

2003 Legislative Session



We monitored a variety of bills this session. Here is a recap of the major bills and resolutions we were involved in!

SB 2419 – *Relating to penalties for violating injunctive orders preventing Clean Water Act violations, to clarify the state's authority to seek injunctive relief against governmental entities that violate water quality standards of the state, and authority of the state to protect water quality from degradation; to provide a penalty; declare an emergency.*

NDSFC supported this bill. This bill passed with flying colors. This should help our water levels.

HB 1358 – *Relating to nonresident hunting and fishing licenses and fees; to provide an appropriation; to provide a statement of legislative intent with respect to a short-term lease program; and to provide an effective date.*

NDSFC supported this bill as long as the increased fees helped the fishing needs and not put to general use! It passed with the amendment needed.

HCR 3040 – *A concurrent resolution urging the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Army, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to adopt and implement an updated Missouri River Master Water Control Manual that gives fair consideration to the substantial recreation values present on Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe, and the Missouri River in North Dakota.*

NDSFC supported this bill. This resolution had no opposition.

HRC 3041 – *A concurrent resolution urging the President of the United States, Secretary of the Army, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to improve, rehabilitate, and repair visitor facilities, event sites, and other areas within their jurisdiction in North Dakota expected to experience significant increases in visitation as a result of the bicentennial commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.*

NDSFC supported this resolution. It also had no opposition.

SB 2273 – *Relating to the designation of trout lakes.*

NDSFC did not support. Before this bill got off the ground, the Game and Fish Department met with the trout enthusiasts and came to some what of an agreement to walk together to enhance quality trout lakes. We didn't want to set precedence to one species!

HB 1465 – *Relating to a game and fish commission.*

NDSFC opposed this bill. The system didn't seem to be broken.

HB 1196 – *Relating to elimination of optional contributions on income tax returns for the non-game wildlife fund and trees for North Dakota program trust fund; and to provide an effective date.*

NDSFC opposed this bill. This is the only way a non sporting enthusiast can contribute. So it was a great way to get some revenue.

HB 1224 – *Relating to the use of boats to take or retrieve waterfowl.*

NDSFC stayed neutral. This bill did not want to hinder fishing. It related to scaring waterfowl from resting areas.



Everything seemed to go well. No major upsets or concerns. It was very interesting and I learned a lot on what actually takes place during a session. We were not faced with any major battles, unlike the hunting side of things. I had the opportunity to sit in some of the hunting discussions and gained more insight. So if a battle would of arisen, I would have been ready, and had more back-ground to work with!

Thank you for your support!!

Tom Abrahamson