

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: Custer Park Hunting Restrictions Public Hearing Comments

From: george welk [<mailto:gfbgawelk@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2015 8:40 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Custer Park Hunting Restrictions Public Hearing Comments

These comments are based on my experiences in Custer park this spring. I spent four days in mid-June hunting turkeys and four days in mid-June vacationing in the park. I covered almost all roads in the park during these times.

During the turkey hunt, I seen very few non-hunter vehicles on gravel roads. In June they tend to be covered by vehicles, however, there is no hunting at this time.

I oppose this proposal. I will almost always oppose any new restrictions that further limit hunting areas on public grounds. For many people , public hunting grounds are the only place they may find to hunt. To further restrict these dream hunts is to take a large part of the dream away.

To suggest that a few hunters are causing animals to avoid roads is not what I observed. In my opinion, what seems to me to drive animals away from roads is many vehicles. The number of vehicles on even gravel roads in June was astonishing to me. Evidently the knowledge of a herd of buffalos location became public knowledge quickly and many vehicles nearly plugged the gravel road onto Fisherman Flats road, quickly reducing the experience.

The last thing I might mention is that for a hunter to stay 200 yards away from any road would cause much difficulty for the hunter. With all the difficult terrain, knowing and avoiding the 200 yard line would be very difficult and add anxiety to the hunt. That is not a hunt value. Enforcing or obeying the rule is near impossible.

I personally don't believe that instituting the rule will further enhance the viewing of animals in the park. I think it is another way to limit hunting and eventually rule it out. /s/ George Welk, 315 Jamieson Drive, Fort Pierre, SD 57532

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Black Hills Fall Turkey Season

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

From: Lien [<mailto:4walleye@midstatesd.net>]

Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 9:17 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Black Hills Fall Turkey Season

I oppose the issuing of 500 Fall Any Turkey license in the Black Hills.

Your Fall harvest statistics indicate that at least half of the birds harvested will be hens, primarily mature hens. Your spring turkey harvest statistics tells the story on the falling population. In 2008 there were 2,743 Toms harvested. Since then the number of birds harvested have dropped every year to a low of 1,258 Toms in 2014. Based on what I saw this spring I would bet the number of birds harvested in 2015 was even lower. The number of licenses sold in the spring have dropped every year too, with the internet and social media, resident and out of state hunters are aware the bird numbers on the Black Hills Forest Service land are poor. Additionally with the heavy snow fall in the middle of May during the peak of the nesting season, and the subsequent heavy rain falls in the Black Hills will most likely negatively impact turkey reproduction this year. I hope you consider the resource prior to making your final decision.

Alan Lien
Chamberlain, SD 57325

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Re:

From: Craig Bowman [<mailto:ca74.bowman@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2015 2:08 PM
To: Miller, LouAnn
Subject: Re:

I sent the comment on the goose season!
Craig Bowman
Sioux Falls, SD!

From: Craig Bowman [<mailto:ca74.bowman@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2015 7:04 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject:

I'm ALL for the late season goose hunting around Sioux Falls to try to eliminate the number of Canadian honkers wintering here. But my two concerns are that (1) the geese are going to figure out where the boundaries are and go to fields a little farther out to feed so the initial fields around town will do NO good after they are shot out of it once or twice. (2) the local farmers and companies have to be willing to let people go out in those fields, Cuz MANY of us have been turned down around Sioux Falls to hunt the honkers!

So in general, it does NO GOOD to have the season if nobody will let u on the land.

For example!!!!

I found the mallards and honkers going in the field on the SW corner of interstate I-90 and I-29. When I found out who had it the person turned me down and told me NOBODY will ever hunt that property. Then two weeks later the show WILD DAKOTA filmed a duck and goose hunting show in that field.

If these people in the surrounding farms of SF are willing to let us in then I think it will work out, but if they don't then I think u better come up with something different!

Thanks for ur time and I hope this helps!

CRAIG B.

Ascher, Debra

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2015 9:12 AM
To: Ascher, Debra
Subject: FW: Fall Turkey Season

From: Scott Kuck [<mailto:kucklaw@nvc.net>]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2015 9:11 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Fall Turkey Season

Dear Commission Members: I am writing to you to once again request that the fall turkey season be closed in the Black Hills. I have been actively hunting turkeys in the Moon area of the Black Hills for almost 30 years. I have never seen the turkey numbers as low as the past several years. Compared to 10 to 20 years ago, I would estimate that the turkey numbers in this area are no more than 10 to 15% of what they had previously been. To continue to hold a fall season especially when hens are allowed to be taken seems counter-productive and is simply wrong.

Last year's decision to close the fall season in the western portion of the Black Hills was a great first step. However, you need to take the next step and close the fall season for the entire Black Hills. This needs to be done for several years to get the number back up. If the fall season is opened again, then you need to put strict limits on the tag numbers and hens must be off limits all together. We don't shoot hen pheasants in South Dakota for a reason. Why do we allow hen turkeys to be taken?

In closing, I strongly urge you to continue the closure of the fall turkey season in the western Black Hills, and respectfully request that you close the fall season for the entire Black Hills.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Scott T. Kuck
Kuck Law Office
428 N. Hwy. 281, Ste. #3
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-225-5891

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