

# ***THE SECOND CENTURY HABITAT FUND***



*The Second Century Habitat Fund, formerly the South Dakota Habitat Conservation Foundation, is a nonprofit organization focused on conserving the land, enhancing wildlife populations, and getting the next generation involved and interested in outdoor recreation, while increasing support for habitat.*

## **The Second Century Habitat Fund, Inc.:**

- The Fund is a nonprofit, non-governmental corporation founded by a group of individuals and managed by an independent, 10-member board of directors.
- The Fund is operated for habitat conservation efforts within South Dakota
- The Fund's funds are expended to operate its own specific purpose programs all designed to serve the common good through habitat conservation
- The Fund receives its funds through charitable contributions, endowments, grants and state appropriations
- All charitable contributions to the Fund are tax deductible.
- New board members are elected to the foundation by current board members or appointed by the Governor of South Dakota.

## **A May 2019 transition and organizational restructuring provided the following:**

- Changed the name of the organization from the South Dakota Habitat Conservation Foundation, Inc. to The Second Century Habitat Fund, Inc.
- Reduction of the size of the Board of Directors to a maximum of 11 at-large members from the previous maximum of 18
  - Several voluntary resignations were received to implement this change
- Higher level of involvement of the Governor of South Dakota through direct representation and board member appointment authority
- Continued involvement and representation of the Department and the Commission via Board of Director membership of Commission member and Department Secretary in a voting capacity
- Provision of legislative involvement by appointment by the Governor of a Legislative Advisory group

Multiple layers of involvement of volunteer members from the private sector, the Department, the Governor's office and the Legislature provides for an increased level of transparency and accountability to ensure that habitat remains the Fund's focus and that all dollars are spent wisely and appropriately.

**The specific purposes of the Second Century Habitat Fund are to:**

1. To solicit and receive contributions to conserve and improve the quality and quantity of habitat suitable for wildlife and to improve water quality and other natural resources in South Dakota.
2. To solicit and receive contributions which will enhance habitat conservation efforts through research, educational programs and public awareness programs.
3. To serve as a resource to both private landowners and conservation organizations focused on improving habitat through habitat programs.

**Current Board of Directors:**

- President: *Vacant*
- Vice President: Delon Mork, Madison
- Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Halverson, Pierre
- Dr. Barry Dunn, Brookings
- Tim Kessler, Aberdeen
- Larry Ness, Yankton
- Dan Rhykus, Sioux Falls
- Jim Scull, Rapid City
- Jim Faulstich, Highmore
- Ex-Officio Member: Kelly Hepler, GF&P Secretary (full voting rights)
- Ex-Officio Member: Gary Jensen, GF&P Commission Chair (full voting rights)

**Current Projects:**

- Every Acre Counts research project at SDSU
- Second Century Habitat Working Lands Program
  - Funded by SB176 (\$1M appropriated during the 2019 session)
    - Currently enrolled 20 cooperators and approximately 1100 acres
    - Working with landowners daily and developing relationships and offering habitat program opportunities
- Second Century Habitat Logo
- Fundraising Efforts
- Developing a Habitat Partner of the Year Award