

RESOLUTION 26-01

Transition from Nest Predator Bounty Program to Youth Trapping Recruitment Program & Initiate Coyote 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. Furthermore, such programs have proven to expose people to South Dakota's outdoors and trapping tradition; 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

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks recommends to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to transition the Nest Predator Bounty Program to the Youth Trapping Recruitment Program; and

WHEREAS, the Department also recommends to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to initiate a Coyote Bounty Program; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks will cover expenditures for the Coyote Bounty Program from the fund established in SDCL 41-2-34 (license dollars) and not Animal Damage Control funds as described in SDCL 40-36-15; and

WHEREAS, the additional removal of coyotes through a bounty program will assist with livestock depredation issues at a statewide level; and

WHEREAS, providing a bounty on coyotes during the time of year when the fur is not prime and that coincides with parturition season for deer and antelope will also enhance deer and antelope fawn survival by increasing coyote harvest participation during that time period.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission rescinds the resolution adopted in 2023 which provided the approval to the Department of Game, Fish and Parks to implement the Nest Predator Bounty Program through 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission recognizes the Department of Game, Fish and Parks' desire to conduct the Youth Trapping Recruitment Program in 2026 and proposes the following: 1) an expenditure of ten dollars per tail for red fox, opossum, raccoon, striped skunk and badger, not to exceed \$200,000 for the Youth Trapping Recruitment Program; 2) participation is limited to South Dakota residents under the age of 18; 3) participants under the age of 18 harvesting eligible species are not required to have a license; and 4) the program will run from March 1 through July 1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Youth Trapping Recruitment Program shall be operated from March 1 to July 1, 2026, to coincide with spring activity/movements of nest predators and the primary nesting season of pheasants, ducks, and other ground nesting birds. The method of take includes the trapping of eligible species in South Dakota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission recognizes the Department of Game, Fish and Parks' desire to conduct a Coyote Bounty Program in 2026 and proposes the following: 1) an expenditure of thirty dollars per tail not to exceed \$300,000 for the Coyote Bounty program; 2) participation is limited to South Dakota residents; 3) participants under the age of 18 harvesting eligible species are not required to have a license; and 4) the program will run from April 1 through July 1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Coyote Bounty Program shall be operated from April 1 to July 1, 2026, to coincide with the Department's focused time period where Wildlife Damage Specialists conduct coyote control measures to reduce impacts of livestock depredation and the primary fawning time for white-tailed deer, mule deer, and pronghorn. The method of take includes the shooting and trapping of coyotes in South Dakota.