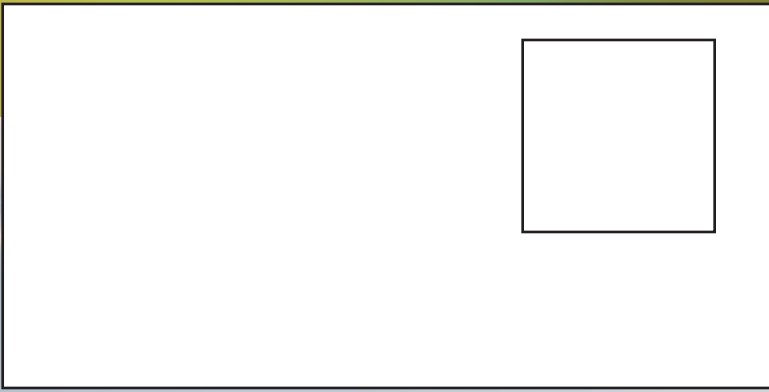




523 EAST CAPITOL  
FOSS BUILDING  
PIERRE, SD 57501

605.223.7660

GFP.SD.GOV



# LANDOWNERS

*Matters*



## History of Wildlife Damage Management in South Dakota

South Dakota has a very diverse landscape and land-use varies greatly across the state. This diversity as well as local wildlife populations, weather conditions, changes to local habitat and social tolerances all help determine the services the Wildlife



Damage Management (WDM) program offers. GFP operates a multi-faceted WDM program which is designed to address human-wildlife conflicts involving most species of wildlife that occur throughout South Dakota. Currently, 27 wildlife damage specialists, numerous seasonal staff and many other GFP staff provide the “boots-on-the-ground” delivery of the

WDM program services. Wildlife damage staff work directly with South Dakota’s livestock and agricultural producers to alleviate or reduce livestock loss from predators (primarily coyote) as well as crop, tree and road damage caused from beaver. They help to minimize or alleviate damage to stored-feed supplies caused by deer, elk and turkey, and work to reduce damage to growing crops from Canada geese, elk and pronghorn. GFP also provides prairie dog control on private lands that have been encroached from adjacent public land.

As we move forward, the WDM program will continue to adapt services and programs to best meet the demands from our partners in wildlife management—South Dakota’s landowners and producers. ■



## More Aerial Predator Control Coming

GFP field reports indicate high coyote populations for 2016. GFP has committed funding to operate a full-time plane and pilot located in Huron which will provide additional aerial predator control services to livestock producers in eastern and central South Dakota. By utilizing a second aircraft based in Huron, GFP can respond more effectively to livestock loss events. These efforts will also improve response effectiveness in western South Dakota because the aircraft located in Spearfish will not have to divide time between conflicts in western and eastern South Dakota. Moving forward, each aircraft can focus its time on the needs of livestock producers exclusively in all regions across the state. ■



# Coyotes Keep Staff Busy

Working with livestock producers to resolve predator impacts to their operations is the largest component of the Animal Damage Control (ADC) portion of GFP's Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) program. In 2015, high coyote populations as well as favorable livestock prices had wildlife damage staff responding to requests for assistance with predators. Staff worked with 908 livestock producers to reduce or alleviate livestock losses caused from predators. As a result, staff responded to 1,346 requests for assistance with livestock loss or the protection of livestock and removed a total of 7,623 coyotes and 348 fox in cooperation with U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services. Statewide, the number of requests for services was up 11 percent from the previous year. Wildlife damage staff worked nearly 17,000 hours and drove almost 300,000 miles to address these concerns. GFP also provided 200 hours of additional aerial predator control (above the

700 hours that USDA-WS provides to South Dakota) focused in eastern South Dakota. In addition, GFP provided a total of \$12,000 of cooperative funding to six predator control districts (Campbell County, Edmunds County, Faulk County, McPherson County, Multi-County (Harding, Butte and portions of Lawrence and Meade counties) and Perkins County) for additional aerial predator control. These funds provided another 100 hours of aerial predator control above the level which predator control districts normally allocate, which were directed by local GFP wildlife damage staff. Total program expenditures for predator control in South Dakota were \$730,690. Since 2001, GFP has spent more than \$7.7 million on predator control to address livestock loss events and the protection of livestock. In 2015, cooperatively working with USDA-WS and local predator control districts, GFP removed the highest number of coyotes in the past 15 years. ■

Coyote/Fox Removal Expenditures



Coyotes Removed/Requests for Service



# Elk Program

In 2015, wildlife damage staff responded to 66 requests for service regarding elk damage, primarily in and around the Black Hills area. Staff drove more than 9,100 miles and worked more than 790 hours to address these landowner concerns. Many of these requests were addressed by utilizing food plot contracts. There were 42 food plot contracts initiated in 2015 primarily to reduce elk depredation to growing alfalfa and other crops. Additionally, there were seven elk access contracts initiated, where elk hunting access on more than 25,000 acres of private property was provided for hunters as well as assistance to landowners which are experiencing elk depredation. Overall, GFP spent a total of more than \$226,000 for elk depredation assistance, statewide. Since 2000, GFP has spent more than \$2.5 million working cooperatively with private landowners to address elk depredation.

GFP understands that there will likely be increased requests for assistance due to the higher number of elk in the Black Hills. The 2014 South Dakota Legislature approved a five-dollar increase (not to exceed \$10 total) to the non-refundable application fee for elk applicants which is projected to raise an estimated \$160,000 which has been earmarked specifically for elk depredation assistance to private landowners.

In 2015, GFP initiated several enhanced programs designed to better meet the needs and demands for assistance with landowners that experience depredation impacts from elk. While many of the current abatement practices have proven successful over the past 20 years, elk depredation and the associated conflicts continue to challenge GFP. These matters are complex and not only involve the management of elk, but also include social, economic and political dynamics. GFP has a proven history of working with private landowners and is committed to cooperatively working with private landowners to implement solutions addressing future elk depredation conflicts. ■

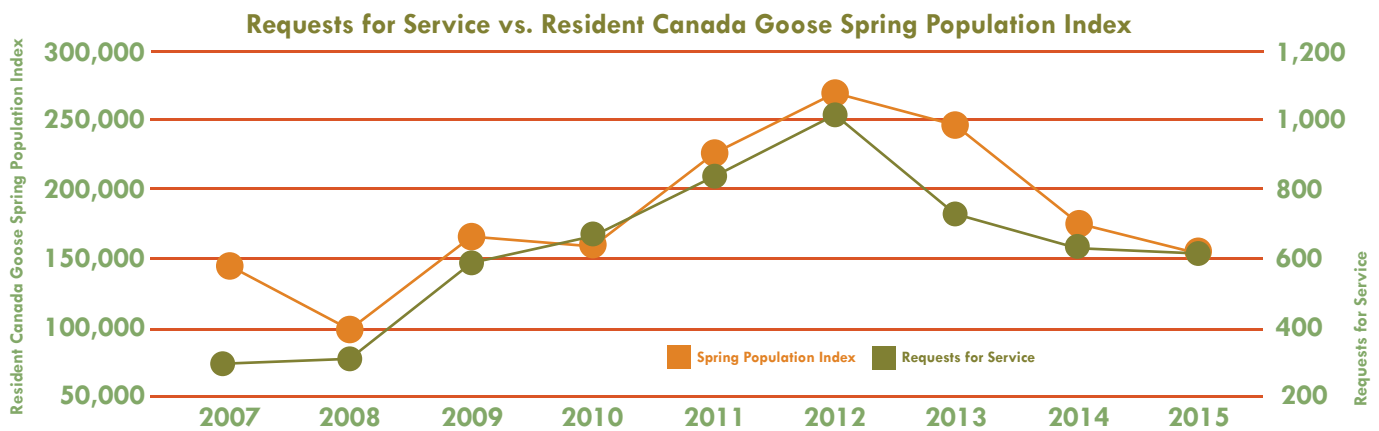


**SINCE 2000, GFP HAS SPENT MORE THAN \$2.5 MILLION WORKING COOPERATIVELY WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS TO ADDRESS ELK DEPREDATION.**

## 2015 Brings Fewer Requests for Canada Goose Assistance

With an estimated resident Canada goose spring population index of approximately 155,000, GFP responded to 607 requests for assistance. The total number of requests was down 40 percent compared to the record levels experienced in 2012. Regardless, this large number of birds combined with the agriculture/wetland matrix in eastern South Dakota and higher commodity prices, many producers requested GFP's services. All requests for assistance involved damage to growing-season crops (primarily soybeans). GFP staff worked with 449 landowners to provide crop protection from Canada goose damage. Three hundred and fifty private landowners worked cooperatively with GFP to haze and remove Canada geese from areas where crop damage was occurring. These actions were authorized by GFP through their USFWS Special Canada Goose Permit. These permitted landowners took a total of 1,114 Canada geese during this cooperative effort. While the number of birds removed by permitted landowners does not have an impact on the overall population, this management tool is critical to engage landowners and assist GFP with hazing efforts. Staff drove a total of more than 63,000 miles and worked more than 9,400 hours to respond to these concerns. Wildlife damage staff also added 1,055 Canada goose nests which greatly reduced crop damage in several localized areas as well as reduced staff time and effort. GFP also initiated 46 buffer-strip and food plot contracts which are designed to minimize goose damage to cropfields located near edges of wetlands. Overall, the total program expenditures for Canada goose depredation assistance was \$378,405. Since 2000, GFP has spent more than \$5 million cooperatively working with private landowners to address Canada goose damage to growing crops.

There was a substantial decrease in the workload and associated expenditures when compared to 2014 as well as the record year which occurred in 2012. There is a strong linkage between the resident Canada goose population and the level of Canada goose damage abatement services that GFP provides to landowners. This relationship clearly demonstrates that when higher than desired Canada goose numbers occur on the landscape a larger number of producers are impacted. By working together with sportsmen and women and liberalizing hunting seasons and bag limits as well as help from Mother Nature, the resident Canada goose population appears to be decreasing. Moving forward, GFP has assembled a stakeholder group and is currently discussing Canada goose management and working on revising the current management plan. It is anticipated that this revision will be finalized in 2016.



## Deer Damage Light in 2015

Local deer populations and weather events greatly affects the demands for deer damage abatement services. The winter weather of 2015 was near normal, deep snow was never experienced in most areas of South Dakota and temperatures were not extreme. Additionally, many areas of South Dakota were at or below the management objectives regarding the deer population. Low population levels coupled with minimal deep snow and more than \$6.8 million expended in previous deer abatement efforts (the year 2000 through 2015) resulted in the second lightest workload since the program's inception in 1998. GFP has spent considerable resources over the past 15 years providing long-term solutions (protective stackyards which protect hay and stored-feed supplies) to address deer damage. Wildlife damage staff still responded to 59 requests for service, statewide, to address concentrations of deer damaging stored-feed supplies. By working cooperatively with the 67 impacted landowners, wildlife damage staff was able to resolve or minimize these conflicts. Wildlife damage staff also initiated ten stackyard contracts to protect stored-feed supplies and five protective fencing projects to alleviate damage to commercial orchards, nurseries and gardens. Staff drove more than 19,000 miles and worked more than 1,500 hours to address these concerns. Overall, the total program expenditures for deer depredation assistance were \$238,433. ■



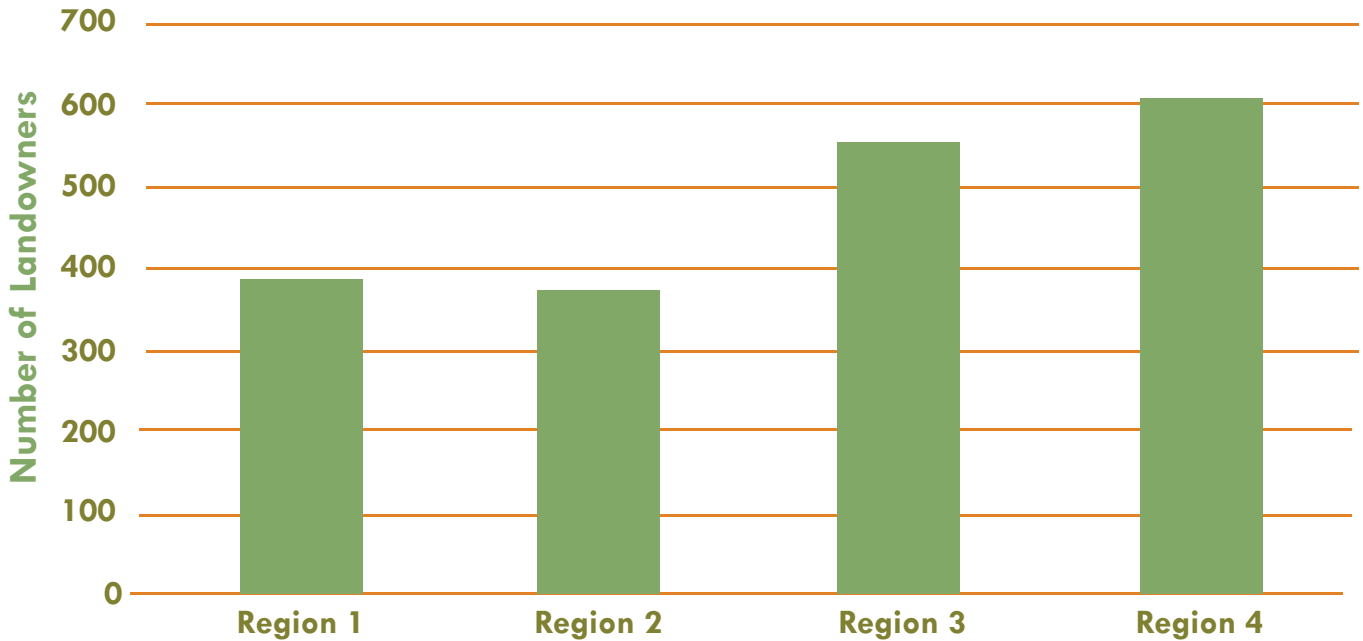
## Other Critters Keep GFP Busy Too

Requests from producers and landowners with beaver damage were up 33 percent compared to last year. Wildlife damage staff responded to 431 requests for assistance with beaver damage where they removed a total of 1,190 beaver across South Dakota. Most of this work occurred in the eastern one-third of South Dakota where many riparian areas exist as well as lakes and other wetlands.

Wildlife damage staff also responded to 101 requests for assistance with nuisance species such as raccoons, badger, skunk and mink. Most requests were handled with technical advice or loaner-traps. However, staff did provide direct control in some situations. GFP staff drove more than 4,200 miles and worked more than 300 hours to address these complaints. Additionally, wildlife damage staff and GFP contractors controlled more than 3,000 acres of prairie dogs that had encroached private land from adjacent public land with a total program expenditure of nearly \$60,000. ■



## Number of Landowners Receiving WDM Program Services in 2015



## So What Does It All Add Up To?

Partnerships are an extremely important component of the Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) program and are critical to the program's success. Each year, GFP's wildlife damage staff works cooperatively with landowners and producers to reduce or alleviate human-wildlife conflicts. Partnerships also exist with other state and federal agencies and all play an important role in the work that we accomplish.

Overall, the Animal Damage Control (ADC) portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of \$1,105,226 statewide. Wildlife damage staff drove more than 413,000 miles and worked more than 25,000 hours to address these 1,884 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 1,364 producers and landowners.

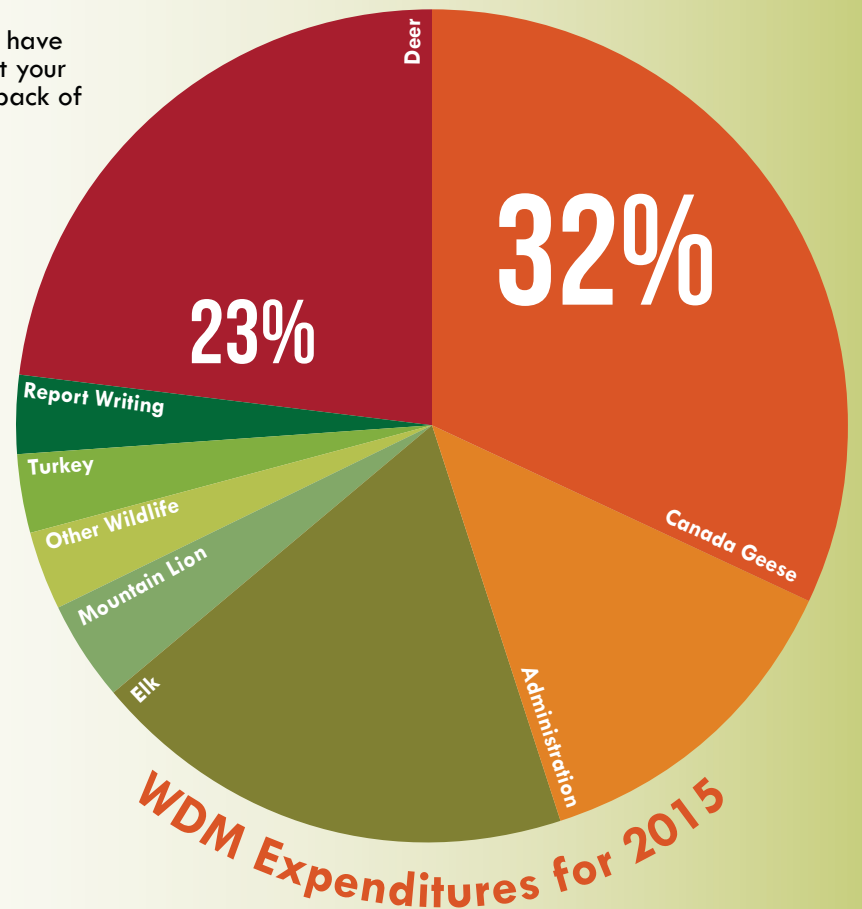
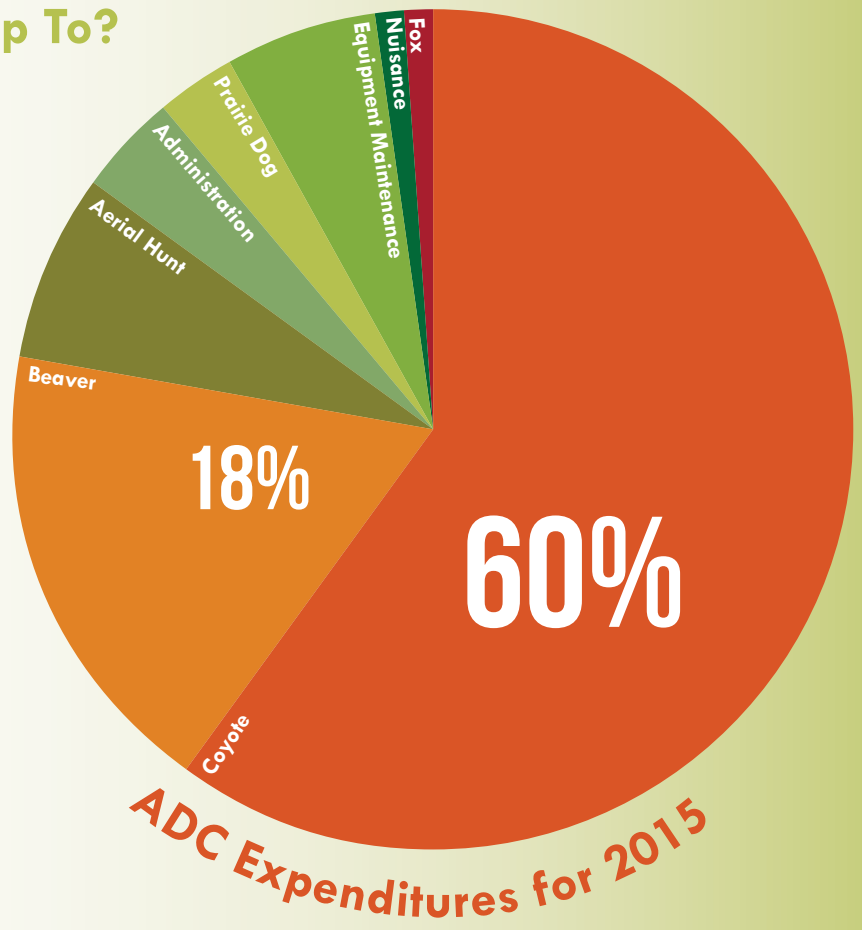
Overall, the statewide WDM portion of the program had a total expenditure of \$1,251,592. GFP staff worked more nearly 21,000 hours to address these 784 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 596 producers and landowners.

In summary, GFP responded to a total of 2,632 requests for assistance within the entire WDM program (i.e. ADC and WDM combined) during fiscal year 2015, which directly impacted 1,921 landowners and producers in South Dakota. The total program expenditures including staff time, mileage, equipment and materials totaled \$2,357,751.

If you would like to see a more comprehensive report on the WDM/ADC program, a detailed report can be found at: [gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/wildlifedamage/default.aspx](http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/wildlifedamage/default.aspx).

If you have wildlife damage, crop depredation or have questions regarding GFP programs, please contact your area WDM specialist, located on the map on the back of this issue. ■

**GFP RESPONDED TO**  
**2,632**  
**REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE,**  
**DIRECTLY IMPACTING**  
**1,921**  
**PRODUCERS AND LANDOWNERS.**



CITY	OFFICER	PHONE
Aberdeen	Nick Cochran	605.626.3340
	Eric Voigt	605.626.3200
Belle Fourche	Bill Eastman	605.391.1575
Britton	Casey Dowler	605.448.5500
Brookings	Jeff Grendler	605.688.6120
Burke	Hans Walleser	605.775.2475
Canton	Nate Stukel	605.987.2271
Chamberlain	*Steve Rossow	605.734.4533
	*Mark Ohm	605.734.4528
	Diana Landegent	605.734.4577
	Brian Ridgway	605.734.4578
Clark	Kyle Lenzner	605.532.3802
Clear Lake	Adam Behnke	605.874.2672
Custer	Ron Tietsort	605.431.7048
Faith	Ross Fees	605.381.3734
Flandreau	Chad Williams	605.997.2211
Fort Pierre	*Josh Carr	605.223.7711
	John Murphy	605.223.7718
Gettysburg	Brad Saltsman	605.765.9739
Hill City	Jeff Edwards	605.381.9500
Hot Springs	D.J. Schroeder	605.381.6438
Howard	Evan Meyer	605.772.4226
Huron	Chris Kuntz	605.353.7146
Ipswich	Joe Galbraith	605.426.6096
Lake Preston	Shane Vanbockern	605.847.5014
Lemmon	Keith Mutschler	605.374.7726
Madison	Cody Symens	605.256.5005
Martin	Tom Beck	605.685.6301
Milbank	*Jamie Pekelder	605.432.4601
Miller	Cory Flor	605.853.3644
Mitchell	Andy Petersen	605.995.8047
Mobridge	Doug Delaroi	605.845.7814
	Trevor Laine	605.845.7814
Olivet	Brian Humphrey	605.387.5603
Philip	Zach Thomsen	605.391.6042
Plankinton	Lynn Geuke	605.942.7698
Platte	Jeff Martin	605.337.2488
Presho	Spencer Downey	605.895.2138
Rapid City	Joe Keeton	605.394.5373
	*Josh Brainard	605.394.6724
	Adam Geigle	605.394.6022
Redfield	Josh Vanden Bosch	605.472.5015
Salem	Matt Talbert	605.425.2037
Sioux Falls	*Jeremy Rakowicz	605.362.2715
	*Jeremy Roe	605.362.2712
	Jared Hill	605.362.2759
Sisseton	Dean Schultz	605.698.3852
Spearfish	*Brian Meiers	605.642.6019
	*Mike Apland	605.642.6057
	Josh Thompson	605.642.6057
Sturgis	Vacant	No Phone
Tyndall	Todd Crownover	605.589.3227
Vermillion	Tony Stokley	605.356.9491
Wall	Vacant	605.279.2078
Watertown	*Kraig Haase	605.882.5202
	Tait Anderson	605.882.5392
	Bryce McVicker	605.882.5320
Webster	*Blake Yonke	605.345.3381
	Austin Norton	605.345.3381
	Blake Swanson	605.345.3381
Winner	Chris Dekker	605.842.0894
Yankton	*Sam Schelhaas	605.668.2985
	Dan Altman	605.668.2985

# 2016 CONSERVATION OFFICERS

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISORS

### WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA

JIM MCCORMICK  
RAPID CITY  
605.394.1658

### CENTRAL SOUTH DAKOTA

DALE GATES  
FORT PIERRE  
605.223.7700

### SOUTHEASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA

MARTY PENNOCK  
SIOUX FALLS  
605.362.2700

### NORTHEASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA

MIKE KLOSOWSKI  
WATERTOWN  
605.882.5200

# Canada Goose Opinion Survey Coming!

We want your input! GFP is currently revising the Canada goose management plan. Included in the next Landowners Matter will be a survey card asking a few brief opinion questions. Please take the time to fill the card out and return it. The Canada goose and Wild turkey management plans will be open for a 30-day public review by March. Please reference the below website links during this time period to provide any comments and suggestions you may have.

## What are the plans used for?

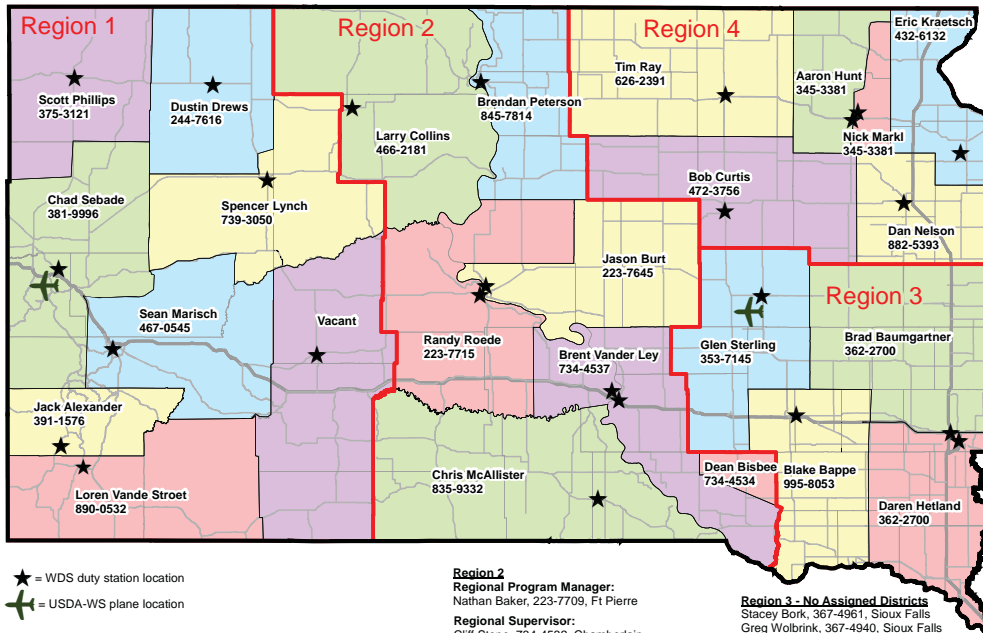
Wildlife management plans are used as a guide on how wildlife populations and their associated habitats are managed. Input and opinions from stakeholders, including landowners, are valuable in the revision and implementation of these plans.

## More Information

More information about the management plans can be found at [gfp.sd.gov/hunting/big-game/turkey/wild-turkey-management-plan.aspx](http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/big-game/turkey/wild-turkey-management-plan.aspx) and [gfp.sd.gov/hunting/waterfowl/goose-management-plan.aspx](http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/waterfowl/goose-management-plan.aspx).



### South Dakota GFP Wildlife Damage Management Program



**Region 1**  
Regional Program Manager: John Kanta, 394-1755, Rapid City  
Regional Supervisor: Mike Kintigh, 394-6837, Rapid City

**Region 2**  
Regional Program Manager: Nathan Baker, 223-7709, Ft Pierre  
Regional Supervisor: Cliff Stone, 734-4532, Chamberlain

**Region 3 - No Assigned Districts**  
Stacey Bork, 367-4961, Sioux Falls  
Greg Wolbrink, 367-4940, Sioux Falls

**Region 4**  
Regional Program Manager: Jacquie Ermer, 345-3381, Webster  
Regional Supervisor: Scott Lindgren, 882-5200, Watertown

**Region 3**  
Regional Program Manager: Josh Delger, 362-2714, Sioux Falls  
Regional Supervisor: Emmett Keyser, 362-2706, Sioux Falls

★ = WDS duty station location  
✈ = USDA-WS plane location

0 15 30 60 90 120 Miles

**Statewide Administration**  
Keith Fisk, 773-7595, Pierre  
Dana Ertz, 773-5913, Pierre

### THE SOUTH DAKOTA CONSERVATION DIGEST



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