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**For many South Dakotans, time outdoors has been essential to living a full life during the pandemic.**

**Custer State Park in the Black Hills surpassed 2-million visitors in a single year for the first time in its history.**

**Interim Secretary Kevin Robling (Roh-bling) says that many people are using nature to escape.**

*(:12) “I hope folks that did come to the parks system did experience greatness. I sure did, I traveled around the state myself and my family and got to experience the great outdoors and utilize those services as well.”*

**Robling also says that while fun, people must use discretion and be safe.**

*(:11) “I was trying to take my three-year-old ice fishing yesterday and before I did so I obviously checked the ice and where the ice was good just two weeks ago it wasn’t so good yesterday, so we decided not to go.”*

**For more information on South Dakota’s outdoors, visit GFP dot SD dot GOV**