



LANDOWNERS MATTER



CONSERVATION PROGRAM SIGNING BONUS

The Walk-In Area (WIA) program began in 1988 with South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) leasing public hunting access from 26 landowners on 23,161 acres. It has grown today to partnering with 1,458 landowners, providing public hunting access to 1,239,580 acres of private land. Cumulatively over the last thirty years, the WIA program has paid landowners over \$35 million to provide public hunting access opportunities to over 23.2 million acres. Forty percent of South Dakota hunters annually hunt land in the WIA program while annually contributing an estimated \$15.9 million in spending to local economies.

There is private land all across the state in the WIA program. These lands provide hunting opportunity for all types of game depending on what part of the state they are in and what types

of cover they contain. In western South Dakota they primarily provide deer, pronghorn and prairie grouse hunting opportunity. As we look east, primary hunting opportunity transitions to deer, pheasant and waterfowl. WIA enrolled lands also provide hunting opportunity for coyotes, prairie dogs, turkeys, doves, and elk. Trapping is not allowed on WIAs without landowner permission.

GFP will consider any WIA offer that provides hunting access to at least 80 acres with a reasonable opportunity to harvest game. Currently the WIA program is offering a signing bonus for multi-year contracts on private land containing undisturbed habitat created by enrolling in a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation program like Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or water bank.

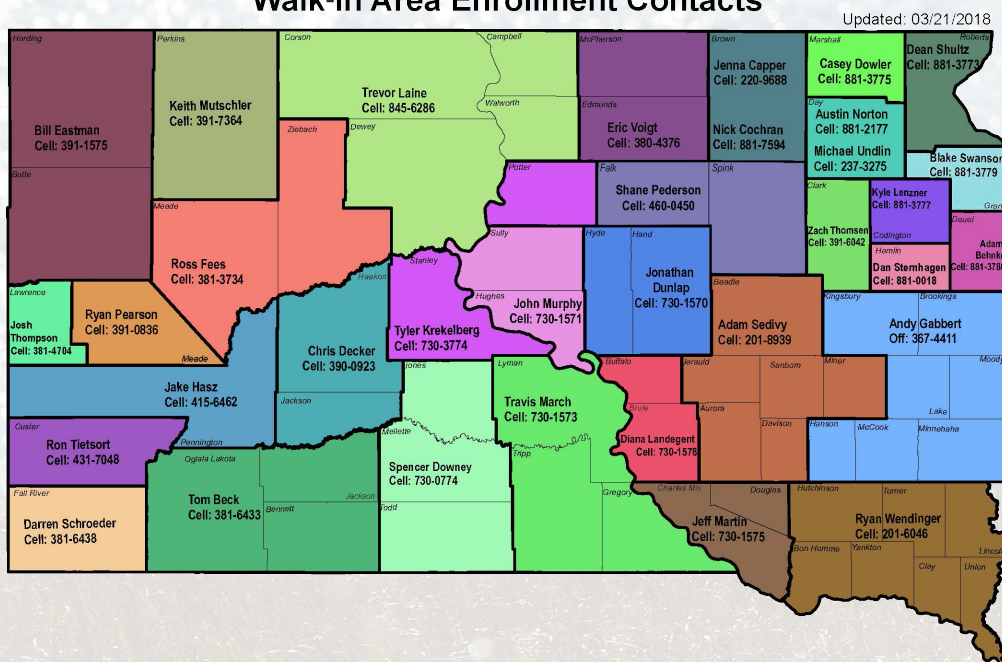
GFP is using a \$1.5 million grant from the USDA through its Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive

Remainder of South Dakota
\$2.50/Ac./Yr.

\$5/Ac./Yr.

March 24, 2017

Sign up your land and any undisturbed USDA conservation program acres in the WIA today. Contact the nearest GFP staff listed on the map.





MANAGING FISHERIES ON PRIVATE LAND

LANDOWNER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATION

The main purpose of the Landowner Fisheries Management Authorization (LFMA) is to enable a landowner to continue to do what they have been doing for years; managing fisheries in man-made impoundments on their own land. The authorization also includes the opportunity for landowners to hire a consultant or company to help manage the fisheries on their land, which was not previously an option.

OVERVIEW

- Only man-made impoundments that have no legal public access can be included in a LFMA.
- All of the landowner's dams can be included on one authorization.
- There is no fee or expiration date for this authorization.
- The landowner must control access to waters included in the authorization by ownership, lease, or easement.
- The landowner's agent or designee may perform fisheries management activities and possess authorized gear.
- Any employee, agent, or contractor of the landowner must have a copy of the authorization when conducting fisheries management activities.
- Licensing requirements and applicable fish limits apply to non-landowner/operators fishing these waters.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

Modifications have been made to the Fisheries Management Agreement (FMA) program.

These agreements will focus on waters on private land with high fisheries potential and where the landowner agrees to allow access to anglers. In return, GFP will make an annual payment to the landowner. GFP staff will survey and actively manage the fishery by stocking and other activities and will work with the landowner to provide signage, improve trails and boat access where possible.

Information and applications for LFMAs and Fisheries Management Agreements can be found at gfp.sd.gov/forms/fishmanagement. If you are interested in applying for a Landowner Fisheries Management Authorization or a Fisheries Management Agreement, please contact your local conservation officer or fisheries manager at the nearest GFP office or visit gfp.sd.gov.

ENDANGERED OR THREATENED PROTECTED SPECIES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

For many of us, our endangered species knowledge relates to those that are controversial or polarizing, such as the gray wolf and grizzly bear. Here are a few basics on this topic.

In South Dakota, endangered and threatened species are protected by both state and federal laws. The federal Endangered Species Act was passed in 1973, with several amendments since then. Its primary purpose is “to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved.” An endangered species is in danger of extinction throughout most or all of its range. A threatened species is likely to become endangered throughout most or all of its range. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service share primary responsibility for evaluating, listing and recovering these species. A landowner program with a federal nexus must be reviewed for potential harm to endangered species. The nexus can be a program that a federal agency funds, authorizes or conducts.

South Dakota’s endangered species law relates to the condition of species within the state’s borders. The state and federal species lists differ. The state threatened osprey is relatively common elsewhere in the U.S., but rare in South Dakota. The federal endangered Topeka shiner is doing well in the state, but not in other parts of its

range. South Dakota’s law protects state-listed species from harvest or take except by permission of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) through an endangered species authorization process.

GFP has primary responsibility for recovering state listed species, with some shared duties with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. The GFP Commission is tasked with listing and delisting actions, which start with staff recommendations and involve public input, as is typical with the Commission process. As of 2018, South Dakota’s state list includes 22 species (nine fish, three reptiles, seven birds and three mammals). GFP recently reviewed the status of these species, summarizing what is known and what needs to be learned or done to help recover these species and justify their removal from South Dakota’s state list.

Although preventing species declines and habitat degradation is preferable to listing species, state and federal endangered species laws represent a commitment to rare species restoration. To learn more about species listed in South Dakota, visit: gfp.sd.gov/threatened-endangered. For more information about the federal Endangered Species Act, visit: fws.gov/endangered.

GRAY WOLVES REMAIN PROTECTED

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) wants to remind South Dakota citizens that gray wolves remain protected under the federal Endangered Species Act across the entire state. This federal protection has been in place since 2014.

Over the years, South Dakota has had gray wolves incidentally killed on both sides of the Missouri River.

South Dakota does not have suitable habitat to maintain a population of wolves. Transient wolves from surrounding states have been documented traveling through South Dakota, but are very uncommon.

Sportsmen and women as well as fur harvesters are reminded that gray wolves may occur in South Dakota and need to exercise caution if they believe a gray wolf is in the area. Hunters need to clearly identify their target before using their firearms when hunting coyotes. If a suspected wolf is in a trap, individuals should contact GFP officials immediately. The federal protections of the Endangered Species Act prohibit the take of a gray wolf unless it is threatening human life.

GFP does not have any plans or intentions of facilitating the establishment of gray wolves in South Dakota.

If livestock producers have concerns with a suspected wolf near their operation, they should contact a local GFP wildlife damage specialist or regional office. If the livestock loss is determined to have been possibly killed by a gray wolf, the department will work directly with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address the situation.

For more information or to learn more about identifying gray wolves and coyotes, please visit gfp.sd.gov/wolf.



A photograph of a mountain lion (puma) perched on a pine branch in a snowy forest. The lion is looking down and has a white tag on its ear. The background is a soft-focus winter scene with snow-covered trees and ground.

LANDOWNER MOUNTAIN LION

Q&A

HOW MANY MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE THERE IN SOUTH DAKOTA?

There is a healthy population of approximately 300 mountain lions in the Black Hills as of January 1, 2017. Occasionally transient lions are observed moving through South Dakota outside of the Black Hills. Typically mountain lions will stay close to cover and are found predominantly in riparian or forested areas. With a year-round hunting season on mountain lions outside of the Black Hills, mountain lions are occasionally harvested in this area. There is no evidence to suggest that there is an established population of mountain lions outside of the Black Hills in South Dakota. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has documented females with kittens in south central South Dakota. Due to land ownership on the prairie and limited available habitat preferred by mountain lions, GFP currently does not intend to manage for a sustainable population of mountain lions outside of the Black Hills ecosystem.

WHY MANAGE FOR A POPULATION OF MOUNTAIN LIONS IN SOUTH DAKOTA?

Mountain lions play an important role in the ecosystem and are native to South Dakota. Mountain lions provide an important recreational opportunity for resident sportsmen and women. GFP continues to manage the population of mountain lions in the Black Hills.

ARE MOUNTAIN LION ATTACKS ON LIVESTOCK COMMON?

Attacks on livestock are rare in South Dakota. The majority of attacks that have occurred are typically on pets or the occasional backyard sheep, goat or llama in the Black Hills. In the last year, GFP removed one mountain lion for killing a dog in the Black Hills.

CAN I PROTECT MY LIVESTOCK FROM MOUNTAIN LIONS THAT MAY CAUSE THEM HARM?

Under South Dakota codified law 46-6-29.2, killing of a mountain lion is permitted if reasonably necessary to protect the life of a person or if a mountain lion is posing an imminent threat to a person's livestock or pets. If a person kills a mountain lion pursuant to this law, they must contact a department representative within 24 hours of killing the mountain lion. Mountain lions killed under this law cannot be retained by the landowner and must be surrendered to GFP.

WHAT WILL GFP DO IF A MOUNTAIN LION ATTACKS MY LIVESTOCK?

If a mountain lion is threatening or has attacked your livestock please contact a GFP official as soon as possible. GFP will respond to the call with staff trained in responding to mountain lion depredation events. An investigation will occur and if it is determined that a mountain lion threatened or caused harm to your livestock, GFP will pursue that mountain lion and euthanize it.

WILDLIFE DAMAGE SPECIALISTS

Wildlife damage specialists 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 beavers. 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, deer, elk and pronghorn.



RANDY BECKER

COVERAGE AREA: Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Bon Homme and Yankton Counties

FUN FACT: Big St. Louis cardinal baseball fan!

CONTACT: Office: 605.995.8053
Cell: 605.933.9170



GARRET MOONEY

COVERAGE AREA: Meade, Southern Perkins, Western Ziebach Counties

FUN FACT: I enjoy working for GFP, getting to know my area producers, and helping them protect their livestock from predators.

CONTACT: Office: 605.967.2055
Cell: 605.431.1474



BRAD JANECKE

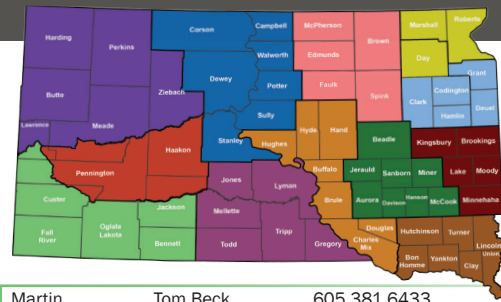
COVERAGE AREA: Stanley, Jones, and Western Lyman County (West of Presho)

FUN FACT: My passion is hunting and trapping. I feel blessed to have a job where I am able to serve the great producers in my territory doing what I enjoy.

CONTACT: Office: 605.223.7715
Cell: 605.730.1582

CONSERVATION OFFICERS

*DENOTES DISTRICT CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR



Martin	Tom Beck	605.381.6433
Hill City	Jeff Edwards	605.381.9995
Hot Springs	D.J. Schroeder	605.381.6438
Custer	Ron Tietz	605.431.7048
Spearfish	Brian Meiers*	605.391.6023

Rapid City	Chris Dekker	605.390.0923
Rapid City	Jacob Hasz	605.415.6462
Philip	Zach Thomsen	605.391.6042
Wall	Vacant	
Rapid City	Adam Geigle*	605.390.1230

Belle Fourche	Bill Eastman	605.391.1575
Faith	Ross Fees	605.381.3734
Lemmon	Keith Mutschler	605.391.7364
Sturgis	Ryan Pearson	605.391.0836
Spearfish	Josh Thompson	605.381.4704
Spearfish	Mike Apland*	605.391.1574

Ft. Pierre	Tyler Krekelberg	605.730.3774
Mobridge	Trevor Laine	605.845.6286
Gettysburg	Vacant	
Onida	Vacant	
Mobridge	Vacant	
Ft. Pierre	Josh Carr*	605.730.1574

Miller	Jon Dunlap	605.730.1570
Chamberlain	Diana Landegent	605.730.1578
Platte	Jeff Martin	605.730.1575
Ft. Pierre	John Murphy	605.730.1571
Miller	Cory Flor*	605.680.0003

Presho	Spencer Downey	605.730.0774
Chamberlain	Travis March	605.730.1573
Winner	Vacant	
Burke	Vacant	
Chamberlain	Steve Rossow*	605.730.1383

Aberdeen	Jenna Capper	605.237.9878
Aberdeen	Nick Cochran	605.881.7594
Redfield	Shane Pederson	605.460.0450
Ipswich	Eric Voigt	605.380.4376
Ipswich	Joe Galbraith*	605.380.4563

Britton	Casey Dowler	605.881.3775
Webster	Austin Norton	605.881.2177
Sisseton	Dean Shultz	605.881.3773
Webster	Michael Undlin	605.730.1384
Aberdeen	Tim McCurdy*	605.380.4572

Clear Lake	Adam Behnke	605.881.3780
Watertown	Kyle Lenzner	605.881.3777
Clark	Vacant	
Milbank	Blake Swanson	605.881.3779
Estelline	Dan Sternhagen	605.881.0018
Milbank	Jamie Pekelder*	605.881.3778

Plankinton	Lynn Geuke	605.220.6943
Huron	Vacant	
Howard	Evan Meyer	605.553.4299
Mitchell	Andy Petersen	605.770.0340
Salem	Matt Talbert	605.360.0491
Sioux Falls	Jeremy Roe*	605.940.3519

Brookings	Jeff Grendler	605.360.0509
Sioux Falls	Jared Hill	605.941.0181
Sioux Falls	Chris Kuntz	605.350.1669
Madison	Cody Symens	605.480.3364
Lake Preston	Shane VanBockern	605.360.0514
Flandreau	Chad Williams	605.530.7085
Sioux Falls	Jeremy Rakowicz*	605.941.0074

Yankton	Dan Altman	605.941.4549
Tyndall	Todd Crownover	605.360.0497
Olivet	Brian Humphrey	605.941.4735
Vermillion	Tony Stokely	605.677.7814
Canton	Josh VandenBosch	605.940.0222
Yankton	Sam Schelhaas*	605.941.4540

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NONMEANDERED WATERS 2018 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

With the passing of HB1081, GFP is pleased to announce that the legislation passed in June 2017 regarding nonmeandered waters (HB1001: Open Water Compromise) will remain in place and the uncertainty of the sunset clause has been removed. GFP has been very supportive of the Open Water Compromise and providing recreational opportunities to resource users while meeting the needs and addressing the concerns of the landowners.

GAME, FISH AND PARKS | 523 EAST CAPITOL AVE | PIERRE, SD 57501

The Game, Fish and Parks' mission is to provide sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardships and safely connecting people with the outdoors.



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

