



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE *a natural investment*

TEAMING IN SOUTH DAKOTA

What is Teaming With Wildlife?

State conservation agencies have many success stories with sport fish and game species restoration, using matching funds provided by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fisheries Restoration Act. Hunters and anglers have supported these programs through excise taxes on their hunting and fishing equipment. Teaming With Wildlife would place a small excise tax or user fee on products used in other kinds of outdoor and wildlife recreation. The funds will be returned to state conservation agencies for conservation programs, enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities, and increased environmental education. Teaming With Wildlife will help us expand our conservation umbrella to cover all fish and wildlife and provide more options for South Dakotans to experience and learn about nature.

How Will Teaming With Wildlife Affect South Dakota?

Under the proposed funding formula, South Dakota will receive \$3.4 million per year in federal funds. Partnerships with landowners, communities and schools will be high priorities to help secure the future of wildlife and important habitats. Funds would allow communities to highlight and enhance their special natural places. Education will expand beyond a few sites and interpretive trails to include increased wildlife viewing opportunities, outdoor classrooms, and more information for students, teachers, and the public specifically about South Dakota. Some funds will be spent on law enforcement to improve the success of expanded conservation work.

Many people choose to visit or reside in South Dakota because of its abundant wildlife and beautiful places. Teaming With Wildlife offers many benefits to those who already enjoy the outdoors and much potential for increased visitation by those who haven't yet discovered what South Dakota has to offer.

What Outdoor Products Will Be Taxed and at What Rate?

The following items are currently proposed:

- binoculars, spotting scopes, bird seed, bird baths, and feeders
- guide books, such as plant and wildlife identification guides and wildlife viewing guides
- photographic equipment, such as cameras and films
- some recreational equipment and vehicles, such as backpacks, sleeping bags, tents, hiking boots, recreational and sport utility vehicles

The tax will be added to the manufacturer's price and range from ¼ % to 5 %. The tax on vehicles will be \$100 maximum. Other examples:

\$10 field guide; \$6 manufacturer price ($\$6 \times .05 = \0.30) Consumer would pay \$10.30

\$100 tent; \$50 manufacturer price ($\$50 \times .05 = \2.50) Consumer would pay \$102.50

How would the money be spent?

The three main areas are conservation, recreation, and education. Potential projects are probably endless, but here are a few ideas:



CONSERVATION

- Identify critical fish and wildlife habitats in need of protection, such as migratory bird stopover sites, tallgrass prairies, riparian woodlands, and streams that support diverse clam populations.
- Fund small grant studies to qualified scientists and teachers to learn more about South Dakota's native animals and their habitats.
- Learn more about two prairie butterflies, the Dakota skipper and regal fritillary, by studying effects of prescribed burning and controlled grazing and haying.
- Provide incentives to landowners to conserve habitats of rare species.
- Collect fish and wildlife information on state game production areas and state parks through regular inventories. Provide information to land managers, both public and private, on ways to enhance their properties to support a diverse landscape.
- Provide technical assistance to landowners for wildlife management. Feature public land sites as demonstration areas at several places in South Dakota to illustrate different habitat management techniques and types.
- Work cooperatively with public and private land managers and landowners on conservation efforts to avoid listing of endangered species.



EDUCATION

- Develop a *Call of the Wild* School Outreach Program to travel from school-to-school with fish and wildlife presentations.
- Promote outdoor classrooms by making funds available for schools to develop their school grounds, train teachers to incorporate outdoor classrooms into school curricula, and develop interpretive materials to help understand what's happening in these natural settings.
- Create an Outdoor Campus in Rapid City.
- Help interested teachers learn about SD's diverse natural world by:
 - increasing number and quality of hands-on resources for loan;
 - providing more Advanced Project WILD workshops;
 - adding new and enhancing current Teacher Resource Centers at several strategic sites throughout South Dakota;
 - providing grants for interested teachers to attend environmental sciences training courses and environmental field trips.
- Provide an interactive web site for students, teachers, and the general public with information on South Dakota's conservation issues, lists of available resources, and ways for people to get involved.
- Create educational posters and field guides on South Dakota wildlife, such as small and large mammals, songbirds, snakes, turtles, amphibians, mussels, and butterflies.



RECREATION

- Design outdoor study stations for learning how to identify wildlife at the Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve in Union County.
- Work with local communities to promote unique watchable wildlife opportunities through regional viewing guides, marked trails, and special festivals.
- Enhance outdoor interpretive programs at South Dakota's state parks and recreation areas by providing specific plant and animal checklists, installing observation blinds and viewing platforms, and designing information for park naturalists.
- Enhance wildlife viewing opportunities on state and federal lands that provide habitat for migrating birds, such as waterfowl, shorebirds, and migratory songbirds.

For more information on Teaming With Wildlife in SD, contact:

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