

Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

Project Type Inventory or monitoring

Title Survey of animal species of greatest conservation need at representative public areas in South Dakota

In a nutshell A biodiversity bioblitz is a method of getting a snapshot view of a site while encouraging public interest and knowledge of the natural world. This pilot project in eastern South Dakota demonstrated how to conduct a bioblitz.

Relevant Habitats prairie pothole wetlands, native grasslands, prairie woodlands

Cooperators South Dakota State University and U.S. Geological Survey (Dr. Ken Higgins) and many participating experts and volunteers

Purpose To survey rare animal species, draw attention to species of concern and how to conduct biological surveys and compile a set of survey protocols for future surveys

Location Brookings County (Oakwood Lakes State Park, East and West Oakwood Lakes Game Production Areas and Goodfellow Waterfowl Production Area)

Timeframe February 2003 – December 2004

Summary or Important Findings Several hundred people attended South Dakota's first bioblitz, held on June 21, 2003. More than 1,200 species of birds, mammals, fishes, plants, or insects were documented. SDSU plant taxonomist Dr. Gary Larson documented a new species of flowering plant for the area called Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucularia*). Field checklists were generated for birds, mammals, fishes, amphibians, turtles, snakes and vascular plants in the area.

Best contact person Eileen Dowd Stukel, SDGFP; Dr. Ken Higgins (retired)

More Information

- Higgins, K, F., C. R. Berry, Jr. and S.R. Chipps. 2005. South Dakota's First
- "Bioblitz." South Dakota Conservation Digest, May/June 2005, pages 18-19.

Field checklists for Oakwood Lakes State Park and nearby public lands for vascular plants, birds, mammals, fishes, amphibians, turtles and snakes