GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL

License Forms and Fees
Chapter 41:06:02

Public Hearing March 4, 2021 Pierre
Finalization March 4-5, 2021 Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from last year:

1. Change the license validity date found in ARSD 41:06:02:01.04 from “Any license is valid from December 15 preceding the printed year on the license to January 31 following the printed year on the license, inclusive” to “Any license is valid from December 15 preceding the printed year on the license to January 31 following the printed year on the license, inclusive unless otherwise specified”.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

See below for recommended change to valid dates of the state migratory bird certification permit.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue
   • Why make the change, what are the change alternatives, how will public/stakeholder input be solicited, and how will the change be evaluated if implemented?
     o Currently, the valid period for all hunting licenses is December 15-January 31 of the following year. This creates a problem with our upcoming “3 splash” duck hunting regulations experiment which allow 2 tiers of hunting regulations chosen by the hunter. Unless changed, it will be possible for a hunter to possess two separate, valid hunting regulations in one duck hunting season. This will create an enforcement issue and potentially confound analysis of the “3-splash” regulations experiment and if this regulation becomes operational in the future. We are only considering changing the valid period for the state migratory bird certification permit. No other license valid dates would be impacted by this change.

2. Historical Considerations
   o Historically, all hunting license valid periods were bundled together for convenience and simplicity, allowing for license purchases to begin ahead of the holidays on December 15th, and allowing licenses to remain valid through the end of January in the year they expire. No other licenses have multiple options for enforcement except the 2-tiered waterfowl regulation package. If the valid dates of the state migratory bird certification permit are changed, they would then align with the release of the Federal Waterfowl Stamp (July 1 – June 30), which would maintain some consistency for waterfowl hunters and remove the law enforcement and experimental concerns we are currently facing.

3. Biological Considerations
   • What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations?
     • None expected

APPROVE ____  MODIFY ____  REJECT ____  NO ACTION ____
4. Social Considerations
   • As with any change a learning curve is expected. A broad-based education and
     marketing strategy for both target audiences of the “3-splash” option along with
     current duck hunters will articulate this change. This education and marketing
     strategy have already been mapped out in conjunction with partners in Nebraska
     and will begin during the Spring of 2021. During the first-year hunters that purchase
     migratory bird certifications from December 15, 2020-June 30, 2021 will have the
     opportunity to adjust which duck hunting tier option they want for the 2021-2022
     duck hunting season.

5. Financial considerations
   • Little financial impact is expected. If successful, the 2-tiered duck hunting regulation
     experiment would be revenue positive.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate?
   • Overall, this change will streamline waterfowl hunting regulations and reduce the
     potential law enforcement issues of having two valid, but conflicting state migratory
     bird certification permits at the same time.

2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
   • While changing the valid period for a certificate or license has the potential to be
     confusing for participants, this particular change will be accompanied by a
     comprehensive education outreach campaign that will limit confusion and in the end
     result in more hunters being aware of the 2-tiered system and how to use it. It will
     also simplify the valid periods for waterfowl hunting certificates and licenses. The 2-
     tiered system is designed to increase mentorship and opportunity for novice hunters.
     Any regulation that supports the implementation of this system will increase
     opportunity for new and existing users.

3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and
   outdoor recreationists? Not applicable

4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting
   families outdoors? Not applicable