

1999 HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES
HB 1369

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1369

Natural Resources Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 28, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2	X	X	
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Robin L. Small</i>			

Minutes:

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND AND REENACT SECTIONS 20.1-01-17, 20.1-01-18, 20.1-01-19, AND 20.1-01-20 OF THE NORTH DAKOTA CENTURY CODE, RELATING TO HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS.

REPRESENTATIVE MICK GROSZ: Opened hearing on HB 1369.

REPRESENTATIVE KERZMAN: State Representative, District 39. This is not a new idea. This is an anti-trespassing bill. I am introducing this on behalf of a number of landowners and my district. I have had calls through the years from landowners, and I guess this is an anti hassle bill. North Dakota is one of several states that does not have something like this. Neighboring states to the south have had anti-trespassing for years and I have a son that went down there last years. He really enjoyed it and we talked to some of the guys down there. To get back to what I call anti hassle, I have a number of repeat hunters on my property for several reasons because I appreciate the way they handle it. They pick up the phone during the year or at least a day or so before they come, and get permission. I really appreciate that fact. I don't like it when somebody just drives in the yard and I am expected to drop what I am doing because then saw a pheasant run into my property. During hunting season, this happens numerous times. It is not only the hassle of putting up the signs. What other sport do you do that - drive into a neighboring state and expect to find a place to hunt. A lot of times, these same guys will drive from Minot or Grand Forks or wherever, and by the time they get to my place, they probably have not found a lot of areas to hunt. There kind of hot under the collar and irritated. They drive 300 miles and can't find a place to hunt. All of a sudden slang words start flying out and it doesn't foster good relationships. If they would organize their hunting like a lot of other people do their sports, I have kids that ski, they wouldn't drive to Red Lodge without making a reservation. Hunting should be the same way. You

can't just drive into an area and expect to hunt. It is almost a thing of the past. And then we have the problem of not only posting but they have contested our posting numerous times. I went out there because somebody was hunting on my land. I went out there and asked if he saw the sign. He said yah but that it wasn't legible. He said he didn't think I took the 7 and made it into an 8 and he didn't think I signed it. You don't want to argue with a guy that has a gun. Just one of those things. It gives them an opening. That is what hunting does. I don't think it is the way to run things. I think we want to foster good relationships between hunters and landowners. Like I said, another piece of legislation. I am not anti hunting, I am not taking after Game and Fish, but I think we have some property rights and it is a right that we have as a landowner. I don't see people in town having to put a sign on every corner of their yard so that someone doesn't walk across it. That is basically what it is. They stuck them out and they said you didn't have a sign at that creek crossing or one on the gate was down. There are many different versions. I made several phone calls to try and have some people in today and one guy had to teach and couldn't get off and other people from other parts of the state couldn't make it. Also, I have a cosponsor today, Rep. Weisz. He has some amendments he would like to look at. I don't have any problem with it but he thought it would make a more pliable use of, not only a legislator, but a landowner to. He would like to express some of his concerns. I would be open to any questions.

REPRESENTATIVE FROELICH: State Representative, District 35. I stand before you not only as a representative, but also as a landowner. I wish Jim was here, I could say this real easy. I call this a respect bill. Representative Clark sits a few rows in front of me, I would not go down to his desk and disturb it. He doesn't have to put up a sign to tell me that. I call this the respect bill; this bill will make hunters respectful. When you go on a hunting trip, you plan ahead. It is those who don't plan ahead that usually cause problems. By passing this bill you tell everybody to be respectful of the other persons property. I have seen various instances of vandalism and disrespect, and that is why land is posted. There are maps available stating who the landowners are, and if you do any hunting you should check ahead and contact those landowners. I will bet that 99 percent of them will allow permission if they are previously contacted. This bill lets the landowner know who you are well in advance of your hunting on their land. That is respect. This bill is not an anti-trespassing bill. It is a respect bill. I think the majority of hunters are respectful. This bill tells the rest of them to get their act together.

REPRESENTATIVE WEISZ: State Representative, District 14. In support of HB 1369 for reasons already covered. The reason for this bill is for lack of a better description for hunters who are an embarrassment to decent sportsmen; those who make problems for landowners, anti-hunting groups, and respectful hunters. I support this bill not from the standpoint of banning hunting, but as pro-sports. As a landowner, I think we have a right to be able to know who is hunting on our land. Present problems are causing dissension among landowners; problems and friction between hunters and landowners. We feel this bill will go a long way towards reducing tension between groups, will help foster better relationships, and without cost to the state. There are a couple of proposals that I think might help. One is that anybody who wants to charge a fee hunting, should be required to post their land as such. The other proposal is the idea of awarding landowner to allow sportsmen to hunt on their land. South Dakota had a fee added to the license, and if the sportsman harvested an animal or bird on some property, the fee then went directly to that landowner. These are things that could be done to encourage landowners to allow hunting on their land.

REPRESENTATIVE GALVIN: I tend to agree. Have you thought about any method of letting people know to get it closed; if they want to have permission, how to make that a little easier?

REPRESENTATIVE WEISZ: County atlases are available for a fee, and they list all pertinent information. It is not that difficult to get a hold of the landowner and visit with them.

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON: Do you see the relationship between hunters and landowners improving over the years or getting more confrontational?

REPRESENTATIVE WEISZ: I think the last couple of years has seen worse relationships, and it is probably only in certain areas. Problems also seem to be more prevalent when there is a good population of game.

JOHN HANSON: Rancher from Slope county. I stand in support of this bill for all of the reasons mentioned prior. To any critic of the trespass problem I only invite you to be with us for a period of time during hunting season.

WADE MOSER: North Dakota Stockmen's Assn. In support of the bill. I agree with Rep. Weisz when he says this bill is pro-sportsmen. That may sound odd coming from us, but as trespass issues come about and sportsmen oppose these issues, it essentially doesn't effect them because most of them ask for permission anyway. South Dakota has proven that this can work.

BRIAN KRAMER: North Dakota Farm Bureau. In support of the bill for reasons mentioned. How can you have property rights if you don't have the right to have your land posted without having to put up a sign? I think this needs to be considered. We have a situation where when we post the land, we seem to have more hunters on it. When we took down the signs and, amazingly, we have very few hunters now. But those that do come are very respectful. We have some hunters who have left tokens of appreciation, such as a sack of potatoes. We do not see this as anti-hunting, but rather as a communications bill.

PAT KANDER: Manager of Cannonball Co. In support of the bill. I question the validity of the amendment fee hunting. I would like to see reconsideration of the amendment.

DENNIS JOHNSON: ND Farmers Union. In support of bill. We believe that all land should be posted, and that hunters should ask permission of landowners. So this bill supports our doctrine. What has been done to try to educate that segment of hunters that cause the problems? Education goes a long way in solving a lot of problems.

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON: As a former hunter education teacher, I feel this issue is as important as learning how to shoot a gun. If you don't respect private property you won't be able to shoot a gun as a hunting sport. I think the hunter education people incorporate this into their curriculum.

ENNIS JOHNSON: Has that program been going long enough so we are able to see results?

REPRESENTATIVE GROSZ: This aspect is not an issue. We will discuss at another time.

ROGER ROSTAD: Deputy Director of Game and Fish Department. In opposition. Testimony and Executive Summary attached.

REPRESENTATIVE PORTER: How long will it take for landowners across the state to realize that posting laws have changed?

ROGER ROSTAD: The regulations are published very distinctly each year.

REPRESENTATIVE DEKREY: Is it illegal to someone else's land?

ROGER ROSTAD: Yes it is, without their consent. This usually happens to landowners who are absent for long periods of time.

SCOTT LANG: Founding Director of the Landowner, Sportsmen Council. I have worked on title searches across ND, SD, and MT. If I thought this bill would overcome the problems mentioned, I think I would be the first to do that. However, what I find is that we had multiple owners of the same tracts of land. One of the reasons that 60 percent of the land is unposted right now is because of the nonresident situation. If you set up a situation where the landowner is required to come back and post the land, that won't happen. The atlas, which costs \$85, is usually outdated in two to three years. South Dakota has a number of large tracts of land. ND is so divided up amongst various landowners, and I think that is very important to consider. The signs that the Game and Fish talk about, they overcome a lot of problems since the landowners name is on the sign. Montana is also a state with large tracts of land. SD and MT don't have the problems ND does just because of this fact.

RAY HAGER: Retired school administrator. I oppose this bill for two reasons. One is the absentee landowner. Trying to find some owners is a problem, especially if they own the land but have a permanent address out of state. I understand where the farmer and rancher is coming from, but don't change the law because of the five percent slop that cause the problems. The other reason is that all the small town are going to lose money making the signs.

PAUL KERRY: Cass County Wildlife Club. We oppose this bill. I am an absentee landowner, and I have never posted it. I just am not going to take the time to go there and post it.

MIKE DONAHUE: ND Wildlife Federation. We oppose this bill. We believe that the present law is not unreasonable to hunter or owner. The federation encourages asking permission whether posted or not posted. We see this bill as turning against our younger generation who move to other states, and having to come back and find out who owns the land. We disagree that this bill will eliminate "the slop." We are not defending those who don't ask.

ARNOLD NEIMEIER: Representing self. All hunting is not the same. I would really never hunt without asking permission. However, there is an exception and that is in the snow goose hunting, where so many people realize you can't decoy snow geese anymore. I have found that some areas are less posted because of the snow geese hunting.

ARNOLD LANG: Representing self. I oppose this bill. We are only stewards of the land in passing. I finally, after ten years, got a mule deer tag out in the Badlands. It was good to go hunting and being able to drive around the country knowing the land isn't posted and being able to hunt there. What bothers me is where land is posted and you have to spend most of your day looking for the landowner. Who are we, as temporary stewards, to say who can or cannot hunt on the land. Also, is this what we want - to be able to hunt in ND you have to pay to hunt - a rich man's sport? Another thing, posted land could be a place where deer "hide" and you can't go onto that land and hunt. Will this law make it harder on game wardens?

LARRY KNOBLICH: United Sportsmen of ND. In opposition. Testimony attached.

REPRESENTATIVE GALVIN: How do you define private property rights?

LARRY KNOBLICH: I posed the question to a lawyer. What is our trespass law? He said that it is ND civil law that it is assumed that if land is not posted, that it is open to public use. So if someone want to cross it, they can. If you want them to stay off, post a no trespassing sign, and then you have legal recourse. So, this present law, if it's not posted - you can go in - is contrary to what is assumed in law and what is assumed in most peoples' mind.

REPRESENTATIVE NOTTESTAD: Other states that have nonsignage trespass laws, I have heard they have much more liberal availability of game and fish, to purchase hunting areas?

LARRY KNOBLICH: It is true that ND Game and Fish is having a difficult time in purchasing. We have many people really battling it. I don't know if we can count on the amount of public land, if it can be expanded more that it is.

REPRESENTATIVE NOTTESTAD: If the law that prohibits Game and Fish from acquiring property for public hunting - if that law were lifted so that it could be acquired, would there be as much opposition to a bill of this sort?

LARRY KNOBLICH: I think so. I wouldn't be a great amount of land, so I don't think it have a lot of impact.

PAUL KERRY: I live in a wooded area, and most of the area is not posted. If we pass this law, it would shut the whole area off for hunting.

REPRESENTATIVE DROVDAL: There are a number of lease agreements across ND, and part of the agreement is that the land has to be left open to hunting. Can you share circumstances where the

landowner would be required to have that land posted for hunting if this bill passes - such as some of the cost sharing.

ROGER ROSTADT: Anything that we would cost share on or are open access on, we require to be posted. This is private land and we have an agreement on it.

REPRESENTATIVE DROVDAL: At whose expense would the posting of that land be and would you take a guess at about how many acres that would cover?

ROGER ROSTADT: Right now, agreements where we pay the farmer total 61,000 acres in the state. We cover the cost of posting now.

REPRESENTATIVE PORTER: You are out there providing the signs for the cost share programs now and posting this as open to public hunting; if someone goes into a remote area and removes the signs, then under this bill that land would be automatically be posted to someone who didn't know that it should be open.

ROGER ROSTADT: . It would be a violation to remove those signs, but technically it would be open.

REPRESENTATIVE PORTER: The difference would be that if this law were in place is that all that a person would have to do to keep people off the land is to take the signs down and say open to public hunting. Anybody driving by would think that it is posted because there is no sign that requires posting.

ROGER ROSTADT: That would be correct. However, we do publish each year a legal description of those properties.

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON: Your department also provides a green sign, "Ask before you enter" to landowners. Do have any numbers as to how many of those signs are used, and I assume you cover those costs.

ROGER ROSTADT: Some of those funds are provided by ND landowners and sportsmen. We do not give many out, but it is increasing every year. Probably less than 1000.

Close hearing on HB 1369

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1369-A

House Natural Resources Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1-28-99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Robin D. Small</i>			

Minutes:

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND AND REENACT SECTIONS 20.1-01-20 OF THE NORTH DAKOTA CENTURY CODE, RELATING TO HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS.

REPRESENTATIVE GROSZ: Opened hearing. Moved by Representative Martinson. Seconded by Representative Porter.

REPRESENTATIVE HANSON: On line 20, it says pursuing gaming, present law if you wound an animal or bird and it goes into a posted area if you could go in there without your gun and retrieve it and that would remove that part of our present law.

REPRESENTATIVE PORTER: Also, Rep. Hanson, in Section 3 it does the same thing on the back page, it even makes it more explicit that you can't go in there without permission. There are two areas that do that.

REPRESENTATIVE SANDVIG: I kind of like this bill. I am from the city but I grew up on a farm and I can remember going out with my mother and having to chase hunters off our land and she did a really good job. I can also remember when we were on the farm, my husband and I, we had people come and ask to hunt and that was great. We would let them on the land. We also had people out there and we would have to kick them off. It wasn't a fun thing to do. We would have people shoot across the river. I think this would be good.

REPRESENTATIVE DROVDAL: A lot of the people from my district are testifying on behalf of this bill, and yet, when I get home, I have a lot of hunters that hate this bill. No matter how I

vote, I am going to lose. The problem we have with our district is that there is a lot of land not owned by North Dakotans and they have no problem with people hunting. At the same time, I see people in here who want to utilize this so they can have tree hunting in North Dakota. Tree hunting will be coming very strong if we pass this and very little land will be available to hunters across North Dakota, except government land which will overburden it. Then the Forest Service will pull even more permits off the grazing land, therefore causing economic deprivation. I have a lot of problems every time they bring one of these bills in and I will support a Do Not Pass, because in the long term, it is better for everyone.

REPRESENTATIVE GROSZ: I agree with Rep. Drovdal, I empathize with the farmers and their plight in this. I don't mind people hunting on my brother's land, but I won't go out and post saying that you can hunt on it. It would almost be like telemarketers calling every hunting season.

REPRESENTATIVE NOTTESTAD: I would like to dispel the one thing that was said pertaining to access to land by a deed book and that sort of thing. Presently, if someone has the land posted. You can go to the posting and see a name. The way this bill is, you would have no idea who is operating the land. You could make the effort to track down the landowner. Tracing down the land is easy but that is not the case because it would be easier now than it would be under this bill.

REPRESENTATIVE LUNDGREN: I am going to have to vote against the Do Not Pass partially because I am one of those people that lives on the other side of the tree row and I have had hunters shoot through my yard with the kids in the yard. I know that because when limbs fall right after the shot sounds, I know where it is coming from. I don't deny hunters the right to hunt on our land even though we posted it. But I want a face-to-face or a phone call from them so I know who it is that is hunting there. I want their name, address, and phone number so we both have protection.

REPRESENTATIVE SANDVIG: I would like to respond to what Rep. Nottestad said. When our land is posted, we live 15 miles from Sheldon and it isn't that easy to find us. It isn't that easy with the address on it.

REPRESENTATIVE PORTER: Question for Rep. Lundgren. The tree row, is that your land?

REPRESENTATIVE LUNDGREN: _____

REPRESENTATIVE PORTER: This bill wouldn't stop that anyway. This bill has nothing to do with that anyway. Those people that are shooting that close to your house, the law already says that within 440 yards of an occupied residence, unless it is that person's land and you have permission to hunt on that land but then you also have to remember that someone shooting that close to an occupied residence even if it is their land, is always at risk of a charge of reckless

endangerment if they would shoot near or towards someone that is standing outside. This bill would do nothing for that situation.

REPRESENTATIVE GALVIN: I can't imagine what right anybody has on anybody's land without permission, but after hearing what it would do to hunting in North Dakota, I guess I will have to vote yes on a Do Not Pass.

REPRESENTATIVE NOTTESTAD: Response to Rep. Sandvig's statement. I only reason that I put it the way I did is that if there is a sign, at least you know the right person you are dealing with. Finding them is your problem, that is no big deal. At least you know who you are looking for. That is the important part.

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON: In the spirit of bipartisan support and cooperation, I am going to support the Do Not Pass on this one. We are expecting this bill to fix a lot of landowners/sportsmen relationships. This bill is not designed to fix that. We have to acknowledge at least that hunting is an important part of the economy of North Dakota especially rural North Dakota. I am fearful what this will do given the differences between South Dakota and Montana and the section line laws, at the very best that do have to be amended out or we are going to lose the hunters, the Game and Fish will be in here. We won't be arguing about their surplus anymore, because there is not going to be one. The resident license fees are going to increase because of less people hunting and we are going to get rid of the way of life. It may not do it overnight, but it certainly is a good start. This bill needs to go down.

REPRESENTATIVE DROVDAL: One thing that has not been mentioned is something we get a lot of calls on out there and that is the problems caused by the deer in the winter from deprivation. I do believe that a lot of North Dakotans are going to quit hunting if it gets so impossible because they are unable to get a hold of landowners. That will increase that problem that we have.

Please type or use black pen to complete

Date 1-28-99

Roll call vote # _____

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1369

House Natural Resources Committee

Subcommittee on _____

Conference Committee

} Identify or check where appropriate

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Rep. Martinson Seconded By Rep. Porter

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Mick Gross	✓				
Dale Henneker	✓				
Byron Clark					
David Droudel	✓				
Pat Galvin	✓				
Duane DeKrey		✓			
Darrell Nottestad	✓				
Jon Nelson	✓				
Todd Porter	✓				
Jon Martinson	✓				
Lyle Hanson	✓				
Scott Kelsh	✓				
Deb Lundgren		✓			
Sally Sandvig		✓			

Total 10 3
(Yes) (No)

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep. Todd Porter

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

DO NOT USE HIGHLIGHTER ON ANY FORMS

1999 TESTIMONY
HB 1369

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH TESTIMONY
HB 1369: TRESPASS ON PRIVATE LAND
HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 28, 1999

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department opposes HB 1369. This bill would in effect would create the most restrictive trespass law in this region of the country. This bill would automatically post millions of acres of private land which currently are open to hunting, whether the owner wants it posted or not.

North Dakota trespass laws have evolved over the years to their present form which in most cases works rather well. Past legislative sessions have refined the trespass law eliminating former requirement such as, posting every 440 yards even on fenced areas, replacing, dating or resigning every year, even the requirement of having an address has been dropped. Current law only requires the individual's name on a sign, no dates or addresses are required. Current law requires that signs be posted only on the gates of property enclosed by fence or enclosure. On unfenced property signs are only required every one half mile around the property. Under current law signs can be permanent and need not be replaced yearly.

Hunting differs from other types of outdoor recreational activities such as picnicking and nature walks. At times access to private land is essential because wildlife a publicly owned resource, occurs on all types of land regardless of land ownership. North Dakota has the least amount of public land open for hunting in the region, approximately only 6%. Currently unposted land provides millions of acres of hunting access. Many of the individuals who use this access option do not have the time or finances to secure more exclusive options.

According to a study, “Surveys of North Dakota’s Landowners, Resident Hunters, and Nonresident Hunters” conducted in 1997 by BlueStem Inc. and Precision Marketing Inc. approximately **60%** of private land in North Dakota was **not posted** and only 31.6% of landowners post three fourths or more of their land.

Hunting provides millions of dollars to North Dakota’s economy in expenditures by both resident and nonresident. More than 20,000 nonresident hunters visit our state each year to hunt, bring in millions of new dollars into the states economy. A significant portion of both resident and nonresident expenditures are in rural areas of the state. There is little factual information as to what effect a change in the trespass law would have on resident hunter participation. However in the previously cited study, of the North Dakota residents who hunted on private land, 31.8% indicated doing a majority of their hunting on land that is not posted. Nonresidents were asked the question “How likely would you be to hunt in North Dakota in the future if open access to unposted hunting land for nonresident hunters was restricted. The response by 55.3% of respondents was not very likely (29.3%) or not at all likely (26.0%) only 26% said they would very likely hunt North Dakota in the future. By contrast even reductions in game populations, license fee increases, further restrictions in hunting days allowed, restrictions on licenses available, reductions in daily; seasonal; or possession limits, or any increase in the cost of services would not have as significant an impact. The only other thing that would make a nonresident more likely not to consider coming to North Dakota to hunt would be if they were made to purchase the services of a guide or outfitter or only allowing them to hunt on weekdays.

South Dakota’s current law on trespass is probably the most similar to what is proposed in North Dakota. When South Dakota’s law was enacted in the mid 70s there was the exception that all roadways and ditches including section lines would be open too public hunting even if the land was

privately owned. How is their law working? SD law has created a group of hunters who almost exclusively road hunt which in itself has created problems. Over the past three years SD averaged 147 trespass convictions per year, ND averages 27. In recent years ND Game Wardens have noted a significant drop in reported trespass complaints. Due to recent legislative changes a violation of current ND trespass law carries a significant penalty. A first time offense is a Class B Misdemeanor and requires a mandatory 1 yr. suspension of hunting fishing and trapping privileges. A second offense is a Class A Misdemeanor and requires a mandatory two year suspension. SD can suspend privileges only if it can be proven that the violation was knowingly committed. According to SD Game Fish and Parks official by the beginning of deer season approximately 30% of South Dakota's private land has some type of sign up regarding "No Trespassing" even though there is no legal requirement.

Simply locating an owner or operator could be a significant task. According to a 1992 North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service's report on Farm and Ranch Characteristics (the most current available) there were only 18,648 farm and ranches in North Dakota with sales of more than \$10,000 where the owner/operator resided on the farm or ranch. Only 3,995 of those were full owners of those farms and ranches.

In conclusion current North Dakota trespass laws appear to be working. Past legislative sessions have refined and reduced the legal posting requirements for private landowners who wish to regulate access to their private land. Current law provides adequate penalties to detour violations. Individuals who do not desire to restrict or want hunting to occur as in the case of predator hunting and nuisance animal control, are not infringed upon. Current economic considerations are not effected. Thousands of hunters are able to access private land who because of time constants or finances are able to find hunting access without putting extra pressure on already heavily utilized public land. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department urges a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation on HB 1369.

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH
DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
OF
SURVEYS OF NORTH DAKOTA'S
LANDOWNERS, RESIDENT HUNTERS,
AND
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

Prepared by

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Submitted to

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
100 N. Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

August 1, 1997

Why was this study done?

Sportsmen, legislators, and North Dakota Game and Fish Department staff throughout the state have all heard concerns about everything being posted, bad experiences between landowners and hunters, and resident hunters never being able to gain access to quality hunting land because it's all being leased by out-of-state hunters. Because of this, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department) determined they needed objective, quantifiable data that will enable them to...

- ...*accurately assess* the hunting-related experiences of a random, representative sample of resident hunters, landowners, and nonresident hunters.
- ...*determine the extent* to which the concerns we hear are representative of the experiences of most resident hunters and landowners.
- ...*measure how hunting-related experiences have changed* since the 1991 season.
- ...*make informed recommendations and/or decisions* about policy changes that would be most likely to improve both landowners' and hunters' overall hunting experiences.

How was the study done?

In 1992, the Department and the Landowner Sportsmen Council conducted a study of landowners and resident hunters about their experiences during the 1991 hunting season, posting, pay hunting, and levels at which hunters gain (and landowners provide) access to private land. To measure trends from the 1991 to 1996 hunting season, some of the questions and response formats from these benchmark surveys were repeated in the recent landowner and resident hunter surveys. A random sample of 506 landowners and 508 resident hunters statewide were surveyed about the 1996 hunting season.

The study of the 1996 season was expanded beyond the scope of the benchmark surveys. First, a survey of 400 nonresident hunters was conducted. This segment of hunters had not been surveyed in 1992. Second, an over sample of landowners/producers in high harvest counties for pheasant, waterfowl, and nonresident archery deer (Figure 1) was completed in addition to the statewide random sample of landowners. Fifty landowners/producers were surveyed in each of 30 selected high harvest counties. These over sample landowner/producers obtained a majority of their annual income from production agriculture.

Major Issues

The major issues raised most frequently to the Game and Fish Department typically focus on resident hunters not being able to find places to hunt, the amount of land that is posted and the impact this may have on resident hunters' ability to hunt, and the extent of pay hunting and its impact on resident hunters. While the surveys conducted with resident hunters, landowners/producers, and nonresident hunters address a wide variety of topics, the purpose of this executive summary is to outline findings related to these major issues.

How much land is posted?

- *Landowners* were asked to estimate the total acres for which they have posting rights and the total number of acres they actually post. Based on these reported acreage figures, landowners statewide post...
 - 40.8% of all land for which they have posting rights.
 - 33.9% of all Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for which they have posting rights.
- When we look at the high harvest counties identified, we see that a higher proportion of land is posted in some areas. For example...
 - areas in which a higher proportion of total acres are posted are the nonresident archery deer (60.2%) and pheasant (50.0%) counties.
 - areas in which a higher proportion of CRP acres are posted are again the pheasant (70%) and nonresident archery deer (57%) counties.
- Both landowners/producers and resident hunters were asked to estimate the proportion of their land (or the land they hunt) that is posted. In general, the findings suggest the proportion of land that one sees as being posted depends on the side of the posted sign from which one views this issue.
 - Statewide, 31.6% of *landowners* indicated they post three-quarters or more of their land, compared to 58.7% who reported posting one-quarter or less of their land.
 - As was seen earlier, higher proportions of *landowners/producers* in high harvest pheasant (46.1%), waterfowl (35.4%), and nonresident archery deer (46.2%) counties indicated three-quarters or more of their land is posted.
 - When we look at the responses of *resident hunters* statewide, however, 65.4% of bow big game hunters, 62.8% of rifle big game hunters, 69.0% of upland game hunters, and 44.8% of waterfowl hunters feel that three-quarters or more of the land they hunt for these species is posted.
- **Conclusion:** Nearly 60% of land controlled by North Dakota landowners is not posted. However, higher proportion of land is likely to be posted in the pheasant (50% of total acres and 70% of CRP), waterfowl (40% of total acres and 43.3% of CRP), and nonresident archery deer (60% of total acres and 57% of CRP) high harvest counties.

Is there more posted land than there used to be?

- In *resident hunter* surveys conducted for both the 1991 and 1996 hunting seasons, respondents were asked to indicate whether the amount of land that is now posted has increased, stayed the same, or decreased over the past three years.
 - Statewide, the proportions of resident hunters who feel the amount of posted land had increased changed from 67.0% for the 1991 season to 56.9% for the 1996 season.
 - When looking at the findings for the 1996 season by species hunted, we see that slightly higher proportions of bow hunters (66.7%), waterfowl hunters (63.4%), and upland game hunters (62.5%) indicated the amount of posted land has increased.
 - In *landowner* surveys conducted for both the 1991 and 1996 hunting seasons, respondents were asked to indicate (1) how much of their land they post and (2) whether the amount of land that is now posted has increased, stayed the same, or decreased compared to the three years prior.
 - Statewide, the proportion of landowners who said...
 - they “post three-quarters or more of their land” changed from 40.6% for the 1991 season to 31.6% for the 1996 season.
 - “compared to three years ago the amount of land they now post has increased”, changed from 16.2% for the 1991 season to 9.3% for the 1996 season.
 - The findings for the 1996 season again show that slightly higher proportions of landowners/producers in high harvest counties (16.1% - nonresident archery deer; 15.3% pheasant; and 14.0% waterfowl) indicated the amount of land they now post has increased compared to the three years prior.
- **Conclusion:** Posting of private land does not appear to be increasing statewide. However, there are differences between the amount of land landowners say they are posting and the amount of land hunters feel is posted. The variation of perceived changes in posting of private land by resident hunters and landowners may be due to cumulative impacts of posting over time and/or that land posting is reaching its maximum. Or, it may be a result of resident hunters who hunt primarily in high harvest counties where (1) a higher proportion of landowners/producers post three-quarters or more of their land and (2) a larger proportion of landowners/producers in 1996 reported increased posting activities compared to the three years prior.

Can you get access to posted private land?

- *Residents hunters* were asked to think about the times they asked a landowner for permission to hunt on posted land, then indicate how frequently they received permission to hunt on the posted land after they asked.
 - Statewide, roughly 80% of hunters – big game, upland game, and waterfowl – received permission three-quarters of the time or more when they asked to hunt posted land.
 - When we look at the smaller segment of hunters who hunted high harvest counties (i.e., big game hunters who usually hunted in high harvest nonresident bow deer counties, upland game hunters who usually hunted in high harvest pheasant counties, etc.), we see that these hunters were less successful in receiving permission three-quarters of the time or more. Sixty percent of upland game hunters in high harvest pheasant counties, and 59% of waterfowl hunters in high harvest waterfowl counties received permission majority of the time. Big game rifle (53.8%) and big game bow (57.1%) were slightly less successful in gaining permission a majority of the time in high harvest nonresident archery deer counties.
- *Landowners* were also asked, of the hunters who asked for permission to hunt on their land, how often did they give the hunters permission.
 - Statewide, a majority of landowners reported giving big game hunters (71.7%), upland game hunters (68.6%), and waterfowl hunters (83.9%) permission to hunt their land three-quarters or more of the times that hunters asked.
 - In the high harvest counties, slightly lower proportions of landowners/producers reported giving permission to hunters three-quarters or more of the times they asked, ...
 - 54.8% landowners/producers in nonresident archery deer counties reported granting permission three-quarters or more of the times to big game hunters,
 - 58.6% of landowners/producers in pheasant counties reported granting permission three-quarters or more of the times to upland game hunters, and
 - 71.5% of landowners/producers in waterfowl counties reported granting permission three-quarters or more of the times to waterfowl hunters.
- **Conclusion:** A large majority of resident hunters frequently ask for and receive permission to hunt on posted land. However, success is somewhat lower in the high harvest counties.

Do landowners require you to pay hunt?

- Leasing of land for hunting in 1996:
 - Statewide, 0.4% of *landowners* reported leasing land to hunters, 1.0% of *resident hunters* reported leasing hunting land from landowners, and 1.0% of *nonresident hunters* reported leasing hunting land from landowners.
- Paying fees to access hunting land in 1996:
 - Statewide, 0.6% of *landowners* reported receiving fees for allowing hunters access to their land, 1.2% of *resident hunters* reported paying fees to gain access to hunting land, and 5.8% of *nonresident hunters* reported paying fees to gain access to hunting land.
- Assuming worse case scenarios, in which (1) the landowner respondents were not sure if they leased or received payments for hunting actually did offer pay hunting and/or (2) a fluctuation within the sample's allowable margin of error may under represent the number of landowners who actually lease land or accept fees.
 - As many as 3.0% of landowners statewide could lease land for hunting.
 - As many as 3.4% of landowners statewide could accept fees for allowing hunting access.
 - In these worse case scenarios, we see some *potential* differences between landowners statewide and those in the high harvest counties.
 - As many as 5.7% of landowners/producers in high harvest nonresident archery deer, 3.8% in pheasant, and 4.1% in waterfowl counties could lease land for hunting.
 - As many as 7.7% of landowners/producers in high harvest nonresident archery deer, 4.9% in pheasant, and 5.3% in waterfowl counties could accept fees for allowing hunting access.
- Changes from the 1991 season to the 1996 season:
 - The proportion of *resident hunters* who...
 - ...leased land from a landowner changed from 2.0% in 1991 to 1.0% in 1996.
 - ...paid a fee to a landowner for access to hunting land changed from 2.4% in 1991 to 1.2% in 1996.
 - The proportion of *landowners* who...
 - ...leased land to hunters changed from 2.8% in 1991 to 0.4% in 1996.
 - ...received a fee from hunters for access to hunting land changed from 1.0% in 1991 to 0.6% in 1996.
 - *All of these changes from 1991 to 1996 are statistically insignificant.*
- **Conclusion:** Very few landowners lease land to or receive payments from hunters for hunting access. Also, the number of landowners who lease land to or require payments from hunters does not appear to be increasing.

Are hunting opportunities for resident hunters being limited greatly by competition from out-of-state hunters?

- Based on the *resident hunter* and *nonresident hunter* surveys for the 1996 season, slightly higher proportions of nonresident hunters did pay a fee to access land (1.2% of resident hunters versus 5.8% of nonresident hunters) and/or used a guide service or outfitter (0.8% versus 6.8%) when hunting in North Dakota. And, when nonresident hunters did pay a fee to access hunting land these fees were utilized primarily in high harvest counties.
- *However*, these differences are not as great when using the findings to estimate the number of resident and nonresident hunters who lease land, pay hunt, and/or use guides.
 - An estimated...
 - 809 resident hunters and 193 nonresident hunters leased land to hunt in 1996.
 - 971 resident hunters and 914 nonresident hunters paid for hunting access in 1996.
 - 647 resident hunters and 1,309 nonresident hunters used guides in 1996.
- **Conclusion:** Residents seem to benefit from pay hunting as well as nonresidents. In fact, more resident hunters appear to lease land than do nonresident hunters.

Are landowner-sportsman relations at an all time low?

- The proportion of *resident hunters* who report having mainly bad experiences with landowners (3.6%) was greatly exceeded by the proportion who report having mainly good experiences (78.8%).
- With *landowners*, the proportion who said they had mainly bad experiences with hunters (5.9%) also was exceeded by the proportion who indicated having mainly good experiences (61.2%).
- Of those who asked landowners for permission to hunt on posted land, 76.9% of 1991 resident hunters said they received permission three-quarters or more of the time. This figure increased to 83.6% in 1996.
- **Conclusion:** In many industries, research has proven that 50 people will directly or indirectly be told about one person's bad experience. Given the findings of this research and the multiplier effect related to a bad experience, the findings suggest that very few resident hunters and/or landowners have had bad experiences with each other. However, the bad experiences that do occur get an extensive amount of mileage in conversations that take place. The increase in the success rate from 1991 to 1996 of resident hunters gaining permission to hunt posted private land may reflect an improvement in landowner-sportsman relations.

Summary of Conclusions

- Nearly 60% of land controlled by North Dakota landowners is not posted. However, higher proportion of land is likely to be posted in the pheasant (50% of total acres and 70% of CRP), waterfowl (40% of total acres and 43.3% of CRP), and nonresident archery deer (60% of total acres and 57% of CRP) high harvest counties.
- Posting of private land does not appear to be increasing statewide. However, there are differences between the amount of land landowners say they are posting and the amount of land hunters feel is posted. The variation of perceived changes in posting of private land by resident hunters and landowners may be due to cumulative impacts of posting over time and/or that land posting is reaching its maximum. Or, it may be a result of resident hunters who hunt primarily in high harvest counties where (1) a higher proportion of landowners/producers post three-quarters or more of their land and (2) a larger proportion of landowners/producers in 1996 reported increased posting activities compared to the three years prior.
- A large majority of resident hunters frequently ask for and receive permission to hunt on posted land. However, success is somewhat lower in the high harvest counties.
- Very few landowners lease land to or receive payments from hunters for hunting access. Also, the number of landowners who lease land to or require payments from hunters does not appear to be increasing.
- The number of landowners who lease land to or require payments from hunters does not appear to be increasing.
- Residents seem to benefit from pay hunting as well as nonresidents. In fact, more resident hunters appear to lease land than do nonresident hunters.
- In many industries, research has proven that 50 people will directly or indirectly be told about one person's bad experience. Given the findings of this research and the multiplier effect related to a bad experience, the findings suggest that very few resident hunters and/or landowners have had bad experiences with each other. However, the bad experiences that do occur get an extensive amount of mileage in conversations that take place. The increase in the success rate from 1991 to 1996 of resident hunters gaining permission to hunt posted private land may reflect an improvement in landowner-sportsman relations.

Other Issues

How do resident and nonresident hunters' characteristics differ?

CHARACTERISTICS OF 1996 RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT HUNTERS						
CHARACTERISTICS	1996 RESIDENT HUNTER	1996 NONRESIDENT HUNTER				
		OVERALL	ARCHERY DEER ^a	RIFLE DEER ^a	UPLAND GAME	WATERFOWL
35 years of age and older	68.4%	75%	66.6%	55.5%	73.5%	76.8%
Average days hunted in North Dakota during 1996 season	13.9 days	7 days	6 days	6 days	7 days	7 days
Hunted 3 or more years in North Dakota	93.6%	78.9%	44.4%	77.7%	77.0%	81.8%
Hunted 20 or more years during their lifetime	n.a.	68%	77.8%	55.6%	64.7%	70.7%
Hunted on private land in 1996 season	82%	86.7%	88.9%	77.8%	84.7%	88.9%
Spent three-quarters or more of time on posted private land	54.8%	68.7%	87.9%	71.4%	77.7%	59.0%
Asked private landowners for permission	68.7%	73.6%	44.4%	77.8%	75.9%	73.2%
Gained permission three-quarters or more of time	83.6%	81.3%	100%	57.1%	79.2%	83.2%
Primary North Dakota hunting companions: Relatives who live in North Dakota	48.8%	23.5%	0%	66.7%	30.6%	16.7%
Friends who live in North Dakota	40.6%	24.8%	11.1%	33.3%	29.4%	20.7%
Ties to North Dakota Former resident	n.a.	20%	0%	55.6%	24.1%	16.2%
Relatives/Friends who live in North Dakota		48.3%	33.3%	44.4%	52.9%	45.5%
1995 household income was \$20,000 to \$74,999	n.a.	57.6%	77.7%	77.7%	61.1%	51.5%

n.a. Data not available for these topics.

^a These percentages are based on a small sample size and are not statistically valid.

Why do nonresident hunters come to North Dakota to hunt?

- In 1996, the most frequent reasons nonresident hunters hunted in North Dakota were:
 - the quantity, quality, and variety of game; ease of access or trespass law; less hunting pressure; they have family, friends or were raised in North Dakota; beautiful country, wide open spaces, and friendly people.

What can I anticipate if I go hunting in any high harvest pheasant counties?

In 1994, 80 percent of the statewide pheasant harvest occurred in these high harvest pheasant counties. They are: Adams, Burleigh, Dickey, Divide, Dunn, Emmons, Grant, Hettinger, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Stark and Williams (Figure 1).

PRIVATE LAND POSTING:

- *Landowners/producers* in high harvest pheasant counties were asked to estimate the total acres for which they have posting rights and the total number of acres they actually post. Based on these reported acreage figures, landowners/producers in high harvest pheasant counties post...
 - 50% of all land for which they have posting rights.
 - 70% of all Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for which they have posting rights.

ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAND:

- *Residents upland game hunters* were asked to think about the times they asked a landowner for permission to hunt on posted land, then indicate how frequently they received permission to hunt on the posted land after they asked.
 - In high harvest pheasant counties, 60% of 1996 resident upland game hunters received permission three-quarters of the time or more. These hunter's success in gaining permission is likely attributed to a majority (74.0%) that typically contact landowners several days in advance.
- *Landowners/producers* in high harvest pheasant counties were also asked, of the hunters who asked for permission to hunt upland game on their land, how often did they give these hunters permission.
 - In the high harvest pheasant counties, 58.6% of landowners/producers reported giving permission to hunters three-quarters or more of the times they asked.

PAY ACCESS:

- In pheasant high harvest counties, 0.4% of landowners/producers reported leasing land to hunters and 1.5% of landowners/producers reported receiving fees for allowing hunters access to their land.
- Assuming worse case scenarios, in which (1) the landowner/producer respondents were not sure if they leased or received payments for hunting did offer pay hunting and/or (2) a fluctuation within the sample's allowable margin of error may under represent the number of landowners/producers who actually lease land or accept fees.
 - As many as 3.8% of landowners/producers could lease land for hunting in high harvest pheasant counties.
 - As many as 4.9% of landowners/producers could accept fees for allowing hunting access in high harvest pheasant counties.

What can I anticipate if I go hunting in any high harvest nonresident archery any deer counties?

In 1995, 70% of the total nonresident archery deer hunters hunted in the counties below, and 69.4% of the 1995 nonresident harvest occurred in these counties. They are: Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, McKenzie, and Slope.

PRIVATE LAND POSTING:

- *Landowners/producers* in high harvest nonresident archery deer counties were asked to estimate the total acres for which they have posting rights and the total number of acres they actually post. Based on these reported acreage figures, landowners/producers in high harvest nonresident archery deer counties post...
 - 60.2% of all land for which they have posting rights.
 - 57% of all Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for which they have posting rights.

ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAND:

- *Residents big game hunters* were asked to think about the times they asked a landowner for permission to hunt on posted land, then indicate how frequently they received permission to hunt on the posted land after they asked.
 - In high harvest nonresident archery deer counties, 53.8% of 1996 resident big game rifle and 57.1% of big game bow hunters received permission three-quarters of the time or more. These hunters success in gaining permission is likely attributed to a majority (73.2% big game rifle and 84.6% big game bow) that typically contact landowners several days in advance.
- *Landowners/producers* in high harvest nonresident archery deer counties were also asked, of the hunters who asked for permission to hunt big game on their land, how often did they give these hunters permission.
 - In the high harvest nonresident archery deer counties, 54.8% of landowners/producers reported giving permission to hunters three-quarters or more of the times they asked.

PAY ACCESS:

- In nonresident archery deer high harvest counties, none of landowners/producers reported leasing land to hunters and 1.0% of landowners/producers reported receiving fees for allowing hunters access to their land.
- Assuming worse case scenarios, in which (1) the landowners/producers respondents were not sure if they leased or received payments for hunting did offer pay hunting and/or (2) a fluctuation within the sample's allowable margin of error may under represent the number of landowners/producers who actually lease land or accept fees.
 - As many as 5.7% of landowners/producers could lease land for hunting in high harvest nonresident archery deer counties.
 - As many as 7.7% of landowners/producers could accept fees for allowing hunting access in high harvest nonresident archery deer counties.

What can I anticipate if I go hunting in any high harvest waterfowl counties?

In 1994, 68 percent of waterfowl days hunted statewide occurred in the counties below. They are: Benson, Bottineau, Burleigh, Kidder, McHenry, McLean, Nelson, Pierce, Ramsey, Richland, Sargent, Stutsman, Towner, and Ward (Figure 1).

PRIVATE LAND POSTING:

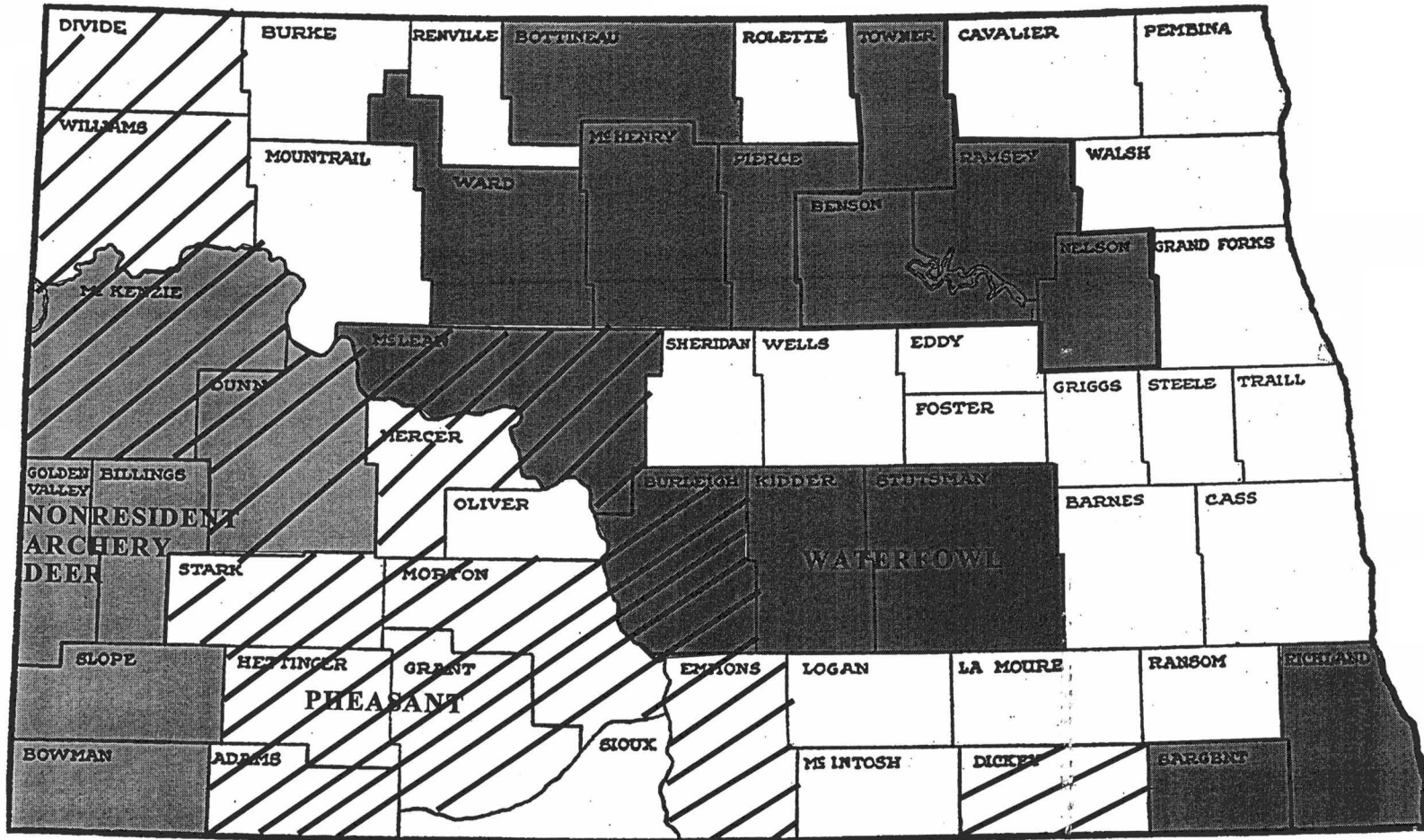
- *Landowners/producers* in high harvest waterfowl counties were asked to estimate the total acres for which they have posting rights and the total number of acres they actually post. Based on these reported acreage figures, landowners/producers in high harvest waterfowl counties post...
 - 40% of all land for which they have posting rights.
 - 43.3% of all Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for which they have posting rights.

ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAND:

- *Residents waterfowl hunters* were asked to think about the times they asked a landowner for permission to hunt on posted land, then indicate how frequently they received permission to hunt on the posted land after they asked.
 - In high harvest waterfowl counties, 59.0% of 1996 resident waterfowl hunters received permission three-quarters of the time or more. These hunters success in gaining permission is likely attributed to a majority (74.8%) that typically contact landowners several days in advance.
- *Landowners/producers* in high harvest waterfowl counties were also asked, of the hunters who asked for permission to hunt waterfowl on their land, how often did they give these hunters permission.
 - In the high harvest waterfowl counties, 71.5% of landowners/producers reported giving permission to hunters three-quarters or more of the times they asked.

PAY ACCESS:

- In waterfowl high harvest counties, none of landowners/producers reported leasing land to hunters and 0.8% of landowners/producers reported receiving fees for allowing hunters access to their land.
- Assuming worse case scenarios, in which (1) the landowners/producers respondents were not sure if they leased or received payments for hunting did offer pay hunting and/or (2) a fluctuation within the sample's allowable margin of error may under represent the number of landowners/producers who actually lease land or accept fees.
 - As many as 4.1% of landowners/producers could lease land for hunting in high harvest waterfowl counties.
 - As many as 5.3% of landowners/producers could accept fees for allowing hunting access in high harvest waterfowl counties.



Map 1. Location of high harvest counties for pheasant, waterfowl, and nonresident archery deer.



UNITED SPORTSMEN *of North Dakota*

BOX 272 - BISMARCK, ND 58502

Testimony of Larry Knoblich
Presented to the
House Committee on Natural Resources

HB 1369, January 28, 1999

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Larry Knoblich speaking on behalf of the United Sportsmen of North Dakota. We are opposed to this bill.

1. It will be a complete reversal of our present mind set towards "posted land". With this bill, posters would indicate that the landowner is not opposed to hunters on his/her land. Since ⁶⁰~~70~~% of the land in our state is not now posted, it would inconvenience many more landowners. Landowners who would not go out and post their land, which in this bill would mean it is closed to hunting.

In today's civil law, land that has no posting on it means that the public has an assumed right to use the land. This would include my backyard that the neighbor kids use for baseball. If I wish to keep them out I must so post it. HB 1369 goes contrary to this civil law.

2. This can only drive more people away from hunting. Many people in the state have already given up because "everything is posted." This bill would effectively declare the state closed except to the +/- 5% of the population that would bother to put up

“hunting allowed” signs. One reason our resident hunter numbers are down is because of posted land. Many have take up fishing, which is unaffected by posting.

3. Many landowners do not want to be bothered by hunter's calls or knocks on the door so they do not post their land. This bill would require hunters to get permission to hunt virtually all of the land in the state. Absentee landowners in Arizona, California, etc. would only compound the problem.
4. This bill would most assuredly increase fee hunting! We want to pass on the heritage of hunting to our children and their children but young people have a difficult time asking for permission. They are turned down more than older hunters when they do ask. Of course, they probably do not have nearly the finances that an older person has and could not pay the fee.

Please think back on your childhood and remember how you used to enjoy your free access to most anyplace you wanted to go. Thank you very much for your time.

Hunting License Fee Comparison for 1998

	Resident Small Game	Resident Deer	Nonresident Small Game	Nonresident Small Game & Waterfowl	Nonresident Deer	
Minnesota	\$25.00	\$23.00	\$66.00	\$71.00	\$111.00	
South Dakota	\$27.00	\$30.00	\$95.00	\$195.00	\$150.00	
North Dakota	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$85.00	\$95.00	\$160.00	
Nebraska	\$19.50	\$22.25	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$150.00	
Wyoming	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$195.00	
Montana	\$10.00	\$13.00	\$60.00	\$65.00	\$78.00	Whitetail
					\$248.00	Mule Deer
Average	\$19.42	\$21.71	\$71.00	\$91.00	\$156.00	

Minnesota resident small game includes small game license(\$15) plus waterfowl stamp(\$5) plus pheasant stamp(\$5).

North Dakota Deer hunters need a certificate and general game and habitat license costing \$9. This is included in the small game license cost but not the deer license cost.

Nebraska hunters must purchase one \$10 habitat stamp. This cost is included on the chart for small game license cost, but is not included in the deer license cost.

Wyoming hunters must purchase one \$5 conservation stamp. This cost is included on the chart for small game, licenses, but is not included in the deer license cost.

Montana hunters must purchase one \$4 Conservation License. The cost is included on the chart for small game licenses, but is not included in the deer license cost.

**LICENSE FEE INCREASE HISTORY
FOR NONRESIDENTS**

1981

- Small game \$40.00 to \$50.00
- Big game (gun) \$60.00 to \$100.00 (Bow) \$35.00 to \$100.00

1983

- Individual fishing \$15 to \$20.00
- Created Husband and Wife License for \$35.00.
- 7 day license \$4.00 to \$8.00

1987

- 7 day fishing \$8.00 to \$13.00
- Created 3 day fishing for \$8.00

1993

- Small game \$50.00 to \$75.00
- Big game \$100.00 to \$155.00 (plus \$5.00 non-refundable application fee)
- Waterfowl \$8.00 to \$10.00
- Individual fishing \$20.00 to \$25.00
- 7 day fishing \$13 to \$15.00
- 3 day fishing \$8 to \$10.00

Fishing License Fee Comparison for 1998

	Resident Annual	Husband and Wife	Nonresident Annual	Nonresident 3 Day	Nonresident 7 Day	Trout Stamp
Minnesota	\$16.00	\$21.50	\$32.00	\$18.00	\$22.50	\$8.50
South Dakota	\$21.00	n/a	\$59.00	\$42.00	n/a	n/a
North Dakota	\$11.00	\$16.00	\$27.00	\$12.00	\$17.00	n/a
Nebraska	\$17.75	n/a	\$40.00	\$15.75	n/a	n/a
Wyoming	\$15.00	n/a	\$65.00	\$18.00	\$42.00	n/a
Montana	\$17.00	n/a	\$50.00	\$15 for 2 days	n/a	n/a
Average	\$16.29		\$45.50	\$21.15		

Fees include any required certificate or special fees.

Non-Resident waterfowl or waterfowl and small game licenses sold in 1997 or 1998

ND 18,000

TX 8,000

WI 5,837

MN 5,504

SD 4,000 + 2,000 in 4 county area around Pierre

MT 4,000

KS 3,200

OK 1,800

WY 1,025

Jim,

Based on the response to using Game and Fish fees I would assume it doesn't pay to introduce the last ammendment, but maybe the first might help.

Amendments to Rep Kerzmans hunting bill

New Section: Any landowner who offers fee hunting must post all land as being open to fee hunting only . Signs must be posted at intervals of 220 yds along all public access.

New Section: Any landowner who allows a hunter to harvest any legal game on his land shall be eligible for a payment from game and fish of 10% of the license fee.

WB 1349