



# LANDOWNERS *Matter*

## THANK YOU FOR THE HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES YOU PROVIDE

First and foremost, it is important to recognize that the majority of hunting in South Dakota occurs on private land. Thousands of landowners provide hunting opportunities to friends, family and often to others who are courteous enough to ask permission. This hunting opportunity is the foundation on which the state's hunting heritage is based and a major reason South Dakota is considered one of the best places in the country to hunt.

Another reason is the large amount of private land—over 1.3 million acres—that is publicly accessible. Each year, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) staff works with over a 1,500 private landowners across the state to open their land to public hunting access. GFP continually receives positive comments from hunters expressing their gratitude for the public hunting opportunities that are provided by private landowners through the Walk-In Area program (WIA), the James River Watershed Conservation Reserve Enhancement program (CREP), the Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access program, the Elk Hunting Access program and the Controlled Hunting Access program (CHAP). For some hunters, lands in these programs provide the only places they hunt, and without them they likely would not hunt at all.

Landowners participating in GFP's hunting access programs receive annual payments and protection from liability to the extent as provided in South Dakota Codified Law §§ 20-9-12 to 20-9-18, inclusive. This same liability protection is provided to landowners who allow hunting without charge. New enrollments are no longer being taken for the CREP, but if you would like to learn more about how you could provide public hunting opportunity on your land, contact your local conservation officer shown on the map on the back page.

Landowners that allow hunting, no matter the type, not only provide a place to hunt and create life-long memories, they are also providing a foundation that supports significant economic activity in the state. A recent GFP survey found that in 2016 hunters spent nearly \$683 million in South Dakota.

GFP and the hundreds of thousands of hunters that hunt private land want to express the utmost gratitude to all of the landowners who have provided, and continue to provide, hunting access on their land. Your contributions are invaluable in upholding the hunting heritage valued by many South Dakotans and our visitors. ●




# GAINING HUNTING ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY

BY MARK NORTON, HUNTING ACCESS AND FARM BILL COORDINATOR  
AND KEITH FISK, WILDLIFE DAMAGE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

**W**ith over 80 percent of South Dakota held in private ownership, it is no surprise that most wildlife reside on private land and most hunting occurs on these lands as well. A majority of South Dakota landowners enjoy wildlife on their property and are willing to share those resources with people who ask for permission to hunt. Relationships - even old friendships - between landowners and hunters are an important part of South Dakota's hunting heritage and to the sportsmen and women who enjoy hunting privileges on private land every year. One of the key components to understand when seeking hunting permission is—respect. Put yourself in the landowner's shoes and think how you might respond if someone you have never met asked to hunt on your property – an activity that is likely to include the use of firearms around your cattle, crops, machinery, house and other personal property. This is a big deal for anyone. Initiating the first contact to ask for permission should not be taken lightly.





For some people, seeking permission to hunt can be intimidating. After all, driving down someone's driveway and knocking on a door that is answered by a person you have never met, can be uncomfortable. Perhaps they will say "yes" or maybe they will say "no," but you'll never know unless you knock on the door and introduce yourself.

Take the time to make a personal visit to the landowner's residence. Don't just call and ask for permission. Most landowners want to know who people are, what they look like and what kind of vehicle they drive. When making this personal visit, do so at a convenient time for the landowner. Make sure your visit occurs months before hunting seasons begins. Waiting until a day or two before the desired use is a recipe for disaster. Walk up to the door and politely introduce yourself, make eye contact, shake hands and smile. Don't wear sunglasses and consider not wearing your hunting clothes. Another point to remember is that landowners often have hunters lined-up to hunt opening weekends. Being flexible and offering to only hunt the second week of the deer season, or only during weekdays, may help open the doors to private land hunting access.

**AT ALL TIMES, FULLY RESPECT THE LANDOWNER'S RULES AND DIRECTIONS. THIS MAY INCLUDE: NO DRIVING, CLOSING GATES OR LEAVING GATES AS THEY ARE FOUND, ONLY BEING ABLE TO HUNT CERTAIN AREAS OR DURING CERTAIN TIMES, OR ONLY HUNTING ANTLERLESS DEER.**

Also, follow "leave no trace" principles like avoiding driving in muddy conditions, leaving gut piles in conspicuous places, cleaning birds on private property and littering. The bottom line is to always respect the landowner's wishes and property.

Expressing your gratitude for the privilege to hunt private land is also a great way to make lasting relationships with landowners, so don't hesitate to show them you truly mean it. Sharing photos from your hunt, Christmas goodies, or some game meat (walleye fillets are usually a big hit) are great ways to express that appreciation. Offering to assist with fencing, branding, bailing, or painting outbuildings can also help build a relationship to last for years into the future.

Finally, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks works with private landowners to provide public hunting access through programs like the Walk-In Area program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and the Controlled Hunting Access Program. These programs offer great hunting access opportunities and there isn't any leg-work needed to access these areas, but there are other hunting access opportunities for hunters who take the initiative to ask private landowners for permission to hunt.

**MANY AREAS OF SOUTH DAKOTA ARE TRUE HUNTING TREASURES, BUT GAINING ACCESS TO THEM WILL TAKE AN INVESTMENT OF TIME AND AN HONEST, RESPECTFUL APPROACH.**

Take some time and invest in your hunting future by seeking permission to hunt on private lands - you'll be glad you did. ●



# GFP WORKS TO IMPLEMENT HB 1001

## The open waters Compromise

In June, the South Dakota Legislature passed, and Governor Dugaard signed into law, House Bill 1001. Also known as the Open Waters Compromise, HB 1001 came after a Supreme Court ruling stated that the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) could not facilitate access to nonmeandered waters until the Legislature determined how the public could utilize these waters. The Open Waters Compromise strikes a balance between the public's desire to access waters for recreational use and a landowner's ability to protect their property.

### HOW DOES THIS AFFECT LANDOWNERS WHO HAVE LAND THAT HAS BEEN FLOODED?

Many landowners will choose to continue to allow the public to use the nonmeandered water over their flooded land. Others may choose to close parts or all of a nonmeandered water body. Landowners have the option of closing most nonmeandered waters to recreational use by simply posting conspicuous signs indicating the waters are closed. If the water is not posted, it is open to public use if access is gained through a legal means. When posting a water body, the landowner also needs to notify GFP of the closure, so the area can be included in an online map the department has developed to identify closed waters.

There were 27 nonmeandered waters identified in Section 8 of HB 1001 that require more action to close them to recreational use. These Section 8 lakes were re-opened through legislation due to their public-use history and the presence of public boat ramps on those waters. Landowners with flooded property on Section 8 lakes can petition the GFP Commission to request closure of parts of those waters. The Commission is required to consider privacy, safety, substantial financial interests of the landowner, along with history of use, water quality, water quantity and the public's interest in recreational use of the water in making their decision on whether to grant in full, in part or deny a petition to close a portion of a Section 8 lake. Landowners who desire to have part of a Section 8 lake closed can find the petition form online or contact one of the GFP offices to have a petition form sent to them.

It is important to remember that access to any nonmeandered lake for recreational use may only be by public roadway, public right-of-way or other lawful means. In addition, no person may walk, wade, stand or operate a motor vehicle on the bed of a nonmeandered lake, or trap or hunt on the frozen surface above private land, without permission from the landowner or any other person legally in possession of the privately owned property underlying the waters of that portion of the nonmeandered lake. ►





GFP staff recently held a field day with landowners and sportsmen to review options for marking closed waters. Suggestions were made regarding types of signs and buoys, materials, colors and distance requirements to help ensure markings are conspicuous and something that the public will readily recognize. These marking requirements will be proposed to the GFP Commission in October and finalized in November. After the marking requirements are approved, the new signs and buoys will need to be used in marking closed waters.

GFP staff have also been meeting with landowners about the possibility of entering into access agreements on nonmeandered waters that would be beneficial for public use. The department has developed a ranking matrix to evaluate and rank water bodies for size, depth, water quality, fisheries present, past and future recreational use, so values can be assessed and consistent offers can be made to landowners for providing access.

If you are interested in an access agreement or have questions regarding nonmeandered waters, please contact any of the staff listed below.

Rhet Russell | [Rhet.Russell@state.sd.us](mailto:Rhet.Russell@state.sd.us) or 605.882.5200

Arden Petersen | [Arden.Petersen@state.sd.us](mailto:Arden.Petersen@state.sd.us) or 605.362.2722

Kevin Robling | [Kevin.Robling@state.sd.us](mailto:Kevin.Robling@state.sd.us) or 605.394.1752

Additional resources and information on nonmeandered waters can be found online at [gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/nonmeanderedwaters.aspx](http://gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/nonmeanderedwaters.aspx).



# RECREATION AND RESPECT



Ask before you access.

**SOUTH DAKOTA IS A TRUE HUNTING TREASURE. GAINING ACCESS TO CERTAIN AREAS TAKES AN HONEST, RESPECTFUL APPROACH.**



# GFP OFFERS ASSISTANCE WITH PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK FEEDS

Landowners are critical partners in wildlife management in South Dakota. With over 80% of the state held in private ownership, private lands not only produce the majority of wildlife, but also provide places for sportsmen and women to enjoy hunting opportunities every year. In an effort to continue these partnerships, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) provides landowners and producers with cost-share assistance to construct protective stackyards or will provide portable panels to protect hay and other livestock feeds from wintertime deer damage.

GFP can provide producers with up to \$10,000 of cost-share assistance to construct protective stackyards, or GFP can provide portable panels to protect livestock feeds that are stored in temporary locations.

“Every year we work with landowners across South Dakota regarding deer damage issues,” said Keith Fisk, GFP’s wildlife damage program administrator. “If a landowner has concerns regarding deer damage, I encourage them to

contact their local wildlife damage specialist right away.” (*See map on next page for contact information*).

With winter weather just around the corner, GFP asks landowners to carefully consider their hay storage locations. Leaving hay in the field makes it difficult to protect from deer damage. If possible, landowners should bring hay into farmyards or stack it into large piles at several locations. This makes protecting the hay from deer more effective.

“With the recent drought conditions, livestock feed supplies are critically important to livestock producers,” said Fisk.

“Having hay in a location that is easy to protect from deer damage is the best option.”

GFP reminds landowners and producers to call as soon as they notice deer damage. The sooner the stored-feeds can be protected, the less damage will occur. Early detection of damage also helps other deer damage techniques be more successful. ●





# 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 antelope.



**ALEX ELIAS**

## Coverage area

Day and Marshall Counties

## Fun fact

I spent a summer in Manitoba Canada studying Canvasback nesting success. Canvasbacks are my favorite duck.

## Contact

Office | 605.345.3381

Cell | 605.881.4423



**BRUCE BETHEA**

## Coverage area

Harding County and  
Northwestern Butte County

## Fun fact

I enjoy hunting and trapping and working with the livestock producers of South Dakota.

## Contact

Office | 605.375.3677

Cell | 605.381.4482



**COLTON TAYLOR**

## Coverage area

Perkins County north of Moreau River

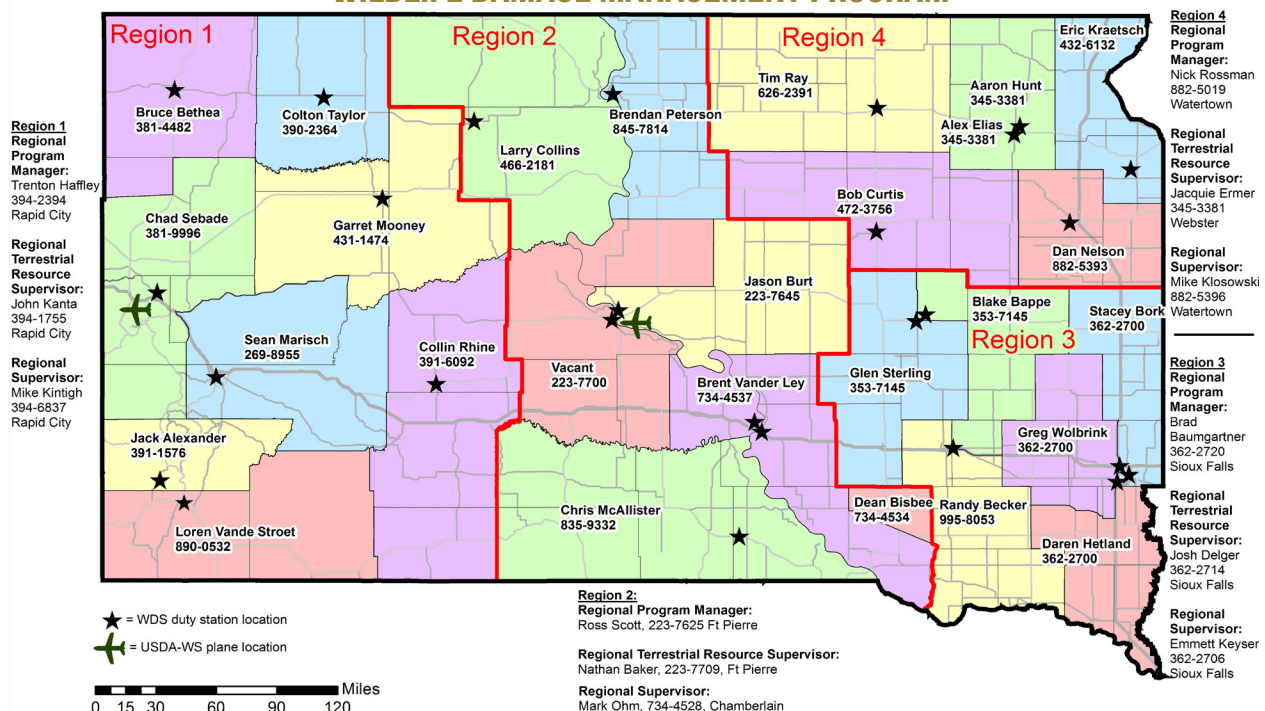
## Fun fact

I'm a New Orleans Saints fan and I'm going to two Saints games this year against the Vikings and the Packers.

## Contact

Cell | 605.390.2364

## SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM





CONSERVATION OFFICERS

LANDOWNERS MATTER

Game, Fish and Parks | 523 East Capitol Ave | Pierre, SD 57501

\*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	Vacant	
Wall	Jacob Hasz	605.415.6462
Phillip	Zach Thomsen	605.391.6042
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 Aplan*	605.391.1574

Mobridge	Trevor Laine	605.845.6286
Gettysburg	Brad Saltsman	605.730.1568
Onida	Michael Undlin	605.730.1384
Ft. Pierre	Tyler Krekelburg	605.730.3774
Mobridge	Vacant	
Ft. Pierre	Josh Carr*	605.730.1574

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

Winner	Nate Stukel	605.730.1576
Presho	Spencer Downey	605.730.0774
Chamberlain	Vacant	
Burke	Hans Walleser	605.222.6133
Chamberlain	Steve Rossow*	605.730.1383

Aberdeen	Nick Cochran	605.881.7594
Aberdeen	Vacant	
Redfield	Vacant	
Ipswich	Eric Voigt	605.380.4376
Ipswich	Joe Galbraith*	605.380.4563

Britton	Casey Dowler	605.881.3775
Sisseton	Dean Shultz	605.881.3773
Webster	Austin Norton	605.881.2177
Webster	Blake Swanson	605.881.3779
Aberdeen	Tim McCurdy*	605.380.4572

Clear Lake	Adam Behnke	605.881.3780
Clark	Kyle Lenzner	605.881.3777
Watertown	Bryce McVicker	605.881.2260
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
Humboldt	Jared Hill	605.941.0181
Madison	Cody Symens	605.480.3364
Lake Preston	Shane VanBockern	605.360.0514
Flandreau	Chad Williams	605.530.7085
Sioux Falls	Chris Kuntz	605.350.1669
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
Elk Point	Tony Stokely	605.677.7814
Canton	Josh Vander Bosch	605.940.0222
Yankton	Sam Schelhaas*	605.941.4540



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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.

