

# Public Comments

## Nest Predator Bounty Program

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**Peter Sonstegard**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Paul Lepisto**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

On behalf of President Kelly Kistner, please see the attached comments from the South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America in opposition to the nest predator bounty proposal.

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**Shari Kosel**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Susan Braunstein**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I would like to state that I strongly oppose the continuation of the Nest Predator Bounty Program. The slaughter of our native animals to protect a bird that is really just being used to make money by bringing hunters to our state doesn't make sense. Can't the money budgeted for this killing spree be better used to create new habitat. Numerous wildlife biologists have researched bounty programs and discovered they are really not effective in increasing specific bird populations. When I was researching this program last year I asked Keith Fisk if there have been any studies on the populations of the targeted predators and said there have not been any such studies so we have no idea how many we have of any of the predators. We could potentially wipe out certain ones.

Please don't do this again. It just wrong on so many levels. Thank you for your time.

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**Angela Antijunti**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Jeanie Dumire**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This just makes no sense. These animals have a purpose and consume many of the insects and rodents that tend to become a problem. Maybe it's time to think about the humane thing and not the financial aspect of this.. killing these animals to make it easier for pheasants to flourish and the state to make money on hunters coming... seems so wrong.

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**Michele Lewon**

**Mccook Lake SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Deb Dickson**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Instead of killing animals to protect the pheasant population why not start pheasant production farms and then release the birds as adults for hunting. Guaranteed healthy bird populations . Win win

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**Mary Hertz**

**Menno SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a James River landowner with many acres committed to CRP and CREP I am in strong opposition to this program. If I fans anyone trapping on my land I will seriously reconsider public access. It is cruel and unnecessary. There was no bird count done last year. You have no evidence or history that this expensive program works.

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**Jan Humphrey**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Adamantly OPPOSE this heinous practice. These are key species in the habitat. The practice is during birthing season so entire populations are wiped out. Children nor adults should not be out killing animals that are part of the environment and eco system. They were here first. This is all about money for that Governor who has a breeding pheasant farm. Shame on her and her cronies. If I find anyone out near my property trapping, shooting or trespassing in my neighborhood I will be sure to take extreme measures to prosecute them to the max of the law.

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**Amanda Johndon**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a lifelong South Dakotan, I strongly oppose this program. It is not only ineffective and ridiculous but incredibly cruel. We cannot sit back and let this pass through once again. It's an embarrassment to our state. It is an excuse to kill for fun with zero accountability. People hunt and people trap but putting a program like this in place and encouraging it by paying for tails it is beyond unacceptable.

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**Amy Johnson**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Wolfgang & Kathleen Schmidt**

**Nemo SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program has gone on now for two years using taxpayer funds and it should be stopped. These animals are part of our ecosystem and they all contribute in some way or another. The little opossum alone eats ticks and has provided an anti-venin for snake bites due to the fact it can withstand bites from rattlesnakes and coral snakes. Skunks and Raccoons eat a lot of insects. Killing red foxes when they eat voles and mice? We are overrun with voles where we live. It certainly makes sense to let the predators eat mice, rather than using poison to kill these rodents. Do you have any idea of the damage you are doing with killing all of these small "predators"? You are supposed to be in charge of all wildlife by caring and protecting them. The Nest Predator Bounty Program is inhumane and needs to be stopped. Maybe you should educate yourselves with what each of these animals' diet consist of and become more aware of what you are doing by killing all of them by the hundreds and probably thousands after approving this for another year in 2021. Please stop interfering with nature and have some compassion. This is an expensive and unnecessary program that was hatched up by Gov. Noem. If you can't say no, maybe it's time to let the people vote on it.

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**Jennifer Hubert**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is a waste of taxpayer funds and ineffective for its purpose. If you want more pheasants then work on saving their environment stopping farmers from constantly tearing out trees/bushes. Pheasants are an invasive species anyway.

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**Barbara St. Clair**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not let this program continue. It is inhumane, it is not the correct approach to helping pheasants, and it should never be considered appropriate family outdoor time to kill helpless animals. This program has not been supported by those who study pheasant populations and it is an embarrassment for South Dakota.

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**Amy Deberg**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Bad program for South Dakota. We need the natural balance.

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**Cheyne Cumming**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose the murder of badgers, raccoons, opossums, foxes, and skunks. Teaching children to have no respect or compassion for wildlife is criminal. Paying them to torture small animals is truly sick. Is South Dakota really this mentally ill? Do not approve this disgusting practice!!!

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**Christy Kellen**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Mahala Bach**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

STOP ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO KILL SMALL ANIMALS BY PAYING THEM. THIS PROGRAM DOES NOTHING BUT ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO HAVE NO RESPECT OR COMPASSION FOR WILDLIFE. SOUTH DAKOTA NEEDS TO LEAVE THIS 1800's MENTALITY BEHIND. STOP THIS PROGRAM NOW!

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**Katie Campbell**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Michael Stark**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Emily Dunn**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Renee Lefthand**

**Freeman SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Wrong ....can hurt pets and children ....also its 2021 not necessary to cruel period

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**Wendy Cota**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Tania Taylor**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is an inhumane and cruel practice. I do not support this as a tax payer. We have got to be better than this.

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**Kim Tysdal**

**Rapid E SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nest predator is nothing but a way to destroy predators, which are essential to controlling the ecosystem of the land.

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**Brittany Kimball**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Janet Berman-Lalley**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

PLEASE don't allow this!!!!!!!!!!

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**Jana Haecherl**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Estelle Johnson**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is flagrant abuse against animals!! I oppose it and it should never be a program of which individuals or kids should be a part of it!!!!

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**Rich Blechinger**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Raise birds quit messing with the ecosystem.

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**Cindy Rains**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

So very cruel and heartless, for nothing except Kristis family business(does not help pheasant population) All life is sacred and senseless killing will come back to you. PLEASE, STOP the senseless killing and torture of innocent animals!!!

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**Karen Gerety**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please end this cruel program. It's horrid waste of money.

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**Christina Long**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Samantha Priest**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Matthew Priest**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Cheryl Long**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Danielle Priest**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Amy Harmon**

**Mission SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.



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**Stacy Braun**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Maia Brusseau**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Elaine Hantke**

**Meckling SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Pheasants are not native to SD. Promotes animal cruelty. Damages ecosystems. How many more studies and proof do you need??????

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**Stephanie Farac**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is cruel and wrong

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**Adrienne Freyer**

**Hermosa SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a ridiculous & costly program. And, it inhumane! Other animals to include dogs & cats end up in these traps.

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**Jacqueline Hatzell**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Kathryn Hess**

**Nemo SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please stop this inhumane cruelty. You don't count the pheasant population, so how do you know if it helps. I import you, this doesn't help it only inhumanely kill animals that benefit the environment. Thank you,

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**Tim Hanson**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Come on. You can do better than this

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**Leah Kelly**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Chad Taecker**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I have noticed more pheasants these last few years. I think we still need to focus on creating more suitable habitat though. Thanks good job

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**Michelle Valadez**

**Apple Valley MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Lisa Rathbun**

**Volga SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Can we please NOT place the money/pheasant above our natural species. They are all part of our SD ecosystem, and it's horrific to try to eradicate them just for the sake of an introduced species and the sport of hunting them.

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**Maia Moore**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Chris Krohmer**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a horrible program. Please just stop it! Are we just going to continue to kill anything that touches a pheasant nest until we no longer have any of the animals that make South Dakota beautiful and unique? This has to stop. Please step up to the plate and make that happen.

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**Deborah Burnight**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Kaitlyn Cloney**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Stricter laws and enforcement surrounding this program should be put into place before allowing any more culling of native species. The potential suffering of entrapped animals with no recourse to the hunter responsible needs to be addressed.

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**Kris Norlin**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The amount of money being requested for this horrendous program is outrageous. This program encourages senseless killing of our natural wildlife. There are so many other positive programs for youth that could be supported. Please reconsider and use funding other areas of outdoor engagement that do not kill our natural predators, inflict needless suffering and leaving young wildlife abandoned, as well as sending a message to kids that it is ok to kill for a tail.

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**Ima Citizen**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

For being so prolife, this state sure loves to kill things.

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**Jeanne Pawlowski**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Wendy Parent**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Rebecca Porter-Watson**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose this program due to the complete lack of evidence that it helps the pheasant population. The enhancement of habitat and the weather have much greater impact on the population. I realize the economic impact of pheasant hunting, however I do not condone the killing of native animals for supposed protection of a non-native species. The \$500,000/year would be better spent on habitat.

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**Mickie Hortness**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please end this inhumane and wasteful program. Aren't there more productive and positive ways to spend \$1,000,000 over the next two years? Why not try something like getting kids interested in bee keeping? I mean, after all, wasn't the goal of the Nest Predator Bounty program to get kids outside more? Some states have implemented bee keeping programs. Why not use the money as a fund for additional habitat restoration for pheasants? Even Noem admits that the key to increasing pheasant numbers is habitat. Hey, speaking of pheasant numbers, why not use the money to fund the Annual Pheasant Brood Survey that has gone by the wayside. I understand it costs about \$90,000 for that survey to be completed each year. Without the survey how is anyone going to know whether the pheasant numbers are increasing or not? It'll just be guesswork and the powers that be can spit out any number they want to the public. And meanwhile tens of thousands of our native mammals will be killed in a failed attempt to save a species that is not native. It's shameful. It's greed. All meant to attract those out of state hunters who come to South Dakota to hunt pheasants and spend their money. And our native mammals are paying the price for this human greed.

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**Paula Pillatzki**

**Labolt SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Jennifer Lofswold**

**Northville SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Unnecessary and cruel to animals

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**Donna Fisher**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I object to spending SD tax dollars on programs that are not cost effective. Larkin Powel, Professor of Animal Ecology and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is only one many expert who testify that habitat management should be the primary tool to increase pheasant population. Well-designed habitat projects can reduce predation by up to 80 percent. Even professional methods are too expensive for use on a landscape basis and do not significantly increase the number of nesting birds over the long term. Random trapping by non-professionals, some of them children, is economically and scientifically ridiculous. Habitat management comes at a fraction of the cost of other predator reduction methods. When predators are stressed by irradiation methods like trapping, their reproduction rate goes up. Finally, predators take out mice, voles, prairie dogs—in the case of possums who tick gobbling machines we get cost-effective control of tick-borne illness. Conclusion: save my tax dollars and say no to Gov. Noem's silly and unscientific Nest Predator Control. Use these \$\$ on habitat and help South Dakota farmers and ranchers develop habitat in the process.

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**Teah Homsey-Pray**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please take another close look at this program. Look at what this program is doing environmentally as well as what it is teaching our youth. An archaic practice that has little to do with scientific data.

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**Sandra Out Sebergerblack Hills Nf  
Seberger**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

In the 2019 Pheasant report, I learned the total cost is \$1.7 million. I also learned the PPM [pheasant per mile] index of 2019 decreased 1 7%. Why are we, the people of South Dakota spending our valued tax dollars on failing performance that other states have already discovered?

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**Constance Kushman**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Concerned about over hunting species...

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**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk, SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am opposed. Despite the 2019 expenditure of 1.7 million on the NPBP, "South Dakota Pheasant Brood Survey 2019 Report" showed that the statewide Pheasants Per Mile (PPM) index for the 2019 pheasant brood survey decreased 17% (2.47 to 2.04, 90% confidence interval = -32 to 0%) compared to 2018.

SD's 2019 Pheasant Brood report:

[https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/PBR\\_2019FINAL.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/PBR_2019FINAL.pdf)

For statements that predator control won't work well in large areas visit these links on predator control and pheasants/ducks:

I refer you to Pheasants Forever's web page on "Effects of Predators",

<https://www.pheasantsforever.org/Habitat/Pheasant-Facts/Effects-of-Predators.aspx>

& Ducks Unlimited's web page on "Ducks, Habitat Conservation & Predators":

[https://www.ducks.org/media/Conservation/Conservation\\_Documents/\\_documents/Ducks and Predators low res.pdf](https://www.ducks.org/media/Conservation/Conservation_Documents/_documents/Ducks%20and%20Predators%20low%20res.pdf)

Also see page 11 of SD GFP's Pheasant Management Plan, in the section on predators:

"Where predator control may be considered as a management option, managers should be aware that cost, logistics, and lack of effectiveness often limit success when compared to habitat management."

<https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/pheasant-mngmnt-planpdf.pdf>

Greater prairie chicken's IUCN Red List web page.

Please remember the exotic male pheasant fight over territory with and drive off the male Greater prairie chickens and female pheasants lay eggs in the chicken's nest, which hatch before the chickens, causing moms to abandon their own eggs:

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22679514/92817099>

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22679514/92817099> - assessment-information

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**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk, SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

## WHY?OPPOSE?

This killing of predators is not scientifically justified. ----

- Wildlife biologists agree that nest predator control is ineffective unless it is extremely intense and carried out annually.
- Effective nest predator control may require hundreds of dollars & man-hours per year & per section of land. The Governor's budget is not enough to cover the state.
- Even intense predator control has limitations. Those animals that escape capture or death often reproduce at a higher rate. This means more effort must be expended and more money must be appropriated each year.
- Nature does not exist in a vacuum. When one animal is removed, others move in, including other species that may be more effective predators.
- Nest predators also feed on rodents. Opossums also eat ticks. If these nest predators are successfully controlled, an explosion in rodents can be expected, with a huge and potentially devastating impact on farmers and ranchers. Rodents eat grain in the field, & infest grain bins, outbuildings and farmhouses. In SD rodents carry Hantavirus or fleas/ticks that can have bubonic plague, or Lyme disease. These costs must also be considered.
- Some nest predators are protected by state and federal laws. This would include ALL raptors. (Hawks, owls and eagles are examples.)
- The nest predator bounty may encourage illegal activity, from trespassing and unlawful night hunting to submitting tails collected out-of-state. NO funds have been allocated for the extra law enforcement.
- The nest predator program is fiscally irresponsible. The money is desperately needed on habitat programs that actually do provide a return on the investment.
- Habitat improvements can be cost shared at a rate of 50% to over 75% through a variety of programs. GF&P receives 75% cost share on habitat purchases and improvements through Pittman Robertson funds.
- Predation is much lower when sufficient habitat for nesting birds is provided.
- Successful nesting will not occur where there is not sufficient habitat, regardless if most predators are removed or not.
  - Good habitat also provides high-protein food sources, clean water and protection from the elements, all in a suitable arrangement. Habitat for pheasants/ducks also benefits various other wildlife &?bird species.
- This is a statewide program, but areas with pheasant and duck populations are much more limited West River. Why pay bounties for West River predator tails?
  - Much of SDGFP budget derives from sale of licenses and most hunters do not want GFP's limited budget spent on this program.
  - GFP has spent 2 million in the last two years on this program and will spend a million more in the next two years, that money could be spent on more productive uses to benefit wildlife and GFP programs in SD.
- Pheasants are an exotic species that competes with a native species - the greater prairie chicken, whose range and population are declining -- losing half its' population every decade.
- Accidental take of threatened and endangered species may occur. The swift fox is state listed. The black-footed ferret is listed federally. There is a petition before the USFWS to list the plains spotted skunk and the prairie grey fox under the Endangered Species Act. The American Martin is a "sensitive species" for the Black Hills National Forest.
- This program will result in animal cruelty. Some trappers will be trapping with leg-hold traps or snares, or body crushing traps. Some will use live traps. People should realize that in SD the law allows for animals to be left in traps West River for three and a partial day and East River for two and a partial day. Trapping can be cruel. In high heat or bitter cold, an animal in a box can die in half a day. Animals in boxes or leg-hold traps can freak out and damage their bodies and/or teeth & thus not survive even if released. Dead animals or animals in boxes or traps can't feed their dependent young. Even via a "live trap" non-target species adults and their dependent young will die, in addition to target species.
- Part of the rational/spin for the program is to introduce children to nature & trapping. Why not introduce children to nature via non-lethal interactions with wildlife such as wildlife watching and spend money on nature guidebooks, binoculars, cameras & not via bounties & traps?
  - Empathetic children may encounter moral dilemmas such as how to kill the 12 or 13 babies in an opossums pouch, and later learn that they did this killing of babies, based on lies told them by SD GFP about effects of a bounty program on nesting success. How does this engage children with nature or give them trust in government?
  - A reduction in bounty amount by half price reduced the tail submission by half. The Commission is increasing the bounty to increase participation. This calls into question if this is about recreation or connecting families/children with nature, if the trappers/hunters have to be paid enough to make participation worth their while.



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**Mike Feimer**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly OPPOSE this program. South Dakotans do not want or need this program. Beyond being ineffective and wasteful it's completely cruel. Please do not reenact this horrible program.

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**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk, SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

SURVEYS

The Humane Society of U.S. (HSUS) funded a public opinion survey on the Nest Predator Bounty Program (NPBP) of 1,000 random people that got much different responses, than SD GFP funded public opinion survey.? HSUS asked some of the same questions and some different questions than SDGFP. After a series of questions 26% approved of NPBP and 53% disapproved. Link to HSUS report:

<https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/South-Dakota-General-Election-Survey.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0TzQSvscZeSc-C1dgSxBjt0sCzgSSX5jxks-wOtFMdjFHv4FgSQcvHKBI>

Link to the SDGFP's public opinion survey of 400 random people - GFP funded both a NPBP participants and a public opinion survey (found in the second half of report). Link to survey:  
[https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/SD\\_2020\\_Nest\\_Predator\\_Bounty\\_PPT.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/SD_2020_Nest_Predator_Bounty_PPT.pdf)

GFP references this study in the resolution about the 2020 NPBP and on their web page about the bounty program. SD GFP's hired survey (of random people) found that 62% South Dakotans had no clue about the Nest Predator Bounty program and only 38% knew about it, of which 43% were mostly positive about it (which would be 16% of the population supported it, before being read GFP's description of program). (Page 44 of report)

Survey staff then read the respondents a short 3 sentence description of the program, which description convinced some more of them to support it and then survey then claimed 83% of SD folks support the program. (Page 45). This is what GFP and Governor seem to brag about.

HSUS funded a larger study and found different results...In this larger study (involved more than twice as many people) in a cold ask 50% of respondents did not know about the Program, 25% approved of program, & 25% disapproved. After prompted asks 26% approved, 53% disapproved and 21% not sure.

Please compare GFP survey with HSUS's funded survey (scroll up), some questions are the same cold asks but then the two studies have different prompted questions — with different paragraphs read into the prompted/shepherded questions. The two surveys get different answers when people are prompted differently.

SD GFP can't rely on that 83% support of NPBP, it is a prompted and manipulated response. The cold asks tells you what people think...at least 50% of people had no clue what the questioners were asking about in the "cold asks".

The Remington Research Group Study is attached "South Dakota General Election Survey" (opinion survey on NPBP)

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**Paula Radel**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Program is a waste of time and money, which could be better used.

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**Karen Farnham**

**Tucson AZ**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I implore you, beseech you, beg you ... have compassion, show kindness to the animals of South Dakota. Dare to be different from those who get their jollies by torturing and abusing innocent beings with whom we share this earth. Rise above the lowest common denominator, show them the way. In the name of God, have a heart ... behave in humane ways and feed your soul, knowing you dared to stand up for what is right. Would you treat your family pet this way???

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**Jamie Al-Haj**

**2525 Sunset Vista Rd, Rapid City,  
Sd 577 SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I totally oppose this senseless program. The 83% of the general public that supposedly support it, is as skewed a number, as the number of pheasants you say the program helps. All of the pheasant hunters and trappers I have spoken to despise the Nest Predator Bounty Program. The consensus has is and always been that the decrease in pheasant population is related to the lack of or poor habitat. Instead of wasting \$500,000 on the annihilation of South Dakota native wildlife, it would be far better spent in incentives for landowners to provide a natural environment that would protect and nourish pheasants.

It is appalling that you are proposing that another 50,000 animals die again this year for a program that has no rhyme or reason. Add the number of lives that have been wasted over the two previous years this program has been implemented, including the offspring that would also have died in utero or by starvation, the count of 250,000 is so large it is hard to wrap one's head around!

Please uphold the duty of your position, to provide responsible management and stewardship of our wildlife. A half million dollars could be used so much more productively this year to benefit the people, pheasants, and wildlife of South Dakota!

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**Moiria Curry**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose the nest bounty program. Traps are dangerous and indiscriminate about what types of animals they maim or kill. We've already had to do front paw amputations on domestic cats in the last month because of traps used in these types of bounty programs.

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**Julie Anderson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The Nest Predator Bounty Program is a vehicle for Governor Kristi Noem to promote trapping and use the SD GP&P to implement it. She ignores science, surveys, public opinion or anyone who opposes this program. GF&P now spends millions of dollars to support this killing spree and is no longer a legitimate, science based agency. When the program wasn't meeting the numbers of participants hoped for, the shooting of animals was added into the program. Children should never be taught that the only way to appreciate wildlife is to kill them. This money should be used to buy binoculars, cameras and sponsor outdoor classes that allow children to learn about wildlife in a nonviolent way. But those who oppose this program like myself know it will never happen under the current administration or this Commission. This agency is corrupt to the core with only one focus in mind - the killing of wildlife for money and twisted entertainment. If there is anyone on this Commission with any morals I ask you to stand up to the Governor and oppose this blood bath.

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**Jj Renli**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Ethan Lamgley**

**Tankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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## Nonmeandered Waters Navigation Lane Process

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**Paul Lepisto**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

On behalf of President Kelly Kistner please see the attached comments from the South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America on the nonmeandered waters navigation land process.

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**Curtis Foster**

**Britton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Curtis Foster, Marshall Co resident. I oppose any rules for access that are not supported by the property owner. I will correct a typo in my last statement submitted for your last meeting. My belief is access is provided for in 41-23-4 and 41-23-15. These 2 sections of Chapter 41-23 should be the foundation for any other considerations for access.



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION

# The Izaak Walton League of America

DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE

February 26, 2021

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
523 East Capital Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

The Izaak Walton League of America's South Dakota Division (Division) thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the nest predator bounty proposal that would utilize sportsmen and/or Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) funds. An amended Nest Predator Bounty resolution for 2021 and 2022 came out of your January meeting that includes a \$10 payment for each predator killed, capped at \$500,000 each year, and it changes to the dates of the program.

The program's stated goal is to enhance nest success for pheasants and ducks by removing predators including raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, red fox, and badgers while increasing youth and family participation in the tradition of trapping.

The Division vigorously encourages getting youth and families involved in the outdoors. But according to the last year's numbers from the nest predator bounty program only 16 percent of the participants were 17 or younger. The Division believes this program is missing its mark and it is not meeting the intended goals, especially when considering the high cost of the program.

The Division believes the lack of abundant quality nesting habitat is the reason for the high level of nest predation in South Dakota. Based on the state's land mass, trapping 50,000 predators across the state eliminates 1 predator per 1,000 acres. A statically insignificant figure that comes at an extremely high cost.

Bounty and nest predator trapping efforts have been studied numerous times. Those studies show the only way trapping can impact nest success is when the predator removal effort is highly intensive and done in a small well-defined area of high quality nesting habitat. We believe many residents will remove nest predators without a sponsored bounty program simply because they want to "do the right thing".

Again, the Division strongly supports programs that encourage people, especially youth and families, to engage in outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, trapping, and learning about conservation and habitat. We eagerly support programs and efforts that engage youth and other people in the benefits South Dakota's great outdoors provides.

Instead of authorizing this program we suggest the Commission spend these funds on habitat enhancement and on information programs that teach the benefits quality habitat provide for our fish and wildlife and all the citizens of the state.

We cannot support a program that gives our youth and others a false perspective that a bounty program, conducted in what at best is a patch-work effort, will make a meaningful difference in pheasant, duck, or any other bird's nesting success rate.

The Izaak Walton League of America's South Dakota Division respectfully requests that the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission not authorize the use of any funds from the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, or state general funds, for the Nest Predator Program in 2021 and/or 2022.

We respectfully ask you to reject this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration and for your work for all the people of South Dakota. Stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Kistner".

Kelly Kistner

National IWLA President and President of the South Dakota Division of the IWLA

603 Lakeshore Drive

McCook Lake, SD 57049

605-232-2030 (H) – 712-490-1726 (C)

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SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION

# The Izaak Walton League of America

DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE

February 26, 2021

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
523 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Commissioners,

The Izaak Walton League of America's South Dakota Division (Division) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule to establish a procedure for the public to request a navigation lane through a closed nonmeandered body of water.

The Division supports a rule that establishes:

- A procedure to request a navigation lane through a closed nonmeandered body of water when no other legal access is available.
- A way to petition the Commission to establish a navigation lane, then following the administrative rule change process provide public notice, a public comment period and allow public testimony during a public hearing prior to finalization.

The Division supports the language of the Sample Rule:

*ARSD 41:04:06:06 – The transportation lane petition. Upon receipt of a petition to establish a transportation lane the commission shall, at their next regularly schedule commission meeting, consider the request and either deny, grant, or modify the petition. The department shall notify any landowner that may be affected by the proposed transportation lane. If the commission grants or modifies a petition, it shall be established by rule pursuant to SDCL 1-26 in this chapter. The petitioner shall demonstrate the necessity of a transportation lane by meeting the criteria as laid out in SDCL 41-23-16.*

*ARSD 41:04:06:06.01 – Transportation lanes established. While accessing the transportation lane, the individual shall take the most direct path to the open nonmeandered body of water and shall not hunt, fish, or trap in any manner while in the transportation lane. The department shall be responsible for marking all transportation lanes established pursuant to this chapter. Transportation lanes established in this rule shall be reviewed for necessity and reported to the commission prior to December 1 of each year.*

Approval of the rule would fulfill a provision the legislature passed in 2017. That legislation requires the Commission to promulgate rules establishing a public petition process allowing a person to request that a portion of a closed nonmeandered water be opened for limited transportation to areas of that nonmeandered water that is open for public recreational use but does not have other legal public access.

The Division supports inclusion of a 60 day public comment period in the new rule, and creation of a process that allows landowner and the public input into the establishment of navigation lanes.

The Izaak Walton League of America's South Dakota Division thanks you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed rule.

We ask for your support the proposed rule.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of South Dakota.

Stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Kistner".

Kelly Kistner

National IWLA President and President of the South Dakota Division of the IWLA

603 Lakeshore Drive

McCook Lake, SD 57049

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[iwlasdpresident@outlook.com](mailto:iwlasdpresident@outlook.com)





February 26, 2021

**TO:** South Dakota Game Fish & Parks Commission

**FROM:** South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SD FACT)

**RE:** OPPOSE Nest Predator Bounty Program

Dear Interim Sec. Robling, Director Kirschenmann, Chairman Olson, and Members of the Commission:

South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SD FACT) again writes strongly in opposition to continuing the Nest Predator Bounty Program into the future and to any potential department sponsored legislation for 2021/22. With support from over 5,000 members, we provide the following:

We remain vehemently opposed to the inhumane Nest Predator Bounty Program (NPBP). The long check-times, the lengthened season, and the unlimited numbers allowed all contribute to the inevitability of suffering for target animals and those that are indiscriminately trapped by happenstance.

There does not appear to be any scientific review of predator numbers and the effect of the bounty program upon these species. As a public resource, it is vital that accurate and unbiased information concerning predator numbers be researched. Also, given the vital role provided by these native species and their control of ticks and other disease-carrying varmints, a review of potential negative effects on human health is required.

**We are requesting the Commission reverse their position to forego an environmental impact assessment under SDCL 34A-9-4** on the bounty program given these serious concerns. Failure to gather information and conduct assessments concerning the continuation of this radical program would be knowingly negligent and a clearly unwarranted abuse of your discretion as a public entity in charge of preserving a public resource and maintaining public health.

We once again remind you that every animal has its role to play in an ecosystem and contributes to human health & quality of life. Here's why these varmints are so important to all of us:

Raccoon

Raccoons are scavengers and therefore are an important part of cleaning up carrion. They also dine on many other species we consider pests when numbers get out of control; including snakes, frogs, lizards, wasps and rats.

Striped skunk

Skunks do an amazing job at helping to keep insect populations in check- insects like grasshoppers, beetles, crickets and wasps. Skunks are one of the best examples of how an animal we really want to avoid is actually one we want to keep around.

### Badger

Scientists call the badger a sentinel species, one that provides clues about the health of its ecosystem. They are excellent hunters of earth-dwelling prey including rabbits, groundhogs, ground squirrels, mice and snakes.

### Opossum

Opossums are incredibly useful, and often misunderstood. Ticks, particularly the black-legged ticks like deer ticks that are responsible for the spread of Lyme disease, are a top item on the opossum's menu. Just one opossum eats, on average, 5,000 ticks each year. This means the 5,700 opossums trapped by past NPBP's has resulted in 28.5 million more ticks throughout our state.

### Red fox

These varmints have a helpful side for farmers and ranchers. Like their larger canid cousin the coyote, red foxes are wonderful at keeping rodent populations down. They hunt chipmunks, rats, mice, voles and all sorts of other small rodents that can become more of a pest to humans than the fox themselves. They also eat carrion and like other varmints on this list, are part of an important cleanup crew for their ecosystem.

Trapped animals can languish and die slowly from shock, dehydration, starvation and exposure to the elements. In addition, because the NPBP was initiated when these animals were rearing their young, those babies were left to die a cruel death when their mothers were killed...for their tail. Each year, traps in the United States injure and kill millions of "non-target" animals, including companion animals and endangered species. Because of this cruel and unnecessary practice, and the importance of the animals involved, SD FACT strongly opposes the Nest Predator Bounty Program and urges the commission to consider all aspects of the ecosystem.

Finally, as tax paying citizens we vehemently object to the needless expenditure of state funds on this exercise. It is your duty to spend public monies wisely and preserve our way of life for the "next century" by meeting our constitutional budgetary obligations of which this unscientific, ideological giveaway runs far afield.

Respectfully submitted,

### **SD FACT Board of Directors**

Shari Kosel, Lead

Sara Parker, Sioux Falls

Joe Kosel, Lead

sdfact.org



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**STATEWIDE**

**2020 GENERAL ELECTION**

**February 2020**

Survey conducted February 10 through February 11, 2020. 1,001 likely 2020 General Election voters participated in the survey. Survey weighted to match expected turnout demographics for the 2020 General Election. Margin of Error is +/-3.1% with a 95% level of confidence. Totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

800 W 47<sup>th</sup> Street · Kansas City, Missouri 64112 · 816-407-1222  
[www.RemingtonResearchGroup.com](http://www.RemingtonResearchGroup.com)



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q1: In general, do you approve or disapprove of legal trapping in South Dakota?

Approve: 37%  
Disapprove: 31%  
Not sure: 32%

Q2: How much have you seen, read or heard about the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

A lot: 15%  
Just some: 31%  
Nothing at all: 54%

Q3: Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Approve: 25%  
Disapprove: 25%  
Not sure: 50%

Q4: Do you think people are *illegally* trapping raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers, and red foxes in South Dakota?

Yes: 37%  
No: 28%  
Not sure: 35%

Q5: South Dakota's native wildlife species like raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers and red foxes increase biodiversity, protect crops, and control disease transmission by keeping rodent populations in check.

Do you agree or disagree that raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers, and red foxes are an important asset to South Dakota's ecosystems?

Agree: 68%  
Disagree: 16%  
Not sure: 16%



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q6: South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks touted its Nest Predator Bounty Program as providing trapping opportunities for state residents, while also removing species that they suggested might prey on pheasants during their nesting season. Program participants received a bounty of \$10 for each tail of a raccoon, striped skunk, badger, opossum or red fox they killed.

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the Nest Predator Bounty Program in South Dakota?

Approve: 37%  
Disapprove: 43%  
Not sure: 20%

Q7: The Nest Predator Bounty Program was launched in early 2019. This program was portrayed as an attempt to reduce predation on pheasant nests by native wildlife species. But while South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks estimates that they spent upwards of \$1.7 million on the program in 2019, they have yet to produce any evidence of an increase in pheasant numbers. Therefore, many have questioned why the agency has spent so much of the state's money on such a highly ineffective effort.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Support: 22%  
Oppose: 55%  
Undecided: 23%

Q8: Wildlife management professionals state that bounty programs for predator control are ineffective. Hunting groups like the South Dakota Wildlife Federation have advised against a bounty program, and instead urge a more science-based focus on habitat improvement to increase pheasant numbers.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Support: 28%  
Oppose: 47%  
Undecided: 25%

Q9: Animals caught in traps can languish and die slowly from shock, dehydration, starvation or exposure to the elements. Those who survive long enough for the trapper to return may be killed by inhumane methods. Additionally, nursing mother animals may be killed, leaving young animals to die; or those young animals may themselves be captured, killed, and their tails submitted for a bounty.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Support: 25%  
Oppose: 61%  
Undecided: 14%



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q10: Encouraging citizens, including children, to kill the state's native wildlife species for a cash reward is a slap in the face to South Dakota's hunting tradition of sportsmanship, fair chase and respect for wildlife. By allowing mass slaughter and inhumane deaths to our native species for a cash bounty, the state is abandoning our long-held tradition of sportsmanship.

Do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Support: 25%

Oppose: 55%

Undecided: 20%

Q11: Science shows that nest predator bounty programs are counterproductive to their stated goal of reducing the number of predatory species. Random killing of these species may stimulate the animals to adapt, which results in more predatory animals in the future.

Do you agree or disagree that South Dakota's Nest Predator Bounty Program will have unintended consequences for native wildlife in the state?

Agree: 46%

Disagree: 28%

Undecided: 26%

*Sometimes in a survey like this, people change their minds. I will now read you one of the original questions again. Please feel free to change your answer if you so choose.*

Q12: Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Approve: 26%

Disapprove: 53%

Not sure: 21%



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q1: In general, do you approve or disapprove of legal trapping in South Dakota?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
<b>Approve</b>	36%	37%
<b>Disapprove</b>	33%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	31%	33%

Table 1. Q1 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Approve</b>	43%	29%	33%
<b>Disapprove</b>	25%	39%	34%
<b>Not sure</b>	33%	32%	33%

Table 2. Q1 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Approve</b>	45%	30%	33%
<b>Disapprove</b>	25%	34%	42%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	37%	25%

Table 3. Q1 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Approve</b>	28%	47%
<b>Disapprove</b>	37%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	36%	29%

Table 4. Q1 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q2: How much have you seen, read or heard about the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
A lot	13%	15%
Just some	30%	32%
Nothing	58%	53%

Table 5. Q2 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
A lot	15%	14%	14%
Just some	30%	31%	35%
Nothing	55%	54%	52%

Table 6. Q2 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
A lot	16%	12%	19%
Just some	29%	36%	21%
Nothing	55%	51%	61%

Table 7. Q2 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
A lot	12%	18%
Just some	28%	34%
Nothing	60%	48%

Table 8. Q2 by GENDER





REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q3: Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
<b>Approve</b>	20%	27%
<b>Disapprove</b>	29%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	51%	48%

Table 9. Q3 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Approve</b>	30%	18%	25%
<b>Disapprove</b>	20%	35%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	51%	47%	49%

Table 10. Q3 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Approve</b>	32%	19%	23%
<b>Disapprove</b>	20%	29%	31%
<b>Not sure</b>	48%	52%	47%

Table 11. Q3 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Approve</b>	18%	34%
<b>Disapprove</b>	25%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	57%	40%

Table 12. Q3 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q4: Do you think people are **illegally** trapping raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers, and red foxes in South Dakota?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
Yes	37%	37%
No	25%	29%
Not sure	38%	35%

Table 13. Q4 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Yes	35%	37%	41%
No	28%	29%	26%
Not sure	37%	34%	33%

Table 14. Q4 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Yes	34%	41%	33%
No	29%	26%	29%
Not sure	37%	32%	38%

Table 15. Q4 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Yes	41%	32%
No	20%	37%
Not sure	40%	30%

Table 16. Q4 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q5: South Dakota’s native wildlife species like raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers and red foxes increase biodiversity, protect crops, and control disease transmission by keeping rodent populations in check.

Do you agree or disagree that raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers, and red foxes are an important asset to South Dakota’s ecosystems?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
<b>Agree</b>	74%	66%
<b>Disagree</b>	13%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	13%	18%

Table 17. Q5 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Agree</b>	63%	77%	66%
<b>Disagree</b>	17%	13%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	9%	18%

Table 18. Q5 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Agree</b>	63%	73%	70%
<b>Disagree</b>	18%	13%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	13%	15%

Table 19. Q5 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Agree</b>	70%	65%
<b>Disagree</b>	12%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	15%

Table 20. Q5 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q6: South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks touted its Nest Predator Bounty Program as providing trapping opportunities for state residents, while also removing species that they suggested might prey on pheasants during their nesting season. Program participants received a bounty of \$10 for each tail of a raccoon, striped skunk, badger, opossum or red fox they killed.

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the Nest Predator Bounty Program in South Dakota?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLLS
<b>Approve</b>	29%	39%
<b>Disapprove</b>	50%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	21%	20%

Table 21. Q6 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Approve</b>	45%	23%	35%
<b>Disapprove</b>	35%	58%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	19%	21%

Table 22. Q6 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Approve</b>	46%	28%	32%
<b>Disapprove</b>	34%	51%	51%
<b>Not sure</b>	19%	22%	17%

Table 23. Q6 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Approve</b>	26%	48%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	24%	15%

Table 24. Q6 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q7: The Nest Predator Bounty Program was launched in early 2019. This program was portrayed as an attempt to reduce predation on pheasant nests by native wildlife species. But while South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks estimates that they spent upwards of \$1.7 million on the program in 2019, they have yet to produce any evidence of an increase in pheasant numbers. Therefore, many have questioned why the agency has spent so much of the state’s money on such a highly ineffective effort.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLLS
<b>Support</b>	15%	24%
<b>Oppose</b>	64%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	24%

Table 25. Q7 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Support</b>	25%	15%	26%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	66%	52%
<b>Undecided</b>	26%	19%	23%

Table 26. Q7 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Support</b>	28%	17%	18%
<b>Oppose</b>	48%	60%	60%
<b>Undecided</b>	24%	22%	22%

Table 27. Q7 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Support</b>	15%	30%
<b>Oppose</b>	59%	50%
<b>Undecided</b>	26%	20%

Table 28. Q7 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q8: Wildlife management professionals state that bounty programs for predator control are ineffective. Hunting groups like the South Dakota Wildlife Federation have advised against a bounty program, and instead urge a more science-based focus on habitat improvement to increase pheasant numbers.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
<b>Support</b>	22%	29%
<b>Oppose</b>	55%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	23%	26%

Table 29. Q8 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Support</b>	32%	19%	30%
<b>Oppose</b>	40%	60%	47%
<b>Undecided</b>	28%	21%	23%

Table 30. Q8 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Support</b>	35%	21%	23%
<b>Oppose</b>	39%	56%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	26%	23%	28%

Table 31. Q8 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Support</b>	21%	35%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	30%	20%

Table 32. Q8 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q9: Animals caught in traps can languish and die slowly from shock, dehydration, starvation or exposure to the elements. Those who survive long enough for the trapper to return may be killed by inhumane methods. Additionally, nursing mother animals may be killed, leaving young animals to die; or those young animals may themselves be captured, killed, and their tails submitted for a bounty.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLS
<b>Support</b>	20%	26%
<b>Oppose</b>	68%	58%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	15%

Table 33. Q9 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Support</b>	32%	13%	26%
<b>Oppose</b>	52%	79%	57%
<b>Undecided</b>	16%	8%	17%

Table 34. Q9 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Support</b>	34%	17%	18%
<b>Oppose</b>	52%	69%	66%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	13%	15%

Table 35. Q9 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Support</b>	18%	33%
<b>Oppose</b>	68%	54%
<b>Undecided</b>	15%	13%

Table 36. Q9 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q10: Encouraging citizens, including children, to kill the state’s native wildlife species for a cash reward is a slap in the face to South Dakota’s hunting tradition of sportsmanship, fair chase and respect for wildlife. By allowing mass slaughter and inhumane deaths to our native species for a cash bounty, the state is abandoning our long-held tradition of sportsmanship.

Do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
Support	23%	26%
Oppose	62%	53%
Undecided	15%	21%

Table 37. Q10 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Support	31%	16%	25%
Oppose	46%	72%	54%
Undecided	23%	12%	21%

Table 38. Q10 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Support	32%	20%	20%
Oppose	46%	65%	58%
Undecided	22%	15%	22%

Table 39. Q10 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Support	18%	34%
Oppose	62%	48%
Undecided	20%	18%

Table 40. Q10 by GENDER





REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q11: Science shows that nest predator bounty programs are counterproductive to their stated goal of reducing the number of predatory species. Random killing of these species may stimulate the animals to adapt, which results in more predatory animals in the future.

Do you agree or disagree that South Dakota’s Nest Predator Bounty Program will have unintended consequences for native wildlife in the state?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLLS
<b>Agree</b>	51%	45%
<b>Disagree</b>	29%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	28%

Table 41. Q11 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Agree</b>	41%	56%	44%
<b>Disagree</b>	32%	22%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	27%	21%	30%

Table 42. Q11 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Agree</b>	40%	53%	47%
<b>Disagree</b>	33%	23%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	27%	24%	26%

Table 43. Q11 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Agree</b>	48%	44%
<b>Disagree</b>	24%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	28%	23%

Table 44. Q11 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

*Sometimes in a survey like this, people change their minds. I will now read you one of the original questions again. Please feel free to change your answer if you so choose.*

Q12: Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLLS
<b>Approve</b>	21%	27%
<b>Disapprove</b>	60%	51%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	22%

Table 45. Q12 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Approve</b>	31%	15%	28%
<b>Disapprove</b>	43%	71%	52%
<b>Not sure</b>	26%	14%	20%

Table 46. Q12 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Approve</b>	34%	19%	18%
<b>Disapprove</b>	43%	61%	63%
<b>Not sure</b>	23%	21%	18%

Table 47. Q12 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Approve</b>	17%	35%
<b>Disapprove</b>	59%	46%
<b>Not sure</b>	24%	18%

Table 48. Q12 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

## DEMOGRAPHICS

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	%
<b>RAPID CITY</b>	25%
<b>SIOUX FALLS</b>	72%

*Table 49. DMA - Categorical*

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	%
<b>Republican</b>	52%
<b>Democrat</b>	30%
<b>Non-Partisan</b>	18%

*Table 50. PARTY*

---

	%
<b>Conservative</b>	46%
<b>Moderate</b>	42%
<b>Liberal</b>	12%

*Table 51. IDEOLOGY*

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	%
<b>Female</b>	53%
<b>Male</b>	47%

*Table 52. GENDER*