

# NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA

GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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## MATTERS OF OPINION



**Terry Steinwand**  
*Director*

Periodically on this page I'll wander from the topics in the current issue of *North Dakota OUTDOORS*. This is one of those times.

How often have we heard the future is the young people or the next generation? I hear it all the time in our business, and it's a valid notion.

Over the last number of years, I've had the privilege of hosting some high school seniors through a job shadow program with the local Elks lodge. The purpose of the event is to introduce these young adults to how state and local government works.

We've had students from every high school in the Bismarck-Mandan area during my tenure as director and we hope each one came away with a better appreciation for what the Game and Fish Department does behind the scenes.

All of the students we've hosted over the years were tremendous young adults and this year wasn't any different. This year my shadows from Century High School were Hunter Kopseng, Austin Barnhardt and Matthew Strenge. Based on my experience with them for a short time, their parents and Century High School should be proud. They were intelligent, engaged and courteous.

Scott Peterson, Department deputy director, and I, gave the three job shadows a general overview of the Department and then asked their particular interests. One of the students was interested in biology, while the other two planned on furthering their education in the business sector.

Based on past experience we had a good idea that they would all be interested in the technological side of our agency, so we gave

them a brief glimpse of some of the research using GPS technology to track animal movements and gather other information.

Following that, we aligned the two students with business interests with the Department's administrative services staff to give them a primer on the business side of things, such as accounting and grant administration. And we gave the other individual interested in the biological part of our business a tour of Game and Fish lab facilities and an explanation of how we use information learned in the lab to manage fish and wildlife in the state.

As we were traveling to the luncheon for awards and presentations, one of the individuals noted that he came from a hunting family, but while he didn't hunt, he enjoyed going along on the outings.

That really got me thinking. Hunting isn't necessarily for everybody, but it emphasized that this young man enjoyed being outside with family and was content with something other than hunting, which is equally important.

North Dakota, on average, has become a much younger state in the last decade. The youth of today are definitely the future. Not all of them will end up hunting or fishing, but I'm willing to bet each of them would be lost if they went outside and didn't hear Canada geese flying overhead, or walked the prairies and didn't hear the call of our state bird, the Western meadowlark.

It's up to all of us, including today's young people, to ensure the outdoor heritage of our great state continues, whether it be hunting, fishing, or simply walking outdoors with family. Listen to nature. It will tell you a lot of what North Dakota is all about.

*Terry Steinwand*

# NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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

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### Front Cover

This month's cover features the Little Missouri River as it runs in front of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Elkhorn Ranch Site in northwestern Billings County. The ranch covered both sides of the river here during Roosevelt's time in North Dakota in the 1880s, but the current Elkhorn Ranch unit of the national park is to the left, or on the west side of the river.

(Photo by Craig Bihrl, Bismarck.)



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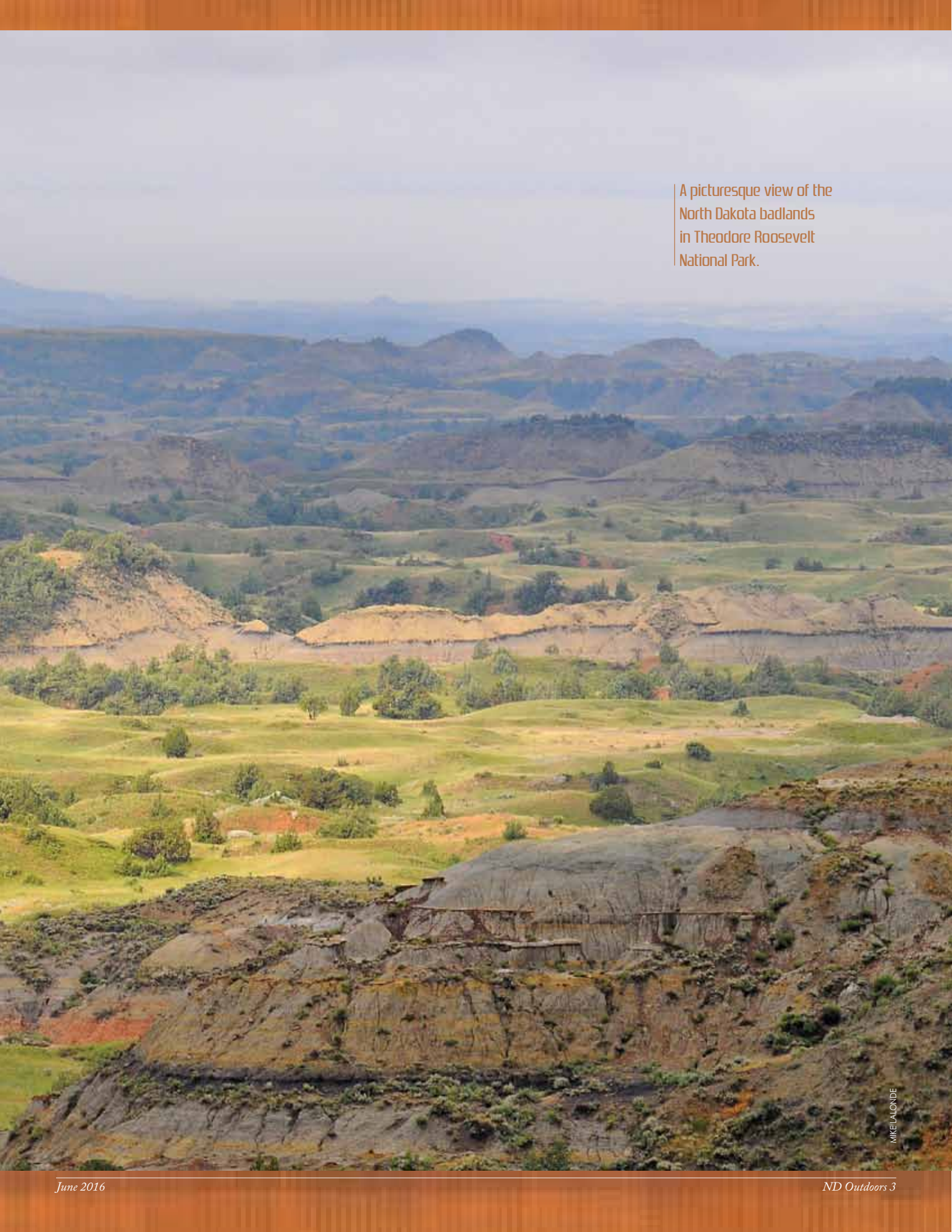
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**2016**  
National Park Service.  
CENTENNIAL

FIND YOUR  
**PARK**

NORTH DAKOTA  
NATIONAL PARKS  
JOIN IN  
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



A picturesque view of the North Dakota badlands in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

MIKELALONDE



CRAIG BIHRLE

Mule deer, like this doe (top) and mature mule deer bucks in velvet (bottom), are just one of the dozens of species of mammals found in the park.



DARCY KRAMLICH

One hundred years ago this summer, on August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act, creating the agency that is responsible for protecting park and monument lands in the United States.

The National Park System now includes 411 areas throughout the United States, including several areas in North Dakota that embrace the scenic, historic and wildlife values the park system is designed to preserve. The NPS is celebrating its centennial by connecting with the next generation of conservation stewards.

The Find Your Park campaign is an effort to help reintroduce Americans to the outdoors so that they may enjoy public lands and engage in conservation, education and recreation initiatives in their local parks.

The centennial kicks off a second century of stewardship of America's national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation and historic preservation programs. The NPS invites all North Dakotans to discover national park sites, including Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Knife River Indian Villages, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and North Country National Scenic Trail.

The stated purpose of the NPS is to "...conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

### NPS: Why North Dakota?

It was here in 1884 that future President Theodore Roosevelt reflected on human influences to remote spaces of the American West.

Roosevelt's time in North Dakota's badlands (1884-86) inspired his first ideas for conserving the country's lands, wildlife, natural resources and scenic wonders. For that reason, Theodore Roosevelt National Park's Elkhorn Ranch site is considered by many to be the "Cradle of Conservation" and is an iconic place in America's cultural heritage.

During his presidency Roosevelt provided federal protection for over 230 million acres of land. While none of the land that eventually became part of the National Park System in North Dakota was designated during Roosevelt's presidency, the state does have several national wildlife refuges Roosevelt preserved, including Stump Lake, Chase Lake and Sully's Hill Game Preserve.

After Roosevelt's death in 1919, his conservation ideas prompted national interest in establishing a memorial to honor his work, and North Dakota was the natural location. The park was first created as a wildlife refuge in 1946, then the present-day south unit



CRAIG BIRLE

From his house at the Elkhorn Ranch site, (top) Theodore Roosevelt had this view to the north. Bison (bottom) are emblematic of Theodore Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota.

and Elkhorn Ranch unit became Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park in 1947. The north unit was added in 1948, and all 70,448 acres and three units were finally designated as Theodore Roosevelt National Park on November 10, 1978.

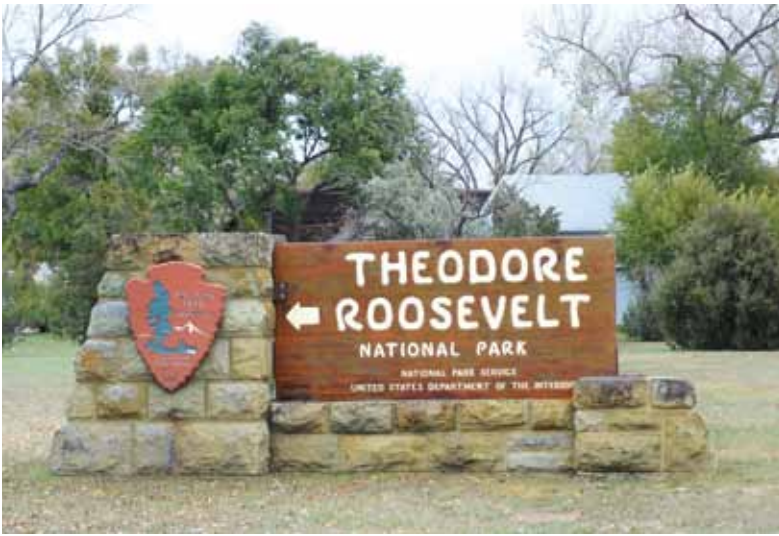
## Park Details

### Theodore Roosevelt National Park

The park's three western North Dakota units; south unit near Medora, north unit near Watford City, and the remote Elkhorn Ranch site, attracted almost 600,000 visitors in 2015, but they still preserve a wild landscape where



MIKELAONDE



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



CRAIG BIRHLE



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRNP (top) was first created as a wildlife refuge in 1946. Badgers (middle) and other predators can be found throughout the park. Teepee and rainbow (bottom) at Knife River Indian Villages near Stanton.

visitors can relax and recharge their spirit with a sense of solitude, hearing only wind rustling in the grass or the song of a meadowlark.

There is also a chance to experience the thrill of a sudden flight of sharp-tailed grouse, thundering hooves of bison, or a warning from a prairie rattlesnake. Fragrant sagebrush and impressive wildflower displays color the hillsides and valleys, and even when the sun goes down, there is opportunity to enjoy the splendor of the night sky, admire the Milky Way and marvel at the enchanting periodic appearance of the northern lights.

The landscape is made of many colors and textures; where one can view red rock baked by ancient subterranean coal fires, black coal veins, soft gray layers of bentonite clay, cannonball concretions, cap rock pillars, and fossilized trees from ancient forests. Just like Theodore Roosevelt, the park is a place to find nature and rejuvenate your soul.

*"... Nothing could be more lonely and nothing more beautiful than the view at nightfall across the prairies to these huge hill masses, when the lengthening shadows had at last merged into one and the faint after-glow of the red sunset filled the west. The beauty and charm of the wilderness are his for the asking, for the edges of the wilderness lie close beside the beaten roads of the present travel ..."*

### Theodore Roosevelt

**TRNP Wildlife Watching:** Theodore Roosevelt National Park provides great opportunities for experiencing wildlife, hosting 50 mammalian species, 157 bird species, nine reptilian and six amphibian species as permanent or seasonal residents. Twilight hours in the morning or evening are prime times for viewing deer, elk and other secretive species. Bison, prairie dogs, raptors and other conspicuous species can be viewed at all hours. Visitors are urged to drive slowly and watch for animals crossing the road, and use binoculars or a telephoto lens for safe viewing. Check at visitor centers for more information on wildlife viewing tips, park policies and regulations.

The NPS strives to establish self-regulating ecosystems on park lands. Proactive and research-based techniques help maintain wildlife for visitors to enjoy. Native animals including pronghorn, elk, bighorn sheep and bison were all successfully reintroduced to Theodore Roosevelt National Park to restore natural ecology. Look for these charismatic species along the park's scenic roads, or hike trails initially cut into the badlands by bison long ago.

The park's south unit also hosts a herd of feral horses, while the north unit has longhorn steers.

Visit [www.nps.gov/thro](http://www.nps.gov/thro) to plan your trip.

### Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

Imagine a busy earth lodge village full of life and





SANDRA JOHNSON

The North Country Scenic Trail (top) runs from New York to North Dakota. Bighorn sheep (middle) are found in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Fort Union Trading Post (bottom) is located on the Upper Missouri River near Williston.

excitement. That was the intent of the U.S. Congress in 1974 when it established Knife River Indian Villages National Historic site to preserve and interpret an area rich with history and culture.

At Knife River, located near Stanton in Mercer County, it is easy to imagine women sitting on platforms singing to their gardens, girls playing with homemade leather dolls, boys practicing with their first bow and arrow, old men smoking tobacco and laughing at each other's stories.

You see faces from across North America and even the world, and hear Hidatsa and Mandan and maybe even Lakota, English, French or German. Perhaps you can smell corn boiling in a clay pot, sage smoke filling the air, and sweet wildflower scents blowing in from the prairie, or hear the howling winds of a winter blizzard.

The Knife River site was a major American Indian trade center for hundreds of years prior to becoming an important market place for fur traders after 1750. The earth lodge people who lived there hunted bison and other game, but they were in essence farmers living in villages along the Missouri River and its tributaries.

**Recreation and Education:** The park's museum provides an inside look at the history and culture of the Hidatsa people. Outside is a full-scale, reconstructed earth lodge, Hidatsa garden and drying racks. On the village trail are the remains of the Awatixa Xi'e Village (Lower Hidatsa Site) and Awatixa Village (Sakakawea Site). Hike the North Forest Trail loop through bottomland forest and native prairie and continue onto the Missouri overlook loop for spectacular views of the Missouri River. Upon entering the forest, you can also choose to walk on the Big Hidatsa Trail to the Hidatsa village (Big Hidatsa Site). Grab your binoculars and spot raptors, waterfowl, warblers and many other birds that frequent this historically significant area.

Visit [www.nps.gov/knri](http://www.nps.gov/knri) to plan your trip.

#### Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site

In 1828, on the spacious plains near where the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers joined, John Jacob Astor's American Fur



DARCH KRAMLICH



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



CRAIG BIRHLE



LARA ANDERSON

From prairie dogs (top) to mountain bluebirds (left), the list of wildlife species found in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is long.



This photo of the Little Missouri River winding through the North Unit of North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park appears on one of 16 Forever Stamps produced to celebrate the National Park Service's 100th anniversary. The picture was taken in July 2013 by Q.T. Luong of San Jose, California.

Company built what became its most famous fur trade post. Although called a fort, the post was neither a government nor a military installation, but a privately owned commercial establishment founded to engage in business with the Northern Plains tribes.

Built at the request of the Assiniboine nation, Fort Union Trading Post, then called Fort Union, quickly emerged as the Upper Missouri's most profitable fur trade post. This trade business continued until 1867, giving rise to a uniquely diverse, peaceful, and productive social and cultural environment that helped make Fort Union western America's longest-lasting fur trade post.

From 1828 to 1867, seven Upper Missouri tribes – Assiniboine, Plains Cree, Blackfeet, Plains Chippewa, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara – traded buffalo hides, beaver pelts, and other furs for hundreds of goods imported from eight countries. In exchange for furs that ranged from grizzly bear and bison to mice, tribal trading partners received manufactured materials such as calico cloth, guns and ammunition, clothing, pipes, beads and cooking ware.

On average, the post received more than 25,000 buffalo robes and sold more than \$100,000 in merchandise each year. The post also provided federal Indian agents with a base of operations and storage warehouse before the national government established a permanent presence in the Trans-Mississippi West after the Civil War.

**Recreation and Education:** Each year on the third weekend in June, more than 100 re-enactors from across the country and Canada demonstrate traditional skills and lifeways. The primary focus of this rendezvous event is to portray and recreate the historic trade culture and daily life including activities, camping equipment, fashion and weapons common on the Northern Plains during Fort Union's period of significance.

This annual gathering is the fort's largest event, and is a time when Fort Union comes alive and best reflects the busy trade season. It is a prime time to participate in the upper Missouri's finest fur trade fair at one of the West's most imposing historic sites.

Visit [www.nps.gov/fous](http://www.nps.gov/fous) to plan your trip.

#### Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail follows the route of the Corps of Discovery from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. Sites along the trail in North Dakota include Fort Clark Archeological District, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site and Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site. Visit [www.nps.gov/lecl](http://www.nps.gov/lecl) to plan your trip to follow the Corps route as they discovered new flora, fauna, geology and historic sites now preserved for us today.

#### North Country National Scenic Trail

The North Country Scenic Trail runs from New York to North Dakota, and it's never far from a great outdoor adventure. When completed, the trail will be the longest continuous hiking trail in the United States. The trail links scenic, natural, historic and cultural areas across seven states, allowing visitors to experience a variety of northern landscapes. For more information visit: [www.nps.gov/noco](http://www.nps.gov/noco) or [www.northcountrytrail.org](http://www.northcountrytrail.org).

*AMY McCANN is an interpretive ranger and centennial coordinator at Theodore Roosevelt National Park at Medora.*

# PARK HISTORY

## ESTABLISHING THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK



Within a short time after the death of Theodore Roosevelt on January 6, 1919, there were proposals to establish a memorial in his honor. Various studies took place across the country that included ideas for national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, and scenic roads as well as state parks.

Sylvane Ferris, a friend and business associate of Roosevelt during his cattle ranching days in the Dakota Badlands, appointed a committee to pick a site and Medora was selected. The 1921 North Dakota legislature instructed their representatives in Congress to assist by setting land aside for a park.

The Little Missouri badlands were explored in 1924 by a party of 40 to outline an area for a Roosevelt national park. This tour resulted in the formation of the Roosevelt Memorial National Park Association (later, the Great North Dakota Association). The following year, a tour of "cowboys and Congressmen," a larger group of federal, state, and regional officials plus interested parties and news media conducted an inspection camping trip through the "Grand Canyon of the Little Missouri," which cemented the park idea. One early plan called for a 2,030 square mile park. This proposal was not without its critics because the land was too valuable for local ranchers and their livestock.

Roger Toll, Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park, submitted a report on the proposed park to National Park Service Director Stephen T. Mather in 1928 in which he favored the establishment of a small national monument stating, "A national park does not seem to be justified."

Again, various studies, proposals and counter-proposals for a park took place. Some suggested a national forest be established. Then came the "dirty thirties." Drought, overgrazing, and crop failures forced many homesteaders to sell their land to the federal government. In western North Dakota land was acquired mainly for setting up leased grazing and rehabilitation. Today, most of what was purchased under the auspices of the Resettlement Act is now part of the Little Missouri National Grasslands.

A portion of these new federal holdings was earmarked for a park. In 1934 a cooperative agreement to start a Roosevelt Regional Park Project was signed by the Resettlement Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps, National Park Service and the state of North Dakota. The federal government wanted the project to become a state park.

The CCC operations began immediately and were administered by National Park Service employees. The north and south Roosevelt Regional Parks had their own camps. By 1935, these sites were designated the Roosevelt Recreation Demonstration Area. Development by workers from the CCC, as well as Works Projects Administration and Emergency Relief Administration, included construction of roads, trails, picnic areas, campgrounds and buildings.

All projects ended in 1941. Who would accept management responsibility for this land was still uncertain. When North Dakota's state government announced that it did not want the land as a state park, approval was obtained in 1942 to retain the RDA for the purpose of study for possible inclusion into the National Park System. North Dakota Representative William Lemke championed the fight to establish a national park, an action which met resistance from NPS officials. The next few years saw further studies and political maneuvering.

In November 1946, the RDA was officially transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge after legislation to establish a park was vetoed because some felt the area did not possess those qualities that merit national park ranking. Undaunted, Lemke pressed on.

Finally, on April 25, 1947, after several compromises, President Truman signed the bill that created Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park. This included lands that roughly make up the south unit and the Elkhorn Ranch site today. The north unit was added to the memorial park on June 12, 1948. Additional boundary revisions were made in later years.

As a memorial park, it was the only one of its kind in the National Park System. Eventually, in addition to a connection with a president, the land was recognized for its diverse cultural and natural resources. On November 10, 1978, the area was given national park status when President Carter signed Public Law 95-625 that changed the memorial park to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This same law placed 29,920 acres of the park under the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Today, the 70,448-acre Theodore Roosevelt National Park is home to a variety of plants and animals, and continues to memorialize the 26th president for his enduring contributions to the safekeeping and protection of our nation's resources.

~ Source: National Park Service website ~

# Young Minds Outdoors

*By Ron Wilson*



Members of Montpelier High School Envirothon team ponder the first of many questions that tested their knowledge of soils, wildlife and other subjects.

The first thing you notice about the North Dakota Envirothon competition in early May is the cruddy weather.

With her coat zipped nearly to her chin and her back to the wind, Diane Olson, Envirothon founder and longtime coordinator, said the number of nice, sunny days that have graced the event in 17 years can be counted on one hand, with some fingers remaining.

“It’s Envirothon time, so we expect this type of weather,” Olson said. “At least it’s not raining or snowing.”

The other thing you notice is that the Envirothon participants – 100-plus high school students on 23 teams from 17 schools – are so dialed in to the competition, the weather isn’t a factor.

“We’ve worked hard to get ready for this,” said Colten Ford, Montpelier High School senior. “We all kind of have subjects that we are good at. We’re all kind of interested in different things.”

According to the North Dakota Envirothon website, here’s the skinny on the event that has been held for years at the Crystal Springs Camp near Medina.

The Envirothon is a problem-solving natural resource competition for high school students. On day one, teams walking designated outdoor trails with specific stops, are tested on their knowledge of soils, wildlife, aquatics and prairie. The competition ends with oral presentations.

“We’ve really tried to stress to the kids the importance of the oral presentations,” Olson said. “They need to understand the importance of being prepared and thinking on their feet.”

Marty Egeland, North Dakota Game and Fish Department outreach biologist in Grand Forks, has worked the competition since its inception.

“I got involved when the Department got involved in the early 2000s,” Egeland said. “Honestly, I’ve stuck with the Envirothon all these years because I see the merit in the program.”

He said the Envirothon provides a unique avenue for kids looking to excel at something that isn’t a sport.

“It gives those kids with an environmental leaning some exposure to North Dakota natural resources,” Egeland said. “Who knows,



Students competing in the North Dakota Envirothon competition said they’d been studying much of the school year in preparation for the event held at the Crystal Springs Camp near Medina.



RON WILSON

To get ready for the Envirothon completion, high school students studied resources in the fields of soils, aquatics, wildlife, prairie (forestry and rangeland) and a current environmental issue. The latter, for the 2016 event, was aquatic nuisance species.

### Past Winners

- 2016 – Midkota High School
- 2015 – Minot High School
- 2014 – Bismarck High School
- 2013 – Bishop Ryan High School
- 2012 – Minot High School
- 2011 – Sargent Central High School
- 2010 – Sargent Central High School
- 2009 – Sargent Central High School
- 2008 – Sargent Central High School
- 2007 – Bismarck High School
- 2006 – West Fargo High School
- 2005 – Kenmare High School
- 2004 – Kenmare High School
- 2003 – Sargent Central High School
- 2002 – West Fargo High School
- 2001 – West Fargo High School
- 2000 – Barnes County 4-H

but maybe we're working with some of tomorrow's conservation leaders."

Olson said that more than 50 former competitors have gone on into natural resources careers.

"It was a goal from the start to use Envirothon to inspire young people and nudge them in the direction of natural resources fields in North Dakota," Olson said. "If we don't have sound people in the natural resources fields teaching wise use of our resources, then we're in trouble."

Beth Burdolski, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service soil scientist in Jamestown, is a good example of a former competitor who followed a career path in natural resources.

Burdolski competed for Bismarck High School's Envirothon teams from 2009-11, and this year was a volunteer trail guide at Crystal Springs.

"The Envirothon was a huge influence in determining what I chose to study in college," she said. "Back in high school when we were studying for the competition, Kristin Brennan (NRCS soil scientist in Bismarck) came in to teach us about the basics of soil, and it opened my eyes to a new discipline. Plus, she was just so enthusiastic about her job, and that was inspiring."

Tanner Gue, biologist with Ducks Unlimited in Bismarck and volunteer trail guide at the event, said this was his first Envirothon, and he was impressed.

"Anytime you can foster curiosity and genuine interest in conservation in young minds is a great thing," he said. "I benefited by simply interacting with what I hope is the next generation of conservationists."

Olson has coordinated North Dakota Envirothon every year. She started the program with the hope it could help reconnect some of the state's youth to the land.

"I definitely think our young people have lost the connection to North Dakota's natural resources," Olson said. "Too many of them have no idea how to use our natural resources wisely. Hopefully, we've helped changed that a little."

**RON WILSON** is editor of *North Dakota OUTDOORS*.

## Envirothon 2016 Results

Midkota High School, coached by Gilbert Black, won the 17<sup>th</sup> annual North Dakota Envirothon competition in May. Team members are Joseph Vollmer, Jesse Gilbertson, Carson Quam, Victoria Vollmer and McKenna Frappier.

The Midkota team will represent North Dakota at the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon competition in Peterborough, Ontario in July.

Second place went to Minot High School, coached by Joe Super and David Norton. Team members are Zach Krill, Kelsey Krill, Julia Beck, Patrick Richardson and Elizabeth Rohrer.

Third went to Bismarck High School, coached by Valarie Smallbeck. Team members are Sam Wolf, Shayla Heger, Hope Burdolski, Sarah Vadnais and Tanner Jochim.

## Envirothon Message

The Envirothon is a problem-solving natural resource competition for high school students. Teams consisting of five members in grades 9-12, from a school, organization or club, study in the areas of prairie (forestry), soil, water, wildlife and a current environmental issue.

Team members demonstrate proven concepts of hands-on education, combined with the excitement of effective educational tools, which help schools nurture environmentally aware students and meet the immediate need to teach more environmental natural resource education.





# Anglers benefit from Agency Part

## Lulled by the summer sun and rhythmic, rolling waves,

anglers lazily cast from the fishing pier at Kidder County's Lake Josephine. Miles away, anglers busily filet their catch at a cleaning station at Parshall Bay Recreation Area on Lake Sakakawea.

These types of fishing opportunities in North Dakota are enhanced by facilities made possible through partnerships between hundreds of local entities and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, which provides both labor and funding to help

develop fishing or boating facilities and enhance access to lakes.

"They've certainly proved without a doubt and to the nickel that they invest in fisheries throughout the state," said Wayne Beyer, Wahpeton Park Board parks and recreation director. "There's no question we would have considerably less than what we have now and it would have taken a lot longer to get things developed. Without question, the way we've been able to deliver





CRAIG BIRKLE



CRAIG BIRKLE

Anglers fish from a fishing pier at Lake Josephine in Kidder County. Like a lot of waters in North Dakota, amenities such as fishing piers and boat ramps are made possible by Game and Fish partnering with other agencies and wildlife clubs.

# Partnerships

*By Luann Dart*

services in reasonably short periods of time is due to the partnership.”

## About the Program

The Game and Fish fisheries development program provides grants to fund up to 75 percent of local projects that develop fishing or boating opportunities.

Local entities are then required to provide the remaining 25 percent of the cost, maintain the project and carry liability insurance. Local partners range from park boards to wildlife clubs.

“We entertain requests for just about anything

that’s fishing or boating related as far as projects,” said Bob Frohlich, Game and Fish Department fisheries development supervisor.

The state and local partnership is vital in developing local facilities, he said.

“The program has grown, the number of lakes has grown, our angler numbers have gone through the roof, our number of registered boats are at record levels and we’ve got more facilities on the landscape than we’ve ever had,” Frohlich said. “Without these partners, there’s just no way we’d be able to keep up, so they are vital.”

Since the late 1980s, the number of lakes in North Dakota has increased from 180 to 425, creating more demand for access. But with only three employees working full time in the program, Game and Fish must rely on local partnerships to help develop and maintain facilities across the state.

“In some instances, Game and Fish has been proactive and recruited partners to work with us, or we’ve actually gone in on a few of them and developed them 100 percent ourselves,” Frohlich said, “because we felt it was that important of a fishery.”

The program gets anywhere from 50 to 200 requests



BOB FROHLICH

Game and Fish Department personnel (top) prepare the site for a new boat ramp at Jasper Lake in Kidder County in 2006. Installation (middle) of a courtesy dock at Ft. Rice on Lake Oahe. New style of fish cleaning station (bottom) at Parshall Bay on Lake Sakakawea.



BOB FROHLICH

for local assistance a year, with more requests during years of high water or drought, when it's necessary to add facilities or change them to maintain access to waters.

Local entities must submit an application for project funding by February 1 of each year. Examples of projects include boat ramps, courtesy docks, restrooms, access roads, parking areas, fishing piers, security lights and fish cleaning stations. Projects that aren't eligible include camping areas, picnic shelters, swimming beaches or playgrounds.

Money for the fisheries development program comes primarily from federal aid through the Sport Fish Restoration Act. Revenues come from manufacturers' excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, such as rods, reels and lures, plus a portion of motorboat gas tax. Federal aid is distributed back out to the states based on a formula that factors in the state population, number of licensed anglers and number of registered boats.

"It's one of the success stories of a user-pay, user-benefit type of program," Frohlich said.

### Partner Success Stories

The Wahpeton Park Board has partnered with Game and Fish for everything from putting fishing rods into the hands of youth during fishing derbies, to providing handicapped access to fishing areas, Beyer said.

"The funding is critical, and the funding comes with a local commitment, so there needs to be buy-in, so the partnership is the most important aspect," he said. "These projects require upkeep, so it commits local boards that own the property along the rivers and lakes to be responsible for ongoing maintenance and improvements."

Each year, the fisheries division presents a certificate of appreciation to an organization that has a history of accomplishments as a cooperating partner in local fisheries projects.

The Wahpeton Park Board has been recognized for its ongoing efforts to develop and improve public boating and fishing facilities at numerous lakes, rivers and recreation sites in Richland County.

"The Wahpeton Park Board and its members have helped with construction and installation of boat ramps, courtesy docks, toilets, fishing piers, fishing access roads and parking areas at Mooreton Pond, Brushvale Landing and numerous sites on the Red River in the immediate Wahpeton area," Frohlich said. "They have also



BOB FROHLICH



Public boat ramp at Crown Butte Dam in Morton County.

BOB FROHLICH

assumed primary responsibility for maintaining these facilities after construction, and the park board does an outstanding job in performing this task.”

The fisheries development program has helped create fishing facilities from A to Z, Beyer said. The local park board has been able to create road access to recreation areas and trails to shoreline fishing, along with a handicapped-accessible fishing pier.

“Lots of different ages and different stages,” Beyer said. “We look at outdoor recreation, making those opportunities available not only on a local, but on a regional basis, too.

“The staff has been great to work with. They are very helpful,” he added. “We’ve dealt with some quality professional folks and that helps with the success of it.”

The Wahpeton Park Board, in turn, partners with local clubs, such as the Red River Area Sportsmen’s Club, which also provides some of the local funding and members have helped develop recreational areas, Beyer said.

Parshall Bay Recreation Area is a popular fishing area that’s benefited from the program also.

Kim and Barb Knudson manage Parshall Bay Recreation Area for the Mountrail County Park Board, and are third-party concessionaires at the site.

The recreation area installed and maintains three boat ramps through the fisheries development program.

“Lake Sakakawea fluctuates so much, that’s why there are three boat ramps, so when the water goes way down, there’s

still access,” Kim said.

The partnership has also addressed another issue in the area by installing two fish cleaning stations, where fish remains are ground and put into a septic system, then spread as fertilizer on local fields.

“This area is well-known for the walleye fishing and a lot of the walleye congregate here in late spring and early summer, so there’s a massive amount of fish taken out of here. Well, it got to be such a problem because people were throwing their fish remains everywhere,” Kim said. “Everybody expects the boat ramp (to be here), but the fish cleaning stations are big. We have a lot of people come here who have never seen fish stations utilized that way.”

The state and local partnership also helped improve access to a shore-fishing area at Parshall Bay after cars and trucks were getting stuck on a prairie trail.

The Morton County Park Board’s activities include the construction and installation of boat ramps, courtesy docks, toilets, fishing piers, fish cleaning stations, shoreline access, roads and parking areas at sites such as Nygren Dam, Sweet Briar Lake, Crown Butte, Danzig Dam, Fish Creek Dam, Harmon Lake, Little Heart, Fort Rice and Graner Bottoms.

“Game and Fish played a major role in putting in the steps leading down to the Missouri River at the Heskett Station north of Mandan,” said Tim Nilsen, director with the Morton County Park Board. “Game and Fish has helped us in several different ways, in purchasing and

placing new vault toilets at just about all our recreational areas in Morton County. Without help from Game and Fish, we wouldn’t be able to do lots of what we’re doing.”

And, he added, anglers and boaters use the facilities to the fullest extent.

The fisheries development program has also helped the Tuttle Wildlife Club bring Lake Josephine back to life.

“I think it’s a real good program to have. It’s real good to be working together like that,” said Sid Larson, Tuttle Wildlife Club vice president.

The club has also added boat ramps and updated parking areas at several other area lakes, including a pier at Lake Josephine.

“That was a real blessing to get because there isn’t much place to fish from shore,” Larson says.

Activities completed by the Tuttle Wildlife Club include construction and installation of boat ramps, courtesy docks, toilets, fishing piers, fishing access, roads and parking areas at Lake Josephine, Cherry Lake, Jasper Lake, Frettim Lake and Lake Williams.

“The club alone couldn’t just go out and do these things,” Larson says. “We need the Game and Fish in with that. It’s a real plus.”

*LUANN DART is a freelance writer from Elgin, North Dakota.*



# BUFFALOBERRY PATCH

By Greg Freeman, Department News Editor



MIKE ANDERSON

## Courtesy at Boat Ramps

Boaters are reminded to exercise patience and plan accordingly when heading to a lake or river this summer.

**The North Dakota Game and Fish Department receives a number of complaints every year about overly aggressive behavior at boat ramps. A few simple reminders will help ensure a fluent transition when launching and loading a boat.**

### LAUNCHING

- Don't pull onto the ramp until your boat is ready to launch.
- Prepare for launching in the parking area. Remove covers, load equipment, remove tie downs, attach lines and put in drain plug, before backing onto the ramp.
- When ready, pull into line to launch.

Wait your turn. Be courteous.

- It takes at least two people to efficiently and courteously launch a boat: one to handle the boat and one to take care of the tow vehicle.

### LOADING

- Don't block the loading area with your boat until your tow vehicle is ready to load. Wait until you are clear of the launch area to unload gear.
- As soon as your trailer is in the water, load and secure your boat to the trailer.
- Remove boat and trailer from the water as quickly as possible.
- Get clear of the ramp. Pull into the parking area to finish securing your boat, unloading gear, draining all water and inspecting for and removing any vegetation. Remember to leave plugs out when transporting your boat.

## WOLVERINE SHOT IN MCKENZIE COUNTY

A rancher south of Alexander in McKenzie County shot and killed a wolverine in late April that was harassing livestock. The incident was investigated and determined to be within North Dakota law, which allows a landowner, tenant or that persons agent to catch, or kill any wild furbearing animal (except bears) in protection of poultry, domestic animals or crops.

The last confirmed record of a wolverine in North Dakota was from the fur trading era during the mid-1800s. The closest population of wolverines occurs in the mountains of Montana, and the forests of northern Canada. However, male wolverines are known to travel great distances in search of habitat, food and/or other wolverines.

The 8- to 9-year old male appeared to be healthy, and was found with a radio tracking device in its abdomen. Records indicated the device was inserted in 2008, when the wolverine was captured south of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. Internal radio tracking devices are often used in mammals that frequently crawl in and out of burrows, or those that live in water.

This wolverine's last known location was Colorado in 2012. After which, the battery in its radio tracking device was likely depleted.

A full body mount will be displayed in the furbearer exhibit at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in Bismarck.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Paddlefish Record Broken

Grant Werkmeister of Williston snagged a record 131-pound paddlefish on May 7, about 20 miles southwest of Williston near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers.

**The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has confirmed that Werkmeister's 71-inch paddlefish is the heaviest fish caught in North Dakota, breaking the previous record of 130 pounds set in 2010.**

North Dakota's paddlefish snagging season was open May 1-13.



RON WILSON

## FAMILY FISHING DAYS AT BISMARCK OWLS

Family fishing days have returned to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site.

The catch-and-release only fishery is stocked with trout, bluegill, largemouth bass and other species.

Family fishing days are Wednesdays and Saturdays through the end of August. Fishing equipment can be checked out at the OWLS Pond, located adjacent to the department's Bismarck office, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Fishing rods, basic tackle and bait are available for use free of charge.

Trained volunteers or Game and Fish staff are available to answer questions and check out equipment, but there is little or no direct supervision. Children who aren't old enough to get to the pond on their own should be accompanied by an adult.

The OWLS area is fairly primitive, but includes a picnic shelter and benches upon entering the site, and a portable restroom. The area has no running water. Users should bring water, sunscreen, folding chairs and appropriate clothing.

The Game and Fish Department is seeking volunteer instructors to assist with the program. Individuals at least age 18 with an interest in teaching kids to fish can contact the department at 701-328-6300.

The OWLS pond is open to fishing year-round during daylight hours. There are no bait restrictions and anglers must practice catch-and-release. The area is designed for wheel chair accessibility. Pets, glass bottles and alcohol are not permitted on the site.

## FIREWORKS PROHIBITED ON STATE WMAS

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department reminds citizens that possession or use of fireworks on state wildlife management areas is prohibited.

The primary objective of a wildlife management area is to enhance wildlife production, provide hunting and fishing opportunities, and

offer other outdoor recreational and educational uses. Only activities that would not disrupt the intentions of how these areas are managed are encouraged, and a fireworks display is not compatible.

Excessive noise and commotion that come with fireworks disturbs wildlife, and their explosive nature

is a potential source of wildfires. Chances of a wildfire developing are greatly enhanced when explosives, such as fireworks, come in contact with tall grasses in rural areas.

A complete list of the WMA regulations is available on the Game and Fish website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov).

SANDRA JOHNSON



## Summer Safety on the Water

Failure to wear a personal flotation device is the main reason people lose their lives in water recreation accidents.

North Dakota law requires all children ages 10 and younger to wear a personal flotation device while in boats of less than 27 feet in length. The law also requires all personal watercraft users to wear a life jacket, as well as anyone towed on skis, tubes, boards or other similar devices.

Water users should make sure to wear life jackets that are the appropriate size, and in good condition. It is also important that children wear a PFD while swimming.

Water skiers and tubers should wear a life jacket with four nylon straps rather than one with a zipper, because straps are stronger than zippers upon impact with water. Anglers or persons paddling a canoe should opt for a PFD that is comfortable enough to wear for an entire outing.

Water skiers and tubers are reminded it takes three to ski and

tube. When a person is towed on water skis or a similar device, an observer other than the operator is required on the vessel.

Swimmers should know the water's depth, as large objects hidden below the water's surface can lead to significant injury.

North Dakota boaters also are reminded that marine VHF radios are an important part of boat safety that should not be improperly used by operators. These radios are intended for boat operators who are in distress and facing an emergency situation.

Regulations to help ensure safe boating this summer are found in the 2016-18 North Dakota Fishing Guide. A more comprehensive listing is available in the North Dakota Boat and Water Safety Guide or the Boat North Dakota education book. These guides are available online at the Game and Fish website, [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov), by email at [ndgf@nd.gov](mailto:ndgf@nd.gov), or at a local Game and Fish Department office.

## PUT GARBAGE WHERE IT BELONGS

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department reminds outdoor recreationists to keep it clean this summer by packing out all trash.

All garbage, including used fireworks, should be placed in a proper trash receptacle. If trash cans aren't available, or are full, take the trash and dispose of it at home.

It is not uncommon to see garbage piling up around full trash containers. Styrofoam containers are not biodegradable, but yet are often found wedged in cattails, drifting or washed up on shore.

Tires, mattresses and kitchen appliances have found their way to public use areas. This illegal dumping is costly to clean up and takes a significant toll on the environment. Not only does it spoil the beauty of the land, it destroys habitat, has the potential to pollute North Dakota waters and can injure wildlife.

Littering violations should be reported by calling the Report All Poachers telephone number at 800-472-2121.



## ANS Education at Boat Ramps

Jonathan Kabberhofs, right, is one of four Valley City State University students, through a grant provided by the Game and Fish Department, working at high use boat ramps this summer to learn what anglers and other water users already know about aquatic nuisance

species, while encouraging compliance in a statewide effort to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful exotics. Kabberhofs is pictured working at a boat ramp at Devils Lake. He is teamed this summer with Morgan Berquist (not pictured). The other two-person crew

will work lakes in southeastern and south central North Dakota. Jessica Howell, Department ANS coordinator, said the summer employees will, among other duties, show boaters how to conduct ANS inspections. The inspections are voluntary.

**OPERATION DRY WATER**  
**NEVER BOAT UNDER THE INFLUENCE!**  
**NORTH DAKOTA**

Since the inception of the Operation Dry Water Campaign in 2009, law enforcement officers have removed 2,153 BUI operators from the nation's waterways and made contact with over 729,000 boaters during the annual three-day weekend.

North Dakota game wardens will participate in a national boating under the influence awareness campaign called Operation Dry Water the weekend of June 24-26.

Operation Dry Water is coordinated by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard as well as local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Jackie Lundstrom, North Dakota Game and Fish Department enforcement operations supervisor, says that while BUI is always a concern throughout the open-water season, Operation Dry Water weekend will see heightened enforcement and additional education efforts that foster a stronger, more visible deterrent to alcohol and drug use on the water.



**ON THE ROAD OR THE WATER,  
 YOU'RE HEADED NOWHERE FAST**



**WHILE  
 IMPAIRED.**



**JUNE 24-26, 2016**  
 OPERATIONDRYWATER.ORG



LARA ANDERSON

## Leave Baby Animals Alone, Watch for Deer

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department emphasizes a simple message to well-intentioned humans who want to pick up and rescue what appear to be orphaned baby animals – don't touch them.

No matter the animal – fawn, duckling, rabbit or songbird – it is better to just leave them alone.

More often than not young animals are not abandoned or deserted, and the mother is probably watching nearby. Young wildlife are purposely placed into seclusion by adults to protect them from predators.

Anytime a young wild animal has human contact its chance for survival decreases significantly. It's illegal to take wild animals home, and captive animals later returned to the wild will struggle to survive because they do not possess learned survival skills.

**The only time a baby animal should be picked up is if it is in an unnatural situation, such as a young songbird found on a doorstep. In that case, the young bird could be moved to the closest suitable habitat.**

Citizens should also steer clear of adult wildlife, such as deer or moose that might wander into urban areas. Crowding stresses animals, and this could lead to a potentially dangerous situation.

In addition, motorists are reminded to watch for deer along roadways. June is one of the peak months for deer vehicle accidents because young animals are dispersing from their home ranges. With deer more active at this time, the potential for car deer collisions increases.

## STAFF NOTES

### Mattheis, Gross Fill Positions

Beulah native Charlie Mattheis has filled the Department's building maintenance technician position in Bismarck. Larry Gross has been hired to fill an IT coordinator position in Bismarck. He has a computer science degree from the University of Mary.



Charlie Mattheis



Larry Gross

### Game Management Technician

Brandon Tycz has been hired to fill the game management technician position in Bismarck. He is a graduate of South Dakota State University, with a master's degree in natural resource management.



Brandon Tycz

**NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS**  
PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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*on Television*



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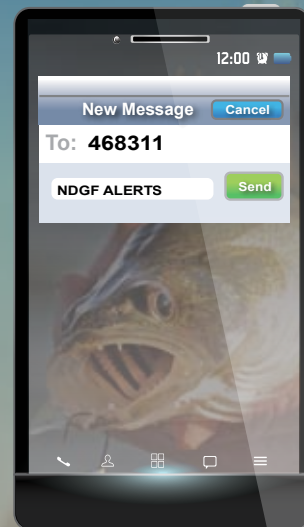
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# ANS

## AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

### REGULATIONS:

# INSPECT

### WATERCRAFT FOR ANS

# REMOVE

### DRAIN PLUGS AND PLANTS



# DRAIN

### ALL WATER



NORTH DAKOTA  
GAME AND FISH  
DEPARTMENT

FOR A COMPLETE LIST  
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# back cast



By Ron Wilson

It's weird what sticks.

I'd have to look at the framed diploma hanging by a bookcase at home to know for certain what year I graduated from college, but I can tell you that in 1971, my third-grade teacher, Beth Crow, wrote a note to my parents on my report card concerning my "slow progress in math."

One of the curiosities of life spent outdoors, or indoors, for that matter, is that we're clueless as to what will stick, what will hang with us as days turn to weeks, months and years.

I know Dad taught me to fish, there is no uncertainty of that. He introduced me to small streams, big rivers and farm ponds.

He taught me how to cast a fly rod, string a worm on a hook, row a drift boat, clean fish, catch grasshoppers for bait in the morning when they weren't as willing to flush, string fish on a forked willow branch for easy transport, crimp split shot with my teeth and fix leaky waders with a bike tire patch.

I know he did these things because we spent countless hours fishing together. It's just that these things, and others, I'm certain, don't stand out, don't jump to the front of the line in my bank of memories.

What does, when I think about Dad and fishing, is running from snakes.

Where we fished together in the high desert country a long way from here, we'd bump into our share of snakes – rattlesnakes, bull snakes, garter snakes, snakes we had no names for. We'd keep an eye out for them like we would the patches of poison ivy. It was inevitable that at some point we'd encounter both.

We each carried snakebite kits that held, among other things, a little suction thingy and a razor-like blade. We never had to use them. Years

later, I dumped the guts of my rubber, waterproof, Army-green-colored kit in the trash and loaded it with wooden matches for starting campfires.

Dad, who had an interesting way at looking at life and a sense of humor that often couldn't be shared in public, also carried split shot in a plastic prescription pill container. Shaken vigorously, the split shot would knock against the hard-plastic insides and sound every bit like an unseen rattlesnake coiled under sagebrush.

He's slip the container from his pocket when I wasn't expecting it, like on the long hike back to the pickup, and give it a long shake.

While I wasn't allowed to cuss, that's what I wanted to do, once my heart left my throat and settled into my chest where it belonged.

He thought it was funny. Harmless. A way to put a stamp on a day of fishing. Like with a lot of things, he was probably right.

Dad has been dead for 30 years. He never met his grandkids, but he would have liked them. They all fish and appreciate a good laugh. I think they get some of that from him. Happy Father's Day.

---

**RON WILSON** is editor of *North Dakota OUTDOORS*.



Plateau Lake in Billings County.

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT ARCHIVE PHOTOS

# A Look Back

*By Ron Wilson*

If you've never heard of Plateau Lake, you have company.

The Billings County lake is small, less than 5 acres in size, and located off the beaten path in the badlands near Moody and Kendley plateaus. Once managed by the Game and Fish Department, Plateau Lake has been inactive for about 25 years.

Scott Peterson, Department deputy director, has been to Plateau Lake, which is fed by a tributary of Dantz Creek.

Records indicate that Plateau Lake was first stocked with rainbow trout fingerlings by Game and Fish in 1962. The last time it was stocked was 1990.

"I helped stock that lake in the early 1980s," said Peterson, who was working for the Department as

a seasonal fisheries aide at the time. "Because you couldn't drive to the lake, I remember hiking down the trail with trout fingerlings in a bucket."

Greg Power, Department fisheries chief, said a number of dams were built in North Dakota in 1950s and earlier, which created new fisheries in the state. It's unknown when the dam on the creek was constructed.

Before 1950, Game and Fish managed only about 30 fisheries in the state. But after the construction of several dams, the number of managed fisheries jumped to about 150 by 1963.

This black and white photograph was taken in 1966. That year, Department fisheries personnel stocked 400 trout fingerlings.

While Plateau Lake was stocked with trout 11 times in a 28-year period, there is little if any mention of the secreted lake in North Dakota **OUTDOORS**.

Of the 120 waters listed in the May 1966 issue of **OUTDOORS**, Plateau isn't one of them. An editor's note at the time said only the state's "main fishing waters" made the list.

"Whether there were any trout caught at Plateau Lake over the years, I couldn't tell you," Peterson said. "What I do know was that it was a pretty, little spot in the badlands to try and catch a fish."

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