

2009 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SB 2309

# 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2309

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 01/29/2009

Recorder Job Number: 8122

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

**Chairman Andrist** Opened the hearing on SB 2309.

**Senator Potter** Introduced the bill and spoke in support. He gave a brief history and description of the sites proposed in the bill. He wants to mark the sites and perhaps build parks. He thinks this would help market ND.

**Senator Olafson** There is a complaint in my district that there is not enough access for snow machines or ATV's. I know your area has more history; I am not sure how to deal with it in my own community.

**Senator Potter** I know some areas have benefited from national recognition. I think there are stories everywhere in ND, it is something that can be studied further. I think this should be a focused study.

**Senator Anderson** I like that this is a small bill, I think that it is a good idea.

**Chairman Andrist** You delegate to several agencies in this bill, I think it would be better to direct one agency, such as parks and rec, to be in charge with collaboration from others.

**Senator Potter** I think that is what this bill tries to do.

**Senator Lee** How are you going to pay for this? Wouldn't this be more appropriate in the tourism budget?

**Senator Potter** I don't know if this requires an FTD but it may take some staff time. I am just asking the agencies to work together, as they already do, and focus on this. I have talked to these groups about how they will absorb the cost and extra work.

**Bill Jensen** Spoke in support of SB 2309. See attachment # 1.

**Mike McEnroe** ND Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Spoke in support of SB 2309. See attachment #2.

**There was no neutral or opposition testimony to the bill.**

**Senator Lee** (Directed to Bill Jensen) Is the report you cited in consideration right now? You mentioned funding sources, are there opportunities for collaboration?

**Jensen** No it is not under consideration, but there is potential for federal funding. There is a program called State Wildlife Grants that provides 50/50 funding. It just so happens that many of these sights fit that criterion. There are a number of non government organizations that might have grants. I do believe there would be good support for this.

**Chairman Andrist** closed the hearing on SB 2309

# 2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2309

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 01/30/2009

Recorder Job Number: 8230

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Chairman Andrist** Reopened the discussion on SB 2309.

**Senator Anderson** There is no money involved in this, it is small and local. I move a **Do Pass**.

**Senator Dotzenrod** Second

**Senator Lee** Did we get any information about whether this will have any financial impact on the agencies mentioned in this bill? Who will incorporate the cost?

**Senator Dotzenrod** I think it would be helpful to talk to Parks and Recreation.

**Chairman Andrist** I agree, we could pass this and then call Parks and Recreation and recommend that they provide testimony on the house side.

**Senator Olafson** This is specific to a relatively small area with not a lot of complexity or time involved.

**Chairman Andrist** I agree

**Senator Anderson** I like your idea of calling parks and rec.

The Clerk called the role on the motion to **Do Pass**. **Yes: 6, No: 0, Absent: 0.**

**Senator Bakke** will carry the bill.

Date: 1/30/09  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2309

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  Do pass  Do not pass  Amend

Motion Made By J. Anderson Seconded By J. Dotzenrod

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman John M. Andrist	/		Senator Arden C. Anderson	/	
Vice Chairman Curtis Olafson	/		Senator JoNell A. Bakke	/	
Senator Judy Lee	/		Senator Jim Dotzenrod	/	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment J. Bakke

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2309: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Andrist, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2309 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.**

2009 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SB 2309

# 2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Bill No. SB 2309

House Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 13, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 10910

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

**Chairman Wrangham:** opened the hearing on SB 2309.

**Senator Potter:** This idea was brought to me by Bill Jensen from the Game and Fish Department who has written a really remarkable analysis of the Sully Sibley Expedition and what we could do in North Dakota to enhance our education and provide new educational and hunting opportunities for North Dakota. I came to fall in love with the project and offer it to you as a study. In 1862 the United States was involved in trying to save the Union. There were uprisings among the Native American people who perceived this an opportunity to get back something that they felt they were losing. It happened in Arizona and Minnesota and in this specific instance was caused by lack the government full filling their promises to provide commodities to the tribes when it started and they rose up. Went through and explained the Sully uprising in detail. So the plan has been proposed is one that influences the idea that we could enhance some of these sites along the trail. Make them more significant public sites and perhaps even create a system where we have some more public excess for hunting within these areas throughout our state. I figure it is small investment to have our state agencies take a look at this. Maybe it will be no more than a document that will have some historical

significance. It might be the beginning of something very important for the state. We are coming up on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this in 2013-2014.

**Rep. Headland:** I agree with you wholeheartedly that history is important. My question to you the way I understand some of our cultural school systems that don't even require any history out there will any tourists come here and have any idea what we are trying to do here?

**Senator Potter:** You ask a perceptive question. I have learned in my time as a promoter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Calvary site out here in Fort Lincoln that Custer no longer shows up in any of our history books. He used to be one of the most known figures in the whole world and now in our own political correct era we think it is too hot to talk about these things. Custer was a Civil War hero and if we want to place the blame anywhere for what took place in the United States. He was just an agent doing what he was told to do. Will people know, yes, as time goes on and you get older history gets more important to you? That is the way it happens to everyone.

**Rep. Koppelman:** I think this is a good idea. You talk about a small investment and there is no fiscal note on this bill because of the internal study. What do you see as an outcome of this? Is this something that would be wrapped into the tourism budget do you thinking in the future once this is all built?

**Senator Potter:** There has been a nice cooperation since the late 80s between the agencies; the state historical society, the state parks and the tourism office and I think it will continue that way. We probably will see which agency will best manage this. Some of these state historic sites are on line. The parks will share in maintenance as they currently do. I have talked to each of the agencies about this and I see the director of parks is here. This is something they can handle and appropriations are certainly down the line.

**Rep. Jerry Kelsh:** I have to agree with Rep. Koppelman. I have been there many times and I can imagine all the history that has gone on there. Senator Potter is right; there was a hunting

camp and old warriors and women and children and some old males. They were trying to trade old sheep for their survival. The army did not accept that. There was one surviving baby that survived the battle and the town of Durango almost on Highway 281 and they do not have any idea where the names comes from because that was the name of that baby that survived. That is not a question, it is a history lesson.

**Rep. Koppelman:** I think it is history that we know very little about but I am sure people around the area know but this is certainly a way to market it around the state.

**Senator Anderson:** I see there are a lot of history buffs here besides me. I was glad to sign on to this bill I just want to mention I too have been to the White Solomn Hill Battlefield. I think people should understand what happened there good or bad. There use to be buses going there from schools so children get the opportunity to understand history in North Dakota

because we have a lot of it. I am in favor of this bill because I think it is a good thing to do. It will give us all an opportunity to know about these things. I wholeheartedly endorse this bill.

**Rep. Jerry Kelsh:** There are schools that take people out there now.

**Senator Anderson:** There is probably not much for handouts or things like that so this would add that.

**Mike McEnroe: ND Chapter of the Wildlife Society:** (see testimony #1).

**Clarence Bina, United Sportsmen of North Dakota:** You have my business card and pamphlet from us. I am not only interested in hunting and fishing but we are interested in hiking experiences and recreational experiences and the beauties of North Dakota. We urge you to pass this bill.

**Rep. Nancy Johnson:** Are women included?

**Clarence Bina:** they certainly are included.

**Earl Poverit, Director of the State Historical Society:** Just to add a little bit. We are always trying to promote new interests in the state. They really do work and we have put in a number of public stations. There is a gentleman up in Minot; we put out our pamphlets relating to North Dakota historical sites and he couldn't wait to get a hold of it and called back in six months and had gone to every one of those sites. Some of them there is nothing there. It is an acres or half acre set aside earlier by historical society folks. What we would like to do with a number of those sites; when we call them historical sites people have some confusion. They expect more than that is there. So we are putting markers on those areas so there is something there to see. The story of the Sully Sibley history really starts in Minnesota. We have been working with the folks over there and telling the story from there to North Dakota. We are always interested in promoting the sites to let people know about them in North Dakota.

**Rep. Koppelman:** I just want to compliment the good work that you do.

**Chairman Wrangham:** I am not clear on this bill. As I look at these agencies including the Historical Society it seems to me this would be the mission of these groups to start with so how does this study change what you do on a daily basis?

**Merle Poverit:** The concept is a good idea. We have been trying to do that as we go along and link up some of these sites. That trail bill focuses on three trails; The Red River trails up and down the Red River that actually goes to Ft. Abercrombie to Minnesota, St. Paul and trails through the Turtle Mountains down to the Knife River because of the native American trail so those three are being considered in that bill that could be related to this. There are hundreds of trails plus river trails too. Bill #2329.

Opposition: None

Neutral: None

Hearing closed.

**Chairman Wrangham** reopened the hearing on SB 2309.

**Do Pass Motion Made By Rep. Jerry Kelsh: Seconded By Rep. Koppelman**

**Vote: 12      Yes      0      No      1      Absent Carrier: Rep. Jerry Kelsh:**

**Hearing closed.**

Date: 3/13  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2309

**HOUSE POLITICAL SUBS COMMITTEE**

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  DP  DNP  DP AS AMEND  DNP AS AMEND

Motion Made By Rep. Kelsh Seconded By Rep. Koppelman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Ch. Wrangham	✓		Rep. Conrad	✓	
Vice Chair Rep. Headland	✓		Rep. Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Hatlestad	✓		Rep. Kilichowski	✓	
Rep. N. Johnson	✓		Rep. Mock	✓	
Rep. Klemin	0		Rep. Zaiser	✓	
Rep. Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Kretschmar	✓				
Rep. Pietsch	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Carrier: Rep. Kelsh

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

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
March 13, 2009 1:03 p.m.

**Module No: HR-46-4823**  
**Carrier: J. Kelsh**  
**Insert LC: . Title: .**

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2309: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Wrangham, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2309 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.**

2009 TESTIMONY

SB 2309

#1

January 29, 2009

**RE: Presentation on SB 2309: A Proposal for Development of the Sibley and Sully Historic Trails and Parks across North Dakota.**

Senators:

First of all, I want to clarify that I am here as a private citizen with a fascination for history, a deep desire to preserve open spaces, and a love of hunting. I do not intend this presentation to represent the intentions of anyone but myself. My "day job" is that of a big game biologist for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD). In 2000 I wrote a proposal for development of a series of historic grassland state parks open to hunting as an internal document for the NDGFD when there were potential funding sources available for large state projects. Although some of the potential funding sources mentioned in the proposal may have now gone way, many still exist. I forwarded this proposal last year to Senator Tracy Potter because: (1) new funding opportunities may now be coming available, and (2) future land-use practices may soon preempt the preservation of the viewscape for some of these areas.

The proposal, as written, encompasses more than 55,000 acres, but in the last nine years, other aspects of the Sibley and Sully Trail and Park system have come to mind. For example: one might include the State Prison property along the Missouri River. This area of south Bismarck was where the Sibley's six-day running battle with the Sioux in July 1863 terminated. Another aspect that could be explored might be the development of bicycle and hiking trails stretching from Fort Abercrombie and west; thereby connecting campsites used by Sibley and Sully on their military expeditions into a self-guided historical tour of eastern North Dakota. These trails could be incorporated into the current North Country Trail system that stretches as far east as the state of New York.

The 1862 Indian Uprising in Minnesota and the battles fought in what is now North Dakota were pivotal and set the stage for three decades of conflicts on the northern Great Plains. Over the years I have repeatedly asked myself: why the Sibley and Sully trails have not received more attention within the North Dakota and nationally? Perhaps it was that huge Civil War battles overshadowed these events. When news of Sibley's running battles would have been filtering back to newspapers in Minnesota and Wisconsin, the country was still taking what had happened in Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Likewise, news of General Sully's engagements at Whitestone (September 3, 1863) and Killdeer Mountain (July 28, 1864) battlefields competed with news about battles at Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Sherman's march through Georgia. These were all large battles that involved Union troops from Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin units. Or, perhaps everyone just wanted to forget about these sad episodes in our history.



For whatever reason, the history of Sibley and Sully's campaigns in the Dakota territories has largely been lost to the national consciousness. Despite this fact, these battlefields, and the associated Sibley and Sully campsites, remain important and hold great intrinsic value to our state and nation. These places are not only hold historic and cultural value; preserving them in their natural state would provide recreational value to the citizens of North Dakota, and be an economic stimulus to the rural communities surrounding them.

Each year the mystique of Custer draws tourists from around the world to the little town of Hardin, MT. A similar mystique lays dormant, waiting for discovery here in North Dakota. Based upon 1999 estimates, more than 400,000 tourists pass through North Dakota each summer on Interstate 94, literally within a few miles of several of these proposed project areas. Once these project areas are established as tourist destinations, I believe the communities of Abercrombie, Kulm, and Killdeer will also see substantial increases in tourism. The key, I believe, is that these areas must be large enough to warrant spending more than the casual glance that the average roadside historical marker receives from a tourist. They need to provide the visitor with the type of natural vistas that Sibley, Sully, Terry and Custer would have seen nearly 150 years ago (note: this would also be a large enough are that it would warrant a parent's time to bring a young hunter out to a dove, duck or grouse shoot). Another attraction that would draw tourists to these areas is bird watching, now enjoyed by more than three million Americans. These project areas support a wide variety of uncommon to rare grasslands species including Baird's sparrow, Sprague's pipit and the threatened piping plover.



Obviously, not all aspects of this proposal can be accomplished. The desires of current surrounding landowners, the input from Native Americans regarding a balanced and sensitive interpretation of historic events, and costs of maintenance would all need to be taken into account. I also realize that these proposed projects may at first impressions be considered by many as grandiose and a lot of work. As Henry Ford once said "opportunity usually comes in disguise --- wearing overalls."

The summers of 2013 and 2014 we will be marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of these pivotal events in North Dakota history. My hope is that the natural state of these sites can be preserved for our citizens, and that we can all come away with a deeper understanding of how these military expeditions have shaped future events. I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of this proposal.

William (Bill) Jensen  
1310 North 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-255-6386

cc: Senator Tracy A. Potter



# **Potential Projects for Conservation And Reinvestment Act Funds**

## **The Dakota Cultural and Natural History Preserves Project**

**20 APRIL 2000**

**Bill Jensen**

**North Dakota Game & Fish Department**

### **Executive Summary**

The following proposals are based upon two premises: (1) the number one statewide concern identified in the 1992 PAMA Report was the limited quality and quantity of wildlife habitat available for hunting, and (2) the comprehensive State Action Agenda, that CARA funding requires the Governor to submit, insists upon cooperation and planning among all providers of conservation and recreation lands within each State, including Federal, regional and local governments. The following proposals describe five project areas which hold both excellent wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities as well as great historical significance. By cooperatively working, with the North Dakota State Parks & Recreation Department and North Dakota State Historical Society, to preserve our states cultural heritage we may also be able to add more than 55,000 acres of premium wildlife habitat to the public land base that is open to hunting. These parks would provide a balanced and sensitive intrepritation of historical events, and not just showcase U.S. military prowess. Additionally, we will be opening the door to millions of dollars of currently untapped matching foundation funds. Success with this project would not only provide economic benefits from tourism to small rural communities, it could demonstrate that there are economic incentives for maintaining and developing wildlife habitat.

## **The Need**

The number one statewide issue identified in the 1992 PAMA Report was Wildlife Habitat and the problems associated with its management (e.g., a lack of long-term management control for wildlife, access to public lands for hunting and fishing, variable quality of habitat available to the public for hunting). With the growing practice of leasing land, specifically for hunting rights, this issue is now more problematic than ever before. Limited availability of public land threatens the future of hunting in North Dakota. This is particularly true for young hunters who have limited time and resources to travel around and get permission from the private landowners that control access to 95% of the land in the state.

## **The Opportunity**

One of the strategies put forward in the PAMA Report to deal with the limited amount of public land available is to coordinate and cooperate more closely with other state and federal agencies to improve wildlife habitat available for hunting. The Conservation And Reinvestment Act (CARA) of 1999 (H.R. 701) provides the state of North Dakota a unique opportunity to obtain and secure access to more than 55,000 acres of land for hunting and other outdoor recreational activities. To be successful, however, a number of social and political realities need to be taken into consideration.

## **Political Challenges**

Historically, it has been very difficult to purchase land in North Dakota for public use. Local concerns about public ownership of lands often include:

1. Taking land out of production and reducing the value of land for the local economy.
2. Loss of tax base for the local economy. Note: CARA provides up to \$200 million nationally for Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT funds).
3. Problems with land management and weed control.
4. Limiting future development options.
5. Loss of local control of the land.

Federal concerns specific to CARA include:

1. That the land is being purchased from a willing seller.
2. That there is local support for the project.
3. That there is a 75:25 match needed with nonfederal funds.
4. That the NEPA process be followed.
5. That Congress must specifically approve each project.

## **Public Benefits**

When all the political challenges are taken into consideration; lands secured with CARA funds must be able to service and appeal to a broad spectrum of North Dakota's citizens, have strong bipartisan support at both the state and federal levels of government, and be truly unique in historic and natural character. Section 207(2) of CARA H.R. 701 states that the required "State

Action Agendas shall take into account all providers of conservation and recreation lands with each state, including Federal, regional, and local government resources". The following projects were selected specifically to appeal to the demands listed above. By incorporating an historical aspect to these projects, we will be able to:

1. Diversify our support among North Dakotans as well as the U.S. Congress. A project that embraces both our cultural and natural heritage will receive support from all segments of society. This is a CARA requirement of the States Action Agenda.
2. Provide a direct economy benefit (i.e., tourism) for the local communities. Currently, North Dakota ranks 50th as a tourist destination; yet tourism ranks as the third biggest industry in the state. Ecotourism and cultural sites in North Dakota hold tremendous growth potential. These sites could serve as important new seasonal destinations for the state's developing tourist industry. Much of this industry has been built around various aspects of the "Old West".
3. Draw upon a wider variety of sources for matching funds. These partnerships would include our more "traditional" sources for matching funds (e.g., Coteau Prairie Protection Project of Ducks Unlimited, Wetland Trust, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Nature Conservancy), as well as a number of funding sources that to date have not been approached (e.g., Pew Charitable Trust, Conservation Fund, Army Historical Foundation). It should be noted that in 1999 the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reinvigorating the hunting and angling community, was established with a \$2.3 million grant from the Pew Foundation. Additionally, when the BLM received funding from the Conservation

Fund to purchase the Schnell Ranch, they were told that they normally do not like to fund projects for less \$1 million. In the case of the Schnell Ranch they made an exception and wrote the check for "just" \$330,000. In short, these must be BIG projects for consideration by nationally known foundations.

4. Better coordinate our efforts with other state agencies receiving federal funds (e.g., ND Parks & Rec., State Historical Society). This is one of the strategies encouraged by the Department's PAMA Report, and is a CARA requirement:

"Each State may define its own priorities and criteria ..... under this Act so long as it provides for public involvement." Additionally, each state "shall develop, within 5 years after the enactment of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999, a State Action Agenda that meets the following requirements: .... State Action Agendas shall take into account all providers of conservation and recreation lands within each State, including Federal, regional, and local government resources, and shall be correlated whenever possible with other State, regional and local plans for parks, recreation, open space, and wetland conservation" (Section 207a).

"On June 15 each year, each Governor receiving moneys from the fund shall account for all moneys so received for the previous fiscal year in a written report to the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate" (Section 4).

In short, if the Governor developing a comprehensive State Action Agenda plan, and or does not providing annual reports, we will result not receiving CARA funds.

5. Permit us to pool additional CARA funds towards a common goal that would otherwise not be available (e.g., Title V: Historic Preservation Fund est. ~\$1,000,000

per year for ND). Note: Under Section 114, Title V monies “may be used by the state to provide financial assistance to the management of any national heritage area or national heritage corridor established under the laws of the United States, to support cooperative historic preservation planning and development.”

### **Timing**

Currently, many of these areas may soon be converted to other uses that would preclude them from serving as historic and natural preserves. Potato and carrot agricultural activity is now moving on to the coteau near Projects I and II. Additionally, the Gress ranch, adjacent to the Schnell Recreational area, is up for sale (Project V). Although other approaches to increasing hunter access may also be valuable options, delay on inclusion and implementation of some of the following project areas into the “State Action Agenda” may preclude any future purchase options. Perhaps a tentative goal for completion of the projects could be the 150th anniversary of these historic events (i.e., 2013 and 2014). Finally, as of 31 March 2000, the proposed sunset date for the current legislation is September 30, 2015 (See Section 10 of CARA Bill, H.R. 701). That is to say, acquiring land may or may not be allowed.

# **The Dakota Cultural and Natural History Preserves Project**

## **Overview of the Projects**

In many ways the military expeditions of Generals Sibley and Sully of 1863-1864 were far more involved, and perhaps more costly in the extent of lives lost, when compared to the 1876 expedition to the Little Bighorn. However, the Sibley and Sully campaigns have largely been lost to the historic and cultural memories of most Americans. These battles were historically significant because they ushered in the a 27-year-long period of armed conflict on the northern Great Plains. Additionally, they are officially considered Civil War battlefields due to the time period involved. Finally, a retrospective interpretation of these events may help both our Native American and white citizens deal more effectively with events of the past.

Each year the mystique of Custer draws tourists from around the world to the little town of Hardin, MT. A similar mystique lies dormant, waiting to be discovered in North Dakota. More than 400,000 tourists pass through North Dakota each summer on Interstate 94, literally within a few miles of these proposed CARA Projects. Tourism associated with these sites during the summer would provide an immediate economic benefit to the small rural communities of Medina, Tappen, Dawson, Steele, Driscoll, and Richardton. Once these projects are established

as tourist destinations, I believe the communities of Kulm and Killdeer would also see a substantial increase in visitorship by tourists. Additionally, these areas provide a diverse selection of duck, grouse, deer, and elk hunting opportunities.

The key, I believe, is that these areas must be large enough to warrant spending more than the casual glance that the average roadside historical marker receives from a tourist. They need to provide the visitor with the type of natural vistas that Sibley, Sully, Terry, and Custer would have seen nearly 140 years ago (i.e., also a large enough area that would warrant a parent's time to bring a young hunter out for a dove, duck or grouse shoot). And, some areas will need to be accompanied by state-of-the-art interpretative centers (e.g., similar to the Lewis & Clark Visitors Center).

These proposed projects may at first impression be considered grandiose and a lot of work. As Henry Ford once said "opportunity usually come in disguise - - - wearing overalls." Yes, these projects will be a lot of work. However, if we can show that providing large blocks of public land for recreational use can have real economic value to a community, perhaps we can open the door for additional land acquisitions and easements. If the North Dakota Game & Fish Department is not actively engaged in the process of developing new recreational facilities in the state, what guarantee do we have that hunting will be allowed? In the 1970s, the states of Michigan and Wisconsin became actively engaged in how the Apostle Islands and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshores were chartered by the National Park Service. As a result, hunting



and fishing are allowed in these National Parks. Hunting was apparently not pressed as an issue with the development of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. As a result hunting is not permitted and we are now annually dealing with wildlife management challenges.

## **Proposal I: Big Mound and Associated Battlefields.**

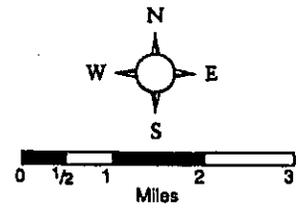
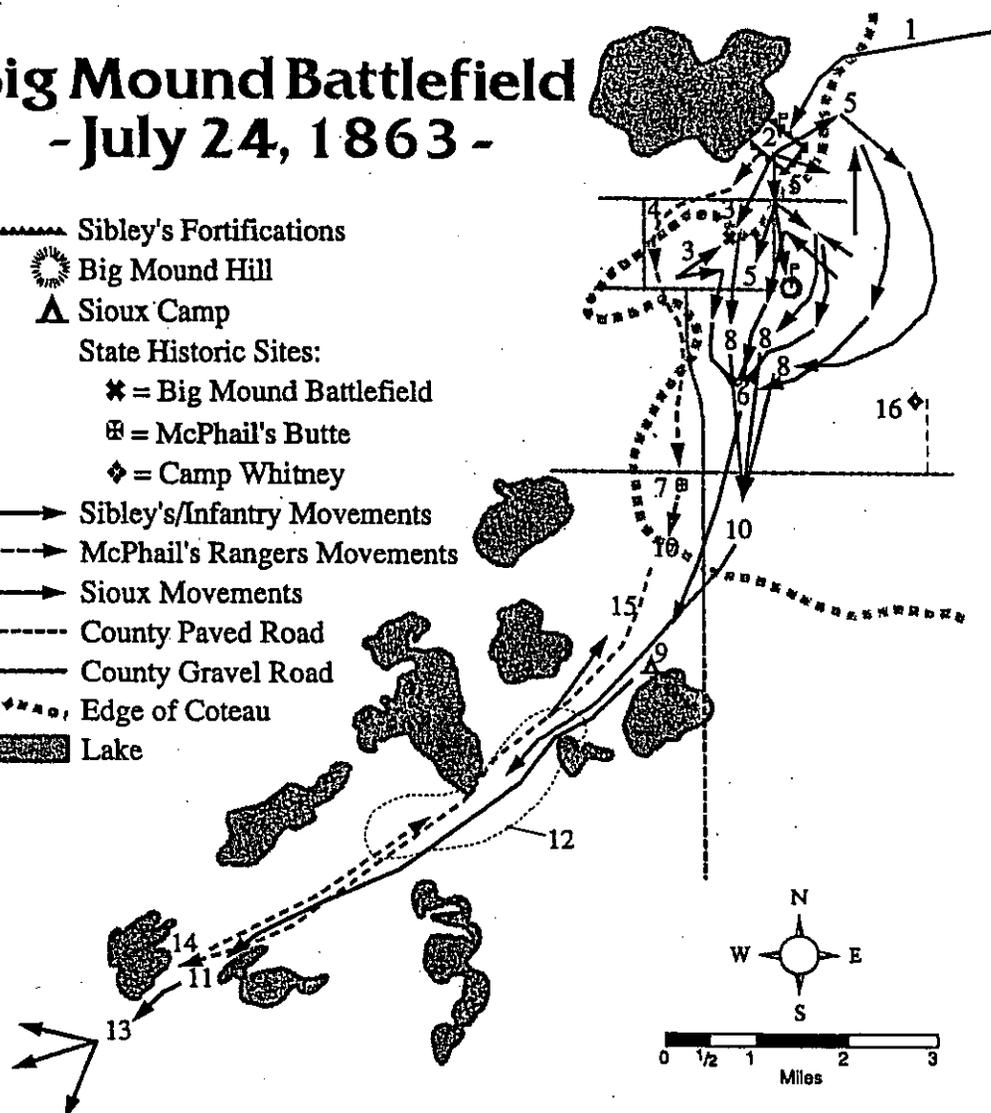
### **A Brief History:**

Following the Sioux uprising of 1862 in Minnesota, General Sibley led a military expedition consisting of three infantry and six cavalry companies (i.e., ~4,000 men) overland into the Dakota Territory. On July 24, 1863 Sibley's men were approached by a small group of Sioux Indians requesting a parley. This party of Indians was part of a hunting camp located four miles to the south. This hunting camp consisted of several groups, but was primarily composed of members of Standing Bull's band. On a low hill, 10 miles north of what is now the town of Tappen, Dr. Josiah Weiser with his small cadre of officers rode out to meet the assembled group of Indians (Figure 1).

As the talks started, Dr. Weiser was shot and killed by a young warrior of Inkpaduta's band (Inkpaduta was a Wahpekute chief involved in the 1862 Minnesota Uprising). The result of this rash act was a six-day running battle, extending over 60 miles, primarily between about 1,500 Indians and six companies of cavalry (Figures 2 and 3). Hostilities ended on July 29 when the last members of the village abandoned most of their belongings and crossed the Missouri River near what is now Sibley Park on the south side of Bismarck. Sibley had planned to meet General Sully at this approximate location as part of pincer movement against the Indians. Delayed by low water conditions on the river, General Sully's troops did not show. On August 1 Sibley's troops started the long march back to Minnesota.

# Big Mound Battlefield - July 24, 1863 -

- Sibley's Fortifications
- ☀ Big Mound Hill
- ▲ Sioux Camp
- State Historic Sites:
  - \* = Big Mound Battlefield
  - ⊕ = McPhail's Butte
  - ◆ = Camp Whitney
- Sibley's/Infantry Movements
- - - - - McPhail's Rangers Movements
- Sioux Movements
- - - - - County Paved Road
- County Gravel Road
- ◆◆◆◆ Edge of Coteau
- ▒ Lake



1. Sibley's approach.
2. Camp fortifications.
3. Initial parley ends in Dr. Weiser's death \*.
4. McPhail's Rangers swing west around the Sioux.
5. Infantry deploys from camp/Sioux retreat.
6. Sioux concentrate on central plateau.
7. McPhail arrives at butte ⊕ southwest of Sioux.
8. Infantry flanks Sioux on north and northeast.
9. Sioux retreat to village.
10. McPhail and infantry reach edge of coteau.
11. Sioux retreat southwest to Dead Buffalo Lake vicinity.
12. Infantry pursues Sioux until dark—prepare to camp.
13. Sioux reach Dead Buffalo Lake and disperse.
14. McPhail reaches Dead Buffalo Lake and returns to temporary camp.
15. McPhail and infantry return to original camp.
16. Next day's camp at Camp Whitney ◆.

Figure 1. Schematic diagram of the Big Mound (24 July 1863), and Dead Buffalo Lake (26 July 1863) Battlefields (Source: Snortland (ed.) 1996. A Traveler's Companion to North Dakota State Historic Sites).

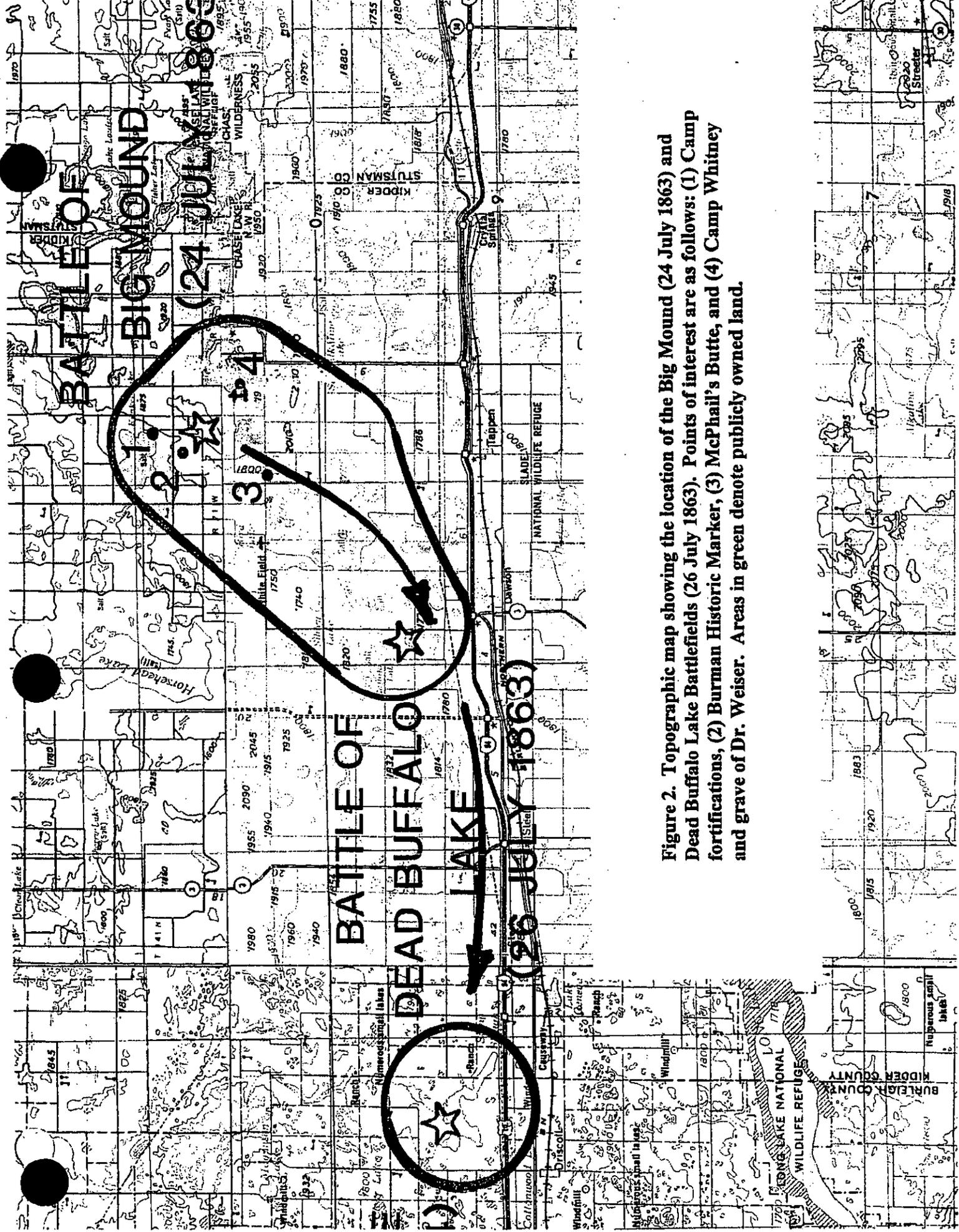
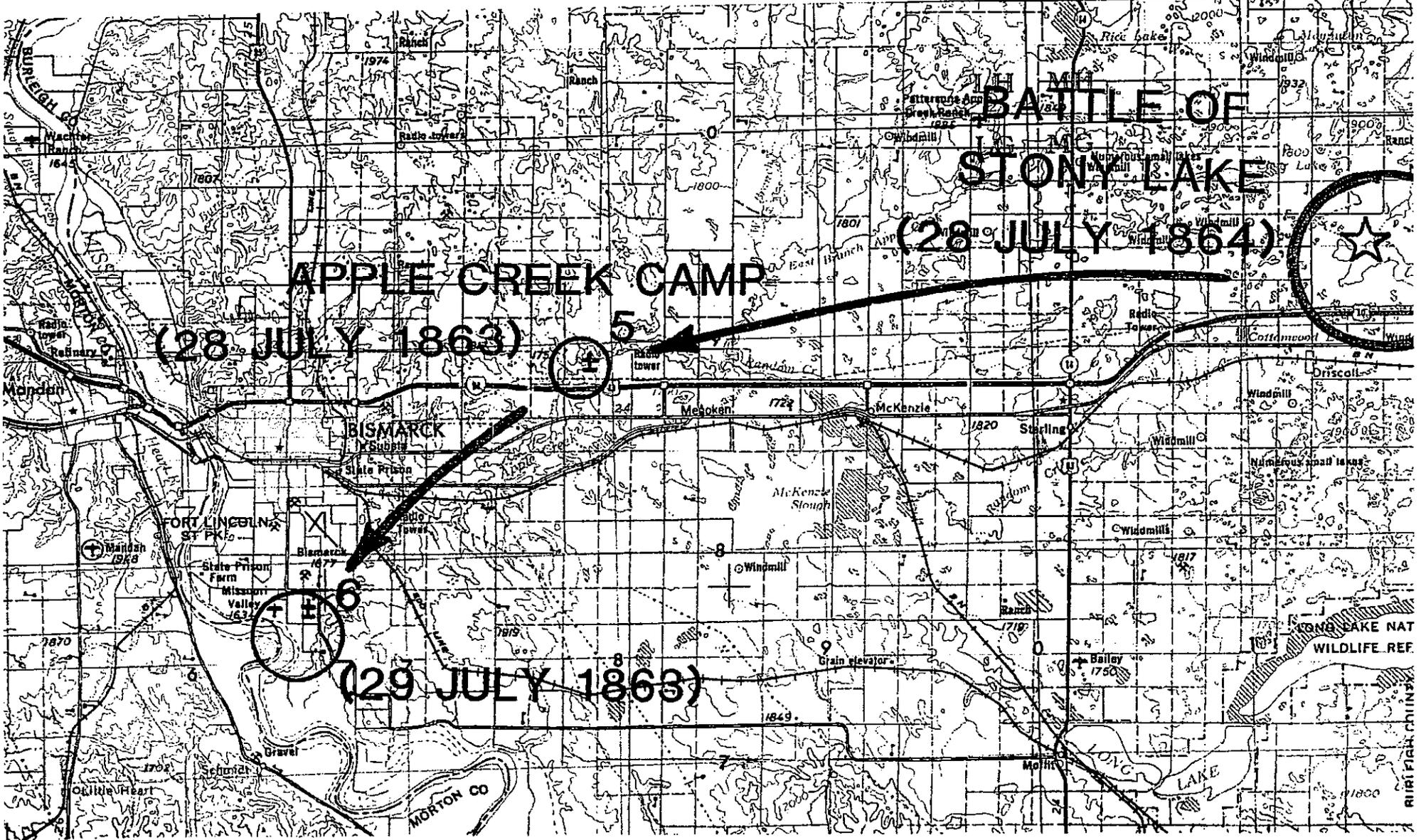
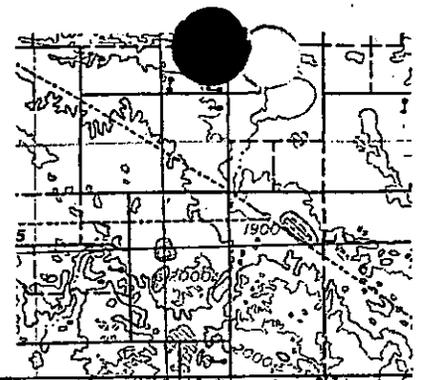


Figure 2. Topographic map showing the location of the Big Mound (24 July 1863) and Dead Buffalo Lake Battlefields (26 July 1863). Points of interest are as follows: (1) Camp fortifications, (2) Burman Historic Marker, (3) McPhail's Butte, and (4) Camp Whitney and grave of Dr. Weiser. Areas in green denote publicly owned land.

Figure 3. Topographic map showing the location of the Stony Lake Battlefield (28 July 1863) and skirmish points up to the Missouri River. Points of interest are as follows: (5) Apple Creek Camp and grave of Corporal John Platt, and (6) approximate location where Sioux abandon supplies and crossed the Missouri River, and graves of Lieutenant Beaver and Private Miller.



**Proposed Acquisitions:**

We would propose that CARA funds be used to purchase and develop portions of this extended battlefield for the purpose of historical preservation of a culturally significant natural area.

Additionally, we would require that hunting be allowed on all newly acquired lands.

Acquisitions north of Tappen should encompass the fortifications along the shore of Kunkel Lake, Burman Historical marker, Dr. Weiser's grave, and McPhail's Butte. These acquisitions could tie together McPhail's Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Kleiters Slough Waterfowl Production Area (WPA), and some state school land. In total, perhaps as much as 17 sections (~11,000 acres) of land could be blocked up (Figure 2). Additional acquisitions between Tappen and Bismarck may include the purchase of 2 to 4 sections of land that encompass the Dead Buffalo Lake and Stoney Lake Battlefields, and the July 28 campsite and Corporal John Platt grave along Apple Creek (i.e., westbound I94 rest area, immediately across the road from Henderson WMA) (Figure 3). Much of this area supports waterfowl densities of 60 to 100 nesting pairs per square mile. We believe this acquisition would meet the goals of the Prairie Protection Project of Ducks Unlimited. Grouse and deer numbers in the area are also good.

**Proposed Assessments, Upgrades and Construction:**

Carry out an archaeological assessment of the battlefields. Construct two new interpretative centers, one in Medina and one in Steele, that provides an historical overview of the battle, and natural history of the northern Great Plains. These two centers would not only capture both east and west bound tourists, the facility in Medina could also service the Chase Lake Project area and the unfulfilled hopes of people raised by the Chase Lake Wetland Interpretative Center.

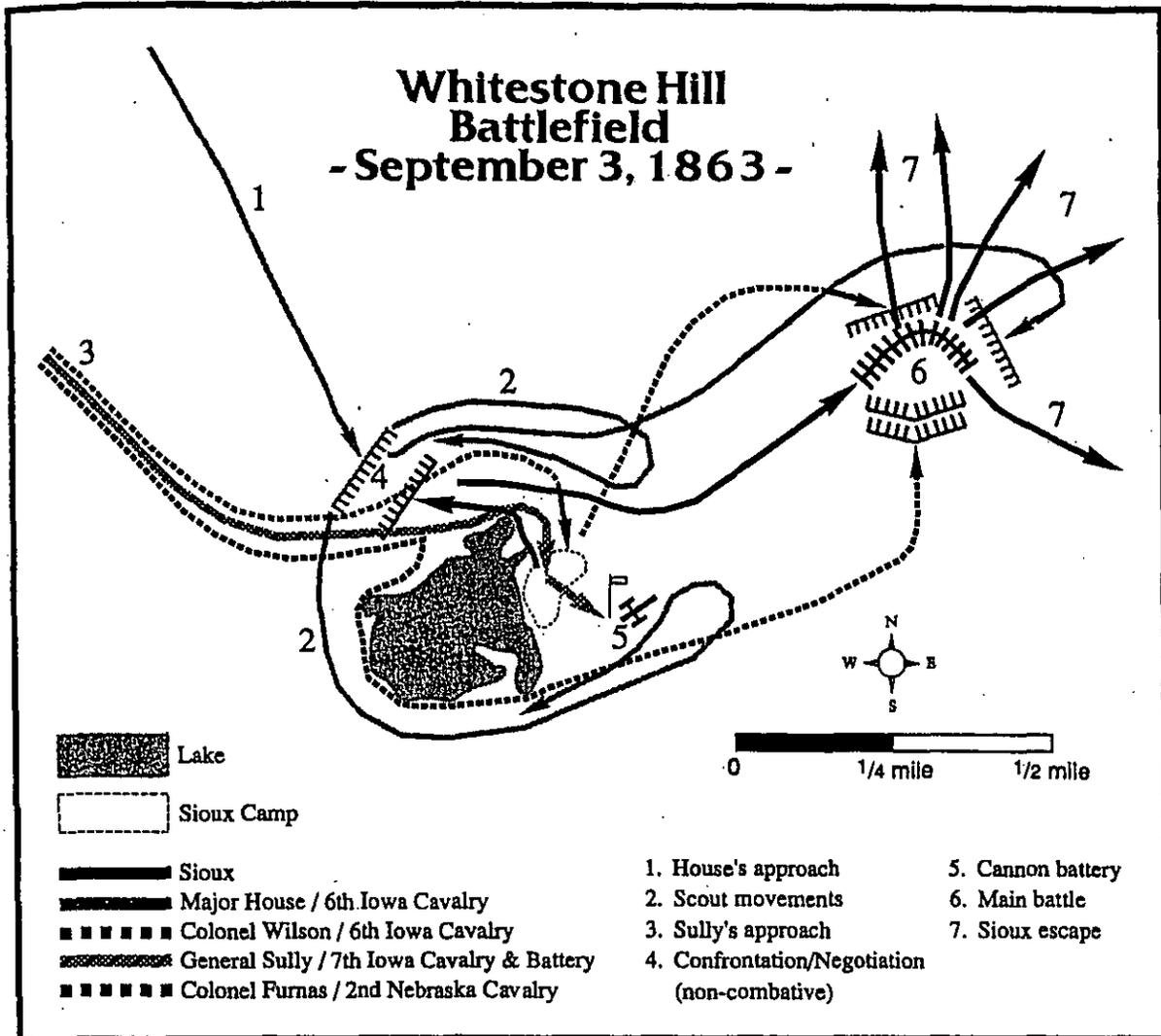
Develop interpretative walking trails on the preserve. Upgrade facilities at Sibley Park.

## **Proposal II: Whitestone Battlefield.**

### **A Brief History:**

After a six-day running battle (July 24-29, 1863), that extended over a distance of 60 miles, Sibley's troops were exhausted (see the historical brief provided with Proposal I). The original plan was for General Alfred Sully's troops to join Sibley's men near what is now Bismarck. General Sully was to come up the Missouri River by boat. An effort was made by Sibley's scouts to find Sully's whereabouts, but by August 1 General Sibley started the long march back to Minnesota. After long delays, due to low water conditions, Sully's men did not reach the rendezvous site until late August. Captured informants told of Sibley's battles and reported that the Sioux had recrossed to the east side of the Missouri River. Believing that the main body of Indians now lay to the southeast, Sully pressed his men to march to in that direction.

On the afternoon of September 3, 1863 a large hunting camp (300 to 600 lodges) of Yankonai, Hunkpapa, and Blackfoot Sioux was discovered by a forward battalion of the Sully's troops scouting the area. After initial talks broke down the Indians began to break-camp and leave. The Sioux did not realize that the main column of Sully's troops was approaching until they were within a mile of the camp. At this point panic swept the village with most of the Indians attempting to flee down a ravine to the east. Sully's troops immediately attacked the camp from three directions and a fierce battle raged until after dark (Figure 4). A total of 22 soldiers were killed in the fight (many of these casualties are believed to be the result of cross-fire from other soldiers). Estimates of Indian losses range from 100 to 350 killed.



**Figure 4. Schematic diagram of the Whitestone Hill Battlefield (3 September 1863). The graves of soldiers kill in the battle are located on top of Whitestone Hill (6) (Source: Snortland (ed.) 1996. A Traveler's Companion to North Dakota State Historic Sites).**

**Proposed Acquisitions:**

We would propose that CARA funds be used to purchase and develop portions of this extended battlefield for the purpose of historical preservation of a culturally significant natural area.

Additionally, we would require that hunting be allowed on all newly acquired lands.

Acquisitions should focus on the large block of native prairie surrounding the camp site and battlefield. The potential boundaries of the project area encompass approximately 25 square miles (16,000 acres) (Figure 5). This area contains one of the largest blocks of native prairie in the region and is dotted by thousands of small wetlands. This project could block up a number of small scattered WPAs. US Fish and Wildlife Service thunderstorm maps rank this area as having some of the highest duck nesting densities found in the state (i.e., 80 to 100+ nesting pairs per square mile). We believe this acquisition would meet the goals of the Prairie Protection Project of Ducks Unlimited. Grouse and deer numbers are also good in this area.

**Proposed Assessments, Upgrades and Construction:**

Carry out an archaeological assessment of the battlefield. Construct a new interpretative center in Kulm that presents the history of the battlefield and natural history of the northern Great Plains.

This interpretative center could be an addition to the current US Fish and Wildlife Facility in Kulm. Develop interpretative walking trails on the preserve. Upgrade facilities at Whitestone park.

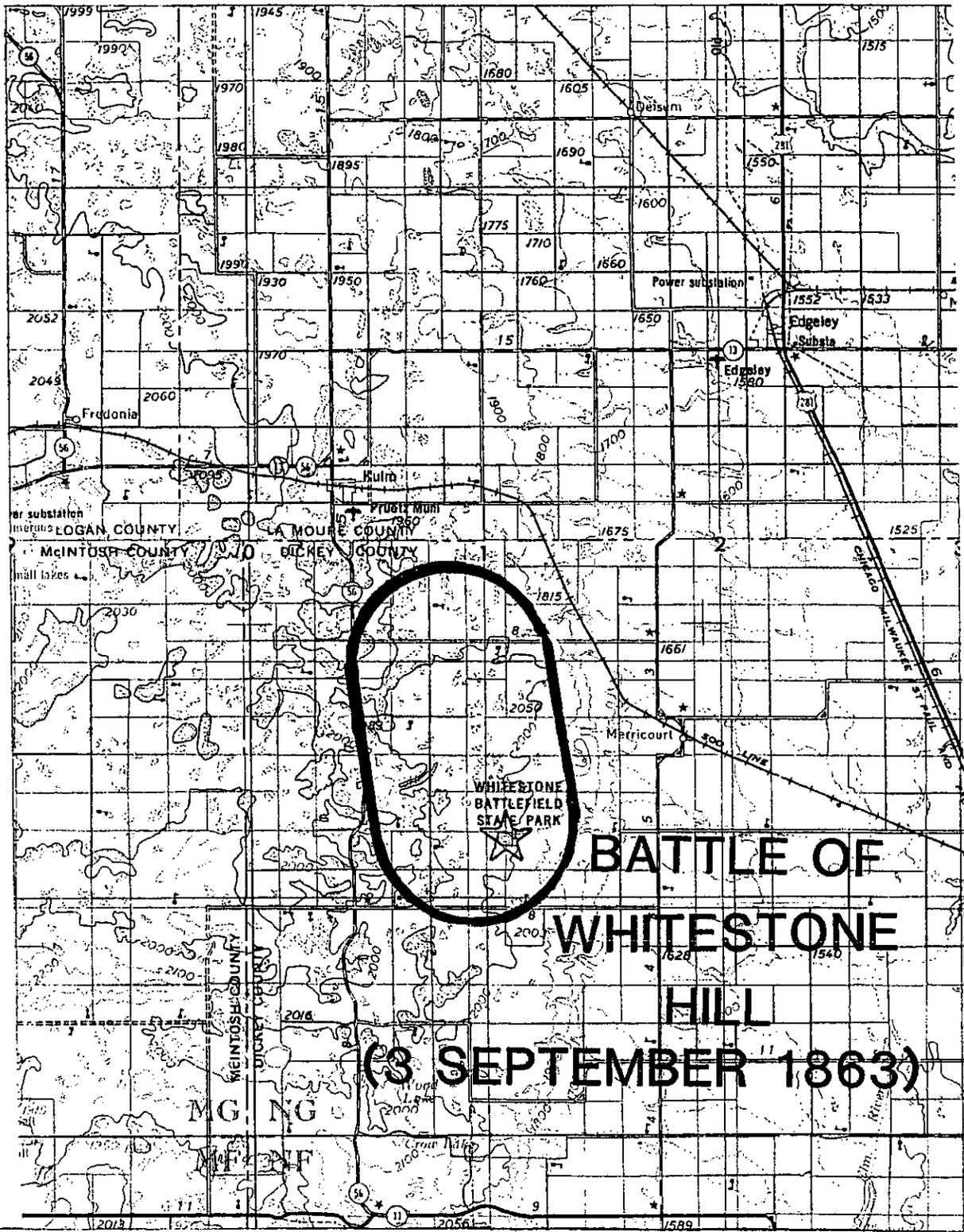


Figure 5. Topographic map showing the location of the Whitestone Hill Battlefield (3 September 1863). Areas in green denote publicly owned land.

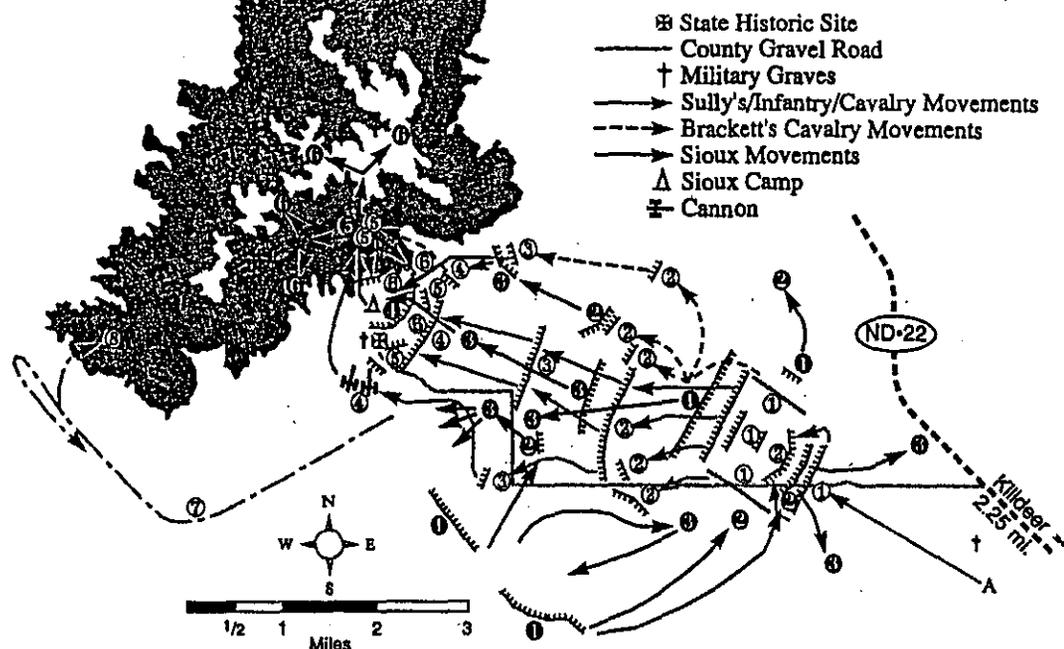
## Proposal III: Killdeer Battlefield.

### A Brief History:

As an extension of his 1863 campaign, General Sully pursued the Sioux into what is now western North Dakota during the summer of 1864. Sully's efforts in 1864 were impeded by orders to accompany a wagon train of immigrants heading to the newly discovered gold fields of Montana. The expedition's scouts reported a large encampment of Sioux near Killdeer Mountain, 50 miles to the north. Leaving about 400 soldiers to protect the immigrant wagon train along the Heart River (i.e., Heart River Corral Camp about 20 miles southeast of Richardton), Sully led the main body of his command north towards the Killdeer Mountains. On July 28, General Sully, with 2,200 troops and several artillery batteries attacked a large trade village (estimated to be 1,600 to 1,800 lodges) of Teton, Yanktonai, and Dakota Sioux. As the village was attacked and shelled with artillery fire, the Indians retreated up into the forested slopes of the Killdeer Mountains (Figure 6). Five soldiers were killed in the conflict. Indian losses were unknown, but thought to be considerable.

Although less decisive than the Whitestone battle of 1863; this engagement galvanized the distrust of the Teton Sioux towards the military and white settlers. The Teton Sioux had played no part in the Minnesota Uprising of 1862. The fall-out from this battle would have dramatic implications for the US Cavalry in the years to come.

## Killdeer Mountain Battlefield - July 28, 1864 -



A. Sully approaches from the southeast.

- ① Sully's forces form a phalanx and advance across a flat plain towards the higher ground to the west.
- ① Sioux confront the phalanx on the front and flanks.
- ② Sioux attack the phalanx from the front and rear, abandon flanks.
- ② Rear guard of phalanx confronts Sioux; forward section of phalanx presses Sioux line back; Brackett's Cavalry breaks towards the northwest to flank the Sioux.
- ③ Sioux abandon advance on rear guard, probe south flank; forward line retreats slowly towards village.
- ③ Sully's forces continue a steady advance; Brackett confronts Sioux at eastern foothills.
- ④ Sioux retreat to village.
- ④ Sully's forces begin to encircle the village, artillery flanks the village from the south and begins shelling.
- ⑤ Sioux begin to abandon the village.
- ⑤ Sully's forward line continue to envelope the village, Brackett and other forces move around to rear of village to cut off Sioux retreat.
- ⑥ Sioux retreat into Killdeer Mountain ravines.
- ⑥ Brackett and outlying forces return to join Sully's encirclement of the village.
- ⑦ July 29, 1864—Sully skirts the mountain trying to cut off Sioux retreat into the badlands to the west—remaining troops destroy the village.
- ⑧ Sully's July 29th observation post.

Figure 6. Schematic diagram of the Killdeer Mountain Battlefield (28 July 1864) (Source: Snortland (ed.) 1996. *A Traveler's Companion to North Dakota State Historic Sites*).



**Proposed Acquisitions:**

We would propose that CARA funds be used to purchase and develop portions of this extended battlefield for the purpose of historical preservation of a culturally significant natural area. Additionally, we would require that hunting be allowed on all newly acquired lands.

The potential boundaries could encompass about 7 sections (~5,000 acres) (Figure 7). This area abuts the Killdeer WMA and important elk range. If possible the area around the, graves, primary battlefield, The Medicine Hole on top of the Killdeer Mountain, and the section of land surrounding the Heart River Corral site should be acquired. We believe a natural partnership could be found with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation regarding the purchase of these lands.



**Proposed Assessments, Upgrades and Construction:**

Carry out an archaeological assessment of the battlefield. Construct a new interpretative center, either in Killdeer or at the battlefield, that presents the history of the battlefield and natural history of the northern Great Plains. Develop interpretative walking trails on the preserve. Upgrade facilities near the grave sites.



## **Proposal IV: The Sibley Trail.**

### **A Brief History:**

Between June 30 and August 21, 1863 Sibley's troops camped in 20 to 30 different sites during his military expedition into what is now North Dakota (Figure 8). Sixteen of these campsites are currently state historic sites, but offer little if any recreational value to hunters. As a necessity for livestock, these campsites were located near water. Often campsites were located directly between two large lakes or wetlands. This was done to reduce the potential number of directions from which night attacks by hostile Indians could originate. As a result, many of these camp sites are now often located adjacent to excellent wildlife habitat.

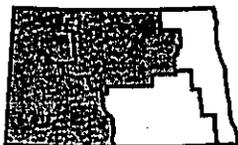
### **Proposed Acquisitions:**

We would propose that CARA funds be used to purchase up to 1 square mile of land around each campsite available from willing sellers. In total this could involve up to about 20 or more sites (~12,800 acres). We would require that hunting be allowed on all new land purchases.

### **Proposed Assessments, Upgrades and Construction:**

Carry out an archaeological assessment of the campsites. Construct parking lots and provide interpretative signs that presents the history of the campsite and natural history of the northern Great Plains.

# Sully & Sibley 1863 Expeditions



- Sibley Advance
- Sibley Return
- Sully Advance
- Sully Return
- ★ Battle
- ▲ Historic Site

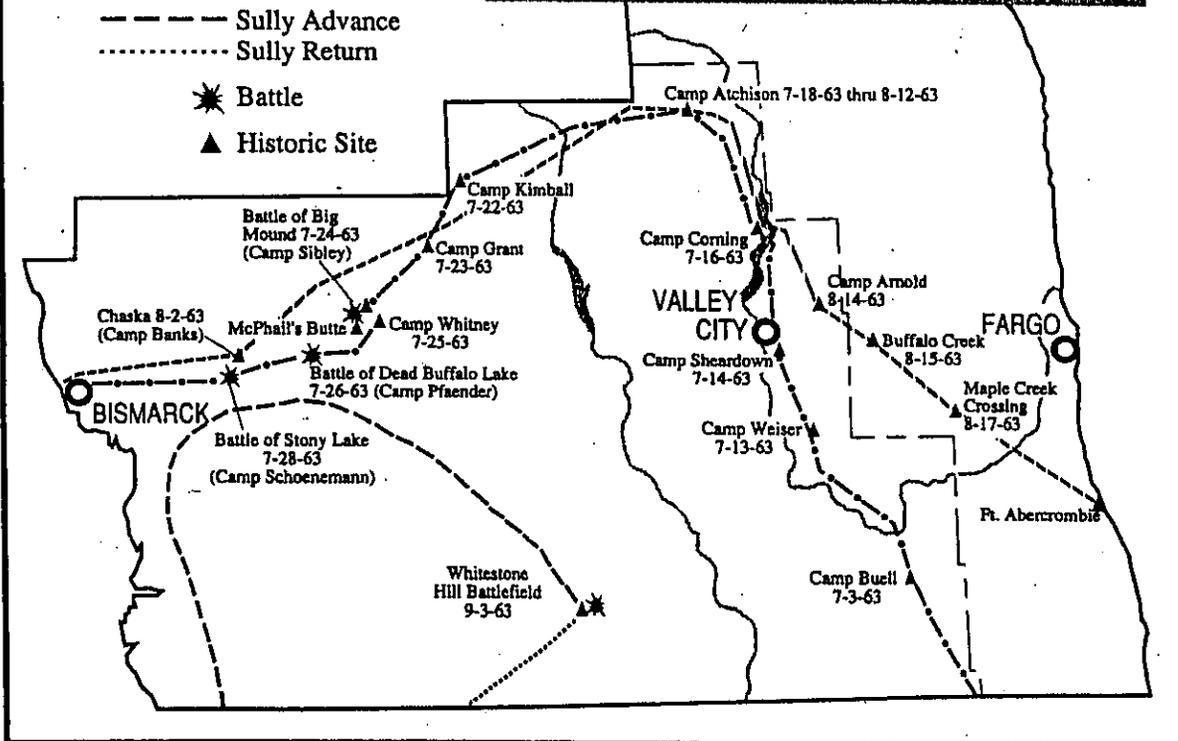
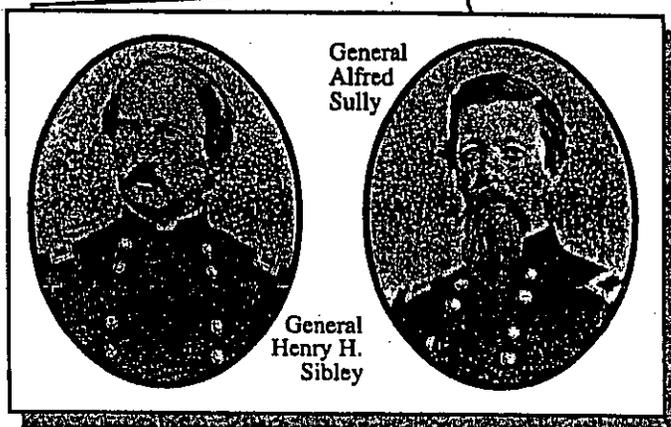


Figure 8. Map showing the routes of Generals Sibley and Sully during the summer of 1863 (Source: Snortland (ed.) 1996. A Traveler's Companion to North Dakota State Historic Sites).

## **Proposal V: The Custer Trail.**

### **A Brief History:**

Between May 17 and June 2, 1876 General Terry's troops camped at 15 sites, in what is now North Dakota, on their military expedition to the Little Bighorn. Of these 15 campsites, none are currently developed for their recreational values. As with the Sibley Trail, necessity dictated campsites be located near water for the livestock, and large forested buttes that provided firewood and signaling posts. Probably the most historically significant site along the route is Young Man's Butte near the town of Richardton and the Schnell Recreation Area. This campsite was used by a number of military expeditions, and is also the place where Sergeant Stempker was buried during Custer's 1874 return trip from the Black Hills. Additionally, Young Man's Butte was the site of legendary Indian battle between the Sioux and Crow.

### **Proposed Acquisitions:**

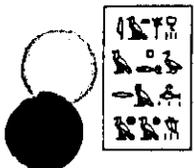
We propose the purchase of up to 1 square mile of land around 5 to 10 campsites available from willing sellers. In the case of Young Man's Butte campsite, the Gress ranch which abuts the Schnell Ranch, is currently up for sale. Purchase of this ranch and Young Man's Butte (~1,400 acres) would greatly enhance the recreational opportunities already being developed on the Schnell Ranch by the BLM. In total land acquisitions along this could involve up to 10 sites (~7,000 acres).



**Proposed Assessments, Upgrades and Construction:**

Carry out an archaeological assessment of the campsites. Construct parking lots and provide interpretative signs that presents the history of the campsites, local Indian battles, and natural history of the northern Great Plains.

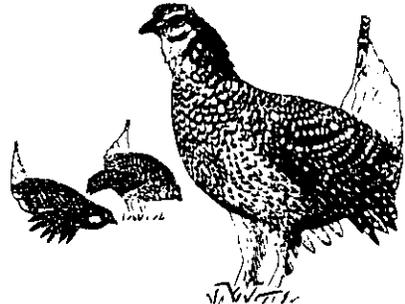
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North Dakota Chapter

**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

P.O. BOX 1442 • BISMARCK, ND 58502



**TESTIMONY OF MIKE McENROE  
NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
on SB 2309  
SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE  
January 29, 2009**

Chairman Andrist and Members of the Committee:

For the record I am Mike McEnroe and I am representing the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, a group of approximately 320 wildlife and natural resources professionals in the State.

SB2309 provides timely opportunity to identify and link some historic and natural areas that played an important role in North Dakota's past. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sibley and Sully military expeditions will be in 2013-14.. There is great potential for developing sites along these historic trails to promote North Dakota history and tourism and recreation. The Native American and Army campsites were often located on the highest hills in a local area for defensive and strategic reasons. For those reasons, these areas still remain as natural areas, and offer scenic viewsheds. Several of these sites are already are protected by State or Federal ownership

We believe a feasibility study would show a number of non-governmental organizations interested in partnering with the State on identifying, protecting and developing sites along these trails. We also recognize this concept would have to be developed in a sensitive manner with the State's Native American people.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

College scholarships are awarded annually to outstanding undergraduate natural resource students at Minot State University- Bottineau, North Dakota State University, Sitting Bull College, University of North Dakota, and Valley City State University. In addition, two outstanding graduate student awards are presented each year. Natural resource instructors at each of the universities and colleges nominate students for the scholarship awards.

The Chapter has also implemented a Legacy Trust Initiative to strengthen the connection between natural resource students, educators, and the wildlife profession. Included in this endeavor are job fairs, career lesson panels, and opportunities for students to attend and engage in professional meetings.



NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER  
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
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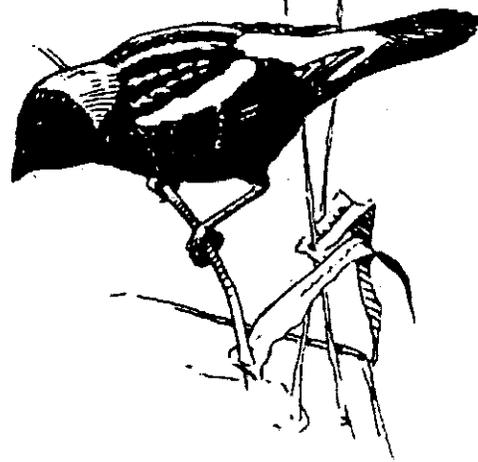
# North Dakota Chapter

*The Wildlife Society*

*Mike McEnroe*

*memcenroe@*

*btinet.net*



NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER  
The Wildlife Society

*Dedicated to the wise use of North  
Dakota's natural resources*

## ORGANIZATION

The Chapter is governed by an elected Executive Board composed of a President, President-elect, Past President, four Executive Board members, and an appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

A Field Representative for the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society represents the Chapter on regional and national levels.

During legislative sessions, the Chapter employs a legislative liaison to provide expert testimony on Senate and House bills relating to natural resource issues, and where appropriate lobbies for bills that promote natural resource conservation.

## CHAPTER PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND SERVICES

An annual winter meeting is held for the membership to elect and install new officers, for hearing of committee reports and for the general business meeting.

The meeting also features research and management presentations, panel discussions of timely issues, and poster

sessions. An annual fundraiser provides for social time and raises funds targeted for Chapter programs and activities. A formal banquet includes annual awards, recognition of achievements, and special speakers or entertainment.



## AWARDS

The chapter presents awards to recognize and commend outstanding achievement in wildlife related activities in North Dakota.



-The NORTH DAKOTA AWARD is presented to an individual for outstanding contribution to the profession of wildlife management in North Dakota.

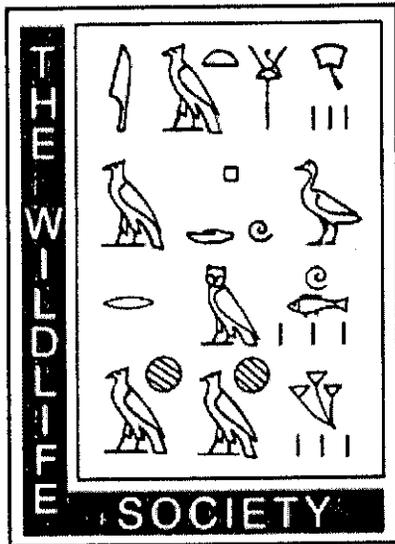
-The NORTH DAKOTA HABITAT AWARD is presented to an individual or group that has made an outstanding contribution toward preserving and/or establishing high quality wildlife habitat on the lands of North Dakota.

-The NORTH DAKOTA CASE-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD is presented annually to the person or persons primarily responsible for the conviction of persons guilty of a serious natural resource violation in the state.

-Other awards may be given to individuals or groups that show outstanding achievements in wildlife-related fields.

## DAKOTA PRAIRIE LEGACY ENDOWMENT

The Dakota Prairie Legacy endowment is a Chapter initiative to provide income to meet the many urgent challenges confronting wildlife and their habitats. The Dakota Prairie Legacy accepts gifts of cash, property, and deferred gifts (estates) from its members and interested parties.



## WHAT IS THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY?

Founded in 1937, The Wildlife Society is an international, nonprofit, scientific and educational organization composed of professionals, students and laypersons interested and active in wildlife research, management, education, and administration.

## NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The North Dakota Chapter is an active affiliate of The Wildlife Society, a national organization. The Chapter is specifically concerned with effective management of North Dakota's plant and wildlife communities. The Chapter provides expertise in advising legislative and judicial processes concerning conservation of natural resources. It advocates the holistic treatment of environmental questions. The Chapter

was founded in 1963 and has played an active role in North Dakota wildlife management since that time.

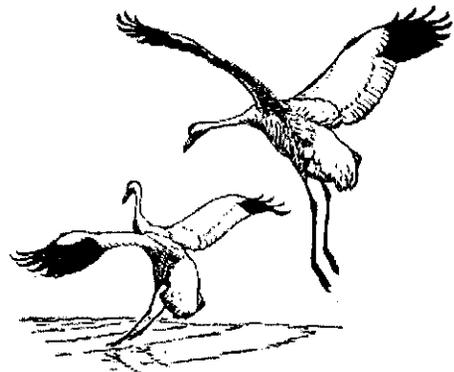
## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Chapter is open to any person who has an interest in the objectives and activities of the Chapter and is formally trained or employed in the wildlife field.

Those not meeting the education or employment requirements may also affiliate with the Chapter.

Association with the Chapter provides opportunities to be informed and participate in resolving conservation issues. Each member or affiliate receives the Chapter Newsletter.

Chapter members are encouraged to join the parent group, The Wildlife Society and the regional organization, the Central Mountain and Plains Section.



## CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

Consistent with the objectives of The Wildlife Society, the Chapter's objectives are:



- To advance the science and art of wildlife management.
- To improve public understanding and support of scientific management of wildlife and related resources.
- To provide a common meeting ground for people interested in wildlife conservation.
- To promote and maintain high professional standards.
- To recognize and commend outstanding accomplishments in wildlife conservation.
- To leverage the influence of The Wildlife Society at the national level on important wildlife issues in North Dakota.
- To follow the North American wildlife conservation model and its conservation objectives.

## CERTIFICATION

The Wildlife Society promotes a certification program for its members that constitute official recognition that qualified members meet professional, educational, experience, and ethical criteria to be a "Certified Wildlife Biologist."

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Chapter work is carried out by committees that focus on natural resource issues.

Examples of committees include: the Endangered Species committee, which is composed of expert biologists who make recommendations on rare species and their conservation.

The Wetlands committee takes an active role in working to preserve wetlands in North Dakota.

The Alternative Energy committee is composed of Biofuels and Wind subcommittees and is engaged in keeping the emerging industry of alternative energy compatible with natural resources.

A variety of natural resource issues are addressed through the Chapter's Missouri River committee.

The Chapter's Education committee is involved in a wide range of activities that include writing and updating the elementary text books PROJECT WILD, the Junior Duck Stamp contest, and a number of other publications concerning natural resource management.



Examples of other committees include: Legislative, Wildlife Commercialization, Western Lands, Invasive Species, Tribal Wildlife, Prairie Resources, and Professional Women in Natural Resources.

United  
Sportsmen  
*Of*  
*North Dakota*



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**UNITED SPORTSMEN**  
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**USND**  
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Cell: 701-527-1608

**Membership Application**

United Sportsmen of North Dakota - P.O. Box 272, Bismarck, ND 58502  
**Your lifeline to continued hunting and fishing in North Dakota**

Be a part of this great organization – Your \$10 membership provides representation for you at the legislative session.  
Together we can make a difference for the future of sportsmen.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

_____	Yearly Membership	\$10.00
_____	Life Membership	\$150.00
_____	Scholarship Fund Contribution	
_____	Legislative Fund Contribution	
_____	Total Enclosed	

# United Sportsmen of North Dakota (USND)

The United Sportsmen of North Dakota (USND) was organized in 1975 to provide representation at the legislature for sportsmen. Today, the fate of all outdoor activity, particularly hunting and trapping, lies in the hands of the political process. Legislative sessions continue to have a flood of bills, good and bad, dealing with outdoor issues. To have any impact on these bills, sportsmen have to be politically active.

USND provides two annual scholarships to deserving students majoring in the Wildlife or Biology field.

USND will continue to support all efforts, public and private, to improve and expand good wildlife habitat.

## Who are the members of USND?

- We are businessmen, farmers, ranchers, government employees, salesmen, trappers, fishermen, conservationists and others.
- We are men and women who share a deep concern for wildlife and its future in North Dakota; who pursue field sports, especially hunting and fishing and who abide by the code of fair play.

## Purposes & Objectives:

- To provide a state-wide organization that will encompass all individuals interested in environment, habitat, conservation, hunting, ranching, farming, fishing, trapping, hiking, or any other outdoor activity.
- To promote the welfare and conservation of all game animals and birds, and the preservation of their existing habitat and improvement thereof.
- To promote and encourage better landowner/sportsmen relationships.
- To promote a healthy and satisfying outdoor and recreational potential for everyone in North Dakota.
- To protect and preserve an individuals constitutional right to keep and bear arms.
- To encourage, above all, good sportsmanship; respect for all game animals, birds and fish; respect for game laws; respect for private as well as public property; and a deep and sincere regard for the natural beauties of our state.

## What does USND offer you...

- **USND is one of the few sportsmen organizations in the state that hires a full time lobbyist to track bills and testify on the sportsmen's behalf during the legislative sessions.**
- USND has up-to-date information on outdoor related bills and furnishes its members with a legislative report outlining the outcome of legislation affecting sportsmen.
- USND participates in Game & Fish Advisory meetings and maintains a liaison with the Game & Fish Department.
- USND has a centralized State Office with local Area Chapters to provide statewide communications.
- USND provides a strong, unified voice in outdoor issues affecting North Dakota sportsmen.
- USND is recognized as one of the leading sportsmen's organizations in the state.

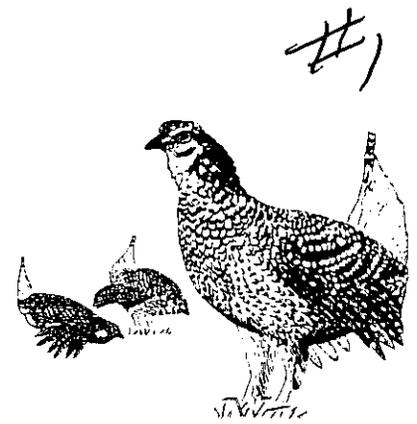


North Dakota Chapter

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# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1442 • BISMARCK, ND 58502



**TESTIMONY OF MIKE McENROE  
NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY  
on SB 2309  
HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE  
March 13, 2009**

Chairman Wrangham and Members of the Committee:

For the record I am Mike McEnroe and I am representing the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, a group of approximately 350 wildlife and natural resources professionals in the State.

SB2309 provides timely opportunity to identify and link some historic and natural areas that played an important role in North Dakota's past. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sibley and Sully military expeditions will be in 2013-14.. There is great potential for developing sites along these historic trails to promote North Dakota history and tourism and recreation. The Native American and Army campsites were often located on the highest hills in a local area for defensive and strategic reasons. For those reasons, these areas still remain as natural areas, and offer scenic viewsheds. Several of these sites are already are protected by State or Federal ownership

We believe a feasibility study would show a number of non-governmental organizations interested in partnering with the State on identifying, protecting and developing sites along these trails. We also recognize this concept would have to be developed in a sensitive manner with the State's Native American people.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.