



Law Enforcement Program

D
I
V
I
S
I
O
N
O
F
W
I
L
D
L
I
F
E



PROGRAM NARRATIVES AND COMPILED PROGRAM REPORTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks
523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-3182



In Remembrance of:

Brook Brown
June 9, 1974 – July 25, 2012

Brook Michael Brown, age 38, of Hayti, SD passed away on Wednesday, July 25, 2012, at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.



Brook was born on June 9, 1974, in St. Louis Park, MN. He was active in Boy Scouts and high school band, drama, and choir. Brook obtained an Associate's Degree in Music Education from Moorhead (MN) State and a Bachelor's of Science in Wildlife & Fisheries Management from South Dakota State University in Brookings. During summer college years, he worked at Yellowstone National Park and in Medora, ND. Brook worked as an Intern for SD Game, Fish and Parks the summers of 1999-2001 in Mobridge and Webster. He became a SD Conservation Officer in August of 2001 and was stationed in Aberdeen.

On August 17, 2002, Brook married Cerrisa Olsen in Ivanhoe, MN. Brook was a member of the National Guard and was deployed to Iraq in 2003 with the 727th Transportation Division. Brook and his family lived in Aberdeen until transferring to the Hayti duty station in March of 2010.

Brook was very involved with Game, Fish and Parks and had a genuine dedication to protecting the resources of South Dakota. Brook enjoyed teaching other officers and served as both a Firearms Training Instructor and Field Training Officer. Brook also took on the role as mentor for several young neighboring officers, setting a great example of what makes a successful Game Warden. The Boating Officer of the Year award was posthumously presented to Brook Brown and from this point forward will be known as the "Brook Brown Boating Officer of the Year Award"

Brook's work ethic, sense of humor and caring personality will be missed by co-workers as well as sportsmen.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE



Program Narratives and Compiled Program Reports

CALENDAR YEAR 2012

Introduction.....	1
Conservation Officer Duties.....	2-6
Conservation Officer Hiring and Training Requirements.....	7-11
Equipment.....	12-16
Division of Wildlife Administrative Regions.....	17
Region 1 Violation Statistics.....	18-24
Region 2 Violation Statistics.....	25-30
Region 3 Violation Statistics.....	31-36
Region 4 Violation Statistics.....	37-43
Statewide Violation/Contact Statistics.....	44-49
Boating Enforcement and Training.....	50-55
Wildlife and Boating Law Enforcement – A Pictorial.....	56-64
Legislation.....	65
Turn–In–Poachers Program (TIPs)	66-67
Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC).....	68
Private Shooting Preserves.....	69
Disabled Hunter Permits.....	70
HuntSAFE Program.....	71
Hunting and Boating Incidents.....	72
Conservation Officer Awards and Recognitions.....	73
Conservation Officer of the Year Award	74

INTRODUCTION

BY ANDY ALBAN –LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

I am pleased to present the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Law Enforcement 2012 Annual Report. The report is dedicated in the memory of Brook Brown, a remarkable Conservation Officer, whose life ended way too soon.



The annual report recognizes the efforts of our conservation law enforcement staff during the 2012 calendar year. Our sworn officers and their supervisors (78 in total) are responsible for enforcing a multitude of natural resource and criminal laws in an effort to protect our state's natural resources and their habitats for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors. In 2012, our Conservation Officers continued to be vigilant guardians of South Dakota's natural resources by rendering 3097 enforcement actions statewide. This includes bringing intentional offenders before state courts for judgment or by simply educating inadvertent violators of conservation law through a courtesy warning.

I am especially proud of the accomplishments of our officers in gaining further appreciation for our fish and wildlife resources through community "Step Outside" programs that introduce youngsters to hunting, fishing, and trapping activities.

I am also grateful for the support our officers received from municipal, state, and federal partners, as well as the general public, in pursuing our wildlife law enforcement and conservation mission within the past year. Our officers serve a large patrol area and depend on information relayed from others. This support is paramount to conserving and protecting our fish and wildlife resources within the state. This includes a TIPs (Turn In Poachers) call generated from a concerned citizen or a violation report from a Highway Patrol Trooper, sheriff's office deputy, or a municipal police officer. These types of calls represent the rich hunting, fishing, and trapping heritage here in South Dakota. I cannot forget to mention the great partnerships we continue to foster with our federal partners, such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Most of our officers hold deputy credentials from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This gives them the ability to assist in the enforcement of various federal fish and wildlife laws, including the Lacey Act and the Endangered Species Act, and subsequently collaborate with their federal counterparts to better protect our state's natural resources.

Within the next year, we look forward to continuing to gain voluntary public compliance with South Dakota's game and fish laws and regulations that are promulgated by the legislature and the Game, Fish and Parks Commission. Our Conservation Officers are passionate, hard-working public servants that will continue to work with stakeholders, apprehend poachers, ensure safe hunting, fishing and boating experiences for everyone, and promote conservation and outdoor education activities in an effort to perpetuate our fish and wildlife resources for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Andy Alban
Law Enforcement Program Administrator
Division of Wildlife

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Jeff Vonk, Department Secretary
Tony Leif, Wildlife Division Director
Emmett Keyser, Assistant Director – Operations
Mike Kintigh, Regional Supervisor – Region 1 (West)
Cliff Stone, Regional Supervisor – Region 2 (Central)
Arden Petersen, Regional Supervisor – Region 3 (Southeast)
Scott Lindgren, Regional Supervisor – Region 4 (Northeast)

CONSERVATION OFFICER DUTIES

BY CHARLIE WHARTON – TRAINING COORDINATOR



When someone thinks of a Conservation Officer (CO), several things might come to mind. Some might cringe at the thought of seeing the Game Warden approaching their boat. Others might smirk at the idea of someone wanting to be a “Carp Cop” or one of the “Bird and Turtle” guys. A few might even think that an officer’s job is the coolest thing in the world because where else do you get to hunt and fish for a living!

The truth is that South Dakota Conservation Officers are well-trained, well-rounded, sworn and certified Law Enforcement Officers who get to interact with the public, the resources and South Dakota’s infinite variety of weather conditions. Conservation Officers receive the same training and certification as any other South Dakota peace officer and have statewide jurisdiction. Yet, there are other elements to being a Conservation Officer. The diversity of the profession may be best summed up in the Wildlife Division’s motto, “Serving People, Managing Wildlife.” While many Law Enforcement agencies serve people, the additional requirement to manage wildlife can create some wonderful opportunities and incredible challenges.

Primary Purpose

Conservation Officers have the privilege and responsibility to manage wildlife, fisheries, water and land resources; implement department programs; enforce laws in an assigned district designed to conserve and protect fish and wildlife; and enforce general criminal laws. Additionally, they are often the face that represents the department to the public. They oversee and promote outdoor recreation opportunities while promoting public safety. This diverse and daunting task can be broken down into a variety of categories:

Law Enforcement: Conservation Officers enforce state laws and department regulations to ensure compliance, encourage wise and equitable use of the state’s wildlife and fisheries resources, and promote public safety. They are tasked to:

- 🔦 Conduct enforcement activities to apprehend, cite and arrest violators.
- 🔦 Conduct investigations and resolve cases by collecting evidence, interviewing witnesses, interrogating suspects, preparing reports and testifying in court.
- 🔦 Prepare affidavits; obtain and serve search warrants, arrest warrants, and subpoenas; seize, collect, and preserve evidence.
- 🔦 Check licenses and safety equipment of hunters, anglers, boaters, and trappers and monitor related businesses (such as taxidermists and bait dealers) for compliance with laws and regulations.
- 🔦 Teach law enforcement tactical and firearms training to co-workers and other law enforcement personnel.
- 🔦 Train and mentor new officers as they begin their careers.
- 🔦 Plan and assist in search and rescue and recovery operations.
- 🔦 Coordinate, instruct and train others to teach outreach programs such as *HuntSAFE*, *Becoming An Outdoors Woman*, and the *Step Outside* programs.
- 🔦 Recommend changes to laws, regulations and department policies and procedures.
- 🔦 Coordinate with other law enforcement agencies to enforce laws across jurisdictional boundaries.
- 🔦 Assist other law enforcement agencies as needed.
- 🔦 Enforce other criminal laws in addition to game, fish, parks and boating laws.



CONSERVATION OFFICER DUTIES

Wildlife Management: Conservation Officers manage wildlife resources to conserve and perpetuate species, provide recreational opportunities for the public and control depredation.

- ✦ Estimate wildlife population levels and trends by conducting seasonal surveys.
- ✦ Evaluate species and habitat availability, hunter numbers, and landowner tolerance to determine harvest quotas.
- ✦ Coordinate with other department personnel, other government agencies, and tribal game managers to develop wildlife management plans.
- ✦ Formulate annual population and harvest goals for big game and small game.
- ✦ Recommend harvest limits and season lengths regionally and statewide.
- ✦ Develop and implement plans to alleviate wildlife depredation, resolve other human-wildlife conflicts, and investigate wildlife deaths.
- ✦ Participate in special work assignments involving threatened and endangered species. Identify and evaluate critical habitat needs and habitat deficiencies.



Fisheries Management: Conservation Officers manage fisheries resources to conserve, perpetuate, and introduce species, develop and maintain aquatic habitat and enhance recreational opportunities.

- Recommend and implement lake management plans on public waters and develop and implement fisheries management strategies on privately owned waters.
- Evaluate area fisheries needs, angler requests and recommend stocking and habitat development.
- Design and implement habitat development projects.
- Recommend harvest numbers and size limits, season designs, and other specific harvest regulations for maintaining healthy fisheries populations.
- Protect fish-rearing ponds and trap and transfer fish.
- Develop and enhance public fishing opportunities on private waters by recruiting landowners into department programs.
- Investigate fish losses to determine cause and evaluate potential impacts on fish populations.
- Recommend action on applications for fishing tournaments and monitor activities during the tournaments.



Habitat Management and Private Lands Programs: Conservation Officers develop plans to improve wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities on department-owned and leased lands and develop and coordinate wildlife habitat programs on privately owned lands.

- ✦ Evaluate areas for wildlife production and habitat development potential.
- ✦ Negotiate and write contracts with public land tenants, evaluate their compliance with contract stipulations, authorize payments, and collect lease fees.
- ✦ Introduce department programs to landowners and negotiate, monitor, and authorize payment contracts.
- ✦ Monitor unauthorized use of department-owned and leased lands and develop corrective actions.



CONSERVATION OFFICER DUTIES

Public Relations and Public Education: Conservation Officers act as a liaison between the department and the public to resolve conflicts and enhance and maintain a positive public image.

- ☛ Meet with members of the community in a variety of situations to relay information about the department, collect public opinion, input, and requests, and establish a network of communication.
- ☛ Respond to public complaints, inquiries, and requests for information.
- ☛ Present department information to the public via the media by writing news articles and participating in radio and television shows, sport shows, and fairs.
- ☛ Prepare and present informational programs for civic organizations, sportsmen's groups, and scout groups.
- ☛ Facilitate educational programs in the schools.
- ☛ Coordinate and recommend permits for special events or requests involving department-controlled recreational facilities or areas.



Challenges

Being a Conservation Officer can be a rewarding career; but, it isn't without its share of challenges. Among the more common challenges are:

- Enforcing rules and laws within the context of a leisure activity. Much of an officer's responsibility centers on people "playing" by the rules. Some users don't take rules and laws seriously, while others violate them for selfish gain. Sometimes being the "fun police" isn't all that enjoyable.
- Working within a community that has varying beliefs about how the resources should be managed. Agricultural producers do not always see the world through the same lenses that hunters do. Recreational boaters sometimes view things differently than anglers. Mountain lion advocates may be at odds with Commission rules or urban residents. Officers must have the ability to juggle the opinions and needs of several; while, often hiding their own opinions.
- Time and location management. Conservation Officers have to abide by guidelines that limit the number of hours they can work. Often, there are too many tasks to handle in a day or a work period. An officer must be able to balance needs with time and ability. Most officers work in remote duty stations which are distanced from many central resources. They must be able to be a jack-of-all-trades within a 40 hour work week.
- Personal safety. Conservation Officers must be able to work with people involved in legal activities that often involve carrying dangerous weapons in a way in which they are not made to feel like criminals. Most of the time, these are congenial interactions, but, an officer must be prepared for the unexpected. Due to the nature of the job, officers may find themselves alone in the middle of nowhere dealing with "bad people doing bad things". When this happens officers have a duty to themselves, their families and the general public to be able to make appropriate (and sometimes life-and-death) decisions.



CONSERVATION OFFICER DUTIES

Problem Solvers

If there is one title that might best describe a Conservation Officer's role, it very well might be "Professional Problem Solver". In addition to solving wildlife issues, officers often have to resolve landowner-sportsman conflicts such as what can be done when fishermen are able to access what was once a farmer's field, but now is a fishing lake. An officer may have to decide if the best way to deal with a violator is through education or by issuing a citation.

Enforcement options are just one tool in an officer's toolbox. Conservation Officers are trained early on in their careers to be critical thinkers and problem solvers. Whether it is through exposure to the problem solving concepts in the Wildlife Training Officer Program or access to more experienced officers in their area, officers must become adept at identifying and solving problems.



Communication and Contact with Others

Conservation Officers are typically the best known Game, Fish, and Parks employee in their community. In fact, sometimes they are the only GF&P representative in their town. As such, they become the personality the community assigns to the Department. A part of the hiring process for C.O.'s is the ability to relate well with people. A major component of an officer's advanced training is in communication and leadership skills. Officers must be able to interact with people who are upset, scared, deceptive or angry and then still be able to turn around and smile at a child while handing them a packet of "critter cards".

It is said that the first level in the Use of Force Continuum is "Officer Presence". Maybe, more so in Conservation Law Enforcement than in any other type of policing, this is true. An officer's ability to communicate and interact with others may be the difference between retaining a sportsman for life; or even more importantly, keeping himself safe enough to go home at night.



Working Conditions

Conservation Officers must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions, then must be able to adapt to being stuck in the basement of an office building for hours at a time writing out reports and answering telephone messages from the public. Officers have to feel at home on all types of terrains and waterways as well as in the classroom of the local elementary school. They have to be confident to work spotlighters alone in a dark remote area and trailer a boat at a public boat ramp with dozens of people watching. Officers have to be just as adept at operating equipment in adverse weather and wind conditions during search and rescue operations as they are in dealing with hysterical and bereaved relatives and friends.



CONSERVATION OFFICER DUTIES

Summary

The job of a Conservation Officer is remarkably varied. They are police officers, sportsmen, parents, teachers, witnesses, detectives, evidence technicians and role models. One day they may be driving around the county looking for poachers; the next they may be driving the same rural roads trying to find a farmstead so they can visit with a landowner and sign-up a Walk-In Area. Today they may be teaching a child about boating safety; tomorrow they may be using side scan sonar to recover someone who drowned.

To some, this variation of duties might make them wonder why anyone in the world would want to be a Conservation Officer. To those who wear the badge, it is this challenge, excitement, diversity, variety and love for the resource that makes it one of the best jobs in the world!



Conservation Officer Tim McCurdy assisting a youth with a 20-gauge shotgun on the range

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1883, the Territorial Legislature stipulated that it was the duty of constables, sheriffs and deputies to enforce game laws.
- In 1885, the Territorial Legislature established a 25 per day limit on grouse and prairie chicken.
- Also in 1885, the last grizzly bear was reported to have been killed in the Black Hills and the state elk population, which once covered the entire state, was virtually nonexistent.

NEW CONSERVATION OFFICERS – 2012



Ross Fees joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in November of 2012. Ross grew up in Hot Springs, South Dakota, graduating from Hot Springs High School. Ross attended the University of Wyoming in Laramie, where he received a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Ross worked for US Army Corps of Engineers, Wyoming Game and Fish, and Game, Fish and Parks as a Conservation Officer Intern. After completing the training program, Ross was assigned to the Faith duty station.

Lynn Geuke joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in November of 2012. Lynn grew up in Elkton, South Dakota, graduating from Elkton High School. Lynn attended Dakota Wesleyan University where he received a bachelor's degree in both Wildlife Management and Criminal Justice. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Lynn worked three summers as a Wildlife Damage Intern for Game, Fish and Parks. After completing the training program, Lynn was assigned to the Plankinton duty station.



Fred Hein joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in November of 2012. Fred grew up in Marysville, Michigan, graduating from Marysville High School. Fred attended Wayland Baptist University, Anchorage Campus, where he received a bachelor's degree. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Fred served in the United States Air Force for nearly ten years; four of those years as a Military Conservation Officer in Alaska. After completing the training program, Fred was assigned to the Sturgis duty station.

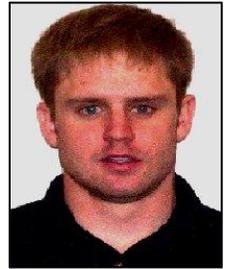
Austin Norton joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in August of 2012. Austin grew up in Watertown, South Dakota, graduating from Watertown High School. Austin attended South Dakota State University in Brookings where he received a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Austin worked with Game, Fish and Parks as a Fisheries, Wildlife Damage, Habitat and Conservation Officer Intern. After completing the training program, Austin was assigned to one of the Webster duty stations.



Diana Schroeder joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in August of 2012. Diana grew up in Alexandria, South Dakota, graduating from Hanson High School. Diana attended South Dakota State University in Brookings where she received a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science and a minor in Criminal Justice. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Diana worked with Game, Fish and Parks as campground attendant at Lake Vermillion Recreation Area and later worked as correctional officer in Brookings while attending SDSU. After completing the training program, Diana was assigned to one of the Chamberlain duty stations.

CONSERVATION OFFICER HIRING AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Nate Stukel joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in February of 2012. Nate grew up in Gregory, South Dakota, graduating from Gregory High School. Nate attended South Dakota State University in Brookings where he received a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Nate worked with the USGS, South Dakota State University, and Game, Fish and Parks on both wildlife and fisheries research projects. After completing the training program, Nate was assigned to the Canton duty station.



Zach Thomsen joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in August of 2012. Zach grew up in Brandon, South Dakota, graduating from Brandon Valley High School. Zach attended South Dakota State University in Brookings where he received a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Zach worked seasonal and internship positions with Game, Fish and Parks. In February of 2012, Zach became a Regional Program Assistant in Sioux Falls. After completing the training program, Zach was assigned to the Philip duty station.

HIRING AND BASIC TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

While it might appear that the first step in becoming a Conservation Officer begins with a Wildlife and Fisheries degree, it actually begins well before graduating from college. In fact, the path begins prior to ever stepping foot on a college campus. Since Conservation Officers are certified Law Enforcement Officers and will be looked on as leaders in the community, preparation for the job needs to begin during the teenage years. Despite some common thought, choices made as an adolescent can impact someone's ability to be hired. Crimes committed and attitudes held before and during college can paint a picture of someone who might not be suited to "protect and serve" the citizens of the State of South Dakota.

Another consideration for entry into the Wildlife Law Enforcement field is the amount of time and effort a person is willing to put into pursuing their education outside of the classroom. Many successful Conservation Officers spent several summers as seasonal employees or interns with South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks or some other related agency. Information gathered while working with the public and the resources can provide a solid foundation for not only a successful interview; but, for a career as well.

It is not a requirement to have a college degree to become a Conservation Officer; but, the vast majority of our officers have at least a bachelor's degree. Additionally, a degree in a wildlife or resource management field is not a requirement; but, it can be helpful during the hiring process and throughout the foundational stages of training and development as an officer and community resource.

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 "critter 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.

CONSERVATION OFFICER HIRING AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

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 also 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 and game management information. During this time, new officers also learn through the hands-on process of scenarios which test their knowledge; but, also provide 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". Previously, the Field Training Program was primarily based on developing mechanical skills through behavior modification; however, 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.

The Wildlife Training Officer Program begins with a "Ride-Along" week where new officers get familiar with the training program and are introduced to resources and stakeholders in their Training Officer's district. After the first week, Officer Trainees spend six weeks covering two, three-week phases of training. At the end of this seventh week of training, a Trainee's development is assessed during a Mid-Term Evaluation. Upon successful completion of this week, Trainees move on to another Wildlife Training Officer for an additional two, three-week training phases. During these phases of training, Trainees complete a District Training Exercise which is a "snapshot" of this Training District. The skills, resources and partnerships Trainees learn in this hands-on process become vitally important when they move into their own duty station. At the conclusion of training phases three and four,

CONSERVATION OFFICER HIRING AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Trainees enter a Final Evaluation Week where their development is assessed. If the Wildlife Training Evaluator determines an officer needs additional instruction, they are provided “prescriptive training” to help them overcome any deficiencies. If the Wildlife Training Evaluator is convinced the Trainee is ready to be placed in a Duty Station, they are scheduled for an appointment with the Board of Evaluators where they present their District Training Exercise analysis and review their entire training process. The Board of Evaluators consists of Wildlife Training Officers, Conservation Officer Supervisors and Regional Supervisors who review the process and make judgments on the adequacy of the District Training Exercise and the officer’s fitness for placement.

One significant difference between the Wildlife Training Program and the more traditional Patrol Training Officer Program is the nature of the four phases of training. In the PTO process, areas of focus are Patrol, Investigations, Emergency Response and Non-Emergency Response. In the WTO process, the areas of focus are Patrol, Investigations, Public Service and Resource Management. A Conservation Officer Trainee is evaluated based on their level of proficiency in the fifteen core competencies that have been determined to be necessary in becoming a successful Conservation Officer.

Essentially, the Wildlife Training Officer Program offers an invaluable tool for teaching Trainees to perform their duties and responsibilities in a more effective and equitable manner by:

- ☞ Providing learning opportunities for the Conservation Officer Trainee that meet or exceed the training needs for both the Division of Wildlife and the community;
- ☞ Developing and enhancing the Conservation Officer Trainee’s learning from the academy and transferring it to the community environment through a series of real-life situations and academic problem solving activities that allow an individual to fail forward while being partners in their own education;
- ☞ Fostering a growing independence from the Wildlife Training Officer Program over the course of the program;
- ☞ Producing graduates of the Wildlife Training Officer Program who are capable of providing responsible community-focused services;
- ☞ Preparing the Conservation Officer Trainee to use a problem-solving approach throughout their career by practicing problem-based learning skills and developing an area snapshot of problems and opportunities that can be transferred to any new problem or location;
- ☞ Promoting the practice of using community members as partners in solving problems; and
- ☞ Designing fair and consistent evaluations that address the Conservation Officer Trainee’s skills, knowledge, application, and ability to problem solve effectively in an objective way using measurable goals and descriptive evaluation tools.

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

FIFTEEN CORE COMPETENCIES	
• Communication Skills	• Legal Authority
• Conflict Resolution	• Officer Safety
• Cultural Diversity	• Problem Solving Skills
• District Specific Problems	• Report Writing
• Ethics	• Use of Force
• Individual Rights	• Vehicle Operations
• Leadership	• Local Procedures, Policies, Laws, Values and Wildlife Knowledge
• Lifestyle Stressors/Self-Awareness/Self-Regulation	

ADVANCED TRAINING

In 2006, the Law Enforcement Training and Standards Commission (the body that oversees certification of Law Enforcement Officers) adopted ARSD 02:01:06:17, requiring all officers to complete 40 hours of continuing education every two years and qualify with their department-issued weapon annually. While this was a necessary step and valuable asset to our profession in the state, South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks was well ahead of the curve. Even prior to the Commission mandate, GF&P officers were routinely provided more training opportunities than the requirements. Conservation Officers are required to participate in defensive tactics and firearms qualifications twice a year. Possessing a cadre of instructors scattered around the state allows us to not only train and qualify all officers; but, to also make them available for individualized remediation when needed or extra training when desired.

Typically the “tactical” skills get the most attention in Law Enforcement Officer Training; but, there is more to policing than shooting and defensive tactics. Each year, officers are exposed to a variety of training ranging from how to deal with stress on the job to how to handle hazardous materials. Each region offers regional training throughout the year and, in most years, all Conservation Officers gather in a central location for statewide training.

One of the most useful qualities of enforcing laws and regulations (yet, one that is too often overlooked) is the ability to communicate. Over the past several years, GF&P has been at the forefront of teaching communication skills and developing a program designed to take this training to a new level. In 2010, led by Assistant Director Emmett Keyser, the Interpersonal Management Program and Communications Training (IMPACT) for Conservation Law Enforcement became a reality. The effort, which was a collaboration between several state wildlife agencies and the Thomas and Means Law Firm, provides education and scenario-based training specifically designed for Conservation Law Enforcement. The program breaks down the communication process into over 60 distinct and identifiable components and allows officers and trainers to assess communication skills.

In 2006, the Training and Standards Commission established a much needed bare minimum of training to remain a successful officer. Through a belief in education and a willingness to promote training by administrators, South Dakota’s Conservation Officers not only exceed the minimums, more likely than not, they are leaders in education and training.

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”.

EQUIPMENT

BY BRUCE NACHTIGALL – LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST

Conservation Officers are often said to have some of the “coolest toys in the industry”; however, it is the unique nature of wildlife law enforcement that is the driving force behind the need for the equipment they have. Conservation Officers work in a variety of environments, terrains, locations, and times of day. One day an officer might be involved in a high speed pursuit requiring a vehicle with the capability of catching a fleeing felon on the highway, the next he needs a vehicle rugged enough to take him across the hills and prairies to catch a someone who has poached a deer. Officers must be equipped with the weaponry to protect them and others from those that wish to do harm. Conservation Officers are the designated “waterway police” in the state and as such need a stable boat large enough to safely to check boaters on a reservoir or rescue a stranded boater in a storm, a personal watercraft to make contact with jet skiers speeding through a swimming zone, or a flat bottom boat to check hunters and anglers in the shallow waters of a river. Officers may need a GPS to locate a missing sportsman or a reported poached animal, the protective gear to safely respond to an emergency situation like a drowning or vehicle accident, and the communications technology to contact others for lifesaving assistance.



Conservation Officers often play an important role in emergency situations. Whether it is a need for personal protective equipment as a first responder to an injury hunting accident or the horsepower and trailer space to deliver food and fuel to a remote community incapacitated by a blizzard or flood, officers have access to a variety of equipment and supplies whenever the need arises. Yet, in addition to protecting themselves and the resources in their work districts, officers are also active members of their local law enforcement community. The ability to respond safely and effectively with the proper tools for the job makes them a valuable part of the team.



Standard gear on a Conservation Officer's duty belt includes (clockwise from top left) collapsible baton, tactical flashlight, pepper spray, handcuffs, Glock .40 pistol, and two extra magazines

Conservation Officers have an obligation to be able to effectively use the equipment they are assigned and are responsible for keeping their equipment in working order. For one task an officer's most valued piece of equipment might be the Remington 870 shotgun; other times it is a Motorola radio or a life jacket. Officers need to be just as adept at using electronics such as a radio or GPS as they are at using a firearm.

While it is neat to have these “toys”, they are necessary tools for the job. Our contemporaries and our communities have come to rely on Conservation Officers and their equipment to assist in all types of situations. Most of all, the families of our officers have come to rely upon each piece of equipment to bring their officer home safely at the end of the day.

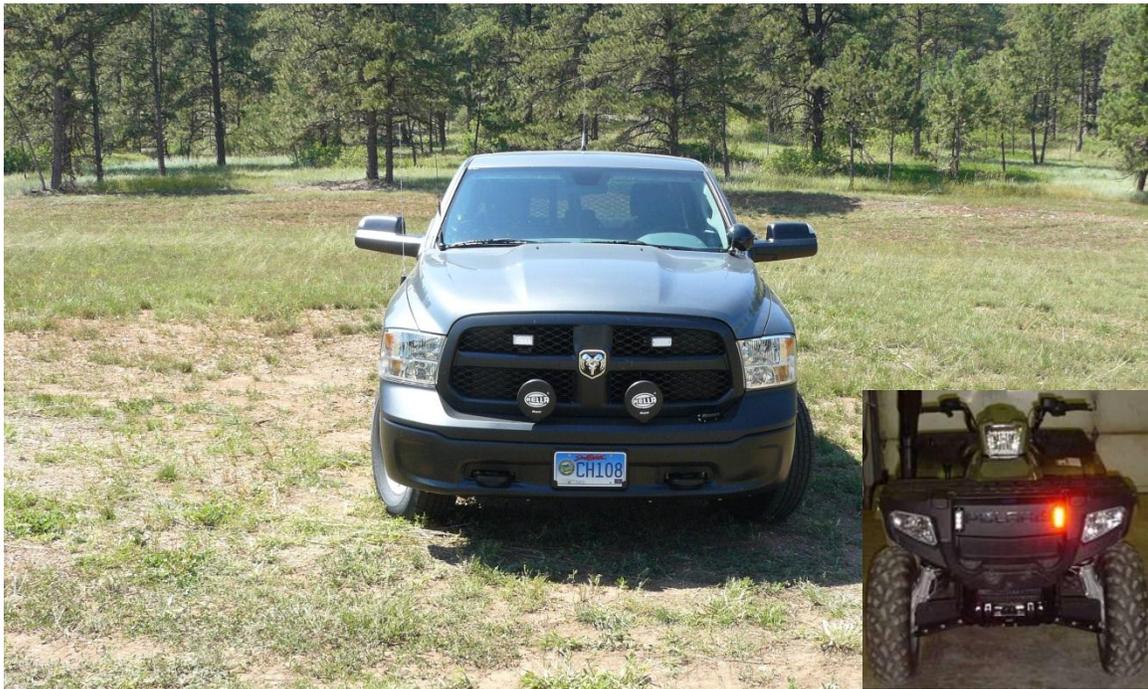


Digital radios in each officer's vehicle

EQUIPMENT



The Workhorse of the Wildlife Conservation Officer Profession: The department equips its officers with either $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton or $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton extended cab 4-wheel drive pickup. **BELOW:** The front view of a new vehicle just days after wiring was completed. **INSET BELOW:** Some officers are also assigned an ATV for getting in places and doing things that a standard pickup cannot do.



EQUIPMENT



A Conservation Officer's vehicle is a fully equipped emergency vehicle complete with warning lights, siren and communications equipment. **ABOVE:** From the back you can see warning lights, toolbox and a winch that can be used to aid in loading large animals. **BELOW:** A view of the inside of a Conservation Officer's vehicle. **INSET BELOW:** Shows the prisoner transport area in our newer vehicles as well as secure weapons storage.



EQUIPMENT



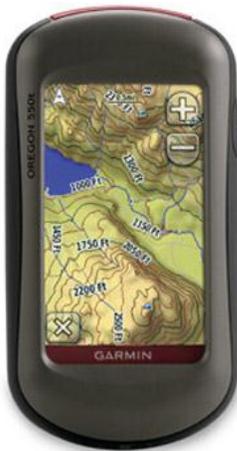
South Dakota's public waters come in a variety of shapes and sizes and Conservation Officers have access to specialized watercraft that enables them to work on the water, regardless of the conditions. **ABOVE:** Conservation Officer Chad Williams in his boat on patrol at Lake Madison in Region 3. **BELOW:** Conservation Officers in Region 1 prepare to use a boat equipped with side scan sonar on a body recovery detail.



EQUIPMENT



Conservation Officers use various electronic tools in their job. **ABOVE:** Side scan sonar in use during a body recovery operation. These devices are useful in locating sunken vessels, drowning victims and other items under water. **BOTTOM LEFT:** GPSs are used by officers for mapping, marking evidence and locating items reported by the public. **BOTTOM CENTER:** Conservation Officers use Preliminary Breath Testers (PBTs) primarily for underage consumption and BUI/DUI enforcement. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A night vision monocular is used to improve an officer's ability to work in low-light conditions.

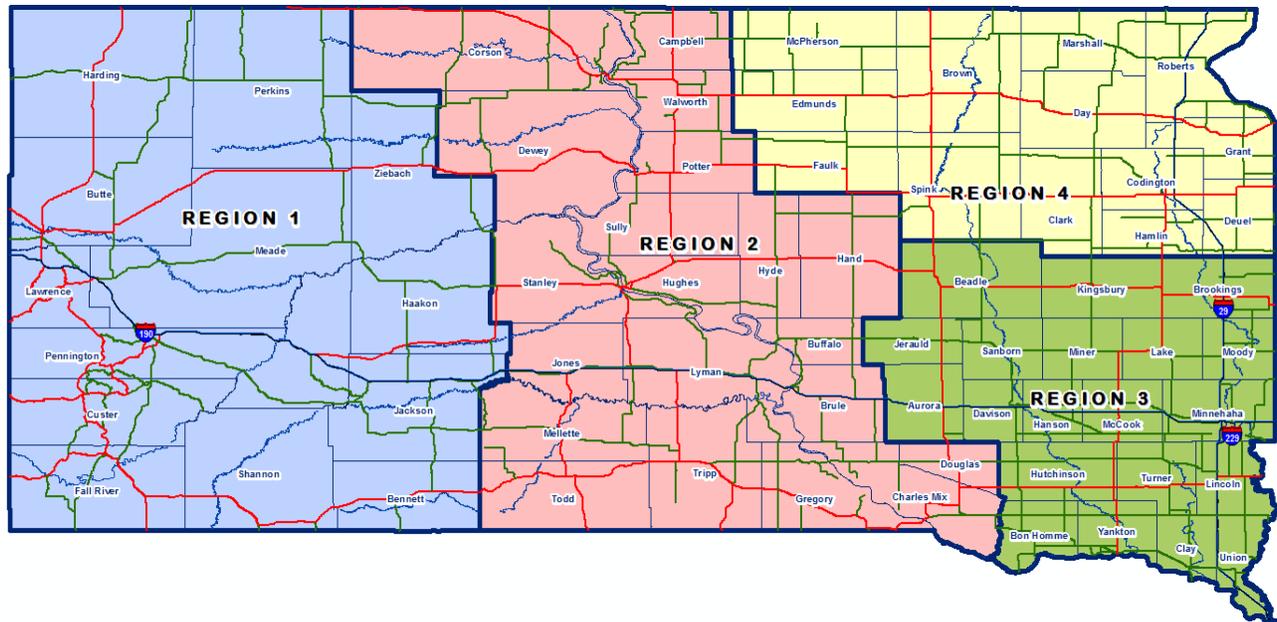


WILDLIFE DIVISION - ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS

The Division of Wildlife's Operations Section is split into four administrative regions. Each region is under the guidance of a regional supervisor, as well as other assistant supervisory staff. An array of Conservation Officers is assigned to each region.

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 Law Enforcement Specialists, Investigators, Support Staff and a Program Administrator.



Region 1: THE COUNTIES OF BENNETT, BUTTE, CUSTER, FALL RIVER, HAAKON, HARDING, JACKSON, LAWRENCE, MEADE, PENNINGTON, PERKINS, SHANNON, AND ZIEBACH.

Region 2: THE COUNTIES OF BRULE, BUFFALO, CAMPBELL, CHARLES MIX, CORSON, DEWEY, DOUGLAS, GREGORY, HAND, HUGHES, HYDE, JONES, LYMAN, MELLETTE, POTTER, STANLEY, SULLY, TODD, TRIPP, AND WALWORTH.

Region 3: THE COUNTIES OF AURORA, BEADLE, BON HOMME, BROOKINGS, CLAY, DAVISON, HANSON, HUTCHINSON, JERAULD, KINGSBURY, LAKE, LINCOLN, MCCOOK, MINER, MINNEHAHA, MOODY, SANBORN, TURNER, UNION, AND YANKTON.

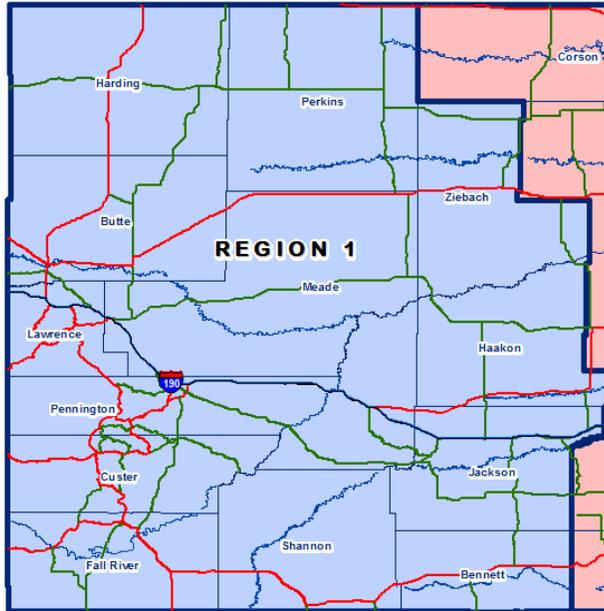
Region 4: THE COUNTIES OF BROWN, CLARK, CODINGTON, DAY, DEUEL, EDMUNDS, FAULK, GRANT, HAMLIN, MARSHALL, MCPHERSON, ROBERTS, AND SPINK.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION STAFF

CHARLIE WHARTON, TIPS/LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COORDINATOR
JANELLE BLAHA, SHOOTING PRESERVE/PERMITS COORDINATOR
ANDY ALBAN, LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
JEANNE UECKER, LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM SECRETARY
SCOTT MIKKELSON, WILDLIFE INVESTIGATOR - WEST RIVER
JEFF MCENTEE, WILDLIFE INVESTIGATOR - EAST RIVER
BRUCE NACHTIGALL, LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST
BRANDON GUST, LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST

REGION 1 VIOLATION STATISTICS

WILDLIFE DIVISION - ADMINISTRATIVE REGION 1
LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFF LISTING FOR 2012



Mike Kintigh

Regional Supervisor

Jim McCormick

Conservation Officer Supervisor

Brian Meiers

Conservation Officer Supervisor

Conservation Officers

Mike Apland	Northern Lawrence County
Tom Beck	Bennett, S. Jackson and E. Shannon Counties
Josh Brainard	Eastern Pennington and S.E. Meade Counties
Bill Eastman	Butte County
Jeff Edwards	Central Pennington County
Jacob Ehlert	Southern Custer County
Adam Geigle	Central Pennington County
Scot Hawks	Western Meade County
Joe Keeton	Central Pennington County
Keith Mutschler	Perkins County
Darren "DJ" Schroeder	Fall River and Western Shannon Counties
Blair Waite	N. Custer, S. Lawrence and W. Pennington Counties
Vacant	Haakon and Northern Jackson Counties
Vacant	Harding County
Vacant	Eastern Meade and Ziebach Counties

REGION 1 LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2012

BY JIM MCCORMICK AND BRIAN MEIERS, CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISORS

Region 1 encompasses most of western South Dakota including the counties of: Harding, Butte, Perkins, Ziebach, Meade, Lawrence, Pennington, Haakon, Jackson, Custer, Fall River, Shannon and Bennett. When fully staffed the Region has 15 uniformed field officers, 2 Conservation Officer Supervisors and a Regional Supervisor. During 2012, Region 1 had three duty station vacancies. Conservation Officers in the adjoining districts covered the vacant districts along with their own duty station with help from supervisory staff.

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 Public School 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. With the vast amount of public lands and waters, Region 1 Conservation Officers are constantly patrolling both land and water.

Region 1 Conservation Officers work with BLM Rangers, US Forest Service Officers, and National Parks Service Officers to enforce wildlife laws and regulations. In 2012, a case was made in Wind Cave National Park where two bull elk were poached. Another case was made in Badlands National Park where two trophy mule deer bucks were illegally harvested during the West River Deer Season. Numerous other violations were found in and near our National Parks. These included the transportation of loaded and uncased rifles in the park, littering, and improper tagging.

There are three major prairie reservoirs in the region including Belle Fourche Reservoir, Shadehill Reservoir and Angustora Reservoir. These three reservoirs have seasonal fishing pressure, which is when most violations occur. Black Hills reservoirs include Pactola, Sheridan and Deerfield. These reservoirs are primarily managed for trout. Pactola and Sheridan are receiving more pressure from summer recreational boaters each year. Operation Dry Water was conducted at Pactola Reservoir in June of 2012. Three boating under the influence arrests were made on the lake in one day.

Community and landowner relations are an important role for Conservation Officers in the west. 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 Game, Fish and Parks programs such as the Walk-In Area Program, Wildlife Damage Management, Animal Damage Control, Habitat Improvement, Wildlife Management and Fish Stocking Programs.

Region 1 Conservation Officers are involved with several outdoor educational events such as HuntSafe, Step Outside, youth fishing events and Alcohol Awareness-Freshman Impact. The Freshman Impact program started in the Douglas School District in Box Elder five years ago. It is a day dedicated to teaching freshman high school students about the effects of alcohol, drugs and distracted driving. Conservation Officers utilize a Jet Ski simulator 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

REGION 1 VIOLATION STATISTICS

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 and Custer School Districts.

Side Scan Sonar Used for Search and Recovery

Conservation Officers have access to and are trained to use specialized equipment such as Side Scan Sonar. In April of 2012, Conservation Officers were called on to assist the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation and the Butte County Sheriff's Office with a search for a Belle Fourche woman who went missing in 2005. Conservation Officers searched a two-mile segment of the Belle Fourche River for the woman's remains; unfortunately the effort was not successful.



In May of 2012, Conservation Officers were asked to assist in the recovery of a young man who was presumed to have drowned while kayaking on Deerfield Reservoir. The recovery efforts were coordinated by the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Pennington County Office of Emergency Management and Pennington County Search and Rescue. The search was not initially successful and went on for two weeks. The search was hampered by poor weather and deep water conditions. The bottom of the reservoir was covered with sediment, stumps, logs and rocks, which camouflaged the body. Eventually the efforts were successful and the young man's body was recovered. Game, Fish and Parks Law Enforcement staff continued to build on an already strong working relationship with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office and Pennington County Search and Rescue Team during this incident

Trespass Continues to be a Major Problem During Big Game Seasons

Conservation Officers were faced with trespassing issues during the 2012 big game hunting seasons. Meetings were held with landowners in the Elm Springs area of Meade County, where violations were reported to be on the increase. As a result, a special operation was conducted during the opening weekend of the West River Deer Season. Several arrests were made during the special operation and more were made during the remainder of the season. During 2012, there were a total of 18 hunters cited for trespass in Meade County alone.



Officers Use Road Checks and Special Details to Apprehend Violators

Conservation Officers organized several road checks throughout the year. It is common for our officers to work with the local Sheriff's Office or Police Department, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service and the South Dakota Highway Patrol. Officers conducted a fish road check in Butte County, near Belle Fourche Reservoir, in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies. Dozens of vehicles went through the check and were inspected for compliance of limits and transportation requirements. Three fishing violations were cited and one DUI arrest was made on the check. Another road check was conducted on Highway 212 on the fifth day of the pheasant season to check hunters coming back through for compliance.

Several insufficient plumage violations were detected along with one overbag case being made. Other smaller road checks were conducted throughout the region in 2012, including one organized by the BLM at the Fort Meade Recreation Area. One BLM Officer, several Conservation Officers and the Meade County Sheriff's Office worked together on the road check. Two decoy operations were also conducted in the Black Hills during the elk season.



Trapping Season Active with High Fur Prices

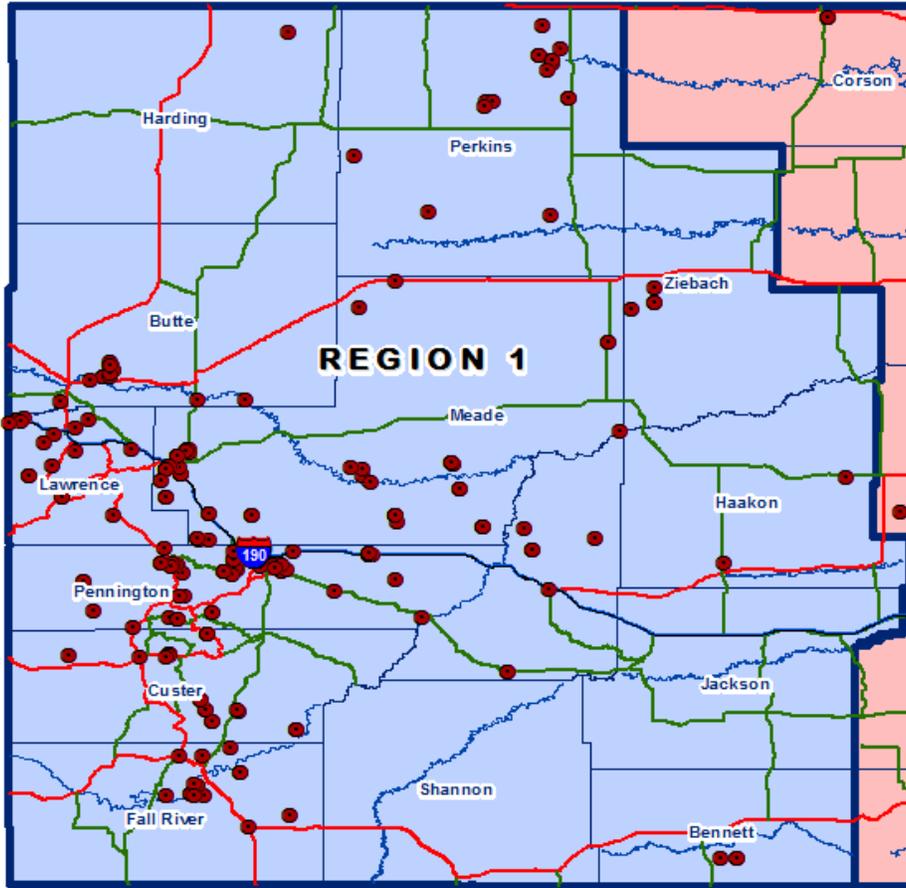
Most counties in the region had an extremely active trapping season. High fur prices spurred a wave of trapping activity involving new and old trappers alike. The majority of the bobcats harvested in the state during the two month season are taken in Region 1. Record numbers of bobcats have been harvested for the past several years. Conservation Officers have become more concerned with the population of bobcats in western South Dakota due to the trapping pressure. Bobcat fur prices appear to be driving the increase in the trapping activity. Complaints about violations were taken from both landowners and trappers on various issues. The competition for large areas to trap sometimes creates stress and frustration amongst fellow trappers.

Trap theft was an issue in 2012; it can involve the taking of traps alone or removing furbearers from a trap. Other violations officers watched for were bobcats being taken before the season started, bobcats taken on reservation lands being tagged by the state and illegal methods being used to trap. Region 1 Conservation Officers worked a case involving a man from Minnesota that used illegal trapping methods and had license violations. Incidental trapping of mountain lions during the bobcat season is also an issue each year. Many trappers are able to release the trapped lions on their own, but it is not uncommon for Department staff to have to assist in releasing a live lion from a trap.

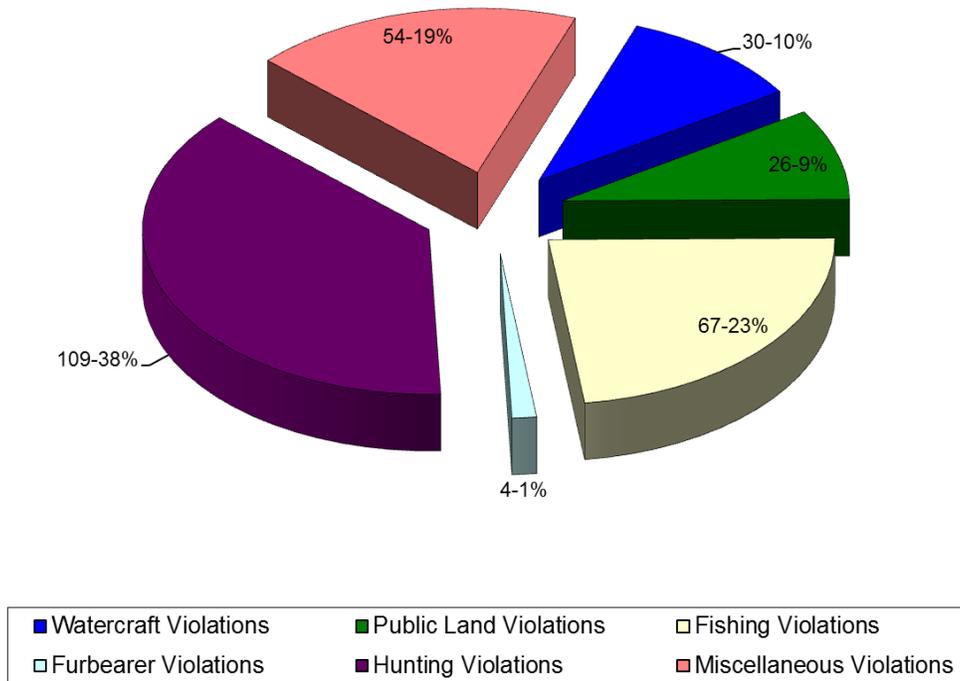


REGION 1 VIOLATION STATISTICS

Region 1 Violation Map



Region 1 2012 Violations By Category



REGION 1 VIOLATION STATISTICS

REGION 1 2012 VIOLATION STATISTICS

Hunting Violations			
1	ACCOMPANIED BY ARMED UNLICENSED PERSON	2	SMALL GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
0	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT PROHIBITED AFTER 10PM	0	SMALL GAME - WRONG UNIT
2	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT/NIGHT VISION	10	TRESPASS (KNOWING)
0	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT/NIGHT VISION LANDOWNER	9	TRESPASS (UNKNOWING)
0	BIG GAME - CLOSED SEASON	1	TURKEY - ILLEGAL METHOD
6	BIG GAME - FAILURE TO TAG	1	TURKEY - OVERLIMIT
11	BIG GAME - HUNTING ON HIGHWAY	1	UNPROTECTED GAME - NO LICENSE
2	BIG GAME - IMPROPER TAGGING	0	USE OF RIFLES/HANDGUNS TO HUNT BIRDS
1	BIG GAME - METHODS PROHIBITED	1	USE OF VEHICLE/BOAT TO DISTURB OR CHASE
3	BIG GAME - NO FLUORESCENT ORANGE	0	WANTON WASTE OF GAME
8	BIG GAME - NO LICENSE	1	WATERFOWL - CLOSED SEASON
0	BIG GAME - TRANSPORT WITHOUT SEX/SPECIES ID	2	WATERFOWL - HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS
1	BIG GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	0	WATERFOWL - LEAD SHOT
0	BIG GAME - USE OF SALT LICK TO ATTRACT	1	WATERFOWL - NO FEDERAL STAMP
17	BIG GAME - WRONG UNIT	3	WATERFOWL - NO LICENSE
10	CARRY UNCASSED OR LOADED FIREARM ON ATV	0	WATERFOWL - OVERLIMIT
1	DISTURBING WILDLIFE PROHIBITED	0	WATERFOWL - RIGHT OF WAY RESTRICTION
0	DOVE HUNTING WITHIN 50 YDS OF HIGHWAY	0	WATERFOWL - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
0	GUN PROTRUDING FROM VEHICLE	0	WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FACILITY - RECORDS
0	HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	109	
1	HUNT WITHIN 660 FT OF DWELLING/LIVESTOCK		
1	HUNTING NO ADULT SUPERVISION		
Fishing Violations			
2	HUNTING WITHIN A REFUGE	0	FAILURE TO EMPTY BAIT TRAPS
0	MINOR HUNTING DOVES WITHOUT ADULT	0	FISHING DURING CLOSED SEASON
1	NO PLUG IN GUN	34	FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE
2	PROTECTED GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	4	ILLEGAL TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF FISH
2	SHOOTING FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	0	LABELING/ACCESS TO ICE HOUSE
0	SHOOTING PRESERVE - INSUFFICIENT RELEASE	19	LENGTH LIMIT VIOLATION
0	SHOOTING PRESERVE - RECORDS VIOLATION	4	OVER LIMIT/UNLAWFUL POSSESSION FISH
1	SMALL GAME - CLOSED SEASON	1	PROHIBITED BAIT
0	SMALL GAME - HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	0	SPEARING/ARCHERY WITHOUT PERMIT
0	SMALL GAME - NO LICENSE	3	TOO MANY LINES
2	SMALL GAME - OVERLIMIT	2	UNATTENDED LINES
0	SMALL GAME - RIGHT OF WAY RESTRICTION	0	UNLAWFUL FISHING EQUIPMENT
2	SMALL GAME - TRANSPORT WITHOUT PLUMAGE	0	WATERS CLOSED TO TAKING OF BAIT
		67	

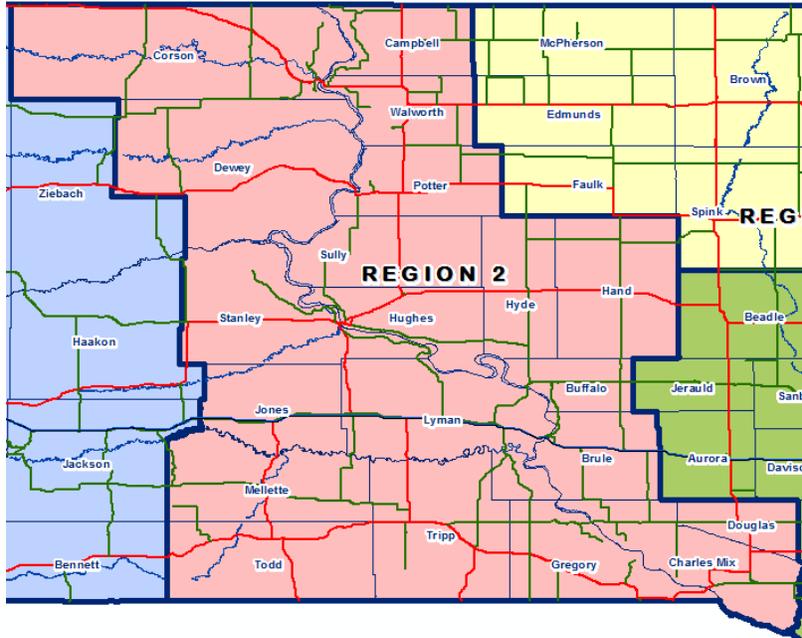
REGION 1 VIOLATION STATISTICS

REGION 1 2012 VIOLATION STATISTICS
CONTINUED

Furbearer Violations		Miscellaneous Violations	
1	BOBCAT - CLOSED SEASON	3	ALCOHOL - OPEN CONTAINER
1	EXPOSED BAIT PROHIBITED	15	ALCOHOL - POSSESSION BY MINOR
0	FURBEARER - CLOSED SEASON	1	ASSAULT - SIMPLE (DOMESTIC)
1	FURBEARER - NO LICENSE	0	CARELESS DRIVING
1	FURBEARER - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	0	DISORDERLY CONDUCT
0	PROHIBITED TRAPPING METHODS	0	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE-FELONY
0	TRAP ROBBING	5	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE-MISDEMEANOR
0	TRAP WITHIN 660 FT OF DWELLING/LIVESTOCK	0	ELUDING
4		0	ENTER BOUNDARY WATER WITHOUT SD LICENSE
		2	EXHIBITION DRIVING
Watercraft Violations		4	HUNT/FISH/TRAP UNDER REVOCATION
2	BOAT IN SWIM / NO WAKE ZONE	0	IMPERSONATION TO DECEIVE OFFICER
3	CARELESS OPERATION OF BOAT	5	INGEST INTOXICANT OTHER THAN ALCOHOL
0	FAILURE TO REPORT BOAT ACCIDENT	1	INTERFERENCE WITH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION
0	MUFFLER REQUIRED	1	INTERFERENCE WITH LAWFUL HUNTING
0	NO FIRE EXTINGUISHER	0	LICENSE - APPLY/PURCHASE WHEN INELIGIBLE
3	OPERATE BOAT WITHOUT LICENSE/NUMBER	0	LICENSE - FRAUD TO OBTAIN
0	OPERATE BOAT WITHOUT LIGHTS	0	LICENSE - MINIMUM RESIDENCY REQUIRED
6	OPERATE VESSEL UNDER INFLUENCE	1	LICENSE - NOT IN POSSESSION
11	PFD - INSUFFICIENT NUMBER	1	LITTERING FROM VEHICLE
2	PFD - NOT WEARING ON PERSONAL WATERCRAFT	1	LITTERING PROHIBITED
0	PWC - GREATER THAN NO WAKE WITHIN 150 FEET	0	OBSTRUCT POLICE
0	PWC - OPERATE WITHOUT LIGHTS	1	POSSESS LOADED FIREARM WHILE INTOXICATED
1	PWC - UNDERAGE OPERATION	5	POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
0	RECKLESS OPERATION OF BOAT	0	PROHIBITED FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM
0	WATER SKIING AFTER HOURS	0	RECKLESS DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM/BOW
2	WATER SKIING W/O OBSERVER OR MIRROR	0	RECKLESS DRIVING
30		0	SNOWMOBILE - NO VALID LICENSE
		0	TAXIDERMY - NO LICENSE
Public Land Violations		0	THEFT - PETTY
2	DESTRUCTION OR REMOVAL OF NATURAL FEATURES	0	TRESPASS - CRIMINAL
2	DRIVING OFF ROADS PROHIBITED	8	USE OR POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA
2	FIREWORKS - SELL/DISCHARGE	54	
1	LEAVING PROPERTY ON DEPARTMENT LAND		
1	LIMITATION ON TREE STANDS		
8	NONTOXIC SHOT AREAS FOR SMALL GAME		
1	OPERATE VEHICLE ON SCHOOL & PUBLIC LAND		
0	PROHIBITED USE OF METAL DETECTOR		
2	START OPEN FIRE IN BLACK HILLS		
1	UNAUTHORIZED FIRE/PUBLIC LAND		
6	UNAUTHORIZED LAND USE ON DEPARTMENT LAND		
26			

REGION 2 VIOLATION STATISTICS

WILDLIFE DIVISION - ADMINISTRATIVE REGION 2
LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFF LISTING FOR 2012



Dale Gates

Conservation Officer Supervisor

Steve Rossow

Conservation Officer Supervisor

Conservation Officers

Dan Altman	Jones and Western Lyman Counties
Josh Carr	Stanley County
Doug DeLaRoi	Campbell and Northern Walworth Counties
Cory Flor	Hyde and Hand Counties
Matt Hill	Mellette, Todd and Tripp Counties
Shawn Madison	Corson and Dewey Counties
Jeff Martin	Douglas and Charles Mix Counties
John Murphy	Hughes County
Mark Ohm	Buffalo and Eastern Lyman Counties
Brad Saltsman	Potter and Southern Walworth Counties
Andy Schmahl	Sully County
Mike Thorson	Pierre Area and Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access
Hans Walleser	Gregory County
Vacant	Brule County
Vacant	Brule County

REGION 2 LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2012

BY DALE GATES AND STEVE ROSSOW, CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISORS

Region 2 is located in the central portion of the state, extending from the Wagner area north along the majority of the Missouri River to the North Dakota border. The region includes 20 counties, most of which border the river, and is home to 18 officers when fully staffed.

Region 2 is rich in natural and recreational resources. The Missouri River extends through the middle of the region. The area offers excellent big game, small game, and fishing opportunities.

Citizen Reports Pay Off

During the summer of 2012, Pierre area Conservation Officers Josh Carr and John Murphy made several good cases of walleye over-limits in the Pierre area alone. On a number of these cases, Carr and Murphy worked together as a team to catch the subjects involved. Many of the calls regarding these cases came from concerned citizens who either called the Turn-In-Poachers Hotline or made direct contact with the officers. Others were made as a result of these two officers' observations of suspicious behavior of the subjects.

Each officer made several cases of this nature, with over-limits ranging from one to six over the daily or possession limit. Some cases resulted in the subjects losing their fishing privileges for one year. Both officers were recognized for their teamwork, patience, and determination in making these cases.



Road Check Efforts Net Pheasant Over-Limits

Several officers stationed in the south end of Region 2 conducted a road check in Gregory County in late-October 2012. The check was conducted on the fifth day of pheasant hunting.

Only a small number of vehicles were checked during the three and one-half hour operation. However, of the 20 vehicles that came through the checkpoint, four were cited for possessing over-limits of pheasants. Several other violations were also discovered at the check.

Tip Leads to Poached Deer

In November of 2012, Mobridge Conservation Officer Shawn Madison received a tip that a subject from McIntosh had untagged deer hanging in his garage. Upon opening an investigation of the subject, Madison was able to collect photographic and historical evidence that indicated several deer had been poached.

Madison made contact with the subject and interviewed him. When confronted with the evidence, the subject admitted that he had illegal deer in his garage. Upon inspection of the garage, Madison found two illegal deer, and evidence of a third that was stored in a different location. All three deer were eventually seized and the subject was charged and convicted on all three counts of hunting big game without a license.



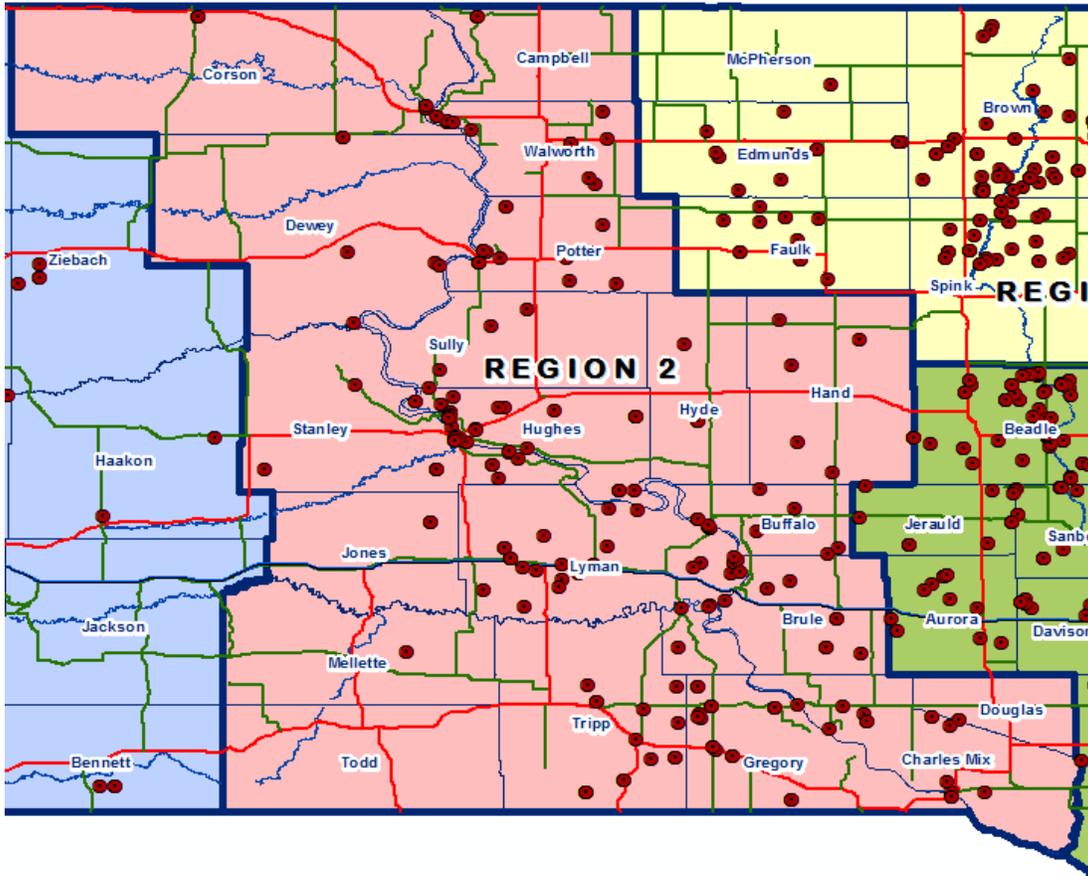
Miller Man Charged with Violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Witness Tampering

Conservation Officer Cory Flor and United States Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent Brad Merrill received a call about a dead whooping crane in April of 2012. Flor and Merrill found the bird and determined that it had been shot. Both officers interviewed area residents in an effort to identify any suspicious activity or vehicles that may have been seen. These initial efforts turned up nothing. A few days later, a tip came in about who may have shot it. The officers followed up on the lead and eventually obtained a confession from the subject, who admitted to shooting the whooping crane and a hawk. An additional subject who was present during the shootings was also interviewed and confessed about what had happened.

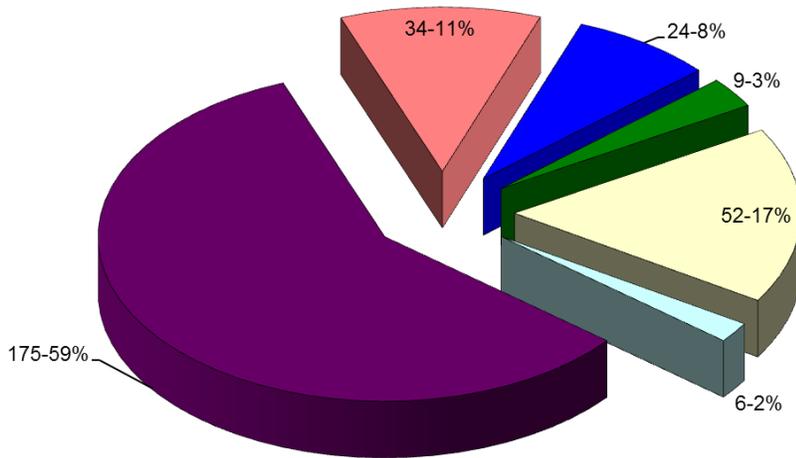
The shooter was charged in federal court with violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and also witness tampering. He was found guilty and was sentenced to two years of probation and ordered to pay \$85,000 in restitution for killing the endangered whooping crane. The subject was also ordered to forfeit the rifle used to kill the crane and was stripped of his hunting, fishing and trapping privileges in the United States for two years.

REGION 2 VIOLATION STATISTICS

Region 2 Violation Map



Region 2 2012 Violations By Category



- Watercraft Violations
- Public Land Violations
- Fishing Violations
- Furbearer Violations
- Hunting Violations
- Miscellaneous Violations

REGION 2 VIOLATION STATISTICS

REGION 2 2012 VIOLATION STATISTICS

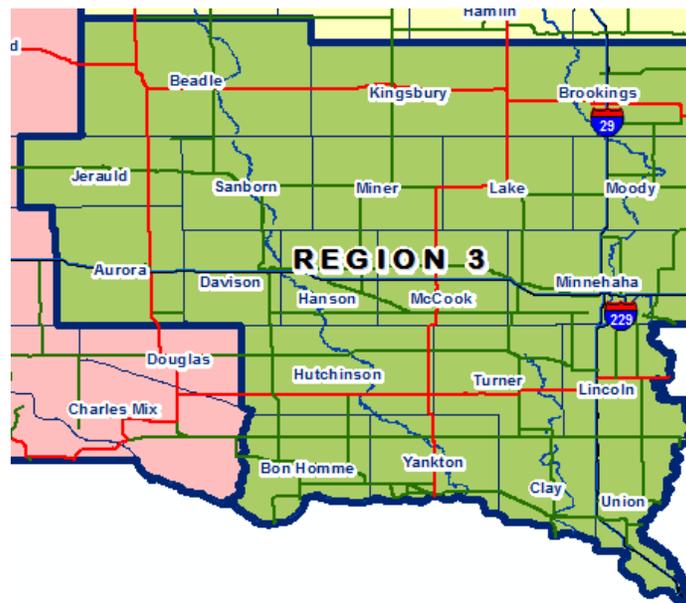
Hunting Violations			
0	ACCOMPANIED BY ARMED UNLICENSED PERSON	17	SMALL GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
7	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT PROHIBITED AFTER 10PM	0	SMALL GAME - WRONG UNIT
4	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT/NIGHT VISION	15	TRESPASS (KNOWING)
1	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT/NIGHT VISION LANDOWNER	48	TRESPASS (UNKNOWING)
0	BIG GAME - CLOSED SEASON	0	TURKEY - ILLEGAL METHOD
3	BIG GAME - FAILURE TO TAG	0	TURKEY - OVERLIMIT
5	BIG GAME - HUNTING ON HIGHWAY	0	UNPROTECTED GAME - NO LICENSE
0	BIG GAME - IMPROPER TAGGING	0	USE OF RIFLES/HANDGUNS TO HUNT BIRDS
0	BIG GAME - METHODS PROHIBITED	4	USE OF VEHICLE/BOAT TO DISTURB OR CHASE
2	BIG GAME - NO FLUORESCENT ORANGE	4	WANTON WASTE OF GAME
4	BIG GAME - NO LICENSE	0	WATERFOWL - CLOSED SEASON
1	BIG GAME - TRANSPORT WITHOUT SEX/SPECIES ID	0	WATERFOWL - HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS
1	BIG GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	0	WATERFOWL - LEAD SHOT
2	BIG GAME - USE OF SALT LICK TO ATTRACT	2	WATERFOWL - NO FEDERAL STAMP
1	BIG GAME - WRONG UNIT	0	WATERFOWL - NO LICENSE
2	CARRY UNCASSED OR LOADED FIREARM ON ATV	0	WATERFOWL - OVERLIMIT
1	DISTURBING WILDLIFE PROHIBITED	1	WATERFOWL - RIGHT OF WAY RESTRICTION
0	DOVE HUNTING WITHIN 50 YDS OF HIGHWAY	2	WATERFOWL - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
4	GUN PROTRUDING FROM VEHICLE	0	WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FACILITY - RECORDS
2	HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	175	
4	HUNT WITHIN 660 FT OF DWELLING/LIVESTOCK		
0	HUNTING NO ADULT SUPERVISION		Fishing Violations
0	HUNTING WITHIN A REFUGE	0	FAILURE TO EMPTY BAIT TRAPS
0	MINOR HUNTING DOVES WITHOUT ADULT	0	FISHING DURING CLOSED SEASON
3	NO PLUG IN GUN	17	FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE
2	PROTECTED GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	2	ILLEGAL TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF FISH
7	SHOOTING FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	1	LABELING/ACCESS TO ICE HOUSE
1	SHOOTING PRESERVE - INSUFFICIENT RELEASE	14	LENGTH LIMIT VIOLATION
2	SHOOTING PRESERVE - RECORDS VIOLATION	17	OVER LIMIT/UNLAWFUL POSSESSION FISH
0	SMALL GAME - CLOSED SEASON	0	PROHIBITED BAIT
1	SMALL GAME - HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	0	SPEARING/ARCHERY WITHOUT PERMIT
1	SMALL GAME - NO LICENSE	0	TOO MANY LINES
10	SMALL GAME - OVERLIMIT	0	UNATTENDED LINES
7	SMALL GAME - RIGHT OF WAY RESTRICTION	1	UNLAWFUL FISHING EQUIPMENT
4	SMALL GAME - TRANSPORT WITHOUT PLUMAGE	0	WATERS CLOSED TO TAKING OF BAIT
		52	

REGION 2 VIOLATION STATISTICS

REGION 2 2012 VIOLATION STATISTICS
CONTINUED

Furbearer Violations		Miscellaneous Violations	
1	BOBCAT - CLOSED SEASON	7	ALCOHOL - OPEN CONTAINER
0	EXPOSED BAIT PROHIBITED	7	ALCOHOL - POSSESSION BY MINOR
0	FURBEARER - CLOSED SEASON	0	ASSAULT - SIMPLE (DOMESTIC)
0	FURBEARER - NO LICENSE	0	CARELESS DRIVING
0	FURBEARER - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	0	DISORDERLY CONDUCT
1	PROHIBITED TRAPPING METHODS	0	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE-FELONY
4	TRAP ROBBING	0	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE-MISDEMEANOR
0	TRAP WITHIN 660 FT OF DWELLING/LIVESTOCK	0	ELUDING
6		0	ENTER BOUNDARY WATER WITHOUT SD LICENSE
		0	EXHIBITION DRIVING
Watercraft Violations		3	HUNT/FISH/TRAP UNDER REVOCATION
1	BOAT IN SWIM / NO WAKE ZONE	0	IMPERSONATION TO DECEIVE OFFICER
2	CARELESS OPERATION OF BOAT	0	INGEST INTOXICANT OTHER THAN ALCOHOL
2	FAILURE TO REPORT BOAT ACCIDENT	0	INTERFERENCE WITH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION
0	MUFFLER REQUIRED	2	INTERFERENCE WITH LAWFUL HUNTING
0	NO FIRE EXTINGUISHER	0	LICENSE - APPLY/PURCHASE WHEN INELIGIBLE
2	OPERATE BOAT WITHOUT LICENSE/NUMBER	0	LICENSE - FRAUD TO OBTAIN
2	OPERATE BOAT WITHOUT LIGHTS	0	LICENSE - MINIMUM RESIDENCY REQUIRED
3	OPERATE VESSEL UNDER INFLUENCE	3	LICENSE - NOT IN POSSESSION
7	PFD - INSUFFICIENT NUMBER	0	LITTERING FROM VEHICLE
2	PFD - NOT WEARING ON PERSONAL WATERCRAFT	5	LITTERING PROHIBITED
0	PWC - GREATER THAN NO WAKE WITHIN 150 FEET	1	OBSTRUCT POLICE
0	PWC - OPERATE WITHOUT LIGHTS	1	POSSESS LOADED FIREARM WHILE INTOXICATED
0	PWC - UNDERAGE OPERATION	2	POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
0	RECKLESS OPERATION OF BOAT	0	PROHIBITED FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM
1	WATER SKIING AFTER HOURS	0	RECKLESS DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM/BOW
2	WATER SKIING W/O OBSERVER OR MIRROR	0	RECKLESS DRIVING
24		0	SNOWMOBILE - NO VALID LICENSE
		0	TAXIDERMY - NO LICENSE
Public Land Violations		0	THEFT - PETTY
0	DESTRUCTION OR REMOVAL OF NATURAL FEATURES	0	TRESPASS - CRIMINAL
5	DRIVING OFF ROADS PROHIBITED	3	USE OR POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA
0	FIREWORKS - SELL/DISCHARGE	34	
0	LEAVING PROPERTY ON DEPARTMENT LAND		
2	LIMITATION ON TREE STANDS		
0	NONTOXIC SHOT AREAS FOR SMALL GAME		
0	OPERATE VEHICLE ON SCHOOL & PUBLIC LAND		
0	PROHIBITED USE OF METAL DETECTOR		
0	START OPEN FIRE IN BLACK HILLS		
2	UNAUTHORIZED FIRE/PUBLIC LAND		
0	UNAUTHORIZED LAND USE ON DEPARTMENT LAND		
9			

WILDLIFE DIVISION - ADMINISTRATIVE REGION 3
LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFF LISTING FOR 2012



Arden Petersen

Regional Supervisor

Marty Pennock

Conservation Officer Supervisor

Mark Smedsrud

Conservation Officer Supervisor

Conservation Officers

Todd Crownover	Bon Homme County
Jeff Grendler	Brookings County
Jared Hill	Minnehaha County
Brian Humphrey	Hutchinson and Turner Counties
Chris Kuntz	Beadle County
Evan Meyer	Miner and Sanborn Counties
Andy Petersen	Davison and Western Hanson Counties
Jeremy Rakowicz	Minnehaha County
Jeremy Roe	Minnehaha County
Sam Schelhaas	Yankton County
Tony Stokely	Clay and Southern Union Counties
Nate Stukel	Lincoln and Northern Union Counties
Cody Symens	Lake County
Matt Talbert	McCook and Eastern Hanson Counties
Shane VanBockern	Kingsbury County
Chad Williams	Moody County
Vacant	Aurora and Jerauld Counties

REGION 3 LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2012

BY MARTY PENNOCK AND MARK SMEDSRUD, CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISORS

In 2012, the Wildlife Conservation Officers of Region 3 continued to tenaciously work in the pursuit of criminals that stole opportunity and resources from the citizens of South Dakota. Our officers engaged in several special operations that included road checks and consolidated patrols at night that aided in this endeavor.

Our officers were involved in many cases that started outside of the 20 county area that comprises Region 3. Officers used their interviewing skills and their understanding of human dimensions to aid in solving these crimes. At the end of 2012, Region 3 was one officer short from being fully staffed. However, officers remained vigilant and adapted to cover the Region and provide customer support. Region 3 would like to recognize the efforts of Officer Shawn Wichmann, who worked for seven years as a South Dakota Wildlife Conservation Officer, but left our ranks to continue on with our profession in another state. We wish him and his family the very best and thank him for his service to South Dakota. We welcomed Officer Nate Stukel to our Region in 2012, as he took on his first assignment in the Canton duty station.



Border Relations Aid in Catching Violators

A highlight of 2012 was the work that our officers conducted along the borders of Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska. With three adjacent states, our officers need to maintain strong relations with not only staff in South Dakota, but also with personnel and officers in these other states. Border relations with these states is an important aspect of being able to solve wildlife crimes and conduct investigations, as many sportsmen come to South Dakota to take part in hunting, fishing, and trapping from these states. Our laws many times do not always merge with these states and being able to cut through the maze of differences is a strength that our experienced officers are able to do.



Conservation Officers hold a strong bond in assisting each other with doing commercial operation checks, investigations of over limits of game, fraud licensing and the pursuit of those with no license cases; just to name a few. An example of this involved one officer conducting a fraud license investigation that consisted of a person still using his university credentials after he had graduated from South Dakota a couple of years prior. This person had South Dakota resident licenses mailed to an associate in South Dakota while he

REGION 3 VIOLATION STATISTICS

was living and working in Iowa. The associate would, in turn, mail the licenses to his residence in Iowa. It took officers in both states to work as a team and investigate all the facts. With determination, this person was fined \$384.00 and was revoked to hunt in South Dakota for a period of one year.

Another example of how our officers work together is in search and rescue/recovery operations. This past summer, our officers were called to assist in a possible drowning on the Missouri River. South Dakota Conservation Officers worked alongside Nebraska Conservation Officers to locate the missing person. The officers were working in an area with strong currents and many submerged hazards. The officers located the missing person using side scan imaging sonar and used their boats and knowledge of the river to place divers on the scene.

Several officers were involved in a case where our officers worked to ensure they caught two subjects who had a history of violating South Dakota hunting laws for nearly two decades. The case involved two Minnesota non-resident bow hunters who entered into South Dakota and illegally killed a large white-tailed buck 3 1/2 miles into South Dakota. Within only minutes this deer was unlawfully killed, loaded into a Minnesota vehicle and transported back across state lines into Minnesota. The ensuing pursuit of the two began as one officer responded to the Turn In Poachers report, but ended with a joint investigation between the Game, Fish and Parks and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources that involved four different law enforcement agencies in two states. Conservation Officers from both states were able to easily work together during this investigation to attain two separate Minnesota search warrants and carried out those search warrants at three separate locations on one night. Through experience, persistence and excellent law enforcement skills, the officers involved were able to locate the subjects, interview them and attain admissions of guilt and information relevant to the investigation.

Officers in both states involved in this case have a good relationship and were able to communicate well with each other to articulate the laws, regulations and restrictions from their respective states and agencies. The hard work and consolidated effort from all law enforcement agencies combined to put together a solid case that included violations of trespassing, chasing big game with a motor vehicle, shooting big game from the road right of way, shooting big game from a motor vehicle (with a bow), failure to tag big game, unlawful possession of big game and unlawful transportation of big game.

The outcome of the case in South Dakota ended with both subjects jointly paying \$1,200.00; they received 30 days jail (suspended) and hunting revocation for one year in South Dakota. Charges are still pending in Minnesota as well as \$1,000.00 in civil damages in South Dakota.

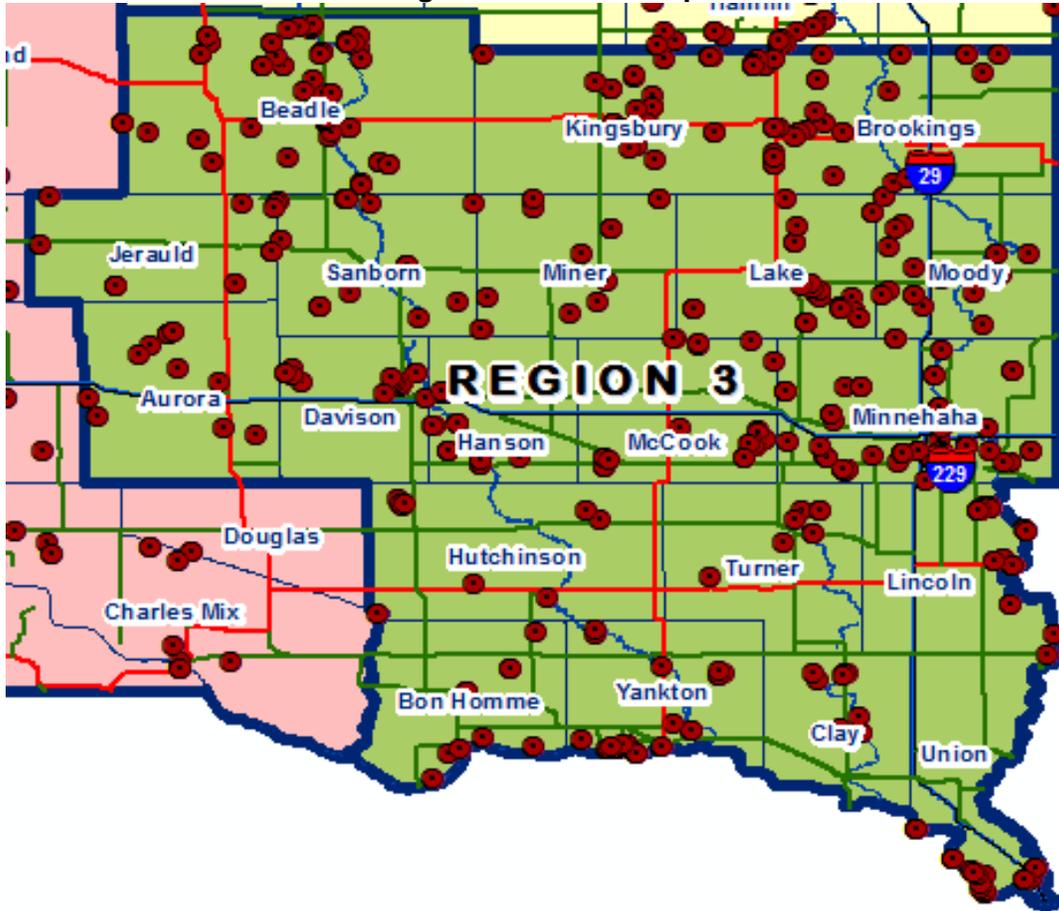


Conservation Officer Jeremy Rakowicz and Minnesota DNR Officer Gary Nordseth with a deer that was illegally killed in SD with a MN archery license.

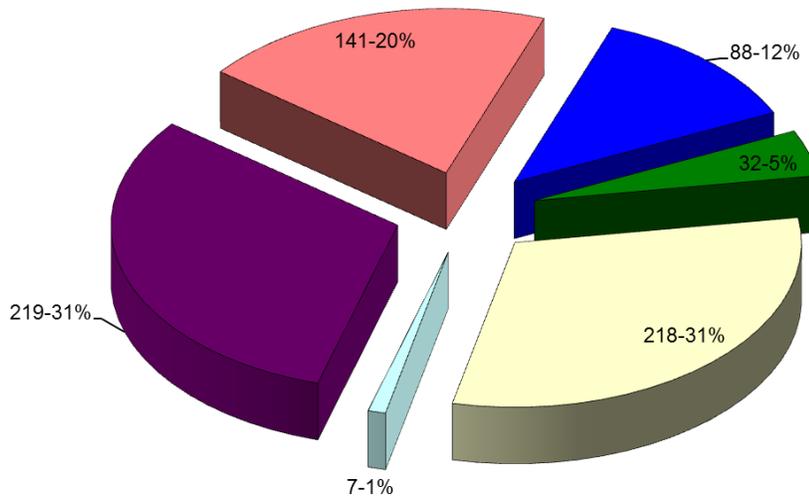
We are proud of our history within Region 3 and continue to strive to be a reliable and professional law enforcement resource for this State.

REGION 3 VIOLATION STATISTICS

Region 3 Violation Map



Region 3 2012 Violations By Category



■ Watercraft Violations	■ Public Land Violations	□ Fishing Violations
□ Furbearer Violations	■ Hunting Violations	■ Miscellaneous Violations

REGION 3 VIOLATION STATISTICS

REGION 3 2012 VIOLATION STATISTICS

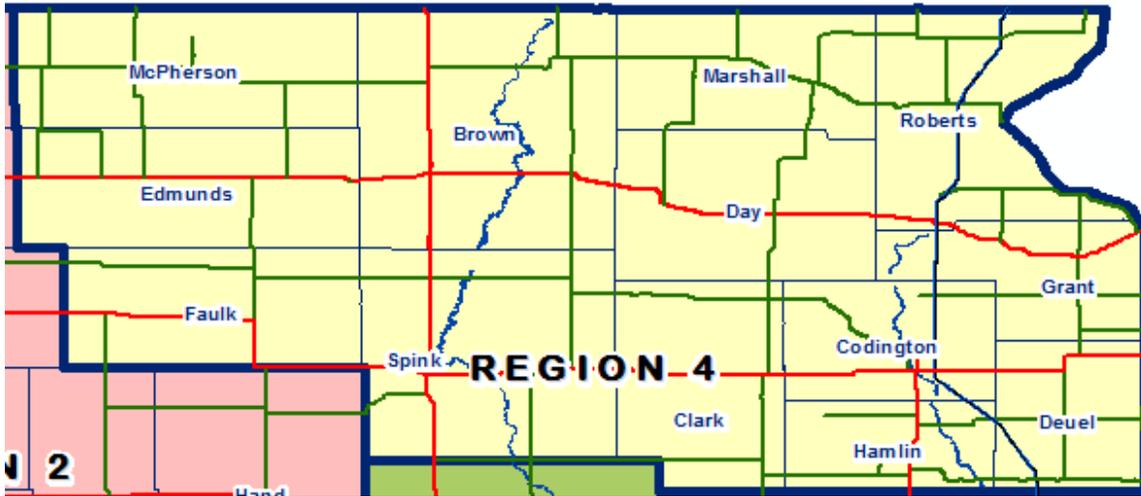
Hunting Violations			
0	ACCOMPANIED BY ARMED UNLICENSED PERSON	0	SMALL GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
1	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT PROHIBITED AFTER 10PM	1	SMALL GAME - WRONG UNIT
65	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT/NIGHT VISION	12	TRESPASS (KNOWING)
11	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT/NIGHT VISION LANDOWNER	26	TRESPASS (UNKNOWING)
4	BIG GAME - CLOSED SEASON	0	TURKEY - ILLEGAL METHOD
5	BIG GAME - FAILURE TO TAG	1	TURKEY - OVERLIMIT
12	BIG GAME - HUNTING ON HIGHWAY	0	UNPROTECTED GAME - NO LICENSE
0	BIG GAME - IMPROPER TAGGING	0	USE OF RIFLES/HANDGUNS TO HUNT BIRDS
2	BIG GAME - METHODS PROHIBITED	5	USE OF VEHICLE/BOAT TO DISTURB OR CHASE
2	BIG GAME - NO FLUORESCENT ORANGE	1	WANTON WASTE OF GAME
10	BIG GAME - NO LICENSE	0	WATERFOWL - CLOSED SEASON
0	BIG GAME - TRANSPORT WITHOUT SEX/SPECIES ID	0	WATERFOWL - HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS
8	BIG GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	4	WATERFOWL - LEAD SHOT
9	BIG GAME - USE OF SALT LICK TO ATTRACT	1	WATERFOWL - NO FEDERAL STAMP
2	BIG GAME - WRONG UNIT	5	WATERFOWL - NO LICENSE
0	CARRY UNCASSED OR LOADED FIREARM ON ATV	3	WATERFOWL - OVERLIMIT
0	DISTURBING WILDLIFE PROHIBITED	0	WATERFOWL - RIGHT OF WAY RESTRICTION
0	DOVE HUNTING WITHIN 50 YDS OF HIGHWAY	3	WATERFOWL - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
1	GUN PROTRUDING FROM VEHICLE	0	WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FACILITY - RECORDS
1	HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	219	
5	HUNT WITHIN 660 FT OF DWELLING/LIVESTOCK		
0	HUNTING NO ADULT SUPERVISION		Fishing Violations
0	HUNTING WITHIN A REFUGE	1	FAILURE TO EMPTY BAIT TRAPS
1	MINOR HUNTING DOVES WITHOUT ADULT	0	FISHING DURING CLOSED SEASON
0	NO PLUG IN GUN	170	FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE
1	PROTECTED GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	1	ILLEGAL TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF FISH
7	SHOOTING FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	0	LABELING/ACCESS TO ICE HOUSE
0	SHOOTING PRESERVE - INSUFFICIENT RELEASE	6	LENGTH LIMIT VIOLATION
0	SHOOTING PRESERVE - RECORDS VIOLATION	20	OVER LIMIT/UNLAWFUL POSSESSION FISH
2	SMALL GAME - CLOSED SEASON	0	PROHIBITED BAIT
2	SMALL GAME - HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	1	SPEARING/ARCHERY WITHOUT PERMIT
2	SMALL GAME - NO LICENSE	8	TOO MANY LINES
0	SMALL GAME - OVERLIMIT	1	UNATTENDED LINES
2	SMALL GAME - RIGHT OF WAY RESTRICTION	10	UNLAWFUL FISHING EQUIPMENT
2	SMALL GAME - TRANSPORT WITHOUT PLUMAGE	0	WATERS CLOSED TO TAKING OF BAIT
		218	

REGION 3 VIOLATION STATISTICS

**REGION 3 2012 VIOLATION STATISTICS
CONTINUED**

Furbearer Violations		Miscellaneous Violations	
1	BOBCAT - CLOSED SEASON	16	ALCOHOL - OPEN CONTAINER
0	EXPOSED BAIT PROHIBITED	24	ALCOHOL - POSSESSION BY MINOR
0	FURBEARER - CLOSED SEASON	0	ASSAULT - SIMPLE (DOMESTIC)
3	FURBEARER - NO LICENSE	0	CARELESS DRIVING
0	FURBEARER - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	2	DISORDERLY CONDUCT
1	PROHIBITED TRAPPING METHODS	2	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE-FELONY
1	TRAP ROBBING	12	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE-MISDEMEANOR
1	TRAP WITHIN 660 FT OF DWELLING/LIVESTOCK	0	ELUDING
7		1	ENTER BOUNDARY WATER WITHOUT SD LICENSE
		0	EXHIBITION DRIVING
Watercraft Violations		9	HUNT/FISH/TRAP UNDER REVOCATION
5	BOAT IN SWIM / NO WAKE ZONE	2	IMPERSONATION TO DECEIVE OFFICER
7	CARELESS OPERATION OF BOAT	7	INGEST INTOXICANT OTHER THAN ALCOHOL
0	FAILURE TO REPORT BOAT ACCIDENT	0	INTERFERENCE WITH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION
1	MUFFLER REQUIRED	0	INTERFERENCE WITH LAWFUL HUNTING
1	NO FIRE EXTINGUISHER	3	LICENSE - APPLY/PURCHASE WHEN INELIGIBLE
6	OPERATE BOAT WITHOUT LICENSE/NUMBER	7	LICENSE - FRAUD TO OBTAIN
1	OPERATE BOAT WITHOUT LIGHTS	2	LICENSE - MINIMUM RESIDENCY REQUIRED
4	OPERATE VESSEL UNDER INFLUENCE	4	LICENSE - NOT IN POSSESSION
53	PFD - INSUFFICIENT NUMBER	1	LITTERING FROM VEHICLE
2	PFD - NOT WEARING ON PERSONAL WATERCRAFT	12	LITTERING PROHIBITED
2	PWC - GREATER THAN NO WAKE WITHIN 150 FEET	0	OBSTRUCT POLICE
0	PWC - OPERATE WITHOUT LIGHTS	4	POSSESS LOADED FIREARM WHILE INTOXICATED
0	PWC - UNDERAGE OPERATION	12	POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
1	RECKLESS OPERATION OF BOAT	0	PROHIBITED FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM
0	WATER SKIING AFTER HOURS	0	RECKLESS DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM/BOW
5	WATER SKIING W/O OBSERVER OR MIRROR	2	RECKLESS DRIVING
88		0	SNOWMOBILE - NO VALID LICENSE
		1	TAXIDERMY - NO LICENSE
Public Land Violations		1	THEFT - PETTY
2	DESTRUCTION OR REMOVAL OF NATURAL FEATURES	1	TRESPASS - CRIMINAL
9	DRIVING OFF ROADS PROHIBITED	16	USE OR POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA
1	FIREWORKS - SELL/DISCHARGE	141	
0	LEAVING PROPERTY ON DEPARTMENT LAND		
2	LIMITATION ON TREE STANDS		
15	NONTOXIC SHOT AREAS FOR SMALL GAME		
0	OPERATE VEHICLE ON SCHOOL & PUBLIC LAND		
1	PROHIBITED USE OF METAL DETECTOR		
1	START OPEN FIRE IN BLACK HILLS		
1	UNAUTHORIZED FIRE/PUBLIC LAND		
0	UNAUTHORIZED LAND USE ON DEPARTMENT LAND		
32			

WILDLIFE DIVISION - ADMINISTRATIVE REGION 4
LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFF LISTING FOR 2012



Kraig Haase
Conservation Officer Supervisor
Mike Klosowski
Conservation Officer Supervisor

Conservation Officers

Tait Anderson	Codington County
Adam Behnke	Deuel County
Nick Cochran	Brown County
Casey Dowler	Marshall County
Joe Galbraith	Edmunds and McPherson Counties
Kyle Lenzner	Clark County
Bob Losco	Day County
Tim McCurdy	Brown County
Bryce McVicker	Codington County
Jamie Pekelder	Grant County
Dean Shultz	Roberts County
Blake Yonke	Day County
Vacant	Faulk and Spink Counties
Vacant	Hamlin County

REGION 4 LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2012

BY KRAIG HAASE AND MIKE KLOSOWSKI, CONSERVATION OFFICER SUPERVISORS

Region 4 is made up of the 13 counties in the northeast corner of the state. Fully staffed, there are 14 Conservation Officers and two Conservation Officer Supervisors in the region. Resources are abundant, keeping officers busy year-round monitoring hunting, fishing, trapping and boating activity.

Region 4 has become one of the youngest regions in the state, adding four new officers in 2012. For many years, officers rarely left until they retired. 2011 ended with four vacant stations, two in Watertown, and one each in Webster and Redfield. In January 2012, we were happy to add three new officers, leaving only the Redfield duty station vacant. Tait Anderson and Bryce McVicker were stationed in Watertown and Blake Yonke in Webster. Jeff Lautenslager resigned from the Clark district to continue his career in Wisconsin and Kyle Lenzner was assigned to Clark.

South Dakota is a state of extremes and 2012 was no exception. A mild winter was a welcomed reprieve for wildlife after enduring two harsh winters in a row. Although the warm temperatures are nice, it does bring certain complications to normal winter activities. The previous two winters limited ice fishing due to heavy snows, making travel on the ice difficult. If you were going to ice fish and be mobile, you needed a tracked vehicle. The opposite was true in 2012, where the warm temperatures prevented lakes from freezing over completely in many areas and poor ice conditions elsewhere. Officers responded to several vehicles that fell through the ice and two separate drownings.

Spring muskrat trapping continued to be just as busy as the previous year. High fur prices, combined with a high muskrat population, enticed many trappers to the field. Trapping violations and trap theft reports were a high priority for officers. Unfortunately, extreme drought by the end of summer eliminated many cattail sloughs and the muskrat population crashed. The fall muskrat season received very little participation.

The summer months provide great opportunities for lake recreation and the northeast has no shortage of lakes. Officers spend the majority of their summer law enforcement focus on checking boaters and fishermen. Several lakes are highly developed recreational destinations and others are newly flooded waters with fantastic fishing.

Officers transition into the hunting seasons in mid-August when the Canada Goose August Management Take begins. High populations of geese provided excellent opportunities for waterfowl enthusiasts. Due to the extreme winters of 2010 and 2011, pheasant and deer numbers were lower than past years. Despite the reduced numbers, hunter compliance checks and investigation numbers were high.

Conservation Officers also spend considerable time on private land programs, hunter education, public 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 wildlife. Conservation Officers are expected to complete local news articles and participate in radio programs. Throughout the region there are four regular weekly radio programs and several guest appearances are made on other programs. Step Outside programs developed by the Conservation Officers have been a huge success and remain a high priority.

Conservation Officers are called upon to be the face of the department. The public expects them to be experts on anything related to GF&P and our officers do an excellent job keeping up to date. They must know everything from all the hunting and fishing regulations to all the private lands programs available.

Trapping Makes a Comeback in a Big Way Thanks to the Muskrat

Record fur prices and warm spring temperatures fueled ideal conditions for trappers new and old to take to the sloughs of Region 4. Trappers reported catching thousands of muskrats and made some extra money while doing so. Float style traps have made trapping muskrats in the spring easy and enticing to many novice trappers. Trapping conditions are best when frozen sloughs give way to open water. This happened earlier than normal in 2012, extending the spring trapping conditions.

The high number of spring trappers brought forth a very heavy workload for Region 4 officers. Some of the violations observed were failure to check traps, fur and trap theft, trespassing and resident license fraud. Trapping violations often take an incredible amount of time to investigate, especially when someone is fraudulently obtaining a resident trapping license. With the limited non-resident trapping opportunity, officers observed a wave of non-residents illegally obtaining resident trapping privileges. Officers have investigated a high number of cases, some of which are still ongoing to this day.

Conservation Officer Nick Cochran worked on a case that involved some illegal muskrat trapping in the spring of 2011 and 2012 in Brown County. Officer Cochran was able to prove that the trapper was not checking his traps within the 48 hour trap check period. Officer Cochran also discovered, through the investigation, that the trapper was trapping muskrats during the closed season. Officer Cochran issued the trapper two citations for trapping muskrats during the closed season and 74 counts of prohibited trapping methods (trap check violation). In the end, the trapper was found guilty of six counts of prohibited trapping methods and paid a fine of \$4,000.00.



Road Checks Have Proven to be a Useful Tool in Wildlife Law Enforcement

Region 4 stepped up their game and fish road check efforts this past year. Often times, poachers have thought they succeeded in their illegal endeavors, only to find out they have chosen a route home that includes a game check station. Game and fish road checks were conducted in Codington, Roberts, Deuel, and Marshall Counties this past year.

Often times, hunters and 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. A number of contacts, inspections, and cases were made via road checks in 2012. Contacts are made with a broad range of sportsmen including non-residents passing through with big game, waterfowl hunters, pheasant hunters and local fishermen.

REGION 4 VIOLATION STATISTICS

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 Lacey Act and migratory bird violations. Cases made from road checks in 2012 ranged from illegally transporting small game to a person who was cited for 22 pheasants and sharp-tailed grouse over the limit.

Fishing Activity and Success Soars in 2012

In years past, high runoff and heavy rains 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. Bitter Lake was the shining star this last summer. With a daily limit of four walleye and a world class perch fishery, anglers made this their favorite fishing hole. Other anglers were able to experience a high level of success elsewhere.

Boating safety remained a high priority in Region 4 during the busy summer boating season. Officers participated in the nationwide Operation Dry Water, aimed at reducing intoxicated boaters recreating on area lakes during the peak of the summer. Several officers would work together to contact as many boats as possible and conduct safety inspections. The most common violations consisted of no throwable personal floatation device (PFD), insufficient PFDs and boating under the influence.

Youth Hunts

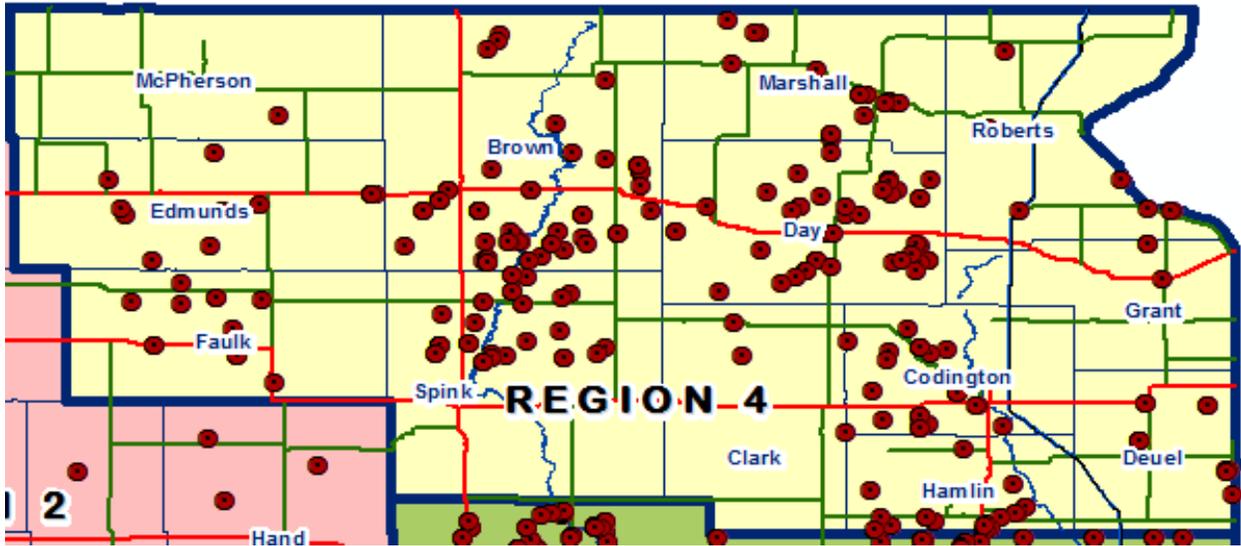
Casey Dowler, along other with Region 4 officers, put on a youth waterfowl hunting camp in Marshall County. The youth duck camp was a two-day event which started the day before youth waterfowl opener, followed by an opening day hunt. The first day of the camp, youth were able to learn about decoy placement, 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. Many youth were able to harvest their first duck ever. The smiling faces at the end of the day said it all.



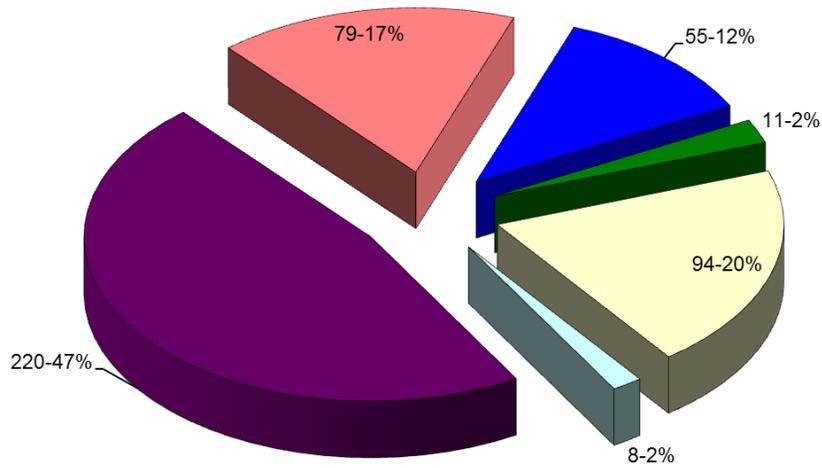
Brown County Conservation Officer Tim McCurdy has established a partnership with a Faulk County landowner to allow access for youth deer hunts to take place on his property in Faulk County. Again, youth learned about tactics, safety and marksmanship. Several youth hunters were able to harvest deer and many ideas have been discussed to make next year's hunt even better.

REGION 4 VIOLATION STATISTICS

Region 4 Violation Map



Region 4 2012 Violations By Category



■ Watercraft Violations	■ Public Land Violations	□ Fishing Violations
□ Furbearer Violations	■ Hunting Violations	■ Miscellaneous Violations

REGION 4 VIOLATION STATISTICS

REGION 4 2012 VIOLATION STATISTICS

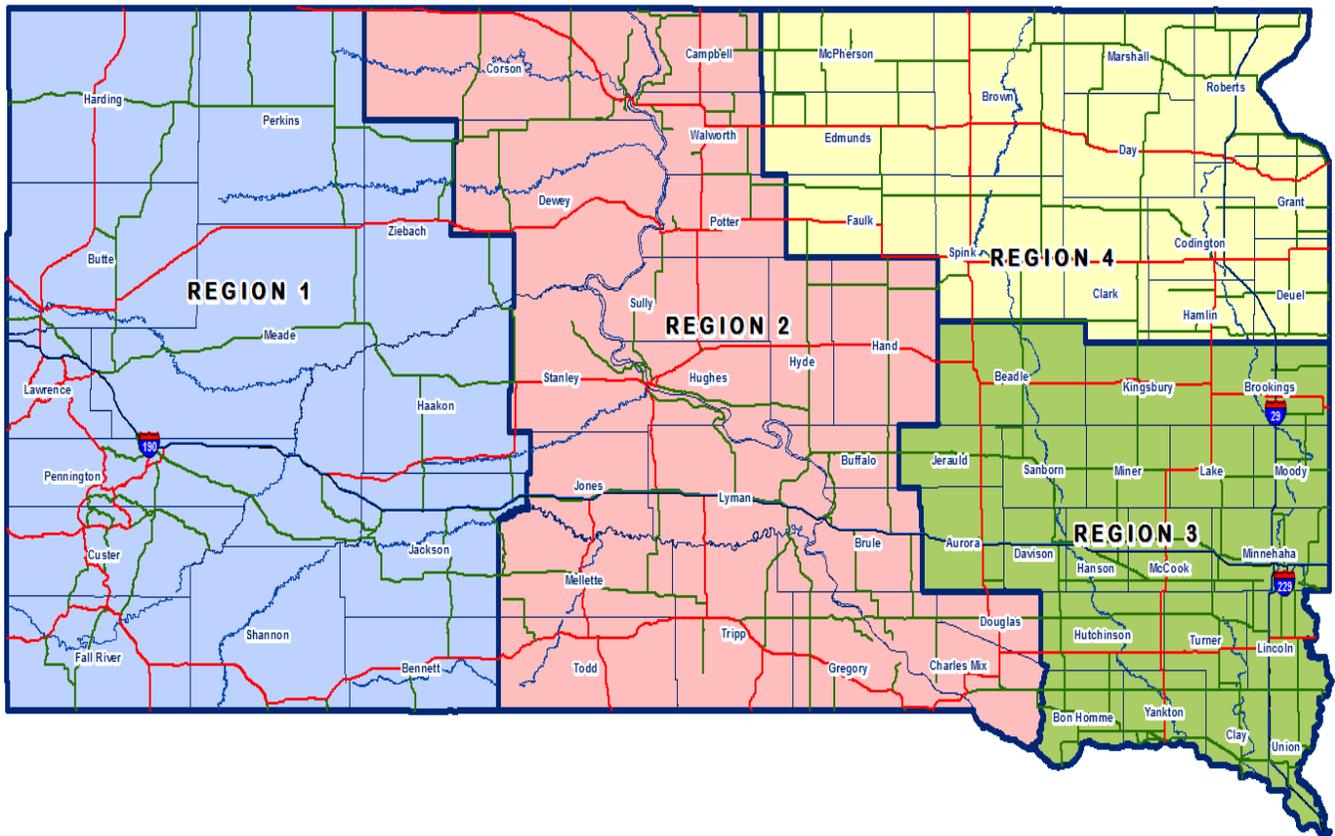
Hunting Violations			
0	ACCOMPANIED BY ARMED UNLICENSED PERSON	6	SMALL GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
9	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT PROHIBITED AFTER 10PM	0	SMALL GAME - WRONG UNIT
27	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT/NIGHT VISION	17	TRESPASS (KNOWING)
4	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT/NIGHT VISION LANDOWNER	40	TRESPASS (UNKNOWING)
2	BIG GAME - CLOSED SEASON	0	TURKEY - ILLEGAL METHOD
0	BIG GAME - FAILURE TO TAG	1	TURKEY - OVERLIMIT
20	BIG GAME - HUNTING ON HIGHWAY	1	UNPROTECTED GAME - NO LICENSE
1	BIG GAME - IMPROPER TAGGING	4	USE OF RIFLES/HANDGUNS TO HUNT BIRDS
1	BIG GAME - METHODS PROHIBITED	2	USE OF VEHICLE/BOAT TO DISTURB OR CHASE
1	BIG GAME - NO FLUORESCENT ORANGE	2	WANTON WASTE OF GAME
1	BIG GAME - NO LICENSE	4	WATERFOWL - CLOSED SEASON
0	BIG GAME - TRANSPORT WITHOUT SEX/SPECIES ID	3	WATERFOWL - HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS
2	BIG GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	1	WATERFOWL - LEAD SHOT
0	BIG GAME - USE OF SALT LICK TO ATTRACT	4	WATERFOWL - NO FEDERAL STAMP
4	BIG GAME - WRONG UNIT	9	WATERFOWL - NO LICENSE
0	CARRY UNCASSED OR LOADED FIREARM ON ATV	0	WATERFOWL - OVERLIMIT
0	DISTURBING WILDLIFE PROHIBITED	0	WATERFOWL - RIGHT OF WAY RESTRICTION
2	DOVE HUNTING WITHIN 50 YDS OF HIGHWAY	0	WATERFOWL - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
1	GUN PROTRUDING FROM VEHICLE	1	WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FACILITY - RECORDS
6	HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	220	
6	HUNT WITHIN 660 FT OF DWELLING/LIVESTOCK		
0	HUNTING NO ADULT SUPERVISION		Fishing Violations
0	HUNTING WITHIN A REFUGE	0	FAILURE TO EMPTY BAIT TRAPS
0	MINOR HUNTING DOVES WITHOUT ADULT	3	FISHING DURING CLOSED SEASON
8	NO PLUG IN GUN	44	FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE
0	PROTECTED GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	0	ILLEGAL TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF FISH
2	SHOOTING FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	1	LABELING/ACCESS TO ICE HOUSE
0	SHOOTING PRESERVE - INSUFFICIENT RELEASE	10	LENGTH LIMIT VIOLATION
0	SHOOTING PRESERVE - RECORDS VIOLATION	31	OVER LIMIT/UNLAWFUL POSSESSION FISH
3	SMALL GAME - CLOSED SEASON	1	PROHIBITED BAIT
11	SMALL GAME - HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	0	SPEARING/ARCHERY WITHOUT PERMIT
2	SMALL GAME - NO LICENSE	1	TOO MANY LINES
1	SMALL GAME - OVERLIMIT	2	UNATTENDED LINES
3	SMALL GAME - RIGHT OF WAY RESTRICTION	0	UNLAWFUL FISHING EQUIPMENT
8	SMALL GAME - TRANSPORT WITHOUT PLUMAGE	1	WATERS CLOSED TO TAKING OF BAIT
		94	

REGION 4 VIOLATION STATISTICS

REGION 4 2012 VIOLATION STATISTICS
CONTINUED

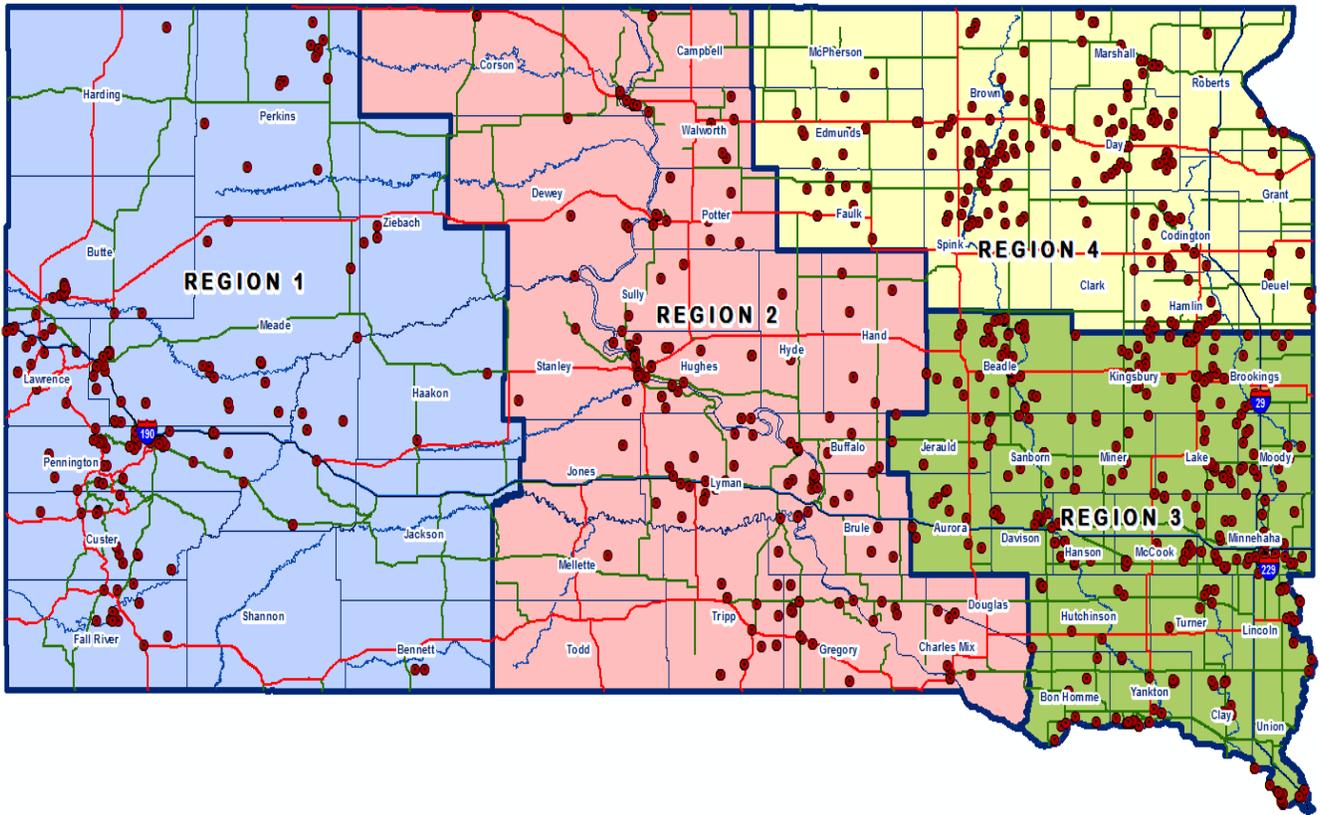
Furbearer Violations		Miscellaneous Violations	
0	BOBCAT - CLOSED SEASON	3	ALCOHOL - OPEN CONTAINER
0	EXPOSED BAIT PROHIBITED	0	ALCOHOL - POSSESSION BY MINOR
2	FURBEARER - CLOSED SEASON	0	ASSAULT - SIMPLE (DOMESTIC)
1	FURBEARER - NO LICENSE	1	CARELESS DRIVING
1	FURBEARER - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	3	DISORDERLY CONDUCT
2	PROHIBITED TRAPPING METHODS	0	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE-FELONY
2	TRAP ROBBING	1	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE-MISDEMEANOR
0	TRAP WITHIN 660 FT OF DWELLING/LIVESTOCK	2	ELUDING
8		0	ENTER BOUNDARY WATER WITHOUT SD LICENSE
		0	EXHIBITION DRIVING
Watercraft Violations		4	HUNT/FISH/TRAP UNDER REVOCATION
1	BOAT IN SWIM / NO WAKE ZONE	0	IMPERSONATION TO DECEIVE OFFICER
1	CARELESS OPERATION OF BOAT	14	INGEST INTOXICANT OTHER THAN ALCOHOL
0	FAILURE TO REPORT BOAT ACCIDENT	0	INTERFERENCE WITH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION
0	MUFFLER REQUIRED	0	INTERFERENCE WITH LAWFUL HUNTING
0	NO FIRE EXTINGUISHER	0	LICENSE - APPLY/PURCHASE WHEN INELIGIBLE
3	OPERATE BOAT WITHOUT LICENSE/NUMBER	8	LICENSE - FRAUD TO OBTAIN
2	OPERATE BOAT WITHOUT LIGHTS	0	LICENSE - MINIMUM RESIDENCY REQUIRED
9	OPERATE VESSEL UNDER INFLUENCE	1	LICENSE - NOT IN POSSESSION
31	PFD - INSUFFICIENT NUMBER	0	LITTERING FROM VEHICLE
0	PFD - NOT WEARING ON PERSONAL WATERCRAFT	8	LITTERING PROHIBITED
1	PWC - GREATER THAN NO WAKE WITHIN 150 FEET	1	OBSTRUCT POLICE
2	PWC - OPERATE WITHOUT LIGHTS	1	POSSESS LOADED FIREARM WHILE INTOXICATED
2	PWC - UNDERAGE OPERATION	12	POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
2	RECKLESS OPERATION OF BOAT	1	PROHIBITED FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM
0	WATER SKIING AFTER HOURS	1	RECKLESS DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM/BOW
1	WATER SKIING W/O OBSERVER OR MIRROR	1	RECKLESS DRIVING
55		4	SNOWMOBILE - NO VALID LICENSE
		2	TAXIDERMY - NO LICENSE
Public Land Violations		0	THEFT - PETTY
0	DESTRUCTION OR REMOVAL OF NATURAL FEATURES	0	TRESPASS - CRIMINAL
6	DRIVING OFF ROADS PROHIBITED	11	USE OR POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA
0	FIREWORKS - SELL/DISCHARGE	79	
0	LEAVING PROPERTY ON DEPARTMENT LAND		
1	LIMITATION ON TREE STANDS		
0	NONTOXIC SHOT AREAS FOR SMALL GAME		
4	OPERATE VEHICLE ON SCHOOL & PUBLIC LAND		
0	PROHIBITED USE OF METAL DETECTOR		
0	START OPEN FIRE IN BLACK HILLS		
0	UNAUTHORIZED FIRE/PUBLIC LAND		
0	UNAUTHORIZED LAND USE ON DEPARTMENT LAND		
11			

2012 STATEWIDE INFORMATION

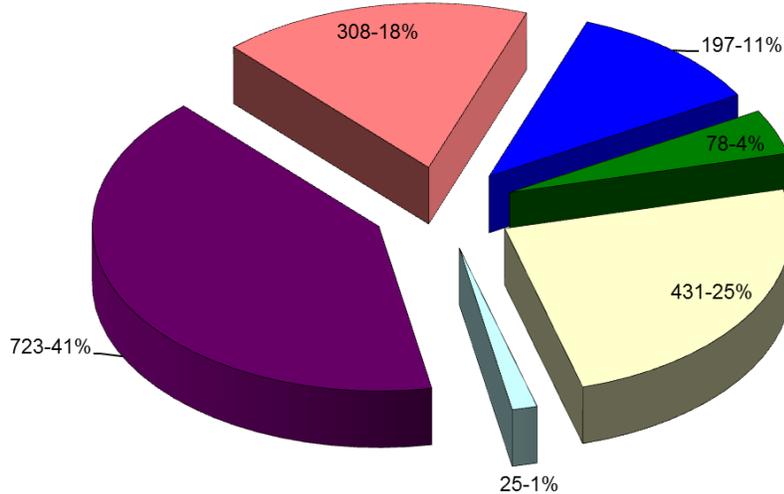


STATEWIDE VIOLATION/CONTACT STATISTICS

Statewide Violation Map



Statewide 2012 Violations By Category



■ Watercraft Violations	■ Public Land Violations	□ Fishing Violations
□ Furbearer Violations	■ Hunting Violations	■ Miscellaneous Violations

STATEWIDE VIOLATION/CONTACT STATISTICS

2012 STATEWIDE VIOLATION STATISTICS

Hunting Violations			
1	ACCOMPANIED BY UNLICENSED PERSON	25	SMALL GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
17	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT PROHIBITED AFTER 10PM	1	SMALL GAME - WRONG UNIT
98	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT/NIGHT VISION	54	TRESPASS (KNOWING)
16	ARTIFICIAL LIGHT/NIGHT VISION LANDOWNER	123	TRESPASS (UNKNOWING)
6	BIG GAME - CLOSED SEASON	1	TURKEY - ILLEGAL METHOD
14	BIG GAME - FAILURE TO TAG	3	TURKEY - OVERLIMIT
48	BIG GAME - HUNTING ON HIGHWAY	2	UNPROTECTED GAME - NO LICENSE
3	BIG GAME - IMPROPER TAGGING	4	USE OF RIFLES/HANDGUNS TO HUNT BIRDS
4	BIG GAME - METHODS PROHIBITED	12	USE OF VEHICLE/BOAT TO DISTURB OR CHASE
8	BIG GAME - NO FLUORESCENT ORANGE	7	WANTON WASTE OF GAME
23	BIG GAME - NO LICENSE	5	WATERFOWL - CLOSED SEASON
1	BIG GAME - TRANSPORT WITHOUT SEX/SPECIES ID	5	WATERFOWL - HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS
12	BIG GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	5	WATERFOWL - LEAD SHOT
11	BIG GAME - USE OF SALT LICK TO ATTRACT	8	WATERFOWL - NO FEDERAL STAMP
24	BIG GAME - WRONG UNIT	17	WATERFOWL - NO LICENSE
12	CARRY UNCASSED OR LOADED FIREARM ON ATV	3	WATERFOWL - OVERLIMIT
2	DISTURBING WILDLIFE PROHIBITED	1	WATERFOWL - RIGHT OF WAY RESTRICTION
2	DOVE HUNTING 50 YDS FROM HIGHWAY	5	WATERFOWL - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
6	GUN PROTRUDING FROM VEHICLE	1	WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FACILITY - RECORDS
9	HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	723	
16	HUNT WITHIN 660 FT OF DWELLING/LIVESTOCK		
1	HUNTING NO ADULT SUPERVISION		
2	HUNTING WITHIN A REFUGE		
1	MINOR HUNTING DOVES WITHOUT ADULT		
12	NO PLUG IN GUN	265	
5	PROTECTED GAME - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	7	
18	SHOOTING FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	2	
1	SHOOTING PRESERVE - INSUFFICIENT RELEASE	49	
2	SHOOTING PRESERVE - RECORDS VIOLATION	72	
6	SMALL GAME - CLOSED SEASON	2	
14	SMALL GAME - HUNT BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	1	
5	SMALL GAME - NO LICENSE	12	
13	SMALL GAME - OVERLIMIT	5	
12	SMALL GAME - RIGHT OF WAY RESTRICTION	11	
16	SMALL GAME - TRANSPORT WITHOUT PLUMAGE	1	
		431	

STATEWIDE VIOLATION/CONTACT STATISTICS

2012 STATEWIDE VIOLATION STATISTICS**CONTINUED**

Furbearer Violations		Miscellaneous Violations	
3	BOBCAT - CLOSED SEASON	29	ALCOHOL - OPEN CONTAINER
1	EXPOSED BAIT PROHIBITED	46	ALCOHOL - POSSESSION BY MINOR
2	FURBEARER - CLOSED SEASON	1	ASSAULT - SIMPLE (DOMESTIC)
5	FURBEARER - NO LICENSE	1	CARELESS DRIVING
2	FURBEARER - UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	5	DISORDERLY CONDUCT
4	PROHIBITED TRAPPING METHODS	2	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE-FELONY
7	TRAP ROBBERING	18	DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE-MISDEMEANOR
1	TRAP WITHIN 660 FT OF DWELLING/LIVESTOCK	2	ELUDING
25		1	ENTER BOUNDARY WATER WITHOUT SD LICENSE
		2	EXHIBITION DRIVING
Watercraft Violations		20	HUNT/FISH/TRAP UNDER REVOCATION
9	BOAT IN SWIM / NO WAKE ZONE	2	IMPERSONATION TO DECEIVE OFFICER
13	CARELESS OPERATION OF BOAT	26	INGEST INTOXICANT OTHER THAN ALCOHOL
2	FAILURE TO REPORT BOAT ACCIDENT	1	INTERFERENCE WITH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION
1	MUFFLER REQUIRED	3	INTERFERENCE WITH LAWFUL HUNTING
1	NO FIRE EXTINGUISHER	3	LICENSE - APPLY/PURCHASE WHEN INELIGIBLE
14	OPERATE BOAT WITHOUT LICENSE/NUMBER	15	LICENSE - FRAUD TO OBTAIN
5	OPERATE BOAT WITHOUT LIGHTS	2	LICENSE - MINIMUM RESIDENCY REQUIRED
22	OPERATE VESSEL UNDER INFLUENCE	9	LICENSE - NOT IN POSSESSION
102	PFD - INSUFFICIENT NUMBER	2	LITTERING FROM VEHICLE
6	PFD - NOT WEARING ON PERSONAL WATERCRAFT	26	LITTERING PROHIBITED
3	PWC - GREATER THAN NO WAKE WITHIN 150 FEET	2	OBSTRUCT POLICE
2	PWC - OPERATE WITHOUT LIGHTS	7	POSSESS LOADED FIREARM WHILE INTOXICATED
3	PWC - UNDERAGE OPERATION	31	POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
3	RECKLESS OPERATION OF BOAT	1	PROHIBITED FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM
1	WATER SKIING AFTER HOURS	1	RECKLESS DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM/BOW
10	WATER SKIING W/O OBSERVER OR MIRROR	3	RECKLESS DRIVING
197		4	SNOWMOBILE - NO VALID LICENSE
		3	TAXIDERMISTRY - NO LICENSE
Public Land Violations		1	THEFT - PETTY
4	DESTRUCTION OR REMOVAL OF NATURAL FEATURES	1	TRESPASS - CRIMINAL
22	DRIVING OFF ROADS PROHIBITED	38	USE OR POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA
3	FIREWORKS - SELL/DISCHARGE	308	
1	LEAVING PROPERTY ON DEPARTMENT LAND		
6	LIMITATION ON TREE STANDS		
23	NONTOXIC SHOT AREAS FOR SMALL GAME		
5	OPERATE VEHICLE ON SCHOOL & PUBLIC LAND		
1	PROHIBITED USE OF METAL DETECTOR		
3	START OPEN FIRE IN BLACK HILLS		
4	UNAUTHORIZED FIRE/PUBLIC LAND		
6	UNAUTHORIZED LAND USE ON DEPARTMENT LANDS		
78			

STATEWIDE VIOLATION/CONTACT STATISTICS

2012 STATEWIDE VIOLATION STATISTICS CONTINUED

VIOLATION TOTALS BY ACTIVITY	
Activity	
Hunting	723
Fishing	431
Furbearer	25
Watercraft	197
Public Land	78
Miscellaneous	308
Total	1,762

WRITTEN WARNINGS BY ACTIVITY	
Activity	
Hunting	424
Fishing	457
Furbearer	29
Watercraft	371
Public Land	16
Miscellaneous	38
Total	1,335

SENTENCING TOTALS	
FINES	
Fines assessed	\$146,479.66
Fines suspended	\$1,061.00
Actual fines assessed	\$145,418.66

COSTS	
Costs assessed	\$103,185.40
Costs suspended	\$192.00
Actual costs assessed	\$102,993.40
Actual fines and costs assessed	\$248,412.06

JAIL	
Jail time assessed – in days	4,874
Jail time suspended – in days	4,573
Actual jail time served – days	301

PROBATION	
Probation – in months	1035

REVOCATIONS	
Number of hunting revocations	277
Number of fishing revocations	296
Number of trapping revocations	18
Total number of revocations	591

STATEWIDE VIOLATION/CONTACT STATISTICS

2012 STATEWIDE VIOLATION STATISTICS
CONTINUED

CIVIL DAMAGES ASSESSED	
Big Game	\$34,000.00
Fish	\$700.00
Small Game/Waterfowl	\$2,700.00
Total	\$37,400.00

STATEWIDE CONTACT STATISTICS

FIELD CONTACT TOTALS	
Anglers – nonresident	6,088
Anglers – resident	28,053
Hunters – nonresident	7,308
Hunters – resident	14,492
Trappers – nonresident	5
Trappers – resident	680
Total	56,626

INSPECTION TOTALS	
Bait Dealers	134
Watercraft	7,364
Fur Dealers	46
Private Fish Hatchery	5
Private Shooting Preserve	478
Snowmobile	62
Taxidermist	234
Total	8,323

LANDOWNER ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE REQUESTS	
Shoot too close to dwellings/livestock (660')	134
Spotlight	167
Trespass	406
Miscellaneous	167
Total	874

LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES	
Activity	
HuntSAFE classes	185
Presentations to groups and civic organizations	315
Radio/TV/Newspaper articles	618
School programs	126
Total	1,244

BOATING ENFORCEMENT AND TRAINING

BY 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 South Dakota has to offer is a top priority during the summer months. In addition to the other job duties that exist, Conservation Officers spend countless hours training for boating enforcement work, conducting safety patrols, educating the public and taking part in special operations.

Officer Training

2012 marked the first year of statewide boating enforcement training efforts for our Conservation Officers. Four regionally based instructors, along with the Boating Law Administrator, conducted training across the state in the spring of the year to ready fellow Conservation Officers for the upcoming boating season. Topics ranging from basic boating law review to boating under the influence (BUI) intervention and arrest were covered during this period. The training was well received and efforts such as these will continue to take place in the coming years, better preparing Conservation Officers for the variety of situations they encounter on the water.



Conservation Officers conduct boating enforcement training on the water. Here, officers are conducting a compliance check and subsequent arrest of a subject for BUI.



It is critical that officers are exposed to many of the possible scenarios during training they might encounter in the field, including those involving a firearm.

Patrolling the Waters

Conservation Officers spend a majority of their boating enforcement time conducting patrols on their local waters. During these patrols, Conservation Officers conduct safety checks with other boaters to ensure compliance with state boating laws and regulations. Special attention is given to life saving equipment such as life jackets, throwable life saving devices and fire extinguishers as part of those safety checks. Conservation Officers also enforce fishing laws and regulations as part of their water patrol efforts. Compliance checks are conducted on the water much the same as they are in the field during the hunting seasons, checking for licenses and harvested fish.





Officer Sam Schelhaas conducts a compliance check on some local fishermen.

Boating Education

Currently, South Dakota has no mandatory boating education. However, that doesn't keep Conservation Officers from actively engaging the public in educational opportunities. In fact, Conservation Officers are often called upon to present boating-related topics to both youth and adult groups.



BOATING ENFORCEMENT AND TRAINING



Conservation Officers are often called upon to set up safety displays at public events and sport shows. **ABOVE:** A patrol boat and other boating safety equipment being displayed as part of a local outreach effort. **BELOW:** A life jacket display that is being manned by Officer Andy Petersen at the Cabela's store in Mitchell.





Educating our youth on boating safety is always a high priority. **ABOVE:** The department's PWC simulator is set up and drawing in a number of youth.

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 four summers nationwide is Operation Dry Water (ODW).

NEVER BOAT UNDER THE INFLUENCE!

OPERATION DRY WATER

June 22-24, 2012

YOUR BOATING BOATERS AT WORK

Presented in part with the Sport Fish Administration and Boating Trust funds administered by the U.S. Coast Guard

www.operationdrywater.org

BOATING ENFORCEMENT AND TRAINING

Operation Dry Water 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 most certainly a raised level of BUI awareness by the boating public.

2012 Operation Dry Water Stats – South Dakota									
Region	Officers	Hours	Vessels	Boaters	Citations	Warnings	BUI's	Highest BAC	Lakes
1	10	10	47	242	6	10	3	0.176	Pactola
2	16	19	143	556	10	27	2	0.089	Oahe/LFC/Sharpe
3	10	10	92	389	4	12	0	n/a	Brant/Madison
4	12	8	66	282	2	4	2	0.141	Poinsett/Pickerel
Total:	48	47	348	1469	22	53	7	0.176	

Summary

Boating enforcement and education will continue to be a major part of a Conservation Officer's job for the foreseeable future. With the increased emphasis on officer training and efforts in boating enforcement, our officers will be better equipped to serve the public and do their part in keeping South Dakota's water safe.



WILDLIFE AND BOATING LAW ENFORCEMENT
PICTORIAL INDEX

Big Game Enforcement..... 57
Waterfowl Enforcement..... 58
Fisheries Enforcement..... 59
Boating Enforcement 60
Public Relations..... 61
Firearms Training..... 62-63
Defensive Tactics Training..... 64



Numerous violations occurred in and around our National Parks in 2012. Violations included the transportation of loaded and uncased rifles, littering, and improper tagging. Two trophy mule deer bucks were harvested illegally in Badlands National Park during the 2012 west river deer season. **ABOVE:** Picture of the hunting camp near the Badlands with trash scattered in the foreground.

BIG GAME ENFORCEMENT



ABOVE: Officer Andy Petersen made a closed season deer case in early November 2012. The antlers gross scored 161 5/8; trophy civil damages of \$4,000 were levied. **BELOW:** A trophy whitetail buck that was illegally shot in Harding County. The defendant was prosecuted for trespass.



WATERFOWL ENFORCEMENT



Conservation Officers sometimes work with US Fish and Wildlife Service Officer on waterfowl cases. **ABOVE:** Officer Evan Meyer with 95 snow geese illegally taken in Miner County with the use of electronic calls. After the investigation was complete, federal charges were filed on 11 hunters. **BELOW:** The group involved in taking the geese pictured above hunted illegally for 4 days. This is just one photo of their illegal harvest of nearly 100 birds per day.



FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT



Conservation Officers spend a good portion of their spring and summer checking fishermen each year. Certain individuals chose to waste the resources of our state by dumping fish and wildlife instead of adequately utilizing them. **ABOVE:** Uncleaned northern pike and trash found in a road ditch in Region 4. **BELOW:** Conservation Officer Blake Yonke checking anglers at a boat ramp in Region 4.



BOATING ENFORCEMENT



During the summer months, boating enforcement is an important part of a Conservation Officer's duties. **ABOVE:** Officer Bryce McVicker on patrol on Lake Kampeska. **BELOW:** Region 4 Officers Austin Norton and Tate Anderson conducting a safety check on a jet ski and its occupants.



PUBLIC RELATIONS



A significant part of a Conservation Officer's role is relaying information to the public. Conservation Officers can be found sport shows, fairs, Step Outside, HuntSafe, and other local events. Officers are often on hand to answer questions about various topics. **ABOVE:** Officer Bill Eastman speaking with a Step Outside group at Orman Dam. **BELOW:** Officers are working with a group of kids that are about to go fishing in Region 4.



FIREARMS TRAINING



The Department requires that each Conservation Officer qualify twice per year with his issued .308 rifle, 12-gauge shotgun and Glock pistol. **ABOVE:** Conservation Officer Supervisor Kraig Haase demonstrating how to shoot a shotgun from the ground. **BELOW:** Region 4 Conservation Officers transitioning from shooting a shotgun to .40 caliber Glock during training. This sort of training prepares officers to deal with a scenario where they might need to switch weapons during a deadly force encounter.



FIREARMS TRAINING

Firearms training involves more than just shooting a qualifying score with issued weapons. Officers are exposed to various types of firearms training. **RIGHT:** Officer Adam Geigle scores his target after a night shoot with his .40 caliber Glock.

CENTER: Officers train to shoot from and around vehicles; they must use available objects for cover and concealment. **BOTTOM LEFT:** On the water firearms training. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Conservation Officer Supervisor Mike Klosowski shooting a shotgun from a boat.



DEFENSIVE TACTICS TRAINING



Conservation Officers utilize various arrest techniques and are trained to disarm subjects who might threaten with a weapon. **UPPER LEFT:** Officers Dean Shultz and Jamie Pekelder participate in handgun retention and disarming training. **UPPER RIGHT:** Kraig Haase participates in dynamic training with the use of a Redman suit. **BELOW:** Conservation Officers Keith Mutschler and Joe Keeton practicing baton strikes using a foam baton and pad



HOUSE BILLS:

House Bill 1018 – An Act to repeal certain obsolete or unnecessary provisions pertaining to the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. Clean-up bill that repeals the following statutes: 41-2-18.1 (PFE Program), 41-6-69 (Unused licenses from agents), 41-8-5 (Cap on mountain goat harvest), 41-14-34 (Unlicensed bait dealers), 41-17-3 (State Park maps). These statutes were either determined to be obsolete by GFP or covered elsewhere in statute/rule.

House Bill 1019 – An Act to revise the license fee for snowmobiles and to revise the period of such license. The bill changes the snowmobile licensing period from two years to one year and adjusts the fee for said license.

House Bill 1117 – An Act to provide for the taking of muskrats by shooting under certain conditions. This bill was enacted to address the damage that muskrat populations have caused to roads and public infrastructure. It specifically amends 41-8-19 and 41-8-24, while adding a new statute (41-8-24.1) that stipulates the weaponry that may be used in the shooting of muskrats. Further, the bill directed the GFP Commission to promulgate rules pertaining to a muskrat hunting season.

House Bill 1153 – An Act to revise and clarify certain provisions relating to the revocation of fur dealer licenses. This bill adds the "knowing" element to purchasing fur taken during a closed season--an act that invokes fur dealer license revocation.

House Bill 1198 – An Act to revise the definition of firearm to include certain antique, muzzleloading, and black powder weapons in certain circumstances. This bill is aimed at restricting certain felons from possessing an antique firearm or muzzleloading weapon. The previous definition of "firearm" exempted certain weapons. A new definition (22-14-15.3) of firearm was created solely for the purposes of 22-14-15 (Possession of firearm by felon – violent crime) and 22-14-15.1 (Possession of firearm by felon – controlled substance).

SENATE BILLS:

Senate Bill 10 – An Act to revise certain provisions pertaining to boating while under the influence. The bill revised several statutes in 42-8 and aligned BUI with DUI in regards to mandatory blood draws. In the past, a subject arrested for BUI could refuse to submit to chemical analysis of blood, breath, or other bodily substance.

Senate Bill 156 – An Act to establish strangulation as one element of the crime of aggravated assault. : Creates an additional element, strangulation, to the crime of aggravated assault (22-18-1.1).

TURN-IN-POACHERS PROGRAM (TIPs)

BY 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 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 Game, Fish, and Parks 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 through a link to the GF&P’s website. 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 through the website by accessing: <https://www.state.sd.us/eforms/secure/eforms/E2098V1-AnonymousTIP.pdf>.

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 \$100,000 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 themselves. During this fiscal year, almost \$10,000 was donated at the time of license purchases.

In the 2011 TIPs year (which began in July 1, 2011 and ended on June 30, 2012), 309 investigations and 74 arrests could be directly attributed to information provided through the program. From this information, violators were fined \$14,323 and required to pay \$4,400 in civil damages. Judges sentenced violators to 245 days in jail for their crimes (all of which was suspended). TIPs paid out \$3,950 in rewards.

TIPs Overall Report			
TIPs Year	# Investigations	# Arrests	Rewards Paid
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
1999	386	140	\$5,325
1998	360	144	\$2,600
1997	345	135	\$3,375
1996	502	123	\$3,925
1995	368	113	\$2,970
1994	424	144	\$3,975
1993	368	114	\$3,775
1992	364	121	\$4,375
1991	364	126	\$2,895
1990	296	88	\$2,850

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

The most well-known aspect of TIPs program is the reward program after a violation has been committed; but, there are other elements to TIPs. 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 to reinforcing the TIPs contact information, these ads are a constant reminder to the

TURN-IN-POACHERS PROGRAM (TIPs)

general public 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 and TIPs Board Members take the trailer, which contains 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 dozens of stops throughout the state in 2012, the TIPs trailer told the story of poaching to young and old.

For over 25 years, the South Dakota Turn In Poachers program has been a shining example of what can be done to protect a public trust resource when government, private industry, sportsmen and the general public come together to address a common problem



TIPs SUMMARY

TIPs Program Totals for TIPs Year 2011	TIPs Program Totals 1984 to June 30, 2012
309 INVESTIGATIONS	10,250 INVESTIGATIONS
74 ARRESTS	3,443 ARRESTS
\$14,323 FINES	\$665,268 FINES
\$4,400 CIVIL PENALTIES	\$512,987 CIVIL PENALTIES
245 DAYS OF JAIL (245 days suspended)	32,434 DAYS OF JAIL (29,274 days suspended)

INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATORS COMPACT SUMMARY

BY ANDY ALBAN – INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR

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.

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

The Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) welcomed another state in 2012. With the addition of South Carolina, 38 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.

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 respective 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 2012, our state reported 597 violator names to the database. During that period, 4,267 violators were entered nationwide in the Compact. Considering those figures, South Dakota entered approximately 14% of the Compact names. That ranked our state first in 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.



PRIVATE SHOOTING PRESERVES

BY JANELLE BLAHA – SHOOTING PRESERVE 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. 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.

Interest in preserves continues to grow and the number of permitted private shooting preserves has steadily increased. The number of birds harvested on shooting preserves has also increased over time.

PRIVATE SHOOTING PRESERVE PHEASANT HARVEST AND RELEASE RECORDS 2002-2013

<u>YEAR</u>	<u># OF PSP'S</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>BIRDS RELEASED</u>	<u>TOTAL BIRDS HARVESTED</u>	<u>RELEASED BIRDS HARVESTED</u>	<u>WILD BIRDS HARVESTED</u>
2002-03	177	Pheasants	236,647	152,399	124,882 (82%)	27,417 (18%)
2003-04	201	Pheasants	269,173	183,395	143,387 (78%)	40,008 (22%)
2004-05	222	Pheasants	305,053	193,294	154,227 (80%)	39,067 (20%)
2005-06	198	Pheasants	326,601	222,894	166,281 (75%)	56,613 (25%)
2006-07	215	Pheasants	394,061	247,165	200,729 (81%)	46,436 (19%)
2007-08	223	Pheasants	439,454	278,242	214,066 (77%)	63,152 (23%)
2008-09	229	Pheasants	394,184	262,709	198,895 (76%)	63,914 (24%)
2009-10	220	Pheasants	375,273	227,138	177,638 (78%)	50,180 (22%)
2010-11	207	Pheasants	356,727	242,705	185,094 (76%)	57,611 (24%)
2011-12	197	Pheasants	386,563	243,196	200,337 (82%)	43,744 (18%)
2012-13	203	Pheasants	403,380	237,965	202,991 (85%)	36,630 (15%)

BY JANELLE BLAHA – PERMITS COORDINATOR



The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks offers a variety of special licenses and permits for disabled individuals and former prisoners of war. These licenses and permits cannot be purchased or obtained over the counter at the various license agents. Specific criteria are required for their application process and approval. Some of these licenses or permits are free-of-charge and others have a permit fee. The following narrative contains helpful background information on the various disabled hunter permits available from the department. Further information can be found on the Game, Fish and Parks’ web site at <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/accessibility/disabled-hunter.aspx>.

Disabled Hunter Permit

Generally speaking, it is illegal to shoot game animals from a motor vehicle in South Dakota. For the legal discharge of a weapon, a hunter must be outside of the vehicle or off an all-terrain vehicle to shoot game. However, there are two exceptions to this law: The first exception is a hunter may shoot coyotes, jackrabbits, rodents, skunks, badgers, raccoons, and foxes from a motor vehicle. The second exception allows hunters who possess a valid Disabled Hunter Permit to shoot game animals from a stationary motor vehicle. A permitted disabled hunter must still obtain the required hunting licenses for the desired species to be hunted. Depending if the qualifying disability is temporary or permanent, the permit may be issued for a period of up to four years and may be renewed after the date of expiration.

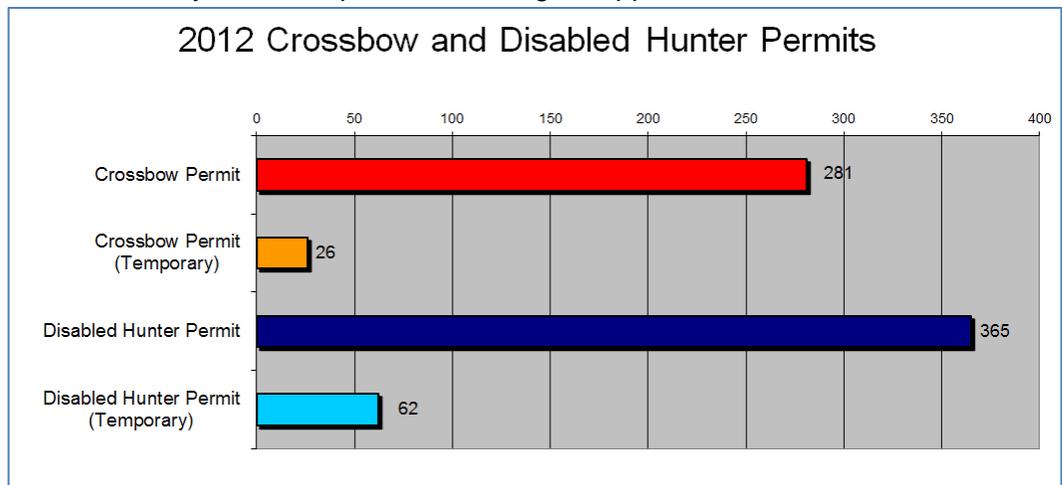
Designated Shooter Permit

A Designated Shooter Permit is available to a legally blind person or to any person with paralysis of all four limbs who is legally licensed, but who cannot safely discharge a firearm or bow and arrow. A designated sighted hunter is allowed to shoot the game for the permittee; however, the permittee must be physically present and participate in the hunt. The permittee may claim the game birds and animals taken by the designated hunter in accordance with the license possessed by the legally blind hunter. The permit is valid for one season, with an annual renewal requirement.

Crossbow/Draw-Lock Permit

A Crossbow/Draw-Lock Permit is available to any person who is temporarily or permanently incapable of using a bow with the minimum draw weight of 40 pounds due to the loss of use of one or both arms, caused by birth defect, injury, disease, or who is uses a wheelchair for mobility. Applicants must have the application form signed by a licensed physician, verifying the applicant’s medical condition or disability and listing the expected date of recovery if the disability is temporary. Permanent Crossbow/Draw-Lock Permits are only issued to persons missing an upper limb. A Permit is available free-of-charge;

however, the permittee must still obtain the required hunting licenses for the desired species to be hunted. A Permanent Crossbow/Draw-Lock Permit is valid for four years and may be renewed after the date of expiration.



BY JASON KOOL – GAME, FISH AND PARKS PROGRAM SPECIALIST



Acting in response to a rash of hunting accidents involving young hunters, the 1955 South Dakota Legislature enacted legislation requiring first-time hunters under the age of sixteen to complete a course in the “safe handling of firearms”. The Department of Game, Fish and Parks was authorized to set up and implement the course. The four-hour course was named the Firearms Safety Course and was almost exclusively about handling firearms safely. Many of the volunteer instructors recruited to teach the courses were certified through the National Rifle Association (NRA) and NRA manuals and materials were purchased for use in the courses.

In the early 1970’s, the program was expanded to six hours of instruction. Information about conservation, wildlife management, wildlife identification, and introduction into bow hunting was added to the curriculum. The name was changed to Hunter Safety Course.

The course was changed to a 10-hour minimum format in 1985. Topics added to the course at this time included the study of hunter ethics, responsibility plus personal health and safety. These changes were necessary to meet the requirements for Game, Fish and Parks to receive federal aid funding for hunter education.

South Dakota’s basic hunter education course, renamed the HuntSAFE course in 1999, continues to adjust and renew, meeting the challenges of our changing times. All HuntSAFE instructors volunteer their time and energy to help share South Dakota’s hunting heritage with a new generation of young hunters.

2012 Program Summary

Hunter Safety and Firearms Education (HuntSAFE)

	Students Certified	# of Classes
	3, 335	142
Region 1	657 students certified	28 rosters submitted
Region 2	391 students certified	26 rosters submitted
Region 3	1,616 students certified	63 rosters submitted
Region 4	659 students certified	25 rosters submitted



The safe handling of firearms and other hunting implements is as important as ever. However, the future of hunting itself may depend on how well all hunters understand our hunting tradition, the hunter’s role and relationship with wildlife and that hunter behavior is a fact in whether hunting as we know it will continue.

All program funding comes from license fees paid by sportsmen and women or through provisions of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Preservation Act of 1937. No state general fund tax money is used to fund HuntSAFE courses.

All courses are taught on a local level by volunteer instructors in conjunction with the local Conservation Officer. Course curriculum and learning standards have been approved / adopted from the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA).

The total number of students who have successfully completed a Firearms/Hunter Safety course since the program’s inception is 250,830.



HUNTING AND BOATING INCIDENTS

BY JASON KOOL – GAME, FISH AND PARKS PROGRAM SPECIALIST

In 2012, 21 hunting and shooting sports related incidents were reported in South Dakota to the HuntSAFE Office. Three hunting incidents resulted in fatalities. The total number of hunting and shooting sports related incidents decreased by about 62% from the previous year and were also lower than the ten-year average of 37. Overall, 2012 had the lowest number of hunting and shooting sports related incidents that were reported since 1997, when incident numbers were at 18. GFP compiles hunter safety statistics using the definitions outlined by the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA). The IHEA determines the criteria of how incidents are reported.



Below is an overview of the reported incidents.

2012 Hunting Incidents

- ❖ 21 incidents reported
- ❖ 3 fatalities
- ❖ 18 incidents were related to upland game bird hunting
- ❖ 3 incidents involved big game hunting

In cases where a shooter could be determined, 8 were non-residents, 4 were residents and the remaining cases a shooter was not identified. Where hunter education completion could be determined, the data indicates 7 people involved as shooters had received hunter education while 2 had not.

BY 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 58,449 recreational boats registered in 2012. There were significantly more incidents and fatalities reported in 2012 than 2011. The following are the statistics for reportable boating incidents in South Dakota for 2012:

2012 Boating Incidents

- ⊗ 23 incidents reported
- ⊗ 5 fatalities
- ⊗ 12 injured in 8 injury accidents
- ⊗ \$62,520 in property damage



CONSERVATION OFFICER AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Every year our Conservation Officers, Supervisors and administrative staff receive awards in recognition of their efforts toward wildlife law enforcement and wildlife management. This portion of the report recognizes those achievements for 2012. Congratulations to all of the recipients for going above and beyond!



Brook Brown, Conservation Officer in Hamlin County received the **Boating Safety Officer of the Year Award** from the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the **Officer of the Year Award** from the South Dakota Conservation Officers Association.



Joe Galbraith Conservation Officer in Edmunds / McPherson Counties received the **Officer of the Year Award** from the Association of Midwest Association of Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers for his efforts in Law Enforcement.



Chris Kuntz, Conservation Officer in Beadle County received the **Patton Torch Award** from the South Dakota Conservation Officers Association. This award is given in the memory of Mark Patton.



Nick Cochran, Conservation Officer in Aberdeen received the **Pinch of the Year Award** from the South Dakota Conservation Officers Association for his efforts on an illegal trapping case that spanned two years.



Bill Eastman, Conservation Officer in Butte County received the **Wildlife Officer of the Year Award** from the National Wild Turkey Federation for protecting wildlife and providing a safe hunting environment.



Doug DeLaRoi, Conservation Officer in Walworth and Campbell Counties received the **South Dakota Volunteer of the Year** from the Friends of NRA.

South Dakota's hunting, fishing, trapping and parks regulations come from two sources – codified law established by the South Dakota Legislature and administrative rule adopted by Game, Fish and Parks Commission. Most laws are found in Title 41 of the South Dakota Codified Law while most rules are in Article 41 of the Administrative Rules of South Dakota.

GAME, FISH AND PARKS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR

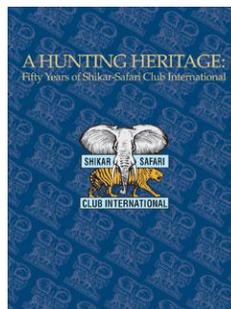
Award Presented Annually by: Shikar–Safari Club International

2012 – Brian Humphrey



2011 – BOB LOSCO
2009 – JAMIE PEKELDER
2007 – BLAIR WAITE
2005 – MIKE APLAND
2003 – BRUCE NACHTIGALL
2001 – JEFF MCENTEE
1999 – EMMETT KEYSER
1997 – MIKE KINTIGH
1995 – DAVE WICKS
1993 – DAVID GRAY
1991 – DAVID MCCREA
1989 – BILL ANTONIDES
1987 – HAROLD HAIVALA
1985 – ROBERT PRIEKSAT
1983 – RONALD SCHAUER
1981 – ROBERT HAUK
1979 – JAMES SCHROEDER
1977 – DELMAR GERDES
1975 – TOM LE FAIVE
1973 – ART REHN
1971 – HAROLD LUNDE

2010 – MARK OHM
2008 – JIM MCCORMICK
2006 – JEFF GRENDLER
2004 – DAVE BARTLING
2002 – DARREN SCHROEDER
2000 – SCOTT MIKKELSON
1998 – DARELL TILBERG
1996 – MARK SMEDSRUD
1994 – TOM BECK
1992 – SCOTT LINDGREN
1990 – DANIEL PLUT
1988 – DANIEL LIMMER
1986 – OWEN MEADOWS
1984 – RONALD CATLIN
1982 – JACK MERWIN
1980 – WILLIAM SHATTUCK
1978 – DENNIS LENGKEEK
1976 – SPENCER VAA
1974 – STANLEY LUNDQUIST
1972 – FLOYD GAARDER
1970 – LA VERNE ROTH



200 Copies of this booklet were printed
at a cost of \$8.15 per copy

State of South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks
“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 judgment.
- 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 ourselves, 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.

