

## Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

**Project Type**            Monitoring

**Title**    Monitoring the American burying beetle in South Dakota

**In a nutshell**            A population of this federal endangered species was discovered in southcentral South Dakota by Doug Backlund and Gary Marrone in 1995. This project was a monitoring effort along standardized routes in the known range within South Dakota, with additional investigation west of the known range.

### **Relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need**

- American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*)

**Relevant Habitats**            intact native grasslands

**Cooperators**            U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### **Purpose**

- expand monitoring efforts to cover more habitat annually than is currently being surveyed
- increase sampling time in June and August
- tag individuals with numbered bee tags to facilitate tracking movements and estimate population size through recaptures

**Timeframe**    2005 -2009

**Location**    southcentral South Dakota

### **Summary or Important Findings**

- Surveys were conducted along standardized routes in Tripp County. See the Backlund et al. article for more information about the population estimate.
- Additional surveys were conducted in Bennett County in 2008; no American burying beetles were collected, but 2 other nocturnal species were captured.
- Within South Dakota, this species is centered in southern Tripp County, extending east to southeastern Gregory County and west to extreme eastern Todd County.

**Best contact person**            Eileen Dowd Stukel, SDGFP

### **More Information**

Backlund, D.C., G.M. Marrone, C.K. Williams, and K. Tillman. 2008. Population estimate of the endangered American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus* Olivier) (Coleoptera: Silphidae) in South Dakota. *Coleopterists Bulletin* 62(1):9-15.