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South Dakota
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OUT OF DOORS

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Inside this issue:

Page 2

PHEASANT ECOLOGY CONT.

Page 3

PRESIDENT COLUMN

Page 4 - 5

Exec. Director Column

New Deer Allocations

Wild Gracing Our Rivers

Page 6

Spotlight - Lonnie Thomas

Trashbag giveaway

Page 7

Loss of Chairman Dingel

State Regulates Drones

Swift Passage of Public
Lands Package

Page 8

SDWF BUFFALO SHOOT

Pheasant Ecology: Part 1 - Nesting & Brood-Rearing Season by Travis Runia

With nearly six months until friends and family gather to partake in the traditional opening day hunt, pheasants are one of the last things sportsman are thinking about during spring. However, the nesting and brood-rearing season of May and June represent one of the most critical times for pheasant populations.

Pheasants are short lived birds with annual survival averaging only 50%. During severe winters such as 2009-2010, survival can be much lower in areas containing marginal or inadequate winter habitat. With such low survival, how do pheasants sustain such high populations each fall? Of all upland game birds, pheasants exhibit one of the highest reproductive potentials, thus enabling them to bounce back after severe losses in short time periods when provided adequate nesting habitat. Despite this, pheasants still rely on quality nesting and brood rearing habitat to recruit new birds to the fall population.

The nesting season begins in late April as hens seek out attractive nesting cover usually consisting of undisturbed grasslands such as lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Most hens initiate their first nest during the first half of May, but this can be delayed by unseasonably cold or wet weather. Males have spent the past month establishing and maintaining territories across the landscape. Crowing and wing flapping behavior aimed at attracting females peaks in April but continues through June to serve re-nesting hens.

After courtship, hens lay one egg per day until a full clutch of 10-12 eggs is reached. During the next 23 days, hens will spend 23 hours per day incubating the eggs and leaving for only short intervals for limited amounts of food and water. Egg laying and incubation is extremely energy demanding, and during this incubation period food intake is low. Hens can lose 75% of their body fat and 10% of their body weight in just one month! If not challenging enough, only about 25% of nests are successful in large blocks of undisturbed grasslands and success has been documented much lower in linear and fragmented habitats which are generally smaller in size and are more vulnerable to mammalian predators.



Typical habitat used by pheasant broods during early late spring and early Summer. Notice how the pheasant chicks are foraging for insects around the alfalfa plants.

Fortunately, pheasants almost always re-nest and may initiate up to 4 nests in a single season if previous nests are destroyed. Because of the energy demands of producing and incubating eggs, clutch size and egg size decrease for each subsequent nesting attempt. If a third nesting attempt is initiated, the clutch size could be as low as 5 or 6 eggs. Even with low success of each individual nest, 70% of hens may pull off one successful nest through multiple nesting attempts a successful clutch is only half the battle to recruit pheasants to the fall population. Hatching a successful clutch is only half the battle to recruit pheasants to the fall population. Pheasant chicks are precocial, meaning they hatch with eyes open and are able to leave the nest and feed themselves within one day of hatching. However, it has been documented that 1 and 2 day old chicks exposed to 43 degree temperatures die after 30 minutes of exposure. Susceptibility to the cold quickly decreases with age, and by 11 days of age the chicks can fully regulate their body temperature. Cold snaps in June can greatly decrease chick survival.

As stated earlier, pheasants are attracted to undisturbed grasslands for nesting sites, such as land enrolled in CRP. But does this same habitat provide for the needs of pheasant chicks? This depends on the structure and composition of the grassland. Ideal brood-rearing habitat provides abundant insects, aerial concealment, and allows movement at ground level by small pheasant chicks. The average grass field which has not been disturbed recently and lacks diversity does not meet these criteria. Can you imagine a tennis ball sized pheasant chick navigating through thick seven foot tall grass that your Labrador struggles to get through in the fall!

Pheasant chicks primarily eat insects during the first 1-2 weeks of life because they are high in protein. Protein functions as building blocks to form muscle tissue and feathers which allows for rapid chick growth. Without plentiful insects, growth rates and survival of chicks can be greatly reduced. Hen pheasants will often move her brood great distances to find suitable brooding habitat such as "weedy" areas. Broadleaf plants act like insect factories, while also

continued on page 2



Pheasant nest with a fall clutch of 12 eggs. This nest was probably from an initial nesting attempt.

Image: Chad Switzer - SD GFP

BARCODED FLATS

Pheasant Ecology Continued from page 1

providing aerial concealment without impeding chick movement at ground level. Aerial concealment protects chicks from aerial predators and provides shade during those hot summer days. Even when good habitat is available, it is not uncommon for 1/3 of the chicks to die with predators, extreme weather, and farm machinery representing the highest mortality factors.

South Dakota is fortunate to have an abundance of high quality nesting



This newly planted grass field is composed of large amounts of broad leafed plants such as wildflowers, alfalfa, and naturally occurring weeds. Pheasant broods will find this field rich with insects and the open understory will allow ample movement by small pheasant chicks.

and brood-rearing habitat which allows pheasants to reach their high reproductive potential. As you head to the field each year, remember that what pheasants were doing in May and June has a huge influence on what you will see each fall. In the next part of this 6 part series, we will discuss how pheasant chicks handle the extreme heat of July and August. Additionally, we will see how molting strategies differ among hens and roosters.



Well established grass field with no broad-leafed plants. This represents poor habitat for pheasant broods because few insects are produced and movement by chicks at ground level would be difficult.

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OUT OF DOORS EDITOR
Chris Hesla
Box 7075 • Pierre, SD 57501
Phone 605-224-7524

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Mr. Chris Hesla
Executive-Director (Hired)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 224-7524
Cell Phone: (605) 222-1002 Fax: (605) 224-7524
Email address: sdwfmncm.com

Mr. Mark Widman
President (Term: Sept 2018 to Aug 2019)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
2315 N. Devon Ave, Tea, SD 57064
Telephone: (605) 215-3102
Email address: mwidman294@gmail.com

Mr. Terry Mayes
1st Vice-President (Term: Sept 2018 to Aug 2019)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
223 Jasper Lane
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701
Telephone: (605) 216-4618
Email address: lmayes@rap.midco.net

Mr. Joe (Randall Joseph) Long
2nd Vice-President (Term: Sept 2018 to Aug 2019)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
1410 Pinewood Lane, Aberdeen, SD 57401
Cell: 605-216-4618
Email address: smokinjoe64@abe.midco.net

Mr. John Gors
3rd Vice-President (Term: Sept 2018 to Aug 2019)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
507 Bulow Street, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069
Telephone: (605) 624-6610 - Home
(605) 670-1746 - Cell
Email: jaggpag1@msn.com

Mr. Paul Vinatieri (Term: Aug 2016 to Aug 2020)
Director District 1
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
1995 Sammis Trail
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702
Telephone: (605) 348-3846 - Home
(605) 391-8402 - Cell
Email address: pvinny4@hotmail.com

Mr. Andy Vandel
Director District 2 (Term: Aug 2015 to Aug 2019)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
308 N. Johnson Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 280-2981
Email address: andyvandel@gmail.com

Mr. Terry Sampson
Director District 3 (Term: Aug 2019 to Aug 2023)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
1515 11th Avenue NE
Watertown, South Dakota 57201
Telephone: (605) 882-0158 - Home
(605) 881-5524 Cell
Email address: tsampson2126@msn.com

Mr. Robert D. Bucholz
Director District 4 (Term: Aug 2016 to Aug 2020)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
3208 Cyprus St. N. Aberdeen, SD 57401
Telephone: (605) 226-8262/Cell: (605) 228-9802
Email address: rdbuch@nrcrtv.com

Mr. Ryan Roehr
Director District 5 (Term: Aug 2018 to Aug 2022)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
1215 North Roosevelt Street - Apt. 112
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401
Telephone: (605) 228-1639
Email address: Acs@venturecomm.net

Mr. Charles Dieter
Director District 6 (Term: Aug 2016 to Aug 2020)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
47135 203rd Street, Brookings, SD 57006
Telephone: (605) 693-3123 - Home
(605) 688-4555 - Work/(605) 690-6351 - Cell
Email address: charles.dieter@gmail.com

Mr. Ross Jensen
Director District 7 (Term: Sept 2017 to Aug 2021)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
605 Wisconsin Avenue N.W.
Huron, South Dakota 57350
Telephone: (605) 350-6257
Email address: rjensens@hur.midco.net

Mr. Jerry Lulewicz
Director District 8 (Term: Aug 2018 to Aug 2022)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
20 Arrowhead Pass, Mitchell, SD 57301
Telephone: (605) 996-4750
Email address: jmlule@mitchtelcom.net

Steve Thompson
Director District 9 (Term: Aug 2015 to Aug 2019)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
1501 S. Deerberry Trail
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106
Telephone: 605-359-3911
Email address: aiathompson@live.com

Zachery T. Hunke
Director District 10 (Term: Aug 2017 to Aug 2021)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
16651 Sioux Conifer Road
Watertown, South Dakota 57201
Telephone: 605-881-6745
Email address: hunkestransfersd.com

Mr. Mike McKernan
Director-at-Large (Appointed Aug 2017 to Aug 2019)
612 S. Garfield
Murdo, South Dakota 57559
Telephone: (605) 669-2829
Email address: hdmac@goldenwest.net

Director-at-Large (Appointed Aug 2016 to Aug 2018)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation

Mr. Nick Cochran
Director-at-Large (Appoint. Aug 2017 to Aug 2019)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
307 North Lloyd Street
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401
Email address: twigs94@yahoo.com

Mr. Larry Lewis (Appointed Aug 2016 to Aug 2018)
Director-at-Large
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
40751 102nd Street, Hecla, South Dakota 57446
Telephone: (605) 994-7446

Mr. Jeff Olson (Appointed Aug 2017 to Aug 2019)
Director-at-Large
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
1301 West Omaha St. STE 228
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701
Telephone: (605) 393-5225
Email address: Beatis@aol.com

Mr. Rich Widman
Immediate Past President (Ex-officio)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
929 8th Avenue
Brookings, South Dakota 57006
Telephone: (605) 692-7157 - Home
(605) 692-1217 - Work
Email address: widmanfinancial@swiftel.net

Mr. Bill Antonides
Immediate President (Term: Aug 2018 to Aug 2019)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
514 N. Arch Street
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401-2951
Telephone: (605) 229-4712 - Home
(605) 380-8586 - Cell
Email address: billantonides@gmail.com

Mr. Joe (Randall Joseph) Long
Delegate to NWF (Term: Jan 2019 to Dec 2019)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
1410 Pinewood Lane
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Cell: 605-216-4618
Email address: smokinjoe64@abe.midco.net

Mr. Ryan Roehr
Alt. Delegate to NWF (Term: Jan 2019 to Dec 2019)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
1215 North Roosevelt Street - Apt. 112
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401
Telephone: (605) 228-1639
Email address: Acs@venturecomm.net

Mr. Robert J. Jacobson
Sec-Treasurer (Re-appointed [Aug 2017 to Aug 2018])
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 297, Garretson, SD 57030
Telephone: (605) 594-6484 - Office
(605) 594-6693 - Home
Email address: rjjacobson@alliancecom.net

OTHER NAMES OF IMPORTANCE:

Youth Camp Director (Non Board Member)
South Dakota Wildlife Federation

Mr. David Dittloff (Non Board Member)
NWF Regional Representative for SD
National Wildlife Federation
240 N. Higgins
Missoula, Montana 59802
Telephone: (406) 541-6732 - Office
(406) 214-8109 - Cell
Email address: dittloffd@nwf.org



President,
Mark Widman

President's Column *by Mark Widman*

Another year is in the books. It seems like the years are coming and going a lot faster than they used to. Another hunting season has come and gone as well. I look back on the photos of my hunts and think of how blessed I am to have been able to experience the outdoors with my brother and friends. I had a successful turkey hunt in the Black Hills last spring. I had a successful West River and East River deer hunt. I had my first experience hunting Elk in the Black Hills and another good season of pheasant hunting.

I've included a close up photo of my hunting companion Charlie in this edition for your amusement. As you can see, he isn't very happy, but what you can't really see is the "Cone of Shame" is wearing in this photo. If you have a hunting dog, I know you've experienced the joy they show when they have to wear this thing. My brother Rich and I were on a late season pheasant hunt near Montrose, SD. We were hitting some frozen sloughs in a harvested soybean field. Harvested soybean fields are tricky to walk, as they still have the hard stem sticking out of the ground. Charlie happened to step on a stem that pierced his right front paw. Rich was able to pull the 4 inch stem/stick out, but Charlie wasn't ready to quit. We could see some blood on the snow, but Charlie didn't seem to be in any pain. We concluded our hunt and took him to the Vet, where they cleaned out his wound and received antibiotics and pain meds. That's where the "Cone of Shame" comes in and this hilarious photo. I also included a photo of Charlie overlooking the Missouri River back in October. We didn't see very many birds, but got to see this incredible view. I thanked God for view and for the opportunity to be outdoors.

The other memorable experience I shared with Rich was Elk hunting in the Black Hills. Rich was fortunate enough to draw a cow tag. Hunting in the Black Hills is a totally different experience for the two of us, since we are used to hunting on open range where we can spot and stalk. We were fortunate enough to have a friend that lives in the Black Hills give us advice on what to look for and where to go. Thankfully, I purchased a new set of A/T tires for my pickup in early November. It had snowed about 6 to 8 inches the weekend we hunted. Those tires saved us a lot of time and agony, because there were a lot of trails that we would have gotten stuck. We put a lot of miles on that weekend, but experienced some incredible landscape and wildlife. We were fortunate to come across 10 bull Elk as they ran across the road in front of us on the first day. On day two, we were waived down and asked if we could help a father and son transport their cow back to their pickup from a steep hillside filled with downed pine trees. We decided to help as we needed the "Elk Gods" to look favorably upon us as we were not seeing any Elk that day. Thankfully, we had a sled along with us which allowed us to transport the cow down the hillside fairly quickly. Otherwise it would have taken us a several hours. It's amazing at how big those animals are. As we traveled on, we did come upon a small herd of Elk and Rich was able to fill his tag with another "Incredible" shot... as he will tell you. ☺ There is a running joke between us brothers on how incredible we are with our shooting ability.

We are in the middle of the 2019 State Legislative Session with a new governor. Governor Noem announced the Secondary Century Initiative to preserve and expand habitat to ensure that the second century of pheasant hunting will be as great as the first century. She committed to increase resources for habitat management without raising taxes. Such as expand the Hunt for Habitat program, in which a limited number of hunting tags

would be reserved at premium pricing. Division of Motor Vehicles and Game, Fish and Parks will develop a specialty pheasant license plate program in which all proceeds would go directly toward habitat management.

I support the specialty pheasant license plate program to raise money for habitat. I don't know why it has taken South Dakota so long to move forward on this idea as it was brought up at the "Governor's Pheasant Summit" back in 2013. Minnesota and Iowa have offered habitat license plates for several years. I am hesitant; however, to hear her plan on offering a limited number of hunting tags at a premium price. The devil is in the details. How will it affect the average sportsman/woman trying to get drawn for a big game tag? Where exactly will the money raised go? Will it go back to landowners that charge to hunt or will it go to the SD G,F and Park to allow them to purchase more land from willing sellers?

The other important issue at hand is the newly amended deer allocation proposal which unanimously passed at the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission back in January. There has been a lot of push back from the public as to why fix a system that isn't broken. I think the amended version is much better than the original proposal as it will still allow resident hunters to apply for two tags in their first draw, while allowing more people to draw a tag.

Reference Press Release from SD G,F and Parks Commission website:

Date: January 11, 2019

PIERRE, S.D. – Earlier today, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission unanimously passed a new deer license allocation proposal that would allow a hunter to apply for two of the six deer seasons in the first draw. These seasons include: East River/Special Buck, West River/Special Buck, Black Hills, Muzzleloader, Refuge and Custer State Park. Special Buck license holders would be limited to one additional application in the first draw as long as that application was not valid for the same season as their Special Buck license.

Nonresident hunters would still be eligible for eight percent of the allocation for West River, Black Hills and Refuge hunting seasons during the first drawing.

In this edition of the "Out of Doors", the "Board of Director Spotlight" is on Lanny Thomas. He lives in Huron, SD. He is a member of the "Dakota Sportsman" and has been a member of the SDWF since the mid 1980's. I've known Lanny for close to 10 years, since I joined the SDWF Board. Lanny and I are cut from the same cloth. We treasure our past outdoor experiences with family and friends and are passionate about protecting our wildlife natural resources from commercialization.

As always, we need to continue building our membership and raising money to pay for our lobbying effort in Pierre! We need you to impress upon your hunting and fishing buddies to JOIN the SDWF (which costs less than \$2.00/month), donate money to our cause, purchase raffle tickets, sign up to receive "Camo Alerts" and be ready to contact your legislators when the time comes. We need your continued support to fight for your hunting/fishing/outdoor rights. Please, Please, Please consider donating \$500, \$250 or \$100 to the SDWF Camo Coalition.

Ice fishing season is upon us. Be safe, enjoy your time outdoors, PICK UP THE LITTER and make some memories!



Executive Director
Chris Hesla

Executive Director *by Chris Hesla*

South Dakota's 94th Legislative Session will be just about done by the time you are reading this. There is one day set aside to work on Governor Vetoes. Outdoor issues fared very well this year, there were no detrimental bills passed. SDWF worked every day protecting all of our rights to pursue and enjoy our outdoor recreation here in South Dakota. Because of our daily presence in the halls and our lobbying power, we were able to persuade individual legislators that their idea perhaps is not in the best interest of their constituents. Also, the support shown through our dedicated grassroots membership helps to keep pressure on the legislators as issues arise.

SDWF monitored over 20 individual bills during the 2019 Legislative season. This year the bill numbers we watched were down and there were no real controversial issues introduced.

Below is a comprehensive listing of some of the bills we monitored and their final disposition.

HB 1024: authorize certain species of game fish to be used as bait. This bill passed, when implemented allows certain game fish (bluegills) to be used as bait. SDWF disagrees with using game fish as bait.

HB 1031: authorize certain wind and solar easements and leases by the commissioner of School and Public Lands. This bill passed and would allow these types of projects onto public lands. The SD Constitution stipulates that the SPL must try to make as much money as they can to help fund our schools.

HB 1054: revise certain provisions regarding the possession of firearms on certain vehicles. This bill passed, we see no reason to oppose this bill. The law against discharging a firearm at game animals from a vehicle (stationary or not) will still apply. This bill was aimed to allow the carrying of guns while you are moving from field to field and riding in a UTV and removed the "must be cased" law

HB 1073: revise provisions regarding the killing of certain birds or animals from an aircraft. This bill passed and will allow persons to check and locate varmints and predators with a drone. SDWF asked the sponsor if the bill could be amended to take out all public property, as having drones flying over hunters, fishermen and others legally enjoying their sport is not consistent with either common courtesy or the rules of fair chase. As amended, and passed this bill is limited to private property only and with permission only from the landowner..

HB 1145: establish certain provisions regarding the mowing of rights-of-way adjacent to the state trunk highway system. This bill was defeated, if passed would of allowed road right-of-ways to be mowed at any time of the year. This goes against the stated objectives of the Governor in providing more habitat for pheasants. We should not allow any mowing until after most pheasants and ducks are done nesting. The ROWs provide nesting cover where little or none exists.

HB 1152: provide for the permitting of outfitters and guides. This bill was introduced but was killed. This is a very important topic and SDWF is in support of some sort of licensing and regulation for ALL guides hunting and fishing in SD.

HB 1159: repeal a provision that prohibits hunting mourning doves on public roads and highways. When this bill becomes law it will allow people to hunt within 50 yards of a ROW or road, prior to this bill it was illegal, to hunt within 50 yards of a road. SDWF supported this bill, but a note of caution: SD lost road hunting for doves decades ago because of the unethical actions of a few. We believe the current law forbidding shooting sitting birds, plus the laws against shooting to close to buildings and reckless discharge of weapons will prevent future problems

HB 1181: create a habitat conservation emblem specialty plate. This bill was one of Gov. Noem's funding ideas for her Second Century Habitat Plan and was defeated on the Senate Floor. This is a good idea, but requires new plates to be issued and installed every year. Some of us look at each new plate as collectibles, and others look at the annual cost, or would prefer not to have to change plates on an annual basis, especially those of us who must do so in the dead of winter. The bill does not give the final price for the plates each year, except it is expected to be \$20 to \$30 for the sticker, plus \$10 will be added for administrative costs and fees. However, this is a voluntary tax, and SDWF supports the concept for funding more habitat in SD.

HB 1182: require a balanced and representative membership on the Game, Fish and Parks Commission This bill was defeated and is an interesting bill and a great improvement on what we have today. One major impact is it will allow Independents to serve on the GF&P Commission. The requirements for serving are very good. SDWF strongly supported this bill.

HB 1242 include opossums within the definition of predator. This bill passed and when implemented, you would not want to be an Opossum in SD!

SB 33: authorize the commissioner of school and public lands to sell and acquire certain real property. This bill was defeated, if it passed it would have allowed the SPL to buy and trade current owned lands for access to larger land locked SPL lands

SB 63: increase the penalty for a subsequent conviction for trespass to hunt, fish, or trap. This bill passed with an amendment SDWF asked the sponsor to include. This bill was amended to only apply to something like "a second or third trespass in X number of years," similar to DUI laws. We also don't believe a mistake made by an 18-year old should be held against him or her 50 years later. When the bill was amended, SDWF supported the enhanced penalties for repeat offenders.

SB 153: authorize the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to provide for a special hunting license with the proceeds to be used for habitat. This is another one of Gov.'s Noem's bills to help pay for habitat. This bill passed and is extremely unclear how the special license will be used, including the game species, and how the funds will be spent: "Proceeds from the application fee collected shall be used for habitat programs." There are dozens of current or potential habitat programs, including cost share for food plots on private lands and spraying weeds on GPAs. Money spent does not necessarily equal money well spent, and these are sportsman's dollars. In addition, this will possibly end up with nonresidents being able to apply for elk and East River any deer special hunting licenses. Currently, nonresident are not allowed in these drawings. This bill will allow the GFP Commission to decide type of raffles and who and what can be hunted and sold in a raffle.

Camo-Day was held again this year, the weather did not cooperate and made it very difficult to travel to get Pierre on that Monday morning. SDWF and many other outdoor organizations hosted breakfast for our Legislators. The breakfast was served behind both Chambers again this year and I want to thank our co-sponsors; The Nature Conservancy, SD Ducks Unlimited, SD Waterfowl Assoc., East River Sierra Club, SDWF Camo Coalition, SD Division of the Izaak Walton League, National Wild Turkey Federation SD Chapter, SD Walleye Unlimited, Friends of the Big Sioux

There are some 21-Gun tickets and Buffalo Shoot tickets in this Out-of-Doors. Maybe you bought and sent them back to SDWF already? If you have, I thank you! Perhaps you have a friend or relative you can give the ones here in the OOD and ask them to join and support SDWF?

A very Big THANK YOU for those of you who took time to contact your legislator and/or by supporting us financially through our raffles and memberships.

We can and do make a difference!

GFP Commission passes new deer allocation system.

Today the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission finalized the current deer license allocation proposal that would allow a hunter to apply for two of the six deer seasons in the first draw. Nonresident hunters remain eligible for eight percent of the allocation for West River, Black Hills and Refuge hunting seasons during the first drawing.

These changes are slated to be implemented for the 2019 deer hunting season if approved by the legislative interim rules review committee. These changes allow hunters to continue family traditions and put any two

applications in the first draw, while increasing draw success for all applicants and getting applicants their preferred license more often. This gets previously unsuccessful hunters off the sideline and gives them the opportunity to begin and continue their own traditions.

One of the biggest changes would be application deadlines for the six firearm seasons would be mid-June. The special buck application deadline would remain mid-April.

More information regarding these changes can be found at <https://gfp.sd.gov/deer/>.

WILD GRACING OUR RIVER

By Peter Carrels Who is a board member with Friends of the Big Sioux River, and this article originally appeared in the Big Sioux River Advocate, the printed newsletter of friends of the Big Sioux River



Otter River Heather Berg

Consider the affable, remarkable river otter.

Consider “wild” as a noun.

If water quality can recover and be sustained in the Big Sioux River, and if ecological conditions within the channel’s riparian corridor are improved the river will become increasingly hospitable for river otters. It is why Friends of the Big Sioux River chose the river otter –now scarce in our state- as our symbolic connection to a healthier river. Consider that there’s so much more to be done regarding river recuperation, but river otters inspire.

A wildlife biologist will tell you river otters are a semiaquatic carnivore adapted to life in the water, including very cold water. The casual observer will say that river otters are a handsome, appealing creature displaying joyful social comportment. Their dense, insulating fur is usually brown with a tan to silvery-white chin and chest. Not only is water quality a factor in their habitat, so is the year-round availability of open water and deep pools, features typically associated with larger rivers in our state.

They are a sizeable animal, with adults ranging in length from 35 to over 50 inches, and weighing between 10 and 30 pounds. Males are larger than females. When seen loping like a gliding slinky across the land their cylindrically shaped bodies appear sleek and clumsy simultaneously. But in water they move like agile, supple torpedoes, with a long, muscular tail for power and steering, and short, sturdy legs and webbed-clawed feet for propulsion and seizing their preferred diet of fish, frogs and aquatic invertebrates. A potent sense of smell and long whiskers help otters detect prey in dark or cloudy water, and an otter can stay submerged for up to eight minutes. They’ll also snatch a meal on land, especially birds and small mammals. The river otter is an effective predator, a relevant trait for a mammal with a high metabolism requiring frequent dining.

Female river otters can become mothers starting at age two. Fatherhood cannot begin for males until they hit five years old or even older. Two to four young are born in early spring nearly a year after conception. Pups leave the natal den with their mother at two months of age, when they start to learn to swim, are weaned at three months, but may stay with mom until she next gives birth. River otters might live eight or nine years in the wild, but have lived up to 21 years in captivity.

Dens are along water in abandoned burrows or vacant hollows possessing multiple tunnels and entrances, including at least one underwater entry for easy access from the water. River otters are playful, communal animals, residing in family groups that consist of a mother and her offspring, and may blend family helpers who could be progeny from a previous year or sometimes

unrelated adults. Adult males can be solitary or join a social group.

Not surprisingly, river otters have a commensal relationship with beavers, as beaver-built dams provide water conditions favored by otters, and beaver dens and lodges can be used by river otters as resting places and birthing and nursery sites. Natural predators in our part of world include bobcats, coyotes, and large raptors. In western South Dakota you can add cougars to that list.

River otters historically lived throughout South Dakota in appropriate habitat. Trapping, habitat destruction and wide-ranging waterway degradation contributed to wiping out most of the state’s river otter population by the early 1900s. When a national survey was conducted in 1977, it speculated that there were no otters living in South Dakota. Passage of the initial Clean Water Act in 1972 aided the plight of the otter, but a modest comeback is now underway primarily because a handful of people pushed for it. One goal of this effort is to elevate otter numbers and cancel its scientific designation as a “threatened” species in the state.

In 1979 there was one otter sighting in South Dakota. Researchers define a sighting as seeing a live animal or a dead one, or finding sign such as scat or tracks. Annual records show that it wasn’t until 1998 that the number of sightings in any given year exceeded one. In that year there were four sightings. By 2004 sightings climbed to 22, and in 2012 that number more than doubled to 46. Four years later 64 river otter sightings were recorded throughout the state.

Much of that climb can be attributed to the release of 34 otters on the Big Sioux River near Flandreau, South Dakota in 1998 and 2000. This project was sponsored by the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, and although follow-up science was not pursued by the tribe those pioneering otters are seen as the source of residents who continue to populate the Big Sioux River drainage and likely the lower James and Vermillion River drainages, as well. Otters are notable for their capacity to range and resettle, and the Flandreau reintroduction effort is viewed as a demonstration of how to spur otter recovery and expansion. Nebraska biologists restocking that state’s otter population revealed that an animal tagged with a monitor in their state was tracked to near St. Louis. Apparently, that resourceful otter traveled more than 500 miles downriver in the industrialized Missouri River.

A critical threat to otters is trapping activity targeting beavers. A more specific trapping problem is that South Dakota allows beaver trapping into early spring, when mother otters are busy seeking food for her young and are especially vulnerable to trapping. Of 117 reported river otters killed in South Dakota from 1979 through 2016, 73 percent died because of legal trapping activities.

Studies by South Dakota’s Game, Fish and Parks department indicate that the Big Sioux River contains some of the best river otter habitat in South Dakota. Friends of the Big Sioux River pledge to continue working to improve our river for river otters and people. We believe the needs of these animals and human inhabitants of the river basin overlap, with much in common. A river with a thriving otter population is a healthier river.



Otter River Bruce Porisch

SDWF Board Of Directors Spotlight: Lanny Thomas

My name is Lanny Thomas and other than the two years of 8th & 9th grades in Aberdeen, I grew up in Huron. I retired from the City of Huron Engineering Dept in 2014. I have one daughter, Kelly, and 11 year old grandson, Riley.

I have been a member of the SDWF since the Beadle Co. Sportsman's Club affiliated, which was sometime B.C. (Before Chris), in the late 1980's. Roger Pries was the Executive Director, Dave Schaeffer of Hayti was President, and a young Bob Jacobson was Secretary/Treasurer. The late, Lynn Johnson, was a representative for the Grass Lake Sportsman's Club. I attended many meetings with Lynn present. I have served the SDWF as a District Director, Vice-President, NWF Annual Meeting Delegate/Alternate, SDWF Youth Conservation Camp Councilor, and Camo Secretary.

The reason I am a member of the SDWF is because it is the only organization that tries to prevent the privatization/commercialization of wildlife, and tries to keep wildlife available and affordable for the average citizen to access, harvest, or enjoy. I am a member because of the SDWF's Youth Conservation Camp, our future.

The SDWF is different than other organizations in its focus on the "public trust doctrine", which wildlife should be governed by. Another focus is on the loss of access to public lands, or waters, and the sharing of those by all. Numerous issues, ideas, and news are discussed by the SDWF, and the sharing of views with varying opinions, makes the SDWF a learning experience.

SDWF's annual Youth Conservation Camp is another example that sets the SDWF apart from other groups. After attending the camp as a councilor,

I was very impressed with the patriotism, the responsibilities of each camper, and the overall learning experience of the camp. It is satisfying to hear from past campers of how this camp helped them choose a career in wildlife or fisheries.

Protecting our "outdoor heritage" is important to me because I have great memories of outdoor experiences with family and friends. Experiences that I want to have with my daughter and grandson.

Memories of the opening day of pheasant season, the family hunts, and the social events with friends and family is why I want to protect our outdoor heritage. There is the feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction that was experienced through my outdoor heritage. I want to perpetuate the enjoyment that this heritage can bring, and that was given to me. Outdoor enthusiasts have lost opportunities over the years. What is to come?

Key issues that I think people need to be aware of is how wildlife will be slowly privatized, and of kids losing their connection to the outdoors. Legislation can easily affect those who are not aware of what is going on around them. The key issue is to have outdoor enthusiasts be aware and informed, then be brave and speak up.



SDWF and GFP has co-sponsored a trash bag give-away, the bags are to be handed out to ice fishermen/women when SDGFP Conservation Officers perform compliance checks. SDWF is proudly supporting and working with GFP to help remind those to "pack it out if you pack it in". The CO trainee in the picture is Page Trana with a resident angler from Armour, SD.

SD Wildlife Federation Donors

At the 2003 Winter Board Meeting, the SDWF Board created the SDWF Wildlife Legacy Council. The Council was created to allow recognition of the people who support SDWF above and beyond their membership and raffle donations.

Thank you to the following donors for their contributions to the SDWF. Please consider becoming a member of the Wildlife Legacy Council. SDWF is a 501(c3) non-profit, all donations are tax deductible. These tax-deductible contributions will speak volumes for the future of the SDWF's Wildlife Legacy Council! Please consider your donation today. Donations can be sent to SDWF, PO Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501.

The Legacy Council consists of five different donation levels. These donation levels were revised October 2011 to: Level V Eagle \$1,000 & above; Level IV Buffalo \$501 - \$999; Level III Elk \$301 - \$500; Level II Deer \$201 - \$300; and Level I Pheasant \$100 - \$200.

JANUARY 2019

LEVEL IV BUFFALO
BROOKINGS WILDLIFE
FEDERATION

LEVEL I PHEASANT
FREESE, MARK - SD
GERTSEN, GREG - SD
HOLM, DALE - SD

KASISCHKE, CAR - MI
KRETCHMAN, JIM - SD
KRODINGER, LAWRENCE - MO
LEPP, DONALD - SD
LEVISEN, ARLO - SD

MILLER, LARRY - SD
RUMPCA, HAL - SD
SIMPSON, JOHN - SD

NOV/DEC 2018

LEVEL V EAGLE
SCALET, CHUCK & GINGER - KS
LEVEL IV BUFFALO
ROMANS, JAY - NC
LEVEL III ELK
KROTH, CHAD - SD
RITER, JR., ROBERT - SD
LEVEL II DEER
COOPER, JOHN - SD
PESEK, RON - SD
SATHER, RODNEY - SD
WISWALL, F. HERBERT - SD

LEVEL I PHEASANT
AXLEN, GARY - WI
BODDICKER, LARRY - SD
BURNS, KENDALL - CA
CAMPBELL, STUART - SD
CARPENTER, DAVID - IN
CARTER, KEN - CA
CLEVERINGA, ERIC - SD
DEBOER, JAY - SD
DIELEMAN, GAIL - MN
ELBE, ROBERT - WI
FAST, DAVID - OH
GOEDE, DAN - SD

HAY, MARY & JERRY - WI
HEFFRON, GEORGE H. - CO
JOHNSON, DARRELL - SD
KEELER, CHUCK - MN
KOZEL, DOUGLAS - SD
KURTENBACH, AELRED - SD
LEMONDS, TOM - SD
LULEWICZ, JERRY - SD
MCMASTERS, LEIGH - SD
MESSERSCHMIDT, LOYAL - SD
MEYER, DAVID - NE
OLSON, MURDEAN - SD
PEDERSEN, JERALD - SD

POPOWSKI, JOHN - SD
RILEY, MIKE - MO
ROHRER, LARRY - IA
ROSE, TODD - SD
SATTLER, ARNOLD - SD
SKINNER, DREW - SD
WEST, JOHN - SD
WHEELER, STEPHEN J. - SD
WICKSTROM, GERALD - SD
WILLIAMS, DARLENE - SD
(IN MEMORY OF KEITH WILLIAMS)

OCTOBER 2018

LEVEL IV BUFFALO
STAMMER, MARLIN R - CA
LEVEL II DEER
HALLSTROM, KEN - SD
MILLER, RICHARD - SD
SCHERSCHLIGHT, JEFFRY - SD

LEVEL I PHEASANT
BROWN, ALLEN B. - SD
FOXWORTHY, ROBERT - KY
GILBERTSON, G. JOHN - MN
GOETSCH, HOWARD - CO
HAY, MARY & JERRY - WI

KERR, DAVID - IA
RILEY, MIKE - MO
SAMPSON, TERRY - SD
SWENSON, JOE - SD
TITZE, DENNIS - SD
VAGNEUR, JAMES - ND

WARE, WILLIAM - MS
WEISENBACH, RYAN - SD
WILDE, MIKE - SD

AUGUST 2018

LEVEL IV BUFFALO
WORDEN, JAMES - NE
LEVEL I PHEASANT
ADAMS, MEL - TN
AUCH, COREY - NE
BATCHELLER, TOM - SD

BEVERS, KIM - SD
BLACKBURN, JOHN - SD
BRAKEBUSH, CARL - WI
EDMAN, DON - FL
GREGORY, J.T. - GA
LEIMKUHL, RYAN - SD

LIAN, DALE - ND
MOSTAD, LAYNE - SD
MUNDON, KENT - SD
OLSEN, JOE - SD
PORTER, LESTER - TN
SIMON, DARREL - SD

SPEER, HOY - AR
THOMPSON, STEVE - SD
WAHL, STAN - SD
YONKOVICH, JACK - SD

JULY 2018

LEVEL V EAGLE
HIGH PLAINS WILDLIFE
ASSOCIATION - SD
LEVEL IV BUFFALO
Long, Joe - SD

LEVEL II DEER
CHRISTENSEN, DEAN - SD
HIX, DOUGLAS - ID
MADLAND, JON - SD
LEVEL I PHEASANT
BARTHOLOMEW, DON - AZ
BORING, W. HAROLD - GA

DIVICH, DUANE - TX
FUERST, KEVIN - SD
JOYCE, GARY - SD
KUCK, MICHAEL - SD
LEBEDA, CHARLES - SD
LIPP, NICKLAS - SD
MANNING, DAVID - MN

MCCARLSON, PAUL - SD
MCCLELLAN, JR.,
DR. HERBERT - SD
NITTEBERG, GALE - SD
PICKER, SCOTT - WI
THARES, JIM - SD

APRIL 2018

LEVEL IV BUFFALO
BERBERICH, STEVE - SD
LEVEL III ELK
BRICK, RICHARD - CA
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUND
BIG SIOUX CHPTR - SD

LEVEL II DEER
O'REILLY, LARRY - MO
LEVEL I PHEASANT
ANDRESEN, RICH - SD
BURNS, HOWARD - SD
CONNELL, CRAIG - SD
DAHLBERG, JIM - SD

DENISON, LARRY - VA
FREESE, MARK - SD
HOLM, DALE - SD
LAKE CAMBELL SPORTSMENS
& REC - SD
MORRIS, MEL - MI
PALMER, GARY - SD

PEDERSON, TIM - SD
PETTEBONE, MICHAEL - AZ
SAMPSON, TERRY - SD
SCOWLEY, JOHN - MO
VAA, SPENCER - SD

MARCH 2018

LEVEL III ELK
BRICK, RICHARD - CA

LEVEL I PHEASANT
EVANS, RALPH - FL
JOHNSON, ERIC - MN
JOHNSON, LYNN A - SD

KILBOURN, ROBERT - MI
KLUSMANN, JAY - SD
KOTECKI, DAVID - MI
LEVISEN, ARLO - SD

MEDEIROS, PAUL - CA
STULTS, MARK - SD

Sportsmen/women- Want to help fund SDWF and the Youth Conservation Camp plus reduce your taxes this year? Donate stocks and land to the SDWF. You not only won't have to pay taxes on those assets, you will pay less tax because of your generosity!

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION MOURNS LOSS OF CHAIRMAN DINGELL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The conservation movement, wildlife and the American people lost one of their greatest advocates with the passing of Congressman John Dingell, the National Wildlife Federation said today. Dingell, the longest serving member of Congress in U.S. history and a towering figure in conservation policy was a past recipient of the National Wildlife Federations' National Conservation Achievement Award.

"America has lost one of its all-time greatest conservation heroes and the National Wildlife Federation has lost one of its best friends," said Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. "From his days as a forest ranger to his 59 years in Congress, Chairman Dingell always spoke up for wildlife that couldn't speak for itself, passing more legislation for wildlife than any other lawmaker in our nation's history — including the bedrock Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Wilderness Act, National

Environmental Policy Act, Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and National Environmental Education Act — and children will experience the wonders of wildlife for centuries to come at his beloved Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The entire National Wildlife Federation family's prayers are with our dear friend, Debbie, and the entire Dingell family. Godspeed, Mr. Chairman."

"John Dingell was a conservation champion," said Mike Shriberg, executive director of the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Regional Center in Ann Arbor, Mich. "We are grateful for the Great Lakes and clean water he protected and the wildlife he conserved through his tireless public service. We will miss his wit, but his legacy will last for generations to come. We offer our deepest condolences to our friend, Rep. Debbie Dingell."

STATES REGULATE DRONE USE IN HUNTING

Drones are gaining in popularity. They are seeing increased use in commercial applications like real estate. And, even some use in law enforcement. But there is one thing many wildlife officials say drones shouldn't be used for... hunting. Wyoming just passed a restriction on drone use in hunting. Other states are considering proactive measures to maintain ethical hunting practices.

Andy Alban with South Dakota Game Fish and Parks says the state is aware of an increase in drone use. He says state law already prohibits both killing and tracking animals using aircraft, including drones. He says the GF&P reviewed this law a year ago. He adds that the state could expand drone regulations in the future.

"Any time that you have advancements in equipment or technology, a lot of times it's important that the regulations that go along with that are out there and sometimes in front of the increase in popularity so you're not trailing technology," says Alban.

Alban says western states like Wyoming and Colorado have passed specific restrictions on drones because they had no previous regulations on aircraft hunting. He adds that the Federal Aviation Administration also regulates drones.

Mark Holyoak with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation says that everyone should refer to the agencies in their respective states for drone regulation. Holyoak stresses that drones used for hunting purposes interfere with the ethical "fair chase" of hunting.

"When it comes to hunting, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation stands by and believes that ethical hunting is the way to go. We all have a pretty good idea of what that means, hunting within regulations that are outlined in different states, doing it in an ethical manner, having the utmost respect for game and other wildlife that's out there," says Holyoak.

Holyoak says drones have some positive use, but they should not be used to harass or hunt animals.

Sporting Groups Urge Swift Passage of Public Lands Package

S. 47 would reauthorize the expired Land and Water Conservation Fund (Editor's note; Both the Senate and House have passed this great Legislation, President Trump is expected to sign into law.)

Sportsmen and women are urging Congress to pass a comprehensive public lands and sportsmen's package of legislation, once and for all, after failing to do so for multiple terms in a row. Senate Bill 47 incorporates permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) along with a sportsmen's package which expands access for hunting and fishing, as well as provides protection for fish and wildlife habitat. Introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) on January 9, 2019, it could finally see a vote in the Senate this week.

"This Public Lands package is an incredible victory for the sporting community," said Aaron Kindle, senior manager of western sporting campaigns for the National Wildlife Federation. "It conserves both programs and lands we love and ensures sporting opportunities for years to come. We really need to see this package cross the finish and put a bow on many years of hard work".

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which used royalties from offshore energy development to acquire and develop outdoor recreation opportunities, expired in September, 2018.

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided outdoor opportunities to generations of hunters and anglers. It's time to ensure that future generations receive the same opportunities. Congress needs to pass S. 47 without delay to permanently re-

authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund," said George Meyer, executive director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

In addition to permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, S. 47 incorporates the WILD Act's innovative responses to conservation threats, while also expanding access for hunting, fishing and recreational shooting on federal public lands, recruiting and retaining more hunter-conservationists, and allowing the transport of archery equipment through national parks.

"The S. 47 package is a huge win for the sporting community, habitat and access," said Dwayne Meadows, executive director of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation. "I know Wyoming will certainly benefit."

The public lands package also protects 1.3 million acres of public land through wilderness designation in New Mexico and Utah, wild and scenic river designation and designation of a wild steelhead management area in Oregon, and a study of wildlife migration and habitat fragmentation in California.

"So much of our quality fishing, hunting and reliable access in Idaho relies on programs that require bipartisan support," said Brian Brooks, executive director of the Idaho Wildlife Federation. "This package is no different. It is a far-ranging, unique approach that is a special acknowledgement to public lands, wildlife and our sporting heritage."

2018 South Dakota Wildlife Federation's Custer State Park Buffalo Shoot

\$10 each or 3 for \$25

◆ Drawing to be held at Annual Convention, August 2019. Winner will receive \$3,300 cash and will need to apply to Custer State Park to enter the non-trophy buffalo lottery, or they may spend the money as they wish. If they draw a license, the cash prize should cover the cost of the license and included guided rifle or bow hunt in Custer State Park for the year in which they apply.

Void where prohibited by law. Your presence or contribution not necessary to win.

SDWF
PO Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 224-7524 • www.sdwf.org

2019 South Dakota Wildlife Federation's 21 Gun Giveaway

\$20 each

1. Browning X-bolt with Leopold 3-12x scope...stnd. cal.
2. Winchester XPR 6.5 Creedmore
3. Taurus Judge revolver.45/410
4. Glock 17 9mm
5. Ruger American rifle .270
6. Ruger LCP 9mm
7. S&W bodyguard .380
8. Savage Axis .308
9. Remington Super Mag12 ga.
10. Bennelli Nova20 ga.
11. Remington 597 Scoped .22 combo.22
12. DPMS Ar-15 style .223 cal.
13. Remington 870 Express 12 ga.
14. Ruger 77R 25.06
15. Savage 9317-DXP 17 cal
16. Bennelli Nova 20 ga.
17. Remington Exp. Super Mag.12 ga.
18. DPMS Ar-15 style .223 cal.
19. Savage 9317-DXP17 cal
20. Remington BDL.22-250
21. Remington 597 Scoped .22 combo.22

◆ One gun will be awarded for each 100 tickets sold.

◆ 21 guns will be awarded if 2,100 or more tickets are sold.

◆ SDWF reserves the right to offer a cash settlement or substitute a gun of equal or greater value.

***Drawing to be held at
Spring Board Meeting, May 2019.**

Void where prohibited by law. Your presence or contribution not necessary to win.

SDWF
PO Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 224-7524 • www.sdwf.org

2019 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

2019 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

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2019 SDWF 21 Gun Giveaway Ticket

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Please Write Legibly

2019 SDWF 21 Gun Giveaway Ticket

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Please Write Legibly

2019 SDWF 21 Gun Giveaway Ticket

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Please Write Legibly

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|--|-----------------|-------|
| 1 Year Membership @ \$20 | Total \$ | _____ |
| 1 Buffalo Shoot Ticket @ \$10 | Total \$ | _____ |
| 3 Buffalo Shoot Tickets @ \$25 | Total \$ | _____ |
| 21 Gun Giveaway Ticket @ \$20 ea. | Total \$ | _____ |
| 6 Buffalo Shoot Tickets and Membership @ \$45 | Total \$ | _____ |
| 6 Buffalo Shoot Tickets and 3 - 21 Gun Tickets @ \$90 | Total \$ | _____ |
| 6 Buffalo Shoot Tickets, 3 - 21 Gun Tickets and Membership @ \$100 | Total \$ | _____ |
| | Total \$ | _____ |

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Adult's Email Address _____

Credit Card # _____ Expire Date _____

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