

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Deer Population Input

From: Wayne Shanks [<mailto:wshanks56@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2014 9:57 AM

To: GFP Wild Info; SDGFPINFO

Subject: Deer Population Input

Not sure this is going to the right people but read an article in Sioux Falls Argus concerning deer population and reduced number of deer tags for 2014. Also, encouraged input through GFP. My input:

I've hunted my entire life, lived for years in Northern Minnehaha Co, just South an West of Colton. Our deer numbers are the lowest I've seen in a long time. We had extreme hunting pressure this fall, reducing most of the doe herd. All that is left are a few fawns. Fawns will not produce this year so by issuing doe tags in 2014 could wipe out the deer in this portion of county. I hope you consider not issuing doe tags for our part of the county. I've hunted all my life and see the deer herd going in a bad direction. My grandchildren are now coming to age to hunt and i would like something around for them to hunt.

Also, may want to consider going to slugs/muzzle loader in this county, population growth, numerous homes, cause safety issue.

Please respond so i know you received this and will consider a lifelong SD hunter/landowner perspective. Please feel free to contact me.

Wayne Shanks
605 370 1396

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: Deer Hunting

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

From: Fritz [<mailto:bfritzdsu@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2014 1:48 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer Hunting

I see there are drastic cuts proposed for rifle tags. How about limiting the number of archery tags. There are more and more archery hunters every year, and their equipment is getting better every year leading to improved success. The rifle tags have been cut continually the last few years. These cuts are another reason pushing people to archery hunt because they know they can get an any deer tag each and every year, and many get an antler less archery as well. So my proposals is to put a cap on archery tags. Antler less archery by county only and a limited number. Raise the price of the statewide archery tag to coincide with the rate of firearm tag! Limiting the number of "any deer" tags one hunter may have; perhaps limiting any deer tags like you do on elk. A hunter puts in they want an archery any deer, muzzleloader, special buck or a county specific rifle tag.

Brian Fritz
brookings, SD

Sent from my iPad

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: SD GFP May Commission Meeting

From: Carl Prah [mailto:carl_ave@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 4:59 PM

To: SDGFPINFO

Subject: RE: SD GFP May Commission Meeting

GFP,

I normally hunt Jones County. I would like to suggest that when deer season is opened in November that it runs without a break until the end of the season in January.

My reason is that some of the landowners allow only family/friends to hunt the first weekend. One weekend is Thanksgiving which is spent with family. That leaves only one weekend to hunt and that is dependant on the weather.

As I try to bring up another generation in hunting, good weather and working around school & church activities would make a more positive & safe hunt.

Carl J Prah
1609 S West Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Phone message

From: Ertz, Dana
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2014 3:16 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: Phone message

Deb,

Not sure if it's too late or what you want to do with this but...Vicky Wahl called, she saw that the Commission was meeting to discuss the deer tags and she just wanted to say that in Miner County where they are there are too many deer. Her number is 605-770-3070.

Thanks,
Dana

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Deer tags - Neil Hawthorne

From: neil hawthorne [hawthorneneil@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2014 8:50 AM

To: Jensen, Gary

Subject:

Mr. Jensen

As I told you yesterday, the reduction in deer tags being considered should probably not be a blanket decision. I am staying near Nemo and see hundreds of deer each time I drive the highway in early morning or late evening. For instance, yesterday I drove to Rapid at around 6:00 am. Between Nemo and the Lawrence/Pennington county line I estimate that I saw nearly 150 whitetails. There were more than 50 in one front lawn of a house. Also, it seems that there was one heck of a hatch of twins last year. They seem to be everywhere.

It would seem to me that a small unit with many doe tags may help to avoid a large die-off from disease or habitat degradation. The Nemo area and , perhaps, other areas would benefit.

I hope that you can include this thought in your commission's discussions this week.

Thanks

Neil Hawthorne, [Rapid City, SD](#)

Hi Gary,

The next day I was at Calumet Pt on Sheridan lake and drove to Nemo via 385 and the Merrit/Estes road. Again, the whole trip around 6 pm was "look out for deer". I really believe there are areas in the Hills that will suffer some form of die-off if the Department doesnt try to control numbers of does and fawns this year. Driving 1/2 hour or so and seeing at least 100 deer does not seem to tell me there is a shortage in those areas.

Good luck

Neil Hawthorne

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Mixed thoughts on the east river deer season. H. T. Bosworth Mitchell

From: H T and Lois Bosworth [<mailto:ht.bosworth@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 11:58 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mixed thoughts on the east river deer season. H. T. Bosworth Mitchell

The land of app 600 Acres was farmed until 2005. At that time it was not uncommon to have people report counting 100 deer in one evening. At that time I left 30 acres of food plots. Some were CRP plots. Because of flooding about 200 acres was put in CRP and food plots were paid fore then. Now there are about 5 acres of food plots a couple of houses have been built. We have less deer but often see 12 deer on our lawn in the evening.

Last fall a friend hunted turkeys and counted app 200 on a 30 acre harvested corn field. This spring we had 7 male turkeys killed but the largest flock that anyone saw was about 40.

I feel the available food has more to do with the wildlife numbers than disease and hunting. My wife & I both hunt and eat what we kill. Our family live out of state so they shoot does. The last 4 years they all filled there tags. It has become a all girl hunt Last year they hunted 2 days shot 4 deer in less than 40 min. with 1 rifle the year before same deal but only 3 hunted so 3 deer. I hate to see an end to this even though I get stuck dressing out the deer. Oh a little humor on the side. I would try not to disappoint them, they shot those 7 deer with 8 bullets at 150 to 200 yards.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: public comment

From: Hull, Chris
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 2:15 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: public comment

- [Chad Ringgenberg](#)

On your proposal at the meeting in Custer regarding deer licenses. I am in total agreement on lowering the tags due to blue tongue, habitat loss, etc. I have noticed substantial changes to the population due to more acres being changed into production for farming purposes.

I disagree with the proposal about buying preference points. I have been putting in for years on specific tags. Now you are going to allow a person with excessive money to buy points on a tag that I've...e been trying to get for years. Please don't use this as a revenue increase opportunity. Please keep this the traditional way of being denied and being elated for pulling a tag.

Sometimes change isn't in the best interest of South Dakotans. My grandfather taught my father to hunt. My father taught me to hunt. Now I am teaching my boys to hunt. My son's are 5th generation South Dakota hunters. Many of us today don't have excessive money to buy points to get a license. Please don't change this.

Aberdeen, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Comment on East & West River deer license/tag proposal

From: Allen, Justin

Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 1:32 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Comment on East & West River deer license/tag proposal

Dear GFP Commissioners,

I'm in support of proposed west and east river deer licenses and tags numbers, especially in central SD which I'm familiar with the most. It is great to see the reduction and even elimination of any antlerless deer licenses/tags in central SD. Mule deer numbers along the Missouri River/Lake Oahe, Haakon Co. and Stanley Co. are decreasing fast. Combination of increased fall crops, loss of habitat, increased predators, competition with whitetails and over harvest of mule deer does vs. fawn production/survivorship is likely to blame. GFP needs to protect and watch closely over Mule Deer numbers in Central SD and reducing the number of Mule Deer does harvested is great to see. I'm certain in my lifetime Mule Deer will be a rare site to see on the east side of the Missouri so please protect the resource and eliminate the harvest of Mule Deer does.

Thanks,
Justin Allen
Pierre, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Proposed Deer tag reduction comments for next GFP meeting.

From: SIOUXFALLS.ORG, CSIEGFRIED

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 3:17 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Proposed Deer tag reduction comments for next GFP meeting.

Has anyone from the state game and fish driven along the interstates lately there are hit deer all over the place just like any other year. I hunted all winter last winter through that nasty December we had and I saw more deer than I had seen in years in December in Lincoln county. I have no idea how you are judging the need to reduce the tags or where your guys are doing the surveys but in my opinion they are wrong this time.

Clayton Siegfried
Avid SD Deer hunter for over 25 years.

Thank You.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Deer licenses

From: Rory Johannsen [<mailto:rjohannsen@eastriver.coop>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 10:42 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer licenses

Good mourning. Being a deer hunter for many years I think it's a good idea to cut back rifle licenses. But wondering why they have not considered reducing bow tags. Thanks

Rory Johannsen

Material Coordinator

East River Power Coop

45341 Hwy 34 Madison SD 57042

Ph-605-256-8282

Fax-605-256-8059

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: deer herd management??

From: Ryan Roehr [<mailto:Ryan.Roehr@presentation.edu>]

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 4:32 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: deer herd management??

Hi, I looked at your proposals for deer management and how to increase the herd size and health, I agree with some of them, but you keep on forgetting the major issue, why do you keep on letting people harvest a deer after rifle season in the "special season for rifle"(convert rifle to antlerless)after jan 1?? We have seen many bucks that have dropped their horns by then over the years, and some years the snow is deep and when you start to hunt young deer in deep snow, they don't have a chance to survive the long winter and thus die from coyotes or loss of body fat. We do not see any logic to have this "extra" season, loss of habitat, loss of trees and bad winters equals loss of deer. Plus have a 3 weekend rifle period is not a good idea either, I would go back to the original season from many years ago. Maybe these ideas are already being thought of, but as a hunter of over 25 years and hunting is in our family and we have a family farm in NE SD. We have been wishing for these rules changes for a long time. Thank you for your time.

Ryan Roehr, 97 Department- Aberdeen, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Response to deer tag reduction

From: Jay Fredrich [mailto:jafredrich@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2014 8:10 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Response to deer tag reduction

The GFP is to blame for the decrease in license. The die off two years ago in the south east part of the state you still issued several doe tags last year in counties that should have been closed to hunting. If there was low numbers why did you issue all those doe tags to shoot deer in city of Pierre. You did the same with the antelope you issued several doe tags even double doe tags and after that we can't even get a tag because their numbers are way down. You can't issue all those doe tags the GFP is to blame you are ruining the hunting from one end of the state to the other. When the large die off east river two years ago you needed. to manage better and just close some of counties. We can't even hunt the Black Hills like we use to you have ruined the Elk population and the deer because you can't even manage the mountain lion population. The hunting in South Dakota is not like it use to be and I think you need to blame yourself for the way you have manage our wildlife.

Pierre, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Archery deer, non residents should have 1 tag every three years to help rebuild deer population

From: cantajam@yahoo.com [mailto:cantajam@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2014 12:15 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Archery deer, nonresidents should have 1 tag every three years to help rebuild deer population

And limit nonresident archery tags.

2ndly for landowner owner preference and should have priority over rental land owners to be eligible for the landowner tags.

James Cantalope of Eureka., SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Deer license plans

From: David Anderson [<mailto:caninsag@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 3:48 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer license plans

I have visited with several people in Lincoln County that opposed to any reduction in the number of deer licenses issued. There is considerable crop damage in a number of areas around Newton Hills State Park and along the Big Sioux River. As an insurance agent we also have plenty of claims involving auto collisions with deer.

Please take this into consideration.

Thanks,
Rep. David L. Anderson
Dist. 16

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: TAG NUMBERS

From: Darrel Kjerstad [<mailto:dkjerstad@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 10:29 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: TAG NUMBERS

I,M NOT SEEING THE LOW NUMBERS, MIGHT BE MORE DEER. I THINK IT WAS MORE THE UNUSUAL YEAR, IT WAS MORE THAT THE DEER WHERE DISPLACED NOT LOW NUMBERS. I FINALLY FOUND THEM IN THE MIDDLE OF LARGE CORN FIELDS. I,M COUNTING AS MANY OR MORE DEER THIS SPRING VS LAST YEAR. AT LEAST ALLOW FOR EXTRA HUNTING WARE THE NUMBERS ARE HIGH. (EASTERN PENNINGTON COUNTY) GOOD LUCK

Quinn, SD

Sent from Windows Mail

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW:

From: Tim Almich [<mailto:wildwalleyesd@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 6:06 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

would like to see the dates stay the way they were in 2013 works really good for my work schedule nov 22
opener weekend. Tim Almich Tea s.d

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Deer hunting season

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

From: Jan [<mailto:jannie4511@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 8:02 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer hunting season

My name is Janet Hanson. I live just west of Minneapolis, Minnesota. I have 80 acres of land north of Lake City, S.D. My husband and I use this property for cattle grazing, (local citizens cattle) fishing and hunting. For the last three years we have not been able to hunt deer. This last winter was mild and the deer population did not decrease.

As a land owner, I pay taxes to S.D. I feel I should be able to get a deer tag at the same time as residents of S.D. Penalizing those who own property, as they are (out of states) is not right! I can see taking licenses away from those who do not own property. But not to those who do own property. Also, why do you allow us to take two doe??? One is great plenty! We have never shot over one per person. Also, only allowing us to shoot doe greatly decreases the herds as the breeders are shot. With no does the buck has nothing to breed, therefore no young to help grow the herds.

My property is in Labelle and Dumarce townships in Marshall County.

Thank you for listening to my comments. I hope you understand where I'm coming from. I am a land owner and sportsman in S.D. and hope you will be able to solve this deer hunting problem.

Janet Hanson jannie4511@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Tripp county

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

From: djkauer@alliancecom.net [<mailto:djkauer@alliancecom.net>]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 9:33 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Tripp county

I still feel tripp county licenses available is a little high on total available. I have observed the deer herd on our farm south of witten 6 miles down about 75% from 2012 to 2013. Havent noticed a great increase this year so far.

Dave Kauer

Witten, SD

Ascher, Debra

From: Cary, Joe
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 8:29 AM
To: Ascher, Debra; Kiel, Emily
Subject: FW: Season dates

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

From: Mike Stavick [<mailto:stavickx@tnics.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 7:48 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Season dates

You should coincide season dates with tribal dates. We live in an area of checkerboard tribal and landowner land. The tribe starts hunting a couple weeks before we do and makes hunting difficult as many deer are shot and are very wild by the time our season starts.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone



Ascher, Debra

Subject: Buffalo County

From: Bruce Behm [<mailto:bruceb@quazarcapital.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 4:14 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Buffalo County

Dear GFP:

As an out of state landowner who pays taxes and uses very little services, doesn't it make sense that I should be able to purchase a landowner – any deer tag?

Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce Behm
Bald Eagle Ltd. Partnership

Minneapolis, MN 55447

Ascher, Debra

Subject: proposed deer hunting seasons

From: Waikel [mailto:waikelc_s@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 6:16 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: proposed deer hunting seasons

If you want to cut tag numbers you should also if not start with land owner tags.

Shane Waikel
Oldham, SD

Ascher, Debra

From: GFP Admin Rules
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 7:56 PM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Comment on : GFP 2014 May Proposals - 2014 June Finals

Name: Clint

Address:

City: Beresford

State: SD

Zip: 57004

Email:

Phone:

Comment: I live in union co but hunt mainly clay co. From what I've observed over the past two seasons is that our deer numbers are down tremendously due to the ehd outbreak. I believe that deer seasons should be closed for clay, Lincoln and union counties, there may be others too but these are the three that I travel around and hunt regularly and have friends that hunt as well. I would much rather not be allowed to hunt for a few seasons until a good deer population has established once again then to have very poor hunting for many years into the future. In the future I would like to have a person have to fill a doe tag before they were allowed a buck tag. Once a hunter shot a doe they would have to check it in then receive a buck tag, which would be on a first come first serve basis. You would set the number of doe tags then certain number of buck tags just like is done now. South Dakota has potential for some very big bucks but the young ones are never given a chance to reach maturity because the guy at the bar wants to be able to say he shot a "buck". Thank you.

Ascher, Debra

From: GFP Admin Rules
Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 9:43 AM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Comment on : GFP 2014 May Proposals - 2014 June Finals

Name: Kent DeJong

Address:

City: Lennox

State: SD

Zip: 57039

Email:

Phone:

Comment: I happy to see some science and management being applied to east river deer management. The regional wildlife managers are very hard workers and are under paid.

Ascher, Debra

From: GFP Admin Rules
Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 11:03 AM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Comment on : GFP 2014 May Proposals - 2014 June Finals

Name: Cory Mallon

Address: 104 Kansas St

City: Tulare

State: SD

Zip: 57476

Email: ctmallon@live.com

Phone: 6055964126

Comment: I farm in Spink County and I have seen more deer this spring than I have ever seen. I don't know how you come up with your numbers but maybe they need to hang out with a farmer for a couple weeks. Last year alone in our household we had 2 vehicles damaged by 3 deer. With all the dead deer along Hwy 281 in Beadle, Spink & Brown Counties it looks like more cars are taking out deer than hunters. I can't imagine decreasing the amount of tags. I would rather see hunters getting them and using their meat than cars taking damage and vultures eating them on the side of the road. Or even worse yet a person getting hurt from hitting them. As you can tell I'm upset at the fact that in our house we have hunters who can't get drawn for a tag but for some reason there are plenty of deer out there that are getting hit by vehicles and I hate it when they belong to me. I am just very fortunate that in both our accidents last year none of my family members were hurt. Thanks for your time.

Ascher, Debra

From: GFP Admin Rules
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 9:57 AM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Comment on : GFP 2014 May Proposals - 2014 June Finals

Name: Cory L.

Address:

City: Hereford

State: SD

Zip: 57785

Email:

Phone:

Comment: I am a landowner and a hunter. From the landowners perspective I would like to see the season changed from January to December because we are already dealing with our normal deer hunting season. I feel that this would make easier for all landowners to manage their hunters and the hunting seasons. From the hunting perspective I would like to see the season moved from January to December because it would reduce the number of mature bucks that have lost their horns being shot accidently.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Proposed deer tag #

From: cory [mailto:farmboy77@live.com]

Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 9:33 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Proposed deer tag #

My family farms and runs cattle in potter and sully counties. As of late may we are still seeing large herds of does and yearling fawns all across the region. I feel your proposed reduction in tag # is ridiculous and unwarranted. The harvest last fall was down because of late harvested crops and extremely wet conditions. From what I and neighbors are seeing the tag # should actually be increased. If you persist with the steep reduction in tags we will close our lands to all but doe hunters. We are getting tired of the tremendous amount of damage done to our crops. Let alone damage done to our vehicles from road hits. Most of us have had to put heavy grille guards on our pickups to try and hold down on the damage. Thank you Keith Eidam Eidam Ranch Gettysburg SD.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Reduction in Deer Licenses for the 2014 Season

From: Lance Barber [mailto:lbarber@moorscabot.com]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 3:53 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Cc: Rich Gourash
Subject: Reduction in Deer Licenses for the 2014 Season

To whom it may concern,

As a person born in South Dakota and with very strong roots and family still in the state I have viewed the proposed reduction in Deer Licenses for the 2014 Hunting season with alarm. For many years my friends and I have travelled to South Dakota to be reunited with family members still residing in the state every fall for our annual deer hunt in the West River area. Typically we fly into Rapid City where we all meet and rent vehicles and then go shopping for whatever last minute hunting needs we may have before we have dinner in a local restaurant. Then we head up into our hunting area where we make contact with the local ranchers upon whose land we hunt. We hunt for 3 days usually and then take our game to local processors who will ship our meat home for us.

As you can imagine this is a very important social occasion for all of us, both family and friends, to renew our bonds as we enjoy the great hunting bounty and traditions of my home state of South Dakota. Also, we contribute greatly to the economy of South Dakota and some of the smaller communities where we buy rental cars, airline tickets, licenses and permits, meals, and gas, shells, and orange clothing, hotels, and trespass fees, game processing and shipping expenses, and assorted other expenses.

It is my hope that the state of South Dakota and the Game and Fish Commission will recognize the importance of family and friends gathering together every year to continue this tradition and the impact it has both economically within the state as well the strengthening of the family and friendship bonds so lacking these days in certain segments of our great nation.

I respectfully submit on behalf of my friends and family our combined disagreement with a reduction in Deer hunting licenses in the West River Area. We wish to introduce another generation to all that South Dakota has to offer and hope to do so with our annual pilgrimage for the fall 2014 Deer Hunting season.

Respectfully,

Lance Barber
Orlando, Florida

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: No mule doe season

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

From: wayne frederick [<mailto:wfrederick@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 12:56 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: No mule doe season

Hello my name is Wayne Frederick a land owner and manager in Todd county to whom it may concern please take my comment into consideration . Please stop or hold off mule doe season! West river or for sure Todd co. ..

Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Deer Tag Reduction

From: Edelen, Joe
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 1:12 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Deer Tag Reduction

I would like to comment against reducing the # of deer tags for the upcoming season. I am a heavy pheasant hunter but have hunted deer only once in my life in SD. The reduction in numbers notwithstanding, it certainly is nicer to see fewer dead animals on the highway and fewer cars being repaired because of fewer collisions with deer, partially attributed, I am sure, to the reduced numbers.

Keep the # of licenses up so hunters can enjoy the hunt, so out-of-staters continue to come and spend \$\$ here to hunt, and to keep the number of deer down at this reduced level. We don't need as big a population and you might think. I doubt that we are anywhere near the small critical mass necessary to keep the species alive.

Thanks,
Joe Edelen
Vermillion

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Reduction of east river deer tags

From: carl & gloria clausen [mailto:clauscg@venturecomm.net]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 1:45 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Reduction of east river deer tags

I am writing to give my opinion on the up coming reductions in east river deer tags for the upcoming season, perhaps there has been a die off or reduction in deer numbers in some parts of east river, I am only familiar with the Harrold area, here we have experienced wintering herds of 150 to as high as 300 deer all winter long, last fall during our rifle season we seemed to see as many deer as in years past, some of these deer were of course concentrated on farms due either to crop preference or the land owner restricting or banning hunting.

I do though fail to see where we have a shortage of deer, in our area, that would call for a reduction in deer tags, Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely, Carl W. Clausen

P.O. box 164

Harrold, SD. 57536

605-875-3555

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: GFP Commission to Finalize Deer Seasons

From: sam hunter [<mailto:buckskinsamie@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 12:13 PM

To: SDGFPINFO

Subject: Re: GFP Commission to Finalize Deer Seasons

I would like to request that as long as in state residents are denied a deer license during the any deer draw that the deer season be closed to out of state hunters. I have been denied several time and still see lots of out of state deer hunter in the Black Hills area

Custer Co., 10212 Redbird Canyon Road, Newcastle, Wyo. 82701

I live on the South Dakota-Wyo state line

This has been my residence for over thirty years.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: ER & WR Deer Season

From: Richard Smith [<mailto:richard.smith@pie.midco.net>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 5:19 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: ER & WR Deer Season

I am a land owner in Hutchinson County. I see that the Department is offering 20 licenses for the entire county. I also understand that many counties have been severely impacted by drought and disease. Why bother having a season in these drastically reduced counties. There will be more deer lost to road kill than hunters. This applies not only to rifle but also archery and muzzle loaders. It is beyond me how the Department did not see this coming especially on a state wide basis. I will continue to apply for licenses for selected areas and seasons but do not hold out much hope. I guess that the "No Hunting" sign does apply. Not that you are not welcome to hunt but that there is nothing to hunt!

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Comments on ER Deer

From: Ron Sckerl [<mailto:rsckerl@mediacombb.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 7:46 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Comments on ER Deer

I am a farmer in Brookings County and can not understand why the number of deer licenses should be reduced for Zone 06A. My observation is that we have more deer than in the last 25 years. Too many deer for landowners to tolerate. Relying on hunter success rates to estimate deer populations is not correct. Many factors contribute to success rates, not just deer population. Thanks for your consideration. Ron Sckerl, Brookings, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Deer tag License numbers proposal

From: Jere Hieb [<mailto:jerehomeinspection@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 12:41 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer tag License numbers proposal

Wishing to add comment to the GFP proposal to reduce deer licenses and tags. It is no surprise to me to see the need to greatly reduce the tags issued this coming season and probably for some years to come. What is frustrating is that the GFP has been warned that the deer numbers have not been there for some time now and finally drastic action is needed. The GFP seems to act in such wild swings of issuing tag numbers, just a few years ago the GFP couldn't sell enough tags, it was issuing hundreds of doe tags, double and even triple tags in some areas, now it is time to pay the piper. I and other veteran hunters told GFP personel what we believed was going on in the field, seeing fewer deer during other fall hunts, carcasses of dead deer found during pheasant season, etc. I have talked personally with GFP personel, written and called but I am convinced the GFP has it's own mind set and will not take seriously public comment. The GFP would be well served if it listened to veteran hunters and their opinions, many of us can give you 40-50 years of past situations and advice. You want to know why your regional meetings are not better attended, it is because comments for the most part fall on deaf ears, you hear but don't really listen, and that is unfortunate. I believe the GFP has downplayed the seriousness of the outbreak of disease in the deer herd, it is far more widespread than admitted, and has been for some time. I've talked to landowners who see deer in the spring and by harvest virtually none can be found, carcasses laying in corn fields and slough edges are more common.

As long as I have your ear, I wish to touch on two related topics. In reference to listening and follow-up on phone calls to game wardens I wish to relate what happened to me last fall. My son and I were on a late November pheasant hunt in McPherson county north of Hosmer when we jumped an elk, a young bull, from a grassy slough. No, I am not crazy, I know an elk when I see one. Later that afternoon I called the warden for that area, Mr. Galbraith and left a voice mail giving him the township, section number and other pertinent information about the sighting. I never did hear from him, is a courtesy call about the event and maybe an explanation or thank-you too much to ask? This is just my point about listening and hearing from the public.

The other is my continued plea that the GFP get more aggressive on predator control, especially skunk, raccoon and coyote. With decreasing habitat, predators are the most limiting factor we can control that are affecting wildlife populations. I would be willing to pay twice the current license fee if I saw it being used in habitat procurement and predator control. Maybe bring back the bounty system on certain predators above what the hunter can get for the pelt or hire more state trappers. More must be done.

In summary, I agree that the deer numbers warrant far fewer licenses, look at cutting back on some of the seasons that especially target does such as early youth and late season tags that convert to doe only. We all must step back and realize that having a deer tag for every conceivable season is just not possible any more. Thank you for the work you do, it is not easy, but I believe it could be easier if more effort was made to really listen to us.

Thank You for your time. Jere Hieb 3620 Pleasant View Dr, Brookings, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: deer hunting

From: Larry [<mailto:ldsingrey@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 11:40 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: deer hunting

In regards to the deer season in the Hamlin county east of Hazel we have an abundance of deer. I am disappointed that it looks like Hamlin county won't be open to muzzle loader for antlerless deer. I see lots of deer when I am working in the fields. They have killed several trees we planted in my mother's yard. They are thick enough they do some damage to my crops. There have been lots of deer killed on the roads in Hamlin county. Last year I filled all my tags with no trouble. I think the reason success was down was the weather. When I was out hunting it was nasty hunting weather and I saw very few hunters out. If you check the sheriff's reports it will show lots of deer being killed on Hamlin county roads. Thanks for all the work you do on the commission.

Larry Singrey

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: East River Deer Reduction

From: Brad & Cindy Schnabel [<mailto:bcbs@nvc.net>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 9:47 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: East River Deer Reduction

I think reducing the number of tags to manage deer is ok but you should not reduce the number of licenses. More single licenses rather than less licenses and still having multiple licenses is limiting the number of hunters.

Thanks Brad Schnabel
Aberdeen SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: Mule deer tags

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

From: James MacDougall [<mailto:jbmacmd@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 8:40 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Mule deer tags

I am a west river landowner and avid deer hunter. This email is to support the GFP proposal to markedly reduce or eliminate mule deer doe or any doe tags this season and in future as needed. Thank you for your work for SD GFP and sportsmen.

James B MacDougall
Aberdeen

Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: East River Deer proposals

From: Deb Haak [<mailto:suzabella@siouxvalley.net>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 7:02 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: East River Deer proposals

We would like to see the December- January season omitted. We would like to see an increase in the number of landowner/operator licenses.

We would like to see #6 of the Requirements- deleted. We would like to see no 3 tag and limited 2 tag issued licenses.

Deb Haak

25140 387th Ave

Plankinton SD 57368

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: East river deer

From: Dan & Karen Meier [<mailto:meierfarm@midstatesd.net>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 3:55 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: East river deer

Dear
GFP.

We have an overabundance of deer here in northeastern Brule county and in northwestern Aurora county. They are hazardous on the roads at night and you see a lot of them almost any time of the day. They need to be hunted more or they will probably die off like they did in other parts of the region. They are very hard on young trees and gardens besides the corn crops!!!! Please allow enough tags for our area to help remedy the problem...

Thanks DAN MEIER

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: SDWF Comments on Deer Proposal for Thursday

From: Chris Hesla [<mailto:sdwf@mncomm.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 9:09 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: SDWF Comments on Deer Proposal for Thursday

I regret the SDWF cannot make it to the GF&P Commission meeting in Yankton to testify in person. SDWF is in support of GFP's proposed cut to antlerless tags for the 2014 East and West River Deer seasons. It's enlightening and reassuring to see such cuts when our natural resources (deer herd) cannot continue to support past levels of license sales. I want to thank GF&P staff for their current proposal.

SDWF supports the current proposal and urges the Commission to adopt the proposed cuts in antlerless tags. We believe it will allow time for the deer herd to re-bounce; increase in size and regain its health, which would allow future increase in licenses and harvesting opportunities.

Thank You!
Chris Hesla

Chris Hesla, Executive Director
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
SDWFCamo-Coalition
Po Box 7075, Po Box 952
Pierre, SD 57501
605-224-7524 office
605-222-1002 cell

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: FW: antlerless deer season in January

From: SKoelewyn@aol.com [<mailto:SKoelewyn@aol.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 5:58 PM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: Re: FW: antlerless deer season in January

Scott Koelewyn
Harrisburg, SD 57032

From: SKoelewyn@aol.com [<mailto:SKoelewyn@aol.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 9:54 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: antlerless deer season in January

I would like to see the elimination of the antlerless deer season in January. I know in the past if you had an antlerless tag and did not fill it during the regular firearm season then you could try and fill it in the January season. I believe that this practice over the years has cut into our deer numbers and now it is one reason we are seeing a reduction in tag numbers and I also think buck numbers. Please consider elimination of this season.

Thank you

Scott Koelewyn

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Hunting proposals

From: Hugh Toenjes [<mailto:hit65@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 11:44 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Hunting proposals

Dear sirs,

This correspondence is to be directed to those who finalize the hunting rules for the BH1 region.

I am a disabled senior who has hunt for many years in the Black Hills. I am fully aware of the "over kill" on deer and elk in recent years. However this is not entirely due to the human hunter but also due to the increasing numbers of mountain lions in the area. Having said that I want you to consider allowing me to continue hunting in the Black Hills by amending the Archery season. This would mean instituting a "primitive weapons" season instead of just "archery" which include "flintlock" rifle using a patched round ball no smaller than .440", and only open sights. Using a "percussion" loaded with a round ball no smaller than .440"and only open sights. All "inline" muzzle loaders to used in regular rifle season or regular rifle season as they do not employ a handicap when hunting. This new rule should only be available to those who are disabled and only apply if they are using a rifle which is a "flintlock" or "percussion" as described above. Also you might want limit the choice of "archery", "regular rifle" or "muzzle loader" to just one choice per hunter.

Instituting the preceding recommendations would mean that those of us who are disabled could once again hunt in the Black Hills with out impacting the number tags that are being allotted.

Thank you for your confederation, Sincerely, Hugh Toenjes Custer, SD

*From the desk of **Hugh Toenjes Esq.***

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: 2014 Deuel Co licences

From: Joe Uckert [<mailto:juckert@itctel.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 11:43 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: 2014 Deuel Co licences

To whom it may concern,

I farm northwest of Clear Lake.

Last winter (2014) a herd of 70+ deer was just north of Clear Lake. Another herd of 100+ deer was 3 miles north and 2 miles west of Clear Lake.

The deer did not come into our feed yards this past winter like they did in 2013.

The proposal to reduce licences by 1/3 for Deuel County is too much of a reduction.

Last falls cold weather during the season reduced hunting activity.

Sincerely,

Joe Uckert
18005 475th Ave
Clear Lake, SD 57226
605.874.2529

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: WR Mule Deer Doe Tags

From: Micah Mauney [<mailto:MMauney@takcommunications.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 11:37 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: WR Mule Deer Doe Tags

SDGFP,

I am in favor of eliminating mule deer doe tags in Western SD until the populations get reestablished.

Thanks very much,

Micah Mauney

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: East River deer availability

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

From: jeff [<mailto:culopayoso@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 11:00 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: East River deer availability

I am sure there are some counties or portions of, that are experiencing low deer populations. Just keep in mind that not all are. And some areas still seem to have too many deer With all the deer that are being hit on the roadways in Eastern McCook and Western Minnehaha county. I do not feel there is a shortage here. Seems to also be an over abundance of deer in and or near the city limits of Sioux Falls, maybe relocation of some of these deer to counties experiencing low numbers would be appropriate?

Thanks for your time

Jeff Hanisch, Montrose, SD

Sent from my iPhone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Any Antlerless Deer tags

From: Dr. Don Massa [<mailto:drdon@massadentaloffices.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 9:32 AM

To: GFP Wild Info; jlcoop11@aol.com; Peterson, Cathy; Spies, Jim; barryj@gwtc.net; Sather, Duane; Jensen, Gary; hpd@nvc.net; Phillips, W. Scott

Subject: Any Antlerless Deer tags

Dear SD Game, Fish and Parks Commissioners,

I recommend that you follow recommendations set forth by the Game, Fish and Parks staff and not issue the Any Antlerless Deer Tags for any seasons in SD for the 2014 season. Mule Deer numbers have plummeted throughout SD and these numbers need to be corrected before harvesting Antlerless Mule Deer can continue.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best Regards,
Don Massa, DDS
SD NWTF Board of Directors
Edgemont, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: No Any Antlerless or Mule Doe Tags

From: ksevery winair.com

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 9:36 AM

To: GFP Wild Info; jlcoop11@aol.com; Peterson, Cathy; Spies, Jim; barryj@gwtc.net; Sather, Duane; Jensen, Gary; hpd@nvc.net; Phillips, W. Scott

Subject: Support - No Any Antlerless or Mule Doe Tags

SD GF&P Commissioners,

I would like you to know that I am in support of the recommendation of having no any antlerless or mule doe tags for the West River archery, muzzleloader, and especially rifle season.

After hunting West River over the last 15 + years there is certainly a noticeable decline in Mule Deer population. I would like to recommend at least a 2-3 year no harvesting Anterless Mule Deer Tags or Mule Doe Tags.

Thank you

*Kevin Severy
President
Sioux Falls Winair Co.*

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Deer Season Comments

From: Reid Vander Veen [<mailto:Reid.VanderVeen@interstates.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 10:14 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer Season Comments

As both a bow and gun hunter, harvesting deer primarily in Day County, I support this decision to reduce the amount of licenses and tags. While I appreciate the easy access to tags of recent years, conservation efforts need to be taken seriously in order to ensure we will all be able to continue experiencing the joys of hunting for the foreseeable future. On our properties, we've seen little or no decrease in population. In fact, the deer population in our hunting areas has likely increased, if it has changed at all. As with all conservation efforts around the state, maintaining this healthy herd of deer is by design.

Please continue to give careful consideration to your conservation efforts and do all you can to ensure safe, ethical hunting can be enjoyed for future generations.

Reid A. Vander Veen
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: 2014 Deer Season

From: Larry Larson [<mailto:larry.larson@vaisinc.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 10:41 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: 2014 Deer Season

I think the number of deer license's available should be evaluated by county and not across the board for east river and west river. Thanks.

Sincerely,

DAKOTA CLAIMS SERVICE OF HURON

Larry L. Larson, Manager
Huron, South Dakota

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: MULE DEER

From: Chance Wooden Knife [<mailto:chancewk@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 11:59 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: MULE DEER

Hello SD GF&P Commissioners

I support the SD GF&P's staff recommendation of having no any antlerless or mule doe tags for the West River archery, muzzleloader, and especially rifle season.

Please consider this for the next 2-3 upcoming years to allow the mule deer population to rebound in South Dakota. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Chance Wooden Knife, [White River, SD](#)

Ascher, Debra

From: GFP Admin Rules
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 9:57 AM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Comment on : GFP 2014 May Proposals - 2014 June Finals

Name: Cory L.

Address:

City: Hereford

State: SD

Zip: 57785

Email:

Phone:

Comment: I am a landowner and a hunter. From the landowners perspective I would like to see the season changed from January to December because we are already dealing with our normal deer hunting season. I feel that this would make easier for all landowners to manage their hunters and the hunting seasons. From the hunting perspective I would like to see the season moved from January to December because it would reduce the number of mature bucks that have lost their horns being shot accidently.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: deer reduction

From: Bill Dodge [<mailto:Bill.Dodge@co.hughes.sd.us>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 12:31 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: deer reduction

I'm all for cutting back on tags. If you're a meat hunter you will feel the pinch. If you're a trophy hunter you'll probably feel the pinch. One thing for sure, if you don't make some sacrifices now it will only add to the decline in deer population. I say cut the number of tags!

Bill Dodge

Administrator

Hughes County Jail

Pierre SD 57501

605-773-7475 (W)

Bill.Dodge@co.hughes.sd.us

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: deer proposals

From: Mike Jarding [<mailto:MikeJarding@GoldenWest.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 12:49 PM

To: GFP Wild Info; jlcoop11@aol.com; Peterson, Cathy; Spies, Jim; barryj@gwtc.net; Sather, Duane; Jensen, Gary; hpd@nvc.net; Phillips, W. Scott

Subject: deer proposals

Dear SDGF&P Commissioners

I would like to comment on the upcoming deer proposals. Living in the far southern hills, we have noticed a drastic decline in the deer population, especially mule deer. I have talked with numerous hunters and ranchers, and they all agree that something needs to be done and this proposal is a good first step. Listening to your last meeting I heard the words "times have changed in hunting" a few times. They have changed, a lot in the last 10 years, but not for the better. People want to see wildlife when they go hiking or hunting, and hunters want mature-aged animals. With the current deer proposals, I believe GF&P are in the right direction and encourage you to continue to consider what hunters and wildlife enthusiasts want to see in the deer population. I would also like to comment on the turkey population. The last five years we have noticed a big decrease in the turkey population. I believe the fall season should be a male only harvest and I strongly believe we should not to be allowed to use a rifle in all the turkey seasons, spring and in fall. Data shows wet springs can cause low recruitment in turkey poults. The past two years have been very wet and we have seen very few young turkeys.

Thank you Mike Jarding
Hot Springs SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: deer season

From: Christensen, Larry [<mailto:LChristensen@sfgmembers.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 7:52 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: deer season

Please do not cut the number of deer license. I live in Lincoln County near Lennox. I have so many problems with deer in my CRP trees. I have to replant every year because they either rub the trees or break them off. I also see a lot on the road being hit. My wife was coming home from Lennox and one ran into the side of her car. If anything we need to increase the number to lower the population. I have had several people hunting on my land, but still see too many deer.

Larry Christensen
Lennox S.D.
351-5783

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Support - No Any Antlerless or Mule Doe Tags

From: Matt Rippentrop [<mailto:mattrippentrop@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 7:05 AM

To: John (SD GF&P) Cooper; Peterson, Cathy; Jim Spies; Barry (SD GF&P) Jensen; Duane (SD GF&P) Sather; Gary (SD GF&P) Jensen; Paul (SD GF&P) Dennert; Scott (New Underwood) Phillips; GFP Wild Info

Subject: Support - No Any Antlerless or Mule Doe Tags

Hello SD GF&P Commissioners

I support the SD GF&P's staff recommendation of having no any antlerless or mule doe tags for the West River archery, muzzleloader, and especially rifle season. After speaking with numerous ranchers across Tripp, Mellette, Jones, Todd, and Fall River County, they are also in favor of no mule doe tags.

Please consider this for the next 2-3 upcoming years to allow the mule deer population to rebound in South Dakota. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Matt "Rip" Rippentrop

Oelrichs, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: deer licenses

From: ELLIE DE BEER [<mailto:elliedebeer@msn.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 6:57 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: deer licenses

It is fine with us if the number of tags are reduced, but lets allow at least as many hunters try. My son owns 137 acres in McCook County, and has deer on his land, but could not get a license last year. Yet other people are allowed to harvest 2 or 3 deer. Why not let them just get one deer each? My husband owns 160 acres in Turner County, and was able to get a landowner license for one deer on his land, but our son was not allowed to hunt with him, due to not winning the the license lottery.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eloise DeBeer & Dale DeBeer, 2301 S Eisenhower Circle, Sioux Falls, SD 57106

our son, David J DeBeer, 708 S Tanglewood Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Deer tags

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

From: Matt Foley [<mailto:matteoj10@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 10:04 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer tags

We're in Kingsbury county where deer are heavily populated....too populated. Bucks are everyone's first choice. When you draw 'Doe only' tags year after year...it reduces the desire to hunt. Have you thought about issuing doe tags first...where you have to tag/register a doe before you can get a buck tag? Reduction of tags in this county would be a mistake.

MATT
605-350-2321

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Deer Tags

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

From: Chad Savey [<mailto:saveyhunter@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 8:56 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer Tags

I 110% support the cut in deer tags!! The perfect storm happened with deer numbers and although some people may not get a tag for a few years it is important that we try to bring the herd back to as close as it was in the 2000's. There was WAY too many tags given out, disease, and loss of habitat ruined some of the best hunting we have ever seen. In the 2000's there were a number of big deer around and the past few years there have been very few. There are some hunters that just want a tag, but there is an increasing number of hunters who want to shoot a quality buck and the GF&P needs to do what it can to cater to both types of hunters. Cut the tags and look back at the 2000's and analyze what it was that made those years so successful and learn from it!! The big game in this state has taken a huge setback now lets get it back on track and keep it there!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Deer hunting comments

From: Rich Nickerson [<mailto:RPNickerson@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 8:27 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer hunting comments

For your consideration:

Reducing the deer tags available is a good idea to increase the herd.

No non-resident tags should be issued until all resident's applying receive requested tags, in their desired units.

Rich Nickerson
Pierre

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: Deer license reduction

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

From: Travis Kohnen [<mailto:travisgk2001@icloud.com>]

Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 8:18 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer license reduction

Hi my name is Travis Kohnen. I have been hunting deer since I was 12. Im now 35. Its a passion that i share with my father and mother my wife and my 3 boys all of which can hunt. Around my area which is spink and beadle county's i don't think there is a need to reduce the licenses. I haven't read up on how the sdgfp is going to or where you are going to reduce the licenses but i think if your going to reduce them it should be on a county by county not overall east and west river. My family has farmed here for over 100 years. We have put land in CRP and put in food plots and shelter belts. We did it manly for the animals to get the deer and pheasants back in our area which it worked. We always get our deer licenses threw the landowner preference the one were we have to hunt on our own land not the general drawing. If you do reduce the licenses I would like to see the land owner get a license no matter what, before the out of county hunters. Us as farmers are the ones who feed the deer and pheasants and ducks year round so it would be nice to see the land owner get a little pat on the back by getting a license no matter what if they want one to hunt on there own land. Not free of course we don't mind paying for the license. I know it would break my boys heart if they couldn't get a license. They look forward to November every year. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Travis Kohnen

Sent from my iPad

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: FW: Deer license

From: Jason Johns [<mailto:jaska28@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 12:07 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer license

I am struggling with the idea of cutting the amount of deer tags as drastically as you are recommending. I feel it is hard enough to get tags in some counties especially without land owner preference. From what I could tell last year there does not seem to be that much of a drop in the deer population. The largest problem was the extreme decrease in habitat and available areas to hunt. There were large herds that we watched for four days located on private land without the ability to hunt them. When landowners are feeding them and attempting to gouge hunters for the ability to hunt private land is where the problem lies.

I feel the amount you are suggesting to cut license numbers is far too drastic. Is there any plan to limit the amount of non-resident over resident so that South Dakota residents aren't losing out on the ability to hunt because of the amount of non-resident hunters that flock to the state.

Sioux Falls, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Deer numbers

From: Mark Oswald [<mailto:moswald23@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 7:04 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer numbers

The decision to decrease numbers is well overdue. I have been hunting for years and the number of deer keep dropping every year. Also there are way too many seasons.

Sioux Falls, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: deer license reduction

From: Deb [<mailto:debheyd@excite.com>]

Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 1:06 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: deer license reduction

We live in the Aberdeen area and have land in McPherson County. We cannot believe how ridiculous the idea of reducing deer licenses is. All you have to do is drive along the highways around here and see all the deer laying from vehicles hitting them. There are so many deer in this area and now you are thinking of reducing the number of tags?

Wouldn't it make more sense to have these deer in peoples freezers rather than hit by a vehicle lying on the side of the road?

Maybe if the deer licenses are reduced, we should get reimbursed for our deductible when we have to fix our vehicles of the damage done by hitting so many deer on the highway.

There are so many herds of deer in McPherson County that they are destroying winter feed for the livestock.

thank you. [Deb Heyd, Aberdeen, SD](#)

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: Deer Tags

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

From: Mark Olson [<mailto:olsonm4@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 12:13 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer Tags

I deer hunt in Day County on land owned by family for 4 generations. It is difficult enough getting deer tags and there are always plenty of deer to go around. The number of tags available was cut in half last year and is now being proposed to be cut in half again to be a quarter of what it was 2 years ago. I am concerned that the family tradition of deer hunting there and the providing of deer meat for my family will be sacrificed for no reason. I have yet to witness a case of chronic wasting disease in the area and the population there is thriving to the point that deer are constantly on the highway and affecting crops. Further, my family and I value the meat harvested from deer hunting because it is lean and free from additives and hormones found in store bought meat. No one cries for a furlough of the pheasant hunting seasons even though little meat is harvested from the bird and 90% of the hunting of pheasants is for game. I can only deduce that pheasants aren't spared because of the income brought to the state. When it all boils down to it, income for the GFP is what separates the differences in the handling of the pheasant and deer seasons.

Mark Olson

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: East River Deer 2014

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

From: Adam Golay [<mailto:adamgolay@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 11:18 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: East River Deer 2014

When it comes to Jerauld county the 200 double antlerless whitetail tags are unnecessary. There was EHD in 2012 & the deer haven't fully bounced back yet from that. Aurora county probably doesn't need the 200 double antlerless tags either. The EHD hit there even worse in 2012. The 200 double antlerless tags should be removed from the harvest this year in these counties. Take this advice from someone who hunts there year after year & sees the deer populations. We can tell when the numbers are down & they are down right now. Lincoln county where my home is probably has more deer than Jerauld county & there are only 200 single tags total for that county. It doesn't make sense. I'm not sure where you get your tag numbers from but they don't coincide with deer populations for those zones. Thanks.

Adam G
Sioux Falls

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: EHD Statistics Gregory county 2013

From: L.K. Williams [<mailto:lkwjls2@goldenwest.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 12:49 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: EHD Statistics Gregory county 2013

To whom it may concern,
From L.K.Williams resident Fairfax Gregory Co. SD

I read with interest your statistics of only two deer being lost to EHD in Gregory Co. This of course is highly inaccurate. You relied on citizen reports of deaths of deer, apparently no one reported to you possibly because of the many commercial interests associated with the deer hunting business in Gregory Co. Whatever the case, a significantly larger number of deer died during the EHD epidemic. I own a 76 acres surrounded by corn/ soybean fields and pastures. My little plot of land had 6 deaths by itself. Most farmers I spoke to experienced 6-10 dead deer per section of tall corn, around ponds or shady cool draws where the infected deer went in an attempt to stay cool (due to their fever). Many longtime residents are estimating 50-60 % of the population as killed by EHD.

I realize my just my experience is scientifically not significant, but I hope you have employed other more sound methodology in evaluating the true impact the EHD on the deer population so that appropriate management action may be taken.

Sincerely,

L.K. Williams lkwjls2@goldenwest.net

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: FW: reduce deer tags

Ryan Roehr Aberdeen, SD

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Acs [<mailto:acs@venturecomm.net>]

> Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 7:21 PM

> To: GFP Wild Info

> Subject: reduce deer tags

>

> Hello, Just wondering if a shortened rifle season(back to the 2
> weekend season,the original one) is part of the plan to help the deer
> population, it should be. And getting rid of the late season for
> rifle(that is one of the worse things ever done to young deer)?
> Changing and getting rid of these seasons would help the deer
> population a lot in the long run,espically on bad winters.
> Thank You, Ryan

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Reduce archery tags too

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

From: Derrick Boomsma [<mailto:boomer5569@santel.net>]

Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 5:45 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Reduce archery tags too

There's no way u guys have any idea how many people bow hunt. And now they r so good with bows u don't know kill rates. There needs to be reduction in archery tags too. Deer herds are at all time lows where I hunt. Stop givin unlimited bow tags. 2 at most is plenty.

Wolsey, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Comments regarding SD deer hunting seasons.

From: Nick Klosterman [mailto:nklosterman78@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 7:15 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Comments regarding SD deer hunting seasons.

Hello, and thank you for interest in our opinions. I have provided some candid responses to some of the proposed topics.

I have seen a definite reduction in the deer population in recent years and I do agree with the reduction of licenses and tags issued for the east and west river deer seasons. I also agree with not issuing antlerless tags for the Black Hills season. I believe the reduction of the deer population statewide is contributed to several factors from several harsh winters, EHD/blue tongue, predation and hunting pressure. So, in order to see the deer populations back to healthy levels I believe that a reduction in the number of rifle tags issued would benefit the states herd of both whitetail and mule deer.

I personally would also like to see the rifle season dates moved outside of the peak rut to allow the mature bucks a better fighting chance to breed. I believe this would be beneficial to both the population as well as trophy quality with less mature bucks getting taken at range when they are the most vulnerable. I agree with the youth hunters 1 allowed antlerless permit.

I am an avid archer / bow hunter and have had several very successful seasons including a lucky draw in the Adams Preserve area for 2013 where I harvested a beautiful buck in the preserve that officially scored net pope and young 155 3/8 on 11/24/13. Inside the park I saw a good healthy population of deer and had many good encounters. The deer herd feels safe in the park and I saw a concentration in numbers there, though when compared to other areas even surrounding there to be almost vacant of deer. I am not opposed to reducing the number of hunters allowed to 5. The reduction in deer numbers has reduced the opportunity locally (minnehaha and surrounding counties) for me and along with increased pressure and limited public hunting opportunities. It has caused me to go farther and further to provide myself those opportunities to harvest deer. So, I would absolutely like to see the deer herds increase to the status they were at even 6 or 7 years ago. In regards to the archery regulation changes I am very opinionated. Please consider my opinions as the most ethical in my view.

Regarding the changes to archery equipment:

- Remove the barbed point broadhead restriction.

" There is no reason to use a barbed broadhead unless you are bowfishing. A big game broadhead should not need or have barbed points. "

- Allow the use of cameras, video cameras and cell phones provided they are used strictly for photographic purposes and allow for the use of lighted sight pins and arrow nocks.

" I agree with allowing Bow mounted cameras and cell phone brackets to film the hunt as long as it does not aid in the taking of the animal such as laser pointers etc. I see no reason a bow mounted camera or cell phone should not be allowed as long as it does not interfere with the mechanics of the bow. This footage can be beneficial to review for shot placement etc. Lighted nocks are also beneficial in this manner and agree with verbiage to allow their use. In my opinion if you need a light on a fiberoptic pin set up to see your pins in a lot of cases, it is probably too dark to shoot anyway. They however could be beneficial

in a ground blind where light is low to begin with. I see no harm in allowing a light on the sight, I personally would choose not to use them anyway."

- Allow compound bows that measure 28 inches from the top of the upper wheel or cam to the bottom of the lower wheel or cam to be legal.

"Not a fan of this proposal. Bows with a very short A2A such as this are mostly childrens bows and or are very unstable. I see no functional reason a hunting bow should be this short."

- Clarify that electronic string releases would be illegal.

"I agree they should be documented as illegal."

- Allow hunters to use mechanical broadheads for elk hunting.

" This is the one topic that i strongly oppose! I believe mechanical broadheads should remain illegal to use on elk in South Dakota. I am not a fan of them at all to even use on any thing other than possibly a turkey. I have had nothing but negative experiences with them and absolutely REFUSE to use them while hunting anything. Archery is a very technical sport that requires the shooter to be proficient with his equipment in order to make an ethical kill. In my experiences there is a large population of hunters that are not proficient with their equipment and make poor and unethical choices and take shots that shouldnt be and dont practice with their bow enough. Then couple that with a mechanical broadhead that has the potential for failure, premature blade deployment or non deployment upon impact only increase this margin for error. Then what are we left with? A wounded or maimed animal that only helps paint a negative picture of archery hunters. The mechanicals also take away from the kenetic energy of the arrow to deploy which 'especially for a lower poundage bow' need all they can get to get through a thick skinned heavy boned animal like an elk. I am a firm believer that only a solid fixed blade broadhead should continue to be allowed on elk. I shoot a bow at 70 pounds and even with a full weight bow like that it is hard to punch through bone and shoulder on a deer which is much lighter than an elk. So, shot placement would be completely critical and in the heat of the moment a perfect shot in the pit that bites heart and lung and avoids heavy bone is hard enough for those of us that are proficient with our gear and practice throughout the year. With that being said, is a lower poundage bow '40-50 lbs' shooting a weak thin bladed mechanical that they saw on the end cap in the box store with a big advertising budget going to be able to punch through the a shoulder on an elk... no way! That also leads into the next subject of minimum bow poundage." So I will stress this point and please do not allow mechanicals on elk. It will in my opinion only lead to lost/wounded animals and damage to this limited precious resourse.

- Remove the restriction on mechanical broadheads with a cutting diameter greater than 2 inches.

" I believe mechanicals should not be used regardless. However people will continue to use them. I believe a 2 or more inch wide broadhead is going to be extremely prone to damage/ blade breakage and improper blade deployment, especially when it encounters heavy bone. I have seen a rib bone break a fix blade broadhead, let alone a very thin wide blade. No additional comments."

- Clarify that a metal broadhead (fixed or mechanical) must be used and that hunters may use blunt points when hunting turkeys.

I guess it cant hurt to include the verbage "metal". I am Not a fan of blunt points on turkeys however. The feathers on a turkeys breast and wings are thick and only a head shot would be certainly lethal. The head on a turkey is small. I personally feel it would only lead to wounded birds. Please do not change this regulation.

- Provide for a minimum bow draw weight of 40 pounds for individuals hunting elk and 30 pounds for individuals hunting all other big game.

" Im not a fan of this proposal either. As I stated in my commentary regarding mechanicals it is difficult to get a perfect shot and even more difficult to do that with a lower poundage bow and get enough penetration to get an entical kill. I feel minimum poundage should remain 40# for deer/turkey and 50# for elk. Anything less than that has no business being fielded in my opinion. If you are unable to draw 40# even with todays more effecient bows then you are not hunting ethlically, and your chances for wounding an animal increase exponentially."

As an avid hunter, taxidermist and lover of the outdoors I have an unfound appreciation for our resources and would like to see good oportunities continue for future generations. Thank you for asking for our views which only means that the opinions of the sportsman community are valued by our gaming officials who also enjoy the natural resources our state has to offer.

Thank you
Nick Klosterman.
Dell Rapids SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Deer Permits

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

From: Michael Christians [<mailto:christiansm@wat.midco.net>]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 5:47 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer Permits

Hello:

I would like to see the number of permits maintained at current levels. The roads for motorcycles are much safer today than when the deer population was high. I would encourage the powers at be to make saving lives the top priority by maintaing permits at the current levels

Thank you

Sent from the iPhone of Michael Christians 847 910 0211

Northbrook, IL

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: deertags

From: harry mitchell [<mailto:wanesarose1@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 9:44 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: deertags

I have not seen a decrease in whitetail deer numbers where I hunt that would warrant such a drastic decrease in tags. if you really believe numbers of does are so low, why issue unlimited youth tags with overly long season? definitely oppose the proposed change.

Hotsprings, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: West River deer hunting season

From: James O'Neill [mailto:skinney_7@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 6:22 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: West River deer hunting season

To whom it may concern,

We have found 60 to 80% of the whitetail population gone due to the hemorrhagic disease... If this year continues as last, it's going to be 5 years to a decade before we reach what was lost.

Being a landowner and constantly monitoring, conserving, and hunting wildlife, I would like to see a massive decrease in deer tags specifically whitetail, until they reach a sustainable number once again.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note® 3, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Proposals

From: stnn1@pie.midco.net [mailto:stnn1@pie.midco.net]

Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 2:54 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Proposals

I agree with the new Archery proposals on equipment.

I agree with the proposal to only allow one antlerless archery whitetail tag per year.

I agree with muzzleloader proposal allowing only one antlerless whitetail tag also.

I agree with limiting youth hunters to one antlerless tag and it should be for either mule or whitetail deer to provide a great hunting experience to beginning hunters.

What I don't agree with is still setting aside eight percent of the West River licenses to out of staters with such drastic drops in tags which includes many "any deer" or "any whitetail" tags. We should lower the percentage available to 2 or 3% this year or maybe suspend them like GFP did with the Antelope tags when their numbers dropped. That would allow more opportunities at drawing a tag for the Residents of this state who choose to live here because of our Hunting opportunities. Of course when numbers rebound then increase the tags allowed back to the current 8%.

Thanks you for your consideration of these comments.

Scott Johnson

Fort Pierre SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: ending Archery season dates.

From: dpenning sdfuneral.com

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 4:45 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: ending Archery season dates.

I really feel it is in the best interest of the deer herds to end December 31. Once the Bucks start dropping their horns, they could be shot as an antlerless deer. It would also put less stress on the does that are carrying fawns at that point. They can go into winter survival mode, without being chased.

Dale Penning

27185 Prairie Lane

Harrisburg, SD 57032

605-743-5464

605-360-8231

Member of the South Dakota Bowhunters

Pope & Young Club

Quality Deer Management

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Deer numbers

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

From: Mike Kula [mailto:mkula@mncomm.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 5:29 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Deer numbers

I like to meet the guy that counted the deer the numbers are not down. I had a herd of over 200 this winter. Destroying my trees.

Subject: FW: proposed changes to archery equipment

Mr. Chairman and commissioners,

My name is Harry Globstad and I would like to respond to the proposed changes to the archery restrictions. I started bowhunting big game in 1973 and have bowhunted every year thereafter, including several states and Canadian provinces. I have been a Bowhunter Education instructor since 1993 serving as a Master Instructor for most of that time and served on the board of directors for South Dakota Bowhunters Inc. for nine years serving as vice-president for seven of those years. I see most of these proposed changes as unnecessary and some to be counterproductive to our sport.

Barbed Points

We as bowhunters will always do our best to ensure that every animal we harvest is taken in as quick and humane way as possible but there will always be the rare instance where something happens and the arrow impacts in a non-vital area. There have been several studies, most notably the Camp Ripley study, proving that a great majority of these animals make a full recovery when the arrow is free to work back out or be pulled out by the animal. The barbed point would not allow this to happen and could result in a slow painful death. In any case with a barbed point the arrow could remain in the animal effectively plugging the wound resulting in a marginal or nonexistent blood trail making recovery difficult or impossible since even well hit animals may go a substantial distance before succumbing to hemorrhage and death. The barbed point restriction should definitely remain in place.

Expandable broadheads on elk and the removal of the 2" maximum cutting diameter

Even though there have been improvements in expandable heads over the last several years, they still require a great deal of kinetic energy to deploy and result in substantially less penetration especially on large animals like elk. Less penetration means less tissue damage with less hemorrhage resulting in a much longer blood trail and recovery time. This restriction was put in place because of the high wounding loss on elk and with our limited elk numbers there is no reason to allow a less affective head to be made legal further diminishing our resource. Many of todays mechanical broadheads also lock open resulting in a barbed point making the situation even worse. If you remove the 2" diameter restriction it could result in such low penetration that it would result in the same scenario for even smaller game like deer and antelope. The best arrow is one that makes a complete pass-through of the animal with a double sided blood trail and a quick recovery.

Lighted sight pins

Although an electronically lighted sight pin may allow a hunter in a ground blind to utilize the last few minutes of legal shooting light it would also allow a hunter in a treestand to see their pins well past legal light. On a full moon night a "hunter" could see an animal well enough to use a lighted sight to "hunt" all night long. I understand we can't control every unethical hunter willing to break the law but that's no reason to give them another tool to circumvent the laws.

Only allowing broadheads to be carried while hunting

This requirement would not allow a hunter to carry a Judo point or blunt in their quiver unless hunting turkeys. Almost all of the bowhunters I know do carry a judo point with them because there is no better form of practice

then shooting at a tuft of grass or a pinecone with a Judo point. Judging distance is very important to placing an arrow exactly where you need it and practicing with a Judo when in the field is a great way to hone distance judging skills.

Draw weight restrictions

Simply put, lowering the draw weight restrictions is not necessary and, especially with mechanical broadheads, would result in more wounded and un-recovered animals. Not only would this be bad for the resource but animals running around with arrows sticking out of them would be a public relations nightmare for GF&P and other bowhunters. I have worked with many youth and have found very few if any that could not shoot a 40# bow if they put in the practice before season. I realize we want to allow anyone who wishes to hunt to have the opportunity but I don't believe lowering the draw weight is the way to do it. The negatives far outweigh the positives for this issue.

Definition of a broadhead and blunt

The new definition of a broadhead simply states two metal cutting edges with no length or diameter restrictions and would legalize plastic bodied broadheads as long as they have a couple of metal blades attached and would actually legalize any diameter of metal chisel point as long as two sides are sharp. There have been several examples of plastic heads in years past and they have proven to be too weak to hold up to hitting any size bone. Doing away with the minimum diameter would allow for such small heads that they would not result in enough hemorrhage to result in a quick humane harvest. The definition of a blunt is currently at a minimum of 9/16" and if that is removed would legalize almost anything with a flat facing surface to be used for hunting turkeys.

For the betterment of our sport we need to always use the best and most effective equipment available and reducing the minimums to this degree would be detrimental to the animals and the overall future of bowhunting in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Harry Globstad, 987 Pennington St., Rapid City SD,

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Lighted Pins and Knocks

From: Seth Vant Hof [<mailto:supervh88@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 8:45 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Lighted Pins and Knocks

Please go forward with allowing lighted pins and knocks on archer equipment. In order to be ethical you need to either legalize the use of lighted pins or make it illegal to shoot after sunset. There have been several times that I haven't been able to shoot during legal shooting light due to not being able to see my pins, especially while using a ground blind. Any law that is set in place in order to stop someone from breaking another law is a waste of time. If I choose to shoot after shooting light, I am already someone breaking the law. If I am that type of a person I will have no problem having lighted pins to do that even if it is against the law to do that also.

Thanks for taking my words into consideration,

Seth Vant Hof
Dell Rapids, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: Fw: archery regulations

From: broadheadshovel@yahoo.com
To: JLCOOP11@aol.com
Sent: 6/2/2014 7:38:01 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: Fw: archery regulations

Commissioners:

I am opposed to allowing mechanical broadheads for elk hunting. Large big game animals with heavier hides, bones and body structure are much less susceptible to these types of equipment.

All African archery outfitters have banned the use of mechanical broadheads because of their inherent efficiency problems.

Please retain the present ban on mechanical broadheads for elk hunting in South Dakota.

Thank-you for your consideration.

Jim Dahlberg
Hot Springs, SD
605-745-5650

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: ARSD 41:06:05:01. Archery equipment restrictions

From: Bob Miller [<mailto:bobmiller54@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2014 6:16 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: ARSD 41:06:05:01. Archery equipment restrictions

Hello,

My name is Robert Miller, I am 60 years old and I live in Hot Springs.

In reading over your proposed rule changes for archery hunting in South Dakota, I see you are missing a few things. I have been handicapped since birth, but I started bow hunting in 1972.

Now at 60, I have gotten to the point that a crossbow and permit are necessary .

In researching into the purchase of a crossbow, I see there is nothing on the market that fits under the rules of South Dakota. All are delivered with scopes of more than 1x power, or are configured in such a way that a pin sight system cannot be mounted and used. A 1x scope I'm presuming is a "none magnifying sight" as per State Law. Google "one power crossbow scopes", nothing comes up! 1x-> variables are available, but no fixed 1x scopes.

Just how is person to conform to State Law, when legal equipment is not available?

As far as allowing the use of lighted sight pins, I just see this as a reason to think one can add 15 minutes (more or less) to both opening and closing hours to hunt, and it will be abused.

I am also concerned about Bow Hunter Education as pertaining to the use of a crossbow. Since crossbow use in South Dakota is for the disabled only, several issues come to mind.

1. Some people think that hunting with a crossbow is too much like gun hunting. Crossbows look like and are handled and aimed somewhat like a gun. So what safety rules are to be gained by taking bow hunter safety?
2. Since only qualified disabled people can obtain a crossbow permit in South Dakota, what will a person gain from the class time lent to tree stand safety? Chances are disabled people will not be climbing any trees in the first place.
3. Even if a disabled crossbow hunter were to take a Bow Hunter Safety course, on the field/range day would there be an instructor there that would know the ins and outs of a crossbow? Let alone have the equipment to be used by the student?

Please know that I am speaking as a South Dakota HuntSafe Instructor. I would like to see my points addressed and considered.

Thank You,

Robert Miller

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Proposed Archery Regulations

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

From: kevhans@nrctv.com [<mailto:kevhans@nrctv.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 9:16 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Proposed Archery Regulations

Hello.

Just read through my email from GFP concerning the season dates and proposed archery regs. The only archery reg I think is a bad one is the one that says a person hunting with a bow cannot possess an arrow that doesn't have a broadhead on it [ARSD 41:06:05:01. Archery equipment restrictions. A person hunting with bow and arrow may not use or possess any of the following:

((11) An arrow without a broadhead (fixed or mechanical) that has at least two metal cutting edges, except blunt points may be used when hunting turkeys;] My problem with this is I interpret it to mean I cannot carry a blunt in my quiver and take a practice shot with it right after I climb into my stand, or if it's a morning stand take a practice shot before climbing down? Or while antelope hunting I can't carry some blunts with me and take practice shots as I rove across the prarie?

Roving, stump shooting, whatever you want to call it, is an integral part of my hunting. I think this regulation should be reworded to allow for practice arrows to be carried in the quiver Thanks for taking the time to read this, and thanks for all you do for SD bowhunters.

Respectfully,

Kevin J. Hansen

17104 375th Ave.

Zell, SD 57469

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Archery Regulations

From: Mike McKnight [<mailto:msmcknight2912@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 6:59 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Archery Regulations

My name is Mike McKnight from Sioux Falls and I am writing to support the proposed changes to the archery regulations with one exception that I will mention below. I was personally involved in working with GFP, SDAA and NFAA on these changes and I believe what is proposed is fair and understandable by all. We worked hard on this proposal and I would urge passage. Number 11 however arguably prohibits a big game hunter from carrying a blunt or judo type point in his or her quiver. This was NOT ever discussed as a group, was NEVER intended by the group and should be removed or otherwise fixed. Many bowhunters (myself included) carry blunt or judo type points while big game hunting to use for practice on stumps or clumps etc. It keeps my eye sharp and in practice and makes me a more ethical hunter. I also use that type of point for small game from time to time as well. I would ask that this portion of the rule be fixed. Thank you.

Mike McKnight
2912 S. Duchess Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Archery Season/Equipment Discussion

From: Dana Rogers [<mailto:dahusker@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 3:33 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Archery Season/Equipment Discussion

Please include in public comment for finalization committee meeting.

As a member of SDBI I was involved in the discussion at the state convention regarding most of these rule change submissions. I fully support the removal of restriction on lighted sights, broadhead diameter, elk hunting with expandables and the draw length and weight measurement reductions. All changes will help make fewer rules and help with recruitment. The more efficient energy producing technology also makes the equipment changes a wise choice and ensures far fewer pro-crossbow arguments as most all individuals can draw a 30 pound bow.

Although the season change was unanimously voted down I ask that be reconsidered at the next available opportunity. An earlier opening for Archery deer would really make for a more enjoyable west river archery season. They could be combined with archery antelope to allow for more opportunity. In most of the eastern part of the state the impact would be minimal at best as most of the deer are secluded in fields and all crops are still standing in September. I continue to request the closure of all deer hunting in January to allow the deer to rest and protect against the harvest of bucks who've already shed.

Thanks for your consideration and the continued efforts of the staff and board on behalf of the wildlife.

Dana R. Rogers
327 Freude Ln.
Box Elder, SD 57719
(605) 415-8443 C

Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

My name is Ron Kolbeck and I live in Salem, South Dakota. I am writing to express my concerns with the proposed changes to the Archery Restrictions.

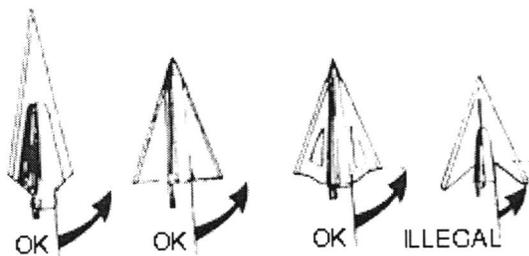
I have been an avid bowhunter in South Dakota since purchasing my first archery deer license in 1977, the first season I could effectively shoot a 45 lb. recurve bow. I received my Bowhunter Education certification in 1993. I started teaching Bowhunter Education classes with my Dad in 1999, and I continue today. I am also a HuntSafe instructor and am a founding member and current President of the South Dakota Hunter Education Instructor Association. The concerns with the proposed Archery Restrictions identified below are a direct result of my personal experiences as a bowhunter and as an instructor, as well as the countless discussions with other bowhunters and instructors across the state.

By far the greatest ethical issue any hunter must consider is the issue of killing the animals we hunt as cleanly, quickly, and humanely as possible. I believe that this issue is what led to many of the current archery restrictions and should continue to be the primary focus as we review and evaluate equipment requirements and/or restrictions now and in the future. With this in mind, following are my thoughts on some of the proposed changes in order of importance.

Definition of Broadhead

The proposal appears to define a broadhead as having at least two metal cutting edges, with no other requirements. I see this as a huge potential problem as one could argue that a head with nothing more than a chisel point would be legal. This would be no better than shooting a deer or an elk with a field point. It may kill the animal, but there would be insufficient blood loss to ethically recover the animal. I sincerely hope this was an oversight and you correct the issue in the finalization process by keeping the minimum cutting diameter requirement of 7/8 inches.

The Barbed Point



A barbed point is defined by the angle of the trailing edge of the broadhead. As illustrated above, if the angle is less than 90° to the arrow shaft, it is considered to be a barbed point. The barbed design allows for the broadhead to penetrate, but if the broadhead stops in the target it prevents or impedes the ability to pull the arrow and attached broadhead back out of the target. Very similar to a barbed fish

hook, removal of the broadhead generally requires that it be pushed forward until the broadhead exits the target on the other side. Mechanical broadheads appear to be barbed when they are fully deployed, but many (but not all) are designed so that the blades fold forward as the arrow is pulled, thus removing the barb and making them legal.

While I believe it is the intent of every bowhunter to place his/her arrow within the vital area of the animal with a complete pass-through to create significant blood loss resulting in a clean kill and quick retrieval, we all know that things don't always happen as planned. Knowing that not every shot is going to be lethal, as hunters we owe the game we are hunting enough respect to allow it to be able to remove the arrow and have a chance to recover. A sharp broadhead cuts very cleanly, often allowing the animal to survive a non-vital hit. This has been substantiated in many studies such as the one conducted at Camp Ripley, Minnesota that concluded a survival rate of over 75%. However, this can change if the broadhead is barbed and tissue is ripped or torn as the arrow tries to work itself out or is pulled out by the animal. Ripped and torn tissue can cause more bleeding, but is also more likely to leave the animal susceptible to bacteria leading to a very inhumane death.

The other concern with allowing barbed points is the potential negative public image. Despite the facts, bowhunting has always battled the image that a large number of animals are being wounded and left to die. Allowing barbed points increases the likelihood that a deer or elk might be seen in the field with an arrow hanging out of it. If we don't do everything we can to reduce this, the negative public image could provide fuel for the anti-hunters reducing or eliminating opportunities for all.

Reviewing the current regulations in our Bowhunter Education classes and discussing barbed points is generally a very positive discussion. Students often come to class not understanding the issue, but once it is explained most students fully understand and appreciate the reasoning. I think it is also important to understand that most popular choices in broadheads on the market comply with this restriction. There is no reason why someone would need to use a barbed point. Please keep the restriction in place and send a consistent message to the new broadhead designers and developers and help protect bowhunting.

Mechanical Broadheads While Hunting Elk

Mechanical broadheads have been developed to help archers improve accuracy as fixed-blade broadheads tend to wind plane. While mechanicals have helped solve the accuracy issue, it has been at the expense of penetration and increased operational failures. Penetration tests have been completed using a variety of materials and in general it has been concluded that mechanical broadheads penetrate 20% less than fixed blades of similar size. This is due to the energy used to open the blades of the mechanical broadhead on impact.

The 20% reduction in penetration for mechanicals has not been an issue when hunting smaller, thin-skinned game such as deer and pronghorn. However, performance on heavier skinned or heavy boned animals has been problematic. An elk is generally four times larger than a deer with a thicker, tougher

skin and heavier bones. Getting a fixed-blade broadhead to fully penetrate one of these large animals is difficult enough. There is no room to give up 20% penetration. Add to that the countless horror stories of mechanical broadheads that did not hold together or deflected when hitting the rib of an elk, resulting in wounded or lost game. Most of these hunters have switched back to fixed-blade broadheads with much improved performance. We cannot allow hunters to experiment with our limited elk herd in South Dakota.

I am going to bring up the barbed point issue again here as most of the debate has centered on some of the rear-deploying mechanical broadheads that lock open and then become classified as a barbed point. Combining a mechanical broadhead that we know is less likely to fully penetrate an elk with a barbed point that cannot be easily removed is just asking for trouble.

Mechanical Broadheads with Cutting Diameter Greater than 2 Inches

I have a problem with any broadhead, fixed or mechanical, wider than 2 inches. Fixed-blade broadheads have generally not extended to 2 inches or wider due to the issues with wind planing. However, with the development of mechanical broadheads wider cutting diameters have become more popular. The theory behind a wider cutting diameter is to create a bigger hole and thus more blood loss on the ground to follow. Again, the cost is a lack of penetration. One of the marketing claims or slogan of a popular brand is "It splits them open like hitting them with an axe." This is exactly my concern. How deep do you think an axe will penetrate? Another problem with a wider cutting diameter is that instead of cutting through just one rib, you now have to cut through two or even three ribs, reducing penetration even further.

In addition to penetration issues, the wider mechanical broadheads are more prone to issues with deployment and breakage. A longer blade opening up uses more energy that increases the chances for deflection and places more stress on the blades themselves leading to more issues with blades breaking or coming loose. These issues were documented in tests completed by SDBI and others, when the restrictions were first put in place. And, many hunters are still reporting similar issues in the field today.

Draw Weight Restriction

I am not sure why the change in the draw weight restriction is being considered given today's archery technology? As stated in my opening comments, I have been teaching Bowhunter Education since 1999. Over that time, I have seen my classes fill up with more and more young hunters. I credit this to today's technology that allows boys and girls as young as ten years old to be able to shoot a bow with 40 pounds of pull. This simply was not possible with the equipment that was available when I started shooting forty years ago. Again, why change the restriction and increase the chances of wounding more game if it is not necessary?

Summary

I understand the need to periodically review these restrictions, especially given the changes in technology. However, upon review I hope you will agree with me that the reasons the current restrictions discussed above were implemented are as valid today as the day they were created and you will reject these proposed changes.

The other proposed changes that I have not addressed appear to be clean-up or address issues of preference that would appear to have no direct impact on the ability to perform a clean, quick & humane harvest of the animals we hunt. Therefore, I would support their adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to be able to provide comment on the proposals. If you have questions or would like to discuss the issues further, please feel free to give me a call or e-mail.

Ronald J. Kolbeck
24343 443rd Ave.
Salem, SD 57058
(605) 471-9976
rjkolbeck@fnbsf.com
koolbeck4@triotel.net

RECEIVED

MAY 12 2014

Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks
Pierre, SD 57501

ARCHERY EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

Commissioner:

After attending the commission meeting in CSP, I am pleased with the proposed reduction of big game tags, and that archery deer season will NOT open two weeks earlier, but very disappointed in the proposals allowing more technology in bow hunting seasons. I do not know if you are familiar with bow hunting history, so forgive me if I'm stating what you already know.

Wisconsin legalized the first archery big game hunt in the late '30's after a small group proved that their primitive equipment was adequate for the humane killing of deer. Even then, crude crossbows were considered too advanced for what was to be a "primitive" weapon hunt.

Since success rates were very low compared to firearm usage, archers were given generous seasons of several months due to the non-consumptive effect on wildlife. Archers were happy with the length of time that could be spent afield trying to get within 20 yds. or less for a shot. They wanted a challenge more than a kill. Anything that made it easier, including tree stands, which were illegal, was frowned upon by those who became known as TRADITIONAL ARCHERS.

Obviously, bow hunting was not for everyone. That idea came from business people wanting cash not challenge! Gradually, more states legalized archery seasons for the same reasons above.

Now, depending on the state, up to 80 years later, the majority of traditional archers STILL honor the conditions under which the generous seasons were granted! We ask for little, and are the only group I can think of that places restrictions on themselves! We want opportunity more than a kill. We would be content with only one tag per season. We do not want more tech to replace skill. We don't want to exclude anyone from bow hunting, as long as their equipment choices do not threaten the length of our season or obtaining a license annually. We will continue to use only simple equipment in our hunts, as agreed to in the original deal, or CONTRACT, made years ago.

Since the 70's the states have broken the contracts by allowing more tech into archery seasons that now threaten season length and license numbers for all; including traditional archers who wanted none of it! I'm asking; no begging, that you do not drop the equipment restrictions that were put in place for good reasons! Time and space will not allow explanations of why the restrictions are there, but I can do that if you are concerned enough to give me a phone call. How can the use of anything electronic to take game be considered part of a primitive weapon season? There will be another attempt to legalize crossbows in archery season that require next to no physical effort to fire or cock. Do you know that there are crossbows being sold that are cocked by a gas operated piston? Primitive weapon? What else is coming?

Please take the time to look through the enclosed traditional archery magazine. You won't see any ads or read any articles promoting tech to make hunting easier, or articles intended to exclude anyone from joining us. These mags are from my own assorted supply. Depending on which one you have, you may see and read of women and kids involved without the aid of tech! You will see articles expressing the joy of the challenge and outdoor life, not the blood lust as shown on the TV "hunting porn" channels. These are the people the bow seasons were intended for, and the people who abide by the rules of the original 80 year old contracts!

In conclusion, PLEASE do not drop the equipment restrictions. Also, it's my understanding that commissioners do not care to deal with equipment issues every time a new gadget hits the market. We have more than enough! So, help yourselves and the future of bow hunting by being proactive. Be leaders, not followers. Be the first state game commission to say "NO" to any additional tech in archery seasons. Other states will follow.

Thank you,


Tom Braun

P.O. Box 1213, Hot Springs, SD 57747

605-745-3142

E-mail coyowood@hotmail.com

Mr. Chairman and Commissioners;

My name is Jim Twamley and I live in Parker, South Dakota. I purchased my first bow in 1962 and have been an avid Bowhunter 1979. In addition to the numerous deer I have harvested, I have also harvested 3 black bears and 2 moose with my bow. I became a Hunt Safe Instructor in 1992 and Bowhunter Education Instructor 1993. In 1995 I became a Master Instructor and have served as the State NBEF Bowhunter Education Coordinator for the past 9 years. I am also a Life member of South Dakota Bowhunters Inc. and served 9 years on the Board of Directors, 7 of those years as President. I am also a Lifetime Associate Member of the Pope and Young Club as well as an Official Measurer for Pope and Young.

I am providing you with this information so to help explain why I feel that the following proposed changes to the Archery Restriction will be a detriment to bow hunting within our state. Therefore I hope that these proposed restriction modifications are defeated I am sending this to you with as much advanced notice as possible because of the number of issues that I have with the entire proposal and to give you reasoning for my concerns. I also hope to be present to testify at the June commission meeting in Yankton if my work schedule permits.

(2) **Barbed Point**

First, as you may or may not know, in order for an arrow to be effective, the arrow has to be placed within the vital area of the animal to be harvested and for that animal to die quickly there must be a significant loss of blood. In order for that blood to be followed it also has to end up where the hunter can follow it (Blood Trail) to where the animal finally expires. The blood trail does not usually end up within sight of the bow hunter and I have been on blood trails that were over ½ mile long or longer. With the so called "Barbed Point" the arrow can stay within the animal and reducing the amount of blood hitting the ground by an considerable amount thus possibly making recovery of the animal extremely difficult.

Secondly, as was published in a study done in Camp Ripley, Minnesota and is being used in our Bowhunting Education courses, a deer that has been wounded in a non-vital area with archery equipment has a survival rate of over 75%. With the use of the "**Barbed Point**", the arrow will stay in the animal and cause major damage but would result in a much slower death and quite possibly leave little or no blood on the ground making a successful stalk of the animal nearly impossible.

The "**Barbed Point**" Restriction has been in place since the first Bowhunting Restrictions were first published. The interpretation of this restriction has not changed but was modified do to the advent of expandable broadheads. Expandable broadheads

were required to meet the same definition as a fixed broadhead unless the blades are free floating so that they can fold back on themselves while in an animal and are neither by design or blade configuration maintained in a “**locked open**” position as many of the rear deploying broadheads do. Again this requirement was put in place to allow the arrow to fall out of the animal by either by going through brush, natural movements of the animal, or by the animal pulling the arrow out. The reason this is so important is to allow for maximum bleeding and to get blood on the ground for tracking and recovery of the animal and make an ethical recovery.

I have heard of where the Department Field Staff have had some difficulty in determining if a specific broadhead is considered “Barbed” or not and training was provided to them on how to determine this. Training is also included in all bow hunter education courses to include the new on line course, so enforcement should not be an issue.

(6&7) Use of Lighted Sight Pins

This rule has been modified by interpretation several times since I first started Bow hunting. The original rule stated that the use of any device that “artificially” lit the sight pins was illegal. This included the use of glow sticks and other chemical lighting devices. The so called “Natural Light Gathering Fiber Optic Sights” were allowed because of their ability to gather surrounding ambient light. About 7 years ago the Department changed the definition, so make the regulations more uniform, to the restriction of all electronic devices (battery operated) that could be used in the taking of game animals illegal.

The increased use of ground blinds by some hunters has brought the possible use of battery operated sights back. The original objection by the Department was the use of lighted sight pins was a way for some hunters to stay on stand well past the legal shooting time and harvest animals that they no longer would have been able to shoot because of lack of light. As there is neither a muzzle report nor flash with archery equipment, when was the shot taken. We all have been walking on a moon lit night where we can see our shadows and the outline of the surrounding country side a quarter of a mile away and the use of a lighted sight would also allow me to harvest a game animal during this same time frame. In my opinion, the additional 10 minutes that I would gain by using a battery operated sight in a ground blind does not justify the risks of allowing hunters to sit on stand the extra time at dusk and dawn when lighted sights would and could be used as taking an unfair advantage of the animals we are pursuing. This is especially true when you ask Bowhunters when they come out of their stands and most will say “when they can no longer make out their pins or at end of shooting time.”

The use of **Lighted Sight Pins** was the topic that the Pope Young Club members revisited last fall and voted upon by the membership. The Pope and Young membership verified that use of battery operated lighted sights was not in meeting the ethical standards of Pope and Young and any animal harvested with the use of Battery Operated sights would not be eligible for entry into the Pope and Young Club's record book.

(10) Use of Expandable Broadheads on Elk

This rule was put in place by the Department, with input from SDBI, back when an agreement was put into place to allow for expanded Elk Hunting opportunities for bow hunters back in the early 1990's. At that time it was felt and is still true to many elk hunters that the use of Expandable Broadheads, with their moving parts, are subject to failure on such a large animal as an elk. Every year I hear of Bowhunter complain that they switched heads because of one type failing to expand when they hit an animal. This is especially true when taking the quartering away shots that most hunters prefer, or when taking a broadside shot and hitting a rib.

As the current Elk Hunting restrictions now allow for the use of any bow that has a draw weight of 40lbs or greater, the amount of Kinetic Energy that is required for an expandable broadhead to deploy enters into the picture. Kinetic energy is the force that is generated by the speed and arrow weight while the arrow is in flight. All expandable broadheads have a minimum force or energy required for them to open which takes away from the energy that the arrow needs for proper penetration thus providing the hunter with a quick clean kill. Unfortunately a lot of hunters in South Dakota only bow hunt elk if and when they draw the elk tag and will not pick up a bow until they draw a tag again.

I also have a concern when we look at who is drawing an Elk Tag and their bow hunting experience when they draw this tag. Over my 20 plus years of teaching Bow Hunter Education, every summer the teaching teams are inundated with non-bow hunters who have drawn an Archery tag and now have to complete a course before they can go hunting September 1st. We as Instructors try to provide the student with as much information as we can, but with many not even having any equipment prior to the class, going out and purchasing equipment, and then going out and trying to harvest an elk. When these same hunters go to buy their equipment, they generally buy what they see on TV or what is cheapest and have the false impression that a bow will work like a rifle. This is bad enough when you have a fixed blade, but add in an expandable and you are looking at the possibility of wounded or non-recovered elk wandering in the Hills.

I realize that several western states do allow for the use of expandable broadheads for hunting elk. With their much greater elk ranges and elk herd numbers, wounding loss may not be as great of a concern to them. Unfortunately the Black Hills is not near as expansive as those other States and our elk are observed and surrounded by people who will speak loudly if they see wounded elk wondering the hills. This could, and in my opinion lead to a reduction in the elk hunting opportunities for bow hunters in our State.

(11) **Removing: Mechanical Broadheads with a cutting diameter greater than 2"**

There comes a time when an expandable broadhead requires more kinetic energy to deploy than can be produced by the bow you are using. There is also a point where the size of the individual blades of the expandable broadhead as so large that they fail to deploy or worse yet, break upon deployment. After testing was done by the original equipment committee, in the early 90's, of the broadheads on the market the committee felt that once you get past the 1 7/8" cutting diameter the blades had a tendency to break or bend when shot into a animal. Testing was done with the use of road killed deer carcasses along with foam targets and at that time it was put into effect that a broadhead had to have a cutting diameter of 1 7/8" or less to be legal. About 5 years ago SDBI and the Department met and it was determined that for ease of measurement and uniformity that the 1 7/8" requirement was changed to 2" or less.

One also needs to remember that this restriction applies to all big game animals within our state, from turkeys (which have no broadhead restriction) all the way up the our larger big game animal the elk if the inclusion of expandable broadheads is allowed for hunting them. I would suggest that setting a maximum cutting diameter of 2" or less for elk and 2 1/2" for other big game species would be the maximums a hunter would be allowed.

(11) **Definition of Broadhead:**

I believe this change is more of a typographical error and is not really what is determined to be a broadhead used in hunting big game in South Dakota. Current restrictions state the a broadhead must be made of metal, have a minimum of 2 cutting edges, minimum of 7/8" diameter, and be as long as it is wide (originally the regulation stated that the cutting edges had to equal 3" of total length). While these restrictions are basic and have been in use, with some minor tweaking, for at least most of the last 20 years, the Department feels that a change is needed and from my standpoint it is a change that does not make sense.

The way the proposed restriction change is written you can use a broadhead with plastic main body construction as long as it has 2 cutting edges of no specific length

that are made of metal. In my Bowhunter Education broadhead display I have both a fixed blade and an expandable broadhead constructed this way. From this definition I could use a chisel point practice head that has 2 metal edges that could be considered cutting edges as they have a beveled side that runs from the tip to tail of the head.

From what I can see this proposed restriction update removes the definition of a blunt when hunting turkeys, therefore a blunt can be anything from an arrow with just the insert, a practice point, field point or a pistol casing glued to the arrow and it would be ok to the Department. This again does not make sense and is no way ethically responsible behavior by the Department.

(12) **Bow Weight Restriction Reduction:**

My concern with reducing the minimum draw weight required to 30lbs for hunting all big game except elk, is the reasons it was changed. From information I have been able to discover this change was not brought forward as an effort to allow more people to get into bow hunting, but more to lessen the chances of the introduction of the Crossbow into the archery seasons..

I am not aware of anyone ever saying that the 40lb minimum draw weight ever prevented any young or older person from Bowhunting. This is especially true with the higher efficient bows that are on the market today. My 12 year old grandson, who is really small in stature, has been shooting 30lbs or greater for 2 years now and is ready to move up to a bow he can go hunting with me this fall. He has been shooting from the adult stakes at the Archery shoots we go to and is going quite well at hitting the target vital areas. These shots normally can range up to 45 yards in length, but there is no way his setup would currently allow him to harvest a deer at those ranges. There is just not enough energy with his current setup to penetrate the rib cage of a deer, get a double lung shot, and insure a quick humane recovery of the animal.

There is nothing that will ruin the hunting experience for a new hunter, than to either see an animal they shot suffering or worse yet-- not recovering that animal quickly and humanly. I want a hunting partner that I can teach and will provide me enjoyment while we are doing something we both hopefully enjoy.

If there is one draw weight concern I have is that I feel, especially if **Expandable Broadheads** are allowed for use in the elk seasons, the minimum draw weight requirement for that season be increased to 50lbs. If all elk hunters were experienced bow hunters I would not feel this was necessary, but as I have mentioned previously, a large number of those who draw an Archery Elk Tag each year are not experienced in using a bow and hunting elk. We owe to the animals we hunt to use harvest them in the most humane way possible and by increasing the draw weight to 50lbs would give a creditable cushion in bow and arrow performance on an animal the size of an elk. I

believe this is why rifle hunters are not allowed to use a 22-250 or a 223 to hunt elk and we owe the same concern for archery equipment.

Other:

The restriction of not allowing either Judo Points or rubber blunts to be carried in quiver while hunting big game is going against the ethical bow hunter. In that what is known as "Stump Shooting" is one of the most practical ways to maintain your arrow placement efficiency and hunting form, especially during the hunting seasons when practice time is limited. Stump shooting is the selecting of targets: a weed, cow pie, branch, or other safe target at various ranges; and then shooting at it to hone your range estimation and shooting skills. This is especially important while hunting in unfamiliar terrain.

Closing Statement

In closing I wish to express my appreciation of getting the chance to voice my concerns about the proposed changes to the archery equipment restrictions and my beliefs why they do not seem justified. To change a rule for the sake of change never makes sense and I have not heard one reasonable excuse for changing any of these proposed changes. If the goal is to allow the removal of a unwarranted hardship on someone from bow hunting then it yet has to be shown to me. If it is an enforcement issue, then there is something wrong with the training or interpretation of the existing rules as they have been in place for quite some time.

If you wish to discuss any of the issues and concerns I have stated, please do not hesitate to call me. My cell phone number is 605-940-9678.

Thank you for your time and considering my concerns;

Jim Twamley
PO Box 641
Parker, South Dakota 57053
605-940-9678

May, 31, 2014

To: South Dakota Trapping Commission

Commission members:

I am writing to you to ask that you deal harshly and firmly with the ruling on using live animals, pets and birds for bait in traps. I knew that trappers had few ethics regarding cruelty to animals, but this surprised me that they would stoop this low. There is a reason that this state is looked upon as a backwater state. The trappers just continue to reinforce this perception. They are truly an embarrassment to me and the rest of the state.

Then I read that the Trappers Assn. and GF&P had no idea this was happening. The trapper's assn is a tight knit group and are very aware of what each other is doing. GF&P is the biggest disappointment in this. The people in the field are a very competent group. To say they didn't know what was happening means that they are not in the field doing their job. You pick the answer. To the outside world, it looks like both groups got caught by third party groups and are now scrambling to cover their asses.

As a last request, I would ask that you reject the changes proposed by Brian Williams. These rules were originally put in place with the blessing of the trapper's assn. Now he and the trapper's assn find the rules too restrictive. It seems that the trappers like to whine about any rule period. Their view of the world is no restrictions on their activities.

Thank you for listening and please represent all of us,

John Hauge
11898 Holso Road
Deadwood, SD 57732

605-584-4886

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
June 3rd, 2014

SD Game, Fish and Parks Commission
Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks,
Foss Building,
523 East Capitol, Pierre,
South Dakota 57501,
Wildinfo@state.sd.us

Comment on Proposed Changes to ARSD 41 :08:02 - Trapping Prohibitions.

We thank the Department and the Commission for proposing these rule changes.
This is progress towards improving the Departments duties to insure hunting/trapping
in SD is as humane as possible.

We have these additional comments.

Live Animals as bait:

1. Thanks for proposed restrictions on live birds and mammals as bait. Additionally
reptiles, amphibians, crustaceans and fish should be added to the list of prohibited live
animals to be used as bait in traps, or you should just preclude the use of any live animal
as bait.

Leaving trapping materials after season closed on public lands/right of ways.

2. Thank you for this proposed rule change.
Some of the public lands in SD are managed by federal agencies, which may have their
own wildlife biologist staff and wildlife research teams. We question whether you need to
put in an exemption for wildlife management, monitoring or research activities ordered,
performed and/or sanctioned by public land management agency engaged in their own
wildlife management/research/monitoring activities. We hope you will discuss this issue
and whether such federal activities would be hampered by the proposed rule, as written.

Thanks,



Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
For self and Society

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: The use of live bait in traps

From the April 13, 2014 South Dakota Trapper's Association news:

"A discussion occurred on restricting the use of live bait. Some individuals were reported using live animals in live traps to capture animals such as coyotes and bobcats. The animals were young mammals, and the public perception of these uses was not well received by the public and could potentially be a threat to trapping in the future. Both associations were in favor of restricting the use of live bait. We also discussed how this could be worded to allow for the use of fish or mice in certain sets."

I would say that "was not well received by the public" is a bit of an understatement based on comments posted on social networking sites such as Facebook. The fact that this is not already a restriction and that trappers are obviously doing it will certainly not do the sport of trapping any good - not to mention with the newly passed felony anti-cruelty bill, it is most likely illegal! I would ask that you put into place a restriction on the use of live bait as soon as possible! I plan on keeping up to date on this issue and sharing any information I find with others who are interested in seeing this inhumane practice ended. Thank you for your time.

**Kerry Bowers
Pierre, South Dakota**

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Using live animals for trapping

From: Harriet Yung [mailto:hyung_70@rushmore.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 3:20 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Using live animals for trapping

This is a horrible, cruel practice and needs to be banned.

Please consider banning all trapping as it is also cruel. Animals are without food & water, out in bad weather, sometimes just a leg, etc. gets caught in the trap, and larger animals may attack and injure or kill them.

Thanks for the work you do.

Harriet Young

Rapid City, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Trapping

From: John Lugar [<mailto:jlugar@bergeninternational.com>]

Sent: Monday, May 05, 2014 1:29 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Trapping

I am a pheasant hunter who visits your state 2 times per year with a group of bird hunters. I support trappers being allowed to trap on public lands during Oct and the use of body traps for predators. I understand that habitat is most important for pheasants and grouse however trapping plays a needed roll as well.

Regards,

John Lugar

Bergen International

Cell: 903-920-5115

Office: 201-299-4499 ext: 1010

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: ADM rules comments

May 23, 2014

Mike & Roseanne Pahl
2014-05-23
Custer, SD 57730

We urge you to prohibit the use of live animals or live birds in traps and snares. We urge you to clarify that all trapping equipment be removed from public lands and roads prior to May 1.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Using live animals

From: Mollie A Crain [<mailto:macrain@gwtc.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 2:40 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Using live animals

Please.....do not allow hunters to use live animals as "bait". Surely there is an animal cruelty law on the books somewhere. Even South Dakota can't possibly be that inhumane.
Thank you for reading this.....NO need to reply.....Mollie in Hot Springs.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Public comment on May 2014 trapping proposals

From: Brian Reynolds [mailto:acsfea@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 05, 2014 11:11 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Public comment on May 2014 trapping proposals

To: GFP Commissioners, Public Comments

From: Brian Reynolds, Monroe, SD

May 5, 2014

re. Trapping Prohibition #1 (as listed on gfp proposal dated May 1-2, 2014)

It is hard to say whether or not to oppose this prohibition because there are no details provided as to how the prohibition would be implemented. Maybe the gfp should actually prepare a proposal and a draft detailing how they intend to enact a prohibition or promulgate a new rule or ARSD before they ask us for our opinion on it?

Without seeing any written proposal or seeing a draft of any new rule we are **opposed** for the following reasons.

1. According to the prohibition on live bait, if I have predators trying to get into my chicken coop, pheasant pen, or rabbit hutch I could not set a trap to catch those predators.
2. If I have coyotes trying to kill my calves, lambs, geese, or goats I could not set a trap or snare to kill them.
3. If I have coyotes trying to kill my pet cats I could not set a trap to protect them.
4. Even if this applied only to public land and Right of Ways it would still prevent us from setting traps and snares in the ditches and fences that enclose our pastures, feedlots, and properties that may contain live animals.
5. Domesticated animals are the property of the people who own them. Our citizens, farmers, and ranchers have a responsibility and the right to protect their property. And this includes the right to trap, snare, or kill predators who are trying to or may try to kill, harass, or worry any of our pets, livestock, or farm animals. Our landowners also have the right to engage the help of trappers to protect their property.

Although our citizens have the right to protect their domesticated animals the gfp does not have any right or authority to protect or to establish rules for the protection of domesticated animals under SDCL. The authority given to the gfp is only that which is contained in SDCL 41-2-18 and no where in that chapter is the gfp authorized to promulgate any rule for the protection of any domesticated animal.

6. If I had predator with a history of trying to get into my chicken coop, rabbit hutch or trying to kill my cats or livestock it would seem that an effective way to kill that predator would be to put a chicken or rabbit in a covered cage and move that covered cage containing the chicken (or rabbit) to an area where that predator may be and set a trap to guard that chicken (rabbit). This would seem like a responsible thing to do in order to

protect my other chickens (or rabbits) from future attacks by this predator. However this prohibition on using live bait would prevent me from doing this and thus it would prevent me from protecting my property.

7. Since this proposal would impair the ability of our farmers, ranchers, and landowners to protect their livestock and property it would have an economic impact on them. In addition this restriction would impair the ability of our trappers to earn income from their trade. For these reasons we need to see the **Small Business Economic Impact Statement** as required by SDCL 1-26-2.1 (attached) before proceeding any further.

We can not provide public comment until we see the facts and understand the issues and consequences involved with enacting this prohibition.

Attachments.

SDCL 1-26-2.1. Small business impact statements--Content. An agency shall, when submitting any proposed rule that will have a direct impact on small business, prepare an impact statement that includes the following:

- (1) A narrative explanation in plain, easy-to-read language of the effect of the rule on small business, the basis for its enactments, and why the rule is needed;
- (2) An identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the proposed rule;
- (3) The projected reporting and recordkeeping required for compliance with the proposed rule, including the types of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record;
- (4) A statement of the probable effect on impacted small business; and
- (5) A description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed rule.

An agency is only required to use readily available information and existing resources to prepare the impact statement.

Source: SL 2004, ch 20, § 2; SL 2006, ch 8, § 1.