

# Brookings Wildlife Federation

Box 104, Brookings, SD 57006

Affiliated with: South Dakota Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Federation

Board: Spencer Vaa, President; Rich Widman, Past-President;  
P. Wagner, D. Micko, Bob Kurtz, T. Wiczorek, Bd Members;  
L. Novotny, Treas.

Newsletter Editor: C. Berry

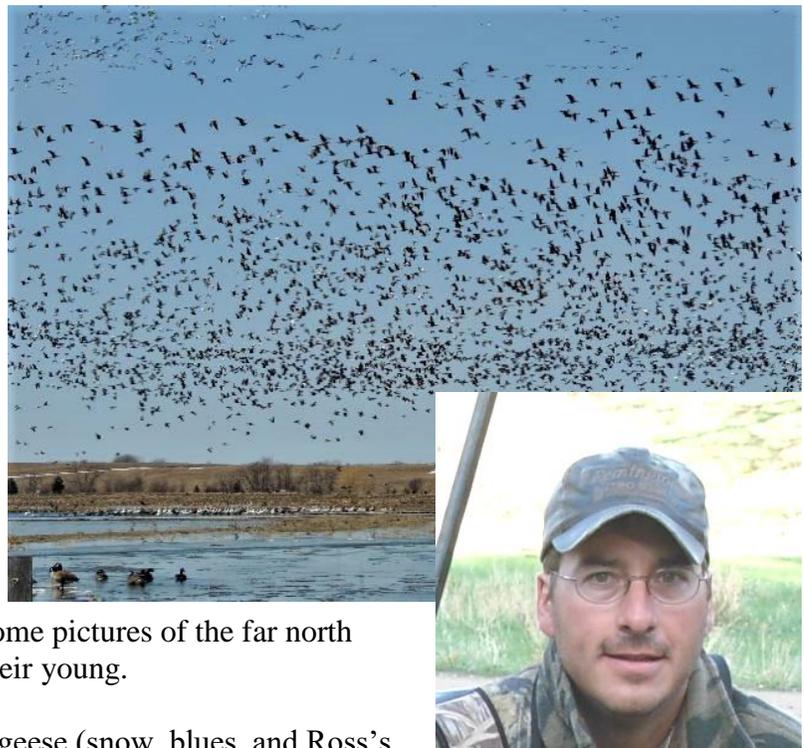


March 2019

## March 1 Infolunch: Light Goose Population and Hunting Regulations

The Brookings Wildlife Federation will host Mark Grovijahn a GFP wildlife biologist who will talk about “Hunting during the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order,” at the Federation’s regular monthly Infolunch at the First Lutheran Church’s Coffee house on Friday, March 1 at noon.

The Light Goose Conservation Order includes regulations that allow spring hunting to reduce the population. The light goose population is currently estimated at 15- 25 million birds, which have destroyed large expanses of Canadian arctic and subarctic coastal habitats. These areas are important to not only geese but also shorebirds and ducks. Grovijohn will show some pictures of the far north where many of the geese & waterfowl raise their young.



The population of mid-continent light geese (snow, blues, and Ross’s geese) experienced an annual growth rate of 5% during the 1980’s and 1990’s. The primary reasons for this growth were plentiful supplies of food generated by modern agriculture and the numerous waterfowl refuges throughout their migration corridors.

Spring migrations of light and dark geese will soon bring scenes like the one above to Brookings County. Mark Grovijohn is a GFP biologist who is monitoring the status of the over-abundant light goose population.

Hunting was proposed to curtail the goose population growth and a congressional act titled The Arctic Tundra Habitat Emergency Conservation Act, was passed. The Act allows spring hunting, unplugged shotguns, hunting ½ hour after sunset and the use of electronic calls. The goal of the Act was to harvest enough adult light geese to reduce the population in half. Grovijohn will have information on whether the Conservation Act is working to reduce the population.

Grovijahn will also talk about the Youth and Women’s Annual Canada goose hunts that he helps conduct in the Pierre area late in the season. These hunts educate new hunters about hunting and out-of-doors skills and experiences.

Spencer Vaa, former Waterfowl Biologist for GFP and now BWF President says “ Mark is one of the best field men I’ve ever worked with and is a dedicated waterfowl hunter.”

The Infolunch is free and open to the public. Lunch is available at the Coffee House café. The Federation is an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation and the South Dakota Wildlife Federation. The Brookings group is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing information, events and services concerning out-of-doors activities and wildlife conservation to the Brookings community. Contact BWF President Spencer Vaa, 695-6867.

## February Infolunch Review

The Brookings Wildlife Federation hosted Terry Wieczorek, who is a Board member of the Federation. Terry showed photos of his recent climbing adventures at Devils Tower, and then talked about trips to the Sierra Nevadas, the top of Mount Whitney and Yosemite back country, including the top of Half Dome in Yosemite.

## Legislative Update

As of day 28 of the Legislature, 15 House Bills and 5 Senate bills have been introduced that relate to hunting and

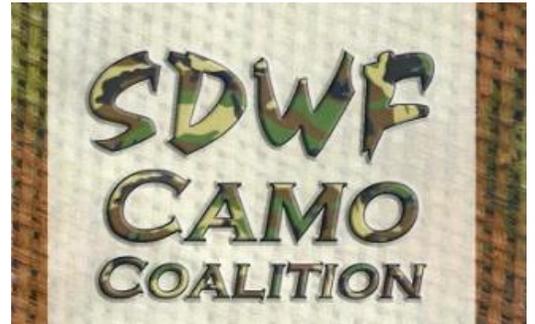


mailing list at [www.sdwfcamo.net](http://www.sdwfcamo.net)

fishing. The Gov. is suggesting a special appropriation of \$1 million for habitat, and there is a bill with our BWF idea of a special license plate for habitat. It appears that the Governor is really behind efforts to improve pheasant habitat.

The best way to keep up to date is to have our CamoCoalition send daily updates. Get on their

<http://sdlegislature.gov/>.  
Website is good/easy to use



CamoCoalition will give you the link to the text of the bill, and sometimes give details about the background and origin of the bill (e.g., GFP sponsored) and the SDWF’s opinion. This Newsletter’s list below is for a general overview and is about 3 days behind the actual situation in Pierre.

**The CamoCoalition:** The SDWF’s lobbying arm called the *CamoCoalition* is 6-years old; go to [www.sdwfcamo.net](http://www.sdwfcamo.net) to sign up for free membership and get up-to-date info on legislation.

[www.sdwfcamo.net](http://www.sdwfcamo.net)  
free signup for legis. info

**SDWF Lobbyists:** Chris Hesla and Dave Nauman are at the Capitol most days. Contact Chris at [sdwf@mncomm.com](mailto:sdwf@mncomm.com). Part of your membership fee and BWF raffles goes to support our lobby efforts.

### **House Bills as of Day 12:**

HB 1023: revise provisions regarding the sale and purchase of big game animal parts. GFP-sponsored

HB 1024: authorize certain species of game fish (Lake Herring, Sunfish) to be used as bait for cat fishing

HB 1031: authorize wind and solar easements and leases by the commissioner of School and Public

Lands; allow these types of projects onto public lands. The SD Constitution stipulates that the SPL must try to make as much money as they can to help fund our schools.

- HB 1054: regarding the possession of firearms; allow passengers in a 4-seat ATV have their guns loaded
- HB1073: allow persons to locate varmints and predators from aircraft
- HB 1100: revise programs regarding landowner rights
- HB 1101: revise programs regarding GFP
- HB 1152: provide for the permitting of outfitters and guides
- HB 1159: hunting mourning doves on public roads; a good bill and SDWF will be supporting it.
- HB 1162 regarding GFP Commission authority to make rules, a very BAD bill, takes authority from Comm.
- HB 1181: create a habitat conservation emblem specialty license plate. SDWF supports concept.
- HB 1182: require a balanced and representative membership on the GFP Commission, SDWF strongly supports
- HB 1145: revise certain provisions regarding the mowing of right-of-way on state highways
- HB 1201: revise provisions regarding group pheasant hunts for disabled vets
- HB 1242: include opossums within the definition of predator

***Senate Bills as of Day 12:***

- SB 33: authorize the commissioner of school and public lands to sell and acquire certain real property; allow the SPL to buy and trade for access to larger land locked SPL lands.
- SB 63: increase penalties for second or third time to willful trespass.
- SB 153: Create a hunting license that has a fee for habitat. SDWF is monitoring, says bill is “unclear.”
- SB 176: Make a legislative appropriation for habitat and declare an emergency, a Governor’s bill to budget one million as matching funds to private donations.
- SB 183. Revise certain provisions regarding buffer strips

**How to contact your Legislator:**

**Call:** Senate 773-3821, House 773-3851, A page will answer, tell them who the message is for, the message, who you are. The page will deliver your phone message to their desk

**Email:** <http://sdlegislature.gov/Legislators/ContactLegislator.aspx?Session=2018> click on the Legislator you want your message sent to and create or paste your message. Write your message in your own words; do not simply copy text provided by others, make your message a personal note; be polite/respectful; include name, phone, address on all messages sent to your Legislators

**Great Federal Legislative Opportunity for Conservation!!!! Please Pile On!**

Send a quick note to Senator’s Thune and Rounds to support S 47, the Natural Resources Management Act. This is a basket full of diverse legislation to help wildlife, including the permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The National Wildlife Federation and dozens of other wildlife groups sent the following letter to the Senate:

“As hunting, fishing, wildlife conservation, and outdoor-recreation-based organizations, we are



The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been used for several projects in Brookings, including the Brookings Prairie; LWCF logo on Brookings Prairie sign.

writing to encourage your support for timely Senate floor consideration of the bipartisan and bicameral public lands package that was negotiated in the final days of the 115th Congress. The momentum and support for this package remains widespread across a variety of public lands stakeholders, and urgent consideration of the package in the new Congress is well warranted.

The comprehensive public lands package is the product of years' worth of work and negotiations by the authorizing committees. It is thoroughly bipartisan in nature and broad in scope, and passage of this package would be a historical step forward for public lands and conservation.

The legislation is comprised of more than 100 locally and regionally specific public-land bills, wildlife conservation program reauthorizations, and provisions that would benefit American sportsmen and women, including the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and provisions to improve access for the outdoor recreation community.

The package has been formally introduced as S.47 in the 116th Senate by champions Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Maria Cantwell, with a leadership pledge for Senate floor time in the near future.

We urge you to pass this landmark legislative package so that future generations of Americans can enjoy our public lands, waterways, and the wildlife that inhabit them for years to come.

When SDWF President Mark Widman forwarded the above letter to our Congressman Dusty Johnson, he got back this message

“While I strongly support funding for the LWCF, I have concerns about a permanent authorization. It is the responsibility of Congress to routinely evaluate the effectiveness of all programs and permanent authorization removes Congress’ role in the process. I believe the American people deserve a voice, and expect periodic review, in how these funds are spent.”

Call Dusty Johnson toll free at 1-855-225-2801  
Call Senator Rounds toll free at 1-844-875-5268  
Call Senator Thune toll free at 1-866-850-3855

## Governor Kristi Wants Help on Habitat

Governor Kristi says “We are Listening, Help us find solutions.” Habitat solutions can come from anyone. And Gov. Kristi Noem wants to hear from you!

She is encouraging landowners and producers, sportsmen and women, and other outdoor enthusiasts to come together and engage in finding solutions for sustainable habitat. Let's work together to promote thoughtful and respectful engagement while identifying solutions to complex habitat management issues for our state. If your solution is implemented, Gov. Noem will waive the fee of your hunting or fishing license OR park entrance license. Submit your idea to this address:

<https://habitat.sd.gov/contact/solutions.aspx>



## Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb 15-18 (by C. Berry)

Last month I tried to encourage BWF members to get involved in the GBBC, and some of you did. Brookings had 14 participants who submitted 36 checklists recording 31 species. We were in the top 4 counties with Pennington, Hughes and Minnehaha. It is interesting to explore the data at the GBBC website, and see the names of Brookings residents who participated at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>. Click the “Explore data” tab and write in “South Dakota.”



## John David Dingell Jr. (July 8, 1926 – February 7, 2019)

Dingle served as a US Representative from Michigan from 1955 to 2015. A Democrat, he holds the record for the longest-ever serving Congressperson in American history. You can imagine that he got involved in a lot of legislation in all those years, but there is one piece of legislation with his name on it that literally is uttered daily in the halls of the GFP offices and all other state fisheries offices around the country. They use the term D-J Funding, meaning Dingle-Johnson Act.



Dingle and Senator Edwin Johnson of Colorado started the program in the 1950s when the states needed money to restore sport fishing opportunities as people used the out-of-doors much more after the war – here’s the story.....

Here are some points on the D-J Act. This act is the act that allows you, the sportsmen, to say that your out-of-doors sport is a **“user pays”** sport. This means not only do anglers buy a license, but they pay a tax on their equipment, and the tax comes back to the state for fish habitat conservation (there is a similar Act for wildlife). The Program is a cooperative effort between state and federal wildlife agencies, the fishing tackle industry, anglers, and boaters.

A 10% excise tax on fishing tackle goes to a Federal trust fund called the Sport Fishing Restoration Program. The money is then passed back to the states according to the state’s land area and number of licensed anglers. The real teeth of the bill that has stopped South Dakota legislators from stealing our license money in the past is the provision that says the Feds won’t send D-J funds back to the state if the state diverts any license fees to programs other than fish habitat (legislators can’t rob license fees to pay for other things or they lose the Federal Aid for fish).

The power behind the act comes from anglers and boaters. Excise taxes placed on fishing tackle such as rods and reels, line, hooks and sinkers, all types of artificial lures, electric motors, import duties on boats, sailboats and yachts, and a motorboat fuel tax on gasoline are collected and placed in a trust fund in the Department of Treasury in Washington, D.C. Monies deposited in this fund are only available for sport fish management activities.

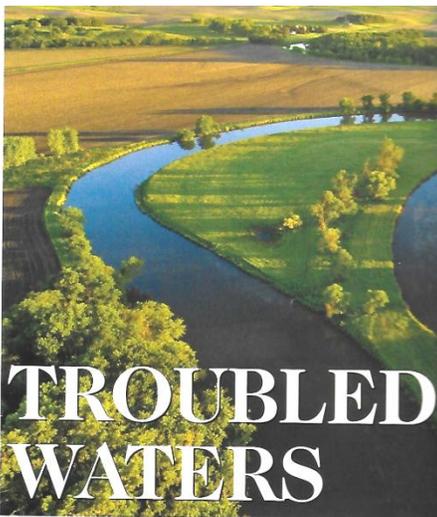
D-J Program funds are matched with State funds, usually as 25% State: 75% Program. State funds are generated through the sale of fishing licenses. The Program requires that funds be spent on sport fishing and boating related activities.

The South Dakota GFP uses D-J funds for management, fish hatcheries, fishing education, and research. The SDSU fish research program has really benefited because the University has agreed to waive overhead, which can be counted as the state's part of the matching money. Many, many SDSU graduate students have been funded by D-J monies.

John Dingle was also active with the following piece of environmental legislation:

- 1972 Clean Water Act, which has helped protect waterways from pollution for more than 40 years.
- authored the 1973 Endangered Species Act, which made America the first country in the world to condemn human-caused extinction of other species as illegal.
- He wrote the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA, which requires federal agencies to consider the environmental consequences of developmental projects before they are built.
- He helped establish the first international wildlife refuge in North America, the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge. One of his proudest achievements, the refuge has been protecting and conserving habitat for over 60 kinds of fish and 300 species of migratory birds since 2001.
- He played integral roles in many other important energy and environmental bills, such as the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments [of] 1986 and 1996, Pollution Prevention Act [of] 1990, Energy Policy Act of 1992, National Energy Conservation Policy Act of 1978 and Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975.

### South Dakota Magazine article on Big Sioux River (Mar/Apr Issue)



The latest issue of South Dakota Magazine had a lengthy article on the Big Sioux River. Recall our Newsletter Editor's concern when outgoing Gov. Daaugard said that river water should be a program for the next administration, and an *Argus Leader* investigation found the DENR unable to deal with the problems in our State's rivers.

The Big Sioux's waters are "troubled" because they do not meet standards, and the DENR hasn't done much to enforce the laws.

The article says that Agropur cheese plant at Lake Norden is tripling its size and will pump millions of gallons of waste water into the Big Sioux 3 miles north of Estelline. This application got Jay Gibertson's "knickers in a wad" because his East Dakota Water Development district has had a goal of bringing the Big Sioux up to standards. He says that the DENR "seems more interested in protecting industry than protecting water." DENR has always been very easy to hit with this charge.

The article gives some history of the Big Sioux, and is centered on the Sioux Falls area. The article follows several river conservation groups as they monitor water quality and advocate for conservation. All reports have concluded that any plan to reduce bacteria in the river must include controlling livestock manure runoff and cattle in streams. For Big Sioux waters in Minnesota, the state has required 50 foot buffer strips. South Dakota has buffer strip programs also, but they are small and voluntary. The article mentions some farmers who have chosen to do the right thing and protect the river.

***Do unto your downstream neighbor as you would have your upstream neighbor do unto you.***

Luke 6:31

## BWF – SDWF – NWF Newsbytes



**Infolunches:** Have an Infolunch speaker or a story to tell? Contact Spencer Vaa 692-7219.

SAVE YOUR HY VEE RECEIPTS FOR BWF

Bring your receipts to the InfoLunches or mail to Box 104, Brookings SD 57006

**BWF Board:** Thanks to our Board members P. Wagner, D. Micko, Bob Kurtz, and T. Wiczorek for their contributions of time and talent to the BWF. Past Pres. Rich Widman and Treasurer Lawrence Novotny usually attend also. Pres. Spencer Vaa's agenda this month is: Pierre legislative bills, future info lunch programs and anything else that pops up.

**Membership:** Membership Year: July 1 – June 30; membership categories are: 1) Trophy (\$100), 2) Magnum (\$50), and 3) Regular (\$30 single, \$40 family) to BWF, Box 104, Brookings SD 57006. Thanks to Treasurer Novotny for keeping member lists. New Members in February are Stan Rauch and Richard Holm.

**BWF Newsletter:** Posted at the SDWF website <http://www.sdwf.org/>, and mailed monthly to 139 email and 10 snail mail addresses; Contact [cberry@itctel.com](mailto:cberry@itctel.com) with news or photos for the next newsletter or address change. Thanks T. Wiczorek and Barbara Horten for copying and mailing paper copies.

**South Dakota Wildlife Federation:** <http://www.sdwf.org/> and <http://www.sdwfcamo.net/>,



The SDWF is the oldest wildlife conservation advocacy organization in South Dakota with membership of over 3,400 sportsmen and women in 16 affiliate clubs across the state. The newspaper titled *Out of Doors* is mailed 6 times/yr.

A partner to the SDWF is the CamoCoalition (<https://www.sdwfcamo.net/>). Their website says "We have set up this site so that we together can take action that includes following key legislation, contacting decision makers and meeting others involved." Their legislative tracking system during session is really great.

**Sportsmen in Pierre:** Camo Day at the State Capitol was held on Monday, January 28. When you get the CamoCoalition groups together in Pierre, it must represent a lot of votes. Here are the groups that the SDWF can usually count on to support our views on legislation about outdoors issues.

The Nature Conservancy  
SD Bowhunters  
Isaac Walton League

SD Waterfowl Assoc.  
Dakota Trout Unlimited  
Wild Turkey Federation

SD Ducks Unlimited  
SD Pheasants Forever  
SD Walleye Unlimited

East River Sierra  
SDWF Camo

**National Wildlife Federation:** The *National Wildlife Magazine* is from the National organization (\$15/yr at [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org) or write to NWF 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston, VA 20190-5362). \$5 goes to the magazine, \$10 deductible. Membership for \$15 includes 6 issues.



**NWF Action 2018 Report.** At a time when people say that politics are so broken that nothing can get done, the NWF reports conservation victories in their annual report titled *Action Report 2018: Advancing a Common Agenda for Wildlife*. South Dakota doesn't get much mention in the report, but we do know about the Farm Bill that the NWF worked on. The report is 31-pages of short "bullet" statements about accomplishments which are interesting reading if you follow national conservation news.

You can order Ranger Rick for your kids, your grandkids, or yourself and help SDWF at the same time!

Go to [www.nwf.org/sdwfkidsgift](http://www.nwf.org/sdwfkidsgift)

## ***Brookings Wildlife Federation***

Celebrating 40 years in Brookings

**Affiliated with:** National Wildlife Federation  
South Dakota Wildlife Federation

**Interests:** Conservation, hunting, fishing

**Activities:** Kids Fishing Weekend  
SDSU Scholarships  
Information meetings, seminars  
Monthly newsletter  
Black Hills Conservation Camp  
Brookings County Conservation  
State Policy Watch  
Conservation Small Grants  
Public information, education, awards

### ***Inside the March Newsletter***

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February Infolunch: Climbing Devils Tower  
Legislative Update: Bills about hunting/fishing  
How to Contact Legislators  
Federal Conservation Legislation **Support!!**  
Help Gov Kristi Improve Habitat  
Great Backyard Bird Count  
Big Sioux River Troubled  
Rep. John Dingle’s and the D-J Act  
BWF/SDWF/NWF Tidbits



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