

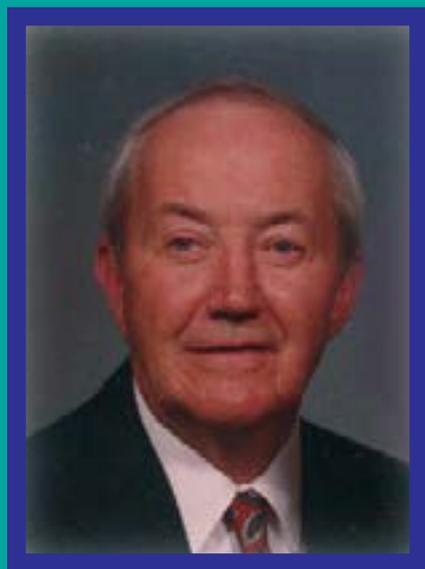


*South Dakota*

**GAME, FISH AND PARKS**  
**2014 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**  
**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**



# IN REMEMBRANCE OF STANLEY H. LUNDQUIST NOVEMBER 19, 1935 – JULY 30, 2014



Stanley H. Lundquist was born November 19, 1935, in Kingsbury County, South Dakota. He received his education in Erwin and graduated from Erwin High School in 1953. Stan served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

In 1956, Stan continued his education at South Dakota State University and received his degree in 1958. He was united in marriage to Rochelle J. Anderson on April 29, 1960, in Pipestone, Minnesota.

Stan was the Conservation Officer in Hamlin County from 1961 until his retirement in 1998. Stan received the Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award in 1974. Several of the public areas that hunters and anglers in Hamlin County enjoy today are only there because of Stan's efforts. Through his outstanding relationships with the local community and landowners, Stan was instrumental with the establishment of the Mickelson Wetland Memorial west of Estelline and in the development of the Ikes Game Production Area (GPA) and the Game, Fish and Parks training facility at Lake Poinsett. Over the years, Stan was also instrumental in the acquisition of several GPAs and Lake Access Areas in the region. Stan often found himself working with locals to find a balance with water quality and water elevation on Lake Poinsett and the Big Sioux River.

After his retirement, Stan continued to live in Estelline for a time, then moved to Dell Rapids and later to Sioux Falls. Stan was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Estelline, the Sportsman Club and the American Legion. He enjoyed gardening, golfing, hunting and fishing and especially enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. Stan died on Wednesday, July 30, 2014 at Bethany Lutheran Home in Sioux Falls at the age of 78 years.

# 2014 GAME, FISH AND PARKS LAW ENFORCEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

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# INTRODUCTION

## ANDY ALBAN —LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR



In 2014, we worked hard to protect our wildlife and fisheries resources by making over 58,000 contacts with resource users in the field and on the water. Over 600 of these were specific requests from landowners for assistance. These contacts resulted in the detection of over 3,500 violations. Additionally, officers remained proactive by initiating over 1,300 educational opportunities from radio shows to newspaper articles, HuntSAFE classes and school presentations.

I hope our citizens are proud of these hard working law enforcement officers, and judging from some of the comments received, they most certainly are. Here are some excerpts:

“We have some really good game wardens in this area. I hope they get recognized for what they do by someone in the GFP programs.”

“I hunted on the first day of South Dakota’s pheasant season for the first time. It is also the first time I’ve been checked by SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks Law Enforcement; a very pleasant interaction.”

“My 7 year old son was so excited when the game warden awarded him with an ice cream certificate because he had his life jacket on and helped count the fish. That program does more than you know to instill the value of being a responsible and respectful angler. My son looks forward to seeing the game wardens and loves to tell them what they were biting on and his experience on the water.”

“I had a great experience Friday evening with a boat safety stop by the officers who did a professional job. They were very efficient in the safety check and I wanted you to know you should be proud of them.”

It is truly rewarding to work with a group of passionate professionals that serve as a voice for fish and wildlife and ensure that our natural resource laws and regulations are properly enforced in an effort to perpetuate these resources for future generations to enjoy. I hope you find this report informative and useful.

Enjoy the outdoors,

Andy Alban  
Law Enforcement Program Administrator  
Division of Wildlife

## GAME, FISH AND PARKS ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**KELLY HEPLER, DEPARTMENT SECRETARY**  
**TONY LEIF, WILDLIFE DIVISION DIRECTOR**  
**ARDEN PETERSEN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR — OPERATIONS**

**MIKE KINTIGH, REGIONAL SUPERVISOR — REGION 1 (WEST)**  
**CLIFF STONE, REGIONAL SUPERVISOR — REGION 2 (CENTRAL)**  
**EMMETT KEYSER, REGIONAL SUPERVISOR — REGION 3 (SOUTHEAST)**  
**SCOTT LINDGREN, REGIONAL SUPERVISOR — REGION 4 (NORTHEAST)**

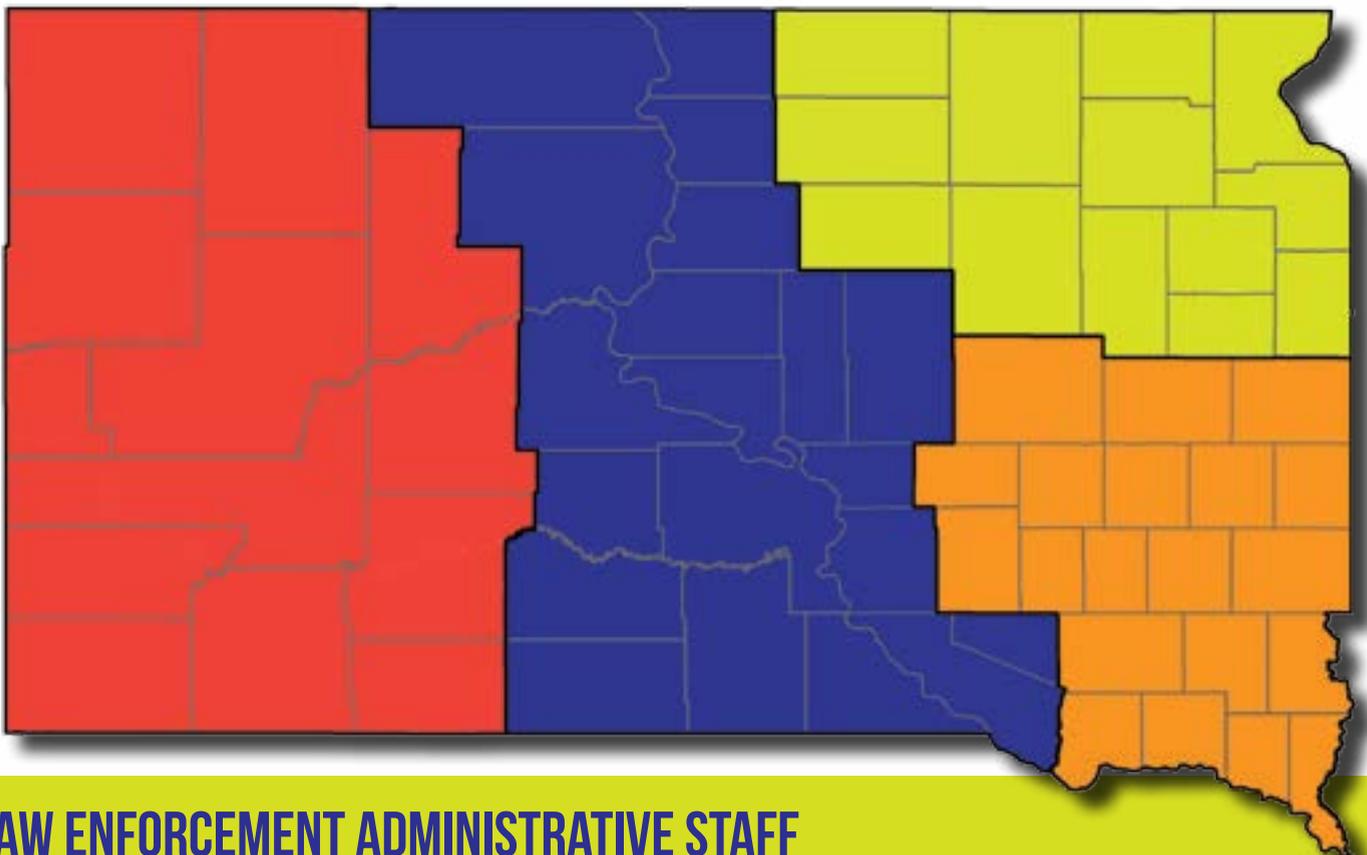
# LAW ENFORCEMENT REGIONS

Each law enforcement region is under the supervision and guidance of a Regional Conservation Officer Supervisor, as well as other supervisory staff. Each region is further divided into three districts with an array of Conservation Officers assigned to each district.

Although Conservation Officers are assigned to specific regions, they are not limited by those boundaries. Conservation Officers may work law enforcement and resource management details anywhere across the state.

In addition to the four regions, the Division of Wildlife also has an administrative section that is made up of a Training Supervisor, Law Enforcement Specialists, Investigators, Support Staff and a Program Administrator.

REGION 1	REGION 2	REGION 3	REGION 4
BENNETT	BRULE	AURORA	BROWN
BUTTE	BUFFALO	BEADLE	CLARK
CUSTER	CAMPBELL	BON HOMME	CODINGTON
FALL RIVER	CHARLES MIX	BROOKINGS	DAY
HAAKON	CORSON	CLAY	DEUEL
HARDING	DEWEY	DAVISON	EDMUNDS
JACKSON	DOUGLAS	HANSON	FAULK
LAWRENCE	GREGORY	HUTCHINSON	GRANT
MEADE	HAND	JERAULD	HAMLIN
PENNINGTON	HUGHES	KINGSBURY	MARSHALL
PERKINS	HYDE	LAKE	MCPHERSON
SHANNON	JONES	LINCOLN	ROBERTS
ZIEBACH	LYMAN	MCCOOK	SPINK
	MELLETTTE	MINER	
	POTTER	MINNEHAHA	
	STANLEY	MOODY	
	SULLY	SANBORN	
	TODD	TURNER	
	TRIPP	UNION	
	WALWORTH	YANKTON	



## LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

ANDY ALBAN, LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
 TIM MCCURDY, LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING SUPERVISOR  
 JANELLE BLAHA, SHOOTING PRESERVE/PERMITS COORDINATOR  
 JEANNE UECKER, LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM SECRETARY

BRUCE NACHTIGALL, LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST  
 BRANDON GUST, LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST  
 JEFF MCENTEE, WILDLIFE INVESTIGATOR  
 BOB LOSCO, WILDLIFE INVESTIGATOR

# REGION 1

**MIKE KINTIGH, REGIONAL SUPERVISOR**

**SCOTT MIKKELSON, REGIONAL CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR**

**NORTH**

**MIKE APLAND, DISTRICT CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR**

**BILL EASTMAN**

**ROSS FEES**

**FRED HEIN**

**KEITH MUTSCHLER**

**CENTRAL**

**JIM MCCORMICK, DISTRICT CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR**

**JOSH BRAINARD**

**JEFF EDWARDS**

**ADAM GEIGLE**

**JOE KEETON**

**ZACH THOMSEN**

**SOUTH**

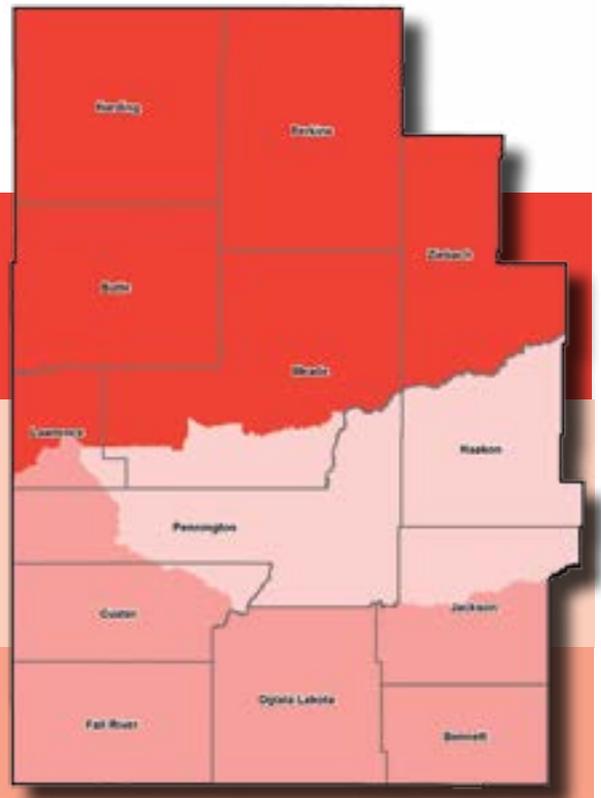
**BRIAN MEIERS, DISTRICT CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR**

**TOM BECK**

**JACOB EHLERT**

**DARREN "DJ" SCHROEDER**

**RON TIETSORT**



## REGION 1 REPORT: SCOTT MIKKELSON, REGIONAL CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR

There are over four million acres of public land in Region 1, which includes land managed by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State School and Public Lands, Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. This does not include over 650,000 acres of private land leased by Game, Fish and Parks for public hunting access. Region 1 Conservation Officers are tasked with patrolling these lands and waters to ensure the laws of the state are adhered to.

Region 1 Conservation Officers routinely work with Bureau of Land Management Rangers, US Forest Service Officers, and National Park Service Officers to enforce wildlife laws and regulations. The cooperation of the various agencies is imperative to effectively enforce the wildlife laws and help provide for the safety of the public as they enjoy outdoor recreation in our state.

There are six major reservoirs in the region including Belle Fourche, Shadehill, Angostura, Pactola, Sheridan and Deerfield. These reservoirs see use throughout the year by anglers and recreational boaters. The prairie reservoirs are excellent walleye fisheries and see high fishing pressure throughout the year. The Black Hills provide excellent fishing for trout and other species. All of the reservoirs have a high amount of boating pressure in the summer.

Conservation Officers spend a considerable amount of time patrolling these waters. Much of their time is allocated to safety checks to ensure boaters have the proper safety equipment and follow the rules governing safe boat operation. Conservation Officers are also on the lookout for impaired boaters. Each year arrests are made for boating under the influence.

There are also smaller bodies of water in the region which see use from anglers and recreational boaters. Fishing can be excellent on these waters. In 2014, a call from a concerned citizen led to the arrest of two individuals who took advantage of the excellent fishing on Iron Creek Lake. The two individuals were in possession of 25 jars of canned trout as well as three packages of frozen trout fillets. It was determined they were at least 113 trout over their possession limit. The two individuals plead guilty to possessing an over limit of trout and each paid a fine.

### CONSERVATION OFFICERS & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Community, sportsman, and landowner relations are an important role for Conservation Officers. Conservation Officers communicate through one-on-one visits at farms and ranches, landowner/sportsman input meetings, newspaper articles, radio and television appearances. During those contacts, Conservation Officers promote

and implement GFP programs such as the Walk-In Area Program, Wildlife Damage Management, Animal Damage Control, Habitat Improvement, Wildlife Management and Fish Stocking Programs. Conservation Officers also help with programs designed to get young people into the outdoors and promote hunting and fishing for the next generation of resource users.

Region 1 Conservation Officers are involved with several outdoor educational events such as HuntSAFE, Step Outside, youth hunting and fishing events and Alcohol Awareness-Freshman Impact. The Freshman Impact program started in the Douglas School District in Box Elder seven years ago. It is a day dedicated to teaching freshman students about the effects of alcohol, drugs and distracted driving. Conservation Officers utilize a jet ski simulator and fatal vision goggles to show effects of alcohol while operating a jet ski. In the afternoon, students watch a dramatic mock vehicle rollover accident where law enforcement, fire, medical and life flight respond to the scene. The accident scene consists of student actors with major injuries, death of a student, and arrest of the teenage driver for vehicular homicide. It is a very powerful experience for all involved. Region 1 Conservation Officers have been involved with this event in the Douglas School District since its inception. These events have now expanded to the Rapid City, Custer, Faith and Spearfish School Districts.

Conservation Officers also assist with the South Dakota Wildlife Federation Conservation Camp held each summer near Custer. Conservation Officers teach classes to youth including shooting, boating safety and poaching investigations to name a few.

## BIG GAME SEASONS

Region 1 Conservation Officers worked on several poaching cases during the big game seasons. These cases ranged from people taking animals during a closed season, hunting without a license, transferring big game licenses, shooting from a road right of way, hunter harassment and trespass. Conservation Officers work long hours in the fall responding to complaints from landowners and hunters on these issues. Our officers are very good at following up on these complaints and putting together cases that state's attorneys are able to successfully prosecute.

The 2014 West River deer season started with high winds and extreme cold. During the season, officers worked on a case that started from a landowner complaint of trespass involving hunters from a neighboring property. When



OFFICERS USE FLAT-BOTTOM BOAT IN AN EFFORT TO LOCATE A MISSING INDIVIDUAL IN BUTTE COUNTY.

CONSERVATION OFFICER DARREN SCHROEDER SHOWING STUDENTS HOW TO USE A METAL DETECTOR TO RECOVER A BULLET FROM POACHED WILDLIFE.



Conservation Officers made contact with the suspects about the trespass, they discovered five untagged mule deer. The suspects were successfully prosecuted in the case. This case as well as many others resulted in illegally taken wildlife being seized from suspects. This wildlife is then donated to those in need in the area.

Another call from a concerned citizen led to the arrest of a man for shooting a mountain lion from the road. A hunter was pursuing this lion when he saw a pickup approach and the occupants shoot the large male mountain lion. A call to a Conservation Officer and the local sheriff's office led to the apprehension of the suspect at the scene of the incident. The shooter was convicted of shooting from the road and the mountain lion was seized.

Conservation Officers also worked on cases involving furbearers. Officers work on cases of theft of fur from traps and theft of trapping equipment regularly. Other common violations are trapping with exposed bait and failing to check traps within the time period required by law.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE

Heavy rains during June in northwestern South Dakota caused flooding of many streams and rivers. On June 17, a SUV with two occupants was washed from Highway 85 in northern Butte County. The two people were subsequently washed downstream. One individual was able to make it to shore and walked back to the highway. Conservation Officers were called upon to help look for the missing person. Conservation Officers assisted for several days using boats and ATVs to help cover miles of streams and surrounding prairie in an effort to locate the missing subject.

# REGION 2

## DALE GATES, REGIONAL CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR

### NORTH

JOSH CARR, DISTRICT CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR  
DOUG DELAROI  
SHAWN MADISON  
BRAD SALTSMAN  
ANDY SCHMAHL  
JOSH THOMPSON

### CENTRAL

STEVE ROSSOW, DISTRICT CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR  
CORY FLOR  
JEFF MARTIN  
JOHN MURPHY  
DIANA LANDEGENT

### SOUTH

MARK OHM, DISTRICT CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR  
CHRIS DEKKER  
BRIAN RIDGWAY  
HANS WALLESER  
VACANT - PRESHO



## REGION 2 REPORT: DALE GATES, REGIONAL CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR

Much of the Missouri River extends through the middle of Region 2. Most officers have daily responsibilities associated with the vast Missouri River resource. The boating law enforcement season occurs at least nine months out of the year, and during some years is a year-round activity. The area offers excellent big game, small game and fishing opportunities. In most years, pheasant numbers are among the highest in the state, especially in the central and southern portions of the region. Deer numbers also have remained relatively high compared to other areas.

### OFFICERS DISCOVER LARGE PERCH OVER-LIMIT

In late January, Matt Hill was patrolling near Dog Ear Lake in Tripp County. Hans Walleser was also in the area. Hill watched as a group of men came off the lake in UTVs. Hill approached the group as they drove up to a pickup parked at the area and immediately noticed several buckets filled with perch. One of the subjects attempted to hide some of the buckets from Hill. Hill eventually discovered another pail of perch already in the pickup. Hill questioned the group about their fishing activities that day, as the amount of perch possessed by the group put them considerably over the daily limit of 15. Some of the group

members claimed that the extra perch came from another lake located within a nearby tribal reservation. Further questioning of the group by Hill and Walleser revealed these claims to be false and that all perch were taken by the group that day from Dog Ear Lake.

Three subjects from Nebraska were eventually charged and found guilty in the incident. A total of \$880 in criminal fines were assessed. Two subjects served one-year revocations of their fishing privileges. Civil penalties totaling \$4,100 were also assessed in the case.



PORTION OF PERCH SEIZED IN DOG EAR LAKE CASE.



MOOSE CALF AFTER SUBJECTS CHASED IT DOWN WITH A VEHICLE AND TIED IT UP.

## TIPS INFORMATION LEADS TO LARGE WALLEYE OVER-LIMIT

In late June, Brad Saltsman received a TIPs call regarding a subject that Saltsman had suspected of taking large numbers of walleye from the Whitlocks area along the Missouri River, near Gettysburg. The information suggested the subject had possession of a large number of walleye fillets he intended to transport back to Texas.

Saltsman went to the couple's address at the Whitlocks area in an effort to gain more information. Both subjects admitted to being "a little over" their limit.

Saltsman found that the fish were being stored in the couple's freezer. Upon thawing the

catch, Saltsman found the couple was in possession of 196 walleye fillets. This totals 98 walleyes or 82 over their possession limit. The couple pleaded guilty to the over-limit charge in August. Both received \$66 in criminal fines, and each lost their fishing privileges for three years. Civil penalties of \$8,200 were also assessed in the case.

## BIG GAME SEASON IN MILLER AREA

Cory Flor received information indicating local subjects had chased a wild moose down with a vehicle, tied it up, and placed an ear tag on the animal. The moose had been seen in the area for a lengthy period of time. Sometime later, Flor received word the moose had fallen victim to a vehicle accident in Hand County. Flor arrived on the scene of the accident, inspected the animal and retrieved the ear tags. After an investigation, Flor was able to identify the ear tag and locate the perpetrators. The participants admitted their involvement in the case. One subject was found guilty of illegal possession of big game, received a one year hunting revocation, paid \$784 in criminal fines and received 30 days of jail time (suspended upon conditions).

In addition to the moose case, Flor investigated four separate incidents of deer poaching. Five subjects were charged in total and four deer were seized. Charges included hunting deer without a license, license lending and shooting deer from a road right-of-way. Civil damages totaling in the thousands are expected from these cases.



WALLEYE FILLETS AFTER SEIZURE.

# REGION 3

MARTY PENNOCK, REGIONAL CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR

STEVE VANDERBEEK, PROGRAM MANAGER - HABITAT

SOUTH

SAM SCHELHAAS, DISTRICT CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR

DAN ALTMAN

TODD CROWNOVER

BRIAN HUMPHREY

TONY STOKELY

NATE STUKEL

EAST

JEREMY RAKOWICZ, DISTRICT CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR

JEFF GRENDLER

JARED HILL

CODY SYMENS

SHANE VANBOCKERN

CHAD WILLIAMS

WEST

JEREMY ROE, DISTRICT CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR

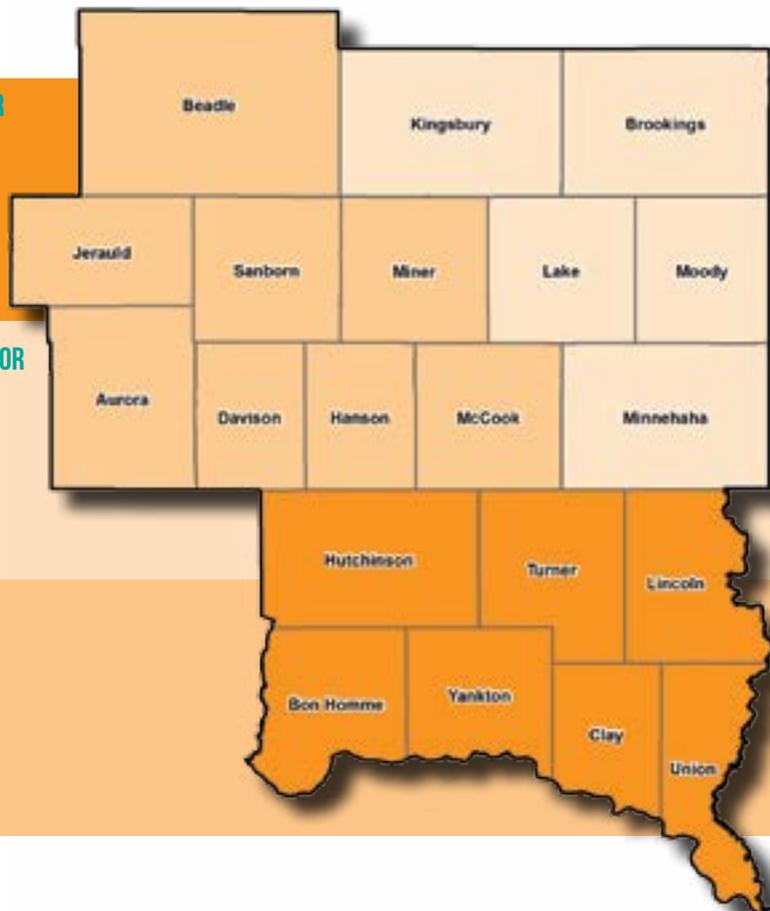
CHRIS KUNTZ

LYNN GEUKE

EVAN MEYER

ANDY PETERSEN

MATT TALBERT



## REGION 3 REPORT: MARTY PENNOCK, REGIONAL CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR

The year 2014 once again proved that there are no “normal” or “routine” duties in the work that a Conservation Officer does. The officers of the region showed professionalism and skilled abilities to deal with unique and stressful situations. The floods in 2011 created large, barren sandbars on the Missouri River leading to a unique opportunity for recreation. As a result, officers encountered an increased number of drug, alcohol, littering and miscellaneous land use violations. Officers collaborated with the South Dakota Highway Patrol and local sheriffs’ offices to deal with issues there and across the region on many occasions.

In the spring of 2014, areas in southeast South Dakota experienced record amounts of rainfall in a 24-hour period, causing major flash flooding across the area. On June 16 and 17, Conservation Officers were involved in numerous search and rescue missions. Officers utilized their skills and equipment to save multiple lives. Several of the rescues were made utilizing flat bottom boats launched into road ditches to reach vehicles that had been swept off the roadway by fast-rising water. Jeremy Roe, Jeremy

Rakowicz, Tony Stokely, Nate Stukel and Sam Schelhaas were recognized for their actions. Lynn Geuke, Evan Meyer and Chris Kuntz responded to the town of Wessington Springs that had been devastated by a tornado during this same time period. The officers lent their support to the community and the local law enforcement agencies. Throughout the year, Region 3 officers were involved in 13 search and rescue operations jointly performed with other emergency management agencies and law enforcement departments. One such rescue involved Todd Crownover, who is credited for saving the life of an elderly woman with severe medical issues. Todd searched for and rescued her in the Gavin’s Point Dam area.

GFP agreed to host a national boating under the influence study coordinated by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators. Officers spent 1,400 hours patrolling on the water and at the boat ramps for impaired boat operators and other boating infractions. Officers arrested 19 operators for being under the influence of alcohol during the project and over the course of the year. While



the officers did much of the work for this study, the project would not have succeeded without the assistance from the administrative regions.

In addition to their boating law enforcement duties, officers focused heavily on education efforts. The events the officers were involved with included more than 76 outreach programs, 61 HuntSAFE classes and 112 civic organization presentations, in addition to disabled hunting events that reach out to those with physical limitations.

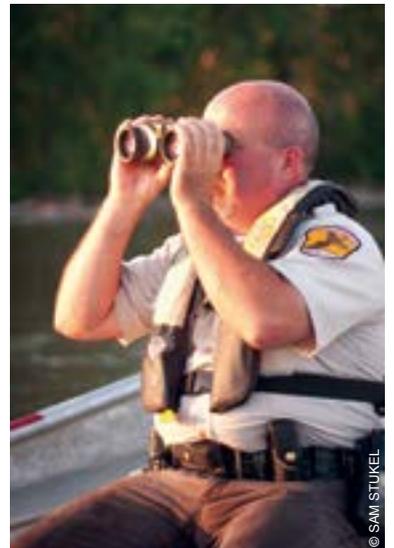
Individuals fishing without a license remain a huge problem especially in and around urban areas. Officers reach out and try to educate and enforce the laws of the state to help reduce this problem and build a better respect for the sport and for our natural resources.

Regional officers were relentless in tracking down individuals who intentionally violated laws to steal from all citizens of South Dakota. Officers worked long hours at night, during weekends and on holidays. Officers worked alone as well as assisting special operations in a joint environment that included several saturation night patrol activities and one road check in Sanborn County yielding multiple night time infractions.

Illegal night hunting activity continues to be a problem in the region and officers made arrests stopping these activities. One case resulted in four adults being charged with illegally hunting and killing a large white-tailed buck. Cases of illegal night hunting show a startling and concerning trend of violators in possession of illegal narcotics, high powered and assault rifles. One case involved an individual illegally killing two large bucks before being caught. This person was trying to fill tags for other people; he did not consider that as a “real” violation.

The 2014 pheasant hunting season also showed an increase in birds and hunters. This, in turn, resulted in higher small game violations. Officers responded to an increase in hunting too close to residences, trespassing and late shooting calls. One unusual case resulted in hunters shooting at pheasants so late they wore head lamps to better see flushing birds.

In summary, the officers of Region 3 continued to serve the public selflessly and their unyielding persistence to excellence is a credit to them and a benefit to the citizens of South Dakota.



© SAM STUKEL

# REGION 4

MIKE KLOSOWSKI, REGIONAL CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR

NORTHWEST

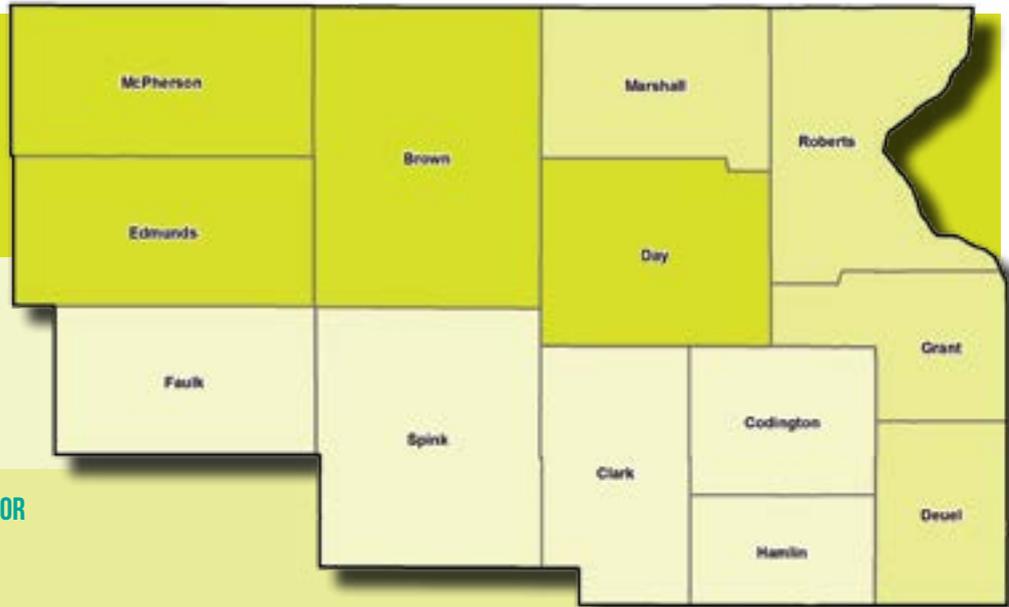
BLAKE YONKE, DISTRICT CO SUPERVISOR  
NICK COCHRAN  
JOE GALBRAITH  
AUSTIN NORTON  
BLAKE SWANSON  
ERIC VOIGT

SOUTH

KRAIG HAASE, DISTRICT CO SUPERVISOR  
TAIT ANDERSON  
KYLE LENZNER  
BRYCE MCVICKER  
JOSH VANDEN BOSCH

NORTHEAST

JAMIE PEKELDER, DISTRICT CO SUPERVISOR  
ADAM BEHNKE  
CASEY DOWLER  
DEAN SHULTZ



## REGION 4 REPORT: MIKE KLOSOWSKI, REGIONAL CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISOR

Region 4 is made up of the 13 counties in the northeast corner of the state. Fully staffed there are 12 Conservation Officers, three District Conservation Officer Supervisors, and one Regional Conservation Officer Supervisor for a total of 16 officers in the region. Resources are abundant; the northeast is a vacation and hunting destination for sportsmen and women across the United States. The area is primarily known for its natural geographic features of being part of America’s “duck factory,” the prairie pothole of the Midwest. This notoriety keeps officers monitoring hunting, fishing, trapping and boating activities year-round.

This past year brought good news and much needed help to the law enforcement ranks in Region 4. The addition of three conservation officer’s was a welcome sight. Josh VandenBosch is stationed in Redfield, which hasn’t had a conservation officer for several years. Spink and Faulk Counties have some of the highest pheasant and deer concentrations in the region.

Brown County welcomed Eric Voigt. Eric was a conservation officer in New Mexico.

Day County welcomed the addition of Blake Swanson, also a former New Mexico conservation officer. Day County

had a recent conservation officer position open up due to Blake Yonke being promoted to a district conservation officer supervisor. Blake Swanson definitely has his work cut out for him as Day County may be the busiest station in the region. There will be little downtime with the great hunting, fishing and trapping resources this district has to offer.

Northeast South Dakota is an area of extremes and 2014 was no exception. The winter was one of reprieve for the vast majority of wildlife. By most accounts, Region 4 had an “open winter” with snow accumulations staying relatively low. The region didn’t escape winter altogether, as temperatures were routinely below zero and with wind chills hitting -30 degrees at times. Officers had many days where it was simply too cold to do anything outside.

Low snow accumulations and very cold temperatures brought some of the best ice conditions anglers had experienced in years. Anglers were able to get out shortly after the month of December arrived and could drive vehicles on and off most area lakes. By the end of winter, ice depths were getting too thick for a traditional auger and anglers had to attach extensions to drill a hole in the ever-increasing ice depth. Fishing was excellent for the most part and anglers were happy to enjoy the resource.

Eventually the sun warmed the frozen earth and spring arrived. Snow goose hunters enjoyed a very abrupt and short staging timeframe in the northeast. Good spring weather gave way to large concentrations of birds moving north past the region and thus not giving hunters too much of a shot at harvest. Turkey hunters enjoyed early success due to a warm, dry spring with a number of days prime for turkey hunting.

The warm summer months provide great opportunities for recreation. Officers spend the majority of their summer law enforcement efforts focused on checking boaters and anglers. Lakes are highly developed recreational destinations while others are newly flooded waters with world-class walleye fishing.

Officers transition into the hunting seasons in mid-August when the August Management Take (AMT) occurs. High populations of Canada geese have provided excellent opportunities for waterfowl enthusiasts during the AMT in past years, but 2014 produced lower hunter participation. Hunters who took advantage of the season were able to locate fields with feeding birds that produced excellent decoy hunting.

Recent cold and wet springs have taken their toll on small game and deer in the northeast, but 2014 saw warmer drier conditions which proved to be just what the pheasant population needed. Most counties in Region 4 experienced an increase in pheasant production in 2014. Higher bird numbers were a pleasant surprise for most hunters. The resident season has seen a decline in participation over the years, but a large number of hunters still take advantage of the opportunity.

With the crops harvested and most of the birds pushed into heavy cover, hunters were able to have better success

than in the opening weeks of the season. Some of the more common violations in the field were failure to exhibit a hunting license, miscellaneous road hunting violations, illegal transportation and possessing lead shot on Game Production Areas (GPA).

Old man winter reminded us that he is still king in this part of the state with a record setting cold front. The arctic blast dropped a half a foot of snow and sent temperatures plummeting into the negatives after the first week in November, much to the dismay of hunters. Deer hunters had to bundle up to experience the long awaited rut while waterfowl hunters were just simply out of luck; the cold front froze large bodies of water overnight. Even late-season waterfowl magnets like Bitter Lake were no match for the subzero temperatures. Area hunters were forced to adapt to the weather and move south, or hang up the decoys for the year.

Conservation officers continue to spend considerable amounts of time on private lands programs, hunter education, landowner and sportsman relations and outreach projects. The Walk-in Area program and private land food plots provide exceptional public hunting and help landowners provide necessary habitat for the wildlife of South Dakota. Conservation Officers complete news articles for local community papers, participate in radio programs and keep the public informed and educated on current events as they relate to the outdoors. Throughout the region, there are weekly radio programs and a number of guest appearances made on other shows. Step Outside programs developed by the officers have been a huge success and remain a high priority in getting youth involved with outdoor recreation.

Conservation Officers are the face of the department and are called often by the public on a broad spectrum of





subjects. Our officers do an excellent job of keeping up to date and disseminating information. Officers are expected to know hunting and fishing regulations, private lands programs and other initiatives that are happening within the agency.

## GAME CHECKS HAVE PROVEN TO BE A USEFUL TOOL IN WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Region 4 set up three game checks in 2014. Game checks were conducted in Clark and Marshall Counties. A game check slated for Edmunds County was cancelled due to high winds.

Hunters or anglers going through road checks made positive comments about never going through a road check before and were happy to see the department actively seeking compliance from hunters and anglers. Contacts are made with a broad range of sportsmen and women from non-residents passing through with game to local anglers.

Often times, the department partners with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to staff and assist in executing these operations. On a typical road check, the USFWS handles federal crimes and migratory bird violations. Cases made from road checks in 2014 ranged from illegally transporting small game to persons possessing an overlimit of fish or small game.

## FISHING ACTIVITY REMAINS HIGH IN 2014

In years past, high runoff and heavy snows have flooded many acres of land, deepening many of the existing area sloughs and lakes. Although this influx of water has been a detriment for some, anglers who utilize this resource have benefitted greatly. Dry Lake #2 was the shining star this last summer. Once deemed incapable of sustaining a healthy adult population of walleye, this lake produced high numbers of fish for many anglers during early summer and well into the dog days of late summer.

Boating safety remained a high priority in Region 4 during the summer boating season. Officers participated in a nationwide law enforcement detail called Operation Dry Water. Operation Dry Water is aimed at reducing intoxicated boaters recreating on area lakes. Officers worked together to contact as many boats as possible and conduct safety inspections. The most common violations were no throwable personal floatation device (PFD) and having insufficient amounts wearable PFD on board.

## THIS WAS NO DAISY RED RIDER BB GUN

Kyle Lenzner was informed by the Clark Police Department

of a possible illegally harvested deer shot the day before East River deer season within the city limits of Clark. Upon arrival, Lenzner found evidence of a deer being killed under an apple tree that was located near a residence. After a brief canvas of the area, Lenzner found where the deer had been dragged back to a residence. Lenzner did a brief license search through the state system and didn't find any valid big game licenses for anyone who lived at the residence. Lenzner obtained a search warrant for the residence; he along with several other conservation officer's served the warrant. A search of the house and outbuildings revealed the illegally harvested deer and a pellet gun that was used to kill the deer. Lenzner was able to find the pellet in the head area of the deer. The suspect was a convicted felon and could not legally possess firearms.

## ROSCOE SPOTLIGHTING GAME

Conservation Officer Joe Galbraith received a phone call from a South Dakota Highway Patrol Trooper at approximately 2 a.m. on March 30, 2014. The trooper stated three racoons, a mink and another bird were between two vehicles in the parking lot of the American Legion in Roscoe. The trooper said a spotlight was on the ground between the two vehicles. Several vehicles took off from the parking lot when the trooper drove up.

Galbraith interviewed several individuals about the animals and spotlight. Galbraith found out through the interviews that a group of kids from the Hosmer and Roscoe area were playing a game that night. The group that killed the most animals by 2 a.m. was the winner. Three vehicles were involved in the incident and a total of ten kids. One deer, along with approximately seven coons, three mink and one western meadowlark were illegally killed that night utilizing artificial light. All three vehicles had alcohol with them and several individuals were under the influence of alcohol. One group also stole several street signs, road closed signs and flags marking a bad road.

The Edmunds County state's attorney decided to charge the two individuals who shot the deer with closed season big game. The other eight individuals were charged with artificial light/night vision. All ten individuals lost their hunting privileges for one year. Two individuals paid a civil penalty on the deer. Several individuals had to reimburse the county for the damaged street signs.

## FISHING FOR DRUGS

On May 17, 2014, Conservation Officer Adam Behnke was out checking anglers at Bullhead Lake in Deuel County. Behnke observed three individuals through his

spotting scope fishing on the opposite side of the lake. One individual made a motion to his mouth that was consistent with an individual who was smoking marijuana. Behnke made contact with the individuals. As Behnke approached the vehicle, he could smell the odor of marijuana. Behnke searched the vehicle and found four marijuana pipes and three containers that had small amounts of marijuana. He also found a pill bottle in the backseat that contained oxycodone. The prescription on the oxycodone bottle was not for any of the three subjects that were fishing. Behnke arrested two individuals that took claim to the drugs and paraphernalia. An urinalysis was performed on both subjects. Both subjects came back with methamphetamine in their system as well and received felony charges. The subjects received a combined fine of \$1,298, four years of adult probation, two years of suspended state penitentiary time, and 75 days in county jail.

## YOUTH HUNTS

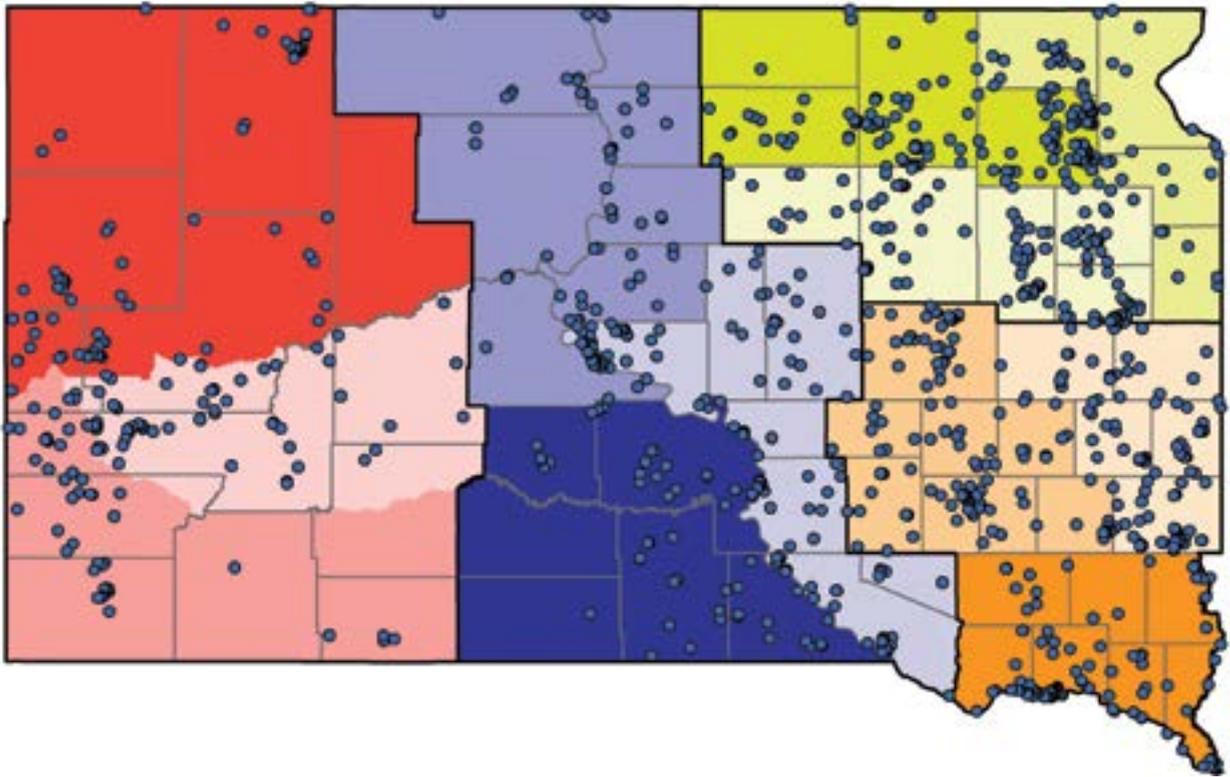
Conservation Officer Casey Dowler, with the assistance of Region 4 officers, put on another youth waterfowl hunting camp in Marshall County. The young hunter's camp was a two-day event which started the day before youth waterfowl opener, followed by an opening day hunt. The first day of the camp youth were able to learn about decoy placement, calling, hunting from a blind, and practiced shooting clay pigeons. Youth were paired with department staff and participated in a waterfowl hunt the next morning. Youth were able to harvest their first duck ever and the smiling faces at the end of the day said it all. All together approximately 15 young hunters participated in the event.

Deuel County Conservation Officer Adam Behnke helped put on a youth pheasant hunt that was popular with area hunters. Adam worked with Coteau Prairie Pheasants Forever Chapter out of Deuel County to put on the youth pheasant hunt. Kids enjoyed visiting with chapter members, safety demonstrations, game care and of a course a pheasant hunt.

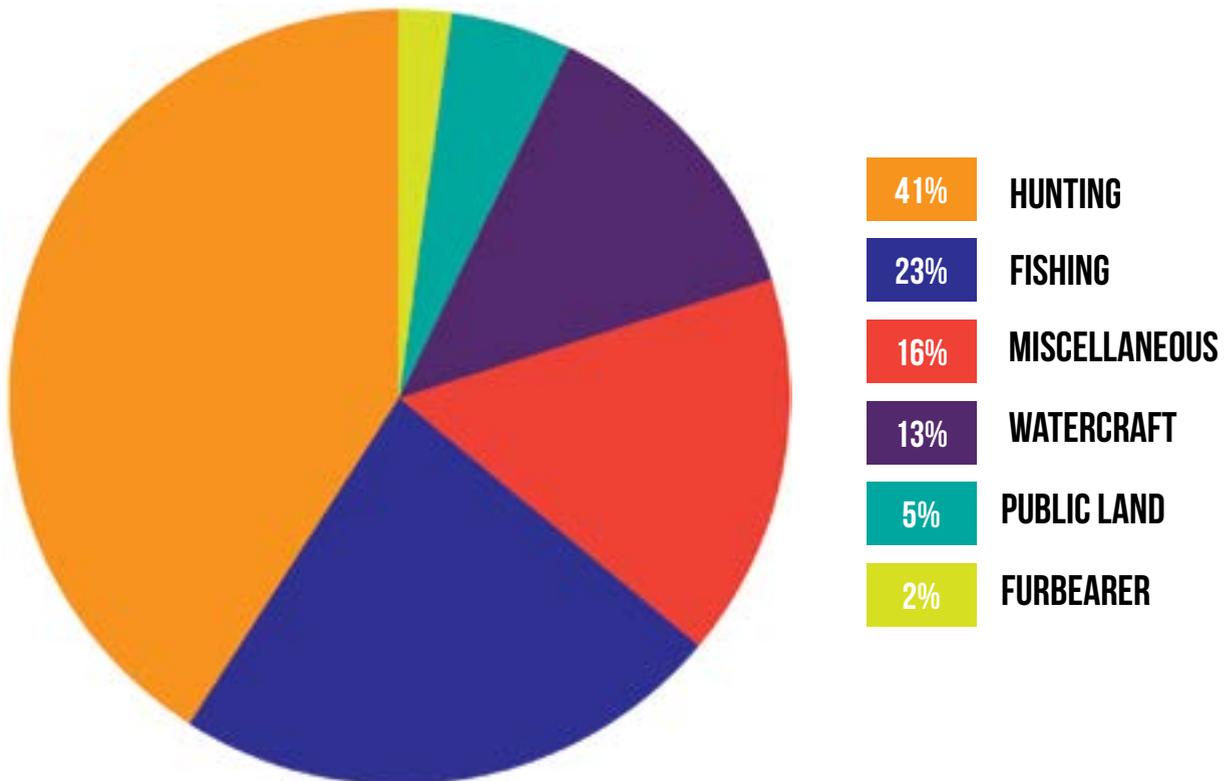
Roberts County Conservation Officer Dean Shultz has propagated a partnership with landowners, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America and area sportsmen and women's groups to hold an annual Step Outside event. Youth learn about and are introduced to hunting tactics, dog training, fishing, biology and many other outdoor related topics. Region 4 officers and staff have put this program on for a number of years with 113 youth in attendance this past year.

# 2014 STATEWIDE INFORMATION

## STATEWIDE VIOLATION MAP



## STATEWIDE 2014 VIOLATIONS BY CATEGORY



# 2014 STATEWIDE VIOLATION STATISTICS

## HUNTING VIOLATIONS = 791

92 TRESPASS - HUNTING (UNINTENTIONAL)	8 WATERFOWL - CLOSED SEASON
75 ARTIFICIAL LIGHT/NIGHT VISION	8 WATERFOWL - NO LICENSE
37 TRESPASS - HUNTING (INTENTIONAL)	7 NO MIGRATORY BIRD CERTIFICATION
34 BIG GAME - NO LICENSE	5 BIG GAME - VIOLATE CONDITIONS LICENSE
33 BIG GAME - HUNTING ON HIGHWAY	5 CARRY UNCASSED OR LOADED FIREARM ON ATV
32 SMALL GAME - RIGHT OF WAY RESTRICTION	5 TURKEY - NO LICENSE (NONRESIDENT)
29 BIG GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	5 UNLAWFUL POSSESSION SMALL GAME/FISH
23 GAME BIRD TRANSPORTATION/PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS	5 USE OF VEHICLE/BOAT TO DISTURB OR CHASE
22 SHOOTING FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	4 BIG GAME - TRANSPORT WITHOUT SEX/SPECIES ID
22 WATERFOWL - UNPLUGGED SHOTGUN	4 DOVE HUNTING WITHIN 50 YDS OF HIGHWAY
21 BIG GAME - WRONG UNIT	4 INTERFERENCE WITH LAWFUL HUNTING
21 HUNT WITHIN 660 FT OF DWELLING/LIVESTOCK	4 LICENSE - PURCHASE/APPLY/HUNT UNDER REVOCATION
20 SMALL GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	4 SHOOTING PRESERVE - FAILURE TO NOTIFY OF RELEASE
18 SMALL GAME - HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	4 WATERFOWL - OVERLIMIT
17 PROTECTED GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	3 ARTIFICIAL LIGHT PROHIBITED AFTER 10PM
15 BIG GAME - METHODS PROHIBITED	3 BIG GAME - NO FLUORESCENT ORANGE
15 HUNT OR POSSESS PROTECTED BIRD	3 FRAUD TO OBTAIN - HUNTING LICENSE
15 LIMITATION ON TREE STANDS	3 SMALL GAME - CLOSED SEASON
13 SMALL GAME - NO LICENSE	3 SMALL GAME - WRONG UNIT
12 ARTIFICIAL LIGHT/NIGHT VISION - LANDOWNER	2 BIG GAME - ILLEGAL TRANSPORT
12 BIG GAME - CLOSED SEASON	2 BIG GAME - NO LICENSE/VIOLATE CONDITIONS
11 BIG GAME - USE OF SALT LICK TO ATTRACT	2 HUNTING GAME BIRDS WITH UNLAWFUL FIREARM
11 IMPROPER TAGGING OF GAME	2 ILLEGAL HUNTING METHOD
11 UNLAWFUL PUBLIC STORAGE OF GAME	2 MINOR HUNTING WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION
10 GUN PROTRUDING FROM VEHICLE	2 SHOOTING PRESERVE - FAILURE TO TAG BIRDS
10 LICENSE - LENDING	2 SHOOTING PRESERVE - RECORDS VIOLATION
9 BIG GAME - INELIGIBLE APPLICATION FOR LICENSE	2 WATERFOWL - LEAD SHOT
9 SMALL GAME - OVERLIMIT	1 BIG GAME - EXCEED MAX NUMBER CARTRIDGES
9 WANTON WASTE OF GAME	1 LICENSE - APPLY/PURCHASE BIG GAME WHEN INELIGIBLE
9 WATERFOWL - NO FEDERAL STAMP	1 SMALL GAME - UNPLUGGED SHOTGUN
8 BIG GAME - FAILURE TO TAG	1 WATERFOWL - HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS
8 DISTURBING WILDLIFE PROHIBITED	1 WATERFOWL - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION

# 2014 STATEWIDE VIOLATION STATISTICS

## WATERCRAFT VIOLATIONS = 262

115	PFD - INSUFFICIENT NUMBER
33	OPERATE BOAT UNDER INFLUENCE
28	OPERATE BOAT WITHOUT LICENSE/NUMBER
15	OPERATE BOAT WITHOUT LIGHTS
13	OPERATE BOAT IN VIOLATION OF POSTED WATERS
13	PFD - NOT WEARING ON PERSONAL WATERCRAFT
12	CARELESS OPERATION
8	RECKLESS/NEGLIGENT OPERATION OF BOAT
7	WATER SKIING W/O OBSERVER OR MIRROR
6	PWC - GREATER THAN NO WAKE WITHIN 150 FEET
3	IMPROPER DISPLAY OF BOAT NUMBERS - BOAT
3	PFD - NO THROWABLE
2	PFD - USE REQUIRED (CHILD UNDER 7)
1	MISC. OTHER BOAT SAFETY EQUIPMENT
1	PWC - UNDERAGE OPERATION
1	UNAUTHORIZED/IMPROPER BUOY PLACEMENT
1	VIOLATION OF WATER ZONES

## FURBEARER VIOLATIONS = 41

15	TRAP CHECKING REQUIRED
5	POSSESS WILD ANIMAL - FAILURE TO NOTIFY
3	BOBCAT - NO LICENSE
3	EXPOSED BAIT PROHIBITED
3	SNARE RESTRICTIONS
2	TRAP FUREARER DURING CLOSED SEASON (MUSKRAT)
2	UNLAWFUL POSSESSION FURBEARER
1	FAILURE TO REGISTER BOBCAT WITHIN 5 DAYS
1	FUR DEALER - RECORDS REQUIRED
1	HUNT FURBEARER DURING CLOSED SEASON
1	HUNT FURBEARER WITHOUT LICENSE
1	PROHIBITED METHOD OF HUNTING FURBEARER
1	TRAP FUREARER DURING CLOSED SEASON (BOBCAT)
1	TRAP WITHIN 660 FT OF DWELLING/LIVESTOCK
1	TRAPPING WITHOUT LICENSE

PFD = PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICE | PWC = PERSONAL WATERCRAFT



## FISHING VIOLATIONS = 440

188	FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE (RESIDENT)
53	FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE (NONRESIDENT)
48	LENGTH LIMIT VIOLATION
46	OVER LIMIT OF FISH
32	TOO MANY LINES
12	UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FISH ON THE WATER
11	TRESPASS - FISHING (UNINTENTIONAL)
10	UNATTENDED LINES
6	UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FISH
5	FISH UNDER REVOCATION
4	ILLEGAL FISHING METHOD
3	LABELING/ACCESS TO ICE HOUSE
3	ORGANIC BAIT
3	PROHIBITED BAIT
3	TRESPASS - FISHING (INTENTIONAL)
2	FRAUD TO OBTAIN - FISHING LICENSE
2	HIGHGRADING OF FISH PROHIBITED
2	ILLEGAL TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF FISH
2	WANTON WASTE OF FISH
1	FAILURE TO EMPTY BAIT TRAPS
1	SEINES, NETS, AND TRAPS LIMITED
1	SPECIES ILLEGALLY TAKEN AS BAIT FOR COMMERCIAL USE
1	TURTLE RESTRICTIONS
1	UNLAWFUL SALE/PURCHASE OF FISH

## PUBLIC LAND VIOLATIONS = 91

38	NONTOXIC SHOT AREAS FOR SMALL GAME
35	DRIVING OFF ROADS PROHIBITED
7	UNAUTHORIZED LAND USE ON POSTED GFP
3	EXHIBITION DRIVING
2	EXCEEDING POSTED SPEED LIMIT IN STATE PARK/REC AREA
2	MISC. PARK VIOLATIONS
2	UNAUTHORIZED FIRE/PUBLIC LAND
1	DESTRUCTION OR REMOVAL OF NATURAL FEATURES
1	OPERATING VEHICLES ON SCHOOL & PUBLIC LAND

## MISCELLANEOUS VIOLATIONS = 322

54	ALCOHOL - POSSESSION BY MINOR
48	USE OR POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA
41	POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
22	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE-MISDEMEANOR
22	INGEST INTOXICANT OTHER THAN ALCOHOL
21	LICENSE - NOT IN POSSESSION
20	LITTERING PROHIBITED
14	LITTERING FROM VEHICLE
8	ALCOHOL - OPEN CONTAINER
8	LICENSE - MINIMUM RESIDENCY REQUIRED
8	RECKLESS DRIVING
5	IMPERSONATION TO DECEIVE OFFICER
5	POSSESS LOADED FIREARM WHILE INTOXICATED
4	POSSESSION CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
3	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE-FELONY
3	INGESTION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
3	NO DIVER DOWN FLAG
3	RESISTING ARREST
3	TRESPASS - CRIMINAL
2	FIREWORKS - SELL/DISCHARGE
2	MAXIMUM AMOUNTS FOR ISSUING LICENSE
2	OBSTRUCTING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
2	POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED WEAPON
2	POSSESSION/DISTRIBUTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
2	SNOWMOBILE - NO VALID LICENSE
2	START OPEN FIRE IN BLACK HILLS
2	VANDALISM-\$400 LESS-3RD DEGREE
1	ALCOHOL - FURNISH TO PERSON 18-21
1	AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES - ILLEGAL POSSESSION
1	ASSAULT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WITH BODILY FLUIDS
1	DISORDERLY CONDUCT
1	DRIVING WITH SUSPENDED DRIVERS LICENSE
1	ENTER BOUNDARY WATER WITHOUT SD LICENSE
1	POSSESSION OF CONCEALED WEAPON WITHOUT PERMIT
1	POSSESSION OF FIREARM - CONVICTED VIOLENT FELON
1	POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE - MARIJUANA
1	RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF FIREARMS
1	SIMPLE ASSAULT

# 2014 STATEWIDE VIOLATION STATISTICS

## VIOLATIONS TOTALS BY ACTIVITY

HUNTING	791
FISHING	440
FURBEARER	41
WATERCRAFT	262
PUBLIC LAND	91
MISCELLANEOUS	322
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,947</b>

## WRITTEN WARNINGS BY ACTIVITY

HUNTING	382
FISHING	243
FURBEARER	12
WATERCRAFT	588
PUBLIC LAND	9
MISCELLANEOUS	495
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,729</b>

## REVOCACTIONS

HUNTING	282
FISHING	245
TRAPPING	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>534</b>

## CIVIL DAMAGES ASSESSED

BIG GAME	\$28,000
FISH	\$18,650
FURBEARER	\$1,000
SMALL GAME/WATERFOWL	\$1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,150</b>

## FINES AND COSTS

FINES ASSESSED	\$148,358
FINES SUSPENDED	\$1,387
ACTUAL FINES ASSESSED	\$146,971
COSTS ASSESSED	\$103,019
COSTS SUSPENDED	\$0
ACTUAL COSTS ASSESSED	\$103,019
<b>ACTUAL FINES &amp; COSTS ASSESSED</b>	<b>\$249,990</b>

## JAIL TIME - IN DAYS

JAIL TIME ASSESSED	6,139
JAIL TIME SUSPENDED	5,800
ACTUAL JAIL TIME SERVED	339

## PROBATION - IN MONTHS

PROBATION	208
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## CONSERVATION OFFICER BREAKDOWN

- 53 CONSERVATION OFFICERS (CO)
- 12 DISTRICT CO SUPERVISORS (DCOS)
- 4 REGIONAL CO SUPERVISORS (RCOS)
- 1 REGIONAL SUPERVISORS (RS)
- 1 REGIONAL PROGRAM MANAGER — HABITAT
- 2 WILDLIFE INVESTIGATORS
- 2 LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIALISTS
- 1 TRAINING SUPERVISOR
- 1 LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

**77 TOTAL OFFICERS**

# 2014 STATEWIDE CONTACT STATISTICS

## FIELD CONTACT TOTALS

ANGLERS – NONRESIDENT	7,489
ANGLERS – RESIDENT	24,928
HUNTERS – NONRESIDENT	6,382
HUNTERS – RESIDENT	11,672
PARKS – NONRESIDENT	0
PARKS – RESIDENT	86
TRAPPERS – NONRESIDENT	1
TRAPPERS – RESIDENT	251
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TOTAL	50,809

## INSPECTION TOTALS

BAIT DEALERS	103
FUR DEALERS	22
PRIVATE FISH HATCHERY	1
PRIVATE SHOOTING PRESERVE	320
SNOWMOBILE	36
TAXIDERMIST	103
WATERCRAFT	7,224
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TOTAL	7,809

## LANDOWNER ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

SHOOT TOO CLOSE TO DWELLINGS/ LIVESTOCK (660')	126
SPOTLIGHT	87
TRESPASS	251
MISCELLANEOUS	166
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TOTAL	630

## LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

HUNTSAFE CLASSES	184
PRESENTATIONS TO GROUPS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS	286
RADIO/TV/NEWSPAPER ARTICLES	662
SCHOOL PROGRAMS	186
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TOTAL	1,318



# NEW CONSERVATION OFFICERS

## TIM MCCURDY – LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING SUPERVISOR



The hiring process to become a Conservation Officer Trainee is quite extensive and takes months to complete. During the application process, a hiring board evaluates the applications and selects those who will be interviewed. The interview process includes

oral, written and species ID portions. From this list of candidates, the board chooses those who should undergo a background investigation. Due to the nature of the public trust placed on officers, this investigation is very detailed and covers a wide range of behaviors, relationships and tendencies. Candidates who successfully pass the background are issued a conditional offer of employment; which leads to a series of additional tests including a polygraph, drug test and psychological screening. This may appear to be a lot of effort and expense; but, in addition to needing to meet the basic criteria established for entry into the Law Enforcement Training Academy, Conservation Officers must be quality individuals who are worthy of the trust placed in them by their communities and the Department. Therefore, only after this exhaustive process is completed is an individual considered ready to begin the formal training process.

The training timeline for Conservation Officer Trainees prior to assuming their first duty station as a newly hired Conservation Officer is approximately eight months and consists of the following stages:

- Pre-Academy Training (1 week);
- Basic Academy Training (13 weeks);
- Post-Academy Training (3 weeks); and
- Wildlife Training Officer Program (15 weeks)

The Pre-Academy training takes place in Pierre. This time consists of a drug-screening test, a formal swearing in by a Circuit Court judge, administrative processing, and in-house orientation. The Trainee receives some of their equipment and initial uniform allotment during this time. They also spend time on the firing range qualifying with their state issued duty weapons.

The next step for the Trainee is the 520 hour Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pierre at the George S. Mickelson Criminal Justice Center. Like any other peace

officer in South Dakota, a Conservation Officer Trainee must successfully attend and complete the state's law enforcement training academy before becoming a certified Law Enforcement Officer.

Next, Trainees must complete three weeks of Post-Academy Training. About half of the training is done in Pierre while the rest of the training is rotated between the four administrative regions. Time is spent learning and reviewing wildlife laws and regulations, policy and procedure, as well as resource management information. During this time, new officers learn through the hands-on process of scenarios which test their knowledge; but also provides them an opportunity to try (and sometimes fail) in a safe environment. This training is conducted in-house by regional and Pierre administrative staff, as well as by experienced Conservation Officers.

After finishing the Post-Academy Training, a Conservation Officer Trainee must complete a minimum of fifteen weeks in the Wildlife Training Officer Program in various locations around the state. The Wildlife Training Officer Program was implemented as part of a strategic plan to improve communications between Wildlife Conservation Officers and the public within our state. This new approach to training replaced the Department's previous program known as the Field Training Program and was patterned after the Patrol Training Officer Program, also known as the "Reno Training Model." The Wildlife Training Officer Program combines community policing philosophies, contemporary adult educational methods, journaling, personal accountability and a version of problem-based learning adapted for Conservation Officers. Another important aspect of the Wildlife Training Officer Program is the emphasis on "failing forward." In this program, trying and failing is not seen as a negative, rather they are part of the foundational building blocks upon which a new officer's career is built. Not only is this philosophy something that serves an officer well during training; it is also a necessary skill for later career growth and development. One final aspect of the Wildlife Training Officer Program is matching new officers with experienced officers who serve as their trainers and mentors. Leadership is developed by exposing trainees to seasoned officers who display and model professional qualities.

Once the Trainee successfully completes all the training requirements, they officially become a Conservation Officer and are assigned to a vacant duty station.

# NEW CONSERVATION OFFICERS



**CHRIS DEKKER** joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in February 2014. Chris grew up in Norfolk, Nebraska. He graduated from South Dakota State University, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Chris also completed his Master's degree from the University of Idaho in Environmental Science. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Chris worked for Nebraska Game and Parks and SD GFP in Pierre and Huron. After completing the training program, Chris was assigned to the Winner duty station.



**BRIAN RIDGWAY** joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in February 2014. Brian grew up in Madison, Missouri. He graduated from Moberly (MO) Area Community College with an Associate's degree in Law Enforcement. Brian later graduated from Columbia (MO) College, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Brian worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation Fisheries and Protection Divisions. After completing the training program, Brian was assigned to one of the Chamberlain duty stations.



**BLAKE SWANSON** joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in June 2014. Blake grew up in Hayfield, Minnesota. He attended Central Lakes College in Brainerd, MN where he earned an Associate's degree in Natural Resource Law Enforcement. Blake also attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Resource Management and a minor in Environmental Law Enforcement. He went to work for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in the Jemez Mountains as a Conservation Officer for 5 years. After completing the training program, Blake was assigned to one of the Webster duty stations.



**SPENCER DOWNEY** joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in August 2014. Spencer grew up in Creston, Iowa. He graduated from Hawkeye Community College – Waterloo, where he received an Associate's degree in Police Science. He graduated from Iowa State University - Ames, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Animal Ecology. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Spencer worked for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a seasonal ATV/Water Patrol Officer and as a Park seasonal, Community Service Officer for Iowa State University, and with the USDA - North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station. After completing the training program, Spencer was assigned to the Presho duty station.

# BOATING ENFORCEMENT

## BRANDON GUST - LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST



Enforcement of our state's boating laws and regulations is nothing new for our Conservation Officers. Ensuring the safety of those using the numerous water resources in South Dakota is a top priority during the summer months. In addition to the other job duties, Conservation Officers spend countless hours training

for boating enforcement work, conducting safety patrols, educating the public and taking part in special operations.

### CONSERVATION OFFICERS PARTICIPATE IN VALIDATION STUDY

This past summer, 24 Conservation Officers from across the state took part in a national validation study sponsored by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and United States Coast Guard. The validation study was the second of its kind being conducted on the Seated Battery of Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs). The Seated SFST's were designed for the marine environment and allow law enforcement officers to investigate impaired boat operators while remaining on the water.

Having already been researched and validated previously, this study set out to answer two questions about the Seated SFSTs. First, does the training currently given to officers nationwide produce the same levels of preparedness in administering the tests that was produced for the original validation study? Second, is there evidence that marine officers can sustain that level of preparedness in the course of their daily routine for prolonged periods of time, like months or years?

The South Dakota study took place in Yankton and ran

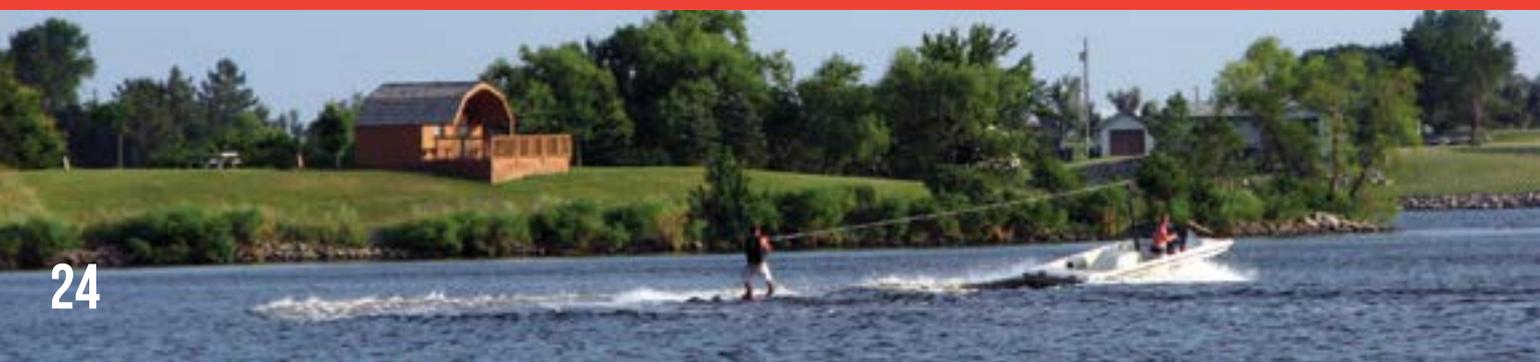
from June 27 through September 1. Patrolling mainly weekends and holidays, Conservation Officers insured their patrol efforts were being utilized during peak boating periods. During the course of the study, Conservation Officers administered the Seated SFSTs to 79 individuals and made 17 arrests for Boating Under the Influence (BUI). Those 17 arrests accounted for 52% of the BUI arrests across the state in 2014.

Results of the study indicated that the current training officers receive nationwide produces somewhat lower preparedness results than those that were produced for the original validation study. However, in 2014 South Dakota was the only state to participate the in the study resulting in a much smaller sample size being collected than what was originally designed for the multi-year study. Therefore, analysis from the results of the South Dakota study are being interpreted with extreme caution and it is the hope of the researchers that further study across a much larger (multi-study site) scale can be conducted in the years to come to fully answer the questions set out at the beginning of this study.

### SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Ensuring the safety of the waters for our boating public is no easy task. Throughout the summer months, Conservation Officers team up and conduct special water patrol operations. During these operations, regular safety checks are conducted with an extra emphasis placed on BUI awareness. One such operation that has been taking place for the past six summers nationwide is Operation Dry Water (ODW).

ODW is a national campaign targeting BUI awareness and enforcement. Conservation Officers in South Dakota have been participating in ODW since its inception in 2009. Each of the four regions participated in the event last summer, resulting in a number of arrests for BUI and a raised level of BUI awareness by the boating public.



# OPERATION DRY WATER STATISTICS

REGION	OFFICERS	VESSELS	BOATERS	CITATIONS	WARNINGS	BOATING UNDER INFLUENCE	LAKES
1	8	11	40	0	0	0	SHERIDAN
2	7	28	70	2	2	0	LAKE SHARPE
3	19	81	351	9	16	2	MITCHELL/BYRON/ LEWIS & CLARK
4	14	16	93	1	4	0	MINA/KAMPESKA
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	



**OPERATION  
DRY WATER**

**NEVER** BOAT UNDER  
THE INFLUENCE!  
**SOUTH DAKOTA**

# 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## HOUSE BILLS

**HOUSE BILL 1012** An Act to provide for free resident fishing licenses for certain entities teaching basic fishing skills. This bill amends 41-6-35 to provide an exemption from the fishing license requirement for any school, governmental entity, charitable or nonprofit organization conducting an event, class, or program for the purpose of teaching basic fishing skills

**HOUSE BILL 1014** An Act to increase the nonrefundable application fee for resident bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and elk licenses. This bill amends 41-6-19.6 to provide an increase (\$5 to \$10) in the application fee for bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and elk licenses.

**HOUSE BILL 1076** An Act to revise certain requirements relating to party fishing. This bill amends 41-12-21 by creating additional allowances (from shore and from the ice) for party fishing. Persons engaged in this activity must maintain visual and unaided vocal contact. NOTE: Party fishing is limited to hook and line fishing, not spearfishing.

**HOUSE BILL 1110** An Act to revise certain provisions

regarding the definition of a resident for the purposes of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses. This bill amends 41-1-1.1 by creating an additional allowance for residency for those persons who previously had a domicile in SD that have left the state due to the person's regular attendance in a medical or dental residency program.

**HOUSE BILL 1118** An Act to clarify certain provisions about discharging firearms in safety zones. This bill amends 41-9-1.1 by prohibiting the discharge of a firearm within a 660' safety zone. Prior to this bill, the subject had to be in the act of hunting in order to satisfy the elements of the crime.

**HOUSE BILL 1129** An Act to prohibit the use of certain explosive targets in the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District. This bill creates a new statute in SDCL 34-35 that prohibits (Class 2 Misdemeanor) exploding targets (except on designated shooting ranges) within the BHFPD and assigns liability to those persons violating this law that cause damage/fire.

**HOUSE BILL 1130** An Act to authorize the use of crossbows for hunting big game animals during the firearm season. This bill creates a new statute in SDCL 41-8 that allows for the use of a crossbow to hunt big

## CONSERVATION OFFICER JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY

According to South Dakota Codified Law (41-15-10.1) Conservation Officers have statewide authority to enforce those statutes which:

- Fall under Title 22 (Crimes);
- Pertain to game, fish, parks, forestry, or boating;
- Pertain to driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, or eluding an officer;
- Regulate open alcohol containers in motor vehicles and underage possession of alcohol and occurs on property owned, managed, or leased by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks;
- Regulate snowmobile licensing and operation;
- Regulate carrying firearms on motorcycles and off-road vehicles;
- Pertain to littering.

Additionally, according to SDCL 41-15-10, South Dakota's Conservation Officers "have full power and authority to serve and execute all warrants and process of law issued by a court in enforcing the provisions of any law of the state".

game in a firearm season. Essentially, those issued a license to take big game animal with a firearm (i.e. NOT archery and muzzleloader specific licenses) may utilize a crossbow as a legal weapon in lieu of a firearm. The bill also specifies certain legal crossbow equipment specifications.

**HOUSE BILL 1185** An Act to revise certain provisions relating to nonresident waterfowl licenses. This bill amends 41-6-18.1 and 41-6-18.4, essentially placing the responsibility (within some defined parameters) for allocating nonresident waterfowl licenses and types with the Game, Fish & Parks Commission.

## SENATE BILLS

**SENATE BILL 2** An Act to provide for the delayed arrest, under certain circumstances, in regard to certain outstanding warrants for victims of domestic abuse with minor children. This bill places discretion with officers called to the scene of a domestic abuse complaint on whether or not to immediately arrest individuals who are the victim and happen to have outstanding warrants, provided certain criteria are met.

**SENATE BILL 7** An Act to modify the persons eligible for protection from domestic abuse and to revise certain terminology. This bill amends several domestic abuse provisions including: stipulating which persons are capable of committing domestic abuse, outlining who can apply for a protection order/temporary protection order and the corresponding procedures, revising general domestic abuse definitions/guidelines, and updating provisions related to the discretion of the court following a case of domestic abuse.

**SENATE BILL 104** An Act to authorize the use of night vision equipment for hunting under certain conditions. This bill amends 41-8-17 by allowing a landowner or occupant and one guest accompanied by the landowner or occupant to utilize/possess night vision equipment on the owner's or occupant's land. It also removes the .22 caliber requirement from the statute, making it simply a rimfire firearm (which now legalizes .17 calibers).

**SENATE BILL 118** An Act to revise certain criminal penalties for intentional damage to private property. This bill amends 22-34-1 by clarifying the classification of crime (misdemeanor or felony), depending on the amount of damage present.



# TURN-IN-POACHERS PROGRAM (TIPS)

## ANDY ALBAN — TURN-IN-POACHERS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Turn-In-Poachers (TIPs) program is a partnership between South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks and the non-profit organization, Wildlife Protection, Inc. This joint venture was born out of a desire for South Dakota's sportsmen and women to "police" their own. With approximately 78 Conservation Officers called upon to cover about 75,000 square miles of land and 1,200 square miles of water in South Dakota it is evident that they can't be everywhere all the time. Most times the best witnesses are the landowners and resource users themselves. In an effort to provide easy and convenient ways to report violations, TIPs has become a core component of GFP's law enforcement efforts.

Through TIPs, a 24 hour, seven day a week toll free number, 1-888-OVERBAG (683-7224), has been set up to field reports from the public regarding hunting, fishing, and trapping violations. Information may also be provided online. Just like those calling in on the telephone, the information entered in this form may be reported by those who wish to remain anonymous. A wildlife violation may

be reported online at

[gfp.sd.gov/agency/law-enforcement/tips/default.aspx](http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/law-enforcement/tips/default.aspx)

This partnership between government and the private sector allows those who provide information to be compensated for their information. Since the inception of the program in 1984, over \$150,000 in rewards has been paid out to people who observe and report violations. The funding for this program comes from a variety of areas; however, one of the most popular is by sportsmen and women themselves. During this fiscal year, over \$22,000 was donated at the time of license purchases.

In the 2013 TIPs year (which began in July 1, 2013 and ended on June 30, 2014) 170 investigations and 89 arrests could be directly attributed to information provided through the program. From this information, violators were fined \$16,956 and required to pay \$16,000 in civil damages. Judges sentenced violators to 1,395 days in jail for their crimes (all but four days were suspended). TIPs paid out \$6,300 in rewards.





The best known aspect of TIPs program is the reward program after a violation has been committed. At the direction of the Wildlife Protection, Inc. Board of Directors, several electronic and print advertisements have been disseminated to the public in the past. In addition, TIPs radio spots were contracted and serve as a constant reminder to customers for the need to practice good sportsmanship and ethics while on the water and in the field.

Operating under the concept that “a visual is worth a thousand words,” the TIPs program also offers what is commonly called the TIPs Trailer. Conservation Officers

take the trailer containing photographs, specimens and videos that demonstrate the types of crimes committed in South Dakota and the types of cases that can be made through the TIPs program. Making several stops throughout the state in 2014, the TIPs trailer told the story of poaching to young and old.

For over 30 years, TIPs has provided an example of what can be done to protect a public trust resource when government, private industry, sportsmen and women and the general public come together to address a common problem.

## TIPS SUMMARY

### PROGRAM TOTALS | TIPS YEAR 2013

**170 INVESTIGATIONS**  
**89 ARRESTS**  
**\$16,956 FINES**  
**\$16,000 CIVIL PENALTIES**  
**1,395 DAYS OF JAIL**  
**(1,391 SUSPENDED)**

### PROGRAM TOTALS | 1984 TO JUNE 30, 2014

**10,632 INVESTIGATIONS**  
**3,635 ARRESTS**  
**\$701,367 FINES**  
**\$536,287 CIVIL PENALTIES**  
**34,434 DAYS OF JAIL**  
**(31,270 SUSPENDED)**

## TIPS OVERALL REPORT

TIPS YEAR	# INVESTIGATIONS	# ARRESTS	REWARDS PAID
2013	170	89	\$6,300
2012	212	103	\$9,000
2011	309	74	\$3,950
2010	394	146	\$8,725
2009	379	83	\$5,525
2008	481	170	\$6,545
2007	550	169	\$8,130
2006	498	151	\$6,900
2005	397	134	\$5,585
2004	522	178	\$5,700
2003	518	231	\$8,500
2002	407	131	\$4,850
2001	413	148	\$6,700
2000	428	129	\$7,750

\* TIPs year is from July 1 to June 30, and because most cases are in the fall, all these stats are compiled for this time period and recorded for the fall year date.

# INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATORS COMPACT SUMMARY

ANDY ALBAN — INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATORS COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR



## 43 STATES ARE MEMBERS OF THE INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATORS COMPACT

The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) is an agreement among participating states to share information regarding sportsman fishing, hunting, and trapping violations, which is patterned after the Nonresidents Driver's License Compact. The IWVC obligates members to report wildlife violation convictions to Compact members, gives the members the capability to honor each other's suspensions, and provides the method to exchange violator data between member states. Essentially, a violator convicted in one Compact member state may be barred from hunting, fishing, and trapping in other member states.

## NEW MEMBERS IN 2014 CT NH RI AR

The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) welcomed four new states in 2014. With the addition of Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Arkansas, 43 states are now participating members of

the Compact. This allows states to share convictions and suspensions with each other and provides a way in which violators can be held accountable in their home state for out-of-state violations. While each state has its own criteria for suspension and reporting, this partnership filled a void through which many violators could be held to a higher standard than was the case in the years before the Compact was formed. Additionally, this agreement allows states like South Dakota to "cite and release" member-states' residents for most wildlife violations; a process that didn't exist prior to the IWVC.

**A VIOLATOR CONVICTED IN ONE MEMBER STATE MAY BE BARRED FROM HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING IN OTHER MEMBER STATES.**

While the Compact's impact is far-reaching, the most often utilized part of the agreement is the ability to honor other state's suspensions and revocations. If a violator has a privilege revoked in a member state, other states have the ability to deny those privileges within their state. While each state's suspension or revocation process is different, the agreement provides an opportunity to hold violators accountable.

South Dakota has been a very active participant in the Compact since joining in 2004. In 2014, our state reported 485 violator names to the database. During that period, 5,402 violators were entered nationwide in the Compact. Considering those figures, South Dakota entered approximately 9% of the Compact names. That ranked our state first in the nation with regards to the number of contributions.

The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact continues to be a very valuable partnership in regulating illegal hunting in the United States. South Dakota is proud to be a supporter of the processes and is committed to helping protect our resources by working cooperatively with other states.

MEMBER STATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
1 NEVADA	02/19/1991
2 OREGON	02/19/1991
3 COLORADO	02/25/1991
4 IDAHO	03/15/1991
5 WASHINGTON	03/15/1991
6 ARIZONA	10/14/1991
7 UTAH	03/01/1993
8 MONTANA	02/03/1996
9 WYOMING	08/03/1996
10 MISSOURI	12/20/1999
11 MARYLAND	02/28/2000
12 MINNESOTA	03/01/2000
13 NORTH DAKOTA	08/15/2001
14 NEW MEXICO	08/30/2001
15 IOWA	08/31/2001
16 INDIANA	10/31/2001
17 CALIFORNIA	01/01/2002
18 GEORGIA	06/01/2003
19 SOUTH DAKOTA	09/01/2004
20 MICHIGAN	08/08/2005
21 KANSAS	11/01/2005
22 NEW YORK	03/01/2006
23 FLORIDA	09/01/2006
24 TENNESSEE	11/01/2006
25 ILLINOIS	07/01/2007
26 MISSISSIPPI	09/01/2007
27 OHIO	01/01/2008
28 WISCONSIN	04/15/2008
29 KENTUCKY	07/15/2008
30 ALASKA	09/08/2008
31 LOUISIANA	02/01/2009
32 WEST VIRGINIA	11/23/2009
33 ALABAMA	03/01/2010
34 TEXAS	05/30/2010
35 OKLAHOMA	09/20/2010
36 PENNSYLVANIA	01/01/2011
37 VIRGINIA	12/01/2011
38 SOUTH CAROLINA	07/01/2012
39 VERMONT	01/01/2013
40 CONNECTICUT	04/01/2014
41 NEW HAMPSHIRE	04/01/2014
42 RHODE ISLAND	06/01/2014
43 ARKANSAS	07/01/2014



# PRIVATE SHOOTING PRESERVES

## JANELLE BLAHA - PRIVATE SHOOTING PRESERVE/PERMITS COORDINATOR



In 1963, the South Dakota Legislature enacted the Private Shooting Preserve Act authorizing the issuance of licenses to private shooting preserves. This permit can be issued to an individual (South Dakota residents only) or corporation owning, holding or controlling by lease or otherwise,

any contiguous tract of land of at least 160 acres and not exceeding 2,560 acres.

According to state law, a shooting preserve may not be located within one mile of publicly owned land managed for hunting and wildlife without prior approval from the Division of Wildlife Director. The private shooting preserve permit fee for a 1-year preserve permit is \$100, plus 40 cents for each preserve acre. The permit fee for a 3-year permit is \$300, plus \$1.20 for each acre of land within the preserve.

The shooting preserve season runs from September 1 through March 31 of the following year. Shooting hours are restricted from sunrise until sunset. The game birds that can be licensed for South Dakota preserves include pheasants, partridges, quail, and turkey. The bag limits vary for each species. Preserve operators must release a minimum of 300 rooster pheasants during the first year of operation and a minimum of 600 rooster pheasants each season thereafter.

During the 2014-2015 permit year, there were 194 permitted preserves. Interest in preserves continues to grow and the number of permitted private shooting preserves has remained at around 200 for the past few years. The number of birds harvested on shooting preserves has steadily increased over time.

# DISABLED HUNTER PERMITS

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks offers a variety of special permits for disabled individuals. These permits cannot be acquired at one of our license agents. Specific criteria are required for their application process and approval. The following is a listing of the

common types of permits available free of charge: Disabled Hunter, Designated Shooter, and Crossbow/Draw-Lock. Further information can be found on the Game, Fish and Parks' web site at [gfp.sd.gov/hunting/accessibility/disabled-hunter.aspx](http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/accessibility/disabled-hunter.aspx).

### 2014 Crossbow and Disabled Hunter Permits



# BOATING INCIDENTS

## JEANNE UECKER — LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM SECRETARY



Boating incidents must be reported immediately, by the quickest means of communication, to the nearest Conservation Officer or other law enforcement officer. A vessel operator involved in a boating incident must report the incident if it results in: death or disappearance

of any person, injury to any person, or damage in excess of \$1,000 to any one person's property or total damage in excess of \$2,000. (Property damage may include damage from striking submerged objects such as stumps, rocks and etc.).

South Dakota had 54,080 recreational boats registered in 2014.

### 2014 BOATING INCIDENTS

- 10 INCIDENTS REPORTED
- 1 FATALITY
- 3 INJURED IN 3 INJURY ACCIDENTS
- \$137,900 IN PROPERTY DAMAGE

# HUNTING INCIDENTS

## JASON KOOL — GAME, FISH AND PARKS PROGRAM SPECIALIST



In 2014, 27 hunting and shooting sports-related incidents were reported to South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP). One hunting incident resulted in a fatality from a health-related cause. The total number of hunting and shooting sports-related incidents slightly

increased from the previous year. Overall numbers of incidents reported to GFP in 2014 were still below the 10 year average of 36 incidents.

In hunting incidents where a shooter was identified, six shooters were non-residents, nine were residents and the remaining incidents were either self-inflicted or a shooter was not identified.

Where hunter education completion could be determined, 14 people involved as shooters had received hunter education while one had not.

### 2014 HUNTING INCIDENTS

- 27 INCIDENTS REPORTED
- 20 INCIDENTS WERE RELATED TO PHEASANT HUNTING
- 2 INCIDENTS WERE RELATED TO BIG GAME (DEER) HUNTING
- 2 INCIDENTS WERE RELATED TO WATERFOWL HUNTING
- 3 INCIDENTS WITH ONE EACH RELATED TO COYOTE, RABBIT AND RACCOON
- 1 FATALITY (HEART ATTACK)

# CONSERVATION OFFICER AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Every year our Conservation Officers, supervisors and administrative staff receive awards in recognition of their efforts toward wildlife law enforcement and management. Congratulations to all of the 2014 recipients.



**NATE STUKEL** Conservation Officer in Canton, received the Patton Torch Award from the South Dakota Conservation Officers Association. This award is given in the memory of Mark Patton to outstanding officers with less than 5 years in service.



**TONY STOKELY** Conservation Officer in Elk Point, received the Brook Brown Boating Safety Officer of the Year Award from the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) for his outstanding efforts in boating law enforcement.



**KEITH MUTSCHLER** Conservation Officer in Lemmon, received the Officer of the Year Award from the South Dakota Conservation Officers Association for going above and beyond in serving the public and the department.



**KRIS KUNTZ** Conservation Officer in Huron, received the Officer of the Year Award from the Association of Midwest Association of Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers for his outstanding efforts in law enforcement.



**TODD CROWOVER** Conservation Officer in Tyndall, received the Life Saving Award from the South Dakota Conservation Officers Association for saving a life and the Officer of the Year Award from the National Wild Turkey Federation for protecting wildlife and providing a safe hunting environment.



**JARED HILL** Conservation Officer in Sioux Falls, received the Outstanding Performance Award for Region 3.



**ADAM GEIGLE** Conservation Officer in Rapid City, received the Pinch of the Year Award from the South Dakota Conservation Officers Association for his outstanding efforts on a fraud license case where an individual had been illegally purchasing resident licenses for years.



**BRUCE NACHTIGALL** Conservation Officer Specialist in Rapid City, received the Outstanding Performance Award for Central Operations.

# CONSERVATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR

AWARD PRESENTED ANNUALLY BY: SHIKAR—SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL



2014 KEITH MUTSCHLER

2013 JOE KEETON

2012 BRIAN HUMPHREY

2011 BOB LOSCO

2010 MARK OHM

2009 JAMIE PEKELDER

2008 JIM MCCORMICK

2007 BLAIR WAITE

2006 JEFF GRENDLER

2005 MIKE APLAND

2004 DAVE BARTLING

2003 BRUCE NACHTIGALL

2002 DARREN SCHROEDER

2001 JEFF MCENTEE

2000 SCOTT MIKKELSON

1999 EMMETT KEYSER

1998 DARELL TILBERG

1997 MIKE KINTIGH

1996 MARK SMEDSRUD

1995 DAVE WICKS

1994 TOM BECK

1993 DAVID GRAY

1992 SCOTT LINDGREN

1991 DAVID MCCREA

1990 DANIEL PLUT

1989 BILL ANTONIDES

1988 DANIEL LIMMER

1987 HAROLD HAIVALA

1986 OWEN MEADOWS

1985 ROBERT PRIEKSAT

1984 RONALD CATLIN

1983 RONALD SCHAUER

1982 JACK MERWIN

1981 ROBERT HAUK

1980 WILLIAM SHATTUCK

1979 JAMES SCHROEDER

1978 DENNIS LENGKEEK

1977 DELMAR GERDES

1976 SPENCER VAA

1975 TOM LE FAIVE

1974 STANLEY LUNDQUIST

1973 ART REHN

1972 FLOYD GAARDER

1971 HAROLD LUNDE

1970 LA VERNE ROTH

# CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT CREED

- TO SERVE, PROTECT, EDUCATE, AND ASSIST THE PUBLIC IN ITS OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ENDEAVORS.
- TO BE A VIGILANT GUARDIAN OF NATURAL RESOURCES ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA AND ITS VISITORS
- TO ENCOURAGE THE WISE USE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND TO ENSURE NO HARM TO PUBLIC SAFETY OR TO THE ENVIRONMENT IN THIS PURSUIT.
- TO EDUCATE THE INADVERTENT VIOLATOR OF CONSERVATION LAW AND TO TAKE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ENFORCEMENT ACTION TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.
- TO IDENTIFY AND LAWFULLY PURSUE THE INTENTIONAL OFFENDER AND BRING THEM BEFORE THE COURT FOR JUDGEMENT.
- TO CONDUCT OUR PERSONAL OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN AN EXEMPLARY MANNER, ABOVE REPROACH, AND TO SERVE AS A ROLE MODEL OF OUTDOOR ETHICS TO OUR PEERS AND TO THE PUBLIC.
- TO CONDUCT OURSELVE, BOTH ON-DUTY AND OFF-DUTY, IN A LAWFUL AND RESPECTFUL MANNER, WITH DUE REGARD FOR INTEGRITY OF THE AGENCY.
- THIS WE PLEDGE TO OUR FAMILIES, OUR FELLOW OFFICERS AND THE CITIZENS AND VISITORS OF SOUTH DAKOTA.



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