## North Dakota Wildlife Federation Flickertales

Winter 2021



The North Dakota Wildlife Federation is a grassroots organization, which protects and enhances North Dakota's wildlife, wildlife habitat and access to that habitat, and promotes hunting, fishing, trapping and other wildlife related activities through education, programs, and projects.

## North Dakota Wildlife Federation

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF) is North Dakota's oldest, largest, and most effective conservation organization. NDWF was founded in 1935 by hunters, anglers, landowners, and other conservationists who were concerned about the loss of North Dakota's natural lands, healthy waters, and abundant wildlife. Our dedicated affiliates, volunteers, and staff maintain this legacy.

#### **Affiliates**

Barnes County Wildlife Federation
Bottineau County Wildlife Club
Cass County Wildlife Club
Central Morton Sportsmen's Club
Eddy County Rod & Gun Club
Hannaford Conservation & Wildlife Club
Hiddenwoods Sportsmen's Club
Kindred Wildlife Club
Lewis and Clark Wildlife Club
Missouri Valley Shooting Sports Association
North Dakota Hunters Education Association
Red River Area Sportsmen's Club
Richland County Wildlife
Stutsman County Wildlife Federation
Tri-County Trap & Wildlife Club

#### **Executive Board Members**

Dave Dewald, President, Bismarck Kerry Whipp, Vice President, Pingree Mike McEnroe, Secretary, Fargo Terry Allbee, Treasurer, Bismarck Dave Brandt, NWF Representative, Buchanan Wayne Beyer, Past President, Wahpeton

#### At Large Board Members

Josh Holm, Director 1, Valley City
Joe Lautenschlager, Director 2, Berthold
Mike McEnroe, Director 3, Fargo
Paulette Scherr, Director 4, Kensal
Terry Allbee, Director 5, Bismarck
Nick Simonson, Director 6, Bismarck
Daryl Simmons, Director 7 Garrison
Gene Masse, Director 8, Bismarck
Joe Keller, Director 9, Wahpeton

Photos: Mike LaLonde, Matt Patrias, Nick Simonson







### <u>From the Executive Director</u>

This continues to be an exciting time to be part of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation! As you can see throughout this newsletter, we are working hard on wildlife management policy, access issues, and R3 activities all over the state. The North Dakota Wildlife Federation spent a great deal of time and energy in the first couple months of 2021 at the North Dakota Capitol working to defend and enhance North Dakota's outdoor heritage. The biennial Legislative Session always demands a lot of our time and attention, but it is worth it.

As in past sessions, our efforts in 2021 our paying off. The hard work of NDWF board members, staff, and members; combined with our constructive relationships with lawmakers and our strong coalitions with other conservation groups, is resulting in several major victories for wildlife and our outdoors. We are also holding



the line against efforts to undermine our outdoor heritage. The work is never finished, but at halftime, we are in good shape.

You can rely on us to continue to fight to give everyone a voice on conservation -- it's the only way that future generations can experience what we enjoy today. As we look ahead to the second half of the session, we need you to stay engaged and fight for North Dakota's wildlife, habitat, and access.

John Bradley, NDWF Executive Director

Contact John at <a href="mailto:jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com">jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com</a>

## Message from our President



Founded in 1935, the Federation is the oldest and largest sportsmen's advocacy and conservation organization in the state of North Dakota. Simply put, we are the hunting and angling voice for conservation in North Dakota.

Our staff and members are passionate about issues affecting wildlife, habitat, and our outdoor heritage. We advocate on behalf of our members and encourage a community of conservation stewards to fight for our cherished resources. Through policy, advocacy, and local engagement, the North Dakota Wildlife Federation is a service to North Dakota's outdoor legacy.

## We Fight For Wildlife, Habitat, and Hunting & Angling Opportunities

NDWF plays an important role in helping draft recommendations to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for managing North Dakota's wildlife resources, including expanding fair chase hunter opportunities.

Additionally, NDWF serves as the voice for sportsmen and women by providing testimony at the North Dakota Legislature, with a full-time presence during the legislative session. NDWF advocates on behalf of North Dakota for the health and well being of our wild resources. In the 86 years since the organization's founding, the primary focus of NDWF remains: to conserve wildlife, habitat, and outdoor opportunities.

David Dewald, Board President

### Meet Your New Board Members





Josh Holm

Director 1

Valley City

josh\_holm@hotmail.com

Joe Keller

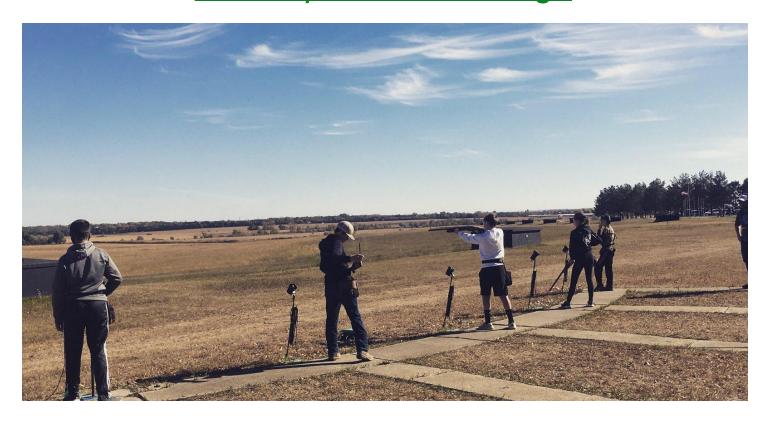
Director 9

Wahpeton

skidsteerhistory@yahoo.com

Josh Holm and Joe Keller are both long time supporters of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation and are both involved with their local affiliate clubs. They have big shoes to fill as they replace longtime board members Dale Patrick (Director 1) and Chuck Haus (District 9). Dale served for many years as NDWF's treasurer and was critical to the Federation's day to day operations. Chuck Haus, a landowner out of Hankinson, generously opened up his land to new hunters for affiliate mentored hunts. NDWF thanks them for all of their work over the years.

# ND Clay Target League Hopes to Rebound with Expanded Offerings



Following a down year with the pandemic restricting a number of schools in North Dakota from participating in the state's high school clay target league, the North Dakota State High School Clay Target League (ND CTL) is eyeing a rebound in numbers of participants and banking on expanded offerings to get more shooters involved in the safest and fastest growing sport in the nation. According to ND CTL State Director Joe Courneya, interest is picking up as the program approaches the start of its spring season on Mar. 28.

"We're seeing a lot of interest, we're seeing some new teams coming on, I've got a couple over here on the east side of the state and a couple on the west side of the state that are signed on, so it's good to see," Courneya states, adding that growth goes beyond the number of teams, but also new disciplines being added, "one of the exciting things is we're adding more disciplines to the clay target program; we've been pretty much trap shooting, and we've added some skeet programs where there were skeet ranges, and now we're looking at five stand and sporting clays."

Last year, the ND CTL hosted approximately 700 shooters in its spring league and saw a drop off in the number of schools which could compete due to restrictions at the local level and distance learning being the norm. This spring, with pandemic conditions subsiding and a more flexible schedule for participating teams, Courneya is optimistic that the program will return to more than 1,000 participants and get back to the level of 58 registered teams across the Peace Garden state. With the majority of other sports,

including close-contact activities like wrestling, football and hockey back in full swing, it is likely that shooters will once again come out in greater numbers for the ND CTL spring season.

"The teachers, the principals and the coaches I've been talking to are excited to have their athletes getting outside, getting some activity and getting together," Courneya relates, "hopefully we'll hit that 58 team mark again and start surpassing that, and bounce back from where we dropped off," he concludes.

The addition of the two new disciplines of five-stand and sporting clays expand the offerings and the environment in which young shooters learn safe and competent shooting skills in a variety of situations to mimic field encounters with birds and other game. In the instance of five-stand, a variety of throwers are set in a stationary field in front of the shooter and a volley of different targets are launched in singles, pairs and report pairs. Like trap, after every five targets the participant moves to a new station, until the round of 25 targets is complete. With sporting clays, participants travel around a course which sets up a variety of shooting scenarios such as targets mimicking income geese, flushing ruffed grouse and even rolling targets that bounce and jump across the ground like a fleeing rabbit. According to Mark Sandness, owner of Capital City Sporting Clays in Bismarck and volunteer coach for the area's six high school clay target league teams, the expansion of offerings works on two different levels.

"The adding of five stand and sporting clays to the league will help each participant develop into a better all-around shooter," Sandness states, adding, "the excitement for these additional programs comes from building more camaraderie in the school and its clay target program by providing more options, giving students an expanded opportunity to find their niche," he concludes. The ND CTL spring league starts at the end of March, and schools can start a team throughout the month. In those schools where teams already exist, interested students in grades six through 12 with hunter's education can contact staff to learn more and register for their local programs. For more information, visit ndclaytarget.com

By: Nick Simonson

A new season of CTL kicks off in March and with new disciplines and a rebound in mind, the league is preparing for what's to come. In addition to trap and skeet, the North Dakota State High School Clay Target League is adding five-stand and sporting clays to its offerings for the spring 2021 season. Simonson Photo.

# <u>Infrastructure Package Must Include Conservation</u> <u>Investments—Here's Why</u>

The United States is at a turning point. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic recession induced by the pandemic, racial injustice, and climate change facing the country, Americans need solutions. With the vast majority of Americans placing "strengthening the economy" at the top of their wishlist for Congress, this is the moment for legislators to take bold, decisive action and commit to creating jobs, rebuilding our economy, addressing racial inequities, and fighting climate change. While no one solution is a cure-all, conservation-minded infrastructure investments can begin to address all these problems at once.



That's why the National Wildlife Federation is calling on Congress to prioritize infrastructure legislation that invests in workers and the economy, protects our communities from climate change, and restores natural ecosystems. And that's why we joined other conservation groups in a new coalition, Conservation Works for America, to call for much of the needed investment.

Here are some of the ways Congress can ensure investments in infrastructure can pay off:

#### Meeting the Need for Clean Water

When people turn on their taps in America, the water coming out of it needs to be safe. Everyone needs access to clean, affordable drinking water, but not everyone has it. Water access in the United States is at risk. Aging pipes, rising consumer costs, and increased risk of droughts and flooding put the water infrastructure of our country under even more strain.

For some communities, this need was never met in the first place. During the pandemic, water shutoffs have primarily affected low-income households of color, as local and state governments and the federal government have failed to deliver on the basic necessity of drinking water. This is unacceptable. In addition to prohibiting water shutoffs, we must invest in programs that will enable municipalities and disenfranchised communities to modernize their water utility systems, such as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program.

### **Resiliency and Preemptive Climate Action**

Climate change poses a threat to humans and wildlife alike. The changing climate means more dangerous and more frequent natural disasters and extreme weather events like flooding, hurricanes,

and wildfires. We must invest to improve the resilience of our roads, buildings, and transportation to better withstand damages from natural disasters, including the use of natural infrastructure. Plus, programs that prevent disasters pay off: research indicates that investing in hazard mitigation saves \$6 for every \$1 invested by the federal government. And these construction projects will provide good-paying jobs for Americans out of work.

Preemptive climate action saves lives, money, and property. And it can also help reduce racial inequities. When natural disasters strike, the impacts disproportionately put communities of color in harm's way. Just and equitable climate policies not only include mitigating climate change's impacts but also strengthening and working alongside communities most vulnerable to these disasters.

### Recreation Economies and Natural Infrastructure: A Winning Combination

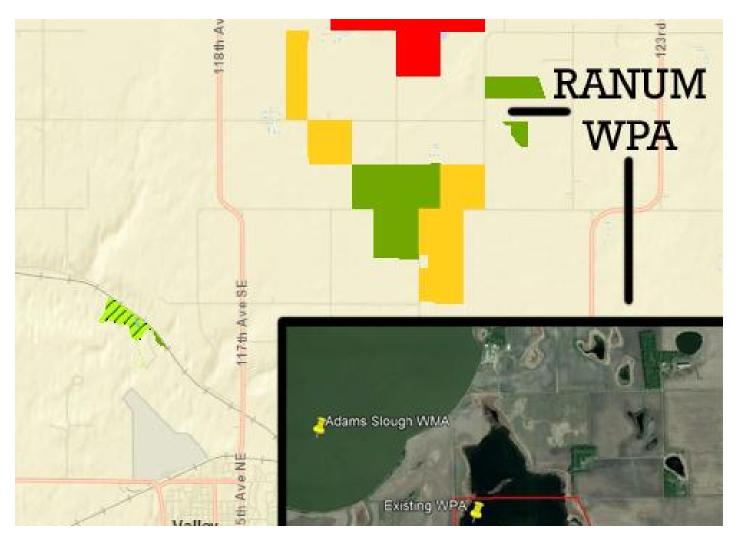
The pandemic has underscored the need for all Americans to be able to access the outdoors. With investments in ecosystem restoration, Congress can boost the outdoor recreational economy and create COVID-friendly jobs. Additionally, the recession has disproportionately put young people of color out of work—the creation of a 21st-century Civilian Conservation Corps can help fix this problem.

It's clear that nature knows best. After all, some of the best climate solutions are already among us in the form of conserved ecosystems—like wetlands, floodplains, and forests. As the National Wildlife Federation and Allied World's 2020 report, The Protective Value of Nature points out, "Oftentimes the most effective hazard risk reduction comes in the form of undisturbed and healthy natural systems." Our nation's natural systems keep pollutants out of our air and water and sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Expanding their capacity by conserving more habitat is yet another way to grow the recreational economy, mitigate climate change, and create jobs.

Interlocking problems call for interlocking solutions, and conservation investments lie at the heart of the action Congress must take. With the will of the American people behind these investments, it's time that Congress gets to work on infrastructure so Americans can get back to work.

By: Tracy Stone-Manning, Associate Vice President for Public Lands, National Wildlife Federation

## .Ranum WPA to Provide Habitat for Wildlife, Options for Outdoorsmen



In the formative years of my upland experience, CRP was at its peak, grouse, partridge and pheasants were plentiful and there was an area of PLOTS, WPAs and WMAs just up the hill from my backdoor that provided a young hunter and his dog everything they could want in a walk. A mixture of food in the surrounding soybeans and corn tied seamlessly into a spread of uplands, cattail sloughs, wetlands and stands of brush and treelines. It was a place that provided sweaty dove hunts in September, where the early morning crack of heavy loads from nearby goose and duck hunters echoed through the haze of dawn and dusk, to late afternoon October tromps which all but guaranteed a shot at a covey of sharpies or a pack of pheasants, all the way up into December. This place still exists today in the amalgamation of yellow, green and red on the NDG&F Department public lands map, but now stands

to be completed by an amazing acquisition which will provide even more for wildlife, hunters and potentially anglers.

The addition of the Ranum Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) to the area just a few miles north of Valley City is a project led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) with the help of Dick Monson, a farmer and conservationist from rural Valley City. The recent purchase looks to not only link together two great parcels in that particular space that are open to public hunting, but also conserve and advance spaces for waterfowl, big game and upland species on down to providing critical habitat for disappearing songbirds such as the bobolink and vital pollinators like monarchs and honeybees which have seen declining numbers in the last 50 years. What's more, if the waters test right, the parcel could lead to expanded fishing options in the area as well. As part of the project, the FWS is looking to establish native prairie habitat on the parcel to promote more upland game, and provide nesting cover for waterfowl, along with nectar sources for pollinators with the help of the state's various sportsman's groups and conservation organizations.

"It will be seeded down to a native mix of grasses, forbs and flowers for wildlife habitat," Monson states, suggesting that all supporting entities, regardless of the habitat and the animals they look to promote, will benefit from the project, adding, "it doesn't just target waterfowl but all wildlife species, so it will be a great addition into the WPAs of North Dakota."

Currently Monson, with the help of the North Dakota non-profit Prairie Pothole Partners, has set up a Facebook Page and donation link for individuals, businesses and organizations to contribute and defray costs of seeding and leverage grants to maximize the effectiveness of the efforts. What's more, thanks to a generous donation, all dollars pledged will be matched on a one-to-one basis. In total, Monson hopes to raise \$32,000 to pay for the planting mix, which runs about \$500 per acre on the 64 acre portion of uplands to be seeded. While the planting will help raise birds and butterflies, it will also increase soil quality and that of the nearby water, which at approximately 12 feet in depth, may present an ice fishing option in the near future.

"The general area there north of Valley City is an old lakebed, there are some existing WPAs, the Adams Slough WMA is in there," Monson relates of the easily-identifiable circle of public access lands on the state's hunting maps, "and the North Dakota Game & Department is going to check the oxygen level on the wetland at the Ranum WPA with the possibility of stocking fish, so potentially we could get a new fishing spot in Barnes County."

For those interested in learning more about the Ranum WPA project, visit the effort's Facebook page at facebook.com/RanumWPA, or contact Kurt Tompkins, FWS District Manager via phone at: 701-840-3128 or via email at: kurt\_tompkins@fws.gov. Donations to the project can be made by clicking on the Facebook page's donation button, or by sending a check payable to Prairie Pothole Partners, 9754 143 ½ Ave SE, Cayuga, ND 58103, Attn: Ranum WPA.

By: Nick Simonson

## Legislative Crossover Report

By: John Bradley, Lobbyist

Bill Number Status NDWF Stance

HB 1017 Active NDWF Stance: Support

Appropriates \$91,812,839 to the Game and Fish Department for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023. Committee heard 02/01. **Amended. Passed out of Committee 20-0-1. Passed the House 81-13**.

HB 1031 Active NDWF Stance: Support

Legislative Management studies of state agency fees. Amended. Passed the House 92-0

HB 1074 Active NDWF Stance: Support

Relating to records kept and reports made by the chief game warden. Passed the House 92-0

HB 1081 Active NDWF Stance: Support

Relating to authority of the game and fish department employees to enforce laws. Subcommittee working on bill, no amendments, just administrative rules to be set between State Trust Lands and G&F. **Do Pass out of Committee 11-3.** Rereferred back to Committee. Passed with amendments 12-2. Passed the House 68-25-1.

HB 1113 Active NDWF Stance: Support

Requires permission from the owner or occupant of the property to place bait for the purpose of attracting wildlife, and provides a penalty. In addition, a person who installs a trail camera, etc., must have written permission from the owner or occupant of the property and the camera must have identification. Amended to include written permission and clarifies who has authority to give permission. **Passed out of Committee 12 -2. Passed the House 94-0** 

HB 1120 Active NDWF Stance: Oppose

Allows a resident who is entitled to purchase a disabled veteran deer license to hunt prior to the youth deer hunting season. The license is limited to one unit (excludes top 5 units). 5 days prior to the youth season and private land only. Whitetail tag only. Limited to 100 tags. Excluded from regular gun season. Give G&F authority to adjust the tag number and must report to the next legislative assembly on success. **Amended. Passed out of Committee. Passed the House 91-0** 

HB 1162 Active NDWF Stance: Support

Relating to permitting an organization conducting raffles in the state to sell raffle tickets online and to accept electronic payments for raffle ticket purchases. **Amended and Passed out of Committee. Passed the House 70-24.** 

HB 1178 Failed NDWF Stance: Oppose

Nonresident members of the armed forces who qualify to receive a resident license may apply for and be issued a lottery license for deer. **Do Not Pass out of Committee. Failed on the House Floor 14-76** 

HB 1215 Active NDWF Stance: Oppose

Relating to a low-interest loan program; relating to a 10% transfer of funds from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to a loan fund; to build the fund for 5 years; and to provide a transfer. **Amended**. Then it was pitched to be a way to 'save' some OHF grant funds for five years to create a revolving loan fund that can live on beyond access to oil revenues. **Passed out of Committee 11-3. Passed the House 83-11.** 

HB 1218 Active NDWF Stance: Support

Nonresidents who own land in North Dakota may hunt during the first seven days of the pheasant season on land they enrolled in the PLOTS program. **Passed the house 92-0** 

HB 1242 Active NDWF Stance: Support

An individual who was issued an apprentice hunter validation license in 2020-21 may receive another one. **Passed House 91-0** 

HB 1270 Failed NDWF Stance: Neutral

An individual is guilty of a class B misdemeanor by placing a trail camera, etc., on private property without written permission from the owner or occupant. In addition, the device must have identification. Amended. **Passed out of Committee 10-3. Failed the House 0-94.** 

HB 1327 Failed NDWF Stance: Oppose

One-percent of the total deer licenses to hunt deer with guns to be to be issued in any unit or subunit as described in the governor's proclamation, including licenses issued to nonresidents under subsections 3 and 4, must be allocated to former residents. A non-resident who was a former resident in the state for 10 years can apply for the deer gun lottery. **Failed House 1-90.** 

HB 1340 Failed NDWF Stance: Oppose

Prohibiting "law enforcement officer" entry onto private land without permission. **Amended** – replaces "land" with "property" and "landowner" with "owner." **Passed out of Committee 8-5. Failed House 37-56.** 

HB 1411 Active NDWF Stance: neutral

Allows the use of an artificial light with a power source of not more than six volts while hunting coyote, fox, raccoon or beaver at any time day or night. Section 2 was taken out of the bill. Section 1 amended. Passed out of Committee 13-1. Passed the House 92-2

HB 1437 Active NDWF Stance: Neutral

Relating to small subsurface water management systems; relating to large subsurface water management system permits; to provide a penalty; and to declare an emergency. **Amended and Passed out of Committee** 13-0-1. Passed the House 94-0.

SB 2036 Active NDWF Stance: Support

Legislative management shall continue to study the electronic land access database and application during the 2021-22 interim, and expand it to all counties. **Passed Senate 45-2.** 

SB 2037 Failed NDWF Stance: Oppose

Amends a section of century code relating to criminal trespass and electronic posting, including an individual would be guilty of a class A misdemeanor by entering an enclosed fence; and the name of a person would not have to appear on each sign on physically posted land. **Failed Senate 0-47.** 

SB 2038 Failed` NDWF Stance: Oppose

Allows the option to designate the land as posted or closed to hunting in an online database or other electronic application. **Failed Senate 0-47.** 

Increases game and fish violations for a class 1 non-criminal offense from \$50 to \$100, and a class 2 non-criminal offense from \$25 to \$50. **Failed Senate 21-26.** 

SB 2143 Active NDWF Stance: Neutral

Allows solid fluorescent pink or a camouflage pattern of at least 50% fluorescent orange or pink to be worn by big game hunters. **Passed Senate 43-4.** 

SB 2144 Active NDWF Stance: Support

Amends a section of century code relating to criminal trespass and electronic posting, including an individual would be guilty of a class A misdemeanor by entering an enclosed fence <u>unless the individual is a licensed hunter or angler who is lawfully hunting or fishing</u>, and allows the option to designate the land as posted or closed to hunting in an online database or other electronic application. **Passed senate 45-2.** 

SB 2172 Active NDWF Stance: Oppose

Applicants age 75 and older would be able to enter their name twice in the moose lottery. **Passed Senate 27-20**.

SB 2184 Failed NDWF Stance: Oppose

Relating to big game hunting licenses for hunter education volunteer instructors. Failed Senate 6-41.

SB 2211 Active NDWF Stance: Oppose

Allows the use of an artificial light with a power source of not more than six volts while hunting furbearer, ground squirrel, prairie dog, porcupine, rabbit or skunk. Amended to avoid deer gun season. **Passed out of Committee. Passed the Senate 28-19.** 

SB 2342 Failed NDWF Stance: Neutral

Relating to healthy soil grant and healthy soil assessment and education programs. **Do not pass 5-1 out of committee.** Failed on the Senate Floor 7-40.

SB 2344 Active NDWF Stance: Support

Relating to governmental regulation of firearms and ammunition; and to provide a penalty. **Amended. Passed out of Committee 7-0. Passed the Senate 46-0.** 

HCR 3027 Active NDWF Stance: Neutral

A concurrent resolution urging President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. to continue oil development on federal land and on federal minerals. **Adopted by House.** 

HCR 3025 Active NDWF Stance: Neutral

A concurrent resolution urging the federal government to refrain from enacting regulations that threaten the reliability and affordability of electric power in North Dakota and to increase support for research, development, and deployment for next generation carbon-based energy generation. **Adopted by House.** 

### How to Comment on a Bill

- 1. Go to <a href="https://www.legis.nd.gov/legend/committee">https://www.legis.nd.gov/legend/committee</a> hearings/hearings/public-schedule/
- 2. Find the bill on the table below
- 3. On the right hand side click Submit Testimony
- 4. Upload testimony from your computer (must be saved as a PDF)

Weekly legislative calls are held every Friday at noon.

**Join Zoom Meeting** 

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85120843776

Meeting ID: 851 2084 3776

Phone:

1-253-215-8782, 85120843776#

### **NDWF** Events

NDWF and our affiliates host educational and social events throughout the year. Check out our Facebook events page for details. Visit www.northdakotawildlife.org for upcoming board meetings information.

NDWF Spring Board Meeting - April 10th, 2021

Barnes County Wildlife Big Spenders Event - April 10th, 2021

Red River Area Sportsmen's Club Annual Banquet - April 22nd, 2021

Legislative Session Ends - April 30th, 2021

### Make an Impact

For over 80 years, the North Dakota Wildlife Federation has depended on donations from conservationists like you to support our work to protect North Dakota's abundant wildlife, our natural lands and waters, and our unmatched public access to the outdoors for future generations to enjoy. We are able to do so much to protect North Dakota's outdoor heritage because people like you decide to support our work. Your financial support is crucial to our ability to stand up to well-funded special interest groups at the North Dakota Capitol and in Congress. We need everyone who values North Dakota's outdoor heritage to get involved.



Make Checks Payable To: North Dakota Wildlife Federation PO Box 1091 Bismarck, ND 58502-1091



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### NDWF Membership Form

Individual Membership: \$15	<ul> <li>Associate/Business</li> </ul>	: Membership: \$25 -	Educational Organization: Fre	эе

Name

Address

Email

Phone

Make Checks Payable To: North Dakota Wildlife Federation PO Box 1091 Bismarck, ND 58502-1091