

Sportsman's Pocket Guide to Climate Change in

North Dakota

3 Iconic Species & Habitats at Risk

Economic Benefits

Climate Change poses a serious threat to North Dakota's prairie potholes and the bountiful wildlife they support. Warming air temperatures threaten to dry up portions of North Dakota's prairie pothole region, which produces most of America's waterfowl.

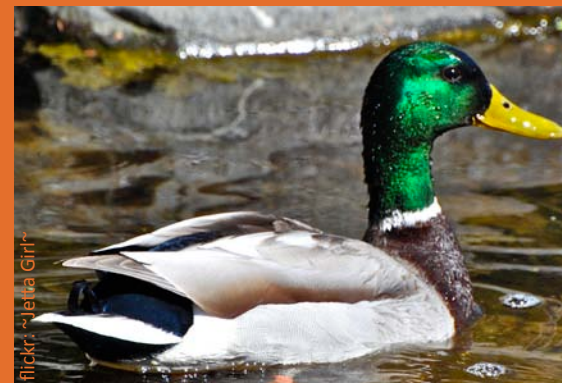
Harm to this ecosystem would mean harm to North Dakota's economy: every year more than 279,000 people spend about \$269 million on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing in North Dakota. The value of the waterfowl hunting to North Dakota's economy goes well beyond the money spent on recreation, providing the cultural identity that keeps people and businesses in the state.



Prairie Potholes The Prairie Pothole region covers a large swath of North Dakota and is a prime breeding ground for waterfowl. Between 50 and 80 percent of North America's annual duck production comes from the prairie potholes. Climate change could destroy as much as 90 percent of the prairie pothole region. The destruction of this ecosystem would severely harm the national hunting industry, which relies on waterfowl conceived in the prairie potholes.



Sage Grouse The sage grouse must live in sagebrush habitats to find enough food and cover to survive. Habitat loss and degradation have greatly reduced sage grouse range and abundance, and climate change threatens to further deepen the effects.



Water Fowl The hunting industry adds \$129 million annually to the state's economy--and 20% of that is waterfowl hunting. If global warming continues unchecked, the hunting industry in North Dakota and the U.S. will suffer greatly.

North Dakota's wildlife and natural resources are the backbone of North Dakota's economy. In addition to providing essential services like safe drinking water and clean air, these resources sustain the state's booming hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation industry.

-Annual Participants in Wildlife Recreation:
279,000

-Consumer Spending:
\$269 million

-Jobs Created:
5,021

-Funding for ND Natural Resources in Clean Energy and Climate Legislation:
\$5.4 million avg. per year

Source: 2006 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Survey on Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation

Call for Urgent Action

The single most important action to protect species and wildlife at risk from climate change is for our local, state, and national leaders to implement comprehensive clean energy and climate policies. These policies must cap and then reduce carbon pollution as well as safeguard America's natural resources. In order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, the US must reduce emissions by around 80% by mid-century, and as much as possible in the near term.

State-Based Solutions:

The Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV), established in 1987 under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, has called for the protection of 1.4 million acres of wetlands and 10.4 million acres of surrounding grasslands (for nesting and cover) to help conserve waterfowl and wildlife populations. The PPJV estimates that it will cost \$2.7 billion to conserve the 11.8 million acres.

Safeguarding Wildlife & Natural Resources

To address the impacts we are already seeing on wildlife and habitat and to confront the inevitable impacts of climate change on our natural resources, comprehensive clean energy and climate policies must include funding to safeguard fish, wildlife and natural resources upon which we all rely. These funds should be provided through the revenue generated by the clean energy and climate policies and be dedicated to the federal, state and tribal agencies that manage natural resources. This funding will protect our natural resource based economy, and create tens of thousands of new "green" jobs – restoring wetlands and streams, removing invasive species, building and restoring wildlife corridors, and protecting habitat and natural watersheds.

North Dakotans & Sportsmen Want Action

Dear Senator,
We urge you to work with your colleagues to ensure that the Senate passes comprehensive climate and energy legislation this year. In order to safeguard fish, wildlife and their habitats, we urge that legislation must include both reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and dedication of allowance value for natural resources adaptation programs.

*American Fisheries Society *American Fly Fishing Trade Association *American Sport-fishing Association *Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies *Berkley Conservation Institute *Campfire Club *Dallas Safari Club *Ducks Unlimited *Houston Safari Club *Izaak Walton League of America *Mule Deer Foundation *National Trappers Association *National Wildlife Federation *Pheasants Forever *Quality Deer Management Association *The Wildlife Society *Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership *Trout Unlimited *Wildlife Forever *Wildlife Management Institute

Dear Senator,
On behalf of our organizations, we urge you to pass comprehensive climate and energy legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and dedicates 5% of the total allowance value for natural resources adaptation in order to safeguard fish and wildlife, and the natural resources on which we all rely.

*Audubon Dakota *Badlands Conservation Alliance *Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society *North Dakota Natural Resource Trust *North Dakota Wildlife Federation

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