



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

MISSION

We serve and connect people and families to the outdoors through effective management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife resources.

VISION

We will conserve our state's outdoor heritage to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations.

EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

488 PERMANENT STAFF MEMBERS. 496 SEASONAL WORKERS. 152 SUMMER INTERNS. 440+ VOLUNTEERS.

Each year our staff work tirelessly to collaborate across department lines, with local, state and national partners along with private landowners. Through this they accomplish new priorities and tackle other challenges without hesitation or complaint. None of the work or excellent customer service could have been done without the assistance from our volunteer workforce of 443 in 2021. **Together, they provided over 103,000 hours of service, which is equivalent to 50 full time FTE and a fiscal impact of \$1,034,860.**

WHERE THE MONEY GOES | WILDLIFE



30%	HABITAT & ACCESS \$17,800,000
29%	LAW ENFORCEMENT & ADMIN \$16,950,000
16%	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT \$9,700,000
14%	FISH MANAGEMENT \$8,225,000
6%	CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT \$3,500,000
5%	SUPPORT SERVICES \$3,005,000

WHERE THE MONEY GOES | PARKS



67%	MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS \$34,400,000
18%	PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE \$9,300,000
7%	WATERBASED DEVELOPMENT \$3,520,000
5%	NEW DEVELOPMENT \$2,700,000
2%	SNOWMOBILE TRAILS \$1,180,000

HABITAT AND ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES INCREASE THANKS TO HABITAT STAMP – ALL SET TO CONTINUE IN 2022 & BEYOND

James River Watershed CREP

The James River Watershed CREP started enrolling new land again in 2021 for the first time since 2014 thanks to the revenue generated from the Habitat Stamp. Over 3,500 acres of high quality wildlife habitat have been enrolled, creating over 40 new places open to public hunting and fishing for the next 10 to 15 years.

Game Production Areas

Through resources made available by the Habitat Stamp, GFP has expanded and improved wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing access opportunities on dozens of Game Production Areas across South Dakota. Habitat stamp funded projects on Game Production Areas include everything from traditional habitat projects such as woody cover plantings, food plots, and grass seedings to expanding hunting and fishing access by improving public use trails and roads on and to Game Production Areas. Also included is grazing infrastructure projects such as fences and water developments. While not a direct habitat project, grazing infrastructure is critically important to maintaining healthy vigorous grasslands for nesting pheasants, resulting in improvements to overall wildlife habitat.

Aquatics Habitat

With the addition of funds generated by the Habitat Stamp, an increased number of projects have been completed aimed at improving fish habitat and angler access throughout the state. Efforts at improving fish habitat have included installation of fish habitat structures and dredging of fisheries. Additionally, dam maintenance has occurred on fisheries across the state to help ensure the sustainability of these structures. Angler access has been improved through the addition of fishing piers, angler access agreements with private landowners and improvement and installations of boat ramps.

TOP 10 MOST VISITED PARKS IN 2021

1. CUSTER STATE PARK
2. LEWIS & CLARK RECREATION AREA
3. SPRING CREEK RECREATION AREA
4. OAHE DOWNSTREAM RECREATION AREA
5. COW CREEK RECREATION AREA
6. ANGOSTURA RECREATION AREA
7. ROY LAKE STATE PARK
8. FARM ISLAND RECREATION AREA
9. SPRINGFIELD RECREATION AREA
10. NEWTON HILLS STATE PARK



PARKS VISITATION REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

77% of reviewers rated their camping experience as an "A" with **43 out of 48 areas** receiving the top rating.

CUSTER STATE PARK
2.3 MILLION VISITATIONS

STATE PARK SYSTEM
8,437,361 VISITATIONS

25%

INCREASE IN VISITATION OVER THE 9-YEAR AVERAGE

The systems **4,400+ campsites**, **225 cabins**, and **7 group lodges** saw over **394,000 user nights**.

115,021+ annual park entrance licenses were purchased along with more than **350,910 temporary park entrance licenses**.

2021 BOUNTY PROGRAM

2,773
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

25%
SUBMISSIONS WITH GFP
LIVE TRAPS

13%
INCREASE IN YOUTH
PARTICIPATION

2021 marked the third year of the Nest Predator Bounty Program. The program reduces local nest predator populations as a way to enhance pheasant and duck nest success and encourages youth and families to get outside and ensure trapping remains a part of South Dakota's long-standing outdoor heritage. GFP put an additional emphasis on youth participation in 2021. Each week, a drawing was held for youth participating in the program. Winners of the drawing received three live traps, a trapping booklet, and a knife. In 2021, 29% of the program participants were under the age of 18, up from 16% in 2020.

GO OUTDOORS SOUTH DAKOTA

To continue to make it easier for our hunters, anglers, trappers, campers and other outdoor enthusiasts to do business with us, we implemented Go Outdoors South Dakota, a one stop shop e-commerce solution for purchasing hunting and fishing licenses with the ability to make a camping reservation and purchase your annual state park entrance license.

We have built in family features, such as being able to link accounts for ease of use when purchasing licenses for your entire family! Go Outdoors South Dakota has enhanced camping features such as being able to view campsites with a 360 degree view before you book, saving your frequently used camping equipment and adding campgrounds to a favorites list so your most frequent locations are easier to access when you are booking.

Go Outdoors South Dakota also has a commemorative hard card with all your licenses printed on the back so you can easily store it in your wallet if you choose – online app version is also still available. This year's hard cards feature scenes from South Dakota's beloved Terry Redlin and can be purchased for \$5.

The focus here has always been to combine customer service with innovative technology to enhance the user experience online to get them outside – doing the things they love the most while creating memories and helping to sustain our state's outdoor heritage.

PARK ENTRANCE KIOSKS

Throughout the summer of 2021, most parks and recreation areas hired a new helper to let visitors do just that, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The South Dakota Parks system brought 96 kiosks into the system that allow visitors to use a credit card at the park entrances to purchase daily and annual park entrance licenses and in some areas, firewood, for their stays.

In a day and age that many people no longer carry around cash, we have made life just a little less stressful in the parks. Between May and October of 2021, these kiosks have collected just a little over \$738,000 on daily and annual park entrance licenses and firewood.

GFP offers many ways to purchase a Park Entrance License. Online offers an annual and daily option and we're still happy to greet you at any park or GFP Office, if you still prefer a smile.



2021 LICENSE SALES

