

-----Original Message-----

From: Randall Pratt

Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2012 8:31 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Lake Mitchell change to No-Wake zone

Greetings,

I support the proposed changes to Lake Mitchell No Wake regulations. Currently the west end area receives almost no use due to the area speed restriction. With water 12" over the spillway wakes will clearly cause problems for property owners and shoreline stability issues.

Question: How does the general public gage 12" or 6" over the spillway?

Randall L. Pratt

1200 E 2nd Ave

(605) 996-0907

rpratt@mit.midco.net

-----Original Message-----

8

From: James Serfoss

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 10:40 PM

To: SDGFPIINFO

Subject: Re: GFP Commission Meeting Update

understandable— but there better be a sign, no more game wardens with some guess work they have enough power

Create a No Wake Zone on Mina Lake (Edmunds Co.) during certain periods of high water. GFP staff recommends creating a "no wake zone" on Richmond Lake (Brown County) and Mina Lake (Edmunds County) during any time at which the water level reaches 18 inches or more over the level of the top of the spillway. Over the last two years, significant rainfall events have occurred in northeastern South Dakota

James Serfoss, Aberdeen SD

8

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 8:58 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mina Lake no wake rule change

I am a property owner on Mina Lake. I agree there is a need for protection during high water events.

My fear is that the no wake rule change will be over used. It seems that even with the current method the department is slow to remove it.

Even with the high water levels of 2011 the current method functioned well. I did not have any damage due to boats operating during high water events. Most property owners can make adjustments to their docks and beach within a day or two.

I feel the rule change will result in arbitrary no wake rules being used for extended periods when they are not needed.

Steve Marquardt , Aberdeen SD

605-380-6117

-----Original Message-----

From: Siegfried, Clayton

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 2:06 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Fire extinguisher rule change for boaters in our State.

I can see the rule about not having a used Extinguisher on your boat it should be a new one for sure.. Put messing with charging them that is over the top.. If I have a brand new one in my boat that has never been used that should be good enough for the state.. Unless you are looking to generate business for the business's that have an interest in this.. Which is wrong of course.. Just another item that a boater will have to hassle with and how are you going to prove that I did not have mine checked?? What is the fine for not having it checked?? Where do I take the extinguisher to be serviced?? All of these questions should be answered by the State if you are going to mandate this rule up front... Not after I get a fine..

Sounds like a rule that may be tough to enforce..

Clayton Siegfried
Sioux Falls, SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Fischer, Dave [mailto:dfischer@SIOUXFALLS.org]

Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 12:44 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Family Park proposed electric motor zone

Secretary Vonk and GFP Commission members;

Thank you for your support of the partnership that Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation has with your Department in the ongoing management of the urban fishery at Family Park located just west of the Sioux Falls city limits. The park has received tremendous use from the community and creel surveys conducted by your staff illustrate how important the fishery is to those who go there. Recently, we've been approached about making electric motors legal for those with disabilities. After discussions with our staff, city police, and your staff we believe that allowing the use of electric motors for everyone will not only make it much easier for those with disabilities to enjoy the lake, but will also enhance the experience for many others. As a result, I am writing to support the change in regulations that would allow electric motor use at Family Park. As an avid outdoorsman myself, thank you for all you do to provide the excellent opportunities we all have to recreate in the great outdoors of South Dakota. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me on my direct line at 367-8216.

Dave Fischer

Assistant Director, Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation

-----Original Message-----

From: Majeres, Michael

Sent: Mon 2/27/2012 10:19 AM

To: Spies, Jim; beatis@aol.com; Knippling, Susie (GFP); jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; Peterson, Cathy; bpcerny@gwtc.net; Sather, Duane

Subject: Regarding Family Park motor restrictions

Dear SD GFP Commission Members,

I just read the proposed changes regarding electric motors on Family Park in Sioux Falls. I have to respectfully say that this is a terrible idea. This body of water has been a great asset to the fishing community in Sioux Falls. My family has used it many times since it was opened to the public. It has always been a great place to go when you just want to get out for a few hours and enjoy the peace and quiet of sitting on shore, casting a line, and soaking up the sun. I have also been out there when it's been extremely busy and "not so quiet", but it was still enjoyable. I can't help but imagine what would happen to this little gem of a pond if electric motors would be aloud. I just don't think it's big enough to support the amount of boat traffic it would be subjected to, especially on the weekends when most fishing families can get out there. I don't think it would be a stretch to imagine seeing 10-20 or more 16-21 ft. boats out there on a beautiful day. It would be pretty chaotic out there on the water, the parking lot would not be able to support that many vehicles/trailers, and shore fishing opportunities would be greatly diminished if boats were anchored near the shoreline within casting distance of shore fishermen. I just think that the GFP and the city of Sioux Falls have a great thing going right now with Family Park just the way it is. I know they took a lot of time to decide on the current regulations there and I think they got it right. I just think the negatives outweigh the positives with this proposal.

Thank you for your time. Enjoy the commission meetings later this week.

Mike Majeres, Sioux Falls

-----Original Message-----

From: Kay Sanderson [mailto:tkсандerson@sio.midco.net]

Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 8:47 AM

To: Schlueter, Chuck

Subject: Family Park fishing rules; Special Buck Licenses

9
and
10

To: SDGFP COMMISSION

Re: Proposed changes to Family Park Pond rules & Special Buck licenses.

Family Park: This is a wonderful asset and is heavily used by families and older fisherpeople (such as myself). I would not like to see any rule changes that would encourage heavy boat traffic on such a small body of water as I feel it would detract from the shore fisherman's experience. This would be particularly true if the size and type of watercraft was unlimited. My opinion is that I would like the rules to remain as they are with respect to watercraft or at the very least to limit the size of watercraft. The pond is not large enough to accommodate the larger bassboats and fishing boats.

Special Buck Licenses: I am opposed to increasing the number of these licenses. Trophy bucks are a fragile resource and are extremely important in maintaining a quality deer herd. In my opinion, the sport of deer hunting has been damaged by the prevailing thinking that everyone has to shoot something with bigger horns than the other person. I would rather see more emphasis on the total experience of the hunt rather than the only the antlers. Also, another problem with this license is that it encourages the gobbling up of more and more acres of hunting land by commercial operations. I think that increasing this type of license will only lead to quicker decimation of the quality deer herd.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my thoughts to you on these matters.

Terry Sanderson
1304 E. Ponderosa Dr.
Sioux Falls, SD 57103
(605) 338-1281

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Eddy [mailto:redy@rushmore.com]

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 1:13 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: 2012 Special Buck

To the SD GFP Commission,

I would like to take this time and discourage the increase in the Special Buck tag allotments for the 2012 season. With preliminary deer surveys still months away and reports of reduced animal numbers due to severe winter weather and the lethal EHD outbreak; it is extremely poor timing to increase the buck harvest. The historical deer populations of the past twenty years have been depleted in many areas with public access availability. The NW portion of SD in Butte, Harding, and Perkins counties in particular has seen a dramatic reduction of game animals. This increase in harvest, particular of trophy- class animals on private land only, degrades the ethics of game management and increases the sale of a public resource to private owners. Please consider reducing the number of Special Buck tags in an equal proportion to the number of General tags in the 2012 season. Thank you!

Robert Eddy

Rapid City, SD

**GRASSLAKE CONSERVATION CLUB, INC.**

10

2-23-12

Dear Commissioner,

We are very aware of the request and proposal to add 100 more Non-resident special buck licenses to the West River deer season. We do not feel this proposal is good for sportsman and residents of South Dakota. It is a sale of public resources to the highest out of state bidder by landowners.

At a recent Grass Lake Conservation Club meeting a motion to oppose this request passed unanimously. We ask you to oppose the addition of Non-resident special buck licenses to the West River deer season. Thank you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John H. Johnson".

Secretary

Grass Lake Conservation Club

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Twamley [mailto:jltmotors@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 11:54 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck Licenses

Commissioners;

I am writing you today in opposition to the increase in Special Buck Tags, and that the proposed action not be approved at this time. I see the increase of 200 Special Buck licenses as a direct loss of hunting opportunity for the Resident Deer hunters of the State. To my knowledge it has not been the agencies policy to adjust tag allocations for a specific group of people, in this case West River Outfitters Association, for their profitable gain at the expense of the Resident Hunter. I would ask however that this proposal be tabled, and that the Department add a line to the application that would have the applicant list the County of where the landowner has granted permission. This would enable the Department to better track the counties that these tags are being used and hopefully prove that this season does not impact the Resident Hunter.

If this proposal is passed into regulation, I totally agree that the fee should be increased for the Non-Resident Hunter and would request that the Identification of County be added to the Application to allow for distribution studies by the Department. To say that 1200 Special Buck licenses won't impact any county's West River license allocation without knowing how the distribution of these licenses holders is something that should be studied, because even 75 additional tags in anyone county could have a dramatic effect on the number of tags allotted for a single county.

Jim Twamley

Parker, South Dakota 57053

605-940-9678

-----Original Message-----

From: bobstruck [mailto:bobstruck@midstatesd.net]

Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 9:22 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: westriver special deer tags

I think there is enough tags issued already population seems to be down

Bob Struck, Platte SD

-----Original Message-----

From: David Peck [mailto:davidcbi@orbitcom.biz]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 12:29 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck Proposal

SDGFP,

I recently read you proposal to increase West River Special buck tags to 600 and increase the price to \$600 as well. I agree with the increase in number, but I feel that the \$100 price increase is not. I have been had a WRCB each of the past 4 years. My family is from Murdo, so it is a "family affair". I only hunt private ground and would like to have the ability to draw a Jones County tag (regular), but the odds are that drawing that would be an every-other year event. \$600 would make SD the highest priced deer tag in the nation! In addition:

- 1) If this were to go through as proposed, I would like to see the ability to also buy a preference point in the "regular" draw, so that I would only have to buy the special every other year. This would probably relieve the pressure on the special tags all by itself.
- 2) Include a doe tag with the special tags like the regular ones.

Sincerely,

David Peck
1124 W. Cedar St.
Cherokee, IA 51012

712-261-1228

-----Original Message-----

From: wgo@mato.com

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 3:53 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: West River Special Buck Licenses

I have attended a meeting in the past asking that the commission consider raising the quota on Non-Resident West River Special Buck licenses. There are currently not enough non-resident licenses to supply the demand. As someone who is running a business to trying and accommodate out of state hunters this creates a hardship. It is hard to book repeat clients and plan any kind of schedule without knowing they have a good chance of obtaining a license. Today those repeat clients are the only thing that keeps many businesses running. These hunters are not only benefiting my family but many others in the community every year and everyone needs the business. The West River Special Buck licenses are designed to be used on private land only, so no opportunity is being taken away from anybody that would have had access to that ground otherwise. Having the ability for hunters to draw a Special Buck license allows the landowner to manage their property as they see fit and in many circumstances on land that would have no hunting opportunity otherwise. The only non-residents that are spending \$505.00 on the Special Buck tag are hunters that are going with an outfitter or paying trespass fees to landowners that would not allow access otherwise. Game and Fish is losing revenue on license sales and local communities are losing out on money that would be generated by non-residents.

Russ Roberts, St Onge SD
Western Gateway Outfitters

-----Original Message-----

From: Grunewaldt Angus

Sent: Wed 1/25/2012 10:40 AM

To: mlauthier@hotmail.com

Cc: jamesemcm@gmail.com; Spies, Jim; beatis@alo.com; Knippling, Susie (GFP); jlcoop11@aol.com; barryj@gwtc.net; Peterson, Cathy

Subject: proposed new deer regs

Mike: As an avid sportsman and landowner I'm writing this email in regards to the proposed increase in west river out of state buck tags. Being an east river landowner, I'm disappointed that east river has failed to offer this option. Chuck S. has stated that the public comment is against any out of state E. river buck tags. Has any attempt been made to poll the landowners(the people who actually provide the habitat and bear the expense of raising the deer) as to their wishes? Personally, I'm tired of all the pickups driving down the right of ways shooting anywhere and everywhere with no regard to the law. At the same time we are not even able to allow my out of state brother-in law to shoot an east river buck. I'm also aware of the tremendous influence that the Minnehaha Sportsman have on your decisions, I'm just asking to please consider the sportsman who are in charge of the factory, not just those who think it is their SD born right to be the sole beneficiary of the bucks. I await your response. Thank you.

Mike Grunewaldt

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Thomson [mailto:pthomson@lawrence.sd.us]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 1:25 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: West River Buck Licenses

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have lived near Spearfish my entire life and hunted every year possible. When I was a kid we used to go every year with a license we purchased across the counter. If we didn't get a buck the first three weeks of the season, we always took a doe to end the season. As soon as we had to draw for licenses we no longer went hunting every year. Sometimes we didn't draw a license and sometimes we forgot to put in for the drawing until it was too late. Two of my three boys did not become hunters because it was too hard to get licenses. They have moved on to other interests. One of my sons and myself hunt together when we can now get licenses. This year we both hunted the Hills with an any dear license and enjoyed every outing. We went to get a big buck or nothing at all. Neather of us shot a buck but we thouroughly enjoyed every hunt together.

I encourage you to add more buck licenses to the seasons. We saw a record number of small bucks this year. With the limited number of licenses out there we will either have a record number of deer in the years ahead or we will have record numbers of deer dying from disease and traffic accidents. The hunters are not affecting the numbers of deer kills, but the number of licenses is affecting two things: First it is affecting the number of hunters we have visiting South Dakota and hunting in general, and second and most importantly it is affecting the sport of deer hunting the most because our young people are not growing up with the sport. You can say all you want about the special licenses that are available for the younger hunter, but if they don't have a license for dad also it probably isn't going to happen as we have already seen. The way the hills buck licensing is handled now is only going to kill the sport and in the future there will be fewer and fewer hunters out there until the sport eventually goes away. I don't want to see that and I don't think you do either.

Please add more buck licenses to all the Hills units.

Paul and Blair Thomson
840 8th Street
Spearfish, SD 57783

-----Original Message-----

From: Van Hull, Greg

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 9:18 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hunting comments

Some of the best hunting in the State of SD is ahead of us.

The problem is will the common person be able to afford to hunt. By allowing more and more special buck tags, and raising cost of tags, the residents of SD will be slowly pushed out. As you increase the number of special buck tags to any one, out of state or in state, and decrease by the same number resident tags, you are creating a pay to hunt and a business instead of wildlife being accessible to every resident of SD. SD has one of the lowest pay scales in all 50 states. The wealthy are already purchasing tracts of land for all types of pay hunting.

You are only allowing their foot hold on SD's prime hunting resources a stronger hold. This is only the first of many steps to close out recreational hunting.

Greg Van Hull, Brandon SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Dr. Bob Woerman

Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2012 7:30 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: GFP Meeting Pierre SD, Couple of Comments

I have a comment to make in regard to the two chaps that run a private hunting business near I believe Wall and Wasta SD.

They both want the number of any / antlerless deer tags reduced so their clients have better odds of obtaining Special Buck Tags in a fairly large number.

- 1) This is not good buck management or deer management if only Trophy Bucks are harvested by the out of state clients.
- 2) If I understand this correctly, South Dakota residents will be biting the bullet and the folks who will have less chance of receiving of deer tags so the private hunting business can make the out of state clients happy.
- 3) South Dakota residents pay the bills through taxes, we must watch out for own citizens so our youth do not lose interest in hunting. We must work hard, youth does not have the interest the older population had because we do not have the land to hunt on.

My input, keep the tags like they are as it appears GFP is now recommending.
Thank you.

Dr. Bob Woerman, Brandon SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Doug Lake

Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2012 5:47 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck

I support more special buck licenses

Doug Lake, Pierre SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Darrin Christensen]

Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2012 5:28 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: proposed special buck input

I am absolutley against the increase number of tags for the special buck tags!
My opinion

Darrin Christensen
Watertown

-----Original Message-----

From: Twin Oaks Woodworks

Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2012 1:23 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Increasing by 250 the number of out of state Special Buck licenses

South Dakota department of Game Fish And Parks Commission

As I understand it there are currently 250 Special Buck Licenses available to non resident hunters and the paid hunting establishments want this increased to 750 by reducing the number of licenses available to those who do not or cannot afford to pay a guide to hunt.

I do not believe this is a good idea. If they need more licenses give them access to antlerless permits in area's where deer population control is desired.

I have hunted in South Dakota for over 60 years, on land owned by my family and open to those who asked, on private land where I have had permission from the owner and on public land and walkin areas. In all those years I have never been priveledged to receive a license every year much less a special license buck license. Right now I would very much like to receive a Black Hills Mule Deer permit but realize it will probably take several years to obtain with our point system and I may be to old to use it when I receive it. At least I have a fair chance in the drawing. That is the way things are and the way they should be in a fair world.

Why should out of state hunters be able to buy the right to a buck every year. When all of the hunting is leased by commercial operations and to use the current catch phrase only the 1% are able to hunt and 99% are not purchasing licenses will there be a budget for a department of game fish and parks.

Do Not Turn Hunting In South Dakota Over To The Horns For Dollars Hunters.

Larry Crawford
20842 Legacy Place
Sturgis, SD 57785

10

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry DiSanto

Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2012 11:45 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: West River Special Buck Permits

Happy to hear these permits will be increased.

Larry Disanto, Rapid City SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Dayle Veen

Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2012 10:07 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck Increase – West River

Special buck licenses should be issued by zone like other west river licenses. Some zones the deer numbers have decreased over the years especially mule deer.

Dayle & Linda Veen, Milbank SD

-----Original Message-----

From: scott stone]

Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2012 10:00 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: west river s.b.

10

Why just west river? East river gets a majority of the licenses for west river all ready. People that live west river see nothing but east river licenses plates driving through the hills during elk season & deer season, while we can't draw a tag. West river should get some preference for living on this side of the state. Increase of tags should be for people that live west river only.

Scott Stone, Rapid City

-----Original Message-----

From: Randy & Shelia

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 10:17 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: west river special buck

I personally think that the number of licenses should stay at current level. The reason I think so is because if you increase the license you have more young bucks being harvested and with the decline in populations that I seen this past year only puts stress on the population. sincerely

Randall Callesen, Estelline SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Keeler

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 9:38 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Raising west river deer license fee

Raising the the price of the nonresident special buck license another \$100.00 is putting it out of my capability to participate in this draw. I am a nonresident landowner and enjoy no special privileges as do the resident landowners other than having access to my own land to hunt. Raising the price to this level is nothing short of extortion.

Robert D. Keeler 86 Fairway Drive Douglas Wyoming 82633

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Menne

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 8:41 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: special buck permits

I really think the special buck permits are wonderful for residents to draw for ,
I have applied often and will continue to do so. thank you-

William Menne, Doland SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Chuck Clayton

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 6:20 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Cc: Jim Madsen; Chris Hesla

Subject: West river deer licenses

If the West River factions want to increase the number of tags for the non-resident high rollers, then there should be an increase for residents to access the wildlife. The Colorado program (I think it is "ranching for wildlife") that allows the landowners all kinds of harvesting options, while limiting the residents to an obscure, limited number of non-desirable tags is not the way to go.

The ranchers are feeding the wild game, and their tolerance is what allows the wild game to exist, even with our game laws. The problem is, when we turn access to wild game into a game of "who can pay the most for public wildlife", the average hunter will be the odd man out.

A proposed rule to allow landowners to increase non-resident tags, or transfer tags, will only divide the hunting community that supports and funds wildlife management.

If the GF&P can derive enough funding to manage all the wildlife issues in the state from non-resident license income, then keep going down the road to turning wildlife over to landowners ----- but don't expect resident sportsmen and taxpayers to fund the depredation and predator control systems the landowners have come to expect.

Sportsmen fund wildlife management in SD. There is not a big movement from the industry that benefits from the publicly owned wildlife to help with the cost of that management. So, if the movement is to privatize the wildlife, as the proposed rules want to do, then the excluded sportsmen should not be tagged with the bills for wildlife management or depredation. Increase the fees from the non-residents to cover all the wildlife management issues on those acres (we are talking coyotes, prairie dogs and whole gambit).

We should have an accounting of all the people that sell the increased tags to non-residents, and they should be excluded from any GF&P help with depredation. In addition, any neighboring landowner should be able to be compensated from a pay to hunt operation that only allows limited access to wildlife. Deer don't recognize signs or fences ----- so if you are profiting from publicly owned wildlife, then you should help your neighbor with the problems the wildlife creates.

Chuck Clayton, Huron SD

Past President, SDWF, SDIWLA, National IWLA

-----Original Message-----

From: Troy Kern

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 5:49 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Increase of West River Non-Resident Special Buck Tags

Hello,

I was reviewing the recent GFP Commission meeting minutes from January 12-13, 2012.

I am extremely disappointed in the idea of raising the number of West River non-resident special buck tags.

In recent years my friends and I have lost access to several great Wet River hunting opportunities due to the influx of out of state hunters. It is unfortunate that the GFP would raise the number of non-resident tags, regardless of the increase of the price. I can only see this as a source of more revenue for the GFP and fewer opportunities for resident hunters.

Paid hunting is ruining the sport, both for big game and upland game. A long time tradition of hunting in South Dakota is being replaced by the "king's deer" mentality. Money talks - locals walk.

I am deeply saddened for the future of young hunters in this state.

Thanks for your time.

Troy S. Kern

Piedmont, SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Behrends, Jay

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 5:37 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck Tags

I fully support the increase. I know of many out of state hunters that want to come to SD and are willing to pay for a special buck tag to do it, but do not get drawn. These hunters also help local small communities with their type of tourism.

Jay Behrends, Summerset SD

Sent from my iPhone

10

-----Original Message-----

From: Gene Wallace

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 2:19 PM

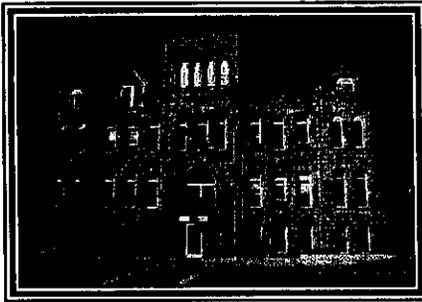
To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special buck changes..

Hi...I am a non-resident from Virginia...my son and I had the special buck lic this past Nov in the west river area..we had a good hunt...both of us scored...I got a good non-typical mulie (which was what I wanted and my son got a good white tail buck)...we saw lot of deer...mostly females and only 4 bucks)3 white tails and 1 mulie...we would like to get drawn again..but the increase in tags of \$100.00 for non-residents might just be a little much....it was my first time ever hunting in the West...but was great...thanks for reading...

Gene Wallace

Swoope, Va..



**FALL RIVER COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FALL RIVER COUNTY COURTHOUSE
906 NORTH RIVER STREET
HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57747
PHONE: (605) 745-5132, FAX: (605) 745-6835**

February 9, 2012

Mike Kintigh
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mike:

Enclosed please find a copy of Fall River County Resolution #2012-05, a resolution in support of the establishment of a shooting range by the Fall River Gun Club. The Commission unanimously adopted the resolution at the February 7, 2012 meeting.

The Board believes gun ranges can serve as places of education for individuals of all ages that are just beginning to learn gun handling. They provide a place for both sportsmen and law enforcement to better their proficiency. Range-hosted shooting competitions can provide recreation opportunities for locals and generate tourism. Both residents and visitors to our area would benefit from such a facility.

The Fall River County Commission appreciates the Gun Club's efforts to establish a rifle and hand gun range in Fall River County and encourages your endorsement and facilitation of this worthwhile project. On behalf of the Board, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Sue Ganje
Fall River County Auditor

Encl.

FALL RIVER RESOLUTION #2012-06

WHEREAS, the Fall River Gun Club, Inc., and its members have been working with the staff of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, the Fall River County Sheriff's Office and private landowners to establish a shooting range in Fall River County; and

WHEREAS, there is no other shooting range in the Southern Black Hills; and

WHEREAS, such a range could provide valuable and enjoyable shooting opportunities both for law enforcement training and the general public; and

WHEREAS, Fall River County has offered to assist with road access and other earth works for a shooting range; and

WHEREAS, there is a proposed land exchange between the Game, Fish and Parks Department and the Conger family to facilitate the establishment of an accessible shooting range:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fall River County Commission enthusiastically supports the establishment of the shooting range and encourages the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission to approve the proposed land exchange so this project can move forward and become a reality.

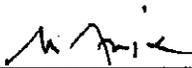
Dated at Hot Springs, Fall River County, South Dakota, this 7th day of February, 2012.

APPROVED:



Michael P. Ortner, Chairman
Fall River County Commission

ATTEST:



Sue Ganje, County Auditor

-----Original Message-----

From: Phillip Shively [mailto:pbsv650@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 11:20 PM

To: SDGFPINFO

Subject: Support of the gun range in Hot Springs

To whom it may concern,

I will not take too much of your valuable time with this email, but I would like to personally show my support of the gun range here in the Hot Springs area. Many benefits will result from a range here: shooting sports, hunt safe programs and junior programs to get the youth trained in responsible firearm knowledge and handling, and other activities as well. Thank you for your part in making this happen in our area. It is a good location that will provide these activities for folks from miles around.

Sincerely,
Phil Shively, Vice-President
Cornerstone Bible Institute

-----Original Message-----

From: Ted Wick [mailto:wick@gwtc.net]

Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 5:35 PM

To: SDGFINFO

Subject: Fall River Gun Club Shooting Range

In Support,

As a resident of Fall River County I am in support of the proposed shooting range for our county. In addition to the obvious benefits for gun enthusiasts, I believe this could present additional opportunities for our youth to become involved in shooting and hunting. Gun safety programs will undoubtedly be a part of the range uses. As an active member of the National Wild Turkey Federation in South Dakota, I'm aware of potential funding being available from our organization for youth shooting programs. Each local chapter has the potential to provide \$500 to \$1000 on a yearly basis toward youth shooting. The NWTF is very aware that the future of shooting (including hunting) rests on the recruitment of our young people into the sport. It is possible that some of the other NWTF chapters in western South Dakota would be interested in using and supporting the range for JAKES (youth) shooting events.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Ted Wick - Hot Springs

February 13, 2012

33

To: G,F&P Commission

From: John DiCiaccio
Fall River Gun Club
President

RE: Proposed Gun Range

Commissioners,

The FRGC is now going into it's 3rd year of existence and we currently have over one hundred members enrolled. Each and every one of our members are anxiously waiting until the day comes when we have an active shooting range. I am optimistic that on March 1st during your Commission meeting you will give us the opportunity to go forward and begin construction ASAP.

I envision our membership will double once the range is fully operational. This will bring much needed revenue to our community that is somewhat financially stressed. I am confident that our shooting range will bring in people from Rapid City, Edgemont, Custer and beyond. In the future we plan on hosting competitive shooting events on our long distance range, small bore rifle range and trap / sporting clays ranges. These events will draw shooting enthusiasts from out of State that will stay in our Hotels and eat at our Restaurants. Therefor the business community is very excited to have such a venue and they have given the Club their continues backing and support.

I have been talking with organizations such as NWTF, Friends of NRA, archery clubs and others about forming a partnership so that we can offer many youth programs and safety training events. Our local Law Enforcement will be conducting training events for their Officers on an as needed basis. The opportunities are endless and the sky is the limit.

Respectfully,

John DiCiaccio
President FRGC

-----Original Message-----

From: wirtzjw [mailto:wirtzjw@swiftel.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:40 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer lic.

Please do not allow deer tags to be sold by commercial outfitters. I believe that if there is one SD res. that missed his lic. he should have first and second choices.

John Wirtz, Brookings SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Dahlberg [mailto:broadheadshovel@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 2:41 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: "Special buck tags"

Commissioners:

I am admantly opposed to the proposal to increase "special buck tags". In a time when it appears that mule deer in many areas are decreasing in numbers, it is time to curtail non-resident tags when those tags may infringe on resident hunting opportunities.

Please do not increase these "special buck tags". Please decrease them. Thank-you for your consideration.

Jim Dahlberg
Hot Springs, SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Colton Wientjes [mailto:wientjesc@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 2:39 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: special buck tags

the nonresident special tags should come from the 8% allotted to nonresidents. Tags issued will be down in 2012 due to low deer populations, meaning even more residents will be turned down for a license. However, if the number of "Special Buck Licenses" is increased, the percentage of tags going to nonresidents will increase and the percentage going to residents will decrease yet again. sounds like this is in the interest of the commercial hunting lodges and not of the interest of the common hunter. please really take a good look at this before doing anything!

Colton Wientjes, Watertown SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Antonides [mailto:billantonides@abe.midco.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 1:53 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck Tags

Dear Commissioners,

I think the letter below explains it all. PLEASE take the time to look at the history of the special buck tags before you increase the numbers. If we are concerned with quality buck management at all, it is time to **reduce** the number of tags to the levels originally agreed to. In addition, the nonresident special buck tags should come from the 8% of tags set aside for nonresidents.

Thank you,

Bill Antonides
President
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
514 North Arch Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401-2951

Phone 605-380-8586 or 229-4712
billantonides@abe.midco.net

From: Sportsman's Club of Brown County [mailto:sportsmansclubofbrowncounty@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 12:42 PM
To: Sportsman's Club of Brown County
Subject: GF&P Commission Alert-Your help is requested, please!

We need your help protecting our natural resources!

West River Deer Statistics and Special Buck Licenses:

Special Buck Licenses were first offered in 1988 with up to 400 "unused" regular nonresident tags in West River SD made available to anyone as a Special Buck License. However, the maximum numbers of unissued tags ran about 200, and were included in the 8% of tags allowed to be sold to nonresidents.

Over the years, the tags were changed to any-deer, were allowed over and above the 8% permitted by GF&P rules, expanded to include East River to even out the opportunities, and increased in number to 1500 total statewide. **Every time the nonresident applicant list exceeded availability, outfitters came forward to request more licenses, as they have again this year.**

It is worthy to note the tags were offered after GF&P and USF&WS undercover operations resulted in multiple arrests and seizures of big game trophies. The arrests upset some legislators and landowners who felt laws needed to be broken in order for some people to make a living. The Special Buck Licenses were the result of an agreement with GF&P, sportsmen, outfitters, landowners and legislators to placate those wanting to sell hunting opportunities. In return, bills designed to allow the transfer of big game licenses would not be introduced in the legislature, and the commercial interests would be satisfied with the number of special tags.

However, contrary to the original intent of the Special Buck License agreement, bills to allow the transfer of big game tags have been introduced on an annual basis in the legislature. Outfitters demand more and more Special Buck Licenses from the GF&P Commission. The original intent and impact of the Special Buck Licenses have been circumvented by special interests. Quality deer management is not even a consideration in the number of tags allotted.

The following information applies to the 2011 West River deer season unless indicated otherwise:

- Only 62% of non-landowner residents received their first choice of license.
- Only seven landowners did not get their first choice. They were still guaranteed an any-deer tag for their own land.
- With the additional 1000 special buck tags (500 resident and 500 nonresident), a total of 13, 695 any-deer tags were issued.
- Nonresidents took 1517 of these any deer/buck tags, or 11% of all WR any-deer/buck tags.
- Landowners took an additional 1479 any deer/buck tags from the regular drawing.
- Landowners also took 1932 any deer/buck licenses valid on their own land only. The "landowner on their own land" tags are not figured in on the above, but do limit the number of any deer/buck tags that should be issued.
- Tags issued will be down in 2012 due to low deer populations, meaning even more residents will be turned down for a license.
- However, if the number of "Special Buck Licenses" is increased, the percentage of tags going to nonresidents will increase and the percentage going to residents will decrease

yet again.

In 2011, nonresidents received 11% of all any-deer/buck tags issued for West River deer units.

It is time for sportsmen to say, "Enough!" It is simply wrong to allow commercial interests to sell one of South Dakota's finest natural resources at the expense of the average sportsman and any semblance of quality deer management. It is time to reduce the number of special buck tags, not increase them. At the very least, the nonresident special tags should come from the 8% allotted to nonresidents.

Please tell the GF&P commission your thoughts on this matter. Letters, calls and e-mails must be in by the March 1 if at all possible!

You can simply send an e-mail addressed to the GF&P Commission to wildinfo@state.sd.us and all the commissioners will receive a copy.

Notes and calculations by Bill Antonides from information derived from GF&P statistics, February 2012.

-----Original Message-----

From: sitterj [<mailto:sitterj@nvc.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 2:10 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

It is time to cut back on the special treatment of buck tags for the out of state hunters and the people who close their land and only let people in who pay. This is a form of selling our wild life. Turn this practice around.

James Sitter, Aberdeen

-----Original Message-----

From: Micah Mauney [mailto:MMAuney@takcommunications.com]

Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 5:23 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: West River Special Buck - Concerned

Importance: High

I am deeply concerned that our State is increasing the number of West River Special Buck licenses. South Dakota has taken substantial mule deer losses and yet we are increasing the special buck tags? Nonresidents are coming into our state for commercialized hunting. Out of state outfitters are coming into our state and leasing land, all to bring in their out of state clients to make money off our suffering deer herd. They are killing mostly mule deer and we don't have hardly any left the way it is. These "outsiders" know how to hunt and have a high success rate.

Please acknowledge the decrease in our mule deer numbers and do something about it. At least issue whitetail doe only tags instead of an any deer doe tag.

Our whitetails continue to thrive and will eventually run off our mule deer. Issue a buck tag for whitetails and not just any deer.

It is about time SD starts acting like other states and charging prices of nonresidents like they do. You would be lucky to draw a deer tag in CO, UT, and many other states once every 10 years and pay much higher amounts for the permit. Why can someone draw a SD nonresident deer permit every other year?

Reduce the nonresident WR Special Buck tags to 250 and double the cost of the voucher and there will be no revenue loss and it will help our deer herd take a step in the right direction.

Concerned,

Micah Mauney, Sioux Falls

970.275.0116

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan & Kathy Schmeichel [mailto:dankat@westriv.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:08 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck Season

To Whom it may concern;

I have been a West River deer hunter for many years. I am so tired of out of state hunters coming here with no regard to whose land they are on. I feel the number of out of state license should be "decreased" not increased! Also the fee should be at least \$800.00 to hunt. I would like to see less tribal licenses sold with a better working relationship with the state wardens. Thanks for listening,

Dan Schmeichel, McLaughlin SD

-----Original Message-----

From: mark wolf [mailto:mwolf@nvc.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 1:24 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Enough!

For three seasons it has been very difficult for me to hunt West River. It is simply wrong to allow commercial interests to sell one of South Dakota's finest natural resources at the expense of the average sportsman and any semblance of quality deer management. It is time to reduce the number of special buck tags, not increase them. At the very least, the nonresident special tags should come from the 8% allotted to nonresidents.

Mark Wolf, Aberdeen SD

-----Original Message-----

From: tpbusche@mmm.com [mailto:tpbusche@mmm.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 4:27 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck Tags

My opinion,

No out of state outfitters should be allowed to lease hunting land in SD. All outfitters should be licensed by the GF&P, and the cost of the license should be based upon a percent of their take of game. No way should outfitters be allowed to simply sell buck tags. The animals belong to the public, not outfitters!

Outfitters routinely lease up the best hunting land, so that the locals are not allowed access to the best hunting land. Then they charge incredibly high fees to rich sportsmen to take only the best of the best off the land. Can a local sportsman that works at Walmart possibly afford to hunt pheasants at a preserve, or better yet hunt Muley's on land leased by Safari Club International?

The outfitters also like to provide all aspects of the hunt including room and board. The locals don't even get a slice of that pie either.

I suggest you go back to the original Special Buck tag regulations...

-----Original Message-----

From: tpbusche@mmm.com [mailto:tpbusche@mmm.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 8:13 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck Tags

In 2011, nonresidents received 11% of all any-deer/buck tags issued for West River deer units.

It is time for sportsmen to say, "Enough!" It is simply wrong to allow commercial interests to sell one of South Dakota's finest natural resources at the expense of the average sportsman and any semblance of quality deer management. It is time to reduce the number of special buck tags, not increase them. At the very least, the nonresident special tags should come from the 8% allotted to nonresidents.

Tony P. Busche | Plant Chemist

3M Skin & Wound Care Division

3M Brookings, 601 22nd Ave. South | Brookings, SD 57006

Office: 605 696 1322 | Fax: 605 696 1605 | Triminet: 696 1322

tpbusche@mmm.com | www.3M.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Morgenstern, John E Civ USAF ACC 28 CES/CEANN

[mailto:John.Morgenstern@ellsworth.af.mil]

Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 9:55 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Cc: sdwfcamo@mncomm.com

Subject: Special Buck Licenses

Dear Commissioners,

In regards to landowner requests for an increase in the number of Special Buck Licenses, I highly encourage you to disregard the request. The number of Special Buck Licenses have already grown substantially since the inception of this program, and in light of current deer herd numbers, increasing landowner allocations to their financial benefit at the expense and disregard of the average resident hunter is simply wrong.

Enough is enough! It is simply wrong to allow commercial interests to sell one of South Dakota's finest natural resources at the expense of the average sportsman and any semblance of quality deer management. It is time to reduce the number of special buck tags, not increase them. At the very least, the nonresident special tags should come from the 8% allotted to nonresidents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Morgenstern
Rapid City, SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott Hed [mailto:scotthed@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 8:28 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Please oppose proposed increase in Special Buck tags

Good day,

Thank you for your service to South Dakota on the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission.

I am writing to you today, in advance of a matter you'll be soon discussing.

As a South Dakota resident hunter and member of numerous sporting conservation groups (including SD Wildlife Federation, 29-90 Sportsmen's Club, Dallas Safari Club, Pheasants Forever, and Duck Unlimited), who hunts West River nearly every season for deer, I am asking you to not support the proposed increase in Special Buck tags.

I'm sure you'll have all sorts of fact and figures in front of you at the meeting so I won't rehash them here, but in my opinion here's what it boils down to.

Special Buck Licenses were first offered in 1988 with up to 400 "unused" regular nonresident tags in West River SD made available to anyone as a Special Buck License. However, the maximum numbers of unissued tags ran about 200, and were included in the 8% of tags allowed to be sold to nonresidents.

Over the years, the tags were changed to any-deer, were allowed over and above the 8% permitted by GF&P rules, expanded to include East River to even out the opportunities, and increased in number to 1500 total statewide. Every time the nonresident applicant list exceeded availability, outfitters came forward to request more licenses, as they have again this year.

It is worthy to note the tags were offered after GF&P and USF&WS undercover operations resulted in multiple arrests and seizures of big game trophies. The arrests upset some legislators and landowners who felt laws needed to be broken in order for some people to make a living. The Special Buck Licenses were the result of an agreement with GF&P, sportsmen, outfitters, landowners and legislators to placate those wanting to sell hunting opportunities. In return, bills designed to allow the transfer of big game licenses would not be introduced in the legislature, and the commercial interests would be satisfied with the number of special tags.

However, contrary to the original intent of the Special Buck License agreement, bills to allow the transfer of big game tags have been introduced on an annual basis in the legislature. Outfitters demand more and more Special Buck Licenses from the GF&P Commission. The original intent and impact of the Special Buck Licenses have been circumvented by special interests. Quality deer management is not even a consideration in the number of tags allotted.

It is time for sportsmen to say, "Enough!" It is simply wrong to allow commercial interests to sell one of South Dakota's finest natural resources at the expense of the average sportsman and any semblance of quality deer management. It is time to reduce the number of special buck tags, not increase them. At the very least, the nonresident special tags should come from the 8% allotted to nonresidents.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Hed
Sioux Falls

From: Mike McKnight [<mailto:msmcknight2912@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:26 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Special Buck Tags

My name is Mike McKnight and I am the President of the South Dakota Bowhunters Inc. On behalf of SDBI I would like to voice opposition to an increase in the special buck tags on Thursday's agenda. Deer management objectives drive the number of available tags. An increase in the special buck tags will undoubtedly result in fewer regular draw tags in order to properly consider deer management objectives. If fewer regular draw tags is not the end result, then deer management objectives are not being properly considered. In either event the average South Dakota deer hunter (including the bowhunter) loses out to the outfitting operation looking to profit by selling the increased number of tags. While deer populations vary from region to region most bowhunters in SD have indicated to me that numbers appeared down in 2011 likely due to a variety of factors (loss of habitat, disease, severe winters). It seems likely that antlerless tags will be reduced in many areas in 2012 to maintain deer management objectives. In light of this, is it really necessary to increase the special buck tags? Is doing so consistent with GFP deer management objectives? Thank you for considering this email.

**Mike McKnight,
Sioux Falls, SD**

-----Original Message-----

From: connie [mailto:kentc@venturecomm.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:34 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer license

To Game, Fish, and Park Personal,

Every year us non landowners have less and less deer hunting oppertunities because of wealthy people and commercial hunting groups. Our forfathers who fought for our great country and its freedoms would turn over in their graves if they knew what is taking place at this time. If you don't have a big check book you can't go hunting.

The tension between the public and the GF&P continues to escalate and the outcome will be most unpleasant. The big money people think they are big wheels and the public are just dogs. Remember what dogs do to wheels.

Please reduce the number of special buck licenses available to anyone. We choose the live in South Dakota because of the hunting opertunities and now it is becoming difficult to even go hunting deer. Please help us!!! Thank you,

Kent Carlson, Lake City SD

-----Original Message-----

From: marv bouska [mailto:mlbouska@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:56 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: special buck tags

I am opposed to increasing special buck licenses for guides/landowners/big game dealers. Is the GFP commission an agent of commercial hunting operators/big game dealers with the mission of maintaining their income stream?

Please allow resident big game hunters an opportunity to obtain a "first choice" big game tag, by putting a limit on these perpetual requests for more "special" permits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marvin Bouska, "non-ag rate" SD property tax payer
Rapid City, SD

Original Message—

From: Paul Sand [mailto:sand@venturecomm.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 7:35 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: non-resident deer licenses

GF@P Commission,

Please do not increase non-resident deer tags for the 2012 season. We need to decrease all tags period.

Paul Sand, landowner and concerned deer hunter
Rosholt, SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Clyde Smallwood [mailto:scott.smallwood@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:49 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck Tags

The amount of Special Buck Tags given out must decrease. Local hunters should have preference and the tags should be never exceed 8% as a ratio under normal conditions. I know it is a money raiser for many but they should be able to live within the confines of the limitations set forth by our wildlife managers.

Thanks for you attention to this matter.

Scott Smallwood, Rapid City SD

NBEF, Master Instructor

TMA Treestand Safety, Master Instructor

Sent from my iPad

-----Original Message-----

From: Terry & Patty Larson [mailto:larsonfamily@rushmore.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:32 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special buck licenses

Sirs: I am writing to express my concern on the possible increase in the number of special buck licenses issued. I have hunted the same ranch N. of Wasta for 45 years. The mule deer population appeared to be down at least 50% on this ranch when I hunted it last fall. I would guess that the number of any deer tags issued will be reduced this fall due to this population decrease. Increasing the number of high dollar special buck tags while reducing the tags available to the average resident hunter who buys tags year after year is not fair to SD hunters. Please consider my opinion as you deliberate this matter.

Terry Larson , Rapid City SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Bryan L Barness [<mailto:SFBarness@sio.midco.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:19 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck

We are now experiencing fawn recruitment at an all-time low. We have decreased the opportunities for many in-state hunters each and every year. If there has ever been a time in history when SD sportsman need a voice it is now. It is blatantly obvious to me as a landowner and deer hunter that we must limit the number of deer licenses to both the in-state and out of state hunters if we are to see our deer herds rebound. As a landowner we already have things tilted in our favor. There is no justification to even consider an increase in the number of Special Buck licenses. In fact we should be debating just how many licenses should be excluded from that pool. This is not Washington, DC. Let's make a common sense decision. When we start making decisions based on who will financially profit the most we have belittled our state to nothing more than auction ring.

Thanks for listening,

Sincerely,

Bryan Barness, Sioux Falls SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Deb Callahan [mailto:ldcallahan@alliancecom.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:22 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck Licenses

With Deer population down do to disease, cold and wet winters, and over hunting, and early harvest of crops. It makes no sense to me to increase the number of tags from 500 to 600. I would like to see better deer management of the deer in South Dakota. I used to hunt out of state for a second tag. Now I hunt out of state for better quality of deer.

Thanks for listening,

Leon Callahan, Garretson SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Barnett Vision Center [mailto:fbbvc@nvc.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 5:52 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Increased deer tags to nonresidents

Dear Commissioners,

I am apposed to increasing the number of deer tags to nonresidents. Now when a nonresident recieves a tag it is something special to them. Lets keep it special.

Francis Barnett, Aberdeen SD

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Albrecht [mailto:gopack@svtv.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 5:49 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck license Increase

GF&P Commission:

It is worthy to note the tags were offered after GF&P and USF&WS However, contrary to the original intent of the Special Buck License agreement, bills to allow the transfer of big game tags have been introduced on an annual basis in the legislature. Outfitters demand more and more Special Buck Licenses from the GF&P Commission. The original intent and impact of the Special Buck Licenses have been circumvented by special interests. Quality deer management is not even a consideration in the number of tags allotted.

It is time for sportsmen to say, "Enough!" It is simply wrong to allow commercial interests to sell one of South Dakota's finest natural resources at the expense of the average sportsman and any semblance of quality deer management. It is time to reduce the number of special buck tags, not increase them. At the very least, the nonresident special tags should come from the 8% allotted to nonresidents.

With the above stated facts and opinions, I would ask that the commission oppose the increase in Special Buck Tags.

Thanks you for your time and consideration.

Jeff Albrecht

131 58th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Harr [mailto:gary@harr-lemme.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 5:14 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: special buck comments

To whom it may concern;

As a resident hunter in Minnehaha county, and a landowner, I am against increasing the amount of special buck tags for south Dakota. It changes the harvest in this county, by allowing hunters to concentrate on one county because of location, leading to overharvest in one small area, and under harvest in the more remote areas. Special buck tags are a great tool, but do not allow the harvest to be controlled by the amount of deer per area.

South Dakota should not increase the special buck allotments for east or west river. Just change the amount of regular draw tags to regulate the harvest.

Gary Harr
48077 265th street
Brandon sd,

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Barnett [mailto:richamy@sio.midco.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:57 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: west river special buck licenses/fees

There are already too many special buck licenses...we should have never developed them in the first place. Where does it all end?

Even though a majority nonresident applicants get their special buck license every year they've been available, the outfitters will never be satisfied with the numbers issued...they'll always want more. And in case you don't know: they hate the GF&P for its role in managing our wildlife as PUBLIC TRUST. They want control of deer license disbursement/issuance, and are accomplishing it, in fact, with rules like this which are designed to enhance commerce in dead wildlife.

Of course a higher license fee brings more revenue for the Dept. for WIA's, but many people would say we've got enough already and half of them are no good.

If the GF&P needs/wants more money, raise the license fee without raising the number of licenses available. That could reduce the number of applicants and assure an even greater majority would draw a license.

I don't complain to you folks when I don't draw a tag...even though I'm a low man on the totem pole of hunters. I own no land nor am related to anyone entitling me a license. I'm not rich enough to buy land or a \$500.00 – \$600.00 license...let alone the additional money to get onto these outfitters' land. Who do these people think they are? Some sort of royalty?

Of course you'll all vote yes for this proposal, and this letter was a waste of time.

Richard Barnett
2409 S. Van Eps
SFSD 57105

-----Original Message-----

From: pgross@vyn.midco.net [mailto:pgross@vyn.midco.net]

Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:38 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Special Buck Licenses

It is time to stop the expansion of commercial hunting at the expense of resident hunters! Please oppose additional tag allocations for outfitters in the name of better wildlife management and the protection of outdoor opportunities for local families.

Patrick Gross
Vermillion

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen, Justin

Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:09 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: GF&P Commission; proposed Special Buck Tag increased

Dear commission,

As a longtime resident of South Dakota and avid sportsman please do not increase Special Buck Tag in eastern or western SD. Hunting opportunities have and are slowing dwindling in Central and Eastern South Dakota. Pay hunting has increased greatly over the last 15 years and this proposed increase would only further leasing and pay hunting. It turn the average South Dakota resident hunter is pushed out. Public hunting areas are already extremely over crowded many portions of SD and an increase in NR hunters will surely increase pressure on public lands and lock-up more private (money talks). Currently, in the two counties my family and I apply for first draw any deer tags, 1 west river area and 1 east river area, it take 2-3 years to get the any deer tag. Is the satisfaction of a couple outfitters more important than South Dakota resident, my wife and two young kids? I sure hope not. The commercialization of wildlife in South Dakota in recent years has risen and by increasing special buck tags will surely commercialize deer hunting in South Dakota more. Please vote against the proposed increase in special buck tags.

Thanks for your time.

Justin Allen
Pierre, SD