

Turkey Depredation



South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
Keith Fisk—WDM Program Administrator

WDM Program

- Important considerations.....
 - All wildlife in South Dakota is a public-trust resource
 - Most wildlife is raised on private land
 - Sportsmen rely heavily on private land for hunting access
 - Pheasant hunting - 73%
 - East River deer hunting – 86%
 - West River deer hunting – 62%
 - Waterfowl hunting – 62%
 - WDM services allows GFP to manage for higher wildlife populations
 - WDM services have kept GFP from making direct payments for damages



Funding



■ 1998 Legislative Session

- Five dollar surcharge
- Most hunting licenses
- Cooperating landowner must sign agreement with GFP
 - *Agrees to allow reasonable, free public hunting access to non-family members who obtain proper permission.*
 - *Cannot charge any person or entity a fee or payment for hunting access for Canada geese.*

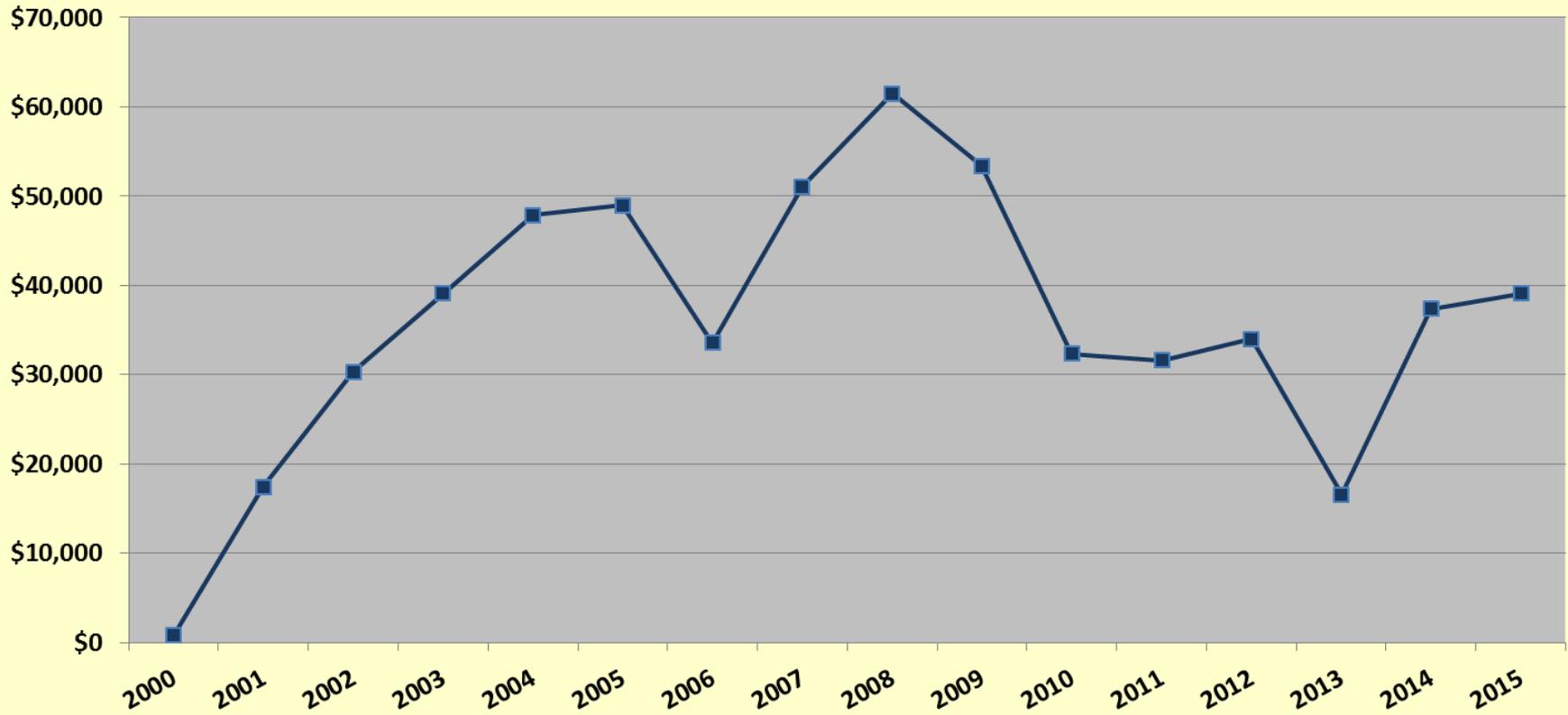
History

- Volume of requests for assistance
 - Variable year-to-year
 - Wildlife populations
 - Weather
 - Landowner/producer tolerance
 - Utilize hunting seasons as primary tool (when possible)
 - Program services are responsive to landowner / producer demands
 - Turkey example
 - FY 2008, \$62,000
 - FY 2013, \$16,500



History

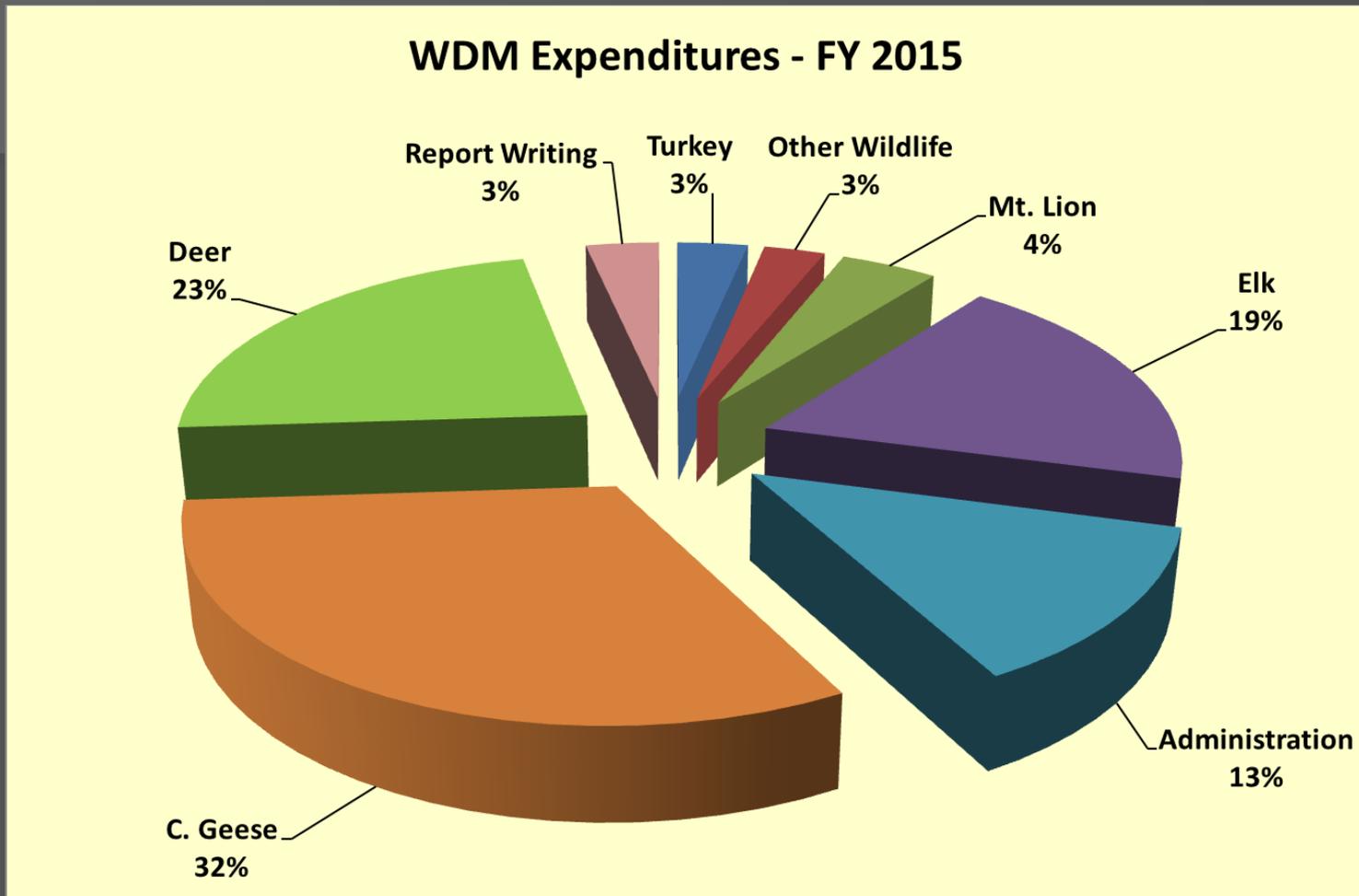
Wild Turkey Depredation Assistance - Expenditures
(FY 2000 - FY 2015)



■ Since 2000, spent nearly \$575,000

∞ Worked with several hundred landowners / producers

Program Expenditures

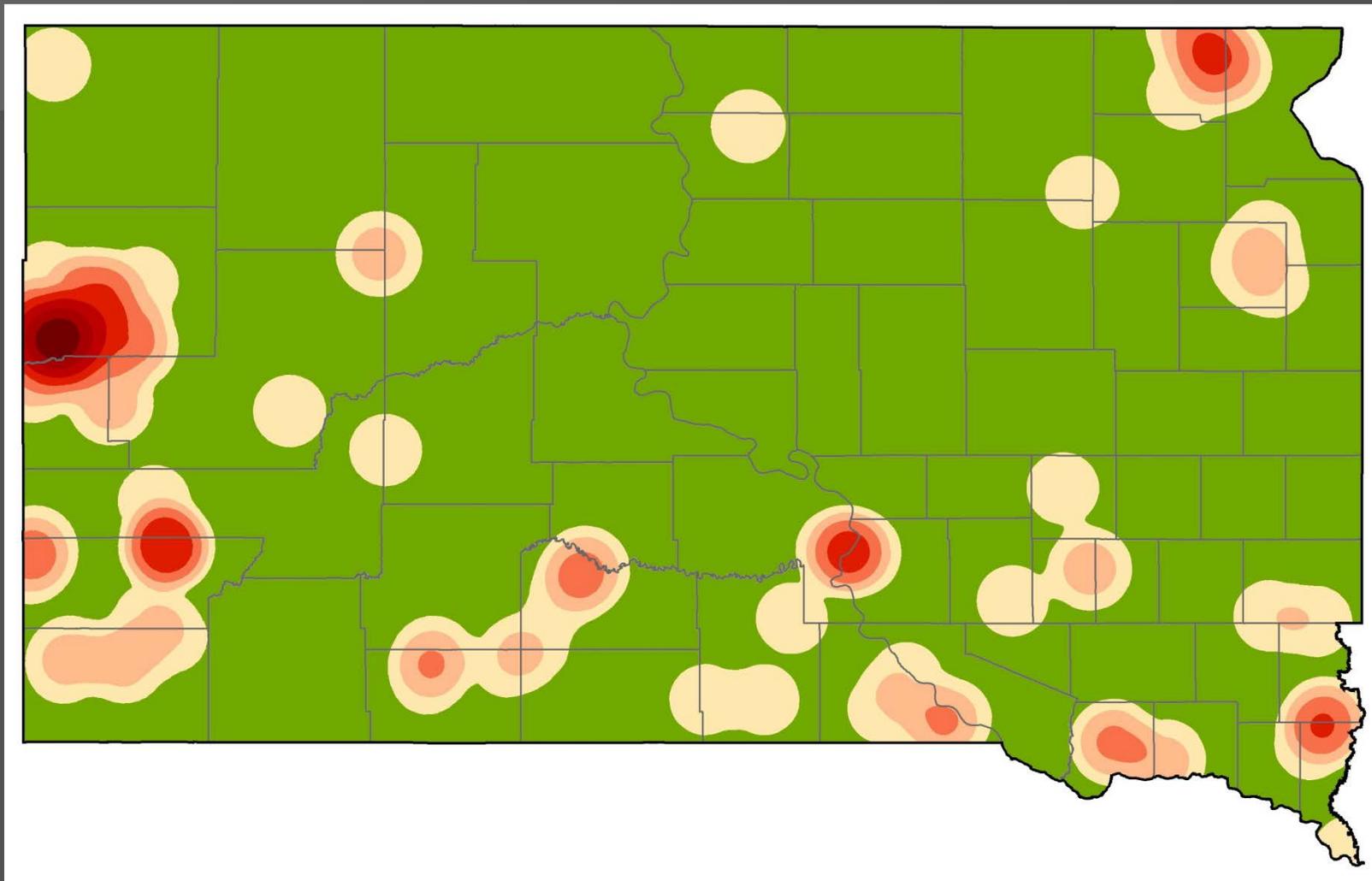


- FY 2015 total expenditures = \$1,251,592
 - ☞ \$39,084 for Turkey depredation work

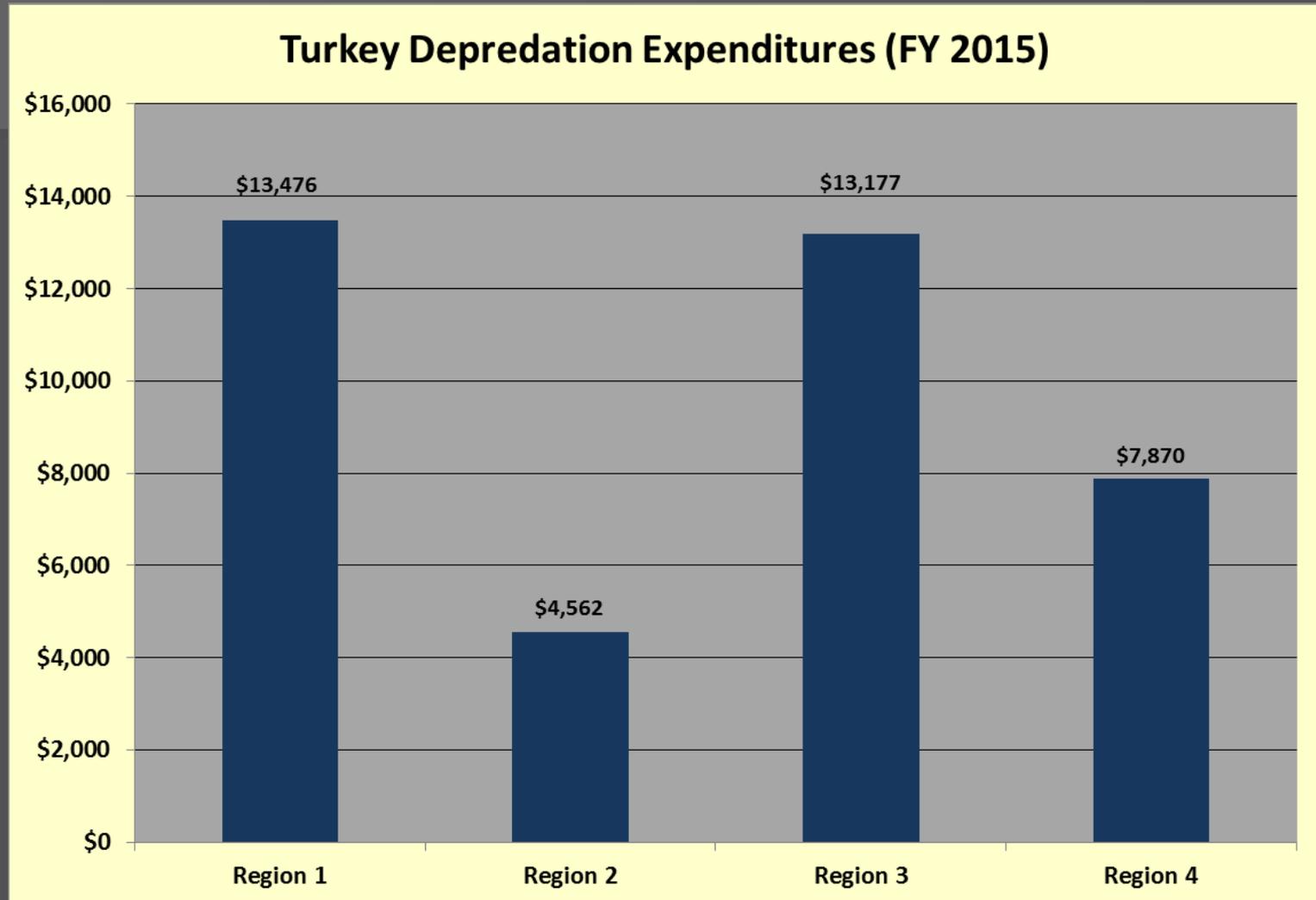
Turkey Damage



Focus Areas



Efforts



- FY 2015 worked with 14 landowners

Management Techniques

- Primary management tool – hunting
 - Most effective tool to manage populations
 - Spring season
 - Tag numbers
 - Tag types
 - Fall season
 - Targeted area
 - Specific time
 - Reduce depredation



Abatement Techniques

- Protective Netting
 - Trap and transfer
 - Short-stop feeding
 - Permanent fencing
- Hazing
 - Cracker-shells
 - Propane cannons
 - ATV / Snowmobile
 - Coyote decoys
 - Shooting / lethal control

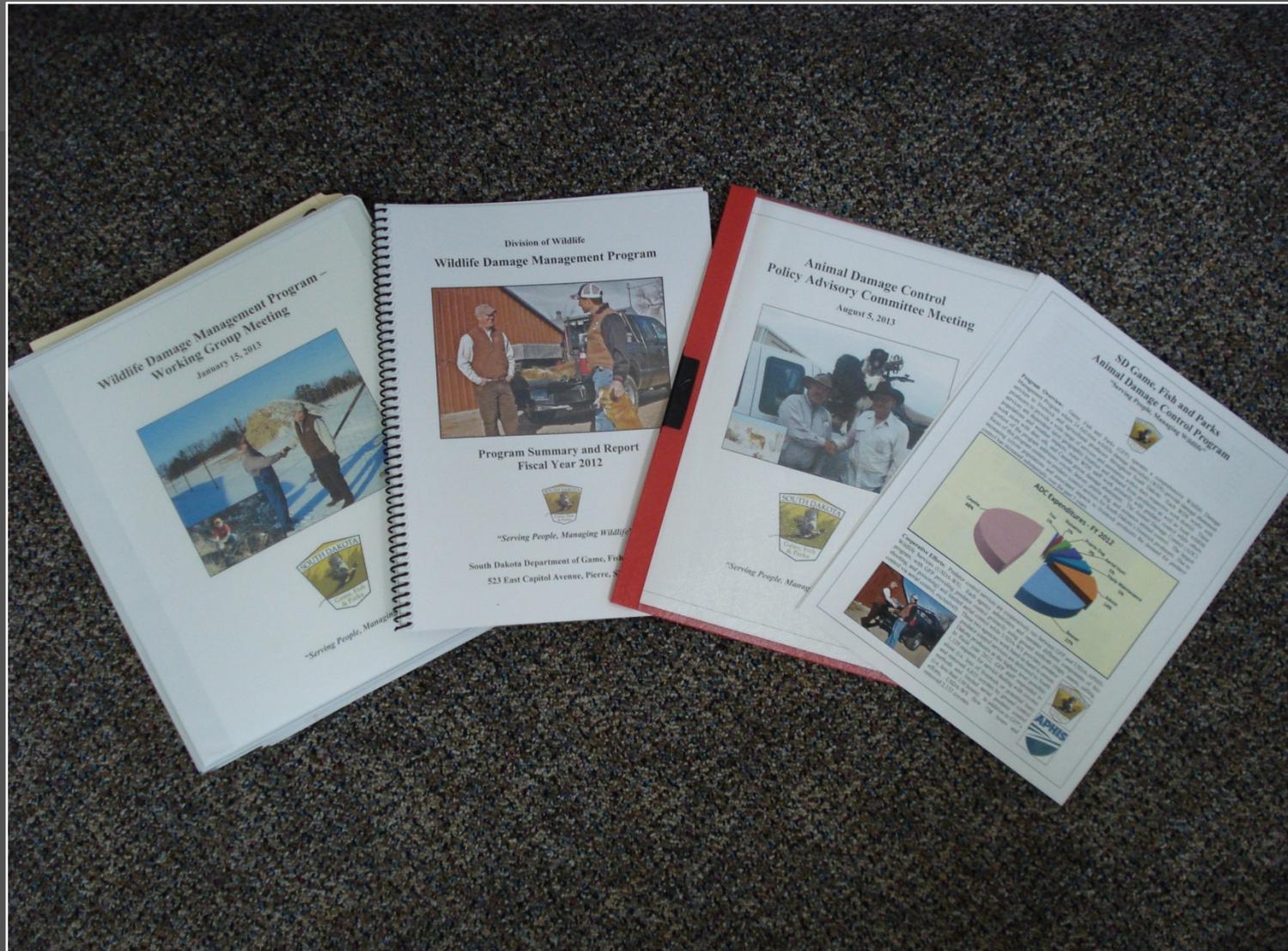


Depredation Hunts

- Primarily when seasons are closed
 - Authorized by GFP Secretary
 - December 1 through March 31
 - Randomized drawing
- Highly dependent upon weather
 - Wildlife populations
 - Landowner tolerance
- Utilization
 - 2013
 - 147 Turkey tags issued
 - 53 birds harvested



Accountability and Transparency



Questions/Comments?

