

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

INTRODUCTION

Greetings! South Dakota Game, Fish and Park's (GFP) Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) program has been working hard this past year to resolve wildlife damage issues that impact South Dakota's landowners and producers. Every year our dedicated professionals respond to a large number of requests for assistance from landowners and producers with all types of wildlife damage. From elk to coyotes and beavers to Canada geese and deer, GFP staff work cooperatively with landowners and producers across South Dakota to alleviate damage to livestock, crops, and personal property.

With more than 85% percent of South Dakota held in private ownership, partnerships with landowners and producers are critical to GFP's mission to manage the wildlife resources of this state. These private lands produce most of the wildlife and provide places for most hunting opportunities and activities to occur, which many South Dakotans and visitors enjoy every year. GFP strives to cooperatively work with landowners and producers to resolve many types of wildlife damage conflicts to maintain these important relationships. It is because of these important considerations that GFP operates such an active and comprehensive WDM program. This past year, GFP spent over \$3 million to operate the WDM programs in South Dakota and responded to nearly 2,700 requests for assistance which directly impacted over 2,100 landowners and producers.

Cooperative partnerships are critical components to the success of our programs and they would not be as successful without the assistance and cooperation of landowners, producers, predator control districts, and other state and federal agencies. By working together, our cooperative efforts impact many South Dakotans and their operations, which continue to build lasting relationships.

As the agency responsible for managing the wildlife resources in South Dakota, GFP manages with a science-based approach. However, interactions with landowners and producers as well as social tolerances and landowner concerns all play an integral role in wildlife management and the delivery of our program services. GFP has a proven history of cooperatively working with landowners and producers to resolve wildlife damage concerns and remains committed to working with landowners and producers to address the impacts wildlife can have to private property into the future. I'm excited to share this year's summary with you and I hope it gives you a better understanding of these important services.

Sincerely,

Keith Fisk

Wildlife Damage Program Administrator

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks provides 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.

WILDLIFE DIVISION REPORT

NUMBER: 2018-08

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HISTORY OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA



South Dakota has a very diverse landscape and land-use varies greatly across the state. This diversity as well as local wildlife populations, weather conditions, changes to local habitat, social tolerances, and stakeholder feedback all help determine the services the WDM program offer. GFP operates a multi-faceted WDM program which is designed to address human-wildlife conflicts involving most species of wildlife that occur throughout South Dakota.

Currently, 28 wildlife damage specialists, numerous seasonal staff, and many other GFP staff provide the “boots-on-the-ground” delivery of the WDM program services. Wildlife damage staff work directly with South Dakota’s livestock and agricultural producers to alleviate or reduce livestock loss from predators (primarily coyote) as well as crop, tree, and road damage caused from beaver. They help to minimize or alleviate damage to stored-feed supplies caused by deer, elk, and turkey, and work to reduce damage to growing crops from Canada geese, deer, elk, and pronghorn. In addition, GFP also provides prairie dog control on private lands that have been encroached from adjacent public land. However, these programs haven’t always functioned under the current operational guidelines.



ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL (ADC)

Initially, GFP operated only the Animal Damage Control (ADC) program which was mandated by state law in 1939. This program was then more formalized in 1974 by the South Dakota Legislature. The passage of this legislation established the program and funding which allowed GFP to employ personnel to control coyotes, fox, prairie

dogs, and other wild animals injurious to landowners. This legislation developed a system to fund the program wherein state law provided for an assessment to each county based upon livestock numbers (i.e. cattle and sheep) located within the county. While the assessment amount is generated using the numbers of livestock, all tax-payers within a county contribute. This law also mandated that GFP match those county monies on a 1:1 basis initially, and beginning in 1999 the GFP match increased to a 2:1 rate. The county assessments generate approximately \$300,000 and coupled with the GFP match of 2:1, another \$600,000 is added.

In 2013, the South Dakota Legislature enacted legislation that added an additional one-dollar surcharge to most hunting licenses. This one-dollar surcharge adds approximately another \$300,000 for ADC program funding. In 2017, the South Dakota Legislature increased the transaction fee for the sale of licenses purchase online. This increase allocated another \$200,000 for the program. Finally, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture provides some additional funding to the ADC program each year to assist with prairie dog control.


Initially, GFP employed a number of “Extension Trappers,” who were responsible for specific work districts and responded to requests for service from South Dakota’s landowners and producers. Over the years, GFP also operated an aerial predator control program to control coyotes and fox in local areas during this time period. Most requests for assistance involved problems with coyotes, fox, beaver, raccoon, and prairie dogs. Since 2000, GFP has expended over \$23 million on ADC program services in South Dakota.



WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT (WDM)

As the populations of other wildlife species (i.e. deer, elk, turkey, and Canada geese) increased, they began to impact more South Dakota landowners and producers. The South Dakota Legislature adopted legislation in 1999 which attached a five-dollar surcharge to most hunting licenses in South Dakota to provide additional funding to help landowners and producers. One-half of the monies raised from this surcharge go towards hunter access programs, and the other one-half is used to support the WDM program. This surcharge generates approximately \$1.7 million annually, again split 50:50 between WDM and hunter access.





It has also been GFP's position to utilize the proceeds from Special Buck licenses to help fund WDM program services, which generates an additional \$400,000 each year. Then during the legislative session of 2017, the South Dakota Legislature increased the transaction fee for the sale of licenses. This increase allocated another \$200,000 for the program. Combined, the WDM portion of the program receives approximately \$1.5 million annually in funding support. These funds are used to alleviate or reduce impacts to agricultural and livestock producers as a direct result from wildlife depredation. In 2001, four wildlife damage specialists (one within each administrative region) were hired to help implement the initial program services. In addition, assistance is also provided by wildlife conservation officers and other field staff across the state when needed.

As a condition to receive assistance, landowners and producers are asked to sign an agreement with GFP that states they do not charge for hunting access (for the species they are requesting assistance with) and they agree to allow reasonable free hunting access to people who obtain proper permission.

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In 2009, these two programs (i.e. ADC and WDM) were formally consolidated and the comprehensive WDM program that GFP operates today was created. At the same time, GFP also entered into a cooperative agreement with USDA-Wildlife Services (USDA-WS) in regards to aerial predator control in South Dakota. Currently, USDA-WS is responsible for most aerial predator control operations while GFP provides

predator control services via ground-control methods. Additionally, GFP provides USDA-WS with funding for the operation of a second aircraft for central and eastern South Dakota.

Under the consolidated program, extension trappers were reclassified as wildlife damage specialists and are now responsible for providing assistance to producers with all types of requests for service within their respective work district. Dependent upon their location and demand from local producers, some wildlife damage specialists work primarily with deer and Canada geese while others work primarily on predator control. Obviously, weather and local wildlife populations dictate the amount and types of services that wildlife damage staff provides.

As the demand for program services has increased, GFP has been responsive in assuring that maximum services are provided to our producers and landowners in South Dakota, within the limits of available funding. As an example, for many years GFP provided only very limited services in regards to Canada goose depredation assistance. However, as the resident Canada goose population increased in eastern South Dakota as well as the demand from producers and landowners, GFP's services increased accordingly. For example, in fiscal year 2002 GFP spent \$243,857 on Canada goose depredation assistance and in fiscal year 2012, GFP spent \$717,262. Again, demonstrating that as the demand for services increased, so did GFP's efforts to reduce or alleviate the corresponding crop damage.

Since 2000, GFP has spent over \$23 million on resolving game species depredation (primarily deer, elk, and Canada geese) on private land. As we move forward, GFP remains committed to continuing to adapt services and programs to best meet the demands from our partners in wildlife management, South Dakota's landowners and producers.

NEW FOR 2018

- GFP hired a full-time aerial gunner position to be linked with the aircraft located in Pierre. This new position will allow the second aircraft to provide enhanced levels of aerial predator control to livestock producers across South Dakota, while keeping safety at the forefront of these operations. This position also assists with other statewide program initiatives.
- GFP received \$20,000 from USDA-Wildlife Services' Aviation Training Operations Center to be utilized for the new aerial gunner position due to safety benefits associated with this position.
- GFP hired two new staff within the WDM program to fill vacancies. The duty stations for these positions included Fort Pierre and Mobridge.
- GFP improved its online registration system for landowners and producers that request assistance with prairie dog control. Landowners simply fill out their information and use the mapping feature to identify the area where the prairie dogs encroached onto their property from adjacent public land, and they are then registered for GFP's assistance.

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GOALS

When someone thinks of a Wildlife Damage Specialist (WDS), several thoughts may come to mind — a GFP staff member assisting with trapping a coyote that has killed livestock; assisting with the construction of electric fence to protect growing crops from Canada goose damage; or assistance regarding deer damage to stored-feed supplies. These answers are all correct. Wildlife damage specialists play an important role within GFP and provide the people of South Dakota with many valuable services.

PRIMARY PURPOSE

With more than 85 percent of South Dakota in private ownership, private landowners play a pivotal role in wildlife management. Wildlife damage specialists cooperatively work with landowners and producers to alleviate or reduce all types of wildlife damage to private property. This includes alleviating livestock loss caused by coyotes and fox, reducing damage to stored-feed supplies from deer, elk, and turkeys, reducing damage to growing crops from Canada geese, alleviating livestock loss and protecting the general public from mountain lions, reducing damage to commercial melon growers from raccoons and deer, controlling prairie dogs on lands adjacent to public land, and reducing damage to crops, dams, trees, roads and other property from beaver. They assist landowners with a diversity of other human-wildlife conflicts such as pronghorn antelope and pheasant depredation as well as hawk and owl control to protect poultry.

There are also certain situations where wildlife damage staff assists with public safety such as the protection of levees and dikes from wildlife (during the flooding events in 2011), wildlife threats on or near airports, human-wildlife conflicts with aggressive wildlife species and other situations that arise. Some staff members also train and supervise a large number of seasonal employees and interns which provide the primary workforce for many wildlife damage management activities.

Wildlife damage specialists interact with thousands of landowners and producers each year and GFP relies on these staff members for agency communications with the citizens of South Dakota at the grass-roots level.



WILDLIFE DAMAGE SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD:



Each year, one wildlife damage specialist is selected for this award. This year, Brendan Peterson (center) was selected for his dedication and outstanding performance in central South Dakota (Region 2).

Brendan has worked for GFP since 2007 and has created many valuable relationships with producers and landowners. He serves the producers in his district with excellent customer service, whether it is requests for predator control or assistance with deer damage. Brendan always represents GFP in a professional manner and has demonstrated his dedication to resolving wildlife conflicts with each and every landowner interaction. Brendan's work ethic and positive attitude allow him to address difficult situations effectively every time. Congratulations to Brendan!

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife damage specialists assist with many different wildlife surveys and disease monitoring efforts that GFP conducts throughout the year. They assist with surveys such as deer classification and aerial surveys, fawn captures, pheasant brood routes, pronghorn antelope surveys, elk surveys, grouse surveys and turkey counts. They help with duck and goose banding, bobcat tagging, and walleye spawning when time allows. They are also called upon to work with other GFP staff on disease monitoring efforts such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), Avian Influenza, and recent Tuberculosis (TB) sampling in wildlife. They assist with wildlife research projects when projects demand certain skills or personnel and play a vital role in the success of many projects. Wildlife damage specialists also provide input on recommendations for the many different seasons and licenses that South Dakota administers.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Another important role that wildlife damage specialists play is to provide educational seminars and demonstrations to sportsmen groups, schools, and other interested groups to promote hunting and trapping of furbearers. Wildlife damage staff participates in events throughout South Dakota such as the Step-Outside Program and other GFP-sponsored public outreach events.

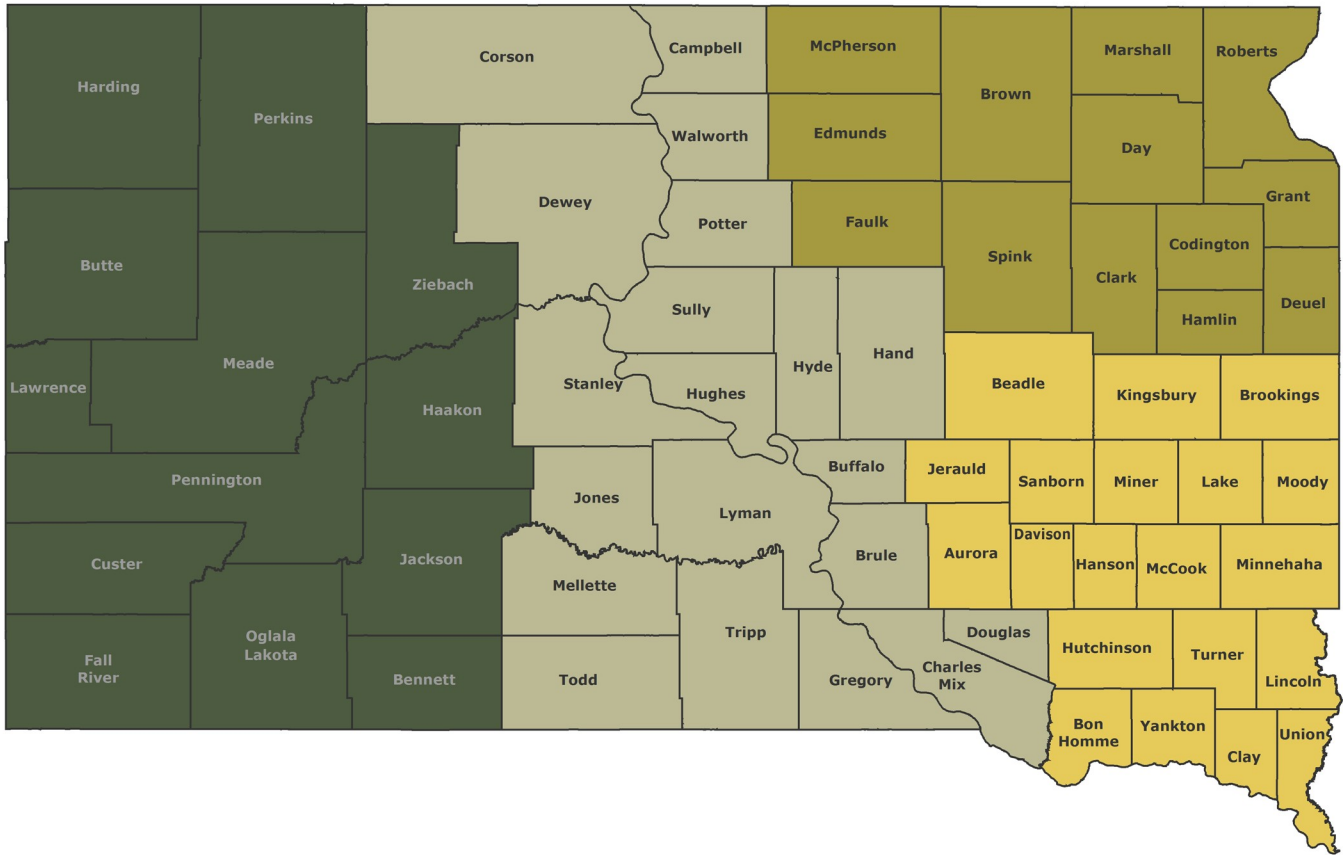
Wildlife damage specialists present information regarding the WDM program to county commissions, predator control districts, and appear at numerous other public meetings throughout the year. Administrators routinely interact with stakeholder groups such as the WDM Working Group, ADC Policy Advisory Committee, SD Stockgrowers, SD Sheeppgrowers, SD Cattlemen, SD Ag Unity, GFP Commission, and many other organizations, policy-makers, and groups. They also coordinate management activities and operations with other partners such as USDA-WS, USDA Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, South Dakota Department of Agriculture, South Dakota School and Public Lands office and other state and federal agencies as well as cooperate on wildlife damage research with South Dakota State University and USDA National Wildlife Research Center.

Program accountability is an important element for GFP and it's critical that our constituents' needs are being met by our programs and services as well as providing accountability to the sportsmen and women who provide funding for these important programs. Over the past five years, GFP has made a considerable effort to demonstrate accountability and transparency through enhanced public communication efforts.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS

The Division of Wildlife's Operations Section is divided into four administrative regions. Each region works under the supervision of a regional supervisor along with other assistant supervisory staff. Each region then has assorted field-staff which conduct the "on-the-ground" work and services to the citizens of South Dakota. In addition to the four administrative regions, the Division of Wildlife also has an administrative section which consists of a program administrator and support staff.



REGION 1 (WESTERN)

Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Jackson, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins, Shannon, and Ziebach.

REGION 2 (CENTRAL)

Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Charles Mix, Corson, Dewey, Douglas, Gregory, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Jones, Lyman, Mellette, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Todd, Tripp, and Walworth.

REGION 3 (SOUTHEAST)

Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Brookings, Clay, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerald, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Sanborn, Turner, Union, and Yankton.

REGION 4 (NORTHEAST)

Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, McPherson, Roberts, and Spink.

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

KELLY HEPLER, Department Secretary

TONY LEIF, Wildlife Division Director

TOM KIRSCHENMANN, Wildlife Division Deputy Director

JOHN KANTA, Regional Supervisor | Region 1 (West)

MARK OHM, Regional Supervisor | Region 2 (Central)

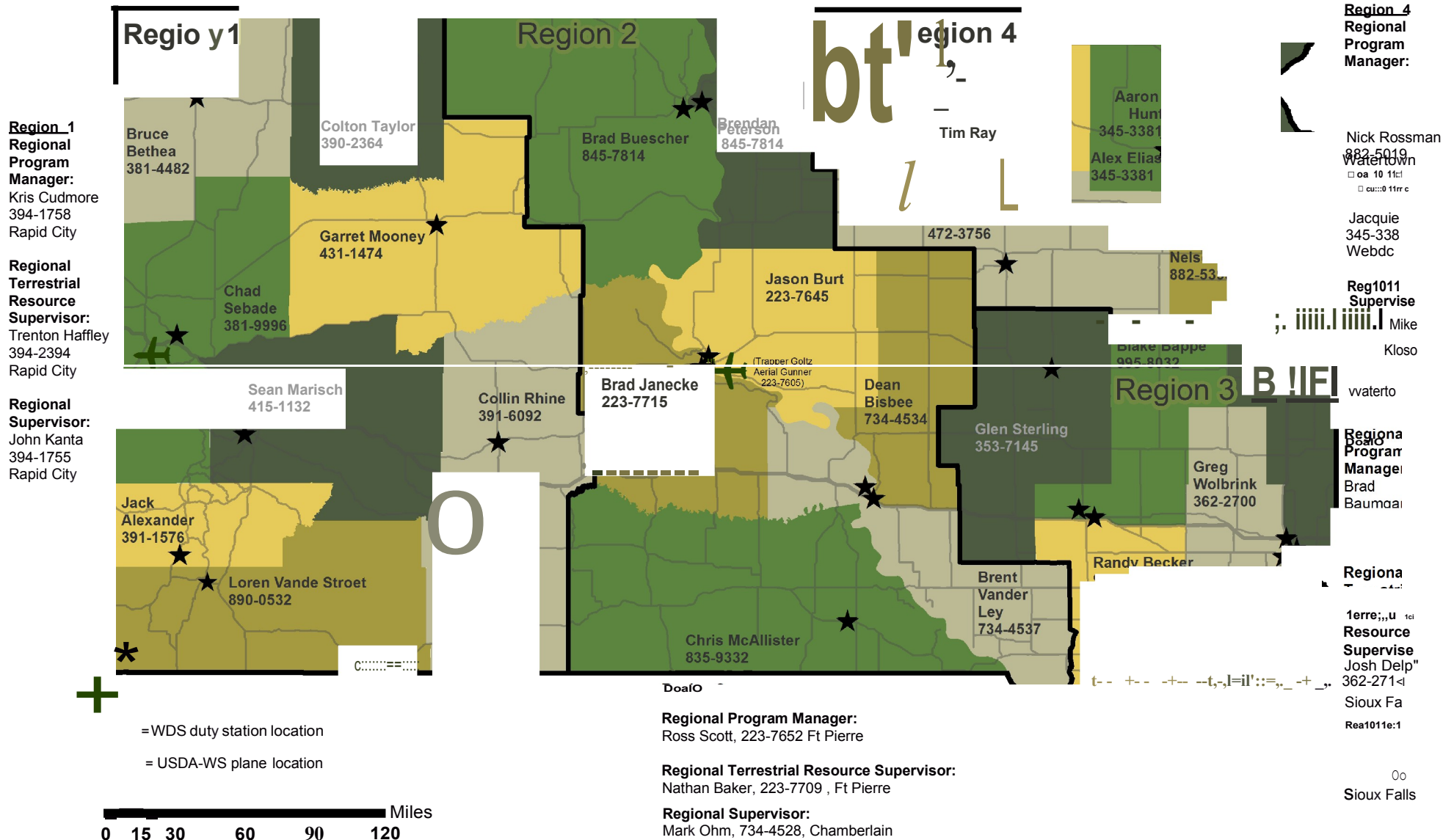
EMMETT KEYSER, Regional Supervisor | Region 3 (Southeast)

MIKE KLOSOWSKI, Regional Supervisor | Region 4 (Northeast)



South Dakota GFP Wildlife Damage Management Program

2.
Department of Game, Fish and Parks



STATEWIDE PROGRAM REPORT AND SUMMARY

The state of South Dakota consists of 66 counties and has a diverse landscape including croplands, grasslands, wetlands and lakes, rugged river drainages, badlands, and the Black Hills. These varying landscapes also present their own unique set of challenges due to the wildlife species that are present, weather conditions, and population acceptance levels. South Dakota has an abundance of wildlife species and includes populations of white-tailed deer, mule deer, upland game, waterfowl, pronghorn antelope, elk, furbearers, turkeys, and mountain lions.

Twenty-eight full-time wildlife damage specialists, numerous seasonal positions, and assisting GFP staff provide the “boots-on-the-ground” delivery of the important WDM programs and services. These programs provide direct assistance to South Dakota producers and landowners when wildlife damage concerns arise. The depredation assistance that GFP primarily provides includes assistance with beaver, Canada geese, coyote, deer, elk, fox, mountain lions, nuisance animals, pheasant, pronghorn antelope, turkey, as well as other wildlife species.



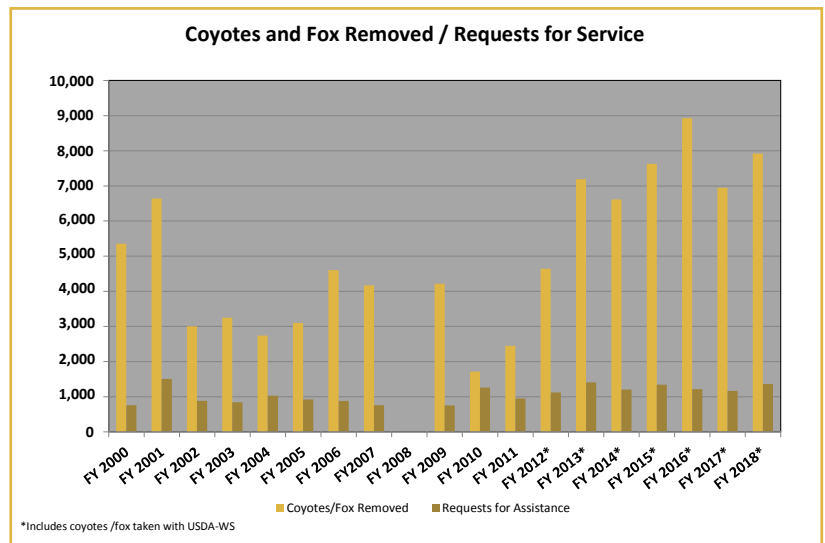
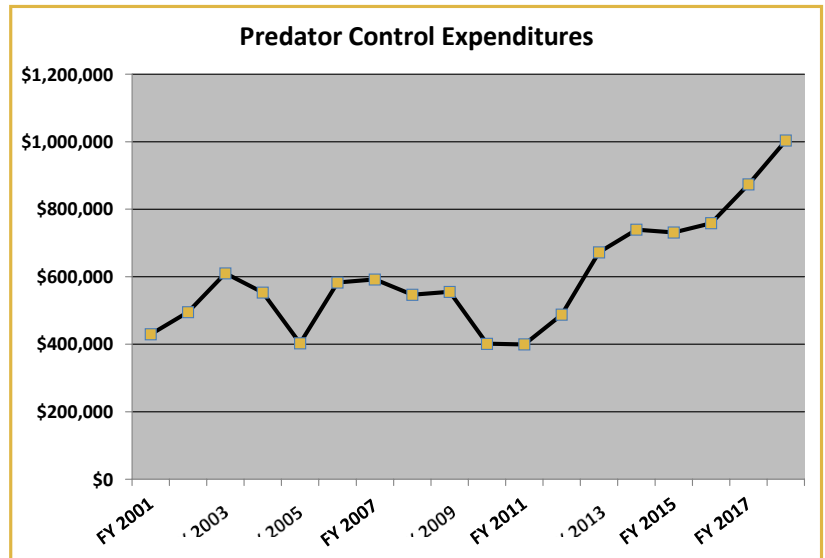
PREDATORS

South Dakota produces a great deal of livestock every year; some of the largest numbers in the United States. As such, working with livestock producers to resolve predator impacts to their operations is the largest component of the Animal Damage Control (ADC) portion of GFP's Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) program. High coyote populations and large numbers of livestock across the state produced a significant demand for GFP's predator control services and resulted in a heavy workload to address these requests.

Wildlife damage staff responded to 1,363 requests for assistance regarding livestock loss and livestock protection from coyotes and fox, which directly impacted 921 livestock producers. Wildlife damage staff worked over 21,000 hours and drove nearly 325,000 miles to address these concerns. GFP also partnered with USDA-WS to fund a second aircraft for increased aerial predator control in eastern and central South Dakota. This second aircraft was stationed in Pierre and flew over 500 hours which allowed for more effective predator control and timely responses when addressing livestock loss events and livestock protection requests.

In addition, GFP provided a total of \$6,000 of cooperative funding to six predator control districts [Campbell County, Edmunds County, Faulk County, McPherson County, Multi-County (Harding, Butte, and portions of Lawrence and Meade counties), and Perkins County] for additional aerial predator control. These funds provided additional hours of aerial predator control above the level that GFP and USDA-WS can provide, which were directed by local GFP wildlife damage staff. These predator control districts continue to play an important role in the cooperative predator control efforts in these counties.

Total program expenditures this past year for predator control in South Dakota were just over \$1 million. Since 2001, GFP has spent over \$10 million on predator control activities to address livestock loss events and the protection of livestock. In 2018, while cooperatively working with USDA-WS and local predator control districts, GFP removed a total of 7,927 coyotes and fox.



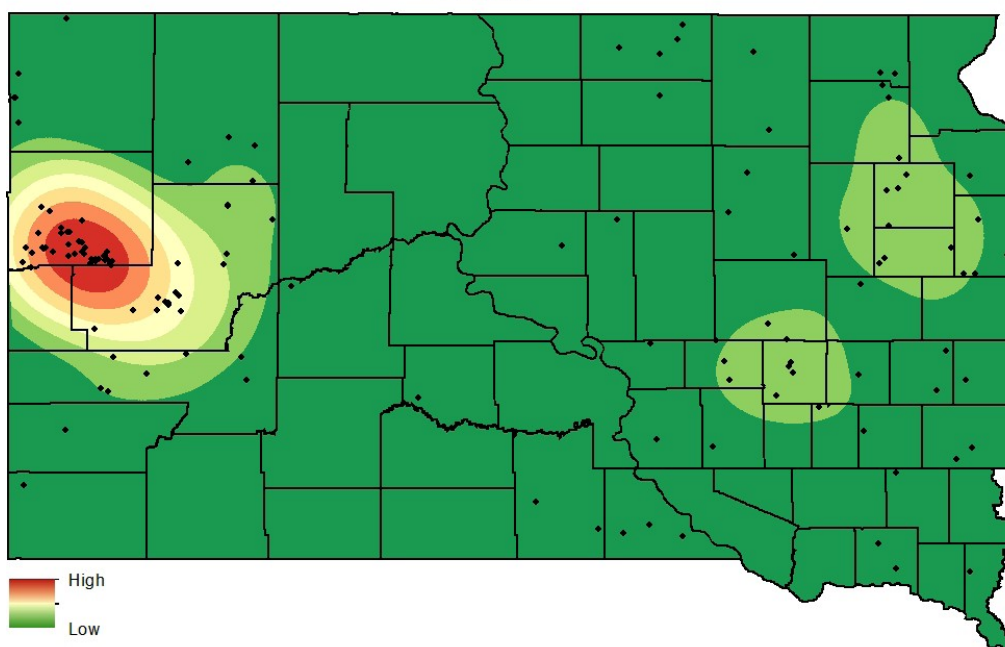
DEER

Local deer populations and winter weather events greatly affect the demands for deer damage abatement services. The winter of 2017-18 was severe in some areas of western South Dakota. These areas experienced extreme cold and deep snow until mid-March, which caused deer to congregate into large herds and move into farmyards for food and protection. Some of these areas experienced extreme deer damage to stored-feed supplies. The remainder of the state did not experience these harsh conditions for extended periods, and many parts of South Dakota were at or below the management objectives for overall deer numbers. GFP spent considerable resources to address the deer damage issues across South Dakota. GFP responded to over 150 requests for assistance with deer damage to stored-feed supplies and growing crops. Wildlife damage staff also initiated 61 stackyard or protective panel contracts to protect stored-feed supplies and seven protective fencing projects to alleviate damage to tree plantings, commercial orchards, nurseries, and gardens. Many of these projects were carry-over projects from the previous year when much of South Dakota experienced severe winter conditions during the winter of 2016-17 and there was substantial deer damage to stored-feed supplies.

Staff drove more than 28,000 miles and worked more than 2,000 hours to address these requests for assistance with deer depredation. In total, GFP spent nearly \$480,000 to provide assistance to landowners with deer damage. By working cooperatively with these 203 landowners, wildlife damage staff were able to resolve or minimize these conflicts. Over the past 15 years, GFP has spent considerable resources providing long-term solutions (i.e. protective stackyards and panels which permanently protect hay and stored-feed supplies) to address deer damage in many situations. These previous efforts combined with milder winter conditions and lower deer populations in many areas in eastern South Dakota, kept expenditures from reaching the record-levels of the winter of 2011 where GFP expended over \$1 million to address deer damage issues. Deer depredation and the associated conflicts will continue to affect landowners now and into the future. However, GFP is committed to cooperatively working with private landowners to implement reasonable solutions to address future deer depredation conflicts.

Statewide Deer Depredation Efforts

FY 2018



ELK

Local elk population levels and weather play a very important role in the demands of the WDM program. At the same time, social acceptance levels of elk populations on the landscape also play a critical role in wildlife management. These dynamics certainly exist in the Black Hills and in several areas on the prairies of western South Dakota. GFP has worked hard to cooperatively work with landowners to reduce elk impacts to private property whenever possible. Wildlife damage staff responded to 86 requests for service regarding elk damage, primarily in and around the Black Hills area and in Bennett County. Staff drove more than 3,000 miles and worked over 700 hours to address these landowner concerns. Many of these requests were addressed by utilizing food plot contracts or hayland contracts. There were 59 food plot and hayland contracts initiated in 2018 primarily to reduce elk depredation to growing alfalfa and other crops. There were also 15 protective fencing projects where GFP provided cost share for fence materials and elk cable to reduce damage to fences from crossing elk. Additionally, there were seven elk access contracts initiated, where elk hunting access on nearly 27,000 acres of private property was provided for hunters as well as assistance to landowners which are experiencing elk depredation. There were 34 elk harvested by hunters on these areas. Overall, GFP spent a total of \$203,377 for elk depredation assistance, statewide. This level of expenditures was nearly identical to last year. Since 2000, GFP has spent more than \$3.4 million working cooperatively with private landowners to address elk depredation. While many of the current damage abatement practices have proven successful over the past 20 years, elk depredation and the associated conflicts will continue to affect landowners and challenge GFP. These matters are complex and not only involve the management of elk but also include social, economic, and political dynamics as well. However, GFP has a proven history of working with private landowners and is committed to cooperatively work with private landowners to implement reasonable solutions to address future elk depredation conflicts.



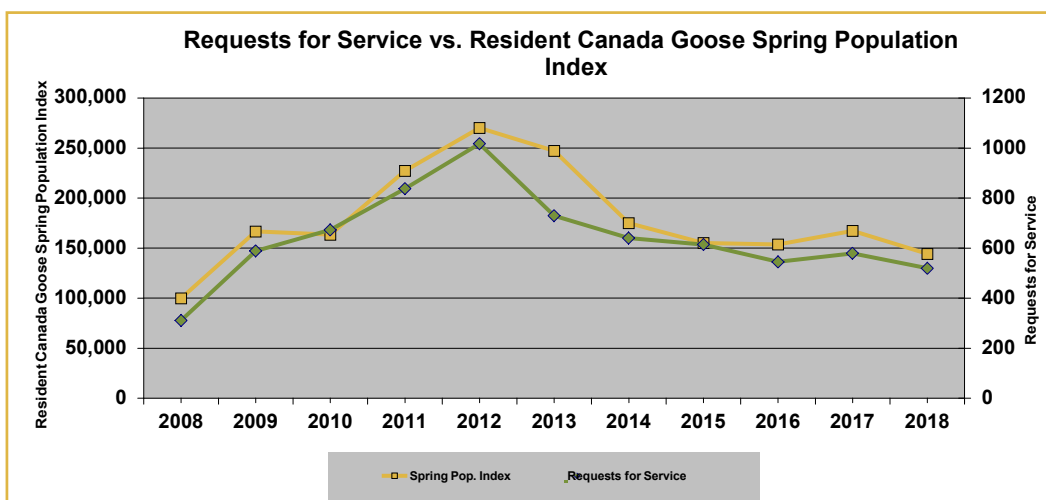
CANADA GOOSE

The spring weather in 2018 was cold and much of eastern South Dakota experienced a very late spring. This cold weather likely caused lower brood sizes with fewer gosling. With an estimated resident Canada goose spring population index of approximately 144,000 birds, GFP responded to 519 requests for assistance. The total number of requests for assistance was down nearly 50% compared to the record levels experienced in 2012.

There is a strong link between the resident Canada goose population and the level of Canada goose damage abatement services that GFP provides to landowners. This relationship demonstrates that when high Canada goose numbers occur a larger number of producers are impacted. Due to the overall lower number of resident Canada geese that occurred in 2018, and the additional depredation tools that GFP has offered to landowners such as permits to kill small numbers of Canada geese that are causing crop damage, social tolerance levels for these birds has increased. Cooperating landowners have a tool in-hand that allows them to protect their crops when these birds cause damage.

Four-hundred and seventeen private landowners worked cooperatively with GFP to haze and remove Canada geese from areas where crop damage was occurring. These actions were authorized by GFP through their USFWS Special Canada Goose Permit. These permitted landowners took a total of 822 Canada geese during this cooperative effort. While the number of birds removed by permitted landowners does not have an impact on the overall population, this management tool is critical to successfully engage landowners and assist GFP with hazing efforts. Additionally, by having this tool available it has greatly assisted in the ability to increase the population objective to a range of 115,000 to 165,000 birds in the 2016 Canada Goose Management Plan.

While landowner permits greatly help to reduce Canada goose damage to crops in some areas, there are still many situations which require additional damage abatement techniques implemented by GFP staff to reduce crop damage. All requests for assistance involved damage to growing-season crops (primarily soybeans). GFP staff worked with 424 landowners to provide crop protection from Canada goose damage. Staff drove nearly 22,000 miles and worked nearly 3,000 hours to respond to these concerns. Wildlife damage staff also added 314 Canada goose nests which greatly reduced crop damage in several localized areas as well as reduced staff time and effort. GFP initiated six buffer-strip contracts which are designed to minimize goose damage to cropfields located near edges of wetlands. Overall, the total program expenditures for Canada goose depredation assistance was more than \$118,000 in 2018. Since 2000, GFP has spent more than \$6.2 million cooperatively working with private landowners to address Canada goose damage to growing crops.



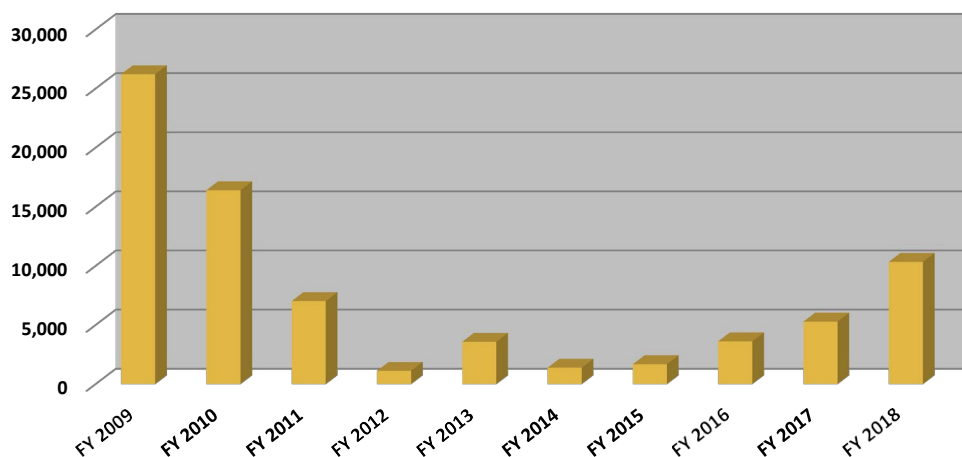
BEAVER

Requests from producers and landowners with beaver damage were similar when compared to last year. Wildlife damage staff responded to 400 requests for assistance with beaver damage where they removed a total of 1,149 beaver across South Dakota. Most of this work occurred in the eastern one-third of South Dakota where many riparian areas exist as well as lakes and other wetlands. Most types of damage consisted of the flooding of crops, damage to trees used as wind-breaks for over-wintering livestock, ornamental trees near homes, and damage to roads and livestock dams. Staff assisted 334 different landowners with beaver damage concerns. They drove over 130,000 miles and worked more than 6,600 hours to handle these problems throughout South Dakota. Total program expenditures were over \$246,000.

PRAIRIE DOG

Dry conditions and recovering prairie dog numbers increased the demand for prairie dog control from GFP. GFP staff and hired contractors controlled over 10,000 acres of prairie dogs that had encroached on to private land from adjacent public land. Prairie dog colonies expanded substantially from the previous year and the number of acres controlled increased nearly 50% from the previous year. This increased demand for assistance with prairie dog encroachment from adjacent public land resulted in a program expenditure of over \$161,000. GFP works closely with federal agencies and other partners to ensure efficient and effective prairie dog control whenever possible. Prairie dog management is a controversial topic and GFP remains committed to working with landowners to address encroachment issues from public lands.

**GFP Prairie Dog Control - Acres Treated
FY 2009 - FY 2018**

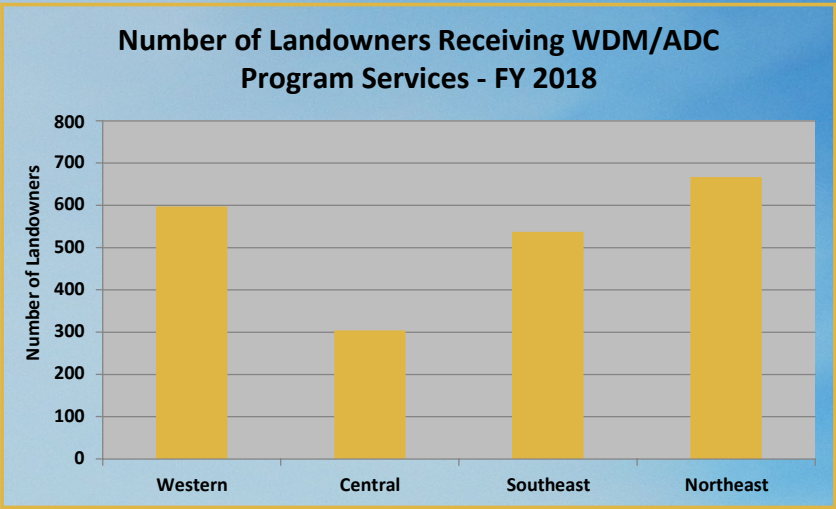


NUISANCE SPECIES

Wildlife damage staff also responded to 53 requests for assistance with nuisance species such as raccoons, badger, skunk, and mink. Most requests were handled with technical advice or loaner-traps. However, staff did provide direct control in some situations. GFP staff drove over 7,000 miles and worked nearly 500 hours to address these complaints.

TURKEY

Wildlife damage staff responded to 26 requests for assistance involving turkey issues across South Dakota. Turkey numbers throughout South Dakota are at or below management objectives in most areas and as such, the demand for turkey depredation services was similar to previous year's efforts. GFP staff worked more than 1,600 hours to address these concerns. Statewide, program expenditures for staff time, mileage, materials and equipment totaled nearly \$52,000. Wildlife damage staff also responded to many other requests for assistance involving other wildlife species. Additionally, wildlife damage staff responded to sixteen reports of livestock loss as well as public safety threats due to mountain lions. Wildlife damage staff worked over 1,000 hours to address these concerns. The statewide total program expenditure for mountain lion control was more than \$39,000.



GFP RESPONDED TO
2,719 REQUESTS
FOR ASSISTANCE
IMPACTING
2,105 LANDOWNERS
AND PRODUCERS
IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

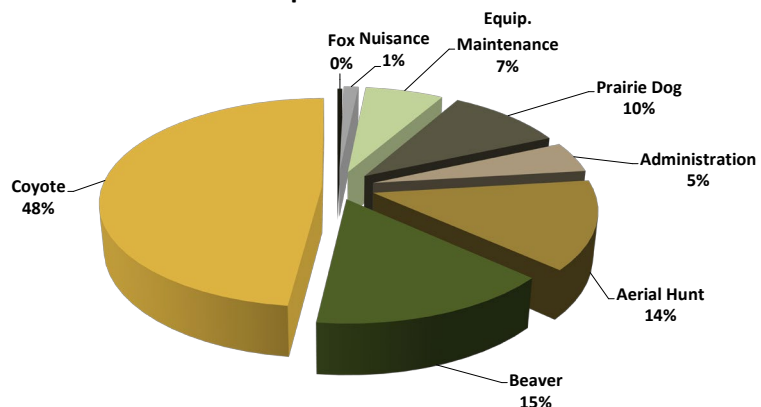
PROGRAM EXPENDITURES
TOTALLED **\$3,004,282.**

SUMMARY

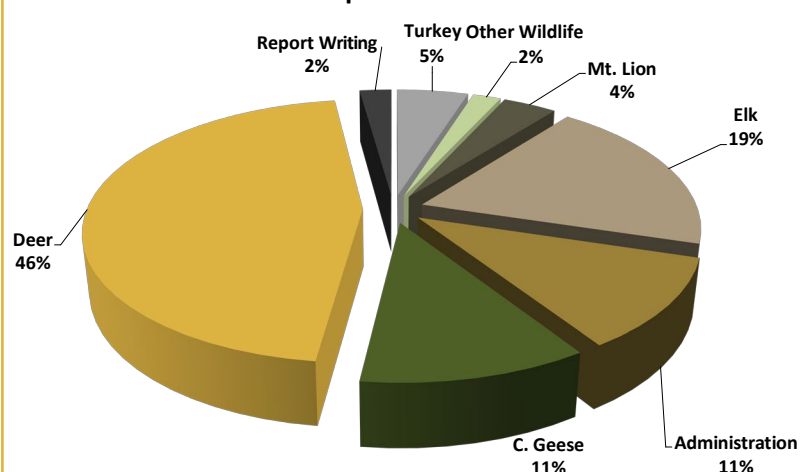
Partnerships are an extremely important component of the WDM program and are critical to the program's success. Each year, GFP's wildlife damage staff works cooperatively with landowners and producers to reduce or alleviate most human-wildlife conflicts. Partnerships also exist with other state and federal agencies as well as local predator control districts and all play an important role in the work that GFP accomplishes. Overall, the ADC portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of approximately \$1.6 million, statewide. Wildlife damage staff drove more than 500,000 miles and worked more than 36,000 hours to address these 1,892 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 1,384 producers and landowners.

Overall, the statewide WDM portion of the program had a total expenditure of \$1,471,440. GFP staff worked more than 23,000 hours to address these 848 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 709 producers and landowners.

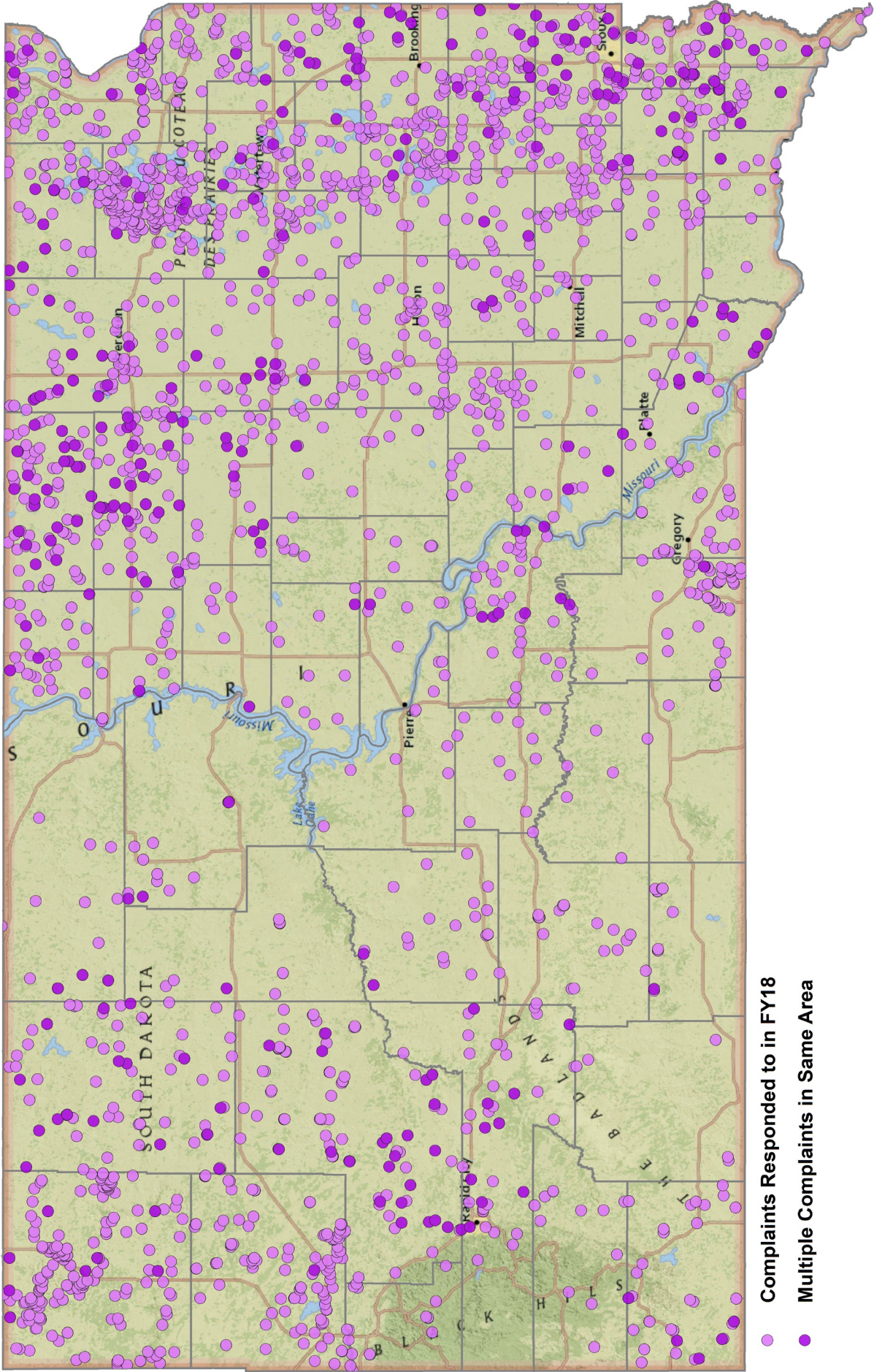
ADC Expenditures - FY 2018



WDM Expenditures - FY 2018



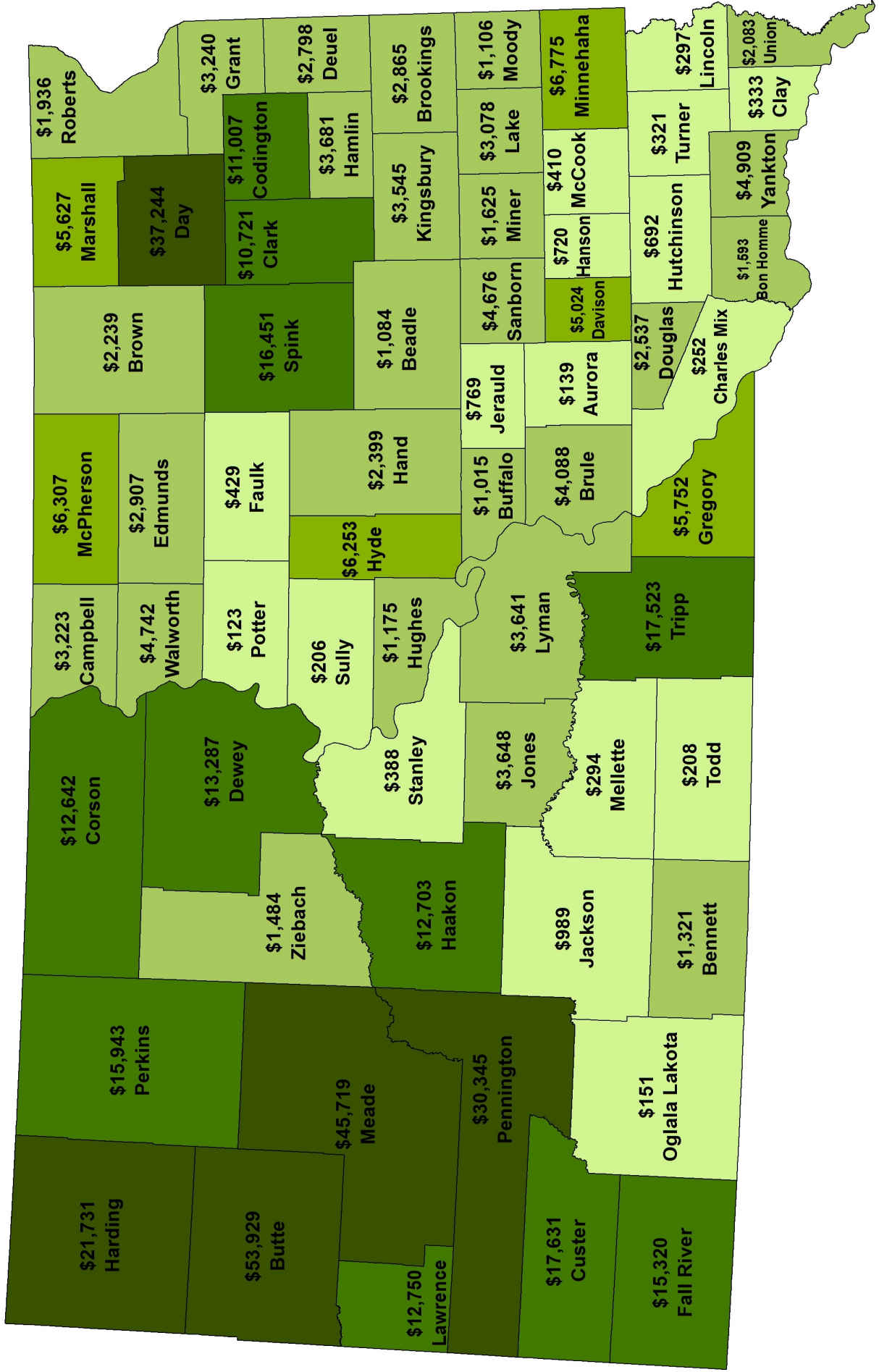
Statewide WDM & ADC Activities - FY 2018



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FY 2018 - Deer Depredation Expenditures



Statewide Expenditures = \$479,042

A map of South Dakota showing the population of each county. The counties are color-coded based on their population, with darker shades of blue representing higher populations. The data is as follows:

County	Population
Harding	\$0
Perkins	\$0
Butte	\$0
Meade	\$0
Lawrence	\$369
Pennington	\$1,477
Custer	\$0
Fall River	\$0
Oglala Lakota	\$0
Bennett	\$19
Todd	\$0
Mellette	\$0
Jackson	\$15
Haakon	\$0
Stanley	\$0
Hughes	\$0
Sully	\$0
Hyde	\$0
Hand	\$976
Walworth	\$178
Potter	\$0
Faulk	\$228
Edmunds	\$4,192
Corson	\$48
Campbell	\$0
McPherson	\$408
Brown	\$556
Marshall	\$1,967
Roberts	\$6,114
Day	\$31,505
Codington	\$11,765
Clark	\$3,790
Hamlin	\$3,889
Deuel	\$2,399
Grant	\$2,413
Brookings	\$4,125
Kingsbury	\$6,780
Beadle	\$244
Sanborn	\$127
Sanford	\$127
Miner	\$715
Lake	\$1,591
Moody	\$134
Minnehaha	\$3,462
McCook	\$1,241
Hanson	\$1,198
Davison	\$170
Aurora	\$1
Brule	\$64
Jerauld	\$3
Buffalo	\$0
Lyman	\$0
Jones	\$0
Tripp	\$0
Douglas	\$434
Hutchinson	\$61
Turner	\$531
Lincoln	\$203
Union	\$382
Clay	\$552
Yankton	\$9
Bon Homme	\$48
Charles Mix	\$865
Gregory	\$0

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REGION 1 PROGRAM REPORT

Region 1 encompasses roughly the western one-third of South Dakota. The landscape is very diverse and consists of large expansive rolling grasslands with buttes, the Black Hills National Forest, rugged river drainages, badlands, as well as some croplands. Wildlife species are abundant and include most big game species, furbearers, upland game species, as well as, waterfowl. The region consists of 13 counties and has eight field positions (wildlife damage specialists) and one supervisory position.

Region 1 is unique that wildlife conservation officers assist with the delivery of some of the WDM programs and services such as elk and deer depredation assistance. With a large percentage of South Dakota's sheep producers occurring within this region, the primary job duties for most field staff revolve around the protection of livestock from predators. Field staff also devote significant time to beaver control and assistance with deer, elk, pronghorn and turkey depredation. GFP also works with several private contractors to control prairie dogs on private lands that have been encroached from adjacent public lands.

PREDATORS

Coyote populations in Region 1 have remained strong the past few years based upon the number of coyotes removed as well as field reports. There are lots of livestock operations and the demand for predator control from livestock producers was significant. The total number of requests for assistance with predator control was much higher than the previous year. Wildlife damage staff responded to 529 requests for assistance due to livestock losses caused from predators (i.e. coyote and fox) and worked with 281 livestock producers across the region to address these concerns. GFP has a great relationship with several predator control districts in western South Dakota and works cooperatively to address livestock loss situations.

GFP provided a total of \$2,000 of cooperative funding to the Perkins County Predator Control District and the Multi-County Predator Control District (Harding, Butte, and part of Lawrence and Meade counties) for additional aerial predator control services. These funds provided additional hours of aerial predator control within these counties, which were directed by local GFP wildlife damage staff. Wildlife damage staff in cooperation with USDA-Wildlife Services took 4,295 coyotes and fox and drove more than 132,000 miles and worked more than 8,800 hours to address these concerns. The total cost of predator control in Region 1 was \$405,868.

BEAVER

The demand for beaver control increased in 2018 over the previous year in western South Dakota. Wildlife damage staff responded to 39 requests for assistance regarding beaver damage where they removed 210 beaver and assisted 35 different landowners. Requests for assistance primarily involved damage to trees used as wind-breaks to over-winter cattle and dams used for livestock watering.

NUISANCE SPECIES

GFP also responded to several nuisance species (i.e. raccoon and skunk) requests for assistance and continues to maintain a large inventory of live-traps to loan out to people looking for assistance with nuisance animals. Wildlife damage staff drove nearly 17,000 miles and worked over 800 hours to address these issues. Total program expenditures were \$36,597.

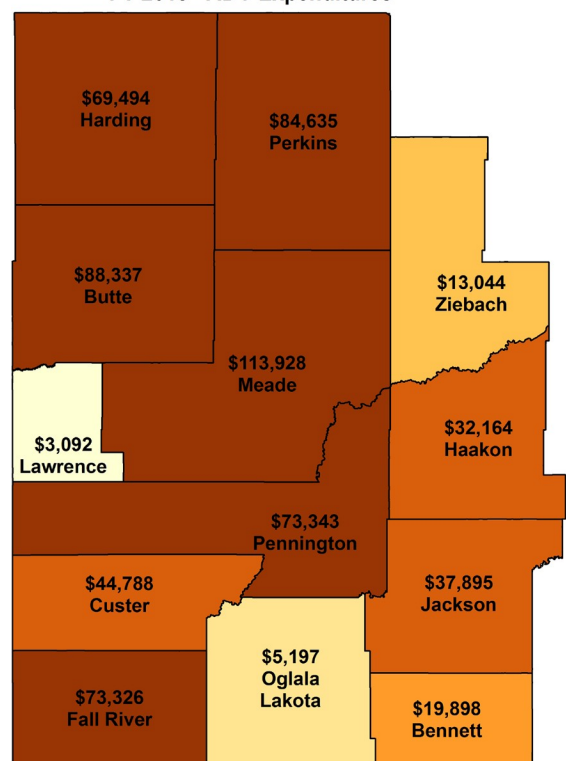
PRAIRIE DOGS

Western South Dakota experienced dry conditions during the summer and fall months which allowed prairie dog colonies to expand rapidly. GFP saw a substantial increase from last year in regards to the number of landowners requesting assistance as well as the overall number of acres of prairie dog colonies that were controlled. GFP controlled nearly 10,000 acres of prairie dogs which was nearly a 50% increase over the previous year and the highest amount since 2010. However, plague is still prevalent in many areas and the effects of previous control efforts have kept overall encroachment issues much lower than the record levels of the late-2000s. GFP spent over \$145,000 to control prairie dog expansion with 71 different landowners where private lands were encroached from public land. The utilization of zinc-phosphide treated oats (i.e. poison oats) was used as the primary control technique.

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL SUMMARY

Overall, the ADC portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of \$659,141 in Region 1. Wildlife damage staff drove more than 175,000 miles and worked more than 11,000 hours to address the 640 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 388 producers and landowners.

FY 2018 - ADC Expenditures



DEER

The winter during 2018 was severe in many areas of Region 1 and the demand for wildlife depredation assistance for deer and elk depredation was substantial. White-tailed deer populations continue to be at or slightly above management objectives in the northern one-half of Region 1 and slightly below in the southern one-half. These higher populations coupled with deep snow and extreme cold forced deer to move into farmyards for shelter and food. The areas along the Belle Fourche River were some of the hardest impacted areas in the state. Staff responded to 91 requests for assistance with deer damage throughout the region and worked nearly 1,000 hours to address these concerns. For comparison, in 2016 GFP staff only responded to 16 requests for assistance with deer damage. There were also thirty-eight stackyard contracts and three protective fencing contracts implemented, which were largely carry-over projects from the previous severe winter. GFP spent a total of \$229,864 working with 110 different landowners and producers within the region to provide deer damage assistance regarding white-tailed deer and mule deer. One important element in reducing deer damage is the ability to harvest deer during the hunting seasons. Several hunting units that are above management objectives had higher tag allocations in an effort to reduce the white-tailed deer population in these areas.

ELK

Many elk hunting units in the Black Hills are near or at management objectives and GFP has responded by increasing antlerless license allocations to the highest levels since 2007. In a 2013 survey of landowners, GFP found that 38% of landowners indicated that their tolerance levels for more elk would increase if GFP enhanced its depredation abatement services. GFP responded to this survey by implementing modifications to many of its programs available to address elk damage issues and better meet the demand of landowners and producers that experience impacts from elk. The changes included increased payments for cooperative food plots, stackyards, fence protection, and offering hayland contracts for damage to hay fields. Staff responded to 86 requests for service regarding elk, primarily in and around the Black Hills area and Bennett County. Staff drove over 3,000 miles and worked 600 hours to address these landowner concerns. Many of these requests were addressed by utilizing contracts for food plots and hayland areas that experience elk usage. There were 59 food plot contracts and hayland contracts initiated in 2018 primarily to address elk depredation to actively growing alfalfa, growing crops and hayland areas. This was similar with the past few years and largely linked to GFP's effort to better manage social tolerance as we maintain elk numbers in most hunting units. Additionally, there were eight elk access contracts initiated, where elk hunting access on nearly 27,000 acres of private property was provided for hunters (there were 34 elk harvested on these areas) as well as assistance to landowners which were experiencing elk depredation. Overall, GFP spent a total of more than \$200,000 for elk depredation assistance in Region 1.

TURKEY

Lower turkey populations in the Black Hills and most hunting units on the prairie resulted in a decreased workload regarding assistance with turkey depredation. However, turkeys still find themselves in areas where there are conflicts with people. Many of these areas

are near urban areas where managing turkeys is difficult. Region 1 wildlife damage staff responded to 18 requests for assistance with turkey depredation. In most cases, these requests were related to damage to stored-feed supplies or personal property which involved large concentrations of turkeys. Staff worked over 1,000 hours to address these concerns with a total program cost of over \$31,000. GFP utilized trap and relocation efforts as a management approach in several situations and relocated 222 turkeys. There are large amounts of public land in the Black Hills with many areas that are suitable for release sites that will not impact private properties and allow harvest via hunting.

MOUNTAIN LION

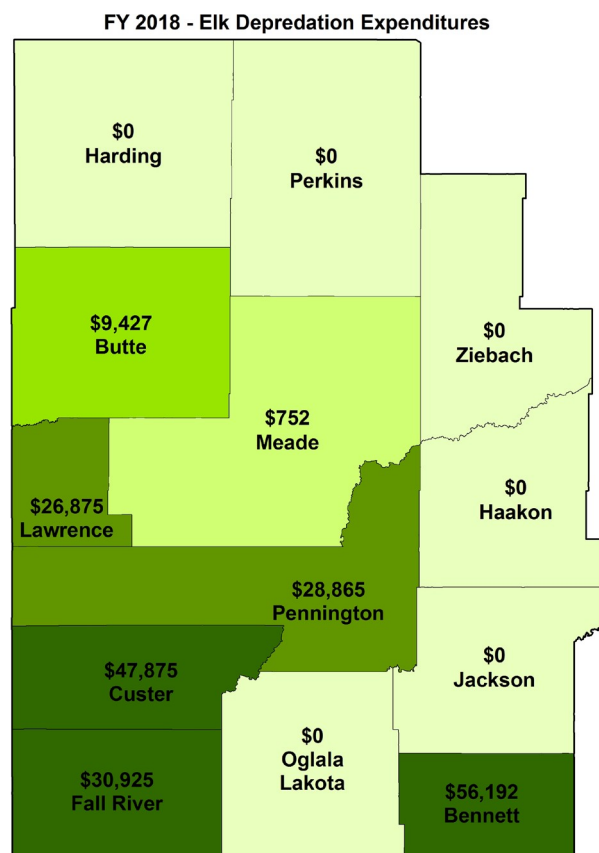
Region 1 also has one wildlife damage specialist specifically responsible for responding to calls regarding mountain lions and livestock loss as well as public safety threats. Wildlife damage staff responded to 15 calls and worked almost 1,000 hours with a total program cost of \$38,800.

OTHER CONFLICTS

GFP also worked with the city of Rapid City to implement several management techniques regarding urban Canada geese at Canyon Lake Park and the Rapid City airport. Staff also cooperated with several municipalities around the Black Hills and Ellsworth Air Force Base to address urban deer issues.

SUMMARY

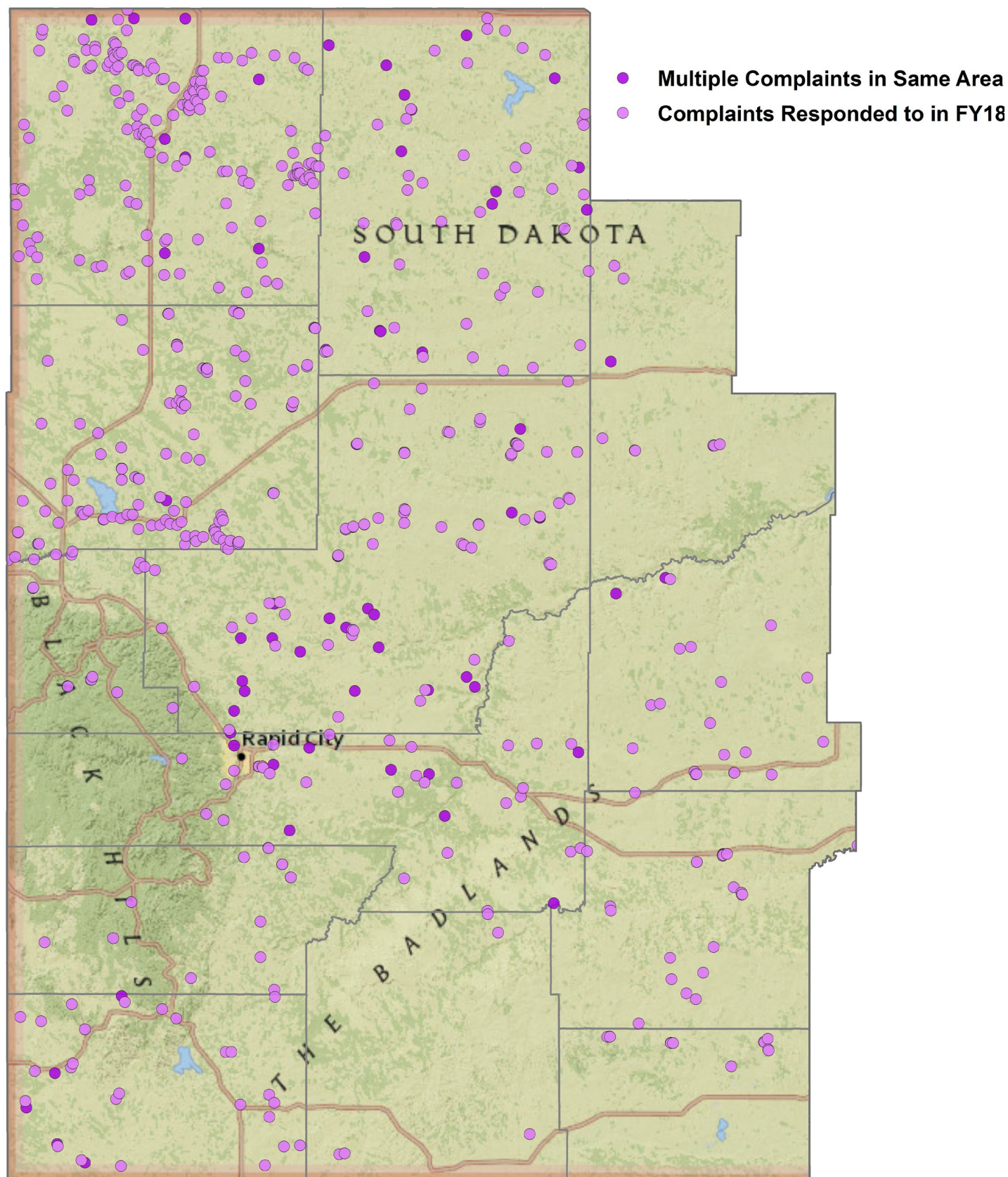
In summary, GFP responded to a total of 849 requests for assistance within the entire WDM program which directly impacted 597 landowners and producers in Region 1. The total program expenditures including staff time, mileage, equipment and materials totaled \$1,255,969.



REGION 1

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

FY 2018



REGION 2 PROGRAM REPORT

Region 2 is located within the central portion of South Dakota and consists of 20 counties most of which border the Missouri River. The terrain varies greatly and includes rough river breaks, expansive grasslands, as well as significant acreages of cropland. Wildlife species are abundant and include white-tailed deer, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, upland game, waterfowl, turkeys, furbearers, and a few elk. Region 2 has eight field positions (wildlife damage specialists) and one supervisory position. One staff member serves as the full-time gunner for statewide aerial predator control activities. Primary job duties for most field staff revolve around the protection of livestock from predators and assistance with deer depredation. Additionally, these duties include beaver and prairie dog control and assistance with turkey, Canada geese, and elk depredation.

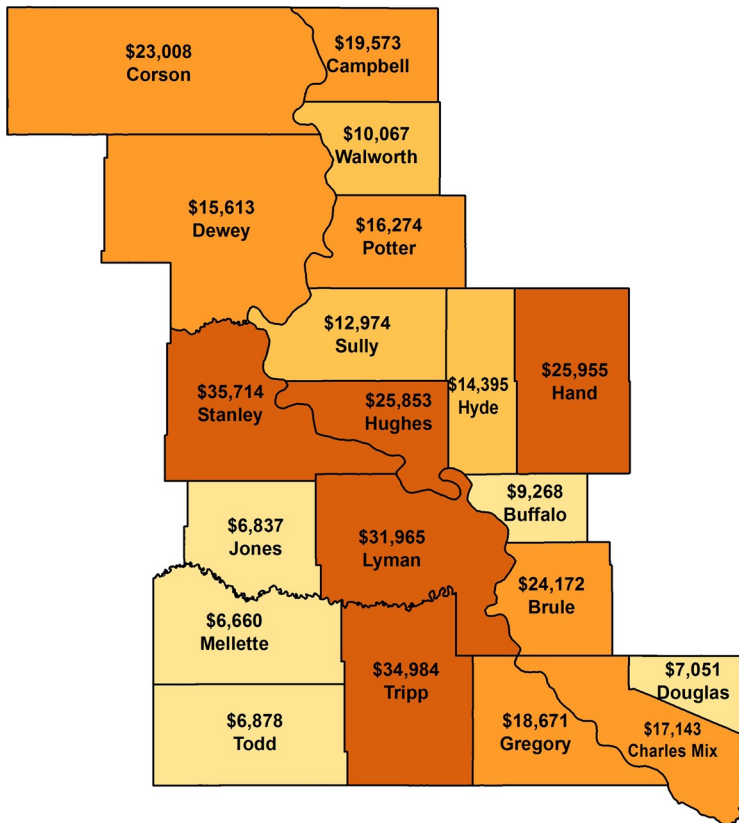
DEER

The winter weather during 2018 was normal but abundant snowfall did occur in the northern portion of Region 2, late winter. Deer populations were at or below management objectives in most areas, as a result of impacts from Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) a few years ago. Nonetheless, these harsh winter conditions congregated deer into large herds in several areas and the deer moved into farmyards for food and shelter in some areas. Wildlife damage staff responded to 12 requests for assistance dealing with white-tailed deer (11) and mule deer (1) throughout the region. The volume of requests for service was substantially less than 2017. Most requests from landowners involved the protection of stored-feed supplies. Wildlife damage staff worked more than 300 hours to address these concerns. Staff also initiated ten stackyard contracts and two protective fencing contracts with landowners to protect stored-feed supplies and commercial gardens or vineyards. Overall, the total program expenditures were \$83,500 which is about average. Lower deer numbers across the Region and previous efforts put forth in constructing protective stackyards likely kept damage to stored-feed supplies at a minimum.

PREDATORS

The coyote population in central South Dakota seemed to be about stable as wildlife damage staff responded to only slightly more requests for service than the previous year. Large numbers of livestock occur throughout the region and the demand for predator control from livestock producers was high. Wildlife damage staff responded to 267 requests for assistance due to livestock loss from predators (i.e. coyote and fox). Staff worked with 204 livestock producers across the region to address these concerns. Additionally, GFP provided \$1,000 of cooperative funding to the Campbell County Predator Control District for increased aerial predator control which was directed by local GFP wildlife damage staff. In cooperation with USDA-Wildlife Services, wildlife damage staff took 1,429 coyotes and fox. They drove over 58,000 miles, and worked 4,233 hours to address these concerns. Total expenditures for predator control in Region 2 were \$202,315.

FY 2018 - ADC Expenditures



NUISANCE SPECIES

GFP also responded to nine requests for assistance involving nuisance species (i.e. raccoon, skunk, and badger). Most requests were handled with technical assistance; however, staff did provide direct assistance with some requests. Wildlife damage staff drove a total of 500 miles and worked 122 hours to address these issues. Total program expenditures were over \$4,300. Region 2 wildlife damage staff also controlled prairie dogs on 234 acres of private land which were encroached from adjacent public land.

Overall, the ADC portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of \$363,055 in Region 2. Wildlife damage staff drove more than 93,000 miles and worked more than 8,800 hours to address the 350 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 281 producers and landowners.

BEAVER

Wildlife damage staff also responded to 69 requests for assistance regarding beaver control where staff removed 252 beaver. Most beaver damage occurred near larger riparian areas and the volume of workload was similar to last year. Most calls involved damage to trees used as wind-breaks for livestock protection and damage to livestock dams. Wildlife damage staff drove over 20,000 miles and worked 1,277 hours to address these concerns which directly impacted 63 different landowners in Region 2. Total program expenditures were \$46,186.

CANADA GOOSE AND TURKEY

As Canada geese and row crops continue to expand westward in eastern South Dakota, Region 2 wildlife damage specialists have seen an increased demand for assistance over previous years. Region 2 wildlife damage staff responded to seven requests for assistance with Canada goose damage to growing crops. These requests occurred primarily on the eastern edge of Region 2, where more wetland and crop interspersions occur. Wildlife damage staff responded to only a handful of requests for assistance involving turkey damage to stored-feed supplies due to lower turkey numbers throughout the area.

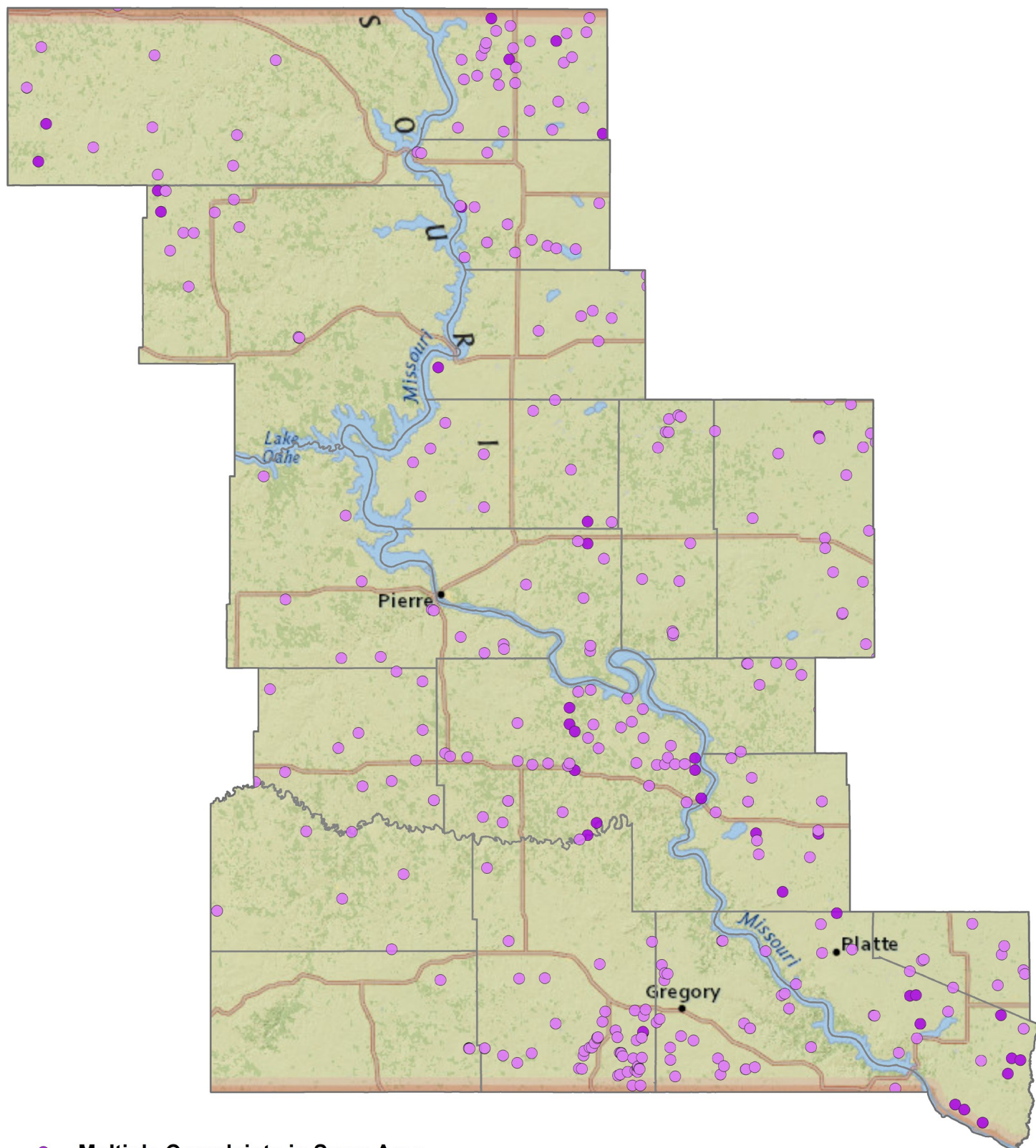
SUMMARY

In summary, GFP responded to a total of 374 requests for assistance within the entire WDM program which directly impacted 304 landowners and producers in Region 2. The total program expenditures including staff time, mileage, and equipment and materials totaled \$500,185.

REGION 2

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

FY 2018



- Multiple Complaints in Same Area
- Complaints Responded to in FY18

REGION 3 PROGRAM REPORT

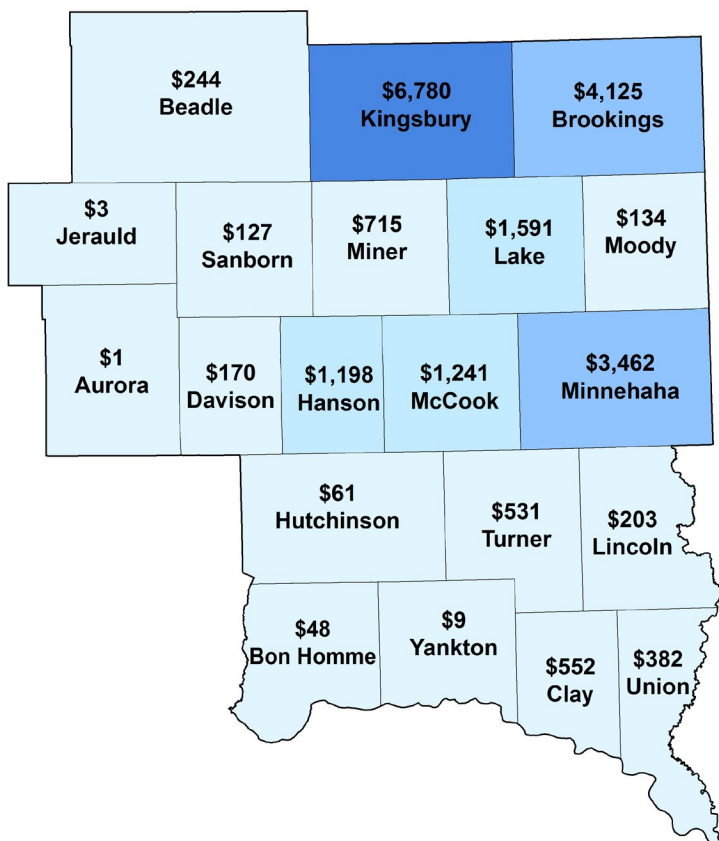
Region 3 represents southeastern South Dakota and consists of 20 counties. The landscape here is dominated by croplands consisting of corn and soybeans, but also includes grasslands, wetlands, and the river drainages of the Big Sioux, James, and Vermillion Rivers, and is bordered to the south by the Missouri River. Wildlife species are abundant and includes white-tailed deer, a few mule deer, upland game, waterfowl, furbearers, and turkeys. Regional responsibilities for responding to wildlife damage complaints fall directly on six field staff (wildlife damage specialists), with regional oversight of these programs coming from the Wildlife Manager and Terrestrial Resource Supervisor. The Wildlife Manager acts as a field manager and bridges the gap between field staff and administration. Primary job duties for most field staff revolve around assistance with Canada goose crop depredation, the protection of livestock from predators, beaver control, as well as deer and turkey depredation assistance.

CANADA GOOSE

The weather during the spring of 2018 was cold and several areas experienced late winter storms affecting the goose nesting season. As a result, resident Canada goose numbers were lower and broods in most areas were very low because of nest failure. These conditions combined with low commodity prices, produced a smaller number of requests for assistance from landowners compared to previous years. GFP staff worked directly with 180 landowners and responded

to 195 requests for assistance regarding Canada goose damage to growing-season crops (primarily soybeans). This workload has decreased from previous years and a critical management tool that has had a substantial affect on that decrease has been the issuance of 188 landowner permits to remove small numbers of geese from specific areas of crop damage. Staff worked nearly 600 hours to respond to these requests. Wildlife damage staff also added 307 Canada goose nests, which reduced crop damage in those localized areas and resulted in reduced staff time and effort that would have been spent on implementing other management tools. Overall, the total program expenditure was nearly \$22,000 and was the lowest in over a decade.

FY 2018 - Canada Goose Depredation Expenditures



PREDATORS

Abundant coyote populations and large numbers of livestock created a high demand for predator control in the region. The number of requests for assistance with coyotes was up slightly from 2017. Staff worked with 150 livestock producers to reduce or alleviate livestock loss due to coyotes and responded to 185 requests for assistance. Wildlife damage staff, in cooperation with USDA-Wildlife Services, removed 727 coyotes and fox. Wildlife damage staff worked 4,104 hours and drove over 67,000 miles to address these concerns. Total program expenditures for predator control were \$198,058.

BEAVER

Wildlife damage staff also saw an increase in the number of requests from producers with beaver damage. As a result, staff responded to 188 requests for assistance with beaver damage and removed 437 beaver. Most types of damage consisted of flooded crops, damage to trees in planted wind-breaks or near homes, and damage to roads. Staff assisted 147 different landowners with beaver damage concerns. They drove over 56,000 miles and worked 2,747 hours to address these problems. Total program expenditures were \$100,054.

NUISANCE SPECIES

Wildlife damage staff also responded to 25 requests for assistance with nuisance species such as raccoons, badger, skunk, and mink. Most requests were handled with technical advice or loaner-traps. However, staff did provide direct control for commercial melon producers suffering damage from raccoons as well as a few other circumstances. GFP staff drove over 4,000 miles and worked 260 hours to address these complaints. Overall, the ADC portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of \$368,541 in Region 3. Wildlife damage staff drove over 132,000 miles and worked more than 8,700 hours to address these 399 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 321 producers and landowners.

DEER

With deer populations at or below management objectives in most areas and an overall mild winter, as well as, previous impacts from Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in 2013 and 2016, deer depredation was minimal. However, deer populations have been recovering in some areas and wildlife damage staff responded to 24 requests for assistance regarding deer damage. Most of these requests were handled with loaner panels to protect stored livestock feeds and the use of hazing techniques. These services benefited 22 different landowners. Wildlife damage staff also initiated one stackyard contract to permanently protect stored-feed supplies and three protective fencing contracts to protect commercial tree nurseries and orchards. Along the Missouri River in the southern portion of the region, local deer populations are typically higher. GFP has worked with several producers on significant growing-season crop damage issues and have developed specific hunting access programs for them. The results have been very positive and have benefited the producers as well as the hunting community. Staff worked over 400 hours to address these requests for assistance with deer. Overall, the total program expenditures were \$41,352. This area of the program has seen substantial decreases since the winter of 2010-2011, due to overall lower deer numbers.

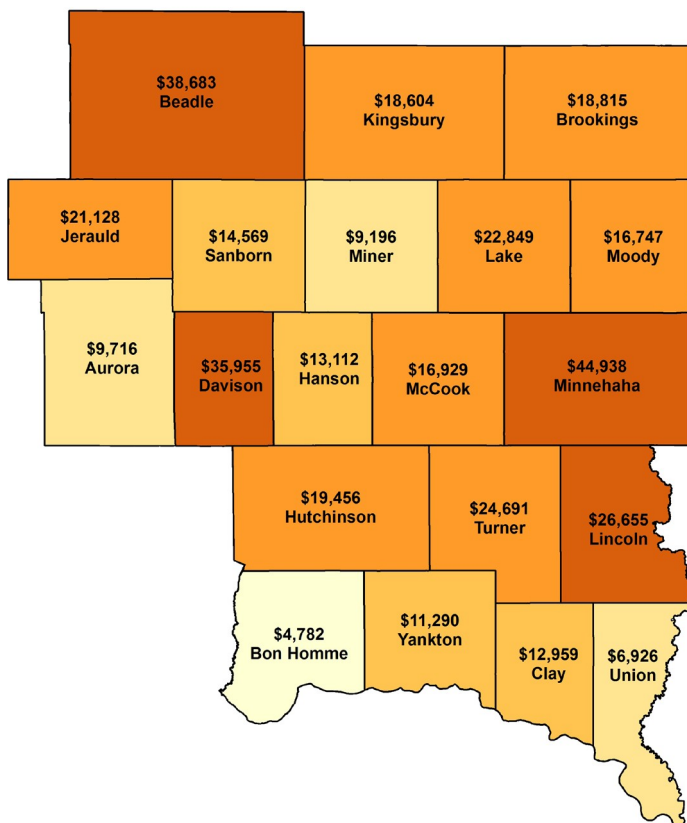
OTHER CONFLICTS

Wildlife damage staff also responded to several turkey issues, as well as, several other requests for assistance involving other wildlife species. In addition, GFP assisted the city of Sioux Falls with several management strategies to address several different species. Urban Canada geese cause problems and concerns in the community, and cause the biggest issues near the Sioux Falls Regional Airport. During seasonal migrations and during the winter, large numbers of geese roost and feed near the runways and are a significant safety concern. They also cause many problems at golf courses, city parks, and some private properties. GFP also assisted with an overabundant deer population, and several turkey issues in several areas of the city. Staff have coordinated multiple archery hunting opportunities for deer and turkey within city limits that have been well-received in the area. Additionally, staff field receive many calls from local citizens and provide advice and technical support in these situations, as well as occasional support to the city's animal control workers and many communities within the area.

SUMMARY

In summary, GFP responded to a total of 636 requests for assistance within the entire WDM program which directly impacted 537 landowners and producers in Region 3. The total program expenditures including staff time, mileage, equipment and materials totaled \$494,314.

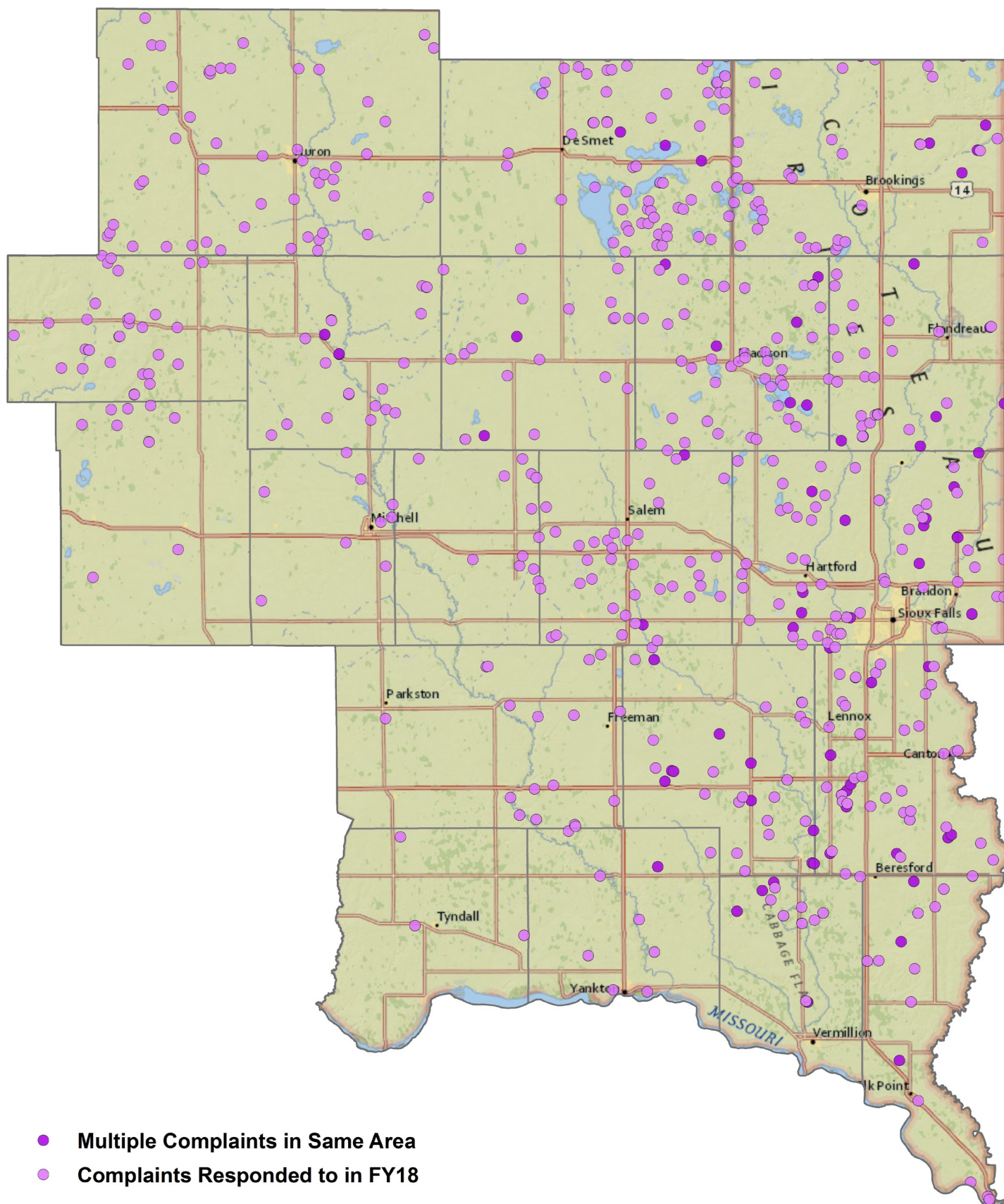
FY 2018 - ADC Expenditures



REGION 3

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

FY 2018



REGION 4 PROGRAM REPORT

Region 4 is located in the northeastern portion of South Dakota and consists of 13 counties. The landscape varies greatly and includes croplands, rolling grasslands, many wetlands and lakes, and river drainages, but croplands dominate the majority of the counties within Region 4. Wildlife species are abundant and include white-tailed deer, waterfowl, upland game, furbearers, and turkeys. It has six field positions (wildlife damage specialists) and one supervisory position. Primary job duties for most field staff revolve around the protection of livestock from predators, beaver control, and assistance with Canada goose and deer depredation.

PREDATORS

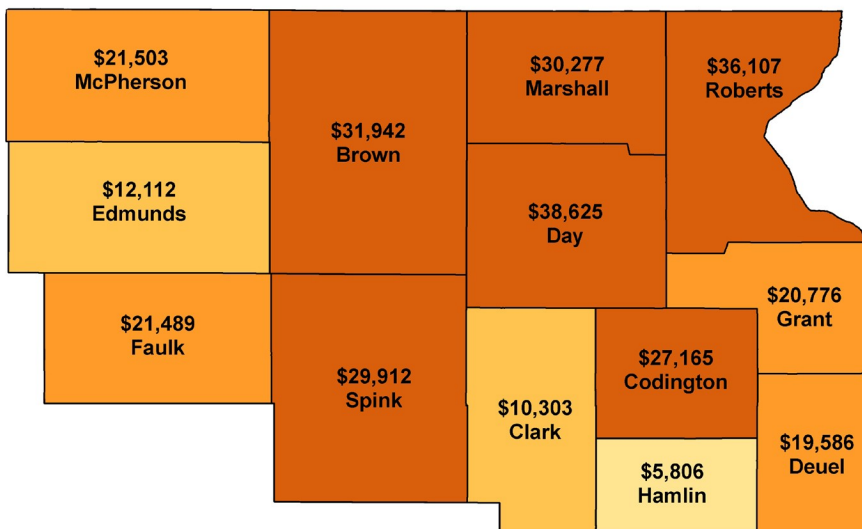
Stable coyote populations as well as large numbers of livestock, had wildlife damage staff busy in regards to requests for assistance with coyote depredation. Staff worked with 287 livestock producers to reduce or alleviate livestock losses caused from predators and addressed 383 requests for assistance, which was a slight decrease from 2017. This region has three very active predator control districts (Edmunds, Faulk, and McPherson counties) and their cooperative efforts are a great asset regarding predator control. GFP provided \$3,000 of cooperative funding to these districts for enhanced aerial predator control efforts, which were directed by local GFP wildlife damage staff. In addition to the efforts of the predator control districts, wildlife damage staff also utilized USDA-Wildlife Services to alleviate damage to livestock via aerial predator control. As a result, wildlife damage staff in cooperation with those predator control districts and USDA-Wildlife Services took 1,476 coyotes and fox. Wildlife damage staff worked over 4,100 hours and drove over 66,000 miles to address these concerns. Total program expenditures for predator control were \$196,865 in Region 4.

NUISANCE SPECIES

Wildlife damage staff responded to 17 requests for assistance with nuisance species such as raccoons, badger, skunk, and mink. Most requests were handled with technical advice or loaner-traps. However, staff did provide direct control in a few circumstances. GFP staff drove 2,400 miles and worked 107 hours to address these complaints.

Overall, the ADC portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of \$325,058 in Region 4. Wildlife damage staff drove over 111,000 miles and worked more than 7,000 hours to address these 505 requests for assistance, which directly impacted 394 producers and landowners.

FY 2018 - ADC Expenditures



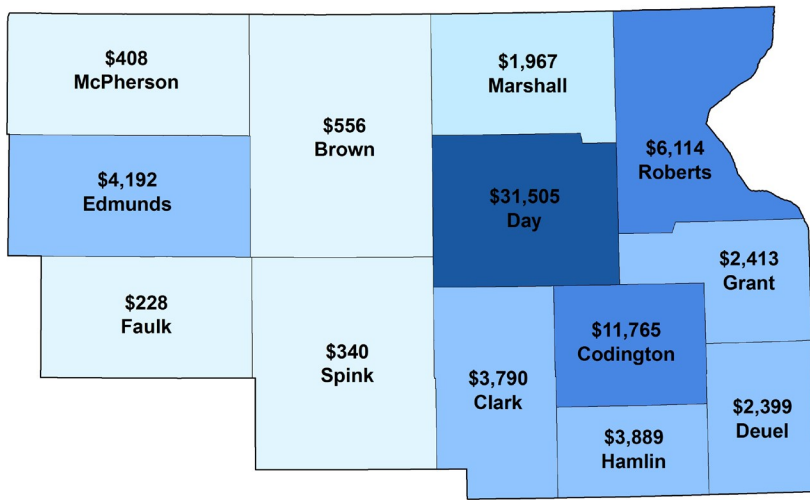
BEAVER

Wildlife damage staff also responded to 104 requests for assistance with beaver damage where they removed 250 beaver. This workload was lower when compared to 2017, but still kept staff busy. Most types of damage consisted of the flooding of crops, damage to trees in planted wind-breaks or near homes, and damage to roads. Staff assisted 89 different landowners with beaver damage concerns. They drove over 37,000 miles and worked 1,724 hours to handle these problems within the region. Total program expenditures were \$64,604.

CANADA GOOSE

The northeast experienced a very late spring with snowy and freezing conditions into May which likely affected the nesting resident Canada geese. In the northern portions of Region 4, geese seemed to initiate nesting later which likely led to less broods and smaller clutches. Resident Canada goose numbers were lower than the previous year and combined with lower commodity prices, produced a reduced number of requests for assistance from landowners overall. Nonetheless, some counties continue to have a similar number of requests as previous years. GFP staff responded to 319 requests for assistance regarding Canada goose damage to growing-season crops (primarily soybeans). GFP staff worked with 237 different landowners to provide crop protection from Canada goose damage; mainly through the use of electric fence and hazing techniques. Staff worked over 1,700 hours to respond to these concerns. GFP also permitted 226 landowners to haze and remove Canada geese to alleviate damage to growing crops in specific areas. GFP initiated six buffer-strip contracts which are designed to

FY 2018 - Canada Goose Depredation Expenditures



alleviate goose damage around wetland edges by creating an alternate food source or barrier to the growing crops. Overall, total program expenditures were slightly over \$90,000 which is a 10-year low in this region.

DEER

The winter weather of 2017-18 was cold and average snow existed in parts of the region throughout the winter. With deer populations at or below management objectives in most areas and a less harsh winter than normal, deer depredation concerns were less than expected. Nonetheless, wildlife damage staff responded to 28 requests for assistance regarding deer damage to stored-feed supplies which primarily consisted of providing protective panels and hazing deer away from problem areas. These services impacted 28 different landowners. Wildlife damage staff also initiated ten stackyard contracts to protect stored-feed supplies and one protective fencing project to alleviate damage to a commercial garden. Staff worked 1,074 hours to address these concerns with the total program expenditures of \$125,279.

OTHER CONFLICTS

Wildlife damage staff also responded to several turkey issues within Region 4 where large flocks of birds were causing damage to stored-feed supplies. These requests for assistance were handled primarily with protective netting and persistent hazing techniques.

Overall, the game species (e.g. deer, Canada geese, and turkey) portion of the WDM program had a total expenditure of \$299,794. Wildlife damage staff worked more than 5,400 hours to address these requests for assistance, which directly impacted 268 producers and landowners.

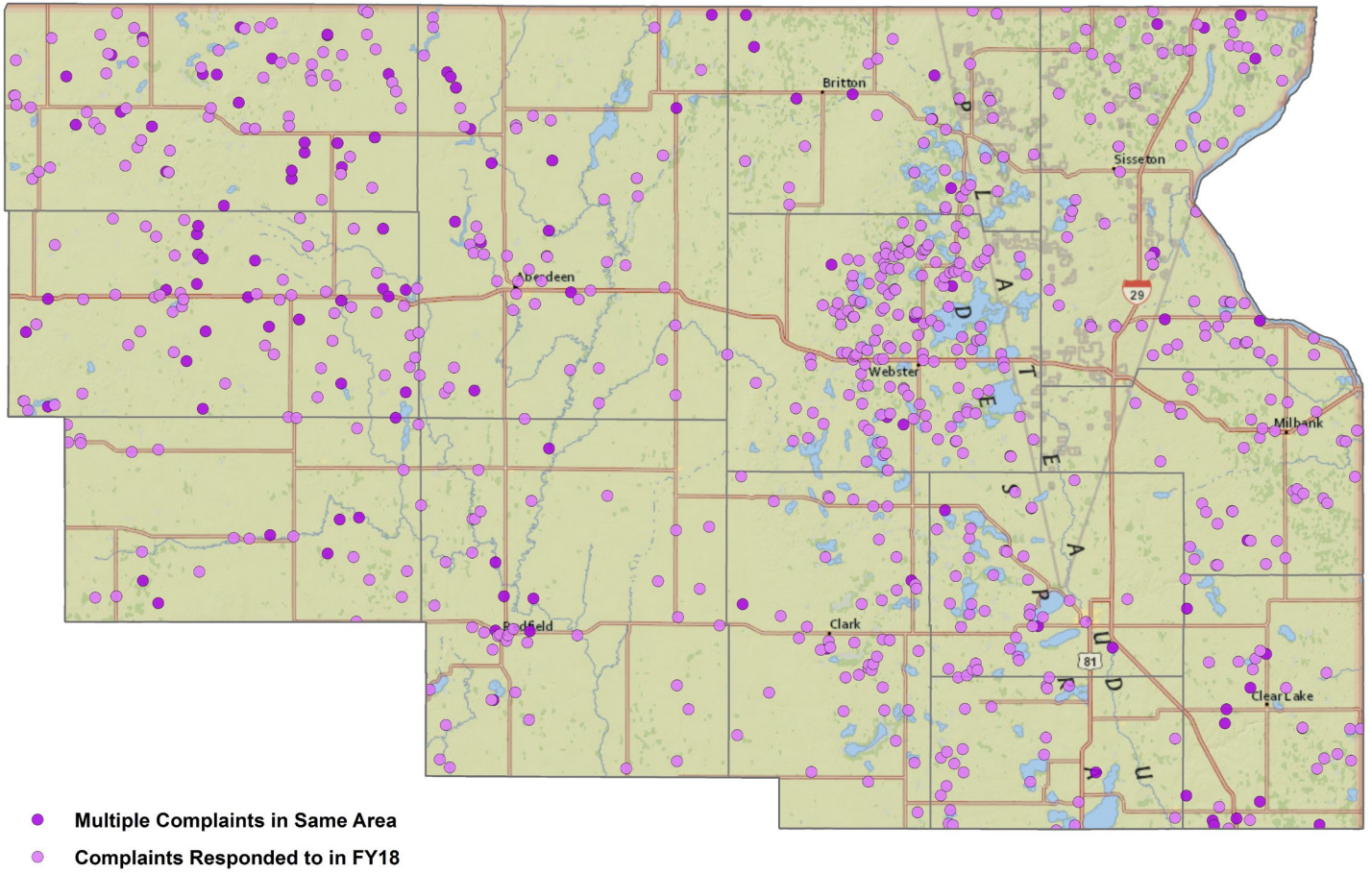
SUMMARY

GFP responded to a total of 860 requests for assistance within the entire WDM program which directly impacted 667 landowners and producers in Region 4. The total program expenditures including staff time, mileage, equipment and materials totaled \$624,852.

REGION 4

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

FY 2018





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