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NRM Newsletter

Natural Resource Management

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3-2014

## Natural Resource Management Newsletter

South Dakota State University

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# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM) NEWSLETTER

Department of Natural Resource Management  
*“Regionally Relevant but Nationally Recognized”*  
South Dakota State University  
Volume 73, Number 2, Feb/March 2014

## Remembering Dave

Dr. David W. Willis

March 7, 1955 – January 13, 2014

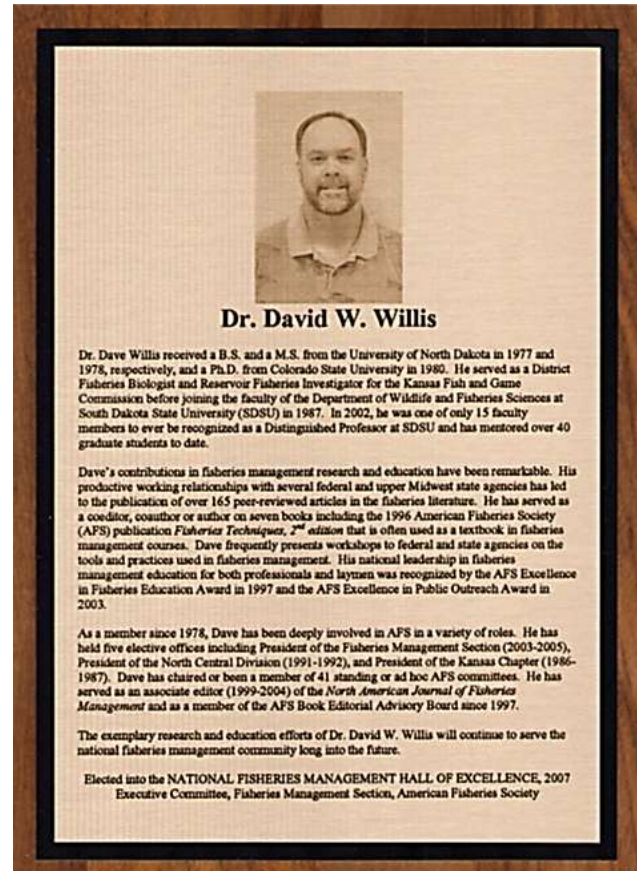
*“It is really impossible to put into words the loss I feel at the passing of Dave. He was the consummate professional and unconditional friend. He touched the lives of so many people...”*

The fisheries world is saddened by the sudden loss of Dr. David W. Willis on 13 January 2014. Distinguished Professor and Head of the Department of Natural Resource Management at South Dakota State University (SDSU), Dave was ice fishing with his wife and grandson when he suffered an aortic aneurism; he passed away due to complications following emergency surgery. His passing was all the more sad because recently he had successfully fought and survived pancreatic cancer. A blizzard did not prevent almost 300 people from attending a memorial service in Brookings; they came from a wide swath of North America, from Canada to Texas and Wyoming to Boston. In keeping with Dave’s light-hearted nature, a reception to celebrate his life featured a sign reading, “In remembrance of Dr. Dave Willis, NO light beers will be offered.”



Dave received degrees (BS, MS) from the University of North Dakota, and earned the PhD in Fishery Biology from Colorado State University. During his post-graduate career he worked at Pittsburg State University, the Kansas Fish and Game Commission, and Emporia State University, before beginning his long faculty tenure at SDSU (1987-2014). A Life Member of AFS, Dave served as President of both the North Central Division and the Fisheries Management Section. Dave's career focused on the upper Midwest, however he had broad influence on fisheries science throughout North America, through his extensive work on pond and reservoir fisheries management, and his research on the development and use of population indices for assessing freshwater fish populations. Even AFS members who do not work in freshwater or with reservoir fisheries have been influenced by Dave, through his work to co-edit the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the popular AFS reference book, *Fisheries Techniques* (the "red book" to so many fisheries students). He also co-authored the widely used text *Introduction to Wildlife and Fisheries: An Integrated Approach*. Among more than 250 journal articles and five books, he most recently co-edited AFS's *Small Impoundment Management in North America*.

In 2007, Dave's broad influence on fisheries management was recognized with his induction into the national *Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence*. Other notable AFS awards include the *President's Fishery Conservation Award*, *Excellence in Fisheries Education Award*, *Excellence in Public Outreach Award*, *Distinguished Service Award*, and *Meritorious Service Award*; top-level SDSU awards include *Excellence in Teaching*, *Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring*, and *Excellence in Academic Department Leadership*. When pressed with the question of which kudos meant the most to him, Dave was most proud of the 90-plus competitive awards received by his undergraduate and graduate students.



Dave's influence on fisheries science will live on through the hundreds of students that he mentored, including more than 50 graduate students who are scattered across North America with various agencies and universities. And Dave's outreach efforts

often reached the fishing public through frequent articles in *In Fisherman* magazine, as well as his articles and chatboard contributions for pond owners in *Pond Boss* magazine.

Dave's altruistic and caring nature made him an outstanding leader, mentor, teacher, colleague, and "best friend" to an extraordinary number of people in the fisheries profession and well beyond. His memory will live in all of us he touched, not only through his professional accomplishments but first and foremost through his humble and gentle friendship and mentorship. Nobody who ever met Dave came away without feeling that he was more interested in their work than in his own. To recognize his tremendous professional and personal contributions, Southern Division members unanimously passed a resolution awarding Dave the first-ever "*Southern Division American Fisheries Society Amazing Career Award.*" Copies of the resolution and the award plaque, along with condolences from the Division, were sent to both Dave's family and his SDSU colleagues.

### ***Gone Fishin'***

I've finished life's chores assigned to me,  
So put me on a boat headed out to sea.  
Please send along my fishing pole  
For I've been invited to the fishin' hole.

Where every day is a day to fish,  
To fill your heart with every wish.  
Don't worry, or feel sad for me,  
I'm fishin' with the Master of the sea.

We will miss each other for awhile,  
But you will come and bring your smile.  
That won't be long you will see,  
Till we're together you and me.

To all of those that think of me,  
Be happy as I go out to sea.  
If others wonder why I'm missin'  
Just tell 'em I've gone fishin'

*Delmar Pepper*

*(read at Dave's memorial service in Brookings,  
SD, 16 January 2014)*





Family and friends have established the *Dave Willis Fisheries Science Endowment* to sustain Dave's legacy. We encourage and appreciate your support of Dave's legacy through a donation. Gift pledges can be made over multiple years or as single donations. Proceeds will be used to provide competitive research awards to graduate and undergraduate fisheries students who have demonstrated scholarly excellence in fisheries science and best personify Dave's exceptional career and service to our nation's natural resources.

The **Dave Willis Fisheries Science Endowment** web page has been posted.

<http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/people/willis.cfm>

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*Dave Willis Fisheries Science Endowment*

My gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for the Willis Endowment.

I wish to pledge a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid over \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Please send me reminders:     Quarterly     Annually

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: SDSU Foundation, 815 Medary Ave., Brookings, SD 57007. If you have questions please call 1-888-747-7378. Your gift is tax deductible.



**Annual Buffalo Banquet to be held April 15**

The 66th Annual Buffalo Banquet will be held April 15, 2014. It will be at the Old Sanctuary in Brookings, SD catered by Backyard Grill. Social starting at 5:30pm with the meal and awards/scholarships presentations to follow. Tickets are on sale in the NRM main office ([terri.symens@sdstate.edu](mailto:terri.symens@sdstate.edu); 605-688-6122) or from any Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Club members. \$10 for student ticket; \$15 for everyone else.

**Jenks selected for 2013-2014 Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award**

Dean Kinchel Doerner (SDSU Graduate School) announced in January, 2014 that **Dr. Jonathan Jenks** (NRM Wildlife and Fisheries) has been selected to receive the 2013-2014 Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award. This award recognizes faculty members who have supported, encouraged and promoted graduate student research, education, professional and personal development and career plans. This award was presented during the faculty recognition event in February. Please join the Department in congratulating Dr. Jon Jenks for his outstanding efforts in graduate education.

<http://www.sdstate.edu/academic/faculty/facultyawards/graduatementoring/index.cfm>



Dean Doerner and Dr. Jenks

**Dr. Wm. “Lee” Tucker, Jr. passed away**

Dr. Wm. “Lee” Tucker, Jr., 83, passed away on Nov. 23, 2013 in Brookings. Lee was a Professor and statistician at SDSU from 1963 until his retirement in 1995. He was more than pleased to work with wildlife and fisheries students and their data files. As such, his name appears on many of the department’s published manuscripts and theses. (news submitted by Dr. Ken Higgins)

**2014 Range Club, Plant Identification and Undergraduate Range Management Exam Team**

Competitions were held at the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Society for Range Management meetings in Orlando, FL

Feb. 8–13. The URME Team placed 7<sup>th</sup> out of 21 teams and the ID Team placed 8<sup>th</sup> out of 22 Teams. **Kelsey Ducheneaux** and graduate student **Benjamin Turner** (not pictured) won the Rangeland Cup competition and **Jacob Maca** placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the extemporaneous speaking contest.



Left to right: **Dr. Lora Perkins** (URME Coach), Jacob Maca (URME), Sam Haigh (RC, ID, URME), Tyler Swan (RC, ID, URME), Lance Wheeler (RC, ID, URME), Kelsey Ducheneaux (RC, ID, URME), Morgan Myers (RC, ID, URME), Cady Olson (RC, ID, URME), Wyatt Johnson (RC, ID, URME), Ella Woroniecki (URME, ID), **Dr. Gary Larson** (ID Coach), and **Dr. Sandy Smart** (RC Advisor)

RC = Range Club, ID = Range Plant Identification, URME = Undergraduate Range Management Exam

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**Thomas D. Atkins** (M.S. 1967), of Detroit Lakes, MN passed away on July 15, 2009. (This notice appeared in the SDSU alumni records in December, 2013.) After graduating from SDSU, he worked for the USFWS’s refuges until 1997. Tom was one of **Dr. Ray Linder’s** earliest grad students at SDSU and his Master’s thesis was one of the shortest ever done in our Department (41 pages). Word was they changed only one sentence before it was published in the J.W.M. journal. (news submitted by Dr. Ken Higgins)

**Tom Easterly** (B.S. 1986, M.S. 1989) passed away February 20, 2014. His complete obituary may be found at:

<http://www.greybullstandard.com/?p=2236>



Flash from the past – Old Fishin’ hole in the Grad Student Office – Submitted by **Matt Mangan** (M.S. 2004)



Apparently **Dr. Terry Riley**, Upland Game Biologist for the Iowa DNR, snapped this picture in spring of 1991. **Dr. Ken Higgins** had arranged a field trip for his graduate upland wildlife mgmt. class to visit Dr. Riley’s ongoing pheasant research project in Iowa. Picture shows part of the class as an Iowa DNR Technician provides an overview of the project. I could remember almost all the names. – Submitted by **Todd Bogenschutz** (M.S. 1992).



In addition to catching a few salmon and working on lamprey, **Luke Schultz** (M.S. 2011), was named the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual 2013 Oregon State University Fisheries and Wildlife Department Coffee Gathering Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest Champion in December. All that training in the Dakotas is finally reaping its benefits.

## “ND Jackrabbits”

In the January newsletter, Dr. Willis made reference to all the SDSU grads who are working for the ND Game and Fish Department, and requested that someone compile a complete list. I (**Scott Gangl**) don’t believe Dave ever missed an opportunity to point out his ties to North Dakota, and so after receiving that newsletter a number of fellow “ND Jackrabbits” pooled our efforts and put together a list in honor of Dave’s request. I want to point out that this was a group effort of several guys, and I’m simply the messenger.

I listed all of the grads we could find, and their positions with the Department. I don’t have graduation dates, or degrees, but I don’t know if we need to “date” anyone.

### Wildlife Division

Stan Kohn – Upland Game Management Supervisor  
 Dale Repnow – Administrative Assistant  
 Kent Luttschwager – Wildlife Resource Management Supervisor - Williston  
 Robert Miller – Wildlife Technician - Riverdale  
 Brian Kietzman – Wildlife Resource Management Supervisor - Jamestown  
 Ryan Huber – Private Land Biologist - Riverdale  
 Tom Crutchfield – Wildlife Technician - Bismarck  
 Brian Prince – Wildlife Resource Management Supervisor – Devils Lake

### Enforcement Division

Jim Burud – District Game Warden - Kenmare  
 Corey Erck – Investigations Supervisor

### Fisheries Division

Dave Fryda – Missouri River Fisheries Supervisor  
 Paul Bailey – District Fisheries Supervisor - Bismarck  
 Justen Barstad – Fisheries Technician - Bismarck  
 Jeff Merchant – Fisheries Technician - Dickinson  
 Brian Frohlich – Fisheries Technician - Riverdale  
 Scott Gangl – Fisheries Management Section Leader

### Conservation and Communication Division

Greg Gullickson - Outreach Biologist – Minot  
 Sherry Niesar – Curriculum Specialist

### NSF funding for Dr. Carol Johnston

**Dr. Carol Johnston** learned in late December of 2013 that two of her NSF proposals had been recommended for funding. Her NSF OPUS proposal is entitled *Beavers as Boreal Ecosystem Engineers* and relates to her ongoing work at Voyageurs National Park. In addition, her NSF proposal with **Dr. Christopher Wright** (GIS Center of Excellence) as the Principal Investigator was funded: *Climatic and Anthropogenic Forcing of Wetland Landscape Connectivity in the Great Plains*. Our sincere congratulations to Dr. Johnston on her success!

### Bob Eng (B.S. 1950) Passed Away

The distinct smell of the marsh beckons as the hunter and his dog make their way through the darkness, against a stiff wind and spitting snow. With his trusty Winchester 101 cradled in his arms, the stock well worn by years of use, he's undeterred by the weight of heavy tin cloth clothing, rubber hip boots, and the large bag of decoys slung over his shoulder. Picking his way through the hummocks, his pace quickens as daylight approaches and ducks fly overhead at breakneck speed searching for a spot to land. After throwing out a dozen or so duck decoys, he settles-in amongst a clump of cattails along the shoreline. He pours a cup of coffee from a rusty thermos, then watches and listens intently, immersing himself in the surroundings, becoming an integral part of the landscape. Later, upon discovering a can of "Beanie Weenies" left in his hunting coat from a previous outing, he thinks aloud, "This is really livin". It was a successful day of hunting, judged not by the number of birds harvested, but by virtue of the experience.

Robert Lloyd Eng of Bozeman, passed away on Oct. 20, 2013, after several difficult years fighting Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. Bob was born in Gary, South Dakota in 1927 to Edward and Martina Eng. He came from a large family of 12 children; five brothers, Vince, Don, Ray, Paul, and Jim; 3 sisters, Joan, Muriel, and Marion; and three half brothers, Ransom, Bill, and Walter. As a young boy he had an innate love of the outdoors and for wildlife, especially birds. In the third grade he started a bird watching club at school. Bob spent most of his free time hunting, fishing and trapping. He also achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

Right after high school at the tail end of WWII, Bob joined the navy. He began pilot training, but ended up a Quartermaster since the war was coming to a close.

Bob dedicated his life's work to game management, receiving a B.S. at South Dakota State University, M.S. at Montana State University and his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. He married Betty Heide while finishing his doctorate in August of 1952 and together they adopted their son Bruce in 1960. Bob worked for the Montana Fish and Game Department in the late 50's and early 60's in Helena and Great Falls. In 1965 the family moved to Bozeman where he became a professor of Fish and Wildlife Management until his retirement in 1992. Bob lectured on several continents and won numerous professional awards during his career, and he was honored as a top alumni at both SDSU, and MSU. His biggest reward however, came from helping his students succeed and from the lifelong friendships he built with both his students and his peers. Outside his professional life, Bob was a caring husband and father. The 3B's (Bob, Betty, and Bruce) enjoyed many adventures and great times together.

Bob lost Betty to lung cancer in 1994, and after 6 years of travelling the world as a bachelor, he married Martha Gilthvedt in January of 2000. Bob and Martha had several good years travelling and enjoying retirement together before Bob began to have health problems in 2008. We are extremely grateful for the excellent care and kindness that Bob received from the staff at Spring Creek Memory Care, and Hospice of Southwest Montana.

Bob is survived by his wife Martha of Bozeman and her children Brita (Kristi), Kjersti, and Peter; son and daughter-in-law, Bruce & Leta and grandson, Erik all of Bozeman; brothers: Don, Ray (Mary Ann), Jim (Elaine); sister Muriel (Joe); brother-in-law and sister-in-law John & Nancy Heide, numerous nieces and nephews, and his golden retriever, Kai.

The sun sets over the marsh marking the end of this journey and the beginning of another, as the hunter becomes eternally one with the land he so loved.

A celebration of Bob's life was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2, at Hope Lutheran Church. Memorials in Bob's name can be made to: The Gallatin Valley Land Trust, P.O. Box 7021, Bozeman, MT 59771, or the Hope Lutheran Church Building Fund, 2152 W. Graf St., Bozeman, MT 59718.

### Dr. Daniel Hubbard Wins Award

**Dr. Daniel E. Hubbard** was recently awarded the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society's annual Wildlife Professional Award. Dan recently retired as a



long time faculty member in the former Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, and the current Department of Natural Resource Management. Dan's work on behalf of the wildlife resources in South Dakota began in the late 1970's, and has continued beyond his retirement from SDSU in May of 2013.



Drs. KC Jensen and Dan Hubbard

Dan is the consummate educator, and perhaps his greatest accomplishments and contributions to wildlife resources in South Dakota have been the hundreds (and perhaps thousands) of students he influenced through his teaching and advising efforts at South Dakota State University.

Several of Dan's former graduate students currently are employed in professional wildlife jobs at the state, federal, and private level. All of these students carry with them the indelible mark of working with an uncompromising and dedicated professional advisor whose vision was always to manage for, and maintain sustainable wildlife populations and functional habitats.

Dan was originally trained as a wetland ecologist/specialist, and his PhD research made great strides in broadening our knowledge of broad functions of wetlands and their role in the landscapes of South Dakota. Dan's work and that of his students expanded our knowledge of the role of CRP and other grasslands in maintaining grassland bird populations in the state. And finally, Dr. Hubbard designed and created the first professional course on the role of Human Dimensions in wildlife and fisheries management in South Dakota, and

taught that course for nearly 20 years, until his retirement in 2013.

As our former department head, **Dr. David Willis**, so aptly stated: "Dan clearly was one of the most appreciated teachers in our department during his years at SDSU. I base this not only on his student course evaluations, which were tops in the department, but especially on comments gathered during our exit interviews with graduating seniors each semester. Student appreciation for Dr. Hubbard and his course content and teaching methods increased between the time they took his classes and then later completed our entire curriculum. Dan initiated the Human Dimensions in Wildlife and Fisheries course for our program at SDSU. Though such courses now are viewed as a necessary, standard component of wildlife and fisheries curricula, the course was quite innovative when Dan instituted the class. Dan was also appreciated by our students because of his expression of professional values and ethics in all of his classes (and his one-on-one conversations!). Aldo Leopold and the Land Ethic were never far from the tip of Dan's tongue!"

Congratulations Dan!

### **GPNSS and NRM host workshops**

The Great Plains Natural Science Society and the NRM Department hosted two Modeling Patterns & Dynamics of Species Occurrence Workshops in March. The workshops were presented by **Dr. Darryl MacKenzie**.

Dr. MacKenzie discussed the importance of appropriate study designs in great detail and how to determine an adequate sample size. Other topics included single-season occupancy models for patterns in species occurrence, building predictive models of species occurrence, creating maps of species occurrence probabilities including species distribution maps, and multi-species and community studies distribution.

Forty registrants from 10 different organizations across 7 states spanning from Texas to Manitoba were in attendance.

A portion of the proceeds from all workshops will go towards the Kevin Honness Memorial Scholarship endowment.

<http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/organizations/gpnss/gpnss-workshops-and-conferences.cfm>

Workshop Committee: Grad student **Brandi Crider**, **Drs. Troy Grovenburg, Brian Graeb and Jon Jenks**.

**Donations – December 1, 2013  
through March 31, 2014**

Barbara L. Anderson  
Robert C. and Joella Anderson  
Richard Anderson  
Thomas Bacula  
Harold S. Bailey, Jr.  
Michael S. and Jennifer L. Barber  
Melanie Barnard  
Robert Bartling  
Peter J. and Bridget K. Bauman  
Elizabeth H. Berg  
John and Karen Bergmann  
Pete and Lisa Bergmann  
Kristine Bergstrand  
Katie N. Bertrand  
Best Choice Real Estate  
Robert G. Best  
Mary Bibby  
Brian G. and Lorie A. Blackwell  
Todd R. and Kim S. Bogenschutz  
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Boyum and Barendsheer PLLP  
Brookings Figure Skating Club  
Brookings Wildlife Federation  
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Mike and Elaine Brown  
Wayne Avery and Shari Budahl Avery  
Robert V. and Donna Burns  
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Valerie and Thomas M. Cheesbrough  
Bradley D. Hennings and Jane  
Christopher-Hennings  
Carolyn Clague and Dennis Hopfinger  
Bradley J. and Christine A. Cordts  
Dakota Chapter AFS  
Russell F. and Angela B. Daly  
Sally Damm  
Timothy J. DeBates  
Kalee J. Dennert  
Margaret H. Denton  
Rufus C. and Patricia S. DeZeeuw  
Simon R. Donnelly  
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David and Diane Drake  
Roderick C. Drewien  
Barry H. and Jane K. Dunn  
Jane Dvorak  
Randolph M. Edgar  
Lewayne M. Erickson  
Steve W. and Michelle A. Erpenbach  
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Sandra T. Faltemier  
Jerome C. and Mary E. Fiedler  
Lester D. and Marcia Flake  
Mary J. Fleming  
Stephen A. Flickinger

Michael E. and Elizabeth A. Forgy  
Kurt J. and Lucia B. Forman  
Harry L. and Charleen E. Forsyth  
Maj Gen and Mrs. Maury Forsyth  
Beverly French  
Don W. and Diane E. Gabelhouse, Jr.  
Roger N. and Vonda L. Gates  
Lee and Ulla Gatzke  
Eugene C. and JoAnn O. Goodale  
Lynne Grabowska  
Nels H. and DeAnna Granholm  
Michael R. Grode  
Troy W. Grovenburg  
Roberta A. Hansen  
Douglas J. Haugland  
Ronald C. and Margaret J. Hegge  
Sheila M. Heiberger  
Geoffrey Henebry  
Al and Sue Heuton  
Kenneth F. Higgins  
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Ken P. and Sarah D. Hillner  
Ed and Joan Hogan  
Geneva M. Hogue  
Richard Holland  
Daniel E. Hubbard  
Mildred K. Huggins  
IBM - New York  
Martha B. Iken  
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Kent C. and Sandra A. Jensen  
Shirley R. Jensen  
Coral L. Joffer  
Brett and Mari Johnson  
James L. and Ardis R. Johnson  
Samuel A. Johnson  
Larry W. and Jo M. Kallemeyn  
Joanita M. Kant  
Barbara A. Knuth  
Dennis D. and MaryAnn Knutson  
Randy L. and Sue E. Knutzen  
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Richard W. Lee and MaryJo Benton  
Lee  
Kayla Lerew  
Robert and Lori Lighthizer  
Robert L. Limbird  
Rachel Lindvall  
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Peter C. and Cynthia D. Maffei  
Doug and Mary Malo  
Matt T. Mangan and Karen E. Arnold  
Thomas O. and Jeanne J. Manzer


Steve R. and Judy G. Marquardt  
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William L. McKibbin  
Charles R. and Marcia K. McMullen  
Steven W. Mero  
Blair A. Metzger  
Nila J. Meyer  
Midwest Lake Management, Inc.  
Lonell L. and Mary R. Moeller  
Gail S. Moller  
Paul E. and Doris J. Moriarty  
David D. Musil  
Danna Nall  
Nebraska Chapter of American  
Fisheries Society  
Nebraska Game & Parks Comm. –  
Fisheries Div.  
Pamela J. Weiland and Nancy K.  
Neiber  
Dale D. and Jackie C. Nelson  
Jerry and Julie Nelson  
Tim and Laurie Nichols  
Ryan D. Norman  
Matthew N. and Molly M. Oedekoven  
Craig A. Olson  
Drs. Roberta K. and David P. Olson  
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 Daniel R. and Kathryn Tvedt  
 Dennis G. and Jeanne C. Unkenholz  
 Spencer J. Vaa

Terri C. and James Van Erem  
 Gary C. and Sharon R. Van Riper  
 Raymond G. and Marlys K. Vander  
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 Richard C. and Josephine I. Waldner  
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 Gordon and Jeanine Willts  
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**THANK YOU!!**



**YES!** I wish to contribute to the SDSU Department of Natural Resource Management.

Online gifts can be made through: [www.sdstatefoundation.org](http://www.sdstatefoundation.org)

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Please accept my/our tax-deductible gift in the amount of:  
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**CONTACT US with news, comments or questions:**  
*PLEASE contact us with Alumni Updates. We get more positive feedback from people who appreciate these updates than anything else in the newsletter! **Range Science** and **Environmental Management** alumni – we especially need to hear from you! We know that you likely were in other departments when you were here, but NRM would sure like to keep you connected with the new department. We think things are going pretty darn well with the combined department.*

Also, please send email address updates, corrections, and share the newsletter with friends and alumni so we can grow that email address list. **Thanks** for any help!

Department of Natural Resource Management  
 South Dakota State University  
 SNP 138, Box 2140B  
 Brookings, SD 57007  
 605.688.6122

Web page: <http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/index.cfm>

Interim Department Head: Nels Troelstrup  
[Nels.Troelstrup@sdstate.edu](mailto:Nels.Troelstrup@sdstate.edu)  
 Interim Assistant Department Head: Mike Brown  
[Michael.Brown@sdstate.edu](mailto:Michael.Brown@sdstate.edu)  
 Office Supervisor: Terri Symens  
[Terri.Symens@sdstate.edu](mailto:Terri.Symens@sdstate.edu)  
 Graduate Program Coordinator: Jon Jenks  
[Jonathan.Jenks@sdstate.edu](mailto:Jonathan.Jenks@sdstate.edu)