



Wildlife Division

Department of Game, Fish & Parks

Strategic Guidance for Planning, Programs and Policies

**Serving
People,
Managing
Wildlife**

About This Document

This document details the philosophical foundation of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks - Division of Wildlife. It is intended to provide the strategic guidance for policies, programs and every planning process along with the daily activities of all the Division of Wildlife employees.

This document communicates our Mission and our Vision for the future and it identifies the Values that guide the Division of Wildlife's programs and services; identifies some of the issues currently facing the Division of Wildlife and provides the direction necessary to successfully accomplish our Mission under the umbrella of our Agency Values; and outlines the Program Structure designed to deliver products and services in accomplishing our Mission and Vision.

The planning process is more important than the actual plan documents. In addition, strategic planning documents are of little value without a strong dedication to implementation. Successful planning and implementation requires collaboration with all of the various stakeholders and interested publics. Our planning processes will emphasize effective time management and will identify performance measures that allow for meaningful evaluations of our programs and services.

Two important questions that we must continually ask ourselves are:

1. *Are we doing the right things?*
2. *Are we doing things right?*

Public involvement plays a critical role in answering the first question. Our programs and services must conform to our management responsibilities and they must be consistent with our Mission, Vision and Values. Properly designed programs and services will support healthy wildlife populations and provide outdoor recreational opportunities for both current and future generations.

While public sentiment guides the answers to the first question, application of sound science must be the foundation of our efforts to answer the second question. Our programs and services must maximize efficiency and effectiveness of available financial and human resources. Answering the second question requires a well-designed process of evaluation that leads to appropriate adjustments in the programs and services we provide when necessary.

Although the management responsibilities of the Division of Wildlife originate in state statute, our actions are motivated by the dedication of our staff in managing the rich outdoor resources of South Dakota and in our desire to serve the citizens of South Dakota and those that visit our state to share in the enjoyment of these resources.

South Dakota Division of Wildlife
Mission Statement

SERVING PEOPLE, MANAGING WILDLIFE

The Division of Wildlife will manage¹ South Dakota's wildlife and fisheries resources and their associated habitats² for their sustained and equitable use, and for the benefit, welfare, and enjoyment of the citizens of this state and its visitors³.

¹ **“Manage”** includes many statutory references to the acts of conserving, protecting, restoring, propagating, controlling, harvesting, preserving, distributing, transporting, and disposing of the public's wildlife. This includes the acquisition and management of land and water for the protection of fish and wildlife and advocating public policy that benefits wildlife. It also refers to seasons, rules, and enforcement actions taken to regulate hunters, anglers and commercial users in order to limit harvest in ways that maintain healthy and sustainable wildlife populations.

² **“Wildlife and fisheries resources and their associated habitats”** include virtually all publicly owned wild animals from deer to minnows, eagles to crayfish, earthworms to insects. Under the state endangered species act, wild plants are also identified as being of public concern and under jurisdiction of both Game, Fish and Parks Department and the Department of Agriculture. Jurisdictional exceptions include domesticated wildlife that are regulated by the Animal Industry Board, and weeds and pests that are under the authority of the Department of Agriculture. Jurisdiction over migratory wildlife like ducks, geese and songbirds; and federally threatened and endangered species is shared with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service who has primary authority over these creatures.

³ **“Sustained and equitable use ... benefit, welfare and enjoyment of the citizens of this state and its visitors.”** The quality of life in South Dakota is enhanced by having abundant and diverse wildlife populations. The Division of Wildlife attempts to provide fair and equitable opportunities for wildlife users through regulations and programs that ensure viable wildlife populations for future generations, and strives to enforce these regulations in a fair and impartial manner. Uses include not only hunting, fishing and trapping but also other activities like bird watching and wildlife photography. The Division also provides public services like wildlife damage control, education programs, hunting and boating safety instruction, publicizing and promoting outdoor activities and resources, and certain community law enforcement activities. All these services are intended to inform, assist, and protect the people of South Dakota, their visitors and their property.

South Dakota Division of Wildlife
OUR VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Wildlife enhances the quality of life in South Dakota.

Therefore We Believe ...

- in providing for and sustaining the diversity of our wildlife heritage for present and future generations.
- that the future of wildlife depends on a public that appreciates, understands and supports wildlife.
- in education and involvement of youth and adults in wildlife and wildlife- related activities.
- in providing quality customer service.

Wildlife is a public trust resource.

Therefore We Believe ...

- that wildlife must be managed for all citizens and visitors.
- that reasonable regulations are necessary for equitable distribution of the benefits of wildlife and to promote ethical and safe behavior.
- that the costs of wildlife management should be shared by all who benefit.
- in the publics' right to participate in decisions related to wildlife issues.

Hunting, fishing and trapping are fundamental wildlife management practices and legitimate recreational activities.

Therefore We Believe ...

- that the hunting, fishing and trapping heritage in South Dakota must be preserved.
- in fair and impartial wildlife regulations and law enforcement that serves and protects the public interest.
- in the management of wildlife in accordance with biologically sound principles.
- in professional and well trained staff who are competent, accountable and empowered.

Land stewardship and partnerships with private landowners are essential to sustaining wildlife for the future.

Therefore We Believe ...

- that wildlife benefits and economic progress are compatible.
- in people sharing in the responsibility for this resource.
- that the stewardship role played by landowners in South Dakota is critical to the future of wildlife and deserving of recognition and respect.
- that wildlife damage management is a cooperative responsibility of state, federal and private interests.

South Dakota Division of Wildlife
VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Every individual sees things through their own eyes. They see the future according to their own set of values, the environment that surrounds them, and their personal goals or dreams.

The Division of Wildlife is comprised of many individuals. Collectively, they are responsible for managing wildlife resources that belong to all citizens of our state. Every citizen has a stake in how we manage wildlife resources.

Through the many eyes of individuals within the Division of Wildlife, and on behalf of the wildlife resources for which we are responsible and the citizens who we are responsible to, **we envision a future in which:**

essential habitat is abundant and well cared for on public and private landscapes so that a diversity of wildlife is flourishing and living in harmony with other uses of the land and water.

there is strong public sentiment that wildlife as a public trust resource is of high value to our society; and that hunting, fishing, trapping, and other wildlife-related activities are vital parts of South Dakota's heritage, economy and quality of life that must be actively protected and preserved.

the Division of Wildlife is a highly respected agency that is well known locally and nationally for:

strategically planned, science-based management recommendations and practices;

the always improving efficiency and effectiveness of its operations; and

the quality, timeliness and friendliness of its service to its employees, citizen stakeholders, and resource management partners.

SERVING PEOPLE, MANAGING WILDLIFE

ISSUES, CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Game, Fish and Parks' Division of Wildlife has two very important jobs. One is the legal responsibility to manage wildlife and fisheries resources in South Dakota. The other is to provide efficient, effective service to the many users of these resources.

Sometimes the two jobs are easy. The people who use these resources are aware of their value to the quality of life we enjoy. They are more than willing to work with the Division of Wildlife to protect and sustain them.

Sometimes the two jobs are difficult. There are many different user groups, and each group can have different priorities and objectives than the others. These can clash making tough choices in how best to proceed with wildlife management.

This section identifies some of the major issues, challenges and opportunities facing the Division of Wildlife. Classification of the issues, challenges and opportunities is quite difficult because many of the topics are related. Also, these topics are not easily grouped under our program structure, but instead often cut across many programs. However, to be an effective agency in the future we need to be continuously solving today's issues, challenges and opportunities in a proactive manner.

1. Agency Image

Agency image is a combination of expertise, based on credibility of information provided by staff, and trust, which is derived from the way an agency operates. Having a positive agency image is a critical factor for being an effective agency. Agency image will depend largely on the Division of Wildlife's response to other issues, however, strategies can be developed to directly address the Division of Wildlife's image. Strategies to address the Division of Wildlife's image involve improved public involvement and communication efforts. The following publics are listed as important to focus on: (1) traditional wildlife sports groups such as anglers, hunters, and trappers, (2) nontraditional wildlife enthusiasts such as wildlife watchers, wildlife photographers and people interested in nature study, (3) landowners, farmers and ranchers (4) youth, (5) government/legislators, (6) business community, (7) education community, (8) Native American tribes, and (9) division staff.

2. Anglers/Hunter/Trapper Ethics and Behavior

Hunter and angler ethics/behaviors have been noted as problematic by a number of publics: anti-hunters, non-hunters, landowners and hunters/anglers themselves. As the agency responsible for managing fish and wildlife it is clear that improvement in this arena will be a step in the right direction for improving overall agency image. The following specific behaviors have been identified as possible problem areas to consider: (1) road hunting, (2) trespass, (3) illegal behaviors, (4) littering, (5) rude and/or offensive angler or hunter attitudes and behaviors which displays disrespect for non-anglers and non-hunters, landowners and wildlife, and (6) improper disposal of offal. While law enforcement can address some of the problems associated with illegal behaviors, this challenge will best be solved by various education strategies.

3. Anti-hunting Movement

The anti-hunting movement has put a number of wildlife management agencies on the defensive over various wildlife management-related issues. As a result much time and money has

been expended by the agencies in countering the attacks. This issue has potential to affect a number of current Division programs as well as being related to a number of other possible issues facing the Division. The issue before the Division of Wildlife is to determine how the agency should respond to the anti-hunting movement. Division staff has identified several potential areas vulnerable to attack by the anti-hunting movement: (1) animal damage control programs, (2) trapping in general, (3) lack of data to justify certain seasons/limits, (4) fishing tournaments, (5) archery season, (6) hunting in state parks, (7) aerial hunting of coyotes, (8) varmint hunting, (9) highly visible hunts, (10) lack of adequate non-game and endangered/threatened species programs, (11) trophy hunting and management, (12) wounding/crippling of wildlife, and (13) hunter ethics behavior.

4. Meeting the Needs and Desires of South Dakota Citizens and Visitors

Anglers, hunters and trappers continue to be the major benefactors of the Division of Wildlife and therefore responding to their needs/desires is a continuing responsibility of the Division of Wildlife. The following is a list of potential sub-issues related to meeting the needs/desires of anglers/hunters/trappers: (1) declining participation, (2) access to private lands, (3) adequate fish and game numbers, (4) response to complaints, (5) providing information and opportunities for participation, (6) regulations, (7) fish and game numbers and distribution don't often match anglers/hunter needs, (8) trophy animals, and (9) identifying needs and desires. Some of these sub-issues are related to problems of crowding and subsequent concerns of residents over the number of non-resident anglers and hunters.

Non-hunters/anglers: There is a growing number of people who do not hunt or fish but enjoy other wildlife oriented pursuits such as nature study, photography, bird watching, butterfly watching, etc. These groups of people will want viewing opportunities and information on wildlife and have a focus on preserving all wildlife species.

Special Interest Groups: The list of special interest groups is too numerous to list ranging from groups focused on specific species (e.g., ducks, pheasants, elk, bass, trout, etc.) or specific hunting/fishing method (archery, muzzleloader, crossbow, fly fishing) to a wide range of other groups, organizations and agencies with some interest on how wildlife should be managed or groups wanting some type of preferential treatment of exemption from regulations. Each group has its own agenda, which may conflict with management objectives and often conflicts with other groups' interests.

5. Wildlife Damage / Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Different publics have conflicting opinions concerning philosophy and methodology for dealing with wildlife damage or other problems. Issues of compensation for wildlife damage and amount and type of assistance provided to prevent or manage wildlife damage are controversial. Most responses to human-wildlife conflicts will depend on the specific species involved, therefore the following species are listed as potential problem species: deer, elk, antelope, mountain lion, turkey, pheasant, coyote, fox, beaver, raccoon, porcupine, rabbit, skunks, and geese.

Social and Political Carrying Capacity of Game Species: Good game management has brought back many numerous game species. However, though the habitat may be there to support the present numbers or more, some game populations have reached the social/political carrying capacity for the non-hunter. And as human populations increase and encroach onto more wildlife habitat, human-wildlife conflicts will increase. This situation will cause

conflict between groups that want to see increased numbers of game species and other groups that are experiencing wildlife problems and want reductions in certain wildlife populations

6. Landowner Issues

The majority of hunting opportunities are and will continue to be under private control. Landowners are and will continue to be major players in providing fish and wildlife benefits to the people of South Dakota. To be effective, the Division of Wildlife must develop and maintain good relations with landowners. The following are some concerns that have potential to develop into an issue: (1) conflicts with hunters, (2) problems with wildlife, (3) wetlands or other land regulatory activities by local, state or federal agencies, (4) response to complaints, (5) land acquisition, (6) privatization of wildlife, and (7) endangered/threatened species.

The increasing pressure to commercialize wildlife. There is a strong desire by landowners to own the wildlife on their land (e.g., establish season dates, sell permits, determine who can even get a permit, etc.). Also, the increasing commercial value of access has not only increased the desire of landowners to want to sell limited hunting licenses to the highest bidder, but it is steadily reducing the amount of private land open to the general public. Another aspect of commercialization is the desire by some landowners to introduce exotic game on their hunting preserves, which can subsequently escape and become established harming native species or can introduce new wildlife diseases into native populations. Decisions to be made include the types of programs offered to provide affordable hunter access and programs to foster good working relations with landowners.

Issues concerning law enforcement activities. Some of the details include Conservation Officers entering private land (Open Fields Doctrine) to check licenses, conservation officers carrying side arms and public relations in general. This issue may stem in part from the desire of some landowners to own and commercialize wildlife on their land, but Conservation Officer behavior has become a hot topic for our agency in recent years. Decisions to be made include making a correct assessment of the underlying issues and problems and the most effective actions and responses to be taken by our agency to address the “real” problems contributing to this issue.

7. Endangered/Threatened Species

Endangered/threatened species management (and the Wildlife Diversity Program) has the potential to become controversial due to philosophical differences among different publics. Any species on the Federal threatened or endangered species list or any species considered for listing that threatens landowners “rights” or other resources when the species is present has the potential to be controversial. Meeting the challenges of providing information and education about the benefits of wildlife diversity and implementing management actions may be difficult.

Prairie Dog Management: In spite of having a South Dakota prairie dog management plan, which was controversial, this will continue to be an issue. Each side will always be viewing any prairie dog management action as either too much or too little. The prairie dog is a species that due to conflicting viewpoints will always be controversial. The management plan calls for control methods to be used when prairie dogs reach a certain high number and protection strategies for when they reach a certain low number. Some specific issues include type of survey method to use for estimating prairie dog numbers (people will always be sus-

pect of the data used to make management decisions) and numerous management decisions on where and when to either control or protect prairie dogs in specific situations.

8. Invasive or Exotic Species / Wildlife Diseases

The threat from invasive or exotic species and wildlife diseases carries a constant threat to the well being of wildlife populations and habitats. The types of threats from introduced species or diseases are numerous and the negative impacts can be great. The numbers of species that may cause problems are too numerous to list, but a short list of species that carry a threat to South Dakota are: leafy spruce, purple loosestrife, Canada thistle, Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussel, rusty crayfish, spiny water flea, Asian carp, whirling disease, West Nile virus, Dutch elm disease, and chronic wasting disease (CDW).

9. Habitat Degradation

Fish and wildlife habitat is being lost or degraded by human uses of land and water. It will be increasingly difficult to provide adequate fish and wildlife related opportunities. Problems such as drainage and filling of wetlands; pollution of wetlands, lakes and rivers caused by feedlots, landfills, private garbage pits, etc.; loss of grasslands; degradation of riparian areas; shoreline alteration; and expansion of human populations (particularly in the Black Hills region of South Dakota) all contribute to overall habitat degradation.

Power and Bio-fuel Development in South Dakota. If not designed with wildlife resources in mind, power plants can create many types of human-wildlife conflicts. A relatively new aspect of power develop in South Dakota is the growing number of wind-power turbines and potential associated wildlife issues. Another potential issue will be the growing number of ethanol and other bio-fuels plants and their potential effects on wildlife habitats.

10. Public Land Acquisition and Current Ownership

The ability of GFP to purchase/lease land for the benefit of wildlife and sportsmen is an issue. Some groups believe GFP should not own land, others believe that GFP should focus on long term lease arrangements. Recent purchases by GFP in western South Dakota have created considerable controversy. GFP also has land in or adjacent to urbanized areas that provide little wildlife/hunting value. Some items GFP will need to consider in the future include prioritizing the habitat types to purchase/lease that are most important to meeting management objectives, and developing a mechanism to determine if current holdings are still providing important wildlife/hunting benefits.

11. Genetic Integrity of Natural and Introduced Wildlife and Fisheries Populations

Genetic considerations are important not only with threatened and endangered species, but also with all wildlife managed by GFP. Managers are constantly making decisions (animal harvest, fish stocking, reintroduction, and land management practices of burning, haying, grazing and pesticides) that impact the genetic makeup of wildlife populations and habitat. If genetics are not considered in such decisions, then the uniqueness and viability of existing populations can be imperiled by in-breeding, bottlenecks, out-crossing, or gene dilution. As genetic testing technology becomes more and more available and usable, the decisions made by management agencies like GFP will become increasingly scrutinized from a genetic standpoint.

12. Native American Jurisdictional and Cultural Issues

The jurisdictions of some important recreational areas in South Dakota are being challenged in court by Native American tribes. This process will likely keep tensions high between recreational user groups and native Americans. Improving relations between Native Americans and the Division of Wildlife will be a long-term process.

13. Future Funding of Division Activities

Maintaining budgetary control will be related to the Division of Wildlife's success at solving many of the above issues. Another funding issue is maintaining a user-pay funding process in face of potentially declining numbers of anglers/hunters/trappers and increasing costs. Also being considered on a national level is some type of user-pay system for non-game species of fish and wildlife, tapping into providing services to non-consumptive users of wildlife (e.g., bird-watchers, nature photographers, nature lovers). Along these lines is the problem of funding programs and projects not directly related to providing fish and wildlife benefits such as staff training or education programs.

There are also positive aspects to this issue, namely increased opportunities for nonuser pay funds, which are compatible with the public's expectations and GFP's legal responsibility to address the needs of all species of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the state. These funding sources provide an opportunity to reach out to users who do not contribute via the purchase of hunting or fishing licenses, but are not contributing as federal taxpayers through these new earmarked funding sources for species of conservation need. Potential collapse of CRP and subsequent loss of habitat and funding. South Dakota is facing a potential significant loss of CRP in the next couple of years, which will greatly impact pheasant production (GFP's main source of income) and our hunter access program. Decisions to be made may include where to cut back in services and programs if funding were to significantly fall, what types of programs to implement to help off-set the loss or CRP, and considerations of increases in license fees.

14. Employee Recruitment and Retention

Due to higher wages offered by surrounding states it has become increasingly more difficult to hire and keep qualified people. Losing highly trained staff represents a significant cost to GFP. Until the State of South Dakota addresses this issue via changes in salary policy, GFP will need to find creative ways to attract and keep qualified staff.

Underlying Trends/Factors

The following are some societal trends that will affect fish and wildlife management in South Dakota and in some cases are underlying factors in many of the issues the Division of Wildlife faces.

- (a) Increasing urbanization and development has been an underlying factor in a number of issues facing fish and wildlife management.
- (b) Increases in the number of single-parent and two-wage earner families may decrease opportunities for young people to learn fishing and hunting skills.
- (c) Increases in competing recreational opportunities for young people may reduce participation in fishing and hunting thereby decreasing future support for these activities.
- (d) Changing demographics - aging.
- (e) Downturns in the economy will pit economic development against environmental issues and wildlife management efforts.
- (f) Loss of family farms/ranches and difficult economic times for family farmers/ranchers increases the likelihood of charging for access. This trend reduces access for residents unable or unwilling to pay access fees and increases the conflict between residents and non-residents because non-resident are more willing to pay high access fees.

South Dakota Division of Wildlife
LEADERSHIP DIRECTION

Our Strategic Commitment ...

... is to continuously improve efforts to foster and maintain an organization that efficiently achieves the Division of Wildlife's mission while providing for an effective public participation role in fish and wildlife programs .

... is to provide leadership in the following areas:

Customer Relations - Emphasizing the goal of satisfied customers, the Division of Wildlife will use tools and strategies from the field of human dimensions to identify group and individual views, understand values, wants and needs for fish and wildlife and incorporate these views and values in our decision process within sound biological boundaries. This process will provide improved customer services valued by South Dakota residents and its visitors.

Allocation - Emphasizing the value and importance of South Dakota's natural resources, the Division of Wildlife will fairly allocate fish and wildlife to sustain current and future uses. The Division of Wildlife will emphasize quality of experience rather the quantity of harvest or use, balancing ecological science with human values, economics, public safety, culture and ethics in the process. The Division of Wildlife will make equitable, scientifically sound decisions in a socially responsible way with heavy emphasis on public participation and good communication. There will be adequate public access to land and waters so people can enjoy natural systems and fish and wildlife rather than worry about whether they are getting their "fair share" or worry about competing uses.

Public Involvement - Emphasizing the goal of building trust, the Division of Wildlife will implement a range of public participation strategies to build broad-based support for stewardship of natural ecosystems including fish and wildlife. With this process, most people will agree that they had a chance to state their concerns and that their concerns were understood, evaluated and considered. Most will be satisfied they were involved in the process, even if they are not satisfied with the outcome because it will be evident that final decisions were made in the overall public interest with adequate concern for long-term stewardship of the state's fish and wildlife resources and associated benefits.

Planning and Evaluation - Emphasizing the goal of being proactive on issues, the Division of Wildlife will implement and maintain a dynamic and flexible planning process accessible to all interested people. The planning process will set clear, attainable objectives, assign priorities and identify appropriate performance measures to evaluate progress. Focus will be on continual improvement based on critical evaluation of progress. This process will efficiently deliver the programs necessary to achieve the Division of Wildlife's mission. Division plans will be clear and well known to our members and public alike.

Program Support - Emphasizing an ecosystem approach, the Division of Wildlife will continually seek to expand our base of financial support beyond anglers, hunters and trappers recognizing that all South Dakota residents seek and receive benefits from wise

natural resource management. The Division of Wildlife will focus attention on people's shared interest in natural ecosystems and nurture support to sustain those interests while recognizing and balancing those interests with the agricultural and economic development needs of South Dakota residents. In managing the state's fish and wildlife for the benefit of the people, the Division of Wildlife will clearly and completely account for all expenditures of funds. Recognizing the strong interest in fish and wildlife, division staff will work closely with individuals or groups in the private sector on programs with a shared purpose.

Empowerment - Emphasizing the goal of efficiency, the Division of Wildlife will support and foster the efforts of division members to fulfill our vision. Empowerment will be achieved by: 1) providing every staff person with the responsibility, authority and resources needed to do their job; 2) emphasizing participatory management styles and staff participation in decisions that effect their lives and job; 3) encouraging members to aggressively pursue objectives without fear of failure; and 4) recognizing and rewarding superior performance. Each staff person will understand assigned roles in the division and will enjoy collegial trust and respect. This process will produce dedicated staff working to achieve the Division of Wildlife's mission.

Staff Development - Recognizing the importance of having effective staff to achieve our mission, the Division of Wildlife will offer encouragement and opportunity for members to develop technically, grow personally and pursue career choices through continuing education and training. This process will produce technically qualified and credible staff with the necessary skills to achieve the Division of Wildlife's mission.

Recruitment - Emphasizing the goal of being proactive, the Division of Wildlife will recruit qualified people from a broad range of disciplines, including such fields as communication, sociology and economics, trained to meet the new demands of managing fish and wildlife in the 21st century. The Division of Wildlife will maintain a close working relationship with South Dakota's universities in curriculum development and providing research opportunities to ensure that potential future recruits are qualified. The Division of Wildlife will place an emphasis on hiring and promoting the best qualified people based on skills, education and potential in developing and maintaining a diversified team of resource managers ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

If successful, the Division of Wildlife staff will experience the pride and satisfaction of exemplary public service, cheerfully rendered, and the public beneficiaries of that effort will realize that they have been well served.

Division of Wildlife

Program Structure

For the purposes of this document a Program is defined as: “A logical grouping of goals and objectives that can be managed toward a common good (i.e., accomplish our mission). Agency programs are often defined by species, species groups, habitats, ecotype, support service, client or activity. Collectively, programs form a structure that defines an agency’s product or service line.” The following is the list of the Division of Wildlife programs:

FISHERIES (consists of four subprograms)

- **BLACK HILLS:** Includes all rivers, streams, small impoundments, and reservoirs within the Black Hills.
- **WEST RIVER:** Includes all rivers, streams, small impoundments, and large reservoirs west of the Missouri River and outside of the Black Hills.
- **MISSOURI RIVER:** Includes the four mainstem Missouri River reservoirs and river reaches below Fort Randall and Gavin’s Point Dams
- **EAST RIVER:** Includes all rivers, streams, small impoundments, reservoirs, and natural lakes east of the Missouri River.

GAME (consists of four subprograms)

- **BIG GAME:** Includes white-tailed deer, mule deer, pronghorn, elk, wild turkey, bighorn sheep, mountain goat and mountain lion.
- **SMALL GAME:** Includes ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, bobwhite quail, sharp-tailed grouse, greater prairie chicken, sage grouse, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbits, and tree squirrels.
- **MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:** Includes ducks, geese, tundra swans, sandhill cranes, mourning doves, snipe, crows, and coot.
- **FURBEARER and OTHER GAME MAMMALS:** Includes bobcat, marten, muskrat, beaver, weasel, coyote, skunks, fox, raccoon, badger, opossum, jackrabbits, prairie dogs, ground squirrels, and other game mammals.

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT: Covers actions to limit crop, livestock, and property damage by predators, big game, waterfowl, and other wild animals.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT and ACQUISITION (consists of two subprograms)

- **PRIVATE LAND HABITAT and ACCESS:** Involves all wildlife habitat programs on private land. Various projects will include our Wildlife Partners Program, Walk-In Area program and wetland and grassland program. Future private land habitat projects will involve an increased emphasis on providing higher quality wildlife habitat and public access.
- **PUBLIC LAND HABITAT and ACQUISITION:** Division lands and other state and federal land managed by the Division of Wildlife as Game Production Areas. The Division of Wildlife land projects will involve emphasis to achieve optimum wildlife management potential and provide public access to fish and wildlife recreation opportunities. Future land acquisition projects will be developed based on a publicly supported, state-wide, long-term acquisition plan.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY: Includes the management, conservation, inventory and protection of all native South Dakota wildlife species and their habitats. Covers both state and federally listed threatened and endangered species.

CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT: Covers all law enforcement activities pertaining to hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, and other laws and regulations for which the department has specific authority. Also, includes management of the TIPs program, law enforcement training, special permits and regulatory services, ethics and compliance education, and special operations/investigations.

COMMUNICATIONS (consists of three subprograms)

- **INFORMATION SERVICES:** Coordinates communication and informational effort and produces or coordinates media products and services for the division, e.g., hunting & fishing guides, Conservation Digest, radio/television spots, website.
- **EDUCATION SERVICES:** Coordinates project WILD, aquatic resource education, and other education activities pertaining to wildlife in South Dakota.
- **THE OUTDOOR CAMPUSES:** Teaches environmental education and basic fundamentals of outdoor skills for a variety of activities in South Dakota through classes, seminars, programs, displays, exhibits and by providing other related I&E materials.

HUNTING/BOATING SAFETY: Coordinates hunter/boater safety instruction, National Archery in the Schools Program, Step Outside.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES: Covers grants administration, geographic information systems, capital development, leadership, employee development, harvest surveys, human dimensions, public involvement and planning coordination.

Division of Wildlife
Game, Fish and Parks
Administrative Structure

Operations

Region One (western SD)
Region Two (central SD)
Region Three (southeast SD)
Region Four (northeast SD)
Law Enforcement Administration

Terrestrial Resources

Management and Research
Habitat and Access
Wildlife Damage

Aquatic Resources

Management and Research
Fish Hatcheries
Habitat and Access

Administrative Services

Communications/GIS
Education
Constituent Surveys
Federal Grants

Strategic Guidance for Planning, Programs and Policies

