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South Dakota
Wildlife
Federation

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OUT OF DOORS

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

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National Wildlife Federation is 75 Years Old

By Chuck Berry

The Feb/Mar issue of National Wildlife is a special anniversary issue.ii The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) claims that they have been a formidable force for conservation for 75 years. There are several instances where South Dakota is so important in the national history that we were mentioned as a history "highlight."

One reason that I am interested in the history of the NWF is that the same guy, Jay "Ding" Darling, who started the NWF also started a Federal government program in graduate wildlife education called the Cooperative Wildlife and Fishery Research Unit Program. My career was with this program at schools in Virginia, Utah and South Dakota. The SDSU Cooperative Research Unit received a SDWF award for its educational contributions in 2003.

Our part in the Federation

Darling was a newspaper writer and cartoonist. He lived in Sioux City, hunted in South Dakota, and went to school for a while in South Dakota. His cartoons were very, very busy but had a great impact. The cartoon at the right is one he used in 1936 to depict the many different fish and wildlife clubs coming to Washington to ask government for policies that would stop the destruction of natural resources.

Jay "Ding" Darling said that these voters needed one voice if they were to get political attention. His solution was a federation of these clubs. Each state would be a federation of local clubs; each local club would have a vote in the state federation; each state federation would have a vote in a national federation. We still have this format.

There is still something for us to hear in comments Darling made in 1935. He said, "Wildlife interests remind me of an unorganized army, beaten in every battle, zealous and brave but unable to combat the trained legions that are organized to get what they want." Today we have clubs for pheasants, ducks, turkeys, walleye, bass, habitat, water, etc...all zealous but

Today, the NWF appeals to families, educators, kids, and "nonconsumptive" outdoor recreationists. It is not where you and I go for hunting and fishing information. However, each state affiliate and each local affiliate takes on the persona of its members. In South Dakota, we work on hunting and fishing issues in Pierre, and provide information about broader conservation issues (e.g., endangered species, climate change, and air and water pollution). However, I think we are perceived as a hook and bullets group in Pierre, and I think most of the 3,500 South Dakota members think of hunting and fishing first, even though our mission statement (<http://www.sdwf.org/>) is "represent the interest of all South Dakotan's in wildlife, outdoor recreation, natural resources and a quality environment."

South Dakota highlights in NWF history

South Dakota is mentioned a couple of times in a book about the history of the NWF in which we get a pat on the back for establishing our Conservation Camp.iii The SDWF was established in 1945 and started Conservation Camp in

1963. Since then about 5,000 teenage boys and girls have learned about the wild world in the Black Hills. Many of the graduates became leaders in the South Dakota conservation movement."

The special edition of National Wildlife mentions South Dakota twice in the list of history highlights. First, in the 1940's the SDWF played a key role in creation of a state program marking nonresident hunting fees for habitat acquisition. During the Depression, the State purchased some small acreages to be used as public shooting grounds, and the shooting ground program really took off with fees from about 90,000 nonresident pheasant hunters annually in the 1940's.iv A small amount of the nonresident fee (\$3-4)

still goes for land acquisition, leasing, development, and taxes.

Secondly the history notes say that in 1974, "the Federation donates 1,100 acres of bald eagle habitat in South Dakota to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service." You are part of this history if you ever bought a drink at a 7-Eleven store. To buy land around Ft Randall Dam where bald eagles liked to hang out in the 1960s, 7-Eleven Food Stores and the NWF worked out a deal in which proceeds from the sale of 7-Eleven endangered species drinking cups was donated to the NWF. The NWF purchased the land and donated it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We know it as the Karl E. Mundt National Wildlife Refuge.

75 Years in Four Paragraphs

Here is my quick summary of NWF history. In the 1930s, the NWF was formed to "make effective progress in restoring and conserving the vanishing wildlife resources of a continent." President F. D. Roosevelt was on board (he and Ding were buddies). Roosevelt

proclaimed the first National Wildlife Week in 1938, and we still celebrate this week - March 13-20 this year. What's your club doing?

These days, the NWF says that they (I mean we) work to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. As the nation's largest conservation organization, NWF and its 4 million supporters are committed to sustaining the nature of America for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Through the years, the NWF has launched numerous educational materials – National Wildlife Magazine, Ranger Rick, Your Big Backyard, EnviroAction, Wildlife Week materials, radio newsbreaks, and film, TV and internet (sign up for weekly notes from NWF using their "Wildlife Online" program). The flagship magazine National Wildlife has articles on kids, education, ecology, photography, and environment.

Litigation has been a big tool for the NWF. They hired their first attorney on Earth Day in 1970. For better or worse, a lot of environmental decisions are made in court. In the 1980s, the NWF was called "one of the top two lobbying organizations in DC" when they testified at 34 congressional hearings that year. You'll also be glad to know that the NWF has been praised as "the best environmental group for spread of member donations," and "a visionary employer for and environmental sustainable workplace."

Continued on Page 2

75th



Anniversary

BARCODED FLATS

National Wildlife Federation is 75 Years Old

Continued from Page 1

The NWF first got busy protecting wetlands in 1975, which might have been the "dawn of wetland conservation." Some SDSU faculty (Dr. Ray Linder, Dr. Dan Hubbard, Dave Nomsen [now a big shot with Pheasants Forever], and Dr. Ken Higgins) helped educate students and the public about our prairie pothole wetlands and this new idea of wetland conservation. In the 1950s, the SDSU Extension Service had printed brochures on how to drain a wetland, so the public was confused about the value of wetlands (still are in my opinion). The Wildlife Week theme in 1975 was "Save Our Wetlands."

A National Environmental Policy

The NWF has been involved in almost every issue – back in the 1960's and 70's they pushed for legislation in endangered species, clean water and air, and the National Environmental Policy Act, which for the first time stated a policy about our environment. It is worth quoting even though we all realize that "the devil is in the details." The purpose of the Act was to "declare a National policy which would encourage a productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts that will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation; and to establish a Council of Environmental Quality."

Squirrel Day?

On the other end of the scale from national legislative battles and national environmental policy, the NWF advocates less known issues like (I'm not making this up) - National Squirrel Appreciation Day. There really is a National Squirrel Appreciation Day every January 21st. I watch the red squirrels in my yard do some amazing stuff, including escaping from my Springer spaniel named Higgins (well, there was that slow one last week!). The NWF says, "It's time to honor these adorable mammals that scamper around cities, suburbs, parks, and forests all over the United States." Check out the Squirrel Appreciation Web site and click on the video to watch a squirrel take on one of those backyard obstacle courses just to get at the bird feeder.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Outdoors/Archives/2011/Squirrel-Day-Activities.aspx>

- i Chuck Berry is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science at SDSU.
- ii National Wildlife is a benefit to members of the NWF; only \$15/year - \$5 for the magazine and \$10 donation; I used information from J. S. Sachs, "What we want is action" (Vol 49, No. 2, page 23-37).
- iii I also used information from Allen, T. B. 1987. Guardian of the Wild: The Story of the National Wildlife Federation, 1936-1986. Indiana University Press.
- iv Hipschman, D. 1959. Department History 1909-1959. Pages 10 – 71 the 1959 Annual Report of the Dept. Game. Fish and Parks; especially pages 55-59 describing the pheasant boom after WWII.

On January 11, 2011 at the Beadle County Sportsmen's Club monthly meeting, a Big Buck/Big Bull/Longest Fish contest was held for the year of 2010. Must be taken in South Dakota and be a current member of BCSC.



The winners were: Rifle Whitetail- Neil Rogers, Archery Elk - Richard Wurts (held by Curt Kempf), Archery Whitetail- Aaron Rogers, Rifle Muledeer - Justin Picek, Archery Muledeer - Justin Picek and Rifle Antelope - Justin Picek.



Longest Fish Speargun - Justin Picek (walleye), Longest Other Fish - Greg Weeldreyer (salmon), Longest Any Other Game Fish- Dave Eichstadt (salmon).

Questions? Answers? Wildlife blog at sdwfcamo.net

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

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2010-2011 SDWF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Chris Hesla Phone 605-224-7524
Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501
E-Mail: sdwf@mcmm.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@swiftnet.net
Region 3 - Dennis Skoog 432-4385
15377 479th Ave., Milbank, SD 57252
E-Mail: dmskoo@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, Mobridge, SD 57601
E-Mail: mcclellan4@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: arnielori@nrcvt.com
- Lori Goldade 225-7884
12892 Fairfield Drive, Aberdeen, SD 57401
E-Mail: arnielori@nrcvt.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: lmayes@rap.midco.net
- IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - Rieck Eske 229-1743
PO Box 46, Warner, SD, 57479
E-Mail: rieckeske@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
- 612 S. Garfield, Murdo, SD 57559 669-2829
E-Mail: hdmac@wcnct.com
- REGION NINE DIRECTOR - Gene Oglesby 402-476-3434
650 J Street #400, Lincoln, NE 68508
E-Mail: bkwgtto@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 605-578-1540
altheorte200@yahoo.com

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*

How can I support the South Dakota Wildlife Federation?

First and foremost, be an active member through 1 of SD's 16 Affiliate Clubs or as an Individual Member. An organization with a large and diverse membership can expect to thrive and be a strong leader in its mission and endeavors. The easiest way to become a member of the Federation is at sdwf.org. That website also contains information, the archived newsletter, artwork, and SDWF merchandise for purchase.

The second way to support the South Dakota Wildlife Federation is to share information about SDWF's work with your hunting and fishing buddies. We all appreciate the outdoor pursuits we have in South Dakota. Your encouragement to join the collective effort will strengthen SDWF's capacity.

To learn how the SDWF Camo-Coalition works to protect and support our outdoor heritage, go to sdwfcamo.net. There you can read recent wildlife-related publications and findings, register to receive daily legislative updates, and blog about wildlife issues.

The SDWF and SDWF Camo-Coalition is always seeking financial support from grantors and our members. We offer a variety of raffles through which you can support our efforts and take a chance on your luck. Each Out of Doors has at least 1 raffle for things like guns, hunts, and prints. The raffles offered by SDWF are tax deductible according to IRS regulations. Financial support given to the SDWF Camo-Coalition is not tax deductible per IRS rules pertaining to lobbying organizations.

There is one final way to financially support SDWF. 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. As you can see from the list of donors in each edition of Out-of-Doors, we have a tremendous amount of support in our Members. THANK YOU to the Wildlife Legacy Council members. Your contributions are a significant reason why we are successful.

The Wildlife Legacy Council consists of five different 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.

Please consider becoming a member of the Wildlife Legacy Council today. SDWF is a 501(c3) non-profit organization so all donations are tax deductible. Your membership on the Wildlife Legacy Council will improve our efforts to protect and support our outdoor heritage. Donations can be sent to SDWF, PO Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501.

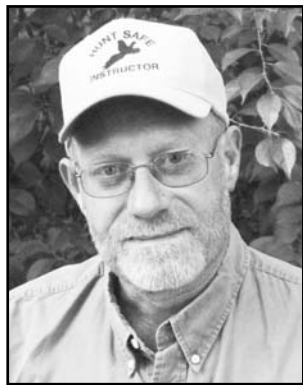
Donations to the SDWF Camo-Coalition can be made at SDWF Camo-Coalition, PO Box 952, Pierre, SD 57501-0952.

Your continued financial support of the SDWF and SDWF Camo-Coalition does impact our ability to protect and support our outdoor heritage. Thank you.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

President's Column *by Bill Antonides*



President,
Bill Antonides

By the time you read this, the 2011 legislative session will be nearly over. The SDWF has been tracking at least 34 bills which would affect your rights as a sportsman and the protection of our natural resources for generations yet to come. We don't pretend we can keep you updated on each bill in a monthly publication. Even the daily newspapers can't keep up with current legislation. Bills can be introduced, debated, amended, and passed or killed before the story even hits the newsstand. An amendment with as little as a word or two changed can make a good piece of legislation bad, and vice-versa. The opportunity for public input is extremely limited.

This is why we so strongly urge our members to sign up for the free SDWF Camo Coalition daily legislative e-mail updates (You can sign up at sdwfcamo.net). The SDWF Camo Coalition has two very knowledgeable lobbyists in Pierre every day of the session. They work hard to keep up with the legislation and to keep legislators fully informed of the ramifications of a bill becoming law. Knowledge is power, but it must be accurate to be of value. Far too many legislators operate with only a fraction of the information available on any given subject. This is not surprising, given the huge volume of proposed legislation which crosses their desks.

As usual, a few legislators appear to believe the average sportsman no longer has a place in the fields of South Dakota. These lawmakers seem to believe that if South Dakota hunters and fishermen continue to have the freedoms they now enjoy it somehow takes something from their other constituents. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Our traditions, including our strong legacy of hunting and fishing, have made South Dakota the great state it is. The folks who think otherwise may claim they are pro-sportsmen, but the bills they introduce show an entirely different perspective. Bills designed to do the following are the mantra repeated year after year:

- * Take sportsmen's dollars and use them to fix someone else's budget crisis.
- * Double or triple tax sportsmen by whatever means they can devise.

- * Not allow sportsmen to spend their money as they see fit, including land purchases and conservation easements.
- * Not allow conservation officers to enforce the laws equally and equitably.
- * Give special privileges to certain segments of the population at the expense of the average sportsman and the protection of our natural resources.
- * Show unwarranted disdain towards certain wildlife species or land management and preservation practices.
- * Privatize and then commercialize the natural resources belonging to us all.
- * Take a very short-term view regarding our natural resources and leave the mess for our grandchildren to deal with.
- * Drive a wedge between sportsmen and landowners, and unnecessarily cause hard feelings on both sides.

A seemingly never-ending supply of legislators think they should have absolute control over the natural resources of our state, without regard for the opinions of sportsmen and other conservationists. However, the majority of our legislators do listen to thoughtful, reasonable dialog from their constituents. They simply need accurate information to work with. We win when enough people take the time to get involved and let their feelings be known. Thankfully, we have a great many members who do just that, but we need more. The opposition is strong, so we must be stronger. We can't afford to lose even one battle.

Please join a SDWF affiliate club or the SDWF directly if you have not already done so, and ask a friend or two to do his or her fair share. EVERY person who cares about our heritage needs to speak up. We have the power to change things for the better for sportsmen, environmentalists and future generations of outdoorsmen, if we only care to use it.

My heartfelt thanks to each of you who have helped with calls, e-mails and letters to our legislators. I also extend my deepest gratitude to the great many legislators who do their very best to serve all the people of this great state.

South Dakota Resident Pheasant Hunter Numbers Shrinking

By Chuck Dieter

South Dakota. Pheasant capital of the world! Birds everywhere! The non-native ring-necked pheasant is even the state bird. Just say South Dakota, and hunters dream of walking grass or cornfields for a gaudy rooster.

Pheasant populations in recent years have been bin busters. Some of the highest counts ever in South Dakota have occurred in the last 10 years. South Dakotans should be reaping the harvest! Everyone should be out chasing roosters, right?

Well, that simply is not the case. Numbers of resident pheasant hunters in South Dakota have been on a steady decline for 50 years. In fact, the number of South Dakota resident pheasant hunters in 2009 was the lowest since 1943, a time span of 76 years.

Take a look at trends for the last 50 years. According to data from South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, back in 1960 there were 141,000 resident pheasant hunters in South Dakota. Since then, the population of the state has increased slightly. However, the number of resident pheasant hunters in 2009 was only 69,000.

Actually, there were 69,000 upland game licenses sold which are counted as pheasant hunters. Some of these hunters may buy a license to hunt prairie grouse but they are still counted as pheasant hunters. In any case, it is obvious that South Dakota is losing pheasant hunters even though pheasant numbers are at record high levels.

Why is South Dakota losing resident pheasant hunters? There are several possible reasons.

For one thing, many small towns are shrinking and cities are getting larger. Rural folks always are more likely to hunt than city dwellers.

Another possibility is that people are too busy to hunt. Life is hectic and there are some people that just gave up hunting and do something else in their spare time.

But if you talk to hunters that quit hunting pheasants, there is a common theme among them. It is just too hard to find a good place to hunt. Leroy Jensen, an avid hunter from Brookings gave up pheasant hunting a long time ago and he concentrates on waterfowl hunting. Leroy said "I used to love pheasant hunting but it is just too hard to find a place to hunt. Public land is hunted hard and most private land is leased or is a pay to hunt operation. I am not going to pay to hunt".

Commercialization. That is a dirty word to the average Joe hunter. In the prime pheasant areas of south-central South Dakota, almost all private land is either in a pheasant preserve or a pheasant operation that caters to wealthy out of state hunters. While there is still some good hunting in areas of the state, most well-known pheasant areas are

off limits unless you are willing to pay.

How has increased commercialization of pheasant hunting affected non-residents hunters? Well, in 1960 there were 40,000 non-residents and in 2009 the number rocketed to over 100,000. It is no secret that a vast majority of folks that hunt on commercial pheasant operations are non-residents. The commercial pheasant farms cater to folks who are willing to pay upwards of \$2,000 per day to shoot 3 pheasants.

While this change in pheasant hunter demographics is good for some farmers, motels, restaurants, and other business interests, many resident hunters feel left in the dust.

If you look at the attached graph, you can see what has happened. From 1960 to about 1990, the number of both residents and non-residents had similar patterns which were probably related to pheasant populations. However, in the last 20 years the pattern has changed.

The number of resident hunters has declined slowly but steadily and hit its all time low in 2009 even though pheasant numbers were off the charts.

Meanwhile, non-resident hunter numbers took a jump in the 1990's and finally surpassed the number of residents in 2002. Since 2002, non-resident numbers continued to increase and averaged 100,000 from 2007-2009.

What does this all mean? Well, there have been about the same overall number of pheasant hunters in South Dakota since 1960. However, what has changed is that residents made up about 80% of the hunters in 1960 but in 2009, only about 40% of the pheasant hunters are South Dakota residents.

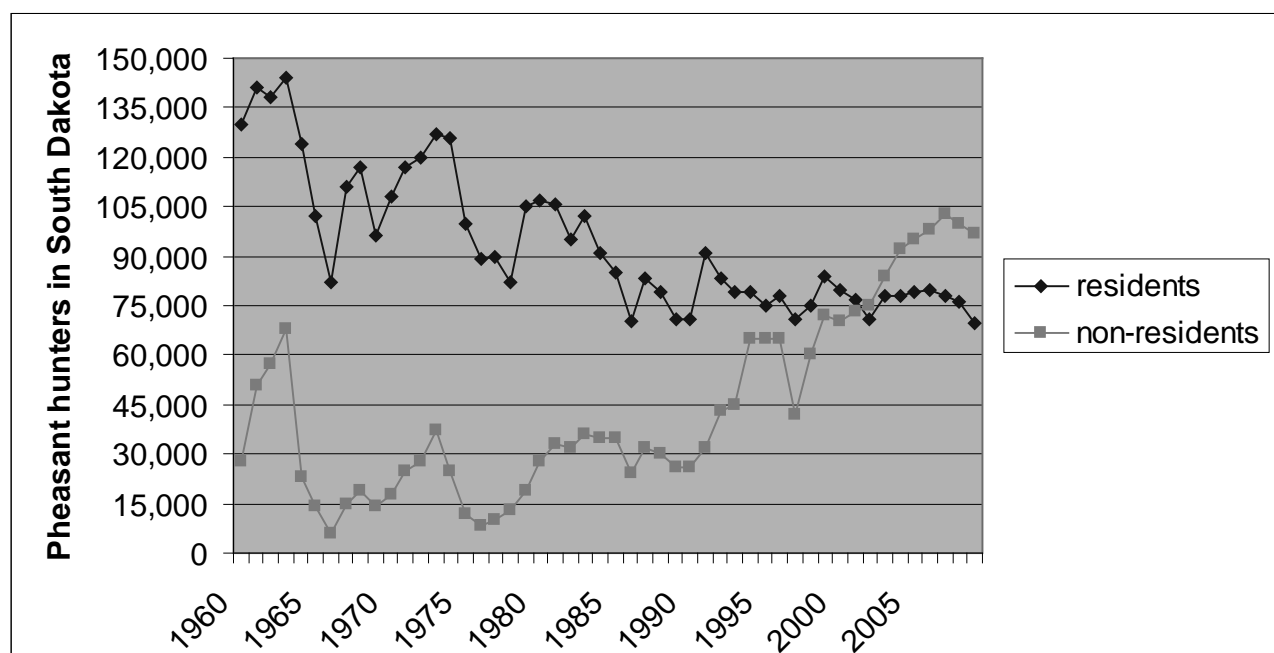
Last year I was sitting downtown with some basketball buddies. A relatively new member of the group was bragging about how many pheasants his dad had on his farm by Huron. Since it was late in the season, we asked if we might be able to hunt. His face turned ashen and he immediately clammed up. It seems these pheasants were saved for paying customers from Minnesota.

This type of interaction is commonplace these days. Local residents can't even hunt in their own backyard.

The department of Game, Fish, and Parks is trying to stem the ebbing tide of resident pheasant hunters. The agency has actively pursued walk-in areas which can provide excellent hunting. These areas are open to everyone. There is a great booklet put out each year that shows where all the walk-in areas are located.

Hopefully, the efforts of SDGFP will help the situation. However, even if pheasant numbers stay high, it is likely that the number of resident pheasant hunters will continue to decline as commercialization of the resource increases.

**South
Dakota.
Pheasant
capital of
the world!
Birds
everywhere!**



Researchers hope to curb SD advance of Asian Carp

Re-printed from the Sioux Falls Argus Leader

Abetted by last summer's record flooding, Asian carp are continuing their advance up the Big Sioux and other Missouri River tributaries, as researchers and wildlife officials gear up to deal with the invasion. "They're here, so the big question is, how many are we going to get?" said Brian Graeb, an assistant professor in South Dakota State University's wildlife and fisheries department. Graeb and a doctoral student, Cari-Ann Hayer, have been studying the Asian carp's incursion into eastern South Dakota for almost two years. Results of the population research so far has been encouraging: Sampling runs have netted only 18 carp, which include silver, black, grass and bighead species. It's uncertain how the population will swell from there, Graeb said.

Left unchecked, the fish devastate river ecosystems, reproducing prolifically and consuming up to 20 percent of their body weight in plankton and algae every day. They compete directly with native fish such as gizzard shad and emerald shiner, and in strong enough numbers can knock out the bottom link on the food chain. "It just collapses that whole food web," said Mike Smith, the aquatic nuisance species coordinator at South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

Silver carp also can pose a hazard to humans. Known as flying fish, they leap like scaly missiles out of the water when startled, smacking rivergoers in the face with enough force sometimes to break bones. Asian carp can grow to 100 pounds or more and 5 feet in length, depending on the species and the setting. They were first imported to clean up algae at fish farms in the 1970s but escaped during widespread flooding. They have been moving steadily up the Mississippi River ever since. As part of their research, Graeb and Hayer are gathering baseline data for existing food pathways in the rivers. This puts them in a better position to predict how the Asian carp might affect the rivers' ecosystems and how best to manage a population boom, if it ever comes.

The carp have been in the Big Sioux and other tributaries of the Missouri River since at least 2006, when a fisherman caught a silver carp just below the Canton Dam, Hayer said. Presumably, they maneuvered upstream during last summer's flooding, Graeb said.

Found in Big Sioux near Sioux Falls dam

Last fall, for the first time, Hayer found juveniles in the Big Sioux River near the Sioux Falls dam - evidence that a second generation is establishing itself. "It's evidence of

successful reproduction," Graeb said. "We don't know if that reproduction happened in South Dakota."

If the fish do muscle farther into South Dakota, the experience of other states shows that managing carp populations can be like trying to unring a bell. They have devastated the ecosystems of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, where in some places Asian carp outnumber other species nine to one, according to an interagency committee tasked with keeping the fish out of the Great Lakes. The problem has become so great that in September the White House appointed a "carp czar" to oversee \$78 million in federal funding for efforts to halt the fish's advance.

2 million eggs found in a 40-pound bighead

"Asian carps are really successful because they're able to overpopulate an area very quickly - they're prolific spawners," Smith said. The fish are broadcast spawners, floating to midstream to release a torrent of eggs into the current. Kevin Irons, the aquatic nuisance species program manager at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, said one of his technicians once cut open a 40-pound bighead carp and found 2 million eggs inside, he said.

"They're very abundant (here)," Irons said. "There are probably more of them in the Illinois River than anywhere else in the world." Illinois has had some success in

keeping population numbers down by offering incentives to commercial fisherman - though bony, the carp's firm, white meat is reportedly quite tasty. The regional fishing industry nets at least a million pounds of Asian carp a month, Irons said. "There is a standing order for 30 million pounds to China."

Gavins Point Dam a major barrier to carp

One thing South Dakota has going for it is the artificial barrier of Gavins Point Dam, which has prevented the carps from advancing farther into the state, Smith said. Because it's difficult to tell young Asian carp apart from bait fish, fishermen are prohibited from using bait caught below Gavins Point anywhere else. Smith said preventing such "bait-bucket" introductions is one of his section's top priorities.

Another bright spot is the relatively harsh environment of South Dakota's waterways, which could depress carp populations, Graeb said. Although the SDSU researchers don't have enough information yet to know how much the population will grow, Graeb said one thing is clear: "We're never going to get rid of them completely."



Cari-Ann Hayer, a doctoral student at South Dakota State University, is studying Asian carp. She holds a bighead carp she caught last fall in the James River near Mitchell. / Photo courtesy of SDSU

"Asian carps are really successful because they're able to overpopulate an area very quickly - they're prolific spawners,"

"...the game belongs to the people. So it does; and not merely to the people now alive, but to the unborn people...Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations.

Theodore Roosevelt, 1916

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(c)3 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.

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 WILSON, JR., ROBERT A. - CA (Memorial for Robert)	Level II Deer BELL, III, HARRY - MS BUXCEL, NORMAN - SD Level I Pheasant BLACKBURN, JOHN - SD BURNS, HOWARD - SD CONROY, JOE - MN DENNIS, JACK - NV EDER, PHIL - MN	FULLER, LESLIE - AL GILBERT, DAVE - SD GRIFFIN, JOHN - OK HALVERSON, KENNETH - SD HEIM, MERRILL - SD KLUNDT, SCOTT - SD KUCK, MICHAEL - SD MILLER, RICHARD - SD NELSON, GERALD - MN	OLSON, JEFF - SD OLSON, TERRY - SC SAMPSON, TERRY - SD SMITH, DR. PATRICK - MI SWEDLUND, KEN - SD TRAVERS, MD, HENRY - SD WEISENBURGER, ROBERT - MI WILTSEY, BOB - MN
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 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	CONNELL, CRAIG - SD DENISON, LARRY - VA FENSTRA, HARRY - MN FLINT, FORREST - MN GOGGINS, ROBERT - MN GRASS LAKE CONS CLUB - SD HALL, CARL W - KY 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	HECLA SPORTSMAN CLUB - SD HONEYCUTT, BILL - MO LEE, KARL O. - SD LINDNER, RONALD - SD MADLAND, JON - SD MCMASTERS, LEIGH - SD METTE, LARRY - SD 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	O'REILLY, LARRY - MO SCOTT, STEVE - SD WELCH, HARVEY - IL LEVEL I PHEASANT ANDERSON, JR., RALPH - NE BAGAU, TERRY - MN BLASKA, DUANE - MN SNAZA, ANTHONY - NY VAN MAANEN, TODD - SD WARE, BEN - NC WHITE, JIM - SD ZAJECHOWSKI, JOHN - WI ZIMMERMAN, HERB - CO ZLONIS, JEFF - MN
March 2010 LEVEL V EAGLE DILLON, RICHARD - MN HIGH PLAINS WILDLIFE - SD REPUBLIC NAT'L DIST - SD LEVEL III ELK EISENBEISZ, DAVID - CO FORMAN, KURT - SD SCHAVE, CAREY - SD	STAMMER, MARLIN - CA THE ROOSTER - SD TOSCANA, VIC - SD LEVEL II DEER BUZZELL, MANNY - TN CONNELL, CRAIG - SD KRETCHMAN, JIM - SD MCGARRY, PAT - SD	PAULETTO, JOE - WA PEDERSON, TIM - SD PICEK, LARRY - SD WALLEYE MASTERS, INC - SD LEVEL I PHEASANT DATHE, NORM - SD KASISCHKE, CARL - MI LEMKE, JOHN - SD	MCGUIRE, ARVID - WI MCHUGO, LAWRENCE - MN OCHOCKI, ROBERT - CA PAUL, K. LYNN - SD PORISCH, ROBERT - IA
February 2010 LEVEL V EAGLE BEADLE CO SPRTS CLUB - SD CHAPMAN, JOHN W. - PA DAKOTA SPORTSMAN - SD NWT SD CHAPTER - SD LEVEL IV BUFFALO BH SPORTSMAN'S CLUB - SD LEVEL III ELK 29-90 SPORTSMANS CLUB - SD FIEDLER, KEN - SD HAATVEDT, CY - SD JOHNSON, ERIC - MN	PHEASANTS FOREVER - SD STEINBERG, ROGER - MN LEVEL II DEER ANDRESEN, RICH - SD BERRY, CHUCK - SD COOPER, JOHN - SD DEDRICKSON, JAMES - SD DONOVAN JR., JOHN - SD HALL, CARL - KY HEEDUM, ROGER - NE LULEWICZ, JERRY - SD MALON, HARVEY - SD	MAYES, TERRY & LA REE - SD MEYERS, BILL - SD O'REILLY, LARRY - MO PESEK, RON - SD RANEY, THOMAS - KS SCHUPP, TERRY - AZ STYLES, GREGG - FL WEST, JOHN - SD WHETSTONE SPRTS CONS - SD LEVEL I PHEASANT AKKERMAN, STEPHEN - MN ANDERSON, EDDIE - TN	BORMANN, DANIEL - WI CLAYTON, BILL - SD FICK, HAROLD - CA FREESE, MARK - SD GILBERTSON, DARWIN - SD JONES CO SPRTS CLUB - SD KETTER, JEFFREY - WI LANDMAN REAL ESTATE - SD McMULLEN, CHUCK - SD SIEMON, DAVE - SD WIDMAN, RICH - SD

Dakota Grassland Conservation Area Proposed

An important program to protect key grassland and wetland complexes in the core of the U.S. Prairie Pothole region has been proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is called the "Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area", and would dedicate \$588 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to protect more than 240,000 acres of wetlands and 1.7 million acres of privately-owned grasslands in North Dakota, South Dakota, and eastern Montana.

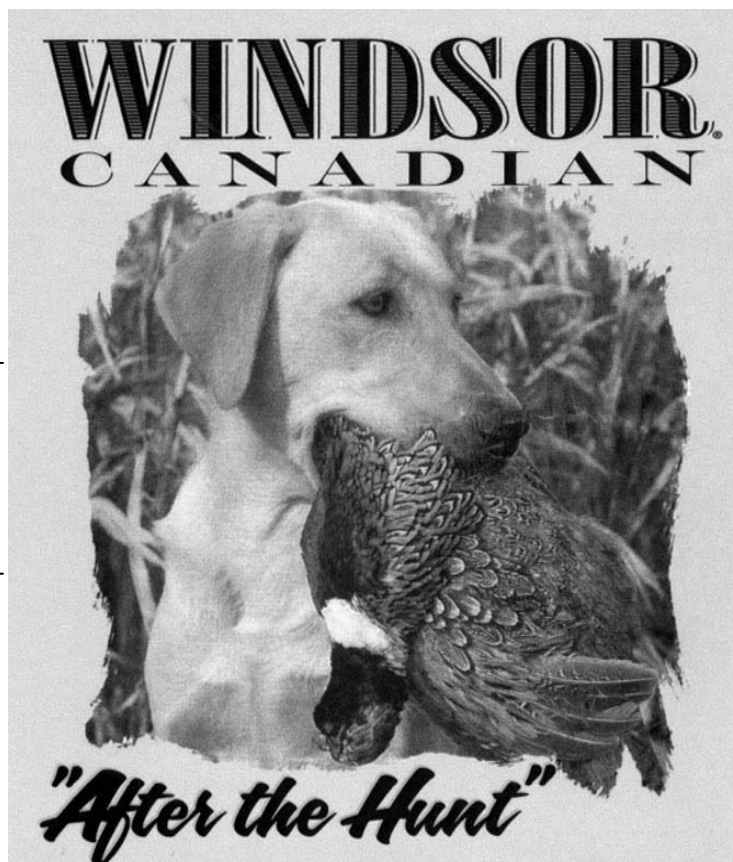
Conservation would occur through the purchase of conservation easements from willing landowners. This program is meant to serve as a critical piece of a broader conservation strategy targeting more than 10 million acres of grassland habitat in the Prairie Potholes over the next few decades. Without such efforts, it is estimated that one-third to one-half of these critical habitats will be converted to other uses within 35 years.

Prairie potholes are seasonal, primarily fresh water wetlands found in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and other states in the upper Midwest and into Canada. This formerly glaciated landscape is pockmarked with an immense number of depressions which fill with snowmelt and rain in the spring.

In addition to being known as North America's "duck factory", the Prairie Pothole region is the core of the global range of several U.S. WatchList birds. Ninety percent of the global population of Baird's Sparrow breeds in the Prairie Potholes, and 86% of the Sprague's Pipits. These areas are also crucially important to the Short-eared Owl, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Nelson's Sparrow, and McCown's Longspur. Most of these birds have seen significant declines in available habitat throughout their ranges.

"It will be impossible to stem the tide of grassland bird declines without implementing widespread conservation strategies in the Prairie Pothole region," said Dan Casey, Northern Rockies Coordinator for ABC and primary author of the Prairie Potholes Joint Venture's Landbird Implementation Plan. This plan is designed to identify strategies for implementing biologically-sound landbird habitat protection and enhancement in the Prairie Potholes Region.

"Working with willing landowners to acquire conservation easements will not only protect these crucial wetland and grassland habitats, it will help maintain traditional land uses and lifestyles of the prairies. Similar work is needed throughout the range of these birds wherever native prairie can still be found," Casey said.



Draft proposes allowing biotech crops on refuges

Moorhead, Minn. — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting an environmental review of the use of genetically modified crops in wildlife refuges.

National wildlife refuges have long used farming as a management tool, and refuge managers say using Roundup Ready crops is often the best way to restore native prairie and grassland.

The farming operations clear weed infested land and prepare a good seedbed before planting native grasses and wildflowers, which provides improved habitat and food for wildlife.

That makes farming is a critical tool, said Scott Kahan, who manages refuge lands around Detroit Lakes. Every year, he leases small plots of land to farmers who grow soybeans or corn on the land.

“Without doing that initial seedbed preparation we’ve met with some pretty disappointing results with lots of weeds and poor establishment of the grasses and wildflowers we’re trying to get going there,” Kahan said.

Kahan said if the agency approves the continued use of genetically modified crops like Roundup Ready soybeans, it would help limit the environmental affects of farming. Because genetically modified crops use less herbicide, the active ingredient in Roundup does not persist in soil, he said.

Other herbicides stay in the soil for two years or more and stop native plants from germinating, he said.

Crops are also planted on refuges to provide food for waterfowl and other wildlife.

The Fish and Wildlife Service’s environmental assessment, currently open for public review, recommends continued use of genetically modified crops in the Midwest wildlife refuge system. There are 54 national wildlife refuges and 12 wetland management districts in the eight-state Midwest Region.

A handful of environmental groups, including the Washington D.C.-based Center For Food Safety, are challenging the use of genetically modified crops on

wildlife refuges in other parts of the country.

Paige Tomaselli, an attorney for the center, said an environmental assessment is a good first step.

But as for the contention that Roundup Ready crops are environmentally safer, Tomaselli said there is no “actual proof that there are less herbicides being used, proof that the genetically modified crop will not harm human health or animal health and proof that resistant weeds will not be proliferated by this practice.”

“Right now all the evidence we see is pointing in the opposite direction,” she said.

Tomaselli said there should be no farming on national wildlife refuges.

The Fish and Wildlife Service says it plans to cut back on farming in favor of native vegetation to provide food for wildlife.

In the Midwest Region, row crops in refuges cover 20,418 acres, or 1.6 percent of Refuge System lands. In Minnesota 2,340 acres of Refuge System lands are farmed, less than half a percent of all Refuge System lands in the state.

Mike Brown, a policy expert for the Midwest Region Fish and Wildlife Service, said less than 2 percent of all refuge land is farmed. That number will be less than 1 percent in the next 15 years, he said.

Even if the continued use of genetically modified crops is made policy, he said, there will be a high standard for refuge managers to meet.

“Keep in mind that you’d still only be able to use them where it’s been determined they’re essential to accomplishing a refuge purpose,” Brown said. “There’s a process where on a case by case basis you’re going to have to state your case and get it approved at the regional level.”

The environmental assessment is open for public comment through Feb. 14. A final decision on the use of genetically modified crops on wildlife refuges is expected in the next couple of months.



Crops are also planted on refuges to provide food for waterfowl and other wildlife.

TIPs began in 1984 in the Black Hills after two elk were poached. Sportsmen became upset and offered a reward. It was so successful that it went statewide in 1985.

It now has a new hotline number
1.888.OVERBAG (683.7224)

TIPS program yielded 83 arrests for illegal hunting or fishing in 2010

PIERRE — A program that offers reward money for tips about illegal hunting or fishing in South Dakota paid out \$5,525 last year.

Turn In Poachers is run through the state Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

TIPS produced 379 investigations in the fiscal year ending last June 30. It resulted in 83 arrests and \$13,068 in fines and \$7,000 in civil penalties.

The GF&P says there have been 3,223 arrests and more than \$1 million in fines and civil penalties since the program began in 1984. It’s paid \$123,540 in reward money.



TURN IN POACHERS

Monarch butterfly numbers said recovering

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 15 (UPI) -- North America's monarch butterfly has recovered from its worst year ever, a study finds, but wildlife officials caution the species is still in trouble.

In 2009, the butterflies faced storms that decimated their numbers as they migrated from Canada and the United States to their winter home in central Mexico, NewsScientist.com reported Tuesday.

A recent study by the World Wildlife Fund of the butterfly's Mexican habitat found that insects wintering there since November covered almost 10 acres of forest -- twice the area of the prior year.



"These figures are encouraging, because they show a trend toward recovery after a record low," says Omar Vidal, director of WWF Mexico.

The extent of the terrain occupied is considered useful as an indirect measure of butterfly numbers.

While the recovery is good news, Vidal says, the insects still face risks during their winter stay and in their yearly migrations.

While illegal logging that had threatened the monarch's Mexican habitat is now under control, climate change and farming in the United States could deplete the food the butterflies rely on during their migratory flights, he said.

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

2010-2011 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

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Address _____
Phone _____

2010-2011 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

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2010-2011 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

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2010-2011 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

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2010-2011 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

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2010-2011 SDWF Custer Park Buffalo Shoot

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Phone _____

Wind Cave National Park Elk Capture Scheduled to Start Thursday



As long as the weather allows, crews will head into Wind Cave National Park on Thursday, and Friday if necessary, to round up 35 elk and fit them with radio collars so their movements can be monitored.

The roundup is part of a three-year study to track movements of elk in and out of the national park located in southwestern South Dakota. The collected data will be used by park biologists to determine the effectiveness of a recently upgraded boundary fence designed to prevent elk from returning to the park during the fall hunting season.

This project is part of the implementation phase of the Elk Management Plan approved in December of 2009.

Many of the elk that winter in the park leave in the spring. The park's management plan would allow elk to naturally leave the park when gates in the fence-line are down. The gates would then be raised prior to the hunting season to allow hunters outside the park, as part of regular hunts administered by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, to reduce the number of elk using the park.

Park officials want to reduce their elk herds, which count about 750 animals, by perhaps as many as 500 animals.

If the hunting success rates outside the park fail to adequately reduce and or maintain the elk population within the park, the plan calls for the use of such other alternatives as the use of roundups and shipping live elk to a processing plant or the euthanasia of the elk, or the use of sharpshooters within the park.

2011 South Dakota Wildlife Federation's 21 Gun Giveaway

\$20 each

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Remington 700 ACH | 270 |
| 2. Remington Super Mag | 12 ga. |
| 3. Bennell Nova | 25 ga. |
| 4. Remington 687 Scoped .22 combo | .22 |
| 5. Ruger 77R | 25.08 |
| 6. Remington 670 Express | 12 ga. |
| 7. Ruger 77R | 25.08 |
| 8. Savage 30817-DXP | 17 cal |
| 9. Bennell Nova | 25 ga. |
| 10. Remington Exp. Super Mag. | 12 ga. |
| 11. Ruger 77R | 25.08 |
| 12. Savage 30817-DXP | 17 cal |
| 13. Remington BDL | 22-250 |
| 14. Remington 687 Scoped .22 combo | .22 |
| 15. Remington 670 Exp. | 25 ga. |
| 16. Ruger 77R | 25.08 |
| 17. Savage 30817-DXP | 17 cal |
| 18. Bennell Nova | 25 ga. |
| 19. Remington 670 Exp. | 12 ga. |
| 20. Savage 30817-DXP | 17 cal |
| 21. Remington 687 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 21 Gun Giveaway Ticket

Name _____
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Please Write Legibly

2010/2011 SDWF 21 Gun Giveaway Ticket

Name _____
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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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