

## Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

**Project Type** Planning

**Title** Development of South Dakota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan

**In a nutshell** In exchange for accepting certain federal funds, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks coordinated the development of a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan for South Dakota. The Plan was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is now known as the South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan. This plan has since been revised.

**Relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need** A major focus of this effort was the development of the first list of South Dakota's species of greatest conservation need.

**Relevant Habitats** Because it is impractical to write separate plans for each vulnerable wildlife species, South Dakota used an ecological planning approach by describing historical conditions (pre-European settlement) and the major processes (disturbances such as fire or grazing) that impacted plant communities. An underlying assumption of this approach is that the needs of most species will be accommodated if South Dakota has a sufficient representation of native habitats.

**Cooperators** Ecosystem Management Research Institute (Dr. Jon Haufler)

**Purpose** To develop a comprehensive plan that addresses the needs of all fish and wildlife species.

**Timeframe** October 2003 – September 2005

### Summary or Important Findings

South Dakota's Wildlife Action Plan takes a broad view of landscapes from a fish and wildlife perspective. The plan considers:

- What are South Dakota's essential habitats, and where are they?
- What habitats have changed since South Dakota was settled?
- Which animals need special attention to ensure their long-term survival?
- How can we be more proactive in wildlife and habitat management?

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

### More Information

SDGFP. 2006. South Dakota Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. SDGFP, Wildlife Division, Pierre, SD, Wildlife Division Report 2006-08.

Dowd Stukel, E., D. Backlund, D. Ode, C. Schlueter, L. Gigliotti, M. Lees, and C. Mehl. 2006. South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan – The Big Picture. SDGFP, Pierre, SD.