



# SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS



**LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM  
2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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TONY LEIF | Wildlife Division Director | Pierre  
JOHN KANTA | Regional Supervisor | Rapid City  
MARK OHM | Regional Supervisor | Chamberlain  
EMMETT KEYSER | Regional Supervisor | Sioux Falls  
MIKE KLOSOWSKI | Regional Supervisor | Watertown

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JANELLE BLAHA | Shooting Preserve/Permits Coordinator | Pierre  
BRANDON GUST | Law Enforcement Training Supervisor | Madison  
JOY JOHNSON | Law Enforcement Program Secretary | Pierre  
JOE KEETON | Law Enforcement Specialist | Rapid City  
BOB LOSCO | Wildlife Investigator Supervisor | Webster  
BRUCE NACHTIGALL | Law Enforcement Specialist | Rapid City  
NATE STUKEL | Wildlife Investigator | Winner

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JOSH CARR | District CO Supervisor | Ft. Pierre  
SPENCER DOWNEY | District CO Supervisor | Presho  
CORY FLOR | District CO Supervisor | Miller  
JOE GALBRAITH | District CO Supervisor | Ipswich  
ADAM GEIGLE | District CO Supervisor | Rapid City  
TIM McCURDY | District CO Supervisor | Aberdeen  
BRIAN MEIERS | District CO Supervisor | Spearfish  
JAMIE PEKELDER | District CO Supervisor | Milbank  
JEREMY RAKOWICZ | District CO Supervisor | Sioux Falls  
JEREMY ROE | District CO Supervisor | Sioux Falls  
STEVE ROSSOW | District CO Supervisor | Chamberlain  
SAM SCHELHAAS | District CO Supervisor | Yankton  
KRAIG HAASE | Regional CO Supervisor | Watertown  
JIM McCORMICK | Regional CO Supervisor | Rapid City  
MARTY PENNOCK | Regional CO Supervisor | Sioux Falls



## CONSERVATION OFFICERS

DAN ALTMAN | Yankton  
TOM BECK | Martin  
ADAM BEHNKE | Clear Lake  
JENNA CAPPER | Aberdeen  
SPENCER CARSTENS | Wall  
NICK COCHRAN | Aberdeen  
TODD CROWNOVER | Tyndall  
CHRIS DEKKER | Rapid City  
KENDYLL DEROCHE | Gettysburg  
DAN DIRKS | Burke  
CASEY DOWLER | Britton  
JON DUNLAP | Miller  
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ROSS FEES | Faith  
LYNN GEUKE | Plankinton  
PAGE GREENWALDT | Philip  
JEFF GRENDLER | Brookings  
JAKE HASZ | Rapid City  
JARED HILL | Sioux Falls  
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TYLER KREKELBERG | Ft. Pierre  
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DIANA LANDEGENT | Chamberlain  
KYLE LENZNER | Clark  
TRAVIS MARCH | Chamberlain  
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KEITH MUTSCHLER | Lemmon  
AUSTIN NORTON | Webster  
RYAN PEARSON | Sturgis  
SHANE PEDERSEN | Redfield  
ANDY PETERSEN | Mitchell  
DARREN SCHROEDER | Hot Springs  
DEAN SHULTZ | Sisseton  
DAN STERNHAGEN | Estelline  
TONY STOKELY | Vermillion  
BLAKE SWANSON | Milbank  
CODY SYMENS | Madison  
MATT TALBERT | Salem  
JOSH THOMPSON | Spearfish  
ZACH THOMSEN | Philip  
RON TIETSORT | Custer  
MICHAEL UNDLIN | Webster  
SHANE VANBOCKERN | Lake Preston  
JOSH VANDENBOSCH | Canton  
ERIC VOIGT | Ipswich  
CHAD WILLIAMS | Flandreau

## PARK RANGERS

CHELSEA BIEHL | Platte  
JIM GANSER | Custer  
JEFF HILL | Pierre  
CALVIN MEYER | Watertown  
SCOTT POSPISHIL | Yankton  
ROB REULAND | Garretson  
DUANE STANLEY | Hot Springs  
KEVIN STOLZ | Custer

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS LAW ENFORCEMENT 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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

# NEW CONSERVATION OFFICERS



**SPENCER CARSTENS** joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in March 2018. Spencer grew up in Albert Lea, Minnesota. He graduated from South Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Law Enforcement. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Spencer worked with South Dakota State University and GFP as a research technician on various research projects pertaining to grassland nesting birds, white-tailed deer and bighorn sheep. After completing the training program, Spencer was assigned to the Wall duty station.



**KENDYLL DERUCHEY** joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in March 2018. Kendyll grew up in Harrold, South Dakota. She graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resource Law Enforcement and Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences along with a minor in Criminal Justice. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Kendyll worked as a Conservation Officer Intern and Habitat Technician for GFP. Kendyll was also a Habitat Specialist for Pheasants Forever. After completing the training program, Kendyll was assigned to the Gettysburg duty station.



**DAN DIRKS** joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in March 2018. Dan grew up in Akron, Iowa. He graduated from South Dakota State University with Bachelor's degrees in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and Natural Resources Law Enforcement. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Dan worked for Plymouth County Conservation Board as a Conservation Aide and for the Iowa DNR as a Seasonal Water Patrol Officer. After completing the training program, Dan was assigned to the Burke duty station.



**TREVOR JOHNSON** joined the Conservation Officer Training Program in November 2017. Trevor grew up in Dell Rapids, South Dakota. He graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Prior to becoming a Conservation Officer, Trevor worked for Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office as a Corrections Officer. Trevor also worked for GFP as a seasonal employee and intern in the Wildlife Damage Management and Habitat programs. After completing the training program, Trevor was assigned to the Huron duty station.

# CASE FEATURE: PARKS BURGLARIES

## Early June 2017

The Angostura Recreation Area park office was burglarized. A laptop computer and a projector were taken. No evidence was collected from this burglary.

## June 19, 2017

The Custer State Park East entrance station was entered by force. The suspect used force to pry a window, breaking the lock. The suspect spent a significant amount of time in the entrance station damaging the lock boxes and gaining access to the cash kept there.

## June 30, 2017

The Custer State Park West entrance station was entered by force. The same method of entry was used as the east entrance station break-in. The suspect took \$900 in cash and several Park Entrance Licenses. Park Ranger Jim Ganser, along

with the Custer County Sheriff's Office, processed the scene and collected evidence. Among the evidence was a mirror with a fingerprint on it. The evidence was taken to the Rapid City Crime Lab. The lab was later able to positively identify a suspect, who left his fingerprint left on the mirror.

Ranger Ganser applied for and received a search warrant for the suspect's residence.

## August 1, 2017

Officers from four different agencies (GFP, DCI, US Forest Service, and Pennington County Sheriff's Office) executed the search warrant on the suspect's residence. The evidence recovered at the home helped to solve five different burglaries that had occurred at the three state park sites and two additional US Forest Service entrance stations. The suspect was convicted in court and sentenced to serve 10 years in the South Dakota State Penitentiary.

CUSTER STATE PARK ENTRANCE BOOTH



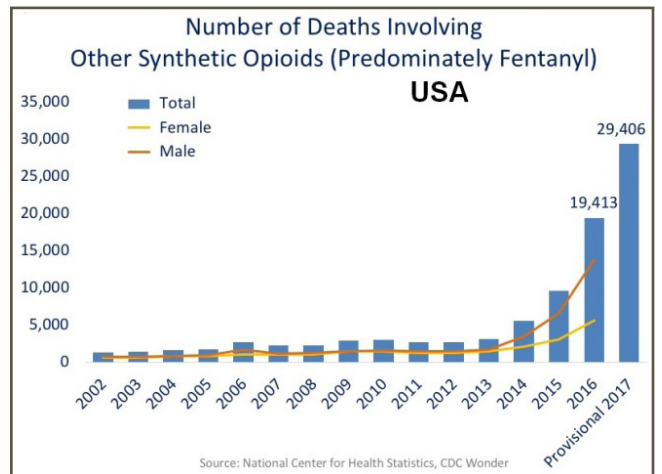
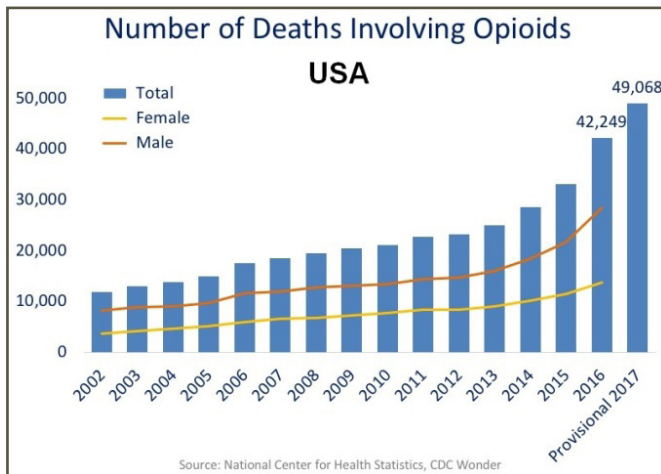
# WHAT'S NEW: NARCAN

In 2018, all South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Conservation Officers and Park Rangers were equipped and trained in the use of NARCAN. Naloxone HCl, also known as NARCAN is an opioid antagonist. It is the first and only FDA-approved nasal form of naloxone for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose.

Considering the opioid epidemic currently facing the nation and the threats that exposure to some opioids pose to first responders and law enforcement, it is important that GFP law enforcement carry NARCAN.

Opioids have been around for centuries with their use dating back as far as 5,500 B.C. Medically used as a pain reliever, opioid prescription and abuse has skyrocketed in the last 15 years in the United States. Along with the abuse and over-prescription has come a steady increase in the number of opioid-related deaths.

Opioids come in three types: naturally occurring such as opium, morphine and codeine; semi-synthetic such as heroin, hydrocodone and oxycodone; fully synthetic which includes methadone and fentanyl. When taken into the body, opioids block pain receptors in the brain. When stronger opioids or high doses of opioids



are consumed, too many receptors are blocked and a person's respiratory system starts to fail causing them to go into cardiac arrest or, if left untreated, suffocate to death.

One of the biggest threats to both citizens and first responders is that posed by the opioid fentanyl. A fully synthetic opioid, fentanyl was created in 1960 and has been approved for medical use since 1968. It is a powerful, short-acting opioid that can be 100x more potent than that of pure heroin. Illicitly produced and often mixed with heroin and cocaine, or sold as oxycodone, fentanyl-related deaths have increased dramatically in the last four years.

Law enforcement officers nationwide are now coming into contact with opioid users and dealers on a more regular basis, exposing them to potential threats if contact is made with an unknown opioid. As little as 2 mg of fentanyl is considered a lethal dose. An officer searching

a car or suspect could come into accidental exposure to the drug. There have been several instances of officers making bare skin contact with the drug, resulting in an immediate need for medical attention.

As mentioned previously, NARCAN is an opioid antagonist. When administered to a person going through an opioid overdose or an officer who has accidentally been exposed to fentanyl, NARCAN will replace the opioid that is now blocking the pain receptors in the brain, allowing for the person to begin breathing properly and temporarily reverse the effects of an overdose. By having officers carry NARCAN, they can now properly treat a suspected opioid overdose as a first responder or if they are exposed, self-treat which will give them critical time to seek further medical assistance.



Fatal dose of fentanyl  
(2 mg or 2000 mcg)



Fatal dose of carfentanyl  
(0.02 mg or 20 mcg)

# CASE FEATURE: ILLEGALLY TAKEN



In December 2015, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Wildlife Conservation Officers Jeff Edwards and Joe Keeton began an investigation on an individual who had killed two mountain lions in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The subject killed the first mountain lion in January of 2014 with bow and arrow. Because the lion had been tagged with the previous year's license, Conservation Officer Adam Geigle contacted the subject. Geigle discovered that two license years had been available for online purchase and the subject had purchased the wrong license year. In following up with the subject, Officer Geigle asked to see the kill site. The subject agreed and the two met within days after the kill. Although not confirmed, Officer Geigle suspected baiting through the use of placed deer carcasses. The area had been cleaned up, but deer hair was scattered about and the subject claimed to have hunted over a deer carcass that was the result of a lion kill.

## January 2015

The following year, the subject killed a second mountain lion in January of

2015, using a rifle. In addition, the subjects' father had killed a mountain lion in March of 2015. Each of these three mountain lions had been registered with GFP staff in Rapid City and the self-reported location of kill was in Spring Creek Canyon, behind the subjects' residence. The subject highlighted each of these adventures through various social media sources; and two of the lions the subject killed were featured articles in the *Rapid City Journal*.

## February 2015

Officer Edwards received an anonymous TIPs (Turn in Poachers) report that suggested the subject may be baiting the area. It is illegal to bait mountain lions and big game in South Dakota. Edwards received a second TIPs call indicating that the suspect had placed a photograph on social media showcasing his new "coyote" rifle, which donned a suppressor and a night vision scope. Before the photograph could be located, it was taken down.

December 21, 2015  
(5 days before the 2016 lion season opener)

Edwards and Keeton located the suspect's residence and hiked into Spring Creek Canyon. This area is remote, rugged, and privately owned, but homes sit atop the canyon walls. The officers soon located an ATV trail initiating from the suspects residence down into the bottom of the canyon. The canyon bottom held snow and the two officers observed a bloody drag trail from a deer that had been transported and off-loaded in the bottom of the canyon. Using binoculars, the officers followed the blood trail into a side canyon and observed a two-point mule deer buck. The buck was laid on its back, two of the legs on the buck appeared to be broken, and the abdomen of the buck had been cut open as if it were field dressed on site. However, the stomach and vitals were still intact with the carcass and lay to one side of the buck. The buck appeared to be a road-kill, but the officers could not hike to its location because they would leave boot tracks in the snow. It was up to the officers to prove that this deer carcass had been transported to the area for the purposes of baiting and killing a mountain lion and not a "coyote."



# BLACK HILLS MOUNTAIN LIONS

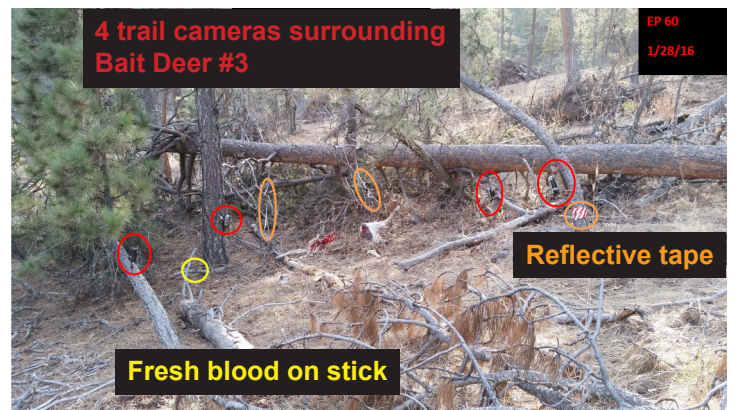
The officers placed a video surveillance camera on the ATV trail and then placed two road-killed deer, internally outfitted with radio transmitters, a mile from the residence. Surveillance video captured an accomplice dragging one of the “radio deer” down the trail. In addition to the initial mule deer buck and the two “radio deer,” at least three additional road-killed deer were collected and relocated in the canyon in an effort to establish multiple bait stations. All were monitored through the use of trail cameras.

January 27, 2016 | 10:17 p.m.

The suspect’s accomplice killed a mountain lion and notified GFP and arranged to check in the lion the following day. A tissue sample is routinely collected from each lion killed by hunters, treed by GFP biologists, or incidentally killed throughout the year. The tissue samples are then used to estimate the Black Hills lion population, comparing the sample to marked or captured lions which are treed by biologists each year prior to the season using biopsy darts. The accomplice had killed a 2.5 year old, 130 lb. male. While the accomplice was checking in his lion, Officers Edwards and Keeton hiked in to recover evidence at the suspected kill site.

Meticulously choosing their path, as the location of trail cameras was frequently changing; Edwards and Keeton located a ground blind. Inside the ground blind was a plastic chair, a blanket spread across the ground, and a Caldwell rifle tripod gun rest (which supports the fore end and the stock of a rifle). One small window (12" x 12") was open on one side of the blind. Downrange approximately 25 yards lay a whitetail buck that was surrounded by four trail cameras. Two of the trail cameras monitoring the bait site were red IR trail cameras (red light visible to the naked eye) set up to record still images. The other two cameras were black IR trail cameras (emitted light not visible to the naked eye, instead emitted light only visible to night vision equipment) set up to capture video and still images. The buck was surrounded by a large downed tree on one side and heavy jack pines on an adjoining side. A mountain lion would most likely have to enter the bait site between the blind and the deer carcass. Several pieces of reflective tape hung from tree branches above the deer carcass. The set up appeared to be established for low light or possibly no-light shooting scenarios.

Edwards and Keeton considered that the accomplice had successfully killed a mountain lion and recognized that the set up could be used again by the primary suspect. They had to make a decision whether to collect the trail cameras or





leave everything in place and continue to monitor. They made the decision to leave the site untouched.

Using binoculars, the officers observed three significant drops of blood on an adjacent log near the bait site and were able to follow blood spray patterning as the animal exited the bait site. Belly crawling to remain undetected by the four trail cameras, the officers located where the animal had expired. They collected hair and blood samples for forensics analysis. The video surveillance camera was relocated to monitor the blind and bait site.

Officers monitored multiple Facebook websites, and the following morning the suspect and accomplice had posted photographs of the mountain lion the accomplice had killed. Both men were photographed displaying the dead lion on a “display log.”

Returning a week later, the blind, reflective tape and three of the trail cameras had been removed. Only one camera remained, which was monitoring the whitetail buck. Edwards and Keeton located the display log and collected additional hair and blood samples.

Officer Keeton submitted the tongue tissue sample collected at check in, and the hair and blood samples collected at the kill site and from the display log to the Wyoming Game and Fish Forensics Lab. All of the samples collected were an identical match. Additionally, at the time of check-in, the accomplice had reported that he killed the mountain lion two miles west of the suspects’ residence. The accomplice deceptively indicated where he had killed the lion.

## March 31, 2016

The mountain lion season ended. This was also the day the accomplice earned a first place monetary reward in a local mountain lion contest for largest male. On this same evening, officers located the accomplice and conducted an interview. Following the interview, the accomplice was served a search warrant

for his phone and a search warrant for his residence. Two additional search warrants were served to the suspect at his parent’s residence and his girlfriend’s residence, since he was residing at both locations. Two cell phones, two laptops, 14 trail cameras, 13 SD cards and the Caldwell rifle shooting support were seized as evidence. Interviews were conducted on these same evenings, and the suspect and accomplice admitted to some facts, but withheld some important details. Of special note, a .308 rifle affixed with a suppressor and night vision scope was located at the suspect’s parents’ residence. The suspect admitted that the rifle was available to the accomplice, but he wasn’t sure if it was used to kill the mountain lion. The suspect had not been in the blind with the accomplice the night he shot the lion. The .308 rifle was not listed on the search warrant and therefore was not collected. In time, additional evidence secured subsequent search warrants for the rifle and it was recovered at a later time.

Additional search warrants were secured for phone records, the accomplice’s mountain lion hide and skull. Phone records from the accomplice’s cell phone indicated significant text and calling activity (approximately 150 transmissions) up until 5 p.m. on the day of the kill. There were no transmissions between 5 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. At 8:15 p.m., and for the remainder of the evening the accomplice’s cell phone received and sent approximately 200 text and call transmissions. Of special consideration, the suspect was the last text and phone call prior to 5 p.m., and the first text and phone call



following 8:15 p.m. The cell phone use indicated the probability that the accomplice had turned his cell phone off while in the blind and the lion had been killed after legal shooting hours, which was 5:21 p.m.

Officers Edwards, Keeton and Wildlife Investigator Jeff McEntee approached both the suspect and the accomplice a second time for follow-up, but both had secured private counsel which ended dialogue. For the next two years, all communications were handled between the defense counsel and prosecutor. Special Assistant Attorney General Paul Bachand managed the case for GFP and was responsible for the success and sentencing.

Officer Keeton submitted the cell phones, laptops, and 13 SD cards to the South Dakota DCI lab for evidence collection. Approximately 240,000 still and video images were retrieved from the evidence sources. Each was reviewed and categorized. Still images revealed thousands of photographs monitoring dozens of big game bait sites, which included dead deer and areas that were baited with shelled corn, used to monitor deer. Through the use of these evidence photographs, the suspect, girlfriend and close hunting



friend had habitually used these bait sites to kill selected bucks after the baiting date, during closed season and with no licenses. In addition, still photographs and video highlighted that the suspects' archery mountain lion killed in January 2014, and his father's mountain lion killed in March 2015 had been taken illegally. Additional interviews were conducted and subsequent search warrants were served. The accomplice's mountain lion was recovered; the suspect's 2014 archery lion and his father's 2015 mountain lion were recovered as well as eight whitetail buck deer antler sets.



## SUSPECT WAS CHARGED AND SENTENCED

### State Court

9 counts Big Game - Unlawful Possession  
Fines: \$12,256  
Civil Penalties: \$19,000  
Hunting Revocation: 12 years

## ACCOMPLICE WAS CHARGED AND SENTENCED

### State Court

1 count Big Game - Closed Season  
2 counts Big Game - Unlawful Possession  
Fines: \$3,252  
Civil Penalties: \$7,000  
Hunting Revocation: 3 years

### Federal Court

8 months prison

## ANOTHER FRIEND OF THE SUSPECT WAS CHARGED AND SENTENCED

### State Court

1 count Big Game- Unlawful Possession  
1 count Big Game- Hunting over bait  
Fines: \$1,162  
Civil Penalties: \$2,000  
Hunting Revocation: 1 year

## TOTAL

Fines: \$16,670  
Civil Penalties: \$28,000  
Hunting Revocation: 16 years

# ROAD CHECKS



## Road Checks

Outdoor enthusiasts who have spent time hunting and fishing in South Dakota have likely gone through a game or fish road check at some point in their travels. Road checks are authorized by law and play an important role in the management and protection of our wildlife and fisheries resources. Generally speaking, Conservation Officers inspect and count any game or fish in possession at a road check to determine compliance with laws and regulations. These operations ensure folks are not taking more than their fair share of a public resource. In 2018, Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) conducted three road checks – one for fish and two for game. Approximately 245 of the vehicles screened were inspected and 62 violations were detected. Violations included:

- » Big Game . . . . . 3
- » Small Game/Waterfowl . . . . 5
- » Fish . . . . . 48
- » Aquatic Invasive Species . . . . 6

## Saturation Patrols

Conservation officers also conducted numerous other operations to improve compliance with hunting, fishing and boating laws. These include saturation patrols on land and water, where multiple officers will patrol in the same general area. At times, a pilot and an officer in an airplane will communicate with the officers below. A total of 11 saturation patrols were conducted in 2018. A total of 480 hunters/anglers and 72 boaters were checked for compliance and 49 violations were detected that included:

- » Artificial Light Violation . . . . 5
- » Boating Violation . . . . . 16
- » Drug/Alcohol Violation . . . . 11
- » Fish Violation . . . . . 17

## Facsimile Operations

GFP routinely receives complaints from landowners and rural residents during the hunting seasons concerning individuals who trespass, shoot from vehicles, shoot big game from the road, and shoot too close to homes or livestock. Officers will

sometimes conduct wildlife facsimile operations to deter this illegal activity. These operations are highly controlled and are limited to site-specific areas with a documented history of hunting violations or unsafe hunting practices. In many cases, the request comes directly from the landowner. Contrary to some opinions, the use of wildlife replicas is not entrapment. Entrapment occurs when the government provides both the opportunity to violate the law as well as the encouragement to violate the law. GFP does not provide the encouragement to violate the law in these operations. The person must be predisposed to break the law, and the decision to shoot is made knowingly, willingly, and voluntarily by the violator. Eight facsimile operations were conducted across the state in 2018.

- » 77 vehicles passed by
- » 26 stopped/observed
- » 16 shot/fired
- » 21 violations (18 big game/3 small)



# BOATING ENFORCEMENT

## Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Enforcement

Recently, GFP has increased efforts to effectively manage and slow the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), especially zebra mussels. One of the main regulatory initiatives is to require that all boat drain plugs be removed or opened, except when on the water or involved with launching/loading a boat. The first two AIS enforcement efforts were conducted at boat ramp locations in eastern South Dakota in 2018. In total, 46 boats were checked for compliance and 15 AIS violations were detected.

## Operation Dry Water (ODW)

Operation Dry Water (ODW) is a year-round boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign. The mission of ODW is to reduce the number of alcohol and drug-related accidents and fatalities through increased recreational boater awareness and by fostering a stronger and more visible deterrent to alcohol use on the water. Every year since 2009, department law enforcement officers have participated in this nationwide effort to make our waters safe. ODW's heightened awareness and enforcement three-day weekend takes place annually around the fourth of July, a holiday unfortunately known for drinking and boating, and deadly accidents. When boaters choose to boat impaired, they are endangering not only themselves, but the many other boaters on the water as well. With alcohol use remaining the leading contributing factor in recreational boater deaths, the primary focus of the ODW campaign is to change the cultural acceptance of drinking and boating and help boaters have safe and fun recreational boating experiences. South Dakota Conservation Officers and Park Rangers contact as many boaters as possible to spread this message of safe, sober boat operation.



## 2018 OPERATION DRY WATER STATS

Region	Officers	Vessels	Boaters	Citations	Warning	BUI	Non-Boat Violations	Lakes
1	12	13	45	1	1	0	2	Angostura
2	10	15	72	5	3	2	1	Pickstown, Lake Sharpe
3	10	47	170	10	8	3	0	Clay County Missouri River, McCook
4	14	86	301	14	16	3	3	Mud, Twin, Cottonwood, Faulkton, Richmond, Mina
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11 Operations/Patrols in 2018</b>

# TURN IN POACHERS (TIPS) PROGRAM

Since the inception of the TIPS program in 1984, over \$176,000 in rewards has been paid out to people who observe and report violations. In the 2017 TIPS year (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), 261 investigations and 146 arrests could be directly attributed to information provided through the program. From this information, violators were fined \$31,153 and required to pay \$57,463 in civil damages. Judges sentenced violators to 4,576 days in jail for their crimes (4,239 days were suspended). TIPS paid out \$6,850 in rewards.



In November, TIPS released a new reporting method which allows informants to report violations online using their smart phone or computer. Like informants who prefer to use the TIPS hotline, informants using the online method are also able to remain anonymous. The online reporting method has

generated 40 TIPS since it was started this past fall.

For over 30 years, the South Dakota Turn In Poachers program has been a shining example of what can be done to protect a public trust resource when government, private industry, sportsmen and the general public come together to address a common problem.

Following are examples of cases in which Conservation Officers were able to apprehend wildlife violators thanks to information provided through the TIPS program.



TIPs Program Totals for TIPs Year 2017
261 INVESTIGATIONS
146 ARRESTS
\$31,153 FINES
\$57,463 LIQUIDATED CIVIL DAMAGES
4,576 DAYS OF JAIL (4,239 days suspended)
<b>\$6,850 REWARDS PAID</b>

TIPs Program Totals 1984 to June 30, 2018
11,919 INVESTIGATIONS
4,327 ARRESTS
\$814,187 FINES
\$655,350 LIQUIDATED CIVIL DAMAGES
41,069 DAYS OF JAIL (37,578 days suspended)
<b>\$176,055 REWARDS PAID</b>

## Waterfowl

On March 14, 2018, at approximately 11:24 p.m., an informant called to report people shooting at geese. The informant stated that they heard about 20-30 shots. A Brule County Deputy stopped a vehicle that was leaving the area. The driver admitted to shooting at geese. Wildlife Conservation Officers (WCOs) arrived on scene and interviewed the suspect. During the interview, the suspect admitted to shooting at geese earlier in the day and went back out to shoot more geese with a friend after dark. WCOs searched the area that night and observed an injured snow goose. At sunrise, WCOs searched the area again and recovered 16 dead and injured snow geese and one Canada goose. Two suspects were charged with hunting waterfowl closed season and wanton waste.

## Deer

On November 13, 2018, Conservation Officers received a TIPs call regarding a whitetail buck that had been shot and not retrieved on private property in Corson County. An investigation began and Conservation Officers began to monitor the area. Around 1 a.m., two individuals trespassed onto the property and retrieved the deer. Images were captured of the license plate and vehicle. Officers located the vehicle the following day and conducted a traffic stop. The untagged whitetail buck was found in the bed of the pickup.

- » 2 Counts Trespassing
- » 1 Count Shooting from the road
- » 1 Count No license to hunt big game
- » Fines of \$859 and civil damages of \$1,000



## Illegal Hunting: Case closed

A tip about illegal hunting in McCook County led to four separate cases involving eight individuals participating in illegal hunting activities in three different counties across South Dakota during the 2016/2017 hunting season. In all, eight deer were seized with several dead deer found left in the field. DNA samples taken from heads confiscated on a search warrant matched a poached deer with the head cut off in a different county months before the case was initiated. Two of the subjects were charged again in the fall of 2017/2018 for similar illegal deer hunting which led to a felony charge of hunting deer during a closed season.

- » \$4,784 fines
- » \$8,000 civil
- » 441 days jail sentenced with 104 served
- » 7 counts Big Game unlawful possession, 6 Trespassing, 5 Big Game no license, 1 Big Game shooting from road, 3 Big Game closed season, 2 Big Game License lending, 1 failure to tag



# CONSERVATION OFFICER AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Every year GFP conservation officers, supervisors and administrative staff receive awards in recognition of their efforts toward wildlife law enforcement and management.



## **JOSH THOMPSON**

Conservation Officer in Spearfish, received the Officer of the Year Award from the Association of Midwest Association of Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers for his outstanding efforts in law enforcement.



## **ADAM GEIGLE**

District Conservation Officer Supervisor in Rapid City, received the Officer of the Year Award from the National Wild Turkey Federation for protecting wildlife and providing a safe hunting environment.



## **JOSH VANDEN BOSCH**

Conservation Officer in Canton, received the Brook Brown Boating Safety Officer of the Year Award from the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) for his efforts with boating safety.



## **BILL EASTMAN**

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



## **KEVIN STOLZ**

Parks Law Enforcement Administrator in Custer, received a teamwork award for his efforts in battling the Legion Lake Fire in Custer State Park.



## **SPENCER DOWNEY**

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



## **JIM GANSER**

Park Ranger in Custer, received a teamwork award for his efforts in battling the Legion Lake Fire in Custer State Park.



# 2018 CONSERVATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Award Presented Annually by Shikar–Safari Club International



## KRAIG HAASE

Each year, Shikar-Safari Club International selects an outstanding Conservation Officer in each of the 50 states based on their exemplary performance in the areas of wildlife protection, wildlife law enforcement, and implementation of important wildlife conservation programs.

South Dakota's 2018 Recipient is Watertown Regional Conservation Officer Supervisor Kraig Haase.

Kraig was recognized for building strong working relationships with area landowners throughout his career and earning respect from local media, sportsmen's clubs, civic organizations and his law enforcement peers.

# 2018 STATEWIDE VIOLATION STATISTICS

## HUNTING VIOLATIONS = 615

53	Big Game - Hunting on the Highway
39	Big Game - No License
35	Shooting from a Motor Vehicle
34	Big Game - Unlawful Possession
33	Nontoxic Shot Areas for Small Game
32	Waterfowl - Unplugged Shotgun
30	Big Game - Wrong Unit
29	Artificial Light/Night Vision
28	Hunting within 660 Feet of Dwelling/Livestock
28	Protected Bird - Hunt or Possess
24	Big Game - Improper Tagging
22	Small Game - Right of Way Restriction
21	Waterfowl - Closed Season
20	Waterfowl - No Federal Stamp
16	Big Game - Closed Season
16	Big Game - Violate Conditions of License
13	Protected Game - Unlawful Possession
13	Small Game - No License
10	Waterfowl - Lead Shot
9	Big Game - Failure to Tag
8	Small Game - Closed Season
7	License - No Migratory Bird Certification
7	Minor Hunting without Adult Supervision
7	Small Game - Hunt Before/After Legal Hours
7	Waterfowl - No License
6	Big Game - Bait Station/Electronic Call Prohibited
6	Hunting Game Birds with Unlawful Firearm
6	License - Lending
6	Small Game - Wrong Unit
5	Big Game - No Fluorescent Orange
5	Big Game - Use of Salt Lick to Attract
5	Game Bird Transportation/Packaging Requirements
5	Waterfowl - Over Limit
5	Waterfowl - Unlawful Possession
4	Small Game - Unlawful Possession
3	Gun Protruding from Vehicle
3	Waterfowl - Hunt Before/After Legal Hours
2	Artificial Light Prohibited After 10 p.m.
2	Big Game - Transport without Sex/Species ID
2	Big Game - Unlicensed Armed Accompaniment
2	Unprotected Game - No License
1	Big Game - Sale of Meat
1	Dove Hunting within 50 Yards of Highway
1	Hunting from Aircraft
1	Hunting within a State Game Bird Refuge
1	Illegal Hunting Method
1	Turkey - Shoot in Tree or Roost
1	Waterfowl - Right of Way Restriction

## MISC VIOLATIONS = 917

172	Drugs - Use or Possession of Paraphernalia
143	Trespass - Hunting
98	Drugs - Possession of Marijuana - 2 oz. or less
62	Alcohol - Possession by Minor
48	Drugs - Possession of Controlled Substance
43	Drugs - Ingest Intoxicant Other Than Alcohol
41	Alcohol - Open Container
38	Littering
30	Driving Under Influence - Misdemeanor
30	License - Fraud to Obtain
20	Wanton Waste of Game
14	Drugs - Ingestion of a Controlled Substance
12	Obstructing Law Enforcement Officer
10	Habitual Offender - Prior Felony
10	Impersonation to Deceive Officer
10	License - Minimum Residency Required
10	License - Not in Possession
9	Big Game - Ineligible Application for License
8	Carry Uncased or Loaded Firearm on ATV/UTV/Motorcycle
8	Use of Vehicle/Boat to Disturb or Chase
7	License - Fishing Under Revocation
7	Traffic - Reckless Driving
7	Trespass - Fishing
6	Driving Under Influence - Felony
5	Restrictions on Use of Firearms
4	Destruction or Removal of Natural Features
4	Disorderly Conduct
4	Habitual Offender - 3+ Felonies
4	Probation Violation
3	License - Hunting Under Revocation
3	Manufacture, Distribute, or Possess Controlled Substance
3	Possess Loaded Firearm While Intoxicated
3	Shooting Preserve - Records Violation
3	Taxidermy - No License
2	Commit Felony Carrying Firearm - First Conviction
2	Disturbing Wildlife Prohibited
2	Drugs - Possession, Sale, or Distribution for Intoxication
2	Interference with Lawful Hunting
2	License - Purchase/Apply Under Revocation - Hunting
2	Operate a Motor Vehicle on Private Land
2	Petty Theft 2nd Degree - \$400 or Less
2	Possession of Firearm - Convicted Violent Felon
2	Reckless Discharge of a Firearm/Bow
2	Resisting Arrest
2	Shooting Preserve - Failure to Notify of Release

- 2 | Simple Assault Against Law Enforcement
- 2 | Vandalism - \$400 less - 3rd Degree
- 1 | Aggravated Assault Against Law Enforcement
- 1 | Aquatic Invasive Species - Illegal Possession/Sale/Transport
- 1 | Drugs - Possession of Marijuana - More than 2 oz
- 1 | Eluding
- 1 | False Reporting
- 1 | License - Apply/Purchase Big Game When Ineligible
- 1 | Littering From Vehicle
- 1 | Petty Theft 1st Degree - More \$400
- 1 | Possession of Concealed Weapon without Permit
- 1 | Taxidermy - Tagging of Specimen
- 1 | Use of Snowmobile to Disturb or Chase
- 1 | Violation of a Valid Court Order

### **FISHING VIOLATIONS = 536**

- 267 | Fishing without License
- 61 | Too Many Lines
- 60 | Over Limit of Fish
- 44 | Length Limit Violation
- 40 | Illegal Transport and Storage of Fish
- 30 | Unattended Lines
- 8 | Unlawful Possession - Fish
- 5 | Illegal Fishing Method
- 4 | Waters Open to Taking of Bait
- 3 | Ice Fishing Shelter - Labeling/Access
- 3 | Prohibited Bait
- 3 | Wanton Waste of Fish
- 2 | Aquatic Invasive Species - Fish and Bait Transportation Restrictions
- 2 | Drugs - Possession Marijuana or Alcohol in Jail
- 2 | Fishing in Restricted Area/Closed Season
- 1 | Paddlefish Processing and Transportation Restrictions
- 1 | Unlawful Possession of Fish on the Water

### **PARK AND PUBLIC LAND VIOLATIONS = 171**

- 25 | Driving Off Roads Prohibited
- 23 | Snowmobile - No Valid License
- 22 | Failure to Have Park Entrance License
- 19 | Jumping/Diving Prohibited
- 17 | Limitation on Tree Stand/Platforms/Blinds
- 12 | Misc. Park Violations
- 11 | Glass Containers Prohibited
- 6 | Unauthorized Land Use on Posted GFP
- 5 | Loud Speakers Prohibited - Disturbance Prohibited
- 4 | Leaving Property on Department Land
- 4 | Pet Prohibitions

- 4 | Traffic - Exhibition Driving in Parks
- 3 | Fireworks - Sell/Discharge
- 3 | Lead Shot Target Shooting on Public Land
- 3 | Unauthorized Fire/Public Land
- 2 | Bait Station Prohibited on Department Land
- 2 | Restrictions on Firearms and Bows
- 2 | Unauthorized Use of State Land
- 1 | Checkout Times Enforced
- 1 | Exceeding Posted Speed limit in State Park or Recreation Area
- 1 | Operating Vehicles on School and Public Land
- 1 | Start Open Fire in Black Hills

### **FURBEARER VIOLATIONS = 15**

- 5 | Exposed Bait Prohibited
- 4 | Furbearer - No License
- 2 | Trap Checking Required
- 1 | Possess Wild Animal - Failure to Notify
- 1 | Snare Restrictions
- 1 | Trap Furbearer During Closed Season
- 1 | Trap Robbing or Injury

### **WATERCRAFT VIOLATIONS = 483**

- 161 | Aquatic Invasive Species - Watercraft Restrictions
- 142 | PFD - Insufficient Number
- 36 | Operate Vessel Under Influence
- 22 | Operate Vessel in Violation of Posted Waters
- 21 | Careless Operation
- 20 | Operate Vessel without License/Number
- 14 | PWC - Greater Than No Wake within 150 Feet
- 13 | Operate Vessel without Lights
- 12 | PFD - Not Wearing on Personal Watercraft
- 11 | Reckless/Negligent Operation of Vessel
- 9 | Water Skiing - No Observer or Mirror
- 5 | PFD - Use Required (Child Under 7)
- 3 | Overloading Boat
- 1 | PWC - Operate in Unreasonable Manner
- 3 | PWC - Operate without Lights
- 3 | PWC - Underage Operation
- 1 | Aquatic Invasive Species - Watercraft Inspections
- 1 | Boat Accident - Failure to Report
- 1 | Improper Display of Boat Numbers
- 1 | Navigation Rules
- 1 | No Fire Extinguisher
- 1 | Unauthorized/Improper Buoy Placement
- 1 | Water Skiing - After Hours

PFD = Personal Floatation Device

PWC = Personal Watercraft

# 2018 STATEWIDE VIOLATION STATISTICS

## VIOLATION TOTALS BY ACTIVITY

Hunting	615
Fishing	536
Furbearer	15
Watercraft	483
Parks and Public Land	171
Miscellaneous	917
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,737</b>

## WRITTEN WARNINGS BY ACTIVITY

Boating	568
Hunting	375
Fishing	237
Parks	64
Furbearer	12
Shooting Preserve	4
Taxidermist	3
Bait Dealer	1
Wildlife Replica	1
Miscellaneous	441
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,706</b>

## SUSPENSIONS

Hunting	344
Fishing	267
Trapping	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>621</b>

## FINES AND COSTS

Fines assessed	\$191,060
Fines suspended	\$864
Actual fines assessed	\$190,196
Costs assessed	\$134,968
Costs suspended	\$0
Actual costs assessed	\$134,968
<b>ACTUAL FINES &amp; COSTS ASSESSED</b>	<b>\$325,165</b>

## JAIL TIME - DAYS

Jail time assessed	17,140
Jail time suspended	16,406
<b>ACTUAL JAIL TIME SERVED</b>	<b>734</b>

## PROBATION - MONTHS

Probation	543
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## CIVIL DAMAGES ASSESSED

Big Game	\$48,000
Fish	\$10,450
Furbearer	\$0
Small Game/Waterfowl	\$1,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$60,250</b>



# 2018 STATEWIDE CONTACT STATISTICS

## FIELD CONTACT TOTALS

Anglers – nonresident	7,115
Anglers – resident	19,948
Hunters – nonresident	4,364
Hunters – resident	8,443
Parks – nonresident	50
Parks – resident	387
Trappers – nonresident	4
Trappers – resident	157
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,468</b>

## LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Presentations to groups	232
School programs	135
HuntSAFE classes	156
Radio	449
TV	17
Newspaper articles	112
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,101</b>

## LANDOWNER ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

Trespass	162
Shooting too close to dwellings/ livestock (660 feet)	72
Spotlighting	34
Miscellaneous	78
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346</b>

## INSPECTION TOTALS

Watercraft	5,818
Private Shooting Preserve	222
Taxidermist	114
Bait Dealers	43
Public Storage	7
Snowmobile	23
Captive Game Bird	9
Fur Dealers	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,245</b>



# WHAT'S NEW: GFP HONOR GUARD

In late 2016, discussions were held amongst members of the law staff about establishing a Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Honor Guard Team. The conservation officer family had a string of retired officers pass away and the idea was brought forth for discussion. Law staff agreed that it would be nice to have a team in place to represent the department and provide honors to our fallen comrades. The idea was presented to GFP administrators and was overwhelmingly approved to move forward with the establishment of GFP honor guard team.

Over the course of 15 months, criteria were put in place for the selection of officers who wished to serve on the team. That included a combination of the expectations in other honor guard teams in other wildlife agencies across the United States, as well as criteria for the U.S. military honor guard. Some of those expectations include height/weight standards, attention to detail, and appearance standards that exceed those already in place.

From there, eight officers interviewed and were selected to serve as representatives for GFP's first honor guard team. In the winter of 2018, members of the team participated in a two-day training event put on by members of the South Dakota Army National Guard Funeral Honors Team. The training consisted of drill and ceremony, folding of the United States flag, and multiple other duties associated with funeral events.

In the spring of 2018, dress uniforms were distributed to the team. The first official unveiling of the Honor

Guard Team took place in May 2018 during law enforcement memorial week in Pierre. During that week, members of the team participated in a two-day training alongside additional honor guard teams from across the state. Other departments included the South Dakota Highway Patrol, South Dakota Department of Corrections, Sioux Falls Police Department, and Rapid City Police Department. The week ended with officers participating in the law enforcement memorial ceremony at the state capitol with Attorney General Marty Jackley.

The Department Honor Guard Team deployed to two funerals in 2018. One of those deployments was for retired conservation officer Robert Kolb from Watertown, and a second to fallen Minnesota Conservation Officer Chelsea Leuthardt in Graceville, Minnesota.

The primary duty of the Department Honor Guard Team is to render final honors for fallen comrades. The honor guard team provides comfort and support to survivors of those who have fallen. The honor guard is a specially trained, uniquely decorated, and highly disciplined unit that represents the positive image of GFP. Currently, the Department Honor Guard Team is ready to deploy at a moment's notice to honor current conservation officers who pass unexpectedly or fall in a line of duty incident, retired conservation officers who pass, current department employees who pass away, and other fallen law enforcement officers within the region.



# IN MEMORIAM



## ROBERT "BOB" KOLB

MARCH 26, 1922 – OCTOBER 14, 2018

- 1942-44 U.S. Air Force B24 Bomber Pilot in WWII – flew 27 missions in the European theater. Recipient of the Air Medal, Flying Cross and Presidential Unit Citation.
- 1946-61 GFP Game Warden in Clear Lake
- 1962-69 GFP Land appraiser/acquisition administrator in Watertown



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