

# South Dakota Chapter The Wildlife Society





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## President's Message

I hope this newsletter finds everyone and their families safe, healthy, and staying relatively sane. Without a doubt, these are unprecedented times and it is important to remember to take time for yourselves and get outdoors. Despite the chaos in our lives, Mother Nature is continuing her march into spring and it is rejuvenating to see the changes she brings. Migratory songbirds and shorebirds have been arriving in force, the prairies are greening up and showing pockets of color and any day we should start to see does with fawns in tow. Most of us are likely dealing with altered field seasons and finding ways to creatively accomplish our jobs while staying within health guidelines. I think it is incredible to see how adaptable we are capable of being when forced into situations such as these.

If you can recall way back before all this began, which seems like another lifetime ago, we had a very successful annual meeting with 124 people in attendance. We received excellent feedback and it appeared that the meeting theme of "Celebrating Biodiversity" also brought in a diverse group of wildlife professionals and students. Mike Phillips with the Turner Endangered Species Fund delivered an inspiring keynote speech "Politics, Science, and the Biodiversity Crisis" that provided a call to action to get natural resource minded people involved in local and regional policy making. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend the meeting, those of you who provided presentations and everyone that provided sponsorships. Without your contributions it would not have been a success.

Shortly after the annual meeting, we closed our membership survey that was sent out to gather information to help our future meeting planning efforts. We received responses from 17 members, which isn't the response rate that we hoped for, but the survey results suggest there is interest in possibly holding a joint meeting at some point with either the North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society and/or the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Additionally, some members liked the idea of rotating meeting locations around the state instead of always holding the event in Oacoma. The results from this survey are included in the newsletter. Our board plans on taking these comments into consideration as we plan our future meetings. If you have any comments on meeting themes or any other suggestions, you can contact our current president-elect Julie DeJong <a href="mailto:JDeJong@siouxfalls.org">JDeJong@siouxfalls.org</a> who is in charge of developing the agenda.

I would also like to take the time to remind everyone about our mentorship program. This program is designed to connect wildlife professionals with inspiring or new professionals who are looking for guidance in career direction and opportunities or professional and academic advice. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee please contact Eric Magedanz <a href="magedanz@pheasantsforever.org">emagedanz@pheasantsforever.org</a>. The board encourages members to step up and become more involved in SDTWS. We also currently have several committee vacancies that are great opportunity to network with other wildlife professionals and help our chapter carry out our objectives. Please visit our website to see a list of our committees and consider joining or chairing one: <a href="https://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/leadership-governance/">https://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/leadership-governance/</a>

Finally, I would like to remind everyone to take advantage of the nice weather and get out to take photographs for our annual photo contest at the annual meeting. Earlier this week I was out checking on local raptor nests and came across this Great Horned Owl chick. The photo isn't award winning quality, but I thought I would still share with everyone.

Take care and stay healthy! Casey Heimerl SDTWS Chapter President

## Notes from Dennie...

I have been out in Custer State Park, Wind Cave and Badlands for the last few weeks. We were scheduled to spend a week in Yellowstone but the Park is closed until June 1st so we cancelled our reservations for next week.

There have been quite a few people in our parks for the past couple of months, last week I was down visiting Ron Schauer: he had a turkey tag in CSP and the campground had 40 campers, so at least some are enjoying the opportunity to be outside. Ron harvested a nice tom the first morning of his hunt.



#### **Badlands**

The lamb drop is just beginning, the ewes are staging in the Pinnacles unit just south of Wall and saw one ewe with her lamb, many of the ewes are not practicing social distancing. Found 50 ewes and yearlings in the north central part of the park and one just couldn't stop staring at me out of the group of 10. Hopefully we will have good bighorn recruitment again this year.



Bison are just starting calving and found this one on Sage Creek!

Badger was trying to grab a quick breakfast by digging out a prairie dog but was unsuccessful!







Badlands National Park is one of the best kept secrets for photographers, we have photographed wildlife from Northern Alberta to Southern Utah and BLNP continues to amaze us for the opportunity it provides and it is right in our backyard. There were photographers in BLNP this morning from Minnesota, Colorado, and Oklahoma.

Antelope kids are just starting to show up on the landscape, this one photographed in CSP.



Thanks for all the work that you do for TWS and resource management!

## The Wildlife Society News

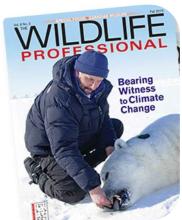
#### Popular Articles on the TWS website

- Partners in Flight sees past success, future challenges
- Wild Cam: Predators stress mountain goats
- What animals can catch the new coronavirus?

For the latest TWS News

http://wildlife.org/learn/news-center/





## Membership Renewal

- Renew your membership online at SDTWS website
- SDTWS is on Facebook!

South Dakota Chapter



Chapter Home About Membership Annual Meeting News Contact

Click <u>here</u> to join the group! Facebook is a great way to share information, post events, to stimulate discussions on environmental issues or other topics of interest.

Contact Chuck Pyle at goosemansd@hotmail.com if you have events, pictures, or topics you would like posted to the site.

## 2020 SDTWS Annual Meeting Photos



Best Student Presentation
Cynthia Anchor



Keynote Speaker Mike Phillips



Life Member Award Larry Giglotti



Life Member Award
Chuck Berdan

## 2020 SDTWS Annual Meeting Photos



USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program (PFW)
Recognition for dedication and service to the PFW program
Boyd Schulz



Professional of the Year Award

Joe Blastick



### PHOTO CONTEST

We know our members have great pictures from their outside adventures including landscapes, hunting, outdoor recreation, and flora/fauna. We would like to showcase your pictures during a photo contest at this year's annual meeting.

Entry fee: \$5 per photo—no limit on number of entries

Size: 8x10 attached to 10x12 black cardboard / foam board mat

- Photos can be submitted prior to the meeting to any board member or can be brought to the annual meeting
- Winner will be chosen by popular vote at 2021 Annual Meeting & receive 50% of the entry fees.
- The winning photo will be displayed on the SDTWS website and will be made into a canvas to be auctioned off at 2022 annual meeting.





#### SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

#### Annual Business Meeting Agenda 27 February 2020 – Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, SD

9:06 am Call to order - Alex Solem

Recognize a quorum; recognized Parliamentarian – Mark Norton

Minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting - Bruce Toay

Moved to approve by Tom LeFaive; Second by Corey Huxoll; All in Favor

Annual Treasurer's Report – Bruce Toay

Moved to approve by Randy Meidinger; Second by Julie DeJong; All in favor

#### **Old Business**

Standing Committee Reports:

Nominations and Elections - Alex Solem

\*Comments from the Candidates

-Board member candidate: Robert Lonsinger

-President-elect candidate: Julie DeJong

\*Casting of the Ballots

- Motion to approve all unopposed candidates by Chuck Berdan; second by Zac Hook; All in favor

Audit - Alex Solem

Reviewed bank accounts after 2/25/20 board meeting; found to be in good standing

Awards - Nathan Baker

Two nominations were received for the Wildlife Professional of the Year Award. There were no nominations submitted for the Citizens Wildlife Award. We also received a nomination for the M.S. student of the year award. The Ph.D. student award is offered every other year and was not offered this year. Awards will be presented tonight during the Awards Banquet. Student and open presentation award plaques were again procured, as was one for our outgoing chapter president. As I was updating the SDTWS Wildlife Professional of the Year name plates, I thought it would be worth sharing a photo of this plaque with membership, that recognizes the SDTWS Wildlife Professional of the Year Award recipients. This plaque is displayed in the SD Game, Fish and Parks State Office in Pierre.

We also have two new SDTWS Life Members:

#48 Larry Gigliotti #49 Paul Coughlin

The Wildlife Society Wildlife Restoration Awards, http://wildlife.org/wildlife-restoration-awards/

The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Restoration



Awards recognize outstanding projects supported by Wildlife Restoration funds (also known as Pittman-Robertson funds) and associated non-federal matching funds. Established in 2018, the annual awards highlight the importance and effectiveness of the United States' Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program and recognize excellence in wildlife management and research.

Two Wildlife Restoration Awards will be given each year, one in each of the following categories:

- Wildlife Management (restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild bird and mammal populations)
- Wildlife Research and Surveys

#### AWARD NOMINATIONS PROCÉSS AND CRITERIA

Completed projects or current projects with defined completion dates are eligible.

Award Criteria and Nomination Procedures can be found here: https://wildlife.org/wildlife-restoration-awards-nominations/

Nominations must be submitted by May 1, 2020 at 11:59 PM EST.

#### WILDLIFE RESTORATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS

The recipients of these awards will be recognized at the TWS Annual Conference. Funds for travel to the conference will not be provided.

#### Conservation Review - Mark Norton

As described in the SDTWS Chapter bylaws, the Conservation Review Committee is charged with reviewing legislative proposals, administrative regulations, and NEPA related documents affecting wildlife or wildlife habitat in South Dakota and making recommendations to the Executive Board regarding possible action by the Board or Chapter. Current members of the committee include Paul Coughlin, Matt Morlock, Bob Hodorff, and Mark Norton.

#### · Conservation Affairs Network:

In 2014, the Chapter's Executive Board tasked the Conservation Review Committee to serve as the Chapter's representative to parent chapter's Conservation Affairs Network (CAN). The CAN was launched in early 2014 and serves to engage and unify efforts by chapters, sections, and the parent Chapter in wildlife conservation policy issues at the national, regional, and local levels. The CAN is a venue for streamlined communication, collaboration, and cooperation on policy matters important to wildlife professionals.

#### 2019 Conservation Review Committee Activities:

In 2019, the conservation review committee worked with wildlife diversity committee to draft a letter of support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act that the board sent to Congressman Johnson in August. The conservation review committee also continues to participate in the Conservation Affair Network.

- A few other topics on the Conservation Affairs Network's radar over the past year include:
  - Recovering America's Wildlife Act The Conservation Affairs network, along with numerous other TWS chapter and section units, has become fully engaged in support and advocacy for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. This remains a high priority for TWS at all levels.
  - The US Department of Interior's interpretation of the words "take" and "kill" in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that only intentional taking or killing is unlawful instead of the longstanding interpretation that incidental taking or killing was unlawful.
  - Federal budgets and appropriations, including the Department of Interior reorganization plan.
  - State and Tribal Wildlife Grants
  - Endangered Species Act regulation changes
  - · Gray Wolf delisting from ESA
  - · CWD legislation to address the spread of CWD
  - Proposed modifications to the 2015 definition of the Waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act.
  - Permanent reauthorization of the Land & water Conservation Fund
  - Reauthorization of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act & several multinational species conservation funds.
- In 2020, the conservation review committee also reviewed a draft comment letter on BLM proposed grazing regulations for the TWS Council to review, consider, and send to BLM to utilize in their planning process for grazing management on public lands. This letter was sent to us for review by the Central Mountain Plains Section CAN representative.

The Executive Board and Chapter membership are encouraged to engage and utilize the Committee as a resource for addressing legislative, policy, and environmental issues affecting South Dakota wildlife and their habitats, and take full advantage of resources available through the Conservation Affairs Network, accessible on the TWS website.

Education and Information - Vacant

o Please consider chairing this committee

Membership - Chuck Pyle

o 2 new life members: Larry Gigliotti and Paul Coughlin

Program - Casey Heimerl

o Tried to promote diverse speakers and ideas for this year's agenda

Resolutions and Public Statements - Vacant

o Please consider chairing this committee

Special Committee Reports:

Arrangements – Alex Solem (for Eric Magedanz)

o Cedar Shores is a good, central location requiring minimal effort for planning, etc.; but open to suggestions for other locations

Certification - Eileen Dowd-Stukel

Noted that Certified Wildlife Biologist designation is not difficult to achieve and recommended those present become certified

Chapter History - Corey Huxoll

o Organized photos and historical materials at the Pierre office

Energy - KC Jensen

o No report

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife – Andy Lindbloom

o No report

Fundraising - Ben Lardy

- Solem reported for Lardy; continued to substitute live auction with silent auction to promote conversation
- Heimerl noted reduced interest in Gay Simpson print at the live auction with newer generation of members not familiar with the legacy, perhaps donate print back to John Simpson and consider other circular raffle item

Grassland Issues -Boyd Schulz/Jim Madsen/Joel Murano/Pete Bauman

o No report

Missouri River Issues - Nathan Baker

o The Missouri River Natural Resources Committee Conference will be held in Nebraska this year from June 22<sup>nd</sup> – June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City.

Newsletter – Jennifer Briggs

The SDTWS newsletter is generated quarterly (as best I can!). If you have any news that you would like to share - please let me know. Thanks again to Dennie Mann for providing awesome photos and info from his adventures out west. I am always open to new ideas for the newsletters.

Public Lands - Chuck Berdan

o No report

Tribal Fish & Wildlife - Mike Gutzmer

- Tribal update
  - Standing Rock Indian Reservation conducted ground and spotlight surveys in January and February 2020. Tribal biologists prepared 2020 hunting season recommendations for the upcoming hunting seasons. Staff observed the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest whitetail deer/hour ground count since 2013 (5<sup>th</sup> since 1992). We observed the 5<sup>th</sup> highest mule deer/hour ground count since 2013 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest since 1992). Biologists propose 950 non-member buck/doe tags to control deer #'s. Spotlight surveys

show consistent data across the reservation. All game season dates are very close to last year season. Deer and elk are at some of the highest levels seen for some time. CWD concerns are also looming for tribal big game managers at this time.

- Standing Rock Tribal biologists are also working on a proposal with USFWS to re-introduce black footed ferrets on Standing Rock in North and South Dakota in the coming years. Our goals are to expand and improve the conservation management of the endangered black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) and their primary prey, black-tailed prairie dogs (*Cynomys Iudovicianus*), on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation (Standing Rock). As elsewhere throughout their range, black-footed ferrets (ferrets) and black-tailed prairie dogs [prairie dog] on Standing Rock are currently threatened primarily by habitat degradation and fragmentation, and sylvatic plague.
- o At this time, however, there are no habitat or population assessments sufficient to manage black-footed ferrets and black-tailed prairie dogs on the 2.4 million acres of tribal and private land on Standing Rock. Consequently, we propose to conduct habitat and population surveys for both black-tailed prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets to fill the information vacuum currently impeding ferret and prairie dog management on Standing Rock.
- o We propose:
  - 1. To conduct surveys sufficient to evaluate and rank order the ferret and prairie dog habitat on Standing Rock and re-introduce BFF's into their historic ranges.
  - 2. To conduct surveys for black-footed ferrets on Standing Rock.
  - 3. To develop a self-sustaining plague monitoring system on Standing Rock, with reintroduction in both states going forward. Our proposal is currently being revised.
- Santee Sioux Tribe (above Yankton SD on Nebraska side of Missouri River)
  - o Enclosed is a brief summary of our small mammal and bat findings during Year 1 of the Tribal Wild-life Grant entitled "Representative Small Mammals in Minimally Disturbed Habitats Of the Santee Sioux Indian Reservation, Nebraska". Snap traps were deployed from the beginning of the study (December 2018) through December 2019. Deer mice, northern short tailed shrew, meadow jumping mouse, meadow vole, hispid pocket mouse and least shrew were sampled and 54 individuals comprised the total catch for a catch rate of 4.05 % in Year. Eleven species of bats were documented in 2019. Townsend's Big-Eared Bat: Corynorhinus townsendii, (not likely), Big Brown Bat: Eptesicus fuscus, Eastern Red Bat: Lasiurus borealis, Hoary Bat: Lasiurus cinereus, Silver-Haired Bat: Lasionycteris noctivagans, Little Brown Bat: Myotis lucifugus, Western Small-Footed Myotis: Myotis ciliolabrum, Long-legged Myotis: Myotis Volans, Evening Bat: Nycticeius humeralis, and Tri-Colored Bat: Perimyotis subflavus are all considered likely on the reservation. The Townsends Big-Eared bat is not likely.
  - Two potential significant findings are the northern long-eared bat, *Myotis septentrionalis* and the Mexican Free-tailed Bat, *Tadarida brasiliensis*. Further analysis through *Sonobat* will assist in confirming our confidence in the presence of these species as well as additional sampling in 2020. We are anxious to announce the discovery and presence of these species.
- BIA invasive species assessment on the reservation
  - Santee Sioux Tribe received a 2-year grant (in summer 2019) to assess flora and fauna invasive species found on the reservation. The immense colonies of *Phragmites spp.*, are well known, however, in Year 1 almost 100 new flora records have been reported for the county. Fauna species issues are also being investigated for the reservation for presence absence. This study will continue through 2021.

The language below can be converted for state use.

Standing Rock Tribal Scientific Area [this could be adopted into the Tribal Administrative Code in March and the Wildlife Commission meeting in Bismarck, March 20-21, 2020- where I will present our recommendations]

- o Developed by Dr. Michael P. Gutzmer, February 1, 2020
- · What is a TSA?
  - The Standing Rock Game & Fish program with support from tribal & regional constituents, would like to adopt a rule designating a portion of the reservation as a *Tribal Scientific Area* to protect black-footed ferrets and its habitat. Under tribal (and state? law), SRGFD may establish a Tribal Scientific Area for the purpose of education, scientific research, and preservation of flora and fauna of scientific or educational value. For the Standing Rock black-footed ferret State Scientific Areas, SRGFD will conduct an awareness program to educate the public about the unique resources of these areas and the animals that occupy them and the need to protect their habitats. TSA' can en-

compass other unique areas with other plant and animal species as we find them.

Under the SRGFD rule, persons are prohibited from disturbing ferrets and their habitats within the Tribal Scientific Area. Under severe weather conditions, plague infestation, poisoning, overgrazing or where the habitats may be stressed, SRFGD may limit access to some fragile areas inhabited by ferrets, while continuing to allow recreational activities throughout the designated area on an as needed basis. Prairie dog towns are extremely rare nationwide, and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation contains some of the last in-tact dog towns that can support the highly endangered black-footed ferret and associated biome.

#### · Part of a Bigger Plan

- o The idea of designating a segment or a portion of the reservation as a Tribal Scientific Area grew out of thoughts preparing the larger study proposal written by our tribal biologists (primarily Master Kurt & I) in January, my work in Texas, and then funding intent initiated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (February 2020). This study allows the SRGFD an opportunity to identify and develop management plans with a potentially diverse group of stakeholders to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan for black-footed ferrets on the reservation and in the state of North Dakota in general based on our protection concept. The plan seeks to protect portions of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and all of its threatened and endangered residents: the black footed ferret, the northern long eared bat, various small mammals, golden eagles and other unique fauna, not mention rare plants., In a two-pronged approach, the TSA Habitat Conservation Plan provides restoration and mitigation measures for the survival and enhancement of the endangered species while the Tribal Scientific Area designation provides a tool to physically protect the ferrets and their habitats.
- o A healthy reservation ecosystem is good for the environment, people, and the local economy. As the state's population grows and human interference continues, demand for land and increases along with competition for its many uses. With appropriate management and conservation, Tribal members can balance regional wildlife, livestock foraging and water supply needs with environmental needs and preserve the state's natural resources for the long term.
- o I think this application can be used by both states in North and South Dakota and I will check through contacts I have through the Wildlife Society for similar or other applicability.

#### Wetlands – Randy Meidinger

o Will monitor new potential wetland mitigation bank plan in Hutchinson County recently released for the South Dakota Farm Bureau Ag Wetland Exchange Program

Wildlife Diseases - Steve Griffin

o No report

Wildlife Diversity - Eileen Dowd Stukel and Silka Kempema

- Committee Members: Casey Heimerl, Laura Hubers, Tom LeFaivre, Mike Gutzmer
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act: Work continues to identify and secure a dedicated source of federal match dollars to assist state wildlife agencies in implementing state wildlife action plans. Recovering America's Wildlife Act was introduced in the U.S. House and passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee. Current efforts include asking House leadership to bring the bill the floor for a vote and discussions with potential U.S. Senate sponsors. Our chapter and individual members have contacted Representative Dusty Johnson, asking for his support for the bill. This legislation will redirect \$1.4 billion annually from the U.S. Treasury to state fish and wildlife agencies for implementation of wildlife action plans and to tribal agencies for fish and wildlife work on tribal lands.
- In the meantime, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants remain the principal source of funding to states for conservation of rare and declining species. This annual appropriation can't be taken for granted, making annual support and advocacy critical. The annual State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Fly-In to DC is an important advocacy tool, which also offers the opportunity to promote the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Our Chapter's Executive Board has agreed to sponsor a participant at this year's Fly-In.
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act: On January 30, 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would codify the Department of the Interior's recent interpretation that the

prohibitions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act ("MBTA") only apply to actions "directed at" migratory birds, their nests, or their eggs. The proposed regulations explicitly state that an incidental taking or killing of a migratory bird is not prohibited by the MBTA. Comments are due by March 19, 2020. National TWS anticipates providing comments.

- Bald Eagle Awareness Days: Because of declining sponsorships and increased costs, the Pierre portion of this event was cancelled for 2020, with programs still scheduled for the SDGFP Outdoor Campus East in Sioux Falls, featuring educators with the The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota.
- New TWS Award: I am again representing our Section on a new national award committee called the Wildlife Restoration Awards Committee. These awards are intended to highlight the impact of the Wildlife Restoration Program, known as the Pittman-Robertson Program, which provides apportionments to state wildlife agencies from a portion of manufacturer excise taxes on guns, ammo, and archery equipment for projects on wild birds and mammals. Two awards will be given each year, one for Wildlife Management and one for Wildlife Research and Surveys. Nominations are due by May 1 of this year. If anyone has an idea for a nomination that I can assist with, let me know.
- Recent endangered species activities in South Dakota:
  - The FWS will make a determination on the potential listing of the monarch butterfly by December 2020. The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies continues to provide a framework for federal, state, tribal and private partners to benefit monarchs in the Midwest.
  - The FWS will make a determination on the potential listing of the regal fritillary butterfly by September 30, 2022. Surveys and data collection are ongoing in parts of the 30-state range of this species, including a State Wildlife Grant project starting this summer in central and western South Dakota.
  - The northern long-eared bat is a federal threatened species with a 4(d) rule, an option with threatened species describing activities allowable in the species' range. A recent court ruling directed the FWS to develop a new rule for listing of this species, not to include the current 4(d) rule. The threatened species determination and 4(d) rule will remain in place in the meantime.
  - The river otter is a state threatened species in South Dakota. The species has met its delisting criteria, as approved by the SDGFP Commission in 2018. The river otter will be proposed for delisting at the March 2020 Commission meeting. Comments on the proposal will be accepted for 60 days prior to the Commission making its determination at their May meeting.
  - The sturgeon chub and sicklefin chub are currently under review for potential listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. A decision is due by September 30, 2023. These are state listed species. SDGFP is currently funding a study on these species in cooperation with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

#### Other Reports:

SDSU Fish and Wildlife Conservation Club Student Report – Bridget Ragan

- Took part in sharp-tailed grouse brush cuttings in St. Croix, MN, and was awarded the Golden Saw award for most attendance
- Continued fundraising on campus
- Held a youth program at Lake Campbell in October 2019
- Group of 8 attending CMPS Utah Conclave in March
- · Offered volunteer assistance for wildlife projects in the area

#### Election Results – Alex Solem and Casey Heimerl

- · Julie DeJong President-elect
- Robert Lonsinger Board member

#### Other Old Business

- Membership requests under Survey Monkey (spring winter newsletter)
- https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BFYFWNN
- Poor response rate currently open
- Increase student involvement with SD TWS
  - o Travel grant success

- Possible mentorship programs with students and professionals from across the state; Contact Eric Magedanz if interested
- Letters/Statements/Sponsorships
  - o RAWA
  - o State and Tribal Wildlife Grants support letters
  - o Comment letters on projects throughout the state
  - o Sponsorship SRM, Prairie Fest, Grasslands Conference
- STWG Fly-In Sponsor, RAWA Sign-on opportunity
  - o In the process of finding that person

#### **New Business**

Approval of New Members

No new member applicants at annual business meeting

Meeting site/dates for the 2021 Annual Meeting

- Eileen Dowd-Stukel noted potential to hold joint meetings with adjacent states
- Wednesday through Friday format has been well received
- Josh Stafford motioned to allow board to decide next year's meeting location; second by Craig Olawsky; all in favor; motion passed

Other New Business

- Shelly Deisch, President-elect of CMPS chapter, reviewed the status of that chapter
  - o Also have travel grants for students to attend the National TWS conference
  - o CMPS can reinforce committee reports and letters with regional significance
- · Hilary Morey suggested seeking opportunities to invest savings account balance that is generating minimal interest in the bank

Transfer of Gavel to President-Elect Casey Heimerl

Presentation of Past-President Plaque

· Plague to be given to President Eric Magedanz at a later date

Motion to Adjourn by Alex Solem; second by Robert Lonsinger

Meeting adjourned 10:33 am

Respectfully submitted by: Bruce Toay

# CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

TWS Certified Wildlife Biologist

TWS recently hosted a webinar explaining the process of becoming a certified wildlife biologist. Here is the link to the <u>webinar</u>.

Click Here to learn more about TWS certification programs.

#### CMPS is Seeking Your Stories

Central Mountains and Plains Section wants to know more about our seven-state members!

CMPS represents SD, ND, KS, CO, UT, NE and WY. Did you all know that with your paid dues to your state's Chapter of The Wildlife Society, you are AUTO-MATICALLY a member of the CMPS? Yep.

Your state chapter pays \$1 to CMPS for every member.

#### Why should you care?

Because Sections within The Wildlife Society represent a collection of geographic area states that promote and enhance your networking and career development opportunities. Our members foster and support each other in all sorts of matters. And, we share comradery at meetings and joint projects.

We offer opportunities to serve on our executive board, address and respond to critical regional natural resource issues, provide student travel grants and professional recognition awards to name a few perks.

We have a Section Representative to The Wildlife Society who disseminates information over and above that which is in e-newsletters, etc.

Our CMPS is a great regional outlet for the exchange of information among wildlife professionals. To help with the exchange of information, we are seeking your stories and photos on wildlife and natural resource projects, research, and accomplishments. Who knows, maybe the project you've always wanted to accomplish has been completed in one of our sister states! You just made some critical professional connections.

Please submit your networking stories to <u>aleshia.fremgen@westernalum.org</u>. Keep your information item to 1 page and include 1-2 photos.

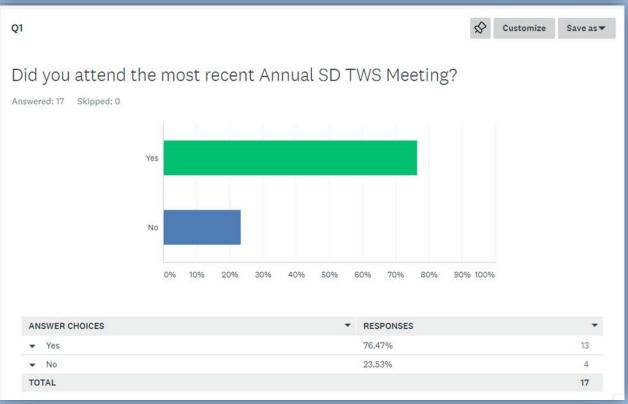
Here is a sample project...

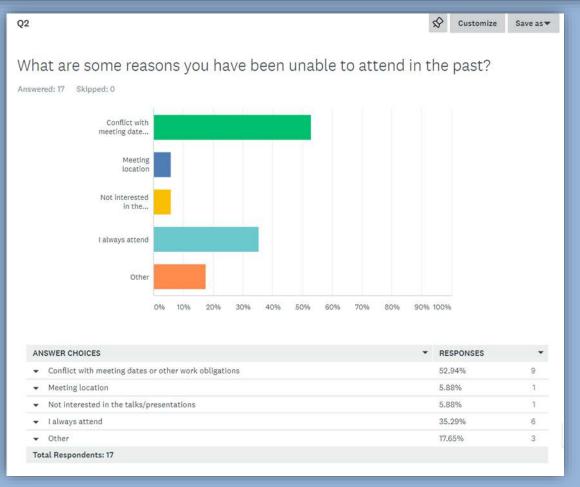


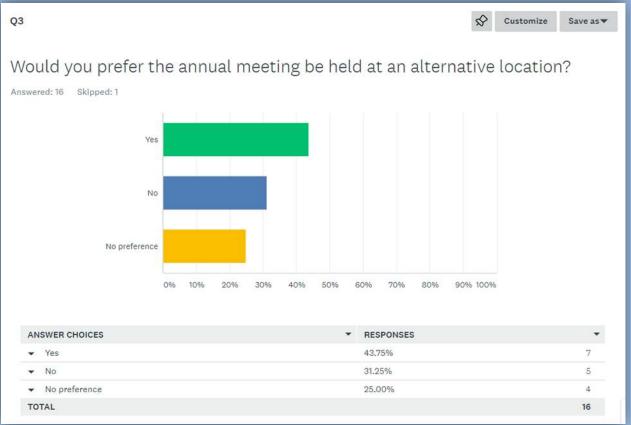
Photo is a joint project between South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks and US Forest Service. The project is gate installation to better regulate motorized travel in an area on Black Hills National Forest which adjoins a SDGFP Game Production Area. These areas are highly important to Rocky Mountain Elk and mule deer.

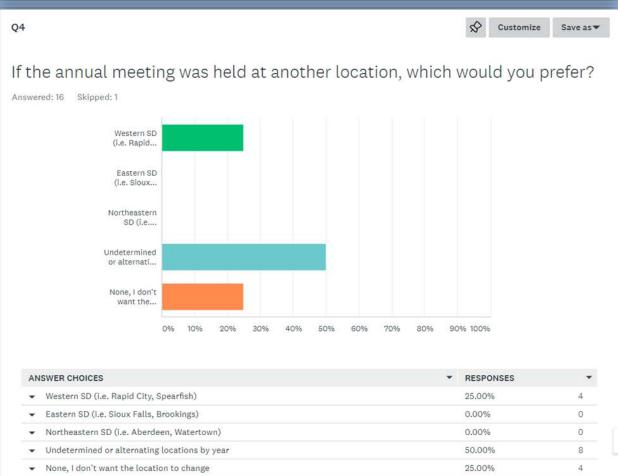
Photo by S. Deisch

## Membership Survey Results

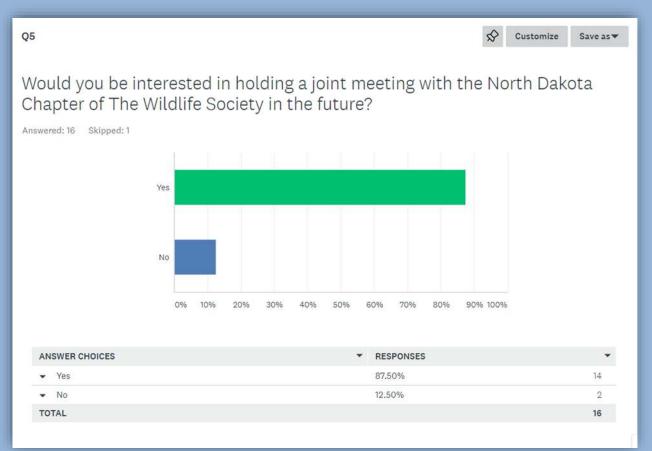


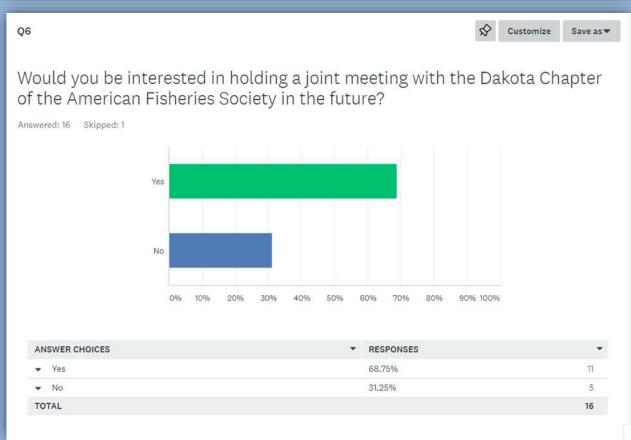






TOTAL





## Tribal Wildlife Liaison

Dr. Michael P. Gutzmer, CWB, New Century Environmental LLC

#### Standing Rock Indian Reservation

Conducted ground and spotlight surveys in January and February 2020. Tribal biologists prepared 2020 hunting season recommendations for the upcoming hunting seasons. Staff observed the 3rd highest whitetail deer/hour ground count since 2013 (5th since 1992). We observed the 5th highest mule deer/hour ground count since 2013 (2nd highest since 1992). Biologists propose 950 non-member buck/doe tags to control deer #'s. Spotlight surveys show consistent data across the reservation. All game season dates are very close to last year season. Deer and elk are at some of the highest levels seen for some time. CWD concerns are also looming for tribal big game managers at this time. As of May 1, 2020 there is a travel ban on most reservations.

Standing Rock Tribal biologists are also working on a proposal with USFWS to re-introduce black footed ferrets on Standing Rock in North and South Dakota in the coming years. Our goals are to expand and improve the conservation management of the endangered black-footed ferret (Mustela nigripes) and their primary prey, black-tailed prairie dogs (Cynomys ludovicianus), on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation (Standing Rock). As elsewhere throughout their range, black-footed ferrets (ferrets) and black-tailed prairie dogs [prairie dog] on Standing Rock are currently threatened primarily by habitat degradation and fragmentation, and sylvatic plague.

At this time, however, there are no habitat or population assessments sufficient to manage black-footed ferrets and black-tailed prairie dogs on the 2.4 million acres of tribal and private land on Standing Rock. Consequently, we propose to conduct habitat and population surveys for both black-tailed prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets to fill the information vacuum currently impeding ferret and prairie dog management on Standing Rock.

#### We propose:

- 1. To conduct surveys sufficient to evaluate and rank order the ferret and prairie dog habitat on Standing Rock.
- 2. To conduct surveys for black-footed ferrets on Standing Rock.
- 3. To develop a self-sustaining plague monitoring system on Standing Rock

#### Santee Sioux Tribe (above Yankton on Nebraska side of river)

Enclosed is a brief summary of our small mammal and bat findings during Year 1 of the Tribal Wildlife Grant entitled "Representative Small Mammals in Minimally Disturbed Habitats Of the Santee Sioux Indian Reservation, Nebraska". Snap traps were deployed from the beginning of the study (December 2018) through December 2019. Deer mice, northern short tailed shrew, meadow jumping mouse, meadow vole, hispid pocket mouse and least shrew were sampled and 54 individuals comprised the total catch for a catch rate of 4.05 % in Year. Eleven species of bats were documented in 2019. Townsend's Big-Eared Bat: Corynorhinus townsendii, (not likely), Big Brown Bat: Eptesicus fuscus, Eastern Red Bat: Lasiurus borealis, Hoary Bat: Lasiurus cinereus, Silver-Haired Bat: Lasionycteris noctivagans, Little Brown Bat: Myotis lucifugus, Western Small-Footed Myotis: Myotis ciliolabrum, Long-legged Myotis: Myotis Volans, Evening Bat: Nycticeius humeralis, and Tri-Colored Bat: Perimyotis subflavus are all considered likely on the reservation. The Townsends Big-Eared bat is not likely.

Two potential significant findings are the northern long-eared bat, Myotis septentrionalis and the Mexican Free-tailed Bat, Tadarida brasiliensis. Further analysis through Sonobat will assist in confirming our confidence in the presence of these species as well as additional sampling in 2020. We are anxious to announce the discovery and presence of these species.

#### BIA invasive species assessment on the reservation

Santee Sioux Tribe received a 2 year grant (in summer 2019) to assess flora and fauna invasive species found on the reservation. The immense colonies of Phragmites spp., are well known, however, in Year 1 almost 100 new flora records have been reported for the county. Fauna species issues are also being investigated for the reservation for presence absence. This study will continue through 2021.

The language below can be converted for state use.

**Standing Rock Tribal Scientific Area** [this could be adopted into the Tribal Administrative Code in March and the Wildlife Commission meeting in Bismarck, March 20-21, 2020- where I will present our recommendations]

Developed by Dr. Michael P. Gutzmer February 1, 2020

#### What is a TSA?

The Standing Rock Game & Fish program with support from tribal & regional constituents, would like to adopt a rule designating a portion of the reservation as a Tribal Scientific Area to protect black-footed ferrets and its habitat. Under tribal (and state? law), SRGFD may establish a Tribal Scientific Area for the purpose of education, scientific research, and preservation of flora and fauna of scientific or educational value. For the Standing Rock black-footed ferret State Scientific Areas, SRGFD will conduct an awareness program to educate the public about the unique resources of these areas and the animals that occupy them and the need to protect their habitats. TSA' can encompass other unique areas with other plant and animal species as we find them.

Under the SRGFD rule, persons are prohibited from disturbing ferrets and their habitats within the Tribal Scientific Area. Under severe weather conditions, plague infestation, poisoning, overgrazing or where the habitats may be stressed, SRFGD may limit access to some fragile areas inhabited by ferrets, while continuing to allow recre-ational activities throughout the designated area on an as needed basis. Prairie dog towns are extremely rare nationwide and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation contains some of the last in-tact dog towns that can support the highly endangered black-footed ferret and associated biome.

#### Part of a Bigger Plan

The idea of designating a segment or a portion of the reservation as a Tribal Scientific Area grew out of thoughts preparing the larger study proposal written by our tribal biologists (primarily Master Kurt & I) in January, my work in Texas, and then funding intent initiated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (February 2020). This study allows the SRGFD an opportunity to identify and develop management plans with a potentially diverse group of stakeholders to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan for blackfooted ferrets on the reservation and in the state of North Dakota in general based on our protection concept. The plan seeks to protect portions of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and all of its threatened and endangered residents: the black footed ferret, the northern long eared bat, various small mammals, golden eagles and other unique fauna, not mention rare plants., In a two-pronged approach, the TSA Habitat Conservation Plan provides restoration and mitigation measures for the survival and enhancement of the endangered species while the Tribal Scientific Area designation provides a tool to physically protect the ferrets and their habitats.

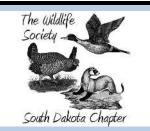
A healthy reservation ecosystem is good for the environment, people, and the local economy. As the state's population grows and human interference continues, demand for land and increases along with competition for its many uses. With appropriate manage-ment and conservation, Tribal members can balance regional wildlife, livestock foraging and water supply needs with environmental needs and preserve the state's natural resources for the long term.

I think this application can be used by both states in North and South Dakota and I will check through contacts I have through the Wildlife Society for similar or other applicability.

Template for a State Scientific Area in SOUTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
TITLE NATURAL RESOURCES
PART SOUTH DAKOTA GAME FISH AND PARKS
CHAPTER
SUBCHAPTER
RULE
(a) <b>Purpose</b> . The State Scientific Area, located is established for the purpose of education, scientific research, and preservation of flora and fauna of scientific or educational value, specifically, the preservation of
(b) Ecological Significance
(c) <b>Boundaries</b> . The State Scientific Area consists of the public waters of within the following boundaries from midstream to the boundary of public waters in the area
(d) Restricted Areas. When the streamflow or the boundary of the is measured atfeet per second or less at theRiver gaging station (United States Geological Survey gagethe department may restrict areas within the boundaries described by subsection (b) of this section by means of clearly marked booms, buoys, and/or signage to reflect the fact that the area is restricted to unauthorized entry.
(e) Prohibited Acts. It is an offense for any person to:
(1) move, remove, deface, alter, or destroy any sign, buoy, boom, or other such marking delineating the boundaries of the State Scientific Area or a restricted area within the boundaries described by subsection (b) of this section;
(2) Impact in anyway the flora and/or the fauna within State Scientific Area; or
(3) enter an area that is marked by signage, booms, buoys, or other apparatus clearly identifying the area as a restricted area, except as may be expressly authorized by the department or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
(f) <b>Penalties</b> . The penalty for violation of this section is prescribed by the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Code, §13.112.
Contact Information:
If you have any questions regarding any of the tribal wildlife efforts, our studies, inventories or assessments, invasive species or any environmental issue, please contact:
New Century Environmental LLC
678 South Red Fox Lane
Columbus Nebraska 68601
O: 402-562-9155 H: 402-562-8200 C: 402-910-3533
mgutzmer@newcenturyenvironmental.com

#### THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

South Dakota Chapter 16760 482<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Revillo, SD, (605) 880-2651



Executive Board Meeting, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, SD, 7:00 p.m.

Solem called to order at 7:06 PM. Meeting started in Cedar Shore Resort with Markl, Heimerl, Solem, and Toay present.

- Secretary/Treasurer's Report, Approval of minutes from last meeting (1/13/20), Heimerl motion to approve minutes; second Markl, No discussion, all in favor, minutes approved
- Approval of treasurer's report, Toay reviewed treasurer's report, Solem noted additional sponsors to add to list of Outstanding Credits including Lotek, Pheasants Forever, and Millborn Seeds, Heimerl motion to approve amended report; Markl second, No further discussion, all in favor, treasurer's report approved

#### Old Business

Annual Meeting Agenda, Heimerl reviewed final agenda,

Final arrangements for Annual Meeting at Cedar Shores, *Heimerl reviewed final arrange ments for meals, rooms, and meeting needs* 

Award Nominations/Awards

Wildlife Professional of the Year, To be presented at banquet

Citizens Wildlife Award, No Citizen Award nominations this year

M.S. Wildlife Student Scholarship, To be presented at banquet

Two new life memberships since last Annual Meeting, Larry Gigliotti and Paul Coughlin, Nathan Baker to prepare plaques for Thursday banquet

Student Travel Grant update/discussion, Reviewed two outstanding travel grant applications to be paid at annual meeting, One travel grant application for SDSU group travelling to CMPS conclave in Utah, approved via email

Student annual membership, Student membership fees will again be waived, PayPal system cannot capture "free" membership

Review Checklist/Meeting Assignments, Solem reviewed Annual Meeting checklist for the board

#### New business

Final Annual Meeting Preparations

Need: Presentation evaluators, picture, *Markl will be in charge of lining up evaluators* for Open and Student presentations

Board will take pictures throughout the meeting for upcoming newsletter and website Raffle tickets, 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$20 for the kayak

Game night coordinated by Ben Lardy, Three games and live/silent auction

Board reviewed agenda for Business Meeting

Voting members must be SD residents

Solem to moderate Wednesday, Heimerl on Thursday, and DeJong on Friday

Recognition of new members (if applicable)

Andrew Gregory, Arden Peterson, Audra Ven Ekeren, Austin Norton, Becky Watkins, Bob Brown, Bridget Ragan, Cole Berkley, Drake Laverack, Emmett Keyser, Greg Stoebner, Heidi Becker, Hilary Meyer, Jacob Dyer, James Stengle, Joe Mayrose, Joel Bich, Katelin Frerichs, Kayla Pring, Kevin Young, Levi Fettig, Matt Schwarz, Megan Figura, Michele Dudash, Sonya Feaster, Tara Darby, Tianna Stokely,

RAWA Fly-In Candidate update

Previously via email, the Board approved to cover travel costs associated with sending a South Dakota representative to Washington D.C. to lobby for RAWA In the process of contacting candidates

Motion to adjourn by Heimerl, second by Markl, Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

Following the meeting Solem conducted annual audit of expenses finding everything in order.

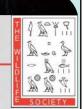
In addition, Chuck Berdan and Shelly Deisch became new Life Members.

Carlson will miss upcoming meeting due to work scheduling conflict, Magedanz likely to miss part of meeting, Board will solicit volunteers to help cover responsibilities

Motion to adjourn by Solem; second by Markl, Meeting/call adjourned at 11:40 AM

#### Interested in hearing more from TWS...

Sign up <a href="here">here</a> for our free, monthly edition of the eWildlifer — your one-stop shop for the latest wildlife news, Section and Chapter updates, TWS announcements, and more.



The Wildlife Society recently developed a banner ad for the Associate Member edition of the eWildlifer.

Associate members are individuals that are a member of a Section or Chapter but not of The Wildlife Society at the main, international level.

Click here for more information <a href="https://wildlife.secure.force.com/AssociateMember\_Signup">https://wildlife.secure.force.com/AssociateMember\_Signup</a>
If you have any questions please feel free to contact:

Mariah Simmons

Unit Services Manager The Wildlife Society P: 301-897-9770 ext. 310

msimmons@wildlife.org

## SDTWS Executive Board 2020

#### President

Casey Heimerl
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-4345

#### Past-President

Eric Magedanz
Pheasants Forever
1720 4th St. NE Suite 3
Watertown, SD 57201
(605) 880-2651

#### President-Elect

Julie DeJong
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-4345

#### Secretary-Treasurer

Bruce Toay
Ducks Unlimited
PO Box 427
Ipswich, SD 57451
(605) 380-0684

#### Board Member

Chad Carlson
US Fish & Wildlife Service
39650 Sand Lake Drive
Columbia, SD 57433

#### **Board Member**

Rob Lonsinger SDSU 100 Helen Circle Brookings, SD 57006

## **Grant Opportunities**

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society offers a Student Travel Grant to help pay for attending a national or state TWS Annual Con-

ference. The Chapter also offers a Student Membership Sponsorship Grant which will cover student annual dues for membership into TWS if you are a student board member of a Student Chapter of TWS in South Dakota. For more information of how to apply for either grant, click here.

## **SDTWS Life Members**

Doug Alvine Galen Burgett Eddie Childers Mary Clawson Charles Dieter Lester Flake Kurt Forman Andy Gabbert Dave Gilbert Steve Griffin Troy Grovenburg Bob Hodorff Harris Hoistad Earl Hyink Warren Jackson Jonathan Jenks John Kelley Colleen Kolbeck

Rolf Kraft Thomas Kuck Scott Larson Thomas LeFaive Tony Leif John Leisner Jesse Lisburg Kevin Luebke Carl Madsen Will Morlock Glenn Moravek Jay Peterson Erling Podoll Chuck Pyle Greg Schenbeck Boyd Schulz Steve Spawn Cara Staab

Dave Steffen Fileen Stukel Joel Tigner Tom Tornow Ralph Town Spencer Vaa William Walker Dave Azure James Headley Paul Mammenga Silka Kempema Julie DeJong Larry Gigliotti Paul Coughlin Chuck Berdan Shelly Deisch

#### Life Membership dues are prorated by age as follows:

Age 20 to 35:  $25 \times \text{annual dues}$  (\$10  $\times$  25 = \$250)

Age 36 to 45:  $20 \times \text{annual dues}$  (\$10 \times 20 = \$200)

Age 46 to 65:  $17.5 \times \text{annual dues} (\$10 \times 17.5 = \$175)$ 

Age 66 to 75:  $12.5 \times \text{annual dues}$  (\$10 × 12.5 = \$125)

Age 76 and over: Free

For More Information, Contact Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753.

## SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF TWS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### REPRESENTATIVES:

Northern Great Plains Working Group, Representative: Rocco Murano\_ (605) 688-4786

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit Past-President, Joshua Stafford (605) 688-5759

**Awards** Nathan Baker (605) 223-7709

Conservation Review Mark Norton (605) 773-3096

Education and Information **VACANT** 

Membership Chuck Pyle (605) 353-5753

Nominations and Elections President, Eric Magadenz (605) 880-2651

Program President Elect, Casey Heimerl (605) 773-4345

Resolutions and Public Statements VACANT

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Arrangements Past-President, Alex Solem (605) 353.7319

Certification: VACANT

Chapter History Corey Huxoll (605) 773-4195

**Energy Committee** Kent (KC) Jensen (605) 688-4781

Fee Hunting and Ownership of Wildlife Andy Lindbloom (605) 394-1751

**Fundraising** Ben Lardy (605) 461-8249

Grasslands Issues: VACANT

Missouri River Issues: Nathan Baker (605) 223-7709

Newsletter Jennifer Briggs (605) 256-2974

Public Lands Management Eddie Childers (605)433-5203 and Chuck Berdan (605)210-0099

Tribal Fish and Wildlife: Mike Gutzmer (402) 562-9155

Wetlands Randy Meidinger (605) 380-0380

Wildlife Diseases Steve Griffin (605) 394-6786

Wildlife Diversity Eileen Dowd Stukel (605) 773-4229 / Silka Kempema (605) 773-2742

#### The South Dakota Chapter TWS Objectives are:

- To develop and promote sound stewardship of wildlife resources and of the environment upon which wildlife and humans depend.
- To undertake an active role in preventing human-induced environmental
- degradation.
- To increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values.
- To seek the highest standards in all activities of the wildlife profession.

## To aid in the achievement of these objectives, the South Dakota Chapter proposes to:

- Provide opportunities for better liaison among individual members, their Section, and The Society.
- Evaluate and respond to the principles involved in proposed or enacted societal actions that could affect wildlife or its habitats.
- Recognize and commend outstanding professional achievements in maintenance, restoration and enhancement of habitats for wildlife.
- Focus the aims and objectives of The Society and the Central Mountains and Plains Section upon professional wildlife needs, problems, and events in local situations.
- Encourage communication between members and nonmembers to facilitate understanding and effectiveness of research and management of wildlife resources.
- Evaluate the principles involved in proposed or enacted public or private actions that could affect wildlife and to make these evaluations known to the public and public officials.

SOUTH DAKO	TA CHAPTER OF Application for Members		IFE SOCIETY	
Name:				
Address:				
City:			Zip:	
Telephone (indicate home or work)				
E-mail address (for newsletter delivery)				
Employer:				
Please note:				
SDTWS's newsletter, A Prairie Voice, is al receive it (paper copies will be provided or address). Email is also the typical mode of	nly to individuals who do	not have a co	mputer, internet acces	bove in order to s, or an email
Please check one: Ne	ew Member	R	enewing Member	
*If you did not renew your dues in 2018, yo				WS Bylaws.
, ,			·	•
Please check box:				
By becoming a member of	SD TWS. I suppor	t the Chapte	er's bylaws and ol	biectives:
To develop and promote soun and humans depend.	·	-	-	-
<ul> <li>To undertake an active role in</li> <li>To increase awareness and a</li> <li>To seek the highest standards</li> </ul>	ppreciation of wildlife va	alues.	-	
Send the completed application/renewal for	orm and a check for \$10	)	\$6.00 (student) to:	
Bruce Toay	onnand a check for \$10	7.00 (regular), v	po.oo (student) to.	
PO BOX 427				
Ipswich, SD 57451				
605-380-0684				
003-300-0004				
Regular Dues: \$10.00				
Student Dues: \$6.00				
Life Membership dues are prorated by age	e as follows:			
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Age 36 to 45: 20 x annual dues = \$200				
Age 46 to 65: 17.5 x annual dues = \$175				
Age 66 to 75: 12.5 x annual dues = \$125				
Age 76 and over: Free				
<u> </u>				
For more information on becoming a life m	nember, contact Chuck	Pyle (605) 353	-5753.	