



South Dakota

# GAME, FISH and PARKS



## Biological Needs- Wild Turkey Management Plan



# Current and Past Collection

- Fall feather collection- from harvested birds for determining age and gender at harvest. -Has been limited by sample size due to poor hunter participation, wrong feathers being sent in, and decreasing licenses in units. Has been discontinued due to poor sample sizes.
- Winter flock counts- Determining age and gender at winter flock locations. -Has been limited by staff and volunteers being able to properly identify gender and age at wintering flocks. During capture and translocating efforts we have identified birds during that process.
- Brood counts- Recruitment metric collected from July-September to gauge poult recruitment.
- Previous Research Studies- radio-collared turkeys across state to assess various aspects of their ecology.



# Future Collection Ideas

- Continue with current efforts?
- Winter flock counts via drop netting by Region- Set up baits and capture birds to determine age and gender via this technique at multiple sites.
- Camera Traps- In Region 3 particularly- set up cameras near winter sites to capture photos and determine age and gender from photos.
- Continue Research Studies- radio-collar turkeys by region or by smaller biological regions to collect needed vital rate data.