

ANNOUNCEMENT

NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 6-9, 1991
HOLIDAY INN, BISMARCK, ND

Arrangements of the 1991 Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn in Bismarck have been finalized. Advanced reservations can be made by calling (701)223-9600. Please be sure to mention that you are with The Wildlife Society when registering. Room rates negotiated for this years meeting are \$36 for a single and \$42 for a double (up to 4 people).

The format of this years meeting is very similar to our recent winter gatherings. Registration will be open from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 6, 1991 and remain open for most of the meeting. Thursday evening functions will feature a buffalo buffet and the Chapter's annual fund raising auction. As part of this years fund raiser, Chapter members will have the unique opportunity to dunk the Commissioner and other prominent Society members. Yes, the Dunking machine that the Doublewood banned is back. The highlight of this years Annual Meeting will be our awards banquet on Friday evening.

NDCTWS ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, February 6
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Registration

Thursday, February 7

8:00 - 12:00 Noon

Registration

9:00 - 12:00 Noon

Executive Board Meeting

12:00 Noon

Lunch

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Registration Continues

1:00 - 1:05 p.m.

Announcements, Welcoming and Introductions - Terry Messmer, President NDCTWS

1:00 - 1:20 p.m.

Opening Remarks - The Honorable George Sinner, Governor of North Dakota

SESSION I

1:20 - 1:40 p.m.

Species' Response to Prairie Management - Karen Smith, Lostwood NWR

1:40 - 2:00 p.m.

Waterfowl Nesting Response to Rotational Grazing - Kevin Sedivec/William Barker, NDSU Ext. and Arnold Kruse, NPWRC

2:00 - 2:20 p.m.

The Nature Conservancy, Missions and Methods - Dr. Lucy Jordan, Director of Stewardship TNC

2:20 - 2:40 p.m.

National Resource Inventory for Wildlife Management Decision Making - Jim Johnson, SCS

2:40 - 3:00 p.m.

School Lands, A Trust for the Future - Mike Brand, ND State Land Dept.

3:00 - 3:20 p.m.

Break

SESSION II

3:20 - 3:40 p.m.

Conservation Reserve Program Grazing Demonstrations, An Investment in the Future - Arnold Kruse, NPWRC

3:40 - 4:00 p.m.

The Influence of Grazing Treatments on Non-game Birds and Vegetation Structures in Southcentral North Dakota - Terry Messmer, NDSU

4:00 - 4:20 p.m.

Analysis of Potential Sodbuster Violations in North Dakota - Dave Dewald, SCS and Mike McEnroe, FWS

4:20 - 4:40 p.m.

The Influence of Defoliation on Grassland Plants - Lee Manske, NDSU Plant and Animal Science Dept.

4:40 - 5:00 p.m.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Grassland Easement Program - Stuart Wacker, USFWS, Bismarck

5:00 p.m.

Adjourn

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA - CONT.

Thursday, February 7

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Social Hour
Buffalo Dinner
NDCTWS Auction/Fundraiser

Friday, February 8

SESSION III

8:00 - 8:20 a.m.

How a District Conservationist Works with Farmers on the Farm Bill - Jay Fuhrer, Burleigh Co. District Conservationist, SCS

8:20 - 8:40 a.m.

A History of a Farmer Living with the Farm Programs - Charon Johnson, Public Relations Director, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District

8:40 - 9:00 a.m.

Pheasants Forever Inc., Involvement in the 1990 Farm Bill - Russ Sewell, Pheasants Forever, Vining, MN

9:00 - 9:20 a.m.

Base acres - How They Affect a Farmer/Operator - Dwight Ackre, NDSU

9:20 - 9:40 a.m.

Bird Use of CRP Lands in the Prairie Pothole Region - Douglas Johnson, Michael Schwartz, and Kory Richardson, NPWRC

9:40 - 10:00 a.m.

Break

SESSION IV

10:00 - 11:50 a.m.

Panel Discussion - The 1985 Farm Bill, Its Results; and the 1990 Farm, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act Predictions

PANELISTS :Robert Christman, State Executive Director, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
Jim Moench, Legislative Director, North Dakota Farm Bureau
Wayne "Skip" Baron, Director, Prairie Wetland Resource Center, National Wildlife Federation
Ronnie Clark, State Conservationist, State Conservation Service

11:50 - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Business Meeting

3:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Business Meeting

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Social Hour

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Awards Banquet and Presentations

Saturday, February 9

SESSION V

8:00 - 8:20 a.m.

Breeding Biology of Sandhill Cranes on Roseau River Wildlife Management Area - Jody Provost, UND

8:20 - 8:40 a.m.

Modeling the Mallard Annual Cycle - Rolf Koford, Douglas Johnson, NPWRC; John Sauer, James Nichols, Patuxent Research Center; Michael Samuel, National Wildlife Health Research Center

8:40 - 9:00 a.m.

Fish and Wildlife 2000 - Mike Dombeck, Bureau of Land Management

9:00 - 9:20 a.m.

Texas Fee Hunting - Mark Dryer, Dick Kroger, and Brian Sanborn

9:20 - 9:40 a.m.

Aspen Management for Ruffed Grouse and Its Influence on Non-game Bird Distribution - Shannon Garner, NDSU

9:40 - 10:00 a.m.

Break

SESSION VI

10:00 - 10:20 a.m.

Response of Breeding Bird Populations to Contour Furrowing in Sodic Claypan Soils - Terry Rich, BLM Dickinson

10:20 - 10:40 a.m.

Overview of Bluebird Populations and Bluebird Management - Tedd Gutzke, Des Lacs NWR

10:40 - 11:00 a.m.

Small Mammal Demographics in North Dakota Conservation Reserve Plantings - Larry Lysne and Dr. Robert Seabloom, University of North Dakota

11:00 - 11:20 a.m.

Management Implications of the Mallard Model - Ron Reynolds, HAPET/FWS, Bismarck

11:20 - 11:40 a.m.

The National 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program: A North Dakota Update - Terry Messmer, NDSU Extension

11:40 - 11:50 a.m.

Award for best papers

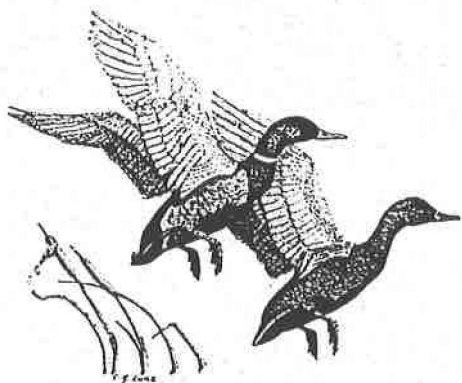
11:50 - 12:00 noon

Closing Remarks - Terry Messmer

12:00 noon

ADJOURN



SWAMPBUSTER (Wetland Conservation)**WETLAND CONSERVATION****PROVISIONS OF****1990 FARM BILL**

1985 Farm Bill	Revisions Made by 1990 Farm Bill
TRIGGER - In violation when a converted wetland is planted to an annual commodity crop.	In violation when a wetland is converted for the purposes, or have the effect, of making production of an agriculture commodity possible, or to improve production of commodity crops, as well as when a crop is planted.
PENALTY - Loss of most USDA support payments, crop loans and other benefits in years when a crop is planted on converted wetland.	Loss of benefits until wetland is restored and adds to list of benefits lost, payments under the Agricultural Conservation Program, Emergency Conservation Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Easement Program, Disaster Assistance programs, and assistance under the Small Watersheds Program. (Loans already made are not effected.)
GRADUATED PENALTY - No provisions (total loss of all benefits)	Provides for a one time, every 10 years, good faith mistake with penalty of \$750 to \$10,000 providing violator restores the converted wetland according to a plan agreeable to SCS and FWS. This relief also available for pre-1990 violations.
MINIMAL EFFECTS EXEMPTION - Allowed, but not defined and House report language limited its use (was not used very much).	Exemption may be granted if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action will have a minimal effect on the functional hydrological and biological of the wetland, including the value to waterfowl and wildlife. 2. Land has been frequently cropped and wetland values, acreage and functions are mitigated by the restoration of a wetland, in the same general area, converted prior to 1985 or under a commenced determination. An easement must be provided on the restored wetland to last as long as the mitigated wetland remains in agricultural use. 3. For wetlands converted in violation of Swampbuster prior to the 1990 act, if they are mitigated as specified above.
MINIMAL EFFECTS - FWS ROLE. Although not mentioned in this section of the bill, implementing regulations and procedures provided for FWS concurrence at the local level if mitigation was required.	The FWS and SCS must agree at the local level on the minimal effect determination and, if under the mitigation option, the restoration plan. If SCS and FWS cannot agree at County level, SCS State Conservationist will decide and both agencies will provide case reports to their respective Washington offices.
WETLAND DEFINITION - Used standard definition, but, did not discuss in detail.	No change, but, provides a detailed discussion of need for the presence of all three wetland parameters (hydric soils, hydrology, and, unless disturbed by tillage, hydrophytic vegetation).
WETLAND MAPPING - Not mentioned, provided for in SCS procedures.	All wetland maps must be certified, however, any changes are not to adversely effect a producer for actions already taken. A public listing of certified maps maintained, and all maps must be periodically updated. Field inspection is required if requested by the producer and prior to withholding any benefits.

Conservation Reserve Program

1985 FARM BILL	1990 revisions
SIZE - Authorized 45 million acres (34 million acres enrolled) of primarily highly erodible cropland with 10 year rental payments determined by a bidding process.	Not less than 39,000,000 or more than 44,000,000, but 1 million acres reserved for enrollment of non-wetlands in both 1994 and 1995.
ELIGIBLE LAND - Highly erodible cropland to be returned to permanent cover and, as in last signups, any cropland for planting of filter strips or for returning farmed wetlands to native vegetation.	Allows USDA to include in the program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Highly erodible land where erosion can not be adequately controlled by conservation plan measures. o Marginal pasture lands converted to wetland or established as wildlife habitat, due to natural processes, prior to 1990. o Marginal pasture lands to be devoted to trees in or near riparian areas (not to exceed 10 % of enrolled acreage). o Other cropland contributing to water quality problems. o Cropland newly devoted to living snow fences, permanent wildlife habitat, windbreaks, shelterbelts, or filterstrips (producers must provide useful-life easements for these practices). <p>* Farmed wetlands are not made explicitly eligible and the Conference Committee requested they not be made eligible in the 1991 regulations.</p> <p>Water cover for wildlife has been made an acceptable cover for CRP land, providing it is not used for livestock, irrigation, or commercial fish production.</p>
Noxious weed required to be controlled.	USDA required to provide technical assistance for weed and pest control and aggressively enforce pest control requirements, however, no cost share will be provided.
Conversion to Wetlands - not provided for.	Prior converted wetlands on existing CRP land may be entered into the Wetland Reserve Program.

