



**PROPOSED RESOLUTION  
NEST PREDATOR BOUNTY PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to SDCL 40-36-9, SDCL 41-2-16, and SDCL 41-2-34, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks may conduct programs to control wild animals. The removal of nest predators from the landscape can enhance the nest success of pheasants, ducks and other ground nesting birds in South Dakota. Furthermore, such programs have proven to expose people to the trapping tradition and the outdoors; and

**WHEREAS**, Eighty-three percent of the general public supported the operation of the Nest Predator Bounty Program as demonstrated by a professional scientific survey; and

**WHEREAS**, Predator removal efforts on properties with habitat to increase nest success of pheasants and ducks has been used as a management technique in South Dakota for decades; and

**WHEREAS**, intensive predator removal efforts can enhance nest success of pheasants and ducks at localized levels when implemented at high intensities during the nesting season; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks has previously operated this program and paid all expenditures for this program from the fund established in SDCL 41-2-34 (license dollars) and plans to utilize these funds for 2020.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission recognizes the Department of Game, Fish and Parks' desire to conduct the Nest Predator Bounty Program for 2020 and proposes for public consideration the following: an expenditure for five dollars per tail not to exceed \$250,000 for the bounty of nest predators. Participants under the age of 18 and landowners harvesting nest predators from their own land are not required to have a license. All other participants must have a hunting, fishing, or trapping license.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Nest Predator Bounty Program shall be operated from April 1 to July 1, 2020, to coincide with the primary nesting season of pheasants, ducks, and other ground nesting birds. The method of take is expanded to include shooting of nest predators in addition to trapping.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Commission, after considering comments, will determine if there will be a 2020 Bounty Program and if so, lay out the final parameters at the March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Commission meeting, to include a method to identify and monitor goals of the program. Some of these goals include but are not limited to: removal of 50,000 nest predators, increase furbearer license sales by 5%, double participation in ETHICS SD, and have 20% of bounty participants under the age of 18.