

Elk Management in South Dakota: 2013 Public Opinion Survey Results

HD-9-13.AMS

Cynthia L. Longmire, Ph.D.
Human Dimensions Specialist
South Dakota Game, Fish, & Parks



Division of Wildlife
Serving People, Managing Wildlife

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This report summarizes results from the 2013 Elk Management in South Dakota survey. Information was collected from elk license applicants and Black Hills landowners regarding elk populations in South Dakota, including values, management preferences, and experiences with elk depredation. A mail survey was administered to 2,000 applicants for a South Dakota elk hunting license or preference point, and 2,134 landowners. Responses were received from 64% of applicants and 61% of landowners.

Elk Management, Black Hills Landowners, Hunters

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Executive Summary

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- 1,259 elk hunters responded to the survey for a response rate of 64%, and 1,155 landowners responded for 61% response rate. 64% of responding landowners indicate they own land in the nine-county area where GFP has elk management units located (Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Lawrence, Meade, Mellette, and Pennington) and are referred to as *area landowners* throughout this report. 36% of responding landowners indicated they did not own their land within this nine-county area, and are referred to as *other landowners* throughout this report.
- 81% of elk hunters and 50% of landowners believe there are too few elk in South Dakota. 14% of landowners and 3% of elk hunters believe there are too many elk in South Dakota. There is no significant difference between area landowners and those outside the nine-county area.
- Over the next five years, 93% of elk hunters and 62% of landowners would prefer to seek the elk population in South Dakota increase. 11% of landowners and less than 1% of elk hunters would like to see the population decrease. There is no significant difference between area landowners and those outside the nine-county area.
- 82% of elk hunters and 77% of landowners (no significant difference between area landowners and those outside the nine-county area) who have spent time hunting elk in SD consider filling their tag with the type of elk they are hunting for important to their overall satisfaction with their elk hunting experience. 79% of elk hunters and landowners consider an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip important to their overall satisfaction. There is no significant difference between area landowners and those outside the nine-county area.
- 74% of elk hunters and 62% of landowners who have spent time hunting elk in SD consider harvesting a mature bull elk important to their overall satisfaction, and 47% of elk hunters and 35% of landowners consider harvesting an antlerless elk important to their overall satisfaction with their elk hunting experience. There is no significant difference between area landowners and those outside the nine-county area.
- Approximately three-quarters (76%) of area landowners own their land primarily for farming or ranching purposes.
- Nearly one-quarter (23%) of area landowners earn all of their income from farming and ranching, whereas, 19% do not earn any income from farming or ranching.
- 26% of area landowners indicate they experienced elk depredation damage on their property in the past year. 28% of these landowners requested help from GFP for elk damage, and 64% of those who requested help were satisfied with the assistance provided by GFP.
- 68% of elk hunters and 48% of landowners were satisfied with season lengths for any-elk; 62% of elk hunters and 43% of landowners were satisfied with season lengths for

antlerless elk. There is no significant difference between area landowners and those outside the nine-county area.

- 68% of elk hunters and 57% of landowners were satisfied with season dates for any-elk; 63% of elk hunters and 42% of landowners were satisfied with season dates for antlerless elk. There is no significant difference between area landowners and those outside the nine-county area.
- 61% of elk hunters and 42% of landowners were satisfied with elk management unit boundaries. There is no significant difference between area landowners and those outside the nine-county area.
- The majority of elk hunters (70%) and landowners (62%) believe it is more important to equally increase recreational and trophy hunting opportunities than it is to increase each opportunity solely when structuring elk hunting seasons. There is no significant difference between area landowners and those outside the nine-county area.

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Introduction

Public opinion is an important component in developing and implementing an elk management plan in South Dakota. During the fall of 2013, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) conducted a survey of previous applicants for a SD elk hunting license and landowners in a nine-county area. This survey is a first step in identifying and understanding the interests and needs of area landowners and SD elk hunters. Additional public involvement opportunities will also be used to help incorporate the social aspects of managing elk into GFP's development of an elk management plan. The purpose of this survey is to collect information regarding individuals' experiences and opinions about elk populations and management. This report summarizes results from the 2013 Elk Management in South Dakota survey. Topics covered include: elk on private lands, elk hunting experiences, general wildlife attitudes, attitudes specific to elk, elk population preferences, and season structure.

Methods

The frame for this survey consists of two samples: elk license applicants and landowners. During the period from 2010 through 2013 nearly 25,000 unique elk hunters applied for an elk hunting license or preference point as identified in the GFP licensing database. A random sample of 2,000 applicants was drawn from this population. Since the demand for elk hunting licenses in South Dakota far exceeds the number of available licenses

each year, this sample includes hunters regardless of whether or not they received a license, as well as those individuals who applied for preference points. Hereafter, this sample will be referred to as elk hunters. There is no comprehensive database of South Dakota landowners available for drawing a random landowner sample; therefore a variety of sources were used to identify potential landowners for this survey.

Currently there are nine counties in South Dakota which have a GFP elk management unit located within them: Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Lawrence, Meade, Mellette, and Pennington counties. Landowners within these counties were identified using two GFP databases, the mailing list for the *Landowners Matter* newsletter, landowner contacts from GFP staff, and mailing lists from local conservation districts. A total of 2,134 potential landowners were identified through this process, all of which were invited to participate in the survey.

The same 12-page mail survey was simultaneously administered to both the hunter sample and landowner sample. Survey administration was conducted using the tailored design method (Dillman 2007) with four waves of contact: initial survey and letter, a reminder postcard, and second and third follow-up surveys (appendix A). All survey data was analyzed using IBM Statistics 20 software package.

Results

Elk Hunter Sample - Adjusting for undeliverable surveys, the total response rate for elk hunters was 64 percent (1,259 hunters) with a margin of error of ± 2.7 percent with a 95 percent confidence interval. All else being equal, in 95 out of 100 samples of the same size and type, the results would vary within plus or minus 3 percentage points from the result if all hunters in this population were surveyed.

Landowner Sample – The adjusted response rate for the landowner sample was 61 percent (1,155 landowners). Since the relationship between the landowner sample and the

larger landowner population in the nine-county area is unknown it is not possible to calculate a margin of sampling error and therefore no way to confidently know how representative the sample is of the landowner population as a whole. Consequently, results from the landowner sample should not be used to make inferences about the total landowner population in the nine-county area. The response set of 1,155 landowners, however, represents a relatively large proportion of landowners in the area¹, and at the very least represents the opinions and preferences of the 1,155 landowners who did respond.

A portion of landowners were identified from mailing lists based on the county of their mailing address; therefore it is possible that some may reside in the nine-county area but own land outside this area. Additionally, it is possible that some respondents identified as part of the hunter sample but not the landowner sample could also own land in the nine-county area. All respondents were asked if they owned land in any of these counties. The respondents from the hunter sample who indicated they owned land in this area (116 responses) were moved to the landowner sample for this analysis, and those from the landowner sample who indicated they did not own land in this area (412 responses) were placed into their own group and are referred to hereafter as *other landowner*.

Elk on Private Lands

A total of 835 respondents indicated they owned property in a South Dakota county which has a Black Hills or Prairie Elk management unit. The vast majority of area landowners (92%) own land in only one of the nine counties. Meade County has the highest proportion of responses with 19 percent, followed by Custer and Lawrence County with 18 percent each, and Pennington County with 14 percent (figure 1). On average, landowners held 1,292 total acres in

¹ The 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture reports a total of 4,100 farms in the nine-county area of Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Lawrence, Meade, Mellette, and Pennington counties South Dakota. The USDA defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were, or normally would be, produced and sold during the Census year.

the nine-county area (Mean=1,291.62, SE=106.32). Approximately 50 percent of the area landowners report owning 320 acres or less (figure 2). Roughly one-quarter (27%) own between 320 and 1,280 acres, and another quarter (24%) own more than 1,280 acres. Half of responding landowners (51%) indicate they have land which falls inside of or adjacent to a GFP elk management unit (figure 3 and figure 4). Unit 7 had the highest percentage of responding landowners (21%), followed by Unit 3 (16%) and Unit 2 (16%).

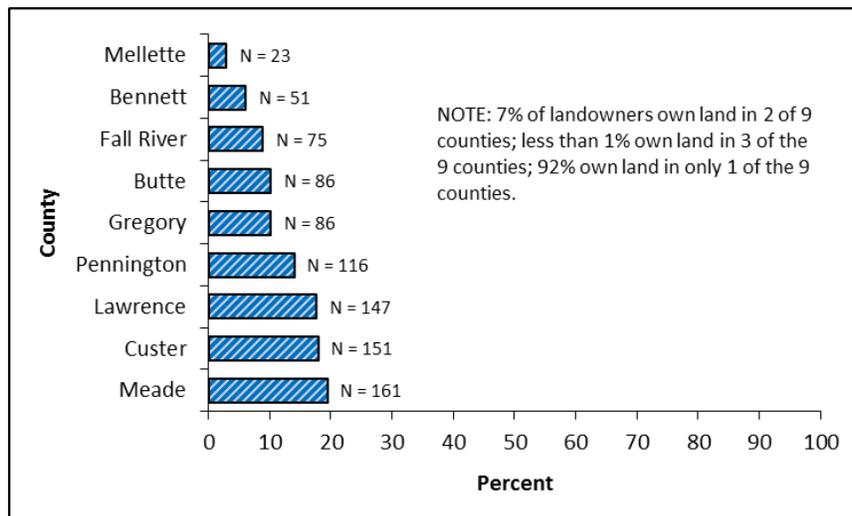


Figure 1: Distribution of area landowners by counties where own land

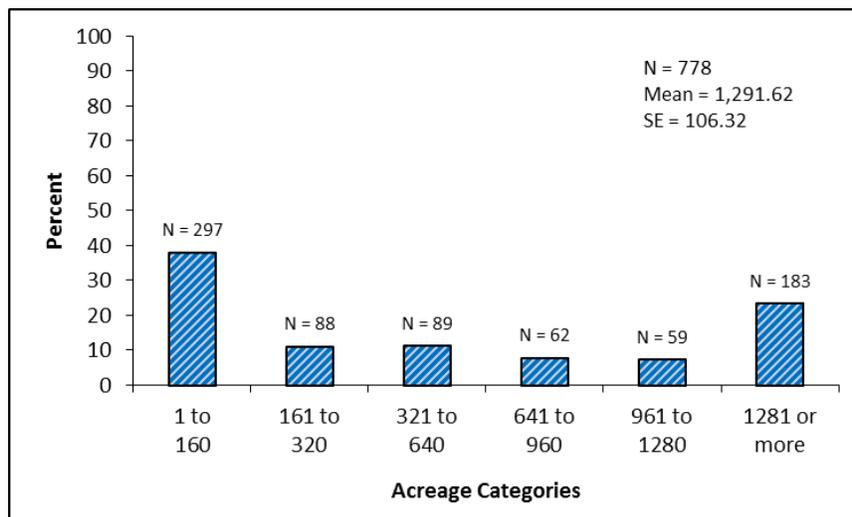


Figure 2: Distribution of area landowners by acreage categories

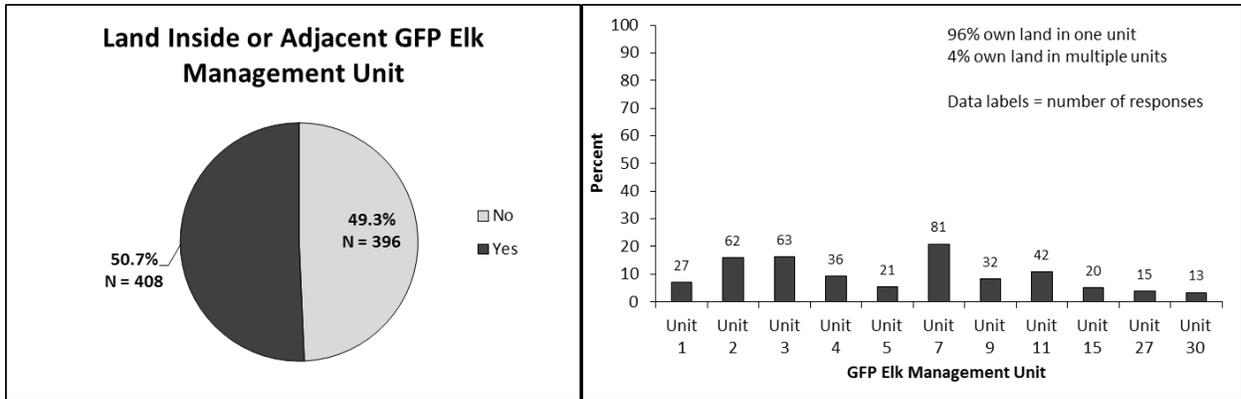


Figure 3: Distribution of area landowners by proximity to GFP elk management unit



Figure 4: SDGFP elk management units map

A slight majority of area landowners (54%) reported seeing no elk on their property during the past year. For those landowners who own property within or adjacent to an elk management unit 59 percent report seeing elk on their land during the past year (figure 5). For all area landowners the average number of elk seen on private property during the past year is approximately 32 elk; for landowners in close proximity to a GFP elk management unit the average is approximately 41 elk (figure 6). The average number of elk seen was higher in two units than for the total average of all landowners within management units. Unit 2 landowners reported the highest average number of elk seen at approximately 117 elk, followed by Unit 3 landowners with an average of 65 elk.

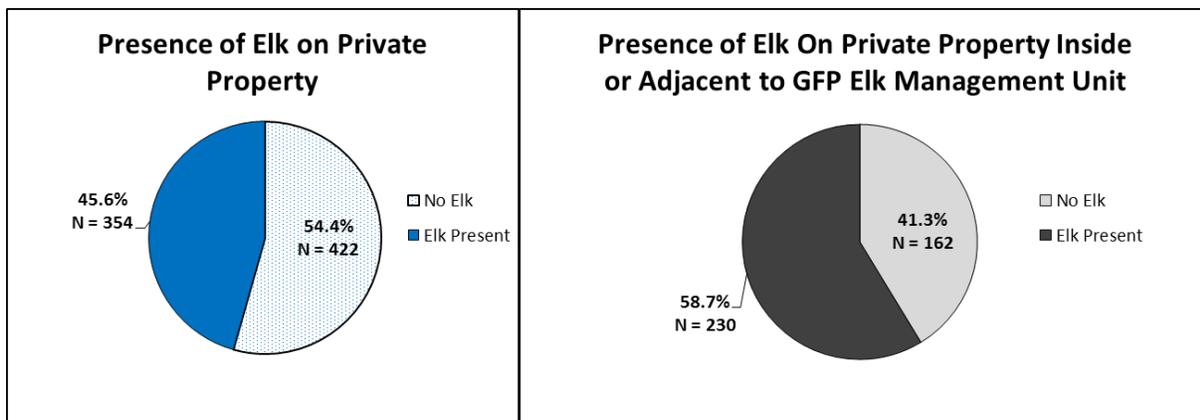


Figure 5: Presence of elk on private property

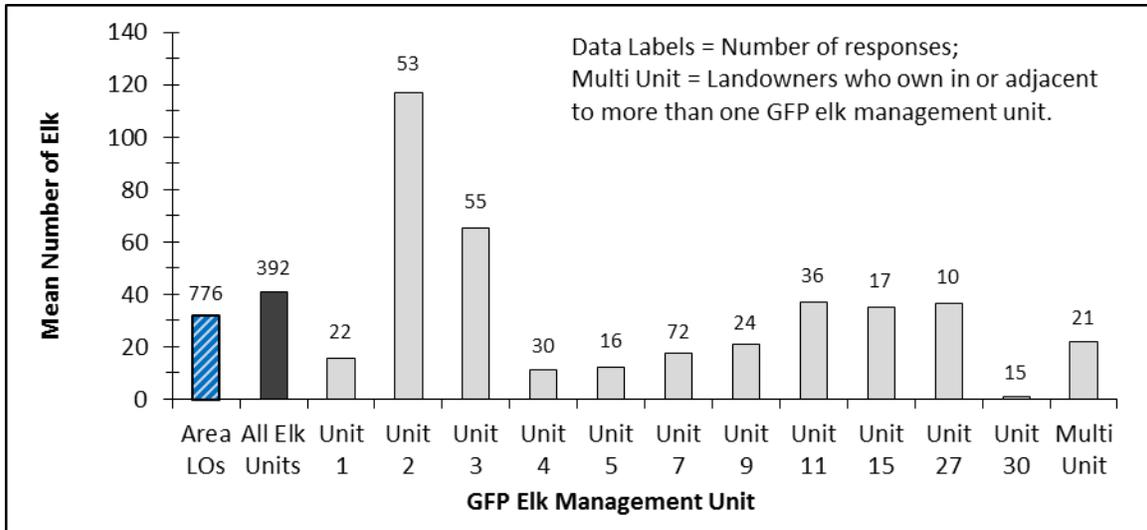


Figure 6: Mean number of elk seen on private property

In addition to estimating the total number of elk they saw on their property, landowners were asked to rate, based on their expectations, this number on a five-point scale². On average area landowners rated the number of elk on private property as slightly too few (figure 7). There was no significant difference in rating of elk numbers between area landowners and those in close proximity to an elk management unit. A majority of area landowners (55%) rated the elk numbers on their property as too few. One-third of area landowners (33%) rated elk numbers as just about right; however, 12 percent rated the numbers of elk as too many (figure 8). The majority of landowners who reported owning property in close proximity of multiple elk management units (80%) rated the number of elk on their property as too few, 15 percent just about right, and 5 percent rated them as too many. Units 4, 5, 15, and 30 did not have any landowners rate the number elk on their property as too many. Unit 27 had the highest percentage of landowners (46%) who rated the elk numbers as too many, followed by Unit 11 (24%), Unit 3 (20%), Unit 2 (18%), Unit 9 (17%), Unit 1 (13%), and Unit 7 (8%).

² Scale: -2 Far too few; -1 Slightly too few; 0 Just about right; 1 Slightly too many; 2 Far too many

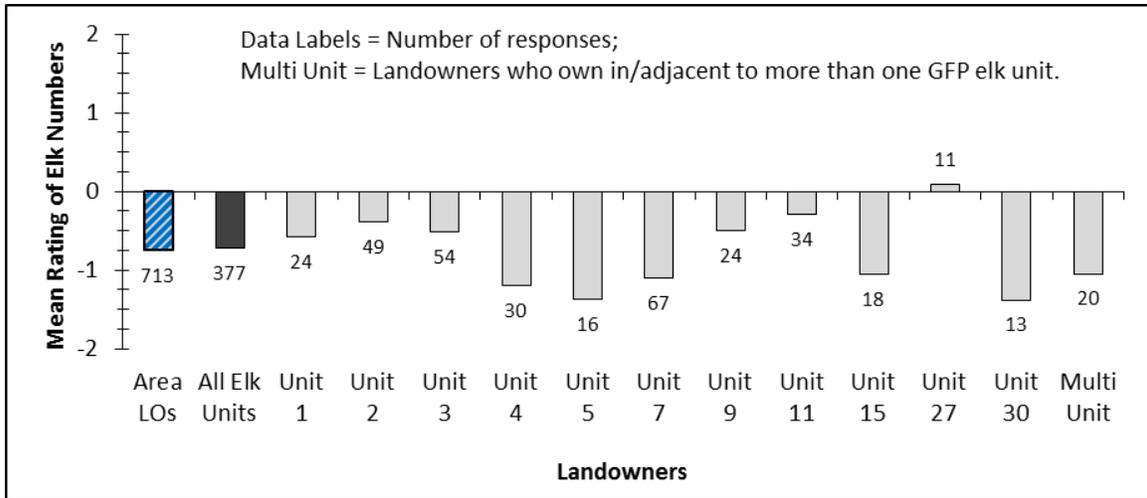


Figure 7: Mean rating of elk numbers on private property
*Scale: -2 Far too few; -1 Slightly too few; 0 Just about right; 1 Slightly too many; 2 Far too many

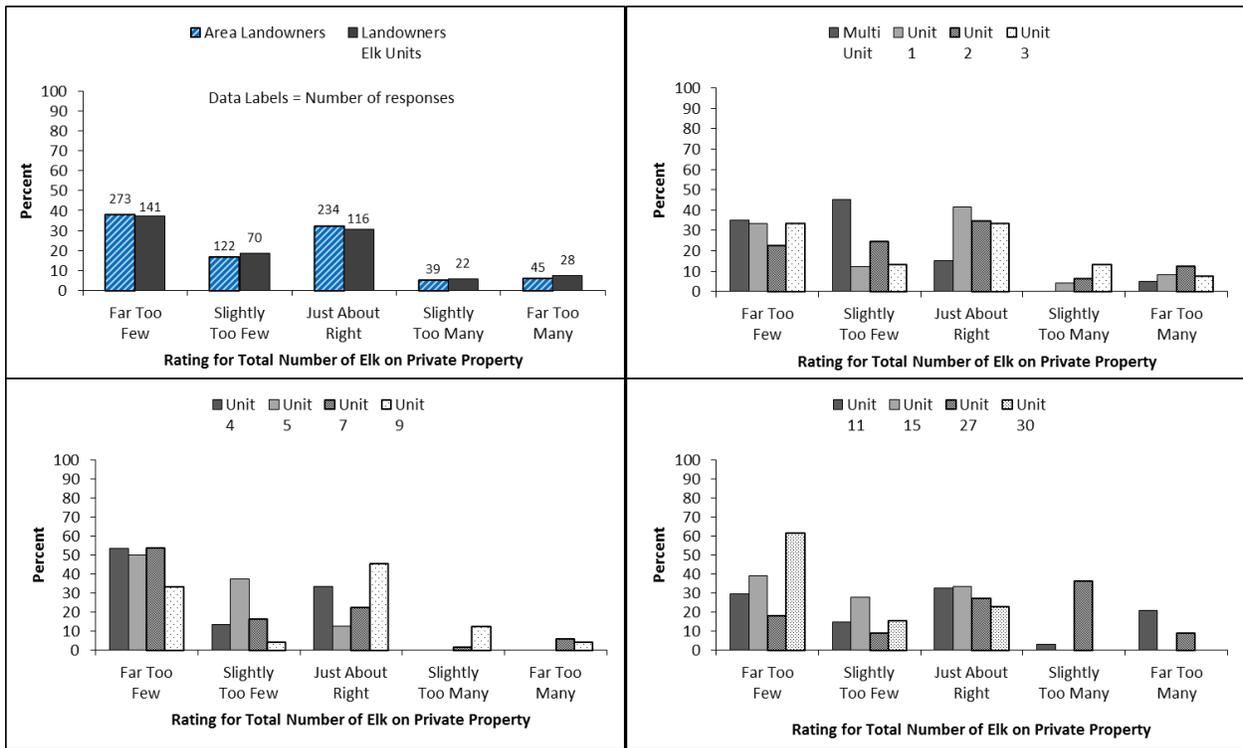


Figure 8: Distribution of ratings of elk numbers on private property
*Multi-Unit = Landowners who own property in or adjacent to more than one GFP elk management unit

Approximately 76 percent of area landowners indicate they own their land primarily for farming or ranching purposes (figure 9). Approximately 43 percent of area landowners earn at least 50 percent of their total income from farming or ranching activities. Nearly one-quarter (23%) of area landowners earn all of their income from farming or ranching activities, while 19 percent indicate none of their income comes from these sources.

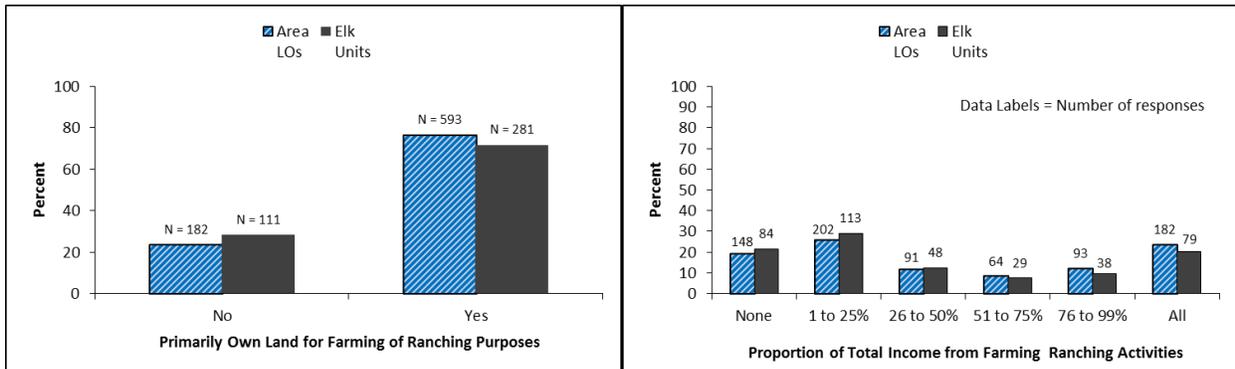


Figure 9: Distribution of landowners by farming and ranching

Elk Depredation

Approximately one-quarter of area landowners (26%) indicate they experienced elk depredation damage on their property during the past year (figure 10). Approximately, eight percent of landowners experiencing damage indicate it was not a problem and 15 percent indicate it was a major problem (figure 10). The majority of landowners experiencing damage in Unit 1, 4, and 9 indicate the damage was a minor problem. In Units 5, 7, 15, and 27 the majority of landowners indicate the damage was a moderate problem. No responding landowners from Unit 30 reported experiencing elk depredation damage on their property during the past year.

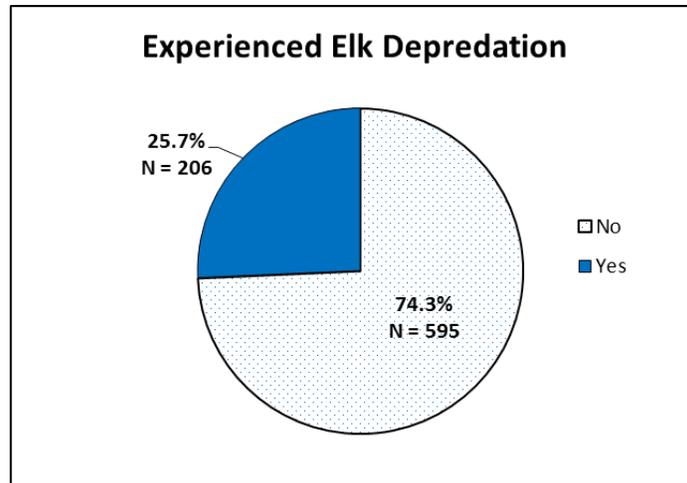


Figure 10: Percentage of landowners experiencing elk depredation

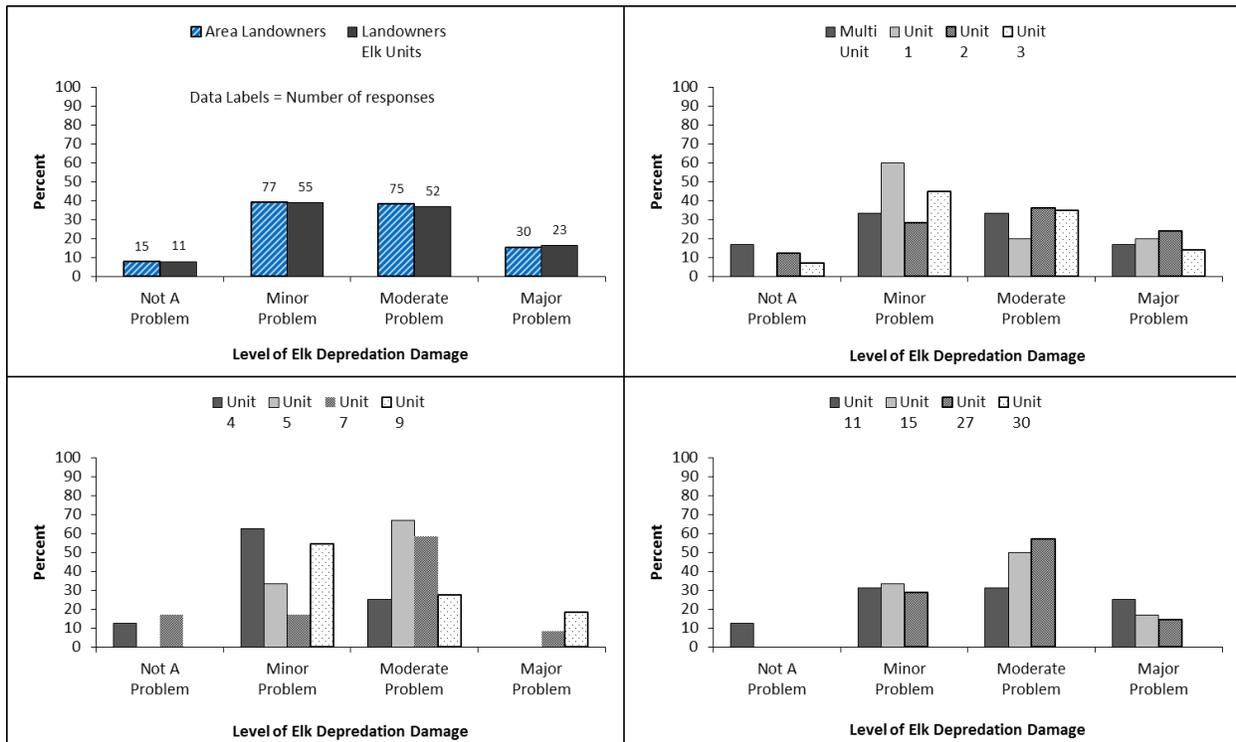


Figure 11: Distribution of elk depredation by elk management unit

Approximately one-third of landowners (35%) experiencing elk depredation issues indicate additional actions were needed to reduce or help control the damage done by elk (figure 12); however, only 28 percent indicate they requested help from GFP. Of those

requesting assistance, 64 percent indicate they were satisfied with the help provided and 27 percent were dissatisfied (figure 13). The majority of landowners experiencing elk depredation (51%) indicate that their tolerance for elk on their property would stay about the same if GFP increased their current elk depredation programs. Another 38 percent indicate their tolerance would increase to some degree (figure 14). In addition to whether or not landowners had sought help from GFP for elk depredation issues, landowners were asked how they would like to see GFP improve its elk depredation program. Nearly half (49%) provided ways they believe would improve the elk depredation program. Major themes within these suggestions include changes to licensing (numbers available, qualifications to receive a license, types of licenses and use of licenses), help with fencing, landowner payments, and unit structure changes. Landowner suggestions are included in appendix B.

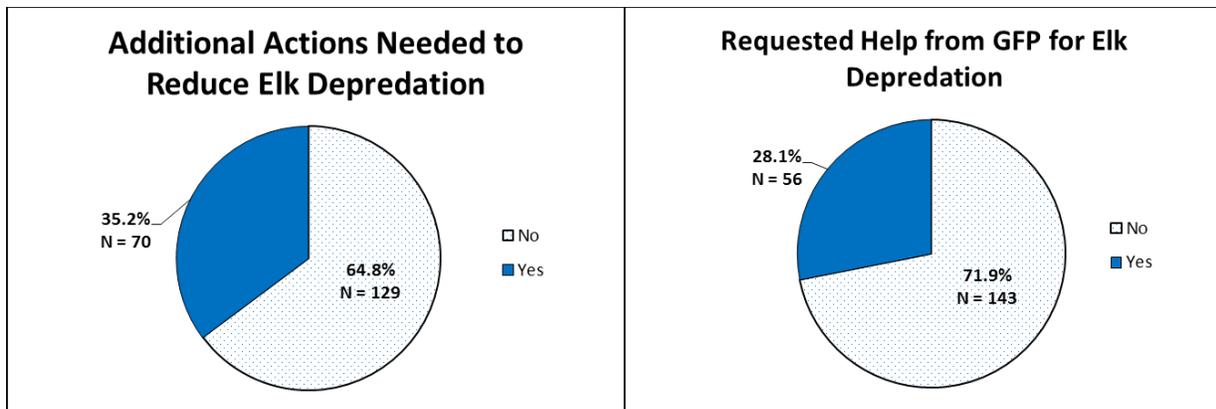


Figure 12: Landowner use of GFP elk depredation program

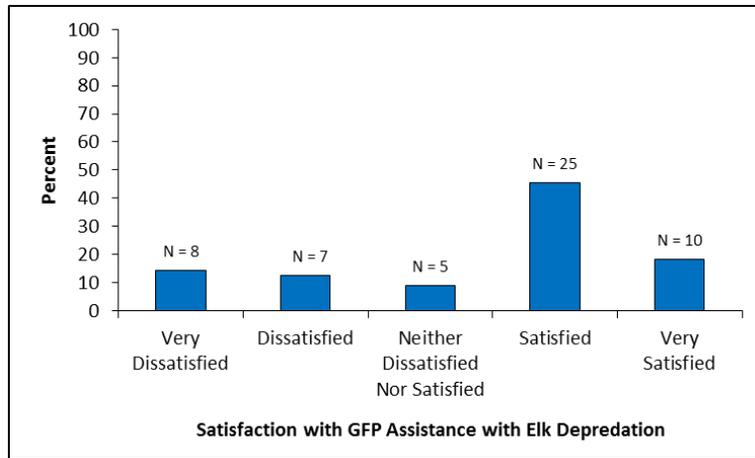


Figure 13: Satisfaction with GFP elk depredation assistance

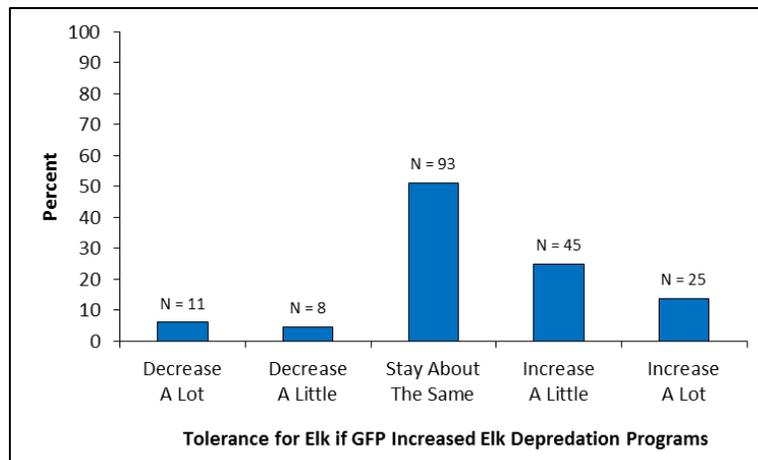


Figure 14: Landowner tolerance for more elk

The majority of landowners experiencing elk depredation (72%) indicate they have applied for a landowner-operator preference elk hunting license previously (figure 15). Sixty-four percent indicate that elk hunting by themselves or any other person occurred on their property in 2013, and nearly 81 percent say having more elk hunters on their property would not reduce elk depredation (figure 16). In the case where hunting did occur on private property, 77 percent of landowners indicate they provided free access to at least some people other than themselves or family, 64 percent indicate the hunting was by themselves or family, and 10 percent provided

guide and/or service to hunters (figure 17). Only a small proportion of landowners indicate they charged an access fee or leased hunting rights. The average number of hunters that landowners gave permission to hunt on their property in 2013 was five hunters and ranged from 1 to 21 (Mean=4.79, SE=0.393, N=102).

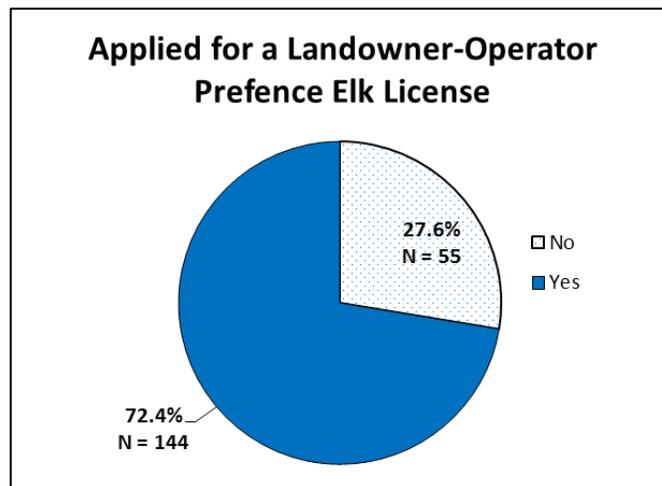


Figure 15: Application for landowner-operator preference elk license

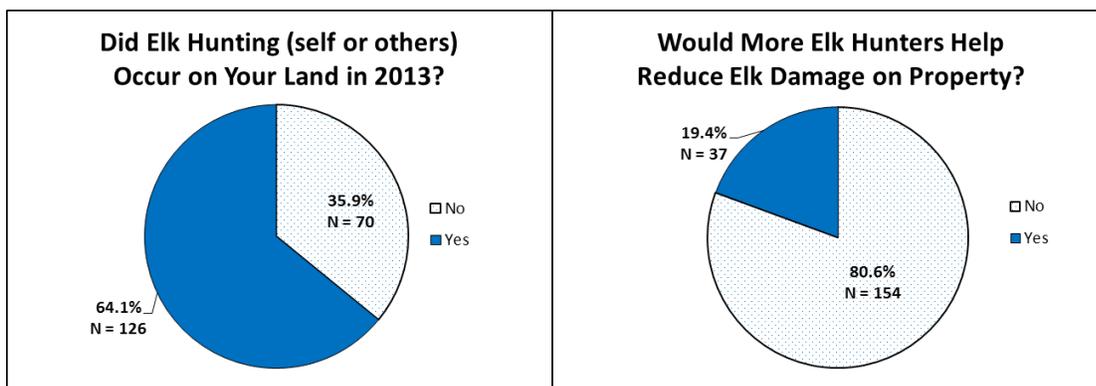


Figure 16: Elk hunting on private property

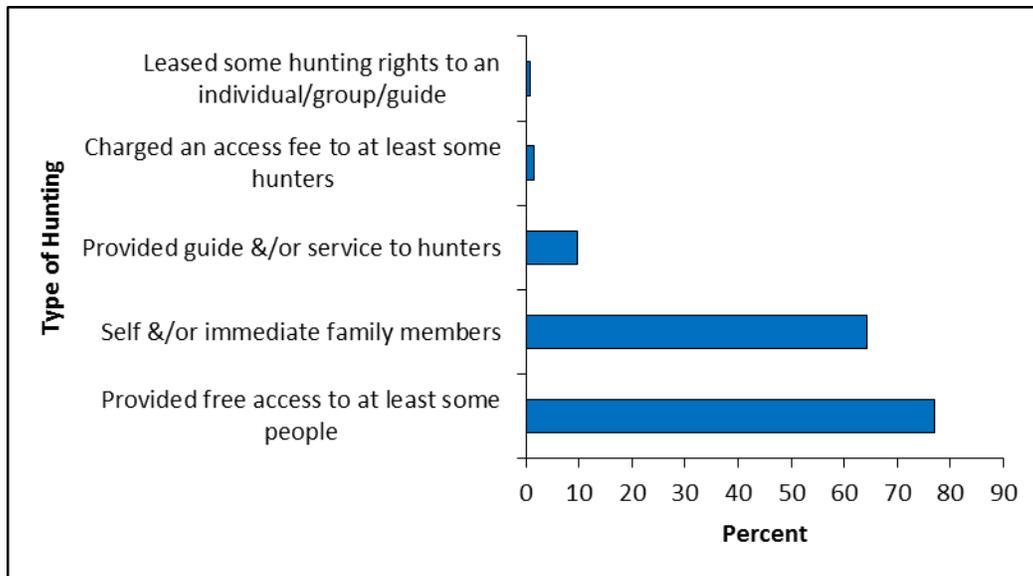


Figure 17: Type of elk hunting on private property

Elk Hunting

The majority of area landowners (62%) and 47 percent of other landowners indicate they have applied for an elk license or preference point in South Dakota (figure 18). Since the elk hunter sample was selected from the GFP licensing database, it is expected that 100 percent of the sample would indicate they have applied for an elk license or preference point. Respondents were asked to rate, on a five-point scale³, the importance of being able to elk hunt in relation to all other types of recreational opportunities (including other types of hunting). The majority of hunters (87%), area landowners (74%), and other landowners (72%) believe the opportunity to elk hunt is important or very important relative to all other recreational opportunities (figure 19). There is no significant difference between area landowners and those landowners outside the nine-county area; however there is a statistical difference between landowners and hunters ($F(2, 1812)=15.965, p<0.001$). While the majority of both landowners and hunters place some degree of importance on the ability to elk hunt, hunters are more likely to indicate this

³ Scale: -2 Very Unimportant; -1 Unimportant, 0 Neither Unimportant nor Important; 1 Important; 2 Very Important

opportunity is very important. When asked if they planned to apply for an elk hunting license in the future, hunters were far more likely to say yes than landowners, $\chi^2(4)=624.561$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V = 0.363$, (figure 20).

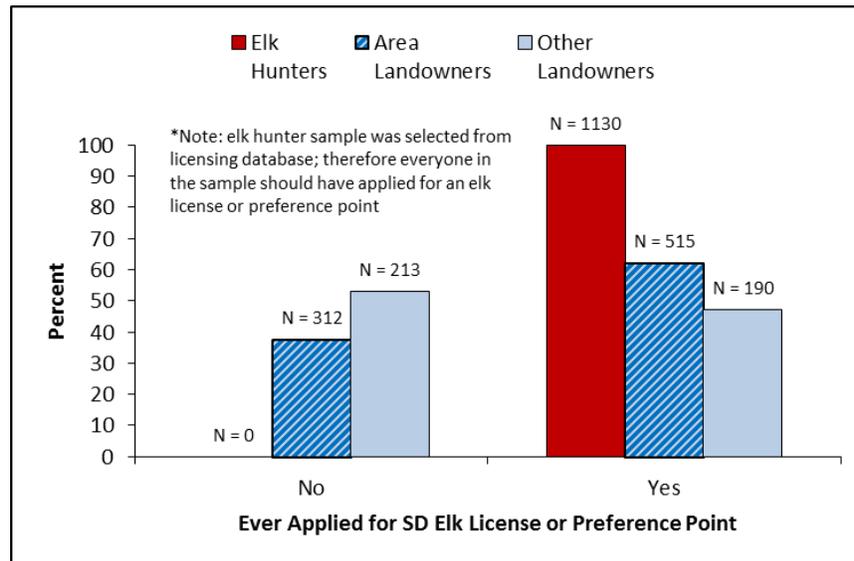


Figure 18: Application for South Dakota elk license or preference point

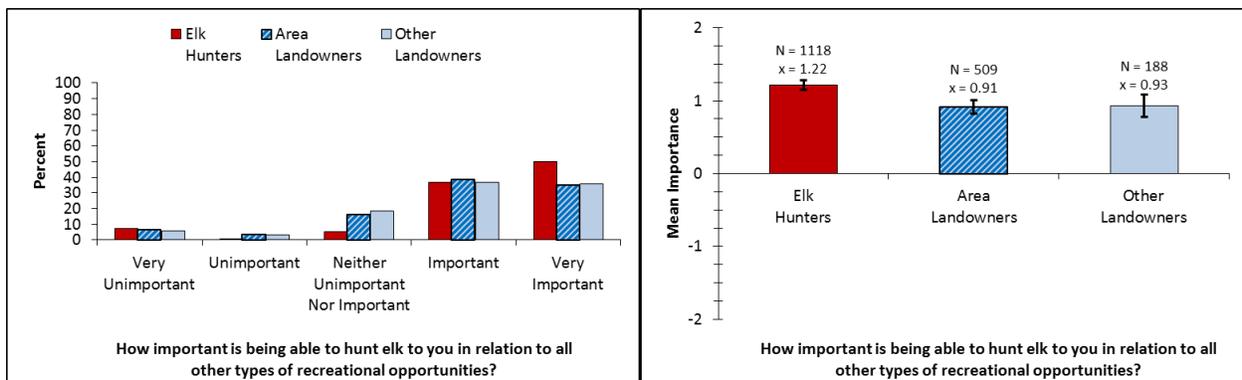


Figure 19: Importance of ability to elk hunt in South Dakota

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Very Unimportant; -1 Unimportant; 0 Neither Unimportant not Important; 1 Important; 2 Very Important

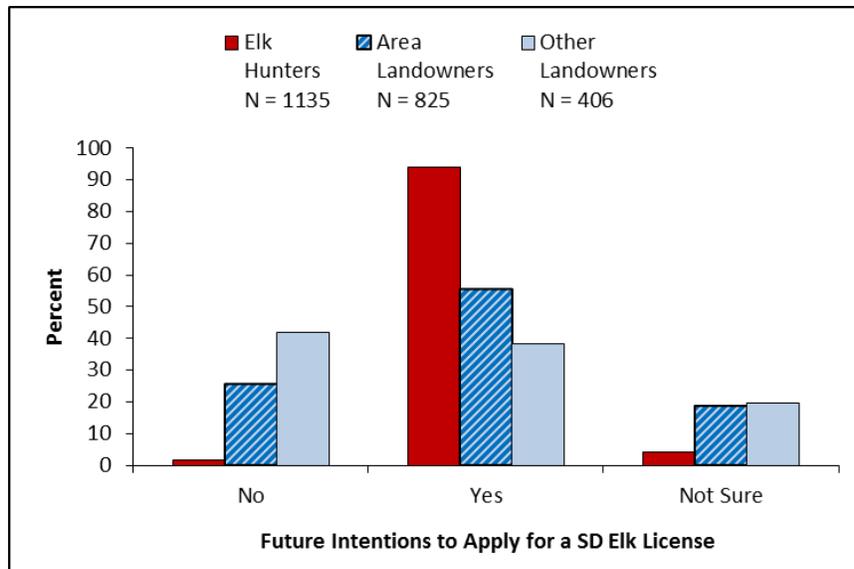


Figure 20: Future intentions to apply for a South Dakota elk hunting license

Elk License Application Fee

Respondents were provided the following information regarding current application fees for a South Dakota elk hunting license:

Currently applicants for South Dakota elk hunting licenses must pay a \$5.00 non-refundable application fee, which is used to fund big game research and management. One component of GFP’s elk management is the elk depredation assistance program. This program offers landowners services to alleviate or reduce damage caused by elk, including: diversionary food plots, protective fencing, enclosures, and elk depredation hunts.

Following this information, respondents were asked to indicate the maximum amount they would be willing to pay, in addition to the current non-refundable fee, if the money generated would be used to fund enhanced elk depredation programs designed to help increase tolerance for elk on private lands. The majority of both hunters and landowners are willing to pay an additional non-refundable application fee; however, a greater percentage of hunters than landowners indicate they are willing to pay an additional fee ($\chi^2(4)=35.434, p<0.001$; Cramer’s $V = 0.089$). Sixty-seven percent of hunters and 58 percent of landowners indicate they are willing to pay an additional \$5.00, making the total non-refundable application fee \$10.00 (figure 21). Looking at

only the respondents who indicated they either planned to apply for a license in the future or were not sure, 68 percent of hunters, 64 percent of area landowners, and 69 percent of other landowners indicate they would be willing to pay an additional \$5.00 fee.

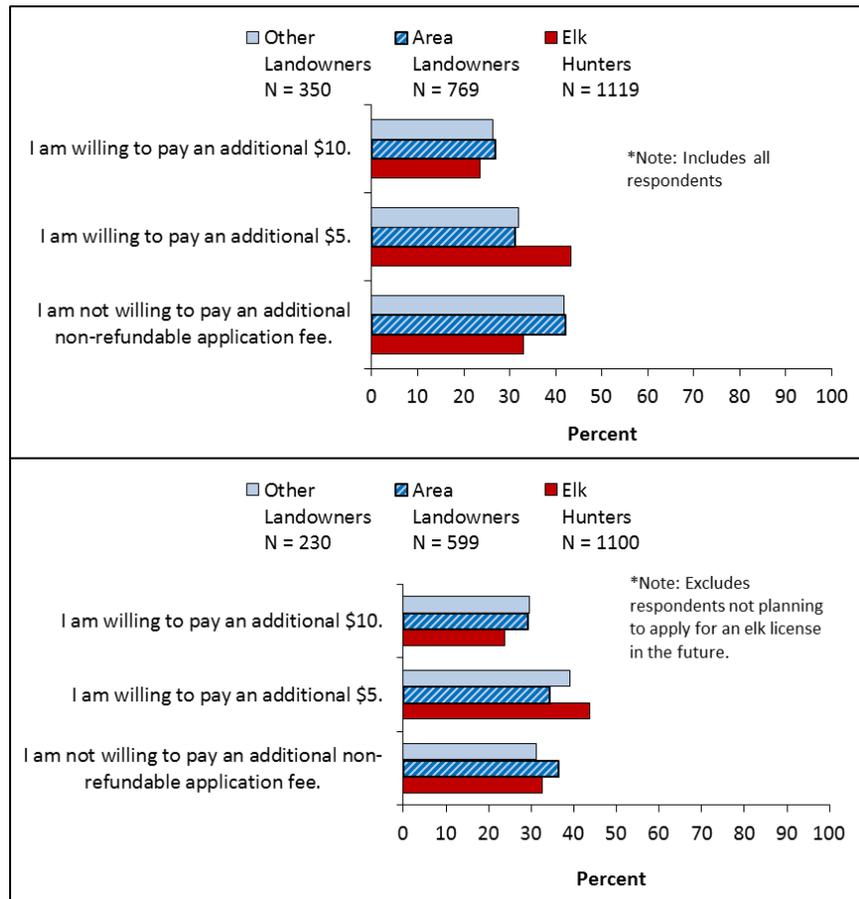


Figure 21: Willingness to pay an additional non-refundable application fee

Experiences with Elk Hunting

Respondents were also asked to describe the 2013 South Dakota elk hunting season in terms of the number of hunters. The majority of hunters (82%), area landowners (73%), and other landowners (89%) indicate they did not have any experience with the 2013 elk hunting season (figure 22). Excluding those who had no experience with the 2013 season, the majority of hunters (57%), area landowners (56%), and other landowners (50%) felt the season was not crowded. Twenty-eight percent of hunters and approximately 30 percent of landowners felt the

season had some level of crowding, whereas, 15 percent of hunters, 14 percent of area landowners, and 18 percent of other landowners felt there were not enough hunters.

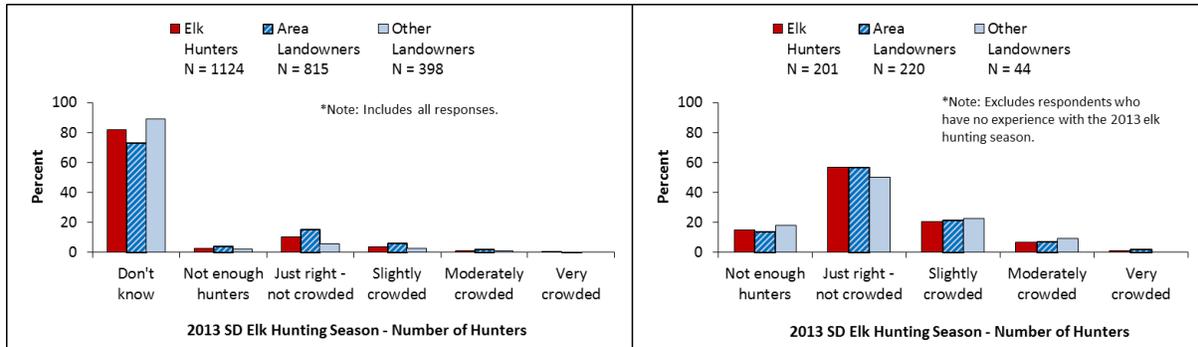


Figure 22: Perception of crowding - 2013 elk hunting season

The majority of hunters (59%), area landowners (63%), and other landowners (73%) have not elk hunted outside the state of South Dakota (figure 23). Fifty-four percent of elk hunters have hunted in South Dakota compared with 49 percent of area landowners, and 33 percent of other landowners ($\chi^2(2)=52.526, p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.150$). On average, area landowners have elk hunted in South Dakota more recently than hunters or other landowners ($F(2, 1045)=19.96, p<0.001$). The most recent year respondents elk hunted in South Dakota for all three groups was 2013 (figure 24). On average, it has been approximately 7 years since hunters' most recent elk hunting experience, 6 years for area landowners and 11 years for other landowners.

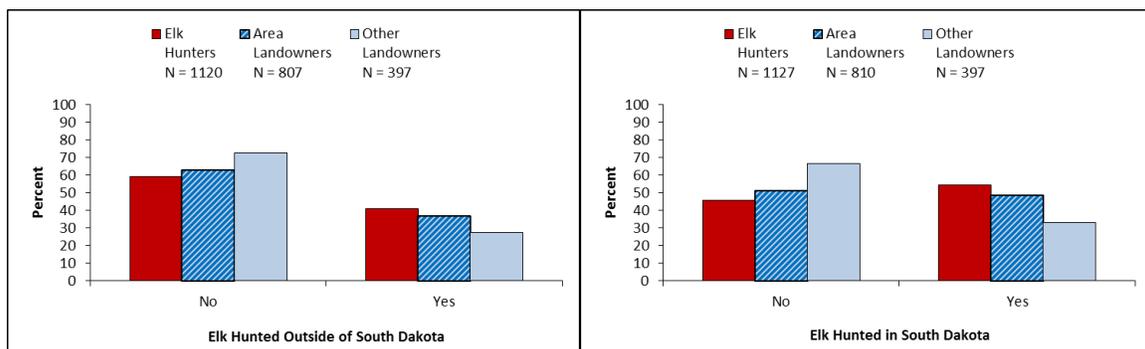


Figure 23: Elk hunting experiences

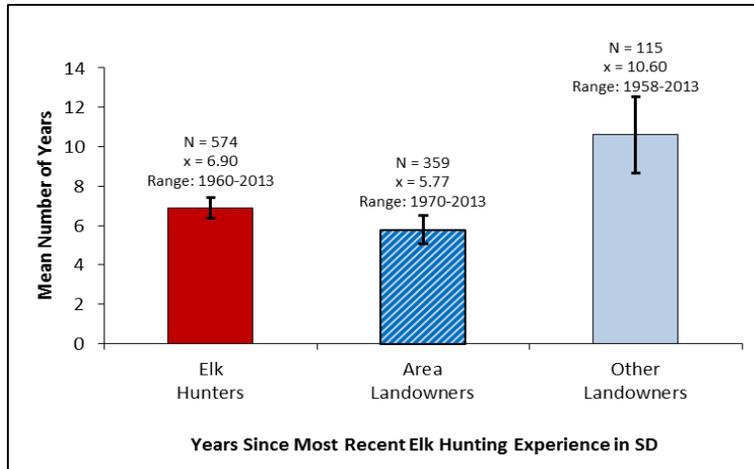


Figure 24: Mean years since most recent South Dakota elk hunting experience
 *Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals

Respondents were asked to indicate which elk management unit they hunted during the most recent year they hunted. Since it may have been several years since their most recent hunting experience, respondents were provided with a map (see figure 4). The majority of hunters (78%), area landowners (59%), and other landowners (65%) have hunted in Units 1, 2, or 3 (figure 25).

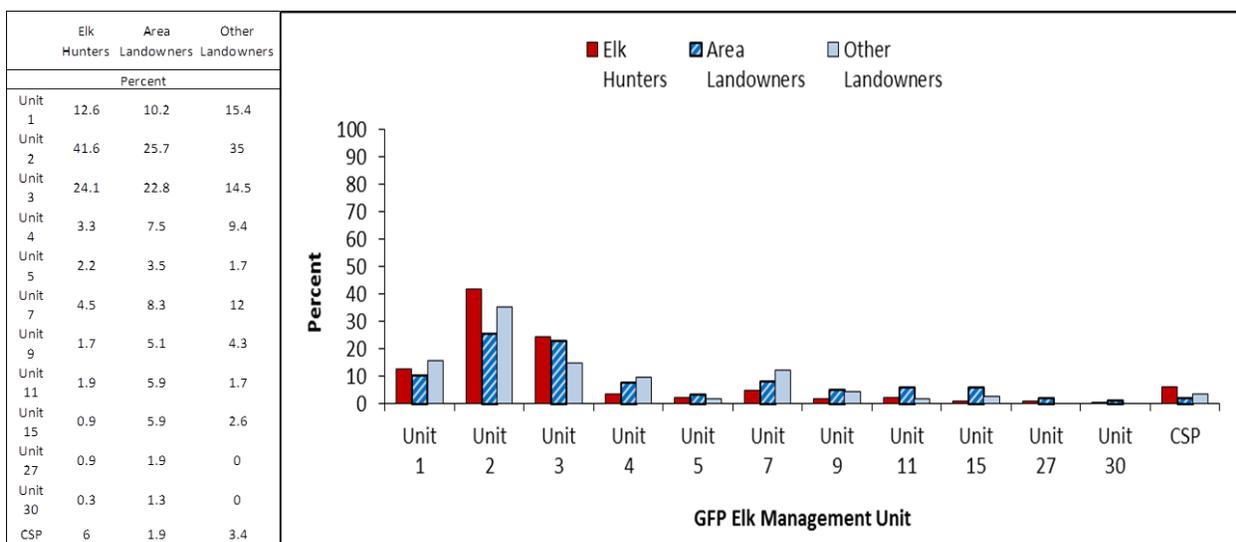


Figure 25: Elk management unit most recently hunted

In their most recent year hunting elk the majority of hunters (63%), area landowners (62%), and of other landowners (54%) successfully harvested an elk (figure 26). For all three groups, most of the hunting occurred on either private lands – no fees charged or on public land owned by the state or federal government (figure 27). On average, area landowners spent a greater portion of their time (44%) hunting elk on private lands – no fees charged ($F(2, 1116)=104.061, p<0.001$). This is twice as much time as other landowners who spent 20 percent of their time on private lands – no fees charged, and nearly four times as much as hunters who only spent 11 percent of their time on this type of land. Less than two percent of hunters' and landowners' time was spent hunting on private lands – fees charged, and less than five percent was spent on Walk-In Areas. Hunters spent the majority of their time (84%) on public land compared with area landowners who spent 51 percent of their time on public land.

Satisfaction with Elk Hunting Experience

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of four conditions to their overall satisfaction with their elk hunting experience.⁴ On average, filling their tag with the type of elk they are hunting for and having an uncrowded, undisturbed hunting trip are both important to hunters and landowners (figure 28). There is a significant difference between hunters and landowners on the importance of harvesting a mature bull elk ($F(2, 1096) = 6.236, p=0.002$). While both hunters and landowners indicate harvesting a mature bull elk is important, a greater percentage of hunters (74%) than landowners (62%) said this condition was important to their overall satisfaction with an elk hunting experience (figure 29). There was no statistically significant difference between hunters and landowners in the importance of harvesting an antlerless elk. On average, hunters and landowners consider this to be an important condition to their overall satisfaction. Looking at the type of elk harvested, a smaller percentage of hunters (47%) and landowners (35%) rate harvesting an antlerless elk as important or very important,

⁴ Scale: -2 Very Unimportant; -1 Unimportant; 0 Neither Unimportant nor Important; 1 Important; 2 Very Important

compared to the percentage who indicate harvesting a mature bull elk is important or very important. Overall, the majority of hunters (74%) and landowners (73%) were satisfied with their most recent elk hunting experience (figure 30).⁵

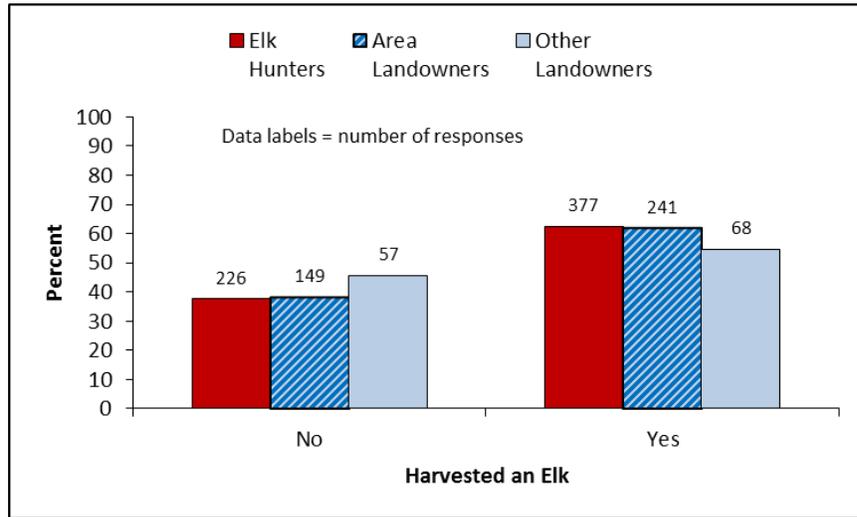


Figure 26: Success in harvesting an elk during most recent hunting trip

⁵ Scale: -2 Very Dissatisfied; -1 Dissatisfied; 0 Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied; 1 Satisfied; 2 Very Satisfied

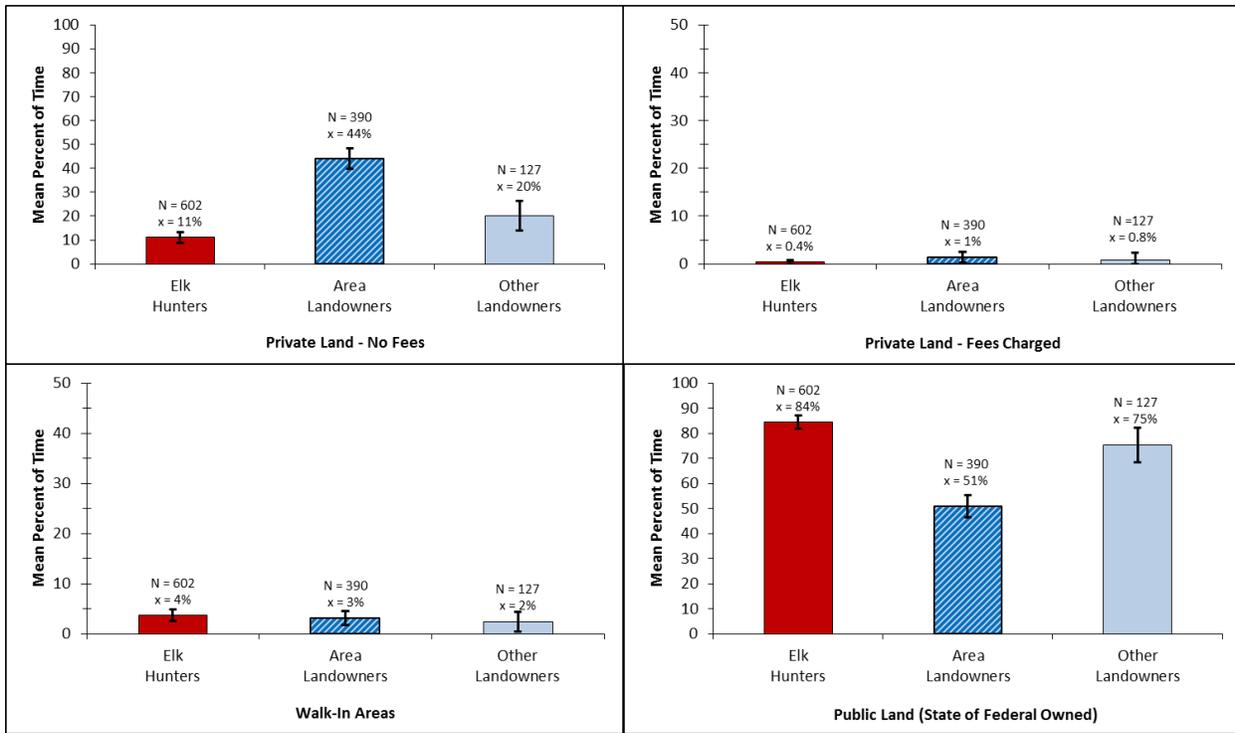


Figure 27: Distribution of time spent elk hunting by type of land
 *Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals

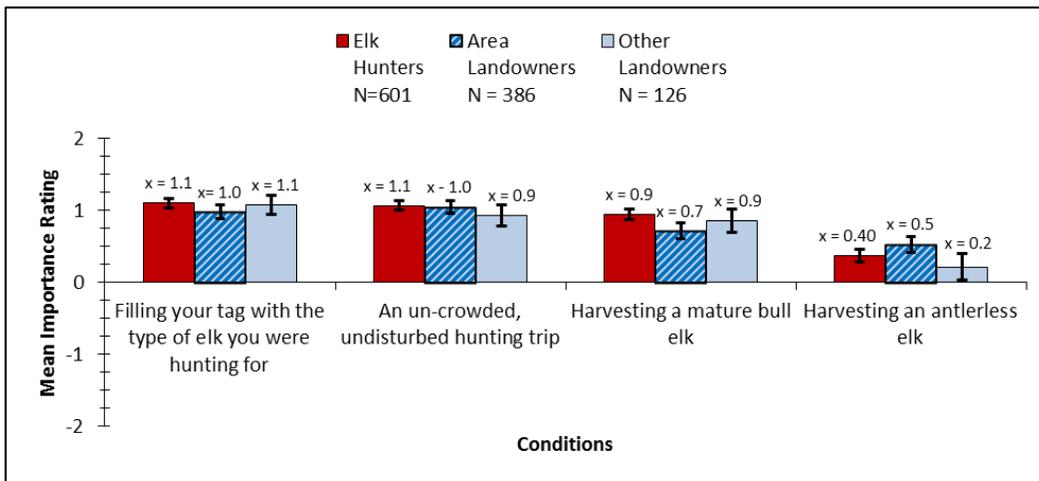


Figure 28: Mean importance of conditions to overall satisfaction with elk hunting experience
 *Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Very Unimportant; -1 Unimportant; 0 Neither Unimportant nor Important; 1 Important; 2 Very Important

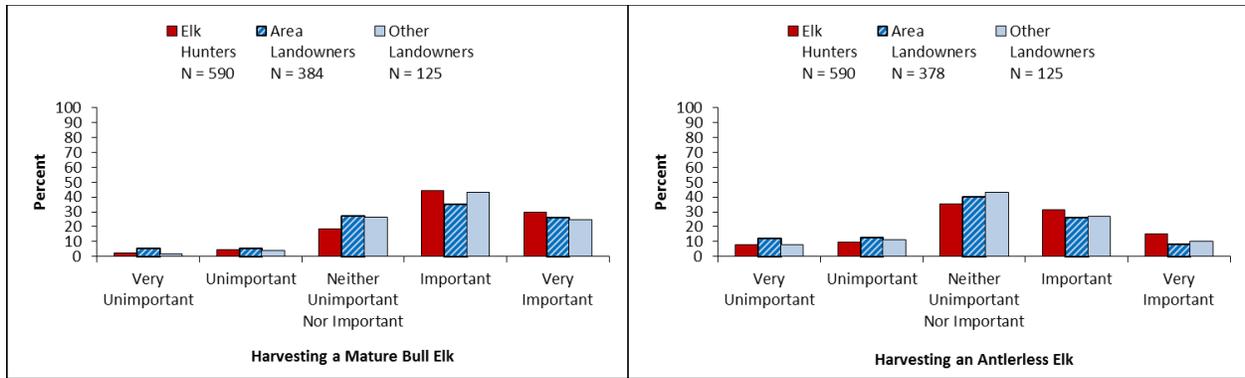


Figure 29: Distribution of importance of type of elk harvested

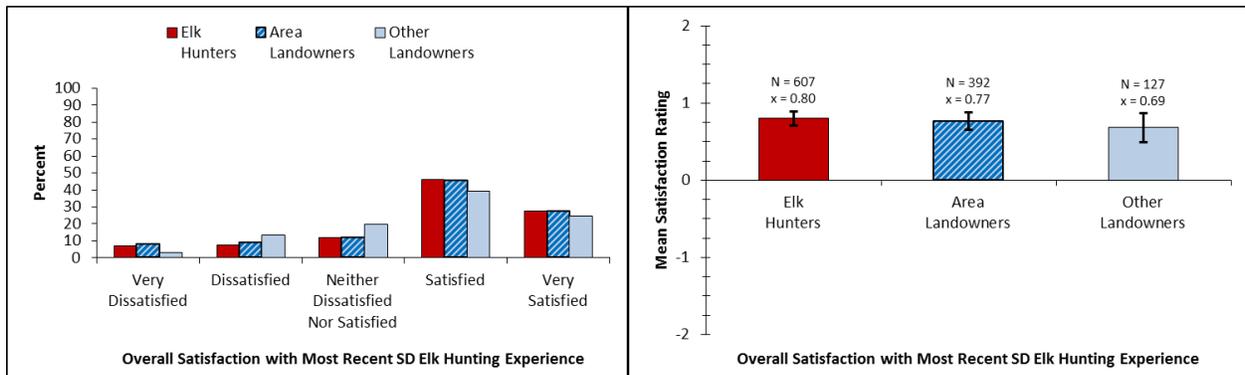


Figure 30: Satisfaction with most recent elk hunting experience

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Very Dissatisfied; -1 Dissatisfied; 0 Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied; 1 Satisfied; 2 Very Satisfied

Wildlife Attitudes

Research into the acceptance of wildlife indicates both objective and subjective factors shape beliefs about wildlife populations (Zinn et al. 2000; Decker and Purdy 1988). In addition to objectively measured population levels, risks, and benefits, factors such as value orientations, perceptions of population levels, risks, and benefits have been found to be important in determining stakeholder acceptance capacity for wildlife (Zinn et al. 2000). Understanding attitudes is important since they can influence and predict behavior, and the more specific the attitude is toward a certain behavior (i.e. same target, context, action, and time) the stronger the relation between attitude and behavior (Vaske 2008; Fishbein and Manfredo 2002; Ajzen and

Fishbein 1980). Because livestock and elk are often found in the same landscapes, their interactions are important concerns for both wildlife managers and livestock operators (Heydlauff et al. 2006; Torstenson et al. 2002; Alt et al. 1992). In addition, elk are a highly valued wildlife species in North America from both wildlife viewing and hunting perspectives (Heydlauff et al. 2006; Wisdom and Cook 2000; Potter 1982). Understanding how stakeholder groups perceive wildlife and elk specifically in South Dakota is an important step in developing and implementing an elk management plan responsive to public values.

In 2012, a statewide survey of South Dakota residents' wildlife and environmental attitudes reported most residents (77%) believed it was very important that SD conserves as much fish and wildlife as possible where appropriate. In addition, most residents (77%) believed healthy wildlife populations are very important to the economy and well-being of SD residents (Gigliotti 2012). As part of the 2013 elk management survey, hunters and landowners were asked to indicate on a five-point scale⁶ the importance of each of these statements.

The majority of hunters (63%) believe it is very important that SD conserves wildlife where appropriate, and another 22 percent believe this is important (figure 31). Forty-three percent of area landowners feel this is very important and 37 percent believe it is important. Approximately 40 percent of other landowners felt this was very important and another 40 percent felt it was important. There is no significant difference between area landowners and those landowners outside the nine-county area. There is a statistical difference between hunters and landowners, with hunters, on average, placing greater importance on conserving wildlife where possible than landowners ($F(2, 2333)=9.964, p<0.001$). That said, the vast majority of both hunters (85%) and landowners (80%) believe it is important for South Dakota to conserve wildlife where appropriate.

⁶ Scale: -2 Very Unimportant; -1 Unimportant; 0 Neither Unimportant nor Important; 1 Important; 2 Very Important

The majority of hunters (59%) believe healthy wildlife populations are very important to the economy and well-being of South Dakota residents, and another 25 percent believe they are important (figure 32). Approximately 39 percent of area landowners think this very important and 42 percent believe healthy wildlife populations are important to the economy and well-being of South Dakotans. There is no significant difference between area landowners and other landowners. Statistically, there is a difference between hunters and landowners, with more hunters, on average, indicating healthy wildlife populations are very important for the economy and well-being of South Dakotans ($F(2, 2334)=8.873, p<0.001$). However, the vast majority of both hunters (84%) and landowners (80%) believe healthy wildlife populations are important.

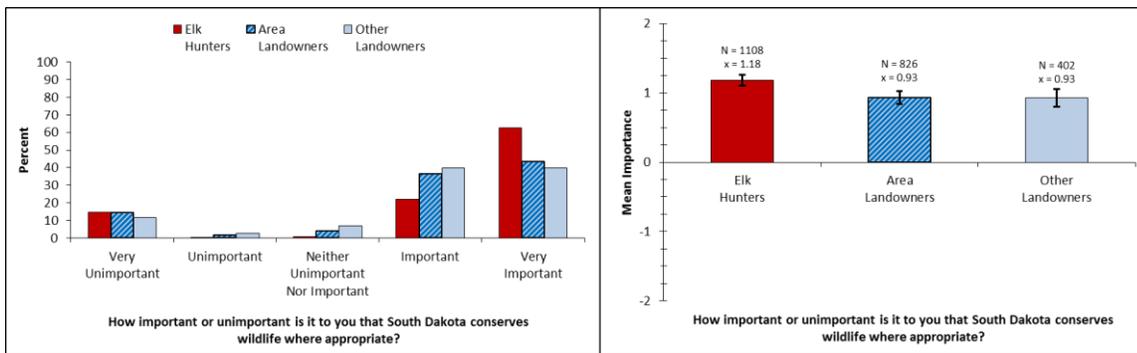


Figure 31: Importance of conserving wildlife in South Dakota

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Very Unimportant; -1 Unimportant; 0 Neither Unimportant nor Important; 1 Important; 2 Very Important

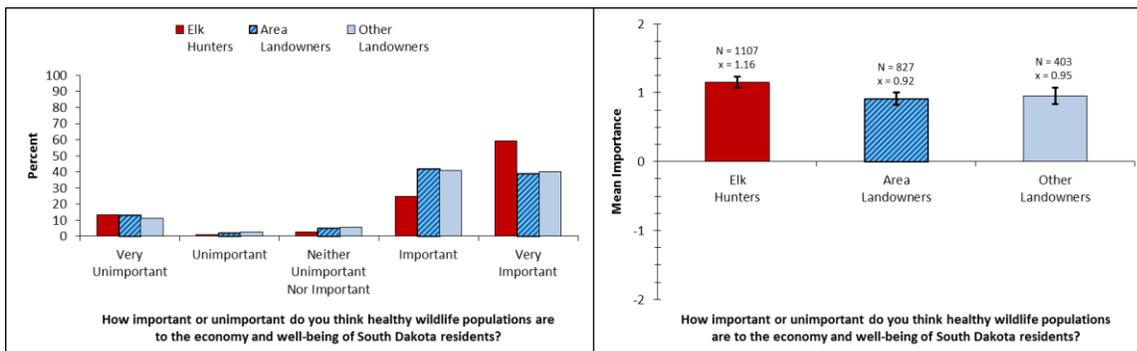


Figure 32: Importance of healthy wildlife populations to the economy and well-being of South Dakota residents

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Very Unimportant; -1 Unimportant; 0 Neither Unimportant nor Important; 1 Important; 2 Very Important

In addition to these two general wildlife attitudinal statements, respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement on a five-point scale⁷ with 12 statements specific to elk in South Dakota. Four statements addressed perceived benefits of elk: 1) *Having a healthy, self-sustaining population of elk in South Dakota is important to me*; 2) *The presence of elk near my home increases my quality of life*; 3) *Elk benefit local economies through hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities*; and 4) *Elk have the right to exist wherever they may occur*. Five statements addressed perceived risks/costs associated with elk: 1) *Elk threaten people's livelihoods by competing with livestock for forage resources on public land*; 2) *Elk threaten people's livelihoods by competing with livestock for forage resources on private property*; 3) *I worry about elk-vehicle collisions*; 4) *Elk threaten people's livelihoods by damaging private feed supplies and agricultural cropland*; and 5) *I worry about chronic wasting disease (CWD) in elk*. The remaining three statements address the impact of livestock grazing on elk: 1) *Livestock grazing can be beneficial to elk habitat*; 2) *It is possible to manage for both elk and livestock grazing in the Black Hills*; and 3) *Livestock grazing can be detrimental to elk habitat*.

On average, both hunters and landowners agreed with the perceived benefits of elk in South Dakota; hunters slightly disagree with the statements regarding perceived costs and risks, and landowners tended to be more favorable toward livestock grazing. There is no statistically significant difference between area landowners and landowners outside the nine-county area across the 12 statements. However, there were significant differences between hunters and landowners on 10 of the statements. There was no significant difference between hunters and landowners on the statements regarding CWD and on the possibility of managing for both elk and livestock grazing in the Black Hills.

The vast majority of both landowners (81%) and hunters (98%) agreed with the statement that the presence of a healthy, self-sustaining elk population in South Dakota is important to them (figure 33). A higher proportion of hunters than landowners strongly agreed

⁷ Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; and 2 Strongly Agree

with this statement, whereas, landowners were more likely than hunters to be neutral on this statement ($\chi^2(8)=299.80$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.255$). The majority of both landowners (54%) and hunters (65%) agreed that elk near their home increases their quality of life (figure 34). A higher proportion of landowners than hunters disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement ($\chi^2(8)=67.961$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.123$). Similarly, the majority of both hunters (94%) and landowners (77%) agreed that elk benefit local economies through hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities (figure 35). A higher proportion of hunters than landowners strongly agreed with this statement, whereas, a higher proportion of landowners indicated they were neutral with it ($\chi^2(8)=181.081$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.199$). On the final statement pertaining to perceived benefits of elk, the majority of hunters (75%) agreed elk had the right to exist wherever they may occur, while 47 percent of landowners agreed with this statement (figure 36). A higher proportion of landowners than hunters disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement ($\chi^2(8)=257.151$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.237$).

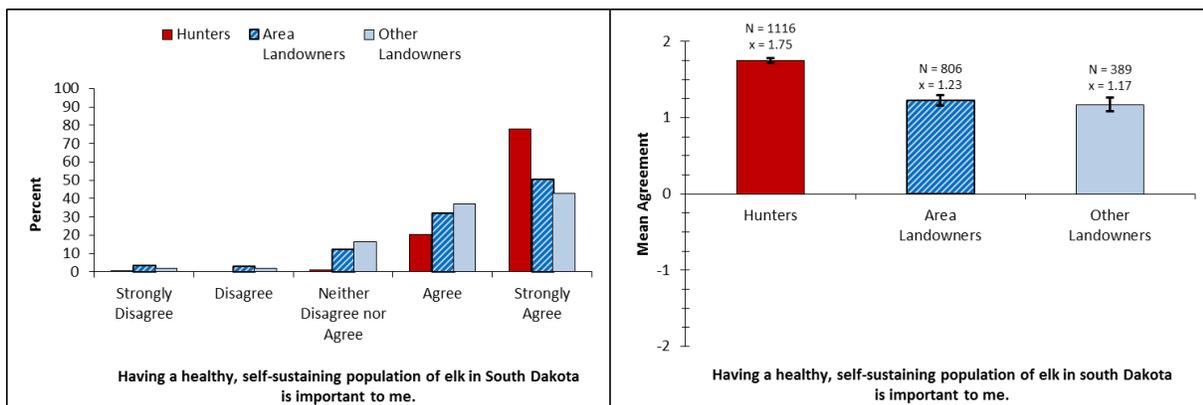


Figure 33: Level of agreement with *having a healthy, self-sustaining population of elk in South Dakota is important to me*

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; 2 Strongly Agree

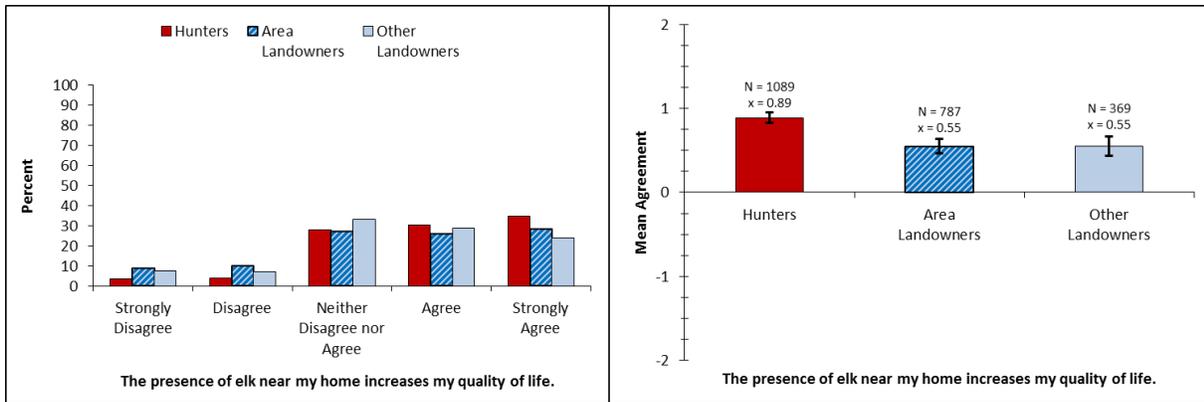


Figure 34: Level of agreement with *the presence of elk near my home increases my quality of life*
 *Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; 2 Strongly Agree

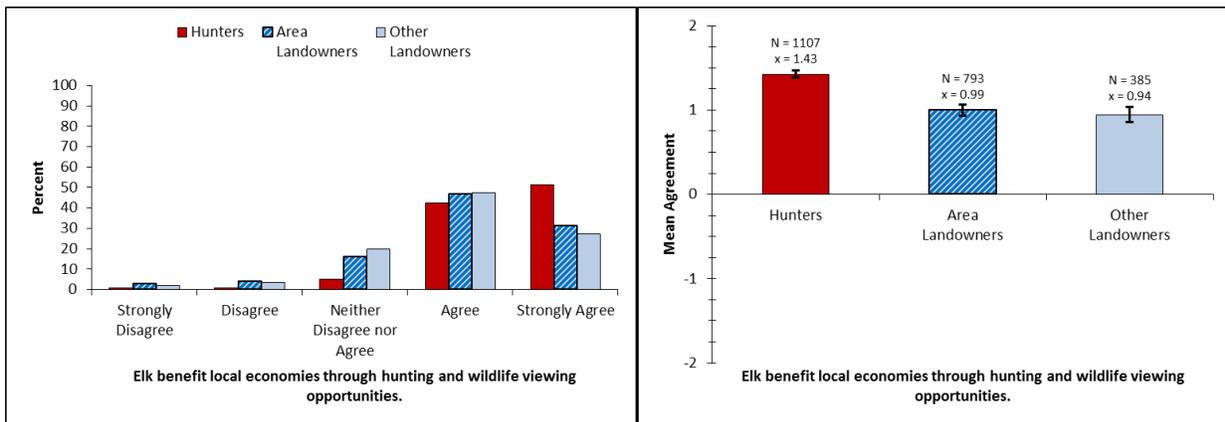


Figure 35: Level of agreement with *elk benefit local economies through hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities*
 *Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; 2 Strongly Agree

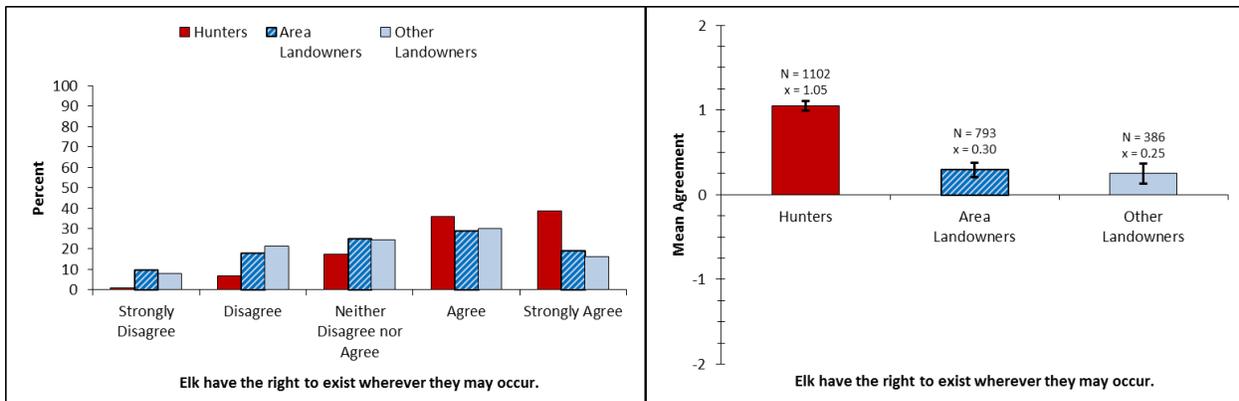


Figure 36: Level of agreement with *elk have the right to exist wherever they may occur*
 *Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; 2 Strongly Agree

Approximately one-quarter (24%) of landowners agreed with the statement that elk threaten people's livelihoods by competing with livestock for forage resources on public lands, compared with 6 percent of hunters (figure 37). A greater proportion of hunters (69%) than landowners (43%) disagreed with this statement ($\chi^2(8)=215.468$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.217$). When it comes to private property the same trend can be seen, despite a larger percentage of landowners (48%) and hunters (20%) agreeing that elk threaten people's livelihoods by competing with livestock for forage resources on private property ($\chi^2(8)=244.95$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.231$). On average, hunters slightly disagreed with this statement while landowners slightly agreed. Both hunters and landowners indicated they tended to not worry about elk-vehicle collisions (figure 39); however, approximately 21 percent of landowners indicated they worried about elk-vehicle collisions compared with 9 percent of hunters ($\chi^2(8)=92.291$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.142$). Nearly one-third of hunters and landowners were neutral in their agreement with elk threatening livelihoods by damaging private feed supplies and agricultural cropland (figure 40). A higher proportion of landowners (48%) than hunters (20%) agreed with this statement ($\chi^2(8)=278.05$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.247$). There was no significant difference between hunters and landowners on the final statement regarding the perceived risks/costs of elk: *I worry about chronic wasting disease (CWD) in elk*. Forty-nine percent of hunters and 45 percent of landowners agreed with this statement (figure 41).

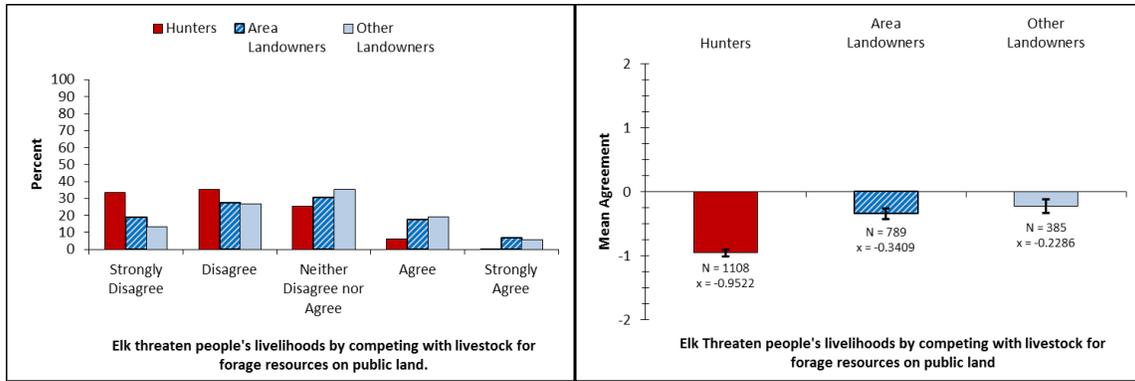


Figure 37: Level of agreement with *elk threaten people's livelihoods by competing with livestock of forage resources on public land*

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; 2 Strongly Agree

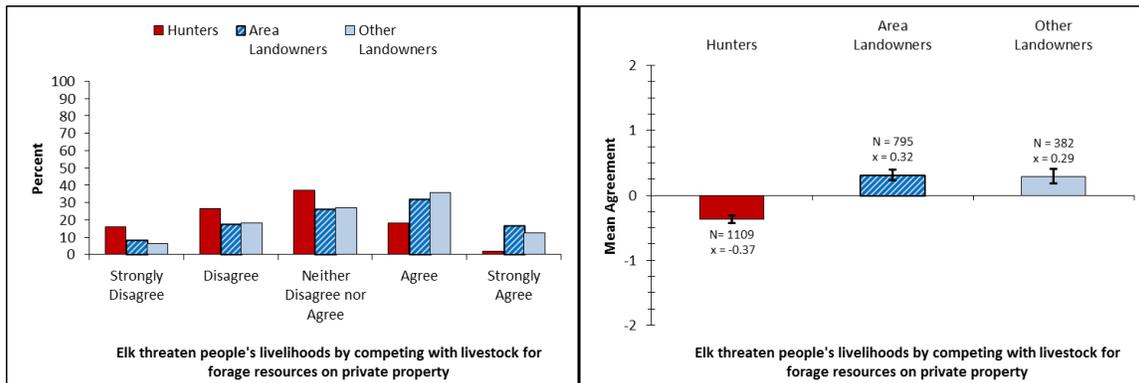


Figure 38: Level of agreement with *elk threaten people's livelihoods by competing with livestock for forage resources on private property*

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; 2 Strongly Agree

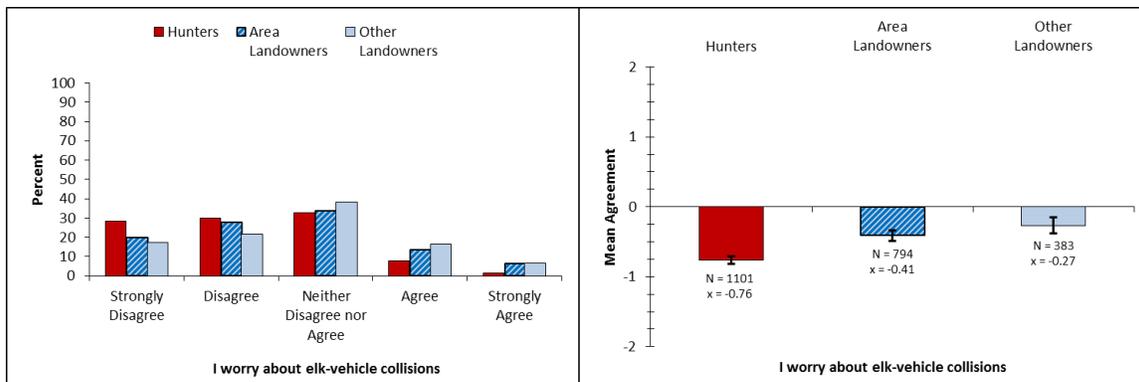


Figure 39: Level of agreement with *I worry about elk-vehicle collisions*

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; 2 Strongly Agree

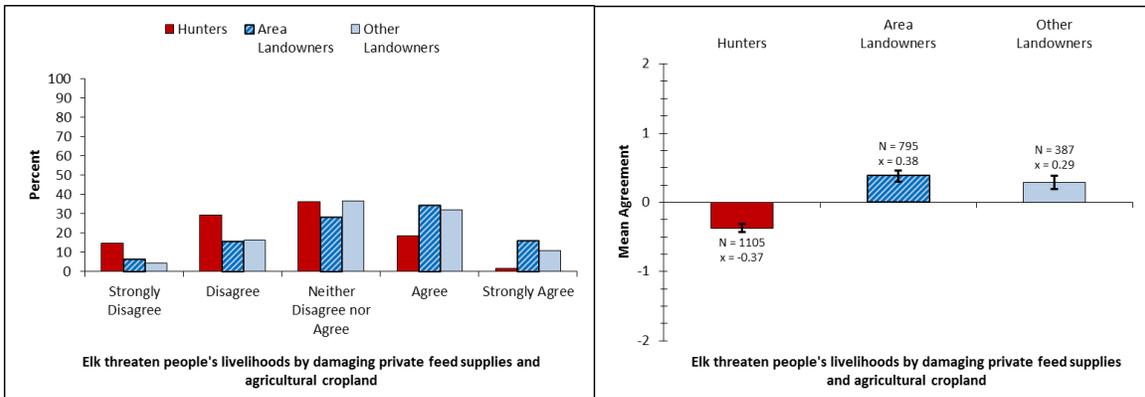


Figure 40: Level of agreement with *elk threaten people's livelihoods by damaging private feed supplies and agricultural cropland*

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; 2 Strongly Agree

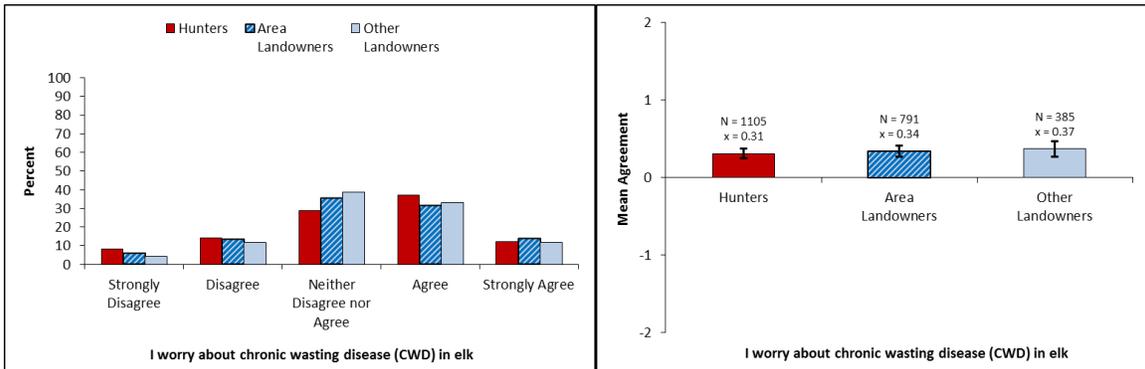


Figure 41: Level of agreement with *I worry about chronic wasting disease (CWD) in elk*

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; 2 Strongly Agree

While hunters and landowners differ in their beliefs about the impacts of livestock grazing on elk habitat, they are in agreement that it is possible to manage for both elk and livestock grazing in the Black Hills. Forty-eight percent of hunters and 41 percent of landowners neither disagreed nor agreed with livestock being beneficial to elk habitat (figure 42). Landowners, however, were more likely than hunters to agree with this statement ($\chi^2(8, N = 2259) = 131.65, p < 0.001$; Cramer's $V = 0.171$). Just over one-third (38%) of landowners agreed that livestock grazing could be beneficial to elk habitat, compared with 20 percent of hunters. Conversely, hunters were more likely to agree that livestock grazing could be detrimental to elk

habitat, compared with landowners. Forty-nine percent of hunters agreed with this statement, whereas 38 percent of landowners disagreed with this statement (figure 43). Despite these differences, the vast majority of both hunters (82%) and landowners (80%) agree it is possible to manage for both elk and livestock grazing in the Black Hills (figure 44).

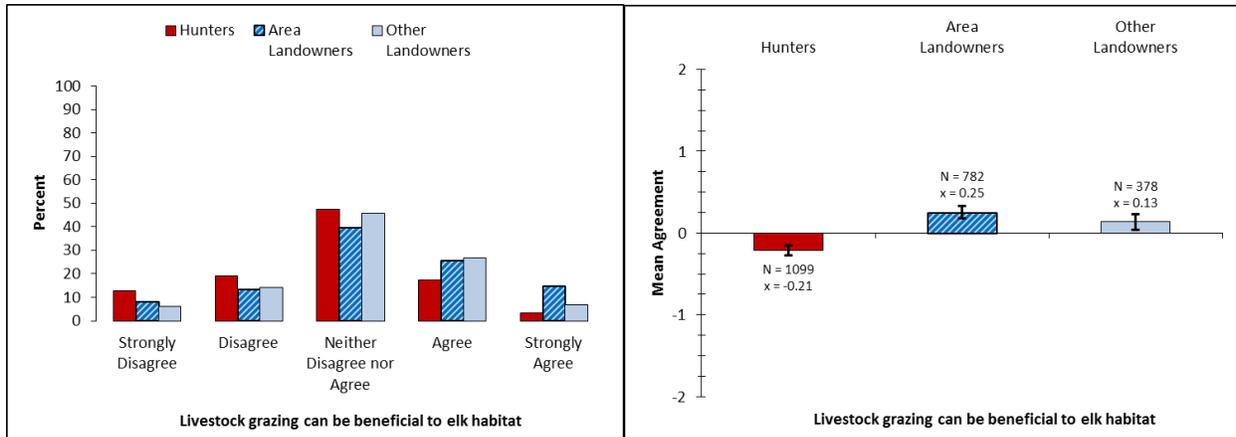


Figure 42: Level of agreement with *livestock grazing can be beneficial to elk habitat*

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; 2 Strongly Agree

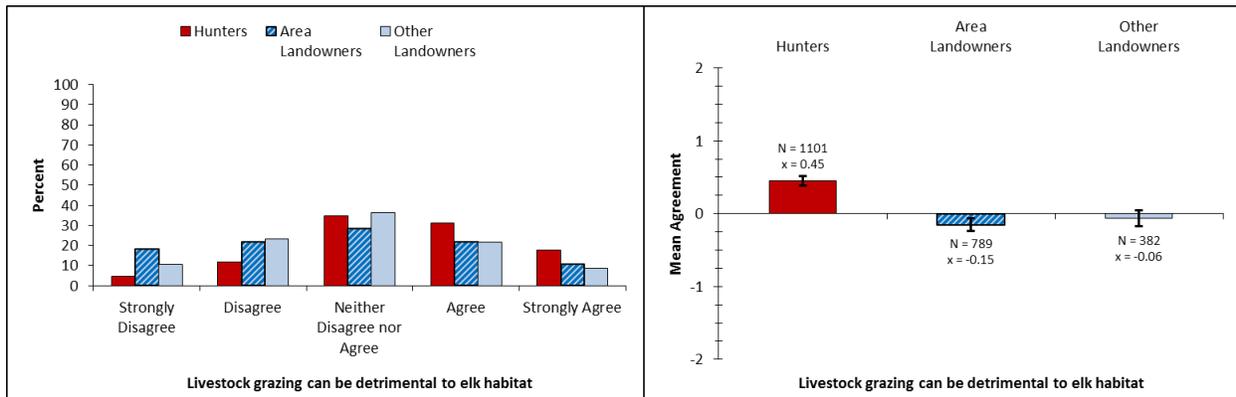


Figure 43: Level of agreement with *livestock grazing can be detrimental to elk habitat*

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; 2 Strongly Agree

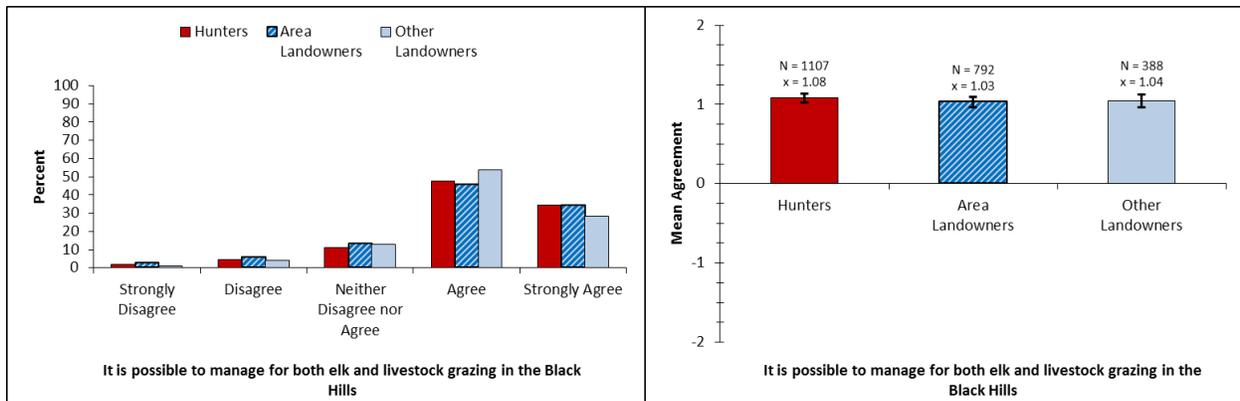


Figure 44: Level of Agreement with *it is possible to manage for both elk and livestock grazing in the Black Hills*

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Strongly Disagree; -1 Disagree; 0 Neither Disagree nor Agree; 1 Agree; 2 Strongly Agree

Elk Population

Respondents were provided with the following information about current elk population numbers, and asked to indicate how they would describe the current population in South Dakota:

During the winter of 2013, SDGFP completed an aerial survey of the entire Black Hills and estimates the wintering elk population to be approximately 6,000 elk (including Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park). It's important to note since elk commonly cross unit boundaries and the Wyoming border during spring departures from their wintering areas, these estimates only apply to winter months.

On average, both landowners and hunters described the 2013 elk population in South Dakota as being too few (figure 45).⁸ There is no statistically significant difference between area landowners and landowners outside of the nine-county area; however, there is a difference between hunters and landowners ($\chi^2(8)=260.880$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.242$). Hunters (81%) were far more likely to indicate there are currently too few elk, compared with 50 percent of landowners. Conversely, landowners (14%; $N=112$) were more likely to indicate there are currently too many elk compared with 3 percent of hunters ($N=27$).

⁸ Scale: -2 Far too few; -1 Slightly too few; 0 Just about right; 1 Slightly to many; 2 Far too many

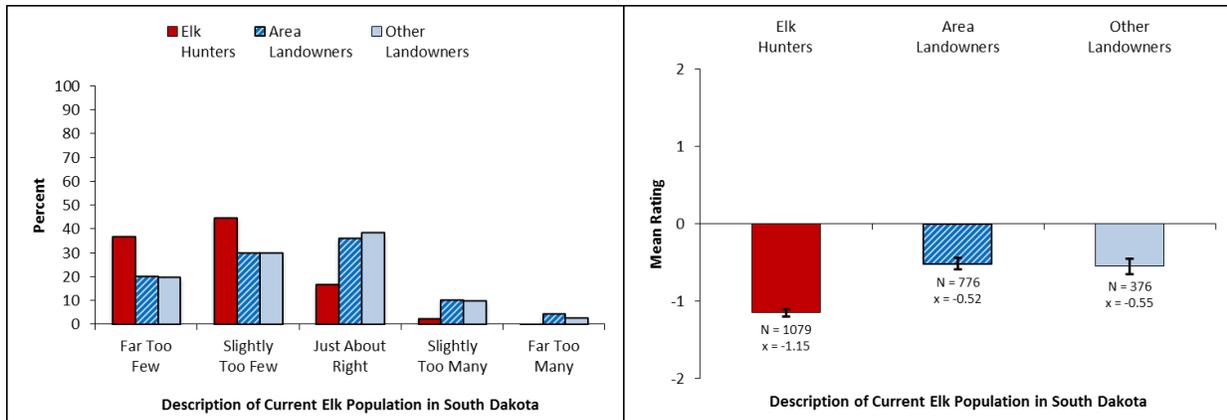


Figure 45: Description of current elk population in South Dakota

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence intervals; Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

Using a five-point scale⁹ respondents were also asked to indicate the direction they would like to see the elk population go over the next five years. On average, both landowners and hunters indicated they would like to see the elk population increase over the next five years (figure 46). There is no significant difference between area landowners and landowners outside the nine-county area. The vast majority of hunters (93%) and 62 percent of landowners indicated they would like to see the elk population increase; however, hunters were far more likely than landowners to indicate they would like to see the population *increase a lot* ($\chi^2(8)=366.483, p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.284$). Approximately 11 percent of area landowners (N=87) and 8 percent of other landowners (N=32) prefer to see the elk population decrease, compared with less than one percent of hunters (N=8).

⁹ Scale: -2 Decrease a lot; -1 Decrease a little; 0 Stay about the same; 1 Increase a little; 2 Increase a lot

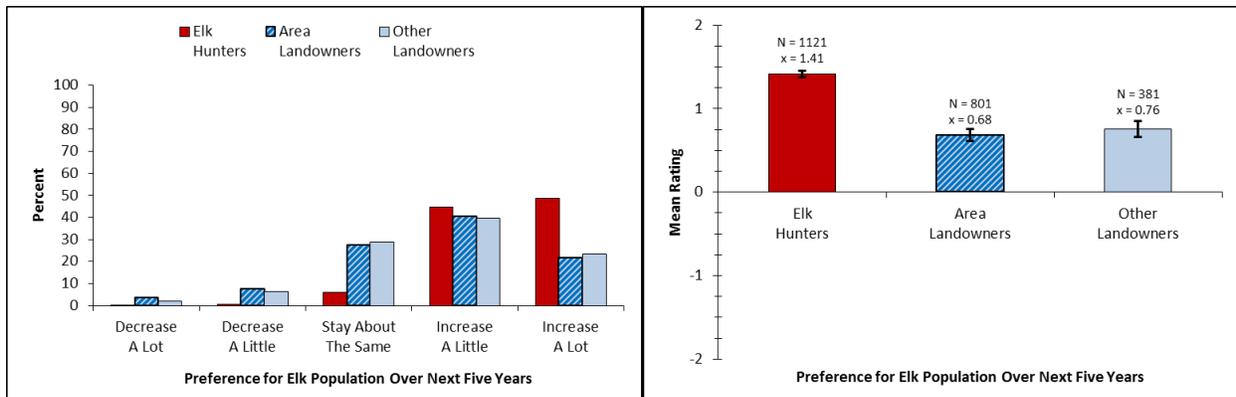


Figure 46: Preference for size of elk population over the next five years

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence interval; Scale: -2 Decrease a lot; -1 Decrease a little; 0 Stay about the same; 1 Increase a little; 2 Increase a lot

Population Size – Landowner Comparisons

There are significant differences among area landowners in both their rating of South Dakota's current elk population and preferences for future elk population numbers based on the number of acres owned, experience with elk depredation, presence of elk on their property, their expectations for the number of elk on their property, reason for owning their land, and proportion of total income from farming and ranching. Area landowners who believe there are currently too many elk in South Dakota (N=96) are more likely than those who believe there are currently too few elk (N=376) to own more acres ($\chi^2(10)=50.006$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.185$). Thirty-six percent of area landowners who feel there are currently too many elk own more than 1,280 acres compared with 17 percent of area landowners who feel there are too few elk (figure 47). Similarly, area landowners who would like to see the elk population decrease over the next five years (N=70) are more likely than area landowners who would like to see the population increase (N=476) to own larger amounts of land ($\chi^2(10)=59.470$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.199$). Forty-two percent of landowners who would like to see the elk population decrease own more than 1,280 acres, compared with 18 percent who would like to see the population increase. Whereas, forty-six percent of landowners who want to see an increase own 160 acres or less compared to 19 percent who would like to see a decrease.

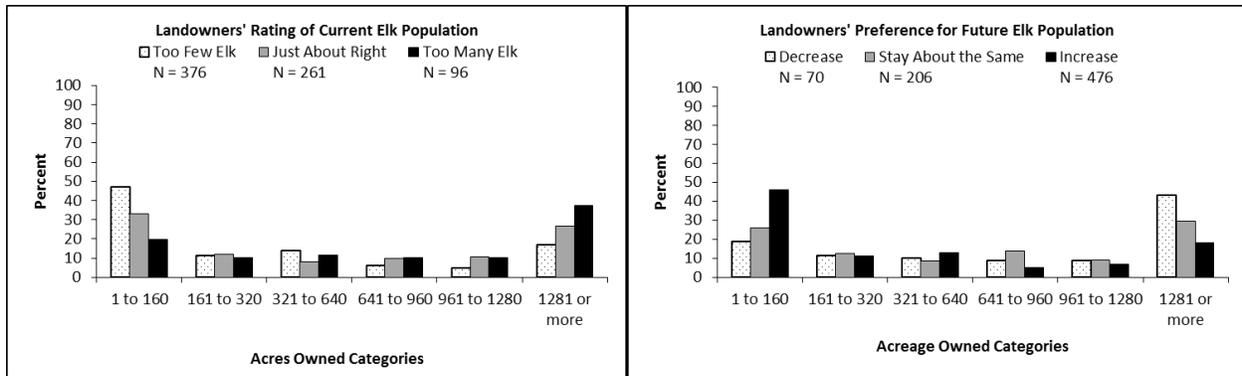


Figure 47: Current and future elk populations based on acres owned

Area landowners who believe there are currently too few elk and those who feel the current population is just about right are far less likely than landowners who feel there are too many elk to have experienced elk depredation on their property ($\chi^2(2)=55.790, p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.272$). The majority of those rating the population as too few (81%; $N=313$) and those who feel the population is where it needs to be (73%; $N = 193$) had not experienced elk depredation (figure 48). The majority of area landowners who feel there are currently too many elk (55%; $N=58$) had experienced elk depredation.

In regards to preferences for future elk population numbers, area landowners who would like the population to stay about the same or increase are far less likely than those who would like the population to decrease to have experienced elk depredation on their property ($\chi^2(2)=64.75, p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.290$). The majority of landowners who want to see an increase (81%; $N=389$) and those who would like the population to stay the same (69%; $N=146$) did not experience elk depredation on their property in 2013, compared with 40 percent ($N=32$) of landowners who want to see the population decrease.

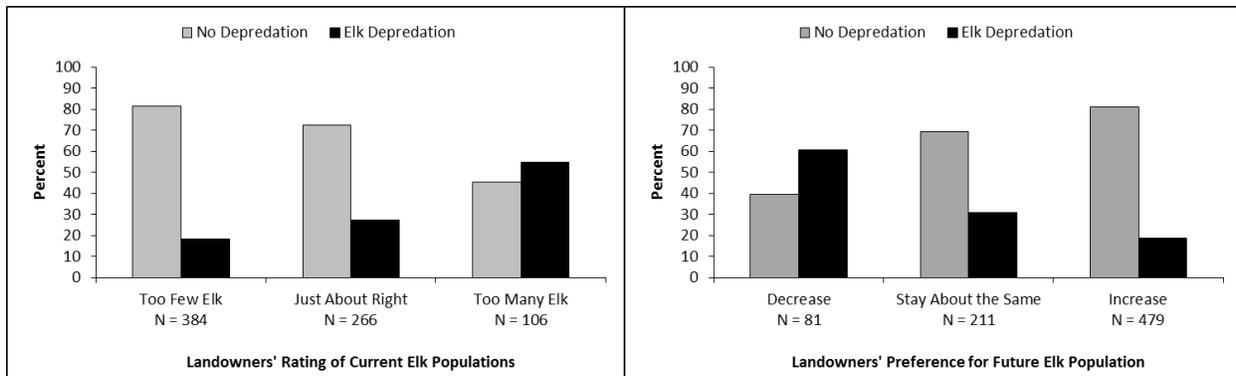


Figure 48: Current and future elk populations based on experience with elk depredation

Figure 49 shows the distribution of area landowners' current rating of South Dakota's elk population and their rating of the elk population on their land. Landowners who believe there are too many elk (N=94) are more likely than those who feel the population is too few (N=382) or just about right (N=257) to have elk present on their property ($\chi^2 (2)=18.019$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.157$) and to rate the number of elk on their property as too many ($\chi^2 (8)=308.731$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.473$). Figure 50 shows the distribution of area landowners' preferences for South Dakota's elk population over the next five years and their rating of the number of elk on their land. The majority of landowners who would like to see the elk population decrease (73%; N=54) report having seen elk on their property over the past year ($\chi^2 (2)=22.794$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.174$). Similarly, the majority of landowners who felt there were too many elk on their property were more likely to want to see the populations decrease over the next five years ($\chi^2 (8)=329.867$, $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.486$). Fifty-eight percent of landowners who would like to see elk numbers decrease (N=44) indicate they have too many elk on their property, whereas 76 percent of landowners who want the population to increase (N=331) indicate they have too few elk on their property.

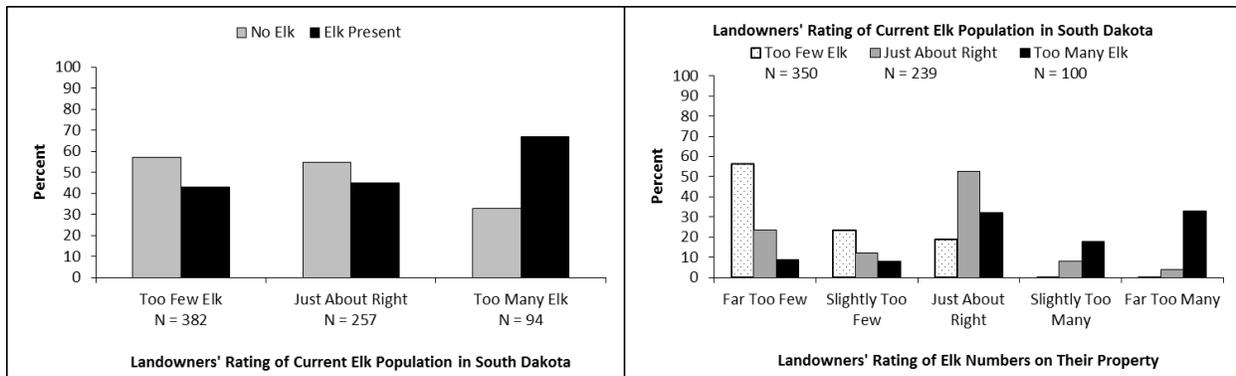


Figure 49: Current elk population based on presence of elk on private property

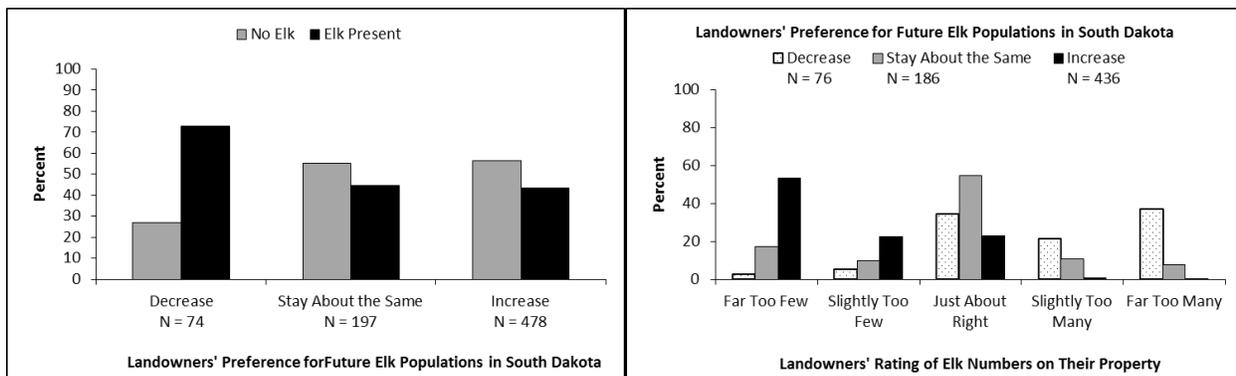


Figure 50: Future elk population based on presence of elk on private property

The majority of area landowners (76%; N=593), regardless of their rating of current elk populations or their preference for future elk populations own their property primarily for farming and ranching purposes. However, the majority of area landowners who do not own their land primarily for farming or ranching purposes (74%; N=128) believe there are too few elk compared with 43 percent (N=241) of area landowners who own primarily for farming and ranching. Landowners who believe there are too many elk are more likely to earn all of their income from farming and ranching activities ($\chi^2(10)=80.316, p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.233$), similarly the majority of those who feel there are too few elk (59%; N=218) earned a quarter or less of their total income from farming or ranching (figure 51).

The majority of area landowners who do not own their land primarily for farming or ranching purposes (86%) would like to see the elk population increase in the future. Less than two percent of these landowners wanted to see the elk population decrease compared with 13 percent of area landowners who own primarily for farming and ranching purposes ($\chi^2(2)=58.583, p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.280$). Area landowners who would like to see the population decrease are more likely to earn all their income from farming and ranching ($\chi^2(10)=95.261, p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.252$), while the majority of those who would like to see the population increase (56%) earn a quarter or less of their total income from farming and ranching activities (figure 52).

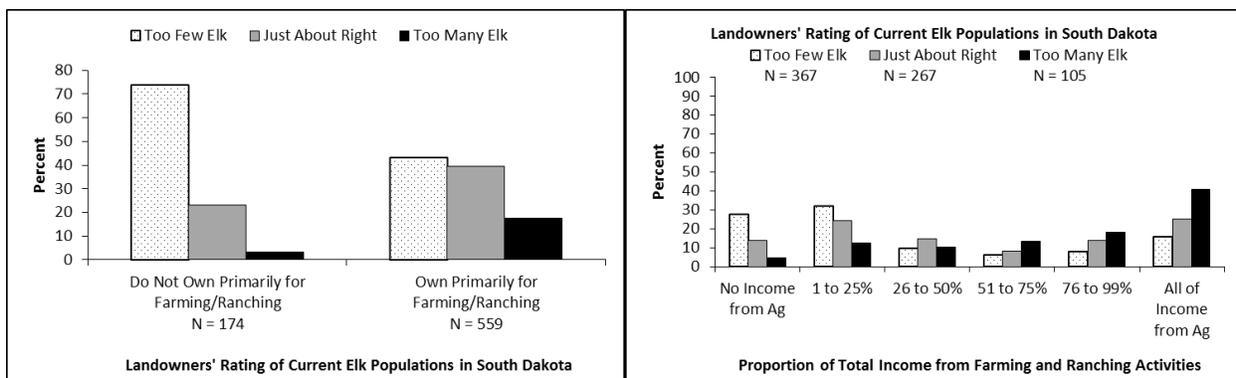


Figure 51: Current elk population based on farming and ranching activities

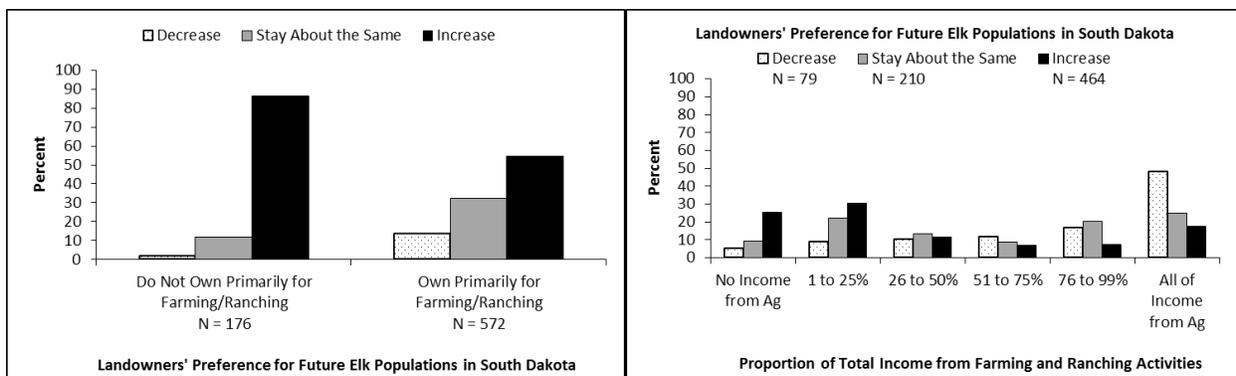


Figure 52: Future elk population based on farming and ranching activities

Population Management

Respondents were asked to indicate under what conditions they would like to see the elk population in South Dakota reduced (figure 53). The number one most selected condition by both hunters (62%) and landowners (63%) was *widespread disease and/or malnutrition in the elk herd*. For hunters the next condition, selected by 48 percent, is *elk over-browsing their habitat*, followed by *elk competing for livestock forage on private property* with 29 percent of hunters. For landowners the second condition, selected by 62 percent, was *elk competing for livestock forage on private property*, followed by *elk over-browsing their habitat* with 56 percent. The condition selected the least by hunters (8%) was *elk competing for livestock forage on public property*, which was selected by 23 percent of area landowners. The condition selected the least by landowners (12%) was *there can never be too many elk*, which was selected by 28 percent of hunters.

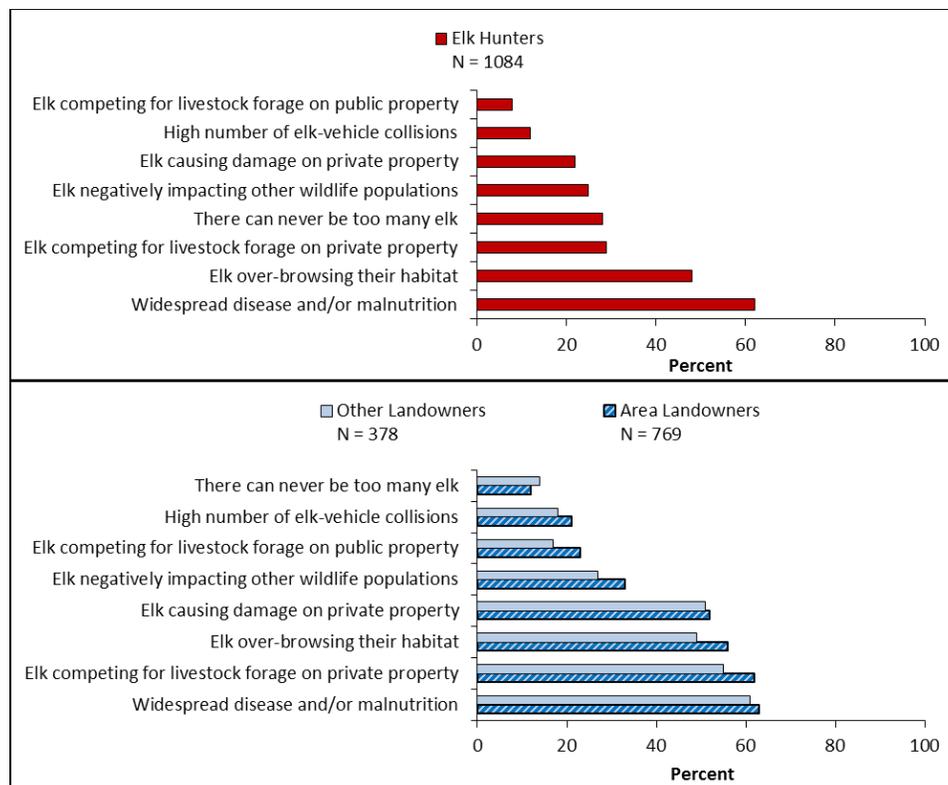


Figure 53: Conditions under which the elk population in South Dakota should be reduced

Respondents were also asked to indicate under which conditions they would like to see the elk population in South Dakota increase (figure 54). The condition selected the most by landowners (57%) was *elk not competing for livestock forage on private property*, followed by *creation and/or improvement of available suitable habitat* (45% of landowners). The condition selected most by hunters (59%) was *hunters' desire for more elk*, followed by *creation and/or improvement of available suitable habitat* (54% of hunters).

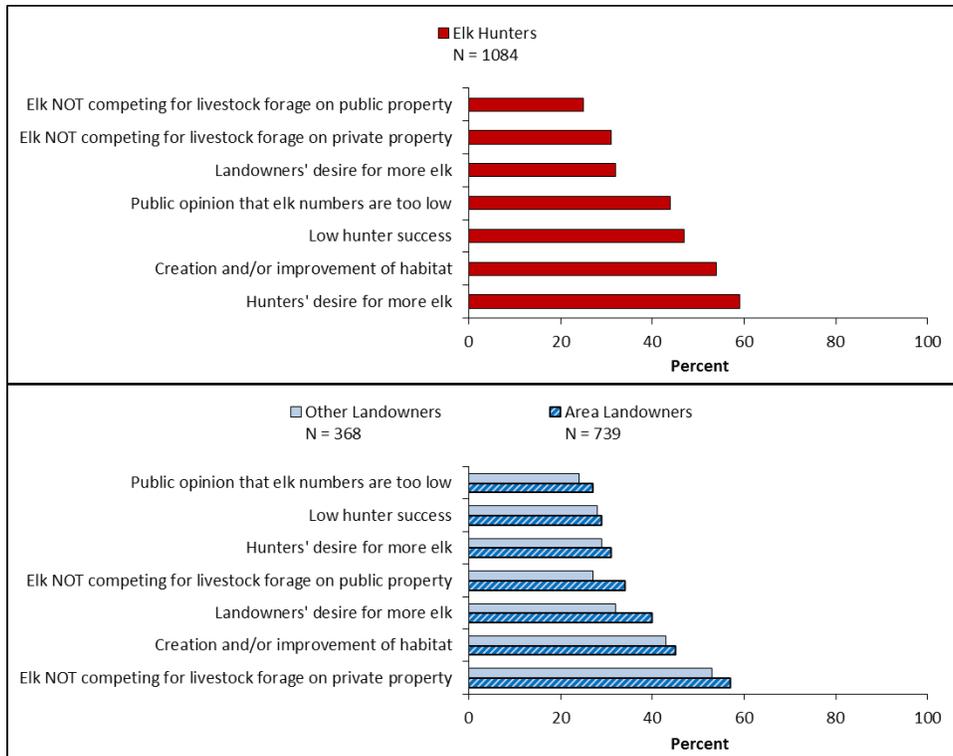


Figure 54: Conditions under which the elk population in South Dakota should be increased

Elk Hunting Season Structure

Respondents were asked to indicate on a five-point scale¹⁰ their level of satisfaction with five components of the South Dakota elk hunting season (figure 55). On average, hunters and landowners were satisfied with all five components of the hunting season. While there were no significant differences between area landowners and other landowners, there were differences between landowners and hunters. Hunters were more likely to be more satisfied with each component than landowners. The majority of hunters (68%) are satisfied with the season lengths for any-elk compared with 48 percent of landowners. Sixty-two percent of hunters indicate they are satisfied with the season lengths for antlerless elk compared with 43 percent of landowners. Regarding season dates, the majority of hunters (68%) were satisfied with the dates for any-elk and for antlerless elk (63%) compared with 57 percent and 42 percent for landowners, respectively. Finally, 61 percent of hunters and 42 percent of landowners were satisfied with the unit boundaries.

Currently, 50 percent of available elk licenses are allotted to qualifying landowner-operator applicants. To qualify landowners must have a minimum of 240 acres in an elk unit and at least 500 hours of elk use. When asked to rate the proportion of licenses available to landowner-operator applicants, the majority of hunters (74%) felt this is too many, compared to 22 percent of area landowners and 32 percent of other landowners (figure 56). The majority of area landowners (57%) and other landowners (53%) thought the proportion of licenses available was just about right.

Finally, respondents were asked to indicate which they believed was the most important factor for GFP to consider when structuring hunting season of the following: 1) *increasing recreational hunting opportunities*; 2) *increasing trophy hunting opportunities*; 3) *increasing equally both recreation and trophy hunting opportunities*. The majority of hunters (70%) and

¹⁰ Scale: -2 Very Dissatisfied; -1 Dissatisfied; 0 Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied; 1 Satisfied; 2 Very Satisfied

landowners (62%) said increasing equally recreational and trophy hunting opportunities was most important (figure 57). Increasing recreational hunting opportunities only was selected as most important by 25 percent of hunters and 31% of landowners. Increasing trophy hunting opportunities was selected by 5 percent of hunters and 7 percent of landowners.

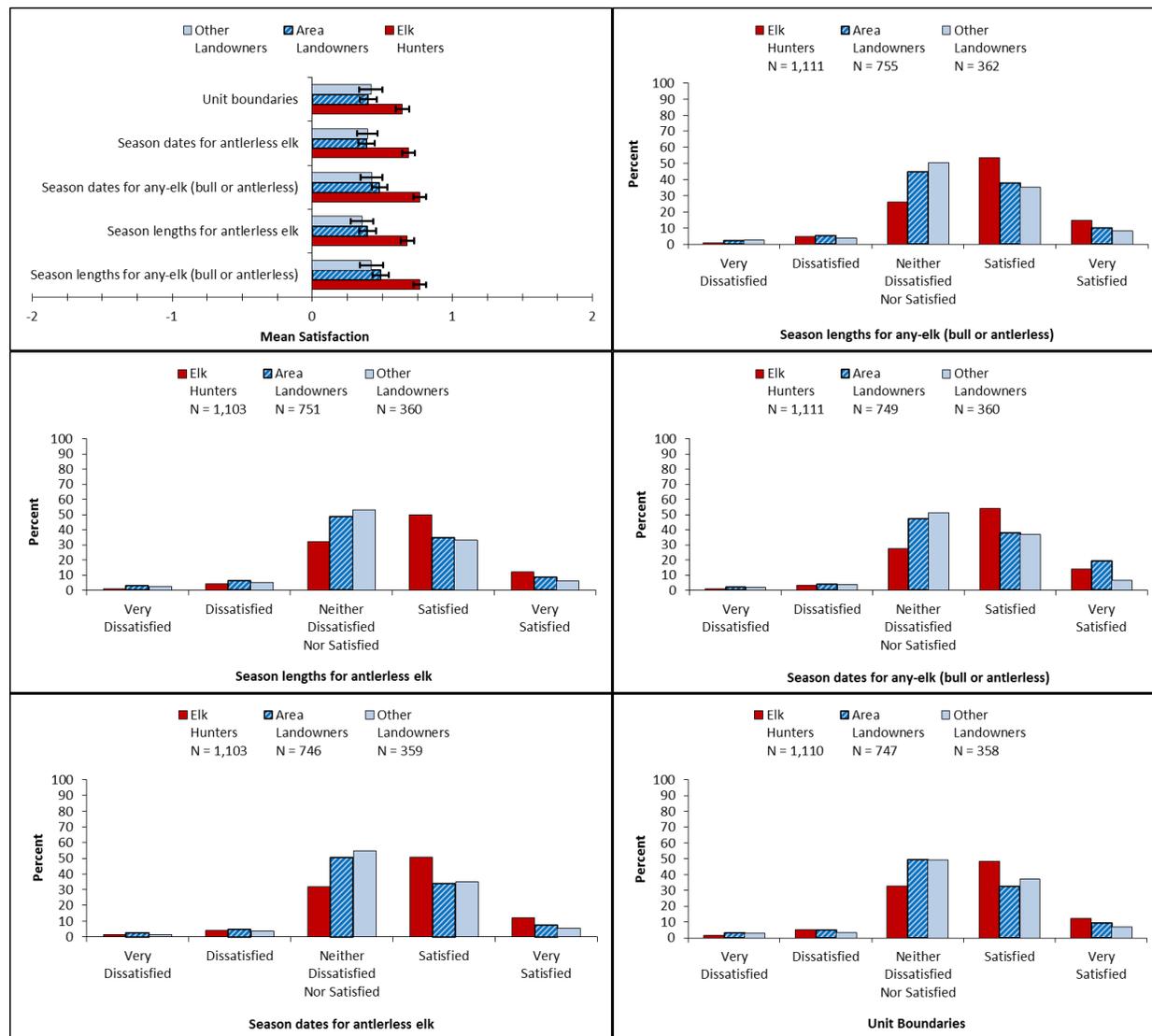


Figure 55: Level of Satisfaction with South Dakota elk hunting season structure
 *Error bars for means represent 95% confidence interval; Scale: -2 Very Dissatisfied; -1 Dissatisfied; 0 Neither Dissatisfied Nor Satisfied; 1 Satisfied; 2 Very Satisfied

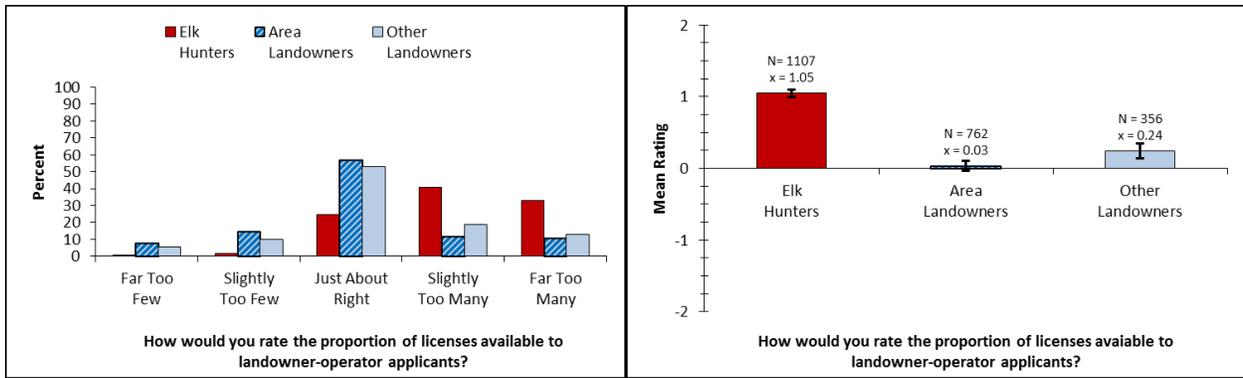


Figure 56: Rating of proportion of landowner-operator elk licenses

*Error bars for means represent 95% confidence interval; Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

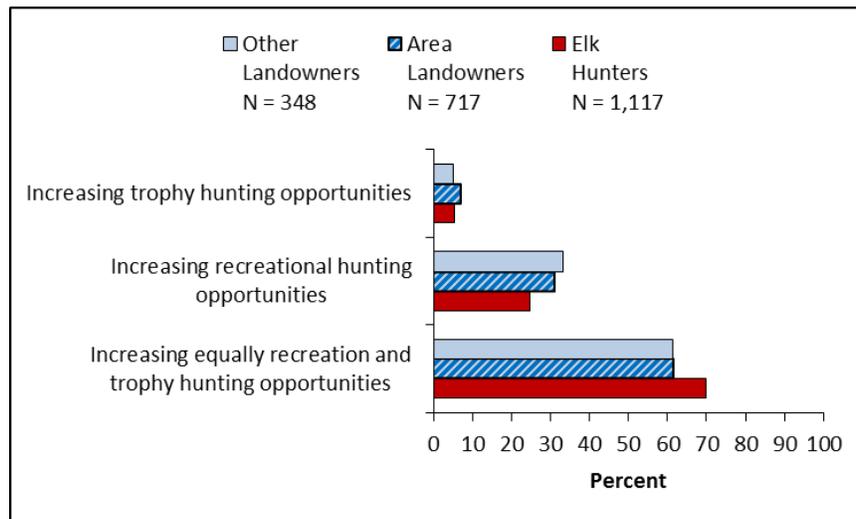


Figure 57: Most important factor when structuring elk hunting season

Comments

Many of the respondents to the elk management survey provided additional comments. These comments provide a qualitative description of respondents' experiences and opinions regarding elk management in South Dakota. These comments did not have to be specific to any question asked on the survey; rather respondents were free to provide additional comments at the end. Comments are included in appendix C, and are organized by hunters and landowners.

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APPENDICES

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Appendix A
Survey Instrument (format adjusted)

ELK MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA



DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS

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

ELK MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks

Please read each question and indicate your answer in the space provided. All information you provide will be treated confidentially and will not be linked to your name.

Q1. South Dakota has a wide variety of wildlife. How important or unimportant is it to you that South Dakota conserves wildlife where appropriate?

Please CHECK one:

Very Unimportant	Unimportant	Neither Unimportant nor Important	Important	Very Important
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q2. How important or unimportant do you think healthy wildlife populations are to the economy and well-being of South Dakota residents?

Please CHECK one:

Very Unimportant	Unimportant	Neither Unimportant nor Important	Important	Very Important
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Elk Management

During the winter of 2013, SDGFP completed an aerial survey of the entire Black Hills and estimates the wintering elk population to be approximately 6,000 elk (including Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park). It's important to note since elk commonly cross unit boundaries and the Wyoming border during spring departures from their winter areas, these estimates only apply to winter months.

Q3. How would you describe the current elk population in South Dakota?

Please CHECK one:

Far Too Few	Slightly Too Few	Just About Right	Slightly Too Many	Far Too Many
<input type="checkbox"/>				

Q4. Under what conditions would you like to see the elk population in South Dakota reduced?

Please CHECK all that apply:

- Elk over-browsing their habitat
- Widespread disease and/or malnutrition in the elk herd
- When elk negatively impact other wildlife populations
- High number of elk-vehicle collisions
- Elk causing damage on private property
- Elk competing for livestock forage on private property
- Elk competing for livestock forage on public property
- There can never be too many elk
- Other, *please specify* _____

Q5. Under what conditions would you like to see the elk population in South Dakota increased?

Please CHECK all that apply:

- Low hunter success
- Landowners' desire for more elk
- Hunters' desire for more elk
- Public opinion that elk numbers are too low
- Creation and/or improvement of available suitable habitat
- When elk are not competing for livestock forage on private property
- When elk are not competing for livestock forage on public property
- Other, *please specify* _____

Q6. Over the next five (5) years, would you prefer to see the elk population in South Dakota...?

Please CHECK one:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Decrease
A Lot | Decrease
A Little | Stay About
The Same | Increase
A Little | Increase
A Lot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q7. People in South Dakota have many different opinions and concerns regarding elk. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

- 1 = Strongly Disagree (SD)
- 2 = Disagree (D)
- 3 = Neither Disagree nor Agree (N)
- 4 = Agree (A)
- 5 = Strongly Agree (SA)

Please **CIRCLE** a number for each statement:

STATEMENT	AGREEMENT				
	SD	D	N	A	SA
	<i>circle one for each statement</i>				
A. Having a healthy, self-sustaining population of elk in South Dakota is important to me.	1	2	3	4	5
B. Elk threaten people's livelihoods by competing with livestock for forage resources on public land.	1	2	3	4	5
C. Elk threaten people's livelihoods by competing with livestock for forage resources on private property.	1	2	3	4	5
D. The presence of elk near my home increases my quality of life.	1	2	3	4	5
E. I worry about elk-vehicle collisions.	1	2	3	4	5
F. Livestock grazing can be beneficial to elk habitat.	1	2	3	4	5
G. Elk benefit local economies through hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.	1	2	3	4	5
H. Elk have the right to exist wherever they may occur.	1	2	3	4	5
I. Elk threaten people's livelihoods by damaging private feed supplies and agricultural cropland.	1	2	3	4	5
J. I worry about chronic wasting disease (CWD) in elk.	1	2	3	4	5
K. It is possible to manage for both elk and livestock grazing in the Black Hills.	1	2	3	4	5
L. Livestock grazing can be detrimental to elk habitat.	1	2	3	4	5

Elk Hunting

Q8. Have you spent any time hunting elk in a state other than South Dakota?

- No
- Yes

Q9. How would you describe South Dakota's 2013 elk season in terms of the number of hunters?

Please CHECK one:

- Don't know (i.e. I had no experience with the 2013 elk hunting season)
- Not enough hunters
- Just right – not crowded
- Slightly crowded
- Moderately crowded
- Very crowded

Q10a. Have you ever applied for an elk hunting license or a preference point for elk hunting in South Dakota?

- No
- Yes

Q10b. IF YES, how important is being able to hunt elk to you in relation to all other types of recreational opportunities (including other types of hunting and non-hunting activities)?

Please CHECK one:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Very
Unimportant | Unimportant | Neither
Unimportant nor
Important | Important | Very
Important |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q11. Do you plan to apply for a South Dakota elk hunting license in the future?

- No
- Yes
- Not Sure

Currently applicants for South Dakota elk hunting licenses must pay a \$5.00 non-refundable application fee, which is used to fund big game research and management. One component of GFP's elk management is the elk depredation assistance program. This program offers landowners services to alleviate or reduce damage caused by elk, including: diversionary food plots, protective fencing, enclosures, and elk depredation hunts.

Q12. Please indicate the MAXIMUM amount you would be willing to pay, in addition to the current non-refundable application fee, if the money generated would be used to fund enhanced elk depredation programs designed to help increase tolerance for elk on private lands.

Please **CHECK** one:

- I am not willing to pay an additional non-refundable application fee.
- I am willing to pay an additional **\$5** (total non-refundable application fee \$10).
- I am willing to pay an additional **\$10** (total non-refundable application fee \$15).

Q13. Have you spent any time hunting elk in South Dakota?

Please **CHECK** one:

- No  If NO, please SKIP AHEAD to **Q20** on **p7**
- Yes

Q14. IF YES, what was the most recent year you hunted elk in South Dakota? _____ Year

Q15 to Q19 refer to the most recent year you hunted elk in South Dakota.

Q15. In which elk management unit did you hunt? Please refer to the MAP on pg. 12

_____ Unit

Q16. In the most recent year you hunted elk, did you harvest an elk?

- No
- Yes

Q17. Please estimate the percentage of your total elk hunting time on each type of land.

- A. Private land – no fees charged _____ %
- B. Private land – fees charged _____ %
- C. Walk-In Areas _____ %
- D. Public land (state or federal owned) _____ %

Q18. How important or unimportant is each condition to your overall satisfaction with your elk hunting experience?

- 1 = Very Unimportant (VU)
- 2 = Unimportant (U)
- 3 = Neither Unimportant nor Important (N)
- 4 = Important (I)
- 5 = Very Important (VI)

Please CIRCLE a number for each statement:

CONDITIONS	IMPORTANCE				
	VU	U	N	I	VI
	<i>circle one for each statement</i>				
A. Filling your tag with the type of elk you were hunting for	1	2	3	4	5
B. An un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip	1	2	3	4	5
C. Harvesting a mature bull elk	1	2	3	4	5
D. Harvesting an antlerless elk	1	2	3	4	5

Q19. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with your most recent elk hunting experience in South Dakota?

Please circle one:

- Very
Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neither
Dissatisfied nor
Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Very
Satisfied

Elk on Private Lands

Q20. Do you own land in a South Dakota county which has a Black Hills or Prairie Elk management unit (Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Lawrence, Meade, Mellette, or Pennington Counties)?

Please CHECK one:

- No  If NO, please SKIP AHEAD to **Q34** on **p.10**
- Yes

Q21. IF YES, in which of these counties do you own land?

Please CHECK all that apply:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bennett | <input type="checkbox"/> Gregory | <input type="checkbox"/> Meade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butte | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall River | <input type="checkbox"/> Mellette |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Custer | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawrence | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennington |

Q22. How many total acres of land do you own in these counties (Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Lawrence, Meade, Mellette, or Pennington Counties)?

_____ acres

Q23. Do you have land that falls inside of or adjacent to a GFP elk management unit? (*Please refer to MAP on page 12*).

Please CHECK one:

- No
- Yes, in which unit(s) do you have land? _____

Q24. About how many elk did you see on your property in the past year? _____ total number of elk

Q25. Based on your expectations, how would you rate the total number of elk you saw on your property in 2013?

Please CHECK one:

Far Too
Few

Slightly
Too Few

Just About
Right

Slightly
Too Many

Far Too
Many

Q26. Do you primarily own your land for farming or ranching purposes?

No

Yes

Q27. About what proportion of your total income is from farming and ranching activities?

Please CHECK one:

0% - None of my income is from farming and ranching

1 to 25%

26 to 50%

51 to 75%

76 to 99%

100% - All of my income is from farming and ranching

Q28a. Did you experience any elk depredation damage on your property in the past year?

No



If NO, please SKIP AHEAD to **Q34** on p.10

Yes

Q28b. Please indicate the level of damage done by elk on your land in the past year.

Please CHECK one:

Not A
Problem

Minor
Problem

Moderate
Problem

Major
Problem

Q28c. Were additional actions needed to reduce or help control the damage done by elk on your land?

No

Yes

Q28d. Did you request any help from GFP for elk damage problems on your property?

No Yes

Q28e. IF YES, how satisfied were you with the assistance provided by GFP?

Please CHECK one:

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q29. Do you feel your tolerance for more elk on your property would increase or decrease if GFP increased their current elk depredation programs?

Please CHECK one:

Decrease A Lot	Decrease A Little	Stay About The Same	Increase A Little	Increase A Lot
<input type="checkbox"/>				

Q30. In what ways would you like to see GFP improve its elk depredation programs?

Q31. Do you think having more elk hunters would help reduce the elk damage on your property?

No Yes

Q32. Have you ever applied for a landowner-operator preference elk license in South Dakota?

No Yes

Q33a. Did any elk hunting (by yourself or any other person) occur on your land in 2013?

- No Yes

Q33b. IF YES, what type of hunting opportunities occurred?

Please CHECK all that apply:

- Self and/or immediate family members
 Provided free access to at least some people (other than self and family)
 Charged an access fee to at least some hunters
 Provided guide and/or service (e.g., room, meals, etc.) to hunters
 Leased some hunting rights to an individual/group/guide

Q33c. IF YES, how many different hunters did you give permission to elk hunt on your property in 2013?

_____ number of hunters

Elk Hunting Season Structure

Q34. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following components of South Dakota's current elk hunting seasons?

- 1 = Very Dissatisfied (VD)
 2 = Dissatisfied (D)
 3 = Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied (N)
 4 = Satisfied (S)
 5 = Very Satisfied (VS)

Please CIRCLE a number for each statement:

SEASON COMPONENTS	SATISFACTION				
	VD	D	N	S	VS
	<i>circle one for each statement</i>				
A. Season lengths for any-elk (bull or antlerless)	1	2	3	4	5
B. Season lengths for antlerless elk	1	2	3	4	5
C. Season dates for any-elk (bull or antlerless)	1	2	3	4	5
D. Season dates for antlerless elk	1	2	3	4	5
E. Unit boundaries	1	2	3	4	5

Q35. Currently, 50% of available elk licenses are allotted to qualifying landowner-operator applicants (minimum 240 acres in elk unit and at least 500 hours of elk use). How would you rate the proportion of licenses available to landowner-operator applicants?

Please CHECK one:

Far Too
Few

Slightly
Too Few

Just About
Right

Slightly
Too Many

Far Too
Many

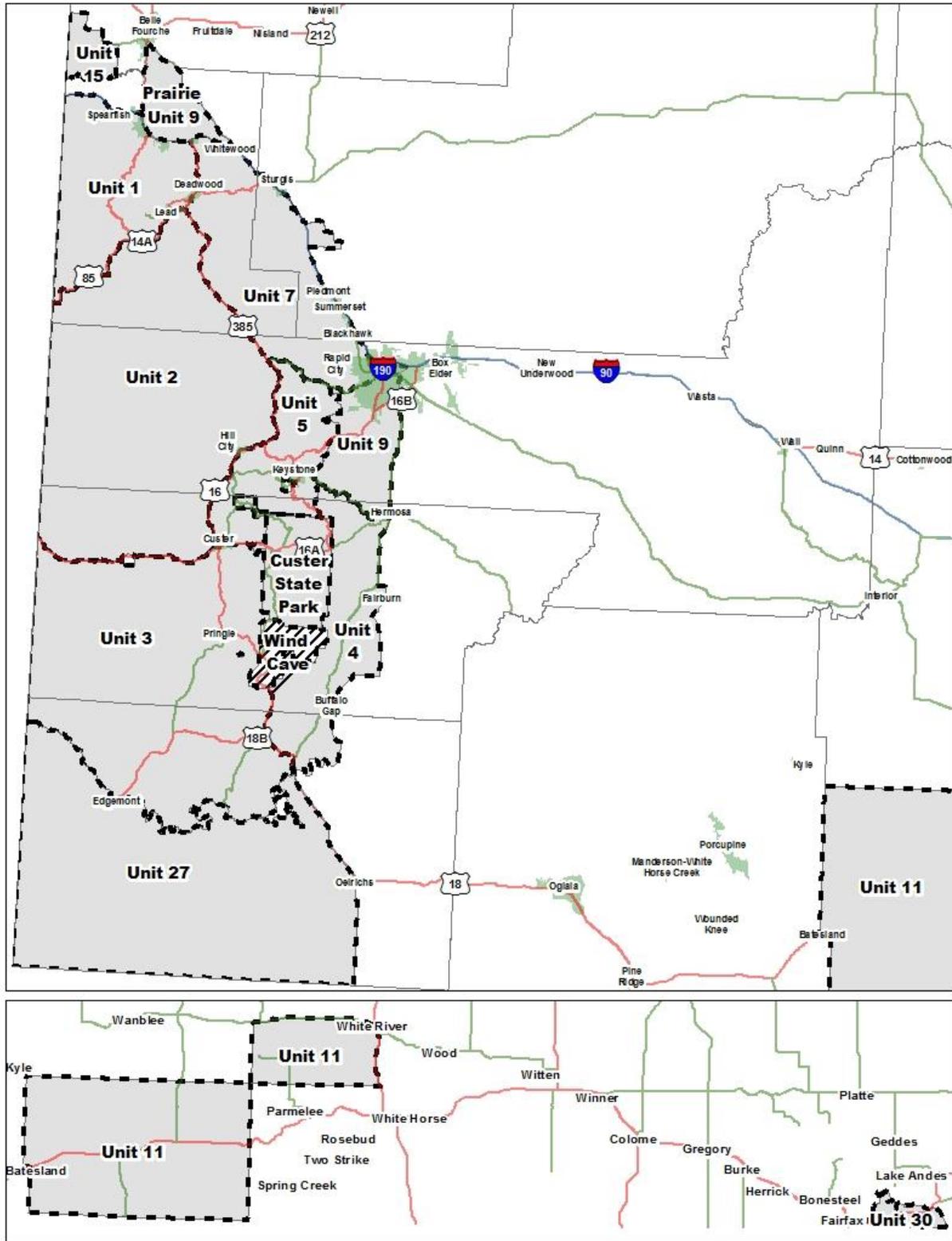
Q36. In your opinion, when GFP structures elk hunting seasons, which of the following factors is most important?

Please CHECK one:

- Increasing recreational hunting opportunities
- Increasing trophy hunting opportunities
- Increasing equally both recreation and trophy hunting opportunities

Thank you for your valuable time completing this survey!

If you have comments you would like to share with us, please use the space below (you may use additional sheets of paper if necessary). These comments will be put into a report and given to the GFP Commissioners, staff biologists and administrators, and made available to the public.



Map 1: GFP elk management units

Cover Letter and Postcard Reminder



DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS

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

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks is conducting a survey of previous applicants and license holders (2010 to 2013) for a South Dakota elk hunting license, and landowners in Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Lawrence, Meade, Mellette, and Pennington Counties. The purpose of the survey is to collect information on your experiences and opinions about elk populations and management in South Dakota.

Your input is valuable and will help us understand the interests and needs of area landowners and elk hunters. The information you provide will be used in GFP's development of an elk management plan and future decisions about elk management in South Dakota. This management plan will address a broad range of topics related to elk management in South Dakota.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary, and you may stop at anytime or skip any question you do not wish to answer. All your answers will be confidential – we will only report summaries of our findings. The identification number on your survey is there so we can check your name off the mailing list once you return your survey.

On average, it should take about 15 to 20 minutes to complete this survey. Please return your survey using the postage-paid envelope provided.

Thank you for your time and willingness to help in this survey. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Longmire".

Cynthia L. Longmire
Human Dimensions Specialist
SD Game, Fish, and Parks

Dear Survey Recipient,

Recently we mailed a survey to you concerning elk management in South Dakota. The purpose of this survey is to collect information about your experiences and opinions about elk populations and management in South Dakota.

If you have already completed and returned the survey to us, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, please take some time to complete the survey and return it to us in the postage-paid envelope provided. The information you provide will be used in GFP's development of an elk management plan and future decisions about elk management in South Dakota.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Cynthia L. Longmire'.

Cynthia L. Longmire
Human Dimensions Specialist

Appendix B
Open-ended Responses: Landowners Experiencing Elk Depredation

In what ways would you like to see GFP improve its elk depredation programs?

- 1129 KILL LIONS BE HONEST ABOUT NUMBERS KILL COYOTES
- 1160 GIVE TO ONE'S THAT WANT IT.
- 2144 KEEP SHOOTING MOUNTAIN LIONS AND LOWER LAND OWNER PREFERENCE TO 160 ACRES LIKE DEER. (DON'T LET THE WHINERS ATTACK LANDOWNERS RIGHT'S)
- 2291 I FEEL YOUR STAFF DOES A GOOD JOB PROVIDING PANELS FOR STACK YARDS
- 2326 I AM SATISFIED WITH ALL CURRENT DEPREDATION PROGRAMS
- 2485 ONLY PROBLEM I HAVE HAD IS ELK KNOCKING DOWN THE FENCE.
- 2893 LET PEOPLE SEND IN SOONER THAN 9 YEARS AFTER THEY RECEIVE A TAG
- 3010 OUR NUMBERS ARE DOWN WE AT THIS POINT NEED MORE ELK. WE DON'T NEED TO GET RID OF ANYMORE.
- 3013 FENCING MATERIALS HELP WITH WATER PROGRAMS
- 3015 PAY FOR SOME DAMAGE, SOME POSTS AND WIRE
- 3019 A. DON'T CHARGE LANDOWNERS FOR THIS ELK LICENSE. B. ALLOW ANY NUMBER OF LICENSES PER FAMILY TO SHOOT ELK. C. PROVIDE ELK HARVEST TO LET OWNER TO SELL TO HIGHEST BIDDER/
- 3022 DUE TO THE RISING COST OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND PROPERTY TAXES RANCHERS HAVE LESS MONEY TO SPEND ON DAMAGE FROM THE ELK. PROPERTY OWNERS SHOULD HAVE THE OPTION TO SELL THE TAG ON THE FREE MARKET. THE LANDOWNER COULD PAY FULL PRICE FOR THE TAG. THIS WOULD NOT ONLY HELP OFFSET THE COST OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT BUT ALSO BRING IN MORE MONEY INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY. THE FULL PRICE PAYMENT WOULD BRING IN MORE REVENUE INTO THE GFP. THIS SOLUTION IS NOT ONLY BENEFICIAL TO THE LANDOWNER, BUT THE ECONOMY AND THE STATE.
- 3034 ELK LEAVE THE UNIT ONCE THE SEASON GETS CLOSE. THE UNIT NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE AREAS THAT HOLD ELK DURING THE SEASON. EG. CROOKED OAKS; OTHER SIDE OF HWY 34 IN PRAIRIE UNIT 9
- 3041 GIVING FENCING MATERIALS IS THE EASY PART. IT'S LABOR FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT IS THE HARD PART. HOW ABOUT REPLACING THE FEED THE ELK ARE TAKING NOT JUST DESTROYING.
- 3043 KILL MORE LIONS
- 3049 EVEN PEOPLE WITH LESS THAN 240 ACRES HAVE DEPREDATION
- 3052 I DO NOT NEED ANY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PROGRAMS

- 3064 STEEL CABLE FENCE ENHANCEMENT
- 3065 I CANNOT STRESS THE NEXT POINT STRONGLY ENOUGH. ELK POPULATIONS IN THE BLACK HILLS SHOULD BE MANAGED BASED ON WHAT HABITAT AND RESOURCES WILL NATURALLY SUSTAIN AS DESCRIBED IN THE FOREST PLAN.
- 3070 NONE! ONLY HAD FENCES DOWN
- 3080 WE ASKED YEARS AGO FOR ELK TO BE REMOVED FROM OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY THAT MOVED IN ON US AFTER A CENTURY OF JUST A LITTLE GRAZING. NO RESPONSE UNTIL A HUNTING SEASON WAS DEVELOPED.
- 3081 I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE UNIT BOUNDARIES EXPANDED IN THE PRAIRIE UNIT 9 AREA SO SOME MORE ANIMALS COULD BE HARVESTED AS THEY MOVE AROUND THE AREA.
- 3084 LET THE ANY ELK TAGS BE FILLED WITH A COW AFTER THE CLOSING OF IT'S OCT. SEASON TO BECOME GOOD FOR A COW IN DEC.
- 3098 BEING MORE AWARE OF WHERE THE ELK SPEND THEIR TIME DURING OUR CROP GROWING SEASON
- 3101 I BELIEVE THAT LANDOWNERS SHOULD BE GIVEN AN ELK HUNTING LICENSE TO DO WHAT THEY WANT WITH. THE LANDOWNER COULD KEEP IT FOR HIMSELF OR SELL IT ON THE OPEN MARKET. THIS WAY THE STATE COULD DECREASE THEIR BUDGET ON DEPREDATION BY NOT GIVING THE LANDOWNER ANY MONEY. THE LANDOWNER COULD SELL THE LICENSE FOR WHAT COMPENSATION IS NEEDED FOR THE ELK DAMAGE. BOTH SIDES WIN.
- 3103 ALLOW MORE LICENSES. THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY ELK IN THE BLACK HILLS AREA WE SEE MANY HERDS OF 300 TO 700 HEAD AT A TIME
- 3106 HIGHER PAYMENTS TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS OF HAY PRODUCTION DUE TO ELK
- 3107 BETTER COMMUNICATION AND TRUST WITH ME. I HELP FEED THE ELK WITH THE CROPS I PLANT. I LIKE HELPING AND SEEING AND HUNTING THEM.
- 3116 I WOULD LIKE TO BE PUT BACK ON THE FOOD PLOT PROGRAM.
- 3120 CONTINUE TO LET US WHO FEED AND FIX THE FENCES, RANCHERS, GET AN ELK DEPREDATION TAG. I HAVE NO PROBLEMS OR COMMENTS WITH THE PROGRAM. EVERYTHING IS WORKING FINE FOR US.
- 3122 I SEE NO ELK DEPREDATION OUT OF CUSTOMARY & USUAL
- 3123 GIVE LANDOWNERS WHO EXPERIENCE DEPREDATION A LICENSE THEY CAN USE AT THEIR DISCRETION. BEING ABLE TO SELL A LICENSE WOULD HELP TOWARDS MITIGATING THE ELK DAMAGES.
- 3131 CHANGING THE UNITS OR COMBINING AND IT'S BECAUSE THE ELK ARE IN LARGER HERDS AND TRAVELING IN AND OUT OF THE UNIT AREAS MORE.
- 3174 LANDOWNERS SHOULD HAVE FIRST CHANCE FOR TAG

- 3205 LOWER THE OWNER/ACREAGE LICENSE REQUIREMENT
- 3551 SURVEY LANDOWNERS EAST OF BLACK HILLS AS ELK ARE CLEARLY MOVING FURTHER ONTO PRAIRIE
- 3573 HAVE A SPECIAL COW TAG HUNT ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TILFORD RD. MEADE COUNTY IN DEC.
- 3575 MOST OF THE FENCE DAMAGE I HAVE NOW IS FROM THE TRIBE TRYING TO SEND ELK SOUTH TO RESERVATION OR ELK MOVING FROM HUNTING PRESSURE. WE LOSE SOME FEED RESOURCES DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HELP EXCEPT HIGH FENCES FOR HAY.
- 3576 ELK FEED EVERYDAY PRIVATE LAND OR PUBLIC NO DIFFERENCE. PRIVATE LANDOWNERS PAY TAX WITH INCOME EARNED FROM THEIR LAND DIFFICULT TO GET INCOME WHEN CATTLE HAVE TO SHARE FEED WITH WILDLIFE.
- 3588 MY PROBLEM OCCURS DURING SEASON WHEN ELK ARE PUSHED FROM THEIR HABITAT DAMAGING MY FENCES, FOOT HUNTING ONLY WOULD BE & SEASON SHORTENED TO 7 DAYS.
- 3622 THIS PROGRAM IS AT THE LANDOWNERS EXPENSE. I HAVEN'T SEEN A COST SHARE OF THE LICENSE NEEDED. GFP HAS TO HAVE ALL THE MONEY WHETHER IT'S ELK, DEER OR WHATEVER.
- 3822 ISSUE A PERMIT TO THE LANDOWNER BASED ON NUMBERS OF ELK ON THE PROPERTY NOT ON THE AMOUNT OF ACRES OWNED BY THE LANDOWNER.
- 3857 SHIFT HUNTING SEASON TO LATER IN THE FALL DECEMBER IS BEST FOR THE FOOT HILLS
- 3905 LICENSE TO LANDOWNERS WITH SMALLER ACREAGES
- 3908 MORE RAIN TO PRODUCE MORE GRASS, WOULD HELP. (PLEASE TAKE THIS IN GOOD HUMOR.)
- 3915 HELP WITH FENCE REPAIR
- 3925 GFP CANNOT JUST TURN LOOSE ELK OUT OF WIND CAVE ONTO PRIVATE LAND WHEN EVER THEY WANT. PRIVATE LAND OWNERS SHOULD HAVE A CHOICE IN THE MATTER AND NOT FORCED.
- 4018 LISTEN TO LANDOWNERS MOST IMPACTED BY THEM. DO YOUR JOB TO KEEP THE ELK FROM COMPETING FOR FORAGE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY IF THOSE ARE THEIR WISHES.
- 4190 HELP PEOPLE FINANCIALLY W/FENCING FOR REPAIRING WHEN THEY DESTROY SECTIONS AND FENCING TO PROTECT GARDENS.
- 4193 I FEEL THAT THE LANDOWNERS THAT GET A LICENSE EVERY YEAR DUE TO THE LANDOWNER PERMITS, SHOULD HAVE TO HUNT & KILL THEIR ELK ON OR NEAR THEIR AFFECTED LAND!
- 4228 HELP THE PEOPLE BEING HURT BY ELK

- 4283 WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT MAJOR LANDOWNERS RECEIVE A TAG FOR THEIR PROPERTY. REGARDLESS OF NUMBER OF ELK SEEN OR RESIDING ON THEIR PROPERTY REGULARLY (ON PRAIRIE UNIT 9) SINCE THEY ARE SO "RANGY" TAG ALSO NEEDS TO BE TRANSFERABLE TO ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER OR OPERATOR
- 4301 THE PROMPTNESS NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED. IF ELK START GETTING INTO A HAY STACK, THE FENCE NEEDS TO BE DELIVERED RIGHT AWAY. NOT A MONTH AFTER THE CALL.
- 4347 BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO INDIVIDUAL LANDOWNERS
- 4361 ALLOW US TO HUNT ON OUR OWN LAND & IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT
- 4368 ELK TAGS FOR 2014 SEASON FOR AREA EAST OF PRAIRIE UNIT 9.
- 4377 REMOVE YOUR ELK FROM PRIVATE LAND RATHER THAN ALLOW ELK EXPANSION FROM PUBLIC LAND OUT ONTO PRIVATE LAND.
- 4529 LET LANDOWNERS, FARMERS & RANCHERS CONTROL THEIR OWN ELK HERDS. WE HAVE HAD A SEASON FOR A FEW YEARS AND NONE OF US LANDOWNERS HAVE EVER BEEN OFFERED A TAG. WHICH IS NOT SETTING WELL WITH ANY OF US NEIGHBORS. WE DO ALLOW HUNTING BECAUSE WE WANT RID OF THE ELK BUT STILL WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AT LEAST SHOOT ONE WHEN THEY ARE EATING ON OUR HAYSTACKS.
- 4681 ISSUE MORE NON FEE LICENSES AND REPAIR FENCES
- 4770 ALLOW HUNTERS WITH UNFILLED TAGS AT THE END OF THEIR SEASON TO JOIN IN THE DEPREDATION HUNTS. NOT GIVE OUT ADDITIONAL DEPREDATION TAGS UNTIL UNFILLED TAG HOLDERS GET A CHANCE.
- 4812 PROVIDE FREE ANTLERLESS TAG FOR THAT LANDOWNERS PROPERTY ONLY TO THOSE WHO QUALIFY; ELIMINATE THE GENERAL LANDOWNER HUNTING FOR THE WHOLE UNIT. DISQUALIFY THOSE THAT CHARGE. OUTFITS FOR PROFIT REQUIRE PAYMENT TO ALLOW HUNTING. THIS PRACTICE MUST BE REDUCED.
- 4852 DO NOT GIVE DEPREDATION MONEY OR LICENSES TO FARMS OR RANCHES WHO FEED THE ELK PURPOSELY FOR SELFISH REASONS AND OR CHARGE ACCESS FEES FOR LEASE HUNTING RIGHTS. BUT IF LARGE NUMBERS OF ELK ENTER PRIVATE PROPERTY AND USE UP IMPORTANT FORAGES FOR LIVESTOCK THAT SHOULD BE REPLACED (YOU CAN'T REPLACE GRASS BY THE CARE WITH MONEY, SO IT WOULD HAVE TO BE HAY)
- 4874 NO ELK DEPREDATION FUN TO SEE.
- 4876 PROBABLY CAN'T DO MUCH. WE ENJOY A FEW AROUND
- 4980 MAKE SURE THERE IS ALWAYS PLENTY OF FENCING SUPPLIES AVAILABLE
- 4984 INCREASE ELK NUMBERS BY DECREASING MOUNTAIN LION NUMBERS. DECREASE THE NUMBER OF ACRES FOR A LANDOWNER LICENSE.
- 4992 MORE HAYSTACK PROTECTION, MORE FENCING MATERIAL PUT IN MORE FOOD PLOTS FOR ELK

- 4993 MAYBE A LITTLE MORE FENCING MATERIAL OR MORE MONEY
- 5002 PROGRAM NEEDS TURNED OVER TO ADC OR BETTER YET TO SD AG DEPT. GFP DOES A VERY POOR JOB OF RUNNING ELK DEPREDATION PROGRAM.
- 5011 KILL MORE LIONS
- 5015 MORE HELP WITH FENCING ETC. CAUSED BY ELK
- 5018 ALLOW LANDOWNERS TO RECEIVE A LICENSE IN UNIT 4
- 5026 HUNTERS COMPENSATE RANCHERS THRU GFP LIKE \$200/ELK MINIMUM KILLED ON MY PLACE MAKE IT WORTH MY WHILE
- 5031 DEVELOP WATER SHEDS AND FOOD PLOTS
- 5035 I AM SATISFIED WITH WHAT YOU ARE DOING
- 5036 PAY MORE FOR PRIVATE LAND THAT TRULY HAS AN OVER ABUNDANCE OF ELK DAMAGE
- 5037 WE HAVE LAND THAT WE COULD DEVOTE TO WILDLIFE PRODUCTION AS WE NO LONGER HAVE ANY LIVESTOCK IF WE COULD RECEIVE SOME PAYMENT FOR PLANTING WILDLIFE CROPS
- 5040 LET LANDOWNERS WHO PUT UP WITH THE ELK YEAR AROUND DECIDE HOW MANY ELK THEY WANT TO SUSTAIN ON THEIR LANDS GIVE LANDOWNERS FAMILY MORE TAGS. WE OWN A LOT OF LAND AND CAN ONLY HARVEST ONE ELK PER YEAR WITH A LANDOWNER PREFERENCE TAG.
- 5041 I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE DONE TOWARD HELPING WITH FENCING OF STACK YARDS WITH PANELS.
- 5047 KEEP THEM OUT OF MY IRRIGATED CORN FIELDS
- 5049 1) GIVE MORE LICENSES; 2) PUT UP MORE PROTECTION AROUND HAY
- 5057 MORE MONEY FOR ELK DEPREDATION PAYMENTS AND MORE MONEY AVAILABLE FOR FENCE AROUND SILAGE PILES 2 HAY BALES.
- 5066 PUT OUT MORE LANDOWNER TAGS
- 5071 POSSIBLY APPROACH LANDOWNERS WHO DO NOT ALLOW HUNTING OR CHARGE FOR HUNTING & SEE IF THEY WOULD CONSIDER DEPREDATION HUNTS IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY SO THAT ADJOINING LANDOWNERS DO NOT HAVE SUCH A PROBLEM ON THEIR LAND DUE TO THE CONCENTRATION OF ELK & THE DAMAGE THEY CAUSE TO FENCES & CROPS.
- 5072 THE GFP SHOULD ISSUE AN ELK PERMIT TO LANDOWNERS EXPERIENCING HEAVY DEPREDATION THAT THE LANDOWNER COULD THEN DO WITH WHAT THEY WANTED.
- 5073 LANDOWNER SHOULD BE ABLE TO HUNT 2 MONTHS LIKE UNIT 27 AND OR THE 15 DAYS IN DECEMBER

- 5083 I DISAGREE WITH WIND CAVE ELK BEING RELEASED ONTO FOREST SERVICE & PRIVATE LAND.
- 5085 IN SOME PLACES FEED IS THE MAIN PROBLEM WE HAVE A LOT OF ALFALFA SO WE ARE ALWAYS GOING TO HAVE ELK PROBLEMS SO THE ONLY ANSWER I KNOW IS MORE PAYMENT BECAUSE WE CAN'T HANDLE ANY MORE HUNTERS.
- 5091 HELP WITH THE FENCE, ABOUT ALL I GET DONE IS FIX FENCE THE ELK TEAR DOWN.
- 5100 THE GAME WARDEN OFFICER IN THIS COUNTY NEEDS TO BE LET GO AND REPLACED WITH SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO WORK WITH THE LANDOWNERS. AT THE SAME TIME HIRE SOMEONE WITH A FARM, RANCHING BACKGROUND.
- 5101 ALLOW LANDOWNERS TO MANAGE ELK. MORE LANDOWNER TAGS. PAY FOR FEED AND WATER. LANDOWNERS SHOULD GET MONEY FROM LICENSE SALES.
- 5108 LANDOWNER TAGS EVERY YEAR
- 5115 FENCE REPAIR
- 5116 GET THE CAT POPULATIONS UNDER CONTROL
- 5119 ELK ARE HARD ON FENCES. ELK UNROLL BALES OF HAY AND THEY LIKE MY SECOND CUTTING ALFALFA.
- 5120 PRAIRIE UNIT 9 SHOULD BE EXTENDED EAST OF HWY 34
- 5125 ALLOW THE ANY ELK TAG TAKE A COW DURING THE DEC. PORTION IF UNSUCCESSFUL IN OCTOBER. ALLOW THE UNSUCCESSFUL TAGS BE DRAWN WHEN THE ELK COME INTO THE CROPS TO GET RID OF THE ANIMALS CAUSING DAMAGE.
- 5126 I BELIEVE THE GAME FISH AND PARKS COULD REPLACE SOME HAY FOR WHAT THE ELK EAT AND ALSO PROVIDE ENOUGH PORTABLE PANELS TO FENCE A STACKYARD. A PERMANENT STACKYARD IS OK IN SOME CASES BT IT DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK, SOMETIMES YOU WANT TO PUT SOME FEED IN DIFFERENT PLACES. FOR ME TO FENCE A STACKYARD TO PROTECT ALL MY HAY THE COST WOULD BE BETWEEN \$10,000 - \$12,000 THAT LEAVES A LOT FOR THE LANDOWNER TO FINANCE HIMSELF.
- 5127 DO NOT ALLOW ELK RELEASE FROM WIND CAVE
- 5128 I DON'T FEEL THERE IS AN ELK DEPREDATION PROBLEM. THE GOOD SEEING THEM OUT WEIGHS THE BAD.

Comments from Landowner with No Elk Depredation

- 1699 DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
- 2290 REDUCE GRAZING IN US FOREST SERVICE AND ASSIST THEM WITH NATURAL FOOD PLOTS ON FS TO KEEP ELK ON PUBLIC LAND. IMPROVE FENCING AROUND CSP TO HOLD MORE ELK IN THE PARK
- 2528 ELK NUMBERS ARE DOWN, SO WHY DO WE NEED AN ELK DEPREDATION PROGRAM? TELL THE RANCHER TO QUIT COMPLAINING FOR ONCE.

- 2530 I'M NOT A FARMER OR RANCHER BUT IN THE SURROUNDING STATES IN ELK COUNTRY PEOPLE TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN PROPERTY. THE STATE SHOULDN'T PAY FOR THAT STUFF!
- 2764 INCREASE MOUNTAIN LION KILLS
- 3135 ALLOW MORE HUNTERS & REDUCE THE FEES SO HUNTERS COULD BUY A LICENSE
- 3290 WE HUNT FOR MEAT ON THE TABLE. WHERE WE LIVE THERE ARE LOTS OF ELK AND OUR NEIGHBORS COMPLAIN. BUT SD DIDN'T OFFER NAY TAGS ON THIS SIDE OF INTERSTATE. WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE TAGS ISSUED.
- 3547 GIVE TAGS TO LANDOWNERS FOR THEIR LAND NOT FOR THE WHOLE UNIT. BASE TAG NUMBERS ON ELK. FARMERS AND RANCHERS ALWAYS BLAME SOMETHING TO MUCH RAIN NOT ENOUGH RAIN. TO HOT TO COLD. IF THEY SEE WILDLIFE SOME JUST WANT THEM GONE.
- 3816 LET PEOPLE GET MORE CHANCE FOR AN ELK
- 4124 I DON'T WANT ELK ON MY LAND, THEY DAMAGE A LOT OF CROPS AND FENCES
- 4972 I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DRAW A PERMIT FOR ELK BUT HAVE FOLLOWED FRIENDS THAT WERE HUNTING. I WOULD THINK THAT MOVING EXTRA ELK TO OTHER AREAS WOULD BE BETTER THAN ELIMINATING THEM. MORE ELK MIGHT INCREASE A CHANCE AT A LICENSE.
- 5013 I STILL THINK MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE A MAJOR FACTOR IN OUR AREA.
- 5017 LEAVE THE ELK ALONE – QUIT
- 5068 IF ANY PROBLEMS OF ELK SHOW UP IN CERTAIN AREAS HAVE A DRAWING ON DEPREDATION TAGS FOR THE PUBLIC.
- 5118 IF THE GFP AND PUBLIC HUNTERS AND PRIVATE LANDOWNERS WOULD ALL WORK TOGETHER THEN ALL 3 GROUPS WOULD OR COULD BE HAPPY WITH ELK MANAGEMENT
- 9050 LESS CONGESTION OF ELK IN OUR IRRIGATION CORNFIELDS, WORKING WITH ROSEBUD TRIBE ON ALLOWING HUNTS IN DEEDED PRIVATELY OWNED LAND IN TODD COUNTY WESTERN PART. LESS HASSLING [FROM] GFP OFFICERS.
- 9051 LEARN TO COUNT NUMBERS BETTER & QUIT BEING A GAME DEPARTMENT OF MISMANAGEMENT. ALLOW MORE ARCHERY TAGS. WITH 25% SUCCESS RATE YOU COULD GAIN MORE LICENSE FEES BY ALLOWING MORE TAGS. IT WOULD HELP INCREASE FUNDS AND LESS ELK POPULATION.

Appendix C Additional Comments

The views expressed in survey comments are the views of the commenting respondent(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks or the author(s) of this report. Neither the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks nor the author(s) guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of any opinion or view expressed in respondents' comments. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks reserves the right, but not obligation, to remove at its discretion any language which discloses personally identifiable information about respondents or any other individual, as well as language which is obscene, profane, offensive, malicious, discriminatory, defamatory or otherwise unlawful.

*Note -Respondents' comments did not have to be specific to any question asked on the survey, but rather they were free to provide additional comments at the end. Text which appears inside brackets [] has been added to clarify respondents' reference to specific survey questions, to indicate where a comment was not legible, or in some cases to indicate where personally identifying information has been omitted. Comments presented here are organized by hunters, area landowners, and other landowners.

Elk Hunter Sample (259 comments):

- 1000 DURING MY LAST ELK HUNT I TALKED WITH SEVERAL LANDOWNERS FROM UNIT 3. I WAS TOLD THEY HAVEN'T SEEN ELK IN YEARS. SINCE THE SLAUGHTER OF ALL THE COWS YEARS EARLIER. THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED IN MY POOR HUNT. I ONLY SAW 3 ELK AND FAR AWAY. PLUS I HUNTED HARD!!! NO ELK IN UNIT 3. ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME TAG AT AGE 49 - GFP DO THE MATH!!! SHAME ON YOU. MAYBE RANCHERS RUNNING ON PUBLIC LAND SHOULD PAY MORE PER HEAD AND ALLOW HUNTERS ON THEIR PRIVATE GROUND IF TOO MANY ELK.
- 1020 ALTHOUGH I'M AWARE OF THE REVENUE GENERATED BY NON-RESIDENT HUNTERS, I STRONGLY BELIEVE NON-RESIDENTS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED IN THE FIRST DRAWING. LET THOSE OF US THAT LIVE HERE AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY YEAR ROUND HAVE THE FIRST CHANCE. IN FACT I WOULD LIKE NON-RESIDENT LEFT OUT OF ALL BIG GAME FIRST DRAWINGS.
- 1027 BEEN APPLYING FOR MANY YEARS - SKIPPED A YEAR ON ACCIDENT A FEW YEARS AGO AND LOST MY POINTS SO I'VE BEEN SENDING IN NOW FOR A FEW YEARS NO OFFENSE BUT IT DISCOURAGING TO SEND IN YEAR AFTER YEAR NOT DRAWING A TAG - ESPECIALLY WHEN I'VE MET PEOPLE WHO DRAW IN THE FIRST 3 YEARS OR LESS WHEN THESE PEOPLE LIKE MYSELF THAT NEVER DRAW.
- 1032 Q19. PROBABLY DUE TO UNUSUAL STORM AND CONDITION IN H1 NEVER SAW AN ELK OR FRESH TRACKS/DROPPINGS
- 1033 IN MY OPINION THE #1 THING THAT SHOULD CHANGE IS THE PERCENTAGE OF LICENSES THAT ARE GIVEN TO LANDOWNERS. IT IS WAY TO EXCESSIVE. MY HUSBAND HAS 20 YEARS PREFERENCE POINTS FOR BLACK HILLS ANY ELK AND I HAVE TALKED TO SOME LANDOWNERS WHO GET AN ELK TAG EVERY YEAR. I THOUGHT THE WILD GAME OF SD BELONGED TO ALL

THE PEOPLE OF SD. THANKS FOR ALLOWING ME TO VOICE MY CONCERN.

- 1037 DIDN'T SEE AN ELK IN 7 LONG DAYS OF HUNTING. TOO MANY LICENSES FOR UNIT 1. GET RID OF THE MOUNTAIN LIONS.
- 1038 1) RESTRICT LANDOWNER TAG HOLDERS TO SHOOT BULLS ON THEIR OWN LAND OR ALLOW THEM TO SHOOT A COW ANYWHERE IN THE UNIT. DOESN'T SEEM FAIR THAT A LANDOWNER CAN GET A TAG EVERY YEAR AND THEN THEY DON'T HUNT ANYWHERE NEAR THEIR LAND. OR HAVE A RESTRICTION OR THE LANDOWNER MUST FILL THEIR TAG WITHIN A 1/2 MILE OF THEIR LAND. THE MAIN ABUSE I SEE IS IN THE BLACK HILLS UNITS, NOT SURE ABOUT THE PRAIRIE UNITS. 2) ADJUST THE TAG ALLOCATION ON PREFERENCE POINTS TO SOMETHING LIKE 15 + YEARS GET 80% 15-10 YEARS GET 15%, 10 YRS OR LESS GET 5%. 3) CONSIDER DIVIDING UNIT 2 INTO 2 OR 3 UNITS IN AN ATTEMPT TO INCREASE DRAW ODDS. MAYBE CONSIDER MAKING 1 OR 2 OF THE NEW UNITS INTO TROPHY UNITS. 4) CONSIDER ALLOW 1 HILLS WIDE TAG FOR AUCTION AVAILABLE TO RESIDENT OR NON-RESIDENT USE THE MONEY FOR HABITAT AND LANDOWNER RELIEF FROM ELK DAMAGE.
- 1039 Q3. NOT SURE HAVE NOT BEEN HUNTING ELK IN SD YET NOT EDUCATED ENOUGH TO KNOW HOW MANY ELK THE LAND CAN SUSTAIN IN THE BLACK HILLS. Q6 I AM AN OUTDOORS PERSON AND LOVE TO SEE WILD GAME ANY SORT HABITAT IS CRITICAL FOR THIS TO HAPPEN. Q35 ELIMINATES TOO MANY LICENSES IN MY OPINION FOR PEOPLE TRYING TO EXPERIENCE ELK HUNTING IN SD. OVERALL I BELIEVE GFP DOES A VERY GOOD JOB OF TRYING TO PLEASE EVERYONE, WHICH IS A VERY TRYING FEAT TO DO.
- 1052 I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU SENT THIS TO ME, WHEN I CAN'T EVEN DRAW A LICENSE IN SD. SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE ABOUT THE PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEM IN SD. LICENSE FEES DO NOT NEED TO BE INCREASED IN SD. WAGES DON'T SEEM TO GO UP IN SD. IN REGARDS TO TROPHY HUNTING Q.36 WHATEVER A PERSON HARVESTS IS A TROPHY. I AM SURE MY REMARKS WILL GO UNHEARD ANYWAY BY THE STATE.
- 1062 I WAS SURPRISED HOW MANY ELK I SAW IN SUCH A SMALL AREA I HUNTED IN. THE COW I TOOK WAS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.
- 1073 I BELIEVE IT IS UNFAIR FOR A PERSON TO APPLY FOR AN ELK TAG AND GET IT THE FIRST YEAR. PEOPLE THAT HAVE APPLIED FOR TAGS IN THE PAST SHOULD HAVE MORE OF AN OPPORTUNITY. THE PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEM NEEDS TO BE CHANGED IN SD.
- 1075 ALLOW ELK HUNTERS TO HUNT LIONS DURING ELK SEASON. THERE IS A LION PROBLEM IN THE HILLS...PLEASE ADMIT IT PUBLICLY!
- 1078 I HAVE NOT GOTTEN A LICENSE YET BUT I AM YOUNG AND HOPE TO GET ONE BEFORE MY UNCLE WHO HAD 18 YEARS PREFERENCE. GRANDPA HAD A LICENSE IN 2002 AND HAD HIS YEAR WAIT OVER ANY APPLYING AGAIN SO MAYBE WE CAN ALL GO TOGETHER SOME DAY.
- 1084 ONE CONCERN THAT I HAVE WITH THE RIFLE SEASON. I WAIT 7-20 YEARS TO DRAW A TAG AND OPENING DAY I HAVE TO SHARE MY HUNT WITH COW HUNTERS. PLEASE CHANGE THE HUNTING DATES FOR COW HUNTERS.
- 1086 MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE ELK ON THEIR LAND WON'T GIVE PEOPLE

- PERMISSION TO HUNT. I THINK THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONTROLLING THE MOUNTAIN LION POPULATION LONG BEFORE THEY STARTED & THERE WOULD BE MORE ELK.
- 1087 YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE THE ANY ELK & ANTLERLESS GOING ON AT THE SAME TIME IN THE PARK OR OUT. MAKE THE SEASONS SEPARATE. ALLOW THE USE OF DOGS FOR HUNTING MOUNTAIN LIONS.
- 1096 THE MOUNTAIN LIONS IN CUSTER STATE PARK SHOULD NOT BE PROTECTED AS THEY ARE. THEY SHOULD BE HUNTED LIKE THE REST OF THE BLACK HILLS.
- 1106 I WOULD LIKE TO HUNT ELK LOCALLY SOMEDAY LIKE WE DO DEER.
- 1109 I APPLIED FOR OVER 20 YEARS AND WAS TURNED DOWN EVERY YEAR. I QUIT BECAUSE AT THE AGE OF 88 I AM GETTING TOO OLD.
- 1111 THERE SHOULD BE MORE ELK IN SD. SIMPLY BECAUSE ELK BELONG IN SD AND IN MORE OF IT THAN JUST THE HILLS. HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES, DEPREDATION, CAR COLLISIONS ALL IRRELEVANT. ELK BELONG HERE, PERIOD
- 1119 MAYBE SPLIT ANY ELK AND ANTLERLESS SEASONS BY USING 7 DAY ALTERNATES (A) Oct 1-7, (b) OCT 8-14, (1) OCT 15-21, (B) OCT 22 - 28, (A) OCT & NOV 29 -5, (B) NOV 6-12, (A) NOV 13-19, (B) NOV 20-26, 2 SEASONS A&B, PICK 1
- 1123 IT SEEMS TO ME GFP ISN'T WORRIED ENOUGH ABOUT MOUNTAIN LIONS KILLING OFF OUR ELK! BACK IN THE DAY WE HAD TROPHY ELK IN CUSTER PARK, I'M GUESSING THERE WERE 50 TAGS AVAILABLE TO RIFLE HUNTERS, NOW THERE WAS WHAT 4? WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU, ELK ARE GOING TO BRING THE STATE FAR MORE REVENUE THAN MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING. LET'S GET THE CAT NUMBERS IN CONTROL. LET'S GET THE USE OF DOGS TO TREE THESE CATS AND GET THIS DONE!
- 1124 PLEASE KEEP IN MIND ONE OF THE REASONS I STAYED IN SD WAS THE ATMOSPHERE FOR HUNTING. EACH DECISION GFP MAKES AFFECTS THAT REASON. WHATEVER DECISIONS ARE MADE THE FUTURE, PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT COMMITMENTS OF THE PAST. SEVERAL STATEMENTS MADE SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO PASS SPECIFIC LOWS ARE NO LONGER SHARED BY THE NEXT GENERATION. TRUST IS EARNED NOT GIVEN.
- 1137 LANDOWNERS SHOULD ONLY RECEIVE AN ELK TAG EVERY 3RD YEAR. IF THE LANDOWNERS TAKE 50% OF THE TAGS THEN THEY SHOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO HARVEST THE ELK ON THEIR OWN PROPERTY. WHICH IS NOT THE CASE. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT NO ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DRAW A TAG IN THE FIRST YEAR THAT THEY APPLY FOR A TAG.
- 1138 KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! SD HUNTING IS GREAT THANKS TO SDGFP.
- 1156 LET'S KEEP AFTER REDUCING THE MTN LION POPULATION IN THE HILLS. I STILL FEEL THERE ARE TOO MANY LIONS, WHICH ARE REDUCING THE ELK AND DEER POPULATIONS. THANK YOU!
- 1174 THE BULL I HARVESTED IN 2012 HAS FED MY FAMILY FOR OVER A YEAR NOW WHICH IS GREAT. SOMEHOW THE POPULATION NEEDS TO BE INCREASED TO ALLOW BETTER DRAW

RATIO. 20 YEARS BETWEEN TAGS IS FAR TOO LONG. YET LANDOWNERS GET A TAG EVERY YEAR. SOME DON'T EVEN OWN THE LAND! THEY COULD BE CUT FOR A TAG EVERY 5 YEARS AT LEAST.

- 1180 YOU SHOULD HAVE LESS PROBLEMS TRYING TO INCREASE HERDS SIZES IF YOU KNOTHEADS HADN'T INTRODUCED MOUNTAIN LIONS TO THE BLACK HILLS, WHICH ARE NOT BEING MANAGED AT ALL AND ARE COMPLETELY OVERPOPULATED FOR THEIR RANGE.
- 1184 I THINK YOU SHOULD LET PEOPLE USE DOGS TO HUNT MOUNTAIN LIONS.
- 1187 EVERY BIG GAME HUNTER WOULD LIKE TO HUNT ELK ONCE IN THERE LIVES, I SURE KNOW I WOULD! AND WHEN I DRAW A TAG I SURE HOPE THAT I'M NOT 80 YEARS OLD.
- 1201 I THINK YOU SHOULD MAKE PEOPLE BUY A SD HUNTING LICENSE IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR AN ELK OR ANY BIG GAME TAG LIKE IT USED TO BE. THAT WOULD BE MORE SENSIBLE TO ME THAN RAISING APPLICATION FEES.
- 1204 WE PREFER TO HUNT ON FOOT TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE HUNT. IT SEEMED LIKE MANY ELK WERE HARVESTED BY ROAD HUNTERS. WHEN YOU WAIT FOR SO MANY YEARS TO DRAW A LICENSE, IT SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE SHOULD MAKE IT A "REAL" HUNT. IT WOULD BE GREAT IF SOME OF THE TRAILS COULD BE CLOSED DOWN DURING THE SEASON TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE HUNT FOR PEOPLE THAT WANT THE QUALITY EXPERIENCE IN THE BLACK HILLS. I THINK OUR ELK HERD IS A TREASURE.
- 1209 Q7. LIVESTOCK SHOULD NEVER BE ON PUBLIC LAND. Q7F BULL CRAP Q11. CAN'T SEE GIVING THE STATE \$5 FOR NOT GETTING A LICENSE.
- 1211 Q16 YES IN MT, SD I'M NOT SURE BEEN SO LONG AGO. I TRY TO ELK HUNT EVERY YEAR WHICH EVER STATE I CAN GET A LICENSE. MOSTLY MONTANA. TALKING WITH PEOPLE FROM PRINGLE, CUSTER AREAS THEY BELIEVE THE MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE TO BLAME FOR LOWER ELK IN THE AREA. I'VE ALSO VISITED WITH SOME PEOPLE WHO TOOK HORSES OUT TO THE HILLS AREA, THE SPENT A LOT OF TIME AND RODE HARD. THEY SAID THEY NEVER SEEN AN ELK. THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY WOULD NEVER BUY A LICENSE FOR ELK AGAIN IN SD. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE RATE OF SUCCESS FOR NON-LANDOWNERS IS. I WOULD HAVE TO STUDY ALL THE FACTS BEFORE I'D BE ABLE TO SAY ANYTHING. I DO ENJOY ELK HUNTING!
- 1219 I FEEL THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO DO IS GET RID OF THE MOUNTAIN LIONS. OPEN THE LION HUNTS DURING THE DEER AND ELK SEASON SO THE QUOTA THEY SET GETS MET EVERY YEAR. DO THIS UNTIL THEY HAVE THEM IN CONTROL. ALSO THE LICENSE FOR ELK NEEDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED BETTER. I FEEL IF PEOPLE WANT TO HUNT ELK THEY SHOULD PUT IN FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS BEFORE THEY EVEN GO IN THE DRAW. I KNOW PEOPLE WHO HAVE 16 YEARS (OUT OF PARK) WHO HAVEN'T DRAWN AND PEOPLE WHO DREW THE 1ST YEAR, THIS IS NOT RIGHT. THIS WILL ALSO WORK FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE DRAWN AND CAN'T PUT IN FOR 9 YEARS. THEY COULD START IN AGAIN AND HAVE A CHANCE TO AT LEAST DRAW AGAIN. I WAS 48 YEARS OLD BEFORE I DREW AND MY CHANCES OF DRAWING AGAIN IS SLIM TO NONE SO I WILL PROB NOT EVER PUT IN AGAIN AND THE \$5.00 FEE WILL BE LOST THAT THE STATE COULD USE.
- 1221 I HAVE HUNTED WITH OTHERS WENT ALONG TO HELP. BUT [HAVEN'T] DRAWN A TAG

MYSELF. I DO SEE WE STILL HAVE TOO MANY LIONS IN THE BLACK HILLS.

- 1249 YOU SENT ME THIS 3 TIMES. I SENT THE FIRST ONE BACK FILLED OUT #2 TRASH #3 HERE IT IS.
- 1251 WAS DISCOURAGED, HUNTED HARD FOR MANY DAYS-PUT IN MANY HOURS AND NEVER EVEN SAW A COW. MORE MOUNTAIN LION TRACKS THAN ANYTHING. TOO MANY HUNTERS, I SAW MORE PEOPLE THAN ANY KIND OF WILDLIFE. I THINK THERE IS A SEVERE PROBLEM WITH SD GFP MANAGEMENT. IT SEEMS LIKE IT HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT MONEY MAKER. THE MONEY FROM SELLING TOO MANY LICENSES FOR THE AMOUNT OF WILDLIFE. IT HAS BECOME MORE ABOUT FUNDING SDGFP THAN MANAGING WILDLIFE. MAYBE SOME OF THE PEOPLE DRIVING THOSE BRAND NEW TRUCKS WORKING OUT OF A MILLION DOLLAR BUILDING SHOULD GET OUT AND SEE WHAT HUNTERS FACE AND, I DON'T KNOW MAYBE LISTEN TO THE FEEDBACK FROM THE "BOOTS ON THE GROUND" CAN OFFER. THE MOST COMMON COMPLAINT IS A LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LANDOWNERS AND GFP. THEY ARE ON THE LAND EVERYDAY MAYBE THEY KNOW SOMETHING.
- 1263 I RECENTLY WENT TO MONTANA ON AN SELF-GUIDED ELK HUNT AND PAID OVER \$800 FOR A LICENSE. I FEEL THE SD TAG SHOULD BE AT LEAST \$400 - \$500.
- 1265 I HAVE NEVER BEEN ELK HUNTING AND PROBABLY NEVER WILL.
- 1266 WHEN LANDOWNERS COMPLAIN ABOUT ELK DAMAGE TO THEIR PROPERTY, DO NOT OVER REACT AND OVER HARVEST, WHICH HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST. WORK WITH THE FS WHEN WRITING THEIR FOREST PLAN. STRESS THE NEED FOR MORE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT, MORE CLEAR CUTS AND CONTROL BURNING. PINE ENCROACHMENT IS BAD FOR ELK.
- 1268 I FEEL IF LANDOWNERS GET ELK DEPREDATION ASSISTANCE THEY SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO LET HUNTERS HARVEST AT LEAST ANTLERLESS ELK.
- 1285 TELL THE PUBLIC THE TRUTH ABOUT LIONS KILLING OUR ELK & OTHER WILDLIFE I FEEL THERE ARE TOO MANY LIONS IN SD. I HAVE LOST A LOT OF PREF. POINTS FOR SHEEP & GOATS I HAVE SEEN TRAIL CAMERA PICTURES OF LIONS KILLING ELK CALVES AND DEER AND I FEEL THE LIONS ARE OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM FOR WILDLIFE NUMBERS IN THE BLACK HILLS.
- 1306 I WORKED IN THE BLACK HILLS IN THE EARLY 70'S. IN THE WOODS A LOT AND I SAW VERY FEW ELK. I THINK THE GFP HAS DONE A GOOD JOB OF MANAGING THE ELK HERD. THE NUMBERS HAVE INCREASED DRAMATICALLY SINCE THE 1970'S. EVEN WITH THE INCREASE IN HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS, BETTER ROADS, INFLUX OF ATV TRAFFIC AND OTHER RECREATION ACTIVITIES THE NUMBERS SEEM TO BE OK. NOT SURE WHY CSP HAS SO FEW ELK. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE LIBERAL MOUNTAIN LION SEASONS (I.E. USE OF DOGS) AND LESS ATV TRAFFIC IN REMOTE AREAS.
- 1312 KILL THE LIONS AND THE ELK WILL INCREASE MAKING IT MORE POSSIBLE FOR MORE PEOPLE TO HUNT.
- 1319 Q35 - IF GIVEN A TAG, THEY SHOULD HUNT THEIR OWN LAND
- 1337 HAVE NEVER DRAWN A TAG

- 1343 I FEEL IF A PERSON GETS A LANDOWNER TAG THEY SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THEIR OWN LAND. OVER GRAZING OF THE PUBLIC LAND BY LIVESTOCK LIMITS THE ELK POPULATION AND INCREASES THE NEED FOR ELK TO GO TO PRIVATE LAND SOURCES OF FEED.
- 1368 THE REASON I WAS DISAPPOINTED WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT MANY OF THE ELK WOULD CONGREGATE ON PRIVATE LAND THAT WAS NOT ACCESSIBLE TO HUNTERS OTHER THAN THE LANDOWNERS. I SAW HERDS OF 200 - 500 HEAD ON PRIVATE LAND & LANDOWNERS WOULD NOT ALLOW ACCESS. I FEEL THAT IF THOSE LANDOWNERS ACCEPT HELP FROM THE STATE OR GFP FOR FENCES & FEEDING DURING THE REST OF THE YEAR THEN THEY SHOULD HAVE TO ALLOW PUBLIC ACCESS TO THEIR LAND AND THE ELK THAT CONGREGATE ON THOSE PROPERTIES.
- 1372 IN THE EARLY 2000'S BOTH MY MOTHER & FATHER GOT ELK TAGS IN THE HILLS THERE WERE ABOUT THE RIGHT NUMBER OF ELK THERE. NOW I THINK THEY ARE COMPETING WITH THE MOUNTAIN LIONS & YOUR NUMBERS ARE TERRIBLE LOW. REDUCE THE LION NUMBERS DRASTICALLY AND YOUR ELK POPULATION WILL RETURN.
- 1373 I DO NOT LIKE THE EXISTING LOTTO SYSTEM. I LIKEN IT WHEN YOU SEND IN THE ENTIRE AMOUNT AND THEN IF YOU WERE TURNED DOWN YOU RECEIVED A REFUND. 1. THIS DISCOURAGED THE ANTI ELK HUNTER FROM SENDING AN APP IN AND POSSIBLY TAKING A TAG. 2. IT REALLY HELPED IN THE NUMBERS. NOW WITH ONLY \$5.00 APP FEE EVERYONE SEEMS TO SEND IN. 3. IF YOU INCREASE THE APP FEE TO \$20 TO \$50 IT MAY MAKE THE APPLICANT THINK FIRST BEFORE THEY SEND IT. 4. SURE WOULD BE NICE TO OPEN WIND CAVE TO HUNTING.
- 1375 Q8. BUT UNFORTUNATELY I MAY HAVE TO GO TO OTHER STATE TO HUNT DUE TO LOW POPULATIONS HERE.
- 1387 IT IS TO HOT IN OCTOBER. I WOULD BET AT LEAST 50% OR MORE, BULL ELK SPOIL BECAUSE IT'S NOT COLD ENOUGH, STILL MILLIONS OF FLIES & BEES, IF YOU HAVE EVER DRESSED A BULL ELK IN OCTOBER YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE THE USE OF 4 WHEELERS, FORBIDDEN ON ALL PUBLIC LANDS, AS I UNDERSTAND IT YOU HAVE CLOSED 90% OF THE FIRE TRAILS & ROADS TO VEHICLE TRAVEL, BUT OPEN TO 4 WHEELER'S & HORSES, THEY CAN FREE WHEEL UP EVERY SPINE, DRAW, & [CANYON], THEIR TRACKS ARE REALLY VISIBLE AFTER BOW SEASON. I'VE HAD A STROKE, A HEART ATTACK, TRIPLE BY-PASS HEART SURGERY, SO YOU HAVE TAKEN ME OUT OF THE HUNT. I CAN'T WALK UPHILL, YET ALONE DRAG OR PACK OUT AN ELK OR DEER.
- 1393 MAKE A NEW PRIORITY OF HUNTERS WITH 15 + YEARS OF PREFERENCE. GIVE THE GUYS WITH A LOT OF TIME LICENSES. LEAVE THE ONES WITH 10 OR LESS YEARS OUT OF THE DRAW.
- 1394 Q2 SOME AREAS ARE OVER POPULATED WITH DEER & TURKEYS. I DON'T THINK WE NEED WOLVES OR MOUNTAIN LIONS. I THINK WE HAVE AREAS OF OVER POPULATION
- 1405 I HAVE NOT HUNTED YET. STILL WAITING TO GET A PERMIT. I THINK IT IS CRAZY THAT LANDOWNERS GET SO MANY PERMITS! CAN THEY GET A LICENSE EVERY YEAR? HOW LONG DO THEY HAVE TO WAIT? NORMAL PEOPLE USUALLY WAIT 10+ YEARS TO DRAW A TAG. IF ELK ARE A PUBLIC RESOURCE SHOULDN'T EVERYONE GET AN EQUAL SHOT?

- 1424 IF LANDOWNERS GET A TAG, THEY NEED TO SHOOT IT ON THEIR LAND. IF THEY DON'T WANT CROP DAMAGE THEY NEED TO LET PUBLIC SHOOT COWS. NO YOUTH HUNTING DURING ARCHERY ELK.
- 1436 I HUNT ALL OVER THE STATE AND THE ONE THING THAT IS VERY DISTURBING IS THE PRACTICE OF ALLOWING CATTLE TO GRAZE/DESTROY WALK IN LAND, SOME OF MY FAVORITE HUNTING SPOTS WHICH WERE GREAT COVER AREAS FOR ANIMALS AS WELL AS NESTING GROUNDS HAVE BEEN DECIMATED? WHY? HUNTER DOLLARS TO LEASE LAND THAT DOESN'T HOLD WILDLIFE ONLY CATTLE. VERY BAD PRACTICE NOTHING TO DO WITH CONSERVATION OF HUNTING. JUST MORE GRASS FOR COWS!
- 1439 WHY WOULD ANYONE START APPLYING FOR ELK TAGS WHEN THEY KNOW YOU MUST HAVE OVER 20 YEARS OF POINTS TO EVEN HAVE A CHANGE AT A TAG. I HAVE 15 YEARS OF POINTS AND I'M DONE TRYING. I'M 65 YEARS OLD NOW, SO 10 YEARS FROM NOW I PROBABLY WON'T BE HERE ON THIS EARTH. CHANGE SOMETHING. Q11 - MY CHANCES OF EVEN GETTING A LICENSE IS ALMOST NONE.
- 1456 MY GRANDSON HAD AN ELK LICENSE THIS YEAR AND HARDLY ANY LAND OWNER WOULD ALLOW HIM TO HUNT ON THEIR LAND. I FEEL THE LANDOWNER, HUNTERS, AND & GF&P NEED TO CO-OPERATE MORE. IF A LANDOWNER DOESN'T ALLOW HARDLY ANY HUNTING THEY DO NOT DESERVE A DEPREDATION PAYMENT.
- 1457 GET QUALIFIED PERSONNEL IN MANAGEMENT RATHER THAN POLITICAL OR RELATIVE
- 1478 I AM MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE GFP LETTING THE MOUNTAIN LIONS GET OUT OF CONTROL AND LETTING IT EFFECT THE ELK HERD AND DEER HERD THE WAY IT DID. GET THE MOUNTAIN LIONS IN CHECK.
- 1485 ON Q12 IF THE LANDOWNER LETS PEOPLE HUNT ON HIS LAND AND HE STILL HAS ELK DEPREDATION HE SHOULD RECEIVE ASSISTANCE BUT IF HE DOESN'T LET ANYONE HUNT HE SHOULD RECEIVE NOTHING.
- 1496 GIVEN THE SNOWFALL OF EARLY OCTOBER 2013, PARTICULARLY IN THE H2 UNIT, A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF FOREST SERVICE WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO HUNT ON AND HUNTERS WERE FORCED TO THE SOUTH END OF THE UNIT. THIS PROBLEM RESULTED IN A LOT OF HUNTING PRESSURE, NOT TO MENTION THAT THE TROPHY BULLS WERE MUCH, MUCH HARDER TO FIND. (I DID NOT SEE ONE) I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE STATE REVIEW THE HARVEST NUMBERS AND ISSUE NEW ELK LICENSES TO THOSE WHO DREW IN THE H2 UNIT THIS TIME NEXT YEAR.
- 1507 I FEEL THAT THE USFS IS ALLOWING WAY TO MANY CATTLE GRAZING IN LOCATIONS PRIME FOR ELK. THE CATTLE NEED TO BE COMPLETELY OFF ALL GRAZING PERMITS BY THE 1ST OF OCTOBER AT THE LATEST! THIS YEAR, IF THIS WAS A LAW THEY WOULDN'T HAVE HAD SO MANY TRAPPED BY THE SNOWSTORM AS HAS HAPPENED IN YEARS PAST ALSO. LAST YEAR I WAS HAULING LOGS OFF OF THE MOSKEE AREA, THEY HAD 700+ CATTLE IN THERE ALL SUMMER WE WERE HAVING A DROUGHT DURING ELK SEASON THEY PLANNED ON KILLING 160 ELK. THEY ONLY HARVESTED 20. WELL NO WONDER THE ELK MOVED SOUTH AND EAST BECAUSE THERE WAS NO FEED LEFT A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF OVER GRAZING BY RANCHERS. LESS CATTLE AND CAN LION REMOVAL IS WHAT I THINK IT'S ALWAYS THE POOR RANCHERS.

THEY ALSO GET TO HARVEST AN ELK THAT LICENSE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO A HUNTER!

- 1510 I UNDERSTAND THAT CWD PUT A HURT ON ELK POPULATIONS, BUT MISMANAGEMENT OF MOUNTAIN LION POPULATIONS DID JUST AS MUCH DAMAGE. NOW YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK - I THINK! SOUNDS LIKE WE NEED TO KILL MORE LIONS IN CUSTER STATE PARK, SINCE ALL THE CALVES ARE KILLED IN THEIR FIRST FEW MONTHS OF LIFE. BUT OTHER AREAS OF THE HILLS ARE LOOKING BETTER, WITH HIGHER COUNTS. SURVEY A GOOD IDEA - MAKE GOOD USE OF IT!
- 1515 Q15. PRAIRIE UNIT BETWEEN SPEARFISH & BELLE FOURCHE
- 1521 WITH THE SNOW STORM THAT TOOK PLACE THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SEASON IN THE NORTHERN UNITS OF THE BLACK HILLS, I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ON THE GFP'S LACK OF INFORMATION WEATHER THEY WOULD CHANGE THE DATES OR EXTEND THE SEASON I HAVE HEARD NOTHING. IF THE MOTTO IS "SERVING PEOPLE, PROTECTING WILDLIFE" IT SEEMS TO BE LACKING WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS. I HAVE WAITED 15 YEARS TO HUNT ELK, NOW IT'S OVER, AND I HAVE A BAD TASTE IN MY MOUTH HOW MY 1 DAY OF ELK HUNTING WENT. I COULDN'T AFFORD TO MAKE ANOTHER TRIP.
- 1527 I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW FOR AN ELK YEARLY, SOME STATES YOU CAN. I AM AGAINST FACTORY FARMING AND WOULD LIKE AN ELK TO FEED MY FAMILY THROUGH THE YEAR.
- 1528 I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT CONTROLLING A GROWING NUMBER OF MOUNTAIN LIONS HAS BECOME A PRIORITY. IN 2011 I HUNTED THE BLACK HILLS DEER SEASON AND SEEN A HERD OF APPROXIMATELY 50 HEAD OF ELK THAT NO CALVES. LAST YEAR MY DAD HAD A TAG FOR ANTLERLESS ELK IN UNIT 2 AND THE HERD HE HARVESTED HIS ELK FROM HAD A HEALTHY MIX OF COWS, BULLS, AND CALVES. I TRULY THINK OVER POPULATION OF MOUNTAIN LIONS GREATLY AFFECTED ELK AND DEER HERDS. THANK YOU!
- 1530 Q4: REDUCE THE LIVESTOCK ON PUBLIC RANGE - MAKE ROOM FOR ELK; Q5B: NO WAY! THEY GET TOO MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO HUNT ELK ALREADY; Q7K: ELK SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY...NOT COWS.
- 1531 SOMETHING HAS BOTHERED ME ABOUT LANDOWNERS GETTING A LICENSE FOR ELK. BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER, I DO BELIEVE THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO HUNT ELK WHEN THE ELK ARE FEEDING OFF THEIR LAND OR IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THEIR LAND. NOW TO THE POINT - I DO NOT THINK IT IS FAIR TO THE OTHER HUNTERS THAT THEY CAN HUNT ANYWHERE IN THAT UNIT!! IT IS JUST NOT RIGHT. THANKS FOR ALLOWING ME TO VOICE MY OPINION.
- 1533 TOO MANY LIONS (CATS) ASK MONTANA ABOUT WOLF, HOW LONG UNTIL WE HAVE THE SAME? LET US USE DOGS FOR CATS - PROBLEM SOLVED. STOP ON DEER TAGS, ALSO NO DEER ANYMORE
- 1541 OPEN UP LION SEASON DURING ELK SEASON. CUT THE POPULATION OF LIONS TO ZERO!
- 1542 IN 2009 I HUNTED 13 DAYS (INCLUDING SCOUTING) AND I SAW ONE COW, ONE FORKHORN BULL, AND ONE FIVE POINT BULL THAT HAD BEEN KILLED AND PARTIALLY EATEN BY A LION, UNIT 3

- 1547 I WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY A \$20 APPLICATION FEE EVERY YEAR, POSSIBLY EVEN MORE, IF I KNEW MOST OF ALL OF THE FEE WENT TO PRESERVING AND IMPROVING ELK HABITAT. I DO NOT FEEL THE MONEY WOULD BE WELL SPENT IF IT WENT TO ELK DEPREDATION. I KNOW ELK CAN CAUSE DAMAGE TO CROPS AND HAY, ESPECIALLY DURING WINTER MONTHS, BUT THE LANDOWNERS CAN EASILY PREVENT SOME LOSS WITH PROTECTIVE FENCING. IF THE MONEY WAS SPENT ON IMPROVING HABITAT AND WINTER FOOD SOURCE, THE PROBLEM WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS.
- 1550 OPEN UP WIND CAVE TO ELK HUNTING OPEN MOUNTAIN LION SEASON YEAR ROUND NO LIMIT, I THINK THAT'S HALF THE PROBLEM BUT GFP WON'T ADMIT IT.
- 1557 Q12 - IF THE LANDOWNER RECEIVED MONEY FOR DEPREDATION, BUT WON'T LET ME HUNT, THAT IS WRONG, I HAVE RUN INTO THAT. AND FINALLY I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW, THERE IS A LOT OF PUBLIC GROUND TO HUNT BUT IT IS LAND-LOCKED BY PRIVATE GROUND, HOW IS ANYONE TO HUNT THAT?
- 1563 AFTER 20 YEARS OF PREFERENCE POINTS WITHOUT SUCCESSFUL DRAW - MAKE SPECIAL DRAWING BEFORE TOO OLD TO HUNT!
- 1567 THE ONLY COMMENT I HAVE IS I WONDER WHY MY 15 YEAR OLD IS GIVEN A SURVEY FOR SOMETHING I HAVE ONLY SENT PREFERENCE POINTS FOR HIM ON. ALSO qQ12 I HAD HIM ANSWER NOT WILLING TO PAY MORE BECAUSE THIS SURVEY IS A WASTE OF DOLLARS FOR THE PERSON IT IS INTENDED FOR. DOLLARS WOULD BE BETTER PUT TOWARDS LAND, LANDOWNERS AND OTHERS. NOT THIS. TOO MANY PEOPLE SITTING AT A DESK AND NOT IN THE FIELD.
- 1569 Q12 IF I WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO HUNT/THOSE PROGRAMS. Q11 10 YEARS IS TOO LONG TO DRAW A TAG. NEED TO AFFORD MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO NON LANDOWNERS.
- 1587 I HAVE APPLIED FOR ABOUT 13 YEARS HAVE NOT DRAWN A TAG I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A HIGH PERCENT OF LICENSES GO TO THE HIGHEST AMOUNT OF APPLICATIONS NEW APPLICANTS SHOULD RECEIVE NO MORE THAN 10% OF LICENSES
- 1591 SAW VERY FEW ELK CALVES DURING THE HUNT. SAW 1 MOUNTAIN LION DURING THE HUNT AND ON SAME DAY APPROXIMATELY 10 MILES AWAY SAW THE TRACKS OF ANOTHER LION ON TOP OF VERY FRESH ELK TRACKS.
- 1594 LANDOWNERS GET A DEPREDATION BULL TAG YEARLY I DREW MY ANY ELK TAG THIS YEAR I HAVE TO WAIT TEN YEARS TO APPLY AGAIN AND I WAITED 13 YEARS TO GET A TAG TO BEGIN WITH. GIVE THE LANDOWNER A COW TAG YEARLY. CLOSE THE GAP A LITTLE. I WAIT 13 YEARS AND POTENTIALLY NOW ANOTHER 25 YEARS IF I OWNED LAND I COULD GET A BULL EVERY YEAR. COME ON GUYS.
- 1600 MY FAMILY AND I HAVE BEEN HUNTING FOR YEARS. BESIDES GETTING WILD GAME TO FEED OUR FAMILIES AND PRACTICING WILDLIFE CONTROL, HUNTING TOGETHER BRINGS OUR FAMILY TOGETHER AND WE CREATE MANY MEMORIES THAT WE TALK ABOUT FOR YEARS TO COME. WILDLIFE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THIS. THIS SURVEY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. I DO HAVE COMMENTS ABOUT ELK HUNTING IN THE BLACK HILLS. MY COMMENTS STEM FROM

MY LAST ELK HUNTING TRIP OUT THERE. A FAMILY MEMBER DREW AN "ANY ELK" TAG AND WE WENT HUNTING EVERY WEEKEND DURING THE SEASON. LIVING 6 HOURS AWAY WE COULD ONLY HUNT ON THE WEEKENDS. DURING OPENING WEEKEND, WE WOULD BE WALKING THROUGH THE HILLS AND WOULD ALL OF A SUDDEN COME ACROSS A 4-WHEELER AND/OR HORSES RUNNING AROUND THE HILLS ROUNDING UP THEIR CATTLE THAT ARE ALLOWED TO ROAM FREELY. AS YOU KNOW ELK ARE NOT GOING TO HANG AROUND WITH ALL THAT ACTIVITY. THIS OBVIOUSLY HURT OUR SUCCESS OF GETTING AN ELK. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS OF FARMERS BEING ALLOWED TO LET THEIR CATTLE ROAM ON PUBLIC LAND, SO I AM LIMITED IN MY COMMENTS, BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHY THAT THERE CANNOT BE A REQUIREMENT THAT THESE FARMERS HAVE TO HAVE ALL THEIR CATTLE OUT 2 WEEKS BEFORE THE ELK SEASON OPENS. IF THEY ARE NOT OUT AT THAT TIME, THEN THEY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL ELK SEASON IS DONE. I FEEL IF THEY GET THE HUGE BENEFIT OF ALLOWING THEIR CATTLE TO GRAZE THE HILLS, THEN WE HUNTERS SHOULD BE SHOWN SOME COURTESY AT THE MINIMUM. I AM NOT SURE HOW MUCH GRAZING OF CATTLE HELPS THE ENVIRONMENT CONTROL OUT THERE. I DO NOT HAVE THE FACTS AND FIGURES FROM STUDIES, BUT, I DO KNOW FROM BEING A BIOLOGY MAJOR THAT WHEN ONE ANIMAL CONSUMES THE MAJORITY OF THE FOOD SOURCE, OTHER ANIMALS ARE DRIVEN OUT OF THE AREA. PERHAPS THIS IS HAPPENING TO THE ELK BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF CATTLE OUT THERE. ANOTHER COMMENT I HAVE IS ABOUT THE NUMBER OF ELK TAGS GIVEN TO LANDOWNERS. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND HOW MANY LANDOWNER TAGS WERE FILLED. IF THEY ARE GIVEN TAGS BECAUSE THERE IS ELK OVER-POPULATION PROBLEM ON THEIR LAND, I WOULD ASSUME THAT THEIR SUCCESS RATE FOR GETTING AN ELK SHOULD BE CLOSE TO 100%. IN THE SAME REGARDS, IF TOO MANY ELK ARE GRAZING THEIR LAND, WHY DO THEY NOT OPEN THEIR LAND UP TO ELK HUNTERS? PERHAPS THEY SHOULD NOTIFY GFP THAT THEIR LAND IS AVAILABLE TO HUNTERS. I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME MAY BE HESITANT TO HAVE PEOPLE THEY DO NOT KNOW HUNTING ON THEIR LAND BECAUSE THERE IS SOME IRRESPONSIBLE HUNTERS OUT THERE, BUT HOPEFULLY A WAY CAN BE FIGURED OUT TO HELP THIS. ANOTHER THOUGHT COULD CRP LAND BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FOR HUNTING? I BELIEVE OUR TAX DOLLARS PAY FOR IT. IT SEEMS A LOT OF THE WILDLIFE FIGURE OUT THE AREAS THAT ARE NOT HUNTED AND MIGRATE TO THOSE AREAS. THIS MAKES IT HARDER FOR CONTROL OF WILDLIFE NUMBERS. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO SEND OUT THESE QUESTIONNAIRES. I THINK THEY ARE GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR GFP TO GET GOOD FEEDBACK FROM SD HUNTERS. IT SHOWS US YOU ARE WILLING TO LISTEN TO US AND FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE OUR WILDLIFE HABITAT IN SD. HUNTING IS A BIG PART OF OUR LIFE-STYLES HERE, IT IS NICE TO SEE A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO CONSERVE THIS GREAT BENEFIT WE HAVE IN SD.

- 1605 I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY LANDOWNERS ARE ALLOTTED SO MANY OF THE ELK TAGS. I ALSO DON'T AGREE WITH THE FREQUENCY LANDOWNERS CAN GET ELK TAGS.
- 1612 UP PREDATOR CONTROL PROGRAM. ELK EXPOSURE TO PEOPLE IN CUSTER STATE PARK IS TOO HIGH. REDUCTION OF ELK ARCHERY LICENSES IS UNFAIR. LEFT OVER COW ELK PERMITS?
- 1617 I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A NICE SIZEABLE HEARD OF ELK THAT IS HEALTHY AND CAN SUSTAIN. I WOULD LOVE TO SEE THE NUMBER OF ANY ELK TAG INCREASE BY A LOT. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ME IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS.
- 1619 I DISAGREE WITH LANDOWNERS [STAUTES] IF THE PERSON HOLDS A LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND,

THAT QUALIFIES THEM TO BE A LANDOWNER AND I FEEL THAT IS WRONG. PREFERENCE POINTS SYSTEM IS WRONG SOMEONE WITH 10 YEARS PREFERENCE POINTS CAN BE TURNED DOWN FOR A LICENSE AND PERSON WITH 1 YEAR OR NO PREFERENCE CAN DRAW A TAG.

- 1621 I AM VERY DISSATISFIED WITH MY HUNTING EXPERIENCE BECAUSE SD DESTROYED MY HUNTING HABITAT DURING SEASON MY ONCE IN A LIFETIME IS GONE
- 1624 OUR ELK POPULATION AND DEER WOULD BE BETTER IN THE HILLS IF CONTROL OF THE MTN LIONS HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED BEFORE SO MUCH DESTRUCTION TO THE HERDS HAD HAPPENED. HUNTERS TRY TO TELL YOU THIS BUT GFP DOESN'T LISTEN TOO WELL. THE HUNTERS AND LANDOWNERS KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING SO LISTEN TO THEM AND THEIR INPUT.
- 1631 LET US NOT COMMERCIALIZE ELK HUNTING. PUBLIC LAND IS FOR PUBLIC NOT FOR CATTLE. Q14 - WITH HUNTER WITH A TAG. Q19 - MOST OF THE ELK WERE ON PRIVATE LAND AND HEARD A RUMOR THAT THEY WERE HEADED TO PRIVATE LAND.
- 1640 I HUNT ALL TYPES OF BIG GAME IN THE HILLS. THE PUBLIC LAND SET ASIDE FOR THE PUBLIC'S USE IS BEING GATED OFF MORE AND MORE. THIS PISSES ME OFF BEYOND CONTROL! THAT LAND IS OWNED BY "WE THE PEOPLE" AND IS TREATED AS IF IT IS OWNED BY THE PEOPLE WHO "MANAGE" IT. THAT LAND SHOULD NOT BE GRAZED FOR PROFIT TO ANYONE. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY IT IN ANY FORM AS LONG AS THE PEOPLE ARE NOT DESTROYING IT. MY HARD EARNED TAX DOLLARS PAID FOR THAT LAND. THE FENCES AND GATES WILL BE CUT AND DROPPED IF I GET NEAR THEM. THE ARROGANCE OF PEOPLE TELLING OTHERS THEY CAN'T GO HERE OR THERE AMAZES ME. THIS NEEDS TO BE ADDRESS!
- 1647 SHOULD NOT NEED TO WAIT 10 YEARS BETWEEN HUNTING BULL ELK. SOME PEOPLE GET THEM RIGHT AWAY AND SOME NEVER GET THEM. I FEEL THE DRAWING ISN'T FAIR.
- 1656 IS THE FEE FOR GRAZING LIVESTOCK ON PUBLIC LAND ENOUGH OR SHOULD THERE BE LESS GRAZING, LEAVING MORE GRAZING FOR ELK?
- 1657 AN INCREASE IN BOW TAGS FOR ELK WOULD GIVE MANY MORE HUNTERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE ELK HUNTING WITH MINIMAL EFFECT ON THE OVERALL ELK POPULATIONS
- 1666 QUIT MANAGING SIMPLY FOR LANDOWNERS.
- 1676 I THINK THERE ARE GOOD NUMBERS OF ELK IN CERTAIN AREAS. TOO FEW IN OTHER HARD TO CONTROL HAVING ALL AGE CLASSES IN THE HERD IS IMPORTANT. CSP HAD A LOT OF ELK THE FIRST TIME I HUNTED IT. THE SECOND TIME LESS AND IT SOUNDS LIKE IT IS A DISASTER RIGHT NOW.
- 1681 Q1&2: THIS IS INTENDED TRICK QUESTION! BECAUSE YOU WANT US TO ANSWER - VERY IMPORTANT. I DON'T SUPPORT MOUNTAIN LIONS, WOLVES, AND COYOTES. DO YOU CONSIDER THEM UNDER THIS LINE OF QUESTIONING??
- 1691 IT SHOULD BE ILLEGAL FOR LANDOWNERS TO CHARGE TO HUNT IF THEY RECEIVE ANY MONEYS FROM THE GFP FOR DEPREDATION. A LIST OF LANDOWNERS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO HUNTER VIA GFP WEBSITE SO LANDOWNERS CAN BE CONTACTED BY HUNTERS TO HARVEST

SOME OF THE ANIMALS CAUSING THEM PROBLEMS

- 1700 CUT BACK ON NUMBER OF LANDOWNER TAGS AND NOT HAVE THEM BE ABLE TO GET LICENSE EVERY YEAR UNLESS COW TAGS ONLY.
- 1704 I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR THE HARD WORK FOR ME TO ENJOY ELK HUNTING IN MY STATE OF SD
- 1706 WISH WE AS SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS HAD MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO ELK HUNT. IT IS TOUGH APPLYING FOR 15-20 YEARS TO ACQUIRE A TAG WHICH MAY BE DURING A TIME WHEN NUMBERS ARE DOWN.
- 1710 IF A LANDOWNER RECEIVES FUNDS THROUGH THE DEPREDATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, HE SHOULD ALLOW SOME PUBLIC HUNTING OF ELK ON HIS LAND.
- 1711 I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SEE THE USE OF DOGS IN HUNTING MOUNTAIN LIONS. IN MY OPINION, THIS COULD DIRECTLY AFFECT ELK POPULATIONS. HARVESTING THE RIGHT LION IS EASIER WITH A DOG, MAKING EACH LION TAG MORE EFFECTIVE.
- 1713 IN LATE OCT. THE LAST FEW YEARS I HAVE BEEN IN THE BLACK HILLS. MOST OF NOT ALL BUT MOST OF THE ELK IN H1 AND NORTH PART OF H2 HAD ALREADY MOVED SOUTH. THIS MAKES IT VERY HARD FOR AN ELK. MAYBE AN EARLIER SEASON COULD BE CONSIDERED IN THESE AREAS.
- 1717 WILL I BE ABLE TO SHOOT AN ELK THIS CENTURY? THANK YOU! I GO TO COLORADO & WYOMING, BUT I'D LIKE TO GET ONE FROM OUR STATE.
- 1730 Q12 - I HAVE APPLIED FOR A CSP ELK LICENSE FOR SEVERAL YEARS INCLUDING SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE LEAVING SD AND RETURNING TO SD I REALIZE THAT ODDS ARE NOT GOOD. BUT I QUESTION THE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CSP LICENSES AVAILABLE. THE NUMBER IS DOWN TO A VERY LOW NUMBER. WHY? BASED ON WHAT HAS HAPPENED I'M NOT HAPPY PAYING ANYTHING!
- 1734 I'M 64 YEARS OLD. GOT MY FIRST ELK TAG THREE YEARS AGO (BEEN A SD RESIDENT ALL OF MY LIFE). ENJOYED GETTING OUT THERE AND HUNTING, LOTS OF WALKING, BUT DIDN'T TAKE A SHOT (SAW 2 BULLS & ABOUT 6 COWS). I WAITED A LONG TIME TO GET A CHANCE AND NOW AT MY AGE I WILL NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO HUNT ELK. WHY SHOULDN'T I BE ABLE TO APPLY AGAIN RIGHT AWAY WHEN I DIDN'T FILL MY TAG?
- 1739 MORE ELK - HEALTHY GROWTH OF HERDS; MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE A CONCERN. I DON'T KNOW THE HARD FACTS BUT IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THE INCREASE IN MOUNTAIN LION NUMBERS CORRELATE WITH THE DECREASE IN ELK NUMBERS.
- 1755 ALL THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS A TAG TO HUNT ONE IN MY MAILBOX. IT WOULD BE A HONOR TO GO AND EXPERIENCE A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY!
- 1757 I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO HUNT ELK, BUT HAVE 14 PREFERENCE POINTS. DOES THAT TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT ELK NUMBERS VERSES NUMBER OF HUNTERS WANTING TO HUNT? AS I AM GETTING OLDER I WISH YOU WOULD THINK ABOUT ALLOWING A HUNTER TO PASS

PREFERENCE POINTS TO A SON OR DAUGHTER DUE TO AGE OR ILLNESS.

- 1760 I FEEL THAT SD CATERS TOO MUCH TO LANDOWNERS. WHILE I UNDERSTAND THEY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AND THAT WILDLIFE ARE USING THEIR LAND THAT THEY OWN OR OPERATE, I DON'T THINK IT IS FAIR THAT THEY ARE GIVEN HALF OF THE ELK AND DEER LICENSES THAT THE STATE OFFERS. THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAS TO WAIT YEARS AND YEARS TO DRAW AN ELK LICENSE. MANY TIMES IT IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME HUNT. LANDOWNERS ARE GIVEN A LICENSE EVERY YEAR. PLUS, MANY OF THESE LANDOWNERS DO NOT OPEN THE LAND TO THE PUBLIC - UNLESS YOU PAY A FEE. I UNDERSTAND THEY HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO DO SO BUT MAYBE THERE SHOULD BE A STIPULATION ON THE LANDOWNER LICENSE. EXAMPLE: YOU ARE ONLY GRANTED A LICENSE IF YOU OPEN YOUR LAND FOR PUBLIC HUNTING FOR FREE. ARE THEY NOT GIVEN A LICENSE BECAUSE OF HIGH AMOUNT OF ELK PRESSURE ON THEIR LAND ANYWAYS? THANK YOU TO THE LANDOWNERS THAT DO OPEN THEIR LAND TO PUBLIC HUNTING. THANK YOU GFP, YOUR STAFF DOES A WONDERFUL JOB BALANCING THE NEEDS OF WILDLIFE, LANDOWNERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE ANSWERS ARE NEVER BLACK AND WHITE, AND YOU CANNOT MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY, BUT THANKS FOR TRYING.
- 1765 NOT SURE WHY THE LANDOWNERS GET A LICENSE EVERY YEAR WHEN SOME PEOPLE THAT I KNOW HAVE PUT IN FOR 20 PLUS YEARS AND NEVER DRAWN. SEEMS LIKE THE LANDOWNER SHOULD GET A LICENSE EVERY THREE YEARS OR SO, THAT WOULD FREE UP SOME OF THE 50% AND LANDOWNERS WOULD STILL GET A BETTER DEAL THAN THE AVERAGE JOE.
- 1774 Q12 ONLY IF LICENSES ARE INCREASED IN CSP OPEN WIND CAVE THEY EAT OUR GRASS.
- 1789 MY FATHER AND I SPENT \$260 ON OUR 2 TAGS AND WERE NEVER ALLOWED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY EVEN THOUGH WE CHECKED WITH THESE PEOPLE WEEKLY AND ON THE LAST DAY OF THE SEASON WE WERE STILL NOT ALLOWED ON THEIR LAND. WE SAW ELK FROM A LONG WAYS AWAY ON THEIR PROPERTY EATING IN THEIR FIELDS AND THEY KEPT SAYING NO. MY DAD IS A RMEF SPONSOR AND THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE.
- 1809 Q9. DUE TO 1/2 UNIT UNDER 3' OF SNOW. Q12 ALL CURRENT LANDOWNERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN HELPED! EARLY SNOW FALL @OCT 2013 FORCED MOST ELK TO WYOMING ON SOUTHERN HILLS! I FILLED MY TAG ON OCT 27 HUNTING SOUTHWEST EDGE OF UNIT.NO ELK NORTH OF 111. TOO MANY ROADS NOW CONTROLLED BY FOREST SERVICE SHUT DOWN TO MOTOR VEHICLES. THIS MADE IT DIFFICULT TO ACCESS AREAS THAT WERE NOT SNOWED UNDER! THE ELK HERDED INTO LARGE GROUPS AND THE BIGGER BULLS ALSO WERE BACK IN GROUPS. DAYS 1-3 OF SEASON WERE THE BEST BEFORE THE BIG SNOW! THIS HUNT IS THE BEST HUNT A SD RESIDENT CAN EVER EXPERIENCE. I WOULD OF LIKED TO HUNT THE NORTH END BUT SNOW PREVENTED IT. I PERSONALLY HAD A GREAT TIME AND LOOK FORWARD TO MY NEXT ELK HUNT IN SD. I JUST WISH THE BH WERE MUCH LARGER. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE CATTLE NUMBERS BE DECREASED ON FOREST GROUND! MAYBE WAY TOO MANY!
- 1821 Q14. IT HAS BEEN OVER 10 YEARS
- 1830 I PRESENTLY HAVE 17 YEARS OF PREFERENCE POINTS. I THINK AFTER 16 YEARS THE SYSTEM NEEDS TO BE WEIGHTED TO GET A LICENSE FOR INDIVIDUALS THAT KEEP APPLYING. PRESENT SYSTEM OF 10 YEARS WAS ADEQUATE WHEN IMPLEMENTED, IT NEEDS TO BE RAISED.

- 1834 THE INFORMATION I HAVE TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS IS VERY LIMITED BECAUSE I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DRAW A TAG IN SD AND HAVE NEVER BEEN ELK HUNTING ANYWHERE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OPPORTUNITIES TO ELK HUNT IN SD INCREASE FOR RESIDENTS BUT NOT AT TH EXPENSE OF THE ELK HERD.
- 1836 PERHAPS THIS NUMBER COULD BE FOUND BY [FIGURING] THE PERCENTAGE OF PRIVATE TO PUBLIC LAND THAT PERCENTAGE OF PRIVATE TAGS COULD BE ISSUED.
- 1853 WHY ARE THERE NO QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO PREDATORS AFFECTS TO THE ELK POPULATION SUCH AS MOUNTAIN LION AND COYOTE POPULATION? IF LANDOWNERS ARE RECEIVING 50% OF TAGS AND RECEIVING FUNDING FOR DEPREDATION THEY SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO ALLOW A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF HUNTERS ONTO THEIR LAND FOR ELK HUNTING. IT SEEMS TO BE A ONE WAY STREET AND DOESN'T SEEM TO BENEFIT HUNTERS.
- 1856 LANDOWNERS GET ALL THE TAGS. I PERSONALLY KNOW LANDOWNERS THAT APPLY AND GET THEIR TAGS AND ITS A JOKE. THEY SHOULD HAVE TO WAIT 9 YEARS BEFORE ANYONE, EVEN A SPOUSE, CAN APPLY FOR LANDOWNER PREFERENCE FOR THAT SECTION OF LAND. WE CAN NOT HUNT WIND CAVE SO STOP USING THOSE NUMBERS. THOSE ELK NEVER LEAVE BECAUSE THERE IS NO PRESSURE. I WANT TO HUNT ELK EVERY YEAR SO I HUNT OUT OF STATE. BUT WITH THAT SAID THE SYSTEM IN SD IS A JOKE ONCE IN A LIFETIME AND NO ELK DUE TO MISMANAGEMENT AND HABITAT. 9 YEARS BEFORE REAPPLYING THEN 20 YEARS PREFERENCE BEFORE YOU DRAW WHAT A JOKE!!!
- 1871 YOU SEEM TO BELIEVE THE RANCHERS HAVE UNRESERVED RIGHTS ON PUBLIC LANDS. THEY DON'T. FURTHER, PUBLIC LANDS ARE LEASED (FOREST SERVICE AND BLM) FOR PRICES FAR BELOW PRIVATE LANDS...1/20 OF THE PRICE \$2 ON AUM VS \$40+ AN AUM. THEY DON'T NEED ALL THE LANDOWNER LICENSES THEY ARE GETTING PARTICULAR WHEN THEIR GRAZING COSTS ARE 5% OF MY GRAZING COSTS. I AM A FARMER/RANCHER IN EASTERN SD.
- 1881 I THINK IF YOU ARE A LANDOWNER AND GET AN ELK DEPREDATION TAG THEN THE ANIMAL SHOULD BE TAKEN ON YOUR PROPERTY, NOT WHERE YOU WANT TO GO TROPHY HUNTING MILES AWAY FROM YOUR PROPERTY AS YOU ARE NOT CONTROLLING THE HERD DAMAGING YOUR PROPERTY AND YOU ARE TAKING FROM SOMEONE WHO CAN ONLY HUNT PUBLIC GROUND.
- 1885 Q11 I UNDERSTAND I AM NOT ELIGIBLE FOR 9 YEARS.
- 1889 I THINK THE MOUNTAIN LION POPULATION HAS HAD AN EFFECT ON THE POPULATION OF THE ELK IN SD.
- 1898 Q9. FROM WHAT I HEARD FROM PEOPLE WITH TAGS. I'VE SPOKEN TO MANY PEOPLE WHO WERE DRAWN IN THE 1990'S AND ALL OF THEM REPORTED MUCH MORE SUCCESS FINDING QUALITY BULLS. I SPENT A TOTAL OF 13 DAYS HUNTING IN 2012 AND SAW ONLY TWO THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED "BIGGER THAN A FORK" BULL. MANY HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT A LACK OF SUCCESS OVER THE LAST 2-3 YEARS BUT MY HUNT WAS EXTRAORDINARY. I WORKED VERY HARD TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL HUNT HOWEVER.
- 1901 IT WOULD BE NICE TO GET AN ELK TAG MORE THAN EVERY 10 YEARS IN THE BLACK HILLS AREA AND PRIVATE LANDOWNERS OPEN UP MORE DEPREDATION TAGS OR LET MORE

PEOPLE HUNT INSTEAD OF COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR HAY OR CATTLE FEED BEING ATE! IT IS A VERY ECONOMIC SITUATION WHERE YOU HAVE TO TRY AND PLEASE EVERYBODY OUT THERE! I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU DO FOR THE AVERAGE PERSON WHO WANTS TO GET OUT THERE IN THE WOODS OR WHERE EVER FOR A DAY OR SO.

- 1913 I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LION POPULATION GREATLY DECREASED THEY ARE HAMMERING OUR DEER AND ELK HERDS. CATS SHOULD BE HUNTED LIKE COYOTES. SEASON SHOULD BE OPEN YEAR AROUND, ALL OVER THE STATE. USE OF DOGS SHOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED FOR A COUPLE MONTHS OF THE YEAR.
- 1945 I DO NOT BELIEVE THEY ARE GOOD IN THE HILLS
- 1948 I WISH WE WERE MORE LIKE OTHER STATES WHERE GETTING AN ELK LICENSE WAS NOT SO HARD TO DO. WY AND CO GET A LOT OF BUSINESS FROM OUT OF STATERES INCLUDING SD RESIDENTS TRAVELING THERE TO HUNT ELK. WISH A PERSON DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT SO LONG. I CURRENTLY HAVE 9 YEARS PREFERENCE POINT, SEEMS LIKE I WILL NEVER GET A LICENSE. I MAY JUST STOP APPLYING AND GO TO OTHER STATES LIKE CO AND WY.
- 1965 JUST TO SHOW HOW MUCH A WASTE OF TIME THIS SURVEY IS, I READ AN ARTICLE IN THE [NAME] PAPER WHERE THE GFP OFFICER TOLD THE GAME AND FISH OPINION ON COYOTES. YOU GOTTA WONDER HOW STUPID AND INCOMPETENT THE PERSON WHO HIRED HIM WAS. AND THE PERSON WHO PAYS THAT ONE. HOW FAR UP DOES IT GO?
- 1966 WE AT THE [NAME OF CLUB] WOULD LIKE THE LOCAL CONSERVATION OFFICER TO RETRIEVE OUR OLD TRAP THROWERS TO US. HE KNOWS WHO TOOK THEM AND WILL NOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. THEY ARE THE CLUBS AND THE STATES PROPERTY AND WE WANT THEM RETURNED. HE IS NOT DOING HIS JOB. HE IS NOT A PEOPLE PERSON AND IS NOT DOING SDGF&PARKS ANY BENEFIT.
- 1981 LANDOWNER TAGS BASED ON ELK USE OF THEIR LAND IS A LITTLE LOPSIDED TO LANDOWNERS. TOO MANY SMALL OPERATIONS IN THE HILLS ALLOWED LANDOWNER TAGS. MOUNTAIN LIONS NEED TO BE MANAGED, COYOTES TOO.
- 1990 I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ELK AT A LEVEL THAT IS MORE TOWARD HIGH THAN LOW. DON'T GIVE OUT TOO MANY COW TAGS. A HERD BALANCE (COW/BULL) THAT GIVES A HUNTER WHO WORKS HARD A "REASONABLE" OPPORTUNITY TO SEE A MATURE BULL. PUBLIC LAND EMPHASIS MORE ON ELK AND WILDLIFE THAN CATTLE. IT IS OK TO SLIGHTLY INCREASE THE NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEES, IF THAT WOULD GENERATE MORE MONEY, THAT INCREASING TAG FEES FOR THOSE FEW WHO DRAW A TAG. ULTIMATELY, I BELIEVE THE DECISIONS SHOULD BE BASED ON BIOLOGICAL DATA AND FACTS AND MINIMALLY ON PUBLIC OPINION. LET'S KEEP PLENTY OF ELK OUT THERE AND IN CUSTER STATE PARK.
- 2002 Q3. DEPENDS WHAT UNIT! Q7K & L TO SOME DEGREE. Q34C I LIKE THE IDEA OF HAVING IT ON THE FIRST SATURDAY IN OCTOBER.
- 2007 UNIT AREAS WERE HARD TO FIND HAD TO HAVE HELP FROM OTHER HUNTERS ALWAYS FELT IN WRONG AREA. ALSO FOR HUNTER BY HIMSELF IT IS HARD TO WALK VERY FAR IF YOU ARE DISABLED, SHOULD BE MORE DRIVE IN AREAS WOULD HELP WHEN LOADING GAME. DREW

ELK LICENSE FIRST TIME I APPLIED WITH NO LUCK, BUT WILL IT BE 10 YEARS BEFORE I DRAW ANOTHER! THAT WOULD MAKE ME ABOUT 70

- 2022 I DO NOT AGREE WITH LANDOWNER TAGS. IF THEY GET A TAG IT SHOULD BE SHOT ON THEIR LAND, NOT PUBLIC LAND OR THEY SHOULD OPEN THEIR LAND TO PUBLIC HUNTING THEY NEED TO REDUCE THE HEARD AFFECTING THEIR LAND. IT SHOULD ALSO BE ANTLERLESS TAGS ONLY! LANDOWNERS ARE TROPHY HUNTING NOT DOING IT TO MANAGE IMPACTS TO THEIR LAND AS THEY SHOULD BE.
- 2030 Q11: YOUR STUPID LAW WILL NOT LET ME APPLY UNTIL I AM 65 YEARS OLD
- 2039 I HAVE ENJOYED THE HUNTING HERITAGE IN SD WITH MY FATHER SINCE I WAS 12 YEARS OLD. PLEASE DON'T SCREW UP THIS GREAT ELK RESOURCE!
- 2044 IF ITS RIFLE SEASON FOR ANY GAME, NO ARCHERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO HUNT AT ALL. SEPARATE SEASON, VICE VERSA FOR ARCHERY AND ANY OTHER, SUCH AS MUZZLELOADER.
- 2049 I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING TO BECOME OF MY ANTLERLESS ELK PREFERENCE POINTS FOR CUSTER STATE PARK.
- 2051 HOW MANY ELK CALVES COULD NOT OUT RUN A LION? RANCHERS WANT IT BOTH WAYS - ELK THEY CAN PROFIT FROM AND THEN HELP FEEDING THE CATTLE.
- 2063 IF MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE AN ISSUE THEN I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A LITTLE MORE CONTROL ON THAT POPULATION. I PHEASANT HUNT A LOT AND KNOW THAT PREDATORS ARE A MAIN CAUSE FOR LOW COUNTS BESIDE LESS HABITAT.
- 2069 YOU ASKED NO QUESTIONS ABOUT WAITING 10 YEARS AFTER A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION TO REAPPLY. WOULD SHORTEN THAT TIME ADVERSELY AFFECT ELK HUNTING IN SD?
- 2075 ELK ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA HUNTING COMMUNITY. IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT ELK NOT BE SUCH A SLIM CHANCE. WITH SAYING THAT I DO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH THE ENVIRONMENT AND LANDOWNERS CAN GIVE. MONEY IS ALSO ALWAYS AN ISSUE. OUT OF MY FAMILY AND EXTENDED FAMILY, I ONLY KNOW OF 1 PERSON GETTING AN ELK TAG. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT I AM A COLLEGE STUDENT WHO HAS NEVER HUNTED ELK OR OWNED LAND ANYWHERE. I ALSO DO NOT MAKE MY LIVING OFF OF THE LAND SO I DO NOT KNOW HOW VALID OR RELEVANT MY ANSWERS COULD BE. ONE THING IS FOR SURE, I ALWAYS WANT THE OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT A HEALTHY ELK POPULATION. PLEASE DO NOT EVER LET THAT CHANCE GO AWAY. THANK YOU.
- 2111 THERE IS TOO MUCH GRAZING ON PUBLIC LAND IN THE BLACK HILLS, CREATES DIRECT COMPETITION FOR ELK AND OTHER WILDLIFE. PROPORTION OF LICENSES ALLOTTED TO LANDOWNERS - OPERATORS IS WAY TOO HIGH.
- 2112 Q35 DOES THIS MEAN LANDOWNER-OPERATOR CAN HAVE A LICENSE EVERY YEAR OR THE SAME RULES FOR US. IF IT IS THE SAME AS WITH US I AM OK.
- 2115 I HAVE HUNTED IN THE BH FOR ALMOST 50 YEARS. SO ENJOY IT. I DO FEEL ELK AND DEER ARE

THE PRIMARY OPPORTUNITY THERE. BUT THE LION SEASON IS A WHOLE NEW ADVENTURE THAT A FEW HUNDRED PEOPLE HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE (MYSELF INCLUDED). SO I APPRECIATE THIS ALSO. DEER AND ELK ARE NOT THE ALMIGHTY BEINGS AND PREDATORS PROVIDE A VARIETY AND CHALLENGE ALSO. IN REGARD TO LIVESTOCK, I FEEL THEY SHOULD BE MANAGED CLOSELY AS TO NOT DEplete OR HINDER WILDLIFE HABITAT. THE RESIDENTS AND COMPANIES IN SD AND NATION PAY TAXES TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC LANDS THE LANDS SHOULD BE MANAGED FOR THE TAXPAYER NOT THE CATTLE PRODUCER. CATTLE ARE GUESTS AND INTRUDERS ON PUBLIC LAND TO WILDLIFE IT'S HOME. LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS CAN PAY RENT OR BUY THEIR OWN PROPERTY. NOTE- I AM A LIFETIME EAST RIVER FARMER WHO MAINTAINS 320 ACRES FOR WILDLIFE.

- 2129 WHAT ARE POPULATION RESULTS AFTER THE RECENT SNOWSTORM FOR THE FALL OF 2013? WERE NUMBERS OF ELK REDUCED DRAMATICALLY ALSO IF THERE WAS SUCH LARGE NUMBERS OF LIVESTOCK LOST? WHAT IS THE MANAGEMENT OF SUCH PREDATORS LIKE MOUNTAIN LIONS DOING TO THE ELK POPULATIONS IN THE BLACK HILLS?
- 2130 I'D LIKE TO SEE AN ELK PREFERENCE POINT THAT WAS JUST A POINT FOR ELK NOT TO ANY SPECIFIC HUNT, GFP STOPPED A SEASON AND I LOST 14 YEARS POINTS.
- 2132 STOP GIVING OUT-OF-STATE DEER TAGS
- 2137 I BELIEVE IF 50% OF ELK LICENSES ARE ALLOTTED TO LANDOWNERS THEY SHOULD BE ANTLERLESS TAG GIVEN OUT. OR GIVE THEM ONE ANY ELK TAG EVERY 5 YEARS. THE OTHER 4 YEARS THEY GET ANTLERLESS TAGS. Q13 - HELPING TAKE PEOPLE OUT. DID NOT HAE A TAG MYSELF. 116 - MY FRIENDS DID HARVEST AN ELK.
- 2148 ONLY HAD A COW TAG
- 2153 Q34 WE CAN'T GET A TAG!
- 2159 DON'T CARE FOR THE 10 YEAR RULE, AND ONCE IN A LIFETIME TAG RULE FOR THE PARK. I'D RATHER ONLY HUNT ELK THAN ANYTHING ELSE, GET RID OF THEM RULES AND GIVE OUT MORE TAGS. SOME PEOPLE HAVE OVER 10 YEARS PREFERENCE POINTS, START GIVING THEM A TAG BEFORE THE DIE OF OLD AGE!
- 2165 WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THE WILDLIFE WAS HERE LONG BEFORE WE WERE HERE. IF WE DO NOT MAKE A HAPPY MEDIUM BETWEEN WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK WE WILL WIPE OUT YET ANOTHER SPECIES OF WILDLIFE IF NOT MORE. WOULD LIKE TO SEE AND HAVE MORE LAND ACCESS FOR PUBLIC HUNTING. LIMIT NON-RESIDENT HUNTING. WILDLIFE WAS PUT HERE TO PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE NOT ANTLERS ON THE WALL.
- 2166 NEVER HAVE DRAWN AN ELK TAG I ANSWERED TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY. YET, BEING A HUNTER AND A PERSON WHOSE JOB DEPENDS ON HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES IN SD, I DO FEEL THAT THERE NEEDS TO BE CHANGES TO THE WAY THE ELK HERD IS MANAGED. I BELIEVE IT HAS TO START WITH GIVING THE CALVES THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO MATURE.
- 2180 IT TAKES TO LONG TO DRAW A LICENSE. I DON'T BELIEVE IT SHOULD TAKE AS LONG TO START REAPPLYING FOR LICENSES. WE NEED TO KEEP THE MOUNTAIN LION POPULATION IN CHECK.

- 2181 I WOULD LIKE TO START OFF BY SAYING - I WOULD LOVE TO BE ON A DEPREDATION HUNT - HOW DO I GET IN ON THAT? SECONDLY, ELK, DEER HUNTING, I UNDERSTAND LANDOWNERS COMPLAINTS BUT TAKE THIS FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, LIKE MYSELF I ENJOY HUNTING/FISHING, SPENDING TIME OUTDOORS WITH MY FAMILY...WHAT I SEE IS THAT LANDOWNERS, FIRST, GET TAGS I COULD'VE GOTTEN YEAR AFTER YEAR. THEN THEY ARE ALLOWED TO LET THEIR LIVESTOCK EAT OFF ALL THE FEED THAT THE ANIMALS I WOULD ENJOY HUNTING, HAVE NO FOOD, WHICH RESULTS IN ELK, DEER, WILDLIFE GOING TO THEIR PRIVATE LAND, WHICH I CAN'T HUNT BECAUSE THEY WON'T GIVE YOU PERMISSION OR YOU (I) HAVE TO PAY TO ENTER THEIR LAND. I CERTAINLY DON'T GET A CHECK FOR ALL THE GRAZING THEIR LIVESTOCK EATS WHILE ON PUBLIC LAND, WHICH THROUGH TAXES, LICENSES, AND EVERYTHING ELSE THAT I'VE PAID FOR. FROM A HUNTERS POINT OF VIEW, IS THIS FAIR, YEAR AFTER YEAR THEY GET BUCK TAGS, BULL TAGS, NOT ME, IF THEY HAVE PROBLEMS WHY NOT GIVE (SELL) THE DOE & COW TAGS, BUCKS AND BULLS COVER MANY MILES, DOES AND COWS STAY IN CERTAIN AREAS, CERTAIN TIME OF THE YEAR, SO ARE YOU APPROACHING THE PROBLEM CORRECTLY? I WOULD SAY NO GIVING BUCK TAGS DOESN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM JUST NARROWS THE "HUNTERS" CHANCE OF GETTING ONE.
- 2189 Q4F THIS IS THE OTHER WAY AROUND. Q5G BULL! Q8 IF YOU WANT TO HUNT ELK YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE AS DIFFICULT AS IT IS TO GET A SD TAG. Q34B & D TOO LONG! IT IS NOT SECRET THAT THE ELK POPULATIONS ARE NOT BEING MANAGED BY CARRY CAPACITY OR BIOLOGICAL DATA, BUT BY LANDOWNER TOLERANCE. YOUR QUESTIONS IN THIS SURVEY PROVE THAT POINT ONCE AGAIN. FROM 2002-2005 THERE WERE VERY GOOD ELK POPULATIONS AND ELK HUNTING WAS SUPERB AND THERE WERE MANY NICE BULLS. THEN GFP ISSUED A BUNCH OF ANTLERLESS ELK TAGS AND KILLED OFF A HUGE NUMBER OF COWS. THEN GFP DECIDED THERE WAS DEMAND FOR ELK TAGS AND DECIDED THE ELK NUMBERS SHOULD BE RAISED. HOW CAN YOU ASK THE QUESTION ARE ELK COMPETING WITH COWS FOR FORAGE ON PUBLIC LANDS WHEN YOU DRIVE AROUND AND SEE COWS EVERYWHERE. IF THE COWS CAN EAT GRASS ON PUBLIC LANDS THAN CAN'T THE ELK EAT SOME FORAGE ON PRIVATE LANDS? GOOD LICK TRYING TO GET PERMISSION TO HUNT BULLS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY YOU MAY GET TO HUNT COWS.
- 2203 Q35 LANDOWNERS SHOULD GET SO MANY TAGS IN AN AREA WITH SO FEW OPTIONS. I COULD BE VERY WRONG, BUT JUST FROM AN OBSERVATION/PERCEPTION STANDPOINT THERE WERE FAR TOO MANY HUNTERS FOR THE NUMBER OF ELK AVAILABLE THIS YEAR. IT FEELS LIKE WE WERE HUNTING IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE. I HELPED SOMEONE A FEW YEARS BACK AND WE DIDN'T RUN INTO ANYONE, THIS YEAR WE RAN INTO SOMEONE EVERYWHERE WE WENT.
- 2204 IF YOU GUYS KEEP MANAGING THE LION AND OTHER PREDATOR POPULATIONS LIKE YOU HAVE THE LAST FEW YEARS, WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ELK HUNTING. IT'S A SHAME WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE ELK POPULATION IN THE LAST 10 YEARS.
- 2213 I THINK LANDOWNERS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO ONE EVER 3 YEARS. MOST HAVE WIFE THAT ALSO FALLS INTO THE OWNER/OPERATOR. I HAVE TO WAIT 7 YEARS PLUS. WE NEED THE HERD LEVELS BACK TO THE NUMBERS WE HAD BACK IN THE MID 2000S OR BETTER. THE DECLINE IN POPULATION IS DEBATABLE BUT IT IS INTERESTING HOW THE MOUNTAIN LION POPULATION HAS INCREASED OUR ELK AND DEER HERDS HAVE DECREASED.

- 2225 I THINK THAT IN ORDER TO MANAGE ELK OR CATTLE POPULATIONS IN THE BLACK HILLS THE FIRST THING THAT NEEDS TO BE MANAGED ARE THE MOUNTAIN LIONS.
- 2229 THE HUNTS I HAVE EXPERIENCED IN THE BLACK HILLS (CSP ARCHERY ETC) HAVE BEEN FABULOUS! THERE SHOULD BE A PREFERENCE SYSTEM SET UP FOR LEFTOVER COW TAGS. THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE THAT APPLY THAT DON'T TAKE THE HUNT SERIOUSLY AND GO A LOT, MAYBE JUST FOR A WEEKEND. YOU HAVE A GOOD SYSTEM SET UP RIGHT NOW IF THERE WERE JUST MORE ELK IN CSP. BY THE WAY, I WANT A CSP ANY ELK TAG BEFORE I DIE PLEASE!
- 2231 I THINK IF YOU HAVE 5 OR MORE PREFERENCE POINTS YOU SHOULD BE FIRST IN LINE FOR DRAWING A TAG. I'VE HAD UP TO 13 AND I'VE HEARD OF SOME HAVING 18 OR HIGHER AND THEN A FIRST TIME APPLICANT DRAWS A TAG. NOT RIGHT.
- 2239 I HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT LANDOWNER TAGS. THESE TAGS ARE GIVEN TO LANDOWNERS EVERY YEAR, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING THEM TO REDUCE DEPREDATION ON THEIR LAND (WHICH IS FINE) HOWEVER, MANY LANDOWNERS WILL ONLY SHOOT A TROPHY BULL; SOMETIMES MILES FROM THEIR PROPERTY. SHOOTING BULLS DOES NOTHING TO REDUCING A POPULATION AND THEREFOR DEPREDATION. IF LANDOWNERS ARE ALLOWED TO OBTAIN A TAG EVERY YEAR, IT SHOULD BE A COW ONLY TAG.
- 2252 SOME THE QUESTIONS MAYBE WORDED TO GET A CERTAIN RESULT, PLEASE DON'T MISUSE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE!!
- 2264 I THINK THE MOUNTAIN LION POPULATION NEEDS TO BE CONTROLLED BETTER, THE MOUNTAIN LION POPULATION IN THE HILLS IS RUINING THE ELK HUNTING OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR FUTURE HUNTERS.
- 2277 I THINK A CHANGE IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS WOULD LEAD TO MORE REVENUE FOR LAND AND ELK MANAGEMENT! I WOULD SUGGEST APPLICATIONS WITH FULL PAYMENT FOR 1 SEASON ONLY DUE THE 1ST OF FEBRUARY INVEST THE MONEY HOLD DRAWING THE 1ST OF JUN AND RETURN MONEY IN FULL IF UNSUCCESSFUL IN JULY. THIS MAY SLOW THE APPLICATION AND PREFERENCE POINT PROCESS DOWN AND ALLOW OLDER HUNTERS A BETTER CHANCE AT A HUNT OF A LIFETIME IN SD!!
- 2285 WE HAVE FEW ELK IN MY OPINION IN OUR STATE. AND WE HAVE FEWER TAGS. WHY DOES THE STATE RESTRICT HUNTING BY HAVING SEPARATE UNITS? IF WE WANT BETTER ELK HUNTING PROMOTE BETTER HUNTER SUCCESS & OPINIONS ABOUT ELK HUNTING. OPEN ALL OF THE PARK UNITS AS ONE EXCEPT FOR CUSTER PARK, UNIT 11. THIS WAY YOU GIVE HUNTERS MORE OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT A BROADER AREA SINCE ELK DO ROAM GREAT DISTANCES. MY LAST EXPERIENCE ELK HUNTING WAS NOT GOOD BECAUSE THEY HAD ALL MIGRATED TO A DIFFERENT UNIT AND THE LAND OWNERS ALSO IN THAT UNIT DID NOT HAVE SUCCESS.
- 2315 UNLESS SOUTH DAKOTA CAN GET MOUNTAIN LION POPULATION DRASTICALLY REDUCED OUR DEER AND ELK HERDS WILL BE DESTROYED. I AM VERY SKEPTICAL OF THE CURRENT SD GFP AERIAL SURVEY. I BELIEVE ELK HEARD TO BE MUCH SMALLER.
- 2320 I AM UNABLE TO ANSWER MOST OF YOUR QUESTIONS AS I HAVE NEVER EVEN DRAWN AN

ELK LICENSE SO I HAVE NOT HAD A REASON TO SCOUT OR EVEN GO OUT. I FEEL GFP IS WASTING MONEY WITH THESE SURVEYS. I HAVE RECEIVED 2 COPIES OF THIS SURVEY IN A MONTH. MAYBE SAVE THE MONEY (POSTAGE, PAPER & TIME) THEN GFP WOULDN'T NEED TO RAISE FEES.

- 2324 I HAD A VERY PLEASANT ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN 2011. HARVESTED A NICE BIG COW ON THIRD DAY OF HUNT. HAVE HUNTED ELK IN WY AND CO TOO BUT THEY DON'T COMPARE TO OUR ELK HUNTING HERE IN SD. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
- 2341 SHOULD NOT HAVE TO WAIT 10-15 YEARS FOR A TAG! AS A RESIDENT FOR POINTS! I WOULD BE HAPPY FOR A COW TAG!
- 2347 10 YEARS IS TOO LONG BETWEEN BEING ABLE TO PUT IN FOR A TAG AFTER YOU'VE DRAWN ONE.
- 2353 I WISH IT DIDN'T TAKE 10 PLUS YEARS TO GET A BULL ELK RIFLE TAG. IT FEELS LIKE IT'S A ONCE IN A LIFETIME TAG.
- 2355 Q3 I CAN'T ANSWER THIS BECAUSE I DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY ACRES IT TAKES TO SUSTAIN A HEALTHY HERD. Q11 EVERY YEAR UNTIL I GET A TAG!
- 2366 Q14 ALSO HUNTED IN 2006 AS DESIGNATED SHOOTER FOR MY FATHER WHO LOST HIS EYE SIGHT.
- 2396 NOT IN SD EITHER NO LICENSE
- 2405 LANDOWNER TAGS - I THINK THEY SHOULD GO TO AN EVERY OTHER YEAR TAG FOR LANDOWNERS. I FEEL THAT THE MAJORITY OF LANDOWNERS HARVEST ELK ON PUBLIC GROUND. IF THEY DON'T DO AN EVERY OTHER YEAR TAG, THEY SHOULD LIMIT THEM TO THEIR PRIVATE PROPERTY OR LEASED PROPERTY THAT THEY OPERATE. ABSENTEE LANDOWNERS SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR LANDOWNER PREFERENCE.
- 2421 I LIVE IN NE SOUTH DAKOTA QUITE REMOVED FROM ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CONCERNS REGARDING LAND USE CONFLICTS. I HAD NEVER CONSIDERED ELK/VEHICLE COLLISIONS UNTIL THIS SURVEY SUGGESTED SUCH AN ACCIDENT OCCURS. MY ANSWERS IN THIS SURVEY ARE HONEST AND ACCURATE FROM MY PERSPECTIVE FAR REMOVED FROM THE ELK POPULATION IN QUESTION. IN SUMMARY I BELIEVE A HEALTHY ELK POPULATION IS VERY IMPORTANT. PUBLIC USE (WILDLIFE POPULATIONS, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.) MUST BE PRIORITY ON PUBLIC LAND. GRAZING ON PUBLIC LAND IS ACCEPTABLE IF BIOLOGISTS DETERMINE GRAZING DOES NOT NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE PUBLIC.
- 2431 NEVER DREW AN ELK, ME OR MY WIFE FOR OVER 10 YEARS.
- 2444 WHY WHEN YOU APPLY FOR AN ELK TAG AND DRAW ONE YOU CAN APPLY THE NEXT YEARS OR MORE AND NEVER DRAW A TAG?
- 2460 KEEP THE MOUNTAIN LION POPULATION LOW AND KILL ALL WOLVES THAT MAKE IT TO SD.

- 2462 Q36 MEAT HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES
- 2469 PERSONALLY, I FEEL THAT IF A RANCHER TAKES ANY MONEY FROM HUNTERS TO USE FOR DEPREDATION, THEN THAT LANDOWNER MUST ALLOW HUNTERS ACCESS TO HARVEST ANY ELK THEY HAVE A TAG FOR. IF A RANCHER CAN ACCEPT MY MONEY BUT STILL DENY HUNTERS ACCESS THEN THAT IS JUST UNFAIR AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY MONEY. IF A LANDOWNER WANTS TO DENY HUNTERS THEN THEY ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY TO FEED THEM AND KEEP THEM SAFE. THEN GFP GIVES THEM 50% OF THE TAGS - REALLY?? DOESN'T THAT SEEM ODD TO YOU? I REALIZE THEY FEED THEM BUT KEEP IN MIND THEY ALSO ACCEPT PUBLIC MONEY.
- 2475 THE ELK IN THE BLACK HILLS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE OF SD. MAKING MORE LICENSES AVAILABLE TO LANDOWNER WOULD BE WRONG. MOST LANDOWNERS GIVE THEIR TAGS TO OTHER PEOPLE WITH IN THERE FAMILY AND RELATIONS. MAKE MORE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THE ELK HAVE A FAIR CHANCE OVER CATTLE GRAZING AND AT TOO CHEAP OF PRICE FOR LAND LEASE. TOO MANY MOUNTAIN LIONS.
- 2479 I FEEL THAT THE AREA NEEDING PRIMARY ADJUSTMENT BY THE GFP COMMISSION IS THE SYSTEM FOR AWARDING AN "ANY ELK LICENSE". SD DOES NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF RELATIVELY LARGE ELK POPULATIONS SUCH AS COLORADO, MONTANA, WYOMING, IDAHO AND NEW MEXICO. THOSE STATES ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE NON-RESIDENTS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN AN ELK LICENSE THRU A RANDOM DRAWING SYSTEM. IN ADDITION THOSE STATES MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO DRAW A TAG IN AREAS THAT SEEM TO HARBOR SOME OUTSTANDING TROPHY BULLS. IN THOSE AREAS, IT MAY TAKE 5 (+) POINTS BEFORE YOU SUCCESSFULLY DRAW A TAG. MOST HUNTERS ARE AWARE OF THOSE ODDS AND PATIENTLY WAIT FOR THE 5(+) YEARS BEFORE HAVING GREAT EXPECTATIONS OF DRAWING A TAG. VERY SELDOM DOES A NON RESIDENT HAVE TO WAIT BEYOND 10 YEARS TO GET A TAG. LAST YEAR [NAME] WAS SUCCESSFUL ON HIS 18TH APPLICATION. HE DID HARVEST A VERY NICE 5X5 BULL. [...] THE ODDS THAT HE COULD DO THIS AT AGE 70(+) ARE SOMEWHAT SMALL. HE SHOULD NOT HAVE HAD TO WAIT BEYOND A 10 POINT ACCUMULATION TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY. HERE IS A SUGGESTED "NEW DRAWING SYSTEM": IF THERE ARE 1000 TAGS THEN LANDOWNERS SHOULD GET 50%, 1ST & 2ND TIME APPLICANTS SHOULD GET 1%, 3RD & 4TH TIME APPLICANTS SHOULD GET 5%, 5TH & 6TH TIME APPLICANTS - 6%, 7TH & 8TH TIME APPLICANTS - 8%, 9TH & 10TH TIME APPLICANTS - 30% AND 11TH TIME APPLICANTS AWARDED A TAG. THE POLICY OF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL YOU HAVE TO SIT OUT FOR 9 YEARS STAYS IN PLACE. A STATISTICIAN CAN WORK THE NUMBERS BETTER THAN I CAN.
- 2493 WE NEED TO HAVE OPEN SEASON ON MOUNTAIN LIONS. MOUNTAIN LIONS SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN INTRODUCED TO SD. MOUNTAIN LIONS KILL WAY TOO MANY CALF ELK, AND BULL ELK. IF YOU GUYS ARE WORRIED ABOUT TOO MANY DOE'S (DEER) GIVE OUT FREE TAGS. I KNOW THE MOUNTAIN LIONS HAVE REALLY! HURT THE ELK HERD SINCE I HUNTED IN 2008. PLEASE LET US SHOOT MOUNTAIN LIONS AT FREE WILL. SEEING ELK IS JUST AWESOME EVEN IF I'M NOT HUNTING THEM. PEOPLE ALL OVER LIKE TO WATCH ELK WHEN THEY ARE OUT SITE SEEING ON A TRIP.
- 2496 LANDOWNERS SHOULD HAVE TO HUNT WITHIN 10 MILES OF THEIR LAND. IF THEY CLAIM DEPREDATION, THEY SHOULD HAVE TO ALLOW A CERTAIN NUMBER OF HUNTERS ON THEIR PROPERTY TO HUNT. MY FAMILY HAS JUST OVER 100 ACRES AND ARE NOT CONSIDERED

"LANDOWNERS" ABLE TO GET AT TAG. GROWING UP ELK DESTROYED A LOT OF ALFALFA STACKS. SO MUCH THAT WE STOPPED GROWING IT. WE ALSO, ALLOWED HUNTING SINCE WE COULD NEVER DRAW ANY TAGS. ELK DO NOT CARE HOW MUCH LAND YOU HAVE AND THEY CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THE SMALL OWNERS, ALSO. ON THIS MATTER IT MAKES IT VERY HARD FOR ME TO SUPPORT HELPING LANDOWNERS WHO WANT PAID TO LET HUNTERS ON BUT ALSO WANT PAID BY THE STATE FOR DEPREDATION.

- 2513 I WOULD LIKE TO SEE LESS ELK TAGS GO TO LANDOWNERS AND MORE TO THE ONES THAT DON'T OWN ANY LAND.
- 2518 THE LION HUNTING SHOULD BE ALL YEAR LONG JUST LIKE SHOOTING A COYOTE. THEY EAT ALL THE CALVES.
- 2519 I REALLY FEEL THAT THE MOUNTAIN LION HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL ON THE ELK HERD IN MANY AREAS. I DON'T MIND A FEW LIONS BUT I WOULD MUCH RATHER SEE ELK IN THE MEADOWS.
- 2520 I AM VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO THE USE OF PUBLIC LAND FOR ANY COMMERCIAL VENTURE (INCLUSIVE OF LIVESTOCK GRAZING AND HAYING) THAT IMPACTS WILDLIFE ADVERSELY. I HATE THAT EVERY TIME I GO HUNTING IN THE HILLS OR ESPECIALLY BUTTE COUNTY THAT I SEE MOUNTAIN LIONS, BUT DEER, ANTELOPE, AND ESPECIALLY ELK POPULATIONS SEEM TO BE DWINDLING. IT IS SILLY TO ME THAT I CAN HUNT ELK IN WY, CO AND MT AS A NON-RESIDENT EVERY YEAR, BUT ONE IN 10 YEARS IN SD IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS FOR A RESIDENT.
- 2527 WHEN I SHOT MY BULL ELK IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST AWESOME TIMES IN MY HUNTING LIFE. BUT THEN WHEN WE WERE SKINNING MY ELK THE NEXT DAY WE NOTICED THAT IT HAD BEEN GORED OR HAD A BAD INJURY ON HIS HIP AND WITHIN AN HOUR MY ELK HAD SPOILED TO THE POINT OF I WAS NOT GOING TO EAT THE MEAT.
- 2529 I DON'T THINK A LANDOWNER SHOULD GET ELK TAGS EVERY YEAR AND BE ABLE TO HUNT PUBLIC LAND. CONTROL LIONS MUCH MORE TO BENEFIT ALL WILDLIFE, ELK, DEER, SHEEP & MT. GOATS. NEED TO HELP NUMBERS IN CSP. CHANGE REQUIREMENTS ON GETTING X-BOW PERMIT. I'VE HAD 2 SHOULDER SURGERIES BUT STILL CAN'T GET A PERMIT. I HAVE 13 YEARS PREFERENCE ON ARCHERY ELK BUT WOULDN'T CONSIDER HUNTING WITH A 40LB PULL BOW.
- 2531 LANDOWNERS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO HUNT ON THEIR OWN LAND AND SHOULD BE ISSUED COW TAGS AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 2 YEARS. AS A HUNTER WHO ONLY HUNTS ELK ON PUBLIC LAND WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO COMPETE WITH LANDOWNERS? I BELIEVE LANDOWNERS STILL DESERVE THE TAGS YEARLY; THEY JUST NEED TO HAVE A FEW RULES.
- 2539 Q4D COULD THERE BE OTHER SEASONS. Q35 25% WOULD BE ENOUGH
- 2551 START USING ELECTRONIC SURVEYS. THE COST OF THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS YOU NEED TO GO FROM \$5-\$10. THAT SEEMS RIDICULOUS WHEN WE HAVE HAD RELIABLE EMAIL FOR 20 YEARS!
- 2552 I HAVE NOT YET HUNTED ELK IN THE HILLS. I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE ELK POPULATION TO CONTINUE THIS SURVEY.
- 2554 THIS WAS OPENED BY ME AFTER BEING SEALED. I THOUGHT THERE WAS A PLACE FOR A

SIGNATURE & DATE I MISSED

- 2560 REDUCE THE MOUNTAIN LION POPULATIONS
- 2562 GUESS WHAT? I & MY HUNTING PARTNER HAVE GOTTEN TOO OLD FOR THIS HUNT. IF WE HAD AN ELK DOWN 1/2 MILE FROM THE PICKUP WE WOULD HAVE TO GET HELP. I WISH THAT WHEN A PERSON, REACHES 75 YEARS OLD, THEY COULD GET A LICENSE ONE TIME & LICENSE. ONE TIME (LAST TIME ONLY).
- 2572 SINCE I'M 70 YEARS OLD AND ONLY HAVE 5 PREFERENCE POINTS I SERIOUSLY DOUBT I'LL EVER BE HUNTING ELK IN SD GIVEN THE CURRENT LICENSING SYSTEM. DESPITE THAT THE FACT THAT ELK ARE IN THE HILLS CONTINUES TO ADD TO MY QUALITY OF LIFE.
- 2575 I WISH IT WOULDN'T TAKE SO LONG TO DRAW A TAG. ALSO, I THINK THE MT. LIONS ARE HARD ON THE CALVES FOR GOOD POPULATION.
- 2579 GO BACK TO LETTING ELK HUNTERS SHOOT MOUNTAIN LIONS DURING ELK. LENGTHEN THE MOUNTAIN LION SEASON. RAISE THE NUMBER OF MOUNTAIN LIONS TO BE HARVESTED BY AT LEAST DOUBLE OF WHAT THE QUOTA IS NOW.
- 2581 IN REGARDS TO MY ANSWER ON PAGE 3 - LETTER H. I BELIEVE ELK HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE WHEREVER THEY OCCUR, BUT I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THESE PEOPLE WITH AG LAND COULD BE IMPACTED IF A HERD MOVED IN AND STARTED TO DESTROY THEIR CROPS. ALSO Q35 NOT SURE IF IT'S ALWAYS FAIR FOR LANDOWNERS TO RECEIVE A TAG EVERY YEAR. HOWEVER, IF I EVER ACQUIRE MY OWN LAND, THEN I WILL THINK IT'S A GREAT IDEA. REALITY IS NOT MANY AVERAGE PEOPLE CAN AFFORD LAND PRICES IN THIS AREA. I KNOW OF ONE FAMILY ROUTINELY GET 2 TO 3 TAGS A YEAR AND I THINK IN MY HEAD WOW - GOOD FOR THEM.
- 2592 WHEN MY WIFE GOT HER TAGS FOR ELK SHE WAS REALLY EXCITED. SHE HAD A COW TAG WE WENT OUT 4 DAYS EVERY TIME WE CAME CLOSE TO HERD OF ELK THERE WERE 4-WHEELERS CHASING THE ELK AND SHOOTING THEM. WE BACKPACK ALL OVER THE HILLS. I THINK WHEN HUNTING SEASON OPENS THEY SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE HILLS FOR THAT REASON. SHE NEVER GOT A TAG AGAIN. SHE IS REAL DOWN WITH HUNTING BECAUSE SEEMS LIKE MORE PEOPLE ARE TOO LAZY TO WALK THEY DRIVE ALL OVER HUNTING THEM. I DON'T THINK THAT'S HUNTING. SHE WAS HUNTING IN UNIT 7 AT TIME, DON'T SEEM NOBODY CARES WHEN YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT IT. THAT'S OUR FAMILY TIME - MY WIFE AND I AND MY BOY GO HUNTING TOGETHER ALL TIME. NOW I'M TAKING MY GRANDKIDS ALONG TRYING TO SHOW THEM THE RIGHT WAY TO HUNT!
- 2596 I HUNTED H1 THIS YEAR WITH A FRIEND WHO HAD A TAG. HUNTED AROUND IRON CREEK LAKE. SAW GOOD NUMBERS OF ELK IN THIS AREA. OVERALL, I THINK YOU NEED TO BETTER MANGE THE POPULATION BY REDUCING LION NUMBERS. I ALSO HAVE 11 YEARS PREFERENCE FOR A RIFLE TAG BUT WON'T GET INTO THAT...SEEMS THAT A BH ELK TAG IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME TAG WHICH IS UPSETTING.
- 2606 I STILL WORRY ABOUT MOUNTAIN LION EFFECTS ON ELK & DEER
- 2629 ALLOTTED LANDOWNER TAGS FOR ELK & ESPECIALLY DEER SHOULD BE LESS THAN 50%, THEY

CAN ALREADY GET A GUARANTEED LICENSE ON THEIR LAND EVERY YEAR. Q35 - THEY SHOULD ONLY GET TO HUNT ON THEIR LAND IF THE USE PREFERENCE TO ACQUIRE A LICENSE!

- 2634 I HAVE HAD 15 YEARS OF PREFERENCE. I AM 72 YEARS OLD AND I HAVE WISHED MY TIME WOULD COME AGAIN. THERE MUST BE A FAIRER WAY OF DRAWING SOME HAVE RECEIVED LICENSES MORE THAN ONCE AND HAVE ONLY TRIED FOR A VERY FEW YEARS.
- 2641 ONE SUGGESTION WOULD BE TO ALLOT 2 ELK LICENSES FOR VETERANS ONLY.
- 2643 SEASON DATES SHOULD BE CHANGED TO SEPTEMBER 1 TO 31ST. INSTEAD OF OCTOBER BECAUSE OF SD'S SNOWS IN HILLS HIT THEN! YOU CAN CULL BULLS IN SEPTEMBER. RANCHERS WANT TOO MUCH MONEY FOR HUNTING THEIR LAND! \$2,000 FOR COWS \$4,000 FOR BULLS MORE WALK-IN AREAS WOULD BE GREAT!
- 2648 REALLY THE ONLY COMPLAINT I HAVE IS I'VE GOT 27-28 YEAR PREFERENCE FOR A CUSTER STATE PARK TAG AND CAN'T SEEM TO GET A TAG.
- 2677 I HAVE APPLIED FOR A CSP ELK LICENSE SINCE I WAS 25 YEARS OLD. I AM NOW 56 YEARS OLD AND HAVE YET TO DRAW A LICENSE. IT IS VERY FRUSTRATING BUT WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY. HAVE HUNTED ELK IN CO, MT, WY AND A CANADIAN PROVINCE, BUT CAN'T DRAW A LICENSE IN MY OWN STATE. I KNOW IT IS THE LUCK OF THE DRAW BUT SOME DAY HOPE TO GET ONE.
- 2685 CONSIDER PUTTING MONEY TOWARDS HABITAT MANAGEMENT INSTEAD OF RESEARCH STUDIES AND PROGRAMS TRYING TO MAKE PRIVATE LANDOWNERS HAPPY THE BLACK HILLS NEED MORE PRESCRIBED BURNING ON LARGE SCALE ESPECIALLY ON PUBLIC LAND.
- 2691 IF LANDOWNER RECEIVES A TAG HE OR SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRANSFER THAT TAG TO ANY ONE HE OR SHE SO CHOOSE.
- 2695 LIONS HELP CONTROL CWD BUT ARE VERY TOUGH ON THE CALF CROP. STUDIES IN MT. SHOW THAT THE LIONS WERE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO DECLINE OF ELK CALF SURVIVAL. Q7J LIONS TAKE THE WEAK LOOK AT WIND CAVE STUDIES.
- 2701 MOUNTAIN LIONS IN BOTH CUSTER STATE PARK - BLACK HILLS - I THINK ARE A PROBLEM WITH ELK CALVES!! MORE ARCHERY TAGS!! 4 PT OR BETTER FOR BULLS - GET THE CATTLE OUT OF THE HILLS BEFORE ELK SEASONS START!! IT'S A PROBLEM TO START HUNTING AND HAVE 30 PEOPLE ON HORSES YELLING - HERDING CATTLE!
- 2703 WHY IS IT THAT THE MORE YEARS THAT YOU PUT IN FOR AN ELK TAG! THAT AFTER 10 YEAR TO 15 YEARS THAT YOUR CHANCES OF DRAWING GO DOWN?
- 2707 YOU RAISED LICENSES FOR YOUR EMPLOYEE HEALTH PLAN BECAUSE OF THE LOSS OF PHEASANT LICENSES. WELL THE WAY THE DEER LICENSES ARE MANAGED YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE MORE LOSS REVENUE DUE TO THE FACT OF THE GFP'S POOR MANAGEMENT OF DEER. YOU NEED TO STOP ALL THE LATE SEASON BUCK LICENSES THAT CONVERT TO DOE TAGS. GFP SHOULD BE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND NOT EMPLOYEE REVENUE. WORST SEASON EVER WILL NOT BUY AS MANY LICENSES IN SD. WILL HUNT OUT OF STATE MORE.
- 2713 TOO MANY OPEN ROADS AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE 4 WHEELERS SHUT OFF. THERE IS

- NOTHING WRONG WITH HIKING. IT WILL MAKE HUNTING FUN AND IT WOULDN'T SPOOK THE ELK AND OTHER WILDLIFE.
- 2714 MY CONCERN IS TOO MANY MOUNTAIN LIONS EATING WILDLIFE. WOULD LIKE MORE ROADS OPEN DURING HUNTING SEASON
- 2738 I HAVE BEEN APPLYING FOR AN ELK TAG FOR AT LEAST 14 YEARS WITH YET TO RECEIVE ONE. I FEEL THAT IS WAY TOO LONG TO GET A TAG AT THIS RATE I WILL BE DEAD BEFORE I GET A TAG. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE TAGS ALL GO. BUT I KNOW SEVERAL RESIDENTS OF SOUTH DAKOTA THAT ARE IN SAME BOAT. I HAVE PAID FOR THE LICENSE WITH NON REFUNDABLE FEE'S OVER THE YEARS ALREADY? I FEEL IT COULD BE A BETTER SYSTEM FOR DRAWING A TAG!
- 2739 I'M WORRIED THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THE BLACK HILLS AND THEY ARE KILLING TOO MANY ELK AND DEER.
- 2740 REDUCE THE MOUNTAIN LIONS!!
- 2742 TOO MANY MOUNTAIN LIONS
- 2745 HAVE A YEAR ROUND MT. LION SEASON, A FILLED TAG MUST BE CHECKED IN WITH WILDLIFE OFFICER WITHIN 48 HOURS.
- 2753 I DON'T THINK LANDOWNERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE AN ELK PERMIT EVERY YEAR. EVERY 2 OR 3 YEARS WOULD BE GOOD. THE AVERAGE HUNTER WAITS ABOUT A TOTAL OF 20 YEARS TO GET ONE ANY ELK TAG.
- 2800 I FEEL IT TAKES TO LONG TO DRAW A TAG. MORE LANDOWNERS IF HAVING PROBLEMS SHOULD GIVE HUNTERS PERMISSION TO HUNT ON THEIR PROPERTY. IT'S HARD TO GET ACCESS TO SOME OF THE LAND. TOO MANY LANDOWNERS HARVEST ELK WHILE HUNTERS WAIT A LIFETIME? WE TAKE OUR MONEY OUT OF STATE TO HUNT ELK!
- 2801 YEAR ROUND OPEN SEASON ON THE CATS AND WOLVES! AFTER 22 YEARS WAITING FOR A TAG IN THE PARK IN 2010 THERE WERE NO ELK! HUNTED 9 DAYS ON HORSES!
- 2810 I HAVE DOUBLE DIGIT PREFERENCE POINTS IN NEARLY ALL FIREARM ELK CATEGORIES AND CONSIDERING MY AGE (66) AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF DRAWING A TAG, I DON'T EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO HUNT ELK IN SD EVER AGAIN. IT DOESN'T SEEM EQUITABLE THAT A LANDOWNER VERY POSSIBLY CAN GET A TAG EVERY YEAR, WHILE NON LANDOWNERS MAY ONLY DRAW A TAG EVERY 20 YEARS, IF EVER. NEED A TRUE PREFERENCE SYSTEM. THOSE WITH MOST PREFERENCE POINTS GET TAGS FIRST, SIMILAR TO OTHER STATES. I WOULD GLADLY PAY A NONREFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE OF \$10 IF THERE WAS A REASONABLE CHANCE OF DRAWING NOT 1%-2%.
- 2837 I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A DRAW OF ELK TAGS IN 2 OR 3 YEARS NOT 18 OR 20.
- 2846 AS THE NUMBER OF MOUNTAIN LIONS HAVE INCREASED, I HAVE SEEN A DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF ELK THAT I SEE IN MY UNIT (UNIT 2). MORE AGGRESSIVE MANAGEMENT OF MOUNTAIN LIONS WOULD IMPROVE ELK HUNTING AND OVERALL ELK NUMBERS.

- 2855 I AM A YOUNG GIRL AND I FEAR THAT I MAY BE AN OLD LADY BY THE TIME I GET A SD ELK TAG!
- 2859 HAVE APPLIED FOR CSP ANY ELK LICENSE FOR 22 YEARS, NO SUCCESS SO FAR, HOPE TO GET /DRAW A TAG BEFORE I CAN'T PHYSICALLY HUNT ANYMORE. I STILL THINK THE GFP DO AN OUTSTANDING JOB WITH ALL OF OUR OUTDOOR RESOURCES. THANK YOU
- 2863 I THINK (AND MOST HUNTERS WHO I HAVE VISITED WITH STRONGLY AGREE) THAT THE BIGGEST DETRIMENT TO THE BLACK HILLS ELK (AND DEER) POPULATION THAT WE CURRENTLY FACE IS THE RAPIDLY GROWING MOUNTAIN LION POPULATION. THERE SEEMS TO BE A COMMON SENTIMENT WITH FELLOW SPORTSMEN OF SOUTH DAKOTA THAT MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN BY THE DEPT. OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS TO DECREASE THE NUMBERS OF MOUNTAIN LIONS. PROBABLY THE BEST ACTION WOULD BE TO INCREASE THE MOUNTAIN LION HARVEST AND ALLOW MORE HUNTERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOUNTAIN LIONS BY OPENING THE SEASON AT AN EARLIER DATE TO ALLOW DEER AND ELK HUNTERS TO LEGALLY TAKE MOUNTAIN LIONS DURING ELK/DEER HUNTS.
- 2869 Q7K LOW NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK. I FEEL MOUNTAIN LION NUMBERS NEED TO BE HELD LOW TO IMPROVE OUR ELK AND DEER NUMBERS. I THINK WE NEED TO MANAGE FOR DEER & ELK NOT LIONS. I ALSO FEEL THAT LION QUESTIONS NEED TO BE ADDED TO THIS SURVEY.
- 2873 I THINK THERE ARE RANCHERS IN THE BLACK HILLS MAKING RECORD PROFITS SELLING THEIR LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT. INCREASING HUMAN POPULATION AND WITH THAT ELIMINATING WILDLIFE HABITAT. THE UGLY DOLLAR MEANS MORE THAN CARING FOR WILDLIFE AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN THE BALANCE OF EVERYTHING. I ALSO BELIEVE NO ONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO TAKE CRP OUT OF CONTRACT TO PLANT MORE CROPS. CROP FARMING IS DESTROYING TOO MUCH HABITAT ALREADY.
- 2874 AN AGREEMENT SHOULD BE WORKED OUT WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW LIMITED BY LOTTERY HUNTING IN WIND CAVE. I DO NOT THINK CATTLE GRAZING SHOULD BE ALLOWED ON ANY PUBLIC LAND WHEN IT INTERFERES WITH RECREATION/HUNTING I UNDERSTAND THE RENTAL FEE IS WAY BELOW THE GOING RATE. CATTLE HARM THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND COMPETE WITH WILDLIFE.
- 2880 THERE ARE TOO MANY MOUNTAIN LIONS.
- 2882 IN MY OPINION WE SHOULD INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LIONS BEING HARVESTED IN THE HILLS UNTIL ELK POPULATIONS HAVE RETURNED TO THE LARGER NUMBERS OF THEM THAT WE HAD IN THE PAST.
- 2903 Q35: TOO MANY LANDOWNERS WON'T LET YOU HUNT OR CHARGE RIDICULOUS FEES
- 2909 Q15. IT WAS NORTH OF CUSTER AND SOUTH OF HILL CITY AND WEST OF CUSTER STATE PARK. Q16 I HAD A LEFT OVER LICENSE IN THE ABOVE UNIT. IT WAS TOTALLY DEVOID OF ELK AND GPF KNEW THIS WHEN THESE WERE ISSUED. I AM VERY UNHAPPY WITH THE GFP. SHAME ON YOU!
- 2926 LANDOWNERS HAVE TOO MUCH WEIGHTED OPINION WITH THE GFP. THE PUBLIC LAND IN THE BLACK HILLS SHOULD BE MANAGED FOR HUNTERS & ESPECIALLY THE WILDLIFE FIRST.

LANDOWNERS GRAZING ON PUBLIC LAND NEED TO REALIZE IT'S A PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT!

- 2932 IM SORRY THIS IS LATE BUT IT WAS MISPLACED. WE LIVE NORTH OF STURGIS, SD AND ON THE EAST SIDE OF INTERSTATE 90. WE OWN 10 ACRES OF LAND AND OUR LAND IS SURROUNDED BY MY BROTHER-IN-LAW'S LAND. THE PAST SIX YEARS FROM 3-14 BULL ELK HAVE WINTERED HERE. THEY ARE FED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ALFALFA AND HAVE THEIR OWN FEEDER THAT THE CATTLE CAN'T GET AT. WE LIKE HAVING THEM HERE DURING THE WINTER. THE PROPERTY CONSISTS OF OAK, ASH, AND PINE TREES. IT IS ALL PASTURE LAND. I THINK I CAN SAFELY SAY THAT WE COULD SUPPORT 8-10 ELK YEAR AROUND. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
- 2934 I WISH PEOPLE DIDN'T USE ATV'S THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN WALKING FOR 10 MILES AND GET IN WITH A HERD, AND THEN A 4-WHEELER DRIVES BY AND SCARES EVERYTHING AWAY. IT'S A LONG 10 MILE TRIP BACK AGAIN.
- 2944 I DON'T LIKE THE FACT I HAVE PUT IN FOR A LICENSE FOR OVER 9 PLUS YEARS AND HAVEN'T DRAWN, WHEN SOME PEOPLE PUT IN 1 TIME AND DRAW. ALSO PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE DATE (COUNTRY) THEY SHOULD GET A LICENSE FIRST!
- 2946 2013 SEASON LIMIT 7, 8 DAYS HUNTING, 1 ELK SEEN. HUNTER HELPING ME LIVES IN AREA AND KNOWS ABOUT ELK HUNTING. 3 HUNTERS, TOO MANY 4 WHEELERS ON THE TRAILS TO COUNT, 6 QUADS FROM WYOMING RIPPING UP THE TRAILS. 63 BULLS HARVESTED IN THAT UNIT IN 2007 LESS THAN 5 HARVESTED IN 2013. IF THE ELK MOVE FROM UNIT TO UNIT AND FROM SD TO WYOMING WHY ARE THERE UNITS? COULD YOU HAVE AN ELK LICENSE FOR THE BLACK HILLS OF SD?
- 2953 I BELIEVE THAT I UNDERSTAND THE CURRENT LOW SUPPLY OF ELK IN SD. HOWEVER, IT IS EXTREMELY DISHEARTENING TO APPLY YEAR AFTER YEAR UNTIL YOU MAY BE TOO OLD TO HUNT ANYMORE AND NOT EVEN GET A LICENSE IN SOME AREAS OF SD. THE PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEM DOESN'T APPEAR TO WORK WELL.
- 2955 LANDOWNER TAGS ARE A JOKE. PEOPLE ARE ABUSING THE SYSTEM BY SAYING THEY HAVE ELK DEPREDATION DAMAGE ON THEIR PROPERTY WHEN IN FACT THEY HAVE NO ELK. A LOT OF THESE LANDOWNERS CHOOSE NOT TO LET ANYONE HUNT, IN THAT CASE THEY DESERVE THE DAMAGE THEN. IF THEY CHOSE TO LIVE THERE AND NOT LET HUNTERS IN, RESPONSIBLE HUNTERS, THEN THEY LIVE WITH THAT CHOICE. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AROUND ME THAT DO THE LOCK OUT PROGRAM & THEN COMPLAIN ABOUT THE WILDLIFE EATING THEIR HAY. CAN WE GET ANY DUMBER? I HAVE 19 YRS PREFERENCE, YOUR DRAW SYSTEM SUCKS. FIX THE PROBLEM BEFORE I DIE!
- 2968 THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS. ALL MY HUNTING TIME HAS BEEN VERY ENJOYABLE WHETHER OR NOT I HUNT I ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF THE OUTDOORS IN SD.
- 2992 LANDOWNERS ARE GIVEN TOO MANY ADVANTAGES IN INQUIRING TAGS OVER NON-LANDOWNERS. I AM A NON-LANDOWNER & FEAR I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO SHOOT AN ELK IN SD. I HAVE RESORTED TO APPLYING FOR WYOMING ELK TAGS.
- 2994 EVIDENTLY THE ELK NUMBERS ARE DOWN BECAUSE IT TAKES MORE YEARS OF APPLYING TO RECEIVE A LICENSE. WHETHER IT IS TOO MANY PREDATORS, OR WHATEVER - CORRECT THE PROBLEM. IF LANDOWNERS ARE HAVING DAMAGE DONE BY ELK, BUT DO NOT LET HUNTERS

ON THEIR LAND THEY HAVE NO REASON TO COMPLAIN. HOW MUCH PRIVATE LAND IS OPEN TO ELK HUNTING. IS THERE A LIST OF PRIVATE LAND THAT IS OPEN TO HUNTING? WIND CAVE ELK CAN'T BE HUNTED, WHAT IS THE POPULATION OUTSIDE THESE TWO AREAS.

2999 GF&P NEEDS TO FIGURE OUT IF MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE HAVING AN IMPACT ON CALF SURVIVAL RATE. ALSO ITS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WOLVES SHOW UP AND HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ELK HERD. YOU HEAR RUMORS/STORIES THAT NOT ONE CALF SURVIVED IN CUSTER STATE PARK LAST YEAR. IF THERE IS A MINIMAL CALF SUCCESS RATE YOU DO THE MATH. THEY ARE A MAJESTIC ANIMAL AND THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA AND HUNTERS SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY PROVIDE. Q3 IT'S NOT MY DEPARTMENT TO DECIDE OR JUDGE. Q6 IT'S NOT MY DEPARTMENT TO DECIDE OF JUDGE, IT'S WHAT THE LAND CAN SUSTAIN.

Area Landowners (208 comments):

1005 Q23A ADJACENT TO UNIT 7

1007 SEASON FOR ANTLERLESS ELK IS TOO LONG. Q12 - IF WAS USED FOR LAND THAT WAS NOT USED FOR CATTLE GRAZING YES.

1031 THE LANDOWNERS I KNOW LET PEOPLE HUNT PEOPLE COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW HARD IT IS TO DRAW A TAG SHOULD KICK MORE ELK OUT OF WIND CAVE. MORE TAGS WOULD BE OFFERED. THE NORTH H2A UNIT IS THE BEST UNIT HARDEST TO DRAW WORTH THE WAIT. H3 UNIT SUCKS FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE. IT'S EVEN TOUGH ON PRIVATE LAND. I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE PUT IN FOR A PREFERENCE POINT IN CUSTER STATE PARK BECAUSE THERE VERY LITTLE ELK GET MORE OUT OF WIND CAVE PUT IN CUSTER STATE PARK AND KILL SOME ELK AND MAKE MORE MONEY.

1129 Q11 GOD WILLING GETTING OLD. Q15& WYOMING LINE Q17B REFUSE TO PAY. Q28D LANDOWNER PROBLEM LET PEOPLE HUNT. Q31 OPPOSITE DRIVE THEM IN. Q32 WISH I COULD. Q35 TOO FEW LIONS. THANKS FOR ALLOWING INPUT LIONS KILLING EVERYTHING CHILD NEXT. KILL LIONS DRAFTED BILL TO BE INTRODUCED IN 2014 TO TAKE POWER AWAY FROM GFP IN SETTING QUOTAS.

1153 PUBLIC LAND IS OVER GRAZED BY CATTLE. THE ELK HERD WOULD BE FINE IF NATIONAL FOREST LAND WAS SET ASIDE FOR NATURE TO INCLUDE ELK, DEER ETC. LIVESTOCK SHOULD BE KEPT ON PRIVATE LAND. IF A RANCHER DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH LAND TO SUSTAIN HIS HERD HE CAN BUY MORE LAND OR SELL MORE CATTLE.

1160 I THINK LANDOWNERS SHOULD GET A LICENSE IF THEY OWN LAND, NOT LEASE IT FROM ONES THAT DO, JUST TO GET TAGS. P.S. I AM GOING ON 7 YEARS WITHOUT A DEER TAG. RIFFLE - 7 YEARS, MUZZLELOADER 7 YEARS - BLACK HILLS DEER - WHAT'S UP?

1170 WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO GIVE BETTER INFORMATION IF I COULD EVER DRAW A LICENSE.

1362 FAR TOO MANY ANY ELK ANTLERLESS ELK TAGS HAVE BEEN WERE ISSUED FOR UNIT 1 IN THE PAST 5 YEARS. MOUNTAIN LION DEPREDATION OFTEN TIMES SEEMS TO BE THE GO TO SCAPE GOAT EXCUSE FOR FEWER ELK/DEER. AS A LIFELONG RESIDENT AND AVID OUTDOORSMEN OF

THE BLACK HILLS AS WELL AS VOLUNTEER AND CHAIR PERSON FOR VARIOUS CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS AND FORMERLY EDUCATED WITH A 4 YEAR DEGREE IN OUTDOOR EDUCATION MY OPINION AND THAT OF VARIOUS WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST & CONSERVATION OFFICERS WITH WHOM I HUNT CONSULT AND CONVERSE IS THAT THE GFP CATERS TO LANDOWNERS PUBLIC OPINION AND PANIC (ESPECIALLY OVER MOUNTAIN LIONS) INSTEAD OF MANAGING WILDLIFE BASED ON SOUND BIOLOGICAL PRACTICES. THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT HOPEFULLY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN.

- 1441 BEFORE MOVING TO SD I OWNED FARM LAND IN IOWA. BECAUSE THE LAND BORDERED TIMBER AND RIVER, MUCH OF THE CROP WAS EATEN BY DEER, RACCOONS, SQUIRRELS AND OTHER WILDLIFE. THAT WAS EXPECTED. I CHOSE THE LOCATION WHEN I PURCHASED THE LAND. I DID NOT EXPECT THE STATE OR ANYONE ELSE TO COMPENSATE MY LOSSES. THIS (SD) IS ELK COUNTRY. THE FARMER OR RANCHER CHOOSES TO LIVE HERE. SD HAS EXCELLENT PROGRAMS, SUCH AS THE WALK IN AND OTHER LIKE PROGRAMS. THE WALK IN PAYMENTS WILL ALSO COMPENSATE FOR SOME OF THEIR LOSSES. MY THOUGHT IS THAT THE GFP COULD SET UP SOME GUIDELINES FOR THE RANCHER & FARMER TO COMPLY WITH TO ALLOW HUNTING FIRST AND THEN SEE IF ELK DAMAGE STILL EXISTS. DEPENDING ON THE PARTICULAR PROBLEM, THE GFP COULD GIVE THE RANCHER & FARMER A LIST OF OPTIONS THAT WOULD BENEFIT THEM. IF THE PROBLEM STILL EXISTS AFTER THEY COMPLY WITH THE OPTIONS, THEN IF THE GFP STILL FEELS OBLIGATED TO HELP, THEY COULD SEEK OTHER MEANS OF MONETARY HELP. THE RMEF MAY ALSO HAVE SUGGESTIONS.
- 1462 I WOULD LIKE TO ONE YEAR RECEIVE AN ELK LICENSE, AS I HAVE APPLIED FOR MANY YEARS.
- 1526 WHERE I AM LOCATED (UNIT 7) I FREQUENTLY SAW ELK FROM 2000-2010. I HAVE NOT SEEN A SINGLE ELK IN THE LAST 3 YEARS DESPITE TRAVELING AND HIKING THE AREA DAILY. I'VE ONLY SEEN 2 SETS OF ELK TRACKS IN THAT SAME AREA DURING THAT SAME 3 YEARS. MY OPINION IS THAT WAY TOO MANY TAGS WERE GIVEN OUT IN MY AREA OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS.
- 1538 WHY ALL THE SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR BIG LANDOWNERS? GUARANTEED ELK TAGS AND SPORTSMAN FUNDED ASSISTANCE OF ALL KINDS SEEMS LIKE OVER COMPENSATION TO ME. MANY LANDOWNERS (240 ACRES OR MORE) RUN THEIR CATTLE ON PUBLIC LAND/ELK HABITAT SPRING, SUMMER, & FALL SO I'M NOT SURE THEY HAVE MUCH TO COMPLAIN ABOUT WHEN IT COMES TO WILDLIFE ON THEIR LAND. AS THE OWNER OF LESS THAN 240 ACRES BORDERING FOREST SERVICE LAND, NOBODY IS TAKING UP ANY COLLECTIONS TO ASSIST ME IN KEEPING SOMEONE ELSE'S LIVESTOCK OFF MY PROPERTY. AS LONG AS CATTLE USE THE FOREST EVERY YEAR THE RANCHERS SHOULD GET NO SPECIAL TREATMENT. THE ELK DO FAR LESS DAMAGE TO PRIVATE LAND THAN CATTLE DO TO THE PUBLIC FOREST. IF YOU NEED TO GENERATE MORE MONEY FOR LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TRY CHARGING THEM A REALISTIC FEE FOR GRAZING ON FORREST LAND. REBUILD THE ELK HERD, MANAGE IT FOR THE GOOD OF THE ELK AND THE SPORTSMEN AND GIVE ALL WOULD BE HUNTERS AN EQUAL CHANCE AT AVAILABLE TAGS, LANDOWNER OR NOT.
- 1539 BUT HAVE TRIED FOR OVER 20 YEARS
- 1549 Q28 NO SUCH THING, ELK WERE HERE FIRST! LANDOWNERS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO 50% OF THE LICENSES. THEY SHOULD BE PUT IN THE SAME DRAWING AS EVERY BODY ELSE. THE GFP

NEEDS TO STOP DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THE WORKING TAX PAYERS AND TREAT EVERYONE EQUALLY!

- 1650 I FEEL A 10 YEAR WAIT FOR A BULL TAG IS UNNECESSARY. I DON'T FEEL THE DRAWING GOES ACCORDING TO PREFERENCE POINTS LIKE IT IS SUPPOSED TO.
- 1701 I HAVE STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS FOR LIVESTOCK OVER WILDLIFE. I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE ABUSES OF LIVESTOCK OWNERS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PROGRAMS ON PUBLIC LANDS. OUR RECREATIONAL PROPERTY IN LAWRENCE CO. SAW FAR FEWER ELK IN THE AREA THAN IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS & SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL PROPERTY DEPREDATION FROM LIVESTOCK
- 1771 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HOURS IN QUESTION 35 TO 3000 OR MORE AND LIMIT THE LANDOWNERS TO EVERY 3RD YEAR OR INCREASE THE MINIMUM TO 640 ACRES. START THE LION SEASON EARLIER TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LIONS TAKEN. THEY ARE DEVASTATING TO VERY YOUNG ELK CALVES. DON'T LET QUACKS LIKE [INDIVIDUAL'S NAME] FORCE YOU TO REDUCE THE ELK HERD.
- 1787 YOU ARE DOING WELL, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
- 1794 AS A LIFE LONG RESIDENT TO SD I WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE A 3-5 YEAR MORATORIUM ON ELK HUNTING TO ALLOW FOR INCREASE POPULATIONS THROUGH OUT THE BLACK HILLS. I PERSONALLY REALLY ENJOY AREAS LIKE JACKSON HOLE, YELLOWSTONE, RMNP AND CUSTER STATE PARK AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE THOSE TYPE OF NUMBERS HERE IN THE BLACK HILLS.
- 1849 YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO HUNT ELK BLACK HILLS WIDE, NOT JUST A CERTAIN AREA. A LOT OF TIMES ELK MIGRATE AND SOME AREAS THEN HAVE VERY FEW ELK, AND OTHER AREAS HAVE LARGE HERDS. THIS YEAR THE SOUTH UNIT WAS EMPTY, EXCEPT FOR IN FENCED PARKS - AND THE NORTH AREA HAD A LOT.
- 1890 WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE A QUALITY ELK POPULATION IN THE BLACK HILLS. AS AN ACTIVE OUTDOORS PERSON AND LANDOWNER IN UNIT 1, WE SPEND A FAIR AMOUNT OF TIME IN THE REMOTE PARTS OF THE AREA. THE HABITAT IS GREAT AND THERE SEEMS TO BE A GOOD BALANCE OF LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE. I AM CONCERNED AS TO THE NUMBER OF MOUNTAIN LIONS AND MOUNTAIN LION EVIDENCE WE SEE YEAR AROUND. ADDING TO THAT CONCERN IS THE LACK OF YOUNG ELK/CALVES WE SAW THIS YEAR IN THE HERDS OF ELK OBSERVED. PLEASE CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE LION POPULATION AND CONSIDER ALLOWING DOGS TO HUNT AS THE LIONS IN THE HILLS HAVE GOTTEN MUCH WISER TO HUNTING PRESSURE. WITH RESPECT TO ELK LICENSE REQUIREMENTS; IT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE TO HAVE TO WAIT 9 YEARS AFTER GETTING AN ELK LICENSE (SUCCESS OR NOT) TO BE ABLE TO APPLY AGAIN. I WOULD ESTIMATE THE REVENUE WOULD BE FAR GREATER AND SD RESIDENTS MUCH HAPPIER IF YOU WOULD ALLOW APPLICATION. IF UNSUCCESSFUL IN 2 YEARS AFTER A TAG IS DRAWN AND THE PREFERENCE POINTS/DRAWING SYSTEM WOULD EVEN THE ODDS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS. AS ARCHERY SUCCESS IS SO LOW AN INCREASE IN TAGS AGAIN WOULD INCREASE REVENUE AND APPEASE MANY RESIDENT HUNTERS. I DO DISAGREE WITH THE AMOUNT OF ELK LICENSES THAT ARE ALLOTTED TO QUALIFYING LANDOWNERS. THE AMOUNT OF PRIVATE LAND VS THE AMOUNT OF NATIONAL FOREST DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A 50/50 SPLIT BUT THE LICENSES ARE SPLIT AS SUCH.

WHATEVER THE PERCENTAGE OF LAND THE AGGREGATE OF LANDOWNERS HOLDS TITLE TO WITHIN A GIVEN UNIT SHOULD BE THE PERCENTAGE OF LICENSES GRANTED.

- 1980 AS I HUNT ELK ANNUALLY IN CO, WY, AND MT SOUTH DAKOTA DOES A GREAT JOB ON THE MANAGEMENT OF QUALITY ANIMALS. (AS I HAVE VIEW ONLY & NOT RECEIVED A TAG IN SD) AS FROM VIEW & HUNTING IN OTHER STATES, QUANTITY OF KILLS SEEMS TO OVER TAKE MANAGING QUALITY OF OVERALL HERD. THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS TO MANAGE THIS AND ALL SPECIES IN SD. GREAT JOB!!
- 2174 AS A FORMER RESIDENT OF MONTANA I AM VERY AWARE OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ELK HUNTING, AND OF THE ISSUES OF PRIVATE PROPERTY DEPREDATION. SOUTH DAKOTA IS DOING A GOOD JOB AT TRYING TO BALANCE BOTH FACETS. THE STATES RESIDENT ONLY LICENSE POLICY IS EXACTLY THE RIGHT DIRECTION FOR THE STATE. TO CONTINUE AS WE HERE IN THE BLACK HILLS HAVE A MUCH SMALLER ELK HABITAT THAN OTHER WESTERN STATES. SOUTH DAKOTA ELK FOR SOUTH DAKOTA HUNTERS SHOULD NEVER BE CONSIDERED FOR CHANGE.
- 2290 IF PROPERTY OWNERS THAT QUALIFY FOR LOP HAVE DEPREDATION PROBLEMS GIVE THEM A FREE COW TAG. THEY SHOULD APPLY FOR BULL OR ANY ELK TAGS LIKE THE REST OF US.
- 2291 CURRENTLY SD GFP'S REQUIREMENT FOR AN ELK LANDOWNER TAG IS THE TOUGHEST FOR ALL THE WESTERN STATES. OTHER STATES JUST HAVE NUMBER OF ACRES AND THEN THE LANDOWNER GETS TO SELL HIS TAG FOR MONEY. I'M NOT SAYING TO DO THIS IN SD, BUT DON'T MAKE IT ANY HARDER TO GET A LANDOWNER ELK TAG. IF YOU RAISE THE NUMBER OF ACRES FOR AN ELK TAG, THEN YOU WILL LOSE THE LAND FROM 240 TO 500 ACRES TO DEVELOPMENTS (HOUSING). THERE IS THEN LESS HABITAT FOR ALL ANIMALS. THANKS FOR READING AND LISTENING.
- 2326 THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY LANDOWNERS GETTING ELK PERMITS WHEN I BELIEVE IT IS NOT JUSTIFIED. ELK LICENSES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE ONLY TO THOSE WHO MAKE THE "MAJORITY" OF THEIR INCOME FROM THEIR AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY. JUST BECAUSE ONE OWNS LAND, 240 ACRES GIVE A HALF PRICE ELK LICENSE. TOO ME THAT IS A [PRIVATIZATION] OF A PUBLIC RESOURCE. ELK USE DAYS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY SHOULD BE INCREASED TO 100 ELK USE DAYS AND LIKE YEARS AGO, LANDOWNERS SHOULD ONLY BE ELIGIBLE EVERY 2 OR 3 YEARS. THE CURRENT SYSTEM THAT GFP USES FOR LANDOWNER LICENSES ONLY INCREASES THE VALUE OF PRIVATE LAND IN THE ELK UNITS WHICH IS NOT RIGHT.
- 2530 Q7I IF PEOPLE LIVE IN ELK COUNTRY THEY NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THERE CROPS, HAY, ETC WITH GOOD FENCES. Q7L OPEN RANGE PERMITS? Q22 3 LOTS 3RD GENERATION HERE ONLY ONE BULL LICENSE IN 61 YEARS 1983. I'VE LIVE IN KEYSTONE, SD ENTIRE LIFE. WHEN I WAS YOUNG MY FOLKS BOTH GOT OVER THE COUNTER ELK LICENSES AND THAT MADE UP THE MAJORITY OF OUR WINTER MEAT. IT WAS A WAY OF LIFE. POPULATION INCREASE TO THE BLACK HILLS HAS BEEN MOST DAMAGING. LIFE LONG RESIDENTS SHOULD DRAW LICENSES FAR MORE FREQUENTLY THAN SOME RICH GUY THAT CAN MOVE HERE, BUY ELK LAND, AND ALMOST BE SURE TO GET A LICENSE. THE WAY THINGS HAVE WENT I DON'T HAVE MUCH HOPE OF EVER EVEN DRAWING ANOTHER ELK LICENSE AT MY AGE, BUT I STILL HOPE FOR ONE MORE BULL HUNT IN MY BLACK HILLS.

- 2573 I BELIEVE THAT LANDOWNERS GET AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE CONCERNING THE LICENSES THAT ARE DRAWN. ESPECIALLY WHEN MOST WON'T LET US GENERAL PUBLIC HELP OUT WITH THEIR "SO CALLED" LOSSES. I'M SURE A LOT OF HUNTERS WOULD LOVE TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE SOME OF THOSE ELK OFF THEIR PROPERTY AND DIMINISH THEIR LOSSES.
- 2574 NEED TO HAVE FEWER MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THE HILLS TO INCREASE DEER POPULATIONS
- 2590 THE ONLY THING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME CHANGES IN SOME FORM OF REMINDER SYSTEM FOR THE DRAWING APPLICATION. FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE WORKED HARD ON GETTING THEIR PREFERENCE POINTS AND LOST MOMENTUM. HOWEVER I DO KNOW THIS IS ALSO PART OF WHAT ALLOWS THE PERSISTENT FEW TO DRAW. ANYWAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS~ KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK.
- 2599 I SYMPATHIZE WITH LANDOWNERS WHO HAVE ELK DEPREDATION PROBLEMS PROVIDED: 1. THEIR LAND IS OPEN TO PUBLIC ELK HUNTING DURING GENERAL SEASONS TO ALLEVIATE DEPREDATION PROBLEMS. ELK BELONG TO THE PEOPLE, NOT TO THE LANDOWNER, AND THE PEOPLE MUST BE GIVEN ACCESS TO THEIR PROPERTY PRIOR TO LANDOWNERS BEING COMPENSATED FOR DAMAGE TO THEIR PROPERTY. 2. LANDOWNERS MUST MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO "ELK PROOF" STOCK PILED OR STORED LIVESTOCK FORAGE/FEED. 3. LANDOWNER/OPERATOR APPLICATIONS MUST BE ALLOCATED BASED ON DEPREDATION EVIDENCE THAT CAN BE "MEASURED" AND THE NEED TO REDUCE POPULATIONS AND CONSEQUENTLY A CLEAR NEED TO HARVEST FEMALES ONLY. 4. MY THOUGHTS ARE THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALLOCATION OF LICENSES ONLY FOR "COW" AND "SPIKE/FORKED" HORNBULLS. LANDOWNERS WISHING TO HARVEST MATURE/TROPHY BULLS NEED TO APPLY AND COMPETE WITH THE GENERAL HUNTING POPULATION.
- 2620 I'VE TRIED TO ANSWER THE BEST I CAN.
- 2647 LANDOWNER ELK TAGS SHOULD HAVE TO BE USED ON THEIR OWN LAND AND NOT PUBLIC LAND. DEER LAND OWNER TAGS CAN ONLY BE USED ON YOUR OWN LAND. THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY CATTLE ON FOREST SERVICE LAND DAMAGING ELK HABITAT. IT'S TIME FOR GFP TO LISTEN TO HUNTERS AND THEIR CONCERNS INSTEAD OF CONCENTRATING ON THE CONSTANTLY COMPLAINING LANDOWNERS.
- 3002 Q7B PUBLIC GRAZING IS VERY CHEAP. ELK COME AND GO. ELK UTILIZE THE PROPERTY MOSTLY YEAR ROUND.
- 3010 Q19 WE HAVE LOST OUR QUALITY BULLS VERY FEW MATURE BULLS. Q24 70 HEAD WINTERED ON ME LAST WINTER. SAW A LOT OF ELK ON OTHER PART OF OUR PROPERTY. NO CLUE ON HOW MANY.
- 3019 Q31 WHAT TIME THEY COME IN IT NIGHT LEAVE BEFORE LIGHT
- 3028 TO HELP INCREASE ELK WE NEED TO REDUCE MT. LIONS. THEY ARE DEVASTATING ON THE CALVES, I SEEN 18 COWS, 2 BULLS AND ONLY 1 CALF, SOME OF THE GROUPS OF ELK HAD NO CALVES.
- 3039 GFP IS SPENDING FAR TOO MUCH MONEY HARASSING THE ELK IN CHOPPERS AND ALSO

TRYING TO COLLAR ALL NEW BORN CALVES. THESE DOLLARS AND HOURS COULD BE USED MUCH BETTER ON PREDATOR CONTROL AND FORAGE ENHANCEMENT. Q36 WE MUST NOT CONTINUE TO LET BOW HUNTERS GO A FIELD AHEAD OF THE RIFLE HUNT. ALL THEY DO IS CAUSE HARASSING AND BEHAVIOR CHANGES!

- 3041 Q7 OF COURSE IT CAN SO CAN ELK GRAZING BUT WITH PROPER MANAGEMENT OF GRAZING WHICH FOREST SERVICE BLM ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOT GFP. I DID NOT CHECK ON ANSWER ABOVE BECAUSE MANAGING FOR FORAGE ABILITY SHOULD BE ON THE LIST. IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT FUR & TROPHIES. AS RANCHERS WE ARE CONSTANTLY DEALING WITH CHANGING FORAGE QUALITY AND ADJUST AVM'S ACCORDING JUST LIKE WE DO ON THE FOREST PERMITS. YES I AM A PERMITEE AND IT'S FRUSTRATING TO HAVE GFP WANTING LESS CATTLE ON FOREST AND MORE ELK WHEN WE HAVE TO FEED THEM ON PRIVATE LAND ALSO. CATTLE AND ELK CAN BENEFIT FROM EACH OTHER AND I DO BELIEVE THAT. BUT THE AGENDAS OF A FEW "COW HATERS" IS NOT GOING TO IMPROVE ELK HABITAT. FOR EXAMPLE BESERT PARK & OONZDES PARCELS HAVE ALMOST NO ELK USE.
- 3046 IN MY AREA, THE BULLS SPEND MOST OF THE YEAR IN UNIT 7 BUT MIGRATE TO UNIT 2 DURING THE RUT AND START RETURNING MID OCTOBER. THIS MAKES THE TROPHY HUNTING OR ANY HUNTING DIFFICULT UNTIL LATE OCTOBER AT BEST. UNIT 7 IS DIFFICULT TO HUNT ALONE AND SHOULD CONSIDER COMING WITH UNIT 2. I TRULY BELIEVE MOUNTAIN LION PREDATION HAVE CAUSED THE RESIDENT HERDS IN MY IMMEDIATE AREA AND CAMP 5 AREA TO CALVE AND RESIDE IN UNIT 2. IT DOES NOT SEEM TO EFFECT THE MATURE BULLS. THE COW HERDS NOW ARE MORE CASUAL VISITORS. ELK AND CATTLE WILL ALWAYS COMPETE. I HAVE NO SYMPATHY FOR GRAZERS ON PUBLIC LANDS UNTIL THEY START PAYING FULL MARKET PRICES FOR THIS PRIVILEGE. UNTIL THIS HAPPENS, MY VOTE IS FOR THE ELK.
- 3052 MOUNTAIN LIONS NEED TO BE REDUCED GREATLY BEFORE THE VALUABLE WILDLIFE RESOURCE WE HAVE IS GONE.
- 3065 A NUMBER OF POINTS: REGARDING Q35, OWNING 240 ACRES SHOULD NOT QUALIFY A PERSON FOR A LANDOWNER ELK TAG. HAVING SUCH A SMALL PARCEL QUALIFY A PERSON ONLY SERVES TO INCREASE HABITAT LOSS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT AND FRACTURING OF THE LANDSCAPE. WHEN DISCUSSING ELK POPULATIONS, MANAGEMENT SHOULD BE BASED ON SCIENCE AND NOT WHAT THE SPORTING COMMUNITY WANTS. THE TARGET ELK POPULATION IN THE BLACK HILLS SHOULD BE ABOUT 4800 ELK. I THINK THIS IS WHAT THE FOREST PLAN STATES.
- 3073 I OWN LAND IN 2 UNITS. IN BUTTE LANDOWNERS TAKE 1/2 THE TAGS IN LAWRENCE, VERY FEW. I READ THE STATISTICS ON ACTUAL LANDOWNER NUMBERS THAT APPLY FOR OVERALL TAGS & THAT NUMBER IS VERY LOW YET GROUPS ARE TRYING TO STIR UP AND FIGHT OVER LANDOWNER PERMITS. KEEPING THE ALLOCATION AT 50% IS PURE LANDOWNER PR & SHOULD BE KEPT THERE. LET THE PUBLIC KNOW THAT VERY FEW OF THE LANDOWNER PERMITS ARE ACTUALLY DRAWN IN MANY UNITS. THANK YOU FOR ASKING!
- 3078 LANDOWNERS SHOULD GET A FREE LICENSE EVERY YEAR
- 3079 Q3. YOUR ESTIMATE IS LOW. GAME FISH & PARKS GAME WARDENS SHOULD CONTACT LOCAL LANDOWNERS MORE OFTEN TO SEE WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS ARE OCCURRING FOR BOTH

DEER AND ELK NO CONTACT FOR THE LAST 2 YEARS.

- 3080 AGAIN, WE HAVE BEEN UNFAIRLY COMMENTED ABOUT LIVESTOCK GRAZING ON PUBLIC LANDS FROM GFP! PICTURES WERE TAKEN IN 2012 DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND GIVEN TO COMMISSIONERS OF NEGATIVE IMAGES. WHERE WERE THE POSITIVE PHOTOS & COMMENTS! WE STRIVE TO WORK TO PROMOTE MULTI-USE WORK WITH ALL USERS! THEN WE HAVE THE ELK POPULATIONS COMPETING ON OUR PRIVATE LAND! GFP IS NOT FAIR OR JUST TO PRIVATE AND PUBLIC AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS CONCERNING WILDLIFE.
- 3084 YOUR MANAGEMENT OF ANY WILDLIFE - ELK-DEER-LION-TURKEY IS AS POOR AS THE US FOREST SERVICE PINE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. TOO MANY TREES (WILDLIFE) LEADS TO A POOR BALANCE OF EVERYTHING. IF I KILLED MY HERD BULL, MY COW HERD WOULD SUFFER. IF I DID NOT THIN MY TIMBERS I WOULD HAVE POOER TIMBER IN THE FUTURE WHICH LEADS TO FIRE, LESS WATER, LESS GRAZING. WE HAVE WORKED WITH THE GFP IN DEER, ELK, TURKEY STUDIES IN THE PAST. THE GFP IS ONLY IN THE WILDLIFE BUSINESS FOR THE MONEY IT SEEMS. THIS FALL WAS A GOOD SHOW OF STUPID BIOLOGY.
- 3091 THEY DIDN'T LIKE IT WHEN THEY STOPPED THE HUNTING BOUNDARY WITH THE BOYD COUNTY NEBRASKA. THE ELK GO ON BOTH COUNTIES AND WE LIVED ON THE BORDER AND OUR LAND IS IN BOTH COUNTIES.
- 3093 YOU NEED TO FARMERS & RANCHERS MORE MONEY TO PLANT FOOD PLOTS SO THE ELK DON'T DAMAGE SO MUCH CROP IN OUR FIELDS. BECAUSE LAND RENT HAS INCREASED SO SHOULD YOUR RENTAL PAYMENTS. I WOULD LIKE TO PUT FOOD PLOTS IN OUR PASTURE FOR ELK BUT DON'T KNOW IF YOU HAVE A PROGRAM FOR FOOD PLOTS.
- 3095 WHERE WE PURCHASED OUR LAND IN 2000 WE WOULD SEE 40 ELK AT ONE TIME NOW ONLY 1 THIS YEAR WHERE DID THEY GO. BE MORE RESPONSIBLE TO WHO YOU GIVE THE LICENSE TO NOT A LANDOWNER THAT LIVES IN NEBRASKA AND GETS 4 LICENSES ALREADY JUST BECAUSE HE SEE THEM ON HIS LAND HIS IS WRONG AND NOT TO CHILDREN OF OWNER THAT DON'T LIVE AT HOME ANYMORE AND DO NOT WORK ON THE FARM.
- 3098 OUR ELK IN UNIT 2 NORTH END AROUND ZIMMER RIDGE, CODE HILL ARE HARD TO HUNT VERY FEW ELK ARE TAKEN BECAUSE OF ROUGH COUNTRY. WE WERE OUT GATHERING CATTLE DURING SEASON AND SOME OF THOSE ELK NEVER KNEW THE SEASON WAS ON. OUR HERD DIDN'T SEEM TO BE REDUCED. MOST HUNTERS WENT TO SOUTH END OF UNIT 2 OR WHERE THEY CAME TOGETHER /NORTH/SOUTH.
- 3103 Q47 SHOULD READ SOMETHING LIKE THIS - IF YOU WERE IN AGRICULTURE AND HAD CROPS THAT YOU WERE GOING TO HARVEST IN THE SUM OF \$15,000 TO \$25,000 WHETHER HAY GROUND OR GRAZING OR CROPS OF ANY KIND AND BECAUSE OF ELK DAMAGE OR ELK CONSUMPTION AND DESTRUCTION TO THOSE CROPS YOU WOULD LOOSE \$10,000 TO \$15,000 UP TO \$25,000 HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?
- 3107 Q 36 - REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS BEING KILLED FROM VEHICLES. WOULD IT WORK TO GIVE SMALLER LAND OWNERS LIKE MYSELF WHO FEED AND CARE FOR THE ELK IF WE COULD GET 2 PREFERENCE POINTS PER YEAR? I'LL NEVER GET A TAG BEFORE I DIE, AND I HELP FEED THEM!

- 3115 WHEN I PLANTED OATS OR ALFALFA THE FIELDS WOULD HAVE 100+ ELK. I WAS NEVER ADVISED THAT THE CRITERIA WAS 500 HOURS.
- 3120 COULD WE PLEASE GET A NORTH AND SOUTH ZONE FOR HUNTING LIONS? ALL IN ALL, I THANK GOD THAT WE HAVE SOME COMMON SENSE PEOPLE HERE IS SD GFP. GOOD JOB, KEEP IT UP!
- 3123 THERE ARE TOO MANY ELK EAST TILFORD. THIS HERD NEEDS TO BE REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY. AS A LANDOWNER WE TOLERATE ELK ON THE WEST SIDE OF I-90 BUT NOT ON THE EAST. THE ELK STAY JUST OF THE EXISTING HUNTING UNIT BOUNDARY. SOME PLAN MUST BE MADE TO CONTROL THIS HERD. Q6: INCREASE IN THE BLACK HILLS NOT OUT OF THE BLACK HILLS (I.E. HERD EAST OF TILFORD NEEDS TO BE REDUCED OR ELIMINATED. THEY ARE ENTIRELY ON PRIVATE LAND AND THEY NEED TO BE DRIVEN BACK TO THE BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST; Q7: AS A BBNF GRAZING PERMITEE WE NEED TO HAVE FS WORK TOWARD THINNING ON MEADOWS. PINE ENCROACHMENT IS DETRIMENTAL TO ELK & LIVESTOCK FORAGE AVAILABILITY; Q24: NONE WEST OF I-90 UNTIL THIS OCTOBER. ABOUT 30 HEAD. EAST OF I-90, EAST OF TILFORD A HERD OF 40 IS ON OUR LAND A LOT. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY DAYS BUT A BUNCH; Q22: WON'T DISCLOSE - HOWEVER, WE RANCH FOR A LIVING NOT A HOBBY; Q25: TOO MANY EAST OF TILFORD, TOO FEW WEST OF I-90; Q28E: [GFP STAFF] WAS HELPFUL BUT HE RAN OUT OF FENCE; Q34: THE BOUNDARY FOR UNIT 7 EAST OF I-90 NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED OR MADE INTO ITS OWN UNIT WITH MORE HUNTERS.
- 3135 Q28B. HARD ON FENCES. DEER DO MORE DAMAGE TO RANCHES [NOT LEGIBLE] THE GFP DON'T GIVE A DARN ABOUT THE RANCHERS. ALL THEY WANT IS MORE MONEY SO THEY CAN BUY NEW VEHICLES TO RIDE AROUND IN. I KNOW YOU DON'T AGREE WITH MY OPINIONS BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.
- 3168 Q36 - FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO GET A LICENSE I HAVE 13 POINTS. WOULD LIKE MORE MOUNTAIN LIONS HARVESTED
- 3203 THE ONLY YEAR I'VE HUNTED ELK IN THE BH WAS 1997 DURING ARCHERY SEASON. SAW A GOOD NUMBER OF ELK AND HAD A LOT OF FUN. THIS LAST YEAR, I'VE RIDDEN HORSEBACK A GOOD 100+ MILES IN THE HILLS AND DID NOT SEE OR HEAR OF A SINGLE ELK ANYWHERE (BLACK ELK WILDERNESS, SLATE CREEK, RAPID CREEK, IRON CREEK ETC). WHERE ARE THEY? I'M JUST BUYING PREFERENCE PTS UNTIL THERE ARE ENOUGH ELK TO HUNT AGAIN. HOPEFULLY SOON I'M GETTING OLD. MAYBE CUT BACK THE MOUNTAIN LIONS POPULATION TO 1997 NUMBERS?
- 3220 Q19 A 10 YEAR WAIT FOR A COW HUNT IS TO LONG TO WAIT. SHOULD BE SHORTENED BY 5 YEARS. Q25 TO MANY DAYS IN DEVELOPMENT
- 3229 I HAVE NEVER GOTTEN AN ELK TAG, AND MANY PEOPLE HAVE THE OPINION THAT THEY ARE TOO DIFFICULT TO DRAW A TAG SO IT'S NOT WORTH APPLYING FOR THEM. OR YOU HAVE TO GO TO A PAID HUNTING LANDOWNER, AND PAY \$7500 FOR A GUIDED HUNT, AND STILL MAY NOT GET ONE. IT'S A BIG MONEY BUSINESS NOT SOMETHING THE AVERAGE DEER HUNTER CAN AFFORD TO DO.
- 3330 WHEN THEY FIRST TRANSPLANTED THE ELK TO THE NORTHERN HILLS AREA, THEY SAID THAT THEY WOULD NEVER GO NEAR THE INTERSTATE BECAUSE OF ALL THE TRAFFIC NOISE. WELL,

THEY BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO THE NOISE JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER ANIMALS, WILD AND DOMESTIC ALIKE. NOW THEY'VE CROSSED OVER TO THE AG LAND ON THE EAST SIDE, HANGING ALONG THE FOOTHILLS BETWEEN PLEASANT VALLEY AND PIEDMONT. WHEN I FIRST TALKED TO THE GAME WARDEN ABOUT OUR PROBLEM HE SAID, "WELL, BE HAPPY YOU DON'T LIVE UP BY ST. ONGE. THEY HAVE ABOUT 100 HEAD TO DEAL WITH UP THERE." WELL, NOW THERE IS ABOUT 60 HEAD IN OUR AREA AND AT THE RATE THEY ARE PROCREATING, WITHIN A COUPLE YEARS THERE WILL BE A 100 HEAD HERE TOO! SO FAR, PROVIDING A UNIT FOR HUNTERS TO HUNT ON OUR SIDE OF THE INTERSTATE HAS BEEN A JOKE. AS FAR AS I KNOW THERE WAS 1 ELK HARVESTED IN OUR AREA IN THE 2012 SEASON AND 1 ELK HARVESTED IN THE 2013 SEASON. THIS IS HARDLY KEEPING UP WITH PRODUCTION LET ALONE DIMINISHING THE SIZE OF THE HERD THAT IS CAUSING US ALL OF THE GRIEF. BESIDES, WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH NEW HUNTERS EVERY YEAR THAT ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE AREA, STOPPING IN TO TALK TO US, ASKING DIRECTIONS, CALLING ALL THE TIME ASKING TO COME BACK FOR DEER AND TURKEY HUNTS AND SO ON. THE FIRST YEAR THAT WE REALLY HAD A PROBLEM WITH THE ELK GETTING INTO A STOCK PEN FULL OF 2ND CUTTING HAY, THE GFP BROUGHT OUT A BUNCH OF HIGH PANELS TO SET AROUND OUR STOCKS. LATER THAT WINTER WE HAD A BLIZZARD THAT DRIFTED IN ALL THE PANELS. I HAD A HECK OF A TIME SHOVELING THEM OUT SO I COULD GET TO MY HAY. EVERYDAY THEY WOULD DRIFT BACK IN AND I WOULD HAVE TO SHOVEL MORE. FINALLY I WAS CUSSING THEM TO THE POINT THAT I WISHED I HAD NEVER ASKED FOR THE GFP'S HELP. AS RANCHERS AND LANDOWNERS I FEEL LIKE WE ARE REALLY BEING TAKING ADVANTAGE OF BY THE GFP. I FEEL LIKE THE ELK BELONG TO THE GFP BECAUSE THEY SET THE RULES AS TO WHAT WE CAN AND CANNOT DO. THEY ARE THE ENTITY THAT PROFITS FROM THE ELK. WE ARE JUST FORCED TO FEED, PROVIDE PROTECTION AND TEND AFTER THEM BY MENDING ALL THE FENCE THEY DESTROY. IF THE GFP IS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO TRY TO TRANSPLANT THE ELK BACK TO PUBLIC LAND, THEN I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A DEPREDATION HUNT ISSUED ON OUR SIDE OF THE INTERSTATE. I'M NOT SAYING HANDOUT 5 OR 10 OR 15 TAGS FOR THE ENTIRE UNIT 7 AREA. I'M SUGGESTING HANDING OUT 20 OR 30 TAGS JUST FOR OUR SIDE OF THE INTERSTATE. AND NOT JUST ONE BUT MAYBE 2 OR 3 YEARS. EVEN AT THIS RATE I DON'T THINK YOU WILL EVER ELIMINATE ALL THE ELK IN OUR AREA, BUT MAYBE CULL THEM DOWN TO A TOLERABLE HERD SIZE.

3353 HUNT FOR THE MEAT. IT IS BETTER THAN DEER.

3356 I AM ABUSED BY YOUR ANTELOPE & DEER YEAR ROUND.

3389 WE DON'T WANT ELK ON AG LAND AS THEY ARE VERY DESTRUCTIVE TO FENCES AND FEED SUPPLIES. IT DISTURBS ME GREATLY THAT GFP EXPECTS PRIVATE LANDOWNERS TO RAISE AND FEED WILDLIFE (ESPECIALLY LARGE WILD GAME) FOR FREE, ALL WE GET IN RETURN IS A SURVEY MORE MOUNTAIN LIONS & WOLVES.

3393 NEVER HUNTED ELK OR PUT IN FOR A TAG IN SD

3438 MY FATHER DIED IN 2005 SO I DO NOT THINK HE APPLIED FOR AN ELK LICENSE IN 2010-2013. IT WOULD BE FINE TO PROVE ME WRONG AND PRODUCE A COMPLETED 2010 TO 2013 ELK APPLICATION. YOU NEED TO BE MORE AGGRESSIVE IN COYOTE CONTROL AS THE MORTALITY RATE FOR ANTELOPE AND DEER YOUNG WAS CLOSED TO 100% LAST YEAR (2013). WITH TO LARGE LOSS OF LIVESTOCK MORE COYOTE PUPS WILL SURVIVE AND BE MORE DESTRUCTIVE

NEXT YEAR.

- 3460 I DON'T SEE CONSISTENCY IN ELK MANAGEMENT. TOO MANY IDEAS AS TO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND THE ELK POPULATION SEEMS TO SUFFER FROM THIS.
- 3469 MANAGE THE MOUNTAIN LION POPULATION BY ISSUING MORE LICENSE AND ELK POPULATION SHOULD INCREASE.
- 3487 I AM NEITHER A RANCHER NOR HUNTER, I LOVE THAT WE HAVE ELK IN OUR STATE BUT OTHER THAN LOVING WILDLIFE & THE OUTDOORS, I'M A BAD PERSON TO ASK.
- 3497 PLEASE, AS A MANAGING AGENCY CONTINUE TO WORK TO FILL ALL AVAILABLE HABITAT WITHIN GIVEN CARRYING CAPACITY RANGES FOR ALL OF THE PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE BLACK HILLS OF SD.
- 3501 PLEASE INCREASE THE MOUNTAIN LION KILL LIMITS. THEY HAVE ALMOST DESTROYED ELK POPULATIONS IN AREAS OF THE BLACK HILLS. LIMIT THE ELK TAGS FOR A FEW YEARS TO ALLOW POPULATIONS TO COME BACK.
- 3547 WILDLIFE ON PUBLIC LANDS COME FIRST NOT LIVESTOCK. I SPENT \$3500 HUNTING ELK AND DEER IN OTHER STATES THIS YEAR. THE TWO STATES I HUNTED I SAW HEALTHY NUMBERS OF WILDLIFE. I WOULD LIKE TO SPEND MY MONEY IN SD. I HAVE FAMILY THAT FARM AND RANCH IN SD AND THEY ARE ALSO HUNTERS. 100% OF THEIR INCOME COMES FROM THE RANCH; THEY DON'T BLAME THE DEER FOR THEIR LOSSES. WHEN THE DEER NUMBERS ARE TOO HIGH. THEY WELCOME HUNTER TO LOW FEWER HUNTER. IF YOU LIVE IN ELK COUNTRY LEARN TO ACCEPT THE IDEA YOU MANY HAVE WILDLIFE ON YOUR LAND. THIS ELK MANAGEMENT IS NOT THIS HARD. LEARN FROM OTHER STATES AND STOP LETTING RANCHERS DICTATE WILDLIFE NUMBERS.
- 3573 PLEASE BREAK DOWN ELK NUMBERS FOR AREAS OTHER THAN TOTAL NUMBERS IN BLACK HILLS, PRIVATE LAND ETC. FOR ME ON MY LAND WINTERING MORE THAN 25 ELK WILL BECOME A PROBLEM.
- 3575 MOST OF THE FENCE DAMAGE THAT HAS OCCURRED ON OUR RANCH IS FROM TRIBE TRYING TO HERD ELK SOUTH, OR FROM HUNTERS MOVING ELK AROUND, OFTEN TIMES BECAUSE OF OTHER HUNTING ON TRIBAL LAND. THE AREA THE ELK WINTER ON IS TRIBAL AND DEEDED LAND SO IT MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO HUNT. THE HUNTERS SOMETIMES MOVE THE ELK AROUND TO HARVEST ON DEEDED LAND AND THAT IS HARD ON THE FENCES. AT THIS POINT I DON'T MIND SOME ELK DEPREDAATION BUT IT IS INCREASING EVERY YEAR AND THE FENCE DAMAGE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL. Q31-I'M NOT AGAINST MORE HUNTERS IN THEORY BUT BECAUSE OF INDIAN LAND OUR AREA IS VERY HEAVILY HUNTED NOW.
- 3579 Q24 AND DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY. Q28A NONE KNOW
- 3580 IF ELK SHOW UP ON MY FARM/RANCH IN THE FUTURE I MAY AT THAT TIME APPLY FOR A LICENSE BUT FOR NOW NO.
- 3583 TO ADD TO MY SON'S SURVEY I'M 82 YEARS OLD AND THE LAST COUPLE YEARS THE ELK HAVE BEEN NEAR, I CAN SEE THEM NOW AND THEN AND LOOKING OUT OUR WINDOWS. BEFORE

THE LAST COUPLE YEARS, NONE WERE HERE. I'VE RECALLED BACK IN THE 1940'S IF ONE SAW A SINGLE DEER, IT WAS A WONDER AND PEOPLE WOULD STAND AND WATCH IT. DURING GRADE SCHOOL YEARS, I SAW PERHAPS ONE OR TWO, SO IT'S EXCITING TO ACTUALLY SEE ELK HERE IN WEST MELLETTE COUNTY.

3622 I HAVE A TOTAL NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD GFP. IF I RAN MY OPERATION THE WAY GFP RUNS THEIRS IT WOULD BE CALLED TRESPASSING! YOUR SO CALLED MANAGEMENT IS DONE BY NATURE ALONE.

3632 MANAGEMENT IS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP A ELK HERD IN GOOD SHAPE. IF YOU NEED TO DROP DOWN GRAZING RIGHTS ON PUBLIC LAND TO DO THIS I THINK IT SHOULD BE DONE, IF THEY WORK OUT TOGETHER SO BE IT, BUT WE NEED TO PRESERVE OUR GAME ANIMALS ON PUBLIC GROUND NOT LIVE STOCK!

3678 I DEEPLY RESENT THE EFFORTS OF GFP LEADERSHIP TO BLAME THE FOREST SERVICE AND LIVESTOCK OWNERS FOR POOR GRAZING MANAGEMENT IN 2012 WHEN THERE WERE MANY MORE ELK THAN SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE.

3687 THIS WAS ONE OF THE POOREST SURVEY AND QUESTIONS I HAVE EVER SEEN. MANY OF THE QUESTIONS WERE VERY POORLY DEVELOPED. THIS SURVEY NEEDED TO GO TO ALL ELK LICENSE APPLICANTS, PAST ELK HUNTER, CURRENT ELK HUNTER, ALL LANDOWNERS IN ELK UNITS, ALL ADJACENT LANDOWNERS TO ELK UNITS, ETC, ETC. THIS MAKES FOR AN EXTREMELY BIAS SURVEY, JUST LIKE THE BIG HORN SHEEP SURVEY.

3690 I DON'T THINK THERE SHOULD EVEN BE A SEASON UNTIL YOU CAN SEE ONE OCCASIONALLY!

3717 Q13 I SPEND TIME IN THE FOREST YEAR ROUND, INCLUDING LOOKING FOR ELK TO VIEW NOT SHOOT. Q28A MAJOR DEER DEPREDATION.

3756 I KNOW THIS WILL NEVER HAPPEN BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ELK AS COMMON AS THE WHITETAIL DEER ARE ON MY PROPERTY. THEY ARE AN ANIMAL WHICH ONCE WAS ON THE PLAINS AND SHOULD BE AGAIN!

3759 Q35 IF LANDOWNERS GET LICENSE EVERY 3-4 YEARS I THINK THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH.

3796 WOULD LIKE TO SEE GUIDED PACK TRIPS WITH OVER NIGHT APPROVED CAMPSITES TO HELP THE PUBLIC SEE OUR WILDLIFE. THE FEES WOULD HELP WITH ELK AND OTHER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.

3800 I FEEL INADEQUATE IN REPLYING TO THESE QUESTIONS AS WE HAVE NO ELK AT THIS TIME BUT WE HAVE LOTS OF DEER AND AS A LANDOWNER I CAN SAY THEY DO A LOT OF DAMAGE TO OUR IRRIGATED CORN FIELDS, SO I IMAGINE ELK WOULD BE EVEN WORSE. WE HAVE LOTS OF HUNTERS - NO CHARGE - WE COULDN'T USE ANY MORE HUNTERS BUT WE LIVE ALONG THE BELLE FOURCHE RIVER. DEER RUNS UP AND DOWN THE RIVER AND WITH THE COSTS FOR RAISING CORN - OUT RENTER IS VERY UPSET ABOUT THE LOSSES AND I DON'T BLAME HIM.

3808 IS GFP PROUD OF ITSELF? I'M STILL IN AWE THAT GFP BELIEVED THAT 150 ACRES OF CREEK BOTTOM WHICH WAS WALK IN HUNTING BY BUFFALO GAP, COULD BE TRADED STRAIGHT ACROSS FOR 150 ACRES OF SHALE BANK OFF HWY 79 TO BE USED FOR A SHOOTING RANGE.

THE RANCHERS WHO TRADED LAND FOR THE CREEK BOTTOM THINK IT'S COMICAL THAT NO ONE AT GFP HAS MORE KNOWLEDGE OF LAND VALUE THAN THAT. THANKS FOR TAKING AWAY THAT HUNTING.

- 3809 LANDOWNERS SHOULD HAVE THE ABILITY TO TRANSFER HIS LICENSE TO ANOTHER PERSON. LANDOWNERS SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY IN LICENSE ALLOCATION OR BE ALLOTTED A CERTAIN NUMBER OF LICENSES/ACRES TO ALLOCATE AS HE DESIRES.
- 3812 THE ONLY NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES WE'VE HAD WITH HUNTERS HAVE ALL BEEN ELK HUNTERS. ONE EVEN SHOT UP OUR WINDMILL. IT WOULD BE NICE TO SEE THE RESEARCH RESULTS ABOUT ELK. THE GUY WHO RECORDS THE COLLAR/LOCATION INFORMATION USES OUR HILL AS ONE OF HIS COLLECTION POINTS. THAT'S FINE WITH US BIT IT WOULD BE NICE TO KNOW THE RESULTS.
- 3816 Q4 IF SO SELL MORE LICENSES. Q19 I DON'T HUNT. Q23 I DON'T KNOW. Q25 I DID SEE TWO HERDS OF 15 OR MORE THIS SUMMER ONE NORTH OF MYSTIC MOSTLY BULLS & ONE NEAR PRINGLE HAD NOT SEE THAT IN YEARS. A GREAT SIGN. Q26 RANCH SOME TIMBER SOME KEEPING THE HOME PLACE. Q28E NO INTERACTION. Q29 DON'T KNOW. Q33A MAYBE I'M NOT SURE WHO IS AROUND. I WOULD NOT PURSUE THAT IT'S POSTED KINDA. Q35 YOUR DATA SHOULD SHOW RATIO PERMITS/ELK (BY OWNER). I OWN LAND BETWEEN CUSTER & PRINGLE, & THERE IS VERY LITTLE PASTURE NEAR ME & I CAN'T IMAGINE THE ELK ARE EATING GRASS OUT IN THE TIMBER. I HAVE NEVER SEEN AN ELK ON MY PLACE. I AM SORRY TO YOUR RESEARCH. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING IF YOU HAVE A MAP THAT SHOWS THE RESULTS OF YOUR ARIEL STUDY! I THINK IT MIGHT SHOW THAT IF THE ELK DEPENDED ON PASTURES, THEY WOULD BE VERY THIN, MAYBE THE STATE SHOULD FIND FEEDING ZONES & SUPPLY THEM FOOD. GOOD LUCK!
- 3833 I HAVE GFP PROVIDED CABLE ON THE TOP OF MY PROPERTY BOUNDARY FENCES. SINCE THIS WAS INSTALLED I HAVE VERY, VERY LITTLE ELK DAMAGE TO MY PROPERTY ANY LONGER. PLUS IT HAS ELIMINATED THE ELK BEING CAUGHT IN THE FENCE. I HAVE HAD OVER 100 ELK ON MY PROPERTY SOME WINTERS AND I CAN NOT SEE THAT THEY CAUSE EXCESSIVE GRAZING. THE ELK ADD A LOT TO THE QUALITY OF LIVE, LIVING IN THE BLACK HILLS.
- 3834 I FEEL THAT MOUNTAIN LION DEPREDATION OF ELK HAS CAUSED ELK POPULATIONS TO DECLINE OVER ANY OTHER FACTOR. I FEEL WE NEED TO INCREASE TAGS ON THE MOUNTAIN LION AS I HAVE NOT SEEN ANY BABY ELK IN MY 4-WHEELING ACTIVITIES. DON'T CLOSE OFF ANY MORE LAND TO SERVE THE ELK POPULATIONS. 4-WHEELING IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE BH INCOME.
- 3835 I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE LICENSES FOR SENIOR HUNTERS WITH MANY YEARS OF PREFERENCE. TIME IS RUNNING OUT.
- 3857 Q22 NONE OF YOUR CONCERN. Q27. AGAIN NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! Q36 POOR QUESTION
- 3866 GFP STOP BUYING PRIVATE PROPERTY YOU ARE TAKING AWAY OPP. FOR PRIVATE BUS.
- 3879 WE NEED TO START SEEING ELK OUT ON THE PRAIRIE NOT JUST IN THE TREES. WE SHOULD BE SEEING THEM ALONG THE CHEYENNE RIVER AND LIKE HABITATS

- 3880 SURVEY COMPLETED BY A GUY WHOM WORKS FOR ME FOR THE LAST 20 PLUS YEARS. MY RANCH RECENTLY PUT IN LLC. SON HAS THE NORTH RANCH DAUGHTER SOUTH RANCH. MYSELF 114 ACRES OUT OF A TOTAL 1760 ACRES. TOO MUCH HUNTING PRESSURE ON COW ELK IN THE PAST YEARS. LIONS HAVE PUT PRESSURE ON THE ELK POPULATION TOO.
- 3886 WE RANCH 25 MILES EAST OF THE BLACK HILLS. THE ELK POPULATION DOESN'T EFFECT US. WE HAVE NONE. WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE IMPACT THEY HAVE ON THE HILLS EXCEPT WHAT WE READ.
- 3890 QUESTIONS DO NOT ALLOW FOR ALL NECESSARY RESPONSES, VERY POORLY STRUCTURED. Q34. DON'T KNOW WHEN IT IS. Q12. HOW MANY LANDOWNERS CLAIM DAMAGES? HOW MUCH? NO NEWS STORIES ABOUT IT. BUT I DON'T HUNT. Q6. HOW CAN I ANSWER WITHOUT KNOWING POPULATION. Q3. NO IDEA SINCE SURVEY IS INCOMPLETE. WITHOUT KNOWING ACREAGE AND NUMBER OF ELK THAT CAN GRAZE WELL ON AN ACRE, I CAN'T MAKE A MEANINGFUL ESTIMATE.
- 3908 ABOUT 10 MILES NORTHEAST OF EDGEMONT ON CO ROAD 18S, I SOMETIMES SEE A HERD OF ELK 60-80 HEAD ACTUALLY COUNT. WHILE MOST LANDOWNERS DON'T MIND WILDLIFE OUT ON OUR PASTURES, THAT'S MORE THAN SOME RANCHERS ENTIRE CATTLE HERD! PLEASE CONSIDER THIS A CASE OF OVER POPULATION IN YOUR STUDY.
- 3915 AT THE [NAME OF] RANCH WE BELIEVE THAT A GOOD LANDOWNER/HUNTER RELATIONSHIP IS IMPORTANT. THEREFOR WE DO NOT CHARGE TO HUNT ON OUR PROPERTY.
- 3917 Q36. THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IS BALANCING A SUSTAINABLE ELK POPULATION WITH FOOD PRODUCTION AND PRIVATE PROPERTY DEPREDATION. FOOD PRODUCTION SHOULD MAINTAIN PRECEDENCE OVER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.
- 3919 I HEARD THAT WIND CAVE PARK RAN APPROXIMATELY 1200 ELK OUT OF THE PARK ON TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND. THIS PUTS A HUGE BURDEN ON SOME RANCHERS AROUND HERE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT BUT IT'S PRETTY HARD TO RANCH WHEN THE ELK EAT MOST OF YOUR GRASS.
- 3924 I HAVE NEVER HAD ELK ON MY LAND
- 3925 GFP MAKES WAY TOO MANY DECISIONS ON RELEASING WILDLIFE AND LICENSES AVAILABILITY WITHOUT CONTACTING LANDOWNERS AND WILL FIND NO ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDOWNER PROPERTY MORE PREVALENT SOON.
- 3928 WE OWN 160 ACRES IN FALL RIVER COUNTY SO I HAVE APPLIED AND HAVE 11 YEARS PREFERENCE. I THINK EVERY YEAR TAGS OF LANDOWNERS SHOULD BE REDUCED SO THE HUNTERS IN THE LOTTERY HAVE A BETTER CHANCE TO DRAW.
- 3934 OUR ELK NUMBERS HAVE BEEN DOWN THE LAST FEW YEARS BUT SEEMS TO BE INCREASING SO WE HAVEN'T BEEN APPLYING FOR A LICENSE DRAW.
- 3948 THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY. THE INCREASE IN MT. LION NUMBERS SEEMS TO BE HAVING AN IMPACT ON THE OTHER WILDLIFE POPULATIONS. Q20

BUT NOT 240 ACRES

- 3955 I SPOTTED TWO DIFFERENT HERDS OF ELK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY AND WAS TURNED DOWN. THE ONE BUNCH WAS ON PROPERTY OWNED BY A NEIGHBOR THAT I HAVE KNOWN FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS. HE SAID IF I SHOT INTO THE BUNCH AND RUN THEM OFF THAT HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET A LICENSE NEXT YEAR. BOTH I KNOW CHARGE TRESPASS FEES AND ONE I KNOW FOR SURE HAS COLLECTED DEPREDATION MONEY. THE ELK HOURS QUALIFICATION NEEDS TO BE CHANGED. BOTH OF THESE LANDOWNERS ARE CONTROLLING ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND. ANY LANDOWNER THAT GETS A LICENSE SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO ALLOW NO PAY HUNTING. ALLOW HUNTERS ACCESS TO THE ELK AND YOU WILL NOT NEED AS MANY DEPREDATION HUNTS.
- 3973 I THANK YOU FOR THE SURVEY. I HAVE NEVER HUNTED ELK. I DON'T HAVE ANY ELK ON MY PROPERTY. I BELIEVE THESE SURVEYS SHOULD BE SENT TO ELK HUNTERS, AND LANDOWNERS WHO RAISE THEM. THANK YOU.
- 4002 I FEEL IF A LANDOWNER FEEDS WILDLIFE HE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PAY TO HUNT IT.
- 4007 I HAVE NOT HUNTED ELK OR SEEN ELK IN OUR AREA. I FEEL I'M NOT MUCH HELP TO YOUR SURVEY.
- 4009 KEEP FROM SAME FAMILY MEMBERS RECEIVING LICENSES IN THE SAME YEAR AND SPREAD OUT FROM FAMILY MEMBERS BACK TO BACK IN YEARS.
- 4031 OUR PROPERTY IN GREGORY COUNTY IS CLOSE TO BUT NOT ADJACENT TO UNIT 30. SAW 2 BULL ELK ON OUR PROPERTY IN 2011, BUT NONE SINCE THAT TIME.
- 4047 Q3. HAVE NO IDEA, I LIVE 200 MILES AWAY! Q35 DON'T KNOW THE DEMAND BY LANDOWNERS IN ELK AREA. Q36 SHOULD BE USED TO CONTROL POPULATION MOST ELK LIVE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY AND ARE AN EXPENSE.
- 4049 SORRY THAT THIS RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHER, 44 YEARS, COULDN'T BE OF MORE HELP ON THIS SURVEY. I'M NOT QUALIFIED TO ANSWER ABOUT ELK. I CONSIDER THEM TO BE A MAJESTIC ANIMAL, HOWEVER. THEY DO COMMAND MY ATTENTION WHENEVER I SEE ANY. I DO KNOW HOW EXCITED SOME OF THE MEN IN MY TOWN ARE WHEN THEY SECURE AN ELK LICENSE; IT IS A COVETED ONE! I'M SO PROUD TO BE A SOUTH DAKOTAN. MAY YOU RECEIVE WORTHY ANSWERS TO MAKE OUR STATE EVEN BETTER. YOUR DEPARTMENT HAS MY RESPECT. THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE TO SD.
- 4055 I FEEL IF YOU ARE A LANDOWNER YOU ARE OBLIGATED TO GIVE BACK TO THE WILDLIFE THAT WAS THERE FIRST. WE HAVE TOO MANY LANDOWNERS ASKING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WILDLIFE DAMAGE. I FEEL THAT MY LICENSE DOLLARS SHOULD NOT PAY FOR FUNDING MATERIAL ON LAND THAT I CAN'T HUNT. I KNOW LANDOWNERS THAT HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMPENSATION THAT WILL NOT ALLOW HUNTING. I FEEL IF YOU ARE RECEIVING COMPENSATION FROM GFP YOUR LAND SHOULD BE OPEN TO HUNTING! PROPERTY THAT HAS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE POSTED! EVERY YEAR I LOSE CROPS TO WILDLIFE I ALLOW THE HUNTERS TO HUNT MY LAND AT NO CHARGE AND MOST ARE MENTOR YOUTH HUNTERS.

- 4058 I AM RETIRED VETERINARIAN LOCATED IN GREGORY COUNTY. MY ONLY CONTACT WITH ELK WAS WHEN OUR LOCAL CONSERVATION OFFICER ASKED MY ASSISTANCE IN RELEASING A LARGE BULL ELK FROM BECOMING ENTANGLED IN A BARB WIRE FENCE. HE HAD ROLLED THE WIRE UP ON HIS ANTLERS LIKE FISHING LINE ON A REEL. MY BROTHER AT THE TIME WAS THE BIG GAME WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST FOR NORTH DAKOTA. I CALLED HIM AND GOT THE DOSAGE FOR TRANQUILIZING ELK. I FOLLOWED HIS RECOMMENDATIONS AND WE HAD VERY GOOD RESULTS WITH MY CAPTURE EQUIPMENT. EVERYONE WAS HAPPY WITH THE OUTCOME. THE ELK WAS LOCATED 2-3 MILES EAST OF THE FIREWORKS STAND EAST OF FAIRFAX. I HAVE TWICE HUNTED ELK IN WYOMING SUCCESSFUL ONES.
- 4063 FIND THE GUY THAT REINTRODUCED MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THE BLACK HILLS AND FIRE HIM. THERE IS A REASON THEY KILLED THEM OUT 150 YEARS AGO. THEY ARE A PREDATOR AND MAN REPLACED THEM. YOUR LICENSING SYSTEM SUCKS, 12 YEARS AND NOT EVEN A LEFTOVER TAG. I KNOW PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD 2 LEFTOVER TAGS IN 5 YEARS OR A LEFTOVER AND A BULL TAG IN 7 YEARS REALLY?!!
- 4081 DUE TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT APPLY FOR ELK TAGS TODAY THE LIKELIHOOD OF RE-DRAWING A TAG AFTER THE 10 YEAR PERIOD BEFORE ONE IS ELIGIBLE TO START APPLYING AGAIN MAKES THE TAGS A "ONE IN A LIFETIME" OPPORTUNITY. WITH THAT IN MIND, IT WOULD BE NICE IF THE BULL ELK HUNTERS COULD HUNT FOR A PERIOD OF TIME WHEN THE HILLS ARE NOT FLOODED WITH DEER, YOUTH AND HUNTERS. SD USED TO BE ONE OF THE BEST PLACES IN THE COUNTRY TO HUNT ELK. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED, BUT IT NO LONGER IS, PLEASE FIX IT.
- 4086 NO ELK IN GREGORY COUNTY. THERE IS A SURPLUS OF DEER AND VERY FEW WILD PHEASANTS.
- 4091 GFP NEED TO ALLOW LANDOWNERS TO CAPITALIZE ON GAME THAT IS ON THEIR LAND. PHEASANT HUNTERS COME AT RANDOM AND CAN HUNT ANYWHERE ANYTIME, BUT THOSE OF US THAT HAVE OTHER WILDLIFE CAN NOT TAKE ANYONE AT ANYTIME. THIS IS NOT FAIR OR EQUAL TREATMENT OF LANDOWNERS.
- 4105 I AM SORRY YOU DID NOT GET A REPLY ABOUT THE ELK SURVEY. I AND MY BROTHER ARE LIVING ON THE FAMILY FARM PAST THE AGE OF MOST PEOPLE. I AM 82, MY BROTHER IS 71. WE HAVE A PROBLEM JUST KEEPING UP WITH THE CHORES AND A SURVEY THAT TALKS ABOUT ELK DOES NOT SEEM VERY IMPORTANT. I HAVE NEVER HUNTED AN ELK AND DON'T KNOW OF ANY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. WE DO HAVE LOTS OF TURKEYS AND DEER - THEY COME AND GO OVER THE YARD PRETTY MUCH AS IF THEY OWN IT AND WE FEED THEM A LITTLE GRAIN FROM THE BINS ON THE PLACE. THEY ARE A JOY TO US AND WE DON'T TRY TO HUNT THEM - THEY WOULD BE TOO MUCH WORK TO CLEAN. WE ARE DOING WELL ENOUGH TO BUY MEAT AT THE STORE.
- 4107 I HAVE HUNTED ELK BOTH IN WY AND CO. I HUNTED FROM 1968-69 IN WY AND FROM 1970-1982 IN CO. THE HUNTING IN CO WAS MUCH MORE FRIENDLY TO OUT-OF-STATE HUNTER AT THE TIME WHEN WE HUNTED.
- 4118 Q3 CAN'T REALLY JUDGE THIS. Q6. CAN'T ANSWER NOT ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE Q35. REALLY CAN'T SAY

- 4136 IN 1987 I DREW AN ARCHERY TAG FOR THE BLACK HILLS SINCE THAT TIME IA HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DRAW A TAG. I HAD PREFERENCE POINTS FOR 10 YEARS THEN I LOST THEM WHEN YOU QUIT SENDING OUT REMINDERS, SO I QUIT APPLYING.
- 4142 I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION DO WE WANT ELK HUNTING THERE ARE SO MANY DEER. THE DEER ARE A PROBLEM FOR THE FARMERS AND SO MANY CAUSE CAR ACCIDENTS TOO!
- 4154 WE HAVE DEER - NO ELK & DON'T WANT A MIX
- 4185 I HAVE SEEN ELK ON MY PROPERTY IN GREGORY COUNTY LOCATED 1 MILE NORTH OF HERRICK, SD. COLORADO HAS MUCH BETTER ELK HUNTING.
- 4190 Q35 NOT TO MANY PEOPLE HAVE THAT MUCH LAND SEEMS VERY UNFAIR FOR THE REST OF US LANDOWNERS. WHY IS THE QUALIFYING LAND ACRES SO HIGH FOR LANDOWNER OPERATOR APPLICANTS (240?) SEEM QUITE OUT OF TOUCH. SEEMS AS IF VERY FEW WOULD QUALIFY AND THEN THE REST OF US WOULD NEVER QUALIFY EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE A LOT OF HOURS ON OUR PROPERTY WHERE ELK ARE EATING.
- 4191 THERE ARE LANDOWNERS AND THEIR RELATIVES THAT GET LANDOWNER PREFERENCE EVERY YEAR. I THINK LANDOWNERS IN THE BLACK HILLS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO ONE LICENSE EVERY SO MANY YEARS (3-5) UNLESS THEY CAN SHOW ACTUAL DEPREDATION.
- 4203 Q23 NOT SURE Q26. LOGGING Q28A MAYBE SOME FENCING ISSUES
- 4205 WE USED TO HAVE 50+ ELK GRAZE IN OUR FIELD IN THE EVENING. HOWEVER, FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS THEY HAVE DISAPPEARED. WHERE DID THEY GO?
- 4209 Q35 IS VERY CONTROVERSIAL. I FEEL THAT THE GFP USE THE 240 ACRES ONLY AND DO NOT TRY TO VERIFY THE HOURS OF ELK USE. I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO APPLY FOR A LANDOWNER TAG BECAUSE I DO NOT HAVE THE 240 ACRES BUT DO HAVE MORE THAN 500 HOURS OF ELK USE EVERY SPRING. THE GFP HAS BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE IN HELPING ME TO BUILD ELK PROOF ENCLOSURES FOR MY HAY.
- 4211 Q24 ONCE 20 AT ONE TIME MAX NUMBER SEVERAL TIMES 4-8 ELK IN A GROUP TOTAL NUMBER 9 TIMES WE HAVE SEEN ELK 6-8 VERY INFREQUENT. I HAVE PUT MY LAND INTO A TRUST WITH THE RMEF. HOPEFULLY TO MAINTAIN [PERPETUALLY] GOOD HABITAT. I AM DISSATISFIED WITH THE HUNTING AND TRAPPING IN SD. IT SEEMS THAT THE STATE WILL BOW TO THE TRAPPERS AND HUNTERS MOST ALL OF THE TIME. BOTH GROUPS, BUT PARTICULARLY THE TRAPPERS, WILL WHINE AT A MOMENTS NOTICE. THEY SEEM TO THINK THIS IS THE 1800'S AND GAME IS ABUNDANT EVERYWHERE AND THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO HUNT AND TRAP UNTIL THE LAST ANIMAL IS GONE. THEN THEY WILL COMPLAIN TO YOU THAT YOU DIDN'T MANAGE IT RIGHT AND DEMAND MORE MONEY BE POURED INTO RESTORATION. MANY HUNTERS CAMPAIGN TO USE THEIR DOGS FOR HUNTING, PARTICULARLY THE LION. I FAIL TO SEE THE SPORTSMANSHIP IN STRESSING AN ANIMAL AND THEN SHOOTING IT OUT OF THE TREE. THE MOUNTAIN LION CONTROL IS A JOKE AND EMBARRASSING. THE COMMISSION JUST KEPT JACKING UP THE QUOTA UNTIL THERE ARE VERY FEW LIONS. FOUR TO FIVE YEARS AGO, PEOPLE WOULD SEE A LION ONCE IN A WHILE. FOR THE LAST 2 YEARS I HAVE NOT TALKED TO ANYONE WHO HAS SEEN A LION. THE COMMISSION SET THE QUOTA AT 100 AND 60 WERE KILLED. THEY KEPT THE QUOTA UP AGAIN. [GFP STAFF] COMES OUT WITH

COMPLICATED FORMULAS THAT BORDER MORE ON SMOKE AND MIRRORS THAN REALITY. IT IS APPARENTLY THE GOAL IS TO ERADICATE THE LION AND MAKE AS MUCH MONEY AS POSSIBLE DOING IT. I THINK A BALANCED ECOSYSTEM IS A MUST, BUT THAT IS NOT THE GOAL OF THE LION COMMISSION OR APPARENTLY GF&P. I READ THAT THE PHEASANT POPULATION IS DECREASING SIGNIFICANTLY, BUT I DON'T HEAR ABOUT ANY REDUCTION IN HUNTING. WE LIVE A MILE BACK IN THE WOODS. WE SEE VERY FEW DEER AND HEAR VERY FEW COYOTES, RELATIVE TO 10-15 YEARS AGO. BUT HUNTER NUMBERS HAVE NOT BEEN REDUCED. IN 2012, I READ ARTICLES ON THE DECLINE OF THE SAGE GROUSE IN SD AND OVER THE WHOLE WEST. SO WHAT DID WE DO? WE HAD A 2 DAY HUNTING SEASON. THE RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FROM [STATE REPRESENTATIVE] IS SHOOT THEM, SHOVEL THEM AND SHUT UP. [STATE REPRESENTATIVE] IS AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE LEGISLATURE. THEIR COMPLAINTS HAVE MUCH TO DO WITH WHERE THEY LIVE. PROBLEMS COME WITH THE TERRITORY AND CHOOSE TO LIVE THERE, SO QUIT WHINING SO MUCH. I DO ADMIRE THE GF&P PEOPLE I HAVE MET. THEY ARE FRIENDLY, HELPFUL, DEDICATED PEOPLE. IT APPEARS WHEN POLITICS ENTERS THE EQUATION, THE WHOLE GAME CHANGES. I THINK THE AMERICAN SPORTSMAN HAS MOSTLY BECOME A MYTH. THE TRAPPERS ARE THEIR OWN BREED. OUR WILDLIFE ARE INTERESTING TO WATCH FOR BOTH THE CITIZENS AND THE TOURISTS. LET'S NOT DROP THE NUMBERS SO FAR ONLY THE HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS CAN SEE THEM.

- 4218 I SPEND A LOT OF TIME IN THE HILLS AND RUN A CROSS ELK AND DEER KILLED BY LIONS. A THERE ARE TOO MANY LIONS IN THE HILLS. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO USE DOGS TO GET RIDE OF MORE LIONS IN THE HILLS. THE WOLVES ARE STARTING TO SHOW UP ALSO AND THIS IS NOT GOOD FOR ANYTHING.
- 4268 Q34A. TOO SHORT
- 4277 I'VE SEEN A FEW ELK ACROSS INTERSTATE, NORTH FROM MY LAND.
- 4283 Q35 NOT NECESSARILY JUST TOO FEW BUT HOW THEY ARE GIVEN OUT AT LEAST UNIT PR9. Q36 MAYBE NOT EQUALLY BUT WEIGHTED
- 4311 WHEN THERE IS AN ELK DEPREDATION HUNT, WHO GETS TO DO THE HUNTING? WOULD BE NICE IF THE STATE IS PAYING FOR THE DEPREDATION, LET THE HUNTERS DO IT. IF LANDOWNERS DON'T ALLOW HUNTING THEN THEY SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED RESOURCES FOR ELK REDUCTION OR MANAGEMENT.
- 4331 LANDOWNERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE LICENSES EVERY 3 YEARS OR SO. EVERY YEAR TAKES TOO MANY ELK FROM OTHER HUNTERS. MOUNTAIN LIONS TAKE TOO MANY CLAVES EVERY YEAR. FEW LIONS IS PLENTY. I DON'T SAY KILL ALL OF THEM BUT YOU CAN'T EAT THEM, YOU CAN'T SEE THEM, NOT A HELL OF A LOT OF VALUE. DEER AND ANTELOPE NUMBERS WAY DOWN, YET YOU HAVE DOE LICENSES - WHAT? THE BUCKS WILL TAKE CARE OF THE DOES.
- 4340 NEVER HAD AN ELK LICENSE NEVER HUNTED ELK
- 4344 SEVERAL LICENSED HUNTERS STOPPED AND ASKED WHERE TO FIND ELK - MOST HAD HUNTED MULTIPLE DAYS WITHOUT SEEING ANY.
- 4350 AS A LANDOWNER WHO HAS LOST LIVESTOCK DUE TO LARGE PREDATORS, IT'S MY OPINION

THAT THESE ANIMALS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE PREDATOR LIST ALONG WITH COYOTES, FOX, ETC.

- 4356 LAND IN UNIT SHOULD BE LOWERED TO 160 ACRES OR MORE OWNED OR LEASED. I HAVE LAND THAT I LEASE WITH MORE ELK HERDS THAN I DO ON THE MAIN RANCH. SOME OF THESE HAY FIELDS MAY ONLY BE 29 TO 40 ACRES IN SIZE BUT I HAY OVER 200 ACRES OF THESE SMALL FIELDS.
- 4361 WE NEED TO HAVE THE UNIT EXTENDED ACROSS HWY 34 TO THE EAST. WE HAVE A LOT OF ELK OVER HERE.
- 4363 WHY DO WE (OR THEY) TALK SO MUCH ABOUT NATIVE SPECIES AND ENDANGERED SPECIES BUT WE HAVE MILLIONS OF PHEASANTS THAT DISPLACE OUR NATIVE BIRDS, LIKE PRAIRIE CHICKENS AND IN THE BLACK HILLS THEY RUN DOMESTIC CATTLE BUT THERE ARE NO WILD BUFFALO. I THINK IT'S TOO BAD EVERYTHING IS DRIVEN BY MONEY.
- 4366 LARGE ANIMALS SUCH AS ELK HAVE NO PLACE WITHIN A REGION WHERE INTERSTATE AND FAST PACES HIGHWAY SYSTEMS EXIST. THESE LARGE ANIMALS WILL EVENTUALLY CAUSE ACCIDENTS WITH FATALITIES. WE ARE NOT THE BIG HORNS OR THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. THE POPULATION IN WESTERN SD, ESPECIALLY THE BLACK HILLS WILL CONTINUE TO GROW IF THE STATE WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE LARGE ANIMALS THEY WILL HAVE TO ANSWER TO A DISASTER IN THE MAKING.
- 4377 Q6. IF YOU MANAGE BY CARRYING CAPACITY ON PUBLIC LAND YOU NEED TO DECREASE A LOT Q15. DEPREDATION TAG FOR RENEGADES FROM PRAIRIE #9 Q23. NONE BUT ADJACENT TO PRAIRIE #9
- 4430 I DREW A TAG IN H2 FOR 2013 SEASON. IT STARTED OUT GREAT. WE HUNTED TWO DAYS THEN THE STORM ATLAS CAME. AS RANCHERS WE HAD OTHER CONCERNS AT HOME THAN ELK HUNTING. AFTER THE STORM WE HUNTED TWO DAYS. IT WAS VERY TUFF GOING WITH ALL THE SNOW. WE FOUND ELK IN SOUTH END OF H2. THE BULL I SHOT WAS NOT WHAT I WAS HUNTING FOR BUT EVERY ELK IS A TROPHY. THE PEOPLE WHO DREW TAGS IN H2 STILL HAD GREAT HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES EVEN AFTER THE STORM, SO DON'T LET THEM TELL YOU OTHERWISE. IT CHANGED THINGS FROM SHOOTING A BIG BULL TO WHATEVER YOU SEEN BUT THE ELK WERE THERE. WE HAD A FRIEND THAT DREW A TAG IN UNIT 1. IN UNIT 1 THERE'S WAS A DISADVANTAGE FOR THOSE HUNTERS WHO DID NOT SHOOT AN ELK IN THE FIRST TWO DAYS. UNIT 1 WAS SNOWED IN AND EVEN A FRESH TRACK WAS HARD TO FIND AS WE HUNTED WITH HER A COUPLE OF DAYS. I KNOW GFP HAS NO CONTROL OVER THE WEATHER. MY SUGGESTION AS A RANCHER IS FOR THESE LANDOWNERS WHO HAVE ELK AND COMPLAIN WHO DO NOT LET ELK HUNTERS ON SHOULD NOT GET ANY HELP. IT'S THEIR OWN DEALINGS. THESE PEOPLE IN H1 WOULD HAVE HELPED OUT ANYWAY POSSIBLE TO FILL A TAG. THERE WERE ELK IN THE NORTHERN UNIT OF 1 BUT NO LANDOWNER WOULD GRANT PERMISSION BUT WILL COMPLAIN WHEN ELK ARE IN THEIR HAY PILE. TUFF LUCK FOR THEM AND IF THEY DO WANT ASSISTANCE THEY SHOULD ALLOW A CERTAIN NUMBER OF HUNTERS ON.
- 4456 BEING A FORMER GFP COMMISSIONER, I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PROPERLY ANSWER THIS SURVEY. I'VE NEVER APPLIED FOR AN ELK LICENSE, ALTHOUGH I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO; I STILL WOULD LIKE TO. I LIVE ABOUT 100 MILES EAST OF AN ELK HUNTING AREA. I ENJOYED

THE YEARS I SPENT ON THE COMMISSION. GOOD LUCK TO GFP.

- 4457 I'VE BEEN APPLYING FOR AN ARCHERY TAG FOR 12 YEARS NOW. IF I DON'T DRAW A LICENSE SOON, I'LL BE TOO OLD TO HUNT. IS THERE A WAY TO TAKE AGE INTO CONSIDERATION?
- 4458 I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE ELK IN OUR AREA.
- 4529 Q31-WE REALLY DON'T WANT MORE PEOPLE ON OUR PLACES. WE GET BUGGED ENOUGH BY HUNTERS WANTING TO HUNT. Q32 - IT DOES NOT APPLY IN OUR UNIT. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO APPLY ANYHOW THEY SHOULD BE HANDED OUT. WE RAISE THEM YEAR ROUND.
- 4538 THE ELK HERD NEEDS TO BE MANAGED BASED ON BIOLOGY NOT REVENUE.
- 4553 I HAVE NEVER HUNTED ELK, APPLIED FOR A PERMIT AND I LIVE IN EASTERN MEADE COUNTY WHERE THERE ARE NO ELK.
- 4554 I DON'T HAVE MUCH KNOWLEDGE OF THE ELK AS I'M A LANDOWNER IN EASTERN MEADE COUNTY SO DO NOT HAVE ANY. I APPLIED ONCE FOR A LICENSE SEVERAL YEARS AGO BUT HAVEN'T SINCE.
- 4571 IF DROUGHT EXISTS OR STRAIN IS PUT ON GRAZING FORAGE ON PUBLIC LANDS, THE NUMBER OF CATTLE APPROVED FOR GRAZING AN ALLOTMENT MUST BE REDUCED. ALSO, THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF ANIMAL UNIT FOR GRAZING NEEDS TO BE RAISED TO AT LEAST 60% OF THE GOING RATE ON PRIVATE LAND WHICH IS NOW SOMEWHERE BETWEEN \$40 AND \$60 PER PAIR PER MONTH.
- 4593 MOST OF MY LAND IS IN HUGHES AND TODD COUNTY NO ELK SEEN IN EITHER COUNTY OR IN MELLETTE COUNTY.
- 4603 WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE ELK IF GFP WOULD HELP KEEP OUT OF WINTER FEED. WE HAVE A DEER PROBLEM AND REQUESTED PANEL FOR HAY AND NEVER GOT ANY HELP ON THAT.
- 4609 I HAVE NEVER SEEN AN ELK ON MY RANCH, BUT I WOULDN'T MIND HAVING A FEW. I THINK ELK DEPREDATION/PROPERTY DAMAGE COULD BE HANDLED THE SAME AS THE DEER.
- 4626 I DIDN'T ANSWER A LOT OF QUESTIONS BECAUSE I DON'T OWN LAND IN ANY OF THOSE COUNTIES. I HAVE NEVER HUNTED ELK OR ANYTHING ELSE. WE USED TO SEE ELK AROUND INTERSTATE 90 GOING TO STURGIS FROM RAPID CITY BUT WE NEVER SEE THOSE BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS ANYMORE. I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY SEND ME A QUESTIONNAIRE. I WOULD JUST AS SOON NOT GET ANY, WHEN I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HUNTING.
- 4696 FOR THE FIRST TIME - ELK GETS INTO ALFALFA BALES ONLY ONE TIME
- 4765 Q31 HUNTERS WORSEN ELK DAMAGE BECAUSE THEY SCARE ELK, MAKING THE ELK RUN THROUGH FENCES RATHER THAN OVER THEM. IT WOULD BE NICE IF ELK SEASON OCCURRED AFTER CATTLE ARE BROUGHT OFF THE RANGE.
- 4770 Q32 NOT ENOUGH ACRES. Q35 THE CURRENT ABILITY TO DRAW AN ANY ELK TAG IS ESSENTIALLY ONCE IN A LIFETIME FOR NON LANDOWNERS. IT IS ABSOLUTELY WRONG FOR

THE ENTIRE FAMILY OF A LANDOWNER WITH 240 ACRES TO BE ABLE TO HAVE A CHANCE AT A TAG EACH YEAR. I HAD THE SON & GRANDSON OF AN ELDERLY WOMAN NEAR PRINGLE BRAGGING THAT THEY GET ELK TAGS EACH YEAR. THEY GET TAGS THAT SHOULD GO TO SOMEONE WITH TEN YEARS OF PREFERENCE. NOT EVEN LANDOWNERS SHOULD GET A TAG EVERY 2 OR 3 YEARS. MAKE LANDOWNERS HUNT ONLY ON THEIR OWN LAND.

- 4786 I KNOW A LOT OF LANDOWNERS WHO SHOOT BULL ELK EVERY YEAR BUT NEVER ON THEIR OWN PROPERTY. I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT LANDOWNERS WHO GET A TAG EVERY YEAR OR EVEN EVERY 3RD YEAR SHOULD HAVE TO SHOOT A BULL ELK ON THEIR OWN PROPERTY WITHIN THAT UNIT. IF THEY SHOOT AN ELK OFF THEIR PROPERTY IT NEEDS TO BE A COW ELK. FAR TOO MANY LANDOWNERS ARE KILLING BIG BULLS EVERY YEAR AND NOT ON THEIR OWN LAND. SEEMS UNFAIR WHEN NON-LANDOWNERS WAIT 20-25 YEARS BETWEEN TAGS.
- 4803 THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER AND SURVEY PAPERS. I HAVE NEVER APPLIED FOR OR EVER RECEIVED AN ELK HUNTING LICENSE. I WOULD NOT ACCEPT AN ELK HUNTING LICENSE IF GIVEN TO ME FREE OF CHARGE. TO ME ELK ARE A BEAUTIFUL ANIMAL TO OBSERVE IN THE WILD AND I ENJOY WILD ANIMALS SUCH AS DEER ROAMING THROUGH MY PROPERTIES IN RAPID CITY AND PENNINGTON COUNTY. SEVERAL OF MY FRIENDS DO ENJOY HUNTING ELK AND I ENJOY HEARING ABOUT THEIR HUNTS. GOOD LUCK ON THE SURVEY. I AM SORRY I CAN NOT BE OF ANY HELP TO YOU.
- 4810 GFP HAS ALWAYS BEEN HELPFUL WHEN WE'VE HAD A PROBLEM WITH WILDLIFE. I KNOW SEVERAL HUNTERS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET A BLACK HILLS TAG FOR YEARS. I THINK YOU'RE HITTING THE MT. LIONS TOO HARD. A COUPLE OF PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME THEY'VE SEEN WOLVES IN THE HILLS.
- 4812 I AM A LANDOWNER, BUT DON'T APPLY FOR LO ELK DUE TO FEW OR NO ELK ON OUR LAND. I DO APPLY FOR LO DEER THOUGH AND HUNT ONLY OUR OWN LAND. IT IS NOT RIGHT TO ABUSE THE PRIVILEGE FOR LANDOWNERSHIP. LO LICENSES SHOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED FOR THEIR SPECIFIC PROPERTY NOT FOR THE WHOLE UNIT.
- 4817 MORE CONSIDERATION GIVE TO THE ELK/MTN LION RATIO. MAYBE INCREASE MTN LION SEASON TO INCREASE ELK HERDS.
- 4842 THANK YOU FOR ASKING FOR MY INPUT BUT MY PROPERTY IN BENNETT COUNTY DOES NOT HAVE ANY ELK ON IT. AS I UNDERSTAND THE ELK ARE IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTY AND MY PROPERTY IS WEST OF MARTIN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
- 4852 I THINK THAT THE WAY YOU WRITE UP SUCH A SURVEY CAN MOVE THE RESULTS IN THE FAVOR THAT YOU WISH FOR PERSONAL ANSWERS TO REAL QUESTIONS REFLECT MORE OPINION THAN DOES AGREEING OR DISAGREEING WITH A STATEMENT. THESE SURVEYS SEEM TO DRAW A MORE DEFINED LINE BETWEEN HUNTERS AND LANDOWNERS. Q5B&C - SOME LANDOWNERS AND HUNTERS ARE ONLY SELFISH FOR THAT DESIRE BUT SOME DO LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE. Q7 B & H - BOTH AGREE AND DISAGREE BECAUSE PUBLIC LANDS ARE ALSO FOR WILDLIFE BUT LIVESTOCK GRAZING IS AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE! Q10B - THIS QUESTION IS A SET UP IT SEEMS. IS USED TO DESIRE TO GET AN ELK LICENSE AND TIRED HARD TO GET ONE, THEN ELK MOVED IN TO THE AREA THAT I OWN LAND AND I RECEIVED A LICENSE AND BAGGED ONE, I AM SATISFIED NOW AN DON'T CARE TOO MUCH. Q11- IF ELK POPULATION GETS DETRIMENTAL IN MY AREA, YES. Q24 - WAS NOT LOOKING FOR THEM BUT

- THERE ARE TRACKS.Q31 - ELK HUNTERS HAVEN'T BUT CAN CAUSE DAMAGE TOO.
- 4876 WE HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH ELK IN UNIT 4 FOR 2-3 YEARS TO MAKE APPLICATION WORTH DOING. LIONS HAVE REDUCED OUR HERD AND I DON'T THINK SHOOTING ALL WE HAVE MAKES SENSE. HOW ABOUT LETTING US HAVE A CHANCE AT A PREFERENCE IN HIGH HILLS THAT'S BETTER THAN THE NORMAL PREFERENCE POINTS PROGRAM. WE STILL FEED WHAT WE HAVE IN THIS AREA AND FIX THE FENCE.
- 4895 ELK ARE ONE OF THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE ANIMALS I HAVE EVER DEALT WITH.
- 4905 WE HAVE NO ELK ON OUR PROPERTY SO MANY OF THE QUESTIONS DO NOT PERTAIN TO ME. AS FOR THE ELK HUNTING SEASON STRUCTURE, THO IS ALSO IRRELEVANT. A FEW YEARS AGO, AFTER A BAD FOREST FIRE IN THE HILLS, A FEW ELK WERE IN OUR AREA, BUT DIDN'T STAY LONG. WE REALLY AREN'T NEEDING THE ELK IN THIS AREA. OUR CONCERNS ARE THE COMPETITION FOR FOOD WITH THE DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK AND THE DANGERS THEY POSE ON OUR NARROW COUNTY ROADS.
- 4913 NO ELK PROBLEMS BUT DEER, ANTELOPE, & GEESE GRAZING ON PASTURE LAND, HAY FIELDS, & GRAIN FIELDS. ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE GREENING UP. FOR THIS SEASON WE HAVE NO TRESPASSING & NO HUNTING SIGN POSTED.
- 4969 RANCHERS CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMY YEAR AROUND AND FEED THE ELK. STOP TRYING TO PUSH RANCHERS OFF! HUNTERS CONTRIBUTE TO THIS REGIONS ECONOMY BRIEFLY. RANCHING IS WHAT NEEDS TO BE SUSTAINED. ELK NUMBERS NEED TO BE LIMITED FOR MAINTAINING HEALTHY ANIMALS AND HABITAT. ELK NEED TO BE MANAGED NOT ALLOWED TO OVER POPULATE LIKE RATS OR DETERIORATE LIKE OUR NATIONAL FOREST BECAUSE OF BAD (NO) MANAGEMENT!
- 4976 ELK SEASONS SHOULD BE LATER SO IT ISN'T SO WARM. ACCESS TO FOREST SERVICE LANDS SHOULD BE BETTER FOR HUNTING SEASONS.
- 4984 Q36 - HUNT FOR FOOD ONLY, NO TROPHY HUNTING
- 5002 Q33A. NO DUE TO VERY POOR MANAGEMENT BY GF&P THERE IS NO LICENSES FOR UNIT 4. MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF THE SPORTSMAN'S MONEY (NOT THE GF&P) TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR ELK & OTHER WILDLIFE ONLY TO SEE CLOSED UNIT OR VERY LIMITED LICENSE (17 DEER TAGS ON HILLS ACQUISITION). THIS IS VERY POOR MANAGEMENT BY GFP STAFF.
- 5008 Q9 NO SEASON IN MY UNIT. WE HAVE TOO MANY LIONS
- 5012 Q24 10 YEARS AGO 100
- 5016 VERY POOR MANAGEMENT LIONS
- 5017 THE TIME AND MONEY THAT IS BEING SPENT ON HARASSING THE ELK COULD BE BETTER USED ON OTHER PROJECTS. THIS USE OF CHOPPERS IS FAR TOO EXPENSIVE AND DOES NOT ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING EXCEPT A FEW DEAD ELK.
- 5018 WE HAVE SEEN A NUMBER OF ELK ON OUR PROPERTY IN UNIT 4. I AM WONDERING WHY

THERE WERE NO LICENSES AVAILABLE TO LANDOWNERS WHO LOVE ELK ON THEIR LAND. Q24 - AVERAGE 15-20 ON DRY CREEK WEST OF 79, AND 5-30 ON FRENCH CREEK WEST OF 79. WE ARE SEEING A FEW NICE BULLS. Q33 - NO LICENSE IN OUR UNIT (4). Q33 - NO LICENSE IN OUR UNIT (4).

- 5026 Q1 WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? Q3 HOW ELSE COULD YOU ANSWER? Q3 THOSE WHO LIKE TO SEE OR HUNT THEM WANT MORE. I'M A RANCHER, YOU ARE HARD TO WORK WITH ON THIS ISSUE. Q7 THE RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY WILL BE JUST HUNTER RIGHT? Q7H THEY HAVE NO RIGHTS. Q16 CAN'T REMEMBER THINK I PASSED. Q19 WE NEED TO GET RID OF ALL LIONS I FOUND 3 ELK & 5 DEER THAT WERE LION KILLS ON MY PLACE LAST YEAR. Q28D ALWAYS STRINGS ATTACHED. Q33A IN IDAHO. Q33C NO SEASON. Q35 AS LONG AS ALL RANCHERS ARE VERY ADEQUATELY COMPENSATED. YOU GUYS (GALS) ARE LIKE WASHINGTON DC. YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE A CLUE. IF RANCHERS DIDN'T WORRY ABOUT FENCES DOWN (\$) COWS GETTING AWAY (\$) ELK EATING HAY (\$) YOU WOULDN'T NEED THIS SURVEY. MAKE ELK HUNTING A MONEY MAKER FOR RANCHERS, NO LOSER OR THIS WILL NEVER END. BUT AT LEAST YOU WILL STILL HAVE SOMEONE ON PAYROLL SENDING OUT SURVEYS.
- 5035 I THINK YOU HAVE DONE A VERY GOOD JOB OVERALL IN MANAGING THE BLACK HILLS ELK HERD. I AM CONCERNED WITH PREDATION OF CALVES – I SEE TOO MANY COWS WITHOUT CALVES ON MY PLACE DURING THE SUMMER. I PLAN TO DO SOME HABITAT IMPROVEMENT (MORE) TO ENCOURAGE ELK ON MY PLACE. I REALIZE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO KEEP EVERYONE HAPPY BUT I AM.
- 5039 I BELIEVE CERTAIN FAMILIES SHOULD GET MORE THAN ONE TAG PER YEAR, WHEN FEEDING THAT MANY ELK! ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE HARMING OUR CROPS & FORAGE THAT MUCH.
- 5040 THE PRAIRIE ELK UNIT 11 IS MY MAIN FOCUS BECAUSE I AM A LANDOWNER IN THIS UNIT. IN MY OPINION THERE ARE TOO MANY ANY ELK LICENSES ISSUED. THERE ARE FEW BULLS THAT REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL BECAUSE THEY GET HARVESTED BEFORE MATURITY. TO HELP MANAGE THE POPULATIONS AND INCREASE MATURITY THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE ANTLERLESS ELK TAGS AND LESS ANY ELK TAGS. A GOOD NUMBER OF ANY ELK TAGS TO ISSUE FOR BENNETT COUNTY WOULD BE 10 WITH 6 OF THOSE GOING TO LANDOWNERS. THANKS FOR HEARING MY CONCERNS.
- 5041 Q33C - NO ONE ASKED; I THINK [GFP STAFF] IS DOING A GREAT JOB PATROLLING AND MANAGING THE [COUNTY NAME] ELK HERD
- 5047 FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS OR MORE THESE ELK HAVE DESTROYED BETWEEN 30 TO 40 ACRES OF MY IRRIGATED CORN 30 X 150 BY IS 3450 BY 3.00 A BU = OVER \$10,000 A YEAR IN DAMAGES AND WHO PAYS FOR THESE CROPS LOSSES. ME. IF I HAD ELK THAT DESTROYED YOUR PROPERTY I WOULD GET BILL FOR THE DAMAGES. POSITIVELY NO MANAGEMENT ON THE [NOT LEGIBLE].
- 5048 Q10A - I RAISE THE DAM ANIMALS AND I NEVER GET A LICENSE
- 5049 I HAVE CORN FIELDS - THEY TRASH A LOT OF CORN WHEREVER THEY NEST AT NIGHT ETC. IT'S HARD TO HUNT THEM IN THE FIELDS

- 5056 PROVIDED DEER HUNTING FREE
- 5069 I RESIDE IN NORTHERN BENNETT COUNTY IN THE LAST 3 YEARS I HAVE SEEN THE ELK NUMBERS EXPLODE. MAINLY DUE TO LACK OF POACHING (GOOD JOB [GFP STAFF]). IN THE FALL OF 2012 I SAW 80+ ELK IN 1 AFTERNOON. THIS FALL A WEEK BEFORE STATE DEER SEASON I SAW OVER 100 HEAD IN ONE BUNCH. THESE NUMBERS ARE A LITTLE ABOVE WHERE THEY NEED TO BE I THINK. IF WE GET A LOT OF SNOW COVER I THINK THEY WILL REALLY START TO DAMAGE HAY PILES. 50 TO 75 HEAD IN MY AREA WOULD BE A TARGET NUMBER IN MY ESTIMATION.
- 5071 I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THERE ARE USUALLY SOME LEFT OVER LANDOWNER TAGS. IF THIS IS TRUE, MAYBE THOSE TAGS SHOULD BE REDUCED TO MORE ACCURATELY CORRESPOND WITH THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS. THEN ANY EXTRA TAGS COULD BE SOLD TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. I DO THINK THAT MOST LANDOWNERS WORK VERY HARD TO HARVEST AN ELK WHEN THEY HAVE A LICENSE. I THINK MOST LANDOWNERS ENJOY HAVING SOME ELK ON THEIR PROPERTY, BUT NOT TO THE EXTENT THAT IT STARTS TO AFFECT THEIR BUSINESS AND INCOME.
- 5072 THE ELK ARE A PROBLEM TO MY PRIVATE LANDS AND CROP. HAVING 50 HEAD EVERY DAY IS LIKE ME RUNNING 50 LESS BEEF CATTLE AND YET THE DOLLARS I RECEIVE FROM GFP DOES NOT BEGIN TO MAKE UP FOR THAT. THE GFP IS VERY QUICK TO TELL LANDOWNERS THAT THE ELK BELONG TO THE PUBLIC OF SD. IF I WERE TO TURN OUT 50 CATTLE ON STATE PROPERTY WITHOUT PAYING FOR IT I WOULD GO TO JAIL. I WISH SOMEONE WOULD EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE TO ME.
- 5075 THIS YEAR THE ELK WERE VERY SCATTERED DUE TO THE FEED AND WATER THAT SEEMED TO BE EVERYWHERE. I THINK IF WE INCREASED WATER FOR THE ELK IT WOULD KEEP THE ELK SCATTERED. INCREASING HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE. PERHAPS WE COULD INVEST IN WATER SOURCES TO INCREASE HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES.
- 5078 I HAVE HAD AN ELK TAG IN UNIT 3 FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS AND IN 2012 AND 2013 SEASON HAS BEEN SOME OF THE HARDEST AND MOST DIFFICULT HUNTING I HAVE EXPERIENCED. SD ELK HUNTERS SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST AN OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT A 7+ YEAR OLD BULL. TAKE A HIKE THROUGH THE SOUTHERN HILLS AND COUNT ALL THE ANIMALS IN THE WOODS, THERE ARE VERY FEW. PREDATORS ARE A BIG PROBLEM BUT THE MANAGEMENT IS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM. RECOMMENDATION FOR THE UPCOMING 2014 SEASON IN UNIT 3: ELIMINATE THE COW LATE SEASON (GET THE ELK POPULATION BACK TO A HEALTHY NUMBER). PUT A 4 POINT RESTRICTION ON THE BULLS (SET A GOAL FOR AN AVERAGE BULL ELK HARVESTED TO BE 7+). MAKE ONLY 100 ANY ELK TAGS (LET THE FEW STILL HAVE A DREAM HUNT). MOVE THE ELK OUT OF WIND CAVE INTO UNIT 3 NOT CSP (THE ELK THAT ARE IN WC CAME FROM UNIT 3). CUT THE BLACK HILLS IN HALF FOR THE MT. LION SEASON, NORTH BH AND SOUTH BH (VERY FEW LIONS GET KILLED IN THE FAR SOUTHERN HILLS). EDUCATE THE ELK TAG HOLDERS MORE ON ELK HUNTING (HOW TO HUNT ELK, SIZE/AGE OF ELK, AND DRIVING/CHASING ELK TO PRIVATE LAND ETC.). WORK WITH THE FEW LANDOWNERS ON THE ELK DEPREDATION PROBLEM (FIND WAYS TO COMPROMISE WITH LANDOWNERS AND NOT ELIMINATE THE ELK DUE TO PROBLEMS). HIRE AN ELK ONLY BIOLOGIST (HIRE A BIOLOGIST FROM UTAH, COLORADO, ETC. THAT HAS EXTENSIVE ELK KNOWLEDGE AND HAS WORKED WITH LANDOWNERS). SET UP ELK MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEES (GENERAL HUNTERS, TROPHY HUNTERS, LANDOWNERS, BIOLOGIST, WILDLIFE VIEWERS, NON-HUNTERS, AND PHOTOGRAPHERS). WORK WITH BBNF ON KEEPING MORE ELK ON PUBLIC LAND (CONTROL BURNS, FOOD PLOTS, NO TRAVEL ON ROADS IN SEPTEMBER ETC.).

- 5083 I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LANDOWNER TAG INCREASED TO GO THE FULL LENGTH OF ENTIRE ELK SEASON. I TRY TO FILL MY TAG ON MY PROPERTY BUT IF THE ELK HAVEN'T SHOWED UP BY THE END OF OCTOBER. I AM FORCED TO HUNT OTHER AREAS ONLY TO HAVE ELK SHOW UP DURING THE COW SEASON. THIS HAS BEEN AN ISSUE WITH OTHER RANCHERS AS WELL.
- 5084 FREE LICENSES FOR LANDOWNERS WITH DEPREDATION TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE FOR THE FEED LOSS AND THE FENCE REPAIR.
- 5088 AREA RANCHERS WHO FEED THESE ANIMALS SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW A TAG BEFORE PEOPLE WHO LIVE OUTSIDE OF OUR AREA. I KNOW A RANCHER WHO HAS NEVER DRAWN A TAG, BUT HAS ELK ON HIS PROPERTY REGULARLY. I'D ALSO LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER REDUCING THE PRICE FOR LANDOWNER - OPERATOR APPLICANTS, BECAUSE THEY ALREADY HAVE THE EXPENSE OF FEEDING THE ELK AND FIXING THE FENCE THEY DESTROY. SHOULD PEOPLE WHO FARM FOR ELK OR LEASE LAND FOR HUNTING BE CONSIDERED A LANDOWNER OPERATOR? I DON'T BELIEVE THIS IS RIGHT.
- 5093 TO DECREASE THE ELK HERD NUMBERS IN CUSTER STATE PARK, START A HUNTING PROGRAM THAT WOULD FUND THE GFP PROGRAMS. HUNTERS SHOULD BE GUIDED BY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AND THEIR WAGES & EXPENSES SHOULD BE COVERED BY THE FEES. THIS WOULD HELP WITH FUNDING PROGRAMS AND CONTROLLING ELK POPULATIONS. I FEEL THE SAME SHOULD BE DONE ON NATIONAL PARKS I.E. WIND AND JEWEL CAVE AREAS.
- 5100 IT'S NOT ONLY ELK THAT WE HAVE A MAJOR PROBLEM WITH HERE AROUND CUSTER. WE HAVE A BIG PROBLEM WITH WHITETAIL DEER. AND SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE.
- 5110 I FEEL THE GAME MANAGERS WE DEAL WITH ARE NOT ALWAYS HONEST WITH LANDOWNERS, THEY FALL DOWN ON PR. THEY DON'T ALWAYS FOLLOW UP AS THEY PROMISE AND GENERALLY ARE VERY PRO HUNTERS, THIS APPLIES TO THE COMMISSION TOO. THEY DO NOT RESPECT PROPERTY RIGHTS (OPEN FIELD, HIGH WATER IN NE, TRESPASS).
- 5112 YOUR SURVEYS SEEM TO BE NEARLY WORTHLESS AS TO HOW MANY ELK YOU HAVE OR WHERE THEY ARE. TOWARD END OF SEASON (MAYBE THE LAST WEEK) FORGET ABOUT UNIT NUMBERS/ BORDERS AND LET HUNTERS GO ANYWHERE THEY CAN FIND ELK.
- 5116 WE HUNTERS DON'T TRUST THE AGENCY. THEY ARE NOT HONEST WITH THE PUBLIC. TIME TO CLEAN THE HOUSE!
- 5118 I CAN'T SPEAK FOR OTHER UNITS, BUT UNIT 5 POPULATIONS HAS PLUMMETED. I HAVE PRIVATE LAND AND A FOREST GRAZING PERMIT, SPENDING ALL MY TIME OUT IN ELK COUNTRY - I SAW 3 YEARLINGS ON OUR PRIVATE GROUND IN SPRING OF 2013, AND 3 YOUNG BULLS NEAR ST. ELMO/CRAZY HORSE IN SUMMER 2013. THOSE ARE THE ONLY ELK I'VE SEEN IN 2 YEARS. I WOULD NOT HAVE SHOT A COW THIS YEAR IF I HAD BEEN ABLE TOO BECAUSE THEY ARE THE FACTORY. I'M MORE OF A MEAT HUNTER THAN TROPHY HUNTER. THE HABITAT IS GREAT. THERE JUST AREN'T ANY ELK. PERHAPS NOT HAVING A SEASON IN

2014 OR TRANSPLANTING ELK FROM PROBLEM AREAS INTO UNIT 5 COULD HELP EVERYONE. IF DEPREDATION BECOMES A PROBLEM THAN INCREASE LICENSE NUMBERS. IF GFP, THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDOWNERS WOULD WORK COOPERATIVELY EVERYONE COULD BENEFIT AND BE HAPPY.

5119 I'M A RANCHER. I RUN 150 COWS IN UNIT 7 NEAR NEMO. CATTLE AND ELK GET ALONG JUST FINE. I OWN OR LEASE AND OPERATE 700 ACRES. ELK ARE HARD ON MY FENCES BUT I LOVE ELK. ALL SUMMER I SEE MOUNTAIN LIONS EATING ELK CALVES. WE HAVE TOO MANY LIONS IN THE BLACK HILLS.

5123 THE LAND THAT I MOSTLY HUNTED ON WAS NOT GRAZED BY CATTLE. THIS MADE HUNTING HARDER

5125 A JOB REQUIREMENT SHOULD BE THAT THE COMMISSIONERS, BIOLOGIST AND ADMINISTRATOR HAVE TO MAKE A SUCCESSFUL LIVING OFF THE LAND FOR 30 YEARS BEFORE THEY CAN HOLD THE POSITION - MOST WOULD NEVER MAKE IT. SAME FOR COLLEGE PROFESSOR BEFORE THEY COULD TEACH A SUBJECT. SPOT LIGHTING AT NIGHT RUNNING HORSES AND CATTLE THRU FENCES IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. JUST BECAUSE THE STUDENT DOES NOT SEE THE DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK DOES NOT MEAN THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY SPOOKED THEM THRU FENCES WITH THE SPOT LIGHT FLASHING ALL AROUND. STUDENT OR BIOLOGIST DID NOT ATTEMPT TO REPAIR ANY FENCES OR DOCTOR ANY CUT UP ANIMALS. NOT ACCEPTABLE.

5126 GRAZING ON THE FOREST IS A NECESSITY. THE ELK LOVE TO FOLLOW WHERE THE CATTLE GRAZE, THE TALL GRASS AND ELK MOVE IN AND EAT THE REGROWTH. THAT'S WHY YOU WILL FIND THE ELK IN THE HAY MEADOWS AFTER THEY ARE CUT AND ALSO IN THE GOLF COURSES. THE ELK ARE NOT UP IN THE ROUGH GRAZING, THEY ARE OUT ON THE FAIRWAYS AND GREENS BECAUSE THEY LOVE THE TENDER REGROWTH OF THE GRASS.

5127 I AM NOT TOO SATISFIED WITH THE WAY GFP MANAGES THEIR PROGRAMS. BUYING LAND AND TAKING IT OUT OF PRODUCTION, NOT BEING ABLE TO MANAGE IT PROPERLY, ALWAYS CHANGING HUNTING RULES AND LIMITS, RAISING FEES

Other Landowners (75 comments):

3134 LICENSE FEES ARE PRICING RESIDENTS OUT OF ALL HUNTING AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NORMAL HARD WORKING SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENT. IT'S JUST TOO EXPENSIVE TO GET LICENSES.

3212 I BELIEVE ALL LANDOWNERS SHOULD HAVE TO APPLY IN THE SAME LOTTERY AS THE REST OF US SOUTH DAKOTANS. I AGREED TO INCREASE THE NON-REFUNDABLE FEE TO HELP THE LANDOWNERS; BUT IN RETURN I BELIEVE THE LANDOWNER SHOULD GIVE UP THEIR PREFERENTIAL ACCESS TO YEARLY ELK TAGS. AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED ALL PUBLIC LAND SHOULD BE PRESERVED FOR WILDLIFE, AND NO LIVESTOCK LEASES ON THE NATIONAL FOREST LAND.

3253 IF A LANDOWNER HAS DEPREDATION, THEN HE SHOULD BE ALLOWED A LICENSE FOR ANTLERLESS ELK IN HIS UNIT. THE ANY ELK PERMITS SHOULD BE THE SAME AS ALL OTHER

APPLICANTS.

- 3275 WE HAVE NO ELK ON OUR LAND SO WE REALLY DON'T CARE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. IF WE DID I'M NOT SURE WE WOULD LET ANYONE HUNT. HUNTERS HAVE NO RESPECT FOR OUR PASTURES. THEY LEAVE GATES OPEN, CUT WIRES, FIND A DIFFERENT ROUTE WHEN GATES ARE PADLOCKED AND LEAVE THEIR TRASH EVERYWHERE!
- 3322 Q14 CAN'T REMEMBER 10 YEARS AGO. Q15 CUSTER STATE PARK
- 3367 Q12. SHOULD LET PEOPLE HUNT IF OVERRUN WITH ELK (FOOT TRAFFIC) Q19. I WALK WHEN I HUNT, MANY AREAS HUNTED WERE CRISSCROSSED WITH ATV TRAILS. ELK WERE SPOOKED IF THEY HEARD ONE COMING. Q35 IF THEY GRAZE FOREST SERVICE OR GRASSLANDS SHOULD OPEN SOME OF THEIR PRIVATE PROPERTY TO HUNTING. Q36. GOOD HABITAT EQUALS HEALTHY HERDS.
- 3449 Q4B OXY MORON, Q4F & G OVER COMPETING "YES" Q5F & G OVER COMPETING "YES" Q13 I WOULD IF I EVER GET MY NAME DRAWN
- 3450 REDUCE THE NUMBER OF COW TAGS BELIEVE YOUR ESTIMATE OF 6000 ELK IS TOO HIGH. MOUNTAIN LION REDUCTION NEEDS TO CONTINUE.
- 3461 IF LANDOWNERS ARE HAVING TROUBLE WITH ELK HERDS ON THEIR PROPERTY THEN THEY SHOULD ALLOW LOCAL HUNTERS ACCESS RATHER THAN GFP KILL THE ANIMALS. ALLOW CONTROLLED STRUCTURED HUNTS SUPERVISED BY GFP.
- 3512 WE HAVE NO ELK IN OUR AREA, SO REALLY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OR CONCERNS ABOUT ELK.
- 3515 THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THE BLACK HILLS, THEY ARE HURTING THE ELK POPULATION. IF THERE IS GOING TO BE GOOD ELK HUNTING IN THE BLACK HILLS, YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO THIN DOWN THE MOUNTAIN LIONS.
- 3558 DO NOT HUNT ELK, HAVE NO LAND NEAR ANY ELK
- 3648 MAY NOT APPLY FOR AN ELK LICENSE DUE TO MY AGE.
- 3672 PREFERENCE POINTS SHOULD BE A TRUE PREFERENCE SYSTEM NOT THE LUCK OF THE DRAW.
- 3711 SINCE I HAVE NO ELK ON MY PROPERTY AND HAVE NOT HUNTED ELK IN SD, I DON'T FEEL THAT I CAN OFFER MUCH ADVICE ON MANAGING ELK POPULATIONS IN SD.
- 3716 I'D LIKE GFP TO PAY ME FOR ALL THE FEED YOUR DEER EAT ON MY PLACE AND ALL THE TREES THEY DESTROY.
- 3720 I HAVE NEVER DRAWN A TAG FOR SD ELK ALTHOUGH I HAVE WENT WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS FOR YEARS IN DIFFERENT UNITS BUT COULDN'T HUNT.
- 3722 Q12 - I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU WILL DO THIS CORRECTLY. NOT NOW NOT IN THE FUTURE- TAKE A LESSON FROM MONTANA AND WYOMING.

- 3730 Q12 - DEPENDS ON NEEDED BUDGET VS # OF APPLICANTS. SHOULD BE BASED ON BUDGET NEEDED TO MANAGE ELK.
- 3739 ALL OUR LAND IS IN HARDING COUNTY
- 3832 I FEEL LANDOWNER TAG IS GREAT BUT THEY SHOULD ONLY HUNT THEIR OWN LAND.
- 3845 PLEASE USE SCIENCE IN STUDYING ELK CALF AND PREDATOR CHALLENGE. ENHANCE MONITORING WILDLIFE BY ESTABLISHING VOLUNTEER STEWARDS IN ALL AREAS APPROPRIATE. DO NOT BE PRESSURED BY HUNTERS IN DEVELOPING POLICIES.
- 3854 I AM NO LONGER ABLE TO HUNT
- 3889 I KNOW A FEW LANDOWNERS WHO GET ELK TAGS EVERY YEAR AND HAVEN'T HAD AN ELK ON THEIR PROPERTY IN YEARS OR EVEN SEEN ANY. SO THEY GO HUNT ELK IN FOREST SERVICE! WHICH DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE BESIDES I THINK IF THEY ARE ISSUED TAGS IF SHOULD BE FOR COWS NOT BULLS! DEPREDAATION SHOULD BE COW ONLY FOR LANDOWNERS! MY OPINION!
- 4026 MY LAND IS FAIRFAX TOWNSHIP, I SEE NO ELK.
- 4029 I AM 83 YEARS OLD SO CAN'T HUNT LIKE I USED TOO.
- 4102 I FEEL THAT ALL LANDOWNERS SHOULD GET FREE LICENSES OR AT LEAST REDUCE PRICE, AS WE ARE THE PEOPLE THAT SUFFER THE LOSS OF CROPS ALL DONE BY ALL SPECIES DEER, ANTELOPE, PHEASANTS, ELK ETC AND GFP PROFIT FROM OUR LOSSES.
- 4146 WE REALLY DO NOT HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH ELK. BUT THEY NEED TO BE MANAGED OR THEY WILL BE LIKE THE DEER POPULATION IN TRIPP & GREGORY COUNTY. WE HAVE LOT OF DAMAGE DONE TO CROPS SHELTER BELTERS & LOTS OF DEER ACCIDENTS WITH VEHICLES. PLUS OVER POPULATION CREATE DISEASE IN HERDS. WE HAD A LOT OF DEAD DEER IN FIELD DUE TO BLUE TONGUE & WASTING DISEASE.
- 4183 WE HAVE NO ELK IN OUR PART OF GREGORY COUNTY!
- 4210 RELATIVE TO LANDOWNERS PROPERTY MY ACREAGE ADJOINS MY FATHER-IN-LAW'S PROPERTY. IN REFERENCE TO THE QUESTIONS CONCERNING LANDOWNERS THE ELK WOULD FEED OR CROSS MY PROPERTY ONTO MY FATHER-IN-LAW'S LAND.
- 4229 Q11 - I AM 72 YEARS OLD AND HAVE APPLIED SEVERAL TIMES BUT WITH NO LUCK. MY TIME TO GET AN ELK IS FAST RUNNING OUT BECAUSE OF PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS. I THINK THERE SHOULD BE A SPECIAL DRAWING FOR US THAT HAVE A LIMITED TIME LEFT TO HUNT. MY DREAM HAS FOR YEARS BEEN TO GET A REAL NICE BULL ELK. I HAVE A CLOSE FRIEND OF MINE THAT APPLIED FOR YEARS BUT DID NOT GET A TAG, NOW HE IS 80 YEARS OLD WITH SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS SO HE NEVER WILL BE ABLE TO SHOOT A BULL. IF I COULD DRAW A TAG IT WOULD BE A ONCE IN A LIFE TIME EVENT.
- 4236 THE ELK POPULATION IN OUR AREA OF LAWRENCE COUNTY HAS INCREASED AND DISPERSED EAST OF HWY 34 DUE TO HUNTING PRESSURE BETWEEN I90 & HWY 34. SINCE THIS AREA

LAND OWNERS SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR LANDOWNER TAGS AS WELL AS OWNERS WITHIN THE AREA. THE STATE MAY OWN THE ANIMALS BUT WE FEED THEM TO KEEP THEM AVAILABLE FOR OTHERS TO HUNT.

- 4242 Q35. NOT ALL EVEN GET USED. THE UNUSED LANDOWNER TAGS SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE GENERAL TAGS FOR RANDOM DRAW.
- 4261 I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO ANSWER Q35. 500 HOURS OF ELK USE IN SOMEONE'S ALFALFA FIELD EQUATES TO 50-60 A HOUR 10 HOURS NIGHTS IN WHICH TIME A LOT OF DAMAGE CAN BE DONE. HOW MANY TOTAL LICENSES ARE GIVEN OUT? IS THERE A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF LICENSES PER LANDOWNER? IS THE LANDOWNER BEING ADEQUATELY REIMBURSED FOR DAMAGES FOR ELK? THE BLACK HILLS COVER A FAIRLY LARGE AREA BUT THERE APPARENTLY IS NOT ENOUGH ELK OR HABITAT TO EVER OFFER A GENERAL TAG? WHY IS THIS?
- 4266 ALMOST 90 YEARS OLD DON'T HUNT ANYMORE.
- 4278 Q16 I HAVE DECEMBER TO COMPLETE HUNT. THE OCTOBER HUNT WAS AFTER 3-4 FOOT OF SNOW AND SECONDARY ROADS WERE NOT OPENED. AS MENTIONED BEFORE THE 3-4 FOOT OF SNOW THAT DROPPED IN EARLY OCT 2013 DEVASTATED HUNTING. THE SECONDARY ROADS WERE NOT OPENED AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC HUNTING GROUNDS WAS VERY RESTRICTED
- 4327 I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE MOUNTAIN LION POPULATION IS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FOR THE ELK HERD. THE CALVES ARE EASY PREY. IF YOU WANT A REAL PROBLEM FOR THE ELK AND DEPREDATION INTRODUCE WOLVES.
- 4416 Q35 - PERCENTAGE SHOULD BE SIMILAR TO THE AMOUNT OF LAND HELD PRIVATELY COMPARED TO PUBLIC! YOU KNOW THIS SITUATION IS BEING ABUSED. "FAMILY TAGS" BROTHER, UNCLES, GRAND KIDS AND WHOEVER ARE SHARING THESE TAGS AND YOU KNOW IT. I THINK LANDOWNERS SHOULD GET AN ADVANTAGE BUT ITS TOO MUCH RIGHT NOW.
- 4417 STIFFER PENALTIES FOR POACHING ELK
- 4420 Q36 NOT HAVING A HUNTING SEASON, LET THE ELK REPOPULATE TOO. FEED THE COUGARS, WHO SHOULD ALSO BE LEFT ALONE.
- 4427 I HAVE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED WITH GFP'S PROFESSIONAL STAFF. WHILE IT IS IMPORTANT, I DO NOT GIVE MUCH CREDENCE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS UNLESS THEY ARE SPONSORED HUNTERS. THE SAME ALSO APPLIES TO THE COMMISSION.
- 4466 PUBLIC LANDS SHOULD BE A PRIORITY FOR WILDLIFE AND SECONDARY FOR LIVESTOCK. MORE HUNTING SHOULD BE PERMITTED FOR CUSTER STATE PARK AND WIND CAVE PARK.
- 4468 INCREASE THE MOUNTAIN LION TAGS BY DOUBLE AND LEAVE THE SEASON OPEN TIL 3/4'S OF THE TAGS GIVEN OUT ARE FILLED.
- 4473 I LIVE EAST OF PIEDMONT. I HAVE COMPARED OPINIONS WITH PEOPLE AROUND BEAR BUTTE AND SPEARFISH. ALL 3 OF US have NOTED A DIFFERENCE IN BIRDS THIS YEAR. GAME BIRDS

AND SMALLER BIRDS AS THE SIZE OF ROBINS & SPARROWS. THIS YEAR THEY WERE LACKING IN POPULATION AND COULD BE NOTED BY THE FACT THAT WHAT FRUIT TREES DID PRODUCE - THE FRUIT WAS LEFT ALONE. THE FRUIT WAS NOT WORMY AND RIPENED AND FELL TO THE GROUND. ALSO, THE WHITETAIL POPULATION HAS DECREASED CONSIDERABLY SINCE THE MID 1980'S AND (OF COURSE) DECIMATED BY LAST YEARS WHITE TAIL DISEASE.

- 4490 THE PEOPLE THAT OWN LAND NEAR THE BLACK HILLS NATURALLY CARRY THE HEAVIEST LOSS DUE TO ELK. ALSO THE DISEASE THREAT IS SOMETHING EVERYONE NEEDS TO TAKE A STRONG LOOK AT. WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE THAT CUSTER STATE PARK HAS THE PROGRAM FOR THE BUFFALO LIKE THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY HAS. WITHOUT THEIR VIGILANCE WE COULD FACE THE DISEASE PROBLEMS THAT THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY FACES IN WYOMING AND MONTANA FROM YELLOWSTONE PARK. THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT YELLOWSTONE IS A NATIONAL PARK THAT DOESN'T PAY ATTENTION TO THE STATE VET.
- 4513 I AM A WIDOWER. NO ONE AT THIS RESIDENCE HUNTS ANYMORE SO MOST OF THIS SURVEY IS UNIMPORTANT TO ME AT THIS TIME. I DO ENJOY SEEING ELK ON TRIPS AROUND THE AREA. THE PRESENCE OF WILDLIFE ENHANCES THE AREA.
- 4542 I THINK ELK LICENSES SHOULD REMAIN FOR SD RESIDENTS ONLY. TROPHY HUNTING WILL ONLY BENEFIT A FEW ELK TAGS ARE HARD ENOUGH TO GET WITH OUT ALLOWING TROPHY HUNTING INTO THE BLACK HILLS. THE BLACK HILLS ARE UNIQUE AND OUR BACKYARD.
- 4588 WE ENJOY WILDLIFE WE EVEN FEED THEM.
- 4598 HUNTERS IN OUR AREA (MELLETTE COUNTY) ARE AT AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE WITH MOST HUNTING SEASON OPENING DAYS. THE ROSEBUD TRIBE SEASONS FOR MOST BIG GAME OPENS A WEEK BEFORE THE STATE SEASONS START. MELLETTE COUNTY IS ONE OF MANY WHERE NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES OWN LOTS OF THE LAND. THIS SITUATION CREATES AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.
- 4618 Q7D NO ELK NEAR MY HOME! Q10A I APPLIED FOR ABOUT 6 YEARS IN CUSTER STATE PARK IN THE 70'S. I GAVE UP FOR A LONG TIME. THEN APPLIED FOR A FEW TIMES IN THE HILLS ILL BE 82 THIS DEC. Q10B I'M TO OLD TO TRY FOR ONE NOW! Q13 NEVER GOT A LICENSE Q21 I OWNED LAND (2400 ACRES) ON RAPID CREEK NEAR FARMINGDALE. I RENTED OUT 200 ACRES THAT WAS USED TO RAISE ELK. I SOLD MY RANCH IN 2005! IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE ENOUGH ELK TO KEEP HUNTING THEM IN THE HILLS!
- 4623 I HAVE NEVER HAD AN ELK HUNTING LICENSE I OWN LAND IN CAMPBELL COUNTY NOT ANY OF THOSE LISTED.
- 4624 AT AGE 83 I DON'T THINK I'M INTERESTED. I'D RATHER GO TO THE STORE AN BUY A NICE PACKAGE OF TBONES THAT ARE ALL CLEANED, CUT AND PACKAGED. MY PROPERTY IS IN AURORA COUNTY. WE DON'T HAVE ELK SO THIS SURVEY DOESN'T APPLY TO ME. I'VE NEVER SHOT ONE OR TASTED ONE.
- 4631 SORRY, I DIDN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS. I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH ELK HUNTING IN THE BLACK HILLS. I WAS RAISED ON THE WESTERN PLAINS OF SD AND ONLY RECENTLY MOVED TO RAPID CITY.

- 4652 I DO NOT HUNT
- 4655 IT SEEMS FOOLISH TO ASK SOMEONE QUESTION WHO HAS NO EXPERIENCE IN ELK HUNTING OR ELK MANAGEMENT
- 4682 Q8 DUE TO INABILITY TO OBTAIN SD LICENSES.
- 4709 I WOULD LIKE TO GET BACK THE RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY. I FEEL LIKE SENIOR CITIZENS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO WAIT A LIFE-TIME TO GET ANY ELK TAG. THOSE YOUNGER HUNTERS HAVE A LOT OF TIME, WE DON'T.
- 4713 NEED MORE ELK AND LESS CATS!
- 4749 ELK UNITS NEED TO BE REVIEWED TO GET PROPER NUMBERS OF HUNTERS INTO THE RIGHT AREAS AT THE RIGHT TIMES. LANDOWNERS SHOULD NOT GET A LICENSE MORE OFTEN THEN EVERY 5 YEARS AND SHOULD BE A RANDOM DRAWING FOR BULL OR COW. LANDOWNERS WHO ALLOW FREE ELK HUNTING MAY GET MORE CONSIDERATION FOR LICENSES.
- 4756 Q36 NONE OF THE ABOVE. WILDLIFE ENJOYMENT EQUALLY. I ENJOY VIEWING WILDLIFE; PARTICULARLY THE ELK. I DO NOT FEEL THEY SHOULD BE RESTRICTED FOR DISPLAY PURPOSES THOUGH. I DO NOT SEE WHERE LANDOWNERS SHOULD HAVE ANY PREFERENCE OVER ANY OTHER GROUPS! I WOULD LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO "HUNT" THEM, IF THERE WAS A NEED TO DO SO.
- 4771 I HAVE HEARD THAT BOWS CAN NOW BE ACCURATELY SHOT AT TARGETS 100 YARDS PLUS. IF THIS IS TRUE THEN WHY SHOULDN'T WE ALLOW ANYONE TO HUNT WITH A CROSSBOW? BETTER YET, HAVE THE ARCHERY AND RIFLE SEASON TO RUN CONCURRENTLY.
- 4773 GFP DOES A GREAT JOB
- 4789 Q14 - ACCOMPANIED MY STEPSON WHEN HE WAS A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL IN CUSTER STATE PARK HUNT. I HAVE NEVER DRAWN A SD ELK LICENSE EVEN THOUGH I HAVE APPLIED FOR ONE FOR OVER 30+ YEARS! Q16 - MY STEPSON DID AS I DID RESEARCH AS TO WHERE TO GO AND WHERE TO HUNT.
- 4793 Q9. I'M OPPOSED TO HUNTING. Q12 THE MINIMUM FEE SHOULD BE VERY HIGH TO DISCOURAGE HUNTING. Q21 OWN LAND IN TRIPP COUNTY Q34 SHOULD BE NO HUNTING Q36 STOP THE HUNTING
- 4808 SORRY, I HAVE NEVER APPLIED NOR HAD AN ELK HUNTING LICENSE SO I DON'T FEEL I AM QUALIFIED TO DO THIS SURVEY.
- 4847 I CAN'T REMEMBER EVER OBTAINING A HUNTING LICENSE FOR SD. MY PROPERTY IS OUTSIDE ANY OF YOUR HUNTING UNITS. ELK HERDS SHOULD BE BALANCED TO ENHANCE POPULATION WITH BALANCE WITH OTHER WILDLIFE, PUBLIC & PRIVATE LAND OWNERS. BEST CONTROL BY HUNTING OR NO HUNTING. I DO NOT AGREE WITH TRACKING COLLARS. GFP SHOULD SERVE THE PEOPLE OF SD, LICENSEE & LANDOWNERS.
- 4859 I BELIEVE WE HAVE TOO MANY MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THE BLACK HILLS AND IT IS

DETRIMENTAL TO ELK.

4897 NEVER GET AN ELK TAG

4915 I DO THINK THAT LANDOWNERS WHO SUFFER PROPERTY DAMAGE SHOULD RECEIVE COMPENSATION. THAT COULD BE IN SEVERAL FORMS. FOR EXAMPLE, LET THEM HAVE ADDITIONAL LICENSES THAT THEY COULD SELL. OR PROVIDE THEM WITH THE RESOURCES TO INSTALL ELECTRIC FENCING THAT THE ELK WILL NOT DESTROY - THIS IS DEFINITELY POSSIBLE. PERHAPS EVEN REWARD THEM FOR PLANTING FOOD PLOTS THAT THE ELK CAN UTILIZE. PERHAPS GIVING RANCHERS PRIORITY FOR GRAZING ON PUBLIC LANDS IF THEY DO CERTAIN THINGS TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE ELK POPULATION. RANCHING IS A BUSINESS. MANY RANCHERS WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF INCOME FROM HUNTING EXCEEDS COSTS OF WILDLIFE.

4916 Q7 THAT HAS TO BE MANAGED PROPERLY TO MANY COWS CAN BE A REAL PROBLEM. Q9 IT WOULD BE NICE IF THERE WAS SOMEWAY TO FIND OUT WHERE THE ELK TRAVEL THEY REALLY MOVE A LOT. Q11 I GOT A LICENSE THIS YEAR I HOPE I LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GET ANOTHER LICENSE.

4917 I WOULD LIKE TO SEE LANDOWNER GET A LICENSE IN 2 OR 3 YEARS NOT EVERY YEAR, GIVE OTHER HUNTERS THE OPPORTUNITIES TO HUNT.

4927 Q34 NOT INTERESTED

4948 WE LIVE IN EASTERN PENNINGTON COUNTY WE HAVE 3 ELK RUNNING AROUND HERE THE ELK ARE NOT GOOD. THE BULL ELK IS TAME NOT GOOD RUBES ON HOUSE AT NIGHT.

4968 THEY ARE MOVING OUT ONTO THE PRAIRIES OF EASTERN PENNINGTON COUNTY. SAW 6 BIG BULLS IN ONE BUNCH A FEW MONTHS AGO.

5001 YOU SHOULDN'T HUNT COW ELK SO HARD. CONTROL LIONS A LITTLE BETTER.

5107 IN THE WEST RIVER UNIT 27 ALL LANDOWNERS NEED TO HAVE A LICENSE OR NONE. GIVING JUST A FEW LANDOWNERS LICENSES IS NOT FAIR. SOME LANDOWNERS ARE GETTING LICENSES LAST TWO YEARS AND OTHER ARE TURNED AWAY. THE UNIT NEEDS UNIT LINES MOVED TOO WHERE THE ELK ARE LINES THAT COME TO OELRICHS, SD IS STUPID. THESE LANDOWNERS ARE IN UNIT BUT WOULD NEVER GET A LICENSE.