



South Dakota

GAME, FISH AND PARKS
2014 ANNUAL REPORT
WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



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2014 INTRODUCTION

SERVING PEOPLE, MANAGING WILDLIFE.

Greetings! I'm excited to present the Division of Wildlife's Wildlife Damage Management Program-Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2014 and share the many accomplishments from the past year. Game, Fish and Parks has added additional funds into several programs due to legislation that was passed in 2013. These additional resources has allowed the expansion of several program areas which has resulted in better services to our landowners and producers as well as the continuation of many valuable partnerships. These partnerships are a critical component to our programs and by working cooperatively with landowners, producers, predator control districts, and other agencies we are able to achieve successful outcomes to many human-wildlife conflicts. This report highlights the valuable services and the hard work that our dedicated professionals provide to landowners and producers throughout

South Dakota. GFP recognizes private landowners as essential partners in wildlife management within the agency's guiding principles and GFP could not successfully manage the rich wildlife resources that occur throughout South Dakota without these cooperative partnerships. Although GFP manages wildlife with a science-based approach, careful consideration is given to social tolerances and landowner concerns which play an integral role in wildlife management and the delivery of our program services.

All wildlife in South Dakota is a public-trust resource and belongs to the citizens and visitors of this state. However, most wildlife is produced on privately-owned property and sportsmen and women rely heavily on private lands for hunting opportunities as well. It is because of these important considerations that GFP operates such an active and comprehensive

Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) program. The WDM program is designed to work directly with landowners and producers to reduce wildlife damage to crops, stored-feed supplies, livestock loss, and other types of wildlife damage. GFP spent more than \$2.23 million this past year to operate the WDM programs in South Dakota and responded to over 2,500 requests for assistance which directly impacted nearly 2,000 landowners and producers. I hope this summary gives you a better understanding of these valuable services.

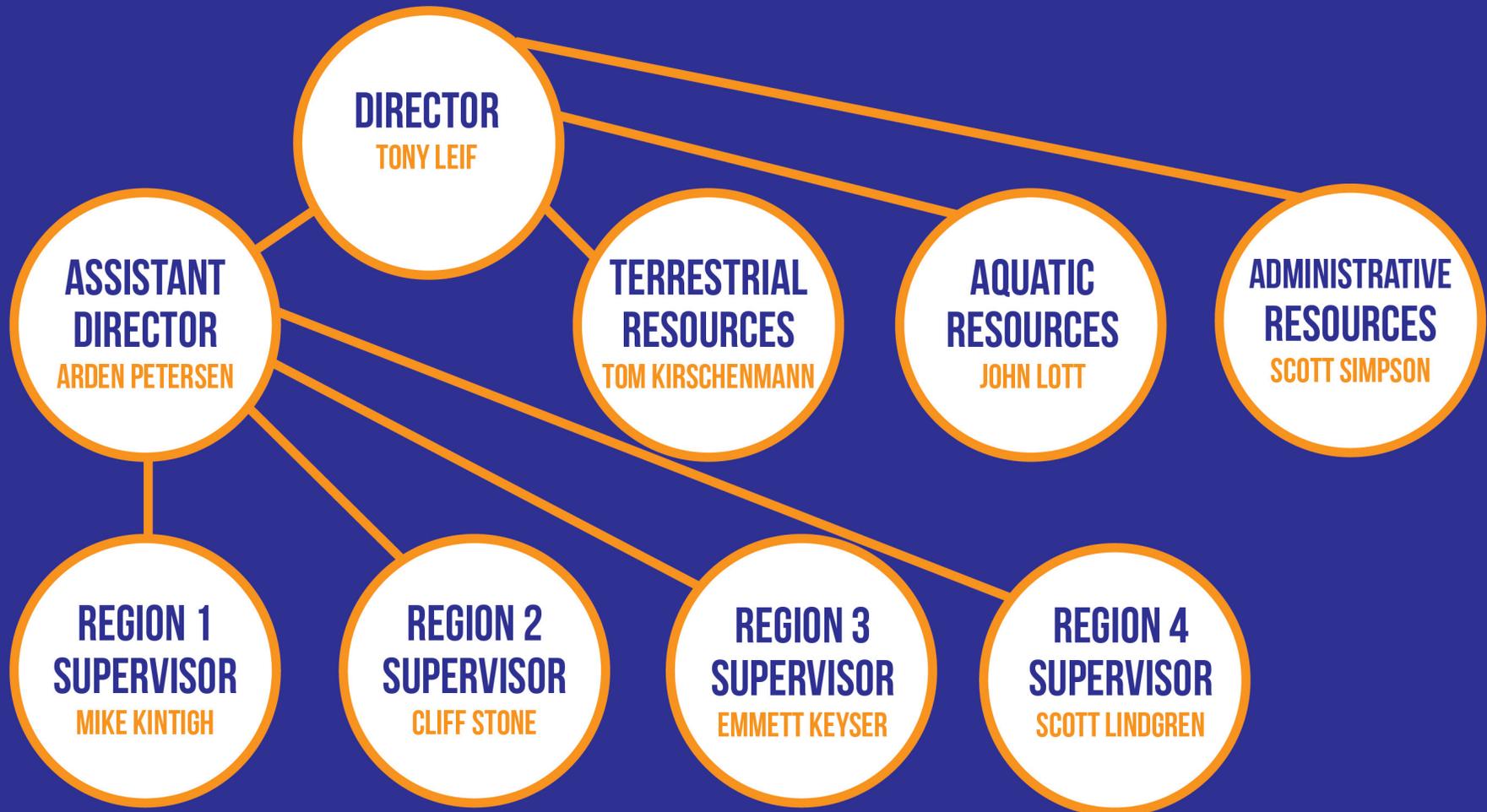
Sincerely,



Keith Fisk
Wildlife Damage Program Administrator

WHO WE ARE

SECRETARY: JEFF VONK
2015 INCOMING SECRETARY: KELLY HEPLER



HISTORY OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota has a very diverse landscape and land-use varies greatly across the state. This diversity as well as local wildlife populations, weather conditions, changes to local habitat and social tolerances all help determine the services the WDM program offer. GFP operates a multi-faceted WDM program which is designed to address human-wildlife conflicts involving most species of wildlife that occur throughout South Dakota. Currently, 27 wildlife damage specialists, numerous seasonal staff, and many other GFP staff provide the “boots-on-the-ground” delivery of the important WDM program services. Wildlife damage staff work directly with South Dakota’s livestock and agricultural producers to alleviate or reduce livestock loss from predators (primarily coyote) as well as crop, tree, and road damage caused from beaver. They help to minimize or alleviate damage to stored-feed supplies caused by deer, elk, and turkey, and work to reduce damage to growing crops



from Canada geese, elk, and pronghorn. In addition, GFP also provides prairie dog control on private lands that have been encroached from adjacent public land. However, these programs haven't always functioned under these operational guidelines.

Initially, GFP operated only the Animal Damage Control (ADC) program which was mandated by state law in 1939. This program was then more formalized in 1974 by the South Dakota Legislature. The passage of this legislation established the program and funding which allowed GFP to employ personnel to control coyotes, fox, prairie dogs, and other wild animals injurious to landowners. This legislation developed a system to fund the program wherein state law provided for an assessment to each county based upon livestock numbers (i.e. cattle and sheep) located within the county. While the assessment amount is generated using the numbers of livestock, all tax-payers within a county contribute. This law also mandated that GFP match those county monies on a 1:1 basis initially, and beginning in 1999 the GFP match increased to a 2:1 rate. The county assessments generate approximately \$300,000 and coupled with the GFP match of 2:1, another \$600,000 is added. Then during the legislative session of 2013, the South Dakota Legislature enacted legislation that added an additional one-dollar surcharge to most hunting licenses. This one-dollar surcharge

adds another approximately \$300,000 for ADC program funding. Finally, the S.D. Department of Agriculture provides some additional funding to the ADC program each year to assist with prairie dog control work. Initially, GFP employed a number of "Extension Trappers", who were responsible for specific work districts and responded to requests for service from South Dakota's landowners and producers. Over the years, GFP also operated an aerial hunting program to control coyotes and fox in local areas during this time period. Most requests for assistance involved problems with coyotes, fox, beaver, raccoon, and prairie dogs. Since 2001, GFP has expended more than \$7.1 million on predator control in South Dakota.

As the populations of other wildlife species (i.e. deer, elk, turkey, and Canada geese) increased, they began to impact more South Dakota landowners and producers. The South Dakota Legislature adopted legislation in 1999



which attached a five-dollar surcharge to most hunting licenses in South Dakota to provide additional funding to help landowners and producers. One-half of the monies raised from this surcharge go towards hunter access programs and the other one-half is used to support the WDM program. This surcharge generates approximately \$1.7 million annually, again split 50:50 between WDM and hunter access. It has also been GFP's position to utilize the proceeds from Special Buck licenses to help fund WDM program services, which generates an additional \$400,000 each year. Combined, the WDM portion of the program receives approximately \$1.3 million annually in funding support. These funds are used to alleviate or reduce impacts to agricultural and livestock producers as a direct result from wildlife depredation. In 2001, four wildlife damage specialists (one within each administrative region) were hired to help implement the initial program services. In addition, assistance is also provided by wildlife conservation officers across the state when needed.

As a condition to receive assistance, landowners and producers are asked to sign an agreement with GFP that states they do not charge for hunting access and they agree to allow reasonable free hunting access to people that obtain proper permission.

In 2009, these two programs (i.e. ADC and WDM) were formally reorganized and the comprehensive WDM program that GFP operates today was created. At the same time, GFP also entered into a cooperative agreement with USDA-Wildlife Services (USDA-WS) in regards to predator control in South Dakota.

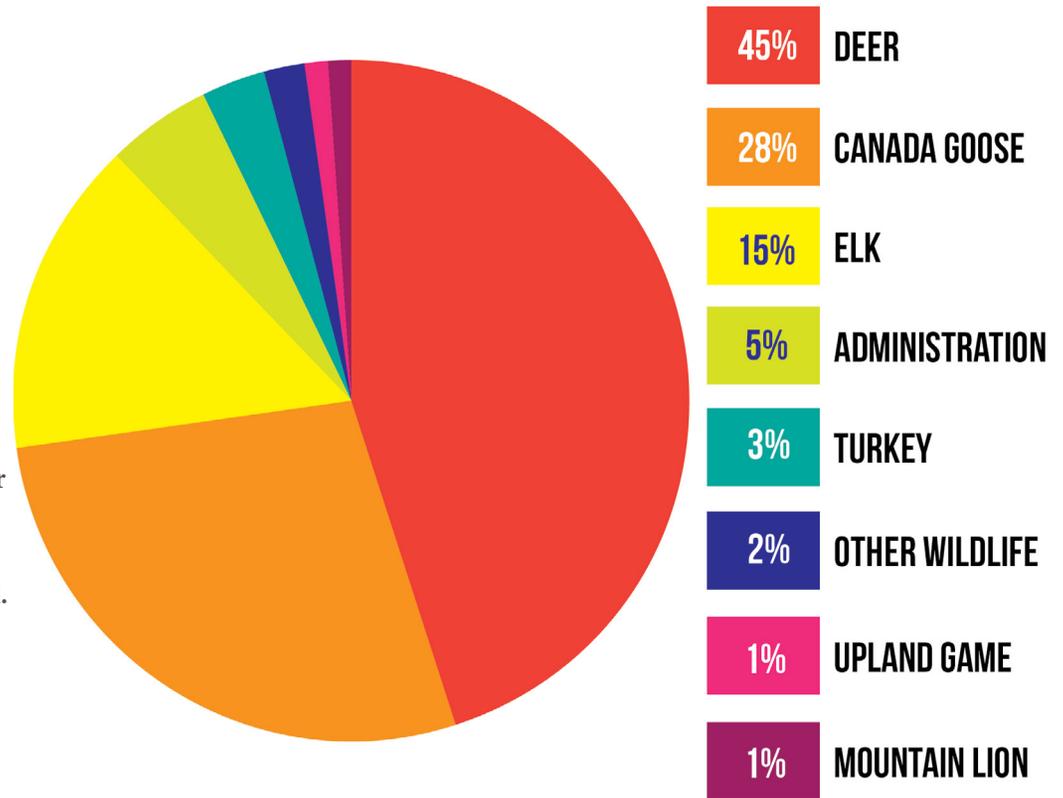
Currently, USDA-WS is responsible for most aerial predator control operations while GFP provides predator control services via ground-control methods. Additionally, GFP provides a limited number of hours of aerial predator control in certain areas where logistics make it difficult for timely responses.

Under the reorganized program, extension trappers were reclassified as wildlife damage specialists and are now responsible for providing assistance to producers with all types of requests for service within their respective work district. Dependent upon their location and demand from producers, some wildlife damage specialists work primarily with deer and Canada geese while others work primarily on predator control. Obviously, weather and local wildlife populations dictate the amount and types of services that wildlife damage staff provides.

As the demand for program services has increased GFP has been responsive in assuring that maximum services are provided to our producers and landowners in South Dakota, within the limits of available funding. For example, for many years GFP provided only very limited services in regards to Canada goose depredation assistance. However, as the resident Canada goose population increased in eastern South Dakota as well as the demand from producers and landowners, GFP's services increased accordingly. In fiscal year 2002, GFP spent \$243,857 on Canada goose depredation assistance and in fiscal year 2012, GFP spent \$717,262. Again, demonstrating that as the demand for services increased, so did GFP's efforts to reduce or alleviate the corresponding crop damage.

Since the year 2000, GFP has spent more than \$18.4 million on resolving game species depredation (primarily deer, elk, and Canada geese) on private land. As we move forward and follow GFP's mission motto, "Serving People, Managing Wildlife" the WDM program will continue to adapt services and programs to best meet the demands from our partners in wildlife management, South Dakota's landowners and producers.

WDM PROGRAM EXPENDITURES - FY 2000 TO FY 2014



NEW FOR 2014

New in 2014, the South Dakota Legislature approved a five-dollar increase (not to exceed ten-dollars total) to the non-refundable application fee for elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat. In 2014, there were over 28,000 applicants for all elk hunting seasons in South Dakota. Prior to introducing this legislation, GFP conducted a public opinion survey and found that 67 percent of hunters and 58 percent of landowners approved of increasing the non-refundable fee with the expectation that these new funds would be earmarked for elk depredation programs to assist private landowners. The first time these funds will be collected will be the spring of 2015 and is projected to generate approximately \$150,000 dependent upon the number of applicants. Because sportsmen and women hold any type of elk hunting in South Dakota in such high regard, GFP believes that utilizing these new monies to increase the social tolerance for more elk in the Black Hills is a valuable use of these funds.

WDM PROGRAM



When someone thinks of a Wildlife Damage Specialist (WDS), several thoughts may come to mind. Those thoughts may consist of a GFP staff member assisting with trapping a coyote that has killed livestock, assisting with the construction of electric fence to protect growing crops from Canada goose damage, or assistance regarding deer damage to stored-feed supplies. While these answers are all correct, wildlife damage specialists play a very important role within GFP and provide the people of South Dakota with many valuable services.



PRIMARY PURPOSE

Wildlife damage specialists cooperatively work with landowners and producers to alleviate or reduce all types of wildlife damage to private property. This includes alleviating livestock loss caused by coyotes and fox, reducing damage to stored-feed supplies from deer, elk, and turkeys, reducing damage to growing crops from Canada geese, alleviating livestock loss and protecting the general public from mountain lions, reducing damage to commercial watermelon growers from raccoons and deer, controlling prairie dogs on lands adjacent to public land, and reducing damage to crops, dams, trees, roads and other property from beaver.

They assist landowners with a diversity of other human-wildlife conflicts such as pronghorn antelope and pheasant depredation as well as hawk and owl control to protect poultry. There are also certain situations where wildlife damage staff assists with public safety such as: the protection of levees and dikes from wildlife (during the flooding events in 2011), wildlife threats on or near airports, human-wildlife conflicts with aggressive wildlife species and other situations that arise. Some staff members also train and supervise a large number of seasonal employees and interns which provide the primary workforce for many wildlife damage management activities. Wildlife damage specialists also interact with a significant number of landowners and producers each year and GFP relies on these staff members for agency communications with the citizens of South Dakota at the grass-roots level.



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife damage specialists assist with many different wildlife surveys and disease monitoring efforts that GFP conducts throughout the year.

They assist with surveys such as deer counts, pheasant brood routes, pronghorn antelope surveys, elk surveys, grouse surveys and turkey counts. They help with duck and goose banding, bobcat tagging, and walleye spawning when time allows. They are also called upon to work with other GFP staff on disease monitoring efforts such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), and Avian Influenza.

They also assist with wildlife research projects when projects demand certain skills or personnel and play a vital role in the success of many projects.



PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Another important role that wildlife damage specialists play is to provide educational seminars and demonstrations to sportsmen groups, schools, and other interested groups to promote the sport hunting and trapping of furbearers. Wildlife damage staff participate in events throughout South Dakota such as the Step-Outside Program and other GFP-sponsored public outreach events. Wildlife damage specialists present information regarding the WDM program to county commissions, predator control districts, and appear at numerous other public meetings throughout the year.

Administrators routinely interact with stakeholder groups such as the WDM Working Group, ADC Policy Advisory Committee, SD Stockgrowers, SD Sheepgrowers, SD Cattlemen, SD Ag Unity, and many other organizations, policy-makers, and groups. They also coordinate management activities and operations with other partners such as USDA-WS, USDA Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other state and federal agencies as well as cooperate on wildlife damage research with South Dakota State University and USDA National Wildlife Research Center. Program accountability is an important element for GFP and it's critical that our constituents' needs are being met by our programs and services as well as providing accountability to the sportsmen and women that provide funding for these important programs. Over the past five years, GFP has made a considerable effort to demonstrate accountability and transparency.



ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS

The Division of Wildlife's Operations Section is divided into four administrative regions. Each region works under the supervision of a regional supervisor along with other assistant supervisory staff. Each region then has assorted field-staff which conduct the "on-the-ground" work and services to the citizens of South Dakota. In addition to the four administrative regions, the Division of Wildlife also has an administrative section which consists of a program administrator and support staff.

REGION 1 (WESTERN): Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Jackson, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, Shannon, and Ziebach.

REGION 2 (CENTRAL): Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Charles Mix, Corson, Dewey, Douglas, Gregory, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Jones, Lyman, Mellette, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Todd, Tripp, and Walworth.

REGION 3 (SOUTHEAST): Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Brookings, Clay, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerald, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Sanborn, Turner, Union, and Yankton.

REGION 4 (NORTHEAST): Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, McPherson, Roberts, and Spink.

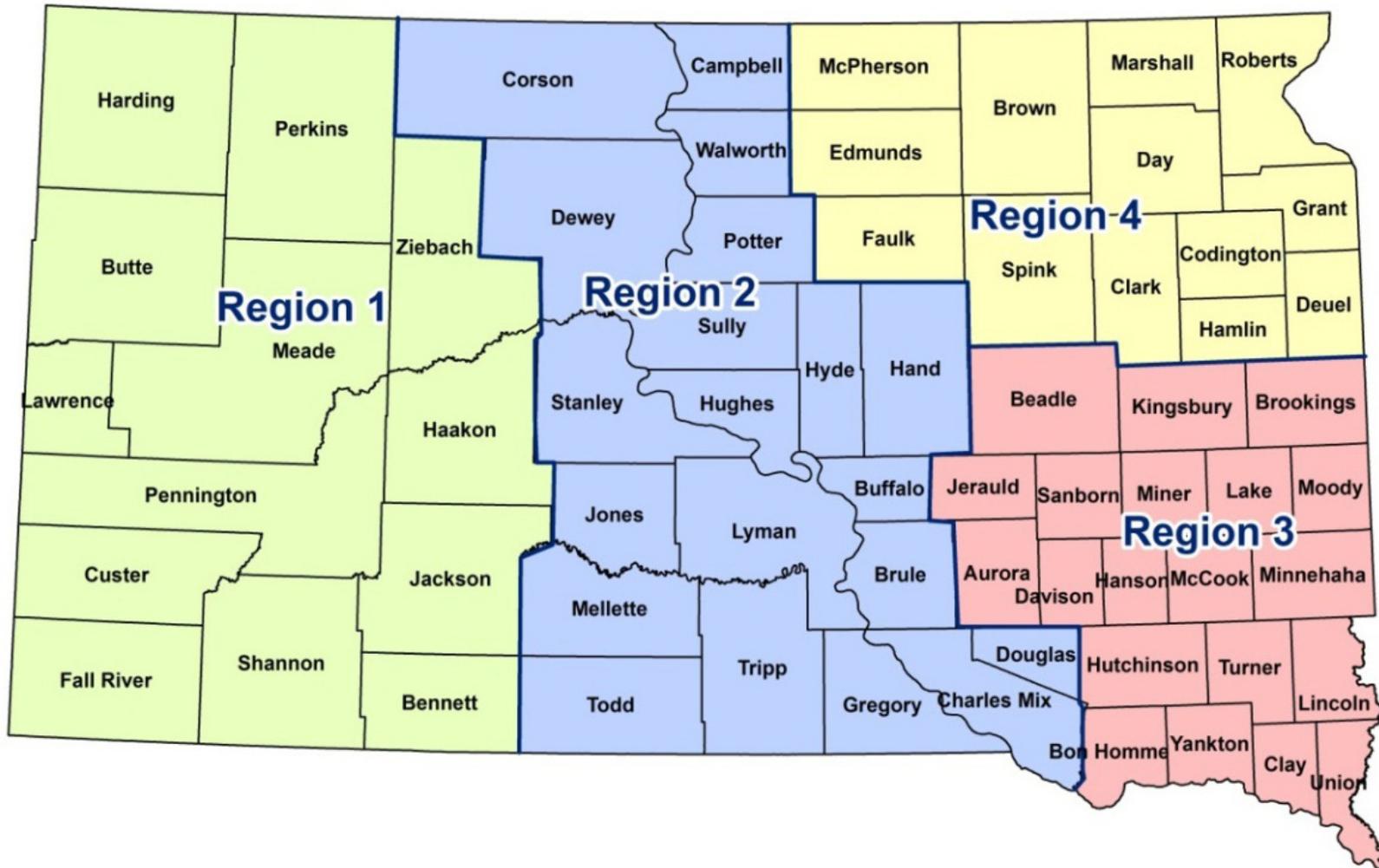
WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION STAFF

Arden Petersen, Assistant Director – Operations

Tom Kirschenmann, Terrestrial Resources Section Chief

Keith Fisk, Wildlife Damage Program Administrator

Dana Ertz, Secretary



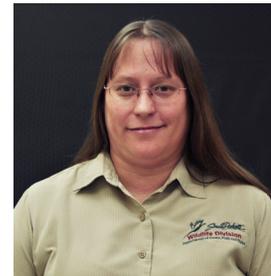
WDM PROGRAM STAFF

There are currently 27 wildlife damage specialists, four regional program managers, one secretary, and one program administrator employed by GFP who work within the WDM program. Additionally, when situations demand additional assistance, wildlife conservation officers routinely assist with wildlife damage abatement services throughout the year. These folks serve our agricultural and livestock producers as well as the citizens of South Dakota across the entire state every year. Brief introductions of each wildlife damage staff member follow below.

ADMINISTRATION



KEITH FISK Duty Station – Pierre. Keith has worked for GFP since 2010 as the wildlife damage program administrator. Prior to his current position, Keith was employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a wildlife biologist. Keith administers the WDM program for the State of South Dakota and has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences and a M.S. degree in wildlife science from South Dakota State University.



DANA ERTZ Duty Station – Pierre. Dana has worked for GFP since 2000 as a secretary for the WDM program. Prior to her current position, Dana was employed by the S.D. Department of Social Services and worked in child support. Dana is responsible for WDM program administrative duties and data entry for the WDM database.

REGION 1 - WESTERN



JOHN KANTA Duty Station – Rapid City. John has worked for GFP since 2000. John spent several years working in fisheries and wildlife before he became the regional wildlife manager in 2007, where he supervises the WDM operations in Region 1. John has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University.



JACK ALEXANDER Duty Station – Custer. Jack has worked for GFP since 1990. Jack spent many years as an extension trapper from 1990 to 2009. In 2009, Jack became a wildlife damage specialist. Jack serves as the agency's primary responder regarding mountain lions and responds to most mountain lion calls in Region 1.

REGION 1 CONTINUED



DUSTIN DREWS Duty Station – Bison. Dustin has worked for GFP since 2014 as a wildlife damage specialist. Prior to his current position, Dustin worked in the private sector and owned and operated an animal damage control business. Dustin serves Perkins County and primarily works on predator and beaver control. Dustin attended Southeast Community College in Nebraska.



SPENCER LYNCH Duty Station – Faith. Spencer began working for GFP as a wildlife damage specialist in 2013. Prior to his current position, Spencer worked as an assistant furbearer biologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Spencer serves Ziebach and northeastern Meade County with coyote, beaver, and deer depredation assistance. Spencer has a B.S. degree in wildlife conservation management from Missouri Western University.



SEAN MARSICH Duty Station – Philip. Sean began working for GFP in 2012 as a wildlife damage specialist. Prior to his current position, he was employed with the US Air Force and worked in pest management. Sean serves Bennett, Haakon, and Jackson counties with mainly predator and beaver control. He has a B.S. degree in biology from Ohio State University.



SCOTT PHILLIPS Duty Station – Buffalo. Scott has worked for GFP as a wildlife damage specialist since 2011. Prior to his current position, Scott worked in the private sector with predator control. Scott serves the northwestern-third of Butte County and all of Harding County with primarily predator and beaver control. Scott attended Columbia Basin College in Washington.



CHAD SEBADE Duty Station - Spearfish. Chad has worked for GFP since 2001 and was on the habitat crew. In 2008, Chad became a wildlife damage specialist and serves Lawrence, the western-half of Pennington, and most of Butte and western Meade counties with coyote, beaver, elk, deer, and turkey depredation assistance. Chad attended Black Hills State University.



DAN TURGEON Duty Station – Wasta. Dan has worked for GFP since 1977. Dan spent several years working in the habitat section and was an extension trapper from 1983 to 2009. In 2009, Dan became a wildlife damage specialist and serves Pennington County and the southeastern corner of Meade County with mainly predator and beaver control.

REGION 1 CONTINUED



LOREN VANDE STROET Duty Station – Hot Springs. Loren has worked for GFP since 2001 as a wildlife damage specialist. He serves Custer, Fall River, and Shannon counties with coyote, beaver, deer and turkey depredation assistance. Loren has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University.

REGION 2 - CENTRAL



NATHAN BAKER Duty Station – Fort Pierre. Nathan has worked for GFP since 2010, first in the wildlife diversity section and then in 2011 Nathan became the regional wildlife manager where he supervises the WDM operations in Region 2. Nathan has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences and a M.S. degree in biology from South Dakota State University.



DEAN BISBEE Duty Station – Chamberlain. Dean has worked for GFP since 1981 in several different areas. In 2001, Dean became a wildlife damage specialist and serves primarily Brule, Buffalo, and Lyman counties with deer, turkey, Canada goose, and beaver depredation assistance. He also assists other wildlife damage staff throughout the south-half of Region 2. Dean has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University.



JASON BURT Duty Station – Fort Pierre. Jason has worked for GFP since 1999. Jason spent four years as a conservation officer and was an extension trapper from 2004-2009. In 2009, Jason became a wildlife damage specialist and serves Hand, Hughes, and Hyde counties with coyote, beaver, deer and Canada goose depredation assistance. Jason has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University.



LARRY COLLINS Duty Station – Isabel. Larry has worked for GFP since 1978. Larry was an extension trapper from 1978 to 2009. In 2009, Larry became a wildlife damage specialist and serves Corson and Dewey counties with primarily coyote, beaver, and deer depredation assistance.

REGION 2 CONTINUED



CHRIS MCALLISTER Duty Station – Dallas. Chris has worked for GFP as an extension trapper from 1988 to 2009. In 2009, Chris became a wildlife damage specialist and serves Gregory, Mellette, Tripp, and Todd counties with deer, coyote, beaver, and turkey depredation assistance.



BRENDAN PETERSON Duty Station – Mobridge. Brendan has worked for GFP since 2007 and was on the habitat crew. In 2010, Brendan became a wildlife damage specialist and serves Campbell and Walworth counties with deer, coyote, and beaver depredation assistance. Brendan has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University.



RANDY ROEDE Duty Station – Fort Pierre. Randy has worked for GFP since 2002 as an extension trapper. In 2009, Randy became a wildlife damage specialist and serves the western-half of Lyman, Jones, Potter, Stanley, and Sully counties with coyote, beaver, deer, and turkey depredation assistance.



BRENT VANDER LEY Duty Station – Chamberlain. Brent has worked for GFP since 1992 and was an extension trapper from 1993 to 2009. In 2009, Brent became a wildlife damage specialist and serves the eastern-half of Lyman, Buffalo, Brule, Charles Mix, and Douglas counties with coyote, beaver, deer, and Canada goose depredation assistance. Brent has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University.

REGION 3 - SOUTHEAST



JULIE DEJONG Duty Station – Sioux Falls. Julie has worked for GFP since 2012, first as a resource biologist and currently as the regional wildlife manager where she supervises the WDM operations in Region 3. Prior to her time with GFP, Julie worked for the Department of Natural Resources in Camp Ripley, Minnesota. Julie has a B.S. degree, M.S. degree, and a PhD in wildlife science from South Dakota State University.



BLAKE BAPPE Duty Station – Mitchell. Blake has worked for GFP as a wildlife damage specialist since 2009. Blake provides Canada goose and deer depredation assistance as well as coyote and beaver control within Bon Homme, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, western McCook, and western Yankton counties. Blake has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University.

REGION 3 CONTINUED



BRAD BAUMGARTNER Duty Station – Sioux Falls. Brad has worked for GFP since 1990. Brad spent several years working in the habitat program and was an extension trapper from 1994 to 2009. In 2009, Brad became a wildlife damage specialist and serves Brookings, Kingsbury, Lake, northern-half of Minnehaha, eastern McCook, Miner, and Moody counties with beaver, coyote, deer, and Canada goose depredation assistance. Brad has a B.S. degree in law enforcement and wildlife management from Mankato State University.



STACEY BORK Duty Station - Sioux Falls. Stacey has worked for GFP since 1992 and has been a wildlife damage specialist for the past 11 years. He serves all counties in Region 3 for depredation assistance dealing with primarily deer and Canada geese. Stacey has a B.S. degree in fisheries and wildlife from the University of Minnesota.



DAREN HETLAND Duty Station - Sioux Falls. Daren has worked for GFP as an extension trapper from 1989 to 2009. In 2009, Daren became a wildlife damage specialist and serves Clay, Union, eastern Yankton, Turner, Lincoln, and eastern McCook and Minnehaha counties with assistance with beaver, coyote, deer, and Canada geese. Daren has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries from South Dakota State University.



GLEN STERLING Duty Station – Huron. Glen has worked for GFP since 1986 as an extension trapper and aerial gunner. In 2009, Glen became a wildlife damage specialist and serves Aurora, Beadle, Jerauld, and Sanborn counties with coyote, beaver, deer, and Canada goose depredation assistance.



GREG WOLBRINK Duty Station - Sioux Falls. Greg has worked for GFP since 2001 as a resource biologist and became a wildlife damage specialist in 2008. He serves all counties in Region 3 for depredation assistance dealing with primarily deer and Canada geese as well as some beaver and coyote control. Greg has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University.

REGION 4 - NORTHEAST



JACQUIE ERMER Duty Station – Watertown. Jacquie has worked for GFP since 2011. Prior to her current position, she was employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and ND Game and Fish. In 2012, Jacquie became the regional wildlife manager where she supervises the WDM operations in Region 4. Jacquie has a B.A. degree in biology from Moorhead State University in Minnesota and a M.S. degree in wildlife science from South Dakota State University.



AARON HUNT Duty Station – Webster. Aaron began working for GFP in 2013 as a wildlife damage specialist and serves Day and Marshall counties. Prior to his current position, he worked seasonally as a wildlife damage intern for several years. Aaron has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University.



TIM RAY Duty Station – Aberdeen. Tim has worked for GFP since 2000. Tim became a wildlife damage specialist in 2009 and serves Brown, Edmunds, and McPherson counties with coyote, Canada geese, beaver, and deer depredation assistance. Tim has a two-year wildlife degree from Black Hills State University.



BOB CURTIS Duty Station – Redfield. Bob has worked for GFP since 1980 and worked as an extension trapper and aerial gunner from 1984 to 2009. In 2009, Bob became a wildlife damage specialist and serves Clark, Faulk, and Spink counties with Canada geese, coyote, beaver, and deer depredation assistance. Bob has a B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University.



NICK MARKL Duty Station – Webster. Nick began working for GFP in 2013 as a wildlife damage specialist and serves Day and Marshall counties. Prior to his current position, he worked seasonally as a wildlife damage intern for several years. Nick has B.S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from South Dakota State University.

NOTE: There are two vacant duty stations in this region; Milbank and Watertown.

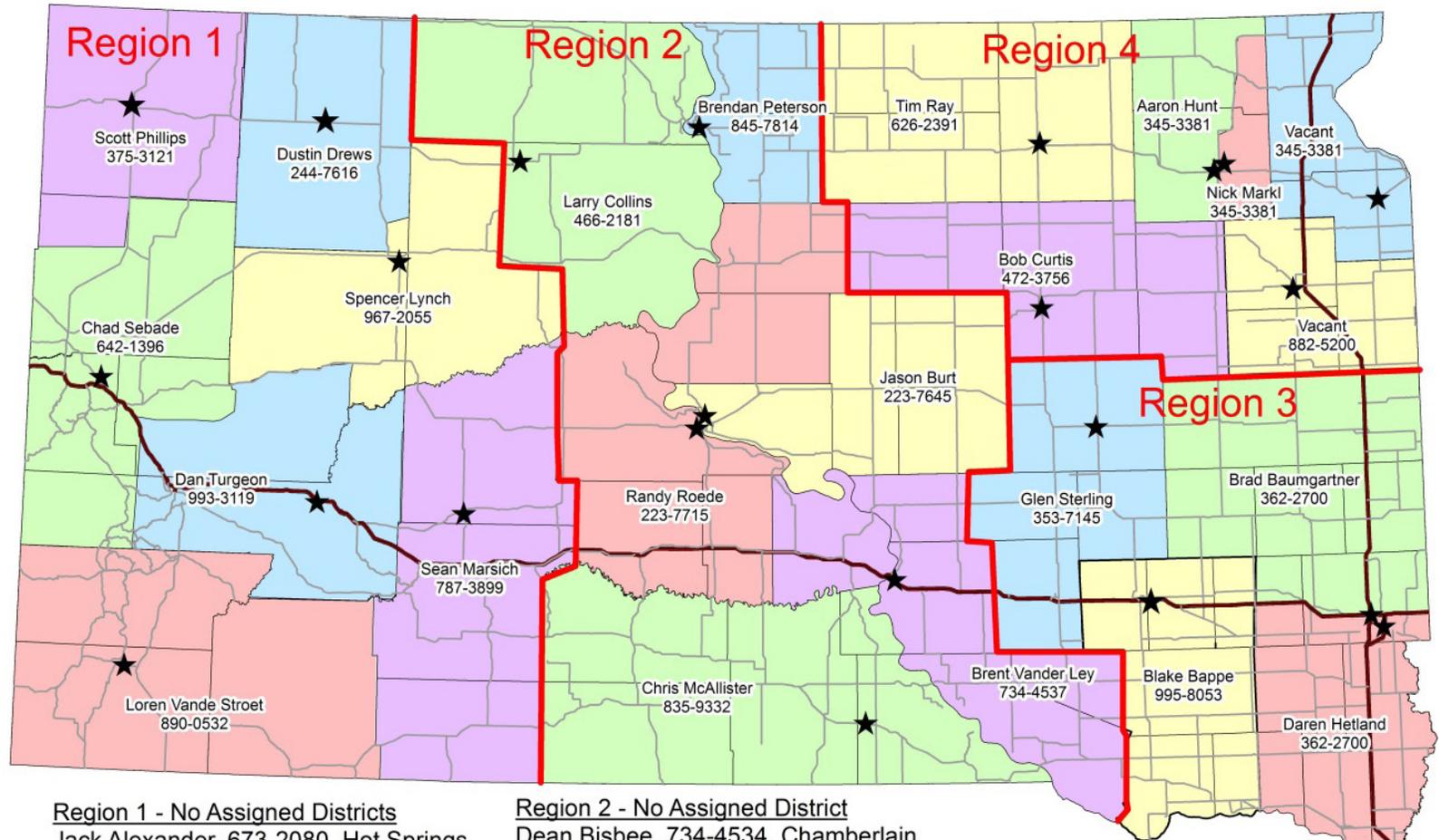
WILDLIFE DAMAGE SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year, one wildlife damage specialist is selected for this award from peers and supervisors. This year, Scott Phillips (center) was selected for his dedication and outstanding performance in Region 1, specifically in northwestern South Dakota, where Scott diligently works with landowners and wildlife to represent GFP's mission motto "Serving People, Managing Wildlife" in a professional manner.

Scott has worked in Harding County and northern Butte County since 2011 and has created many valuable relationships with the private landowners he works with. Scott represents GFP professionally and works cooperatively with USDA-WS, predator control districts, and producers on effective predator control.



South Dakota GFP Wildlife Damage Management Program



Region 1 - No Assigned Districts
Jack Alexander, 673-2080, Hot Springs

Region 2 - No Assigned District
Dean Bisbee, 734-4534, Chamberlain

★ = WDS Duty Station Location

Administration Support
Keith Fisk, 773-7595, Pierre
Dana Ertz, 773-5913, Pierre

Region 3 - No Assigned Districts
Stacey Bork, 367-4961, Sioux Falls
Greg Wolbrink, 367-4961, Sioux Falls

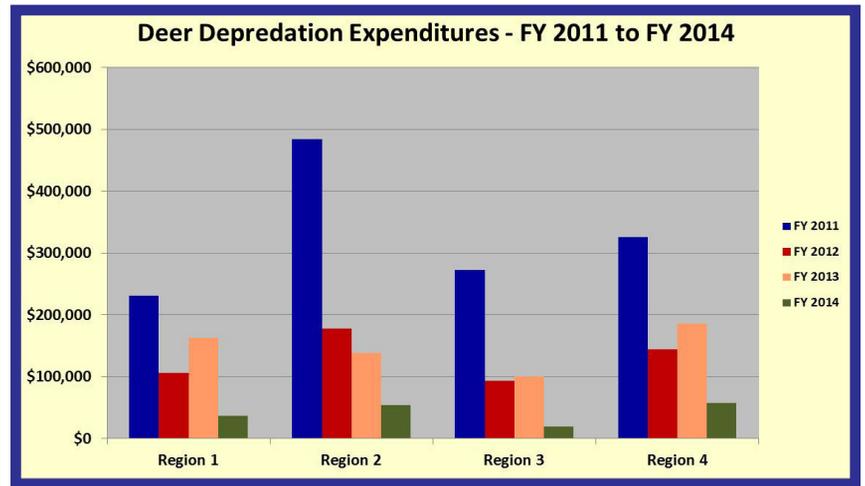
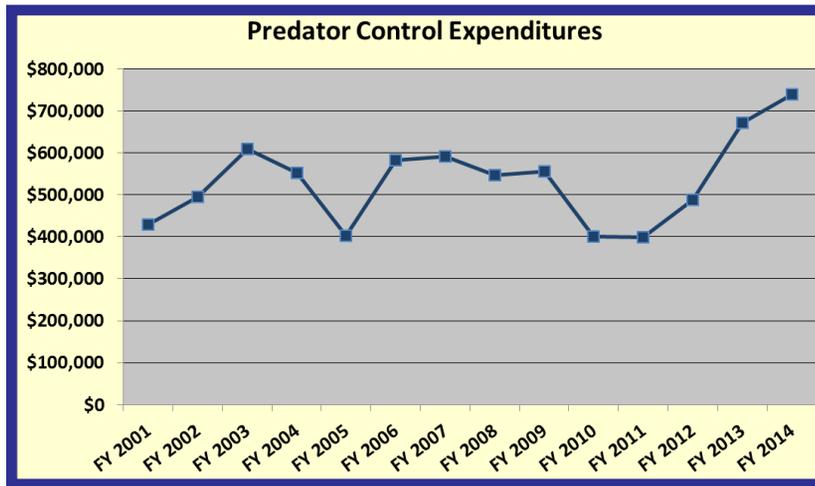
STATEWIDE PROGRAM REPORT AND SUMMARY

The state of South Dakota consists of 66 counties and has a tremendously diverse landscape from east to west as well as from north to south. This diverse landscape includes: croplands, grasslands, wetlands and lakes, rugged river drainages, badlands, and the Black Hills. These varying landscapes also present their own unique set of challenges due to the wildlife species that are present, weather conditions, and social tolerance levels. South Dakota has an abundance of wildlife species and includes populations of whitetail deer, mule deer, upland game, waterfowl, pronghorn antelope, elk,

furbearers, turkeys, and mountain lions. Twenty-seven full-time wildlife damage specialists, numerous seasonal positions, and assisting GFP staff provide the “boots-on-the-ground” delivery of the important WDM programs. These programs provide direct assistance to South Dakota producers and landowners with most wildlife species. The depredation assistance that GFP primarily provide includes assistance with beaver, Canada geese, coyote, deer, elk, fox, mountain lions, nuisance animals, pheasant, pronghorn antelope, turkey, as well as other wildlife species. High coyote populations as well as favorable livestock prices had wildlife



damage staff very busy responding to requests for assistance with predators. Staff worked with 868 livestock producers to reduce or alleviate livestock losses caused from



predators. As a result, staff responded to 1,204 requests for assistance with livestock loss or the protection of livestock and removed a total of 6,530 coyotes and 83 fox in cooperation with USDA-WS. Statewide, the number of requests for service was down 15 percent from last year. Wildlife damage staff worked nearly 17,000 hours and drove more than 300,000 miles to address these concerns. GFP also provided 220 hours of additional aerial predator control (above the 700 hours that USDA-WS provides to South Dakota) focused in eastern South Dakota. In addition, GFP provided a total of \$16,000 of cooperative funding to six predator control districts (Campbell County, Edmunds County, Faulk County, McPherson County, Multi-County (Harding, Butte, and portions of Lawrence and Meade counties), and Perkins County) for additional aerial predator control. These funds provided another 100 hours of aerial predator control above the level which

predator control districts normally allocate, which were directed by local GFP wildlife damage staff. Total program expenditures for predator control in South Dakota were \$739,377. Since 2001, GFP has spent more than \$7.1 million on predator control to address livestock loss events and the protection of livestock. Utilizing the increased funding made available for ADC activities during the 2013 legislative session and by continuing to cooperatively work together with USDA-WS, local predator control districts, and producers, GFP is committed to providing these levels of predator control services in the years ahead.

Local wildlife populations and weather play a very important role in the demands of the WDM program. When wildlife populations are high and/or severe weather conditions are experienced the demand for WDM services greatly increase. These factors are

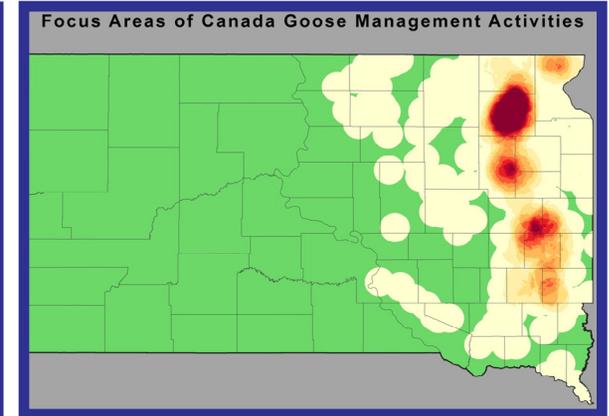
directly related to the number of requests for assistance GFP receives and responds to. The winter weather of 2014 was brutally cold, but deep snow was never experienced in most areas of South Dakota. Additionally, all areas of South Dakota are at or below the management objectives regarding the deer population. Low population levels coupled with minimal deep snow, and over \$8.1 million expended in previous deer abatement efforts (the year 2000 through 2014) resulted in the lightest workload since the program's inception in 1998. Wildlife damage staff still responded to 65 requests for service, statewide, to address concentrations of deer damaging stored-feed supplies. By working cooperatively with the 60 impacted landowners, wildlife damage staff was able to resolve these conflicts. Wildlife damage staff also initiated 15 stackyard contracts to protect stored-feed supplies and four protective fencing projects to alleviate damage to commercial orchards,

nurseries, and gardens. Staff drove more than 22,000 miles and worked more than 1,800 hours to address these concerns. Overall, the total program expenditures for deer depredation assistance were \$169,345.

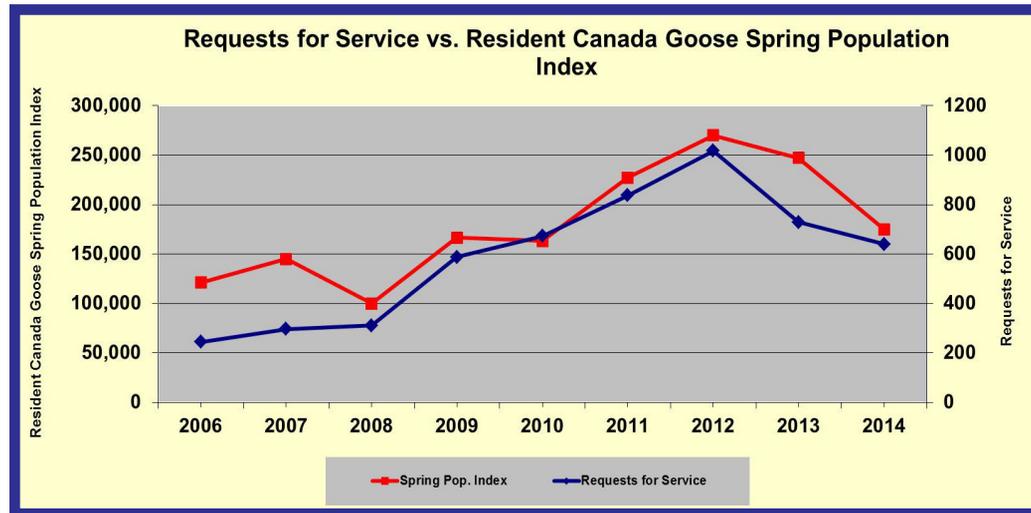
The spring weather experienced during 2014 was about normal. With an estimated resident Canada goose spring population index of approximately 175,000 (GFP's management objective is 80,000 to 90,000) GFP responded to 697 requests for assistance. When this large number of birds is combined with the agriculture/wetland matrix that occurs in eastern South Dakota and higher commodity prices, many producers requested GFP's services. All requests for assistance involved damage to growing-season crops (primarily soybeans and corn).



GFP staff worked with 493 landowners to provide crop protection from Canada goose damage. Three hundred and eleven private landowners worked cooperatively with GFP to haze and take Canada geese from areas where crop damage was occurring. These permitted landowners took a total of 1,524 Canada geese during this cooperative effort. Staff drove a



reduced crop damage in those localized areas as well as reduced staff time and effort. GFP also initiated 39 buffer-strip contracts which are designed to minimize goose damage around wetland edges. Overall, the total program expenditures for Canada goose depredation assistance was \$432,121. Since 2000, GFP has spent more than \$5 million working with private landowners to address Canada goose damage to growing crops.



total of more than 95,000 miles and worked more than 11,000 hours to respond to these concerns. Wildlife damage staff also destroyed 1,502 Canada goose nests which greatly

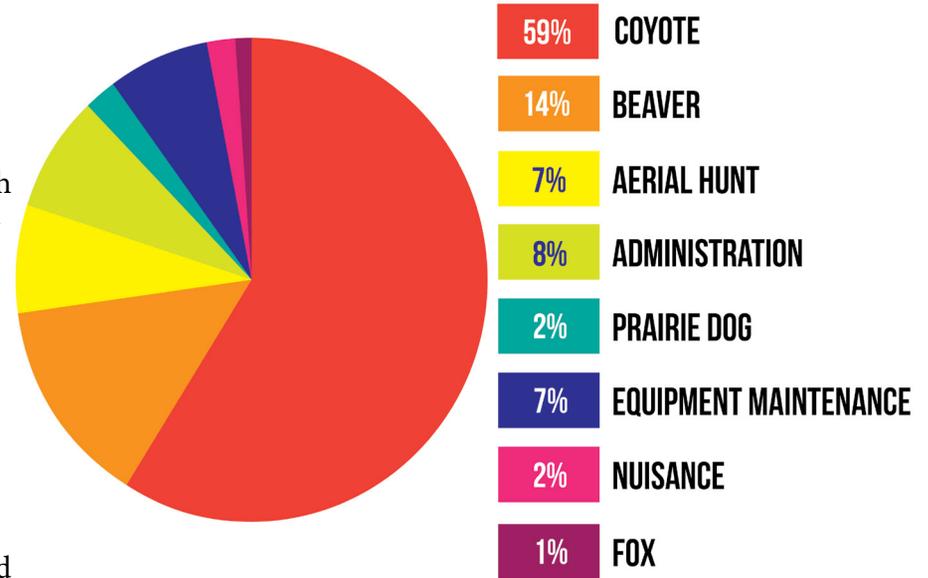
There was a decrease in the workload and associated expenditures when compared to last year as well as the record year which occurred in 2012. It was also good to see GFP's workload decrease when the resident Canada goose population decreased from the previous year. This relationship clearly demonstrates that the impacts to producers and the corresponding workload by GFP, is linked to the resident Canada goose population. By working together with sportsmen and women

and liberalizing hunting seasons and bag limits GFP remains hopeful the population objective can be reached at some point. GFP also implemented its second year of an experimental management approach during April, 2014. Under the federal permit that GFP is issued, GFP authorized selected volunteers to help harvest Canada geese as well as haze Canada geese away from historic problem-areas. Through these efforts, the volunteers harvested 643 Canada geese. GFP is evaluating the effectiveness of this management technique as the agency considers its overall approach to Canada goose management.

Requests from producers and landowners with beaver damage were down 26 percent compared to last year. Wildlife damage staff responded to 290 requests for assistance with beaver damage where they removed a total of 733 beaver. Most of this work occurred in the eastern one-third of South Dakota where many riparian areas exist as well as lakes and other wetlands. Most types of damage consisted of the flooding of crops, damage to trees used as wind-breaks or as ornamentals near homes, and damage to roads and livestock dams. Staff assisted 249 different landowners with beaver damage concerns. They drove nearly 80,000 miles and worked more than 3,800 hours to handle these problems throughout South Dakota. Total program expenditures were \$187,088.

Wildlife damage staff also responded to 94 requests for assistance with nuisance species such as raccoons, badger, skunk, and mink. Most requests were handled with technical advice or loaner-traps. However, staff did provide direct control in some situations. GFP staff drove over 8,700 miles and worked more than 500 hours to address these complaints. Additionally, wildlife damage staff and GFP contractors controlled nearly 1,500 acres of prairie dogs with a total program expenditure of more than \$27,000. Overall, the ADC portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of \$1,113,125 statewide. Wildlife damage staff drove more than 415,000 miles and worked more than 26,000 hours to address these 1,655 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 1,322 producers and landowners.

ADC EXPENDITURES - FY 2014



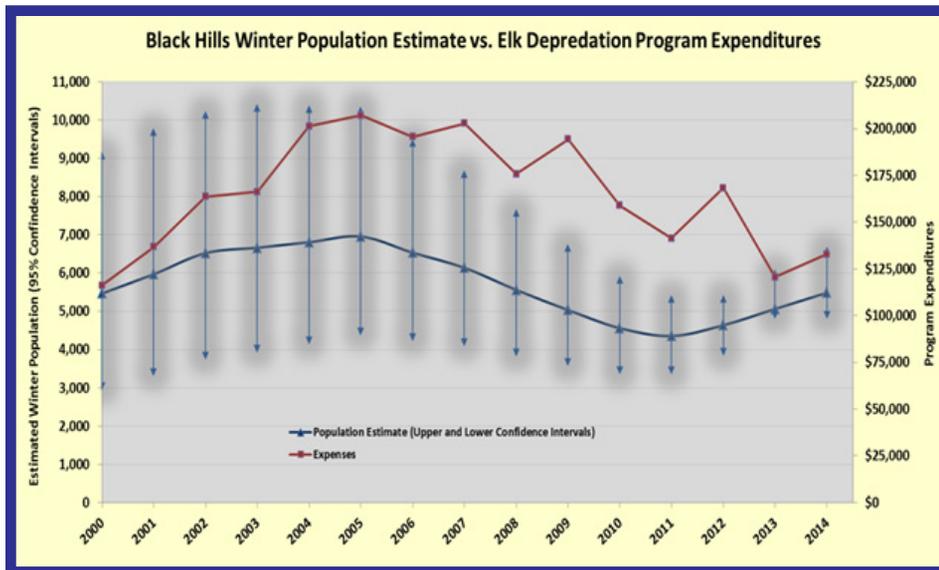
GFP RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF
1,655
REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE
IMPACTING 1,322
PRODUCERS AND LANDOWNERS
WITH EXPENDITURES OF \$1,113,125.

Wildlife damage staff responded to 56 requests for service regarding elk damage, primarily in and around the Black Hills area. Staff drove more than 7,200 miles and worked over 550 hours to address these landowner concerns. Many of these requests were addressed by utilizing food plot contracts. There were 43 food plot contracts initiated in 2014 primarily to reduce elk depredation to growing alfalfa. Additionally, there were two elk access contracts initiated, where elk hunting access is provided for hunters on private land as well as assistance to landowners which are experiencing elk depredation.

Overall, GFP spent a total of more than \$133,000 for elk depredation assistance, statewide. Since 2000, GFP has spent more than \$2.6 million working cooperatively with private landowners to address elk depredation. As GFP begins to increase the elk population in the Black Hills, the agency understands that there will be increased conflicts due to the higher number of elk. The 2014 South Dakota Legislature approved a five-dollar increase (not to exceed \$10 total) to the non-refundable application fee

for elk which is projected to raise an estimated \$150,000 which has been earmarked specifically for elk depredation assistance to private landowners. While many of the current abatement practices have proven successful over the past 20 years, elk depredation and the associated conflicts will continue to challenge GFP. These matters are complex and not only involve the management of elk but also include socio-economic and political dynamics as well. However, GFP has a proven history of working with private landowners and is committed to cooperatively working with private landowners to implement reasonable solutions to address future elk depredation conflicts.

Wildlife damage staff responded to 11 requests for assistance involving turkey issues across South Dakota. Turkey numbers across South Dakota are at or below management objectives and as such, the demand for turkey depredation services was small. GFP staff drove over 14,000 miles and worked more than 700 hours to address these concerns. Statewide, program expenditures for staff time, mileage,



materials and equipment totaled more than \$37,000. Wildlife damage staff also responded to many other requests for assistance involving other wildlife species. Additionally, wildlife damage staff responded to 36 reports of livestock loss as well as public safety threats due to mountain lions. Wildlife damage staff drove more than 9,000 miles and worked more than 900 hours to address these concerns. The statewide total program expenditure was more than \$39,000 for this program component.

GFP has also worked cooperatively with South Dakota State University (SDSU) to evaluate several management tools to address wildlife damage. The most recent research project which is currently underway is an evaluation of a chemical deterrent that when applied to growing soybeans could potentially limit Canada goose damage.

Initial results demonstrate some level of effectiveness and GFP will continue to work cooperatively with SDSU and the USDA-National Wildlife Research Center to further refine and develop enhanced application practices.

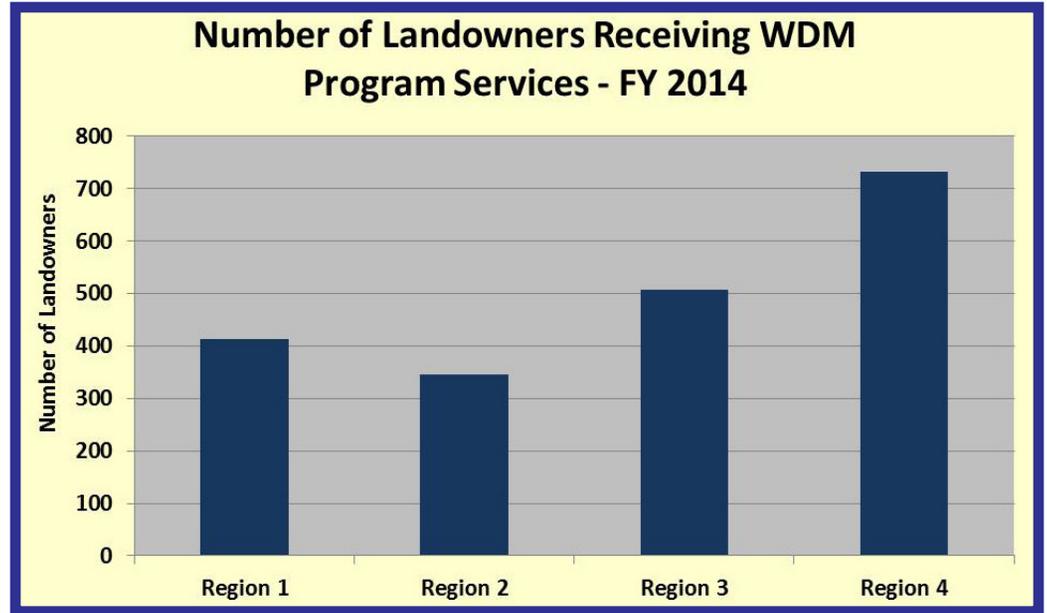
Partnerships are an extremely important component of the WDM program and are critical to the program's success. Each year, GFP wildlife damage staff works cooperatively with landowners and producers to reduce or alleviate human-wildlife conflicts.

Overall, the statewide WDM portion of the program had a total expenditure of \$1,122,822. GFP staff



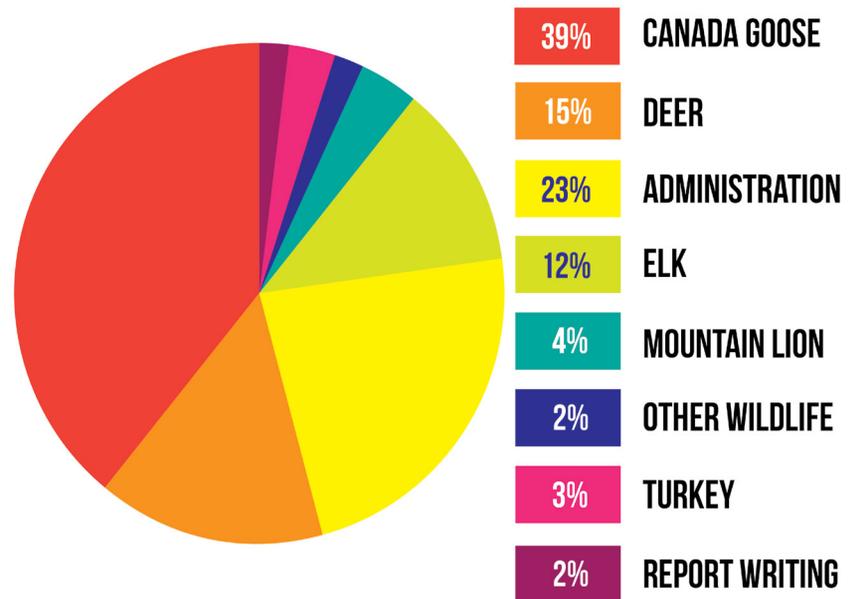
worked more than 28,000 hours to address these 880 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 667 producers and landowners.

In summary, GFP responded to a total of 2,539 requests for assistance within the entire WDM program (i.e. ADC and WDM combined) during fiscal year 2014, which directly impacted 1,996 landowners and producers in South Dakota. The total program expenditures including staff time, mileage, equipment and materials totaled \$2,235,947.

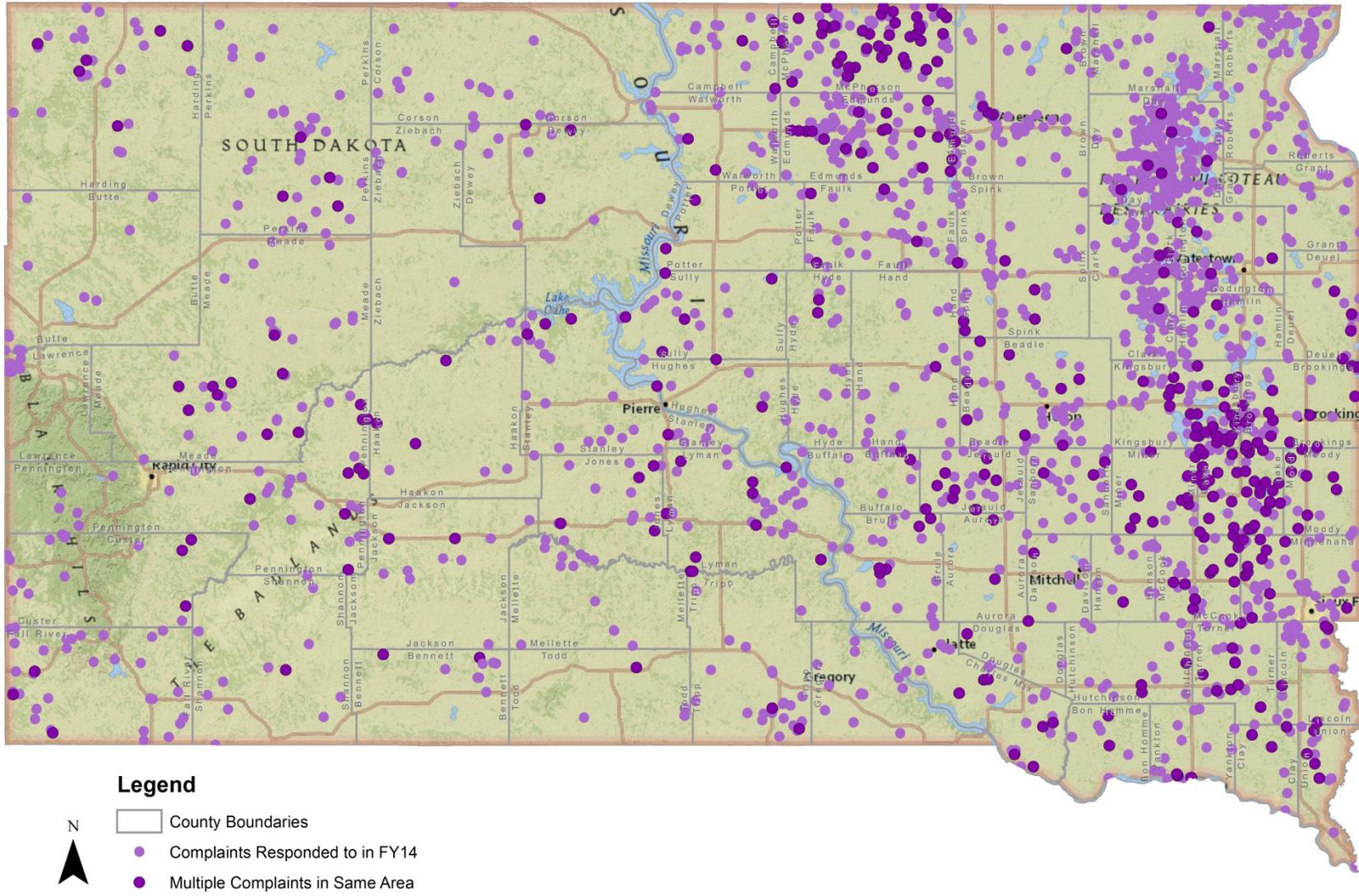


GFP RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF
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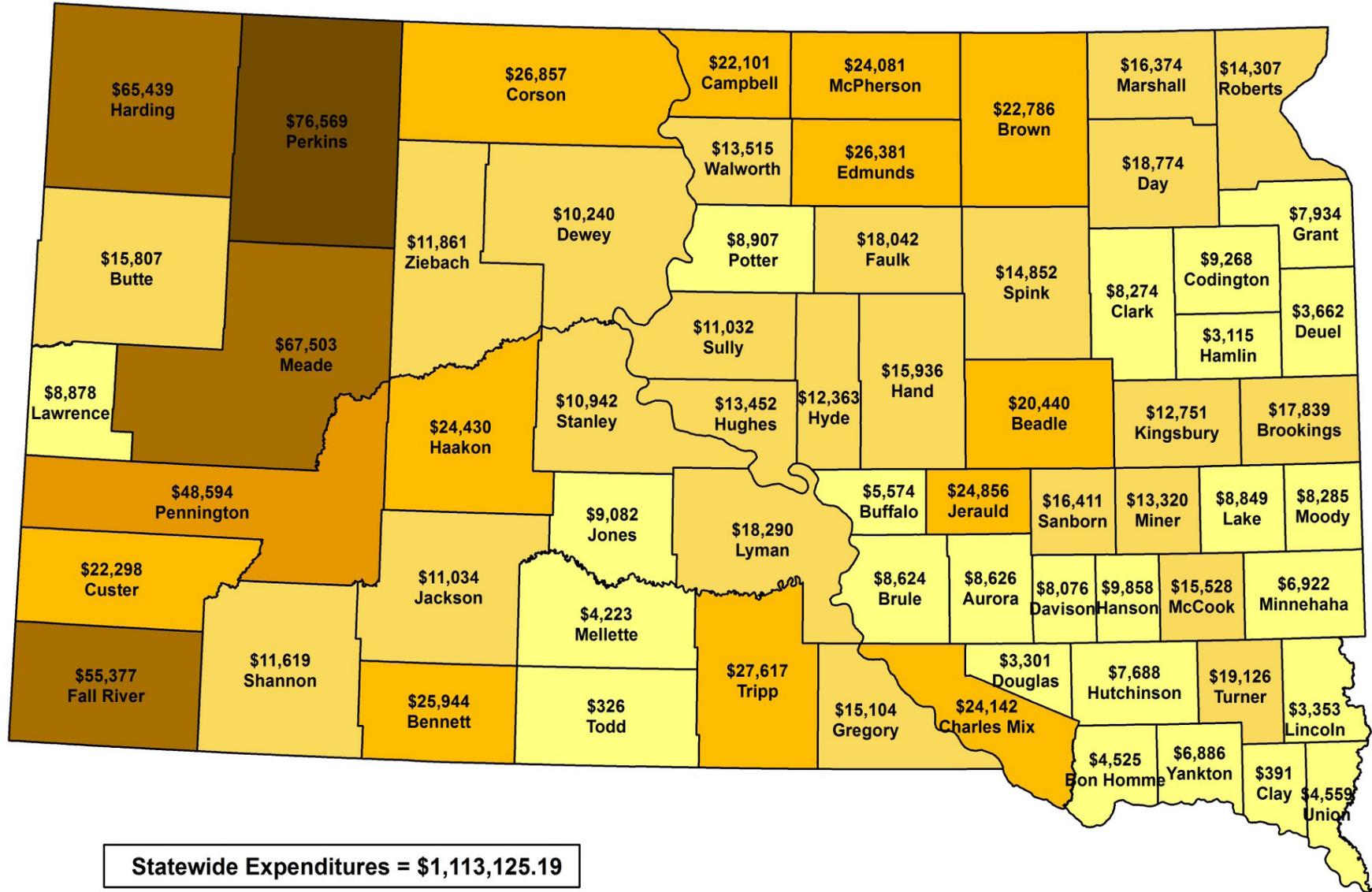
WDM EXPENDITURES - FY 2014



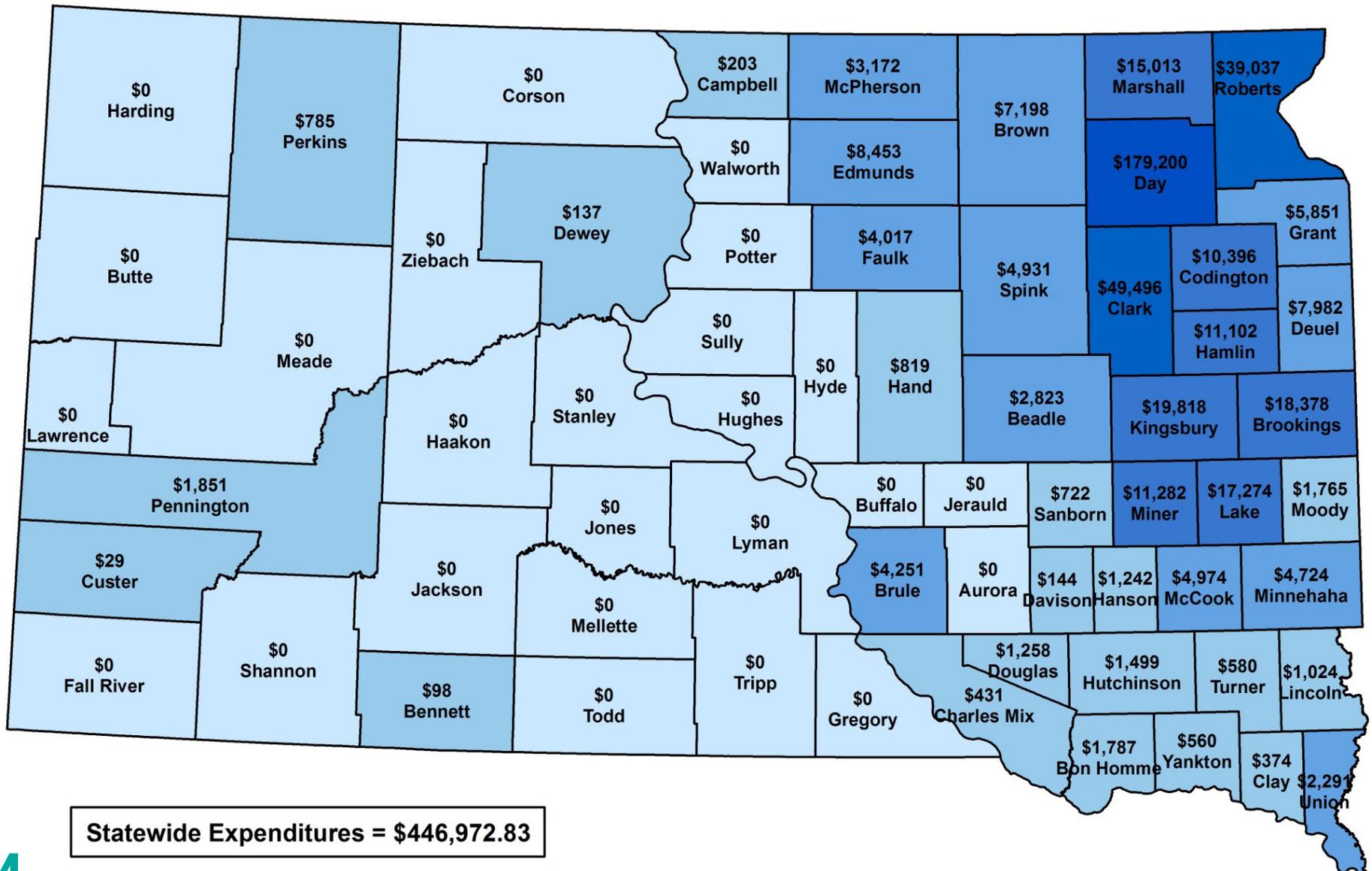
STATEWIDE WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - FY 2014



STATEWIDE ADC EXPENDITURES - FY 2014



STATEWIDE CANADA GOOSE DEPREDATION EXPENDITURES - FY 2014

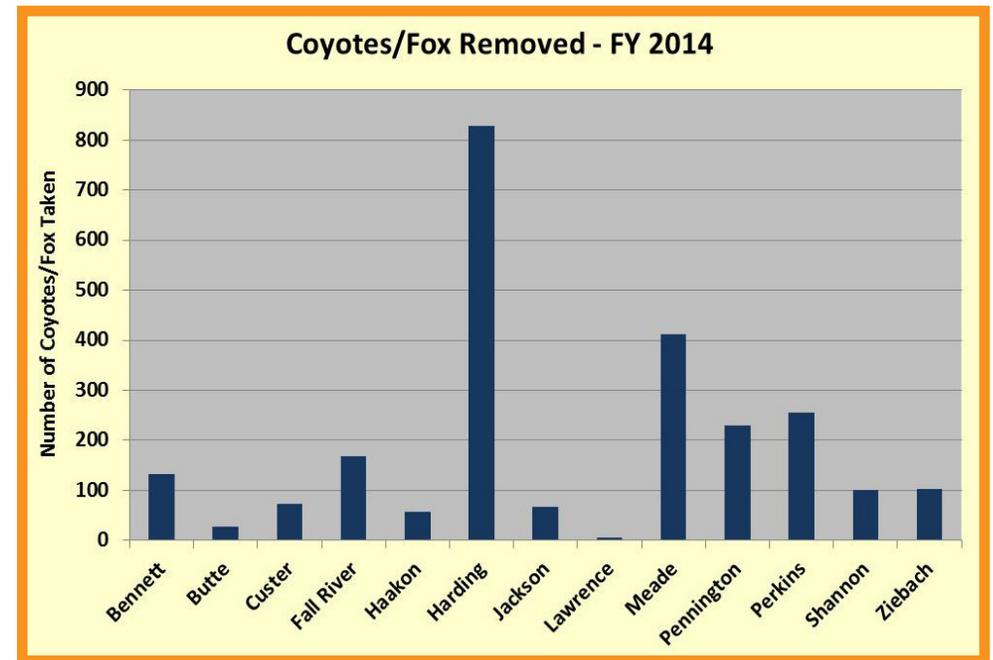


REGION 1 PROGRAM REPORT

Region 1 encompasses the western one-third of South Dakota. The landscape is very diverse and consists of large expansive rolling grasslands with buttes, the Black Hills national forest, rugged river drainages, badlands, as well as some croplands. Wildlife species are abundant and include most big game species, furbearers, upland game species, as well as, waterfowl. The region consists of 13 counties and has eight field positions (wildlife damage specialists) and one supervisory position. Region 1 is unique that wildlife conservation officers assist with the delivery of some of the WDM programs and services. With a large percentage of South Dakota's sheep producers occurring within this region, the primary job duties for most field staff revolve around the protection of livestock from predators but also include beaver control and under certain weather conditions assistance with deer, elk, and turkey depredation. GFP also works with several private contractors to control prairie dogs on private lands that have been encroached from adjacent public lands.

Coyote populations in Region 1 seem to be down based upon requests for service compared to the past few years as well as field reports. Livestock prices were favorable and the demand for predator control from livestock producers was still significant. However, requests for assistance with predator control were down 46 percent from 2013. One possible reason for this decrease in requests (combined with lower coyote populations) could be that the additional services allocated by GFP over the past year due to increased funding allowed wildlife damage staff more time and resources to focus more on priority areas.

Wildlife damage staff responded to 248 requests for assistance due to livestock losses caused from predators (i.e. coyote and fox) and worked with 173 livestock producers across the region to address these concerns. GFP has a great relationship with several predator control districts in western South Dakota and works cooperatively to address livestock losses. By working together, livestock losses were lower than in 2013. GFP provided a total of \$5,000 of cooperative funding to the Perkins County Predator Control District and the Multi-County Predator Control District (Harding, Butte, and part of Lawrence and Meade counties) for additional aerial predator control services. These funds provided additional hours of aerial predator control within these counties, which were directed by local GFP wildlife damage staff. Wildlife damage staff in cooperation with USDA-Wildlife Services took 2,461 coyotes and 38 fox and drove more than 142,000 miles and worked 8,834 hours to address these concerns. The total cost of predator control in Region 1 was \$286,898.



The demand for beaver control was reduced from previous years in Region 1. Wildlife damage staff responded to 25 requests for assistance regarding beaver damage where they removed 96 beaver and assisted 24 different landowners. Requests for assistance primarily involved damage to dams used for livestock watering and damage to trees used as wind-breaks. GFP also responded to several nuisance species (i.e. raccoon and skunk) requests for assistance. Wildlife damage staff drove a total of 20,512 miles and worked 921 hours to address these issues. Total program expenditures were \$38,831.

During the summer and fall months of 2013, western South Dakota experienced good range conditions. As a result, GFP saw a decrease from the last year in regards to the number of acres of prairie dog colonies that were treated.

Plague was also prevalent in many areas as well as previous poisoning efforts significantly reduced the demand for prairie dog control. Thirty-six landowners received prairie dog control services due to encroachment from adjacent public lands. GFP spent \$27,062 to control 1,397 acres of prairie dog colonies which had encroached private land. The utilization of zinc-phosphide treated oats (i.e. poison oats) was used as the primary control technique.

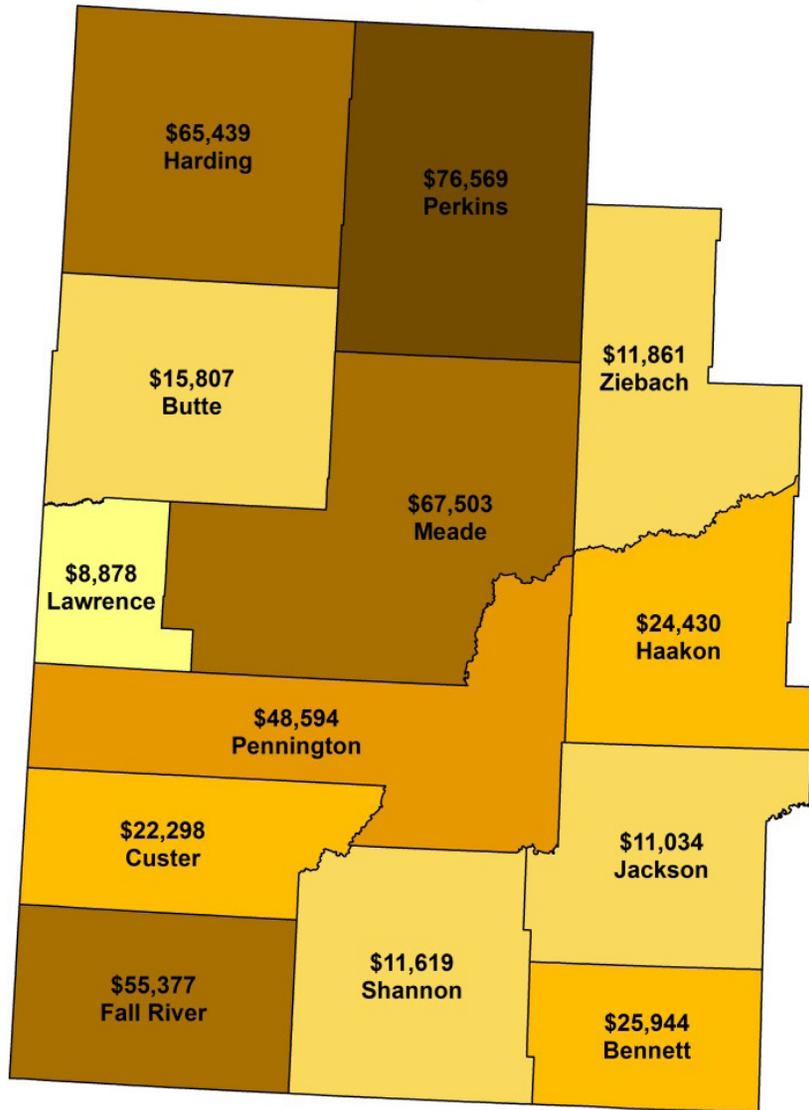
Overall, the ADC portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of \$452,277 in Region 1. Wildlife damage staff drove more than 142,000 miles and worked more than 8,800 hours to address the 337 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 309 producers and landowners. The winter weather during 2014 was fairly mild which eased wildlife depredation assistance demands for big game depredation (i.e. deer, elk and turkey). Big game populations continue to be at or below management objectives in most areas within Region 1. Staff responded to nine deer complaints throughout the region and drove 2,503 miles and worked a total of 109 hours to address these concerns. There were six stackyard contracts implemented with a cost of \$12,500. GFP spent a total of \$34,151 working with landowners and producers within Region 1 to provide wildlife damage assistance regarding whitetail deer and mule deer. Region 1 staff also fielded 53 requests for service regarding elk, primarily in and around the Black Hills area and Bennett County. Staff drove 6,610 miles and worked 234 hours to address these



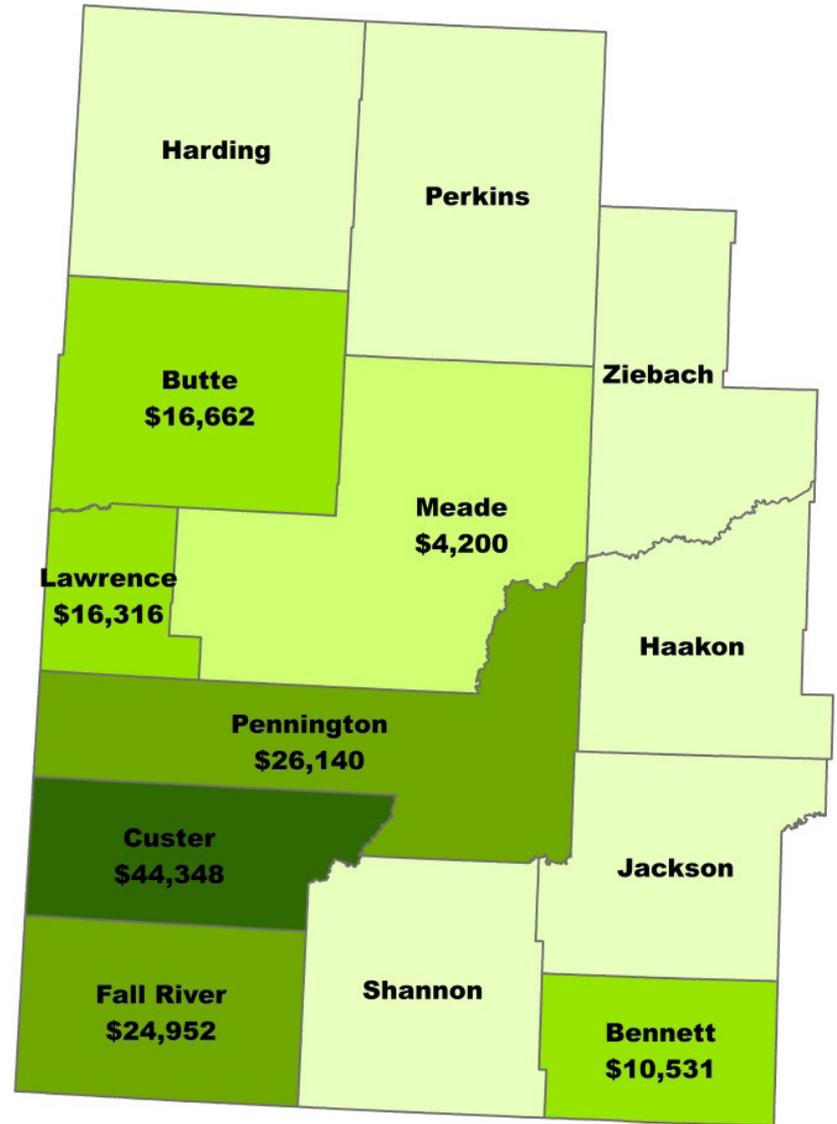
landowner concerns. Many of these requests were addressed by utilizing food plot contracts.

There were 43 food plot contracts initiated in 2014 primarily to reduce elk depredation to actively growing alfalfa. This was a 42 percent increase over 2013 and largely due to higher elk populations overall and GFP's effort to increase the elk herd in some hunting units. Additionally, there were two elk access contracts initiated where these contracts provided elk hunters with private land access as well as assistance to landowners which are experiencing elk depredation. Overall, GFP

FY 2014 - ADC Expenditures



FY 2014 - Elk Depredation Expenditures



spent a total of \$132,890 for elk depredation assistance in Region 1.

Region 1 wildlife damage staff also responded to six requests for assistance with turkey depredation. Most times these concerns are related to damage to stored-feed supplies which involve large concentrations of birds. Staff drove a total of 3,416 miles and worked 212 hours to address these concerns with a total program cost of \$15,546.

Wildlife damage staff responded to several requests for assistance involving pronghorn antelope depredation on winter wheat. They also worked with the city of Rapid City to implement several management techniques regarding urban Canada geese at Canyon Lake park and the airport as well as worked with the city to address urban deer issues. Wildlife damage staff worked 28 hours on several other

wildlife damage concerns such as Turkey vultures causing issues in towns. GFP spent a total of less than \$1,000 for all of these other types of requests for assistance.

Lastly, Region 1 also has one wildlife damage specialist specifically responsible for responding to mountain lion calls regarding livestock loss as well as public safety threats. Wildlife damage staff responded to a total of 36 calls and drove a total of 9,068 miles and worked 941 hours with a total program cost of \$39,536.

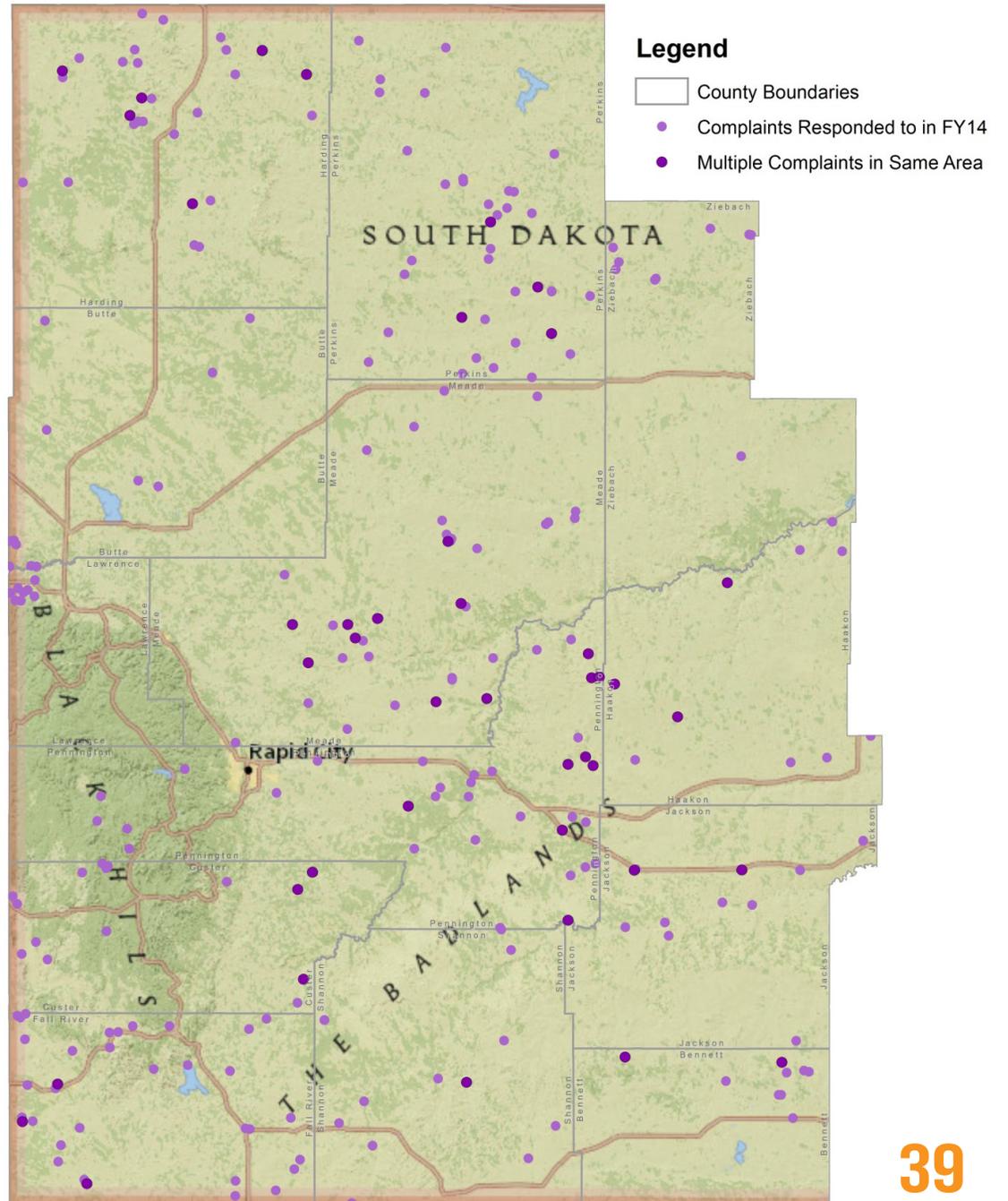
In summary, GFP responded to a total of 441 requests for assistance within the entire WDM program which directly impacted 413 landowners and producers in Region 1. The total program expenditures including staff time, mileage, equipment and materials totaled \$755,341.



REGION 1

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

FY 2014



REGION 2 PROGRAM REPORT

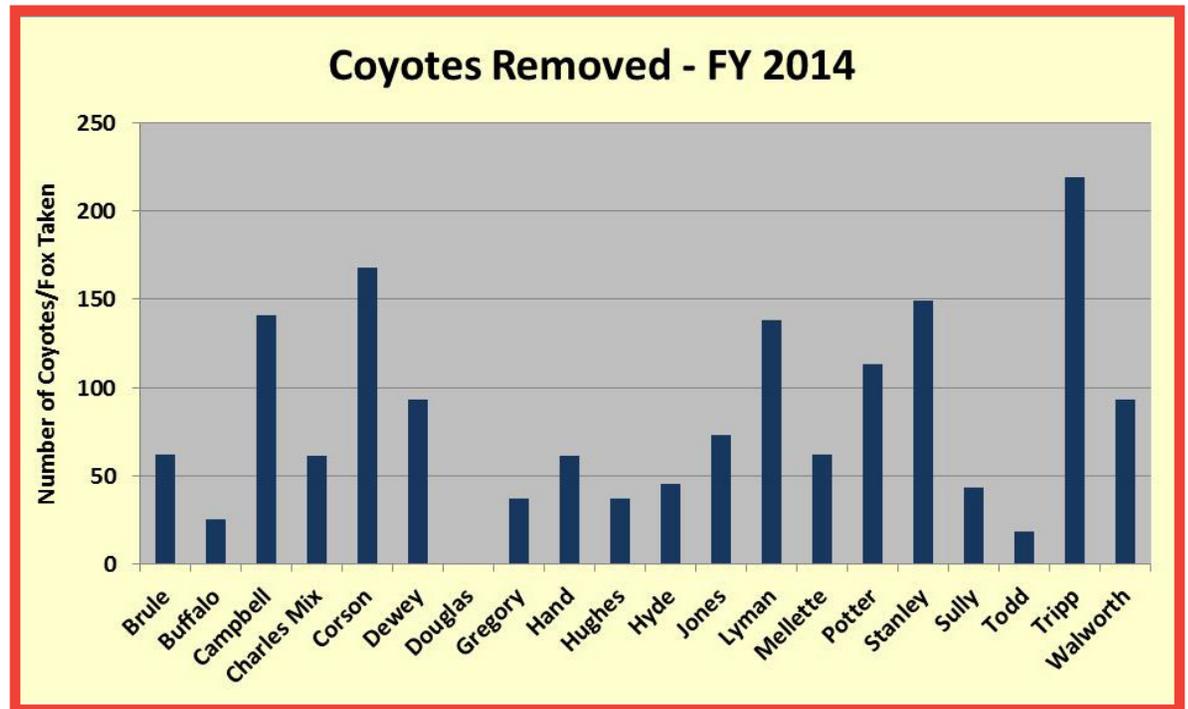
Region 2 is located within the central portion of South Dakota and consists of 20 counties most of which border the Missouri River. The terrain varies greatly and includes rough river breaks, expansive grasslands, as well as significant acreages of cropland. Wildlife species are abundant and include white-tailed deer, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, upland game, waterfowl, turkeys, furbearers, and a few elk.

Region 2 has seven field positions (wildlife damage specialists) and one supervisory position. Primary job duties for most field staff revolve around the protection of livestock from predators and assistance with deer depredation. Additionally, these duties include beaver and prairie dog control and assistance with turkey, Canada goose, and elk depredation. The winter weather during 2014 was cold but little deep snow accumulated. With deer populations at or below management objectives in most areas, as well as, impacts from Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) the previous year, deer depredation was minimal. In several areas deer did congregate into large herds and wildlife damage staff responded to 17 requests for assistance dealing with white-tailed deer and mule deer throughout the region. Most requests involved the protection of stored-feed supplies. Wildlife damage staff drove 10,113 miles and worked 360 hours to

address these concerns. Staff also initiated seven stackyard contracts with landowners to protect stored-feed supplies as well as one protective fencing contract to protect commercial vineyards and nurseries. Overall, the total program expenditures were only \$52,764.

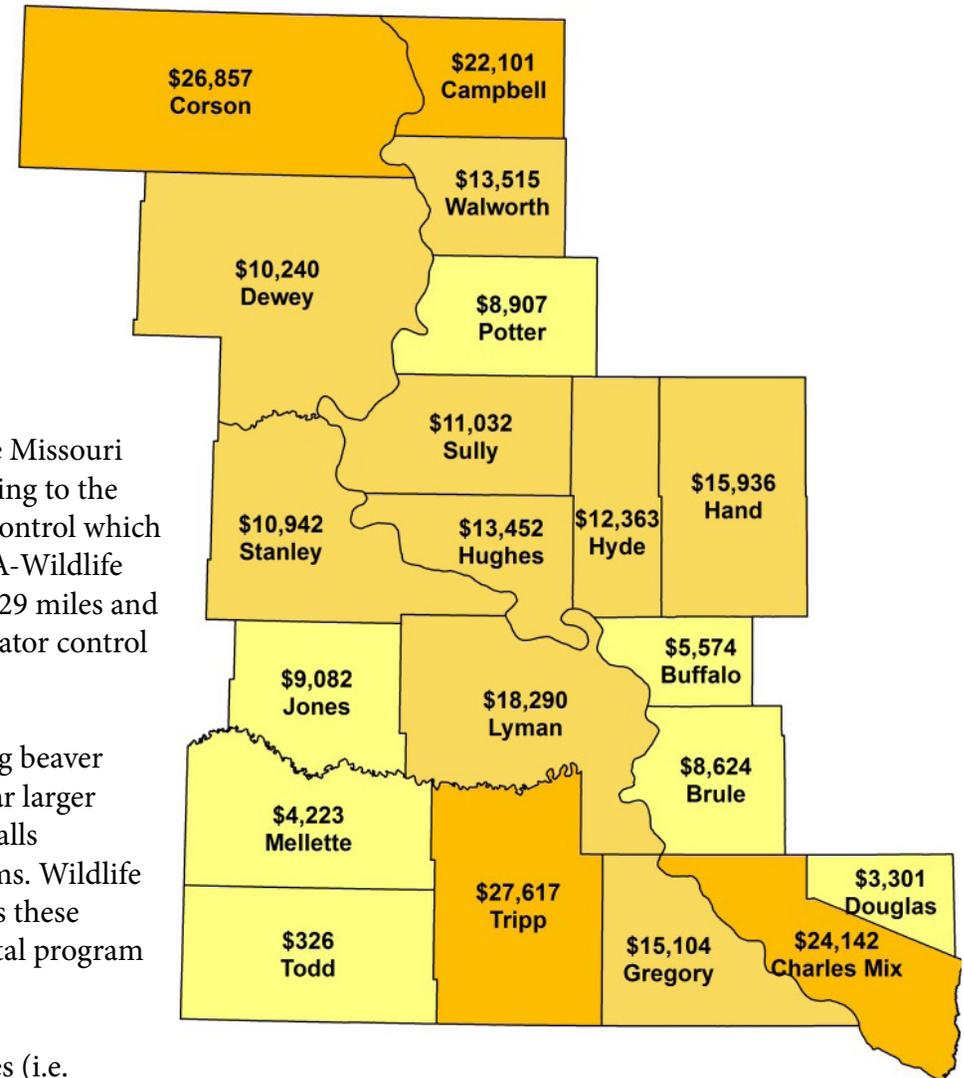
The coyote population in central South Dakota seemed to be slightly increasing or stable as wildlife damage staff responded to 20 percent more requests for service than in 2013. Livestock prices were very favorable and the demand for predator control from livestock producers was significant.

Wildlife damage staff responded to 316 requests for assistance due to livestock loss from predators (i.e. coyote and fox). Staff worked with 234 livestock producers across the region to address these concerns. GFP





FY 2014 - ADC Expenditures



also provided 55 hours of aerial predator control in the counties east of the Missouri River in Region 2. Additionally, GFP provided \$1,840 of cooperative funding to the Campbell County Predator Control District for increased aerial predator control which was directed by local GFP wildlife damage staff. In cooperation with USDA-Wildlife Services, wildlife damage staff took 1,638 coyotes and 9 fox and drove 69,029 miles and worked 4,205 hours to address these concerns. Total expenditures for predator control in Region 2 were \$184,108.

Wildlife damage staff also responded to 66 requests for assistance regarding beaver control where staff removed 181 beaver. Most beaver damage occurred near larger riparian areas and the volume of workload was similar to last year. Most calls involved damage to trees used as wind-breaks and damage to livestock dams. Wildlife damage staff drove a total of 16,926 miles and worked 999 hours to address these concerns which directly impacted 52 different landowners in Region 2. Total program expenditures were \$38,820.

GFP also responded to 27 requests for assistance involving nuisance species (i.e. raccoon, skunk, and mink). Most requests were handled with technical assistance;

however, staff did provide direct assistance with some requests. Wildlife damage staff drove a total of 1,718 miles and worked 129 hours to address these issues. Total program expenditures were \$4,949. Region 2 wildlife damage staff also controlled prairie dogs on 62 acres of private land which were encroached from adjacent public land. Overall, the ADC portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of \$261,630 in Region 2. Wildlife damage staff drove more than 89,155 miles and worked more than 5,600 hours to address the 413 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 316 producers and landowners.

As Canada geese and row crops continue to expand westward in eastern South Dakota, Region 2 wildlife damage specialists have seen an increased demand for assistance. Region 2 wildlife damage staff responded to six requests for assistance with Canada goose damage to growing crops. These requests occurred primarily on the eastern edge of Region 2, where more wetland and crop interspersion occur. Staff worked 166 hours and drove 2,190 miles to address these concerns with a total program expenditure of \$7,099.

Wildlife damage staff responded to only four requests for assistance involving turkey damage to stored-feed supplies. Due to a mild winter in central South Dakota and being at or below population objectives in most areas, requests for assistance with turkeys was minimal. Wildlife damage staff also responded to several requests for assistance regarding elk depredation, as well as, work involving damage caused by other wildlife species.

In summary, GFP responded to a total of 440 requests for assistance within the entire WDM program which directly impacted 345 landowners and producers in Region 2. The total program expenditures including staff time, mileage, and equipment and materials totaled \$396,075.



GFP RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF

440

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

IMPACTING 345

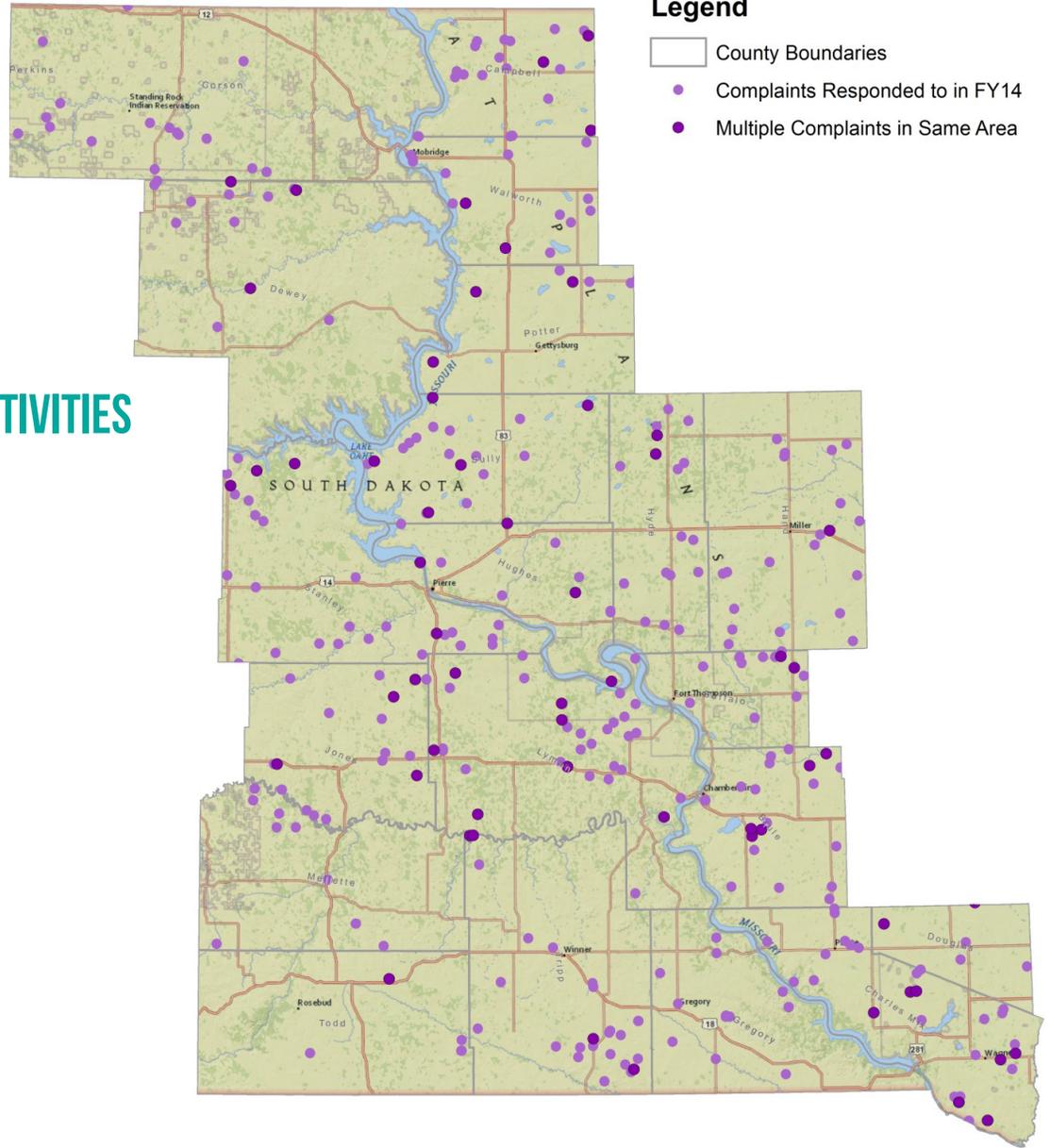
PRODUCERS AND LANDOWNERS

WITH EXPENDITURES OF \$396,075.

REGION 2

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

FY 2014



Legend

- County Boundaries
- Complaints Responded to in FY14
- Multiple Complaints in Same Area



REGION 3

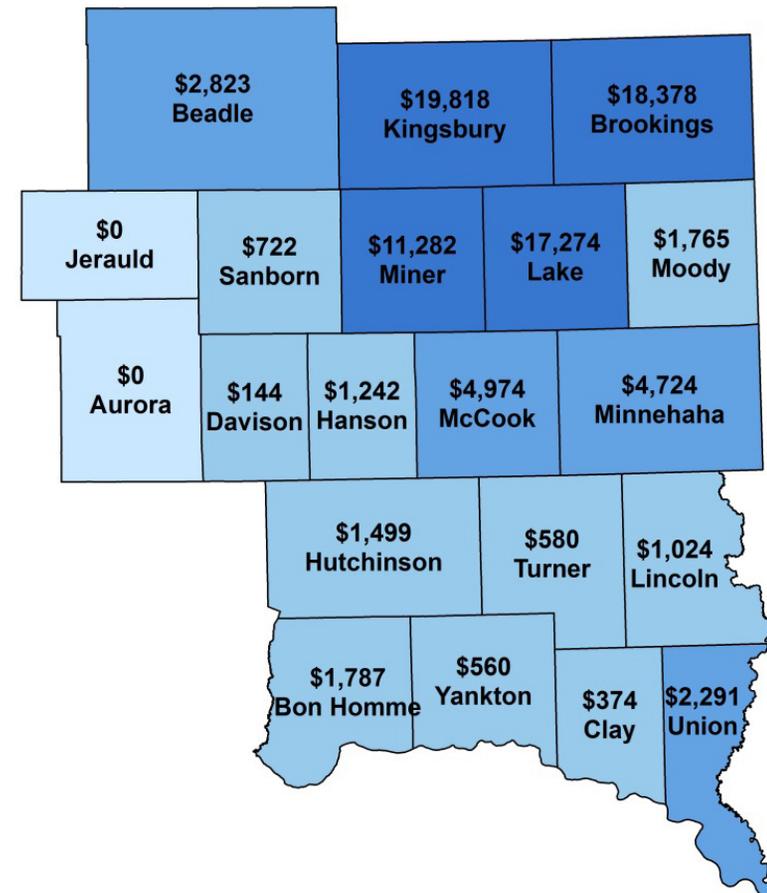
PROGRAM REPORT

Region 3 is located in the southeastern portion of South Dakota and consists of 20 counties. The landscape varies considerably including: croplands, grasslands, wetlands, and river drainages, but croplands dominate the majority of the counties within Region 3. Wildlife species are abundant and include whitetail deer, a few mule deer, upland game, waterfowl, furbearers, and turkeys. It has six field positions (wildlife damage specialists) and one supervisory position. Primary job duties for most field staff revolve around assistance with Canada goose depredation as well as the protection of livestock from predators but also include beaver control and deer and turkey depredation assistance.

The weather during the spring of 2014 was near normal. The resident Canada goose population remains well above management objectives, as well as, high commodity prices demanded significant resources to address landowner concerns regarding goose damage to growing crops. GFP staff worked with 169 landowners and responded to 195 requests for assistance regarding Canada goose damage to growing-season crops (primarily soybeans and corn).

Staff drove 29,098 miles and worked 6,998 hours to respond to these requests. Region 3 wildlife damage staff also destroyed 582 Canada goose nests which greatly reduced crop damage in those localized areas as well as reduced staff time and effort. GFP also permitted 126 private landowners to haze and take Canada geese from problem areas to reduce crop damage. Overall, the total program expenditures were \$89,762.

FY 2014 - Canada Goose Depredation Expenditures





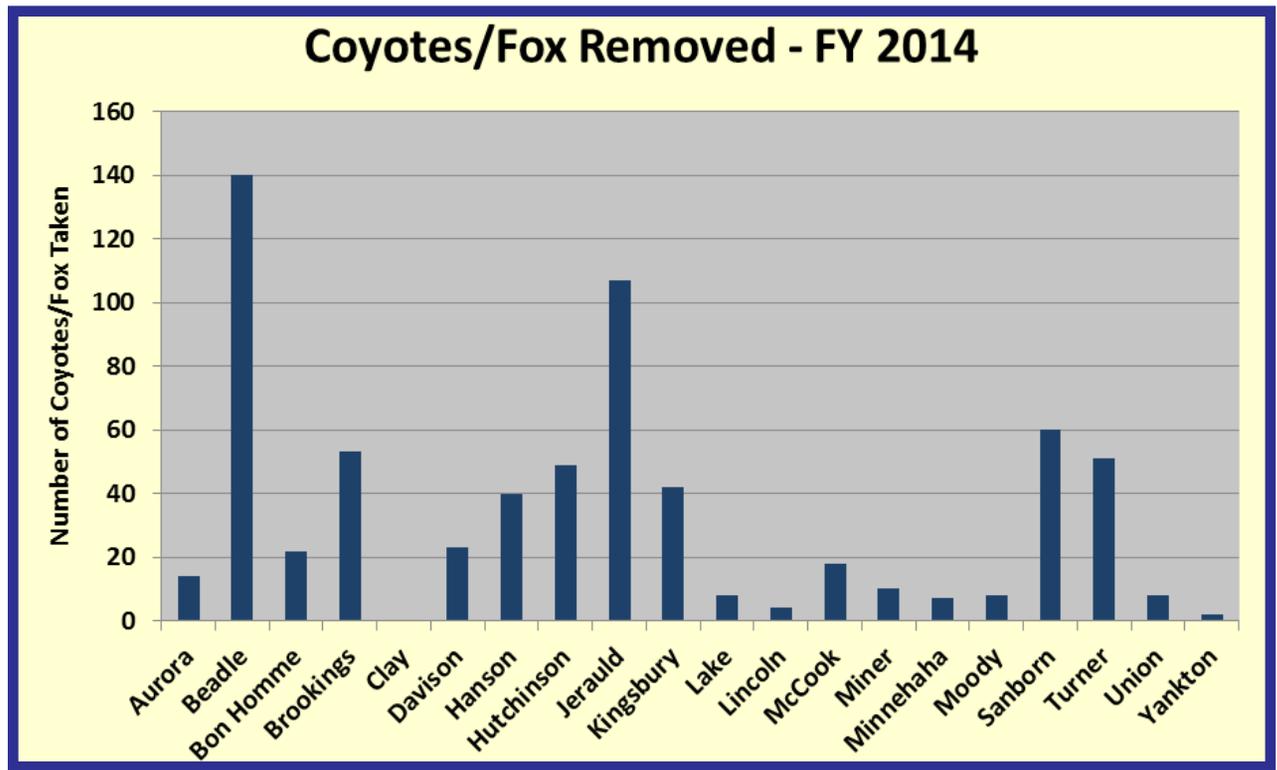
High coyote populations and favorable livestock prices had wildlife damage staff extremely busy in regards to requests for assistance with coyotes. Staff worked with 179 livestock producers to reduce or alleviate livestock loss due to coyotes. As a result, staff responded to 232 requests for assistance regarding livestock loss. Wildlife damage staff in cooperation with USDA-Wildlife Services took 646 coyotes and 19 fox. Wildlife damage staff worked 3,014 hours and drove 47,809 miles to address these concerns. GFP also provided 119 hours of aerial predator control in Region 3. Total program expenditures for predator control were \$146,349 in Region 3.

Wildlife damage staff also responded to 119 requests for assistance with beaver damage where they took 213 beaver. Most types of damage consisted of the flooding of crops,

damage to trees in planted wind-breaks or near homes, and damage to roads. Staff assisted 99 different landowners with beaver damage concerns. They drove 19,121 miles and worked 1,059 hours to handle these problems within Region 3. Total program expenditures were \$37,972.

Wildlife damage staff also responded to 39 requests for assistance with nuisance species such as raccoons, badger, skunk, and mink. Most requests were handled with technical

advice or loaner-traps. However, staff did provide direct control for commercial watermelon producers suffering damage from raccoons as well as a few other circumstances. GFP staff drove 2,370 miles and worked 173 hours to address these complaints. Overall, the ADC portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of \$203,679 in Region 3. Wildlife damage staff drove 69,446 miles and worked more than 4,300 hours to address these 390 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 316 producers and landowners.



With deer populations at or below management objectives in most areas, as well as, impacts from Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) the previous year, deer depredation was minimal. Wildlife damage staff responded to only 16 requests for assistance regarding deer damage to stored-feed supplies. Most of these requests were handled with loaner panels and the utilization of hazing techniques. These services impacted 15 different landowners in Region 3. Wildlife damage staff also initiated one stackyard contract to permanently protect stored-feed supplies. Staff drove 2,971 miles and worked 313 hours to address these requests for assistance. Overall, the total program expenditures were \$18,422. This was the least amount expended in this area of the WDM program since the late 1990's.

Wildlife damage staff also responded to several turkey issues within Region 3, as well as, several other requests for assistance involving other wildlife species. In addition, GFP assisted the city of Sioux Falls with several management techniques to address urban Canada goose concerns in several areas of the city, as well as, cooperatively worked on urban deer management issues.

In summary, GFP responded to a total of 617 requests for assistance within the entire WDM program which directly impacted 507 landowners and producers in Region 3. The total program expenditures including staff time, mileage, equipment and materials totaled \$362,905.



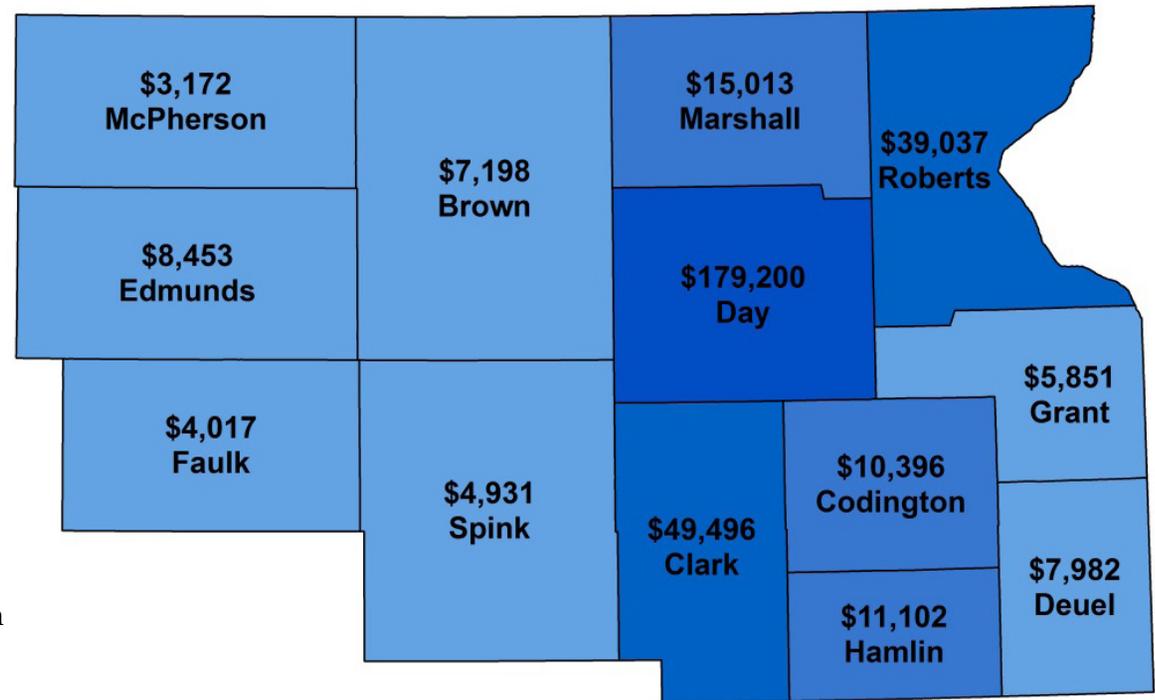
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WITH EXPENDITURES OF \$362,905.

REGION 4 PROGRAM REPORT

Region 4 is located in the northeastern portion of South Dakota and consists of 13 counties. The landscape varies greatly and includes: croplands, rolling grasslands, many wetlands and lakes, and river drainages, but croplands dominate the majority of the counties within Region 4. Wildlife species are abundant and include whitetail deer, waterfowl, upland game, furbearers, and turkeys. It has six field positions (wildlife damage specialists) and one supervisory position. Primary job duties for most field staff revolve around assistance with Canada goose and deer depredation as well as the protection of livestock from predators as well as beaver control.

Region 4 experienced a normal spring for 2014 and Canada goose production was good. Coupled with plenty of water on the landscape and a resident Canada goose population that is well above management objectives, as well as, high commodity prices resulted in a significant demand of resources to address landowner concerns. GFP staff responded to 496 requests for assistance regarding Canada goose damage to growing-season crops (primarily soybeans and corn). GFP staff worked with 323 landowners to provide crop protection from Canada goose damage. Staff drove 63,884 miles and worked nearly 7,000 hours to respond to these concerns. Region 4 wildlife damage staff also destroyed 922 Canada goose nests which greatly reduced crop damage in those localized areas as well as reduced staff time and

FY 2014 - Canada Goose Depredation Expenditures



effort. GFP permitted 181 landowners to haze and take Canada geese to alleviate damage to growing crops. GFP also initiated 39 buffer-strip contracts which are designed to alleviate goose damage around wetland edges. Overall, total program expenditures were \$347,348.

The winter weather of 2014 was cold but there was little deep snow. With deer populations at or below management objectives, deep depredation concerns were minimal. Wildlife damage staff responded to 25 requests for assistance regarding deer damage to stored feed supplies, a 75 percent decrease from fiscal year 2013. These services impacted 22 different landowners in Region 4. Wildlife damage staff also initiated one stackyard contract to protect stored-feed supplies and



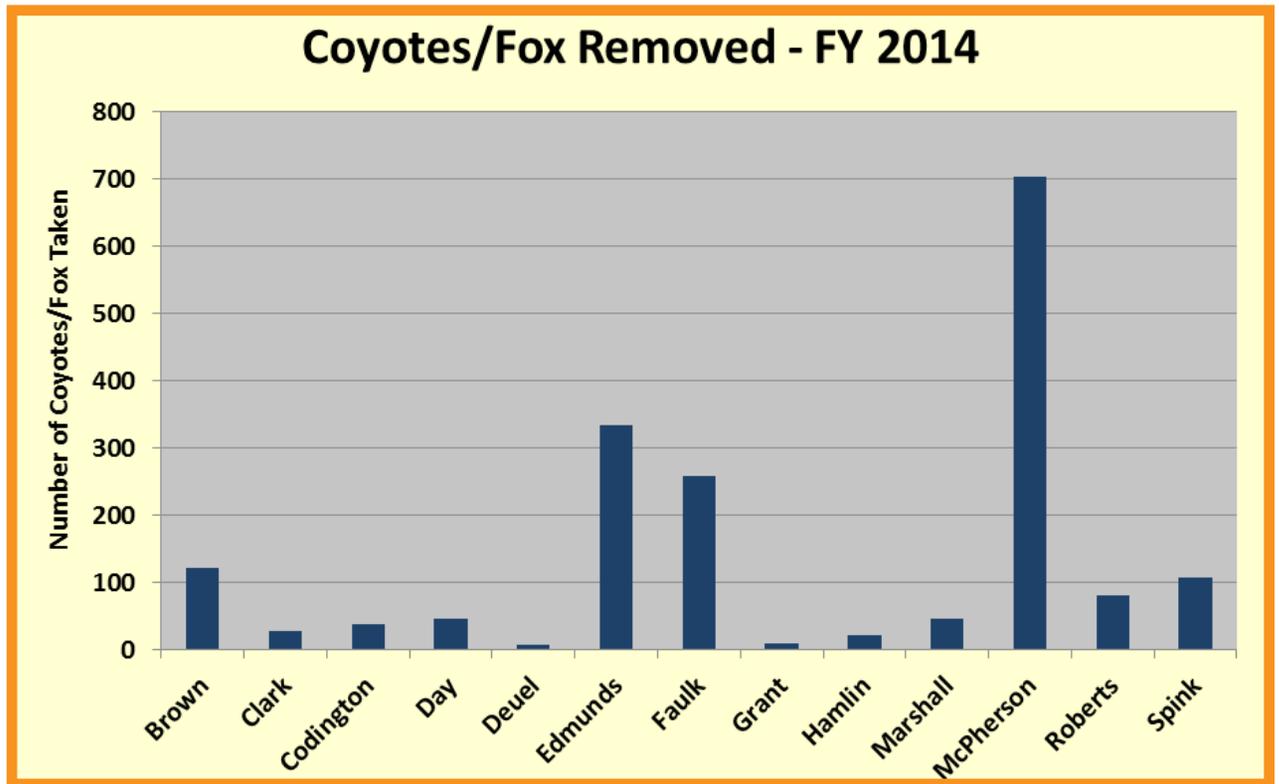
three protective fencing projects to alleviate damage to commercial orchards. Staff drove 5,929 miles and worked 341 hours to address these concerns. Overall, the total program expenditures were \$64,010.

Wildlife damage staff also responded to several turkey issues within Region 4 where large flocks of birds were causing damage to stored-feed supplies. These requests for assistance were handled primarily with protective netting and hazing techniques. Several other requests for assistance involving other wildlife species were also addressed in Region 4. Overall, the game species (i.e. deer, Canada geese, etc.) portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of \$526,087 in Region 4. Wildlife damage staff drove 73,155 miles and worked more than 4,300 hours to address these 390 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 316 producers and landowners.

High coyote populations as well as favorable livestock prices had wildlife damage staff busy in regards to requests for assistance with coyotes. Staff worked with 282 livestock producers to reduce or alleviate livestock losses caused from predators and addressed 408 requests for assistance. As a result, wildlife damage staff in cooperation with USDA-Wildlife Services took 1,772 coyotes and 17 fox.

Wildlife damage staff worked 2,050 hours and

drove 53,663 miles to address these concerns. GFP also provided 34 hours of aerial predator control Region 4. Similar to western South Dakota, Region 4 has three very active predator control districts and GFP appreciates the cooperative partnerships with these districts to address livestock losses. GFP provided a total of \$9,000 of cooperative funding to the Faulk County, Edmunds County, and McPherson County Predator Control Districts for increased aerial predator control. These aerial predator control services were coordinated by



local GFP wildlife damage staff. Total program expenditures for predator control were \$131,099 in Region 4.

Wildlife damage staff also responded to 80 requests for assistance (down 29 percent from last year) with beaver damage where they took 243 beaver. Most types of damage consisted of the flooding of crops, damage to trees in planted wind-breaks or near homes, and damage to roads. Staff assisted 74 different landowners with beaver damage concerns. They drove 25,615 miles and worked 938 hours to handle these problems within Region 4. Total program expenditures were \$41,903.

Wildlife damage staff also responded to 27 requests for assistance with nuisance species such as raccoons, badger, skunk, and mink. Most requests were handled with technical advice or loaner-traps. However, staff did provide direct control in a few circumstances. GFP staff drove 2,461 miles and worked 25 hours to address these complaints. Overall, the ADC portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of \$195,539 in Region 4. Wildlife damage staff drove more than 82,000 miles and worked more than 4,400 hours to address these 515 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 381 producers and landowners.

In summary, GFP responded to a total of 1,041 requests for assistance within the entire WDM program which directly impacted 731 landowners and producers in Region 4. The total program expenditures including staff time, mileage, equipment and materials totaled \$721,626.

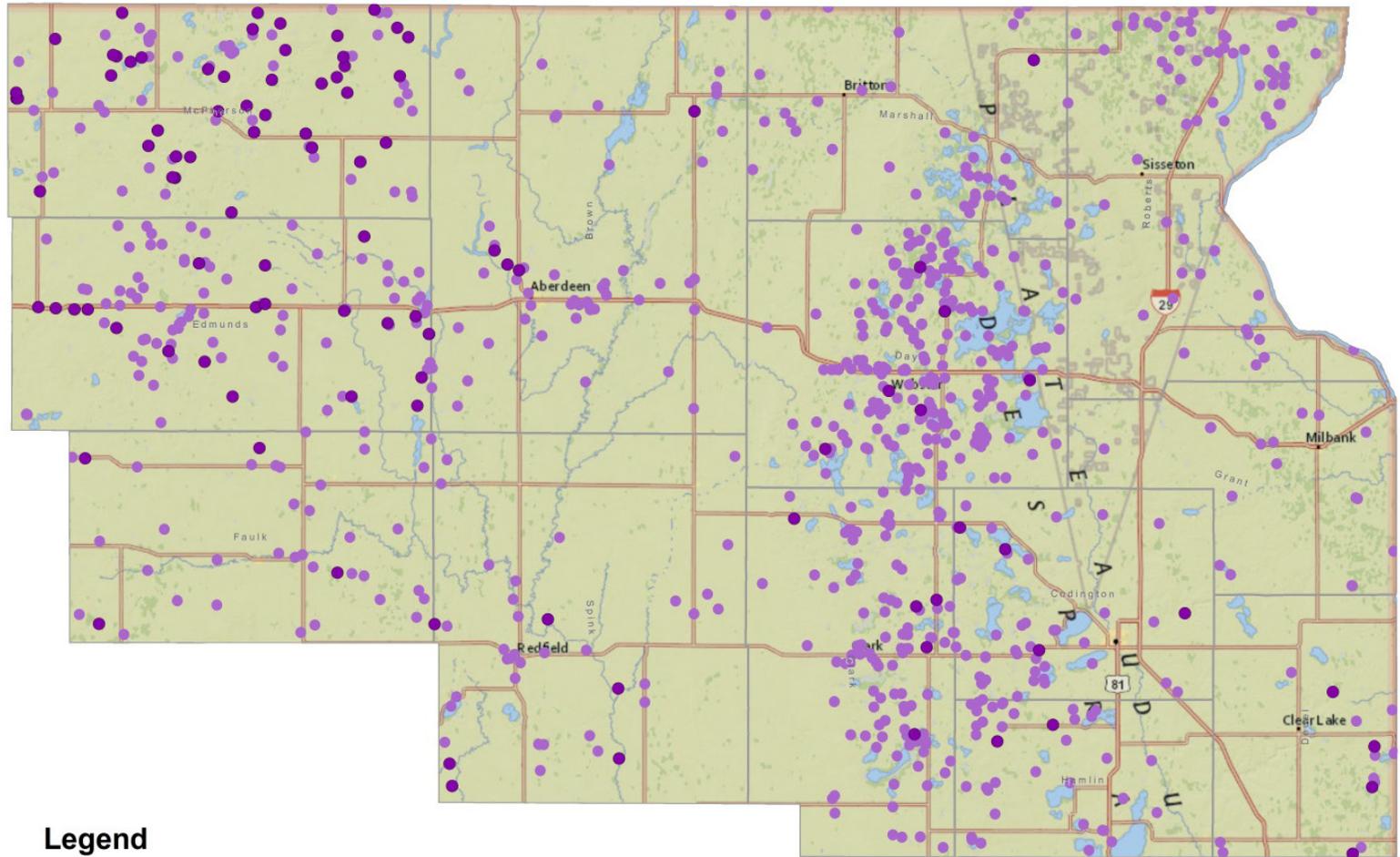


GFP RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF
1,041
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IMPACTING 731
PRODUCERS AND LANDOWNERS
WITH EXPENDITURES OF \$721,626.

REGION 4

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

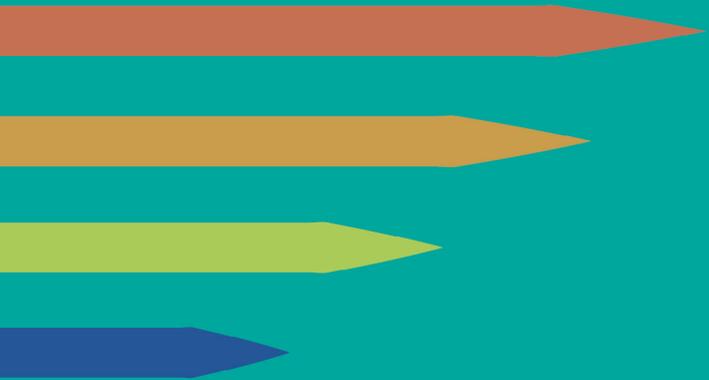
FY 2014



Legend

- County Boundaries
- Complaints Responded to in FY14
- Multiple Complaints in Same Area





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