

From: [Miller, LouAnn](mailto:Miller_LouAnn)
To: [Comes, Rache](mailto:Comes_Rache)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Re: GFP News :: Multiple South Dakota Deer Hunting Seasons Proposed for 2017 and 2018
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 8:02:03 AM

From: jjohnson3252@gmail.com [mailto:jjohnson3252@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 7:33 PM

To: SDGFPINFO

Subject: [EXT] Re: GFP News :: Multiple South Dakota Deer Hunting Seasons Proposed for 2017 and 2018

Dear Sirs, My name is Jeff G. Johnson from Gregory, Gregory County. I do own 640 acres and do help manage pheasant hunting on an additional 2500 acres in western Gregory County. I would like to comment on your proposal to change the Deer Season in Gregory County to one Season. If I am right, Gregory County has one of the highest number of deer permits in the State. Currently your 2 season system works very well. This system splits the deluge of hunters to separate weeks. Truly all deer hunters want to have the OPENING MORNING. I would offer that the single season proposal would heighten the Safety Concerns as well stretch the available hunting habitat. In western Gregory County we have very high deer populations who survive off the pheasant preserves' habitat fields and I am sure that the preserves would like to keep the split season that spreads the hunters. In eastern Gregory County there are many Deer Guides who could host more hunters for a better success rate.

Please consider my input when you decide this issue. This Split Season has worked very well in the past and hopefully will continue.

Sincerely,

Jeff G. Johnson

1022 Main St.

Gregory, SD. 57533

Sent from Windows Mail

From: South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

Sent: Friday, May 5, 2017 9:22 AM

To: jjohnson3252@gmail.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 5, 2017
CONTACT: Emily Kiel at Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us

- GFP Commission Finalizes Several Furbearer Seasons
- Youth Deer Hunting Season in South Dakota Set for the Next Two Years
- GFP Commission Proposes the Archery Deer Hunting Seasons for the Next Two Years
- GFP Commission Proposes East River and West River Deer Hunting Seasons
- GFP Commission Proposes the 2017 and 2018 BH and CSP Deer Hunting Seasons
- GFP Commission Proposes Muzzleloader and Refuge Deer Hunting Seasons for the Next Two Years

GFP Commission Finalizes Several Furbearer Seasons

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission reviewed several furbearer seasons at their May meeting, and with no changes, the seasons will move forward for the next two years under the same season structure.

The 2017 beaver trapping and hunting season dates will be:

- **Year-round** for counties west of the Missouri River, except the portion of the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west SD Highway 79;
- **Nov. 4, 2017 – April 30, 2018** for all counties east of the Missouri River and portions of the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west of SD Highway 79 that are not owned by the U.S. Forest Service; and
- **Jan. 1 – March 31, 2018** for U.S. Forest Service land in the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west of SD Highway 79.

The skunk, opossum, jackrabbit, fox, raccoon and badger season dates will be open year-round and statewide.

The 2017 mink, weasel and muskrat trapping seasons will be:

- **Year-round** for all areas of the state, west of the Missouri River, except the portion of the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west SD Highway 79; and
- **Nov. 4, 2017 – April 30, 2018** for all areas of the state, east of the Missouri River and portions of the Black Hills Fire Protection District south of Interstate 90 and west of SD Highway 79.
- **April 1, 2018 – Aug 31, 2018** will be the statewide muskrat hunting season and is only open to landowners and lessees, including School and Public Lands surface lease holders, on land they own or operate and state, county, or township highway officials within public road right-of-ways.

Youth Deer Hunting Season in South Dakota Set for the Next Two Years

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission made no changes for the 2017 and 2018 statewide youth deer hunting seasons and will operate under the same season structure as 2016; allowing for a single any antlerless deer license for hunters who have not reached the age of 18.

Season dates will be:

- Sept. 9, 2017 – Jan. 15, 2018
- Sept. 8, 2018 – Jan. 15, 2019

GFP Commission Proposes the Archery Deer Hunting Seasons for the Next Two Years

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed a change to the area where archery antlerless whitetail deer licenses would be valid during their May meeting.

According to the proposal, antlerless whitetail deer licenses would be valid in units 44A and 62A and not valid for units 17A, 25A, 41A, 50A, and 58A. These changes to Unit ARD-LM1 where antlerless whitetail deer licenses are valid aligns with the current population management objectives.

The proposed season dates for the 2017 and 2018 seasons would be:

- Sept. 23, 2017 – Jan. 15, 2018
- Sept. 22, 2018 – Jan. 15, 2019

The Commission also proposed to extend the end date for archery deer hunting in Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge from Dec. 31 to Jan. 15.

The Commission will finalize these proposals June 8-9 at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. Written comments can be sent to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be part of the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CDT on June 8. Please include a full name along with the city and state of residence. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held June 8 at 2 p.m. CDT at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma.

GFP Commission Proposes East River and West River Deer Hunting Seasons

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed to offer approximately 10,500 fewer licenses for the 2017 East River deer hunting season: with a majority of this reduction to antlerless whitetail licenses.

The Commission proposed 3,580 more one-tag licenses, 4,925 less two-tag licenses (10,150 tags), and 1,400 less 3-tag licenses (4,200 tags) compared to 2016. There would be a proposed total of 21,085 one-tag and 5,250 two-tag licenses available.

The Commission also proposed to create a new Limited Access Unit (Unit 13L) in Brule County restricted to the Army Corps of Engineer property, all Game Production Areas, and the Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area immediately adjacent to the Missouri River, and the Pease Game Production Area in southwest Buffalo County. This unit would consist of all public land and landowner preference would not apply. In addition, the Commission proposed to modify Unit 13A to include all of Brule County excluding that portion within Unit 13L and to modify Unit 14A to include all of Buffalo County excluding the Pease Game Production Area within Unit 13L.

With the creation of this limited access unit, archery, muzzleloader and youth deer hunters would be required to obtain a free, unlimited access permit from the department prior to hunting in this area.

The proposed dates for the 2017 and 2018 East River deer hunting seasons would be:

- Nov. 18 – Dec. 3, 2017
- Dec. 30, 2017 – Jan. 7, 2018 for antlerless deer tags only
- Nov. 17 – Dec. 2, 2018
- Dec. 29, 2018 – Jan. 6, 2019 for antlerless deer tags only

The Commission proposed to slightly reduce the total number of licenses available for the 2017 and 2018 West River deer hunting seasons compared to 2016 by adjusting resident license numbers with an increase in one-tag licenses by 995 and a decrease in two-tag licenses by 2,100. It was also proposed to adjust nonresident license numbers by increasing one-tag licenses by 80 and decreasing two-tag licenses by 168. The total number of proposed licenses would be 15,340 one-tag and 3,320 two-tag resident licenses and 1,231 one-tag and 266 two-tag licenses for nonresidents.

The Commission also proposed to discontinue the split seasons for Gregory and Mellette counties and to have them align with the West River deer hunting season. It was also proposed to change the season date for Unit 24B (Little Moreau) to 16 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday 12 days before Thanksgiving.

The proposed season dates for the 2017 and 2018 West River deer hunting seasons would be:

- Nov. 11-26, 2017
- Nov. 10-25, 2018

The Commission will finalize these proposals June 8-9 at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. Written comments can be sent to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be part of the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CDT on June 8. Please include a full name along with the city and state of residence. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held June 8 at 2 p.m. CDT at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma.

GFP Commission Proposes the 2017 and 2018 Black Hills and Custer State Park Deer Hunting Seasons

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed to increase the number of available antlerless whitetail licenses for the 2017 Black Hills deer hunting season.

The proposal would offer 200 more resident antlerless whitetail deer licenses and 16 more nonresident antlerless whitetail deer licenses for the BH-BD1 unit, compared to 2016.

Also proposed would be the expansion of the type and number of deer hunters allowed into Custer State Park. The proposal would offer 19 more any whitetail deer and five more any deer licenses as compared to the 2016 hunting season. Additionally, these licenses would be valid for only archery hunting from Nov. 1-15 and firearms and all allowable weapons for firearm hunting from Nov. 16-30.

In addition, Custer State Park would have 30 antlerless whitetail deer licenses available for hunters during the muzzleloader hunting season from Dec. 1-15.

The Commission will finalize these proposals June 8-9 at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. Written comments can be sent to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be part of the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CDT on June 8. Please include a full name along with the city and state of residence. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held June 8 at 2 p.m. CDT at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma.

GFP Commission Proposes Muzzleloader and Refuge Deer Hunting Seasons for the Next Two Years

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed a change to the area where muzzleloader antlerless whitetail deer licenses will be valid for the 2017 and 2018 hunting seasons.

According to the proposal, antlerless whitetail deer licenses would be valid in units 44A and 62A and not valid for units 17A, 25A, 41A, 50A, and 58A. These changes to Unit MZD-LM1 where antlerless whitetail deer licenses are valid aligns with the current population management objectives.

There would be 1,000 statewide any deer licenses and unlimited single-tag licenses for unit MZD-LM1 antlerless whitetail deer licenses available.

Season dates would be:

- Dec. 1, 2017 – Jan. 15, 2018
- Dec. 1, 2018 – Jan. 15, 2019

The Commission also proposed to offer 10 more resident and one more nonresident any deer licenses for LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge and to offer 10 less resident and one less nonresident any deer licenses for Waubay National Wildlife Refuge. The Commission proposed to change all licenses within Waubay Wildlife Refuge to be restricted to muzzle-loading rifles.

Licenses and season dates for National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) would be:

Sand Lake NWR

- Resident: 100 any deer and 50 any antlerless deer licenses
- Nonresident: 10 any deer and 5 any antlerless deer licenses
- 2017 Season Dates:
 - November 11-15, November 16-20, November 21-26, November 27 – December 3, December 4-10, and December 30, 2017 - January 7, 2018.
- 2018 Season Dates:
 - November 10-14, November 15-19, November 20-25, November 26 – December 2, December 3-9, and December 29, 2017 - January 6, 2018.

LaCreek NWR

- Residents: 25 any deer licenses
- Nonresidents: 3 any deer licenses
- 2017 Season Dates:
 - Oct. 18-24 and Nov. 22-28
- 2018 Season Dates:
 - Oct. 17-23 and Nov. 21-27

Waubay NWR

- Residents: 20 any deer licenses
- Nonresidents: 2 any deer licenses
- 2017 Season Dates:
 - Nov. 11-18 and Nov. 27 – Dec. 3 and includes Waubay State Game Refuge
- 2018 Season Dates:
 - Nov. 10-17 and Nov. 26 – Dec. 2 and includes Waubay State Game Refuge

The Commission will finalize these proposals June 8-9 at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma. Written comments can be sent to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be part of the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CDT on June 8. Please include a full name along with the city and state of residence. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held June 8 at 2 p.m. CDT at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma.

-GFP-

***GFP Mission:** The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks provides sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities through responsible management of our state's parks, fisheries and wildlife by fostering partnerships, cultivating stewardship and safely connecting people with the outdoors.*

This message was sent to johnson3252@gmail.com from:

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks | sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us | South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks | 523 E. Capitol Ave | Pierre, SD 57501

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From: [Cary, Joe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Against any increase in non-resident waterfowl
Date: Friday, June 02, 2017 4:02:10 PM

From: Andy Vandel [mailto:andyvandel@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 3:58 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Against any increase in non-resident waterfowl

Good afternoon,

I am against any type of increase in non-resident waterfowl licences in South Dakota. By utilizing unsold waterfowl licenses this will increase the overall number of non-resident hunters. If this is down, resident hunters will be lost in the long run.

My recommendation instead would be to limit the number of non-resident waterfowl licences to 8% of the prior years resident numbers like west river deer is done today.

Regards,

Andy Vandel
308 N Johnson Ave
Pierre, SD

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Against Proposed non-resident additional waterfowl licenses
Date: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 9:31:06 AM

From: mike hoelsing [mailto:mhoelsing@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 9:26 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] Against Proposed non-resident additional waterfowl licenses

I am against the proposal to add more non-resident waterfowl licenses. The lic will put traditional resident waterfowl hunters at an even larger disadvantage to get permission. Currently it is overwhelming during the waterfowl migration in the proposed areas. At times non-resident hunters equal one per mile when driving around attempting to get permission for the following days hunt. I would much prefer a reduction in the current non-resident waterfowl licenses.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Hoelsing

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Commission's Decision
Date: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 9:20:15 AM

From: Linda Bonde [mailto:ldbonde@pie.midco.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 8:54 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Cc: Bill Koupal
Subject: [EXT] Commission's Decision

I am writing to OPPOSE the Commission's May, 2017 proposal regarding nonresident waterfowl licenses. The decision you make should not be based on economic impact but rather what is best and requested by South Dakota waterfowl hunters. We do not want to see or experience an increase (or adjustments) that benefit out of state hunters.

Thank you for listening to us and thank you for your commitment to the voice of SD hunters.

Sincerely,

Dave Bonde

ldbonde@pie.midco.net

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Do not increase the non-resident waterfowl numbers
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 10:40:26 AM

From: Chris Hesla [mailto:sdwf@mncomm.com]

Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 10:37 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] Do not increase the non-resident waterfowl numbers

Please listen to the residents of this State. We do not want more non-residents, make it easier for the residents to find access.

Chris Hesla

Pierre, SD

Chris Hesla, Executive Director
South Dakota Wildlife Federation
South Dakota Wildlife Federation Camo-Coalition
208 Linnell St., PO Box 7075 SDWF
208 Linnell St., PO Box 952 SDWF-Camo
Pierre, SD 57501
605-224-7524 Office

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] I oppose
Date: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 7:49:03 AM

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

From: Brett Johnson [mailto:brett_mjohnson@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 10:04 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] I oppose

I oppose the additional increase in SD nonresident waterfowl permits. Don't sell off our nations greatest treasure .

Brett Johnson
3209 Park Dr RC SD , 57702

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] More out of state waterfowl licenses
Date: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 11:53:43 AM

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

From: nick stotz [<mailto:nickstotz500@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 10:37 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] More out of state waterfowl licenses

To whom it may concern,

I am an avid outdoorsman whether it be fishing or hunting. That being said, I hope to enjoy these activities with my children someday. It is saddening and disappointing at the direction our conservation is heading. What is our real objective these days? We are getting charged more every year for our licenses, while at the same time you are taking away land and water that hold great opportunity for South Dakota's local outdoorsmen. I remember when there was a field full of geese, farmers were more than happy to let you use their land and hunt them. Now it's all about dollar signs. I can hardly find a spot as it is without having to pay \$100 per gun. With adding 500 more out of state licenses to brown county alone you are only feeding the flame. Where does it stop? I understand you are trying to produce more revenue but there is an obvious line you need to draw. When does the money outweigh our children's experience in the outdoors? Is the money really worth it to condemn kids to the sideline of these activities just because of a dollar sign? Kids lose interest if you don't keep them involved. You are really only hurting the future of conservation of South Dakota by continuing down this path.

If you have any morals you will value the sight of a kid with a pole or his first mallard with his dad more than a few extra thousand dollars that go who knows where. Help your locals and do not add 500 more licenses to the brown county waterfowl season!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non Resident Waterfowl Licensing proposals
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 12:50:15 PM

From: Phil Kahnke [mailto:pkahnke@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 11:36 AM

To: Jensen, Barry; Peterson, Cathy; Boyd, Mary Anne; Dennert, Paul H.; gary.jenses@state.sd.us; Olson, Russell; Sharp, Doug; Phillips, W. Scott; GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] Non Resident Waterfowl Licensing proposals

Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposals to increase non-resident hunting licenses in Eastern South Dakota as a whole and also specifically in Brown County. These proposed changes will have a negative impact on the waterfowling opportunities for residents of our state. As someone who was not lucky enough to be born in South Dakota, but made a conscious decision to move here, based very much on the excellent waterfowl hunting in this state I would be very disappointed to see things change for the worse simply so that a very limited number of people can capitalize on it monetarily. I have listened to testimonies from many different parties and I cannot fathom the level of selfishness expressed by these groups wanting to change these laws to specifically benefit themselves. These business were started under the current laws and somehow expect that every other resident of the state should have to suffer so that some unwise investment decisions can be justified. I have several other friends that are also waterfowl guides in this state and they are specifically opposed to the increase of licenses, despite the fact that it may bring them some additional money, but they realize that it will damage the overall level of satisfaction of their clients and of current residents.

This state has something special in its waterfowling. A lot of that is due to the current regulations. When I was not a resident of this state I was still in favor of the lottery system and the fact that the licenses weren't extremely easy to get as I was guaranteed a great trip on the years that I did draw. For those that want to hunt in "the Dakotas" every single year, North Dakota is open to everyone and a very small amount of research of any North Dakota resident hunter will prove that that is not the optimal way to run a non-resident licensing system. While we are not to that level yet, our state is different geographically in terms of waterfowl use. While only a small sliver of our state is really productive for waterfowl hunting, almost all of our neighboring state to the North is productive with much more water.

When examining this bill, please keep in mind the thousands of current residents that enjoy our current situation...many of whom have made specific choices to either move here or stay here for those benefits.

Phil Kahnke
Salem, SD
605-680-4082

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non Resident Waterfowl Proposal
Date: Thursday, June 01, 2017 12:26:29 PM

From: Bezdicek, Paul [mailto:paul.bezdicek@irco.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2017 12:24 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Non Resident Waterfowl Proposal
Game and Fish Commission,

Please leave the current nonresident waterfowl license structure the same as it is now. The system works very well and over all the nonresidents that I hunt with enjoy knowing that even if their license is not guaranteed that they will have a quality hunt. We do not need more guiding and outfitting for waterfowl which the proposed license changes will definitely effect. Flatland Flyways knew the rules for the licenses when they started their business and now they want to change the rules to benefit them. This is simply unjust and not needed.

Also, please make no changes to the Brown County. It is hard enough to get on private land now to hunt, I can't imagine if guides and outfitters are leasing up more land.

In the end, the commission needs to look out for the benefit of residents and non-residents alike and a vast majority of sportsman agree that there is no issue with the current license system. If it is about revenue, lets increase the nonresident fishing license.

Thanks,

Paul Bezdicek

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From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non Resident Waterfowl Proposal
Date: Thursday, June 01, 2017 12:26:42 PM

From: Bezdicek, Paul [mailto:paul.bezdicek@irco.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2017 12:26 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: RE: [EXT] Non Resident Waterfowl Proposal
Game and Fish Commission,

Please leave the current nonresident waterfowl license structure the same as it is now. The system works very well and over all the nonresidents that I hunt with enjoy knowing that even if their license is not guaranteed that they will have a quality hunt. We do not need more guiding and outfitting for waterfowl which the proposed license changes will definitely effect. Flatland Flyways knew the rules for the licenses when they started their business and now they want to change the rules to benefit them. This is simply unjust and not needed.

Also, please make no changes to the Brown County. It is hard enough to get on private land now to hunt, I can't imagine if guides and outfitters are leasing up more land.

In the end, the commission needs to look out for the benefit of residents and non-residents alike and a vast majority of sportsman agree that there is no issue with the current license system. If it is about revenue, lets increase the nonresident fishing license.

Thanks,

Paul Bezdicek
Harrisburg, SD

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From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non Resident Waterfowl
Date: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 11:54:00 AM

From: Cartor Carlson [mailto:cartorkcarlson@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 11:31 AM

To: GFP Wild Info; cathypeterson@state.sd.us; Jensen, Barry; Dennert, Paul H.; Jensen, Gary; Olson, Russell; Sharp, Doug; wscott.phillips@state.us

Subject: [EXT] Non Resident Waterfowl

To Waterfowl People,

As a South Dakota resident concerned about the number of number of nonresident licenses I am opposed to the proposed increase.

Thank you,

Cartor Carlson

Aberdeen

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non-res waterfowl licenses
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 9:32:49 AM

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

From: Don Soderlund [<mailto:das927@nrctv.com>]
Sent: Sunday, June 04, 2017 3:51 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Non-res waterfowl licenses

It's clear, the vast majority of resident and non-resident waterfowl hunters in SD do NOT want an increase in waterfowl licenses. This current proposal is a slap in the face to the majority. Some say it's actually a decrease, but the fact of the matter is that it will add hunters in the field statewide, but especially locally in my home County of Brown. We've already seen an unprecedented increase in pressure and competition for fields in Brown County due to the commercialization of waterfowl hunting. It's clear this proposal is only meant to appease one outfitter at the expense of many who live and hunt here.

Any vote to increase waterfowl licenses in this area or any other area in the state is an absolute show of disrespect to the majority voice.

We are very tired of the repeated attempts to increase non-resident waterfowl licenses, but because this is a passion and a reason why many of us continue to live in this great state, we will not give up fighting to keep South Dakota one of the highest quality waterfowl hunting areas in North America.

Do NOT change the current licensing system. Do NOT allow politics or big money dictate our quality waterfowl hunting. Vote against the current non-res waterfowl license proposal.

Don Soderlund
Bath, SD

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non-Resident Waterfowl Licenses Proposal
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 9:06:03 AM

From: Charles Rokusek [mailto:crokusek55@outlook.com]

Sent: Saturday, June 03, 2017 9:43 PM

To: GFP Wild Info; Peterson, Cathy; Jensen, Gary; hpd; Phillips, W. Scott; barryj; Boyd, Mary Anne; Olson, Russell; Sharp, Doug

Subject: [EXT] Non-Resident Waterfowl Licenses Proposal

6/3/17

Dear G, F & P Commissioners:

I am contacting you in regards to your proposal of increasing non-resident waterfowl licenses across the state of South Dakota.

First, I was born and raised on a farm in Hutchinson County, and currently I am a retired Science Teacher and live in Sioux Falls and still enjoy my time in the outdoors.

By passing these proposals it will increase the pressure on the ducks and geese and it will deteriorate the quality of our waterfowl hunting. This will also negatively impact both resident and non-resident waterfowl hunters alike.

With this increase in hunting pressure, it will decrease the quality of waterfowl hunting for all of the hunters in the field. When waterfowl receives a lot of hunting pressure it moves until it finds a quiet place, and that could lead to an early exit from South Dakota by many of our local ducks and geese. If that happens early in the season, and the local ducks and geese are burned out of the state; it will lead to a very poor season while waiting for the fall migration which seems to get later and later every year.

The biggest part of this issue that is not being considered; is the changing of the landscape as more and more land is converted to cropland and more wetlands either being drained or compromised; there will be fewer places that will offer quality waterfowl hunting opportunities. This then leads to more competition for the available places that do provide that quality waterfowl hunting experience that everybody is looking for to enjoy.

I also believe by passing these proposals we will be opening the flood gates for the commercialization of our waterfowl hunting, and the resident waterfowl hunter would be in the same boat as the resident pheasant hunter with fewer and limited opportunities.

I also hear that it is always the same people that come and testify at the meetings against the increase in non-resident waterfowl licenses. That may be the case, because most of the resident sports men and women have jobs and cannot get off of work to testify at these public meetings; therefore, their organizational leaders are the individuals who have been attending these meetings and testifying on behalf of them.

I also believe when I travel for any type of hunting and fishing within the state it is economic development as I spend money on gas, food and lodging and the entire state benefits from the money I spend when I am enjoying my pass times. Many of us could take that money and spend it on trips to other states which would have a negative impact on our state's economy.

As a resident of this state and a taxpayer I have become very frustrated with the proliferation of the commercialization of our fish and wildlife resources. I use to love the opening of pheasant season; but now because I have limited areas to hunt, I prefer to hunt waterfowl because of the commercialization of our hunting heritage.

This continued onslaught of increasing non-resident hunting and fishing opportunities at the expense of resident opportunities will eventually come back to bite us. We will be losing our next generation of hunters and fisherman as they will not have had the opportunities that many of us had the opportunity to enjoy.

With that said, I ask that you do not pass the increase in non-resident waterfowl licenses and return them back to their proper place the Pierre Area.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,

Charles Rokusek

Charles Rokusek

5208 W. Emmitt Circle

Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106

605-362-9827

From: [Cary, Joe](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses
Date: Friday, June 02, 2017 4:17:18 PM

From: Curt Tesch [mailto:curtaps@venturecomm.net]
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 4:14 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses
Commissioners,

I'm hoping all or at least some of you will recall my verbal comments at the Watertown commission meeting. I just want to emphasize what I stated at that time. If you don't recall, I live in Roberts county in the very northeast corner of South Dakota. My primary reason for moving here some 28 years ago was to enjoy the resident waterfowl hunting privileges. Since that time I have seen a steady erosion in the quality of waterfowl hunting mainly due to the steady increases of nonresident hunting licenses. By the GF&P own power point program it showed the increase of the 10 day licenses from I believe it started at 1350 and is now 4000. That's a 300% increase in not that long of a time period. Then there's the 3 day licenses. I have to mention again that these licenses were created for a special "deal" along the Missouri River. They were never intended to be spread out over the state. They should be removed from the northeast. Now I'm pretty sure that ship has sailed and it's not going to happen, but I need to remind everyone of it again anyway. If you can't remove them from the northeast at least exempt Roberts County. As I mentioned before most of those licenses are used by "day hunters" from the Wheaton area. There is virtually no additional revenue from these license other than the cost of the license. These additional licenses have already drastically reduced the quality of our waterfowl hunting in the northeast. Please consider the proposals of the South Dakota Waterfowl Association or at least the spirit of what is being proposed. We are not a bunch of crazy crackpots. We are a group of dedicated waterfowl hunters trying to preserve a heritage that we take very dear to our hearts. Waterfowl hunting takes a lot of dedication and is generally a fairly solitary endeavor. It cannot be compared to pheasant hunting. It is very sensitive to hunting pressure. PLEASE some things just shouldn't be for sale for the sake of the almighty dollar.

Curt Tesch
10527 469TH AV
Rosholt, SD 57260
605-537-4565
curtaps@venturecomm.net

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Nonresident Waterfowl proposal
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 9:32:35 AM

From: Linda Vaa [mailto:lindavaa@brookings.net]
Sent: Sunday, June 04, 2017 1:38 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Nonresident Waterfowl proposal
TO: SD GFP Commission

I oppose adding any Nonresident waterfowl licenses in South Dakota. Resident hunters are finding it harder and harder to find good hunting spots, and are getting squeezed out by nonresident hunters. It's time to hold the line and provide quality hunting for both resident and nonresident hunters.

Sincerely,

Spencer Vaa
1819 Olwien Street
Brookings, SD 57006

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non-resident Waterfowl Proposal
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 10:39:58 AM

From: Justin Allen [mailto:jpallen121682@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 10:32 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Non-resident Waterfowl Proposal

Dear Commission Members:

I'm contacting you in regards to the Non-resident waterfowl proposal to be finalized in during the June commission meeting. The proposal would make several changes to the current 3-day license structure. As an avid SD waterfowl hunter that hunts across the state every year I'm against any change to the current structure that has worked extremely well for 95% of the waterfowl hunters of South Dakota, residents and non-residents alike, for well over a decade. As you all know the vast majority of residents are against additional NR hunters in already crowded areas of the state and more importantly against the commercialization of waterfowl hunting in SD. This proposal is the commercialization of at least 750 private only 3-day licenses in all counties excluding the original "Pierre Area" Missouri River Counties and NE SD. For this reason I'm against the change in the current licenses structure especially moving Brown Co. form the current NE SD 3-day license unit (NRW-00Y)

My number one issue by far with the whole proposal is moving Brown Co. from current NRW-00Y (NESD) and moving it into NRW-00X (NCSD). I can't even begin to understand this proposed move and I'm against moving Brown Co. out of NRW-00Y. Of the current 500 3-day licenses that are available in 00Y likely 150 plus of those licenses are used in Brown each year. By taking Brown Co. out of 00Y those licenses that were previously used in Brown Co. will now be used in Day/Marshall/Clark. So you would make the counties that have the highest pressure in state have even more. However, since Brown Co is the second most used county by NRs you still have a large population of NRs hunting in Brown Co. under the current 10 day statewide licenses, many of which are likely used on public land in Brown Co. So the notion that moving Brown Co. out the current 3 day licenses area and into the private land only area will decrease NR hunting on public land is awful wishful thinking. By moving Brown not only will public land be just as crowded but you create additional competition for private land that isn't already leased. It is a fact when you increase the demand for private land pay hunting increases and folks and guides start leasing land so they have a guaranteed place to hunt. The rest that don't want to pay hunt are forced to either settle for crowded public land or quit hunting. This is already an issue and likely why many continue to quit waterfowl hunting. I have a tough time believing anything else but that the proposal to take Brown Co. out of current 00Y and moving into proposed 00X for private land only is anything but to please commercial hunting interest. I think you're going to find that anyone that supports the move for Brown Co. has commercial interests. This proposal to move Brown Co. is a bad deal for the common resident and NR waterfowl hunter. Please leave Brown Co in the NE SD 3-day unit.

An additional reason why this proposal as a whole is a bad deal is the continued loss of access to quantity waterfowl hunting areas. Over the last 15 years many of the smaller wetlands across the state have been drained or altered to the point where they are often dry by fall thus limiting hunting over water. IMO resident waterfowl hunting participation and increase in lack of quality access to private/public ground go hand in hand thus the decrease in resident hunters. GFP should be addressing this issue not pour gas on the fire by adding additional NR hunters to the state. Another potential huge issue when it comes to access is the Non-Meandering Water Issue. We all hope to have a positive outcome for all involved in the issue

in the near future but the fact of the matter as it stands right now 10,000s of previously accessible acres public/private are not accessible and it is going to have a tremendous effect this fall on waterfowl hunting areas. Many of the bodies of water that are closed were used heavily by waterfowl hunters that are now going to have to find other areas to hunt creating additional pressure on other areas.

South Dakota waterfowl hunters do not support additional NR waterfowl licenses or the increase in licenses sold. Additionally there is a big chunk of non-resident hunters that don't support it either. South Dakota may be one of only a small handful of states that restrict NR waterfowl licenses but it is also basically the only state left where an average Joe can show up scout the night before, knock on a stranger's door, gain permission and have world class hunting that rivals with Canada. Why do we want to potentially jeopardize this? At best 10% of residents want to increase NR license numbers, the other 90% don't. The 10% all have commercial interest the other 90% are hunters that truly care about the quality of the hunting and the resource as a whole. Should changes be made to NR waterfowl to please commercial interest at the expense of the other 90%. IMO it is a bad way to manage the resource.

Thank you for time,

Justin Allen

303 Merry Road

Pierre, SD

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Non-resident waterfowl
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 9:30:14 AM

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

From: Patti/Peter Koupal [<mailto:pkbighorn@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, June 04, 2017 11:31 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Non-resident waterfowl

My opinion is that resident waterfowl hunters actually have more of an impact, especially on a year long basis, than any non-resident hunter. And residents to me continue to be moved to the back ever more often. PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE MORE NON-RESIDENT LICENSES.....I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A PLACE TO HUNT THIS COMING WATERFOWL SEASON

Pete Koupal, Rapid City

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] NR Waterfowl Licenses
Date: Friday, June 02, 2017 8:25:46 AM

From: cody warner [mailto:cody.warner01@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 7:44 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] NR Waterfowl Licenses

GFP Commission,

I'm writing you today to express my displeasure in the current proposal to reallocate waterfowl licenses. Once again, I cannot understand how or why things need to be changed. As you read these comments, you'll once again see an overwhelmingly support of making no changes.

While I am adamantly opposed to changes, I could possibly live with the changes as long as Brown County is not moved from it's current zone. There is only one explanation for why this is being considered and I would guess most of the commissioners know why. It is of little surprise that the most vocal waterfowl outfitter operates in Brown county. This stinks of corruption. There is absolutely no reason to move Brown county out of it's current zone. This will only provide the outfitter with more opportunities to get licenses. Please reconsider moving Brown Cty out of it's current zone.

Thanks, Cody Warner, Webster, SD

--

Cody Warner

605-590-0001

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land"

-Aldo Leopold

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] NR waterfowl
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 10:56:46 AM

From: renee allen [mailto:renee.j.allenburns@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 10:44 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] NR waterfowl
GFP Commission,

I'm against any change that increases the sale of NR waterfowl licenses. I'm also against moving Brown Co. from its current 3 day unit. I'm deeply concerned for the future of hunting for my husbands and I 4 kids that all love to hunt with us. As a life long SD resident hunter I have seen the opportunities for resident hunting slowly, now quickly vanish. If the rate continues by the time our kids are our age their will be nothing left but paid hunting and overran public ground. Pheasant hunting is already there. Protect the waterfowl resource for the residents hunters of the state not guides/outfitters and non-residents. Think about the future generations of South Dakotan's.

Renee Allen
Pierre, SD

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Opposed to changing any non-resident waterfowl regulations - bad Idea to commercialize hunting in SD
Date: Friday, June 02, 2017 1:54:03 PM

From: Robert Naylor [mailto:Robert@trianglecf.org]
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 1:54 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Opposed to changing any non-resident waterfowl regulations - bad Idea to commercialize hunting in SD

To the SD Game, Fish, and Parks Division:

My name is Robert Naylor, and I live in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I have been traveling to South Dakota for 10 straight years to enjoy your wonderful state and the amazing wildlife resources that you steward. As you know, managing natural resources is never easy, but there are certain things that are bright red flags that should be avoided at the risk of destroying the benefits of a great resource. I am always happy to support hotels and other rental establishments, restaurants, stores, and so many other operations that need customers to support their businesses. I travel to South Dakota each year, with or without a non-resident waterfowl license.

My understanding is that there are certain outfitters, or hunting guides, that would like to change things for their exclusive benefit. That on the surface is a serious conflict of interest. I understand that they would like you to ration or reallocate non-resident waterfowl licenses and also move Brown County into a different license area. I am strongly opposed to changing any of the existing rules – they are not broken, nor are there any economic or fairness issues with the way it currently is currently structured. You have an obligation to listen to the SD residents first, and not a select few hunting guides who do not care about the SD resident sportsmen and sportswomen. The current regulations are structured to protect the resources, and they fairly allocate opportunities to both the SD residents and the visiting non-resident waterfowl hunters alike. The proposed changes provide a select few outfitters and/or lodges with special wildlife resources for their personal gain. This is not an economic development proposition, and it will not sit very well with either the resident hunters of South Dakota nor the non-resident hunters to South Dakota that have happily supported the economy and played by a fair set of rules. Other states have done this, and those states have succeeded in destroying their wildlife natural resources as one “favor” leads to another “favor”, and then the state has suffered irreparable harm.

I am very strongly opposed to making any changes to the current non-resident waterfowl licensing regulations, first and foremost on behalf of the resident SD residents that enjoy your amazing resources. Please use every opportunity to oppose the commercialization of the wildlife natural resources that your state is so blessed to have, because those resources are fragile, and the commercial exploitation of any wildlife natural resource never ends well.

Thank you very much,

Robert

Robert Naylor

1108 Willow Drive

Chapel Hill, NC 27517

(919) 699-1959 (cell)

robert@trianglecf.org

From: Miller, LouAnn
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] OPPOSED to Increase in Non-Resident Waterfowl Licenses
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 12:50:45 PM

From: John Moisan [mailto:johnmoisan7@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 11:36 AM

To: Peterson, Cathy; Jensen, Barry; Boyd, Mary Anne; Dennert, Paul H.; Jensen, Gary; Olson, Russell; Sharp, Doug; Phillips, W. Scott

Cc: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] OPPOSED to Increase in Non-Resident Waterfowl Licenses

Ladies and Gentlemen: My name is John Moisan and I grew up in Watertown in the 1950's and 1960's. I learned how to hunt ducks (mostly canvasbacks) and geese with my grandpa, Bud Hoy, on Stover's Pass west of Florence, SD. In those days, few people were tough enough and diligent enough to stick out the bad weather waiting for canvasbacks in a blizzard. We were, independent, hard core, did our scouting homework and staked out a hole on a windy hilltop just to get a shot. We were willing to work for our ducks.

In my hunting/fishing lifetime (60 years), I have seen the South Dakota commercialization (guided hunts) of pheasants, prairie chickens/grouse, Canadian geese, snow geese, walleyes and all types of fish, white tail deer, mule deer, wild turkey, prairie dogs, "wild" buffalo, "wild" and truly wild elk, antelope, and almost every single species of wildlife South Dakota has to offer. As each species is commercialized, the places for the "average guy" resident hunter decrease dramatically. We have been, for a long time, over the breaking point in South Dakota, where there will be no where for us to take our grandchildren for a quality, no cost, outdoor experience.

For the record, I AM a landowner in Tripp County as well as a resident of Fort Pierre. I have bills to pay just like every other landowner and could easily and quickly charge people to hunt or establish a hunting preserve. BUT I won't do it. Most of my farm neighbors charge \$150-\$300 per person/per day to hunt pheasants/grouse. One neighbor, charges \$30,000 per group for a 3 day weekend hunt. Most of what they do is about greed and killing. It's not about hunting - it's paying to kill tame pheasants. The quality outdoor experience with our grandchildren is dead in Tripp County (and most other counties).

Your vote to add non-resident waterfowl licenses to satiate the greed of a few "professional" guides will put the final nail in the coffin for quality waterfowl hunting with our grandchildren in South Dakota.

John G. Moisan
709 Two Rivers
Fort Pierre, SD 57532
(605)280-1750

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Opposition to Commission vote regarding Non-Resident Waterfowl Licenses
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 11:08:11 AM

From: Tom Viet [mailto:tviet@henrycarlson.com]

Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 11:02 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] Opposition to Commission vote regarding Non-Resident Waterfowl Licenses

Please take this email as opposition to the May, 2017 proposal regarding the nonresident waterfowl licenses. We cannot, as South Dakota citizens, allow the commercialized hunting of waterfowl in this state. It will ruin the opportunity for all the residents in the state as the non-residents continue to flock here to pay fees to commercial hunting operations that really do not help out states funding. This money is not spent in all the communities but rather paid fees to out of state owners and operations that leave the state as soon as the migration is gone.

Please keep something for the local residents of this great State! Thanks

Tom Viet .

47497 Silver Creek Circle, Renner, SD

t. 605-336-2410 **c.** 605-254-6706

e. tviet@henrycarlson.com

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] please have the august mgmt take for geese this year, we need it. thx, Dave Feiner
Date: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 12:02:38 PM

From: David Feiner [mailto:feinerdave@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 11:53 AM
To: SDGFPINFO
Subject: [EXT] please have the august mgmt take for geese this year, we need it. thx, Dave Feiner

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Proposal for out-of-state waterfowl license increase...
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 9:02:46 AM

From: isaacson@sio.midco.net [mailto:isaacson@sio.midco.net]

Sent: Saturday, June 03, 2017 5:14 PM

To: Peterson, Cathy; Jensen, Barry; Boyd, Mary Anne; Dennert, Paul H.; Jensen, Gary; Olson, Russell; Sharp, Doug; Phillips, W. Scott; GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] Proposal for out-of-state waterfowl license increase...

I would like to go on record as OPPOSING the 250 3-day license increase in eastern South Dakota AND also OPPOSING the 500 3-day license increase in Brown County. Please take this into consideration at your commission meeting on June 8th and 9th.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maynard Isaacson

3405 S. Pennant Pl.,

Sioux Falls, SD 57110

605.759.8837

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Proposed Bill
Date: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 7:48:47 AM

From: Derek Larson [mailto:derek.larson@aberdeenroncalli.org]

Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 9:37 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] Proposed Bill

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in response to the proposed bill increasing nonresident waterfowl licenses in Eastern South Dakota. I am a firm believer on keeping the out of state licenses the way it is. I think we have a great system right now that supports both out of state and more importantly instate hunters. As my research has produced it looks to me as if the waterfowl drawing success rate is around 70%. There are many other drawings in South Dakota with a much lower rate for instate hunters at this current time. I know offering our state's resources such as hunting is important, which I agree, but I am thinking of my two son's (1 and 3) when it comes to this bill. I would like them to experience this great state as I have, and would like to introduce them into the outdoors.

Thanks for your time.

Derek Larson

Aberdeen

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Proposed West River Deer Season
Date: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 11:53:05 AM

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

From: Jimmy [<mailto:jkrnsak@itctel.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 10:18 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Proposed West River Deer Season

I request that the two season format for West River Deer Season in Gregory County be continued.

The two season format has been working just fine from the hunter's point of view. I have been deer hunting in Gregory County for 30 years and I have never heard a negative comment from another hunter.

I do not believe that Gregory County has sufficient infrastructure (motels, restaurants, processing) to support a single season format.

These facilities are maxed out even with the two season format and would not be able to support the increased number of hunters with the proposed format.

The public lands available for deer hunting are very crowded and would be even more so under the proposed season. Private lands are tied up by commercial interests who charge \$700 to \$1,500 on up for a buck and \$400 on up for a doe. The two season format makes the best use of available lands for South Dakota hunters who do not or can not support commercial hunting operations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jimmy Krsnak
24009 465th Ave.
Chester, SD 57016

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Waterfowl hunting
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 10:40:37 AM

From: Matt Nofziger [mailto:nofzmatt@showplacewood.com]

Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 8:47 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: [EXT] Waterfowl hunting

Please do not allow more out of state waterfowl hunters. We need to keep the opportunities limited for out of state hunters and keep the outfitters from turning waterfowl hunting into what pheasant hunting has become.

Thank you for your time.

Matt Nofziger

Materials Manager

Showplace Wood Products

nofzmatt@showplacewood.com

Phone (605) 743-5968

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Waterfowl proposal
Date: Thursday, June 01, 2017 11:27:26 AM

From: Chad Johnson [mailto:igotducks@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2017 10:46 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Waterfowl proposal

My name is Chad and I'm from Groton. It has come to my attention that Brown Co. has been proposed to be moved out of the current NE corner counties and moved into an area that will have 500 private only tags. This is a terrible move for anyone that hunts Brown Co. Brown Co. has a ton of people hunting and the weekends are already crowded with hunters. While the current 3 day licenses will not be able to be used in Brown Co. if moved the other 3750 10 licenses still can be used on public. So not only will there be just as much NR hunters on public, now there will be more opportunity for NR to hunt private. This is also a huge benefit for paid hunting and promotes leasing of land. Bad bad deal. Keep the commercial interest out of SD waterfowl hunting!!

Chad

From: [Miller, LouAnn](#)
To: [Comes, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Waterfowl
Date: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 7:48:29 AM

From: chad carlson [mailto:chadcarlson394@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 9:02 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] Waterfowl

Dear South Dakota Game Fish and Parks,

I am writing to oppose the proposed increased of nonresident waterfowl licenses in South Dakota. The current allocation of nonresident waterfowl licenses is widely supported by the vast majority of resident and nonresident waterfowl hunters. Currently we have a balanced system that manages quality over quantity, while providing ample opportunity to all. The average successful draw rate for nonresident waterfowl hunters is around ~75%. This means on average nonresidents are able to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota in greater than 7 out 10 years. On the off year they do not draw, they are guaranteed a tag the following year. I know many nonresident waterfowl hunters who appreciate and value the current allocation and the protection of quality over quantity. I have three nonresident family members who apply to waterfowl hunt every year in SD. It is very rare for any of them to be turned down. In fact, my uncle has been successful 10 years in a row.

We are fortunate to live in a state that consistently provides quality over quantity. Our highways have room for more, our child's class sizes have room for more, our tax rates could be higher, the towns we live in could be triple the population within the same geographic area, etc., etc., but we as South Dakotans appreciate quality over quantity. I ask you to continue providing a quality waterfowl hunt over quantity, while still providing opportunity to the nonresident base.

I am aware there is a small percent of people who wish commercialize waterfowl hunting in South Dakota. I would propose two recommendations to help alleviate the concerns of those who wish to commercialize and profit from the public's resources. First, move the nonresident waterfowl draw date to earlier in the year. I have heard the commercial interests argue potential hunters do not have enough time to plan a waterfowl hunting trip to South Dakota when the draw date is in July. To ease these concerns, I propose we host our nonresident waterfowl drawing in February. This will give nonresidents more time to plan their trip. The second recommendation would be to identify a threshold that could trigger a need to increase the nonresident waterfowl allocation. Example---- If the nonresident waterfowl license success rate drops below an identified threshold (perhaps 50%?) we are arguably starting to deny opportunity and may need to explore the increase of nonresident waterfowl licenses in South Dakota. In my opinion, identifying a threshold based on nonresident draw success % would be more scientifically grounded and agreeable by all, rather than plucking license allocation numbers out of the clouds.

I apologize for the lengthy letter. I left much information out but wanted to cover some highlights. I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my letter and thank you for

being public servants in this important role.

Chad Carlson

Aberdeen, SD

Comes, Rachel

From: Miller, LouAnn
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Comes, Rachel
Subject: FW: [EXT] GFP proposal to eliminate split deer season
Attachments: doc09190820170605121233.pdf

Categories: Commission

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

From: Hank Wonnenberg [<mailto:hank.wonnenberg@bankwest-sd.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 1:15 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: [EXT] GFP proposal to eliminate split deer season

Please see attached. Thank you for your consideration!

Hank Wonnenberg,
Business Development Officer
615 Main St., PO Box 348, Gregory, SD 57533
605-835-9692 or 800-566-3439
www.bankwest-sd.bank

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

From: GregoryMFP@bankwest-sd.com [<mailto:GregoryMFP@bankwest-sd.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2017 1:13 PM
To: Hank Wonnenberg <hank.wonnenberg@bankwest-sd.com>
Subject:

FS-3540MFP
[00:c0:ee:8d:19:d0]

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June 5, 2017

RE: Input on Proposal to Discontinue Split Deer Season in Gregory County, SD

Dear Game, Fish, and Parks Commission:

This letter is being sent in response to the proposal to eliminate the split deer hunting season in Gregory County, SD. I personally am not a deer hunter and, although my family farms, we don't take part in commercial hunting. I am sending this letter from my perspective as an Ag and Commercial Loan Officer.

Our local businesses depend upon two primary industries to survive – agriculture and hunting. Many of our businesses need both industries to prosper in order to survive as we have little else to offer in our rural and somewhat desolate communities. Additionally, property values in our communities are extremely reliant upon agriculture and the hunting industry. Property values need to hold in order for many of our residents to be able to obtain financing for a variety of things.

When the number of hunting licenses or tags are cut, or when a season is shortened or eliminated in any way, it has a direct impact on local businesses. In small communities like those in Gregory County and the surrounding area, every sales transaction matters. The proposal would reduce the amount of non-local traffic in our communities. Additionally, there are even larger impacts that could be felt over the course of several years – property values may decline as a result (both rural ag properties with hunting habitat as well as residential properties) because hunters and commercial hunting operations are often major players in land purchases. When we order certified appraisals for real estate loans, hunting impact is often cited in the appraisal and likely contributes positively to the appraised value of most properties.

Gregory County has a lot of excellent deer habitat. Deer are thriving in this area. The split deer season with the earlier opener has been around a long time, and our deer numbers are plentiful. I do not see a "good" reason for adjusting the seasons in Gregory County. I do feel that the impacts felt within the communities in our area will only be negative if you decide to eliminate the earlier opener. The longer we can have hunters around, the more goods and services those in the communities can provide to the hunters (which also increases tax revenue). Please consider the issues I've addressed in this brief letter. I know I have heard other arguments for leaving things alone, but I have concentrated on addressing those issues which will adversely affect the financial positions of many within our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Hank Wonnemberg'.

Hank Wonnemberg

Business Development Officer, BankWest-Gregory