

# OFWIM News

Newsletter of the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers

Summer 2003

## 2003 Annual Meeting Announcement

### GIS and Information Management for Conservation Planning

September 25-29, 2003  
Rapid City, South Dakota

**\*\*See [www.ofwim.org](http://www.ofwim.org) for Call for papers !\*\***

#### ● Conservation PlanningTrack

Federal Aid document writing  
Habitat mapping  
Species of greatest need identification  
Threat identification  
Habitat conservation

#### ● Data and Tools Track

GIS tools  
Information Mgt. tools  
Linking distributed databases  
Open GIS systems  
New GIS systems

Full registration (includes OFWIM membership fee,  
banquet and Hacker's Ball)  
by 8/15/03: \$255.00  
After 8/15/03: \$295.00

Field trip: \$40.00 each per person  
day trip to the Black Hills  
or  
day trip to the Badlands

The OFWIM 2003 Conference and Annual business meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn -Rushmore Plaza two blocks from downtown Rapid City. Holiday Inn - Rushmore Plaza, which is easily accessible from I-90, US 16 and state highways 44 and 79, is only a 20 minute drive from majestic Mt. Rushmore. **Courtesy transportation is available to and from the airport.** A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate for attendees ( \$99 per night for 1 King Bed or 2 Double Beds).



Amy Martin, Editor  
OFWIM Newsletter  
4010 W. Broad St.  
Richmond, VA 23230-

**For more information:  
[www.ofwim.org](http://www.ofwim.org)  
[ofwim2003@ofwim.org](mailto:ofwim2003@ofwim.org)**

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**Sandpiper Technologies issued the following equipment grants to students from U.S. and Canada for use in the 2003 field season:**

TreeTop Peeper Elevated Nest Surveillance Systems - awarded to Elizabeth DeVries, Eckerd College; David Leput, Clemson University; Kirk Roth, Ball State University

Burrow Video Probes - awarded to Chris Allender, Northern Arizona State University; Elizabeth Joyce, Utah State University; Daniel Munro, Universite de Sherbrooke; Mazeika Sullivan, University of Vermont

Sentinel Time-lapse Surveillance Systems - awarded to Jeanne Hammond, Humboldt State University; Tommy Parker, University of Missouri; Sunny Scobell, University of Oklahoma; Anne Duncan, University of Western Ontario

December 1 is the deadline for applying for the Equipment Grant Program for the spring/summer field season. Students applying for grants during the off season can apply at any time. For more information about this program, go to [www.sandpipertech.com](http://www.sandpipertech.com).



**Donate an item to help support the OFWIM Scholarship Fund!**



**A great way to help future fish and wildlife information managers as well as to promote your organization.**

**We're asking for donations in the form of raffle items or door prizes for the upcoming 2003 conference!**

All proceeds from the raffle will be used to fund OFWIM's scholarship program for students in advanced degree programs related to fish and wildlife resource management, with an emphasis on information management or GIS.

If you or your organization can make a contribution, contact Barb White by e-mail ([barb.white@worldnet.att.net](mailto:barb.white@worldnet.att.net)) or phone (303-275-2310). Your support and contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Items that need to be shipped, can be sent to:  
Jack Erickson  
(OFWIM)  
South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks  
3305 West South Street  
Rapid City, SD 57702

## Re-engineering the Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service: Partnerships formed along the way.

Amy Martin, VDGIF

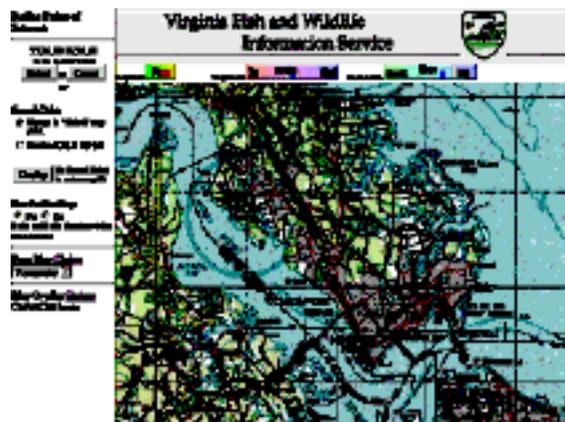
The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), in cooperation with the Conservation Management Institute (CMI) at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VA Tech), has re-engineered the Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service (VAFWIS). The VAFWIS makes the most current and comprehensive information about Virginia's wildlife species available over the Internet to the general public, consultants, state and federal agencies, and educators. The VAFWIS can be accessed by pointing your browser to [www.dgif.state.va.us](http://www.dgif.state.va.us), clicking on "Wildlife", "Wildlife Information & Mapping Services" and then "Wildlife Information Online Service".

The VAFWIS allows its users access to ten databases that contain geo-referenced information on over 2,200 of Virginia's wildlife species. The databases associated with the VAFWIS consist of information from numerous sources including VDGIF monitoring efforts, collections by researchers permitted through the scientific collection process, peer-reviewed journal articles, and museum collections. Data sets provided by organizations outside of VDGIF, such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Audubon Society, are also included in the VAFWIS.

So why did VDGIF and the CMI re-engineer this system? In the 1980's, when the system was created, Advanced Revelation™ software was used because it allowed data to be stored in multi-valued fields, unlike most of the software available at that time. Over time, as technology has improved and database management software has become more readily available, it has become important to use software that is familiar to today's programmers and data managers, and that is able to interface with a variety of other software programs, including

Geographic Information System software such as ArcIMS™. VDGIF decided that the databases need to be managed in MS Access™ with SQL Server™ in order to facilitate updating and maintenance and to ensure compatibility with "industry standard" GIS products.

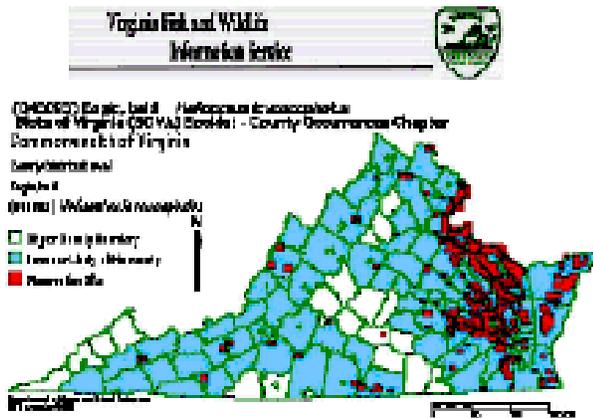
The re-engineering also allowed for increased GIS capabilities, an updated look and feel, and improved functionality. We have increased mapping options, provided new query and reporting options, and added new databases and spatial data layers. The new Threatened and Endangered Species Waters, Anadromous Fish Use Areas, and Anadromous Fish Impediments databases and associated spatial coverages are now available through the VAFWIS. Also, a number of the databases such as the Cold Water Stream Survey and Colonial Waterbirds databases have been revised to increase data accuracy and completeness, and allow for easier updating, maintenance, and display of the data.



VAFWIS Mapping Window

As the number of databases associated with the VAFWIS and the user access to them increased, VDGIF found it extremely important to make the metadata for those databases available to the users as well. However, VDGIF needed help getting the metadata written. Through coordination with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), VDGIF is getting the help it needs from the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII).

The VAFWIS contains a database called the Biota of Virginia (BOVA), which contains life history, taxonomy, distribution, and a wealth of other information on native and naturalized wildlife species in Virginia. This database is extremely complex and includes hundreds of data fields and data tables. Because of this complexity, writing the metadata would have been a time-consuming task for VDGIF. However, through the efforts of IAFWA and NBII, this task is being accomplished. NBII has begun to write the metadata for this database using Spatial Metadata Management Systems (SMMS), the NBII metadata tool that meets all Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards for metadata.



BOVA Species Distribution Map

VDGIF has agreed, as part of their new relationship with NBII, to participate in NBII's Metadata Pilot Program for State Fish and Wildlife Agencies. As part of this program, VDGIF will become a node on the NBII Metadata Clearinghouse. The metadata available through this node will allow users of the clearinghouse to search for datasets managed by VDGIF that meet their specific data needs. Partnerships like that among VDGIF, CMI, IAFWA and NBII that serve to make data available to those who need it and that help the states meet their data needs, are invaluable in fostering more effective information management.

## CWD Data Standards Forum - a success!

Lila Borge Wills, CMI, Virginia Tech

The Conservation Management Institute (CMI), College of Natural Resources, at VA Tech coordinated a Chronic Wasting Disease Data Standards Forum on June 10-11, 2003 in Madison, WI. The project was sponsored through a multi-state conservation grant administered by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA). Attendance was high with nearly 60 participants including 30 states, 3 Canadian representatives, numerous federal agency personnel, and 1 tribal CWD coordinator.

The meeting was set up to design a core data standard for wild cervid chronic wasting disease (CWD) monitoring efforts conducted nationwide. In preparation for the meeting, a CWD data gathering survey was sent to all states in which we had a very good response. More than 50 surveys, representing 45 states and 5 Canadian CWD coordinators, were returned with valuable input, which were summarized and shared with meeting participants. Visit [www.cmiweb.org/cwd/](http://www.cmiweb.org/cwd/) to review the final summary of the survey and meeting agenda.

During the two-day meeting, the participants worked in breakout groups to develop a core data standard that would be broadly applicable to the wild cervid CWD monitoring efforts currently underway in state, federal, and tribal agencies. The data standard is a critical first step in establishing a mechanism to view CWD occurrence and nonoccurrence at a broad geographic level.

The major objectives for the data standards meeting were:

- Learn how state fish and wildlife agencies collect, handle, and report CWD data;
- Identify restrictions on sharing and

reporting the data; and

- Establish data standards/types and formats of data needed by all parties

Participants were charged with the task of creating of a draft data transfer standard for CWD data in hopes of creating a tool to share information amongst the states. The USGS National Wildlife Health Center and the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) presented their work to develop the national wildlife disease database, called the Wildlife Disease Information Node (WDIN) outlined in the National CWD Plan as the information clearinghouse for CWD monitoring data. The WDIN will facilitate developing a national and continental perspective on CWD using Internet mapping capabilities.

The meeting resulted in a proposed data standard for entities monitoring CWD in wild cervids. CMI

will present the data standard in detail to the IAFWA Fish and Wildlife Health Committee at the IAFWA annual meeting in September 2003. In addition, a CWD data listserv has been set up and data managers and CWD coordinators are welcome to join. Contact [lborge@vt.edu](mailto:lborge@vt.edu) for more information.



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## Flying to Rapid City is Easy! call 1-800-529-0105

Rapid City is serviced by three major airlines, offering a variety of daily scheduled flights. Black Hills Central Reservations offers unpublished airfares on Northwest Airlines, which do not require a Saturday night stay. We will also check availability and airfares on United and Delta Airlines

**BLACK HILLS**  
*Central Reservations*

68 Sherman St., Ste. 206,  
Deadwood, SD 57732  
[www.blackhillsvacations.com](http://www.blackhillsvacations.com)  
**1-800-529-0105**

# GIS and Information Management for Conservation Planning

## Annual Meeting and Conference

September 25-29, Rapid City, South Dakota

### Draft Agenda

#### Thursday, September 25, 2003

- 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.      **Registration**
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.      Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:20 a.m. - 12:00 noon      Conservation Planning: Setting the Stage
- 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.      Identifying and Mapping Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.      **Hacker's Ball**

#### Friday, September 26, 2003

- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.      Identifying and Mapping Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need
- 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.      Identifying and Mapping Threats to Species and Habitats

#### Saturday, September 27, 2003

- 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.      **Field Trips!**

#### Sunday, September 28, 2003

- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.      **Concurrent Sessions**
- Session A: Strategies for Species and Habitat Conservation and Monitoring  
                                 Session B: Gap Analysis Program: A Course for Natural Resource Professionals\*
- 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.      **Concurrent Sessions**
- Session A: GIS Tools and Techniques, Open GIS, Webmapping  
                                 Session B: Gap Analysis Program: A Course for Natural Resource Professionals\*
- 7:00 p.m. -10:30 p.m.      **Banquet**

**Monday, September 29, 2003**

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.      **OFWIM Business Meeting and  
2004 Conference Planning Meeting**

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.      ***Wrap - up***

\*Sponsored by National Gap Analysis Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center, and the Conservation Management Institute.



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## Field Trips

You have two options for a field trip Saturday, 9/27/03. Each field trip costs \$40.00 per person and includes lunch. Both trips will be on full-sized motor coaches (they have bathrooms) and a guide. The tours are being conducted by the Great American Tour Company out of Rapid City, SD. To attend these trips, pre-purchase will be necessary. A space for field trip tickets is on the registration form located on the last page of this newsletter and at [www.ofwim.org](http://www.ofwim.org).

**Black Hills Tour**

8:45am	Motorcoach and guide meet group at Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn
9:00am	Depart hotel
10:00 –11:30am	Visit Mt. Rushmore
11:30am – 1:30pm	Crazy Horse Memorial, sightseeing & included lunch
2:15 – 3:30pm	Tour the Wildlife Loop Road in Custer State Park
4:40pm	Return to hotel

**Badlands Tour**

9:45am	Motorcoach and guide meet group at Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn
10:00am	Depart hotel
10:00-11:30am	Travel to Bandlands via scenic Highway 44
11:30am –12:30pm	Included lunch at Cedar Pass Lodge, city of Interior
12:45- 2:15pm	Tour Badlands National Park w/ photo stops
2:30 –3:30pm	Visit Wall Drug
4:30pm	Return to hotel

## Information and Links to Tour Sites

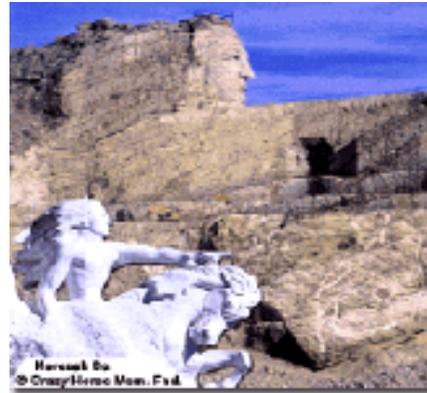
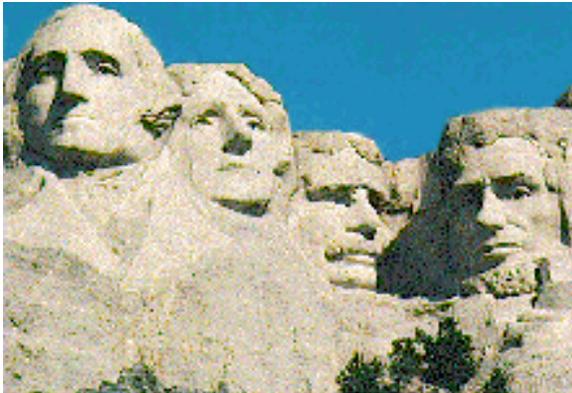
### **Mt. Rushmore**

<http://www.nps.gov/moru/>

Mount Rushmore memorializes the birth, growth, preservation and development of the United States of America. Between 1927 and 1941, Gutzon Borglum and 400 workers sculpted the 60-foot busts of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln to represent the first 150 years of American history. Visitors to the memorial come primarily to view the granite sculpture itself, but also of interest is the Sculptor's Studio built under the direction of the artist, Gutzon Borglum, in 1939. Unique plaster models and tools related to the sculpting process are displayed there.

Recently, ten years of redevelopment work culminated with the completion of extensive new visitor facilities. These include a new Visitor Center and Museum and the Presidential Trail, a walking trail and boardwalk providing spectacular close-up views of the mountain sculpture.

The memorial serves as home to many animals and plants representative of the Black Hills of South Dakota. The geologic formations of the heart of the Black Hills region are also evident at Mount Rushmore, including large outcrops of granite and mica schist.



### **Crazy Horse Memorial**

<http://www.crazyhorse.org/>

Crazy Horse Memorial, the world's largest sculpture, now in progress, is located in the Black Hills of South Dakota on US Highway 16/385 just 17 miles southwest of Mount Rushmore. The work was begun in 1948 by sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski at the request of Native Americans. The Memorial includes the Indian Museum of North America, the Native American Cultural Center which was dedicated at the 1996 Native American Day Celebration, the sculptor's studio, as well as a new 40,000 square foot Orientation Center and theaters opened in May of 2000. Many Native American artists and crafts people create their artwork and visit with guests at the Memorial during the summer season.

### **Custer State Park**

<http://www.custerstatepark.info/>

Custer State Park in the Black Hills encompasses 73,000 acres of spectacular terrain and an abundance of wildlife. The park boasts scenic drives such as the Needles Highway (SD 87), which twists and turns its way past towering rock formations and through narrow tunnels. At the

end of one tunnel stands the Needles Eye, a granite spire with a slit only 3 to 4 feet wide but reaching 30 to 40 feet in the air. History and culture also abound. Walk the banks of French Creek, where Custer's expedition first discovered gold in 1874. Or visit the log cabin that was home to Badger Clark, South Dakota's first poet laureate.



### **Badlands National Park**

<http://www.nps.gov/bad/>

Located in southwestern South Dakota, Badlands National Park consists of 244,000 acres of sharply eroded buttes, pinnacles and spires blended with the largest, protected mixed grass prairie in the United States. The Badlands Wilderness Area covers 64,000 acres and is the site of the reintroduction of the black-footed ferret, the most endangered land mammal in North America. The Stronghold Unit is co-managed with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and includes sites of 1890s Ghost Dances. Established as Badlands National Monument in 1939, the area was redesignated "National Park" in 1978. Over 11,000 years of human history pale to the ages old paleontological resources. Badlands National Park contains the world's richest Oligocene epoch fossil beds, dating 23 to 35 million years old. Scientists can study the evolution of mammal species such as the horse, sheep, rhinoceros and pig in the Badlands formations.

### **Cedar Creek Lodge**

<http://www.cedarpasslodge.com/>

The Cedar Pass Lodge serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. The house specialties are the Indian Fry-Bread Taco or the Buffalo Burger. Cedar Pass Lodge is among the Forever Resorts family of resorts that includes 30 properties located across the country in national parks and recreation areas.

### **Wall Drug**

<http://www.walldrug.com/>

The Wall Drug Store got its start during the Depression years by offering Free Ice Water to thirsty travelers and by building its reputation on friendly service. Wall Drug stocks more gimcracks than you can shake a genuine Crazy Horse coup stick at. It's nearly impossible to recite the enormous inventory with a straight face. Wall Drug also features an enormous art gallery, historical museum, a bookstore with a mountainous selection of Western history books, fine jewelry and Western wear, and educational exhibits about real cowboys and Indians.

**General info on Rapid City and the Black Hills**

<http://www.rapidcitycvb.com/>

## Registration Form: OFWIM 2003 Annual Meeting – "GIS and Information Management for Conservation Planning"

Name (First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it should appear on name tag (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation as it should appear on name tag (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form along with your method of payment to:**  
 Jake Faibisch, OFWIM Treasurer  
 International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
 444 N. Capitol St., Suite 544  
 Washington, D.C. 20001  
 phone: (202) 624-7744  
 fax: (202) 624-7891  
 email: ofwim2003@ofwim.org

### Registration Fee (US Dollars)

Full Registration (on or before **8/15/03**) \_\_\_\_\_ \$255.00 (includes banquet & Hacker's Ball)  
 Full Registration (after **8/15/03**) \_\_\_\_\_ \$295.00

One-day Registration (includes OFWIM membership; does not include banquet or Hacker's ball) \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 (Day(s): \_\_\_\_\_)

Student Registration-id required\*\* (includes membership, banquet and Hacker's Ball) \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00

Field Trip Saturday, 9/27/03 \_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00 per person # \_\_\_\_\_ attending  
 Badlands \_\_\_\_\_ or Black Hills \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Guest Tickets:

Hacker's Ball (Thursday, **9/25/03**) # \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 each TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Banquet (Sunday, 9/28/03) # \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 each TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Guest Tickets:

**TOTAL Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### Payment Method: (SORRY, we cannot accept credit cards)

\_\_\_\_\_ Check (payable to "OFWIM")  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase order P.O. # \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet main course preference: \_\_\_\_\_ buffalo \_\_\_\_\_ fish (walleye) \_\_\_\_\_ vegetarian  
 (include guest tickets in tally)

**\*\*STUDENTS:** The signature of your advisor confirms your current enrollment as a full-time student and your agreement to provide 4 hours of service at the conference.

Advisor signature \_\_\_\_\_

University affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

## CONFERENCE / HOTEL INFORMATION

The Holiday Inn-Rushmore Plaza is two blocks from downtown Rapid City and next door to Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza is easily accessible from I-90, U.S. 16 and state highways 44 and 79. Mt Rushmore is just a 20-minute drive. Courtesy transportation is available to and from the hotel and the airport upon request. Ask the hotel for details when you make your reservation. A block of rooms have been reserved at special rates for Conference attendees (\$99/night-king rooms (1 King Bed) or standard (2 Double Beds). Conference rates are valid for the nights of September 24-28. You must show state or federal id to receive tax exempt billing and these rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact the Holiday Inn-Rushmore Plaza to make your reservations (605-348-4000) now and be sure to mention you'll be attending the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers (OFWIM) meeting!! Interested in sharing a room? E-mail Art Smith, [art.smith@state.sd.us](mailto:art.smith@state.sd.us) for assistance in finding a roommate. While other lodging is available in the Rapid City area, we strongly encourage you to stay at the Holiday Inn-Rushmore Plaza to ensure that OFWIM meets its minimum room obligation. We thank you for supporting our efforts in that regard! Casual clothing is in order, with a sweater or jacket likely needed for any outdoor activities. Rapid City has one of the mildest climates in the Midwest. Protected by the beautiful Black Hills, Rapid City residents enjoy low humidity levels and infrequent precipitation. Average September high temperature: **61°F** degrees, average rainfall: **1.19** inches. Check [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) before you leave on your trip.

## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

**By Car:** Interstate 90 is the main route for driving to the Black Hills, but you can also enter the area on East-West highways US 16, US 18, US 212, or SD 34; and North-South highways US 85, US 385 and SD 79. The South Dakota Department of Transportation keeps all highways in excellent driving condition, even during hard winters. If you want to check current driving conditions, call 605-394-2243 or go to the following web page: <http://www.state.sd.us/dot/> **By Air:** Rapid City Regional Airport is the commercial airline hub for the Black Hills. Schedule your air travel on Northwest Airlines, Skywest Delta Connection or United Express. Private pilots land at state-approved airports at Hot Springs, Custer, Rapid City, Wall, Sturgis, Spearfish, Sundance and Belle Fourche. **Air Time To Rapid City** \*  
 Chicago 2:50 \* Denver 1:15 \* Minneapolis 1:25 \* Salt Lake City 2:00