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NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE

THREATENED &  
ENDANGERED  
SPECIES

F I E L D   G U I D E

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## The Endangered Species Act and Hess

### WHY WE CARE

North Dakota's iconic beauty, hunting, fishing, and unique landscapes make living and working here special. Protecting the wildlife is part of doing the right thing and being good neighbors. Also, *it's the law*.

### DEFINITIONS

**ENDANGERED** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range

**THREATENED** Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future

### APPLICABILITY

- ▶ Threatened and endangered (T&E) species have protection wherever they are found, whether on public or private lands.
- ▶ All permits issued to Hess are subject to Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance.
- ▶ Most protections that apply to species listed as endangered also apply to threatened species, however, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has discretion to limit the prohibitions, so threatened species protections may vary.
- ▶ North Dakota does not have any state-listed T&E species.
- ▶ Species include: fish, wildlife, and plants.

### ENFORCEMENT

- ▶ To **take** means to: harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, capture, collect, kill, trap, or attempt to engage in any such conduct.
- ▶ Illegal **take** can give rise to *criminal enforcement*, *civil administrative penalties* and *civil judicial action* for injunctive relief. This prohibition applies to all persons and entities.
- ▶ Enforcement is not just by Agencies, such as FWS. Citizens and environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can bring suit for violations.

The FWS is highly visible in North Dakota, mostly in duck and goose management as well as the administration of refuges and waterfowl production areas. North Dakota has more Federal Wildlife Refuges than any other state in the nation.



## Migratory Bird Treaty Act

- ▶ Most native U.S. birds are subject to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (exceptions listed on page 15).
- ▶ Makes it illegal to remove or move nests that contain eggs or nestlings except under the terms of a valid permit.
- ▶ Sets seasons for hunting of migratory birds.
- ▶ The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for administering this Act. While the law is not often enforced, penalties include: up to two years in jail and \$250,000 fine for a felony conviction. Also, equipment used to pursue, hunt or trap may be seized.

## Types of Protected Areas in ND

### FEDERALLY-DESIGNATED

- ▶ National Wildlife Refuge
- ▶ Wilderness Areas
- ▶ National Grassland
- ▶ National Forest
- ▶ Endangered/Threatened Species Critical Habitat
- ▶ National Parks
- ▶ Waterfowl Production Areas
- ▶ Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land

### STATE-DESIGNATED

- ▶ State Wildlife Management Areas
- ▶ State School Land
- ▶ State Parks
- ▶ State Recreation Areas
- ▶ North Dakota Reservations

### LOCALLY-DESIGNATED

Counties, cities, townships and metropolitan authorities may designate local parks and conservation districts.

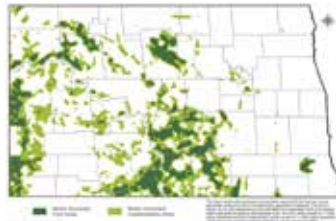


## Protected Area Examples

ND Game & Fish Wildlife Management Areas



ND Game & Fish Native Grassland Conservation Areas



National Wildlife Refuges



Federal Lands and Indian Reservations



## Biodiversity Management Highlights

*Every Hess employee and contractor is obliged to ensure compliance with all applicable policies, procedures and regulations.*

### SCREENING

Before operating in a new location, Hess seeks to identify biodiversity features, including threatened/endangered species and protected areas that may be affected by operations. This is done by meeting with local stakeholders and regulators, evaluating project options, searching online databases and other means.

### SCOPING

If protected species or areas are identified in realm of influence, then we scope the information that will need to gather before we start development. This approach helps ensure we operate responsibly.

### BASELINE

We then collect the local information and environmental data that will help us manage and evaluate our potential impact.

### IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Before operating, we identify and communicate the local and specific biodiversity risks that need to be managed.

### MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATIONS

We seek to plan and run operations responsibly, which sometimes means changing the way we operate, obtaining permits for potential impacts, communicating and training employees so they understand how to implement these actions and restoration efforts, when needed.

### MONITORING & REPORTING

When operating in and around sensitive species and locations, we assess and communicate our performance, which includes reporting any threatened and endangered species we may observe to our Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) staff, as well as the Fish and Wildlife Service.



## Endangered Species

### Black-Footed Ferret

STATUS **ENDANGERED**

#### DESCRIPTION

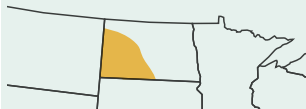
A mink-size member of the weasel family. Pelage is buff with the throat and belly generally whiter. The feet are black, as is the tip of the tail. A black band covers the eyes, and is more prominent in younger animals.

#### HABITAT

They inhabit short-grass prairies, always within close proximity to prairie dog towns. They use burrows for shelter.



WEIGHT	2-3 LBS.
BODY LENGTH	26"
BREEDING SEASON	MAR-APR
HABITAT RANGE	FWS



### Gray Wolf

STATUS **ENDANGERED**

#### DESCRIPTION

The gray wolf, also called the Eastern timber wolf, is the largest undomesticated member of the canid family. Fur coloration generally is gray, with a lighter underside, but can vary from pure white to jet black.

#### HABITAT

In modern times, the gray wolf has been restricted to habitats with low densities of roads and people. Habitat for the gray wolf in North Dakota is the forested areas in north central and northeast North Dakota; however, they may appear anywhere.



WEIGHT	M: 57-102 LBS. F: 46-75 LBS.
BODY LENGTH	41-63"
BREEDING SEASON	LATE WINTER
HABITAT RANGE	

*While presumed EXTIRPATED (eradicated) from ND, the wolf could potentially migrate across the entire state.*



## Least Tern

**STATUS** **ENDANGERED**

### DESCRIPTION

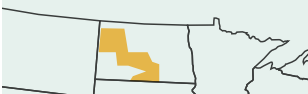
The smallest of terns, it has a bright yellow bill with a black tip, yellow legs and white forehead

### HABITAT

In North Dakota, the least tern utilizes sparsely vegetated sandbars on the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers. Birds nest, raise young and relax on barren river sandbars.



WEIGHT	1.5 OZ.
BODY LENGTH	9"
WING SPAN	20"
BREEDING SEASON	MAR-APR
HABITAT RANGE	FWS



## Pallid Sturgeon

**STATUS** **ENDANGERED**

### DESCRIPTION

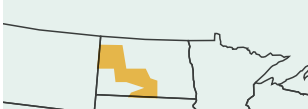
Light gray in color with a lighter underside. Small black eyes set on a large shovel-shaped head. Four barbels on the underside of the head with the two inner barbels shorter than the outer two. This distinguishes it from the more common shovelnose sturgeon. The top side of its body is covered in large scales called scutes.

### HABITAT

Large rivers with high turbidity and a natural flow. Preferred habitat has a diversity of depths and velocities formed by braided channels, sand-bars, islands, sand flats and gravel bars. The range of depths used vary seasonally, with most fish being found shallow in the spring and deeper in the fall. In North Dakota they are only found in the Missouri River and parts of the Yellowstone River, usually in fast current areas with a firm sand or gravel bottom.



WEIGHT	85 LBS
BODY LENGTH	UP TO 7'
WING SPAN	20"
BREEDING SEASON	MAY-JUL
HABITAT RANGE	NATURESERVE



## Poweshiek Skipperling

**STATUS** **ENDANGERED**

### DESCRIPTION

The Poweshiek Skipperling is a small butterfly with a wing-span of about 1 inch. It is dark brown above with some light orange along the wing margins and a lighter orange head.

### HABITAT

Poweshiek Skipperlings live in high quality tall grass prairie in both upland, dry areas as well as low, moist areas. They are most often found in remnants of native prairies and fens. They may have been extirpated from North Dakota.



HABITAT RANGE

FWS



## Whooping Crane

**STATUS** **ENDANGERED**

### DESCRIPTION

All white except for black wing tips and a red crown. Long black legs set it apart from white pelicans which are sometimes confused for whoopers.

### HABITAT

During migration, use primarily wetlands and cropland ponds for roosting, feeding, or both. Seasonal and semipermanent wetlands are the most commonly used. Large wetlands are used for roosting and smaller wetlands for foraging.

*\* Reporting obligation and de-energizing all equipment when observed*

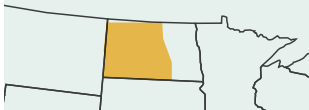


WEIGHT 15 LBS.

BODY LENGTH 52"

WING SPAN 87"R

HABITAT RANGE



## Threatened Species

### Dakota Skipper

**STATUS** **THREATENED**

#### DESCRIPTION

A small butterfly with a 1-inch wingspan with a thick body and a faster, more powerful flight than most butterflies. The upper side of the male's wing is tawny-orange to brown with a prominent mark on the forewing. The upper side of the female's wing is darker brown with tawny-orange spots and a few white spots on the forewing margin.

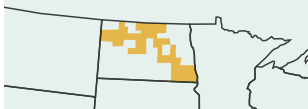
#### HABITAT

Found in high quality native prairie containing a high diversity of wildflowers and grasses. Habitat includes two prairie types: 1) low (wet) prairie dominated by bluestem grasses, wood lily, harebell, and smooth camas; and 2) upland (dry) prairie dominated by bluestem grasses, needlegrass, pale purple and upright coneflowers and blanketflower.



HABITAT RANGE

FWS



### Piping Plover

**STATUS** **THREATENED**

#### DESCRIPTION

Small gray/brown shorebird with white belly. Adults have orange legs. Black band running across the forehead and a single narrow black band around the breast. Bill is a black-tipped orange.

#### HABITAT

In the Great Plains, piping plovers inhabit barren sand and gravel shores of rivers and lakes. Plovers avoid dense vegetation. Nearly all natural lakes used by plovers in North Dakota are alkaline in nature and have salt-encrusted, white beaches. Beaches used by piping plovers generally are 10-40 yards wide. In North Dakota, piping plovers use barren river sandbars on the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers.



WEIGHT 2 OZ.

BODY LENGTH 7.25"

WING SPAN 19"

BREEDING SEASON

HABITAT RANGE FWS



## Red Knot

**STATUS** **THREATENED**

### DESCRIPTION

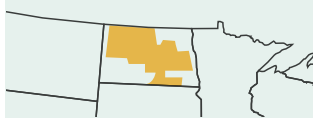
Length: 25-28 cm. *Adults in spring*: Finely mottled with grays, black and light ochre, running into stripes on crown; throat, breast and sides of head cinnamon-brown; dark gray line through eye; undertail coverts white. *Adults in winter*: Pale ashy gray, from crown to rump with feathers on back narrowly edged with white; underparts white, the breast lightly streaked and speckled. *Adults in autumn*: Underparts of some individuals show traces of the “red” of spring.

### HABITAT

The species breeds in the high Arctic on dry tundra including weathered sandstone ridges, upland areas with scattered willows and poppy, moist marshy slopes and flats in foothills, well-drained slopes hummocked with Dryasspp and upland glacial gravel close to streams or ponds. (Birdlife International)



HABITAT RANGE



## Western Prairie Fringed Orchid

**STATUS** **THREATENED**

### DESCRIPTION

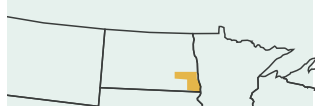
*Platanthera praeclara* has a showy open raceme of up to 24 white to creamy white flowers, each with a long nectar spur. The lower petal of each flower is deeply 3-lobed and fringed. The single, smooth stem is up to 85 cm (34 in.) tall. Flowering plants have 3 or more smooth, elongate leaves. Nonflowering plants have 1-3 leaves of similar appearance.

### HABITAT

Occurs in moist tall grass prairies and sedge meadows. In North Dakota it is commonly found with sedges, reedgrass, and rushes or where those plants meet big bluestem, little bluestem, and switchgrass.



HABITAT RANGE



## Candidate Species

CANDIDATE SPECIES ARE THOSE THAT ARE PROPOSED FOR LISTING AND UNDER REVIEW BY THE FWS

### Greater Sage Grouse

**STATUS** PROPOSED FOR LISTING

#### DESCRIPTION

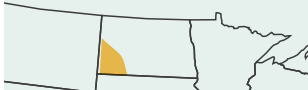
The largest of North American grouse species, males are dark brown overall with white breast, pointed tail, and yellow above eye.

#### HABITAT

Primarily associated with sagebrush, particularly big sagebrush. Silver sagebrush and rabbitbrush is used to a lesser extent. Riparian and upland meadows, irrigated and non-irrigated croplands and pasturelands are also used, especially for brood-rearing habitat. Leks may be natural openings within a sagebrush community or dry stream bed channels, ridges, grassy meadows, burned areas, gravel pits, sheep bedding grounds, plowed fields, and roads. Nest under larger bushes generally within 1.5-3 km of the lek.



WEIGHT	6.3 LBS"
BODY LENGTH	28"
WING SPAN	38"
BREEDING SEASON	MAY-JUL
HABITAT RANGE	FWS



### Northern Long-eared Bat

**STATUS** PROPOSED FOR LISTING

#### DESCRIPTION

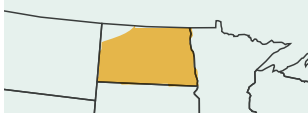
The northern long-eared bat is a medium-sized bat about 3 to 3.7 inches in length but with a wingspan of 9 to 10 inches. As its name suggests, this bat is distinguished by its long ears, particularly as compared to other bats in its genus, *Myotis*, which are actually bats noted for their small ears (*Myotis* means mouse-eared).

#### HABITAT

They are most often found in remnants of native prairie in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and in fens in Michigan.



HABITAT RANGE	FWS
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## Sprague's Pipit

**STATUS** PROPOSED FOR LISTING

### DESCRIPTION

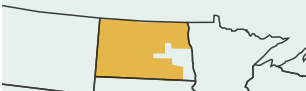
Slender, rather dull light brown, wears a "necklace" of fine streaks.

### HABITAT

Requires native grasslands of intermediate height and sparse to intermediate vegetation density, low forb density, and little bare ground but low litter depth. Introduced grasslands may be utilized, but to a much lesser extent. Pipits are most abundant in idle grasslands, but are tolerant of light to moderate grazing. They avoid areas with woody vegetation and deep litter. The species appears area sensitive, requiring large grasslands of at least 190 ha.



WEIGHT	.88 OZ
BODY LENGTH	6.5"
WING SPAN	10"
BREEDING SEASON	MAY-AUG
HABITAT RANGE	



*Present in North Dakota from mid-April to mid-October.*

## Protected Species

### Birds with Special Status

The take of all migratory birds, including bald eagles, is governed by the Migratory Birds Treaty Act.

Bald and golden eagles are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, even though they have been delisted under the Endangered Species Act.

Prohibits anyone, without a permit, from “taking.”

Provides criminal penalties for persons who “take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or any manner, any bald eagle ... [or any golden eagle], alive or dead, or any part, nest or egg thereof.”

Defines “take” as “pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb.”

“Disturb” means: to agitate or bother to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment. This definition also covers impacts that result from alterations initiated around a previously used nest site during a time when eagles are not present.

**Migratory Birds** include all migratory game birds and most birds found in the United States with the exception of the house sparrow, feral pigeon (commonly called rock dove), European starling, Eurasian collared dove, mute swan, and upland game birds, which are protected by state laws. A complete list of protected migratory birds are found in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Section. 10.13.

**Banded birds** provide important management information. If you find a bird with a federal band, report it at: [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov) or call (800) 327-BAND (2263) along with the band number, date, and location. You can receive a certificate with information about the bird. The band is yours to keep.

### Birds that Do Not Have Protected Status



House Sparrow



Eurasian Collared Dove



Rock Dove (Pigeon)



European Starling

## Bald Eagle

**STATUS** PROTECTED

### DESCRIPTION

A large raptor, the bald eagle has a wingspread of about seven feet. Adults have a dark brown body and wings, white head and tail, and a yellow beak. Juveniles are mostly brown with white mottling on the body, tail, and undersides of wings.

### HABITAT

Migrating eagles are found throughout North Dakota.



HABITAT RANGE



## Golden Eagle

**STATUS** PROTECTED

### DESCRIPTION

Dark brown overall, feathered legs, brown eyes, and black beak. The head turns golden as an adult.

### HABITAT

Open shrubland and grasslands of shortgrass. They avoid heavily forested areas but will use riparian or woodland/brushland habitat. Typically nesting on cliffs but also in trees such as cottonwood and green ash, or even on or near the ground. Nests will be reused by returning eagles or a new pair.



HABITAT RANGE



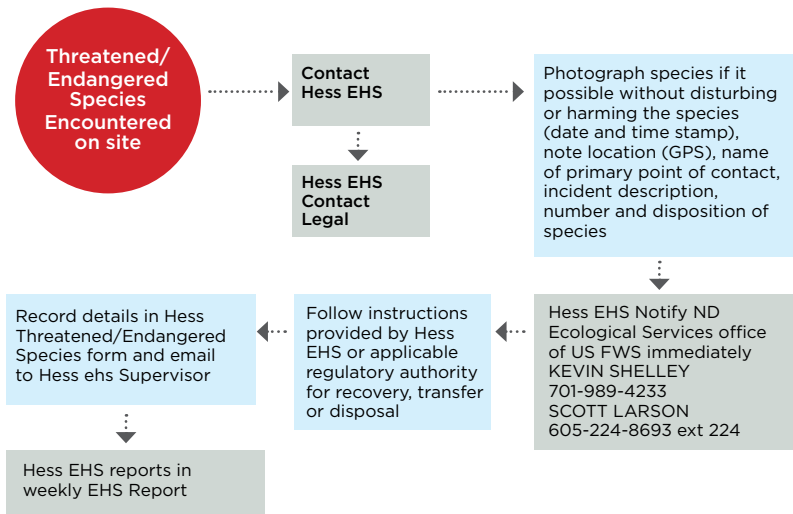


## Procedures

### If threatened/endangered species found on-site

**DO NOT APPROACH OR TOUCH!**

*If species is alive and may be affected by operations, STOP IMMEDIATELY and contact EHS*



If you are unable to reach your Hess EHS contact immediately, call the local Hess office and ask for another EHS contact:

**FRYBURG**  
701-575-4226

**MENTOR**  
218-637-2255

**TIOGA**  
701-664-6200

**KEENE**  
701-675-8100

**MINOT**  
701-420-6900

**KILLDEER**  
701-764-8411

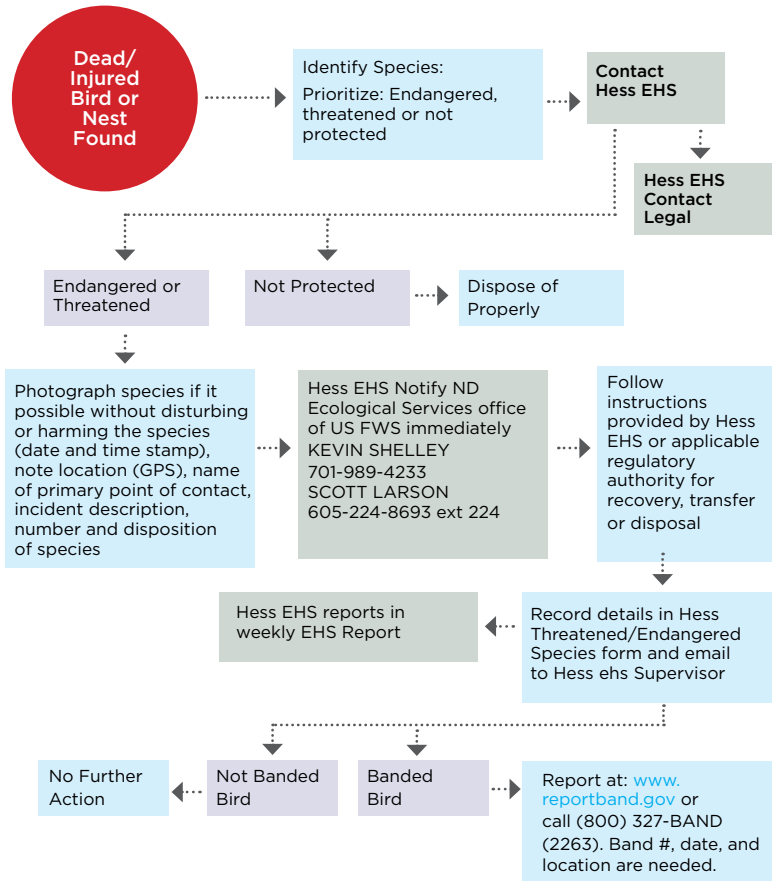
**NEWBURG**  
701-272-6138

*Additional contact numbers can be found on page 20*

## If dead/injured bird or nest found on-site

**DO NOT APPROACH OR TOUCH!**

*If species is alive and may be affected by operations, STOP IMMEDIATELY and contact EHS*



## Procedures

### REPORTING DEAD OR INJURED BIRDS

EHS will act as the liaison to report all information with any Federal, State or local agency. Reporting bird injuries and mortalities to the Fish and Wildlife Service serves several purposes. It provides them an opportunity to recover dead and injured birds and transfer them to appropriate facilities for treatment. Dead birds, particularly eagles, can be salvaged for distribution to interested and qualified Natives for religious purposes or for other permitted uses.

All birds should be reported if they are injured or killed on site, not just eagles. Though eagles are more sought-after for salvage purposes and consequently will be recovered by the Fish and Wildlife Service whenever possible. Virtually all birds, including waterfowl (except state game birds and pigeons) are protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

### WHAT TO DO WITH BIRD CARCASSES

Fish and Wildlife Service will salvage eagle carcasses, in particular, and other carcasses as necessary. If it is not practical for a Fish and Wildlife Service employee to recover an eagle carcass, they request the eagle carcass be recovered and turned over to the nearest Service office (and that disposition be noted on the mortality report). Other bird carcasses usually do not need to be salvaged unless requested by the Fish and Wildlife Service on a case-by-case basis. Generally, if a non-eagle is found dead, it is better to collect and properly dispose of the bird than to leave it.

### WHAT TO DO WHEN ENCOUNTERING INJURED BIRDS

Injured birds should be reported to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Service office as soon as possible to provide the best chance for treatment and recovery. If a permitted bird rehabilitator is nearby, the rehabilitator can recover the bird directly for treatment. You will still need to report the bird injury to the Fish and Wildlife Service and indicate to whom the bird was transferred.

If an injured bird is encountered and it is not practical to have a bird rehabilitator or Fish and Wildlife Services employee recover it, the Service requests the bird be recovered and transferred promptly for treatment. Hess employees and contractors will NOT be prosecuted for unlawful possession of a migratory bird if they pick up an injured bird and transfer it to a permitted rehabilitator or Fish and Wildlife Service employee or office (disposition needs to be noted on the reporting form). Verbal authorization from a Fish and Wildlife Services employee can be obtained but is not required prior to recovering an injured bird.



## Threatened/Endangered Species Form

To fill out online, please request a form from your Hess EHS Representative.  
When complete, email to: [envdocs@hess.com](mailto:envdocs@hess.com)

### HESS THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES FORM

Location

---

Species

---

Number

---

Condition

---

Date

---

Time

---

Description of presence/mortality/injury

---

---

Facility

---

Observer

---

Contact Info

---

Actions taken

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Permitted for Incidental Take (yes/no)

---

Attach photographs

## Dead/Injured Bird and Nest Form

To fill out online, please request a form from your Hess EHS Representative.  
When complete, email to: [envdocs@hess.com](mailto:envdocs@hess.com)

### HESS DEAD/INJURED MIGRATORY BIRD AND NEST FORM

Location

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Species

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Bird or nest

---

Number

---

Condition

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Date

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Time

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Facility

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Observer

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Contact Info

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Actions taken

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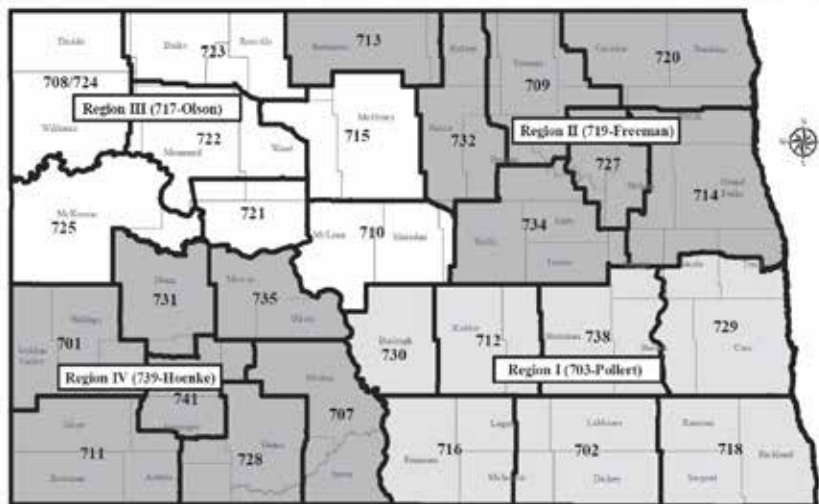
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Attach photographs

## ND Game & Fish Enforcement Districts



700 Tinson (Steele)	709 Audfirth (Custer)	714 River (Grand Forks)	721 Skies (Riverdale)	727 Job (Dorris Lake)	732 Kain (Kegley)
701 Mansur (Beach)	710 Larson (Twins Lake)	715 Howard (Moorhead)	722 Rasmussen (Steele)	728 Sprague (Elgin)	734 Sylene (Slayton)
702 Doldgras (Edgeley)	711 Cox (Roseau)	716 Schaub (Linton)	723 Barnd (Kamrar)	729 Sellschick (Fargo)	735 Tings (Hazen)
703 Violet (Mandan)	712 Brown (Steele)	718 Blaken (Wynnewood)	724 Sprling (Williston)	730 Lundstrom (Rasmussen)	738 Hastings (Jamestown)
704 Updike (Williston)	713 Tofteland (Bismarck)	720 Rosch (Wahpet)	725 Seyler (Willard City)	731 Schuler (Kalkreuth)	741 Bussell (Moor)

## Game and Fish Enforcement Division

### Contact information

To report violations dial North Dakota State Radio any time, day or night:  
1-800-472-2121 toll-free, or 328-9921 in the Bismarck-Mandan area.

*All numbers are area code 701; O = Office, C = Cell*

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**BISMARCK Div. Chief/Game Warden** Robert Timian O: 328-6324; C: 400-7649

**BISMARCK Commercial/Investigations** Corey Erck O: 328-6603; C: 320-2005

**BISMARCK Investigator** Scott Winkelman O: 328-6785; C: 228-4428

**BISMARCK Administrative Assistant** Lori Kensington O: 328-6604

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### REGION 1

#### SOUTHEASTERN NORTH DAKOTA

**JAMESTOWN Game Warden**

**Supervisor** Mark Pollert O: 253-6476;  
C: 320-7138

**BISMARCK Dist. Game Warden** Jackie  
Lundstrom O: 328-6606; C: 220-0730

**BISMARCK Game Warden Pilot**  
Robert Volack C: 220-6183

**DAWSON District Game Warden**  
Jerad Bluem C: 220-5908

**EDGELEY District Game Warden**  
Andrew Dahlgren C: 220-3853

**FARGO District Game Warden**  
Michael Sedlacek C: 799-2807

**JAMESTOWN District Game Warden**  
Greg Hastings C: 269-2951

**LINTON District Game Warden**  
Erik Schmidt C: 220-7160

**WYNDMERE District Game Warden**  
Tim Phalen C: 899-0798

### REGION 2

#### NORTHEASTERN NORTH DAKOTA

**DEVILS LAKE Game Warden**

**Supervisor** Paul Freeman O: 662-3617;  
C: 740-7103

**BOTTINEAU District Game Warden**  
Jonathan Tofteland C: 201-0703

**CANDO District Game Warden** Kurt  
Aufforth C: 740-3722

**WALHALLA District Game Warden**  
Levi Bischof C: 521-0196

**DEVILS LAKE District Game Warden**  
James Job C: 739-1386

**LARIMORE District Game Warden**  
Blake Riewer C: 739-9078

**NEW ROCKFORD District Game  
Warden** James Myhre C: 739-8321

**REGION 3  
NORTHWESTERN NORTH DAKOTA****RIVERDALE Game Warden Supervisor**

Doug Olson O: 654-7475; C: 870-0063

**KENMARE District Game Warden**

Jim Burud C: 848-6339

**MINOT District Game Warden**

Alan Howard C: 720-0154

**STANLEY District Game Warden**

Mike Raasakka C: 770-0264

**RIVERDALE District Game Warden**

Ken Skuza O: 654-7475; C: 848-6026

**TURTLE LAKE District Game Warden**

Tim Larson O: 654-7475; C: 720-0278

**WATFORD CITY District Game  
Warden**

Keenan Snyder C: 770-1072

**WILLISTON District Game Warden**

Brian Updike C: 770-0082;  
O: 774-4320

**WILLISTON Dist. Game Warden**

Shawn Sperling C: 770-5925;  
O: 774-4320

**REGION 4  
SOUTHWESTERN NORTH DAKOTA****DICKINSON Game Warden Supervisor**

Dan Hoenke O: 227-7431; C: 290-3396

**BEACH District Game Warden**

Zane Manhart C: 290-0462

**BOWMAN District Game Warden**

Art Cox C: 523-6336

**ELGIN District Game Warden**

Courtney Sprenger C: 870-2683

**HAZEN District Game Warden**

Ryan Tunge C: 870-2729

**KILLDEER District Game Warden**

Bill Schaller C: 290-0495

**MANDAN District Game Warden**

Jeff Violet C: 220-1317

**HEBRON District Game Warden**

Merrill Binnall C: 690-5950





## North Dakota Noxious Weeds

NORTH DAKOTA LAW (NDCC § 4.1-47-02) REQUIRES EVERY PERSON TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY AND PROPER TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF NOXIOUS WEEDS.

### Absinth Wormwood

#### DESCRIPTION

Absinth wormwood, also known as American or common wormwood, mugwort or madder wort, and wormwood sage, is a member of the Asteraceae family. It is a herbaceous perennial with a strong sage odor. The plant is commonly 3-feet tall at maturity but can grow to over five feet. Leaves are 2 to 5 inches long, divided two or three times into deeply lobed leaflets and are light to olive green in color. Leaves and stems of the plant are covered with fine silky hairs that give the plant a grayish appearance. Stems are also woody at the base of the plant. Flower stalks appear at each upper leaf node and produce numerous yellow flower heads that are 1/8 inch in diameter. Absinth wormwood seed is less than 1/16 long, smooth, flat and light gray-brown in color. Absinth wormwood is considered a noxious weed under North Dakota state law, thus landowners are required to eradicate or control the spread of the plant.



### Canada Thistle

#### DESCRIPTION

Canada thistle, also referred to as creeping thistle and California thistle, is a member of the Asteraceae or sunflower family. The plant is a herbaceous perennial that can grow up to 4-feet tall. Stems of the plant are erect, grooved, nearly smooth or hairy. Mature leaves are spiny with deeply lobed leaves and several branching flower stalks. Leaves are alternate, oblong, or lanceolate usually with crinkled edges and spiny-toothed margins that terminate in a spine. Leaves of the plant can be hairy or smooth. Canada thistle flowers can vary in color from pale blue to shades of purple with an occasional white ecotype. Variations in leaf and flower structures can be due to development of several ecotypes. Seeds of the plant are about 1/8 inch long, somewhat flattened, brownish, with a tuft of hair at the top.



## Diffuse Knapweed

### DESCRIPTION

Diffuse knapweed is a member of the Asteraceae or Sunflower family. It grows 1 to 3 feet tall from a deep taproot. Upright stems of the plant have numerous spread branches, giving a ball-shaped, tumbleweed appearance. Stem leaves of the plant are stalk less and become progressively smaller and less divided higher up the stem, with the uppermost small leaves being bract like. Flower heads are urn-shaped and  $\frac{3}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter and  $\frac{5}{16}$  to  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch long, excluding spines and flowers. Flower heads are solitary or borne in clusters of two or three at the ends of the branches of the plant. Bracts surround the flower heads and are yellowish green in color with a buff or brown margin. Each bract is edged with a fringe of spines and ends with a longer spreading spine at the tip resembling a crab like appearance. Flowers are white or purple in color.



Diffuse knapweed is considered a noxious weed under North Dakota state law, thus landowners are required to eradicate or control the spread of the plant.

## Leafy Spurge

### DESCRIPTION

Leafy spurge is a member of the Euphorbiaceae or spurge family. It is a perennial that grows up to 3 -feet tall. Stems of the plant are hairless, pale green or blue-green and usually thickly clustered. Leaves are narrow, hairless, and are alternate on the stem. Both leaves and stems exude a milky latex substance when the plant is damaged. Leafy spurge flowers are yellowish-green, small, arranged in numerous small clusters and surrounded by a pair of yellow-green, heart-shaped bracts that are often mistaken for flowers.



Leafy spurge is considered a noxious weed under North Dakota state law, thus landowners are required to eradicate or control the spread of the plant.

## Musk Thistle

### DESCRIPTION

Musk thistle or nodding thistle, is a member of the Asteraceae or sunflower family. It can grow up to 6-feet tall. Upright stems of the plant are winged and can be single or multiple and highly branched. Rosette leaves of the plant are elliptic to lanceolate and pinnately lobed with each lobe ending in a spine. Leaf surfaces are green, glabrous to densely pubescent with margins ranging from white to purple in color. Cauline leaves are similar to the rosette leaves, but are smaller, simple, alternate, and decurrent. Flower heads are terminal, 1 1/2 to 3 inches in diameter, and usually bent over. Flowers are typically deep rose, violet, or purple, or occasionally white in color and have very characteristic brown bracts that resemble a pine cone.



Musk thistle is considered a noxious weed under North Dakota state law, thus landowners are required to eradicate or control the spread of the plant.

## Purple Loosestrife

### DESCRIPTION

Purple loosestrife or purple lythrum is a member of the Lythraceae or loosestrife family. The plant often sends up multiple stems that can range in height from 6 to 8 feet. The stems are four to eight sided and can either be smooth or pubescent. The erect stems are tough and often appear to be woody at the base of the plant. Leaves are simple, entire, and can be opposite or whorled. Purple loosestrife flowers are arranged on a spike that is from 2-inches to 3-feet long. Individual flowers have five to seven petals that arise from a cylindrical green tube. Petals of the flower are typically purple but can range from white, to pink or red. Purple loosestrife seeds are light tan, angular, and 1/32 of an inch in size.



Purple loosestrife is considered a noxious weed under North Dakota state law, thus landowners are required to eradicate or control the spread of the plant.

## Russian Knapweed

### DESCRIPTION

Russian knapweed is a member of the Asteraceae or Sunflower family. It grows 1 to 3-feet tall. Stems are erect, covered with fine, white hairs and openly branched. Lower leaves are often lobed and toothed, and 2 to 4-inches long. Upper leaves are entire or serrated on upper leaf margins, but are attached to the stem without a stalk at their base. Flowers are cone-shaped and 1/4-to 1/2-inch in diameter. Flower heads, found at the tip of the leafy branches of the plant, are usually pink to lavender in color. The root of the plant is dark brown to black in color and the plant is scaly and brown. Russian knapweed seeds are oblong, grey-brown and approximately 1/16 of an inch in length.



Russian knapweed is considered a noxious weed under North Dakota state law, thus landowners are required to eradicate or control the spread of the plant.

## Spotted Knapweed

### DESCRIPTION

Spotted knapweed is a member of the Asteraceae or sunflower family. It can grow 1 to 3-feet tall. Basal rosette leaves are borne on short stalks and grow up to 6 inches long. Rosette leaves are deeply divided into lobes on both sides of the center vein. Spotted knapweed stems can have more than one stem and are branched on the upper half. Flower heads are born solitary or in clusters of two or three and are found at the branch ends. Flower heads are ovate to oblong and are pinkish-purple or, rarely, cream colored. The center spine of the bracts is shorter than the lateral spines. Spotted knapweed has obvious longitudinal veins and black-tipped bracts that give the flower head a spotted appearance.



Spotted knapweed is considered a noxious weed under North Dakota state law, thus landowners are required to eradicate or control the spread of the plant.

## Yellow Toadflax

### DESCRIPTION

Yellow toadflax, also referred to as butter-and eggs, Jacob's ladder, common toadflax, and wild snapdragon, is a member of the Scrophulariaceae or figwort family. It is a herbaceous perennial with stems that are somewhat woody at the base and smooth towards the top of the plant. Stems of yellow are sparingly branched and usually 1 to 3-feet tall. Leaves are linear, narrow, pointed at both ends, and usually 1 to-2 inches in length. Both stems and leaves are pale green in color. The flowers that grow at the base of the upper leaves resemble a snapdragon, the upper lip is yellow, the corolla is two-lobed and the lower lip is three-lobed with an orange spot. A long spur is located at the base of the flower and can be as long as the rest of the flower combined. Yellow toadflax can be distinguished from Dalmatian toadflax by leaf structure. Yellow toadflax has narrow linear leaves and Dalmatian toadflax has broad, heart-shaped leaves.



## Dalmatian Toadflax

### DESCRIPTION

Dalmatian toadflax is a member of the Scrophulariaceae or figwort family. It is a herbaceous perennial weed with stems that are robust and somewhat woody at the base and smooth towards the top of the plant. Stems of Dalmatian toadflax are waxy and can grow 2 to 3-feet tall. The leaves of the plant are alternate, light green, waxy and heart-shaped. The base of the leaf tends to clasp the stem. Flowers resemble a snapdragon and are bright yellow with an occasional orange colored throat. A long spur is located at the base of the flower and can be as long as the rest of the flower combined. Dalmatian toadflax can be distinguished from yellow toadflax by leaf structure. Dalmatian toadflax has broad, heart-shaped leaves and yellow toadflax has narrow, linear leaves.



Dalmatian toadflax is considered a noxious weed under North Dakota state law, thus landowners are required to eradicate or control the spread of the plant.

## Saltcedar

### DESCRIPTION

Saltcedar, also referred to as tamarisk or tamarik, is a member of the Tamaricaceae or tamarisk family. It is a deciduous shrub or small tree that can grow from 5 to 30-feet tall. Trunks of the trees are slender upright, or branched, and covered with smooth reddish-brown bark that becomes ridged and furrowed with age. Leaves are deciduous, appressed, small, graygreen and scale like. Flowers are five petaled, pink to white in color and crowded into numerous clusters on the end of twigs. Seeds are reddish-brown and extremely tiny.



Saltcedar is considered a noxious weed under North Dakota state law, thus landowners are required to eradicate or control the spread of the plant.



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## Additional Resources

### **NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT**

<http://gf.nd.gov/>

### **U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE IN NORTH DAKOTA**

<http://www.fws.gov/northdakotafieldoffice/>

### **IPIECA BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES**

<http://www.ipieca.org/focus-area/biodiversity>

### **HESS NORTH DAKOTA DATA VIEWER**

<http://maps.ihess.com/northdakota/>

### **API ESA SPECIES RANGE MAPS**

[http://map.entrix.com/Client/flex/30124100/API\\_Species\\_Viewer/](http://map.entrix.com/Client/flex/30124100/API_Species_Viewer/)

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## Questions

Contact your local Hess EHS/Environmental Team Member or Hess Environmental Affairs Subject Matter Expert for Biodiversity: 713-496-5326



