Farmers Find the Balance between Productive Cropland & Pheasant Habitat

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This fall, thousands of hunters from all over the world will be stepping into South Dakota fields to flush our famous state bird—the pheasant. It is a tradition that dates back to 1919, and one that South Dakota corn farmers support in many ways today.

Recently, the South Dakota Game Fish & Parks (SDGFP) announced their 2018 statewide pheasant brood survey, which indicated a 47 percent increase in pheasants per mile (PPM) over last year. This is a substantial increase as the state heads into its 100th pheasant season.

Make Your Farm a Pheasant Haven
There are many factors that impact pheasant numbers from year to year, including weather, predators and habitat. The overall increase in our pheasant population is a sign that South Dakota corn farmers are doing their part to nurture upland habitat for all wildlife.

“A lot of farmers feel like they have to choose between making their farms profitable by growing crops or using the land to support pheasant habitat, and it doesn’t have to be either/or.

Farmers can have both,” says Jeff Zimprich, South Dakota State Conservationist.

If you’ve never before considered how to create pheasant habitat on your farm, the good news is that there are many resources available to help.

SDGFP offers free food plot brood mix for farmers to use on their operations to encourage wildlife to come and eat. SDGFP also offers a food plot program that pays $20 per acre on food plots that are 1-10 acres, including providing free corn and sorghum seed for those food plots. Food plots must remain standing through winter until April 1 of the following year, and be planted within half a mile of winter coverage to maximize wildlife accessibility during winter months. Local Pheasants Forever chapters can also provide food plot seed.

“Conservation planning assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is available to farmers for free,” says Zimprich. “NRCS staff can come out and evaluate farmers’ operations, discuss their objectives and offer suggestions on how farmers can improve pheasant habitat.”

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is perhaps the least widely known, but by no means the least important, of six essential environmental programs created by Congress in the 1960s, largely under the leadership of Stewart Udall, who served as Interior secretary under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Ironically, the other five pieces of legislation — the Wilderness Act, the Water Quality Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act — may be better known because they have been, at various times, more controversial.

When it reconvenes in a lame duck session after Veterans Day, Congress should permanently reauthorize the fund.

For more than 50 years, fees on offshore oil and gas drilling have provided billions of dollars for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund to protect redwood forests, Joshua trees, beaches, mountains, parks, trails and other natural treasures in California — and similar assets around the nation. But the fund’s authorization expired at the end of September, and Congress left for its autumn recess without renewing it.

When it reconvenes in a lame duck session after Veterans Day, Congress should permanently reauthorize the fund and ensure that the fees are used for their intended purposes: to acquire and protect natural areas and to make grants to states for outdoor access and recreation.

It shouldn’t be this hard. The fund and the many projects it pays for have wide, bipartisan support. But reauthorization has become a pawn in ideological arguments over the federal government’s role in acquiring and holding land.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is perhaps the least widely known, but by no means the least important, of six essential environmental programs created by Congress in the 1960s, largely under the leadership of Stewart Udall, who served as Interior secretary under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Ironically, the other five pieces of legislation — the Wilderness Act, the Water Quality Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act — may be better known because they have been, at various times, more controversial.

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On its adoption in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund allowed the federal government to purchase land using revenue from recreation fees. A later amendment supplemented funding with royalties on oil and gas leases on the outer continental shelf, and those fees have now become the primary revenue source, to the tune of about $40 billion thus far.

Projects include acquisitions of narrow but crucial strips of land adjacent to national parks — for example, a parcel next to Joshua Tree National Park that was slated for real estate development — and access strips to open up existing public areas to recreation. A matching-grant program allows states to develop and enhance urban parkland, creating dozens of parks in Los Angeles County alone, including baseball and soccer fields.

Matching grants also can be used to protect water supplies. Many of the state and local bond measures that Californians have adopted to respond to drought and to provide water security rely on federal matching funds — and many of those matches have come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Federal law allows up to $900 million to be appropriated each year, which is less than the amount of revenue flowing in; as a result, billions of dollars sit in the fund unused. But money doesn’t actually come out of the fund until Congress appropriates it. And Congress routinely did, with bipartisan backing and without controversy, until several years ago, when some lawmakers tried to link the fund and its grants to the controversy over federal land ownership and management in Western states.

continued on page 3
Executive Director by Chris Hesla

LWCF remains a high priority.

Sportsmen and women across the country have made it clear that they want congressional leaders to work together on common-sense, bipartisan solutions like permanently reauthorizing and fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund — America’s most successful land conservation and outdoor recreation program. Given its enormous benefits as a means of both conserving high-value landscapes and fueling economic growth.

NWF and several of NWF’s affiliates joined over 200 organizations and businesses in a letter to congressional leadership calling for the permanent funding and reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

South Dakota’s Senator Mike Rounds went to bat for us in his Senate EPW hearing;

“I had the opportunity to discuss the importance of stable, consistent funding for state conservation programs so they can deliver proactive and voluntary fish and wildlife conservation work in cooperation with private landowners, local communities, industries and conservation organizations.” Said Rounds.

Give Sen. Rounds a call and leave a message thanking him for his current support and his continued support of LWCF and permanent funding.

Phone: (202) 224-5842
Toll Free: (844) 875-5268

Last month I announced the winners of several different raffles that SDWF and SDWF-Camo drew for. I named the wrong winner for the Bonus gun in the Camo drawing. The winner of the bonus Browning A5 shotgun was David Butler, shown here in the picture. I am sorry for any confusion I caused.

But even lawmakers who are partial to this so-called sagebrush rebellion recognize that the link between their grievances and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is weak. Just over three years ago, they tabled their philosophical arguments and reached a short-term deal to keep the fund in business. That deal expired on Sept. 30.

The House Committee on Natural Resources approved a reauthorization bill on Sept. 13. Shortly after the current authorization expired, a Senate committee advanced its own version of the proposal. But lawmakers disagreed over details and never got a bill to the floor of either chamber.

The danger now is that a final deal on the fund will fall through the cracks as lawmakers argue over funding for the border wall and other controversial topics. That would be a shame. It ought to be easy to reach final agreement on a bill for which there is bipartisan support. It is low-hanging fruit, and Congress ought to pluck it as soon as it recovers.
Last year, NRCS piloted a new program called Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) providing funding to help with seeding landscape into wetlands and sloughs is important, as they provide excellent pheasant habitat, and raise more birds on those areas there’s a decent amount of WIA’s, WPA’s and GPA’s nearby. We made our way to a WPA that I had never been to before. There was an unharvested corn field nearby, it was later in the day and nobody was around. The grass was tall and there was good cover. I wasn’t expecting much, because the pheasant numbers near Sioux Falls are never as good as Central South Dakota. As most hunting dogs, Charlie was already hunting before I was ready to go. I was trying to get my pack on, load my gun, figure out which direction the wind was coming from and which direction we should hunt. Once I got that figured out, we were off. To make a long story short, Charlie pointed three hens and four roosters and yes I got my limit that day with only four shots. The birds held tight, which made for closer shots and closer retrieves. I was so proud of Charlie that day. Unfortunately, Charlie doesn’t like hugs and kisses so much, so I just praised him on each point and retrieve and praised him even more when we got back to the truck. As the daylight came to an end, I took a few moments to thank God for my health, for my family, for Charlie, for beautiful sunsets, for public access and for good habitat. I hope you’ve experienced some good memories with your hunting companions this hunting season as well.

Funding Available to Help Farmers - Cont. from page 1

Of course, taking steps to create pheasant habitat can require capital, which can be difficult to come by sometimes for farmers. Zimprich says there are programs available that can provide funding.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) provides funding to help with seeding landscape into permanent vegetation, seed for cover crops, implementing management or other grazing practices to improve pheasant habitat on working farmlands.

“We can take lands that are not idle and still use them for pheasant habitat, and raise more birds on those areas because of how they’re being managed,” Zimprich adds.

Farmers can sign up for EQIP any time during the year.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) provides farmers with financial assistance to utilize a variety of different practices and enhancements on their farms.

Last year, NRCS piloted a new program called Conservation Activity Plan 132, which offered technical service providers such as agronomists and certified crop advisors to evaluate the economic impact of quarter sections of land. By reviewing the input costs and resulting yield data for that section, it helps farmers identify areas of their farm that are not as suitable for growing crops—which could perhaps be placed under an Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

Land in an ACEP is allowed to stay in a certain type of land use for a set number of years, and those lands could be used to create pheasant habitat.

Acreage evaluated through CAP 132 could end up making farmers more money as pheasant habitat than cropland, because farmers won’t be putting valuable inputs on land just that isn’t giving a profitable yield.

Enrolling eligible land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is also a way to sustain pheasant habitat while being good stewards of the land. In addition, taking care of wetlands and sloughs is important, as they provide excellent winter cover and food sources for pheasants.
The majority of my life has been spent in the great State of South Dakota. In the early 90’s my family relocated from Sioux Falls to the Watertown area where I was lucky enough to spend the majority of my youth. After graduating from South Dakota State University I spent some time working in Southern California as a field engineer before moving back to Sioux Falls to take a job in Project Management.

I attest my quick return to South Dakota and inevitably the Watertown area from the comparison of my experiences in other areas of our country. South Dakota offers a family valued platform that is second to none. For me this platform is founded on the wonderful recreational opportunities South Dakota provides. South Dakota is hard to beat when it comes to raising a family.

I currently have an eight year old son and a child on the way this November. My son and I took full advantage and enjoyed the mentor program this year! Outdoor opportunities for our kids and the general public is the single largest factor in my desire to work for you as a South Dakota Wildlife Federation Board Member. It is my firm belief that our public outdoor opportunities are under attack by monetary interests, greed and the powers to be. Finding a balance between productive agriculture and safe guarding habitat is an area of extreme importance.

As a small business owner and small land owner I understand the value of hard work and the importance of a healthy diversified economy. In our ever changing Ag based economy I think the time is now more then ever to recognize the important role quality habitat and clean waters play in our economy. It is my belief that the South Dakota executive and legislative branch must recognize the opportunity cost lost with the depletion of quality habitat. Our state needs to continue to pursue every avenue towards providing greater public access to quality habitat and outdoor opportunities. Access to public lands and water are a corner stone to our communities and is a common denominator in the retention of our youth.

As a kid hunting and fishing with family and friends was my greatest joy. Experiencing outdoor opportunities alongside my faith, wife and family fulfills my life.

I shamefully admit we at times gloat in catching limits of walleyes, bags of pheasants and shooting deer on our public lands and waters.

Future generations require opportunity and access in order to have the “hook setting” life experiences I was graced with growing up in South Dakota and I will continue to fight for just that. We are simply borrowing our land and water from our future generations.

Zachery T. Hunke

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**SDWF Board Of Directors Spotlight: Zachery Hunke**

NEW POLL SHOWS 74 % OF AMERICANS WANT LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND REAUTHORIZED, FUNDED

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new national poll conducted for the National Wildlife Federation and released today shows three out of every four Americans want to see the permanent reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Collin O’Mara said the results show the American people want Congress to ensure this critical program continues to support outdoor recreation for families, hunters and anglers, and wildlife-watchers with the community parks, trails, public lands and outdoor spaces critical to our shared heritage:

“The Land and Water Conservation Fund has connected Americans with wildlife and outdoor recreation for more than half a century. The poll highlights not only that Americans of all backgrounds are united in their support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but also the immense public support for Congress taking long-overdue action to permanently reauthorize and fully fund this critical program. Failing to act in the face of this overwhelming support would be a massive missed opportunity for our wildlife and outdoor heritage.”

Key results include:

• 74 percent of voters want the Land and Water Conservation Fund renewed and funded;

• 63 percent of voters would feel more favorably about their representative in Congress if she or he “voted to authorize renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

• 48 percent of voters would feel less favorably about their representative in Congress if she or he “voted to renew the Land and Water Conservation Fund but not fund it.”

“One result caught us by surprise,” said Jim Williams, a polling analyst with Public Policy Polling. “We told voters the economic case for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and a massive 88 percent said it was very or somewhat convincing that it supports the outdoor economy that generates $887 billion in spending and supports 7.6 million jobs. But an equal number of voters — 88 percent — were very or somewhat convinced simply because the Land and Water Conservation Fund protects important wildlife habitat. Protecting our great outdoors is an American value and voters simply think it’s the right thing for Congress to do.”

The telephone poll, conducted by Public Policy Polling on November 26-27, surveyed 662 registered voters and had a margin of error of 3.8 percentage points.

The National Wildlife Federation also released a series of polls on support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in a series of states and congressional districts, including Alaska, California’s 23rd Congressional District, Minnesota’s 4th Congressional District, New York, Oregon, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin’s 1st Congressional District.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which expired in September, uses fees from offshore oil and gas revenues — at no cost to taxpayers — to invest in urban parks, walking and biking trails, wildlife habitat, historic sites, national parks and other open spaces. The National Wildlife Federation worked closely with Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, Senator Clinton Anderson and Representative Wayne Aspinall to help secure initial passage in 1964. It also worked with subsequent Congresses to increase the program’s funding and improve its programmatic impact in 1968, 1970, 1977 and 2015.
2019 Duck Hunting Season Dates and Zones Finalized

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission finalized the 2019 duck hunting season at their November meeting.

**Season Dates and Open Areas:**
- High Plains Zone: October 12, 2019 – January 16, 2020
- Low Plains North & Low Plains Middle Zone: September 28 – December 10, 2019
- Low Plains South Zone: October 28, 2019 – January 7, 2020

The daily bag limit will be six ducks; comprised of no more than five mallards (which may include no more than two hens), three wood ducks, three scaup, two redheads, two canvasbacks and one pintail.

Two bonus blue-winged teal would be available for the first sixteen days of the season.

Goose, Sandhill Crane, Spring Light Goose Seasons Finalized

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission finalized the 2019 goose, Sandhill crane and spring light goose hunting seasons at their November meeting.

**Dates for these seasons include:**
- **Canada Geese (and Brant)**
  - Unit 1: October 1 – December 22, 2019
  - Unit 2: November 4, 2019 – February 16, 2020
  - Unit 3: January 11-19, 2020
- **Light Geese**
  - Statewide: September 28, 2019 – January 10, 2020
- **White-fronted Geese**

Daily limits will be eight Canada geese for Unit 1 and four Canada geese for Units 2 and 3. Daily limit for light geese is 50 statewide.

The Commission increased the daily limit of white-fronted geese from two to three, but also shortened the season from 86 to 74 days.

The Commission expanded the area where hunters can hunt Sandhill cranes, modifying the open unit from that portion of the state lying west of U.S. Highway 281 to that portion of the state lying west of a line beginning at the South Dakota-North Dakota border and State Highway 25, south on State Highway 25 to its junction with State Highway 34, east on State Highway 34 to its junction with U.S. Highway 81, then south on U.S. Highway 81 to the South Dakota-Nebraska border.

The Sandhill crane season will run from Sept. 28 – Nov. 24, 2019, have a daily limit of three and a possession limit of nine.

The Commission made a slight change to the season dates for the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order, changing it from 79 days beginning the day after the Unit 2 dark goose season to the day after the Unit 2 dark goose season to May 15.

Spring Turkey Hunting Season Finalized

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission finalized the 2019 spring turkey hunting season which included the removal of rifles to hunt spring turkeys. A rifle is defined as rimfire, centerfire and muzzleloading rifles. This decision was made due to safety concerns with the increased use of life-like decoys and other techniques used by spring turkey hunters. This new regulation will take effect for the 2019 spring hunting season.

The Commission also decided to:
1. Offer residents 55 more one-tag male turkey licenses and 150 less two-tag male turkey licenses for the prairie units than 2018 for an overall decrease of 245 tags.
2. Offer nonresidents two more one-tag male turkey licenses and 12 less two-tag male turkey licenses for the prairie units than 2018 for an overall decrease of 22 tags.
3. Modify the season end date for turkey hunting on the prairies, in the Black Hills and during the archery season from the eighth day prior to Memorial Day weekend to May 31.
4. Adjust the hunting season end date for Sica Hollow in unit 48A to end on May 31.

2019 season dates:
- Archery: April 6 – May 31
- Black Hills regular and single-season prairie units: April 13 – May 31
- Split-season early prairie units: April 13 – April 30
- Split-season late Prairie units; Black Hills late season: May 1 – May 31

**Licenses available include:**
- Black Hills: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag male turkey licenses.
- Prairie: 5,657 resident and 246 nonresident one-tag male turkey licenses.
- 600 resident and 48 nonresident two-tag male turkey licenses.
- Archery: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag male turkey licenses.
- Access permits are required to turkey hunt Good Earth State (five archery permits available) and Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve (20 archery permits available).
FARGO — The first rays of sun begin to creep into the inky night sky. Off in the distance, a figure emerges, crunching its way through the early morning frost that covers the ground of an untouched field. The magnificent creature lifts its head, displaying a rack that almost blocks out the peaceful morning sunrise.

A gun is settled into place and long, slow, smoky breaths are released. The hunter takes one final exhale as the crosshairs find their mark. With one squeeze of the trigger, the beast falls to the ground. The hunter whips off her hat, wiping a bead of sweat away from her brow after the excitement of landing the monster buck.

Notice who was whipping off their hat and wiping their brow? A woman.

Growing up in northern Minnesota, hunting has been a part of my life since the moment I could legally carry a gun — sitting in the stand with my dad, just waiting for the big buck to walk into view. But female hunters are a relatively unknown or misunderstood concept in a lot of areas. They may still be a small group, but the group is growing larger each year.

Start ‘em early

For many huntsresses, the love for hunting begins early in life. Nicole Stone, a Fargo resident and avid hunter and fisherwoman, says her love of hunting began before she was able to carry a firearm.

“I come from a farm in central Minnesota,” Stone says. “My mom and dad both hunted and fished, so by the time I was 10 years old, I was out hunting and in the deer stand. I started hunting deer myself when I was 12.”

She says starting young with family or a mentor is the best way to ensure the sport stays alive with a new generation. And outdoors clubs agree.

Cass County Wildlife Club President Jason Dettler says the group has a few women who participate, but early introduction is key.

“Girls are better shooters (than boys), but if they aren’t introduced to it, they aren’t going to know it,” Dettler says. “Introduction to the sport is a big thing. If their parents aren’t into it, then they aren’t going to get into it.”

Actually...

Because a lack of introduction to hunting is so prevalent among young women, Dettler says the sport has the possibility of dying off.

However, when looking at the big picture, both the Minnesota and North Dakota Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) would disagree.

Jennifer Wical, Minnesota DNR’s fish and wildlife marketing coordinator, says there’s been an increase in the number of women applying for licenses for both firearms deer hunters and small game hunters.

Citing a recent research paper for projected changes to the number of deer hunters in Minnesota between 2015 and 2030, Wical says, “Overall, female hunting rose by almost 49.7 percent between 2000 and 2015 and is expected to rise 25.5 percent between 2015 and 2030.”

In 2015, the number of female deer firearm-licensed hunters 16 and older in the state sat at around 55,700, compared to about 349,000 male hunters. But with programs like the Becoming an Outdoor Woman being offered to women and families by the Minnesota DNR, the number of licensed female hunters could increase.

North Dakota isn’t much different. Even though getting a game and habitat license is slightly more difficult, that didn’t stop women from applying for them. Between 2009 and 2017, the overall number of licenses obtained by women increased about 17 percent — thanks, in part, to women between the ages of 19 and 29, who increased their licenses by 46 percent during that time, according to the North Dakota DNR’s Game and Fish Department.

Girl power

While introduction to the sport is key to the long-term survival of hunting, watching other women succeed in a male-dominated world certainly helps.

Stone says social media is a big player in that effort, too.

“I think there is definitely a movement — especially with social media now — where women can see other women doing it and that makes them feel empowered to do it themselves,” she says.

“Maybe if they had been thinking about doing it their whole life but maybe their parents aren’t into (hunting), social media gives them people they can learn from so they can go out and do it on their own,” Stone adds. “It also makes hunting and fishing seem very fun, entertaining and attractive, and I think that’s pushing women and it’s making it more inclusive to women and gets them more excited about being in it.”

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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 membership donations.

Thank you to the following donors for their contributions to the SDWF. Please consider becoming a member of the Wildlife Legacy Council. 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 to Level V 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.

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**Watch: Female hunters are on the rise in Minnesota, North Dakota**

Growing up in northern Minnesota, hunting has been a part of my life since the moment I could legally carry a gun — sitting in the stand with my dad, just waiting for the big buck to walk into view. But female hunters are a relatively unknown or misunderstood concept in a lot of areas. They may still be a small group, but the group is growing larger each year.

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She says starting young with family or a mentor is the best way to ensure the sport stays alive with a new generation. And outdoors clubs agree.
RESIDENCY CASES A CONSTANT CONCERN for GF&P

30 State wildlife officers are constantly investigating cases in which outdoor enthusiasts are illegally claiming residency to hunt and fish in South Dakota. The cases are "somewhat difficult" and take significant time to prosecute, according to Andy Alban, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks law enforcement program administrator.

"We get a lot of tips and direct information from individuals, because it becomes a fairness issue, especially when it comes to big game licenses," Alban said while discussing GF&P’s recently released 2017 annual law enforcement report.

The report reviews the work and initiatives of South Dakota conservation officers. During 2017, there were 22 “fraud to obtain” hunting license violations. Alban said typically people are renting or buying small “fixer-upper” homes in South Dakota and claiming that as their domicile, even though they live in another state.

There were also six 2017 cases in which a person purchased a resident license before the minimum amount of days was up. To apply for a resident license in South Dakota, a person must have a domicile — their permanent home — within South Dakota for at least 90 days. "Fraud to obtain” a license is a Class 1 misdemeanor and includes the loss of hunting and fishing privileges for one year.

"I’m sure there were more incidents and investigations,” Alban said. “These cases are (time consuming) when you have to look at where somebody lives and how long they’ve lived there.”

Last year, South Dakota’s conservation officers made about 42,800 field contacts with outdoor recreationalists, including anglers, hunters, trappers and/or contamination of feed or water sources with saliva, urine, and/or feces. Evidence shows that infected carcasses may serve as a source of infection, which could introduce chronic wasting disease into other areas of South Dakota if not disposed of correctly.

In South Dakota, CWD was discovered in seven captive elk facilities during the winter of 1997-98 and in wild populations in 2001 when a positive white-tailed deer in Fall River county was detected during the hunting season.

How to Help

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal brain disease of deer, elk, and moose that is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion.

How the pathogenic prion is transmitted from diseased animals to healthy ones is believed to be through direct animal to animal contact and/or contamination of feed or water sources with saliva, urine, and/or feces. Evidence shows that infected carcasses may serve as a source of infection, which could introduce chronic wasting disease into other areas of South Dakota if not disposed of correctly.

In South Dakota, CWD was discovered in seven captive elk facilities during the winter of 1997-98 and in wild populations in 2001 when a positive white-tailed deer in Fall River county was detected during the hunting season. Over the past two decades, samples have been submitted from hunter harvest, sick surveillance and other mortalities in an effort to monitor this disease.

As a result, 13,590 white-tailed deer (125 positives) have been tested, along with 6,122 mule deer (81 positives), and 7,352 elk (194 positives) from across the state, including Wind Cave National Park and Custer State Park.

Location of CWD

Hunters should be mindful of using some best management practices when handling, transporting, and disposing of carcasses, in particular from the endemic counties of Custer (including Custer State Park), Fall River, Lawrence and Pennington.

Disposal and Transportation

Whenever possible, dispose of carcass at an approved disposal site. If unsure, please contact your local waste management provider for details.

Only transport quartered (with no part of the brain or spinal column attached) or deboned meat from the harvest location to your home or game processor while following all tagging and transportation requirements.

When feasible, transport only cleaned skulls or skull caps with no brain material.

Submit Your Sample

GF&P has partnered with South Dakota State University (SDSU) to allow hunters to voluntarily submit a CWD sample.

As a voluntary submission, hunters will be responsible for the cost of shipping and any professional sample collection costs. GF&P will pay for the testing cost of the sample at SDSU. Results will be sent to both the hunter and GF&P. These results will supplement GF&P’s surveillance effort across the state.

How to Help

As a hunter or non-hunter, taxidermist or landowner, learn more about how this impacts your recreational opportunities, how you can help spread the message and what you might need to be concerned about.
2019 South Dakota Wildlife Federation’s
Custer State Park Buffalo Shoot

$10 each or 3 for $25

* Drawing to be held at Annual Convention, August 2019. Winner will receive $3,300 cash and will need to apply to Custer State Park to enter the non-trophy buffalo lottery, or they may spend the money as they wish. If they draw a license, the cash prize should cover the cost of the license and included guided rifle or bow hunt in Custer State Park for the year in which they apply. 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

2019 South Dakota Wildlife Federation’s
21 Gun Giveaway

$20 each

1. Browning X-bolt with Leopold 3-12x scope...stnd. cal.
2. Winchester XPR 6.5 Creedmore
3. Taurus Judge revolver .45/410
4. Glock 17 mm
5. Ruger American rifle .270
6. Ruger LCP 9mm
7. S&W bodyguard .380
8. Savage Axis .308
11. Remington 597 Scoped .22 combo .22
d. 12. DPMS Ar-15 style .223 cal.
13. Remington 870 Express 12 ga.
15. Savage 9317-DXP 17 cal.
18. DPMS Ar-15 style .223 cal.
20. Remington BDL 22-250
21. Remington 597 Scoped .22 combo .22

* Drawing to be held at Spring Board Meeting, May 2019. Void where prohibited by law. Your presence or contribution not necessary to win.

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