

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 7:57 AM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: Additional Preference Catagory for Big Game Drawing

Categories: Commission

From: Jim Twamley [<mailto:jltmotors@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 12:25 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Additional Preference Catagory for Big Game Drawing

Commissioners and GFP Staff;

I would like to request that there be an additional Preference Point Category to the existing Big Game Drawing System. Currently, we have a system that breaks down applications preference points into those with 15+, 10+, and zero to 10 points., I would like to see that the additional category of 20+ preference points be added to the system or go to a true preference point system. Every group of elk hunters I talk to, especially if they include the older elk hunters, there is a frustration in that these hunters have been putting in applications for over 20 years and they are getting to the age where hunting an elk is no longer feasible so they drop out of the process flustered and upset.

I have long lobbied for a True Preference Point system that would allow all hunters in the State a real opportunity to hunt a Bull Elk in South Dakota at least once in their lifetime. Unless a person is extremely lucky, you will go 10 plus years before you draw a Black Hills Any Elk tag, then you must wait 9 years before you can apply again, and after waiting the additional 10 years before having a realistic chance of drawing. The department has refused to change its system to a true preference system in part because they feel that it would stop people from applying thus loosing revenue or they suggest that a person put in for a cow tag, which really is a set back for those who realistically only want that once in a lifetime "chance at Trophy Bull" hunt.

With that being said, I would request that the additional category be added so that those with 20 and above years worth of Preference Points be awarded a chance at drawing their license before they are also too old to head to the woods. The system would be the same as it is now, but the percentages would begin 30% each for the 20+, 15+, and 10+ years of preference, with the remaining 10% going to those with less than 10 years of preference. Those who were unsuccessful in their category would still be eligible to draw in the lesser categories so hopefully those that have put in will have a lot better chance of drawing a tag while they are still able to hunt elk. Also any tags left over in any category would automatically drop down to the next category, so eventually there could not be any hunters in the 20+ category.

Please consider changing the current Big Game Preference Point System to one that is fairer to the older South Dakotan's who have been applying and supporting GFP and its programs for so many years. I can be contacted for further comments at 605-940-9678 or by email at jltmotors@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jim Twamley;
Parker, South Dakota

