

December 1997

NORTH DAKOTA WETLANDS TRUST

This memorandum discusses the history, funding, and purpose of the North Dakota Wetlands Trust. The North Dakota Wetlands Trust was created by Section 9 of the Garrison Diversion Unit Reformulation Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-294; 100 Stat. 418), a copy of which is attached as Appendix A. This section of the Reformulation Act required the federal government to contribute \$12 million and the state \$1.2 million to a trust for wetlands enhancement and preservation. The federal government was required to contribute \$2 million for fiscal year 1986; three percent of the total Garrison appropriation, not to exceed \$500,000 for each fiscal year, for fiscal years 1987 through 1990; and five percent of the total Garrison appropriation for each year after 1990 provided a contribution equal to 10 percent of all federal contributions was provided or contracted for by the state from nonfederal funds. The Act caps the total federal contribution at \$12 million.

The trust must be established by nonfederal interests as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of North Dakota with its principal office in North Dakota and is under the direction of a board of directors that has the power to manage all affairs of the corporation, including administration, data collection, and implementation of the purposes of the trust. The board of directors of the trust is composed of three persons appointed by the Governor, one person appointed by the National Audubon Society, one person appointed by the National Wildlife Federation, and one person appointed by the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society. A list of the current board members is attached as Appendix B. The board of directors has the power to manage all affairs of the corporation, including administration, data collection, and implementation of the purposes of the trust. The corporate purposes of the trust are to preserve, enhance, restore, and manage

wetlands and associated wildlife habitat in the state of North Dakota.

Concerning the operation of the trust, the trust is deemed to be operating in accordance with the Act if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior, the trust is operated to preserve, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and associated wildlife habitat in the state in accordance with its corporate purposes. Pursuant to its corporate charter, the trust has the power to acquire lands and interests in land and the power to acquire water rights and to finance wetland preservation, enhancement, restoration, and management or wetland habitat programs. However, lands or interests in lands may only be acquired by the trust with the consent of the owner and with the approval of the Governor.

Concerning the investment and expenditure of funds of the trust, only income received by the trust from the investment of its funds may be used for its purposes and operations and no part of the principal amount may be expended for any purpose.

A summary of projects of the North Dakota Wetlands Trust is attached as Appendix C; a list of project partners of the North Dakota Wetlands Trust is attached as Appendix D; an article from the February 1997 edition of the *North Dakota REC/RTC* magazine entitled "Maple River Drift Prairie Project: A Win-Win Situation for Farmers, Cattle Producers, Wildlife" is attached as Appendix E; an excerpt from the June 1996 edition of *North Dakota Water* entitled "It Can Work! North Dakota Wetlands Trust Creates a Natural North Dakota Through Cooperation" is attached as Appendix F; a copy of the North Dakota Wetlands Trust 1997-2000 strategic plan is attached as Appendix G; and a copy of a brochure describing the trust is attached as Appendix H.

ATTACH:8

of the crop would normally be marketed is in excess of the normal supply as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary of the Interior shall announce the amount of the surplus crop production charge for the succeeding year on or before July 1 of each year. The surplus crop production charge shall not apply to crops produced in the 5,000 acre Oakes Test Area for research purposes under the direction of the Secretaries of the Interior or Agriculture."

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The Act of August 5, 1965 (Public Law 89-108, 79 Stat. 433) is amended by adding the following new section at the end thereof:

"Sec. 10. (a)(1) There are authorized to be appropriated \$270,395,000 for carrying out the provisions of section 5(a) through section 5(c) and section 8(a)(1) of this Act. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

"(2) There is authorized to be appropriated \$67,910,000 for carrying out the provisions of section 5(e) of this Act. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

"(b)(1) There is authorized to be appropriated \$200,000,000 to carry out the provisions of section 7(a) of this Act. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

"(2) There are authorized to be appropriated \$61,000,000 to carry out the provisions of section 7(b) through section 7(d) of this Act. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

"(c) There is authorized to be appropriated for carrying out the remaining provisions of this Act \$80,535,000. No funds are authorized for the construction of the Lonetree Dam and Reservoir. There are also authorized to be appropriated such additional funds as may be necessary for operation and maintenance of the unit.

"(d) Any funds previously appropriated for the Garrison Diversion Unit may be expended to carry out any of the provisions of this Act."

SEC. 9. WETLANDS TRUST.

The Act of August 5, 1965 (Public Law 89-108, 79 Stat. 433) is amended by adding the following new section at the end thereof:

"Sec. 11. (a) FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—From the sums appropriated under section 10 of this Act for the Garrison Diversion Unit, the Secretary of the Interior shall make an annual Federal contribution to a Wetlands Trust established by non-Federal interests in accordance with subsection (b), and operated in accordance with subsection (c), of this section. The amount of each such annual contribution shall be as follows:

"(1) For fiscal year 1986: \$2,000,000.

"(2) For each of the fiscal years 1987 through 1990: 3 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 10 of this Act, but not to exceed \$500,000 for each such fiscal year.

"(3) For each fiscal year after 1990: 5 percent of the total amount appropriated under section 10 of this Act, but only if a contribution to the Trust equal to 10 percent of all Federal contributions is provided or contracted for by the State of North Dakota from non-Federal funds. The contributions of the State of North Dakota may be paid to the Trust in such amounts and in such manner as may be agreed upon by the Governor and the Secretary.

"(4) The total Federal contribution pursuant to this Act shall not exceed \$12,000,000.

"(b) **STRUCTURE OF THE TRUST.**—A Wetlands Trust shall be eligible to receive Federal contributions pursuant to subsection (a) if it complies with each of the following requirements:

"(1) The Trust is established by non-Federal interests as a non-profit corporation under the laws of North Dakota with its principal office in North Dakota.

"(2) The Trust is under the direction of a Board of Directors which has the power to manage all affairs of the corporation, including administration, data collection, and implementation of the purposes of the Trust.

"(3) The Board of Directors of the Trust is comprised of 6 persons appointed as follows, each for a term of 2 years:

"(A) 3 persons appointed by the Governor of North Dakota.

"(B) 1 person appointed by the National Audubon Society.

"(C) 1 person appointed by the National Wildlife Federation.

"(D) 1 person appointed by the North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Vacancies on the board are filled in the manner in which the original appointments were made. Any member of the Board of Directors is eligible for reappointment for successive terms. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which his or her predecessor was appointed is appointed only for the remainder of such term. A member may serve after the expiration of his or her term until his or her successor has taken office.

"(4) Members of the Board of Directors serve without compensation.

"(5) The corporate purposes of the Trust are to preserve, enhance, restore, and manage wetland and associated wildlife habitat in the State of North Dakota.

"(c) **OPERATIONS OF THE TRUST.**—A Wetland Trust established by non-Federal interests as provided in subsection (b) shall be deemed to be operating in accordance with this subsection if, in the opinion of the Secretary, each of the following requirements are met:

"(1) The Trust is operated to preserve, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and associated wildlife habitat in the State of North Dakota in accordance with its corporate purpose as provided in subsection (b)(5).

"(2) Pursuant to its corporate charter, the Trust has the authority to exercise each of the following powers:

"(A) The power to acquire lands and interests in land and power to acquire water rights. Lands or interests in lands may be acquired by the Trust only with the consent of the owner thereof and with the approval of the Governor of North Dakota.

"(B) The power to finance wetland preservation, enhancement, restoration, and management or wetland habitat programs.

"(3) All funds received by the Trust under subsection (a) are invested in accordance with the requirements of subsection (d). No part of the principal amount of such funds may be expended for any purpose. The income received by the Trust from the investment of such funds shall be used by the Trust exclusively

Reports.

for its purposes and operations in accordance with this subsection or, to the extent not required for current operations, re-invested in accordance with subsection (d).

"(4) The Trust agrees to provide such reports as may be required by the Secretary or the Governor of North Dakota and makes its records available for audit by Federal and State agencies.

"(d) INVESTMENT OF TRUST FUNDS.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Governor of North Dakota, shall establish requirements for the investment of all amounts received by the Trust under subsection (a) or reinvested under subsection (c)(3). Such requirements shall ensure that such amounts are invested in accordance with sound investment principles and shall ensure that persons managing such investments will exercise their fiduciary responsibilities in an appropriate manner."

SEC. 10. SOIL SURVEYS.

Hazardous materials.

Section 1 of the Act of July 31, 1953 (67 Stat. 266; 43 U.S.C. 390a) is amended by inserting at the end thereof the following: "Such surveys shall include an investigation of soil characteristics which might result in toxic or hazardous irrigation return flows."

SEC. 11. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be referred to as the "Garrison Diversion Unit Reformulation Act of 1986".

SEC. 12. COMPLIANCE WITH APPROPRIATIONS ACT.

This Act to reformulate the Garrison Diversion Unit shall be deemed to meet all the time and substance requirements specified in the Fiscal Year 1986 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act (Public Law 99-141).

99 Stat. 564.

Approved May 12, 1986.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1116:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 99-525 and Pt. 2 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 132 (1986):

Apr. 21, 23, considered and passed House.

Apr. 28, considered and passed Senate.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 22, No. 20 (1986):
May 12, Presidential statement.

(water well contractor)	Mandan, ND 58554-0472	(701) 663-1044 (h)	34	Morton	07 01 97	07 01 01
Lindvig, Milton Secretary-Treasurer (ex-officio)	State Water Commission State Office Building 900 East Boulevard Avenue Bismarck, ND 58505	(701) 328-2754 (w) (701) 328-3696(fax)				
Schwindt, Francis (ex-officio)	Health Department 1200 Missouri Avenue PO Box 5520 Bismarck, ND 58506-5520	(701) 328-5150 (w)				

WETLANDS TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Created by:	Garrison Diversion Unit Reformulation Act of 1986	Number of Members:	6 (3 by the Governor)
Length of Terms:	2 years	Pay/Benefits:	Federal Rate
Frequency of Meetings:	2 times a year, January and July		

The Trust is dedicated to the preservation, enhancement, restoration, and management of wetlands and associated wildlife habitat in the state of North Dakota. The director of the Game and Fish Department is an ex-officio member.

Current Members	Address	Phone	LD	County	Appt. Date	Term Ends
Hausauer, Alan W. President (governor's appointee)	HC 1, Box 7 Regan, ND 58477-9711	(701) 286-7354 (h)	14	Burleigh	09 01 96	09 01 98
Hoetzer, Stephen M. Secretary/Treasurer (governor's appointee)	American Engineering, P.C. 1100 Industrial Drive Bismarck, ND 58501	(701) 258-5926 (w) (701) 258-4268 (h)	49	Burleigh	09 01 96	09 01 98
Liffrig, Duane (governor's appointee)	3206 Winnipeg Drive Bismarck, ND 58501	(701) 258-1666 (h)	47	Burleigh	12 30 96	09 01 98

Hoistad, Harris Vice President (North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Service)	US Fish and Wildlife Service Wetlands Management District 11515 River Road Valley City, ND 58072	(701) 845-3466 (w) (701) 845-5083 (h)	24	Barnes	09 01 96	09 01 98
Beard, Dan Senior Vice President for Public Policy (National Audubon Society)	1901 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20006	(202) 861-2242(w)			11 06 96	09 01 98
Kroger, Dick (National Wildlife Federation)	RR 1, Box 44 Wood Lake, MN 56297	(507) 768-3608 (h)			09 01 96	09 01 98
Hildebrand, Dean (ex-officio member)	Director Game and Fish Department 100 North Bismarck Expressway Bismarck, ND 58504-5095	(701) 328-6305 (w) (701) 328-6352(fax)				

WETLANDS TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS, continued

Current Members	Address	Phone
Dryer, Pamela (general administration)	Executive Director North Dakota Wetlands Trust 1501 North 12th Street PO Box 2432 Bismarck, ND 58502-2432	(701) 223-1844 (w) (701) 223-4645(fax)

WHEAT COMMISSION

Created by:	NDCC 4-28-03	Number of Members:	7 (1 by the Governor)
Length of Terms:	4 years	Pay/Benefits:	State Rate, \$62.50 a day
Frequency of Meetings:	6 times a year		per diem

**NORTH DAKOTA WETLANDS TRUST
SUMMARY OF PROJECTS
NOVEMBER 13, 1997**

The North Dakota Wetlands Trust, a non-profit corporation, has been involved in 62 wetland conservation projects since its inception in 1986. \$5,114,725 have been committed to projects and \$2,067,102 have been spent to date, totaling 13,056 wetland acres. In addition, the Trust has been involved in funding several wetland education initiatives.

The Wetlands Trust Board of Directors recognizes that even though the Trust is a small organization, with an annual budget of about \$800,000, it can play a critical roles in wetland conservation. They accomplish this by developing partnerships through grants and by working directly with landowners and organizations to create and develop projects.

Thirty seven organizations and over 200 landowners are involved in Trust projects and programs, both directly and indirectly.

The Trust Board of Directors strategically makes decisions on projects based on program needs and specific goals it has set. The next pages list some of these projects and show specific progress on these goals.

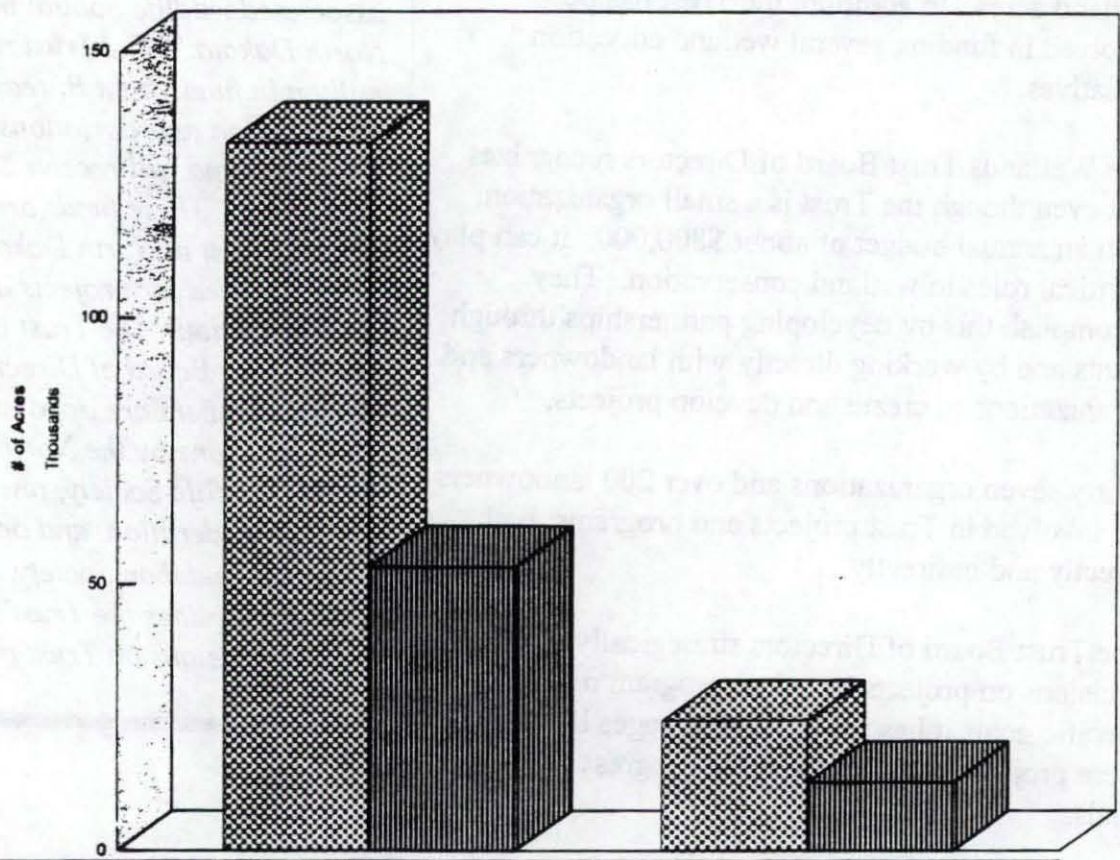
To carry out its **goals and objectives**, the Wetlands Trust Board can be innovative and has many options. The Trust can look at conservation techniques and try to improve them. It can work on cooperative projects with landowners and conservation agencies. The Trust can acquire land and obtain conservation easements with the approval of the Governor. It can help both children and adults learn and understand why wetlands are so crucial.

The Board believes that through cooperation, people will find ways to promote a better understanding of wetland values.

The North Dakota Wetlands Trust was established as part of the Garrison Diversion Unit Reformualtion Act of 1986. The purpose of the Trust is "to preserve, enhance, restore and manage wetlands and associated wildlife habitat in the State of North Dakota." The Trust received \$12 million in funds from Bureau of Reclamation appropriations for Garrison Diversion and will receive \$1.2 million in state funds. These funds are placed into a trust account in North Dakota, and interest money is used for projects and administration. The Trust is overseen by a six member Board of Directors. Three Board members are appointed by the Governor, one by the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, one by the National Wildlife Federation, and one by the National Audubon Society. The Board of Directors guides the Trust's direction and makes decisions on Trust projects.

NORTH DAKOTA WETLANDS TRUST GRAND TOTALS OF ALL PROJECTS

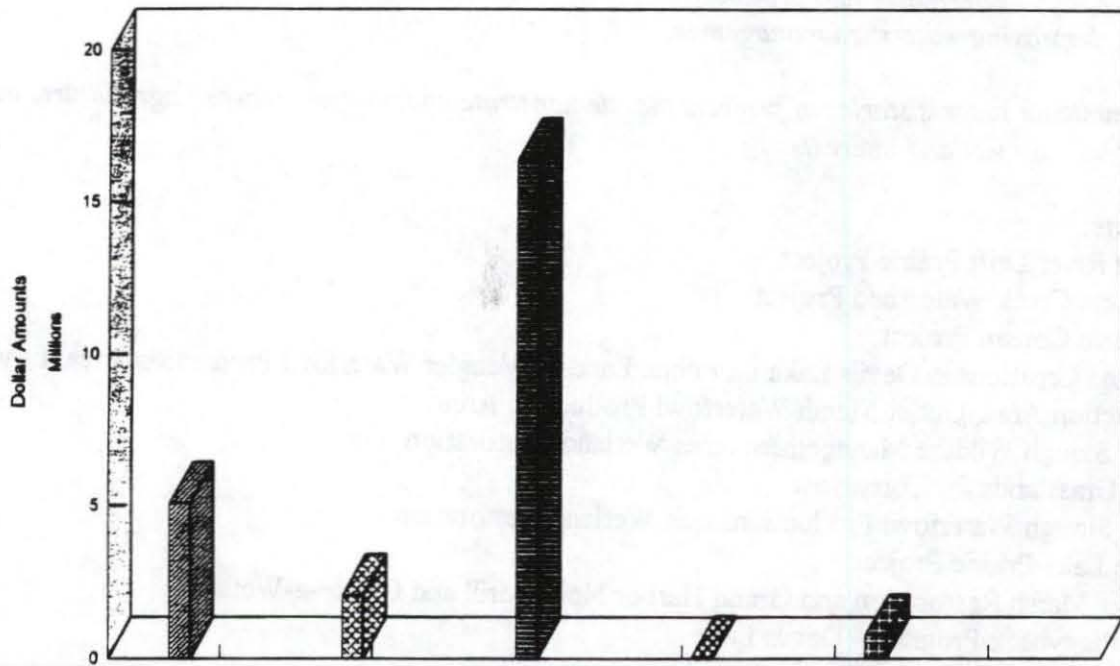
ND Wetlands Trust Grand Total of Goal Acreage and Completed Acreage



X-Axis	Total Acres	Wetland Acres
■ Goal Acres	132,902	24,604
■ Completed Acres	53,339	13,056

NORTH DAKOTA WETLANDS TRUST GRAND TOTALS OF ALL PROJECTS

ND Wetlands Trust Grand Total Project Costs



X-Axis					
Trust Commitment	\$5,114.725				
Trust Expenditure		\$2,067.102			
Total Project \$			\$16,403.567		
Property Taxes Paid				\$36.330	
\$ to Landowners					\$775.737

Program: Improving the Wetland Resource in Watersheds and Reduce Conflict Over Wetland Issues

Goals:

Restore, enhance and protect wetland complexes in watersheds that are threatened with degradation or loss, by:

Developing partnerships with private and public entities

Restoring drained wetlands

Restoring and maintaining upland cover around existing and restored wetlands

Demonstrating management techniques that enhance wetlands and provide an economic alternative to a producer

Improving watershed management.

Communicate success stories of projects that demonstrate cooperation between agriculture, water and wetland interests.

Projects:

Maple River Drift Prairie Project

Pipestem Creek Watershed Project

Northern Coteau Project

Wetland Creations in Devils Lake on Public Lands: Wengler Waterfowl Production Area, Edwards Waterfowl Production Area, Outlet Marsh Waterfowl Production Area

Hyatt Slough Wildlife Management Area Wetland Restoration

DU - Grasslands for Tomorrow

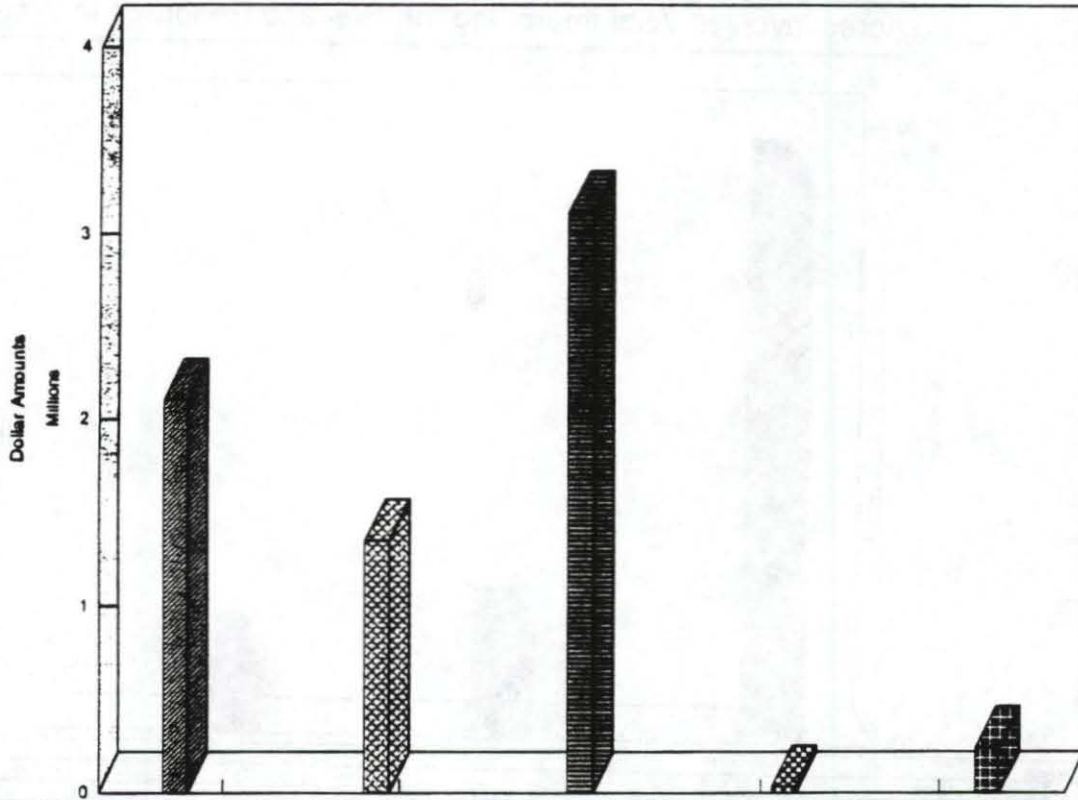
Hove Slough Waterfowl Production Area Wetland Restoration

Chase Lake Prairie Project

Kenner Marsh Restoration and Grand Harbor No-till drill and Create-a-Wetland

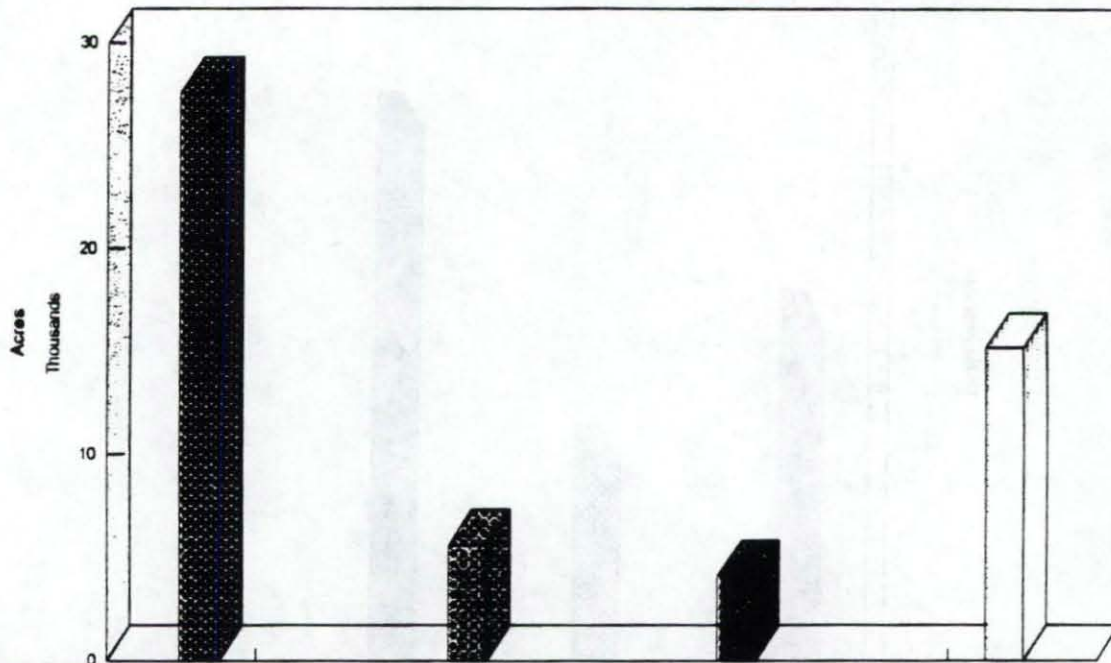
CRP Piggyback Program - Devils Lake

Project Costs for Improving the Wetland Resource in Watersheds



X-Axis					
Trust Commitment	\$2,107,365				
Trust Expenditure		\$1,352,676			
Total Project \$			\$3,116,252		
Property Taxes Paid				\$36,330	
\$ to Landowners					\$244,509

Acres Involved With Improving the Wetland Resource In Watersheds



X-Axis				
Completed Acres	27,518			
Wetland Acres		5,640		
Acquired Acres			4,154	
Improved Ag. Acres				15,245

Program: Improving the Wetland Resource on Private Lands

Goal:

To improve wetland quality by reversing the trend of wetland degradation and decline on private lands through incentives, demonstrations, and technical assistance.

Projects:

No-till Drills

Bottineau County Create-a-Wetland

Adopt-a-Pothole

State Waterbank Program

Southwest Wetland Creations

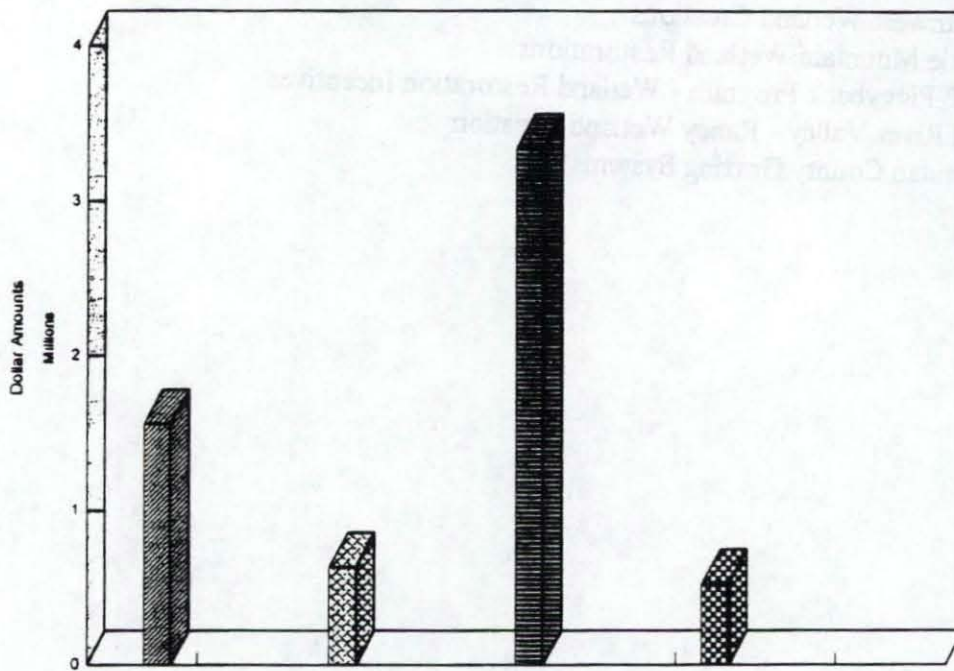
Turtle Mountain Wetland Restorations

CRP Piggyback Program - Wetland Restoration Incentives

Red River Valley - Raney Wetland Creation

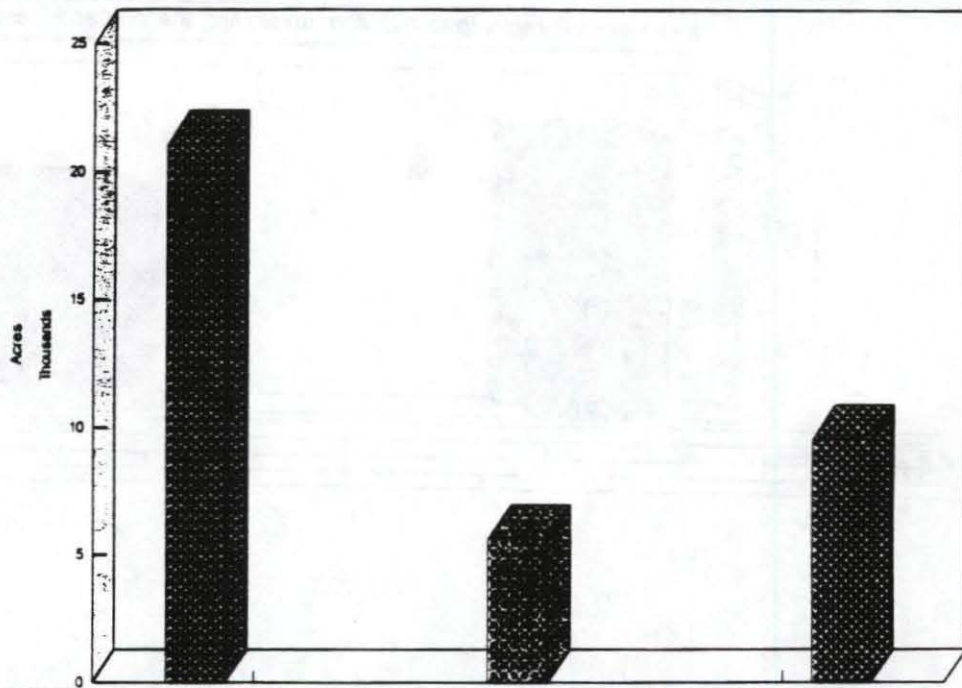
Sheridan County Grazing Systems

Project Costs for Improving the Wetland Resource on Private Lands



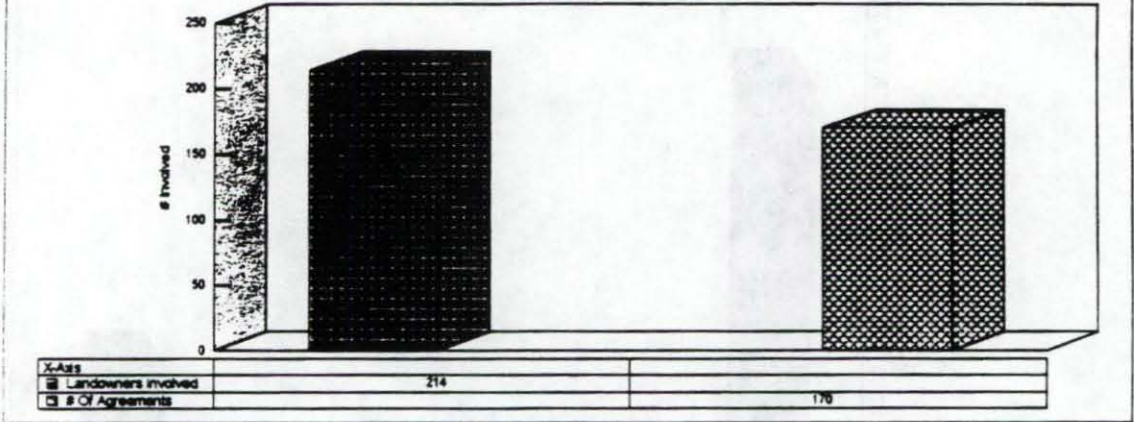
Trust Commitment	\$1,557,968			
Trust Expenditure		\$953,928		
Total Project \$			\$3,338,130	
\$ to Landowners				\$527,172

Acres Involved With Improving the Wetland Resource on Private Lands



X-Axis			
Completed Acres	21,051		
Wetland Acres		5,832	
Improved Ag. Acres			9,520

Landowners Directly Involved With Improving the Wetland Resource



Program: Reducing Conflict Over Wetland Issues Through Education Projects

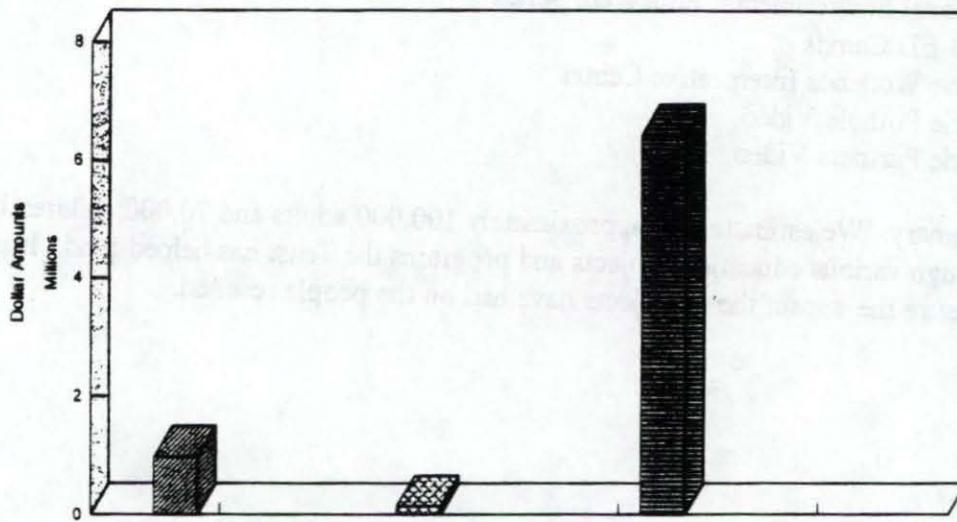
Goal: Participate in Education Projects for Wetlands

Projects:

Wetland and Water Field Demonstration Tours
Wetland management Handbooks
Wetland Discovery Guide
Wetland Education Trunks
Audubon National Wildlife Refuge Discovery Scopes and Binoculars
Audubon National Wildlife Refuge Wetland Diorama
N.D. Game and Fish Department Wetland Diorama
Regional Environmental Education Series
ECO-ED Camps
Prairie Wetlands Interpretive Center
Prairie Pothole Video
Prairie Partners Video

Summary: We estimate that approximately 100,000 adults and 70,000 children have been reached through various education projects and programs the Trust has helped fund. It is difficult to measure the impact these projects have had on the people reached.

Project Costs for Wetland Education



X-Axis				
Trust Commitment	\$985,200			
Trust Expenditure		\$140,050		
Total Project \$			\$6,428,342	

**NORTH DAKOTA WETLANDS TRUST
LIST OF PROJECT PARTNERS
SEPTEMBER 18, 1997**

Nonprofits:

Ducks Unlimited
The Nature Conservancy
Delta Waterfowl Foundation
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
N.D. Water Users
N.D. Water Education Foundation/Wetlands Institute
Chase Lake Foundation

Agencies - State and Federal

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
N.D. Game and Fish Department
N.D. Department of Agriculture
N.D. State Water Commission
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District
NDSU Extension Service (statewide and Dickey and Sheridan Counties)
N.D. State Soil Conservation Committee

Water Boards:

Ramsey County
Bottineau County
Wells County
Sheridan County
Walsh County
Dickey County

Soil Conservation Districts:

Ramsey County
James River (Dickey County)
Foster County
Turtle Mountain (Bottineau County)
Wells County
Sheridan County
West McLean
South McHenry
Rolette County
Logan County
Barnes County

Other:

Dry Lake Township Board
Cass County Wildlife Club
Red River Regional Council



Maple River Drift Prairie Project: a win-win situation for farmers, cattle producers, wildlife

by Cathy Langemo

Many farmers in Dickey County are participating in a project to preserve North Dakota's farmland and wetlands.

Called the Maple River Drift Prairie Project, this venture of the North Dakota Wetlands Trust was initiated as a demonstration effort in 1992. Covering most of Dickey County, it partners private landowners, government agencies and wildlife organizations. Agencies include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Delta Waterfowl Foundation and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

The trust, a unique, private organization, was established by the U.S. Congress in 1986 under the Reformulation Act of the Garrison Diversion Unit project. It is operated to "preserve, enhance, restore and manage wetlands and associated wildlife habitat" in North Dakota.

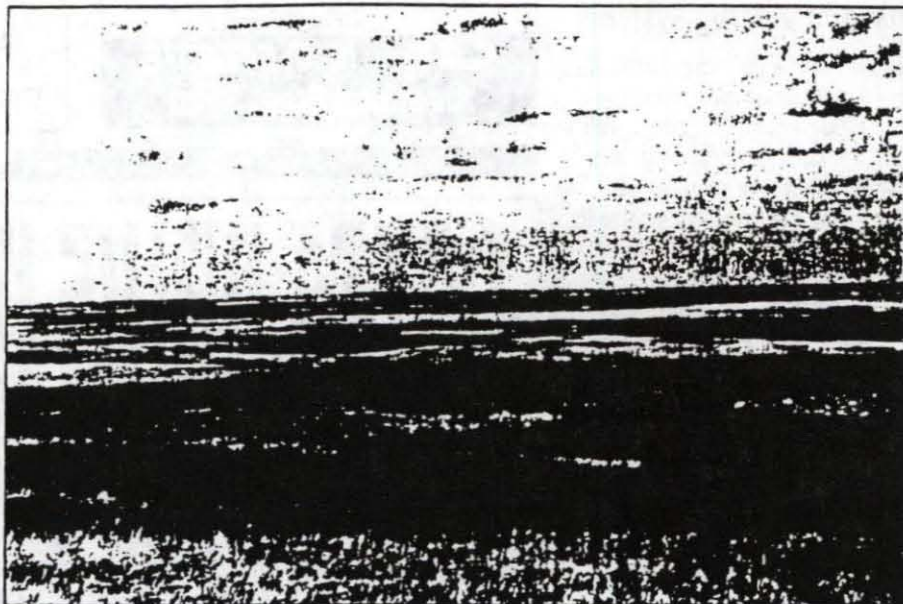
"The Maple River project has been particularly successful," says Pam Dwyer, executive director of the trust. "We have worked with private producers to enhance wetlands through grazing systems, no-till farming and wetland restorations."

The greatest threat to existing wetlands in the project area is degradation from agricultural practices. The goal of the project is to reverse that trend through incentives and technical assistance to local producers.

Project involves 10-year plan

The 10-year plan for the Maple River project is to restore or enhance nearly 15,000 acres of wetlands and upland habitat on both private and public lands. The project objectives include:

- Acquiring about 800 acres of wetland and upland habitat;
- Contacting at least 50 percent of area landowners about conservation-tillage farming;
- Restoring, enhancing or creating about 3,200 acres of wetlands;
- Cooperating on a water-quality project; and
- Developing grazing systems on about 7,000 acres.



These wetlands were created in the Severson grazing system, a part of the Maple River Drift Prairie Project. (Photo by Cathy Langemo)

The cost of the project, nearly \$235,000, is covered through federal and non-federal funds. Nearly 1,400 wetland and 5,200 upland acres have been improved to date, at a cost of about \$60 per acre, which includes land acquisition.

Rotational grazing systems part of Maple River project

The Maple River project is the first of its kind initiated by the trust. The first land acquisition was the McDonald Tract, purchased in 1991 and 1992. The 480-acre property contains about 90 acres of temporary, seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands and 390 upland acres.

A conservation grant, approved in August 1993, helped the trust purchase the 320-acre Grueneich Tract in 1994. This area includes assorted wetlands on 60 acres and 260 upland acres.

Acquisition of the Grueneich enhancement established a nearly 150-acre grazing system on native prairie and tame-grass pastures. Local ranchers lease the pasture to learn how to work with rotational grazing systems. The project also offers assis-

tance to ranchers who are interested in setting up their own systems.

The Severson rotational grazing system and wetland creation involved 1,600 acres of native prairie pasture, with 320 acres of natural wetlands and three other wetlands created in 1995. The wetlands serve as waterfowl habitats and as watering sources for livestock.

Robert Severson runs about 160 cow-calf pairs and five bulls on the 960 cross-fenced acres of his system. The remaining 640 acres will be completed this spring, when he will graze about 260 cow-calf pairs.

The cattle spend about 21 days in each of the seven pasture units in Severson's system. "It's easy to move the cattle from one grazing unit to another," Severson says. "In fact, the cattle are ready when I open the gate and call them, because they know they're moving to a fresh pasture."

Severson says he already sees improvement, where some grass specials have come back—especially bluestem, a native prairie grass. "My goal is to improve range conditions by keeping or improving species composition and to develop water-

ing sources for better grazing distribution," he says, noting that he can already see progress toward his goal.

Solar water-pumping units can be used in grazing systems

Development of the 160-acre Roy Miller grazing system, running at nearly \$8,000, will include fencing, digging a well and installing a solar water-pumping unit.

Pat Schaffer, director of member services at James Valley Electric Cooperative in Edgeley, says setting up a program for pasture solar units is an option the cooperative is considering.

"We want to work with the farmers in the Maple River project," she says. "Each situation involves a decision on the most practical, cost-effective way to serve the customer, whether it be running a power line in or installing a solar unit."

Arnie Kruse, wetland biologist and manager of the Maple River project, says he meets with landowners to find wetland conservation solutions.

"Some very positive and long-term projects have come from discussions with landowners," says Kruse. "Developing good working relationships with producers is key to the success of the Maple River project."

Trust conserves wetlands through conservation tillage

Kruse also talks with producers about conservation-tillage practices. Conservation tillage, or crop-residue management, is an important tool to ensure the continued productivity and profitability of cropland.

Reducing soil erosion and providing economic advantages to farmers are the primary benefits of this farming practice. Today's conservation-minded producers realize that the soil itself is a valuable economic asset. Reduction of soil erosion also helps maintain healthy wetlands and wildlife habitats.

Conservation tillage is a year-round system in which the producer intentionally leaves the past year's crop residue on the fields. Residue left on a field will:

- Increase profits;
- Catch snow for additional moisture and protection against winter kill;
- Reduce surface runoff and soil loss;
- Reduce evaporation loss;

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BOWMAN Bowman Implement Co. 523-3017	KILLDEER Prairie Implement, Inc. 764-5641	WATFORD CITY OK Implement Co. 842-2539
GARRISON Rensch Farm Store 463-2289	LISBON Ransom County Implement .. 683-4000	WEST FARGO Ford Tractor of Fargo, Inc. . 282-5290
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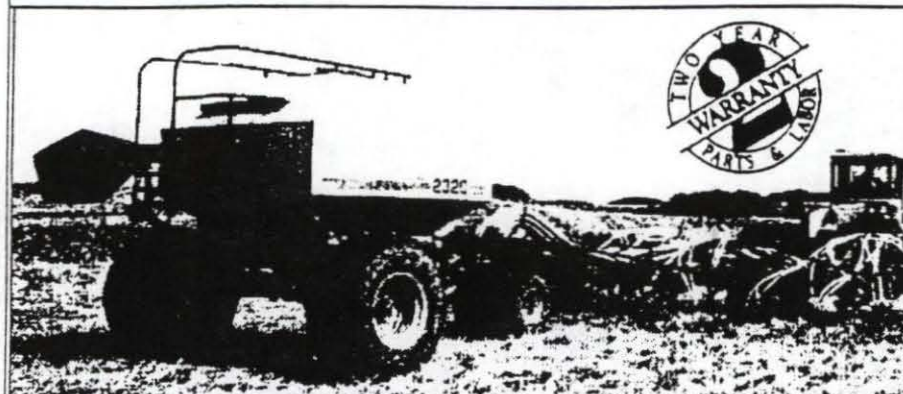
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content, and

- Provide food and cover for wildlife.

To promote conservation farming, cost-sharing of equipment rental between the trust and the producer is a feature of the Maple River project. Special equipment, such as air seeders and tillage tools, are required for conservation-tillage farming.

Participation in the Maple River Drift Prairie Project seems to be a win-win situation for all. Contact the North Dakota Wetlands Trust in Bismarck at (701) 223-8501, or Arnie Kruse at (701) 489-3565 (or 4800 Highway 281 S.E., Jamestown, N.D. 58401), if you are interested in becoming involved or want further information on the project.

Cathy Langemo is a free-lance writer from Bismarck, N.D.

FEEDLIST on World Wide Web for winter feed

Farmers and ranchers in North Dakota and surrounding states who need feed, and those who have feed to sell, can find each other on the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service FEEDLIST, now accessible on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ext.nodak.edu>

FEEDLIST is an easy-to-use database showing what each seller has to sell, as well as storage method—large round bales, small bales and so on—and contact information. Prospective buyers walk the Web, pick their picks and contact prospective sellers to conduct a deal. There is no charge to either buyer or seller for using the NDSU Extension Service FEEDLIST.

People with feed to sell may submit their entries over the Web by e-mail or by contacting any county office of the NDSU Extension Service.

FEEDLIST entries may also include other feeding arrangements, such as custom feeding and winter wheat pasture in wheat areas.

Opp Simmental sale date changed to March 25

The Opp Simmental Ranch sale, originally scheduled for Feb. 3 at Kist Livestock in Mandan, has been changed to March 25, 1 p.m. (C.S.T.), at Kist Livestock.

It can work!

N.D. Wetlands Trust creates a natural North Dakota through cooperation

By Cathy Langemo and Hope Aasland

Still water. Lush green grass. Colorfully painted wildflowers. Deep blue sky. Waterfowl taking flight.

It's a picture of serenity. A North Dakota wetland. A peaceful pocket of heaven created from a storm of turmoil. That's the history of potholes in North Dakota.

For decades, people have

clashed over whether to protect or drain prairie wetlands. But a unique twist of fate now places the cooperative approach above the fighting. The power of cooperation is evident in the North Dakota Wetlands Trust. This is a monetary trust fund, and also a symbol of trust now held between those who were once at odds over wetlands in North Dakota.

NORTH DAKOTA WETLANDS TRUST ESTABLISHED

"Cooperation has always been an important part of the Trust's activities," said Russell Dushinske, president of the Trust board from 1986 to 1993. The North Dakota Wetlands Trust Inc., a nonprofit, citizen-directed organization, was authorized by the U.S. Congress under the Garrison Diversion Unit Reformulation Act in 1986. The federal government contributed \$12 million and the State of North Dakota will contribute \$1.2 million to the fund. Today, the Trust's board of directors remains committed to preserve, enhance, restore and manage wetlands and associated wildlife habitat within

North Dakota.

"We focus on assisting private landowners to enhance the use, health and beauty of wetlands," said Wetlands Trust President Clarice Liechty.

SIX-MEMBER BOARD ADMINISTRATION

A six-member board of directors oversees the decisions and activities of the Trust. The directors have extensive knowledge of water issues and wetlands conservation. They understand the needs of North Dakotans, and their diversity ensures the careful design and evaluation of wetlands projects.

Three of the directors are appointed by the governor. One director

is appointed by each of three organizations—the National Wildlife Federation, the National Audubon Society and the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department director serves as an ex-officio member of the Trust.

"The Trust has been very successful so far and has hopefully served to satisfy people on all sides of wetlands issues," Liechty said.

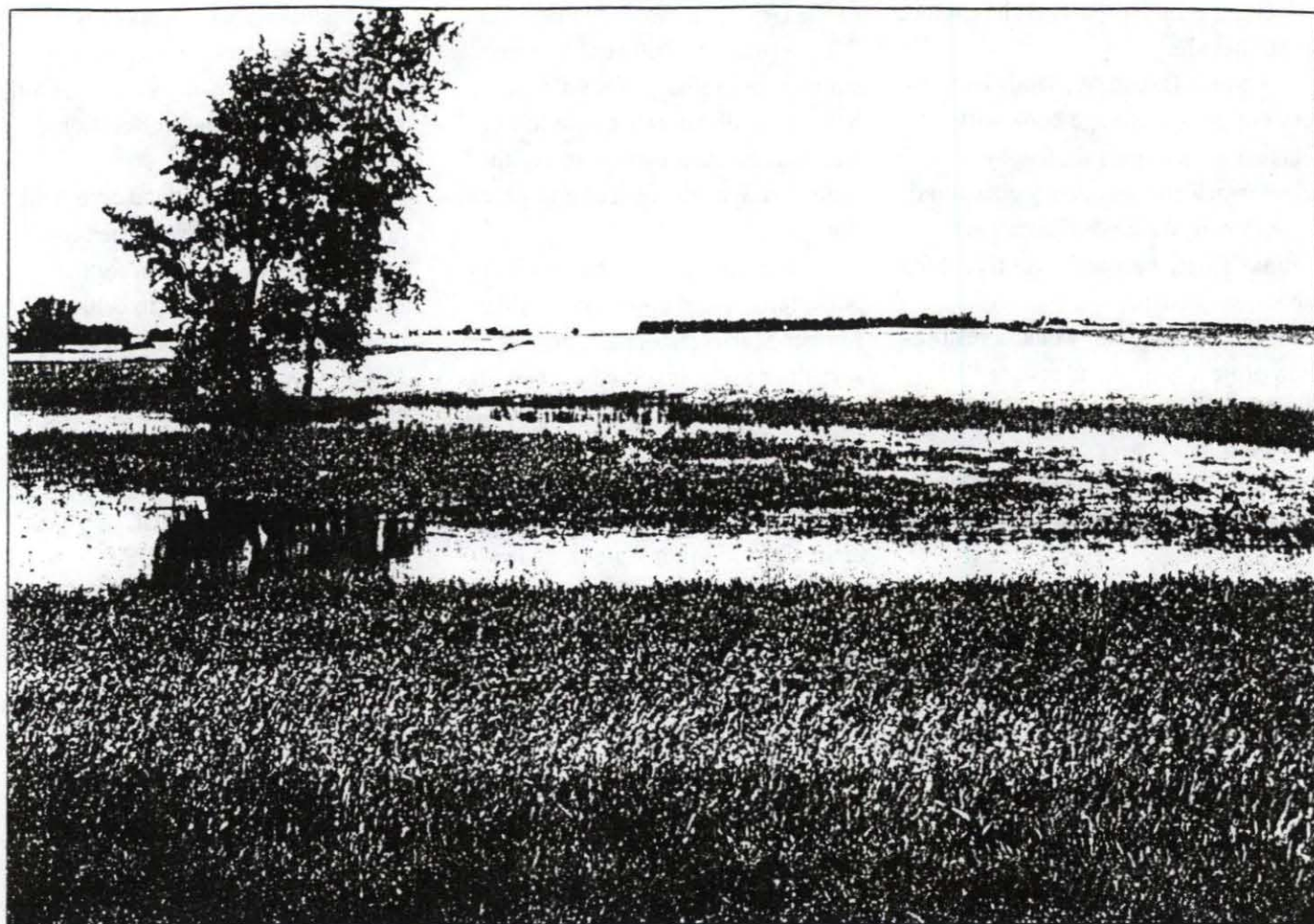
Innovation defines the Trust, as the board has many project options. It can acquire land, obtain conservation easements and improve wetland conservation techniques. It can work on cooperative projects with private landowners and wildlife, agricultural and water development interests. It can complement existing wetland programs. The Trust helps to reduce conflicts over wetlands through improved communication among the entities involved.

Land acquisition is only one tool to achieve wetlands protection. The Trust is effective in restoring and enhancing wetlands on acquired property and then transferring long-term management to responsible



Above, the North Dakota Wetlands Trust's Maple River Drift Prairie Project covers most of Dickey County. At right, Wetlands Trust Executive Director Pamela Dryer monitors wetland vegetation.





The many successful projects of the North Dakota Wetlands Trust proves that thriving wetlands and fruitful crops can happen together.

agencies, organizations or individuals.

Liechty says, "I think the Trust is definitely on the right track by turning over long-term management of wetlands to other entities." That way, the Trust's resources are not committed to long-term management costs.

The Trust acts as a granting agency fostering partnerships to improve the quality and quantity of wetlands. It also supports wetland education programs. Ongoing projects of the Trust cover 26,000 acres, including 8,000 in wetlands.

NORTH DAKOTA WETLANDS TRUST PROJECTS

Some unique projects have been initiated through the Trust. One of the first was the Create-A-Wetland

project. Farmers retain water in drained wetlands through April 15 of each year. These temporarily restored wetlands provide habitat for migratory waterfowl, flood irrigation for cropland and flood control.

Create-A-Wetland projects totaling 239 wetlands acres are being implemented in the Grand Harbor Watershed in Ramsey County. And in Bottineau County, Create-A-Wetland projects provide habitat for nearly 3,300 migratory birds.

TRUST ACCEPTS THREE TYPES OF PROJECTS

The Trust's projects come under three types: grant projects, cooperative projects and Trust-initiated projects. Grants are used to fund

wetlands projects developed by individuals, agencies, organizations and cooperating groups. Cooperative projects involve the Trust partnering with others to complete a specific project. The Trust may sometimes see the need or opportunity to initiate wetland projects entirely on its own.

The board reviews proposals for wetland projects in February and October each year. Pam Dryer, who became executive director of the Trust in September 1990, said the board receives quite a few proposals.

"We encourage more proposals from water boards and farm organizations," Dryer said. "The board also likes to see proposals from individuals that have a project idea even

though they don't necessarily know where to start."

Grant projects the Trust has helped fund include:

- North Dakota Wetlands Discovery Guide, a 178-page book with classroom activities for use by elementary and secondary educators;

- Prairie Wetlands Education Trunks filled with activities that teach about wetlands;

- Turtle Mountain wetland restoration project, which has restored 50 acres of wetlands for habitat and hayland.

- A wetland diorama, a Game and Fish Department display in Bismarck.

Cooperative projects of the North Dakota Wetlands Trust have altered the landscape and history of North Dakota. Such partnerships have directly benefited both wildlife and people.

- Chase Lake Prairie Project, a 5.5 million-acre endeavor established in 1989. The project proves that profitable agriculture and abundant wildlife can not only co-exist, but thrive. The Wetlands Trust works with dozens of other partners and works on land acquisitions, environmental education, private lands, grazing systems, wetland restorations and habitat enhancement through the project.

- Starkweather Coulee in southwestern Cavalier County received increased flood water storage by about 160 acre-feet. This project created a 30-acre, semipermanent wetland and enhanced a 13-acre, seasonal wetland on the Wengeler Waterfowl Production Area.

- Kenner Marsh, a 320-acre,

semipermanent wetland developed on Trust property, was restored. As part of the Dry Lake Water Management Plan, it provides 700 acre-feet of storage. In exchange for wildlife habitat, landowners are able to use wetlands on their own property for water storage and agricultural production.

Byron Lannoye, a Churchs Ferry, N.D., farmer and cooperator on the Kenner Marsh restoration project, says the project involved a lot of give and take. But he said that's what made it work.

"They (the Trust) suggested we seed grass in the waterways. That was their suggestion for water management, although it was something we weren't used to doing," Lannoye said. "There were times we met in the middle."

Lannoye and about six other landowners worked with the Trust for several years to complete the wetland/water storage project.

"The Wetlands Trust has been good to work with," Lannoye said. "I think we (the Trust and landowners) got a good deal out of it."

Another large, successful venture initiated by the Trust is the Maple River Drift Prairie Project, initiated as a demonstration effort in 1992. It covers most of Dickey County, where many wetlands are intact on private lands. Partners in the project include private landowners, government

agencies and wildlife organizations. "This project has been particularly successful. We have worked with private producers to enhance wetlands through grazing systems, no-till farming and wetland restorations," Dryer said.

Nearly 1,400 wetland acres and 5,200 upland acres have been improved. The 10-year plan for the Maple River project is to enhance, protect, restore and manage nearly 15,000 acres of wetlands and upland habitat on both private and public lands.

COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE THE TRUST

Every project of the North Dakota Wetlands Trust has been a shining example of cooperation between North Dakotans. It is difficult to farm around wetlands. It is crushing to have birds consume crops. It is hurtful to see a wetland drained and animals die. The cooperation seen in North Dakota over such divisive issues has resulted in countless successes for people and wildlife. The North Dakota Wetlands Trust will continue to be a part of that unique peace only North Dakota wetlands can offer. ■

Let's put our heads together!

Have a vision for a wetland project in N. Dakota?

Contact the Wetlands Trust.

No pressure, no obligation to do anything.

Just call in or send us an idea.



P.O. Box 3175

Bismarck, ND 58502-3175

(701) 223-8501

"The North Dakota Wetlands Trust is for the people and wildlife of North Dakota. With the help of the public and future generations, we can continue to put it to wise and productive use."
—GAIL BISHOP, NORTH DAKOTA WETLANDS TRUST DIRECTOR

**NORTH DAKOTA WETLANDS
TRUST**

1997-2000 STRATEGIC PLAN

Prepared by Board of Directors:

Alan Hausauer, President

Harris Hoistad, Vice President

Stephen Hoetzer, Secretary/Treasurer

Dan Beard

Richard Kroger

Duane Liffbrig

Dean Hildebrand, Ex-Officio

Assistance Provided by:

Pam Dryer, Executive Director

June 1997

NORTH DAKOTA WETLANDS TRUST

1997-2000 STRATEGIC PLAN

**Prepared by
Board of Directors
North Dakota Wetlands Trust
P.O. Box 3175
Bismarck, ND 58502
(701) 223-8501**

June 24, 1997

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MISSION STATEMENT

North Dakota's wetlands are a national treasure. Among the most biologically productive places on earth, these wetlands sustain diverse and unusual plants, and are home to frogs, pelicans, and millions of waterfowl and other marsh creatures. Wetlands provide feed and water for cows and deer. They provide food and resting places for migrating and nesting birds. They offer year-round habitat for resident creatures--from muskrats to pheasants.

Wetlands also hold back water which reduce the chance of floods, recharge aquifers, and filter run-off. In general, wetlands help improve North Dakota's water quality. These benefits are not only for our state, but also for many other states affected by the quality and quantity of our water, and for the migratory birds our wetlands produce and sustain. Wetlands are at the center of the circle that embraces our state's agriculture and natural resources.

Wetland protection and drainage issues are filled with contradictory and emotionally charged opinions by those who represent public and private interests. About 90 percent of North Dakota's wetlands are privately owned, so if wetlands are going to be part of our state's future, a balance of landowner interests and values along with environmental and natural resource values has to be found.

Congress provided the opportunity to achieve this balance when it created a six-member North Dakota Wetlands Trust Board of Directors. The Trust is not part of government, it is a nonprofit, citizen-directed organization. Board members are concerned citizens representing North Dakota's wetland, water and agriculture interests.

Congress directed this group to "preserve, restore, manage, and enhance wetlands and associated wildlife habitat in North Dakota." The United States government and the state of North Dakota gave the Trust a \$13.2 million trust fund through the 1986 Garrison Reformulation Act to do just that.

The Wetlands Trust Board can be innovative and has many options. The Trust can acquire land. It can obtain conservation easements. It can look at wetland conservation techniques and try to improve them. It can work on cooperative projects with private landowners and conservation agencies. It can help both children and adults learn and understand why wetlands are so crucial. The Board believes that through cooperation, people will find ways to promote a better understanding of wetland values.

The Trust is working to prevent further loss of wetlands, to improve existing wetlands, and to help reduce conflicts over wetlands through improved communication about the need for wetland protection and management. The North Dakota Wetlands Trust is working hard to make sure North Dakota's wetland heritage will always be part of our future.

MANDATE

The North Dakota Wetlands Trust (Trust) was born out of conflict over the Garrison Diversion project, wetland acquisition and protection, and wetland drainage and development. As part of the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act of 1986 (PL 99-294), Congress created the Wetlands Trust. The Trust was created to "preserve, restore, manage, and enhance wetlands and associated wildlife habitat in North Dakota" (PL 99-294).

The Trust Board of Directors is mandated by Federal law to include six-members; three are appointed by the Governor of North Dakota, one is appointed by the National Audubon Society, one by the National Wildlife Federation, and one by the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society. The North Dakota Wetlands Trust has appointed the North Dakota Game and Fish Department Director as an ex-officio director of the Trust. The Board is empowered to conduct all activities of the Trust, and required to provide annual reports to the Secretary of Interior.

Public law 99-294 authorized the Bureau of Reclamation to provide \$12 million for the Trust on a scheduled proportion of the annual Federal appropriation for the Garrison Diversion Unit. Federal law also required the Governor of North Dakota and the Secretary of the Interior to agree to a process for the State to contribute 10 percent (\$1.2 million) to the Trust. The Trust can use only the interest monies generated from the principal. The Trust is authorized by Federal law to acquire land from willing sellers with the approval of the Governor of North Dakota.

North Dakota's nonprofit corporate farming law (N.D. C.C. 10-06-04.3) also directs certain activities of the Trust. Passed by the State Legislature in 1983, and amended in 1993, the corporate farm law permits the purchase of land but restricts certain actions of the Trust. The law restricts the Trust's land acquisition to 12,000 acres and requires a review and public hearing by both the county commission and a nonprofit acquisition committee composed of representatives of five state agencies, the North Dakota Farm Bureau, and the North Dakota Farmer's Union. The law prohibits the Trust from using any funds except those derived from its interest account for land acquisition and from transferring land to the Federal government. The law also requires approval of the Governor for acquisition. All land acquired must be managed to conserve wildlife habitat.

During the negotiations and legislative development of the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act of 1986, the parties agreed that the Trust should consider innovative approaches to wetland protection. The "Statement of Principles to Support the Agreement for Reformulation of the Garrison Diversion Unit," signed April 14, 1986 by all major parties to the conflict, verified this understanding. The Trust is pursuing cooperation between wildlife, agricultural, and water development interests. There is also an understanding that the Trust is to complement existing wetland programs.

NICHE AND STRATEGY OF THE TRUST

The Wetlands Trust Board of Directors recognizes that even though the Trust is a small organization, it can play a critical role in wetland conservation in North Dakota. To do this, the Trust must expend most of its resources on wetland conservation. The Trust must form effective partnerships with other agencies, organizations, and landowners which will sustain wetland conservation and management. The Trust must not do only what other agencies and organizations are doing--the need for wetland protection is too great.

Land acquisition is only one tool to achieve wetland protection. Rather than only acquiring and subsequently managing lands, the Trust can more effectively make a difference by restoring and enhancing wetlands on acquired property and then transferring long-term management to responsible agencies, organizations or individuals. This will ensure that the Trust's financial resources are not over encumbered by long-term management costs, but will be available for future preservation actions.

The Board of Directors believes the Wetlands Trust can act as a granting organization which fosters partnerships to improve the quality and quantity of wetlands. The Trust will also attempt to maximize the use of matching grants to extend its limited financial resources.

The Trust supports wetland education programs which encourage an understanding of wetland functions and values. In order to achieve our goals, effective communication must take place both within the Trust, and between the Trust and those concerned about the future of wetlands.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

I. PROGRAM AREA: IMPROVED WETLAND RESOURCE

Strategic Goal: The Trust will focus on increasing the quantity and quality of wetlands in North Dakota.

A. Goal: Restore a major wetland area for wetland habitat and water management benefits; target an area(s) where wetlands have been drained or are threatened with degradation or loss.

Objectives:

1. Evaluate the possibility of developing one of the following projects: Upper James River Management Site, Hurricane Lake Management, Fessenden Slough Restoration, Cook Slough Watershed, McKenzie Slough, Rush Lake, stream bank restoration and management, or others.
2. Develop a scope of work to include project implementation, coordination, landowner contact, project scope, and agency coordination.
3. Maintain flexibility in project development and in grant funding to utilize other methods to protect threatened wetlands and their associated habitats.

B. Goal: Protect 3,000 acres of land through long-term agreements (30 to 99 years).

Objectives:

1. Develop Board policy on implementation and enforcement of the easement program.
2. Develop information about the easement program scope and provide it to major organizations.

C. Goal: Formulate a small watershed management project.

Objectives:

1. Provide grant funds and technical assistance to organizations who request and receive Trust grant dollars in establishing objectives for watershed management, selecting and developing wetland enhancement and restoration projects to meet their objectives, developing community and landowner support for the project, and developing other partners for the project.¹
2. Integrate existing programs of Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Agriculture Department, etc. into the watershed project. Utilize programs such as Wetland Reserve, State Waterbank, and Partners for Wildlife.

¹Ensure that the size of the watershed is such that the project can be completed in a short time.

D. Goal: Develop a private lands program using short-term projects that provide long-term benefits to wetlands and landowners.

Objectives:

1. Evaluate the benefits of short-term programs to determine which programs demonstrate long-term benefits.²
2. Suggest changes to short-term programs that increase long-term wetland benefits.
3. Support short-term programs, such as grazing systems and wetland restorations, which provide long-term benefits for wetlands or educational and demonstration values. Include support for the following specific programs:
 - a. Create-a-Wetland - Continue to implement in accordance with current Trust guidelines.
 - b. Adopt-a-Pothole - Provide \$50,000 for the Adopt-a-Pothole Program in 1997.
 - c. State Waterbank - Consider funding the State Waterbank Program up to \$100,000 (\$50,000 in 1997 and \$50,000 in 1998), contingent on state matching funds.
4. Support projects that demonstrate benefits of restoring drained wetlands, increasing upland habitat, improving water quality, and reducing soil erosion.

E. Goal: Complete the Maple River Drift Prairie Project within four years.

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate management techniques on Trust lands that improve wetland and wildlife habitat which can be used by other producers on their own property. Complete improvements on Trust property as laid out in management plans.
2. Purchase long-term easements from 12 landowners in the project area, following criteria developed by the Trust.
3. Continue private lands projects that focus on no-till cropping systems, grazing systems, and wetland restorations.

F. Goals: Improve management of existing Trust lands.

Improve the wetland and wildlife habitat resource on existing Trust lands.

Consider the transfer of title and/or management of appropriate properties.

Objectives:

1. Kenner Marsh - Continue to manage and operate in conjunction with North Dakota Game and Fish Department and local organizations.
2. Chase Lake - Consider transfer of the property to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

²Remember it may take time (years) to really assess long-term benefits of specific programs.

II. PROGRAM AREA: EDUCATION AND COOPERATION

Strategic Goal: The Trust will increase its emphasis on wetland education and will continue to foster a spirit of cooperation among all interested parties.

A. Wetland Education Goal: Develop a wetland education program that increases public understanding of wetland functions and values.

Education Objectives:

1. Contact 80 percent of landowners in North Dakota and see if they are interested in wetland projects on their land. Contact them through the Farm Service Agency (former ASCS).
2. Identify other target audiences and develop outreach projects to reach these audiences.
3. Develop a statewide effort of promoting an understanding of wetland functions and values, and the need to take action to protect wetlands for present and future generations.

Cooperation Objective:

1. Initiate dialogue with three new partners from the North Dakota agricultural community and increase their awareness of North Dakota Wetlands Trust programs. Encourage these new partners to submit funding proposals.

Conflict Resolution Objective:

1. Communicate success stories of conflict resolution so others can undertake similar efforts to protect and manage wetlands and associated habitats on their own.
2. Improve the newsletter and aggressively pursue articles in existing communication avenues, such as N.D. Water, N.D. REC, and farm organization magazines.
3. Communicate with farmers and ranchers who will use programs and techniques to enhance wetlands.

B. Goal: Complete the Prairie Wetland Interpretive Center.

Objectives:

1. Stay involved in the Prairie Wetland Interpretive Center (Center) Management Committee to ensure it is built, adequately managed, and maintained.
2. Encourage the managers of the Center to hire a person to anchor the interpretive team, to develop educational programs for the Center, and to implement education objective number 3 above.

III. PROGRAM AREA: STRENGTHENING THE WETLANDS TRUST

Strategic Goal: The Trust will be an effective organization that is user friendly, creative, flexible and accountable.

A. Goal: Continue to improve the organizational structure for the operation and management of the Wetlands Trust.

Objectives:

1. Develop an investment policy for Board approval by June 1997.
2. Improve the budgeting process to include multi-year projections of fixed costs, revenue, and project obligations. Complete for the 1998 budget.
3. Continue the communication process to generate innovative project proposals from outside the Trust.
4. Consider hiring someone to evaluate past Trust efforts and develop recommendations on how best to meet the North Dakota Wetlands Trust mandate, after an in-house evaluation is conducted by the Board by June 1997.
 - a. Complete a list of all projects the Trust has been involved in or has considered funding, to include cost and project status.
5. The Board of Directors will become familiar with issues, programs, and projects of the Trust.
6. The Trust's attorney will provide information to the Board of Directors on legal requirements of Board members and the Trust in general.

B. Goal: Develop user friendly application, guidelines, criteria, and evaluation processes for prioritization of future and current Trust projects.

Objective:

Develop a system to prioritize wetlands and projects the Trust should undertake by June 1997. This should include a suggested process on how to develop complex projects.

C. Goal: Improve the public's awareness and understanding of who the Wetlands Trust is and what our guiding principles are.

Objective:

1. Prepare a video about the Trust and its projects, utilizing footage developed by Ducks Unlimited in their Prairie Pothole educational video.
2. Distribute the video and other informational materials.
3. Develop wetland field days and tours of Trust projects that demonstrate cooperation and wetland compatibility with agricultural production.
4. Consider funding an assessment of wetland educational needs, target groups, and most effective educational methods for informing them about the Trust and about changing attitudes and behaviors toward conservation of wetlands.
5. Investigate the possibility of using electronic media, such as a WEB page, television, and interactive video to inform the public about the Trust and wetland conservation.

PROJECT TYPES, GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

Project Types: The means by which we will work to achieve our goals.

There are a variety of tools the Trust can use to preserve, restore, manage, and enhance wetlands. Most of the tools are not new; they have been used previously by agencies, organizations, and individuals. Acquisition of land, purchase of long-term conservation easements, short-term management agreements, and information and demonstration projects can all be used to safeguard wetland habitats. One tool, wetland legislation or regulation, is not available to the Trust because of restrictions in our corporate charter.

The Trust sees itself using these tools in three ways: grants, cooperative projects, and projects that are solely the Trust's.

Grants

Grants will be used by the Trust to fund wetland projects developed by individuals, agencies, organizations, and cooperating groups. The Trust will provide full or partial funding. Project proponents will have the responsibility to plan, initiate, develop or construct, complete, evaluate, maintain, and report on the project to the Trust. The Trust may chose to define specific areas for grant proposals.

Cooperative Projects

In cooperative projects, the Trust will be a partner with others to complete a specific project, whether it is an acquisition, management agreement, educational project, or other effort. The Trust may initiate the project and seek partners, or the Trust may become involved at the request or invitation of the partners. In cooperative projects, the Trust will share in the responsibility for project planning, initiation, development, completion, and evaluation with the partners.

Trust Projects

The Trust may see the need or the opportunity to complete wetland projects entirely on its own. In those cases, the Trust would plan, initiate, develop, evaluate, and report on the project. Depending on the project, the Trust may hire engineers, contractors, realtors, attorneys, facilitators, and educators as needed to complete a project.

Project Guidelines: Areas of interest.

All projects considered and reviewed by the Trust, whether grants, cooperative efforts, or self-managed projects, will be evaluated and ranked by the same guidelines: solution, cooperation, innovation, demonstration, education, continuation, evaluation, completion, and participation.

1. **Solution:** The proposed project should solve a problem or remove a threat.
2. **Cooperation:** Projects should demonstrate partnerships, especially ways for farmers and wildlife conservationists to work together.
3. **Innovation:** Projects should have something innovative, not to be different, but to be more efficient, more acceptable, more successful than other approaches to similar projects or problems.
4. **Demonstrations:** Proposals must provide appropriate biological data, literature reviews, engineering data, and public support to show the project can be completed and have its desired effect. Permit requirements and other agreements should be obtained or clear plans to obtain them must be described.
5. **Education:** Projects must improve the understanding of wetlands and educate individuals about the value of wetlands and their long-term benefits.
6. **Continuation:** The proponents must describe how the project will be maintained for the project duration and how benefits will continue in the future.
7. **Evaluation:** Proponents must demonstrate how they will evaluate the success or effect of a project during its development as well as after completion. Proponents must identify who and how the project will be monitored or evaluated, and who will be responsible to the Trust for the evaluation.
8. **Completion:** At the completion of the project, proponents must notify the Trust and report units of accomplishment, final expenditure of Trust funds, any follow up work needed, and recommendations about the project or potential similar projects for the future.
9. **Participation:** In programs that seek to use Trust resources as matches for certain federal, state or private grants, the Trust will give additional consideration to applicants who put at least 25 percent of their own resources into the program.

Project Criteria

The following are standards by which a determination can be made for Trust projects. They are to be used to identify and prioritize significant projects which will preserve, restore, manage, and enhance wetlands and associated wildlife habitat in North Dakota. These criteria will be used to ensure that an objective, scientific, and thorough assessment is prepared for all proposals presented to the Trust.

The Trust recognizes that we have limited resources and are not able to fund every project that is proposed. The Trust will chose projects which most effectively and efficiently invest our resources in wetland conservation. The test of the effectiveness of the Trust shall be whether or not its efforts increase and enhance the wetland base in North Dakota.

The criteria address the following:

- a) Priorities.
- b) Types of projects the Trust will not fund.
- c) Monitoring and evaluation of Trust projects.

Priorities

- Projects which protect unique or high quality wetlands and wetland complexes that are at risk of being destroyed or degraded. An adequate management plan that includes costs must be prepared for all Trust fee title acquisitions prior to Board approval.
- Projects which restore or protect uplands or watersheds around unique or high quality wetlands and complexes at risk from drainage or degradation.
- Long-term restoration of unique or high quality wetlands and complexes alone or in partnership with other individuals or organizations.³
- Long-term enhancement of unique or high quality wetlands or wetland complexes alone or in partnership.³
- Grants to individuals or organizations for stewardship of wetlands and wetland complexes on a long-term easement basis.³ The Trust wants its programs to be flexible in providing options ranging from perpetual to less than perpetual protection for landowners and organizations.
- Grants to individuals or organizations for stewardship of wetlands and wetland complexes on a temporary basis (five years or less) which provide long-term wetland

³Restoration and enhancement of natural wetlands takes preference over created ones.

benefits or have educational or demonstration value. The Trust prefers such temporary programs become self-sustaining within five years.

- Grants to individuals or organizations for wetland education programs. Wetland education programs must have measurable results such as the number of wetland acres protected, number of people reached, attendance at workshops or programs, and reaction or support for protecting the state's wetland base.
- Grants for new and innovative programs for protecting the North Dakota wetland base. The Trust prefers long-term protection programs over temporary ones for these new and innovative approaches.

The Trust will expend its resources on these priorities both on an annual and cumulative basis. It is cumbersome to assign a percentage of Trust expenditures to each priority. The Trust should continuously track its disbursements to assure those expenditures fulfill the mission of conserving the wetland base in North Dakota.

Programs Not Funded by the Trust

1. The Trust will not fund research.
2. The Trust will not allow its resources and wetland restoration acres on future projects to be used for Swampbuster mitigation.
3. In mitigation, outside Swampbuster, the Trust shall make the decision on whether its restoration acres can or cannot be used for mitigation on a case-by-case basis.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Trust will adopt an evaluation system that measures the impact of its efforts. It will quantify the outcomes of the projects it funds over a given period, and compare them to a standard agreed upon by the Board. The standard shall be the fulfillment of the Trust's goals and objectives. Measuring progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Trust is challenging, but it must be done. Information gained from monitoring and evaluation will measure progress toward accomplishing our goals and objectives.

The first step in evaluation is requiring the applicants to do an evaluation worksheet prior to submitting proposals to the Trust. It should be impartial and the Trust will provide applicants a standard model for types of proposals.

For education and new programs, the recipients have the responsibility to provide an annual letter of accomplishment. The Trust will tailor this responsibility to the specific program funded and the needs of the recipients on an individual basis.

HUMAN RESOURCE PLAN

The Directors and staff each have distinct and separate responsibilities. The Strategic Plan will be implemented by the staff of the Trust, with direction setting, review, and oversight by the Board.

The Directors' responsibilities are to:

- Communicate with stakeholders they represent.
- Plan and set direction of the Trust.
- Employ and direct Trust staff.
- Provide fiscal oversight and accountability.
- Ensure that programs fit with goals and objectives.
- Set policy.
- Be aware of liabilities, both individual and collective, described by the Trust's attorney.

The staff's responsibilities are to:

- Conduct day-to-day business of the Trust, such as board meeting management, office management, correspondence, records management and retention, insurance needs, reports to Bureau of Reclamation, and receipt and coding of invoices.
- Manage land acquisitions and coordinate approval process.
- Communicate Trust activities with Board of Directors, project partners and other stakeholders.
- Assist with new Board member training.
- Coordinate Trust needs with accountant, Trust fund manager, and legal advisor.
- Propose and initiate, with Board approval, programs and projects that meet Trust goals and objectives.
- Manage and coordinate proposals received from potential project partners.
- Manage Trust projects from planning to implementation.
- Manage Trust needs for partner projects: agreements, reporting, and evaluation.
- Manage lands owned by the Trust that are not given to another agency or organization to manage. Prepare management plans for Board approval, identify lessees and contractors to carry out goals and objectives, and oversee all lessee and contractor activities.
- Oversee management of Trust lands that are managed by another managing organization.
- Assist with strategic planning by coordinating logistics and staff needs, gathering and presenting information, and providing follow up as requested.
- Provide background information to Board for policy decisions.
- Draft grant proposals for Board approval.
- Track legislation that affects the Trust at the North Dakota Legislature.

Board Communication and Training

The Trust's Directors must remain knowledgeable of the Trust's activities. The Directors meet at least three times a year and may develop a system of Director Committees to meet more frequently in order to complete reviews or evaluations of proposals on accepted projects and make recommendations to the full Board for action.

Individual Directors may have to meet more frequently with their respective constituency or appointing entity, and Directors may want other Directors to accompany them to some of the meetings.

The Directors also may conduct telephone conference calls at a set-frequency. A frequent, more personal contact will help improve the flow of information and enthusiasm better than written correspondence. The Trust should continually evaluate the Trust's newsletter to see if it meets the Trust's needs.

It would be valuable for all Directors to become better versed in wetland and agricultural programs, wetland ecology, farm management and economics, wetland facts and figures, state and federal programs, regulations, and land holdings. At each Board meeting, the Board will have presentations on topics such as the Section 404 program, Swampbuster, Wetland Reserve Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acquisition Program, a farmer's views, and a farm organization's views. The Directors will suggest topics and the Manager will coordinate and schedule guest speakers.

In addition, from time to time, agency coordinated activities and field trips can provide insight into better understanding of wetland related issues. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies are encouraged to include invitations to members of the Board when these activities permit.

FINANCIAL PLANS

The Trust has three main responsibilities for financial planning and accountability: planning and approving budgets, accounting for expenditures, and managing the Trust's funds. These responsibilities are tied to the Strategic Plan through goals and objectives.

To effectively carry out the mission of the Trust, Board members must have useful and timely information about the Trust's financial obligations, assets, anticipated revenues, and liabilities. The Board is responsible for the Trust's fiscal well-being and the annual budgeting process. The Board will oversee work of the staff, accountant, and trust fund manager in preparing budgets for the work described in the strategic plan, and establishing an accounting system tied to the budget and goals, for presentation at the annual meeting. The Directors will also make decisions on management of the interest income accumulated over the past years.

Budgeting

Budgets will be developed by staff, and revised and approved by the Directors on an annual basis. In addition, budgets will be estimated for the three to four years following. The budget will include estimated costs of anticipated program management or activities, based on the strategic plan (goals and objectives), and estimated revenues by fund (accumulated interest income, annual interest revenue, grant revenue, and other revenue).

Accounting

Expenditures will be tracked on a program (project) basis by line item. Special projects that receive outside grants will be tracked separately. A quarterly financial statement by revenue and expense (for each program and cumulative) will be sent to the Board by the accountant.

Fund Management

The Trusts funds will be tracked and managed separately, to include:

- Government Deposit Fund (principal)
- Accumulated Income Fund
- Annual Interest Income
- Grants

MONITORING, CONTINGENCIES, AND EVALUATION

The Trust Board will review accomplishments toward the goals and objectives laid out in this strategic plan at their annual board meeting. The Board will review the strategic plan biennially and make changes as needed.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL ON FILE

A. Plan Development Materials:

1. Strategic issues
2. Stakeholder list
3. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats
4. Goal and objective ranks

B. Legal Documentation

1. Public Law 99-294, Section 5
2. North Dakota Century Codes 10-06-04.3
3. Contractual Agreement with Bureau of Reclamation
4. Contract with Secretary of Interior and State of North Dakota

C. Supporting Materials

1. Budget projections for 1997-2000
2. Proposal application
3. Work plans

Partnership through Projects

The North Dakota Wetlands Trust strives to form effective partnerships with other agencies, organizations and landowners to sustain wetland conservation and management. Because the need for wetland protection is great, these efforts must be coordinated with other wetland conservation partners.

The Wetlands Trust can act as a granting organization which fosters partnerships to improve the quality and quantity of wetlands in North Dakota. The Trust also will attempt to maximize the use of matching grants to extend its limited financial resources.

We encourage organizations, individuals and agencies to express an interest in working with the Wetlands Trust as partners in wetland conservation.

To receive a copy of our recent Grant Guidelines or to request a project partnership proposal form, write the North Dakota Wetlands Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 3175, Bismarck, ND 58502, or call (701) 223-8501.



P.O. Box 3175 • Bismarck, ND 58502
(701) 223-8501

WORKING TO CONSERVE WETLANDS FOR NORTH DAKOTANS

Balancing Our Wetlands Heritage and Our Future

North Dakota's wetlands are a state, national and international treasure, and the North Dakota Wetlands Trust, Inc. is working to make sure our state's important wetland heritage will always be a part of our future.

A unique nonprofit and private corporation, the Trust balances wetlands conservation and management in North Dakota with the interests and values of our state's landowners, citizens and communities. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1986 under the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act, the Trust was directed to "preserve, restore, manage and enhance wetlands and associated wildlife habitat in the state of North Dakota." To ensure its success, Congress authorized \$13.2 million in federal and state funding. Only the interest earned can be spent; the fund's principal must remain untouched thereby ensuring the longevity of the North Dakota Wetlands Trust.

Citizen-Directed

The six-member Wetlands Trust Board is directed by state citizens who are concerned about and knowledgeable of North Dakota's wetland and agricultural issues. Three of the Board's members are state residents appointed by the governor, while the remaining three are representatives of state and national conservation organizations—the National Audubon Society, the North Dakota Chapter of The

Wildlife Society and the National Wildlife Federation.

The Trust's Board operates only in the state of North Dakota, develops and sets the direction for the Trust, and makes decisions on Trust projects. As a North Dakota organization—managed by people who understand North Dakota's cultural, agricultural, wetland and wildlife heritage—the Trust directly benefits the people of our state.

Innovative Projects

Recognizing that the majority of remaining wetlands in North Dakota are under private ownership and drawing upon its diverse knowledge and resources, the Trust's Board of Directors uses various and innovative approaches to wetlands protection, restoration and enhancement.

The Trust can acquire land, purchase conservation easements and develop various wetland conservation projects. It can bring together private landowners and conservation agencies in cooperative projects. It can plan and produce educational forums so all residents of our state may understand the crucial roles wetlands play in North Dakota.

The Trust is working to prevent further loss of our state's wetlands, to restore wetlands, to improve existing wetlands, and to reduce conflicts over wetlands through improved communication about the need for wetland protection and management. The Board believes that through a spirit of cooperation and open communication, North Dakotans are developing a better understanding of wetland values.

North Dakota's Wetland Treasures

Wetlands are at the center of the circle that embraces our state's agriculture and natural resources. Located in the heart of America's Prairie Pothole Region, North Dakota produces 50 percent of the waterfowl in the lower 48 contiguous states. As a Great Plains state, North Dakota also has agriculture as its largest industry.

Agriculture and wetland preservation have not always been compatible. Fifty percent of the wetlands that existed when North Dakota was first settled have been filled or drained. But, drained wetlands will be productive again if restored.

Human recreation, wildlife habitat, flood control, groundwater recharge and water quality are all benefits that wetlands provide. While wetlands are a detraction for some landowners in our state, they also greatly enhance the quality of life for many of our citizens. The Trust strives to balance its federally mandated mission with the concerns of private landowners and the needs of local communities. The Trust recognizes that creative, permanent and productive relationships with North Dakota's people are the key to finding innovative solutions to protecting and restoring wetlands in our state and the nation.