

# Hunter Evaluation of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Report

HD-7-10.AMS

LARRY M. GIGLIOTTI, PH.D.



## WALK-IN AREA

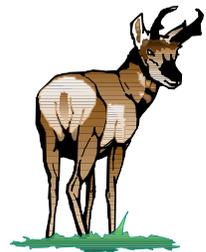
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This report was produced for Game, Fish and Parks' wildlife staff and administrators to measure the use of Walk-In Areas and evaluate the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program from the perspective of hunters. Information is compared with a similar evaluation of the 1999 and 2005 Walk-In Areas Program.

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# Executive Summary

## Hunter Evaluation of the 2009 Walk-In Areas

### HD-7-10.AMS

**Larry M. Gigliotti, PH.D.**

From a very meager beginning in 1988 starting with 23,161 enrolled acres, the Walk-In Areas Program reached over one million enrolled acres (1,038,793 acres) in 2005, growing to 1,245,342 acres by 2009 (Figure 1). A survey was conducted of resident and nonresident hunters to measure hunters' use and evaluation of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program. This survey also measures the use of private land, public land and road rights-of-way. Data is compared with information from a hunter evaluation of the 1999 Walk-In Areas (619,479 enrolled acres) and the 2005 Walk-In Areas.

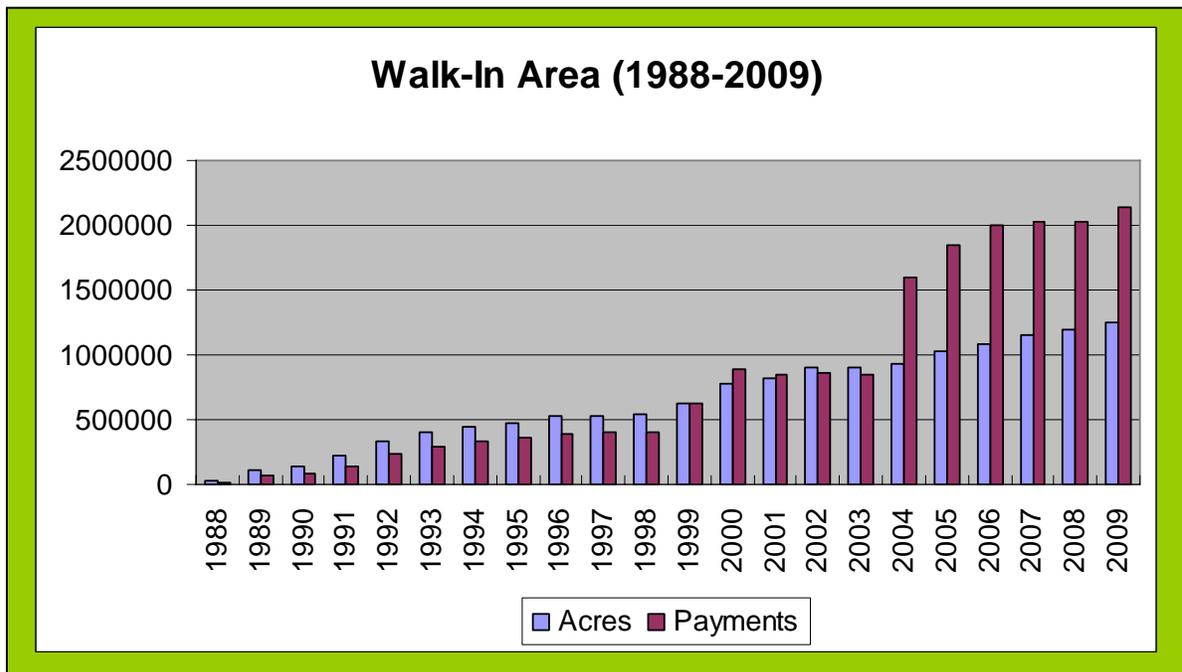


Figure 1. Walk-In Areas Program history – acres enrolled and payments (1988 – 2009).

While very few hunters rely totally on Walk-In Areas for their hunting, about 37% of the resident hunters and 29% of the nonresident hunters utilize these areas, mainly as a supplement to their total amount of hunting. For the types of hunting measured in this study, residents spent 9.5% of their total time hunting Walk-In Areas and nonresidents spent 8.7% of their total time hunting Walk-In Areas. Of hunters' total days of pheasant hunting on Walk-In Areas in 2009, resident hunters accounted for 57% of the days and nonresident hunted 43% of the days.

The percent of time spent by land-type (Tables 1-A – 1-E) and days hunted was measured by the survey and was used to estimate the economic value of the Walk-In Areas Program for 2009. For an investment of about 2.2 million dollars, the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program produced an estimated 153 thousand days of hunting with an economic impact of about 15.2 million dollars or 16.2 million dollars, depending on which daily expenditure values are used for the types of hunting activities measured in this study (resident and nonresident grouse, pheasant, waterfowl, East River rifle deer, West River rifle deer, and rifle antelope hunting). The economic values estimated for the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program show a substantial contribution to the local and state economy.

In summary, the Walk-In Areas Program is very successful from the participants' viewpoint. Most hunters using the Walk-In Areas felt that it had good habitat and was important to their overall hunting. Most resident and nonresident hunters were satisfied with the Walk-In Areas Program (69% and 72%; respectively) and with the atlas (67% and 72%; respectively). Dissatisfaction was relatively low with the Walk-In Areas Program (14% and 16%; respectively) and with the atlas (9% and 7%; respectively).

**Table 1-A.** Land use by hunters hunting **grouse / prairie chickens / partridge** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Type of Land Hunted	RESIDENTS			NONRESIDENTS		
	Average Percent of Time Hunting Grouse			Average Percent of Time Hunting Grouse		
	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009
Private land	60.0%	54.5%	51.4%	67.3%	68.9%	65.5%
Public land	15.5%	17.1%	19.6%	15.0%	10.4%	14.6%
Walk-In Areas	14.7%	19.8%	18.3%	9.7%	16.2%	14.5%
Road Rights-of-Way	9.8%	8.6%	10.7%	7.9%	4.5%	5.4%
<b>Total (number)</b>	864	228	633	121	78	318

**Table 1-B.** Land use by hunters hunting **pheasants** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Type of Land Hunted	RESIDENTS			NONRESIDENTS		
	Average Percent of Time Hunting Pheasants			Average Percent of Time Hunting Pheasants		
	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009
Private land	69.5%	69.3%	68.6%	78.7%	79.9%	77.2%
Public land	8.7%	8.0%	9.7%	7.0%	7.0%	7.2%
Walk-In Areas	7.4%	10.1%	9.3%	6.1%	7.3%	8.5%
Road Rights-of-Way	14.4%	12.7%	12.4%	8.2%	5.9%	7.0%
<b>Total (number)</b>	2,605	1,370	3,384	713	795	2,194

**Table 1-C.** Land use by hunters hunting **waterfowl** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Type of Land Hunted	RESIDENTS		
	Average Percent of Time Hunting Waterfowl		
	1999	2005	2009
Private land	63.2%	58.7%	62.4%
Public land	21.9%	26.5%	26.3%
Walk-In Areas	7.8%	8.8%	7.4%
Road Rights-of-Way	7.1%	6.0%	3.9%
<b>Total (number)</b>	1,212	402	943

**Table 1-D.** Land use by hunters hunting **East and West River Deer** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

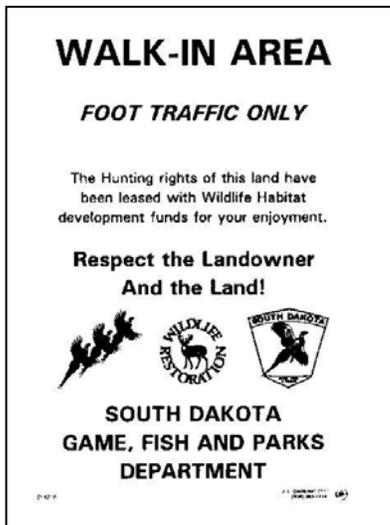
Type of Land Hunted	RESIDENTS					
	East River Deer			West River Deer		
	Average Percent of Time Hunting East River Deer			Average Percent of Time Hunting West River Deer		
	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009
Private land	86.6%	85.5%	86.3%	76.0%	65.5%	62.0%
Public land	8.7%	7.2%	8.4%	15.8%	18.9%	22.4%
Walk-In Areas	4.7%	7.3%	5.3%	8.3%	15.7%	15.6%
<b>Total (number)</b>	1,476	642	1,852	1,166	261	966

**Table 1-E.** Land use by hunters hunting **antelope** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Type of Land Hunted	RESIDENTS		
	Average Percent of Time Hunting Antelope		
	1999	2005	2009
Private land	69.1%	63.1%	54.8%
Public land	13.6%	9.7%	17.1%
Walk-In Areas	17.4%	27.2%	28.1%
<b>Total (number)</b>	744	109	485

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# Hunter Evaluation of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Report

## HD-7-06.AMS

*Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.*

### Introduction

From a very meager beginning in 1988 starting with 23,161 enrolled acres, the Walk-In Areas Program reached over one million enrolled acres by 2005 and growing to 1,245,342 acres by 2009 (Figure 1). A survey was conducted of resident (Appendix A) and nonresident (Appendix B) hunters to measure hunters' use and evaluation of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program. This survey also measures the use of private land, public land and road rights-of-way. Data is compared with information from a similar hunter evaluation of the 1999 Walk-In Areas (619,479 enrolled acres) and 2005 Walk-In Areas (1,038,793 enrolled acres) (Gigliotti, 2000 and 2006).

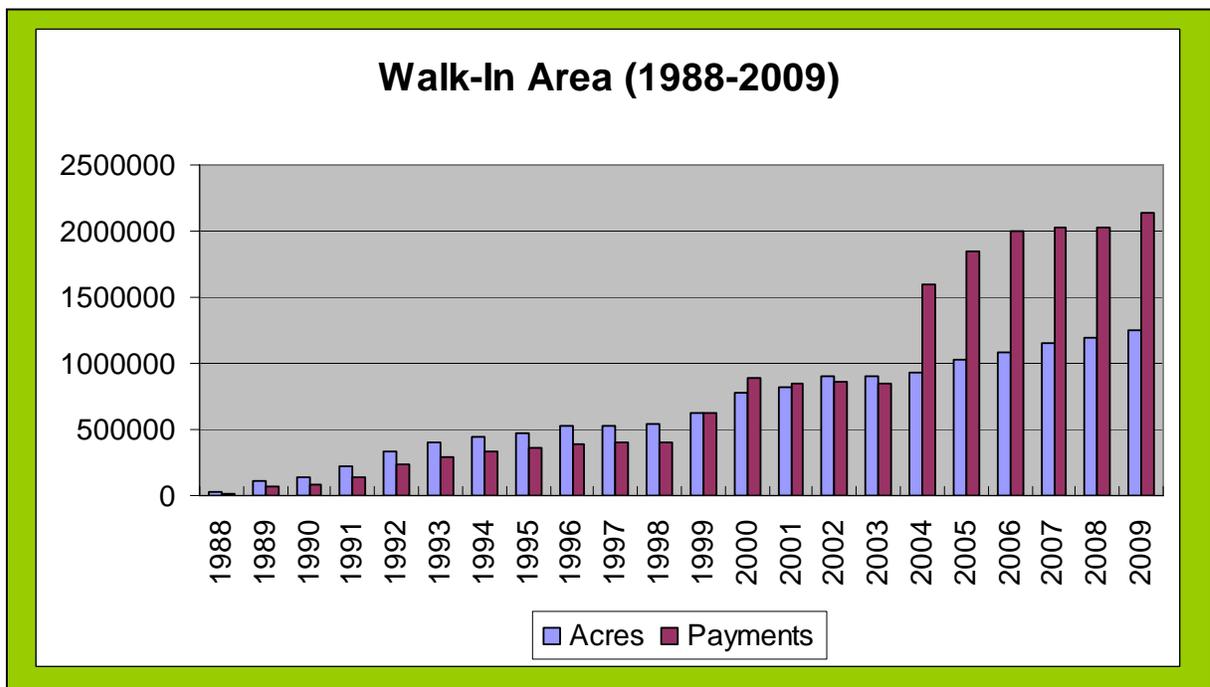


Figure 1. Walk-In Areas Program history – acres enrolled and payments (1988 – 2009).

## **Sample and Return Rate**

The resident sample was developed by randomly selecting 2,500 names and addresses from the 2009 Resident Small Game License database, 3,000 from the 2009 Resident Combination License database, and 500 from the 2009 Resident Junior Combination License database for a total sample size of 6,000. The nonresident sample consisted of 3,000 names and addresses randomly selected from the 2009 Nonresident Small Game License database. The resident survey achieved a usable 72% return rate and the nonresident survey a usable 77% return rate (Figure 2).

Both samples were first sent the survey by e-mail using the SurveyMonkey program<sup>1</sup> in early January 2010 including two reminders over a three week period. Overall, about two-thirds of the samples responded via the electronic survey route. Non-respondents were sent a mailed survey questionnaire in early February, a postcard reminder about mid-February and a second mailing of the questionnaire in early March.

<b>Sampling Parameters</b>	<b>Resident</b>		<b>Nonresident</b>	
<b>Total Sample Size</b>	6,000		3,000	
<b>Undeliverable</b>	91		22	
<b>Final Sample Size</b>	5,909		2,978	
<b>Total Returns (%)</b>	4,529 (76.6%)		2,400 (80.6%)	
<b>Minus Unusable</b>	269		98	
<b>Usable Returns</b>	4,260		2,302	
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>72.1%</b>		<b>77.3%</b>	
<b>Usable Returns</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Return by E-mail</b>	2,728	64.0%	1,568	68.1%
<b>Return by Mail</b>	1,532	36.0%	734	31.9%
<b>Total</b>	4,260	100%	2,302	100%
<b>Unusable Returns</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>by E-mail</b>	261	97.0%	85	86.7%
<b>by Mail</b>	8	3.0%	13	13.3%
<b>Total</b>	269	100%	98	100%

Figure 2. Sampling statistics for the hunter evaluation of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Survey.

<sup>1</sup> SurveyMonkey.com

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There may have been a problem with some e-mail data or respondents having problems with the e-mail survey because most of the unusable questionnaires were from the e-mail survey (Figure 2). The unusable e-mail returns were logged-in as returned but only had the first question answered. This may have been either a technical or a respondent problem.

### **Results**

Resident hunters averaged 5.69 days of grouse hunting, 8.55 days of pheasant hunting, 8.07 days of waterfowl hunting, 5.20 days of East River deer hunting, 4.11 days of West River deer hunting and 2.59 days of antelope hunting (Table 1-A). Nonresident hunters averaged 3.93 days of grouse hunting and 4.71 days of pheasant hunting (Table 1-B).

### **Grouse / Prairie Chicken / Partridge Hunting.**

Resident hunters spent 51% of their time grouse/prairie chicken/partridge hunting on private land, 20% on public land, 18% on Walk-In Areas and 11% on road rights-of-way (Table 2-A). Nonresident hunters spent 65% of their time grouse/prairie chicken/partridge hunting on private land, 15% on public land, 15% on Walk-In Areas and 5% on road rights-of-way (Table 2-B). Resident and nonresident relative use of Walk-In Areas in 2009 for grouse/prairie chicken/partridge hunting was similar to relative use of Walk-In Areas in 2005 (Tables 2-A and 2-B).

In 2009, about 30% of the residents and 42% of the nonresidents spent 100% of their grouse/prairie chicken/partridge hunting on private land (Table 3-A). About 8% of the residents and 5% of the nonresidents did 100% of their grouse/prairie chicken/partridge hunting on public land (Table 3-B). Only 6% of the residents and 3% of the nonresidents did 100% of their grouse/prairie chicken/partridge hunting on Walk-In Areas (Table 3-C). And, 3% of the residents and <1% of the nonresidents did 100% of their grouse/prairie chicken/partridge hunting on road rights-of-way (Table 3-D).

Of those that hunted for grouse/prairie chicken/partridge on Walk-In Areas in 2009, most residents (51%) and nonresidents (58%) rated the habitat as 'good' to 'excellent' (Table 4). Both resident and nonresident rating of the Walk-In Area habitat quality in 2009 was statistically similar to ratings given in 2005. And, of those that hunted Walk-In Areas for grouse/prairie chicken/partridge, most residents (63%) and nonresidents (66%) reported that Walk-In Areas were 'very important' or 'critical' for their grouse/prairie chicken/partridge

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hunting (Table 5). Both of these evaluations in 2009 were statistically similar to the same evaluations in 2005.

### **Pheasant Hunting.**

Resident hunters spent about 69% of their time pheasant hunting on private land, 10% on public land, 9% on Walk-In Areas and 12% on road rights-of-way (Table 6-A).

Nonresident hunters spent about 77% of their time pheasant hunting on private land, 7% on public land, 9% on Walk-In Areas and 7% on road rights-of-way (Table 7-B). Relative use of Walk-In Areas in 2009 for pheasant hunting by residents and nonresidents was similar to their respective relative use of Walk-in Areas in 2005.

About 39% of the residents and 50% of the nonresidents spent 100% of their pheasant hunting on private land (Table 7-A). About 2% of the residents and 1% of the nonresidents did 100% of their pheasant hunting on public land (Table 7-B). Only 1.3% of the residents and 0.6% of the nonresidents did 100% of their pheasant hunting on Walk-In Areas (Table 7-C). And, 2.6% of the residents and 0.7% of the nonresidents did 100% of their pheasant hunting on road rights-of-way (Table 7-D).

Of those that hunted for pheasants on Walk-In Areas, most residents (57%) and nonresidents (60%) rated the habitat as 'good' to 'excellent' (Table 8). And, of those that hunted Walk-In Areas for pheasants, most residents (58%) and nonresidents (65%) reported that Walk-In Areas were 'very important' or 'critical' for their pheasant hunting (Table 9). Resident and nonresident ratings of the habitat quality of the Walk-In Areas for pheasant hunting in 2009 was lower compared to 2005. However, the Walk-In Areas importance rating in 2009 was statistically similar to the importance rating in 2005 for both residents and nonresidents.

### **Waterfowl Hunting.**

Resident hunters spent about 62% of their time waterfowl hunting on private land, 26% on public land, 7% on Walk-In Areas and 4% on road rights-of-way (Table 10). Relative use of Walk-In Areas for waterfowl hunting in 2009 by resident hunters was similar to their relative use of Walk-in Areas in 2005. About 47% of the resident waterfowl hunters spent 100% of their time on private land, about 14% spent 100% of their time on public land, 3%

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spent 100% on Walk-In Areas and 1% spent 100% of their time on road rights-of-way (Tables 11-A – 11-D).

Of those that hunted for waterfowl on Walk-In Areas, most residents (68%) rated the habitat as ‘good’ to ‘excellent’ (Table 12). And, of those that hunted Walk-In Areas for waterfowl, most residents (72%) reported that Walk-In Areas were ‘very important’ or ‘critical’ for their waterfowl hunting (Table 13). Residents' evaluations of these two parameters in 2009 were statistically similar to the same evaluations in 2005.

### **East River Deer Hunting.**

By far, most East River deer hunting occurred on private land (86%), followed by 8% on public land and 5% on Walk-In Areas (Table 14). Relative use of Walk-In Areas in 2009 for East River deer hunting by resident hunters was similar to their relative use of Walk-in Areas in 2005. About 74% of the East River deer hunters spent 100% of their time on private land, 3.4% spent 100% of their time on public land, and 1.5% spent 100% of their time on Walk-In Areas (Tables 15-A – 15-C).

Of those that hunted for East River deer on Walk-In Areas, most (54%) rated the habitat as ‘good’ to ‘excellent’ (Table 16). This 2009 habitat quality rating was lower than the 2005 rating. Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas for East River deer, most (59%) reported that Walk-In Areas were ‘very important’ or ‘critical’ for their East River deer hunting (Table 17). This 2009 importance rating for Walk-In areas for East River deer hunting was statistically similar to the same evaluation in 2005.

### **West River Deer Hunting.**

Most West River deer hunting occurred on private land (62%), followed by 22% on public land and 16% on Walk-In Areas (Table 18). Relative use of Walk-In Areas in 2009 for West River deer hunting by resident hunters was similar to their relative use of Walk-in Areas in 2005. About 50% of the West River deer hunters spent 100% of their time on private land, 14% spent 100% of their time on public land, and 8% spent 100% of their time on Walk-In Areas (Tables 19-A – 19-C).

Of those that hunted for West River deer on Walk-In Areas, most (59%) rated the habitat as ‘good’ to ‘excellent’ (Table 20). And, of those that hunted Walk-In Areas for West River deer, most (77%) reported that Walk-In Areas were ‘very important’ or ‘critical’ for

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their West River deer hunting (Table 21). Residents' evaluations of these two parameters in 2009 were statistically similar to the same evaluations in 2005.

### **Antelope Hunting.**

Most antelope hunting occurred on private land (55%); 17% on public land and 28% on Walk-In Areas (Table 22). Relative use of Walk-In Areas in 2009 for antelope hunting by resident hunters was similar to their relative use of Walk-in Areas in 2005. About 42% of the antelope hunters spent 100% of their time on private land, 6% spent 100% of their time on public land, and 16% spent 100% of their time on Walk-In Areas (Tables 23-A – 23-C).

Of those that hunted for antelope on Walk-In Areas, most (59%) rated the habitat as 'good' to 'excellent' (Table 24). This 2009 habitat quality rating was lower than the 2005 rating. And, of those that hunted Walk-In Areas for antelope, most (82%) reported that Walk-In Areas were 'very important' or 'critical' for their antelope hunting (Table 25). This 2009 importance rating for Walk-In areas for antelope hunting was statistically similar to the same evaluation in 2005.

### **Overall Evaluation of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program.**

About 37% of the resident hunters and 29% of the nonresident hunters in this sample did some type of hunting on Walk-In Areas during the 2009 hunting season (Table 26). Overall, 69% of the residents and 72% of the nonresidents were satisfied with the 2009 Walk-In Area Program; 14% of the residents and 16% of the nonresidents were dissatisfied (Table 27). Resident satisfaction with the 2009 Walk-In Program was significantly lower than satisfaction measured in 2005 ( $X^2=13.06$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p=0.001$ ) but statistically similar to the satisfaction level measured in 1999 ( $X^2=4.44$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p=0.109$ ). Nonresident satisfaction with the 2009 Walk-In Program was significantly similar to the satisfaction level measured in both 2005 ( $X^2=5.23$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p=0.073$ ) and 1999 ( $X^2=5.25$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p=0.073$ ), but nonresident's mean satisfaction was lower in 2009 than in 2005.

Also, 67% of the residents and 72% of the nonresidents were satisfied with the 2009 Walk-In Areas Atlas, only 9% of the residents and 7% of the nonresidents were dissatisfied (Table 28).

General comments by residents about the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program are printed in Appendix C and D and nonresident comments in Appendix E and F.

**Estimated Use of the 2009 Walk-In Areas.**

Total estimated use was calculated for each of the types of hunting measured in this report in 1999, 2005 and 2009 (Tables 29-A 29-C). This was then partitioned into each of the land types measured in this report (Table 30). Harvest was also estimated by land type (Table 31). These estimates will be used to demonstrate the value of each land type.

Resident grouse and pheasant hunters had higher use of Walk-In Areas compared to nonresident hunters (Table 32). Overall, the relative and absolute use of Walk-In Areas in 2009 was slightly lower compared to 2005, although higher than use in 1999 (Table 33). From 1999 to 2005 the total acres enrolled in the Walk-In Areas Program increased about 68% with an additional 20% increase from 2005 to 2009, thus doubling in size from 1999 to 2009 (101% increase) (Table 34).

**Miscellaneous Information.**

Very few residents (1.2%) and nonresidents (0.5%) hunt only for grouse/prairie chicken/partridge and not for pheasants (Table 35). About 35% of the residents participated in only one of the six hunting activities measured in this report, 37% participated in two hunting activities, 20% in three activities, 6.2% in four activities, 2.0% in five activities and 0.4% in all six activities (Table 36).

When comparing pheasant hunting and waterfowl hunting, only 2.6% participated in waterfowl hunting only, compared to 73% participating in pheasant hunting only, with 24% participating in both pheasant hunting and waterfowl hunting (Table 37).

Comparing East River deer hunting and West River deer hunting, about 62% hunted only East River, 27% only West River and 11% both East River and West River deer hunting (Table 38). Adding antelope to this mix resulted in about 17% hunting only antelope, 26% hunting antelope and East River deer, 39% hunting antelope and West River deer, and 18% hunting all three (Table 39).

**Economic Value of the Walk-In Areas Program.**

By far, whether it is small game, waterfowl or big game, most hunting occurs on private land, however, the contribution of the Walk-In Areas Program is significant. In 1999 there were 619,479 acres enrolled in the Walk-In Areas Program producing an estimated 135,576 days of recreational hunting (7.8% of the total days of recreational hunting for the

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types of hunting evaluated by this survey) at an estimated value of 9.2 million dollars (Table 40-A). This compared to about 167,000 days of recreational hunting on road-rights-of-way in 1999 at an estimated value of 12.1 million dollars.

In 2005 there was over one million acres enrolled in the Walk-In Areas Program producing about 160,000 days of recreational hunting (9.8% of the total days of recreational hunting for the types of hunting evaluated by this survey) at an estimated value of 11.2 million dollars (Table 40-B). This compared to about 123,000 days of recreational hunting on road-rights-of-way in 2005 at an estimated value of 7.8 million dollars.

In 2009 there was over one and a quarter million acres enrolled in the Walk-In Areas Program producing about 149,000 days of recreational hunting (8.8% of the total days of recreational hunting for the types of hunting evaluated by this survey) at an estimated value of 14.2 million dollars (Table 40-C). This compared to about 128,000 days of recreational hunting on road-rights-of-way in 2009 at an estimated value of 14.0 million dollars.

**Additional Economic Value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program.** Not all possible uses of Walk-In Areas were measured by the survey. For example, turkey hunting, archery deer and archery antelope and nonresident waterfowl, deer and antelope hunting were just some of the possible uses not measured. For three of these uses (nonresident waterfowl, deer and antelope hunting) I estimated the days of hunting on Walk-In Areas (assumed to be similar to resident hunter use) based on the number of available nonresident licenses for these three activities. Using an estimated total daily expenditure of \$198 for nonresidents multiplied by this additional nonresident use (4,708 days of hunting) of the 2009 Walk-In Areas would add an additional \$932,184 to the estimated economic impact of the 2009 Walk-In Areas for a total of about \$15.2 million dollars (Table 41).

**An Alternate Estimate of the Economic Value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program.** A main difficulty in estimating economic value of hunting is finding a measure of the average daily expenditures for the various types of hunting. An alternate value of the average daily expenditures was a single value for resident hunters and a single value for nonresident hunters (averaged over several different types of hunting). This alternate measurement distinguished between trip-related and equipment expenditures producing an estimated economic value for the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program of about \$16.2 million dollars (Table 42).

**Comparison of Field Collected Data with the Overall Mailed Survey.** The ratio of resident to nonresident grouse and pheasant hunters measured by data collected in the field (Gigliotti 2010a & 2010b) was very similar to the ratio estimated based on the data collected by this study (Table 43). The mailed survey was a scientific survey using a randomized sample of resident and nonresident hunters while the field survey, due to logistical problems, did not use a completely randomized sampling procedure, but did represent a diversity of locations around the state and sampled throughout the hunting season. This similarity of resident to nonresidents in the two samples suggests that the field survey closely approximated the actual use of Walk-In Areas in 2009.

Overall satisfaction measured by the two different collection methods showed a slightly higher satisfaction rate for the mailed survey compared to the field data (Table 44). The field data satisfaction measure was based on a groups' satisfaction with a site specific Walk-In Areas measured at the end of a day's hunt while the mailed survey measured the respondents' satisfaction summarized over their entire hunting seasons' use of all Walk-In Areas. Manfredro (1984) suggests that different concepts are likely being measured when surveys are administered at different time frames. Also, the two data collection methods may not have collected the same ratio of hunting types for which there was shown to be a difference in satisfaction among the different types of hunting (Gigliotti 2010b). Comparing the two data collection methods using just grouse/pheasant hunters showed a much larger disparity in satisfaction between the field data and the survey data (Table 45).

Previous studies have usually identified nonresidents having higher satisfaction with various types of hunting compared to resident hunters (Gigliotti 2004, Gigliotti 2010c). In this case, most of the differences between the two data collection methods was due to nonresident differences (Table 46). Nonresident satisfaction data collected in the field was very much lower than that measured by the mailed survey while resident satisfaction data collected by the two methods were statistically similar.

## Discussion and Summary

While very few hunters rely totally on Walk-In Areas for their hunting, in 2009 about 37% of the resident hunters and 29% of the nonresident hunters utilized these areas, mainly as a supplement to their total amount of hunting. This report evaluated the Walk-In Area Program at three points in time – 1999, 2005 and 2009. This information can be used as a baseline to compare trends and to evaluate future changes in the Walk-In Area Program. The percent of resident and nonresident hunters using Walk-In Areas in 2009 was slightly lower than in 2005 (1.5% and 1.8%; respectively), but was slightly higher than in 1999 (1.0% and 3.5%; respectively).

The total days of hunting (for the activities measured in this study) and use of Walk-In Areas during the study period (1999 – 2009) did not fluctuate by much (Figure 3). The overall value estimated for the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program (based on 107,116 resident and 46,287 nonresident hunting days) was 15.2 million dollars or 16.2 million dollars, depending on which daily expenditure values are used for the types of hunting activities measured in this study (resident and nonresident grouse, pheasant, waterfowl, East River rifle deer, West River rifle deer, and rifle antelope hunting). The economic values estimated for the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program show a substantial contribution to the local and state economy.

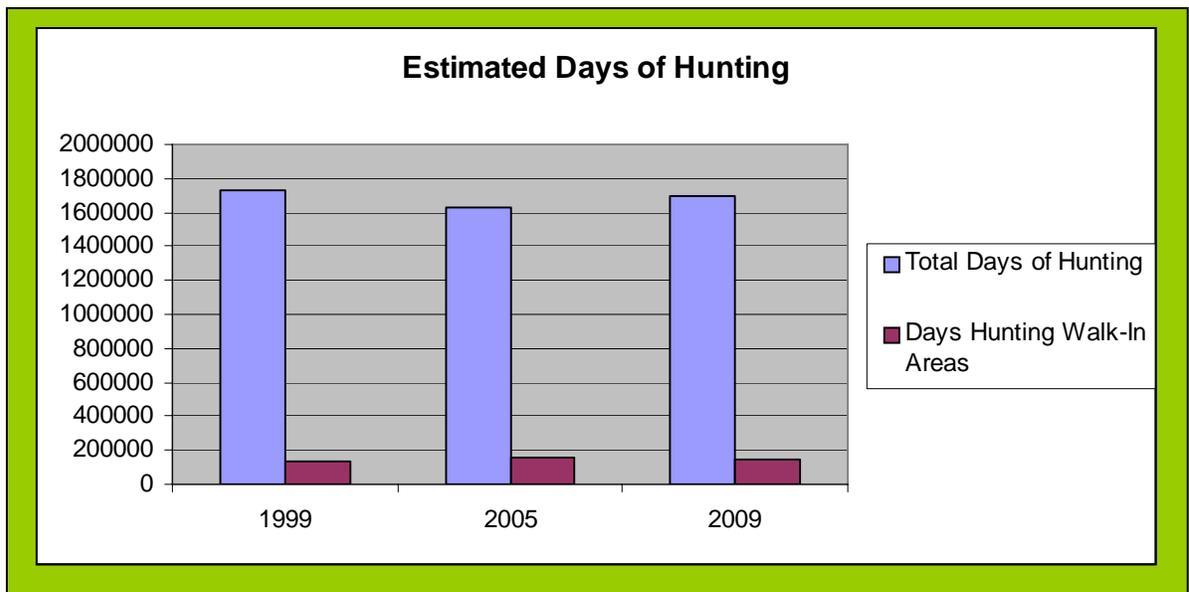


Figure 3. Total days of hunting and days hunting on Walk-In Areas estimated for 1999, 2005 and 2009.

## **Hunter Evaluation of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Report**

*Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.*

While hunters' rating of habitat quality for the 2005 Walk-In areas increased some (4% overall) from 1999, hunters' rating of habitat quality for the 2009 Walk-In Areas decreased for some types of hunting. Resident and nonresident pheasant hunters, resident East River deer hunters and resident antelope hunters rated the habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas significantly lower compared to the habitat quality rating for the 2005 Walk-In Areas. This was also reflected in hunters' overall small drop in satisfaction with the 2009 Walk-In Areas compared to 2005, although there was no drop in satisfaction with the 2009 Walk-In Areas atlas. Also, the importance of the Walk-In Areas Program remains high for a significant number of resident and nonresident hunters

In summary, the Walk-In Areas Program is very successful from the participants' viewpoint. Most hunters using the Walk-In Areas felt that it had good habitat and was important to their overall hunting. Most resident and nonresident hunters were satisfied with the Walk-In Areas Program (69% and 72%; respectively) and with the atlas (67% and 72%; respectively). Dissatisfaction was relatively low with the Walk-In Areas Program (14% and 16%; respectively) and with the atlas (9% and 7%; respectively).

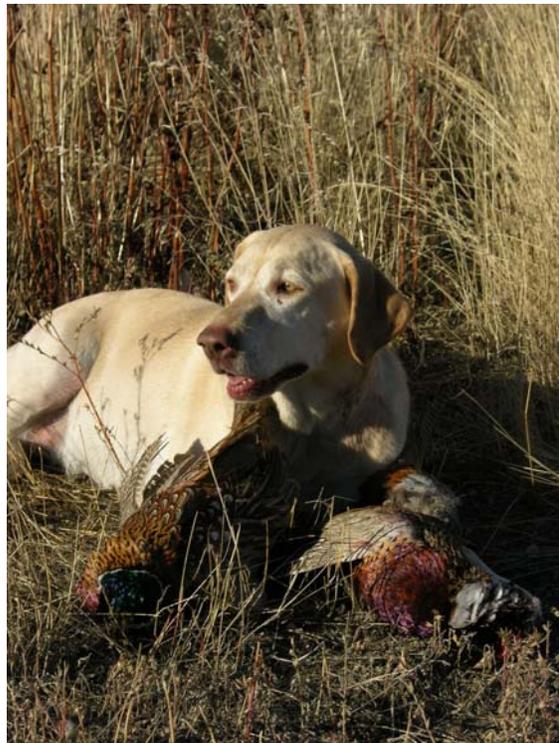
Hunter comments suggest that a general reason for dissatisfaction results when the Walk-In Areas hunted do not meet hunters' expectations. Some hunters seem to have expectations that Walk-In Areas should be better managed, suggesting that food-plots be included. One recommendation would be to provide information that better describes what hunters can expect to find in terms of type of game animals present at each walk-in and quality of habitat to expect, i.e. a simple rating system.

## Hunter Evaluation of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Report

Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.

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*Photo by Chris Hull*

**Table 1-A.** Seasons hunted by respondents to this 1999, 2005 and 2009 **resident** hunter evaluation of Walk-In Areas survey.

<b>SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS</b>			
<b>Season</b>	<b>1999</b>		
	<b>Number Hunting</b>	<b>Percent in Sample that Hunted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Mean Days Hunted</b>
<b>Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge</b>	864	26.1%	5.79
<b>Pheasant</b>	2,605	78.8%	8.81
<b>Waterfowl</b>	1,212	36.7%	9.06
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>	1,476	44.7%	3.86
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>	1,166	35.3%	3.91
<b>Rifle Antelope</b>	744	22.5%	2.22
<b>Total Sample Size = 3,582<sup>2</sup>    Adjusted Sample Size = 3,305</b>			
<b>Season</b>	<b>2005</b>		
	<b>Number Hunting</b>	<b>Percent in Sample that Hunted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Mean Days Hunted</b>
<b>Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge</b>	216	14.6%	5.05
<b>Pheasant</b>	1,369	92.3%	9.04
<b>Waterfowl</b>	387	26.1%	8.70
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>	608	41.0%	4.77
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>	255	17.2%	3.74
<b>Rifle Antelope</b>	104	7.0%	2.12
<b>Total Sample Size = 1,693<sup>2</sup>    Adjusted Sample Size = 1,483</b>			
<b>Season</b>	<b>2009</b>		
	<b>Number Hunting</b>	<b>Percent in Sample that Hunted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Mean Days Hunted</b>
<b>Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge</b>	633	14.9%	5.69
<b>Pheasant</b>	3,402	79.9%	7.85
<b>Waterfowl</b>	943	22.1%	8.07
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>	1,852	43.5%	5.20
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>	968	22.7%	4.11
<b>Rifle Antelope</b>	485	11.4%	2.59
<b>Total Sample Size = 4,529<sup>3</sup>    Adjusted Sample Size = 4,260</b>			

<sup>1</sup>Uses the Adjusted Sample Size

<sup>2</sup>277 / 210 people did not respond to the questions on where they hunted.

<sup>3</sup>269 missing cases (from e-mail survey → possible problem with saving some responses).

**Table 1-B.** Seasons hunted by respondents to this 1999, 2005 and 2009 **nonresident** hunter evaluation of Walk-In Areas survey.

<b>NONRESIDENTS</b>			
<b>Season</b>	<b>1999</b>		
	<b>Number Hunting</b>	<b>Percent in Sample that Hunted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Mean Days Hunted</b>
<b>Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge</b>	121	16.8%	3.82
<b>Pheasant</b>	713	99.2%	4.81
<b>Total Sample Size = 738<sup>2</sup> Adjusted Sample Size = 719</b>			
<b>Season</b>	<b>2005</b>		
	<b>Number Hunting</b>	<b>Percent in Sample that Hunted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Mean Days Hunted</b>
<b>Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge</b>	80	10.2%	4.01
<b>Pheasant</b>	769	98.2%	4.75
<b>Total Sample Size = 815<sup>2</sup> Adjusted Sample Size = 783</b>			
<b>Season</b>	<b>2009</b>		
	<b>Number Hunting</b>	<b>Percent in Sample that Hunted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Mean Days Hunted</b>
<b>Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge</b>	319	13.7%	3.93
<b>Pheasant</b>	2,290	98.3%	4.71
<b>Total Sample Size = 2,400<sup>3</sup> Adjusted Sample Size = 2,330</b>			

<sup>1</sup>Uses the Adjusted Sample Size

<sup>2</sup>19 / 32 people did not respond to the questions on where they hunted.

<sup>3</sup>70 missing cases (from e-mail survey → possible problem with saving some responses) & 28 did not hunt grouse or pheasant



**Table 2-A.** Land use by **resident** hunters hunting **grouse / prairie chickens / partridge** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

<b>SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS – GROUSE / PRAIRIE CHICKENS / PARTRIDGE</b>									
<b>Type of Land Hunted</b>	<b>Average Percent of Time Hunting</b>			<b>Average Harvest per Hunter</b>					
				<b>Number Birds</b>			<b>Percent</b>		
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Private land</b>	60.0%	54.5%	51.4%	5.29	5.03	3.75	58.8%	51.0%	50.8%
<b>Public land</b>	15.5%	17.1%	19.6%	1.26	1.28	1.23	14.0%	13.0%	16.7%
<b>Walk-In Areas</b>	14.7%	19.8%	18.3%	1.23	1.68	1.30	13.7%	17.0%	17.6%
<b>Road Rights-of-Way</b>	9.8%	8.6%	10.7%	1.21	1.87	1.10	13.5%	19.0%	14.9%
<b>Total (number)</b>	864	228	633	8.99 <sup>1</sup>	9.86 <sup>1</sup>	7.38 <sup>1</sup>	8.99	9.86	7.38

<sup>1</sup>Based on a sample size of 741 / 186 / 563 respondents

**Table 2-B.** Land use by **nonresident** hunters hunting **grouse / prairie chickens / partridge** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

<b>NONRESIDENTS – GROUSE / PRAIRIE CHICKENS / PARTRIDGE</b>									
<b>Type of Land Hunted</b>	<b>Average Percent of Time Hunting</b>			<b>Average Harvest per Hunter</b>					
				<b>Number Birds</b>			<b>Percent</b>		
	<b>1999</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Private land</b>	67.3%	68.9%	65.5%	5.53	4.49	2.88	73.0%	71.7%	59.6%
<b>Public land</b>	15.0%	10.4%	14.6%	1.29	0.89	0.88	17.0%	14.2%	18.2%
<b>Walk-In Areas</b>	9.7%	16.2%	14.5%	0.46	0.49	0.73	6.1%	7.8%	15.1%
<b>Road Rights-of-Way</b>	7.9%	4.5%	5.4%	0.30	0.39	0.34	4.0%	6.2%	7.0%
<b>Total (number)</b>	121	78	318	7.58 <sup>1</sup>	6.26 <sup>1</sup>	4.83 <sup>1</sup>	7.58	6.26	4.83

<sup>1</sup>Based on a sample size of 97 / 76 / 316 respondents

**Table 3-A.** Percent use of **private land** by resident and nonresident hunters hunting **grouse / prairie chickens / partridge** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Private Land	GROUSE / PRAIRIE CHICKEN / PARTRIDGE											
	RESIDENT						NONRESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>0%</b>	207	24.0%	67	29.4%	198	31.5%	23	19.0%	13	16.7%	65	20.4%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	30	3.5%	7	3.1%	21	3.3%	5	4.1%	3	3.8%	15	4.7%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	41	4.7%	14	6.1%	46	7.3%	2	1.7%	4	5.1%	11	3.5%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	94	10.9%	26	11.4%	62	9.9%	7	5.8%	6	7.7%	19	6.0%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	64	7.4%	12	5.3%	41	6.5%	11	9.1%	4	5.1%	26	8.2%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	94	10.9%	18	7.9%	74	11.8%	24	19.8%	13	16.7%	48	15.1%
<b>100%</b>	334	38.7%	84	36.8%	187	29.7%	49	40.5%	35	44.9%	134	42.1%
<b>Total</b>	864	100%	228	100%	629	100%	121	100%	78	100%	318	100%

**Table 3-B.** Percent use of **public land** by resident and nonresident hunters hunting **grouse / prairie chickens / partridge** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Public Land	GROUSE / PRAIRIE CHICKEN / PARTRIDGE											
	RESIDENT						NONRESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>0%</b>	583	67.5%	147	64.5%	367	58.3%	84	69.4%	55	70.5%	201	63.2%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	62	7.2%	17	7.5%	56	8.9%	9	7.4%	9	11.5%	37	11.6%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	72	8.3%	19	8.3%	74	11.8%	8	6.6%	4	5.1%	28	8.8%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	55	6.4%	20	8.8%	50	7.9%	7	5.8%	6	7.7%	26	8.2%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	17	2.0%	4	1.8%	16	2.5%	2	1.7%	1	1.3%	5	1.6%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	18	2.1%	3	1.3%	17	2.7%	4	3.3%	1	1.3%	4	1.3%
<b>100%</b>	57	6.6%	18	7.9%	49	7.8%	7	5.8%	2	2.6%	17	5.3%
<b>Total</b>	864	100%	228	100%	629	100%	121	100%	78	100%	318	100%

**Table 3-C.** Percent use of **Walk-In Areas** by resident and nonresident hunters hunting **grouse / prairie chickens / partridge** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Walk-In Areas	GROUSE / PRAIRIE CHICKEN / PARTRIDGE											
	RESIDENT						NONRESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>0%</b>	543	62.8%	133	58.3%	340	54.1%	87	71.9%	46	59.0%	190	59.7%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	98	11.3%	16	7.0%	70	11.1%	12	9.9%	10	12.8%	38	11.9%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	89	10.3%	25	11.0%	94	14.9%	9	7.4%	9	11.5%	33	10.4%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	58	6.7%	27	11.8%	64	10.2%	7	5.8%	4	5.1%	35	11.0%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	15	1.7%	5	2.2%	17	2.7%	1	0.8%	2	2.6%	9	2.8%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	14	1.6%	6	2.6%	7	1.1%	2	1.7%	4	5.1%	4	1.3%
<b>100%</b>	47	5.4%	16	7.0%	37	5.9%	3	2.5%	3	3.8%	9	2.8%
<b>Total</b>	98	11.3%	16	7.0%	629	100%	12	9.9%	10	12.8%	318	100%

**Table 3-D.** Percent use of **road rights-of-way** by resident and nonresident hunters hunting **grouse / prairie chickens / partridge** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Road Rights-of-Way	GROUSE / PRAIRIE CHICKEN / PARTRIDGE											
	RESIDENT						NONRESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>0%</b>	608	70.4%	169	74.1%	429	68.2%	91	75.2%	60	76.9%	234	73.6%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	105	12.2%	22	9.6%	76	12.1%	11	9.1%	8	10.3%	51	16.0%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	61	7.1%	19	8.3%	57	9.1%	11	9.1%	8	10.3%	19	6.0%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	46	5.3%	7	3.1%	33	5.2%	2	1.7%	1	1.3%	9	2.8%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	10	1.2%	3	1.3%	8	1.3%	2	1.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	12	1.4%	3	1.3%	8	1.3%	0	0.0%	1	1.3%	4	1.3%
<b>100%</b>	22	2.5%	5	2.2%	18	2.9%	4	3.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	864	100%	228	100%	629	100%	121	100%	78	100%	318	100%

**Table 4.** Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas, how would you rate the overall habitat quality of the Walk-In Areas that you hunted for grouse, prairie chicken and/or partridge?

Habitat Quality Rating of Walk-In Areas	GROUSE / PRAIRIE CHICKEN / PARTRIDGE											
	RESIDENT <sup>2</sup>						NONRESIDENT <sup>3</sup>					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Very Poor Habitat</b>	6	1.9%	2	2.1%	22	7.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	3.1%
<b>Poor Habitat</b>	12	3.7%	7	7.4%	11	3.8%	2	5.9%	1	3.1%	7	5.5%
<b>Fair Habitat</b>	92	28.7%	27	28.4%	98	33.9%	10	29.4%	11	34.4%	42	32.8%
<b>Good Habitat</b>	155	48.3%	43	45.3%	108	37.4%	14	41.2%	12	37.5%	62	48.4%
<b>Excellent Habitat</b>	45	14.0%	15	15.8%	38	13.1%	7	20.6%	6	18.8%	12	9.4%
<b>No Opinion<sup>1</sup></b>	11	3.4%	1	1.1%	12	4.2%	1	2.6%	2	6.3%	1	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	321	100%	95	100%	289	100%	34	100%	32	100%	128	100%

<sup>1</sup>No opinion response not included in the statistical comparisons.

<sup>2</sup>Resident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=2.36$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.669$  / Resident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=7.37$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.118$

<sup>3</sup>Nonresident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=0.47$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.925$  / Nonresident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=4.02$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.403$

**Table 5.** Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas, how would you rate the value of the Walk-In Areas for your grouse, prairie chicken and/or partridge hunting?

Value of Walk-In Areas for Grouse, Prairie Chicken, Partridge	GROUSE / PRAIRIE CHICKEN / PARTRIDGE											
	RESIDENT <sup>2</sup>						NONRESIDENT <sup>3</sup>					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Not Important</b>	17	5.3%	5	5.3%	8	2.8%	1	2.9%	2	6.3%	1	0.8%
<b>Slightly Important</b>	23	7.2%	6	6.3%	27	9.3%	7	20.6%	1	3.1%	15	11.7%
<b>Moderately Important</b>	76	23.7%	21	22.1%	63	21.8%	5	14.7%	5	15.6%	25	19.5%
<b>Very Important</b>	140	43.6%	45	47.4%	139	48.1%	14	41.2%	12	37.5%	54	42.2%
<b>Critical</b>	49	15.3%	17	17.9%	44	15.2%	6	17.6%	9	28.1%	31	24.2%
<b>No Opinion<sup>1</sup></b>	16	5.0%	1	1.1%	8	2.8%	1	2.9%	3	9.4%	2	1.6%
<b>Total</b>	321	100%	95	100%	289	100%	34	100%	32	100%	128	100%

<sup>1</sup>No opinion response not included in the statistical comparisons.

<sup>2</sup>Resident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=0.58$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.966$  / Resident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=2.37$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.669$

<sup>3</sup>Nonresident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=5.35$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.253$  / Nonresident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=6.64$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.159$



**Table 6-A.** Land use by **resident** hunters hunting **pheasant** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS – PHEASANT									
Type of Land Hunted	Average Percent of Time Hunting			Average Harvest per Hunter					
				Number Birds			Percent		
	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009
Private land	69.5%	69.3%	68.6%	10.22	11.71	9.62	70.6%	69.6%	69.6%
Public land	8.7%	8.0%	9.7%	1.03	1.18	1.13	7.1%	7.0%	8.2%
Walk-In Areas	7.4%	10.1%	9.3%	0.85	1.56	1.04	5.9%	9.3%	7.5%
Road Rights-of-Way	14.4%	12.7%	12.4%	2.38	2.38	2.04	16.4%	14.1%	14.8%
<b>Total (number)</b>	2,605	1,370	3,384	14.48 <sup>1</sup>	16.83 <sup>1</sup>	13.83 <sup>1</sup>	14.48	16.83	13.83

<sup>1</sup>Based on a sample size of 2,337 / 1,235 / 3,384 respondents

**Table 6-B.** Land use by **nonresident** hunters hunting **pheasant** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

NONRESIDENTS – PHEASANT									
Type of Land Hunted	Average Percent of Time Hunting			Average Harvest per Hunter					
				Number Birds			Percent		
	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009
Private land	78.7%	79.9%	77.2%	9.76	10.88	9.20	79.2%	76.0%	76.6%
Public land	7.0%	7.0%	7.2%	0.73	1.15	0.76	5.9%	8.0%	6.3%
Walk-In Areas	6.1%	7.3%	8.5%	0.56	1.04	0.84	4.5%	7.3%	7.0%
Road Rights-of-Way	8.2%	5.9%	7.0%	1.28	1.25	1.21	10.4%	8.7%	10.1%
<b>Total (number)</b>	713	795	2,194	12.33 <sup>1</sup>	14.32 <sup>1</sup>	12.01 <sup>1</sup>	12.33	14.32	12.01

<sup>1</sup>Based on a sample size of 676 / 761 / 2,150 respondents

**Table 7-A.** Percent use of **private land** by resident and nonresident hunters hunting **pheasant** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Private Land	PHEASANT											
	RESIDENT						NONRESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>0%</b>	275	10.6%	145	10.6%	422	12.5%	55	7.7%	57	7.2%	204	9.3%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	99	3.8%	65	4.7%	140	4.1%	19	2.7%	19	2.4%	60	2.7%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	195	7.5%	97	7.1%	234	6.9%	26	3.6%	28	3.5%	75	3.4%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	282	10.8%	141	10.3%	334	9.9%	39	5.5%	57	7.2%	148	6.7%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	235	9.0%	142	10.4%	318	9.4%	71	10.0%	69	8.7%	188	8.6%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	525	20.2%	234	17.1%	606	17.9%	157	22.0%	129	16.2%	431	19.6%
<b>100%</b>	994	38.2%	546	39.9%	1,332	39.3%	346	48.5%	436	54.8%	1,088	49.6%
<b>Total</b>	2,605	100%	1,370	100%	3,386	100%	713	100%	795	100%	2,194	100%

**Table 7-B.** Percent use of **public land** by resident and nonresident hunters hunting **pheasant** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Public Land	PHEASANT											
	RESIDENT						NONRESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>0%</b>	1,832	70.3%	935	68.2%	2,298	67.9%	541	75.9%	605	76.1%	1,603	73.1%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	310	11.9%	208	15.2%	407	12.0%	70	9.8%	74	9.3%	272	12.4%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	241	9.3%	121	8.8%	255	10.5%	48	6.7%	58	7.3%	166	7.6%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	122	4.7%	65	4.6%	177	5.2%	29	4.1%	32	4.0%	83	3.8%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	39	1.5%	19	1.4%	60	1.8%	15	2.1%	15	1.9%	35	1.6%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	25	1.0%	9	0.7%	38	1.1%	8	1.1%	5	0.6%	22	1.0%
<b>100%</b>	36	1.4%	13	0.9%	51	1.5%	2	0.3%	6	0.8%	13	0.6%
<b>Total</b>	2,605	100%	1,370	100%	3,386	100%	713	100%	795	100%	2,194	100%

**Table 7-C.** Percent use of **Walk-In Areas** by resident and nonresident hunters hunting **pheasant** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Walk-In Areas	PHEASANT											
	RESIDENT						NONRESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>0%</b>	1,817	69.8%	878	64.1%	2,243	66.2%	533	74.8%	563	70.8%	1,536	70.0%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	395	15.2%	200	14.6%	478	14.1%	90	12.6%	102	12.8%	266	12.1%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	222	8.5%	155	11.3%	366	10.8%	44	6.2%	73	9.2%	194	8.8%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	103	4.0%	84	6.1%	192	5.7%	32	4.5%	39	4.9%	116	5.3%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	29	1.1%	25	1.8%	34	1.0%	8	1.1%	11	1.4%	46	2.1%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	10	0.4%	13	0.9%	29	0.9%	3	0.4%	4	0.5%	23	1.0%
<b>100%</b>	29	1.1%	15	1.1%	44	1.3%	3	0.4%	3	0.4%	13	0.6%
<b>Total</b>	2,605	100%	1,370	100%	3,386	100%	713	100%	795	100%	2,194	100%

**Table 7-D.** Percent use of **road rights-of-way** by resident and nonresident hunters hunting **pheasant** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Road Rights-of-Way	PHEASANT											
	RESIDENT						NONRESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>0%</b>	1,473	56.5%	849	62.0%	2,060	60.8%	458	64.2%	568	71.4%	1,450	66.1%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	464	17.8%	216	15.8%	551	16.3%	143	20.1%	130	16.4%	451	20.6%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	260	10.0%	134	9.8%	352	10.4%	64	9.0%	60	7.5%	176	8.0%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	188	7.2%	63	4.6%	195	5.8%	25	3.5%	19	2.4%	54	2.5%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	76	2.9%	39	2.8%	67	2.0%	5	0.7%	9	1.1%	22	1.0%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	74	2.8%	22	1.6%	72	2.1%	10	1.4%	6	0.8%	25	1.1%
<b>100%</b>	70	2.7%	47	3.4%	89	2.6%	8	1.1%	3	0.4%	16	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	2,605	100%	1,370	100%	3,386	100%	713	100%	795	100%	2,194	100%

**Table 8.** Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas, how would you rate the overall habitat quality of the Walk-In Areas that you hunted for pheasant?

Habitat Quality Rating of Walk-In Areas	PHEASANT											
	RESIDENT <sup>2</sup>						NONRESIDENT <sup>3</sup>					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Very Poor Habitat</b>	17	2.2%	1	1.4%	26	2.3%	4	2.2%	3	1.3%	12	1.8%
<b>Poor Habitat</b>	51	6.5%	15	3.0%	79	6.9%	11	6.1%	9	3.9%	37	5.6%
<b>Fair Habitat</b>	197	25.0%	95	19.3%	374	32.7%	47	26.1%	54	23.3%	208	31.6%
<b>Good Habitat</b>	351	44.5%	238	48.4%	515	45.1%	85	47.2%	117	50.4%	309	47.0%
<b>Excellent Habitat</b>	158	20.1%	121	24.6%	131	11.5%	33	18.3%	43	18.5%	85	12.9%
<b>No Opinion<sup>1</sup></b>	14	1.8%	16	3.3%	18	1.6%	0	0.0%	6	2.6%	7	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	788	100%	492	100%	1,143	100%	180	100%	232	100%	658	100%

<sup>1</sup>No opinion response not included in the statistical comparisons .

<sup>2</sup>Resident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=23.17$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p<0.001$  / Resident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=79.40$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p<0.001$

<sup>3</sup>Nonresident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=2.03$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.731$  / Nonresident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=9.57$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.048$

**Table 9.** Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas, how would you rate the value of the Walk-In Areas for your pheasant hunting?

Value of Walk-In Areas for Pheasant Hunting	PHEASANT											
	RESIDENT <sup>2</sup>						NONRESIDENT <sup>3</sup>					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Not Important</b>	41	5.2%	11	2.2%	43	3.8%	15	8.3%	13	5.6%	17	2.6%
<b>Slightly Important</b>	107	13.6%	58	11.8%	131	11.5%	22	12.2%	19	8.2%	56	8.5%
<b>Moderately Important</b>	209	26.5%	139	28.3%	283	24.8%	52	28.9%	53	22.8%	146	22.2%
<b>Very Important</b>	337	42.8%	201	40.9%	501	43.8%	59	32.8%	100	43.1%	294	44.7%
<b>Critical</b>	67	8.5%	66	13.4%	159	13.9%	31	17.2%	42	18.1%	132	20.1%
<b>No Opinion<sup>1</sup></b>	27	3.4%	17	3.5%	26	2.3%	1	0.6%	5	2.2%	13	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	788	100%	492	100%	1,143	100%	180	100%	232	100%	658	100%

<sup>1</sup>No opinion response not included in the statistical comparisons.

<sup>2</sup>Resident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=14.52$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.006$  / Resident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=4.83$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.305$

<sup>3</sup>Nonresident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=7.03$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.135$  / Nonresident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=5.13$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.274$



**Table 10.** Land use by **resident** hunters hunting **waterfowl** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS – WATERFOWL									
Type of Land Hunted	Average Percent of Time Hunting			Average Harvest per Hunter					
				Number Birds			Percent		
	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009
<b>Private land</b>	63.2%	58.7%	62.4%	9.39	10.25	10.98	60.8%	59.9%	64.2%
<b>Public land</b>	21.9%	26.5%	26.3%	3.85	4.74	4.62	24.9%	27.7%	27.0%
<b>Walk-In Areas</b>	7.8%	8.8%	7.4%	1.08	1.04	0.92	7.0%	6.1%	5.4%
<b>Road Rights-of-Way</b>	7.1%	6.0%	3.9%	1.12	1.09	0.58	7.3%	6.4%	3.4%
<b>Total (number)</b>	1,212	402	943	15.44 <sup>1</sup>	17.12 <sup>1</sup>	17.10 <sup>1</sup>	15.44	17.12	17.10

<sup>1</sup>Based on a sample size of 1,050 / 327 / 941 respondents

**Table 11-A.** Percent use of **private land** by resident hunters hunting **waterfowl** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Private Land	RESIDENT – WATERFOWL					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>0%</b>	244	20.1%	100	24.9%	226	24.0%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	53	4.4%	19	4.7%	36	3.8%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	61	5.0%	22	5.5%	37	3.9%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	125	10.3%	39	9.7%	87	9.2%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	83	6.8%	26	6.5%	49	5.2%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	141	11.6%	37	9.2%	69	7.3%
<b>100%</b>	505	41.7%	159	39.6%	439	46.6%
<b>Total</b>	1,212	100%	402	100%	943	100%

**Table 11-B.** Percent use of **public land** by resident hunters hunting **waterfowl** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Public Land	RESIDENT – WATERFOWL					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>0%</b>	688	56.8%	217	54.0%	545	57.8%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	107	8.8%	18	4.5%	50	5.3%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	117	9.7%	40	10.0%	62	6.6%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	103	8.5%	47	11.7%	88	9.3%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	37	3.1%	16	4.0%	27	2.9%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	48	4.0%	18	4.5%	41	4.3%
<b>100%</b>	112	9.2%	46	11.4%	130	13.8%
<b>Total</b>	1,212	100%	402	100%	943	100%

**Table 11-C.** Percent use of **Walk-In Areas** by resident hunters hunting **waterfowl** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Walk-In Areas	RESIDENT – WATERFOWL					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>0%</b>	952	78.5%	312	77.6%	788	83.6%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	95	7.8%	28	7.0%	38	4.0%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	66	5.4%	28	7.0%	40	4.2%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	45	3.7%	16	4.0%	35	3.7%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	11	0.9%	1	0.2%	4	0.4%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	10	0.8%	0	0.0%	7	0.7%
<b>100%</b>	33	2.7%	17	4.2%	31	3.3%
<b>Total</b>	1,212	100%	402	100%	943	100%

**Table 11-D.** Percent use of **road rights-of-way** by resident hunters hunting **waterfowl** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Road Rights-of-Way	RESIDENT – WATERFOWL					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>0%</b>	999	82.0%	341	84.8%	842	89.3%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	75	6.2%	17	4.2%	42	4.5%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	42	3.5%	19	4.7%	20	2.1%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	47	3.9%	11	2.7%	13	1.4%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	15	1.2%	3	0.7%	8	0.8%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	19	1.6%	5	1.2%	7	0.7%
<b>100%</b>	20	1.7%	6	1.5%	11	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	1212	100%	402	100%	943	100%

**Table 12.** Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas, how would you rate the overall habitat quality of the Walk-In Areas that you hunted for **waterfowl**?

Habitat Quality Rating of Walk-In Areas	RESIDENT <sup>2</sup> – WATERFOWL					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Very Poor Habitat</b>	3	1.2%	2	2.2%	3	1.9%
<b>Poor Habitat</b>	17	6.5%	8	8.9%	5	3.2%
<b>Fair Habitat</b>	63	24.2%	12	13.3%	40	25.8%
<b>Good Habitat</b>	104	40.0%	39	43.3%	77	49.7%
<b>Excellent Habitat</b>	63	24.2%	22	24.4%	29	18.7%
<b>No Opinion<sup>1</sup></b>	10	3.5%	7	7.8%	1	0.6%
<b>Total</b>	260	100%	90	100%	155	100%

<sup>1</sup>No opinion response not included in the statistical comparisons.

<sup>2</sup>Resident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=4.93$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.294$

<sup>2</sup>Resident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=8.91$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.063$

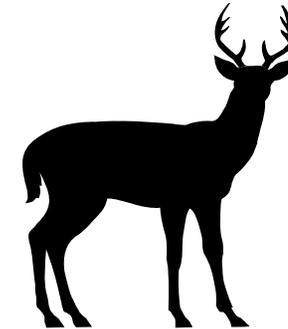
**Table 13.** Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas, how would you rate the value of the Walk-In Areas for your **waterfowl** hunting?

Value of Walk-In Areas for Waterfowl	RESIDENT <sup>2</sup> – WATERFOWL					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Not Important</b>	9	3.5%	4	4.4%	4	2.6%
<b>Slightly Important</b>	30	11.5%	7	7.8%	4	2.6%
<b>Moderately Important</b>	70	26.9%	14	15.6%	32	20.6%
<b>Very Important</b>	111	42.7%	44	48.9%	78	50.3%
<b>Critical</b>	31	11.9%	15	16.7%	34	21.9%
<b>No Opinion<sup>1</sup></b>	9	3.5%	6	6.7%	3	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	260	100%	90	100%	155	100%

<sup>1</sup>No opinion response not included in the statistical comparisons.

<sup>2</sup>Resident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=6.43$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.169$

<sup>2</sup>Resident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=5.57$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.233$



**Table 14.** Land use by **resident** hunters hunting **East River rifle deer** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS – EAST RIVER DEER									
Type of Land Hunted	Average Percent of Time Hunting			Harvest					
				Successful Hunters <sup>1</sup>			Percent		
	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009 <sup>2</sup>	1999	2005	2009
Private land	86.6%	85.5%	86.3%	430	390	980	88.3%	86.7%	87.9%
Public land	8.7%	7.2%	8.4%	39	30	83	8.0%	6.7%	7.4%
Walk-In Areas	4.7%	7.3%	5.3%	18	30	52	3.7%	6.7%	4.7%
<b>Total (number)</b>	1,476	642	1,852	487	450	1,115	487	450	1,115

<sup>1</sup>Number of successful deer hunters, i.e., hunters could have harvested more than one deer.

<sup>2</sup>Total Deer Harvested by Land type:

Type of Land	Total Deer Harvested	Percent
Private land	1,418	88.8%
Public land	108	6.8%
Walk-In Areas	70	4.4%
<b>Total (n=1,809)</b>	1,596	100%

**Table 15-A.** Percent use of **private land** by resident hunters hunting **East River rifle deer** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Private Land	RESIDENT – EAST RIVER RIFLE DEER					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>0%</b>	95	6.4%	40	6.2%	130	7.0%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	13	0.9%	8	1.2%	21	1.1%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	28	1.9%	11	1.7%	34	1.8%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	64	4.3%	36	5.6%	83	4.5%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	61	4.1%	34	5.3%	69	3.7%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	152	10.3%	72	11.2%	147	7.9%
<b>100%</b>	1,063	72.0%	441	68.7%	1,368	73.9%
<b>Total</b>	1,476	100%	642	100%	1,852	100%

**Table 15-B.** Percent use of **public land** by resident hunters hunting **East River rifle deer** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Public Land	RESIDENT – EAST RIVER RIFLE DEER					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>0%</b>	1,169	79.2%	520	81.0%	1,507	81.4%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	106	7.2%	41	6.4%	93	5.0%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	71	4.8%	30	4.7%	78	4.2%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	38	2.6%	24	3.7%	71	3.8%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	19	1.3%	7	1.1%	17	0.9%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	22	1.5%	5	0.8%	23	1.2%
<b>100%</b>	51	3.5%	15	2.3%	63	3.4%
<b>Total</b>	1,476	100%	642	100%	1,852	100%

**Table 15-C.** Percent use of Walk-In Areas by resident hunters hunting **East River rifle deer** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Walk-In Areas	RESIDENT – EAST RIVER RIFLE DEER					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0%	1,241	84.1%	510	79.4%	1,559	84.2%
1% – 19%	93	6.3%	43	6.7%	109	5.9%
20% – 39%	80	5.4%	38	5.9%	80	4.3%
40% – 59%	34	2.3%	28	4.4%	58	3.1%
60% – 79%	5	0.3%	5	0.8%	12	0.6%
80% – 99%	7	0.5%	6	0.9%	7	0.4%
100%	16	1.1%	12	1.9%	27	1.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 16.** Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas, how would you rate the overall habitat quality of the Walk-In Areas that you hunted for **East River rifle deer**?

Habitat Quality Rating of Walk-In Areas	RESIDENT <sup>2</sup> – EAST RIVER RIFLE DEER					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Poor Habitat	5	2.1%	2	1.5%	15	5.1%
Poor Habitat	12	5.1%	3	2.3%	17	5.8%
Fair Habitat	53	22.6%	25	18.9%	97	33.1%
Good Habitat	108	46.0%	60	45.5%	128	43.7%
Excellent Habitat	51	21.7%	41	31.1%	31	10.6%
No Opinion <sup>1</sup>	6	2.6%	1	0.8%	5	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup>No opinion response not included in the statistical comparisons.

<sup>2</sup>Resident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=5.25$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.263$

<sup>2</sup>Resident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=34.11$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p<0.001$

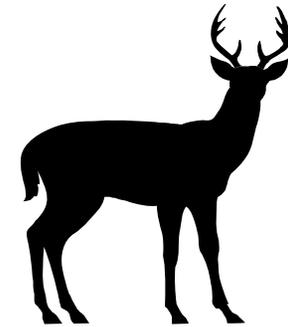
**Table 17.** Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas, how would you rate the value of the Walk-In Areas for your **East River rifle deer** hunting?

Value of Walk-In Areas for East River Deer	RESIDENT <sup>2</sup> – EAST RIVER RIFLE DEER					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Not Important</b>	13	5.5%	4	3.0%	17	5.8%
<b>Slightly Important</b>	27	11.5%	15	11.4%	32	10.9%
<b>Moderately Important</b>	67	28.5%	33	25.0%	59	20.1%
<b>Very Important</b>	103	43.8%	63	47.7%	134	45.7%
<b>Critical</b>	16	6.8%	15	11.4%	40	13.7%
<b>No Opinion<sup>1</sup></b>	9	3.8%	2	1.5%	11	3.8%
<b>Total</b>	235	100%	132	100%	293	100%

<sup>1</sup>No opinion response not included in the statistical comparisons.

<sup>2</sup>Resident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=3.81$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.432$

<sup>2</sup>Resident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=2.80$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.592$



**Table 18.** Land use by resident hunters hunting West River rifle deer in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS – WEST RIVER DEER									
Type of Land Hunted	Average Percent of Time Hunting			Harvest					
				Successful Hunters <sup>1</sup>			Percent		
	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009 <sup>2</sup>	1999	2005	2009
Private land	76.0%	65.5%	62.0%	479	130	530	80.5%	71.8%	66.2%
Public land	15.8%	18.9%	22.4%	83	30	162	13.9%	16.6%	20.2%
Walk-In Areas	8.3%	15.7%	15.6%	33	21	109	5.6%	11.6%	13.6%
<b>Total (umber)</b>	1,166	261	966	595	181	801	595	181	801

<sup>1</sup>Number of successful deer hunters, i.e., hunters could have harvested more than one deer.

<sup>2</sup>Total Deer Harvested by Land type:

Type of Land	Total Deer Harvested	Percent
Private land	1,018	71.2%
Public land	246	17.2%
Walk-In Areas	165	11.5%
<b>Total (n=966)</b>	1,429	100%

**Table 19-A.** Percent use of **private land** by resident hunters hunting **West River rifle deer** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Private Land	RESIDENT – WEST RIVER RIFLE DEER					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>0%</b>	206	17.7%	71	27.2%	298	30.8%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	15	1.3%	3	1.1%	18	1.9%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	13	1.1%	2	0.8%	12	1.2%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	53	4.5%	16	6.1%	45	4.7%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	39	3.3%	14	5.4%	42	4.3%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	102	8.7%	17	6.5%	71	7.3%
<b>100%</b>	738	63.3%	138	52.9%	480	49.7%
<b>Total</b>	1,166	100%	261	100%	966	100%

**Table 19-B.** Percent use of **public land** by resident hunters hunting **West River rifle deer** in 1999, 205 and 2009.

Percent Use of Public Land	RESIDENT – WEST RIVER RIFLE DEER					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>0%</b>	874	75.0%	186	71.3%	640	66.3%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	49	4.2%	6	2.3%	35	3.6%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	40	3.4%	13	5.0%	46	4.8%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	50	4.3%	17	6.5%	68	7.0%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	13	1.1%	2	0.8%	21	2.2%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	24	2.1%	6	2.3%	21	2.2%
<b>100%</b>	116	9.9%	31	11.9%	135	14.0%
<b>Total</b>	1,166	100%	261	100%	966	100%

**Table 19-C.** Percent use of **Walk-In Areas** by resident hunters hunting **West River rifle deer** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Walk-In Areas	RESIDENT – WEST RIVER RIFLE DEER					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>0%</b>	931	79.8%	186	71.3%	674	69.8%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	73	6.3%	13	5.0%	60	6.2%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	63	5.4%	16	6.1%	59	6.1%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	37	3.2%	16	6.1%	69	7.1%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	7	0.6%	4	1.5%	14	1.4%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	12	1.0%	3	1.1%	16	1.7%
<b>100%</b>	43	3.7%	23	8.8%	14	7.7%
<b>Total</b>	1,166	100%	261	100%	966	100%

**Table 20.** Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas, how would you rate the overall habitat quality of the Walk-In Areas that you hunted for **West River rifle deer**?

Habitat Quality Rating of Walk-In Areas	RESIDENT <sup>2</sup> – WEST RIVER RIFLE DEER					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Very Poor Habitat</b>	12	5.1%	2	2.7%	15	5.1%
<b>Poor Habitat</b>	18	7.7%	3	4.0%	22	7.5%
<b>Fair Habitat</b>	57	24.3%	18	24.0%	82	28.1%
<b>Good Habitat</b>	96	40.9%	34	45.3%	131	44.9%
<b>Excellent Habitat</b>	45	19.1%	16	21.3%	41	14.0%
<b>No Opinion<sup>1</sup></b>	7	3.0%	2	2.7%	1	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	235	100%	75	100%	292	100%

<sup>1</sup>No opinion response not included in the statistical comparisons.

<sup>2</sup>Resident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=2.28$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.684$

<sup>2</sup>Resident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=4.32$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.365$

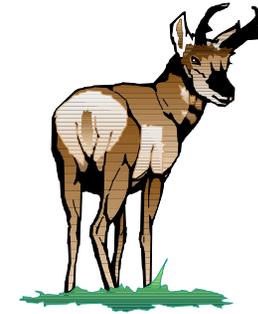
**Table 21.** Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas, how would you rate the value of the Walk-In Areas for your **West River rifle deer** hunting?

Value of Walk-In Areas for West River Deer	RESIDENT <sup>2</sup> – WEST RIVER RIFLE DEER					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Not Important</b>	16	6.8%	3	4.0%	8	2.7%
<b>Slightly Important</b>	24	10.2%	4	5.3%	17	5.8%
<b>Moderately Important</b>	54	23.0%	19	25.3%	41	14.0%
<b>Very Important</b>	88	37.4%	27	36.0%	126	43.2%
<b>Critical</b>	42	17.9%	20	26.7%	98	33.6%
<b>No Opinion<sup>1</sup></b>	11	4.7%	2	2.7%	2	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	235	100%	75	100%	292	100%

<sup>1</sup>No opinion response not included in the statistical comparisons.

<sup>2</sup>Resident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=4.52$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.340$

<sup>2</sup>Resident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=6.67$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.155$



**Table 22.** Land use by **resident** hunters hunting **rifle antelope** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS – RIFLE ANTELOPE									
Type of Land Hunted	Average Percent of Time Hunting			Harvest					
				Successful Hunters <sup>1</sup>			Percent		
	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009
<b>Private land</b>	69.1%	63.1%	54.8%	373	55	242	73.1%	63.2%	59.6%
<b>Public land</b>	13.6%	9.7%	17.1%	60	9	61	11.8%	10.3%	15.0%
<b>Walk-In Areas</b>	17.4%	27.2%	28.1%	77	23	103	15.1%	26.4%	25.4%
<b>Total (number )</b>	744	109	485	510	87	406	510	87	406

<sup>1</sup>Number of successful antelope hunters.

<sup>2</sup>Total Antelope Harvested by Land type:

Type of Land	Total Antelope Harvested	Percent
<b>Private land</b>	944	79.1%
<b>Public land</b>	87	7.3%
<b>Walk-In Areas</b>	163	13.7%
<b>Total (n=484)</b>	1,194	100%

**Table 23-A.** Percent use of **private land** by resident hunters hunting **rifle antelope** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Private Land	RESIDENT – RIFLE ANTELOPE					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>0%</b>	162	21.8%	24	22.0%	171	35.3%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	17	2.3%	6	5.5%	13	2.7%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	22	3.0%	6	5.5%	15	3.1%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	51	6.9%	8	7.3%	34	7.0%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	16	2.2%	5	4.6%	16	3.3%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	44	5.9%	5	4.6%	34	7.0%
<b>100%</b>	432	58.1%	55	50.5%	202	41.6%
<b>Total</b>	744	100%	109	100%	485	100%

**Table 23-B.** Percent use of **public land** by resident hunters hunting **rifle antelope** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Public Land	RESIDENT – RIFLE ANTELOPE					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>0%</b>	587	78.9%	92	84.4%	335	69.1%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	14	1.9%	2	1.8%	17	3.5%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	22	3.0%	1	0.9%	24	4.9%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	38	5.1%	5	4.6%	56	11.5%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	16	2.2%	2	1.8%	11	2.3%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	15	2.0%	2	1.8%	11	2.3%
<b>100%</b>	52	7.0%	5	4.6%	31	6.4%
<b>Total</b>	744	100%	109	100%	485	100%

**Table 23-C.** Percent use of **Walk-In Areas** by resident hunters hunting **rifle antelope** in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Percent Use of Walk-In Areas	RESIDENT – RIFLE ANTELOPE					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>0%</b>	529	71.1%	63	57.8%	261	53.8%
<b>1% – 19%</b>	31	4.2%	4	3.7%	27	5.6%
<b>20% – 39%</b>	42	5.6%	8	7.3%	37	7.6%
<b>40% – 59%</b>	42	5.6%	9	8.3%	62	12.8%
<b>60% – 79%</b>	7	0.9%	5	4.6%	8	1.6%
<b>80% – 99%</b>	16	2.2%	4	3.7%	13	2.7%
<b>100%</b>	77	10.3%	16	14.7%	77	15.9%
<b>Total</b>	744	100%	109	100%	485	100%

**Table 24.** Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas, how would you rate the overall habitat quality of the Walk-In Areas that you hunted for **rifle antelope**?

Habitat Quality Rating of Walk-In Areas	RESIDENT <sup>2</sup> – RIFLE ANTELOPE					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Very Poor Habitat</b>	9	4.2%	0	0.0%	5	2.2%
<b>Poor Habitat</b>	13	6.0%	3	6.5%	12	5.4%
<b>Fair Habitat</b>	50	23.3%	5	10.9%	69	30.8%
<b>Good Habitat</b>	84	39.1%	23	50.0%	100	44.6%
<b>Excellent Habitat</b>	53	24.7%	14	30.4%	33	14.7%
<b>No Opinion<sup>1</sup></b>	6	2.8%	1	2.2%	5	2.2%
<b>Total</b>	215	100%	46	100%	224	100%

<sup>1</sup>No opinion response not included in the statistical comparisons.

<sup>2</sup>Resident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=6.26$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.180$

<sup>2</sup>Resident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=12.29$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.015$

**Table 25.** Of those that hunted Walk-In Areas, how would you rate the value of the Walk-In Areas for your rifle antelope hunting?

Value of Walk-In Areas for Antelope Hunting						
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Not Important</b>	9	4.2%	1	2.2%	6	2.7%
<b>Slightly Important</b>	15	7.0%	1	2.2%	5	2.2%
<b>Moderately Important</b>	44	20.5%	4	8.7%	26	11.6%
<b>Very Important</b>	69	32.1%	22	47.8%	79	35.3%
<b>Critical</b>	66	30.7%	17	37.0%	104	46.4%
<b>No Opinion<sup>1</sup></b>	2	5.6%	1	2.2%	4	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	215	100%	46	100%	224	100%

<sup>1</sup>No opinion response not included in the statistical comparisons.

<sup>2</sup>Resident 1999 vs. 2005: Chi-square:  $X^2=7.62$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.107$

<sup>2</sup>Resident 2005 vs. 2009: Chi-square:  $X^2=2.71$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p=0.608$

**Table 26.** Did you do ANY hunting on Walk-In Areas in this year (1999, 2005 and 2009)?

Response	RESIDENT						NONRESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009		1999		2005		2009	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>NO</b>	2,034	56.8%	922	54.5%	2,694	63.2%	513	69.5%	551	67.6%	1,632	70.9%
<b>YES</b>	1,284	35.8%	648	38.3%	1,566	36.8%	189	25.6%	252	30.9%	670	29.1%
<b>missing<sup>1</sup></b>	264	7.4%	123	7.3%	N/A	N/A	36	4.9%	12	1.5%	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	3,582	100%	1,693	100%	4,260	100%	738	100%	815	100%	2,302	100%

<sup>1</sup>Blank response.

**Note: Only those that hunted in Walk-In Areas answered the next two questions.**

**Table 27.** Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with this year’s Walk-In Areas Program (1999, 2005 and 2009)?

Response	RESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Dissatisfied	54	4.2%	10	1.5%	40	2.6%
Moderately Dissatisfied	41	3.2%	23	3.5%	67	4.3%
Slightly Dissatisfied	51	4.0%	25	3.9%	111	7.1%
Neutral	197	15.3%	84	13.0%	266	17.0%
Slightly Satisfied	113	8.8%	78	12.0%	225	14.4%
Moderately Satisfied	422	32.9%	210	32.4%	486	31.0%
Very Satisfied	368	28.7%	204	31.5%	371	23.7%
No Opinion	38	3.0%	14	2.2%	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	1,284	100%	648	100%	1,566	100%
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	1.38		1.56		1.24	
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A		1.44 – 1.67		1.16 – 1.32	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
Dissatisfied	146	11.4%	58	9.0%	218	13.9%
Neutral / No Opinion	235	18.3%	98	15.1%	266	17.0%
Satisfied	903	70.3%	492	75.9%	1,082	69.1%
NONRESIDENT						
Response	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Very Dissatisfied	8	4.2%	6	2.4%	26
Moderately Dissatisfied	9	4.8%	10	4.0%	33	4.9%
Slightly Dissatisfied	15	7.9%	9	3.6%	47	7.0%
Neutral	31	16.4%	26	10.3%	83	12.4%
Slightly Satisfied	19	10.1%	23	9.1%	105	15.7%
Moderately Satisfied	50	26.5%	89	35.3%	224	33.4%
Very Satisfied	53	28.0%	82	32.5%	152	22.7%
No Opinion	4	2.1%	7	2.8%	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	189	100%	252	100%	670	100%
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	1.17		1.59		1.22	
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A		1.40 – 1.78		1.10 – 1.34	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS						
Dissatisfied	32	16.9%	25	9.9%	106	15.8%
Neutral / No Opinion	35	18.5%	33	13.1%	83	12.4%
Satisfied	122	64.6%	194	77.0%	481	71.8%

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Dissatisfied=-3, Moderately Dissatisfied=-2, Slightly Dissatisfied=-1, Neutral or No opinion=0, Slightly Satisfied=1, Moderately Satisfied=2, Very Satisfied=3.

**Table 28.** How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the Walk-In Areas Atlas (1999, 2005 and 2009)?

Response	RESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Dissatisfied	39	3.0%	9	1.4%	32	2.0%
Moderately Dissatisfied	12	0.9%	12	1.9%	35	2.2%
Slightly Dissatisfied	35	2.7%	19	2.9%	76	4.9%
Neutral	179	13.9%	67	10.3%	371	23.7%
Slightly Satisfied	85	6.6%	63	9.7%	142	9.1%
Moderately Satisfied	306	23.8%	169	26.1%	441	28.2%
Very Satisfied	426	33.2%	221	34.1%	469	29.9%
No Opinion	202	15.7%	88	12.0%	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	1,284	100%	648	100%	1,566	100%
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	1.40		1.53		1.40	
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A		1.42 – 1.65		1.32 – 1.47	
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS</b>						
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	86	6.7%	40	6.2%	143	9.1%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	381	29.7%	155	23.9%	371	23.7%
<b>Satisfied</b>	817	63.6%	453	69.9%	1,052	67.2%
<b>NONRESIDENT</b>						
Response	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Very Dissatisfied	6	3.2%	3	1.2%	11
Moderately Dissatisfied	6	3.2%	2	0.8%	12	1.8%
Slightly Dissatisfied	6	3.2%	4	1.6%	26	3.9%
Neutral	26	13.8%	22	8.7%	136	20.3%
Slightly Satisfied	18	9.5%	21	8.3%	58	8.7%
Moderately Satisfied	49	25.9%	59	23.4%	179	26.7%
Very Satisfied	50	26.5%	97	38.5%	248	37.0%
No Opinion	28	14.8%	44	17.5%	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	189	100%	252	100%	670	100%
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	1.22		1.64		1.61	
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A		1.47 – 1.81		1.50 – 1.72	
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS</b>						
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	18	9.5%	9	3.6%	49	7.3%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	54	28.6%	66	26.2%	136	20.3%
<b>Satisfied</b>	117	61.9%	177	70.2%	485	72.4%

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Dissatisfied=-3, Moderately Dissatisfied=-2, Slightly Dissatisfied=-1, Neutral or No opinion=0, Slightly Satisfied=1, Moderately Satisfied=2, Very Satisfied=3.

**Table 29-A.** Total license sales, estimated participation and estimated days of hunting for each season for residents and nonresidents in 1999.

Season	1999			
	Total Licenses	Estimated Participants	Estimated Days of Hunting	Estimated Harvest
<b>RESIDENTS</b>				
Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge	101,407	27,327 <sup>1</sup>	158,223	245,670
Pheasant	101,407	84,342 <sup>2</sup>	671,715	768,356
Waterfowl	44,765	37,448 <sup>1</sup>	339,279	578,197
East River Rifle Deer	33,353	31,352 <sup>2</sup>	121,019	25,306
West River Rifle Deer	15,061	14,157 <sup>2</sup>	55,354	11,637
Rifle Antelope	3,651	3,432 <sup>2</sup>	7,619	2,627
<b>NONRESIDENTS</b>				
Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge	73,593	12,089 <sup>1</sup>	46,180	91,635
Pheasant	73,593	71,956 <sup>2</sup>	328,839	695,815

<sup>1</sup>Estimate based on data from this survey.

<sup>2</sup>Estimate from Harvest Survey Data (*Corey Huxoll*).

**Table 29-B.** Total license sales, estimated participation and estimated days of hunting for each season for residents and nonresidents in 2005.

Season	2005			
	Total Licenses	Estimated Participants	Estimated Days of Hunting	Estimated Harvest
<b>RESIDENTS</b>				
Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge	92,679	12,366 <sup>1</sup>	62,448	121,929
Pheasant	92,679	79,270 <sup>2</sup>	629,404	947,277
Waterfowl	33,914	21,958 <sup>1</sup>	191,035	375,921
East River Rifle Deer	47,649	41,235 <sup>2</sup>	196,691	41,438
West River Rifle Deer	23,626	20,424 <sup>2</sup>	76,386	26,168
Rifle Antelope	7,150	6,700 <sup>2</sup>	14,204	9,140
<b>NONRESIDENTS</b>				
Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge	96,418	9,780 <sup>1</sup>	39,218	61,223
Pheasant	96,418	94,956 <sup>2</sup>	420,655	1,001,786

<sup>1</sup>Estimate based on data from this survey.

<sup>2</sup>Estimate from Harvest Survey Data (*Corey Huxoll*).

**Table 29-C.** Total license sales, estimated participation and estimated days of hunting for each season for residents and nonresidents in 2009.

Season	2009			
	Total Licenses	Estimated Participants <sup>1</sup>	Estimated Days of Hunting <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Harvest
<b>RESIDENTS</b>				
Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge	92,465	6,377	36,285	47,063 <sup>2</sup>
Pheasant	92,465	69,949	549,100	967,395 <sup>2</sup>
Waterfowl	32,066	17,558	191,693	300,242 <sup>2</sup>
East River Rifle Deer	46,533	42,950	223,340	32,717 <sup>1</sup>
West River Rifle Deer	26,999	24,758	101,755	34,862 <sup>1</sup>
Rifle Antelope	11,109	10,187	26,384	14,100 <sup>1</sup>
<b>NONRESIDENTS</b>				
Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge	101,922	4,571	17,964	22,078 <sup>2</sup>
Pheasant	101,922	97,350	458,519	1,169,174 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Estimate from Harvest Survey Data (Corey Huxoll).

<sup>2</sup>Estimate based on data from this survey.

**Table 30.** Total estimated days of hunting by type of land hunted by residents and nonresidents in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Type of Land Hunted	Days of Hunting					
	Residents			Nonresidents		
	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009
<b>Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge</b>						
Private land	94,934	34,034	18,650	31,079	27,021	11,766
Public land	24,525	10,679	7,112	6,927	4,078	2,623
Walk-In Areas	23,259	12,365	6,640	4,479	6,353	2,605
Road Rights-of-Way	15,506	5,371	3,883	3,648	1,765	970
<b>Pheasant</b>						
Private land	466,842	436,177	376,683	258,796	336,103	353,977
Public land	58,439	50,352	53,263	23,019	29,446	33,013
Walk-In Areas	49,707	63,570	51,066	20,059	30,708	38,974
Road Rights-of-Way	96,727	79,934	68,088	26,965	24,819	32,096
<b>Waterfowl</b>						
Private land	214,424	112,138	119,616			
Public land	74,302	50,624	50,415			
Walk-In Areas	26,464	16,811	14,185			
Road Rights-of-Way	24,089	11,462	7,476			
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>						
Private land	104,802	168,171	192,742			
Public land	10,529	14,162	18,761			
Walk-In Areas	5,688	14,358	11,837			
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>						
Private land	42,069	50,033	63,088			
Public land	8,746	14,437	22,793			
Walk-In Areas	4,594	11,993	15,974			
<b>Rifle Antelope</b>						
Private land	5,265	8,963	14,458			
Public land	1,036	1,378	4,512			
Walk-In Areas	1,326	3,863	7,414			

**Table 31.** Estimated harvest by type of land hunted by residents and nonresidents in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Type of Land Hunted	Estimated Harvest					
	Residents			Nonresidents		
	1999	2005	2009	1999	2005	2009
<b>Grouse / prairie chicken / partridge</b>						
Private land	144,454	62,184	23,908	66,894	43,898	13,165
Public land	34,394	15,851	7,860	15,580	8,694	4,022
Walk-In Areas	33,657	20,728	8,283	5,590	4,775	3,337
Road Rights-of-Way	33,165	23,167	7,012	3,665	3,796	1,554
<b>Pheasant</b>						
Private land	542,459	629,305	672,910	551,085	761,357	895,587
Public land	54,553	66,309	79,042	41,053	80,143	73,658
Walk-In Areas	45,333	88,097	72,747	31,312	73,130	81,842
Road Rights-of-Way	126,010	133,566	142,696	72,365	87,155	118,087
<b>Waterfowl</b>						
Private land	351,544	225,177	192,755			
Public land	143,971	104,130	81,065			
Walk-In Areas	40,474	22,931	16,213			
Road Rights-of-Way	42,208	24,059	10,208			
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>						
Private land	22,345	35,886	29,068			
Public land	2,024	2,776	2,214			
Walk-In Areas	936	2,776	1,435			
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>						
Private land	9,368	18,789	24,835			
Public land	1,618	4,344	6,001			
Walk-In Areas	652	3,035	4,025			
<b>Rifle Antelope</b>						
Private land	1,920	5,776	11,148			
Public land	310	941	1,027			
Walk-In Areas	397	2,413	1,925			

**Table 32.** Comparing resident and nonresident use of Walk-In Areas for grouse and pheasant hunting in 2009.

<b>Grouse<sup>1</sup> Hunting</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total Days of Hunting</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Days Hunting Walk-Ins</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Resident</b>	6,377	58.2%	36,285	66.9%	6,640	71.8%
<b>Nonresident</b>	4,571	41.8%	17,964	33.1%	2,605	28.2%
<b>Total</b>	10,948	100%	54,249	100%	2,605	100%
<b>Pheasant Hunting</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total Days of Hunting</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Days Hunting Walk-Ins</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Resident</b>	69,949	41.8%	549,100	54.5%	51,066	56.7%
<b>Nonresident</b>	97,350	58.2%	458,519	45.5%	38,974	43.3%
<b>Total</b>	167,299	100%	1,007,619	100%	90,040	100%

<sup>1</sup>Grouse includes prairie chicken and partridge

**Table 33.** Summary of the total days of hunting and total days of hunting on Walk-In Areas for the types of hunting measured in this report for the three years studied (1999, 2005 and 2009).

<b>Year</b>	<b>Days of Hunting (for the types of hunting measured in this report)</b>								
	<b>Resident Hunters</b>			<b>Nonresident Hunters</b>			<b>Combined</b>		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Walk-In</b>	<b>Percent<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Walk-In</b>	<b>Percent<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Walk-In</b>	<b>Percent<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>1999</b>	1,353,209	111,038	8.2%	375,019	24,538	6.5%	1,728,228	135,576	7.8%
<b>2005</b>	1,170,168	122,960	10.5%	459,873	37,061	8.1%	1,630,041	160,021	9.8%
<b>2009</b>	1,128,557	107,116	9.5%	476,483	41,579	8.7%	1,695,040	148,695	8.8%

<sup>1</sup>Percent of days hunting Walk-In Areas.

**Table 34.** Relative use of Walk-In Areas comparing the three years studied (1999, 2005 and 2009).

Type of Hunting	% Use of Walk-In Areas		% Increase in Use	% Relative Change
	1999	2005		
Resident Grouse <sup>1</sup>	14.7%	19.8%	+ 5.1%	+35%
Nonresident Grouse <sup>1</sup>	9.7%	16.2%	+ 6.5%	+67%
Resident Pheasant	7.4%	10.1%	+ 2.7%	+36%
Nonresident Pheasant	6.1%	7.3%	+ 1.2%	+20%
Resident Waterfowl	7.8%	8.8%	+ 1.0%	+13%
Resident East River Deer	4.7%	7.3%	+ 2.6%	+55%
Resident West River Deer	8.3%	15.7%	+ 7.4%	+89%
Resident Antelope	17.4%	27.2%	+ 9.8%	+56%

Type of Hunting	% Use of Walk-In Areas		% Increase in Use	% Relative Change
	2005	2009		
Resident Grouse <sup>1</sup>	19.8%	18.3%	-1.5%	-7%
Nonresident Grouse <sup>1</sup>	16.2%	14.5%	-1.7%	-11%
Resident Pheasant	10.1%	9.3%	-0.8%	-8%
Nonresident Pheasant	7.3%	8.5%	+1.2%	+16%
Resident Waterfowl	8.8%	7.4%	-1.2%	-14%
Resident East River Deer	7.3%	5.3%	-2.0%	-27%
Resident West River Deer	15.7%	15.6%	-0.1%	-1%
Resident Antelope	27.2%	28.1%	+0.9%	+3%

Type of Hunting	% Use of Walk-In Areas		% Increase in Use	% Relative Change
	1999	2009		
Resident Grouse <sup>1</sup>	14.7%	18.3%	+3.9%	+27%
Nonresident Grouse <sup>1</sup>	9.7%	14.5%	+4.8%	+50%
Resident Pheasant	7.4%	9.3%	+1.9%	+26%
Nonresident Pheasant	6.1%	8.5%	+2.4%	+39%
Resident Waterfowl	7.8%	7.4%	-0.4%	-5%
Resident East River Deer	4.7%	5.3%	+0.6%	+13%
Resident West River Deer	8.3%	15.6%	+7.3%	+88%
Resident Antelope	17.4%	28.1%	+10.7%	+61%

Year	Total Acres in Walk-In Program	Increase in Acres During the Interval	Percent Increase in Relative Size	Percent Increase in Relative Size
1999	619,479			
2005	1,038,793	419,314	67.7%	
2009	1,245,342	206,549	19.9%	101.0%

<sup>1</sup>Includes prairie chick and partridge.

**Table 35.** Pheasant and grouse<sup>1</sup> hunting patterns reported by residents and nonresidents in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Type of Hunting	1999			
	RESIDENT		NONRESIDENT	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Pheasant only	1,803	67.6%	598	83.2%
Grouse <sup>1</sup> only	62	2.3%	6	0.8%
Both Pheasant and Grouse <sup>1</sup>	802	30.1%	115	16.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>100%</b>
Type of Hunting	2005			
	RESIDENT		NONRESIDENT	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Pheasant only	1,166	84.4%	693	89.7%
Grouse <sup>1</sup> only	13	0.9%	4	0.5%
Both Pheasant and Grouse <sup>1</sup>	203	14.7%	76	9.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>100%</b>
Type of Hunting	2009			
	RESIDENT		NONRESIDENT	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Pheasant only	2,809	81.6%	1,983	86.1%
Grouse <sup>1</sup> only	40	1.2%	12	0.5%
Both Pheasant and Grouse <sup>1</sup>	593	17.2%	307	13.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,442</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,302</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Grouse includes prairie chicken and partridge

**Table 36.** Hunting pattern activities reported by residents in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Number of Hunting Activities <sup>1</sup>	SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>1</b>	887	26.8%	566	38.2%	1,469	35.1%
<b>2</b>	993	30.0%	537	36.2%	1,531	36.5%
<b>3</b>	767	23.2%	255	17.2%	828	19.8%
<b>4</b>	433	13.1%	97	6.5%	261	6.2%
<b>5</b>	189	5.7%	22	1.5%	82	2.0%
<b>6</b>	36	1.1%	6	0.4%	18	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	3,305	100%	1,483	100%	4,189	100%

<sup>1</sup>See Table 1A for the list of hunting activities

**Table 37.** Pheasant and waterfowl hunting patterns reported by resident hunters in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Type of Hunting	SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Pheasant only</b>	1,516	55.6%	1,010	72.3%	2,551	73.0%
<b>Waterfowl only</b>	123	4.5%	28	2.0%	92	2.6%
<b>Both Pheasant and Waterfowl</b>	1,089	39.9%	359	25.7%	851	24.4%
<b>Total</b>	2,728	100%	1,397	100%	3,494	100%

**Table 38.** East River and West River deer hunting patterns reported by resident hunters in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Type of Hunting	SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>East River Deer only</b>	1,128	49.2%	519	67.1%	1,566	61.8%
<b>West River Deer only</b>	818	35.7%	166	21.4%	682	26.9%
<b>Both East and West River Deer</b>	348	15.2%	89	11.5%	286	11.3%
<b>Total</b>	2,294	100%	774	100%	2,534	100%

**Table 39.** Antelope, East River and West River deer hunting patterns reported by resident hunters in 1999, 2005 and 2009.

Type of Hunting	SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENT					
	1999		2005		2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Antelope only	184	24.7%	20	19.2%	81	16.7%
Antelope and East River Deer	158	21.2%	37	35.6%	128	26.4%
Antelope and West River Deer	285	38.3%	25	24.0%	189	39.0%
Antelope and East & West River Deer	117	15.7%	22	21.2%	87	17.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 40-A.** Summary chart of values for the Walk-In Area Program in 1999.

Walk-In Area Use – 1999		
Species Hunted	Recreational Days	Economic Impact <sup>1</sup>
Resident Grouse	23,259	\$7,800,000 <sup>2</sup>
Nonresident Grouse	4,479	
Resident Pheasant	49,707	
Nonresident Pheasant	20,059	
Resident Waterfowl	26,464	\$781,000 <sup>3</sup>
Resident East River Deer	5,688	\$580,000 <sup>4</sup>
Resident West River Deer	4,594	
Resident Antelope	1,326	
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,576</b>	<b>\$9,161,000</b>

<sup>1</sup>Values based on the 1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

<sup>2</sup>This is based on an estimate of \$80 expenditures per day of pheasant hunting combining residents and nonresidents in proportion to their numbers.

<sup>3</sup>This is based on an estimate of \$29.50 expenditures per day of waterfowl hunting (although this values also includes nonresident waterfowl hunters in proportion to their numbers, the influence of nonresident expenditures is very small).

<sup>4</sup>This is based on an estimate of \$50 expenditures per day of deer or antelope hunting (although this value also includes nonresident hunters in proportion to their numbers, the influence of nonresident expenditures is very small).

**Table 40-B.** Summary chart of values for the Walk-In Area Program in 2005.

<b>Walk-In Area Use – 2005</b>		
<b>Species Hunted</b>	<b>Recreational Days</b>	<b>Economic Impact<sup>1</sup></b>
Resident Grouse	12,365	\$5,763,000 <sup>2</sup>
Nonresident Grouse	6,353	
Resident Pheasant	63,570	
Nonresident Pheasant	30,708	
Resident Waterfowl	16,811	\$3,026,000 <sup>3</sup>
Resident East River Deer	14,358	\$2,417,000 <sup>4</sup>
Resident West River Deer	11,993	
Resident Antelope	3,863	
<b>Total</b>	<b>160,021</b>	<b>\$11,206,000</b>

<sup>1</sup>Values based on the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

<sup>2</sup>This is based on an estimate of \$51 expenditures per day of pheasant hunting combining residents and nonresidents in proportion to their numbers.

<sup>3</sup>This is based on an estimate of \$180 expenditures per day of waterfowl hunting (although this values also includes nonresident waterfowl hunters in proportion to their numbers, the influence of nonresident expenditures is very small).

<sup>4</sup>This is based on an estimate of \$80 expenditures per day of deer or antelope hunting (although this value also includes nonresident hunters in proportion to their numbers, the influence of nonresident expenditures is very small).

**Table 40-C.** Summary chart of values for the Walk-In Area Program in 2009.

<b>Walk-In Area Use – 2009</b>		
<b>Species Hunted</b>	<b>Recreational Days</b>	<b>Economic Impact<sup>1</sup></b>
Resident Grouse	6,640	\$10,524,210 <sup>2</sup>
Nonresident Grouse	2,605	
Resident Pheasant	51,066	
Nonresident Pheasant	38,974	
Resident Waterfowl	14,185	\$1,914,975 <sup>3</sup>
Resident East River Deer	11,837	\$1,796,475 <sup>4</sup>
Resident West River Deer	15,974	
Resident Antelope	7,414	
<b>Total</b>	<b>148,695</b>	<b>\$14,235,660</b>

<sup>1</sup>Values based on the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

<sup>2</sup>This is based on an estimate of \$106 expenditures per day of pheasant hunting combining residents and nonresidents in proportion to their numbers.

<sup>3</sup>This is based on an estimate of \$135 expenditures per day of waterfowl hunting (although this values also includes nonresident waterfowl hunters in proportion to their numbers, the influence of nonresident expenditures is very small).

<sup>4</sup>This is based on an estimate of \$51 expenditures per day of deer or antelope hunting (although this value also includes nonresident hunters in proportion to their numbers, the influence of nonresident expenditures is very small).

**Table 41.** Additional estimated use for the 2009 Walk-In Area Program in 2009 (from unmeasured nonresident hunter use).

<b>Additional Nonresident Hunter Use of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program</b>			
<b>Species Hunted</b>	<b>Recreational Days</b>	<b>Expenditure / Day</b>	<b>Economic Impact</b>
<b>Nonresident Waterfowl</b>	2,837	\$198	\$561,726
<b>Nonresident West River Deer</b>	1,278		\$253,044
<b>Nonresident Antelope</b>	593		\$117,414
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,708</b>		<b>\$932,184</b>
plus amount from Table 40-C			<b>\$14,235,660</b>
Total estimated valued of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program			<b>\$15,167,844</b>

**Table 42.** Alternate calculations for the economic value of Walk-In Area Program in 2009 (trip related, equipment and total expenditures) and including the additional estimated nonresident use of Walk-In Areas (see Table 41).

<b>Walk-In Area Use – 2009</b>			
<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Recreational Days</b>	<b>Trip Related Expenditures</b>	
		<b>Expenditure / Day<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Economic Impact</b>
Resident Hunters	107,116	\$19	\$2,035,204
Nonresident Hunters	46,287	\$177	\$8,192,799
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,403</b>		<b>\$10,228,003</b>
<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Recreational Days</b>	<b>Equipment &amp; Other Expenditures</b>	
		<b>Expenditure / Day<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Economic Impact</b>
Resident Hunters	107,116	\$47	\$5,034,452
Nonresident Hunters	46,287	\$21	\$972,027
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,403</b>		<b>\$6,006,479</b>
<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Recreational Days</b>	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	
		<b>Expenditure / Day</b>	<b>Economic Impact</b>
Resident Hunters	107,116	\$19 + \$47 = \$66	\$7,069,656
Nonresident Hunters	46,287	\$177 + \$21 = \$198	\$9,164,826
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,403</b>		<b>\$16,234,482</b>

<sup>1</sup>Values found in the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, South Dakota State Report: pages 4-5.

<sup>2</sup>Values estimated based on information found in the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, South Dakota State Report: pages 4-5.

**Table 43.** 2009 Walk-In Areas Evaluation: Comparing field collected data with mailed survey data—residence of hunters.

Residence	Pheasant & Grouse Hunting Only – Hunting Walk-In Areas			
	Field Data <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Survey Data <sup>2</sup>	Percent
Resident	207	57.3%	57,706	58.1%
Nonresident	154	42.7%	41,579	41.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99,285</b>	<b>100%</b>

Chi-square:  $X^2=0.090$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p=0.764$

<sup>1</sup>Mixed groups of residents & nonresidents not included (groups counted)

<sup>2</sup>Estimated days of use.

**Table 44.** 2009 Walk-In Areas Evaluation: Overall satisfaction with hunting in Walk-In areas comparing field collected data with mailed survey data.

Response	OVERALL SATISFACTION			
	Field Data		Mailed Survey Data	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Dissatisfied	34	4.7%	66	3.0%
Moderately Dissatisfied	29	4.0%	100	4.5%
Slightly Dissatisfied	44	6.1%	158	7.1%
Neutral / No Opinion	152	21.1%	349	15.6%
Slightly Satisfied	127	17.6%	330	14.8%
Moderately Satisfied	168	23.3%	710	31.8%
Very Satisfied	168	23.3%	523	23.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>100%</b>

Chi-square:  $X^2=31.624$ ;  $df=6$ ;  $p<0.001$

Mean <sup>1</sup>	1.06	1.24
95% C.I.	0.94 – 1.18	N/A

SUMMARIZED RESULTS				
Dissatisfied	107	14.8%	324	14.5%
Neutral / No Opinion	152	21.1%	349	15.6%
Satisfied	463	64.1%	1,563	69.9%

Chi-square:  $X^2=12.249$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p=0.002$

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Dissatisfied=-3, Moderately Dissatisfied=-2, Slightly Dissatisfied=-1, Neutral or No opinion=0, Slightly Satisfied=1, Moderately Satisfied=2, Very Satisfied=3.

**Table 45.** 2009 Walk-In Areas Evaluation: Satisfaction with grouse/pheasant hunting in Walk-In areas comparing field collected data with mailed survey data.

Response	SATISFACTION – GROUSE/PHEASANT HUNTING			
	Field Data		Mailed Survey Data	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	23	6.0%	50	2.3%
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	17	4.4%	77	3.6%
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	32	8.4%	129	6.0%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	80	20.9%	387	18.1%
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	72	18.8%	265	12.4%
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	80	20.9%	635	29.7%
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	79	20.6%	594	27.8%
<b>Total</b>	383	100%	2,137	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=44.870$ ; $df=6$ ; $p<0.001$				
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	0.87		1.28	
<b>95% C.I.</b>	0.70 – 1.04		N/A	
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS</b>				
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	72	18.8%	256	12.0%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	80	20.9%	387	18.1%
<b>Satisfied</b>	231	60.3%	1,494	69.9%
Chi-square: $X^2=17.328$ ; $df=2$ ; $p<0.001$				

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Dissatisfied=-3, Moderately Dissatisfied=-2, Slightly Dissatisfied=-1, Neutral or No opinion=0, Slightly Satisfied=1, Moderately Satisfied=2, Very Satisfied=3.

**Table 46.** 2009 Walk-In Areas Evaluation: Satisfaction with grouse/pheasant hunting in Walk-In areas comparing field collected data with mailed survey data by residence.

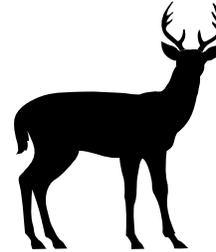
Response	SATISFACTION – GROUSE/PHEASANT HUNTING			
	Field Data		Mailed Survey Data	
	Resident Percent	Nonresident Percent	Resident Percent	Nonresident Percent
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	3.9%	9.1%	2.7%	3.9%
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	3.4%	6.5%	4.4%	4.9%
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	6.8%	11.0%	7.0%	7.0%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	22.2%	20.8%	17.1%	12.4%
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	16.9%	19.5%	14.1%	15.7%
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	22.2%	18.8%	31.1%	33.4%
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	24.6%	14.3%	23.6%	22.7%
<b>Total Number</b>	207	154	1,467	670
Field Data: Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square: $X^2=13.231$ ; df=6; $p=0.040$				
Survey Data: Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square: $X^2=10.789$ ; df=6; $p=0.095$				
Resident: Field vs. Survey: Chi-square: $X^2=9.911$ ; df=6; $p=0.128$				
Nonresident: Field vs. Survey: Chi-square: $X^2=30.510$ ; df=6; $p<0.001$				
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	1.10	0.49	1.23	1.22
<b>95% C.I.</b>	0.88 – 1.32	0.20 – 0.77	1.15 – 1.31	1.10 – 1.34
SUMMARIZED RESULTS				
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	14.0%	26.6%	14.1%	15.8%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	22.2%	20.8%	17.1%	12.4%
<b>Satisfied</b>	63.8%	52.6%	68.8%	71.8%
Field Data: Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square: $X^2=9.198$ ; df=2; $p=0.010$				
Survey Data: Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square: $X^2=8.078$ ; df=2; $p=0.018$				
Resident: Field vs. Survey: Chi-square: $X^2=3.342$ ; df=2; $p=0.188$				
Nonresident: Field vs. Survey: Chi-square: $X^2=21.272$ ; df=2; $p<0.001$				

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Dissatisfied=-3, Moderately Dissatisfied=-2, Slightly Dissatisfied=-1, Neutral or No opinion=0, Slightly Satisfied=1, Moderately Satisfied=2, Very Satisfied=3.

## **Appendix A**

Questionnaire used in the 2009 resident hunter evaluation of Walk-In Areas (including postcard reminder, final letter and a copy of the Internet survey).

# Resident Hunter Evaluation of Hunting Areas in South Dakota - 2009



With Special Emphasis on Walk-In Areas

## WALK-IN AREA

*FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY*

The Hunting rights of this land have  
been leased with Wildlife Habitat  
development funds for your enjoyment.

**Respect the Landowner  
And the Land!**



**SOUTH DAKOTA  
GAME, FISH AND PARKS  
DEPARTMENT**

P-4276

J. L. DARRING 7777  
(605) 343-1214



Game, Fish & Parks  
523 E. Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501

## DIRECTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

- **Please answer this survey even if you did not hunt Walk-In Areas this past year.** We are interested in hearing from **EVERYONE** who receives this questionnaire to ensure that our results are accurate. Our goal is to measure the use of the different types of land (private, public, Walk-In Areas and Road Rights-of-Way) for various types of hunting this past year (2009) plus your assessment of the Walk-In Areas program if you hunted and Walk-In Areas.
- Please try to answer what you believe to be true for you. The best answer is the one that most closely reflects your own feelings and beliefs, or what you actually did. For the questions asking about the number of days hunted and number of birds harvested, please provide an estimate if you do not know the exact number.
- Do not write your name on the questionnaire. Your answers will be treated confidentially. The questionnaire has an identification number so that your name can be checked off our list when you return your questionnaire. We then do not have to bother you with additional mailings or telephone calls. Your name will never be associated with your responses.
- Results of this survey will be posted on the GFP web page. A postcard will be sent to all participants in this survey telling where they can find a copy of the complete report or how to request a copy of the report.
- This survey is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate, simply return your blank questionnaire using the pre-paid return envelope.
- If you have any questions about this survey contact Larry Gigliotti by e-mail at: [Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us](mailto:Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us).

## Definitions

**Public Land** – refers to Game Production Areas (GPA), Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA), federal lands, such as the National Grasslands, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lands managed by Game, Fish and Parks.

**Walk-In Areas** – refers to land in the Walk-In Areas Program that is specifically posted with signs similar to the cover of this questionnaire.

**Game, Fish & Parks**  
**523 E. Capitol**  
**Pierre, SD 57501**

1. Did you do any hunting this past year (2009) for **grouse, prairie chicken or partridge** in South Dakota?
- NO → skip ahead to question #2 (next page)
- YES → Approximately, **how many days?** [\_\_\_\_\_] **DAYS** → Also, please answer the questions in Box A before continuing to next page.

**Box A**

A-1. Of the total time you spent hunting grouse / prairie chicken / partridge this year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following land types and approximately how many birds (grouse, prairie chicken and/or partridge) did you harvest?



<u>% of time spent:</u>	<u>Number of birds harvested:</u>
_____ % Private land.....→	_____ birds
_____ % Public land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.....→	_____ birds
_____ % Walk-In Areas.....→	_____ birds
_____ % Road Rights-of-Way.....→	_____ birds
<b>100%</b>	

- If you did NOT hunt grouse / prairie chicken / partridge on Walk-In Areas this year please skip ahead to the next page. **If you did hunt grouse / prairie chicken / partridge on Walk-In Areas this year please answer the following 2 questions in this Box A.**

A-2. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for grouse, prairie chicken and/or partridge?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Very Poor Habitat
- 3. Poor Habitat
- 4. Fair Habitat
- 5. Good Habitat
- 6. Excellent Habitat

A-3. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your grouse, prairie chicken and/or partridge hunting?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Not Important
- 3. Slightly Important
- 4. Moderately Important
- 5. Very Important
- 6. Critical → probably would not hunt grouse if it were not for the Walk-In Areas Program

2. Did you do any hunting this past year (2009) for **pheasants** in South Dakota?
- NO → skip ahead to question #3 (next page)
  - YES → Approximately, **how many days?** [\_\_\_\_\_] **DAYS** → Also, please answer the questions in Box B before continuing to next page.

**Box B**

B-1. Of the total time you spent hunting pheasants this year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following land types and approximately how many birds (pheasants) did you harvest?



**% of time spent:**

**Number of birds harvested:**

\_\_\_\_\_% Private land.....→ \_\_\_\_\_ birds  
\_\_\_\_\_% Public land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.....→ \_\_\_\_\_ birds  
\_\_\_\_\_% Walk-In Areas.....→ \_\_\_\_\_ birds  
\_\_\_\_\_% Road Rights-of-Way.....→ \_\_\_\_\_ birds  
**100%**

- If you did NOT hunt pheasants on Walk-In Areas this year please skip ahead to the next page. **If you did hunt pheasants on Walk-In Areas this year please answer the following 2 questions in this Box B.**

B-2. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for pheasants?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Very Poor Habitat
- 3. Poor Habitat
- 4. Fair Habitat
- 5. Good Habitat
- 6. Excellent Habitat

B-3. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your pheasant hunting?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Not Important
- 3. Slightly Important
- 4. Moderately Important
- 5. Very Important
- 4. Very Important
- 6. Critical → probably would not hunt pheasant if it were not for the Walk-In Program

3. Did you do any hunting this past year (2009) for **waterfowl** in South Dakota?
- NO → skip ahead to question #4 (next page)
- YES → Approximately, **how many days?** [\_\_\_\_\_] **DAYS** → Also, please answer the questions in Box C before continuing to next page.

**Box C**

C-1. Of the total time you spent hunting waterfowl this year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following land types and approximately how many birds (geese and ducks) did you harvest?



**% of time spent:**

**Number of birds harvested:**

\_\_\_\_\_% Private land.....→ \_\_\_\_\_ birds

\_\_\_\_\_% Public land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.....→ \_\_\_\_\_ birds

\_\_\_\_\_% Walk-In Areas.....→ \_\_\_\_\_ birds

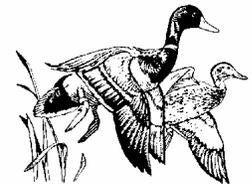
\_\_\_\_\_% Road Rights-of-Way.....→ \_\_\_\_\_ birds

**100%**

- If you did NOT hunt waterfowl on Walk-In Areas this year please skip ahead to the next page. **If you did hunt waterfowl on Walk-In Areas this year please answer the following 2 questions in this Box C.**

C-2. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for waterfowl?

1. No Opinion
2. Very Poor Habitat
3. Poor Habitat
4. Fair Habitat
5. Good Habitat
6. Excellent Habitat



C-3. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your waterfowl hunting?

1. No Opinion
2. Not Important
3. Slightly Important
4. Moderately Important
5. Very Important
6. Critical → probably would not hunt waterfowl if it were not for the Walk-In Program

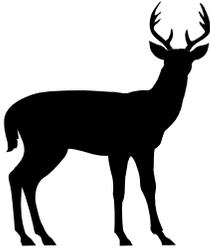
4. Did you do any **East River rifle deer** hunting this past year (2009)?

NO → skip ahead to question #5 (next page)

YES → Approximately, **how many days?** [\_\_\_\_\_] **DAYS** → Also, please answer the questions in Box D before continuing to next page.

**Box D**

D-1. Of the total time you spent hunting East River Rifle Deer this year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following land types and check if you harvested a deer on any of the land types this year.



% of time spent:

Total of Deer Harvested (either species & sex):

\_\_\_\_\_% Private land..... → \_\_\_\_\_ Deer

\_\_\_\_\_% Public land (GPAs, WPAs, etc. → \_\_\_\_\_ Deer

\_\_\_\_\_% Walk-In Areas..... → \_\_\_\_\_ Deer  
**100%**

- If you did NOT hunt East River Rifle Deer on Walk-In Areas this year please skip ahead to the next page. **If you did hunt East River rifle deer on Walk-In Areas this year please answer the following 2 questions in this Box D.**

D-2. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for East River Rifle Deer?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Very Poor Habitat
- 3. Poor Habitat
- 4. Fair Habitat
- 5. Good Habitat
- 6. Excellent Habitat

D-3. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your East River Rifle Deer hunting?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Not Important
- 3. Slightly Important
- 4. Moderately Important
- 5. Very Important
- 6. Critical → probably would not hunt East River deer if it were not for the Walk-In Program

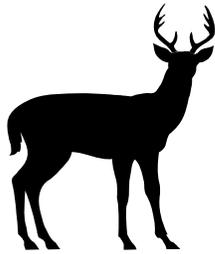
5. Did you do any **West River rifle deer** hunting this past year (2009)?

NO → skip ahead to question #6 (next page)

YES → Approximately, **how many days?** [\_\_\_\_\_] **DAYS** → Also, please answer the questions in Box E before continuing to next page.

**Box E**

E-1. Of the total time you spent hunting West River Rifle Deer this year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following land types and check if you harvested a deer on any of the land types this year.



**% of time spent:**

**Total Deer Harvested  
(either species & sex):**

\_\_\_\_\_ % Private land..... → \_\_\_\_\_ Deer

\_\_\_\_\_ % Public land (GPAs, WPAs, etc. → \_\_\_\_\_ Deer

\_\_\_\_\_ % Walk-In Areas..... → \_\_\_\_\_ Deer

**100%**

- If you did NOT hunt West River Rifle Deer on Walk-In Areas this year please skip ahead to the next page. **If you did hunt West River Rifle Deer on Walk-In Areas this year please answer the following 2 questions in this Box E.**

E-2. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for West River Rifle Deer?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Very Poor Habitat
- 3. Poor Habitat
- 4. Fair Habitat
- 5. Good Habitat
- 6. Excellent Habitat

E-3. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your West River Rifle Deer hunting?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Not Important
- 3. Slightly Important
- 4. Moderately Important
- 5. Very Important
- 6. Critical → probably would not hunt West River deer if it were not for the Walk-In Program

6. Did you do any **rifle antelope** hunting this past year (2009)?
- NO → skip ahead to question #7 (next page)
  - YES → Approximately, **how many days?** [\_\_\_\_\_] **DAYS** → Also, please answer the questions in Box F before continuing to next page.

**Box F**

F-1. Of the total time you spent hunting Rifle Antelope this year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following land types and check if you harvested an antelope on any of the land types this year.



<u>% of time spent:</u>	<u>Total Antelope Harvested (either sex):</u>
_____ % Private land..... →	_____ Antelope
_____ % Public land (GPAs, WPAs, etc. →	_____ Antelope
_____ % Walk-In Areas..... →	_____ Antelope
<b>100%</b>	

- If you did NOT hunt Rifle Antelope on Walk-In Areas this year please skip ahead to the next page. **If you did hunt rifle Antelope on Walk-In Areas this year please answer the following 2 questions in this Box F.**

F-2. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for Rifle Antelope?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Very Poor Habitat
- 3. Poor Habitat
- 4. Fair Habitat
- 5. Good Habitat
- 6. Excellent Habitat

F-3. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your Rifle Antelope hunting?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Not Important
- 3. Slightly Important
- 4. Moderately Important
- 5. Very Important
- 6. Critical → probably would not hunt antelope if it were not for the Walk-In Program

## Overall Evaluation of Walk-In Areas Program.

7. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with this past year's (2009) Walk-In Areas Program?

- 1. Very Dissatisfied
- 2. Moderately Dissatisfied
- 3. Slightly Dissatisfied
- 4. Neutral or No Opinion
- 5. Slightly Satisfied
- 6. Moderately Satisfied
- 7. Very Satisfied

8. How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the 2009 Walk-In Area Atlas?

- 1. Very Dissatisfied
- 2. Moderately Dissatisfied
- 3. Slightly Dissatisfied
- 4. Neutral or No Opinion
- 5. Slightly Satisfied
- 6. Moderately Satisfied
- 7. Very Satisfied

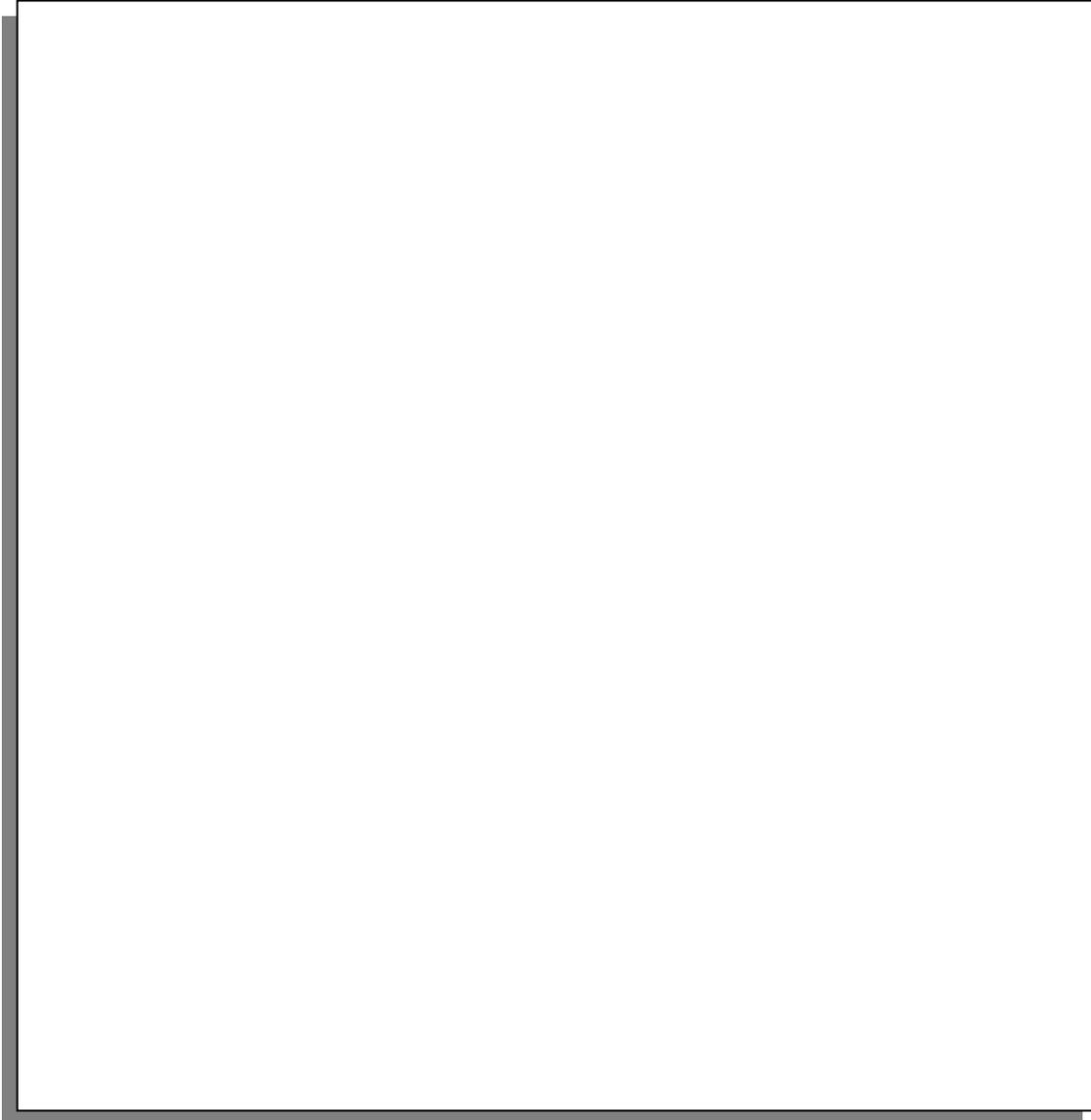
**Thank you very much for your valuable time completing this survey.**

*To return your questionnaire, fold it in half and return it using the addressed, pre-paid return envelope provided.*

**Please use this space for any optional comments you wish to make concerning the Walk-In Areas Program or other wildlife-related issues.**

If you need additional space you can use the other side of this page.

**Additional space for optional comments:**



NOTE: These comments will be typed (provided they are legible) and put into a report that will be given to the Game, Fish & Parks Commissioners, staff biologists and administrators and made available to the public. Your name will not be associated with your comments in the report.

Electronic comments can also be sent to [Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us](mailto:Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us)

Please put **Walk-In Areas Survey Comments** in the subject line of your e-mail. Deadline for e-mail comments to be included in the final report for this survey is March 22, 2010.

## **Postcard Reminder:**

February 11, 2010

About two weeks ago I mailed you a survey (green booklet) asking about your hunting in South Dakota this past year. This postcard reminder is being sent to ask you to complete and return your survey as soon as possible using the pre-paid return envelope provided. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed even if you did not hunt this past year. The information from this survey is very valuable in making decisions related to our public land management and Walk-In Areas program.

**Please try to respond to the survey by February 26, 2010.** If by some chance you did not receive the questionnaire, or if it got misplaced, don't worry (just wait and watch your mail) as a second questionnaire will be mailed to you in a couple of weeks if we don't receive your completed questionnaire in the mail.

**Larry Gigliotti**

Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist

## Letter sent with second mailing of the questionnaire:



### Department of Game, Fish and Parks

Foss Building  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182



March 8, 2010

### RE: Evaluation of where hunting occurs (land types) in South Dakota

Dear South Dakota hunter:

**The deadline for returning your 2009 hunter survey is April 6, 2010.** As of March 8<sup>th</sup> we have not received your completed questionnaire. If you mailed it in the past 5 days it is likely that it crossed this mailing and you can discard this follow-up request. If you have not yet returned your questionnaire I urge you to take the time to complete and return it, as your response is very valuable.

The survey has been sent to only a small, but representative, sample of hunters. **YOUR response is needed to make accurate estimates of hunting participation for all types of land (not just Walk-In Areas) in South Dakota.** Please help us with this evaluation by providing your hunting information.

This survey is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate in this survey please disregard this last mailing. No further reminder mailing will be sent. However, I urge you to complete your survey because this information (type of land used for hunting) is important for evaluating management actions and policies and for making management decisions.

I included another questionnaire with this mailing in case you did not receive the questionnaire in the earlier mailing or misplaced your questionnaire.

Sincerely,  
Larry M. Gigliotti



## Copy of the Internet Survey:

### 2009 Resident Hunter Survey

#### 1. Default Section

**\* 1. The purpose of this survey is to measure hunters' use of various types of land with special emphasis on Walk-In Areas. Please answer this survey even if you did not hunt on Walk-In Areas this year because the main purpose is to identify the types of land used by hunters for various types of hunting.**

**Did you do any hunting this past year (2009) for grouse, prairie chicken or partridge in South Dakota?**

No

Yes

#### 2. Grouse, Prairie Chicken, and/or Partridge Hunting Questions

**\* 1. Approximately, how many days did you hunt for grouse / prairie chicken / partridge in South Dakota last year (2009)?**

Days hunting for grouse / prairie chicken / partridge

**\* 2. Of the total time you spent hunting grouse/prairie chicken/partridge this past year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following types of land?**

**(total needs to add to 100, use whole numbers, and do not include the "%" symbol)**

Private Land (%)

Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(%)

Walk-In Areas (%)

Road Rights-of-Way (%)

**3. Approximately how many birds (grouse/prairie chicken/partridge) did you harvest on each of the following types of land?**

Private Land (# grouse, etc. harvested)

Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(# grouse etc. harvested)

Walk-In Areas (# grouse, etc. harvested)

Road Rights-of-Way (# grouse, etc. harvested)

## 2009 Resident Hunter Survey

**\* 4. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge OR No Opinion
- Very Poor Habitat
- Poor Habitat
- Fair Habitat
- Good Habitat
- Excellent Habitat

**\* 5. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge hunting?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for grouse, etc. OR No Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical (probably would not hunt grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge if it were not for the Walk-In Program)

**3.**

**\* 1. Did you do any hunting this past year (2009) for pheasants in South Dakota?**

- No
- Yes

## 4. Pheasant Hunting Questions

**\* 1. Approximately, how many days did you hunt for pheasants in South Dakota last year (2009)?**

Days hunting for pheasants

## 2009 Resident Hunter Survey

- \* 2. Of the total time you spent hunting pheasants this past year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following types of land? (total needs to add to 100, use whole numbers, and do not include the "%" symbol)**

Private Land (%)

Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(%)

Walk-In Areas (%)

Road Rights-of-Way (%)

- 3. Approximately how many birds (pheasants) did you harvest on each of the following types of land?**

Private Land (# pheasants harvested)

Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(# pheasants harvested)

Walk-In Areas (# pheasants harvested)

Road Rights-of-Way (# pheasants harvested)

- \* 4. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for pheasants?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for pheasants OR No Opinion
- Very Poor Habitat
- Poor Habitat
- Fair Habitat
- Good Habitat
- Excellent Habitat

- \* 5. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your pheasant hunting?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for pheasant OR NO Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical (probably would not hunt pheasants if it were not for the Walk-In Program)

## 2009 Resident Hunter Survey

\* 1. Did you do any hunting this past year (2009) for waterfowl in South Dakota?

- No  
 Yes

### 6. Waterfowl Hunting Questions

\* 1. Approximately, how many days did you hunt for waterfowl (ducks and/or geese) in South Dakota last year (2009)?

Days hunting for waterfowl

\* 2. Of the total time you spent hunting waterfowl (ducks and/or geese) this past year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following types of land? (total needs to add to 100, use whole numbers, and do not include the "%" symbol)

Private Land (%)   
Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(%)   
Walk-In Areas (%)   
Road Rights-of-Way (%)

3. Approximately how many birds (ducks & geese) did you harvest on each of the following types of land?

Private Land (# ducks/geese harvested)   
Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(# ducks/geese harvested)   
Walk-In Areas (# ducks/geese harvested)   
Road Rights-of-Way (# ducks/geese harvested)

\* 4. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for waterfowl?

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for waterfowl OR No Opinion  
 Very Poor Habitat  
 Poor Habitat  
 Fair Habitat  
 Good Habitat  
 Excellent Habitat

## 2009 Resident Hunter Survey

**\* 5. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your waterfowl hunting?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for waterfowl OR NO Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical (probably would not hunt waterfowl if it were not for the Walk-In Program)

7.

**\* 1. Did you do any East River rifle deer hunting this past year (2009)?**

- No
- Yes

## 8. East River Rifle Deer Hunting Questions

**\* 1. Approximately, how many days did you spend hunting East River rifle deer last year (2009)?**

Days hunting for East River rifle deer

**\* 2. Of the total time you spent hunting East River rifle deer this past year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following types of land? (total needs to add to 100, use whole numbers, and do not include the "%" symbol)**

Private Land (%)

Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(%)

Walk-In Areas (%)

**3. How many total deer (either species and sex) did you harvest East River on each of the following types of land?**

Private Land (# deer harvested)

Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(# deer harvested)

Walk-In Areas (# deer harvested)

## 2009 Resident Hunter Survey

**\* 4. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted East River rifle deer?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for East River rifle deer OR No Opinion
- Very Poor Habitat
- Poor Habitat
- Fair Habitat
- Good Habitat
- Excellent Habitat

**\* 5. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your East River rifle deer hunting?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for East River rifle deer OR NO Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical (probably would not hunt East River rifle deer if it were not for the Walk-In Program)

9.

**\* 1. Did you do any West River rifle deer hunting this past year (2009)?**

- No
- Yes

## 10. West River Rifle Deer Hunting Questions

**\* 1. Approximately, how many days did you spend hunting West River rifle deer last year (2009)?**

Days hunting for West River rifle deer:

## 2009 Resident Hunter Survey

**\* 2. Of the total time you spent hunting West River rifle deer this past year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following types of land? (total needs to add to 100, use whole numbers, and do not include the "%" symbol)**

Private Land (%)

Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(%)

Walk-In Areas (%)

**3. How many total deer (either species and sex) did you harvest West River on each of the following types of land?**

Private Land (# deer harvested)

Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(# deer harvested)

Walk-In Areas (# deer harvested)

**\* 4. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted West River rifle deer?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for West River rifle deer OR No Opinion
- Very Poor Habitat
- Poor Habitat
- Fair Habitat
- Good Habitat
- Excellent Habitat

**\* 5. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your West River rifle deer hunting?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for West River rifle deer OR NO Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical (probably would not hunt West River rifle deer if it were not for the Walk-In Program)

## 2009 Resident Hunter Survey

**\* 1. Did you do any rifle antelope hunting this past year (2009)?**

- No  
 Yes

### 12. Rifle Antelope Hunting Questions

**\* 1. Approximately, how many days did you spend hunting rifle antelope last year (2009)?**

Days hunting rifle antelope

**\* 2. Of the total time you spent rifle antelope hunting this past year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following types of land? (total needs to add to 100, use whole numbers, and do not include the "%" symbol)**

Private Land (%)   
Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(%)   
Walk-In Areas (%)

**3. How many antelope did you harvest on each of the following types of land?**

Private Land (# antelope harvested)   
Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(# antelope harvested)   
Walk-In Areas (# antelope harvested)

**\* 4. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted rifle antelope?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for rifle antelope OR No Opinion  
 Very Poor Habitat  
 Poor Habitat  
 Fair Habitat  
 Good Habitat  
 Excellent Habitat

## 2009 Resident Hunter Survey

**\* 5. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your rifle antelope hunting?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for rifle antelope OR NO Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical (probably would not hunt rifle antelope if it were not for the Walk-In Program)

## 13. Summary Questions: Evaluation of Walk-In Areas Program

**\* 1. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with this past year's (2009) Walk-In Areas Program?**

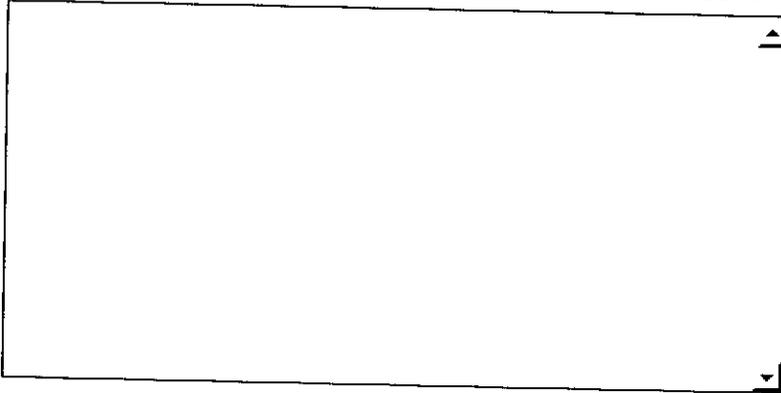
- Very Dissatisfied
- Moderately Dissatisfied
- Slightly Dissatisfied
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Satisfied
- Moderately Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

**\* 2. How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the 2009 Walk-In Area Atlas?**

- Very Dissatisfied
- Moderately Dissatisfied
- Slightly Dissatisfied
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Satisfied
- Moderately Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

## 2009 Resident Hunter Survey

3. You may use this space for any optional comments you wish to make concerning the Walk-In Areas Program or other wildlife-related issues.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for optional comments. It is positioned below the question text. There are small upward-pointing triangles in the top right corner and a small downward-pointing triangle in the bottom right corner, suggesting it might be a scrollable area or a placeholder for a form.

## **Appendix B**

Questionnaire used in the 2005 nonresident hunter evaluation of Walk-In Areas (including postcard reminder, insert send with 2<sup>nd</sup> mailing of the survey and a copy of the Internet survey).



Department of Game, Fish and Parks  
Foss Building  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182



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**January, 2010**

Dear hunter:

You were randomly selected to participate in this short survey designed to learn more about our nonresident small game hunters and to evaluate our Walk-In Areas Program and public hunting areas in South Dakota.

#### **DIRECTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE**

- **Please answer this survey even if you did not hunt Walk-In Areas this past year.** We are interested in hearing from **EVERYONE** who receives this questionnaire to ensure that our results are accurate. Our goal is to measure the use of the different types of land (private, public, Walk-In Areas and Road Rights-of-Way) for various types of hunting this past year (2009) plus your assessment of the Walk-In Areas program if you hunted and Walk-In Areas.
- Please do not remove your mailing label. Your answers will be treated confidentially. The questionnaire has an identification number so that your name can be checked off our list when you return your questionnaire. We then do not have to bother you with additional mailings or telephone calls.
- Results of this survey will be posted on the GFP web page.
- This survey is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate, simply return your blank questionnaire using the pre-paid return envelope. If you have any questions about this survey contact Larry Gigliotti by e-mail at: [Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us](mailto:Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us).

#### **Definitions**

**Public Land** – refers to Game Production Areas (GPA), Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA), federal lands, such as the National Grasslands, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lands managed by Game, Fish and Parks.

**Walk-In Areas** – refers to land in the Walk-In Areas Program that is specifically posted with Walk-In Areas sign.

1. Did you do any hunting this past year (2009) for grouse, prairie chicken or partridge in South Dakota?
  - NO → skip ahead to question #2 (next page)
  - YES → Approximately, **how many days?** [\_\_\_\_\_] **DAYS** → Also, please answer the questions in Box A before continuing to next page.

**Box A**

A-1. Of the total time you spent hunting grouse / prairie chicken / partridge this year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following land types and approximately how many birds (grouse, prairie chicken and/or partridge) did you harvest?



<u>% of time spent:</u>	<u>Number of birds harvested:</u>
_____ % Private land.....	→ _____ birds
_____ % Public land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.....)	→ _____ birds
_____ % Walk-In Areas.....	→ _____ birds
_____ % Road Rights-of-Way.....	→ _____ birds
<b>100%</b>	

- If you did NOT hunt grouse / prairie chicken / partridge on Walk-In Areas this year please skip ahead to the next page. **If you did hunt grouse / prairie chicken / partridge on Walk-In Areas this year please answer the following 2 questions in this Box A.**

A-2. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for grouse, prairie chicken and/or partridge?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Very Poor Habitat
- 3. Poor Habitat
- 4. Fair Habitat
- 5. Good Habitat
- 6. Excellent Habitat

A-3. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your grouse, prairie chicken and/or partridge hunting?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Not Important
- 3. Slightly Important
- 4. Moderately Important
- 5. Very Important
- 6. Critical → probably would not hunt grouse if it were not for the Walk-In Areas Program

2. Did you do any hunting this past year (2009) for pheasants in South Dakota?
- NO → skip ahead to question #3 (next page)
  - YES → Approximately, **how many days?** [\_\_\_\_\_] **DAYS** → Also, please answer the questions in Box B before continuing to next page.

**Box B**

B-1. Of the total time you spent hunting pheasants this year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following land types and approximately how many birds (pheasants) did you harvest?



**% of time spent:**

**Number of birds harvested:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ % Private land.....→ \_\_\_\_\_ birds
- \_\_\_\_\_ % Public land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.....→ \_\_\_\_\_ birds
- \_\_\_\_\_ % Walk-In Areas.....→ \_\_\_\_\_ birds
- \_\_\_\_\_ % Road Rights-of-Way.....→ \_\_\_\_\_ birds
- 100%**

• If you did NOT hunt pheasants on Walk-In Areas this year please skip ahead to the next page. **If you did hunt pheasants on Walk-In Areas this year please answer the following 2 questions in this Box B.**

B-2. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for pheasants?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Very Poor Habitat
- 3. Poor Habitat
- 4. Fair Habitat
- 5. Good Habitat
- 6. Excellent Habitat

B-3. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your pheasant hunting?

- 1. No Opinion
- 2. Not Important
- 3. Slightly Important
- 4. Moderately Important
- 5. Very Important
- 4. Very Important
- 6. Critical → probably would not hunt pheasant if it were not for the Walk-In Program

### Overall Evaluation of Walk-In Areas Program.

3. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with this past year's (2009) Walk-In Areas Program?

- 1. Very Dissatisfied
- 2. Moderately Dissatisfied
- 3. Slightly Dissatisfied
- 4. Neutral or No Opinion
- 5. Slightly Satisfied
- 6. Moderately Satisfied
- 7. Very Satisfied

4. How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the 2009 Walk-In Area Atlas?

- 1. Very Dissatisfied
- 2. Moderately Dissatisfied
- 3. Slightly Dissatisfied
- 4. Neutral or No Opinion
- 5. Slightly Satisfied
- 6. Moderately Satisfied
- 7. Very Satisfied

**Thank you very much for your valuable time completing this survey.**

**Please use this space for any optional comments you wish to make concerning the Walk-In Areas Program or other wildlife-related issues.**

*Please return your questionnaire using the addressed, pre-paid return envelope provided.*

## Postcard Reminder:

February 9, 2010

About two weeks ago I mailed you a survey asking about your hunting in South Dakota this past year. This postcard reminder is being sent to ask you to complete and return your survey as soon as possible using the pre-paid return envelope provided. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed even if you did not hunt this past year. The information from this survey is very valuable in making decisions related to our public land management and Walk-In Areas program.

**Please try to respond to the survey by February 24, 2010.** If by some chance you did not receive the questionnaire, or if it got misplaced, don't worry (just wait and watch your mail) as a second questionnaire will be mailed to you in a couple of weeks if we don't receive your completed questionnaire in the mail.

**Larry Gigliotti**  
Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist

**Insert sent with the second mailing of the questionnaire:**

## Nonresident Hunting in South Dakota

Please help us by completing the enclosed survey. Even if you did not hunt we need your information for the calculations involved in our evaluation of hunting opportunity in South Dakota.

**Deadline for responding to this survey is March 22, 2010.**

Thank you.

*Larry M. Gigliotti*

## Copy of the Internet Survey:

### 2009 Nonresident Hunter Survey

#### 1. Default Section

**\* 1. The purpose of this survey is to measure hunters' use of various types of land with special emphasis on Walk-In Areas. Please answer this survey even if you did not hunt on Walk-In Areas this year because the main purpose is to identify the types of land used by hunters for various types of hunting.**

**Did you do any hunting this past year (2009) for grouse, prairie chicken or partridge in South Dakota?**

- No  
 Yes

#### 2. Grouse, Prairie Chicken, and/or Partridge Hunting Questions

**\* 1. Approximately, how many days did you hunt for grouse / prairie chicken / partridge in South Dakota last year (2009)?**

Days hunting for grouse / prairie chicken / partridge

**\* 2. Of the total time you spent hunting grouse/prairie chicken/partridge this past year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following types of land?**

**(total needs to add to 100, use whole numbers, and do not include the "%" symbol)**

Private Land (%)   
Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(%)   
Walk-In Areas (%)   
Road Rights-of-Way (%)

**3. Approximately how many birds (grouse/prairie chicken/partridge) did you harvest on each of the following types of land?**

Private Land (# grouse, etc. harvested)   
Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(# grouse etc. harvested)   
Walk-In Areas (# grouse, etc. harvested)   
Road Rights-of-Way (# grouse, etc. harvested)

## 2009 Nonresident Hunter Survey

**\* 4. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge OR No Opinion
- Very Poor Habitat
- Poor Habitat
- Fair Habitat
- Good Habitat
- Excellent Habitat

**\* 5. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge hunting?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for grouse, etc. OR No Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical (probably would not hunt grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge if it were not for the Walk-In Program)

3.

**\* 1. Did you do any hunting this past year (2009) for pheasants in South Dakota?**

- No
- Yes

## 4. Pheasant Hunting Questions

**\* 1. Approximately, how many days did you hunt for pheasants in South Dakota last year (2009)?**

Days hunting for pheasants

## 2009 Nonresident Hunter Survey

**\* 2. Of the total time you spent hunting pheasants this past year (2009), approximately what percent of that time was spent on each of the following types of land? (total needs to add to 100, use whole numbers, and do not include the "%" symbol)**

Private Land (%)

Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(%)

Walk-In Areas (%)

Road Rights-of-Way (%)

**3. Approximately how many birds (pheasants) did you harvest on each of the following types of land?**

Private Land (# pheasants harvested)

Public Land (GPAs, WPAs, etc.)(# pheasants harvested)

Walk-In Areas (# pheasants harvested)

Road Rights-of-Way (# pheasants harvested)

**\* 4. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the 2009 Walk-In Areas that you hunted for pheasants?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for pheasants OR No Opinion
- Very Poor Habitat
- Poor Habitat
- Fair Habitat
- Good Habitat
- Excellent Habitat

**\* 5. How would you rate the value of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Program for your pheasant hunting?**

- Did not hunt Walk-In Areas for pheasant OR NO Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical (probably would not hunt pheasants if it were not for the Walk-In Program)

## 5. Summary Questions: Evaluation of Walk-In Areas Program

## 2009 Nonresident Hunter Survey

**\* 1. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with this past year's (2009) Walk-In Areas Program?**

- Very Dissatisfied
- Moderately Dissatisfied
- Slightly Dissatisfied
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Satisfied
- Moderately Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

**\* 2. How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the 2009 Walk-In Area Atlas?**

- Very Dissatisfied
- Moderately Dissatisfied
- Slightly Dissatisfied
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Satisfied
- Moderately Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

**3. You may use this space for any optional comments you wish to make concerning the Walk-In Areas Program or other wildlife-related issues.**

**Appendix C. Optional comments received by mail from resident hunters.**

ID: 2

I think you could sell the walk in land and use the money to rent land from landowners with results for a lot more hunters.

ID: 9

No walk in areas around the Madison area.

ID: 14

I feel the hunting here in South Dakota is great. Probably the best I have ever experienced and I have lived in four other states. South Dakota is great! Thank You.

ID: 35

We skip walk in areas because they often are too large for a small party to hunt. These areas seem focused on Game Production Areas. They should be set up for hunting.

ID: 45

I don't use walk in areas enough to say.

ID: 61

I don't know where to get a walk in area atlas.

ID: 119

We hunt only on private land, with permission! Road hunting is legalized shop lifting! When the GF&P releases numbers about birds and harvested roosters, why don't they say how many are owned by landowners?

ID: 122

We are lucky enough to have private land to hunt, but I think the walk in program is a fantastic opportunity and we will utilize it at some point in the future.

ID: 127

Overall good, need to lower non-resident cost for a small game licenses for family/friends.

ID: I believe there are not as many deer in Lake, and the surrounding counties as past years. There were several hit by cars but I think people would hit them if there were only 10 in East River. There was a lot of corn in the field the first season but I hunted hard and even before and after the season the deer I seen were far and few between. One or two in a section, maybe it is time to cut the number of licenses back a little. I didn't receive a tooth

envelope with my license. If you need the teeth please send one and I will send the teeth in.

ID: 146

No walk in area experience. I live 12 miles northwest of Spearfish. I hunted elk in seven locations and never found an area not over run with hunters. I saw 2 or 3 deer a day while elk hunting in the Northern Hills, from my home usually see 100 to 200 deer. Now 10 or 15 which is extremely low.

ID: 159

Some of the areas were not in the atlas. I don't use them much but found some of them to be not worth using because they were not ideal for pheasants, but think as a whole the walk in areas are a great deal for hunters and farmers both.

ID: 172

I didn't hunt walk in areas this year but have many times before and I am very pleased with them. It is good to be able to hunt somewhere, where you don't have to have a hassle to get out and walk with family and friends to enjoy what god gave us.

ID: 202

I recently moved here from Minnesota, and it seemed like there was quite a bit more public hunting areas. If you don't know somebody here and you have to rely on road hunting to make a tough season.

ID: 210

In Western Bennett County there is a very large surplus of antelope and deer. You need to give out more licenses for both of these. More doe tags would be good to think them down.

ID: 218

You need to change the time frame for black powder season. Move it up earlier because by the time it opens they are so wild you can't get close. Please let black powder hunters know the reason for the late opener.

ID: 224

With the regards to east river deer rifle season. I understand that there has to be a lottery for tags. My frustration is that someone from another county may get a tag, but I don't, and I am a resident. Residents of the particular county should get priority for that county.

ID: 283

I like what you are doing with the walk in areas. It would be nice for seniors and disabled to be able to ride a 4 wheeler or some how get a little closer to hunting areas. I know it opens a bag of worms but it would be nice as a

result I can't hunt when I would like to but as long as we have the road side it helps.

ID: 302

I would like to see an end to road hunting on rural county roads, section lines and dirt roads would be fine. It is too dangerous for farmers to come over a hill with a loaded truck and find a hunter parked in the middle of the road off shooting in the ditch.

ID: 306

You should take 2 years and build the heard of bucks back up. Don't shoot anything over 3 point bucks or close buck season for 2 years. Everybody is shooting big bucks, they are diminishing.

ID: 327

Although I didn't hunt much walk in areas this year I have hunted walk in areas in the past in some instanced had to question why hunter dollars were being spent on totally non-productive lands.

ID: 341

The east river deer were all in the unharvested corn fields.

ID: 364

Walk in areas are a good idea.

ID: 369

I only hunted pheasants opening weekend on private land, and didn't use walk in areas.

ID: 388

Thank you! Keep up the great work!

ID: 392

We have used walk-in areas in previous years. It is a much appreciated program. We will continue use of this land as long as it is available.

ID: 411

Public land and walk in areas are fine, but I don't see much for food plots. Farmers and ranchers feed a lot of wildlife. You say respect landowners but when we have problems with them it's not your problem. Drive around or call farmers and ranchers and see where the wildlife is this winter. They are costing us. We feed them and raise them. Hunting season they are yours to sell licenses and police and make money. You drive around or take surveys a couple of times a year we are here every day. My comp insurance is as high as collision because of the wildlife.

ID: 421

Weather greatly affected the lack of hunting success this year.

ID: 428

Most walk in areas or public areas are crap because every thing that I was able to hunt and without cover for anything you can't drive by and see nothing for miles and miles. The walk in areas or public land was just the farmers and ranchers junk land.

ID: 456

The walk in program is great! Although I didn't get to hunt the last couple of years, I have hunted the walk in areas extensively in the past mainly in Harding County.

ID: 458

Need more roads and land makers on the walk in atlas, some times it is hard to follow. Seems so small but the walk in program is wonderful.

ID: 492

You need to up the amount of roosters per day! There are too many of them.

ID: 503

I think there is way too many doe, fawn tags given out for antelope and east river deer. Also too many youth deer 1 is enough.

ID: 504

Most walk in areas were good in previous years.

ID: 510

Hunting out of a boat some shot from the boat they go up on private land with out permission. This is bad.

ID: 514

Some of the west river habitat was cut really short. Not a lot of cover for deer to be in (Haakon County). There was a lot of cover (trees, wheat fields, etc) on private land right next to public land doesn't leave a lot of options for deer to come to the public land. Some of the east river areas are just hunted too hard which pays a tool on the habitat.

ID: 541

I have appreciated the walk in areas in the past and look forward to hunting them in the future. I only had the opportunity to hunt one day in 2009. I expect to do much more in 2010.

ID: 544

You should require a certain amount of foliage/cover. Some of the walk in areas in Dewey County is so bare, nothing is on it. Also there is a person in our area who turns his cows into the walk in area 1 week before opening season. He gets paid, but no one hunts it because of all the cows.

ID: 546

I didn't hunt on walk in areas.

ID: 549

Post school and public land signs better out in West River.

ID: 558

Didn't hunt west river rifle deer this year on the hills we always hunt public land in those places and do quite well.

ID: 567

I don't know what the walk in area costs the GF&P, but some of the areas are good to very good and some are a waste of money. The landowner that puts very poor hunting habitat into walk in areas is just ripping off the GF&P and hunters who pay higher and higher license fees. Overall I feel it is a good program.

ID: 568

The Moody County Game, Fish & Parks officer in the Trent, SD area is using his position to basically harass hunters. I know a few land owners who won't hunt or allow hunting again more because of him.

ID: 571

The walk in area program is extremely important for the teenage population of our state as well as for those who cannot afford to lease or rent land for hunting. If the hunting is good on the private land you are using and that information gets out other associations will lease it all away. Without public land/walk in areas and road right of ways hunting will be over for the less affluent.

ID: 582

South Dakotas hunting is so commercialized we should double the non-resident license fees. Maybe we could use the money to fix the crap roads.

ID: 587

I did bow hunt on public land in SD. Overall, I was satisfied with the SD walk in area program. I do plan to antelope hunt on some public land next season. I find the hunting atlas to be great.

ID: 602

Deer numbers are down. Where deer are on public land landowners will not let anyone hunt.

ID: 603

I must be getting to old. I bought licenses to hunt pheasants and waterfowl but didn't hunt.

ID: 628

Didn't hunt any walk in areas this past year. I did hunt in prior years and had satisfactory experience. I would like to see charge in east river doe only season, where it doesn't fall on a holiday weekends.

ID: 630

Kill some of the coons and hawks, also some cormorants.

ID: 635

I truly like hunting walk in areas and believe they are a good benefit to South Dakota hunters. Keep up the good work.

ID: 646

I didn't get to go hunting this year even though I purchased a small game license.

ID: 664

I think harvesting WPA/ GPA, and strong livestock on them just before hunting seasons is ridiculous. Also if corn is planted on WPA/GPA, it should be in rows 32 to 17 inches wide (food plot variety). There are many areas in Brookings County where the corn was drilled, and other areas were it was 12 feet high.

ID: 692

Sorry I didn't do much hunting this year.

ID: 708

I have not missed a deer season in 20 years, but couldn't find an application for east river 2009 season.

ID: 726

I think the walk in area program is a wonderful program and needs to be continued/expanded. If I didn't have access to so much private land, I would certainly use the walk in areas.

ID: 727

I didn't hunt as much this year because walk in areas had been mowed leaving no cover. Clear cutting spoiled a number of areas that I normally rely on for pheasant hunting.

ID: 732

I live in Davison County; I saw only one covey of partridge last year and I didn't see any. I used to see quite a few until 97 after that I seen very few I think they need to be stocked.

ID: 733

I would like to see food plots planted in walk in areas and a source of water.

ID: 747

You need to pay attention to grounds needed for walk in areas. Some farmers and ranchers have bare ground for walk in areas and good private grounds right next to the bar walk in area. I don't think these people should be compensated for taking advantage of the funds that way.

ID: 754

Not as many deer as you think. Leave the deer season open from the start to the end, no breaks like this year. Turkey season east river needs to be looked at, Marshall/Roberts get double tags but others get our money back.

ID: 755

Walk in areas continue to take hunting pressure all over private land and adjoining areas which is a good practice. Incentives/education on the value of food plots on or near walk in areas will enhance walk in successes and build populations in areas of declining hunting habitat activity.

ID: 759

You might want to add a comment or answer question page for archery deer hunting.

ID: 821

Last year (2008) deer hunting rules were better. Raise pheasant limits to 5 and one hen.

ID: 934

I have never hunted walk in areas.

ID: 950

The walk in areas are excellent! I didn't hunt them this year, but have in the past. They get a lot of traffic, we need more! Keep up the good work! We always need more habitat!

ID: 957

The walk in areas are critical for a lot of people who otherwise wouldn't have much chance to hunt the areas I've seen seem to get a lot of foot traffic, and GF&P do a great job of making sure there is plenty of cover.

ID: 978

The walk in areas are used by the most part of out of state hunters needing a place to go, because they don't want to pay for hunting. I no longer hunt upland game or big game because I refuse to pay to hunt. The price of hunting and fishing licenses for residents is ridiculous. No wonderer the young people don't hunt anymore, at cost to much! The game department doesn't describe a word about where all the money goes and how it is spent. I personally believe the game department has built such a furry that it is a loose cannon! I would regret you publish the amount of money taking in on hunting and fishing. Also the amounts of money taken in by the parks department and then we would see how much money the hunters and fisherman are paying for the parks department. No chance of that I've been asking for 30 years with no response. Let me say in closing that the department doesn't want anybody to know how the departments run and les what the hunters and fisherman think. You ought to see what the hunters and fisherman think in a survey. The cost of this survey is dumb!

ID: 994

I personally think the pheasant season should have been extended due to harvest. Also I truly believe muzzleloader deer season should be before rifle season. If you hunt muzzleloader a lot of bucks have lost horns by the end of the season so someone whit doe tags could be bagging the big buck that shed its horns.

ID: 1008

Nice Job! Keep the walk in area program going!

ID: 1030

I hunted very little (what a bummer) hopefully next season I will be able to get back to form.

ID: 1032

Enroll more landowners in the walk in area program.

ID: 1053

Road right of way hunting should be eliminated for pheasants; numerous times I have encountered hunters parked in the center of the road, often on the downside of a hill. Other times I have met hunters driving ahead of me with no knowledge or ignorance that there is a vehicle behind them. Please

take these thoughts into consideration, as I have been in numerous conversations with fellow hunters and neighbors concerning this topic.

ID: 1061

I think walk in land is vital for the general public to have a place to hunt, at this time I would put quality of the walk in areas over gaining more quantity. It is a great program being copied by other states.

ID: 1075

Should've thought of extending the after season doe license due to all the snow, didn't fill doe tags due to no areas to hunt due to lack of roads to transport to public land.

ID: 1112

As an active farm operator in SD, I suffer a lot of crop damage due to deer, beaver, Canadians, etc why can't I harvest one deer per year without going through the license, lottery etc. I feed the wildlife year round. The conservation service and game wardens are here to protect wildlife. They have to handle the other end also. When there are too many wildlife deer collisions, crop damage, air space safety, are big problems especially close to Sioux Falls. Why not sponsor some supervised goose hunts in the city limits.

ID: 1145

More walk in areas.

ID: 1151

In my opinion it was a bad season for all hunting because of the late harvest nothing was coming out of the corn fields.

ID: 1153

The weather and not having crops out made hunting tough. A lot of the walk in areas were descending upon the corn or bean fields that seemed only useful to shoot a deer that was crossing to another destination. The walk in area did not seem to hold the deer.

ID: 1158

I think the department does a good job at signing up quality land. It is most important that they keep this program. If it were not for walk in we would probably not hunt. We were fortunate to have some private land to hunt ducks this year. It has been leased for next year so we will probably use more walk in areas next year.

ID: 1195

Some walk in areas need better parking areas, some are either too small for 2 pickups to park in.

ID: 1196

Leave east river deer season open between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> season, no break between seasons!

ID: 1200

I have hunted walk in areas in the past (when I lived in Union County). I placed a higher value on walk in areas at that time.

ID: 1210

While my hunting was very limited this year I have always found SD use and management of walk in areas and public land to be the best in the country.

ID: 1235

Walk in areas were surrounded by land owners who didn't allow hunting as a result, deer were not pushed back to the walk in areas.

ID: 1243

All walk in areas are good, but I feel that the ranchers and farmers around these areas hunt them also, causing the animals to leave the walk in and go to private land. Then on one will let you hunt their land.

ID: 1258

If possible it would be nice if state could release pheasants in walk in areas that are not close to private land.

ID: 1267

Just wish there were birds to hunt (ducks and pheasants).

ID: 1311

I think these pheasants need some help because if the deep snow and ice they can not get food. Get rid of some of these dam deer.

ID: 1346

I like to hunt walk in areas but it seems west river doesn't have very much. Corson County needs some more. The walk in atlas and google earth can be an invaluable too when deer hunting new areas. As long as they are made with the most detail you guys can afford. I shot a 141 3/8" 4 x 4 whitetail on walk in CRP in Ziebach County this year in an area I found good earth and the walk in atlas. It would be nice if people hunting counties on the reservation would be given a map of what is tribe land. The area I hunt in Corson I can tell what is decided and what is tribal, but when I go somewhere like Ziebach I don't have a clue and sometimes landowners are not sure what quarter is tribe and so on since they have leased it for so long.

ID: 1368

I have not had any luck in the walk in areas near Milbank in the past so I didn't hunt them this year. Too much corn in fields yet when I hunted and the Aberdeen area was so wet in private areas that own best success was road hunting near dusk. That area near Shade Hill State Park is great habitat. I hunted in Perkins County for grouse and pheasants a couple of days. Surprised by how much corn was still in the fields, but hoping the great feed and corn for birds improved populations and future hunts.

ID: 1384

I have not received a deer license for 3 years and I did not get to hunt much this year.

ID: 1388

The atlas is amazing. It is very accurate and I used in not just for hunting but also for fishing.

ID: 1393

I am an archery deer, antelope, and elk hunter. Do not hunt anything with a rifle.

ID: 1410

Frankly was enough land to hunt east river for walk in areas.

ID: 1429

I think that in large walk in areas there should be some designated retrieval roads. We've had to drag or carry antelope up to 4 miles. That limits our success rate.

ID: 1441

The atlas needs county lines.

ID: 1443

I operate a small gun shop un the Miller South Dakota area. Comments from hunters stopping in my shop were mostly positive about walk in areas, except for times when a large number of hunters where hunting the same area. There are simply not enough acres to hunt for the number of hunters especially early in the pheasant season.

ID: 1444

Walk in atlas was difficult to use in finding locations. I know a lot of people who feel this way about it as well.

ID: 1450

Didn't use them but glad you have them for others.

ID: 1452

I did not use walk in areas this year or years past because they are too over run by hunters.

ID: 1463

In the event we have a late or bad harvest again you should think about extending the deer season. We hunted every possible day and have not fired a shot. So that says the cover this year is probably great this year deer hunting was very poor this year.

ID: 1499

I like the walk in areas program very much but I have some suggestions for a few changes. One change or addition to the rules of the walk in program is the use of motor vehicles. Only for deer hunting and only on designated trails for the retrieval of the game animal. My other suggestion is that landowners are able to plant food plots on walk in areas to attract game birds and big game animals this would increase the use of walk in areas and people would be more satisfied with the program.

ID: 1536

I mostly hunt deer with the bow, on private land approximately 80 acres, applied for a rifle tag in 2009 and was unsuccessful in the draw. I would like to see the crossbow be included in with the archery season, I feel it would bring more interest in hunting at close range without the dedication you need to be a good enough shot with a compound or even more skill with a traditional bow.

ID: 1540

This questionnaire is very in efficient and I would guess expensive to send by mail to every hunter. Why not utilize the internet to get surveys to people that bought their licenses online? This seems like a waste of tax payer money to send out a six page document and pay the postage when this could be conducted by a more modern approach (internet). I didn't email Larry Gigliotti to make a point. Wouldn't it be easier to cut and paste my response from an email rather than opening this survey and typing my response into a large report?

ID: 1591

Need more walk in areas

ID: 1595

I think Black Hills deer license should be sold over the counter like before and put a two point on both sides restriction. The Game, Fish, and Parks are losing thousands of dollars because of this; we always would drive out for a weekend and hunt.

ID: 1597

Regarding the closure of the Conata Basin to varmint license holders to shoot prairie dogs, it seems somewhat far fetched to believe that people with rifles could significantly reduce the prairie dog population. Insofar as to create a food shortage for the black footed ferret, having shot prairie dogs for years and knowing farmers with them on their land, poisoning is the only really effective method of removal, and it is not even a perfected procedure often taking several years. The other major failure in the justification for the closure is that the black footed ferret is nocturnal. This seems as though it would make the chances of accidentally (not that they look like prairie dogs to begin with) killing them even more remote.

ID: 1604

The walk in areas are critical to the average guy on family to hunt in SD. WE need to watch the numbers of deer and birds taken to keep their numbers strong. We also need to keep in the factor hard winters that may kill many. I feel the management is poorly done. We are able to hunt deer in January after antlers have dropped. The average guy will take any deer, he sees and then he finds it's a buck! I want my grandkids to be able to hunt. It's not all about more laws it's about tracking and giving.

ID: 1616

Although I own land and hunt on it. I am thankful for the walk in areas which should take pressure off people trying to trespass on my hunting land. I hunt my own land exclusively.

ID: 1618

Weather was a factor on east river deer and on antelope season.

ID: 1627

We mostly hunted around Martin, SD. We saw a lot of birds but they were very wild and had a lot of unharvested cover. We also saw some very good whitetail bucks while hunting pheasants. Very great program keep up the good work!

ID: 1629

Private owned public access walk in areas were fairly productive, state owned walk in areas was horrible, many places marked foot travel only had quad tracks everywhere. Most of these places have private hunting or lodges hear them. I think neighboring landowners go in and run birds off public land to private what can be done about this problem.

ID: 1650

Prefer to use lead ammo in pheasant hunting areas, which is one of the main reasons for not using walk in areas. Very happy to see that bird limit

was not increased per day. I would like to see a longer pheasant hunting season.

ID: 1666

I hunted Black Hills Deer in the Northern area and only deer we saw were in town very disappointing. Saw a pack of coyotes six total in the group and lots of elk which was amazing!

ID: 1678

Need to clean up some of the walk in areas, as there are many log and stumps to trip over when you walk. Also a lot of sandburs in fields that get stuck in dog's feet and in pant legs.

ID: 1701

Need more and better cover WIA with no cover is a waste of time and money! Great program needs to be improved.

ID: 1716

Some of the walk in area hunting around the Bonesteel are bean fields that don't even have a tree on them. There would be nothing to hunt. No body even enters the fields so the landowners should not be considered.

ID: 1722

I didn't use the walk in areas or nay public land.

ID: 1744

Walk in areas were poor for bird hunting! Sportsmen's atlas was poor, unless you had a GPS. They need to go to the old ones. They were easy to understand. Crossbows should be allowed during rifle season for big game. Other states have had great success when allowing the use of crossbows. Waterfowl season should be extended to January 5<sup>th</sup> throughout the state just like pheasant season is. Walk in areas need to be geared more towards the bird hunters since most of our income comes from out of state hunters who come here for pheasants.

ID: 1748

It would be nice if there were more walk in areas in Lincoln County.

ID: 1753

Walk in areas public hunting lands etc are a priceless resource this state needs to protect and maintain. Hunters also need to participate in keeping their garbage and negligence to a minimum while using these lands to ensure all of the participating farmers and ranchers will keep this program going, this message needs to made clear to all those who use the lands or it might not last long.

- ID: 1757  
There were no survey questions on Black Hills Deer (rifle) or where they included in West River Deer the question did not specify.
- ID: 1763  
Need to give more time for antler deer when weather does not allow for combining of corn. In all days hunting saw no antlered deer in Beadle County.
- ID: 1776  
I had to have resident hunting license to hunt big game in Ontario Bear Hunt in 2009.
- ID: 1784  
I didn't hunt any walk in areas in 2009, I avoid walk in areas they are too crowded, maybe a little dangerous with that many people.
- ID: 1798  
SD GF&P does a great job!
- ID: 1802  
I have problems walking, and have a handicap permit because of a prosthetic leg.
- ID: 1807  
The walk in program was extremely important for my grouse hunting opportunities. The walk in program is very important for hunters in general.
- ID: 1849  
You need more walk in areas
- ID: 1885  
Walk in areas are over crowded and dangerous because there is no one in charge to tell where everyone is at. I do not like them.
- ID: 1887  
Need more land for local people not out of state hunters.
- ID: 1898  
Didn't use walk in areas this year.
- ID: 1912  
WIA are a great on set to SD. I don't hunt far away from home but think they are great for the guys who do. I have good neighbors who let me hunt but no one else. SD brings in millions of dollars each year for pheasant hunters. So why shouldn't spot lighting be legal for raccoons, skunks,

coyotes, fox etc. I would buy a special permit for this purpose. Something to think about more pheasants and more walk in areas.

ID: 1919

I didn't know of the walk in area program or the atlas.

ID: 1948

Please continue to work on relaxing the road hunting rules for the small game hunters who doesn't have a place to hunt on private land. I believe if things continue to go the way their going only the rich will be hunting the state of South Dakota.

ID: 1959

West river deer lost over 50 % of its population last winter due to weather and the GF&P still issued 2 doe and 1 buck tags as one choice. That is unacceptable, piss poor, fagot mentality management. You do officially suck at it.

ID: 1992

I think all the area I hunted were very good. We need more public land.

ID: 2009

I also hunt turkey in Yankton County and Hermosa area (spring). Thank you for your efforts to maintain and gain habitat.

ID: 2025

I did no hunting in the 2009 season.

ID: 2041

If I wasn't hunting on private land I would hunt on the walk in areas. I think it's a very good program.

ID: 2053

I am against mountain lion hunting, we have an over abundance of deer, yet we kill the only predator they have besides humans. Also having a lion season leaves young lions, going into town because they didn't get the proper time to learn from an adult. That is why there are lions coming into town looking sick. I would be far a property owner hunt it if they have livestock. All nature is beautiful, even if it does kill a few prized elk or deer its call the cycle of life.

ID: 2057

I think walk in areas need food plots.

ID: 2066

You need to allow scopes for muzzleloaders. Some of us have limited hunting areas and time. If you allow rifles with scopes you should allow scopes for muzzleloaders. Those that want it primitive and chose not to use a scope could still do so. Make it our choice on how we want to hunt. I would think you would have more does harvested that way. Iowa allows it and it works great. Please consider this again, thanks!

ID: 2081

The walk in areas are ripe with habitat people think they are over hunted, don't utilize them. I don't shoot a gun. I train dogs.

ID: 2143

Even though I didn't hunt the walk in areas, I scouted them. They are a tremendous resource to have available.

ID: 2155

Need more walk in areas near Sioux Falls

ID: 2176

I've hunted public land only the last ten years, and feel lucky to have such a great public hunting, the walk in program is great, without it the public hunt would be a lot harder.

ID: 2181

I didn't get to do as much hunting this year as I would have liked. However I have always been satisfied when hunting public ground in SD in the past.

ID: 2184

The walk in area atlas had no counties labeled on the map, made it very hard to locate which county I was in. Some of the walk in areas I found had really short grass with no cover for any game, but I have hunted on some very good walk in areas.

ID: 2193

It's probably the same problem across the nation but we were hunting in the Slim Buttes of Harding County and we're told we can't drive on certain roads in the area and that it went into effect a month before the season and no one was notified. It goes into effect next hunting season again. If it is in effect for hunters it's in effect for everyone no exclusions. You better get that if you have trouble with those do gooders send them out hunting with us. Those people are scum of the earth! Now serious if you allow this to happen you know what you can do with your hunting licenses. Another thing when the deer and pheasants can't find anything to eat and you charge a fee to hunt them, guess who's liable. I'm told the deer will survive – STUPID. We were told that by Game & Fish personal a few years back

my neighbor hauled 26 deer (dead) out of his trees and fence lines and this winter is worse. The state of Colorado charged a feeding fee for there elk, all hunters pay and I don't think anyone would mind here also.

ID: 2198

Extend deer season to 4 weeks.

ID: 2200

I am 74 years old and there is no way I could drag a deer out to the road. I think you should be allowed to retrieve with your truck. County lines were not clearly marked.

ID: 2202

Some of the public hunting areas are so large it is nearly impossible to remove a deer from the farthest area from a road without the use of some sort of motorized vehicle especially if there is snow.

ID: 2208

I didn't hunt any walk in area this year but in the past I have and felt very satisfied with these areas.

ID: 2217

I hunted Black Hills Deer this year, and had no luck, as did several others, well majority. Seems there were more tags issued than deer this year. That goes for archery as well.

ID: 2265

Great program weather played part in poor cover in walk in areas in my opinion.

ID: 2271

I didn't hunt any walk in areas.

ID: 2273

Do not understand some walk in areas West River you can drive by and see nothing is there. Waste of tax dollar money, we have problem of people road hunting for deer and turkey all though it is illegal.

ID: 2284

Deer die off south of Belvidere

ID: 2299

Pheasant hunting was difficult with the un-harvested crops. Ducks become snow birds and the northern ducks were scarce.

ID: 2304

We have some great walk in areas in Gregory County, but they are very over hunted (deer).

ID: 2306

I am very appreciated of public hunting land. I love to hunt and would not have a place to hunt without public land! Keep planting trees and if possible strips of corn, east river.

ID: 2318

I live in Beresford and there is a decent number of walk in areas to the south of town. The problem is the quality of the walk in areas is very poor. I hunt with two quality lads and in probably 8 – 10 visits to 3 different walk in areas south of Beresford over the past 2 years. I have not harvested a single pheasant. Originally living in the Webster and Aberdeen areas I understand how valuable walk in areas can be and the quality that they can offer that simply not the case with these in our area. I greatly respect the effort put in by the state regarding walk in areas are turning off hunters, especially young hunters.

ID: 2333

I am happy with all the walk in areas because I have a 12 year old son and my daughter turns 10 this February so it is great in teaching them how to hunt. The only problem I have is trying to get in to hunt with as many people from different states and areas come to hunt them, I usually end up driving 40 miles to Clark County to hunt most of the time with my kids.

ID: 2362

The walk in programs is an excellent way to open private lands most landowners talk to like it.

ID: 2373

The road right of ways should be disallowed totally. It is dangerous and has no sporting value. The walk in program is a good idea but is not well planned or administered. It has more media value for out of state hunters than use for in state hunters. The best program that SD Hunters have, is the resident only pre season, of course the outfitters hate it with a passion. We all know that the paid hunting lobby is a force in this state.

ID: 2393

Would be nice to see a dock put in on Goose lake in Codington County. There are a lot of anglers. Also how come you are able to shoot a high powered rifle a half hour past sunset but unable to with a shotgun? A lot of times I've noticed with waterfowl hunting on nice fair weather day's the waterfowl don't fly until after sunset. As far as safety wise a high power rifle can shoot farther than a shotgun.

ID: 2401

I think the ground I hunt is good but the surrounding ground had too much corn in them. I hope that's where the deer were?

ID: 2421

I think the folks that put their land in walk in should be paid according to the quality of the land. Some folks put pasture land that has been way overgrazed into the program just to get paid and keep the better property out so they can hunt it for themselves.

ID: 2425

Great start but to help especially with pheasant it is necessary to expand on more land for better and more nesting ground.

ID: 2426

Due to early snow pheasant season was awful! When this happens they should extend the season to cut down on winter kill.

ID: 2475

All hunting is good but, SD residents should not have to apply especially when you've got plenty of private land to hunt and for sure our Black Hills we should be able to go and buy a tag. It's our vacation and should be like it used to be up the points on the bucks. Don't care if I get one I just have fun and carry a gun to hunt coyotes and other varmints while hunting deer.

ID: 2490

Need more walk in areas for pheasant hunting, that is one of the most popular seasons. It would be nice that you wouldn't have to drive 2/3rds across the state to hunt pheasants.

ID: 2509

There are too damn many out of state hunters. I am an average working guy that lives in SD so I can hunt and fish, but have to compete with rich, rude out of state hunters and fishermen in overcrowded hunting areas and boat docks.

ID: 2528

I believe public hunting areas are a huge asset to the outdoor lifestyle and having habitat where there might otherwise be crops. The Sheehan hunting unit in Pierre is very unique in the way it allows public hunting after the main migration has flown through.

ID: 2534

You removed the grid lines from the WIA atlas, recommend putting them back on so a hunter can measure section lines and distance.

ID: 2557

Walk in a dark not knowing there is a little piece of land your not suppose to be on.

ID: 2575

Walk in areas were sufficient. However water made it difficult to get into some spots causing us to get less birds out of the walk in areas.

ID: 2613

I like to use walk in areas on occasion to hunt pheasants and ducks. Sometimes the places that hold birds are put up for hay and throws a wrench in the logs. Overall, walk in areas are very good to have if no private land is available. Please don't allow road hunting to be out lawed because some of the older hunters can't walk anymore but can road hunt. Screw the private pheasant farms!

ID: 2615

A lot of hunters are using the walk in areas to hunt the edges of private land, weather to retrieve pheasants on private land or to shoot onto to private land without getting caught. It is a real pain to us when the sun comes up on opening morning during deer season and you have hunters that are within rifle range of our stands it is very dissatisfying.

ID: 2635

I would like to say GF&P land is looking good up here. I will complain about mule deer tags, issue more please. There are more mule deer than whitetail deer where I hunt. Also the pheasant limit needs to go up, even better extend the season; bird hunting was terrible due to crops in the fields. There is going to be an overpopulation problem and we will lose our birds/revenue.

ID: 2636

We need this program. I normally use walk in areas more than I did this year. It is the only future of public hunting in SD.

ID: 2640

The reason I rated the habitat quality for WIA's during rifle antelope was because most of them were bare fields or wheat stubble. However, a majority of our time hunting occurred on WIA's because we would catch the antelope crossing them. Second, when sending your surveys via the internet to peoples email address, try to use a more official sounding website, with all the potential issues with spyware, malware and other viruses, I was very hesitant (and didn't) open it since it was [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com). If the process could be made more similar to the hunter surveys taken on SD GF&P's website, I would personally use that

route. I hope this survey helps you to improve the hunting accessibility and quality and keep up the good work.

ID: 2642

I'm a farmer and didn't have time to hunt much this year because of late harvest. I usually hunt grouse on walk in areas by White River every year. In the past I have been moderately satisfied with the cover. On another subject please tell someone in charge that our doe population is way down in SW Turner County, Childtown township. I bow hunt and in the last 2 years I've had only 1 mature doe walk under my tree stand. Please cut back the double doe tags!

ID: 2646

Few more roads! Didn't shoot a deer because I couldn't get it out!

ID: 2648

The walk in area is a good program for hunting for non land owners, but I would like to see the guides on areas not be able to hunt them until after November 1<sup>st</sup> with the large groups.

ID: 2649

The walk in areas worked fairly well for pheasant hunting early.

ID: 2661

The walk in area program is becoming more and more critical every year for someone like me who doesn't own their own land. This is the first time in many years that I didn't harvest a deer off the walk in land.

ID: 2662

I love South Dakota hunting, thankfully I am fortunate to have private land through friends and family to hunt on. If I didn't I would make use of the walk in areas as I think they are very important.

ID: 2666

I think areas should be smaller and more manageable to hunt. Most areas are so big and vast you don't know were to begin and if you do get a deer next to impossible to drag it that far.

ID: 2671

Although I didn't use walk in areas this past year I think it's a great opportunity for hunting.

ID: 2673

Bring back the county by county atlas! Charge whatever for it because it was worth it.

ID: 2675

Need more walk in areas West River grouse hunting.

ID: 2676

Walk in areas give hunters more places to hunt.

ID: 2680

We planted several food plots and when the weather got bad the pheasants moved from other areas including walk in areas and GPS's and completely stripped the food plots we had planted. I feel the season on pheasant roosters should be increased in limit numbers and length of season to prevent so many roosters from eating all the corn from the hens. We planted about 12 acres of corn in 4 plots for about 800 acres of land. There weren't an abundant number of roosters during the season until the snows hit at Christmas time. We organized a large hunt of about 15 people the final weekend and limited both days. There were probably close to 1500 or more bird in our food plots of which at least 1/2 were roosters, by January 23<sup>rd</sup> I couldn't find a single kernel of corn so we bought some corn and milo and have been feeding the pheasants since. A longer season and larger limit would help contend the winter losses.

ID: 2686

I never found a walk in area atlas.

ID: 2699

Walk in areas are very valuable hunting resource for all sportsman please continue! My son and I enjoy using the map and exploring new hunting areas each year. Some areas are very good, some are not but that's hunting!

ID: 2715

It is a great program and we need more areas.

ID: 2742

There was a large section of land added in Gregory County where I put an x on the map. There is not a sign on the fence in the far Northwest side of the property. I'm talking about before you get into the river hills part of the property, because of that it is very confusing and difficult to tell that you have not crossed the wrong fence. If I'm not being clear please feel free to call me.

ID: 2799

If I saw grouse while pheasant hunting I tried to harvest. Saw lots of grouse on a couple of WIA's.

ID: 2802

For pheasant hunting walk in areas had very poor habitat so poor it was unbelievable that you paid to have it walk in area. For elk (prairie) and West River deer the walk in area would not hold wildlife. You could only hope catching a deer passing through your atlas is excellent!

ID: 2819

I feel the walk in areas are very important to South Dakota the world like to see more. I have to travel a long way to use them, but are thankful for them the program if continued could use sign improvement. Also boundaries for all public lands could use signs with the precession of waters. Please try to continue the program with the CRP coming out of preserve. It sets to be hard to find walk in areas.

ID: 2820

I hunted Prairie Chickens, Partridge, and goose while hunting West River deer. There were multiple times of sitting in different areas deer hunting wishing I had my shotgun, due to the abundance of birds flying around us. I strongly believe that the walk in areas were key to our success. They also played a major part in our ability to hunt West River. We would otherwise be unable to hunt deer.

ID: 2841

Lots of grass, not enough food plots, we pay for these areas should have money for food plots.

ID: 2842

There were too many hunters in the walk in areas to feel safe hunting.

ID: 2859

In our area near Clear Lake, the walk in areas seem to get hit by out of state hunters. I feel by the time east river deer season comes, the deer have been pushed out by pheasant hunters.

ID: 2866

GPA's and WPA's should have names included in the atlas.

ID: 2869

Too many tags issued in Kingsbury population way down last 2-4 years. When are you guys going to realize that Lake Thompson needs a 14 inch min. for walleyes? Also don't allow so many tournaments. This lake has been ruined by people taking way too many little fish. It used to be great but now it really sucks! Common guys put some controls out there these Minnesota and Iowa guys don't need to take buckets of 12 – 13 inch fish! I live 5 miles from there and see it happen all the time!

ID: 2875

I believe the walk in area program is very important and is a great asset to all types of hunters.

ID: 2901

I would encourage the improvement of walk in area habitat and an increase in the number of walk in areas.

ID: 2920

Grass buried in snow need more winter cover, candy grass

ID: 2926

Most walk in areas aren't worth the time and effort. If there's good habitat there all hunted out, most of them are (seemed to be) baron land.

ID: 2960

Deer hunting that road hunting isn't discouraging.

ID: 2968

I think that it's kind of ridiculous that some people get buck tags every year and people like me who love to walk for deer have to wait at least every other year. I think that the system is a little messed up.

ID: 2984

I believe the percent of waterfowl hunters has dropped over the past few years. We need more hunters on these ponds and lake to chase these birds around.

ID: 3012

There is no way they did a count on antelope before issuing tags. I saw 14 antelope in 4 days on all walk in areas in all of Perkins County

ID: 3027

A lot of walk in habitat for upland game bird was very poor or marginal. It was either bare, shore stubble or hayed fields with little cover, food or water. The field for walk in areas should be monitored for better habitat in the west river area. Also if individuals are paid on hunting trips they should not be allowed to be driven to walk in areas by their hosts to hunt.

ID: 3036

I would like more walk in areas

ID: 3039

I used walk in areas this year o hunt antelope with archery. Those walk in areas West River are invaluable for that. I would normally pheasant hunt quite a lot on walk in areas but this year was a disaster for pheasant

hunting. I knew walk in areas are paid for by non-resident dollars but I believe the state need to restrict weekly the number of non-resident pheasant hunters maybe 10,000 a week.

ID: 3041

Even though I didn't hunt these areas this past year, I think that it is a great program and would like to see the number of areas increase! I will be using these areas in the future seasons!

ID: 3049

As much as I like to hunt in walk in areas (around Bennett County – waterfowl), my hunting was limited because of a late grain harvest. I really have appreciated the last 20 plus years of hunting the walk in areas. They are very beneficial to me and my friends.

ID: 3075

I like the program; I used the areas in past years especially with young dogs. Good spot to help them learn usually good terrain.

ID: 3079

I enjoy the online version of the atlas. The printed version is much less value to me without section lines printed.

ID: 3084

I like the walk in areas for pheasants if they have some food plots. They seem to hold birds better the walk in areas for deer seem to not have very good cover to hold deer.

ID: 3088

Walk in areas for bow hunting only would be a very nice option.

ID: 3091

You had better get the deer numbers under control or Mother Nature will.

ID: 3096

The county lines were too subtle in the Atlas last year. Too much of the Walk in Areas are either too tall or tangled that it is not possible to walk through, or it's a barren pasture. Also the bodies of water are not clearly marked in the atlas. 2008's atlas was marked more clearly.

ID: 3114

I believe the pressure of Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County hunter's cause's harder hunting and the public and walk in areas are needed and over hunted. West River deer walk in areas have been good in past years. Keep up the good work.

- ID: 3141  
Didn't hunt any walk in areas just GF&P areas specially for resident only not a lot of walk in areas near us.
- ID: 3142  
Large tracts of Walk in Areas in western South Dakota allowed us to get away from a lot of the road hunters and others not willing to leave their vehicles.
- ID: 3194  
Piss poor hunt, no animals, why the hell did you have a season and further more why triple tags? Big screw up, I donated money (antelope tags with no animals).
- ID: 3211  
You folks do a very fine job managing the wild resources. Keep up the hard/good work.
- ID: 3212  
2009 atlas was harder to read than pervious years because of the page boarder. I don't see why the state pays for walk in areas pasture ground with no cover. Why doesn't the state do a more through job of calculating the number of deer shot? I hunt archery and muzzleloader and never asked what my success was.
- ID: 3239  
Please use more enforcement in the walk in areas, we witnessed a large number of rules broken by man other hunters using the areas.
- ID: 3246  
Some walk in areas have very poor cover for bird hunting.
- ID: 3251  
Think the walk in areas is a good program.
- ID: 3263  
We hunted Shadehill Recreation area. Very nice area and campground facility, well kept restrooms and showers, were a bit cool on the resident opener, but I guess that is how it goes.
- ID: 3272  
More thought needs to be considered before leasing ground more CRP areas not just crop ground maybe have landowners leave a few areas of crop standing, so there is something to hunt. Develop more land along the river that has access plant tress plant trees; we've learned a lot this winter.

ID: 3278

Walk in areas need some kind of vehicle access & trails.

ID: 3300

I only hunt turkeys.

ID: 3305

As more and more land is being leased and otherwise limited to the general public quality walk in areas will correspondingly increase in importance. I still have access to 3 large private holdings but when that is lost to me public will be my only option. For the first time in years East River rifle deer season was a large disappointment mainly because of large unharvested corn fields holding deer the same with the early part of pheasant season.

ID: 3306

I moved this year so I will tell you from past experience it is called walk in area not drive in! I am discussed with the amount of people that continue to drive in the areas. I spent a lot of time scouting public areas and when the season opens someone is driving around on it! The other thing that is very upsetting are cattle that continues to graze public ground while the season is open. I am an avid hunter and have taken the majority of my animals on public ground, but in the last 2 – 3 years, it has become very frustrating. The walk in program is bringing animals to them, but the land held to be regulated harder!

ID: 3327

I believe the walk in area program and hope we continue to have an opportunity to hunt these areas. Please continue to work diligently to secure as much walk in area land as you can.

ID: 3336

Previous to the 2009 hunting season I hunted a lot of walk in areas and it seemed to me that most of them were too flat to stalk big game and very little cover for big and small game. The walk in atlas seems like it comes out to late to look over before we have to order big game tags.

ID: 3349

I feel with the way the waterfowl and how the deer season have work that the duck and goose season should close during prairie deer and reopen after the deer season is closed. We don't wear orange when hunting ducks! It is very dangerous for us waterfowl hunters to be hunting at these times in the Fall River County especially have had come close calls so we don't hunt when it is deer season and it sucks cause no one cares about the waterfowl hunters in this area we find if you close it during deer it would make for better hunting for us and the deer hunters and a lot safer!

ID: 3376

I do not hunt public land that being said. I don't understand why we pay for 50 – 60% of the land we do there is no habitat makes hunting pretty tough.

ID: 3400

This past year I hunted deer in the Black Hills and I saw more hunters than deer. It was very frustrating and I was discouraged from my overall Hills hunting experience.

ID: 3406

I would like to see more walk in areas available in some counties.

ID: 3423

The atlas changed for the better, but there is an issue, the maps of the walk in areas and public land cover up some water thus making planning hard for ducks, deer, and etc. good amount of hunting spots. Thank you.

ID: 3432

I hunt pheasants mostly; I am a past president of Pheasant Country LTD now a chapter of Pheasants Forever. I as president of PCL contacted GF&P to see if we could help with habitat on public grounds at no cost to GF&P and we were told no. If you have read the Daily Republic newspaper this week (Mitchell) you can see that GF&P may have missed a great chance to take advantage of free money to create far better habitat than you have on many of the state owned public access areas, maybe a little more cooperation and open mindedness is needed on the state level GF&P. Please read the Mitchell Daily Republic front page Wednesday 3/9/10, great news we can help just say yes.

ID: 3438

I hunted geese on Sheehan's north of Pierre glad it is available. Need more pits in fields and hire somebody to take better care of them clean them out and keep weeds down around them.

ID: 3451

Public land has always been a great experience. A lot of wildlife thrives on it and are fortunate to be able to take game on all GPA's, WPA's and WIA's.

ID: 3452

The walk in areas need better habitat of pasture or plowed fields.

ID: 3489

Strongly encourage the discontinuation of January deer season regardless whether it is muzzleloader or youth season. Too many deer are moved/chased from protective cover during critical energy saving

conditions. Most antlers have dropped during this time frame making it difficult to distinguish between bucks/does. 5 months of deer season is unacceptable and number of tags available to youth hunters sets a poor example of ethics. Why go back to our original 16 day rifle season? At least consider a shorter season for the northern portion of South Dakota where animal health becomes a concern for deer that are stressed from environmental conditions.

ID: 3511

I work by and travel by many walk in areas and hunt some. It seems half provide very poor habitat, example mowed and hayed grazed down, crop cover that has been tilled. Some have very poor access for the public, example walk 2 miles through to access a few decent areas, while adjacent landowners access the prime areas via their private property. We do not need a million acres of walk in areas just because that figure sounds good for tourism. Pay more for good quality walk in areas try to retain them, and have our game wardens review each walk in area every year to see if habitat has been destroyed, the landowners are complying with their contracts, and see if signs are still in place.

ID: 3552

I was unable to go hunting this year, but in previous years I was real happy with the walk in program and atlas.

ID: 3554

Even though I didn't hunt any walk in areas this year and I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to hunt these areas if I needed to. I am fortunately able to have private land to hunt on and save the walk in areas for hunters less fortunate. I am very pleased with that the GF&P does for hunting and fishing, all the staff that I have dealt with has been very professional and very friendly and helpful. Keep up the good work!

ID: 3581

I appreciate all the walk in areas and hope more will be coming available as a non landowner, it is very important to be able to have these areas to hunt. The drawback is there are so heavily hunted that it was tough to harvest birds there. Waterfowl was very tough in our area, we were lucky Dry Lake; Poinsett held some birds or there would have been nothing at all. I hope the GF&P will continue to purchase land and make more walk in areas available as may are starting to lease land for hunting taking even more acres away from the average citizen hunter.

ID: 3585

I didn't hunt on any walk in areas, but I think they are very valuable acres for South Dakota.

- ID: 3589  
Need more area to hunt deer in Lincoln County.
- ID: 3591  
Walk in areas in my area were pasture with no cover. What a waste of GF&P money.
- ID: 3598  
Walk in areas are very important to hunters, please keep supporting them.
- ID: 3599  
I did not hunt on any of the walk in areas because I have too much of my own private land to hunt. By the way the walk in areas around me are too dangerous because of all the hunters that don't know where their bullet is heading.
- ID: 3618  
Keep improving bird numbers and habitat, your doing a great job!
- ID: 3651  
Pastures with little or no vegetation available should not be getting walk in dollars.
- ID: 3677  
Thank you for having walk in areas, for people like me that have no land to hunt it is great. I have enjoyed hunting walk in areas in the past and will in the future.
- ID: 3701  
I didn't hunt in any walk in areas this year.
- ID: 3702  
Hunting has always been good in South Dakota but fishing in another story!  
We need a trophy lake, catch and release only!
- ID: 3721  
Too much of the walk in areas is being cut for hay. This is wrecking the habitat; it takes many years to get the cover back. Field before they were cut had a lot of wildlife after I have not seen any for years, there is no reason for this.
- ID: 3728  
The walk in atlas needs more details.

ID: 3737

The walk in area next to my place is confusing; the eighty next to me is in walk in. The signs are right on the line. The rabbit chokers claim they don't know which side they are supposed to be on. Rabbit chokers are from Minnesota.

ID: 3743

I see nothing on archery deer in here. I am strictly archery.

ID: 3759

Sorry I only bought the license for ice fishing. The fishing was shitty if you were wondering.

ID: 3769

Where do we get an atlas? Wal-Mart didn't have any.

ID: 3792

Keep up the good work. You could use some more areas in Brown County. The walk in areas make it a lot easier to still go hunting with some family and friends that don't have any where else to go.

ID: 3800

Atlas could be a little more detailed but good overall.

ID: 3808

GF&P is paying out a lot of money for land that is useless for hunting you should be a lot more particular about the hunting quality of the land you pay for.

ID: 3817

Great job on maintaining land for pheasants!

ID: 3824

The GPA's and walk in areas are critical to my hunting. They are over crowded and seem like a lot enough area to cover multiple hunters. I would like to see our public land closed to non-resident hunters. I also don't like the walk in areas that have no cover. It is very disappointing to arrive in an area to hunt and see the walk in area is a stubble field if the GF&P wants to have a walk in area than you should regulate the cover better.

ID: 3852

I had no contact with walk in areas so I can't evaluate them at all.

ID: 3857

Both antelope and deer seasons need to be longer. Antlerless deer should open again right after the regular season is over. Then go though December

it should then end in January. Dove season should start August 15<sup>th</sup>. All they do is go south where they get to hammer the heck out of.

ID: 3881

Was a wet year, money was tight, didn't hunt nearly as much as would have liked to.

ID: 3908

It's very nice to have if you don't have a lot of private land to hunt. That is, if the out of state hunters haven't wiped it clean yet.

ID: 3925

There were deer in the walk in areas but I never had a good shot.

ID: 3962

I am in favor of all walk in areas more of them for us city folks that do not own land to hunt on a regular basis.

ID: 3964

I do my West River deer hunting north of Wall in a large walk in area. It is very rough terrain and not too many people hunt it. I just want to point out that the ranchers out there seem to do whatever they want and tell us whatever they want as far as where we can go according to our GPS we are fine but get yelled at every year, even though we are in the right. Don't know if there is anything you can do about this situation just wanted to state my case.

ID: 4012

Pheasant and deer hunting were very poor because of all the crop that was out in the fields. Deer tags with in my family members are at 17 unfilled tags. As a farmers producer I am concerned with over population and the damage they do to crops. Also with the amount of antelope showing up in the area just makes it worse.

ID: 4020

I recently move to South Dakota and have apply for permits but haven't had a change to hunt since I been building a house for myself.

ID: 4031

Can't ever hunt walk in area's, there is to many out of staters. You guys want to know how the cover for the wildlife is but they get walked so many times the wildlife don't use it anyway. They are a joke! They should only be able to be hunted so many days of each season and maybe just save them for local people.

ID: 4065

Where I farm I counted 150 deer driving around a 2 mile by 2 mile area. I feel they should of extended second season, due to blizzard everyone was busy digging out to hunt. Also, why does Pierre area have a longer duck season there we do in south zone. I'm in Charles Mix south and are duck season starts to early and ends to early.

ID: 4087

I didn't hunt walk in areas however I did observe some of the areas and thought it was a good idea, the habitat looked good.

ID: 4096

I think it's great to have walk in areas to hunt.

ID: 4108

I would like to see more walk in areas.

ID: 4117

I didn't hunt on any public land this year I have in the past. I appreciate the work that has gone into creating public hunting land opportunities and I hope that the GF&P will continue to work at keeping public hunting areas a realistic option for hunter's who do not have access to private land or can't afford to hunt or can't pay to hunt.

ID: 4119

The reason I was dissatisfied with walk in areas wasn't GF&P's fault. Everywhere I went areas were too flooded to hunt pheasants and the habitat wasn't good enough to hunt ducks.

ID: 4124

You could find a lost golf ball on many of the walk in areas. What a sick joke. Your tax/license dollars are for what and who?

ID: 4125

Need mowed pathways for us older folks to use walk in areas and GPA, WPA areas.

ID: 4141

The walk in atlas could be a little more detailed as far as road access.

ID: 4144

Less out of state hunters on the public and would help.

ID: 4153

Walk in areas are very important for many hunters especially beginners in hunting or new to the area. Private land is becoming harder to find to hunt.

Farmers and ranchers want more and more to get paid to hunt their land or lease it out to someone. It is hard for some people to afford to go experience these great adventures in South Dakota. Hunting should be a sport for everyone eligible should have a chance to do this no matter how much money a person makes. Hunting is not a business or is it anymore? Farmers and ranchers complain about big game animals urinating on their hay crop. They ask for money to reimburse them to let hunters harvest some of the game by giving more people permission to hunt. I think people have lost the love for hunting it has been replaced by dollar signs. There is nothing better than seeing a young person harvest. A smile is more important than dollar signs to some so that is why areas walk in areas and game production areas are so important. It gives people a chance to enjoy those priceless memories if they can not hunt on private land.

ID: 4159

I feel with how commercialized hunting has become people like myself find it difficult to hunt these days. Unless you hunt walk in areas which are usually over hunted and are barren ground for the species you are looking for.

ID: 4164

Walk in areas are good except when it come to out of county and out of state hunters they don't care if your land is next to a walk in area they'll hunt your land. They will even drive through your fence so they won't have to drag a deer 30 yards to where their truck is parked. Walk in areas are good places to hunt if you can get their before out of county and out of state hunters do. It makes me mad that the farmers feed the animals and the non-residents get to harvest them before the residents do. I don't know if it is relative to this survey, but how can people get deer tags that live 200 plus miles away from a county set tags and residents who pay taxes in the county don't get them?

ID: 4169

Need to make pheasant season 2 to 3 weeks longer. Make it longer at the end of the season.

ID: 4177

This winter snow falls has put a real hunting on our deer and pheasants around Philip to the Missouri River and North of there to HWY 34. Just a comment, hated to see them starting out there herds of whitetails about 400 staying between Cottonwood and Philip and Pleasant slaughtered along road by Midland trying to find food.

ID: 4181

Not much close to my area. There were some previous years, but gone this year. Have a teen and now we have to drive further but with no birds kicked

up in walk in areas I guess we won't be hunting them much anyway in the future.

ID: 4191

Walk in areas should be better marked by signs in some areas you don't know where it starts or ends. The land and habitat is very good! Lets just do a better job of marking them.

ID: 4239

I spent a lot of time scouting for deer and coyote. Over the past few years I've seen a lot of habitat destroyed, either by CRP land coming out and nothing to replace it. Also farmers are using all of the land possible to plant a crop, such as knocking down trees (shelter belts and such) to farm as much as they can, moving a lot closer to the road and ditches. When I'm scouting I do like to see other wildlife like pheasants, ducks etc. The winters in South Dakota are very harsh and I'd like to see more CRP habitat or leave 1 or 2 rows of crops in the field for wildlife. It would make a huge difference in the winter. Also I see pastures getting eaten down by cattle till they are smooth as a dinner plate. Also some walk in areas are fields and soon as the crops are harvested the tractors come out and plow everything under don't take me wrong there is just to many people that take advantage of this program but you have to take the good with the bad. Thank you landowners for walk in areas, maybe crop land should leave strips of crops if it's going to be in walk in areas. My daughters are going to be hunting in a few years and I would like to take them pheasant and grouse hunting.

ID: 4242

Some areas are unworthy of being enrolled in walk in areas, (no cover and no game). Be more selective; don't waste our money on bare ground.

ID: 4254

I rarely hunt; I'm not sure why I keep getting these surveys.

ID: 4256

The law for retrieval of big game on private land desperately needs changed. It is ridiculous.

ID: 4264

I enjoy hunting with my husband, he is a much bigger hunter than I am, we know many landowners in our area and walking areas are a ways from our home.

ID: 4270

We've had a serious deer poaching problem in Jerauld County for the past two years there were over a dozen reported deer killed before the season with or without the horns cut off. I think the reward money for anyone that

helps catch the person or persons should be something like \$1000 minimum and the way to come up with the money is to fine the individual's enough to cover the reward cost and expenses, even if it means selling their guns, the vehicles they were caught in etc. It also should automatically be grounded for a lifetime ban of any type of hunting (or fishing) in all of South Dakota! The deer in Jerauld County just West of Wessington Springs were so skittish by opening morning from being shot at that a person had a tough time even seeing them within shooting range let alone getting a good clean shot at them. It was my sons first year with a tag and by not being able to even get close enough to get a good look at some bucks close enough to get a good look at some bucks he lost interest real fast. He didn't even want to hunt the second or third weekend. So in turn neither one of us killed a deer, and we both had double tags. Hope things change or we will probably just hunt the Black Hills and that is it!

ID: 4278

Thank you for taking the time to ask me about my hunting experience this year in SD. I appreciate your concerns, efforts and all else you do for the people of South Dakota's hunting privileges and rights. I love hunting and fishing this great state. I appreciate the ability to hunt and fish public lands walk in areas and road right of ways! I would like to see in the future the daily bag limit of snow and blue geese raised to help in the efforts of preserving Northern breeding grounds. I would also like to extend my concern of the beautiful red fox, as I hardly ever see many. I am so proud to be a South Dakota outdoorsman and I would like to thank all those who make this a possibility for our great state.

ID: 4291

I am wondering if you check the land you put into walk in areas before you give the money to the rancher in West River. Some of the walk in that I encountered had no cover in it after being grazed down to bare dirt and some of the other areas had 200 head of cattle in them during the rifle season that you couldn't hunt it if you wanted too. I think that the land needs to be checked periodically, not only when it is signed up for walk in areas. I also think that all the livestock should be removed 1 month or more before the season starts for hunting.

ID: 4307

The atlas needs more detail as far as towns and water being defined. Didn't hunt any walk in areas this year but am very glad to have them. I also think waterfowl seasons should open later and stay open later to allow more opportunity to harvest wintering waterfowl in the area (mainly in the Sioux Falls Area).

ID: 4309

I like the program, but of all the walk in areas I've hunted only 1 has had really good habitat. Most of it has pretty marginal cover or no cover at all.

ID: 4358

The first week of resident pheasant season should be open for residents to also hunt public lands and private lands.

ID: 4360

Walk in areas are virtually useless to the resident hunters of South Dakota, in Day County for certain, all our walk in areas are burnt to a crisp from all the Minnesota and Wisconsin jerks from September until close of pheasant season every walk in areas get stomped 5 – 20 times a day, everyday of the season plus this year we couldn't hunt most of the walk in areas due to the still standing crop what a waste of sportsman's dollars! Wake up, kill the walk in program it is useless!

ID: 4406

Way too many out of state hunters in the walk in areas.

ID: 4423

The use of ATV's in walk in areas and public areas would be nice (to retrieve game). Very difficult to make choice to take game in area very deer in walk in areas (in some areas) impossible! Maybe trails within these areas to pull game to load on ATV's. I believe South Dakota to be one of the best in the world places to hunt, fish and camp and enjoy the outdoors! Thank you to all the men and women that make this experience possible for me and my family.

ID: 4464

I have not seen a walk in area atlas so I can't say. I have noticed fewer numbers in pheasants this year on private ground than other years.

ID: 4484

Some of the walk in areas have very minimal cover.

ID: 4497

I hunt waterfowl on private land ducks only; season is over when the ducks arrive.

ID: 4536

Walk in areas are getting more and more dangerous due to all the allow to come from out of state, if I wanted to hunt with a bunch of no talented ass clowns I would go hunt in Minnesota and foreigners shouldn't be allowed to hunt.

ID: 4539

Hills deer tag were not drawn, preference point national forest land prairie west river deer not drawn, preference point. Antelope Rifle not drawn, preference point, hunt on walk in land only Fall River County.

ID: 4555

I don't really mind the walk in program but it does bring to many out of state people that just really get on my nerves.

ID: 4558

We need more access to hunting please increase GPS's, WPA's and walk in areas. Thanks for the excellent public hunting areas!

ID: 4566

Walk in areas are a very good program and should be kept going and if possible enlarged. I didn't hunt antelope this year but in years past. Walk in areas were the only place we could hunt.

ID: 4572

Maybe put mile section borders back on map harder to read with just dotted corners of each section.

ID: 4581

All states should have downloadable GPS maps they work great.

ID: 4590

I spent a lot of time in the Friendshuh GPA (walk only). I would like to see more areas like this. No motor vehicles it makes for a great hunt wheeler you fill your tag or not. Please consider doing this in other areas like large blocks in the Black Hills.

ID: 4598

I didn't get a deer tag took care of not hunting deer.

ID: 4615

The old style atlas from years ago was much easier to follow from county to county and from road to road and what kind of road it might be. I was very satisfied with the walk in areas. I hunted in but drive by many others that are plowed or mowed all summer year after year or might be completely covered by a crop which you have to stay out of. I drive by and just shake my head at the money wasted on about 20% of them. I don't understand how people get paid year after year for walk in ground that has no hunting or wildlife value.

ID: 4646

The duck season was wrong in the hunters handbook and a rifle deer survey on the internet was wrong as well. You guys need to proof read! Anyways I really appreciate the access to private land through the walk in program.

ID: 4651

We need it because with more and more CRP coming out we need the habitat for the wildlife so they can survive and we need more of it to preserve our hunting heritage. It also gives me a place when I go West River, since I don't know that many places or have permission to go. So it gives me a place to go.

ID: 4667

It was a bad year for me regarding hunting, just no time to get out. I strongly support the walk in area program as it is so hard to find a decent field to hunt without paying extra money.

ID: 4678

I have never seen the walk in atlas. I have no idea where to find the walk in areas. It should be issued with a sportsman license.

ID: 4680

Deer walk in areas along the river in Sully County should have land access. Some walk in land is only accessible by boat which is not right!

ID: 4718

Walk in areas are critical for my West River Deer hunting. I've harvested and seen beautiful deer on the walk in areas of West River. I enjoy hunting public land and believe they are so much in 2009 but lots in 2007/2008 with great success. Don't implement a fee to hunt walk in areas or any other public land (school land) that would be devastating to the spirit of the hunter and contradictory to the program.

ID: 4725

Would like to see more/some info on school lands that are open to hunting and very hard to determine. I would support more walk in areas if possible. Designated roads also are hard to determine and actually come that one designated have been made difficult to use. This is important as hunters like me, are getting older. Need some way to help retrieve game. I am not implying road hunting only a way to get game out. Thank you for allowing something with said like this. I am pleased that you are taking input need to support and keep this program.

ID: 4748

Life has been too busy to enjoy hunting the past 3 years. Hope to do more in the future.

ID: 4782

Deer season should have been extended in Brown County because of the late crop removal and wet conditions, not a good success rate in our area.

ID: 4785

Raise the rate for out of state hunters like other states do!

ID: 4794

I have hunted walk in areas since they existed, mainly turkeys, ground and pheasants. They have always been an excellent place if you research to find some game. This year most walk in areas that I drove past the cover looked short and not as much.

ID: 4821

Appreciate the attempt to make hunting opportunities for the rest of us. Does there need to be any limits set on commercial guide services using these areas? If you don't own land there are few who do who do not all ready have its hunting rights held to save guide services using only walk in areas at every possibility and attempt to make available greater number of these areas near high population density areas, the better birds just don't hang out in high pressure areas.

ID: 4831

Thank you for fixing up the road to the public shooting area down off the Joe Creek Road behind Dean Hansen's place.

ID: 4858

What a waste of money; online or not at all.

ID: 4885

I'm very proud of my state of South Dakota and all its efforts to provide public hunting areas. Keep up the good work! We are very fortunate here in this state! Thanks to all who are involved.

ID: 4891

Why is it all the deer go to this one place in Aurora County like 100-200 deer and the farmer won't let anyone hunt there. Then the farmer always complains the deer are eating the small trees and his hay but no one can hunt there, con some of his government payments be held back to change this? You can drive by there and the deer are like pets. His neighbors are even getting upset about this and want hunters to hunt around the land to lesson the problem.

ID: 4899

Walk in areas that are bare of cover are useless and waste of your money. The cover should be left! More food plots would be a better use of your money.

ID: 4919

Walk in areas should be paid based on what they have to offer. We saw a lot of them that were cut for hay and there was zero value. West River you pay for some great places but a lot of it has zero value. I would like to know if you provide a list of who gets paid for walk in areas.

ID: 4933

The walk in areas are too over hunted seems like land owners take there hunters into these areas first, then hunt there own land last.

ID: 4942

Hunting was tough East River deer season due to rain fall and too much standing corn. The season should have been extended.

ID: 4950

I don't hunt very much walk in area. I have fair access to private land. However, I have observed quit a bit of walk in areas that are poor habitat and a waste of money to provide.

ID: 4993

I don't hunt walk in areas since I have enough private land available to me. I leave it for those who need a place to hunt. I do see many good walk in areas, however there are just as many that are either hayed or grazed heavily and have no cover left at all. I wonder how these lands qualify.

ID: 4994

My favorite walk in lands east of Oral, SD were off the map the last couple of years. In the past they have been great for deer, pheasants and ducks. It would be nice if they were back.

ID: 5006

Didn't utilize walk in areas in 2009.

ID: 5029

I found several walk in areas that were no more than plowed fields, a definite waste of funds.

ID: 5058

Didn't have an opportunity to hunt much last fall, didn't hunt any walk in areas, too busy with a difficult harvest.

ID: 5070

I didn't get any of the 3 licenses I sent for in 2009 so I couldn't hunt.

ID: 5099

Thanks for another great year of SD hunting!

ID: 5101

Your department has done an excellent job by acquiring land for our hunting experiences. I have not hunted a lot of walk in areas, mostly during West River rifle deer, due to if successful retrieval being an obstacle. Also, I personally enjoy road right of ways for upland game birds lets keep it in place. Thanks again!

ID: 5109

Start doe only season earlier or run later, in December and January.

ID: 5126

In my area of Northern Corson County I don't see any game in the land that is enrolled in the programs for public hunting. The only good spot is ruined by the guy living next to it. The GF&P won't do anything about it, I think you are scared of the tribe.

ID: 5144

I received tickets on resident only pheasant season. I was very disappointed for two reasons; the law says you can not hunt unharvested crops with white Walk in area signs in the book, fair enough didn't catch it when reading my fault, but however the on site sign was the size of a stick of gun. Get a bigger sign!

ID: 5148

Outlaw road hunting

ID: 5152

I am a landowner, stop selling tags for land you do not have.

ID: 5158

When walk in areas are allowed to be cut for haying or grazed, that doesn't have much for wildlife why waste the sportsmen's money.

ID: 5163

Too many geese eating corn and beans in newly planted fields. Having trouble in some fields with pheasants eating newly planted corn.

ID: 5168

Based on last years antelope hunt, I as well as several others feel you need to do a better job at surveying the antelope population. take this population

and the dramatic decreasing numbers from pervious years and consider issuing far fewer tags. This will help the population management. I understand this is your job and I'm not trying to tell you how to do it and maybe there where some miscalculations or whatever. But to issue that many tags (3) per person in Harding, Perkins, etc when there are probably a total of 3 antelope in those counties combined is a lack of common sense. We enjoy driving 250 miles to have a great hunt, with or without taking a big game animal. IN order to have a good hunt there must be good numbers if the numbers are down simply don't issue that many tags or close the season in those counties for a couple of years. We as hunters are supposed to help manage the population, not destroy it. It was a waste of out time and money to drive around for 3 days and see a combined total of 20 antelope. We just as well have been hunting dinosaurs!

ID: 5169

I do not use walk in areas but I think it is a good thing if you have no where else to hunt. I think they get very over hunted towards the end of the season in my area. The walk in areas need more food plots to hold game and help wildlife survive winter.

ID: 5172

I think that the reason there is so few good quality buck taken in South Dakota is simply because people are stupid and shoot the first buck that comes their way. The over pressured bucks just don't have much of a chance of being passed up for a bigger deer, partly because they the hunters can shoot more than one buck any given year. I think every resident should be able to shoot 1 buck deer every year and only one no lotto, just one buck deer per year if they want meat then let them shoot does. They would be better shot than road kill. It makes sense to me but that's just me thinking.

ID: 5181

Didn't hunt any some looks good, some is bare and not sure why it is rented but I like the program.

ID: 5197

I hunt private land most of the time, I've seen some hunters go on private land out of walk in areas maybe they didn't know the maps well enough. Hunters come off walk in areas for an access to private land.

ID: 5254

It would be nice to have walk in areas in Davison County.

ID: 5274

Deer season was very poor due to late harvest need to reevaluate the season time and length, deer stay in cornfields.

ID: 5282

We need more CRP for pheasants. I notice a lot was taken out when we were road hunting. Our entire early goose hunt was on private land. First time in 5 years we had to go to public land for our ducks on the private. My first year antelope we went to Harding County, would not hunt if it wasn't for public land up there. This year I will hunt East River deer, my brother has hunted antelope for 30 years he said the numbers were down about 50%, but we did very good. I got my buck, totally hunting party had 27 tags we got 20 antelope in Harding County. It was very busy at work this fall I had to work a lot other past years I would have hunted 60% more. We hunt waterfowl a lot mainly road hunt pheasants, but a lot of CRP was taken out. We need it back.

ID: 5288

Walk in areas give more habitat for game to live which runs over to private land also. I didn't see an atlas.

ID: 5303

We need habitat!

ID: 5327

What is going on with the Harding County deer hunting? I've been hunting up there for 25 years and now you can't get anywhere unless you walk. If you got a deer you would have to work hard to get it back to your vehicle, and it's simply not worth the hassle. You can see where driving there has not hurt the land, I enjoy hunting there but not impressed with the new rules of driving up there. The cow has hurt the land more than the hunters! A lot of hunters are boycotting hunting in Harding County.

ID: 5347

Walk in areas for pheasants are awesome! The Sheehan hunting area is just amazing. What a great place Tim Withers does a wonderful job. He manages that area well.

ID: 5366

Show right places where they are suppose to be, making sure they are marked.

ID: 5379

If you can add the county lines so they stand out there would be great.

ID: 5400

Walk in areas should have some food plots that stay all year long.

ID: 5403

I archery hunted Sand Lake for the duration it was open for archery. It was awesome.

ID: 5423

GF&P has obviously worked very hard at signing up new public ground in Southeast South Dakota. Thank You!

ID: 5438

Hunted Slim Buttes West River a lot of hunters, great place to go and be with friends. Didn't have much luck hunting pheasants, been going to my grandpa's farm very close to Mina, SD for the last 10 years. The worst year we ever had our group shot 3 birds during the opener.

ID: 5442

I found the public lands and walk in areas great. I saw a terrific amount of healthy strong birds as well as other wildlife I was not hunting. There was good cover (feed and water) and they seemed to be using them a lot. I think these programs have been a great asset to our wildlife, as well as hunters many thanks to those responsible!

ID: 5463

I don't understand the walk in area program a very high percentage of the Walk in areas that I see have been mowed, grazed or otherwise rendered nearly useless for hunting. I believe this merely could be better used elsewhere or the program needs to be more stringent. I indicated that the walk in area program was not important to me largely because my experience has been that these areas are very poor habitat. However the CRP program has been very important to my hunting. There are a lot of farmers that put acres on CRP for economical conservation and environmental reasons and who are very willing to let people hunt. This is especially true with small pieces of land in low areas and waterways. These may not all be in CRP but their existence hinges on economics. I believe there are a lot of hunters like me that have seen a huge impact to their hunting due to the lost habitat like this. I would love to see GF&P do anything it can to support (economically) the preservation of small tracts of land suck as these. Also, what can it do about drain tile?

ID: 5469

While I didn't spend much time in walk in areas this year, this is where I have hunted the most area the years and am very supportive of the program.

ID: 5489

Too many challenges on borders areas for hunting. as everything money, so much for born and raised and god given wildlife, good old boys are gone. I hope your collecting taxes.

ID: 5519

50% of the walk in areas we tried to hunt were overgrazed or mowed. Harvested to low and provided no cover.

ID: 5522

There was very little wildlife in the newly added walk in area in West Harding County, Out of nine tags this year we filled two with younger deer. This is very disappointing.

ID: 5566

Extend the seasons a little longer so more fun opportunities can be participated in, especially pheasant season.

ID: 5570

I didn't go on walk in areas or I don't know what they are.

ID: 5571

Make the pheasant limit bigger.

ID: 5591

Any habitat is good; I will probably hunt more public ground next year.

ID: 5605

If you don't have a dog the walk in area was very difficult to accomplish with a small group.

ID: 5607

The atlas is hard to figure out what counties you're looking at.

ID: 5610

Some spots were just pasture with no cover, did not have to walk because there was nothing to hide. I think the East River season should have been extended to the terrible weather we had this year. I didn't get my second deer.

ID: 5614

Would have got a deer but way too much cover/corn, a lot of corn still in when I went.

ID: 5629

I didn't use walk in areas.

ID: 5643

I didn't hunt anything this year.

ID: 5649

Making natural grasslands walk in, made hunting hard when people are driving around scaring deer in Jackson County.

ID: 5683

I think you people at the South Dakota GF&P are doing a great job protecting the land entrusted to your organization for hunters to use when they have no big hunting plans and just want to hunt.

ID: 5727

There are more pheasant than last year.

ID: 5731

I do not hunt the areas because I have plenty of farmland to hunt on. It looks like really good cover and a good place to hunt though.

ID: 5733

I would like to see the atlas have more details and we found more walk in areas than were in the atlas.

ID: 5759

You need more walk in areas.

ID: 5767

Some of the walk in areas are not huntable (as in fallow ground has no habitat) disappointing when you drive 45 miles to certain areas and no hunting ability.

ID: 5775

I think you need to be selective in what goes in to walk in areas. Make sure there is habitat to hold the game. Some of these bare fields wouldn't hold a field mouse, and are a waste of our GF&P money.

ID: 5777

Smaller plots of land, 2 – 3 hunters could walk and handle.

ID: 5780

I never heard too many bad things about walk in areas other than that they were too crowded.

ID: 5787

I think they should try to acquire more land in walk in areas East River where it's harder to get landowners permission.

ID: 5805

All the walk in areas were under water!

ID: 5872

I didn't hunt on walk in areas.

ID: 5876

I didn't get many birds out of the walk in areas. Hunted quite a few and were somewhat weak for birds. Got most on the roadside, corn was in for most of the season.

ID: 5908

I didn't use an atlas; I thought it was pretty good habitat and also a good program.

ID: 5910

The walk in areas are a great habitat for pheasants, but they are not good for deer. I think there needs to be have better habitat for deer.

ID: 5940

It would be nice to have some designated walk in land for archery hunting only; I would start archery hunting again. If the map had information on what areas had timber it would be helpful.

ID: 5996

Too many walk in areas were right next to houses and safety zones. Walk in areas also need sloughs or tall grass there are too many of them that are bare.

ID: 9001

GF&P need to look at each county and evaluate the true percent of hunter's tags that they are getting out. Then look hard at the state ground that these tags can be filled on, and then look at how many tags GF&P are truly pushing out onto private landowners. GF&P should require private land acquisitions before anyone can apply for a tag. Then they could have a special draw for state ground only tags. GF&P force tags out to public which force people to harass private landowners. Also no hunting should be allowed after December 31<sup>st</sup> after antlers are shed by then.

ID: 9002

I don't know how you go about deciding who does or doesn't get a deer license, East or West River but it seems like it could be done differently. I have been East River deer hunting in the same county for a lot of years and always with permission and it seems like lately in having a hard time getting a license. I believe they are going to people from out of county who come in

here and cause trouble by cutting fences, trespassing, and tearing up our roads. It seems like we can get a better handle on this situation. I was denied both East and West River tags in 2009 and became very frustrated! I consider myself a sportsman, and I take it as a privilege to be able to hunt and fish. Since we are an agriculture state with corn harvest being one of the latest ever there is absolutely no reason that deer and pheasant season didn't get extended! In result our deer population once again is over populated! When a farmer complains of deer eating their corn or ruining a haystack, why do we waste our taxpayer's money by hauling hay across the state to feed these deer, when we could buy hay from farmers. It looks like it to me that GF&P have way too much time and money.

ID: 9004

The people on them should stay and not trespass on private land.

ID: Planned my hunt then got turned down for everyplace I had to hunt, and then missed all the leftovers. I think you have a very poor second drawing program someone that got there tags hogged up all the leftovers. It is a very poor operation.

ID: 9007

I am disabled and can't walk. I would like to be able to shoot from my vehicle.

ID: 9008

We need more walk in areas.

ID: 9009

There is not enough public ground!

ID: 9010

Pheasant season is too long. Some areas do not have enough birds (Southern Charles Mix County). Most of the good areas in Southern Charles Mix do not have good populations and should be given a chance to recover to their former numbers. Let people hunt pheasants till thanksgiving that is long enough. I think the eagle refuse in Pickstown is also hurting our numbers.

ID: 9012

I didn't do any hunting on walk in areas.

ID: 9013

It is becoming more important each year. Private land is increasingly off limits even later in the season unless you are a pay for hunting person.

ID: 9016

Very few walk in areas have great habitat, most of it is marginal at best. At least an attempt is being made to provide hunting areas. I don't know what kind of a bang we are getting for the buck. I have places to hunt, but for the average guy hunting is gradually going away. Ethanol production is the worst thing that happened to wildlife habitat, that price of corn quadrupled and farmers are planting every square inch of farms to corn and beans. The CRP program can't compete and much of that habitat will be lost.

ID: 9019

Too many deer something needs to be done and soon. The deer season in Edmunds County was bad to much corn in the fields season needed to be extended. Not really happy with the game officer in our area.

ID: 9022

Something must be done about the deer population. More effort needs to be put in to stocking fishing lakes. This is the most important to stop road hunting for pheasants. Hunters stop in all the archery spots along water hole and woods. Grain harvest along with big truck doesn't work this year we have and seven different times when hunters and myself could have been killed on a hunt. This practice must stop!

ID: 9023

You should be allowed to use a scope for muzzleloading or black powder season for deer. We can not afford to lose CRP for our habitat, more food plots needed on public land. Out of state ducks hunters can use out of state hunters money.

**Appendix D. Optional comments received by e-mail from resident hunters.****ID Comment**

- 15 The downloadable GPS maps were nice. Thanks.
- 17 The areas I could find to actually hunt were quite good for walk in. However, many areas were either under water, had crops that could not be hunted or were tilled up and basically bare ground. I really don't think GF&P should be paying for ground that is barren. That type ground does not produce a good hunting experience. Every year I am amazed at the walk in lands that are plowed fields or wheat stubble. It is not at all managed for wildlife. There are some good walk in areas but they are hard to find.
- 19 I do believe they should make some allowance during the use of walk-in areas, to use a vehicle to pick up downed deer/antelope etc. as we all know, some walk-in areas are miles across and dragging a deer through thick brush isn't the most pleasant thing to do.
- 23 To much corn in - I need a buck tag next year again!
- 24 I didn't do much hunting this year. No pheasants in public area.
- 29 Very important to the success of wildlife management. I didn't hunt walk-ins this year because of health problems but have in the past. Would like to see more land opened up for handicapped hunters
- 31 I saw more hunters than animals in both the walk-in areas and public land areas. This says to me that there's either not enough hunting land, or too many tags are being sold in each hunting unit. There seems to be a need for better markings on designated roads (public land), and possibly more law enforcement in these areas. I saw numerous vehicles (4 wheelers & pickups) that were clearly hunting from their vehicle far from any designated roadway - This was during West river deer season, East Short Pines, Harding County.
- 36 I would say the majority of the walk in was adequate for pheasant hunting. The biggest problem is the lack of walk-in areas. It seems that every year we loose more and more walk-in area lands. As you know it is very hard to get on private land, if the walk-in areas go away there are going to be less and less resident hunters. Also on public land it seems that there is more grazing of cattle, it takes at least 2 years for the grass to come back for enough habitat to support pheasants. I would also recommend planting more food plots on the public lands, where this is done it supports a lot more wildlife and also helps during the tough winters. We also need to find a way to create more and more nesting habitat because of the loss of the CRP program. I am anxious to see what the state comes up with.
- 41 Need more walk in areas!!
- 47 Like everywhere, too much corn still in the field for successful hunting.
- 50 I haven't hunted walk in areas for 3 years, but when I have they have been in Custer and Harding counties and I was very satisfied with them even though we hunted late in the year
- 51 I hunted the SPL (school public land) in NW SD. If it wasn't for the School land I would not have been able to hunt. Thank you for providing the GPS downloads for these areas. Without the downloads to my GPS I would not have been able to defend myself from the ranchers/farmers in these areas. One of our groups of hunters were hassled by a rancher. The rancher actually threatened the hunters (rancher brought his gun into the field and it nearly got confrontational) and was trying to force them to leave the area. When the hunters showed the rancher the GPS he quickly left the scene and did not return.
- 60 Was not able to harvest east river deer due to the amount of crop remaining in the fields. Most animals were not accessible.
- 71 I'm disabled so I mostly hunt out of my truck with a disability permit thankyou

- 81 I am new to South Dakota having moved here this past year. I found the hunting great. I am not an experienced hunter largely because of the limited hunting areas in places I have lived in the past. The walk-in and wildlife production areas available for hunting has made it possible for me to realize lifelong desires to hunt. I didn't get much hunting done this past year as I have been doing a lot of learning about the rules and finding good areas to hunt. I am sure I will do better this coming year. This is the best hunting program I have been able to find after living in several states during my lifetime. Please don't change a thing. You are doing a great job. I am hoping to bring friends up to South Dakota in the 2010 hunting seasons and show them how great South Dakota hunting is.
- 85 I would normally not care one way or another about Walk-In Areas because I do not use them. However this year the section lines that are used to access Walk-In Areas that are adjacent to my land were too wet to use, which caused many hunters to drive across my property to gain access to the Walk-In area, causing a certain amount of crop damage and other damage. Another section line that was able to be used was however wet and with all the traffic it will take years to get the tracks and the paths leveled out again. Probably will have to farm the section line to make it smoother, which hunters will complain about, but they were the ones that caused that remedy to take place. Very little respect for the conditions of section lines by hunters.
- 94 I know you here this a lot but some are a waste of money, and some are great for hunters who don't have \$200/day to spend
- 97 Absolutely love the new downloadable walk in area atlas for my gps. You guys are light years ahead of other states on this.
- 101 No comment; I didn't hunt any walk-in areas.....
- 104 The map seemed difficult to read.
- 117 we did not hunt with a dog. The walk in areas are not a good place to hunt without a dog.
- 133 From my observation hunting grouse (sharp-tail), the population was down in Butte and Haaken counties. However, the population was better than the last 6-7 years when I felt there were no grouse in these counties. I hunted several private ranches during the west river rifle deer season. I saw about 25% of the deer I normally see and most were either young bucks or starting their decline. I did see three bucks of fair quality and one of extreme quality. In comparing numbers of hunters with numbers of deer, I would guess there were 15 hunters for every available deer. Saw very few does and fawns. All of my deer hunting was in Butte county.
- 137 The walk in area near where I hunt west river didn't have enough vegetation to hide a rattlesnake.
- 140 need more walk in areas in Hughes county (for deer hunting)
- 143 Most of the walk in areas were always filled with hunters, so it was hard to hunt them had to find private land, don't think there are enough walk in areas for this area.
- 148 need more pheasants
- 158 I think the walk in areas program are very important. I like most people won't always be able to hunt on private land. Thanks
- 168 I would definitely hunt more walk-in areas because I'm not always able to hunt on private land. The trouble is however, I haven't found any walk-in's with the great habitat that leads to great pheasant numbers.
- 170 My hunting had to be set aside this last year (2009) so I have no opinion on any aspect of the 2009 season. I hope in 2010 I will hunt and have something to report. My friends that have been hunting say all is good. Brian Stuart
- 173 It would be great to increase pheasant numbers in the Oral/Hot Springs walk-in areas.
- 174 Thank You!

- 178 When hunting a walkin area in Gregory County I had slob hunters ruin my hunt. I hunted the walkin area between South Scalp and South Wheeler along the river. I visited the area at least five times prior to the opening of the season and had the area well scouted. The opening morning I walked in nearly a mile prior to daylight and I was naping where I wanted to be at 4:30 AM. I walked in without lights because of the moonlight and knowing where I was going and how to get there. At 6:15 AM two vehicles drove up to the gate of the walkin area and dropped off six hunters. These hunters spread out and used flashlights and yelling back and forth as they moved to the west driving all the deer I had scouted onto the private land on the west side of the walkin area. After doing this, they hunted the private land. It shows the greed of private land owners and is the reason I'll never hunt Gregory County again - in fact - I may never hunt big game again. The day of hunting is gone - it has come down to killing at all cost by some and charging by private land owners has killed the sport. I haven't seen much done by the state to make fair chase available to people who have no private land on which to hunt. People have lost sight of what a hunt is and there appears to be few who understand hunting - they merely look to "kill"!
- 179 I'm a bow hunter only for big game and bird hunting has become a rather peripheral activity, but I do love it and the availability of walk-in areas is extremely important to the future of hunting in SD. I heartily endorse the program and would support other efforts that makes hunting by the public more palatable to land owners. John Haeder Rapid City
- 188 would of been nice if the roads to the land would of been plowed so you could get in to hunt after the blizzard.
- 191 Too many deer. People are hitting them with vehicles almost daily.
- 199 I would really like to see road hunting closed. It is not hunting when you drive up and down the road and try to jump out and shot a bird that is usually on some one elses property. You (state of south dakota) provide an enomous amount of public land and walk in land for the hunters to use. If they are to lazy to actually walk then they most likely break the laws in many other ways when they are road hunting. I actually perfer to call them ditch pigs not hunters.
- 216 We did hunt near a walk-in area and it seemed well managed, had a good number of pheasants there and was hunted by others so we did not.
- 223 The Game and fish need to do more about the school and public lands. or school sections. We have had problems with land owners and gf&p on these places. They need to be marked and made accessable to all hunters. Some are hidden in private land and should be a path or road of some sort to access those areas, Even if the hunter has to walk the public land. They still need to be marked for us to use. Some hunters don't have alot of choice but to hunt public land and a good portion of it is not accessable to us. This needs to get done soon. Thankyou Haakon county hunter.
- 238 The only problem I have is that me and my son have been trying to get a mule deer tag for charles mix county for five straight years now. I think it is kind of rediculous that we have not been able to get a tag there becasue we have 3000 acres to hunt out there. Something needs to change in the tag drawing system, im not trying to get an elk tag for the hills i simply want a mule deer tag so me and my son can hunt on ground we know well. Thank you for your concern, Ray, and Ryan Stahl.
- 279 This year in Brown County was a very poor year for hunting. With much of the corn and beans still unharvested during peak hunting times and even during the extended deer season, the bird and deer harvest was poor. Many of the birds and deer stayed in the corn and beans throughout the entire season, and I feel that next year will be equally as bad since many farmers will have a late planting season this year. I hope that the SD GFP and the state gov't will consider extending many of the seasons for this area.
- 285 answers to 1 and 2 above are meaningless, since I did not any public or walk in areas. I only checked a box because they said they were required

- 335 I live in and hunt around the Bennett County Area. As you know, the pheasant hunting here is very good, but what I was most dissatisfied with was the numerous walk-in areas that consist of flat fields of dirt completely devoid of vegetation, trees, or terrain. What is the point of even having these areas available for walk-in when there would never be any animals on the land at all. I just wonder if anyone, even briefly, inspects the area when someone applies to let their land be included in the walk-in areas.
- 336 Many times I found pheasant hunters hunting while i was hunting deer. Did not think that was safe. My suggestion would be to shut down pheasant hunting on state land during the deer season
- 339 I do not usually use walk in areas because in the past I have found that unless I have been there before, it is not unusual to be surprised. I do not know if it is the same today, but I have seen plowed fields listed as walk ins. I have used some in the past that were excellent and some that were not so good.
- 346 HAD GREAT LUCK EAST RIVER HUNTING , COULD NOT GET TAGS FOR WEST RIVER DEER  
347 the GPS download is awesome. you guys did a great jobwith this.
- 352 Walk in area are usually poor hunting habitat and over run by hunters. The areas are too large to hunt effectively. Game production areas are usually better but are also over run by hunters and tend to be hunted several times in the same day by different groups. The walk in areas are usually conservation reserve areas that have been seeded to native grasses and have been grazed to some degree. The game fish and parks should try to lease land with better cover for birds than CRP land. The maps are good directions for finding poor hunting. Its almost a waste of time.
- 353 I thought the public map would be easier if it were paged by county.
- 361 Minnehaha and McCook Counties get LOTS of hunting pressure. With a dog, you are lucky to get one shot during an afternoon of hunting public lands.
- 363 Walk-In areas are important. The excess water this fall caused me to use these areas less than in past years. I did notice that many of them were grazed to the ground this year and provided no cover what so ever.
- 371 I think it is a great program. Land is getting harder to find to hunt. I have a son who loves to hunt but we can not pay for land to hunt this is a good idea.
- 372 You just need to continue working on access for the fisherman and hunters. If we don't have a place to get on the lake, river or land to hunt who will buy the licence and with out funds you can't do much to improve game numbers or access. Keep the regulations simple so you don't make criminals out of us because of a difficult regulation to understand. Keep up the good work, it great to live, hunt and fish here in South Dakota
- 393 need more walk in areas in sandborn county
- 395 I feel this is a good program I hope they expand the land to be used I dont now why you can not us horses on walk in areas you can us dogs to hunt on them so tell me how horses are different.
- 410 The Atlas doesn't publish the amount of acres anymore. I wish it wouldn't have been changed. Deer population was poor this year, some of it due to crops still being in.
- 415 Most of the walk-in in Perkins county had very little cover and was not much use for birds. There is plenty of public land for big game so I believe the walk-in there is a waste of money unless they can get some land with better cover.
- 418 There are not as many walkin areas as there has been. For people who cannot afford to Pay-to-Hunt it will eventually ruin hunting industry for everyone.
- 431 I did hunt the Black Hills Deer Season and was very satisfied with hunting on public ground.
- 436 I think hunters need more time to fill their any deer tags for east river. Thanks

- 447 I have been a huge proponent of wildlife habitat over the years and have made great commitments to CRP, WHIP, and other programs to nurture wildlife in Brown and McPherson Counties. I believe that our family has done more for wildlife than anyone else in these counties . . . including 1800 acres of CRP (FWPs, MPLs, Riparian buffers, wildlife tree plantings of over 40,000 shrubs/trees, native grass plantings, etc.). I recently had a very bad experience with the Farm Service Agency that has lead me to start abandoning our participation in any of these conservation programs. They aleged that I violated .1 of one acre (that's right one tenth of one acre!) of wetlands and subsequently withheld all of our CRP payments for a full year. Naturally, we appealed the case and it has been going on for nearly two years with no end in sight. In the meantime, we have declined to enroll additional ideally suited land in the programs and have just withdrawn over 1,000 acres of expiring CRP. . . it breaks my heart to take well established, weed free stands of native grasses that are fantastic habitat, out of program, but we cannot risk a government agency arbitrarily taking away nearly \$100,000 of payments for an alleged .1 of one acre violation. I would like some help in fighting this bureaucratic mess, so if there is anything you would like to do to help us with this providing habitat for South Dakota, we would appreciate your assistance . . . please contact me. Thank you. Sincerely, Bill Edwards 39109 126th St Aberdeen, SD 57401 Phone 229-4035
- 452 Not a lot of walk in in Brooking County
- 462 I think that the walk in areas are a great thing they bring many people to the area to help the small towns. gives the landowners a chance to get some money back and do not have to worry about whos hunting there land and keeps people from driving on there land. some areas could be posted a little better. walk in program is great keep it going. thanks
- 465 I would like to comment that the downloadable atlas is VERY useful. This was the first time I have used it and found it very helpful. Thank you
- 474 I'm retired and don't hunt much anymore.
- 477 I am thankful we have the walk-in program here. It would be nice if there were a bit more in the south west part of the state(fall river) but since there is a lack of deer there I suppose it doesn't matter.
- 479 The map for the area Souteast of Edgmount has a large portion of the roads missing making it very difficult to determine what area a person was in.
- 495 Unfortanatley most of the walk in land I've hunted is not very good habitat. If it was they would be leasing the land for pay for hunts. Hunting is becoming way to commercialized in South Dakota.
- 505 Atlas could be print larger maps
- 508 The walk-in program is one great deal for all hunters. Please continue this program.
- 516 I found several walk in areas in the Lake Cambell area Brookings and Moody counties that had been grazed beyond any useful hunting.
- 526 I think Walk ins are very important, I would have no where to hunt if my realitives didn't own land.
- 537 I really like the walk-in-areas and I am very thankful they are available for public hunting. I hope the state can continue to offer these areas for hunters that don't own land.
- 547 I would prefer better topographical maps for hunting deer and antelope.
- 552 The vast majority of WIA's have either no or very little habitat to support wildlife, especially Perkins county. The WIA's in Lyman and Jones are so overhunted for pheasants that game is gone quickly after the opening day.
- 554 The hunting atlas is very hard to read and could be made much easier.
- 569 out of state hunters should be forced to hunt land deprivated areas for geese
- 576 After 50 years of hunting and fishing in South Dakota, I think GF&P does a good job managing the wildlife of this state. Due to a stroke several years ago I no longer get out as much as I would like. Just keep up the good work. And thank you for all the things you guy's have done and will be doing.

- 585 You should have included archery hunting in this survey as that is basically the only hunting I do in South Dakota. I am a very big fan of public walk in areas however.
- 590 I have gone grouse hunting in the past, but I found the Pierre national grasslands over grazed and lacked any habitat for grouse. I was very dissappointed with what I feel is favoritism towards cattle ranchers who over graze the grasslands but not there own property. I know that there is suppose to be a balance towards ag production and wildlife production on national grasslands, but there is plenty of ag land in this state and little land for public use for game production. Since private land is hard to hunt without paying large fees, cant we limit ag use of public property to balance this out?
- 594 can you specify what a walk in area is? Is it a game preserve?
- 597 dissatisfied people are unable to use a vech (4-wheeler) to retrieve a critter.
- 606 Habitat was excellent but we were surprised at the scarcity of birds-- 2nd week in Nov. Maybe it had been too heavily hunted.
- 614 Need more with more cover, tree belts, food plots, etc.
- 619 I would like to see alot more food plots planted in public hunt areas.
- 629 Sorry I was'nt more help. I run a lodge, so most of my hunting is private land. Hunters that were only lodging with me and hunted walk in areas reported very little luck in sanborn co.
- 634 Please keep the Walk in Areas open and a viable option for hunters.
- 639 I love the mentoring hunt program
- 659 SD is a model for the states that border us, I moved here 6 years ago from Minn and will never go back.I water fowl hunt in Canada,Montana,No Dak and our state is miles ahead of the rest in wet land conservation and pheasant habitat. Minn has drained approx 80% of its wet lands and has taken so much land out of CRP that most of their habitat is gone and so is the money that hunters would spend.So many in that state have given up hunting because their state has given up on hunters. Licenses numbers keep falling and the state wonders why. Keep up the awesome work that the state, GFP, and land owners do to keep a tradition and a way of life going. All my friends from Minn love to hunt out here each year with me, it reminds us of how our state once was. Keep SD from becoming a Minnesota!
- 662 Deer season should be longer to harvest more does. Their are too many does in just about every county in South Dakota. Either make the season longer, or issue more tags. Kris
- 680 Did not hunt any walk in areas or use the Walk In Area Atlass
- 681 I feel the walk in program is a great thing and would hope that it stays available for hunters to use and enjoy.
- 707 Only hunted on a preserve this year
- 721 walk in areas are very overgrown so made it very hard to harvest any animals. Because of the bad weather, hunting was a dismal experience both for pheasants and deer.
- 740 I think that WIA are critical to keeping hunting areas accessable to the average joe hunter. Not all of can pay the exorbitate prices land owners charge.
- 745 Very few deer in area. Deer numbers low from all the double tags issued in the previous years and late season reduction tags.
- 791 It is hard for me to believe that you actually think hunters can walk in 6-8 miles, hunt and then walk back out 6-8 miles with a deer or antelope. It is physically impossible for most people and there is hardly enough daylight available. I believe that walk in land would be used more if a few more roads were available for access.
- 797 WALK IN AREAS IN BUTTE COUNTY WERE EXCELENT BUT HEAVELY HUNTED.
- 808 Hunted 4 seperate days in the WIA program areas (around 8 different spots in 5 different counties) and saw 1 total pheasant.
- 810 The walk-in maps need to be released sooner in 2010.

- 811 The warm weather during deer hunting season messed things up for me a bit. I would only hunt every other year if there wasn't so many damn people hunting, it's starting to get dangerous! More hunters than deer in Meade county!
- 816 The Walk-In Area Atlas should be easier to read. More county roads, forest service trails, section lines and other landmarks should be shown and labeled. The atlas may need to be larger to do this but it would be very helpful in determining the boundaries and navigating the hunting units. In areas where public land is surrounded by private land, access points to get to the public areas should be shown. In some instances, notes describing how to access certain areas would be helpful. These areas need to be well marked in the field also. With the technology available today, upgrading the atlas showing these features is long over do.
- 818 Walk in areas are overly used and seem to me to be dissatisfied quality or impossible to walk in. Need more walk-in areas in central S.D. To many in certain areas that are less desirable in low pheasant counts to begin with. Honestly if you don't know some one with land your screwed, or pay alot of monies to hunt, It's not like the old days when i was growing up.
- 827 Liked it better when the map had grid lines on them. It made it much easier to read and find land.
- 831 Quite a few of listed walk in spots, east river had been either grazed or cut. I find this all too often and I do realize the land-ownder has some say so in the matter but in future think they should somehow be penalized for doing so. As CRP fades out walk-in is your and our only salvation for any type of public hunting. I am 71 and it is less important for me but I sure do not like how fee for hunting is taking hold. Another generation and the land-owner can hire gamekeepers and we can do away with gfp and the american hunter a I knew it.
- 833 to many crops still in the feild.
- 838 If we do not have walk-in program hunting for most of us would not be there. They should mark them better out west.
- 841 Just a concern, the walk-in areas were either mowed or else the land was completely desolate of any cover for the animals or birds to live in. Which is making it harder to see any habitat or birds around. Second, even most private land is being taken over by the farmers with less habitat.
- 856 I usually hunt pheasant and geese, but did not have time this year. I did do some archery deer hunting on private land, and went on a elk hunt to the Black Hills with my brother and dad.
- 857 Did not hunt in walk in areas
- 883 Some of the walk-in areas dont even have anytype of habitat--no trees, grass, land structure, and water. Some of the land you would be totally wasteing your time even looking at it.
- 890 The land for walk in areas and BLM and State land is not marked well enough to know where it is. This needs to be marked so that you know what land you are hunting.
- 905 The hunting season should be extended when farmers arent able to get their crop out until late in the season
- 914 My hunting was limited due to treatments for cancer.
- 923 Walk in atlas not the most accurate as far as road names etc.
- 941 It would've been nice to have the deer season extened due to the snow we got over Christmas.
- 943 The WIA program is great but I believe there could be more emphasis placed on finding larger tracts with better habitat. It seemed like may of the "good" tracts of land were small which made it difficult to get away from other hunters. I also spent some time hunting the State School lands. Its nice to have areas that are foot traffic only. Too many hunters with Badboy buggies and ATV's hunting the other public lands in the state. I wish there was better enforcement to keeping motorized vehicles on established roads or trails. There is nothing more frustarating than to walk two miles from your truck only to have an ATV drive up on you where there isn't a road.

- 949 SD does a terrific job of providing "average joes" like me with property to hunt. I don't have a lot of time or money to knock on doors, or pay for leases. SD GFP is doing a great job with their walk-in program! Keep up the good work!
- 963 Tougher than normal year deer hunting. Lots of water...lots of crops still in.
- 967 In past years my walk-in percentage for use would have been much higher, but this year I had access to more private land.
- 969 never hunted a day in 2009
- 972 Most of the walk in areas i looked at were either grazed off to no cover or had been tilled.
- 979 Hunting was very well this year, game was abundant
- 998 Keep up the good work in getting more walk in areas, these are very important to the in-state hunters.
- 1021 Get more walk in lands with river bottoms and wasteland and not pasture areas. Do not allow domestic animals on walk in areas.
- 1037 I continue to find the walk-in area atlas difficult to read. Could there be a change in how major roads and landmarks are illustrated so it is easier to make sure I am connecting map to the ground correctly? While the WCO's work hard to make sure the signs are in place, we all know that sometimes they are removed.
- 1043 I think the program is fine if you are able to use it. I wasn't able to use it or do any hunting this year
- 1047 I think farmers should not have to buy hunting license to hunt on their own land. Farmers are the ones feeding these animals, haven't they paid enough?
- 1058 Worst year of pheasant hunting in my life. Birds where there, but too much cover.
- 1062 hunting very poor due to the late harvesting of crops
- 1063 walk in area atlas needs to have county lines on the map.
- 1066 Need walk in areas near the Rapid City area.
- 1108 Where applicable I would like to see tribal land also identified on the map by color coding it. I've had tribal deer licenses in past years and it is very hard to know where you can hunt. The tribes maps are unreadable, the ranchers themselves are often confused, or misleading.
- 1126 the atlas sucked liked the maps to cover more of each county
- 1133 There is not enough land for the average person to hunt. SD should look at how Montana incorporates its land owners into public hunting
- 1147 walk in area map booklet would be nice if it were done by county and not splitting state up in chopped up counties. if counties could make up their own page by themselves it would make navigating a lot easier. also a good safety rule would be to close pheasant hunting on public lands for the opening weekend of deer. bird hunters are not always conscious of rifle hunters and it leaves an unnecessary risk that is very easily avoided
- 1154 Speaking for myself, I have several private land owners who give me the permission and privilege to hunt on their ground. With that said, if I didn't have that opportunity like some hunters in the state I would be left with the option to hunt on public walk in areas. I have heard of many big bucks taken this year and years past on the walk in areas and many pheasants as well. If some people don't have the means to obtain private land to hunt various game on they have only 2 options then, to either hunt the walk in areas or not to hunt. Knowing people who are on either side of this, I believe that it is a vital part of all game hunting to have these areas. To be very honest, I believe that we could have many more areas used in this program and should see what we could do to sway some land owners to have some of their ground in this program.
- 1157 excellent habitat, it amazes me how much public land there is to hunt. the walk in areas are very good for cover, the late harvest made deer hunting difficult, but these areas always held pheasants. didn't hunt as much this year, but was very satisfied with public lands. good job SDGFP makes me proud to call South Dakota my home.

- 1167 More clear language in the manual about Dove hunting load, lead vs steal. Migratory bird language would lead one to believe steel must be used, but lead is allowed on private land.
- 1182 You may notice that a one time avid South Dakota big game hunter like myself was forced to check no on all questions. I have been uable to successfully draw a license for West River deer or Black Hills deer for three or four years in a row. Do you suppose this might have anything to do with my waning interest??? After spending 30+ years as a volunteer Fire Arms Safety instructor, I can't help but feel slighted whether it's simply "the luck of the draw" or not. When I see the Black Hills begin to fill with out of state hunters it doesn't help. It's beginning to appear that if I plan to ever have an enjoyable deer or elk hunting experience again, it will be in Wyoming. For the past three years I have been patiently waiting for the chance to enjoy the hunting experience with a grandson and he has been doing the same. I've just about given up on doing so in my home territory where I can be the teacher and guide. John T. Gillaspie P.O. Box 169 Hill City, SD 57745
- 1191 I did not get to go hunting for deer this year even tho i had a state wide muzzle loader tag. the snow keep us from going on the weekend after x-mas like we planed we hunt in the black hills. it is a very good place to hunt deer they are all over the place there. i will continue to purchase the muzzle loader tag every year.
- 1199 Walk in areas are very important for my son (11 Years old) and myself to hunt.
- 1201 Need to do more research on walk-ins. The maps are not accurate. Hard to hunt an area if your unsure if it is legal.
- 1214 I did access walk-in areas to hunt/call coyotes and was very pleased with what was available concerning the size, location, and quality of the land. Although I rarely utilize walk-in areas for hunting, it is a program that I strongly support and feel is of great benefit for all outdoorsmen.
- 1215 we ARE OVERRUN WITH BOTH DEER AND ANTELOPE. They destroy a huge percentage of our crops. Combine the deer and antelope seasons and issue at least 20% more licenses for out of state hunters.
- 1235 Its hard hunting deer in walk- in areas when adjacent land is closed or require payment to hunt.
- 1247 In the 2008 atlas, you listed county lines, and had easier to see mile markers. This year, it was tougher to know which county you were in and had to look really hard to see mile markers. Go back to listing them.
- 1252 A lot of the walk-in area's I saw had very little cover. Don't pay for walk-in land that land owners have over grazed or cut all the crops. That does no one good but the land owner bank account...
- 1266 Walk-areas need to have strips periodically cut through the fields. Most areas are too large for a couple of hunters to hunt.
- 1288 Saw several WIA areas that were completely bare - no cover at all. Don't know why the money was being wasted on them.
- 1293 Overall I believe the Walk-in areas are very important and a great for hunters that dont have access to private land. However, these areas often over hunted and/or are in areas that don't have the kind of habitat to support a large amount of game. Especially for deer hunting. This makes it very difficult to hunt as game is rarely seen on the plots.
- 1304 Some of the Walk-In Areas, that the state is paying for, either had livestock on it or the livestock had grazed the land so it was uninhabitable by wildlife.
- 1305 the walk in areas in turner county need alot of help the tree groves are to thick and there needs to be better access to get into them . that is the main reason why my self and my friends and family do not hunt thease areas . and the people from sioux falls should hunt there own walk in areas in minnihaha county.
- 1325 In regards to question 2 we went archery antelope hunting on the opening week and could not get a walk in atlas anywhere as they were not out yet! I think they need to be made

available earlier

- 1353 I see many Walk-In Areas that have been mowed/hayed or harvested. These areas may have been good cover for nesting but then are cut and are pretty worthless as far as hunting. I can accept it though if that's what it takes for good nesting habitat. Just seems that the landowner gets his cake and eats it too but hunters don't really get to use the walk-in.
- 1358 the more land the average joe has available the better off we are
- 1364 We just didn't get much of a chance to hunt this year due to a late harvest.
- 1365 I tried the east river muzzle-loader season for the first time this year. I probably won't do it again. Not a fan of the dec- jan season
- 1369 I only hunted on my own land this year. While I hunted pheasants 25 days I only hunted by myself on three days. The rest of the days I invited others to hunt with me free of charge. I keep a hunting diary so I know that 217 pheasants were harvested on my land this year. I have 1100 acres in Douglas County and 80 acres in Turner County. In 2008 we harvested 256 pheasants and the year before 265. Usually we harvest about 23 percent of the birds after Christmas because a lot of my friends and acquaintances have time off during the holidays and want to go hunting. This year was different because the snow storm, poor road conditions, deep snow and cold temperatures resulted in a sharply reduced interest in hunting over the holidays. I live in Sioux Falls and my land is near Armour so we must drive about 100 miles to get there. Most of my friends, their friends and other acquaintances are from the Sioux Falls area and some are from out-of-state. This year a good friend, his son and his uncle from San Antonio joined me on opening weekend. Usually about 20 or more individuals hunt with me each year. I am personally disappointed that South Dakota still allows road hunting so I don't participate in that activity nor do any of my guests when they hunt with me. We only hunt deer from stands. This year we harvested three deer and last year we harvested 12 deer. The reduced harvest was due to the unharvested corn. I am very supportive of the GF&P's efforts to increase the use of the Pheasant resource by increasing the limit in December or extending the season until the end of January. I thank you for those efforts and hope you are successful in meeting those objectives in the future.
- 1390 Wish there was slightly more walk-in area to hunt.
- 1406 Wish i went hunting more!!!
- 1411 Walk-in areas are great!!! Sometimes walk-in areas are absent of any cover for wildlife, however.
- 1415 i like the walk in areas because of the closeness to where i live, but they get hunted real hard. the 2 times i went walking in the public access i got 1 bird. they were there but very spooky. i prefer to hunt my dad's land but that is about 150 miles from where i live.
- 1435 It seems as though many areas in the Walk-In program are pretty poor wildlife habitat. But, I understand the payments to landowners are based on quality? If so I have no problem with that. But I really believe that some of these places do not deserve much compensation, because they are practically worthless (although some are pretty good quality). Then again, if there is money allocated to the program that needs to spent, then it needs to be spent.
- 1481 Some big game walk-in areas are so vast that does are not harvested and retrieved due to the distance to get them out. Horseback or pack animal retrieval should be allowed. If the land is cultivated and motorized trails exist, vehicles could be used for retrieval without damage to habitat and increased doe harvest. Motorized travel could be allowed at the end of the year when only antlerless can be harvested, again only for retrieval.
- 1491 I did not use walk in areas this year but I strongly appreciate having the access. More pheasant habitat in western SD would be greatly valued. Regards, Ron Lavielle
- 1495 I am a young hunter and without Walk-in areas I wouldn't have very many options to hunt. It gives me an opportunity to experience different land setups and areas, which will make me a more rounded hunter.

- 1496 Several of the Walk-In areas that I Prefer to hunt in had large portions that were hayed before or right after the opening of hunting season. More of the Walk-In and Game Production areas need to have food plots planted in them, and they need more varieties of food!!!! Not just corn!!!! I'd like to see more Soybeans and Mylo planted in Game Production /Walk-In areas.
- 1503 I don't believe we have as many deer in brown county as in previous years. Your killing too many deer via your youth hunts. When populations are low then lower the bag limits.....simple isn't it? Please don't have a late season in Jan or Feb. People will shoot the largest deer they see and it usually turns out to be a buck that lost his antlers....I'm against shooting does that are 3 or 4 months pregnant by then just as I am against living in a country that might soon pay to kill it's babies via Abortion.... Otherwise South Dakotas game dept. is doing a good job.....When are you going to limit these private hunting schemes....methinks there is a lot of cheating going on as there are now too many to properly monitor.....don'tcha think?? Dale Dauman old Hunter from Aberdeen goomba@nvc.net
- 1525 This year it was not necessary for me to use the Walk-In Areas, since I could hunt on private land. However, I strongly support the Walk-In Areas program and concept. Please continue this very worthwhile program.
- 1563 Walk in areas are so important for people who do not have the money or connections for private land. although i did not do alot of walk in hunting this year, i have in the past, and to be able to get free access to this land is so important.
- 1577 I think it is a great program, but I usually hunt wiht only my son and the large areas you have are often too much to hunt with any affectiveness. I would like to see smaller plots or the large ones broken up by food plots, shelter belts, etc. I also would like to see good quality walkin areas for turkey hunting.
- 1582 I think that any person that owns land in south dakota, should be able to obtain a residential deer license or land owners permit wether he/she owns 1 acre of land or 300 acres, the reason i say this is because the last 2 years i have applied for hills deer tag i have been denied, but yet im feeding deer and other wild game with hay thats intended for my horses and they drink the same water thats suppose to be for my horses and they use their shelter as well. There are about 5-10 deer every night that come onto our land and eat/waste our hay and water. I would like to know why i cannot obtain a hills deer license or land owner tag. I think you people can be a little more leniant with all of the deer around.
- 1583 Even though I have not used the walk in areas- I believe that their existence is absolutely necessary on multiple levels. Not only does it provide needed habitat for wildlife, but provides areas for hunters that do not have any access to private lands. I would encourage the State to preserve and if possible expand the availability of walk in areas.
- 1586 game wardens are getting to the point of harrassment . If any person interfered as much as they do they are given a ticket and fined!
- 1608 I hunted turkey three days and all of it was on public walk in area in northeastern SD. The habitat is excellent but I had some trouble finding signs to match the atlas. Sometimes there were signs on a piece of land but not shown in the atlas or vice versa.
- 1631 Keep getting more walk-in areas, because some day that may be the only place a person may be able to hunt.
- 1649 i think its a waste of taxpayers money to have game officers flying in airplanes, especially at night. i can understand if someone needs coyotes killed, but come on! total waste of time, and my money!!!!!
- 1663 did not hunt as much as normal but all the public land is very important to me and everyone i know

- 1664 Howdy, nice to hear you guys trying to figure out the land as usual. I extremely appreciate what you guys do. All the land and everything else. The only complaint I have, and I'm guessing you've heard this already. A few walk-in areas I hunt I was really excited about. I new they would have pheasants in them because of grouse season. But, as with any year, by the time pheasant season gets rolling the farmer has it cut down. You'd have better luck golfing out there than shooting a pheasant! They're still good for something(I call coyotes and can actually see them come in), but for those little pheasants,not so much. Of course for the young of the year its almost priceless. Of course ya need to feed cows too, but I guess thats what you guys are figuring out. Well, heres to ya and good luck! Thanks alot, Judd Geary
- 1676 As to the last question on the quality of the walk in atlas, I would like to see the map be more specific to mileage when making the map. Harding Co. does not have specific markers for all types of public land, so, having the map be accurate as for as mile markers would be very helpful.
- 1684 I only hunted private land. SOrry no opinion.
- 1688 We should have more land to hunt.
- 1728 need more walk-in areas -
- 1733 I dont understand why the waterfowl season doesnt extend later into the year...the last few years as soon as the waterfowl start migrating the season closes. What does it hurt to extend it another couple weeks. If its a numbers game Id rather see duck season start later then. Im talking mainly in regards to ducks.
- 1739 we found this hunting season would not been good without the walk-in areas; do to lack of CRP corps that was taking out of production. also, we found the Tribal hunting areas was productive with higher bird counts. would encourage Tribal and State program to continue working together increase our hunting enjoyment.
- 1743 Being a falconer, my harvest/days hunted is very low. It seems much of the walk in in the western part of the state are geared to big game. Much of the grassland walk in I see is heavily grazed to the point where it can't support grouse. I would love to see more walk in geared towards grouse habitat...with some mix of agriculture if available. Overall...I think you do a good job managing hunting opportunites in SD.
- 1772 Very poor hunting season this year but the habitat had nothing to do with it. WEATHER...
- 1775 As a landowner I would like to see a longer second season, anterless deer, so I can get more hunters there tags filled. I have more hunters asking for permission than I can allow for that period of the season.
- 1782 Many public areas were overcome by water, and some of the old public land that I use to hunt was not even accessible due to flooded roads, etc... There is too little accessible public areas ( especially for deer hunting ) and too many hunters trying to get spots.
- 1790 There is an over population of deer in north western Jones County, especially adjacent to Turner property. Our ranch had hunters almost every day of the season and harvested 29 - 30 deer. Hunting was only on part of the ranch, an area of about 1000 acres. The Dept. needs to work with Tom Lafave to let hunters harvest antlerless deer on Bad River Ranch property. We have two Michigan archery hunters that harvest a buck every year. Why can't an antlerless tag be issued with the non-resident antlered tag at no extra charge? They would be helping land owners out with the over supply of deer. I had a larger mule deer buck run into the side of my pickup and caused \$6000.00 damage. I was told I could have the deer but the antlers would be cut off. The antlers were the only thing worth salvaging on the deer. The law says I could have the deer and does not address removal of antlers. It does state I could not sell the antlers. Isn't it kind of small of the Dept. not to let someone keep antlers from an animal that caused that kind of damage to their property?

- 1809 The Game & Fish needs to give licenses to landowners and people living in the county first, then to other people. I feel that there are too many out of town and out of state people just hunting the roadways which is illegal due to the fact that they have no place to hunt. It makes me mad that of all the deer that were around this year, more local landowners will not let local people hunt. It is getting to commercialized and paid hunting is taking over. What happened to the freedom and simple joys of hunting.
- 1810 Found GPS maps unreliable for locating walk-in areas. I'm talking the colored screen and not Lat&Long # Also many signs missing and most areas had no signs indicating where walk-in stopped. Substantial landowner harrassment while Antelope hunting walk-in. Also cattle had been turned out in some areas and others had been turned so nothing but dirt. Am new to South Dakota and appreciate the effort behind walk-in areas. But it appears follow up management is needed as some landowners appear to see program as free money only. Realize effort getting walk-in property difficult but landowners who abuse program should be dropped.
- 1813 Better signs should be used to identify walk-in land and the private land it shares fences with. At least two hunters on opening day west river rifle season were "accidently" on private land and were escorted off by myself.
- 1815 My public land pheasant hunting took place near and around Sioux Falls. I just think there is too much pressure around the area; also it was in mid-November, we did not have any luck. I will probably focus on private ground pheasant hunting. I hunted public land for archery antelope north of newell, sd. I was very satisfied with that hunt. There was a good amount of land and I had several opportunities to stalk antelope. The public area maps were excellent; especially the gps downloadable options... outstanding!
- 1824 I appreciated the mixture of habitats on some walk-in areas ie cornfield next to beanfield next to tree rows and grassy areas. Will archery or rifle hunt for deer on walk-in areas next year as i saw some wonderful deer habitat and ample sign of deer.
- 1854 Black Hills deer numbers were way down. Changes need to be made in the number of does tags issued. I actually saw as many bucks as I did does.
- 1868 Great program, 100% support for this. Very valuable program for hunters seeking additional public land opportunities.
- 1878 It would be great if the land owners name was included in the wak in book. For the ease of asking permission in certain areas. Mark all boundries of lands that include walk in areas that are not near any trail or road Thank you!
- 1881 Thank you for providing the walk-in areas. It helps to make hunting possible for people like me who have limited contacts to access private land.
- 1892 likely impossible but would like some sort of list generated for those of us interested to hunt pheasant on private land to limit the number of hunters and make those hunting the land more responsible. There are many of us who would also help the landowner on the off-season with habitat, food plots, etc.
- 1913 I only hunted on my own land....
- 1917 Walk-in areas aer critical
- 1930 We got to the walk in area early to reserve our spot. People came about 11:45 15 min. before shooting time. Parked 100 ft from us and walk in. So not only did the cut us of but they went about it the wrong way, but if someone gets up early to reserve a spot. There should be certain distance specified in the hand book that a hunter has to give the right away for safer hunting!

- 1933 Do to the storm we were not able to hunt one weekend. Do to the large amount of unharvested corn we did not have as successful a season as we normally do. We have used the walk in areas in the past but due to the large amount of standing water and comments by people that did hunt walkin around Aberdeen about the amount of water we did not this year. The GF&P is doing an excellent job as demonstrated by the amount of wildlife there is in South Dakota. If there is a chance for an extended season I would be in favor of extending.
- 1938 Both my son and I feel that the Walk In Area program is a lousy program designed for hunters to be able to violate trespassing laws. Walk In areas are not marked very well, on all ends of the Walk In property. Thus, hunters just continue beyond the limits of the Walk In property. The notice in the book that the hunter is responsible to know these limits is small comfort to landowners, since most Walk In properties are poorly supervised by the Game Fish and Parks. It is not their fault, but a lack of enough staff to ensure that Walk In areas rules are properly followed. Thus, it falls on the backs of the neighboring landowners to maintain their property borders. This year we had a group of four hunters during rifle season trespass onto our hunting land from a Walk In Area and shoot in our direction. We did report this to the sheriff and the Game Fish and Parks, but we feel that the problem is not remedied. Thus, instead of us enjoying a hunt on private land, we are expected to "patrol" our properties against these hunters, who would not be there if they did not first begin to hunt in the Walk In Areas. We feel STRONGLY that this program should be done away with, if it continues in its current state. We will speak with landowners we know and encourage them to either drop this program or to avoid it. We will also speak to our local legislative representatives about this problem, and ask them to address it.
- 1943 Did not have any 2009 Walk-In Area Atlas available
- 1950 The walk-in areas I hunted were the Grand River National Grasslands
- 1975 I think the walk in programs are a good program if the landowner keep some of the walk in area for wildlife. We have hunted walk in area in Lyman Co for deer in the past and part of the land was cut for hay and part of the land was left for the wildlife. This year the land was all put up for hay and a jackrabbit couldn't find a place to hide let alone a deer. If a landowner is going to collect money for walk in, I think they should have some type of cover for the wildlife. If he is going to farm or hay the who piece of property, he should not collect a walk in payment.
- 1987 I didn't use any of the walk-in areas.
- 1991 Sorry I can't give you better answers. I was busy combining and did not have time to hunt.
- 1995 I quit hunting in the west river areas, even in the public areas because the landowners harass the hunters whenever they can.
- 2000 Walk-In land, other than public land, is primarily the only land accessible for me to hunt. South Dakota hunters are being forced away from access to our natural resources (wildlife). We are regressing into what our founding fathers fought to get away from - exclusive hunting by the rich and private land barons. Every year we regress a little more. Please keep the walk-In, waterfowl access, GPA, etc, etc. Thanks, Dean A. Hyde 703 N Madison Pierre, SD 57501 tel# (605) 224-5443
- 2014 Most walk in areas that we say were absolutely void of any cover. Especially east river. Who needs to walk an overgrazed pasture to find a pheasant. They won't be there.

- 2029 I was fortunate to have access to private land. Without it, the walk-in areas would have been essential to my opportunity to hunt. I did notice, however, that there were a few areas with unharvested soybeans at the time the season was on, and I would not consider them to be usable as a walk-in area due to the standing crop. I suggest that a change be made in the hunting areas for deer seasons: Specifically, that the county/area for which the license is issued include a 1-mile extension into any bordering South Dakota counties. I have hunted depredation seasons in the past where all involved areas were on county lines, leading me to believe that hunting pressure (and resulting harvest) was less near the county lines, either because deer could escape to an adjacent county or hunters chose to hunt in areas where they would be able to pursue game without a limitation of the county hunted.
- 2046 I have never had a successful hunt in a walk-in area. Alfalfa and pheasants are both native to China and go together. Gophers, voles, and sparrows are the primary inhabitants of walk-in areas.
- 2060 Most deer were already ran out of most areas by the time The Firearm Season was open.
- 2061 A longer season (especially antelope) would better fit my schedule.
- 2062 I did not use any walk-in areas because there were too many people in them when we were there to hunt
- 2087 I downloaded the public land/walk-in area information on to my GPS and found that to be the most useful tool that GF&P has created.
- 2095 No complaints from me. I am very happy with the program, just hope it can continue to increase in acreage.
- 2096 The wildlife always seemed to go into the unharvested crop land. Modern farming makes the rows too narrow to walk.
- 2098 I have not used the walk-in areas but I like the idea of them. I was unaware there was an atlas of the walk-in areas wider distribution of this would be appreciated.
- 2109 My father and my brother used areas around Huron for pheasants. They had a dog and did ok during youth hunt and first weekend. After that they were crowded out by out of state hunters. They ran into one guy alone with a dog and watched him shoot six birds. He said he was with a large group and he usually provided most of the pheasants. They also said they tried walking most all the areas around Huron and only found that they were able to walk in one specific area west of town. All the others were just too thick to walk through. Even with a dog they had no luck in the other areas. They also said that in the one area they enjoyed, one specific field produced the vast majority of shooting and that they did not find that specific type of vegetation in any of the other walk-in areas they tried. Deer hunting was crazy with all the hunters driving everywhere in pickups. We sat one evening in a ground blind in the very middle of a section where we know we were the only ones with permission only to have a pickup drive up on us right at sunset. It is also a little scary to be out sitting for deer when shots are being fired from most roads in the area.
- 2121 The walk-in, gpa, and wpa program is great! Keep up the good work. Late harvests, and a lot of snow made it difficult to find game this year. I suspect deer numbers will be up for next year in my area (Union County, N. of Elk Point). As for pheasant, there just aren't enough birds in Union county to start a population, and habitat other than public land is hard to find for them. To find birds you must go at least an hour west, north-west. A little frustrating! First year for a "goose egg" on deer and pheasant! Andrew Garlinghouse
- 2122 IT would tuff hunting with out the walk in land
- 2127 really dont like walk in for Ive farmed my entire life and weeds are a major problem. plus the return to the area in taxes is little or none, I dont really like any government interference in land management for it likd of like washington when government gets involvrd it is poorly handled Just my opinion dont mean no disrespect. Ive feed and protected wild life my entire life and feel land ownership is losing control of it thank you richard lester

- 2186 although I did not use walk-in areas this year I believe they are a great asset for hunters as I have used them in the past.
- 2195 I hunt with bow & rifle. I hunt deer with bow mainly in Lake County on friends land. I have two trail camera and have never saw so few deer since I,ve had these cameras, there was a period of six days there was nothing. The same in Miner County, Green Valley township, not much of anything. The deer population is down considerably in the areas we hunt. There are six of us that rifle hunt and only one shot a deer as we hardly saw any. I bow hunted more hours than I have for years and didn,t see any deer to shoot except for one doe that was seventy yards and in shelter belt and too far away to shoot at anyway. Many of my acquaintences that hunt deer shared the same experiences as far as deer numbers. I believe GFP issued to many doe permits over the years and this is the result. The area Locker plants have not processed near the deer the have in the past.
- 2210 Hunted walk-in areas in several previous years - never saw a bird - don't hunt walk-ins anymore.
- 2222 It is great to have land out there to hunt open to the public. Usually the land should be a great spot for birds just did not see the birds we wanted in the areas we walked this year.
- 2223 the drawing and licensing program for deer and antelope is mismanaged. the season and county limitations for whitetail is a huge handicap for the legal hunter ie: it is very expensive to harvest animals legally and inexpensively. if you would be able to default to adjoining counties and pay slightly less for tags you would see a bigger turnout in hunters and the gfp would see a bigger turn around in the profit margin, and would be able to manage the wildlife and hunting experience a little better. also when you mail out the surveys to females make them the same colors as the males,not fucking pink. save it for breast cancer and mothers day. otherwise im very satisfied with the outdoor sports in our state we have a nice little slice of heaven and need to take care of it. oh yeah when you purchase a license it should be valid for 365 days and not on a fixed annual calender
- 2224 I think that if there was more money given to the private landowner more people would put their private into walkin. All the animals just head to the private land when it comes to the season and we as landowners are then overrun for the rest of the year after season. We have deer destroying our hay every night.
- 2230 From past experience using our states walk-in areas-I am extremely satisfied with the layout of them and the fact that they are simply available to the general public . Thank you
- 2236 As a land owner and hunter i believe that the pheasant season runs to long in years when we have a lot of snow and feed and cover is limited do to snow.
- 2248 All pheasant and deer hunting was totally diminished this year due to weather and the corn crops not being harvested. I have used walk in areas in the past for pheasants and feel they will become much more necessary in the future. I also think deer seasons should be modified and extended when we have a year such as this. First none were seen due to corn fields not picked and then blizzard conditions making it impossible to hunt due to huge amounts of snow.
- 2251 Lisenses Cost to much
- 2261 for this page you should offer an option " did not hunt walk in areas"
- 2272 Areas are very over-hunted and without a dog, the become very hard to hunt
- 2277 take some money and plant food plots for everything get rid of the coyotes and lets put animals back in to our hunting areas. I heard alot of outof staters complain about their hunting and not coming back that takes away from our state revinue cause they stay in our hotels eat at our resturants we better start giving them something to come back for.
- 2282 Not enough places to hunt. Overly crowded to waterfowl hunt.
- 2283 JUST DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME THIS YEAR HOPEFULLY 2010 WILL BE MY YEAR FOR HUNTING. I LOVE IT
- 2315 I hunt nearly all deeded land.
- 2322 Thank you for all you do, to keep hunting alive in SD

- 2331 I apologize that I'm not able to offer any input with regard to the Walk-in areas...I am very fortunate that my family has land that we are able to hunt on. I know SEVERAL people that are not as fortunate as myself and feel that it is very important that Walk-in areas and public land is available in order to keep these people involved with outdoor sports in South Dakota. It's an important part of where we live and we need to ensure that families that are not land owners have a place to go that they do not need to PAY to hunt. We have young children and feel that this is a special opportunity that we have to be able to raise them with this experience we enjoy hunting and fishing as a family. It truly allows us to spend time together without tv, video games etc. and shows our children that we value the time that we have with them! Keep up the great work!!!
- 2340 The staff trys their best. We have alot to be thankful for as sportsman in this state.
- 2345 The printed maps are invaluable to the walk in program and to the hunter. When driving around found that some of the walk-in signs had been taken down, therefore making the hunter unsure if the land can be hunted. Great job on the Brown County area!
- 2363 The walk-in areas are a good program. It gives many young hunters with out land or access to land an excellent place to hunt. I only took advantage on a limited scale but they were nice to have.
- 2364 Some walk in areas were hard to find a way into.
- 2376 Huron Area
- 2380 deer season was to short The corn was out late,so the deer were in the corn. It made it really tuff to find deer. If the population is so high why such a short season? Even the extended seem short.
- 2396 By the time I hunt pheasant, the walk-in areas pretty well have been hunted out. That being said, I believe these areas are extremely valuable for pheasant production and early hunting. All the walk-in areas I have seen are wonderful habitats and obviously being used by various wildlife, including pheasant. I have no doubt that these walk-in areas are great to hunt early in the season. And I also have no doubt that wildlife returns to these areas once the hunting pressure is relieved at the end of each season. Keep the walk-in areas and keep up the good work!
- 2397 Survey should be sent out closer to the season for antelope & deer. As it it is sometimes difficult to remember just which areas you spent more time on your hunting days. Or send out information at the start of the season, making hunters aware of what they may be requested to answer on a possible survey.
- 2408 Early in the seasons it was difficult to find the areas not being used by other hunters, but latter in the season especially after the Christmas snow it was not very busy but extremely difficult to get to even with a 4 wheel drive Jeep. I greatly appreciated the areas, I usually always get a few birds but more importantly it provided for me an area to hunt or in most cases just get outside and enjoy the outdoors. Thanks for all your efforts, S.Caron
- 2433 Not sure if I hunted in a walk in area or not. The two times I hunted it was on land that was west of Lake Thompson and Lake Henry
- 2434 walk in areas are often very barren--no game. you shouldn't pay these farmers/ranchers for land that does not hold game.

- 2439 I do realize, as a land owner, that walk-in can be harvested prior to the seasons and be devoid of any vegetation and that is stated in the walk-in book. However, as a hunter I should think there needs to be some sort of provision that a portion must remain for animals, birds and hunters. Possibly strips or a corner or deep fence row might be a possibility. Really nothing worse than finding a disked or barren piece of blow sand after a long drive to hunt a 'prime' walk-in area. I do think walk-in and road ditches are very important but just a bit of stubble would be nice for hunters. I have also noticed this year the number of atv and 'quads' has increased along with these individuals finding there way off the section lines and into the walk-in areas only. I mentioned this to one and he just shrugged it off as if he had super permission since he was for some southern state. This was not appreciated by any of us walkers. Could something be expressed in bold type in the State regulations addressing this problem?
- 2440 Second year hunting. I went Bow hunting on Private Land, but I'm hoping to have a deer rifle next year. I love hunting in South Dakota - I just don't know alot about it yet.
- 2441 This was an unusual year for harvesting crops. In the areas I hunted, the abundance of corn caused the walk in locations to be mostly void after being hunted a couple of times, and didn't become real good again until December. The holidays week was also bad for the walk ins due to the blizzards. Now that the commodities have 'normalized' prize wise, we may have a slow down of the removal of CRP, which many of us sportsmen will be grateful for. Several of the CRP fields that were over the past years, also walk in areas, have gone back to cultivated land. Having more of that area to hunt last year, allowed me far more opportunities to use walk in areas. Similar to this year, however, we only hunted them primarily during the Columbus weekend. Then the birds went to the corn and flowers. I'm still looking forward to goose hunting this 'season', but the weather isn't conducive at present, and the birds are not IN the area (Gettysburg) I hunt around. Hopefully that will change, and some will return. That happened for a couple of weeks last year, and we had several good shoots.
- 2443 Not enough walk in around Aberdeen SD Depridation shuld not be allowed to farmers that deny hunters on their land, More clarity on markings for walkins. Should have extended the buck tags to as the corn was preventing successful hunt
- 2456 Please allow for a larger daily bag limit of canada geese during the early season. If the goal of the state is to reduce burgeoning canada goose populations, let us do just that. The program to aquire access to land from farmers in SE sodak and in turn ask hunters to "sign up" to hunt these properties was a joke. I'm all for hunter access if it is opening up new land that owners have never allowed hunting on before. In this case however, land owners that already allowed hunting on their land were removed from the equation, and in the process less geese were killed than in previous years in the same locations. the money spent on that program could have been better spent in my opinion doing more public relations work with land owners to promote hunters as a tool and suggest to them allowing more access to land rather than put it in the hands of G F & P.
- 2462 I have been hunting since I was 12 years old. I am now 62 and have slowed down alot. I have many wonderful memories of hunting private, public and walkin areas over the 50 years. Hunting with my older brothers in my earlier years of hunting, there was railroad tracks, which was always good for a limit of pheasants by walking a mile out of town with my single shot 410. Today it has, in my opinion, become much harder for youth to become hunters. It has become more of a rich man's sport. Gas, licenses, closed commercial private land, more leased land by farmers, more restrictive laws, etc. I know we can't go back to the good ole days when land was open to hunting unless it was posted or a non-harvested field. GF&P has done a good job on helping the beginning hunter have some land to hunt on by purchasing some marginal farm land for hunting and providing walk-in land. I think it is important for the hunter and the economy of the state of South Dakota to have this available to hunters, who don't have private land connections and for out of state hunters to have some land to hunt. I would suggest that more license fee money be put toward

purchasing marginal farm (hunting) land for the next generation hunters. I think the walk-in farm land should be evaluated closer to make sure the land being leased for walkin is good hunting land otherwise it is a waste of money. Maybe some programs could be set up to allow 10-12 year olds to be able to hunt with parent or guardian without a license. Giving out more warning tickets and less tickets to those with very minor hunting infractions. I have never gotten a ticket for a hunting violation in my 50 years of hunting, I am not personally complaining. I would just like GF&P to be as hunter friendly as possible. I know GF&P has come along ways in this direction over the past few years and would like to see you work more in this direction. The main reason I hunt anymore is for the exercise and fellowship of hunting with brothers, relatives and friends. I do hope we see an increase in young hunters enjoying the outdoors in the future.

- 2475 i have never really had to use walk in areas. So i guess i don't know the logistics of them. but anywhere there is habitat created for wildlife to thrive, it is a good thing. especially for outdoorsman.
- 2476 I returned to hunting pheasants after a 25 year hiatus. I do not have access to private land and hunted exclusively on public land. Because I was limited to hunting public land, I did not hunt the early part of the season. I believe that I purchased my license on Nov. 15 and from there to the end of the season I hunted eight times, the last day being Jan. 3. With respect to the walk in program. I downloaded the GPS data and did a limited review of the land close to Brookings (I live in Brookings.). I did not hunt any walk in areas but regard the concept as important and look forward to making greater use of these areas next fall.  
Arden B. Sigl
- 2477 i used walk in Out west in harding county for bow antelope,,, i really enjoyed it but did not use it any place else,,, thanks for your help to find us a place to hunt. jay bigge
- 2479 Just didn't have much time to hunt this year. I've always been satisfied with the opportunities the Walk In Areas offer, but don't have a dog anymore. I'll be 'workin them MORE next year when I have the ability to 'lean on the friends I have that want me to hunt with them and their 'pups! You guys do a good job and don't receive half 'enuf credit for what's available to us here in SD!
- 2481 while the atlas seems to be very detailed I often questioned myself because not all the places notede in the atlas coincided with clearly visible signage
- 2484 A lot of the walk-in areas (southwest Perkins county) had absolutely no habitat on them. Makes me wonder why we spent the money on it at all. I would like to see the mile markers on the atlas, makes it a lot easier to make sure I am in the right area.
- 2496 without walk-in areas, I wouldn't hunt in South Dakota. It's what makes our state great
- 2508 the new walk in atlas was great except for one huge problem, your could not see the section marks as in the past. that made knowing section lines a lot harder. also i think GFP should go out and survey the ground that they are putting in walkin. most is grazed down to nothing or still has cows on it. with absoulutely NO GAME on it. this makes everyone hunt the same little patches that actually hold deer. the 3000 acres that i hunted 6 days had anywhere for 5 people to 16. that is way to many in one location. most all the deer in this area got harvested.if ranchers will not let hunters on there land, which is fine since it is their land, they should not recieve any deperdation money.
- 2511 Walk-in Areas are a waste of money, poor habitat, too many hunters. I would prefer some type of payment to the landowners who allow moderate hunting opportunities. Any land needs to be managed to control amount of hunting on the property, they know!!!! It's just too easy to enter poor land into the walk-in program, shame on GFP. Suggest only allowing good hunting property into the program and then somehow manage the amount of hunting same. Hard I know, but it's the only way this could work. If hunting is available to all, they will screw it up. Suggest that GFP commission form a group of landowners and sportsman to work something out. I volunteer.

- 2520 Need to make some Walk-In Areas (WIAs) species specific (i.e. if want to make a good area for deer, consider not having pheasant hunting on that area possible 2 or 3 weeks in advance of the deer season opener. Need to approach more landowners to get more acres enrolled in WIAs, and GFP needs to increase the \$\$ slightly to get more people to enroll. Consider more \$\$ in areas where people may want a "Trophy" area or at least a chance at a trophy. Most land West River is leased for Mule deer, but if GFP put some \$\$ down for a lease on a large amount of area with good habitat and then limited the number of buck hunters to that area--maybe some people would have better chances at good bucks---instead of just does. CHAP programs is great but I think if GFP increased the \$\$ and approached individual landowners about leasing (i.e. WIA, etc.) perhaps there would be greater areas for people to really enjoy.--East river, the WIA is a success for pheasants---there just isn't enough acres to keep if from getting over-hunted. WIA is great---only suggestion would be to have each map overlap the other one slightly, so there aren't areas that are covered by the boundaries of each square! Good job GFP---keep up the good work!!!
- 2529 This year, I only drew out for west river rifle white tail deer. There were not a lot of good quality bucks in the areas we hunted. However, there were several quality mule deer bucks. It seems to me that the white tail population needs a few years to grow and mature. I would recommend that only any deer tags are issued west river. This will allow the white tail population to increase and produce higher quality deer while still keeping the populations of mule deer and white tail in check.
- 2538 gps maps are great almost impossible to get lost. Very helpful in harding co
- 2543 difficult year--too much water in the fields early left the walk-in areas with a lot of hunters and few birds (too much cover in the fields). this exceptional situation affected my satisfaction with the walkin land but not the value of the program. keep up the good work!
- 2555 Way to many hunter . It was like a war zone at time some one will get killed .
- 2556 Its hard to get a place to hunt west river private land, public land is over hunted
- 2560 I know that this survey was in reference to Walk-In area in specific, but I am going to address another issue in regard to public hunting grounds. the state is in charge of the care for our Waterfowl production area as well as our Game production area. Where I live near Colton, SD. I have a couple of public hunting grounds that have been hayed so that there was no cover left on the ground, plowed so that there was no cover left on the ground, and farmed so that there was no cover left on teh ground. What the hell is the point of paying moneys in through gun, shells, licenses purchased to have that money spent to maintain ground that is nothing but a barren black waste land when it is finally hunting season in the Fall? How frustrating it is to have anticipation of places that you have hunted in the past, public hunting that you would expect is going to be there year in and year out. Go there and find it a waste land. Farmed Flat. Mowed flat. Cattle trampled flat. Come on guys, how about a little common sense and lets utilize our resources a little better. Help out the common guy that can't afford any greater luxury in life than the simple pleasure of watching his dog work the cover of a crisp warm Fall dayt and maybe bagging a bird or two. Robert Keys
- 2571 I did not use walk in areas as I have access to private land but feel they are a good idea. I also worry about the loss of habitat occurring due to all the tiling that has been happening in eastern SD. Low areas such as sloughs and draws can make great habitat. Instead of signing up large blocks of land for CRP, it would be nice to see small willow-filled draws and sloughs dotting every section.
- 2580 Access is the key!! Most hunters can't afford to pay for access so any program that works to gain more access for hunters is a good thing!
- 2595 East River Rifle season was real difficult due to the amount of crops still in the field, and still in the field as of 1/3/10
- 2596 Maps were harder to read this year.

- 2597 As an instructor for NBEF in SD for the archery program, I feel public land access and walk in area programs are one of the most important aspects of keeping the sport of hunting available to all folks. It is one of the most asked questions I get from new hunters (Where can I hunt?). I strongly endorse and highly recommend the continuation and funding of all forms of public access to quality hunting grounds.
- 2598 erwalk in areas need to cover more river bottom area
- 2601 Disappointed in a couple walk-in areas that didn't get harvested two years in a row until after the hunting season was over. Seems to me if you get paid to let people hunt it should get harvested. They have signs put up so you can't hunt the unharvested corn.
- 2611 didn't do any hunting this past year
- 2616 To much crop in the fields for good pheasant hunting in our area of the state.
- 2621 I would use Walk In land more but to many people use it and most aren't very thoughtful of other hunters.
- 2633 In this day and age, South Dakota should be proud of its Walk-In Area Program. However, in the current budgetary and economic climate, we must not allow the Program to backslide. Maintain a strong Program - one in which landowners and hunters both continue to benefit. Thanks for all the work you do!
- 2652 did not use walk in areas.
- 2667 I really would have liked for an extended season on pheasants or higher limit because of a late harvest and late season snow.
- 2679 We need more walk-in areas around the state.
- 2681 I wish the dates for hunting were more clear. You have to search for when the dates are okay to hunt for the second season. Also if you can use up your deer tags during antelope season. The information is there, but I think it should be the first thing printed on the print outs that are given with the tags. A very small thing, but it would make a handy reference.
- 2687 I had some health issues so did not make it out hunting this year but I did get around the country. We have the best walk in areas in the nation, you guys do a great job of managing our money through the Dept. of Fish and Game and providing us with places to hunt. Keep up the good work so our children and the future generations have a place to hunt. Thanks.
- 2692 I do enjoy hunting in South Dakota. I am active duty Air Force stationed in the United Kingdom. I plan my leave back to South Dakota based on hunting season. I love the fact that I can go hunt in so many different spots. The atlas is usually pretty accurate, but sometimes boundaries are not clearly identified. I come to an unmarked fence/gate that appears to be private, but on the map shows public, or go to an area that is marked public and find a posted sign from the GFP. Overall, there are many other places to go. I don't like to see all the ATV's. I have watched numerous people coming out of hunting areas on ATV's loaded with game. I did not witness the harvest, but have on many other occasions seen ATV's running down game to get a closer shot. Not very sportsman-like if you ask me. I do enjoy being able to drive my truck into areas, but ATV's don't stay on the roadways. ATV's shouldn't be allowed into public areas. They are an unfair advantage and game is taken in unethical ways from them.
- 2701 Did not hunt any walk in areas this year
- 2704 Walk-in-area atlas was easy to use.
- 2723 The huge decrease in walk-in areas in good pheasant country is concerning. Also, it appears from driving by some of the walk-in areas in western S.D. that they lack the habitat for productive hunting. We should not be paying land owners for poor hunting areas. It would be better to pay more to the better areas so the hunting experience is enjoyable and productive.
- 2725 I used walk-in areas extensively while bowhunting deer & antelope, and rifle hunting coyotes. It's nice to be able to go somewhere new and hunt, but I prefer to hunt private land with a gun if possible. I really enjoy public land with my bow. The atlas is very helpful, also. Good

Job!

- 2728 Some of the walk-ins in the unit we were in (15b) were so overpopulated with hunters that we couldn't hunt very well, and many of the walk-ins were surrounded by private property, so there was no access to them.
- 2735 East River Hunting in Codington County is a total joke. I hunted pretty much everyday, with a doe tag all across Codington County, and never hardly seen a deer. I hunt with my aunt, uncle, and cousin, and all together we ended up shooting two deer that had been wounded by archery hunters. THINGS NEED TO CHANGE!!!! Or I along with many other hunters will go elsewhere to hunt besides SD, because it is not worth it. Archery hunters need there season shortened and licenses limited. Also tags for rifle hunters need to be shortened as well. I have been very dissatisfied with rifle hunting the last 3 years. It has been the same song and dance. And many people I talk to say the same thing. South Dakota should also consider only allowing residents to have one buck per year. Whether it be archery or rifle. There is no need for residents to need two bucks a year. We have also hunted walk in areas as well. You walk and walk, and you never see a thing. Hope my input is valued. Looking forward to maybe see some changes in 2010.
- 2737 the second week for antelope was very poor this year only seen three the hole four days I HEARD FIRST WEEKEND WAS VERY GOOD I GUSS IT IS THE LUCK OF THE DRAW THANKS I CAN NOT WAIT TO GET MY SON HUNTING HE IS TEN
- 2749 I've hunted walk-in areas before in 2007 and 2008 and was very satisfied with the hunts. The cover was great. We had to work very hard but we got a few birds.
- 2755 I think the Walk-in program is a good program. I just don't get to utilize it like I would like to. It is probably very useful to the people that don't have access to private land.
- 2763 Im from marshall county and now live in watertown sd. and marshall county has the best walk in, in the state. But its starting to disappear. Walk in program is the best deal ever made for the common family. We need more though. Because their way to much pressure on the land from out of states and paid hunting (yes i know they can't hunt on it, but they do). And i see alot of CRP that was taken out last 2 yrs and yet their still in walk in areas..with corn still in the fields come january, (2yrs in arrow). They need to put more money into quality NEW CRP that's inrolled now. . . . And why have GFP stop buying land in Marshall County, their has been alot of good land for sale and they don't even put a bid in, instead paid hunting gets it. Paid hunting is ruining hunting..and they need to be regulated. period,,,,, thank you, Ryan Roehr....P.S., why in the world does these preserves need more pheasants to kill, that is the biggest joke ever made, its not hunting anymore its just killing. limit should go back to 15 ..20 is wrong..i think the game commission is more about the money than the average person, but i don't blame them, i blame the governor (a joke)
- 2773 I thought the hunting atlas was a hard read, it should be broke down by county, than detail that county with the roads. Than the table of contents should point out where to find the appropriate county. I figured it out but it seemed like I had to search for a bit to find the right county or area!
- 2779 Mapping could be more clear for walk in areas.

- 2785 The public hunting areas are a great program but it seems like half of the ground has no cover do to harvest or other stuff and the other half of the public land is so over hunted there is no game in it by the time pheasant season has been open a few weeks. I was so dissatisfied by the east river deer hunt this year I don't know if I will hunt it next year. Problem number 1 is bow hunting is getting out of hand. They get too long of a season and they wound more deer than they kill. I know of 5 deer that were shot this year that went to waste because the animal had been wounded by a bow and meat was bad. The other problem is that the deer get driven off of the public land and a hand full of land owners end up with 85% of the deer on there land. I would see 40 plus deer standing in fields of different land owners and not one of them would let anyone hunt them. No one is going to tell me that there is a shortage of game, there is a shortage of good hunting land.
- 2786 without these areas some people would not have a place to hunt
- 2807 leased hunting has taken away most of my private land options of the past, so walk-in areas are becoming very important.
- 2810 Need to post walk-in area better. Signage many times missing. Walk-in Areas should have some vegetation on. Many of the walk-in areas are bare agricultural land or pastures that have been grazed to such and extent that a grasshopper can't survive on it. Also, better directions to walk-in areas. The atlas must be up to date when printed and not some old info from the previous year.
- 2833 Many of the walk in areas do not have good cover for hunting, but It is a valuable resource I hate to see any of it lost, but many times I drive to a spot on the map only to find it had been pastured, or baled. I do not like all the restrictions with the mentor program! What made you think it needed more rules and regulations?? Soon we will not have any hunters. The field wardens come at us with the mind set that we are guilty of something and that they need to just keep looking and asking question after question trying to come up with something. All my hunting buddies have hung up the guns, not worth the hassel anymore. A great and successfull arm of the government that is just becoming another bloated bureaucracy.
- 2836 Don't like to see livestock in walk in areas- they are oftentimes small and not able to hunt with cattle nearby
- 2844 It was hard to find a walkin area in both West & East river areas that didn't have cattle in them. It seems the cattle were put out there just prior to opening season.
- 2855 Pheasant numbers seemed down for the Northeast part of state. Mainly due to cover. Seen a lot of deer West river however no real mature bucks, I guess thats how they get big. Good year for Game and Fish keep up the good work. Hopefully the river fishes like it did last year!
- 2858 Need more food plots on walk in areas. The atlas should show the access to remote walk-in areas by highlighting the roads. We tried to find one area in the atlas but could not find the road (or path) that went in to the area. We ended up on some private land that and wondered if we were tresspassing.
- 2867 Even though I didn't hunt on Walk-In areas this year or the last several years, I used to hunt those areas quite a bit years ago. Please keep the program, and expand it, for those hunters who don't have access to private land. I believe the program can encourage landowners to maintain good wildlife habitat.
- 2870 This years East River Deer Rifle season was a disaster. Between GF&P shortening the season, the extremely late harvest, and then the Christmas Blizzard - It was impossible to find any deer. Now, not only will my freezer be empty for the next year, but the already critically oversized deer population will only get larger. Not a single person I know was able to fill a deer tag this year. The only reasonable thing the GF&P could do is to extend the Doe-Only rifle season - or refund the cost of the tags. The now larger deer herds will only mean one thing - even more car v. deer crashes - More unnecessary costs to the citizens of South Dakota. Please explain how this is "Responsible deer management"

- 2873 I hunt Turkey both spring and fall and Walk-Ins are almost exclusively the areas I hunt. There are prairie dogs on many Walk-Ins I hunt that I would target in the summer, but according to the Walk-In book, summer time hunting is not allowed. Because I hunt big game most of the time on Walk-Ins, I am a strong supporter of the program. I'm afraid if it were limited, it would funnel too many hunters towards the other "public" lands and greatly diminish the current high quality hunting I am experiencing. Downloading the Hunting atlas to my GPS is a very nice feature! While hunting, it completely eliminates the concern of where the boundaries are.
- 2884 Several points: 1) The Walk-In Area Atlas this year did not show the section corners with a + as before, making it more difficult and less accurate in determining where the walk-in areas were located and where I was in relation to them. 2) Some of the walk-in areas are ridiculously large covering multiple sections without reasonable access. One has to wonder, is this done for bragging rights by and among those individuals signing up the acreage? Is it some favoritism and/or payoff scheme to special landowners? What is the value of such ridiculously large tracts? Exactly who and how many people actually venture out several miles on foot, and how many times will those who do actually venture this far do it more than once? Such tracts are a poor utilization of financial resources for no or only a very few hunters. This is a waste and the money should be put to use on smaller tracts reasonably distributed so most hunters, not merely a tiny fraction, could use the resource. 3) With few exceptions, the walk-in areas are short grass lands, substantially grazed and/or mowed. Essentially no habitat and no game. Why sign it up? For whose benefit? Maybe it looks good on paper and the plats, but what a shameful waste of money. 4) While hunting the walk-in area located immediately southeast of East Lemmon Lake near the Corson-Perkins County line I was somewhat near the middle of the field when a small pickup approached me coming across the field towards me at speeds I estimate approaching 50 mph and came to a skidding stop immediately in front of me. The guy inside was identified as a Mr Barnes I'm estimating about 35 years old with a gun beside him. He was enraged, cussing and swearing at me beyond control for apparently driving on the section line, as my hunting partner had driven the vehicle on the section line, and was waiting for me in the vehicle. Our vehicle never left the section line. When I asked him what he was doing driving out in the middle of the field to me, he replied "I own this land." Immediately following this incident and before and as we were leaving, I observed him transporting deer hunters in his pickup. I don't think this person warrants payment for walk-in area whatsoever.
- 2891 Please continue to expand the walk-in program! It is a great program. I do all my hunting on walk-in and public lands.
- 2895 Although I did not use walk in areas extensively, those areas took pressure off of other areas that I preferred to hunt or were closer for me. The biggest issue I hear about walk in areas is the lack of habitat in certain stands as that habitat would relate to pheasant hunting. I believe the state does enroll some marginal areas but I assume those areas receive smaller payments. Overall i feel the wildlife land managers do a great job in providing great opportunities!
- 2897 WELL YOU ASKED Why cant us muzzleloader people hunt the last week before rifle season with the archery hunters and again after rifle is over?? #2 I would like a breakdown on how the preference point system is used in the CSP elk drawing. Im not gettin any younger and I hear of many people with less than 15 years of preference drawing. Please reply. Thank you Steve Doyle bsdoyle@svtv.com
- 2902 Private land access is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain for the average hunter. In order to preserve the hunting heritage in SD that we all grew up with, the State is going to have to try and do as much as possible to give our future generations the opportunity to hunt. In our ever deteriorating social structure, we need hunting to be strong and to try and hang onto those fundamental strenghts of past generations. In the age of video games, cable tv and the internet, we need to offer a better alternative to our future generations.....Shawn Chase

- 2903 You see a lot of walk in areas that are cut or plowed. Nothing there to hunt??? I do like the walk in areas where there is cover.
- 2905 I realize more acres of walk-in could be hard to find and maybe expensive, but a few more acres would be great if the walk-in is not a harvested field or a bare piece of ground like I have seen before.
- 2906 We need more public walk in areas and more CRP acres
- 2913 I think the walk in area is a good deal, but the locals don't get to use it as much because of the people coming in from other areas.
- 2915 did not draw tag
- 2921 I hunted two west river units this year. One of these 21-B has only one Walk-in Area that is usually very crowded. The other one was the northern part of Meade co. and there is no or very public land available to hunt. I wish there was more.
- 2923 Have never hunted a walk-in area.
- 2928 I did not hunt in 2009 due to illness. I like to pheasant and elk hunt but it is very difficult to get an elk license. I have 10 preference points for the various elk licenses but cannot draw a license in the Black Hills or Custer State park.
- 2930 For the most part I like the walk-in areas. Some of the walk in areas are very short of cover which makes that area almost non productive.
- 2931 I did not use public walk-in areas this year. I do believe that walk-in areas are essential. When hunting on private land I use the walk-in philosophy, I park inside the landowners gate then walk.
- 2932 My experience has been that most of these walkin areas attract the slob/inconsiderate hunters, especially east river, that is why I avoid them as much as possible!!!!
- 2937 While not utilizing Walk-In Areas this year, when I have rifle antelope tags, my favorite spot is a very large piece of Walk-In area in Harding County. I may not bring home a wall hanger, but I'm willing to strap on a pack and make a day of it. I like it because I have never seen another hunter where I go. I see them driving on the BLM and private lands in the distance, but they don't come into the Walk-In. I am very much in favor of this program, as I feel it offers a more traditional hunting area and not merely driving around until a hunter happens to kick up something running from the vehicle.
- 2939 There is not enough walk-in areas for the residents and all the visitors in this state.
- 2940 I am very disappointed in the amount of public land that is available to hunt on for deer or small game. It is very hard to get private land to hunt on unless you are willing to pay big dollars to hunt, especially deer, and I don't have that kind of money to spend. The public land is so heavily hunted that it makes it hard to get a quality hunt (deer especially) and there are so many hunters that hunt public land that I have not even applied for a east river deer tag for many years.
- 2944 I filled this survey out for both myself and my husband.. we had a good year, even with all the snow and cold weather we were happy with our hunting this year.
- 2950 Great job. Without this program I would probably be unable to hunt in SD due to commercialization of private land and fee hunting. Thanks for the hard work.
- 2953 I did not hunt any walk-in areas this year but have in the past and think they are a great opportunity for many hunters.
- 2954 could not draw any licenses for anything last year in south dakota
- 2963 Walk in areas typically are hit hard, have not so good habitat, and few birds.
- 2971 In general I will drive the extra mile to look at a piece of waterfowl production or WPA ground to see if it's worth hunting. Walk in areas I won't because they may be nice and large on the map but often the cover is poor or they are pieces of harvested farm ground with nothing to hold birds.
- 2985 make the atlas bigger, similar to the one you had a few years ago that were county by county.

- 2986 I really enjoy the walk-in program, and we had the best use of walk-in areas during the archery antelope season this year. I think some type of controlled access program - especially for big game - would make the entire thing more enjoyable. It would require people to actually be honest, but perhaps placing "access cards" at a check-in site would help limit the numbers of people that hunt a particular area. I have often hunted walk-ins and GPA's where I'm hunting based on human activity more than animal activity.
- 2994 Access is an issue west river. I believe that most walk in is mainly used for antelope.
- 3001 The public areas available for big game hunting in Codington county has been very poor the last three years due to poor habitat management and reduced areas to hunt.
- 3002 taking way to much time for these surveys
- 3013 Too much crop in the field, then too much snow for the second opening of east river deer. Need season extended further yet (into 2010) to fill tags.
- 3023 The Game Fish & Parks needs to reevaluate its process of leasing Walkin Areas. Although there are a few walk-in areas which are adequate, most seem to be a waste of the tax payers money. It is fairly typical to find a walk-in which a rancher has leased to the Game & Fish which is baron, overgrazed, or insignificant to wild game habitat. I question how the Game & Fish can pay out a lease without personally going to apraise the usefulness of the proposed walkin area. The problem may also be an overuse or harvest of the ground after the lease is in place. It looks like there are a few land owners who are taking advantage of the taxpayers by giving a false representation of what the walk in area entails during hunting season. The only way to correct this would be to require an officer to evaluate the land prior to and after the lease. A reasonable percentage of game habitate should be required to qualify or requalify. This would only work, of coarse, if the land owner did not have a personal relationship or incentive from the land owner. Best Regards, Robert S. Trupe
- 3034 In my opinion from what I have experienced with walk-in lands is there needs to be more land available that has good habitat and food sources for the birds and animals to use these lands, so as us for hunters when we do access these lands we will at least hopefully see some wildlife, some of the lands that I come across that was walk-in was either all cut for hay or all ready disked up for the next crop to be planted, It would be nice to see some sort of plan implemented that access to all land is available unless it is posted by the landowner, one of the biggest frustrations there is to hunting is trying to locate a landowner to ask permission when that owner might live in a different state or country. Also I feel these landowners who do not let people hunt and then complain of deperdation problems should not receive any help from the GFP on reducing deer herds. Hopefully something will change so the average hunter can take the young kids out somewhere and be able to harvest some wild game otherwise the kids of today will not be interested in the outdoors and a privlige will be lost for all of us who enjoy the outdoors hunting and fishing.
- 3043 CRP Walk-ins that have been chronically hayed in past years need to be reviewed even if landowners are not getting the CRP undisturbed cover payment.
- 3051 Pretty tough year deer hunting. We had 7 deer tags in my family and shot 2 deer. Too much corn in early and then snow late. It is discouraging for a mentor not to see deer on the few days we could go.
- 3060 Hunting in SD has become more and more exclusive. Landowners are starting to limit the amount of access that hunters have to their land and hunting. Public hunting areas are over hunted. I would like to see a voucher for landowners which would compensate them for allowing hunters on their land and for hunters having success. I realize it would be hard to manage, but that is the only way the average guy can continue to afford to hunt. It seems like out of state/wealthy hunters are the only ones able to hunt anymore.
- 3063 The Walk-In Area Program seems to be a private spot for public landowners to take their "pay hunters" to.

- 3069 I think you guys are doing a great job of trying to provide opportunities for all hunters. I am lucky to have access to private land. I think you should continue to acquire more land and secure more walk in areas. If hunting becomes the exclusive privilege of those with land or \$\$ to lease land, hunting will end up the sport of the elite as it is in Europe. I am concerned that you are harvesting too many deer. Of course with this winter looking like a bad one many may starve as well as the pheasants etc. It always something. Best regards, Brad Bauer Mitchell.
- 3071 I couldnt find any atlases available in stores until well into the season.
- 3072 East River deer hunting season should have been extented for any deer tags. Due to the amount of corn left in the fields. The hunting was terrible....
- 3077 just to bad that after a hunt that a person cannot use a vehicle to retrieve the game on walk-in areas
- 3080 Poor waterfall hunting, mostly i guess because missed any oppurtunity with big migration coming thru while sloughs, etc had open water
- 3094 By having the late season anterless deer hunt after Christmas, there are many older and mature bucks that have already lost their antlers. Most of the hunters out at that time are looking to shoot the biggest bodied animal that they can find.....meaning a large breeding buck is taken out of the genetic pool. Perhaps having the late season start 10 days to 2 weeks earlier we could avoid this situation. This is a feeling shared by all of my experienced hunting companions. Thank you for your consideration! Michael E. Bjerke 109 Jefferson Ave Volga S.D. 57071 695-6480
- 3098 We hunted on private land only. I got a nice buck and my husband got an even nicer one. I will only hunt from our deer stand because I got tired of stupid people driving by, blasting away and shooting in my direction. It's not fun hunting when you're getting shot at and you own the land and didn't give anyone permission. We did hear that in January someone was hunting from a tractor loader with the bucket in the air and the hunter in the bucket. Some people are just plain stupid when it comes to hunting. I think you should put more information out about what is legal and what is illegal as news articles in the newspapers right before hunting season. At one time I had a friend who was telling about driving to and from Bowdle road hunting for deer (no permission from any landowners). He didn't even know you aren't supposed to road hunt for deer so you need to be pretty specific.
- 3124 love the gps option . Would like to see easier down loading information.
- 3135 Would to see the muzzleloader season start sooner so you don't have to hunt when it is so cold.
- 3139 I do not know how much land owners are being paid for walk-in, but if a bean or wheat stubble field is supposed to be good for pheasant hunting than I will pass.
- 3144 Tough pheasant hunting conditions this year because of the wet/cold October and heavy snow in December.
- 3150 Unfortunately, and unless something changes in USDA farm policy, WIA Program will suffer significantly in my area (Day County) due to thousands of CRP acres being hayed, tilled and converted to crop land. Not much you can do about that, but it certainly affects quality and quantity of huntable habitat. Rising water levels are also having an impact.
- 3167 I mainly hunt west river areas. I have found more and more quality WIA's over the past few years. I would like to see more WIA's targeted to the waterfowl and upland hunters. The upland areas are getting better and better, but it still seems waterfowl access on this end of the state is limited and big game access is of greatest concern. I don't know if the use would warrant the cost of pursuing and adding WIA's for waterfowlers, but the additional access would be welcome. Warm water springs, cropland adjacent to waterfowl roosts, river areas, and large sloughs all would be huge additions in my opinion. Thanks!

- 3168 There are a few walk-in areas west of Faith and just north of highway 212 that I really don't provide any cover or value. The Besler walk-in area in Perkins county is great and I am glad to be able to use it, there is some other walk-in near there that is also very good. The walk-in near the McKenna ranch in south Perkins is also very good. for the first time, I hunted some walk-in near Hayes, a few miles north of the little brown church. I was very impressed with the land, there was a lot of walk-in with tall thick grass and trees. There were literally hundreds of grouse on the property. Unfortunately, they were very smart and I only shot 1, but I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, it was a great few hours that I will always remember.
- 3174 The GPS points that were available for download were a great idea. I discovered areas that I didn't realize were there even though I looked at the paper copy. Other than that, we need more walk-in areas and keep them available to use lead shot. I much prefer lead to steel shot for any upland hunting.
- 3175 Typically all you find in Pennington County and Meade is flat grassland very few creek bottoms and the parcels are so large it's not worth taking an animal and then having to drag it out, without the fear of having a heart attack.
- 3177 Walk in Area is very important. I am disappointed when some of my favorite areas are dropped from the program.
- 3186 The WIA atlas would be better if you overlapped a couple of miles on each map. I really like the addition of street numbers to the atlas. Very helpful when your not exactly sure where you are at. GF&P needs to purchase more land. WIA's are nice, but WPA and GPA's are better.
- 3187 Walk-in Areas are great for exercising you and your dog but they get over hunted and very few pheasants harvested from them in my 12 years of hunting public land weather it is walk in or Water fowl production / open for public hunting. Two many people not enough acres for pheasants!!
- 3188 From talking to other hunters, they were greatly dissatisfied with the Walk-In-Areas they hunted in Beadle County. Specially with pheasant and grouse. They need better cover. The coyote population in Beadle County is a great problem affecting the numbers of pheasants. Everyday I pheasant hunted I observed several coyotes. I harvested three coyotes while pheasant hunting. There are also several illegal hunts taking place in Beadle County. More enforcement is needed in this county.
- 3191 I would like to see more signs for the walk-in areas. There are some that are not posted very good at!!!
- 3195 The out of state hunters Are shooting more than law says they can. I called game fish parks one time tried to turn them in they wanted me to get license plate numbers that was no problem then the wanted hotel room numbers and the time they were leaving. I told them what hotel they were at but did nut know when they were leaving. It was like they wanted me to do there job. The out of staters seem to think that they can just dump there beer cans on the ground the same ones that are taking to many birds are the ones driving around drinking that makes me mad. And one other thing I think one of them did this year he came back here to hunt peasants on opener of deer season had a rifle with him he told me that if he gets chance to shot a big doe he was going to don't know if he did. He is one of the biggest out laws of the people from MN in that group.
- 3206 Any time I wanted to hunt a walk in area someone was just leaving it and I live next to one. Just need more of them.
- 3209 I would like to see SD like ND -----U can hunt any land that is not posted.
- 3214 Alot of the new walk in areas where not marked. We found some new areas and we stopped and asked the land owners how to get there and they could not tell us or they just didnt know. We stopped a game warden and he explained how we could get there. He was very helpfull and nice.
- 3222 We seen very few deer this year, East River and West River.

- 3223 Hunted on private land.
- 3227 better signing
- 3234 I don't think the land owner should get paid for walk-in and be able to pasture or mow it too.
- 3252 The goose debridation areas where well appreciated. We hunted on them quite often. More acres would be welcome
- 3255 rules continue to be broken regarding walkin areas. I use them mostly for archery deer.. specifcally mule deer. Rifle hunters seem to think that they have the rights to use motorized vehicles to retrieve animals harvested.. time and again I have seen people in areas with trucks or atvs where they are not supposed to be.. what this does is reduce numbers and larger bucks.. I have hunted the walkin areas near Lowry for many seasons. The numbers this year were very disappointing. They have been decreasing for the last few years... Too many applications for muleys and for deer in general. My family owns land in walworth county and deer on or near our land are few. Changes need to be made.. I would also suggest highlighting or clarifying the rules on retrieval of harvested animals in the walk in catalog.. it ambiguous.. I have had to ask the wardens exactly what the rules are.. most people dont .. there is a continuous disregard for land and wildlife... frustrated!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- 3273 Hunting was tough due to standing water is many of the sought after walk in areas. Ran into the same problem on private land - lots of water.
- 3276 not all walk-in areas seem to have sufficient cover for heavy winters, but would provide decent cover the rest of the year. there seemed to be less noxious weeds last few years compared to previous years?i was not able to hunt much this year, and my one big hunt was back in the watertown area, which seemed to have mostly decent walk-in areas. i am sure the flooded walk-ins must have helped with the local duck brooding. we duck hunted one north of florence that seemed excellent for waterfowl and upland. all the walk-ins and publice hunting areas around watertown and webster seemed to be in excellent shape? around the black hills and much of west river they seem a little beat up to provide adequate cover for grouse.
- 3289 I hunted Elk in Black Hills and found it frusturatiing because all the Elk can go into Wind cave. I spoke to the land owners and they agree this is wrong as they want us hunters to fill our tags which will reduce the Elk that eat the ranchers hay.
- 3292 Please note, I do not have a hunting dog so I do not do the walk-ins..... IF I hit a bird, I worry that I could not find it. I tried to get an East River Deer tag but once again was not drawn. Incidentally, I do not like to deer hunt on public land because I think it is too dangerous.
- 3297 walk in maps.. would be easier to read for one county.roads to drive on in harding co. should be better marked,like limpert road,which is a fire road.i had a run in with mr limpert for driving through his ranch on a fire trail.he tried to charge 100 a person for trespassing on a fire trail,money going to buffalo fire dept.thank god for co jim mccormick for straightening things out ! darwyn engesser gary sd
- 3302 Unhappy, that farmers can put land into walk-in and farm it back to dirt before any hunting can take place. Essentually robbing the system.
- 3322 Crop conditions and late season weather made for impossible hunting conditions. All late season pheasant hunting as well as muzzleloader hunts were scrapped. Snow depths and drifts made it impossible to walk anywhere!
- 3359 I feel the state needs more walk-in/public areas to hunt. Also, alot of the walk-in land is just grass in eastern sd. It would be nice to have access to more slough land, etc (better pheasant habitat)
- 3371 walk-in-program is a great program but does need to be checked as i have seen some that is completely worthless. land that has been over grazed and some that was worked up so you could not even walk in it. Should have a statewide number to call when a person finds these pieces, so it could be checked to see if they are really in compliance.
- 3390 some walk in area is or has been grased to the ground.

- 3391 If it were not for being able to hunt pheasants along the road ways I would not have had any hunting success. I usually hunt alone with my dog and the roadways work the best for a lone hunter. The walk in areas and game production areas are too large and the pheasants run around & usually will not get up to fly. I also have 2 young children that sometimes ride along with me while road hunting. We may go out later in the afternoon and do some road hunting and have a great time together. If I could not road hunt I either would not go hunting at all in those situations or else my children would have to stay home and would not get out in the outdoors and wouldn't be able to spend the quality time together. I think all the public land is very important yet I think being able to continue to hunt road ditches is the most important to me. Thank you, Craig Haiar Mitchell South Dakota
- 3393 The walk in unit 21b is too small and there is a working gravel quarry in the center,
- 3396 I am getting geared up to start looking a lot hard at the West River Deer walk-in and public hunting areas this fall (2010), thanks to the GF&P GPS technology map download. My old GPS receiver didn't work with the new maps, so I had to upgraded to a GPS unit that does (got it late Dec). After surfing the WILMA web site I feel that I can accurately find the type of huntable area I would like to and with the GPS I have the confidence in the field to be where I am suppose to be. Before this opportunity, there was many issues in finding the huntable areas and hunting confidentially once there. I have lost all of my decent West River Prairie Deer spots and hope I can find an area which would allow me to participate again. I have been spending all of my hunting time in the Black Hills, but can't pull this tag every year so I find myself sitting out. I have not used my own GPS with the walkin area GPS maps, but looking at a buddies GPS in the Hills last fall, I did not see all of the National Forest Service Trails identified. Maybe he had them turned off, maybe they are not all there; my point is to add the OPEN NFS roads and trails to your wonderful GPS map file would be a GREAT enhancement. This would aid the honest hunting in accessing and using the OPEN roads & trails. Bringing technology into this area was a great decision by GF&P. Thanks, Mark
- 3399 walk in areas are a excellent option for people with no private land to hunt. I would like to see the state set up certain times where hunters can retrieve their game using a motorized vehicle. Some of the areas are 2 or 3 miles square, with only roads on 2 sides. This can be overwhelming to the point of dangerous for hunters over a certain age. At my age, I may only have a few years left to take advantage of this much appreciated program.
- 3408 I don't hunt walk in areas, guide private land
- 3409 The map needs to be updated to easily navigated counties.
- 3430 Didn't make it out!!!
- 3450 In most years I typically do a little pheasant hunting on Walk-In-Areas. This year I just happened to not do any, but I do find the program very valuable and overall have been mostly satisfied with the areas I have hunted.
- 3456 It would be nice if you would make your GPS walk-in atlas map software compatable with the Garmin Dakota Series GPS. I own one and it seems to be the only Garmin GPS unit that isn't compatable. That is the only problem I've found with the walk-in atlas.
- 3468 I like the walk in areas , I just have ahard time hunting the because I hunt alone and don't have bird dog .
- 3480 Quite a few walk in areas north and east of Presho were mowed/harvested which made them useless as walk in areas. GFP officials should look at these areas and re-evaluate their inclusion in the walk in program. If the land owner is going to mow to bare ground, he should not be paid.
- 3493 I think i am lucky that i have private land to hunt because i heard a lot of complaints that all the public ground and walk in areas that the locals pay taxes on were full of out of staters. The people from South Dakota need to have more than just one weekend to hunt the walk in areas and public ground.

- 3494 First, It should be noted that good walk-in areas are more than just a hunting place. These areas are also good nesting and brood raising ground for up-land and waterfowl. The more we have, the better our chances of having birds in the fall. SD needs to do more to encourage or help farmers truly understand the importance of having good habitat to keep our pheasants and other birds. If the same happens here as it has happened in other states, our bird numbers will crash (IOWA is an example).....Everyone needs to do what is nessary to keep our habitat and promote set aside land (CRP or whatever) so that hunting continues to be the best it can be for all hunters.....Once it is lost, it may never come back.....So you need to be the leaders in getting the word out and to organize others to join in the effort of keeping our hunting the best in the nation.....
- 3498 shot the buck of a lifetime on grassland walkin!!!!!!
- 3502 We had 50 hunters that averaged about 8 birds per hunter, plus we hosted 9 hunters for the Gov.'s Hunt on Oct 24th where we harvested 24 birds. We hunt on approx 8,000 acres of private land and it was a real challenge this year because all the late harvest. When we completed our last hunts the corn harvest was completed and we are now over-run with birds. I think we had birds that didn't know the pheasant season was open until end of November. I leave all my food plots until spring and hope we willl have sufficient survor birds for next year's start. I hunted deer on private land and could have harvested several does but I feel the doe numbers on our ranch are quite low and want to maintain adequate numbers. (My nest door neighbor had 19 does taken off of his place and that affects doe numbers around me.) I think we had a higher number of "Big" bucks this year, probably due to tremendous soil moisture all summer into October. My hills were green all September into October. Those big bucks were able to utilize the large corn fields for perfect protection. Ron Ogren, 23249 376th Ave, Wessington Springs, SD Cell:605-360-0088
- 3504 Walk-in and game production areas are great. I lived in Iowa for many years this is a much better program. Thanks and good job to SDGFP!
- 3506 Increase Limits and length of season. As we will see this year large winter kill after hard winter. Cannot safe birds for years to come. Harvest the birds while we have them.
- 3509 Walk in area's were only good late because of the crops in the fields.
- 3512 I was not able to hunt this past year as I have done in previous years, due to a back injury. In the past I have used walk-in areas and the walk-in atlas. I have been very pleased with the opportunity that the walk-in program has allowed for hunting opportunities.
- 3514 There are limited walk-in areas in the area I hunt. A few years ago there were many acres of walk-in in the Wood area and it has been decreased significantly for some reason. My father and brother own land in the area and it is the land I hunt most even though the habitat is not great for pheasants. In most years the walk-in areas are much more important than this year.
- 3516 I don't hunt much any more but intend to occassionally. Please continue and even expand walk in area opportunities and protect (retain) legal road hunting.
- 3527 In the past have utilized wia more than currently..the ongoing loss of crp acreage has severely degraded habitat on most wia that I observed and in my opinion. I'm positive that in the future I will hunt wia provided they still exist.
- 3530 Keep increasing the walk in opportunities if we financially can.
- 3568 Number of deer in Miner County are greatly reduced. Absolutely too many antlerless tags and total number of tags issued!!
- 3571 Due to weather there were too many crops still in during pheasant season. Then too much snow around Christmas when I planned on getting out for a few more days. Hopefully that means a larger pheasant population for 2010. Hope to get out more next year since this year was a tough hunt. I have hunted Walk-In areas in the past with success. Thanks you to and the land owners for this opportunity. Keep up the great work.

- 3572 I just feel that most of the walk in areas are marginal hunting areas. It's something, but the managed waterfowl areas and state owned areas are must better hunting area here around Watertown.
- 3574 i did not hunt walk in in the past couple years- as we were lucky enough to get on a large-- free- private ranch, but we hunted many years on public and may need ti again soon-- it is very important- the biggest challenge is to have it marked well so hunters know for sure that they are on public and the atlas is very very important-thank you for this oportunity
- 3577 Don't understand how some landowner's can get paid for land with nothing on it-no cover. They either plowed it up or baled the cover. Land has to have some value to us hunters. Also so here in Day Co we very seldom hunt Walk In land, out of staters beat it up so bad, I'm a weekend hunter so by the time I can hunt most of the birds have been shot off. I hunt more out of my county then I do in it. Try to get away from the pressure.
- 3590 there is not enough in East River, everything is privately owned
- 3593 I think there needs to be alot more walk in areas and public hunting oppertunities. As a hunter I am very thankful for the oppertunity to hunt on public lands. I did all of my bow hunting on public lands this year and had great succcess. But I believe these areas are very competitive and that we need alot more publicly accesible places.
- 3596 It would be very nice to get more walk-in areas & public hunting land in the southeastern part of the state where they are virtually non-existent.
- 3606 Most of the walk-in areas where we hunted were under water or to wet to hunt. ( Hecla area)
- 3625 One issue is htat the majority of walk-in area is West river. It would be better if more walk-in were available in the prine pheasant hunting areas of central SD.
- 3626 Higher payment for WIA to be in line with country rental rates, state can not compete with commercial operators right now. Split the WIA book into countries so it is easier to read.
- 3629 I would like to see fish and game effectively encourage more hunters to pass up harvest of young bucks and take a doe for meat. I understand 1st or 2nd time deer hunters shooting a year old deer with tiny horns but encourage experienced hunters to pass them up and let more live to become mature 4-7 year old bucks
- 3630 I was very disappointed this year. I have not been hunting in 4 years and this was my first year back. I live in the city and do not have anywhere to hunt. The walk in & public hunting areas are getting over run. There are just too many hunters hunting them and it is almost impossible to harvest anything. I think there needs to be a way to regulate who hunts where, or allow evryone to hunt anywhere. When land owner will not let you hunt there land, but they can hunt other (walk-in & public) land is not fair to the rest of us that do not have any land. There just is no where for me to hunt. I am very disappointed and disgusted with it all.
- 3631 My following comments are regarding BLM and School-owned lands. These areas are available to hunt, but poorly marked if marked at all. What can SD GFP do to faciliate better marked public hunting areas?
- 3635 The walk-in program is not a good hunters friend. The areas in walk-in have very little if any habitat. This program could save GFP alot of money if it where abandoned. Take the money now being used for leasing barron lands and hire local farmers or ranchers to develop high quality habitat in special quality areas. This may cost more per acre but it would yield much better hunts than the present massive acres of nothingness. I would also like to know how much money it takes to provide a goose hunter with walk-in areas along the Missouri River.

- 3652 The Atlas was terrible this year it was nice to see lager squares but it was very hard to tell individual sections and there was a poor job done on roads as well all the other years much better this year not so much! Also there are a bunch of walk in areas that you would be lucky to see anything on especially east river those guys get away with muder getting paid for that crap you could play golf on most of the walk-ins i hunted in mcpherson county as well as fall river. There needs to be a little bit more habitat involved than bare crops and grazed and hayed to the dirt land out there if there isn't then there is really no point in having the program.
- 3666 Would be great if the atlas would have larger views of walk in areas
- 3671 It would be nice to have limited access - to retrieve game only - with motorized vehicles. Specific trails (maybe only fencelines), limited times, etc. Kind of like Sandlake NWR used to do (maybe they still do, I haven't hunted there since I was a kid.)
- 3674 The walk-in area program is great overall, I depend on it, however, some walk-in areas (more and more commonly) are grazed or have livestock on them. What's the point? Also some of the walk-ins are very poor habitat, meaning little cover for anything, hope we are not paying much for those.
- 3678 Antelope hunting was very poor, numbers were down huge around the Faith,SD area, i'm assuming due to winter, also East river deer hunting was not as prosperous either.
- 3682 It seems in our area around Jones County all of the walk in land does not have much habitat for any game. The grass was cut on most of the walk in areas and there are no water sources on the ones that I tried to hunt. I was not very impressed with the walk in at all.
- 3713 Hunted deer with muzzleloader this year but not in a walk in area.
- 3723 some of the walk in areas area so small they do not do any good for wildlife. some of the walk in area should not be paid for because of poor habitat
- 3750 it takes more than just nice grasses to keep wildlife. most of the pulbic land is over hunted and never lets wildlife get established. Therefore with no birds in there this year, it will get over hunted the next year again....so there will never be birds in there. Putting more preasure on the road hunting for phesants. AND YOU KNOW HOW THE LAND OWNERS FEEL ABOUT THAT! New road hunting laws need to be made or road hunting be outlawed completely.
- 3751 Please get rid of the childrens weekend. It is a joke a lot of us hunters grew up without it. I have multiple dogs and took kids multiple weekends in multiple years. The result has been a ton of wounded birds. I hate loosing birds and really shouldn't but they repeatedly pulled feathers and that was it. If an adult was along many were gimmy shots that an adult could have cleaned up and finished off those birds. All that weekend is, is a huge bird wounding weekend. Sincerely
- 3756 Very good program but the competition for time is very high in our area, 30 miles from Sioux Falls.
- 3762 I did paddlefish this year. I'm very pleased with the way the GF&P is managing this resource. Keep up the good work. Allen Heakin
- 3770 I would like to see less tags given out in Beadle county. The deer population seems to have gone done the last two years.
- 3771 It would be nice if the maps coincided with each other. When looking at the Walk In Area map the county lines are not detailed very well. When you compair that to the county property owner maps it is hard to reference back and forth. I also seen a lot of walk in area this year that had cattle in it or the field was grazed so badly that the game had no use for it. If we are paying the money for these areas to be used for the game and to hunt, they should be areas that the game will use. Otherwise it is a waist of money.
- 3778 The walk-in atlas should be larger print. It is difficult for older eys to read the maps.
- 3791 I picked up a 2009 hunting Atlas, and found several mistakes in there, is there any updates that were left out? There is good info in there but needs a little work.

- 3796 Walk in areas close to Winner SD are very heavily hunted for pheasants and way too many hunters for the size of public areas. Habitat is good but so heavily hunted that no birds are available. I hunted from Presho to Winner one day and there was never less than two other groups of hunters at each walk in area. Walk in areas and public land should have a usable access for vehicles to get to edge of property. Walk in map on internet for download to GPS units is excellent tool. A lot of the walk in areas for big game is worthless as it is overgrazed and a person can see clear across the 1/2 mile or width of property without even leaving the vehicle with grass being about two inches high, no water, and no draws.
- 3806 Thank you for a good job managing our game. Tom
- 3809 The SD GFP does an excellent job taking care of the residents, wildlife and resources of South Dakota. They are to be commended for a job well done. Thank you.
- 3810 There is a lot of BLM ground but you can not get to it.
- 3813 This year was an a rough year for hunting deer. Weather played a huge roll in it. With all the rain we had this year, the water table was very high. Most low area we normally hunted were full of water. Harvest was extremely late due to the high water content. Therefore, all the deer were in in the corn fields and not in the public hunting areas. And the late season didn't get any better. With the Christmas blizzard, snow was high and made it almost impossible to walk into. Don't take this wrong. I'm not complaining. I hunted and filled almost all of my tags. But most people didn't go due to the weather. That means that there will be a much larger number of deer next year because of the low harvest rate this year. More deer means more crop deprivation and car/deer accidents.
- 3816 From the walk-in and public areas that I have seen, I believe that the state of South Dakota is doing an excellent job in preserving habitat for wildlife. I hunt private land for the most part, but I know that if I do not have any luck there then I can hunt some prime public land. Other than a late harvest, I believe that this year was a wonderful season.
- 3819 I do not like GFP paying landowners for no huntable land ( has been hayed or grazed to the ground ) with not a stitch of huntable cover, not to mention cover for the winter
- 3820 The SE area of the state has little public hunting areas. The north and west have very adequate public hunting and a good population of game to hunt.
- 3821 Lots of water this year which made the hunting difficult. A lot of hunters I talked to did not shoot any deer and did not see any. I myself did not see hardly any deer this year which is worse than last year.
- 3829 I never hunted , none at all for anything
- 3839 Hunting in SD is designed largely for out of state money. Non resident license fees should be at least \$1,000 for a 3 day license.
- 3849 while I did not use the west river walk in areas I learned from others that they felt is very ineffective and that those who did failed to sign in so that the landowner received any recognition for it.
- 3853 I bow hunt on public land and would like to see bigger areas to access for spot and stalking. There is not enough public land in my opinion to have great hunting. always more and bigger, I did harvest a great whitetail with the bow on public land this year. thanks keep up the good work, and if you could draw my name for an elk tag next year that would be great as well.

- 3862 The overall hunting season was great with the exception on the standing crops. The birds never left the corn, or soybean fields. the waterfowl season was the best I ever saw in SD, the most birds in the area for as long as I have ever seen. I think the walk in areas are the most important factor in south dakota at the moment. With the crp going out in record numbers it will be critical to maintain the pheasant population or at least stop the numbers from going back to the 70's. My only criticism is that the east river deer season should open the same as north dakota over the whole state. We seem to be at such a disavantage with the weather, cold and snow and really only 1 weekend to get your deer. This year with all the standing crops it was nearly impossable to fill, then the blizzard. The season should have stayed open until the antlerless season started. We wasted 2 weeks when the crops were down and we couldnt hunt. Now there are deer everywhere in the columbia area that could have been harvested.
- 3864 harvest run late, so didn't get the chance to do much hunting.
- 3874 I think dollars used for walk in area should be more carefully used seems like their is quit a bit of land that is walk in that has no cover or can not be hunted until the crops are out and then their is nothing to hunt their. I also hunted in the black hills this fall and I beleive in the area where I was hunting 10 miles south of deadwood the numbers of turkeys where way down . I do beleive the cougar population and coyote populations where up in these areas seen a few coyotes and tracks of both coyote and cougar in the area. I also believe the number of deer in this area was down some ,but some of that may had to dowith some early snow.  
Thanks for all you do .
- 3898 I did Bow hunt for deer in 09. I did check out some walk in areas, but never did hunt on them. Did hunt in the Newton Hills Park which was great. Walk in areas for phesant is needed be not all people ae able to hunt on private land. In past years I have had more time to hunt which was walk in areas.
- 3903 We went hunting in Lyman coutny mostly. It seems like there are a huge number of birds and they have the habitat to support them. I think having food plots in walk in areas or game production areas helps a lot. It would be nice to see more food plots planted (and walk-in areas if possible) in west river. Mostly in counties like eastern pennington and haakon. To me it seems like they are doing it right north of Presho and Vivian. Good work!
- 3905 I highly support the current Youth and Resident only seasons in the WIA's. With a certain number of friends we make this a annual trip and find it extremely valuable. The only compliant is other hunters being very disrespectful of sections of proposed hunting in these Walk In areas and jumping in right in front of you.
- 3906 getting way to over crowded and over pressured.
- 3910 I don't hunt the walk-in areas alot but I think they are crucial to the hunting for a large portion of hunters.
- 3913 Walk-in areas vary greatly as to what quality they are. This survey is too general. Some areas were fantastic while others were very poor. Some were grazed to the ground, or hayed to the point where no habitat existed anymore. It is a very poor image for the GFP when some walk in areas are in such poor shape.
- 3932 East River rifle....The past two years we hunted deer in Beadle Co. and I can't express how disappointed I am in the number of deer seen, there is not even any tracks to be found. We hunt hard and always walk everthing, not drive around sloughs but walk them. We had 10 tags to fill and all the land we needed and only seen 8 deer total. Last year was worse. We hunt around Virgil and south west of Huron. I believe the deer are over harvested and that opinion is a majority. I talked to many hunters and land owners. Can you tell me I'm wrong?

- 3933 It was a very tough year for hunting cause of all the water and corn still up, We own some land in Spink County and couldn't walk very much of it, or any walk in areas for Pheasants,(wet) had the best luck on the roads after work towards evening. Deer Hunting was also tough with all the crop up, didn't see alot of deer while Hunting (see them all along the highways) also couldn't hunt alot of walk in areas again cause of flooding. All in All I'm satisfied with 2009 hunting season, Game and Fish doe's a heck of a job with walk in areas and getting places for the Public to Hunt, it's getting harder every year to find private land to Hunt, Pay Hunting/Pheasant farms getting bigger every year. Would have been a good season if it wasn't for the flooding/rain, but nobody can control the weather.
- 3939 THE WALK-in area were over hunted,due to the lack of private land to hunt. I did not know if I should wear an orange vest that was bullet proof. I have hunted in South Dakota for the last thirty years and watched the changes. Land that I hunted before is now is all paid hunt only. I fell it is time to look for ways to spend my time outdoors.
- 3945 They did not come out in time to plan my hunt...had to base everything on last years...was not happy.
- 3958 The walk in areas are nice, however I am concerned about areas that are near occupied dwellings especially with rifle season. Thanks and keep up the good work
- 3973 Had injury to hand so only hunted a couple times this year. Went Rabbit hunting at cavour lake last year and the growth in the tree belts on the north side is so heavy you cannot hunt it properly or hardley get through it walking. Other walk in area's we went to this year have been managed very well. Too much corn for them to be productive early on in the year.
- 3974 I noticed you have to use steel shot on all walk-in areas. Some I'm familiar with are no where close to any waterfowl areas, (ex. shelterbelts, fencerows adjoining farm fields, pasturelands, etc.) Is there any reason this could not be changed to allow lead or copper plated lead shot in some areas, or is it too difficult to not be all encompassing?
- 3983 I was frustrated to see so many walk-in areas with poor habitat and to close to roads & interstates. Quality, low preasured hunting ground is scarce. The most memorible hunts for me, have come from the large (3 section plus) plots.
- 3992 I do not hunt but I do some fishing.
- 3993 I do not think that a Person with a Rifle Antelope tag sould be able to shoot their anterless deer at the sametime. They sould have to wait for the deer season like the rest of the deer hunters.
- 4001 would be nice to see more walk in areas available, usually try to hunt public land but always so over crouded with other hunters, they get too much hunting pressure, after a few days of hunting they are usually no good.
- 4003 My only complaint on Walk in Areas is on more than one occasion I have traveled hundreds of miles only to find that large walk in areas have been put up for hay or have been over grazed by cattle. I reallize this is common practice in a dry year, but it would be nice to have some sort of communication.
- 4004 i did not harvets any deer too much crop still in fields
- 4016 Even though I haven't hunt on W.I.A. this year, I have observed those lands that are used for W.I.A. and I think these are good opportunities for those hunters who don't have any access to private lands. Only concern I would have if I hunt there is that some areas are over-hunted and some are not suitable for hunters such as grazed CRP or land being used as pasture for cattles. I feel that GFP did good job on atlas to keep hunters informed, however, I can't blame GFP if some are not updated such as some farmers grazed their properties or land being used as crop after atlas being printed. I also feel that W.I.A. should be used for hunters without access to private lands, not for any outfitters/commerical hunting parties to use it.

- 4022 The only problem one has is the retrieval of game. It would prove to be beneficial to have a road system for game retrieval. The road use should be restricted to game retrieval similar to the way Sand Lake Refuge allows hunters to retrieve game.
- 4026 I have lost my desire to hunt in South Dakota due to land owners. I hope more funds are spent on the fishing of South Dakota than the hunting at least the land owners don't charge me 100.00 to launch my boat.
- 4029 walk in area atlas: maps to small for size of page, and not detailed enough. left a lot of roads off of it.
- 4037 I think the walk in areas are great and a great benefit to south dakota hunting. I also think these online surveys a a great way to get feedback and am more than willing to complete them. I think the SD GFP is doing their job well and have no complaints for the department.
- 4044 The only dissapointing part about the walk-in areas was that some still had cattle on them, which made it not available for hunting. Seems as if they were going to have walk-in areas that the owners should have their livestock off. I know this may not be possible in all cases, but its frustrating to drive quite a ways to a walk-in area to find out that it has cattle on it. Just a thought... thanks.
- 4055 I wish the G,F&P would go back to putting a County on each page of the atlas instead of cutting up the State with a grid. Many times a person ends up looking at 3 to 4 different pages to see what Public-Land hunting is in a deer or antelope hunting unit.
- 4061 I think the 2 week break in the east river deer season affected my ability to harvest more deer and fill my tags.
- 4075 this walk-in program is a joke because there is so many areas that have no cover at all and we actually pay these people for this land.
- 4076 It seems like in some areas the atlas is hard to read and see where roads are.
- 4078 Didn't make it out to hunt this year :(
- 4089 It is important that GF & P observe the walk in areas that they are securing as I have noticed that some of the walk in areas are bare pasture or bare hay ground. You are paying for this land that has no habit for wildlife. Otherwise the program is an excellent opportunity for hunters that have no access to private land.
- 4093 The bird huntin is good like always in South Dakota. The main disappointment for me this year was the Antelope hunting, not to many animals and to have a guy purchase three tags and see only maybe about 10 live antelope was very very dissapointing. In my mind the fish and game department should have known the numbers were down and if they knew the numbers were down they should have made two choices, close the season completely to let the animals re up their numbers or not issued so many tags in certain areas and told the hunter before they applied which areas had the best number of animals and to which areas to go. It was disappointing and to say if I will ever apply again for an antelope tag in South Dakota is still in question.
- 4097 The walk-in area programs of South Dakota are one of the best in the nation. If it wasn't for Walk-In Areas my hunting would be cut in half.
- 4099 Would like the opportunity to hunt wild turkeys in our region. (Hamlin County)
- 4100 i think its great land for waterfowl but for pheasants it could b a little better, but part is because crops were in so long... well see what happens next year thanks
- 4107 The bird population was wonderful this past year. I beleive it is from the fantastic habitat our state provides for the wildlife. I would also like to comment on the amount of jack rabbits and Deer I had noticed not only in the eastern part of the state but particularly in the western area. We (South Dakota) by far have one of the best wildlife/hunting areas in the United States.
- 4109 The walk in program is critical. It needs to be continued for generations to come.

- 4116 start the east river rifle season the weekend after thanksgiving. doing this would allow bucks to reach a more mature age because during the weekend before thanksgiving, the bucks are rutting pretty hard and are more likely to get shot. i would also like to see no rifle hunting east river, just muzzleloader and shotgun instead of the rifle with archery season still intact. also, i would like the archery season to start the first of september instead of the end of september.
- 4121 I felt there were too many tags issued from Brown County. Conservation Officers should talk with the general hunting public to help determine how many tags should be issued. It should not be a matter of how much money the state receives from these tags.
- 4127 One of my favorite walk in areas for upland game was not on map this year.
- 4128 Walk-in areas need to be signed better i know that it is difficult but it would prevent unknown trespass issues. Also, the maps need to be more accurate again difficult but it would help prevent unknown trespass.
- 4165 I didn't hunt any walk in areas this year.
- 4167 It would be nice if the deer seasons were extended if there is too many crops still left to harvest during the season.
- 4179 I live in Yankton county and we don't have much walk in or state ground to hunt, so when we have hunted it in the past there is never any game on it because it gets hit pretty hard. It is also hard to get any permission to hunt birds and you can never get permission to hunt deer. That is why we go to Edmunds county to hunt ER deer because we know a farmer up there and my children and I have a better chance of getting drawn. Will S.D. ever have a program for kids to buy a lifetime resident tag like other states do, I think it would be a great idea and it would keep more people hunting in South Dakota. Also, I was wondering why the paddlefish tags went up so much last year. Doing the survey and purchasing tags online is a great idea to save cost. The only thing is, I don't think it is getting to everyone that purchases a tag, because my kids use my email address and the survey only comes to me instead of everyone. I think when a person applies that there should be a place to put your email address on each application. Just my thoughts, email me with any questions.
- 4186 Many Area I hunted were harvested or cut. And as always more land is needed.
- 4200 On the walk-in-area atlas need more detailed roads and farms. Some of the signs are getting knocked down and outdated. More and better signs would be very nice.
- 4220 We had a hard tme filling our deer tags due to the amount of corn standing. I did not fill my buck tag this year. most of the deer we harvested were during the late season. Thanks  
Chris Harford
- 4223 Uh, what atlas?
- 4227 please continue to expand the program!!!!
- 4230 The SD Walk-In-Program is outstanding...no other state does it as well or has as much land in a public access program. The greatest threat to hunting is NOT anti-hunters, it's lack of access to hunting areas. More and more posted property each year and LEASES is killing our sport. Keep the public access programs going and I would gladly donate or pay more taxes to support the programs and also pay for more planting and habitat improvement areas.
- 4257 I use the walk-in areas a fair ammount to call coyotes. It's a good program but most of the land is way out west and in less than ideal habitat...unless you are calling coyotes!
- 4263 I would say approxamatly 50% of the walk in land is worthless. Harvested crop land that holds no game. I did appreciate some around Gettysburg that had food plots left to hold birds! Thanks
- 4266 The walk-in areas program is vitally important to hunters who don't want to and/or aren't able to pay the fees asked for by the commercial hunting operations, and don't own land. They provide a guaranteed place to hunt, and although they often don't guarantee that hunters will find an abundance of birds or other game, if they are willing to walk and work at it, they can almost certainly find some game and have an enjoyable hunting experience.

- 4269 The walk in areas that I have hunted near watertown are over hunted. This makes it challenging to harvest anything on public land. I have had much better experiences hunting on private land.
- 4275 It would be great to see an increase in the amount of Walk-In Areas available. The number of hunters on Walk-In Areas at one time was high and created some dissatisfaction when hunting.
- 4281 I really enjoy having the option for the walk-in areas. There are so many people hunting pheasants now that if we just had public and private it would make it much more difficult to get out and enjoy a good hunt.
- 4283 I think the antelope season should be longer and issue less tags per person, as it seems to be a war zone in the unit that I hunt in. Do like the fact that, in the unit that I was in, unfilled tag(s) would be able to be filled during w.r. deer season and in several different units. I did not try to fill my tags as my son had some medical issues and I ran out of time. Otherwise, would have tried to fill at least one of the 3 tags.
- 4295 The biggest complaint I have is that the atlas is not out before that antelope season starts and you have to try to rely on the past years. That atlas needs to be available before the archery antelope season starts.
- 4298 I'd love to see more walk-in areas, I think the foot traffic only makes for a great hunting experience.
- 4301 The walk in atlas needs to be put together more on a county type layout rather than the numbered zoneing it difficult to follow when counties move into another zone number.
- 4302 I feel SD GFP does a great job with habitat and excellent game management. I am so happy I moved back to SD to enjoy great hunting every year!
- 4311 The Walk-In Areas Program is great. I would love to see more of it.
- 4312 Wish that the walk in area atlas would have land owner name listed to obtain permission easier.
- 4315 The walk in area program is vital to hunters that do not own and hunting land. This program puts more acres into grass, which really helps the wildlife populations. I would also like to comment that most my hunting this year was Archery and it may be beneficial to include a portion on the survey for that. I also like the fact that the season goes until January 31.
- 4334 roads in some of our local state lakes are in terrible shape when it rains you can't get to boat ramps some ramps have so much gravel on dirt build up you can't hardly launch a boat
- 4346 I think we should open a "poacher hunting" season. If we see poachers or people attempting to poach, especially on private land, we should be able to hunt them down (I had a bad experience this year.) I am only joking of course and in no way do I really mean this statement. I only mention it because I believe the good people of the GF&P may appreciate it????????? Thanks for your hard work! Sincerely Christopher Sattler
- 4350 The Walk in area Atlas is a great tool. There needs to be more Towns and roads added to the the map for reference points. I for one think the GFP does a GREATJOB thanks for all the you do for the residence of South DAKota.
- 4351 More Food Plots need to be Planted to help keep Pheasants in or around Walk-in-Areas once Crops are harvested.
- 4361 1.Dont restrict weapons for black hills turkey huntin! 2.I think a closer count on antelope needs to be done before issuing tags (harding/butte) not good! 3.I think there are way to many mountain lions in the black hills! (seen very few deer from just last season!)
- 4368 I didn't use any walk in area this year but in the past I have and I think it is a much appreciated and well used hunting option.
- 4370 The one walk in area that I have hunted in the past was removed from the program so I didn't have an opportunity to hunt any of the walk in areas this year. I did like the GPS downloadable maps that were available. That was great in addition to the paper atlas!

- 4373 The fact that many walk-in areas get overhunted is not a fault of the program. The program should be enlarged.
- 4375 2 years in a row we had bad hunting conditions for east river deer in the codington co area to wet and to many crops in hopefully next year will be better
- 4376 In prior years you had the miles marked on the Walk-in-Area Atlas. It was a great help to match these mile markers on the map to the mile markers on my GPS so that I knew I wasn't on private land. This year I had to guess to some degree where the walk-in-areas ended and private land began. Look at your 2008 atlas and you'll see what I'm talking about. This could prevent a landowner issue, if someone uses a GPS to check boarders.
- 4382 It appears to me that whoever signs up the landowners must be getting their pockets greased. Been involved with game management for years have never seen such poor habitat on walk-in areas. Check out Kansas there areas team with wildlife due to the quality habitat.
- 4384 I used the walk-in program this year only for archery antelope. I did not harvest an antelope, but had a great time hunting some walk-in areas. Keep up the good work! One thing that concerns me is the length and timing of some of our deer seasons. I'm not totally against the youth season, but it runs too long and we all know the regulations get abused. I'm sending you this survey on 01/09/10, which leaves about 22 days for people to kill antlerless deer. The bucks are already shedding horns. I just don't think it's right to let hunters kill a nice future buck because his horns fell off with 3 weeks of season left. With today's bows and black powder rifles, especially black powder, I don't think the extended seasons are at all necessary. And also with the TV shows encouraging 600 yard or longer shots we need to at least shorten the time hunters, no not hunters, but licensees have to wound way too many animals. Thanks for listening John Engels
- 4387 This is a critical program if we want our young folks to be able to continue to hunt, thank you!
- 4398 The Walk In program is an excellent program. I hope you can keep it going and even get more land in the walk-in program. Private land is getting harder to find unless you have money. I don't like that trend. I know it is happening all over and pretty soon only the rich will be able to hunt. In our area the walk-in areas have quite a bit of big game (turkeys and deer) on them and I know the areas provide excellent opportunities for those animals. I just hope we don't lose anymore areas.
- 4412 The Atlas could have more marked rd and such
- 4413 I didn't get to do as much hunting this year as in the past but when I did hunt antelope and geese West River the biggest problem with the walk in areas were the fact that many of the fields that were supposed to be open to hunt still had cattle in them and we found out that West River cattle are fricken crazy and don't like Blaze orange. I just think that if you get the money to be in the program follow the rules and have your cattle out so you don't get in a bad spot like we did.
- 4414 A number of the public land plots I visited had truck tracks and other evidence of non-foot traffic. I did not encounter any birds on the public land I walked. Private land was very different.
- 4416 The GFP has done a tremendous job of putting together large blocks of West River WIA. Keep up the good work.
- 4426 I think the perimeters of walk-in areas should have more signs posted as sometimes in smaller areas with alot of fences it can be hard to tell where walk-in areas begin and end. Otherwise a great program that I hope can be continued and expanded on.
- 4448 With accordance with east river deer season, I would like to see the any deer extended at least one additional week. With the late grain harvests we've been having the past few years, it has made hunting very difficult.
- 4453 Very little of the walk-in in western SD is worth hunting. I think the land should be able to bear some game before it can be inrolled. A lot of the ranchers put their poorer hunting land into walkin and save the better hunting areas for theirselves and friends.

- 4472 It seemed that a number of WIA were hayed and therefore when hunting pheasants or grouse it would have been like walking through an over grazed pasture. We past on a number of places designated plus we drove more miles to find poor ground.
- 4482 The state should support additional native grass areas for native bird species. Support lands in CRP. Keep lands in CRP. Many properties are coming out and will not go back in decreasing habitat state wide. The mountain lion harvest should be doubled. The mt lions are having a negative effect on turkey and deer populations in the central hills where I live. The population estimate is conservative at best. Have you encountered any notices of wolves in the hills. My son came across one this past week. Pactola area. On the good side...Thanks for doing the best you can with the rescources you currently have..
- 4483 if you had 160 ac of money, 4 - 40 ac walkins would be best because it spreads the people out better and reduces the big group massive move across an area.
- 4487 It would be nice if the hunting atlas was available for more than just three brands of GPS. I would also like to the the Black Hills deer season draw prior to the West River draw so that a person could plan hunting better and not have to spit time in seasons if draw both West River and Black Hills Tags.
- 4489 Did not see as many deer this year. I think it's because the corn was still in the field. Then when the corn was harvested we got snow and I was not able to get to the areas where I think the deer probably went!!! With the big blizzard happening the last week I could hunt, I did not get any deer. I did not even get a shot this year!!!
- 4496 I would like to see more in the southeastern area.
- 4510 I think you are doing a good job with the walk in areas. I think that it is the only place we are going to be able to hunt without paying to hunt in the very near future. Thanks Mike ketcham
- 4517 I use the west river walk-in areas nearly 95% of the time when I draw an antelope tag. I am looking forward to apply for a west river deer tag in which I will use the walk-in areas. I would like to see landowners who recieve federal or state subsidies be mandated to allow a percentage of thier land be opened to walk-in areas. (I bet this would save the government MILLIONS in payments - hahaha).
- 4521 crp acres should be walk in areas also,
- 4526 I know of walk in areas that have very little if any cover. I am all in favor of the walk in areas but i think there needs to be better management on cover and habitat in these areas.
- 4530 it is getting harder to get private land to hunt. I love being able to have ax ccess to public land and we need more due to the high volume of hunters and not enough public land or walk in land to hunt, expecially in east river. thanks
- 4541 Encourage your CO's to do more to get landowner Walk-In sign-up West River.
- 4544 I did not draw a deer tag this year, but I have in the past. Some of the walk in areas are very poor and are grazed down to nothing, or are very poor deer hunting land, grazed flat and no cover. This is in the Ardmore Edgemont area I feel that the GF&P is wasting their money on these. You need to get more pheasant hunting walk in area in the Hot Springs area. It is all deer and there is no place to hunt pheasants except for the few places that GFP own and those are hunted very hard. Also it would help a lot if you could stock some pheasant on the land owned by the GFP. After the first few days the bird are gone to private land.

- 4546 I think the walk in program is excellant however, some of the west river land in the areas I hunt is not suitable for deer or antelope and I question its enrollment. I also find that at my age it would be very beneficial if access to retrieve harvested game was open to unarmed atv use. Much of the land I have hunted would make it difficult to impossible for me to retrieve game on foot because of my age and physical disabilities. This ultimately limits the value of this land to me although for younger individuals I can see great value to it considering the difficulties gaining access to private land in west river counties. As far as the east river areas they are for the most part overhunted for both small and large game once again due to the difficulty in gaining access to private land. I think a return to the posting laws that existed in the sixties would solve a lot of the problems that exist with hunting in general today.
- 4552 need some of the food plot to be left till spring would help
- 4556 I would like to see section lines closed off to all types of hunting.
- 4562 Did not get a chance to hunt in 2009 unfortunatly
- 4577 I believe it is an invaluable program for sportsman and necessary for the future of hunting. If a follow-up survey is conducted I believe adding archery hunting to the survey would provide even more valuable information.
- 4578 We had a huge issue this year concerning east river rifle deer season. The quantity of standing corn, and the unwillingness of landowners to either harvest it in a timely fashion, coupled with the fact that very few people will let you hunt deer anymore is definitely becoming an issue. As a concerned hunter, I don't understand why guys won't let you hunt and won't get the harvest done in a timely fashion, then rant and rave about deer "eating all of the corn" or "there is just too many deer." Additionally, I know of guys looking for a government subsidy because of their sheer laziness when it comes to harvest, and not letting guys in to hunt. Heaven forbid that I have tags, and the willingness to hunt, and that any particular landowner has a trophy whitetail on the property. "We don't let guys hunt because you might bump 'my' deer." Whatever the case may be, row crops need to be getting harvested earlier in the fall. I don't know what the tally is yet, but I am guessing you guys are going to need to sell even more tags next year to make up for what is probably a substandard harvest this year.
- 4586 i hunt mainly in perkins county and the walk in areas in the shadehill area are pathetic. i can not beleive that any money is given for most of this land. good cover on one side of the road. and bare pasture land on the other side that is walk in. i don't know who decides this but they are making very poor decisions. quality is better than quantity.
- 4597 Need better maps for the walkin areas, or at least the availability of 1:24000 scale maps online or in an atlas you can purchase. It would be worth \$20 for these larger scale maps. Great program for South Dakota and public hunting - keep up the quality work and thank you! /s/Rick Hudson, Custer, SD
- 4600 Dear GF&P, The quality of the public walk in areas is great...if they were not grazed down. There are a number areas in the north western portion of our state that would be great for pheasants if they were not grazed so heavily. The other issue I have is that at the Orman Dam area there are a number of roads that could be used to get a duck hunter within 100 yards of the shore to place decoys, unload gear, etc. Don't be jerks. If you are using these roads or established trails for any purpose than we hunters should be able to use them. If biologists, tourists, GF&P employee's or anyone else is able to use them to complete their tasks, job, hobby, etc than we hunters should be able to use them. Please don't plow them up to keep us off of them. Regardless, thank you for the great job maintaining our natural resources and providing good hunting opportunities through out the state. Now change the legal age to hunt down to ten so my kids can hunt...lol. Have a great year and thank you for taking the time to read this. MJK

- 4602 The only issue we had was during our west river rifle deer hunt. The walk-in area atlas lists not only walk in areas but also school land as public access areas. We encountered a land owner that must lease the school land, he would not allow us access to that property, he admitted that it was school ground, but said that we must still have permission to hunt it. I suppose if we would have pushed the issue he would have had to let us on, but that would mean starting an argument, which we did not see as necessary. Maybe the hunting rights could be better spelled out in the lease agreement between the government and the rancher leasing the land. It would also be nice if all public hunting types were physically marked as good as the walk in areas are. The other issue seems to be public access, if there is land that is marked in the atlas as public hunting, but that land has no public access, we cannot hunt it anyway. I have been hunting public areas out west river for several years, and I believe that in the last few years a lot has been done to improve the public's access, hopefully with continued improvement it will continue to get better. Thanks
- 4617 The walk-in areas need to be better posted as I missed out on a very nice buck and some does this year in fall river county because it took me about 20 minutes and backtrack a few miles in my truck to find the first sign along with comparing my plat map and hunting atlas to find out if the deer were on public ground, only to have them jump the fence after figuring out where the deer were and if they were on public ground or not. If all the corners and at least every 1/4 or 1/2 were posted this wouldn't have had to waste 20 minutes and could have gotten into position to possibly harvest the deer.
- 4626 The walk in area atlas has no detail to it. It was pretty much useless.
- 4643 In my opinion, Walk-In Areas are critical to hunting as you may not always be given permission to hunt on private lands and Public Lands are usually heavily populated with hunters and too competitive, making the experience not as enjoyable.
- 4652 Although I didn't utilize walk-in areas as often as most; I often question some we considered hunting due to their lack of cover/wildlife habitat. I didn't know if this was the agreement with landowner or if walk-in intent was for species other than what I was hunting at this time. Valuable program I just wonder at times what sportman dollars and GFP budget is going for.
- 4659 I think the Walk-In program is very important and I have hunted many walk in areas in prior years.
- 4676 While I am fortunate to have access at this time to private hunting land, this was not always the case. As a youngster learning to hunt, I used the walk-in areas extensively. While I did not often harvest birds from these areas, it was a great experience and I grateful for having had the access.
- 4690 old walk in maps were easier to read and use
- 4699 There was too many hunting licenses in Harding county for the number of deer
- 4706 Need to make sure walk in land is leased for hunting not for farmer/ranchers extra money for unproductive land.
- 4726 I was quite disappointed with how very little pheasant cover was on many of the Walk In areas this year. I will say, though, it was a tough season with all the crops in yet. Unfortunately, Mother Nature is hard to predict.
- 4727 The Walk-In Area near me has lots of cover but seems to hold few birds. I hunt it every year with poor results. The above was coupled with obviously much lower pheasant numbers and a fall that had poor timing with corn harvest (corn STILL in the field). Basically, this year was one to write off..... Another point: WHY as a landowner do I need to buy doe tags? It's an insult.
- 4729 seems like the walk in or public areas crops are last priority for whomever is in charge of planting the crops (food plots) corn/milo doesn't seem to have any feed for the wild life. On the other side of my comment is that walk in areas and public land is very important for South Dakota. Very glad to have it available. Keep up the good work SDGFP
- 4737 Minnesota waterfowl hunters should be banned. They are ruining it for everyone

- 4750 Some areas have very little cover for bird hunting.
- 4756 We need to get more forages in the walk in areas for big game. The habitat is exceptional for upland birds but offers very little nutrients for deer. I would like to see some food plots in the CRP walk-in areas.
- 4760 THE WALK-IN AREAS THAT I SEE IN HAND COUNTY SEEM TO BE TOP NOTCH. GOOD HABITAT AND WELL MAINTAINED.
- 4761 Would like to see more walk-in areas, though I am very happy with the hunting on existing walk-in areas
- 4763 The break in the West River deer rifle hunting season is not good. When I went out before Thanksgiving posed two problems. First it was too warm and second, my spare refrigerator I use to hold my game until I can cut & wrap it is needed for the Thanksgiving feast. For me being able to hunt after Thanksgiving would of solved both problems. The late December/January break was poor due to the storm. The season running from November thru the first weekend of January would be more satisfactory.
- 4768 SD needs to get more acres enrolled in walk in area's. South Dakota also needs to be proactive in a new CRP program for the overall quality of wildlife opportunities in South Dakota.
- 4773 The areas available are all over hunted with too many hunters.
- 4776 Keep up the good work guys!
- 4790 I didn't like the printing used for the atlas this year because water bodies were printed over and it was difficult to tell if there was a water body on public land. I also think railroad tracks should be included again.
- 4797 Many of the walk-in areas that I visited were not suitable for the species I was hunting. Grasslands were hayed out...short wheat stubble, etc. I opted not to waste my time in such areas.
- 4804 I guess I have a wildlife related issue - South Dakota's method for resident hunters is - not so great. It seems like it is skewed toward landowners and those with money (non-residents). (the big game tags). Buying preference points to be able to have an extra chance to hunt (after buying them for years), sounds like, at best - a kick-back. Even if I don't own all that acreage, we still have gardens that get destroyed by antelope and deer, and, especially in town, we deal with them sometimes on an hourly basis - yet, some people here have waited 15-16 YEARS for an Elk tag. That just doesn't seem right - I believe, as do many, many other South Dakotans, that walk-in areas are worthless to those who cannot get a tag to hunt big game, and that there ought to be some preferences given to residents - not just ranch residents. Meanwhile, there are landowner tags left over, and landowners get to make extra money by using what tags they get for "guest" hunters. There has got to be a better way, I would think.
- 4809 I highly value all public areas for all venues of hunting. Every year more private land is closed due to private licencing. I fear that soon--my private areas of hunting will be closed to me. I highly value the public hunting venues.
- 4818 I can't drag a deer 2 miles. The Walk-In Areas are of no use to me without being able to transport.
- 4828 LARRY SCHUMACHER PASSED AWAY AUGUST 27TH 2009. THIS SURVEY WAS COMPLETED BY HIS WIFE. HE WAS AN AVID HUNTER IN HIS LIFETIME BUT DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO HUNT IN 2009. THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO SEND ANY FUTURE SURVEYS IN THE FUTURE. THANK YOU. DARLENE SCHUMACHER
- 4838 We were very busy trying to harvest the fall crop so didn't get much time to hunt. The corn not being harvested provided alot of cover and the deep snow brought our hunting to a hult.
- 4843 I think walkin areas are very important. I wish more could be used for duck sloughs (open hunting).

- 4844 more walk in areas would be great. Right now in some areas there is so little walk in that is hunted by so many people i avoid it.
- 4846 I used walk-in areas for archery deer hunting (approx. 20 days).
- 4852 we need to shorten the season on pheasants and dont think about rasiing the limit because there isnt enough birds the way it is and drop the limit to 3 on persevre i dont care if they let them go stop rasiing the limits its a joke and need to have more places for deer and dont shoot them unless they are in season like when you go to someones farm and shoot them for eating the hay that is crap if they dont want them put a fence
- 4867 I heard that GF&P was considering removing cedar trees from a WPA near Lake Mitchell (Northeast of Arlington, SD). I do not feel this is agood idea as I bow hunt and rifle hunt deer on private land in this area and notice that alot of deer use this area for bedding. Could you comment on this? Thanks.
- 4889 Although I am able to hunt on my own ground for west river and my brothers for east river, I realize I am in the minority and would like to see more walk in provided for bird hunters. Additionally, I want to tell you that as a mentor in the Youth Hunting Adventures, that this is a great program. I was initially skeptical about taking a 12 year old hunting, but think if done properly it can be a great experience for mentor and mentee. At times, I felt like it was my first hunt. Mike Gould
- 4893 Tho I don't hunt on these Walk-In areas, I know how important they are for those that do, so I am always happy to hear about the progress being made along these lines.
- 4897 I feel the Atlas is not "user friendly". Would like to see the maps listed by county.
- 4911 Unfortunate hunting this year...
- 4912 Antelope hunting in north Perkins county was a joke. Hunted 3 FULL days and only saw 2 antelope that were not on privite land and protected. I don't mind a tough hunt but one likes to feel that they have a chance if they hunt hard----there was NO chance in that unit. I normally think you guys do a good job but ya really let the sportsmen down on this one.
- 4913 ground was too wet with too many crops still in the fields
- 4917 There were alot of crops still in while i was hunting.
- 4930 need to have a way to get game out after going 3 or4 miles cant drag them out to far
- 4955 The walk-in areas in NW SD are fair at best. They have potential to be be decent except that they get pounded way to much. As so often the case there are to many tags given out for deer and antelope. Most hunters are more then a two generations removed from the family farm therefore forcing many people to public lands or walk-in areas. For the Deer WR rifle season a solution may be to have a public lands draw that would be good for only public land and walk-in areas and another draw just for private land. The hunting units would still be the same and this would only affect the units with significant amounts of public lands, and walk-in areas. This would work if tags were reduced significantly for public lands. Have the public land hunts early in the fall around Oct 1st. To be fair for bow hunters the WR deer archery season would open mid August archery tags would be the same as they are now but the start date would be earlier . Archers would love this as they could play the water angle and it would give them a better chance on public lands before the pheasant and grouse seasons start. Then have the private land hunts later, hopefully hunters could concentrate on problem areas that land owners are having with deer. Although this isn't perfect and just an idea I don't think that you can find to many people that honestly will tell you that the public land hunting they have in SD couldn't be better.

- 4959 The Game and Fish better get something figured out to get some CRP back in or they won't have to worry about the pheasants in the esastern part of the state. They're has been alot of grass and trees takin out the last 3 years and it really showed up this year on the pheasant numbers. The east river deer season is to early and to long. It puts to much pressure on the deer during the rut when it is that early. If hunters can't get a deer in two weekends and one week then they aren't trying very hard. That's why they call it hunting. If they can't drive around and shoot it from the road or drive up to it and shoot it they think they have to have a longer season and that's what they got. Love the wildlife and love to hunt but don't like lazy people who call themselves hunters!
- 4963 The walk in areas that I observed this past seasons seemed too be over grazed. therefore no cover for the wildlife. There were also cattle on some of the land while deer and antelope seasons were on.
- 4969 Walk - in areas are very important to those who do not have access to private lands. Keep the program going.
- 4972 I think the walk-in programs are valuable for South Dakota hunters. I am fortunate to have some good private land to hunt on so I do not use these areas. But, I used to. I think it is important to continue to maintain areas like these for South Dakota residents who like to hunt but don't always have access to private land.
- 4976 Did use some walk-in land last year and it was very good cover. We drove by a couple spots in Sanborn this year and it looked really good.
- 4977 I really like the old style of maps in the Walk-in area booklet. The newer map was much harder to use.
- 4981 I think the walk-in areas are a great way to keep hunting alive in S. D. I have a number of walk-in areas close to me but I chose to hunt my own property first. Turkeys are getting more and more numerous and I believe it is an issue that needs more attention.
- 4982 Hughes County could use more walk-in areas.
- 4986 walk in area atlas needs beeter directions and boundries markers, especially in Fall River County
- 5005 Weather conditions with the corn crop still being in and then snowfall later made for tough hunting.
- 5009 I have a hard time accepting the fact that public dollars are spent on obtaining access to Walk-In Areas that do not have the proper habitat for big game hunting. I would absolutely utilize Walk-In Areas for big game hunting if they consisted of river bottom type woods or other whitetail type habitat. These areas are not pasture or crop land, and would be ideal for giving hunters an extra type of land to hunt on. I realize an effort is in place to secure more public access for big game hunting and that is to be commended, but it should be only in areas that hold big game consistently through the seasons. I archery hunt more than rifle, and enjoy hunting deer from trees. Thank you.
- 5017 to heavily hunted no wildlife keeping habbit in public shooting areas
- 5033 Didn't hunt walk-in areas.
- 5040 Walkin area Atlas needs to go by county. it sucks by region
- 5062 I think that the access to some of the public areas should be improved. I have never had the need to utilize the walk-in areas although I know many persons who do - including family.
- 5087 Most years I use walk-in areas and I think they're great. I hunted very little this year so I didn't use them. They are valuable to the public who otherwise wouldn't have access.
- 5090 In the Martin S.D. area where I goose hunt, there seemed to be fewer Walk-In Areas this past year. It would be nice to see more Walk-In Areas around Yankton S.D. for pheasant hunting.

- 5103 the walk in program is the worst thing that ever happened to the deer population in grant county. the deer numbers are extremely low to nonexistent in some areas. in the marvin area there is large blocks of walk in area and the deer that are there get wiped out. people from sioux falls come up here because of all the walk in and shoot everything that moves. there are so few deer here that everyone that i talked to is so pissed at the state for what it has done to the deer numbers & the quality of the deer here in grant county. the tag numbers need to be dropped and the state should quite being so greedy with the license money they get from overselling tags and be more concerned about what the sporsman in this area are trying to tell them but u don't seem to care that we have nothing left to hunt
- 5108 Since we have an excess of rosters extend the season and raise the daily limit of birds.
- 5115 WE WERE BUILDING A NEW HOME DURING MOST OF THE HUNTING SEASON AND WAS UNABLE TO HUNT.
- 5127 The emphasis of the walk-in program appears to be for pheasants - The average resident pays significantly more in license fees for big game than they do for small game yet the majority of the walk-in areas appear to be established for the non-resident phesant hunters. The walk-in areas and other pulic land is hit hard by phesant hunters and as a result pushes all the deer onto private land before rifle seasons open. Also, the phesant hunting presure has messed up several of my archery deer hunts on walk-in and other public land.
- 5131 I think the public hunting areas and walk in areas are great ways for hunters that don't or can't get permission for private land. I like to hunt them and usually do but was able to get private ground to hunt west river. The east river hunting has gotten so commercialized it is hard to find places to hunt with out paying for the privilege. I am disappointed at the walk in and public land in brown county to hunt also. I am from the old school and find it hard to pay to hunt.
- 5139 it was very hard to see the mile marker points on this years atlas. also some of these walk in areas are so big and with only one acess point and no trail to drive on it discourages me to hunt them as you would have a hard time getting big game back to your vehical.
- 5140 Deer management in the Pierre area, or should I say deer extermination. With the limited areas to take deer in the city limits by the city, the areas that need addressed are not and the other open areas are overharvested. I believe that the geese are a much larger issue, lets start shooting them or at least cleaning the crap on the sidewalks, what a disgrace when people visit the capitol. What about the disease that could be spread. What about the bird flu? I love seeing wildlife in or around town, and management is important, but what I am seeing is not management.
- 5147 more walk-in land it's too crowded
- 5160 I liked the old format for the walk in atlas a lot better.
- 5171 Walk in areas need to be better maintained. Vegetation is too thick - can't walk through it.
- 5176 The areas we hunt are very large and we did not do any walk in.
- 5179 To much regret I didnt get out to do any hunting :(
- 5194 i dont think that any public hunting land should be land locked. if you can not get to it to hunt or have to pay to get to it, it defeats the purpose.
- 5204 The walk-in areas are a very good idea, hoever some of them I've been in have very little game habitat.
- 5208 i wasnt able to hunt do to a broken back as a result of a car accident
- 5212 I only hunted the West River areas with archery. My answers in the survey section for West River rifle season may be confusing. I harvested with archery in the West River areas the following. 2 antlerless on private land. 1 Buck on BLM land. I harvested 1 antlerless on Black Hills Forest area.
- 5215 I did not get to hunt pheasants in 2009 but heard many positive things regarding your walk in areas and the great pheasant hunting they provided. Keep the program going! Sounds as if it is working! Thanks.

- 5233 I grew up hunting walk-in areas for deer. You need to have some type of access road only to retrieve animals. It is ridiculous to have to drag a deer 1 to 2 miles. I hunt all private know, see more deer, love to spot and stalk, but I go pick up my animal with a truck or 4-wheeler. I appreciated having a place to hunt when I was a kid, but I would never do that again!!
- 5240 before you purchase more walk in areas take better care of what you already have!
- 5258 suggestion: include sunrise/sunset schedule in atlas while hunting deer in Marshall county, a landowner drove through a walk in area to reach his cattle at prime time - just after sundown. While I was hunting adjacent private land, the pickup driving through the walk-in spooked the deer back into the slough. I am confident I would have harvested a deer that evening were it not for the pickup. The same landowner was seen earlier in the day driving through the same walk in area to pick up pheasant hunters at the other end. I can tolerate his action to water cattle even though his timing was "interesting". Driving in to pick up hunters was wrong. I am not pleased my \$\$ supported that action.
- 5260 My dissatisfaction with the Walk-in program is that there are too many hunters trying to hunt the same areas - thus ruining the hunt for all. The walk-in area should be significantly increased to provide hunting ground for all of SD's hunters. Too much emphasis on out-of-state revenue - take care of us SD taxpayers first!
- 5273 The walk-in program has definitely taken the pressure off for finding locations to hunt. It does make some land unaccessable though for hunters with health issues that limit their ability to walk because of the size of some of the walk-in parcels and the issue of retrieving game.
- 5292 When I did use Walk-in-areas a few years ago for archery antelope I was vert pleased that it worked as easy as it did. I hunt archery antelope in Montana and they need to model SD's walk in program.
- 5296 I think that the walk-in program is a valuable one. I have hunted them in the past and it was nice to have a place closer to home to hunt. Had I not been fortunate enough to develop a good relationship with a rancher out west, I would probably still be hunting the walk-in areas.
- 5304 Not enough walk in areas to hunt pheasants. They are all over pressured and hunted out.
- 5305 There needs to be a time set aside each day for people to use marked trails/roads to retrieve animals that have been harvested. An hour time period could be set aside at noon and sundown to recover dead animals. The vehicles would have to stay on designated trails. At sixty two years of age, I will NOT hunt walk again without modifications to the retrieval process. This should be a simple solution and would really increase the amount of hunters that would utilize the walk in areas.
- 5315 I normally don't hunt Walk-In Areas. All of my hunting is done on private land. When the snow storm came that changed the way we had to hunt. It was very difficult to hunt. I was hoping for an extension of the season in one way or another
- 5318 CRP land should be walk-in areas. Allowing it to be used as commercial hunting on top of the tax payers already paying for the land is criminal!
- 5323 I didn't get the opportunities to go out this year. However, my experience in the past has been great.
- 5344 Will use in 2010
- 5348 Not enough land in Spink County
- 5349 The walk-in areas were very crowded.
- 5350 I WAS IMPRESSED TO SEE FOOD PLOTS IN SOME OF THE WALK IN AREAS WHERE I HADN'T BEFORE. THERE IS PLENTY OF COVER, BUT GETTING THE BIRDS OUT OF IT IS DIFFICULT EITHER DUE TO THE SIZE OR THE FACT THAT SO MUCH CORN HAD NOT BEEN HARVESTED AT THE TIME I WAS WALKING THEM. I DID NOT GET TO THEM LATE SEASON WHICH COULD MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN MY SUCCESS. IT IS INCREASINGLY HARDER TO FIND PRIVATE LAND TO HUNT, SO I REALLY APPRECIATE THE WALK-IN AREAS, HOWEVER THEY DO RECEIVE VERY HEAVY HUNTING PRESSURE IN THIS AREA.

- 5355 Keep this program going. It is a very valuable program for hunters like myself. Even though I did not hunt walk-in areas this year I have hunted them extensively in the past. It is a good program that needs to be continued if not increased.
- 5359 Many Walk-In Areas are grazed down to the dirt and offer no hunting opportunity. I don't feel the GF&P should be paying landowners for access to land that offers no habitat.
- 5363 Would love to see the old hunting atlas again, that was a great book.
- 5365 Excellent atlas. Would like to see more Walk In Areas in the southeast part of the state.
- 5367 Would like maps to indicate tribal land area
- 5371 We could use some place to target shoot. Maybe set up ranges on some of the walk in areas. I'm getting to old to hunt but like to plink around with my pistols. Thanks, Jim S.
- 5377 I am lucky enough to have farmer friends who let me hunt on their lands.
- 5381 The walk in area that we went to south of Winner was patrolled by a landowner and made it very uncomfortable for hunting deer.
- 5383 DO AWAY WITH THE GAP BETWEEN THE ANY DEER AND ANTERLESS SEASONS EAST RIVER
- 5387 Put county line back in
- 5402 I wish that hunters would use the walk-in areas for deer hunting instead of road hunting my land.
- 5406 The gps downloads are a great addition to this atlas program.
- 5407 GFP TALKED ABOUT INCREASING THE LIMIT OF PHEASANTS, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A BETTER DECISION TO LENGTHEN THE SEASON A FEW DAYS.
- 5416 Need more areas like the Isabele GPA. Lots of birds to hunt and plenty of area to spread out. I have been hunting several walkin areas for the last few years and was very disappointed to find cows on the WI after driving several hours. Also noticed several of the WI's were grazed to the ground but we often found grouse in these areas???? I have hunted deer on private land most of my life and was shocked to see the # of hunters in the Meade Co. WI's on opening weekend. No wonder we didnt see any deer. Although I did see a bobcat on the cheyene river bottom next to Zeibach Co. My experience in the Meade Co WI's made me appreciate the small 1000 acre plot we own. Looked like a great area to hunt but nearly impossible to get int due to # of hunters.
- 5417 for the amount of money spent on licencese and etc I feel that we do not have adequate land made available for use. I feel that south dakota residents should not have to pay in order to access land that is part of the same tax base that we contribute too. Big money from out of state hunters has made most landowners hungry for money to hunt their animals. Although the last I knew these animals are property of the state, not just a landowner. It seems really strange that until the numbers get out of control they belong to the land owner but the first time there is a problem they become state animals. Land owners don't consider the roads they drive on all come from a common tax base. Out of state hunters do not pay enough for licenses considering the amount of wildlife they remove. in 2008 the general hunting licencese in the state of colorado was \$535 to hunt 1 elk, in sd a \$100 permit allows a hunter to come here and shoot at least 30 pheasants. It doesn't seem fair to SD residents
- 5422 The walk in program is excellent over all because the public is provided the opportunity to hunt "SOME" prime South Dakota private land. I am an avid upland bird hunter with pointing dogs and prefer to hunt walk-ins west of the river as a first choice, because of the grouse & chickens and roosters as a bonus bird. I find it difficult to complete your survey as far as the quality of the walk-in areas because the quality of the areas varies so widely. Example my best areas from last year were not huntable this year because they were hayed or pastured. (I understand the hay was excellent this year). Some areas I wonder how they get into the program and other areas are prestine bird habitat. As in all hunting you need to do your scouting to find the prime areas and they may or may not be the same from year to year. Is it possible to have a system where more is offered to the land owner if they have more types of hunting? A property that offers good big game, waterfowl, upland, and predator hunting is worth more than a property that has been hayed or grazed. Some

incentive to have some cover on the ground. I also hunt other states and notice the South Dakota pattern emerging in places like Montana, Kansas and Nebraska. I LOVE WALK-INS the bigger the better. Keep up the good work and go get that quality land. If you need a spokesperson from the land owner side I recommend Everett Jones Herried S.D. he loves the program and says it has given him the opportunity to meet many friendly, respectful hunters. Enough rambling keep up the good work !

- 5425 It would be a service to the grass lands and the animals that live there to turn buffalo gap grasslands into WALK-IN AREA. We try to hunt it every other year and the vehicle and 4-wheeler tracks are just terrible. It seems like every time you raise up to shoot there is a vehicle or 4-wheeler some where in the scope.
- 5426 Just aren't seeing deer like when I started hunting, so a little disappointing. Hopefully that'll someday change...
- 5441 Due to work constraints this year I was not able to hunt as much as I would have liked and had I been able to be in the field more I would have spent most of my time on public ground. I was fortunate to have been invited onto private ground for a few hunts this year, otherwise I rely heavily on the public hunting opportunities. Any consideration to allowing only one pheasant be taken from a public shooting area per day?
- 5445 Walk in areas are critical for wildlife habitat and providing access to hunters that otherwise have nowhere to hunt and compete on limited private ground, or are forced to make poor decisions such as trespassing or other unethical decisions. I realize that Walk-In is private ground, and the agricultural needs of the land far outweigh the financial reimbursement that the SD GF&P can provide, the value of hayed pasture land in walk-in is very limited if useful at all. Walk-in ground that has no cover/habitat does not provide wildlife assistance
- 5446 Although we didn't use the Walk In areas this year, we feel they are very valuable to our resources and maintaining hunter access.
- 5448 Most of them handy-cap people can not access them.
- 5452 WALK IN AREA PROGRAM VERY GOOD IDEA EVEN THOUGH I DO NOT USE THEM TO HUNT
- 5473 Walk-In Area's provide a lot of people with land to hunt. I would like to see more Walk-In land available for waterfowl hunting like is available along the river (Sheeans) in the winter. Fields available for decoy hunting would be very popular in certain areas of the state. I would be willing to bet most farmers would be more than happy to lease harvested crop fields for hunting. Walk In is an excellent program, keep it going
- 5476 I do not know what it takes to get landowners to sign up for walk in but it would be great to get a lot more land in the walk in program I personally do not hunt much walk in land because it is typically over pressured but I have to travel a long way from home to hunt private land. For various reasons land owners are not as willing to allow hunters as they were 5 or 10 years ago. That of course puts crazy amounts of pressure on the limited public land. The walk in program is great there just needs to be a lot more of it!
- 5479 I think the walk in areas are great hunting opportunity for all hunters.
- 5493 Recommend an easy to use virtual sheehan unit to manage giant canadian geese on the East side of the state. Farmers don't want them, but finding fields where they are, getting access etc... is a bear because the hardcore guys already either locked up the land - or - scouted 10 "potential" fields with birds in them and received permission. Little does the land-owner know that 9 of them will not get hunted. Lot's of guys love to hunt the geese and have the setup to do it, but not the time to consistently scout. My 2 cents. If you can re-create what you did in Pierre on the east side of the state it would be awesome. Web based registration vs. the trailer would be key - would also rock if farmers could put in blog updates and hunters could track their success/usage. Considering the predation issue it might be very cost effective to open a ridiculously good hunting opportunity for the public.

- 5494 Weather was a major factor in hunting this year.
- 5512 Any possibility of having a more detailed atlas with more road names. I would also like if more signs for walk in areas were posted so you can spend less time looking back and forward at land and at the atlas, worn out old signs should be replaced.
- 5514 I did not use any walk in areas
- 5517 Love the download capability to GPS of the public lands - great idea!
- 5520 You cant hunt deer if you dont get a tag for the areas you have available to hunt very disapointed in not getting a Hills deer tag..
- 5526 should have had longer duck season east river, south of huron
- 5579 need atlas that shows county lines, it is very hard to read
- 5589 That habitat here for deer is one of the best this survey was very easy to use rather than taking the survey in the mail
- 5592 Ok. One of the first things that really irritated me about walk in areas in general is that they allow people to drive hunt or use their vehicles to hunt. THAT IS NOT HUNTING that is driving around seeing an animal and shooting it. If i wanted to do that i would drive down the high way. Obviously i dont though. driving around the area looking for animals uins it for the people that are really actually trying to hunt. The real way. The drivers scare the animals further from the walking hunter. Completely unfair. One thing that should be changed is the amount of areas to start at. Too many people park in the same place and makes me want to not even hunt. Oh and if this is read by a person there are too many people around that are so immature and not a safe hunter. When i was hunting in the black hills in an area near spearfish these couple guys walked past me with a deer. Then they saw more near me and started to shoot them. IN MY DIRECTION! This leads me to say there has to be more security or patrol around these areas. My biggest concers are the unfairness to people who really try to hunt and not using their vehicles to do so and the safety of people who are doing their part in staying smart safe and considerate from the people that dont know how to hunt or are very dangerous to others. I can go on a lot about it. I am soon to be 19 and i'm more of a safe and smart hunter than grown men. I will say that i will no longer try to hunt the black hills. Not because of all this but because flat open land is my prefered way of hunting. Thank you for letting me get a few issues off my chest. Oh and i never got a deer.
- 5597 Did not hunt this year. Have done limited hunting in the past as well.
- 5648 I did not use walk-in areas this eyar as our family has private hunting land. Although my freinds used some areas and really enjoyed it, got some birds, and said it was nice to have a fresh new place to hunt...
- 5654 I hunted a walk-in area north of Hays and all the grass was cut there was no cover i think thats a wast of money.
- 5709 Atlas was good. Did not hunt walk-in.
- 5716 Keep much hunting available for resident non-landowners. Insure no compromises in our 2nd Amendment rights.
- 5755 Did not get drawn for Black Hills deer and was very disappointed.
- 5797 Love the walk in area program, keep up the good work! I like North Dakota's yellow up-side-down triangular signs for their walk in areas, they are more visually distiguated than south Dakota's white rectangular sign. Perhaps it would be too expensive for you to change. I would like to see you add signs to state public land noting that the areas are open for public use, including hunting. Being able to download public lands to GPS is excellent! We noted that designated trail signs were in disrepair on the large walk in area within Perkins county. Maybe consider adding the designated trails to the GPS database.

- 5824 Most wildlife areas seemed to be either all cropland, grazed, or cut for hay this year. We keep paying higher licensing fees while the public land to hunt falls in quality and habitat. I thought the higher fees were to improve habitat for the wildlife, not pay the farmers to leave the land alone but still let them cut the grass, graze, or plant it to crop and collect twice. Quit wasting my money to help farmers who already have too much government help!!!
- 5838 i like how u have the gps overlay
- 5877 DIDN'T HUNT
- 5932 the maps are confusing to read and the shaded or darkened area are small for me to read.
- 5944 just fished this year
- 5958 PUt in for big game licenses but did not receive any, very disappointed in this, a year without hunting makes me want to give it all up!

**Appendix E. Optional comments received by mail from nonresident hunters.**

ID: 11

Your state is very hunter friendly, and I enjoy coming and will continue to come back to SD.

ID: 21

I didn't hunt the walk in areas but I see plenty of them and there habitat looked pretty good. I would like to see some strips of crops in them to hold the birds and have better winter cover.

ID: 40

Very hard to get duck stamps for the correct area, I picked the zone for where we were going but we got stamps for another area.

ID: 62

This isn't about the walk in areas I used to be a South Dakota Resident. I think it is stupid to be charging for hunting the way you charge for non-residents. Since SD is my home state I don't mind paying the non-resident fee but it should be for the whole season of hunting not just 10 days.

ID: 65

I love South Dakota!

ID: 111

The walk-in atlas could use more road numbers

ID: 127

The walk in area program should require food plots.

ID: 129

Walk in is an outstanding program. Wish we had it in Minnesota. With out walk in and road right of ways I wouldn't be hunting in SD.

ID: 137

Born and raised in South Dakota it is home!

ID: 160

SD should extend the pheasant season until January 31<sup>st</sup> to provide additional opportunities for bird hunters and to generate additional revenue for South Dakota. You can't stock pile gallinaceous birds so the additional honest would not impact pheasant populations.

ID: 181

I was part of a group which we pt together on short term notice. We went to a private lodge and hunted wild birds on private property. It was a great experience and look forward to further adventures in South Dakota.

ID: 209

I am sure you get this comment a lot, but the 2 five day hunting periods are very restrictive. I am back to SD numerous times to work on our ranch and being limited to the 2 5 day periods had kept me from even considering getting a license. This is especially true when you consider we have mostly grouse (very few pheasants) in our area.

ID: 220

I have not used the "walk in" program. Although I live in Nebraska I own 360 acres in Tripp County, South Dakota and have for several years. As a South Dakota tax payer I would like to be able to purchase my hunting license at a reduced cost. I'm no asking for resident price but somewhere in between would be nice. Hope you will consider this.

ID: 224

Great Experience!

ID: 242

Our group did not see the numbers of birds that we have seen in the past years. Few birds, I don't feel like the population count was accurate. I hunted near the Mitchell area.

ID: 250

Still need more public land, but very happy we have what we do. Keep up the good work.

ID: 276

Keep up the great efforts to keep habitat and wildlife available to hunter and youth. Your continued effort along with Pheasants Forever is appreciated.

ID: 278

I think this program is absolutely vital in retaining quality hunting for resident and non-resident hunters. There is not enough public land to support both otherwise.

ID: 287

It was nice to have the walk in areas to hunt for a option over private land. I think that the reason for my party not harvested any birds on walk in area was that it was late in the season and only had three guys and no dogs. It would have been nice to see a few more birds and rabbits. Thanks for your program.

ID: 300

Walk in hunting is a great thing it's potluck, just don't know how hard hunted like to see the limit of pheasants to four a day.

ID: 311

Have a single "opening" weekend for in state and out of state. It is too far to drive to expensive to have the birds worked hard before I am even able to hunt.

ID: 318

I didn't hunt any walk in areas this time, but I grew up in SD.

ID: 319

I would hunt more road right of ways if more uncut was available and would probably hunt walk in areas only if areas were better located next to crops. Seeing how private areas cost more than I can afford.

ID: 320

Keep up the good work and get more walk in areas!

ID: 342

How do I get information on locating walk in areas? Is non-toxic shot required?

ID: 368

I would like the walk in area atlas to include what type of game you may encounter in a particular field.

ID: 371

We hunted on private land.

ID: 415

Excellent hunting!

ID: 431

Beautiful State with great hunting!

ID: 447

I didn't hunt any walk in areas. The public land I hunted was very good. I look forward to hunting again next year in SD and will try the walk in areas.

ID: 461

The game wardens should spend more time checking those hunting on private land. I hear stories of a lot of double and triple bagging on these leased farms. Some of the pay to hunt farms let their good customers come back late season to shoot all the birds they want just to keep their business. Two years ago I got checked twice hunting on public land before I even fired a shot.

ID: 475

I have never hunted walk in areas in SD only private ground for 18 years.

ID: 476

The programs were good food on acres available to hunt. Conditions were so difficult for hunting with pointing dogs that I was disappointed. I also hunt in Montana and I prefer you're Walk in program to their block management program. Overall I commend your commitment to public areas.

ID: 488

If the out of state license period would be changed from two five day periods to two seven day periods. I would likely come back for a second late season hunt (and spend more money in your state). Currently I have to use up both of my five day periods for my early season hunting because I stay for seven days. I'm not willing to spend another \$114 to buy another license later in the season.

ID: 525

I would like to see you get away from the two five day hunts and make it a little more user friendly for closer hunters. I have many friends that I enjoy hunting with in South Dakota and to pick 5 days in a row twice or to coordinate with their plans is difficult. I don't mind the cost but would like to see it extended or maybe even make it an annual permit for non-residents like Nebraska for small game. I enjoy hunting in your state and thanks for the concern.

ID: 540

I did look at walk in maps; felt they were good and clear.

ID: 550

Outstanding Program

ID: 597

Having been raised in South Dakota, thus being granted access to private land is a huge compliment for success. The other factor for this year was gaining access to the "Salzmann" Habitat in the Iona area of Lyman County an excellent parcel with high bird count. I am planning to contact the South Dakota Department of Game Fish & Parks, in September 2010, in regard to obtain a permit to hunt the Salzmann Habitat again (so Lyman county near Iona). Hopefully our "hunt group" will be in South Dakota for the 2010 opener. I am looking forward to mid October.

ID: 612

I wasn't very familiar with the Walk in Area Program.

ID: 647

Very nice hunting

ID: 651

There is just too much hunting pressure on the public land. We were tripping over other guys out by White Lake. It was dangerous! We will hunt private land all next year, if we come out. I'd say charge more to hunt in SD. That will thin the ranks and keep the Revenue.

ID: 659

The atlas was very confusing if attempting to locate a site. The school land, walk in areas, state and federal lands difficult to locate because of no land reference points (road numbers and what not).

ID: 672

Always have a great time when we are there, keep up the great work!

ID: 678

What is a "Walk in Area Atlas" and how do I get one? I think it would be helpful to have more information about SD Public lands and Walk in Areas like terrain, type of vegetation, and percent of water.

ID: 695

Over the past 20 years hunters in my party have seen valuable lands purchased and restricted from the public hunting. This trend is threat to South Dakota's economy, as well as wildlife management revenues, programs, etc. I am thankful for the collaboration between GF&P with private landowners to maintain this valuable resource.

ID: 722

I have hunted pheasants in South Dakota for many years. Over the years it appears to me that each year the amount of Walk in Areas are decreasing with an increased use at the same then if it weren't for private land then I am lucky to hunt I would not hunt in South Dakota much longer. Increased funding to walk in areas and especially to the "CRP" program would drastically help the state of South Dakota and its pheasant hunting season and overall economy. It is sad to me that hunting road right of ways yields more birds then walk in areas. In short I feel an overall better economy and hunting honest if more money has put into these 2 programs especially to make it worthwhile for local farmers to want to produce these types of ground.

ID: 726

Due to the late season crops and the wetness of the area we hunted it was a hard hunt as there was just too much cover and bad weather maybe next year.

ID: 743

Although I didn't hunt walk in areas this year I usually will hunt some walk in areas each year for part of 20 years and I am very satisfied with these areas. More food plots would be great.

ID: 747

The "Walk in Area Atlas" can be confusing when switching back and forth to a road atlas. A lot of the "Walk in Areas" are flood plains. Understandable for wetland management, but a 40 acre field of flooded cattails can be hard to hunt.

ID: 786

20-25 miles NW of Aberdeen had poor cover on walk in lands. I would not waste time driving to this area. NE of Aberdeen – Hecla area good cover in Walk in Areas, what would be expected.

ID: 791

This was my first hunt in South Dakota just didn't know enough about the area. Your walk in program is good!

ID: 798

The only reason I wasn't completely satisfied with the hunting in South Dakota was for the fact that the corn and beans weren't harvested therefore all of the birds were just sitting in the corn all day. I'm sure that if it had not rained as much and the corn could have been harvested there would have been way more birds, with that said I will be back next year!

ID: 807

Was hunting in early November and there were still a lot of crops in the field so pheasants were hard to find.

ID: 818

I defiantly don't like the farmers being able to cut the grassland in the Walk in Areas. It seems that the Walk in grass is mostly cut and the private land that had grass on them was not cut. The other gripe I have is that the first week of locals hunting is that they have to hunt public land. Does South Dakota not want the money that out of state hunters spend, get the resident to hunt private land!

ID: 839

The weather was the biggest impact to my hunt, overall the habitat was very good.

ID: 846

I am looking forward to see the progress with the continuing efforts to this program.

ID: 856

I didn't use any walk in areas.

ID: 868

The habitat was excellent on both, private and walk in areas, however, we hunted private land and did well on days 1, day 2 no birds, day 3 no birds, very disappointed with the bird numbers. We had 5 dogs for 3 guys.

ID: 873

Thank you the hunting was amazing, a lot better than Idaho.

ID: 875

The walk in areas we walked were hit hard and often which resulted in 0% outcome. One spot can't remember the name but was southeast of Doland at least 12 – 15 birds were shot in the morning and cleaned then left in a pile on the walk in grounds. I wish I would have run into these people. Over all your state offers some of the best hunting I have ever had.

ID: 890

I love hunting in South Dakota.

ID: 915

Many Walk In areas were hayed and provided very poor cover had a great time and a good hunt.

ID: 924

In regards to pheasant hunting on Walk in Areas or private land, the hunting was off because of the moisture just too wet to really walk around a lot.

ID: 934

The walk in program is the only reason I travel from Colorado to hunt South Dakota. Please continue to keep this very important program. Thanks to you and the landowners.

ID: 945

Overall I appreciate the atlas and areas to hunt. Some seem miss-marked as quality of cover.

ID: 962

The walk in areas program is a very good thing. We don't have it here in Iowa and I wish we did. I'm hopefully going to the South Dakota State for college and hope to take advantage of the program

ID: 984

Please continue this program it is extremely important for sportsman to have this access with more and more land being leased!

ID: 990

Didn't get waterfowl draw this year. I would like to see increase in non-resident waterfowl permits. Where I hunted last year saw lots of waterfowl but few if any hunters. Enjoy visiting your beautiful state each year!

ID: 1002

Your online atlas and downloadable GPS atlas are excellent. I wish WI and MN were as organized as SD in both mapping; GPS available data and ease of use websites. Thanks for the hunting.

ID: 1011

License fees are pretty high for non-residents, seems they have crept up a little over the last several years. If I were you I would keep fees at present or lower levels. Any increase you may pales relative to money I spend on gas, food, and hotels during my trip.

ID: 1022

I hunt private ground and am a landowner myself as well as my family and friends.

ID: 1025

Hard to find needed signs at the walk in land. Walk in and public hunting on the same map!

ID: 1029

Didn't see as many birds (pheasants) due to the fact the farmers couldn't harvest crops due to the fact the fields were wet from all the rainfall. Most areas with crops held birds and counts were down in walk in and public lands in the grasslands and swamps.

ID: 1049

Most walk in areas we checked out, lacked habitat and were hunted extremely heavy. Ditches are being cut more every year, I hope this practice will end, in next to impossible to find private land to hunt unless you want to pay \$300 for 3 birds. I hope someone can stop farmers from cutting ditches or it won't be worth going to South Dakota. Thanks for being concerned. Please stop the cutting of rural ditches, it's a great day for a man and his dog.

ID: 1054

South Dakota will always be my place to go for pheasant hunting!

ID: 1060

My brother and I are part owners in the family farm in the Roslyn area in Day County. Why do we have to pay full price for an out of state license when though we live in Indiana?

ID: 1065

Lower cost of out of state license or make it the whole season not just 10 days for out of state hunters perhaps reciprocity with Minnesota pheasant hunters.

ID: 1069

I very much appreciate being able to use walk in areas. It keeps me coming back to SD.

ID: 1077

The experience this year was tough. A lot of corn was still in the field. Habitat in the Public and Walk in areas was better than that found on private.

ID: 1090

More opportunities for out of state waterfowl hunting

ID: 1091

South Dakota pheasant hunting is great it sucks though that "locals" hunt public land only a week early, the birds get pushed way to hard by them making it hard for us. I understand they should get some advantage but we pay for are licenses too!

ID: 1100

Many of the walk in areas were grazed or mowed to the ground of cover if you pay the farmers the need to leave it not hayed or not grazed.

ID: 1108

Even though our party harvested our birds on private land, 2 prime spots were in direct proximity to public land and walk in areas. This habitat I'm sure contributed to the excellent hunting we experienced. I dove 6 – 7 hours with my sons to hunt South Dakota when I live in what used to be prime hunting land in Iowa. Our habitat has greatly been compromised.

ID: 1115

Enjoyable time

ID: 1150

Not familiar with the walk in area program. Program specifics should be described in the survey and/or better marketed and explained.

ID: 1188

It is very nice to have the option. Keep up the good work!

ID: 1195

Late harvest last two years ruined our limits. Is there any chance of starting the season 2 weeks later and extending the season two weeks?

ID: 1207

I didn't hunt walk in areas and I do not know about them. However I do know that South Dakota has the best pheasant hunting ever!

ID: 1218

I feel that the walk in program contributes greatly to the quality pheasant population in South Dakota. I can keep the quality hunting provided to the less than wealthy hunters who visit your state!

ID: 1221

Landowners have grown increasingly hostile towards legal road hunting and may influence my returning to South Dakota in future if the state does not do something to put these landowners in their place. They are harassing hunters more frequently, making unwarranted threats since me and fellow hunters are very serious about following gun laws and safety.

ID: 1229

The amount of land available was much lower. The at least was not labeled as well as in the past.

ID: 1285

Too much standing corn everywhere in South Dakota, over all very poor hunting compared to previous years.

ID: 1320

I wish duck hunting in South Dakota was more accessible.

ID: 1321

I usually use the walk in areas more but the crops were still out and the birds were in the corn. I use the walk in areas to hunt waterfowl. Thanks for all that you guys do!

ID: 1333

The day I used the walk in areas the weather was very poor with a lot of rain prior to the day. Overall, the areas I had chosen looked very good if the weather had been better.

ID: 1337

We've hunted walk in areas in the past and have had very limited success. Usually it's well into the season so they've been hunted a lot by then. It's a great program for those that don't have private land available to them.

ID: 1345

We saw a lot of pheasants in NE Faulk County and Southern Edmunds County. My first 5 days were hindered somewhat by unharvested corn but the hunting was still very good. I did not join my hunting buddies for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 5 days starting December 12, but the crops were out and they had fantastic hunting with limits each day. The first day limit was reached 30 minutes. We will be back next year. Hope the hard winter doesn't take too high a toll on the carry over for next year. We do wish the limit increase for pheasant would have passed. I hop if the conditions are similar for any future years this issue will be discoursed again.

ID: 1352

There were just too many crops that were still in due to the weather.

ID: 1353

Our past trips have been great, the walk in areas are wonderful and the people of South Dakota are fantastic. We will be back.

ID: 1355

We used the walk in areas this year. Good program but the fields were vast and our three person hunting group does much better in the ditch. Keep the road right of way hunting. We don't do guided hunts, spend 6 – 10 days hunting in South Dakota and we tell all our friends in Indiana about the great hunting in SD.

ID: 1357

The locals have caused me to not want to hunt in South Dakota. They view outsiders as a nuisance. For the cost and hassle experienced in South Dakota I can hunt public land and game farms in Wisconsin at a much lower cost.

ID: 1359

South Dakota's public access lands are a model for the rest of the country. Judos and please keep up the great walk.

ID: 1365

We went early in December and saw lots of birds but I know plenty of hunters who went early and did poorly due to wetness and all the crops still up, many didn't return for the second hunt.

ID: 1404

Without the walk in areas I would not travel to South Dakota to hunt, keep up the program.

ID: 1415

I appreciate your web access to licenses, it is very convenient. We'll be back next year. I spent about \$500 in South Dakota and another \$110 for a license.

ID: 1472

I am from Wisconsin, the walk in area program provides me with an opportunity to hunt South Dakota pheasants, because of this program, I know I can come to South Dakota and find good hunting areas without having to pay. This is important to my. Please fight to keep the program.

ID: 1477

I don't think many hunters know about walk in areas, you need to let hunters know about permission requirements.

ID: 1480

I personally would like to see the bird daily bag limit increase to four or five birds a day. Walk in area atlas should be arranged by counties and in alphabetical order.

ID: 1497

It is very important for hunters from other areas to have decent areas to hunt, without having these open areas, hunter will stop coming to the state to hunt. We can't afford to pay per gun fees along with all our other costs. Private land is next to impossible to hunt without a fee.

ID: 1498

Great hunt/ great state

ID: 1500

The walk in areas near our hunting spots had short cover. Will try more walk in areas in the future. Some looked really good. I think it is an excellent program.

ID: 1508

I love South Dakota, Good times great state

ID: 1513

Keep adding more walk in areas, the more the better!

ID: 1516

I have excellent access to private lands, at this time. The public lands and walk in areas would ritual to hunt should map private lands become cultivated (loss of CRP) also many walk in areas provide nesting habitat. A problem for pheasant hunter is that at this time many of the walk in areas are too wet for pheasants.

ID: 1519

I think the upland game and big game hunts are stretched out way to long especially the doe deer season when regular rifle is over. Enough is enough winter is hard enough on the wildlife, this attitude of shooting all the roosters or there going to die anyway is crap and it seems like the state is over wishing its economic state. I'm a farmer, landowner and it does get tiring having such long season if you want to hear more call me!

ID: 1522

The total number of pheasants were down 60-70% from 2008 of the remaining 60-70% were hens. Many fields were under water. It was still an awesome time with my new pup. Thank you for what you do!

ID: 1547

Our party of hunters all bought our hunting licenses online before we left Idaho. We were checked by an officer while hunting pheasants on open land, before we reached our private hunting area. We all had the wrong license and had to purchase different ones. It cost us \$251 each for both license, maybe you should have only one pheasant license that works for everything. That would make it friendlier to out of state hunters.

ID: 1563

Seems like a lot more of the walk in areas were plowed this year over last.

ID: 1570

Too wet, the corn wasn't cut

ID: 1597

2009 was a unique season because the crops were not harvested. I would like to see more crops planted on public lands.

ID: 1614

Out of state hunters provide the majority of the revenue during the South Dakota pheasant season with the license, motels, restaurants, food markets, etc yet it seems the local (resident) hunters get all the "perks"! Early season for youth and others leaves us non-residents and road hunters with "very flighty birds"! Also, I have seen it over and over that resident hunt walk in areas and public land while leaving their private land to themselves to be hunted later in the season! I've been hunting in SD for over 25 years and it is getting tougher to fill the bag limit and if they ever restrict road hunting, you will not see me and many other non-residents!

ID: 1628

Love the road right of way hunting allows poor people to hunt good areas.

ID: 1650

The farmer's land that I hunt on was unable to put ground back in CRP or was unhappy with the payment offered to him. More and more corn is left in the field and harvested late to screw out of state hunters. I won't be back.

ID: 1688

Pheasant hunting was really good; I wish Missouri had a longer population upland game bird population.

ID: 1700

We hunted the eastern part of the state near Watertown. The areas were very wet and flooded. The corn crop was still unharvested and difficult to hunt due to flooding. Many of the roads were washed out and there were no warnings to the atlas, making access very difficult.

ID: 1710

We didn't hunt any walk in areas

ID: 1714

More areas with food in our very near area are critical.

ID: 1728

The 10:00 shooting time is not good if crops have not been harvested. Birds are all in the crops by opening shooting time.

ID: 1776

I know other hunters who did use walk in areas they seemed very happy with the program. Please try to create as many walk in areas as possible it will do everything to help.

ID: 1828

2009 crops were still in very hard to walk them up. See you next year! Where are the walk in areas?

ID: 1830

We hunted pheasants on private land near Carter, SD, during the second week of November 2009. Pheasant numbers were extremely high. Grouse and prairie chickens number seemed to be down from November 2008. It was a fantastic year for pheasants.

ID: 1838

Walk in areas provide needed cover and opportunities for hunters and wildlife! Great program that is beneficial to all a time win/win!!

ID: 1841

The walk in areas that I hunted next to have too many people and were over hunted. I am glad that I had private land to hunt. The walk in areas were way too scary. I spend over 10,000 for 8 guys to come pheasant hunting and we fly to South Dakota. If I had to come to South Dakota to hunt Walk in areas I would not come.

ID: 1845

We did look at some of the walk in areas, the cover and feed looked good. Some of the areas could have had better signing.

ID: 1859

All of the pheasants we shot on walk in area land were next to privately owned corn field. It would be very beneficial if food crops could be planted in the walk in areas.

ID: 1874

I believe that more people would use the walk in areas if lead shot was permitted.

ID: 1891

Pheasant hunting has been excellent the last several years.

ID: 1910

I didn't hunt walk in areas nor did I have an atlas.

ID: 1948

Thanks again for a great hunt. Too much corn, it made us work harder like the old days.

ID: 1969

I love South Dakota pheasant hunting.

ID: 1973

I hunted the Friday after Thanksgiving through the Tuesday of the following week. Lots of standing corn everywhere I went weather it was private land or your GPA's. It was myself and other hunter that hunted and with our 2 labs. We shot six pheasant total in five full days. We hunted in McCook County and even tried going farther north and west with no better success. I can't afford to spend \$150 dollars a day on the pay hunting places in your state. I believe you have more pheasants in South Dakota than Iowa. I still enjoy hunting in SD and I think you have more pheasants on your public hunting areas than Iowa. Keep up the good work!

ID: 1976

I didn't use walk in areas the areas I drove by appeared to have excellent habitat. I saw hunters with good success leaving these areas.

ID: 1988

Hunting pheasants in South Dakota is delightful.

ID: 1996

I don't know where walk in areas are.

ID: 2024

Walk in areas are very valuable. I have hunted them more frequently in previous years. It's also harder and harder to get permission to hunt private land so walk in areas are vital to many of us.

ID: 2032

Hunting pressure was very high on the walk in areas.

ID: 2046

Hunting pheasants was difficult because the crops were not cut and there was a lot of water limiting access. Also limited access roads were impassible. There are several hunts which proceed out of state hunting. Locals know where Pheasants Forever plant birds. Junior hunt is fine but the rest seems unfair. In Wisconsin the locals and out of state hunters start at the same time, we do have pheasant in Wisconsin. You can't do anything about weather but you can about who hunts when.

ID: 2068

I did not answer some of the questions because I don't know anything about the walk in areas. The private land I hunted was very good. The first time I hunted pheasants and had a blast, lots of birds.

ID: 2088

I'd like to see a lifetime license option for those who have moved out of state for waterfowl (\$800 - \$1000) or if you were born in South Dakota you always can get a license.

ID: 2100

Hunting has been more difficult in recent years due to the crops still in field this year. We would like to see the starting time (from noon to 10:00am) moved back 2 hours or start the season one or two weeks later.

ID: 2129

The walk in areas in the past have been created for pheasant hunting but the majority have no cover it was harvested areas with cover has been over hunted. We primarily road hunted and due to large amounts of water other public areas were hard to hunt. It was a very disappointing experience this year we hunted ducks for the most part, in the last couple of years a hay

harvest occurred on a great blame of the Walk in areas leaving no cover in most cases. This program is seriously lacking in effectiveness.

ID: 2161

It seems that in 2009 there were fewer areas in Deuel County where I did all my hunting. I have hunted this area because my son lives in Deuel County. I have hunted there the last three years and this year overall was the fewest number of birds I have harvested.

ID: 2168

I was hunting in the Aberdeen area just had too much water in the fields. I would like to know more about walk in areas or public land around the Aberdeen/Conde area.

ID: 2177

This was my first time hunting in South Dakota. I am very impressed with quantity and intelligence of the birds flushing at extreme range over all.

ID: 2239

Very satisfied with my hunt

ID: 2256

South Dakota is one of my favorite states. You do a great job of making people feel welcome. In challenging times it is a rare experience. Keep it up.

ID: 2275

I wasn't aware of a walk in atlas. I purchased my license online and hunted two days later.

ID: 2287

With the corn crop this year it was hard to find the birds but it made it like the older days where it was more, about the hunt with your family. Which in these days we are losing the batter, but with your help to continue to help the habitat. My family and I can enjoy more time hunting together.

ID: 2298

Very nice I will return

ID: 2312

I had an enjoyable time in your state. Hunted with outfitter, they did a good job!

ID: 2316

Many walk in areas that I did not hunt had very light cover due to previous grazing or haying walk in areas with adequate concealment/roosting cover usually held some pheasants. Overall, the presence of almost 100% standing corn on private land in early season when I hunted there were pheasants

staying in the corn that were probably much more numerous on public land after the corn was harvested.

ID: 2318

Very satisfied with the hunting in South Dakota and the number of birds

ID: 2333

I wish it were cheaper for me to hunt deer in South Dakota. If so I would buy a tag.

ID: 2336

Thank you for all your efforts on this matter! Even though I hunt mainly private land there may come a time when I will hunt more public land.

ID: 2357

Perfect for hunters with dogs

ID: 2360

I did review and use the walk in atlas extensively. However, didn't hunt much on walk in areas as we primarily hunted private land. If we did hunt walk in areas the atlas would have been very beneficial. Generally though the walk in area would have been good places to hunt, problem was lots of crops still standing and lots of people will equal poor on public land and walk in areas.

ID: 2366

I am on the board of directors for Steams County PF and pheasant hunting in South Dakota is my favorite past time. I am so grateful for the WPA's and walk in areas. I'm sure there are reasons but a lot of the walk in areas were hayed this year. Also, nearly ever road ditch was mowed. I would like to say thanks for years of great trips.

ID: 2369

I did hunt some public lands one day, I was there in mid-December. Great habitat, lots of bird sign, but few birds. Seemed most were loafing on private lands during the day and returned to roost in evenings, did scratch our 3 bird limit.

ID: 2373

Increase CRP land should be high priority in South Dakota.

ID: 2377

I feel the availability of walk in areas is important to the quality of hunting in South Dakota. Thanks for your hard work.

ID: 2401

This was my first time in South Dakota, a beautiful state. People were great and I will come back.

ID: 2422

I hunted them one year in the past near Redfield and was not impressed with habitat. Flat, no grass, no cover, looked like cattle grazing area, no birds. That is why I pay to hunt private land.

ID: 2428

First time hunting in South Dakota (2009) and am looking forward to 2010.

ID: 2442

The bird count would have been higher in walk in areas, but the high water and crops still up hurt the hunting. It was still an awesome hunt, and I can't wait for next year.

ID: 2457

I am a non-resident with lodging, license fee, gas, and all the other expenses, South Dakota hunting is getting too expensive. If it weren't for our group's tradition of going, I would pass up South Dakota and go to a hunting preserve and work my dog. Offer up more days of hunting to give me opportunities to hunt. It seems like the second 5 days hunt never works because of weather conditions. Allow 3 four day opportunities to hunt.

ID: 2492

I am concerned about the loss of CRP habitat land for the pheasants to live in what can be done to stop this?

ID: 2502

All the areas that we hunted were really wet.

ID: 2512

I have used walk in area land in the past and found the habitat good. The land seemed well used. There should be more of them.

ID: 2519

Good hunting, we will return for the 2010 season.

ID: 2528

Being an out of state hunter I believe the walk in area programs are very important. With that said, I would like to see more cover for the habitat on these areas. I think a lot of the walk in areas has so little cover that the birds are not using it.

- ID: 2534  
Keep up the great efforts; we love to hunt in South Dakota.
- ID: 2541  
Think the walk in areas were over used. I saw too much foot traffic. It doesn't hold a candle to the private land, still had a great time.
- ID: 2557  
It is a great program, keep it up.
- ID: 2559  
Only hunted private land great hunting, too many crops still standing
- ID: 2562  
I think walk in areas are very good habitat for birds, but with small hunting parties its hard to keep girls from getting around you even with dogs. If these areas had cuts or strips cut they would be much more productive.
- ID: 2577  
We have some great pictures of the "wet" hunt we had around Aberdeen (potholes), we had birds, dogs, and water. If you want any for your wildlife information please send the request.
- ID: 2647  
There were no walk in areas where I was hunting. I would use them if they were. The atlas is great to find and scout out new areas.
- ID: 2663  
Excellent program, a model for other states to follow
- ID: 2678  
We only hunted one walk in area in 2009 and we saw hundreds of pheasants but 95% were hens.
- ID: 2689  
Concerned about the CRP land that is being plowed or cut for hay, brought my son out for the youth hunt on walk in areas and had great success.
- ID: 2698  
There was a discussion of raising the limit to 5 birds; will this be considered next year?
- ID: 2714  
Please consider changing your out of state duck hunting licenses similar to your pheasant license where you can split the 10 day season into two five day periods. This would be great to do the same for duck licenses. I think you

would get more hunters returning to do both and help your economy within your state. Thank you for your consideration.

ID: 2722

My son and I have visited four years in a row at thanksgiving and each year our success rate has increased this can be attributable to your great habitat but also to some hunter friendly landowners into graciously allow us to pursue pheasants and grouse. Very much enjoy every visit to SD whether to hunt fish or just visit. We're looking forward to next year.

ID: 2731

Need more food source in walk in areas to hold more birds. When bad weather hits the birds move out of the walk in areas because there is no food source.

ID: 2734

I did not use walk in area atlas, there are walk in areas adjacent to the private land that I hunt.

ID: 2753

Do not use them

ID: 2749

I would like to see the ban on hunting prior to 10 am. You could shift the no hunt times to the noon time early afternoon (noon – 3:00).

ID: 2764

Please post on the website if the pheasant hunting is poor on public and walk on due to crops still in. We had 2 hunters for 4 solid days 1 pheasant.

ID: 2770

I wish there were more walk in areas from what I can see your programs work great at keeping bird counts up.

ID: 2779

It is critical that there remain larger grass buffers to potholes with WPA or walk in areas. There was a noticeable increase of row crops being planted right up to potholes never being harvested and being a waste anyways. Buffers, Buffers, Buffers I hunted as many days for ducks. The downloadable map addition is awesome for the area atlas, keep printing the atlas though.

ID: 2783

I have and would like to hunt deer in South Dakota but with no tags for non-residents it is near impossible.

ID: 2804

Walk in land varied from great cover to no cover often we looked at land that was bare dirt, zero habitats. We don't hunt much walk in for the main reason the good pieces are so large that even with a couple of dogs and a handful of guys; its hard to get birds up. We did in the past saw a lot of birds using "walk in areas". They provide wonderful and safe habitat though the winter if they have cover. They are in my opinion extremely useful as winter cover, if they are not bare and plowed ground.

ID: 2831

Thank you for the work your department performs, we always enjoy our visit to South Dakota.

ID: 2854

Enjoy coming to South Dakota but birds seeming more isolated and spotty seems like habitat eroding.

ID: 2878

Walk in areas are the best and I would like to see more

ID: 2881

If CRP land disappears the pheasant population will decline dramatically, walk in areas are minor habitat players in overall pheasant production.

ID: 2899

I wish there was more walk in areas in Central Eastern South Dakota, however, compared to Ohio where there is nothing available in comparison, to South Dakota does an excellent job with this program and GPA and WPA areas!

ID: 2904

Although I didn't hunt in walk in areas I think they are a valuable asset to hunting in SD.

ID: 2915

Hunted only on private land, didn't hunt on walk in areas, weather was awful but lots of roosters, great time!!

ID: 2922

I am concerned about the walk in areas, so many are not productive for hunting upland game as they are mowed, grazed, or in accessible due to standing crops all around. I really like the program and hope it continues. Other hunters I talked to may not come back as the public hunting was very difficult.

ID: 2924

I believe the walk in program is a great idea. Now that I know of the atlas, I will use this in the future.

ID: 2929

Fantastic hunting this year!

ID: 2934

Hunting was poor due to standing crops.

ID: 2939

Walk in areas are awesome, non-residents want some place to hunt and this helps, they do get burned out.

ID: 2949

I think the walk in areas are important to keep the cost down. I am lucky to have friends that have land in South Dakota that let me hunt. I also pay to hunt on private land, it is getting very expensive. Please continue the program. The part that is hard to understand allowing it (walk in areas) to be hayed off and it seems like the bails are left to rot!

ID: 2976

I went up the first week the South Central State was good Aberdeen was flooded out hard to hunt. Other years have been very good; the walk in program is great keep up the good work!

ID: 2977

You need more public hunting area or more land to hunt and a lot of the land was mowed by farmers for some reason. Hunting is getting to be a rich mans sport. I hope I can afford to continue to hunt it's important to me. I enjoy it a lot.

ID: 2984

Because of poor weather (significant amounts of rain) we hunted the roads right of way more than we had planned.

**Appendix F. Optional comments received by e-mail from nonresident hunters.****ID Comments**

- 1 Get with Iowa DNR to improve their wildlife program.
- 3 Hutchinson county has so very few acres that it is very sad. Norman Kummer used to have many acres, but after he died his children eliminated the acres from the public. I also hunted Douglas County but almost no acres there either. The late harvest really hurt the quality of hunting this year, and now the deep snow will probably kill most of the great population that was still alive. Really a tough winter for the wildlife. I saw no partridge this fall but did see about 20 flying grouse, but never got a shot at any of them.
- 8 The walk-in areas around Presho were good; however, the one I checked out south of Winner was completely grassed off and there was not a blade of cover left.
- 16 Wildlife officers were helpful in suggesting areas to hunt. We stayed on public areas and had good success in walk in areas. We killed birds, missed birds and failed to retrieve some birds we shot. All in all your program is a good one for out of state hunters. Thanks
- 19 I've never hunted a Walk-in-area, but I'm not against them at all, just that I have other land options which I prefer and have success hunting so there is no need to use them. However, on separate but related subject, I feel that every CRP acre should be considered a walk-in-area as well - because public dollars are being given to a land owner, therefore the land owner must allow the public to use that portion of his land which has been enrolled in the publicly funded CRP program. Call it Walk-in or whatever else you want, but if public money is being used, then public access must be provided.
- 22 Many of the Walk-in Areas that I used to hunt quite frequently are no longer in the program. Landowners have leased the hunting rights to lodges that charge up to \$500/day to hunt. I seems like more and more only the wealthy will be able to hunt.
- 25 I didn't use the walk in areas where I was hunting because there wasn't any sense of walking into a area that had no birds in it. I hunted north central SD (corson county) every walk in area I saw was pasture.
- 35 We hunted west river and the majority of the walk-ins had little cover other than grasslands which is part of the natural prairie, the pheasants and prairie chickens/grouse tended to gravitate towards the unharvested grainfields making the hunting very tough unless you hunted the private lands that was managed for crop/pheasant. Overall the walk-ins are well marked and pleasurable to hunt. Thank you.
- 36 I am a very experienced bird hunter. My son and I took our dogs to SD after Thanksgiving with the expectation that hunting would be tough but that was ok. The walk in areas were harvested, pastured and mis-marked. Of those that looked good, there were very few birds in the area. They had been hunted so hard they knew the safest escape route. For two very experienced hunters with well trained dogs to not shoot one bird in 2 1/2 days says it all. We knocked on doors of private land for access but not once did anyone answer. I quit hunting SD 25 years ago and was once again reminded why. I will not hunt there again. I hunt in ND, MT, and KS. The quality of the hunting is many times better and resembles the way a day in the field is supposed to: Good hunter/landowner relationships and enough birds to keep one busy the entire day. Thank you for the opportunity to state my opinion. Respectfully, Bob Diesch

- 48 I did not hunt walk in areas this year, but I consider the option to hunt walk in areas critical for future trips to SD. Soon I will be taking my kids back with me, and while I am willing to spend several hundred dollars to hunt private land recently, I will not be able to spend this in the future for 2 or 3 people. Please do all you can to maximize opportunities to hunt walk in land.
- 52 I am from Idaho and travel to South Dakota every year to hunt upland birds (specifically Pheasants) and am amazed by the walk areas that SD has. The habitat is excellent, birds are plentiful and the provided maps and support for upland game birds is superb. I sincerely wish that the Idaho fish and game would place as high a priority on upland game bird management as South Dakota does. Please don't change anything and please try to keep the CRP and walk in programs programs going.
- 54 Keep trying to secure better bird habitat into walk in areas. It would be nice to be able to hunt waterfowl in south dakota without having to draw a license. I didn't draw one this year so your state missed out on quite a bit of revenue because I had to cancel my trip. YOU have plenty of ducks! This is very frustrating.
- 59 It appears that in Aberdeen/Frederick area that amount of Walk-In Areas has reduced significantly.
- 61 I did not hunt walk-in areas. I resent that you FORCED me to do this survey by threatening to e-mail or snail mail it to me until I responded. I will quit hunting in South Dakota if you are going to make me reply to an irrelevant survey every year after I have been there.
- 70 Are there maps available for walk in areas in SD. How can they be obtained. How about walk in areas for antelope.
- 79 I HAVE NOT HEARD OF THE WALK IN AREA PROGRAM AND DO NOT KNOW WHAT IT IS.
- 81 The land we hunted on was private, but with all wild birds and an absolutely amazing bird habitat. Great experience.
- 82 I think the walk on areas get too much pressure from local guided hunting groups and by having the season start for resident hunters the week before non-resident hunters can.
- 97 You need to have the cover a lot thicker so that the pheasants don't run and have adequate cover to hold.
- 100 Excellent Walk-In Area Atlas, but very poor late season habitat in Walk-in Areas. I did the majority of my hunting on GPAs because the Walk-in Areas had no birds. The Walk-In Area Program is a great idea with tons of potential, but I have had poor results so far.
- 107 Had a very good hunt this year. Walk in areas are very important to the continued viability of the sport of hunting. Many people cannot afford to pay to hunt on private land.
- 109 We are from out of state. We hunted on private land in So. Dakota. I am not sure we knew of the Walk-In Areas before we went hunting. We will check them out before hunting next year.
- 132 Atlas is top notch - incredible for a free publication. South Dakota does an excellent job promoting the incredible pheasant hunting found in your state. On some of the large public tracts it would be nice to see some additional variations to the cover. Over the years we spent a fair amount of time walking those areas with minimal (poor) success.
- 136 Wet season, late harvest contributed to a poor hunt, but overall really love to hunt SD and enjoy spending money to support the state.

- 139 I Need to get a list of the walk in areas last season we were focused on private land  
 141 This was my first trip back to SD for pheasants since the early 80's. I was fortunate enough to have a place to go but quickly recognized that the Winner area is lacking in walk-in areas. Lots of pay-to-hunt land, which was disappointing compared to the way things were in the 80's. Your Walk-in atlas is a real necessity for folks wanting to enjoy the outdoors and not succumb to the greed of the land pirates. Keep up the good work!!!
- 146 Not enough walk-in areas to hunt. Non resident hunters pay \$110.00 for a license & put alot more into the local economy when we're over there, take some of that money to pay for some more walk-in areas.
- 156 I am thoroughly impressed with the Walk-in areas in South Dakota. My only comment would be to get MORE!!!! Thanks for an unbelievable experience. Tim Hellebusch
- 165 The people of South Dakota do an excellent job welcoming out of state hunters.  
 167 Because my truck, while I was out hunting, was vandalized to the tune of more than \$500, I am not sure I wish to return to hunt in South Dakota in the future.
- 189 First time to hunt pheasant in South Dakota. Had a blast!  
 190 Put more back into crp. A#1 in the pheasant habitat
- 191 The Walk-in program should be increased. To hunt on private land is too, too expensive. I cannot afford to spend \$ 125/day hunting pheasants. I an hunt at a game farm in Minnesota for less total costs.
- 192 It appeared a number of areas from previous years were now under the plow. Therefore, we lost access to a few areas. I consider these important to South Dakota's pheasant management because of past experience. Thanks.
- 194 increase the daily bag limit for pheasant to 5 per day.  
 195 while i mainly hunt private land, i do appreciate the numerous public opportunities. i mainly hunt in Nov/Dec and never are see any people hunting the public spots. They look very good, and equal to the various private areas.
- 197 Tried to hunt starting Nov. 1, but 95% of crops were unharvested and most fields were soggy or flooded. Had to leave because I was unable to hunt. However, under normal conditions, it appeared that the walk-in program and areas would be good in the area I hunted (around Webster).
- 199 GPS Maps was a great idea. The SD walk in program is a model I would hope other states will follow.
- 204 Would love to see the season extended by another week or two, and the waterfowl licensing be done over the counter vs draw!
- 227 Hunting was poor when I was there because the corn was not picked. Every thing stayed in the standing corn fields. I'm sure the walk ins are much better hunting when the corn is off. The thing that upset us on our trip was that we could have had a lot of fun hunting waterfowl. We didn't get drawn. We will probably go elshwhere in the future. States north and south of you will sell us a licence. The massive fliight of snow geese (which are over-populated, and farmers welcome hunters to shoot them) would have saved our trip. We heard very little shooting at waterfowl the week we were there. The Waterfowl Drawing is making you lose money. Our groups the last 2 years would have gladly payed for waterfowl. Your state lost \$680 just with who has come out there with me. I know of others from my area who started to go to N. Dakota because of your dumb drawing.
- 246 Didnt hunt any walk in areas this year

- 248 It's hard to give a fair report. The hunting conditions were very tough. with all the standing water and crops, getting the birds was tough. we started hunting on monday, and didn't get dialed into the birds until thursday. for the first time, my father-in-law and i had an entire day that we never fired a shot. the public lands that were accessible had been pounded by earlier hunters. we found a couple of remote areas that didn't look good from the road, but ended up being fantastic. we drove over 150mi/day trying to find hunting areas with birds. we stayed in aberdeen, and hunted to the south, west, and north. when we finally got into good areas, the hunting was great. we will be coming back next november.
- 259 We have hunted walk-in areas in the past and they atleast give you somewhere to go. However, the quality we experienced would be considered very very low due to lack of pheasants. We generally hunt crp on private ground and have exceptional pheasant hunts every year. With the on-going removal of crp for corn to feed the ethanol industry SD pheasant hunting will end up being similar to Minnesota's where I live. When that happens, I can assure you SD will lose a huge % of non-resident hunters. Our local contact near Aberdeen said "you are witnessing the beginning of the end of the great SD pheasant hunting." What a sad story.
- 273 70% of the crops were still in at the time of my hunting visit. We only hunted on private land. It was a great experience. Hope to do it again next year.
- 285 Winter weather was pretty severe in south eastern SD after X-mas, expect your counts in that area to be 25-50% lower next year.
- 289 I hunted primarily in the Mitchell area.....50 mile radius.....we left early do to rain.....I would have like to have come back for my second 5 day license....but I can shoot 4 Roosters in Kansas per day with a few less hours of driving. I know that your fish and game looked at increasing daily bag limits....four would be nice.
- 291 Too Wet!
- 310 i would like to see SD allow out of state hunters to purchase a season long license. i use to hunt ND also until there 14 day license, i have since quit ND, the most i ever hunted there was 9 days in a full season. The hotels i stayed in in both states and restaurants have stated that your licensing has hurt their revenues, but who cares? Sincerely, Terry LaVoi
- 312 The hunting and hospitality was the best in the 8 years we have been coming out
- 322 Although I did not hunt walk in area's in 2009, I have utilized these lands in the past and anticipate using them in the future. You have a great program, however the Atlas is difficult to use.
- 324 Encourage more CRP conversion land
- 327 too much useless walk-in. a lot of walk-in areas with livestock on them making them inaccessible. a lot of walk-in areas with completely harvested crops and no CRP grass making them useless. a lot of walk-in areas no where near pheasant food supplies making the bird populations very low. i think North Dakota's PLOTS lands are better. i think SD needs to do a better job evaluating how they spend their money as it seems that a lot of landowners are taking advantage of the program without any benefit to sportsman. cattle on a walk-in, come on! by regulation i can't hunt withing 660ft of livestock so a few cows can completely eliminate huge sections of walk-in. fully harvested wheat or soybeans on a walk-in? i may as well hunt in a tilled field. useless. some walk-in areas are very nice and those landowners should be rewarded. SD should be evaluating the habitat during the phez season, not in spring when everything looks good. if it weren't for the private land i have permission to hunt, i'd be back in ND and seeing as how my landowner's CRP contracts are up in 2011, i may be making that switch. i'd rather stay in SD but it's too expensive if there aren't productive public lands to hunt. thanks for reading this.

- 336 Do to events that happened(truck trouble that kept us close to tar roads and the late season snows) we were forced to hunt mostly GPAs in our two trips out). I do think the Walk-Ins could be better in grass cover, I hunted the last three days in 14 inches of snow in some GPA that had great grass cover more Walk-Ins should be like that. however the Walk-Ins are vital for me to come to S.D. The GPAs aren't enough. Normally we hunt 40% GPA, 40% Walk-In and 20% private.
- 337 South Dakota farmers and ranchers are outstanding.
- 348 Great Program!
- 351 Death in family cancelled my 2009 SD pheasant hunt
- 358 We didn't know about the atlas, but our host, a local farmer, showed us where to find the walk-in areas around his farm.
- 365 This is the best program going but would be nice to see more cover left around the pot holes. Cover and corn equaled birds, always. Still all and all, thank you for this positive program.
- 383 I don't think I'll be going back to South Dakota for hunting anymore. I think I spend a lot of money there and I think the out of state hunters are not really welcome there. It is obvious as there is a resident opener season and then the opener for everyone else. I fish professionally and I don't consider it fair to have a resident opener for Salmon or walleye and then a non-resident opener. It speaks loudly as what South Dakota is about. I don't have an issue with the youth opener as long as it is open to any youths - resident or non-residents (not sure if it open to both now because it would be a long way for me to travel from Michigan to not hunt).
- 388 I believe SD is losing opportunities to increase tax revenue generated from non-resident license sales. Very few non-resident hunters have the ability to take 2, five day periods to hunt pheasants. I would think SD could realize more income by allowing non-resident hunter to use the 10 days on each license however they want. If hunters make multiple trips to SD, business would see additional hotel stays, fuel and food purchases...all contributing to your state sales tax.
- 395 I have private land we hunt most of the time, but for those who don't, I feel the Walk-Ins are really a good thing. However, some of them really offer no cover or birds to speak of and we fell the number of birds in eastern SD has really declined, steadily over the last 5 years. This year was simply too wet.
- 402 Several walk-in areas are barren and without any vegetation. Need to encourage planting of vegetation
- 426 It was my first time pheasant hunting and the public areas and walk in areas did not seem to have the birds due to no food sources, just my opinion as I do not know a lot about pheasant hunting but road ditches next to food sources seem to be a lot better. I do not like the idea of hunting next to someone else's land on an easement, I can tell neither do the land owners with their tape measures.
- 439 We spent most of our time driving around trying to find the Walk-in areas, and then we get there, and they were mostly plowed under already with winter wheat. This is VERY frustrating when we drive all the way from Duluth, MN to get there and there is nothing to hunt. We drove about 300- 400 miles a day trying to find hunting spots. We were out there from Oct 24 - Oct 31. It was the worst trip ever! There were 3 of us in our party. During that whole time I was only able to kill 1 pheasant, and 2 grouse! That is horrible. I realize we did have 1 day of really bad weather that we couldn't even get out and hunt. But still everywhere we went there was no good Walk-in areas. As for us we will NOT be coming back to that part of South Dakota, and would not recommend it to anyone else.

- 441 Public ground was vital to our success just a few years ago, but we know enough landowners that allow access to private land now and don't use it as much. We still hunt public ground each year though.
- 445 The walk on program is very important to the success of pheasant hunting in SD. It is very good hunting when next to the appropriate crops and other terrain.
- 446 Although I did not hunt walk-in areas, I do know a number of people that did and they were able to bag their limits each day during the opening week. South Dakota seems to be managing well. Keep up the good work.
- 460 Please keep public ground a high priority. My family can not afford to hunt with a guide service or pay per gun. The walk-in-area map is excellent, thanks!
- 462 Was not aware of this program. Hunted on private.
- 463 We hunted Dixon Dam. Based on the cover and habitat, it should have been productive but wasn't. Presumably b/o overhunting. Based on our experience, public land hunting for pheasants in South Dakota is dead and gone. We have no intention of any repeat attempts to hunt public land there.
- 484 The walk in program is a success, congratulations. With the limited access to private land this provides an opportunity for non land owning hunters and their children to become sportsmen. Though the productivity of these lands are limited due to hunting pressure the ability to walk and hunt with family is important. Most of the "meat" hunting is along right of way. It is most important to keep this ability. I believe if SD stops this many hunters would not come thereby hurting the economy. Thanks good work!
- 487 it'd be nice to have more variety in habitat in the walk in areas
- 495 Need more walk in areas in the popular hunting counties
- 498 Although I did not hunt any walk-in areas this year (2009), I have in past trips and appreciate and support the program. It is a nice way for out-of-state hunters to enjoy access without making land owners feel harrassed. In general my walk-in experience has meant a little harder effort than is typical on private ground, but willing to put in the walking and a good dog I could typically shoot my limit each day.
- 515 the walk in area's had good habitat, cover, food plot etc. but the walk in areas that we hunted, were over hunted, and driving around you could see all of the birds were in private fields, and swamps
- 516 They need some sort of cprops on or near the walk in siphys to keep the birds in the area
- 517 We had to really work to find the birds on the public ground and walk-in areas with three dogs. A group of three of us hunted these one day and private land the next two days. We only harvested one bird on public ground. We hunted the week before Thanksgiving in the De Smet area. Private ground was pretty good.
- 537 2009 was my first year hunting in the state of South Dakota. I would rate the week of hunting pheasants and waterfowl in South Dakota as a "10"... one of my best hunting experiences ever. I will be back!
- 538 I had a wonderful time hunting in SD. Keep up the great job.
- 551 May be different answers if we hunted at a different time. We were in rain and we muddy conditions. So wet that 4-wheel drive could not pass. Much land could not be hunted because we could not get to it.
- 562 Have always hunted private in South Dakota. This was the first year we hunted wpa and walk in. Great areas to hunt. appreciate the program.
- 573 amount of public land is not adequate any longer as most private land is not accessible

- 577 We came from Wisconsin the second first full week of December and hit horrible weather conditions, we were very surprised with the hunting pressure that we witnessed from hunters from Minnesota and also Wisconsin. The weather was well below zero each day and very windy. We hunted near Hecla and also noticed the birds were down compared to last year. We also noticed that there was much more standing corn compared too last year.
- 595 I rely heavily upon the Walk-In Area Atlas. Without it, I wouldn't be coming to South Dakota to hunt. I have a couple GPS's but none of them are compatible with your maps. I do not foresee me buying another GPS, so the atlas is indeed very important.
- 600 We LOVE the GPS downloads for our Garmin GPS. I wish other states would adopt these programs. Very useful!
- 633 So much land in South Dakota is private land, thus there is a great need for the Walk-In Hunting program. Thank you for providing the maps and managing this vital program for all hunters.
- 638 The walk-in areas are good, I just wish there was more of it. I realize that isn't possible and with the popularity of pheasant hunting continuing to grow in SD that the hunting options for land and where you can hunt will continue to diminish unless you're paying a land owner, but it would be great if there were more. The spaces there are I think are pretty good, but they get hunted pretty hard and by mid-November the birds are really jumpy and are harder to find. But I applaud the walk-in area program and the efforts made there.
- 641 So much of the Walk in Areas were barren ground it was really disappointing to drive miles and miles only to find it worthless. The ground was either plowed field, or harvested down to bare ground. The Game Production Areas were much better. And of course, the walk in areas get a lot of pressure.
- 657 Any program to develop habitat for pheasants is good. Our biggest problem was the amount of unharvested crop land. The birds were spread over too much land.
- 659 the atlas locations of walkin areas was very confusing and difficult to locate the areas from the maps provided in the atlas
- 663 The survey asks about road side hunting. For the second year in a row, I was harrassed by land owners claiming that I was hunting on their land. At no time did I break the law by entering private lands with a firearm. I was told by one landowner that my dog was not even allowed on his land to retrieve a bird. With these types of situations occurring by some, hunters are being forced to hunt walk-in areas which are at times crowded to say the least. This year it became a serious safety situation with some hunters shooting towards other hunters. In my opinion, pheasant hunting for the regular hunter has deteriorated to the point that either you pay the big money (in some cases, pen raised birds), or compete with others for the limited amount of public land. The other option is to stay home or hunt somewhere else.
- 677 The walk- in program is crucial to offset the pressure and capacity of the private ground that my group hunts. It gives a nice diversity and opportunity to hunt different places when (like this year) the crop harvest was late or the area had sever flooding and some of the private ground was not huntable or held no game. If the second options of the public lands weren't availalbe, then we would have had a hard time in making the commitment to go this last year.
- 682 We downloaded the maps to a GPS which was outstanding. I live in Michigan and wish we could do the same things here that you do in South Dakota.
- 683 i enjoyed hunting sd very much

- 698 I would like to see a little better signing of the areas and the mapping is sometimes hard to follow. Everything considered, I think you do a very good job in promoting pheasant hunting and habitat for the birds. I wish the Michigan DNR did 1/10th of what you do in South Dakota. Thank Again for a good time. Dan VenRoy
- 706 JUST FYI - I'M IMPRESSED YEAR AFTER YEAR WITH THE POLITE, WELCOMING ATTITUDES OF THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH DAKOTA WHEN WE COME TO PHEASANT HUNT. IT IS AN ANNUAL EVENT I LOOK FORWARD TO EACH YEAR AND THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH DAKOTA HELP MAKE IT A TERRIFIC VISIT.
- 707
- The walk-in-program is the reason I hunt in SD. If this was to go away, I would not make the trip. I have had success in previous years, which continues to draw me back. The food plots and other habitat improvements done on Walk-in lands, has improved the hunting quality (i.e., number of birds) that I have seen. Keep up the good work.
- 708 Even though I didn't use your "Walk-In Areas Program", I am in favor of it. There were enough pheasants in the area I hunted to make any area productive to hunt and that is why I think your concept will work.
- 720 With the flooded land and late harvest, pheasant hunting was extremely poor this year. I have hunted pheasants in SD for the last 4 years, and this was by far the worst of the 4. I know that that's hunting and weather issues are out of our hands so I hope to get back sometime in the future when the elements are better. My out of state tag was not worth it this year.
- 725 I love coming to SD every year for pheasant hunting. Thanks for all of your great work and see you next fall!
- 730 I have hunted on hundreds of walk in areas in Kansas and a good percentage 60% are great!
- 736 Although I did not hunt South Dakota this year as originally intended, I can offer this to your department. Of the hunting I have done in your state it has been great and a very enjoyable experience. I have not hunted any of the walk in areas due to having enough places to hunt but our group has discussed this as an option for future hunts if it is needed. Thanks to all at your department and the very best for 2010. Bo Williamson
- 742 Witout some type of rotation schedule these areas are over hunted and produce little after the second week of the season.
- 745 YOU NEED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BIRDS PER DAY!
- 761 AS I REFUSE TO PAY \$100.00 PER DAY PER GUN TO HUNT, WALK-IN AREAS, ROAD DITCHES AND SECTION LINES ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY YOUR STATE IS VERY ADEQUATE ONCE YOU KNOW HOW TO USE IT.
- 762 I go a little later than most hunters and the walk in areas seemed to be burned out. I think the habitat is fine and the areas I try look very good but do not seem to hold many birds later in the season.
- 764 The farmers or ranchers are so unfriendly towards us even hunting the ditches & roadways. I am 69 years old and my friend i hunt with is 70 years old and we have been hunting in sd many years. They seem to blame every one for a few bad apples and at times we say what the heck do we come here for. We make two trips a year stay in a motel and buy all our meals out. we do not break any laws and try our best to be friendly towards all. I hope this changes so we can hunt for a few years yet. I have had two heart attacks and my friend almost died from cancer but we are still hanging in there because we love to hunt pheasants. I love S.D.  
MIKE JUKICH

- 769 I am generally pleased with the walk in option. I harvest more birds by road hunting but the walk in areas give me a chance to get out and move about although my expectation of raising birds in the walk in area is not high.
- 770
- 771 The more public access the better and ease of entry in walk in areas would be a plus
- South Dakota is pricing themselves out of the COMMON MAN's Hunt. In the not to distant future only the big money guys are going to be able to afford to visit your state. It is almost getting to the point where I will not be able to afford to come to S.D.
- 774 As a bird hunter I was dissapointed that you have to apply for a drawing for the waterfowl license. This would have been a bonus to the upland bird if it had been readily available as you cannot plan for waterfowl because of the weather. No use applying if you cannot be guaranteed decent migration weather and you can't tell with any degree of accuracy farther than a week away.
- 781 We were early to be hunting as corn was still up and lots of water. I heard later was better. So, not much to say here.
- 793 I did not hunt walk in areas so the last 2 questions should be non applicable.
- 802 With all the crops still in the fields, there were very little chances for suces. You may want to consider moving the season a little later in the year. This would give the farmers a chance to harvest the crops prior to the hunters being in the fields.
- 821 Although I hunted the Walk in areas only - The area were flooded to the extent that no birds were there to be taken.--They were all in the standing corn.
- 822 season opens to late in the day....noon during opening 2 weeks with crops in, equally little to no birds. 10am is still tough. 8am would be better.
- 832 Due to the economy, rising costs of fuel, food, lodging and license price I considered not hunting this year in South Dakota. I was considering hunting a game farm to save money. If license costs rise any higher I will probably will not consider hunting in South Dakota in the future.
- 848 Too much standing corn and beans leaving the game a safe harbor. I like the habitat but birds prefer to be in the crop fields during shooting hours.
- 871 Didn't know of any of these areas where I was hunting. It would have been nice if I had been given this info when I applied online for my license. I might have used some of these if I had known they existed.
- 882 the walkin areas seemed to have good cover however the food sources were lacking
- 894 As you can tell from the survey, we hunted on private land and found the experience to be hard work but fantastic. The corn had NOT been harvested so there was way too much cover, but the hunting was great. Our party of 3 all filled our bag limits, and we'll definitely be back to hunt in the future, hopefully after the harvest.
- 900 May try the walk in areas next year
- 914 2009 Walk-In area was not used by our hunting party.
- 926 Great hunting, change to date to December 1st that the 2nd five days of a non-resident license rolls over to the next year
- 928 Did not hunt any of the walk-in areas
- 929 South Dakota is a beautiful place to hunt!
- 931 Hunted in areas that were full of water from heavy rains. Much corn not picked.

- 950 I made two trips two South Dakota one for the youth hunt with my son and a couple of friends and their boy's, this trip we hunted exclusively walk in and WPA (I have to be honest I'm not sure now what the difference was, I think the WPA was Federal land? I would have to reference the books again. Would not have made that trip if we did not have the public land. (My son did not get any birds that trip) The later trip was about 30 private 30 public and 30 road rights of way
- 951 Our guide stated that walk in areas were over hunted by the locals early in the instate pre-season and there were very little birds left for the out of state hunters in Oacoma Area.
- 957 Please continue to find more walk in areas!
- 960 I think that if I have a deed to my own land in SD that I should be able to hunt it without paying the \$100+ for an out of state hunting license.
- 966 All walk-in areas need food plots and water. Without these the area is worthless
- 969
- I realize there was legislation being discussed to either increase the daily limits to 5 or to extend the season. While I know being a non-resident hunter doesn't have much weight legislatively, I would have liked to see an extended season due to the weather being experienced across a wide area. Being from Missouri and having livestock to attend to, I was not able to enjoy a second trip to your great State as I would have liked. Talking with several residents in SD, most are very concerned with the number of cocks per hen still remaining. Looking at the numbers on your web site, I would question the decisions to not extend the season as well. Thank you for sending the survey and look forward to spending more time in SD in the future!
- 983 Private land is nearly impossible to get permission any more. The tradition of pheasant hunting is slowly going away.
- 985 On the Atlas, it would be nice to know if the ground is being grazed or harvested. We drove 100 miles to view ground on the Atlas, which may support only a few jack rabbits.
- 992 the more the better
- 997 Please keep the Walk-In-Areas as a viable option. Each year as we hunt, we lose access to private land and will have to come to rely on these areas. Without that option, we won't be coming back. Thank-you.
- 1014 there are not enough walk-in-areas
- 1037 Mailings for pheasant hunters would be good in preparation of SD pheasant season. i.e. atlas, walk-in, regs, etc.
- 1039 Keep up the good work! We will be hunting more areas this fall. We hope to include walk-in areas.
- 1040 Hunted SD on a corporate sponsored hunt. Would not have to go to SD if Nebraska pheasant hunting were better. More pheasant habitat rehabilitation is needed in NE. CRP program needs to be enhanced so landowners properly plant and maintain the CRP areas to maintain the proper food sources for the pheasants.
- 1043 This year is the first year that I took a look at the walk in atlas cause more private land is going to pay to hunt which really sucks. This is a sport that is meant to be fun and it has started to become mainly for profit. I do think that there could be more direct on who and when you can walk in to certain areas. I do still have the opportunity to hunt a lot of private land because of grandparents that still own good hunting land. But overall the atlas was very informative and helped a lot finding more places to hunt other than the private land that I have access to.
- 1066 Road right of ways should be protected from cutting/mowing. this is valuable habitat and provides huntable public land that allows hunters to spread out.

- 1070 We found greater success hunting the roadways because the public areas were overhunted or did not hold pheasants. We hunted near Gregory.
- 1082 All my pheasant hunting was on private land and it was a wonderful experience.
- 1084 I would like to see more food plots in the public hunting areas. Such as milo, corn and other crops that would hold the birds in the area.
- 1092 You should indicate that a zero needs to be put on land use if no hunting occurred on that type of land. I almost discontinued the survey because the numbers added up to 100% yet your program continued to come back to that area saying an answer was needed...Finally I placed zeros in the remaining blanks to obtain acceptance. When we first started hunting In S.D. we used roads and walkin areas exclusively. We had great success and found them to be great places for out of state hunters to go to. Over the years we have developed relationships with land owners and now seldom use the walkin areas. However, I believe they are extremely important to most of your out of state hunters. I am concerned about the upcoming issues of land being removed from CRP. I am not sure how much S.D. will be affected but loss of habitat is always a concerning issue. If you have addresses available to contact legislators to oppose these issues I would appreciate receiving them. Thanks for what you do for us Out of Staters. Ron Dixon
- 1101 there seems to be less and less of the walk-in areas. also in the some parts that we hunted the walk-in areas were cow pastures with absolutly no habitat and were pointless to even have posted as walk-ins because they were abviously been pastured for a few years. some areas were good although in less pressured areas.
- 1102 I think that the walk-in areas are good for non-residents who have to hunt public land.
- 1104 Had it not been for the miserable conditions of areas underwater and standing crops, I feel the hunting would have been much more successful. Too bad mother nature had different ideas.
- 1114 All happitate was tough to get birs when the crops were still in. If we did not have private land to hunt I would not go back.
- 1116 I think its a very great program- it insures guys like us that we will at least have some place to hunt if the private land option dries up for some reason. I have several friends who only hunt public and wound not even consider hunting in SD without it. We have considered this option ourselves but have been very fortunate in finding cooperative farmers. I think they like the \$. The walk in atlas has been a guide for us so we know where the hunting pressure might be. Keep up the good work but try to be more honest in your pheasant population forecast. Building false hopes in us hunters doesn't set well and makes us more likely to look elsewhere to hunt when we see a high forecast but don't find that a reality when we actually get there. Thank you Nick and my father Bob
- 1126 more walk in land is needed ,to much time is wasted not hunting but hunting for place to hunt.
- 1129 I love the GPS download. I used that primarilly instead of the atlas.
- 1147 Support more CRP returning to programs in SD
- 1156 I feel like South Dakota doesn't give non-residents a fair chance to hunt deer in your fine state. There are many outfitters that I would use if we could get a tag. Just my opinion.

- 1160 Thanks for the providing the walk in areas. We have hunted SD since 1986 and probably would not come out if it were not for the walk in areas. Usually we hunt 5 days but left one day early due to rain and muddy roads. Some years we hunt 4 of the 5 days on walk-in-areas. As with other hunters I would like to see walk-in-areas expanded in Central SD within 50 miles of Pierre. Disappointed to see some walk in areas mowed but I understand. The areas with cover had excellent cover. Hope the birds do good this winter and have good nest success.
- 1166 South Dakota needs to add 2 or 3-day hunting non-resident licenses specifically for the type of hunting season that just happened - crops not harvested, terrible weather, etc. I waited three weeks after the opener to even consider hunting because of the rainy weather. I was looking for a 3-4 day break in the weather before coming, knowing full well that the corn would be standing. And I wanted to find out how successful or unsuccessful a couple guys could be at hunting with standing corn. I found out how dependent we are on the farmers getting their harvest done - pheasant hunting is not too good with whole quarters of standing beans and corn. But I would still bet SD would get more people to come if there were more options for non-resident licenses especially in a year like 2009. It is clear from the amount of CRP that was burned and disked up last fall that the pheasant cycle may be headed downward in the northeast part of the state.
- 1172 Hunted NE SD (Garden City area) vs. central SD (S Miller) which is where i normally hunt. hunting was terrible
- 1173 Would be nice if an out of state land owner was able to purchase a resident hunting license. We pay property taxes in South Dakota.
- 1176 Weather was terrible, fields were wet, crops were still up and the birds really liked to spend the days in standing corn, not bedding areas. Just a bad year for early season hunting.
- 1179 The walk-in area atlas is difficult to read and use. It would be great if the department could computerize walk-in locations so that a hunter could input the city or zip code where he is located and get all of the areas within 10, 20 or 30 miles in a similar manner to what retail stores do on their web pages to provide customers the closest store locations. Several of the walk-in areas which we were able to find seem to offer great promise now that we have found them. I think the walk-in area program is vital, especially to out-of-staters and because of the rapid loss of CRP land on private farms it is going to be vital to the survival of pheasants in many areas in the future.
- 1180 I think the walk-in area are a great program. Some of the land that is leased is not always good for pheasants. Less pasture land and more upland grass would be nice. As a hole I like the land available in the NE part of the state. Thank you for the Great Hunting South Dakota
- 1185 My son and I have hunted in South Dakota for the last 12 years. We look forward to our annual trips. Some years we hunted exclusively on walk-on areas. We would not come to South Dakota if there were no walk-in areas. As it turned out we didn't hunt walk-in areas, but spent our time on game management and Waterfowl Production Areas in 2009.
- 1200 i wish there were more pheasants in them it cost a lot of money to hunt private lands i almost wonder if it is worth it to hunt private lands but that is the only place you can find the birds
- 1208 Another great year for pheasant hunting. I spend 360 days looking forward to it, one day driving up from Texas for it, three days hunting, and one day driving back. Then the cycle starts all over.

- 1216 A lot of the " walk-in " was mowed or very thin making it worthless to hunt . If the farmers keep mowing the ditches and the walk in stays thin ... I will have to look into hunting Nebraska. Same distance with a nice bird count. Don't get me wrong, I love hunting in SD but the options of hunting over pressured ( thin ) walk in land, road ditches that are mowed or pay some greedy farmer \$ 250.00 to \$ 400.00 a day for 3 birds is starting to wear on my desires.
- 1226 Thank You South Dakota, for giving me a pheasant hunt that I haven't seen in 30 years. I haven't seen that many birds since the 1970's.
- 1232 The grazing of walk-in areas makes them very difficult to judge if they are worth a visit. Due to the distance we travel to hunt we can not scout the areas before hand. It would be nice to have a scouting service that you could use on line to get an idea if an area is worth trying. I do enjoy Walk-In Areas but the majority of the time they are not worth hunting. I hope they are good for nesting cover or it is a poor use of dollars. If I was in charge of the program I would have a certian percentage of the land be next to groves, creek beds or other structure that can not be mowed and still be used by the progam. I had another enjoyable year hunting in South Dakota. Have a great new year!!
- 1233 walk-in-areas that can only be used after the crops are taken off are just a flat bear land.
- 1249 Even though I did not use the Walk In Areas, I'm glad to know they exist and that many hunters utilize them.
- 1263 STUPID SURVEY-- HIRE MORE PEOPLE
- 1284 First time hunting Pheasants and I cannot wait to come back next year.
- 1288 Great program. didn't hunt walk in areas for pheasant hunting, but did for archery antelope.
- 1304 It would be nice if the 2 hunting periods on the license that out of state hunters purchase would be for 6 or 7 days, Keep the 15 bird limit intact.This past season we were rained out 2 days of our 5 and when traveling a long ways it doesn't seem to be fair or worth it. Maybe the license could be good for the whole season like Iowa. I've been coming every year since 1984, we have made such good friends (family) It would be nice if we had more time to spend with them, I think the extra days would allow this.
- 1308 you have avery good program keep up the good work. thank you
- 1310 I'm happy to have an oppportunity to use them. Given the changing attitude toward private land, I think I would be considering not hunting if it were not for walk-in areas.
- 1314 Didn't get the chance to go.
- 1316 The GPS walk-in atlas was a great!
- 1325 Not Allowing hunters to begin hunting until 10 AM is a waste of our time! Phesants are out in the fields at 6 or 7 am, and by 10:00 they are long gone. I traveled all the way from Nebraska, and saw one pheasant the entire trip. Please stop this ridiculous practice immediately!
- 1335 Should raise the bag limit on birds
- 1341 Great time, but the Bird Limit should be held at three as five would put too much pressure on the population. 3 birds a day is better because it will also keep higher numbers of birds in those areas that are hunted. Why push the issue?
- 1346 Need to go to a 5 Bird Limit In all areas.

1357

Very frustrated with the local farmers. I believe I'm viewed as a nuisance when I hunt in South Dakota. This has been getting progressively worse over the last 10 years. The walk-in lands are one of the few things that have kept me hunting in SD. However they are way over hunted and do not generate the birds necessary to justify the cost of travel, food, lodging, and a hunting license. I will hunt in my home state in the future. I see the same amount of birds as I see in the walk-in areas and the farmers don't mind that I'm hunting on their land nor do they attempt to extort me.

1358 Walk-In areas are a great program.

1362 The more public options the better. It promotes the sport and the opportunity for a broader hunting audience. Hunting private land is expensive and difficult to obtain access.

1373 What is a walk in area?

1376

I am a non resident land owner that used to farm my land in SD for over 20 years, do to weather and financial conditions in the early 1990's I quit farming, but was able to keep my property. I am very frustrated at being treated as an outsider on my own property that my wife and I worked very hard to keep. I do not like to pay a higher price for less days to hunt then resident hunters, plus you have now decided that they need to go out and chase the pheasants around a week sooner than we can. The state of SD knows where to find me when its time to pay my land taxes, but won't give me a break when it comes to hunting my own property. I'm not asking for a lot but it sure would be nice to either pay less and buy several license or extend the time on the existing license. At least for a landowner/tax payer on his/her own property.

1381 Excellent program, though one that we walked was too large, even for a fairly large group of hunters with dogs.

1384 I have only hunted in South Dakota a few years, but last season I did notice that where I hunted in North East SD more of the "walk-in" land was in crops instead of cover like grass. Otherwise I think in general South Dakota does a good job of providing hunting opportunities for people that don't own land or have exclusive access to private land. Keep up the good work.

1389

I was very disappointed with some of the land that was walk in this year in the area I was hunting. Bare fields that have no cover over and inch high. I guess that was set aside for deer hunting or something else. Some of the walk in we hunted was excellent and produced a few birds, so I guess I'm unsure of how the program is working.

1396 even though I hunt mostly private land, I know that it will not be available to me forever. Please do your best to maintain and improve the the walk in areas. this is a critical resource.

1397 The hunting I have done in South Dakota, the past three (3) years on private land has been an exceptional experience and I have passed that word on to associates who have joined me. We've increased from a group of 9 to a group of 15 and will apply, again in 2010. Thank you.

1412 Walk in gave us a lot of opportunities when private lands were being used by owner's families.

- 1414 This was my first and last time I will ever hunt in South Dakota. I saw many hunters driving around posted signs, hunt on land they were not to be on, hunt the same field we were in, shoot hens we had chased up and let go. Litter, clean birds in the field without clean-up, and be a danger to others. The local people only care about how much they can make, over charging for services, not telling the truth about the home you can rent, and if I hear another one say "your group will be the only ones on my land" I'll puke. The State can keep the birds, My group of 10 have all agreed to not return, the cost and the greed are too much. I will not come back unless the cost of a non-resident license is the same as MN. and if I do come back-- I will not rent another house, I will stay at a hotel, in MN. I will not purchase anything in a small town ( not a meal, gas, or another \$4.50 bottle of beer ) Sorry, I just will not be a part of the money grab--since it is my money. Walk-in areas, I hope you did not pay the farmers too much, I thought the quality was avg. at best. It would be interesting to measure the walk-in area with private, the quality difference has to be huge. In closing thanks for the effort of the DNR, but the guide who over charges, the farmer who over charges, the small town who now is the definition of greed, and the get as many (hunters) as you can, is not for me. ON TO NEB. or IA.
- 1416 Enjoyed the hunting experience for pheasant in South Dakota. You should raise the limit to 5 birds per day per man from the current 3.
- 1441  
walk in areas are fine they need to be stocked better early for later hunting , i really wish that waterfowl licenses were available over the counter it would be so much easier and no more ducks would be killed and you would sell more license hence taking in more money for game restoration ,,, thank you ,,, scot hamilton ,,,, 423 791 4771
- 1445 No chance for the out of state hunter. Too many locals have hunted the land prior to the season for out of staters.
- 1447  
There had been a lot of area's mowed, pastured or hayed, I assume for grass restoration, that we drove to and then moved on because of the cutting. What will be good habitat is not necessarily good hunting this year. I wish there was some way of showing that on your maps, it would have saved us a lot of driving. I do understand though, it's impossible to put all that information on maps. Your maps are highly informational now. But we did lose possibly a day of hunting or so driving around to check out hunting spots. The pressure on the walk-in area's is increasing every year. So a lot of area's we found already had people in them. The weather didn't help any either, a lot of area's were under water, so hold off on the rain until after I leave.
- 1473 I noticed a loss of walk-in areas in the Campbell-McPherson Counties area. Much of the walk-in had been cut or grazed reducing the quality of the habitat. Most of the walk-in areas were not great grouse habitat (no extensive areas of short grass), and I didn't see any partridge which is not unusual for this area. Chickens are very rare as well, and I have only found them further south in past years. I think the walk-in program is critical to maintaining bird hunting in SD, but I would encourage addition evaluation of walk-in areas to determine the relative amounts of habitat critical for each species. In that way, new walk-in could be added to provide more habitat for the more rare species or specific regions could be targeted to focus on increasing habitat for the existing populations.
- 1481 Need more acres in WIA program!
- 1492 need a Agmin download that would identify the Walk-ins and Public Lands as "Points of Interest"
- 1514 walk in areas and the habit is very important to the pheasants especially since you are losing alot of your CRP ground. hate to see that happen. Keep up the good work!

- 1524 great availability of pheasants this year. saw probably 100+ pheasants
- 1542 I did hunt deer and used the walk in program. I did not appreciate the fact that I had to walk in and stood and watched a private land owner use his vehicle to push the deer so they did not move off his land but moved towards the hunters he had hunting his land. He did this 2 days in a row. I had to find another place to hunt because this was just not going to work.
- 1558 Compared to Nebraska the hunt and bird population was exceptionally great.
- 1560 It was great hunting but because of the amount of rain it was hard hunting, but I seen more game birds here than I have every seen.
- 1567 Atlas came late
- 1590 Found the auto GPS maps extremely useful in conjunction with the atlas!
- 1601 The walk in areas where we hunted were excellent, however, we hunted VERY late in the season so birds were quite spooky. Did not get as many as we would have liked, but was excellent time.
- 1607 The only reason I did not use the walk In areas this year was because they were to wet. This was the first year in 17 yrs I didn't hunt walk-in areas. I was lucky to be able to walk 75% standing corn this year 2009
- 1616 The majority of the corm fields were still standing. It was very difficult to find many Pheasants.
- 1625 My experience was entirely private. My opinions on the Walk In program have no value since I did not participate in any and am generally unaware of what it is.
- 1632 i had the best time ever
- 1637
- I mostly hunted private land in 2009 because the opportunity existed. However, I do feel that the walk-in and State access areas are extremely important for non-residents as well as residents. I have hunted these areas in the past with great success.
- 1651
- WIA program is critical to decisions to travel to SD, however a disturbing trend has me concerned about threats. Loss of WIA's to paid hunting operations. It seems to be as big a factor as loss to those being pulled out of CRP in the areas I hunt. The atlas has always had a few problems with accuracy in the area I hunt, it seems. Not sure why the map can't be run by those in charge locally to verify accuracy before it is printed? This year the special mgmt. areas were confusing. I almost hunted one but thought I should check on what they really meant--and thankfully I did that first as they were open for deer only--that was NOT apparent from instructions in the atlas.
- 1657 Hunted Private Land - South Dakota is a great state. I will be bringing my family out at some point as a result of the great experience hunting birds.
- 1658
- The game production areas are an important part of our pheasant hunting trip (usually the first week of nov) to sd every year. The walk in areas are generally overhunted. Keep up the good work, we love to hunt in sd every year. M stone, Michigan
- 1663
- It seems like there is very little walkin areas. Fortunately was able to hunt private land.
- 1671 Did not use walk-in areas
- 1672 need to keep walk in areas because private LAND IS GETTING HARD TO FINE
- 1682 We had a group of 4 hunters the first week of the season. The crops were not harvested at that time so hunting was very limited ( 3 to dusk) when birds were leaving feed areas to their roosting areas. Had we not been able to hunt a few private roosting areas we would not concider returning in the future.
- 1695 did not use walk-in areas, only private land which we own.

1709

This is the second year I've hunted SD for pheasants. I enjoy hunting the WIAs to use up my lead shot. As I use up my lead, I'm purchasing non-toxic shot and hunting more GPAs. The GPAs in SD are great. I appreciate the management practices of SD and wish NE could benchmark more from your successful program. Your atlas is extremely helpful and I applaud your efforts. Hunting public land with your atlas makes for a great hunting experience and offers the opportunity to hunt new areas of the state quite easily. Thank you for your dedication to the outdoors and keep up the great work.

Sam Hines

Sincerely,  
Bellevue, NE

1711

Walk in areas need food source- corn, milo, wheat etc. Some areas are useless pasture-no cover or food source. Areas should also include shelter belts. Over the past 10 plus years that I have hunted in S.D., I have seen an increased effort by landowners to mow roadway ditches to discourage hunting. The best areas to hunt are near food sources, leaving walk in areas useless. The increased mowing leads me to think that residents don't want hunters here. Many hunters ( like myself ) can not afford to pay the high fees land owners want to charge to hunt on their ground. Our group ( 10 ) is seriously considering going back to Kansas to hunt. The landowners there are more receptive to let you hunt their land, especially after the first 2 weeks of the season. If S.D. is serious about keeping out of state hunters coming back, improved walk in areas are a must! Also, legislation regulating mowing of road right of ways needs to be passed.  
Steven C. Straher

1713

Obviously, the need for walk in programs are of utmost importance to the continuation of public hunting. If not for the luck of finding a private landowner who let us hunt for free, we would of been 100% dependant upon the public access area. The only bit of dissatisfaction would have to be the numbers of acres available that are close to grain fields and have significant CRP / weed cover. Many areas had sparse grass. Maybe planting a few strips of feed rows throughout these areas would increase bird numbers.

1721

There were alot of walk in areas I wanted to try but never got around to them do to the fact we had enough private land to hunt on. The walk in areas had birds on them because we could see them from the road. I think it is nice to have this land available for anyone to hunt. Thanks for a great late hunt this year in S.D. The early hunt in Oct was tough do to the fact that the crops were still standing

1727

If a farmer accepts taxpayer money (CRP, etc.) the public should be allowed to hunt on that land.

1737

It would be helpful if you produced a more detailed map and/or GPS co-ordinance for walk-in and pulic lands. We are from out of state and sometimes it was difficult to be sure we were legal.

1742

Due to the weather that SD had had all summer and fall most all of the walk in areas we hunted were surrounded by standing corn. This greatly reduces the success rate for us. I understand that this is something not controlable by the DNR or the farmers in the areas affected.

1749

please keep up the effort to enhance the walk in program, it is a great asset for hunters in SD!

1762

This was my first year to hunt in SD ( I have been to Iowa 10+ times) and I will be back in SD. The bird count in Iowa has been down for several years but we were able to find plenty of birds in SD. I am a low-budget hunter, so we have always hunted Road right of ways. I did not know of Walk in areas, but would be very interested in learning more about it. Also, we were harrassed more by Landowners in SD than in Iowa. I attribute this to the fact that pheasant hunting in SD is more commercialized than in Iowa. Even though low budget hunters like my dad, my brother, my son and I put a lot of money into the state (license, meals, lodging, shells, etc.), the landowners seemed to resent our presence there. I would like to be able to read a summary of the landowner's rights so that we would not be in violation. We observed the "safety zones" and other laws, but we were harrassed some when we were clearly in the right. Overall, we enjoyed our stay and definitely plan to be back. Keep up the good work.

1768 Please continue to provide the walk-in areas for public hunting. Even though I hunted private land exclusively this year I expect the day will come where I will transition to public hunting areas.

1774 Great hunting. I made 2 trips to SD this year for pheasant and the grouse were an added bonus. I saw more grouse this year than ever before and I have been hunting SD since 1967. The walk in areas were great, just not many roosters left. We did see a lot of deer (both species) and some nice turkeys.

1778 I'm sure the hunting would have been alot better if the farmers could have got there crops harvested.

1787 walk-in areas are getting better but we are still finding a good number of areas that have no habitat for any animal

1796 I would say the state has done a very good job in setting up areas for non resadents to hunt and I will be back as I have been for 20 some years and it just gets better.

1802 Our hunt was in Mid-December when the birds were more concentrated in the corn stubble and cattail slews. I believe the Walk-In Areas would be much more productive in the earlier season. Some of the areas had some very nice cover but we did not find many birds there during our hunt.

1805 I did not use the walk-in areas this year but think it is great that this is provided for those that don't have private areas to hunt.

1806 The S.D. upland hunting is all "pay to play". Road hunting is ridiculous - not sporting at all. It is the only pheasant hunting I have ever seen that can be done alone in a three piece suit and dress shoes if you choose to. Sorry but we won't be back. Sincerely, Steve Valkar svalkar@kc.rr.com

1827 I would participate in Duck hunting if it was open to nonresidents. I mean open not with a lottery stipulation.....

1834

PLEASE - keep this program going! I hunt private as a social event. I go out a few days early to hunt by myself, and only hit Walk - ins and public areas. I LOVE the thought of anybody being able to find pheasants on public land. I do not expect a thousand birds on Walk - ins. My expectation for pheasant hunting is to work hard all day and get 3-5 great shots at birds. I expect the dogs will not loose interest in running the fields, as they will bump into hens occasionally. I think SD & ND are far ahead of MN in this aspect. I don't like MN policies with this program. Southwestern MN should have the pheasants SD does, but simply can't due to the lack of CRP fields. A total shame. I do not hunt MN because it's not the aesthetically pleasing as the Dakotas. If I could ask, expand these programs more so that more parts of the state have a high density of public walk in areas. Keep up the fantastic work!

- 1842 I would like to see more posted signs for walk in areas, for the scope of the area there is not enough walk in areas.
- 1843 not the bst year for hunting this year!
- 1846 The state of South Dakota does a very good job at the maps and walk in areas. It does make it very nice for out of state people to enjoy your hunting oppurtunities.
- 1852 I did not hunt the walk in areas, but any program that will provide additional ways for folks to hunt with inexpensively is a great deal.
- 1870 I hunted two days in the rain. Weather ruined trip
- 1881 Quit paying landowners for grazed and hayed lands, it's a waste of my license dollars that go to the walk in program. It's a rip-off of the taxpayers dollars too when a landowner gets CRP money then hays or grazes the land then gets paid for a walk in area.
- 1888 We hunted in Dec. The walk in area birds were a little less jumpy than the other public area birds. It was still real difficult to get close to them. We flushed a few sharptails, way out, but never got a shot. We enjoyed the challenge of hunting late season pheasants. Thanks and keep up the good work. We will be back next year.
- 1889 I sent an email to South Dakota DNR regarding GPS waypoints for Walk-in and State hunting grounds. I did not get ANY response. This would help me consider a 2nd trip to South Dakota for a public land only hunt. In Kansas, you can download a file with all the GPS waypoints and convert it to the format of your GPS. Does South Dakota have such a file? Email me at bbentler99@yahoo.com
- 1906 This was my 2nd X hunting SD walk ins. The 1st X was 4yrs ago. It was Christmas and a heavy snow was on so the hunt was limited to a dry lake bed but there were chickens, grouse and pheasants. This year I saw grouse and pheasant but with the late harvest didn't get a lot of birds. I did stay at the roost fields till dark and the birds came in from the standing corn so it was good to see the numbers are good. I had planned to hunt at Christmas again this year but the weather prevented it, so I'm going to KS Jan 18th for a hunt. Also hunted KS 4yr ago late season walk ins and did lousy. Hope its better this time.
- 1908 test crops hurt opening weekend, snow hurt december last hunt, couldnt go.. First year to hunt South Dakota, will do it again What is the deal with 1200 starting time opening week end, did not care for that.....
- 1923 All the areas that I hunted were hit very very hard. Birds were typicly not present due to the amount of hunting pressure.
- 1963 We were out there and the farmers had a lot of the crops left on the feilds cause of the wet ground. Would have been a lot better in walk in areas if crops were off. But still a good time
- 1975 I have hunted walk in areas in the past. With Sd losing CRP as quickly as it is doing, you need more walk in areas. A small seperate fee like \$5.00 that everone hunter would have to pay for a license could fund additional areas.
- 2000

Note: - Really did not target grouse, but they are an added bonus if we see them while pheasant hunting, so the first portion of my survey responses are not really applicable. Several Walk-In areas visited were either mowed, or in crop, and had not been in years past. It was dissapointing to travel to new properties/areas on the Atlas maps that showed some promise, only to find no suitable cover / hunting habitat available. Some Walk-In areas found were exceptional, but I personally focused on a few WPAs with a new dog that were easier to hunt / train in while exposing a pup to the SD experience. Keep up the good work with respect to the bird management!

- 2016 Your state is unmatched when it comes to habitat conditions. I wish Minnesota would have the same practices as S.D. Thank you very much for allowing non residents to hunt in your state!!
- 2025 Increase the WIA in the Redfield area.
- 2030 Hunt on private land was excellent. only hunted uncut corn
- 2031 did not hunt walk in areas but the habitat looked good and talked to other hunters that did hunt these areas and they had good success.
- 2043 It's nice that S.D. has so much public and walk in areas. The areas I hunted were very good habitat and seen a lot of birds and a lot of sign. Can't wait til next season.
- 2049 4 solid days of hunting - put up 2 roosters are zero taken in the Waubay - Webster area. I sometimes wonder if the numbers are artificially inflated to promote tourism. Good job on the downloadable maps to a GPS. That's a slick system.
- 2056 walk in areas that we hunted were all by standing corn this fall, which limited the hunting quality greatly.
- 2057 Though I didn't use walk-in areas this year, I have in the past and feel that they are very important. They provide an opportunity to hunt to everyone whether you have access to private land or not and the habitat to hopefully continue with good bird numbers.
- 2059 My group didn't happen to need to hunt walk-in land. We hunted wild pheasants on private land, but I'm very familiar with walk-in programs and think highly of them. They are very valuable to habitat and hunting.
- 2066 The walk in areas are critical to the continued success of SD drawing non resident hunters for hunting. There is no way the numbers of non resident hunters could maintain without access to huntable property and asking landowners is not an option. With that said, I did notice that it seemed like a lot of the land in the walk in areas were non huntable land. I'm not for sure how the enrollment program works but it appears that some may be taking advantage of the program by enrolling considerable amounts of property that there is nothing to hunt, no crops no CRP, no ditches etc. Just an idea but everything was great that you had control over, not the weather, water etc.
- 2067 need to increase the daily limit to 5 pheasants for me to continue to make the trip to S Dakota, there are plenty of pheasants, so the cost of the trip needs to be justified to bring home more birds
- 2087 I would most likely use the walk-in areas if I were to hunt late season pheasant. So I think they are valuable for that reason.
- 2090 We hunted in the Langford, SD area and the flooding was very bad. We were extremely limited on where we could hunt.
- 2094 I think your walk-in program is very good.
- 2104 I have a connection with some private land but it is so nice to find and hunt the walk in areas. please keep it up.
- 2105 Tough year all around, too wet and too many crops left in. Unfortunately couldn't get back up later in season, due to the expense of the trip I may not go back to South Dakota
- 2114 My plan is to use these areas in the future.
- 2117 With less private hunting land and increasing rates to hunt those lands, I will be hunting 'walk-in areas' more often in the future. Thank you for your support.

- 2120 My family has traveled to South Dakota to hunt pheasants almost every year for many years since my grandpa started bringing my father and uncles back in the 1960's. We will also take grouse if we find them, but they are not our main focus. I'm not sure about the Walk-In program, or what is meant by that terminology. Most of the land we hunt is public but I don't know if it's specifically "walk-in" land or not. The public land that we hunt has excellent habitat; good feed, good cover, and access to water. Some years are better for the birds, but I don't think any of us has had any complaints about the efforts of South Dakota to create and maintain good habitat for the birds. If we had any complaint it's that too much of the land is private, but that's for obvious reasons!
- 2133 We hunted in the Huron area for 5 days and the Cresbard area for another 5 days and honestly did not find any WALK-In with decent cover.
- 2141 You have a beautiful state, wonderful people and I will be back.
- 2149 we did notice that a lot of the walk in lands had been taken out of the program. Some of our favorite spots from previous years had been pastured/farmed.
- 2164 As a visitor to SD, I really appreciate the walk-in area program since we have very limited access to bird and waterfowl hunting properties in North Carolina. I hunted in the Webster area this year. I have hunted in SD 6 of the last 7 years and I believe that the quality of the Walk In areas is getting better as there appear to be more properties with some food crops on them to keep pheasants and ducks around. I truly appreciate this program and look forward to the benefits of it for years to come. One more comment, the interactive map is an excellent tool that creates a huge efficiency gain for visitors for me looking for certain types of terrain and cover. Brian K. Anderson  
Denver, NC
- 2175 I Hunted private land only. Had a great hunt . Will be coming back
- 2186 This was my first year hunting in South Dakota. The pheasant program is fantastic but I don't have enough experience with the walk in area program vs other areas so I hesitate to comment... All in All enjoyed the experience VERY much and plan to do it again next year.
- 2190 Many walkin areas were not suitable habitat for pheasants which was my primary target species. Many of the walkin areas were completely grazed pasture or completely hayed off offering no viable hunting. In 4 days of hunting we spent a lot of time driving around scouting for suitable habitat instead of actually walking the land. There needs to be more incentive for the farmers to leave parts of the walkin areas unharvested to keep me coming back to SD. We spend a fair amount of money to go to SD and prefer hunting on our own with no outfitter. Without better walkin area management SD bird hunting will become a hobby exclusively for the rich who stay at private game farms. I'd rather spend my time grouse hunting in MN.
- 2195 Some of the walk in areas we hunted were mowed or cut for hay about 40%-50% of the fields. I know that they are allowed to do this. But it seems this year we found more of it. We also hunted some different places this year. I'm not a farmer but watching the weather that you are getting the past few weeks may be haying is a good thing to feed their herds. Or hunting this year was not as good as before. This was because we found alot of crops still up. Our group has been coming to South Dakota for the past 10 years. It looks like we will be back next year. Not sure if it will be the same time of the year (first week of Nov.) or be pushed back a few weeks.

- 2196 We utilize Walk In Areas extensively in December, our second trip out. They are fantastic for post harvest (I'm still not sure yalls corn is in) production. Thanks for having us!!!
- 2199 did not hunt any walk in areas.
- 2215 CRP land needs to be reinstated... There was a big difference this year in the amount of ag land which is a HUGE concern for sustainable pheasant habitat for future hunts
- 2226 2009's "Walk-in" areas seemed to be very sparse in habitat than in prior years. However, the GPS's were again wonderful hunting. I've been coming to SD to hunt grouse and pheasant since the mid 90's...coming from Alaska and now Washington. SD has such a wonderful public hunting program that I so appreciate. Over the years I have brought many friends with me...and we all love the experience. I figure I've spent close to \$30,000 over the years on my SD bird hunting adventures...good economy to your state. Please keep up the good work with the public land access program. I've made many friends in SD. I will be coming back as long as I'm able. Kenny Hubach
- 2241 We hunted with an outfitter and the the private areas we walkin in were the best that I have ever had the pleasure to walk. Your state is the best upland hunting that I have ever experienced.
- 2245 Need MORE walk in areas. The ones we tried to hunt were extremely crowded!! Thank God for the road right of way allowance!
- 2253 Never saw a walk in map. Would have used it if any were near. Glad you kept the limit to three birds. That is plenty, even for as far as we drive to hunt. I wish you could change the out state to three three day periods or two five day periods. For some of us can't take two weeks off but we can do three weekends. South Dakota Pheasant hunting is a great experience. Keep up the good work.
- 2254 Generally those I observed seemed to have fair to poor habitat with no adjacent food plots or private crop land.
- 2257 publish GPS coordinates for public hunting areas
- 2261 There needs to be more walk-in areas. I live in central Illinois where corn is king. We hear that some farmers are starting to hit 160 bushels/acre in SD and we know all to well that with those numbers starting, habitat for pheasants will soon be gone. Fence rows, tree lines and pasture ground will be replaced with corn. You guys have to keep this alive out there. Please!!!!
- 2264 Thank You for asking...very pleased with the South Dakota management programs..I grew up on a federal wildlife refuge [Loxahatchee Florida] my father was the refuge manager.
- 2267 the counties I hunt in have few walk in areas. most land is private and hard to access. we must drive long distance to reach vast area of walk in area. the walk in area atlas could be in bigger print and better detailed.
- 2283 I like the walk-in program but didn't have the opportunity to hunt these areas in 2009. I have hunted them in year's past. Please keep the program going.
- 2294 Your out of state license is very expenisve!
- 2310 Even though there are not many walk in areas where I hunt, I think they can be very valuable. I wish there were more areas like this. Years ago I hunted northern SD (Eureka area) and there seemed to be more areas up there and I hunted them much more. Only issues was when they were allowed to be ahyed, then they became useless. Nothing beats private land but you never know what might happen to any particular piece of land.

- 2314 Thank you for your work in providing us Iowan's with a great place to continue to hunt wild pheasants. We are extremely lucky to have some private land to hunt on, but if it wasn't for your preservation of public grassland habitat we would not enjoy the success we have had. Just one suggestion, please don't make the same mistake Iowa has by continually raising out of state hunting fees to the point where no one will want to come anymore (ie....out of state deer tags).
- 2327 I have never hunted a walk in area
- 2331 You forced an answer to the last 2 questions yet I did not hunt walk-in areas and I stated that in the previous questions.
- 2335 Did not hunt in Walk-In areas.
- 2364 Need additional food plots in walk-in areas
- 2380 too much crop
- 2381 This year I did not use the program very much (as much as in the past) because we used new private land. However, in the future I would expect my use of those areas to increase again. With loss of CRP acres and the hard 2009 and 2010 winter, so far, I would hope any increase in habitat should be promoted.
- 2387 From what I saw, it appears South Dakota does a great job of conservation management of both their land and their bird population. This is great to see.
- 2394  
Granted this year I did not hunt the walk in areas although I have hunted them in past years. I think the walk in areas are vital to upland game hunting for resident and out of state hunters. I think the walk in program is a very thing and hope it continues.
- 2416 Pheasant hunting in SD is great, keep up the good work.
- 2419  
Part of the fun is trying out new locations. Sometimes the spot can be disappointing upon arrival. But, much the time, the locations are a treat to hunt. Last year, we spent most of our time in the Gregory area and south of Winner. This year we were mostly north of Winner. Next year we plan to try north of Chamberlain. The Pheasant opportunities in South Dakota are tremendous compared to Wisconsin. We do appreciate the privilege to enjoy those birds. The split 5 day (10) nonresident license is okay but I'd be willing to pay more for an annual one. Thanks.
- 2426 Walk In area habitat looked like it would be good if you could hunt them 1st thing in the morning. All birds had moved out to grain fields by noon
- 2432 south dakota does a good job with its game, fish and parks
- 2437 There didn't seem to be many walk-in-areas where I hunted (southcentral, Winner). The few I found seemed to be heavily grazed pasture land, not very suitable for pheasants (Maybe they are for other types of hunting).
- 2450 the difficult fall left many crops in the field and therefore difficult to hunt it as many of the walk in areas are farmer designated.
- 2466 The download for Garmin GPS was extremely helpful and efficient for determining and locating public walk-in areas.
- 2469 I didn't hunt many walk ins but if they had more cover they would hold more birds.
- 2471 If answer to number 2 was no, why does the survey force answers that do not apply?
- 2479 How do I get a walk in area atlas?
- 2498 I also bowhunted in Western South Dakota in November and was very satisfied with the hunting on the WIP in Harding County
- 2499 Had a wonderful time hunting. The trip was planned for a private land hunt only. However, in the future I might extend the trip to hunt public land.

- 2509 I think that these areas are very important. We need more of them. The hunting may not be as good as private ground, however they do give the birds a good place to nest and reproduce.
- 2518 Did not hunt walk-in areas.
- 2520 Over the years I've notices increased harassment from farmers even though I hunt 100% legally. Many farmers know they have no valid reason to bother you but do so out of intimidation. I believe they believe if they bother you enough, taking away from your hunting time, you will not hunt right-of-ways in their areas. I believe there should be a law making it illegal to falsely accuse right of way hunters of illegal activities, and that the lawful hunter should be able to call the Game Warden out and ticket the false accuser.
- 2551 Hunting in SD is great but the two five-day stints is a problem. I would love to hunt three weekends. three three days would be a great option. I know that I would spend more time in state because I can't get the consecutive days off to make the five day sessions work very well.
- 2553 I agree with a youth season prior to opening day of pheasant season. However I disagree with and think that the 3 day resident season has hurt the experience of the pheasant season. I have experienced the public land in South Dakota before and after this season started. I am very dissatisfied along with most every other non-resident that I have talked with on this change. The birds have already been chased off the public land before we have a chance to drive 1000+ miles to even enjoy them resulting in fewer and fewer hunters for South Dakota's Pheasant season. This was very exciting to be on the piece of public land waiting for 12:00 start time. Now, it is just a distant memory that I can't share with my own children because it no longer exists. It's just not the same to try to hunt birds that have been hunted for two weeks and hard the three days before the rest of the season opens. More to the point, we can only get that experience on private land, thus further limiting the amount of time that I(we) are able to spend in South Dakota. Sincerely Jerry Beck Jr.
- 2563 Did not use walk in areas this year but we have in the past. 3 years ago we were very disappointed. It looked like a pasture and unhuntable. I think it is a great idea, unless you pay the land owners and then let them graze cattle.
- 2580 i didnt walk in
- 2589 If I did not hunt them why must I answer the questions?
- 2596 Not really familiar with the Walk-In Program but will next year when I enter the state of SD.
- 2601
- Habitat is less than desired and we find few birds. We find the atlas to be a good tool.
- 2619 the walkin areas did not hold as many birds as in past years due to late harvest of crops
- 2623 We only hunted private land this year, but would be very interested in hunting the walk in areas next year. As always, we had a wonderful experience in South Dakota. Thank you sincerely,  
Cliff Mollsen
- 2626 We really only hunt Pheasants, but, we do shoot grouse and partridge when the opportunity presents itself. A lot of the Walk in areas are obviously not intended for bird hunters, due to a lack of bird cover. In the one walk in area that we do hunt it has cover and water, but the only food source is the private land around it. The Walk-in Area is a much great benefit to the landowner there (for his own hunting) than it is to the hunting public.

- 2629 In 2008 I had a problem with a landowner in a Walk In Area. He dressed me and my hunting party down for using dogs around his cow/calf herd. I live in Texas and hunt around cattle all the time. The landowner was an idiot and wanted to take the state's money but not let the public use the land.
- 2630 Three of us hunted South Dakota and all 3 of us were very dissatisfied. We will never come back to SD to hunt. The walk in areas were all about 2 inches high and had been mowed off by the farmers, the same farmers that you pay subsidies to. Right next to these areas that have been mowed off are nice private fee hunting lands where the birds all hang out. The farmers mow the walk-in areas and then save their habitat for themselves. I think you need to get out into the field and see what's really happening. It's nearly impossible for an out-of-state hunter to find good land to hunt on. We drove many miles looking for places to hunt and found very little. The roadways were about the only thing that we could hunt. We were all very disappointed and cut our trip short and went up to North Dakota to finish our hunt. In North Dakota, if a piece of land is not posted you can hunt it, so if you look around at least you can find little pockets of land to hunt on. But in SD, you can drive the whole state and you're not able to hunt anything unless you can find the land owner (which is nearly impossible) If you need further input feel free to call me at 218 638 4867 g j pipek
- 2635 Walk in area I accessed was a monoculture. Birds used it as escape or perhaps emergency cover only.
- 2637  
I grew up in SD and now work in Southern Minnesota. Each day I drive 80 miles to work and back surrounded by cornfields. In 20 months of driving I have seen less than 5 pheasants. When the corn is harvested, the stalks are tilled under in less than 2 days, resulting in black dirt, and of course no pheasants! Between the drainage and the severe farming methods wildlife here has no chance. I'm glad that SD has not adopted these types of farming methods. My wildlife professor at SDSU use to say, Minnesota farmers make just enough more money by the way they farm, to come to SD to hunt pheasants. I appreciate all the work you do to support wildlife. You are a blessing to the people of SD. God Bless Pastor Bob Lund
- 2638 The idea of walk in areas is good. Unfortunately, the good walk-in and public hunting areas tend to be overhunted, especially by the later part of the season. More public land/walk in areas would be greatly appreciated by most hunters.
- 2644 I think there could be something done in regards to what types of land a land owner can put into walk-in hunting. There are a lot of walk in areas that birds couldn't find any type of cover, for example, crop land that has been harvested. I don't really think that type of land should be able to be entered into the walk-in areas program.
- 2649 I hunted walk in areas early in my SD hunting experience and found it to be very sub par. The area I hunted was in the southern part of the state in the Wagner area. If walk in areas are a focus of improvement it would certainly be appealing to more hunters who can't afford to keep paying to hunt private land.
- 2662 I am an out of state hunter. I do I find out where the walk in areas are?
- 2670 I got lucky with hunting private land that was affordable. I was planning on hunting on public / walk-in areas and the atlas was invaluable.
- 2674 We were there mainly to Duck Hunt. Only spent few hours on Pheasants. Was first time hunting pheasants and plan to return next year. SD should be proud of the system for public hunt opportunities. Thanks for being great a awesome host.
- 2681 I hunt SD and KS for pheasant and prairie chickens and SD is the best by far. Thank you for the time and effort you go to to preserve the birds and their habitat. Bill Miller Centennial, CO 303-912-0748

- 2683 Only hunted private land. The owners were extremely good at providing excellent habitat for the pheasant we hunted.
- 2692 Some areas that was on the map, there were no signs and some the signs were taken down, some parcels should not even be on the list, however, some are very good.
- 2693 I did not hunt walk in areas.
- 2696 Did not use any walk in hunting
- 2726 We hunted Nov 19-22. In a 'typical' year, we are exclusively private land hunters, but due to the wet weather, we were 'forced' to hunt walk ins. They were great, saved our hunt for 2009.
- 2732 Did not use walk in areas this year but I did the year prior! It was fine. Got a couple there.
- 2735 No problem at all w/ " walk in " . BUT you soft ware so poorly designed that could not get out w/out answr.
- 2739 The walk in areas of CRP seem to be critical roost areas regardless if hunters hunt them or not in that area. The area provides the needed cover that the private lands need and don't always have.
- 2740 So many of the walk in areas get over hunted, even later in the season when I went. I can only imagine what it was like the first month. When one got away from the easily accessed area, the congestion decreased and the quality of the hunt improved however it was hard to find the ones that weren't over-hunted. Alot of the walk ins were not next to any source of feed for the birds so they were only of marginal quality. A few of the areas were quite nice and this made up for alot of walking without putting up any birds. Of HUGE concern was a land owner that intentionally harrassed us when we walked up a right of way on a section road up by Tolstoy. He droved by us zigging and zagging through the grass to get the birds up saying to us, don't shoot me, I'm going to check my cattle. What a joke. There were alot of birds on this section line and he just didn't want us to get any of them which we didn't. Should I have stopped him and got his name in order to presecute him? Is there a way to prosecute him? Hunter harrassment is against the law!
- 2750 Is the best thing South Dakota has ever come up with in my 15 years of driving from Illinois to South Dakota to hunt pheasants.
- 2756 The hunting this past year was extremely difficult due to the heavy rains and much of the area being under water.
- 2767 We did not shoot very many pheasant in the walk in areas, but I believe the main reason was becasue the corn was not cut and the birds were hanging out in the uncut corn. Had the corn been cut, I think we would have had much greater success in the walk in areas. In general, I think the walk in areas are very important.
- 2781 Most of the walk in, in the area I hunt was used for hay harvest. The farmers get paid for walk in and then hay it making it worthless land for Phasant hunting account there is not any cover for the birds.
- 2798 I'd just like to point out that all the pheasant hunting I did in South Dakota in 2009 was on private land.
- 2800 This was our first year in SD and most of the walk in areas were flooded so it is difficult for me to properly evaulate. If the water levels were normal we have taken advantage if them.

2823 First time to SoDak, so not much to compare it to. Friends out there had guaranteed me lots of birds, but we only got a few. They said they had never seen it that bad before (we were up in the Mound City area). One reason might be that the corn and sunflowers had not been harvested yet--lots of birds hiding in there. We could only speculate on why we didn't see many birds. Poor nesting conditions? I don't know what else would account for the low numbers.

2825 In my opinion the walk-in lands are areas that the land owner can't use and seem to be unproductive for pheasant, but it gives some people a place to hunt. I see more sharptail in these areas than anything.

2835 Did not hunt walk in areas in 2009 because walk in areas that I (we) hunted in the past, were no longer in the program (available).

2841 walk-in lands with corn or beans nearby produced better hunting if no crops no birds

2843 I did not know that the state had a Walk-In Areas Program available for hunters. You need to advertise this Walk-In Area more on your website for buying out of state license. I did not see this Walk-In Area mentioned on any information.

2849 The walk-in areas we hunted had great habitat but had been hunted a lot so there weren't a lot of birds. There's nothing you can do about that, in fact it's what a hunter should expect when working these areas. Overall, I was impressed with the quality of the walk-in areas and would like to see the program continue. Thank you.

2855 hunting was tough this year as birds were very jumpy. we saw fewer roosters and tons of hens. we hunted a private lease most of our time up but we did hunt one public area which produced little.

2866 With alot of fields of standing crops, pheasant hunting pressure on picked fields was intense. We saw a lot of rattlesnakes in the grasslands. One dog in our group was bitten and nearly died, another friend from Minnesota had one bitten the week prior to our visit. Talked to other hunters that had experienced the same, I don't know if this was just a bad year for rattlesnakes or if they are on the increase. Kinda of spooky though

2873 I primarily hunt private land but see great value for those not willing to spend the money to hunt such land.

2884

Hunter harrassment from game farm owners. We have filed hunter harrassment complaints in the past with Game and Fish due to game farm owners physically detaining us on public roads. We were told by a man named Brad Balloon, northeast of Miller, SD that we were not allowed to hunt near his property. He physically parked trucks on either side of us pinning us in. He called the sheriff and game and fish. They arrived and ultimately, told us we were doing nothing wrong. In another area, we had a guy from a game farm pull to within twenty feet of us while we were hunting a public right of way near his farm and refuse to leave until we left "his land". It is getting absurd. I tell everyone how horrible it is. They ruined our trip.

2896

The 10am opening time needs to be changed to 8am. Hunting in SD was very poor this year especially with all the standing corn. By the time 10am rolls around the birds are in the corn for the day making for some very poor hunting. No other state that I hunt has a 10am opener and if you want to keep hunters coming back especially after such a poor year, then the opening time needs to be changed. Also, having to sign up for 2 specific 5 day periods for an out of state license is also a big deterrent. The license should be good for the entire season without restricting hunters to specific dates. Overall, I was extremely disappointed with SD pheasant hunting this year and unless some things change we will be going to spend our money in Kansas next year.

- 2908 Man, we need a thaw or this winter will be a pheasant killer! The WIA program is great. I have learned that these have to be scouted each year as probably over half of them don't have cover or birds. Without the WIA's I would probably not make the trip. The WPA's and GPA's make up more and better land in the areas I hunt, but these would be over pressured if the WIA's were not available. I was on many WPA's in Roberts county this fall and all had been mowed for "thistle control". What a shame to have this public land (WPA'S) and not manage it better. I did not see that many thistle stems, certainly not enough to warrant going through hunting season without any cover left to hunt on these areas. A more targeted approach to thistle control would allow some hunting use vs mowing down everything in sight.
- 2919 Hunting was best on the land that was privately owned, just after harvest. We had some luck on the walk-in land early. Also on other South Dakota land. Later on we didn't see any birds there. I think they were heavily hunted. The Atlas worked well.
- 2920 I feel very strongly that walk in areas are very important to out of state hunters like myself. I also know that the road side right of ways are also extremely important to me as without them I would not even bother coming to hunt in South Dakota.. Thank you.
- 2931 get more... much much more
- 2942 I'm very impressed and appreciative of the walk in program that SD has. It seems like a win for the state, the hunters and the landowners. This program is one of the things that I love about SD. Great job.
- 2943  
although the walk in atlas made it easy to find the walk in areas,I come from minnesota with limited time(weekends) to hunt. All the walk in areas seemed over used, late season. I had much better luck with just hunting the road right-of ways. I hunt on private land in october which is always good, but enjoy coming back in december to hunt late season and to use the second half of my license. I've been pheasant hunting in so. dakota for 40 years and I think the bird population is almost as good now as in the 70's. I have no intension of not hunting the late season, but may rethink how I allocate my limited time. I sure like road hunting. Don't ever give that up! Thanks
- 2948 It seems that the majority of the GPA's and WPA's provide good habitat for roosters whereas a large percentage of the Walk In Areas provide less desirable locations for pheasants. Even so, as a non-resident without private land access I appreciate the opportunity to walk as much acreage as possible so am happy the Walk-In program is so popular among landowners. Also I want to mention that you folks at SD Game and Fish do a great job across the board! Our MN DNR could learn a few things from you all! I'm looking forward to another half century of hunting your state for pheasants and waterfowl and the future looks bright. Thanks again.
- 2950 Was not aware of your Walk-In-Area Program. Will U have it next year and if so where do I find information on it
- 2966 Area (s) need better description / markings for non-resident identification.
- 2983 I ended up mostly on the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, I made a last minute trip and was not fully aware of the Walk-In Areas Program. Because of the survey I will be sure to look into more of the possibilities of this program. I am planning on returning next year to hunt both SRST and South Dakota.
- 2991 Walk in program is very good. However, being able to hunt the roadway makes the hunt. I years past, if I was not able to hunt the roadway, we would have gotten very few pheasants.
- 2995 did not hunt any of walk in areas, would have liked to-just did not have the time

- 2997 This year the walk in areas did not seem as productive due to crops being on them or water standing on them. I don't believe this was the fault of anyone other than circumstantial. I do think the loss of CRP ground is having it's effect on hunting. We are fortunate for now to still have private land to use but I have noticed a substantial difference in the number of birds compared to the past i nthe areas we hunt. There are still quite a few birds overall but I can see that diminishing if this continues. Still have a great time out there and will continue to be back!!
- 9000 Didn't hunt any walk in areas

## Appendix G. Summary report card sent to survey participants.

Dear Hunter,

June 2010

Earlier this year you participated in a survey about the type of land you hunted and your opinions about the Walk-In Areas (if you spent some time hunting Walk-In Areas in 2009). We had 6,562 usable surveys returned giving an overall return rate of 74%. Almost two-thirds of the returned surveys were returned via the Internet, saving considerable in postage and encoding costs. We sincerely thank all the hunters that helped us with this study.

While very few hunters rely totally on Walk-In Areas for their hunting, about 37% of the resident hunters and 29% of the nonresident hunters utilize these areas, mainly as a supplement to their total hunting. The 2009 Walk-In Areas had almost 1.25 million enrolled acres that provided for about 107 thousand resident hunter days and 46 thousand nonresident hunter days, which produced an estimated value around 15 to 16 million dollars in economic impact to the local and state economy.

Most hunters using the Walk-In Areas felt that it had good habitat and was important to their overall hunting. Most resident and nonresident hunters were satisfied with the Walk-In Areas Program (69% and 72%; respectively) and with the atlas (67% and 72%; respectively). Dissatisfaction was relatively low with the Walk-In Areas Program (14% and 16%; respectively) and with the atlas (9% and 7%; respectively).

A copy of the report: **Hunter Evaluation of the 2009 Walk-In Areas Report** can be found on the Game, Fish and Parks web page by clicking on 'Hunting' / 'Areas' or type in the following location:

**<http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/areas/>**

Thanks again for your help with this study.

Sincerely,  
**Larry Gigliotti**  
Game, Fish & Parks