

2021

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS
LAW ENFORCEMENT
— ANNUAL REPORT



GAME, FISH AND PARKS ADMINISTRATION

KEVIN ROBLING, *Department Secretary* | Pierre

TOM KIRSCHENMANN, *Wildlife Division Director* | Pierre

SCOTT SIMPSON, *Parks Division Director* | Pierre

LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION ADMINISTRATION

SAM SCHELHAAS, *Law Enforcement Chief* | Yankton

BRANDON GUST, *Law Enforcement Deputy Chief* | Madison

BOB LOSCO, *Wildlife Investigator Supervisor* | Webster

NATE STUKEL, *Wildlife Investigator* | Gregory

BRUCE NACHTIGALL, *Law Enforcement Specialist* | Rapid City

JOE KEETON, *Law Enforcement Specialist* | Rapid City

JIM McCORMICK, *Regional CO Supervisor* | Rapid City

BRIAN MEIERS, *District CO Supervisor* | Spearfish

ADAM GEIGLE, *District CO Supervisor* | Rapid City

MIKE APLAND, *District CO Supervisor* | Spearfish

JOSH CARR, *Regional CO Supervisor* | Ft. Pierre

JEFF MARTIN, *District CO Supervisor* | Platte

JOHN MURPHY, *District CO Supervisor* | Ft. Pierre

CORY FLOR, *District CO Supervisor* | Miller

JEREMY ROE, *Regional CO Supervisor* | Sioux Falls

JEREMY RAKOWICZ, *District CO Supervisor* | Sioux Falls

EVAN MEYER, *District CO Supervisor* | Howard

DAN ALTMAN, *District CO Supervisor* | Yankton

KRAIG HAASE, *Regional CO Supervisor* | Watertown

JOE GALBRAITH, *District CO Supervisor* | Ipswich

TIM McCURDY, *District CO Supervisor* | Aberdeen

JAMIE PEKELDER, *District CO Supervisor* | Milbank

JEANNE UECKER, *Law Enforcement Secretary* | Pierre



CONSERVATION OFFICERS

DON ALLAWAY | Yankton

DILLON BATES | Winner

TOM BECK | Martin

PATRICK BEFFA | Mobridge

ADAM BEHNKE | Clear Lake

JENNA CAPPER | Custer

NICK COCHRAN | Aberdeen

CHRIS DEKKER | Rapid City

KENDYLL DEROUCHEY | Gettysburg

JON DUNLAP | Miller

HUNTER MCANINCH | Belle Fourche

JEFF EDWARDS | Hill City

ROSS FEES | Rapid City

CRAIG FISHEL | Sioux Falls

JIM GANSER | Custer

TAYLOR GEERDES | Olivet

LYNN GEUKE | Plankinton

JEFF GRENDLER | Brookings

LOGAN HAMMER | Estelline

JASON HAMIL | Pierre

JUSTIN HARMAN | Brandon

JARED HILL | Sioux Falls

TREVOR JOHNSON | Flandreau

CRAIG FISHEL | Sioux Falls

DIANA LANDEGENT | Chamberlain

SETH LORTON | Watertown

KYLE LENZNER | Watertown

TRAVIS MARCH | Chamberlain

CALVIN MEYER | Webster

KEITH MUTSCHLER | Lemmon

AUSTIN NORTON | Webster

RYAN PEARSON | Sturgis

SHANE PEDERSEN | Redfield

DYLAN PETERSON | Ft. Pierre

D.J. SCHROEDER | Hot Springs

JACOB SCHWINT | Mobridge

DEAN SHULTZ | Sisseton

DUANE STANLEY | Hot Springs

TONY STOKELY | Elk Point

BLAKE SWANSON | Milbank

CODY SYMENS | Madison

MATT TALBERT | Salem

JOSH THOMPSON | Spearfish

ZACH THOMSEN | Clark

RON TIETSORT | Custer

JOSH VANDENBOSCH | Canton

ERIC VOIGT | Ipswich

LAW ENFORCEMENT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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The mission of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks is to serve and connect people and families to the outdoors through effective management of our state's parks, fisheries, and wildlife resources.

NEW CONSERVATION OFFICERS



PATRICK BEFFA joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in November 2020. Patrick grew up in Jefferson City, Missouri. He attended

South Dakota State University and Missouri State University focusing on Natural Resource Law Enforcement and Wildlife Conservation Management. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Patrick served in the United States Marine Corps, worked as a Wildlife Damage Specialist intern and as a Fisheries Biologist intern. After completing the training program, Patrick was assigned to the Mobridge duty station.



TAYLOR GEERDES joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in August 2020. Taylor grew up in Rock Rapids, Iowa. She graduated from

South Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Law Enforcement and a minor in Criminal Justice. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Taylor worked as a Water Patrol Officer, Correctional officer and as a student officer for the SDSU Police Department. After completing the training program, Taylor was assigned to the Olivet duty station.



HUNTER MCANINCH joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in February 2021. Hunter grew up in Monroe County, Iowa.

He graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in Animal Ecology and a minor in Criminal Justice. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Hunter worked as a Water Patrol Officer. After completing the training program, Hunter was assigned to the Buffalo duty station.



LOGAN HAMMER joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in November 2020. Logan grew up in Wilmot, South Dakota. He graduated

from South Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Logan worked as a Wildlife Damage Specialist intern, Waterfowl Biologist intern, and as a UPS driver. After completing the training program, Logan was assigned to the Hayti duty station.

WHAT'S NEW: LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION

The summer of 2021 brought new challenges and opportunities for Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) law enforcement officers. Late in the summer of 2020, there were changes implemented within GFP. A law enforcement section was created, aligning all GFP law enforcement officers under the command of a law enforcement section chief. Prior to this change, conservation officers operated within the Wildlife Division under regional direction and Park Rangers operated within the Parks Division under their regional direction.

With these changes taking place, there was some angst and uncertainty as to what the summer would bring. Summer is the busiest time for park visitation and both divisions were entering into an area of unknowns. After many meetings and discussions, plans began to take shape. Through a combination of utilizing seasonal park rangers and conservation officers, the enforcement of our state's camping and recreation laws became the responsibility of the law enforcement section. This wasn't done alone though. There was tremendous cooperation with park managers and supervisors to figure out how to best ensure the safety of our park users.

Plans were developed, schedules were penciled in, and the summer began. There are approximately 62 Parks and Recreation areas across the state ranging from 70,000-acre Custer State Park to remote West Pollock Recreation Area along the shores of Lake Oahe. Conservation officers

and seasonal, part-time park rangers worked diligently to make sure our Parks and Recreation Areas were a safe and enjoyable place for our millions of users.

The mission of protecting our users, our lands, and our facilities does not stop there. Collaboration between the Parks and Wildlife Divisions must continue to be the focus of our efforts moving forward. It is no secret that South Dakota has some of the best parks in the nation.



WATER ENFORCEMENT PATROL OFFICERS COURSE

South Dakota is home to many beautiful and diverse lakes and rivers that are used by boaters, anglers, paddlers, and swimmers. South Dakota waters can vary from a pristine Black Hills lake, to a massive reservoir on the Missouri River or a glacial lake in Eastern South Dakota. One constant on all these different waterways is the men and women of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) who patrol these waters providing safety for the users and protecting the resources. Wildlife Conservation Officers (WCOs) are tasked with this effort.

WCOs spend a lot of time around water and are often seen patrolling the state's waterways utilizing a variety of vessels specific to the waterbody they are patrolling. With the ever-increasing usage of these waterways, the expectation of WCOs to provide a safe and enjoyable experience has increased.

To ensure that all new officers can effectively patrol with the knowledge and confidence needed, GFP began a Water Enforcement Patrol Officers Course (WEPOC). WEPOC began in 2014, and since its inception, 72 officers have completed this course.

The course is designed to make sure each officer leaves with the knowledge and confidence to effectively patrol their district. Courses cover everything from fundamental boat handling skills and water survival to investigating boat accidents and detection and apprehension of those Boating Under the Influence. This has been an extremely successful program and will often include law enforcement officers from other agencies within South Dakota.



CASE FEATURE: ROAD-KILL DEER

In the fall of 2019, Wildlife Conservation Officer (WCO) Lynn Geuke was contacted by a confidential informant in regards to illegal hunting activity in Jerauld County. WCO Geuke and Region three's West District Officers put countless hours into surveillance, tracking devices, trail cameras, aerial spotlight details, and sitting on dead deer all hours of the night trying to gain intelligence to put an end to the poaching of dozens of deer in the county.

The main suspect installed a special bumper on his vehicle to run deer over on the road by the dozens just for the fun of it. There were dozens of nights of working the area for spotlights and other illegal activity with officers from regions three and four.

After weeks of work Geuke finally got a break. He was sitting on a field that the suspect was known to spotlight. Geuke observed the suspect vehicle parked in the field for a short period of time. Geuke went to the location after the vehicle left and located a freshly killed deer left to rot.

The next day officers gathered information, started conducting interviews, and applied for a search warrant. Through interviews, officers believed several illegal deer were located at the residence of the suspect. Officers applied for and were granted warrants to search the main suspect's home residence and cell phone. Upon conducting the warrant, officers found and seized several white-tailed buck deer heads. Along with the deer heads, officers seized the cell phone in an attempt to recover files and photos.



The investigation concluded with dozens of charges on the main suspect spanning multiple counties. When the dust settled, he was charged with eight counts of Class 6 Felony illegal/possession of Big Game. After countless phone calls and meetings with defense attorneys and the states attorney he pled to two of the felony counts of illegal possession and was charged criminally \$2,213 and \$8,000 civilly. On September 16, 2021, there was a sentencing hearing which came down to four years incarcerated to Penitentiary with two years suspended and 10 years of hunting, trapping, and fishing revocation.

CASE FEATURE: DEER DEPREDAATION

In the Spring of 2021, Wildlife Conservation Officers in the northern Black Hills were notified of an individual shooting deer in western Lawrence County. Officers responded to the area and observed a couple of dead deer lying on the individual's property. The officers met with the owner of the property who admitted to shooting the deer. The owner of the property stated his reason for shooting the deer was due to the damage they were causing to his trees and the excess amount of deer poop in his yard. The property owner told the officers that by shooting the deer in the "guts," the deer would get further from the house before dying.

The Conservation Officers found 13 dead deer on the property and an additional, wounded deer that had to be put down. In addition to this, Conservation Officers found six separate piles of deer bones on the property and the old, decomposed remains of an additional deer carcass. The individual admitted to shooting deer in this manner for the past eight years. The individual estimated that he had shot somewhere between 75 to

100 deer out of season. Observations made by Conservation Officers in the investigation led them to believe the number of deer killed and years this behavior took place to be even higher than reported.

The Conservation Officers brought 42 charges to the prosecution against the defendant:

- » 28 CLASS 1 MISDEMEANORS FOR KILLING BIG GAME OUT OF SEASON AND WITHOUT A LICENSE
- » 14 CLASS 2 MISDEMEANORS FOR WANTON WASTE OF GAME

The prosecution chose to bring 28 charges against the defendant for illegally killing 14 deer. The prosecution and defendant agreed to a plea agreement of illegally killing seven deer. The defendant was fined by the court \$2,000 per deer for a total fine amount of \$14,000. The defendant was also sentenced to serve 15 days of jail time and revoked of his hunting privileges for one year. All the deer carcasses and two of the defendant's firearms used in the killings were seized as evidence.



WILDLIFE DEPREDATION PROGRAM

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks has wildlife depredation assistance programs available for cooperators who are experiencing a severe level of wildlife depredation to their crops or property.

Wildlife Conservation Officers rely heavily on the public to report any wildlife violations they observe. It takes a team effort protecting and preserving the public's resource for everyone to enjoy.



LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CUSTER STATE PARK

2021 STURGIS RALLY

The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is a major undertaking for Custer State Park staff. Along with the 32 full-time staff, the park hires around 150 seasonal and volunteer employees to make guest and visitors feel welcome. During the Sturgis Rally, the park also brings in ten additional law enforcement officers to assist with traffic congestion and accidents. This past year, there were multiple injury accidents including one fatality.

Multiple events come through the park, but the biggest is the Sturgis Mayor's ride, which stops at the Game Lodge for lunch. This ride is escorted by the South Dakota Highway Patrol. Conservation Officers and seasonal Park Rangers provide for safety by shutting down several of the intersections during the ride through the park.

While the traffic is always a concern during the Rally, another major concern is the interaction between visitors and the bison herd. The rut (breeding season) for the bison is also going on in early August, and it is very common for riders to drive their Harleys through the middle of the bison on the Wildlife Loop Road. In one instance a gentleman got in between a cow and calf which resulted in the cow putting her horn in the engine compartment of the bike, lifting the bike and rider off the ground tossing them both through the air. Thankfully, the rider of the motorcycle was not injured.





Horseback riders bring in the herd at the 2021 Annual Governor's Buffalo Roundup.

BUFFALO ROUNDUP 2021

The Buffalo Roundup is another huge undertaking for not only law enforcement, but all of the park staff. The day typically starts around 3 a.m. on Friday morning as everyone gets in their respected areas for the daunting task of parking the visitors prior to the Roundup starting. The event hosts over 20,000 visitors annually, with 2021 setting an attendance record seeing over 22,000 guests. The Roundup festivities last three days, beginning on Thursday with the Arts Festival, which runs through Saturday and the Roundup taking place on Friday.

Law enforcement plays a major role in assisting with congestion, providing customer service, as well keeping visitors from getting too close to the Bison.

BURGLARY TO THE BLACK HILLS PLAYHOUSE

In the fall of 2021, two adult males broke into the Black Hills Playhouse office. They discovered a safe and decided to steal the safe from the Playhouse. They did not destroy the safe, but they did find credit cards inside. They proceeded to drive to Custer and attempted to use the credit cards at the ATM, providing investigators with a photograph of the two suspects. The photograph was sent

to the Rapid City Crime Lab for enhancement. Conservation Officers were able to develop names of the two suspects.

While officers were developing the case, two suspects burglarized the east gate park entrance station. Investigators were able to determine that these two suspects were the same suspects in the prior break in. Nothing was taken from the building, but they caused about \$1200 dollars' worth of damage to the window and structure when they gained entry to the building. While nothing was stolen, the two suspects did discover the lock to a fee collection box for a self-registration booth was not latched. They removed the park padlock and placed their own padlock on the collection box. Over the course of the next month, they proceeded to empty the self-registration of an estimated loss of \$1000.

A search warrant was prepared and signed and served. During the search warrant process, several items linked the suspects to the multiple crimes. Interviews were conducted and confessions to the thefts and burglaries were obtained.

One of the two suspects has pled guilty to third degree burglary, grand theft, and conspiracy to commit third degree burglary. The second suspect is still going through the court process.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

ROAD CHECKS

Outdoor enthusiasts who have spent time hunting and fishing in South Dakota have likely gone through a game or fish road check at some point in their travels. Road checks are authorized by law and play an important role in the management and protection of our wildlife and fisheries resources. Generally speaking, Conservation Officers inspect and count any game or fish in possession at a road check to determine compliance with laws and regulations. These operations ensure folks are not taking more than their fair share of a public resource. In 2021, Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) conducted 14 road checks across South Dakota. Approximately 900 vehicles were inspected resulting in 74 citations and 52 warnings being issued.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

GFP has significantly increased efforts to effectively manage and slow the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), particularly zebra mussels, throughout the state. Conservation Officers and Aquatics staff continue to work diligently to slow the spread of AIS. Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Stations (WIDS) were conducted across the state to reach the boaters traveling to and from lakes. Through these efforts Conservation Officers issued 239 citations for AIS violations.

SATURATION PATROLS

Conservation officers also conducted numerous other operations to improve compliance with hunting, fishing,

and boating laws. These include saturation patrols on land and water, where multiple officers will patrol in the same general area. At times, a pilot and an officer in an airplane will communicate with the officers below. There were over a dozen saturations conducted across the state in 2021 which led to violations ranging from boating under the influence to the use of artificial light for hunting.

FACSIMILE OPERATIONS

GFP routinely receives complaints from landowners and rural residents during the hunting seasons concerning individuals who trespass, shoot from vehicles, shoot big game from the road, and shoot too close to homes or livestock. Officers will sometimes conduct wildlife facsimile operations to deter this illegal activity. These operations are highly controlled and are limited to site-specific areas with a documented history of hunting violations or unsafe hunting practices. In many cases, the request comes directly from the landowner. Contrary to some opinions, the use of wildlife replicas is not entrapment. Entrapment occurs when the government provides both the opportunity to violate the law as well as the encouragement to violate the law. GFP does not provide the encouragement to violate the law in these operations. The person must be predisposed to break the law, and the decision to shoot is made knowingly, willingly, and voluntarily by the violator. Four facsimile operations were conducted across the state in 2021 which led to several violations for shooting from the road.



OPERATION DRY WATER

Operation Dry Water (ODW) is a year-round boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign. The mission of ODW is to reduce the number of alcohol- and drug-related accidents and fatalities through increased recreational boater awareness and by fostering a stronger and more visible deterrent to alcohol use on the water.

Every year since 2009 South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Conservation Officers (COs) have participated in this nation-wide effort to make our lakes and rivers safer for everyone and encourage responsible use of our waterways. Every summer a three-day weekend is chosen where COs increase their enforcement efforts on random waterbodies throughout the state. Operation Dry Water's heightened awareness and



enforcement three-day weekend takes place annually around the July Fourth weekend. This is a busy boating weekend across the nation and officers want to contact as many boaters as possible.

The purpose of the enhanced enforcement component of the Operation Dry Water campaign is to deter boaters from boating under the influence of drugs or alcohol. When boaters chose to boat impaired they are endangering not only themselves but the many other boaters on the water as well.

With alcohol use remaining the leading contributing factor in recreational boater deaths, the primary focus of the ODW campaign and of those who support it is to change the cultural acceptance of drinking and boating and help boaters have safe and fun recreational boating experiences. South Dakota COs contact as many boaters as possible to spread this message of responsible boat operation!

2021 OPERATION DRY WATER STATS

Region	Officers	Vessels	Boaters	Citations	Warning	BUI	Non-Boat Violations	Lakes
Western SD	16	161	193	19	5	2	13	Angostura, Pactola, Sheridan, Orman, New Wall
Central SD	12	172	538	15	33	4	4	Lake Oahe, Lake Sharpe, Lake Francis Case
Southeast SD	18	319	1202	33	93	12	23	Missouri River, Lewis & Clark Lake, McCook, Lake Vermillion, Island, Madison, Brandt, Wall, Sinai, Oakwood, Goldsmith, Twin, Alvin
Northeast SD	16	340	360	16	73	2	13	Richmond, Mina, Pickerel, Poinsett, Cochrane, Kampeska, Big Stone, Cottonwood, Roy, Clear, Amsden, Elm
Total	62	992	2293	83	204	20	35	34 Operations/Patrols in 2021

TURN IN POACHERS (TIPS) PROGRAM



The Turn-In-Poachers (TIPs) program is a partnership between South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks and the non-profit organization, Wildlife Protection, Inc. This

joint venture was born out of a desire for South Dakota's Sportsmen to "police" their own. With approximately 80 Conservation Officers called upon to cover about 75,000 square miles of land and 1,200 square miles of water in South Dakota it is evident that they can't be everywhere all the time. Most times the best witnesses are the landowners and resource users themselves. So, in an effort to provide easy and convenient ways to report violations, TIPs has become a core component of Game, Fish, and Park's Law Enforcement efforts.

Through TIPs, a 24 hour, seven day a week toll free number, 1-888-OVERBAG (683-7224), has been set up to field reports from the public regarding hunting, fishing, and trapping violations. Information may also be provided through a link to the GF&P's website. Just like those calling in on the telephone, the information entered in this form may be reported by those who wish to remain anonymous. A wildlife violation may be reported through the website at gfp.sd.gov/tips.

This partnership between government and the private sector allows those who provide information to be compensated for their information. Since the inception of the program in 1984, over \$190,000 in rewards has been paid out to people who observe and report violations. The funding for this program comes from a variety of areas; however, one of the most popular is by sportsmen themselves.

TIPs Program Totals for TIPs Year 2020

308 INVESTIGATIONS
186 ARRESTS
\$32,684 FINES
\$41,000 LIQUIDATED CIVIL DAMAGES
2,750 DAYS OF JAIL (2,745 days suspended)
\$7,100 REWARDS PAID

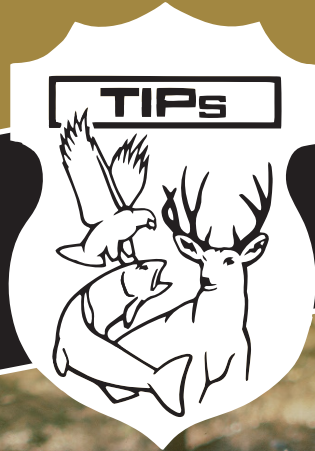
TIPs Program Totals 1984 to June 30, 2021

12,843 INVESTIGATIONS
4,904 ARRESTS
\$925,655 FINES
\$856,525 LIQUIDATED CIVIL DAMAGES
45,759 DAYS OF JAIL (42,110 days suspended)
\$190,180 REWARDS PAID

During the 2020 TIPs year (which began July 1, 2020, and ended June 30, 2021) 308 investigations and 186 arrests could be directly attributed to information provided through the program. From this information, violators were fined \$32,684 and required to pay \$41,000 in civil damages. Judges sentenced violators to 2,750 days in jail for their crimes (2,745 days were suspended). TIPs paid out \$7,100 in rewards.

For over 30 years, the South Dakota Turn-In-Poachers program has been a shining example of what can be done to protect a public trust resource when government, private industry, sportsmen and the general public come together to address a common problem.

Turn In Poachers



THE ORIGINAL TIPS CALL

ON NOVEMBER 2, 1983, TWO BULL ELK WERE POACHED NEAR THE DEERFIELD AREA. THIS CASE IS WHAT STARTED THE TIPS PROGRAM WHICH HAS NOW LED TO OVER:

12,535 INVESTIGATIONS

4,718 ARRESTS

\$892,981 FINES

\$815,425 LIQUIDATED CIVIL DAMAGES

43,009 DAYS OF JAIL (39,365 DAYS SUSPENDED)

\$189,730 REWARDS PAID

1.888.OVERBAG | TIPS.SD.GOV

This number is for reporting wildlife law violations only.
Operators are not equipped to handle information or to transfer calls.

CONSERVATION OFFICER AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Every year GFP conservation officers, supervisors and administrative staff receive awards in recognition of their efforts toward wildlife law enforcement and management.



RYAN PEARSON

Conservation Officer in Sturgis, received the Officer of the Year Award from the Association of Midwest Association of Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers for his outstanding efforts in law enforcement.



BLAKE SWANSON

Conservation Officer in Milbank, received the Officer of the Year Award from the National Wild Turkey Federation for his efforts in connecting youth with the outdoors and support of conservation efforts.



CHRIS DEKKER

Conservation Officer in Rapid City, received the Brook Brown Boating Safety Officer of the Year Award from the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) for his efforts with boating safety.



ZACH THOMSEN

Conservation Officer in Clark, received the Officer of the Year Award from the South Dakota Conservation Officers Association for his outstanding efforts.

2021 CONSERVATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Award Presented Annually by Shikar–Safari Club International



JARED HILL

Each year, Shikar-Safari Club International selects an outstanding Conservation Officer in each of the 50 states based on their exemplary performance in the areas of wildlife protection, wildlife law enforcement, and implementation of important wildlife conservation programs.

South Dakota's 2021 Recipient is Sioux Falls Conservation Officer Jared Hill.

Jared was recognized for his outstanding community involvement, his dedication to the protection of South Dakota's natural resources and his commitment to carrying out the mission of South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks.

2021 STATEWIDE VIOLATION STATISTICS

HUNTING VIOLATIONS = 506

- 39 | Big Game - Hunting on Highway
- 39 | Protected Bird - Hunt or Possess
- 34 | Big Game - Violate Conditions of License
- 32 | Big Game - No License
- 31 | Artificial Light/Night Vision
- 29 | Big Game - Unlawful Possession
- 24 | Game Bird Transportation/Packaging Requirements
- 23 | Shooting from a Motor Vehicle
- 16 | Big Game - Failure to Tag
- 15 | Big Game - Closed Season
- 15 | Big Game - Transport without Sex/Species ID
- 15 | Big Game - Wrong Unit
- 15 | Waterfowl - Overlimit
- 13 | Waterfowl - Unplugged Shotgun
- 12 | Small Game - Right of Way Restriction
- 12 | Small Game - Unlawful Possession
- 11 | No Migratory Bird Certification
- 11 | Small Game - Violate Conditions of License
- 10 | Waterfowl - No Federal Stamp
- 9 | Hunting within 660 Feet of Dwelling/Livestock
- 8 | Small Game - No License
- 7 | Big Game - No Fluorescent Orange
- 7 | Small Game - Hunt Before/After Legal Hours
- 6 | Big Game - Bait Station/Electronic Call Prohibited
- 6 | Big Game - Improper Tagging
- 6 | Hunting with a State Game Bird Refuge
- 5 | Hunting within a Federal Refuge, Park, or Monument
- 5 | Waterfowl - Closed Season
- 4 | Big Game - Improper Tagging
- 4 | Big Game - Use of Salt Lick to Attract
- 4 | Gun Protruding from Vehicle
- 4 | Hunt within 660 Feet of Dwelling/Livestock - Posted
- 4 | Use of Vehicle/Boat to Disturb or Chase
- 4 | Waterfowl - Unlawful Possession
- 3 | Small Game - Wrong Unit
- 3 | Waterfowl - Lead Shot
- 3 | Waterfowl - No License
- 2 | Artificial Light Prohibited After 10 p.m.
- 2 | Disturbing Wildlife Prohibited
- 2 | Hunting Game Birds with Unlawful Firearm
- 2 | Waterfowl -Transportation/Packing requirements
- 1 | Big Game - Illegal Transportation
- 1 | Big Game - Unlicensed Armed Accompaniment
- 1 | Hunting Doves from Road Right-of-Way Prohibited
- 1 | Minor Hunting without Adult Supervision
- 1 | Small Game - Closed Season
- 1 | Small Game - Overlimit
- 1 | Turkey - No License
- 1 | Turkey - Overlimit
- 1 | Violate Conditions of Kill Permit
- 1 | Waterfowl - Hunt Before/After Legal Hours

MISC VIOLATIONS = 698

- 118 | Drugs - Use or Possession of Paraphernalia
- 65 | Trespass - Hunting (Unknowing)
- 60 | Alcohol - Possession by Minor
- 44 | Drugs - Possession of Marijuana - 2 Ounces or Less
- 43 | Driving Under the Influence - Misdemeanor
- 42 | Drugs - Possession of Controlled Substance
- 30 | License - Fraud to Obtain
- 30 | Littering Prohibited
- 30 | Trespass - Hunting (Knowing)
- 22 | Alcohol - Open Container
- 13 | License - Apply/Purchase Big Game When Ineligible
- 12 | Alcohol - Possession at Lake Alvin Swim Beach
- 12 | License - Not in Possession
- 10 | Drugs - Ingest Intoxicant Other Than Alcohol
- 10 | Drugs - Ingestion of a Controlled Substance
- 9 | Disorderly Conduct
- 9 | License - Minimum Residency Required
- 8 | Obstructing Law Enforcement Officer
- 7 | Habitual Offender - Prior Felony
- 7 | Impersonation to Deceive Officer
- 7 | Trespass - Fishing (Knowing)
- 6 | Wanton Waste of Game
- 5 | Habitual Offender - 3+ Felonies
- 5 | Motor Vehicle - Driver Use of Marijuana
- 5 | Petty Theft 2nd Degree - \$400 or Less
- 5 | Traffic - Reckless Driving
- 5 | Trespass - Criminal
- 5 | Vandalism - \$400 Less - 3rd Degree
- 4 | Grand Theft
- 4 | License - Fish Under Revocation
- 4 | License - Lending
- 4 | Shooting Preserve - Insufficient Release
- 4 | Shooting Preserve - Records Violation
- 3 | Driving with Suspended Drivers License
- 3 | Drugs - Possession of Marijuana - More than 2 Ounces
- 3 | Manufacture, Distribute, or Possess Controlled Substance
- 3 | Possess Loaded Firearm While Intoxicated
- 3 | Traffic - Careless Driving
- 3 | Trespass - Fishing (Unknowing)
- 2 | Dog Training Violation
- 2 | Driving Under Influence - Under Age 21
- 2 | Driving Under Influence - Felony
- 2 | Enter Boundary Water without SD License
- 2 | Interference with Lawful Hunting
- 2 | Motor Vehicle - Passenger Use of Marijuana
- 2 | Reckless Discharge of a Firearm/Bow
- 2 | Taxidermy - No License
- 2 | Throw Match or Burning Object from Vehicle
- 2 | Trespass - Trapping

- 1 | Aggravated Eluding
- 1 | Aquatic Invasive Species - Illegal Possession/Sale/Transport
- 1 | Commit Felony Carrying Firearm - First Conviction
- 1 | Hunting Guide Activities Barred from Certain State Lands
- 1 | Indecent Exposure
- 1 | License - Purchase/Apply Under Revocation - Hunting
- 1 | Littering from Vehicle
- 1 | No Valid Drivers License
- 1 | Public Indecency
- 1 | Possess Altered Drivers License
- 1 | Resisting Arrest
- 1 | Shooting Preserve - Failure to Notify of Release
- 1 | Shooting Preserve - Failure to Tag Birds
- 1 | Simple Assault
- 1 | Simple Assault - Domestic
- 1 | Taxidermy - Records to be Retained

FISHING VIOLATIONS = 336

- 187 | Fishing without License
- 63 | Over Limit of Fish
- 24 | Length Limit Violation
- 17 | Too Many Lines
- 14 | Illegal Transport and Storage of Fish
- 10 | Unattended Lines
- 6 | Unlawful Possession - Fish
- 5 | Aquatic Invasive Species - Fish and Bait Transportation Restrictions
- 4 | Illegal Fishing Method
- 2 | Aquatic Invasive Species - Illegal Possession/Transport
- 1 | Fishing in Restricted Area/Closed Season
- 1 | Ice Fishing Shelter - Labeling/Access
- 1 | Prohibited Bait
- 1 | Violations of Paddlefish Snagging Season

PARK AND PUBLIC LAND VIOLATIONS = 159

- 33 | Driving Off Roads Prohibited
- 28 | Nontoxic Shot Areas for Small Game
- 23 | Failure to Have Park Entrance License
- 13 | Limitation on Tree Stands/Platforms/Blinds
- 8 | Glass Containers Prohibited
- 7 | Fireworks - Sell/Discharge
- 7 | Pet Prohibitions
- 5 | Misc. Park Violations
- 5 | Snowmobile - No Valid License
- 5 | Unauthorized Land Use/Entry on Posted Land
- 3 | Traffic - Exhibition Driving in Park/Recreation Area
- 2 | Bait Station Prohibited on Department Land

- 2 | Checkout Times Enforced
- 2 | Destruction or Removal of Natural Features
- 2 | Lead Shot Target Shooting on Public Lands
- 2 | Leaving Property on Department Land
- 2 | Traffic - Speeding in Park/Recreation Area
- 2 | Unauthorized Fire/Public Land
- 1 | Failure to Obey Traffic Signs in Park/Recreation Area
- 1 | Loud Speakers Prohibited - Disturbance Prohibited
- 1 | No Camping Permit
- 1 | Operating Vehicles on School and Public Land
- 1 | Restrictions on Use of Firearms
- 1 | Start Open Fire in Black Hills
- 1 | Unauthorized Use of State Land
- 1 | Use of Snowmobile Trail Restricted

FURBEARER VIOLATIONS = 10

- 4 | Furbearer - No License
- 1 | Exposed Bait Prohibited
- 1 | Prohibited Method of Hunting Furbearer
- 1 | Possess Wild Animal - Failure to Notify
- 1 | Snare Restrictions
- 1 | Body Grip Trap Restrictions
- 1 | Trap Robbing or Injury

WATERCRAFT VIOLATIONS = 510

- 224 | Aquatic Invasive Species - Conveyance Removal Restrictions
- 106 | PFD - Insufficient Number
- 48 | Operate Vessel Under Influence
- 28 | Careless Operation
- 17 | Operate Vessel in Violation of Posted Waters
- 15 | Operate Vessel Without Lights
- 11 | Operate Vessel Without License/Number
- 9 | PFD - Use Required (Child Under 7)
- 8 | PFD - Not Wearing on Personal Watercraft
- 8 | Reckless/Negligent Operation of Vessel
- 7 | PWC - Operate Without Lights
- 6 | Aquatic Invasive Species - Failure to Comply with Inspection
- 5 | PFD - No Throwable
- 5 | PWC - Greater Than No Wake Within 150 Feet
- 4 | Unauthorized/Improper Buoy Placement
- 3 | Water Skiing - After Hours
- 2 | Aquatic Invasive Species - Conveyance Placement Restrictions
- 1 | Misc. Other Boat Safety Equipment
- 1 | Overloading PWC Prohibited
- 1 | PWC - Operate in Unreasonable Manner
- 1 | Water Skiing - No Observer or Mirror

PFD = Personal Floatation Device

PWC = Personal Watercraft

2021 STATEWIDE VIOLATION STATISTICS

VIOLATION TOTALS BY ACTIVITY

Hunting	506
Fishing	336
Furbearer	10
Watercraft	510
Parks and Public Land	159
Miscellaneous	698
TOTAL	2,219

WRITTEN WARNINGS BY ACTIVITY

Boating	571
Hunting	315
Miscellaneous	235
Fishing	165
Parks	81
Furbearer	11
TOTAL	1,378

SUSPENSIONS

Hunting	250
Fishing	183
Trapping	17
TOTAL	450

FINES AND COSTS

Fines assessed	\$181,242
Fines suspended	\$571
Actual fines assessed	\$180,670
Costs assessed	\$129,486
Costs suspended	\$104
Actual costs assessed	\$129,486
ACTUAL FINES & COSTS ASSESSED	\$310,052

JAIL TIME - DAYS

Jail time assessed	11,129
Jail time suspended	11,126
ACTUAL JAIL TIME SERVED	3

PROBATION - MONTHS

Probation	214
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CIVIL DAMAGES ASSESSED

Big Game	\$40,450
Fish	\$12,850
Furbearer	\$0
Small Game/Waterfowl	\$3,300
TOTAL	\$56,600



2021 STATEWIDE CONTACT STATISTICS

FIELD CONTACT TOTALS

Anglers – nonresident	6,547
Anglers – resident	15,536
Hunters – nonresident	3,935
Hunters – resident	7,374
Parks – nonresident	1,292
Parks – resident	3,361
Trappers – nonresident	0
Trappers – resident	149
TOTAL	38,194

LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

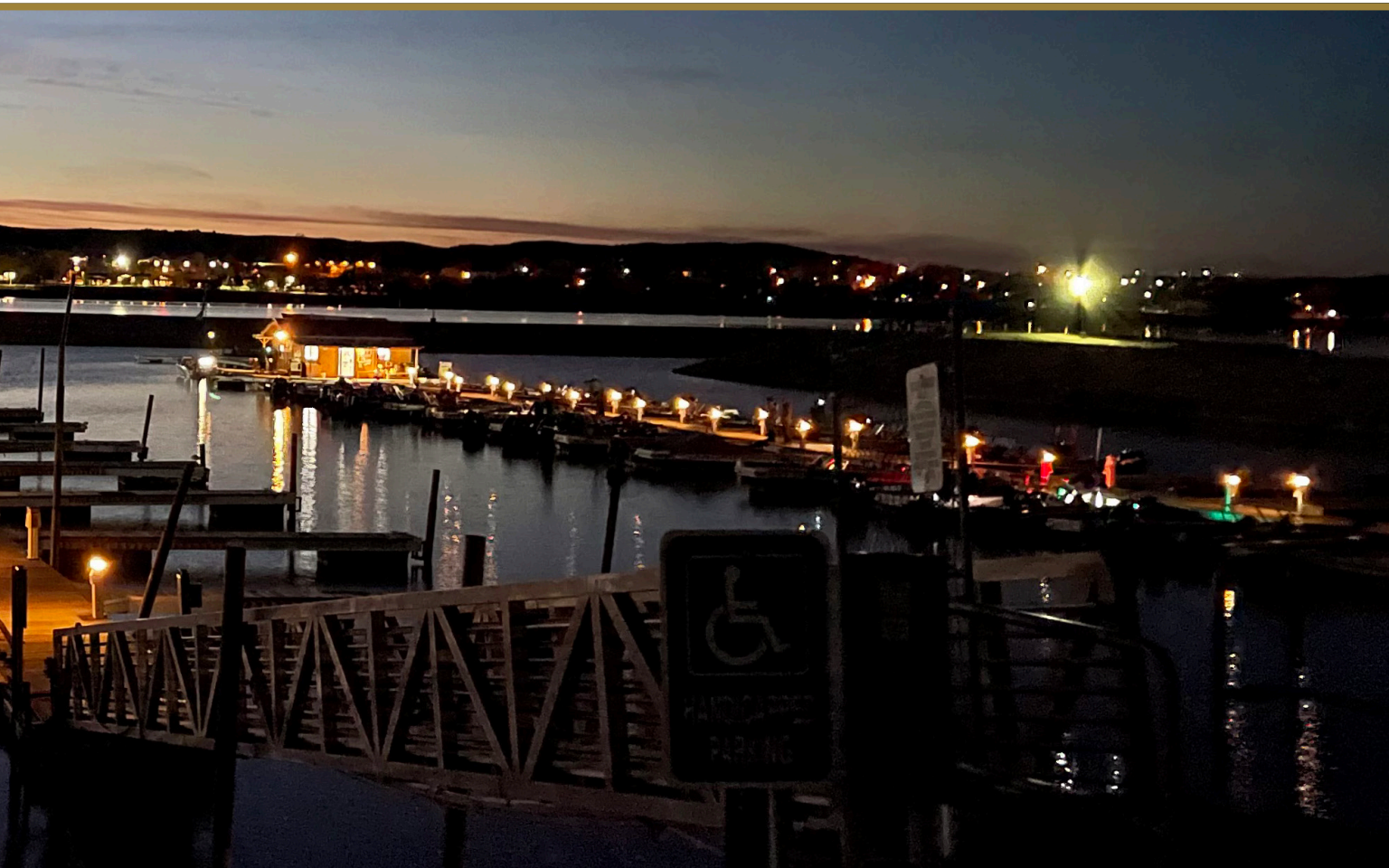
Presentations to groups	119
School programs	64
HuntSAFE classes	79
Radio	297
TV	13
Newspaper articles	110
TOTAL	684

LANDOWNER ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

Trespass	169
Shooting too close to dwellings/ livestock (660 feet)	45
Spotlighting	68
Miscellaneous	202
TOTAL	484

INSPECTION TOTALS

Watercraft	5,913
Snowmobile	667
Private Shooting Preserve	252
Taxidermist	99
Bait Dealers	51
Public Storage	11
Fur Dealers	13
Captive Game Bird	7
Private Fish Hatchery	2
TOTAL	7,015



IN MEMORIAM

FOREST LEWIS

FEBRUARY 28, 1943 – MARCH 16, 2022



Forest Lewis was born February 28, 1943, in Colorado Springs, CO. Forest spent most of his childhood outdoors and was a rough and tumble kid with a lot of energy. Forest became active in his local wrestling program and quickly excelled in this sport winning the state championship multiple times. Following high school

Forest joined the Navy at age 17 and spent 6 years serving in the Underwater Demolition Team (the unit now known as the Navy Seals) with multiple deployments in Vietnam.

Throughout his military career and later in his college days Forest kept wrestling. In 1968 he qualified for the Olympics in both Greco and Freestyle wrestling. Forest would injure his knee just prior to the Olympics and sadly missed his opportunity to compete.

Forest was hired as the Custer County State Trapper in September of 1979, transferred to Harding County in 1982 and was the Conservation Officer and State Trapper out of Buffalo. Forest finished his career with the Game, Fish and Parks in 1993 as the Conservation Officer in Lyman County.





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