

**RESOLUTION 23-01
NEST PREDATOR BOUNTY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, pursuant to SDCL 40-36-9, SDCL 41-2-16, and SDCL 41-2-34, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks may conduct programs to control wild animals. The removal of nest predators from the landscape can enhance the nest success of pheasants, ducks and other ground nesting birds in South Dakota. Furthermore, such programs have proven to expose people to the trapping tradition and the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, Predator removal efforts on properties with habitat to increase nest success of pheasants and ducks has been used as a management technique in South Dakota for decades; and

WHEREAS, intensive predator removal efforts can enhance nest success of pheasants and ducks at localized levels when implemented at high intensities during the nesting season; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks has previously operated this program and paid all expenditures for this program from the fund established in SDCL 41-2-34 (license dollars) and plans to utilize these funds for 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission recognizes the Department of Game, Fish and Parks' desire to conduct the Nest Predator Bounty Program 2023 through 2026 and proposes the following: 1) an expenditure of ten dollars per tail not to exceed \$500,000 for the bounty of nest predators each year, 2) participation is limited to South Dakota residents, 3) participants under the age of 18 and landowners harvesting nest predators from their own land are not required to have a license. All other participants must have a hunting, fishing, or trapping license, 4) during these four years of the program, from March 1 to April 1, only youth under the age of 18 will be eligible to participate and no license is required, 5) beginning April 1 of each year all other ages may begin to participate but must have a hunting, fishing or trapping license (except participants under the age of 18 and landowners harvesting nest predators from their own land) .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nest Predator Bounty Program shall be operated from each year from March 1 to July 1 to coincide with spring activity/movements of nest predators and the primary nesting season of pheasants, ducks, and other ground nesting birds. The method of take includes the shooting and trapping of nest predators in South Dakota. Some of these goals include but are not limited to: removal of 50,000 nest predators, expand the ETHICS SD program by 20%, and have 30% of bounty participants under the age of 18.