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South Dakota Wildlife Federation

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OUT OF DOORS

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Inside this issue:

Page 3

PRESIDENT COLUMN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
UPDATE

Page 4

SD BENEFITS TARGET
SHOOTERS
PHESANT HABITAT
WORKGROUP MEETING
SAGE GROUSE PLAN

Page 5

INDIANA HIGH FENCE
LAWS
CITIZEN SCIENCE -
THINGS YOU NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT SOUTH
DAKOTANS

Page 7

JAN NICOLAY - MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT
SDWF - "BIG DOG"

Page 8

FUTURE
CONSERVATIONALISTS
PRESIDENTS BUDGET

BARCODED FLATS



Beadle County Sportsmen during Camo Day made a presentation to SDWF Camo for our lobbyist fund, shown are members from BCS, SDWC-Camo President Bill Antonides (far-left), holding check SDWF lobbyist Dave Nauman (L), SDWF President Rich Widman (C), and SDWF Executive Director Chris Hesla (R).



SDWF President Rich Widman talking with SD Waterfowl Association and SDWF Board Member Chuck Dieter (seated L) and Beadle County Sportsmen President Dave Eichstadt (seated right).



Camo-Day participants lobbying each other during the morning's festivities.

"Whiskey is for Drinking; Water is for Fighting!"

Written by Chris Hesla

"Whiskey is for Drinking; Water is for Fighting!"

This quote, attributed to Mark Twain, has been repeated many times throughout time, especially throughout the West. The venues and styles of the fights have changed, but the foundation remains the same. Water, especially in the West, is our most valuable resource, our lifeblood.

Legislation regarding public access to non-meandered water over flooded private lands started out over a dispute on three bodies of water located in Day and Clark counties in South Dakota: Long Lake, Parks Slough, and Schiley Slough. Because of unseasonably wet years, the water has accumulated into large lakes. The lakes have attracted the interest of the public looking for sporting and recreational opportunities. Landowners with property interests in one or more of these three areas sought a declaratory judgment on their property rights and an injunction against the State and the public from using these lakes. The Circuit Court ruled in favor of the landowners. The State, on appeal to the South Dakota Supreme Court (SDSC), raised multiple legal issues for the Court's consideration. The SDSC ruled "all water in South Dakota belongs to the people in accord with the public trust doctrine and as declared by statute and precedent, and thus, although the lake beds are mostly privately owned, the water in the lakes is public and may be converted to public use, developed for public benefit, and appropriated, in accord with legislative direction and state regulation." The South Dakota Supreme Court (SDSC) decided this in February 2004, 10 years ago.

It has been a fight ever since.

There was a legislative summer study, innumerable public meetings, and many other stakeholder meetings between the 2004 SDSC decision and the 2006 legislature when HB 1096 was introduced in an attempt to solve the access issue. It was killed by its sponsor, Rep. Diedrich from Platte, because there was not enough support to advance.

The SDWF has been part of this process from the beginning. We filed a "friend of the court" brief in the 2003 SDSC case,

we were part of the summer study, and I think we've attended every meeting we've known of and were invited to regarding the access and water issue.

Since the 2004 SDSC ruling, the GFP has been saying if you can legally access the water by public road, right-of-way, or other public land, the water is open to recreate. However, it's not necessarily that cut and dried. Ask five lawyers about the intent and implications of the SDSC decision and you'll get five different opinions.



Over the years, we've seen several counties illegally close off access to the public's water. Several townships are doing the same thing under guise of 'public safety,' but its intent is to stop access to fishing and other legal activities on county and township roads.

Now to this year's legislative Session: SB 169 was intended to "provide for access to and use of public waters on public and private property and to protect private property rights for the

citizens of South Dakota".

Senate Bill 169 was a result of many meetings, including 15 revisions to the bill's language. The SDWF was invited and part of the process after the Governor's Office announced its intent to arrange meetings so stakeholders could discuss remedies. Sen. Corey Brown from Potter county was the lead legislator and Senate sponsor. Soybean Growers, Ag. Unity, Farmers Union, Farm Bureau, GFP staff, DENR staff, and several legislators were also part of the process, all of them dedicating many hours and miles to attend the meetings.

We worked as a group in these meetings and in bill revisions, discussing aspects and positions on each section of the bill. Some didn't agree with all our points and we didn't agree with their positions on some things. It was give and take, and 100% consensus on a point wasn't needed to have the point included or excluded from the language of the proposed legislation.

From the initial meeting, Sen. Brown cautioned the group to be practical and thorough. He said if someone (another legislator or group with help from a legislator) tried to amend any part of the bill after its introduction and the entire working group did not agree

cont. on page 2

Farmers- need a tax deduction this year? Consider donating some grain or land to the SDWF.

You will get a tax break and your support of the SDWF will help protect the land and wildlife you love.

"In America today you can murder land for private profit. You can leave the corpse for all to see, and nobody calls the cops." Paul Brooks, The Pursuit of Wilderness, 1971

with the proposed changes, he'd 'table and kill' his own legislation. After 15 bill revisions, working group members still had the opportunity to say no to the bill and the process would have ended there with no legislation introduced.

Were we satisfied with the content of the bill? No. We didn't get everything for which we'd lobbied. Did the other side get everything they wanted? I don't think so, although I can't say for sure. The bill tried to define and limit public recreation on the public's water over private land. It's difficult to determine and define points of agreement between groups with conflicting interests, so the 15 page bill received a lot of consideration.

After several votes, the SDWF Camo Coalition board could not come to a majority position on SB 169 so it chose a neutral stance, neither supporting nor opposing it. Our members and affiliate clubs were free to take whatever position they felt was right.

The SDWF Camo Coalition has received some criticism for taking a neutral position. Most boards operate on a majority position obtained through voting. By taking a neutral position, SDWF allowed the bill to come forward for consideration of its merits in the legislative process. We did not obstruct the bill or the process in any way. In fact, we provided our members with the Governor's office pro-bill talking points. The SDWF Camo Coalition's task was to assist in development of a reasonable and collaborative agreement and settle this long-standing issue. A neutral position is not a "no" position. We (SDWF) and the other stakeholders had a chance to say no to the bill's introduction and/or take an opposing position and Sen. Brown would not have brought SB 169 forward. SDWF chose to let it come forward.

SB 169 had its first hearing on Monday, February 10th in the Senate State Affairs committee. After many individual landowners from Day County testified against it, SB 169 passed out of committee with a 6 yeas 3 nays vote, sending it to the Senate floor for debate. SB 169 was scheduled to be heard on the Senate floor on Wednesday afternoon. After a little debate, Sen. Buhl-O'Donnell invoked Rule 5-17 that allowed one day for talk on amendments (Thursday afternoon). The legislature wasn't meeting Friday and Monday was Presidents' Day so the next chance for debate wouldn't be until the following Tuesday.

Sen. Frerichs called the working group together Thursday afternoon and of course, not everyone could make it on short notice. Some stakeholders were not in Pierre and others were traveling home for the long weekend and wouldn't make the meeting. Sen. Frerichs had a list of nine amendments, all of which met some resistance from the working group present, so none were approved by the group.

From there, Sen. Frerichs had the long weekend to rile a few landowners, primarily from Day County. They rallied at the Capital on Tuesday morning, handing out sheets and lob-

bing hard for the Senate to kill SB 169. These landowners didn't necessarily have any significant knowledge of existing water law, the Public Trust Doctrine, or the 2004 Supreme Court decision. They saw their mission as protecting personal property rights, regardless of what the bill said or its protection of private and public rights.

I think the bill died exactly how and why Sen. Frerichs wanted it to: Propose enough changes to assure resistance by at least a part of the crafting stakeholders. The resistance will cause the sponsor to do what he'd promised from the start—kill the bill. Sponsor Sen. Brown tabled the bill on Tuesday, February 18th.

Another private property bill that had passed the House died in the Senate Ag committee. House Bill 1208, introduced by Rep. Brock Greenfield, attempted to fix the problem of icefishermen/women starting their augers early in the morning to fish public water over private property. HB 1208 tried to address this by creating a 660ft zone around occupied dwellings and confined livestock. Once again, a very vocal dozen or so landowners appeared in Senate Ag. and said the State and some sportsmen were trampling on their private property rights and all they wanted was protection.

Compensation for this type of access was brought up in committee several times during testimony. HB 1208 would have fixed the noise issue and privacy issue but was instead killed. Perhaps the talk about noise and people fishing too close was just a cover for their real goal—payment for access to the public's water?

What will happen now? I'm not sure. I've heard the landowners from Minnesota who want to privatize water and Day county landowners who think legal public access over flooded private land is an attack on their personal property rights may take the issue back to the SD Supreme Court for more direction, another test of the Public Trust.

Or maybe someone will again take the lead and try to craft some legislation for next year. I do know one thing. It's a shame we'd have to start from the beginning again. The legislature usually doesn't pass laws related to pending Supreme Court cases. If a lawsuit is filed, no legislation will be worked on.

The SDWF Camo Coalition has been accused by some of killing this bill by taking a neutral position on the final version. We have been accused by some Day county landowners for trying to trample on their private property rights. We were part of the workgroup that developed a plausible bill and we used majority rule in decision making. Some folks seem to think our members should give up their deeply held beliefs simply because there is an unfavorable political climate. If we gave up our convictions to appease a few people who disagree with us, we would never stand for much.

History repeats itself...Water is for Fighting.

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 You will get a tax break and your support of the SDWF will help protect the land and wildlife you love.



President,
Rich Widman

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President's Column *by Rich Widman*

After countless hours spent, and thousands of miles traveled working on the water access bill, it is dead for this session. The reason—nobody liked every little piece. The reality—nobody ever will. In the proposed bill, all sides would have gained some and all sides would have lost some. The problem is that a few wanted it all, and legislation doesn't always work that way.

We understand the flooded landowner's plight, especially if there are loan payments left and not enough other land to provide the family with a decent income. In fact, SDWF supported legislation to reduce the property tax burden by 90% on lands inundated with water (about \$2/acre). We also supported the "Safety Zone" legislation (which prohibits hunting within 660 feet from houses, farm buildings or livestock) in this year's water bill, so the family isn't disturbed by people, noise, and litter if the water was in their back yard. We thought landowners would appreciate that. I wish I had that same 660' foot rule around my house in my neighborhood. Loud motorcycles/trucks with college kids partying until 3am who think my lawn is a beer can disposal area! Everyone please quit littering!

What SDWF absolutely will not stand for is those who want to privatize all water and commercialize all wildlife so they can make money off the public's resources. That includes illegally closing roads and harassing sportsmen.

I applaud Sen. Corey Brown, GF&P, the Governor's office, and some landowner groups for working with SDWF to try to get something done. I am proud of the work SDWF and the Camo Coalition did. No one can say we weren't reasonable, we didn't compromise, or we didn't work hard to get it done. Water access is the most complicated issue the SDWF has ever faced, not to mention a hotly debated, emotional topic that many legislators would like to see go away. But it's not going to. I'm sure we'll be working on it again this summer.

When it comes up again, don't believe the "US vs. THEM" argument! Sure, we won't always agree (who does?), but landowners, farmers, and ranchers are some of our best members, and they truly care about protecting the land, air, water, and wildlife for future generations. I know there are some out there who aren't really the "True Environmentalists" they claim to be. But I also know many good ones, including several who recently gave money to support SDWF.

Some of them own land that I consider to be their own farm/ranch/sportsman's paradise. Why do they give money to support SDWF when they have all the land with great hunting they need? Why should they even care what happens in the rest of South Dakota? I think it's because they know we all need to protect the average Joe Sportsman and make sure our children and grandchildren will always be able to enjoy South Dakota's outdoors.

With that in mind, both sportsmen and landowners must always be willing to listen and work out solutions to any problems we might have. When instigators try to

stir things up and start fights between landowners and sportsmen, everybody suffers.

A bill to increase the non-resident waterfowl licenses is back again and almost our entire out of state waterfowl hunters tell us to keep fighting this. Why? Because they don't want their hunts ruined! Remember, SDWF was formed in 1945 and SD ended up kicking out the non-residents because they were buying up all the land and commercializing the waterfowl so South Dakotans had no place to hunt. Right now, out of state duck hunters can get a license in at least three out of every four years and SD maintains world class waterfowl hunting. So what's the problem? The Legislator who introduced the bill has three sons who live out of state and want to hunt every year. What made this bill even worse was he played the Veteran card to try and gain votes! Veterans shouldn't be used as pawns in politics. They deserve better!

Some communities and Chambers of Commerce also lobbied for increased licenses, thinking it will bring in as much money as pheasant hunters do. Wrong! Duck aren't like pheasants- too much pressure and they are gone; then you have no ducks, no hunters, no money, and nobody's happy.

When people forget the mistakes of the past, they are bound to repeat them.

Working together, several affiliate members joined the board in lobbying legislators on Feb. 10th for Camo Day at the Capitol. These members took time off work to travel to Pierre and advocate for wildlife and the outdoors. Now, that's commitment!

At the board meeting, the Brookings Wildlife Federation presented \$5,000 (they're BIG DOGS now!), and the Beadle County Sportsmen brought their annual generous check for \$2,000. We also heard how the other affiliates are working to raise money for our legal and lobbying funds, and BWF issued a challenge to other clubs to match their BIG DOG contribution this year.

Recently, I had the honor of visiting and speaking to the Watertown Dakota Sportsmen and Beadle County Sportsmen affiliates. Both clubs have great members who do a lot to protect our outdoors, plus they have fun doing it. The food was awesome, the raffles sold out quickly, and you could feel the bonds of friendship that have been formed over the years. The best thing about every club we have is GOOD PEOPLE. These are the folks who really care. These are the people you know you can always count on. They help make the club meals, they raise the money, and they do what needs to be done—even though they've done it year after year after year. Thank them and support them by giving some of your time to make your club even better!

Remember to ask "JUST ONE" buddy to join the fight and any financial support is greatly appreciated! Take care and enjoy South Dakota's outdoors!

Executive Director's Update *by Chris Hesla*

I just wanted to thank everyone who signed up for the SD-WF-Camo Legislative Daily updates and cared enough to take some time to e-mail your legislators this year, to let your elected officials know your feelings and thoughts as a sportsmen/women here in SD and where you stand on issues that affect our pursuits. We are a very formidable foe, when we get organized and send our message, both on our local level and at the Federal level also.

THANK YOU for all that you do in your sending our messages and your financial support of the Camo-Coalition and SDWF.

WE can and do make a difference!!

Thank and I look forward to hearing from you.



Executive Director
Chris Hesla

"Who will speak for Planet Earth?" Carl Sagan

SOUTH DAKOTA BENEFITS FROM SPENDING BY TARGET SHOOTERS

National Shooting Sports Foundation

LAS VEGAS, Nev. -- The National Shooting Sports Foundation has released a major new report about the importance of target shooting activities to the economies of South Dakota and the nation. NSSF is the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry.

The report, Target Shooting in America: Millions of Shooters, Billions of Dollars, was released today in conjunction with a press conference at the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show (SHOT Show), the largest trade show of its kind in the world and a showcase for the firearms and ammunition industry.

The report provides a first-ever look at U.S. target shooting-related expenditures. Also included are state-by-state statistics for the number of target shooters, retail sales, taxes and jobs. The target-shooting report complements the Hunting in America report released by NSSF and the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies in March 2013.

In South Dakota, target shooting-related spending contributed \$83,102,358 to the state's economy and supported 912 jobs.

Nationally, the money target shooters spent in 2011 resulted in \$23 billion being added to the nation's economy and supported more than 185,000 jobs.



"More people target shooting is good news for the industry, and it is equally good news for America's economy," said NSSF President and CEO Steve Sanetti.

Retail sales related to target shooting account for nearly \$10 billion, with rifle and handgun shooting being the leading contributors, followed by shotgun and muzzleloader shooting. California and Texas are the top two states ranked by retail sales.

Combining data from Target Shooting in America and Hunting in America shows that target shooters and hunters together poured more than \$110 billion into the nation's economy, fueling more than 866,000 jobs. "Communities and businesses of all sizes benefit from these activities," said Sanetti.

Target shooters (\$8.2 billion) and hunters (\$8.4 billion) spend nearly equal amounts on equipment common to both pursuits, such as firearms, ammunition and accessories. Hunters spend more overall than target shooters when factors such as fuel, food, lodging and transportation are included.

"The Target Shooting in America and Hunting in America reports give us a more complete understanding of the economic importance of the shooting sports to America," said Sanetti. "We've long known about the recreational benefits of these activities, and now we know how much they contribute to our country's financial well-being." Read Target Shooting in America: Millions of Shooters, Billions of Dollars or view the report as a printable PDF.

PHEASANT HABITAT WORK GROUP HAS ITS FIRST MEETING

PIERRE, S.D. - The thirteen members of the South Dakota Pheasant Habitat Work Group gathered for their initial meeting last Friday in Pierre.

The work group is comprised of members selected by Gov. Dennis Daugaard after December's Pheasant Habitat Summit and consists of sportsmen, landowners, leading conservation and agriculture academics, legislators and government officials.

The group's charge is to identify ways to improve pheasant habitat that are compatible with agricultural production in the state.

"I am very happy with the progress we made during this first meeting," said Work Group Chairwoman Pam Roberts. "The amount of input we received from the public before, during and after the Habitat Summit shows how important this issue is to South Dakotans and our visitors."

Workgroup members reviewed the hundreds of comments, ideas and suggestions to improve pheasant habitat and pheasant populations.

"People are passionate about pheasants in South Dakota," said Roberts. "Everyone wants their ideas and voice to be heard. It is our job to try and find feasible and effective solutions and this list is a good start."

The group will meet again in early April and will deliver a report of their work to Gov. Daugaard this summer.

The thirteen pheasant habitat work group members are:

- Pam Roberts, Pierre (Chair) - retired Secretary of SD Department of Labor and Regulation
- Barry Dunn, Brookings - dean, College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at South Dakota State University
- Tim Kessler, Aberdeen - Pheasants Forever Board of Directors, former Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission chair
- Mary Duvall, Pierre - District 24 state representative

Jason Frerichs, Wilmot - farmer, Senate Minority Leader, District 1 state senator

John Cooper, Pierre - GFP commissioner, former GFP Secretary

Steve Halverson, Kennebec - farmer, owner of Halverson Hunts

Jan Nicolay, Chester - former state representative, conservation advocate

Jeff Zimprich, Huron - USDA-NRCS state director



Doug Deiter, Faulkton - farmer

Jeff Vonk, Pierre - GFP Secretary

Lucas Lentsch, Pierre - SD Secretary of Agriculture

Nathan Sanderson, Pierre - Governor's policy advisor for agriculture and GFP

For more information on the Pheasant Working Group and the Pheasant Habitat Summit, visit

<http://www.gfp.sd.gov/pheasantsummit/default.aspx>.

SAGE-GROUSE PLAN AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

PIERRE, S.D. - The S.D. Game, Fish and Parks Department is offering the public the opportunity to review and provide comment on a five-year draft management plan for greater sage-grouse.

The Sage-grouse Management Plan for South Dakota 2014-2018 describes how the state proposes to manage sage-grouse in South Dakota. The draft will be available for review through March 30. Interested parties are asked to submit comments on the plan by the deadline.

"GFP will hold two public meetings to inform the public and gather additional input, as well as answer questions on sage-grouse management in the state," said Tom Kirschenmann, chief of terrestrial resources.

Both public meetings will be held in the northwest part of the state within the primary sage-grouse range in South Dakota. The meeting locations, dates and times are as follows:

Belle Fourche, March 11, First Interstate Bank (41 5th Ave.), 7 p.m.

Buffalo, March 12, Harding County School Commons Area (102 Allison St.), 7 p.m.

To view the draft management plan and provide feedback online, visit the following link: <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/small-game/sage-grouse.aspx>.

Please send requests for printed copies of the draft report or written comments to: Game, Fish and Parks; 523 E. Capitol Ave.; Pierre, S.D. 57501.



INDIANA HIGH-FENCE HUNTING BILL MAY ADVANCE

Indianapolis News

Last year, Senate President Pro Tem David Long, R-Fort Wayne, likened high-fence hunting preserves to dog fighting and called them a “slaughterhouse without a roof.” Now he says he’s going to allow legislation to be introduced that could expand the practice in Indiana.

Long told The Indianapolis Star in an emailed statement that he will allow Sen. Carlin Yoder, R-Middlebury, to introduce legislation that would legalize the hunting of farm-raised deer and elk behind fences, which the state’s Department of Natural Resources opposes.

Long blocked similar legislation last year after it overwhelmingly passed the Indiana House. At the time, Long spoke out strongly against high-fence hunting, which animal rights and some hunting groups disparagingly call “canned hunts.”

“These are farm-raised deer, not wild animals, fenced in,” Long told reporters at a news conference last spring. “They bring in some guy to get a trophy, and he pays \$25,000 to hang it on his wall and say they’re a big game hunter. There’s just some sense of fairness, if you will, of the hunting process that are violated by these facilities.”

Long said a Harrison Circuit Court ruling prompted him to allow the legislation to advance, despite the fact that the state is appealing that ruling and another county court threw out a similar case. Long’s statement focused only on the Harrison County case.

“What I have done the past few years is enforce a long existing agreement that we would not allow any additional expansion or try to eliminate existing preserves ... until the court ruled,” Long said in a statement. “It finally did rule, after years of delay, and found that the preserves were legal and the state was acting improperly to block them.”

In the 2005 case cited by Long, the owner of a high-fence hunting preserve sued the DNR after the agency tried to shut down the 12 high-fence hunting preserves operating in the state at the time.

A judge issued a moratorium. As the court case played out, the preserves were allowed to stay in business. As of last year, only four or five were still in operation.

Harrison Circuit Court Judge John Evans ruled this fall that the DNR overstepped its authority, and that deer behind fences are in essence livestock, so they’re not subject to the DNR’s oversight.

But the case is far from over. Attorney General Greg Zoeller’s office is appealing the case because it would effectively eliminate the wildlife agency’s authority to regulate hunting behind a fence.

There’s also confusion in the law. The Harrison County decision came 10 months after a judge in Owen County threw out a case involving similar arguments by a preserve owner.

Yoder’s proposed bill would exempt hunters on preserves from needing a hunting license, and they would not be subject to bag limits



FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CITIZEN SCIENCE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

By Chuck and Mary Lou Berry

Citizen science means non-scientist volunteers performing research tasks such as observation and measurement in their yard and garden, or in a nearby field, forest, lake or stream. The data are reported to real scientists who search for large-scale trends.

One example is Icewatch USA (http://www.natureabounds.org/IceWatch_USA.html). You simply report the time of ice-on and ice-off by watching a lake or river. The photo shows an ice fisherman on Lake Campbell at the Ice Fishing Derby on February 8 – he drilled through ice that was about 24 inches thick so ice-off might be late this year.

Citizen science activities are great for kids, but adults too should get involved too. It doesn’t take a PhD to be a citizen scientist. Here are five things you need to know about citizen science in South Dakota.

1) Advice from the SDWF: Are you looking for advice on how to get started as a citizen scientist? We have written articles for the Federation’s monthly newspaper Out-of-doors in which we describe our citizen scientist adventures. Read our advice about watching bees, birds, buds, ice, frogs, and water on the SDWF website (www.sdwf.org); click on the Education tab.

2) Easiest to do; most pay-back: We’ve discovered a great project that requires little time and knowledge, but we predict you’ll stay a while because of the information and photos it offers - check out a site called “Journey North.” <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>.

Journey North engages adult citizen scientists and K-12 students in a global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change. As you report your first sighting of one of a dozen or so animals and plants, your observation is immediately added to a map showing the migration.

We first tried this project last year; it was easy to register so we could report when we saw the first monarch butterfly. We saw our data from the shores of Lake Campbell (Brookings County) appear as a “dot” on a national map. And, here’s the good deal that comes with all citizen science projects – we learned so much about these amazing butterflies from the Journey North web site that we began doing more. We searched for milkweed plants, and monarch eggs and larvae (caterpillars).

This year we planned to add robins and hummingbirds to our Journey North list of critters to watch this spring, but we were surprised and shocked at how soon we got started on robin watching.

Robins might be the first sign of spring in South Dakota – in February! On February 18, we saw what ornithologists call a “wave” of robins (perhaps 50 birds) moving northward through the trees along the shore of Lake Campbell. When we reported the sighting to the Journey North web site, we saw on the map that other South Dakotans were also reporting the first robins from Sioux Falls to Aberdeen.

3) Most Benefit to South Dakota: Dakota Water Watch volunteers make simple water quality measurements on rivers, lakes and wetlands. The goal is to fill gaps in existing data about South Dakota’s waters, and identify waters that need additional testing. In other citizen science programs, we simply watch or listen. Our only equipment is a pencil and a note book. For Water Watch, we are given equipment and financial support for travel or mailing samples to Brookings or Pierre.

Last year we were in a group of several dozen volunteers who monitored 55 sites on 19 different bodies of water. Last year Lake Campbell had low bacteria counts, and we are going to sample again this summer. You can learn more

by going to the East Dakota Water Development District web site <http://eastdakota.org/dakotawaterwatch/>, or calling District Geologist Jeremy Hinke at 605-688-6744.

4) Cheerleaders for Science: The Jack-rabbit is the Number One cheerleader in South Dakota (sorry Yotes), but did you know that in the cheerleading squads of professional and college teams are some guys and gals with advanced degrees in math, science, and engineering. These folks are cheerleading for science (<http://www.sciencecheerleader.com/>).

The Science Cheerleaders are a co-sponsor of one of the best places for finding “your” citizen science project. SciStarter (<http://scistarter.com/index.html>) lists over 700 citizen science opportunities. Yes, the cheerleaders are pretty, and pretty smart.

Backyard Wildlife Habitat: The National Wildlife Federation has a couple of programs that help you to practice wildlife habitat management in your own yard, or school yard, or church yard. When participating in the Backyard Habitat or Gardening for Wildlife programs you provide four essential habitats for wildlife: food, shelter, water, and places to raise young. Learn how to manage your habitat, have your yard certified, and receive a sign to display at www.nwf.org.

The NWF has another program called Wildlife Watch. Wildlife Watch helps you keep a list of wildlife seen in your yard, at a State Park, or at your favorite hunting, fishing, or wildlife-watching site. Before you go outside, click on South Dakota on the dropdown list. Review the possible species and natural phenomena you might observe and print a check sheet. After you return indoors, go back to the Wildlife Watch site and report your data online. You can also submit your photos whether you are a beginner or professional.

Wildlife Watch is fun, but it also has a serious goal as do all citizen science programs. Scientists at NWF are reviewing the data from all over the country to track the health and behavior of wildlife and plant species nationwide.

By participating in a citizen science project, you and your family will improve your knowledge of wildlife and habitat as you engage in an outdoor activity. You will also increase your understanding of the scientific process. And, you’ll find that the projects have connections to your hunting, fishing, gardening, and bird watching hobbies.

Before becoming citizen scientists, we walked through our yard with only a superficial understanding of it. When we really focus on the house finch, or the linden tree, or a sunflower to get citizen science data, we also get a fresh comprehension of their ecology and connection to humans – our economy and our stewardship responsibilities.



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 2014

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|---|--|--|--|
| LEVEL III ELK BOWAR, PAT - SD JOHNSON, ERIC - MN | LEVEL I PHEASANT BROWN, ALLEN B. - SD DRESSING, BRIAN - SD ECKERT, DENIS - SD GOEDE, DAN - SD HEFFRON, GEORGE H. - CO KRETCHMAN, JIM - SD | LEPP, DONALD - SD MCMASTERS, LEIGH - SD MCQUEARY, PETER - TX MEDEIROS, PAUL - CA METCALF, ROBERT - MN MUNDON, KENT - SD O'CONNELL, ANDREW - MN | RILEY, MIKE - MO RITER, JR., ROBERT - SD STULTS, MARK - SD WICKSTROM, GERALD - SD |
|---|--|--|--|

December 2013

| | | | |
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| LEVEL III ELK JOHNSON, VIRGIL - SD | LEVEL II DEER SCALET, CHUCK & GINGER - KS | LEVEL I PHEASANT COOPER, JOHN - SD DEBOER, JAY - SD GOGGINS, ROBERT - MN | KRODINGER, LAWRENCE - MO PARCEL, KERRY - SD ZOELLNER, KENNETH - CA |
|--|---|--|--|

November 2013

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LEVEL I PHEASANT AYLER, JOHN - KS BURTON, DON - CO | HEEDUM, ROGER - NE HOCH, JAMES - CA JOHNSON, DARRELL - SD | JONES, DONALD - CO MILLER, RICHARD - SD VAA, SPENCER - SD |
|---|---|---|

October 2013

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| LEVEL II DEER HALLSTROM, KEN - SD | SATTTLER, ARNOLD - SD TOSCANA, VIC - SD | LEVEL I PHEASANT RUENGER, RON - WI |
|---|--|--|

September 2013

No legacy donations for this month.

August 2013

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|---|--|---|---|
| LEVEL III ELK LEMONDS, JIM - SD | LEVEL I PHEASANT BUCKNER, EVERETT - AR BUCKNER II, WILLIAM - AR GREGORY, J.T. - GA | KLUSMANN, JAY - SD MUDD, WILLIAM - KY NELSON, LAWRENCE - SD OCHOCKI, ROBERT - CA | PAQUIN, STACY - MN PAUL, K-LYNN - AZ SWANSON, EARL - MN |
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July 2013

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| LEVEL IV BUFFALO WORDEN, JAMES - CA | LEVEL I PHEASANT ADAMS, MEL - TN EBERSPACHER, DAVID - IL ELBE, ROBERT - WI GEBHART, RONALD - AK | KLUTTZ, HENRY - NC LULEWICZ, JERRY - SD LUTZ, BOB - ID MAYES, TERRY & LAREE - SD OGDEN, JERRY - MS PAUL, K-LYNN - AZ | PETERS, DUANE - SD RAINEY, TIMOTHY - MN WELCH, HARVEY - IL WILLMOTT, HARRY - MN |
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June 2013

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|---|---|---|---|
| LEVEL V EAGLE CHAPMAN, JOHN W. - PA ROBERTS, STEVEN - MN | LEVEL II DEER EISENBEISZ, DAVID - SD MCGUIRE, ARVID - WI | LEVEL I PHEASANT ANDRESEN, RICH - SD BEALKA, ROBERT - SD KASISCHKE, CARL - MI | KIEFT, LARRY - MI KOSKI, GARY - AZ MATOUSEK, WILLIAM - SD SCHERSCHLIGHT, JEFFRY - SD |
|---|---|---|---|

May 2013

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| LEVEL I PHEASANT DENNIS, JACK - NV | FLINT, FORREST - MN KEELER, CHARLES - MN | RANDALL, KEVIN - SD ZOELLNER, KENNETH - CA |
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April 2013

| | | | |
|---|--|---|-------------------|
| LEVEL IV BUFFALO OLSON, JEFF - SD | LEVEL I PHEASANT BROWN, ALLEN B. - SD BURNS, HOWARD - SD CONNELL, CRAIG - SD | KURTENBACH, AELRED - SD LARSON, DORRANCE - SD LINDNER, RONALD - SD LOHRMAN, JIM - SD | MELBY, DAVID - MN |
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March 2013

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|---|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| LEVEL V EAGLE BROWN CO SPORTSMEN - SD | NATURE CONSERVANCY - SD | LEVEL I PHEASANT ANTONIDES, BILL & LILA - SD DEER MT. CATS TRUST - SD DIVICH, DUANE - TX | SCHULTZ, JIM - TX |
|---|-------------------------|--|-------------------|

February 2013

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| LEVEL V EAGLE BEADLE CO. SPORTSMEN - SD NAT'L WILD TURKEY FED - SD | SD CHAPTER OF THE IKES - SD | YANKTON AREA PHEASANTS FOREVER - SD | HECLA SPORTSMAN CLUB - SD HOBBY, CHARLES - GA HOFTIEZER, GREG - SD PHILLIPS, DR. KENNETH - NC RUMPCA, HAL - SD SIMPSON, JOHN - SD STULTS, MARK - SD |
|---|-----------------------------|--|---|

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|---|--|---|--|
| LEVEL IV BUFFALO BLACK HILLS SPORTSMEN - SD | BIG SIOUX CHAPTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUND. - SD | LEVEL I PHEASANT BORMANN, DANIEL - WI DENISON, LARRY - VA ELBE, ROBERT - WI GRASS LAKES CONSERVATION CLUB - SD GRIFFIN, DEL - SD | |
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| LEVEL III ELK BROOKINGS WILDLIFE FED - SD | PESEK, RON - SD | | |
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| LEVEL II DEER COTEAU PRAIRIE PHEASANTS FOREVER - SD | WHETSTONE SPORTSMEN CONSERVATION CLUB - SD | | |
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"JUST ONE"

New Member Program

The SDWF has approximately 3,000 members. We are constantly fighting to keep our outdoor heritage and to conserve our natural resources. We can't continue without our members and we can't keep fighting unless we grow our membership.

Encourage your friends that enjoy the outdoors to join the SDWF directly or through a local affiliate club. "JUST ONE" new member can make a world of difference!



Love the outdoors and need a tax deduction this year?

If you have a car, van, truck, ATV, or boat that's in reasonably good shape and you aren't using, donate it to the SDWF. You'll get a nice tax break and will feel great knowing you helped our great organization protect South



888-OVERBAG

*"The gross heathenism of civilization has generally destroyed nature, and poetry, and all that is spiritual."
John Muir 1838-1914 - Naturalist and Founder of the Sierra Club*

SDWF Membership Application

To continue our conservation efforts - we need your help! Please donate generously.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

e-mail _____

SDWF \$20/Yr Membership Fee \$ _____

SDWFCamo-Coalition lobbying donation: \$ _____

Send Donation and
Membership Application to:
SDWF
P.O. Box 7075
Pierre, SD 57501-0952



CC _____ EXP _____ CV _____

Check - make checks payable to SDWF

JUST ONE

SDWF Member Spotlight

Jan Nicolay - 29-90 Sportsman's Club

Jan Nicolay, an original member of the 29-90 Sportsman's Club since its founding in 1997 and a past SDWF board member, has been involved with many projects that have positively impacted the South Dakota Wildlife Federation.

In the fall of 2012 and early 2013, she set up a pair of fund raisers to raise money for the Camo Coalition of SDWF. These events netted over \$1,500 - impressive enough, until you learn the best part: There weren't any expenses incurred by the SDWF or Camo Coalition, because those were taken care of by Jan personally! At these fund raisers there were prizes given away for those who attended.

Over the last two-plus years, Jan helped with the SDWF Youth Conservation Camp in organizing a fund raising packet for the affiliates to use, with the goal of allowing more kids to attend the camp. She also helped draft a general overview of the camp which has resulted in a complete overhaul of camp procedures and policy to protect and help all of the volunteers who help make this camp a big success. While Jan's individual efforts can sometimes seem superhuman, on this project, she was part of the terrific camp committee (other committee members are Mike McKernan, Corey Aker and Chuck Rokusek). Committee members met at Chuck's place in Sioux Falls several times over this time period at their own expense.

Jan also helped with the three-year fund raiser for the Youth Conservation Camp endowment which started out with the loss of the project's financial underwriter. When this happened, she stepped up and helped with funding of the expenses to help get this project off the ground and running. Three years later, nearly \$15,000.00 will have been deposited into the camp endowment by the end of 2013, again with no expenses paid out to anyone during this three year project. Through Jan's selfless commitment to the SDWF, the goal of building a stable funding source for the camp is well on its way.



Jan has also been responsible for the success of the 29-90 Club's annual legislative night. Each year, members of the state legislature from the Sioux Falls area are invited to attend a monthly meeting before the

legislative session. Legislators discuss issues likely to be debated during the upcoming session, and they also field questions from the attendees.

This is one of the most well-attended monthly meetings on the 29-90 Club's calendar. Over the years, numerous legislators have called Jan in advance of the meeting, wondering what to expect - and Jan has persuaded many of them to attend over the years.

Hat's off to Jan Nicolay of the 29-90 Sportsman's Club for her work on behalf of the SDWF! Through the hard work of members like Jan, we can look forward to a bright future for our outdoor heritage in South Dakota.

NOTE: There are many individuals from across the state who do things behind the scenes which benefit the SDWF, but there are times that the general membership needs to know who has stepped up to the plate to help this organization out. If a member of your affiliate club has gone "above and beyond," send a profile for consideration in a coming edition of the Out of Doors to sdwf@mncomm.com.



Spring is in the air... You Are What You Eat
Photo by Dennis Barrett, Deadwood

Under the Radar baldy near Belle Fourche,
Photo by Dennis Barrett, Deadwood



Brookings Wildlife Federation becomes the very first "BIG DOG" for SDWF.

It was announced at the winter board meeting that the Brookings affiliate became the first club to donate \$5000 and make "Big Dog" history.

How did they do it?

The BWF had a \$20 - 120 space raffle board with the top prize being a Browning Maxus 12 ga graciously donated by the local Runnings. That made for a great raffle just by itself, but several members stepped up and donated knives, ammo, fishing gear and other prizes to give ticket buyers 33 chances to win. BWF also bought a nice .22 Marlin along with some other raffle items to show our thanks to Runnings for their support. They also encouraged members to support Runnings and to thank them when they are shopping there! The raffle brought in around \$1800, so how did BWF come up with the other money?

After an email went out to members, the following people donated between \$50 and \$1000 each to get the club to Big Dog status. In random order:

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Daryl England | Tim Peters | Carl Madsen |
| Dennis Micko | Spencer Vaa | Jim Eggen |
| Terry Wiczorek | Bob Roe | Lawrence Novotny |
| Curt Ness | Phil Wagner | Denny Gerjets |
| Chuck Dieter | Chuck McMullen | Don Lockwood |
| | Roger Steinberg | |

"I'm very proud to have my club step up and support the "Big Dog" sponsorship program", SDWF President Rich Widman said. "I knew it's was lot of money when I envisioned "Big Dog", but we're still trying to pay last years bills and I knew with all the future legal challenges we will be facing that SDWF and SDWF Camo will need a lot more funding than we currently bring in. But, I know we can do it!"

Who's going to be the next Big Dog? We have great members, great affiliates, and there has to be companies out there that know what SDWF/SDWF Camo brings to their bottom line. As you can see, it's very doable. The BWF did it in 3 months and wants to challenge the other clubs to give it a shot! Thank you BWF!!



Touting Youth in Pivotal Role as Future Conservationists

Touting Youth in Pivotal Role as Future Conservationists

Kim Betton, USFWS, Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Headquarters

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), which for more than 75 years has supported wildlife conservation and restoration through its dedicated partners, is encouraging youth to get outdoors - whether it's a day of fishing and boating with family and friends, hunting in the calm of the wilderness or wildlife watching along a peaceful park's trail - in an effort to help keep conservation and science going strong for the next seven decades and beyond.

The efforts are working. According to the 2011 National Survey of Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife-Associated Recreation 38 percent of all Americans ages 16 and older participated in wildlife-related recreation in 2011 - an increase of 2.6 million participants from the previous survey in 2006.

Jami Bennett, 12, knows first-hand what it's like to enjoy the outdoors and conservation. She has already received her hunting license and appreciates the lessons learned surrounding the purpose of conservation.

"I learned so much through my hunter education course prior to receiving my hunting license," says Jamie. "I've since tagged three deer. When hunting you don't know what you are going to see. You might see turkeys, squirrels or deer - it's just so exciting!"

"You get quality time with your child without interruptions of television, phone, and so forth," adds Ron Bennett - Jami's father. "I just want to share a passion that I have of

hunting and fishing with my child. It's a rewarding experience."

"When hunting, you're not hurting you're helping," says Jamie."

Garrett Unbehagen began hunting and fishing when he was a toddler; now as a parent he is continuing the tradition by taking his sons out with him. "It was passed on to me by my dad, and to my dad by my grandfather... And I'm passing it on to my two boys," says Unbehagen.

"Being outdoors shows the youth so much," he adds. "It gets them off the video games, out the house, and it keeps them out of trouble. I just want to carry that tradition on and hopefully one day my kids will pass it on to their kids."

The 2011 survey said hunters nationwide increased 9 percent to a total of 13.7 million -reversing decades of a decline. The number of anglers grew 11 percent to more than 33 million. And nearly 38 percent of all Americans participated in wildlife- related recreation in 2011 - that's an increase of 2.6 million participants from the previous survey.

"These increases tell us that the outdoors is greatly appreciated," says WSFR Assistant Director Hannibal Bolton. "We must also be mindful that it's important for us to take the message to the urban communities," he adds. "We all have a responsibility to conserve our great natural resources and reaching out to the youth who are our future conservationists. This is what we must do to continue the success of the WSFR program for another 75 years and beyond."

President's Budget for 2015

The President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 was released yesterday. As a reminder, this budget is not binding policy but is rather the President's requests to Congress. Since Congress has already approved top-line funding levels for the next two years, through the Omnibus Appropriations Bill passed in January, the President's budget plays a slightly different role this year.

While the President's budget is typically an aspirational document with little bearing on how much Congress ultimately appropriates to Federal agencies and programs, this year the President chose to issue a budget that operates within the already-set federal budget for Fiscal Year 2015. That means it is a budget that recognizes the necessity for tough choices and reductions in funding for key programs.

The President also included a \$56 billion Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative that is all new funding, above the level already set by Congress for FY15. Of note, this Initiative includes a \$1 billion "climate resilience fund," which would include money for research, a grant program for construction and restoration, and money for interagency coordination. The Initiative also includes funding for advancing clean energy research and development, funding to launch a "race to the top" for energy efficiency and grid modernization, and the National Park Service Centennial Initiative mentioned below.

Below is a first analysis of some of the funding levels in the proposal. It is not exhaustive, but includes some major conservation funding changes and policy proposals in the President's budget.

Thanks to Addie Rolnick for taking the lead on the analysis and to all our lobbyists and issue experts who helped review the budget. As always feel free to call or email with questions, concerns or helpful additions.

For more info on the politics of the budget see:

The Washington Post overview: http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/obama-sends-39-trillion-budget-proposal-to-congress/2014/03/04/20066806-a3e2-11e3-84d4-e59b1709222c_story.html

And a great explainer from wonkblog <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/03/05/wonkbook-everything-you-need-to-know-about-obamas-budget/>

Highlights

Full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund: The President's budget proposes \$900 million in annual funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund beginning in 2015. The budget proposes \$575 million for land conservation near national parks, refuges and public forests, including some collaborative money from the LWCF for Interior and the USDA's Forest Service to "jointly and strategically conserve the most critical landscapes." The budget also includes \$325 million in grant programs to help states, tribes, local governments and citizens preserve "wildlife habitat, wetlands, historic battlefields, regional parks and countless other sites that form the mosaic of the Nation's cultural and natural legacy." This also includes a new provision that will designate \$15 million to go towards hunting and sportsmen's access.

National Park Service Centennial: The President's budget proposes launching an historic effort to revitalize the Nation's parks for the next century in commemoration of the National Park Service Centennial. This includes resources to allow NPS to ensure that 1700, or 20%, of the highest priority park assets are restored to good condition. This creates thousands of jobs over three years, provides over 10,000 work and training opportunities to young people, and engages more than 2650,000 volunteers in support of public lands.

Eliminates Fossil Fuel Subsidies: The President's budget proposes eliminating \$4 billion annually in fossil fuel subsidies

Invests in Renewable Energy: In addition to proposing that the Production Tax Credit for wind power be made permanent, the budget proposes a 16% overall funding boost for renewable energy programs. The budget would also extend the cellulosic biofuels credit.

Lowlights

EPA's Budget Cut: EPA's overall budget is proposed at 4% lower than FY14 enacted levels, continuing years of cuts to EPA's budget.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants: The President's budget proposes a nearly 15% cut to this program, which provides grants to states to prevent species from becoming endangered. The President's request of \$50,000,000 is 44% lower than FY10 enacted levels.

Cuts for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Everglade: The President is requesting a \$25,000,000 (8%) cut for the GLRI. The request of \$128 million for the Everglades also represents a significant drop from previous fiscal years. However, the does include a small (\$2,500,000) increase for ecosystem restoration initiatives under EPA.

Other key proposals

Department of the Interior

- Overall funding: \$12 billion (a 3% increase over the FY14 enacted level). The National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service budgets would both be increased by roughly \$50,000,000.
- The President is proposing a fundamental shift in the way wildfire suppression is funded. Under this proposal, Congress would be asked to pay the costs of fighting extreme wildfires in the same way it finances the federal response to disasters like hurricanes and tornadoes.
- Makes public lands available for clean energy infrastructure projects: proposes \$95 million to review and permit new renewable projects on Federal lands and waters.
- Requests \$476.4 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System. This is a slight increase (\$4.2 million) over current funding, and includes a very small (.9%) increase in NWRS's Operations and Maintenance accounts.
- Proposes an "abandoned mine lands fee" on hardrock mining with receipts used by States, Tribes, and Federal agencies to restore the most hazardous hardrock AML sites on both public and private lands.
- Proposes increasing the cost of a Duck Stamp to \$25.00 per year, beginning in 2015, from its current cost of \$15.00. With the additional receipts, the Department anticipates acquisition of approximately 7,000 additional acres in fee simple and approximately 10,000 additional conservation easement acres in 2015 to benefit waterfowl habitat.
- The budget proposes \$50.6 million for Interior youth programs, a \$13.6 million (or 37 percent) increase from 2014.

EPA

- Overall funding: \$7.9 billion (3.7% less than FY14 enacted levels)
- Proposes a total of \$1.1 billion (a \$76 million increase) in support for State and tribal environmental protection. This includes \$20 million for state implementation of the President's climate plan.
- Proposes a total cut of \$581 million to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- Requests an additional \$45,208,000 (for a total of \$234,678,000) in funding for resources to address climate change

DOE

- The President is requesting \$2.3 billion for Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, in addition to other investments in clean energy. Within EERE, funding is increased above FY14 enacted levels by 15% for sustainable vehicle and fuel technologies, by 39% for energy efficiency and advanced manufacturing activities, and by 16% for innovative renewable power projects. The Budget also provides \$476 million for the Fossil Energy Research and Development program primarily dedicated to further lowering the costs of carbon capture and storage and advanced power systems, which are key elements of achieving the President's climate goals and the all-of-the-above energy strategy.
- The Budget requests \$325 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, a program that seeks to fund transformative energy research, and over \$900 million for basic clean energy research in the Office of Science.

Agriculture

- Proposes \$23.7 billion in discretionary funding
- Supports continued funding for critical farm bill conservation and energy programs. However, the budget proposes to cut the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) by \$250 million. Conservation programs took a large cut in the 2014 Farm Bill and in previous budget cycles; now is the time to protect the mandatory funding for agriculture conservation programs that was authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill, not to continue to disproportionately cut these critical programs.
- Provides \$814.8 million for Conservation Operations to provide technical assistance and support for farm bill conservation programs.
- Includes funding for research on pollinator health and provides \$50 million to strengthen habitats for bees and other pollinators
- Reallocates \$44 million in ARS to support reach on the effects of climate change on crops and agricultural lands and to develop adaptive strategies and technologies.
- Creates new Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change to help translate science and research to farmers, ranchers, and other landowners.

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!