PHEASANT ECOLOGY part 6: March and April

In part 5 of this 6 part series, we learned how pheasants dealt with the heart of a South Dakota winter during January and February. Pheasants sought out heavy cover such as cattail sloughs and wide shelterbelts to keep from freezing to death. Although finding food becomes challenging with feet of snow on the ground, pheasants rarely starve to death and most mortality is attributed to exposure to the elements and predation. While it seems logical that spring should bring better times for ringnecks, spring does bring its own set of challenges.

As winter transitions to spring, wintering flocks of pheasants begin to disperse from the heavy cover that provided protection throughout the winter. This is a dangerous time for pheasants as their vulnerability to predation increases as they venture into unfamiliar and more open habitats. For both hens and roosters, mortality can be high during the March and April dispersal period. In fact, during years with mild winters when winter survival is high, survival is certainly lower during March and April than the period of December through February. However, heavy winter snow packs can flatten grasslands which may lead to decreased survival of dispersing pheasants after harsh winters.

While it is not unusual for winter weather to linger into March, the average daytime temperature has finally climbed above the freezing point. Finding food becomes easy as the blanket of snow that covered the landscape during the last 3 months or more has finally melted. Because temperatures have moderated and food is easily accessible, pheasants can now gather more food than they need and are able to gain weight. During average or mild winters, pheasants may gain weight in January and February, but during brutal winters that is not the case. This weight gain by cocks and hens is timely since the energy demanding breeding season is right around the corner.

By early March, the lengthening days stimulate cock pheasants to begin preparing for the breeding season. The enlarging wattle is the first visual sign of sexual development on male pheasants. Also by early March, the testes enlarge and roosters in wintering flocks become less tolerant of each other. Roosters begin dispersing from wintering locations in March, but timing of dispersal can be delayed during cold springs. During a normal year, most roosters have dispersed from wintering areas by late March and nearly all have dispersed by mid April. On average, roosters disperse about 2 miles from their wintering area, although movements of 10 miles are not unheard of. Dispersal distances tend to be longer following harsh winters, probably because birds had to move farther to find high quality winter cover.

Dispersal does not occur at random as roosters seek out landscapes with idle grasslands and woody cover which function as escape cover from predators. Roosters compete for breeding territories which encompass favorable habitat by fighting and sparring in aggressive face off behavior. The size of a breeding territory varies from only a couple of acres to well over 100 acres with the average likely falling half way between. Territories tend to be smaller in areas of high rooster density.

In addition to defending territories from other males, roosters begin gathering harems of hens by crowing loudly and beating their wings wildly in early April. Harem size varies from only a couple hens to as many as 20. Roosters have no problem breeding this many hens. In fact, in captivity roosters have been found to service 50 hens without a problem. Because defending territories and assembling harems is now a priority, it’s no wonder roosters do not continue to gain weight in April.

Sexual development in hens lags about 30 days behind that of roosters as ovaries begin to enlarge in late March. This is advantageous as this allows hens to dedicate all of their energy to gaining weight in March and April before the stressfull and energy demanding nesting and brood rearing season arrives in May and June (see part 1 of this series). Not only are hens gaining weight by storing extra food as fat, they are targeting specific foods in preparation for the nesting season. While waste grains such as corn are high in energy, they lack sufficient amounts of protein and calcium which are crucial for egg production. While protein intake peaks later in May and June as more insects become available, protein intake is elevated during March and April. Hen pheasants maximize their calcium intake by selecting foods such as snails, egg shell fragments, and calcareous grit. During this time of year, hens actually consume six times as much calcium as roosters. If hens can not consume enough calcium for egg shell production, they will resort to extracting calcium from their own bones!

Hen pheasants initiate their first nest as early as mid April, but most nests are initiated in May. After a hen mates with a rooster, she can lay viable eggs for weeks so she only mates once before initiating her first nest. Some hen pheasants begin laying eggs before they are “ready” to initiate their own nest. Many of the first eggs produced in April are “dumped” at random, laid in the nest of another pheasant, or laid in the nest of another bird such as a sharp-tailed grouse or duck. Under extreme conditions, the nest is likely abandoned by the host hen. Similar behavior occurs in other upland nesting birds, but pheasants seem quite proficient at this peculiar behavior.

As we have learned from this six part series, pheasants rely on a variety of habitats throughout their annual life cycle. During spring and summer, grasslands, particularly managed grasslands such as land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program are critically important for nesting and brood rearing activities. During winter, quality woody cover and large cat-tail sloughs provide shelter from brutal winter storms which can otherwise cause substantial mortality in pheasants. Food plots provide an easy meal while providing concealment from predators, the other main cause of pheasant winter mortality. Considering these habitat needs, it’s no coincidence why pheasants flourish in South Dakota. As long as a mosaic of these critical habitats are maintained, South Dakota will be home to world class pheasant populations.
The Laws are Changing. Do Your Part to Learn Them.

You are receiving this message because as an angler and/or boater in South Dakota, we need your help to continue to slow the spread of existing aquatic invasive species in our state.

You may be aware that the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission recently finalized several new rules at their March 6, 2015, meeting to help with this very topic. Those new rules have been outlined below; however, they are not effective until 20 days after filed with the Secretary of State’s Office.

We will continue to keep you and other anglers and boaters informed about the rules through the process so that you know exactly what they are being implemented.

NEW RULES

1. Drain Plugs: Boaters and anglers are required to open or remove all drain plugs or similar devices, except when in the boat ramp parking lot or when the boat is being launched or retrieved. A boat may leave a drain plug devices closed or in place while transpor- ting the boat from the water body to the cleaning station, but have to pull the plugs before they leave the cleaning station. The cleaning station has to be immediately associated with the boat ramp (you cannot load at one ramp and drive 10 miles to get to a cleaning station). If there is no cleaning station immediately adjacent, then the plugs need to be pulled when leaving the boat ramp parking lot.

2. Transporting Bait or Fish: Bait and fish may not be transported in water taken from a lake, river or stream. Boat may be transported in water taken from a lake, river or stream only while in route to a fish cleaning station that is located immediately adjacent to the lake, river or stream, but must be drained prior to leaving the fish cleaning station.

a. What this means: If you wish to transport your aquatic and fish in water, they can only be transported in domestic water (tap water, well water, bottled water, ice). However, when leaving a water body, boaters and shore anglers can wait until they reach an immediately adjacent fish cleaning station to put their bait in domestic water.

b. Example: You can dump out the lake water and fill your bait bucket with water from the cleaning station or with domestic water you brought with. If there is no cleaning station immediately adjacent then the water needs to be changed to domestic water at the water body. You can bring water from a hydrant to the shore and then change the water, however, you cannot take bait in lake water to a hydrant and then change the water.

TRANSPORTING FISH

You have three options for transporting whole fish for cleaning at home or at a cleaning station that is not immediately adjacent to the boat ramp.

1. In a container (not a part of the boat), that is filled with domestic water (tap water, well water, bottled water, ice).

2. On ice - in a cooler or pull the plug on your livewell and fill it with ice (plug must remain out).

3. Dry - put fish in an empty bucket or pull the livewell plug before leaving the boat ramp and let it drain when traveling.

MINNOW USAGE AND TRANSPORT

Bait can only be transported away from a water body in domestic water (tap water, well water, bottled water, ice). Boat anglers can wait until they reach an immediately adjacent fish cleaning station to put bait in domestic water. You can dump out the lake water and fill your bait bucket up with water from the cleaning station or water you brought with. Shore anglers can do the same if you are able to access the domestic water source at a fish cleaning station that is immediately adjacent or if you bring domestic water.

RE-USING MINNOWS

Minnows may be used in multiple lakes as long as they are transported between lakes in domestic water. Lake water must be drained before leaving each lake.

DISPOSING UNUSED MINNOWS

Unused minnows should be poured into the fish grinder at a cleaning station or drained and disposed of in the trash containers at the boat launch or cleaning areas. It is a violation of state statute to dump unused minnows into a water body.

NO CLEANING STATION AVAILABLE

If there is not a cleaning station at the site where you are fishing, drain plugs must be opened and bait containers must be free of lake water before leaving the boat launch area.

All bait containers must be free of lake water before leaving the water body where you are fishing or the immediately adjacent fish cleaning sta- tion.

We understand these are big changes for you and other South Dakota anglers and boaters. More information will be available as these rules take effect and we work to push out an education awareness campaign to help you understand what you can and cannot do. We will also be launching a new responsive website (accessible from any smartphone or tablet device) that will provide up to date information, videos, images and more in regards to slowing the spread of aquatic invasive species in South Dakota.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to communicate these changes.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.
President's Column by Rich Widman

By the time you see this OOD, the 2015 session of the South Dakota Legislature will be completed. SDWF didn’t have to fight, as large a number of bad bills as usual this session, which is a testament to our hard work year after year, but we still faced a few battles, and we still have to pay our bills. We represent over 150,000 sportsmen/women just in South Dakota, and probably at least that many people from other states that love our state’s outdoor paradise. Not all of those people recognize what SDWF does to protect what they love, and that’s a shame because when you take something for granted long enough without chipping in, it can and probably will be taken away from you.

We had a great turnout for our annual Camo Day in Pierre and with the help of Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy, and Walleyes Unlimited, we provided lunch for the legislators and got to share with them our thoughts on the bills that affect each of our members.

A big item this year is the Governor’s Conservation Funding bill that will benefit all South Dakotans. It’s a relatively small ask at $1.5 million, but it’s a very important start, and we can do great things from there. I spoke with Governor Dennis Daugaard at the grand opening of the Pheasants Forever regional headquarters office in Brookings, and he said he realizes how important conservation is to South Dakota. In his speech he talked about the fact that our state cannot keep plowing up our grasslands or draining our wetlands. In the past I’ve criticized the Governor for some of his actions that have hurt conservation and sportsmen/women in South Dakota, but I think he really gets it now! He asked for SDWF support, which I gave, and I congratulated him for bringing this bill to the Legislature. Now we need all the cities and businesses that have been helped financially to start giving back and build the Conservation Fund to $50,000,000!

At the grand opening and annual Pheasants Forever state meeting, I had the honor of meeting with Howard Vincent, President and CEO of PF, and Dave Nomsen, PF’s long-time Vice President of Government Affairs, who is now the head of the organization in South Dakota. I was very impressed with Vincent’s energy and commitment when talking about how PF was going to make an impact here because, after all, South Dakota is the pheasant capital of the world. I had lobbied in Washington with Dave Nomsen once, but then found out that he’s PF’s go-to guy when they need something done at the national level. He actually worked at South Dakota State University before getting involved with PF, and we’re glad to have him back in Brookings to help bring South Dakota’s pheasant population back to record levels. Right Dave?!

I also learned that Ducks Unlimited is opening an office right next door to the PF headquarters in Brookings, so I think this is the start of something great for South Dakota. People may be wondering why PF and DU both picked Brookings as their new home. Well, the world-class Wildlife and Fisheries program at SDSU created a huge opportunity to take advantage of great minds, ongoing studies/experiments, and the latest information on wildlife and habitat. That’s a great combination!

Rember to ask “JUST ONE” buddy to join SDWF and contribute what you can to help us help them!

South Dakota’s 90th legislative session will be over by the time you receive your April Out-of-Doors. There is one day set aside to work on Governor vetoes.

There were 12 pieces of Legislation that SDWF monitored this year. The load was light, but it still took time and great effort by many to defeat some of the negative legislation that was introduced this year.

HB 1106 passed and will allow the use of bullheads as bait for catfish. As I understand the rules, you will have to catch the bullheads and not buy them at a bait shop.

HB 1122 passed and will authorize township boards to designate certain roads as no maintenance roads. SDWF worked very closely with the township people to pass legislation that will allow townships to designate a road ‘minimum maintenance’ instead of vacating them. This gives township Boards another option instead of vacation. I want to thank Dick Howard and the township people who worked very hard to get this important legislation passed. Hopefully this will stop some of the vacating of access to water in Day County, or at least provide an alternative to vacation.

HB 1152 failed. If passed, it would have stopped the ability of anyone offering or selling a perpetual easement for conservation purposes or mitigation in certain DOT road building instances. Conservation organizations will still be able to offer conservation easements into perpetuity, and the state’s DOT will still be able to use easements to replace important wetlands that are mediated when needed for right-of-way. This year’s sponsor has already stated it will be back in 2016.

HB 1192 passed, producing a one-time appropriation for the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat and declare an emergency. The original Conservation Fund request was for 1.5 million dollars and I was disappointed the Conservation Fund requested by the Governor was funded at $350,000. It seems a lot of people (other than sportsmen/women) want to sell and profit from South Dakota’s natural resources but they don’t seem to want to help pay for sustaining those resources. I think future generations should enjoy the same quality hunting and fishing we have now. Personally, very disappointing.

SB 129 failed. If passed, it would have revised provisions relating to trespass associated with hunting, fishing, or trapping. Actually, it would have made a person who was fishing or hunting a new class of trespasser because you were doing these things. The SDWF-Camo opposed. There are already three laws to cover trespassing; do we need another aimed only at sportsmen/women?

I want to thank all of you who took time out of your daily lives to help protect our hunting and fishing heritage! I also would like to thank those that sent in financial contributions that allowed the SDWF-Camo to hire the best lobbyist, Dave Nauman. Without you, SDWF would not be what it is today.

“By the time you see this OOD, the 2015 session of the South Dakota Legislature will be completed. SDWF didn’t have to fight, as large a number of bad bills as usual this session, which is a testament to our hard work year after year, but we still faced a few battles, and we still have to pay our bills. We represent over 150,000 sportsmen/women just in South Dakota, and probably at least that many people from other states that love our state’s outdoor paradise. Not all of those people recognize what SDWF does to protect what they love, and that’s a shame because when you take something for granted long enough without chipping in, it can and probably will be taken away from you.”


Executive Director Update by Chris Hesla

Out Of Doors 3 March 2015

President, Rich Widman

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Executive Director, Chris Hesla

“Just One” Buddy to join SDWF and contribute what you can to help us help them!
South Dakota Offers New Online Course for Hunter Education

Hunters who need to complete a South Dakota hunter safety course to get a hunting license can now take part of the course online at http://www.hunter-ed.com. Hunters who need to complete a South Dakota hunter safety certification course can now study the online portion at http://www.hunter-ed.com/southdakota/. The online component of the course was approved by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) this week.

“While an online component of South Dakota’s HuntSAFE program has been available for a few years now, we want parents and students to know we have switched vendors and that this new course continues to allow students the flexibility of completing half of their certification process online,” said Jason Kool, GFP program specialist. “After passing the online portion of the course, students are equipped and eligible to participate in the required, in-person HuntSAFE field day. Overall, the HuntSAFE course does a quality job of teaching the information and skills to students, to ensure that they will be safe, legal and responsible in the field.”

The online portion of the South Dakota hunter education course costs $15 and is an alternative to the free in-person classroom instruction. The online portion allows students greater flexibility and time to complete their course. The traditional in-person classroom instruction will continue across different communities in South Dakota and are typically offered March through October.

To become certified, hunter education students can complete the online portion at http://www.hunter-ed.com/southdakota/. Once complete, students will register and participate in an in-person Independent Study Field Day (about 4-6 hours) where they will review the knowledge and skills learned online and take a written HuntSAFE final exam. After paying the $15 fee, students will receive their field day qualifier voucher. The student will take this voucher to the Independent Study Field Day they are registered for.

Also featured online are award-winning hunter safety videos designed to be fun to watch while presenting essential safety information. These short videos cover topics such as how to transport firearms, the importance of blaze orange and correctly matching ammunition. In addition, the course is made lively and entertaining through interactive animations and learning modules. Courses are made to fit the learner’s schedule, with progress automatically saved so students can learn at their own pace. Students are able to take the course at any time from their computer, smartphone, tablet, e-reader or Internet TV.

While hunter education is a great idea for any hunter, South Dakota law requires all aspiring hunters under 16 complete a hunter education course. Students must be at least 11 years old to take the course. For more information, start here: http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/hunter-education/hunt-safe.aspx.

South Dakota Ranch Honored for Commitment to Environmental Stewardship

Rock Hills Ranch and the Perman Family of Lowry, S.D., were named national winners of the Environmental Stewardship Award for 2014. The award recognizes ranchers for their dedication to exceptional land management practices which serve to improve soil, air and water quality for all.

“The Perman family serves as a shining example to farmers and ranchers across the country, illustrating what is possible when we aspire to improve the land for future generations,” said Forrest Roberts, CEO of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. “Their efforts to improve their pastures have created wide-reaching benefits that extend far beyond the boundaries of their ranch. When cattlemen and women dedicate themselves to conservation efforts, such as those found on Rock Hills Ranch, we all benefit.”

The Perman family’s stated goal is not to simply sustain what they have, but regenerate what was once there. To accomplish the goal of regenerating the natural state of the land in their care, Luke and Lyle Perman have spent years studying the ranch and working to improve pastures, reduce rainwater run-off and create wildlife habitat, all of which contribute a positive benefit to the ranch’s profitability. The family has also shifted to rotational grazing, no-till farming techniques and planting cover crops to increase the amount of water soaking into the soil after precipitation.

During the growing season on Rock Hills Ranch, the use of a rotational grazing system means cattle move to fresh pastures frequently and a pasture may only be grazed once or twice per year. To accomplish this, the Permans have installed an extensive cross-fencing system, which includes about 60 miles of permanent fence. Temporary fence is used to split many of the 40 permanent paddocks into smaller paddocks for grazing depending on conditions.

The Perman family’s responsible management practices extend to their ranch succession plan. Three years ago Lyle and Garnet leased the ranch, equipment and cows to their son, Luke, and his wife, Naomi. This arrangement allows Luke to make most of the decisions about the ranch. Lyle, who also operates an insurance business on the ranch, works for Luke and they confer on managing and marketing. Giving Luke and Naomi the responsibility of ranch operations helps ensure continuity of ownership from one generation to the next.

The Environmental Stewardship Award Program, now in its 24th year, was created to recognize beef producers who make environmental stewardship a priority on their farms and ranches while improving production and profitability. The ESAP award is sponsored by Dow AgroSciences, USDA-NRCS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tyson Foods, NCPA and the National Cattlemen’s Foundation.

“The Perman family and each of our 2014 regional winners represent the best of American agriculture. They’re making a living from the land and leaving it in better shape than they found it,” said Dave Owens, U.S. Range & Pasture Marketing manager for Dow AgroSciences. “That’s true environmental and economic sustainability, and their efforts should be showcased for the world. Dow AgroSciences is proud to support this program to do just that.”

- See more at: http://www.beefusa.org/newsreleases1.aspx?NewsId=47074f1hash.g2R4GdmhB.dpuf

“Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them.” Bill Vaughn
PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission finalized several rules to prevent the introduction and slow the spread of existing aquatic invasive species in the state.

Boaters and anglers will be required to remove all vegetation and aquatic invasive species from all boats and boat trailers. In addition, it will be required that all drain plugs and related devices be opened or removed from boats when in transport. An exception would be grant- ed to allow livewells to hold water while being transported from a boat ramp to an immediately adjacent fish cleaning station.

Anglers will not be allowed to transport fish or aquatic bait in water obtained from a lake, river or stream except when they are traveling from a lake, river or stream to an immediately adjacent fish cleaning station. Anglers will be able to transport fish and aquatic bait using domestic water resources or on ice.

These new rules will not be effective until 20 days after filed with the Secretary of State's Office.

More information in regard to these new rules as well as aquatic invasive species will be available to resident and nonresident boaters and anglers as the spring and summer months approach.

Since 1998, biologists with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks have used radio collars to track mountain lions as part of their ongoing studies.

That’s a thing of the past. Now they will rely solely upon DNA analysis to estimate the lion population in the Black Hills.

“With this method we can do it cheaper with less staff time,” Kanta added.

As surprising as it might be, the number of lions “recaptured” — usually this meant killed during the hunting season or some other means biologists were able to deduce a population estimate. The downside, he said, is that biologists are not able to actively track the lions.

Because the biologists are not able to track the lions and determine they are truly available for harvest when the season arrives, the accuracy of the mark-recapture formula is decreased slightly.

Currently there are 41 lions with DNA samples on hand that were gathered shortly before the 2015 season that began on Dec. 26, 2014. However, there is a small chance that some of those lions were darted twice.

Kanta said the information revealed by actively tracking South Dakota’s mountain lion population revealed a wealth of data to include home range size, dispersal patterns, actions taken when people were in the vicinity, and more.

Lions were tracked into Wyoming, Nebraska, Montana, Canada, Oklahoma, and even more than 1,500 miles away in Connecticut, the longest journey by a mountain lion ever recorded. That 140-pound lion killed in 2011 on the Milford, Conn., highway marked the state’s first confirmed wild mountain lion in more than 100 years.

“What was interesting to see was the exponential growth of the population and how fast it grew,” Kanta said. “When we started research in 1998 we knew lions were around, and we had a suspicion that there may have been a breeding population. So we went from establishing, ‘yes, we do have a breeding population and it appears to be increasing’ to 2005 (the first mountain lion hunting season in the state) and onto 2008 and 2009 where the population increased dramatically.

“We had a long period of time where mountain lions were an afterthought or people didn’t spend a lot of time thinking about them to the point where we have lions and are busy dealing with all the issues and controversy,” he added. “It’s a huge change in just a few years.”

In 2005 the harvest quota was 25 lions or five breeding-age females. Today the harvest quota was reached in 24 days, faster than anyone anticipated. Today there is a 75-lion quota and a sub quota of 50 female lions. So far this season, 17 lions have been killed including nine female lions.

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That’s a thing of the past. Now they will rely solely upon DNA analysis to estimate the lion population in the Black Hills.

“We’ve discontinued radio collaring and that aspect of the project,” said John Kanta, regional wildlife manager with the GF&P. “…What we’re doing to replace the collars to do our mark-recapture is DNA.”

Using a formula with the number of lions radio collared — read “marked” and the number of lions “recaptured” — usually this meant killed during the hunting season or some other means biologists were able to deduce a population estimate.

Until recently the lions wearing radio collars were referred to as “marked,” now the “marked” lions simply are those with a DNA sample taken shortly before the annual lion-hunting season.

In the month before the season, GF&P employees release hounds to tree mountain lions; they then used a dart gun to shoot a special dart into the lion’s rump that takes a small sample for flesh.

“We’re able to take that sample, and we are able to take its DNA. That lion essentially becomes ‘marked’ as we have the DNA,” Kanta said.

“With this method we can do it cheaper with less staff time,” Kanta added.

VHF collars that transmit a simple beep for biologists to follow, cost approximately $400 per collar, he said. The department’s GPS collars cost between $1,500 to $2,000, and the satellite collars cost $4,000 to $5,000 each.

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“We could have saved the Earth but we were too damned cheap.” Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
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. Those 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 57502.

The Legacy Council consists of five different donation levels. These donation levels were revised October 2011 to: Level I Eagle $1,000 & Above; Level IV Buffalo $501 - $999; Level III Elk $301 - $500; Level II Deer $201 - $300; and Level I Pheasant $100 - $200.

December 2014

No legacy donations for this month.

November 2014

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August 2014

No legacy donations for this month.

July 2014

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<tr>
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June 2014

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February 2014

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SDWF Membership Application

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

Name: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
Zip: _______
State: __________________________
Phone: __________________________
e-mail: __________________________

SDWF $20/Yr Membership Fee $20
SDWF $50/Year Membership Fee $50

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

Check - make checks payable to SDWF

New Member Program

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

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

Love the outdoors and need a tax deduction this year?

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

Out Of Doors 6 March 2015
Winner’s Choice Of:

♦ A guided buffalo shoot during the 2015 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, September 2015.

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

2014-2015 South Dakota Wildlife Federation’s Custer State Park Buffalo Shoot

$10 each or 3 for $25

7 Buffalo Shoot Tickets @ $10 ea. Total $ ______
6 Buffalo Shoot Tickets, 3 – 21 Gun Tickets @ $90 Total $ ______
5 Buffalo Shoot Tickets and Membership @ $45 Total $ ______
4 Buffalo Shoot Tickets and 3 – 21 Gun Tickets @ $90 Total $ ______
3 Buffalo Shoot Tickets @ $25 Total $ ______
2 Buffalo Shoot Tickets @ $10 Total $ ______
1 Buffalo Shoot Ticket @ $10 Total $ ______
1 Year Membership @ $20 Total $ ______
Phone ________________________________

2014-2015 South Dakota Wildlife Federation’s 21 Gun Giveaway

$20 each

1. Remington 700 ADL .270.
2. Remington Super Mag 12 ga.
4. Remington 597 Scoped .22 combo .22
5. Ruger 77R 25.06
6. Remington 870 Express 12 ga.
7. Ruger 77R 25.06
8. Savage 9317-DXP 17 cal
11. Ruger 77R 25.06
12. Savage 9317-DXP 17 cal
13. Remington BDL 22-250
14. Remington 597 Scoped .22 combo .22
15. Remington 870 Exp. 20 ga.
16. Ruger 77R .338
17. Savage 9317-DXP 17 cal
20. Savage 9317-DXP 17 cal
21. Remington 597 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, 2015.

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

When we heal the earth, we heal ourselves.” David Orr
WIN 2 TICKETS TO THE EAGLES CONCERT

Win 2 Tickets to the Eagles Concert
at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls
June 4, 2015
$10 / chance

Buy 3 chances and get a free SDWF membership for Drawing DDDDD

Win 2 Tickets to the Kenny Chesney Concert
at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls
June 18, 2015
$10 / chance

Buy 3 chances and get a free SDWF membership

Drawing May 22, 2015 for Eagles
Drawing June 1, 2015

For over sixty-five years, SDWF has been leading the fight to protect the interests of South Dakota’s current and future outdoor sports enthusiasts;
If you are an avid outdoor sports enthusiast
If you want our natural resources to remain available for the public’s use
If you want to preserve our outdoor heritage for future generations
Then join the South Dakota Wildlife Federation today!
Get your raffle entries and SDWF membership at
http://www.SDWF.org/current-raffles.html
Or mail a check payable to SDWF to:
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
PO Box 7075
Pierre, SD 57501-7075

STATE RECORD YELLOW PERCH CAUGHT

Weighing 2 pounds, 13 ounces, an Aurora resident recently caught the largest yellow perch ever recorded in South Dakota. Chase Jensen iced the monster perch on Bitter Lake in northeastern South Dakota on March 7, 2015. The yellow perch is one of the most popular and sought after fish in the state. Late ice conditions often put the large, pre-spawn panfish on a feeding frenzy. Images can be found on our Facebook page. The previous yellow perch record of 2 pounds, 12 ounces, also came from Bitter Lake in 2004. For a fish to qualify as a state record, anglers must have the fish identified by a state fisheries biologist and weighed on a certified scale. To learn more about the specific qualifications or to view a list of all South Dakota’s state hook and line record fish, visit: http://gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/state-fish-records-list.aspx. - See more at: http://gfp.sd.gov/news/news/march/11.aspx#sthash.GgvSNrzl.dpuf

SOUTH DAKOTA BLACK HILLS FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks’ (GFP) Division of Wildlife has drafted two five-year Black Hills fisheries management plans, one for streams and the other for reservoirs, and is currently seeking comments from the public.

“The current Black Hills’ streams plan is over 20 years old as is the last comprehensive angler opinion survey on fisheries management in the Black Hills,” stated John Lott, GFP chief of aquatic resources. “Several outreach techniques were conducted to develop these plans; including angler focus groups, a comprehensive angler opinion survey and open house events. Public review and comment on these plans is encouraged and is essential as part of the planning process.” An open house event will take place Monday, March 2, 2015, from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. MST at the Outdoor Campus in Rapid City to discuss each of the plans and answer attendee questions. Final versions of each of these plans are scheduled for adoption by the GFP Commission at the April 1-2, 2015, meeting in Brookings. The draft management plans can be found online at: http://gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/tacklebox/default.aspx. Written comments can be sent to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501, or emailed to wildinfo@state.sd.us. Comments must be received by March 26, 2015, and include your full name and city of residence.

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

Sportsmen/women- Want to help fund SDWF and the Youth Conservation Camp plus reduce your taxes this year? Donate stocks and land to the SDWF. You not only won’t have to pay taxes on those assets, you will pay less tax because of your generosity!