



SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

**South Dakota Department of
Game, Fish and Parks**

2014

The South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan assesses the health of South Dakota's fish and wildlife and associated habitats, evaluates the problems they face, and outlines actions to help conserve them for the long term. This plan encourages voluntary partnerships among governmental entities, tribes, organizations, and private citizens to help prevent fish and wildlife from becoming endangered and to provide for the needs of the full array of fish and wildlife and habitat diversity for the future sustained enjoyment and use by South Dakota's residents and visitors.



An annual federal match source called State Wildlife Grants has helped South Dakota provide for the needs of all fish and wildlife species since 2000 by helping SD Game, Fish and Parks implement its Wildlife Action Plan. The broad goals of this funding program are to help prevent future endangered species listings while also keeping common species common. In return for this federal funding match, each state prepared a plan to show how they would assure that the needs of all fish and wildlife species and their habitats should be supported. By planning ahead, we hope to reduce regulatory conflicts regarding rare species by gathering information in a systematic and proactive way. A plan that addresses habitats also helps assure that the needs of more common species are met and species under the radar are accommodated.

States have flexibility in how they develop their state wildlife action plans, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviews each plan for compliance with required elements. These elements include identifying fish and wildlife species that represent the state's wildlife diversity, describing key habitat types, identifying conservation challenges and actions, developing species and habitat monitoring plans, and coordinating with other agencies, tribes and the public.

South Dakota currently lists 104 species of greatest conservation need within its Wildlife Action Plan. This broad array of animal species was selected because the species were rare or listed on state or federal lists of threatened or endangered species, because they need habitats that are declining or that also support many other fish and wildlife species or because the species have special needs, such as a very low reproductive rate or reliance on a rare or unique habitat. South Dakota's list includes both game and nongame species, allowing us to address threats that may jeopardize habitats needed by many fish and wildlife species in South Dakota

The South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in May 2015. It must be revised at least every ten years. The current revision allowed SDGFP to use the results of State Wildlife Grant projects conducted during the past 20 years, many of which deal with inventories of rare species and unique habitats and incorporate new information on conservation challenges. However, South Dakota's plan is not a SDGFP plan, but instead a strategic framework for agencies, partners and the public to work together for the long-term benefit of fish and wildlife and their habitats.

