



# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

## GAME, FISH AND PARKS ADMINISTRATION

KELLY HEPLER | Department Secretary | Pierre  
KEVIN ROBLING | Deputy Secretary | Pierre  
TOM KIRSCHENMANN | Wildlife Division Director | Pierre  
SCOTT SIMPSON | Parks Division Director | Pierre  
ANDY ALBAN | Law Enforcement Administrator | Pierre

## REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT/ADMINISTRATION

MIKE APLAND | District CO Supervisor | Spearfish  
JANELLE BLAHA | Shooting Preserve/Permits Coordinator | Ft. Pierre  
JOSH CARR | District CO Supervisor | Ft. Pierre  
SPENCER DOWNEY | District CO Supervisor | Presho  
CORY FLOR | District CO Supervisor | Miller  
JOE GALBRAITH | District CO Supervisor | Ipswich  
ADAM GEIGLE | District CO Supervisor | Rapid City  
BRANDON GUST | Law Enforcement Training Supervisor | Madison  
KRAIG HAASE | Regional CO Supervisor | Watertown  
JOHN KANTA | Regional Supervisor | Rapid City  
JOE KEETON | Law Enforcement Specialist | Rapid City  
EMMETT KEYSER | Regional Supervisor | Sioux Falls  
MIKE KLOSOWSKI | Regional Supervisor | Watertown  
BOB LOSCO | Wildlife Investigator Supervisor | Webster  
JIM McCORMICK | Regional CO Supervisor | Rapid City  
TIM McCURDY | District CO Supervisor | Aberdeen  
BRIAN MEIERS | District CO Supervisor | Spearfish  
EVAN MEYER | District CO Supervisor | Howard  
BRUCE NACHTIGALL | Law Enforcement Specialist | Rapid City  
MARK OHM | Regional Supervisor | Chamberlain  
ANGIE OWENS | Law Enforcement Secretary | Pierre  
JAMIE PEKELDER | District CO Supervisor | Milbank  
JEREMY RAKOWICZ | District CO Supervisor | Sioux Falls  
JEREMY ROE | Regional CO Supervisor | Sioux Falls  
STEVE ROSSOW | Regional CO Supervisor | Chamberlain  
SAM SCHELHAAS | District CO Supervisor | Yankton  
NATE STUKEL | Wildlife Investigator | Gregory



## CONSERVATION OFFICERS

DAN ALTMAN | Yankton  
TOM BECK | Martin  
ADAM BEHNKE | Clear Lake  
JENNA CAPPER | Aberdeen  
SPENCER CARSTENS | Wall  
NICK COCHRAN | Aberdeen  
TODD CROWNOVER | Tyndall  
CHRIS DEKKER | Rapid City  
KENDYLL DEROCHEY | Gettysburg  
CASEY DOWLER | Britton  
JON DUNLAP | Miller  
BILL EASTMAN | Belle Fourche  
JEFF EDWARDS | Hill City  
ROSS FEES | Rapid City  
LYNN GEUKE | Plankinton  
PAGE GREENWALDT | Philip  
JEFF GRENDLER | Brookings  
JARED HILL | Sioux Falls  
BRIAN HUMPHREY | Olivet  
TREVOR JOHNSON | Flandreau  
CHRIS KUNTZ | Sioux Falls  
DIANA LANDEGENT | Chamberlain  
KYLE LENZNER | Watertown  
TRAVIS MARCH | Chamberlain  
JEFF MARTIN | Platte  
CALVIN MEYER | Webster  
JOHN MURPHY | Ft. Pierre  
KEITH MUTSCHLER | Lemmon  
AUSTIN NORTON | Webster  
RYAN PEARSON | Sturgis  
SHANE PEDERSEN | Redfield  
ANDY PETERSEN | Mitchell  
DYLAN PETERSON | Onida  
AJ POTTER | Presho  
DARREN SCHROEDER | Hot Springs  
JACOB SCHWINT | Mobridge  
DEAN SHULTZ | Sisseton  
DAN STERNHAGEN | Estelline  
TONY STOKELY | Vermillion  
BLAKE SWANSON | Milbank  
CODY SYMENS | Madison  
MATT TALBERT | Salem  
JOSH THOMPSON | Spearfish  
ZACH THOMSEN | Clark  
RON TIETSORT | Custer  
SHANE VANBOCKERN | Lake Preston  
JOSH VANDENBOSCH | Canton  
ERIC VOIGT | Ipswich

## PARK RANGERS

JIM GANSER | Custer  
JASON HAMIL | Pierre  
SCOTT POSPISHIL | Yankton  
ROB REULAND | Garretson  
DUANE STANLEY | Hot Springs  
KEVIN STOLZ | Custer

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS LAW ENFORCEMENT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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*The mission of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks is to provide sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardship and safely connecting people with the outdoors.*

# NEW OFFICERS



**AJ POTTER** joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in November 2018. AJ grew up in Monticello, Minnesota. He graduated from Valley City State University with a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, AJ worked for the Richland County Soil Conservation District as a District Technician. After completing the training program, AJ was assigned to the Presho duty station.



**DYLAN PETERSON** joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in August 2018. Dylan grew up in Sioux City, Iowa. He graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Law Enforcement and Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Dylan worked as a Conservation Officer Intern, fisheries intern, and wildlife depredation intern for GFP. After completing the training program, Dylan was assigned to the Onida duty station.



**JACOBSCHWINT** joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in August 2018. Jacob grew up in Fridley, Minnesota. He graduated from University of Minnesota-Crookston with a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Jacob worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service. After completing the training program, Jacob was assigned to the Mobridge duty station.



# WHAT'S NEW: INTREPID APP

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks purchased and began using the Intrepid Networks Response application in March 2019. The Response app is a simple to use web and mobile situation awareness platform that GFP officers (conservation officers and park rangers) use for daily operations, special operations and emergencies. The app provides for integrated mapping, information sharing and mobilization. In the event of a major emergency or incident, additional users can be quickly added to the system without any special hardware. Additional users are granted access through an Android or iOS device and by using a unique username and password.

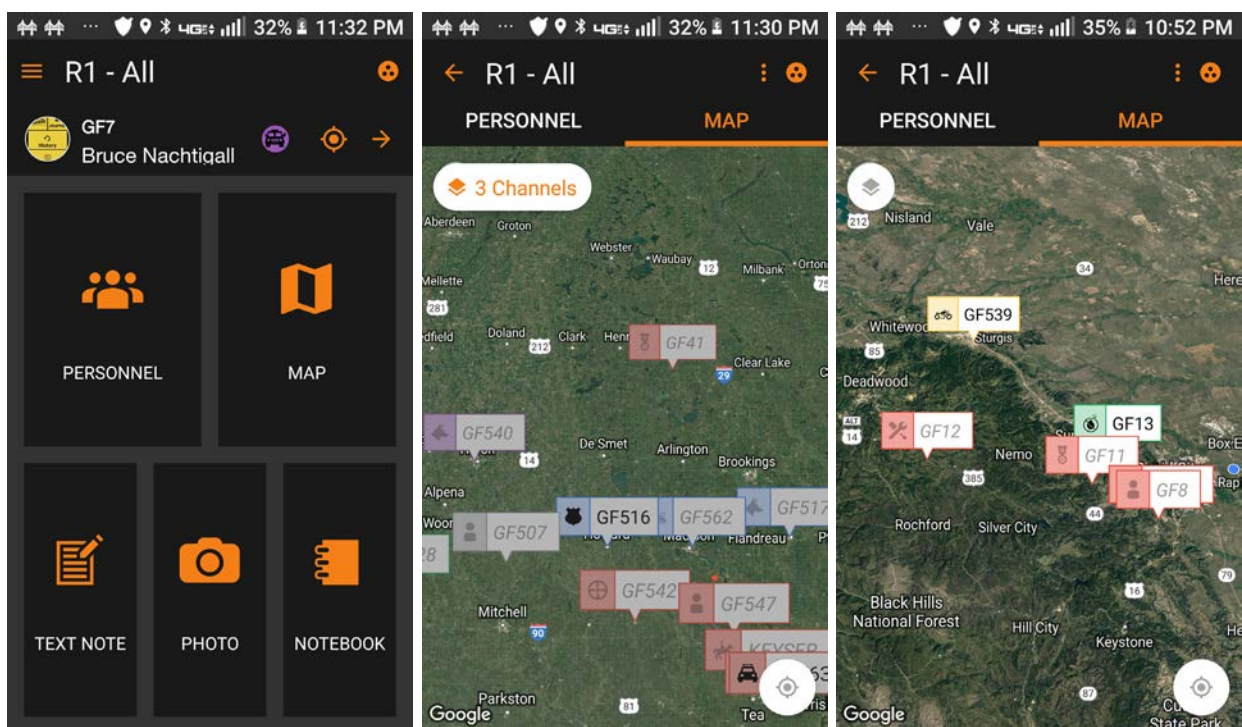
Intrepid can be installed on mobile devices or used from the web browser from any computer or at dispatch. The application allows dispatch, supervisors, and fellow officers to see the location of any officers using the system in real time. The application provides officers a secure workspace to share images, locations, notes, and information in real time.

Because officers operate from pickups, ATVs, boats, and snowmobiles off the beaten path, this

app has proved invaluable. Officers only need it to be running on the cell phone they carry with them. If there is good cell coverage, the app allows officers to see the location of one another in real time. This allows for better efficiency and coordination of effort during patrols. If an officer goes out of coverage, the app can be set to show the last know location. When the device comes back into a coverage area, it will once again update the officer's location in real time for any users on the system.

Officers routinely use the application during special details such as spotlight and saturation patrols. The app has also proved invaluable when an officer has is an urgent need for assistance or if he is involved in a pursuit. In addition to providing a visual location on a map, the navigation feature within will give fellow officers turn by turn directions to another officer's location through google maps.

Advances in technology can sometimes be overwhelming, fortunately officers are finding the Intrepid Response app easy to use and a beneficial part of their daily routine.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFILE: SNOWMOBILE ENFORCEMENT

Snowmobiling is a great outdoor recreational activity and South Dakota is a prime spot for it. The 2019-20 season was a great year that started early and had excellent snow amounts for riding. The snowmobile trails are traditionally open from December 15 through March 31. However, Park Rangers started patrolling early on December 5, due to significant snowfall that allowed riders to start earlier than normal.

Park Rangers start their season by inspecting approximately 1,500 miles of trails on the eastern side of the state and 350 miles in the Black Hills. They ensure all the signs and markings are in the correct location and that hazards are removed from the trails. South Dakota is typically rated in the top five in the nation for trail system signage and condition of the groomed trails.

In the Black Hills National Forest, the rangers patrol the 350 miles of snowmobile trails and assist the Forest Service on approximately 2,000+ square miles of rideable area on the surrounding national forest. The rangers patrol these areas seven days a week on snowmobile. They assist the public with directions, answering questions, and helping riders to get snowmobiles unstuck from deep snow.

The 2019-20 Black Hills snowmobile season saw 137,762 snowmobiles on the trail system, compared to 96,647 the previous year. The increase in trail usage also brings a correlating increase in calls for service. Park rangers responded to numerous calls for assistance in locating lost or overdue snowmobilers. They also responded to 25 snowmobile accidents, 13 of which were injury-accidents. Thankfully, there were no fatal accidents. Of the 25 accidents, 19 involved rental snowmobiles.



<b>2019-2020 SNOWMOBILE VIOLATIONS</b>	
No snowmobile license . . . . .	13
Motor Vehicle Off Road . . . . .	3
(on snowmobile trail)	
Speeding/Reckless Operation . . . . .	1
Reckless Operation of Motor Vehicle . . . . .	1
(class 1)	
DUI . . . . .	1
Obstruction . . . . .	1
Simple Assault on LE. . . . .	1
Disorderly conduct . . . . .	1
Hunting from snowmobile . . . . .	1







# LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFILE: BOATING



As of December 31, 2019, South Dakota had 56,762 registered boats. Most boating in South Dakota is done either on natural lakes or on man-made reservoirs. There are four major reservoirs, Lake Oahe, Lake Sharpe, Lake Francis Case and Lewis and Clark Lake, which impound nearly

the entire reach of the Missouri River in South Dakota, which essentially stretches from the North Dakota border to the Nebraska border. Under normal conditions Lake Oahe, reaching from near Pierre in central South Dakota to south of Bismarck, North Dakota, is the largest of the Missouri

River reservoirs with water depths of up to 200 feet, and more than 2,000 miles of shoreline. The four Missouri River reservoirs make up 423,000 acres of the state's 790,000 acres of recreational boating waters. Other areas with considerable recreational boating activity include Angostura, Shadehill,



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Between 2015-2019,  
**78.6%**  
of those lost to drowning  
were **NOT WEARING**  
**A LIFE JACKET**

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and Belle Fourche Reservoirs, Sheridan Lake and Pactola Lake in the Black Hills of western South Dakota; the northeast glacial lakes region; and the Missouri River from below Gavin's Point Dam to north of Sioux City, IA.



# SAFETY / ACCIDENTS

Unfortunately, it is inevitable that boat accidents will happen. All reportable boating accidents are documented, investigated and appropriate actions taken. Investigating boating accidents can be one of the most difficult tasks for an officer, especially fatal accidents and those involving children. It's difficult seeing the impact that these accidents have on so many people.

State law requires a boat operator to notify law enforcement if they are involved in an accident resulting in the death, disappearance, or injury of a person requiring medical attention beyond first aid, or damages to a boat of at least \$1,000. The accident is then investigated to determine the cause of the accident and assess fault in those cases where a violation of law contributed to or caused the accident. By collecting this information, we can look at this data over several years and determine if there are trends that demand attention.

From 2015-2019, South Dakota had **72 ACCIDENTS** resulting in **14 FATALITIES, 37 INJURIES AND \$430,857 IN PROPERTY DAMAGE**. Most of these injury and fatal accidents occur on June and July weekends between 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. The primary causes and contributing factors in the 14 fatality accidents were alcohol and drug use, hazardous waters, and operator inattention. When we look at this five-year data, we can tell the cause of death in 85.7% of these fatalities is drowning. We also know that 78.6% of those lost were not wearing a life jacket. We are also able to determine which areas tend to have a larger incident rate. All this information can be helpful to officers to determine where and when to focus their patrol time. This information can also direct our message to the boating public.

At full staff, 55 conservation officers patrol South Dakota's public waters to promote boating safety. An additional 22 supervisory officers assist with boating safety patrol as needed across the state. A total of 5,934 boats were checked for required safety equipment during the 2019 boating season, resulting in 474 written warnings and 507 citations. A total of 31 arrests were made for boating under the influence (BUI), 10 of which were made during 2019 Operation Dry Water (ODW) efforts.

Our officers seek to discourage reckless boating behavior through patrol and enforcement and try to mitigate these incidents through our presence on the water and continuous training. Enhanced boating enforcement training has increased our effectiveness in identifying those intoxicated operators, so our officers can get them off the water resulting in a safer environment for all the other boaters. We will continue to be proactive in our boat safety checks and send our message to the public to boat safe and boat sober. We will also continue to target those operators who put others at risk through their poor decisions and reckless behavior.





# CASE FEATURE: EAST RIVER DEER POACHER

In the fall of 2017, Conservation Officers (CO) started receiving numerous reports of headless deer found in fields adjacent to roadways in Kingsbury, Lake and Minnehaha Counties. COs found multiple white-tailed bucks with their heads removed and their bodies/carcass left behind with no meat salvaged from any of the deer. Officers noticed none of the deer had any apparent bullet holes or injuries from vehicle collisions, and they suspected the deer were being illegally killed.

A tissue sample from each deer was collected and retained for DNA evidence. Officers also collected any evidence found at the scene of each headless deer, including blue paper towels, plastic Holiday brand water bottles, and empty orange packages of Pall Mall 100s cigarettes.

From mid-October through late November 2017, multiple COs worked days and nights in the area of the poached deer and followed up by talking to many landowners, sportsmen and other law enforcement officers trying to establish any leads. During this timeframe, officers found ten deer illegally taken in what appeared the same manner.

## NOVEMBER 2017

In late-November 2017, CO Chad Williams received information from a Flandreau Police Officer that ultimately provided enough information to lead officers to their main suspect. During early morning

hours, CO Williams was able to locate the suspect vehicle parked on a public city street. Williams photographed the vehicle and contents visible through the windows. Williams observed inside the suspect vehicle a pack of orange Pall Mall 100s cigarettes, a blue paper towel, plastic water bottles and a large white-tailed deer rack.

Officers collected enough information and evidence to obtain a search warrant for a GPS tracker which was placed on the suspects truck and a pole camera placed on the electrical pole in front of his residence that enabled 24-hour surveillance. After approximately two weeks officers received a search warrant for the suspects residence.

## DECEMBER 12, 2017

On December 12, 2017, Wildlife Conservation Officers assisted by the Sioux Falls Police Department executed the residential warrant. Officers seized 53 deer racks, antlers, and deer skulls from the suspects residence. The majority of the deer racks were seized from the rafters in the garage but were also found in the backyard, backyard shed, and basement of the residence. Officers also found two fresh deer heads, whole and intact, that had been severed from their body in the neck region. Several firearms were seized from the residence including a .22 caliber rifle from the suspect vehicle, along with miscellaneous items such as a bloody utility knife,





One individual illegally killed/possessed **46 DEER** and took only the head and antlers in Minnehaha, McCook, Lake, and Kingsbury counties.

**\$20,840 FINES**

**60 YEARS LOSS OF HUNTING PRIVILEGES**

**30 DAYS JAIL**

**6 MONTHS HOUSE ARREST**



bloody hatchet, bloody saw, bloody clothing and several samples of blood stains from the garage floor and pickup box of the suspect vehicle.

COs Cody Symens and Williams interviewed the suspect during the search warrant. The suspect initially stated the deer racks and heads were all from road kill deer or from injured or crippled deer before he shot them and took the heads off. As the search and investigation continued, the suspect began to be caught in his own lies and started to give officers little pieces of truth to what actually happened. During the search, Williams and Symens were able to get the suspect to slowly admit that “some” of the bucks he shot were not injured. Many were taken during the early morning hours of 4 to 6 a.m. on his way waterfowl hunting from Sioux Falls to Kingsbury County using his vehicle headlights to spot and shoot the deer with his .22 rifle.

Through the search warrant, officers were able to seize the suspect’s cell phone, extract information and analyze the photos and communications. Officers found several photos of dead deer on the phone that contained metadata that provided time stamps to confirm time of death for several deer.

Officers interviewed multiple family members of the suspect as well as friends and acquaintances who knew the suspect was in possession of multiple deer racks yet never questioned how they were attained.

Several pieces of evidence found at the locations of the headless deer were submitted to the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation Forensic Lab in Pierre for DNA analysis. The lab was able to obtain sufficient DNA from one of the water bottles collected in Kingsbury County. The DNA profile from the water bottle matched the DNA profile of the known sample taken from the suspect during the search warrant, confirming his presence at the scene of a headless deer.

### LATE-DECEMBER 2017

In late-December 2017, over 70 samples comprised of the headless deer found in the field, deer racks seized from the suspects residence and other miscellaneous items were sent to the Wyoming Game and Fish Forensic Laboratory for DNA analysis. Due to back a backlog at the forensics laboratory, results did not come back until mid-April 2018.

### APRIL 2018

The lab confirmed eight deer racks taken from the suspects residence matched the tissue samples collected for headless deer in the field. Out of the eight confirmed matches, four were located in Lake County, one in Kingsbury County, one in Minnehaha County, and two matched previous samples sent to the forensics lab from a 2016 McCook County case that were still on file.

Through the hundreds of man-hours over weeks and months of investigating this case, including all the evidence and information gathered, the suspect was believed to be responsible for killing several white-tailed bucks at night over an approximate three-year time span. The total number of deer illegally killed or possessed totaled 46, to include only one white-tailed doe.

### 2017

Suspect killed or unlawfully took/shot **TEN** white-tailed bucks and **ONE** white-tailed doe. **SIX** of those deer racks have been confirmed through DNA analysis. The suspect also unlawfully possessed **16** bucks/deer racks for a total of **27** deer.

### 2016

Suspect killed or unlawfully took/shot **FOUR** white-tailed bucks. **TWO** of those deer racks have been confirmed through DNA analysis. The suspect also unlawfully possessed **SIX** bucks/deer racks for a total of **TEN** deer.

### 2015

Suspect killed or unlawfully took/shot **SIX** bucks and unlawfully possessed **THREE** bucks/deer racks for a total of **NINE** deer.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS: ROAD CHECKS



## 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 2019, Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) conducted three road checks – one for fish and two for game. Approximately 105 of the

vehicles screened were inspected and 31 violations were detected.

## 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. One of the main regulatory initiatives is to require all boat drain plugs to be removed or opened, except when on the water or involved with launching/loading a boat. Eleven AIS inspections were conducted around the state in 2019. Over 700 boats passed through these checkpoints and 128 violations were detected, highlighting the need for increased public awareness of these regulations aimed at protecting our waters.

## 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. A total of 11 saturation patrols were conducted in 2019. Over 75 outdoors enthusiasts were contacted for compliance and 42 violations were encountered.

## 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. Seven facsimile operations were conducted across the state in 2019.

- » 104 vehicles passed by
- » 26 stopped/observed
- » 6 shot/fired
- » 12 violations



# TURN IN POACHERS (TIPs) PROGRAM



Since the inception of the TIPs program in 1984, over \$183,000 in rewards has been paid out to people who observe and report violations.

In the 2018 TIPs year (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019), 298 investigations and 217 arrests could be directly attributed to information provided through the program. From this information, violators were fined \$36,490 and required to pay \$111,850 in civil damages. Judges sentenced violators to 1,660 days in jail for their crimes (1,507 days were suspended). TIPs paid out \$7,025 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.

TIPs Program Totals for TIPs Year 2018
298 INVESTIGATIONS
217 ARRESTS
\$36,490 FINES
\$111,850 LIQUIDATED CIVIL DAMAGES
1,660 DAYS OF JAIL (1,507 days suspended)
<b>\$7,025 REWARDS PAID</b>

TIPs Program Totals 1984 to June 30, 2019
12,217 INVESTIGATIONS
4,554 ARRESTS
\$850,677 FINES
\$767,200 LIQUIDATED CIVIL DAMAGES
42,729 DAYS OF JAIL (39,085 days suspended)
<b>\$183,080 REWARDS PAID</b>



# 2019 STATEWIDE VIOLATION SUMMARY

## HUNTING VIOLATIONS = 513

- 54 | Artificial Light/Night Vision
- 37 | Big Game - Wrong Unit
- 33 | Big Game - Unlawful Possession
- 31 | Big Game - Hunting on the Highway
- 30 | Big Game - No License
- 24 | Shooting from a Motor Vehicle
- 22 | Small Game - Nontoxic Shot Areas
- 22 | Waterfowl - Unplugged Shotgun
- 22 | Hunting within 660 Feet of Dwelling/Livestock
- 21 | Protected Game - Unlawful Possession
- 17 | Big Game - Closed Season
- 16 | Big Game - Violate Conditions of License
- 16 | Small Game - Right of Way Restriction
- 15 | Big Game - Failure to Tag
- 13 | Waterfowl - No Federal Stamp
- 13 | Small Game - No License
- 11 | Protected Bird - Hunt or Possess
- 10 | Big Game - Improper Tagging
- 8 | Game Bird Transportation/Packaging Requirements
- 8 | Gun Protruding from Vehicle
- 8 | Waterfowl - No License
- 7 | Big Game - No Fluorescent Orange
- 7 | License - Lending
- 7 | Small Game - Wrong Unit
- 5 | Hunting from Snowmobile
- 5 | License - No Migratory Bird Certification
- 5 | Small Game - Overlimit
- 4 | Big Game - Bait Station/Electronic Call Prohibited
- 4 | Small Game - Unplugged Shotgun
- 4 | Unprotected Game - No License
- 4 | Waterfowl - Closed Season
- 4 | Waterfowl - Hunt Before/After Legal Hours
- 3 | Big Game - Transport without Sex/Species ID
- 3 | Small Game - Hunt Before/After Legal Hours
- 3 | Small Game - Unlawful Possession
- 3 | Waterfowl - Unlawful Possession
- 2 | Artificial Light Prohibited After 10 p.m.
- 2 | Turkey - No License
- 1 | Big Game - Unlicensed Armed Accompaniment
- 1 | Big Game - Use of Salt Lick to Attract
- 1 | Captive Game Birds - No License
- 1 | Hunting Game Birds with Unlawful Firearm
- 1 | Waterfowl - Hunt within Refuge
- 1 | Minor Hunting without Adult Supervision
- 1 | Small Game - Shoot Doves not in Flight
- 1 | Shooting Preserve - Failure to Tag Birds
- 1 | Turkey - Violate Conditions of License
- 1 | Waterfowl - Transportation/Packaging Requirements

## MISC VIOLATIONS = 629

- 104 | Drugs - Use or Possession of Paraphernalia
- 97 | Trespass - Hunting
- 68 | Alcohol - Possession by Minor
- 57 | Drugs - Possession of Marijuana - 2 oz. or less
- 44 | Drugs - Possession of Controlled Substance
- 26 | License - Fraud to Obtain
- 20 | Littering
- 18 | Driving Under Influence - Misdemeanor
- 17 | Alcohol - Open Container
- 13 | Drugs - Ingest Intoxicant Other Than Alcohol
- 12 | License - Not in Possession
- 11 | Wanton Waste of Game
- 10 | Drugs - Ingestion of a Controlled Substance
- 10 | License - Minimum Residency Required
- 8 | License - Ineligible Application for Big Game
- 8 | Disorderly Conduct
- 7 | License - Fishing Under Revocation
- 6 | Animal Cruelty
- 6 | Trespass - Criminal
- 6 | Use of Vehicle/Boat to Disturb or Chase
- 5 | Habitual Offender - Prior Felony
- 5 | Restrictions on Use of Firearms
- 5 | Traffic - Reckless Driving
- 4 | Obstructing Law Enforcement Officer
- 4 | Trespass - Fishing
- 3 | Destruction or Removal of Natural Features
- 3 | Drugs - Possession, Sale, or Distribution for Intoxication
- 3 | Drugs - Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana
- 3 | Eluding Officer
- 3 | Possess Loaded Firearm While Intoxicated
- 2 | Disturbing Wildlife Prohibited
- 2 | Habitual Offender - 3+ Felonies
- 2 | Impersonation to Deceive Officer
- 2 | Drugs - Manufacture, Distribute, or Possess
- 2 | Trespass - Vehicular
- 2 | Possessing a Forged Instrument - Felony
- 2 | Reckless Discharge of a Firearm/Bow
- 2 | Resisting Arrest
- 2 | Threatening or Harassing Telephone Calls
- 2 | Trespass - Trapping
- 1 | Carry Uncased or Loaded Firearm on ATV/UTV/Motorcycle
- 1 | Commit Felony Carrying Firearm - First Conviction
- 1 | Contributing to Delinquency of Minor
- 1 | Driving Under Influence - Felony
- 1 | Driving Under Influence - Under Age 21
- 1 | Driving Under Revocation



- 1 | Driving with Suspended Driver's License
- 1 | Drugs - Possession of Marijuana - More than 2 oz
- 1 | Forgery
- 1 | Interference with Lawful Hunting
- 1 | License - Hunting Under Revocation
- 1 | License - Purchase/Apply Under Revocation - Hunting
- 1 | Petty Theft 2nd Degree - \$400 or Less
- 1 | Possession of Threatened/Endangered Species
- 1 | Probation Violation
- 1 | Shooting Preserve - Failure to Notify of Release
- 1 | Shooting Preserve - Records Violation
- 1 | Taxidermy - No License
- 1 | Traffic - Careless Driving
- 1 | Unlawful Public Storage of Game
- 1 | Vandalism - \$400 less - 3rd Degree
- 1 | Violation of Protection Order
- 1 | Violation of Retail Sales and Service Tax - Criminal Offense

## **FISHING VIOLATIONS = 323**

- 210 | Fishing without License
- 31 | Too Many Lines
- 26 | Over Limit of Fish
- 19 | Length Limit Violation
- 19 | Unattended Lines
- 5 | Unlawful Possession - Fish
- 4 | Waters Open to Taking of Bait
- 3 | Illegal Transport and Storage of Fish
- 1 | Highgrading of Fish Prohibited
- 1 | Ice Fishing Shelter - Labeling/Access
- 1 | Illegal Fishing Method
- 1 | Prohibited Bait
- 1 | Paddlefish Length Restrictions
- 1 | Wanton Waste of Fish

## **PARK AND PUBLIC LAND VIOLATIONS = 112**

- 26 | Driving Off Roads Prohibited
- 22 | Failure to Have Park Entrance License
- 12 | Snowmobile - No Valid License
- 7 | Glass Containers Prohibited
- 7 | Limitation on Tree Stand/Platforms/Blinds
- 6 | Jumping/Diving Prohibited
- 5 | Operating Vehicles on School and Public Land
- 4 | Bait Station Prohibited on Department Land
- 4 | Exceeding Posted Speed limit in State Park or Recreation Area
- 4 | Unauthorized Land Use on Posted Lands
- 3 | Hunting Guide Activities Barred from Certain State Lands

- 2 | Misc. Park Violations
- 2 | Unauthorized Use of State Land
- 1 | Leaving Property on Department Land
- 1 | Loud Speakers Prohibited - Disturbance Prohibited
- 1 | Pet Prohibitions
- 1 | Placing Residential Trash at GFP Trash Facilities
- 1 | Time Restriction - Use of Public Hunting/Lake Access Area
- 1 | Time Restrictions - Use of State Park System
- 1 | Traffic - Exhibition Driving in Parks
- 1 | Unauthorized Fire/Public Land

## **FURBEARER VIOLATIONS = 12**

- 2 | Exposed Bait Prohibited
- 2 | Furbearer - No License
- 2 | Fur Dealer - Records Required
- 2 | Trap Checking Required
- 1 | Failure to Register Bobcat within 5 Days
- 1 | Failure to Remove/Render Trap Inoperable
- 1 | Prohibited Method of Hunting Furbearer
- 1 | Trap Robbing or Injury

## **WATERCRAFT VIOLATIONS = 507**

- 212 | Aquatic Invasive Species - Watercraft Restrictions
- 160 | PFD - Insufficient Number
- 31 | Operate Vessel Under Influence
- 20 | Careless Operation
- 17 | Operate Vessel without License/Number
- 12 | Operate Vessel in Violation of Posted Waters
- 11 | PWC - Greater Than No Wake within 150 Feet
- 9 | Operate Vessel without Lights
- 9 | Reckless/Negligent Operation of Vessel
- 7 | PFD - Not Wearing on Personal Watercraft
- 3 | Aquatic Invasive Species - Watercraft Inspections
- 3 | No Diver Down Flag
- 3 | Water Skiing - No Observer or Mirror
- 2 | PFD - Use Required (Child Under 7)
- 2 | Violation of Water Zones
- 2 | PWC - Operate in Unreasonable Manner
- 1 | Overloading Boat
- 1 | PWC - Operate without Lights
- 1 | PWC - Underage Operation
- 1 | Boat Accident - Failure to Report

PFD = Personal Floatation Device  
 PWC = Personal Watercraft

# 2019 STATEWIDE VIOLATION SUMMARY

## VIOLATION TOTALS BY ACTIVITY

Hunting	513
Fishing	323
Furbearer	12
Watercraft	507
Parks and Public Land	112
Miscellaneous	629
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,096</b>

## WRITTEN WARNINGS BY ACTIVITY

Boating	474
Hunting	303
Fishing	162
Parks	40
Trapping - Furbearer	4
Shooting Preserve	2
Taxidermist	2
Bait Dealer	1
Wildlife Replica	1
Snowmobile	1
Miscellaneous	266
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,256</b>

## SUSPENSIONS

Hunting	261
Fishing	179
Trapping	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>441</b>

## FINES AND COSTS

Fines assessed	\$145,494
Fines suspended	\$902
Actual fines assessed	\$144,592
Costs assessed	\$104,746
Costs suspended	\$0
Actual costs assessed	\$104,746
<b>ACTUAL FINES &amp; COSTS ASSESSED</b>	<b>\$249,338</b>

## JAIL TIME - DAYS

Jail time assessed	10,552
Jail time suspended	8,089
<b>ACTUAL JAIL TIME SERVED</b>	<b>2,463</b>

## PROBATION - MONTHS

<b>Probation</b>	<b>320</b>
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## CIVIL DAMAGES ASSESSED

Big Game	\$25,600
Furbearer	\$1,000
Fish	\$150
Small Game/Waterfowl	\$100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$26,850</b>





# 2019 STATEWIDE CONTACT SUMMARY

## FIELD CONTACT TOTALS

Anglers – nonresident	5,203
Anglers – resident	14,725
Hunters – nonresident	4,131
Hunters – resident	8,412
Parks – nonresident	23
Parks – resident	159
Trappers – resident	169
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,822</b>

## LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Radio	411
Presentations to groups	225
School programs	213
HuntSAFE classes	141
Newspaper articles	136
CrimeNtel Entries	33
TV	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,181</b>

## LANDOWNER ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

Trespass	151
Shooting too close to dwellings/ livestock (660 feet)	51
Spotlighting	41
Miscellaneous	101
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>344</b>

## INSPECTION TOTALS

Watercraft	5,934
Private Shooting Preserve	298
Taxidermist	101
Bait Dealers	61
Public Storage	24
Snowmobile	49
Captive Game Bird	3
Fur Dealers	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,483</b>



# OFFICER AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

GFP conservation officers, park rangers, and their supervisors receive annual awards in recognition of their efforts toward wildlife law enforcement and park management.

## 2019 CONSERVATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Award Presented Annually by  
Shikar–Safari Club International



**TIM MCCURDY**

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 2019 recipient is Aberdeen District Conservation Officer Supervisor Tim McCurdy.

Tim was recognized for his strong work ethic and team building skills. He is a natural leader who spearheads special details/operations within his work district. He was instrumental in forming the Department's Honor Guard Team.



**DAN STERNHAGEN**

Conservation Officer in Estelline, 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.

Sternhagen also received the Patton Torch Award from the South Dakota Conservation Officers Association. This award is given in the memory of Mark Patton to outstanding officers with less than five years of service.



**AUSTIN NORTON**

Conservation Officer in Webster, 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.



**MATT TALBERT**

Conservation Officer in Salem, received the Officer of the Year Award from the National Wild Turkey Federation for connecting youth and physically challenged men and women to the outdoors.



**ERIC VOIGT**

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



# IN MEMORIAM

## FLOYD E. GAARDER

MARCH 5, 1931 – JANUARY 20, 2019

- 1961-73 GFP Game Warden (Presho)
- 1973-87 Region 3 Assistant Regional Supervisor (Sioux Falls)
- 1987-96 Region 3 Regional Supervisor (Sioux Falls)



For those of you who didn't have the pleasure of knowing Floyd, he began his career as a game warden (today's conservation officer) out in Presho in the 1960s. While there, his work district included both Lyman and Jones Counties. Floyd was a mentor to many of our agency employees over his career, and I dare say, there weren't too many folks who were more dedicated to our fish and wildlife resources than Floyd.

He was especially mindful of the importance of wildlife habitat and dedicated much of his life to ensuring that wildlife had the best opportunity to live and thrive on our department managed Game Production Areas (GPA). Floyd was always liked to make sure folks had a place to hunt and fish and took great pride in the work that our habitat staff accomplished on those GPAs. Region 3 in southeast South Dakota has a GPA named after Floyd, but I also share another special place that reminds me of Floyd every time I drive from Sioux Falls to Pierre.

If you watch closely while travelling between Kennebec and Presho, you'll notice a nice stand of red cedar trees that lay just to the south of I-90 on a GPA called Brakke Dam. Floyd and our Chamberlain habitat crew planted those cedar trees back in the 60s during a couple of very dry years on the west river prairie. I can recall Floyd recounting the story of him hauling water out of Brakke Dam to each of those cedar trees to make sure they made it through a couple of dry summers. Many of us refer to it as "Floyd's Forest."

While he could be a strict enforcer of the law for those who tried to steal some extra birds or fish, he also valued the importance of buying land, so that members of the public would always have a place to hunt and more importantly, have a place to take their children hunting.

*- Current Region 3 Supervisor, Emmett Keyser*



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