

Ascher, Debra

From: GFP Admin Rules
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2014 2:51 PM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Comment on : GFP 2014 July Proposals - 2014 August Finals

Name: Scott Christopherson

Address:

City: Volga

State: SD

Zip: 57071

Email:

Phone:

Comment: I would prefer to see the duck opener start when the goose opener does, in general. I believe there is less confusion by hunters on season start date. I would like to see the duck opener start on Oct. 4th and carry through till December 14th on the low plains North and low plains Middle units. The change in climate and cultural farming practices in the North have changed migration. I think it would allow 5-7 extra migrator hunting days. Please consider this as an amendment to your proposal. I also feel that only 1 Pintail and 1 Redhead should be included in daily bag limits. It was only a couple years ago that both were struggling. Thank you.

Ascher, Debra

From: GFP Admin Rules
Sent: Sunday, August 03, 2014 7:50 AM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Comment on : GFP 2014 July Proposals - 2014 August Finals

Name: Maria May

Address: PO Box 3012

City: Custer

State: SD

Zip: 57730

Email: marialmay83@gmail.com

Phone: 6054400790

Comment: In Re: Turkey Season Proposals To Whom it May Concern: Turkeys are in trouble. There has been miserable successful turkey harvesting rates, and they are only going to get worse. Does anyone ever stop and ask themselves, why? Nope, let's just keep handing out tags like candy. I have come across many, many disgruntled hunters of many, many kinds of animals. Turkeys included. Our neighbors and even our not-neighbors have reported horrible hatch rates from hens over the past few years. This year, three hens have raised a total of nine poults by our house. This is unacceptable. This does not include a late clutch that hatched and was abandoned, a whole three survived out of that one. In order to, what's the word, CONSERVE our turkey species, I propose we shut down turkey hunting for one whole year. Just shut it down completely. Let them breed without the pressure of being shot. Then, find a happy medium of tags to give out. I know this is going to make a lot of people mad, but I for one want my children to enjoy not only observing turkeys but also hunting and eating them. Also, (just throwing this out here), the predation is the number one concern of our gobblers. (At least, I assume, since turkeys can't talk) We need to promote predator tags, more trapping of predators, and partner with the National Wild Turkey Federation to promote a sustainable habitat. Their nesting grounds and roost trees are slowly disappearing due to logging of the beetle trees. I know that this is a necessary thing to do, but we also need to replace what we have taken. It's not the one happy solution that everyone is looking for, but at least it's a start. Maria May

Ascher, Debra

From: GFP Admin Rules
Sent: Monday, August 04, 2014 9:09 AM
To: GFP Admin Rules
Subject: Comment on : GFP 2014 July Proposals - 2014 August Finals

turkey

Name: Bud Shearer

Address: 908 s kinser circle

City: sioux falls

State: SD

Zip: 57110

Email: anita.louise@sio.midco.net

Phone: 6053345132

Comment: Eliminate all non-resident BH1 permits when in state is cut by this percentage.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Fall Wild Turkey Seasons
Attachments: Test Message - Fall Turkey Season Application Deadlines

From: Mike & Carol Kervin [<mailto:cmkervin4@brookings.net>]
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2014 9:07 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Fall Wild Turkey Seasons

I have read everything I can and have listened to the NWTF Biologist and others talk about the very low numbers of wild turkeys, not only in the Black Hills, but across the state. After looking at everything and bring my education in wildlife, both formal and informal, I have to say that GFP should strongly consider closing the Fall Wild Turkey season this year and adjust the dates in future years not to allow deer hunters to have a "convenience turkey tag" to use during the bulk of the deer seasons.

Fall is a good time to close the season on wild turkeys to give the flocks that survive winter a better base to build back to the numbers we saw a few years ago. Fall is also a good time because the economic impact on areas will be lessened because they will still have deer, elk, pheasant and waterfowl hunters plus in some areas snowmobile riders and skiers, to buy fuel, meals, hotel rooms, etc. That would not be the case during a Spring turkey season.

Your intro that was sent out mentioned low turkey numbers 'especially in the Black Hills'. Well, I live east river in Brookings County and we have low numbers as well and our season is closed. Also, from the copy of the proposal I was given at the SD-NWTF board meeting I see most east river counties were being closed except along the river. Don't you feel it is hypocritical to close several counties completely yet still try to maintain hunting in a portion of the Hills? Also, the limit of square miles to hunt in the Black Hills will only concentrate hunters in a smaller area doing more harm to 'especially low numbers in the Black Hills' (your words).

Earning my degrees in outdoors fields of botany and zoology I took enough courses to know that limited fall hunting does not harm a healthy flock that has good habitat. But I would offer for consideration that if the season were closed **THIS FALL instead of 750 tags** and only 100 hens make it through the winter that has the potential of each hen raising a brood of possibly 4-5 poults that is 400 – 500 more birds next fall; add only 100 gobblers make it through the winter that is 100 more gobblers to mate in the spring and also be available for spring turkey season. I believe these are very conservative numbers as long as the winter is relatively mild; but if it is a rough winter that is all the more reason not to take potential flock builders out of the flock.

I am not a Black Hills turkey hunter, I have only hunted there three springs and never in the fall, but I am a turkey hunter and have been since 1978. I really question why GFP and the Game commission wouldn't take a stand to close a season for one fall and then adjust the tag limits and dates in the future to support the resource of the wild turkey.

MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION NOT THE POPULAR ONE! True Turkey hunters will understand and support you.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at this e-mail or by phone at 605-695-9908.

Mike Kervin

Brookings, SD

Turkey hunter

SD-NWTF Volunteer of the year 2005

SD-NWTF Educator of the year 2013

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Fall Turkey Hunt

From: Curt Neises [<mailto:curt@minerins.com>]

Sent: Friday, August 01, 2014 2:43 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Fall Turkey Hunt

Why are you allowing hen turkey's to be harvested. It appears to me the numbers are way down. Can you confirm where the numbers are over a ten year span? I don't even hunt the hills anymore because of this.

Curt

Curtis L Neises

Howard, SD 57349

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW:

From: Toby Hinckley [<mailto:tobyhinckley@ymail.com>]

Sent: Friday, August 01, 2014 5:17 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

I fully support the changes for the fall turkey season. Toby Hinckley my address is 12174 USHwy 14A Sturgis SD 57785

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Fall turkey

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

From: Adam Golay [<mailto:adamgolay@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Saturday, August 02, 2014 9:22 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Fall turkey

The fall turkey season should start the same day as antelope season so that way people can hunt antelope & turkeys on the same trip without making a special trip west river to shoot turkeys in the fall. If it starts in October the odds of selling more tags is probably better than if it starts in November. Thanks.

Adam G
Sioux Falls, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Fall Turkey proposals

From: Sam & Linda Owen [<mailto:owenoutfit@lakotanetwork.com>]

Sent: Sunday, August 03, 2014 2:06 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Fall Turkey proposals

Two Whom it may concern:

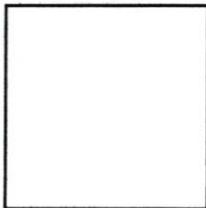
As you finalize the proposals to cut back on the tags (1 turkey instead of two) and shorten the season, please keep in mind that the lower success numbers in recent years is not necessarily because the turkey population has dwindled, but more that the number of land owners allowing hunting has dwindled.

Land owners are moving more and more to “pay hunting” and those of us who rely on the wild game for meat are suffering because we are not hunting for sport, but to eat. Many South Dakota hunters cannot afford to pay land owners to hunt, so we are “scrambling” for places to hunt, whether it be for deer, turkey or otherwise.

I would ask that you reconsider and let the West River have two tags for the fall season. I would also ask that you rethink shortening the season by a month and leave it as it was.

Respectfully,

Sam Owen



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Turkey Proposal Comments

From: Robert Foote [<mailto:bobofoote@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, August 04, 2014 10:15 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Turkey Proposal Comments

I wish to comment on the 2014 East River (ER) Turkey license proposal. I am a non-resident that loves to hunt in SoDak. First I want to say thank you for allowing me this privilege. In reviewing the proposal, I do not see anything about non-resident license availability. I am hoping that the 2014 Fall ER turkey season will allow at least a few nonresident turkey license in the drawing. During 2013 season, residents were allowed to have up to 5 tags. This number seemed outrageous. Why would the State of South Dakota allow each hunter a possible 5 tags or even 2 tags? The turkey has barely gotten a foothold in Eastern SoDak and to allow so many tags seems ridiculous. I feel if each hunter **should only get 1 tag**. That way there would be more opportunities for more hunters plus everyone could have wild turkey for Thanksgiving.

Also, changing the opening season date to Nov. 1st is okay but I think the state should wait till 2015 to make this change. Many hunters have already planned their hunting trips for 2014 thinking the season would open the same time as last year. Giving advanced notice would allow everyone to plan for a later start date.

I would appreciate you sharing my thoughts at the meeting on Thursday. Thanks~

Robert Foote

10209 Regatta Ave.

Whittier, CA 90604

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: BH Fall Turkey Season

On Aug 5, 2014, at 10:32 AM, "Tom Kuck" <mrduck@abe.midco.net> wrote:

I would like to go on record as favoring a complete closure of the Fall Turkey Season in the Black Hills. You and I have discussed this in the past. The population in the high country is nearly wiped out and anything that can be done to prevent harvest on these birds during the upcoming fall season would be a small step in the right direction.

As we have discussed, unless a person sees the situation and experiences all the conditions that occur it is difficult to realize what has happened to bird numbers west of highway 385 over the past 5-10 years. You need to be up there and see snow conditions in the months of April and May, see what has happened to a big area because of fires, now logging is going full bore to attempt to curtail the spread of mountain pine beetles. Put this together with predation, and hunting during the fall elk and deer seasons, and the birds are just barely hanging on. I've hunted the limestone since 1968, and been a resident and landowner up there since 1984. I've seen it in both good and bad times as far as turkey numbers and now it is very bad. I've been up there 9 times since the first week in April and have yet to see a turkey brood. Over the past 4 summers I've seen a total of 4. I have been accustomed to seeing 6-8 broods every trip out there in years gone by.

Of all the things that are affecting the birds, the Commission can only control one and that is harvest by the gun. I urge the Commission to make the closure on Fall Hunting. The Fall Season is not real hunting, it's drive by shooting! If you watch the Outdoor Channel or any other hunting channels on TV, have you ever seen a segment on Fall Turkey Hunting?

If complete closure of the Fall Season in the Black Hills is not an option, please take a real hard look at a closure for the Northern Hills and west of Highway 385 down to Highway 16 and west to the Wyoming Border.

Thanks for the opportunity and feel free to share my comments with staff and other Commissioners.

Tom Kuck

James A Elsing
906 WEST 2ND AVENUE
LEMMON, SOUTH DAKOTA 57638
USA
PHONE 605-374-5840
E-MAIL elsing@sdplains.com

August 5, 2014

Commissioners
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Re: 2014 Fall Turkey Season

Dear Commissioners

Regarding the proposed delay in opening the season from the traditional October 1st date to November 1st, let it be known turkeys typically migrate from the Spring and Summer breeding and living areas to the local (generally within ten miles) farm yards and cattle feed lots to reside until the following Spring. Depending upon the weather, this migration usually occurs in the mid October. I have observed the migration vary a couple of weeks in either direction. I know of two locations that sometimes have a good local food supply and the turkeys didn't seem to migrate, at least through December, but these situations are unusual. The common turkey living quarters accessible to hunters before the migration are the national forests and grasslands.

Delaying the opening date to November 1st does several things.

First, it will significantly curtail and sometimes eliminate the ability to hunt turkeys "in the wild," whether on public or private land because the turkeys have already migrated. Do you really want to funnel hunters to the ranchers doorsteps?

Second, not all private landowners grant permission to hunt turkeys then headquartering in their farmsteads and feed lots. I have been turned down at several locations with wintering turkeys. I also recall where permission seemed to be granted with reluctance, so I didn't hunt. I suspect there are hunters who when required to ask permission, simply don't and skip the hunting. Do you want to reduce the opportunity to hunt?

Third, in those situations where the turkeys migrated early and were not available "in the wild," shooting a turkey in or near a farmstead is just that. It is mere shooting, not hunting. Is that the kind of behavior you want to promote?

Fourth, my hunting partner does not hunt in colder November weather (and yes, I kid her about it), and she will not get a license on the hope there might be warmer weather on the weekend she has free to hunt. That position is not even close to mine because often the harsher the weather the better the hunting, but it's the reality with her. Do you want to reduce the number of hunters applying for a license?

Fifth, delaying opening to November 1st cuts a whole month of Fall turkey hunting recreation out of my life. I resent that. I suspect a number of others feel the same. Is that what you want?

And regarding limiting the number of turkey licenses a person may purchase from five to two, if your expert game managers have determined that X number of birds may be killed with a corresponding number of licenses issued, why do you care who gets the left over licenses? If I find a good supply of birds, I will get extra licenses as time and birds allow. This does not in any way limit hunting opportunities for anyone else because the licenses are the leftovers. I do not appreciate slashing the opportunity of my hunting potential to a mere fraction of the former.

In general, the delay of opening turkey season to November 1st instead of October 1st and the reduction in number of left over licenses allowed to one hunter are a few more notches of yet another seemingly unending ratcheting up of the reduction and end of hunting. You may think it is minor or insignificant, or of course, justified, but take a step back and put it into perspective. I know most of you are too young to appreciate it, but try to compare the hunting we enjoyed in the 1950s with the complex web of laws, rules and regulations summarized in the 60-plus pages of *Hunting & Trapping Handbook* of today. The current restrictions and limitations on the hunting opportunities today are a world apart, and it was brought about one small step at a time. I take these changes seriously.

Respectfully

James A Elsing

cc Keith Mutschler

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Comments on Unit 2 goose season date changes

From: Allen, Justin
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 11:02 AM
Subject: Comments on Unit 2 goose season date changes

Dear GFP Commissioners,

I'm against the season date changes for Unit 2 Canada Goose. Currently the Unit 2 Canada goose season starts on Saturday and ends on a Friday. The change, if passed would start the season on Monday and end the season on a Sunday. The reason for the proposed change is to increase opportunity to harvest geese the last week of the season that roost on the Missouri River and feed in surrounding fields. I also understand very little geese are on the river the first weekend of the season. However, I'm against the proposed change because there are ample opportunities throughout Unit 2 during the first weekend of the current season to hunt geese. These birds are not on the river but stock ponds/dams. We have had many great hunts, like others, the first weekend of the Unit 2 season in 3 counties in Unit 2 (Stanley, Tripp and now Pennington). These birds only provide opportunities to hunt until freeze-up, generally the first week or two of December. If passed, the proposed season date change to Unit 2 would take away one of only 4 or 5 weekend these geese are able to be targeted before they leave the area. Hunters already have 8-10 weeks of great hunting along the Missouri/Oahe. Please do not take a weekend away from folks hunting areas besides near the river/oahe. Plus by adding Pennington County to Unit 2 a September season will no longer be available there, Pennington county has tons of geese to be hunted in Oct/Nov. By changing the start date to a Monday you will again take away two days/weekend for opportunity to hunt geese there. Many more geese will be harvested the first weekend of the Unit 2 season in Pennington County vs. the last weekend of the season (if changed) in Feb. for sure.

Information provided by GFP shows harvest on Public hunting areas/LOWAA Registration Fields. This area is right off the river/Oahe and these harvest figures have no indication on opportunities throughout Unit 2 that are further (15 miles) from Lake Oahe/Missouri. Those opportunities are there.

Please realize that not all Canada geese in Unit 2 are harvested within 15 miles of Lake Oahe/Missouri River and by changing the dates so the season ends on a Sunday you will take away opportunities throughout Unit 2 during the first weekend(which would eliminated). Please leave the season dates/length as is and do not pass the proposal.

Thanks,
Justin Allen
Pierre, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject:

FW: Increase Snow Goose Limit

We recently read there is a proposal to increase the snow/blue goose/ross limit during the fall 2014 season from 20 to 50 birds/day. We are in support of the increased limit although getting to 20 birds/day is generally quite a challenge but when the stars line up and birds cooperate shooting more than that can be done. On a couple occasions last fall we could have harvested more than 20 birds each.

Thanks,

Jamie Huizenga, [Pierre, SD](#)

Troy Spitzer, [Pierre, SD](#)

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: fall turkey

From: Kim Mydland [<mailto:kmydland@alliancecom.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 9:52 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: fall turkey

I agree with the commissions suggestion on reducing the max number of licenses to be issued from 5 to 2. I've witnessed it first hand as we hunt the spring & fall out west & have for several years. Not this spring but the previous springs have been extremely cold & wet & not conducive for a good hatch. Plus the 10/5/2013 blizzard was not good on the birds in the western counties. Cut those licenses back & trim the out-of-staters back too. They normally end up buying the excess licenses as its cheap for them. Boost the price on there license fee at the very least. Thanks, Kim Mydland, [Sioux Falls, SD](#)

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Fall Turkey

From: Robin Stephens

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:11 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Fall Turkey

I would like to see fall turkey season start in the middle of October. I don't want it to start November 1st because that is deer season and the farmers won't let me hunt there opening weekend. My son likes to hunt when its nice outside and October it still is a nice month to spend outdoors. When you get into November it starts to get cold. Please could you consider a later start in October. Thank You, Kevin

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Fall Turkey Season

From: Robin Stephens
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 2:15 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Fall Turkey Season

I just sent you an e-mail and I forgot to include my last name and residence. My apology for not doing that. Kevin Stephens and I live in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Fall Turkey Hunting Season

From: Ted Wick [<mailto:wick@gwtc.net>]

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 6:26 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Fall Turkey Hunting Season

Please forward to the South Dakota Game Commission: Due to the extremely low numbers of wild turkeys remaining in the Black Hills and surrounding area, I strongly urge you to consider closing the Fall turkey season. I would recommend closure in all of the counties surrounding, and including, the Black Hills. I have hunted turkeys both Spring and Fall, in the southern hills area since the early 1980's. There were way fewer birds during the Spring season this year in all of my usual hunting areas. We had another wet spring which is very hard on poult survival. This past Tuesday evening we had a severe thunderstorm with baseball sized hail, pass through the area. This hail probably caused additional turkey fatalities. If any turkey licenses are issued for fall hunting, they should be for male birds only.

Thanks for your consideration,

Roland Ted Wick
28023 Cascade Road
Hot Springs, SD 57747
605-745-4164

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Turkey Population #'s

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

From: JOEL AMICK [<mailto:jaamick1996@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 3:11 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Turkey Population #'s

I was very surprised to read that they are planning on reducing the number of licenses. In Lawrence Co. & Pennington Co. I have seen an increase in the number of turkeys as compared to previous years. I have seen close to, if not more than, 30 in the past week.

Joel Amick - Lead, SD

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Fall turkey

From: Don B [<mailto:don@valleylettering.com>]
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2014 9:44 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Fall turkey

Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Turkey season

From: kevtribell@midco.net [<mailto:kevtribell@midco.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 5:39 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Turkey season

Dear GF&P. I am very opposed to changing the turkey season to November 1st. When the deer gun season opens, the turkeys in the Black Hills leave the Forest Service land. True turkey hunters need the season start at Oct 1st. Besides, they close the gates on Forest Service land on December 15th. I do agree with changing the limit to 2 from 5.

Kevin Tribell
12813 Larene Dr
Black Hawk, SD 57718

Ascher, Debra

Subject: Fall Turkey season/licenses

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

From: Gary Colbath [mailto:Gary_Colbath@fd.org]

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 11:24 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Fall Turkey season/licenses

Commissioners:

I am writing to ask that you close or severely limit the west river and black hills fall turkey licenses. My name is Gary Colbath. I live at 840 N. Spruce St. #219, Rapid City SD 57701 (605) 391-2763. I have lived and hunted in the Black Hills for more than the last 25 years. I am a turkey hunting guide and avid hunter. In the spring of 2014, I hunted (including archery season) or guided 27 days of the spring season. I hunted/guided on both private and public land in all but the northern part of the Hills. I hunted in CSP. I hunted or guided in Pennington, Meade, Butte, Custer and Zeibach counties on the prairie. In every one of these locations, except perhaps CSP, turkey numbers were down drastically. Moreover, there were very few jakes and jennies in the groups of birds I did see. Some of my hills areas where there have traditionally been birds for years were complete devoid of birds altogether. My personal belief is that the population is down 75% or more from what it was just 3 years ago. In areas on the prairie that use to hold 100 plus birds, numbers were down in to less than 20. These low numbers were wide spread. People who hunted with me and have been coming to the area for years also commented to me about the seemingly terribly low numbers. In the Black Hills, hunting pressure was as high as ever and seemed to remain longer during the season I assume because of the low success people were having.

I talk with dozens of hard core turkey hunters each year, both resident and non-resident. Almost NONE of them seriously hunt turkeys in the fall.

Frankly most people do not know how to hunt turkeys in the fall using calling and proper set ups to effectively take birds with a bow or shotgun as traditional turkey hunting is done. Instead, the vast majority of fall turkey hunters buy a turkey license and have it incidental to the other big game licenses they have, knowing they will be in the field pursuing other big game. Used in this manner, turkeys get killed, often with rifles, as an after thought or as a "bonus" kill, on a deer or elk or lion hunting trip. If fall licenses were limited or eliminated, you would not be depriving people of the opportunity to hunt turkeys as great opportunity exists during the generous spring season when turkeys should be hunted.

This would, however, give the turkeys a small break from pressure and stress during the fall as they prepare for winter. They already have to survive mother nature, year around predation, and a 7 week spring season.

That seems plenty for them to deal with especially in light of our last several years of weather and the hills increasing lion population.

Finally, I would suggest two other regulation changes for the fall if the commission insists on issuing tags for people this year. First, I would propose eliminating the use of rifles during the season. If true turkey hunters really want to use a fall season to hunt, they should have no problem with this change as most if not all limit themselves to a shotgun or bow anyway. This would, however, stop the deer, elk and lion hunters from simply killing turkeys with a big game rifle while out primarily pursuing other

big game. Second, please eliminate ALL hen tags state wide so as to allow every single potential breeding bird to have a chance to survive and produce chicks to help bring back our numbers.

The situation is bad and this issue needs serious attention. I will leave you with this example which I think sums up where things are at: I hunt two particular ranches every year and have been on each for almost a decade. Both ranchers typically have several hundred birds winter on the property and each rancher has used GFP resources, transplanting and depredation hunting to deal with birds in the past. This year, both ranchers closed their property to all hunting, except for allowing me to take 2 toms off each place, for fear of losing all of their turkeys in the future. They went from depredation problems and hundreds of birds, to a fear of having none! Please help insure that this does not happen.

Thanks for your work on the commission and consideration of this issue.
Contact me if you have any questions.

Gary Colbath