

# *The South Dakota*

November 2020



# *Bowhunter*

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*On the Front: Megan Biele*

*On the Back: Carl Massa, 16*



## Editor's Note

*Mike McKnight*

As I write this I am about three weeks out from my annual week long trek out west river. I am more excited about it this year than in the past likely due to the strangeness of 2020. I really NEED to get out in the prairie and just sit. And observe. And soak up the peace and quiet that is the breaks of the Cheyenne River. I would love to shoot a deer but that is secondary anymore to just getting away from it all. I plan to enjoy myself with the company of a good friend and make some memories.

The scramble continued this issue for material to publish. I encourage, plead and beg every edition. I am close to resorting to bribery and have passed on to the Board a suggestion that non Board members that submit an article or picture be awarded a raffle ticket or two at the annual convention. If any of you have any suggestions as to how to increase participation in the newsletter please let me know. One thing I would like to see would be a "regular" column or two dealing with general archery tips or bow maintenance and another recipe column. When I started as editor a few years back we had both going a little but that has now waned. Anyone interested?

Just as a reminder to all of the importance of SDBI, the legislature will begin again in a couple of months. I happen to believe that if the legislature met once every ten years it would still be too often but perhaps the most important function of this group is to monitor legislation and protect bowhunting rights in SD. Never forget that. It is why we exist.

Play hard and have fun!



*Next deadline to submit articles or pictures is November 1*

Email articles, photos, want ads, cartoons, and letters for newsletter submission to :  
Mike McKnight  
[msmcknight2912@gmail.com](mailto:msmcknight2912@gmail.com)



# President's Notes

*Jay Liebke*

Well this newsletter finds us well into archery season with the rut right around the corner. I hope your season has been memorable so far. Mine has been. Some of the memories I'd like to forget, like the giant velvet deer I missed. You can't let those misses get you down though. It's learning from them that makes us better archers.

How has your public land experience been so far this year? For me it's been pretty nice not having some of my favorite spots overrun with non-residents for the first month. Hope you have been as well. Thanks to the work of SBDI members for getting some of these measures passed. Also a good reminder for your friends that ask the benefits of SBDI and what we do as an organization. This along with many, many others over the last 50 years has given us the opportunity we enjoy as Bowhunters in South Dakota today. Sometimes it's easy to enjoy what we do and forget the hard work it took to get what we have.

With that I want to remind you of the upcoming SBDI convention. This will be our 50th anniversary. It's shaping up to be a great line up with Mark Kayser as our keynote speaker. Might be a good idea to get a room reserved now for the weekend. Also be sure to get your tickets for our bow raffle. You can check out the website for those and also I for on the convention.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Hope you have a memorable and successful rest of the season.







## Vice-President's Voice

*Wyatt Skelton*

I hope everyone's season is going well. I arrowed a nice antelope and hope to get a chance on some deer. Lately been enjoying the sound of rustling and falling yellow leaves and beautiful sunsets close to home. It's been crazy dry this fall, so wind for cover noise is really needed for out west adventures. Seen some good bucks and lots and lots of deer out in the western Prairie. Been exploring new ground and meeting more folks and gaining access and enjoying God's creation.

I am looking forward to SDBI's 50th anniversary in Rapid City. It will be here before you know it. Please make plans to attend and share stories with fellow members. Mark Kayser will be the speaker and be a great highlight to the weekend. Please consider trying to obtain donations to make this a record great convention. If you create if your creative we talented you can make something to donate! Some guys can make folding tables, fishing poles, bowls, arrows, anything would be most appreciated!

Also, please jot down your hunting stories and adventures for the newsletter and send them to Mike McKnight. Remember, we're doing a drawing for a turn \$50 gift certificate for article submissions at the convention! Send in your field photos, recipes, kids in the outdoors pictures, family outings, we want to see those memories captured. Thanks everyone for making this a strong organization. The online store has been a hit so get your orders in and show your SDBI pride. The drink tumblers 20 ounce and 30 ounce have been going hot as well. I've been using mine a lot during this warm weather. Please check out the SDBI merch we've got available!

<https://alpineimpressions.net/product-category/south-dakota-bowhunters/>



# Lobbyist Column

*Dana Rogers*

I hope this issue of the newsletter finds you all well and enjoying the early Deer, Antelope seasons and perhaps even with an Elk tag in your pocket. I haven't heard of any new petitions or proposals that effect archery equipment or seasons this summer but we did have the 2nd 2020 Elk Stakeholders group meeting. We met in Rapid City to discuss the results of the Elk Survey and go over ideas and options for changes to the next Elk Management Plan. There were several GFP Staff members present to provide insight and data with several others dialing on via Zoom Video Conference. Ranchers and landowners were represented as were sportsmen's groups. I was very happy to have 2 additional SDBI members on the stakeholders group this year. Jeff Olson from Rapid City and Jesse Kurtenbach from Spearfish. I've already e-mailed all of the slides and documentation out to SDBI members so if you are interested in the notes, slides or data, please review the e-mail documents in depth for the most in-depth information. If you'd like to call me and discuss I'm also available for that.

Discussion points included but were not limited to Elk Population estimates and current goals; Elk damage and landowner depredation; Landowner elk tags; The Elk Survey Results; The new West River Elk zone and seasons ahead. The discussion was cordial and polite for the most part, with a lot of great discussions taking place. Jeff Olson brought up some great historical points for reference. Landowner acreage requirements to receive a tag, how often that tag would be an either sex permit or a cow permit, and the forage management studies from past years were among them. I highlighted my thoughts and opinions on Elk Depredation claims and tying those hunters dollars payments to access and more rigor in the depredation process. I'd personally like to see a Fence cable installment be required for fence damage claims as well as a mobile or permanent high fencing panel system be a requirement for hay store depredation claims. Another discussion idea was splitting our Landowner elk permit holders into two separate groups. A Habitat Landowner and a Depredation Landowner. The basic thought being the Habitat Landowner likes some elk, tolerates some elk and ONLY wants the Either Sex elk tag as their compensation for providing for the elk. While the Depredation Landowner could still be eligible for Depredation cash payments for fencing, crops and hay but they would only be eligible to receive a Cow elk permit. All of these are simply points of discussion and were obviously from the perspective of sportsmen. I also brought up the fact that the West River season doesn't allocate any tags specifically to bowhunters and that many would like to see that be reopened as an opportunity. GFP staff noted that in the past when they did offer those Prairie Elk Archery permits, many sportsmen complained over lack of hunting access. The Black Hills Elk seasons and populations are certainly a totally different situation and scenario than the Prairie elk units that are compromised almost entirely of private land.

A Draft plan will be coming up sometime soon with any possible changes. I do also want to note the attendance of one rancher from the Elk Mountain Area and two Legislators, none of which were actually part of the Elk Stakeholders group. That optic is a concern to me personally as they were there to voice concerns that are only in favor of the local ranching communities and not the broader state population or sportsmen's benefit typically. My recommendation to



# Lobbyist Column (continued)

Dana Rogers

Sportsmen is to stay informed, involved and active. If you want more elk and elk hunting opportunities there will need to be compromises and much more vocal involvement in the future.

## ELK MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA 2020 Public Opinion Survey

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GFP) is responsible for conserving and managing elk populations and their habitats for current and future generations of residents, visitors, and sportswomen and men to enjoy. In 2013, GFP used a survey to gather broad public feedback to inform the first elk management plan (2015 - 2019). It is time to update and write the next elk management plan (2021 - 2030) and we want your input. On average, it should take 15 - 20 minutes to complete the enclosed survey.

Managing healthy elk populations across public and private land is complex and requires GFP to balance wildlife science with social considerations and expressed needs of important stakeholders, such as landowners and hunters, all of whom value and use elk differently. This survey builds on the 2013 elk management public opinion survey, so questions are designed to understand attitudes, opinions, and perceptions about:

- elk conservation and management on private land
- current and future elk conservation and management objectives and strategies
- elk tolerance incentives for private landowners
- elk hunting experiences and overall satisfaction

Responding to the enclosed survey is *voluntary*; there is no risk associated with your participation. By completing and returning a survey, you are providing your implied consent to participate in this public involvement process and acknowledge data may be used in public documents and/or settings. Your responses will remain *confidential* and *never will be associated with your name, contact information or any identifiable characteristic*. The identification number on your survey is there so I can check your name off the mailing list once I receive your completed survey. Return the survey using the postage-paid envelope provided.



**Questions?** Contact Dr. Faren R. Wolter, Human Dimensions Specialist, Game, Fish & Parks, 605.773.4231 or [faren.wolter@state.sd.us](mailto:faren.wolter@state.sd.us)



**Department of Game, Fish, and Parks**  
Foss Building  
523 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

Survey #: XXXXX



# Lobbyist Column (continued)

*Dana Rogers*

**Zoom recording of the meeting can be found here:**

<https://state-sd.zoom.us/rec/share/acGWIZoExo70NYITkuFqVQxTvpHaQpPCuXOSIICZHs2doYIZ2fGJKQDeli5EFwke.16a9RQj2xVsO1wcR>  
Passcode: !Yx08k\*A

**Introductions and Housekeeping (Switzer/Kanta)**

**Comments from Commissioner's Bies and Spring**

**Stakeholders Present:**

Group	Contact Name
GFP Commission	Travis Bies
GFP Commission	Charles Spring
South Dakota Wildlife Federation	Chris Hesla
Black Hills Sportsmen	Jeff Olson
South Dakota Big Game Coalition	Dana Rogers
SD Cattlemen's Association/Black Hills Landowner	Eric Jennings
SD Stockgrower's Association	James Halverson
Spearfish Grazing Association/Northern Black Hills Landowner	Aaron Thompson
Prairie Landowner	James O'Neil
Prairie Landowner	Chance Lermeny
Central Black Hills Landowner	Steve Caster
Southern Black Hills Landowner	Mike Jarding
East River Hunter	Jerry Soholt
SD Wildlife federation/Tripp Co. Landowner	Terry Mayes
US Forest Service	Kris Hennings
RMEF	Jerry Hirschhoff
RMEF	Leah Burgess

GFP Staff Present

Chad Switzer, John Kanta, Andy Lindbloom, Andrew Norton, Trenton Haffley and Mark Ohm

GFP Staff Present Via Zoom

Faren Wolter, Keith Fisk and Nathan Baker





# Lobbyist Column

## (continued)

*Dana Rogers*

### Elk management opinion survey results and discussion (Wolter)

- Preliminary Response Rate of 2019 elk license applicants = 32%; data collection is ongoing for both elk license applicants/recipients and area landowners.
  - Most respondents suggested a slight increase in Black Hills and Prairie
    - 58% supported managing for elk in new WR Prairie Elk Unit
    - 64% indicated elk damage is minor to not a problem
    - 66% of landowners allow elk hunting on their land
  - Most respondents indicated that elk licenses available to landowners is about right – too many
- Landowner-own Land Elk License – Most wanted more details of what it would look like. Most support was for landowner-own land licenses to only be valid on own land and for antlerless only licenses during same season dates as unit land is located in.
  - 50% of hunters spent 100% of their time hunting on public land
- Landowners >40 acres... 2,100 random selected, paper based. Covid slowing up, resent more surveys
  - Hunters- 2019 applicants (random) and licensees (census)
  - Focusing today on elk hunters only, not enough response from landowners
    - 32% response so far, preliminary findings may change
  - Black hills Elk population objectives – should we adjust? 24% yes, 33% no, 43% don't know
    - 87% selected slightly to substantial increases wanted
  - Prairie elk objectives – 23% yes, 33% nom, 45% don't know
    - 85% selected slightly to substantial increases wanted
  - Unit WRA (new West River elk unit) – manage for elk – 58% yes, 8% no
    - 8% of landowners hunted elk, 87% had elk on land
- Elk plan – what objectives and strategies will help GFP meet ever growing demand of elk hunters while addressing private land issues

### Questions:

Why was 40 acres selected? Faren – Discussed quite a bit and landed on 40 acres, as we didn't want to exclude someone with a smaller amount of land, but still received elk use and/or damage. Wanted to give those landowners a voice.

How many people did not respond to the survey? Faren – Some email challenges, but survey data is still coming in, and another email was sent out on September 17<sup>th</sup> encouraging people to respond to the survey.

Were survey respondents informed of current population estimates? Faren – Yes, population estimates in current management plan were provided in the survey.

Suggestion to analyze data for landowners that have over 40 acres of land and are making a living off of the land. Faren – Agrees it is something to look at, but multiple methods and avenues are needed to get a better handle on this subject.

Several more South Dakotans that have an interest in elk were not surveyed. Seems to suggest a desire for more elk. How was that derived, is it due to not enough elk licenses to meet demand.

Acreage alone does not indicate income stream and amount from the land.

Questions on elk biological carrying capacity. Livestock grazing (take half/leave half) and how much forage elk are taking. Andy Lindbloom – Provided information and calculation on Forest Service land in Black Hills National Forest (BHNF).

Range monitoring suggested to determine how much forage wildlife is using.

Kris Henning – New to BHNF and has met numerous times with GFP to discuss vegetation and monitoring data.

Forest Service manages habitat, GFP manages elk numbers, licenses, etc.

Looking at allotment vegetation monitoring in high elk use areas. GFP funded a technician to help BHNF with determining forage estimates.

Why weren't more landowners surveyed? 2,100 landowners were surveyed. Some delays with mailings due to COVID-19. More completed surveys are still being received.

Many respondents indicated they wanted more elk, but not sure they realize how much of their license dollars are spent on elk depredation. Did GFP try to educate them with background information, so respondents were more informed when answering questions.

Difficult to educate respondents in a survey.

GFP has spent \$3.7 million in past 19 years on elk depredation. \$200-400,000 spent annually in recent years.

Funding Sources:

\$10 elk application fee



# Lobbyist Column (continued)

*Dana Rogers*

\$6 surcharge (\$2.50) to WDM Program

Federal Pittman Robertson funds

How much money is GFP making on elk license sales? We are spending more money on elk depredation than what is being received on elk license sales and application fees.

Participant mentions landownership changes in Black Hills region and increasing emphasis on recreation...he believes that viewpoint/perspective/group should be included/considered when updating the elk management plan.

Participant wants to include an economic analysis as part of the data collection and analysis that informs the updated elk management plan [desire for additional information to be considered during decision-making]

No economic data collected through the survey, therefore not able to attribute economic data to those participants.

How can we incorporate this information into decision making?

Can managers assess the +/- change in number of depredation payments since 2013? The amount of money paid out to landowners since 2013? The amount of money spent on fixing fences & building hay yards? Is there a geographic component that would inform management goals & objectives?

Significant discussion around defining 'landowner' and that the stakeholders want to have a say or input into that definition...

Small producer seems worried about their impacts not being considered equally and large landowners/producers seem concerned that their viewpoints might not carry enough weight in the decision-making processes related to setting elk management goals and objectives.

GFP staff responds that stakeholders are not decision-makers or part of the decision-making process, they provide input and GFP

Commission has sole authority to make final decision re: updating the elk plan

Why 40 acres? Wanted to allow everyone to participate

How many surveys sent out? Went over slide again

Did surveys include elk estimates and goal?

Concern over 40 acres and folks having actual economic impacts, those with 40 acres may have more tolerance vs. those who depend on lands.

**Copy of Elk Human Dimension Survey requested by some stakeholders**

**Copy of Faren's PowerPoint on Elk Survey requested by some stakeholders**

**Prairie elk management and population objectives (Kanta)**

John Kanta discussed Elk Population Objectives

- West River Prairie Elk – Novelty is starting to wear off for some landowners and depredation is becoming a concern
- Cost:Benefit Analysis – Some stakeholders don't think the increased elk numbers on the prairie is worth the cost to respond to fixing fences, building stackyards, etc.
- Are tribes helping to manage elk in Bennett County area? GFP is working with them, but this is a continual challenge with mixed land ownership and varying management objectives.
  - Access needed to help reduce depredation on private land
- Unit WRA (new West River elk unit) – Where are elk located at? John Kanta explained general areas.
  - Keith Fisk indicated that majority of elk damage is related to crops during the growing season.
- Kanta opens the floor for comments/discussion...hearing none, he asks "should we manage for elk in Unit WRA?"
- Participant notes that novelty of elk wearing off in certain parts of Unit WRA; particularly winter congregation counts increase
- Participant says that two big landowners like having elk, but adjacent and neighboring landowners do not agree.
  - He asks, "what is the cost-benefit analysis?" for managing for elk on the prairie
  - Participant mentions Harding County, limited number of landowner tags available
- He asks, "how much of the money spent on elk damage is going to the right people? and how does GFP track this?"
- Participant asks, "how much hunter access exists in the Unit WRA?" Another participant agrees that hunter access will be an issue in Unit WRA.
  - Depending on survey response rates, might have some data to provide insight.
  - Participant notes that row crops have been expanding west along I-90 corridor



# Lobbyist Column

## (continued)

*Dana Rogers*

- Several participants discuss needing to break Unit WRA up into smaller units/areas to make informed decisions about the area; otherwise, too large, too many different landowners, etc.
- Participant mentions the changing land use and land ownership patterns in the Black Hills region...increasing real estate sales
- He is concerned that small producers unable to survive in BH and says having elk is not worth the cost of having them
  - Need to get ahead of the curve
  - Consider surveys, maybe of landowners
    - Need to divide
  - Reasonable access debate, maybe cow only
  - Need more rigorous evaluation of depredation funds

### **Landowner elk preference and landowner own land licenses (Kanta)**

John Kanta covered landowner elk license types and history.

Lengthy discussion on landowner elk licenses and Landowner-own land concept

- What is fair
  - Consider financial impacts to producers
- Possibly time to consider different criteria for prairie landowners vs. Black Hills landowners.
  - Any elk tag helps with tolerance for elk
- Most South Dakota residents will need to apply for 20-30 years before getting an any elk license. Is that fair that a landowner likely will receive an any elk tag for depredation compensation, when a sportsman may only receive one in their entire life.
  - Water developments to help with depredation
- The acreage requirement has a long history with no real rationale other than that's where it's been for a while and has even been used on sale bills to sell property. Very difficult to change at this point in the game
- Consideration should be given to season length if a landowner-own land tag is developed. August and March are sensitive months in terms of cow/calf disturbance but need a long enough season to ensure landowners have opportunity
- Discussion on any elk tag vs cow, depredation assistance or bull tag, LO get bull every 3rd, discussion on why not open it up if we are trying to decrease, bull tag will ruin age structure, cow tag affects too many elk, John Kanta showed what GFP Commission recommendation table was, discussion on defining landowner-own land license
  - Habitual elk use. What would that change? Needs to be enforced
- Concern over landowners getting tags that don't have elk.... Need to verify elk use
  - Landowners should only hunt on own land and not the entire unit
    - Stop treating prairie like the Black Hills
      - Depredation tag, cow only
      - Habitat tag, any elk
- Don't change the 240 acreage minimum requirement for the Black Hills. On the Prairie it is more critical that you have elk use on your property than acreage to qualify for landowner preference.
  - Hunting time frame landowner-own land license too long
    - Landowner license ideas
      - If you participate in depredation program, cow only
      - Habitat practices equals any elk tags
      - Need to work with USFS to keep water in tanks and elk on forest
- Landowner voucher tags – 2,000 acres, can be sold, on that deeded land, only if elk population was up to 10-12k, couldn't accept anything from state



# Lobbyist Column (continued)

*Dana Rogers*

- Hiring an elk hazing coordinator and elk hunting coordinator
- Mike Jarding provided detailed ideas regarding options for many landowner license ideas
  - If a landowner participates in a depredation program, they only qualify for a antlerless tag
  - Not participating in a depredation program allows a landowner to qualify for an any elk tag
    - This would focus on habitat
  - Guzzlers and tanks should be left on all grazing season on the Forest Service ground, especially in the southern Black Hills
  - Push conservation easements as they're great for securing wildlife habitat
    - Voucher tags (Brief summary of suggested criteria)
      - Minimum of 2,000 acres
        - Can be sold
      - Used on deeded land only
    - Would need higher population objective, like 10,000-12,000 in order to return something to the sportsmen
    - Voucher tag acceptance would prohibit participation in depredation programs
  - Was also suggested to hire a hazing coordinator and a hunt coordinator
- Kanta asks for input about landowner/operator licenses (Note: confusing conversation to follow because it kept bouncing between existing landowner/operator licenses and the potential qualifying characteristics of the Landowner-own land (LOL) ...it may not be clear to participants what the difference is between the two licenses...how much outreach, education, and targeted communication has there been around both license types and why proposing the Landowner-own land (LOL)?)
  - Several participants indicate a belief that landowners get a bull tag every year, while others (citizens/hunters) are lucky to get one bull tag in their lifetime
- GFP staff respond that landowner-own land license would not negatively affect the number of tags available to Sportsman. Other staff indicate that they will not know what type of elk a landowner-own land harvests, so hypothetically the take could negatively impact elk populations in those areas, so hypothetically could decrease the number of future tags available to general hunters.
- GFP staff reinforce that the landowner-own land tag only applies in elk management unit(s) with decreasing population objective...participant asks, "why can't we increase all tags for that area? Why do landowners only get the benefit?"
- Note: flurry of comments about allocation of elk with some cross-over into discussions around depredation payments, I got lost trying to follow the conversation...someone states "landowners should have to choose between elk tags and depredation payments" ...someone mentions a program idea from 1965?
  - Conversation around needing to better define 'elk-use days' as a qualifying factor
- GFP staff respond that landowners sign a document attesting to elk use on their property, so they do not have to provide evidence.
  - Participant suggests having different rules for Black Hills and prairie elk
- Concern among participants that political influence is driving GFP's decision-making process..."causes lots of anger on the part of landowners"
- Several participants that were involved in the first elk management plan process are confused/concerned that the discussion around managing elk has shifted from population direction to one that is primarily concerned with 'landowner tolerance and depredation costs' of a few large producers. "
  - Participant suggests needing to find "common ground" among stakeholders
- Participant says the real challenge to supporting the hunting demand is land use and elk habitat management - conservation easements should be a tool.





# Lobbyist Column (continued)

*Dana Rogers*

- Participants mentions that mountain lions are a problem for elk
- Participants says human pressure associated with growing outdoor recreation activities increase is stressing elk and negatively affect hunting success

## **Elk Viewing stations and non-consumptive use**

- Growing more rapidly
- Possible opportunity to market elk and elk management to non-consumptive users.
- Use/create areas like Pleasant Valley GPA to pull elk from areas where they cause trouble to locations where elk concentrations are more acceptable.
- Participant mentioned it would be nice to have elk viewing platforms (Mickelson Trail...I think that's what he said) ...Faren Wolter, GFP's Human Dimension Specialist, spoke in support, gave successful example of building common ground during Virginia's elk management plan development.
- Participants ask GFP to consider elk viewing/bugling as a means for landowners to capture benefits of growing wildlife tourism opportunities
  - Participant suggests developing a "non-consumptive habitat stamp"
- Participant mentions the potential for tapping oil & gas industry for habitat money as their industries and exploration expands in SD
  - Trophy elk management discussion
- General consensus is that it is so competitive to draw an any elk license that when someone draws a license they aren't that concerned with the score of a bull, just happy to have finally drawn a license.
- Andy Lindbloom provided some detail regarding the history of tooth aging based on wear and the current decision to use Matson's Lab in Montana to age elk using tooth annuli
  - Also provided input and requested thoughts regarding current objective in the management plan that sets target harvest at 30% of bull elk aged at 4+ yrs.

## **Brief Discussion on Elk Preference Points and Drawing Structure**

- True Preference suggested
- Andrew Norton went over current system and license allocation process
- General consensus that current system is working well, and supply will never meet demand

## **Additional Comments**

- Participants asked if stakeholders would be able to review the elk management plan and make comments prior to its release for general public comment?
- One person that has been involved with several management plans, says he often gets push back from friends/ other hunters when they read a final plan and will ask him "why did you support 'XYZ'?" and he always says, "I didn't have anything to do with that, stakeholders didn't decide on 'XYZ'" The participants sounds frustrated.
- GFP staff reinforces that stakeholders are not decision-makers, they provide input and GFP Commission has the authority while considering Department recommendations and public input. Allowing stakeholders to review the plan prior to public release is not the normal process and will consider this request.
- GFP Commissioner Spring – Custer State Park, 8-9 bull licenses now, was 62 when he hunted, why – habitat, buffalo.... Should be looked at to provide more opportunity for all
- Drawing... what about implementing a tier for those over 20 preference points.

## **Future Topics:**

- Completed public opinion survey
- Hunt for habitat all going to Harding county, too many elk for Harding County, money not going to Harding County
  - Chad Switzer, on our radar and will work with GFP commission
  - Huge oil transportation - ?? money for that



# Lobbyist Column (continued)

*Dana Rogers*

- Forage limited, not all for elk. Need habitat improvement, need to get behind ranchers who are doing water and projects now. GFP needs to get behind permittees and use them, but that habitat needs to be for cows too.
  - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation bought Lady C Ranch, no cows grazing, 3,000 acres
    - Gonzales property is a wreck, not being managed
      - Revisit old plan
    - Drought contingency tags
  - What has come out of collaboration with US Forest Service?
  - Forage availability should be more important than public opinion
    - Range data

Suggestion to go back and review the previous elk management plan and revisit forage allocations  
Request from stakeholders to see the recommendations going to the SDGFP Commission



## Elk Management in South Dakota: 2020 Public Opinion Survey Preliminary Findings

SD Elk Stakeholder Meeting, Rapid City  
23 September 2020  
Faren R. Wolter, *Human Dimensions Specialist*  
South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks



# A Goat for Dan

*Wyatt Skelton*

Luck and I don't always meet in a positive way. And with antelope it's even worse! I crawled to about 37 yds and was trying to decide to try a shot on the bedded buck antelope or hope it would stand for a shot. As luck would have it, this time I was fortunate, the antelope stood up and looked away.

My friend Dan was diagnosed with multiple myeloma cancer about 2 years ago. He had to travel for treatments and therapies, so I didn't get to visit in person much the last few months other than over the phone. Things went downhill and he was sent home for his few remaining days. He got home on a Thursday September 3 and said friends could come visit on Sunday afternoon. I and a few others visited him and he gave me his paddlefish poles and tackle. I'm happy to say later I put the poles to a successful weekend outing in Yankton in mid-October. I told him I was going bowhunting the next day on Monday for antelope and deer. He said send pictures so each day I sent photos of whatever I could; deer, fox, antelope.

On Friday his wife text me back and said it wouldn't be long as he took a major turn. She said to please promise her to try and get something to honor Dan before he passed. I can't promise to shoot an animal on command. I said I would try my best and had been trying. The next day on Saturday around 1:00 I was scanning a piece of walk-in with the binocs and spotted a buck antelope off by himself. It was odd, I could see him at about a half mile in the binocs but when I lowered them he was invisible. He looked like he was positioned in a spot I could stalk him. I parked, gathered my gear, and was off. It was hot, like about 100 degrees and not much wind. I trekked a half mile out and circled around the last known location of him. I went into prairie ninja mode and crawled up to where he should be and...nothing. So I thought well maybe it was the next cut and again nope. I found fresh tracks in the dirt and figured he had given me the slip. I stood up and figuring the hunt was over just started walking normally, no stealth, around back to the truck. At that moment the wind picked up and covered my steps. And over the next rise there he was bedded! I dropped and looked through binos and he was looking straight away so never saw me. Wow! He was about 85 yards. I contemplated a route and decided to crawl straight at him since he was positioned best already. I only slithered towards him when the wind picked up and froze when it went calm again.

I ranged him several times and landed on about 37 yards. His spine was to me and if I missed the spine it would mean only one lung. Not a good shot. I was pondering what to do when he stood up and looked straight away from me. What luck! I couldn't believe it. That never happens. I quickly rose to my knees and drew back and lined up. He was just starting to walk when I sent the carbon arrow through both lungs. He bolted up a small rise and turned to the right and went out of sight. I looked and finally found my arrow. I then went in last direction I had seen him. He went surprisingly further than I would have thought on a double lung hit. I found him shortly, took pics, and boned him out. It was dizzy hot and was happy he had run towards to truck on his death run. I got him in the pickup and drove to the nearest town to get him on ice.



## A Goat for Dan (continued)

*Wyatt Skelton*

I text pics to his wife and she told Dan and she said he woke up for a moment and gave a thumbs up. That made me so happy he knew I had got him a goat. Dan passed away just 2 days later on a rainy Labor day morning.

Make today, someday. It's easy to put trips, plans, and ideas off until "someday." The fact is, we don't know when that last day will be, so do those trips, plans, or ideas now! God speed Dan.







# The Choice of Ethics

*Dana Rogers*

Making the trip west to Bowhunt Pronghorn in Wyoming again, I really wanted to try and use my custom Travis Sivertsen recurve. My good friend made this bow for me a few years ago and he's also made a few and donated them to SDBI for auction/raffle prizes. I was fortunate enough to take a nice Colorado Pronghorn the year before and a Texas wild hog earlier this winter. I'm not a very proficient traditional bowhunter but I do enjoy the challenge having to get that much closer to the game with the traditional equipment. I made the trip again to the Prairie States traditional shoot and had a blast joining friends Garin and Jerri Ann Haak and their children on the course. The shoot was fun and helped to improve my limited skills.

On the first day of my Wyoming Pronghorn bowhunt, I'd decided to only use the recurve if a shot opportunity arose. It was a VERY hot August 15th sit in the blind but there were plenty of thirsty Pronghorn around to help keep me interested. A very nice buck came in to drink in mid-morning and was in range. At the last second he turned on a path that took him about another 5 yards further. I was committed and really thought I could get him but my arrow flew low, just under his chest. A clean miss that was disappointing but exciting.

During the day a skunk, several waterfowl and other prairie wildlife came to quench their thirst at this prairie oasis. Early that afternoon a thirsty buck came from the opposite side of the pond and once again, this buck looked to be coming in to drink very close but strayed further to the end of my effective range of about 20 yards. This shot also fell just short and low and I was dejected and disappointed. The quiet sound of the shot and arrow sliding into the mud below him startled him but he only trotted off out to about 50 yards. Still plenty close enough for the Hoyt I had resting in the corner of my blind, but twice as far as I could ever hope to shoot with the beautiful custom recurve I held in my hand. Oh the frustration and beautiful challenge of traditional bowhunting!

About an hour later, two thirsty does and their fawns came running from over a mile away in to drink. The medium sized buck I'd missed earlier saw them and decided to close back in on the water, as his thirst was interrupted by my miss earlier. I videoed the scene with my tripod mounted camera on the right side of the blind and watched as the does and fawns slurped up the cool water between 10-15 yards away in front of the blind. The buck became bolder seeing this and slowly inched closer. As the doe and fawn filled their bellies they began to slowly back out and move away to the right. Quickly the buck walked in and came into 10-15 yards in front of the blind. I swung the camera and refocused, gripped the bow and picked a spot while drawing as the buck walked to the left and the doe cleared the buck to the right. This was happening quickly and the buck caught my movement from inside the blind and whirled back the way he'd come from as I was drawing. He was 10 yards away, now 15 but facing back the way he'd come. In the excitement of the moment and my sharp focus on my aim point, I'd totally missed the fact that one of the doe was standing directly behind the buck's neck and head. While swinging right into the shot, I bumped the camera/tripod and as my shot broke the tip of the recurve bumped the roof of my blind. My mind watched the arrow fly in front of the buck's bris-



# The Choice of Ethics

## (continued)

*Dana Rogers*

ket and below his neck. It struck the doe in her back ham and exited just in front of the left. I was absolutely sick!

How stupid of me to not ensure I had shot clearance in that corner of the blind! But, the shot was off and I was responsible for the results. I glassed the doe as she ran away and could clearly see the blood on her rump and dangling entrail on her left side. A bad hit, a terrible result to my shot. My mind instantly raced over several things but the die was cast and there was no doubt that it would be a lethal shot. What to do?

Days after this event, I'd talked it over with others and the landowner. He knew me and trusted me and that is something I highly value. His area of Wyoming had experienced some sort of disease outbreak and his numbers were less than 50% of what they normally were. In years past I'd purchased an either sex permit as well as a doe permit. He'd always allowed me to shoot a doe to help control populations and gather more meat for our family's freezer. But this year was different, Tom saw his low numbers and asked that we didn't shoot any doe this year...only bucks. Thus, I didn't have a doe tag in my pocket and the rancher didn't want any does shot.

So rewind to my scenario just after I'd released the arrow and result. I had ONE either sex antelope tag in my pocket, not the two I normally would have on a better year. My friend and rancher Tom had asked that no doe be taken this year so they could allow the population to rebound. Now, what would YOU DO? For me there was only ONE choice. There would be no 'hoping' the doe recovered, as the shot was clearly lethal but it would take time for the results to take shape. She was going to die from my arrow, that was clear. I would also NOT be driving to town to go quickly purchase one of the many available antlerless antelope licenses to 'fix' the predicament. That would be illegal and unethical and I wouldn't do that. I had only ONE choice, watch her and wait. She only made it about 80 yards and I watched her through my binoculars from the blind. I called my rancher friend Tom and let him know I needed to talk to him when he got home.

A few hours later I talked with Tom and told him my tale of woe. He was gracious and understanding. He trusted me, knew me pretty well and knew I'd do everything the right way. My antelope hunt in Wyoming was over. I recovered the doe, tagged her and processed the meat quickly for the cooler. I had some delicious antelope venison and a lot of lessons to work on in my struggle as a neophyte traditional bowhunter. I told Tom all I have is my name, my honor and my word and I wouldn't compromise those. He is a great guy and hunter himself so he had several stories of other local hunters so help ease my worries. It was a frustrating successful bowhunt but one I will never forget for several reasons.



# The Choice of Ethics (continued)

*Dana Rogers*







# Adversity + Learning = Success

*Tim Pravecek (IBOHNTR)*

December 7th, 1996, I headed to Gammon Bottoms on the White River, the morning was crisp to say the least, single digits but fortunately very little wind. My mile walk to the "corn field edge" tree stand warmed me enough to tolerate an hour in my stand. But the problem for me was my eyelids were freezing shut, finally when I couldn't free my frozen eye lids without prying them open by hand. I decide to vacate my stand and walk back to my pickup to reevaluate the day. I thought it would be best and smartest to head home. There was no one in my area so if I got into trouble, I had no help. Also another reason was our company Christmas party was that evening. So as I was driving the winding road from the lower parking lot at Gammon Bottoms, I saw a group of mule deer does 8-10, I thought. Studying the wind I decided to get to the top and look for them and make a plan. The wind was perpendicular to my stalk.

My plan was modified several times, as soon as I left the truck I had to cross a fence and sure enough my pants caught the barb wire fence and torn them and dumped me on the ground. As I was descending the river breaks I came to a bald clearing and knew I had to find a more concealed approach and so I traversed the breaks away from the group of Does and found a small maneuverable draw, I proceed down to where I felt I could stalk along the breaks. As I got closer I saw that I had another small draw to negotiate to get into range. After many turns and crawls I crested the bank to the group. I drew from my knees and stood up and saw several of the Does standing and of course one looking my direction, much to my surprise a buck stood up between the Doe, she stared me down for what seemed like minutes but was probably a few seconds and finally took her eyes off me and moved, so everything was set up for a shot. I released my string(finger shooting back then) and the arrow found its mark slightly back (didn't allow for the incline). To my dismay and joy the buck ran off. Two good things, tail was down and he was running towards where I had parked that morning. I waited an hour because of the shot placement. As I neared the downed buck I could it see the buck was belly down in small draw, I wasn't positive he was dead so I let another go into him, but he was dead. When I got to him I retrieved my second arrow, remembering I should try to find my first arrow so I back tracked and never found it. I got back to my truck and drove to the lower parking lot and gutted my deer and drug it to my truck. I bear hugged the buck around the chest and got him into the back of my truck. Then realized I had cut my hand pretty bad on my palm. I shot this with a Bear razor head and when I skinned him found the blade of the first arrow broke from the main broadhead, that bleeder blade is what cut my palm. All had for a dressing for my wound was my handkerchief, which worked. As I was driving home I had a flat tire which made me more late and after finishing processing the deer at my brother's house it was too late to make the Christmas party but I had the best "party" a bowhunter could ask for, meat in freezer.







# John's 10 Tips to Get Your Deer

*John Meyen*

## **10 Tips on how to get your deer**

I have found that there really are no shortcuts in deer hunting. Sometimes you will get lucky, but you'll find you can make your own "luck" by doing a few simple things. Some will take time and I am not saying they are all easy, but they are simple.

Here they are:

1. Study the game you are hunting! They will be using all of their senses to detect you, so know their weaknesses and use them to your advantage. Use camouflage, play the wind, use a cover scent, hunt from a blind, hunt from an elevated stand (use a safety belt), etc.
2. Study your game regulations.
3. Get in shape. Deer hunting is physical, make sure you are up to it.
4. Practice with your weapon of choice.
5. Study the area you are hunting.
  - a. Get plat maps
  - b. Get topo maps
  - c. Get a program like ONYX maps
  - d. If you are hunting private land, spend some time talking to the landowners. They can be a great source of information. Remember you are a guest.
  - e. Talk to the local conservation officer
  - f. If available, review statistics from the state on the previous season
6. Use a weapon (bow and arrow, shotgun or rifle) that is adequate for the type of hunting you will be doing. You don't hunt bear with a BB gun! I am not saying you need an elephant gun or 100 pound bow either. Use some common sense and if you don't know what to use, check at the local sporting goods store and ask successful hunters what they use. Be familiar with its operation. I have seen many people blow a shot because they couldn't see thru their peep sight, they couldn't find the deer in the scope, forgot to load the weapon or they couldn't find the safety.
7. Make sure your clothing, boots, etc are adequate for the conditions you will be hunting in. If there might be rain, bring rain gear. There are several good brands of packable rain gear that really work. Same is true for cold weather gear. Being dressed for the weather will allow you to continue the hunt and could save your life. It doesn't have to be below freezing for hypothermia. If at all possible buy quality clothing and boots.
8. Depending on your preference, get a good fanny pack or backpack. I have used both, but I must say that by far backpacks are my favorite. Make sure you are carrying what



# John's 10 Tips to Get Your Deer (continued)

*John Meyen*

you need for hunting, but also gloves & knife for field dressing and a small survival kit (including blood stop, just in case).

9. Wear blaze orange when required.

- a. I prefer to not have a blaze orange hat or gloves unless I am driving deer. If sitting I don't like to wear blaze orange on any that will be moving constantly.
- b. If you are wearing a camo backpack, put an orange bandana or hat on it, the backpack will be covering all or most of your orange jacket or vest.

10. Use a flashlight when it is dark. Whether it is walking to your stand in the morning or walking out after dark, use a flashlight. If you are afraid of spooking deer, use a blue or red light. If you are hunting in a heavily hunted area and you don't want to be mistaken for a deer, stay until dark walk out with a flashlight, deer don't use lights. Comply with your local game laws. When you are walking out unload your weapon and case your weapon if necessary. When I have been in that situation, I keep my good case in the vehicle and carry a tiny case in my backpack to use on my way out. It offers minimal protection to the weapon, but it complies with the laws from the state where I was hunting. If I am wearing blaze orange, I try to shine the light on my blaze orange every so often as I am walking out after dark.



First South Dakota Pope & Young Whitetail. 5 X 5 that grossed 148 1/8" and a net of 143. East River.



# John's 10 Tips to Get Your Deer (continued)

*John Meyen*



My second Pope & Young Whitetail from South Dakota. I actually got him spot and stalking for Mulies, but decided he was nice and went after him.



My "treestand" Mulie. I caught him coming thru a bottle neck in the terrain.



# How Far is Too Far?

*Trevor Davis*

How many of you, out there, have ever been in a situation where the animal is there in front of you, at a distance where you know you are generally confident, but just can't bring yourself to send the arrow, or maybe you did send the arrow and made a perfect shot, but felt conflicted as to whether or not you'd make the same decision, given a second chance at the opportunity?

Lord knows I have!

If you've been there and you stopped to think about it, congratulations!

You're a fine upstanding hunter!

All hypotheticals aside, chances are, if you've been hunting long enough, this situation has come to pass in your hunting career.

What decision did you make?

Did you send it, or did you opt to hunt on, in hopes of a more ideal scenario?

Whichever course of action you chose, the decision was no doubt a difficult one.

As it should be ...

Why? Because shooting at foam will never be the same as shooting at fur!

Either way, in that moment, the decision is yours, right or wrong.

I can't make it for you, nor would I ever presume to.

It's a sticky situation that I wish on no hunter, but it can and does happen.

Anyone who knows me knows that, as much as I wish all hunters a successful season, I'm generally still rooting for the deer. Haha!

With that said, I am a strong advocate of setting conservative distance limitations to the shots we take, in the field, for both archery and rifle hunting, alike.

There is no nobility to be found in stretching shots on live game.

This is a sentiment that I encounter conflicting opinions on, quite regularly.

People say, everyone's limitations, based on ability, are not the same.

I couldn't agree more. They're not.

All archers are not created equal and setting a max distance is not a one size fits all standard.

This is a fair and objective argument. In theory...

Conversely, while ability may be a good foundation for an objective discussion, how many of us are truly objective in our assessment of our own abilities?

This is where the problem lies.

It stands to reason that a World Class competition shooter is more capable of making a 100yd archery shot on a deer than the average Joe. Furthermore, the competition shooter has likely proven it at the range hundreds, if not thousands of times.

However, this is the mentality that I struggle with.

Yes, said archer is capable of putting the arrow where it belongs.

But, at what point does one say, "just because I can doesn't mean I should?"

When preparing to send an arrow at a living animal, there are so many other variables that come into play that are not a concern when shooting at stationary targets. Wind, animal alertness, potentially less than ideal shooting position, etc.





# How Far is Too Far?

(continued)

*Trevor Davis*

These variables can all complicate a shot individually, let alone being compounded when accompanying one another.

If these variables don't create a grey area in your mind as to what your max confident distance, they really should.

Again, we're all at different levels in our shooting ability. This is not lost on me, and I want to make clear that the purpose of this piece is not to thumb my nose at the long range wizards. However, I do think that, regardless of skill level, it's very important to set conservative limitations for ourselves, out of respect for the animal, the sport, and for our fellow hunters. This is so very important because as hunters, regardless of skill level or depth of ethics, we're all lumped together in the eyes of the non-hunting public and whether we realize it or not, the next generation's eyes are fixed upon us, watching everything we do.

This thought brings a story to mind about a very accomplished archery hunter from SD that I count myself quite privileged to know.

About 10 years ago, a friend and I were admiring his father's trophy room.

28 whitetails, 5 mule deer, 3 elk, 4 pronghorn, 3 turkeys, 2 Siberian grizzlies, and a whole wall of various African game. All taken with a bow, spare the 2 grizzlies.

His father, being a humble man as well as the strong silent type, is hard to get stories out of. When asked how he amassed such a collection, his only response was, "I've been at it a long time."

At any rate, I was particularly curious about his pronghorn mounts, as I'd never hunted them with a bow and knew that they were notoriously difficult to get close to.

I asked him if he recalled the distance at which he'd taken each one.

He rattled off conservative for species distances for the first 3. But, when he got to the last pronghorn mount he paused. Like an impatient child waiting for the conclusion of a bedtime story, I pressed him for the distance of the last goat.

He slowly sighed and in a slightly softer voice replied, "I don't like to talk about that one."

This particular goat happened to be the biggest one of the 4. So, naturally I wondered why he wasn't more forthcoming with the story.

"Why's that?" I asked.

"Well, it was the farthest shot I've ever taken at an animal, and while it worked out, I'm not proud of it and would never take the shot again," he said, hanging his head in shame.

He had taken the animal at 107yds.

In my youthful ignorance, I was thoroughly impressed, at the time.

He could see the admiration on my face and sternly checked me on it, stating that attempting such a feat is selfish and that even he, who shoots daily, year round, has no business attempting it.

"Anything could have happened during that arrow's flight. I can live with a miss, but I could have wounded it and not been able to recover the animal," he said.

I understood his sentiment, but at that point in my bowhunting career, I'd not yet lost an animal. So, while I got where he was coming from I still hadn't lived through the gut wrenching sleepless nights that a bad shot on an animal brings.



## How Far is Too Far (continued)

*Trevor Davis*

I'm older now and my hunting mentality has changed as I've matured. I now truly understand where he was coming from. A good portion of that maturing hit me like a ton of bricks after losing a deer that jumped the string resulting in an ugly gut shot. Weather moved in a couple hours after, and the long and short of it was that I didn't find the animal until the following spring, which provided some closure, but still made for a heavy reminder that stuff happens.

There is nothing worse than the feeling of wounding an animal and not being able to recover it. The unknown will eat you alive. It has nothing to do with the fact that it got away. The inner turmoil stems from knowing that the animal will likely die, eventually, in a far less pleasant manner than a well placed arrow ushers an animal to the other side.

I remind myself of this frequently, to keep my shot selection conservative, in the field.

It's not a feeling I ever want to deal with again, but inevitably will. But, I can tell you with great confidence that I will never invite that feeling upon myself by taking too far of a shot!





## Ronn McDaniel, OD Bio

While several of the SD Bowhunters know me quite well I thought I would share my bio with you in this newsletter.

In my childhood years I grew up in Pierre. My father was a USFWS Wildlife Biologist, a government trapper in charge of predator control for SD, ND and NE. I cut my teeth shooting competition .22 rifle at the Pierre Auditorium, started and got hooked on bowhunting at age 12 on LaFromboise Island and only missed 2 days of fishing on the Missouri during my last summer at Pierre. At age 13, we moved 30 miles south of Valentine, NE to Hackberry Lake Headquarters on Valentine Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. Dad managed and researched primarily duck and prairie grouse (Sharptails and Prairie Chickens) using grazing rotations and rest to invigorate the warm season grasses habitat, he studied and documented predation on nesting success from coyotes and bullsnakes. Over the years he published several papers and gave many talks with his gathered information over several states and was widely known for his expertise in increasing the bird population and nesting success numbers. I lived all my childhood years eating and breathing wildlife and conservation, working on neighboring ranches, driving around the Refuge when Dad was on Law Enforcement, dealt with the many aspects of hunters and fishermen while on public land. My life was always focused on trapping, hunting and fishing living on a 78,000 acre Sandhills playground. I took a biology major in my first 4 years of college, participated in track (since it wasn't held during hunting season) and headed out to Oregon for another 4 years of Optometry School in 1987 where there was opportunity to bow hunt Roosevelt Elk and fish for Salmon and Steelhead on the West Coast Range. In the fall of 1991 I joined the USPHS Indian Health Service and went to Bethel, AK. My goal since a child was to get to Alaska, I lived the dream of flying out to the Bush Villages providing Eye Care, hunting and fishing the tundra, obtained a Guide License and guided for Moose, Caribou, Grizzly and Black Bear. In 1993 I transferred back to Pine Ridge Hospital closer to home and in 1997 I bought my own business in Ortonville, MN. I got more involved in competition archery and with a little help from a friend I became proficient with my compounds in both Indoor and Outdoor archery and compete at State, Midwest and National level shoots. I have since sold that business and have lived in Wilmot, SD for the past 19 years and am currently working at the Rosebud Hospital which puts a big damper in my practice time.

I had always been interested in Taxidermy, loved going in and watching the creativity but yet not being happy with the work done on my trophies...so I decided, don't complain, just do it yourself and I have worked on improving my work to a competition level. Attached are photos of a Pronghorn I stalked, decoyed and then mounted to win the SDTA Gamehead Category.

I hold Licenses to practice as a Doctor of Optometry and as a Taxidermist in South Dakota. Am a life member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and SD Taxidermist



## Ronn McDaniel, OD Bio (continued)

Association where I have served on the SD Taxidermist Association Board. Am currently on the SD Archery Association Board as the NE Representative with our Headquarters being at the NFAA Archery Complex in Yankton. Am now honored to help serve on the SD Bowhunters Board and in just a short time we have seen some very significant changes in protecting the resources, especially the Mule Deer herd in NW South Dakota from the work done from the members of the SD Bowhunters working with the SD Game, Fish and Parks. Results already from hunting this fall I observed some significant change in the herd already, the next few years are very promising.





## Pictures from the Hunt



Treyton and Maddie Biel, 2020 Mentor deer

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## Pictures from the Hunt (continued)



Mark Viehweg, October 2020





## Pictures from the Hunt!



Bunny and bull





# Pictures from the Hunt!

Ro



Deer wearing bling!



Rock person





## Pictures from the Hunt!



Wyatt Skelton



## Pictures from the Hunt!



Dana Rogers

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Dana Rogers

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## Pictures from the Hunt!



Dana Rogers

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## Pictures from the Hunt!



Jake Leibke





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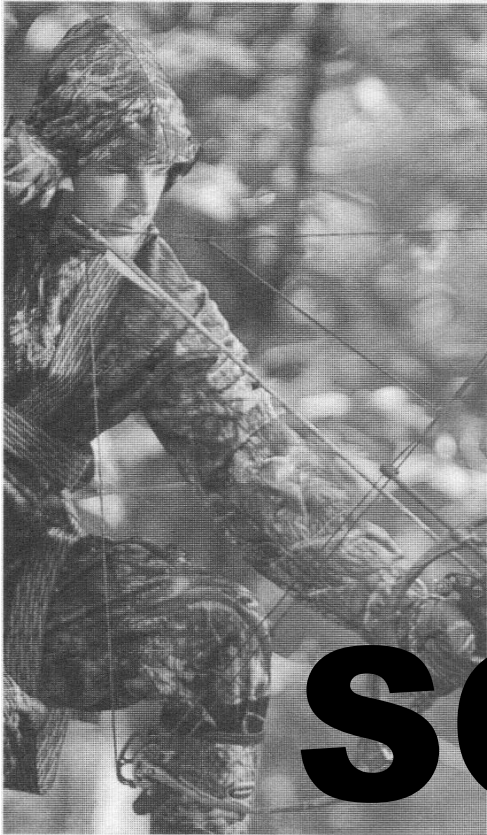
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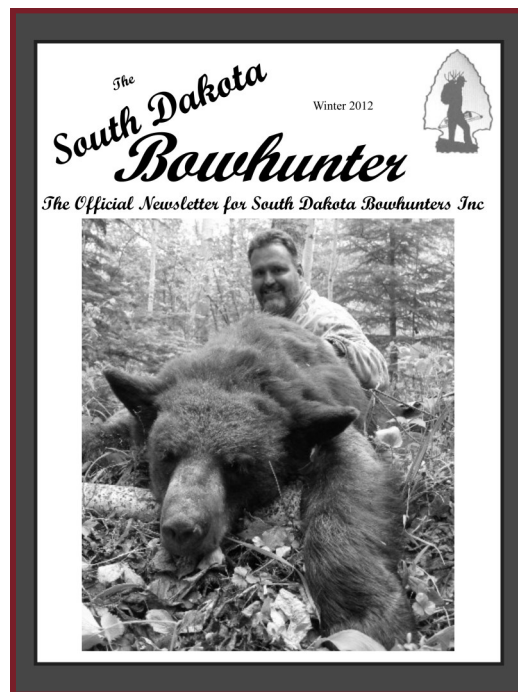
# SOUTH DAKOTA BOWHUNTERS, INC.

## What is South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc.?

- ☉ South Dakota Bowhunter, Inc. is a bowhunting organization interested in preserving and upgrading bowhunting in South Dakota.
- ☉ South Dakota Bowhunter, Inc. is a leader in the South Dakota Bowhunter Education Program.
- ☉ South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. is a leader in fighting the anti-hunting movement in South Dakota.
- ☉ South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc. is a strong lobbyist working in the best interest of Bowhunting.

## What benefits would I gain by becoming a member of South Dakota Bowhunters, Inc.

- ☉ A quarterly newsletter (shown top right) full of stories, pictures, and tips from SDBI members. This newsletter also keeps you up-to-date on bowhunting seasons and license availability. The satisfaction of knowing you have done your part to insure bowhunting future in our state just by joining.



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