

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS**

A Public Hearing will be held at the AmericInn, TeTon Conference Center, 312 Island Dr., Ft. Pierre, South Dakota, on July 13, 2017, at 2:00 o'clock P.M. (CDT), to consider adoption, amendment and repeal of Rules pertaining to:

1. Amend ARSD 41:06:07 – Custer State Park Restrictions.

Effect: The proposed amendment would amend the 200 yard hunting restriction near roads and buildings within Custer State Park presently applicable to big game species to include coyotes.

Reason: The department is proposing that the coyote hunting season be reopened in Custer State Park. (See paragraph 5 of this Notice.) The proposed restriction is deemed necessary for public safety.

2. Amend ARSD 41:06:10 – Sage Grouse Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendment would close the sage grouse hunting season.

Reason: A season closure is being recommended based upon the season recommendation guidelines found within the "Sage-Grouse Management Plan for South Dakota, 2014-2018. The guidelines provide that whenever there are less than 150 males counted on priority leks and less than 250 males counted on all leks, the hunting season should be closed. Results from the 2017 spring lek surveys indicated 77 males were counted on priority leks and 218 males counted on all leks.

3. Amend ARSD 41:06:23 – Antelope Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendment would adjust the number of resident hunting licenses from no more than 2,945 one-tag "any antelope" licenses to no more than 3,265 one-tag "any antelope" licenses of which 3,165 licenses will be allocated to West River hunting units and 100 licenses will be allocated to East River hunting units.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

4. Amend ARSD 41:06:25 – Custer State Park Antelope Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendment would close the Custer State Park antelope hunting season.

Reason: Survey results of antelope in Custer State Park, while also considering viewing opportunities for Park visitors, indicate that antelope numbers in the Park are below a threshold to offer a hunting season.

5. Amend ARSD 41:06:37 – Custer State Park Coyote Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would reopen the Custer State Park coyote hunting season; adjust the season dates from the second Monday in December to December 31, inclusive, to December 26 to March 31, inclusive; allow any resident possessing a valid resident predator/varmint license, resident furbearer license, or any resident hunting license to hunt coyotes in the Custer State Park hunting unit (Unit CUC-CU1); and require a hunter to obtain and possess a free access permit issued by the department in order to hunt coyotes in Custer State Park.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

The above rule proposals may be modified or amended following receipt of public comment at the hearing to include or exclude matters that are described in this Notice of Hearing. The hearing may be continued from time to time until its business has been completed and may be rescheduled.

Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit data, opinions, arguments, and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) at the hearing. Persons unable to attend the hearing may mail data, opinions, arguments, and their views to the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, or transmit by email to either [wildinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:wildinfo@state.sd.us) or [gfpadminrules@state.sd.us](mailto:gfpadminrules@state.sd.us). All persons who desire to submit written data, opinions,

arguments, and their views by mail or email are encouraged to mail or transmit the same in sufficient time so that it is received by and in the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks on or before 12:00 o'clock P.M. on the date of the hearing. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit data, opinions, arguments and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) to the Commission for their consideration. All written and email comments must include the name, home town/city, and state of the person submitting the comments.

The above rule proposals are available for review on the internet by going to <https://rules.sd.gov/> and copies of the proposed rules may be requested from the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. Notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that this hearing is being held in a physically accessible place. Any individuals with disabilities who will require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the hearing should submit a request to the undersigned at 605.773.3718 or 605.223.7684 (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf).

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.



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Kelly R. Hepler, Secretary



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