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South Dakota
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OUT OF DOORS

Affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation

VOLUME 63, NUMBER 1

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS \$23 MILLION FOR PRAIRIE POTHOLE REGION

Announcement is welcome news for South Dakota duck hunters

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - MARCH 21, 2023 3:59 PM

The federal government plans to spend \$23 million to restore and conserve grasslands and wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region, which is known as the “duck factory” of North America and is home to migratory birds, fish and other wildlife.

The money is part of the Department of the Interior's \$120 million in funding from the Inflation Reduction Act to restore ecosystems nationwide.

“These projects will increase the resiliency of habitats and infrastructure to withstand severe and unanticipated weather events, furthering our work to restore America's natural infrastructure through nature-based solutions,” Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said in a statement.

The Prairie Pothole Region is an area of wetlands that extends across parts of South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Montana, as well as Canada.

The region was covered by a thick sheet of ice over 10,000 years ago. As the ice receded, it left behind depressions in the land that filled with water, forming numerous “pothole” wetlands.

The money will help with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service effort to restore and conserve native grasslands and wetlands on over 350,000 acres of existing Waterfowl Production Areas. Those are protected wetlands or grasslands managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service to support waterfowl and other wildlife species – ideally located in breeding or nesting areas, or migratory stopover sites for waterfowl. The areas are open to the public for hunting, wildlife observation, and other outdoor recreation, but they are managed with an emphasis on wildlife conservation.

“The projects will build upon critically important breeding areas for waterfowl, grassland birds, pollinators, and threatened and endangered species,” said Deborah Kornblut, a spokesperson with the Fish and Wildlife Service, in an emailed statement.

Officials involved are “still identifying project specifics and project leads,” Kornblut added. Some of the existing ways the Fish and Wildlife Service works to restore the Prairie Pothole Region is through planting native grasses, wildflowers and wetland vegetation, as well as conducting controlled burns and restoring natural water flows.

Waterfowl and water quality

The announcement is welcome news for many duck hunters. According to Ducks Unlimited, a waterfowl conservation group, the Prairie Pothole Region is the most important and threatened waterfowl habitat on the continent. The group says many of the potholes in the region have been drained to plant more crops, dried out from drought or degraded by pollutants.

“If we lose those wetlands and grasslands, it's not just going to impact South Dakota and North Dakota,” said Bruce Toay,



A South Dakota duck hunter walks through the tall grass along a wetland with his dog. (Josh Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

who manages conservation programs for Ducks Unlimited's South Dakota chapter. “It's going to impact all of North America's waterfowl.”

Toay said the widespread draining of small wetlands is especially harmful to waterfowl populations, because many ducks are territorial breeders.

“Ten 1-acre wetlands will create three times as many ducks as one 10-acre wetland,” Toay said. And while farmers may see an opportunity to increase yields by draining a temporary wetland, “Those temporary, seasonal basins are the most productive during the breeding season.”

Toay said people who are not interested in ducks should still want to see their habitats conserved. Wetlands also provide cleaner water, carbon sequestration to fight climate change, flood control and greater biodiversity.

Rocco Murano, a senior waterfowl biologist for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, recently briefed the Game, Fish and Parks Commission on the state's waterfowl. He said the number of resident duck hunters has fallen from about 25,000 to 11,000 since the late 1990s. The department is unsure what is driving the trend.

That decline impacts the funding for conservation efforts in the state, because license fees and the taxes on hunting, fishing and shooting gear go back into wildlife conservation efforts.



Prairie Pothole Region
(Courtesy of Ducks Unlimited)

President's Column *by Zachery T. Hunke*



President,
Zachery T. Hunke

NEW TIMES AND NEW ENERGY FOR YOUR SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

I regret to inform those of you that have not already heard, our long-standing Executive Director Chris Hesla passed away this last fall. Chris spent a great deal of his life following his dream of making a difference to South Dakota's outdoor heritage. Chris worked tirelessly for 24 years in Pierre and around the state lobbying for the rights of outdoorsman and women alike. Some of Chris's greatest passions included: Sportsman/women rights and privileges, representing the outdoor community, lobbying and representing state and nationally for those rights, fair chase, non-meandered waters, public trust doctrine, protecting the public's resources from over commercialization as well as opportunity and access. Chris's legacy will forever live on in South Dakota's outdoor heritage.

Your South Dakota Wildlife Federation is directed by a volunteer board of directors. Replacing Chris and keeping the organization moving forward is a task the volunteer board took on and the Federation will forever be grateful for those efforts.

I am very pleased to announce that Megan Howell is now our Executive Director and Outreach Coordinator. The hiring committee was extremely excited to have Megan as a candidate and felt she was a perfect selection for the job. Megan brings experience and energy that we are very grateful for!

The SDWF Camo Coalition had a very good year in Pierre. Mitch Richter was retained as the Camo Coalition's lobbyist and SDWF director. Mitch went to great lengths to pick up where Chris left off by coordinating efforts in Pierre and within the organization. Mitch has been instrumental in helping Megan hit the ground running! As you can

imagine, the loss of Chris not only weighed heavily on our hearts but also on our organization. Chris stored much of his experience and day to day workings in his mind, so the task Mitch and the Executive Board took on was quite great.

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation's future is as bright as ever! New energy, new tools, and new ways to reach our members are all in the works. As the state's oldest conservation group, SDWF will continue to build upon its solid base.

I took on the role of President in the Fall of 2019. I have been so grateful for the opportunity to be a voice for your South Dakota Wildlife Federation. The countless hours traveling to Pierre, organizing meetings, and representing the Federation were a true pleasure and passion of mine. As a businessman, father of 3 beautiful children, husband of an amazing and supportive wife, coach to a group young hockey players, CAMO President and volunteer to our local affiliate and other groups, my time has become the most important resource to many who rely on me. This fall I will be looking to volunteer in a different capacity for your South Dakota Wildlife Federation. I can appreciate the responsibilities taken on by a new President and I look forward to hopefully filling the executive role of immediate past President!

Getting involved and volunteering are the ways we make a difference. We are simply borrowing our land, water, and resources from our future generations, let's make sure they have the opportunities we've been blessed with!

As Chris Hesla would say, "Thank you for all you do, together we do make a difference."

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SDWF WELCOMES A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Executive Director Column *by Megan Howell*

Hello from the new Executive Director and Outreach Coordinator!

I am excited to announce my arrival as South Dakota Wildlife Federation's Executive Director and Outreach Coordinator. I look forward to building upon and strengthening South Dakota's oldest conservation organization. I grew up in a small hunting and fishing destination town in north central South Dakota called Pollock. Growing up in Pollock gave me first hand experience in how important our hunting and fishing heritage is to our local economies and it rooted a deep-seated love for all things wild. I grew up hunting pheasants and fishing for walleye with my family and friends. The outdoors became a huge part of who I am and what I live for so the opportunity to work with the South Dakota Wildlife Federation to make an impact on our outdoor heritage is one I don't take lightly.

Some background on me: I went to college and got my degree in Natural Resource and Ecology Management at Iowa State University. Shortly after graduation I was hired by the Iowa DNR as a Natural Resource Technician. I conducted research projects involving upland birds, mostly pheasants, but also gained experience in fisheries, human dimensions, aquatic invasive species, and public access programs.



Executive Director, - Megan Howell

After my term with the Iowa DNR was over, I worked with the MN DNR as a Natural Resource Technician. I conducted research on pheasant nest site selection and brood-rearing survival. Next, I hopped on board with Pheasants Forever as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist working with agricultural producers, state agencies, conservation minded NGOs, and USDA partners to get quality habitat on the ground and to improve public access in SW MN. After 6 years in SW MN, I jumped at an opportunity to come back to my home state of South Dakota to work as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist with Pheasants Forever in Pierre. My time with Pheasants Forever in Pierre was a short 3 months before being offered a position working with the South Dakota Wildlife Federation!

Personally, I am an avid outdoorsman and enjoy bird dogs, hunting, fishing, and foraging. I have thoroughly enjoy making a career out of my outdoor passion and I look forward to making my mark on the South Dakota Wildlife Federation by bringing more diversity, strength, and direction as we move forward. I would love to hear from our readers so please feel free to contact me at mhowell.sdwf@outlook.com with any comments or suggestions on what you would like to see in the bright future of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation!

RECAP OF THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The South Dakota 98th Legislative Session came to a close after 38 days on March 27th. This year there were 35 new legislators with 30 in the House of Representative and 5 in the Senate. With over a third of the legislators being new that contributed to less bills being introduced as they learn the process and develop issues they want to see addressed. This year there were 451 bills introduced and generally there are between 550 and 600. Fully expect next year, another election year there will be a full slate of bills.

The number of bills related to the outdoors, hunting and fishing and general conservation were very minimal this year. House Bill 1100 was introduced by Representative Rocky Blaire which would have allowed land owners on their own land prairie elk licenses. The bill did get defeated in committee. Working with the proponents of the bill we've agreed to meet with the land owners and discuss the issues surrounding the passage of this type of legislation and see if there isn't a path forward to allow for some additional public access for hunting prairie elk in addition to what is presently available.

Senate Bill 79 brought by Senator Bryan Breitling sought to appropriate \$3 million dollars to Game Fish and Parks to repair Hiddenwood Lake which is located near Selby. The bill had great support from local residents and businesses and did pass the Senate but did not find support in the Joint Appropriations committee and was defeated in committee.

Many of the new legislators and outdoors men and women and enjoy fishing, hunting, outdoor recreation and use of the South Dakota State Park system. Developing local relationships with them through your local sportsman clubs will be key to getting support for bills the SDWF is supporting or opposing in upcoming sessions. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to your local legislator and let them know you vote and have an interest in outdoor issues in South Dakota.

By Mitch Richter

SDWF'S 2022 CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTED TO THE NORTHEASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA WALLEYE CLUB

The Sportsman's Club of Brown County (SCBC) nominated the Northeastern South Dakota Walleye Club (NESDWC) for the 2022 South Dakota Conservationist of the Year Award.

NESDWC was organized in 1996 by a small group of sportsmen and women who not only wanted to improve their outdoor experiences for themselves, but to preserve and protect those outdoor experiences for future generations. The club is not big, with membership fluctuating between 45 to 125. The club is not flashy, as their accomplishments are largely unknown and rarely publicized. However, what a few men and women working together have accomplished is much more significant than so many other organizations, regardless of membership numbers or bank account balances.

NESDWC is fully aware our outdoor heritage is largely dependent on laws, rules, and policies implemented by governmental agencies on various issues. NESDWC has been a friend to SDWF and the Camo Coalition, backing the groups on various legislative and SD G&FP Commission regulations, voicing concern either for or against different matters. Their voices have been heard, loudly but reasonably, and far beyond what would normally be expected from a group of walleye fishing enthusiasts.

They have not simply sat back and demanded goods and services from their license dollars and taxes. Members of NESDWC have again and again rolled up their sleeves and made sure the job got done. Whenever possible, they worked with the Sportsman's Club of Brown County, SD GF&P and other groups to enhance their ability to get things done. A portion of their accomplishments include:

- Collected and distributed over 1500 Christmas trees and approximately 100 Berkley "Fish Habs" in Mina, Richmond and Elm Lakes for fish habitat.
- Involved in numerous youth programs over the years, including member participation and financial support of the Sportsman's Club of Brown County Youth Sportsfest.
- Financially supported the SDWF Youth Conservation Camp and have sent club members to work the camp for the past 11 years as counselors.
- Sponsored and held numerous TAKE A KID FISHING events at Wylie and Richmond Lakes, giving kids fishing instructions and free fishing equipment.
- Helped year-after-year with taking handicapped people from ASPIRE on fishing trips to Richmond and Wylie lakes. They also donated fishing equipment to this group.
- Assisted with large groups of handicapped people from Camp Dream Maker and purchased rod & reel combos to replace their old equipment.
- Purchased a dock for use at Mina Lake East public boat ramp area that is used for loading and unloading boaters to cut down on congestion at the main ramp.
- Instrumental in purchasing and placing the Brook Brown Memorial



Fishing Dock at Richmond Lake.

- Helped support and financially donated to a new GPA land purchase along the James River in southeastern Brown County along with other sports-minded organizations.
- Worked hundreds of hours at various fishing tournaments as weigh masters and in other positions. Some of those include Wolves on the Water; Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament, Akaska Classic; 3M Mobridge Tournaments, and several national tournaments. and more. Fish received from some of these tournaments have been used to hold fund raising events. The funds go back into community projects, as detailed above.

Therefore, in recognition of their accomplishments and their passion to protect, preserve and pass on our outdoor heritage, the Sportsman's Club of Brown County and South Dakota Wildlife Federation proudly awarded Northeastern South Dakota Walleye Club with the 2022 Conservationist of the Year award.

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST ADDS 239 ACRES THROUGH DEAL WITH ELK GROUP AND LANDOWNERS - BY: JOSHUA HAIAR

The Black Hills National Forest is growing by about one-third of a square mile.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation acquired 239 acres of land from two landowners for a total of \$1.1 million and conveyed it to the national forest. The land is high in the remote western area of the forest in South Dakota, near the Wyoming border. The property is now publicly owned as part of the national forest, open for hunting and other recreational activities.

"This project not only protects habitat and connectivity for elk, mule and whitetail deer, turkey and other game species, but it ensures quality hunting opportunities today and for future generations," Kyle Weaver, the Elk Foundation president and CEO, said in a statement.



Cold Springs Creek in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where parcels of private land are being added to the Black Hills National Forest. (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation)

"The Black Hills National Forest is very excited about this acquisition, which secures and protects these lands for future wildlife conservation efforts and public recreation opportunities," Meagan Buehler, Black Hills National Forest lands program manager, said in a statement.

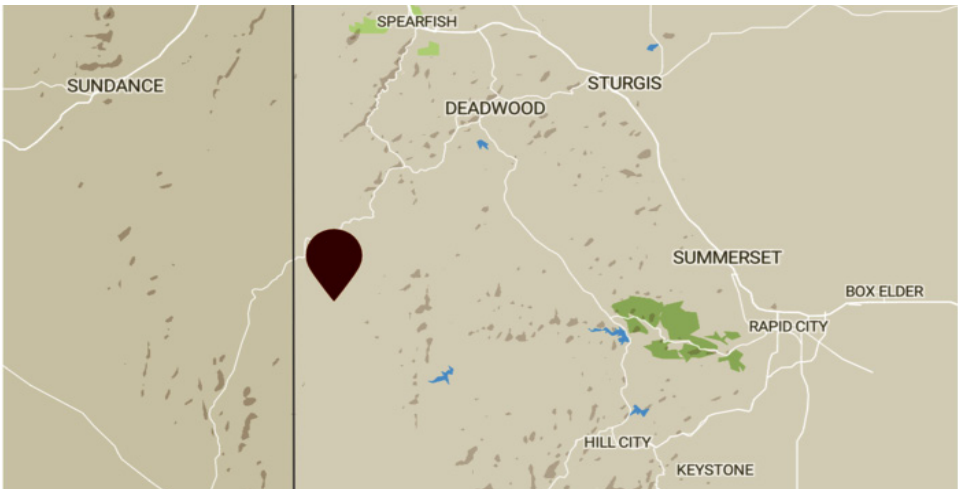
Regional public land hunters are also excited. Rob Mahaffey, a board member with South Dakota Bowhunters, said resident hunters have been dealing with overcrowded public lands.

"And anything to take that pressure off a little bit is welcome," Mahaffey said.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund helped with the project. The fund is a federal program to help states provide outdoor recreation facilities. The program provides up to 50 percent reimbursement funds for land purchases and the development of outdoor recreation projects.

This map shows the approximate location of land added to the Black Hills National Forest through the efforts of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

The foundation said the property is in the heart of Black Hills elk country, home to more than 6,000 elk. The land includes aspen and pine trees, meadows and grasslands. The headwaters of Cold Springs Creek originate on the property.



SDWF 2022 LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTED TO MARK WILLADSEN

South Dakota Wildlife Federation's affiliate club the 29-90 Sportsman's Club nominated and presented Representative Mark Willadsen from District 11 (2015 – 2022) with the South Dakota Wildlife Federation's Legislator of the Year Award. Representative Willadsen was a watchdog at the Capitol for sports men and women of his district and across the state.

During the time period he served, his votes supported the beliefs of South Dakota's average sports men and women. Representative Willadsen also worked on the House floor on outdoor heritage issues. When discussing why the 29-90 Sportsman's Club nominated Representative Willadsen, Secretary-Treasurer Charles Rokusek said, "I recall several years ago, when there was an attempt to take away the Open Fields Doctrine from our Wildlife Conservation Officers, and Representative Willadsen called me and told me that the sports men and women needed to get involved to prevent this from happening. After this phone call; I went to work with my contacts and we created a fury across the state and we were able to get enough votes to kill this bad bill and retain the Open Fields Doctrine for our WCO's. He also convinced other legislators the importance of this doctrine for our fish and wildlife resources. This

is an example of how he worked for the sports men and women of South Dakota."

Representative Willadsen is a Charter Member of the 29 – 90 Sportsman's Club and a member of the following outdoor groups/organizations: E. Dak. Chap of NWTF, Pheasants Forever and the Izaak Walton League of the S. F. Chapter. He also received the Top Gun Award for the 2018 SD Legislature. His voice, influence, and votes made a positive impact on South Dakota's outdoor heritage, and sports men and women alike.



Submitted by: Charles Rokusek / Sec. – Trea.

29 – 90 Sportsman's Club

CHRIS HESLA MEMORIAL DONATES TO YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP

Chris Hesla passed away on September 28, 2022. Chris had been the Executive Director of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation for the past 24 years and was a passionate supporter of the SDWF Youth Conservation Camp. Youth Conservation Camp is a week-long camp for high school students and has been held for over 50 years at Camp Bob Marshall near Custer every June. It is a partnership between South Dakota Game Fish and Parks and the South Dakota Wildlife Federation. The campers spend a week immersed in everything from hunting, fishing, shooting, and other outdoor skills as well as conservation classes and conservation activities such as habitat restoration. Students from all over the state attend, and SDWF works hard to make sure that students who are interested in attending this camp can do so through financial sponsorships by local sportsman's clubs. The camp has changed some young lives and inspired others to go on into professions such as fish and wildlife biology and as conservation officers. It has created outdoor advocates who are dedicated to protecting our rights as anglers and hunters as well as conservation of our wild spaces.

After Chris passed, his family requested that that in lieu of people spending money on flowers, to instead support the Youth Conservation Camp that he loved. At his memorial so many of his friends stepped up to the plate and over \$5000 was raised! These donations were put into a fund earmarked specifically to support camp. These funds will be used to assist students who can't afford to attend, as well as helping to offset costs to keep the camp going so future generations of high school students can continue to experience this unique camp.

By Mike McKernan



SAVE THE DATE!



SDWF'S ANNUAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 4TH-6TH THIS YEAR IN BROOKINGS!

SDWF members and friends,

Please fill this attendance form out and get it in ASAP so we can make this a great convention!

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I will attend the 2023 Convention in Brookings August 4th-6th	<input type="text"/> people attending
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I plan on coming Friday night to the Brookings Gun Club	<input type="text"/> people attending
<input type="checkbox"/> - Brookings Wildlife Federation is sponsoring food and beverages	
<input type="checkbox"/> - Bring your shotgun for Trap/5 Man contests	(Gun Club rates apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I plan to attend the banquet/awards/auction on August 5 at the Brookings Inn	<input type="text"/> X \$50 per person
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I plan on attending and I am an affiliate delegate	<input type="text"/> X \$20
<input type="checkbox"/> No, I cannot make it but would like to donate	\$ <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Please enter me in the 120-space raffle board for prizes	<input type="text"/> spaces X \$20
	\$ <input type="text"/> Total

Make checks out to SDWF or send in credit card info
South Dakota Wildlife Federation ♦ PO BOX 7075 ♦ Pierre, SD 57501

Please direct any questions to: Mhowell.sdwf@outlook.com or 605-453-0895

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SDWF'S 2022 COMMUNICATOR AWARD PRESENTED TO JEFF AND ANNETTE GAMBER

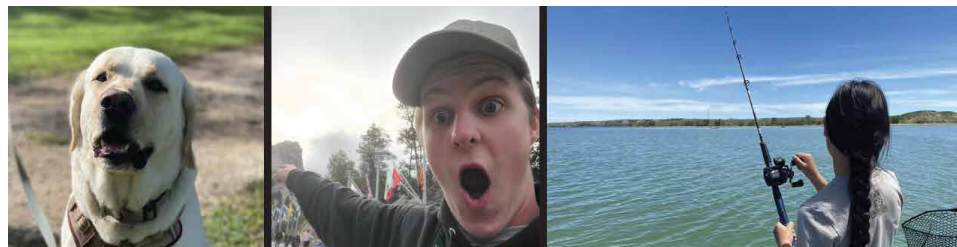


The 29-90 Sportsman's Club presented Jeff and Annette Gamber of Watertown with South Dakota Wildlife Federation's 2022 Communicator of the Year Award. Jeff and Annette have been instrumental in promoting a hunt through the "Wheelin' Sportsmen" for the past 15 years. The Wheelin' Sportsmen hunt gives 25 individuals with disabilities an opportunity to experience a top-notch South Dakota pheasant hunt.

The hunt is hosted by partnering agencies Game, Fish, and Parks and the National Wild Turkey Federation along with a multitude of volunteers. It takes anywhere from 30-40 volunteers and 10 UTVs and trailers to assist with accessibility to and from fields. The day starts with rolls and coffee while attending a safety meeting and then target practice before noon. Once the participants and volunteers have eaten, they are off to the field to get a taste of some of the finest pheasant hunting country in the world! Volunteers, some with dogs, walk the fields pushing birds toward the participants who eagerly wait for their shot at a beautiful ring-necked pheasant. After the day's hunt is over, they return to the lodge for a meal and fundraising banquet.

Jeff and Annette and their four sons own and operate Country Fair Grocery Store of Watertown and have been providing every single meal and snack for the past 15 years. When discussing why affiliate group 29-90 Sportsman's Club nominated Jeff and Annette Secretary Treasurer Charles Rokusek said, "Jeff and Annette are active in the Community of Watertown, South Dakota and have found a niche that needed an advocate."

By Charles Rokusek



SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP

June 4-10, 2023 | Bob Marshall Camp | Custer, SD

This is a great opportunity for high school students to spend a week in the Black Hills learning about conservation, resource management, shooting sports, hunting, fishing, hiking, and building lifelong friendships with others from across the state. Prepare to get your hands dirty, and walk away with memories that will last a lifetime!

- REGISTER at sdwf.org/camp. Registration is open to students who are 14-17 years of age, or have completed 8th grade/are currently in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade and are interested in conservation, hunting, fishing, and other out-door activities.

- Limited sponsorships available.
Contact Bob Schaeffer at hunterbob1@abe.midco.net

- VISIT our Facebook page: SDWF Youth Conservation Camp



CONTACT INFORMATION:
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SD Wildlife Federation Donors

At the 2003 Winter Board Meeting the SDWF Board created the SDWF Legacy Council. The council was created to allow recognition of the people who support SDWF above and beyond their membership and raffle donation.

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 \$401-\$999; Level III Elk \$301-\$500; Level II Deer \$201 - \$300; and Level I Pheasant \$100-\$200.

JANUARY 2021

LEVEL I PHEASANT

PICK LARRY - SD
ROBERT CAREY - OH
JAN HAUROS - MN
BOB KIESECOS - IL
GEORGE KUCSMA - OH
HAROLD FICK - CA
RICHARD NIELSEN - SD
MARK STULTS - SD
RALPH EVANS - FL
JOHN POPOWSKI - SD
HOLM DALE - SD
MURDEAN OLSON - SD
ANDREW O'CONNELL - MN
ERIC JOHNSON - MN
LARRY ROHRER - IA
GEORGE H. HEFFRON - CO
GERALD WICKSTROM - SD
CHARLES KRETCHMAN - SD
TODD ROSE - SD
STUART CAMPBELL - SD
CHARLES LEBEDA - SD
JIM MARTIN - SD
LEIGH MCMASTERS - SD
ROBERT RITER, JR. - SD
GENE DARBY - WV
PETER MCQUEARY - WA
ROB LIPPINCOTT - TX
JIM KRETCHMAN - SD

LEVEL II DEER

TODD HEMPE - SD

LEVEL III ELK

CAREY SCHAEFFER - SD
DARLENE WILLIAMS - SD
LEVEL V BUFFALO
CHUCK & GINGER SCALET - KS

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2021

LEVEL I PHEASANT

GREG KLINGHAMMER - SD
LARRY METTE - SD
STEVE THOMPSON - SD
RON BISHOP - SD
FORREST FLINT - MN
CURT BISGARD - SD
ROGER SORGDAGER - SD
GARY JOYCE - SD
ARLO LEVISEN - SD
KIM BEVERS - SD
LARRY DENISON - VA
ROBERT SCHUTZ - SD
GRADY JOLLEY - SD
DOUG JONES - SD
DANIEL DRISCOLL - SD
JIM DAHLBERG - SD
JON MADLAND - SD
CHUCK CENTER - MI
AARON MCGUIRE - SD
JIM LOHRMAN - SD
DORRANCE LARSON - SD
DEL GRIFFIN - SD
DANIEL BORMANN - WI
WILLIAM BARNETT - SD
WERNER GROS - CO
HERB GILBERT - SD
HERB KLUDT - SD
JOSEPH HARRISON - SD
DAVID O. NORDBY - NY
MATT SWENSON - SD
KEITH PLAVEC - IL

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2021 CONT.

LEVEL I PHEASANT

LEVEL II DEER

DON DILLY - MO
STEVE BERBERICH - SD

LEVEL III ELK

JEFF OLSON - SD
JOHN SCHWAN - SD

APRIL - MAY 2021

LEVEL I PHEASANT

TERRY JENCKS - MN
VIRGIL HANSEN - SD
BANKWEST - SD
DAVID ABELN - SD
JOHN ROEHMHOLDT - MD
DAVE SIEMON - SD
TODD VAN MAANEN - SD
BEN WARE - NC
CRAIG CONNELL - SD
DAVID DEROSIER - WI
WILLIAM DRAEGER - SD
CARTER JOHNSON - SD
AELRED KURTENBACH - SD
TOM LEMONDS - SD
DR. HERBERT MCCLELLAN, JR. - SD
DAVID MELBY - MN
SCOTT PICKER - WI
KEVIN RANDALL - SD
CRAIG STADTFELD - SD
JACK YONKOVICH - SD
DAVID KOTECKI - MI
DAVID MANNING - MN

LEVEL II DEER

RANDY MEIDINGER - SD

LEVEL III ELK

PAUL MEDEIROS - CA
RODNEY SATHER - SD

LEVEL III ELK

NICKLAS LIPP - SD

JUNE 2021

LEVEL I PHEASANT

RICH ANDRESEN, SD
WAYNE BIETZ, IA
CURT BISGARD, SD
HOWARD BURNS, SD
WILLIE DEVENEY, MI
DUANE DIVICH, TX
WERNER GROS, CO
LEIGH MCMASTERS, SD
DAVID O. NORDBY, NY
DAVID STUTZMAN, NE

LEVEL II DEER

CHARLES LEBEDA, SD
DONALD LEPP, SD

LEVEL III ELK

NICKLAS LIPP, SD

JULY 2021

LEVEL I PHEASANT

DON DILLY, MO
AELRED KURTENBACH, SD
KEVIN RANDALL, SD
DAVE SIEMON, SD
MICHAEL STOCKWELL, MN
BRUCE TOAY, SD
TOM WICKSTROM, SD

LEVEL II DEER

DON BARTHOLOMEW, AZ
STEVE BERBERICH, SD

LEVEL III ELK

NICKLAS LIPP, SD

AUG 2021- JULY 2022

LEVEL V EAGLE

TERRY & LAREE MAYES - SD
CHUCK & GINGER SCALET - KS

LEVEL III ELK

RYAN TUPPER - SD

LEVEL III ELK

NICKLAS LIPP - SD
MARLIN R STAMMER - CA
BRAM WEIDENAR - SD

AUG 2021- JULY 2022 - CONT.

LEVEL II DEER

RICHARD MILLER - SD
STEVE BERBERICH - SD

LEVEL III ELK

JOHN COOPER - SD
JEFFREY SCHERSCHLIGHT - SD
F HERBERT WISWALL - SD
BOB SCULL - SD
MARK BEITELSPACHER - SD
MIKE DOUGLAS - CA
KEITH PLAVEC - IL
TERRY SAMPSON - SD
JIM DAHLBERG - SD
DUANE PETERS - SD

LEVEL I PHEASANT

BOB SCHLUTER - MN
RICH ANDRESEN - SD
FRED BAKER - OH
KRISTIE BAKKER - SD
MIKE BOOCOOCK - SD
DAN BORMANN - WI
CARL BRAKEBUSH - WI
ALLEN B. BROWN - SD
MARK BROWN - VA
JOHN CLIFT - CA
H.E. HEGERFELD - SD
FRED HUBBARD - SD
ELLIS JOHNS - MN
GARY JOYCE - SD
CHUCK KEELER - MN
JEFFREY KETTER - WI
LARRY KIEFT - MI
JIM KRETCHMAN - SD
CHARLES KRETCHMAN
DENNIS LARSON - SD
CHARLES LEBEDA - SD
DARYL LOWRY - KS
THOMAS MANZER - SD
BILL MILLER - SD
WILLIAM MUDD - KY
DAVID O. NORDBY - NY
JOHN QUAINANCE - SD
DON ROEHR - SD
JAY ROMANS - NC
TODD ROSE - SD
RODNEY SATHER - SD
T.A SCHREINER - OH
JOHN SIMPSON - SD
HOY SPEER - AZ
STEELE FINANCIAL SERVICES - SD
GRANT STREET - SD
JOE SWENSON - SD
HT TEBAY - WV
GERALD WICKSTROM - SD
TOM WICKSTROM - SD
JEFF ZLONIS - MN
JAY KEUSMANN - SD
DON JACOBS - SD
GREG LARSON - SD
LEIGH MCMASTERS - SD
ORVILLE MILLER - D
MIKE RILEY - MO
BOB LUTZ - ID
KEVIN CUMMINGS - AZ
JIM SKROVIC - SD
ARLO LEVISEN - SD
KENT MUNDON - SD
LARRY O'REILLY - MO

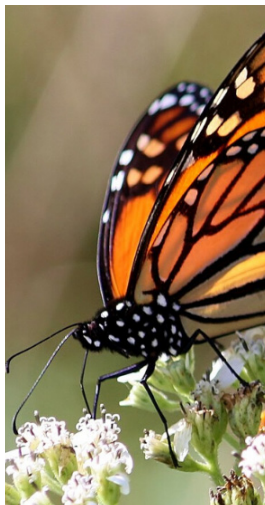
Sportsmen/women- Want to help fund SDWF and the Youth Conservation Camp plus reduce your taxes this year? Donate stocks and land to the SDWF. You not only won't have to pay taxes on those assets, you will pay less tax because of your generosity!

RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT

Thanks in large part to hunters and anglers, games species we chase in fields and steams with our guns and our rods are generally doing very well. Funded largely by license dollars and taxes on sporting equipment, state game and fish agencies like the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department guided by the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation have brought back deer, pheasants, walleye, and most other game species from historic lows a century ago to relative abundance now.

Unfortunately, nongame species aren't doing nearly as well. In fact, 1/3 of all U.S. wildlife species currently face an elevated risk of extinction. More than 1,600 U.S. species are already listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The population of all birds has gone down by nearly 3 billion since 1970, according to a study by Cornell University. Nearly 40 percent of all songbirds have disappeared within the same time span. Similar stories of decline exist for nongame fish, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, and bats.

With this nongame wildlife crisis in mind, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act is being introduced again in this session of Congress. This bill will allow state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies to invest more than a billion dollars annually in proactive, on the ground, collaborative efforts to help species at risk by



restoring habitat, controlling invasive species, reconnecting migration routes, addressing emerging diseases, and more.

The benefits of passing the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would be multifold. First of all and most importantly, the bill would take advantage of state fish and wildlife agencies' experience and expertise and finally give them a funding source to work on and recover at risk species. As a result, a multitude of species will be stabilized and ultimately recovered.

But the benefits don't stop there. To restore habitats necessary for species recovery, partnerships with farmers, ranchers, and timberland owners will certainly be needed. Much of the money under the bill would be directed towards these public/private partnerships. As a result, local landowners and their surrounding economies will benefit. Private landowners will benefit additionally from the bill, because it will undoubtedly keep many species from having to be listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by doing so prevent the added regulation that sometimes accompanies such listing.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act is a once in a generation wildlife bill. It's time it is passed into law. Please contact Senator Thune, Senator Rounds, and Representative Johnson asking them to support it.

SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION, CALLS ON SOUTH DAKOTA GAME FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION TO PAUSE THE WATERFOWL PROPOSAL FOR AT LEAST A YEAR TO GATHER ADDITIONAL DATA ON RESIDENT WATERFOWL HUNTING STATISTICS.

Pierre, S.D. April 12, 2023. Opening the door to additional nonresident waterfowl hunters would see a further erosion of South Dakota resident waterfowl hunting and access. South Dakota Wildlife Federation requests that the Game Fish and Parks Commission, at their May meeting at Custer State Park, requests the Department of Game, Fish and Parks to work with hunters and the SDWF to come up with an alternative proposal on waterfowl hunting, access and license availability that does not increase the number of non-resident licenses.

The number of non-resident licenses is at an all-time high. While the number of resident waterfowl hunters continues to decline according to the 2008 GFP study. The two main reasons they cited in reducing their waterfowl hunting were difficulty in finding a place to hunt and conditions were too crowded.

Data from the GFP indicated that almost half (48%) of the waterfowl hunting that occurs in SD is in a 5-county area (Brown, Clark, Day, Marshall, and Roberts), with technology available today in identifying flocks of birds it is easy to see why the overcrowding conditions materialize in a very short period of time.

Resident waterfowl hunters contribute to the economy far more than non-resident hunters. South Dakota hunters buy pickups, SUV's, boats, motors and trailers in South Dakota. They license, fuel, and maintain this equipment and pay state taxes on all these costs. In addition, the hunting supplies and groceries purchased by local hunters far exceed the non-resident hunter.

Further commercial exploitation to attract non-resident waterfowl hunters will further magnify the problem for both resident and non-resident hunters. With an expansion of additional non-resident licenses, we expect out of state commercial outfitters to further erode opportunities for resident hunters.

"Providing the waterfowl hunting experience to people that live and work in South Dakota is not only a generation experience it is one that should be protected." Executive Director of the SDWF, Megan Howell commented. She went on to say, "South Dakota is one of the premier waterfowl hunting states in North America and the SDWF would like to work with the Commission to make sure there is access and opportunity for resident hunters to continue this hunting tradition."