

South Dakota Chapter

The Wildlife Society

January 2015

President's Message

The SD TWS board recently met in preparation for the upcoming annual meeting which will be held February 23-25th at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, SD. The theme of this year's special session is "Environmental Contaminants, Threats to Wildlife". This issue has captured the attention of many across the country with regards to neonicitoids and honey bees as well as other chemicals and their impacts on wildlife and humans. Lately, I see a new headline related to this topic almost weekly either on facebook, twitter, or some national paper like the Wall Street Journal or the New York Times. President-elect John Kanta has put together a great group of speakers that will undoubtedly advance our understanding of this issue.

There will also be a FREE workshop on falconry to be held Tuesday morning after the business meeting. Master Falconer Mike Erickson will have a raptor on-site and teach us about all aspects of falconry including training raptors and hunting with a bird of prey! You are not going to want to miss this.

A second call for papers has been sent out and is included in this newsletter with a deadline of February 17th. There are still a few spots open on the program that could be filled by any wildlife related research and management topic you would like to share at the meeting.

At the business meeting we will be electing three board positions this year; president-elect, secretary/treasurer, and board member. Please check out the bios later in the newsletter for all of the great candidates seeking your vote to fill one of these positions.

We do have some non-elected committee chairs that are in need of somebody new as well. Charlie Bessken will be stepping down as our Newsletter Editor and Webmaster this year. These are big shoes to fill as Charlie has done an outstanding job keeping the chapter informed through our newsletters and website. The Certification committee and the Resolution and Public Statements committee also need somebody to chair them. If anybody is interested in taking on these positions please contact a board member. We will revisit these vacancies at the annual business meeting this year as well.



I also want to recognize and congratulate a couple of our members for receiving Central Mountains and Plains Section Awards at last August's CMPS meeting. Dr. Dan Hubbard received the the Professional of the Year Award and Mary Ann Mann received the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award. You may remember Dr. Hubbard received the SD TWS Professional of the Year Award as well in 2014 and Mary Ann received our chapter's Citizen of the Year Award in 2013. Please congratulate and thank them for all they have done for the wildlife resources in South Dakota the next time you see them. They were well deserving of these awards.



Mark Norton – President
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?

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.

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!



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

South Dakota Chapter

895 3rd St. SW

Huron, SD 57350

(605) 353-8477

Executive Board Meeting
7 January 2015

- Attendance: Mark Norton, John Kanta, Silka Kempema, Casey Heimerl, Lee Erickson, Paul Coughlin
- Location: Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma
- Mark called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm
- Minutes from the previous meeting were not available to approve.
- Board reviewed the treasurer's report through 12/31/14. Erickson made motion to approve the report. Silka seconded – motion carried.

Old Business:

- Invite to Dakotas AFW-TWS Futures Conference – was not sent to the membership by the requested deadline still need details on date and location.
- Funding request from Parent Society for Annual Conference – at the previous meeting the board decided to not provide funding.
- Funding request for wood duck box materials for the Hamlin County shop class – the board provided funding for \$200 and received a thank you letter from the class.
- Website renewal – The board approved via email to renew with our current website provider. Charlie Bessken will be reimbursed for the renewal costs. The board discussed the possibility of rolling our website into the parent society website. More information is needed first.

New Business:

- Newsletter Committee Chair/Website editor
 - Charlie Bessken notified the board that she would like to give up her position as the newsletter committee chair and website editor in the near future. Membership will be notified about the opening at the annual business meeting. The board also discussed the possibility of splitting the positions and responsibilities that Charlie was covering.
- Certification Committee Chair
 - This position still remains vacant and needs to be filled. Members that have been inquiring about certification are currently being directed to the parent society website.
- Bald Eagle Awareness Days Funding Request – requests \$200 for upcoming educational raptor programs. Lee made a motion to approve. Kanta seconded. Motion approved. Grovenburg will send a check to Casey Heimerl.

- 2015 Annual Meeting Planning
 - Meeting Handbook
 - The board went through the meeting handbook and assigned responsibilities for the upcoming meeting
 - Agenda
 - Kanta provided an update on the program agenda. He has received several student abstracts but could still take a few more professional presentations. He has been coordinating with Matt Schwarz, contaminants specialist with the USFWS, and has some leads for potential speakers.
 - Registration form
 - Norton presented the new registration form. Changes include a selection for the free raptor workshop and the option to purchase a t-shirt for \$12.
 - Raffle/Fundraising
 - Casey suggested raffling a shotgun this year. Kanta will contact Cabela's in Rapid City for gun options.
 - Casey and Travis Runia will contact local businesses for donation items.
 - Auctioneers
 - Silka will contact Ted Petrak to see if he will be the auctioneer again.
 - Meeting sponsors
 - Norton has contacted Dennie Mann who will request \$250 from each the Safari Club and Crop Production Services.
 - Kanta will contact the Great Plains Natural Science Society to see if they will cover the travel costs for some of the guest speakers.
 - Casey will contact the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation
 - Norton will contact Millborn and Truax and Pheasants Forever.
 - Menu
 - Board decided on the menu for meals and breaks
 - Review of award nominees
 - The board reviewed award nominations and selected a M.S. student award, PhD student award and Wildlife Professional award.
 - Board discussed our current student award nomination form and review process; thought improvements could be made to help standardize application process
 - Board also discussed increasing membership of the Awards Committee and having this committee review and select recipients.
 - Board member candidates
 - Need nominations for board member at large, president-elect, and secretary/treasurer. The board discussed possible candidates and will contact to determine interest.
 - Silka will be in charge of organizing presentation evaluations.
 - Lee will work with the SDSU student chapter on the possibility of having another student-professional mixer.
 - Norton will be in charge of getting rooms at Cedar Shores for the SDSU student chapter.

Info Items:

- Conservation Affairs Network
 - Paul Coughlin provided an update on the Conservation Affairs Network - a joint effort to encourage communication on policy and other issues related to wildlife from the parent chapter down to the state levels
 - Paul was asked to provide a presentation of how the conservation network works at our annual meeting. There are future plans of setting up a database on the parent website for

chapters to archive comment letter and policy statements that will be made available to members and the public.

- Paul requested that the board include him when committees address an issue (i.e. response letters, etc.)
 - Each state chapter is to identify their five top policy issues to share with parent chapter. Board may request assistance from the committees with identifying issues for SD.
- Kanta made a motion to adjourn. Casey seconded. Motion carried – 3:00 pm.

CMPS Newsletter

The current issue of Central Mountains and Plains Section newsletter is available on the SDTWS website or you can find it here . . .

<http://drupal.wildlife.org/CMP/Newsletters>

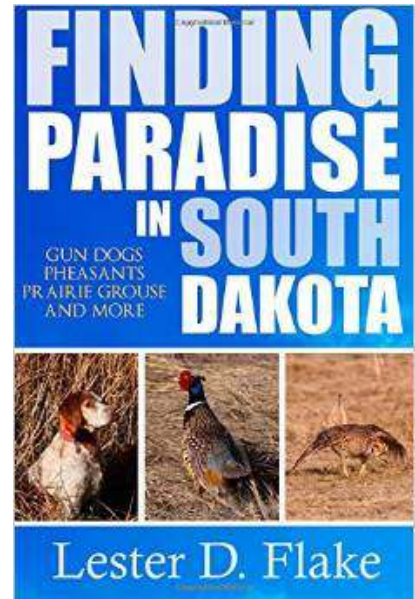
SDTWS Newsletter Editor and Webmaster Needed

Time for a fresh outlook on these. If you are interested in taking over one or both of these duties, please let one of the Board Members know. You will need to provide your own software for both. Currently Charlie uses Microsoft Word for the newsletter and Adobe Dreamweaver for the website. Charlie will be around to help if needed.

Finding Paradise in South Dakota: Gun Dogs, Pheasants, Prairie Grouse, and More

October 24, 2014 Paperback Book by Lester D Flake
\$12.47 at Amazon.com

In 1972, Lester D. Flake accepted a faculty position in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University, promising his wife, Marcia, they would only stay for a couple of years until he found a position back west closer to family. Thirty-one years later, Les retired and reluctantly made good on his promise. South Dakota, the people, the landscape, the wildlife, turned out to be so much more wonderful than he had anticipated. In so many ways it was a paradise! Herein, Les shares the beauty and spirit of South Dakota with memories of places, people, pointing dogs, and upland game birds. To be sure, upland bird hunters can learn much from the book but it is not just a hunting book. Unusual memories such as sinking duck boats, a scary campsite visit from a Charles Manson look alike, a pet mallard and a Brittany, and grand-children tossing chickens into a swimming pool as a research experiment add diversity and humor to the book. The serious message quietly integrated in many of the stories is the importance of protecting wetlands from drainage and native grasslands and fragile soils from further tillage if the South Dakota paradise is to be kept alive.



The book has received five 5-star reviews.

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 the 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.





THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY South Dakota Chapter



Second Call for Abstracts

Annual Meeting
23-25 February 2015
Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, South Dakota

Due: 17 February 2015

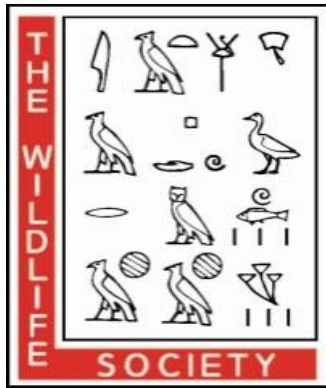
The South Dakota Chapter invites submission of contributed papers and posters concerning wildlife-related research and management. All wildlife-related topics will be considered.

Please provide an abstract that includes information on a project's background, objectives, methods, results, and interpretation in 300 words or less. Provide a title, author(s), and author affiliation. Indicate which author will be presenting and if presenter is pursuing a master's or doctoral degree.

Submit abstracts in Microsoft Word as an email attachment to John Kanta (john.kanta@state.sd.us). Abstracts are due 17 February 2015. Questions? Please contact John by email or at 605-394-2391.

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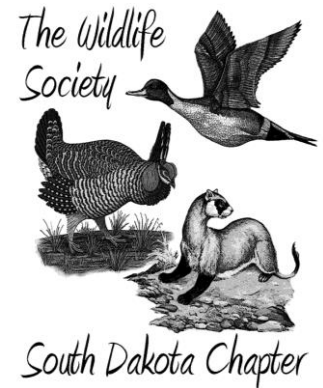
Be sure to make your room reservations at Cedar Shore in Oacoma by January 23rd, 2015 by calling 1-888-697-6363.



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
South Dakota Chapter
Annual Meeting Program

Cedar Shore Resort and Convention Center
Oacoma, South Dakota

23-25 February 2015



MONDAY, 23 FEBRUARY

- 11:00a 1:00p **Registration and Lunch**
1:00 1:05 **Welcome and Introductions**

Special Session: *Environmental Contaminants: Threats to Wildlife*

- 1:05 2:00 **Considerations for Risk Assessment Procedures of RNAi-based Crops**
Chrissy Mogren, USDA-ARS, North Central Agriculture Research Laboratory
- 2:00 2:20 **Eagle Exposure Assessment for Anticoagulants, Lead and Mercury**
Matthew S. Schwarz, Environmental Contaminants Specialist, USFWS
- 2:20 2:50 **Development of Preventive Measures to Minimize Harmful Impacts to Wildlife at a Proposed In Situ Uranium Mine**
Stan Michals, Energy and Minerals Coordinator, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
- 2:50 3:10 **BREAK**
- 3:10 4:00 **Back to the Future!- the past, present, and future of contaminants and wildlife**
Brian Hiller, Past-Chair, TWS Wildlife Toxicology Working Group
- 4:00 4:45 **The Basics of Oil Spills and Wildlife**
Jessica Johnson, Environmental Contaminants Specialist, USFWS
- 4:45 5:00 **BREAK**
- 5:00 6:00 **Student-Professional Mixer**
- 6:00 **Dinner and Social**
- 7:00 **Fundraising Auction**

TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY

- 8:00a 8:30 **Committee meetings** (This is scheduled time to allow for standing and special committees to meet if desired.)
- 8:30 12:00p **Annual Chapter Business Meeting**
- 12:00p 1:00 **Luncheon**

Workshop: Falconry

- 1:00 1:20 **Falconry Regulations and Permitting Process**
Casey Heimerl, Wildlife Biologist, SDGFP
- 1:20 3:00 **Falconry Hunting and Training Techniques**
Mike Erickson, Master Falconer
- 3:00 3:30 **BREAK**

Session One: Contributed Papers

- 3:30 3:50 **Use of Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) in South Dakota: An update on the Whitewood Creek case and possible future cases**
Matthew Schwarz, Shelly Deisch
- 3:50 4:20 **Evaluation of Agricultural Tile Drainage Exposure and Effects on Wetland Communities**
Drew Davis*, Matthew Schwarz, and Jacob Kerby
- 4:20 4:40 **Influence of Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic on Merriam's Turkey Winter Habitat; Management Implications for Current and Future Condition**
Chadwick Lehman*, Michael Battaglia, Mark Rumble, Todd Mills, and Lance Asherin
- 4:40 5:00 **The Importance of Flea Prevalence and Aggregation to the Sylvatic Plague Cycle on Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Colonies East of the "Plague Line"**
Erica Mize*, and Hugh Britten
- 5:00 5:30 **BREAK**
- 5:30 6:00 **Social**
- 6:00 7:00 **Dinner**
- 7:00 8:00 **Guest Speaker**

Dr. Lisa Williams, Environmental Contaminants Branch Chief, USFWS
Neonicotinoid Insecticides: Increasing Usage and Potential Threats

- 8:00 8:30 **Awards**

WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY

Session Two: Contributed Papers

- 8:00a 8:20 **Investigating Cause-Specific Mortality, and Disease of Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) Inhabiting the Elk Mountain Region of South Dakota and Wyoming**
Brynn Parr*, Jonathan Jenks, John Kanta, Joe Sandrini, and Dan Thompson
- 8:20 8:40 **Status and Distribution of Franklin's and Richardson's ground squirrels in Eastern South Dakota**
Tait Ronningen* and Charles Dieter
- 8:40 9:00 **Assessing the Status of Reintroduced Swift Fox in Southwestern South Dakota, Pup-Rearing and Dispersal 2014**
Sarah Nevison*, Joshua Stafford, Eddie Childers, and Jonathan Jenks
- 9:00 9:20 **Classification and Characterization of Dakota Skipper Habitat and Prediction of Potential Habitat**
Diane Narem*, Lan Xu, Gary Larson, and Dave Ode
- 9:20 9:40 **Long-Term Spatial Heterogeneity in Mallard Distribution in the Prairie Pothole Region**
Adam Janke
- 9:40 10:00 **Time-Lapse Video as a Method for Assessing Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) Diets During the Breeding Season**
Will Inselman*, Shubham Datta, Jonathan Jenks, and Troy Grovenburg
- 10:00 10:30 **BREAK**
- 10:30 10:50 **Assessing Direct Mortality to Avifauna From Wind Energy Facilities in the Dakotas**
Brianna Graff*, Troy Grovenburg, Kent Jensen, and Jonathan Jenks
- 10:50 11:10 **Evaluation of Anthraquinone as a deterrent to Canada goose damage on soybeans with possible application to other crops.**
Matt Gottlob*, Charles Dieter, and Joshua Staff
- 11:10 11:30 **Reproduction Ecology of Ferruginous Hawk in the Northern Great Plains**
Shubham Datta*, Will Inselman, Jonathan Jenks, Kent Jensen, Chris Swanson, and Troy Grovenburg
- 11:30 11:50 **Changes in Wetland Plant Communities and Wetland Conditions in the Prairie Pothole Region After 50 Years**
Ryann Cressey*, Jane Austin, and Joshua Stafford
- 11:50 12:00 **Wrap Up and Adjourn the Meeting**

* indicates presenter

South Dakota TWS Annual Meeting

Registration and Receipt

Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, SD

February 23–25, 2015

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Meeting Registration

General	\$50	_____
General 1-Day	\$25	_____
Student	\$20	_____
Student 1-Day	\$10	_____
<i>Tuesday Falconry Workshop</i>	<i>FREE</i>	_____
Tuesday Luncheon	\$ 9	_____
Tuesday Awards Banquet	\$12	_____
SD TWS T-Shirt <i>Registration Special, normally \$15</i>	\$12	_____

Annual Dues

South Dakota Chapter Membership

Regular	\$10	_____
Student	\$ 6	_____
Life	\$	_____

Central Mountains and Plains Section Membership \$FREE

Total Paid \$ _____

Special accommodations request _____

Check payable to SD TWS

To preregister send registration form and check to:

Troy Grovenburg

SDSU NRM

Box 2140B

Brookings, SD 57007

Committee Reports

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

Public Lands Committee Report

Kelly Land Exchange

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS) provided comments on the Kelly Land Exchange. The positive aspects of the exchange for (SDTWS) are as follows:

1. Transfer of private land within the boundary of Badlands National Park to the National Park Service.
2. Removal of domestic livestock from within the National Park Service boundary.
3. Increase acreage in the park to support native wildlife species.
4. Expansion of the Roberts Prairie Dog Town to increase habitat for the black footed ferret.

One negative issue of this exchange would be loss of public access from Hwy 240 to forest service property unless an agreement can be made with Mr. Kelly for an easement for public access through the exchanged property.

This land exchange was approved with no permanent easement for access from H240, but other access points exist for hunting and other outdoor recreational opportunities.

Elk Mountain Pine Reforestation Plan

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society (SDTWS) responds to the Hell Canyon proposal to replant pine on approximately 2,000 acres of Elk Mountain.

Bighorn sheep occur within the Black Hills and Badlands National Park. These 2 populations are isolated. Herds in the Black Hills include the greater Rapid City/Hill City area, Custer State Park and Elk Mountain. Our Chapter has been involved and supports bighorn sheep relocation and management throughout South Dakota.

The bighorn sheep population on Elk Mountain became established after initial introduction fifteen years ago in Hell Canyon (Dakota Cement Properties). The bighorn herd moved to the Elk Mountain complex within the first few months. Elk Mountain is quality bighorn sheep habitat because of the remoteness and the open habitat types improved by the Elk Mountain Fire Complex from 2001 - 2011. Elk Mountain is yearlong range for bighorn sheep and this is a shared herd with Wyoming. Quality bighorn sheep habitat on this mountain is comprised of large, continuous grassland habitats, few trees, water, ideal escape routes, and sufficient horizontal visibility to detect predators and humans. Elk Mountain is one of the only bighorn sheep management areas that has not experienced issues with disease and die-offs and has become a viable bighorn sheep management area in the Black Hills ecoregion. This herd not only provides viewable and photographic opportunities for the public, but at the present time, is one of two bighorn sheep populations in the Black Hills that can sustain limited hunting opportunity for rams.

Public access for hunting occurs on the Black Hills National Forest and the Department of Game Fish and Parks (SDGF&P) leases hunting access from private landowners adjacent to Elk Mountain. The "Walk in Area" hunter access program provides hunting opportunity for bighorn sheep and other big game species. Elk Mountain and the surrounding areas are extremely important for hunting opportunity on both public and private land and these values should be reflected in assessments for this project.

BHNF has a management direction to restock 150 seedlings/acres of ponderosa pine in the Elk Mountain burned area with the goal to produce a merchantable timber stand. Replanting will diminish the habitat type that bighorn sheep need for yearlong range conditions, health and viability. Since bighorn sheep are classified as a sensitive species for the Forest Service (FS) in Region 2, this management direction will have a negative impact on bighorn sheep as timbered habitats are not compatible with bighorn sheep summer, winter or year-long range selection.

A Categorical Exclusion does not provide adequate information on the environmental impacts of the proposal to replant pine on Elk Mountain because of the bighorn sheep classification as a sensitive species. There is a need for the Forest Service and the States of South Dakota and Wyoming to sustain long-term reproducing populations. If this herd is negatively impacted by the proposed project we believe that there could be cumulative impacts to all bighorn populations in the Black Hills. The vegetation conversion due to restocking ponderosa pine would have several possible outcomes which we request be evaluated: significant reduction of available open grasslands and forage, forced movements of bighorn sheep out of this portion of currently suitable habitat, increase the likelihood of depredation on adjacent private lands, increase the chances of contacting domestic sheep and goats on private land, and create possible competition for available forage and browse for all grazing animals (wild and domestic) on the BHNF. We believe these cascading events would initiate a cause and effect relationship between the proposed action and the long term viability of bighorn sheep which is not to the benefit of the animals, the public and the BHNF.

We request that BHNF assess these potential consequences and outline for public review, mitigation practices to avoid harming bighorn sheep and their preferred open habitat. At present, the Black Hills proper provides very limited quality bighorn sheep habitats with the exception of some treeless steep terrain and those areas that have been affected by fire (wildfire or prescribed burns). The project area is selected by bighorn sheep because it fulfills life cycle requirements. We believe the BHNF has an obligation to provide habitat for this population and request that the project address the BHNF responsibility for bighorn sheep.

This area of the Black Hills is extremely dry and timber growth is slow and does not produce the quality merchantable timber when compared to other areas that have a higher moisture regime, deeper soils and longer fire intervals. We ask that BHNF explain how it became feasible to classify the northern part of Elk Mountain as an area required to produce marketable timber. The BHNF should analyze and consider the added costs of planting pine and associated treatments to reforest this area.

BHNF project evaluation should look at options to reclassify these 2,056 acres into a category that does not require timber planting to meet federal law (National Forest Management Act). BHNF should also consider assigning a new Management Area designation for open habitat with a specific bighorn sheep emphasis. Highway 16 divides Elk Mountain from other FS property to the north. It seems odd that the 2,000+ acres on the north end of Elk Mountain are MA 5.1, but north of highway 16, it is 5.4 for big game winter range. This appears to be incongruous considering that big game has historically and will continue to occupy the Southern Hills in the winter.

Our Chapter is under the impression that the BHNF management plan is a dynamic document that can be changed when resource conditions no longer meet the plan's original assessments. We believe that this project inadvertently brought to the public's attention the conflicting federal resource management directions on the north end of Elk Mountain. We have identified several needs for project assessment. Another is a change to the plan due to large-scale changes in vegetation and new bighorn sheep use. It would help us bridge a gap in understanding, if BHNF explained how the conflicting federal directions; plant trees yet manage habitat for a species that cannot live in trees, can be remedied.

Lastly, the Wyoming office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers land directly west of the project area and adjacent to that portion of Elk Mountain managed by BHNF. BLM is actively involved with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to manage for bighorn sheep. The SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks is also involved. We suggest that if BHNF is not already part of this joint-effort, that a unified, working relationship be established for the benefit of bighorn sheep.

Our preference is that BHNF not implement tree stocking or seeding. We urge BHNF to use every available directive and law to avoid irretrievable, detrimental impacts to a stable population of bighorn sheep on Elk Mountain.

This project was not implemented because of the negative responses from the public, NGO's, SDTWS, and wildlife agencies.

Respectfully submitted Dennie Mann

Wildlife Diversity Committee Report

Gray Wolf Court Ruling:

Quoting from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's website:

“On 9/23/2014 and 12/19/2014 the DC District Court issued court-orders vacating the Service's 9/10/2012 and 12/28/2011 final rules. Therefore, gray wolves in WY are again listed as non-essential experimental. Gray wolves in all of WI, MI, ND, SD, IA, IL, IN, and OH are again listed as endangered. Gray wolves in MN are again listed as threatened with special regulations. Critical habitat is also reinstated for gray wolves in MN and MI.”

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks participated in a conference call on this topic shortly before Christmas, 2014. At that time, the Service was unsure how it would move forward on this topic. As stated above, the gray wolf is again a federal endangered species throughout South Dakota, although the state has a contingency plan for addressing livestock depredation problems associated with wolves.



Wildlife Diversity Small Grants Program:

SDGFP is accepting applications for this funding source through February 15, 2015. In 2015, funding will be used for projects focused on monitoring and inventory. Native wildlife species and their habitat should be the emphasis of the proposed project. For more information, visit <http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/funding/wildlife-diversity-small-grants.aspx> or contact Casey Heimerl.

Bald Eagle Awareness Days 2015:

Our chapter is again supporting this educational event, which will feature live raptors brought by educators from The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. The schedule is as follows:

February 26, 2015
The Outdoor Campus East
4500 S. Oxbow Ave, Sioux Falls, SD
Start Time: 6:30pm



February 28, 2015
Ramkota River Centre
920 W Sioux Ave, Pierre, SD
Start Times: 10:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm

The event will also feature school programs in Pierre and a statewide raptor bookmark contest for 5th graders. The SDGFP Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City is hosting a Raptor Open House on Saturday, February 28, featuring presentations by the Black Hills Raptor Center.

Submitted by Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema

The Wildlife Society 22nd Annual Conference Winnipeg, Manitoba | October 17-21, 2015

Call for Proposals: Workshops, Symposia, Panel Discussions, and Special Poster Sessions

Deadline: February 6, 2015

Proposals for workshops, symposia, panel discussions, and special poster sessions are invited for the 22nd Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society. The Wildlife Society invites proposals related to all aspects of wildlife ecology, management and conservation.

Session Descriptions

Symposia are comprised of a series of presentations that address aspects of a single topic. Symposia usually are a half day; however, requests for a full day may be considered. Speakers are scheduled for 20- or 40-minute time slots, and organizers may include only one 20-minute discussion period in the agenda. Symposia are scheduled to run concurrently with other conference sessions. Attendance is open to all conference registrants on a walk-in basis

Panel Discussions are a forum for interactive discussion of a topic among a panel of experts and an interested audience. Typically, a panel of four to eight speakers makes introductory remarks. The audience is then invited to make comments and question the panel of speakers. Panel discussions are a quarter day in length (100

minutes) and are scheduled to run concurrently with other conference sessions. Attendance is open to all conference registrants on a walk-in basis.

Workshops provide training on a specific skill, technique, or process and may involve one or more instructors. Workshops are intended to emphasize learning through participation, discussion, and "hands-on" activities. For this reason, workshop organizers must specify an upper limit on attendance. Attendance at workshops is by advance registration only, and a minimum fee of \$25 for professionals and \$10 for student will be charged. Workshops may be a half or full day in length, and are scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2015.

Workshops are not intended to promote a commercial product, product line, or company. That type of activity belongs in the trade show. If the nature of the workshop requires demonstration of specific products, it is preferred that the instructor be a practitioner rather than a company representative. Alternatively, company representatives may serve as instructors if at least two competing companies are invited to participate. These companies also would be expected to participate in the trade show at regular booth fees.

Special poster sessions are similar to symposia, but presentations are by poster rather than oral. Special poster sessions provide an opportunity for one-on-one dialogue between presenters and attendees. Space for special poster sessions is limited. Special poster sessions are scheduled for a half or full day. Organizers should plan on approximately 20 posters. Attendance is open to all conference registrants on a walk-in basis and run concurrently with other conference sessions.

Responsibilities of Session Organizers

Organizers are responsible for coordinating with the Program Committee, planning their sessions, selecting instructors/presenters, moderating their sessions, and meeting all deadlines. A final session agenda and a complete presenter list will be due by April 24, 2015. Presenters in symposia and special poster sessions must submit abstracts by July 10, 2015. Presenters in symposia must submit PowerPoint files by October 7, 2015. Please mark these dates on your calendar!

The Wildlife Society does not pay registration fees, travel expenses, or honoraria for workshop, symposium, panel discussion, or special poster session organizers or presenters. All organizers and invited speakers must register for the conference. Organizers may seek outside sponsors for these expenses.

Proposal Submission and Requirements

All proposals must be submitted through the online submission site hosted by OASIS. The session submission site can be accessed by clicking the link below.

The submission process will prompt you for the following information:

1. Session Type – workshop, symposium, panel discussion, or special poster session
2. Preferred Session Length – Workshops and Symposia only– Full or Half Day
3. Session Title
4. Organizer(s) – names and complete contact information, the submitting organizer will be the contact person.
5. Supported by – institutions/groups that are financially or otherwise supporting the proposed session. Emails confirming the support of a special session should be emailed to Tricia Fry, tricia@wildlife.org prior to February 6, 2015. Organizations whose support has not been confirmed will not be published in conference materials.
6. Statement of Purpose
7. An abstract describing the session, this will be used to advertise your session (300 word limit).
8. Detailed description of the session *including a list of proposed topics and speakers/presenters.*

Workshop proposals will be asked to include the following additional information:

1. Room set up and AV requirements
2. Maximum Attendance
3. Registration fees – a minimum fee of \$25 for professionals and \$10 for students will be charged, if registration costs exceed these minimums please include a budget with your submission.

Proposal Evaluation and Notice of Decision

Proposals will be evaluated on timeliness of the subject, importance to the profession and/or contribution to science, and the overall quality of the written proposal. Submissions from TWS working groups are especially encouraged. Applicants will be notified whether their proposals have been accepted or deferred by March 14, 2015.

Please direct any questions related to proposal preparation or submission to Tricia Fry, Program Committee Coordinator, tricia@wildlife.org.

South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2015 Executive Board Elections

Information on candidates for President Elect and Executive Board Member is presented below. If you are not able to attend the 2015 SDTWS annual meeting at the Cedar Shores Resort, an absentee ballot is included in this edition of *A Prairie Voice*.

Candidate for President Elect – Nathan Baker

Personal Data: I am grew up in the small town of Loup City, Nebraska. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, and on May 1st, 2014 my wife, Tina and I welcomed our son, Brody into the world. Much of my free time is now spent enjoying this little guy. I also like training and hunting with my yellow lab, Gunner, and spending time outdoors enjoying all of what nature has to offer.

Education: I attended South Dakota State University, where I obtained a B.S. Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in 2007 and a M.S. Degree in Biology in 2010, where I evaluated the reproductive success of colonial tree-nesting waterbirds in Prairie Pothole wetlands and rivers of northeast South Dakota.

Employment: Upon completion of my M.S. Degree I worked for a brief period in the Pine Ridge area of Nebraska with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and then worked as a Wildlife Biologist with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' (SDGFP) Wildlife Diversity Program, serving as the Natural Heritage Database Manager. In 2011, I transferred into the Regional Wildlife Manager Position with SDGFP, stationed at the Ft. Pierre District Office.

Interests & Hobbies: In regards to The Wildlife Society (TWS), I am an Associate Wildlife Biologist® through TWS since May of 2009. I served on the Wildlife Diversity Committee in 2011, and have been serving on the SDTWS Awards Committee since 2011 and the Missouri River Issues Committee since 2013. I also served on the SDTWS Executive Board in 2012 and 2013. Other current membership affiliations include Pheasants Forever.

Candidate for President Elect – Chuck Pyle

Personal Data: Most of my childhood experiences revolved around a farm in northwest Iowa. After spending a short amount of time in northeastern Minnesota, I was fortunate enough to finish my undergraduate degree in South Dakota and currently reside south of Huron with my wife (Shari) and three daughters (Abby, Leah, and Anna).

Education: Bachelor of Science, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, South Dakota State University (1997).

Employment: Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Huron Wetland Management District (1999-Present).

Memberships & Affiliations: Life Member of the South Dakota Wildlife Society. Other current membership affiliations include a multitude of local and national organizations with similar goals to advance conservation, promote outdoor recreation, and protect our natural resources.

Interests: Personal interests include spending time with my family and friends while instilling in them the importance of conservation and preservation of our natural resources. My daughters and I spend most of our time in the outdoors developing their Labrador retrievers for success. I find it crucial to link our youth to the land and the bounties provided. Professional interests include building partnerships with stakeholders on issues surrounding our natural resources and promoting outdoor recreation with youth.

SDTWS Views: The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a professional science based association that actively develops and promotes the sound stewardship of wildlife and their environments. The Chapter also provides a critical platform for members and non-members to partner and increase awareness/appreciation of wildlife and their needs. I am an advocate of the Chapter's goals, find importance for opportunities to discuss/partner/propose solutions for conservation issues, and continue to promote membership.

Candidate for Executive Board – Alex Solem

Personal Data: I was born in Worthington, MN and currently reside in Huron, SD with my wife and 6 month old son.

Education: I earned a Bachelor's Degree from South Dakota State University in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in 2010. I earned my Master's Degree from South Dakota State University in 2013.

Employment: I am currently an Upland Game Resource Biologist with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. My primary responsibilities include monitoring, researching, and the evaluations of upland game species in South Dakota. My research has focused on the impacts of landuse changes on various populations of upland game species, the impact of spent lead shot on ring-necked pheasants, and the evaluation of various methods of habitat management for the benefit of pheasant broods. Over my career, I have also gained experience working with private land owners, big game species, GIS, and migratory birds.

Memberships and Affiliations: Delta Waterfowl Board Member (Puddle Jumpers Chapter), Beadle County Sportsmen's Club, SD Chapter of the Wildlife Society, SD Grasslands Coalition, and Ducks Unlimited.

Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer – Ben Lardy

Personal Info: I live near Grenville, SD with my yellow lab pup Woodrow.

Education: Bachelor of Science from South Dakota State University 2011

Current Position: Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist (2011-Present)

Previous Positions: Habitat Technician with the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (2011). Various internships/seasonal positions with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Forest Service, and the SDSU Department of Animal and Range Science (2007-2011)

Memberships and Affiliations: South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Pheasants Forever Life Member, Secretary for the Day County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and the South Dakota Grassland Coalition.

Professional Interests: My primary interest is in the development, improvement and implementation of private lands conservation programs-Federal, state and local. Other interests include the promotion of working lands habitat practices that benefit South Dakota's wildlife- including crop rotations, cover crops, and grazing land management. I also have a strong interest in young professional recruitment and development. It is critical that future natural resource professionals not only have strong technical skills, but can also effectively work and communicate with the general public, private landowners and other stakeholders of South Dakota's wildlife resources.

Personal Interests: Hunting and Fishing the Glacial Lakes, seeing new country, and bartending part time at the Webster American Legion.

Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer – Julie DeJong

Personal Data: I have lived most of my life in southeastern South Dakota. I grew up as a farm kid and tom boy on a small farm near Parker, and I have always had an affinity for the outdoors, animals, and outdoor recreation.

Education: I earned my Ph.D. in Wildlife Management in 2013, an M.S. in Wildlife Management in 2001, and a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Management in 1998, all from South Dakota State University.

Employment: I am currently a Regional Wildlife Manager with the SD GFP. My responsibilities include managing game populations and supervision of a Regional Resource Biologist and six Wildlife Damage Specialists. From 2001-2007, I lived and worked in Minnesota for the Department of Natural Resources at the Camp Ripley Military Training Site. While there I was monitored all the animal species, common or endangered, that occurred on the site. I was fortunate enough to gain a wide variety of experience with insects, small mammals, songbirds and raptors, Blanding's turtles, whitetail deer, black bears and gray wolves. My Master's degree research investigated the effects of landscape fragmentation on non-game grassland birds in Western South Dakota. My Doctoral research involved the collection of nearly 68,000 duck egg measurements from across North America in an effort to evaluate the effects of climate variability on the size of wild North American duck eggs.

Memberships and Affiliations: I have been a member of TWS since I was an undergraduate student in the 1990's. I have attended and presented at multiple NC and CM&P conferences and TWS national conferences. Since I have bounced around from state to state in between my degrees, I have never gotten the opportunity to serve on a TWS board. Now that I am settled in South Dakota I would like the opportunity to play a larger role in the TWS organization. I am currently a board member for the Outdoor Women of South Dakota, an organization that strives to connect women and children with the outdoors.

Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer – Lauren Wiechmann

Lauren Wiechmann has worked for the SDGF&P in the Rapid City office for nearly 5 years.

Education: She earned her undergraduate from Colorado State University in 2003 and her Master's from the University of Kentucky in 2009. Her Master's degree project was "Using forward looking infrared radiography to estimate elk density and distribution in Eastern Kentucky".

Employment: Lauren has worked in several positions throughout the lower 48 states from Alabama to Oregon, gaining experience with elk, bighorn sheep, bison, mountain lions, pronghorn, deer and a variety of survey techniques. While working for the Region 1 Game Staff she coordinated the aerial elk survey of the Black Hills, bighorn sheep surveys, and a variety of grouse surveys.

Memberships and Affiliations: She is a member of the SDTWS for 5 years, a member of the National TWS for 8 years, and was a member of the Sage Grouse Working Group. Recently, Lauren changed positions to work for the Terrestrial Division and is thoroughly enjoying the new challenges this position has to offer.

**South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Absentee Ballot**

For President Elect:
(Vote for One)

Nathan Baker

Chuck Pyle

_____ (Write in)

For Executive Board Member:
(Vote for One)

Alex Solem

_____ (Write in)

For Secretary/Treasurer:
(Vote for One)

Ben Lardy

Julie DeJong

Lauren Wiechmann

_____ (Write in)

If you are unable to attend the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society 2015 Meeting, please complete this absentee ballot and return it by February 13, 2015 to John Kanta.

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board

President

Mark Norton
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3096

Past-President

Silka Kempema
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57350
(605) 773-2742

President-Elect

John Kanta
SD Game, Fish & Parks
4130 Adventure Trail
Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 394-2391

Secretary-Treasurer

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

Board Member

Lee Erickson
NRCS Sturgis Field Office
2202 West Main
Sturgis, SD 57785
(605) 347-4952 ext 3

Board Member

Casey Heimerl
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 – Silka Kempema, 773-2742

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 – John Kanta, 394-2391

Nominations and Elections – John Kanta, 394-2391

Resolutions & Public Statements - Vacant

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Special Committee Chairs*

Arrangements – Silka Kempema, 773-2742 & Tom Kirschenmann, 352-1874

Certification - Vacant

Chapter History - Corey Huxoll, 773-4195

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

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

Fund Raising – Casey Heimerl, 773-4345

Grassland Issues - 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

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

Wetlands - Ben Bigalke 352-1203

Wildlife Diseases - Steve Griffin, 394-6786

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

Workshop – Travis Runia, 353-8477 & Casey Heimerl, 773-4345

*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* _____ 2015 Dues Renewal

* If you did not pay your dues in 2014, 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.

