

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

A Public Hearing will be held at the Cedar Shores Resort, 1500 Shoreline Dr., Oacoma, South Dakota, on June 8, 2017, at 2:00 o'clock P.M. (CDT), to consider adoption, amendment and repeal of Rules pertaining to:

1. Amend ARSD 41:03:04 – Camping Permits and Rules (Park facility use fees).

Effect: The proposed rule would establish facility fees for special events held at the Good Earth State Park visitor center and adjacent grounds.

Reason: State park areas are sought after sites for private gatherings and special events. Given its beautiful setting and close proximity to Sioux Falls, the Good Earth State Park Visitor Center facility will be a popular venue for events such as weddings, reunions and meetings. The proposed fees take into consideration facility expenses, needed staff time and clean-up costs associated with the anticipated rental uses and are comparable to prices charged for similar facility rentals in the Sioux Falls area.

2. Amend ARSD 41:06:01 – Application for License.

Effect: The proposed amendments would add provisions to existing rule which would allow the department secretary to authorize a terminally ill person to hunt outside established season dates; require a resident or nonresident deer hunter who possesses an archery, muzzleloader, youth or mentor deer license to obtain a free access permit to hunt in the newly created East River deer Limited Access Unit 13L; and allow licenses to be issued to nonresident hunters in Unit WRD-58D for the West River prairie deer season.

Reason: Current rule allows the department secretary to authorize terminally ill residents to hunt deer, antelope or turkey during established hunting seasons. Per the request of the Commission, the department is proposing a recommended change to rule which would allow the department secretary to authorize a terminally ill resident to hunt outside established season dates if the resident's illness has advanced to a point justifying

that allowance. The other proposed rule changes are intended to provide big game hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

3. Amend ARSD 41:06:02 – License Forms and Fees (Custer State Park Trophy and Non-Trophy Bison Licenses)

Effect: The proposed amendments would adjust the license fees for a Custer State Park trophy bull bison license from \$5,000.00 to \$6,500.00, and for a Custer State Park non-trophy bull bison license from \$2,250.00 to \$3,250.00.

Reason: Custer State Park's 3-day guided trophy bull bison harvest is the tool used to remove over mature bison bulls (10+ years old) and is a sought after trophy opportunity with most bulls eligible for Boone & Crockett recognition. The last trophy bull bison license fee adjustment occurred in 2007 and established the existing fee of \$5,000.00. The fee increase being requested by the department is consistent with research indicating that currently the average price nationwide for a trophy bison bull hunt is \$6,300.00. Currently, the non-trophy bull bison hunts are undervalued at the existing fee of \$2,250.00 established in 2013. Adjusting the license fee for non-trophy bull bison to reflect the current market price (\$3,250.00) these bulls would realize in the bison market more accurately reflects the true value of this license.

4. Amend ARSD 41:06:16 – Waterfowl Hunting Season (Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses).

Effect: The proposed amendments would reduce the total number of temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses from 2,000 to 1,750; move Brown County from Unit NRW-00Y (northeast SD) to Unit NRW-00X (central/northcentral SD); reduce the total number of nonresident waterfowl licenses in Unit NRW-00X from 1,500 to 1,000 licenses with 500 having a valid start date of December 1 until the end of the waterfowl season; establish a new unit with 250 nonresident waterfowl licenses that includes all of the state except

counties in Units NRW-00A, NRW-11A, NRW-00X, and NRW-00Y; and make all temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses valid on private land only except those in Unit NRW-00Y.

Reason: Provide nonresident waterfowl hunting opportunities based on public input surrounding the topic of nonresident waterfowl license allocations.

5. Amend ARSD 41:06:19 – Black Hills Deer Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendment would adjust the number of licenses which may be issued to residents from no more than 4,100 one-tag deer licenses to no more than 4,300 one-tag deer licenses.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

6. Amend ARSD 41:06:20 – West River Deer Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would adjust the number of licenses which may be issued to residents from no more than 14,345 one-tag and 5,420 two-tag deer licenses to no more than 15,340 one-tag and 3,320 two-tag deer licenses; discontinue the split seasons for Gregory and Mellette counties and align with the regular West River deer season (i.e., 16 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday 12 days before Thanksgiving); and change the season date for Unit 24B (Little Moreau) from being open for 23 consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday for November to being open 16 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday 12 days before Thanksgiving.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

7. Amend 41:06:21 – East River Deer Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would adjust the number of licenses which may be issued to residents from no more than 17,505 one-tag, 10,175 two-tag and 1,400 three-tag deer licenses to no more than 21,085 one-tag, 5,250 two-tag, and no three-tag deer