

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

HUNTING ACCOMPANIMENT CHAPTER 41:06:04

Commission Meeting Dates:	Public Hearing	August 2, 2012	Milbank
	Finalization	August 2-3, 2012	Milbank

COMMISSION PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS

Amend 41:06:04:04 to create accompaniment allowances for big game hunters and place the responsibility for adherence to the rule on the unlicensed big game hunter.

Recommended changes:

41:06:04:04. ~~Accompaniment by nonlicensee~~ Nonlicensee armed accompaniment prohibited -- Exception. ~~While hunting in the field during a big game season, no licensee possessing a firearm big game license may be accompanied by another person carrying~~ No person possessing a firearm, including a muzzleloading firearm, or a bow and arrow may accompany a big game hunter in the field or cooperate as part of a big game hunting group unless the accompanying person possesses a firearm big game license that is valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the licensee. For the purposes of this section, firearm big game license means any license that authorizes the licensee to use a firearm, including a muzzleloading firearm, in the taking of big game animals. The provisions of this section do not apply to any person who is carrying a pistol and possesses a valid concealed pistol permit as provided in SDCL chapter 23-7-, ~~nor do they apply to a person who is legally licensed to hunt small game (or exempt from license requirements as provided by SDCL 41-6-2) and hunting only with a shotgun using shotshells.~~ A person hunting small game and accompanying a licensed firearm big game hunter in the field may not use dogs while accompanying a big game hunter.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Currently, a person licensed in a firearm big game season cannot be accompanied in the field by another person carrying a firearm or bow and arrow unless that individual has a firearm big game license valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the licensee. The licensed big game hunter is held as the responsible party if other armed individuals accompany him/her and do not have the same type of license. The proposed amendment would place the responsibility for adherence to the rule on the unlicensed big game hunter(s). In addition, the rule would allow a person who is legally licensed to hunt small game the ability to accompany a licensed big game hunter in the field provided the person hunting small game uses only a shotgun and shotshells. This rule would also clarify that a person hunting small game may not use dogs in the field while accompanying a licensed firearm big game hunter.