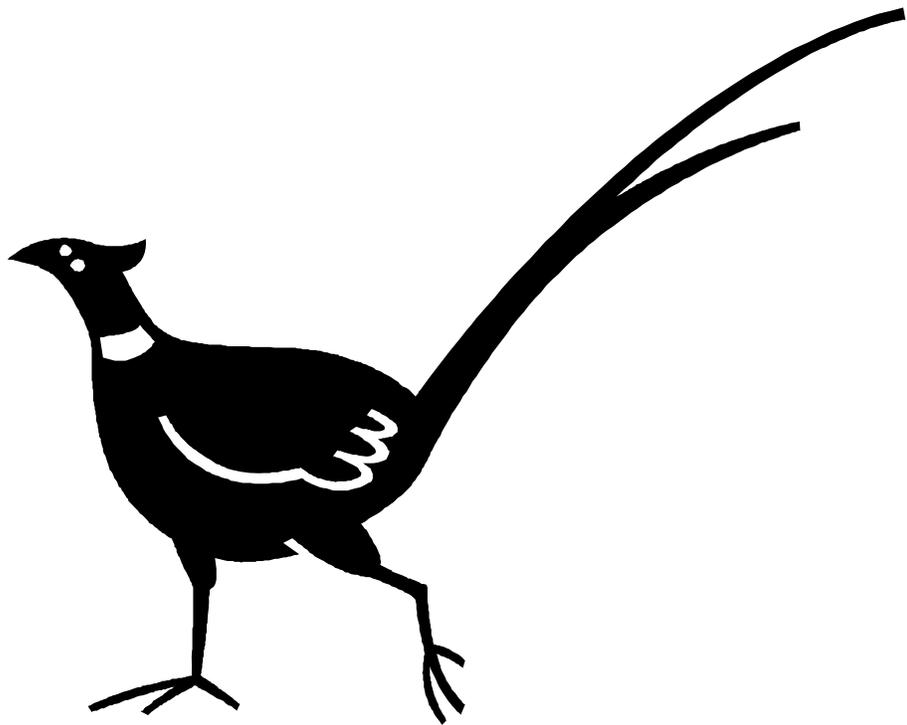


# 2012

## Pheasant Management in South Dakota: Hunter Opinion Survey

HD-5-12.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 South Dakota GFP's pheasant management in South Dakota hunter opinion survey administered in 2012. The purpose of the survey was to gather information regarding hunters' opinions about options for maintaining pheasant habitat and increasing public hunting on private lands. A mixed mode survey was administered to 6,339 licensed small-game hunters; 3,091 total responses were received, giving an adjusted response rate of 51 percent.

**KEY WORDS:** pheasant management, habitat, private lands

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# **2012 Pheasant Management in South Dakota: Hunter Opinion Survey**

**HD-5-12.AMS**

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

South Dakota pheasant populations are strongly associated with quality grassland habitats. For almost 30 years, the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has provided a stable source of undisturbed nesting cover, a critical element to pheasant reproduction. The most recent and future loss of expiring CRP acres, along with the conversion of grassland and wetland habitats to row crop production, will negatively impact pheasant populations. There currently is no other collection of programs which can replace CRP. During the summer of 2012, the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) conducted a preliminary exploration of options for maintaining pheasant habitat and increasing public hunting access on private lands. As part of this preliminary exploration, a mixed mode survey was administered to gauge the level of support for generating funding for additional habitat and access by selling permits allowing hunters to increase their daily bag limit.

This report summarizes results from the SD GFP's pheasant management hunter opinion survey administered in 2012. Survey responses were collected during July and August, and covered the topics of hunters' general pheasant hunting experience, level of support for increased daily bag limits, and funding scenarios for securing additional habitat and hunting access.

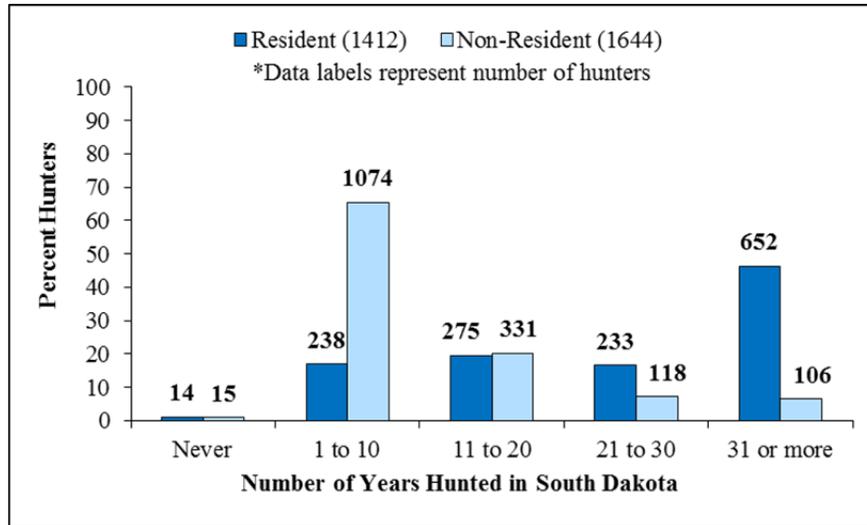
## Methods

A mixed mode survey using both online and mail formats was administered during the summer of 2012. A sample of 6,339 licensed small-game hunters was obtained from the GFP licensing database, and consisted of an approximately 50-50 split of SD residents (3,195) and non-residents (3,144). A total of 3,522 emails were sent out to those hunters who had provided an email address asking them to participate in the online survey. The remaining 2,817 hunters were sent a postcard with the web address and an invitation to participate in the online survey. In total, three emails and three postcards were sent asking hunters to complete the survey online. Finally, a printed survey was mailed to all hunters who had not responded to the survey after the third email/postcard reminder (appendix A). A total of 1,753 hunters responded to the online survey and an additional 1,338 hunters responded to the mail survey, for a total of 3,091 responses. Adjusting for undeliverable addresses, the total sample size was 6,061 resulting in an overall response rate of 51 percent. A review of the proportion of non-resident and SD resident respondents indicated 54 percent of respondents were non-residents and 46 percent were SD residents. This is very similar to the overall small-game hunter population proportion of 53 percent licensed non-resident small-game hunters and 47 percent licensed resident small-game hunters.

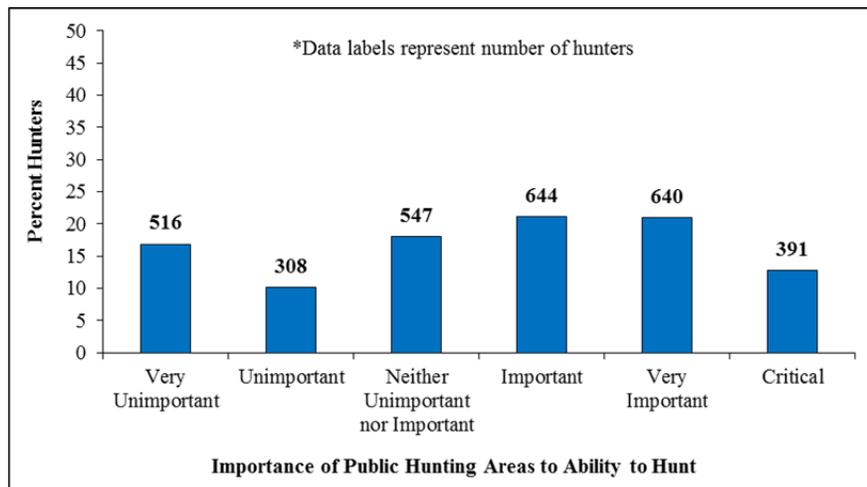
## Results

Pheasant Hunting Experience – The majority of hunters (56%) indicated they had hunted in South Dakota for 11 or more years. A large majority (82%) of those hunters indicating they had hunted in SD for 1 to 10 years was comprised of non-resident hunters (figure 1). When asked how important public hunting areas were to their ability to hunt pheasants in South Dakota, 42 percent of hunters said they were important or very important. Another 13 percent of hunters indicated they were critical, and they would not hunt pheasants if it were not for public hunting areas (figure 2). Just over one-quarter (27%) of hunters indicated public hunting areas

were either unimportant or very unimportant to their ability to pheasant hunt in SD. There were slight differences in importance of public hunting areas between residents and non-residents ( $\chi^2(5, 3031)37.23, p\leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V 0.111$ ).<sup>1</sup> South Dakota residents were more likely to indicate public hunting areas were very important to their ability to hunt pheasants than non-residents (figure 3).

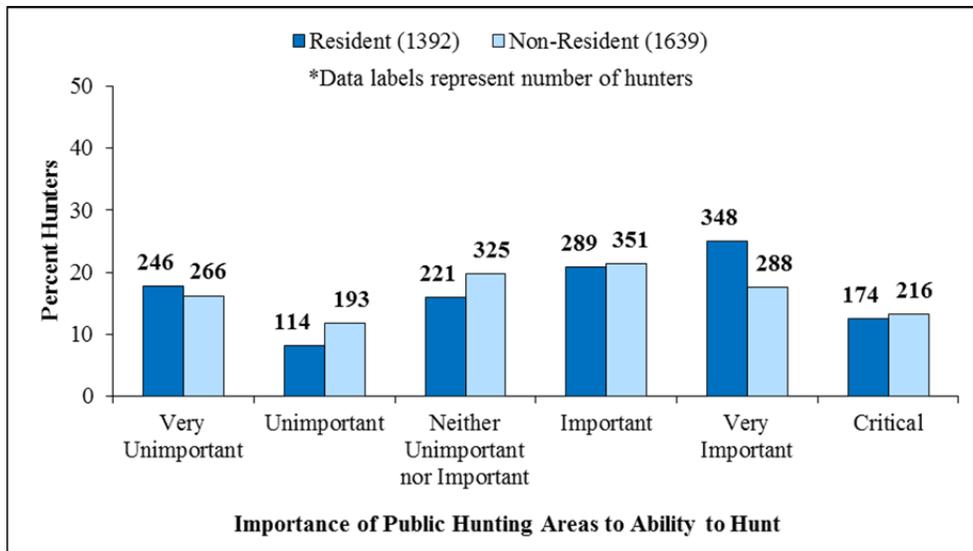


**Figure 1: Hunter distribution of years hunted in SD by residency**



**Figure 2: Distribution of hunters by importance of public hunting areas for pheasant hunting**

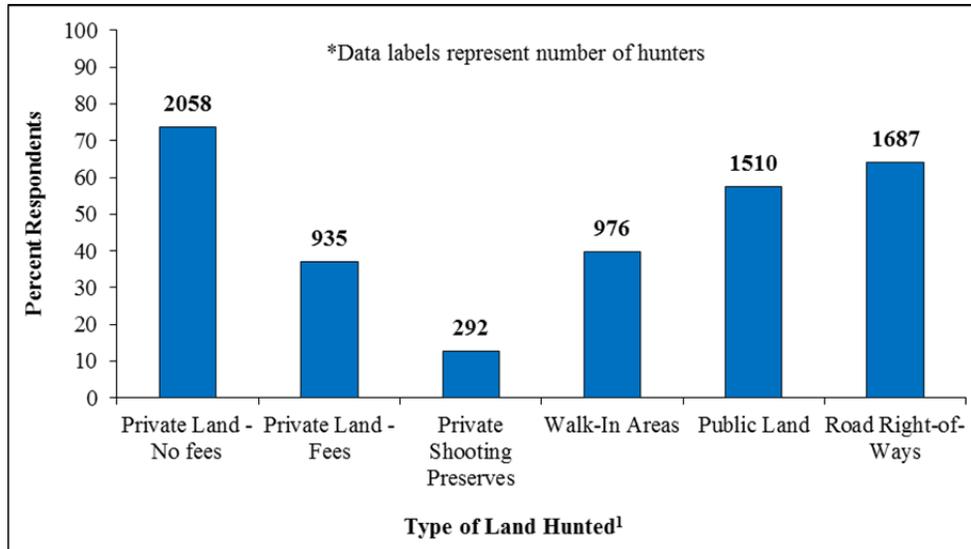
<sup>1</sup> Chi-square statistics are reported as ( $\chi^2(df, N)$ statistic, significance; Cramer's  $V$ ). The chi-square statistic is used to determine if two categorical variables are related. Cramer's  $V$  measures the strength of association between two categorical variables and ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 is no relationship.



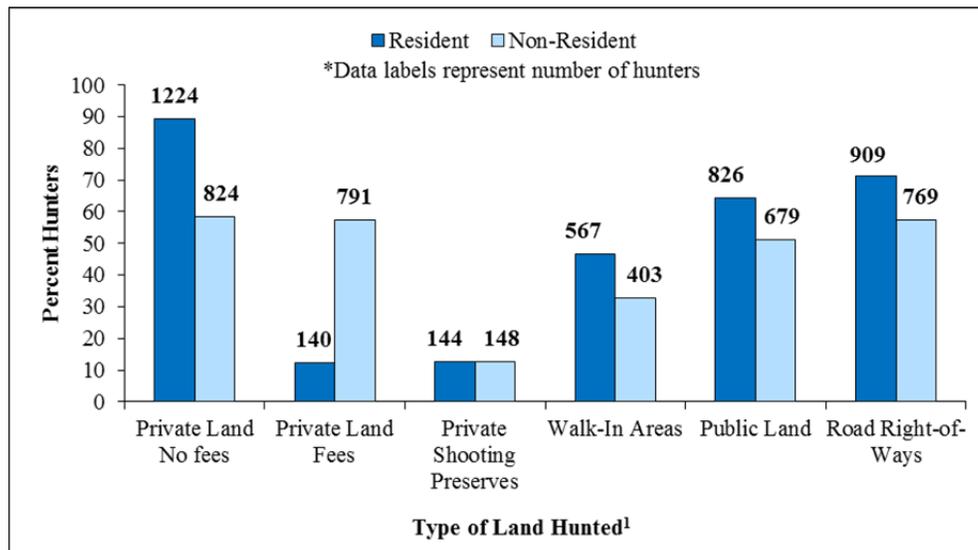
**Figure 3: Hunter distribution of importance of public hunting areas for pheasant hunting by residency**

During their most recent pheasant hunting experience in South Dakota, 74 percent of hunters indicated they hunted on private lands that did not charge a fee, 64 percent hunted on road right-of-ways, and 58 percent hunted public land owned by the state or federal government (figure 4). Private shooting preserves had the lowest percentage of hunters (13%) who had hunted there during the most recent year they hunted pheasants in SD. There were significant differences in the type of land hunted by residents and non-residents (figure 5). Residents were more likely than non-residents to hunt private lands with no fees ( $\chi^2(5, 2780)346.83, p\leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V 0.353$ ), private lands leased as walk-in areas ( $\chi^2(5, 2448)50.94, p\leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V 0.144$ ), public lands owned by the state or federal government ( $\chi^2(5, 2607)47.05, p\leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V 0.134$ ), or along road right-of-ways ( $\chi^2(5, 2616)56.86, p\leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V 0.147$ ). Non-residents were much more likely than residents to hunt private lands that charged fees ( $\chi^2(5, 1583)543.97, p\leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V 0.465$ ). There was no significant difference between non-residents and residents regarding pheasant hunting at private shooting preserves.

When asked to estimate the percentage of time spent hunting pheasants on private land-no fees, private land-fees, and public lands, 40 percent of hunters indicated they spent no



**Figure 4: Distribution of hunters by type of land pheasant hunted**  
 1. Percentages do not sum to 100 since respondents could select multiple responses

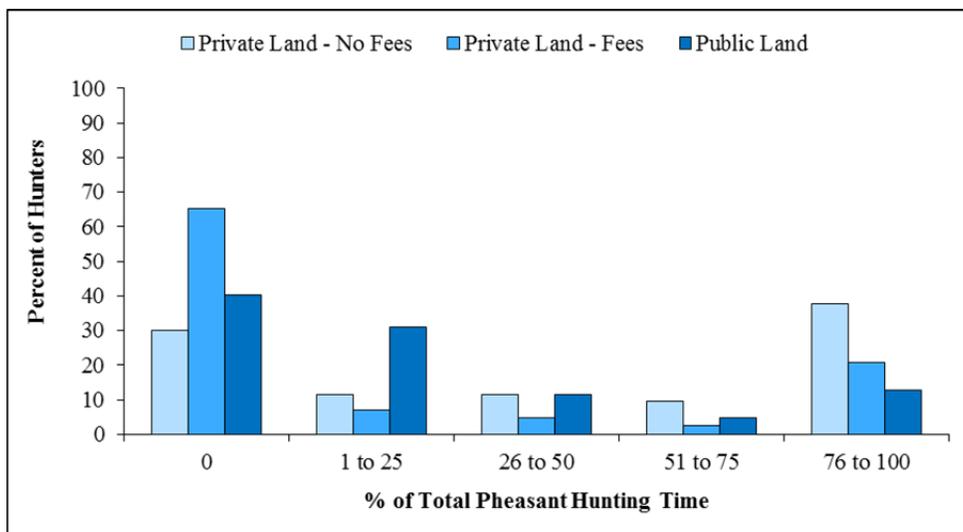


**Figure 5: Hunter distribution of type of land pheasant hunted by residency**  
 1. Percentages do not sum to 100 since respondents could select multiple responses.

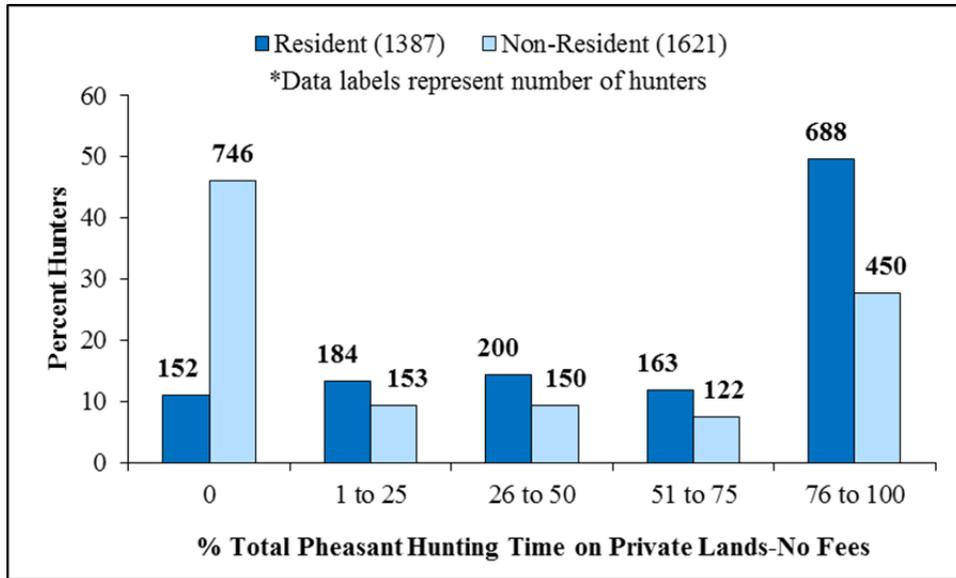
time on public lands (figure 6). Thirty-one percent of hunters indicated they spent up to 25 percent of their time pheasant hunting on public lands, and approximately 17 percent spent more than half of their pheasant hunting time on public lands. Sixty-five percent of hunters did not spend time pheasant hunting on private lands with fees, however, 21 percent of hunters

indicated they spent more than three-quarters of their time pheasant hunting on private lands with fees. Forty-seven percent of hunters spent more than half their time pheasant hunting on private lands-no fees.

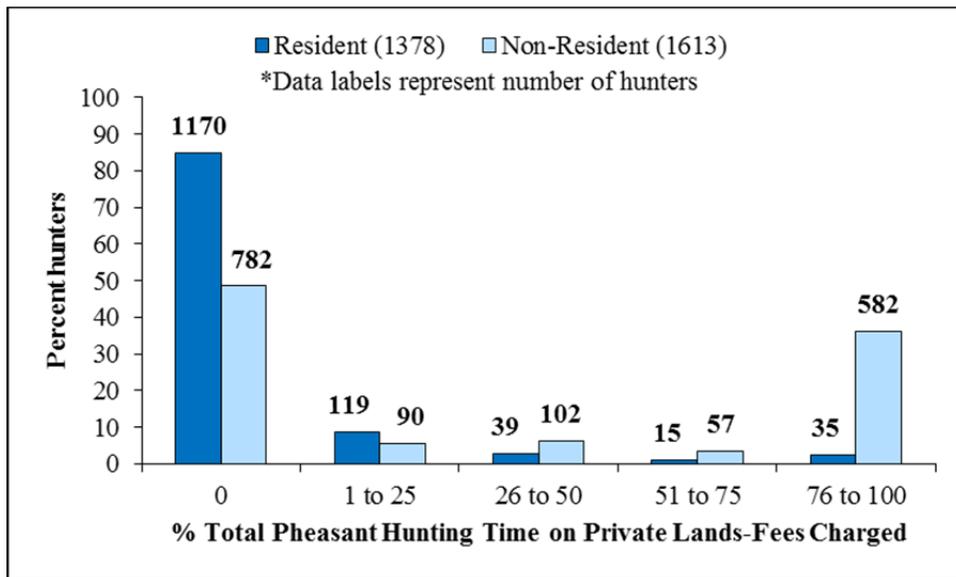
South Dakota residents are more likely than non-residents to spend most of their time pheasant hunting on private lands-no fees ( $\chi^2(4, 3008)443.06, p\leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V 0.384$ ), with 50 percent of resident hunters spending more than 75 percent of their time hunting here compared with 28 percent of non-residents (figure 7). Conversely, non-residents were much more likely to spend most of their time pheasant hunting on private land-fees charged ( $\chi^2(4, 2991)604.00, p\leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V 0.449$ ). Thirty-six percent of non-residents spent more than 75 percent of their time pheasant hunting on private land-fees charged compared with 3 percent of residents (figure 8). Finally, residents were more likely to spend more of their time hunting on public lands than non-residents ( $\chi^2(4, 3008)443.06, p\leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V 0.443.06$ ). Sixty-two percent of residents spent more than half of their time pheasant hunting on public lands, and of those hunters, half spent more than 75 percent of their time hunting public lands, compared to non-residents' 35 percent and 28 percent respectively (figure 9).



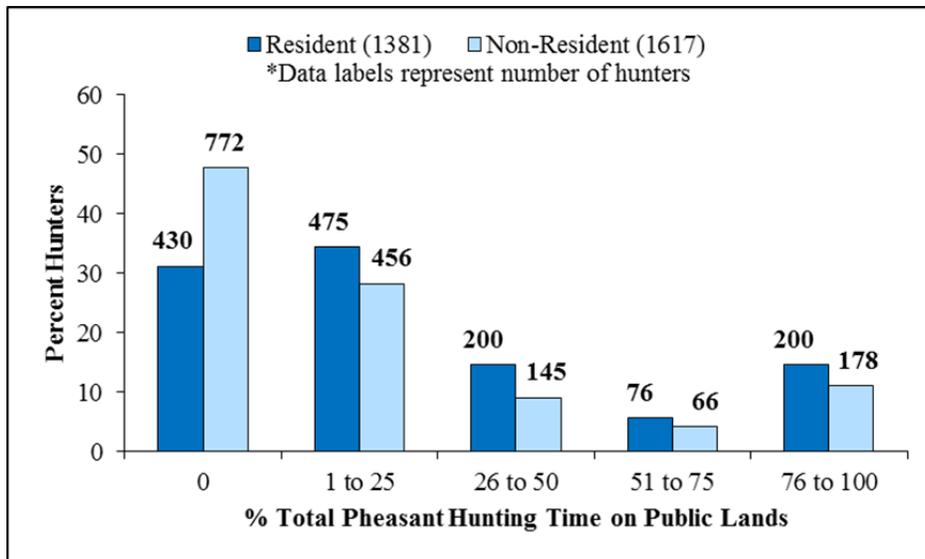
**Figure 6: Hunter distribution of percent of total time spent pheasant hunting by type of land hunted**



**Figure 7: Hunter distribution of percent of time spent pheasant hunting on private land-no fees by residency**

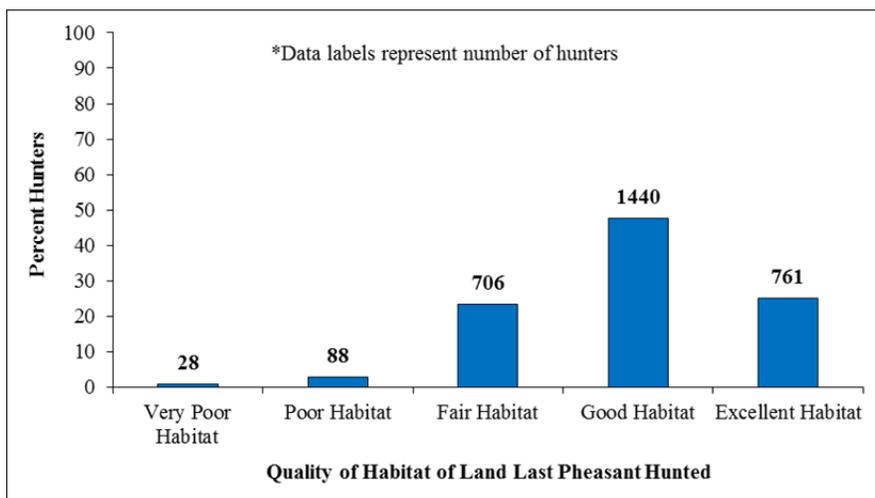


**Figure 8: Hunter distribution of percent of time spent pheasant hunting on private land-fees charged by residency**

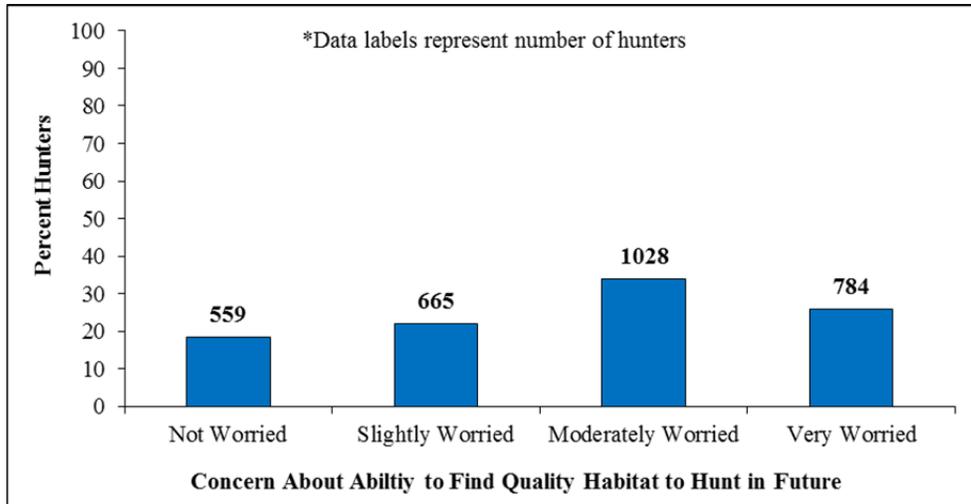


**Figure 9: Hunter distribution of percent of time spent pheasant hunting on public lands by residency**

Respondents were asked to rate the overall habitat quality of the land they hunted the last year they hunted pheasants in South Dakota. Seventy-three percent of hunters rated the habitat they hunted as good or excellent quality overall (figure 10). Approximately four percent rated the habitat as poor or very poor. Eighty-two percent of hunters indicated some level of concern regarding their ability to find places with quality habitat to pheasant hunt in South Dakota (figure 11). The modal response was *moderately worried* with 34 percent of hunters.



**Figure 10: Distribution of hunters by quality of habitat where last pheasant hunted**



**Figure 11: Distribution of hunters by concern for ability to find quality pheasant habitat to hunt in the future**

Funding for Pheasant Habitat and Hunting Access – Respondents were asked several questions about their opinion regarding funding pheasant habitat and public hunting access in South Dakota. After reading a brief descriptive narrative (figure 12) they were asked to indicate their level of support or opposition to four questions.

South Dakota pheasant populations are strongly associated with quality grassland habitats. For almost 30 years, the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has provided a stable source of undisturbed nesting cover, a critical element to pheasant reproduction. The most recent and future loss of expiring CRP acres, along with the conversion of grassland and wetland habitats to row crop production, will negatively impact pheasant populations. There currently is no other collection of programs which can replace CRP. The South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks is conducting a *preliminary exploration* of options for maintaining pheasant habitat and increasing public hunting access on private lands.

We would like your input in this important matter. The following are potential ways to fund pheasant habitat management on private lands. Please indicate how strongly you favor or oppose each potential option (Q7 to Q10) knowing the money generated would be used to fund long-term habitat contracts on private lands that would be open to public hunting.

**Figure 12: Descriptive narrative provided to survey respondents**

To what extent would you oppose or favor **resident** pheasant hunters in South Dakota being able to pay an additional fee to increase their daily bag limit by one (1) additional rooster per day for the entire season, knowing the money generated would be used to fund long-term habitat contracts on private lands that would be open to public hunting?

The responses to this question varied greatly. Forty-five percent of hunters indicated some level of support for residents being able to pay an additional fee to increase their daily bag limit by one rooster (figure 13). Fifteen percent of hunters opposed this measure; however, the modal response (22%) was *neither oppose nor favor*. There were significant differences in responses between residents and non-residents ( $\chi^2(6, 3019)119.14, p \leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V 0.199$ ). Non-residents were more likely than residents (26% versus 17%) to indicate they neither opposed nor favored this measure (figure 14). Non-residents were also more likely to strongly favor this measure than residents (18% versus 13%). Conversely, residents were more likely to strongly oppose this measure than non-residents (25% versus 12%).

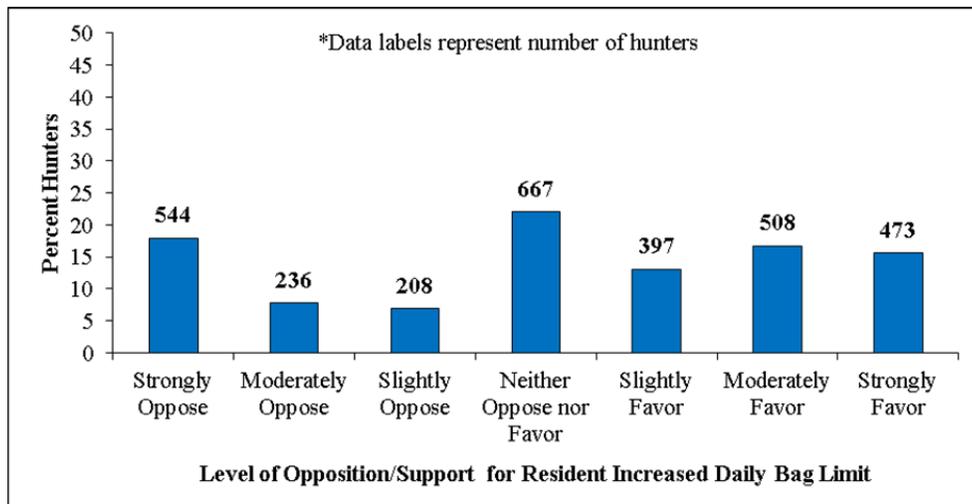
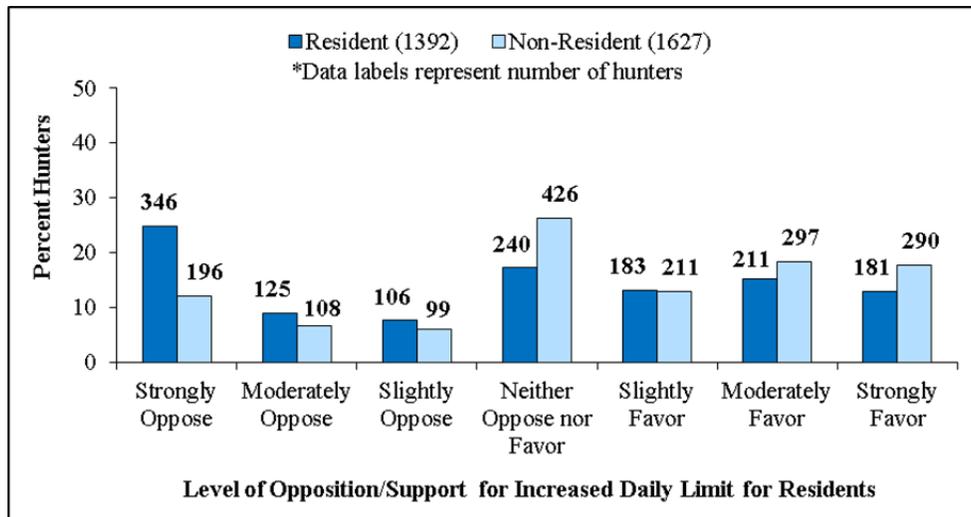


Figure 13: Distribution of hunters' level of support or opposition for resident increased daily bag limit



**Figure 14: Hunter distribution of level of support/opposition for increased daily limit for residents by residency**

To what extent would you oppose or favor **non-resident** pheasant hunters in South Dakota being able to pay an additional fee to increase their daily bag limit by one (1) additional rooster per day for the entire license period, knowing the money generated would be used to fund long-term habitat contracts on private lands that would be open to public hunting?

Overall, 48 percent of hunters indicated some level of support for non-residents being able to pay an additional fee to increase their daily bag limit by one rooster (figure 15). Thirty-six percent of hunters opposed this measure. The modal response (23%) was *strongly oppose*. There were significant differences in responses between residents and non-residents ( $\chi^2(6, 3021)217.64, p \leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V 0.268$ ). Almost half (49%) of residents indicated some level of opposition to this measure, and the modal response for resident hunters (34%) was *strongly oppose* (figure 16). The majority of non-resident hunters (56%) indicated some level of support for this measure, and their modal response (25%) was *strongly favor*. Additionally, 20 percent of non-residents indicated they *neither oppose nor favor* this measure.

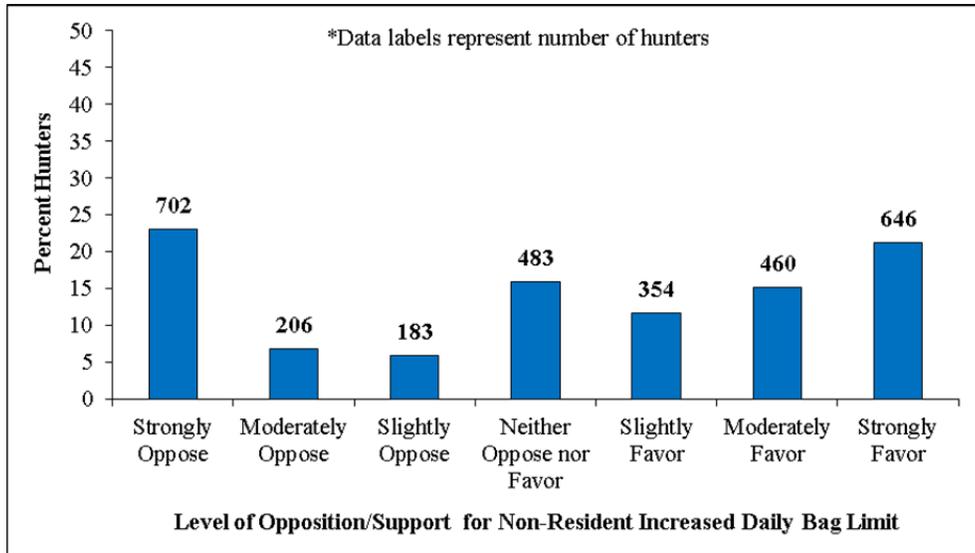


Figure 15: Distribution of hunters by level of opposition/support for non-resident increased daily bag limit

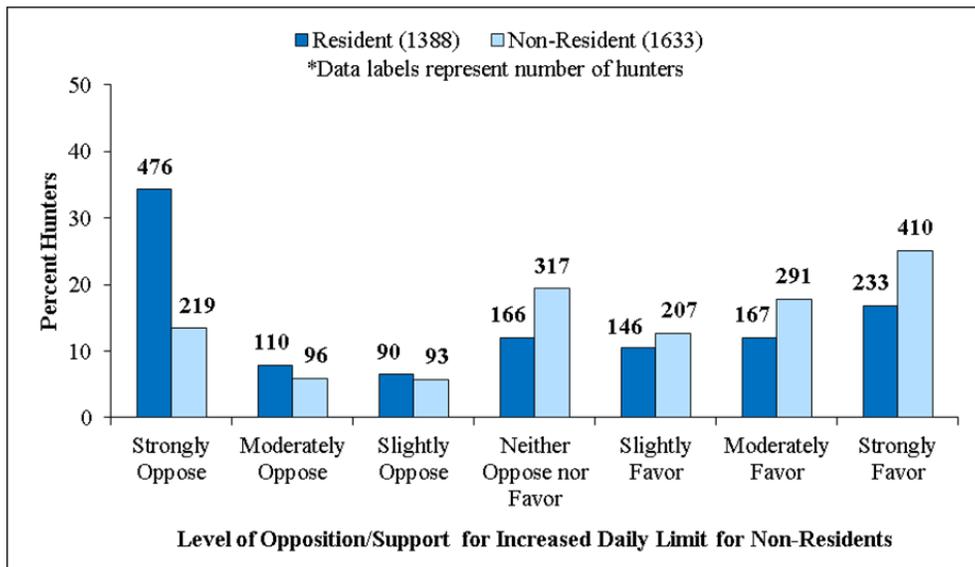
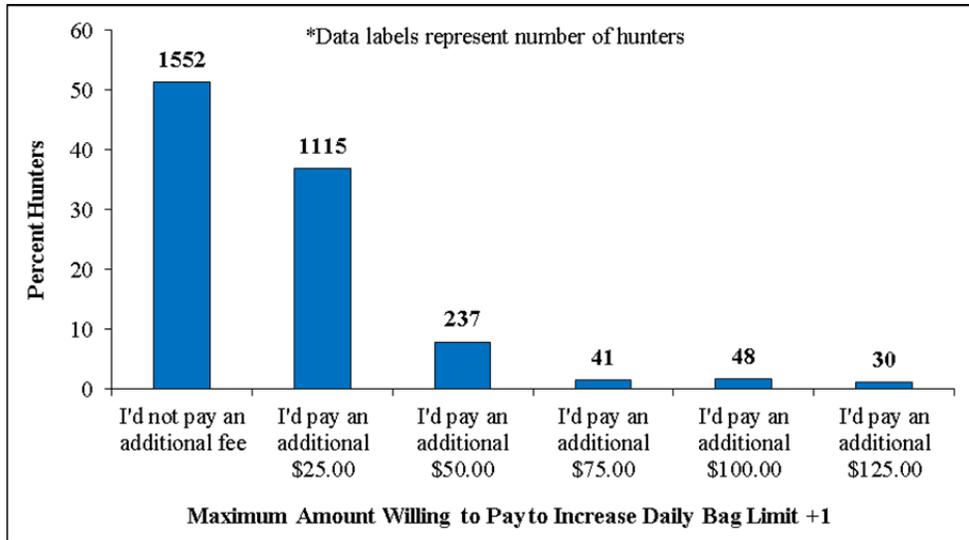


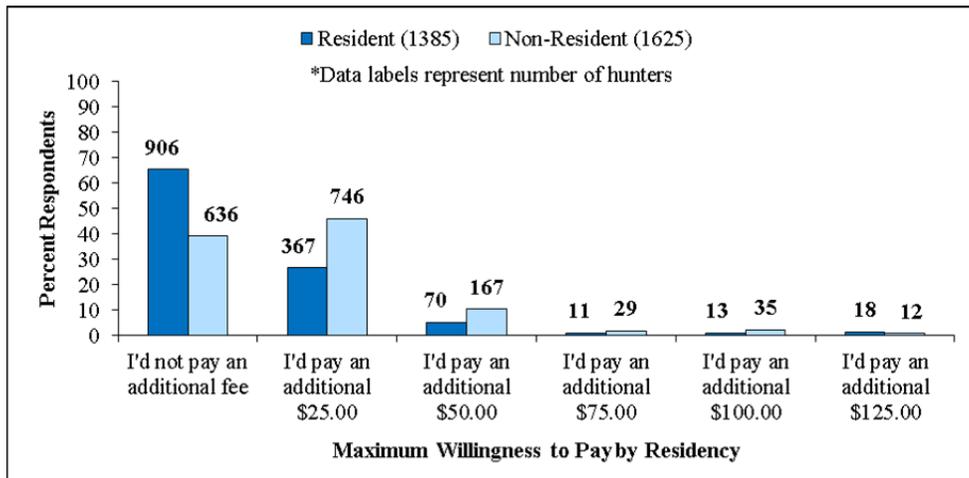
Figure 16: Hunter distribution of level of opposition/support for non-resident increased daily bag limit by residency

*Please indicate the **MAXIMUM** amount you would be willing to pay, in addition to the current license fee, to increase your daily bag limit by one(1) additional rooster per day for the entire season/license period, knowing the money generated would be used to fund long-term habitat contracts on private lands that would be open to public hunting.*

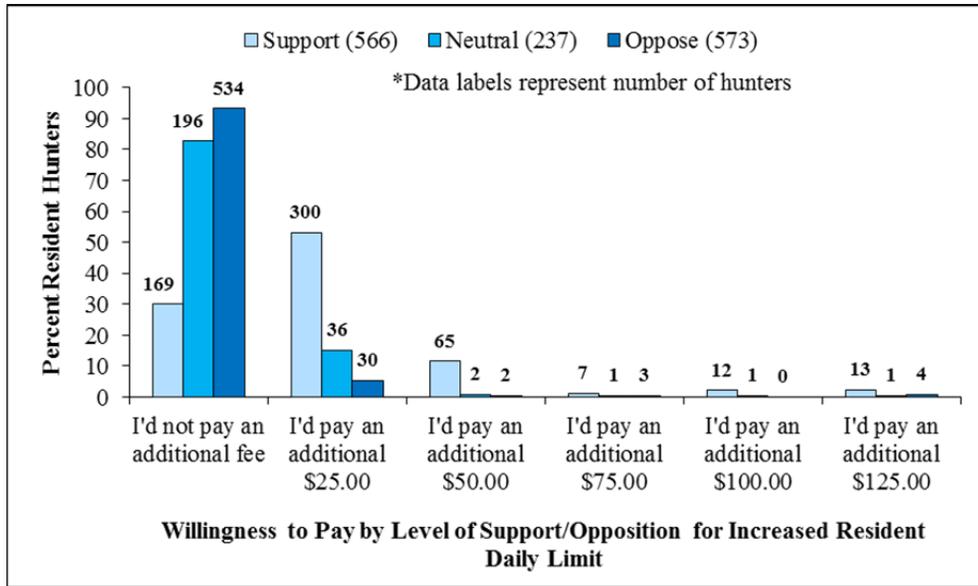
A slight majority of hunters (51%) indicated that they would not be willing to pay an additional fee to increase their daily bag limit by one additional rooster per day for the entire season/license period (figure 17). Forty-nine percent of hunters were willing to pay some additional fee to increase their daily bag limit. Of those willing to pay, 2 percent were willing to pay a maximum of \$125.00; however, most of those willing to pay an additional fee (76%) were only willing to pay a maximum of \$25.00. Residents were more likely than non-residents ( $\chi^2(5, 3010)217.67, p \leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V$  0.269) to not be willing to pay an additional fee (figure 18). When examining residents' willingness to pay broken down by their level of support or opposition for the ability to increase their daily bag limit, 53 percent of supporters were willing to pay a maximum of \$25.00, 83 percent of hunters who were neutral on the measure indicated they were not willing to pay an additional fee, and 93 percent of those opposed were unwilling to pay an additional fee (figure 19). Sixty-six percent of non-resident supporters of the measure and 30 percent of those who were neutral were willing to pay a maximum of \$25.00 (figure 20). Sixty-five percent of non-residents who were neutral and 82 percent of those opposed to the measure indicated they were unwilling to pay any additional fee. There was also a level of unwillingness to pay an additional fee among resident and non-resident supporters, 30 percent and 11 percent respectively.



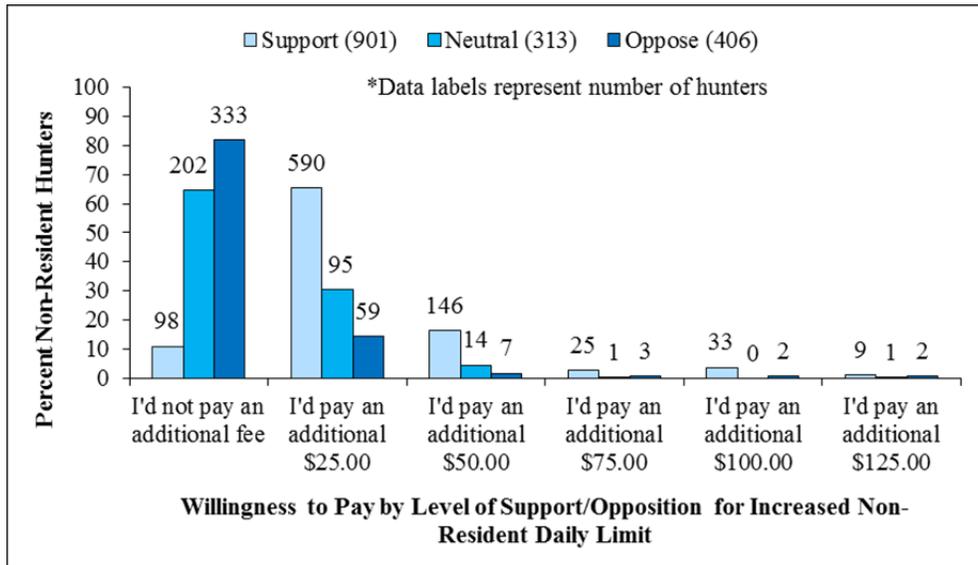
**Figure 17: Distribution of hunters by willingness to pay to increase daily limit by one rooster**



**Figure 18: Hunter distribution of willingness to pay to increase daily limit one rooster by residency**



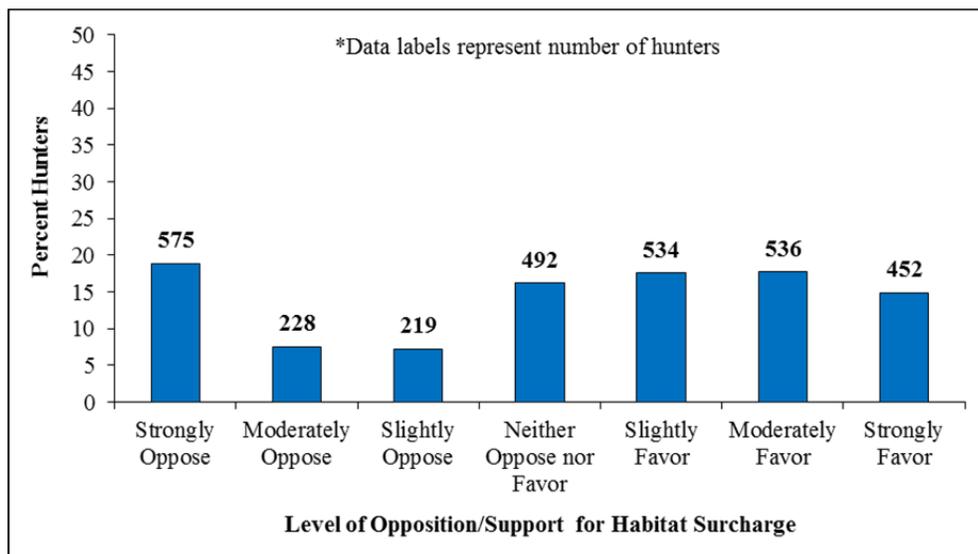
**Figure 19: Resident hunters' willingness to pay to increase daily bag limit by level of support/opposition for measure**



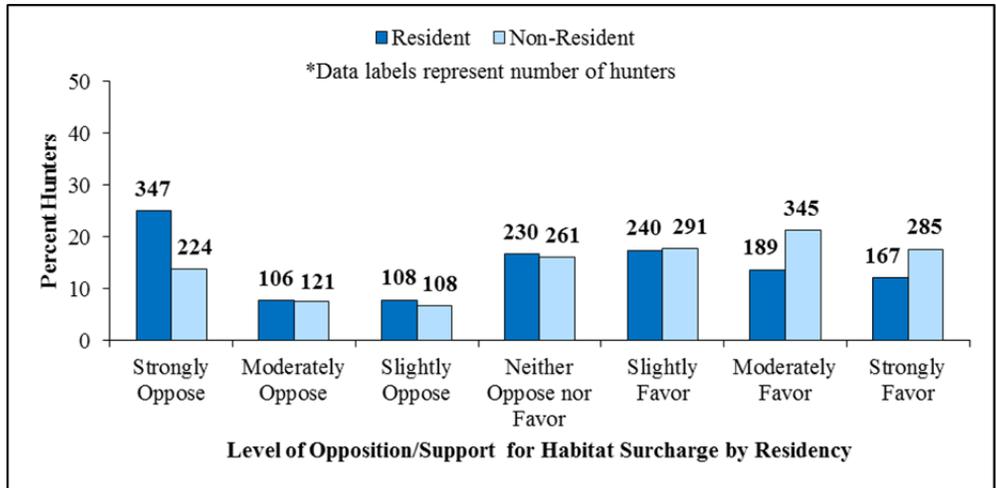
**Figure 20: Non-resident hunters' willingness to pay to increase daily bag limit by level of support/opposition for measure**

To what extent would you oppose or favor a surcharge for habitat for ***all licensed pheasant hunters in South Dakota, knowing the money would be used to fund long-term habitat contracts on private lands that would be open to public hunting?***

Fifty percent of hunters indicated some level of support for a habitat surcharge, while 34 percent opposed such a measure (figure 21). Of those hunters opposed to the surcharge 56 percent *strongly opposed* the measure. There were significant differences in responses between residents and non-residents ( $\chi^2(6, 3022)90.98, p\leq 0.001$ ; Cramer's  $V 0.174$ ). Non-residents were more likely than residents to moderately or strongly favor the habitat surcharge, while residents were more likely to strongly oppose the measure (figure 22). Of those hunters who were opposed to an additional fee for residents to increase their daily limit, 40 percent were in favor of a habitat surcharge, while 50 percent opposed the measure. Of the hunters opposed to non-residents paying an additional fee to increase their daily limit, 51 percent favored the habitat surcharge, while 44 percent opposed it.

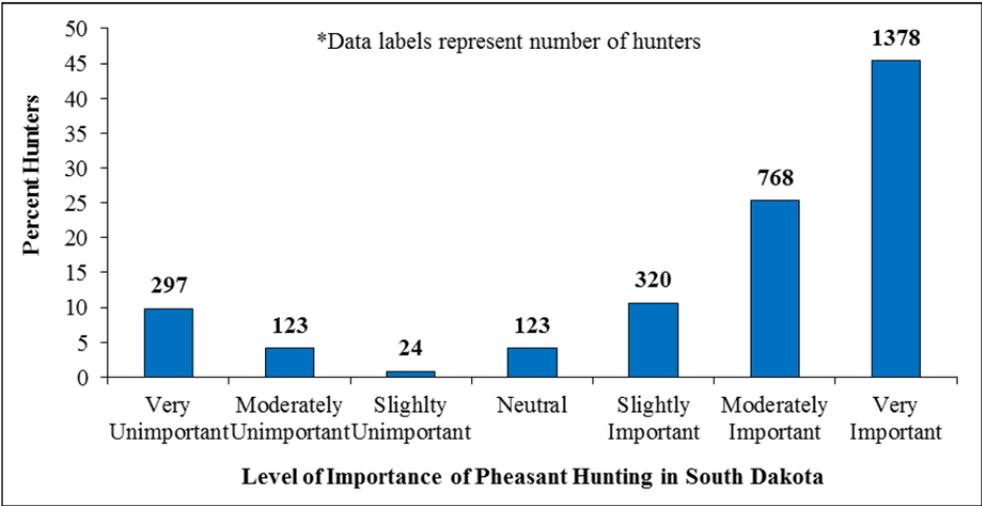


**Figure 21: Distribution of hunters by level of support/opposition for a habitat surcharge**



**Figure 22: Hunter distribution of level of support/opposition for habitat surcharge by residency**

Importance of Pheasant Hunting – Finally, respondents were asked to indicate how important pheasant hunting in South Dakota was to them, and how many people in their household (including themselves) hunted pheasants in South Dakota. The majority of hunters (81%) indicated hunting pheasants in SD was important to them, while 15 percent indicated it was unimportant to them (figure 23). On average, hunters reported 2 people, including themselves, hunted pheasants in SD (N=3016;  $\bar{x}=1.6 \pm 0.974$ ). There was no significant difference between number of pheasant hunters in a household and the maximum amount hunters were willing to pay to increase their daily limits.



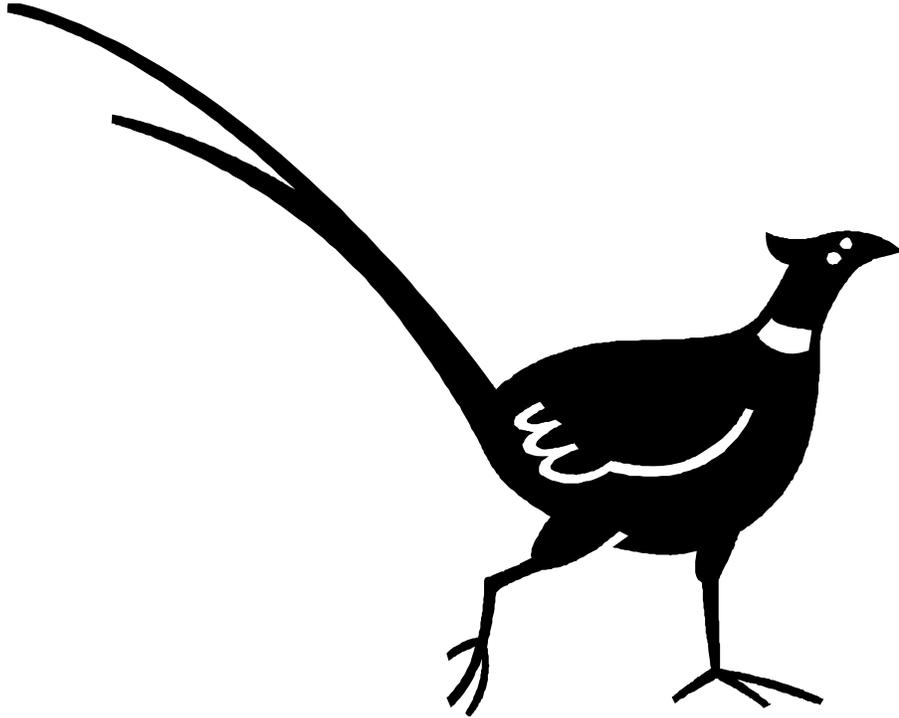
**Figure 23: Distribution importance of hunting pheasants in SD**

## Comments

Many of the respondents to the pheasant hunter survey provided additional comments with their completed questionnaire (appendix B). These comments provide a qualitative description of pheasant hunters' opinions related to pheasant hunting and habitat management concerns. These comments did not have to be specific to any question asked on the survey, but rather respondents were free to provide additional comments at the end. All comments are included in appendix B. They are organized in numerical order by survey ID number. Comments are presented in the letter case they were submitted. Misspellings and grammar were corrected when doing so would not change the intent of the comment. Where expletives were used, they were not removed or substituted for. In cases where symbols were substituted, this was done in the original comment.

Appendix A –Survey Instruments  
(Format Adjusted)

**Pheasant Management in South Dakota  
Hunter Opinion Survey**



July 2012

Dear Pheasant Hunter,

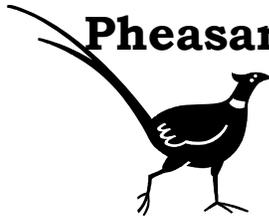
Over the last month Game, Fish, and Parks has been conducting a study of South Dakota pheasant hunters by Internet. The purpose of the survey is to get your opinion about options for maintaining pheasant habitat and increasing public hunting on private lands. We would like your input in this important matter.

For your convenience we are sending out this printed version of the online survey. This brief survey (12 questions) is voluntary; however, your responses would be appreciated. All answers will be treated confidentially. Information from this survey will be summarized and made available to the public in the form of a written report.

Thank you for your participation!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia L. Longmire'.

Cynthia L. Longmire  
Human Dimensions Specialist  
cynthia.longmire@state.sd.us



# Pheasant Management in South Dakota

## Hunter Opinion Survey

*The following are several general questions about your experience pheasant hunting in South Dakota.*

**Q1.** How many years have you hunted in South Dakota?

*Please CHECK one:*

- A.  0 (never)
- B.  1 to 10 years
- C.  11 to 20 years
- D.  21 to 30 years
- E.  31 or more years

**Q2.** In the most recent year you hunted pheasants in South Dakota, which of the following types of land did you hunt?

*Please mark a response for each land type.*

- A. Private land – no fees charged       No       Yes
- B. Private land – fees charged       No       Yes
- C. Private shooting preserves       No       Yes
- D. Private land leased as walk-in areas       No       Yes
- E. Public land (state & federal owned)       No       Yes
- F. Road right-of-ways       No       Yes

**Q3.** In the most recent year you hunted pheasants in South Dakota, how much of your total hunting time did you spend on each of the following land type categories?

*Please estimate the percentage of your total pheasant hunting time on each type of land.*

- A. Private land – no fees charged      \_\_\_\_\_%
  - B. Private land – fees charged      \_\_\_\_\_%
  - C. Public lands      \_\_\_\_\_%
- 100%**

**Q4.** How important are public hunting areas to your ability to hunt pheasants in South Dakota?

*Please CHECK one:*

- A. \_\_\_ Very Unimportant
- B. \_\_\_ Unimportant
- C. \_\_\_ Neither Unimportant nor Important
- D. \_\_\_ Important
- E. \_\_\_ Very Important
- F. \_\_\_ Critical – I would not hunt pheasants if it were not for public hunting areas.

**Q5.** In the last year you hunted pheasants in South Dakota, how would you rate the overall **habitat quality** of the land where you hunted?

*Please CHECK one:*

- A. \_\_\_ Very Poor Habitat
- B. \_\_\_ Poor Habitat
- C. \_\_\_ Fair Habitat
- D. \_\_\_ Good Habitat
- E. \_\_\_ Excellent Habitat

**Q6.** In general, how worried are you about your future ability to find places with quality habitat to pheasant hunt in South Dakota?

*Please CHECK one:*

- A. \_\_\_ Not Worried
- B. \_\_\_ Slightly Worried
- C. \_\_\_ Moderately Worried
- D. \_\_\_ Very Worried

The next several questions ask your opinion about funding pheasant habitat and public hunting access in South Dakota. After reading the brief descriptive narrative in the box below, please indicate your level of support for each potential funding alternative.

South Dakota pheasant populations are strongly associated with quality grassland habitats. For almost 30 years, the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has provided a stable source of undisturbed nesting cover, a critical element to pheasant reproduction. The most recent and future loss of expiring CRP acres, along with the conversion of grassland and wetland habitats to row crop production, will negatively impact pheasant populations. There currently is no other collection of programs which can replace CRP. The South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks is conducting a *preliminary exploration* of options for maintaining pheasant habitat and increasing public hunting access on private lands.

We would like your input in this important matter. The following are potential ways to fund pheasant habitat management on private lands. Please indicate how strongly you favor or oppose each potential option (Q7 to Q10) knowing the money generated would be used to fund long-term habitat contracts on private lands that would be open to public hunting.

**Q7.** To what extent would you oppose or favor resident pheasant hunters in South Dakota being able to pay an additional fee to increase their daily bag limit by one (1) additional rooster per day for the entire season, knowing the money generated would be used to fund long-term habitat contracts on private lands that would be open to public hunting?

Please *CHECK* one:

- A. \_\_\_ Strongly Oppose
- B. \_\_\_ Moderately Oppose
- C. \_\_\_ Slightly Oppose
- D. \_\_\_ Neither Oppose nor Favor
- E. \_\_\_ Slightly Favor
- F. \_\_\_ Moderately Favor
- G. \_\_\_ Strongly Favor

**Q8.** To what extent would you oppose or favor **non-resident** pheasant hunters in South Dakota being able to pay an additional fee to increase their daily bag limit by one (1) additional rooster per day for the entire license period, knowing the money generated would be used to fund long-term habitat contracts on private lands that would be open to public hunting?

*Please CHECK one:*

- A. \_\_\_ Strongly Oppose
- B. \_\_\_ Moderately Oppose
- C. \_\_\_ Slightly Oppose
- D. \_\_\_ Neither Oppose nor Favor
- E. \_\_\_ Slightly Favor
- F. \_\_\_ Moderately Favor
- G. \_\_\_ Strongly Favor

**Q9.** Please indicate the **MAXIMUM** amount you would be willing to pay, in addition to the current license fee, to increase your daily bag limit by one (1) additional rooster per day for the entire season/license period, knowing the money generated would be used to fund long-term habitat contracts on private lands that would be open to public hunting?

*Please CHECK one:*

- A. \_\_\_ I would not pay an additional fee.
- B. \_\_\_ I would pay an additional **\$25.00**.
- C. \_\_\_ I would pay an additional **\$50.00**.
- D. \_\_\_ I would pay an additional **\$75.00**.
- E. \_\_\_ I would pay an additional **\$100.00**.
- F. \_\_\_ I would pay an additional **\$125.00**.

**Q10.** To what extent would you oppose or favor a surcharge for habitat for **all licensed** pheasant hunters in South Dakota, knowing the money generated would be used to fund long-term habitat contracts on private lands that would be open to public hunting?

*Please CHECK one:*

- A. \_\_\_ Strongly Oppose
- B. \_\_\_ Moderately Oppose
- C. \_\_\_ Slightly Oppose
- D. \_\_\_ Neither Oppose nor Favor
- E. \_\_\_ Slightly Favor
- F. \_\_\_ Moderately Favor
- G. \_\_\_ Strongly Favor

*Finally, we'd like to ask you a couple more questions about your pheasant hunting experiences in South Dakota.*

**Q11.** How important to you is pheasant hunting in South Dakota?

*Please CHECK one:*

- A. \_\_\_ Very Unimportant
- B. \_\_\_ Moderately Unimportant
- C. \_\_\_ Slightly Unimportant
- D. \_\_\_ Neither Unimportant nor Important
- E. \_\_\_ Slightly Important
- F. \_\_\_ Moderately Important
- G. \_\_\_ Very Important

**Q12.** How many people in your household (including yourself) hunt pheasants in South Dakota?

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of people

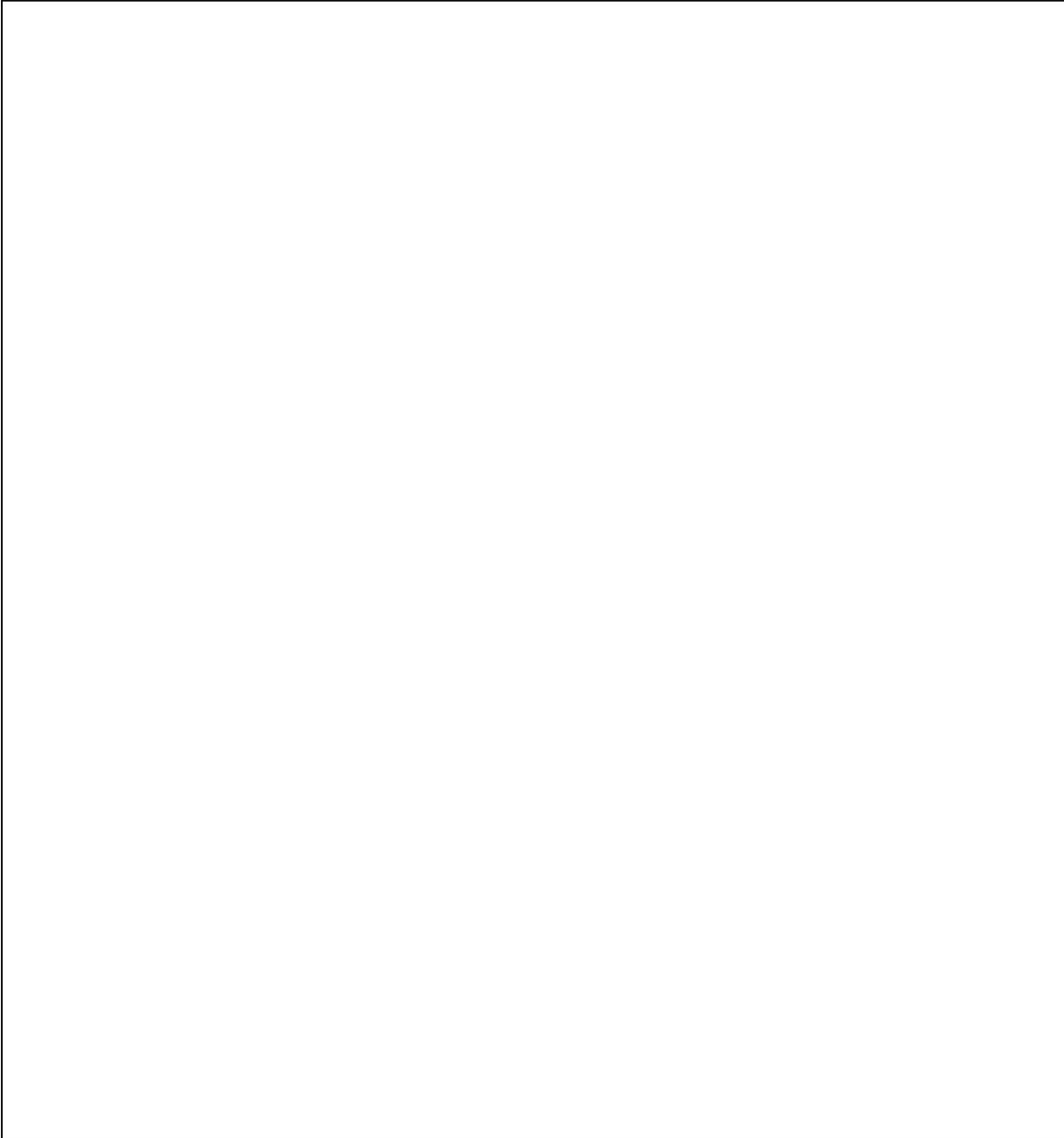
*Thank you! Please feel free to provide comments about maintaining pheasant habitat in the space provided on the back of this page. Please fold your questionnaire in half and return it using the addressed, pre-paid return envelope provided.*

## **Thank You!**

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

Results from this survey will be posted on GFP's web-page.

You can use this space for any comments you would like to make. These comments will be typed (provided they are legible) and put into a report that will be given to the Game, Fish & Parks Commissioners, staff biologists and administrators, and made available to the public.



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

## Postcard

Dear Pheasant Hunter,

We are conducting a study of South Dakota pheasant hunters by Internet and we need your help. The purpose of the survey is to get your opinion about options for maintaining pheasant habitat and increasing public hunting on private lands. We would like your input in this important matter. This brief survey (13 questions) is voluntary, and all answers will be treated confidentially. The link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/pheasant>. You will be asked to enter on the survey the ID number located above your name from the front of this card. This number is used to check your name off the mailing list when you complete the survey.

Thank you for your participation.

Cynthia L. Longmire  
Human Dimensions Specialist  
[cynthia.longmire@state.sd.us](mailto:cynthia.longmire@state.sd.us)

## Email Letter

To: [Email]

From: "SDGFPINFO@state.sd.us via surveymonkey.com" <member@surveymonkey.com>

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Subject: Pheasant Management in SD Opinion Survey

Body: Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

We are conducting a study of South Dakota pheasant hunters by Internet and we need your help. The purpose of the survey is to get your opinion about options for maintaining pheasant habitat and increasing public hunting on private lands. We would like your input in this important matter.

This brief survey (12 questions) is voluntary, and all answers will be treated confidentially. The link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx>

This link is uniquely tied to this survey and your email address.

If you have difficulty opening the survey, please try copying and pasting the address link into the address bar of your Internet browser.

Thanks for your participation!  
Cynthia L. Longmire  
Human Dimensions Specialist

## Appendix B – Additional Comments

ID: 2

I disagree with ANY increase in license fees. The GF&P has too much money to waste now! What other business can sell tags when they know full well there is no game there to hunt and do it year after year after year. The great GF&P LIED to all sportsmen about the mountain lions. John Cooper has NO business being on the commission but that's what we get by not cleaning house all over the goat.

ID: 9

If we are losing so much CRP, where is this money going? We should be using this for habitat and instead of leasing land, why not buy more land, would this not be more permanent? Instead of trying to get more money lets be more efficient with what we have.

ID: 23

If the Game & Fish Department who used their head in all the department in all the license they put out it who have all right in deer hunting all license out all no deer that taking money in the pocket and doing not a thing about it.

ID: 41

You can try to do all the habitat management you want, and that is great. But 90% of the hunters won't utilize the great public land that is available already because they would rather drive around and road hunt. This wrecks it for the real sportsmen.

ID: 46

I've seen the gradual decrease in game habitat in SD over the past 50 years. Much of it can be attributed to the apparent greed of farmers who now plant up to fence lines (instead of the way they left 10 + feet of grassy cover along fence lines), and who pull their land out of CRP programs to make more money by planting more corn (which has increased in demand due to ethanol subsidies and hence has reached record prices). Perhaps if the GF&P partnered more with private groups that also want to conserve habitat and promote reproduction (such as DU, PF, etc.) more land could be reverted to game production. Increasing bag limits is not a good idea at this time.

ID: 65

I think that three roosters per day is very adequate as the number of times a person goes hunting times the number of pheasants we can keep seems to provide everyone with enough pheasants to eat. Usually people are looking for someone else to take the pheasants they shoot. This applies to out of state (non-residents) hunters as well as they seem to get enough days of hunting with their licenses. As far as CRP or other (WIA), it is very difficult for the average hunting (or any hunters without a dog) to hunt these areas because of the cover in the field. Hunting without a dog can cause losing up to 90% of shot game due to cover. Even with a dog if a person has bad knees etc. it is difficult to walk those areas.

ID: 76

I am against the extra bird. I hope that if you do, do this it goes to public habitat and not for something else. I do appreciate the hunting and fishing in SD and hope that GF&P can keep up the good work in preserving the wildlife which I love so much to pass on to my kids!

ID: 79

If you would take a ride around SD you will have know trouble seeing skunks whom eat eggs. A coon that you will find on HWY dead about every mile will also eat a million eggs and pheasants. Next we have coyotes that hunt to eat to stay alive which will also eat pheasant and eggs by the millions. Now the pheasants that survived that has ever hawk and owl after them. Now you don't know why we don't have pheasant. Take a drive some day and you will also know why, and you want us to fund the above.

ID: 86

I not eased the pheasant population was down.

ID: 106

Question 7: 3 pheasants/day is plenty for anyone in my opinion.

ID: 123

Question 11: but not for the price of greed

ID: 130

I'm not a big bird hunter and so that's why I don't have much of anything to say. Thanks anyway.

ID: 144

I suppose walk in area's that the state pays for through license fees, but I don't agree with CRP land that is paid for by license fees and stays private for the landowner to use as he feels fit to. If we fund it we should be able to use it.

ID: 147

Don't raise hunting licenses, its raising it for our youth & Adults! We all know it takes habitat. Good luck finding it for 7 & 8 dollar corn. Non-resident charge them, but keep it so they will still come. Keep it affordable. The next time you will see habitat is when corn goes to \$3.50 & CRP goes up to \$150 an acre maybe then? Have someone get a hold of me I have some private lad I would love to develop for the pheasants.

ID: 152

Provide programs to encourage youth hunting.

ID: 154

I support pheasant hunting in SD. I support the idea that pheasants need habitat with proper food plots. I believe city residence do not know the expense and cost that it takes to maintain the above habitat. Everyone believes it is free land. A government entity cannot properly develop and manage a project of this magnitude. It is the wrong place to though hard earned dollars.

ID: 155

I'm already paying for CRP field that I can't hunt. All CRP should be open for public hunting in my opinion.

ID: 163

Great let's acquire land for public hunting of pheasants, waterfowl, and big game. Everyone should pay their fair share and those who profit from the industry should pay more, much more! We taxpayers promote the industry and in return get tame birds breeding with wild

birds with the result being birds that want to run not fly. Years ago if you were road hunting and shot a bird that landed on the other side of the fence not only could you go get it but you were probably invited to stay for supper and great conversation. Not anymore. Hunting is not what it was when I was a small boy, when someone took time to show you how to feed yourself with what the lord provides. Now it is no more than BIG business and even though I said in question 11 that it is important to me, it is not what it once was and that is too bad. Thank you for wanting to increase public hunting.

Next if you increase the limit and let folks pay more for that privilege, keep this in mind. True or not true I read an article several years ago, possibly 30 this article stated that all states that allow 1 hen to be part of the daily bag had an increase in bird population the following year. Just a thought, possibly the first two or the last two weeks of the season. Last but certainly not least, has anyone done or does anyone have the capability of researching what if any effects all the genetically modified crops are having on our wildlife. We are losing bees at an alarming rate (some are pointing the finger at cell phones, I think not) there is a corn that is listed in the patent office as a pesticide, (just in case that didn't register, pick an ear of corn from this field and what you are holding in your hand is a pesticide), Monarch butterflies die at a 50% rate when they come in contact with some CMO crops. This stuff can't be good for wildlife.

ID: 176

I fully understand the economic importance of out of state hunters to our fine state, however I believe that the state needs to charge more for out of state hunters, they will pay it! My father who will be 80 years old this year and loves pheasant hunting is on a fixed income, as are several aging hunters in our state, so I would also like to see a reduced or even free license for these senior hunters. These folks might get out once or twice a season and at full license price it doesn't really pay for them to even bother. Next, as we all know paid hunting in our state has ruined hunting for the locals; unless you are close friends with a landowner your chances of hunting on private landowner's chances of hunting on private land are slim at best. While the public hunting areas offer prime habitat it is often so overhunted that your chances of bagging a limit are not in your favor. As much as I enjoy road hunting it is not truly hunting and I don't want this to be the only hunting my children come to know. As the landowners continue to make wonderful profits from hunters (which I don't blame them for as I would be doing the same thing) the born and bred South Dakotans need more and better opportunities to teach and hunt with their own children, because I believe the hunting and fishing for our youth is as important as going to school. We all are stewards of the land.

ID: 183

Too many preserves, residents are quitting hunting because they don't want to pay to hunt at their relative's places because they charge to hunt.

ID: 194

I thin pheasant hunting in SD is doing good around central SD. IN the last couple of years the numbers have gone up, but up around Aberdeen the number have gone loving and I think we need to do something there. I also believe that us as South Dakotans are paying to much already for our hunting licenses. That also includes deer licenses. I do believe that we should raise the price of licenses for the out of state hunters. They will pay it. If we keep raising the price for in state we will lose the younger generations of hunters not only are we losing them because of the cost. Also the access to land to hunt and also cause of the paid hunters.

ID: 208

Raise the out of state fees higher to cover the majority of cost. Keep cost low for in state hunters. The license for out of state pheasants is low for the quality of bird hunting SD provides.

ID: 217

The people who enjoy hunt do not want to spend more money. Make the sport too expensive and we will lose it all together. If you get extra money figure out something on those mountain lions or pine beetles in the Hills.

ID: 221

There ideas are a good start but first we need to get a governor to remove the "no new state land" law. Also, after the drought breaks, start planting trees and shrubs on existing game production areas to provide better winter survival. SDSU studies proved this to be a necessary part with food plots. Don't allow soybeans to be planted on any state land! Pheasants will starve to death on a soybean diet! Anything else in the crop rotation would be a big improvement. Charge all non-resident hunters preserve or not to pay at least twice what residents pay this will remove much of the resident rejection of these good ideas to improve habitat.

ID: 266

You should have the private preserves and the private land that charges fees pay more to the GF&P. Not the people like me who only hunt public land because I feel that the birds should not have a price tag on them.

If you are going to start charging us to hunt pheasants on public land where is it going to end charging us for every walleye we catch or a trophy charge for how big of deer we shoot?

The pay to hunt is taking over this and many other states, I just want to enjoy what is natural.

ID: 279

I think the GF&P should start paying a bounty on predators again.

ID: 282

I do not pay for paid hunt but would be willing to pay more for supporting CRP land. CRP is a diminishing item and we as SD residents should support those that have and maintain CRP land. This is vital ground and is important to the population of pheasants and we need to continue to support CRP ground.

ID: 328

I own my land, plant a food plot and leave rushes for cover on my own hoping to help the pheasants. We need better winter cover on public land more switch grass less browse. I think public land could support a lot more wildlife with better cover.

ID: 369

I realize that habitat is disappearing in SD and many other states. I also know the monies needed to fund hunting and fishing activities are under fire. There is no doubt that all wildlife is in jeopardy. It seems more fiscally responsible to allow more deer licenses to be sold. This would reduce their numbers resulting in fewer accidents a healthier population. Furthermore the pheasant's population would not be disturbed. These are the type of surveys I had in mind when I applied for a job with the SD GF&P.

ID: 392

More money had never solved a hunting problem. The more money you charge the more is expected. This is when you see abuses start.

As farming practices have changed habitat has changed. We are hunting fence to fence no amount of public land can accommodate the number of licenses it's become a rich man's sport. You need to figure out a way to limit the number hunting to areas available with good habitat. When we've tried to hunt public lands we get one day of shooting. The second day hunter are lined up to shoot the same area.

ID: 396

I have "lost" a lot of interest to pheasant hunt the past few years, I think it is way too hard to hunt "good" pheasant ground. The farmers have become too greedy to let the ordinary guy go hunting on their land. State ground gets "over" hunted and just isn't good enough. I used to be able to go to most farmers ground and hunt. Now farmers don't give hunters enough "respect". The "culture" of rural hunting has changed for the worse. It has become too "commercial".

ID: 414

We all need to realize that though I could pay more for a license, there are others that paying more would be a burdon for them. Everyone should be able to hunt in SD.

ID: 446

We would have better pheasant counts if you would get rid of the 1000's of coyotes that are everywhere. Same with the mountain lions that are starting to migrate in that the GF&P says aren't around there.

ID: 455

I wish you would extend the season to the end of February for residents only. Make it resident only on public land for the first weekend of the pheasant opener, so many out of state hunters hunt private land then their guide takes them to public land that is nearby. It's hard for residents to even hunt everyone charges to hunt private land anymore to makes it harder for families to afford to hunt. I think we are losing the younger kids because of the cost to hunt.

ID: 461

My family has always hunted, wife, son, daughter and I. We were never eligible for any kind of assistance when our kids were home, and one year both my wife and I were laid off we reloaded our own shells and if it hadn't been for hunting we would have been hard pressed to put food on the table. We hunt waterfowl, deer, pheasants, for thirty plus years we hunted and have seen how it has changed, because non-residents can pay more than we can, pheasant hunting has become harder as most landowners who are by public land run their hunters through public land first to chase birds onto their land, we have hard time finding any place to hunt pheasants, so we now hunt more waterfowl, when out son was 1 year old we put him in a sleeping bag and had him in a duck blind. It is a sport he dearly loves, we only hunted 1 day last year with our daughter, she died three days later, so we didn't hunt, but hunting was what we did as a family it was a way of life for us.

ID: 53

Not sure about question # 10 meaning of surcharge. Maybe increase resident license slightly, maybe \$10 and increase non-residents much more. Also charge guided ranchers for a percentage of non-resident hunters paying to hunt with them.

ID: 538

I don't want to see land being taken out of production. I would rather see contacts for people to use their land for hunting.

ID: 569

With gas prices and time availability it cost me about \$20 a bird if you get any. So I go to some walk in areas and only see or kick up one bird I hope its better this year. Thank you for asking.

ID: 582

We need to get rid of a lot more cats – our elk population is dying. Let people have two or three license for cats. Let's put things into prospective.

ID: 584

Never hunted pheasants

ID: 591

I'm sick and tired of seeing walk in land that is either a plowed field or freshly mowed just before or during hunting season. I hope them landowners do not yet paid anything from the state when they are utilizing the land and not providing any habitat or hunting possibilities!

ID: 618

Question 9: \$500

ID: 629

I oppose putting any more money into habitat land. Us as landowners have a hard enough time competing with other landowners for farming purposes, we do not need to compete with the government also.

ID: 649

As a past farmer, the combination of sloughs, tree belts or smaller grass areas alongside food plots (of a width that doesn't get drifted over in the winter) was the best combination we experienced. We were putting in 5 acre (or larger) corn plots before CRP came into place. This drastically improved our pheasant population. The last item we added was predator control. I assume you have some data collected on the number of birds as coyote or fox eats in a year, it seems that the numbers would multiply out fairly fast in a positive or negative direction towards the total population of pheasants. Thanks for what your staff does to maintain and strive to improve our hunting heritage!

ID: 650

I don't agree that farmers are allowed to hay or graze CRP acres. They are getting paid to have it in the program. CRP is our best habitat for pheasants and other wildlife. I also don't agree that the soil conservation district in our county was mowing CREP land in June. I know the guy that was mowing it. They are chasing up pheasants and ducks off their nests.

ID: 655

Nobody needs more than 3 roosters per day! Increasing license fees would be great except youth hunters should not have to have an increase. An elevated non-resident license fee will not stop anyone from coming.

ID: 663

In my house hold I'm the only person who shoots pheasants but pheasant hunting is just as important to my wife as it is to myself and she should also be counted, she goes with me all the time and shoots with a camera instead of a gun and the hunt means to her as much as it does to me.

ID: 703

The pheasant population in eastern, SD is way down. I used to hunt birds but don't anymore. The predator population is high even the deer numbers are down. I am a landowner and I manage my property especially for deer. I am doing this so my children can hunt this land. I have no concern for the public. I bought this land they can buy their own! I'm not a fucking doctor or lawyer either! I love SD and I am sick of the commercial shit.

ID: 738

Do something about the mountain lions ins SD. They are killing off too many of our regular hunting animals.

ID: 746

We will need to do everything we can to support habitat with high grain prices or it will go away.

ID: 769

The reason I selected c on question 11 is that there is no longer places for local hunters to go unless they have private land to hunt or have to pay a fee. 40 years ago I never had to worry about where to hunt because land owners were not being paid for people to hunt. Now landowners expect to be compensated to have people hunt. It has gotten to commercial and local residents are being shut out of what they used to have. I totally understand land owners charging. Money talks and locals walk.

ID: 781

I would encourage GF&P to also consider limited assistance to landowners who have suitable habitat but do not want to allow public access to their land. Examples could be cost share for food plots and nesting cover designed to benefit pheasants. I would commit land on my farm to this effort if GF&P would provide appropriate seed mixes.

ID: 784

I have hunted pheasants in SD for 72 years. In earlier years access to land was easy and hunters were fewer. Hunting was "free" and available. This is no longer the case due to increase numbers of hunters and the high cost of producing game. Our family farm takes much of the land out of the area of farming and returned in order to provide abundant wildlife habitat. Many of my friends who are avid hunters proclaim they will never pay to hunt believe it to be an entitlement. I believe this idea is unrealistic and consequently hunting pheasants will be costly as are other types of recreation. Most pheasants are produced on private land and it is no longer free or cheap. Commercial hunting is very costly and public hunting should be funded partially by special licenses for public hunting.

ID: 786

Private land leased as walk-in areas is the most important land available to hunters and South Dakota needs much more! These areas are not only important for pheasant hunters but also for big game hunting such as deer and antelope. As a South Dakota resident I would not be able to hunt deer and antelope if SD didn't have leased walk in areas.

ID: 795

Tax money is used to buy up CRP contracts yet most CRP land is used for private hunting. Just benefits the land owners and pay hunters then you get hollered at while hunting road right of ways. Not to change the subject but – as far as Canada goose over population goes I feel the farmers and ranchers who are complaining about depredation to their crops are reaping what they sowed. It was almost impossible or very hard to get permission to waterfowl hunt some years ago on private land. Most wanted to charge or leased the land to wealthy hunters. Now young folks have little interest in hunting due to finances. Who can afford \$100 a gun to hunt private? The farmers and ranchers need to consider this next time they say no!

ID: 827

It would be nice that if small hobby acres that own land would be able to get land owners licenses for the same farmers that own 160 acres or more because I up keep my grass and trees for habitat. I raise 100 chicks every year and release them into the neighbors every year. Two years ago with the bad winter I had over 200 head of deer in my yard they ate my trees, but I put out hay bales for them to eat. I didn't complain to GF&P to come feed them like my neighbors my boys love it when the deer were 5 feet from the windows and we get to keep the scenery in our yard.

ID: 833

It's a family tradition! They travel great distances to hunt. The cost for out of state hunters is high, but they come for the hunt, family, and friends. It would be a greater loses if we had nothing to hunt! Pay more to shoot more doesn't solve the problem. IN our little world of pheasant hunting we would pay more to keep what we have or better the programs!

ID: 859

Question 9: With non-resident double.

If we pay more money to bag 1 more pheasant I feel non-resident should cost more, but we would have to make sure there is a balance with the pheasant numbers.

ID: 861

Question 9: \$5

Cut the cattle off the natural grasslands so the pheasants and grouse have the opportunity to come back to a natural balance, double non-resident fees for pheasant hunting.

ID: 867

I strongly disagree with those who have CRP and charge people to hunt it! They get paid twice, if that's the case they should get taxed 4 times, those birds are wild. I won't pay to hunt, if it comes to that I'll sell all the guns I have and quit. I would like to be able to take my 8 year old and 5 year old hunting when they are able, but the way it's looking it won't happen. The public lands get hunted heavily because people don't want to pay to shoot wild birds or deer and they shouldn't have to!

ID: 881

Question 7: No birds now! Charge the out of state people the extra. They spend more money on everything they will pay it. With the drought and high corn prices all the lover is disappearing farmers only care about the money generated from corn and beans. We quit hunting last year because of low populations. The public areas are so over run and no birds we quit hunting them also.

ID: 884

I don't believe that charging and extra fee for an additional bird per day is the answer. That would only put additional stress on the pheasant population and do hunters really hunt for the meat or bounty (no) I am in favor of a modest feed for addition pheasant habitat!

ID: 896

I don't believe that the number of pheasants one can take in a day is of much importance to the true pheasant hunter. Last year "2011" we had excellent habitat but a very poor hatch in our area, too much rain. This year looks like an excellent hatch.

ID: 909

Some of the land being leased by the GF&P for the walk in program is very bad. An example of this would be a harvested soybean field. This should not be in the program.

ID: 933

Question 6: Very Dry

ID: 936

I strongly believe the number of non-resident licenses, should be limited to 20 per county, until the population comes up, for 5 to 10 years. Also get more farmers to raise pheasant chick and distributed. There is a lot of CRP want out there is less habitat.

ID: 958

Do not have a season in January because when you get a snow storm in January the pheasants are not in their winter home and too many don't survive

ID: 979

Put food plots in wildlife refuge.

ID: 1023

We, my family, never limit out where we hunt. It doesn't bother us. But this affected my answers on willingness to pay additionally for a one bird limit increase. We have always hunted it is something that I look forward to sharing with my kids someday.

ID: 1052

I think moving the bag limit to 4 per day is a bad idea. Hunting in general is more about the experience than the number of game taken. If you must, I think people would pay more even though the bag limit is the same. The people, who want to shoot more game, are going to do it anyways.

ID: 1102

My response to question 7 to 9 are due to my feelings that we should not increase the daily bag limit when our pheasant population is not that abundant.

ID: 1113

Question 11: below out of state money

More food plots and water are #1 so get water in hart of winter we have that and I see a lot of birds. Trees, comes, busses thank you.

ID: 1139

It would be easier for me to agree to additional expenses on my hunting fee's if I knew it would have an effect on me at a local level and save me time and money to travel so far to take advantage of this public access. My budget is tight as it is.

ID: 1149

Fee's charged to hunters make a very tempting target for state and federal governments to divert to funds to general funds from habitat funds. That is why I oppose increasing any fees on hunters. It also would drive more hunters out of hunting. Also note that my experience with walk in areas has been poor, usually very little habitat. Plowed fields/overgrazed pastures. I think some owners are taking advantage or those in GF&P/state are not doing due diligence in selecting the land for inclusion.

ID: 1165

Out state needs to continue to explore these types of ideas, as CRP continues to be replaced with row crops. Out state needs to continue to lead the nation as the number one destination for exceptional pheasant hunting.

ID: 1169

I am a landowner and do not oppose "road hunting" as there are those hunters who do not have access to land or are physically unable to walk large stretches. Please do not get rid of this SD tradition.

I have not run the numbers for an increase in license fees, but would favor an increase to generate more money. I am not in support of increasing daily limit. It is about the time in the field not the quantity killed. If anything extended the season to provide more hunting days per dollar.

ID: 1174

Instead of placing a surcharge for improving habitat, CRP qualifications should be changed. Some counties require a 10 acre minimum which eliminates most acreage owners. With the price of corn, large farmers are not entering the program. Acreage owners do not have the equipment to harvest or plant a crop and would enter the program. Habitat could be improved by allowing acreage owners to qualify their land under the CRP program

ID: 1186

We need to do something with the number of hens not the roosters.

ID: 1191

I am all for establishing more public hunting land but I feel that limit should stay as is and raise the out of state licenses whatever amount need to fund these areas. Why should SD residents pay more so out of states come in and hunt our birds. If they want to hunt in our state let them fund it. We are the ones that live here and work and farm, why not let them fund the extra land costs. South Dakotans make less than the out of states, most of the time anyhow. If the out of states want to harvest our birds let them pay! Don't raise the limit!

ID: 1192

In my family, we don't do a whole lot of pheasant hunting but hunting in general has always been a big part of our life. The reason I am not favoring an additional charge to allow an additional pheasant to the daily limit is because I feel that the pheasant population had diminished quite a bit in the last few years, and I'm not sure how much providing new

habitats for pheasants will help. Maybe if I had more information about this subject, I would be more in favor of it but with what I know about it I am opposed to it.

ID: 1199

Question 5: Farmers are tiling all water ways and low areas which are waterfowl homes and pheasant cover.

Question 9: I think 3 a day or 15 in possessions is plenty with all the habitat being destroyed by farmers.

Question 10: because contacts on private land like this year is hurt by farmers able to graze cattle and cut hay hurts habitat.

ID: 1202

Not enough pheasants, too many hunters. I see leased private crop land as a waste of GF&P dollars. The provided habitat looks great, but I fail to find a significant amount of birds on them, due to over hunting.

ID: 1203

Charge the out of state the extra fees. We feed them and support pheasants unlimited forever. I have a good plot at my expense. Don't charge me more money to pay for out of state hunters.

ID: 1214

Pheasant hunting is a good way to bond with friends and family, because the cost is not bad. More state or private land at a small cost would be good!

Walleye at Belle Fourche Reservoir are in good shape. I would like to see the slots moved up to 1 over 20 and 3 under 17 this would increase the amount of eggs reproduction natural and would have to rely on GF&P stocking.

Mountain lions are out of control need to hunt year around, maybe shut off elk or deer seasons to repopulate and 3 tags in Custer State Park. Use the \$5 fee for bounty from the other 20,000 that applied on bought points for deer and elk tags keep going down and lion tags go up but still no deer or elk around!

ID: 1218

The out of state hunters have taken over most of the public land when they come. It is hunted to death, over and over, and over every day most of the 1<sup>st</sup> month. Then the birds are so wild you might as well forget it. Let the out of state people pay for the public hunting. It is not so much fun anymore.

ID: 1222

I think the fines and penalties need to be increased for over-bagging. There is only a very small percentage ever caught. We used to see more game checks too.

ID: 1229

I feel the 3 bird daily bag limit is adequate. I would oppose raising that. I would support a \$5 pheasant stamp program. I also feel that if we are funding habitat on private land the landowners should not be allowed to graze on or cut hay on this land (like they can do on walk-ins now). Walk in is useless if the cover is only 2" high. Thanks for trying to find a way for everyone to have access.

ID: 1250

Pheasant's Forever!

ID: 1261

Change the starting time to 10:00am for the entire season, or sunrise to sunset season.

ID: 1270

More funding for habitat contracts on private land should be funded primarily by increased fees on preserve licenses. Preserves should also be taxed at commercial property rates rather than agriculture land rates.

ID: 1289

Charge more for out of state license. They are getting by for \$105. Way too cheap. Also, raise out of state fishing licenses, really way too cheap. You won't listen anyway too much politics.

ID: 1299

Even though hunting pheasants is very important to me. I only go hunting the first weekend and one more weekend later on. It is more important to me to know future hunting for my grandson. Paying a \$25 fee would be too much. How much money is taken out of each hunting license for habitat?

ID: 1312

Question 9: I would pay \$15

Allowing grass cutting on public lands such as waterfowl production areas should be charged a fee to the farmers that at them and should have a regulation as to how late in the year they are allowed to be cut. I have seen many public lands cut that would never allow any cover for pheasants because it was cut so late in the year. What good is this land open to the public if animals don't want to be in it because of little to no cover!

ID: 1333

Fuck Farmers

ID: 1335

Question 2 & 5: Don't hunt pheasants

ID: 1341

I own 300 acres and farmed most of my life. The majority of birds are born raised, and feed on farmers land. The farmer should be given more privileges rights and access to the birds that are basically thin to start with.

ID: 1348

Great job, keep up the good work.

ID: 1357

I would not need to have a fee added for shooting an extra bird to help the habitat but would rather have a surcharge to all hunters for this cause instead.

ID: 1361

Question 7: until land is made pheasant friendly and an increase in population, 3 roosters is a fair daily limit. Got the horse in front of the cart, also predication needs to be predators (Excluding hawks, owls, and eagles). Also a farmer or rancher, who is receiving farm subsidies and charges to hunt, should have the subsidy reduced directly proportionately to his hunting fees income. That's double dipping tax payers who hunt!

Question 8: Raise the fee get the person started show population increase, leave limit the same.

Question 10: Add it to the farm bill with the stipulation the operation of said land will have conditions if a charge to hunt is placed on land.

ID: 1367

CRP is the best thing that has ever been done for all wildlife.

ID: 1386

We do hunt grouse on buffalo gap grass lands. The over grazing of cattle the last 4-5 years has made cover for them very slim. Antelope also have suffered.

ID: 1401

Don't raise hunting fees not for 1 more pheasant.

ID: 1421

Why do we lease private land as walk in areas that are just dirt no cover? Why do we now down public lands and bale it?

ID: 1455

I do not believe the pheasant population can support a raise in limit. I also believe the birds would go to waste. I have hunted with many people (both instate and out of state hunters) that like to shoot the birds, but do not want them to eat.

ID: 1497

I am opposed to adding birds for fee because I think 3 birds per hunters per day is enough. Many birds go to waste because 3 birds per day is more than most will eat. We let this valuable reserve go to waste. Also I do not think it will raise the desired funds.

ID: 1499

Most public land is over hunter. Pheasants are either killed or chased out. It would be better to stock birds late in season for better hunting. GF&P charge a lot for license fees already, with revenue for out of state hunters there should be another way of funding. Don't make pheasant hunting a rich man's sport.

ID: 1500

If the additional fees are voluntary I would go along with it otherwise, like all fees that start out small, I fear they would grow and grow, and I don't want to see hunting be just for the wealthy. Thank you for your efforts and for working to find ways to increase hunting access for everyone.

ID: 1555

I feel any benefit non-residents get by paying a larger "habitat" fee for additional bag limits may provide a negative long term effect on who decides how to manage our state's birds. If non-residents are as a majority paying the higher fee will they in a round-about way increase their say on how our state manages our resources? Just a thought that came to my mind.

ID: 1556

In paying additional fees to increase bag limits is going the wrong direct we already have a resident only weekend that I feel is a mistake increasing bag limits when populations are at

a lower level in many years is not what we need to be doing no matter the financial loss or gain.

ID: 1564

I think they should actually lower the daily bag limit to four birds cause it is so hard to find enough birds now.

ID: 1581

The CRP is not ideal for nesting we have a bunch of CRP around us and they don't nest there they nest in our alfalfa (90%) therefore we end up running a lot through the hay machines cause they nest in the alfalfa. After the pheasants get bigger CRP is great for them just not nesting.

ID: 1599

I have seen in Iowa what the loss of CRP does to all wildlife populations. I worry what wildlife populations will be like in South Dakota in 10 years. I am very concerned with the hunting opportunities my 2 year old son will have in SD. 10 years down the road. I think the walk in areas program is great! It provides many more opportunities and landowners don't get bothered by hunters knocking on their doors.

ID: 1602

Definitely see grassland being tore up for row crops. CRP was a great investment for pheasants.

ID: 1603

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this survey. The concept of paying for an increase bag limit may appeal to some, and I suspect it would mostly be out of state hunters. The reason I say that is in my experience of the last few years of hunting on public lands it is very unlikely that a small group of one to three hunters will bag all their limits in any one day. I would prefer a solution that didn't tie habitat to the additional pressure on the population of any species. I think most resident hunters would tolerate an increase in licenses fees if additional land was available to hunt on.

ID: 1613

Some of the land used for walk in areas is wasted because it's not habitat favorable to pheasants. Harvested sunflower field is good example.

ID: 1617

If we stop farming water ways in addition to CRP it would help our environment and make for more wildlife.

ID: 1645

I would not pay additional fees for an extra pheasant, but encourage the fee providing there are enough birds for those who want more birds.

We already pay high hunting fees, but again to keep adequate preserves and bird numbers would be willing to pay extra.

Charge more for the out of state hunters. An extra \$25 to them is nothing compared to what they pay the lodges. Let them shoot more birds at the preserves. The preserves/lodges are releasing birds anyway!

ID: 1669

Some comments regarding public hunting: 1) tell the state tourism office to stop killing us. I don't like losing our hunting for their greed. 2) too many people trying to use too little (quality) land. Why does GFP rent stubble fields and bare prairie? The only game animals are just passing thru it. There needs to be some minimum standard set, and if there is one now, it needs to be reevaluated. Also some ethics need to be stressed on public lands, if you have been at a location waiting 2 hours with your son and dog for 12 noon, a caravan of 4 pickups and 15 hunters should not come in at 1155 and crowd you out. 4) Some thought needs to be given to hunters who may not be able to get into some areas. Some type of allowance for game retrieval needs to be given. I can walk in, but dragging a deer 2 miles to a road is not an option. My only option is not to hunt. The areas where one can get to (corps land, near Oahe is a good example) are so overcrowded as to border on being hazardous. 5) how about allowing us to drive Grandpa in an out to block and then park in the designated area. This allows the older guys to participate who may not be able to walk fields but are not handicapped either. 6) if a non-resident hunter wants to hunt, either issue a game farm/private property only, license or a public land only license. One would exclude the issuance of the other. It is very aggravating to see them hunt the public land then move to the nearby private land where they just chased the birds to. (Do any game farm owners encourage this?) (Is it even legal, aren't they "guided" if they are paying to hunt on private land?) 7) Game preserves/farms should be limited in number, much like liquor licenses. 8) The youth season is a good concept, but its execution is not. How about looking at the youth deer season and take a lesson from there. Let the youth hunt on cooperating private land. What I am finding is the birds are chased from public lands. 9) Lands receiving government money or crop subsidies should be open.

ID: 1683

I feel all our habitat for all wildlife is being taken away because of the humans braking up all prairie, CRP, and having every little place or acre. Where pheasants used to nest and line are about all gone. I'm very against what's happening to our wildlife. I put out food plots, plant trees. I own 3 quarters of land which I rent out. But my renters are not allowed to break up any prairie. I hope we can work together and put a stop to breaking up all our native grass. Thank you for sending me this survey.

ID: 1708

Thank you for this survey! In this survey I indicated my support for additional fees or surcharges for providing more habitat and hunter areas. Speaking only for myself, I don't really need an extra rooster in my daily bag limit. Three roosters is plenty enough for me. Good luck with whatever program you can come up with to enhance long term habitat contracts on private land.

ID: 1712

Person running pheasants forever giving friends and special landowners more seed than other people. There landowners are not letting public hunters get near their land and still charging people to hunt. Most people that charge for hunting are getting too much help from the government why aren't they paying taxes on money they make? Please think about that. Lot of us hunters are getting upset. (more crp)

ID: 1729

I think that a surcharge for nonresident hunting is a good idea just not for residents living in SD.

ID: 1735

I always buy a small game license to hunt pheasants if I see one while hunting deer or coyotes. If an additional charges are added for pheasants like it is for ducks and geese I will not hunt pheasants.

ID: 1750

Pheasant hunting in SD draws in a lot of out of state hunting. Thus helping with our economy.

ID: 1762

Pheasants are a major problem to farmers in the spring in corn fields. They will dig up the corn along fence rows and any field that is habitat for them. See at \$100 per acre can get to be expensive to the farmer. Weather decided the number of pheasants rather than habitat I think.

ID: 1786

Question 9: I would pay \$5 -\$10 more. I would say that most land owners that enjoy hunting pheasants are not going to open up their land for public hunting. They will try to have a few pheasants around just for them, their family and a few close friends.

ID: 1789

Question 7: For out of state hunters!  
Question 8: all about money!

ID: 1794

Question 6: CRP disappearing, corn planted right to the road loss of habitat and predator and the unpredictable weather. You bet I'm worried and so should you. I'm put a short 5 years I have been in SD habitat going the wrong direction and you know it. Slough to plant more corn for more money.

Pheasant hunting in the state can and will drive an economy, crank them up and work the habitat to attract and sustain pheasants. Texas took whitetail hunting to the next level of economic reward. All that has done is attract and increase the sporting/economic experience for all! Copy this model to a certain level and SD could be on the map!

ID: 1813

Should control predators some how, also rural cats.

ID: 1870

With the over hunting of public lands I have found the walking of road right of ways very productive. I have found the many miles of section lines a good way to find birds that have not been hunted that much. I feel it's important to keep section lines open but to keep hunters educated on the laws that pertain to section lines, such as trespass, safety zones and unarmed retrieval.

SD has good public access and I would be happy to pay more in license fees for more access. But it is also important to get the right habitat. Thanks for your hard work in trying to improve hunting in sd. You have my complete support.

ID: 1930

The fee should be applied to the out of state hunters to fund the habitat. Have a true SD opener and not just limit it to the public land.

ID: 1939

Question 5: didn't hunt anywhere in SD. Question 9: something to bring up at your next meetings SD seniors should be able to hunt and fish in SD if over the age of 65 for free. You could issue a lifetime card (ID). When you get your fishing permits you are to get them free but you have to pay \$2. In Penna you get a ID (picture) to hunt all games and fish.

ID: 1949

I agree with a charge but 1 more pheasant isn't going to stop the people that are over bagging anyways. How can you specify who is going to hunt pheasants? I have a hunting license but have shot maybe 6 pheasants in 3 years. I wouldn't want to pay extra for that. Some people go out 2 times a day and shoot limits each time. Let's catch a few of them.

ID: 1952

I am less concerned about myself hunting pheasants and am way more concerned what may be there for my kids to hunt when that day comes. The time of my life was in my youth hunting days with my dad. I had that experience and want to be able to share that same time with my kids. To me it's about the youth not the adults. We had our time, now let the kids have the time of their life.

ID: 1954

I strongly oppose the current "resident only" season. By only opening public and it condenses everyone and provides the most crowded congested experience. If the idea is to give residents a pleasurable hunt prior to the "crowds", it isn't working. I believe either both private and public land should be open, or this season should be discontinued.

ID: 2000

I am not sure that my information is valid. My brother has private land and I have hunted there for the past 28 years.  
However, growing up access to public land was very important to me and if I didn't have access to the private land, it would still be very important to me.  
It has become difficult to find private land where the landowner has not leased the hunting rights.

ID: 2016

Question 3: Road Hunt 70%  
Question 7: population down bad  
Hunted all year only time I was able to get any was to drive out west part Wagner Southeast is over hunted and never enough habitat or replenished. 3 pheasants all year.

ID: 2025

I don't think paying more for habitat would help very much, I think we have to control the predators. I have been spraying fields in 12 different counties and have found there to be way too many predators in all of these different areas. I have found many nest disturbed, and also have found many bones and feathers by holes in the ground. I feel we have to control these first then work on better habitat. I would like to discuss this more. If you are interested contact me.

ID: 2073

Too much dam pay here hunting! Season on hunting should open at the same time and close at the same time on public and pay here hunting.

ID: 2101

The land we primarily hunt is our own. We provide habitat by participating in the CRP program & planting food plots. If we want more habitat across the state, I feel non-resident license fees should increase and residents could pay a surcharge of less than \$5 per licenses.

ID: 2115

We hunt mostly on public land. The habitat is good in my opinion, but those areas in eastern SD get hunted so heavily that the birds are driven out to the great habitat that surrounds all the public areas. If more acres are open to public access the pressure might decrease overall and some birds might stay in the areas we hunt. I support a surcharge paid by all hunters. I would not pay a fee to increase the daily limit because it is hard enough to reach the current limit. Thank you for providing the survey on paper.

ID: 2128

Question 9: additional \$10

Keep the additional pheasant price at a working mans price. Put a bigger charge on the out of state hunters.

ID: 2224

It seems like there are more pheasants around when you have cat tail slough grass for habitat. I find a lot of birds in them later in the season especially when snow is on the ground. I know it would be hard to maintain this type of habitat because of all the high water we have. But once again it seems like the pheasants still prefer the cattail slough grass that I have found on public land while out hunting.

ID: 2233

We need more habitats for the pheasants. This greatly affects our business since we own and operate a small motel and really need pheasant hunting business.

ID: 2253

Question 8: Double their license fee! Yes you will lose some out of staters, but you will have more revenue. The bird count is down. Give the birds a chance to recover. Don't destroy this income for the state.

The license fee for out of state hunters is a tremendous bargain. Double the license fee a high % of the out of state hunters would care less. They come to hunt and enjoy being with family and friends and also enjoy the beauty of our great state allowing them to pay an additional fee to have extra birds is a poor idea. They don't come to hunt to take home more birds. Their wife probably won't cook them anyway. Bird counts are down drastically. Give the birds a chance to recover increasing the license fee well have more dollars to work with and the bird harvest will be reduced.

ID: 2256

Last year I didn't see enough birds to even justify increasing the limit of birds. Let alone increase the cost is going to stop the "occasional" hunters from enjoying their hunting.

ID: 2270

It is my thought that since there has gotten to be so much commercial hunting and those that do commercial hunting and are buying up so much land the tariffs should be on them not the residents hunting of SD to always pay for what was once their freedom to enjoy

South Dakota's favorite sport as a resident. Let the people that force the issue of commercial hunting have to pay since they are the ones that make the millions.

ID: 2312

Question 6: I am 86 years old it really doesn't matter.

ID: 2295

Focus more on helping farmers to keep habitat four pheasants part of some cash it may make better relations to inspire better habitat for nesting/living.

ID: 2344

You are doing a very good job. Keep up the good work.

ID: 2349

I hunted my own land.

ID: 2350

Give a senior citizen discount

ID: 2362

Question 10: less than \$25

I think a surcharge could help increasing CRP. The rates for CRP are lagging behind more and more behind land rental rates, also a little charge to a business in town that have increased business because of hunters. A slight pay to farmers for leaving strips of corn and beans next to tress and long as it can be hunted by public, less pay if not.

ID: 2365

Question 3: Road right of ways

ID: 2368

Game, Fish, & Parks need to find away to be more efficient with the money all ready generated from licenses each year. As a land owner in Hughes County my operation needs to efficient why aren't you!

ID: 2379

Question 7: It would be different if the public lands wouldn't be able to be hunted by out of state hunters and left only for SD hunters. If you have not noticed the public lands are wiped out by the out of staters the first weekend. I'm not saying that SD doesn't need the non-residents but if they have the money to come here to hunt let them pay for it. Most SD residents are mid class too add additional cost will have a large impact on us.

I lived and hunted in SD for all of my life, I bleed SD, love SD, will never leave SD. Lets make SD hunters our first priority. I have a bad feeling that when my 3 year old daughter gets to the age, not mid class person is ever going to afford to hunt. I've got 5 kids. They all go hunting with my wife & I. They all want to hunt and fish to provide for the family, non-residents come to hunt for fun, I hunt for food, deer, fish, pheasants, rabbits, ext. I'm not a trophy hunter, if it feeds us that is what counts. The lost of hunting now is way to much, lets keep SD for SD unless you want to come here and pay for it, let the rich and better off non residents pay. Thank you for the hard work you guys do, just please remember the middle class SD workers and families.

ID: 2394

I would pay a larger amount of money for habitat as long as it is open to the public. But I would pay extra for habitat even if it wasn't open because it will increase the pheasants.

ID: 2399

Looks like greed has taken over the hunting in SD. It's harder to hunt. Farmers are putting more land into crops than CRP. It takes more money to hunt. Harder to find land to hunt on without paying for it. Everyone wants the piece of the pie. Out of staters are buying up more land. We are gradually losing out in hunting as a resident.

ID: 2402

Possibly drop bag limit down to 2 birds per hunter until population increases.

ID: 2403

South Dakota has a good pheasant season. Leave it alone, 3 birds are plenty leaving the starting date along with work for diversity on public lands, food plots, tree belts, alfalfa fields. Sand Lake Refuge is a disaster tearing out trees and no cropland –diversity. Thanks GF&P for your good work in SD.

ID: 2441

SD puts out of state hunters over and above resident hunters only chasing their money...whose state and pheasants are these? SD residents should be able to hunt first full 2 weeks of the season without any out of staters! Resident weekend hunt is crap only hunting on public land which is a joke! Most of the land rented from farmers is very poor at best! If I had to hunt public land I would quit hunting. You talk about higher fees to shoot 1 more pheasant...how about better land management...shooting 1 more bird to a true hunter means nothing. Making better hunting for SD residents should be your priority! Non-resident hunters have taken over hunting in our state! A sad time for us all! Put good quality hunting back to SD residents cut back on out of state hunters, and cut back on pay hunting and tax the heck out of the ones who charge, hunting use to be a family outing...it's now a money trap. Very Sad! My grandkids will never get to see hunting! That hurts!

ID: 2445

Cut day limits instead of raising them for a couple of years and maybe population would come back release more hens in GF&P land.

ID: 2451

An out of state hunters fee would be normal and as long as it was not too expensive should not hurt the tourist hunter profit that the state as a whole gains. Having moved from California to SD one of the best things here is the ability and freedom to hunt. Other states like CA are way too restrictive and have done a horrid job maintaining their game. Good show SD! This is one very important reason that I live here: Hunting!

ID: 2463

Question 5: We hunt only our own land  
Question 12: only family

ID: 2464

Question 8: They shoot enough of our pheasants you need to raise the non-resident fee. They do not pay enough. They come here and burn out our public lands while the working man of SD is working to try and make a living.

Over the many years I have hunted, I have watched the food plots disappear on our public shooting areas and so did the birds and deer. They need food and cover. For three years I have watched a public hunting area be grazed down to nothing (3 years in a row) I used to shoot a lot of grouse and an occasional pheasant off it, now every spring the cattle are in there and the end result is no birds, why are they being used for cattle production? The signs say game production area. I have also watched our public lands being burned out by pay operations, they push them so hard that everything ends up on their land, and you know the rest of the story. These people pay them (poor farmers) 300 – 500 dollars a day (they need a license hike) the same goes for fishing, right now we have a lot of fishing holes right now this water will not be here forever, then what will the plan be? They will fish everything out. Bottom line non-residents hunt and fish too cheap. Time to raise their fee's not the residents.

ID: 2472

I think wild game should be eaten as a treat and not as meat for the winter. I think our limit is fine. Maybe we realize that land is very high priced, so we need to pay more for our license but too much of a hike and people will start cheating more and hunt without buying a license. Of course I am retired and all people like me don't hunt with region like younger folk and would like to see a discount for seniors, but maybe that would hurt more than help? No to over kill. What's the bag limit of fish you can bring back from Canada?

ID: 2474

Question 7: I go hunting pheasant hunting not for the numbers of birds I get but for the fresh air, and being with friends I haven't seen.

Question 10: I think out of state hunters ought to pay more than in state, but I favor everyone should pay more for areas to hunt.

I hunt in the Pierre-Miller areas there is a lot of hunting clubs and a lot of out of state hunters. What I don't think is right those buses will come in large numbers in hunt public shooting first thing than go to their area later. That is why I think they should pay more 1 extra bid will make it worse.

ID: 2475

Habitat is important; fees are already way too high.

ID: 2477

Habitat, I feel there is a lot of good habitat, some of which is private or public.

The private leased walk ins seem to change in cover from year to year. The farming style is so much different then before. Chemicals are also a good predator to the pheasants.

The public lands, some of which seem to get over hunted, chasing the pheasants out, creating a dead spot to hunt.

Some of the habitat is so large, hard to hunt but also creates a haven for all the predators to the pheasant, there should be more control on the skunk, raccoon, fox, coyote, and even mountain lions in Eastern, SD.

Increase in daily bag limit is not the answer. Pheasant numbers are down, it's not like the 50's or 60's. The pheasants need help.

ID: 2478

I have 600 acre's of land in Deuel County and after the winter of 2010 and 2011 in Deuel County we have very few pheasants we need a closed season in 2012.

ID: 2493

Keep up the good work!

ID: 2503

As you know and I know when you step on some someone else's land you are liable so not your, and as dry as it is this year it is you have to be careful for not to have nobody that smoke a cig.

ID: 2504

I am lucky enough to have family farm in hunting country, but I feel public hunting areas are important.

ID: 2512

Q7-Q10: make it so , whomever wants to hunt private walk-in areas will have the option of purchasing a tag or a stamp to do so.

ID: 2525

I understand I have a biased view by growing up on a family farm, but nothing frustrates me more than out of state hunters swarming the roads waiting for tax paying landowners to leave (or shooting pheasants in the ditch).

ID: 2530

I am totally against putting cattle on public game and fish land in NE SD. I am in favor of having corn etc. as long as it is 1/3 left in the field for wildlife.

ID: 2546

I don't know why this survey is sent to me since I haven't hunted pheasants in SD since the mid 50's. I do hunt ducks (with little success) but that's about all. I went duck hunting twice and with rising costs, I don't plan to even continue this any longer.

ID: 2558

Question 6: As I own private land, however I know to most hunter it is an important issue.

ID: 2567

Out of states take more than their limits every year and very few are caught. Road rights of ways have become a pain with private landowners and GF&P is not helping with that situation with their regs.

ID: 2584

Need to keep the noon to dusk hunting time! Don't start at 10:30 am, anymore!  
Shorten the pheasant season; lengthen the deer season and more deer license.

ID: 2593

I have been a pheasant hunter for 55 years. I have always been able to hunt fee free on private land. I have done some hunting on public walk in and I believe these areas to be great for those that eat access to private land. Our way of offering that GF&P could look at is charge a fee or tax to the landowners that charge to hunt on their land. It is no different than buying groceries or clothing. It is income to them and should be taxed or fee paid just like everyone else's income/wages are.

- ID: 2628  
Less habitat equals fewer pheasants!
- ID: 2648  
Could the state supplement CRP contracts to maintain healthy habitat?
- ID: 2664  
Question 6: It's slowly becoming a "rich man's sport"!  
Question 9: As I hunt on my own land.
- ID: 2678  
The web page on your card is very shaky! Someone from outside your office should try using it
- ID: 2687  
I am an avid bow hunter and use trail cameras in 2012. I had 5 pictures of trespassers from out of the area hunters.
- ID: 2689  
I would say that a farm owner should be able to hunt with out buying a license on own land or public.
- ID: 2749  
The only way we can maintain qualify numbers of birds is to provide nesting and cover. The CRP program has done this in the past and should be continued. Making CRP available to public hunting should be left up to the landowner as many of these people hunt and use this time with family and friends. The landowner then can control how much this land gets hunted This is very important for the best experience of all.
- ID: 2777  
All hunters should have to purchase a ducks unlimited membership. That's how you get habitat on the ground and 80% of your membership fee goes directly to the ground/field aka Habitat. And it's about a 10 to 1 payback in the prairie pot hole states.
- ID: 2787  
Question 4: good for nesting  
Question 9: 3 Roosters are enough  
Question 10: Good Idea!  
No ditch mowing, state or county section lions till July 1<sup>st</sup> very important.  
Sell an extra pole fishing license, so shore fishermen can use 3 poles. Limits stay the same (\$25.00 extra pole) use the money for habitat or whatever.
- ID: 2802  
There is nothing wrong with the way pheasant season is now if we take more birds it could end up hurting us as a state. Bag limit; leave it the way it is. Out of State hunters know the rules (follow them) and residents know the rules (follow them).
- ID: 2818  
Pheasants are a part of SD and should be protected and also used as a resource. Done properly hunting can be enjoyed by many and in the whole process provide revenue economically to many businesses. This process of providing habitat can be done without a

burden to farmers and ranchers. SD is known for it's pheasants and they should be valued and appreciated.

ID: 2836

I feel that good habitat is a must for a strong pheasant population and that from what I understand is that there is a need to find a way to keep the habitat. The only thing that concerns me is that the population is large enough to add an extra pheasant to be taken. Where I used to hunt the most was river bottom ground and I didn't see as many birds as I used too . But the GF&P has some very good warden's that do a good job of keeping count on things so I am sure they have a better idea of how many birds there are. I am glad that SD GFP cares about keeping the habitat in the best condition it can so that on years to come we have habitat to hunt. Thanks you and have a nice day.

ID: 2813

In the past year I have spent close to \$200 replacing parts of my van from damage caused by hitting pheasants! Most are hens. Why don't they allow shooting hens just like when hunting ducks and geese?

ID: 2846

I believe if you own land (at least 160 acres) you shouldn't pay any more for you license as you are probably providing habitat or food for wildlife. If you are out of state or a South Dakota that has no land you should pay more for licenses with funds used for habitat.

ID: 2848

We just need more public hunting areas.

ID: 2876

Many walk in areas should never be approved as there is no habitat on them. Many farmers and ranchers get a check and have absolutely no cover on their property.

ID: 2915

All out of state hunters should be charged all the fees you suggest and leave the state hunting fees alone. Raise the price of out of state hunters so you wouldn't have to consider raising any state fees. Then raise the quantity of pheasants and more out of state hunters would come to SD.

ID: 2924

Increase the fees for out of state hunters.

ID: 2937

Rather than surcharges or raised fees I might be more interested in seeing tax breaks for landowners who dedicated grasslands for the save the pheasant population. How many acres, and the uninterrupted length of time till laws is dedicated of tax break the landowner receives.

ID: 2952

The problem with our habitat is spraying fields with round up spray. Then there are no weeds in milo, beans, milo fields and the fence lines, plus taking out fence lines. The pheasants have nothing to eat plus protection from the heat, rain, hail and bad winter.

ID: 2969

There are no fucking pheasants because of coyotes. Especially on CRP land to no state help to get rid of them.

ID: 2975

Question 4: Success rates are poor though.

ID: 2990

Question 12: I have about 100 + friends from, AZ, FL, CO, MN, UT, that hunt my ranch with me. I don't charge they have been friends for many years.

ID: 3020

What I would really like to see GF&P implement a program where I, as a landowner could buy 3 or 4 non-resident deer tags to resell to out of state hunters. That would help to compensate me some for the large amount of deer that I feed all year long.

ID: 3051

None Hunter Thank you find someone else!

ID: 3063

I appraise any commercial hunting which is happening now by commercial interests. The GF&P supports this which is very wrong hunting is a right not a privilege. Pay hunting is wrong. It's not for the money like some think.

ID: 3085

Question 4: I am handicapped and have a permit to shoot from the vehicle, but can't go on walk in areas because of the traffic only. I walk with 2 canes.

Question 7: I have a problem with paying a high price for a license because I am 69 years old and handicapped an usually only bag 2 or 3 birds the entire season.

I feel much of the land that is leased by GF&P is very poor bird habitat. Especially when the landowner is able to mow it right to the ground am able to put their cattle on the property just before or during hunting season. You can't shoot around cattle or livestock an there isn't any cover for land that has been hayed so there aren't any birds. These people are getting paid for nothing to benefit the hunter.

Also I think everyone who applies for a deer license should have to have a written permission slip from a landowner in the area where he plans to hunt. Also I think the residents of the county the person live on should have preference to hunt his own county where he lives. This would make for a lot better hunter, landowner relationship we have had a lot of trouble with out of state and people just coming to shoot anything they see without permission from the property owner. It is not about the hunt it is just a big party for most of them a they usually don't want the meat. I get pretty upset when I can't hunt an I see some slob hunter shooting on land that I got turned down on. They just shoot, run a cross the fence an retrieve the game and drive off. I am not a very happy person about the way elderly and handicapped people are treated. I have benefited a hunting license for at least 50 years in a row.

ID: 3099

Question 6: Landowner but I am worried for non landowners.

ID: 3100

I say don't make the resident hunters pay, make the out of state fisherman fund it with increased moneys from yearlong fishing licenses.

ID: 3103

In 20 years we will look like Minnesota. The only places that will have large numbers of birds will be the preserves. The majority of public land, although providing a variety of recreational opportunities, doesn't provide the quality habitat necessary to sustain large numbers of pheasants. I have no desire to shoot more than 3 birds a day, but would gladly pay an additional fee if it would provide for more habitat.

ID: 3106

With a pheasant season "30 days and close the season".

ID: 3128

A heavy emphasis should have been placed on pheasant planting/restoration in the northeast portion of SD following the severe winter of 2010/2011

ID: 3134

I have concerns that additional fees may discourage some hunters. I know many hunters who do not regularly purchase a license, because they know they will not hunt more than twice in a season.

ID: 3173

I think non-residents should pay any up coming fees. They litter are back roads and show lack of respect for our state.

ID: 3184

I would like to see some areas seeded with birds and closed to hunting for a year or two to enable the pheasants to get used to the environment and start self populating the area. In order for this to work a tall grass such as switch grass or cain/milo should be available to give protection from predators. I was on a private preserve near Wagner, SD where this was done and was amazed at the success they were having.

ID: 3192

I have not hunted pheasants for several years, too much hunting pressure. I would like to see more grouse habitat and see sage grouse restored on Renolds prairie in the Black Hills.

ID: 3198

Stop the road hunting. It causes conflicts and trespassing it is dangerous and unethical.

ID: 3211

Most of the pheasant hunting I did was on private ground this past year. Things will be very different this year as the farmer that graciously gave us permission has leased to a company called Uguide making it a pay to play. This year I will be hunting all public as I refuse to pay for access to ground. I would rather pay more for the license in order to see more WIA, CREP, Game Production area. Also some of the WIA looks like the moon. Wish there was better habitat on WIA.

ID: 3235

I would pay more money, prefer that money be used for habitat and purchase land rather than rent, so that the land purchased would be available for generations to come.

ID: 3242

I support the effort to pressure the pheasant hunting CRP in SD. I relieve huge impact that pheasant hunting has for SD's economy. I don't think increasing the amount of birds you could shoot would be good. It would lower the pheasant numbers causing fewer hunters to go to SD.

ID: 3270

Last year will probably be the last year I hunt SD. Every public hunting area had 2-3 groups waiting to get in. the birds would fly on to private ground. You ask the farmer if you could go in the standard answer was \$150 per hunter. This total commercialization on pheasant hunting puts a bad taste in one's mouth. If the good people of SD think they the only state with pheasants they are wrong. Not only with the farmers not getting \$150 for 3 birds, but the hotel owners, gas stations and local diners will be out.

ID: 3285

CRP land has not proved very successful when we have hunted it. However we hunt late in the season (after Thanksgiving) so that may have some impact. Private, for profit land is becoming so expensive to hunt that it almost stops us from coming to SD to hunt all. Right now, we have been terribly lucky to find someone that will let us hunt private land without charging us. Without that, I doubt we would return to SD, because other CRP land has not provided good hunting that time 51 year (not to mention deer season starting)

ID: 3290

Question 5: less than past years.

ID: 3293

Question 10: Don't trust government wouldn't change their mind.

I like the indeed of the surcharge but have no reason to even believe the government would use all the money for its original intent.

ID: 3310

Without the public land and private walk in areas available for hunting in SD we would not be able to continue pheasant or deer hunting. With those lands gone we would not be able to experience hunting in new areas outside of MN. With the public lands we are able to experience amazing hunts, yet not have to spend our funds to pay for private land hunts.

ID: 3323

I would support an increased fee with no increase in bag limit. I do believe the fee should be the same for both resident and nonresidents. I would also propose that all monies collected be transparent and no more than 20% be used for administration. SD Tourism is the single most important economic development revenue generating activity. I do resent having to pay a surcharge when camping in a state park we generate no more cost to the park than anyone else.

ID: 3324

I enjoy my trip to SD for hunting and fishing. The people make me feel welcome.

ID: 3334

Would strongly support any program that would provide long term grass/nesting areas, but 3 roosters a day is enough.

ID: 3341

Too many walk in areas are heavily grazed and proved minimal habitat for pheasants and other wildlife. Funding paid for these walk in areas is not providing a benefit to the public.

ID: 3349

It is extremely frustrating to ask countless numbers of landowners for permission to hunt their land only to be told that it is already leased out for they will let you hunt for a fee of between \$50 & \$100 per gun for that day. We have paid the asking fee before only to walk away empty handed. We used to have tremendous success hunting the right of ways. That is no longer the case. Many of those areas have been mowed as have many of the main road ditches. Our crew of 4 hunters and 4 dogs harvested only 2 roosters last year after hunting 4 days. If that doesn't radically improve this season, we will be going elsewhere in the future.

ID: 3354

Must continue to fight for the CRP program. With no nesting Habitat there would be no pheasants. I live in Oregon (the Willamette Valley) and we rarely see a pheasant due to the destruction of habitat. Sad!

ID: 3359

Best last first place on earth.

ID: 3382

In principle, I do not object to paying more for hunting licenses to improve pheasant habitat. However, experience has taught us that funds collected for such a purpose and allocated by elected officials rarely get applied to the designated areas. Therefore, my negative stance does not oppose support for pheasants but an opposition to additional government funding for nay project.

ID: 3403

My major concern about charging a fee to increase the number of pheasants taken per day is weather the money generated from this will actually go toward habitat or if in a few years down the road, politicians will see that this money is theirs, and use it for something else that is remotely related. If you do this be sure it cannot be used for anything else.

ID: 3405

Please do all you can to stop "fence to fence" planting. MI was the SD of the 70's now we have no birds to see, let alone hunt. My observation within the past two years is that prime habitat is being destroyed due to corn prices. The locals are great people, but they do not seem to care if they destroy habitat in order to profit from increased corn prices. I have a four year old setter and hope I can hunt her in your state until she decides she is too tired to do so. The way I see things going, I will shortly have to pay for that opportunity. Crazy enough, I will pay a SD outfitter to hunt planted birds raised in WI or MI! From what I see and read, you are on the brink of ending the SD pheasant tradition, please do not let this happen.

ID: 3435

Question 12: First time last year

Had a great time hunting. Would do it again. We had one problem. Went through an outfitter shot birds, and had them dressed through outfitter. Outfitter subbed out cleaning cleaner got into trouble with DEC. Took all our birds. Never got birds or Reimbursed from Double P outfitters. Had great time but never got birds meat or feathers or mount. But it is off the bucket list.

ID: 3444

Non-resident waterfowl system needs to be changed. I am willing to pay \$200 for a 3 day license but I can't get one. I got one last year but not this year. Why is that?

ID: 3486

Please address the out of state waterfowl hunting. I am from AR and had hunted all over the country and your SD system is not an appropriate way to treat a migratory bird, or the landowners and hunters coming to SD.

ID: 3495

Question 12: We bring a group of 15 every year.

As a sponsor and committees member for DU. I support habitat conservation and funding. The full challenge will be finishing the line between additional fees and turning hunters to other states due to expense. Making CRP more valuable than row crops will be your #1. Challenges to overcome.

ID: 3499

You pay farmers for "walk in" areas, but they are very poor habitats – some are but not all are poor habitats for hunting. So either monitor all those paid "walk in" sites to ensure they are good productive habits or stop paying farmers for areas that are not suitable for hunting. The public right of ways should only be mowed as a last resort, like in a dry year when farmers need the hay, otherwise leave it for habitat. This is getting to be known as a "rich man's sport" – there needs to be some regulations for the pay to hunt areas. It is getting so the average person can't afford it which affects revenue for the state. Out of state hunters provide a lot of revenue for the state – we need to find other ways to build revenue instead of gouging the sportsmen.

ID: 3509

I believe 3 roosters per day is enough just raise the rates. Hunters don't have to kill more roosters to justify raising the fees. It's not about killing it's about hunting.

ID: 3538

CRP is disappearing. It's already priced at \$110 for 2 x 5 days; if the 10 day could be broken up more it would be of value.

ID: 3556

My dad was Ozzie Schock. He was very influential in the preservation and conservation of pheasants in SD. I am very excited to continue that in my lifetime.

ID: 3571

I would like to see the daily bag limit raised to 5 pheasants. Perhaps the season could be shortened in order to justify raising the bag limit. Also, maybe local farmers could be compensated for setting aside more feeding areas and areas of protection from hunting.

ID: 3589

Generally I would be in favor of some sort of fee increase for the improvement of pheasant habitat. If the monies raised actually go toward that endeavor and not as a means to increase the bureaucracy of the GFP. I am quite skeptical that it would, coming from a MN where our DNR can never get deep enough into the pockets of its citizenry. I am very concerned with the expansion of row crops and its effect on habitat. With commodity prices being so high it would be hard for me to see farmers leaving land idol even with some payment from GFP. Unless corn and bean prices go down I don't see much of a chance for the birds.

ID: 3614

In the time I've been hunting in SD I have already seen the price of license go over triple the first time. Coupled with the rising price of gas, a recent drop in birds and the fact that most landowners require cash I don't think I will be making that annual trek much longer. We hunted public grounds once and were very disappointed. Along with the rising price of the license comes more landowners requiring more money to hunt their land. The question is at what point does the price of the trip outweigh the overall experience? I'm afraid when you find out it will be too late to recover. That is just my honest opinion. I've had a lot of good times hunting in SD but I'm afraid it's just getting too expensive. The habitat where we hunt hasn't changed as much as the cost of the hunt.

ID: 3672

We already pay a lot, planes, hotels, food, lodging, Cabelas gear, car rental, lodge hunting fees, license 2 weeks 1 period of use \$2000-\$3000 for 9 – 12 birds! Protect the tourists, they spend the money!

ID: 3711

I know bird hunting in SD is a big business. And people do pay to hunt. I think \$85 nonresident license is enough to pay for the privilege. I hunt 3 days a year. Pay for lodging, food, and drink and sometimes shoot my limit of birds and sometimes not. I enjoy your sate the people and my fellow hunters and some birds. I don't think the general public needs another bird for their bag. I think pay to hunt businesses should pay more tax on their profits. Not the average Joe.

ID: 3712

I am glad you are looking to the long-term sustainability of our pheasant hunting. So thank you for that! A couple of things I have observed in my hunting years has kind of bothered me and I thought I would pass it on. One item is the amount of pressure. The public lands I went to seemed over pressured. I ran into a party of 20+ hunters on one plot and every time I went to a public access it seemed like someone showed up or was just leaving. Second item is the size of some tracts. It would be nice if there were smaller patches of CRP mixed/divided by maybe some row crop or mowed paths to make them easier to hunt with smaller #s. This might provide additional food sources for the birds and other wildlife. Third is the quality. It seemed likd a a large amount of lands I hunted were low lands or had high amounts of water and not the easiest to access. Some of the best private lands I have hunted were dry for the most part, had row crops left standing with specialized food plots on them and CRP. They seemed well rounded on food, cover, and water. Not to mention lots of birds. I have been very disappointed on the number of birds I have seen or bagged on public lands. It seems like the CRP just isn't cutting it. That's why I hunt mostly private now. I hope you find an effective solution that helps the hunters and the bird populations! Regards.

ID: 3747

If some form of the CRP program is not continued the pheasant population will be almost totally decimated. This program or one like it must be in place in insure hunting in the future. As I am sure you are aware pheasant hunting brings money and people to many of the communities throughout the state that do not have many outsiders visit otherwise. Encouraging landowners to build and maintain shelter belts would be a small step but would provide habitat for all wildlife, help prevent soil erosion, help to hold moisture in small area, for wildlife as well as crops.

ID: 3753

While I am the only member of my household who currently enjoys pheasant hunting in SD, I have 2 young sons who look forward to the day they can join me. Keep up the good work and thank you for all your conservation efforts.

ID: 3776

I take customers to hunt SD with an outfitter. With all expenses to drive from Montana and hunt 3 days, I spend over \$1150 per person, 12 – 16 hunters. At what price do the state and the outfitter go over the line? We are very close for me and my business.

ID: 3793

Kansas already has 4 bird limit with less birds but with more habitat. Taking an extra bird won't hurt as long as they don't allow hens to be taken.

ID: 3799

We come up for opening weekend every year for the past 19 years. I wish it were easier to get waterfowl tags in order to have a morning activity.

ID: 3812

Question 1: Coming back this year

Good pheasant habitat is vital to my willingness to drive SD in addition I come with a group of people from work and friends because our experience last year was able to increase the group from 3-7.

ID: 3836

We pay a lot of money to come to SD to pheasant hunt. License (out of state), Gas/food, Hotel, plus pay to get on land to hunt. The state should set up a few areas where a guy could pay \$50 a day to hunt where it would be controlled. So the State of South Dakota could make a bunch of money and hunters (myself) would now not 150 guys have already walked the field. It would cost the state a little bit to set up but in the long run you (the state) would make a bunch of \$.

ID: 3840

Pheasant hunting in South Dakota is a great time and we look forward to it every year. However, if the hunting licenses would increase anymore it would make it much harder for our family to afford to go with the cost of gas and lodging continuing to increase. I would really like to see no changes to the license fees as the way it is right now seems to work well for everyone who hunts there.

ID: 3860

Question 10: It depends on the amount that you charge; it's already quite expensive trip. Stop Road hunting

ID: 3915

I am from Nebraska and have been amazed at how well you manage wildlife in SD. You should be commended and we appreciate your efforts and leadership.

ID: 3931

Last year was awful! But you can't control the weather.

ID: 3932

It seems that there are more ditches being mowed every year. This is a bad trend. If costs get too high or I have to pay a fee to hunt private land, the cost becomes prohibitive (food, gas, motel, etc.) and it would be more cost effective to stay in Wisconsin and hunt game farms.

ID: 3937

We have been hunting the same farm for the past forty plus years. My concern is that the farm has sold its land to a large farmer and the habitat is being eliminated. I like the idea of CRP land on provide property however opening that land to the public could cause problems. We have people that trespass now. The bird population has been very good over the past decade I fear increasing the bag limit would have a long term negative effect.

ID: 3946

The hunt was great! Your hunters are lucky. Always respect the grounds GF&P has given us. (Also the man above) Its beautiful country up there and lots of game to see. Keep up the good work for our future hunters. Keep up the up for years to come. Hope to see the Dakotas soon.

ID: 3998

Compared to any other state, SD has done it correctly. Habitat, wide fence rows so birds can run from one place to another. Creeks and tree lines aggressive predation control leaving staked, some food sources for winter. As a very long time upland bird hunter I would gladly pay additional fees to help, Pheasants Forever, and gain a bird addition to bag limit. My hunting friends would also do the same. I look forward every year to my week or longer hunting in SD one of my favorite places I've ever been.

ID: 4020

Any increase in fees to enhance the habitat or increase areas to hunt should be put in separate trust account and not in any "general SD" government, state, local, county accounts. If the trust fund approach is taken then more "external" support occurs.

ID: 4033

I have hunted for 8-9 years with a guide, in Mitchell SD. There are always plenty of birds and we hunt on private farmland normally with the owner standing nearby. Those are wild birds! I would not change a thing.

ID: 4056

Question 8: Because we are only a loud 2 5 day blocks  
Last year was the poorest hunting I've had in 7 years. The pheasants were few and far between and the group I hunt with ran in to more pheasant predators than ever before (feral cats, skunks, and raccoons). Along with improving the habitat if there was a lot better predator control I believe the hunting would improve immensely.

ID: 4077

In general, you do a nice job of managing the pheasant hunting in SD.

ID: 4090

Question 3: We always gave landowner something for hunting.

I have enjoyed hunting wild birds in SD lots of walking with friends hunting. Would hate to see hunting for nephews and grandkids be only a rich person sport I enjoy eating them as well as hunting them. I'm not that average SD hunter. Fly in spend big money shoot tons of pen raised birds don't bring any home. My friends and I work very hard for every bird and enjoy doing so. Thank you for SD hunting.

ID: 4104

Please continue to make road hunting available as it is the one thing that brings us to SD.

ID: 4121

It is important that you also consider hunters who hunt without dogs. They kill many birds and never retrieve them or retrieve 50% maybe. Some kill for the joy of killing only a take no birds home.

ID: 4114

I am very fortunate that I have good friends who own land in SD they let me hunt at. If the pheasant population is detail affection by the lack of CRP land, SD GF&P trust collect fees to increase the habitat if that is the saw to increase the number of birds.

ID: 4145

The \$110 – fee to hunt birds on private land is already over priced in our opinion and that is why I believe an added cost for 1 more bird is too much a smaller increase would possibly be substantial for the opportunity to hunt longer. Bird quotas should not be based upon costs but adequate bird numbers. Thanks

ID: 4149

We need to reinstate CRP and stop farm subsidies.

ID: 4277

Raise the fees but not the daily limit! 3 is enough. Habitat cannot sustain hunters taking more birds.

ID: 4256

Question 3: Know the guy, family friend

Question 7: why not nonresidents as well? When the nonresidents stop coming it's over for SD.

ID: 4324

Although I hunt on private land as you can see, I well know the importance of trying to preserve these CRP lands. I can remember hunting in the early 70's when the population went down so much, we quit coming to hunt. I would hate to see that happen again. Best wished on your survey and your attempts to preserve this important resource.

ID: 4348

It was the greatest pheasant hunting experience I have ever had!

ID: 4366

We need to have strict laws on hunters that disobey the laws. That don't ask permission on private land, my family owns land in SD and they get more hunters that play dumb and leave gates open. I would gladly donate to GF&P we need to keep the habitat for the wildlife but also respect the landowners!

ID: 4413

Question 12: 2 sons

I don't use walk in areas often but when I do the hunting is most often very good. Keep up the great work of providing a quality hunting experience for all who make the trip.

ID: 4478

3 roosters daily is very sufficient. Please don't allow the same mistakes that MN made. SD needs to make a stand before it is too late.

ID: 4479

Question 10: I oppose all surcharges! Merely increase the cost of the license to accommodate!

I have very much enjoyed hunting in SD. The people, habitat, and everyone & thing involved in hunting SD has been totally positive experiences!

ID: 4494

I am a Michigan resident. At one time, pheasant hunting here was very good because the habitat was good. That is no longer the case. Habitat retention/restoration is the most important factor, not just for me (I'm 65) but for future generations of hunters. Increasing the bag limit is unimportant. I hunt with my son and longtime close friends. The entire experience of being together is far more important than "getting out limit" So, paying a little more for habitat is fine with me. One last thing, we hunt wild birds on private property. If I want to shoot pen raised/planted birds, I'll stay here in Michigan.

ID: 4501

Being from MN, I believe SD Game, Fish, & Parks is doing a pretty good job. MN is more of a harvest state instead of a game management state that is why I am hunting pheasant and archery deer in SD. My hunting experience in SD has been excellent. I also believe that the habitat is going to be in trouble in SD of agricultural price continued to rise. More CRP will leave in afraid. It looks like someone is looking ahead before it too late.

ID: 4505

I live in Northwest Illinois. Our pheasant population has disappeared it is very important for SD to keep your pheasant population alive it's a beautiful bird and fun to hunt. They would sure be missed if they were gone.

ID: 4534

I am from Ohio so I try and get a waterfowl license to shoot ducks in the morning and pheasants the balance of the day. This makes it worth the trip for an excellent hunt in your state, and I thank you for that. Will see you next hunting season, hopefully.

ID: 4567

You guys do a great job on maintaining the pheasant population in your state. Keep up the good work and thank you!

ID: 4605

I would like to see the daily hunting time moved to sunrise rather than 12:00 PM. Sunrise is the best time of day to hunting and is also cooler for the dogs. This is a major problem in October when temps pus 70's & 80's at times. Very hard on the dogs! We hunt ND in the mornings. We lodge in ND and have breakfast there. I am also concerned that many farmers will opt out of the CRP program. I understand 200K acres will expire this year.

ID: 4615

Question 12: Family -3 households

ID: 4624

You should let hunters take either additional hen or rooster for an additional fee.

ID: 4672

I don't think the bird numbers are good enough to support raising the limit by one bird. In the past years the numbers seemed higher than last season. I think they need one more mild winter to put them back to where they used to be. I'm from Minnesota and I've seen what bad numbers and conservation does. So I just don't want to see that in South Dakota. Just keep in mind that where the birds are is where the money is and if there aren't any birds left there will be no hunters interested in SD. Also, ion MN tiling is legal and it has ruined our land for hunting. I also don't want to see this happen in SD.

ID: 4707

I hunt both private fee based land and free public land. I really wish the license gave more flexibility on the 10 days. 2 5 day periods really only amounts to 3 -3.5 days of hunting with travel days. The price to hunt private land and the license restrictions limit the money I can spend. The cost of the license seems high compared to other things I could do. Considering US Federal funds contribute to the habitat, out of state hunters seem unfairly charged vs. the resident license fees.

ID: 4730

With rapidly declining CRP land in SD and all of the US if Pheasant hunting is to continue to thrive an alternate habitat program is an absolute must. With increasing crop prices and the public's reluctance to support crop supports I only see more and more CRP being turned into cropland.

Over my last twenty some years of hunting pheasants in SD it has become nearly impossible for a non-resident to hunt private land for free. It is either pay to hunt or a "no" when seeking permission.

Therefore I would wholeheartedly support some (moderate) fee increase to support good quality public hunting areas.

ID: 4736

Increase the license time from 5 days to 8 days.

ID: 4741

I'm confident you've heard this before but it's hard for me to disagree with the common sentiment, that the current time (licenses) limit and starting date for the SD pheasant season, and the high license cost for a simple bird, does not promote a sense of fairness to non-residents. If I had to pay a "per gun per day" to a private landowner, which can be an excessive dollar amount in many cases. I would probably spend my money in a less

expensive state perhaps you could explore a “repeat nonresident” pricing plan to promote returning. Thank you.

ID: 4758

As an Ohio resident we know how important habitat is. Ohio was an area in the 1950's and 60's where people came to pheasant hunt. The “old style” farms are gone and so are our pheasants. In southern Michigan areas that still have habitat still have wild pheasants, sad situation. Don't let this happen in Sd.

ID: 4810

I am a resident of Missouri. While I enjoy hunting in SD the current cost is approximately \$1500 per trip with the rising fuel cost. It is already a financial strain that is why I am so opposed to any rate hikes. 2011 pheasant population was down, so I not sure why we would increase the bag limit. Bag limits should be dictated by population, not cash.

ID: 4814

But I bring usually 10 hunters with me from Houston annually.

ID: 4816

Question 12: Work group

ID: 4847

Every year my brother asks me to go hunting to SD. Last year was the first year I went. I thought the license was expensive but I had lots of fun, we saw lots of birds and the farmers were very friendly. I would love to go again, and I'm already planning on it.

ID: 4856

I believe that the majority of the factor fall ends the CRP umbrella. The issue becomes important to landowners to cover this cost so when land taxes increase it becomes more important to watch cash flow on your land. This results in cropland being turned into productive arrange the impacting wildlife. As long as people are willing to pay to play the government will never be able to compete with that model. I think investing in young hunters are resituating them to participate in the outdoors in the key to growing hunting in the rural parts of America.

ID: 4871

CRP is the key. Farmer must have some incentive to leave land out of crop production.

ID: 4873

I started hunting in SD in the late 1970's as a guest of a local farmers. I return each year and have expanded the private land that I'm allowed to hunt by many times. Mostly I return each fall to renew acquaintances, help with chores, and hunt a couple of each day. I kill enough pheasants to satisfy both my dog and me. I clean and leave the birds with my friends. Even though I hunt private land, the CRP provides added cover as farming practices today are too clean. Please stress that the experience of SD pheasant hunting is so much more than shooting birds. Thanks to the people of SD my life has been enriched.

ID: 4886

Question 9: I don't bag out generally.

We have found some landowners think they own the right of way and private shooting preserves hunters get out right nasty.

ID: 4891

I also hunt sharp-tail grouse and prairie chickens. It is equally important that this habitat is managed and maintained.

ID: 4926

I feel very strongly that non-resident licenses should be for the entire season not just two five day periods. This would bring more revenue to the state. Thanks for the great hunts.

ID: 4927

Question 7: Charge everyone

This opinion survey is all about money. I already pay big money to hunt on private land where the real crop is pheasants.

ID: 4934

I would like to see the hunting dates for non-resident changed to our discretion. I normally hunt 3 days per trip and would like to come 2<sup>nd</sup> trip at my convenience.

ID: 4946

I think hunting in SD is for rich people. You seem to care less for us in the lower financial bracket. I only went to SD because the private farm we hunted on was paid for by someone else, didn't even use the second half of the license. I'll stay hunting in ND, where it isn't all about the money and farmers are friendly!

ID: 4951

I don't mind the idea of charging to increase the bag limit but if you're going to do that I would first lower the bag limit to 2 birds and charge hunters to bag the normal 3. It's not about killing birds but it is about watching the dog work the birds and having a little success while seeing a lot of game. 2 birds per day is plenty for the frying pan or the freezer and it would only help the population. If the bag limit is important to a hunter, they can pay an additional \$25 per license to shoot the usual 3 and the population will never feel the stress of a 4 bird bag limit.

ID: 4982

My son also comes from WI to SD to hunt (grown – out of our household).

ID: 4999

I would like the state to more closely monitor private partners/ companies that are selling pheasant hunts to out of state people. There are a lot of representations and re offs out there. Harsh penalties for those found guilty would discover the practical.

ID: 5023

I am a non-resident. I feel this is a question is for residents to decide (question #7).

ID: 5025

We paid for a hunting trip that turned out to be basically a preserve where we shot pen raised birds. If we had known, we would not have purchased the trip. My preference is to hunt wild birds and appreciate the ability to hunt walk in land.

ID: 5028

If pheasant hunting brings in as much money as I have heard to SD, then you do whatever it takes to keep the CRP going. I would gladly pay more as a non-resident to be able to

experience these memorable hunts. My first time hunting in SD was last year. Wow! For an old country boy from TN who has hunted since I was just a kid, this was one of the most memorable trips of my life. I can't wait until this coming year.

ID: 5032

Question 7: Biology should establish limits

There are many stakeholders this survey overlooks: Hotels, motels, sporting stores, cafes, gas stations and grocery stores, etc. My group spent \$0 with landowners, but hundreds of dollars each with all of the other stakeholders. If you want to fund the resource adequately, broaden the base to include rather than exclude most stakeholders.

ID: 5037

Concerning habitat fees. What about all those who use public lands for recreation? (hunters, fishermen, hikers, boaters, etc.) Many people use these lands which are mainly supported by hunters and fishermen.

ID: 5069

Would never pay to hunt on any land for any game.

ID: 5091

Thanks!

ID: 5104

Raise the limits to 4 or 5 per day. The winter-kill by the 1000?

ID: 5142

Charges should be higher for fur residents because their opportunity is greater. What will the cost of 1 additional rooster/day be for the pheasant population in 2, 5, 10 years? If additional fees open land but reduce long-term #'s, then I am entirely opposed.

ID: 5150

Please continue to allow currently regulated road hunting.

ID: 5210

Could not get online tried 3 times

ID: 5218

My hunting experience in SD has been the best of any state that I have hunted. It is critical to maintain good habitat and I would be willing to pay an additional fee to help maintain it. I tried to respond to your survey by email but couldn't bring up the right screen. I would have called but no phone number was given. Next time include a phone number. Keep up the good work & good habitat.

ID: 5227

Why does GF&P waste money on walk-in on pasture land that has no habitat on it at all? Why doesn't GF&P allow walk-in acres to be hayed when there is no forage emergency declared, or there is no system to haying to maximize hunter use? Does GF&P allow grazing on state management land?

ID: 5229

Thank you for the chance to share my thoughts on pheasant management in SD. First off I want to say that I've spent many great days hunting pheasants in late October. As well as training field trail dogs thru the late summer months, and have always felt welcomed by the people I've met and been grateful for the opportunity to utilize the quantity of birds raised in SD. So cheers to all the fine people whom are working on programs to insure the population of birds stays strong and I'll do my part by spreading the word about the great hunting and fine people of SD. I'll keep coming and spending money as long as my wife lets me!

ID: 5245

I hunt with a group of guys from SW Missouri South of Joplin. We have a good time in SD. We like the hunting rules there.

ID: 5248

Monkey website was hard to use could not find survey  
Anytime there is an additional charge added. It turns into a tax and often ends up going to waste or wrong department. Look at MN legacy money for example.

ID: 5251

Consider a family maximum fee for licenses. \$400 plus for our family is expensive when realistically we can only hunt about half of the season when limited to 2 – 5 day periods.

ID: 5267

Question 7: Let out of state people do the same!

ID: 5278

Hunting pheasants in SD is a real treat for this Alaskan. Plan on coming back every other year. Keep up the great work.

ID: 5279

Question 6: concerned

Question 7: We pay enough already and don't fill out! Money is not the answer get more adults involved by getting more people interested especially the young! We have not extra money at all!

Question 8: We pay enough already and don't fill out! (gas, licenses, hunting supplies, food, lodging ect).

We'd have more hunters if you'd give incentives for young & adults. Money is not the answer! Increase the people's interest! Pay more! NO! Absolutely Not! Take care of your roads and pollution more. Get the kids away from computers and computer games so they can get out and hunt more. Get the young involved. More for free and young adults and discounts for older. Hunters correctly teaching our young in the fields. It's expensive to hunt and lots of effort! Give free licenses to hunters with young people under 40 years old to get more involved!

ID: 5281

I don't believe that trying to charge out of state hunters extra money for 1 more rooster/day over a 10 day visit is the answer! We already pay a lot to hunt out of state! Nor do I think landowners should be charged the same. How about increase the fee to resident non-landowners, or give the non-resident hunters an all season hunting option for an extra fee! The out of state hunter is already pumping a lot of money into the hunting economy. I think

there are a lot of residential (city people) who take advantage of the landowners and hunt their land, maybe they should step up to the plate and be responsible for their passion!

ID: 5284

Question 2: Landowners won't let you on unless you pull out your wallet getting too damn commercial.

Question 8: We need more private land to hunt – change your trespass laws.

Question 10: I would have to see the private land open to public hunting before I could believe it.

If land is not CRP funded by tax dollars and hunting licenses money and is not cropped it should be open to public hunting.

ID: 5311

I am from Illinois and I see SD going the same way Illinois has. I bought ground to have a place to hunt, if I had not I would have had to quit. I talked to several people out in SD and they all said a lot of land they used to hunt has been sold and is now off limits. To keep your state the great pheasant destination it is pleased to do your best to open plenty of public access. A lot of people can't afford the fees the lodge charges. I tried to fill out the internet survey but it would not accept it.

ID: 5314

I live in MN and have been hunting pheasants for years in SD. Please do what you can to continue making pheasant hunting in SD affordable for non-residents. I look forward to introducing my son to hunting and there is no better place in the world to do this than in SD. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views and opinions.

ID: 5315

Living in Southeastern Montana, hunting pheasants in SD is a fun option. I would be more likely to make repeat trips each year if there was more public hunting available. Last year, I went on a work-related hunting trip near Pierre, We hunted on private land for a fee. I have looked on the internet and researched other possible personal hunting trips in SD, because the pheasant populations are so much higher than where I live, I didn't find enough land to hunt to justify a trip that I have to pay for myself.

ID: 5316

Unfortunately pheasant hunting in SD and other states is becoming a sport only the wealthy can afford. Gone are the days when a father could take his children to his friends or neighbor's land for a hunting experience. Now days it take money...money to pay the landowner. Fees to hunt are getting to high soon it will only be the richest 2% can afford.

ID: 5319

Question 7: Many of your Redneck Resident hunters do not buy a license now! I have seen it! Out of State hunters spend plenty of money on license fees, for lodging, gas, ammo, entertainment and such. I think you would try to make things more affordable to give new hunters/young and old. Soon only the rich will be hunting in SD and other places.

ID: 5325

I enjoyed my trip to Rose L7 Ranch hunting. My trip was paid for by a sales company. I hunted 2 days and saw plenty of birds. Rose L 7 Ranch farms for pheasants. Not grazing his pasture lands (some of) during nesting season. I would go back to SD and pheasant hunt again if given the opportunity. Money would be a limiting factor if license get much more

expensive. The answer to Q9 is \$10 for an additional bird. I could eat a half way decent steak for \$25.00. I am not knowledgeable enough to answer the dilemma of opening private public hunting by increasing fees. I feel you are going to piss off the ranchers already trying to support a good pheasant population earn leased hunting dollars to supplement their income.

ID: 5328

Birds are way down. Over the years we limited by 2 or 3. Last year we hunted all day for 5 days the party of 4 did not limit out one single day. If birds do not come, neither will we. We hunt Hayes Kansas and found no more birds there.

ID: 5354

I have hunted pheasants in SD since the early 60's. The one most important thing I have found over all those years has been the drastically decreasing ability for the average (read low-middle income) hunter in finding suitable habitat (without paying through their noses) in which to hunt. The average landowners are getting very money hungry and usually only think of their profits from a bird they don't technically own or go out of their way to help. Keep up the good work on public walk in areas. I was born and raised in ND and have been living in Alaska for 40 years. I love that bird and wish we had them up here. Then Alaska would be perfect.

ID: 5372

Having residents recent walk in areas before non-residents has greatly reduced the amount of game in these areas and as a result we hunt these areas and very little.

ID: 5388

Best hunting ever. Out of state hunters very welcomed!

ID: 5396

Resident hunters need to pay at least 3/5 of what you charge non-residents. We own land in SD but we have to pay non-resident license fee while a large number of resident hunters do not own land. These people need to pay more. We leave nesting areas plus leave food plots and shelter belts to increase pheasant survival. Thank you.

ID: 5422

I would hope to keep the roadside hunting. It is a good way to run to and the people to hunting.

ID: 5487

I am a native South Dakotan and hunted pheasants every season until I joined the Nave at age 21. Due to my assignments my pheasant hunting was limited until I retired. I now work and live in Maryland, but return to SD every season to hunt pheasants with my family.

ID: 5431

Sell over-the-counter tags for extra roosters! All funds go for habitat improvements.

ID: 5491

I travel each year opening week of pheasant season for the overall experience and gathering of friends who met for 3-4 days. We have a mix of people from many different city/states. Any reasonable fee to improve habitat for all who hunt would not stop me from

making this yearly trip. Having the option to take 12 total birds versus 9 over the 3 days is not important but a continued population to hunt is.

ID: 5510

We travel from Michigan with friends and family to spend time in SD. I purchased a home in Hosmer SD and love the people in the community. They are very generous and we give back as we are able to dedicating a day to helping a local rancher with projects and senior citizens in town with home projects. The availability to access public land keeps us coming back to enjoy the splendor of SD.

ID: 5523

Stop mowing road ditches and haying set aside land. Stop Grazing set aside land.

ID: 5535

Seems to be fewer and fewer opportunities to hunt on quality property. Seems to be taken over by wealthy people.

ID: 5545

Thank you for the work you all do to improve hunting in SD. We always have a good time and look forward to many more years of hunting pheasants in SD.

ID: 5568

Plant more cedar tree's for pheasants to use in winter habitat. Also, grouse would be able to use it for roosting and it would keep hawks from killing more birds. Shelter belts are a great way to create habitat as well. Thank you for being concerned about the future in hunting in your state. I wish Iowa would do the same.

ID: 5578

Question 7: It would be okay if you would stop road hunting. Most roads are trespass. Very few pheasants take flight from road or right a ways.

ID: 5583

Please maintain grouse in the grasslands as well. Thanks you.

ID: 5584

Question 7: But not fee

Question 8: No Fee

ID: 5593

There is a walk in areas 6 miles west of Kadoka, North Side of I-90. Every year for the last 8 years, cattle have been put in this  $\frac{3}{4}$  section a few days prior to grouse season. Why does this rancher keep getting the contracted as a walk in area? Other than this one example I feel the walk in areas program is what keeps me coming back to SD to hunt birds.

ID: 5597

The out of state hunting fees are already too high and this has kept my family from hunting even though we are traveling to SD to visit family members. It is unfortunate that the high hunting fees kept four of my cousins from joining us in hunting last year because it was just too expensive to buy a license. This use to be a great family experience.

ID: 5599

I think pheasant limits are enough for all (3 roosters).  
Increase road way right of ways for nesting cover and public hunting would be great.  
When the cost and regulation get too big hunting SD will be a good memory for me. The open public hunting areas keep me chasing roosters in SD.

ID: 5628

I think that non-resident hunters pay enough and should be on equal terms with residents. If one pays a habitat fee each should contribute equally.

ID: 5630

I was disappointed to see the number of pen raised birds. Would SD have pheasants if their were no pen raised birds?

ID: 5638

I used to live in SD 40 years born and raised.

ID: 5643

Opening time at 9 or 10 instead of 12. We go home on Sunday to MN and can't start hunting until noon, not good.

ID: 5653

I understand that motels have to make their money when possible but there should be a break for hunters if you stay a week at a time in a motel. No motels give weekly rates, just daily. That's the only economic stress I see hunters are not favorable on.

ID: 5659

The hunting in SD is wonderful. We were on private land but I do favor habitat creation and maintenance to keep the number of pheasants up and out of dangerous lands.

ID: 5673

I support organizations such as Pheasants Forever. I would hope that the SD GF&P is working with them to help figure out how to preserve habitat.

ID: 5678

I feel very blessed to be living during a period where hunting in SD is so great! In the last few years I have seen changes in the landscape that concern me dearly. (Loss of grassland, ditches, shelter belts, etc.) However my father (80 years old) and myself cherish the people, sunsets and quality time we spend together each year. Thank you all so much!

ID: 5680

I live in Nebraska and hunt in SD and usually with my brother who lives there. Nebraska pheasant population and hunting habitat is so terrible that it is critical that SD continues to have access to both private and public (non fees or game preserve pay to hunt) Land for people like myself to hunt.

ID: 5686

Lower license fees for non-resident holders and raise resident fees because the people who already live and hunt will still pay the license fee because they don't have to account for travel expense but the non-resident ones do and still boost the SD economy. This would promote more non-resident hunters to come to your great state and boost the economy.

With travel and often lodging, expenses people are less reluctant to travel when the fee is much more because they don't live there with non-residents paying a bit less and residents paying a bit more it would even its out but have the travelers come and stay and spend money on other things.

ID: 5723

I would be willing to pay a few for splitting my ten days into two 3 day periods and one 2 day period. The two 5 day periods does not work really well for me.

ID: 5785

When I started in the early 70's the license fee was \$25. I think that the nonresident license should be for the entire season for \$110. But I think that a new CRP program should be put in place paying higher fees to the farmers to help protect all wildlife. SD is a great place to hunt and the people are outstanding.

ID: 5800

So long as you treat all hunters the same the added fee would have to be charged to residents as well as out of state if enforced.

ID: 5806

CRP land and ability to hunt road right of a ways have been very important to our group. In recent years more farmers are mowing the right a ways to the detriment of the hunter. Perhaps they could be encouraged to leave more habitat both in the field and right of ways. We hunt around Gregory and Tripp County and the numbers have been in decline since the 90's. Please feel free to call if I could be of further service.

ID: 5820

My trips to SD have been great memories the thought of them getting better would be great. I plan to hunt in SD the rest of my life. Thanks for trying to improve.

ID: 5837

Your split license fee is very poor idea and overpriced should be able for nonresidents to buy all year licenses.

ID: 5862

My wife and I are both Native SD farm kids, Now retired from construction management in Gilbert Arizona. We own dirt in Beadle and Spink County and are related to lots of good folks in both counties. We started returning for the "hunt" in 2007 after retirement. The last two year, 2010 – 2011, have been lots of work with only modest results, half limits, but lots of fun if a 70 year old can call walking 5 miles cornfields fun. We try to bring back 12 birds and my wife like to remind me that I am eating a \$200 dinner because a week back in SD costs about \$2400.

ID: 5869

SD is a national treasure and should not be limited by resident rules. It desires a broad view.

ID: 5877

Being able to bag 1 more pheasant would be great. But I do agree that is order to preserve and reproduce steps need to take place to get more money for that. Like I say it wouldn't be a problem giving \$25 more towards that.

ID: 5889

Have mixed feelings about paying xtra to support pheasants as a non-resident. Pheasant hunting generates many \$\$ for residents that operate farms, restaurants, hotels, and may other businesses. Maybe those owners should help pay the cost to insure good pheasant hunting in SD since they because of the \$\$ spent in SD. Nonresidents hunters already spend a ton of \$\$ to hunt there. What would a lot of these type of business do if those \$ were declined as the pheasant population decline. If the pheasant population declines to unfavorable numbers Kansas is a place with good pheasant numbers plus they have a 4 bird daily limit.

ID: 5900

Our party of 25 to 30 comes from Tennessee to SD each year for a 4 day hunt. We use a guide with rented land but feel that hunting is for are citizens.

ID: 5909

Question 9: \$5 - \$10

ID: 5932

Pheasant numbers were down slightly in 2011, but the hunt was very good.

ID: 5934

In many areas the public hunting land (walk in areas) is not good habitat for hunting or is in areas where there are not many pheasants. Please have the walk in areas reviewed so public money is being used for leasing lands that are good for hunting.

ID: 5955

Question 9: optional

One has to be careful not to make the cost so high young hunters and those on limited incomes can't afford to hunt. Many people would probably contribute a few extra dollars when buy their license if asked. Have a drawing for those who contribute \$10 plus cost of license for drawing would give the winner or winners a free license for the next year or two. No cost to state considering revenue generated. A win win.

ID: 5971

Per Q5, we would rate our hunting habitat at a pristine level.

ID: 5972

Pheasant hunting is a multi-million dollar business for the state for SD. When pheasant populations decline so will the hunters. Last year was a poor year compared years before for pheasant hunting. Keeping license fees reasonable is critical.

ID: 5974

I would like to thank SD so much for the years I hunted there. I started hunting in 1957 and all the farmers welcome you then as hunting was fantastic. When they lost the soil bank hunting went down, then it was harder to find places to hunt. Then we found Don Reeves hunting preserve. Was cheap and excellent hunting. Now my son in lows father moved to SD so we are back hunting around Mitchell. I just love SD, but hunting is not as good, birds are decent somewhat compared to the 50's & 60's. Pheasant hunting is my only hunting hope to be there again this year. It's just getting a little too costly and I'm 83 years old and SS is shoty with the money so I have to get by as cheap as possible.

ID: 5992

My only pheasant hunt in SD was last year. It was the most disappointing hunt of my life. I had an excellent bird dog and one good friend with me. We shot seven birds between us in 2 ½ days of hunting.

The walk-in land held zero birds. The private land had birds. Between travel, lodging, food, and the already high license fee, there was little good news to bring home to fellow sportsmen. I would not bother to come back. I have accumulated many great fishing and hunting stories in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, and ND, but not SD.

ID: 6037

I am 72 years old and will be hunting 7 years come this October. My party has consisted of my 2 boys, 3 of my classmates, and their 4 boys for a total of 10 hunters. The 3 “old guys” have been close friends since 1958 and the boys have been friends virtually all their lives. The South Dakotans we have met have without exception been the most decent friendly folks I have ever encountered anywhere. As you might guess it’s an occasion not just a hunt for young men and their dads to gather from Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, and sometime Washington state to enjoy each other’s company.

ID: 6050

We buy more birds than we harvest, 150 birds on private land.

ID: 6068

Question 7: Are you kidding? Don’t they get enough already? I am also strongly opposed to the early resident hunt on public lands. It takes away from people like myself who travel there and leave money behind. How many dollars does the early resident hunt generate?

ID: 6093

Tried several times to do survey online, no luck!

ID: 6098

It’s not important how many birds we shoot; it’s more about places to hunt and the dogs! I think more hunting ground would bring more money to the state, and also take the pressure off the small amount of public land now available! Thank you!

ID: 6100

Awesome pheasant hunting, keep up the good work and habitat for the birds.

ID: 6124

The quality of the walk in areas is poor in comparison to neighboring states. I would be willing as a nonresident hunter to pay more for better quality public or walk in hunting areas.

ID: 6136

Question 7 – 10: add a \$10 habitat fee to all licenses with no extra bag limits.

Question 12: My wife and I came up to the old SD farm and bring a group of Minnesotans of 8 to 10 friends with. We also have 4 cousins that come every year. They rent hotel rooms or bring campers.

ID: 6142

If you look at the cost to come to SD to hunt, if you can hunt all 5 days of your license, hotel, food, gas, etc. it is a very expensive experience. That is driving, a lot of people away from hunting. A \$25 fee for extra bird a day relates to \$5 a bird. Not that far away from a game

farm price. Personally, I think out of state licenses should be less – “get people into the state and spend money in these small towns – how much of the \$120 for a license goes to habitat? I think out of state licenses are out of hand everywhere. The money doesn’t go to the right areas. I don’t mind paying the \$120 but spent it on what funds the reason people came to SD or any state. I’m from MN and feel our out of state licenses are too high also.

ID: 6157

Love the hunt, working the dogs is great fun for both me and the dogs. Look forward to my few days in SD hunting the allusive pheasants. It’s time to bond with old classmates from the past.

ID: 6159

Stop mowing road right of ways.

ID: 6160

Washington Resident probably will not hunt SD again. I had a fun time hunting not a lot of birds in 2011 season. Thank you!

ID: 6188

Prefer that more public land is available for hunting. Private land owners should not receive public money for their personal gain/profit.

ID: 6194

I feel CRP lands are very important to pheasant population last year, I did notice lands that came out of CRP and Pheasant numbers were down. Please find the funds to continue the CRP program. Non-resident hunters, must, boost the state’s economy. Should funding come from some of these other sources?

ID: 6195

The habitat surcharge question needs to support an amount so folks can form an opinion. For example, a \$5 surcharge I’d strongly support, a \$100 surcharge I would strongly oppose. I would support a high surcharge for skunk eradication so my dogs wouldn’t ride all the way from Louisiana to SD only to get sprayed.

ID: 6198

In every state non-residents pay the bulk of the money collected for hunting and fishing. Buy raising fees on non-resident people on budgets like myself and many others might not be able to participate.

ID: 6210

I am from Illinois and all moneys in habitat DNR license fees etc. were stolen by former Governor. I am not in favor of surcharges for habitat as I don’t see results from them. Illinois is now closing many state parks, boat ramps etc. and can’t pay our Co.’s salaries. The track record of states using these funds for their attended use seems to be very poor.

ID: 6216

I have found the people who allow out of state hunters are very friendly and hope all hunters respect the rights and privacy of all landowners. After all we are guest in your state and should have respect for all, hunters and landowners.

ID: 6260

When you say 1 additional bird per day, would it change the number of birds in possession for more money on license?

ID: 6270

More public land in the "golden triangle" most seems to be North of Aberdeen.

ID: 6302

Question 1: 1<sup>st</sup> time hunting in SD.

ID: 6309

2011 was my first year of pheasant hunting in SD. I, as was my uncle from Alaska, was very impressed with the maps, marking/labeling of public hunting areas. It is clear the state of SD takes the pheasant hunting "industry" very seriously. My home state of Iowa DNR could do themselves and the resident hunters of Iowa a favor by following SD "hunting business model. Job well done!

ID: 6316

I enjoy the land, sunsets, food and people.

ID: 6334

I look forward to hunting in SD very much! Hunting pheasants and being outside is always better, no better your luck that a day at work!

ID: 9002

Summer weather (hail mostly) decrease pheasant population. Hunting lodges charge way too much to hunt their land. Most landowners consider habitat on their land. Pheasant hunters can hunt the Black Hills for deer but we can't hunt pheasants in eastern SD.

ID: 9004

I oppose letting farmers or ranchers using GPA's or other public lands for grazing or cutting grass for their livestock feed. I also think any CRP land cut for hay or grazing. The farmer or ranchers should pay back the money they received from the government. Tax payers' money.

## Email Comments Received

A: Cynthia Thanks for card. Have been hunting pheasants since 6 as born in Watertown. We still have not recovered from 2 winters ago. Private land is for pay hunters. CRP should all be walk in areas like old soil bank. In this area \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ also owns almost all land surrounding FG. This means dogs die sooner as pheasants seek safety on \_\_\_\_'s land as soon as pressure develops. I firmly believe the CRP program should totally be discontinued unless hunters have access by foot. I am presently trying to train a puppy acquired at 6 weeks now a little over 3 months old. I have lost tons of sleep and will put thousands of hours in before knowing whether this dog will hunt as father was not present and seller a little shaky. The out of state hunters have basically shot out FG areas around Watertown so coupled with less birds bad situation. Pheasant hunting now is almost totally money driven. Surveys are worthless unless you can get more access to CRP land as private land with exception of Walk Ins is out. The younger gen would rather play with their smart phones for most part so another reason more out of state than in state hunters. Without tremendous more access to private and CRP lands were at the point where again dogs just will not live very long. Thanks. P.S. Present conditions eliminate rotation of birds. Instead of paying all these public pensions maybe the state should consider stocking birds like they do fish. Currently acquiring more walk ins preferably a section or bigger is the best scenario probably. Even some out of staters will not tackle large parcels and many holes are left. Long term contracts on walk ins would be great and perhaps maybe even pheasants could be planted. Lack of rotation now and high price of commodities and land make this probably cheapest way to penetrate. Thanks.