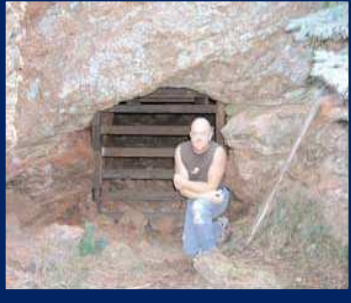


## South Dakota State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grant Program has played an important role in the conservation of South Dakota's wildlife. The following are some projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



*Bat Gate, Photo Courtesy of Joel Tigner, SDGFP*

### **Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People** **Gating of Abandoned Mines and Caves**

At least eleven bat species live in the Black Hills, and eight of them depend on underground roosting sites, such as caves or mines, for survival. Such areas are increasingly vulnerable to loss from erosion around the entrance, and for safety, many mines have been permanently sealed without first determining whether bats use the site. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department is identifying and categorizing natural caves and abandoned mines for their importance to bats. The result is the installation of gates that prevent people from getting into the unstable caves while allowing bats free passage to important roost sites. This protects people while ensuring bats have the important habitat they need, improving the livability of nearby areas as bats naturally pursue and consume nuisance insects.



*Osprey, Photo Courtesy of Doug Backlund, SDGFP*

### **Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas** **Osprey Reintroduction**

Osprey were nearly decimated by the effects of DDT and other pesticides in the 1950's. Today, they remain a state threatened species and currently nest only in the Black Hills. Thanks to a new project, South Dakota is working to reestablish a population of osprey on the Missouri River. Thus far, osprey chicks have been reintroduced to two sites located along the river in southeastern South Dakota, but there is still more to be done. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department plans to continue the project with State Wildlife Grants funding. This reintroduction program is key to the conservation of osprey before they become even more rare and costly to protect.



*LaFramboise Island, Photo Courtesy of Dave Ode, SDGFP*

### **Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife** **Cottonwood Forest Management**

LaFramboise Island Nature Area attracts people who like to hike, bike, bow-hunt, cross-country ski, and watch birds. This remnant cottonwood floodplain forest is an increasingly rare habitat that supports resident, wintering, and migratory wildlife. This forest type is declining due to the lack of natural flooding, invasion of exotic plant species, and increasing sedimentation from the loss of natural flows of the Missouri River. State Wildlife Grant money was used to investigate wildlife habitats on the island and recommend ways to enhance the area. This will allow us to conserve the wildlife and natural places that are important to many of our family traditions.

**Congress has appropriated \$3.7 million in State Wildlife Grants to South Dakota since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$1.5 million state and partner dollars.**