Inside this issue:

Page 2
NEW GFP SEC. HAPPY TO BE HOME

Page 3
PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S UPDATE

Page 4
GFP QUARTERLY FUND IN GREAT BASIN NAT'L PARK
BRIDGER COUNTY SPORTSMEN CLUB WINNERS
ONLINE LICENSING APPLICATION

Page 5
NON RESIDENT WATERFOWL MEETING
GFP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RULES
FLEET IN DUCKS FROM WASHINGTON STATE

Page 6
MOVES TO MULTI YEAR RUNNING SEASON RULES
SD GFP COMMISSION ADOPTS USE OF HOUNDS FOR MT. LIONS

Page 8
IDEAS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA CHP IN JAMES RIVER

Pheasant ecology part 5: January and February

In part 4 of this 6 part series, we learned how pheasants change their behavior as the first taste of winter hits South Dakota in November and December. Birds begin to seek out heavy winter cover such as cattail sloughs and shelterbelts for protection from colder temperatures and the season’s first blast of winter weather. By December, pheasants are using more energy to stay warm and need to increase food consumption by 1/3 compared to October to generate the extra body heat. Pheasants easily overcome the challenging weather conditions of early winter and survival is typically high, especially when high quality habitat exists. But how do pheasants handle the heart of winter during January and February?

By January and February, the coldest temperatures of the year have arrived and brutal winter storms are the norm on the South Dakota prairies. The average high temperature is in the low 20s and low temperatures commonly dip well below zero. People avoid outdoor activity as the bone-chilling temperatures and winds can penetrate even the thickest winter clothing. While people are eating hot soup and staying toasty warm in the comfort of their homes, pheasants must adapt to the changing conditions if they hope to survive a severe South Dakota winter.

As snow blankets South Dakota’s landscape, large flocks of pheasants are often observed foraging throughout the day in harvested grain fields. While the snow does make finding food challenging, starvation is not the primary threat to pheasants during most South Dakota winters. The primary threat to pheasants is freezing to death during extreme winter weather events such as blizzards. A pheasant’s body can only produce so much body heat through physiological processes. If body heat is lost at a greater rate than it is produced, the internal temperature declines from its normal 108ºF and a pheasant will freeze to death.

At this point you may be wondering at what temperature does a pheasant freeze to death? This is not a simple question as multiple factors affect the rate at which a pheasant loses body heat. Pheasants can and likely survive low temperature possible in South Dakota under calm conditions and with some thick cover for protection. However, when gusty winds combine with cold temperatures to produce extremely low wind chill values, pheasants can lose body heat faster than they can produce it without adequate protection. Two-row shelterbelts or small cattail sloughs that protected pheasants from early winter weather may not provide the protection needed to survive a severe winter storm in January or February. High quality habitat is the key to pheasants surviving severe winter weather. During severe winter weather, the ability of winter habitat functions to block brisk winds and provide insulating thermal cover so pheasants lose body heat at a slower rate than they produce it. Examples of high quality winter habitat include 8 or more row shelterbelts with low-growing shrubs/trees, large cattail sloughs, and tall warm season grasses such as switch grass.

While high quality winter habitat assures pheasants have protection from dangerous winter storms, how do pheasants find enough food to survive the winter when snow covers the landscapes? As January brings the coldest temperatures of the year, the amount of energy a pheasant needs to stay warm peaks, and the amount of energy in the food of needed to stay warm may surprise you. In January a pheasant must consume daily amounts of food equivalent to two small hamburgers or three candy bars to stay warm and maintain its body weight! This would equate to nearly 300 kernels of corn, the most abundant food in a pheasant’s crop during winter. But what happens when severe winter weather prevents feeding for 2-3 days?

Fortunately, pheasants have been preparing for winter by storing energy in the form of fat during fall and early winter which provides a useful reserve when weather prevents feeding for a day or so. Pheasants can easily go 3 days without feeding by using energy stored as fat to stay warm. Once severe winter weather passes, pheasants emerge from thick cover a bit hungry, but well-conditioned pheasants were in little risk of starvation.

But how do pheasants keep from starving to death when deep snow covers their food source for months at a time? A pheasant surely can not find 300 kernels of corn with two feet of snow covering the ground.

Every day that a pheasant can not find enough food to generate the same amount of body heat that it is losing, fat reserves must be used to make up the difference. During years with multiple winter storms that prevent feeding for many days, fat reserves which can make up 13% of a pheasant’s weight in early January can be quickly utilized. When fat reserves are exhausted and a pheasant can not find enough food to generate body heat, the bird has no choice but to catabolize its own muscle tissue to generate heat.

While this is not an ideal situation for a pheasant, it is better than the alternative of starvation. In captivity, rooster pheasants have been found to survive 19 days without food and 16 days during January. While these birds cannot expend energy searching for food and wild birds likely would survive fewer days without food, this does demonstrate how resilient pheasants can be in response to food shortages. In fact, a pheasant can lose 40% of its body weight before it succumbs to starvation. Hens are more likely to starve to death than roosters as they entered winter in poorer condition because nestling, brood rearing, and molting activities of summer and early fall were extremely energy demanding. Hens that have laid more eggs due to predated nests or had late hatching clutches also enter winter in worse body condition and will have an elevated chance of starvation during severe winters. Last year’s chicks also enter winter with lighter body weights and less fat reserves than adults, which will likely leave them more vulnerable to starvation during severe winters.

One way landowners and wildlife managers help boost pheasant winter survival is by providing food plots of unharvested grain, typically consisting of corn, milo, sorghum or millet. Even small food plots provide hundreds of bushels of readily available grain for pheasants to eat throughout the winter. Ideal food plots are placed adjacent to high quality winter cover so birds have protection from winter weather and available food in close proximity. While availability to food plots nearly eliminates the risk of pheasant starvation, predation is also decreased because birds do not have to forage in open fields for days at a time where they are vulnerable to predators. Birds utilizing food plots are also likely in better body condition come spring which could result in higher reproductive effort, although this has never been investigated with wild pheasants. By late February, most South Dakotan’s are ready for a break from freezing temperatures and snow storms! Pheasants are no different as they are in their poorest body condition of the year during severe winters. The longer old man winter persists, the more vulnerable pheasants are to starvation. Fortunately, spring usually arrives just in time as pheasants rarely starve to death in South Dakota. During mild winters, pheasant survival can be very high and their body condition can be similar to December when 13% of their body weight was fat. While spring may come as a pleasant relief, March and April can be the deaddest months of the year for pheasants. Be sure to check out the sixth and final article of this series to see why spring can be so dangerous for South Dakota ring-necks.
His youth spent away from the television, with some time in a barbershop, persuaded Kelly Hepler to forsake what would seem the ultimate in an outdoors environment: Alaska.

Hepler spent the last 35 years of his career in that northernmost outpost, where it seems there is no indoors. But starting in March, he will be the secretary of the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department, which he considers his dream job.

That’s because he’s coming home. Hepler was born in Deadwood and grew up in Spearfish.

“I spent just some wonderful years in Alaska,” Hepler said in a recent telephone interview from Pierre. “It’s really a unique, wild place to be.”

But he added: “It’s just South Dakota is inside you. To come back, it all comes out again. The western skies, and the people are so open and sharing.”

When Hepler takes over his new post on March 2, succeeding Jeff Vonk, who retired on Jan. 8, he will face challenges, most prominently the shrinking pheasant habitat and the management of the mountain lion population.

It will be a different life from the one he led in Alaska. He started there as a fisheries biologist. For the past four years he has been assistant commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

He had considered applying for the GF&P post when John Cooper retired in 2006. “That time wasn’t right for me back then,” he said.

But when Vonk announced his plans to step down, the office of Gov. Dennis Daugaard asked Hepler to apply. “I had to think about it because I had such strong ties to Alaska,” Hepler said. “I spent 35 years there, and you just don’t say ‘Aha, I’m leaving.’”

“Once I thought about it, it just seemed better and better,” he said. “This is a dream job.”

He graduated from Spearfish High School in 1973 and attended Black Hills State University in Spearfish for two years, later earning a Bachelor of Science degree in fish and wildlife management from Montana State University.

Hepler said listening to stories of hunting at Barshop’s in Spearfish sparked his interest in a conservation career.

“In those days we didn’t pay attention to television or computers, we went outside and did things. I grew up with the myth, that true South Dakota tradition of hunting and fishing,” he said.

His time in Alaska included a stint as lead investigator of an infamous 1989 oil spill. The tanker Exxon Valdez ruptured after striking a reef and dumped 11 million gallons of crude oil in Prince William Sound.

“My wife said, ‘You seem really comfortable being here,’” he said. “I want to get out and listen. I need needs to travel the state to visit with landowners, conservation officers and outdoor enthusiasts.

“I didn’t spend as much time out in the field when I was with Alaska Fish and Game as I should have,” he said. “I want to get out and listen. I need to learn what the challenges are three, four, five months from now.”

Last week’s visit to Pierre served only to reinforce his decision to take the new job.

“My wife said, ‘You seem really comfortable being here,’” he said. “I said, ‘I am. It’s truly home.’”

Copyright 2015 Rapid City Journal. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

**New GFP Secretary Happy to be Home.**

“Flying in a contracted plane at 10,000 feet over Prince William Sound, you could smell the gasoline fumes. It was devastating to see all that oil,” he said.

He said he learned lessons from that haunting experience. “It taught me about human resilience, how people banded together, that nature can be resilient. It’s amazing what man can do to nature and it still comes back,” he said.

“I believe in responsible resource development. I think you can do it correctly with the right safeguards. Every time something like this happens we further our knowledge and make sure it doesn’t happen again,” he said.

Coming back to his home state, Hepler said the main wildlife issue will continue to be the loss of pheasant habitat through conversion of conservation reserve program land.

“That’s going to be a significant challenge. It’s not only going to affect pheasants. It’s going to affect ducks, fish and water,” he said.

Also needed, he said, is ongoing discussion on management of the mountain lion population.

“That’s not going to go away,” he said. “We want to make sure all of our management plans are clearly defined and science-based,” he said. “I think we do that well, but it can be improved upon.”

Hepler enjoyed hunting moose and caribou in Alaska and plans to re-instate an interest in bow hunting and pheasant hunting, along with angling for smallmouth bass and trout.

“I love eating venison. I’d love to go out hunting, not so much for the trophy, but I just really need some venison to get through the winter,” he said.

Along with taking advantage of the outdoor opportunities, Hepler said he needs to travel the state to visit with landowners, conservation officers and outdoor enthusiasts.

“I spent just some wonderful years in Alaska,” Hepler said in a recent telephone interview from Pierre. “It’s really a unique, wild place to be.”

“My wife said, ‘You seem really comfortable being here,’” he said. “I said, ‘I am. It’s truly home.’”

Copyright 2015 Rapid City Journal. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.
I hope all of you had a Joyous and Safe Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! Without each and every one of you, SDWF would not be what we are today. We can and do make a difference here in South Dakota. THANK YOU for your support.

The 2015 legislative session has opened and started to work. So far there hasn’t been any negative legislation introduced. I’m sure that will change as session gains speed. There will be some tough issues again this year. We will all need to be diligent and educate our legislators about the issues and our beliefs for or against the bills.

I ask every one of you to be involved. There are two ways in which you can be involved.

First, plan on attending Camo-Coalition Day at the legislature on Monday, February 9th, 7:30am until 1pm. Several other conservation organizations are spreading the word and hosting lunch for the legislators. Lunch sponsors so far include SD Ducks Unlimited, SD Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, SD Walleyes Unlimited and SDWF-Camo. Donate a day of your time to help protect your hunting and fishing heritage in South Dakota. Come to Pierre and let’s fill the halls of the Capital.

The second way is to sign up for the daily legislative update at sdwfcano.net. It’s free and you’ll get updates on pertinent legislation with links to legislators.

When you do email legislators, please include your name, where you live, BE COURTEOUS, and to the point. SDWF Camo Coalition will provide some talking points on most bills but we ask you to personalize them. Legislators have told me several times they do not like form emails.

The 21-Gun Gift Giveaway tickets and the 2015 Buffalo Shoot tickets are being printed and due to mail very soon. If you do not receive them in the mail, the next issue of the Out-of-Doors will have tickets or you can go to sdwf.org to purchase Buffalo Shoot tickets. Please support SDWF by purchasing chances. SDWF gives away one gun for every 100 tickets sold.

I hope all of you experience some special moments in your outdoor pursuits this year.

We can and do make a difference!
133-year-old Rifle Found Leaning Against Tree in Great Basin National Park

The Winchester Model 1873 repeating rifle has often been called “The Gun that Won the West.” For 133 years, one of these rifles lay hidden in plain sight propped up against a tree in Nevada’s Great Basin National Park. Archaeologists found the rifle last November in a remote rocky outcrop hidden far away from human eyes, but questions remained over the history of the gun. Who left it there, and why? Were they in danger, or was the rifle left behind out of carelessness? Exposed to wind, snow, rain, and the constant beating of the sun, the weathered rifle offered a unique challenge to park officials, and they were eager to plumb its mysteries.

“Model 1873? Distinctively engraved on the mechanism identify the rifle as the Winchester Model 1873 repeating rifle,” park staff posted on Facebook after some sleuthing. “The serial number on the lower tang corroborate the rifle as the Winchester Model 1873 repeating rifle,” park staffers posted on Facebook after some sleuthing. “The serial number on the lower tang corresponds in Winchester records held at the Center for the West, Cody Firearms Museum in Cody, Wyoming, with a manufacture and shipping date of 1882. Currently, the detailed history of this rifle is unknown. Winchester records do not indicate who purchased the rifle from the warehouse or where it was shipped.”

The Winchester Model 1873 was wildly popular during its time, and hundreds of thousands were shipped across the United States and abroad. Manufactured between 1873 and 1919, the Model 1873 was chambered for cartridges like .44-40, .38-40, and .32-20. The Model 1873 was sold in rifle, carbine, and musket forms, and could be had for as little as $25 (the equivalent of several hundred dollars today, accounting for inflation). Its affordability made it commonplace among frontiersmen who needed a reliable repeater, and by the end of its production run Winchester sold more than 720,000 Model 1873s. The company brought back the Model 1873 in 2013, which is now manufactured under license in Japan.

“In 1882 alone, over 25,000 were made,” stated Great Basin researchers. “Selling for about $50 when they first came out, the rifles reduced in price to $25 in 1892 and were accessible and popular as ‘everyman’s’ rifle. The Winchester business plan included selling large lots of rifles to dealers or ‘jobbers’ who would distribute the firearms to smaller sales outlets.”

Tracing the history of one particular firearm out of 720,000 is no easy task. The Great Basin staff is currently searching for mentions of the rifle or its owner in old local newspapers and delving into family histories in the hope of getting some answers. It would make a great story, and add to the deep mosaic of the history of the gun. Who left it there, and why? Were they in danger, or was the rifle left behind out of carelessness? Exposed to wind, snow, rain, and the constant beating of the sun, the weathered rifle offered a unique challenge to park officials, and they were eager to plumb its mysteries.

Beadle County Sportsmens Club Contest Winners

Big Buck Contest at Beadle County Sportsmen’s Club held January 13, 2015. Winners left to right were Jim Winegar (with son Riley) Rifle Whitetail, Ryan Eichstadt - Archery Whitetail, Justin Picek - Archery Mule Deer, and Ray Polfus - Rifle Mule Deer.

The “Longest Fish Contest” was held at Beadle County Sportsmen’s Club on January 13, 2015. Winners are left to right, Craig Jones - Longest Walleye by Other Method (Paddlefish), Aaron Rogers - Longest Panfish (Perch) and Longest Game Fish By Other Hook & Line, Larry Picek - Longest Walleye by Other Method (diving), and Aaron Rogers - Longest Panfish (Perch) and Longest Game Fish By Other Method (Paddlefish).

“One-Stop Shop” Online Licensing Application

The GFP online licensing application to purchase general licenses (small game hunting, fishing, combination, etc) has now merged into the limited issue licenses (deer, antelope, turkey, elk, mountain lion, etc) application system.

Users (residents and nonresidents) are able to purchase any 2015 general license (small game hunting, fishing, combination, etc) now. Visit our website for more information: http://gfp.sd.gov/licenses/general-hunt-fish/default.aspx.

Please know that this just launched today so there may be a few minor glitches that need to be ironed out as we move forward with this merge.

The Farm Bureaus Busselman said the proposal assumes there are widespread violations of current buffering requirements on farmland when in fact no statewide investigation has been conducted.

We’d be enacting a broad regulation without any real sense of whether its going to do anything good for pheasant populations, he said. We have concerns over the one-size-fits-all nature of the governors particular proposal …. and well obviously be engaged in the proposal as it goes through the legislative process.

Theres also a property rights issue that seems to be missed in all of this, Busselman said Its somewhat akin to the governor saying, Lets take the front 20 feet of your lawn and let anyone walk on it.

If Dayton’s proposed legislation is adopted, the benefits of such a regulation would go far beyond creating more pheasant habitat, said Pheasants Forever’s Vincent. Whether you hunt or are an outdoors person or not, everyone should understand what we need to do to protect it, Vincent said.

Dayton said he will make the proposal part of the budget he will propose to the Minnesota Legislature later this month.

“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe, the less taste we shall have for destruction.” – Rachel Carson
PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission has proposed several rules to prevent the introduction and slow the spread of existing populations of aquatic invasive species in the state.

One rule proposal would allow conservation officers to require the removal of vegetation and all aquatic invasive species from a boat and trailer, and to require all drain plugs and related devices be opened or removed from boats when being transported. Exceptions would be for entering and exiting the water, emergency response vehicles, and livewells while on lands owned, leased, controlled or managed by the Department or other government entities adjacent to the water.

Another part of the proposal would give the Department Secretary the authority to declare a body of water an aquatic invasive species containment water, describe the conditions that would necessitate this action and outline restrictions in place for that water to reduce or slow the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Anglers would be allowed up to 5 gallons of vegetation-free water, in a container outside of the boat, to transport bait or fish away from the water in non-designated aquatic invasive species containment waters.

The GFP Commission will finalize this proposal March 5-6 at the RedRossa Convention Room in Pierre. To view this rule proposal in its entirety, please visit https://gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/default.aspx. Written comments on proposals can be sent to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501, or emailed to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be included in the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CST on March 5, and have your full name and city of residence.


Out Of Doors 5 February 2015

NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL LICENSE WORK GROUP HOLDS FIRST MEETING

The first of a series of meetings was held Dec. 29, 2014, in Pierre discussing the history of the season’s license allocations as well as information on license and hunter distribution.

Future meetings will be held in Fort Pierre on Feb. 2 and March 2, 2015, in which members will discuss ideas as well as suggestions received from the public. Efforts from the work group will conclude with assisting the Department in formulating recommendations that will be presented to the GFP Commission on April 1-2, 2015, in Brookings.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and the members of this work group want to hear from the public. To provide suggestions on nonresident waterfowl license allocations in South Dakota, please send an email to NRWaterfowlLicense@state.sd.us and include your full name and mailing address.

Meeting minutes, dates, presentations as well as additional information can be found online at http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/waterfowl/nonresidentwaterfowl-workgroup.aspx.


GFP Commission Proposes Aquatic Invasive Species Rules

In December, the USGS National Wildlife Health Center in Madison found a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in several ducks from the state of Washington.

“This was very surprising, because we’ve never detected a highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild waterfowl in the U.S. before,” said Dr. Valerie Shearn-Bochsler, pathologist at the lab.

Pathologists regularly detect low pathogenic viruses in waterfowl, which do not pose any threat.?

HPAI was found when checking dead waterfowl from a die-off involving more than 100 ducks at Wiser Lake in far northwestern Washington near the town of Lynden in Whatcom County. The ducks died from eating moldy silage.

But in conducting necropsies, biologists unexpectedly found H5N2, a mix of an Asian and North American virus.

Eventually, Shearn-Bochsler and diagnostic virologist Dr. Hon Ip, at the lab in Madison, found H5N8 in a falcon that fed on a dead duck. That strain was also later found in a domestic flock of guinea fowl in Oregon and a duck harvested by a hunter in California.

Madison, WI lab finds rare avian flu in ducks from Washington state

Though these are not the H5N1 virus that has killed people and domestic fowl in Asia, health authorities are concerned, especially since waterfowl migrate and could spread the HPAI throughout the flyway.

“I have no doubt that we will be successful in harnessing the sun’s energy.... If sunbeams were weapons of war, we would have had solar energy centuries ago.” Sir George Porter, quoted in The Observer, 26 August 1973

JUST ONE
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. These donation levels were revised October 2011: Level V $1,000 above; Level IV $500 $999; Level III $301 $500; Level II $201 $300; and Level I $100 $200.

December 2014
No legacy donations for this month.

November 2014
LEVEL I PHEASANT
SATTLE, ARNOLD - SD
LEVEL II PHEASANT
ABELSON, BUTCH - SD
GORS, JOHN - SD
JARVIS, PETER - IA

LEVEL III ELK
MEISSNER, LLOYD - SD
SCHOLTEN, BOB, MN
SOPRA, MICHAEL - TX

LEVEL IV DEER
MCGUIRE, ARVID - WI

SCHOENFELD, ROBERT, CA

LEVEL V EAGLE
DOKTOR, ROBERT - MO

October 2014
No legacy donations for this month.

September 2014
LEVEL V EAGLE
ROBERTS, SCOTT - MN

LEVEL IV ELK
WIEGERT, ROBERT, MN

LEVEL III BOWHUNTERS
AYLER, JOHN - KS
AYLES, NORTHR, ROBERT - CA

LEVEL II DEER
BRADISH, CARL - WI
DILLON, JOHN - UT
DIVCHI, DUANE - TX
GREGG, J.T. - GA
HAY, NARY & JERRY - WI
JOHNSON, DARRELL - SD

LEVEL I PHEASANT
KAUSSMANN, JAY - SD
LEHMANN, JAMES - MN
LEMONIUS, JIM - SD
NELSON, LAWRENCE - SD
ROMANS, JAY - NC

SCHNEIDER, BRUCE - CA
WILZMAN, DENNY - OH
WILMS, DALE - CA
WISSKALL, BRIAN - SD
YOUNG, JAY - SD

August 2014
No legacy donations for this month.

July 2014
LEVEL V EAGLE
MCCULLY, JERRY - PA
LEVEL IV BOWHUNTERS
CDRAS, BILL - SD
LEVEL III BOWHUNTERS
DAHL, KEVIN - SD
HAWK, JOHN - SD
HASTINGS, JIM - MN

LEVEL II DEER
JONES, DONALD - CO
KEELER, CHARLES - MN
KOEGER, DAVID - SD
LUTZ, BOB - ID

PAKTON, GARY - OK
RILEY, MIKE - MO
VANCE, RANDY - SD
WHEELER, STEPHEN - J - SD

June 2014
No legacy donations for this month.

May 2014
LEVEL V BOWHUNTERS
COLE, NICHOLAS - SD
LEVEL IV BOWHUNTERS
LUND, KEVIN - SD

LEVEL III DEER
BRENNER, THOMAS - WI
CONNELL, CRAIG - SD

LEVEL II PHEASANT
FLEMING, STEPHEN - SD

LEVEL I PHEASANT
MIOSO, RICHARD - SD
NEISS, E.J. - AR
NOTERBOM, DOUGLE - SD
RANDALL, KEVIN - SD

KIPP, LAURIE - WI

April 2014
No legacy donations for this month.

March 2014
LEVEL V EAGLE
BAER, CO - SPORTSMEN - SD
LEVEL IV BOWHUNTERS
MARTIN, JAMES - SD
LEVEL III BOWHUNTERS
SCHULZ, BILL - SD
LEVEL II DEER
BROWN, BRIAN - IA

LEVEL I PHEASANT
MCDONALD, BILL - SD

LEVEL I BOWHUNTERS
CUTLY, BILL - SD
LEDERER, BILL - SD

LEVEL I DEER
OLSON, JEFF - SD
PEETSON, TIM - MN

LEVEL I BOWHUNTERS
JOHNSTON, MCPHERSON - SD
LEVEL II DEER
BOETT, BRIAN - SD

LEVEL III BOWHUNTERS
DIETER, CHARLES - SD
EGGEN, JIM - SD

LEVEL II PHEASANT
BRENNER, THOMAS - WI

LEVEL I DEER
RICE, ROBERT - SD
SKOOG, KARL - SD
SULLIVAN, JAMES - SD

LEVEL I BOWHUNTERS
COLLINS, BILL - SD

February 2014
No legacy donations for this month.

January 2014
LEVEL II BOWHUNTERS
BOW, PAT - SD

LEVEL III BOWHUNTERS
HOFFTIEBER, GREG - SD
PEAK, RON - SD

LEVEL I PHEASANT
BROWN, ALISON - SD

e-mail
SDWF $20/Yr Membership Fee $
SDWCamo-Coalition lobbying donation:$

Name: ___________________________ State: __________ Zip: ______
Phone: ___________________________

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

D __________ EXP __________ CV 
D Check - make checks payable to SDWF

“JUST ONE”
New Member Program

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

Encourage your friends that love 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’s outdoors.

SDWF Membership Application

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

Name: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________
City: ___________________________ State: __________ Zip: ______
Phone: ___________________________
e-mail ___________________________

SDWF $20/Yr Membership Fee $
SDWCamo-Coalition lobbying donation:$

Out Of Doors 6 February 2015
Outdoor Recreation Projects Funded

PIERRE, S.D. -- Several South Dakota communities will be a better place to live, work and play thanks to Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) money. Gov. Dennis Daugaard has awarded a total of $388,779 to fund projects in eleven locations. "These cities have taken the initiative to improve the quality of life for their communities," Gov. Daugaard said. "I commend project sponsors for their commitment. Future generations of South Dakotans will benefit because of their efforts." The following local sponsors were awarded LWCF grants for outdoor recreation projects: Deadwood - Gordon Park playground rehabilitation, $40,000 Eureka - baseball complex improvements, $40,000 Hartford - wading pool and Deadwood - Gordon Park playground rehabilitation, $40,000 Huron - Crown Park playground, $11,000 baseball complex improvements, $40,000 Huron - Crown Park playground, $11,000 Lennox - park land acquisition project, $40,000 Parkston - East Park playground equipment replacement, $27,750 Plankinton - Eastside Pool Park playground replacement, $30,029 Salem - park renovation project, Phase 1, $40,000 Tyndall - tennis/basketball court surface replacement, $20,000 Wagner - Chapman Park playground equipment, $40,000 Yankton - Riverside Park playground replacement, $40,000 Land and Water Conservation Funds come from the National Park Service and are administered in South Dakota by the state Department of Game, Fish and Parks. The federal assistance program provides up to 50 percent reimbursement for outdoor recreation projects. For more information on the LWCF program, contact grants coordinator Randy Kittle at 605-773-5490 or randy.kittle@state.sd.us.

South Dakota Moves to a multi-year schedule for setting hunting seasons Rules

PIERRE, S.D. -- With the start of the new year, comes the start of a new multi-year season setting schedule for several hunting seasons and regulations in South Dakota. Historically, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and the Commission reviews and discusses all hunting and fishing seasons as well as other regulatory items at monthly Commission meetings held across the state. At times, season date changes and regulation changes occur; especially to big game hunting seasons and corresponding license and tag allocations. At other times, no changes are made for several seasons for multiple years. The multi-year season setting process was a recommendation of the independent big game management review in 2013. "This revised process will help us be more efficient with our time and more effective with our management strategies," stated Tony Leif, director of the GFP Division of Wildlife. "Setting multi-year seasons allows us to spend more time collecting important data and drafting plans to guide the direction of big game management and ultimately the structure of the hunting seasons." Hunting seasons for big game species such as elk, deer, antelope, mountain lion, turkey and fishing regulations will now be reviewed and set in two-year intervals. Hunting seasons for species such as pheasant, quail, grouse, dove and partridge will now be reviewed and set in three-year intervals. Depredation hunts and any refuge seasons will also be reviewed and set in three-year intervals. Waterfowl and nonresident waterfowl hunting seasons will continue on an annual cycle due to the federal framework set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the new authority granted to the Commission to set nonresident license numbers and license distribution. "An important aspect of this new approach is that the Department and the Commission will continue to have the ability to react to unforeseen circumstances that occasionally impact wildlife populations any time those circumstances arise," explained Leif. The multi-year season setting schedule was presented to the Commission by the Department and was approved this past November. To view this new season setting schedule, visit: http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/meetings.aspx. GFP also provides monthly information on what has been approved and/or rejected at each of the monthly Commission meetings (no meetings held in February or September). To receive the latest news and information distributed by GFP via email, subscribe today at: http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/services/news-sign-up.aspx. - See more at: http://gfp.sd.gov/news/news/january/5.aspx#sthash.Lk5LpHmq.dpuf

GFP Commission Adopts the Use of Hounds when Hunting Mountain Lions outside the Black Hills

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission adopted a proposal originating from a petition received from the South Dakota Houndsman Association to allow the use of hounds for hunting mountain lions outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District. This new rule allows resident hunters to use hounds to pursue mountain lions year-round on private land only with permission of the landowner or lessee, however, hunters may continue on School and Public Lands or Bureau of Land Management lands if the pursuit originates on private property. Licensed hunters are only allowed to harvest one mountain lion during a season and they are not allowed to harvest a lion with a spotted coat. Licensed hunters must accompany the dog handler when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt thereafter until the hunt is completed. This new rule will not be effective until 20 days after filed with the Secretary of State’s Office. All mountain lions harvested must be presented to a GFP representative within 24 hours of harvest for inspection. To learn more about the mountain lion hunting season rules and regulations, please visit: http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/big-game/mountain-lion-season-harvest-status.aspx. - See more at: http://gfp.sd.gov/news/news/january/16.aspx#sthash.gdp6WRs1.dpuf

When we heal the earth, we heal ourselves." David Orr
An Idea We Should Look into Here in SD?

BROOKLYN PARK, Minn. Gov. Mark Dayton announced Friday that he will propose legislation calling for vegetative buffer zones 50 to 60 feet wide bordering all waters of the state, with the regulation to be enforced by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Dayton made the announcement to about 325 people attending the 25th annual Roundtable meeting sponsored by the DNR in Brooklyn Park, Minn. The proposal grew out of a statewide Pheasant Summit called by the governor and held Dec. 13 in Marshall, Minn.

I believe people should be good stewards of the land, Dayton said. They own the land, but people own the waters.

Minnesota's pheasant numbers have declined significantly in recent years as farmers opt out of the Conservation Reserve Program, which pays landowners to take land out of crop production and to plant grasses. Pheasants need grasslands for nesting and for cover.

But Dayton emphasized that his proposal would improve the states water quality and benefit all species that rely on grassland habitat.

Duluths Frank Jewell, a St. Louis County commissioner and also a member of the Clean Water Council under the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, welcomed Daytons proposal.

This is so exciting, Jewell said. The issue of riparian buffers is huge.

Current law requires buffers on many waters, but enforcement usually falls to individual counties and has been inconsistent, conservationists say.

Its been a soft policy, and its been viewed as a soft policy, said Howard Vincent, president and CEO of Pheasants Forever.

Vincent supports the governors proposal.

There is not a better practice than buffers for wildlife, water and soil, Vincent said, but its still a starting point.

Doug Busselman, director of public policy for the Minnesota Farm Bureau, said the governors proposal would be a hardship for many of the groups 30,000 members.

In many cases where there are buffer requirements, now its 16 feet and now youd be going to 50 and that's going to take considerable land out of production, said Busselman, who attended the governors speech at the Roundtable.

CREP in the James River Valley

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) has a long and highly successful history of working with private landowners to develop wetland and grassland habitat within the PPJV. As an active partner within the PPJV, SDGFP recognizes that the majority of wildlife habitat is held by private landowners, making successful partnerships with producers critical. In recent years one of its most successful conservation efforts has been the James River Watershed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Administered by the USDA's Farm Service Agency, CREP is simply a state-sponsored Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) designed for a specific geographic area to address resource concerns identified by state partners.

In South Dakota, the focus of CREP is improving water quality, reducing soil erosion, and providing flood control, while creating additional pheasant nesting habitat in the James River Watershed. The state of South Dakota provides CREP participants an additional incentive payment on top of their CRP rental rate as well as cost-share assistance for habitat establishment. In all, the state is providing over 20% of the total funds to implement the James River CREP.

The first CREP program of its kind, every acre enrolled in the James River CREP is open to public hunting and fishing.

As of the fall of 2013, over 82,000 acres were enrolled into this highly successful habitat and access program. The SD James River CREP has provided a strong boost for resident and migratory wildlife in eastern South Dakota, while providing hunters with high quality hunting areas within South Dakota's priority pheasant range.

SDGFP private lands staff also work cooperatively with farmers and ranchers to better manage wetland and grassland habitats through the department's Wetland and Grassland Habitat Program. Private lands biologists located across the state work with landowners – primarily producers engaged in grass-based livestock operations – to plan and implement a variety of on-the-ground conservation practices. Technical and financial assistance is provided for the following practices:

- Wetland Restorations
- Wetland Creations and Enhancements
- Water Development
- Grassland Restorations
- Grassland/Grazing Enhancements
- Riparian Pastures
- Wildlife Friendly Fences

Since 2009 biologists have completed 135 projects with private landowner cooperators to enhance or restore 15,193 acres of upland habitat and 180 acres of associated wetland habitat within the PPJV portion of South Dakota. SDGFP's cost share totaled nearly $708,000 with total project funds exceeding $1.4 million.

Cooperative efforts with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, local conservation districts, and others are also important to efficiently and effectively deliver program funds through partnerships.

To learn more, contact Tom Kirschenmann at Tom.Kirschenmann@state.sd.us.

“\[We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.\]”
Native American Proverb