

News Release

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For Immediate Release

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY RELEASES *PREHISTORIC LIFE OF NORTH DAKOTA* POSTER

BISMARCK – Every school in North Dakota has received a new, full color poster depicting dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals that once lived in the state.

“The Industrial Commission is happy to be able to provide a complimentary copy of this poster to each school in our state, so that our children can experience in a very vivid way the incredibly diverse natural history of North Dakota,” said Gov. John Hoeven, commission chairman. “The Geological Survey has done an excellent job of telling the fascinating story of the animals that have roamed our state for the last 80 million years.”

Prepared by paleontologist John Hoganson and Brett Woodward, a paleontology laboratory specialist with the North Dakota Geological Survey, *Prehistoric Life of North Dakota* is a 2x3-foot, double-sided poster. The front side of the poster contains images of ancient animals and their locations in the state. The reverse contains photographs of some of the fossils, ranging in age from 10,000 to 80 million years. The fossils are from the State Fossil Collection housed in the Johnsrud Paleontology Laboratory at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck.

“Fossils serve as a key to our State’s rich history,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “This is an excellent tool to be used by our educators in telling the story of the various animals that inhabited our State through geologic time, from dinosaurs to woolly mammoths and saber tooth cats.”

“Everyone, not just young people, can learn something from this poster,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson, who was surprised to find that 75 million years ago sharks were swimming over what is now his family’s farm near Turtle Lake. “It’s a colorful and fun way to learn about our state’s ancient past and the unusual animals that once lived here.”

The poster (Educational Series 30) retails for \$3, plus an additional \$2 for shipping and handling. A page-sized version of the map (Miscellaneous Map 37) is free of charge. Both are available from the North Dakota Geological Survey office at (701) 328-8000.

The North Dakota Geological Survey is overseen by the Industrial Commission which consists of Gov. John Hoeven, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.