

Animal Damage Control Services: Customer Satisfaction Survey Results

HD-5-15.AMS

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Division of Wildlife
Serving People, Managing Wildlife

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GFP conducted a customer satisfaction survey of its ADC services in the spring of 2015. The purpose of this survey was to collect information regarding the quality of the services provided in 2013/2014, as well as to determine if the current level of services is sufficient to meet producers' demands, within available funding. This report summarizes the information collected from the ADC customer satisfaction survey. A total of 966 responses were received for a response rate of 67 percent.

KEYWORDS: ADC services; customer satisfaction

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in survey comments are the views of the commenting respondent(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks or the author(s) of this report. Neither the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks nor the author(s) guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of any opinion or view expressed in respondents' comments. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks reserves the right, but not obligation, to remove at its discretion any language which discloses personally identifiable information about respondents or any other individual, as well as language which is obscene, profane, offensive, malicious, discriminatory, defamatory or otherwise unlawful.

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Executive Summary

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- 80% of producers were satisfied overall with the ADC services they received. 91% of producers utilized direct assistance from a GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist. Approximately half (51%) of producers received both direct assistance and technical information regarding their request for assistance.
- Coyotes were the number one species producers requested help with, followed by beavers.
- The majority of producers (83%) requested help with recurring problems, and 68% of producers indicated the services provided addressed their problem to some degree.
- Overall, the majority of producers indicated they received a timely initial response from GFP; were provided an explanation for the type of services provided; received timely direct assistance; and were given periodic updates regarding the services provided.
- 61% of producers thought it was easy to find information on the ADC services provided by Game, Fish, and Parks.
- 35% of producers experienced beaver damage on their property in 2013/2014.
- 56% of producers experienced livestock loss due to predators in 2013/2014.
- 36% of producers experienced property damage in 2013/2014 due to raccoons, skunks, mink, badgers, or prairie dogs.

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Introduction

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) operates a multifaceted, comprehensive wildlife damage management program, which is designed to address human-wildlife conflicts. The program consists of two primary components: wildlife damage management (WDM) and animal damage control (ADC) services. WDM services aim to minimize or alleviate damage to stored feed supplies caused by deer, elk, and wild turkey, and to reduce damage to growing crops from Canada geese, elk, deer, and pronghorn. The ADC portion of the program provides services to alleviate or reduce livestock loss from predators and damage caused by beavers, mink, badgers, raccoons and others, as well as to provide prairie dog control in cases of encroachment from adjacent public lands. Currently, 27 wildlife damage specialists, many seasonal staff, as well as other GFP staff work directly with producers to deliver these services.

GFP conducted a customer satisfaction survey of its ADC services in the spring of 2015. The purpose of this survey was to collect information regarding the quality of the services provided in 2013/2014, as well as, to determine if the current level of services is sufficient to meet producers' demands, within available funding. This report summarizes the information collected from the ADC customer satisfaction survey.

Methods

A total of 1,533 producers were listed in GFP databases as having received ADC services in 2013 and/or 2014. All listed producers were asked to participate in a 4-page

customer satisfaction survey. Survey administration followed the tailored design method (Dillman et al. 2014) with four waves of contact: initial survey and letter, a reminder postcard, and second and third follow-up surveys (appendix A). After accounting for undeliverable addresses, the adjusted sample size was 1,446 landowners. The survey received 966 total responses for a response rate of 67 percent. All survey data was analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics 20 software package.

Results

Services Received

Producers answered several questions concerning the ADC services they received and their experience with GFP regarding their service request. The types of services available through GFP's ADC program range from receiving technical advice/information, provision of loaner equipment or supplies (i.e., live-traps, snares, etc.), and receiving direct assistance from a wildlife damage specialist. Respondents indicated which of the three types of services they received in 2013/2014. The majority of producers (86%) received one type of service, 11 percent received two types, and 3 percent received all three types of service. The vast majority of producers (91%) indicated they received direct assistance from a GFP wildlife damage specialist, 14 percent received technical information or advice, and 10 percent received loaner equipment or supplies (figure 1). Of the producers who only received one type of service (n=740), 91 percent received direct assistance, 5 percent received technical information/advice, and 4 percent were loaned equipment or supplies.

Producers indicated the species they needed help with during their most recent service request in 2013/2014. Regardless of the number of species they identified, the most common species producers requested help with was coyotes (table 1). The majority of producers (70%) requested help with coyotes. The second most common species, identified by 30 percent of producers, was beaver. The species producers requested help with the least was mink. In

addition, the majority of producers (83%) reported this was a recurring problem, while 17 percent indicated it was a new problem.

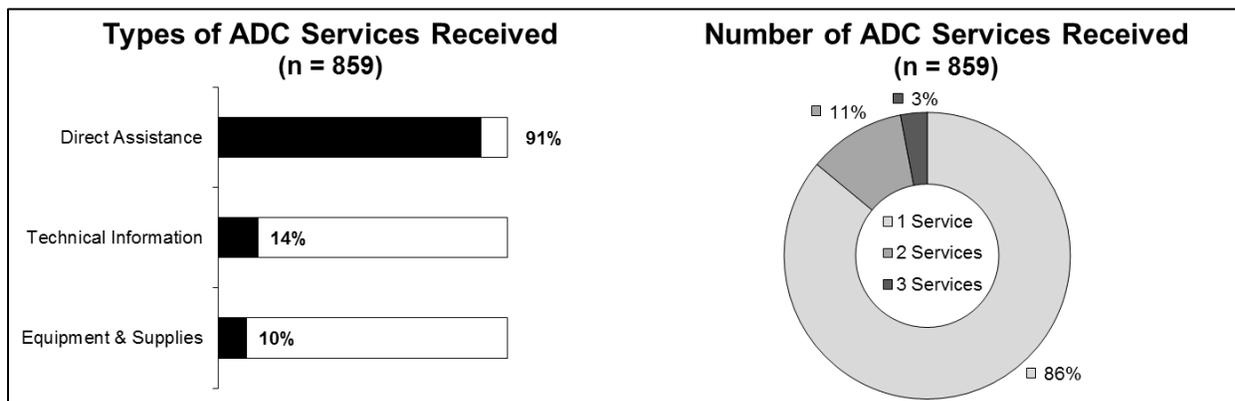


Figure 1: Services received through GFP's animal damage control program 2013/2014

Table 1: Rank order of species producers requested help with in 2013/2014

All Responses (n=933)	Needed Help 1 Species (n=787)	Needed Help 2 Species (n=122)	Needed Help 3 Species (n=17)	Needed Help 4 Species (n=4)
Coyote 70%	Coyote 66%	Coyote 92%	Coyote 88%	Coyote 100%
Beaver 30%	Beaver 28%	Beaver 49%	Raccoon 71%	Skunk 100%
Fox 5%	Fox 1%	Fox 21%	Skunk 47%	Raccoon 75%
Raccoon 4%	Prairie Dogs 1%	Raccoon 13%	Fox 29%	Fox 50%
Skunk 3%	Raccoon 1%	Skunk 8%	Beaver 24%	Beaver 25%
Prairie Dogs 3%	Skunk 1%	Prairie Dogs 8%	Prairie Dogs 18%	Badger 25%
Badger 2%	Badger 1%	Badger 4%	Badger 18%	Mink 25%
Mink 1%	Mink 0.6%	Mink 4%	Mink 6%	Prairie Dogs --

Producers were asked how easy or difficult it was to find information about the ADC services provided. Sixty-one percent of producers indicated it was easy or very easy, while 9 percent thought it was difficult or very difficult (figure 2). The vast majority of producers (93%) indicated they did not have any trouble contacting GFP concerning their request, and 94 percent indicated GFP responded to their initial request in a timely manner (figure 3).

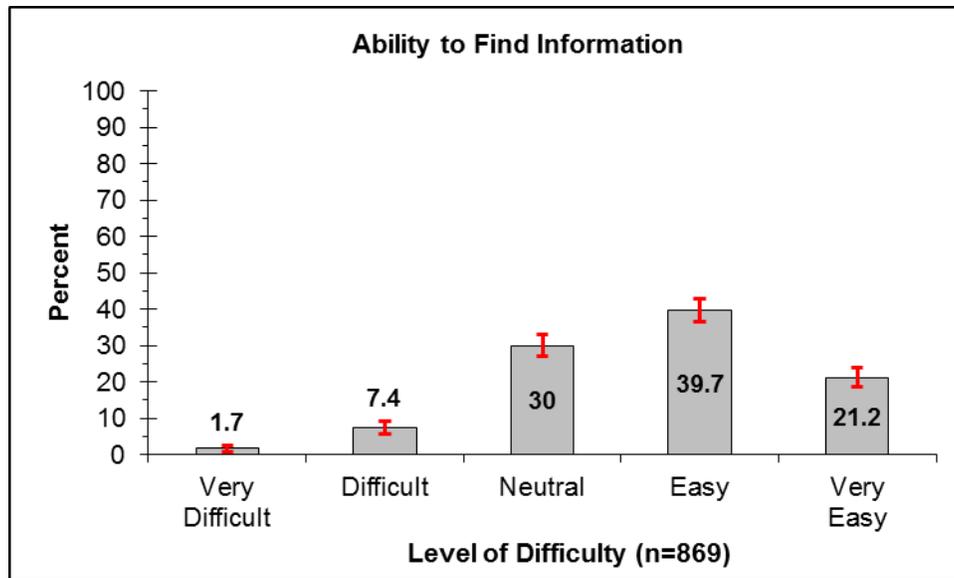


Figure 2: Producers' ability to find information about GFP's ADC services
 NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

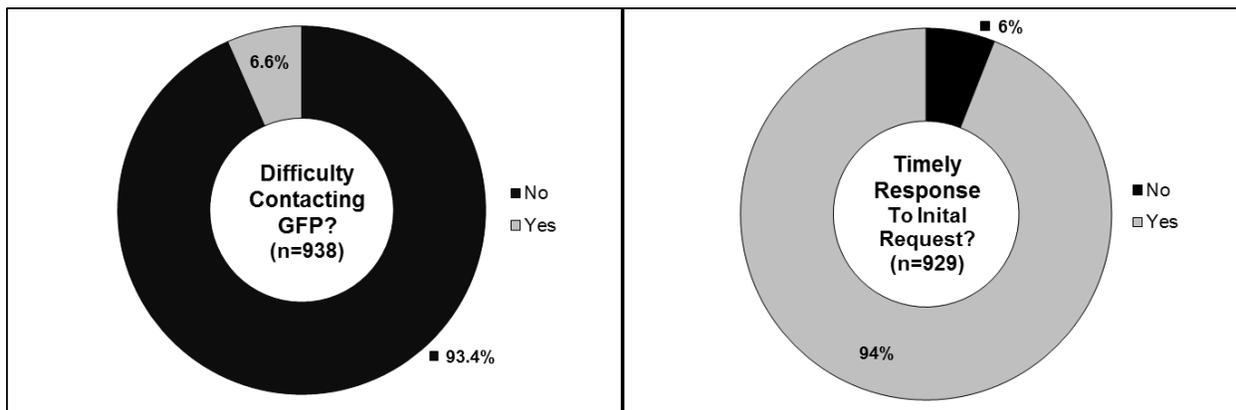


Figure 3: Ease of contacting GFP and initial response times concerning ADC services

Producers indicated whether GFP explained the approach used to address their request; if GFP, where applicable, provided direct assistance in a timely manner; and if they received progress updates. The vast majority of producers (94%) indicated GFP explained the approach used to address their request (figure 4). Similarly, 95 percent of producers indicated they received direct assistance in a timely manner, and approximately 80 percent of producers

received periodic updates on the progress of the assistance provided. When asked how the services provided addressed their problem, 68 percent indicated to some degree, 28 percent said the problem was completely resolved, and 4 percent said it was not at all resolved (figure 5).

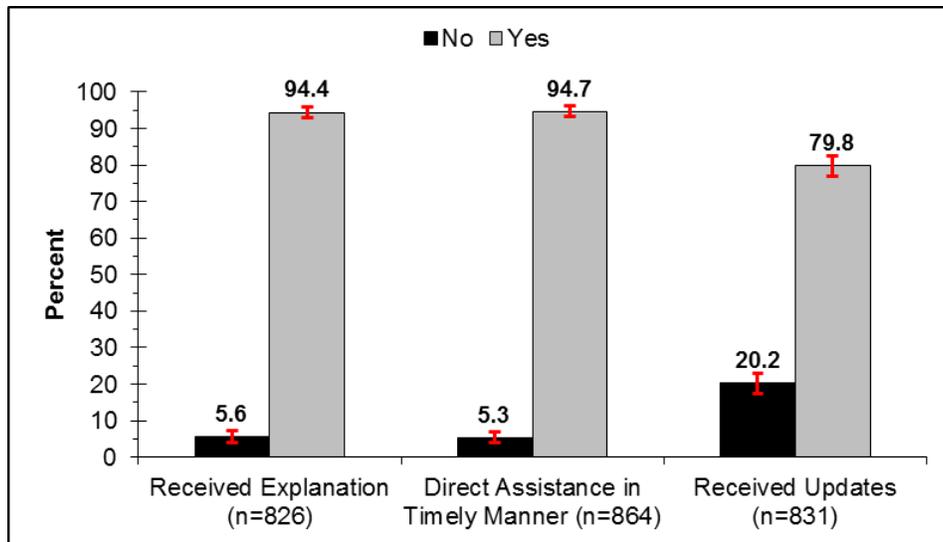


Figure 4: Explanations, progress reports, and timely direct assistance
 NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

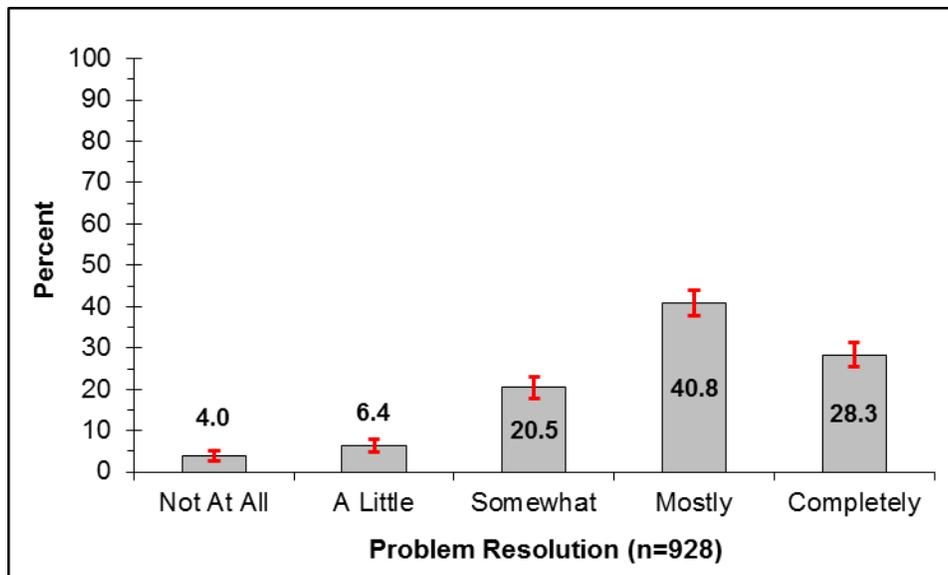


Figure 5: Problem resolution
 NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Satisfaction

Overall, producers indicated they were satisfied with the ADC services they received from GFP. Eighty percent of producers were satisfied or very satisfied, 8 percent were neutral, and 12 percent were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the services they received (figure 6). There were weak to moderate relationships found between overall satisfaction and seven variables measuring the quality of service provided. There was no significant relationship found between overall satisfaction and species or problem occurrence. The remainder of this section addresses the relationships between overall satisfaction and customer service based on strength of association, ranging from highest to lowest.

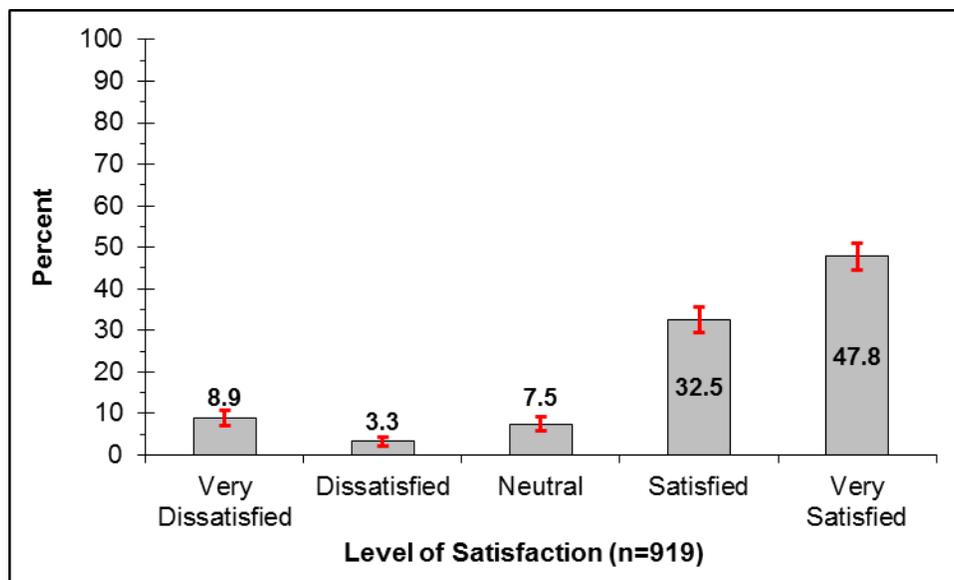


Figure 6: Producers' overall satisfaction with ADC services received
NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

A moderate association was found between overall satisfaction and receiving direct assistance in a timely manner, $\chi^2(2, N = 838) = 113.387, p < 0.001, V = 0.37$. Dissatisfied or neutral producers were more likely than satisfied producers were to indicate they did not receive timely direct assistance (figure 7). Similarly, a moderate association existed between overall satisfaction and timely response to initial request, $\chi^2(2, N = 899) = 90.86, p < 0.001, V = 0.32$.

Dissatisfied or neutral producers were more likely than satisfied producers were to report GFP did not respond to their initial request for services in a timely fashion (figure 8). There was a moderate relationship between overall satisfaction and receiving periodic progress updates, $\chi^2(2, N = 801) = 85.74, p < 0.001, V = 0.32$. Dissatisfied or neutral producers were more likely than satisfied producers were to indicate not receiving progress reports (figure 9).

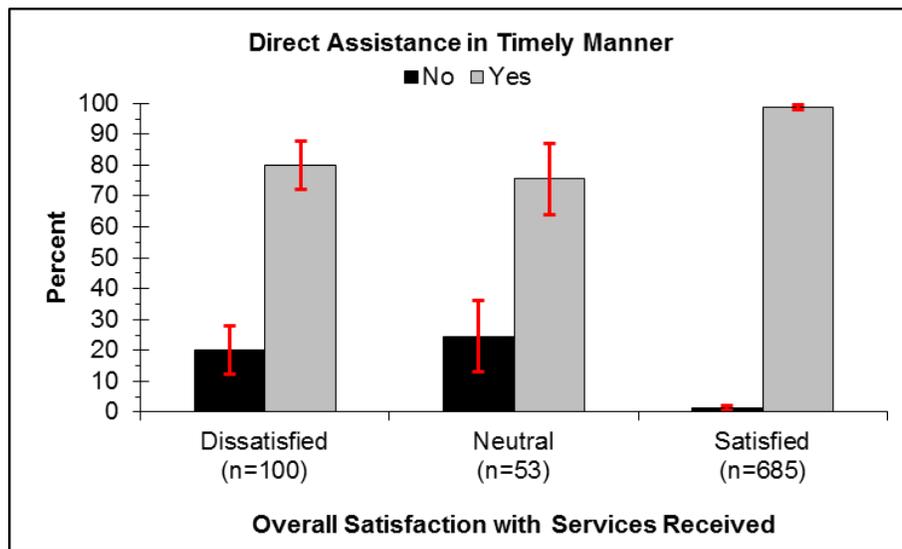


Figure 7: Timely direct assistance by overall satisfaction
NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

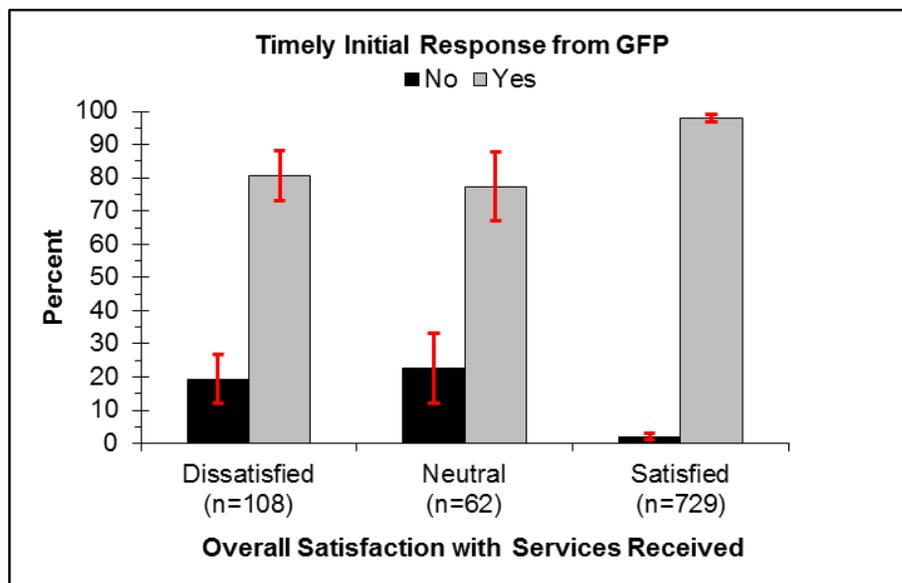


Figure 8: Timely initial response by overall satisfaction
NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

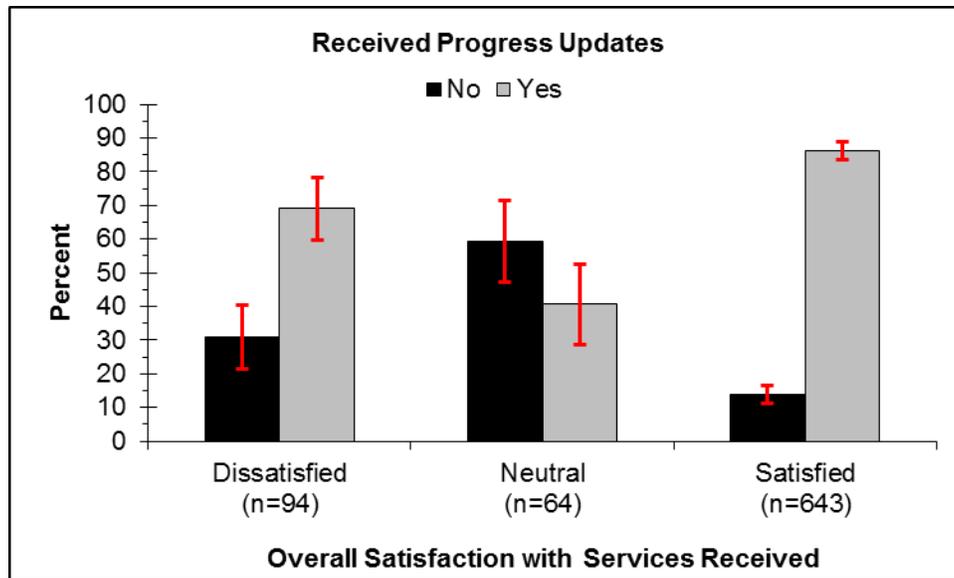


Figure 9: Reception of progress updates by overall satisfaction
 NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

There was a weak association between problem resolution and overall satisfaction, $\chi^2(4, N = 897) = 123.60, p < 0.001, V = 0.26$. Producers who were dissatisfied or neutral toward the services received were more likely than satisfied producers were to indicate their problem was not at all resolved (figure 10). Similarly, there were weak associations between overall satisfaction and difficulty initially contacting GFP, ability to find information, and receiving an explanation on the approach used to address their request. Producers who were dissatisfied or neutral toward the services received were more likely than satisfied producers were to indicate having difficulty initially contacting GFP, $\chi^2(2, N = 909) = 60.72, p < 0.001, V = 0.26$ (figure 11). Producers who were neutral in their overall satisfaction with services received were least likely, compared to dissatisfied and satisfied producers, to think it was easy to find information about GFP's available ADC services, $\chi^2(4, N = 841) = 97.275, p < 0.001, V = 0.24$ (figure 12). Finally, dissatisfied and neutral producers were more likely than satisfied producers were to indicate they did not receive an explanation regarding how their request was going to be handled, $\chi^2(2, N = 800) = 25.749, p < 0.001, V = 0.18$ (figure 13).

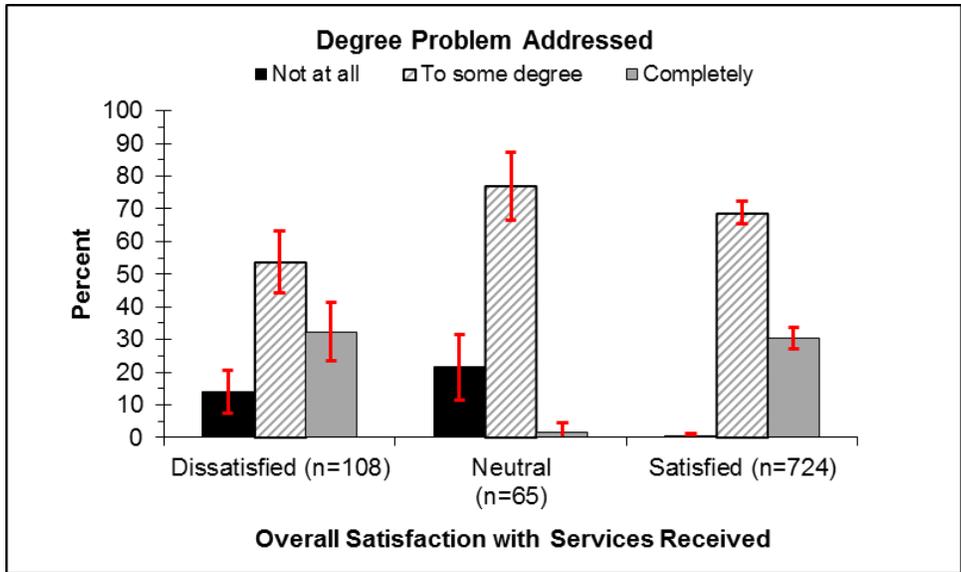


Figure 10: Problem resolution by overall satisfaction

NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

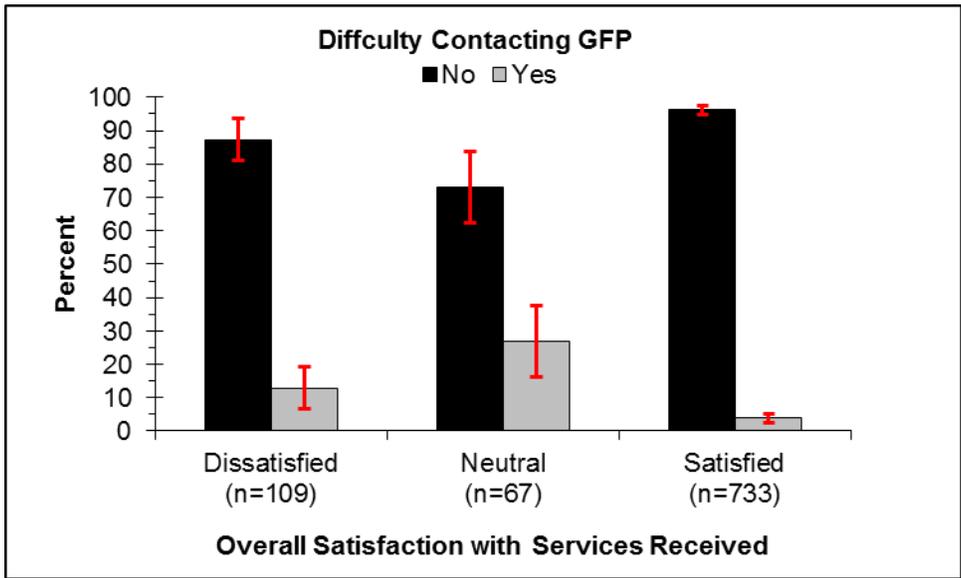


Figure 11: Difficulty contacting GFP by overall satisfaction

NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

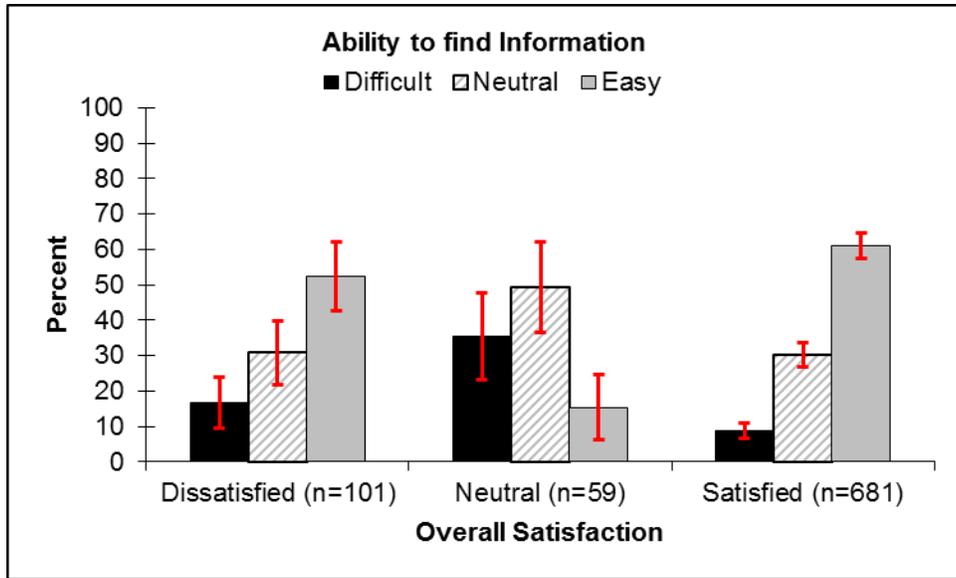


Figure 12: Ability to find information by overall satisfaction
 NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

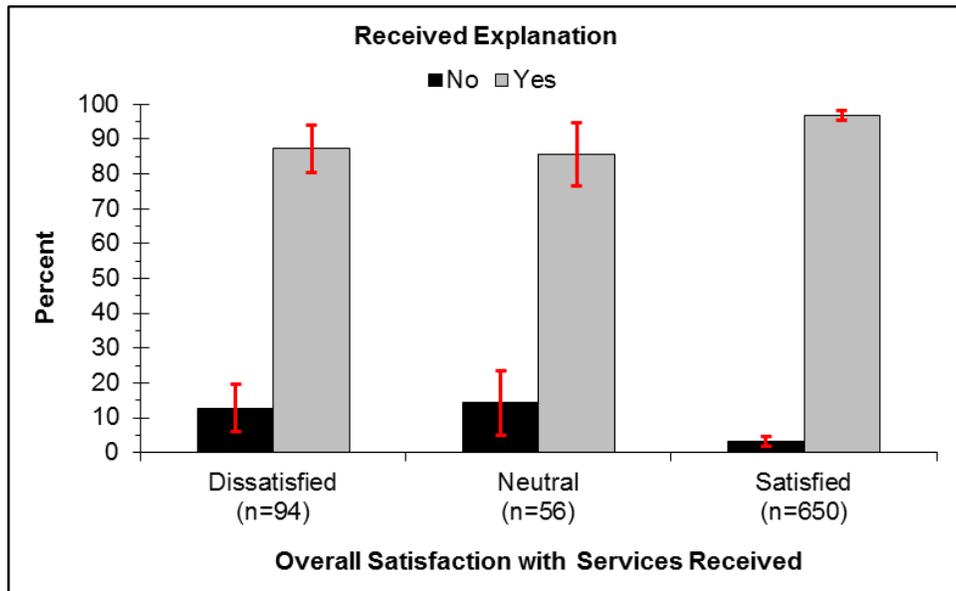


Figure 13: Explanation provided by overall satisfaction
 NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

2013/2014 Losses

In addition to questions regarding ADC services received and overall satisfaction, producers estimated the amount of property damages and livestock losses caused by wildlife in 2013/2014. There were no significant differences between overall satisfaction levels and amount of property damage or livestock lost. Approximately one-third of producers (35%) indicated they experienced beaver damage on their property in 2013/2014 (figure 14). Sixty-five percent of producers experiencing beaver damage had tree damage. Producers, on average, had damage to 29 trees, and half of the producers had damage to 15 trees or fewer (table 2). Beavers caused damage to an average of 15 acres of crops per producer, with half of producers experiencing damage on 3 acres or fewer. Slightly more than one-third of producers (36%) experienced property damage in 2013/2014 due to raccoons, skunks, mink, badgers, or prairie dogs (figure 15). Producers experienced an average of \$2,132 of property damage for a total of \$387,945. Half of producers reporting they had a \$1,000 dollars or less in property damage.

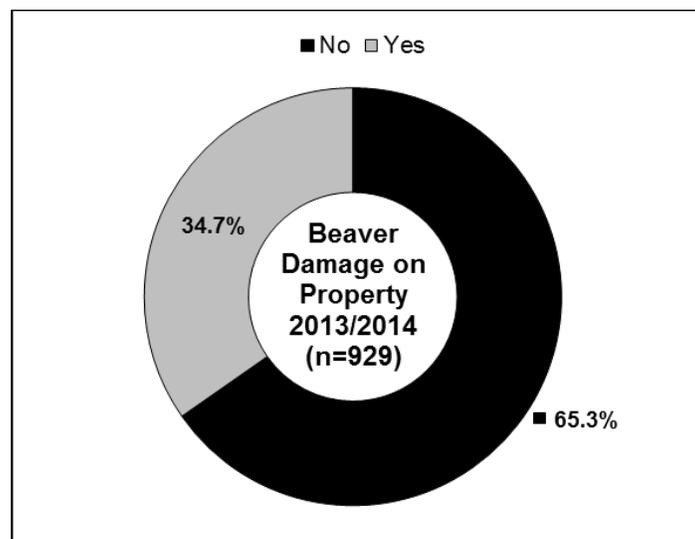


Figure 14: Producers experiencing beaver damage 2013/2014

Table 2: Reported beaver damage 2013/2014

	N	Median	Mean	SE _m	95% CI
Number of Trees	208	15.0	28.9	3.5	(22.0, 35.8)
Acres of Crops	76	3.0	14.9	5.1	(4.9, 24.9)

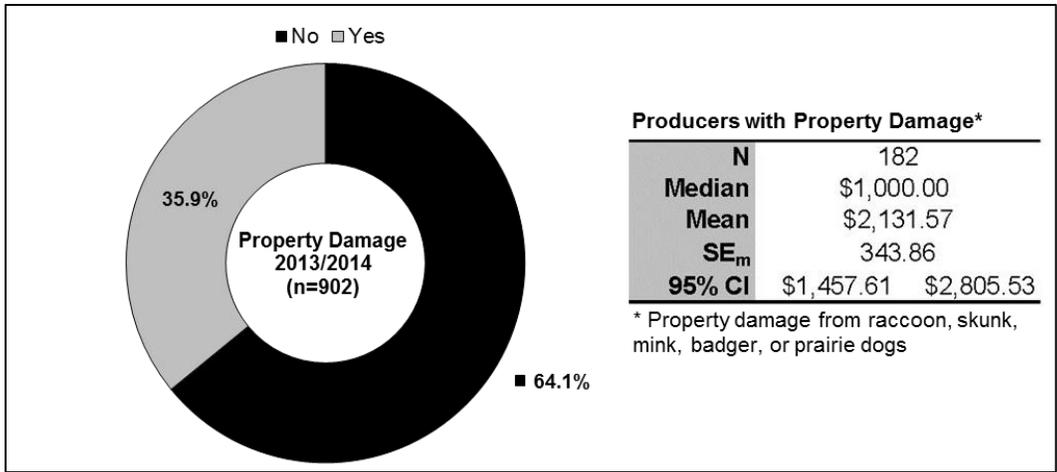


Figure 15: Property damage from raccoons, skunks, mink, badgers, or prairie dogs

Slightly more than half of producers (56%) reported incurring livestock losses from predators (excluding mountain lions) on their property in 2013/2014 (figure 16). An average of four calves was lost to predators, with half of these producers losing three or fewer (table 3). Producers reported losing an average of two cows to predators. An average of 24 lambs was reported lost to predators, with half of these producers losing 15 or fewer. Producers also reported losing an average of seven ewes. On average, producers lost 40 fowl (chickens, ducks, peacocks, etc.), with half of these producers losing 22 or fewer.

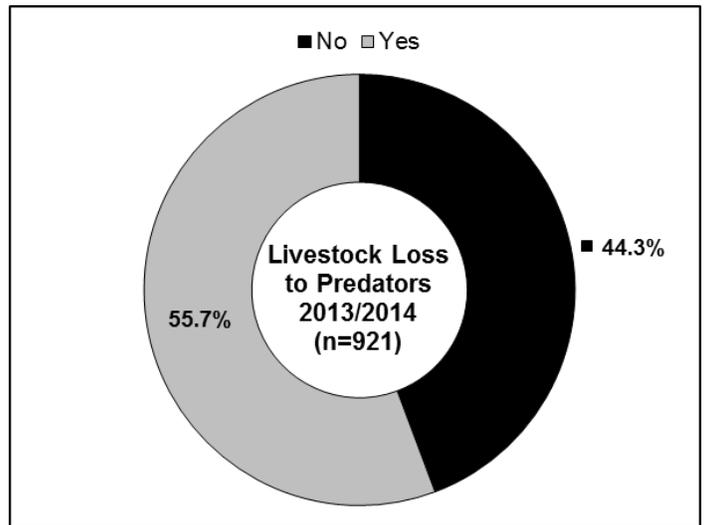


Figure 16: Producers experiencing livestock loss to predators

Table 3: Reported livestock loss due to predators

	N	Median	Mean	SE_m	95% CI
Number of Calves	341	3	3.6	0.19	(3.2, 3.9)
Number of Cows	12	1	2.5	1.15	(0.2, 4.8)
Number of Lambs	120	15	23.8	2.40	(19.1, 28.5)
Number of Ewes	81	4	7.4	0.96	(5.5, 9.3)
Number of Fowl	34	22	40.4	8.76	(23.2, 57.6)
Other	12	1	2.7	1.2	(0.3, 5.0)

Comments

Respondents to the ADC Customer Satisfaction survey were asked to provide any additional suggestions they had for improving GFP's Animal Damage Control services. Forty-six percent of respondents provided additional comments. Of the 443 comments received, 63 percent gave suggestions for improvements, 28 percent were about the quality of customer service, 20 percent were general in nature, and 9 percent regarded wildlife species not addressed through the ADC program.¹ Four major themes emerged from producers' suggestions for improvement. The majority of the 279 comments related to improving ADC services (57%) addressed aspects of coyote management. Twenty-one percent were in regards to staffing levels; 10 percent provided feedback on improving response times and communication; and 8 percent concerned prairie dog management on public and private lands. All comments received are included in appendix B.

¹ Percentages do not sum to 100 since respondents' comments could cover multiple topics.

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Appendix A
Survey Instrument (format adjusted)

Animal Damage Control Services: Customer Satisfaction Survey



Game, Fish and Parks' (GFP) Animal Damage Control services include actions to limit, reduce or alleviate livestock losses from predators (i.e. coyotes and fox) and reduce property damage from beaver and other nuisance wild animals. Damage done by big game species (including mountain lions), turkeys, and Canada geese is not addressed through the Animal Damage Control services.

Wildlife Damage Specialists (formerly called state trappers) are GFP employees who work cooperatively with landowners and producers to deliver these services.

*Please take a few minutes to tell us about the Animal Damage Control services you have received from GFP. The information you provide will allow GFP to adapt services and programs to best meet the needs of South Dakota's landowners and producers. **All information you provide will be treated confidentially and will not be linked to your name.***

Q1. Which of the following types of service did you receive through GFP's Animal Damage Control Program in 2013 and/or 2014?

Please select all that apply:

- I received technical information/advice
- I was provided loaner equipment or supplies (e.g. live-traps, snares, etc.)
- I received direct assistance from a GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist

Q2. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the services you received?

Please select one:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Very
Dissatisfied | Dissatisfied | Neither
Dissatisfied
Nor Satisfied | Satisfied | Very
Satisfied |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you had more than one service request through the Animal Damage Control Program in 2013/2014, please use your most recent request to answer the following questions.

Q3. Which of the following species did you request help with?

Please select all that apply:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote | <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Dogs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fox | <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beaver | <input type="checkbox"/> Skunk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mink | <input type="checkbox"/> Badger |

Q4. Was this a recurring problem or a new problem?

- Recurring Problem
- New Problem

Q5. Did you have any difficulty contacting GFP concerning this request?

- No
- Yes

Q6. Did GFP respond to your initial request in a timely manner?

- No
- Yes

Q7. Was the approach used to address your request for assistance explained to you?

- No
- Yes
- Not Applicable

Q8. If you received direct assistance through GFP's Animal Damage Control services, was it provided in a timely manner?

- No
- Yes
- Not Applicable

Q9. Were you given periodic updates on the progress of the assistance being provided?

- No
- Yes
- Not Applicable

Q10. How did the services provided address your problem(s)?

- Not At All
- A Little
- Somewhat
- Mostly
- Completely

Q11. Overall, how easy or difficult is it to find information about the Animal Damage Control services provided by GFP? *Please select one:*

- Very Difficult
- Difficult
- Neutral
- Easy
- Very Easy
- Not Applicable

The following questions relate to your losses in 2013/2014.

Q12. Did you experience beaver damage on your property in 2013/2014?

- No
- Yes, what was the estimated amount of tree or crop damage?
_____ Number of trees
_____ Acres of crops

Q13. Did predators (excluding mountain lions) cause livestock losses on your property in 2013/2014?

- No
- Yes, what was the estimated number of livestock lost?
_____ Number of calves
_____ Number of cows
_____ Number of lambs
_____ Number of ewes
_____ Other, *please specify:* _____

Q14. Did you experience property damage in 2013/2014 due to raccoon, skunk, mink, badger, or prairie dogs?

- No
- Yes, what was the estimated amount of property damage in dollars? _____ Dollars

Q15. Do you have any suggestions for improving GFP's Animal Damage Control services?

Your comments and suggestions will be compiled and given to the GFP Commissioners, wildlife managers, administrators, and made available to the public.

Thank you for your valuable time and for giving GFP the opportunity to serve you better



DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS

Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501-3182

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) is conducting a customer satisfaction survey of GFP's Animal Damage Control program services. Our records indicate you have received services through this program during the past two years (2013-2014). The purpose of this survey is to collect information regarding the quality of the services provided, as well as determine if the current level of services are sufficient to meet producers' demands, within available funding. The information you provide will allow GFP to adapt services and programs to best meet the needs of South Dakota's landowners and producers.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary, and you may stop at anytime or skip any question you do not wish to answer. All your answers will be confidential – we will only report summaries of our findings. The identification number on your survey is only there so we can check your name off the mailing list once you return your survey.

On average, it should take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete this survey. Please return your survey using the postage-paid envelope provided.

Thank you for your time. Your participation in this survey regarding these important program services is greatly appreciated

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Longmire".

Cynthia L. Longmire
Human Dimensions Specialist
SD Game, Fish, and Parks

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Appendix B Additional Comments

The views expressed in survey comments are the views of the commenting respondent(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks or the author(s) of this report. Neither the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks nor the author(s) guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of any opinion or view expressed in respondents' comments. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks reserves the right, but not obligation, to remove at its discretion any language which discloses personally identifiable information about respondents or any other individual, as well as language which is obscene, profane, offensive, malicious, discriminatory, defamatory or otherwise unlawful.

* Note – Text which appears inside brackets [] has been added to clarify respondents' reference to specific survey questions, identify parts of comments which were illegible, or in some cases to indicate where personally identifying information or expletives has been omitted.

- 101 [RE beaver damage] plugged dam outlet
- 102 I have a very hard time getting a game warden to return my calls on this issue and other issues. I am not the only person in this county to have this problem. Luckily I was able to get the phone number for the state trapper another way. If game wardens could at least return calls and provide information that would be helpful. I did like how the state trapper paired me with a trusted local trapper to trap the coyotes on my farm. Good use of resources.
- 103 The trapper that trapped at our place contracted for GFP for advice and help. They were very helpful and the state trapper always returned my calls and kept coming back to check on the problem. I am not sure how much corn crop was lost as the beaver had dammed up the creek and it flooded the one field between the creek and our driveway. The 2 years we didn't have any beaver and then in 2014 we had several. Thanks for the great help.
- 106 [RE trees lost to beaver damage] Multiple
- 107 [RE property damage] we have a seasonal home and a wood chuck got in and damaged a rug and a few things. Very happy with assistance. A few years ago, we had a person from Webster come over and help us with small animals in our basement.
- 122 [RE contacting GFP] state trapper noticed a dam and called me.
- 123 Keep up the good work
- 124 Your animal control employee gave me the name of someone else that would trap the beaver on my property. It took him a year to trap three beavers.
- 125 Beaver slides from corn field to Split Rock Creek, causes erosion to creek bank (trap them). Coyotes have numerous pups playing in pasture really cute, but they do grow ugly.

- 129 Very happy with success of trapper. ADC is most definitely for the producer and supports them trying to make a living.
- 130 I planted trees along the south side of the Sioux River in 2002 with the help of the FSA and the NWCS and the beaver have been playing havoc with them the past 3 - 5 years. It appears that we will need to aggressively trap the beaver annually or give up on the trees and write off everyone's investment. I'd appreciate your point of view on this matter.
- 136 [GFP staff] is timely, knowledgeable, courteous informative and polite. He is an excellent employee.
- 137 I think you need to continue providing service for landowners/operators. I have always been very happy with our [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist]. He is a great guy and very helpful!
- 140 They do a good job.
- 142 [RE beaver damage] largest problem was road maintenance for township.
- 148 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] did a great job of taking care of my beaver problem.
- 151 They did a great job and timely. Thank you for the service.
- 153 What can be done to get onto private property where a blue line creek goes through? If it's considered a navigable creek, can you enter through the water? Could the Core of Engineers be of assistance? To help maintain the flow of water where landowners don't cooperate in removing the beaver dams? It is hard for your department to achieve great success under these types of circumstances; we may need to get some type of laws passed to address these issues.
- 155 I appreciate your service. There are other species besides beaver that have caused problems in the past. The family that rents the pasture for cattle did have a cow that was trapped in one of the beaver traps and you did acknowledge that. I do not know if you reimbursed them but I do know you were here soon after it was reported. Thank You.
- 156 The coyote population is insane. Anytime you can lose a dozen ducks, I mean completely carried off. How many of the suckers are there? Go back to a bounty or something. Also, when the landowner gives tips to the trapper, perhaps the landowner shouldn't be treated as if he doesn't know anything. I told him to set traps in the section north of me and he sets them to the south because of "the lay of the land." There's a cussed choir of them up north of me singing every night. They're so bold they come in the yard and snarl and yap at you when you come out. The country is overrun. I was overhearing some duffers at the gas station complaining how bad they are and bold in their area too. May I add that our local game warden has been very courteous and helpful with directing my questions.
- 159 [RE property damage] digging up grubs in pastures.
- 160 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] did an excellent job as I remember it he got 22 to 23 coyotes in our section. Also caught a couple skunks. The coyotes have returned again

but not really as bad for us. A neighbor has problems with them chasing his beef calves but has not lost any. A couple of local trappers and hunters helped last fall and winter by getting a few. We will try staying on top of them ourselves. Our deer population is really down and we have almost no pheasants anymore, but we did buy a dozen breeding hen pheasants last year to let loose.

- 164 I have asked about clarification for my m44 license and to complete all the requirements. I have yet to get the information and asked 3-4 months ago.
- 165 We have trouble with deer more than anything living next to town and a park. They move up to farmstead during winter months. Would like to see a longer deer season in troubled areas. Geese numbers are on the rise also.
- 169 I did lose 2 calves to mountain lions.
- 171 Just keep this service available in the future. They were very accommodating and did a good job. There were things that they mentioned I should do differently very helpful.
- 175 The GFP Specialists are very professional in their work and have been exceptional in response to many predator problems. Thank you for your expert help!
- 177 Take a more proactive role in preventing coyote attacks in the area. There are a lot of sheep in the area and we all have had losses due to the coyotes. The losses cost us producers a lot of money and time to keep our livestock safe. GFP has very good reactive services when the attacks do take place it is very timely and steps are taken quickly to stop the attacks. You have a very good employee who works with us producers. [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] should be complimented for all his hard work!
- 181 Use an airplane to control coyotes or put a bounty on them so they get hunted. That would help with game birds.
- 184 [RE satisfaction] I had a trapper guy. He was very rude; at first he didn't believe me. I had to prove him wrong. [Additional Comment] Difficult to get a hold of when they did show up they were rude, didn't believe me, and called me a liar. I had to call when traps were full I wasn't impressed. In 1 week caught 11 fox. I was new to area and was unfamiliar I had to prove him wrong. I would say it was all bad need way better customer service.
- 187 This event occurred on a weekend and I had some difficulty contacting the GFP. Once I reached them the information was helpful. The landowner removed the trees that blocked traffic. No one could leave the development until was done. I think GFP had someone destroy the beaver dams in the pond, but I wasn't involved in that.
- 189 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] is very good at his job. Best Trapper I have seen. If I have a problem he gets right back to me and he gets the job taken care of.
- 195 Lost 1 calf in 2014 called state trapper said no coyotes. Lost 2 calves in 2015 called state trapper killed at least 4 coyotes said came right into yard. Two different trappers not easy to call. Was very satisfied in 2015.

- 196 The trapper took care of my beaver problem in a couple of days. I should have called him in sooner. Very satisfied with his prompt friendly service.
- 197 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] is excellent - removed several beavers from my 15 acre pond. He is prompt and efficient.
- 198 [RE Problem Occurrence] This year, but we have trouble every year. [RE problem solution] Might have caught the last one this morning. The plane was very helpful when it could come, but it was too busy to get here at the optimal time. Overall, I am very pleased with the services provided. The 6th coyote was trapped this morning, we are hoping that takes care of it for a while.
- 199 Make everyone provide proof of killing a coyote, before getting a deer bow license. I have found 5 dead bucks on my farm left by dumb bow hunters in the last 4 years. [RE Livestock Losses] Not sure – can't tell for sure.
- 200 Thank You
- 203 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] does a wonderful job of trying to control the coyote problems here due to the state land to the south of us. He's a hard worker and does a very good job. Spends time with you and tries his hardest. He's a good man. Thanks for what you do.
- 214 More of them, they provide great service and do a great job. Maybe if they had more trappers available then people's attitudes towards the GFP would change?
- 217 [RE Problem Occurrence] we bought the property on 12/31/12 there was damage when we moved in.
- 219 Follow up to assist with continued problems. The beavers, even though some were caught, are still causing us a great deal of trouble.
- 220 There will always be coyote and beaver. I do feel that coons are hard on pheasants (eggs & sweet corn). Where have all the pheasants gone?
- 230 [RE Property Damage \$ Amount] naturally grown trees
- 239 [RE Problem Solution] My own fault should have contacted [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] right away, I waited a week or so.
- 243 Let your people do their job when it is needed and not sit in a desk.
- 245 [RE Problem Solution] got coyotes but also killed a calf of mine so we stopped. [RE Livestock Losses] Coyotes – we could see in the snow where coyotes killed and ate a newborn calf that got under the fence away from its mother. The trapper got like 5 or 6 coyotes in 3 days. Keep the service available.
- 248 The GFP officer was extremely friendly and kept in touch. Although I believe he tried very hard to solve the problem. I often felt he was spread a little thin and was drawn off by other problems in the state. Over the past 10 years we have lost over 13 trees. Perhaps a different kind of help may more permanently solve the problem but perhaps

- not. I think a couple of nights waiting for the beavers and then shooting them may in the long run be more efficient. I am not a landowner.
- 250 They used snares and cyanide bait to kill some coyotes. Then followed with an aerial shoot. Eliminated quite a few coyotes. Kept me posted with updates on predators killed and where they were killed. The GFP did an excellent job, it was very much appreciated.
- 251 GFP needs to admit that mountain lions are a problem. GFP trapped 15 coyotes which was good but didn't get a mountain lion. mountain lion was the problem. It killed 2 cows.
- 255 Your man did a very good job. Did what he said he would and did it in a timely manner.
- 258 Keep the program in place.
- 264 Provide adequate funding so damage control specialist don't have to be spread thin across several counties.
- 265 [RE Species] Otter; [RE Timely Assistance] Was delayed somewhat in respect to otter; [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] has been great. Very helpful with a difficult problem; Otter moved into my fish ponds 2-3 years ago, basically cleaned out lakes. Otter control difficult to check status. Possibly increase monitoring of these animals in sensitive areas. Rapid line trapping may be all that is necessary.
- 267 I have no complaints. [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] has done a great job, he gets the job done!
- 270 [RE Problem Solution] For the season - sly and prolific little buggers will always be around. [RE Property Damage] Pocket gophers are always around.
- 273 [RE Beaver Damage] only bark damage not whole trees
- 276 They respond promptly and everything ran smoothly. Hopefully the problem is somewhat under control. I guess we will find out this year again.
- 280 [RE Species] 1 - Coyotes, 2 - Beaver; [RE Beaver Damage] Destroyed some wood fence posts.
- 291 We had a helicopter and all the people signed up to hunt their land. We were told by the specialist that we couldn't do that. He made me sign all the people up again, because he was going to use an airplane and it had to be done his way. The sign-up sheet I was given the first time was the one used up by Watertown area farmers. I called him about a month ago and he told me he wouldn't get up this way because some farmer was losing sheep. They did get up to a farm south of [location] and trapped some coyotes. The farmers around [location] are wondering why we had to sign up for 5 years and still have to call to get the job done.
- 292 Just keep flying to control coyotes. Our son shot 4 over the winter & spring.
- 297 Wish I would have contacted them earlier than what I did!
- 302 The trapper out of [location] was great!

- 304 My neighbor [name removed] was helpful with badgers and coyotes. He also controlled raccoons. Thank him for his service.
- 306 Keep up the good work. Planes after coyotes help a bunch. Your fence around silage pit was wonderful!
- 307 Answer your phone and or return calls.
- 309 Great Service. Thank you!
- 310 The game warden in [location] never returns your calls. We have a severe coyote problem and GFP does nothing! I had to call [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] directly and he is the only one who helps me. All the GFP warden in [location] is worried about is the deer - really? Do you realize that the price of a grown calf is \$1000 and we lose them to coyotes! We need this money. Remember our money does come your way! Not now!
- 314 Follow up where areas are bad in this case coyotes follow up and they're coming right back in the area. They are right back again. Could use the same plan again.
- 320 I met with [GFP Staff] if that is what is your average employee you have problems. The people he sent were great. I think he [GFP Staff] should be putting out the hay for the deer. Put one of the guys that come here with food in his chair.
- 322 More plane work on coyote damage would be greatly appreciated.
- 326 [RE Problem Solution] still coyotes but didn't get any calves yet this year. Open up a snowmobile season on coyotes for two weeks; when there is snow sell tags.
- 333 As far as the calf lost, I think it was a very freak ordeal because the [expletive deleted] neighbor to the North of me spends too much time during the middle of the night driving around during deer season and we have heard shots fired around 2am. So I wouldn't put it past him to be shooting cattle too.
- 334 Do more aerial hunting in the prime loss of livestock.
- 335 They got the coyotes under control before the pack actually caused a loss. The helicopter was a big asset in the control. The coyotes were back this spring but were not in a pack. The black geese are always a problem in the soybeans in the spring and always will be till there is a spring season on them.
- 337 We need to keep after the coyotes in any way possible. We live along the Minnesota Border and I don't think they do anything over there to keep the numbers down. They seem to drift around and in the fall when they pack up the cattle in the yards get really spooked. If anything dies it isn't very long and the coyotes will be eating on them. The trapper came down 2 years ago and got 3 with snares; it helped for a while, but they seemed to settle back in. Please continue to help.
- 346 They were great at helping solve my beaver issues.
- 348 [RE Species] State trapper out of [location] got 3 coyotes and I got 12 trapping them; also 4 raccoons.

- 353 Creeks dammed up preventing field tile from draining. The last two experiences I've had with the last two wildlife damage specialists have been less than stellar. I've questioned their trapping skills and their communication skills were non-existent. One specialist drove through a drainage ditch, which he should never have attempted, and had to call me to get pulled out. When he needed me, communication improved. WE haven't had a reliable specialist since [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] retired.
- 355 I do not know how to improve but have lost a lot of lambs already this spring. These coyotes need to go so maybe we could see the red fox, they have gotten 22 coyotes out of here since Oct. between people calling them and GFP I thought this year would have lamb crop but have already found dead lambs. I have no profits when have 70 ewes and only sell 24 lambs.
- 359 There seems to have been some turnover of staff and it is difficult to track down a new person.
- 366 [RE Species] geese
- 369 [RE Beaver Damage] They kept plugging up waterways so I had to clean them out every day.
- 371 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] is doing an outstanding job. Don't let him leave the area. Thank you all very much.
- 375 Kill more coyotes they not only kill calves but scare the hell out of cows. I also think they are hard on pheasant population; along with all the skunks and raccoons.
- 376 I have had beaver problems for 40 years. I don't know how to get rid of the problem.
- 377 Kill all raccoons
- 387 Local guys have been very helpful, but they need more interns to help with putting up fences to keep geese out of soybeans. Geese feeding in NE SD is still a big problem and they have done a good job but need more resources or need to protect crops.
- 390 They got it under control before any real damage to crops. Have worked with a couple of your young damage specialists. Have found them both to be very nice & efficient! It's nice to see people who really enjoy their jobs. We also worked with the older gentleman who is now retired. He was excellent. Keep up the good work and hiring qualified trappers.
- 401 The water covered a farm road. They did a good job.
- 404 The coyote numbers in our area, northern Clark County, are simply out of control. I am not a hunter, so must rely on neighbors to shoot/trap the critters. Coyotes come right up into my calving pens and threaten cows that are calving. I called GFP on several occasions hoping a plane could fly over to shoot some of the coyotes. If that happened, I am not aware of it. The past 2 years have been very frustrating with this ongoing problem. I have had 2 calves with broken legs from cows running at night.

- 411 I would like to see some kind of compensation when I lose lambs to coyotes. I worry all the time when they are out in the pasture. Around May 1st I saw one come through close to the buildings but it kept right on going west toward [location] lake and didn't bother anything. My farm is partly in the city limits of [location] and that is sometimes the direction they are coming from - from town. So they aren't too scared. I would also like you to know the young man who worked with me, [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] was really great. He was very diligent about trapping the coyotes and also helped with the geese in my oats field. He has a great personality. He is a great asset to the GFP.
- 423 Coyotes ate my calves but can't confirm that they are killing them. Why can't landowners who have a problem with coyotes get the plane to hunt coyotes? I have gone from place to place signing landowners up and have a big area near the White area. I had to do this twice because the first time it was with the state and then I was told that I had to do it all over again because the next year the federal government was in charge of it and so I went back to each landowner again. After all this work why can't we get the plane to hunt coyotes on a regular basis (preventative maintenance)? It seems that the only time that I can get the plane to fly over my area is when there has been a kill. Why do I have to wait for my livestock to be killed first and then action will take place? Also, there are a lot of people with snowmobiles that would love to hunt down coyotes. (At no cost to the state)! Producers with a coyote problem should not have to wait for a kill before any action is done. There needs to be preventive maintenance before any kill. Our trappers has done a very good job for me when he comes out but he is stretched too thin. There needs to be more people out in the field working like he does.
- 425 Losses occurred fall of 2012, have been doing maintenance since then. Services and response time is great. [GFP Wildlife Specialist] does a good job with limited time and resources with continued trapping when coyotes move back in death loss has been stopped. It is essential to do maintenance trapping before coyotes move back in and losses start. Access to the plane at critical times would be beneficial. It seems difficult to get planes to predation areas in a timely fashion. The service is essential. Although many producers use non-lethal methods of predator control (dogs, llamas, donkeys) general preventative measures are essential to avoid significant problems.
- 426 [RE Problem Occurrence] The beaver problem has been going on for 10 - 15 years. The trapper did an awesome job the last 10 - 13 years. The past 2 years the trapper has been so busy that he got a trapper friend from [location] to help out. [RE Assistance Explanation] Trapper said something happened the past year and a half? Were his hours cut? The past year and a half has been a real pain! [RE Timely Assistance] Not the past year or two. Was there a funding cut a year or two ago? Please restore the quality of service you had two years ago.
- 429 Had to go out myself and find area people to call and hunt coyotes. They were walking fence lines along my hoop barn where I keep my ewe/lamb families, can't turn them outside in their lot because of the coyotes. These coyotes are getting way too brave.
- 434 We need to hunt coyotes with a plane because they are smart to trapping and hunting. They are all out of control. We had to sell our sheep because of the death loss and now they have moved to the neighbors with cattle & calves. Our current trapper is very good but he is only 1 man and he need help to get this under control.

- 443 There are a lot of coyotes in Miner County. I would like the state plane to work on getting some of them eliminated. I gave the CO permission to go on our land, but didn't hear from anyone.
- 444 We had very good experiences dealing with the wildlife damage specialist that continues to assist us with our coyote problem. The problem is ongoing, it would be helpful if the GFP would take a plane up and hunt the coyotes in our area when possible! We hear him nightly close to our house and livestock areas and recently have been seeing them out and around during daytime hours.
- 449 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] was great. He provided great service in a timely manner. He also provided me with his cell number. The beaver seem to come and go as they move up and down the [location] creek so I may need to contact him again.
- 453 Too many deer
- 456 Get airplanes in the air to shoot coyotes in the winter time.
- 462 Coyotes need to be controlled annually. Deer are thick in my area and need to be controlled better. You need to give out more deer licenses.
- 465 Need more raccoon and coyote problems dealt with, too many of these.
- 466 Get more people to help the trapper out checking traps. Quit taking away the things that work so they can kill more animals that are causing the problem. Give them more access to planes to get the coyotes and more persons to get the raccoons.
- 476 You're doing a good job.
- 480 Give landowners hunting rights for deer and Canada geese
- 481 This was the first time I had a sheep killed, but I lost 5 at different times throughout the year.
- 482 The trapper trapped 8 coyotes. Coyotes are common in our area. If we didn't have 2 dogs that seem to keep the coyotes at bay, it would be worse. Calving this spring, 2015 there was one calf that ultimately did die. The calf exhibited "strange" injuries not common for a calf. The injuries appeared to be inflicted puncture wounds in the hide.
- 483 I have some problem areas that coyotes continually move into, not only causing me issues with many young calves, but they are brutal on the pheasants also. I'm a typical farmer with many things going on most all of the time and don't always think about my coyote problem when I would have more time to deal with it myself. I would like to learn some basic trapping skills and wonder if it's possible to have my local wildlife damage specialist come out and help train me to lessen the burden on him? Also, I've heard of people constructing pen traps for catching coyotes? Would you have information on how to design these? I would like to commend [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] for his assistance the past two years. He's been very responsive, very helpful, eager to solve problems hard working and an all reayd great point of contact with the public for your agency. You can be proud of the job he is doing on your team! Thanks for the

- opportunity to share some feedback with you and thank you for continuing this program. It's very important to me and other area producers.
- 487 More people to help with coyote problem. It never gets better, just stops them for a short time than we lose a couple calves again the next year. [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] does an amazing job, just too busy to help.
- 488 More airplane service. Living along [location] River and [location] Creek, hard to hunt. Lots of deer/food! Along with springs, they have plenty of water all winter. I am a personal friend of our state trapper who only lives a few miles from me, that's why I call him if problems come up.
- 490 Get more trappers, it appears they have a big area to cover and would be spread pretty thin.
- 493 Public information of all introduced animals date, location, kind, in 2 newspapers next to released area. Whether federal or state projects.
- 494 Keep in contact with the farmers/ranchers on the progress.
- 506 Get the coyotes
- 511 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] was here. I think he did a very good job. Even caught a lot of raccoons, skunks, and even any more problems with fox or coyotes.
- 514 [RE Contacting GFP] Somewhat difficult. They took corn stalk out of corn field. Traps the beaver out of the crop because they put in at least 3 dams and when water gets high it floods the house. Also it would be nice to have fur prices higher so more people go out and trap.
- 515 I would love to see more aerial hunting for coyotes. They howl year round, but they come into our yard in mid-summer and winter. Also, we upkeep the laws and are constantly tortured by hawks, owls and eagles! If there is anything, like relocating, that you can do, that would help us save at least part of our flocks. Also, if the coyote hunter wants to come back out, he is sure welcome to.
- 516 Have state trappers spend time educating on how to identify predation problems. It might also be helpful to have better funding and a few more trappers in the field and you also need more Game Wardens. [RE Satisfaction] My 1st experience 10-15 yrs ago was poor. I went into GFP office and complained about coyotes to wardens, I did not know you had state trappers. They did not tell me you had trappers. He happened to walk in the door and introduce himself I now deal with him directly. I have fall calving cattle so the coyotes are running as a family & in many cases the entire calf carcass is not found and it's difficult to determine if it was dead before the coyotes found it.
- 520 Coyote problems need to be addressed in the winter. Not waiting till the end of calving season! It seems nothing is done until the larger operations that calves later have problems! It always happens that the state trapper comes around not till April. They help a lot! When they finally get here!

- 521 More assistance needed to control badgers from destroying grass due to the ground beetles they dig up and prairie dog control.
- 523 Our goal is not to eliminate all animals causing damage. When there are too many of any animals in a specific area. it's not a good thing for agricultural producers or the animals themselves. If a population is too large the animals cause damage, may be hungry and are more likely to spread disease. Skunks by the house and coyotes in the corral seem to be out of their appropriate environment. They are bad news for young farm animals and for young children.
- 524 Increase availability of "trappers" and planes to control coyotes prior to actual livestock losses. Those losses can never be recovered once they are gone. This is an ongoing problem every year but yet since funding has been reduced for planes it gets harder to get them to "fly" in a timely manner if ever before losses have occurred. It would also be nice if officers were straightforward and honest about the known and growing occurrence and sighting of mountain lions in the area. No they are not just juvenile males that have been pushed out of the Black Hills when kittens have also been seen on numerous occasions over the recent years.
- 525 The regions or districts you have the trappers in are very large and hard for them to continue patrolling. It seems they only have time for immediate kills and not maintenance. I really think maintenance should become more priority in order to prevent death loss. Great fences have helped us; but there is a continuing threat as we constantly hear coyotes. I know there are budgets but adding 2 - 3 more trappers to the state would help shift some boundaries to allow more thorough investigations in problem areas. If nothing else assign interns to the trappers to do all the surveys and game counts.
- 530 Thanks for the help trapping the badger digging in the banks of our [location] County Bridge.
- 531 If you let the coon hunters coon hunt at night without harassing them. There wouldn't be the coon problem and coyote hunters on snowmobiles are much more effective and costs much less to the tax payer. Then hiring someone to go out with an airplane or expect one good trapper to go out and take care of the problem after its out of hand, and that would give the trapper time to trap my beaver, a little common sense will go a long way. Learn to turn a blind eye. [RE Timely Assistance] at the time it was timely but the beaver are back and I talked to the trapper and he was too busy to do anything, having coyote trouble.
- 532 Winter maintenance on coyotes rather than expecting the trappers to deal with the problems after crops are too big to find the problem and after all the loss has occurred.
- 539 I think you are going a good job.
- 542 Probably quicker on site response.
- 544 Allow more airplane time for coyote control. They are out of control population wise. [RE Timely Response] state trapper only, [RE Updates] mostly when I called and asked. [RE Property Damage] something is digging under the grass in my yard and hay land. What is it?

- 546 We need continued beaver control on Nixon Creek in the immediate area around Faulkton to include Lake Faulkton.
- 547 Need to let trappers work full time trapping not part time. Also, need to let trappers use more aerial hunting to get a head of coyotes before calving season. Problems arise when they get behind on coyote control (can't get caught up) by doing aerial hunting before pupping you get more done than after pupping. With livestock at record prices it's not smart waiting for one plane to show up. Need more planes.
- 551 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] was very thorough. Very effective. Don't know how or know where to set snares, but got the job done. We eliminated over 60 coyotes. Very happy with the job.
- 552 Spend more money and time.
- 553 Somehow keep this program and employees!
- 555 Need to hire qualified trappers not college kids that read about trapping. You have a lot of employees that don't know anything. Not only are coyotes eating every one's livestock.. Also hurting the pheasants and deer. Hardly a pheasant left around my place and I used to winter several hundred. During the winter is the time to kill big numbers of coyotes using airplane. Get these females before pupping. Females with pups on the ground is when I have the biggest problem. Since Game & Fish want to control everything how about controlling your coyotes. [RE Satisfaction] need to fly airplane big time during winter. Services were okay but Game and Fish need to kill coyotes in the winter before female pups. Females with pups (big problem). [RE Livestock Losses] \$7000 - 9000 lost during 2014 getting worse every year. A lot of these hens so lost the nest also. Raccoons & skunk ate up my goose nests eggs mink killed approx 20 call ducks. badger dug in to home coop & killed all young.
- 557 More airplanes to shoot out of. More trappers or maybe more time dedicated to trapping. All and all Game, Fish & Parks does a great job.
- 558 Coyotes are my biggest concern
- 559 More control on coyotes (the number seems to be growing and more aggressive to livestock and or dogs/cats)
- 562 I was extremely satisfied with the results of trapping of coyotes. I don't believe they are a problem anymore, but I lock all my stock up at night to keep them safe. It is a relief to know help is just a phone call away if coyotes are a problem in the future.
- 563 Start flying planes in December and January before guys start calving to thin the population out. No sense in having calf kills to start the planes.
- 565 Keep up the good work and get more coyotes next year.
- 567 Don't give them so many other jobs. So they don't have time to take care of all the animal damage calls.
- 571 I would like assistance for controlling prairie dogs.

- 574 You need more coyote hunting planes
- 576 [RE Property Damage] Our house smells.
- 580 [RE Property Damage] Made holes in silage tarps. Tarps cost \$380 each we bought 3 of the tarps.
- 583 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] does a great job!
- 584 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] does a great job, but my territory is too big. In my opinion we need another trapper to help him out.
- 585 The trapper I got a hold of came, set his trap and got the mink in 2014. Then another mink came in March 2015 and killed a bunch more. I called him in the morning and he said he would get out that day, I was looking out the window at the chicken run about a half hour after I talked to him. There was the mink chasing the chickens again. So I shot him with the shotgun. No problems since then.
- 591 Putting a bounty on animals like skunks, raccoons, and badgers and coyotes.
- 596 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] was exceptional in every way. I can't thank him enough. Living on the [location] Creek, I am overwhelmed with coyotes and he really cut down my problems. My baby calves are very valuable and he took out a major coyote pair plus 2 other adults that were causing havoc among livestock. He is doing an exceptional job and I can't ask for anything more.
- 597 Pay the trapper more! Their job is the most important job that any one in your organization has.
- 605 With the increase in acres of soybeans and more acres of grass and hay land being tore up there are less pheasants - rabbits and other wildlife for coyotes to eat and less acres of bare ground that the coyote has to hunt. They don't have to spend as much time hunting so they concentrate on CRP and what little pasture is left. They are forcing people to confine animals to avoid coyotes killing on pastures.
- 613 Very much appreciated the help we received. Currently one or two badgers are making plenty of holes in one of our fields and we don't know how to stop that.
- 615 I think they do a good job, but I think they should be allowed to do more time on damage control.
- 616 I asked for prairie dog elimination on GFP land adjacent to ours. The dogs didn't get eliminated because the trapper ran out of time. This spring he went down and poisoned them, but just over the hill were more dogs. Trapper said his supervisor would not let him poison them. Some of them were only a few yards from our land. It would seem that could be called the same prairie dog town. They will be back over the hill soon and we will be in the same situation. I like the trapper. He is friendly and a "standup guy" but it sounds like his hands were tired.
- 619 They were very helpful!

- 624 Need to fly on a regular basis for coyotes
- 625 The year that the GFP flew to control coyotes we had a marked decrease in the damage and sighting of coyotes, but it didn't take long for the numbers to rebound. One of the first things to disappear was our pheasants. If this state is really wanting to rebuild its pheasant numbers it needs to start a statewide predator control program. We have a large block of land with not much hunting, plenty of nesting places and cover. Very little chemical use and plenty of feed and water since our coyote numbers are up our pheasants are almost totally gone. The Governor can have all the meetings he wants but the problem is one word predators. Thank you for helping.
- 629 [RE Timely Response & Timely Assistance] Maybe somewhat
- 634 Put an airplane out and fly this big territory when last nice snow comes so you can see these coyotes.
- 644 [RE Livestock Losses Number] They take them so it is hard to know.
- 645 Great job
- 646 Started to trap coyotes and got a few of them but as you know was limited to stay with trapping in my area due to other problem areas. Need more help trapping and getting coyote population down so pheasants can flourish. More cover would help the most or have a bounty so public can help with predator control! Need to ease up on raccoon laws so it allows the public to hunt coons at night. Very little deer poaching going on like it used to be with cell phones and people moving around in general most neighbors are watching.
- 651 Kudos to the trappers, they provide an invaluable service to us producers when we need an extra hand in these matters.
- 655 They need less paperwork so they can do what they do best.
- 656 Have planes fly more for coyotes they are going to take over this country. We have too many coons, skunks, and coyotes.
- 657 Control the Geese
- 658 More state trappers
- 660 I really appreciate what you have done and try and do to control the coyote trouble I have. [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] did a super job in trying and get the airplane out here if anything I could see that would be better is to have more airplane time, but he did all he could. I would like to see a bounty put back on the coyotes that held them down in the 40's & 50's. My calf loss was 3 calves. I guess I was lucky.
- 663 [RE Property Damage] the yard and grass and possibly in future the pipes between the house and septic tanks could fall apart as badgers dug under the pipes and there are badger holes in the field across the road damages crops.
- 665 Allow more time during the winter to fly for coyotes.

- 669 Coyote problems need to be addressed before spring calving/lambing season begins. We hear coyotes all year long and would like to see some type of control throughout the year.
- 670 More plane hours in Jan., Feb., March, April to beat these coyotes down. I live in [location] County and am a sheep producer. Although [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] does a great job, there is only so much he can do. If they don't fly hard during Jan, Feb, March, April then I have a lot more trouble come summer!
- 673 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] did an excellent job. There needs to be more planes available to these trappers to control the coyotes. The numbers are on the rise in our area. [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] does the best he can do with the amount of time he has. When the coyotes are killing livestock it has a big impact on our bottom line. All the fees keep going up on state parks, hunting and fishing; never hear that any of the increase is being funneled into the animal control sector. Need to implement a program like the bounty that was on predatory animals when I was a kid. It seems like the problem is always a temporary fix, then they come back. I've seen good success with the plane. I commend [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist], he does a great job.
- 675 Our state trapper does a very good job, for the time he is permitted. Most people do not realize what a problem the coyotes are getting to be. We sell calves that bring up to \$50,000. It is quite a loss when the coyotes get one of our better calves. Someone needs to listen to the suggestions of the trappers for a solution. Again [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] does a very good job but has too much to do.
- 677 I wish he could dedicate more time to the coyote population. There are many of them & I alone have \$8000 loss each year due to calf kills. My neighbor loses calves and lambs to coyotes figuring \$12,000 loss average per year. Coyote population is an economic hardship to farmers and ranchers.
- 681 Sure would be nice if we could get the number of coyotes under control.
- 691 I understand everyone is busy - finally met the officer where the fox were at. I was never contacted again to see if he found anything. Ended up trapping and putting snares by my place and got three. And I know chickens are not as important as larger animals but when the fox are in the town in people's yard something needed to be done. I'm sure there will be several around again this year.
- 695 Convince Fish & Wildlife to allow more extensive control of predators.
- 702 The raccoons destroy our corn in the fields. I don't think it would hurt if the people hunting them at night could hunt until at least midnight or longer because I know it has not stopped the poachers in our area because I found a deer and reported it to GFP.
- 705 Use the airplanes for more coyote control.
- 707 I would like to see more of a preventive maintenance approach to coyote control. Instead of waiting until there is a problem I farm and run cattle and also move hay with a tractor stack mover 1800 hours a year so I get to see a lot of coyotes and can see their numbers building in Historic problem areas and every time it is only a matter of time until someone has problems in that area and then I see [the trapper] in our area and I notice

a definite drop in the amount of signs and tracks in the area. I know that coyotes are fast learning and think more of a presence by state trappers would help keep up with coyotes in these historic problem areas because when you have a problem the whole pack has already learned the new bad habit and trappers help to keep them in line so let them do that instead of waiting for a problem. The trappers are smart and know these areas have problems every year. Just having them check these areas would let people see they are doing their jobs and make them more appreciative of the trappers.

- 709 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] is very easy to work with. Very good and accurate at what he does. Really know what he is talking about and very educated. Have learned extremely a lot from this gentleman. He has really saved our calves this year. He has been amazing. Very quick at responding when you reach him with a problem. Has always stopped and explained what he was doing and what he has seen and patterns or trails he finds. Then he reports back to you and lets you know the outcome when he returns. Could not ask for a better State Trapper and anybody you talk with always has positive things to say about him. Really enjoy him being our State Trapper, Couldn't Ask for a better person. Our Coyotes, Raccoon, and Skunk population is really hard on our pheasant population. Really need to look harder at extermination of these pests rather than habitat. In the 1930 & 40's we had very few predator and/or habitat and a lot of pheasants.
- 714 We hope you appreciate the job that [the trapper] does. He is always extremely helpful, responds quickly and does a great job for us with predator control specifically coyotes.
- 718 We need coyote control from the air to cut the population back. Deer (whitetail) continue to harvest more than their fair share...from my view...still too many.
- 722 Can tell the trapper is over-extended.
- 724 We appreciate [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] help with controlling coyotes.
- 726 Emailing surveys is a simple and cost effective. I always received email but often times mailings get thrown in the trash.
- 728 They should trap a few beaver every other year to keep them under control. I feel we would not have to call with a major problem then.
- 729 Keep up the good work
- 737 [RE Satisfaction] I never heard from the Department after they were there? [RE Difficulty contacting GFP] Used Edmonds County Animal Control
- 741 There has been no damage. One of your trappers has done an on-going coyote control during the 13 - 14 years due to neighbors' complaints.
- 745 Make it easier to contact the representative. Hard to contact. Takes too long to get a representative out to help the problem. Did good job when they are there may need more help.
- 757 I received good control for coyotes, would like to have some badger control for the holes they make and this damages equipment.

- 758 Control coyote problem prior to calving - be proactive
- 763 State trappers listen and know exactly what to do.
- 767 Get planes to kill coyotes there are way too many of them yet.
- 771 Continue trapping and poisoning of coyotes. They are a massive problem in NE SD.
- 773 Hard to put a price on things.
- 778 The pilot that we have in [location] County does a very good job on the coyotes in this area. We need to keep this plane in the air as much as we can if we do not keep the coyotes numbers down it's bad for wildlife, livestock, and people.
- 783 [RE Beaver Damage] Too many number of trees
- 787 [RE Livestock Losses] some lambs, some ewes
- 789 Thank you for your assistance.
- 792 Keep up the great job.
- 793 More planes to hunt coyotes [RE Difficulty Contacting GFP] When I called they never answered, never returned a call. [RE Livestock Losses] 1 Calf each year for 3 years.
- 800 Deer damage to trees - thousands in damages. Explain: when a deer damages my property, it's considered my deer. If I shoot the deer for damaging my property, then it's your deer.
- 801 Very good job. Not farming anymore thanks for your help.
- 805 You people have to manage your grassland far better than what you are doing? Also, control the coyotes. Must be the number one problem in McPhearson County! Let's do more airplane hunting.
- 811 We have too many deer, coyotes, pheasants, and mountain lions
- 814 Your questionnaire on animal control. Our problem was a chain of beaver 4 beaver dams located on a spring fed creek. The beaver were getting over industrious. They had decimated all the trees in a one mile stretch and were threatening a grove of our trees approximately 400 yards from a beaver dam. [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] was called about 4 weeks from the call he arrived and trapped out the colonies. Thank you. Our only question is that we were refused a permit to shoot any beaver in the 30 days prior to the trapper's arrival. We only wanted to protect the 8.5 acres of trees. (We received no cost share on the trees; therefore we were trying to protect an \$8500 investment.)
- 815 We need to have more deer taken out of our area!
- 821 1. More deer licenses to save on cars and fences. 2. More control on fox and coyotes for our millions in pheasant industries income.

- 822 Convince my idiot farming neighbors to leave more wildlife cover so it doesn't all congregate at my place and good luck on that! [RE Difficulty Contacting GFP] only because I knew who to contact and where. Otherwise is difficult. [RE Beaver Damage] not certain count but finished off all larger trees on property. [Additional Comment] I think they do a good job with what they have. I also have some deer damage most years to trees and garden. Sweaty t-shirts help keep out of garden but tree damage can get costly and you guys frown on effective control when damage is mostly being caused.
- 828 There are far too many deer in the area. Herds of up to 200 in the winter consume winter forage. I am also concerned about the ticks that are carried by deer.
- 829 We did not request any help other than a hawk with a broken wing. The Game Warden was very helpful and courteous.
- 830 I have no suggestions on improving the service of helping control the coyotes in area, but to please continue the service. It is very helpful in controlling the over population of the coyote in our area.
- 833 [RE Property Damage] Just large holes all over nothing that I couldn't fix myself.
- 842 Fly more
- 843 My wildlife damage specialist is wonderful. He is here when needed and is always informative and pleasant to work with. I understand funding can be short, but the territory he covers is huge. I imagine that is true for all the specialists there are too few of them and so many miles. The GFP needs to "find" more funding to add 1 or 2 more people. With the price of livestock, a per head assessment like WY/MT might help. \$.25 or \$.50 is cheap to insure a \$1000 & calf to reach market.
- 844 Through the Game, Fish, & Parks I have borrowed live traps throughout the years aiding in the capture of many skunks and etc. the most recent capture a week ago Thursday with the capture of a raccoon and was trying for the skunk that was in my yard.
- 847 [RE Beaver Damage] It was hold up water from trees down in the ditch and it holds water on ground
- 849 [RE Beaver Damage] Unknown number of trees and small amount of crops.
- 851 Coyote population I'd like to see controlled more. I hear them and I'm sure they are patrolling my mares and foals. I'm afraid for my dogs as well. The coyotes spook my horses and I'm sure chase them. I've had colts injured and sometimes results in being unable to get a good price. Lowers their value.
- 860 In McPherson County there is a Canada Goose problem, they eat the wheat off as it emerges from the ground. Please start an early hunting season.
- 866 The coyotes need to be controlled. Let the snowmobile people take some out. If this is permitted they must let GFP know when they will be doing it and who. This way GFP can monitor it so no other species are harassed. They need to be thinned out. It's a great idea now explore the suggestion. Benefits include: no cost to GFP, increase pheasant population, reduced complaints from livestock people and increased deer population

which generates a lot of money in license fees. It is a no brainer. I have seen coyotes take down 3 deer in the last 2 winters, not a pretty sight. They have learned to hunt in packs just like wolves. Nobody asks us livestock people how traumatic a kill is. GFP needs to stop and visit with people instead of just driving by, get some common sense ideas, not always from some specialist.

- 869 I feel sorry for your trappers. They are spread way too thin for the area they have to cover. Your trappers do an excellent job responding to their complaints. Whatever you pay your trappers it isn't enough. [[GFP Wildlife Damage Specialists] are rock stars!
- 871 Change the East River deer antlerless season to only four days opening December 28 and ending December 31st. This would reduce the stress on the deer herd from hunting in the historically coldest weather of winter and most importantly allow earlier aerial hunting of coyotes without disturbing deer hunters.
- 889 To improve AD we have to get rid of some of these deer. There are way too many of them they cause a lot of damage. I did not call to have anything done but was told they flew over and shot coyotes and that is good.
- 893 The contact I made with [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] 2 years ago was with beaver damage on state property (we live on a lake). Trees were being damaged by beavers and I did not want them to move onto my property. About 5 years ago 2 beavers came onto my property and cut down a tree. The trapper came and over several days captured (and eliminated) both beavers. He did a good job. If you live on a lake you can generally expect to be bothered by beavers. I think the trappers are doing a good job. The only thing you can do is respond rapidly to the report and eliminate them so they don't continue damage in that area.
- 895 Once I got the tappers phone number it was easy.
- 897 I don't remember asking for assistance of any kind. If you would like putting a fence around our yard so the deer can't eat my wife's flowers off around our house that would make my wife happy. We have lost trees, garden, flowers & shrubs around our yard.
- 898 The pilot you are using for aerial control of coyotes is doing a great job.
- 910 I am currently contributing to the Campbell County predator control district for coyote control the state needs to help with funds in this area.
- 911 Just to let a person know when flying and the amount of coyotes taken not that it's a big deal but it's nice to know if it's working.
- 915 Cut down the deer population please, they damage gardens and fence and they are a danger on the road.
- 917 I was very satisfied.
- 919 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] was extremely easy to work with and was very helpful. It's great to have this service and individuals to help farmers with controlling predators!

- 921 GFP needs to get out and visit with the landowners I have not had any calf losses due to coyotes recently but their presence during calving is very evident. The disposition of my cows is greatly affected by coyotes and makes tagging calves very dangerous at times. Although I enjoy having deer around and have the habitat for deer, they have destroyed my black walnut trees. Technical assistance in providing relief for tree destruction would be appreciated. Planting trees is expensive.
- 923 Keep up the good work!
- 925 GFP could do more coyote control if funding allows. These are becoming very prominent and causing damage and death with baby calves and sheep in our area.
- 928 I am a cattle producer in [location] County. I have been at this for 50+ years and coyotes have always been a problem. Coyote numbers have been on the increase the past 10 years. I am also a participant in the [location] County Predator District. I have worked with [GFP Staff names removed] multiple times. These are the guys that make predator control work in my area.
- 931 Better control of coyotes. Seems to be a growing number of coyotes in our area.
- 941 McPherson County landowners started a predator control district to provide coyote control by air harvesting of coyotes in the winter. It worked very well.
- 949 Get rid of the coyotes. The geese are causing way too much damage. Way too many skunks at night. Why can't they pay for damage? They got all kinds of money to buy more and more land and don't know who to control it. There are more geese this year than there ever where. Get rid of them.
- 950 Our trapper always stops in when we want to set things up. We need way more control on coyotes and geese, and our deer problem is so bad we can't drive at night. Beaver are some better. We lost almost 100 trees. No 1 you need to get rid of the deer, geese, and the fields are so full of geese so what is the use of seeding when the geese eat. We sit here with all the damage and can't get paid for it. I mean it is wrong. Coyotes, they are so bad here they have noise and the coyotes are too many. We have to keep them in corrals our cows because when they come to corrals the cows stay together, they are bad here. You need a lot more work that was not the years ago when the cows in the pasture we had dead cows, dead calves a lot and never got one darn dollar for all our losses.
- 960 Start pheasants season a week earlier. Have the pheasant season end the first Sunday in December. Cut the daily bag limit to 2 birds a day. Let farmers rent GFP land on 1/3 or 2/3 share. Leaving the GFP share stand as food plots. Do something on predator control a) bounty b) get planes in the air and shoot fox and coyotes. Let snowmobilers shoot from a snowmobile. C) let hunters use artificial light to kill raccoons. Allow CRP to be cut for hay. 25% or 33.3% each year. Reduce the payment by 20% on hayed acres.
- 963 [RE Timely Response] was told will be 3 weeks before they can even see us! [RE Assistance Explanation] They put the pile of their short stop feed beside our feed. They were not doing what they said they would. [RE Problem Solution] The herd needed to be broken up into smaller herds. There was a food plot on the other side of the creek. They should have chased them there. [RE Losses] 4 - 6 aborted deer (not a predator) hay,

silage, cracked corn. They destroyed piled cattle food by pooping and pee on it! Sick deer where dying in our deer area. \$10,000 They scheduled a depravation hunt and right before the hunt they feed them out of range for hunters. We had 3 hunters come and they got none. We had a muzzle hunter come and he got his one with his own tag. They were walking up following the snowmobile tracks made by feeding them from the location. It was a winter with lots of snow. We only have trouble when it is a closed winter and snow is heavy. The herd was large and needed to be broken up this year the herd was not as large. Offered us panels but oops we do not have any? GFP wanted us to put up a fence in the middle of winter WTF? The trapper GFP rep was very nice. It seemed his hands were tied?

965 Fly all winter for coyotes

967 I would like to thank the pilot who flies and [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] for letting this happen. Coyotes can be a problem if not controlled. Pheasants, small animals such as pets which we have had to put a dog down in the past also because of a pack. Not to mention the livelihood of 7 to 8 hundred dollar calves.

976 Need to have the plane up more. Coyote numbers are very high. Local state trapper should be working the situation a little harder.

979 They said they would fly and report back to me.

981 Keep flying the planes.

984 Please find the enclosed map identifying beaver tree damage in our area. Do trust this map help with resolution to this important condition.

987 Have a big problem with damage from Canadian Geese eating off soybeans and wheat. Not sure if this is a federal or state concern.

989 The credibility of the SD GFP was diminished when Loyaltan Lake was drained and unwanted species are being brought into this area.

990 Eradicate badgers. No Till crop fields are littered with clusters of 5 to 8 big holes and many single holes. Even dual wheeled equipment falls in

996 The Canadian geese are big, big problem on this farm. They destroyed about 20 acres of soybeans for us. How about doing something about that for us.

997 More coyote control. Fly more often, not just when there is loss of animals on the farm.

999 In this area the bad years are the biggest problem. They seldom are seen because they travel at night. They come on to a pheasant nest eat the whole family. We broke an axle on a combine by falling through the large hole they dug. GFP does a good job with the coyotes but they are always back with new pups the next year. I'm 88 years old and in good health but I have muscular degeneration so I write very poorly. I love nature's wildlife as long as they don't harm us. I have a10 acres of corn every year since 1985 plus 20 acres of trees.

- 1000 Badgers are getting to be a real problem with all the holes they are creating. I don't know how you would calculate the cost of damage from their holes everywhere. I believe it is good to have some around in order to keep the gopher population down, but the holes can be hard to deal with. I don't expect a solution or answer to this problem, but just wanted to make known what we are dealing with.
- 1010 Fly more! So that more predators can be shot! Kill more mountain lions!
- 1013 [RE Beaver Damage] Damage to dam grade as well.
- 1026 First thing is to realize the problem with the population of the coyotes and deer. Problem with coyotes is very rare that they kill calves but the constant stress that they put on the cows and calves. In the spring when we are calving they constantly harass the cows. Then when we ween in the fall they come in the yard and spook my weened calves. They said they would fly a plane and shoot them, I'm not sure if they did or not. The problem never went away. We also have a bad deer problem. They come up every night and eat our feed. It's dangerous to drive because they are on the roads so much. Doesn't matter what time of day it is. I do realize some landowners are a problem by not allowing hunting on their property. As soon as hunting starts the deer goes to the no hunting property. Then in the spring they disperse and everyone has to deal with them damaging vehicles and property. What they did in SF area was a brilliant idea by shooting some to thin the herd. I think it would be a better idea to thin the herds and give to the needy rather than property being destroyed by the deer.
- 1033 Need to promote other counties to start their own predator district for animal damage control. That would give local input for information, funding, and acceptance. GFP should help by providing knowledge, technical help and grant money. Rather than doing it all themselves, GFP should work with the farmers so they could help themselves.
- 1038 [RE Species] Canada Geese
- 1039 In years 2014, 2012, 2010 etc. geese eat off about 3 to 5 acres of sb. Figure about 30 bushels lost each year x \$10 to 13 per acre equal a very big loss. Most everything they tried did not get the geese to leave. I cannot afford this please do something about this to eliminate this problem. [RE Property Damage] about 3 acres of corn 0 yield field surveyed 156 bushel destroyed mostly from raccoon. They offered me that I could get a permit to shoot them, but I am not a good shot and I don't have time to keep trying to shoot the geese. I asked if I could have somebody else shoot them for me 1 or 2 other people and they told me no! I think they should let me do whatever it takes to get rid of these geese or pay me for the damage they cause, because they stay here all spring, summer, and have their babies and then the next year the old geese and all the new geese come back and have more babies; so the number just keeps growing and so does the amount of damage they do each year. They tried putting up electric fence and put up post with eagle or hawks or something shooting at them catching them and tagging them all the things didn't get rid of the geese. I cannot afford this and if you were farming here I don't think you could afford this financial loss either.
- 1057 [GFP Wildlife Specialist] has been our contact for several years now. He and his team have done an excellent job. The airplane hunters have gotten 15-20+ each year. I hired a professional hunter (retired GFP) to trap in November 2 years ago with limited success

- (2 coyotes) so they must move into my calving area only in calving season. Thanks for the help, very worthwhile and needed program.
- 1063 This survey process could be made simpler by putting this online. Service was very good though!
- 1067 Put your trapper on full time!
- 1071 [RE Beaver Damage] government plugged culverts
- 1078 Better plane service. The trapper needs to do more maintenance and not wait till there is a problem. More contact between trapper & rancher.
- 1085 Would be nice to have more follow-up with the state trapper and with the airplane for the control of coyotes.
- 1088 A man on the ground for a day or two won't solve any coyotes problems - an airplane will.
- 1093 More aerial support to control coyotes. The grasslands of Ft. Pierre needs aerial support because of the travel management has limited access for hunters and with a lot of grass cover makes excellent cover for breeding and hiding area.
- 1103 Limited GFP resources for coyote control has caused an explosion of the coyote population. This has caused a major decrease in mule deer population and bird population. I would recommend a minimum of 2 airplane controlled huts for coyotes. One in early winter and another in late February. Your mid-April flight was poor timing. Midday the coyotes were denned up. Your 3 mile radius and 2 year time frame are too limiting to be effective. Your flight time for locating collard mule deer seems to be 5-10 times the amount of coyote control. This is ridiculous. Kill the coyotes and you won't need to wonder why there is a decline in deer population. You are wasting good money.
- 1104 No contact
- 1107 We have a significant coyote problem not only with cattle but with our deer population. The mule deer population in our area is drastically reduced. If and when we do our deer counts it's not uncommon to see the majority of adult does without fawns. We can't contribute 100% at this to coyotes but it's reasonable to say that they cause a significant impact on the fawn population. If this trend continues the mule deer population could and will be in danger. If hunting revenue is an issue, I would suggest a coyote control program over an extended period.
- 1112 [RE Livestock Losses] Some calves
- 1119 Not happy with being required to have a confirmed loss before assistance can be requested. This costs us a lot of money and we are capable of determining when we are going to have a potential problem and possibly minimize the threat before we incur significant losses.
- 1124 Still have problems on the prairie dogs.

- 1130 More prairie dog control with poison. This isn't the old day with cheap land. Land costs a lot, cattle cost a lot to raise. Prairie dogs get very expensive. Coyote control works by GFP's but need to influence more hunters to hunt them. Coyotes are very hard on calves and other wild game. Native prairie grass can't be replaced so let's take care of the grass and loose the prairie dogs.
- 1140 When I made contact with [GFP trapper] he just laughed about it. So I made direct contact with USDA wildlife services and they flew the area killing 15 coyotes.
- 1143 Help me kill the prairie dogs. The town is getting bigger and going to my barn and hay field. This is not good.
- 1144 My initial call to the GFP got me nowhere. It wasn't until I contacted [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] and my problem was addressed. He understood my concerns and promptly got the ball rolling to assist me. I understand you get a lot of requests for assistance but to be totally stonewalled on that first call was very rude and unprofessional. I hope you do not treat everyone in this manner.
- 1148 Allow for more control of coyotes through airplanes. The coyote population is way too high. We have lost several calves over the past ten years. I feel there needs to be a bounty on coyotes again.
- 1150 Need to have plane be able to fly over land that produces coyote pups that cause problems. 2 neighbors would not let plane spot coyotes dens on their property by flying over.
- 1152 [RE Property Damage] damage was to silage bags. Loss would be hard to estimate.
- 1154 [RE Beaver Damage] Dam may give out 2 quite large dens in grade seeping dam grade.
- 1155 Coyotes are an ongoing problem almost every year. We run cattle on two of our 3 farms and they cause us loss of calves. The [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] was excellent in immediately responding to our needs. Prairie dogs are also a problem for many including us. We constantly spend money trying to keep them from expanding.
- 1156 Put the damage control services (especially the airplane in the air) before calving seasons. They don't get started causing trouble. Don't wait until they have started killing!
- 1157 Overall a good job.
- 1167 I do feel that the department does a good job.
- 1168 Keep an ad in the profit with a phone number to contact.
- 1170 Great program helps out tremendously. That's the kind of job I need.
- 1175 ADC was contacted to work on a coyote problem. There are too many trees in this area for the state plane to be effective.
- 1184 You need more planes for coyote control and they need to come to aid of the ranchers sooner. You people think you own the wild animals, if you do you need to control them

- before they do damage. Yes, we lost 1 calf in 2015 to coyotes but in our little herd that adds up to a lot. You may not think so but we do. I don't appreciate you not doing anything until we have damage. When I ask for help they say we can't help until we have trouble, then it is too late. I don't expect that every coyote is killed because I know that won't happen. It would be nice to get a call or hear from someone after control is done.
- 1189 We need more than 1 airplane for coyote control for the whole state. Maintain areas that historically have a large number of coyotes/kill problems instead of waiting until there is a calf/sheep kill. The problem is so out of control by then, the producers usually loses more animals before the trappers and plane can effectively control it. It is a lot more work for the trappers and usually under more difficult conditions due to heavy foliage. Fly before the coyotes den and produce more; before the trees leaf out; and the grass on the creeks is armpit high. Even using a dog, it is extremely difficult to see when the cover is so thick. More qualified trappers for West River to cut down on travel time and work overland. More qualified guidance for young trappers who are moving to a new area. Better public relations and one on one communication with county commissions before they vote not to pay their ADC money to you from property taxes they have collected. Notify people when new trapper is assigned to area and put his name and phone number into the local newspapers so residents having ADC issues know who to contact.
- 1195 Now in 2015 we are trying to contact the trapper. We are losing geese and one baby calf. We think problem is coyotes and possibly mink on 2 geese. We have called office and cell number, no return call yet. Will try again later.
- 1203 We've had 2 different trappers out and both times the conditions in [location] terminated trapping. It is difficult to know who to call. If the name and phone number of the trappers could be in the local papers, it would be helpful.
- 1204 Trappers need to have a qualified mentor when they start (no one in leadership or supervision has any ADC experience.) Trappers need to be at least 80% ADC work *currently there is no time for maintenance work, so they just run from killing complaint to killing complaint). Used to be 19 trappers and 1 director who also supervised the trappers and we had a pretty successful program. Now we have 27 trappers and regional supervision and 1/2 time director and we're worse off now. What happened to the \$300,000 increase the program received recently? A full time director with ADC experience would have been a great place for those funds! How are you tracking those funds to make sure you're accountable for them? The program was sure to fail when you mix regional supervision with poor leadership and no ADC experience above the trappers.
- 1213 Need plane for flyover kill of coyotes.
- 1215 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] was good, keep him happy! He does great work.
- 1221 The coyote population is out of hand. The plane is over worked and a band aid on a bigger problem. The snowmobile is a very effective way to control predators. The laws should promote snowmobile hunting.
- 1224 [RE Property Damage] just tore things up in shed digging under building and on roof. I would like to see a bounty or some reward to hunters. Then people would shoot them. With the cost of gas no one hunts them anymore. If they got something for the coyote

- that would give them incentive to spend their gas and time. Maybe fly the plane more often. Raccoon are beginning to be a problem.
- 1225 Keep hunting coyotes use plane often.
- 1229 I feel the only way to control coyotes is by airplane. Was told no plane available. Trapped for about 2 weeks and left still have coyotes all around. The only way to help this is with airplane was told no planes around, someone told me different.
- 1231 Real feedback instead of inflated numbers
- 1240 I had lost calves in 2012 and that's why I had the trapper out in 2013. I then lost no calves from coyotes in 2013. He caught several coyotes that were working my calving pasture.
- 1241 [RE Problem Solution] I don't know they never reported back but I didn't have coyotes in my yard. [RE Losses] killed cats right in my yard and chased my little dog into the house.
- 1245 State trapper trapped beaver and caught all the beaver eventually. Just took time to get him here. By the time he got here most of the trees were gone. After he got here he did get them trapped.
- 1247 This season (2015) we have lost a total of 6 calves due to coyote. They are terrible thick in South [location] County and wish that control could be more so than what it is. Even after the trapper had been here we lost 3 more calves.
- 1260 We were very satisfied with the prompt way in which the GFP officer came to our assistance.
- 1261 Keep up the good work.
- 1269 I think there needs to be one supervisor for all WDSs. This individual needs to have knowledge and experience in all animal damage control methods. He should be expected to have a ride along with each WDS so he can see how well they are doing their jobs and the problems they encounter so they can do their jobs as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- 1271 Don't be afraid to give your trappers the tools that they need not what you think they need. All trappers are good in their own way but not all use the same equipment, but have their own unique way of doing the same job. So listen to their needs
- 1273 more time for maintenance
- 1277 We are very happy with [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist]. He is prompt he visits with us to explain what he will do and he returns to let us know how it all turned out or else he calls to inform us of what he did and how many animals he got.
- 1279 Make the trappers contact information more available. It is top down management the sentiment of "we are here helping you", but they do not know what we want. Too many supervisors, the supervisors need to be in the field more. Whoever manages the trappers needs ADC experience. Arrogant and condescending attitude from the Pierre

- office, needs to be corrected. Top needs some training on how to treat people with more respect or fired. Keep records of reported livestock losses, and make those numbers available to the general public not just the verified losses.
- 1280 Like to see newspaper articles. I do hear good reports from neighbors about how our local officer has been very effective in dealing with problems. Would like to see him offer a class for furbearing animals, and ways local landowners could be more helpful to him in his job (relationship building). Winter coffee & cookies, share some stories statistical data, updates on programs available. Cost share, walk in etc. [RE Difficulty Contacting GFP phone system had not been updated
- 1283 [RE Livestock Losses] trappers and callers seem to have the numbers in check for now. [Additional Comments] The trappers do a great job but in visiting with them they put in more hours than they are allowed possibly they need smaller territories to be responsible for. They seem to do as much as possible to prevent predator damage whether on the clock or not. They are very dedicated. We appreciate their efforts.
- 1284 coyote problem kept getting bigger put me out of sheep
- 1285 [RE Property Damage] damage feed bags and corn. I trapped the raccoon myself!
- 1290 Do not schedule meetings that trappers are required to attend during the time that coyotes are denning. The past 2 years my trapper was unavailable when I had dens located because he was attending meetings. Schedule them in the winter! Give them more equipment to work with my trapper doesn't have enough beaver traps. Try to lessen the paper work. These people are trappers and hunters, not secretaries. Provide the trappers with 4 wheelers that have power steering. They are much more forgiving on the body. I would like to say that the trappers that have helped me with advice and services are very good at what they do.
- 1291 Living in [location] County SD on an Indian Reservation, predator and prairie dog control is essentially nonexistent. It is hard to understand why the SDGFP gave up on aerial control of coyotes. Furthermore, I don't understand why a producer in SD must have confirmed death loss before control measures can be undertaken. Apparently the SDGFP can spend millions on a visitors' center and hire more employees to work there but can't maintain an aerial control program. Once again I would like to thank [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist], the officer who assisted me.
- 1293 You have a good young man working in the [location] area. Thank you!
- 1296 We were very pleased with the amazing job that [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] provided us. He kept on the coyotes and we didn't lose anymore calves after he started working on them.
- 1298 More aerial hunting of predators. Explain the difference between coyote and mt. lion kills. More access to bait for prairie dogs. Better regulations of out of state hunters. [RE Livestock Losses] - 90% number of lambs, 90% number of ewes
- 1299 Question what is anything is possible on deer control by means of fencing our time costs. I presently have to put fences around individual apple trees when they are planted

- out. This has been going on since 1996. I'd like to put an 8 ft angled deer fence around orchard, but in stages. Is there some cost sharing possible.
- 1304 Have plane fly more often to control coyotes.
- 1305 We try to live in synch with the wildlife around us. The problems occur when coyotes start killing our live newborn calves. Those calves are our livelihood out of registered breeding stock. We appreciate all the help we have received in controlling the "rogues." Please continue to support aerial hunting and trapping to attempt to control the number of predators in our area.
- 1306 Provide more funding for aerial control of coyotes
- 1309 You need to do something with the coyote population (put the plane in the air!) or you're going to lose your other wildlife like the deer & birds. The coyotes are getting to be a real problem for ranchers.
- 1311 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] kept us in the sheep business the last 2 years. A coyote plane 2 a month would sure do a lot of good. Otherwise not only our livestock is at risk, but little deer and antelope won't be around very long.
- 1312 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] does an excellent job, but GFP has his hand tired so he can't do his job like he knows it should be done. We need a plane available to control coyotes threw most of the winter and the spring.
- 1315 There needs to be more aerial hunting to thin coyotes out to reduce the number of coyotes. We have a problem event w/8 working dogs. The coyotes #'s were so large they would wipe the dogs out. Now the target has become cow/calf pairs so there is a definite need for greater/increased damage control.
- 1316 Keep the local trappers in service and use the aerial service as needed.
- 1319 Get planes here and get a few thousand coyote's also prairie dogs.
- 1322 [RE Livestock Loss] Maybe one/hard to determine which happened first. Coyotes bunch up and harass cows during calving but no loss to death. Our local animal control is excellent. He does a responsive job of helping control coyotes. They are a huge problem in my area. The trapper shot nearly 160 coyotes in three mornings in a 20 square mile area. They disrupt livestock at calving and lambing season. I appreciate the assistance.
- 1323 keep the trapper we have now. [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] does a good job. It is a recurring problem with coyotes.
- 1324 more planes to control coyotes.
- 1325 We received a grant to purchase panels to keep feed and hay away from deer.
- 1326 I think they should return in a day or 2 to see if some were missed
- 1327 Yes, if it would be possible to find trappers like [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist], I believe you would have no complaints - only happy, happy people. I cannot say enough!

He came immediately and was very effective. He is personally kind and courteous. Both trappers before him were also excellent, we could not be more satisfied with your service.

- 1333 Our specialists need more hours to do the work with all the coyotes and other predators with all the area they have to cover. It's too much windshield time. Could use more airplane help.
- 1337 Do more work/control on prairie dogs.
- 1340 Keep the program! Coyote numbers are increasing, they are becoming a problem. GFP needs to fly more.
- 1343 Keep trying, it's a never ending battle.
- 1345 Would appreciate help in controlling prairie dogs. I feel we have too many hawks. Hawks are really tuff on game birds and jack rabbits. I rarely see a jack rabbit but hawks very numerous. I think it is time to quit protecting the hawks. [RE Property Damage] 613 acres of prairie dogs.
- 1350 It is difficult to determine dollar damage with raccoons getting into feed, badgers digging holes in grain fields and prairie dogs damaging pastures. These along with skunks, beaver, and muskrats are always going to be a problem. I believe that in most cases the landowners accept that challenge and for the most part attempt to control these varmints themselves. The real problem is coyotes. GF&P's policy that there must be a "kill" before anyone can respond is misplaced. We used to have sheep and had so many lambs killed that we were forced out of the business (the coyotes won). Consider that a calf sold for approximately\$1500 last fall; if the producer had to suffer that initial loss before they could call/receive assistance from GF&P, that is a very expensive price to pay. If other small businesses would have to sacrifice that kind of loss. It would be devastating to them also (police patrol & make their presence known to discourage theft). I have also noticed very few baby deer and antelope the last few years, I suspect that the coyotes are hurting their populations too.
- 1353 The state plane is really hard to get in our area. This year the plane was designated to our area for one day. On that day the wind blew, so he could fly only about one hour. We haven't seen him since. Our coyote population isn't getting any smaller. Every year it seems to get worse. WE had more calf kills by coyotes this year than usual that tells me population is growing more and more. It never used to be an issue with our cattle, but is getting a lot worse. We need the plane more available for our area. Prairie dogs have always been a problem for us. We poison every year and new towns still popup. What really hurts us is the fact that the government pastures have no or very little control. Prairie Dogs leave and travel for miles to start new towns. You need to do something to keep them in check in the government pastures.
- 1356 Have more fly over and shoot coyotes
- 1357 with the coyote problem there should be more done to prevent coyote losses then waiting for them to happen.
- 1359 coyotes are the problem

- 1361 More damage specialists. Get the reservations to control their coyotes. We are 5 miles from the reservation coyote factory. There is no reason for having all these coyotes in the first place. There is no place for them in our ecosystem anyway. The geese, ducks, grouse, and small birds are being depleted around our ranch. Coyotes, wolves, & mountain lions are on our crap list around here get rid of them!
- 1363 Prairie dogs continue to be a problem. I have to eradicate some small colonies every year but the next year they move back in. the wet year in 2014 really boosted the numbers. I am near both the Standing Rock Reservation and National Grasslands so both the coyotes and prairie dogs often multiply in those areas. The biggest issue is maintaining a state trapper in Perkins County.
- 1365 I would like to a follow up call after they are done. Instead I finally contacted the damage control officer several months after he had been here.
- 1367 Need more man hours so they can do maintenance snares and traps etc. They are so busy, there is no time for this.
- 1368 In my area there is too much ground for our trappers to cover. They simply cannot get everywhere they need to be during the busy times. Our biggest losses are August & September with lamb kills.
- 1371 Use the airplane more to reduce the coyotes overall number. Coyotes have been and will always be a problem for sheep producers, but at present I don't see many baby deer but I see coyotes very often. Design a prairie dog feeder that cattle can't tip over and sheep can't get to and the wind doesn't blow away so we could start them on good oats and change to poison at the right time. It would give us a longer window for control as it is we need a drought to have any effect. We need on the ground help as it is our work load at the time when effective practices could be done is so high we just don't get it done.
- 1372 I got 60 acres prairie dogs - bad deal
- 1374 Hard to put dollar value on the field damage done by badgers.
- 1375 They need to control coyotes better in my area. I think they do by [location]. Coyotes come into my yard and one actually bit my dog! They are very bold.
- 1384 [RE Property Damage] stink and a mess
- 1385 Allow preventative maintenance in trouble areas this would also benefit the deer and antelope numbers rebound. Mid November 2014 I had an attack on my sheep (ewes) 3 dead 17 missing ears or bitten, all in one night. The sheep were located 200 - 300 yards from the house. I had just moved them home from summer pasture. I realize it was during deer season, and there was some bad weather. It was 2 weeks before they got the plane here to fly. I offered to contain my 1 adult guard dog and 2, 3 month old pups so traps could be set but it didn't seem like an option. I feel like a problem was allowed to move out of the area before anything was done. Some snares where set about a mile to the west at the time of the attack. The plane did take 4 coyotes and the howling in the yard stopped. I didn't lose any more sheep, but I dry lotted them the rest of the winter because I couldn't afford another hit. This spring I weaned my lambs and sent ewes to

- pasture, because my dog is old and the pups didn't work out. I am not upset with the trapper. I feel like his hands were tied in some areas. I am happy we have a trapper in [location] County. The response time and results have improved greatly with the exception of the November major incident. I didn't respond to [question regarding timely assistance] because of the November incident which I felt was slow response, prior to this response time has been excellent.
- 1386 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] is a good man, he is doing his best. His territory is just too big. It would help if he had more help from the air. The coyote and fox population continues to grow. We couldn't raise sheep without our local predator district pilots and guard dogs. It's just a matter of time until the coyotes become a real problem with calves as it is already a problem in certain areas. Your money could be better spent on trappers instead of administrators and biologists. It's no fun to wait your turn while the coyotes are destroying your livelihood.
- 1389 We are blessed to have a very good predator control officer in our area, and also to be able to have the aerial assistance to help keep the predator numbers to where they don't do extreme damage to us on the ranch.
- 1394 Put a bounty on coyotes. They are terrible! Huge, huge problem for sheep producers. Cannot sustain profitability in the sheep sector unless a proactive approach is taken. Fly more for predator control and work with BIA/Tribal programs to allow this.
- 1398 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] did a very good job with our coyote problem. Very pleased.
- 1403 More man power and also bring back the use of airplanes. Coyotes are eating livestock in the yard, can hear them in the house with TV on, there are too many. We have two sheep guard dogs as well and continue to have huge losses due to coyotes.
- 1407 In my case beavers in Rapid City limits. I would suggest some time frame for inspections and removal or trapping of these animals!
- 1408 The warden was prompt and friendly.
- 1413 We very much like [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist]. He does a terrific job! Changing his title is not necessary in my opinion.
- 1415 [RE Problem Solution] until they come back!
- 1417 [RE Beaver Damage] Plugged overflow outlet pipe to water ran out emergency spillway and washed out large area of dirt, sod.
- 1421 They tore up my bird feeders several times.
- 1424 Not very satisfied with service will call again when needed.
- 1426 More ways to contact Damage Control Specialists
- 1431 I was very happy with the job done. The coyote hit us the same day we went to summer range and [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] was on the job quick.

- 1433 You need more trappers like ours. [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] shows up and get the job done. When you guys switched all the areas around our guy brought 2 different guys two different times to work with me and all they did was make me fill out paperwork, then they never showed up to trap the beaver or hunt coyotes. I finally called our guy and he showed up and did the job because the other two never would. I don't need more paperwork. I need someone that will show up and work. It looks to me like your game wardens could start doing some trapping as well.
- 1434 I would like to see more state trappers in Webster to take care of the coyote problem that is adversely affecting sheep and cattle producers. I would also like to see more contract pilots for aerial hunting in Webster.
- 1435 What a great job our trapper does in [location] County. He goes the extra mile for landowners in this area. He is by far the most effective trapper we have ever had. [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] has also improved GFP and landowner relations in [location] County immensely.
- 1438 More trappers wouldn't hurt.
- 1447 You need more people or better ways to control predators. We put up with hunters so they can enjoy what they do. We should not be burdened with cost of predator control. When you protect them. We gave up running sheep because of coyotes.
- 1449 As always we need more trappers. They are spread too thin.
- 1451 The cooperative agreement with wildlife service's airplane has been a big benefit. The number of predators have exploded to record high numbers.
- 1453 Coyotes are a continued problem here. Found a den of them.
- 1454 They found a den of them.
- 1457 I believe the coyote problem is an ongoing problem for the rancher. I believe it will only get bigger from this point on. We have daily sightings of coyotes on our property. Even though the planes get several coyotes, others seem to replace them. I think we will need to see much more aerial hunting to control the population.
- 1461 More airplane assistance for coyotes.
- 1463 We sold nearly all of our sheep. We have had numerous losses through the past years, mostly from coyotes. It would be helpful if landowners could eliminate predators with poisons; this is the only way they are going to be taken out.
- 1464 I would like to suggest that the head person of GFP take a week per trapper to just ride along and actually experience their days. Our trapper has to cover an immense area and is expected to cram all that into 40 hours a week. We have a tremendous problem with coyotes moving in from ND & MT and he simply does not have time to be effective! He does a wonderful job but in order for him to control this problem you are going to have to either extend his hours or give him some assistance in the form of another trapper. Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.

- 1466 Our trapper and the state plane have a large area to cover and find it hard to come in a timely manner. They come as soon as they can when called. We suffer losses in our sheep and because our pastures are so large it is hard to know how much loss there is. But we do find coyote losses when we are out checking. Fox losses are early in the spring when the lambs are small. Can hear the coyotes at night (almost every night) and see them often. It is getting to be a bigger problem as time goes on and there seems to be less aerial hunters. We will have to get out of the sheep business if the loss grows. Maybe extra help for [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] in the spring and summer and more aerial would help.
- 1468 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] is the best guy to do this job! He is quick and thinks like the wildlife to catch many coyotes and reduce our problems. The GFP must insure the continued funding of this program, with increased budgeting to insure the control/management of the state's predators. Sometimes I can tell that [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] is overworked because he has to cover so much area. Why can't the GFP ensure that more animal control officers are staffed? Coyotes are continuing to be a problem every year, even after trapping. They are hard on mule deer populations on my ranch. Thank you for sending a questionnaire, please make sure the people that make the decision to spend our tax dollars read this.
- 1479 The prairie dogs coming off of government lands are not my PDs. They need to be controlled by the SDGFP. They will not take care of the problem if it is not enough acres or is not a certain distance from government land where the PDs come from, again they are not my PDs.
- 1486 Thanks for the airplane coyote shooting and I need more help with the prairie dogs if you can.
- 1489 Maybe with beaver problem official could contact owner as beaver are generally a recurring problem.
- 1493 We need some more beaver trapped this year 2015. Some trees are being cut down.
- 1494 [RE Beaver Damage] Grazing and trampling alfalfa bottoms [Additional Comments] lots of deer fawns, mature bucks found killed.
- 1495 I wish [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] had more setter guns instead of snares, because he caught a calf in a snare that died and that loss \$1600 this fall.
- 1503 Coyote population continues to grow. We have 2 guards for our sheep. However I think our area is too big for 1 animal damage control officer and in the future I feel you will need to hire more officers and this will help all of us.
- 1508 The trapper we have here isn't very friendly. Doesn't stop and tell a person if he caught anything. That's one thing I'd like to know. They should be more friendly to the ranchers I think.
- 1509 [RE Problem Solution] There will always be coyotes. [RE Losses] Raccoon ate 1 ton of medicated feed. [Additional Comment] I would like to take this time to express my appreciation for all that [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] did on your behalf! He was considerate and notified me each & every time he was coming onto and leaving my

- property. He also told me where all traps were located. I hope and pray he is allowed to continue. [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] is the finest of representatives & he is needed.
- 1514 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] is a very dedicated control specialist. We appreciate that he gets in quickly when losses occur.
- 1515 Larger budget to allow the plane to fly more often. Additional trappers and flying time to get ahead of the coyote problem rather than always trying to catch up with the population after they have caused losses. [RE Livestock Losses] 10% lambs
- 1517 Had I received these Customer control services survey when losing many lambs to coyote predation I would have marked the very dissatisfied portion of the survey. At the present time I do not have any livestock on this ranch, however my neighbors are still having problems with coyote predation. I let the animal control officer from [location] snare more than 20 coyotes on my place this past year. I was satisfied with his work so far. Coyotes and rattlesnakes will survive when nothing else will so both are ongoing problems. We have to keep on fighting them along with the mole problem we now have. I could write a great deal more but am not sure you can read my scribbling anyways.
- 1522 [RE Difficulty Contacting GFP] at times hard to reach. [Additional Comments] No communication of results or efforts. Left messages but no response. I am glad you are conducting this survey. Better lines of communication and cooperation would go a long way. Winter & spring predator maintenance prior to the regions pasture calving & lambing can reduce a lot of back log to response during the spring and early summer.
- 1524 Use an airplane to thin the coyotes down more often. Our local GFP trapper is very proficient and very helpful. He does an excellent job. I wish we could get the airplane in here, to thin the coyotes down, more often. It seem only one airplane for the whole state of SD is not enough. As we have windy days when it is not safe to fly. So the flights are limited. We used to have a lot of mule deer. I believe that number is down by about 80%, based on what I've seen in our pastures. I believe the coyotes are killing a lot of fawns. I haven't seen any fawns in a couple of years. Again, we are very happy to have [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] as our predator control man. He is very helpful and good at his job. The coyotes just keep coming from somewhere.
- 1526 More funds. When our trapper retires I am afraid our sheep operation will be sold. He is without a doubt the best trapper we have ever had. Coyotes are a terrible problem for sheep ranchers. We still experience losses but he works diligently to hold it down. The yellow US airplane is also a must. We also have noble deer and antelope population. I feel this is directly related to fox and coyote control. Your control program is excellent.
- 1530 Forest Service should be held accountable for prairie dogs on grasslands (state law).
- 1537 Control prairie dogs in and around ranchland. Out a beaver, prairie dogs, and coyotes.
- 1538 Need improved contact information for specialist services.
- 1539 Both [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialists] I have worked with have provided excellent care to me. They were timely, efficient and skilled. They were also kind and caring and very informational.

- 1542 I didn't have any problems with predator control in 2013 & 2014 but was very disappointed with the assistance I received in 2015 mainly because the GF&P never provided any control by an airplane which is the most effective control for our area.
- 1546 Keep up the good work.
- 1547 My complaint isn't with the state trapper. It's with the people who catch game. All they do is chase their tail! I have complained about too many turkeys for three years. They finally showed up this spring, worked for two months, and didn't catch one turkey! Finally had some success but too little too late. I had about 300 turkeys destroying feed this year can't wait till next. It's pretty sad when a turkey dictates how I feed my livestock. If I do anything about it myself I'd get arrested. There would be a race to see who could get here first. Get my point!
- 1550 Wildlife population is severely decreased due to coyotes. Deer down 80% grouse down 95%, pheasant down 90%. The coyote problem is out of control. I strongly suggest additional resources be put in place. Aerial hunting and periodic hunting. Additional trappers assigned. We lose around 5 baby calves a year to coyotes. That is a financial loss at \$5-10000. This could be reduced significantly with some assistance from you folks.
- 1564 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] does a great job, he does what he can but of course it is a recurring problem.
- 1566 I am very appreciative we have [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] to remove beaver. A beaver dam was built on [location] Creek backing water up on adjacent land meandering unusable for farming. He took care of the problem, the dam was removed and now crops can be planted. Thank you so much!
- 1570 Keep working on the coyote problems here. Thank you for cable for fences to help with elk damage.
- 1571 Better support when aircraft is used for predator control.
- 1573 Only received help with elk and deer.
- 1574 Should return our calls in a timely manner. Had to make extra calls. We need assistance with the prairie dogs. They are getting out of control. Like to have an officer for [location] County come out and address the prairie dog situation. We are losing pasture.
- 1575 Some meaningful discussion of the excessive number of deer and antelope that live on private property year around.
- 1578 You need to get more funding for animal damage control. Use more licenses money for this. Animal Damage Control Improves hunting opportunity for sportsmen, too. We need to get cattlemen to help more with the funding. Might be the time to bring them on board with the sheepmen. The state needs to get back into aerial hunting. One plane (federal) is not enough for the whole state. There should be at least 3 or 4 planes available for hunting. You need more Animal Damage Specialists (trappers) on the ground. Also, use less trained employees to handle prairie dogs and beaver. Let the more experienced coyote hunters hunt coyotes.

- 1579 Just keep up the good work, have your men help us. [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] had 2 coyotes that killed 1 of my new twin calves dead in less than an hour after I called him. Man that is good service, I thank you all too.
- 1582 Need another airplane for predator control. It's time to start being conservation officers and take care of producers that provide land for wildlife to live on and quite running around like all wildlife belong only to GFP cause without our cooperation you have nothing.
- 1584 There are getting to be way too many eagles in our area killing the lambs.
- 1591 Eliminate the 20 acre prairie dog acreage limit. Land is re-infested with prairie dogs by May every year. Since you let the Federal Government break all state rules concerning prairie dogs, you should compensate for damages, which is already a state law that GFP has ignored. The state needs to force the feds to control their prairie dogs or provide compensation for damages.
- 1604 All was good.
- 1605 1) Be postured more toward termination on mountain lions and wolves rather than relocation! 2)Begin to promote assisting your most capable trappers by a merit pay system which can be accessed by private trappers as well as your salaried ADC staff. A monetary reward system that can spawn cooperating efforts (bonding is good) and private/public excitement toward domesticating the earth! I would like to see summer and fall intern programs of youth (grades 6 - 12) shadowing ADC to learn skills of ADC (similar to and even with youth hunting adventures kids. This could possibly be available for extra credit to augment credits or GPA! [GFP Staff] is not adequately appreciated in Pierre!
- 1606 Put bounty on coyotes. Encourage prairie dog control. [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] from [location] does a good (excellent job) I think he just doesn't have enough time to cover everything.
- 1608 Did a very good job. Thank you
- 1609 Reintroduce aerial hunting
- 1613 We trapped 29 raccoons in summer of 2014. Sure raise heck with bunkers, no feed. Would like help with this.
- 1621 My opinion this multi predator district is the biggest joke I've ever seen. Should just turn it all over to APHIS and have them come in and do it. Sheep guys are footing the bill, but the cattlemen are reaping the benefits without paying for it.
- 1622 I wish we could extend more than a mile (maybe 2 or 3) so we could get all the prairie dogs that are popping up all over. They are on the move, running on roads and we want to keep them controlled.
- 1624 Fly for coyote during snow cover and when females are pregnant, maybe Jan - April.

- 1627 I discovered in walking behind the old state hatchery at Pickerel a beaver dam. Were you aware of this issue? Please check out creek behind old state hatchery.
- 1628 Almost killed a month old calf but survived. Missing a tail and 1 ear. Was successful in setting bombs out to kill. The coyotes, returned later found all set off and dead coyotes, no more problems.
- 1632 [GFP Wildlife Damage Specialist] does an excellent job. I have worked with several trappers over the years one who was very bad and other very good. But the current one is the best.