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South Dakota
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OUT OF DOORS

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

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2013 21-GUN WINNERS, 2013 PHEASANT HUNT AND 2013 BUFFALO SHOOT WINNERS ARE ALL ANNOUNCED

Will Morlock	SD	Scott Roussin	MN	Pheasant Hunt winner; Christopher Ward, TN
Henry Polencheck	WI	Ralph Johnson	IN	
Butch Abelseth	SD	Ross Boerhave	MN	Buffalo Shoot winner; Lee Peterson, SD
Hugh Hagel	SD	James Knowles	CO	
Kevin Holter	SD	Tina Vasknetz	SD	Congratulations to the winners and THANK YOU!
Jeff White	SD	Tracy Boomsma	SD	For all of you who purchased a chance at winning!
Roosevelt Dean	AL			

The Case for Copper

Research uncovers problems with lead bullets for deer hunting and points to copper bullets as a practical alternative.

by Michael A. Kallo

EDITORS Note; At the recent SDWF Convention in Rapid City, we had a guest speaker Helene Van Doninck from Canada who has done a tremendous amount of work and research on lead use in hunting its after affects. SDWF supports the use of alternate bullets and shot and would like its members to consider using non-lead alternatives in their hunting adventures.

Every year an average of 120 sick and injured bald eagles show up at the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center in cardboard boxes and pet crates. Some are dead on arrival. One quarter are seizing, convulsing, and blind—visible symptoms of acute lead poisoning. These eagles are mercifully euthanized on the spot. The fate of the other eagles depends on the extent of their injuries and how much lead they've ingested. In a good year, 30 eagles might recover and be released.

The timing of bald eagle admissions to the medical treatment center is one clue to the source of lead poisoning. Between November and January, more sick and injured bald eagles turn up than at any other time of the year, according to Dr. Pat Redig, a veterinarian and co-founder of The Raptor Center. The beginning of this spike in admissions coincides with the onset of Minnesota's firearms deer season, which typically starts the first weekend of November and lasts as long as three weeks. Over the course of the firearms season, some 450,000 hunters harvest more than 150,000 deer. The entrails from those deer are typically left afield, where bald eagles and other scavenging birds and mammals eat them.

"Ten days after deer season opens, we start getting eagles in. It just happens that quickly," says Redig, who has been a clinician at the center since 1974. This seasonal pattern prompted University of Minnesota researchers to investigate whether lead poisoning in bald eagles was connected to their consumption of lead-tainted deer remains. The study, published in 2012, relied on data from 1,277 sick or injured bald eagles admitted to The Raptor Center between January

1996 and December 2009. Blood tests showed lethal levels of lead in 334 eagles. Birds from the northern half of the state, where most hunters use rifles, were almost twice as likely to have elevated levels of lead than birds from the southern half, where hunters are restricted to shotguns and muzzleloaders.



The Raptor Center researchers believe the higher incidence of lead poisoning in the rifle zone has to do with bullet design, composition, and velocity. The rifle bullets most widely used by deer hunters are made with a lead core encased in

a thin jacket of copper. These projectiles travel at thousands of feet per second and are designed so the soft lead core mushrooms and expands upon impact. A well-placed shot causes a large wound channel and a quick, humane kill. Unfortunately, the lead core splinters on impact and sends tiny fragments of lead into surrounding tissues.

Hypothesizing that scavenging eagles could also pick up fragmented copper from the jacket of a rifle bullet, The Raptor Center analyzed 89 eagles for the presence of copper. Measurable levels of copper were found in 63 eagles. Those 63 eagles also had elevated blood lead levels. For a bald eagle, a fatal dose of lead is 85 milligrams—about as much as two No. 6 shotgun pellets.

Lead is a neurotoxin. When vertebrates ingest it, they incorporate this metal into their vital tissues because their bodies mistake it for calcium. Because of lead's insidious nature, the United States has largely eliminated its use in paint, in plumbing, and as a gasoline additive. However, lead is still widely used in ammunition and fishing tackle, due to its low cost, effectiveness, and availability.

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Farmers- need a tax deduction this year? Consider donating some grain or land to the SDWF.

You will get a tax break and your support of the SDWF will help protect the land and wildlife you love.



Executive Director
Chris Hesla

Executive Director's Update by Chris Hesla

SDWF recently held its Annual Convention in Rapid City. The Black Hills Sportsmen and their families hosted us and showed us some great western hospitality. I especially want to thank Judy and Paul Vinatieri for opening up their house to all of us on Friday and making sure we felt welcome all weekend long. I think fun was had by everyone in attendance. I really enjoyed Saturday night's live entertainment provided by TRASH. Thank you to John and Norm for their auctioning skills and a big hand of applause for the Widman boys for providing the closing entertainment at this year's auction and Conservation Awards Banquet.

I would also like to thank and honor those who were nominated and selected as outstanding Conservationists here in South Dakota. Thanks to all of you for what you do.

This year's legislative session looks to be very important to outdoor enthusiast who enjoy and rely on the public's water for their fun and recreational use.

Water law here in South Dakota has been around since statehood and has been supported several times by the SD Supreme Court. The latest run at the law was roughly 10 years ago. Again, the SD Supreme Court upheld the policy that all water in SD is public-owned and held in Public Trust for the people. They also said access to the water may be regulated by the Legislature.

Last year, a non-resident family hired lawyers who lobbied to get "their" lake, purchased several years ago, closed to the public's use and access. Indian Springs, aka Antelope Lake near Clark, was a landlocked piece of water with no legal access when purchased years ago. The water was still public but there was no legal way to get onto the water, short of using a helicopter. Since that time and with above normal rains, Indian Springs has expanded to other public waters and several roads and sec-

tion lines now provide legal access for the public to hunt and fish.

The recent high-water years has turned Indian Springs into a world class fishery which provides hunting and fishing opportunities for many residents and non-resident visitors to SD. The family that owns part of the shoreline and the land that has flooded now wants to stop the public from recreating on the public's water. Their lawyers introduced legislation last year to stop access to and recreation on this water. The bill was tabled with the understanding that GF&P, the public, and the attorneys would work on legislation and bring it back to the 2014 Session.

Parts of the plan never happened. Over the summer, GF&P showed some potential legislation to the lawyers, which they flatly rejected. So the SDWF Camo Coalition has decided to write and advocate for legislation that will keep the public's access to their water. We have Court-supported right to our water so we can hunt, fish, wade, bird watch or anything else we want to do on the public's water.

There will be plenty more coming out on the proposed legislation before Session starts in January. The SDWF Camo Coalition needs to hire legal counsel, hire our two lobbyists, and rely on YOU, our members, to carry the message to your legislators.

There are two things we are asking you to do right now. First, join the SDWF Camo Coalition at sdwf-camo.net. Membership is free. You'll be able to keep informed on the legislative process and conservation issues in SD. Second, donate \$25 to the SDWF Camo-Coalition and we'll send you the window sticker shown below.

Thank you! For your financial support and the effort it takes to protect and save our access to water here in SD.

WE can and do make a difference!!



"God bless America. Let's save some of it."
- Edward Abbey

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President,
Rich Widman

President's Column *by Rich Widman*

The scent of autumn is in the air, the weather is cooling off, leaves are changing color, and my dog looks at me, then my hunting clothes, and back to me as if he's saying, "Dad it's almost time!" Don't tell me you don't think of your dog like he's almost one of your kids; I'm pretty sure we all do. We treat them like kids sometimes, spoil 'em, yell at them, feed 'em treats, and smile at their complete pleasure because they are so happy to be with us. (I have a teenage daughter so that last one doesn't apply right now!) It seems like each month when I read my Pheasants Forever, Whitetails Unlimited, or DU magazines, there are stories and tributes to the furry members of our families that have passed on over to the perfect hunting grounds in the sky.

With that in mind, SDWF would like to offer our members a chance to remember their pups in this newsletter. We'll have a column dedicated in memory of your best canine friend and let you write a short story about a great hunt/time you enjoyed together. We do ask for a \$100 donation to help pay for printing costs.

Our SDWF annual convention was held in Rapid City on September 7-8 and boy do we have a big year ahead of us. First, thanks to Paul and Judy for hosting a packed house on Friday night, and the Black Hills Sportsmen for a great convention. Also, thanks to the many donations from Rapid City and our affiliates for our dinner auction. It was especially wild before dinner (thanks to the comedy group TRASH) and after 10 PM. People should have stuck around, because now you'll never know what happened.

Big issues are coming back this year, but the water access legislation is one we absolutely can-not lose. The SDWF Board and our Lobbyists decided we must hire an attorney because the issues keep getting more and more complex. Guess what else? The money to pay for an attorney takes more members and donations. Please make checks out to SDWF Camo Coalition for our legal defense and lobbying Fund.

You know, last year I was elected SDWF President and I was green, but I really thought I could get our members to ask "JUST ONE" of their buddies to join SDWF. Thank you to all of you who did bring in new folks, but we are still around 3000. Don't you people like me? Honestly, I don't believe our non-profit Camo Coalition organization can survive in this legal day and age unless we bring in new members and at least \$30,000 more each year. We, and when I say we, I mean all of us, have been vital to maintaining what each of us loves: our outdoor traditions and heritage. Let's not risk losing it all now after 68 years of battles!

I realize there are still sportsmen/women who do not understand that without SDWF they would not be able to enjoy South Dakota's hunting/fishing wildlife paradise we helped make sure is available to them. It is unbelievable what SDWF has done to protect wildlife and the outdoors, so let's tell them! Write letters to the local and state newspapers thanking SDWF for protecting sportsmen/women's rights. We need more young bucks and ladies to join so they can carry on the fight when the old wise graybeards are gone. If they don't have \$20 to join the Federation, membership is free at SDWFCamo.net, and they will get email alerts to stay informed and learn how to take action with what's happening in our legislature.

At the Convention we asked each Board Member and Delegate to go back and set up a meeting with other conservation groups to discuss the Water Access Bill. We need to make sure that members in Pheasants, DU, Whitetails, NWTF, Elks, Ikes, Walleyes and everyone else realizes what we all will lose if this bill passes. SDWF is our collective voice in the Legislature, but we can-not and should not have to do it alone. We need these groups' voices and financial assistance.

The out of state folks who are behind this bill have millions of dollars to try and push it through the legis-

lature. We don't, but we always do what is right for the people! They want to privatize public waters and commercialize our wildlife. Do you want that to happen? Help us make sure it doesn't.

We need to get the word out and raise money now by asking people if they like to hunt, fish, trap, canoe, boat, swim, bird watch, photograph, or otherwise recreate on South Dakota's waters. If yes, ask them, "Do you realize if the Water Access Bill passes, you will not be able to go on most publicly owned waters without the chance of being arrested for trespassing?"

We've talked about this all year, but our pheasant population is at disastrous levels and we need to get the message out. Sure, the weather has had some impact, but the #1 reason you and I will have an abnormal pheasant hunt again this year is because of grassland being plowed and wetlands being drained.

We really do appreciate our true environmentalist farmers and ranchers. We admire those that follow proper land management practices instead of plowing up unsuitable lands for the sake of a dollar, either from a crop when things go right, or because they know taxpayers will fund the tab for failed crops if things go wrong. We also know that not every farmer is plowing fragile lands. In fact, we have many conservation minded farmers in South Dakota. One of our many "leave the land better than when you got it" farming members asked his neighbor how he can sleep at night knowing he's fleecing America's taxpayers? No answer!

Now remember SDWF believes a landowner can do what they like as long as it does not harm our people or destroy our natural resources, not just us, but also future generations. We realize it can be hard to make the right decision with high grain prices and cheap crop insurance.

Please make sure to contact our state's Senators and Representatives in Washington to ensure they link conservation compliance to crop insurance in the farm bill. The Senate passed a good farm bill, but the House has not. A decent farm bill is needed for the good of our people, the land, the wildlife, our farmers, and last- but not least, to save the billions of dollars that are being wasted on crop insurance without conservation compliance.

As sportsmen and women, we too need to respect the land, respect the laws, and respect people. Be safe and enjoy South Dakota's wonderful outdoors!

Who want's to be a BIG DOG?

Any non-profit fighting for a good cause needs money to stay in business. So here's what I need you to do: become, or ask your friends or your company to become, a SDWF "Big Dog" supporter. For \$5000 in 2013, you would receive a Browning Maxus 12-gauge with your name engraved as a "SDWF Big Dog" and 10 free entries in the SDWF raffle of your choice. You or your company would also receive a business card size ad in each issue of the "Out of Doors" newsletter and be listed as a "Big Dog" sponsor at our state convention. A "Big Dog" will receive a different gun each and every year they donate, all while protecting what they love, that South Dakota outdoor experience!

Of course not everyone has the financial resources to be a Big Dog; we represent the average person who agrees with our mission, regardless of his or her bank balance. However, with enough "puppies" throwing \$10 or \$20 our way, we'll continue to get the job done. Please, make your check to SDWF Camo and give what you can to help.

An effective, nontoxic alternative is available for deer hunters: copper bullets. Redig and Carrol Henderson, nongame wildlife program supervisor at the Department of Natural Resources, would like to see more hunters make the switch to copper. They are not suggesting that we need legislation to outlaw lead rifle ammunition for deer hunting. Instead, they hope Minnesota's deer hunters will consider this choice for the sake of our national symbol and, perhaps, for the health of their families.

Fragmentation Test. Results of a 2008 study done by the DNR suggest that inadvertent ingestion of lead isn't limited to scavengers of deer remains. In 2007 Minnesota and North Dakota impounded thousands of pounds of venison donated to food shelves following the discovery that some meat, especially ground venison, contained small fragments of lead. Public concern prompted the DNR bullet fragmentation study, which used 72 previously euthanized sheep as surrogates for white-tailed deer.

Researchers fired four different lead rifle bullets, 12-gauge lead shotgun slugs, two different muzzleloader bullets, and one all-copper rifle bullet. All sheep were shot from a range of 100 meters just behind the front shoulder to represent the typical shot through vital organs that hunters try to achieve. The sheep were then gutted and skinned, a carbon fiber tube was inserted through the wound channel, and the carcasses were X-rayed to determine the number and spread of the fragments. Three additional sheep were shot in the pelvic region to simulate a bad shot that hits heavy bone.

Lead-core rifle bullets designed to rapidly expand deposited the most lead as they traveled through the sheep carcasses. Depending on the design, these bullets left 82 to 141 lead fragments 9 to 11 inches away from the wound channel. In one carcass, a fragment was found 14 inches away from the exit wound. Shotgun slugs left an average of 28 lead fragments as far away as 5 inches from the wound channels. The heavier 300-grain muzzleloader bullet showed fragmentation similar to that of lead shotgun slugs.

The all-copper rifle bullets showed little to no fragmentation. When fragmentation did occur, pieces of nontoxic copper were less than an inch from the exit wound.

In the sheep shot in the hindquarters, regardless of lead projectile, the DNR study concluded that fragmentation was so pronounced that a hunter would likely not want to consume any of the meat. However, even with proper shot placement, a key takeaway from the study was that routine trimming around the wound channel isn't likely to remove all the lead fragments.

The DNR study was not intended to determine whether the residual lead found in venison is harmful to human health, but University of Minnesota School of Public Health professor and former state epidemiologist Dr. Michael Osterholm thinks hunters should draw their own conclusions.

Looking at the physical evidence of the DNR study, Osterholm says, "The real problem is that the lead particles are so small they would never be detected by the palate. If you think about the health effects of lead in children, that's exactly the same kind of lead they get from lead paint. From a physical standpoint, there is every reason to be concerned.

"I think it would be really unfortunate if [advising caution on lead ammunition] is taken as somehow anti-hunting, anti-guns, or anti-bullets any more than hunter safety is anti-hunting," says Osterholm. "I'm very pro hunter. We need these animal species hunted. They provide nutritious and otherwise wholesome protein for families around our state. We just need to make sure it's as safe as possible."

Making the Switch. Steve Stucker, a lifelong deer hunter and a DNR ornithologist, bagged his first deer with copper ammunition last season. He says taking personal responsibility for eagles was one reason for making the switch, but the possibility of lead ending up in family meals was a greater consideration.

"Even though I thought the risk was fairly minimal, if there is any, even the tiniest possibility that lead could be in there, having a young daughter, why take any kind of risk at all when it's so easy to just buy copper ammunition?" asks Stucker.

Copper bullets kill deer effectively, but hunters who decide to use them will likely need to make some adjustments, says Ryan Bron-



There's a long history to solving the mystery of lead poisoning in Minnesota birds. In 1977, after observing hundreds of Canada geese dying each year at Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area, the DNR's Carrol Henderson had a hunch that the cause was lead poisoning. Eagles were dying at the WMA too. Eagles were only beginning to recover from near extinction caused by the pesticide DDT, which the United States had banned five years earlier.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave Henderson \$9,000 to find out why geese and eagles were dying. Henderson, in collaboration with Dr. Dan Frenzel at the University of Minnesota and The Raptor Center's Dr. Pat Redig, determined geese were being poisoned from eating lead shotgun pellets in crop fields where they were being hunted. And they suspected eagles, in turn, were dying from eating lead-poisoned geese.

With the federally protected bald eagle in mind, DNR Commissioner Joe Alexander and wildlife chief Roger Holmes made the contentious decision to phase out lead shot for waterfowl hunting. The state ban took full effect in 1987. A federal ban followed in 1991. Canadian waterfowl hunters have been required to use nontoxic shot since 1999.

Once lead was no longer being slung from duck and goose blinds, the number of waterfowl dying of lead poisoning dropped. Henderson expected the number of dying and dead eagles to go down as well. "It didn't happen," he says. "We were really puzzled by this."

As it turned out, waterfowl crippled or poisoned by lead shot were masking another source: lead in deer gut piles that become readily available to eagles every November.

son, conservation manager at Minnesota's Federal Premium Ammunition.

Because most rifling is designed with a lead-core bullet in mind, hunters experimenting with copper should try a lighter bullet, says Bronson. The reason is that copper is lighter than lead, so an equivalent weight copper bullet must be longer. And the longer a bullet is, the faster it has to spin inside a rifle barrel to stabilize, he explains.

"So if you traditionally shoot a 165-grain, .30-caliber bullet in lead, you may want to consider a 150-grain copper bullet," says Bronson, who notes that lighter weight doesn't translate into less knock-down power. "The key thing to remember with a copper bullet is generally the whole bullet stays together. It will penetrate well even with a smaller bullet." Retention of bullet weight and deeper

penetration is why copper began gaining popularity a decade ago with hunters of big African game such as Cape buffalo, according to Bronson.

“When people have a frustration with the copper bullet on deer-sized animals, it’s that it punches right through, and the bullet ends up putting a lot of energy into the ground on the other side of the animal,” he says. On the other hand, copper bullets “are always going to stay together, so they are always going to penetrate. If you’re putting it through a shoulder or putting it through bone, it’s going to bust through that bone because it all stays together. It’s going to keep carrying on into the vitals and hopefully deliver the energy.”

Last year Minnesota Deer Hunters Association executive director

Mark Johnson announced in *Whitetails*, the organization’s magazine, that he was making the switch to copper. “My primary reason was ballistics and accuracy,” says Johnson, who was pleased with copper’s performance in his .280-caliber rifle. “The decision to use lead or copper should be a hunter’s prerogative. But from my own standpoint, if I can use something that is more accurate and something that is friendlier to the environment, then I’m going to do that. If it costs a little more, that’s not a big consideration to me.”

Henderson hopes the reason for switching to copper will become clear to more hunters. “Any responsible sportsman, any responsible hunter, should care about eagles as much as they do about deer and be able to enjoy eagles without thinking they might be leaving a toxic pile of guts in the woods for them to eat,” he says. “If hunters can adapt to copper, it’s a great thing for them, and it’s a great thing for the image of hunting.”

Pheasant Numbers Go with Habitat

Written by John Pollmann re-printed with permission from *Argus Leader*

The return of grassland cover to South Dakota is key to seeing the pheasant population rebound.

How many pheasants do we need in South Dakota?

It seems a legitimate question in the wake of all the reaction to the Game, Fish & Parks’ annual pheasant brood survey released in late August. Everyone knows the story by now: The number of adult and young pheasants observed along the traditional survey routes was down – way down – and Mother Nature and habitat loss are to blame.



A person has to look back 35 years to find a lower statewide average number of pheasants observed per mile than the figure generated for this year (1.52).

The year was 1978, and after the GF&P recorded a statewide pheasant per mile (PPM) index of 1.38 birds, 82,000 resident hunters and 13,000 nonresident hunters shot an estimated 558,300 pheasants for an average of about six pheasants per hunter for the season.

To put that into perspective, at the most recent peak of pheasant harvest in 2007 (PPM of 7.85), more than 284,000 hunters shot an estimated 2.1 million birds with a season average about double at 11.7 pheasants per hunter.

It is important to note that the 1970s historically are viewed somewhat as the bottom of the barrel in terms of pheasant production. Intensified agriculture spurred by then-U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz’s philosophy to farm “fencerow to fencerow” left little cover standing for pheasants. Bird numbers plummeted.

That we are entering into a time with comparable numbers is eye-opening to say the least and somewhat telling of how agriculture has again intensified in the state. Yet, considering that hunters in Iowa shot roughly 200,000 pheasants in 2012, South Dakota, even nearing its worst, will probably still outdo neighbors to the south and east.

At least for the time being, anyway.

It wasn’t all that long ago that Minnesota and Iowa was considered a top-tier pheasant-hunting destination. Many of the books that I read as a youngster mentioned those two in the same breath as South Dakota, but as habitat has dwindled in those states, pheasant numbers have followed in suit.

There is a genuine cause for concern from the GF&P and other conservation organizations as the amount of grassland habitat declines in South Dakota that we are headed toward a new normal in terms of pheasant numbers generated from a diverse landscape. And we’re not just talking about losing acres of ground enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, either. It includes the decline of native prairie, pheasant-friendly crops such as wheat, oats and other small grains, as well as those “bonus” chunks of cover – a grassy waterway here, a cattail slough there. All play a role in seeing the pheasant population trend downward since 2008.

The reality of our pheasant situation, as explained to me by one official with the GF&P, is that we simply do not have the habitat on

the ground to see pheasant numbers rebound to levels seen just 5-6 years ago.

And while the weather is the chief cause for short-term swings up and down in the pheasant population, the long-term trend for bird numbers is controlled completely by the amount of nesting, brood-rearing and thermal habitat on the ground.

Yes, a mild winter and ideal spring will certainly help resuscitate pheasant numbers, but the continuing loss of grassland habitat will mean that South Dakota’s peak potential for pheasant production will continue to sink lower, drifting in a somewhat southeasterly direction.

I cut my teeth as a pheasant hunter during the heydays of the 1990s and early 2000s, but I remember well tagging along with my dad during the early 1980s – pre-Conservation Reserve Program – when walking all day and seeing only a pheasant or two (or none at all) was not uncommon.

The hours of trudging through canary grass and cattails between birds got long and frustrating, but I learned to truly appreciate the birds we did flush.

Perhaps that’s the lesson we’re all heading for, including my 2 and a half year old son.

I took the little guy for a ride with me through the countryside the other night, and I gave him strict instructions to be on the look-out for pheasants along the road.

He didn’t see any (I didn’t either), so after a number of quiet miles, I told him that the pheasants might already be in bed. “Pheasants,” he yelled. “Wake up. Come back.”

I hope they do, and I think that they will. But some pretty big things need to happen first:

- Our elected officials in Washington, D.C., need to pass a comprehensive farm bill that provides sufficient incentive to conserve habitat but doesn’t incentivize the conversion of marginal ground to crop production.
- Individuals concerned with the trend in habitat loss and declining pheasant numbers need to voice their concerns to local, state, and federal leaders.
- Hunters who have let their memberships expire with the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, Pheasants Forever or other conservation organizations need to write another check and support those who are fighting for sportsmen and women here in South Dakota and beyond.

And we all need to remember that the fight for habitat in South Dakota is about much more than pheasants and their \$223 million impact on our state’s economy; it is a fight for cleaner water and healthier soils and other “ancillary” benefits to keeping grass on the ground.

When we protect habitat, we are protecting the health and sustainability of our state.

So how many pheasants do we need in South Dakota? The better question might be: What are we all willing to do to keep habitat on the ground? Who will join the collaborative effort to develop a unique solution to the habitat problem – one that allows South Dakota to remain a leading agricultural state but also a land of vast biodiversity?

Those are the questions that likely will be answered if we do, in fact, move forward from this point toward a new approach to conservation desperately in need.

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(c3) 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 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.

August 2013

LEVEL III ELK LEMONDS, JIM - SD	LEVEL I PHEASANT BUCKNER, EVERETT - AR BUCKNER II, WILLIAM - AR GREGORY, J.T. - GA	KLUSMANN, JAY - SD MUDD, WILLIAM - KY NELSON, LAWRENCE - SD OCHOCKI, ROBERT - CA	PAQUIN, STACY - MN PAUL, K-LYNN - AZ SWANSON, EARL - MN
LEVEL II DEER JACOBSON, ROBERT - SD			

July 2013

LEVEL IV BUFFALO WORDEN, JAMES - CA	LEVEL I PHEASANT ADAMS, MEL - TN EBERSPACHER, DAVID - IL ELBE, ROBERT - WI GEBHART, RONALD - AK	KLUTTZ, HENRY - NC LULEWICZ, JERRY - SD LUTZ, BOB - ID MAYES, TERRY & LAREE - SD OGDEN, JERRY - MS PAUL, K-LYNN - AZ	PETERS, DUANE - SD RAINEY, TIMOTHY - MN WELCH, HARVEY - IL WILLMOTT, HARRY - MN
LEVEL II DEER MCGUIRE, ARVID - WI WHEELER, STEPHEN J - SD			

June 2013

LEVEL V EAGLE CHAPMAN, JOHN W. - PA ROBERTS, STEVEN - MN	LEVEL II DEER EISENBEISZ, DAVID - SD MCGUIRE, ARVID - WI	LEVEL I PHEASANT ANDRESEN, RICH - SD BEALKA, ROBERT - SD KASISCHKE, CARL - MI	KIEFT, LARRY - MI KOSKI, GARY - AZ MATOUSEK, WILLIAM - SD SCHERSCHLIGHT, JEFFRY - SD
LEVEL III ELK CAPITAL CITY BASS CLUB - SD			

May 2013

LEVEL I PHEASANT DENNIS, JACK - NV	FLINT, FORREST - MN KEELER, CHARLES - MN	RANDALL, KEVIN - SD ZOELLNER, KENNETH - CA	
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April 2013

LEVEL IV BUFFALO OLSON, JEFF - SD	LEVEL I PHEASANT BROWN, ALLEN B. - SD BURNS, HOWARD - SD CONNELL, CRAIG - SD	KURTENBACH, AELRED - SD LARSON, DORRANCE - SD LINDNER, RONALD - SD LOHRMAN, JIM - SD	MELBY, DAVID - MN
LEVEL II DEER GREENWOOD, KEN - OK			

March 2013

LEVEL V EAGLE BROWN CO SPORTSMEN - SD	NATURE CONSERVANCY - SD	LEVEL I PHEASANT ANTONIDES, BILL & LILA - SD DEER MT. CATS TRUST - SD DIVICH, DUANE - TX	SCHULTZ, JIM - TX
LEVEL IV BUFFALO DUCKS UNLIMITED - SD HIGH PLAINS WILDLIFE - SD	LEVEL III ELK CARLSON, JR., HENRY - SD		

February 2013

LEVEL V EAGLE BEADLE CO. SPORTSMEN - SD NAT'L WILD TURKEY FED - SD	SD CHAPTER OF THE IKES - SD	YANKTON AREA PHEASANTS FOREVER - SD	HECLA SPORTSMAN CLUB - SD HOBBY, CHARLES - GA HOFTIEZER, GREG - SD PHILLIPS, DR. KENNETH - NC RUMPICA, HAL - SD SIMPSON, JOHN - SD STULTS, MARK - SD
LEVEL IV BUFFALO BLACK HILLS SPORTSMEN - SD	BIG SIOUX CHAPTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUND. - SD	LEVEL I PHEASANT BORMANN, DANIEL - WI DENISON, LARRY - VA ELBE, ROBERT - WI GRASS LAKES CONSERVATION CLUB - SD GRIFFIN, DEL - SD	
LEVEL III ELK BROOKINGS WILDLIFE FED - SD COTEAU PRAIRIE PHEASANTS FOREVER - SD	BRICK, RICHARD - CA PESEK, RON - SD WHETSTONE SPORTSMEN CONSERVATION CLUB - SD		

January 2013

LEVEL III ELK JOHNSON, ERIC - MN	BOWAR, PAT - SD CAMPBELL, STUART - SD DAVIDSON, JOHN - SD DRESSING, BRIAN - SD ECKERT, DENIS - SD EVANS, RALPH - FL FAST, DAVID - OH FICK, HAROLD - CA	GOGGINS, ROBERT - MN HAY, MARY & JERRY - WI HOCH, JAMES - CA HOFFMAN, CHARLES - SD KRETCHMAN, CHARLES - SD LEPP, DONALD - SD MCQUEARY, PETER - TX METRY, MARK - WI	OLSON, MURDEAN - SD OLSON, RICHARD - MN PICKART, PHILLIP - SD POLENZ, ALLAN - OR RANEY, THOMAS - KS RITER, JR., ROBERT - SD ZOELLNER, KENNETH - CA
LEVEL II DEER CAMPBELL, STUART - SD LEVISEN, ARLO - SD			
LEVEL I PHEASANT BAGAUS, TERRY - MN BECKMAN, LEON - SD			

December 2012

LEVEL IV BUFFALO OLSON, JEFF - SD SCALET, CHUCK & GINGER - SD	DRAKE, ROBERT - SD FORMAN, KURT - SD FOXWORTHY, ROBERT - KY FRYBARGER, JIM - NM FUERST, KEVIN - SD HEEDUM, ROGER - NE HEPPER, GREGORY - SD JOHNSON, LYNN E. - SD	KALLEMEYN, LARRY - SD KING, T. CLEVE - MI KRODINGER, LAWRENCE - MO MILLER, O. LARRY - SD MILLER, RICHARD - SD MUNDON, KENT - SD PARCEL, KERRY - SD PETERS, DUANE - SD	PICEK, LARRY - SD PORISCH, ROBERT - MN RILEY, MIKE - MO SATTLER, ARNOLD - SD STANFORTH, WINFIELD - CO
LEVEL II DEER GILBERT, JIM - CA			
LEVEL I PHEASANT BLACKBURN, JOHN - SD			

November 2012

LEVEL III ELK BARRETT, DENNES - SD TOSCANA, VIC - SD	LEVEL I PHEASANT COOPER, JOHN - SD GREENWOOD, KEN - OK MADDOX, ALEX - TN	MCMASTERS, LEIGH - SD OLSON, MURDEAN - SD PAUL, K-LYNN, AZ SORNA, MICHAEL - TX	WALKER, JIM - ID WISWALL, F. HERBERT - SD ZOELLNER, KENNETH - CA
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October 2012

LEVEL III ELK
JOHNSON, VIRGIL - SD

September 2012

LEVEL II DEER HALLSTROM, KEN - SD STAMMER, MARLIN - CA	LEVEL I PHEASANT BUCKNER, EVERETT - AR BUCKNER II, WILLIAM - AR GREGORY, J.T. - GA	KERN, LARRY - MN SCHMID, JOHN - CO	
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"JUST ONE"

New Member Program

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

Encourage your friends that 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.



888-OVERBAG

SDWF Membership Application

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

SDWF \$20/Yr Membership Fee \$ _____

SDWFCamo-Coalition lobbying donation: \$ _____

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



CC _____ EXP _____ CV _____

Check - make checks payable to SDWF

SDWF'S ANNUAL CONVENTION



SDWF President Rich Widman (L) Black Hills Sportsmen's President Eric Porisch (C) and Jay Gilbertson (R) SDWF's 2013 South Dakota Water Conservationist of the Year.



BHSC President Eric Porish (L) SDWF's 2013 South Dakota Youth Conservationist Of the Year Jim Skull (C) SDWF President Rich Widman (R)



SDWF President Rich Widman (L) BHSC President Eric Porisch (C) and Chuck Dieter (R) SDWF's 2013 South Dakota Educator Conservationist of the Year.



SDWF President Rich Widman (L) Black Hills Sportsmen's President Eric Porisch (C) and SDWF's 2013 South Dakota Wildlife Conservationist Of the Year Jeff Olson



SDWF President Rich Widman (L) Representative Spencer Hawley (C) SDWF's 2013 South Dakota Legislator Conservationist Of the Year BHSC President Eric Porisch (R)



SDWF's Conservation Camp Director Mike McKernan is showing his east end and demonstrating how big and functional one of the auction items is to the crowd.



SDWF's 2013 South Dakota Conservationist Of the year was The South Dakota Parks & Wildlife Foundation's Fundraising Team L to R is; Jack Lynass, Jeff Olson, Jim Hawke, Jim Skull, Tom Krafka, Scott Landguth and Dick Brown. The team raised money for furnishings and fixtures at the Outdoor Campus West.



SDWF's Vice President Mark Widman (L) and President Rich Widman (R) are shown their auctioneering skills along with raising money for our action auction.

"The usual answer to this dilemma is 'more conservation education.' No one will debate this, but is it certain that only the volume of education needs stepping up? Is something lacking in the content as well?"

From A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold

WHAT'S YOUR LOCAL CLUB UP TO?

Brookings Wildlife Fed member Rich Widman helps a young lady get on target at the 2nd Annual Women in the Outdoors event. 25 women of all ages enjoyed shooting pistols, shotguns, rifles and bows at this event started by another BWF member, Mike Kervin. Mike is the leader of the local Brookings Longbeards and was honored this year as SD NWTF man of the year.



GF&P SEEKS TO RAISE MANY LICENSE FEES FOR 2014 SEASONS

The state Game, Fish and Parks Commission decided Thursday to propose raising hunting and fishing license fees for 2014.

Health care and salary increases were cited as the reason the increases are needed. A public hearing will be held Nov. 7 in Pierre on the proposal, which seeks to raise an extra \$2 million.

"The budget we put together was a flat budget," said Tony Leif, director of the state's Wildlife Division.

Proposed increases include:

- The annual fishing license would go from \$25 to \$28.
- The annual small-game license would go from \$30 to \$33.
- The combination license (fishing and small game) would become \$55 from the current \$50.

Big-game license prices would increase, too.

The standard deer and antelope licenses would increase by \$4. Furbearer licenses would rise to \$30 from the present \$25. For non-residents, the annual fishing license would climb to \$67 from \$60 and big-game licenses would see increases, but there wouldn't be any change in the small-game and preserve license prices.

Those licenses are primarily used by non-residents who hunt pheasants. Those prices went up last year for non-residents to the present \$121 for the 10-day small-game license and to the present \$46, \$76 and \$121 respectively for the one-day, three-day and annual preserve licenses.

Leif said the division also recommends expanding use of the \$5 fee on preference points for unsuccessful big game applicants.

"These would not be required," Leif said. "They would have the option to decline the preference point and the payment for those."

GAME, FISH AND PARKS RECEIVE REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT

State Wildlife Division staff and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission received their first look Thursday at the results of an outside review of big game management.

The report, ordered by the governor at the commission's expense, found general strengths, some specific management weaknesses and various processes that can be improved.

Wildlife Management Institute leaders Steve Williams and Scott Williamson briefed Gov. Dennis Daugaard about the results Wednesday. "Overall I'd say he was pleased with the report," Daugaard aide Nathan Sanderson told the commission Thursday.

The WMI officials presented a summary of their recommendations to the commission.

Among the major suggestions are establishing or clarifying management plans and population objectives for deer, elk, lion and pronghorn antelope; and creating a Black Hills-specific plan that jointly covers all big game.

The review strongly noted that the commission and the department don't have management plans

for deer or elk at this time. In the deer program, the reviewers found difficulty determining what drove license recommendations year to year.

Pennsylvania-based WMI was selected from four consulting groups that responded last year to a request for proposals to conduct the review.

Commissioner Barry Jensen of White River said he struggles in determining "the proper amount" of information that should go to the public.

The institute representatives said the commission should establish clear goals for communications between the staff, the public and the commission, including in the development of species management plans.

The commission had only a few questions. "You did a real good job," Susie Knippling of Gann Valley, the commission's chairwoman, told institute officials.

Sanderson said the report was posted on the Department of Game, Fish and Parks website, and a news release was being sent as the presentation wrapped up after about one hour.

"Don't blow it - good planets are hard to find." Quoted in Time Magazine

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!