

Burgum Establishes Office Of Outdoor Recreation To Enhance Private Sector Partnerships

Governor Doug Burgum, alongside state agency officials and partner organizations, recently announced the establishment of the North Dakota Office of Outdoor Recreation to grow North Dakota's outdoor recreation economy by strengthening partnerships with the private sector and increasing collaboration among all stakeholders to seize the incredible natural and economic opportunities our great state has to offer.

Recognizing the growing importance of outdoor recreation, North Dakota joins 21 other states in establishing a dedicated Office of Outdoor Recreation. The new office, created by executive order, is being launched using existing resources and personnel.

"This new office will allow us to better coordinate with stakeholders and state agencies as they develop plans, strategies and initiatives to maximize the impact of outdoor recreation in North Dakota," Burgum said. "We are incredibly excited to connect even more deeply with our partners in the private sector who drive economic development and job creation in our state. From the sales and service of boats, RVs and ATVs, to hunting and fishing gear, bicycles and skis, outdoor recreation is a cornerstone of our state's economic well-being."

The Office of Outdoor Recreation was announced during a press conference at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, a fitting location where the Missouri River, historical and

cultural tourist attractions, a wildlife management area and an extensive trail system converge to create a haven for outdoor recreation and exploration.

Among the speakers were representatives from the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (which will serve as the administrative home for the office), the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Department of Commerce, Garrison Convention and Visitors Bureau, Woodland Resort, Action Motor Sports, and Save the Maah Daah Hey.

The announcement comes at a time when outdoor activities are contributing over \$1 trillion annually to the U.S. economy. According to the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, North Dakota sees a \$1.3 billion economic boost annually from outdoor recreation, and the Office of Outdoor Recreation is poised to further develop this sector within the state.

"I know I speak for my partners at Game and Fish and Commerce when I say we are thrilled at the opportunity to strategically connect with all outdoor recreation stakeholders in the private sector and state, federal and local governments," said Cody Schulz, director of North Dakota Parks and Recreation. "The physical and mental health impacts of outdoor recreation are well known, and this office will help to drive the economic health of the state as well. This is about going from really good to great."

By uniting stakeholders, the Office of Outdoor Recreation will promote economic growth, workforce recruitment and retention, enhance quality of life and preserve the state's unique outdoor heritage. The combined efforts will unlock doors for critical investment, propelling further growth and innovation within the state's outdoor recreation industry.

"Our members across the \$1.1 trillion outdoor recreation economy are celebrating Governor Burgum's leadership in establishing the 22nd Office of Outdoor Recreation across the United States," said Jessica Wahl Turner, President of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable. "This office will be a catalyst for supporting North Dakota's \$1.3 billion outdoor recreation economy that creates nearly 14,000 jobs for North Dakotans. Outdoor recreation builds thriving economies, helps attract new workers and businesses, generates benefits for physical and mental health, and connects people to treasured natural places. North Dakota's outdoor recreation businesses, organizations, and communities of all sizes will benefit greatly from the Governor's deep commitment to the outdoors and we can't wait to support their future work."

North Dakota continues to experience historically low unemployment, and in a post-pandemic workforce environment, in many cases workers can first choose where they wish to live and then decide where they want to work, Burgum noted. This trend makes outdoor recreation opportunities even more important as a workforce recruitment and retention tool.

The increase in public demand

coincides with historic investments in outdoor recreation. In addition to significant investments in state and local park infrastructure, the 2023 North Dakota Legislature approves \$25 million for Destination Development matching grants. Thirteen projects were funded, with all but one involving outdoor recreation.

As part of the Office of Outdoor Recreation launch, North Dakota Parks and Recreation announced three significant initiatives:

- \$1.2 million was awarded to four applicants across the state for construction and rehabilitation of trails through the Recreation Trails Program Grant.

- The Roughrider Trail, a multi-use motorized trail south of Mandan, will be expanded from 16 miles to 20 miles and will connect Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park to wildlife management areas, a gun range, three boat ramps, two historic sites and two Morton County parks.

- The newly launched Outer-Spatial mobile app directs users to special events and points of interest within North Dakota's state parks and over 2,200 miles of statewide trails. The app is free to download for iOS and Android. It offers hiking challenges, an interactive social platform and insight into outdoor recreation opportunities in North Dakota.



Dakota Datebook: Mycobacterium Tuberculosis

By Sarah Walker

Mycobacterium tuberculosis, or TB, was once the leading cause of death in the United States, and it still causes death today. The germs, spread from person to person through the air, usually affect the lungs, but TB can also affect other parts of the body, such as the brain, the kidneys, or the spine.

On May 14, 1951, people were talking about a decision by the North Dakota Department of Health to send two mobile X-ray machines into communities, to test for the disease in an effort to catch it early and wipe out the threat. The program was free, and each person was promised a confidential report, sent to them two weeks after the x-ray of their chest.

According to an article in The Center Republican, the Department of Health planned to visit sixteen counties, tentatively hitting Oliver County around June. They set a goal of taking 1800 x-rays in Oliver County, and people from neighboring counties were also welcome.

Using x-ray to identify TB was a relatively new technology, though similar testing had been done a few years before. Some Q-and-As in the newspaper offered additional information. It was stated as necessary for individuals over the age of 50 to be tested, though the Health Department sought to test people of all ages... especially those fifteen and older.

Also, individuals were reassured that they did not have to undress, though it was cautioned that "blouses with sequin decorations or metallic nail heads will interfere with the reading of the x-ray picture," and

would have to be removed. Even today, the disease is not wiped out and can be deadly - but thanks to medical advances, treatments are available, and the outlook in many areas is much improved.

10030 ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

Westchester Fire Insurance Company In the state of Pennsylvania	
Total Assets	258,365,404
Total Liabilities	204,011,618
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	5,000,100
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	40,959,563
Unassigned Funds	8,394,123
Total Capital and Surplus	54,353,786
Total Liabilities, Capital and Surplus	258,365,404

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2023	
Total Direct Premiums Earned	674,326
Total Direct Losses Incurred	972,796
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses Incurred	0

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

I, Jon Godfread, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true Abstract of Statement, as officially filed by the Company in this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of this office at Bismarck, the first day of May, A.D. 2024 (SEAL).
JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

WHEREAS, the above corporation duly organized under the laws of its state or country of domicile, has filed in this office a sworn statement exhibiting its condition and business for the year ending December 31, 2023 conformable to the requirements of the laws of this State regarding the business of insurance and

WHEREAS, the said company has filed in this office a duly certified copy of its charter with certificate of organization in compliance with the requirements of insurance law aforesaid,
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JON GODFREAD, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named company is fully empowered through its authorized agents and representatives, to transact its appropriated business of authorized insurance in the state according to the laws thereof, until the 30th day of April, A.D. 2025.

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JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

May 1, 8, 15, 2024

13021 ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

United Fire & Casualty Company In the state of Iowa	
Total Assets	1,971,185,314
Total Liabilities	1,355,711,011
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	7,000,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	50,000,000
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	206,986,808
Unassigned Funds	371,487,495
Total Capital and Surplus	635,474,303
Total Liabilities, Capital and Surplus	1,971,185,314

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2023	
Total Direct Premiums Earned	8,859,937
Total Direct Losses Incurred	5,728,205
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses Incurred	0

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May 1, 8, 15, 2024

Abstract of Statement of Insurance Companies Doing Business in North Dakota

10111 ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida In the state of Florida	
Total Assets	2,457,587,205
Total Liabilities	1,999,602,233
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	5,083,164
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	262,826,791
Unassigned Funds	190,075,017
Total Capital and Surplus	452,901,808
Total Liabilities, Capital and Surplus	2,457,587,205

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2023	
Total Direct Premiums Earned	3,545,505
Total Direct Losses Incurred	1,350,713
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses Incurred	-15

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Commissioner of Insurance

May 1, 8, 15, 2024

10324 ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

Addison Insurance Company In the state of Iowa	
Total Assets	127,663,228
Total Liabilities	86,190,217
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	2,500,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	10,608,723
Unassigned Funds	28,362,053
Total Capital and Surplus	41,470,776
Total Liabilities, Capital and Surplus	127,663,228

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2023	
Total Direct Premiums Earned	1,747,899
Total Direct Losses Incurred	1,457,804
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses Incurred	0

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May 1, 8, 15, 2024

11595 ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

Merchants National Bonding Inc In the state of Iowa	
Total Assets	78,124,013
Total Liabilities	44,190,217
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	3,000,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	6,088,655
Unassigned Funds	24,875,141
Total Capital and Surplus	33,963,796
Total Liabilities, Capital and Surplus	78,124,013

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2023	
Total Direct Premiums Earned	561,272
Total Direct Losses Incurred	44,990
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses Incurred	0

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May 1, 8, 15, 2024

12572 ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

Selective Insurance Company of America In the state of New Jersey	
Total Assets	3,715,312,415
Total Liabilities	2,776,547,237
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	4,400,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	160,813,867
Unassigned Funds	773,551,311
Total Capital and Surplus	938,365,178
Total Liabilities, Capital and Surplus	3,715,312,415

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2023	
Total Direct Premiums Earned	146
Total Direct Losses Incurred	-453
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses Incurred	0

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May 1, 8, 15, 2024

12831 ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

State National Insurance Company Inc In the state of Texas	
Total Assets	1,298,216,263
Total Liabilities	724,551,522
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	3,500,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	276,645,992
Unassigned Funds	293,518,749
Total Capital and Surplus	570,164,741
Total Liabilities, Capital and Surplus	1,298,216,263

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2023	
Total Direct Premiums Earned	2,537,315
Total Direct Losses Incurred	1,090,615
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses Incurred	0

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Common Capital Stock	7,000,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	50,000,000
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	206,986,808
Unassigned Funds	371,487,495
Total Capital and Surplus	635,474,303
Total Liabilities, Capital and Surplus	1,971,185,314

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