



SALTED LANDS COUNCIL



Looking for Lazarus: The Lazarus Project: Lazarus Represents North Dakota's Dead Lands brought to you by ND Oil Industry's and ND's choice



In this appeal for financial support, we feature a part of the Haas Oilfield in Bottineau Co., ND's ground zero, *the Rock Pile* in early summer 2020. The evaporation pond berm has been broken for decades, showing the path of leaching brine. The tank battery berm appears intact. The well on the right, drilled in the 1950s by Union Oil is 70 years old. CARE Act/Covid monies were used to plug it in September 2020.

This was a great favor to the nearly bankrupt current owner, Zargon.
Cost of restoring Dead Land on top of the salt plume. \$10,000,000? and years.

Dear

2020

The Salted Lands Council is doing what six State agencies and five Federal agencies haven't done for 70 years, develop a comprehensive plan to find and fix North Dakota's Dead Lands brought to you by the Oil Industry's Sins of Commission and State's Sins of Omission. The Rock Pile (pictured above) is a complex of wells and chronic spills from multiple wells, unlined pits, and a saltwater disposal site. The first well drilled is the source of the majority of the brine poison. ND has 15,000 wells and expects 50,000 more. Many have had multiple saltwater spills. Wells and pipelines fail, and with age, they all leak. Six state and as many federal agencies fail to cooperate, have thus far not searched their files, or even estimate the acres of Dead Lands. But with you and your friends' support, we will find Lazarus and begin the resurrection.

Six years ago, our first donation of \$10,000 came from a rancher – an 80-year-old widow who lives in the Keene area. Oil wells in this hot part of the Williston Basin released hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) killing neighbors, workers, and livestock. She is ready to contribute another \$10,000, if only you will match her. Her neighbors and sons' contributions supported our efforts to the tune of \$100K over 6 years. That's a lot, but they and others who have supported our effort need help. With few exceptions because of severed minerals, the family and neighbors don't get paid royalties. Royalties are paid to the State and Feds. Nevertheless, their lungs, land, air, water, and wildlife are poisoned.

Holding the State Accountable

Help us tell the State, ***"You made the mess; you clean it up. You go find the bankrupt companies, their bondholders."*** ND needs a leading case where we confront the State for 70 years of condemning but not paying for private property. The State has given industry speculators surface acres as a cost-free dump ground for their poisons. Since 2009, ND has accumulated \$6.8 billion in its Legacy Fund because it did not enforce environmental laws or perform its Public Trust Duties. The States' duty to develop Comprehensive Water Use and Restoration Plans has long been disregarded. In 1977 the lead agency was gently told to mend its ways by the ND Supreme Court court in United Plainsmen vs. N.D. Water Comm., 247 N.W.2d 457.) The Water Commission as lead agency should now do joint agency planning to address the oil industry's poisoning of State Waters and Private Lands.

Our Friendly Persuasion Team has surface owners, retired government officials, scientists, and lawyers who specialize in getting the attention of government agencies and oil companies. After 70 years we see no coordination and this despite the fact that six ND and five Federal agencies receive spill reports. The Politics of Indecision is, "Kick the can down the road and put on a bandage". We have no plan to find or reclaim the Dead Lands. A lawsuit might help clear everyone's mind. The State's Sins of Omission are repeated failures to stop the Oil industry's Sins of Commission. This default in protecting private property leaves the State holding the bag. And here again, the immense \$ consequence of State defaults are on display, this is one of the Williston Basin's conventional, straight up and down oil fields, the Rockpile. Fear the day when the Bakken looks like this!



2020 Rock Pile:

The photo shows it was a glorious Wet Spring Start of a crop that will soon drink up enough brine to die off totally. Every plant has a toxic limit. Long before it reaches its toxic limit it becomes stunted.

Malting Barley loses out in competition with Foxtail Barley, a noxious weed. The kernels in the stunted plants will be withered by harvest time and will not fill.

The photo on the right show the approach of harvest and nearly all plants show the effect of salt toxicity.



2012 Rock Pile:

Seriously contaminated areas, dead soils are bare.

Moderately contaminated areas, light yellow show Fox Tail Barley, a noxious weed dangerous for livestock.

Slightly contaminated areas, light gold show a reduced malting barley yield.

Areas with no discernable impact, dark gold have the good fortune of never having suffered industrial salt or being well washed by rain.

We will hold the State accountable for Dead and Dying lands. Our ND Constitution, Article I, Section XVI, and cases already decided are uniquely supportive of our assertion that the State has effectively condemned but not yet paid for damages caused by decades of failures to enforce cleanups. We intend to strike a bargain or seek court-ordered reclamation. Our draft complaint is available.

Your contributions to The Salted Lands Council, our 501 (c) 3, will be acknowledged by our CPA/Attorney, Isaac Zimmerman, 919 South 7th Street, Suite 607, Bismarck ND 58504. You may also contribute via a "Donate" button, a PayPal portal under the **Take Action** tab on page 1 of our website www.saltedlands.org.

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