

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH & PARKS

ANNUAL REPORT



2025

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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY



Every year I am reminded how important the great outdoors are to people and families across South Dakota and 2025 was no different. Whether it's a first fish, a new favorite camping spot, or a pup's first retrieve special moments occur every day throughout our state, and we take great pride in that.

This year more of those memories and moments were created. In the fields we enjoyed another fantastic pheasant hunting season! It was going to be tough to top the hunting in 2024, but speaking to hunters across the state the consensus is that we did!

Just as important as having an abundance of birds on the landscape is ensuring hunters having places to hunt. Over 1.6 million acres of private land were enrolled for public hunting access in 2025, which speaks to the importance of hunting and conservation to landowners across the state.

On the water, there were many first fish caught this year. Over 300,000 pounds of fish were stocked across the state, of which 247,000 were catchable-sized fish. This translates to a fish on the line, and an angler hooked for life. I was fortunate to see many of these take place just this fall, with Capitol Lake opening for public fishing with hundreds of youth anglers taking to the water and many catching their first fish.

Speaking of new outdoor opportunities, the Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Sports Complex opened in November and is already seeing hundreds of visitors on any given day. Western South Dakota is officially home to one of the premier shooting sports facilities in the country, and the outpouring of support we've received from the community is truly outstanding!

In the parks, millions of memories were made – literally! Our state parks and lakeside use areas saw over 8.9 million visits this year, along with over 341,000 camping nights. Our parks offer something for everyone, and whether it's to hike, make a splash on the water, or relax by a campfire our visitors continue to make memories year-round. There's much to be proud of this year, but what might stand out to me the most is the number of habitat stamps sold. Over 317,000 habitat stamps were purchased in 2025, that's 317,000 individuals that were hunting, fishing, or trapping across the state. That's a lot of outdoor memories!

We remain focused on habitat and access, asset management, customer service, and operational excellence. These four pillars have driven everything we do at GFP and are the backbone of these accomplishments. Now, it is time to make even more outdoor memories in 2026!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Robling'.

Kevin Robling

Department Secretary



DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP



KEVIN ROBLING
DEPARTMENT SECRETARY



SCOTT SIMPSON
DEPARTMENT DEPUTY
SECRETARY



TOM KIRSCHENMANN
WILDLIFE DIRECTOR



JEFF VANMEETEREN
PARKS AND RECREATION
DIRECTOR





OUR IMPACT

2025 was a very successful year and the effects of our work are noticed throughout the state. Here's a glance at the achievements that have been accomplished by Team GFP this past year.

535,000

Park Entrance Licenses Purchased.

8,976,000

State Park Visitations.

341,084

Camping Nights.

317,355

Habitat Stamps Purchased.

1,663,959

Acres of Private Land Enrolled in
Public Hunting Access.

242

Lakes and Streams Stocked.

300,000

Pounds of Fish Stocked.

5,804,994

Juvenile Walleye Stocked.

2,796

HuntSAFE Graduates.

120

HuntSAFE Classes.

COMMISSIONERS



STEPHANIE RISSLER
VERMILION



TRAVIS BIES
FAIRBURN



JON LOCKEN
BATH



ROBERT WHITMYRE
WEBSTER



JULIE BARTLING
GREGORY



TRAVIS THEEL
RAPID CITY



BRUCE CULL
YANKTON



JIM WHITE
HURON

2026 COMMISSION MEETING DATES

JANUARY 8-9

MARCH 5-6

APRIL 9-10

MAY 7-8

JUNE 11-12

JULY 9-10

SEPTEMBER 3-4

OCTOBER 8-9

NOVEMBER 5-6

DECEMBER 3-4

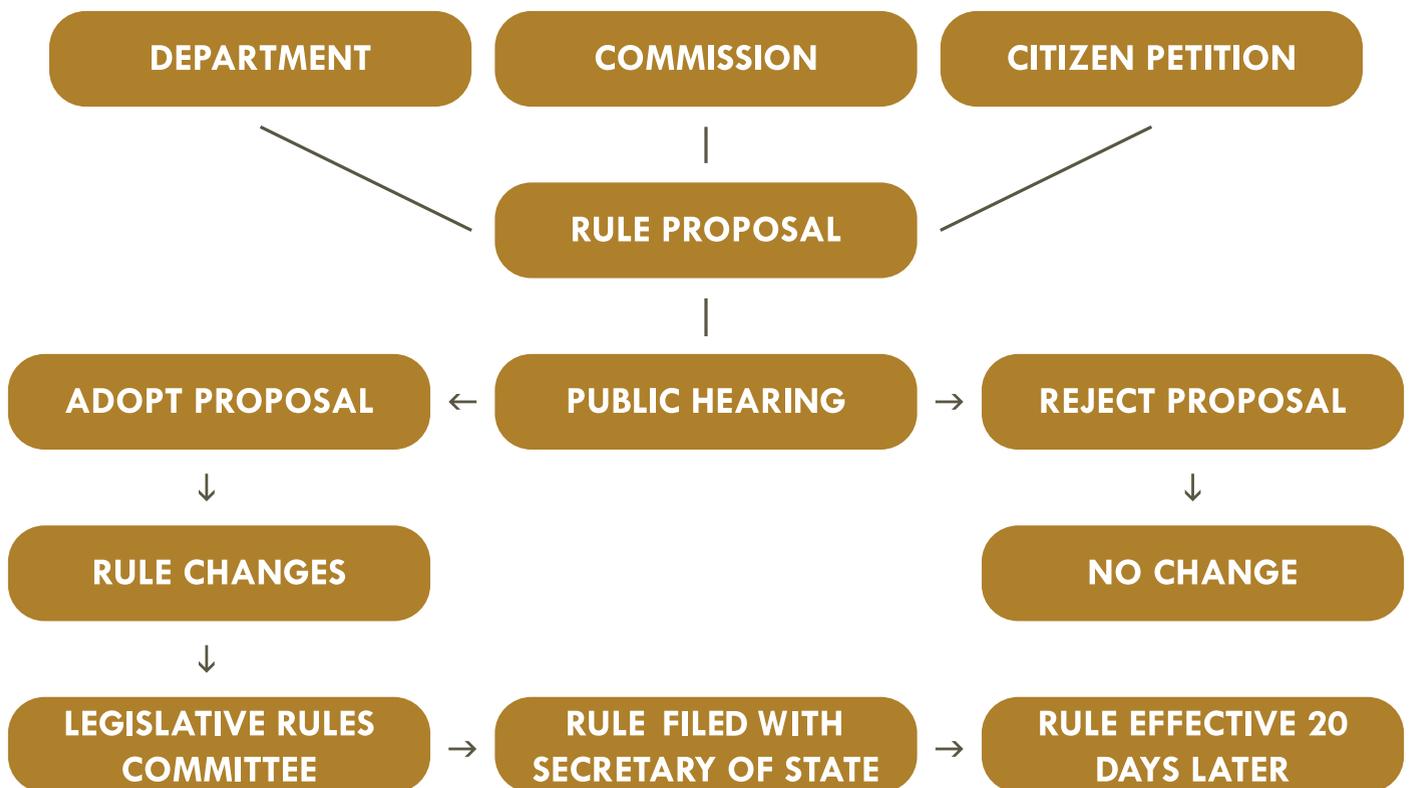
HOW THE COMMISSION WORKS

The GFP Commission is committed to fulfilling their responsibility to serve the state of South Dakota through open and transparent processes. The Commission welcomes correspondence throughout the year and encourages citizens to provide comments directly to commissioners at every commission meeting. While the commission leans heavily on the Department for the science of managing outdoor resources and recreation, public comments shape commission decisions on many issues that have social implications such as the equitable distribution of available licenses and setting of fees for access and use of state parks.

commissioners themselves can propose a change. After a proposal is made, the commission provides proper public notice of the proposed change, accept public comment and make a final decision to adopt or reject the proposal.

If adopted, all rule changes are reviewed by a committee of legislators who make sure the commission acted within their authority and that the public was given sufficient opportunity for input into the final decision. After that, the new administrative rules are filed with the Secretary of State and become effective 20 days later.

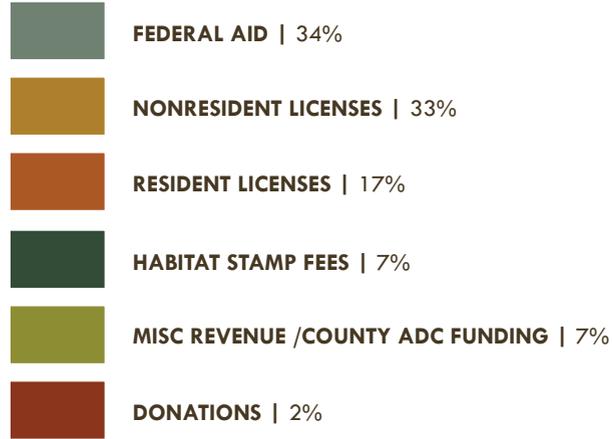
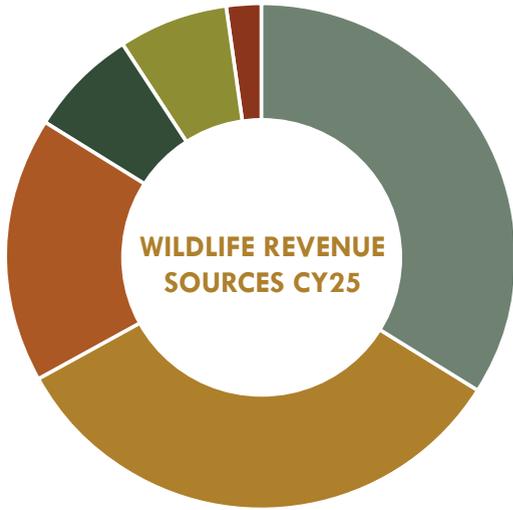
The formal process the commission uses to adopt administrative rules is typically initiated by a recommendation from the Department, but can also originate from receipt of a citizen petition, or



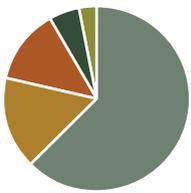
WILDLIFE FINANCIALS

100%

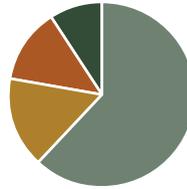
OF THE WILDLIFE DIVISION IS FUNDED THROUGH USER FEES AND FEDERAL EXCISE TAXES ON OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT.



FUNDED BY DINGLE JOHNSON REVENUE

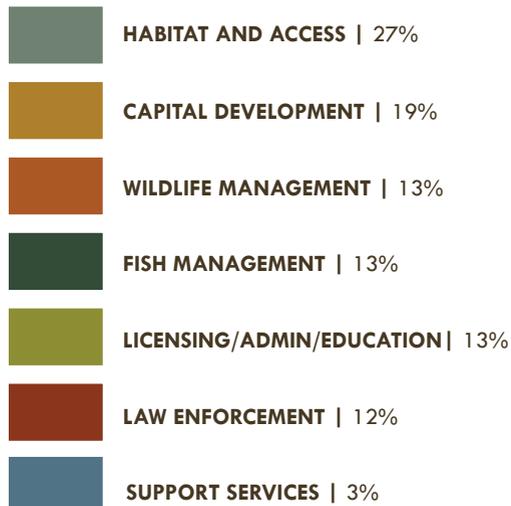
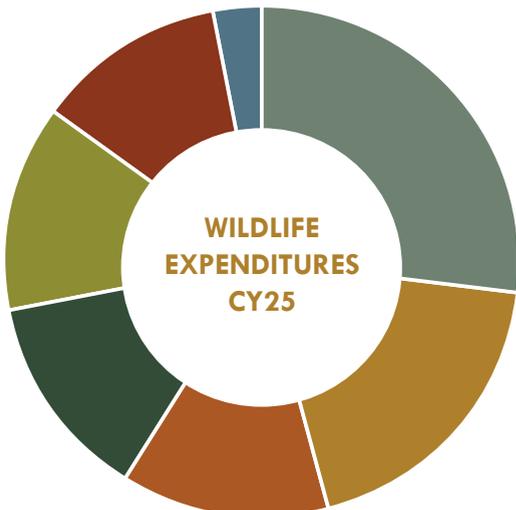


FUNDED BY PITTMANN-ROBERTSON REVENUE



53%

OF ALL EXPENDITURES ARE RELATED TO HABITAT AND ACCESS OR FISH/WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.



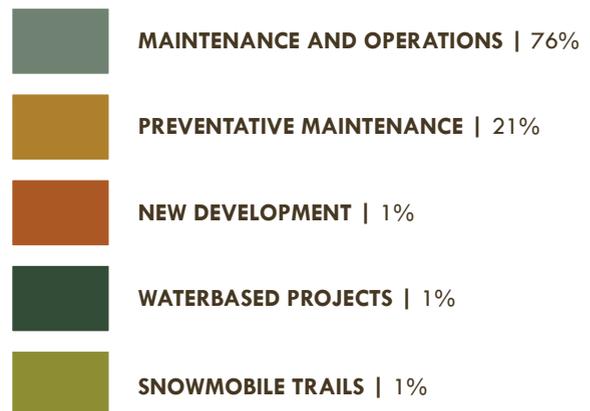
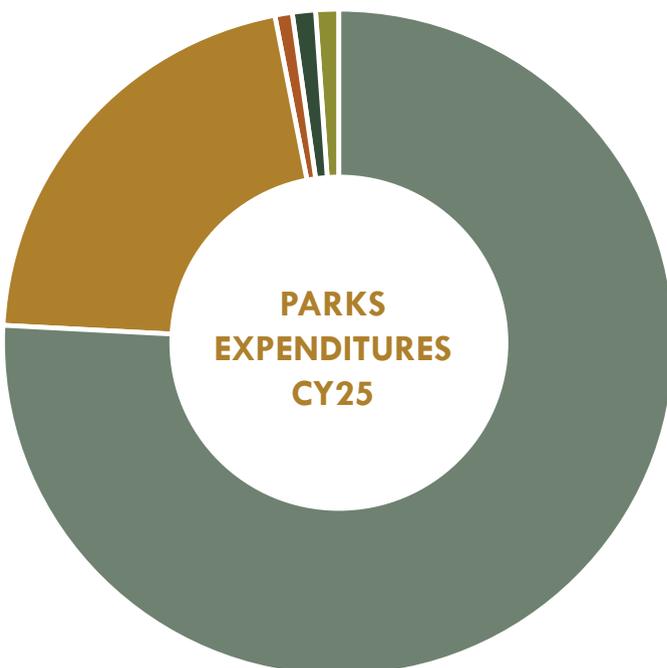
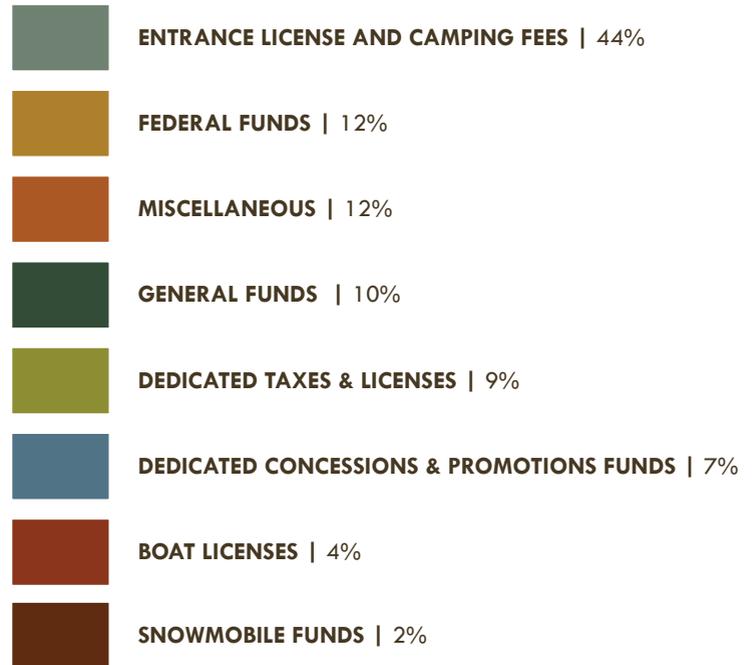
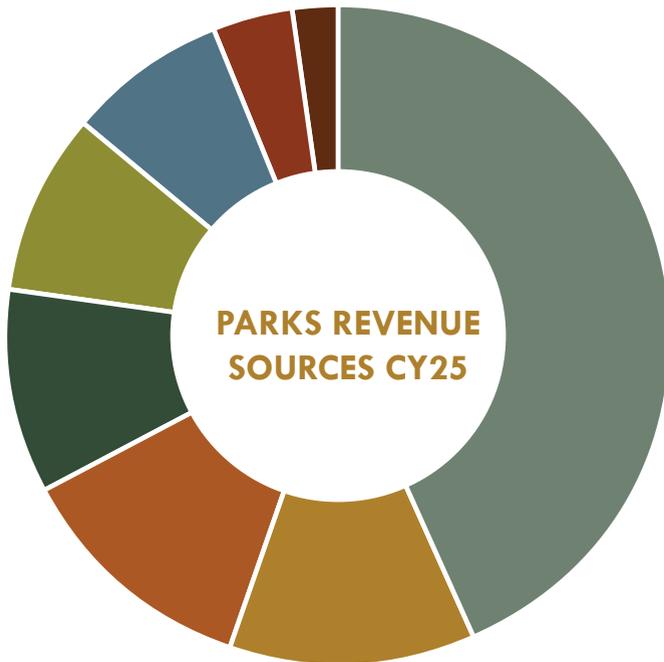
PARKS AND RECREATION FINANCIALS

90%

OF THE PARKS DIVISION IS FUNDED THROUGH USER FEES AND FEDERAL GRANTS.

10%

FUNDED BY GENERAL FUNDS, PRIMARILY USED FOR SEASONAL LABOR NEEDS.



FISH STOCKING

GFP fisheries staff stocked nearly 300,000 pounds of fish across the state in 2025. This included nearly 48 million walleye fry, 5.8 million juvenile walleye, and over 247,000 adult, catchable-sized fish including rainbow trout, catfish, bass, and bluegill.

48 MILLION
WALLEYE FRY STOCKED

5.8 MILLION
JUVENILE WALLEYE STOCKED

300,000
POUNDS OF FISH STOCKED

URBAN COMMUNITY FISHERIES

In 2025, GFP continued to focus on urban and community fisheries across the state. Efforts included focused stockings of fish to maintain high catch rates and the addition of amenities like docks and fishing piers at several waters. A major highlight was the opening of Capitol Lake in Pierre for public fishing, which has quickly become a popular destination for anglers. Capitol Lake was stocked with 2,900 rainbow trout, 500 largemouth bass, and 154 bluegill, all of catchable size.

URBAN COMMUNITY FISHERY LOCATIONS

ABERDEEN

WYLIE'S COMMUNITY FISHING POND

ARMOUR

LAKE ALCAZAR

BROOKINGS

DAKOTA NATURE PARK PONDS

CROOKS

HERITAGE POND

FREEMAN

FREEMAN COMMUNITY FISHING POND

GARY

ELSIE POND

HARRISBURG

LAKE OLE

HILL CITY

MAJOR LAKE

LEOLA

PUDWILL POND

MADISON

MADISON COMMUNITY FISHING POND

MILBANK

FLYNN POND

BERKNER POND

PIERRE

MILT MORRIS POND

MICKELSON POND

CAPITOL LAKE * NEW IN 2025

RAPID CITY

CANYON LAKE

JACKSON BOULEVARD POND

MEMORIAL POND

SIoux FALLS

FAMILY PARK URBAN FISHING POND

STURGIS

STURGIS LIONS CLUB PARK

WAGNER

WAGNER CITY POND

WATERTOWN

LION'S COMMUNITY FISHING POND

REDLIN COMMUNITY FISHING PONDS

MCLAUGHLIN COMMUNITY FISHING POND

BRAMBLE COMMUNITY FISHING POND

WINNER

WINNER CITY POND

WOONSOCKET

PRIOR LAKE COMMUNITY FISHING POND

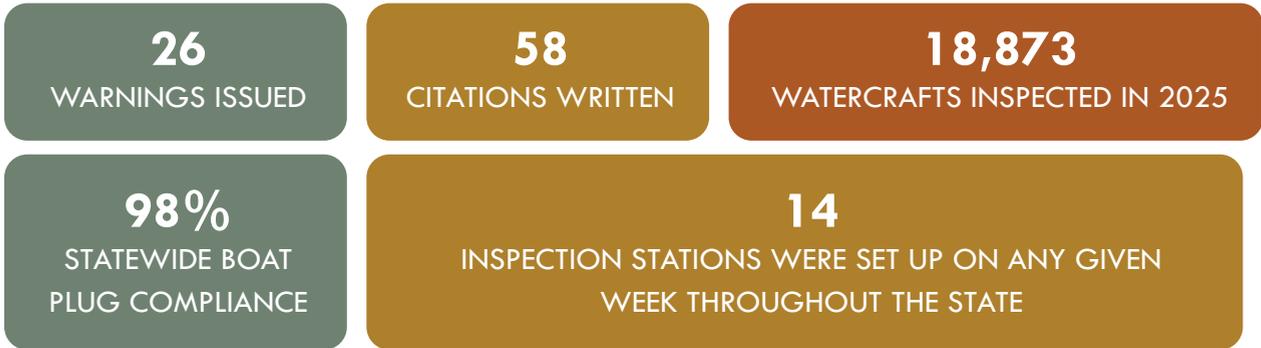
WORTHING

WORTHING COMMUNITY FISHING POND

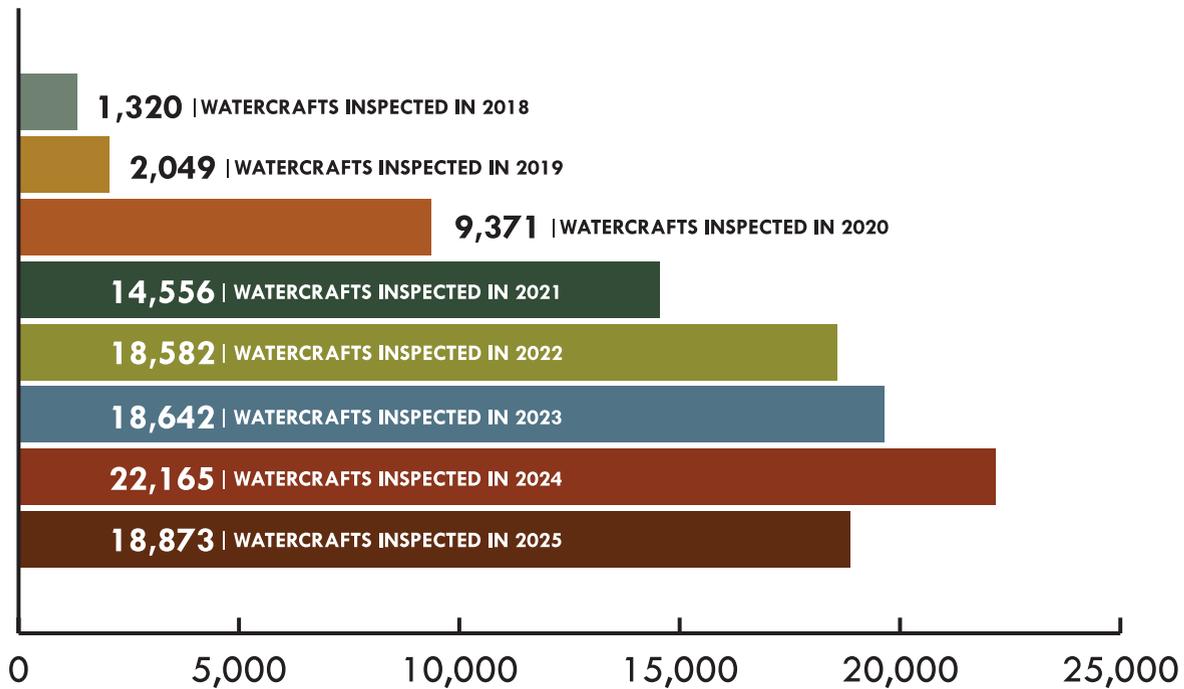
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

GFP and partners completed another field season of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) work across the state. Outreach and education efforts continued to spread of the message of “Clean, Drain, Dry” and provide information to surface water users on ways to minimize the risk associated with contributing to the spread of AIS. Similar to previous years, statewide boat plug compliance was 98% when measured during the nearly 19,000 watercraft inspections conducted by GFP staff and partners.

ENFORCEMENT INCREASES COMPLIANCE



2018-2025 WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS



PARK ENTRANCE LICENSE SALES

Park Entrance License sales exceeded expectations with growth in revenue overall at 21% YTD. Daily license sales in particular were excellent especially at Custer State Park with 7-day passes, motorcoach permits and the Sturgis motorcycle rally event.

114,403
ANNUAL PARK ENTRANCE
LICENSES SOLD

420,684
DAILY PARK ENTRANCE
LICENSES SOLD

21%
INCREASE IN PARK
ENTRANCE LICENSE REVENUE

LODGING NIGHTS

Lodging units offer kitchen and indoor bathroom facilities that draw in many non-traditional users who do not have campers. Lodging units can be found at the following parks: Roy Lake, Mina Lake, Pickerel Lake, Lake Thompson, Palisades, Newton Hills, Oahe Downstream, Spring Creek, Sheps Canyon and Shadehill.

4,739 NIGHTS
BOOKED BY RESERVATION

6% INCREASE
IN LODGING NIGHT STAYS IN 2025

TOP 10 PARKS FOR CAMPING

1. Custer State Park
2. Lewis and Clark Recreation Area
3. Angostura Recreation Area
4. Oahe Downstream Recreation Area
5. Chief White Crane Recreation Area
6. Lake Vermillion Recreation Area
7. Palisades State Park
8. Newton Hills State Park
9. North Point Recreation Area
10. Oakwood Lakes State Park



Palisades State Park

60TH BUFFALO ROUNDUP AND ARTS FESTIVAL

Custer State Park welcomed 22,775 visitors for the 60th Annual Buffalo Roundup, marking a milestone in one of South Dakota's most iconic traditions. Warm weather greeted guests, and the event was widely regarded as a success, receiving extensive coverage from both international and local media outlets. South Dakota Public Broadcasting once again hosted the live stream, and the park also streamed the event at the main Visitor Center, where it was standing room only. **The Roundup brought approximately 1,420 bison into the corrals, including 495 calves born in 2025.**

This year's Arts Festival held in conjunction with the Roundup set a record-breaking attendance number at 19,225 participants with nearly 170 vendors who showed up to market their various products.

To put on an event of this magnitude requires a collaborative effort that involves cross-department teamwork. This shared commitment to stewardship, public engagement, and the preservation of South Dakota's natural heritage earned the group the 2025 Division Teamwork award. The 60th Roundup continued the tradition honoring the legacy of the bison and the enduring spirit of Custer State Park.

22,775
BUFFALO ROUNDUP VISITORS

1,420
BISON INTO THE CORRALS

19,225
ARTS FESTIVAL VISITORS

170
VENDORS PARTICIPATED

60TH ANNUAL CUSTER STATE PARK BISON AUCTION

The 60th Annual Custer State Park Bison Auction took place on November 1 and was a tremendous success. The park had a variety of bison offered for the auction. The 2-year-old breeding bulls saw the largest price increase at 114% over 2024. The Park had 64 registered bidders representing 10 states — South Dakota, Alabama, Idaho, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming.

387
BISON SOLD

\$971,350
REVENUE GENERATED

\$11,671
AVERAGE BREEDING BULL PRICE

ARPA FUNDED PROJECTS

Major completion of 80% of the \$20 Million dollar list of ARPA projects is complete. Project parameters focused on waterline utilities and sewer infrastructure replacements, resulting in cost savings that will have decades of benefits to the park system. There were 38 individual projects that touched nearly every part of the state's park system.

STATE PARK VOLUNTEERS

South Dakota State Parks continued to benefit greatly from the dedication and passion of our volunteer community. A total of 372 individual volunteers contributed nearly 103,000 hours, representing 49.42 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. In addition, 37 volunteer groups provided another 4,900 hours, equaling 2.38 FTE.

Together, volunteers committed near 108,000 hours of service, the equivalent of 51.85 FTE. Their efforts supported everything from campground hosting and trail upkeep to educational programming and special events. Based on the average seasonal hourly rate of \$15.92, this service provided an estimated economic impact of \$1.7 million.

MAKE A SPLASH TAGGED FISH PROGRAM

The Make a Splash tagged fish promotion began as a pilot program in 2024 at Farm Island. The idea behind the program is to tag fish that would be accessible for shore and boat anglers to try to increase fishing and create social media content. That year 280 fish were tagged by fisheries staff. These tags have "Prize Fish-return to Park Office," on them. That year, over 25 tags were returned to farm island staff in exchange for a "Reel in Memories" T-shirt.

In 2025, the department expand the promotion to 10 fisheries; Center Lake, Sylvan Lake, Oahe Downstream Sub-impoundment, Farm Island, Snake Creek, Herman

Park Pond, Lake Louise, Lake Yankton, Richmond Lake and Lake Cochrane. The plan considered time spent by fisheries and parks staff to include these tagging efforts with the seasonal fisheries work already being done. Approximately 275 tags were returned to claim prizes. Parks staff shared photos of winning participants on social media.

Feedback from participants and staff was very positive. The thrill of catching a tagged fish is a memory maker for anglers. Coupled with winning a parks t-shirt and participants were very happy.

2025 MAKE A SPLASH CAMPAIGN

Each year, South Dakota State Parks highlight a different recreation theme to encourage visitors to explore new activities. The 2025 park theme campaign, Make a Splash, focused on all the ways park users can enjoy being in, on, or around water. Showcasing recreational opportunities like paddling, fishing, swimming, boating, shoreline exploration, and others.

2025 also was the first year the department partner with a sponsor, Independent Insurance Agents of South Dakota, to provide grand prizes. The prizes included a pedal kayak, paddle board, and a lily pad. To expand engagement, select water bodies were also stocked with tagged fish. The prize for catching one of these fish received a Make a Splash t-shirt or commemorative picture frame as their activity award.

1,063

PARTICIPANTS

83%

OF PARTICIPANTS WERE
SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS

25%

WERE ADULTS FISHING
WITH YOUTH

GO OUTDOORS SD EVENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Staff from across the state have worked together to build and launch a new event management system within Go Outdoors South Dakota. This project strengthens our one-stop-shop vision by allowing customers to find licenses, classes, park programs, and educational opportunities all in one place. Events from Parks, Wildlife, Campuses, and HuntSAFE are now live and open for registration.

Customers can easily find programs through our website or the GoOutdoorsSD app by searching by ZIP code, event type, keyword, or date.

HuntSAFE is now fully integrated as well. When students register for a class, their HuntSAFE ID is automatically connected to their Go Outdoors profile, simplifying the licensing process.

While creating youth profiles requires Single Sign-On and unique email addresses, once set up, families find the system user friendly. Customers can clearly see all their

registered classes, and staff remain available to assist anyone who needs help creating an account.

The system's waitlist feature has already become a valuable tool for managing demand. Waitlists show where additional classes may be needed.

Centralizing event and attendance data helps improve program quality and better understand participation patterns. These insights support recruitment, retention, and reactivation efforts and help us track how participants continue engaging with our resources over time.

With improved collaboration between Parks and Wildlife, targeted outreach based on attendance history, automated reminders, and stronger partnerships with schools and organizations, we are better positioned than ever to expand access to outdoor recreation and education across South Dakota.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS ACROSS THE STATE IN 2025

2,235
PROGRAMS

93,000
PARTICIPANTS

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, Parks division delivered another strong year of education programming in 2025, presenting 2,235 programs that reached around 93,000 participants in state parks and recreation areas across the state. This work supports the department's ongoing effort to grow engagement and move toward the statewide goal of reaching 100,000 participants annually.

Across the state, GFP continued to expand access to outdoor learning through hands-on programs in environmental education, cultural programming, fishing, archery, and hunter development. As part of this effort staff worked hard to help participants build skills while deepening their understanding of South Dakota's landscapes and history. New and repurposed trailers in the Northeast made these programs more mobile than ever, allowing staff to bring high-quality outdoor experiences directly to communities.

Regions also offered standout experiences tailored to local interests. In the West Region, Bugling Elk Programs, Bison Corral Tours, and the ever-popular Thursday Night

Adventures drew strong attendance from visitors seeking meaningful, memory-making activities. The Southeast Region once again found success with the Good Earth State Park Summer Concert Series, hosting 12 concerts from May through July and drawing more than 3,000 attendees. This is a tradition now in its seventh year. In the Northeast Region, Fort Sisseton's Historic Festival remained a major draw, while the region also continued to grow its pathways classes for women, offering archery, pheasant hunting, and a variety of outdoor skills programs designed to support confidence and connection in the outdoors. This is in connection with the Becoming an Outdoors Women Event held annually.

Behind the scenes, 2025 marked the department's smooth transition into the GoOutdoors events management system. The core education team comprised of educators representing both parks and wildlife divisions, also worked collaboratively to plan the Annual Education Conference, strengthening statewide alignment with GFP's education strategic plan.

Together, these efforts showcase GFP's commitment to helping South Dakotans learn, explore, and build lasting memories in the outdoors.



PETE LIEN AND SONS SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX GRAND OPENING

GFP completed construction of the Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Sports Complex and held a ribbon cutting for the facility November 7, 2025. The facility then opened to the public November 8. The opening of this facility was met with excitement as this complex offers one of the premier shooting sports opportunities in the country.



HABITAT AND ACCESS PROJECTS

Over 1.66 million acres of private land was enrolled in GFP's public hunting access programs in 2025.

Additionally, a new record was set for most acres impacted by GFP's private lands habitat programs, with a total of 120,112 acres. Of these acres, 226 were through GFP's woody habitat program, which is the highest since 2009. Another 13,177 acres of food plots were enrolled in GFP's private land food plot program, which is the highest since 1988.

Lastly, 1,613 acres of upland restoration was completed through GFP's grassland restoration program, which is the highest in the last seven years.

OUTDOOR CAMPUS SIOUX FALLS EXPANSION UPDATE

On July 12, 2024, the groundbreaking for the Outdoor Campus Expansion project was held. This marked the beginning of construction of a 60-yard Outdoor Archery Range followed by the expansion of the indoor facility to include an indoor archery range, game processing space, new classrooms, and more. On March 16, 2025, the Outdoor Archery Range was completed and since being open, has seen 14,000 visits to the new facility. Summer 2025, construction started on the expansion of the Outdoor Campus Building. The final completion date for this project is fall 2026. This whole expansion is made possible through generous donors as well as Pittman-Robertson funds.

HUNTING 101

Hunting 101 is a comprehensive hunting program that teaches students everything they will need to know to begin their hunting journey. The program walks participants through every step of the hunting journey—from licensing and regulations, to time at the range sighting in a rifle, developing relationships with landowners, and finally harvesting and processing a spring turkey or fall deer in the field.

OUTDOOR CAMPUS SIOUX FALLS

36 HUNTERS

IN THE TURKEY 101 PROGRAM

50 HUNTERS

IN THE DEER 101 PROGRAM

OUTDOOR CAMPUS RAPID CITY

12 HUNTERS

IN THE TURKEY 101 PROGRAM

36 HUNTERS

IN THE DEER 101 PROGRAM

8 HUNTERS

IN THE UPLAND 101 PROGRAM

OUTDOOR CAMPUS DISABLED VETERAN HUNT PROGRAM

The Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls is partners with the Grey Ghost Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation to offer free of charge hunts to disabled veterans. Hunts are provided by the Mule Deer Foundation, and processing is provided by Disabled American Veterans. In 2025, 8 hunts took place through the Disabled Veteran Hunt program.

HUNT FOR HABITAT RAFFLE

The 2025 Hunt for Habitat raffle raised **\$272,610** to improve habitat on public lands across South Dakota. These projects include several tree and shrub plantings on Game Production Areas (GPA), native grass plantings on GPAs, and several projects to enhance riparian areas in the Black Hills including willow plantings and installation of Beaver Dam Analogs.

LICENSE PLATE DECAL REVENUE

7,083

LICENSE PLATES ISSUED

2,761

HABITAT CONSERVATION
DECALS SOLD

\$137,230

REVENUE GENERATED

During 2025, a total of 2,761 Habitat Conservation Decals were sold, generating \$137,230 in revenue. In addition, 7,083 license plates were issued in connection with the program, reflecting continued public participation and support for habitat conservation efforts. Individuals were made aware of this new opportunity with a kick-off social media video in March that reached 57,500 individuals on Facebook and 47,100 individuals on Instagram for a cumulative 104,600 views. Additionally, information cards were distributed to every county courthouse, license agent, and GFP office.

HABITAT STAMP

The 2020 Legislature passed Senate Bill 75 creating a habitat stamp that added an annual fee to most license buyers. Funds generated from the habitat stamp are to be used solely for terrestrial and aquatic habitat and access projects in South Dakota.

HABITAT STAMP PURCHASES GENERATED JUST OVER \$5.6 MILLION IN 2025.

169 ACRES

OF NATIVE GRASS
PLANTINGS.

120 ACRES

OF FOREST ENHANCEMENT FOR
HARDWOOD TREE SPECIES.

10.35 MILES

OF ROADS WERE
IMPROVED OR CREATED.

190 ACRES

OF FOOD PLOT
PLANTINGS.

18.5 ACRES

OF SHELTERBELT
PLANTINGS.

3.88 MILES

OF OLD FENCE REMOVED.

4,527 ACRES

OF PRIVATE LAND ENROLLED IN THE BIG SIOUX
RIVER CONSERVATION RESERVE
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.

24,155 ACRES

OF PRIVATE LAND ENROLLED IN THE
JAMES RIVER CONSERVATION RESERVE
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.

14 PROJECTS

TO IMPROVE AQUATIC
HABITAT.

4 BOAT RAMPS

WERE CREATED OR REPAIRED.

42 FISHERIES

RECEIVED FISHING ACCESS
IMPROVEMENTS.

1 ACRE & 1350' TRAIL

OF PRIVATE LAND ENROLLED IN AQUATIC
ACCESS LEASES TO OPEN 8,345 WATER
ACRES AND 80 RIVER MILES.

8 WATERS

IMPROVED BY ADDING
FISH HABITAT STRUCTURES.

7 DAMS

HAD DEFICIENCIES
ADDRESSED.

The revenue generated from the sales of habitat stamps has without a doubt, increased the volume and quality of habitat and access projects across the state. Both now and into the future, the wildlife and users of South Dakota's natural resources will benefit from them.

WHY THE HABITAT STAMP IS IMPORTANT?

Habitat stamp funds continue to provide financial support to amplify the work taking place for both aquatic and terrestrial habitat and access across South Dakota. This revenue source allows staff to increase the rate of projects being completed beyond that of what normal budgets would allow.

Priorities for the use of terrestrial habitat stamp funds include improvements on Game Production Areas and enrollment of private lands in public hunting access programs.

Priorities for the use of aquatic habitat stamps include making a wide range of access related improvements from installing new boat ramps or improving outdated ramps, adding shore fishing amenities like docks and piers, or establishing other opportunities like removal of cattails, alternative launches like canoe/kayak launches. One focus is to continue to improve dam infrastructure and aquatics habitats where we can while another is to lease waters on private land to provide access for hunting and fishing opportunities.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



GARY CREEK STREAM RESTORATION AND ACCESS

Gary Creek is a small cold water, spring-fed stream located on the eastern edge of South Dakota in Deuel County, east of Clear Lake. The creek runs through the 120-acre Gary Gulch Game Production Area. Being a cold-water stream, it has been managed as a trout fishery with fingerling stockings dating back to

1929-1930. Trout stocking stopped due to a decline in survival due to several factors from poor winter habitat, excess sedimentation, lack of macroinvertebrates or food chain, and a decline in riparian vegetation from invasive buckthorn.

This project was years in the making but once the project was approved with funds, design work and permitting was done in about a year. Construction took about 5 months, and now the landscape healing is in progress.



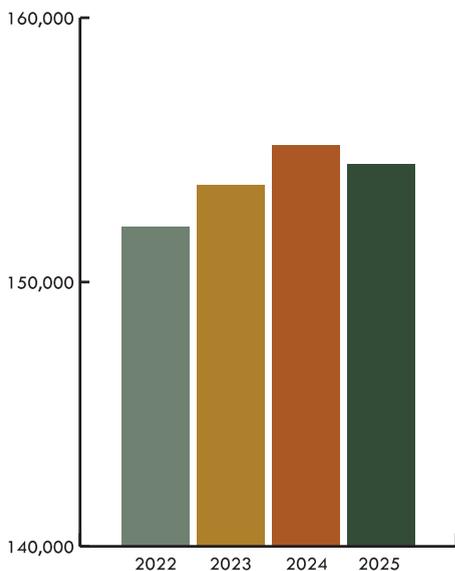
HABITAT STAMP SUPPORTS NEW TREE AND SHRUB PLANTINGS

Spring 2025 brought new growth to three Game Production Areas (GPAs) in north central South Dakota. Tree plantings were completed at Lambrecht and Hofer GPAs in Sully County, and at Hawkins GPA in Hand County. These projects were made possible by Habitat

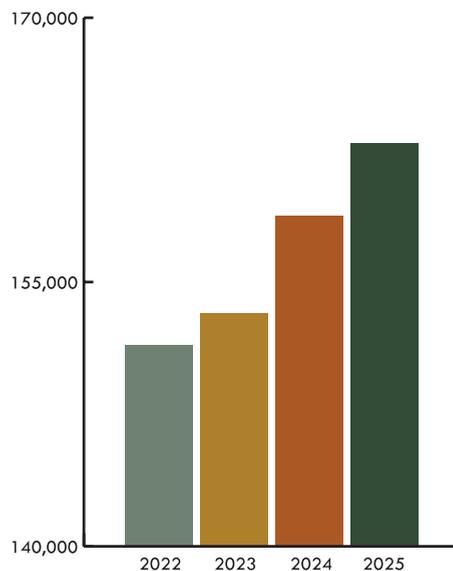
Stamp funds, which helped cover the cost of trees, fabric, and essential planting materials. Hardworking crews totaling 20+ GFP permanent, seasonal and intern staff teamed up to plant the trees and install protective weed barrier fabric, ensuring these young plantings have a strong start. In total, 14.7 acres were planted with approximately 7,700 trees and shrubs, creating dense woody habitat critical for wildlife.

2025 LICENSE SALES

RESIDENT HABITAT STAMP SALES



NONRESIDENT HABITAT STAMP SALES



58,094

RESIDENT COMBO
LICENSES SOLD

84,744

NONRESIDENT SMALL
GAME LICENSES SOLD

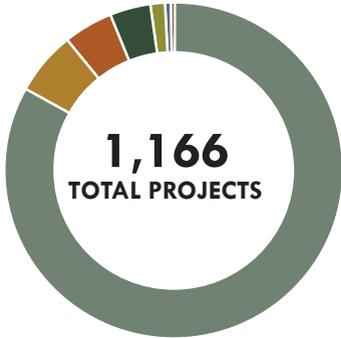
77,006

RESIDENT FISHING
LICENSES SOLD

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

PRIVATE LANDS HABITAT PROGRAM SUMMARY

2025 HABITAT PROGRAM SUMMARY

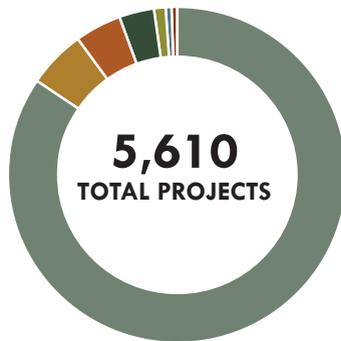


- 968 | FOOD HABITAT PLOTS
- 73 | WOODY COVER
- 54 | WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FENCE
- 45 | GRASSLAND ENHANCEMENT
- 19 | GRASSLAND RESTORATION
- 5 | HABITAT PROTECTION FENCE
- 2 | WETLAND ENHANCEMENTS

ONE YEAR HABITAT MANAGEMENT	
Food Habitat Plots	13,177 Acres
Woody Cover	245 Acres
Habitat Protection Fence	52 Acres
Grassland Enhancement	47,408 Acres
Grassland Restoration	2,416 Acres
Wetland Enhancements	9 Acres
Wildlife Friendly Fence	86 Miles

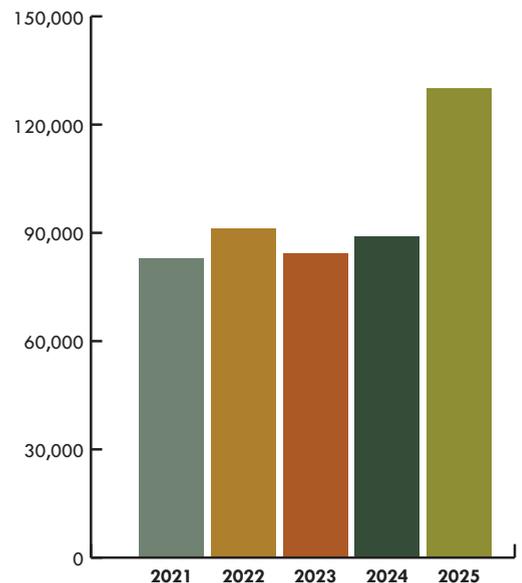
\$3.8 MILLION
TOTAL GFP AND LANDOWNER FUNDS

5 YEAR HABITAT PROGRAM SUMMARY



- 4,744 | FOOD HABITAT PLOTS
- 310 | GRASSLAND ENHANCEMENT
- 249 | WOODY COVER
- 183 | WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FENCE
- 70 | GRASSLAND RESTORATION
- 30 | WETLAND ENHANCEMENT
- 24 | HABITAT PROTECTION FENCE

2021 - 2025 TOTAL ACRES



\$13.9 MILLION
TOTAL GFP AND LANDOWNER FUNDS

COOPERATIVELY FUNDED POSITIONS

- PHEASANTS FOREVER | FARM BILL BIOLOGISTS
- AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY | WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST
- BIRD CONSERVANCY OF THE ROCKIES | WILDLIFE HABITAT BIOLOGIST
- SOUTH DAKOTA GRASSLAND COALITION
- NAT. WILD TURKEY FED. | BLACK HILLS FORESTER

GFP partners with several conservation organization to support 22 private lands habitat specialists across South Dakota who deliver programs - including farm bill conservation programs and GFP private lands programs - and technical assistance to thousands of private landowners each year, impacting hundreds of thousands of acres. GFP's financial contributions to these positions are matched several times over with federal, state, and local funds that both support the positions and the important conservation work they provide to South Dakota landowners.

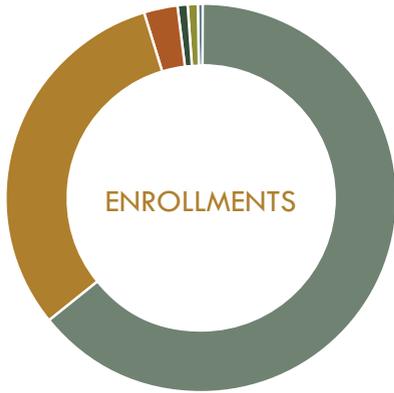


SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

PRIVATE LAND PUBLIC HUNTING ACCESS

PROGRAM SUMMARY

2025 ACCESS PROGRAM SUMMARY

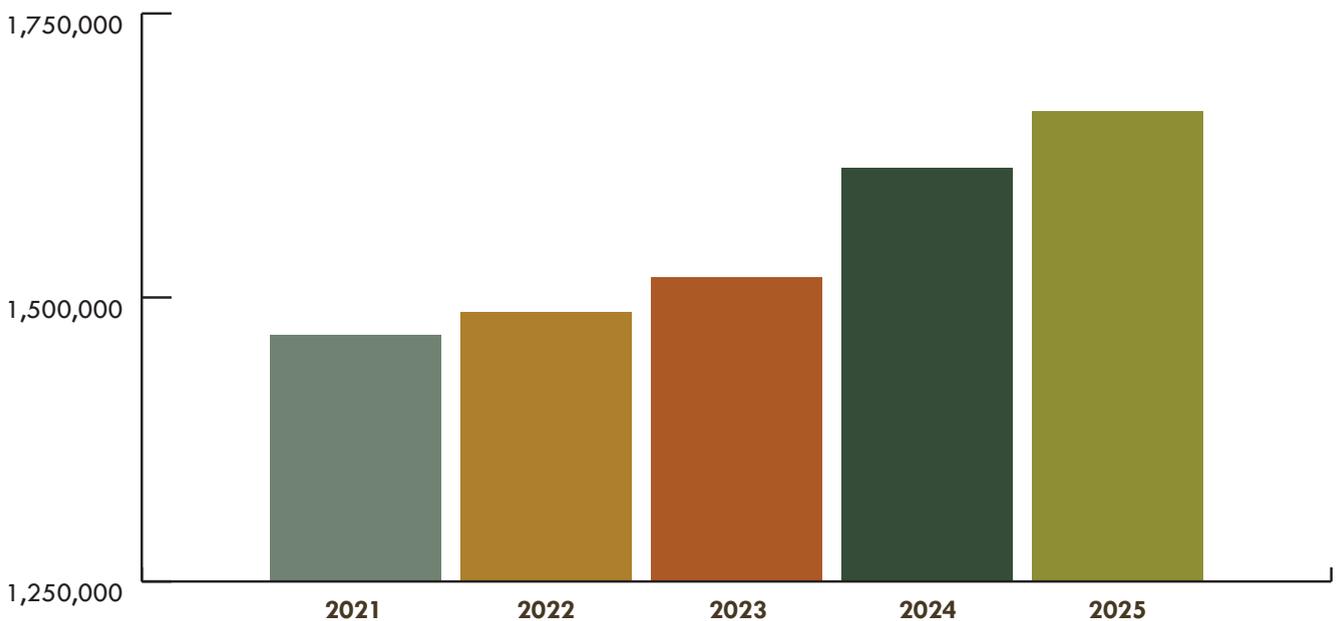


- 1,631** | WALK-IN AREA PROGRAM (WIA)
- 790** | JAMES RIVER WATERSHED CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
- 68** | BIG SIOUX RIVER CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
- 25** | ELK HUNTING ACCESS AREA PROGRAM
- 16** | CONTROLLED HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM (CHAP)
- 6** | LOWER OAHÉ WATERFOWL ACCESS AREA (LOWAA)

\$8,381,266
TOTAL PAYMENTS TO LANDOWNERS

1,663,959
TOTAL ACRES ENROLLED

PRIVATE LAND PUBLIC HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM ACRES

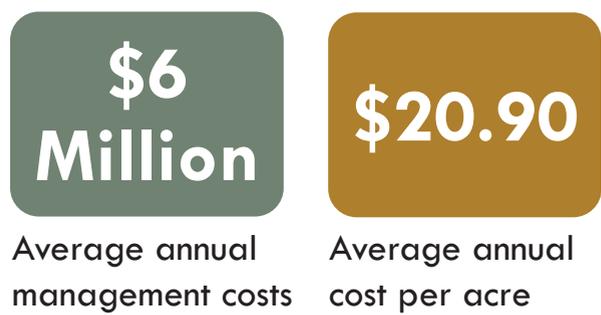


SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS GAME PRODUCTION AREA MANAGEMENT



ANNUAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT	
Food plots planted	5,200 acres/year
Tree and shrub plantings	65 acres/year
Native grass and forb plantings	1,825 acres/year
Grass management (Rx fire/grazing)	68,000 acres/year
Noxious weeds controlled	10,000 acres/year
Roads and trails maintained	455 miles/year
Parking areas and boat ramps maintained	1,186 sites/year
Boundary posts and signs maintained	395 miles/year

ANNUAL MANAGEMENT COSTS



ANNUAL PROPERTY TAXES PAID



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

AQUATIC HABITAT ACCESS

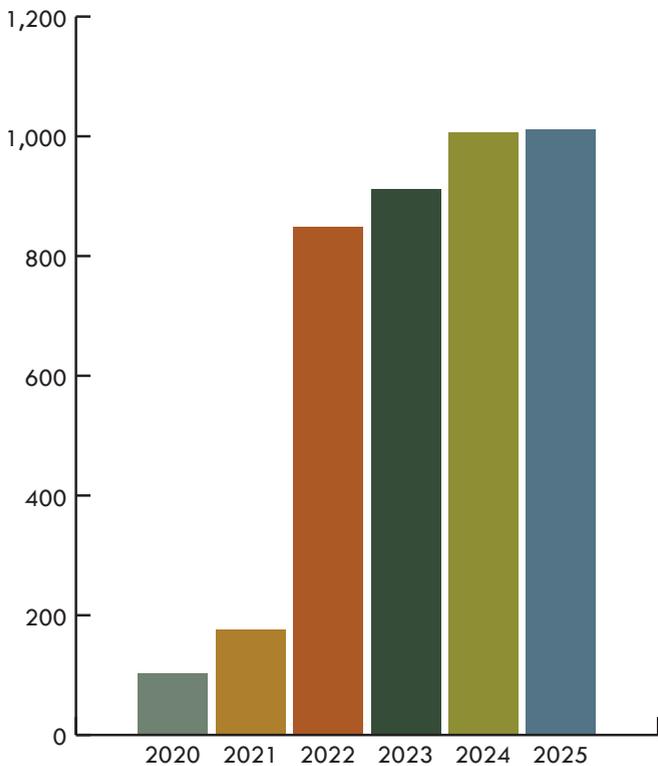
PROGRAM SUMMARY

46
AQUATIC ACCESS
AGREEMENTS

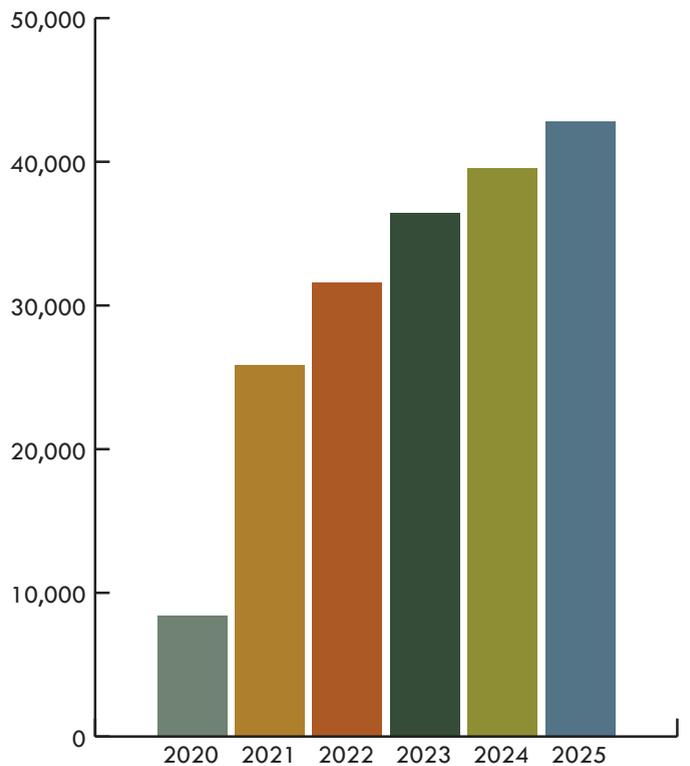
1,350
FOOT TRAIL FOR
ACCESS

140
RIVER MILES
OPENED

Private Land Aquatic Access Acres Enrolled



Public Water Acres Opened



Access Improvements and Developments Since 2020	
Access Improvements	89 projects
Docks & Piers	18 docks & 13 piers
Trail Access	16.45 miles
Boat Ramps	32 projects

2025 Projects

Aquatic habitat projects took place across the state in 2025 including the dam rebuild project at the Lower Booth Dam and the restoration project at Gary Creek. Other projects included placing fish habitat structures, dredging, shoreline plantings, habitat improvements, and more.



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