



# SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH and PARKS

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# Private Lands Habitat & Hunting Access



# Private Lands Habitat Program



# Program Objective

The goal of the Private Lands Habitat Program is to help landowners establish and/or manage habitat to enhance reproduction, recruitment and survival of desired wildlife species or community.

Practices include habitats specifically managed for wildlife and management practices on working grasslands.

Cooperators must allow some amount of reasonable public use.



# Habitat Priorities

Grasslands



Wetlands



Woody Habitat & Food Plots





# Partnerships

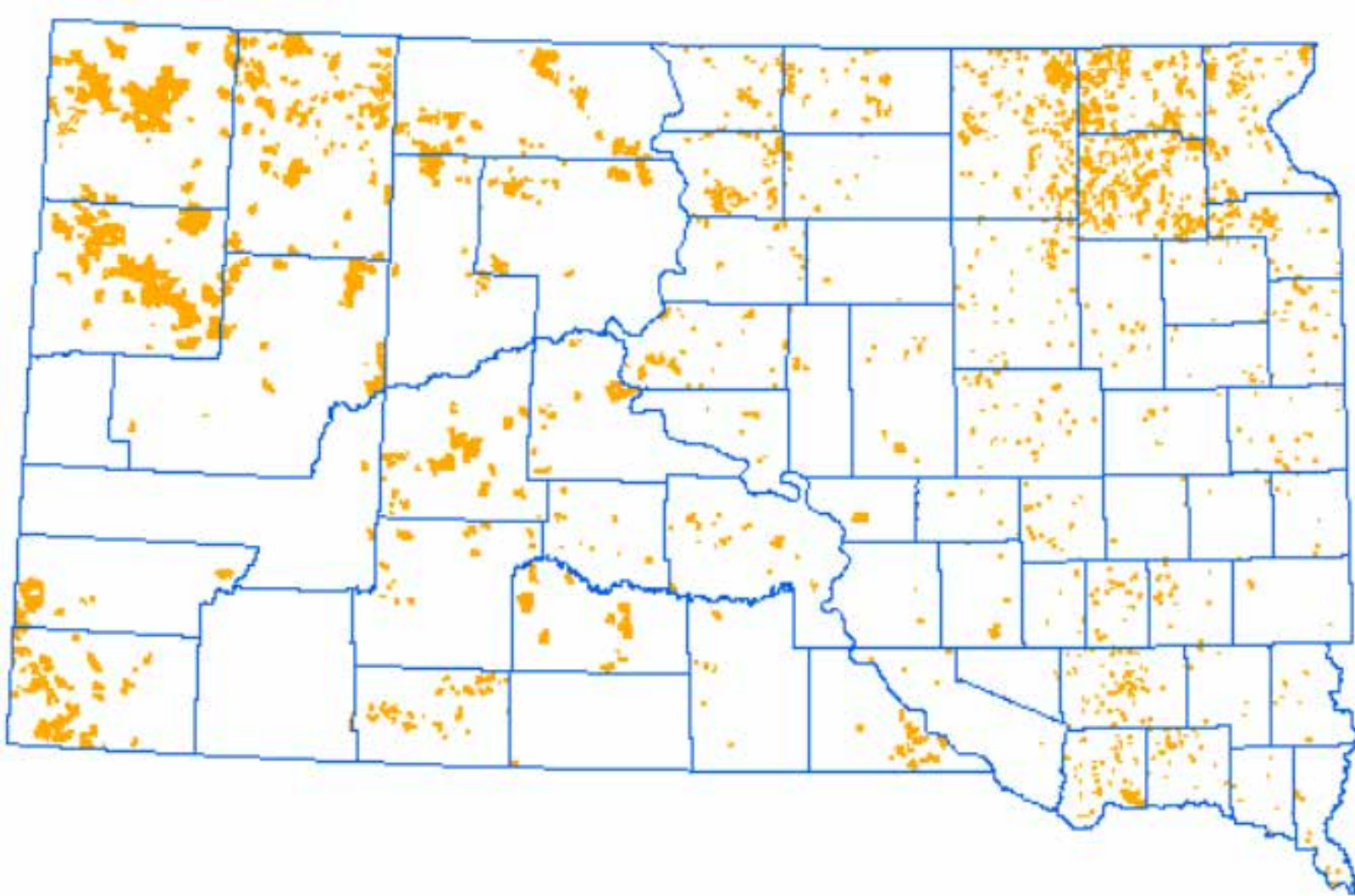
- Strive to involve & coordinate with partners
- Work intimately with landowners and partners to design projects that will stretch dollars and have a lasting impact on the landscape
- Maintain familiarity with partner programs to help landowners find the best option for their needs





# Private Lands Public Hunting Access Programs

# Over 1.45 Million Acres of Private Working Farm & Ranch Land Leased for Public Hunting Access for 2021





# Walk-In Area



- 1.3 million acres
- 1,500 cooperators





# Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Area

- Field waterfowl hunting on 48 registration fields
- Pass shooting waterfowl hunting from 45 pits and 4 miles of canals
- Open to upland game hunting prior to arrival of geese
- 26,500 acres
- 6 cooperators

# Controlled Hunting Access Program (CHAP)



- 18 CHAPs on 33,000 acres
- 1,534 hunter days





# Elk Hunting Access Program



- 40,000 acres
- 13 cooperators

# James River Watershed CREP



- 76,000 acres





# Questions



# SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH and PARKS



# Riparian Stream Work



# Black Hills



# Coldwater Fisheries



- No native sportfish
- ~40 state-managed impoundments
  - Put and take
  - Natural production
- Over 800 miles of streams



# Management Plan



- **Guides management**
- **½ mile of stream improvement per year**
  - **Identified by fieldwork**
  - **Coordinated/implemented with stakeholders**
  - **Evaluated**











**Flow: 1.4 m<sup>3</sup>/s**

Velocity (m/s)

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| ● ≤0.06 | ● ≤1.05 |
| ● ≤0.18 | ● ≤1.36 |
| ● ≤0.34 | ● ≤1.79 |
| ● ≤0.50 | ● ≤2.48 |
| ● ≤0.66 | ● ≤2.61 |
| ● ≤0.84 |         |

# Additional Projects

- Riparian plantings
- Sediment removal
- Boulder placements
- Structure rehab









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# Wildlife Damage Management Program

Mike Klosowski



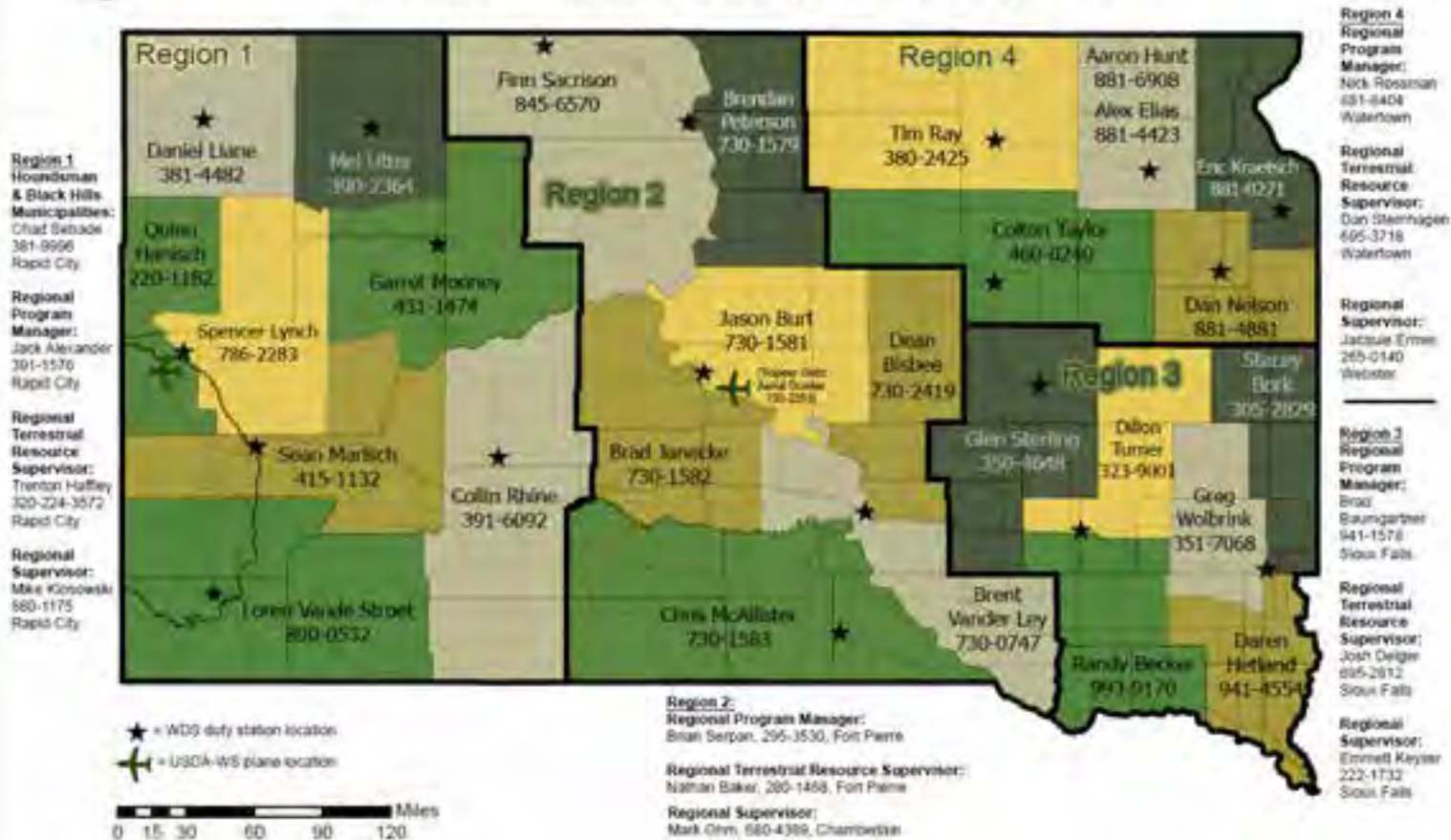
# Wildlife Damage Management Program History:

- **Program inception dates back to 1939 (primarily predator control or ADC)**
  - Mandated by the legislature (tax on livestock numbers for each county)
- **In 1974, the legislature formalized the program & funded it (focus still on predator control)**
- **In 2001, (4) Wildlife Damage Specialists were hired and officially started our WDM Program**
  - 2009, officially combined our ADC and WDM program and resembles today's structure
    - Significant resources were directed towards assisting landowners with wildlife conflict (both game and predators)
    - Today we have 28 WDS

# WDS Distribution Statewide



## South Dakota GFP Wildlife Damage Management Program





# Provide Staff Resources & Tools

- **Budget authority of approximately 3.7 million**
  - Funding: license dollars, federal dollars and tax dollars
- **Heavy Focus on Customer service**
  - Call backs within 48 hours
  - Find a way to help them solve the issue- permanent solutions are best
- **Empower staff with right tools for the job**
  - Big game stored feed supplies
  - Big game fencing
  - Food plots
  - Predator control
  - Houndsman on staff with a team of dogs
  - Prairie dog management program

# Wildlife Damage Program 2020

## “The big 4”



### Deer

- 128 requests for service
- 19 permanent stackyards, panels, secure covers and protective fencing contracts
- Expenditures: ~ \$299,000

### Beaver

- 725 requests for assistance
- 2,070 beaver removed (trapped)
- Expenditures: ~ \$430,000

### Elk

- 6 requests for service primarily in the Black Hills and Bennett County
- 99 food plot, hayland, stackyard, and cable contracts
- Expenditures: ~ \$448,000

### Canada Geese

- 806 requests for assistance
- Authorized 532 kill permits for landowners
- Miles of electric fence put up
- Expenditures: ~ \$373,000





# Tools for Staff





Hunting seasons

Hazing

Buffer Strips (temporary/permanent)

Fencing (temporary electric/ permanent)

Nest work

Kill Permits

- Staff
- Landowners

# Wildlife Damage Program Animal Damage Control (ADC)



## Coyote and Fox

- 1,398 requests for service
- Expenditures: more than \$1.4 million
- 10,988 coyotes taken via ground and aerial control methods, up 24% from 2020
- 2 additional ADC field supervisors added in central and western SD in 2021
- Aerial Program
  - 2 APHIS Wildlife Services planes
  - 2 Contract planes – additional 300 hours

## Prairie Dogs

- Requests for Service = 119
- Expenditures: ~ \$194,000

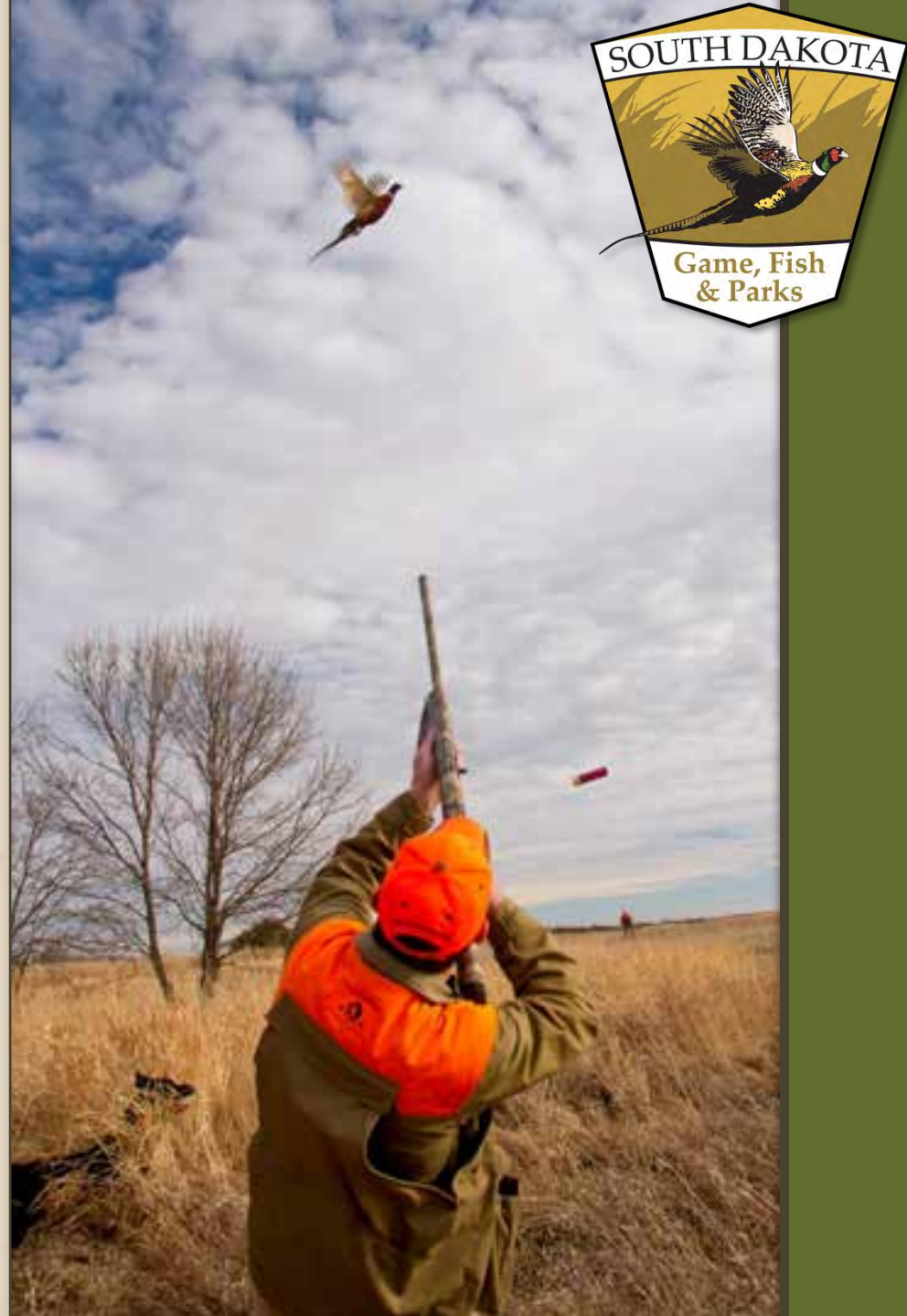


# Lion Requests for Service



# Overview

- Annually spend around 3.7M million on the WDM Program
  - Approximately 1.2M on ADC
- Since 2000, GFP has spent over \$26M on resolving wildlife human conflict
  - Primarily deer, elk & geese
- Very dynamic program that changes with wildlife populations, agriculture practices and public perception





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# WDM Strategic Plan

- **GOAL #1: Provide excellent customer service and program transparency.**
- **GOAL #2: Foster landowner relations while enhancing communications.**
- **GOAL #3: Mitigate livestock and property loss through effective delivery of wildlife damage program services.**

