

# North Dakota Wildlife Federation

## *Flickertales*

*Spring 2022*



*Advocating for the conservation of wildlife, habitat, and access for North Dakota's hunters, anglers, and other outdoor users.*

# 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  
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  
North Dakota Houndsmen Association  
North Dakota Fur Hunters & Trappers Association  
Red River Area Sportsmen's Club  
Richland County Wildlife  
Stutsman County Wildlife Federation  
Tri-County Trap & Wildlife Club

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Photos: Mike LaLonde, Matt Patrias, Nick Simonson, John Bradley





## *From the Executive Director*

*The good, the bad, the ugly. This recent snow storm will be a boon for ducks this spring, that's the good news. It also likely put a hurting on localized pheasant populations, that's the bad news. It has definitely made a mess of boat ramps along the Missouri River and water clarity for walleye fisherman right now is ugly.*

*On the federal side, Recovering America's Wildlife Act recently passed out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee 15-5. That's good news! Unfortunately, Senator Cramer voted against the bill he was a co-sponsor on because of last minute changes regarding Endangered Species Act and funding.*

*That's bad. NDWF and our conservation partners are pushing the Senate to vote on the bill this spring. The passage of RAWA would be the most significant conservation bills passed in decades! Now is the time to call and email Sen. Cramer and Sen. Hoeven and ask for their support!*

*Senator Cramer, along with Senator Hoeven and Representative Armstrong introduced the Landowner Easement Rights Act. This bill would prohibit the Department of Interior from entering into easements lasting more than 50 years, which would put such investment at risk and hamper lasting conservation work in partnership with private landowners. It would also require the DOI to renegotiate lots of existing easements that are 50 or more years old. This bill, if it gains traction, could reverse historic wetland conservation progress in the prairie pothole region. That's ugly. This bill will likely not pass with the current make-up of Congress. NDWF will be monitoring this bill and will work to kill it if it starts to gain momentum after the midterm elections.*

*-John Bradley, Executive Director, [jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com](mailto:jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com)*



## Message from our President



You know that feeling you had as a child as Christmas approached? The anticipation, wonder, and excitement you felt as the December days ticked by. That is the feeling I get each and every year as the spring turkey season approaches. Just like the kiddos that race to be the first in line to sit on Santa's lap to share their Christmas list, I race to the computer to be the first to punch in my request for the Spring Turkey Lottery. I then anxiously await with anticipation for the March lottery results to be released. Like the child that frantically rips the wrapping paper from their Christmas present, I rapidly log into the Game and Fish website to check lottery results. I absolutely love the spring turkey season. I love everything about it.

The weather – most years the snow has mostly melted by season opener, but the mornings are still frosty and the air is crisp. As the sun makes its way across the sky and the day casually warms, the smell of the cool damp vegetation lifts with the

waves of distorted air. You can actually see the air bending and contorting as it rises in the warming sun.

The sounds – if you are in the right spot, just as the sun begins to brighten the eastern horizon, you are greeted by turkeys announcing to the world, “come and find me.” They are about as good at hide and seek as my baby sister who, as a child, would giggle when you walked near her hiding spot.

The sights – as I slowly make my way across the landscape in search of turkeys, so many other wonders can be observed. Song birds have returned home and are busy preparing their summer nests. A variety of ducks are moving about trying to impress the girls with their colorful plumage. Deer frequently bust your location as you spook them from their morning beds.

The treasures - If you pay close attention you may be lucky enough to spot pasque flowers (prairie crocus) emerging from the soil. These tiny purple flowers with hairy stems are one of the first to bloom on the prairie landscape. And then there are antler sheds that have been dropped from whitetail deer, mule deer, or, if you are fortunate, an elk.

The hunt –Even though a tom turkey will often announce his location, it's certainly no guarantee you will end up with a punched tag. Trying to sneak on a turkey has to be one of the most challenging pursuits over any other North Dakota game species. Unlike undulates that use scent detection as one of their primary defenses, turkeys could care less what you smell like. Like a gunslinger in a Louis L'Amour western, a turkey can spot the slightest movement from a substantial distance. They have 180 degree vision and see in color. If they see something out of place, they go silent, duck their heads, and disappear into the terrain like a ghost. A turkey's only weakness is their hormones. If you can master talking sweet (like a hen turkey) you have the best chance of filling your game bag.

The bounty – Nothing should go to waste with wild turkey. You can brine it, roast it, grill it, bake it, smoke it, fry it, or use any number of other creative ways to prepare a delicious meal for your friends and family. After the meal be sure and save the deboned carcass to boil for a delicious broth. Save the wing bones to make your very own turkey call. Don't throw out the feathers either - You can make beautiful craft projects with the kids. The primary wing feathers make great fletching for arrows, and the tail feathers can be made into a beautiful mount for the wall.

By the time you read this, I hope to either be in pursuit of a turkey or savoring a delicious turkey dinner. I hope you can make time to get out and enjoy our short North Dakota spring. I look forward to hearing about your adventures.

- Kerry Whipp, NDWF President



# *ANS Awareness Builds As Water Opens*

By: Nick Simonson



Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) have become one of the biggest concerns facing the health of recreational fisheries throughout the country and throughout North Dakota. Whether it's the spread of zebra mussels introduced from far away waters in Europe and Asia into lakes throughout the upper Midwest, including those in the Roughrider state, or the invasive silver carp which leap from the water and displace gamefish species in the James River throughout South Dakota and into North Dakota, the impacts of ANS are notable and their future effects on fishing could be disastrous. In an effort to prevent further spread of these species and others, the North Dakota Game & Fish Department (NDG&F) is

continuing its programs to detect invasive species early and help educate anglers and all sportsmen about how they can help in 2022 and the future.

## **Turning Tide of ANS Transport**

“We sample over 200 waters a year, and this is specialized sampling for aquatic vegetation [and] crayfish. We pull these large plankton tow nets to look for zebra mussel veligers in a lot of our waterways. We do that on 150 waters,” explains Ben Holen, NDG&F ANS Coordinator, adding, “for North Dakota watercraft inspectors, we’re going to have around 12 to 15 guys this year stationed out of Valley City, Jamestown, Bismarck, Devils Lake, Riverdale and then a few access sites on Lake Sakakawea.”

Holen notes that last year in water access surveys of anglers visiting Devils Lake, roughly eight to 11 percent of boats entering the water on a given day had last launched on a lake with known populations of ANS. Roughly two percent of those boats, or one in every 50, had been on an ANS-infested water within one week of their launch on Devils Lake. Even at these numbers, the chances of transferring invasives from the state’s smaller lakes with ANS present to the premier fishing destination of Devils Lake are heightened and those impacts could be seen in a matter of seasons, as has happened on medium-sized reservoirs such as Lake Ashtabula in eastern North

Dakota. There a discovery of zebra mussels in 2019 has now developed into widespread accumulations of them on debris and docks up and down the reservoir and in the Sheyenne River below it, which isn't surprising, given that one female mussel can produce hundreds of thousands of offspring a year.

"Anytime you introduce a new species into a waterway, it can have major ecological impacts. Something like zebra mussels, they spawn very quickly. One female can reproduce up to a million eggs in a single year. So, it doesn't take long after the initial introduction, to two, three or four years after, that they're covering every surface in a lake." Holen explains.

Once established, zebra mussels filter water like few other creatures, removing vital phytoplankton from the water column and depositing the waste and nutrients on the lake floor. Through the general clearing of the water, and the development of a rich, nutrient-laden lakebed full of their waste, weeds can grow deeper in a water body, choking out previously fishable depths for bass and walleye, and allowing smaller fish such as bluegills, crappies and perch to overpopulate and later stunt their sizes within the population, altering the fishery permanently. Zebra mussels aren't the only destructive invasive species that anglers should be on the lookout for.

"We're always keeping track of invasive carp on the James River system. We have bighead, silver and grass carp there. Those silver carp are what people see on the news jumping out of the water and they can injure anglers, so we're always looking at the population making sure it's still in low densities and just monitoring it yearly for any changes," Holen explains, adding that the roster of invasive species of concern is growing, "there's a bunch of other species that we have on our radar: rusty crayfish, Chinese banded mystery snails, starry stonewort, brittle naiad, black carp, New Zealand mud snails, faucet snails, the list keeps going on and on."

### **Sportsmen Can Slow Spread of ANS**

Whether it's following the simple four-word instruction of "clean, drain and dry," for those boats coming out of a water affected by ANS or taking immediate action by spraying a watercraft down with hot water exceeding 140 degrees Fahrenheit for more near-term deployment, the NDG&F relies on sportsmen to help curb the spread of ANS into and around the state. Hulls treated with hot water, and livewells and internal baitwells sprayed with 120-degree water for two minutes or more will generally be free of any microscopic hitchhikers such as the larval veligers of zebra mussels or fragments of invasive aquatic plants which can regrow elsewhere. If a boat can't be cleaned, the NDG&F recommends five-to-seven days of drying before re-launching after use on an ANS infested lake. Even before those efforts, Holen explains that inspecting watercraft at the time they're loaded from the lake is where the spread of most ANS species can be thwarted.

"Boaters when they come off the water they can do the exact same thing that our inspectors do out there on the landscape. So you're looking for visible vegetation, mud, plants or anything on your boat. You're removing that at the boating access site," Holen comments, "we're extremely fortunate to have such few waters with ANS here in North Dakota, so we really want to keep it that way. It's very important before and after recreation to take the little steps it takes to do things the right way."

More information on waters in North Dakota where ANS are present, and the types of invasive species anglers should be on the lookout for can be found at: [gf.nd.gov/ans](http://gf.nd.gov/ans).



*Nick Simonson is the Director 6 of NDWF's Board. He is the managing member of Dakota Edge Outdoors. Nick has been a freelance outdoors journalist for over 15 years, and his writings have been published in over 20 periodicals and websites throughout the upper Midwest. His diverse interests include upland hunting, bow hunting, trap shooting, fly tying, lure making and multi-species angling.*



# Helping Brook Trout, Black Duck, Mule Deer, & Bighorns

By Mike Leahy



I have never fulfilled my dream of witnessing bighorn rams battling for the right to perpetuate the species, much less gotten a license to hunt one. But every year I am fortunate to be able to hunt, and almost always get, one or two mule deer in Montana to feed me and my loved ones throughout the year. And brook trout are the native trout near my home in Maryland, small but spectacular and so much fun. I also like that you only ever really need three flies for them - an elkwing caddis (tan or olive, size 14-16), a beadhead American pheasant tail nymph (size 14-18), and a wooly bugger streamer (black, size 8-10).

As for the hardy black duck common along the Atlantic coast, and it's close

cousin the mallard, I didn't think I liked duck, based on a couple meals of lazy, fattened, overcooked domestic ducks coated in orange goo. Until some duck hunting pals showed me the wonders of barely cooking the breasts of wild ducks - which have been out working the waters and fields, earning their meals of sedge seeds and roots, leaves, caterpillars and crickets, maybe some mussels on the coast, turning those meals into muscle with their migrating and constant moving - with a little olive oil and salt, maybe some pepper and light garlic, preferably over a camp stove. Unfortunately, all of these wonderful native species face struggles, even the seemingly plentiful mule deer, as discussed below.

Fortunately, a Bill is making its way through Congress that will benefit thousands of species nationwide and the habitats they depend on. The Bill will dedicate \$1.4 billion annually to proactive, on-the-ground conservation measures, helping wildlife at risk and restoring habitat used by game and fish species nationwide.

The Bill will be a huge boost to the state wildlife agencies. Up until now, these agencies have only had funding to prioritize game species which have been hunted and/or fished for decades. This Bill will provide the funding to take additional steps on behalf of all wildlife. The state wildlife plans collectively identify more than 12,000 species of concern, highlighting the need for action.

Tribes will also finally get the funding they need for their wildlife programs and considerable management needs.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act is a boon to hunters and anglers, as restoring habitats for at-risk wildlife such as monarchs will also benefit game species, like quail. The Bill will directly assist struggling fish and game like the four species described below...



The American black duck has long been a favorite of hunters along the eastern seaboard, for its wariness and speed. Historically abundant, between the 1950s and '80s their population fell by more than half, largely due to the decline in coastal wetlands in the mid-Atlantic.

Twenty-three states, from Mississippi to Maine, have identified the black duck as a species of concern in their wildlife action plans. Sixteen states have already begun working together as part of the [Atlantic Coast Joint Venture](#), which is working to improve 400,000 acres of black duck habitat on public lands and in partnership with private landowners. The Recovering America's

Wildlife Act would bolster this funding, aiding efforts on behalf of this iconic waterfowl species.

Brook trout are the only native trout in most eastern states and they are so highly prized that nine states have declared them the official state fish.

Unfortunately, brook trout have been hard-hit by a range of factors including urbanization, agriculture, mining, invasive species and warming waters. Today, brook trout are found in only 22 percent of their original range. A coalition of 17 states and other partners formed the [Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture](#) to address this crisis. Funds from Recovering America's Wildlife Act could assist efforts to reconnect habitat, improve water quality, clean acidic mine damage and restore stream side buffers. Big thanks to avid angler and photographer, Dillion Beck, for letting us use this image of a beautiful Brookie caught on the fly. We loved it so much, it's also featured in our action alert at the bottom!





Mule deer are the most abundant big-game animal in the West, important for predators, hunters and Western states' economy. In Wyoming, between 1991 and 2012, mule deer numbers dropped by 36 percent. [Colorado has experienced an even greater percentage loss.](#)

This drop is driven by a variety of factors -- loss of sage grouse habitat due to oil and gas development, urban sprawl blocking migration pathways, and invasive cheatgrass that provides little nutrition for mule deer.



Funding from the Recovering America's Wildlife Act could help create mule deer crossings and barbed-fence modifications. Funding could also go to restore sagebrush habitat for sage grouse, which would benefit mule deer alongside pronghorn, elk and others. To learn more about mule deer and sage-grouse, we encourage you to read this [report](#) from our partner program, Artemis Sportswomen. This impressive muley buck photograph was sent to us via our friends over at the [North Dakota Wildlife Federation.](#)

Bighorn sheep are an iconic species once found throughout the American West. In the nineteenth century, their numbers were as high as 2 million.

Today, there are fewer than 85,000. The conservation status of bighorn sheep varies across subspecies, with some having gone extinct, two subspecies listed as endangered and other subspecies not listed. Yet all subspecies face the same issues of habitat limitation, blocked migration pathways and catching respiratory disease from domestic sheep.

For the last century, hunters and anglers have provided much of the funding for state efforts on behalf of at-risk wildlife. In 2018, more than half of all the revenue for state wildlife agencies came from license sales and taxes on gear. Hunters and anglers are among America's leading conservationists and care about these issues deeply. But today, the wildlife crisis is growing while these revenues are shrinking as fewer Americans hunt, and wildlife managers with states, territories, and Tribes are sorely underfunded to respond.

This wildlife crisis is a national issue, one that crosses states and impacts everyone. The funds from Recovering America's Wildlife Act balance out the burden for addressing this crisis. -ML

Sen Hoeven's Office Phone: (202) 224-2551

Sen. Cramer's Office Phone: (202) 224-2043



# Clay Target Leagues Poised For Record Year

By: Nick Simonson



While many school sports struggled coming out of the pandemic in 2021, the USA High School Clay Target League (USA CTL) and its North Dakota State High School Clay Target League (ND CTL) affiliate were back on track, providing shooting sports activities for thousands of students across the country and the Roughrider State. This year, with most of the restrictions behind them, a surge of students in grades 6-12 across the country is expected to bring both leagues' participation levels to unseen highs, according to USA CTL Operations Manager Josh Kroells.

"It was a great rebound from after 2020, after being definitely down with Covid stuff. During 2021 throughout the country, we had almost 27,500 student-athletes participate, and that was from just over 1,300 teams in 34 states...it was great growth, and I can see that continuing," Kroells relates.

Now in its 21st season, the USA CTL program - which began with just three schools and thirty participants in the Minneapolis metro area in 2001 - is likely to draw an estimated 40,000 students in 2022 on 1,500 teams in 38 states. Along with expanding programs at the college level, the national organization has its eyes set on having more than 100,000 participants from grade six on up to college seniors by the 2025 season. As part of that growth, the ND CTL looks to get back on its pre-pandemic trajectory in 2022, with more teams joining the competition in the Peace Garden State, and the caliber of shooters involved continuing to improve.

"Just for North Dakota [in 2021] we had 67 teams and just over 1,800 kids and that was up from 58 teams and 1,600 kids going back to 2019. Competition is getting better and better, and I think there's a few things behind that. Just number one is the sheer number of participants, from the league growing in North Dakota back in 2016 when we had roughly 500 kids and 23 teams to where we are today. We've got more kids practicing and the gun clubs are opening up more, they're being more flexible and they're realizing this is the future of our gun club and they're opening up more for practice," Kroells

states, adding that it now takes trap totals of 199 or 200 to be in the mix for an individual title at the USA CTL National Championship event each July in Michigan.

The participation in the various clay target leagues throughout the country bodes well for hunting, fishing and conservation as well. First by the sheer number of non-hunting student-athletes it introduces to shotgun sports that eventually find their way to the field, and second by the amount of funds raised through excise taxes on ammunition, firearms and shooting-sports related purchases that fall under the Pittman-Robertson Act. From that federal program, money generated from those sales to teams and participants go directly to conservation programs throughout the U.S., improving habitat and resources for fish, huntable game and watchable wildlife. According to estimates kept by USA CTL, more than \$12 million worth of these conservation excise taxes have been generated by its high school and college leagues since 2008. Whether on a larger scale or an individual level, the program pays off.

“When it comes to helping [these participants] become better upland or waterfowl hunters, that mindset of safety is there, the kids are used to handling the firearms around other people, doing it in a safe manner. And it helps when they’re chasing pheasants, when they’ve got a buddy next to them to make sure they know their zone of fire or when they’re sitting in a waterfowl blind, just being more successful that way. Obviously, they’re going to be more successful targeting those birds, because they’ve been practicing at the trap range,” Kroells explains.

Sign-up for existing high school and college teams is open and continuing through Mar. 21 at [ndclaytarget.com](http://ndclaytarget.com) and [usaclaytarget.com](http://usaclaytarget.com). New teams can be formed at schools where they currently don’t exist by logging on to [ndclaytarget.com](http://ndclaytarget.com) and clicking on the “Start a Team” tab at the right side of the homepage.

## Artemis Leader Tells Her Story

*Artemis Sportswomen aims to engage more women in sporting conservation.*

By: Kyla West



I was 11 when I made my first kill. We'd waded through golden winter sorghum all morning, the heavy bass of my boot tread vibrating to my skull through a thick headset. As we neared the end of our strip, our hunting party slowed to greet the farm's attendant, Jim Hellings. Suddenly, our steadfast Brittany went rigid, holding a shrouded bird in place. On command, the dog

advanced and a burst of feathers sprung out. It was a clear shot, so I tugged my 20-gauge single close into my shoulder, my heart pumping as Mr. Hellings instinctively dove for cover behind his ATV. I gently squeezed the trigger and watched her fall. One shot. One kill.

My excitement swelled as adrenaline coursed with my beating heart. After retrieving the hen, I held her close, eyeing her beauty and unique color. Black feathers glinted in the morning light, revealing shimmers of green and purple at different angles. This hen was melanistic, meaning she had a recessive gene that produced higher levels of melanin, a dark pigmentation which replaces brown, copper, and tan hues that female pheasants are known for. Little did I know it, but this moment was one of many which fed the emergent bud of a much greater fate.

I have always known compassion for wild things and wild places. Though brought up on a regulated shooting preserve in the suburbs of Pennsylvania, I can easily trace pheasant hunting



as an early catalyst for my intrigue in and connection to nature. We also spent each summer shore fishing on the Long Island Sound. Though my family respects and appreciates wildlife, I am easily the only one to obsess over it, let alone carve a future out of it.

Some describe their time outdoors as a religious experience – I can certainly see why. All it takes is walking through a foggy morning, when pale sunbeams glow through pillars of silhouetted pines. That is my cathedral. In the paths I have taken, I have always found something wondrous in nature, whether it's the faint, sweet, smell of budding cottonwood in the spring, or the perfect symmetry of dew drops lining a wild strawberry leaf.

I share my story as an introduction to what an Artemis Sportswoman can be. Artemis, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, represents a diverse group of women, many with roots in hunting and fishing. An Artemis Sportswoman makes sporting conservation a livelihood, working to preserve her traditions – and the lands that nurture them – for generations to come.



At the age of 15, I began developing professional skills in veterinary and wildlife science. Between high school and college, I participated and led field camps in wildlife management, took veterinary courses, learned to handle and care for wildlife in rehabilitation and was hired to help conservation efforts for the world's most endangered canid, the red wolf.

During this time, I also enhanced my scope of hunting skills: I became an undergraduate teaching assistant for a hunting and trapping certification course, began deer, goose, and squirrel hunting, and learned primitive skills to understand how to make the most of each harvest.

Throughout my undergraduate degree, I co-chaired a planning committee for **Women in Nature**. This annual

event gives women the chance to build skills in outdoor recreation, with a day of classes dedicated to hunting, fishing, shooting, geocaching, archery – all kinds of knowledge. Fortified by these

experiences, I graduated in 2013 with a degree in Wildlife Science from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

If I learned anything from over a decade of hunting and a four-year degree in biological sciences, it was an immense appreciation for life. Understanding life from a cellular level, following natural histories, evolution, ecology and behavior, while knowing the weight that comes with taking life – there was no way I could come away from these experiences without utter reverence for the natural world. After all, the field of conservation exists thanks to forefathers who spent the most time in nature hunting, fishing, and trapping. It seemed to me that I was rightly following in their footsteps.

After graduation, I developed a robust interdisciplinary portfolio in applied wildlife research and management. In pursuit of a lifelong dream to work with wild canids, I applied my skillset to unique projects where I captured and collared gray wolves, red foxes, gray foxes and coyotes throughout the Midwest and East Coast. To better understand the different agencies involved with wildlife conservation and to practice applied management for other species, I expanded my portfolio to working with captive species at the Philadelphia Zoo. Afterwards I contributed to conservation efforts for the endangered Florida panther, which included habitat management and construction of predator exclusion fences for livestock.

Along the way, my path crossed with a man from the West – a former bull rider, ranch hand, lumber and construction worker – then in service of our great country with the U.S. Army. I followed my heart to his home in the upper left corner of the United States, where themes of public land preservation, backcountry hunting, and true wilderness flooded my mind's eye. A year later, I became a West.

A year after that, we made the move out west. We decided on Washington, the home of my husband, and untapped potential for my aspirations. When hired as a state biologist in 2017, I discovered the applied principles of ecology-based restoration of Washington's watersheds. On the [Methow Beaver Project](#), we used beavers to restore degraded riparian areas by employing their natural hydraulic tendencies to store water, a desperately needed resource in the face of a changing climate. Increasing temperatures lead to early snowmelt and precipitation that falls as

rain rather than snow. With such dry conditions, wildfires are free to ravage the weakened ecosystem. Relocating beavers to their historic ranges helps to combat these effects and strengthen the landscape. Being employed on this project was one of the most motivating positions I've held, encouraging me to think of the wild community as a whole as opposed to considering the interactions between one or two species. Beaver wetlands, I later informed **Cabela's** in a grant proposal, even provided an exceptional resource for game species, from bears to bass.

In summer 2018, I returned to coyote trapping, leading a crew in Eastern Washington to explore the ecological impacts of gray wolf emigration to Washington. We enjoyed cool tea with landowners who let us trap their property, traversed arid mountainsides in search of scat and tracks, and deployed cameras in pine-rich valleys. To boot, I was working throughout my husband's old stomping grounds, helping me gain a better understanding of the community he came from.



It is easy to recognize that working as a research trapper has triggered a higher awareness and connection to nature. A friend of mine put it best when he said, "It doesn't matter how much you study an animal – you could read all the literature you want – but you'll never know the species as well as the person who has to catch one." He was right. We spent so much time staring at dust to identify tracks, *I saw coyote tracks whenever I closed my eyes*. Many nights I even dreamed about trapping. But the clear, maize stare of our first captured coyote gripped my heart. I'd long been



over the green excitement to handle a carnivore. Now on my fifth trapping job, my excitement was guided by instinct to give this animal the respect and compassion it deserved.

After this field season, I realized I'd become a true sportswoman, coming into my own as a hunter, an angler, a trapper and biologist. A public land owner and conservationist who strives to understand the needs of rural communities. A young woman who aspires to build bridges between scientific and local communities, who can work with carnivores while respecting and incorporating the traditions and values of landowners. The West has challenged me since we arrived – but it's rewarded me to summit mountains, cross thigh-high rivers and navigate winding valleys, where moose and bears roam free.

Needless to say, I've fallen fast and hard for the Northwest. I was welcomed into the community of the [PNW Outdoor Women Group](#) and soon became an ambassador for female recreationists on both sides of the Cascade Mountains. In fall of 2018, I proudly accepted the offer to represent Washington as an ambassador with Artemis Sportswomen. I am now a leader for Artemis representing Idaho and Eastern Washington.

My story is one of many that embraces the philosophy of the Greek goddess Artemis, and consequently the organization's vision. Women of Artemis have backgrounds in accounting, ranching, and teaching; they share experiences as wilderness rangers, biologists, and mothers. Our diversity strengthens our ability to work in solidarity for the lands that feed our families and our souls. We embody Artemis' wild spirit and protective nature to boldly promote conservation for the modern sportswoman. These brazen women engage in every facet of the sporting conservation life, all of us led by an indomitable instinct to immerse in wildness. Artemis is growing strong, and we welcome those who wish to help us ensure that the wild is never lost in wilderness.

To learn more about ArtemisSportswomen, visit [Artemis.nwf.org](https://Artemis.nwf.org) and [Facebook.com/ArtemisSportswomen](https://Facebook.com/ArtemisSportswomen).

# [New Report Examines Habitat Loss Impacts on Wildlife, Hunting, Fishing](#)

*'America the Beautiful' Initiative Recognizes Role of Sporting Community in Restoring Wildlife Habitat*

**Mule deer have lost over 7 million acres of habitat in the last two decades—more than any other big game species.**



DENVER (March 28, 2022) — Habitat loss is threatening the wildlife, lands, and waters that hunters and anglers rely upon — and sportswomen and sportsmen have a crucial role to play in seeking common-sense solutions, according to a [new report](#) from the National Wildlife Federation Outdoors.

The United States is losing nature at an unprecedented rate. According to this report, species lost, on average, 6.5 million acres of vital habitat over the last two decades.

The report examines effective solutions, including the America the Beautiful initiative and the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, that will conserve, restore, and reconnect our natural systems and reclaim degraded lands in order to recover wildlife and protect sporting traditions. As the report notes: "By conserving, connecting, and restoring 30% of our lands and water by 2030, we can slow the loss of habitat, provide important game and fish species with the room to stabilize and recover, and meet the needs of the sporting community today and in the future."

As leaders in Congress consider historic investments in natural infrastructure and wildlife habitat, which includes restoration and resilience projects, the report urges hunters and anglers to take the lead and use their extensive knowledge from the field to speak out for wildlife decline and habitat loss.

"Hunters and anglers are firsthand witnesses to nearly everything that happens in the fields, forests, and on the water," said [Aaron Kindle](#), director of sporting advocacy for the National Wildlife Federation. "We have seen how habitat loss is a very real threat to our sporting future, and that we need to utilize all tools in the toolbox to incentivize the conservation of native landscapes and the restoration of degraded areas. We hope this report shines light on these issues and spurs investment as soon as possible."

Visit the National Wildlife Federation Media Center at [NWF.org/News](https://www.nwf.org/News)

## 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](http://www.northdakotawildlife.org) for upcoming board meetings information.

**District 6** - May 2 - 7p.m. Location: Farmers Union Building (1415 12th Ave SE), Jamestown

**District 8** - May 3 – 7 p.m. Location: NDSU Hettinger Research Center (102 Hwy 12 W), Hettinger

**ND Houndsmen 2022 Spring Field Trials** - May 27- 29th, Location: Center, ND

**NDWF Summer Meeting** - July 16th, 2022. Location: NDWF Office, Bismarck

**NDWF Affiliate Appreciation Event** - Sheyenne Riverbend Farm - August 26 - 28th, 2022

## 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.



### NDWF Membership Form

Individual Membership: \$15 - Associate/Business Membership: \$25 - Educational Organization: Free

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### Make Checks Payable To:

North Dakota Wildlife Federation  
PO Box 1091  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1091