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State Program in South Dakota for Wildlife Damage Management

Emmett J. Keyser

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

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In recent years, wildlife professionals have become increasingly more convinced that wildlife-damage programs must be integrated into existing wildlife management structures if both are to succeed in their missions. South Dakota has managed a state-run Animal Damage Control Program through the Department of Game, Fish and Parks since 1974. This state-run Program has proven successful, in part, as a result of the high degree of communication that has developed between government agencies, institutions, and various constituent groups. Because the Program utilizes a unique blend of funding from federal, state and county sources, the various stakeholders all share in the development of program budgets and direction. In addition to the state-run Program, specific state legislative authority has been granted providing for the crew of predator control districts where desi these producer-funded predator cor districts have even further encourage livestock producers at the local level closely cooperate with the state Animals Damage Control Program resulting in greater program responsiveness. Because of past successes with the Animal Dam Control Program, the Department of Ga Fish and Parks will be seeking to integrate other wildlife damage control program into future management strategies for state wildlife populations. As a result, I hoped that wildlife managers, sportsmen livestock interests and others will m clearly recognize the critical role that wildlife damage management plays successfully managing wildlife population for the benefit of all.