



**TIPS**  
Turn In Poachers  
Call Toll Free

**APRIL**  
**2011**

**South Dakota**  
**Wildlife**  
**Federation**

[www.sdwf.org](http://www.sdwf.org)

# OUT OF DOORS

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

VOLUME 51, NUMBER 4

## Inside this issue:

### Page 2

2011 SDWF YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP

PHEASANT SEASON 'A REAL STRONG HARVEST'

### Page 3

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRESIDENT COLUMN

### Page 4

ROAD HUNTERS CAN STILL USE LEAD SHOT

AMENDMENT WOULD CHANGE STATE CONSTITUTION FOR HUNTING, FISHING IN NEB.

### Page 5

FUNDING SET BACK IN WAR ON COYOTES

CONSERVATION FUNDING TAKES A HIT IN WASHINGTON

### Page 8

LANDOWNER HUNTING RULES FACE GFP REVIEW

## The Law and Lead-Free

By Jeff Fletcher

*Re-printed with permission from; Shooting Sports Retailer*

Right up front, let us say that target shooters, competition shooters and firing range practice shooters have the least to worry about when using lead bullets. Sure, there are indications, i.e., scientific evidence, that lead residue in any form flies through the air unnoticed by shooters not involved in specific environmental research.

Think of it this way: The antithesis to Global Warming is Global Cooling. Thus: lead-bearing air (of the case in point) is the antithesis to purified air.

It all exists. The question really is how to manage it.

Anyone over the age of 20 remembers the controversy over switching from lead shot to steel shot used by waterfowl hunters. We railed at the thought of the feds banning lead shot over our deke sets. We claimed that steel would ruin our barrels, not shoot as far or as effective as lead. In retrospect, we weren't necessarily wrong. But what we didn't count on was an ammunition industry adept at not just overcoming such difficulties but in creating improved solutions that emphasized ammo performance over other so-called limiting factors.

So we reluctantly accepted the lawful judgment and moved on. Then came California's condors, followed by assorted raptors feeding on deer carcasses. The jig was up. Biologists got on their high horses and excoriated us into shameful guilt, exhorting us to switch rather than to fight the inevitable.

### The Lead Ban

In 1991, the federal government issued its infamous ban on lead shot for waterfowl hunting. Since then, some state and federal laws have been either issued or proposed to ban lead in all hunting ammunition. It's clear that such regulations are aimed at eliminating lead as a component of all ammo eventually, although such efforts at the federal level have been thwarted or tabled for the foreseeable future.

The ammunition industry, however, saw the writing on the wall and moved to emphasize other components to accentuate high performance, thus setting new standards that would trump further efforts at various attempts to ban ammunition altogether.

Gun control advocates have long sought new regulations on the use of ammo to counter the constitutionally protected use of firearms by American citizens. Those efforts have been largely unsuccessful, yet ammo makers have become sophisticated in both design and production of ammunition that is mostly far superior to common hunting uses of the past. Match quality, in other words, has become nearly standard for hunting as well as competition shooting and personal protection.

Most of the opposition to lead bullets came from a variety

of scientific studies that documented human health risks from lead fragments found in big game. Previous to those studies, lead discovered in California condors provided the first clues to effects on endangered species and other raptors far beyond waterfowl.

In February 2009, researchers at Boise State University in Idaho developed a hypothesis on studies showing elevated blood lead concentrations and retention of ammunition residues in whitetail deer.

### The (gulp!) Evidence

"Our objective," says their report, "was to determine the incidence and bioavailability of lead bullet fragments

in hunter-killed venison. We radiographed 30 eviscerated carcasses of White-tailed Deer shot by hunters with standard lead core, copper-jacketed bullets under normal hunting conditions. All carcasses showed metal fragments and widespread fragment dispersion. We took each carcass to a separate meat processor and fluoroscopically scanned the resulting meat packages; fluoroscopy revealed metal fragments in the ground meat packages of 24 (80%) of the 30 deer; 32% of 234 ground meat packages contained at

least one fragment. Fragments were identified as lead in 93% of 27 samples."

Research such as this has convinced several state wildlife departments to pursue their own regulations regarding lead ammunition.

The California Department of Fish and Game reported that "a higher percentage of hunters appear to be using non-lead ammunition in California under state regulations than the purported 70 percent of hunters in Arizona now using non-lead ammunition under that state's voluntary program."



Further information from the California-based Center for Biological Diversity (one of the petitioners to the EPA, who's pleadings were rejected by that federal agency) stated in a press release that "the state's non-lead bullets and shot made from copper and other materials are now widely available for big-game hunting in numerous calibers, and the shortages or prohibitive costs predicted by opponents of the regulations have not materialized."

Well, maybe. Ammo costs these days are widely considered near prohibitive, lead or no lead.

More than 150 types and calibers of non-lead rifle and pistol bullets and non-lead shot are available, and California Fish and Game has so far certified 17 ammunition manufacturers that provide non-lead ammunition suitable for use in the condor range. Significantly, Winchester Ammunition announced the availability last year of several new lead-free bullets in .22 caliber rimfire ammunition, widely used for shooting small game, plinking, and target practice, that were not previously available in non-lead.

Part Two Coming Next Month!

BARCODED FLATS

# 2011 SDWF YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP

The 2011 camp will run from June 5th through June 11th.

The 48th annual SDWF Conservation Camp is now in the planning stage. The 2011 camp will run from June 5th through June 11th. Young people from across South Dakota will be arriving at Camp Bob Marshall in the beautiful Black Hills. They will be learning about conservation and striking up new friendships. The 2010 Conservation Camp was well attended and the programs were well received by the delegates. It is our hope to repeat or surpass the 2010 event this year. With the help of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks personal, a unique opportunity is being planned for the young people of South Dakota.



conservation professionals the SDWF Conservation Camp is a unique opportunity. Any student, girls or boys, in 9th, 10th or 11th, or who has completed the 8th grade is eligible to attend camp. Interested young people can apply directly to a local sportsman's club in their area or to their local Soil Conservation District office.

For more information about how you or someone you know can attend the SDWF Youth Conservation Camp or to request a video presentation about the camp, contact Camp Director, Mike McKernan, PO Box 246, Murdo, SD 57559, phone 605-669-2829, e-mail hdmac@goldenwest.net or Chris Hesla, Executive Director, PO Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501, phone 605-224-7524.

Check us out on facebook – SDWF Youth Conservation Camp.

Fifth-highest harvest since 1963

If any of our readers know of young people who like the out of doors, hunting and fishing, or are interested in learning the message of

## Pheasant season 'a real strong harvest'

Pheasant hunters harvested about 1.8 million roosters in South Dakota during the 2010 season. Chad Switzer provided the estimate to the state Game, Fish and Parks Commission during the April Meeting recently held in Brandon. He said the number is preliminary but shouldn't change much when all hunter surveys have been completed.

"We have a very strong pheasant base out there. Our fall populations are most closely tied to reproduction," Wildlife Division Director Tony Leif said. "We have the base out there to produce another bumper crop of pheasants this fall."



The estimated harvest of 1,839,000 was the fifth-highest since 1963 and comes on the heels of 1,648,200 pheasants taken in 2009 and 1,933,200 in 2008. Those numbers tracked the population estimates of 9.9 million last year and 8.4 million in 2009 and 10.3 million in 2008. There were 72,551 South Dakotans and 100,200 non-residents who bought licenses for pheasant hunting last year.

The 2011 main season opens on the traditional third Saturday of October. That practice has been in place since 1958. A citizen asked the commission last month to look at moving the opening day to the Saturday closest to Oct. 15. The Wildlife Division staff presented an analysis to the commission. Leif said the division isn't recommending any change, and commissioners didn't express any interest in pursuing it.



Jeff Decker (L), President of Sioux Empire Area Chapter of South Dakota Walleye Unlimited (SDWU), Chris Hesla, Exec. Dir of South Dakota Wildlife Federation, and Rocky Niewenhuis, State Director of SDWU.

Presentation of \$500.00 donation to SDWF from the 3 chapters of SDWU for lobbying on behalf of all sports enthusiasts.

Questions? Answers? Wildlife blog at [sdwfcamo.net](http://sdwfcamo.net)



USPS 503-320  
ISSN 0883-6809



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

South Dakota Wildlife Federation OUT OF DOORS is the official monthly publication of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation (SDWF), a private, non-profit statewide organization of affiliated organizations and individuals incorporated under South Dakota laws. Subscription to this publication is through membership in the SDWF or direct contact with the SDWF, PO Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501. All communications regarding advertising, editorial, circulation and SDWF matters may be sent to SDWF OUT OF DOORS, PO Box 7075, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. Permission to reprint articles normally given providing proper credit is given the publication and author. Views expressed by free lance writers are their own and do not necessarily express those of the publication or the SDWF.

Printed by Curt Merriman Printing, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1046, 306 S. Coteau, Pierre, SD 57501  
Subscription Rate - \$10.00 per year or with membership in SDWF

Individual members devote approximately 40 cents of their annual dues for each copy of the newspaper. Entered as Periodicals Postage Paid at Pierre, SD 57501  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes  
SDWF, Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501

### 2010-2011 SDWF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Chris Hesla Phone 605-224-7524  
Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501  
E-Mail: sdwf@mncomm.com

PRESIDENT  
Bill Antonides 229-4712  
514 N. Arch Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401-2951  
E-Mail: billantonides@abe.midco.net

VICE PRESIDENTS  
Region 1 - Larry Thomas 350-9965  
1844 McClellan Drive, Huron, SD 57350-3825  
E-Mail: lthomas@huronsd.com

Region 2 - Rich Widman 692-7157  
929 8th Ave Ave., Brookings, SD 57006  
E-Mail: Widmanfinancial@swifetel.net

Region 3 - Dennis Skoog 432-4385  
15377 479th Ave., Milbank, SD 57252  
E-Mail: dmxxskoog@tnics.com

DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1 - Paul Vinatieri 348-3846  
516 South St., Rapid City, SD 57701  
E-Mail: pvinny4@hotmail.com

DISTRICT 2 - Norman Buxcel 843-2100  
25602 236th St., Okaton, SD 57562

DISTRICT 3 - Marc McClellan 845-3034  
PO Box 189, Mohrbridge, SD 57601  
E-Mail: mcccclan4@westriv.com

DISTRICT 4 - Tom Putzier 225-6600  
6324 Country Lane, Aberdeen, SD 57401  
E-Mail: putzier@nvc.net

DISTRICT 5 - Michael Gudmunson 882-4220  
2517 4th St. NE, Watertown, SD 57201

DISTRICT 6 - Charles Dieter 693-3123  
47135 203rd St., Brookings, SD 57006  
E-Mail: charles.dieter@sdstate.edu

DISTRICT 7 - Ross Jensen 325-1325  
605 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Huron, SD 57350  
E-Mail: rjensensd@hur.midco.net

DISTRICT 8 - Jerry Lulewicz 996-4750  
20 Arrowhead Pass, Mitchell, SD 57301  
E-Mail: jmlule@mitcheleltelecom.net

DISTRICT 9 - Mark Widman 361-9510  
7608 W. Lancaster St., Sioux Falls, SD 57016  
E-Mail: mwidman2@sio.midco.net

DISTRICT 10 - Ed Cook 885-6331  
105 Elm St., Houghton, SD 57449

DIRECTORS AT LARGE (Appointed)

- Allan Johnson 994-2283  
Box 97, Hecla, SD 57446  
E-Mail: grammaj@nvc.net
- Janice Nicolay 201-0955  
4041 Brant Lake Hill, Chester, SD 57016  
E-Mail: arniclori@nrctv.com
- Lori Goldade 225-7884  
12892 Fairfield Drive, Aberdeen, SD 57401  
E-Mail: amielori@nrctv.com

- Harvey Malon 343-2349  
6535 Westwind Dr. Rapid City, SD 57701  
E-Mail: hmalon@rap.midco.net
- Kenneth A. Schroeder, Jr. 348-9364  
23697 Mulligan Mile, Rapid City, SD 57702  
E-Mail: kennyschroeder@aol.com
- Maurice Olsen 342-9297  
4610 Carriage Hills Dr. Rapid City, SD 57702
- Terry Mayes 341-1568  
3203 Meadowbrook Dr. Rapid City, SD 57702  
E-Mail: tmayes@rap.midco.net
- IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - Rieck Eske 229-1743  
PO Box 46, Warner, SD, 57479  
E-Mail: riececke@gmail.com
- DELEGATE TO NWF - Lanny Thomas
- ALT. DELEGATE TO NWF - Rich Widman  
Secretary/Treasurer - Robert J. Jacobson
- NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
YOUTH CAMP DIRECTOR (Non-Board Member)  
Mike McKernan 669-2829  
612 S. Garfield, Murdo, SD 57559  
E-Mail: hdmac@wcnecet.com
- REGION NINE DIRECTOR - Gene Oglesby 402-476-3434  
650 J Street #400, Lincoln, NE 68508  
E-Mail: bkwtgo@aol.com
- NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - Jennifer Pelej 402-476-3434  
240 N Higgins, Missoula, MT 59802  
E-Mail: pelej@nwf.org
- SD Wild Grassland Coalition  
Cheryl Warren  
PO Box 572, Custer, SD 57730  
E-Mail: cwarren@gwtc.net
- SD Wild Grassland Coalition  
Sean Kittrell  
21857 Ingileif Lane, Nemo, SD 57759  
altheorte200@yahoo.com 605-578-1540

For All Your Advertising Needs Call: 605-224-7524 or Send To: Out of Doors • P.O. Box 7075 • Pierre, South Dakota 57501



I hope you all have a safe hunting season this Fall!

## Executive Director's Update *by Chris Hesla*

As you read this month's Out-of-Doors, the proposed Lead shot ban from Rights of Ways (ROWS) was and is a very big and cumbersome problem and it is something that is not going to go away and we as hunters, sportsmen/women need to address. I will continue to search out articles and science and will let each and everyone of you make your own mind up to do what is best for our environment and natural resources we all enjoy here in SD.

The following is the testimony that SDWF gave at last month's GF&P Commission meeting in response to the proposed Lead shot ban on ROWS;

SDWF does not disagree with nor challenge the toxicity of lead in the environment or the dangers to the predators and scavengers that feed on wounded and dead animals. Lead hazards have been proven many times in valid scientific studies.

Early in the 80's, many sportsmen/women fought over the decision to require steel shot when hunting waterfowl here in SD. The steel shot debate continues today and has sparked much interest in the recent proposal to ban lead shot in the road right-of-ways (ROWS). We believe the steel verses lead shot issue is much different today than in the 80's because of the commercially manufactured loads and performance of modern shot shells that are currently available. Also, the price difference is no longer an issue, as lead prices have gone up while steel has dropped.

The recent proposal by a landowner to the GF&P Commission to ban lead shot from road hunters in ROWS has opened many old wounds and is sparking much of the same old debates. The disappointing segment of the proposal currently being considered by the Commission is it only addresses the road hunter. The amount of lead shot deposited from road hunters is relatively

miniscule and I have not found any scientific studies on the impact of lead from road hunters to the environment or wildlife. I suspect that the shooting preserve industry in SD has far more lead deposition and negative impact due to the fact they hunt the same 1280 acres of land in the same manner day after day for a 7 month long season.

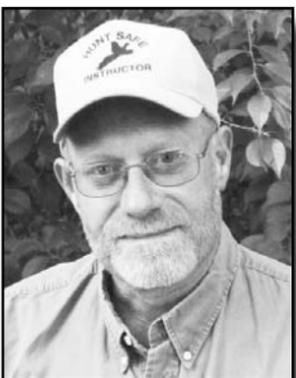
The current proposal looks to be another attempt to further restrict and ultimately eliminate road hunting in South Dakota

A ROW lead shot ban would bring major enforcement problems for our Conservation Officers. For instance, what about the blockers who use the ROWS to block for hunters on private lands? Or hunters driving from one field to another who might hunt on the road?

SDWF believes lead is a proven toxicant and needs to be eliminated from our environment. We are not sure if the sporting community as a whole understands or supports the same belief today. We need to further educate and advocate for a statewide lead shot ban. When we obtain a reasonable and informed consensus that lead shot truly needs to go, the state could implement the ban for a future season. This would give those of us who reload or have a large supply of lead shells the opportunity to use them up.

We believe removing lead shot from hunting is a good thing for the environment, wildlife and people. However, targeting it only for roadsides will result in a lot of pain for very little gain. Make it a statewide ban and be done with this highly divisive issue. If landowners want and will accept this, we will do our part. We are willing to work with the GF&P to help spread the word on lead shot.

Thank you all for what you do!



President,  
Bill Antonides

## President's Column *by Bill Antonides*

Holding a leadership role in the SDWF is never easy, and it became even more difficult this last month. A landowner asked the GFP commission to outlaw the use of lead shot when road hunting. He noted that many shots are fired every day over his land from road right-of-ways. In almost every case lead shot was deposited on his property.

The landowner said lead is very toxic to humans and killed millions of waterfowl per year at its peak, and can kill raptors and other upland game. He also said CRP concentrates wildlife on those acres, and lead deposits are very high from hunting done on road right-of-ways adjacent to those areas. He stated there are many rules controlling use of poison on private land, but he cannot keep lead off his property from road hunting activity. He feels this is a violation of his rights as a landowner and also thinks a ban on lead shot will protect wildlife.

Frankly, almost every single argument he made was correct, at least to a certain degree. Lead is an extremely toxic substance, and lead hazards have been proven many times in valid scientific studies. The SDWF does not disagree with nor challenge the toxicity of lead in the environment. We understand the dangers to predators and scavengers that feed on wounded and dead animals, and to birds which may pick up lead shot as grit. The SDWF believes the time has come for sportsmen to learn about the unintended consequences of using lead shot, and to do what they can to prevent this harm to our environment.

However, the proposal before the commission only addressed the road hunter. The amount of lead shot deposited from hunters who hunt the road right-of-way is relatively miniscule. It is reasonable to presume the private shooting preserve industry and fee-hunting areas in general have far more lead deposition and negative impact due to the fact they hunt the same land day after day. These fee-hunting operations have large numbers of pheasants, whether wild or released, which attract hawks and eagles looking for a source of easy food. If their prey happens to be a bird crippled by lead shot, the raptor may fall victim to its lunch. It is not just fee operations which contribute to the problem. In all probability, most lead shot on most private land comes from hunters on that land, not from road hunters.

The proposal, however well-intentioned it may have been, seemed to many sportsmen to be another attempt to further restrict and ultimately eliminate road right-of-way hunting in South Dakota. Some commercial operators have attempted to abolish road right-of-way hunting so they could eliminate competition from the average sportsman/woman who cannot afford commercial hunting fees. If you have any doubt, just drive around a few fee-hunting operations and see how many roads are closed or fenced, legally or not. Or take a look at the anti-road hunting legislation that has been proposed in the past or which we already have on the books.

The SDWF believes lead is a proven toxicant and needs to be eliminated from our environment to the greatest extent feasible. We believe removing lead shot from hunting is a good thing for wildlife and for people. However, not everyone agrees with this view. We need the backing of the sporting community and the majority of landowners before this can happen. Change will require extensive education, a willingness to truly look at the problem with an open mind, and a certain amount of sacrifice on the part of all sportsmen.

When we obtain a reasonable and informed consensus that lead shot truly needs to go, the state should implement the ban for all hunters, not just the very few who hunt road right-of-ways. If landowners and sportsmen truly want and will accept a ban on lead shot for hunting, we will do our part. We are willing to work with landowners, the GF&P, and all sportsmen to help spread the word on lead shot. It will not happen overnight, but when enough people are truly cognizant of the dangers associated with lead in our environment, it will happen.

Meanwhile, sportsmen have a tough decision. Do we continue with our traditional use of lead shot, or do we make the switch to non-toxic shot? Non-toxic shot may or may not be ballistically superior to lead, but it is effective, costs about the same, and once you have pulled the trigger, it is done killing. Lead can kill months or years after the shot is taken.

Are you just a hunter, or a true sportsman? Think about it. Educate yourself. Maybe we don't need a regulation...maybe we just all need to do the right thing.

## Road hunters can still use lead shot

A Bennett County landowner's proposal to ban the use of lead shot by hunters for shooting pheasants and other small game along public roadways in South Dakota was rejected recently by the state Game, Fish and Parks Commission.

The voice vote to deny the petition was unanimous. Commissioners made no public statements about it other than to discuss some procedural questions.

Lead shot already is banned in public hunting areas of South Dakota because of its toxic effects on animals and birds that ingest it, but lead shot has remained legal on private land and along public roads.

The state Division of Wildlife took a formal position against expanding the ban to roadways, citing a lack of specific evidence — scientific or anecdotal — about the impact on wildlife from lead shot landing in road ditches. "We as an agency are a science-based agency," Wildlife Division Director Tony Leif said. He said the division agrees lead is a toxin and is interested in gathering information about how much lead is deposited by shooters, how much lead is ingested by pheasants and what the effects are.

Martin Vanderploeg, of Martin, filed the rule-change request. He said in a letter that he has found lead in his tree belts. "It is coming from the road hunting and lead is accumulating on my property," he said.

Executive Director Chris Hesla said the South Dakota Wildlife Federation doesn't dispute the toxicity of lead but said the proposal is disappointing because it would affect only road hunters. He said use of lead shot at hunting preserves, which

would remain legal, is probably far more damaging to wildlife than in road ditches.

Hesla said the federation's position is that banning lead shot statewide would be "a good thing." He suggested the commission should set the ban for a future season so that hunters would have time to use up their existing supplies of lead.

Among others who testified against the ban was David Thill, of Mitchell. "It seems that only a small minority are being looked after here," he said. Thill said he likes walking down the road with his dog and his old double-barreled shotgun along his property down in the James River valley. He'd like his grandchildren to be able to enjoy it, too. "How long before more restrictions follow?" he asked.

Supporters of banning lead shot in public rights of way frequently in their written comments said lead shot is dangerous to wildlife, which is why lead has been banned on public grounds in South Dakota and nationwide for waterfowl hunting. Several also said landowners' rights should be protected.

Opponents described the ban as an attempt to hinder road-hunting of pheasants. Many said steel shot isn't as effective as lead shot and steel shot is harder on barrels of older shotguns.

Some also pointed out that pheasant hunters serving as blockers at the ends of fields often are in road ditches and would need to use steel shot even though the main hunt was on private land. Others cited potential difficulties that conservation officers could face trying to enforce the ban.

*"We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations, the important thing is not to achieve but to strive."*

*From A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold*

## Amendment would change state constitution for hunting, fishing in Neb.

Senators began debate Thursday on a constitutional amendment that would make hunting, fishing and trapping a right in Nebraska.

Lincoln Sen. Amanda McGill quickly threw an amendment onto the bill to add a list of other "rights" Nebraskans should have, including the rights to swim, farm, ranch, drive, boat, nap, camp and watch Husker football.

Someone else suggested adding the right to wrestle at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

McGill said she offered her amendment to make the point that Omaha Sen. Pete Pirsch's proposal (LR40CA) does not rise to the level of what should be placed in Nebraska's "sacred document."

There is no threat to fishing and hunting in Nebraska, she said.

The idea of a constitutional amendment has been around a few years. Protection of hunting, fishing and trapping was introduced in the Legislature in 2004 by Sen. Ed Schrock of Elm Creek, and carried over to the 2005 session. That attempt at a constitutional amendment was filibustered by Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers, who filed more than 30 amendments on the bill.

It eventually died.

"We should not befool the constitution of this state with frivolity, with triviality," Chambers said as he began his filibuster in the 2005 session.

This state is not going to ban trapping, hunting and fishing, he told them.

He assured senators "there are not all these radical, extremist environmentalists hiding under beds, waiting to jump out and turn Nebraska into a place where the air is fresh, waters are clean, and where the pollution caused by huge feedlots will be done away with."

But Pirsch said there is a "clear and realistic" reason for concern that fringe groups want to stop all hunting, fishing and trapping. He did not name those groups, but he is talking about the Humane Society of the United States, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and others.

Pirsch's proposal was a simple one to begin with, but he filed an amendment to say hunting, fishing and harvesting wildlife would include those by traditional methods, subject only to laws, rules and regulations that promote wildlife conservation and management and preserve the future of hunting.

Pirsch said the state, with 280,000 sportsmen, benefited economically from hunting and

fishing, with \$480 million spent annually to support 8,500 jobs, \$238 million in salaries and \$54 million in state and local taxes.

Those outdoor sports have a \$746 million ripple effect on the economy, he said.

Fourteen other states have such protective language for hunting and fishing, he said.

If passed, the constitutional amendment would be voted on in November 2012.



There is no threat to fishing and hunting in Nebraska

# Funding set back in war on coyotes

Rapid City Journal

The state Game, Fish & Parks Department might have to increase its predator-control work if federal officials follow through on a plan to eliminate an aerial hunting program in western South Dakota.

The expected loss of more than \$500,000 in funds earmarked for aerial hunting could permanently ground a federal airplane, pilot and gunner operating out of Spearfish and a federal gunner and contract pilot and plane in Bison and eliminate a program supervisor in Pierre.

That is a hit that will go beyond the federal program operated by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It will hit hard at vulnerable livestock producers and put more pressure on state wildlife-damage control work, said GF&P regional game manager John Kanta of Rapid City.

"That makes our job a lot tougher in helping livestock producers out there protect their livestock," Kanta said. "That aerial program was an essential part of the livestock-damage program. This will be a big hit for us."

Losing the federal planes and gunners will add to the chores of state trappers -- now called wildlife damage specialists -- to kill coyotes that attack lambs and calves on West River ranches. It also could put the state back in the aerial-hunting business on a limited basis, by contracting with private pilots and gunners.

"We're in meetings now and discussions to figure out exactly what we are going to do," said Keith Fisk, wildlife damage program coordinator for GF&P in Pierre. "It sounds like we'll continue to operate some level of aerial service on a very limited basis."

Pilots also will continue to fly in parts of northwest South Dakota sheep country through an aerial hunting program operated by a multi-county predator control district. But the funding constraints there limit the amount of aerial hunting pilots can do.

"That federal plane did us a lot of good in Harding County and Butte County and the surrounding counties," said Clark Blake, a rancher and aerial hunter for the predator-control district. "It's going to be a big blow if we lose that. I don't know how our district could make up for it."



Fisk is still hoping that some -- or all -- of the federal funding will be restored, either by congressional action or by shifting resources in the U.S. Department of Agriculture budget. But as the budget struggles intensify in Congress, GF&P is looking for money in its own budget to add more to its existing predator-control program.

GF&P phased out its own aerial hunting program several years ago, leaving the air war to federal and predator-control district planes and focusing on ground control by its staff of trappers. Using traps, guns and other techniques, the wildlife damage specialists respond to predation complaints from sheep and cattle producers and attempt to locate and kill the specific coyotes that are attacking livestock.

GF&P has 24 wildlife damage specialists statewide and seven in GF&P's Region 1, which includes about the western one-third of South Dakota. The animal damage control program spends more than \$1 million a year statewide, including control efforts

on coyotes, foxes and other predators, as well as other problem animals such as prairie dogs.

About \$300,000 of GF&P's ADC budget comes from an assessment on county taxpayers, based on the number of cattle and sheep in the county. GF&P matches that money on a 2-to-1 basis. The state agriculture department contributes a smaller amount to the program.

Kanta said he and regional supervisor Mike Kintigh are looking for ways to save

money elsewhere in the budget so more can be spent on predator control.

That could include reducing the personal assistance that GF&P wildlife damage specialists can offer people dealing with nuisance animals, such as beavers, skunks and raccoons.

"We may look at cutting that nuisance work, maybe going to more of an Extension-service format that tells people how to take care of the problem," Kanta said. "Mike and I are looking at what we can cut from our program to allow some extra funding for aerial hunting on a contract basis."

They haven't yet given up hope completely that the federal program will lift off again, however.

"Of course, Congress is tackling the budget issue," Kanta said. "There still might be a glimmer of hope

"That makes our job a lot tougher in helping livestock producers out there protect their livestock,"

# Conservation funding takes a hit in Washington

John Pollmann, Sioux Falls Argus Leader

If the first rumblings of budget debate coming out of Washington, D.C., are any indication of what to expect in 2011 and beyond, one thing seems to be crystal clear: conservation and natural resource management programs are on the chopping block. Recent budget action in both the House and the Senate includes crippling cuts to a variety of programs, including eliminating funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and State and Tribal Wildlife Grants and a \$37 million cut to the operational budget of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Brad Redlin, Agricultural Program Director for the Izaak Walton League, says the cuts directed at programs vital for providing public hunting and fishing access, habitat restoration and protection, water quality and flood mitigation are coming from all corners of the political world.

"Conservation has a complete bull's-eye - a laser-guided target - on it in both the House budget and the continuing resolutions in the Senate," said Redlin. "And the Obama administration has included cuts to conservation spending in every budget they've submitted since they've been in the White House." Redlin also says that those slashing the budget knife have even cleaved

into discretionary spending dollars used to fund conservation programs found in the Farm Bill, which includes the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

No single conservation program has had more of an impact on South Dakota over the past 25 years than CRP, Redlin said, but he is not overly optimistic about the future of that and others found under that title. "In this budget-cutting environment, it is going to be incredibly difficult to maintain the current level of conservation programs provided by the Farm Bill," said Redlin. Redlin expects to see a move toward combining conservation programs, a concept that he has heard discussed repeatedly by members of both political parties during his recent visits to Capitol Hill.

In and of itself, Redlin says that isn't necessarily a bad idea, but the proposals are not being made in an effort to maintain or increase investments in those programs; rather, the goal is to combine and cut funding levels. The current resolution to fund federal government programs expires on April 8, at which time federal lawmakers will make some big decisions on what stays and what goes.

Continued on Page 7

# 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: Level V Eagle \$1,000 & Above; Level IV Buffalo \$500 - \$999; Level III Elk \$250 - \$499; Level II Deer \$100 - \$249; and Level I Pheasant \$50 - \$99.

## March 2011

### LEVEL V EAGLE

BEADLE CO. SPORTSMAN'S CLUB - SD  
HIGH PLAINS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION - SD

### LEVEL IV BUFFALO

BLACK HILLS SPORTSMAN CLUB - SD  
BROOKINGS WILDLIFE FEDERATION - SD  
LEE, KARL O. - SD  
SD WALLEYE UNLIMITED - SD

### LEVEL III ELK

29-90 SPORTSMAN'S CLUB - SD  
HECLA COMMUNITY SPORTSMEN - SD  
JOHNSON, ERIC - MN  
PHEASANTS FOREVER NORTHERN OAHE CHAPTER - SD  
LEVEL II DEER  
ANDRESEN, RICH - SD  
BRICK, RICHARD - CA  
DENISON, LARRY - VA

JUNGERS, ROMAN - WI  
KRETCHMAN, JIM - SD  
MADLAND, JON - SD  
MADSEN, CARL - SD  
NORDBY, DAVID O. - CA

### LEVEL I PHEASANT

AKKERMAN, STEPHEN - MN  
BAGAU, TERRY - MN  
BAKER, FRED - OH  
BALKEN, DUWAYNE - MN  
BROWN, ALLEN B. - SD  
FARMERS STATE BANK - SD

GAGEBY, CHARLES - SD  
HOFTIEZER, GREG - SD  
LIPPINCOTT, ROB - TX  
MATOUSEK, WILLIAM - SD  
PICEK, LARRY - SD  
PICKART, PHILLIP - SD  
QUAIL, TONY - SD  
ZAJECHOWSKI, JOHN - WI  
ZIMMERMAN, HERB - CO

## February 2011

### LEVEL III ELK

STAMMER, MARLIN - CA

### LEVEL II DEER

CAMPBELL, STUART - SD

DIVICH, DUANE - TX  
DONOVAN, JR., JOHN - SD  
HEMPEL, TODD - SD  
LEVISEN, ARLO - SD

PESEK, RON - SD

### LEVEL I PHEASANT

ANDERSON, JR., RALPH - NE  
BORMANN, DANIEL - WI

DRAKE, ROBERT - SD  
EVANS, RALPH - FL  
PAHL, RUSSELL - SD

## January 2011

### LEVEL IV BUFFALO

OLSON, DR. JEFF - SD

### LEVEL II DEER

ABDALLAH, GENE - SD  
McCARLSON, PAUL - SD  
McCARTHY PROPERTIES - SD

PARCEL, KERRY - SD  
WIDMAN, MARK - SD

### LEVEL I PHEASANT

GILBERT, DAVE - SD

PARR, MARK - SD  
RUMPCA, HAL - SD

## December 2010

### LEVEL III ELK

SCHROEDER JR, KENNETH - SD

### LEVEL II DEER

COOPER, JOHN - SD  
DeBOER, JAY - SD

PEDERSON, TIM - SD

### LEVEL I PHEASANT

MEDEIROS, PAUL - CA

MILLER, O. LARRY - SD

## November 2010

### LEVEL II DEER

GOGGINS, ROBERT - MN  
GREENWOOD, KEN - OK  
MCGARRY, PAT - SD

### LEVEL I PHEASANT

ANTONIDES, BILL & LILA - SD  
HEFFRON, GEORGE H. - CO  
KUCSMA, GEORGE - OH

METRY, MARK - WI  
NEISSL, JR., E.J. - AR  
O'KEEFE, DAN - MN  
STREETER, DONALD - FL

WALDRON, HOWARD - MA

## October 2010

### LEVEL II DEER

DRESSING, BRIAN - SD  
GILBERT, JAMES - CA  
MCMASTERS, LEIGH - SD  
NORDBY, DAVID - UK

SATTLER, ARNOLD - SD  
WISWALL, BRIAN T. - SD

### LEVEL I PHEASANT

BIRKELAND, DEAN - MN  
BROWN, MARK - VA

BURNS, KENDALL - CA  
CHICKERING, JOHN - MI  
GRENZ, JOHN - SD  
HOCH, JAMES - CA  
LARSON, SCOTT - SD

MANNING, DAVID - MN  
MUNDON, KENT - SD  
MURRA, PAM & VERN - SD  
SCHMID, JOHN - CO

## September 2010

### LEVEL IV BUFFALO

BLOCK, STEVE - WA

### LEVEL II DEER

BORING, W. HAROLD - GA  
GREENWOOD, KEN - OK

HAY, MARY & JERRY - WI  
JOHNSON, DARRELL - SD  
SCHEURENBRAND, BRUCE - CA  
TOSCANA, VIC - SD

### LEVEL I PHEASANT

ENGBRITSON, SCOTT - MO  
HELLEBUSCH, JIM - MO  
KOLBECK, RON - SD  
LAMBERT, MERLYN - CO

LARSON, GREG - SD  
LOWE, STEVEN - MI  
METCALF, ROBERT - MN  
RILEY, MIKE - MO  
SCHRADER, ERIC - MN

## August 2010

### LEVEL III ELK

RAINEY, TIMOTHY - MN

### LEVEL II DEER

ADAMS, MEL - TN  
BISGARD, CURT - SD

FINNEGAN, MICHAEL - SD  
MUDD, WILLIAM - KY  
ROLLINS, WAYNE - NC

### LEVEL I PHEASANT

CASLER, DAVID - MO

DUDA, MARK - CO  
DILLON, JOHN - UT  
FISCHER, JIM - IA  
GAALSWYK, NEAL - MN  
LECKEY, WAYNE - IL

LYONS, PAT - SD  
NELSON, LAWRENCE - SD  
PROKOP, PETER - MI  
WILDMAN, DENNY - OH

## July 2010

### LEVEL IV BUFFALO

WORDEN II, JAMES - CA

### LEVEL III ELK

HALLSTROM, KENNETH - SD  
LEMONDS, JIM - SD  
MCCLELLAN, JR., DR. HERBERT - SD

SCHERSCHLIGT, JEFFREY - SD  
SEELEY, GARY - KS

### LEVEL II DEER

BEALKA, ROBERT - WI  
BUZZELL, MANNY - TN  
CHAPMAN, JOHN - PA  
EISENBEISZ, LARRY - MN  
GREEN HILLS CONSULT. - MN

HEEDUM, ROGER - NE  
KIEFT, LARRY - MI  
KNUDSON, DAVE - SD  
KUHL, THOMAS - NV  
LOUCKS, JEROME - AZ  
MCMAHON, RANDALL - WI  
MOHS, GERALD - ND  
RANEY, THOMAS - KS  
SCHUBAUER, DAVID - SD  
WARE, WILLIAM - MS  
WILMS, DALE - CA  
WILSON, JR., ROBERT A. - CA

### (Memorial for Robert)

WINTER BROS. UNDERGROUND - SD

ZOELNER, KENNETH - CA

### LEVEL I PHEASANT

BURTON, DON - CO  
CAPUTA, EDWARD - MN  
COMSTOCK, FRAN - MI  
(Memorial for Fran)  
DOMEIER, TED - MN  
DOMINIANI, DAVID - NE  
FEWELL, KENT - MO  
GROSSLEIN, ROBERT - MN  
HALL, SHAWN - WY  
HOWELL, TOMMY - MI  
KEELER, CHARLES - MN  
KERN, LARRY - MN  
KETTER, JEFFREY - WI

LICKTEIG, CRAIG - SD  
LIVINGSTON, LARRY - CO  
LOOS, PAUL - MI  
LUTZ, BOB - MT  
MCMANNIS, GENE - NJ  
MEYERS, RICHARD B. - OH  
PARKIN, NORMAN - CA  
PAUL, K-LYNN - SD  
PAXTON, GARY - OK  
SIMON, DARREL - SD  
SPEER, JR., HOY - AR  
STRANDELL, JOHN - MN  
WALKER, JIM - ID

## June 2010

### LEVEL V EAGLE

ROBERTS, STEVEN - MN

### LEVEL IV BUFFALO

SCALET, CHUCK & GINGER - SD  
THE SPORTSMAN'S CLUB OF BROWN COUNTY - SD

### LEVEL III ELK

OLSON, TERRY - SC  
SAMPSON, TERRY - SD

WILSON, JR., ROBERT A. - CA

### (Memorial for Robert)

### LEVEL II DEER

BELL, III, HARRY - MS  
BUXCEL, NORMAN - SD  
LEVEL I PHEASANT  
BLACKBURN, JOHN - SD

SMITH, DR. PATRICK - MI  
SWEDLUND, KEN - SD

BURNS, HOWARD - SD  
CONROY, JOE - MN  
DENNIS, JACK - NV  
EDER, PHIL - MN  
FULLER, LESLIE - AL  
GILBERT, DAVE - SD  
GRIFFIN, JOHN - OK

### LEVEL I PHEASANT

TRAVERS, MD, HENRY - SD  
WEISENBURGER, ROBERT - MI

HALVERSON, KENNETH - SD  
HEIM, MERRILL - SD  
KLUNDT, SCOTT - SD  
KUCK, MICHAEL - SD  
MILLER, RICHARD - SD  
NELSON, GERALD - MN  
OLSON, JEFF - SD

## May 2010

### LEVEL III ELK

JOHNSON, VIRGIL - SD  
OAHE SPORTSMAN CLUB - SD  
ROCKY MTN ELK, BIG SIOUX CHAPTER - SD

### LEVEL II DEER

FELL, TOM - AL  
MADSEN, ROYCE - SD  
WHEELER, STEPHEN J. - SD

### LEVEL I PHEASANT

ABELN, DAVID - SD  
CLEMENS, MIKE - SD  
GAGEBY, CHARLES - SD  
HATCH, DUANE - SD

HEPPER, GREGORY - SD  
MATSUKAGE, FAY - CO  
POLENZ, ALLAN - OR  
ROBERTS, TOM - SD

## April 2010

### LEVEL III ELK

3M FOUNDATION - SD  
KOCVARA, FRANK - NV  
STADTFELD, CRAIG - SD

### LEVEL II DEER

BRENEISER, THOMAS - MI  
CAMPBELL, STUART - SD  
CONNELL, CRAIG - SD  
DENISON, LARRY - VA  
FENSTRA, HARRY - MN  
FLINT, FORREST - MN  
GOGGINS, ROBERT - MN  
GRASS LAKE CONS CLUB - SD  
HALL, CARL W - KY  
HECLA SPORTSMAN CLUB - SD  
HONEYCUTT, BILL - MO  
LEE, KARL O. - SD

LINDNER, RONALD - SD  
MADLAND, JON - SD  
MCMASTERS, LEIGH - SD  
METTE, LARRY - SD  
O'REILLY, LARRY - MO  
SCOTT, STEVE - SD  
WELCH, HARVEY - IL

### LEVEL I PHEASANT

ANDERSON, JR., RALPH - NE  
BAGAU, TERRY - MN  
BLASKA, DUANE - MN  
BOHLEN, EARL - SD  
BROWN, ALLEN B. - SD  
BURTON, DON - CO  
CAREY, ROBERT - OH  
CHRISTOPHERSON, M.E. - SC  
DIELEMAN, GAIL - MN

ELBE, ROBERT - WI  
EVANS, RALPH - FL  
FARMERS STATE BANK - SD  
FICK, HAROLD - CA  
FREESE, MARK - SD  
GEBHART, RONALD - AK  
HEFFRON, GEORGE - CO  
HEX, DOUGLAS - ID  
HOFTIEZER, GREG - SD  
HOWELL, TOMMY - MI  
JAFFREY, DR. BRETT - TN  
KIRCHGASLER, ARTHUR - SD  
KURTENBACH, AELRED - SD  
LINTON, RODNEY - IL  
MCQUEARY, PETER - TX  
MELBY, DAVID - MN  
MORRIS, MEL - MI

MURPHY, KIRK - SD  
O'BRIEN, SCOTT - FL  
O'CONNELL, ANDREW - MN  
PICKER, SCOTT - WI  
PLETZKE, DANIEL - MI  
RITER, JR., ROBERT - SD  
ROKUSEK, CHARLIE - SD  
SNAZA, ANTHONY - NY  
VAN MAANEN, TODD - SD  
WARE, BEN - NC  
WHITE, JIM - SD  
ZAJECHOWSKI, JOHN - WI  
ZIMMERMAN, HERB - CO  
ZLONIS, JEFF - MN

“It is foolish to regard proper game-laws as undemocratic, un-republican. On the contrary, they are essentially in the interests of the people as whole, because it is only through their enactment and enforcement that the people as a whole can preserve the game and can prevent its becoming purely the property of the rich, who are able to create and maintain extensive private preserves. The wealthy man can get hunting anyhow, but the man of small means is dependent solely upon wise and well-executed game laws for his enjoyment of the sturdy pleasure of the chase.”

~Teddy Roosevelt

“God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools.”

~John Muir- 1838-1914-  
Naturalist and Founder of the  
Sierra Club



**1.888.OVERBAG**  
**(683.7224)**

Continued from Page 5

Redlin believes the writing is on the wall.

"Absolutely, there will be fewer conservation dollars on the ground protecting water and habitat," said Redlin. "Cut federal waste, but leave the good alone" That conservation programs would see budget reductions for 2011 and 2012 was widely understood to be a certainty among those who manage natural resources.

But it has been the degree of assault on federal dollars marked for the protection of isolated wetlands - particularly those found here in South Dakota - that has caught many conservation leaders off-guard. Shortly after the House Appropriations Committee released recommendations for the 2011 fiscal budget and President Obama released his fiscal 2012 budget recommendations, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution printed a letter written by Ducks Unlimited CEO Dale Hall, who shared his frustration at the \$2 billion in proposed cuts affecting wetlands conservation.

"I am extremely disappointed with the approach taken (in the House) to eliminate conservation programs, such as the North American Wetland Conservation Act grants, that have proven successful at every level of analysis, including the amount of money returned to the federal treasury through taxes each year," wrote Hall. Figures provided by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership show that the federal government spends approximately \$5 billion annually on conservation programs but receives nearly \$14 billion in taxes from related outdoor industries and individuals. It is a return on investment that Hall says is too large to ignore.

"Finding ways to reduce the massive federal deficit simply must be done," concluded Hall. "But in doing so, let's make sure to support those federal investments that pay for themselves several times over — and be critical of those that are truly wasteful." Jim Ringelman is

Ducks Unlimited's director of conservation for the Dakotas and Montana and adds that those cuts to NAWCA, as proposed by the House, would be especially damaging to the wetlands and surrounding grasslands found within the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of South Dakota.

"The Prairie Pothole Region is really a focus of a lot of activity by NAWCA," said Ringelman. "The wetlands here make it the center of the duck factory and are vitally important for other wetland dependent birds." Ringelman explains that the North American Wetlands Conservation Act helps leverage non-federal funding to implement wetlands conservation projects. In the past 20 years, NAWCA has generated more than \$3 billion in funding for wetlands restoration, helping conserve more

than 20 million acres of habitat. Studies by Ducks Unlimited have shown that the majority of the nation's ducks are hatched within the boundaries of the PPR, which stretches from the Dakotas into eastern Montana and into Canada. And with mounting pressure to convert grasslands and drain isolated wetlands, Ringelman says that you can't over-emphasize the importance of federal programs that work with private landowners to protect these remaining acres of nesting habitat.

Ringelman also points to the importance of healthy grasslands and wetlands in terms of water quality and flood mitigation - benefits not always considered when budgets are trimmed at the federal level. "This is no small deal, when you think of the benefits provided by these acres of grass and wetlands," said Ringelman. "I think these cuts are extremely shortsighted."

#### Federal budget cuts would hurt hunting, fishing

Several national and Montana sportsmen groups are deeply concerned about proposed funding cuts to conservation and wildlife management programs that they feel threaten hunting and fishing access and opportunity. Representatives from prominent sportsmen groups held a telephone conference on Wednesday to answer reporters' questions and offer their unique perspective on the proposed budget cuts included in HR 1, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on February 19, 2011. "Finding ways to reduce the massive federal deficit simply must be done. But in doing so, let's make sure to support those federal investments that pay for themselves several times over — and be critical of those that are truly wasteful," commented Dale Hall, President and CEO of Ducks Unlimited, Inc. "Conservation has always, and continues to, pay for itself. Congress and the administration should approach the budget challenge with facts and analyses, not a meat cleaver." Some of the programs slated for dramatic cuts or elimination include the North American Wetlands Conservation

Fund, Farm Bill conservation programs, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, the Clean Water Act, and more. These programs not only protect hunting and fishing access for sportsmen and women, but they are also foundational to fish and wildlife habitat conservation and stimulate local economies by creating jobs, particularly in rural communities. "Sportsmen and women depend on having places to go to hunt and fish. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been instrumental in providing these opportunities and with reliable funding in the future could go even further to ensure access to existing public lands, making public lands public," said Ben Lamb of the Montana Wildlife Federation. "However the cut of nearly 90% of the program's funding as proposed in HR 1 will dismantle the program. It is critical to note that LWCF is not taxpayer funded but rather paid for as a conservation offset through a small portion of receipts collected from offshore oil and gas drilling in federal waters." Congress returned to session this week and will attempt to negotiate the final budget before the most recent continuing resolution expires on April 8. Conservation leaders issued the following statements expressing concern about cuts to the conservation programs: "AFFTA sees these conservation programs as critical economic drivers for our businesses and customers. As small businesses fueling America's \$42-billion fishing industry, conservation is critical to the economic activity generated by our industry." Randi Swisher, President, American Fly Fishing Trade Association "What makes these budget cuts unfair is that many of the fishery and water conservation programs slated for cuts or elimination in H.R.1 are matched with state and local funding providing a significant return on federal dollar investment. In addition, many of these programs are supported by volunteers in communities across our Nation who give their time and expertise to ensure that our fisheries remain healthy and abundant so future generations can

enjoy recreational fishing." Gordon Robertson, Vice President, American Sportfishing Association. "Tens of thousands of species, more than 90 percent of our nation's fish and wildlife that is typically neither hunted nor fished, is put at risk without funding to conserve them on public and private lands. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program has been an important source of funds to help keep America's common species common and off the endangered species list by proactively conserving wildlife before they become too rare and costly to protect with last-ditch efforts." Mark Humpert, Director of Wildlife Policy and Science, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. "Theodore Roosevelt is rolling over in his grave at the prospects of the dismantling of our

conservation framework, under the smokescreen of deficit reduction. This is clearly an end run at sensible fish and wildlife conservation." Jim Martin, Conservation Director, Berkley Conservation Institute. "Sportsmen and women support wildlife management in the United States and pump nearly \$200 billion a year into state and local economies, yet Congress is making wholesale cuts to conservation in a way that jeopardizes our opportunities in the field and the economies and management activities we support." Gaspar Perricone, Co-Director Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance "Conservation funding by Congress is critical to funding on the ground projects. Many of the conservation budget cuts are in programs that are matched several times over by conservation groups, state and local agencies as well as private landowners." Miles Moretti, President & CEO, Mule Deer Foundation. A hundred years ago pioneers crossed this country nourishing themselves on the millions of native grouse they encountered everywhere in their travels. Today, many are candidates for the Endangered Species Act and are extremely dependent on the lands administered and helped by these conservation programs. Eliminating or diminishing support for these lands will threaten this American cultural heritage as well as sportsmen's opportunities and the considerable dollars sportsmen bring to the table for conservation." Ralph Rogers, President North American Grouse Partnership "During a time when Americans are increasingly losing access to traditional places to hunt and fish, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund plays a critical role in securing lands that allow sportsmen to continue to follow our passions. The LWCF helps create more public lands by working with willing sellers of private lands — such as in



# Landowner hunting rules face GFP review

The state Game, Fish and Parks Commission is considering changes in its system that gives preferential treatment to agricultural landowners and tenants for obtaining hunting licenses for deer and antelope in South Dakota. The commission's proposed rule changes would add a specific reference to tenants so as to clarify the practice of giving preference to tenants has been legal. This change was suggested by Jim McMahon, of Canton, the one lawyer on the commission and a former U.S. attorney for South Dakota.

Other modifications would further clarify that a landowner or tenant but not both could receive preference for the same qualifying property. And the definition of landowner would include various business-interest relationships, covering shareholders of a corporation, members of a limited liability company holding a membership interest in the company, partners in a partnership, and beneficiaries of a trust. To get preference those business people would need to be residents of South Dakota and have responsibility for making the management decisions for agricultural purposes on the farm or ranch. The current standard would remain intact that the property has to be at least 160 acres located within the hunting unit as drawn by GFP and used for agricultural purposes. Up to half of the licenses available for in each firearms-hunting unit for East River deer, West River prairie deer and antelope seasons are set aside first for applicants who qualify under the landowner-preference rules. The remaining licenses are allocated under GFP's lottery system. The commission also wants to add rules defining agricultural purposes as "the producing, raising, growing, or harvesting of food or fiber upon agricultural land, including dairy products, livestock, crops, timber and grasslands." The proposed definition would further state, "Land leased solely for hunting, fishing or trapping is not considered 'agricultural purposes.'" Definitions of "operate" and "owner-operator" also would be added to the rules. A public hearing on the proposed changes is set for the commission's next meeting May 5 in Custer State Park

The current approach to landowner preference was developed by the Legislature in 1981 and refined at various times since then to help balance hunting opportunities between sportsmen and agricultural producers whose land and crops support wildlife.

### 2010/2011 South Dakota Wildlife Federation's Custer State Park Buffalo Shoot

**\$10 each or 3 for \$25**

#### Winner's Choice Of:

- ◆ A guided buffalo shoot during the 2011 Fall Season. Rifle or bow allowed for the shoot.
  - ◆ A cash prize of \$1,500.
    - This is a guided shoot in Custer State Park located in southwestern South Dakota.
    - These bulls average two years old.
- \*Drawing to be held at Annual Convention, August 2011.**

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**

### 2011 South Dakota Wildlife Federation's 21 Gun Giveaway

**\$20 each**

- |                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Remington 700 ADL               | .270.   |
| 2. Remington Super Mag             | 12 ga.  |
| 3. Bennelli Nova                   | 20 ga.  |
| 4. Remington 597 Scoped .22 combo  | .22     |
| 5. Ruger 77R                       | 25.06   |
| 6. Remington 870 Express           | 12 ga.  |
| 7. Ruger 77R                       | 25.06   |
| 8. Savage 9317-DXP                 | 17 cal  |
| 9. Bennelli Nova                   | 20 ga.  |
| 10. Remington Exp. Super Mag.      | 12 ga.  |
| 11. Ruger 77R                      | 25.06   |
| 12. Savage 9317-DXP                | 17 cal  |
| 13. Remington BDL                  | .22-250 |
| 14. Remington 597 Scoped .22 combo | .22     |
| 15. Remington 870 Exp.             | 20 ga.  |
| 16. Ruger 77R                      | .338    |
| 17. Savage 9317-DXP                | 17 cal  |
| 18. Bennelli Nova                  | 20 ga.  |
| 19. Remington 870 Exp.             | 12 ga.  |
| 20. Savage 9317-DXP                | 17 cal  |
| 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 , 2011.**

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**

#### 2010-2011 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2010-2011 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2010-2011 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2010-2011 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2010-2011 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2010-2011 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### 2010/2011 SDWF 21 Gun Giveaway Ticket

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please Write Legibly*

### 2010/2011 SDWF 21 Gun Giveaway Ticket

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please Write Legibly*

### 2010/2011 SDWF 21 Gun Giveaway Ticket

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please Write Legibly*

# 2011 SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S 21 GUN GIVEAWAY