

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (2001)

1. HUNTING TRESPASS ('97)

WHEREAS: The light treatment in our laws and courts of hunting without landowner permission has caused a marked increase in hunting trespass; and

WHEREAS: Hunting without permission causes a serious safety hazard for both livestock producer and hunter.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association request the legal consequences for hunting trespass and civil damages be increased and at least equal to those incurred for poaching.

2. PREDATOR DAMAGE CONTROL – AERIAL HUNTING ('98)

WHEREAS: Aerial hunting is a primary tool to control livestock loss from predators; and

WHEREAS: Animal Damage Control officers have more territory to cover and cannot be present on every complaint where aerial hunting is required.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association request the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks – Animal Damage Control Division promulgate regulations to facilitate aerial hunting where a state permuter pilot has written permission from private landowner.

3. HUNTING LICENSES ('99)

WHEREAS: Landowners and lessees have experienced losses due to wildlife damage; and

WHEREAS: Landowners and lessees have to tolerate unethical hunter behavior; and

WHEREAS: The agricultural economy is unstable causing economic hardship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports incentives such as:

1. Option to transfer big game licenses.
2. Additional input to the allocation of hunting licenses.
3. Involvement in damage compensation programs.

4. REGULATED TRAPPING

WHEREAS: Animal rights groups have introduced ballot initiatives in numerous states that would ban the use of steel foothold traps; and

WHEREAS: Some states have banned trapping due to misleading information provided by animal rights groups; and

WHEREAS: Scientific studies are currently being conducted nationwide to determine trap types that are more humane and efficient for more furbearing species.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports State regulated trapping and the continued use of the steel foothold trap to manage and control furbearers causing damage to domestic livestock and property.

5. ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES REINTRODUCTION ('03) (Revised '06)

BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association Wildlife Management Committee opposes the reintroduction of any state or federal threatened or endangered species and/or experimental non-essential populations – plant or animal – unless the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association members and Board of Directors approve the listing of the species.

6. ENDANGERED SPECIES (Revised '01 '03)

WHEREAS: Actions by Federal Agencies in establishing endangered species habitat involve commitment of land resources to certain restrictions; and

WHEREAS: Most private and federal lands in South Dakota are subject to multiple use principle; and

WHEREAS: The impacts and implications of protection for threatened and endangered plants and animals are far reaching and long lasting; and

WHEREAS: Uncompensated takings of property rights is of major concern; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association request the Governor of South Dakota require as a condition of any agreement to accept reintroduction of an endangered species into this state, a signed document representing the commitment of all involved agencies, both federal and state, to refrain totally from uncompensated takings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That in the event of a claim of uncompensated taking, the state assure the citizen's property rights and fair compensation.

7. ROAD HUNTING

WHEREAS: It is difficult to agree on the definition of an unimproved section line; and

WHEREAS: Big game hunting has been eliminated from road hunting; and

WHEREAS: Dove hunting is not allowed within 50 yards of a road; and

WHEREAS: Elimination of road hunting would make better hunting and better farmer/rancher relationships.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association believe the solution is to eliminate road hunting and to instruct our leadership to work for this in the legislature.

8. WILDLIFE HABITAT (Revised '03)

BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association go on record opposing the acquiring of more privately owned lands for wildlife habitat.

9. WILDLIFE DEPREDATION (Revised '99)

WHEREAS: Wildlife in excessive numbers causes extensive depredation to private lands.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association goes on record as supporting a policy allowing landowners or operators to protect property from wildlife depredation or be compensated

10. POSITION ON PRAIRIE DOG PLAN ('01) (Revised '03)

BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association opposes any South Dakota State Prairie Dog Management Plan that does not protect the private property rights of landowners along with their ability to control prairie dogs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That any Plan be developed in response to a scientific inventory of all prairie dogs and acres containing prairie dogs within the boundaries of South Dakota including tribal land; that citizens with grassroots knowledge participate in the Plan implementation; that the State involve the tribes in the planning and implementation process; that the Plan integrate related issues that exist on tribal, federal, and state land; that it contain provisions to control and contain plague in the event of a plague outbreak; and that it avoid landowner incentive payments and focus areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That any counties in the historic prairie dog range may not have a disproportionate share of the total prairie dog acreage; each designated town shall have a physically defined area with a mile buffer zone and recorded with the county weed and pest board; designated prairie dog towns shall be managed in a manner to maintain adequate vegetative cover to protect the water shed from erosion; responsibility of maintaining the towns and dealing with infestations on neighboring property shall be the responsibility of the offending landowner or the State of South Dakota, this responsibility shall include all costs of eliminating the depredation of the prairie dogs and shall be accomplished in a time-frame to keep the damages caused by the depredation to a minimum

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Wildlife Management Committee call upon the South Dakota State Legislature to change the status of the black tailed prairie dog from a species of management concern to that of pest.

11. GAME, FISH AND PARKS REFORM ('04)

BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports the S.D. Residents for Game, Fish and Parks Reform including but not limited to efforts to:

- 1) Support legislation to provide for legislative review and approval of the S.D. Game, Fish and Parks budget,
- 2) Reform aerial hunting regulations in order to make them more landowner and agriculture-friendly,
- 3) Oppose Conservation Officers' use of the open fields doctrine,
- 4) Halt land acquisition by the Game, Fish and Parks, and encourage more Walk-In Hunting funding and designations,
- 5) Encourage the S.D. Game, Fish and Parks to act more landowner-friendly by:
 - a) Consulting with landowners regarding game populations;

- b) Consulting with landowners regarding hunting access;
- c) Providing transferable licenses or coupons for landowners, and support landowner's rights to gain economically from wildlife harvests on private land, and
- d) Adequately funding depredation programs.

12. GRAY WOLF POLICY ('09)

WHEREAS: The US Fish and Wildlife Service has delisted the gray wolf in the Northern Rocky Mountain Distinct Population Segment, and

WHEREAS: The US Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the gray wolf as an experimental population in the portion of South Dakota north and east of the Missouri River, and

WHEREAS: According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, South Dakota is "Far outside the predicted routine dispersal range of gray wolves from the NRM" and "pack development and persistence outside the NRM DPS is unlikely because wolves that disperse as individuals typically have low survival and suitable habitat is limited and distant from the NRM DPS, and

WHEREAS: The Contingency Plan for Responding to Gray Wolf Depredation of Livestock (USFWS, 1994) in South Dakota states that South Dakota has no suitable habitat for gray wolves and that South Dakota is not critical for the recovery of the species based on the following criteria - 1) presence of adequate prey, 2) minimum contiguous area of 3000 square miles with less than 10% private land, 3) absence of livestock grazing, and 4) sufficient isolation to support 10 breeding pairs of gray wolves, and

WHEREAS: South Dakota has no suitable areas to relocate a problem gray wolf and **neighboring** states are unlikely to take a depredating gray wolf, and

WHEREAS: Gray wolves are capable of and known to cause immense damage to agricultural economies through the killing and injuring of livestock, poultry, and other domestic animals, and as vectors of diseases such as rabies, foot and mouth disease and anthrax, and

WHEREAS: gray wolves have been shown to have significant detrimental inroads into game populations which are an important resource in Western South Dakota, and

(continued)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association requests the Governor of South Dakota and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks to take all necessary steps to manage gray wolves as predators, allowing them to be taken by shooting, trapping, or other means by individuals or by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks personnel, when so requested by landowners or operators, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That gray wolves should not be designated as a "game animal" in South Dakota.

13. PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS: SDCL 41-11-15 is our original agreement outlining the conditions that must be met in order for the Department of Game Fish and Parks and Department of Agriculture to participate in the reintroduction of the black-footed ferret, and

WHEREAS: one of those conditions, "if future increases in prairie dog acres are needed" has been decided. (Prairie dog acres were increased from 6,000 acres to 30,000+ acres in the Conata Basin.) Then "a funding mechanism shall be established to provide financial compensation to landowners suffering lost income.", and

WHEREAS: the South Dakota Departments of Agriculture and Game Fish and Parks adopted the South Dakota Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation and Management Plan in 2005, and

WHEREAS: the Management Plan states on Page 37: “SDGFP will provide no less than \$130,000 annually from the Animal Damage Control Fund to implement control and/or incentive strategies outlined in Strategies 1.4C and 1.4D, and

WHEREAS: the Management Plan additionally states on Page 37 that: “SD Dept of Agriculture will provide no less than \$150,000 annually from program funds to implement control and/or incentive strategies outlined in Strategies 1.4c and 1.4 d.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, respectfully requests that the state of South Dakota honor and adhere to the stipulations made in the South Dakota Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation and Management Plan. And follow SDCL 41-11-15 by allowing “landowners suffering lost income” because of increases in prairie dog acres to be compensated with money allocated in the Prairie Dog Conservation and Management plan,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that if the State of South Dakota does not honor and adhere to the stipulations of South Dakota Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation and Management Plan, the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, respectfully requests that the South Dakota Legislature enact legislation to require the State of South Dakota to honor and adhere to the promises made in the South Dakota Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation and Management Plan, and adhere to follow SDCL 41-11-15.

14. PREDATOR CONTROL PROGRAMS (‘15)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: South Dakota Stockgrowers Association demands that the state of South Dakota work with federal agencies to develop a large predator management plan that mandates that domestic livestock operators can protect their livestock.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association work with state and county agencies and other organizations to develop a Large Predator Management Plan.

BE IT RESOLVED, the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports predator control programs and funding at levels adequate to protect the domestic livestock industry.

15. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLANS (‘15)

Be it Resolved, the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association supports South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks to develop comprehensive, species specific management plans for South Dakota wildlife being managed as game animals as a means of developing, and restoring trust with private landowners who’s private property is an integral part of establishing and maintaining healthy wildlife populations,

Be It Further Resolved, South Dakota Stockgrowers Association encourages South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks to consider the following in development of wildlife management plans:

- 1) Stakeholders taskforce and committee processes should be used to gather information about the impacts of wildlife on private property and agricultural interests. Plan development should be taskforce driven, not controlled by SD GFP staff.

- 2) Private property owners and agricultural uses of private property must be respected and considered in establishing wildlife management plans.
- 3) Wildlife management plans should include a target population. SD GFP must actively manage for the established target population and act to increase and decrease populations when necessary. Actions to increase and decrease population should not be limited to hunting activity.
- 4) Periodic reviews of wildlife management plans should be conducted.