



APR 10 2002

Wildlife Experiences, Inc.
5132 Winter Set Dr.
Rapid City, SD 57702

8 April 2002

Dear Mr. Backlund,

Enclosed is the report for the grant we received through the Small Grants Program for the 2001-02 school year. You will find a discussion of the program, as well as a list of specific presentations, and totals of attendance. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

On behalf of myself, my staff and many teachers, I would like to thank those of you working in the Small Grants Program for helping us to present these educational programs to so many students this year!

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 394-9096. Thank you again for your help and for your interest in our program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Horton". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Melissa Horton
Executive Director

*...a non-profit corporation dedicated to
improving the lives of animals through
wildlife and conservation education.*

**Report for South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks
Wildlife Division
Small Grants Program
By Wildlife Experiences, Inc.**

"Native Wildlife Awareness Program"

Summary & Discussion

The educational presentations supported by the Game, Fish and Parks Small Grants Program during the 2001-02 school year were extremely successful. All 74 presentations were given in classrooms in the Rapid City, Sturgis and Spearfish areas, and all were well-received. Many teachers and administrators have written thank you notes and have already asked our presenters to come back next year. We have also had other teachers calling us this spring to get in on the grant, and they have been sad to learn that they missed out.

Also at least in part because of the support of Game, Fish and Parks, two local (Rapid City) restaurants donated an additional \$1000 to Wildlife Experiences' educational programs. This enabled us to provide another 15 programs free of charge to schools, bringing the total of free programs offered this year to 89. (More information about that donation is available upon request.) Those two restaurants have pledged future support as well.

The following animals were the most common ones taken into classrooms:

- Red-tailed hawk
- Barn owl
- Turkey vulture
- Peregrine falcon
- Bullsnake
- Ring-necked pheasant
- Prairie rattlesnake
- Tiger salamander
- Hognose snake
- Painted turtle
- Ornate box turtle

The only estimate to fall short of its goal in this grant is the total number of people attending the programs. We anticipated at least 3700 people (mostly students) to attend our presentations, but the actual number attending was 2,570. Many teachers opted to invite our presenters into their single classroom, rather than double-up with other

teachers. This, however, ended up working to the advantage of the program as these fewer students received more hands-on time and closer attention from our presenters. Smaller classroom size meant more time to answer individual questions, and a greater opportunity to discuss more details. For these reasons, Wildlife Experiences staff feels the smaller than expected attendance was not a disadvantage to the message or the effectiveness of the program overall.

As discussed in the proposal, the actual effectiveness of any education program is difficult to measure. But, if we are to judge by the response of teachers (an apparently acceptable measure, as they are educational professionals), our presentations were quite effective in helping children to learn an appreciation for the wildlife of South Dakota, as well as learning some basic natural history of these same animals. The younger students (preschool – second grade) also learned about being safe around wild animals and what to do if they find an injured or orphaned animal.

Overall, teachers, administrators (many attended our programs) and students were pleased with and benefited from this cooperative educational effort. Because of this, we believe that the wildlife of South Dakota will also benefit from these programs through a more educated and appreciative community. We are thankful for the Department of Game Fish and Parks' help and we plan to continue this effort in the future.

Total Number of Rapid City Presentations:

52*

(number anticipated - 50)

Total Number of Sturgis/Whitewood Presentations:

12

(number anticipated - 12)

Total Number of Spearfish Presentations:

10*

(number anticipated - 12)

Total Number of Programs Presented under this Grant:

74

(number anticipated - 74)

During the fall of 2001, attendance at these programs was as follows:

Adults - 58

Children - 1371

Total Attendance - 1429

During the spring of 2002, attendance was as follows:

Adults - 93

Children - 1048

Total Attendance - 1141

Therefore, all the presentations given under this grant reached the following number of people in Rapid City, Sturgis and Spearfish:

Adults - 151

Children - 2419

Total Attendance - 2,570

Field Trip Date 9/12/2001
Organization West Middle School
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults 3 Children 23 Age 7th
Total Attendance 26

Field Trip Date 9/12/2001
Organization West Middle School
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults 1 Children 25 Age 7th
Total Attendance 26

Field Trip Date 9/12/2001
Organization BH Special Services/RC School District
Program Title Birds of SD
Adults 3 Children 46 Age 1st-5th
Total Attendance 49

Field Trip Date 9/13/2001
Organization West Middle School
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults 1 Children 27 Age 7th
Total Attendance 28

Field Trip Date 9/13/2001
Organization West Middle School
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults Children 26 Age 7th
Total Attendance 26

Field Trip Date 9/18/2001
Organization Spearfish school
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults 2 Children 54 Age 6th
Total Attendance 56

Field Trip Date 9/18/2001
Organization Spearfish school
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults 2 Children 53 Age 6th
Total Attendance 55

Field Trip Date 9/18/2001
Organization Spearfish school
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults 4 Children 55 Age 6th
Total Attendance 59

Field Trip Date 9/19/2001
Organization Wilson School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 1 Children 27 Age 2nd grade
Total Attendance 28

Field Trip Date 9/19/2001
Organization BH Special Services/RC School District
Program Title Birds of SD
Adults 4 Children 21 Age 1st-5th
Total Attendance 25

Field Trip Date 9/20/2001
Organization Sturgis Williams Middle School
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults 3 Children 51 Age 6th grade
Total Attendance 54

Field Trip Date 9/20/2001
Organization Sturgis Williams Middle School
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults Children 53 Age 6th grade
Total Attendance 53

Field Trip Date 9/20/2001
Organization Sturgis Williams Middle School
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults _____ Children 51 Age 6th grade
Total Attendance 51

Field Trip Date 9/25/2001
Organization BH Special Services/RC School District
Program Title Birds of SD
Adults 4 Children 23 Age 1st-5th
Total Attendance 27

Field Trip Date 9/25/2001
Organization Corral Dive Elementary
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 3 Children 54 Age 1st
Total Attendance 57

Field Trip Date 9/26/2001
Organization Sturgis Williams Middle School
Program Title Reptiles of South Dakota
Adults 2 Children 24 Age 5th grade
Total Attendance 26

Field Trip Date 9/26/2001
Organization Sturgis Williams Middle School
Program Title Reptiles of South Dakota
Adults 1 Children 27 Age 5th grade
Total Attendance 28

Field Trip Date 9/26/2001
Organization Sturgis Williams Middle School
Program Title Reptiles of South Dakota
Adults 2 Children 27 Age 5th grade
Total Attendance 29

Field Trip Date 9/27/2001
Organization Rapid Valley - student teacher
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 1 Children 17 Age 1st
Total Attendance 18

Field Trip Date 10/18/2001
Organization Rapid Valley School
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults 3 Children 48 Age 2nd
Total Attendance 51

Field Trip Date 10/18/2001
Organization Rapid Valley School
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults 1 Children 22 Age 2nd
Total Attendance 23

Field Trip Date 10/23/2001
Organization Wilson School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults _____ Children 24 Age 1st grade
Total Attendance 24

Field Trip Date 10/23/2001
Organization Wilson School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults _____ Children 24 Age 1st grade
Total Attendance 24

Field Trip Date 10/23/2001
Organization Wilson School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults _____ Children 24 Age 1st grade
Total Attendance 24

Field Trip Date 10/23/2001
Organization Wilson School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults _____ Children 22 Age K
Total Attendance 22

Field Trip Date 10/25/2001
Organization Wilson School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults _____ Children 24 Age K
Total Attendance 24

Field Trip Date 10/25/2001
Organization Wilson School
Program Title Birds of South Dakota
Adults 1 Children 27 Age 4th
Total Attendance 28

Field Trip Date 11/27/2001
Organization Spearfish Elementary School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults _____ Children 40 Age 2nd grade
Total Attendance 40

Field Trip Date 11/27/2001
Organization Spearfish Elementary School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults _____ Children 40 Age 2nd grade
Total Attendance 40

Field Trip Date 11/27/2001
Organization Spearfish Elementary School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults _____ Children 40 Age 2nd grade
Total Attendance 40

Field Trip Date 11/27/2001
Organization Spearfish Elementary School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults _____ Children 40 Age 2nd grade
Total Attendance 40

Field Trip Date 11/27/2001
Organization Knollwood Elementary
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 1 Children 23 Age 1st grade
Total Attendance 24

Field Trip Date 11/27/2001
Organization Knollwood Elementary
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 3 Children 52 Age 1st grade
Total Attendance 55

Field Trip Date 11/28/2001
Organization West Middle School
Program Title Reptiles of South Dakota
Adults _____ Children 27 Age 6th
Total Attendance 27

Field Trip Date 11/28/2001
Organization West Middle School
Program Title Reptiles of South Dakota
Adults _____ Children 25 Age 6th
Total Attendance 25

Field Trip Date 11/28/2001
Organization West Middle School
Program Title Reptiles of South Dakota
Adults _____ Children 27 Age 6th
Total Attendance 27

Field Trip Date 11/28/2001
Organization West Middle School
Program Title Reptiles of South Dakota
Adults _____ Children 26 Age 6th
Total Attendance 26

Field Trip Date 11/29/2001
Organization General Beadle
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 1 Children 22 Age 1st grade
Total Attendance 23

Field Trip Date 12/3/2001
Organization BAdger Clark Elementary
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 3 Children 22 Age K
Total Attendance 25

Field Trip Date 12/3/2001
Organization BAdger Clark Elementary
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 2 Children 21 Age K
Total Attendance 23

Field Trip Date 12/3/2001
Organization BAdger Clark Elementary
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 2 Children 21 Age K
Total Attendance 23

Field Trip Date 12/3/2001
Organization BAdger Clark Elementary
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 2 Children 21 Age K
Total Attendance 23

Field Trip Date 12/11/2001

Organization Canyon Lake Elementary

Program Title Birds of SD

Adults 2 Children 25 Age 4th

Total Attendance 27

Field Trip Date 1/8/2002
Organization Knollwood Elementary
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 2 Children 48 Age 1st grade
Total Attendance 50

Field Trip Date 1/8/2002
Organization Knollwood Elementary
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 3 Children 48 Age 1st grade
Total Attendance 51

Field Trip Date 1/8/2002
Organization Meadowbrook
Program Title Birds of SD
Adults 2 Children 28 Age 2nd
Total Attendance 30

Field Trip Date 1/8/2002
Organization Meadowbrook
Program Title Birds of SD
Adults 2 Children 27 Age 2nd
Total Attendance 29

Field Trip Date 1/9/2002
Organization BH Special Services/RC Public Schools
Program Title Reptiles of South Dakota
Adults 6 Children 62 Age 1st-5th
Total Attendance 68

Field Trip Date 1/11/2002
Organization General Beadle Elem
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 3 Children 15 Age K
Total Attendance 18

Field Trip Date 1/11/2002
Organization General Beadle Elem
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 1 Children 22 Age K
Total Attendance 23

Field Trip Date 1/14/2002
Organization Whitewood Elementary
Program Title Reptiles of SD
Adults 7 Children 65 Age K, 3, 4, 1st
Total Attendance 72

Field Trip Date 1/14/2002
Organization Whitewood Elementary
Program Title Reptiles of SD
Adults 5 Children 51 Age 2nd, 5-6th
Total Attendance 56

Field Trip Date 1/14/2002
Organization Whitewood Elementary
Program Title Reptiles of SD
Adults 5 Children 51 Age 2nd, 5-6th
Total Attendance 56

Field Trip Date 1/15/2002
Organization South Park Elem
Program Title Wildlife of SD
Adults 2 Children 24 Age 4th
Total Attendance 26

Field Trip Date 1/15/2002
Organization South Park Elem
Program Title Wildlife of SD
Adults 1 Children 23 Age 4th
Total Attendance 24

Field Trip Date 1/15/2002
Organization South Park Elem
Program Title Wildlife of SD
Adults 1 Children 22 Age 4th
Total Attendance 23

Field Trip Date 1/16/2002
Organization BH Special Services/RC Public Schools
Program Title Reptiles of South Dakota
Adults 8 Children 46 Age 1st -5th
Total Attendance 54

Field Trip Date 1/16/2002
Organization South Middle School
Program Title Birds of SD **
Adults 2 Children 35 Age 7th grade
Total Attendance 37

Field Trip Date 1/23/2002
Organization BH Special Services/RC Public Schools
Program Title Birds of SD
Adults 4 Children 15 Age 1st -5th
Total Attendance 19

Field Trip Date 1/30/2002
Organization Spearfish Elementary School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 2 Children 30 Age 1st grade
Total Attendance 32

Field Trip Date 1/30/2002
Organization Spearfish Elementary School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 2 Children 30 Age 1st grade
Total Attendance 32

Field Trip Date 1/30/2002
Organization Spearfish Elementary School
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 2 Children 35 Age 1st grade
Total Attendance 37

Field Trip Date 1/30/2002
Organization BH Special Services/RC Public Schools
Program Title Reptiles of South Dakota
Adults 6 Children 15 Age 1st -5th
Total Attendance 21

Field Trip Date 2/4/2002
Organization Knollwood Elementary
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 3 Children 37 Age K
Total Attendance 40

Field Trip Date 2/7/2002
Organization Knollwood Elementary
Program Title Reptiles of SD
Adults 3 Children 28 Age 2nd grade
Total Attendance 31

Field Trip Date 2/7/2002
Organization Knollwood Elementary
Program Title Reptiles of SD
Adults 2 Children 26 Age 2nd grade
Total Attendance 28

Field Trip Date 2/8/2002
Organization Knollwood Elementary
Program Title What's Wild
Adults 3 Children 28 Age K
Total Attendance 31

Field Trip Date 2/11/2002
Organization West Elementary School
Program Title Reptiles of SD
Adults 2 Children 27 Age 3rd grade
Total Attendance 29

Field Trip Date 2/11/2002
Organization West Elementary School
Program Title Reptiles of SD
Adults 2 Children 23 Age 3rd grade
Total Attendance 25

Field Trip Date 2/11/2002
Organization West Elementary School
Program Title Reptiles of SD
Adults 3 Children 24 Age 3rd grade
Total Attendance 27

Field Trip Date 2/19/2002
Organization Sturgis Elementary
Program Title Reptiles of SD
Adults 2 Children 45 Age 6th grade
Total Attendance 47

Field Trip Date 2/19/2002
Organization Sturgis Elementary
Program Title Reptiles of SD
Adults 2 Children 48 Age 6th grade
Total Attendance 50

Field Trip Date 2/19/2002
Organization Sturgis Elementary
Program Title Reptiles of SD
Adults 2 Children 52 Age 6th grade
Total Attendance 54

Field Trip Date 2/26/2002
Organization BH Special Services/RC Public Schools
Program Title Reptiles of SD
Adults 3 Children 18 Age 1st -5th
Total Attendance 21

Tarvis Leeson
Matt Kestel Ashley S. Nagy
Mike Kelley

Haley Davenport

Vanessa Huff

Jared Co. Foster

Countney Guthrie

Scott Johnson

Dominique Mack



Thanks I liked your owl a lot!

Laura Muse

Chris Busskohl



Thanks a lot for coming

Thank you!
The students & teacher learned a lot & enjoyed it. B. Wilkinson

Jan. 17, 2002

Dear Melissa, --

Thank you for coming
to our school. I had a great
time. You told me something that
I kept in mind. I had a
good day! I liked the
rattle snake. I really love
reptiles. -----



Your friend,
Eli McCaskey

Jan 17, 2002

Dear - Melissa -

Thank you for showing
us the cool animals.

My favorite animals
are all the animals.



Your friend

Jonathan

Littleton