We filed a “friend of the court” brief in the 2003 SDSC case, the SDWF has been part of this process from the beginning. It was killed by its sponsor, Rep. Diedrich from Platte, because there was not enough support to advance. 1096 was introduced in an attempt to solve the access issue, and appropriated, in accord with legislative direction and 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 stopped access to fishing and other 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 legislation 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 stopped access to fishing and other recreational opportunities. Landowners with property interests in one or more of these 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 legislation 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,
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.
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 140,000 acres). 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 ever 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 Dakotan’s 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 who’s really 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 SDWF 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 SDWF-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 formidably foe, when we get organized and send our message, both on our local level and at the Federal level also.

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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.

“Who will speak for Planet Earth?” Carl Sagan

JUST ONE
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.

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, land-owners, leading conservation and agriculture academics, legislators and government officials.

The groups 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 Dakotan’s 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 Frierichs, 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
- Doug Deiter, Faulkton - farmer
- Jeff Vonk, Pierre - GFP Secretary
- Lucas Lentisch, Pierre - SD Secretary of Agriculture
- Nathan Sanderson, Pierre - Governor’s policy advisor for agriculture and GFP
- Steve Halverson, Kennebec - farmer, owner of Halverson Hunts
- Jan Nicolay, Chester - former state representative, conservation advocate
- Jeff Zimprich, Huron - USDA-NRCS state director

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, GFP is the state’s lead agency for managing 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.

JUST ONE
Last year, Senate President Pro Tem David Long, R-Fort Wayne, likened high-fence 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, a Republican, sent an email to lawmakers that says he will support allowing high-fence 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.

For decades, high-fence hunting preserves have operated in the United States. The practice allows hunters to engage in a high-volume hunting environment, featuring large populations of deer and other game species. These preserves are often situated in remote or rural areas, providing a controlled hunting experience.

The recent move by Long, who is running for the state’s governor in 2022, could open the door for additional preservation and hunting opportunities in Indiana. The law would allow private parties to create and operate such preserves, subject to oversight by state agencies.

According to Long, high-fence hunting preserves offer a unique opportunity for enthusiasts and can help address the challenges faced by traditional hunting operations. However, opponents argue that these preserves promote inhumane treatment of animals, as they are kept in confined areas and subjected to regulated hunting practices.

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

One example is IowaWatch, a project of the University of Iowa. IowaWatch’s goal is to let citizens conduct citizen science projects. You simply report the time of ice-on and ice-off by watching a lake or river. The ice-on and ice-off data is used to create an ice-on ice-off map for Iowa. You can access the IowaWatch ice-on ice-off map on the IowaWatch website.

Citizen science activities are great for kids, but adults too should get involved too. For example, Project Monarch in Indiana helps volunteers in the state track the progress of monarch butterflies over the winter. This project involves citizen scientists observing monarchs and reporting data, which is then used to improve conservation efforts for the species.

By Chuck and Mary Lou Berry

By Chuck and Mary Lou Berry

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, bugs, 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.” You can find it at http://www.learner.org/jnorth/.

3) Most Benefit to South Dakota: Dakota Water Watch volunteers make simple observations of one of a dozen or so animals and plants, your observation is immediately known 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.

By Chuck and Mary Lou Berry

By Chuck and Mary Lou Berry

A big game hunter. There’s just some sense of fairness, if you will, of getting a trophy, and he pays $25,000 to hang it on his wall and say they’re 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 project builds connections to your hunting, fishing, gardening, and bird watching hobbies.

Before becoming citizen scientists, we walked through our yard with only a few more observations. We are looking to improve the accuracy of our observations and to increase the number of observations we make.

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

By Chuck and Mary Lou Berry

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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 and Wildlife Legacy Council. Please consider your donation today. Donations can be sent to SDWF, P.O. Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501.

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

January 2014

LEVEL I PHEASANT

SDWF $20/Yr Membership Fee $___________

February 2014

SDWF Membership Application

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

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 Dakota.

SDWF $20/Yr Membership Fee $___________

SDWF Camo-Coalition lobbying donation:$___________

Name: ________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: __________________ Zip: ____________

Phone: ________________________________

e-mail: ________________________________

Send Donation and Membership Application to: SDWF

P.O Box 7075

Pierre, SD 57501-0952

□ CC_____________ EXP____ CV____

□ Check - make checks payable to SDWF

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February 2014
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 was 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.

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.
Touting Youth in Pivotal Role as Future Conservationists

Kim Betton, USFWS, Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Headquarters

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFRP), which for more than 75 years has provided funding for habitat 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 and finding the calm of wilderness or wildlife watching along a peaceful park’s trail - in an effort to help keep conservation and science going 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 is the daughter of 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 a parent he is continuing the tradition by taking his sons out with him. "It was a rounding the purpose of conservation. "I learned so much through my hunter education course prior to receiving my hunting license,” says Jamie. “When hunting you don’t know what you are going to see. You might see turkeys, squirrels or deer - it’s just so exciting!”

Other key proposals

The President also included a $56 billion Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative, which is all new spending on top of the level already set by Congress. Of note, this initiative includes a $1 billion “climate resilience fund,” which would include money for research, a grant program for conservation and restoration, and money for interagency coordination. The initiative also includes funding for a new initiative that is all new funding, above the level already set by Congress.

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.

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 (LWCF) - a $250 million increase over FY14 enacted levels. The LWCF supports conservation projects near national parks, refugees and public forests, including some collaborative money from the LWCF for Interior and the USDA’s Forest Service to “jointly and strategically used by States, Tribes, and Federal agencies to restore the most hazardous hardrock AML sites on both public and private lands.”

- The President requests $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 existing R&D projects.

- The President is requesting $2.3 billion 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.

- 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.

- 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 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 easements in acres to benefit waterfowl habitat.

- Proposes making public lands available for clean energy infrastructure projects: proposes $95 million to review and permit new renewable projects on Federal lands and wildlife refuges.

- Proposes a $600 million increase for the new Insular Areas Conservation Fund.

- Proposes creating new Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change.

- Proposes a total cut of $581 million to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

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DOE

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- Proposes $5.6 million for Interior youth programs, a $13.6 million (or 37 percent) increase from 2014.

- Proposes creating new Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change.

- Proposes a total cut of $581 million to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

- 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 easements in acres to benefit waterfowl habitat.

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