2012
South Dakota Animal Damage Control Program: Online Hunter Opinion Survey

HD-7-12.AMS

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Division of Wildlife
Serving People, Managing Wildlife

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This report summarizes results from the South Dakota GFP's Animal Damage Control Program hunter opinion survey administered in 2012. Survey responses were collected in November and December 2012. An Internet survey was administered to a random sample of 5,000 resident and non-resident hunters who purchased a hunting license in 2012 which included the Hunting Access Wildlife Damage Surcharge, and who provided an email address. A total of 1,943 responses were received for an adjusted response rate of 42%. Overall, hunters felt the program and the services provided were important and beneficial. There was little support for shifting funds among Division of Wildlife programs to support the ADC Program; however, the majority of hunters were willing to pay slightly more for a hunting license to support the program and its services.

KEY WORDS: animal damage control, hunting access wildlife damage surcharge

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Executive Summary

2012 South Dakota Animal Damage Control Program: Online Hunter Opinion Survey

HD-7-12.AMS

Cynthia L. Longmire, Ph.D.

- A random sample of 5,000 SD resident and non-resident hunters who purchased a hunting license in 2012 which included the Hunting Access Wildlife Damage Surcharge, and who provided an email address were invited to participate in an online survey of the Animal Damage Control (ADC) Program in November and December, 2012. A total of 1,943 responses were received for an adjusted response rate of 42%. The responses received were from 903 resident hunters and 1,040 non-resident hunters.

- 88% of hunters believed the ADC Program and the services it provides were important.

- 91% of hunters believed the ADC Program and its services were beneficial to landowners.

- 86% of hunters believed the ADC Program and its services were beneficial to wildlife and wildlife management programs.

- 41% opposed or strongly opposed shifting funds from other Division of Wildlife programs to provide additional support for the ADC Program. 35% were neither opposed to nor supportive of this shift in funds, and 24% of hunters supported or strongly supported shifting of funds for this purpose.

- 63% of hunters were willing to pay more for a hunting license ($1 or less) to provide additional funds for the operation of the ADC Program.

- 18% (337) of hunters who responded were also landowners.

- Non-residents were more likely than residents (71% versus 55%) to be willing to pay more for a hunting license ($1 or less) to provide additional funds for the operation of the ADC Program.

- In the sample, landowners were more likely than non-landowners (40% versus 21%) to support or strongly support shifting funds from other Division of Wildlife programs to provide additional support for the ADC Program.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary iii

Table of Contents iv

List of Figures v

Introduction 1

Methods 2

Results 3

Value of ADC Program 3

ADC Program Funding 6

Comments 9

References 9

Appendix A 12

Appendix B 16

Appendix C 56

List of Figures

Figure 1: Description of ADC Program provided to all respondents 4

Figure 2: Hunters belief about importance of ADC Program and its services 5

Figure 3: Hunters belief about benefit of ADC Program to landowners 5

Figure 4: Belief about benefit of ADC Program to landowners by land ownership 6

Figure 5: Hunters belief about benefit of ADC Program to wildlife and wildlife management programs 6

Figure 6: Hunters support/opposition for shifting funds from other Division of Wildlife programs 7

Figure 7: Support/Opposition for shifting funds from other Division of Wildlife programs by land ownership 8

Figure 8: Hunters willingness to pay more for a hunting license to provide additional funds for the ADC Program 8

Figure 9: Willingness to pay more for a hunting license to provide additional funds for the ADC Program by residency 9

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Introduction

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) provides predator control services to farmers and ranchers through the Animal Damage Control (ADC) Program to help prevent, reduce, or minimize livestock losses. In addition, this program provides nuisance wildlife damage control services to citizens experiencing problems with beaver and to a lesser extent raccoons, skunks, and mink. State statute provides that each county government in South Dakota provide financial support for the ADC Program at a level based on livestock census numbers of sheep and cattle located in that county. As required by statute, GFP contributes two dollars of license fee revenue to the ADC operating budget for every one dollar that the counties provide.

The ADC services provided by GFP are limited by available funding. Coyote related livestock depredation complaints have increased in the last three years, and it has become increasingly difficult for GFP to keep up with the increased demand for predator control services. To gauge public opinion regarding the value of the ADC Program and possible avenues for increasing program funding, GFP conducted an online survey in 2012 to gather input from SD hunters. This report summarizes results from the SD GFP's Animal Damage Control Program hunter opinion survey. Survey responses were collected from November 14th

to December 16th on the importance and benefit of the ADC Program, as well as the acceptability of two alternatives for increasing funding for the program.

Methods

A total of 187,286 hunters were identified through the GFP licensing database as being 18 years or older and having purchased a hunting license in 2012 which included the Hunting Access Wildlife Damage Surcharge. Fifty-one percent (96,292) of hunters 18 years and older were SD residents, and 49% (90,994) were non-residents. The average age for hunters in this population was 47 years old. A total of 67 percent (125,176) of these hunters provided an email address. The average age for hunters who provided an email address was 45 years old, and the average for hunters who only provided a mailing address was 50 years.

A random sample of 5,000 hunters who provided an email address was invited to participate in an online survey of the ADC Program. The online survey was administered via SurveyMonkey®; therefore, the sample size was adjusted to account for applicants who opted out of receiving email invitations from SurveyMonkey®. In addition, the sample was adjusted for undeliverable emails. The final adjusted sample size for the survey was 4,653 hunters.

To minimize some commonly documented issues with Internet surveys a random sample was drawn and each potential respondent was assigned a unique identifier, multiple email invitations were sent to increase response rate, and the survey was designed to not allow repeated access once the survey was completed (Vaske 2011; Dillman et al. 2010; Vaske 2008). Hunters were sent four emails explaining the purpose of the survey and asking for their participation. The initial invitation was sent on November 14th, followed by a reminder on November 21st and November 28th. A final email was sent on December 5, 2012. Survey responses were downloaded on December 16, 2012, and analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics 20 software package.

A total of 1,943 hunters responded to the survey for an overall response rate of 42 percent. Forty-seven percent (903) of responses were from SD residents and 53 percent (1,040 were from non-residents. Post stratification weights for residency were used to account for any potential bias created by under-representing residents and over-representing non-residents in the dataset. The following calculations were used for weighting data:

Resident Weight	1.105
Non-Resident Weight	0.908
Cacluations for weighting data:	
Weight = population proportion ÷ sample proportion	
Resident = 0.514/0.465 = 1.105	
Non-Resident = 0.486/0.535 = 0.908	
Normalization of Weights = Weight/ Average of Weights	

Online response rates can vary depending on the population surveyed, the survey topic, the amount of time to complete the survey, and other survey characteristics; however, online response rates are typically lower than those of mail surveys (Vaske 2011; Dillman et al. 2009; Manfredo et al. 2008). In addition, studies have noted differences in respondent characteristics across the various modes of surveys. A consistent finding is online respondents tend to be younger on average than those responding to mail surveys (Graefe et al. 2011; Kaplowits et al. 2004; Forsman and Varedian 2002). The average age of respondents was 49 years.

Results

Value of ADC Program

Following the brief program description (figure 1), hunters were asked to indicate whether or not they believed the ADC Program and the services it provides were important, as well as beneficial to landowners, wildlife, and wildlife management programs. Overall, hunters felt the program and the services provided were important and beneficial. There were no

significant differences between resident hunters and non-resident hunters; however, there was some difference between landowners and non-landowners within the sample.

Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) provides predator control services (i.e. coyote control) to farmers and ranchers to help prevent, reduce or minimize livestock losses through the Animal Damage Control (ADC) Program. In addition, this program provides nuisance wildlife damage control services to citizens experiencing problems with beaver and to a lesser extent raccoons, skunks, and mink.

State statute provides that each county government in South Dakota provide financial support for the ADC Program at a level based on livestock census numbers of sheep ($0.25/head) and cattle ($0.06/head) located in that county. As required by statute, GFP contributes $2 of license fee revenue to the ADC operating budget for every $1 that the counties provide. Currently, the counties provide $305,000 and GFP contributes $610,000 to the operation of the ADC program annually.

The ADC services provided by GFP are limited by available funding. Because coyote populations and corresponding livestock depredation complaints have increased in the last 3 years, it has become increasingly difficult for GFP to keep up with the increased demand for predator control services.

We would like your feedback regarding the ADC Program. Please take a few moments to answer this brief survey. Your responses are valuable in helping manage South Dakota's wildlife programs. Information from this survey will be put into a report and made available to the public and posted on GFP's webpage.

Figure 1: Description of ADC Program provided to all respondents

The majority of hunters (88%) indicated the program and associated services were important (figure 2). There was no statistically significant difference in belief of importance based on residency or land ownership. The vast majority of hunters (91%) believed the program and its associated services were beneficial to the landowners who requested assistance (figure 3). While there was no significant difference between SD residents and non-residents, landowners and non-landowners did differ significantly (χ^2 (1, 1851) 4.42, p=0.036, Cramer's *V* 0.05) on this belief (figure 4)[1]. The vast majority of landowners and non-landowners (88% and 92% respectively) believed the ADC Program and its services were beneficial to landowners. In the sample, landowners were statistically more likely than non-landowners to believe the

[1]Chi-square statistics are reported as (χ^2 (df, N) statistic, significance level, Cramer's *V* statistic). See Appendix C for an explanation on how these statistics are interpreted.

program and its services were not beneficial to landowners; however, the strength of this relationship is negligible (Cramer's *V* 0.05). Eighty-six percent of hunters believed the ADC Program and the services it provides were beneficial to wildlife and wildlife management programs (figure 5).There was no significant difference in belief of benefit to wildlife and programs based on residency or landownership.

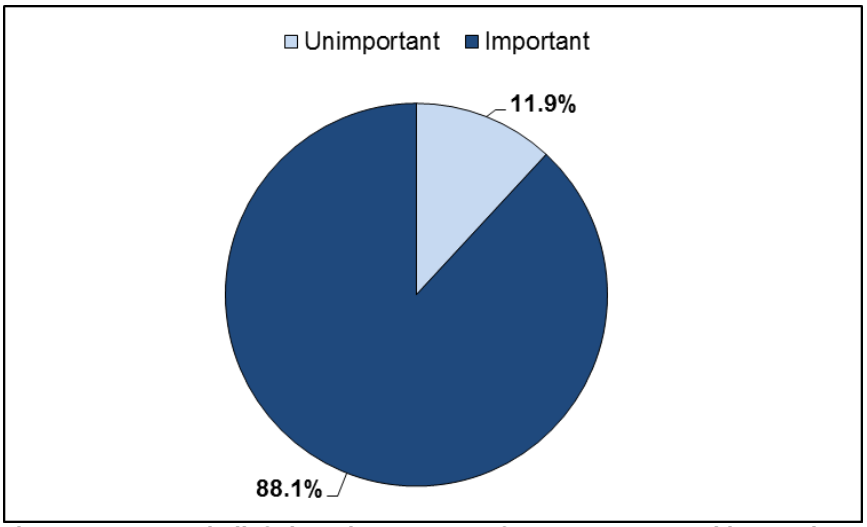

Figure 2: Hunters belief about importance of ADC Program and its services

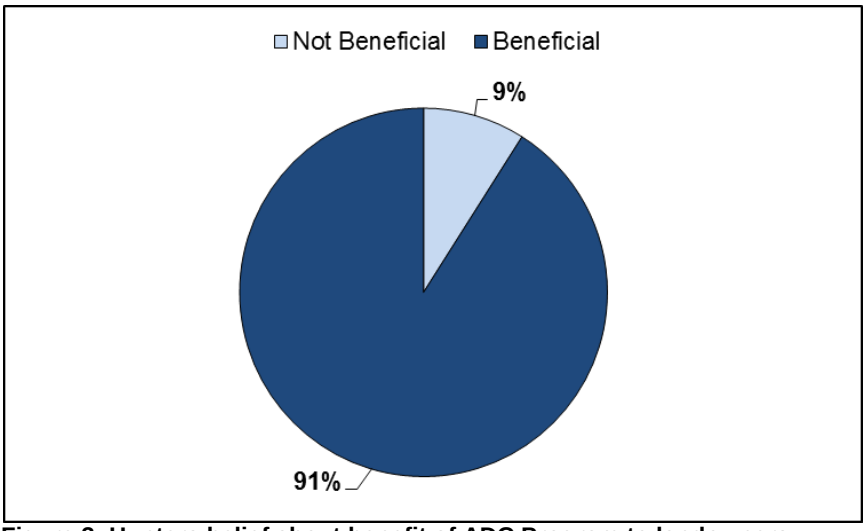

Figure 3: Hunters belief about benefit of ADC Program to landowners

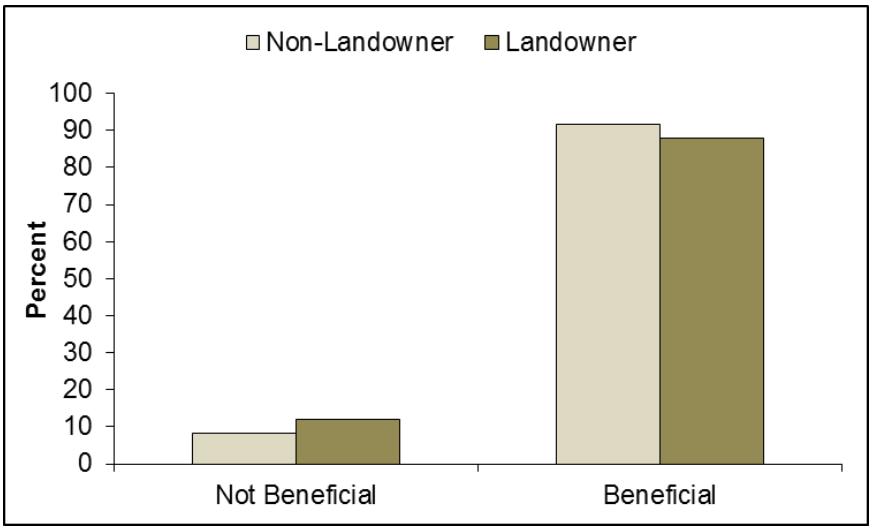

Figure 4: Belief about benefit of ADC Program to landowners by land ownership

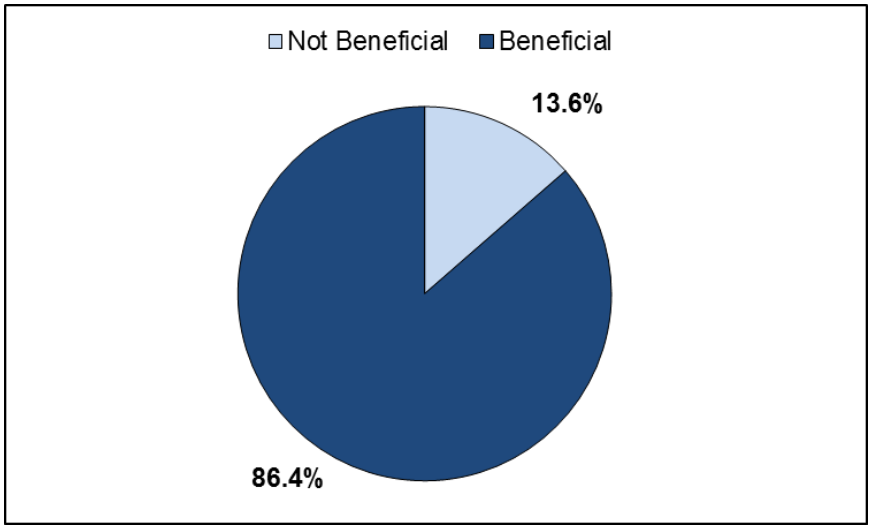

Figure 5: Hunters belief about benefit of ADC Program to wildlife and wildlife management programs

ADC Program Funding

In addition to the importance and benefit of the ADC program hunters were also asked to indicate how strongly they supported or opposed shifting funds from other GFP Division of Wildlife programs, as well as their willingness to pay more for a hunting license to provide

additional funding for the ADC Program. Overall, 41 percent of hunters opposed or strongly opposed shifting funds, while only 24% of hunters indicated some level of support (figure 6)[2]. There was a statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents; however, the strength of this relationship was negligible amounting to no practical difference (χ^2 (4, 1884) 12.85, p=0.012, Cramer's *V* 0.08). There was a statistically significant difference with a moderate strength of relationship between landowners and non-landowners (χ^2 (4, 1873) 83.9, p<0.000, Cramer's *V* 0.2). In the sample, landowners were more likely than non-landowners (40% versus 21% respectively) to support or strongly support shifting funds from other Division of Wildlife programs (figure 7). The majority of hunters (63%) were willing to pay more for a hunting license, one dollar or less, to provide additional funds for the operation of the ADC Program (figure 8). While there were no significant difference between landowners and non-landowners, there were significant differences between residents and non-residents (χ^2 (1, 1881) 52.87, p<0.000, Cramer's *V* 0.2). Non-residents were more likely than residents (71% versus 55% respectively) to be willing to pay more for a hunting license (figure 9).

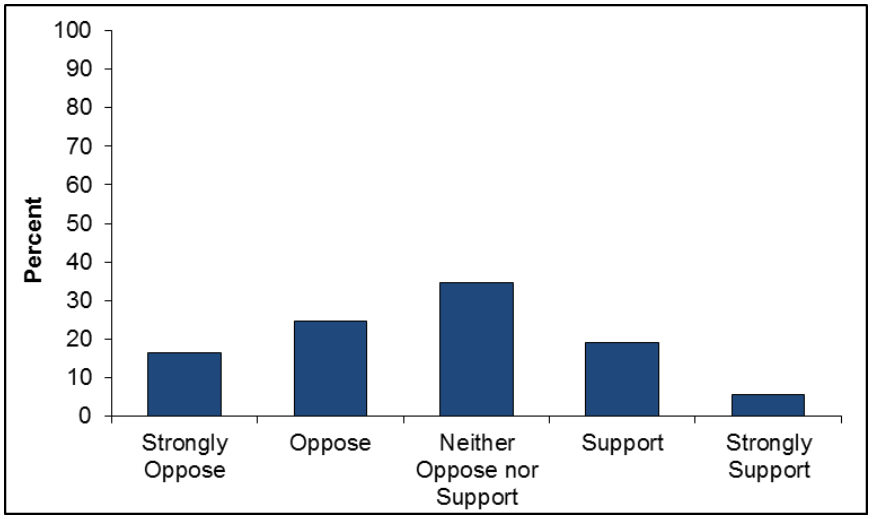

Figure 6: Hunters support/opposition for shifting funds from other Division of Wildlife programs

[2] Likert items use a dichotomous scaling method (where the mid-point is neutral) to measure either a positive or negative response to a statement. The measurement scale used here is 1 – Strongly Oppose; 2 = Oppose; 3 = Neither Oppose nor Support; 4 = Support; and 5 = Strongly Support.

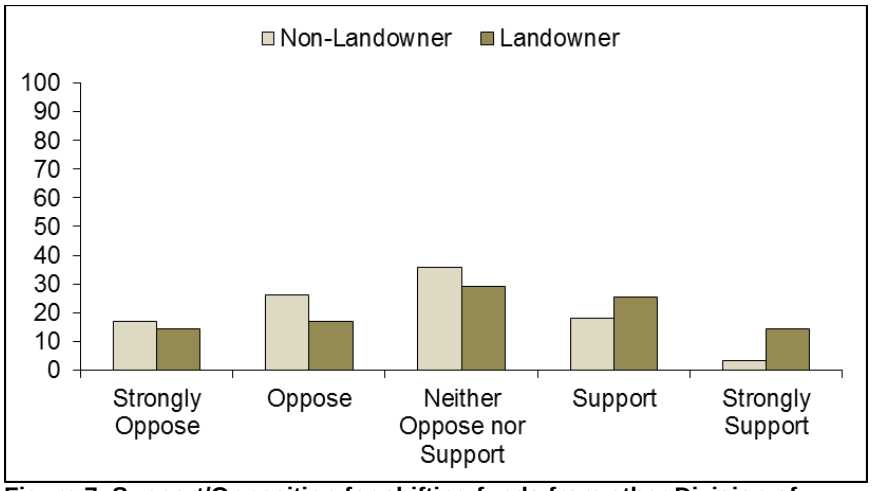

Figure 7: Support/Opposition for shifting funds from other Division of Wildlife programs by land ownership

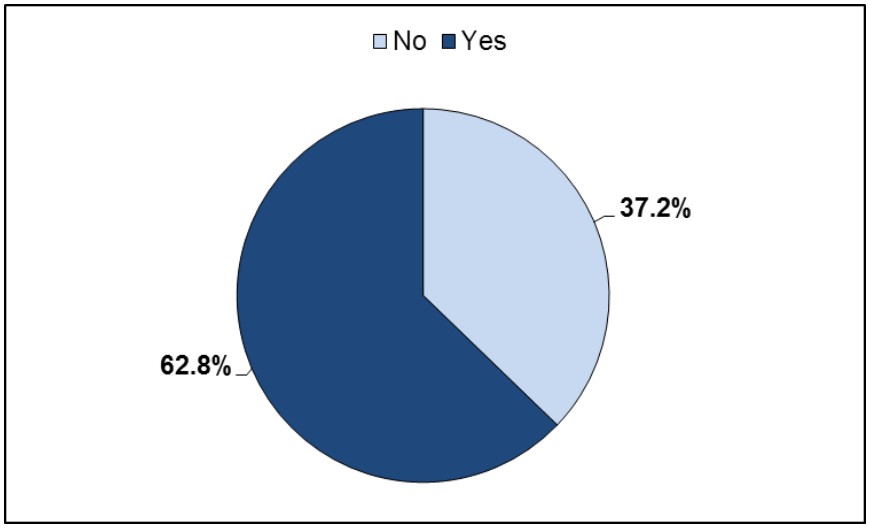

Figure 8: Hunters willingness to pay more for a hunting license to provide additional funds for the ADC Program

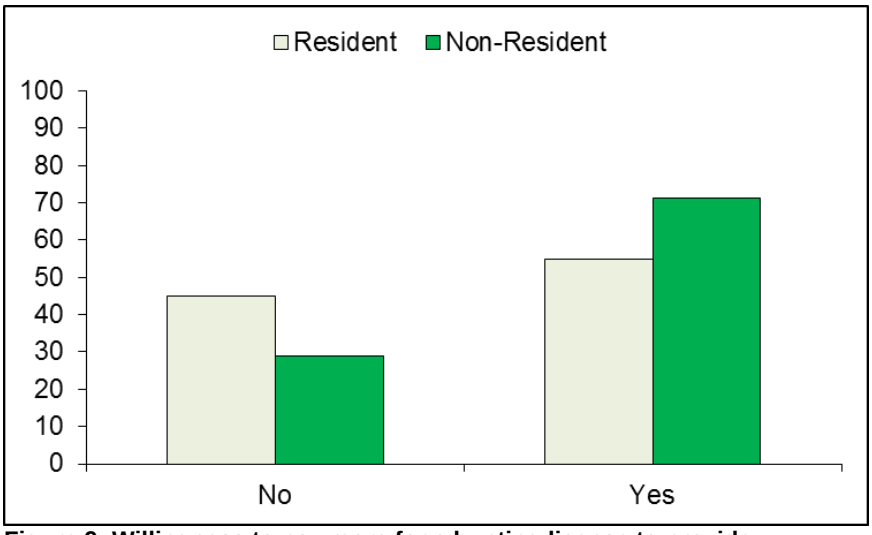

Figure 9: Willingness to pay more for a hunting license to provide additional funds for the ADC Program by residency

Comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide additional comments at the end of the survey. Thirty-nine pages of comments were received from 425 survey respondents. These comments did not have to be specific to any question asked on the survey, but rather they were free to provide additional comments at the end. All comments are included here, and presented in numerical order of respondent ID number. Comments are presented here in the letter case they were submitted. Misspellings and grammar are corrected when doing so would not change the intent of the comment. Where expletives were used, they were not removed or substituted for. In the case where symbols were substituted, this was done in the original comment.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Email Invitation & Survey Instrument (format adjusted)

To: [Email]

From: SDGFPINFO@state.sd.us via surveymonkey.com
<member@surveymonkey.com>

Subject: SD Game, Fish & Parks' Animal Damage Control Program

Body: Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

We are conducting a study of hunters' opinions regarding the SD GF&P's Animal Damage Control (ADC) Program. The ADC Program provides predator control services (i.e. coyote control) to farmers and ranchers to help prevent, reduce or minimize livestock losses. In addition, this program provides nuisance wildlife damage control services to citizens experiencing problems with beaver and to a lesser extent raccoons, skunks, and mink. We would like your feedback regarding the ADC Program.

Please take a few moments to answer this brief survey (6 questions). Your responses are valuable in helping manage South Dakota's wildlife programs. This survey is voluntary, and all answers will be treated confidentially. The link to the survey is: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx.

This link is uniquely tied to this survey and your email address. If you have difficulty opening the survey, please try copying and pasting the address link into the address bar of your internet browser.

Thanks for your participation!

Cynthia L. Longmire
SD Game, Fish & Parks
Human Dimensions Specialist

https://www.surveymonkey.com/optout.aspx

Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) provides predator control services (i.e. coyote control) to farmers and ranchers to help prevent, reduce or minimize livestock losses through the Animal Damage Control (ADC) Program. In addition, this program provides nuisance wildlife damage control services to citizens experiencing problems with beaver and to a lesser extent raccoons, skunks, and mink.

State statute provides that each county government in South Dakota provide financial support for the ADC Program at a level based on livestock census numbers of sheep ($0.25/head) and cattle ($0.06/head) located in that county. As required by statute, GFP contributes $2 of license fee revenue to the ADC operating budget for every $1 that the counties provide. Currently, the counties provide $305,000 and GFP contributes $610,000 to the operation of the ADC program annually.

The ADC services provided by GFP are limited by available funding. Because coyote populations and corresponding livestock depredation complaints have increased in the last 3 years, it has become increasingly difficult for GFP to keep up with the increased demand for predator control services.

We would like your feedback regarding the ADC Program. Please take a few moments to answer this brief survey. Your responses are valuable in helping manage South Dakota's wildlife programs. Information from this survey will be put into a report and made available to the public and posted on GFP's webpage.

After reading the brief program description in the above box, please answer the following six questions. All information you provide will be treated confidentially and will not be linked to your name.

Q1. Do you believe the Animal Damage Control Program and the services it provides are important or unimportant?

Please CHECK one:

☐ Unimportant ☐ Important

Q2. Do you believe the Animal Damage Control Program and the services it provides are beneficial or not beneficial to the landowners who request assistance?

Please CHECK one:

☐ Not Beneficial ☐ Beneficial

Q3. Do you believe the Animal Damage Control Program and the services it provides are beneficial or not beneficial to wildlife and wildlife management programs?

Please CHECK one:

☐ Not Beneficial ☐ Beneficial

Q4. Would you support or oppose shifting funds from other GFP Division of Wildlife programs (conservation law enforcement, wildlife habitat management, fisheries management, hunting and fishing access programs, education/outreach, etc.) to provide additional support for the Animal Damage Control Program?

Please CHECK one:

☐ Strongly Oppose

☐ Oppose

☐ Neither Oppose nor Support

☐ Support

☐ Strongly Support

Q5. Would you be willing to pay more for a hunting license ($1 or less) to provide additional funds for the operation of the Animal Damage Control Program?

Please CHECK one:

☐ No

☐ Yes

Q6. Are you an owner/operator of at least 160 acres of farm or ranch land maintained for agricultural purposes?

Please CHECK one:

☐ No

☐ Yes

Thank You!

Thank you very much for your valuable time completing this survey.

Results from this survey will be posted on GFP's web-page.

You can use this space for any comments you would like to make. These comments will be put into a report that will be given to the Game, Fish & Parks Commissioners, staff biologists and administrators, and made available to the public.

Appendix B

Animal Damage Control Hunter Opinion Survey: Comments

*Note – 1,943 responses to the survey were received. Twenty-two percent of respondents (425) provided additional comments to the survey. Respondents' comments did not have to be specific to any question asked on the survey, but rather they were free to provide additional comments at the end. All comments are included here, and presented in numerical order of respondent ID number. Comments are presented here in the letter case they were submitted. Misspellings and grammar are corrected when doing so would not change the intent of the comment. Where expletives were used, they were not removed or substituted for. In the case where symbols were substituted, this was done in the original comment.

8 Has the GFP conducted legitimate studies showing livestock impact from Coyote predation? If so, these studies should be made available as part of this survey. I strongly question the legitimacy of this program without a solid basis and/or demonstration of need.

9 The SD GF& P is staffed with well trained, professional resource managers. As long as predator control is a science-based program that successfully reduces predation on important wildlife species, then I don't think hunters would have a problem with increasing license fees to help cover that cost. However, since the predator control program significantly benefits farmers as well, I think the SD Dept of Agriculture should help offset the costs of predator management.

10 If the landowner doesn't let anybody hunt then he shouldn't get any money for animal damage.

12 Pheasant hunting in South Dakota is an important historical part of the American Sportsman legacy and must be preserved at all cost. Keep up the good work. Thank you.

13 No longer get a deer license as GFP laws and game wardens have taken the fun out of it. We buy a couple of hogs instead and enjoy the meat!

15 Can't see any benefits to wildlife in the Animal Damage Control Program

23 It seems that most of these programs have limited success influencing different animal populations. Ag producers should be allowed to apply for their own control programs but these need to be monitored carefully by an outside agency and the costs should be, by en large, born by the producers.

25 Suggestion - augment ANY program to help farmers and ranchers with depredation issues, that utilize s ANY GFP resources, with a program that would promote inclusion of predator hunters. I

think that this could be a web based product that would help landowners and hunters become familiar with each other and develop relationships that will meet both parties' needs. I would be happy to work on a pilot program with GFP officials. Thanks

66 I would like to see increased funding for non-lethal deer predation including installed fencing and in the event of lethal requirements that the landowner be required to open their property to hunting to the public through the walk-in program.

68 I think the concept of predator control shouldn't be simply thought of as an add-on option to GFP Division of Wildlife Management programs, given the impact that predators have on game species. As an example, pheasant numbers have been depressed for the last two years. It's my understanding that this was/is mainly as a result of weather (ice storms, spring flooding, hard winter in 2010-2011). However, if coyote/other predator numbers remained stable (or even increased, as some of my discussions with a number of farmers suggest), the downward pressure on pheasants has increased, and perhaps significantly, due to increase in the ratio of predators per pheasant, for example. Personally, I saw more coyotes this year than in any other year. Perhaps a function of the crops being picked, but several farmers I spoke with said they'd even seen more coyotes before harvest.

117 The Coyote population has exploded in our area as you well know. We anticipate serious problems this coming year during calving. I see no reason why more of the wildlife budget can't be funneled to help the rancher out.

121 Put the extra $1 or less per license on out of state licenses.

125 I believe the greatly reduced numbers of pheasants in the SE quarter of the state in 2012 are primarily due to the drought and loss of nursery habitat due to drought related reductions in habitat from hay cutting on CRP grassland and loss of CRP due to conversion of acreage to cropland. The future bird numbers in the SE, in my opinion are unlikely to recover to what they were in the 1990s and first years of the 2000 decade. My hunting experience over 20 days this year resulted in about 1 bird in the bag for each 3 miles walked on both private (15% of my hunting) and public land. I am, hoping for a better pheasant population next years but I am not optimistic.

147 I would rely on GFP's opinion as to whether funds should be reallocated.

161 The duck population in Watertown is incredible; however, I was disappointed to see that all of the fields in which there were once pheasants are now being planted with corn for ethanol. I would very much like to see the pheasant population return.

168 My response is based on my recent experience hunting archery deer and pheasants. Although I'm a nonresident (paying very expensive license fees), I mostly hunt on my Dad's Eastern South Dakota farm (same farm for the last 52 years). I've noticed a great increase in evening coyote howling (don't see too many yet) over the last few years which also ironically coincided with an increase in the pheasant population (not sure why that is but it's what I've observed). I also see a great deer herd population that I never saw as a kid. I know there are a lot of coyotes but don't think they are the main factor in my deer or pheasant hunting experiences. There are many other variables and cover is probably the most important. If you have good cover you have lots of wildlife and with a good hatch you have lots of birds and the predators are not such an impact. With bad hatches, predators are more noticeable. I would rather see more funding continued to go to habitat development (crp, crep, shelterbelts and erosion control along creeks and draws) and maybe a better pheasant and deer population would keep the coyotes away from the cows and calves. Also, it seems like the bounty on coyotes gives those bored hunters something to do. I'm not sure I endorse that either since some pretty wild coyote hunting occurs similar to the intrusive and intensive jackrabbit hunting in the 60s and 70s. I don't think they should be

eradicated. Also, this Fall hunting pheasants I saw 3 jackrabbits, that's a first in many years, and I still hear the coyotes.

181 We have never used these services so don't know that we are the best reference for this survey.

186 Sounds like if the land owners are having a problem with animal control maybe they should allow hunting of the particular pests they want to control.

188 I believe the key word in this program is manage. Programs can easily find a life of their own and do more damage than good in the end.

196 less predators = more birds = better hunting = more licenses = more revenue = better conservation

201 The area I hunted was hit very hard with EHD. This did way more damage than predators. I would like to see the research devoted to trying to control the spread of EHD.

245 Farmers and ranchers are growing the livestock area of agriculture for profit. Coyotes and other natural predators were a part of the natural landscape long before they got there. While I do support their right to control that environment, I do not feel any kind of obligation to pay for it. Nor do I feel that any level of government should be subsidizing predator control.

254 A lot of farmers and rancher wait tell they have a problem with deer and predators before they ask for help. If they would let a couple people hunt there land now and then might help a few farmers (ranchers) control there problem before it gets out of hand. A few land owners in eastern part of the state like to complain about the deer damaging there fences and harassing there cattle, but will not let anyone hunt there land. I believe if they (land owner) won't let a few hunters hunt there land, the state should not reimburse the land owners for damage caused by a herd of deer or predators. The animals learn where they do not get shot at an move in because they fill safe.

258 When we requested assistance with some problem coyotes last spring during calving we were told that somebody would be coming. That never happened and the coyotes are still around and have been seen even this summer within just a few yards of one of the sheds. 3 of them sitting just outside the fence watching through the door as my brother worked a horse inside the shed. Also when we had a mountain lion in the neighborhood a couple years ago all the trapper could do is deny that it was possible for one to be around. Since that time they have been seen numerous times by different individuals and yet nothing is being done about them. I see these issues as a concern for ranchers of this area!!

261 After recently pheasant hunting in South Dakota (Selby, SD) I can honestly say your game production areas and walk in areas need serious improvement. Everything was cut and hayed...even federal lands (waterfowl areas) which is absurd. All walk in areas consisted of very minimal cover and the ones I came across had all been hayed. It’s unfortunate you’re paying these farmers for such poor habitat. In terms of the ADC I strongly oppose such a program. I understand farmers have issues with varmints (coyotes) but I can't see South Dakota's Game and Fish department implementing money into this program. Especially, when your habitat cover is in need of serious improvement. I thought the Game and Fish department was supposed to help wildlife...not farmers! I suggest South Dakota's Game and Fish department implements the limited funds they have into conservation not farmers. Because what I saw in South Dakota this 2012 fall was very disheartening. I'm a young guy (19 years of age) from Minnesota who loves hunting and wildlife....so please take my comments into consideration. Thank you

274 Why not put a small bounty so the money that is issued to destroy these animals is given back to the hunters instead of a business or corporation! Simple couple dollars per animal

280 I agree with the control of the predators and the program as long as we aren't using these resources to try and control the Canada goose population. We saw decreased numbers of Canada geese in the SE portion of SD. While I realize that the geese can eat a lot of crop I don't agree with destroying nests or eggs.

291 I think this works best if landowners do it themselves. It is also good for city people to confront these problems on their own for the simple purpose of education. GFP can help most by ensuring that appropriate regulations are in place to facilitate the process and protect the landowner from kooks. It would be good for all of us if there was a resurgence in trapping for furs but that seems unlikely in today's social climate. I live in MT and NV but hunt in SD almost every year again (since the early 1950's). You seem to be doing a good job.

313 Just got back from a great deer hunting trip in south Dakota. First time there and hope to draw a license next year.

316 Sd needs to control. B

334 Need to get more walk-in land and better crops to attract deer and other wildlife

336 I don't feel you should divert any funds from other programs to spend on the animal damage program. Go ahead and tack on another dollar to the license fee and let that cover it. If you divert funds from other programs and it results in fewer numbers of birds, fish, or game, then you will see a drop in hunter participation. I'm a non-resident and if I see a substantial drop in the pheasant population or drop in public hunting lands due to diversion of funds I will quit coming to South Dakota. I don't mind paying an additional dollar to control these animals.

337 we need more coyote control in lake county.

338 Landowners who do not allow open hunting on their land should NOT get help from GFP for damage caused by wildlife including the removal of the wildlife.

356 Never ending program with little or no benefits.

361 I am an out of state hunter and fisherman in South Dakota as well in North Dakota. South Dakota and North Dakota has a coyote problem -- way too many. We see a lot in Minnesota but you guys have the most I've ever seen. I would think that the local ranchers and farmers would appreciate any assistance to knock down this population of predators. Or make it worthwhile for the locals to kill as many as possible and pay them the bounty for their efforts.

363 I don’t think the public needs to pay for the farmers and ranchers predator control problems. They don’t want hunters to hunt there land but they want hunters to pay for the predator control. That’s Not good thinking.

374 Opposed to raising license costs, make these land owners information more easily available for trappers and hunters to obtain. Many people out there are looking for predator hunting (coyote/coon) grounds and just don't know where to go or who to ask. I feel like people who like to hunt would be more than willing to help with this nuisance, in fact most would be very happy to have new land to hunt or trap

385 As a NR I really don't know the everyday details of the situation. Really an impossible task to give an opinion.

402 I think people would be willing to help if the farmer would let them hunt to help control the nuisance without charging the hunter

408 Please consider implementing a bounty system as a means of predator reduction.

414 I am a land owner of 400 acres and farmer in the state of Michigan. We have predator problems here also.

420 The plan for this program is fundamentally sound. I believe that farmers today, as farmers in the past, have been able to provide predator population control, as it affects their livestock and livelihood. By the very nature that this program exists, provides and shows that the State is aware of and in support of the farmers, trappers, fur bearer harvesters, that a problem exists. By providing an open opportunity to those willing to hunt these predators, It is very likely that the populations will be controlled. It is not always necessary for the State or Government agencies to take an active role in coordination of programs to offer, as much as it is for them to sometimes just open up the seasons, bag limits to those that truly enjoy the sport of hunting these nuisance predators. Another option would be to simply subsidize the fur trade in the state. By offering a premium for pelts, hunters would be more apt to provide better harvesting results to the state monitoring agencies. I am not well versed on how the funds raised for this program are dispersed, accounted for and what they provide, but would be interested in finding out how the funds are expended for administration costs, additional GFP employees, payments to assist persons with addressing predator concerns. Thank you for a great questionnaire.

429 I believe that this program is beneficial, but in general think that such programs would be better privatized, and only monitored and regulated by the GFP. Land owners should pay for the service as needed or allow hunters/trappers to hunt/trap on the land owners land. I, as a hunter, have never hunted these types of animals, but may in the future if it is encouraged by the GFP.

461 I would like to see GFP explore alternative / additional methods to manage predator populations and I would be willing to support those efforts financially through additional licensing fees.

464 coyotes are out of control in grant county need to be taken care of or gonna be big problem

472 The animal damage control program is worthy of additional funding. I have found my interaction with the Sioux Falls control officer to be professional and extremely competent. Officer Hetland is a skilled animal control specialist and worthy of additional funding.

473 If GFP wants to invest money in predator control that would really do some good, they should go after the skunks in the walk in areas. They are numerous and are really hard on duck and pheasant populations.

483 With the demise of CRP acreage, pheasant populations have severely declined. Anything that can be done to limit predator losses should be done. I no longer live in South Dakota, although I was born and raised in South Dakota. I have hunted in South Dakota as an out of State/nonresident for many years and the pheasant population has been severely compromised recently by a combination of lack of habitat and predation by skunks, badgers, coons, foxes, hawks, etc. Anything that can legally be done should be done. Pheasant Hunting has been a tradition for me since 1958 and I truly cherish the opportunity to come back home every third Saturday in October to reconnect with my relatives and old friends.

484 I am not a land owner but I am a hunter and a Golf Superintendent the state trapper has been very helpful when we have a beaver problem at the Huron golf courses.

516 Thank you for removing some of the unnecessary fencing around some of the parking areas in your open hunting areas. Still question the need for such heavily fenced areas in other parts of the state that is also open to public hunting.

517 The coyote population must be controlled. Numbers are increasing and increasing so readily they are hardly scared of humans.

532 I am from Iowa and hunted pheasant near Ipswich SD this fall. It was my first time hunting in South Dakota. Hunting was great however the skunk population was the worst I had ever seen. We had 4 different dogs not only sprayed but bitten by the skunks. Two of the dogs were bitten so severely they had to have veterinary care. We are coming back next year to try it again however if this problem with the skunks continues we will be looking elsewhere to hunt.

533 Reminds me of the republicans and the democrats. If the farmers would allow the hunters and TRAPPERS on their land I believe the problem could be somewhat controlled. When the farmer will only let you hunt for a price you can't expect the hunter to help pay for their animal control. You could however hook farmers up with hunters and trappers in their area to work together to minimize the farmers loses, most probably free of charge. If you know a farmer in my area that needs help with animal control let me know I would be more than happy to help. Thank You

555 Animal control should only be considered for those landowners who allow season long hunting to all licensed & permitted hunters.

559 the general budget should take of this additional expense. Tourism is being affected and a low bird count in areas will be further depressed with these excess predators.

567 I am in favor of controlling skunks, raccoons, coyotes, and fox, but why do you want to control mink?

573 Would suggest that hunters be allowed to lawfully take predators under their small game licenses to keep populations in check.

586 If coyotes are really that big a problem for a landowner, he/she can shoot them him/herself. If the landowner is not willing to put forth that effort to guard his/her flock/herd, then his/her livestock losses are by definition insignificant. Regarding predator control for the benefit of game species, I think it is ethically corrupt. The predators and the herbivores are what is natural. We are the intruders on this cycle. To eliminate predators simply to supply more targets to shoot at (and more license revenue for the Game and Fish) is improper. Predator populations will naturally adjust themselves to the size of the prey population. And frankly it is a conflict of interest for the Game and Fish to manage such programs when there is a causal link between increasing the abundance of prey species and the size of the budget the Game and Fish receives to operate.

587 Offer hunters the ability to hunt the species that especially affect farmers and ranchers.

600 Slim butte whitetail tags were effectively useless as myself and resident hunters never saw a deer, buck or doe, in 4 days of hunting. Tough to justify out of state fees for poor game management...thx

633 In order to agree to shift money from other programs and reallocate it to this program I would want to see what services/programs were going to be reduced.

645 I STRONGLY believe that a landowner should have MORE discretion in dealing with predation on their property, including deer. Perhaps if landowners were given more discretion in handling these problems as they see fit, less funds would need to be raised or diverted from other programs.

664 Pheasant hunting in SD, MN and IA is more threatened by the lack of habitat management not predator management. I would consider paying more for a license if money given to landowners/farmers who practice habitat management. Some states have coupons on licenses hunters can give to private land owners that are redeemable and incent them to set aside wild life habitat.

686 Maybe instead of always wanting to raise fees and control everything, you might consider cutting expenses, by slackening laws and allowing more private hunters and trappers to take care of some of the damage work.

695 Make nonresident small game hunting licenses available yearly for these types of animals, while continuing to offer the 10, (2) 5 day license for other small game. This solution would provide nonresident hunters with more opportunity and availability to control the population. Also have a list of farmers all hunters could contact to control the population. This would provide more funds to thing such as more public access land.

725 I'm a non-resident hunter. Don't know much about the program so not a good source of info.

732 I think it is very helpful to wild life.

768 I hope the extra income will be used to get the mountain lion population under control also. They are not just in the Black Hills. Hear of reports of sightings from all over the state.

769 I'm not a resident of SD so I don't think I know enough about this program to respond. Do these farmers being paid allow people on their land to hunt or trap the coyotes?

785 Coyote and control of other problem animals has its place and there is definitely a need for it in specific areas. However, I feel it is often to liberally applied to areas where there is no real problem. I'm an avid predator hunter & enjoy hunting them, so application of control in areas where there "may" be control needed is a questionable use of limited resources.

806 I would like to see better management of the mountain lion population. I think we should open all licenses to the use of hounds. Also increase the lion tags. Let's get these lions under control.

820 Based on my recent 5 day hunt in Gregory, S.D. I found there is a need to place a bounty on such animals as raccoons, skunks, coyotes, beavers, etc. The amount of dead pheasants found in wind breaks, and shelters was astounding and I feel detrimental to the pheasant population. Skunks have been attacking pheasant eggs along with other predators. The number of hawks, owls and other birds of prey was absolutely amazing this year. I have never in my 40 years of hunting and 10 years in S.D. seen so many predators that is beginning to decimate the wild pheasant population in your state. If SD continues to lose this preeminent bird the yearly visit by nonresident hunters will diminish severely. SD needs to have an open season on birds of prey for one season, set bounties on predators such as coyotes, raccoon, skunks, etc. for one year as well. Your state is a hunter's dream and paradise but this will change if measures are not met right now. Thank you for offering me the time to comment. I hope this will help. You have a true national treasure of a state!!!!! Regards,

823 I would be willing to pay more than a dollar increase to help manage wildlife program and keep the predator population at a manageable level.

841 I believe that each farmer/rancher has the right to defend his livestock. If his property is in harm's way, he has the right to kill any predator.

851 Maybe there could be list of farmers or ranchers that have these problems and the GFP could let hunters or traps these people to contact about letting them hunt or trap. If the farmer or rancher does not let people hunt or trap they should not get money from the people of the state threw taxes or license fees. Then my opinion is they don't have that bad of problem also if they have pay hunting they should take care of their own problems. One step that has helped with the new snowmobile law with coyote hunting but they could take this a little farther they could let everyone do this not just land owners but make people by a license to do it and make them have permission just like regular hunting.

857 I think the farmers need to contribute as well

877 The GF&P does not currently do near enough to control predators. By throwing more money at the issue seems like a waste of time, effort and resources. The coyote population has exploded and there doesn't seem like much is being done about it and the beaver population in a lot of small creeks have all but destroyed the tree population.

886 Predators should be looked at as an inherent risk to the ranching business and should not be subsidized for control.

887 It is clear that the coyote population has increased dramatically based on the amount of coyotes and coyote signs that we observed during our pheasant hunt this year. Further, it was clear that this population has had a significant impact on the pheasant population. So much, that we are considering not hunting in South Dakota (we are out of state hunters) until the coyote populations are under control and the bird count normalizes.

924 when I ranched. The GFP helped us get control of the coyote in the area south of Dallas, SD. However, it took a lot of people call for 4 OR 5 YR. to get some result. We and other ranches lost a lot of calves will waiting. It would be better, most of the time, to see results a little faster. Thank you for you work!

950 Damage control is important, first, season bag limits have to be adjusted to prevent over population. On severe winters this is hard because animals will continue to migrate to the food source. Rather than eliminate Deer, Elk and antelope. I believe these should go on a feeding schedule away from private food sources. This has to be started early enough so you can control the herd near winter cover. Unfortunately this is costly. GFPS has to have a tremendous supply of food to be ready to act. Predators almost have to be eliminated,

967 Allow hunting of coyotes by any means Incl. aircraft.

975 I am the owner of a predator call company based here in South Dakota. I feel that some of what the ADC does hurts the sales of my products as well as the enjoyment of predator calling and hunting. I would rather see a program that puts hunters in touch with land owners and farmers who are having problems with predators. A bounty on coyotes, which seem to be the biggest instigator of problems for farmers/ranchers, might be a partial solution. We've been in business for over ten years in South Dakota and we sell calls throughout the entire United States. South Dakota, like most areas, is seeing a sharp increase in interest in predator calling. Feel free to contact me at any time.

980 I don’t own 160 acres of land but I do own land in 3 different counties and by far Butte county has no animal's running because they kill everything that move's either by pickup or they just shoot everything, Kind of sad that a person that has 88 million dollar's has to GUT shoot deer or they run them down and hit them with their big bumpers! No animal is safe around here with him and his hired man who is from Wyoming! I hunt and love it but around Butte County you just don’t see the Deer because of them!!!! They have killed every predator in this area so we don’t have to worry about giving the POOR Farmers of Butte County any money (Vale area) that is!

985 Was not even aware of this program or what it does probably a waste of funds like most government programs!

1023 I believe there should be less restrictive hunting rules to control nuisance animals. There is no reason why night hunting permits could not be issued. Also as a non-resident farm owner/South Dakota tax payer, why am I not allowed to hunt predators on my own land?????? My grandfather homesteaded this land long before there ever was a GFP!

1045 Your dept. has enough $$ to do more for this project. It's obvious there is a need to do more or you would not have sent out this survey! So just do it!!

1072 I have no land to hunt deer or pheasants unless I want to pay. The farmers and ranchers are paid, by the government when they have a drought, a flood, predation, if the prices are too low, for Crp and charge hunters to hunt that land. I think they have enough help. I hunted on public land in Harding co and the rancher next to the public land was a jerk, laying logs across the access road, locking the gate. Less deer means less damage and fewer predators, yet me and my family were treated like we were trespassing on public land! I strongly oppose payment of any kind, unless they have assigned some of their land to public walk-in. I think they receive plenty of government money. I'm 45 with a 10 year old son, he wants to hunt and I don't encourage him because you have to pay farmers and kiss their butts for a deer or a few pheasants. I try to encourage him to fish, because the ramps are public and the farmers and the ranchers can't charge me to go on the water. Sad really.

1075 we need to get rid of the mountain lions in the black hills. elk hunting is very poor because of the lions. You need to open the season up for mountain lions up during rifle deer season and that will help get rid of more.

1079 I hunted in SD for my first time. We only encountered 1 skunk but heard many coyotes. The price of the out of state hunting license was not an issue. Travel is the big expense. Please use any additional funds wisely. My dogs loved your state!

1087 With diminishing CRP predator control will become more important to game management. I am willing to pay a little more for a lic.to assist with pred. control but would also like to see SoDak add more public areas. It continues to get harder to find good areas that the average person can afford and I would hate to the quality of hunting slip in SoDak.

1096 Enjoyed coming back home and getting in some pheasant hunting...thought the license cost was a bit high and would have liked to be able to hunt some ducks on our property. Any changes in the outlook for waterfowl hunting?

1123 From time to time we have a problem with skunks and raccoons. I take care of them myself but there do seem to be more skunks this year. Ref coyotes, I have owned up to over 1000 head cows and never have had a problem with coyotes. I don't shoot coyotes unless they are mangy and feel that there is a good control of rodents,

1125 I cannot the question about taking funds from other programs without knowing the details. Some cuts I would support, depending on how much and some I would not. The question is too broad.

1137 This was my first year pheasant hunting in South Dakota along with eight other hunters and I must say that all of us were truly disgusted with pheasant hunting in the Pierre area. All of us have hunted Kansas and Nebraska for the past twenty five years and finally tried SD for the first time. After obtaining your ridiculous out of state hunting license which is only good for two weeks (KS and NE is the full year and costs less) unless you go hunt on a preserve (is that really pheasant hunting). Now let’s get to the Pubic/Walk in lands, eighty percent were dirt or closely cut fields that could not hold pheasants, your state should be embarrassed, I was for you. The public lands that had decent cover were being hunted by the private preserve hunters and the public hunters but after the resident hunters had gone through them two weeks earlier. What a scam, I will give up pheasant hunting before I come back to SD. Coyotes and predator problems are the least of your problems.....

1148 I trap myself, landowners will call me to trap, because the GFP trapper was not providing the control the wanted to achieve to protect their investment.

1154 I enjoy the sport of calling in coyotes along with prairie dog.

1160 WE hunted Pheasants east of Buffalo Gap and on our way out to hunt we saw a pack of 6-7 wolves. They were close to live stock but we didn't see any attacks on cattle. There was three adult males in my group and we all came up with the same conclusion. We all are in our 50,s and do a lot of hunting and have all Know the difference of Coyotes and Wolfs. Never seen wolf in real life before but seen lots of coyotes. I've even taken coyote with archery equipment.

1163 As a resident of Iowa I have seen our pheasant, rabbit, and quail populations drop to all-time lows. Farming practices have been a major factor in eliminating cover, especially winter cover. In turn the predator/varmint populations have increased from lack of hunting due to low hide prices. Therefore I believe that a program that will help control the predator populations is and can be a valuable tool to future small game hunting.

1172 I have asked ranchers for permission to shoot prairie dogs and have been asked to pay from $50 to $150 a day to shoot dogs. These same ranchers want GFP to use taxpayer dollars to keep their dogs under control.

1173 Animal control can be done by the private sector more economically and just as well with implementation of a hunter/trapper/ landowner relations program.

1183 My only question is how Charles Mix County can create a position for a county trapper and use some of these State funds to do so? Then they give the job to possibly 1 of the biggest poachers in the state? Would I pay higher license fees for this, hell NO

1205 land owners won’t let me hunt on their property without paying them they can take care of their own problem with their own money

1207 I believe that it is a beneficial program for those who seek help with problem predators. Unfortunately, this is the first I have heard of the ADC program and it should not be funded from the LE division unless: the monies raised for ADC are put into the LE budget and conservation officers are tasked with control over it, thanks.

1211 I am an avid coyote hunter but don't make it out hunting as much as I would like. I believe the coyote population has exploded due to the fly program being financially hampered /or dsc'd and the fact there are so few hunters controlling them. I know there was an attempt by legislation to pass a law that would make it legal for a landowner to chase coyotes with snowmobiles. I am an avid snowmobiler also and have used my sled for transportation when we have had plenty of snow. Chasing coyotes/predators on sleds is not sporting but would rather see this legalized than charge a fee to sportsman’s/county governments to fund this. Being in law enforcement, I know this would probably create further issues with trespassing with sleds, but most ranchers in my area don't care how coyotes are taken care of. I don't know the right answer but am definitely against paying more for license fees to fund this.

1244 We have to trust GFP will do the right thing for the farmers/ranchers who need the assistance to utilize the resources available to them.

1247 I know that we are losing fawns from coyotes. In the few years, we have seen a lot of deer loss. Even last night while watching deer, we watched a coyote chase a buck. A couple of years ago the renter chased five coyotes out of one field. The coyote population has increased drastically in the last ten years. As we have seen the coyote population increase we have seen large decrease in the deer and pheasant population. Somehow or another we need to get rid of more coyotes.

1249 I come to your state only once a year for Spring Turkey hunting. I am not sure how important my views are not knowing a thing about your programs.

1251 I think the Canada goose damage management program by SDGFP is largely ineffective and not well though-out. Canada Geese in SD are an icon of success for wildlife management, and they are currently being treated like they are vermin or strictly a nuisance species. I feel the state has spent too much of the sportsman's dollars to placate a relative few landowners in terms of goose damage to their crops without requiring ANYTHING in return in the form of permanent vegetative buffers or other barriers that have been shown to be effective at reducing crop depredation. The problem is going to continue to get worse because the current land-use practices of tile drainage and expanded crop production is going to create ever more goose habitat (larger, more permanent water bodies) which will increase the carrying capacity of eastern SD for geese. In my opinion, there needs to be a sociological solution to this problem because I see no possible way to realistically hold goose numbers at the stated target of somewhere around 80,000 birds when the capacity of the habitat for geese is continually expanding and improving.

1256 I feel that if the land owner is going to charge people to hunt, then I am not willing to pay extra for my hunting license. I am a father of two boys who like to hunt and I can't afford to pay to hunt. So let the landowners fend for themselves. Furthermore, if the landowner is going to use their land for Outfitter purposes they should be taxed as commercial property instead of agricultural.

1257 This program is a good example of why our country is and the state of South Dakota can't balance a budget. When we are paying for silly programs like this if the landowners are having Animal Damage let them take care of their land themselves thats why they own it if they can afford the land they can afford to control the animals on it not make the tax payers who aren't even allowed to hunt the lands that they are being asked to pay for animal damage control on. It’s ludicrous!!!

1263 I think all GFP services are beneficial and understand the need for more resources, but I am not sure about at the expense of other areas (i.e. enforcement or hunter safety). Although I myself am not a land owner/operator, I have family members and several friends who are.

1275 Hello, I know some things are not perfect and there are always loops to get thru but personally I believe you should cut the funding on this or keep it where it is at and open the opportunity more to hunters willing to spend their own time, money and gas to partake in this type of predator management instead of paying state or federal employees to do so and have them focus more on conservation, adaptation, and preservation of existing numbers of game populations in SD other than predator control or utilize some funding into more drive in walk areas that are off roadways and rowing out some large CRP lands to make them more usable to the small time/group hunters, and also more shared vegetation on some large public hunting areas (Ex. Shelter, grass, water, CROP {Which can easily be funded by the person willing to farm it out}. I think the hunter list we can sign up on is great for landowners that are experiencing issues with predators or geese that are causing a nuisance; however, I don't believe it is being used effectively. I have never heard of one person I know getting a call to help in landowner problems with predators or geese in eastern SD and I know many of us would love the opportunity to help out. More education/advertising can be very significant in educating landowners that many of us would love to help out and build relationships with for their issues, and it would not cost a state employee or the state the time or money to resolve this when there are many willing, law abiding hunters to help! Thanks

1283 I am from West Virginia and enjoyed hunting in your state and will return. I am not familiar with all your problems but enjoyed bird hunting in your state. Thanks.

1296 most landowners find ways to manage coyotes, etc on their own...thanks...

1301 As would any hunter I feel the programs are necessary but feel that the state does not rely on other resources to help this population control. Use the free available resource of ""hunters"" to enhance seasons and limits on these types of predator populations. There are a lot of us out there that would be willing to help more if we were contacted.

1305 Mountain lions should be considered a predator and hunted all year long.

1308 I think predators are doing a lot of damage overall to everything. I don't see the amount of wildlife around my house that I used to (deer and pheasants), but when I go outside at night I hear a lot more coyotes than I used to. I have also noticed a lot more raccoons, skunks, and feral cats. I feel these animals cause a lot damage. I am willing to pay more to GFP's to control the number of these pests, (but I don't feel these predators should be totally eliminated, only controlled).

1310 Some ADC work becomes annually routine instead of annually needed. I would recommend taking some of the required County money and put it towards ADC Landowner education so that the LO's can help themselves without relying on the Government and/or professional ADC people that both cost a lot of money. South Dakota State University and other SD Colleges and/or SD Counties could provide Animal Damage Wildlife Control Extension Training to SD LO's throughout the year. Kansas has almost as much animal damage control problems as South Dakota and Kansas does not spend any indirect Fish and Wildlife Fee funds on ADC except a $40,000 a year contract to Kansas State University Wildlife Animal Damage Control Extension. The KSU Extension provides a lot of education training and some on site ADC work to get the LO's started on their own. Thanks for asking. Good Luck with a very important issue for SD.

1324 i think landowners that have trouble should work with hunters to help out with hunting. (and not charge for it) and then ask for assistance from gfp when they don’t allow hunting to help control population

1339 Out of state and I do not have enough exposure to answer the other questions!

1365 There are too many farmers that are telling us no when we ask to hunt Yotees or Geese on their lands and then they make claims for depredation claims or loss of livestock claim. Sorry, but to me your supporting them gives them an excuse to turn people down. To me if you really want to help them just give them the list of names of people that want to shoot the things in their area and they can have them hunted and killed. Furthermore it helps develop relationships and friendships in the communities. To me paying them for something that is really a cost of doing business when other help is available is wrong and should be quit immediately.

1370 I would really appreciate if you would consider changing the duck hunting nonresident license to a two 5 day period license.

1403 May I suggest that there are willing sportsmen that would sign up for predator control for specific nuisance animals. Should a complaint come into your office you could assign a sportsman to visit with the farmer/rancher and help with the problem for not much expense on the commission’s part. Try it. You may like it.

1430 Non-resident hunters already pay 10 times what residents pay and are offered very poor access to licensing - the resident hunter should pay $5 each to control predators.

1432 Our group hunted hard for 4 days, never saw a coyote, raccoon or skunk.

1440 I think adding additional funds to help pay for this program would be the best way to go. Sportsman are the only group in America that encourage taxing themselves in order to ensure that the resource is well kept and managed. One thing I would like to see is a posted list of landowners that receive support from the state for Animal Damage Control measures because this is essentially state money that is being spent and therefore, public information, as is being able to look up what farmers received for subsidies and things of that matter which are readily available on the internet. And what would be better for a landowner who has problems with geese eating his soybeans than to have respectful, law abiding hunters lined up at his door step opening morning to go after them? Hopefully all of that wasn't a lecture, I very much appreciate everything the Game, Fish, and Parks is doing for our state's natural resources. Thank you!

1450 I am a non-resident hunter and do enjoy your pheasant population. Keep up the good work.

1452 I believe the funds should come from the people requesting the service. Increase the fees for the cattle (0.12) and sheep (0.50) if that isn't enough raise the non-resident fees hunting and fishing fees first, it seems there is twice as many non-resident hunter and fishermen, harvesting our states resources. I'm 54 years old and have been hunting sense I was 12 and I've lost 95% of the private land I used to hunt for deer and pheasants to pay hunting. All I have left is public land, and that's getting more and more crowded with the ban on the GFP land buying. Sorry for my rambling, I just feel the resident is getting pushed out.

1461 We encountered several skunks while pheasant hunting. As they are serious predators that destroy many nests, it would be advantageous to step up eradication efforts.

1473 Less Government folks. Coyotes have been here for thousands of years and along with the ebb and flow of their numbers.

1479 Thank you for all of your efforts in supporting South Dakota Farmers and Ranchers!!! We appreciate it.

1502 cost if hunting keeps going up soon people and there families will not be able to afford. quit wasting monies. control is already there don't mess with nature.

1515 I am a nonresident. The property that I hunt on belongs to a friend of mine. He farms but has no livestock. We have seen a few kills of fawns by coyotes as well as turkey. The herd seems to be very healthy and the buck to doe ratio is about average.

1524 DCP is an important part of wildlife management, I would sincerely like to see the State offer a bounty on Mountain lions in the coming few years much like Colorado does. This bounty should be much less than CO's of 200/animal (I believe). I would suggest that it be a gratis hunting permit for small game or something of the like.

1539 I put my name on the gfp website to hunt predators on land where farmers and ranchers are having trouble, and i have received zero calls. If they are not willing to take advantage of hunters who love hunting coyotes then i strongly oppose giving my money to adc. There are thousands of hunters willing to help. In my opinion money needs to go to adding more law enforcement.

1544 I know that the ranchers in Custer and Fall River Counties have predator problems from time to time and welcome any help they can get to control them. As an avid hunter I know that these same predators take their share of the deer fawns and elk calves, so naturally I don't complain when some of these predators disappear. Therefore I'd do my share to help reduce their numbers and would expect the GFP to do the same. I'd also feel that most hunters would be supportive of a small license fee increase to keep predator numbers under control. I'd also feel that a strong number of non-hunters would support a method for them to help out also but don't have any suggestions as to how. Thanks for the opportunity to provide some input.

1560 Provide more access for recreational and commercial non-government trappers and your problem will be solved with paying a dime.

1585 The promotion of predator hunting while on a pheasant hunt in SD would reduce the coyote population and increase out of state hunter spending thus benefiting all of the citizens of SD.

1587 I hunted for pheasants this year in the Presho area for 3 days and saw coyotes every day along with (1) beaver and (1) skunk, the bird population was about 50% compared to previous years. We've been hunting in this area for 10 years.

1599 This is a great tool if, the landowner does permit the shooting to occur, under some depredation items as shooting of deer, it is a necessity.

1615 I coyote hunt in SD each winter. Most ranchers let you hunt but not all. I think if SD wants coyotes killed more needs to be done to help hunters. You can shoot from road ways but if you go into farmer's field to retrieve coyote you are trespassing right? Make the law so the hunter can retrieve coyotes, fox within 300 yards of road. To keep things safe still have law about not shooting to close to buildings. Don't let people chase them with snow machines that's just sad. Most of SD is not overly populated so open to rules a little. Thanks

1617 I would just like to commend the guys in Day County for their hard work helping us control geese on our farm ground. With all the high water the past few years, we have been dealing with an increasing number of susceptible acres along slough edges and we could not do an effective job limiting the damage the geese cause without your help. We gladly allow waterfowl hunters on our property as a means of control, but the most critical time for limiting crop damage is during the growing season and the service the interns and staff provide is greatly needed and appreciated. The one suggestion I have heard multiple times from hunters during the August management take is to allow hunters to remove their plugs and have five shells instead of three. Thanks again for your help and look forward to working with Blake and his guys again in the future.

1691 I think it is foolish not to help the farmers with predator control.

1698 Make the program more well-known to the farmers and ranchers.

1705 why should we pay for their loss? we don't get to use it unless we pay...

1707 I am not fully aware of all the ADC program does but I believe it serves a real purpose. Perhaps there are some additional ways to expand the services without a great deal of additional expense. For example, training volunteers to assist the GFP officers in an effort to increase services provided but without additional costs or just minimal costs. I believe volunteers would step up if they saw and understood the need.

1739 I predator hunt in the fall, winter, and spring. Ranchers, farmers, owner operators, and other land owning entities for the most part WILL NOT let me or anyone else call coyotes and other varmints. I am safe, professional, polite hunter. I have even heard of ranchers charging people to hunt coyotes and then requesting government assistance to help with the coyote problem when they are calving. Last year I had a rancher/farmer in Gregory County tell me to, ""Just leave the coyotes alone, they have it hard enough."" Then the local game warden said this same guy has been getting state Animal Control for coyotes and deer. I know this is an isolated incident; however it seems to be a common theme. There are thousands of varmint hunters in the state, there are plenty of varmints for everyone to hunt. Somewhere in the middle there is a happy medium. I think that a CHAP style of varmint hunting should be authorized. I farm too by the way. A land owner should not get any state help for control until they have given access to at least (25 or 30)? Hunting groups, people or 45 days of varmint hunting, or something?? After deer and pheasant seasons. Get signatures dates and information of the hunters so they are having their buddies and neighbors sign their rosters. I would even pay $20 or $30 to be put on list for land owners to call if they wanted hunters. Maybe have a 1 time class or something saying, these guys are safe and professional hunters, to ease the weirdness of having a stranger on your land and around your cattle? I know there is a list to be put on to hunt they are long and I don't think I have ever heard of anyone (I know) getting called. There is definitely a supply of varmints here and a demand to hunt them. The SD GFP needs to fill that gap. That's my 2 cents.

1744 I would rather pay an additional $1.00 for a general firearm permit than any other way, but if it was not enough I would pay more. Thank-you for listening to me.

1745 I think that they should have some dollar value for each animal (coyote) shoot that would get more peoples interest in hunting them.

1767 I believe predator control should be left up to the landowners, hunters and bounties. Most hunters would be happy to assist in keeping predators under control if there were regulations and bounties that would allow them to do so. When as a young boy I learned about predator control through catching predators. I live in Alaska and am appalled they do not let us shoot wolves from the air, but will pay huge sums so our fish and game people can fly around in helicopters (real expensive) and have a unique sport of eliminating predators. Give volunteer hunting and trapping groups authority to eliminate predators in certain areas where they are a problem. Save taxpayer dollars!

1773 In my opinion, if you have a problem with game causing losses to rancher then they should allow someone like me to go in and hunt them. Most people want me to pay them to shoot on their land. So when they call the GFP to help them, I think you should pass it along to someone who would like to go hunt and get rid of the problem.

1795 The damage control program is a critical part of the GFP work. However I can't say I agree with paying the ranchers for the loss of their animals. It's also a crucial part of being a farmer or rancher to protect their livestock. I'm certain that every rancher has a firearm in his possession and loss from predators is just the nature of the business. Why is the state responsible for paying for their loss? Does the state pay for damaged vehicles that hit a deer? Do they pay for the loss of crops that the wildlife consume? Are these subjects any different? I know I don't have near enough information to debate these subjects but people get tired of seeing farmers given and given and given money for everything they do or don't do. If something is taken form a business they rely on insurance, not the state to repay them. If they don't have insurance then it's just there loss. Anyway just some food for thought. Maybe a way the state could save some money and put it into something more useful for everybody. Like new boat docks, or stocking some fish in some lakes, or youth hunting and education programs (Good job on those BTW!) Even more walk in public lands. Which brings up another point. The walk in land is useless when the farmers graze it the dirt or mow all the grass off of it. I know sometimes it's not an option and they have to do it but then why do they get paid for that too? OK I will quit now because I'm sure it will do no good anyway. But next time you send a survey maybe put question on these subjects in as well. Thanks for reading.

1798 If landowners receive money ,then the landowner should have to HUNTERS HUNT on that land.

1805 its a great service, but should be done at the landowners expense.

1813 if the people that have problems with predators would allow deer hunters to hunt same ground may help get rid of yotes i know i would sure hunt yotes if land owner would let me hunt deer at the same place

1827 I would like to see more help provided for Prairie Dog management.

1841 The primary focus for GFP's resources should be habitat management. With the losses in the CRP program, and every blade of grass grazed off, good habitat has become hard to find. Habitat loss is the most significant threat facing wildlife in South Dakota.

1846 Remove the lottery system for obtaining a Black Hills deer license. It is very hard to understand a new and improved licensing program that has eliminated getting a license every year or even every other year. Most years I fail to get a license but then I hear the GFP (or at least the state of SD) is paying professional hunters to reduce the number of deer in and around the cities in the Black Hills. This really appears to be a poor economic process, you reject my license fee and turn around and pay somebody to reduce the deer population. Very very hard to understand!! I would appreciate a response to my question. Thank you.

1859 From the limited information I know of the animal damage control program, I feel as though it is a beneficial program. I do have one other comment I would like to forward to the GFP website that has nothing to do with the above program. I have enjoyed coming to South Dakota to hunt pheasant and/or waterfowl for over 20 years. I would highly recommend that the state would change from the ""lottery/drawing"" process for non-resident waterfowl licenses. I think the state is missing out on a huge opportunity to gain more revenue by having more non-resident waterfowl licenses available (similar to how you handle small game/pheasant license). More and more hunters are starting to travel to other states than South Dakota because of the limited amount of licenses available and how early (June/July) you have to apply for the licenses.

1860 Always thankful when they help with the coyote control. Support moving funds on a limited basis and as excess funds for other programs are available. Thanks!

1865 As a non-resident, I don't have a good feel for the extent of the problem. Generally, residents should be encouraged by regulations and possibly with a bounty system to help alleviate damage by predators.

1875 We have never heard of this program so really do not know what they are doing in our area, or if they are helping with the management.

1897 Some of the problems with the depredation are that some of the farmers will not let you hunt the areas that have the coyote problems. I believe the money that is in the system already is enough to maintain what they should. The land owner himself should be responsible for some of the expenses occurring with the trapping or shooting coyotes. If there is a way to get hunters involved, even at our cost, we still need the opportunity to get access to the land. When hunting season is over, a lot of sportsmen would like the opportunity to hunt coyotes. The only cost GF&P would have, would be organizing with the landowners and the hunters. Most of this could be done online. Thank you for making us aware of the situation.

1904 While I am not a land owner in South Dakota, I do own land on which I hunt in Illinois. While we certainly have a coyote problem here, most land owners simply to not have the time or expertise to effectively hunt coyotes. Shooting the stray coyote when you are hunting deer, for example, is simply not effective control.

1930 Predator control primarily benefits livestock owners. The majority of the cost should not be paid by sportsmen? Targeted handling of nuisance predator situations has no measurable impact to game populations across the state. Predator control is ""not"" game management.

1937 i am an avid pheasant hunter in south dakota. i am concerned about the crp program. ive hunted in the state for 15 plus years now and i have noticed a big drop in crp. all the farmers we hunt on say they want to plant more crp but can’t afford too. myself and I’m sure other pheasant hunters wouldn’t mind paying a little extra for a license if it went to the crp program.

1941 I am a MN pheasant hunter. We hunted near Redfield with a farmer and our groups saw a number of coyotes. They certainly are impacting the livestock and the pheasant population, which we felt was lower than what was predicted.

1960 Landowners will not let you hunt on their land, or charge you to hunt on their land. There should be some willingness from the land owner to allow hunting before getting help.

1961 Hunters and fisherman should not have to pay for landowners problems. Quit giving the landowners so much welfare. It is bad enough that they get an elk tag every year and I have been applying for 16 years and have nothing to show for it.

1967 I really don't support the government spending funds to control prairie dogs on public or private lands. Not sure how much the GF&P spends on this but USDA Forest Service spends money to

poison dogs on federal land for a few cows. I know that it is difficult on the sheep herders in NW SD but not sure that is a government responsibility to control coyotes.

1968 Remind the landowners that hunters are paying to help them out!

1970 I'm for programs that enhance game production as well as protect livestock.

1983 Farmers and ranchers get enough financial help already. Tell them to get a darn gun and shoot the darn things themselves

2015 Instead of leaving the coyotes lay after shooting them the gfp could use the hides for funding for the animal control program. As an avid hunter I personally coyote hunt for the sport in it but also extra money from the hides

2029 Ask farmers who charge from a tax free $150 dollars a day to hunt to support this predator control program. There is hardly any place to hunt without begging or paying. No wonder fewer and fewer young people are sportsmen!

2038 if landowners would allow hunting on their land it would be different . i hunt public land and have knocked on a lot of doors to try to find private land to hunt but no one is willing so if the landowners want more help with predators they can get their paid hunters to do it . my tags cost a lot now if they keep going up only the paid hunters win and maybe that’s what it is coming to only the rich win.

2066 Animal damage is a cost of doing business. Unfortunately it is like shoplifting. Landowners should/need/have to support habitat that provides a balance to all wildlife. They need to manage for changes in weather from year to year, not the average they want. I do believe that management of all wildlife is needed because we have impacted the landscape to a significant degree. We as hunters should have to support poor or choice made management decisions that encourage predation. For example: I fully oppose poisoning of prairie dogs if the grass is grazed to the ground.

2067 Let ranchers control predators themselves. We don't need more government programs!

2070 Permission to hunt on lands and animal control go hand in hand. No permission to hunt, no animal control.

2084 To give permits to kill coyotes on snowmobiles, it won’t cost the GFP anything ranchers n land owners would be happy.

2088 It's my belief that wildlife biologists don't believe predator control (bounties, etc.) is worth the costs associated. A more serious problem now & in the future is habitat loss. CRP lands, pasture land & sloughs being plowed or burned so a crop can be planted in the spring even if it floods out so the land owner can collect on their crop insurance are major factors in the loss of habitat. I cancelled my 2nd trip to SD (Miller) due the relatively few birds we found on our hunt the first part of November. My hunting partner also cancelled his 2nd trip with his son-in-law for the same reason. As good as it's been, we may have seen the best.

2099 I believe everyone in the state of South Dakota should be allowed an affordable hunting and harvesting experience. This was something my parents never done with me while growing up. I have now had the experience and have passed it down to my only son. I believe keeping the cost low for fees allows families or father son to go and experience a harvest. This also shows responsibility and more of an appreciation for our wildlife. I have had the experience of hunting in another state and would not return to do it again due to the cost. I would although be willing to but or donate the cost of a hunting license to a less fortunate child for hunting or fishing at the time I purchase my license for the year. If those licenses are not used up by the end of the season the

Game Fish can use those funds as they see fit. I think if there is a program where it looks and is perceived to be a win, win situation for hunter and state would be a best practice kind of deal. I have enjoyed my experiences hunting and fishing in South Dakota and will enjoy it for years to come.

2109 I am an avid hunter and trapper, I would like to see more cooperation from ranchers to allow more predator hunting and trapping on their land. I would love to have an opportunity to visit with land owners in my area to trap fox, coyote, and beaver where there is a problem. I have also spoken to my local game warden about this particular issue. Thanks for your time and consideration.

2114 Allow farmers to hunt the animals year round and you wouldn't need to waste money that could be spent on other more important things! If they have problems controlling coyotes do what my dad and I do on our farm, we buy a fur harvester permit and we trap and hunt and shoot them! The point is people are lazy and won't help themselves and the govt shouldn't have to take money from people that work to support lazy people!

2131 I live in Davison County and I found 5 decent bucks and one doe dead of EHD. I commented last year that there is the need to back off the doe tags. The population is under control here and headed the wrong direction quickly. I appreciate the increase in the mountain lion tags, but you need to remove more. I would be willing to pay another $1 on the license to regulate lions and coyotes.

2133 As A rancher /farmer/pilot I would like the ability to take care of the predator problem on my own and would like for the GFP to stay out of the picture completely. And it would also help if the GFP would quite reintroducing cats and wolves back into the state that my grandfather spent years of getting rid them.

2164 I have friends who are landowners and I can see where this program would benefit both landowners and the wildlife we hunt for sport and food. I think this program needs additional funding outside the other gfp programs so we can continue to have great hunting and fishing here in SD and I would be willing to pay the extra dollar for a hunting license as long as it stays that way.

2172 Providing opportunities for hunters and trappers to connect with landowners who have complaints or problems would be the most cost effective means of damage control.

2173 really? you've got almost a million dollars to throw at this and it isn't enough??

2175 Not sure what the funds do but use this opportunity to put hunters in contact with the land owners. The population of predators is large and growing. To slow the population growth of predators, large scale efforts which include the public need to be pursued.

2179 Let hunters control the problem. We are more than willing to spend our money and time hunting need to know where the problems are. Land owners need a site to advertise there problems . If its ok for the game and fish to shoot from plains then it ok for us open the rules up if you want them gone.

2184 Dear, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, I think human dimensions is the biggest key in working with the plants, animals, fish, and the land. In which your department does an excellent job. and will continue do in the future.

2191 Government thinks there is an endless supply of money from us. You need to start reining in spending on all fronts.

2220 If additional fee(s) are to be assessed, my suggestion would be to place a bounty on the aforementioned predator(s) and utilize those funds acquired for that purpose.

2223 License fees should not be utilized for predation control. Depredation measures should solely be the responsibility of the livestock producer.

2227 I refuse to support farmers and rangers who are already receiving additional assistance from the federal government. Farmers and ranchers a businessmen and woman no different than anyone else. They do not need additional help with issues that do not concern the rest of the general public. If they want to do this type of business than they need to figure out how to handle certain situations!

2241 Why is it that almost $1 million dollars is not enough to fund the ADC program?

2275 If there are problem areas, the land owner/operator should call GF&P and request help. GF&P could send out an e-mail to people like me and request hunters to help control the problem. I would be more than happy to travel 50 or even 100 miles to shoot coyotes, coons, or other animals that are causing problems.

2279 Hunters could provide this service without cost. Landowners have to meet in the middle for access.

2288 We hunted in the wessinton springs area in three days of pheasant hunting we kicked up 13 coyotes from slews and shelter belts

2296 I agree with the GFP wanting to control the population of the predator situation for the ranchers. However, i do not agree pulling funds away from other divisions of the DNR to pay for it. By pulling funds away, for example, the law enforcement division of the DNR would result in more issues with possible poaching and bigger matters like that. I think that the additional charge of a hunting license would be more appropriate for this matter.

2299 I did not answer all the questions because I don't live in SD anymore, so I do not know all the issues. I do like to hunt and after my retirement, plan on hunting more often in my state of birth. I plan to look into this online more to be better informed. If you have some good references on this this need please let me know. Thanks.

2331 Hunting the past few years and this year it seems to that you see less younger wildlife so I guess the predators or also affecting the wildlife numbers also.

2357 A program is needed. From what I know and hear the present system and framework is not managed well and execution is lacking.

2360 If landowner’s would allow sportsmen to hunt without paying fees maybe there would not be such a problem!

2362 I think that the muzzleloader anterless deer season should include the Black Hills. If you don't a private landowner in one of the West River unit it makes it very hard to get a deer on public hunting land. The public hunting land has been hunted very hard during the gun season it is hard to get close enough to make a good killing shot with the muzzleloader. I would rather see less anterless tags given out for the regular gun season in the hills and add some muzzleloader tags in the hills.

2368 We can control the coyotes, coons etc... We need the state to control the mountains lions that are taking over... I'm not saying it's all lions, though. The state almost needs to shut down east river deer season for a couple years to counterbalance the EHD and what I think I lions. Im a 24 year old man from union county and in the last 5 years down here and also in lake, Lincoln and clay, the numbers have drastically dropped... For the next two years I would shut down rifle season and only allow archery hunters one tag. If not, the deer will be done from here. Coyote management is the last thing you need to worry about.

2369 Had a bad problem with blue tong disease killing whitetails.

2388 It is important that predators are controlled and we can keep our hunting plentiful for our future generations. Can't think of anything better than being able to hunt with family and friends.

2422 Our state needs animal damage control.

2423 The sad part of this program is the fact I have come across farmers and ranchers that get assistance but will not allow hunting, or save the hunting for a few select friends and family. I am all for helping rancher/farmers control wildlife, but it should be done through the efforts of hunters first. It should be made mandatory that if a rancher/farmer asks for assistance, that they give permission to responsible hunter to help stem the effects of wildlife damage first. This would save money for the GFP and benefit both rancher/farmer and hunter. If the landowner does not want to allow hunting on his or her land, than wildlife damage is a cost of doing business, If the landowner charges a fee to hunt, then this program should not be available to them, they can assume the cost to manage the wildlife. For the landowners that do allow hunting and still have problems with wildlife damage, then by all means help the landowners and lessees manage the wildlife.

2434 I believe more mountain lions should be taken to help the elk and deer herds in the Black Hills.

2435 All coyotes, bobcats, foxes, wolves, raccoons, feral cats and skunks should be reduced to their minimal levels so that all game birds and animals have a fighting chance to procreate and survive in an environment skewed to their survival, not their demise.

2437 This is one of those ""I can’t believe what I am reading"" surveys. I would tell landowners to get over it. Wildlife depredation is a small problem. With commodity prices where they are there shouldn’t be any complaining, especially concerning wildlife. Farmers are investing heavily in high end machinery and huge new buildings and infrastructure. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in just one building on many farms.. And you are telling me they need support against depredation?

2440 Thanks for the info

2445 Game birds population down. What are you doing about it?

2446 My ranch is in Colorado and not South Dakota.

2465 I do believe this needs to be done but what always worries me is that this money will go to those who charge to hunt on their lands or will not allow hunting at all. I am 56 years old and have hunted for 44 years and have seen this become a real problem with those individuals getting money for something they do not deserve.

2466 the animal damage control program as a very slow response time when farmer and rancher has a problem. it seem like the damage is done and over with before we see gfp. we can talk about coyotes killing livestock to mountain lion sighting in town or killing livestock or go as far as deer destroying edges of corn fields that add up to 15 to 20 percent of a farmer corn income. Overall, I think gfp needs to get a better relationship with farmer and rancher and start working with then to get problems solved

2480 Knowledge of the program is lacking. I support the mission. I'm not sure how effectively or ineffectively the program functions.

2520 It seems like there are less people trapping predators and their numbers are increasing. I'm in favor spending a little more to help control them.

2527 With my experience this last fall (early goose and nonresident waterfowl) with landowners, I believe something needs to be enacted between state funded assistance (I.e. predator

management) and the landowners. We were turned down 20 times in 2 weekends by landowners regarding hunting geese in the early season. Most of the reasons were pertaining to family. Mostly on the lines of ""my nephew hunts and I would hate to irritate him by letting you hunt"". Because of this we chose to not come back to following two weekends. We were also turned away during our ten day nonresident hunt multiple times for the same reason. From what I've heard we weren't the only ones with this trouble. I realize as landowners they don't have to let us hunt but on the other hand landowners in that area don't have to get government funded assistance in predator control or waterfowl evacuation either. A response to this would be very appreciated

2533 I think a lot of farmers and ranchers blame GF And parks too much. Farmers can't hardly fail anymore with taxpayer subsidies on crop insurance. most I know are millionaires and inherited everything. Even our Governor is opposed to land acquisition by GFand P??? Our state will be devoid of cover, sloughs and shelterbelts in a few years. Tiling all over. farm 2 more acres per section for 7 dollar corn

2540 I believe animal control should come from the hunters and not the GF&P. Why would the public want to pay additional money for a hunting license when we, as hunters, are capable of performing this task? Depredation tags / hunts managed and overseen by the GF&P would be my choice. I know a lot of hunters that would jump at the opportunity to hunt some of these animals on private land for depredation purposes.

2545 Confirmed mating wolves in the Black Hills is very alarming. I hope we don't botch this like we have the mountain lion. If you think over population of coyotes is a problem, hang on. Ranchers will have to take matters into their own hands if you don't address Lions and wolves immediately, and they won't need seasons and tags. You are facing a serious problem, and all we hear is it is under control. I'm not sure, but a look at mountain goat, bighorn sheep, deer and elk populations in the Black Hills might be a sign.

2555 My question is what is happening to the pheasant population? Our group has been hunting in South Dakota for the past 25 yrs. Every year we have noticed a decline in the bird population. The land that we own is in Charles Mix county. We use to make 2 trips a year and hunt 5 days each trip. We stop doing that 7 yrs ago because the bird population dropped so much. We know only make one trip a year and only stay 3 days. This year was so bad that we only stayed 2 days and never even got close to harvesting a limit of birds. I'm not talking about week end warriors but seasoned veterans who have and maintain above average dogs in which to hunt with. We start our hunting season in South Dakota and hunt several other states. Does South Dakota have any plans or ideals on how to bring the population back. I know we saw very few hens this year which tells me that next year will not be a good year even if it is ideal nesting weather. Which has us thinking maybe we need to skip South Dakota totally next year. Does South Dakota Fish & Game have any plans on restocking the hen population in some areas in hopes of increase the population? I know in some areas we have hunted and harvested pen raise birds from conservation land so I know that Fish & Game does do some restocking. We did see a sharp decline in the bird population in our area a few years after the state starting opening the season earlier for the youth and local hunters. All really know is that a group of 10 of us started hunting in South Dakota 25 plus years ago. We use to hunt a total of 10 days each year and now we are only hunting 2 to 3 days a year know. We use to have to book our rooms at the hotels a year in advance and now we can get a room anywhere we want for opening weekend and the hotel isn't even full. It not how many birds we harvest but how many birds we see and we are not see them.

2558 The state trappers that work on animal damage control are very important to the landowners in SD. Coyote and beaver control is very important to the farmers and livestock people. The state trappers that I have been around are top notch and know what they are doing in order to control these animals.

2572 Some type of bounty system on raccoons, skunks, opossums, etc. Give our younger hunters a little added incentive to get into the outdoors and off their phones and video games. Realize funds are short but this could be a cheaper way to eliminate these pheasant egg eating varmints.

2573 If your rules and regulations would be relaxed we could control most of our on predator problems instead of using lots of taxpayer money like killing coyotes on snowmobiles or landowners being able to get multiple deer tags at a lower cost with landowner season going longer as most of us are usually combining during deer season and can't hunt as much the short January season can get to cold and i don't like shooting in January as some of the bucks may have lost their rack by then and i don't want to eliminate the bucks by accident

2581 I question the effectiveness of the existing program. Why are there not just bounties put on pelts for coyote, skunk, raccoons, etc. to give trappers more support to help regulate predators here? This year we saw more coyotes than all years past pheasant hunting Selby, SD area. Hopefully dollars spent can be effective to support trapping and hunting for the future.

2587 We don't need to pay government workers more or hire special removal people on many measures of preditorization.....That then also benefit from fur sales. Inform local sportsman and let them take care of the problem.....make a better effort of doing this. The state does a terrible job of this now. Thanks.

2610 I believe this is a good thing what you're trying to do but, you have not even addressed the problem with the mountain lions yet. Why are we not out there taking care of them look at the elk herd in the hills it does not take a rocket scientist to figure it out that there is to many. Yes I know there is a hunting season on them but there is also one on coyotes and other fur bearing animals, so why are we just worried about coyotes? Seems to me we should be worrying about the predators that are killing big game, maybe they have to start killing cattle and sheep first I don't know. Just my thoughts are why we are only worried about these particular animals I would like my children to be able to hunt elk in the hills someday but the way it's going I don't know if I will ever be able to.

2623 I, as well as many other hunters, have quit coyote hunting due to the increased mountain lion population. I know a number of hunters that have seen (in close range) a mountain lion while calling coyotes in, both on the prairie and in the hills. I believe this has added to the increased coyote population. I would not be willing to pay extra fees for hunting licenses to aid the ADCP until the lion population is completely under control. Look at the numbers of Elk and Deer that have been reduced due to lion kills, and lions continue to multiply faster than the lion quota diminishes them. I know the GF&P is increasing the number of kills for lions every year, but the lion population is out of control. Maybe a good idea might be to put a bounty on certain animals that are threatening livestock or land. I would probably be willing to go out and risk calling in a lion, for a small fee to bring in a coyote, skunk, raccoon, etc. Also, if a farmer or rancher is experiencing problem animals, maybe they should allow a hunter on their land for deer hunting. I have seen a lot of animals while out deer or elk hunting, and this is a perfect time to take a coyote, as long as it does not mess up the intended hunt. We need to keep the animal activists out of our hunting business, or every time a lion, coyote, skunk, etc. needs to be taken care of, the GF&P should send that organization the bill for the cost of disposal.

2635 Looks like this is for a South Dakota resident. I am not. I don't know enough about the program to answer any of these questions

2641 Expand hunting opportunities and promote predator hunting in SD to increase the harvest of ""nuisance"" animals. Instead of SD spending money on predator control they could be making money on predator control.

2645 Although the main purpose of the program is to reduce impacts to livestock, it has an ancillary benefit to wildlife; therefore the utilization of a portion of license fees is justifiable. If the need for

depredation exceeds the available funds, either look to the Department of Ag for assistance/backing of a bill (to increase in the per head fee) or do the work you can within the budget we have.

2653 Please just let the hunters take care of the landowners problems like they have done for the past 200 years.

2683 maybe we should stop protecting and releasing predators on our land that aren't necessary and are unsafe to our children South Dakota such as mountain lions and especially timberwolves the last thing I knew about these animals they were indigenous to trees and I thought this was considered the prairie region!!!! Doesn't make a whole lot dang sense does it maybe you should worry about the people of South Dakota not the DAMN sierra club or Californians!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2705 I think that the protection of livestock is very important and would support it financially with a small bump in license fee, but with the lack of effort that has been put into many fisheries areas as well as public walk in land should not be compounded by taking away even more fees. South Dakota used to be known for beautiful lakes and rivers not full of Chinese moss and invasive fish species and our pheasant hunting was top notch in the world. I understand the GF&P cannot control weather and that weather combined with world travel that allows for the easier introduction of invasive species make for a tough situation; cutting funding to the programs that help solve the problem will only make the situation worse. As an avid outdoorsman I feel that some money could be saved by allowing some of the predator control to be done by people who would enjoy doing it for sport as long as they are licensed, use legal techniques, and have the property owners consent. I understand the need for protecting livestock as both of my parents grew up on farms and three of my uncles are still involved in the livestock business in one way or another but to take money away from other programs is not the answer. I walked the cornfields of the James River valley in October and had a very slow year, I look forward to ice fishing at orman damn, iron creek lake and deerfield lake this winter and while this isn't the time of trouble I know that in the summer I will have to deal with Chinese moss covering many of the lakes in the hills from iron creek to lakota. The worst news is the stories I have heard about those jumping carp working their way up the Missouri and the James Rivers. I have been a hunter and fisherman since I was a small child and get that there are going to be slow years, but lately it seems like the only species making headway are the predators, and that cannot last long with diseases that the deer have and the elk being taking down in large numbers, and the smaller game species like rabbits, grouse and turkeys moving into towns (at least west of the river anyway).

2707 ADC is a functional and important part of SD GF&P. Whether you go to the southeastern part of South Dakota or the northwestern part of the state, there are landowners everywhere in between that are concerned for their livestock and other wildlife populations because of the status of predators. Continued funding for ADC will only help to control these predators at a manageable level and work to maintain a high level of public perception for this agency.

2717 I live on hwy 40 west. There are at least 5 different mountain lions on our old family ranch across the road. Have watched them take both deer and elk. I am lucky enough to hunt the JP ranch in the southern hills, this ranch is FULL of mountain lions. I was lucky enough to draw a hills deer this year and found 13 mountain lion elk kills just on the watkins place. When are we going to get serious about this problem? If you keep up what you're doing there will be 500 black hills deer tags in 5 years. I love to hunt and have done it in this state for over 30 years and what is going on is very disappointing. The landowners that bitch about the elk and the deer get everything they cry for but yet they won't let you on their land unless you pay? If they don't allow hunters they should not get any help with fences etc. How about doctor wright for example he owns our old family ranch on hwy 40 he allows no hunting but gets tax breaks because he has a PHEASANT FARM? Come on guys let's get real. Or we could always hunt a walk in area, walk two sections of ground and never find a tree, but of course they are getting paid for the program on the worst ground in the state.

2720 We killed 5 skunks in 1 spot up there when we were hunting the second week end of pheasant season.

2736 From what I have observed in my countless hours of sitting in a tree waiting to finally see an almost extinct whitetail deer in northwest day county the population of coyotes in particular seems to be up from previous years.

2747 Open Season hunts on the animal's in question, asking hunters/citizens to get involved to safely reduce the numbers and the problem, without the State's involvement may be one way to help control the problem without taking money away from other valuable areas of g, f & p's or raising license fees. Obviously, the landowners and/or ranchers/farmers are going to have to take a more active role in managing their lands in this area. Americans need to wake up! there is not enough money to go around for every single program that touches every single life. if a coyote has just killed a calf on their land... get the gun... and the dogs... hunt it down... and shoot it!!! DON'T CALL THE ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL PROGRAM! obviously, the ranchers i know and love... and spend time with do this. respectfully submitted,

2751 Please support the farmers. If it were not for them we would not have as many places to hunt!

2759 predators are the biggest problem we have. I provide habitat for pheasant yet coyotes, skunks, owls, and the millions of hawks that sd has. What about their control also.

2775 Tons of coyotes here in Beadle Co. So few rabbits I am concerned about their next choice of dining options. Livestock or deer fawns?

2776 I would like to suggest that the GF&P pursue the possibility of re-establishing a bounty system to pay hunters for coyotes that are shot and brought in. I would suggest paying a minimum of $5-$10 per coyote, and marking the coyote in such a way that the pelt could still be sold.

2780 Very important program!

2795 Personally, in the last four years I have seen a big increase in coyotes.

2799 I would agree to help fund this for land owners if they had public land or walk in areas.

2801 I believe that the ADC is important but please don't decrease funding for habitat management of other game species. I don't think that is the correct way to raise funds.

2810 I was raised on a farm and live in a rural community. But I see is farms and (Ranchers) getting paid damage funds and charging for you to hunt saying the wildlife is theirs. If they want the funds or subsidies than they open their land to public hunting. All I see is no hunting signs around unless you have the money to pay to hunt. I would say charge a extra dollar to buy more land and I would say yes gladly. East and especially west river they close off land unless you pay. Big rich people buying land just to hunt on and have others manage it when they're not there. I want to hunt with friend and my son and daughter but it's really becoming impossible these last 20 years to do that in any quality. But I can say this and nothing is going to change because the rich run the politicians and the politicians run you.

2820 We need food plots on game department land!

2822 I would be in favor of gfp putting a bounty on certain animals to help those who are taking the time to try to control some predators through trapping and hunting. Mainly coyotes, fox, mink, raccoons and skunks.

2823 Grew up in SD and certainly would support efforts to control nuisance animals and protect the interests of SD farmers. My main interest in the state wildlife program is pheasant hunting and

controlling nuisance predators is vital to hunting interests. Every year we see cover that has held pheasant in previous years taken over by coyotes. If the coyotes are present...the pheasants are not! Thank you SD for providing some great hunting opportunities

2836 I live on the east edge of Lake Sinai in Brookings County and coyote numbers are incredibly high in the area. Pheasant numbers in the area took a major hit with the harsh winter of 2010-2011. It will be difficult to build numbers back with the high predator population that currently exists - coyote, skunk and raccoon all seem to be at high population levels. Is there any hope of a broad based predator control program? I find it hard to believe that many out-of-state hunters will want to spend the money to hunt pheasants in Brookings, Kingsbury or Hamlim Counties next year if they visited these areas this year for pheasants. I would gladly pay $5 or $10 more for my license if the extra went to broad-based predator control.

2844 Coyotes are really becoming an issue by my farm and would like to see something done there as well

2847 I hunt in S.D. infrequently and therefore I am not qualified to provide credible input re this program.

2865 Could it be possible to establish an Animal Damage Control Bounty Program and let the people take action to manage these types of animals issues? I would prefer that the extra license monies be used to fund a bounty program and let those with initiative manage Ag animal damage areas of concern. I also think that a hunter survey should include questions like, ""when you are in an active hunt and you come across a raccoon, what would you do?"", or, if you are in an active hunt and a coyote is in a practical and safe range, what would you do?"". Or create a survey question that asked the hunter to respond to which animals they would dispatch on site if they were to come into contact with it during a hunt. I believe most hunters would answer that they would quickly dispatch a raccoon, opossum, skunk or coyote if the safe opportunity presented itself. Thank you

2880 I would not mind paying extra for tags to help pay for this program. The only issue with this is the first priority for predator control should be the mountain lions and getting their numbers down. Until this is done and the deer, elk and sheep populations are back up there should be No increase in tags.

2906 ADC has its place in assisting landowners, ranchers, and farmers. I suspect control is over-applied to some species merely because of traditional bias.

2909 Maybe the GF&P should consider a bounty system on these problem predators. Then landowners & hunters, trappers could address the problem and the state, counties, would have less expense involved than the cost of state trappers, pickups, airplanes etc.

2930 Raise the surcharge assessed by the counties on each head of cattle/sheep.

2936 coyotes are becoming more prevalent, we must try to reduce the number of them asap.

2948 Open up to the general public, or at least the farmer, himself, the right to hunt coyote, skunk, raccoon when necessary, and the problem will be taken care of without additional license fees, etc! Too many rules and regulations when it comes to controlling wildlife on a farm!!

2949 I am a non-resident but understand the importance of predator control. I like pheasant hunting and the So. Dak resources and do not wish to be against any predator limits.

2963 If you are going protect wildlife to you need to protect the people on the land or there will be no wildlife, They are the people who provide food and shelter for the wildlife.

2979 To much protection and funding already goes to landowners. We do not need to continuously fund programs for landowners to help control risks inherent to their chosen profession.

2996 I would truly love the opportunity to help control the predators myself with your guidance and permission of course

3004 Where can I go to find harvest info for black hills elk info.

3027 Pheasant hunting in Eastern South Dakota has deteriorated considerably in the past three years. We hunt private land in the Watertown area. Spots where we used to see dozens of birds now contain only one or two. We estimate that bird counts are down 90%. Very disappointing.

3038 Control helps ranchers, farmers and hunters who want the opportunity to see more game. I can support that.

3039 The most cost effective means would be the financial bounty program on coyotes as done in the past. Providing an incentive would allow sportsmen to work harder to help manage the coyote population. What I need even more is help to control prairie dogs.

3040 Predators are part of the eco system. Let them be wild to do their role in the ecosystem.

3057 Another way to perform this it to actually PAY something for coyote and fox hides. Hunters would love to hunt, but need some way to pay for gas and ammo. The legislature could do a bounty system, as opposed to hiring additional state employees to trap or shoot from airplanes.

3062 I think that if a farmer or rancher gets money from the ADC Program they MUST allow hunting and or trapping on their land to help control the problem. I do not know if this is a requirement to get ADC payments, if it is not it should be. A list of those getting payments should be made available on the GFP web site so hunters and trappers know who to contact. The land owner / renter cannot charge the hunter or trapper a fee to hunt or trap on their land.

3098 I was amazed in the number of coyotes we seen west river in our 5 day west river hunt, we are talking about going back out after the first of the year to help control the population

3111 I recognize that animal damage control is a valuable tool to help landowners, and more important to me, potential relationships with the Department and landowners and nuisance control. However, I would prefer to add additional cost to my fees or licenses if not excessive than divert resources needed for habitat and public hunting to make landowners happy.

3117 I believe that spending money on animal control is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. If a land owner has a problem with predators or and game animal, whether it be taking live stock or damaging crops there is a simple solution to the problem. Let hunters and trappers take care of them, there is plenty of hunters that would be more than happy to hunt them. The problem is that more and more landowners want money to let hunters on their land. As far as I'm concerned if a landowner does not let people hunt on their land then they should not receive any aid from the SDGFP. The State of SD has one of most expensive hunting and fishing license in the country and one of the lowest income per household. Maybe the GFP should start learning how to budget there money instead trying to figure out how to spend more of it so they have a reason to raise our license again.

3120 Farmers and ranchers have ample resources for animal control. I'm not a fan of continued handouts to that class, are they really that helpless and incompetent?

3144 Small game hunting is important to the State and there are very few other means to control predators. Predator populations, I believe, are one of two main reasons game populations

(pheasants and quail in particular) have declined in many areas. Intensification of agriculture is the other reason. Can't do much about the later, so best try to do something about the former.

3183 I would be willing to contribute more to help out. BUT the farmers and ranchers in SD are spoiled into everything is for them and no one else. They own the land and feed the animals off their hard earned crops, but the subsidies they get, and moneys from GFP really adds up. Just try and knock on their door for permission and see what kind of answer you get.

3199 There are way too many coyotes in western SD and we don't get but very little help in north western sd at one time they had a a pretty good program not any more. Calves, lambs etc. are being killed every spring and summer along with allot of deer and antelope. The money we are paying in now we don't get much out of it. They need to get a strong adc program going back in western sd. This is affecting the livestock growers and has affected the number of deer antelope etc. After all the land owners are the ones that raise most of the deer antelope that are harvested and put up with them they should at least be able to get some help with their predator problem

3200 I see South Dakota is raising non-resident hunting fees. Seeing you sell more non-resident licenses than resident I think the outfitters, motel operators, grocery stores, etc. would appreciate encouraging travel and hunting, fishing in South Dakota. Like everything else, the more you raise something the less you will get in return. After these fee increases I believe you will have plenty for predator control.

3247 I believe that you can easily charge a dollar or two to support this without any problem.

3260 In my estimation, GFP has done a fine job of operating the programs within the department. I would not like to see the programs compromised because funding is shifted to a new program. I would be in total support of an increase in license fees rather than cutbacks on existing programs.

3269 I enjoy shooting predators myself and don't wanna pay more to do it.

3280 there are plenty of people willing to help control coyote in s.d. they even are willing to pay... all the rancher has to do is publicize for help and they will come..... as far as additional funding, invest it in habitat... i am sick and tired of road hunters, both for small game, and deer..... this yr. is worse than most..... first they turn all their marginal land into crop prod. and then come aug. cry they have no hay to feed.. so, then lets bale what is left of the crp.... just end road hunting.

3281 Reside in Virginia.

3310 i have heard of people who like to hunt or have hunted coyotes and would pay to come shoot them from Wisconsin. if they let us hunt pheasants i would also shoot other animals they don’t want around, on their land, we had to pay this year to get on private land. if the price keeps going up we won’t be going to south dakota to hunt, we come every year right now, thanks for asking for input

3313 Utilize local hunters and trappers for additional support, wouldn't cost the GFP anything additional besides a phone call. I would be happy to help someone out in my area.

3322 I do not want any animal damage control programs performed on lands that the landowner charges a fee to hunt, leases his land for hunting, or closes his land to hunting. Since the landowner is profiting from, or closing off his lands, he should be responsible for animal damage control. But if a landowner is willing to work with hunters I am willing help in whatever way I can. Thanks for listening.

3329 The article states what the counties and SDGF&P provide in funding to the program. What is not stated.....what is spent each year on predator control?

3353 According to farmers & ranchers around Britton the Coyote is the main problem. ""They"" also mentioned that they thought that SDGF&P actually promoted (protected) the coyote as it did not prey on game birds. Pretty well trained coyotes I guess!! thank you

3367 Cost of a South Dakota non-resident small game license is too high. In addition, non-resident hunters should be able to select 7 individual days to hunt pheasant during the second week rather than require the selection of an entire week. As I view things, South Dakota has come to take for granted the cash spent in your communities by hunters such as myself. Given the above, and particularly in light of the increase in licensing fees scheduled for next year, my friends and I have already contacted the location we've stayed at in years past to let them know the increased licensing fee is why we will likely not be back next year.

3372 my father worked in the add division for 30+ years. I definitely support it

3377 I think predator control should be used when someone's livestock is being threatened or killed, or when the farmers land or family is being threatened by a predator health concern such as rabies or overrun by coons, skunks, foxes, cougars, coyotes.

3389 We recently hunted in harding county and the only mule deer we found were inside Buffalo city limits. We did see plenty of coyote tracks and coyotes. I think money should be spent west river to help with this problem. I would like to know what happened to the deer and why licenses are still being sold. This is the second year we have seen 0 deer there. We do appreciate all of the walk in area in Harding, but could only find a set of three deer tracks in the snow. Thanks

3449 Before any money it given to landowners there should be a prerequisite that they open their land to people who would like to hunt or trap to help remove predators.

3458 There have always been coyotes and effective control will always be a problem sheep owners must deal with. I am not a bigot and I honestly believe in religious freedom. That second sentence is important because lambs, (coyote food), sell for hundreds of dollars now to those religious populations that need them for ceremony. At the price they bring, I would think the sheep operations could provide some of their own protection. I would gladly sign my name to this, but I do not know if that is allowed.

3466 do whatever it takes to decrease the coyote population... it seems to be a big reason why game numbers are down in certain areas.

3467 SD is a great place to go hunting & everyone needs to do their part to keep it that way.

3482 There's plenty of hunters more than willing to control nuisance animals. It sickens me to see GFP money go to fencing off feedstock, when hunters could be utilized to control nuisance animals. There needs to be more cooperation between landowners and hunters and the GFP could be involved. A simple message board, for nuisance complaints to be aligned with willing hunters or trappers.

3527 I have 2 acres of urban woods East of and near 57th street and Minnesota. We are overrun with deer. At any given time we can have 2-8 deer in our backyard and trying to keep the landscape plants from damage is near impossible. Having lived there for 30 years, I am more than acquainted with the automobile/deer confrontations that has badly demolished cars nearby. At one point last year, I counted 16 deer racing down our hillside, spooked by something to the west. This is a large tract of woods and open grass land and probably comprises 50-100 acres that is badly in need of some bow hunters. My son and son-in-law would be happy to help. This is the other side of the predator control. Thanks for allowing me to comment.

3539 I am a trapper- Hunter. I think ADC is an important function of the game department. I don't agree with farmers and ranchers that want Gov. help but won't let residents hunt or fish on their

property. I believe they should have to pay for the ADC. work. I have had people ask me to get rid of their beaver problem but refuse me permission to hunt. I agree with the coyote but not beaver, raccoon, or mink Any furbearer I have to buy a permit for and is regulated by state seasons should be separate. Even with a permit it is not legal for me to hunt shoot trap or kill some animals outside of open season. I guess what I'm trying to say is why should I pay more to land owners who won't let residents of the state hunt, fish, trap, on their land. After all they are charging nonresidents for hunting.

3540 Keep up the great work....it is working.

3542 More Government is not always the best answer. How about making it less difficult for responsible hunters to assist with this problem.

3550 IT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD PROGRAM THAT IS BENIFICIAL TO THE LAND OWNERS AND THE ANIMAL POPULATIONS THAT ARE AFFECTED BY COYOTE POPULATIONS BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE GOV'T SHOULD BE THE ENTITY THAT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM. LANDOWNERS WHO NEED THE SERVICES SHOULD PAY FOR THE SERVICES AND THE LANDOWNERS WHO TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM PREDATORS THEMSELFS OR BY LETTING PRIVATE PERSONS DO THE CONTROL FOR THEM SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR SERVICES THAT THEY DO NOT USE. SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER TAX ON CATTLE AND SHEEP OWNERS THAT IS NOT NEEDED AND COULD BE TAKEN CARE OF BY PRIVATE ENTITIES.

3574 would like to see more control for Skunks, Raccoons, ect.

3576 The 130,000 dollars promised for prairie dog control should come from monies other than ADC therefore freeing up more money for coyote control.

3589 I believe the people who benefit from the program most should be the ones to support the program. Farmers and ranchers who for the most part oppose the average hunter from hunting their land without an open wallet are in my opinion the ones who benefit most.

3610 there are plenty of LOCAL RESIDENT hunters that would keep those problems under control if GIVEN PERMISSION to hunt.....a lot of these guys that call in for help, deny access to hunters....until they have a problem...

3620 I love hunting Pheasants in South Dakota. It is a very special and unique state of the union and I hope to visit every year for my annual trip.

3626 Hunting out of Wall South Dakota Have seen more coyotes this past season than the last 6-7 years so there is a increase in # of this predator

3630 I'm in favor of controlling our predator population as they can impact our pheasant populations. Pheasant hunting provides a huge economic impact in certain areas of our state. Besides, it's only $1.00 increase. If a person can't afford a dollar increase to the license, then they can afford to hunt in the first place!

3655 Just at dark the night Edmonds county is alive with coyotes. It's staggering to hear how many there really are.

3657 Anytime the government gets involved in something in which they think they know what they are doing the problem just gets worse. Leave things alone.

3659 Why should our money go to help people that won't let us on their land. Let THEM pay US to trap/shoot the coyotes. Or maybe let us hunt coyotes along with every other animal on their property. I don't pay for fees to help others that are making $$$ off my fees.

3691 A bounty for coyotes in problem areas and list of ranchers needing predator hunters to come to help them control coyotes would be cheaper and much more effective.

3711 I think there needs to be more done about the damage Canadian geese do to crops as well.

3724 I am from out of state. I don't want to have to pay more for a license to support this but I think it is a good program.

3736 Please negate the value of this survey response. I am not a SD resident and really am not qualified to respond as my knowledge of this program is incredibly insufficient.

3748 I live in Nebraska, and came to South Dakota for the first time to hunt on a game farm near Miller, South Dakota. Even though there was snow on the ground and a cold wind blowing, we had a good experience. We were told it was one of the tougher days for a pheasant hunt during the past couple of years, and it was a tough day for walking the fields and flushing birds. However, the cover was good and we flushed enough birds to feel that we were having a good day. With the birds flushing early, and the wind blowing, we certainly had our share of missed opportunities! You have a great program with your game farms. If they are all like the one we were on, they are well managed, provide good hunting opportunities, and provide positive assistance with transportation, hunter safety, and hunting strategies. My son, my oldest grandson, and I had a great family time together, and would definitely do it again. When I heard from one of the guides that over one million pheasant are killed in South Dakota each year, I knew your state had developed an incredibly successful rural industry that is a dynamo for your small towns, your farmers seeking supplemental income, and your tourism economy. As to predators, we did not encounter any coyotes, skunks, or other predators at any time during our day of hunting. I thought that was a good indication of predator controls. Everyone we dealt with was very courteous, welcoming, and helpful. We never felt like we were imposing on anyone nor being a nuisance. In the course of the day we actually felt that we had made some new friends in South Dakota. Your hospitality was exceptionable!

3749 I lack the knowledge to judge the program. It seems like a great deal of manpower would be required to make a significant impact. would defer judgment to a more informed person.

3814 i fully support controlling nuisance animals. i would like to see the use of more local trappers instead of sending in state trappers. it drives me nuts listening to people talk about how the state trapper came in and caught 35 beavers in one lodge. let’s get real there is no way 35 beavers were living in one lodge. they make the local trappers look bad, and the local guys know the area better. so maybe consider doing a bounty for local trappers in the area who take care of nuisance problem animals. most trappers i know would take care of the problem for as little as gas money. thanks for the survey and your time.

3828 HOW ABOUT KNOCKING OFF MORE MOUNTAIN LIONS?

3842 We have plenty of sportsmen in this state willing to provide wildlife control to landowners. If the landowners would be willing to contact local sportsmen to control the problem wildlife, the state would save money and the sportsmen would have greater opportunity to utilize the state's resources. I don't own my own land. The only places that I have to hunt and trap are the few over-hunted public areas nearby and the some private land that I am lucky enough to get permission on. Why should we as sportsmen pay more for license fees, etc. for a damage program that essentially excludes us from using the state's resources? I pay for a combination license, a furbearer license and several big game licenses every year. If landowners want help controlling wildlife they are welcome to give me a call. I pay for my own travel, ammunition, traps, and nobody is paying me for my time unlike a GFP employee. In my opinion, the program should be changed entirely to include sportsmen in the process. If a landowner has a wildlife problem and is too selfish to allow sportsmen access to help, then.....TOUGH COOKIES!

3858 Keep up the good work .I can only wish that MASS my state had the foresight to handle these issues the same way ....especially beavers and coyote...

3888 Would like to see a system to have counties establish a listing of available hunters, that are from that general area and would be available to try and help with control if notified, and given permission to work with the landowner to assist with controlling predators.

3893 I would want to know more before I can give more input.

3902 I'm concerned that we might revert to the 1960's when SDGF and P's department offered bounties on coyotes and fox rather than improving and sustaining habitat. It was a long hard fight to eliminate predator bounties so we could concentrate on land purchase and habitat improvements. It was a really hot issue then and it could be one again. Expanding the ACP would be the elephants foot in the door. Please be careful. Thanks for all your good wok.

3904 As we hunters observed, there appears to be a larger number of predators and evidence of more pheasant casualties this season which might be results of less habitat, less pursuit of predators (trapping and hunting), and climate conditions (drought). Any comments would be appreciated.

3907 Native predators are valuable and essential in any natural ecosystem, a factor in system and species health. The ideal is to have a self-maintaining ecosystem, all parts in place and enough land to support the habits and herds. Stand back and watch. That's dead history. Larger predators can be a nuisance where they interact with residential and agricultural systems. To maintain the agricultural and residential systems, we find ourselves forced to intervene in the natural ecosystems to reduce their impact and maintain their health, including predator control, an unfortunate role for humans to play. We should have better things to do with our time and resources, like teaching our kids or watching the herds of wildlife from a hilltop near the White River. And the results are in conflict; one system will be working against the other. So good luck. One of the best things going for you is the very low human population and residential development in South Dakota. Plus you have a great deal of acreage with native mixed-grass prairie. Imagine trying to manage this sort of conflict in England or India. By the way, thanks for your good work. I think you have managed your herds very well, under the circumstances. I no longer hunt in my own state. Messed up deer behavior, baiting and feeding year 'round, residential development. Just one request: Stop those guys from driving their trucks and ATVs through the walk-in areas. Every year the same thing. Why don't they just hire somebody to hunt for them and they can stay home on the couch?

3916 I think one major issue with damage control and predator control are the rules regarding the use of spotlights. I think the law should allow more access to night hunting.

3939 I'VE SEEN MORE SKUNKS CEYOTEE'S AND OWLS THAN ANY OTHER YEAR IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS I'VE HUNTED CAMBELL COUNTY FYI

3956 Any thoughts on allowing hunters shoot coyotes without a permit and no restrictions?

3990 predators need to be controlled to help promote the fantastic pheasant hunting that is available

3994 I am out of state and initially didn't want to respond because of that. I am willing to pay an extra dollar per license to support this.

4020 I believe predator control is beyond the scope of a state’s responsibilities. However the state should not prevent landowners and hunters from controlling the predator population if the population has reached nuisance levels. There are inherent risks involved in any business venture, it is not the role of the government, state or federal to privatize the gains and socialize the losses of a business. I realize that the government is heavily involved in this currently but I

believe that South Dakota is one of the final strongholds for the true American values that founded this country.... Pride in being self sufficient

4031 I am an out of state hunter that comes each year for a few days.

4041 i think it help if nonresident hinters were permitted to hunt these predators without paying the high price for hunting licenses. Thanks

4043 As a non-resident hunter and fisherman I'm not sure of the value of my input here.

4052 what type of damage control do they get. do they hire someone to shoot coyotes or do they get paid to shoot coyotes on their land i guess i don't know the damage control program than well sorry

4062 I think the animal damage control is need for the farmers but another way that it could be maintained is to allow more hunting! An I don't believe in leaving the animals to rot!!!! I believe they should have to donate a large percentage of the animals to the food banks. I'm a part of a charity organization that would volunteer to come take care of the animals to take them an donate them. And I'm sure there are other groups also.

4083 I would like more of this money to be directed towards the management of the Mountain Lion population. I believe it is a bigger problem than we realize

4131 I see way too much habitat being ruined for the sake of a few rows of corn at this point. Bulldozing trees and tiling is a booming business. There's less habitat east river so that should take care of a substantial portion of the unwanted critters due to a decrease in prey. The trees were planted to, if memory serves, keep the soil from blowing around like it did in the 30's. It better rain-

4150 A majority of these landowners are their own worst enemy. They refuse to allow hunters to hunt on their land and then they cry about the wildlife problems. It is my opinion that the ADC services should only be provided to those landowners that allow at least some hunters access to their lands without charging them. Most of my family has stopped hunting because of the lack of accessible lands to hunt on. The amount of pressure on the public hunting areas make them a mediocre choice at best. If more landowners would allow hunting on their land, more people would return to hunting. The CHAP program seems to be an excellent program that is severely under-utilized.

4158 I am an out of state hunter, visiting once a year.

4178 As a fisherman and hunter I feel we should all help in some way or another. I know the GFP and others do the best they can with the funding that you receive. I've enjoyed fishing and hunting in S.D. so if a little increase in license fees helps I'm all for it.

4188 This year I have hunted the Presho area on four different hunts. I have seen more coyotes and skunks this year than I have in the past seven years.

4209 I don't feel one bit sorry for the landowners with wildlife problems. I have all but given up hunting because I have been turned down so many times by farmers and I am getting tired of asking. If the farmers and ranchers would allow more people to hunt their land, we could control the wildlife population without putting a burden on the GF&P. Most farmers lease their land for hunting and do not allow the average person to set foot on their land. They only cry for help when it might be costing them a penny. Then they expect the State to step in and take care of their problem.

4221 This questionnaire, because of everything the government gets involved with is very vague, not giving details or being specific. Exactly where would the money come from? Are you going to

continue the idiotic forest ads/ Leave the money to develop fisheries, hunting access, and get rid of the PR. Just have the GFP and Fish, Wildlife do their jobs, and they won't need PR.

4230 I believe hunting limits on predator animals should be studied and increased if necessary for the wellbeing of our communities.

4238 I believe the answers to these questions will be a direct result of whether or not the respondents are landowners or hunters. Though, there are plenty of hunters that would like to see most, if not all, ""large"" predators removed to protect potential targets (see below). Having formerly lived in SD and as a non-resident hunter I certainly recognize the value of the state's ADC Program including CAGO Depredation Program. I applaud the SDGFP for being as proactive as it has been. In many states, ADC is carried-out or conducted by private companies at a direct cost to individuals contacting the company for removal/eradication complaints. Some state agencies simply cannot afford such a program. Certainly, one could argue the value of removing ""predators"" (regardless of species) in a highly anthropogenically modified environment. Also, one could argue whether or not it is ethically (as wildlife professionals) justified to remove individuals of 1 species (predators) for the benefit of another species (game birds, waterfowl, big game) for the PRIMARY reason to produce additional harvest opportunity (or targets) for hunters. Why not manage hunter #'s, available tags, etc., rather than removing potentially ""competing"" predators? Lastly, one could argue whether or not removal of coyotes is a good idea, as this species tends to reduce the abundance and/or density of other mesopredators like red fox (also take adult females, striped skunks, raccoons, Franklin's and Richardson's ground squirrels, which are known to be major nest predators for numerous species of ground-nesting birds (Sargeant and Raveling 1992, Sargeant et al. 1993), including some of which, may be State Species of Conservation Concern or federally-listed. This would suggest 'management' actions of removing coyotes are counter to BMPs for these very species of conservation concern, otherwise management would be targeting many of the very predator species that benefit from removal of coyotes. I am adamantly (and professionally) opposed to reallocation of financial resources from other SDGFP Programs to the ADC Program. I am willing to pay greater than or equal to a $1 hunting license fee increase to keep the ADC Program in place. Obviously, the additional revenue from license fee increases should not be considered in the general revenue/treasury, but should be directed specifically for the SDGFP ADC Program. After all, that's the very reason for the proposed license fee increase. It would seem more appropriate and equitable if the producers actually shouldered some (or most) of the economic burden, rather than the general hunting public. The Department of Agriculture has their own ADC program to assist farmers/landowners, in particular, with respect to coyote control. It often seems in these instances, the general hunting public is an easy 'target' for unforeseen or unaccounted for variations (shortfalls) in state wildlife agency budgets. We have and will continue to swallow license fee increases because we are the target audience and reap the benefits/rewards of wildlife and habitat management, and we are passionate about the resources, and our pursuit of game, period. It is highly probable, that in most cases, any livestock losses (cattle and sheep) or crop depredations by wildlife of the state of SD are covered by some form of insurance (crop, personal property, livestock), thereby reducing the necessity for the SDGFP to increase funding to the SDC Program. Individuals are already being reimbursed for 'damages'... Just my $0.02

4240 If there are more requests for predator control than funds can provide, I support a program that would allow controlled public predator hunting on the requesting operator's private land.

4249 I would think putting predator control into the hands of the landowners would result in the most effective results.

4272 As a predator hunter, I do not believe coyote populations are difficult to control. While I have never taken a beaver, they are not exceedingly difficult to find and thus could potentially be controlled through changes in regulations or landowner education on methods of take. This seems like a problem that could be solved through the promotion of hunting and trapping for a

small investment of money as opposed to the large scale intervention program that currently exists.

4297 if ranchers or farmers are having problems have them allow hunters to hunt them or trap them. My son's and i have asked on numerous occasions and have been told No about 50% of the time. They say they take care of it themselves or have friends or others who have asked. I would support if the ranchers or farmers gave the GFP's folks a phone # or contact information and have you publish that so hunters/trappers can help the farmers and ranchers with their predator issues.

4305 Not certain as to how to accomplish it but in my hunting [a lot of time in the field], the coyote population seems to be at least somewhat out of control? Are hunters encouraged to shoot them when opportunity arises? I realize trappers take quite a few but I suspect not nearly enough...Thank you

4312 Farmer's should be responsible to protect their own cattle and livestock. The public should not be held financially responsible. I would rather see the GFP place more emphasis and encouragement on predator hunting seasons to manage population.

4325 we need a bounty

4339 This was the first year, my husband and I came home empty. Whatever help we can give to up the population of pheasants would be worth paying more (and I live out of state). This was a rough year and a big letdown. I wish you a very good winter. See you next year!

4345 as an out state predator specialist, you guys need to open up some contacts county by county, farmer by farmer on who needs coyotes etc taken. when you guys do aerial assaults, it would be nice to know up to date on what areas have been nailed so not to waste time on cleaned out territory. that is what the money should also provide. this includes prairie dog, skunk, etc. i was able to take several coyotes last year because some folks were kind enough to tell me where aerials had taken place and such. i drive over 400 miles one way, just for a weekend to do this.

4353 We own 4.5 acres presently and would like to purchase more, we own 3385 acres in SW North Dakota presently. We have a coyote problem where we live but so far they have not been close to our small dogs, I will purchase a predator license soon Keep up the good work guys

4398 This survey is redundant just like government to ask questions that they should already know the answers to. Many of the cattle operations near here have been having issues for years and when support was decreased a while back it has just made the problem worse. This decreased action and allowing so many acres of grass to be taken out has led to a reduction of our pheasant population due to feeding all of the extra coyotes around.

4428 Why don't they let people trap for free. They should make organizations like Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever live trap for predators and predator control .

4430 I have a cabin near Custer. I do not live there. I am there 12 weeks per year. I have seen some lion depredation near there and Hot Springs

4431 Does Sd have a bounty system for critters in times of high predation?

4433 make it legal to hunt with a snowmobile

4450 The control of predators for any and all upland game and waterfowl is crucial, and I am glad to see SDGFP implementing a program to help control the predators.

4457 I enjoy coyote hunting and coon hunting for recreation, and a lot of farmers and ranchers will let you go if you ask. The problem is with all the leased and fee hunting land. These individuals should not receive assistance because some of them are charging for people to hunt coyotes or they tell you no because they think it will interfere with their paid hunters. Yet then they complain because their bird numbers are not high enough or their livestock are killed. Same with deer depredation. They don't mind having to many deer when there are paid hunters but late season when there are too many deer they complain and they have plenty of people during the season that would have just been happy to shoot does. So maybe animal control should only be provided for those that participate in providing public hunting land and let the rest of those people that made thousands of dollars from paid hunters worry about their own pest control!

4466 If land owners have a problem, they should be more open to local hunters helping control the population.

4483 I am an out of state hunter and have hunted Pheasants in the Aberdeen area the last five years. We have seen an increasing number of coyotes each year as we hunt a fair amount of cattails and tend to flush them out ahead of us. This year we saw the most ever. During the week of October 29th we saw a minimum of 2 coyotes per day. What was also different than prior years is that the coyotes did not run off out of site quickly. This year they ran out about 200 yards and then kept a watchful eye while walking slowly and sometimes standing to watch us.

4496 Open up coyote hunting with no license required for a limited number of years. Putting a bounty on coyotes will increase the number of coyotes taken, and take care of your problem.

4557 Increase the fees to out of state hunters and fisherman.

4560 As an active trapper, I feel that the state would be better off encouraging trapping by private citizens rather than expanding the state program. The cost of the furbearer license is $27. Is that really necessary when the majority of the animals trapped are of the nuisance variety? I feel $10 or less would be more in line. With that said, trapping can be a time-consuming process and for the most part, trappers are not going to take animals out of season as there is little to no financial reason to do so. The state ADC program is an important part of limiting animal damage to property, and I think it is important to keep the program going.

4562 In this period of time when you have a corrupt federal government wanting to tax or increase fees to continue their corruptness it is hard to go along with adding fees to fishing/hunting licenses even at the state level without first doing a self-examination. Surely there are things that can be cut, $600,000 plus seems ample to eliminate pests statewide. Hunters and Trappers would help if there was good access to land, bounties and fur outlets. If you are using professionals, that could be some of the problem.

4574 If you need extra money get it from all out of state licenses.

4577 Ranchers, landowners should not rely on govt funding to control predators on their own land. This should expense should be considered at part of being in this business as long as the state does not hinder the owner from controlling the issue on his own land or the state has not been part of allowing these predators to become a nuisance

4578 I think the ADC program is an important partnership with sportsman and livestock producers. I sometimes feel that both parties overlook the importance of this partnership. I would like to see the Dept. continue to invest funds in building more partnerships with producers.

4589 the coyotes are out of control. If you don't do something soon there will not be any pheasants.

4592 Hunters should not be a source of funds for issues concerning agriculture. It's just not fair to charge more for a hunting license and divert the funds to other programs. If the State of South

Dakota wants help managing the pests mentioned in this survey I would suggest you encourage hunters to kill all the pests they can while they are hunting other game.

4618 I was sorry to see so much of the CRP plowed and farm this year. SD may be like MN hunting in a few years... It has many hunters worried and rethinking where to go, ND or MT. CRP was critical for the birds and giving the birds a better chance to keep population up. I did not hunt pheasant this year because of this, but did hunt duck (lottery group) last weekend. The storm really was tough on us and the ducks had a major advantage... but that is hunting... Hope you can figure out the right balance for the farmers and hunters.

4631 Why don't we allow farmers and ranchers to control their own local coyote populations either through allowing more hunters or paying someone to do it for them? I hunt in Gregory County for the most part, and I absolutely agree the population of coyotes is on the rise. 5 years ago we saw zero, increasing to a couple over the last few years, and peaking with seeing about 10 in 4 days of deer hunting this year. I agree there is an increase in the population, but I disagree with whose responsibility it is to handle them. I generally support GFP and the license fees I pay because I believe you all do a very nice job with wildlife management. This program doesn't strike me as a ""need"" and certainly not a responsibility of GFP.

4639 Predator and nuisance animal control is an important issue for ranchers and livestock owners and to some degree managing these animals in that purpose also benefits game species due to lower predation mortality. However, I would strongly oppose shifting SDGFP funding from other programs to further support predator controls for ranchers. I believe there is more that can be done to encourage hunters to actively hunt and control such animals such as lowering predator license fees and actively encouraging hunters to engage in predator hunting. Also, it would be beneficial to talk to the ranchers and encourage them to allow predator hunters on their property during times that don't conflict with other activities such as deer hunting or livestock operations.

4640 The background info states that ""coyote populations have increased in the last 3 years"". Do you have scientific evidence that the populations have increased? They probably have since they have suffered from severe mange outbreaks over the past 10 years or so, which seems to be diminishing, but I doubt you know what the population is now or what it was 3 years ago. Most of what I've read about coyote biology is that when more animals are removed from a population, the survivors increase reproductive input to compensate for that loss. If that is true, it seems like you are just wasting money killing the same number of animals each year and not impacting the population. It appears that diseases, primarily mange, are the primary reasons that coyote populations fluctuate. Spending more money on nuisance animal control looks good in the public eye, but has very little real value.

4642 It is just as important to manage predator wildlife as it is to manage all other wildlife. Keeping balance is crucial to managing all wildlife.

4649 let farmers who have a problem take any measures they need to control it irrespective of State laws do not take sportsmen progam $$ for ranching problems ,that an AG responsibility not GFP

4674 I believe that instead of charging hunters to provide funds for landowners, Landowners should provide funds to hunters that control predators. Many landowners do not let people hunt on their land but they are also the same ones that complain that deer are eating their hay, coyotes are killing their sheep, mountain lions are killing thier cattle. I have many friends and fellow hunters that have signed up for predator control listing on the GFP website but have never been called. If landowners need predator control they should ask a local hunter to help. I know there are numerous hunters that want to predator hunt but cannot find land access. Landowners want the state to bail them out, because they have posted their land to save for out of state hunters. If they have a coyote problem or deer problem let hunters take care of it. I should not be penalized because someone that does not let hunters on their land has a wildlife problem.

4711 Predator hunters and trappers have been providing this service for free for years. Why not take advantage of this by allowing them to do it?

4715 I understand the need for this program, but I struggle with the manner in which it is implemented. There are a number of instances where farmers are receiving damage payment due to overpopulation of geese and other animals. However, some of these farmers who receive payment do not allow hunters to access the land to hunt the very same animals that are causing the damage. Because of this, the issues persist and in many cases grow. In my opinion, the damage payments should be conditional on the land owner allowing hunting access once the crops are harvested.

4716 I am an out of state hunter and really don't feel that I have the knowledge needed to answer most of these questions accurately.

4722 Hello, I am a hunter from Wis. and not familiar with your animal damage program so your survey should provide a little more background on the program before asking hunters to comment. Also I just returned from hunting your walk in access and public hunting areas and was very surprised to see the grass cover was mowed so short that wildlife cover on these lands was nonexistent. Looks like it has all been mowed this year. This leaves very little cover for wildlife winter habitat and makes these lands almost worthless for hunting. Since these are public lands or landowners receive a payment for participating there ought to be requirements to leave a minimum height of cover. I am hoping this year was unique and maybe exceptions were made to mow for animal feed because of the drought. Otherwise I would not return to hunt public or walk in lands and would advise others these lands are very poor hunting. Thanks for considering my comments.

4729 It has been my experience that when you start shifting funds from one program to another it always causes problems. You get individuals that think they know more than anyone else about where the monies work best, that is not a good idea. If you need more money for a program then charge a higher fee for something, don't shift funds around.

4734 I feel the best way to help this problem is to have some type of bounty on them for the general public. They would be more likely to hunt them. It would not have to be much-just enough to cover some expense.

4740 There appears to be a huge coyote problem in south Dakota! Start now! Or Many more troubles will soon follow!

4766 Just returned from a rather poor hunt around both Watertown and Bristol. On one piece of walk in land, we scared up more coyote than pheasant. Probably not a coincidence.

4785 It is my opinion that the coyote and predator control should be left to hunters and trappers of the state of South Dakota within the general public. Landowners who want assistance with the predator control on their property could be handled by allowing access to their land for hunters and trappers during season that the fur is acceptable for resale. It is up to the general public to handle their own security of their businesses from theft and human losses and why should sportsman be left to pick up the bill for landowners in the livestock and crop industry to pay for the removal of animals affecting their business. It shouldn't be the responsibility of the State of South Dakota to foot the bill for this. If it is a huge trophy elk or deer or antelope the landowner allows them to be taken during season but handling the general population of animals on their land is totally left to the landowners will because if they don't allow access to their land then they are responsible for the effects on their land. If landowners want assistance to keep out depredation animals from whatever source then their land should be opened up to public hunting if the public is paying for this service. Thanks

4790 YOU GUYS NEAD TO DO A BETTER JOB CONTROLLING NUISANCE ANIMALS LIKE COYOTES MUSKRATS AND SKUNK. THE RATS RUIN OUR ROADS AND TUNEL INTO THE

BANKS OF LOW LANDS WERE WE ARE GETTING OUR TRACTORS STUCK AND POTENTIALLY BREAKING EQUIPMENT AND THE COYOTES ARE NOW GATHERING AND CHASING OUR COW HEARDS (I LOST 2 COW DUE TO SOMTHING CHASING THEM ON THE NIGHT OF 11-17-12). AND ALSO I AM TIRED OF THE DEER COMING INTO MY HAY YARDS AND PISSING AND RUBBING ON MY HAY BALES. THIS BULLSHIT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO HUNT DEER O PUBLIC ROADS HAS GOT 2 STOP MAKE ROAD HUNTING LEAGAL AGAIN WITHOUT HAVING TO HAVE LANDOWNER PERMISSION OR COME SHOOT ALL THE DAMB DEER THAT ARE RUINING MY HAY. THERE ARE PROBABLY 500 TO 600 DEER WITHIN 10 MILES OF OUR FARM AND IT'S GETTING SICKENING SEEING 20 TO 50 DEER BY OUR HAY AT ANY GIVEN TIME.

4794 Hunters and trappers should have the right, with land owner permission, to hunt, trap and kill coyote and the other mentioned animals on private, state and federal lands. These animals should be labeled as varmints and as such no permit or hunting license would be necessary. Hunting of these animals should be open all year round. If this were the case GFP would have a lot more success controlling these animals. The necessity for increased revenues would drop for the program. A bounty for these animals could also be set up. We do not need a bunch of regulations and controls on this program, let the public step in and help! Baiting of these animals should be legal.

4796 I am a non-resident hunter and firmly believe that with good predator control resulting quality game numbers continue to support non-residents hunting in South Dakota which brings substantial monetary benefits to the state. Without having hunted in S. Dakota, I would have never made the two subsequent trips to the state on my holiday with my family.

4817 this program is Beneficial to the land owner in the long run .it does not benefit the sportsmen because most land owner do not care about deer pheasants unless they charge monies to go hunt them. I have in the past went out and shot fox coon ect just to find out the next season they will not let you hunt. so the A.D.C.PROGRAM IS ALL ABOUT THEM .

4819 In this time of fiscal crisis in our country I don't believe GFP should be increasing any costs and maybe GFP should even consider lowering fees. I don't know the exact amount of ranchers that are requesting help with predators, but most that I come in contact with carry firearms for this predator problem anyway. Maybe just a thought if GFP would allow anyone in the field to eliminate these predators when they run across them would help alleviate this problem. Thank You

4838 I think that there should be some action done towards the predator problem. I however do not believe that hunting licenses should go up since i feel that ours are very high to begin with in relation to other states. I understand that we pay for public lands and other important aspects of wildlife. I am an avid hunter, as well as a avid public lands hunter believe that the structure or these lands could be managed more properly or use the funding to aid different things such as this program to help out with predators. I see many public lands out west that not even prairie dogs choose to live because of the vast nothingness. I understand that farmers and ranchers need to make a living, but if they are going to receive a check it's got to be for more than just trespassing rights, they have to be able to with stand life and carrying capacities. I also understand that it takes someone willing to put their land into walk in to be able to have it, so i get that side of kind of going with what you have. But any how just some thoughts. Thank you for reading

4859 The coyote numbers are an increasing problem not only in the state of SD but as well as surrounding states. Proper control is key to maintaining a balance with cattle as well as other wildlife. Red fox use to be seen almost daily, now I don't remember the last time I saw one, However the number of coyote we see while hunting has exploded. Visiting family over thanksgiving we had 2 coyote come right into the yard and chase the farm cats while we were sitting at the dining table for breakfast only feet away. I also am a conservationist and I have a big

problem with shooting an animal and not retrieving the animal. Hunters would get a fine if they just shot an animal and left it lay so the GFP should have some sort of way of picking up the shot coyotes. Coyote skins are a popular item over seas the GFP should be able to strike a deal with a fur buyer and not only make the animal useful but also help with the cost of the control project.

4862 We wonder if the large number of coyotes we hear are harming the pheasant population. There were not many rooster pheasants to be found in the area this year. Our hunters got only 3 a day. I mean 3 for the entire group. This is compared to between a 60 to 70% fill most years. There was not an increase of birds like was reported in your survey.

4866 I have been trapping for 40 years. How do I get involved in ADC work?

4879 Are there other ways to resolve the issue? How about promoting predator hunting on properties that have a predator problem? There may have to be some restrictions but it could promote off-season hunting opportunities that provide economic benefit to the state.

4884 Let the hunters do the control...you do the administration!

4885 Encourage more people to hunt predators by keeping cost down for tags etc for resident and non-resident.

4890 I hunted S/D for the first time this year. I and our group did encounter skunks and coyotes in the field during our hunt. The ADC program was not discussed with any of the land owners we met; We did discuss the deer poaching problem with property owners; which they felt was out of control due to the lack of game wardens.

4891 When humans start ""managing"" natural systems, what often happens is mismanagement and the problems get compounded.

4892 I have seen the lack of cooperation we have had in the years we have had large populations of deer in our yards and feed piles when we have endured harsh winters. I don't see much use for any of your depredation programs. We won't (beg) for any of your so called services.

4895 Thank you, to the GFP COMMISSION on the ongoing predators prevention. But I will also add that on our recent 3 day hunt trip we experienced a lot of coyote activity, both visual as well as actual evidence. Thank you again and keep up the good work you’re doing. A CONCERNED HUNTER.

4911 If the depredation problem is increasing, I suggest a list of land owners willing to allow predator hunting would significantly reduce their problem. If they are not willing to allow public predator hunting, they should not qualify for public funding.

4919 Feel we need to educate and encourage more young people into hunting/outdoor activities. this in turn would help them understand the need to balance nature and human needs.

4921 Neighbors can help neighbors with this problem largely through predator/depredation licenses. I support ADC only to a limited extent for people who truly have no other option for predator control (i.e. it should be made available on a demonstrated needs only basis).

4937 Interestingly Wyoming games and fish has allowed /mandated all farmers who are victims of varmints to upload their request for resident and non-resident hunters to come and hunt them free of cost. Why does south dakota games and fish not do the same. GFP can do the same without spending a dime!! Thanks

4948 IF GFP CONTROL GUYS CAN SHOOT COYOTES ALL DAY THEY ARE HAPPY...TRY TO GET THEM TO DO SOMETHING ELSE...SKUNKS...BAGERS...SORRY TO BUSY... GET RID OF THE PROGRAM...DON'T SPEND MORE MONEY ON IT....

4962 As a hunter this hurting the numbers. You keep this up it is going to hurt the future of the numbers.

4972 Not many land owners let much hunting go on their ranches anymore anyway Why would we pay more to fix their problem. If their receiving public money an help they should allow some public hunting

4979 The depredation hunt I was on was for geese in Sept. I would recommend to remove the plug restriction (3 shoot limit) for Sept. depredation Canada goose hunts and allow electronic calling for Canada goose Sept. depredation hunts. Make it as easy as possible for hunters to harvest the over populated geese without the added cost burdens to the existing State Game and Fish budget.

Appendix C

Statistical Definitions

Chi-Square (X^2) – probability distribution used to test the independence of two categorical variables. This test is used to determine if two categorical variables are related.

Cramer's V – is a chi-square based measure of strength of association between categorical variables. This statistic ranges from 0 to 1; where,

0.0 = No Relationship
0.01 - 0.1 = *Negligible*
0.11 – 0.2 = Weak
0.21 – 0.4 = Moderate
> 0.41 = Strong

Degrees of freedom (df) – used to select the critical value of determining statistical significance in chi-square tests.