

In 2019 GFP created the Nest Predator Bounty Program (NPBP), aimed to boost pheasant and duck populations by paying bounties to trappers to kill native predators that eat the eggs and hatchlings. The effort has led to the senseless killing of >290,000 indigenous animals (raccoons, striped skunks, badgers, opossums, and red fox), and >500,000 cubs. The SD Game, Fish and Parks **has spent >4 million dollars** over 6 years and the Commission by resolution has **approved further expenditure of at least a million for 2 more years**. In 6th year, the **GFP acknowledges that there is no any data that NPBP has increased the pheasant population**. Statewide (and even county-wide) predator bounty programs do not work, as shown in countless examples in other states in XX Century and in recent scientific studies. The NPBP's impact to predators in SD is too diffuse to work. A better alternative - habitat improvement projects, which i) have proven effective and less expensive to increase ground nesting bird population; ii) can be cost shared at a rate of 50% to over 75% through a variety of programs.

In 2019-2021 GFP received hundreds of public comments on the NPBP(>90% were opposed); private and joint letters from NGOs on behalf of thousands of members opposed to NPBP. Objections to this program by general public and NGOs have been ignored by GFP, so we come to the legislature to stop the program.

We present two bill options. One has a more narrow impact - just stopping the NPBP. The other has a more broad impact that would inject science into decisions over GFP predator control efforts. Attached find these bills.