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21 Gun Giveaway Winners Announced

After the Spring Board Meeting held electronically, SDWF’s Executive Director drew the winning names of those who had purchased 21 Gun Giveaway tickets. There were 884 tickets sold for this annual fundraising event. SDWF gave away 9-guns or cash settlements to the winners.

1. Mitch Stark, MN
2. Richard Corzine, SD
3. Robert Nail, IL
4. Glen Cook, SD
5. Mike Herbert, OH
6. Doug Lowe, SD
7. Bernard Elliott, MN
8. Larry Ness, SD
9. Chuck Humphrey, SD

I want to thank everyone who purchased tickets for this raffle. Your generosity makes SDWF what it is today.

THANK YOU!

Landmark Legislation Protects Public Lands and Expands Recreation Opportunities for Decades to Come

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Great American Outdoors Act, which was officially signed into law at a White House ceremony, will usher in a new era of public lands protections and expanded outdoor recreation opportunities across the nation. The law, which was passed by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in Congress earlier this summer, will permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and will provide up to $1.9 billion a year to address deferred maintenance issues at our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and other public lands.

“The Great American Outdoors Act is a truly historic, bipartisan conservation accomplishment that will protect wildlife habitat, expand recreational opportunities, restore public lands and waters, and create good jobs,” said Collin O’Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. “Time and again, our leaders have shown that conservation can not only bridge the partisan divide, but also put Americans back to work and safeguard wildlife and our way of life for future generations. Congress should build on this bipartisan achievement and jump-start our economic recovery by passing additional job creating measures such as a 21st Century Conservation Corps and the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act.”

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is often called America’s most effective land conservation program, has been a top priority of the National Wildlife Federation. Fifty-six years ago, the National Wildlife Federation worked closely with Interior Secretary Stewart Udall and leaders in Congress to secure the initial passage of the program, and then worked to increase funding and programmatic impact in 1968, 1970 and 1977. For the past six years, the National Wildlife Federation helped lead the charge to permanently reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The bipartisan triumph of the Great America’s Outdoors Act is very much the result of the hard work of our members, affiliates, and partners, who spoke with their elected officials, wrote letters, and kept up a steady stream of advocacy for this important program.

“Over the past five decades, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been a catalyst to protect fish and wildlife, create parks and waterfront access, and expand recreation and tourism. It has also conserved land along our rivers to protect clean drinking water for our residents and millions of people downstream,” said Angie Rosser, executive director of the West Virginia Rivers Coalition.

“The Great American Outdoors Act will ensure that the full potential of the Land and Water Conservation Fund will be realized for generations to come.”

“The Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped support such iconic places as Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks in Washington state. It has also been

Continued on page 2
a critical tool for connecting and restoring wildlife habitat, which can help reverse the wildlife crisis that our country faces,” said Mitch Friedman, executive director of Conservation Northwest. “This legislation is the biggest conservation victory in a generation, and it will ensure that our wildlife populations and cherished landscapes and waterways will survive and thrive well into the future.”

“Out of Doors” is published by the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, 208 Linnell, Pierre, SD 57501 and additional mailing offices.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to South Dakota Wildlife Federation, 208 Linnell, Pierre, SD 57501.
President’s Column  by Zachery T. Hunke

Meandered Water Closures; South Dakota’s Next Big Thing

Laws regarding the recreational use of the public’s water in South Dakota are not settled. Meandered water closures in South Dakota are illegally occurring and it is going to take vigilant citizens and enforcement of current laws to prevent a further erosion of our water rights.

Going forward South Dakota must not be short sighted in our public policy approach. Water levels in South Dakota, particularly northeastern South Dakota, have risen and fallen since the last glaciation.

It’s time to view water rights differently than ever before. Let’s start by discussing the elephants in the room; drain tiling, taxation and property rights. We must ensure we do not continue down the path of damaging our economy and reducing the public’s trust.

My friends and neighbors have been inundated with waters that did not generate from their grounds and unfortunately their frustrations have been misguided towards sportsmen. These frustrations will not bring lands back out of the water; they simply restrict the public’s right to beneficially use the waters of our state. At what point will sportsman and land owners recognize that a fight over “recreational use” of public water does nothing to solve the real problem at hand? Fighting over water rights certainly stifles our economy and further divides what are otherwise like-minded people.

If we are truly understanding and willing to solve the issue of high water then our approach needs to be handled differently than it has been in the past. Recreational use of the public’s water has never been the core issue facing the majority of landowners. Taxation of lands under the public’s water is an issue; a landowner drain-tiling into a closed basin on their neighbors land is an issue; closing vast areas of the public’s water to recreational use is an issue.

Solving this complicated problem is simpler than most would think. We primarily need to provide private citizens who have been inundated with water some sensible recourse. If anyone drains their water into a closed basin, adjacent land owners deserve quick and reasonable due process, a means to stop those causing the problem. If the public’s water is overlaying private lands and is accessible to the general public it should not be taxed. The public’s right to use accessible waters should not be infringed beyond reasonable regulations when conditions so warrant. Ordinary high water lines are outdated and need to be revisited.

The House or Senate Taxation Committee should recommend a do pass law that shall include, “Any waters that overlay private lands that are accessible for the general public’s recreational use year round shall not be taxed.”

The House or Senate State Affairs Committee should recommend a do pass law that shall include, “Any waters tiled or otherwise drained into a closed basin shall first receive signatures of affected landowners and make all reparations prior to tiling. Filling a tile drainage plan with the local courthouse is required before tiling begins.”

The Senate or House Natural Resources Committee should recommend a do pass law that shall include, “Recreational use is a beneficial and lawful use of publicly owned waters.” The Game Fish and Parks should be held responsible for passing stringent use restrictions to protect individual privacy and safety when required.

“Complaining about a problem without posing a solution is call whining.” (Theodore Roosevelt)

Executive Director  by Chris Hesla

By the time you read this article, the first hunting season in South Dakota will be getting under way. The Mourning Dove season begins the first of September. It is an exciting and very busy time for those of us who love to hunt and enjoy the outdoors here in SD.

Don’t expect to see a pheasant brood survey from GFP this year. They have decided to stop the longest scientific survey that the GFP has been conducting. SDWF testified against the stopping of this survey, it was a long standing tradition and did not change the biology or how pheasants were managed, but it gave us the same look from the same spot during the same time each year.

The survey results good or bad always sparked debate and got you excited about the up-coming season. But if you are trying to make a living or supplementing your income by offering pay to hunt, you never want a bad scientific survey, you always want a rosy picture brought forward and don’t want science to get involved.

In these uncertain times SDWF’s Board decided not to hold a convention this year. We will however hold our business meeting and elections on ZOOM and if any of you would like to join us email me at sdwf@mncomm.com and request an invite. It will be Sept. 13, 3 pm CST. Everyone is welcome to join.

This year’s 21 gun winners were listed on the front page of this Out-of-Doors. We will be drawing the Pheasant Hunt and Buffalo Shoot winners at our Annual Convention on Zoom, Sunday Sept. 13.

As always SDWF and SDW-Camo would not be what they are without, you our members.

Thank you for your continued support.
PIERRE, S.D. – At their July meeting, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission made several proposals that would provide more opportunities to hunters in upcoming hunting seasons.

The first proposal is a 10 a.m. CT start time for the resident-only pheasant season and the traditional pheasant season in 2020. Also included is an extension of the season to January 31. Currently, the pheasant season ends the first Sunday in January, which fluctuates with the calendar year.

“Season extensions like these would allow more opportunity for hunters to get into the field and enjoy South Dakota’s great outdoors,” said Tom Kirschgenmann, Wildlife Division Director for GFP.

If the proposal is passed, the changes would take effect for the upcoming 2020 season.

The commission also proposed an increase to the daily bag limit next season starting December 1, 2021, which would allow hunters to harvest four (4) rooster pheasants per day from December 1 through the end of the season. The possession limit would increase from 15 to 20 rooster pheasants after Dec. 1, 2021.

The 2021 start time of this proposal was set to allow time for preserve operators in the state to prepare for an adjusted release requirement.

“Because they have a license to operate as a preserve, they start hunting earlier in the fall and continue hunting after the traditional season,” said Kirschgenmann. “They are also required to release a certain number of pheasants onto the landscape each year. A higher bag limit will result in adjusted release amounts for these operations. With the impacts on businesses due to COVID-19 this year, we want to give them time to prepare.”

To keep other upland bird hunting seasons in alignment, the commission proposed to extend the prairie grouse, quail and partridge seasons to end on January 31.

All these efforts are coming together alongside GFP’s partnership with the Department of Tourism to get more people in the field hunting pheasants in South Dakota.

“With abundant public land hunting opportunities, pheasant hunters have access to some of the greatest spots to chase birds and work their dogs here in South Dakota,” said Hepler. “We have worked hard and will continue to work hard on habitat and access. Our department continues to partner with private landowners to create and improve habitat on their farms and ranches.”

South Dakota has increased public hunting access to private land within the primary pheasant range by adding over 7,500 acres to the Walk-In Area public hunting access program. Each year, GFP provides incentives that help landowners establish over 10,000 acres of food habitat plots and 140 acres of tree and shrub plantings. In the last year, over 4,000 acres of cropland have been planted to grassland habitat through the Second Century Working Lands Habitat program. In addition, over 16,000 acres of new grassland habitat will be created by last winter’s general CRP sign up.

Individuals can comment on the proposals by going online to gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions. Comments can also be mailed to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

To be included in the public record and to be considered by the commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing).

The next GFP Commission meeting will be held on Sept. 2-3, tentatively at the Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City.

**Blue Green Algae Bloom at Wall Lake Pet Owners Should Be Aware of Blue-Green Algae**

PIERRE, S.D. – As the “dog days” of summer roll on, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks officials would like to warn pet owners of blue-green algae blooms that are appearing in ponds and lakes across the state.

“Blue-green algae blooms happen every year when summer really gets hot,” said regional fisheries manager, Mark Ermer. “It’s nearly impossible to tell if algae in a pond or lake is poisonous or not, so we recommend not letting dogs swim in a body of water that has a visible, thick layer of algae floating on the surface. Even one drink of water that has a blue-green algae bloom can be fatal for dogs.”

Blue-green algae are most often blue-green in color, but can also be blue, green, reddish-purple, or brown. Blue-green algae generally grow in protected areas of lakes, ponds, and slow-moving streams when the water is warm and enriched with nutrients like phosphorus or nitrogen.

“Blue-green algae blooms are caused by cyanobacteria, which grow particularly well in slow-moving or stagnant water with high phosphorus or nitrogen content,” said South Dakota Assistant State Veterinarian, Mendel Miller. “Some of these cyanobacteria may produce dangerous toxins which, if ingested, can lead to liver or nervous system damage in animals. These toxins cause serious damage quickly, so prompt medical care is critical following potential exposures. Because it is not easy to tell if an algae bloom is producing toxins, it is best to avoid all water where cyanobacteria appear to be present.”

“If you think you or your pet has come into contact with blue-green algae, contact your doctor or veterinarian immediately,” Miller said. “Symptoms of blue-green algae poisoning include lethargy, the inability to walk, hypersalivating, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, pale gums, shock, seizures, loss of appetite, tremors and difficulty breathing.”

Fish consumption from lakes experiencing a high algae bloom should be limited. While the toxins can be present in fish caught during a bloom, research has shown the concentrations of toxins are higher in the organs of fish than in the muscle tissue or fillets. Toxin levels decrease after an algae bloom has ended.

Anyone observing what they believe is a harmful algae bloom should contact their local GFP office or the Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

**Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus)**

The Peregrine Falcon is currently a state endangered species that can occasionally be observed throughout South Dakota during spring and fall migration. Peregrine populations rapidly declined at a national level between the 1940’s and 1970’s due to the widespread use of the pesticide DDT, which accumulated in their prey and caused nest failures. After successful reintroduction efforts the peregrine was removed from the federal list of endangered species in 1999, but the South Dakota population remained endangered due to its limited breeding populations in the state. Historically, only two nesting locations had been confirmed in western South Dakota.

From 2011-2013, with funding provided by State Wildlife Grants, the SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks released a total of 57 young peregrine falcons at sites located in Rapid City. The goal of the project was to have birds return and nest in the area.

Beginning in 2017, in another State Wildlife Grant project, SDGFP worked with a peregrine biologist to identify and prioritize cliff nesting sites in the Black Hills and to survey for nesting peregrines. To date, this project has resulted in the documentation of 5 active nesting pairs that have had various levels of nesting success and has also helped in the development of recovery goals for peregrines in the state.
PIERRE, S.D. (KELO) — Results weren’t as good this spring for South Dakota’s effort to kill more animals that prey on ground-nesting game birds. Keith Fisk, the state wildlife damage program administrator, presented numbers Friday to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission. Last year, paying $10 per tail, the bounty program used up the $500,000 allocated. This year, with bounties reduced to $5 and funding likewise cut in half, about $131,000 was paid through the July 1 end. “Due to COVID-19 we weren’t able to accept tails right at the start,” Fisk explained. Instead, people initially were asked to freeze tails of predators such as raccoons that they had trapped or shot. That was because Governor Kristi Noem, in response to COVID-19, had ordered non-essential state government employees under her control to work from home starting March 15.

The governor issued another order effective May 2 giving discretion to her department and bureau heads to gradually reopen state offices as they saw fit. The first opportunities to be paid $5 apiece for tails came May 8, May 15 and May 29 at nine locations. Further dates were held in June and July 1. Fisk said about 26,000 tails were submitted, with raccoons the most numerous. Counties in eastern South Dakota generated the most tails. About 1,100 people participated, with the most ages 51 to 70, and about half were repeats from 2019. Last year 13% were age 17 and younger. The goal this year was 20%. That came short at 16%. Fisk said participants told him there were two reasons participation overall was down. One was COVID-19 this year was 20%. That came short at 16%. Fisk said the overall cost for the program was about $150,000, with about $16,900 paid for staff salaries. Commissioner Doug Sharp of Watertown questioned why the salary expense would be included because it “artificially” raised an issue for the public. “I’m not sure it’s a fair representation of the cost of a program when we’re looking at things,” Sharp said. Commissioner Robert Whitmyre of Webster said he was “impressed” that so many people participated during COVID-19. He defended the program. “I think it’s been very successful,” Whitmyre said. He removed 12 raccoons and had 12 waterfowl nests in an area on his farm. Commission chairman Gary Jensen of Rapid City wondered whether the program should be limited to areas that have pheasants.

Commissioner Charles Spring of Union Center said predators were “real hard” on ducks and turkeys too. Commissioner Travis Bies of Fairburn agreed with Spring, noting that grouse are helped too. “It’s not just a pheasant-area program,” Bies said.

The state Game, Fish and Parks Department gradually reopened to the public in May and June. The bounty program ran April 1 through July 1.

The commission reduced the program this year, amid challenges from sportsmen who wanted money spent instead on more pheasant habitat. The bounty concept came from the governor, a hunter and a past owner of a commercial pheasant-hunting operation.
Steel shot for pheasant hunting and other non-toxic options in an advanced world of modern shotgun ballistics.

Thirty years ago, the thought of being forced to use anything other than lead shot for bird hunting caused people to go crazy. Utterings of missing birds because lead shot wasn’t used were common. It could’ve been real, or just a little bit of a stretch to lean on when a hunter was having an off-day. Regardless, nobody liked it when steel shot was introduced and became mandatory in many areas. Ammo has come a long way over the past 30 years, and people can’t use the fact that they weren’t shooting lead as an excuse anymore.

Why Non-Toxic Ammunition for Pheasant?

It’s no secret that lead shot is harmful. Lead shot can be picked up by birds, dissolved in birds that are non-mortally hit with it, eaten by scavengers like foxes, coyotes, and raptores from the carcasses of non-recovered game. The list goes on, and like anything in the animal kingdom, the circle of life makes everything go in a loop. Non-toxic shot is a great alternative for those looking to leave the smallest footprint possible. It’s the eco-friendly choice. In some areas, it’s also mandatory.

Where is Non-Toxic Shot Essential for Pheasant?

The United States banned lead shot for hunting waterfowl in 1991 and at least 26 states have instituted lead shot restrictions beyond those mandated for waterfowl hunting. Non-toxic ammunition is required on most state land for pheasant in South Dakota, and is required to hunt many WaterFowl Production Areas and Management Areas in Minnesota. There’s even a proposal to ban lead shot in the farmland region of southwestern Minnesota.

Anywhere there’s water present, non-toxic shot should be considered. This includes fields that may have small pockets of standing water or drainage, and any areas where ducks or other migratory birds may be present. If you’re hunting an area with lead only, and a big, fat northern mallard jumps up next to you, you cannot legally pull the trigger. Why not carry legal, non-toxic shot in areas where you can shoot a mixed bag?

What are the Alternatives to Lead Ammunition?

Twenty years ago, lead reigned supreme. Many would say that statement still holds true today. There’s no debating that lead shot is effective. It’s dense, carries energy over a long distance and it hits hard. However, non-toxic alternatives have come a long way over the last 20 years. Steel, bismuth, tungsten, tungsten-alloy, and specialized mixed-metal ammunition are all great alternatives to lead.

I’ve shot a plethora of alternatives, and I keep coming back to a few select favorites when I’m hunting pheasants with non-toxic shot. A large-pellet steel shot was my go-to for many years, and still works well for me today. The rise of tungsten has really changed how I look at non-toxic shot. A community of hunters who don’t pay attention to chokes or choke selection may not realize that consistent patterns. The biggest downfall of tungsten is the cost. The results are worth it if you can clearly kill more birds using a completely lead-free shotshell.

Speaking of patterns, choke selection is a common question for non-toxic loads. Hunters who don’t pay attention to chokes or choke selection may not realize that certain chokes cannot be used with steel shot. If you’re not going to order a custom or specialized choke, you’d be safe using a modified choke. Most of the modern loads on the market will pattern extremely well out of almost any modified choke.

Don’t let the fact that the WMA down the road doesn’t allow the use of lead shot dissuade you from hunting. The non-toxic ammunition of today is reliable and deadly. Plus, when you’re pulling the trigger you can take solace in the fact that you’re doing your part to be eco-friendly.

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 caffeine donations.

Thank you for contributing your donations to the SDWF. Please consider becoming a member of the SDWF 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 to: Level V $1,000 & above; Level IV Buffalos $501 - $999; Level III Elk $301 - $500; Level II Deer $201 - $300; and Level I Pheasant $100 - $200.

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!
State ends pheasant brood survey, proposes extending hunting season
Lisa Kaczke - Sioux Falls Argus Leader

State officials are proposing to change South Dakota's pheasant hunting season in an effort to draw more hunters to participate.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission will take up a proposal in September to lengthen the pheasant hunting season, extend the shooting hours during the first week of the season and increase the rooster bag limit during the final months of the season.

The changes are part of a larger push that began earlier this year to boost marketing of South Dakota's pheasant hunting season, with the goal of increasing resident and non-resident participants in the state’s pheasant hunting by 10% in three years.

Between 2014 and 2018, the number of resident pheasant hunters declined from 61,776 to 53,577 and non-resident hunters declined from 79,195 to 69,018, according to GFP data.

Proposed changes originated from discussions about declining hunting license sales that began last fall. The pheasant hunting marketing work group formed in February and included members from GFP, South Dakota Tourism Department, Governor’s Office, South Dakota Retailers Association, South Dakota Wildlife Federation and Second Century Habitat Fund Board.

One change has already resulted from the work group’s discussions. The Commission agreed with GFP leaders during its June meeting, without taking public comment, to end the pheasant brood survey that has been held annually in July and August since 1949.

GFP Secretary Kelly Hepler told the Commission in June that the department doesn’t use the brood survey to manage the state’s pheasant population. South Dakota has better hunting conditions than other locations, but that message to hunters gets lost when the brood survey has a low bird count, he said.

Proposed hunting season changes
GFP staff is proposing changes to the pheasant hunting season to find ways to encourage more hunters to participate, Tom Kirschenmann, director of GFP’s wildlife division, told the Commission in July.

The GFP Commission is scheduled to vote on the proposed pheasant hunting season changes during its meeting on Sept. 2-3, which will include a public hearing on the proposals. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City.

The proposed changes are:

* Move the start time from noon to 10 a.m. during the resident-only pheasant season and the traditional pheasant season, beginning with the 2020 season;
* Extend the pheasant hunting season to Jan. 31 instead of the current first Sunday in January, beginning with the 2020 season;
* Increase the daily bag limit from three roosters to four roosters from Dec. 1 through the end of the season and increase the possession limit from 15 to 20 roosters after Dec. 1, beginning with the 2021 season.

To keep upland bird hunting seasons in alignment, the prairie grouse, quail and partridge hunting seasons will be extended to Jan. 31 to match the pheasant season.

Comments on the proposed changes can be submitted online at gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions or mailed to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501. To be included in the public record, comments must include a full name and city of residence, and be submitted at least 72 hours before the public hearing on Sept. 2.

There isn’t a reason increasing the bag limit will negatively impact the pheasant population. South Dakota’s hunting season is roosters only and the state knows from its data in the spring that it's going into the hunting season with plenty of roosters, Travis Runia, a senior upland game biologist with GFP, told the Argus Leader.

The pheasant hunting seasons in Kansas and Nebraska go until the end of January and the season in North Dakota ends at the beginning of January, according to Kirschenmann. Kansas has a four bag limit and North Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota have three bag limits.

Brood survey
GFP Commissioner Doug Sharp of Watertown took issue in July with critics who say the state ended the brood survey as a marketing tactic. The Commission isn’t ending it to “deceive the public,” but instead it wants accurate data on the state’s pheasant population, which it can’t get due to too many variables in the brood survey, he said.

“We’re being responsible to take a hard look at this and how to better represent our true pheasant numbers to the world than what we have gone on in the past several years,” Sharp said.

Ending the brood survey will eliminate a data set that extends back to the 1940s, but there’s no biological reason to continue it, Hepler told the Commission in June.

Kirschenmann agreed, saying that GFP has never changed the pheasant season or managed the species based on the brood survey. Pheasants aren’t like the state’s big game where decisions about the hunting season depend on the population.

“We have the flexibility and we have the luxury, quite honestly, of being more liberal on this and not have to have that definite data on a year-to-year basis to make management decisions on a season structure,” he told the Commission in June.

The work group supported ending the brood survey “to ensure that South Dakota is not unintentionally deterring hunters from coming to our state based on media headlines when we have years of low bird numbers,” Emily Kiel, senior adviser to Hepler, said during the Commission’s June meeting. The state’s rooster-to-hen ratio and the pheasant harvest data should be more visible instead to draw hunters, she said.

South Dakota is also participating in an Iowa State University multi-state evaluation of pheasant population estimates. The “true abundance” of South Dakota’s pheasant population isn’t known, Runia told the Commission in July.

The true abundance of South Dakota’s pheasant population isn’t known, Runia told the Commission in July.

The brood survey relies on the assumption that a sample size represents the entire population, but there’s fluctuations based on things such as the amount of dew. The state also has a population estimate based on the post-hunt rooster-to-hen ratio. The two population estimates should correlate if its done correctly, but the state has been getting two different answers from the surveys and it was especially off for 2019, Runia said.

The state won’t have any population monitoring data after ending the brood survey, but it will continue to collect harvest information from hunters and count the winter rooster-to-hen ratio that’s done after the harvest to ensure there weren’t too many roosters harvested, Runia told the Argus Leader.

“There’s never been a time in history when we thought we were harvesting too many roosters,” Runia said.
### 2020 South Dakota Wildlife Federation Buffalo & Wings Shoot

**Pheasant Hunt**

- **Winner’s Choice Of:**
  - A three-day pheasant hunt for three hunters
  - A two-day pheasant hunt for four hunters
  - A cash prize of $700

Private land located in Central South Dakota • Drawing to be held at SDWF Summer Convention, 2020

Void where prohibited by law. Your presence or contribution not necessary to win.

**SDWF, PO Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501 • (605) 224-7524**

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### 2020-2021 South Dakota Wildlife Federation Buffalo & Wings Shoot

**Custer State Park Buffalo Shoot**

- **A guided buffalo shoot during the 2021 Fall Season. Rifle or bow allowed for the shoot. Includes cash prize of $3,200 to go towards the price of hunting license and guided hunt.**
  (Winner needs to apply for license through the SD Game, Fish & Parks license lottery.)

- **This is a guided shoot in Custer State Park located in southwestern South Dakota • Drawing to be held at Convention in August 2021.**

Void where prohibited by law. Your presence or contribution not necessary to win.

**SDWF, PO Box 7075, Pierre, SD 57501 • (605) 224-7524**

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### Subscribe & Support the South Dakota Wildlife Federation!

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- [ ] Ranger Rick Jr
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