

President's Message

For those of us passionate about wildlife and their habitats, the times seem very scary. Proposals to cut or eliminate conservation funding are being made and essential legislation such as the Farm Bill can't seem to make it through Congress in one piece. Conversations among concerned friends and colleagues over vanishing habitat have been elevated to publicly organized forums. But most striking of all is that most of us are witnesses to the habitat conversion occurring in our own backyards.

During my time on the Board, I've learned what I've always known. It is the people of an organization, not so much its leaders that determine its success. I've been impressed by the willingness of our members to give of their time and expertise when asked. Individually, we may feel ineffective or helpless towards making a difference, but it is the collective that makes an imposing whole.

As a chapter this is what you have been doing over the past few months:

- Voicing your support for continued funding for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program, North American Wetland Conservation Fund, Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund, Forest Legacy Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund,
- Reviewing and providing comments on:
 - Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
 - DEIS and land protection plan for the proposed Niobrara Confluence and Ponca Bluffs Conservation Area
 - US Forest Service, Nebraska National Forest, Ft. Pierre National Grassland southwest fence relocation and water project Draft Environmental Assessment
 - land exchanges proposed by the Nebraska National Forest
 - an assessment by the Nebraska National Forest to determine the need for authorizing outfitters and guides on public lands
- Encouraged Representative Kristi Noem to keep fish and wildlife as an authorized purpose of the US Army Corp of Engineers as outlined in the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System Master Water Control Manual,
- Recommended that SD's Congressional delegates reconnect conservation compliance with crop insurance subsidies,

- Signed-on to a national effort spearheaded by several conservation organizations that voiced support in advance of the first farm bill conference committee for a sodsaver provision and re-coupling basic soil and water conservation measures with premium crop insurance subsidies.

For more information on some of these items, please refer to the committee reports in this newsletter or visit the chapter website. If there are specific issues that are brought to your attention that you think our chapter should weigh in on, please contact a Board or pertinent committee member. What you do every day as a professional and chapter member makes a difference.

Silka L. F. Kempema
SD Chapter of
The Wildlife Society



MEMBERSHIP

Know anyone who is a wildlife professional, who is in a field related to wildlife conservation, or anyone with an interest in South Dakota wildlife? Have you noticed co-workers or someone you know that has been missing at annual meetings?

Since 2010, we have listed annual memberships on the SDTWS website (contact information will remain confidential). If you see someone who is not on the list, take some time to share with those individuals what the SDTWS has to offer.



Membership is \$10/year for a regular membership and \$6/year for students. You can renew a membership by using the membership form included at the end of this newsletter.

Please make your payment to SDTWS. Please give Nora Kohlenberg a call at 605-222-9408 or an email at Nora.Kohlenberg@state.sd.us if you have any questions.

Life Members: The full list of members is available on the website.



SDTWS can now be found on Facebook!

SDTWS is now on Facebook! Facebook is a social networking website and it is free! If you are currently not signed up for Facebook, you can use the following link and it will direct you to a page to sign up. If you are already a member, the link below will take you the SDTWS Facebook page, where you can join the group!

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=375605397459>

Facebook is a great way to share information. Facebook can be used to post events, such as the upcoming Outdoor Expo, and to stimulate discussions on environmental issues or other topics of interest. The SDTWS Facebook page is also another way that we can reach out to recruit more individuals in the wildlife conservation field in South Dakota. We are very excited about this new tool and we hope as members that you will benefit from it too!

If you have any questions about the page or have some suggestions or ideas to post, please contact Nora Kohlenberg, nora.kohlenberg@state.sd.us.

SDTWS Annual Meeting

Save the dates: **February 24 – 26, 2014** at Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, SD.

The theme of this year's special session is conservation education. Call for abstracts coming out soon!

NEW TWS Rangeland Working Group

A new Rangeland Working Group is being formed in The Wildlife Society (TWS). The first meeting of this group was held October 8th at the annual TWS meeting in Milwaukee. Megan Clayton from Texas A&M is the Chair and the working group has 3 years to form and must have 50 members to be recognized by TWS as an official group. To be a member of the working group, you must be a member of TWS at the national level and join the Rangeland Working Group by paying \$5 when you renew your annual dues. We all know the importance of rangeland to wildlife in the Great Plains and the impacts that rangeland loss and management of rangelands are having on grassland dependent species. Please consider joining the Rangeland Working Group and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Megan (Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu).

CMPS Updates

The 2014 Section meeting will be held 26-28 August in Sheridan, Wyoming.

During the 14 August 2013 Section Business meeting, Karie Decker (NE) was voted as the new President-elect. Emily Munter (NE) and Andrea Orabona (WY) will be the new board members at-large, replacing outgoing members at-large Sara Bucklin (WY) and Karl Grover (KS). The by-laws have been officially changed to allow electronic voting. Elections will end 14 days prior to the annual meeting to facilitate and encourage newly elected board members to attend. The latest issue of the Central Mountains and Plains Section newsletter is available at <http://wildlife.org/cmp> and at the SDTWS website <http://sdwildlife.org/index.htm>.

SDTWS – Executive Board Meeting Minutes May 23, 2012

SD TWS Board Meeting at Joe Foss Building in Pierre, SD.
Silka Kempema, Travis Runia, Mark Norton, Nathan Baker, & Casey Mehls

Called to order 1:10 p.m. by President Silka Kempema.

Secretary's report of the minutes from the February 24th, 2013 was reviewed. Mehls found a typo which was noted and corrected. Runia moved to approve and Baker seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was provided by Norton. Runia found that \$150 sponsorship from Milborn Seeds was reported as deposited into both the checking and the savings account. Baker also did not see a reimbursement he received on the report. Norton will look into the errors and correct them for the final report. Mehls moved to approve the treasurer's report with corrections and Runia seconded. Motion carried. The \$150 sponsorship was only deposited into the checking account and Baker's reimbursement was mislabeled on the treasurer's report as a reimbursement to Nora Kohlenberg. Corrections were made accordingly.

Old Business

Chapter Officer Liability Insurance – Silka and Mark visited with Gary White at the Chapter Meeting. It is too expensive for something we will not need unless we are going to start lobbying or taking on a controversial issue in court. The board discussed and decided not to purchase any insurance.

Leadership Institute donation – Runia moved to donate \$300 to the leadership institute if they still needed funding. Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Silka followed up with Laura Bies with the parent Chapter and learned that no funding was needed. They received a large donation from the Dallas Safari Club and some smaller donations from other chapters and sections to raise the money they needed this year. No money will be sent.

2014 Annual Meeting Date – Feb 24-26 or March 3-5 were potential options at Cedar Shores resort in Chamberlain. The board decided they preferred the 24-26 of February and Silka will follow up with Kathy at Cedar Shores to lock in those dates.

New Business

There is one funding request from Paul Mammenga from the Purple Martin Association of the Dakotas requesting \$2-300 for the 1st annual Purple Martin Fest to be held at his place in South Dakota.

Norton moved to fund at \$300. Mehls seconded. Motion passed. Norton will write and mail the check.

Another funding request from Dennis Larson for \$400 dollars to fund wildlife ramps was received and discussed. The request did not meet the requirements for SD TWS funding categories outlined on the website. It would also set a precedent that SD TWS would fund cost-share programs. No motion was offered to fund this request.

Norton will pay the CMPS dues soon, \$166.

Mehls moved to adjourn the meeting. Baker Seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

2014 SDTWS Award Nominations

The Awards Committee is currently soliciting nominations for the 2014 awards. The awards include the Wildlife Professional of the Year Award, the Citizen's Wildlife Award, and one M.S. Graduate Student Award for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Each year SDTWS recognizes one wildlife professional and one state citizen for their outstanding contribution in the arena of wildlife resource management. If you would like to nominate an individual for either of these awards, please submit a letter of nomination to the Awards Committee no later than December 13, 2013. This is a great opportunity to recognize those who go the extra mile in their stewardship of South Dakota's wildlife resources.



The SDTWS also recognizes academic and/or research excellence achieved by graduate students. This year there will be one (1) M.S. scholarship for the 2013-2014 academic year. If you would like to nominate a student(s) for this award, please complete and submit the nominations from to the Awards Committee no later than December 13, 2013.

Information regarding the nomination process for these awards and the student Award Nomination can be found on the SDTWS webpage at <http://www.sdwildlife.org/awards.htm>. If you have any questions regarding the nomination process or the formulation of nomination letters, please contact Nathan Baker (605) 223-7709.

SDTWS Awards Committee
c/o Nathan Baker
SD Game, Fish & Parks
20641SD Hwy 1806
Ft. Pierre, SD 57501

Committee Reports

If a committee isn't listed here, it means there was no activity to report for this newsletter.

Resolutions and Public Statements Committee

The Chair of this Committee is vacant. If you are interested in leading this Committee please let the President know.

If you have a resolution for the Chapter to consider you may send it to the President at any time. In order to be considered, a resolution only needs to be sponsored by two voting Chapter members. You can send it, preferably as a Word attachment to an email, to the President. You needn't worry too much about format. As long as the draft has the appropriate background and facts, the President can put it in the correct format.

Additionally, if you have an idea for a resolution but aren't sure that you have enough of the "facts" to put one together, contact Silka Kempema, anyway and perhaps the appropriate committee or person can be identified to help put together a credible resolution.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is now accepting 2014 membership dues. Dues can be submitted to SDTWS Treasurer, Troy Grovenburg, via the mail using the Membership form on the last page

of the Newsletter or membership can be paid when registering for the 2014 SDTWS Annual Meeting at the Cedar Shores Resort in Oacoma. A reminder about Membership renewal will be sent out in April via email, and will be sent to 2013 members who have not renewed their membership at that time.

Submitted by Nora Kohlenberg

Public Lands Committee Report

The Public lands committee provided comments to the Fort Pierre National Grassland (FPNG) Southwest Fence Relocation and Water Project Review of Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). The letter is posted at the SDTWS website <http://sdwildlife.org/index.htm>.

The committee also formulated a response to the BLMs Resource Management Plan for the 279,000 acres this agency manages in South Dakota. Some of the areas of concern that were address in the review are highlighted below.

- Manage energy development while protecting the integrity of other resources.
- Manage public lands to provide desired plant communities, natives vs. introduced.
- Manage public lands to conserve and enhance wildlife species, improve their habitats, and control invasive species. Include nesting cover, winter big game range, sage steppe improvements.
- Manage public lands to conserve and recover threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive species. In March 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that the Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) warranted protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but that listing the species was precluded by the need to address other, higher-priority species first (75 FR 13910, March 23, 2010).
- Determine how transportation and access would be managed in the planning area to provide for use and enjoyment of public lands, while protecting significant resource values.
- Determine what public lands would be available for commercial activities and how those activities would be managed.
- Determine criteria to make public land tenure adjustments, including disposal of public land and acquisition of nonpublic lands, and determine what public lands may be available for future adjustment activities.
- Manage public land to conserve or improve visual resource values.
- Provide for adaptable, flexible management and diverse, healthy ecosystems that are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Wildlife Diversity Committee Report

TWS Conservation Education Award:

Eileen Dowd Stukel is serving as the chair of this TWS national award. The theme for the award rotates among 4 areas – writings, audio-visual works, media, and programs. The award may be given to an individual or group involved in the broader field of renewable resources, although projects devoted exclusively to such topics as soils, range, or forest conservation, without clear inclusion of wildlife, are unlikely to be considered.

The 2014 Conservation Education Award will be given in the category of Programs. The following text describes what is eligible for this category:

“The development of appropriate conservation education programs is an activity eligible for this honor. Nominees in the program category are typically, but not exclusively, supported by either public or private organizations promoting a broad framework of goals and objectives. Unlike the writings and audio-visual works categories, the program category recognizes those people involved in long-term, continuing efforts that support conservation education. Materials reflecting programs may be similar to those submitted to the writings and/or audio-visual categories.”

It would be wonderful to recognize a deserving individual or group in South Dakota for this award. Please contact Eileen with any nominations: (Eileen.dowdstukel@state.sd.us; 605-773-4229).

South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan Revision:

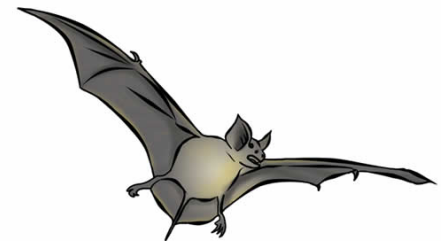
SDGFP is nearing completion of a draft revision of the state Wildlife Action Plan. This document is required for eligibility for a federal match source called State Wildlife Grants. The plan must provide a strategic direction to address all fish and wildlife species and their habitats. Following internal review, the draft plan will be made available for public comment. The anticipated completion date for the plan is March 31, 2014. For more information, visit: <http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/management/plans/wildlife-action-plan.aspx>

Federal Endangered Species Act Listings:

Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) warranted finding:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that listing of this species may be warranted based on the threats of white-nose syndrome, wind energy development, habitat loss, climate change, and contaminants. This species may be found throughout South Dakota, but the most important habitats occur in the Black Hills and Badlands. The comment period for this finding closes on December 2, 2013. For more information, visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/index.html>



Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) proposed rule for threatened status:

The USFWS proposed threatened status for this species, with comments due by November 29, 2013. This shorebird is known for its nonstop long-distance migrations and dependence on horseshoe crab eggs. This proposal has caused concern among interior states that are included in the proposed range, despite the lack of evidence that these states matter to the conservation and recovery of this species. Occurrences in interior states are considered isolated events that do not represent predictable stopover or resting sites. For more information, visit:

<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0DM>

Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) delisting proposed:

The USFWS proposed delisting the gray wolf anywhere it is currently listed, which includes western South Dakota. A second proposal would list the Mexican wolf (*C. l. baileyi*) as an endangered subspecies. The original comment period was extended to December 17, 2013. If delisted, this species, aside from the Mexican wolf subspecies, would be managed by state wildlife agencies. For more information, visit:

<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=A00D>

Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*) and Poweshiek skipperling (*Oarisma poweshiek*) listings proposed:

The USFWS proposed listing the Dakota skipper as threatened and the Poweshiek skipperling as endangered. The USFWS also proposed designation of critical habitat for both species. The Dakota skipper relies on remnant tallgrass prairie habitats and, within South Dakota, occurs primarily in northeastern counties. The Poweshiek skipperling is a Midwestern species that may occur in wet-mesic to dry tallgrass prairie. Recent survey efforts have confirmed widespread, alarming declines for these species. Critical habitat designation on private lands has caused serious concern about negative impacts to voluntary conservation programs. The USFWS has made an effort to contact landowners involved in the proposed critical habitat designation to address their concerns. The comment period for these proposals ends on December 23, 2013. For more information, visit:



<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=I011>
<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=I0W1>

Submitted by Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema

Newsletter Submissions and Schedule

If you have an announcement, information item, or committee activity report that should be included in the next edition of *A Prairie Voice*, or if your email or mailing address has changed, send the information to: Charlene "Charlie" Bessken at ladyhawk155@hotmail.com or call 605-222-9445. Thanks.

The newsletter is published four times a year in February, June, September and December.

Special Note: If you change your mailing or email address please let Charlie know. Thanks.

Fund-Raising Auction

The fund-raising committee is once again asking members to either solicit or donate an item for the auction at the annual SDTWS meeting. Over the past few years we have had some great items donated that have assisted that chapter in sponsoring several events throughout the year, such as student scholarships, Bald Eagle Awareness Days, educational programs, supporting national programs, and to help keep meeting costs and associated fees to a minimum.

To continue this trend, if you have items you would be willing to donate, please bring them to the meeting. In addition, if you know of an individual or business that would be willing to donate an item, we would appreciate your assistance in obtaining those. Home-made items are encouraged. Thanks again for your help in supporting SDTWS.



South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board

President

Silka Kempema
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-2742

Past-President

Travis Runia
SD Game, Fish & Parks
895 Third St SW
Huron, SD 57350
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President-Elect

Mark Norton
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
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(605) 773-3096

Secretary-Treasurer

Troy Grovenburg
SDSU, Dept Natural Resource Mgmt
Box 2140 B, NPS 143
Brookings, SD 57007-1696
(605) 688-5064

Board Member

Nathan Baker
SD Game, Fish & Parks
20641 SD Hwy 1806
Fort Pierre, SD 57532
(605) 223-7709

Board Member

Casey Mehls
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-4345

Northern Great Plains Working Group Representative: Rocco Murano, 353-7185

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Standing Committee Chairs*

Audit – Rocco Murano, 688-4786

Awards - Nora Kohlenberg, 222-9408, Nathan Baker 223-7709

Conservation Review - Paul Coughlin, 773-4194

Education & Information - Laura Hubers, 947-4521

Membership – Nora Kohlenberg, 222-9408

Program – Mark Norton, 773-3096

Nominations and Elections – Mark Norton, 773-3096

Resolutions & Public Statements - Vacant

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Special Committee Chairs*

Arrangements – Travis Runia, 353-8477 & Tom Kirschenmann, 352-1874

Certification - Vacant

Chapter History - Corey Huxoll, 773-4195

Energy Subcommittee - Ad Hoc Biofuels - K C Jensen, 688-4781

Energy Subcommittee - Wind Power - K C Jensen, 688-4781 & Silka Kempema, 773-2742

Fee Hunting & Ownership of Wildlife - Andy Lindbloom, 223-7709

Fund Raising – Casey Mehls, 773-4345

Grassland Issues - Boyd Schulz, 697-6041, Jim Madsen, 882-5250 & Lee Erickson, 347-4952

Missouri River Issues – Nathan Baker, 223-7709

Newsletter/Website - Charlene “Charlie” Bessken, 222-9445

Public Lands -, Dennis Mann, 939-8156, Eddie Childers, 433-5263 & Tom LeFaive 223-2316

Tribal Fish & Wildlife - Diane Mann-Klager, 226-7621

Wetlands - Peter Bergmann, 692-9820 & Ben Bigalke 352-1203

Wildlife Diseases - Steve Griffin, 394-6786

Wildlife Diversity - Eileen Down Stukel, 773-4229, Silka Kempema, 773-2742

*Please see the Committees webpage to find the list of Committee members and email contact information.

SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Application for Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (indicate home or work) _____

E-mail Address (for newsletter delivery) _____

Please Note:

SDTWS's newsletter, *A Prairie Voice*, is all-electronic. Therefore, an e-mail address must be provided above in order to receive it (paper copies will be provided only to individuals who do not have a computer, internet access, or an email address).

Please Check One: _____ New Member* _____ 2014 Dues Renewal

* If you did not pay your dues in 2013, you will be considered a new member as per the SDTWS Bylaws.

Employer _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Send the completed application/renewal form and a check for \$10.00 (regular), \$6.00 (student) to:

Troy Grovenburg
South Dakota State University
Dept Natural Resource Management
Box 2140 B, NPS 143
Brookings, SD 57007-1696
(605) 688-5064

Regular Dues: \$10.00

Student Dues: \$6.00

Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

Age 20 to 35: 25 x annual dues (\$10 x 25 = \$250)

Age 36 to 45: 20 x annual dues (\$10 x 20 = \$200)

Age 46 to 65: 17.5 x annual dues (\$10 x 17.5 = \$175)

Age 66 to 75: 12.5 x annual dues (\$10 x 12.5 = \$125)

Age 76 and over: Free

For more information on becoming a life member, contact Nora Kohlenberg (605) 222-9408.

