anglers and trappers.

One way to measure progress for the Game and Fish Department is to assess public wildlife resources existing in 1930, and compare that to 2005, as the agency plans for the future.

Creating a Game and Fish Department 75 years ago had much to do with safeguarding what remained of the state's natural resources. And that wasn't much. Because of rapid settlement and widespread cultivating of native grasslands, many of North Dakota's native bird and other animal populations declined dramatically.

Not long before North Dakota became a state in 1889, bison and pronghorn were prominent. By 1930, the bison were long gone and pronghorn were just barely hanging on.

Moose were gone. Elk were gone. Bighorn sheep were gone. Giant Canada geese were gone. White-tailed deer and mule deer populations were so low that hunting seasons were held at best every other year. Sharp-tailed grouse and duck populations were diminished.

The situation faced by Burnie Maurek, the first Game and Fish commissioner, was bleak, and yet it was loaded with potential.

In its first year of existence, the Game and Fish Department sold about 16,000 fishing licenses and 34,000 small game hunting licenses.

In the decades that followed, Game and Fish added trained biologists and wildlife and fisheries managers who were pioneers in the scientific wildlife management field. They set up wildlife population surveys that led to biologically sound hunting seasons. They planted trees and worked to educate citizens about the need for conserving habitat.

They acquired land for public access and built new fishing waters. And bit by bit, as wildlife and fish populations grew, more game wardens were needed to protect these blossoming resources. More fisheries workers were needed to manage more lakes, and information staff were added to help citizens better understand and safely use these expanding resources.

In 2004, more than 130,000 residents and 40,000 nonresidents bought North Dakota fishing licenses, and the state had a couple hundred more lakes for anglers to enjoy than existed in 1930. The deer population was at an all-time high and allowed for 140,000 licenses. Hunting seasons were also open on pronghorn, moose, elk and bighorn sheep. North Dakotans could also hunt turkeys, which didn't live in the state 75 years ago, and Giant Canada geese, which were at the time thought to be extinct.

The Game and Fish Department currently has about 183,000 acres under ownership or leased for management for wildlife and public access, while another 750,000 acres of private land are opened to public access under special programs.

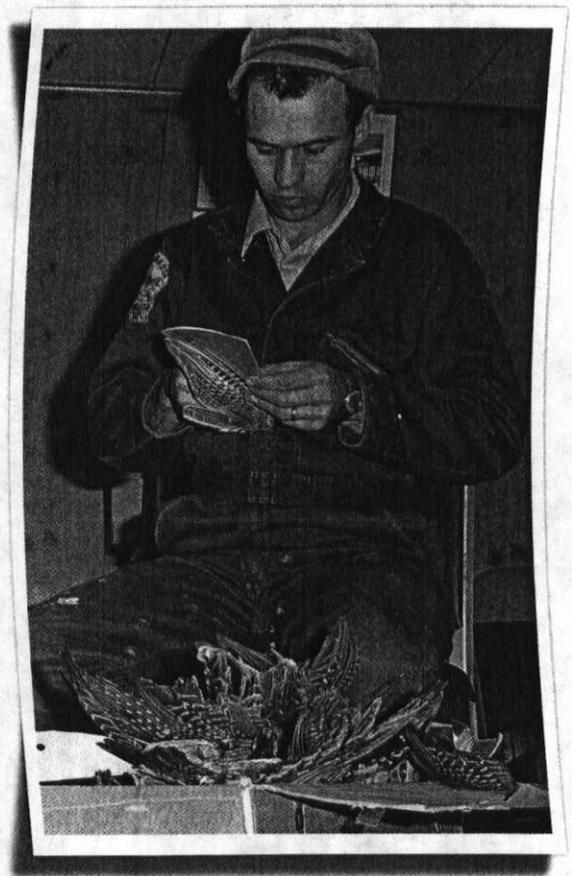
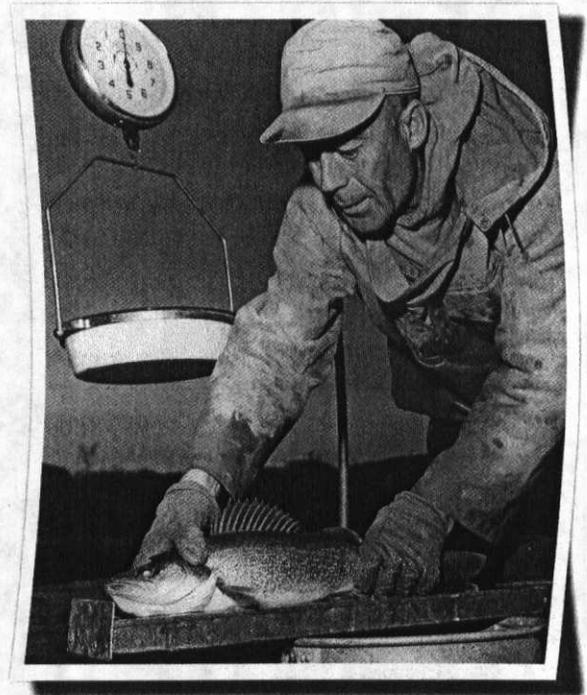
There is much more to this story, and the Game and Fish Department didn't do it all alone. Federal legislation, federal agencies, non-profit conservation organizations, hunters, anglers, trappers, landowners and other private citizens were all involved with any progress that is measurable today.

And none of it happened overnight. In many cases, it took decades for plans and strategies to start taking shape.

The next 75 years for the Game and Fish Department will be different than the first 75. Most species for which we hunt and fish are in good shape. The challenge ahead is to maintain that – to maintain habitat in our lakes, rivers, prairies and woodlands that allows wildlife populations to build and thrive.

The Department's strategic plan for the future provides guidelines for accomplishing that. It identifies potential problems that might stand in the way of reaching objectives, and provides solutions for overcoming those problems.

We are confident this Game and Fish Department vision toward the future will help the agency remain as successful as it has been the previous 75 years.



hunting & trapping

emphasis area

NORTH DAKOTA HAS GREAT VARIETY in hunting and trapping opportunities. Many wildlife species are at or near all-time population highs, and the state still has enough open spaces that hunters and trappers of any means can usually find access to quality outdoor experiences.

Some of this windfall comes from Mother Nature. Numerous wet years in the 1990s filled prairie potholes and spurred waterfowl and water-based furbearer population growth. Mostly mild winters in the late 1990s and early 2000s allowed deer and pheasant population expansion.

People can also take credit for some of the current good fortune. Government agencies, local and national conservation groups, and private landowners have all contributed to preserving or restoring the habitat that all wildlife needs to thrive. Without conscious effort put into conserving or creating more wetlands, grasslands and woodlands, game bird and big game populations would likely have increased anyway because of recent favorable weather patterns.

But the highs would not be so high, and the lows – when they eventually come around again – would be much lower, if not for the efforts of so many people, dating back decades, to create and maintain the habitat base North Dakota has today.

Many programs in the Hunting and Trapping Emphasis Area depend on maintaining, adding or improving habitat to reach objectives set for 2010. Some also rely on continued hunter and trapper access to that habitat. The summaries that follow highlight each program's direction over the next five years, with all the details available in the master plan that will be finalized in summer 2005.

PRONGHORN

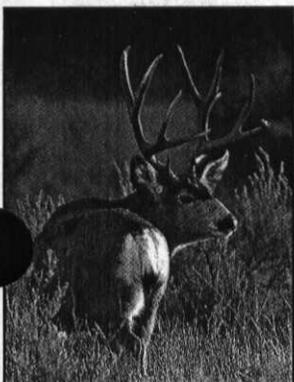
Pronghorn once roamed the plains of North America in vast numbers. In 1925, only about 225 pronghorns were left in North Dakota. Through diligent trap and transplant efforts as well as conservative management, by the mid-1960s the state's pronghorn population was estimated at 14,000 animals. Since then, however, pronghorns have been devastated by periodic severe winters, the most recent in 1996-97.

In 2004 the statewide pronghorn population was about 12,000, which allowed for 2,510 gun licenses. The 2010 long-term objective for pronghorns is an average population of about 10,000 animals, allowing for an average of 1,800 gun licenses each fall.

MULE DEER

In 1941 North Dakota's mule deer population was estimated at 900 animals. In 2004 the estimate was more than 20,000 and the overall population was generally in good shape. Mule deer buck licenses are in high demand and hunters can expect to receive one only once every four or five years.

The 2010 long-term objective for mule deer is to maintain the population index at 6-7 animals per square mile of badlands habitat, which would allow for about 5,500 licenses each fall. In 2004 the population index was more than eight deer per square mile, and about 6,500 gun licenses were available.



WHITE-TAILED DEER

The white-tailed deer population in North Dakota in 2005 is probably higher than at any time in the state's history. That's a dramatic change from 60 years ago when the state had only a few thousand animals and almost all of them were concentrated in wooded river bottoms.

The target for 2010 is a whitetail population that will allow for 100,000 gun licenses, which is reduced from 2004 when more than 140,000 gun licenses were available. At 100,000 licenses, that's still enough so that everyone who wants to hunt deer can get at least one license. The Department's plan also includes efforts to increase the number of archery deer hunters.

SPECIAL BIG GAME - MOOSE, ELK AND BIGHORN SHEEP

In 1950, North Dakota did not have any bighorn sheep or moose and only a few elk that were holdovers from a 1940s transplant. Through trap-and-transplant efforts and natural movement, the state in 2004 has stable, if not large populations of all three species, with hunting licenses issued on a once-in-a-lifetime basis.

By 2010 Game and Fish will work to increase the moose population to allow for 140-180 licenses, compared to 134 issued in 2004. The Department's objective is to maintain or slightly reduce overall elk numbers by 2010, and increasing the bighorn sheep population to allow for eight licenses, compared to four available in 2004.

FOX AND COYOTE

Red fox and coyote population dynamics have changed considerably since settlement of North Dakota, when the gray wolf was eliminated from the state. For awhile, coyotes dominated and red fox were scarce. That's the nature of wild canines - the biggest species rules the landscape. When people started putting more hunting, trapping and poisoning pressure on coyotes, red fox increased. Populations of both these species was relatively low from the 1950s through the 1970s because of intense hunting and trapping brought on by high fur prices.

For nearly two decades the coyote and fox populations in parts of North Dakota increased, though in recent years an outbreak of mange has reduced both populations to levels well below what they were in the early 1990s. The Department's objectives for 2010 point toward a somewhat reduced fox population and generally increasing numbers of furbearer hunters and trappers.

OTHER FURBEARERS

The Other Furbearers program includes mink, muskrat, weasel, beaver, bobcat, raccoon and badger.

Each of these species has its own unique niche and history, from the beaver that attracted early fur trappers to the small weasel that is mostly overlooked by furtakers today. Populations of these furbearers can rise and fall significantly, depending on fur prices and habitat changes. For instance, mink and muskrat populations rise during wet cycles and fall during dry cycles. Badger populations are reduced from historical levels because of conversion of native prairie to cropland.

Objectives for 2010 for these species involve mostly maintaining populations and increasing annual harvest by promoting more participation by hunters and trappers.



OTHER SMALL GAME

The Other Small Game program includes ruffed grouse, Hungarian partridge, rabbits, hares and tree squirrels.

For rabbits, hares and trees squirrels, Game and Fish will work to maintain current hunter numbers and harvests.

For Hungarian or gray partridge, a non-native game bird, the Department is hoping to maintain the population at a level that will provide a harvest of about 50,000 birds annually. The 2003 harvest was about 90,000, so that objective is already achieved.

Ruffed grouse, a native woodland bird of the Turtle Mountains and Pembina Hills, have fallen on hard times recently, partly because they are at the bottom end of their 10-year population cycle, and partly because of continuing conversion of their aspen forest habitat. Game and Fish hopes to turn that trend around, to bring the spring population index and annual harvest above the 10-year average.

PRAIRIE GROUSE

The Prairie Grouse program includes sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse and prairie chickens or pinnated grouse. Sharptails and sage grouse are native birds while prairie chickens migrated into North Dakota in the late 1800s from states to the south and east.

North Dakota has small populations of prairie chickens in the east and sage grouse in the extreme southwest. Sage grouse numbers have been gradually declining, while prairie chicken restoration efforts have been successful enough that the first limited hunting season in 60 years was held in 2004.

North Dakota has perhaps more sharp-tailed grouse than any other state, and the overall population is stable to slightly increasing.

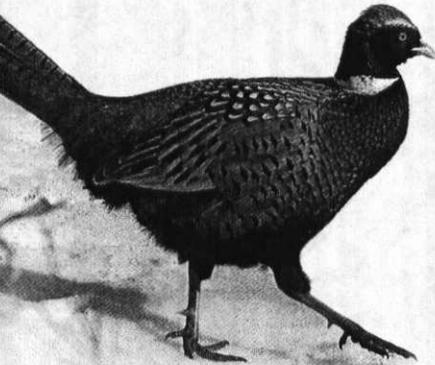
Objectives for prairie grouse for 2010 include maintaining sharptails at about their 2002-04 population level, significantly improving sage grouse numbers, and maintaining the number of viable or self-sustaining prairie chicken populations at two.

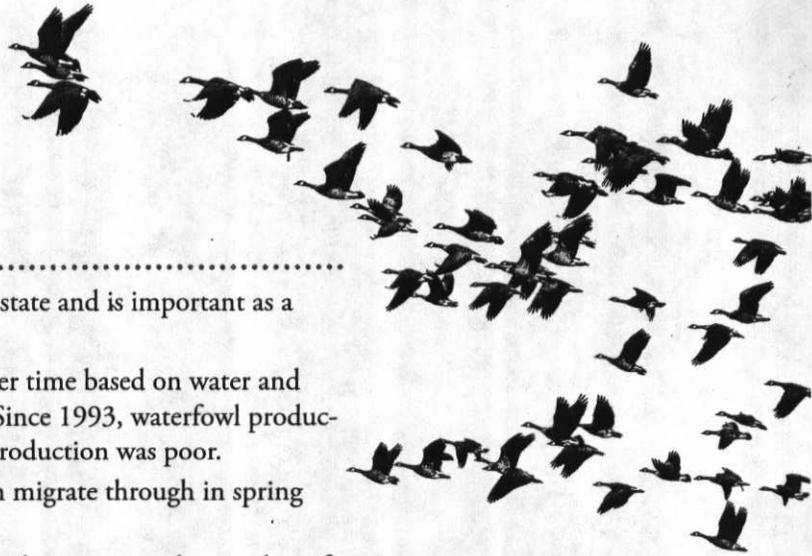
RING-NECKED PHEASANTS

The ring-necked pheasant is North Dakota's most popular upland game bird. It was introduced to the state in 1910 and the first hunting season was held in the state's southeastern counties in 1931. Since then, pheasant populations have peaked and crashed several times due to large-scale increases and decreases in habitat, and severe winter weather.

Since the late 1980s, after the advent of the Conservation Reserve Program which provided large tracts of idle grassland that became ideal pheasant nesting habitat, annual fall harvests on average are significantly higher than during the mid-1960s through mid-1980s.

Game and Fish is hoping to extend the current upward trend into 2010, with a harvest goal of 600,000 birds, which is about 15 percent higher than in 2004. This goal depends on reauthorization of the Conservation Reserve Program. If CRP is not reauthorized, the state's pheasant population would likely fall by half or more in just a couple of years.





DUCKS AND GEESE

North Dakota attracts more nesting ducks than any other state and is important as a goose production and migration state as well.

Duck and resident Canada goose production fluctuates over time based on water and upland nesting cover available in the Prairie Pothole Region. Since 1993, waterfowl production has been good to excellent. Several years prior to 1993, production was poor.

This program also includes light geese or snow geese which migrate through in spring and fall.

Objectives for the Ducks and Geese program by 2010 include increasing the number of resident waterfowl hunters from 35,000 to 45,000; maintaining a minimum average annual duck harvest of 400,000; tripling the light goose harvest within North Dakota; and reducing the resident giant Canada goose population by about half, down to 80,000 breeding birds.

OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS

This program includes tundra swan, sandhill crane, mourning dove, common snipe, common crow and woodcock.

Swans and cranes do not breed in North Dakota but migrate through in large numbers fall and spring. Doves and crows are relatively numerous and found statewide, while snipe are common breeders in parts of the Prairie Pothole Region. North Dakota is on the western edge of the woodcock's range and only a small number of these birds are found in the state's forested areas.

The mourning dove population has been gradually declining the last two decades and the Department's objective for 2010 is to increase the population and interest more hunters.

The tundra swan population is currently above management objectives and Game and Fish plans to work to increase the number of available licenses to reduce the swan population somewhat.

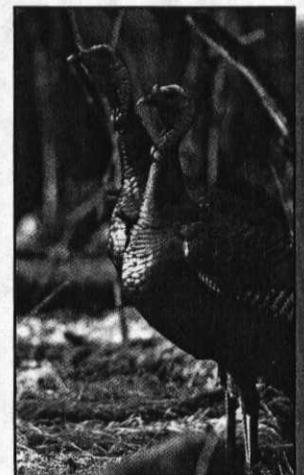
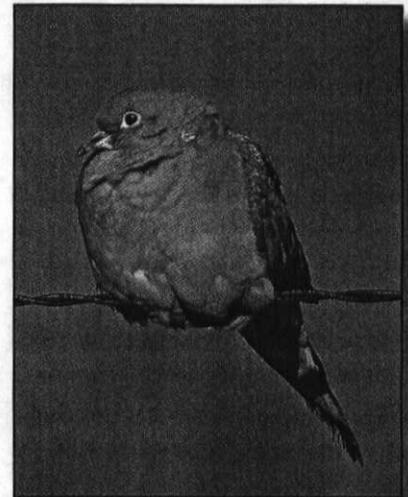
For cranes, the Department's efforts will focus on generally maintaining the Mid-continent population, while at the same time encouraging more people to hunt these wary birds.

WILD TURKEYS

Wild turkeys are not native to North Dakota and are present today only because of stocking efforts that began in the 1950s. The first fall hunting season took place in 1958 and the first spring gobbler season was in 1976.

From the early 1970s to mid-1990s, Game and Fish aggressively trapped and transplanted wild turkeys – not pen-raised birds – into areas where suitable habitat existed. Today, turkeys live just about everywhere in the state where there is sufficient wooded habitat. In fall 2004 Game and Fish issued a record number of turkey hunting licenses – 10,980. The 6,165 licenses available in spring 2005 was also a record.

For 2010, the Department is planning to maintain the turkey population below its 2005 level, to allow for about 6,000 fall licenses and 3,800 spring licenses.



fishing

emphasis area

IT'S ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF NORTH DAKOTANS go fishing every year. That says a lot about the quality of fishing in the state, and much work in the Fishing Emphasis Area is designed to keep things that way.

Fishing Emphasis has four programs designed to make that happen. They are based on habitat types, rather than single species like walleye or northern pike. That's a natural breakdown because each lake or river is not suited to support every species. Many factors used to evaluate fishing programs are based on gamefish populations or angler hours, so each body of water can be managed for whatever species works best, rather than trying to cram popular fish, like walleye, into waters where they aren't likely to survive.

Fishing Emphasis Area programs include the Missouri River System, Devils Lake, Lakes and Reservoirs, and Rivers and Streams. These programs cover not only fish populations and angler success, but also related factors like boating and fishing access. Most lakes or rivers also have their own management plan.

Often, factors that influence North Dakota fishing waters are beyond the Game and Fish Department's control. Drought can reduce lake levels to a point where they can no longer support fish. Other agencies that manage lakes or reservoirs don't always have North Dakota fishing as their primary focus. As such, the future of North Dakota's fisheries depends on the Game and Fish Department's ability to foster meaningful change if the state's fisheries resources are threatened; and to establish the types of habitats needed to sustain fisheries when long-term weather conditions are not ideal.

MISSOURI RIVER SYSTEM

The Missouri River System is North Dakota's most important fishery and provides habitat for several rare or endangered fish species. The system is broken up into four segments: the upper river west of Williston; Lake Sakakawea from Williston to Garrison Dam; the Garrison Reach stretch of free-flowing river from Garrison Dam to south of Bismarck; and Lake Oahe, about 60 miles of which is situated in North Dakota.

Maintaining quality fishing on the Missouri River System depends on water levels, and in 2005 in the wake of several dry years in the Missouri River basin, water levels are at record lows since the reservoirs filled 40 or more years ago. This not only directly or indirectly hurts most fish populations, but also reduces access potential for people who want to use these public waters.

Missouri River System management is primarily the responsibility of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Addressing Corps management plans and how they influence MRS fisheries is a continuing effort for not only Game and Fish administrators, but state officials as well. In addition, Game and Fish is planning to maintain access to Missouri River waters wherever possible, and will work to maintain fish populations that can respond quickly whenever water levels start to rise.

Similar low-water circumstances existed in the early 1990s and when water levels returned to normal, walleye and northern pike responded with record reproduction and angler catches within a few years. Objectives for 2010 point toward angler use and gamefish populations lower than peak levels of the early 2000s, but higher than levels of the early 1990s.



RIVERS AND STREAMS

This program includes the Red, Sheyenne, Souris, James, Cannonball, Heart, Knife and Little Missouri rivers, and all their associated tributary rivers, creeks and streams. These flowing waters provide many fishing opportunities and contain habitat for a variety of common and relatively rare fish species as well.

Most North Dakota rivers have been impounded in some way, either with large dams that created reservoirs, or smaller lowhead dams. In either case, dams impede natural fish movement and hurt riverine fishery potential. In addition, water diversions, channelization, bank stabilization and channel cleanout for economic purposes threatens many smaller streams.

Recreational fishing use of the state's rivers peaked in the late 1990s. By working to maintain or improve river habitat and provide more fishing access areas, the Game and Fish Department hopes to stabilize fishing use of the state's rivers at a level somewhat less than what occurred in the late '90s, but still significantly higher than the drought years of the early 1990s.

Removal of unneeded lowhead dams, preventing introduction of aquatic nuisance species, and working with landowners to develop more access sites are just some of the projects identified for the years ahead.

DEVILS LAKE

Devils Lake is North Dakota's largest natural water body. At one time within the last century it was nearly dry and supported no recreational fishery. In 2005 it spreads out over more than 100,000 acres; its fish populations are healthy; and it is the second most popular fishing destination in the state.

One of the challenges Game and Fish will embrace in the coming years is to manage Devils Lake's game fish population for a slightly lower catch rate, but larger average fish size.

While long-term weather patterns will always influence Devils Lake's fishery, the most immediate concern is the potential for introduction of exotic species into the Devils Lake basin. Currently, the basin does not have carp or other aquatic nuisance species that could damage the fishery, and Game and Fish has already developed educational projects that are increasing awareness about this real and serious threat.

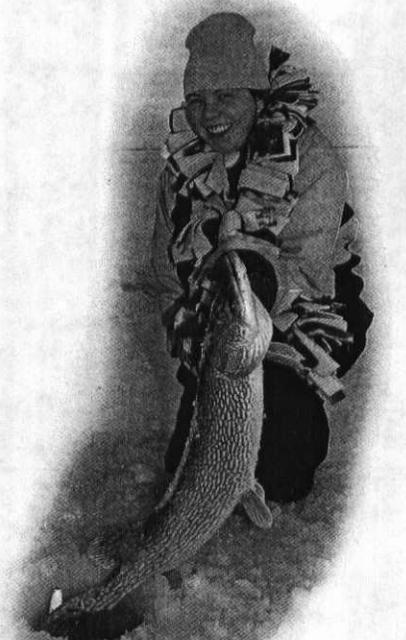
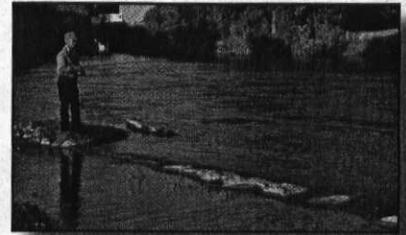
LAKES AND RESERVOIRS

North Dakota does not have a wealth of natural lakes that are deep enough to support recreational fisheries over the long term. Since the 1940s, however, many dams have been built. Some created reservoirs for flood control or water supply that incidentally support fish as well, while many smaller reservoirs were created specifically for recreation.

Overall, these natural lakes and man-made reservoirs account for about 300 fishing waters in North Dakota, about twice as many as existed in 1990. Plentiful rain and snow in the mid-1990s put enough water into many shallow natural lakes so they could support fish for at least several years.

In 2005, a series of dry years is threatening the longevity of these natural waters. Many larger reservoirs that remain deep enough to maintain long-term fish populations are having problems with sediment and nutrient loading.

In the next several years, fisheries managers plan to manage individual lakes for the game fish species that will best adapt to existing water levels and water quality. Overall, the Department's objectives are to sustain angler use and game fish populations at somewhat lower levels than exist in 2005, but still considerably higher than in the early 1990s.



habitat

emphasis area

RAY HOLLAND MARSH
WILDLIFE MGT. AREA
A P.R. PROJECT
NORTH DAKOTA
GAME AND FISH
DEPARTMENT

RAY HOLLAND
MARSH
STATE WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT AREA
OPEN TO
HUNTING

HABITAT IS THE KEY to all wildlife abundance. With good habitat, wildlife can thrive. Without habitat, wildlife populations decline.

At the start of the 21st century, many species that are hunted, fished and trapped in North Dakota are doing well because of habitat conserved or protected over the years, or because of newly developed habitat. That's part of the mission of the Game and Fish Department and most of that responsibility falls to programs in the Habitat Emphasis Area.

That means establishing a comprehensive vision for habitat conservation efforts that need to be continued, strengthened or initiated to give the Department its best chance at sustaining the wildlife populations necessary to provide the hunting and other wildlife opportunities citizens want.

The Conservation program participates in federal, state or private development initiatives that could affect habitat. Projects such as roads, bridges and pipelines are reviewed with the intent of minimizing damage to wildlife habitat. If suitable alternatives are not available, the Department seeks mitigation or similar replacement acres elsewhere. This program also evaluates and provides comments on plans that would negatively influence wildlife and habitat on North Dakota public lands.

The Wildlife Management Area program is responsible for taking care of roughly 183,000 acres the Game and Fish Department either owns or manages under lease from other agencies. This land is set aside for wildlife and the objective is to develop habitat that provides for maximum wildlife production.

The Private Land Initiative allows Department biologists to work with private landowners to create, improve or maintain habitat while at the same time developing access agreements that allow public hunting.

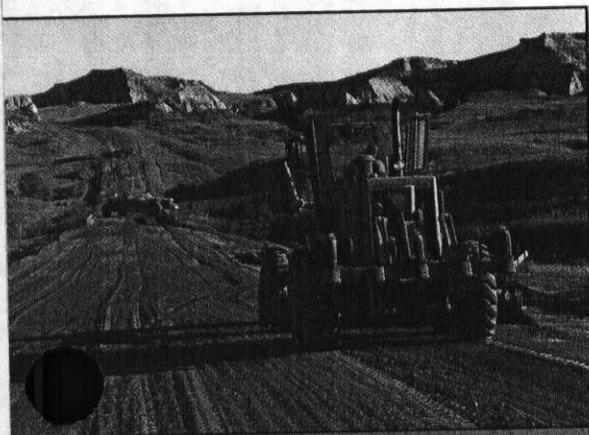
The Habitat Emphasis Area is also responsible for land acquisitions, easements and leases, federal farm bill input and coordination, promoting habitat conservation issues, suggesting habitat conservation legislation, managing invasive species, and assisting in wildlife depredation management.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Much of this program has its roots in the 1970s when several laws passed by Congress provided for safeguarding the country's natural resources. Legislation such as the Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy Act provided for environmental analysis with input from state and local governments, for projects on federal land or involving federal money.

The Conservation program evaluates and consults on development projects and provides technical guidance to eliminate or reduce habitat destruction, and also works to maintain or improve habitat on public and private land in the state. Most projects that are reviewed involve roads and bridges, energy development, public lands management and water development.

The primary goal of the Conservation Program for 2010 is to have no net loss of habitat from projects occurring in North Dakota. Accomplishing that involves thorough analysis of all project proposals and follow-up review of completed projects for compliance.



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Game and Fish Department in 2005 is managing 174 wildlife management areas, comprising 183,000 acres of public land in North Dakota. Game and Fish owns some of these acres outright, while many others are leased from other agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Most WMAs are managed for maximum wildlife production – not just game species, but all wildlife, as is the Department’s responsibility. Hunting and fishing access opportunities are equally important. Other wildlife-based recreation is allowed as long as it is compatible with, and does not detract from, the two primary purposes.

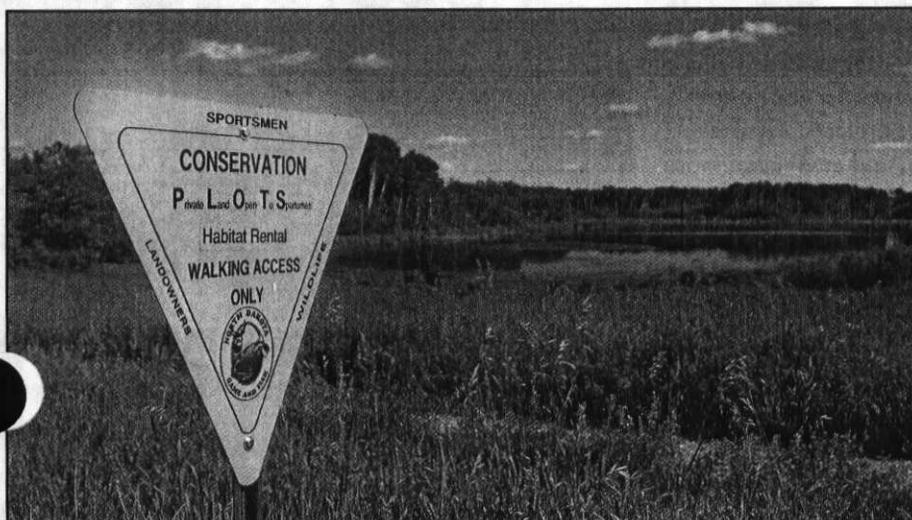
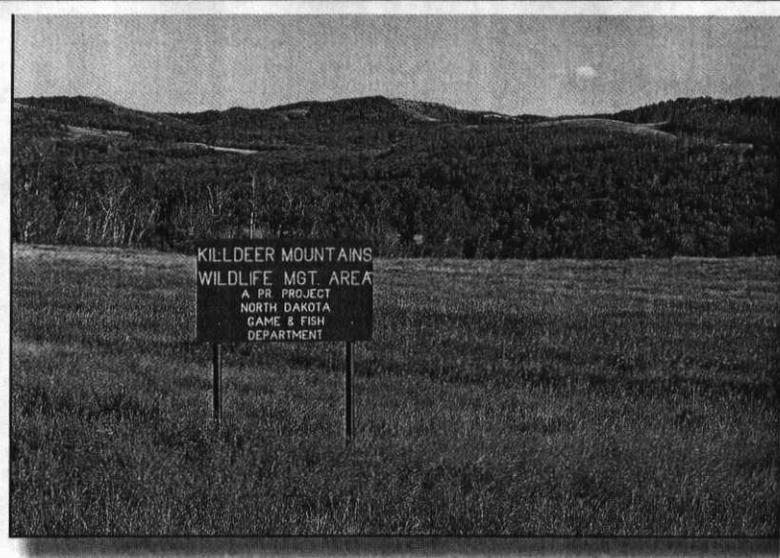
A priority objective for 2005 and beyond is to address problems with noncompatible WMA use such as camping in nondesignated areas, off-trail vehicle use and other activities that compromise wildlife production and hunting/fishing use. A second objective is to determine the need for additional WMAs and develop a plan for adding areas based on hunting needs, special habitats, and long-term adequate funding for management.

PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAM

Since the Game and Fish Department was created, agency administrators recognized that habitat enhancement on private land was necessary for managing and conserving the state’s public wildlife resources. No matter how much game could be produced on public lands specifically managed for wildlife, there just weren’t enough of these acres to influence wildlife populations statewide.

In the 1950s Game and Fish began a concerted effort to work with private landowners, beginning with education projects and providing funding for tree planting on private land. That expanded to technical assistance and cost-sharing on other habitat establishment, as well as working with landowners to solve deer depredation problems.

In recent years the Department’s Private Land Initiative has worked under legislative direction to not only maintain or improve habitat on private land, but also to gain public access for hunters to that habitat. Plan objectives for one million acres by 2010 are progressing ahead of schedule, but many existing contracts will expire before 2010, so much work is ahead to maintain landowner interest and secure contract renewals.



resource stewardship & enjoyment

emphasis area

HAVING ABUNDANT FISH, WILDLIFE AND HABITAT RESOURCES IS A WELCOME SITUATION made even better if the people who own them, the citizens of North Dakota, can use and enjoy them. That's what programs in the Resource Stewardship and Enjoyment Emphasis Area are all about.

Enforcement helps protect resources from overharvest or abuse and advocates safety for hunters, anglers, trappers and boaters. Administration Services prepares and distributes the licenses and applications that allow citizens the opportunity to pursue game and fish, manages the funds that support the work of all staff engaged in developing wildlife resources, and also manages the facilities around the state that provide public access to employees and services at six district offices.

Communications and Educational Services keeps people informed about regulations, season dates, individual species, wildlife habitat needs, conservation issues, and new ways to enjoy outdoor recreation. And Nongame Wildlife actively manages the 80 percent of North Dakota's wildlife that is not hunted, fished or trapped, and advocates awareness and appreciation of these species.

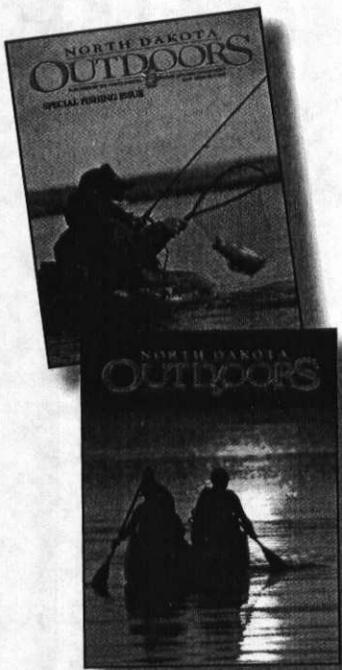
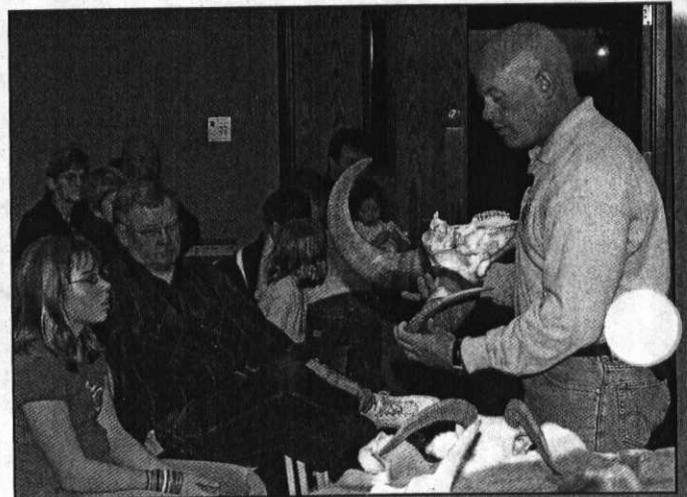
All of these programs together promote stewardship and awareness, so citizens become knowledgeable partners in fish and wildlife management.

COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Communications and Educational Services is a new program but not a new function within the Game and Fish Department. The Game and Fish Department has always had a need to let hunters and anglers know about regulations, as well as conservation issues that affect not just hunters, anglers and trappers, but all citizens of the state.

This process of informing and educating is carried out through specific programs like hunter education, boating safety and wildlife education, as well as through mass media efforts like *North Dakota OUTDOORS* magazine and television feature, news releases, radio, website and individual and group contacts from specialized outreach biologists as well as all staff members.

By 2010, this program has plans to expand several media and conservation education projects, involve more volunteers, and encourage more citizens to hunt, fish, trap and otherwise enjoy and appreciate the state's wildlife and habitat resources.

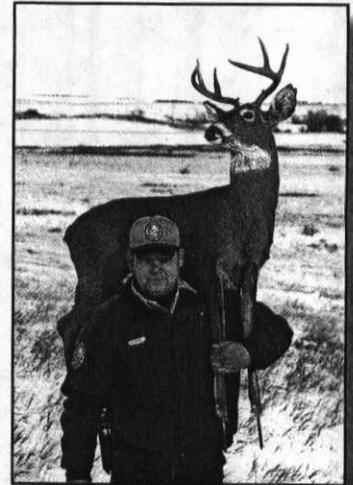


ENFORCEMENT

Dakota Territory enacted its first laws relating to taking of wildlife 14 years before North Dakota became a state in 1889. But it wasn't until 1930 that the Game and Fish Department had enough of a game warden staff – one full-time chief warden and 12 deputies – to have any real influence on law compliance.

As time moved along after 1930, the warden force grew along with the state's wildlife resources. In 2005 the enforcement division includes 34 highly trained licensed officers who strive to ensure compliance with laws and regulations so that people are safer in their outdoor pursuits, taking of fish and game is fairly distributed, and resources are adequately protected to ensure continued availability for public use.

Some of the high profile enforcement objectives for 2010 include increasing effectiveness and visibility of boating safety programs, and further developing the program to address increasing illegal activity in the commercialization of wildlife.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Administrative Services program manages several important Game and Fish Department functions, including license sales, printing and distribution of regulations and license application forms, conducting lottery license drawings, maintaining facilities, computer operations, accounting and federal aid compliance, and much more.

In the next several years, administrative services will work toward directly increasing convenience for customers, as well as supporting Game and Fish staff in their work to manage resources and serve the state's citizens. These will include Internet-based licensing systems at vendor locations, improved ease of use for license sales and applications at the Department website, suitable office and shop facilities, and greater access to a wide range of documents and data by staff and the public as well.

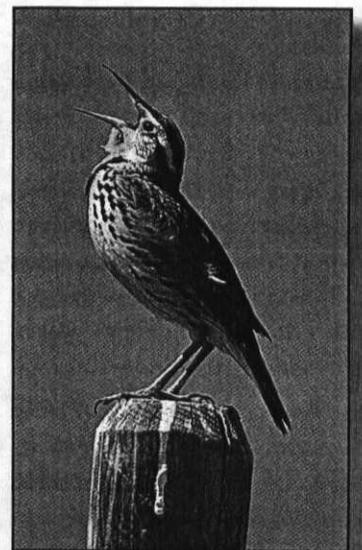


NONGAME WILDLIFE

Nongame Wildlife includes just about every wild animal in North Dakota that is not hunted, fished or trapped. That's more than 80 percent of the bird, mammal and fish species that live in or migrate through the state.

The Game and Fish Department's responsibility includes these nongame animals, but funding for management of these species has historically been inadequate. Since 1988 the Nongame Wildlife (now Watchable Wildlife) checkoff on the state tax form has provided some money. Currently, Game and Fish is also receiving federal money through the State Wildlife Grants Program that has allowed surveys on some species and development of a list of 100 species in North Dakota that currently need help or may need help in the future.

The next step in the State Wildlife Grants process is a comprehensive conservation strategy for the state's nongame species, which is scheduled for completion in late 2005. Beyond that, as long as State Wildlife Grants or other long-term funding program is in place, Game and Fish will work toward a nongame program that can actively manage certain species and their habitats, in much the same manner as game species are currently managed.



NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT OFFICES



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24-Hour License 1-800-406-6409
HIP 888-634-4798

● **Devils Lake District Office**
7928 45th Street NE
Devils Lake, ND 58301-8501
662-3617 Fax-662-3618

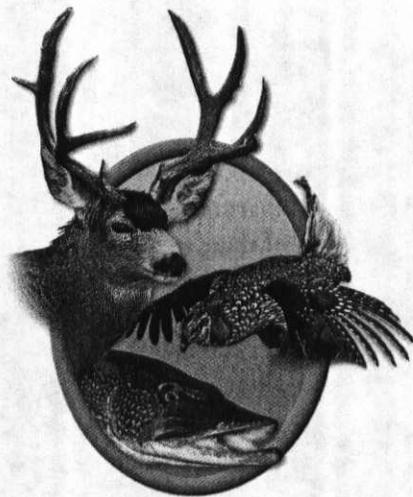
● **Dickinson District Office**
225 30th Avenue SW
Dickinson, ND 58601-7227
227-7431 Fax-227-7432

● **Jamestown District Office**
3320 East Lakeside Road
PO Box 309
Jamestown, ND 58402-0309
253-6480 Fax-253-6490

● **Lonetree WMA District Office**
1851 23rd Avenue NE
Harvey, ND 58341-9112
324-2211 Fax-324-2214

● **Riverdale District Office**
406 Dakota Avenue
Riverdale, ND 58565
654-7475 Fax-654-750

● **Williston District Office**
13932 West Front Street
Williston, ND 58801-8602
774-4320 Fax-774-4305



E-mail: ndgf@state.nd.us
website: www.discovernd.com/gnf

Handout #2

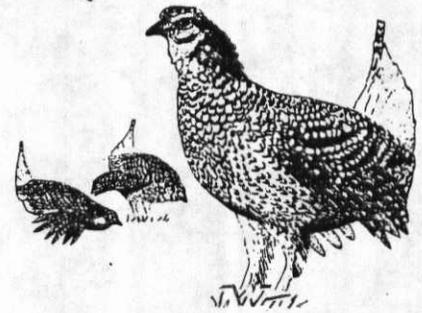
SB 2017
February 22, 2007



North Dakota Chapter

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1442 • BISMARCK, ND 58502



TESTIMONY OF MIKE McENROE
NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION
SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ON SB 2017, FEBRUARY 22, 2007

CHAIRMAN WALD AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am Mike McEnroe speaking for the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, an organization of approximately 300 natural resource managers, biologists, and educators in the State. The Chapter generally supports SB 2017, the budget bill for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. We are especially pleased with the funding and FTEs for three new positions; an additional law enforcement position, a bighorn sheep biologist, and a new fisheries technician for the Department.

However, there are two areas that concern us. First, the ever increasing cost to the Game and Fish Department for the Wildlife Services program. Wildlife Services is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, managed with input from the State Department of Agriculture, and jointly funded by the state and federal governments. Their mission is to reduce the amount of damage to agricultural crops, livestock and property done by wild animals. In recent years, the Game and Fish Department's share of the state funding has been increasing, from \$100,000 per biennium in 1999-2001, to \$550,000 last session. In this proposed budget, the Department's share again increases to \$680,000, plus an additional \$130,000 for the current biennium. The Game and Fish Department has little or no say in how these funds are used, and the sportsmen and women of

the State receive little benefit from these funds. We do not believe that this amount of funding for the Wildlife Services from Game and Fish funds is appropriate.

Second, the marina at Ft. Stevenson State Park; SB 2376 included \$600,000 from the Game and Fish Department and \$500,000 from the general fund for the marina. That bill failed and the currently proposed budget increases the Game and Fish Department share for the marina to \$ 1.1 million; \$400,000 from Coast Guard funds within the Department and \$700,000 from Game and Fish funds. No one will dispute that this is a good project, but it is not the Game and Fish Department's responsibility to fund projects for the State Parks and Recreation Department. The marina will benefit the entire region and the local economy around Lake Sakakawea. While there is no disagreement that fishermen and women will use the new marina, there will be a tremendous amount of other outdoor recreation at this facility that is neither Game and Fish Department, nor fish or wildlife related.

We would ask that you amend this appropriation to the original \$ 600,000 from the Game and Fish Department.

Thank you.

**USDA/Wildlife Services
Distribution of Funds, 2001-2003 Biennium**

Activity	2002			2003		
	State	Federal	Non-Govt.	State	Federal	Non-Govt.
Predator Damage Management (coyote, fox, etc.)	159,837	157,036	0	159,203	157,036	0
Beaver Damage Management	152,040	149,375	17,845	152,485	149,375	505
Protection of Human Health (raccoon, skunk, etc.)	38,985	38,301	0	38,586	38,301	0
Waterfowl Damage Management	23,393	22,981	0	49,139 ¹	22,981	0
Urban Wildlife Damage Mgt. (raccoon, skunk, rabbit, etc.)	15,592	15,321	0	15,434	15,321	270
Blackbird Damage Management	0	377,305	0	0	586,132	0
Airport Protection (deer, birds)	0	0	4,327	0	0	0
Aviation Operations (upgrade aircraft, training, etc)	0	24,012	0	0	60,288	0
Wildlife Disease Surveillance (West Nile virus)	0	5,000	0	0	0	0
Totals	389,847	789,331	22,172	414,847	1,029,434	775

¹ Includes \$25,000 from ND Game & Fish Department for administration of Canada goose depredation permit program

USDA Wildlife Services
Distribution of Funds, 2003-2005 Biennium

Activity	2004			2005		
	State	Federal	Non-Govt.	State	Federal	Non-Govt.
Predator Damage Management (coyote, fox, etc.)	192,000	185,825	0	172,000	155,230	0
Beaver Damage Management	124,000	120,012	7,132	140,000	126,350	3,958
Protection of Human Health (raccoon, skunk, etc.)	48,000	46,456	0	40,000	36,100	0
Waterfowl Damage Management	41,000 ¹	15,485	0	53,000 ¹	25,270	0
Urban Wildlife Damage Mgt. (raccoon, skunk, rabbit, etc.)	20,000	19,358	0	20,000	18,050	0
Blackbird Damage Management	0	584,393	0	0	520,926	0
Airport Protection (wildlife hazard assessments)	0	0	50,000	0	0	0
Aviation Operations (upgrade aircraft, training, etc)	0	92,942	0	0	61,142	0
Wildlife Disease Surveillance (assist with CWD, West Nile virus, etc.)	0	84,160	0	10,000 ²	86,355	0
Totals	425,000	1,148,631	57,132	435,000	1,029,423	3,958

¹ Includes \$25,000 from ND Game & Fish Department for administration of Canada goose depredation permit program

² \$10,000 from ND Dept. of Health for West Nile Virus surveillance

USDA/Wildlife Services
Projected Distribution of Funds, 2005-2007 Biennium

Activity	2006			2007		
	State	Federal	Non-Govt.	State	Federal	Non-Govt.
Predator Damage Management (coyote, fox, etc.)	287,000	290,057	0	287,000	290,057	0
Beaver Damage Management	0	0	??	0	0	??
Protection of Human Health (raccoon, skunk, etc.)	50,000	36,100	0	50,000	36,100	0
Waterfowl Damage Management	41,000	15,485	0	41,000	15,485	0
Urban Wildlife Damage Mgt. (raccoon, skunk, rabbit, etc.)	22,000	19,358	0	22,000	19,358	270
Blackbird Damage Management	0	152,926 ¹	0	0	152,926 ¹	0
Airport Protection (wildlife hazard assessments)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aviation Operations	0	61,142	0	0	61,142	0
Wildlife Disease Surveillance (assist with CWD, West Nile virus, etc.)	0	86,355	0	0	86,355	0
Totals	400,000	661,423	0	400,000	661,423	775

¹ Reflects a \$368,000 proposed decrease in President's FY06 budget

Lake Sakakawea - 2001

Proposed Work to Maintain Access at Elevation 1801

Category	Type	Dimensions	Top Elevation	Bottom Elevation	Bottom	Planned Work	Work Necessary at Elevation 1801
3	poured concrete	70' x 197'	1852.4	1799	1770	Extend bottom of ramp	\$25,000
4	concrete planks & slide-in metal channel dredging	12' x 80'	1816	1803	1796	Reinstall ramp	\$25,000
2	poured concrete	30' x 132'	1820.7	1805.5	1805	Dredge island out in front of ramp	\$80,000
4	poured concrete	15' x 432'	1857	1802	1790	Extend bottom of ramp and riprap	\$25,000
4	proposed ramp	16' x 170'	1820	1800	1790	Extend bottom of ramp, fill and riprap	\$15,000
4	poured concrete	30' x 400'	1830.6	1808	1790	Construct new ramp, parking lot and riprap	\$29,500
4	slide in metal sections	14' x 80'	1810	1802	1794	Extend bottom of ramp and riprap	\$50,000
4	poured concrete	30' x 240'	1850.97	1796	1790	Rework existing ramp, road, & parking area	\$30,000
4	poured concrete	30' x 240'	1850.97	1796	1790	Widen existing ramp 6' x 50' and riprap	\$10,000
4	slide in metal sections	14' x 80'			1791	Rip-rap sides of ramp	\$5,000
4	poured concrete	30' x 60'	1807	1800	1795	Construct new ramp, parking lot and road	\$64,000
4	poured concrete	20' x 155'	1830.8	1807.4	1798	Extend upwards & downwards	\$51,000
4	poured concrete	20' x 382'	1840	1806.5	1797	Extend bottom of existing ramp	\$40,000
4	slide in metal sections	14' x 80'			1797	Extend bottom of ramp, riprap	\$10,000
4	metal bridge deck sections	14' x 100'	1817.8	1805	1795	Proposed new ramp	\$40,000
						Maintain existing ramp, road, and expand parkii	\$25,000
Total							\$524,500
RECOMMENDED PROJECTS =							\$413,500

Lake Sakakawea - 2007

Other Proposed Activities to Take Advantage of Low-water Conditions

Category	Type	Dimensions	Top Elevation	Bottom Elevation	Bottom	Planned Work	Other Work That Should Be Done in 2007
3	poured concrete	70' x 107'	1852.4	1810	1770	Extend south side of ramp to 1808	\$15,000
4	poured concrete	12' x 71'	1852.5			Extend and widen existing ramp	\$38,000
4	slide in metal sections	12' x 118'	1810	1808	1803	Upgrade to poured concrete, exposed parking	\$41,000
4	poured concrete	20' x 268'	1853.8	1824.3	1822	Extend bottom of existing ramp, riprap	\$15,000
4	parking lot		1835	1810.6	1810	Level and add additional gravel	\$4,000
4	poured concrete	15' x 205'	1829.2	1810.6	1810	Add an additional 40' on top, riprap	\$8,000
4	repair existing ramp	32' x 354'	1853.7	1797	1787	Repair existing ramp	\$8,000
2	poured concrete	42' x 242'	1821.8	1790		Extend top to 1855, riprap	\$100,000
4	poured concrete	20' x 124'	1850.6	1835.4		Extend bottom of ramp and riprap	\$14,000
4	poured concrete	37' x 378'	1855.6	1832.6	1825	Extend bottom of ramp and riprap	\$25,000
4	poured concrete	30' x 400'	1830.6	1808	1790	Extend bottom of ramp and riprap	\$50,000
3	poured concrete	40' x 242'	1850	1821	1821	Remove silt at bottom of ramp	\$20,000
4	concrete planks	18' x 85'	1817.6	1807	1804	Upgrade/widen existing ramp & parking	\$63,000
4	poured concrete & concrete plank	32' x 108'				Repair/upgrade existing ramp	\$27,000
4	slide in metal sections	14' x 80'	1810	1807	1808	Upgrade existing ramp to concrete 30' wide	\$25,500
4	poured concrete	24' x 160'	1854	1836.7	1833	Extend bottom of ramp	\$7,000
4	poured concrete	20' x 155'	1830.8	1807.4	1795	Extend upper portion from 1830.8 to 1835	\$5,000
4	parking lot					Expand parking lot	\$25,000
4	breakwater					Raise existing breakwater to elevation 1855	\$55,000
4	concrete planks	12' x 85'	1855.7	1842.0	1835	Upgrade to poured concrete 30' x 110'	\$25,000
2	poured concrete	35' x 154'	1857	1835		Replace bottom portion of ramp	\$45,000
4	breakwater					Purchase rock and fuel	\$100,000
4	poured concrete					Fix or replace bottom end	\$10,000
Total							\$756,500
RECOMMENDED PROJECTS =							\$434,000

Wald, Francis J.

From: Captain Kit's Marina [h2o@westriv.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2007 10:19 AM
To: Wald, Francis J.
Subject: Senate Bill 2017 - Game & Fish Department

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members Of This Appropriation Committee,

Thank you for the time afforded me this morning concerning SB2017. It is clear in everyone's minds that we desperately need boat ramp work because of shrinking

Lake Levels. This bill touches on those needs. Because these funds are coming out of the Game & Fish Departments Budget I feel that the wording attached to these

funds is very important. The words (**FUNDING FOR RAMP IMPROVEMENTS AND MARINA DEVELOPMENT**) are not appropriate and create a dangerous scenario for

using Game & Fish Department Funds for the purpose of commercial development in the State. I would ask the Committee to consider dropping the language

(**AND MARINA DEVELOPMENT**) from it's final draft language on this Bill. Access to Lake Sakakawea is of vital importance to **ALL INTERESTS ON THE MISSOURI**

RIVER SYSTEM, not just a select few. Commercial interests and obligations should not be paid for with our Sportsman's Monies.

The wording, (**FUNDING FOR BOAT RAMP IMPROVEMENTS**), correctly directs those funds towards their intended purpose and takes away the possibility of

the misuse of North Dakota's Sportsman's dollars.

Thank You For Your Time And Consideration

Kit L. Henegar

Former State Representative

Owner, Captain Kit's Marina, Lake Sakakawea State Park

Porter, Todd K.

From: Porter, Todd K.
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2007 8:19 AM
To: Walstad, John M.
Subject: 2017

John:

These amendments are in Rep. Frank Wald's name. Inside of section 6 we want the youth plots at \$500,000.00. Only a youth under age 18 may hunt on the youth plots land. Youth plots are open to all hunters after November 1 of each year. Game and Fish is required to report to Legislative Council on the progress of the youth plots program. Youth plots program sunsets on June 30, 2009.

Thanks,

Todd

March 31, 2008.

SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the sixtieth legislative assembly that \$100,000 contained in the grants line item in section 3 of this Act be used to carry out a grant program to encourage hunting by youth. The director of the game and fish department may provide grants under this program to local communities to fund shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth. It is the intent of the sixtieth legislative assembly that \$1,000,000 contained in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 3 of this Act be used by the department to develop a private land open to sportsmen program for youth under age eighteen.

4/19/2007