



South Dakota Chapter

The Wildlife Society

August 2008

President's Message

Editor's Note: There is no President's Message for the newsletter.

Minutes of the January 9, 2008 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Kurt Forman called the meeting to order at 10:15am, Cedar Shore, Oacoma, South Dakota. Board members present were Chad Switzer, Bridgette Flanders-Wanner, KC Jensen, and Art Smith. Cliff Stone was also present to discuss Missouri River resolution paper.

Smith presented the minutes of the November 2007 minutes. One typo found, Flanders-Wanner motioned to accept minutes with the typo fixed, Jensen seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

Smith presented the Treasurer's report. Jensen motioned to accept the report, Switzer seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

Old Business

SD TWS position paper/resolution on the 1944 Missouri River Flood Control Act: Stone discussed the issues surrounding the Missouri River management. ND TWS has had a position statement in place for two years. Some of the language in the draft statement presented by Stone is borrowed from theirs. Several South Dakota and North Dakota folks participated in a conference call that contributed to this white paper. The desire is to keep a uniformed message between the two Dakotas; support outside of North Dakota is wanted by ND TWS and legislators. Basic premise for all of this work is that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Master Manual is outdated. Some indication from Missouri that they are beginning to recognize that water supply of system is changing and there may be a need for discussion if nothing else. Wayne Nelson-Stasney & John Cooper are both feeling the white paper and increased discussions are timely. Resolution is desirable to be used by Cooper in his current role in the MORAS. Dakota chapter of American Fisheries Society (AFS) would also be a good signatory; ND TWS has a draft public statement resolution in their January newsletter. Dakota AFS chapter has this on their radar screen, but have not been very politically active, but would be likely to sign-on if presented with something. The Board discussed the draft statement and surrounding state's similar work. Nebraska and Iowa Game Fish & Parks Departments are probably aligned a bit more with the upper watershed states, but their Department of Natural Resources may not be. Forman asked Stone to check with North Dakota to see if their statement is in a final form or a draft. The Board then discussed the differences between white papers, position statements, and resolutions. Jensen motioned for Stone to talk to Dr. Dan Hubbard to develop a resolution based on the white paper, perhaps using North Dakota's position statement, in time to publish a draft resolution for the next newsletter. Smith seconded. Discussion: should the position paper also be published in the newsletter as additional information? Jensen amended motion to say to adopt white paper to be used to develop the resolution & for the white paper to also be published in the newsletter, Smith agreed. Motion passed (4-0). Forman will check with Greg Pavelka for a submission deadline.

Update on the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Angostura Resource Management Plan

The BOR is updating their resource management plan. The Chapter has already commented on a past draft. At least four of our suggestions were included in BOR's summary. The letter received was a courtesy update with information.

New Business

2008 Eagle Day sponsorship request

Good presentation, this is an event the Chapter has supported in the past. Switzer motioned \$200, Jensen seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

2008 Teaming with Wildlife fly-in day

For your information letter. Anyone is invited, nothing was asked of the Chapter.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plan

BLM is re-writing their resource management plan for lands in South Dakota. The agency manages 140,000 acres in South Dakota. Two big issues as per Chuck Berdan were land trades and consolidation of isolated tracts and energy development in Butte and Harding county areas. Information was forwarded to the Public Lands Committee to develop comments for the Chapter. Scoping time period could be up to two years.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Travel Management Rule

This document is in the scoping process also, The Public Lands Committee has already been communicating with USFS on the most appropriate role Chapter can take. Comment letter is due by January 25, 2008. Forman will follow up with both this and the BLM plan with Dennie Mann and the Public Lands Committee.

Job announcements and the role of SDTWS

E-mail dialogue with Board on this topic previous to this meeting. Suggestion by Jensen is to put links on Chapter website to South Dakota State University (SDSU) Wildlife Department., The Wildlife Society, and Texas A&M biology jobs sites. North Dakota has a page in their winter newsletter summarizing standard seasonal job info for various agencies showing where the job links are. The Board liked this concept and the suggestion was to put the same type of page into Chapter newsletter and website (as a new, stand-alone page). Jensen will send links to Charlie Bessken, Switzer will send South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks information to Jensen for including into the page.

SDTWS Feature Story in *The Wildlifer*

TWS asked the Chapter to write a short article on Chapter activities. Flanders-Wanner will write the article but asked Board for topic suggestions; more than enough topics were provided after a short brain storming session.

Status of award Nominations: state and national

Will send Fellows and McDonough award nominations to TWS for several candidates. Deadlines for McDonough is April 18th, Fellows is Feb 15th. Discussion followed on other award nominations. Flanders-Wanner motioned to fund the SDSU student chapter at \$1,000 for travel to the Miami TWS meeting only if they submit a nomination package for student chapter of the year, Smith seconded. Motion passed (4-0). A candidate was identified for the Special Recognition Service award (deadline 18 April). Forman will write that nomination. One person is being written up for Professional of the Year and at least one landowner will also be written up for the Citizen's award. SDSU wildlife staff will be choosing a student nomination.

Board then discussed ways to increase agency memberships and associated topics. A logo contest was discussed. Flanders-Wanner motioned to hold a contest, images submitted in jpg or gif images, winner receives \$250. The winner would be established by anonymous member ballot vote during the business meeting. Switzer seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

Flanders-Wanner brought up the issue of one committee that has been inactive for several years. Thoughts were given to inviting two individuals to help this committee. Jensen will contact one, For-

man the other. Updates will be provided as time progresses.

Annual Meeting

Agenda: tentative that Dan Svedarsky will attend the meeting. Dave Willis will also come and will do whatever is needed. Both of these speakers will likely focus on education topics. Steve Wegman and Laura Bies will also both be here and may be able to speak about both wind energy and education. General paper session papers have already started to trickle in.

Board candidates – several candidates have been identified for the Board Member at Large. The group discussed several President-elect candidates. Jensen will take the suggestions for future contacts.

Additional Items

Newsletter deadline – Forman will call Greg Pavelka, but at this time will work towards a deadline of Feb 8.

Flanders-Wanner will announce a Chapter logo contest. Jensen will put in a draft agenda for the conference.

Stone will put in white paper and hopefully the resolution on Missouri River issues.

Next meeting was tentatively set for 6pm March 16th at Cedar Shore.

Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:10pm, seconded by Flanders-Wanner. Motion approved (4-0), meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Smith
Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Minutes of the March 16, 2008 Executive Board Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society</p> |
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Kurt Forman called the meeting to order at 6:35pm, Cedar Shore, Oacoma, South Dakota. Board members present were Tom Kirschenmann, Chad Switzer, Bridgette Flanders-Wanner, KC Jensen, and Art Smith.

Smith presented the minutes of the January 2008 minutes. Two typos were found. Jensen made a motion to accept with typos corrected, Kirschenmann seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

Smith presented the Treasurer’s report. Kirschenmann motioned to accept the report, Jensen seconded. Motion passed (5-0). Board also reviewed 2007 financial report to be presented at Annual Business meeting.

Old Business

Draft SDTWS Wind Energy Map

Several drafts have been created to date. Board discussed the most recent version and feel this is a good product. Silka Kempema is soon to finish last comments and will be able to post a map to website soon.

This is a comprehensive map and identifies the source of appropriate professionals that can be used by anyone in the future. No other comments were suggested other than what had already been sent to Kempema. Board did not feel the need to delay voting on accepting the map as in its current form with the soon to be made changes. Flanders-Wanner motioned to accept the map and place it on the website, Kirschenmann seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

Support Letter for the Climate Security Act

Letters are being sent across the nation to support a letter driven by the National Wildlife Federation. The list of supporters is big, and is being lobbied hard for in Washington D.C. Board agreed the support of this work is very worth supporting. Jensen motioned to sign onto the letter, Flanders-Wanner seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

New Business

Resolution on Missouri River Management & North American Model of Wildlife Management

Forman presented these two resolutions that will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting. Presented as a For Your Information, no action requested of the Board.

SDSU "Bio-Blitz" Funding Request

Oak Lake Field Station will be hosting a bio-blitz June, 2008. Objectives are to increase the public's awareness of local biodiversity and to collect scientific data to support research ecosystem management. Support request is for t-shirts at \$525 for scientists, volunteers, and presenters. Concern was supporting such a product like t-shirts. Kirschenmann motioned to support the bio-blitz for \$250, seconded by Switzer. Motioned passed (5-0).

Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA)

Board expressed concern about supporting this event. Jensen motioned to support member at \$250, Flanders-Wanner seconded. Switzer, Kirschenmann, and Smith removed themselves from the voting as they are all involved with the WAFWA conference, are members of that organization, and will be at this meeting. Motioned passed (3-0).

Leopold Education Project (LEP)

Ann Lewis, recipient of the LEP workshop, is asking for support to hold a similar workshop this June. Request is for \$30/educator and \$181.25 for book copies for workshop attendees. Total cost could be \$631.25 at maximum if the workshop is filled. Flanders-Wanner motioned to support the project at \$631.25. A reservation was voiced this is a project beyond TWS and funding should be sought from other avenues. No second from the floor was forthcoming. Flanders-Wanner made a motion of support for \$450, Jensen seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

South Dakota Grasslands Coalition Funding Request

Chapter funded a previous tour in 2007. Board covered the success of the first Coalition's tour. Venue of the second was thought as a good one. Switzer motioned to support the request at \$550, Jensen seconded. Funding at this relatively high of a level was discussed as this may be something that would be asked to the Chapter to fund again in the future. Thoughts were to assure the next request would put the Chapter last in the funding request line. Switzer modified his motion for a Board member to talk to Kempema about additional funding support details, Jensen agreed. Motioned passed (5-0).

Harvey Dunn fundraising opportunity

"The Prairie Trail" Harvey Dunn print is being used by the South Dakota Art Museum for conservation easements. Each print will cost \$420, which protects approximately one acre of tallgrass prairie and wetlands. The Chapter can buy a print, then sell raffle tickets for the print. Tom Tornow will be push-

ing this through. Kirschenmann motioned to buy a print, Switzer seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

Annual Meeting

Jensen summarized the agenda. Kirschenmann is ready to find judges for paper reviews. Audio Visual needs have been met by Jensen and Forman. Sponsorships were discussed. Other meeting details were also discussed. Room costs for TWS National reps (Bies and Svedarsky) were discussed. Board felt it would be good to cover for their room costs. Flanders-Wanner motioned to cover Svedarsky and Bies rooms, Jensen seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

Additional Items

Flanders-Wanner moved to adjourn, seconded by Kirschenmann. Motion passed (5-0). Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Board then met after the Annual Meeting, March 19, 2008. President KC Jensen recognized a quorum & called the meeting to order at 12:40 PM at Cedar Shore, Oacoma, South Dakota. Board members present were Kurt Forman, KC Jensen, Dennie Mann, Teresa Zimmerman, and Art Smith. Past-past Chair Bridgette Flanders-Wanner was also present. Chad Switzer was not in attendance.

South Dakota Grasslands Coalition Funding Request

Silka Kempema reported that there are two other funding requests for this event. The \$550 request would be half of the needed funds. Merits of the program were again covered. Kurt Forman motioned to support the funding request at \$550, Teresa Zimmerman seconded, motion passed (4-0).

Art Smith presented a summary of the annual meeting revenues.

Logo contest results were discussed. Marketing concepts and the logos submitted were covered.

2008 venues discussed, timing of the meeting, and complimentary rooms. 2009 spring break will start March 9th. Coinciding with the AFS meeting (late Feb?) is not desired. Board will determine a date in the next few weeks.

Next board meeting was set for June 10th, in Pierre, 10am Central start.

Kurt Forman moved to adjourn the meeting, Dennie Mann seconded at 1:45pm. Motion approved (4-0), meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Smith
Secretary/Treasurer, SDTWS

Committee Reports

Awards Committee

A total of five nominations were received by the Awards Committee in 2008. Two nominations were received for the Citizen's Award and three nominations were received for the Wildlife Professional Award. Tom Turnow and Mark Rumble were selected to receive the Wildlife Professional Award and

Jim Faulstich was selected to receive the Citizen's Award. Awards for Best Student Presentation and Best Presentation were again procured and will be presented in an effort to recognize outstanding presentations at the SDTWS annual meeting. A recognition plaque for the outgoing Chapter President was also procured. An Outstanding Graduate Student Award will be presented to one Master of Science (M.S.) student. Two M.S. nominations were received. Joshua Delger will be presented with a framed certificate at the Awards Banquet. The utilization of the newsletter and e-mail notifications was successful again this year in communicating awards solicitation and deadlines. I hope that this continues to be a positive way of getting the word out.

Submitted by Nora Kohlenberg

Fund Raising Committee

The live auction at the chapter's annual meeting raised \$1,805. The raffle netted \$90 (\$520 from tickets sold - \$430 for the cost of the print). Total raised - \$1,895.

Submitted by Tom Kirschenmann

Grassland Issues Committee

Three items will be addressed regarding South Dakota's private grasslands: the status of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), native grassland conversion and current protection measures.

A net loss of approximately 275,000 acres of CRP occurred in 2007. More than 300,000 contract acres expired on September 30. However, new acres enrolled under continuous CRP contracts helped buffer the net loss of CRP acres. In 2008, approximately 130,000 acres of CRP will expire on September 30. No general sign-ups are scheduled for the foreseeable future. General sign-ups are usually when whole fields or other large acreages are enrolled and have a deadline for landowner application. However, continuous sign-ups are currently ongoing. Continuous CRP sign-ups offer landowners the opportunity to enroll specialized practices anytime, but do not usually afford the opportunity to replace large acreages.

Significant loss of native grassland continued the past year. At least 30,000 acres of native grassland were converted to cropland in 2007. With commodity crop prices increasing dramatically the past year, we predict that the loss of native grassland will continue at its' current pace or accelerate. Many non-government organizations (NGOs) and government agency personnel believe that the passage of the Farm Bill that includes language in the Senate version would deter or even eliminate the incentives to bring native prairie into commodity crop production. The Senate language would eliminate eligibility of newly converted grassland for federal crop insurance and disaster payments. The House version would make newly converted grassland ineligible for crop insurance and disaster payments for only four years.

Several NGOs and federal agencies have ongoing programs to perpetually protect private grassland habitat via conservation easements, including Duck Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy, the Northern Prairies Land Trust, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. In 2007, about 30,000 acres of grassland and associated wetlands/streams were perpetually protected by the aforementioned parties.

As you can tell, the South Dakota private grassland landscape continues to face many challenges. However, there are groups and agencies continually working to protect and restore this vital habitat. The Grasslands Issues Committee will continue to monitor happenings across South Dakota and the advice the SDTWS when action is needed.

Submitted by Boyd Schutz, Bill Smith and Jim Madsen

Missouri River Issues Committee Report

With the assistance of SDTWS Resolutions Chair, Dan Hubbard a resolution titled “A Resolution in Support of New Legislation for the Missouri River” was prepared, presented to, and adopted by the SDTWS membership assembled at our March, 2008 annual meeting. The resolution offers support and encouragement for efforts at urging Congress to consider a re-write of the 1944 Flood Control Act. I also worked with the leadership of the AFS Dakota and Iowa Chapters, who met jointly in February and who each passed similar resolutions at their individual business meetings.

Title VI Missouri River Land Transfer: Quit-claim deeds for former U.S. Army Corps of Engineers properties on Lake Francis Case were received by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks in March and have been filed with the respective County Register of Deed’s Offices. Only a small piece of property on Lewis and Clark Lake has yet to transfer. Title VI Missouri River Trust Fund is scheduled to capitalize in October 2008.

The Missouri River Issues Committee Chair would be interested in any input from the membership on Missouri River issues that they would like to see the committee address/investigate.

Submitted by: Clifton Stone

Public Lands Committee Report

Comments on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands Allotment Management Plan: Native grasslands are disappearing on the landscape and maintaining healthy mixed grass and short grass communities with both warm and cool season species that provide a mixture of grassland structure is a positive direction of management. There is a high potential that with proper utilization of prescribed fire and adaptive management strategies for livestock grazing; this management direction could provide the same mechanism that fire and bison had on the landscape 200 years ago.

Bottom line: We ask that allotment management plans take into account grassland structure and sagebrush habitat associated with sage grouse, including management practices to provide residual herbaceous cover for nesting birds and brood cover to aid in retaining this rare species on the Fall River District. Swift fox and prairie dogs require a different management condition and through the use of clearly defined adaptive management techniques and close monitoring, grassland structure can be modified to appropriate structure levels to meet the ecological needs of these species. We cannot over emphasize that monitoring will be a critical part of the adaptive management process in order to change or modify management strategies to meet desired resource conditions that are consistent with forest plans directives. Please keep us on your mailing list for this project, and send your Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Submitted by: Dennie Mann

Wetlands Committee Report

Last January Senator Norm Coleman of Minnesota introduced Senate Bill 272 – the Wetlands Loan Act. This bill accelerates conservation of wetlands in the near term by borrowing \$400 million against future Duck Stamp sales. These additional revenues would be used primarily for conservation easements and to acquire property from willing private landowners. Money would also be used for restoration of wetlands

and grasslands valuable to migratory waterfowl. The cost for the loan would be offset by the incremental increase in the price of the Federal Duck Stamp. There was no movement on this bill and Senator Coleman reintroduced the bill as S.1641 on June 18, 1997. A companion bill was introduced in the House as HR. 2757 by Representative Thompson of California. As of March 2008 there were three cosponsors of each bill and they each await a hearing in committee.

Swampbuster has been included in both the House and Senate version of the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill has been extended until April 18, 2008. The Swampbuster provisions are the same as those implemented in the previous Farm Bills. There does not appear to be any danger of a loss of Swampbuster in the new Farm Bill.

The South Dakota legislature passed Resolution SCR 8 opposing the Clean Water Restoration Act. The specific bills they oppose are HR 2421 and S. 1870. The main point of opposition is the change of wording of the Clean Water Act from “navigable waters” to “waters of the United States”. A check on the progress of each bill found that similar legislation has been included in each of the past several sessions of Congress with little or no action for each bill.

Submitted by Peter Bergmann and Kurt Forman

Wildlife Diseases Committee Report

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): From July 1, 2007 to January 15, 2008 a total of 2,531 samples (475 elk, 600 mule deer and 1,456 white-tailed deer) were collected from southwestern South Dakota, the Black Hills and Grant and Deuel Counties in eastern South Dakota. As of January 15, 2008 results have been received from 2,342 samples (475 elk, 536 mule deer and 1,331 white-tailed deer). Of the 2,342 samples we have found one CWD for elk and thirteen for deer (5 mule deer and 8 white-tailed deer). To date, South Dakota has found 72 cases of CWD (20 elk and 52 deer) in free ranging deer and elk since testing began in 1997-1998. Wind Cave National Park accounts for 17 of these animals (9 elk and 8 deer). Custer State Park has found 3 elk and 1 deer.

Plague: Seropositive coyotes have been collected near Norris, South Dakota in southwest Millette County on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation. In addition, plague has been documented through virus isolation in fleas near Parade, South Dakota on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. Two seropositive coyotes were also sampled just south of the Conata Basin on the Shannon County border. Monitoring for plague is also still occurring on the Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation.

Avian Influenza: From August 1 – December 1, 2007, 1,500 samples were collected from birds and 750 fecal samples were tested for H5N1. A total of 750 samples were collected by the SDGFP and 750 were collected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. None of the samples tested positive for H5N1.

Submitted by Teresa Zimmerman

Wildlife Diversity Committee Report

Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Poisoning on the Conata Basin: The Nebraska National Forest (NNF) received over 68,000 comment letters (one of which was from the SDTWS) responding to the DEIS, which was released in May 2007. The original time frame called for a final decision in November 2007. However, in a press release dated 19 December 2007, the NNF announced that additional time and a unique approach was needed to reach the final decision. Two final decisions will be made. The first Record of Decision (ROD) and updated analysis (Final Environmental Impact Statement) were expected by

early February 2008. This first ROD will address those outside of the endangered black-footed ferret recovery areas located in southwest South Dakota. The second decision will follow within a few months and will specifically address the special challenges of the ferret recovery areas (Conata Basin and Smithwick areas). Forest supervisor Don Bright is seeking to incorporate the most current information including recent collaboration between local and national private interests, including long standing grazing permittees into the second decision.

The Nature Conservancy has purchased important ranch properties in and around the Conata Basin that will provide additional options for ferret management.

Status of the Black-footed Ferret Population in South Dakota: Currently there are six black-footed ferret reintroduction sites in South Dakota. The most recent reintroduction site occurred in 2007 at Wind Cave National Park. The remaining five sites, in order of most recent ferret releases include the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Conata Basin and Badlands National Park. All sites continue to support ferret populations. Conata Basin continues to support close to 300 ferrets and is considered self-sustaining. The other reintroduction sites support 100 or fewer ferrets each. A reasonable total ferret population estimate for South Dakota would be in the 450-500 range based on 2007 surveys. The Rapid City Journal reported in early March 2008 that the Rosebud Sioux Tribe no longer wishes to participate in the ferret reintroduction program.

The National Black-footed Ferret Recover Implementation Team has provided additional input into a draft black-footed ferret recovery plan that gets finalized in 2008.

Gray Wolf Delisting Status: The gray wolf has met recovery goals in several portions of its range. March 28, 2008 the Northern Rocky Mountain population was delisted. This pertains to all of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming and portions of Washington, Oregon and Utah. The Western Great Lakes population was delisted in 2007. This population occurs in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan and in parts of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. These delisting actions mean that wolves in eastern North Dakota and South Dakota no longer have federal protection and are managed under state laws, but wolves in western North Dakota and South Dakota remain protected as federal endangered species. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has promised state officials in the Dakotas that this situation will be addressed. The South Dakota House and Senate agreed to a concurrent resolution urging the Service to remedy this situation. The resolution has been forwarded to the Service by the SDGFP.

Bald Eagle Awareness Days: The chapter again helped sponsor Bald Eagle Awareness Week, which was proclaimed by Governor Mike Rounds for February 18-23, 2008. The event again featured live birds brought by educators from Wildlife Experiences in Rapid City. Birds included a gyrfalcon, a black vulture, a western screech owl, a red-tailed hawk, and a bald eagle. A total of 750 people attended eight programs, which included presentations at the SDGFP outdoor campus in Sioux Falls, school programs in Pierre, a program at the Pierre Mall, and programs at the Ramkota Inn in Pierre. More than 300 bookmark design entries from 5th graders throughout the state were judged. Prizes were awarded in three categories – most creative, best conservation message and best artwork. Winning bookmarks will be duplicated for distribution to South Dakota libraries.

Great Lakes of South Dakota Birding Trail: The chapter is helping sponsor the third regional birding trail brochure. Two brochures that correspond to the regional tourism associations in northeastern and southeastern South Dakota have been completed. The current trail will correspond to the Great Lakes of South Dakota Tourism Association, which covers central South Dakota along the Missouri River. This brochure is in the final layout phase and copies are expected by the early summer of 2008.

Teaming with Wildlife and new Funding for Fish and Wildlife: South Dakota continues to actively participate in Teaming with Wildlife legislative initiative to identify a stable long term funding source to address the needs of all fish and wildlife species. Senator Tim Johnson recently introduced the Teaming with Wildlife Act of 2008, which will dedicate \$350 million a year for five years to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program for wildlife conservation, environmental education and wildlife associated recreation. While this isn't the long term solution we know that is needed, it is a very encouraging step. The press release associated with Senator Johnson's bill made it clear that the support of South Dakota's Teaming Coalition helped convince him to introduce the bill.

South Dakota's Teaming with Wildlife Coalition currently has 162 members representing hundreds of thousands of South Dakotans. Our chapter was one of the first organizations to join, and chapter members are encouraged to continue to help build the coalition. More information can be found on the SDGFP Teaming with Wildlife web site.

State and tribal wildlife agencies continue to make use of State and Tribal Wildlife Grants. This funding is provided annually, in an apportionment in the case of state wildlife agencies and competitively in the case of tribal agencies.

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies continue to explore solutions for long term fish and wildlife funding, including opportunities associated with climate change legislation. This is a fluid legislative issue that this committee will continue monitor.

Publications

Glacial Lakes and Prairies Birding Trail
Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of South Dakota

Submitted by Eileen Dowd-Stukel and Silka Kempema

Wind Power Committee Report

Wind Turbine Siting Guidelines Being Updated: To ensure proper siting and operation, the Northern Plains Wind Energy Forum has been formulated to develop siting criteria that minimize the "footprint" of wind facilities to wildlife populations and their habitats. North Dakota and South Dakota have some of the highest potential for wind energy development in the country. These states also have similar wildlife habitats and extraordinary wildlife populations, in terms of both diversity and numbers. It is for the benefit of both of these natural resources that a stakeholder-based, wind energy siting criteria process has been initiated for the Dakotas.

The mission of the Northern Plains Wind Energy Forum is to support a vibrant wind energy industry in the Dakotas and promote the preservation and conservation of grasslands, wetlands, and other important habitat utilizing best available science and efficient and voluntary wind energy siting guidelines. The goal of the Forum is to create voluntary guidelines that are both effective and amenable to all groups.

The Forum has been modeled after effective collaborative ventures that involve a broad range of stakeholders, including wind energy developers, power purchasers, public agencies at various levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and private interests. It is professionally mediated by The Consensus Council, Inc. of Fargo, North Dakota.

A total of six meetings are planned for 2008; three of the six have been conducted. They have been in-

formative, productive, and positive. Meetings are structured as two-day events; working groups have been formed, with each working being assigned topics and associated tasks.

Siting guidelines are scheduled to be finalized by the end of this year. These guidelines will be considered an update to South Dakota's current wind energy siting guidelines.

Final Wind Turbine Siting Map: Earlier this year, the committee finalized a map that outlines areas of concern for wind power project placement in South Dakota. It is available on the SDTWS website (<http://www.sdwildlife.org/SDSitingMapMarch2008wCities.pdf>).

Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee: In October of 2007, the Department of the Interior initiated a committee under the guidelines of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This committee's charge is to advise the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service on measures to avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife and their associated habitats from land-based wind energy facilities.

These recommendations are intended to help update to the "Interim Voluntary Wind Turbine Guidelines" developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2003. The existing guidelines can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/wind.htm>.

Meetings are open to the public. Meeting announcements are published in the Federal Register fifteen days before the meeting. More information on the committee and their activities can be found at http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/windpower/wind_turbine_advisory_committee.html.

Submitted by: Silka Kempema, Committee Chair

The Second South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas (2008-2012) is Here! by Nancy Drilling, Atlas Project Coordinator

Exactly 20 years after the start of fieldwork on the first Breeding Atlas (1988-1992), field work for South Dakota's second Atlas has begun. The goal of the second atlas is to document the current distribution of every bird species that nests in South Dakota and to compare these distributions to those of the first South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas. These data, primarily collected by volunteers, will support efforts by conservation decision-makers, land-use planners, researchers, educators, students, and bird enthusiasts to maintain healthy bird populations and conserve avian diversity within the state. Specifically the second atlas aims to:

1. Document current distribution of all breeding bird species, including under-surveyed species such as owls and secretive marsh birds.
2. Assess changes in distributions of breeding birds since the first SD BBA.
3. Identify habitat associations and requirements for all breeding species.
4. Provide data for applications in public policy, planning, education, recreation, and research.
5. Increase public awareness and participation in birding and citizen science programs.
6. Encourage young people to participate in birding and citizen science projects.

How does the South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas (SDBBA2) work?

Collecting data for SDBBA2 involves visiting pre-selected 3-mile x 3-mile areas ('blocks') and surveying all habitats within each block for bird presence and evidence of breeding for all bird species. The

entire block does not need to be surveyed; rather, efforts are focused on surveying each habitat type within a block. Bird observations are categorized as *Possible* breeding, *Probable* breeding, or *Confirmed* breeding, based on a series of standardized criteria within that species' breeding season, as defined by 'safe dates'. To document timing of breeding, emphasis is on recording ALL observations, not just the 'highest' breeding category observed for each species. In addition, the habitat within which each bird is observed is recorded.

SDBBA2 will attempt to completely survey 300 random blocks (Figure 1). Of these blocks, 124 are the same 124 random blocks covered during the first Atlas. The remaining 176 blocks are newly selected. It takes at least 20 hours and at least 3 visits during the five year Atlas period to adequately survey a block. If the initial 300 blocks are covered well during the earlier part of the Atlas, we will survey another 125 blocks, for a total of 425 blocks (5% of the state's land area).

Outside of designated blocks, the atlas encourages everyone to submit observations of *Confirmed* breeding by any species anywhere within the state. Special forms are available for recording these observations.

SDBBA2 is administered by two committees - a Steering Committee and a Technical Committee, and two to four regional coordinators. Nancy Drilling and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory are coordinating the effort and providing technical (GIS, database development and management) support.

How can you help?

1. Report ANY and ALL confirmed breeding anywhere in the state.
2. Volunteer to survey atlas blocks.
3. Be a regional coordinator.
4. Be part of the Steering Committee.
5. Donate!

South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas 2 Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Breeding Bird Atlas? A Breeding Bird Atlas is a relatively simple, repeatable, grid-based survey that aims to document the distribution of all breeding bird species in the state.

Why is South Dakota doing a second atlas? Since the first Breeding Bird Atlas commenced in 1988, South Dakota's landscape has changed. In addition, land-use changes in the upcoming few years could be staggering, with increasing CRP conversion, biofuels production, wind farm development, and urbanization, to name a few trends of concern. Most likely, these landscape-level changes are impacting South Dakota's breeding birds. Regular monitoring of all breeding species on a large scale allows us to detect impacts of landscape changes. The goal of the second South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas is to document the current distribution of every bird species that nests in South Dakota and to compare these distributions to those of the first South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas (1988-1992). A second Breeding Bird Atlas in South Dakota will not only describe the changes in distribution of all breeding birds over the past 20 years, but will serve as the next baseline to which future changes can be compared.

How is an atlas done? Surveys are conducted in 3-mile by 3-mile randomly-selected 'blocks'. For SD BBA2, all 124 random blocks from the 1st atlas will be surveyed, as well as an additional 301 newly-selected blocks. During the survey, the primary focus is to document all breeding birds in the block. To accomplish this, all habitat types within the block are searched for bird presence and evidence of breeding. Bird observations are categorized as *Possible* breeding, *Probable* breeding,

or *Confirmed* breeding, based on a series of standardized criteria, within that species' breeding season, which is defined by 'safe dates'. To document breeding phenology, emphasis is on recording ALL observations, not just the 'highest' breeding category observed for each species. In addition, observers record the habitat within which each bird is observed.

Outside of designated blocks, all interested persons are encouraged to submit observations of *Confirmed* breeding by any species anywhere within the state, using the [Extra Observations Report](#) form.

What will be the outcome of this atlas? These data will support the efforts of land-use planners, conservation decision-makers, researchers, educators, students, and bird enthusiasts to maintain healthy bird populations and conserve avian diversity within South Dakota. Specific products will include statewide maps of the occurrence and breeding distribution of every species breeding in South Dakota, analyses of distributional changes since the first Atlas, and a website and reports containing maps and analyses.

Who collects the data? Most of the data are collected by volunteers who wish to contribute to our knowledge of South Dakota birds and to have fun. There will be a small number of paid atlasers who will go to blocks that are not covered by volunteers.

Do I need to be an expert at bird identification to participate? Definitely not! One of the beauties of atlasing is that you can take the time to identify birds and bird songs, and observe bird behavior. It's a great learning experience – everyone, novice and expert alike, learns something new every trip out.

How much time does it take? For each block, at least 20 hours are needed to visit all habitat types; some extremely diverse blocks may take up to 40 hours. Atlasers are asked to make at least 3 visits plus an 'owl visit' to each block during the breeding season. Visits should be at least 10 days apart and can be anytime during the course of the 5-year project.

What equipment do I need? Binoculars and notebook are all that are required. A spotting scope may be needed in some areas. Optional equipment that are extremely helpful include a GPS unit and a call-back tape or CD player for owls and secretive marshbirds.

How can I find out where the blocks are? Go to the interactive South Dakota [map](#) online (www.rmbo.org/SDBBA2) to see where blocks are located. Or else, contact the atlas coordinator with the counties that interest you and you will be sent county maps of block locations.

How do I sign up for blocks? Once you have chosen your blocks, contact the atlas coordinator to reserve your blocks and for block details.

What else can I do to help? Contact the coordinator to:

- Be a regional coordinator
- Be a member of the Steering Committee
- Make a donation
- Become a sponsor

How do I get more information? Visit the Atlas website at www.rmbo.org/SDBBA2 or contact the atlas coordinator, Nancy Drilling, email: SDatlascoordinator@rmbo.org, office phone - 970-482-1707, ext. 22.

In Respects— Kevin M. Honness, Wildlife Biologist and Swift Fox Researcher



**Kevin Honness
1962-2008**

Kevin Honness died in a kayaking accident on the Bad River near Capa, South Dakota June 7, 2008. Born on September 17, 1962 in Ithaca, New York to David and Pamela Honness, Kevin grew up in nearby Trumansburg, New York attending school in the Trumansburg Central School District and graduating from Trumansburg High School in 1980. Kevin's interest in wildlife and the outdoors began at an early age. He graduated with an AAS degree in wildlife and fisheries management from the State University of New York at Cobleskill in 1982, and received his BS degree in biology education from the State University of New York at Cortland. Kevin then served in the Peace Corps from 1986 to 1989 in Liberia, West Africa. At the time of his passing, Kevin was enrolled in the Wildlife and Fisheries PhD program at South Dakota State University in Brookings. During his graduate school career, Kevin was honored as the 2007 Outstanding Master's Student Award from the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Upon leaving the Peace Corps, Kevin's broad devotion to the conservation of many wildlife species took him throughout the western United States. He worked as a natural resource specialist in Oregon, as a fisheries biologist in Alaska, as the assistant director at Mission: Wolf in Colorado, as a member of the Yellowstone Wolf Project in Wyoming, as a bighorn sheep biologist in New Mexico, and for the last eight years of his life as the swift fox project leader in South Dakota for the Turner Endangered Species Fund.

In his years of work on swift fox recovery, Kevin had made tremendous strides in the species' recovery in South Dakota. His passion for the recovery of swift fox was evident in many ways, perhaps best shown by his fascination of large-scale movements and dispersal, and what those meant for the persistence of the species. Over 200 fox had been released under Kevin's tenure with the reintroduction program in the state, and in doing so he had to first convince 100 private landowners in South Dakota that the swift fox reintroduction effort was worth doing. His enthusiasm for the restoration work helped catalyze swift fox reintroduction projects at the Badlands National Park and with the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. At the time of his passing, Kevin had assembled an exhaustive collection of swift fox information with the intent of publishing the definitive text on the biology and conservation of the species. It was important to Kevin that he worked towards a better understanding of fundamentally important topics critical to the successful reintroduction programs of imperiled species and to help further the education

processes on being better stewards of the land.

Kevin also had many interests outside of the wildlife field. He was the founder and past race director of the Pierre Area Running Club. His last participation with the Club was making it to the final round of the 2008 winter swim-challenge by swimming 43.4 miles over the 10 week competition. He was also a tri-athlete and was proud to have finished the 2003 Boston Marathon. Kevin also enjoyed soccer, climbing, hiking, cycling, swimming, and attempting to grow bonsai. Kevin was also an accomplished chef, creating and making many meals for his friends and family.

Kevin is survived by his parents: Howard and Pamela Loveless of Trumansburg, New York, and David and /Deborah Honness or Newark, New York; his brothers, Chris (Cathy) Honness, Scot (Carla) Loveless, and Howard (Kelli) Loveless; his sister, Debbie (Dave) O'Donnell. Kevin is also survived by his former wife, Kristy Bly, several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and his companion Laura Dixon.

Memorials may be directed to the Kevin M. Honness Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o Trumansburg Central School District, Attn: Treasurer, 100 Whig Street, Trumansburg, New York, 14886.

Submitted by Art Smith, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

SDTWS Awards



Wildlife Professional Award

Colleen Kolbeck presented Tom Turnow of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with the 2008 Wildlife Professional of the Year Award from the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society at the Chapter's annual meeting.



Wildlife Professional Award

Kent Jensen presented Dr. Mark Rumble of the U.S. Forest Service with the 2008 Wildlife Professional of the Year Award from the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society at the Chapter's annual meeting.



Citizen Award

Chuck Pyle presented James Faulstich with the 2008 Wildlife Professional of the Year Award from the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society at the Chapter's annual meeting.



Special Award

Carl Madsen and Kurt Forman presented Jim Truax with a Special Award at the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society's annual meeting. The award was accepted by Dave Brietbach.



Graduate Student of the Year Award—2008

Kurt Forman presented Joshua Delger the 2008 Outstanding Master of Science Student Award from the South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society at the Chapter's annual meeting.

South Dakota Chapter TWS - Executive Board

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If you have an announcement, information item, or committee activity report that should be included in the next edition of *A Prairie Voice*, or if your address has changed, send the information to: Greg Pavelka at Gregory.a.pavelka@usace.army.mil, or call 402-667-2581, or fax the information in at 402-667-2588.

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*) _____

Home E-mail Address (*for list serve*) _____

Please Note:

The SDTWS List Serve is a one-way, non-conversational list serve used on an infrequent basis solely to inform members about important conservation issues and legislation. Due to the sensitive nature of some list serve content, we strongly advise that you provide us with a home e-mail address.

SDTWS' newsletter, The 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 e-mail address).

Please Check One: New Member 2008 Dues Renewal

Employer _____

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

Art Smith
SD Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol
Pierre SD 57501

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 Chad Switzer (605) 353-6699.