

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Youth Pheasant Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:55

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Commission Meeting Dates: | Proposal | March 5-6, 2020 | Pierre |
| | Public Hearing | May 7, 2020 | Custer State Park |
| | Finalization | May 7-8, 2020 | Custer State Park |

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Season Dates: September 26-27 and October 3-4, 2020

Open Area: Statewide except road rights-of-way

Daily Limit: 3 cock pheasants

Possession Limit: 15 cock pheasants

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Shooting hours are 10:00 am (central time) to sunset.
2. Properly licensed resident and nonresident youth are eligible.
3. Any person who has not reached age 18.
4. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and the accompanying adult may not carry a firearm or actively participate in shooting pheasants.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Modify the season dates from “five consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday of October” to “two consecutive weekends with the first weekend beginning 21 days prior to the third Saturday of October”. See season dates in table below.

| Year | Youth Pheasant Season Dates |
|------|------------------------------|
| 2020 | Sept. 26-27 AND Oct. 3-4 |
| 2021 | Sept. 25-26 AND Oct. 2-3 |
| 2022 | Sept. 24-25 AND Oct. 1-2 |
| 2023 | Sept. 30-Oct. 1 AND Oct. 7-8 |
| 2024 | Sept. 28-29 AND Oct. 5-6 |
| 2025 | Sept. 27-28 AND Oct. 4-5 |
| 2026 | Sept. 26-27 AND Oct. 3-4 |
| 2027 | Sept. 25-26 AND Oct. 2-3 |
| 2028 | Sept. 30-Oct. 1 AND Oct. 7-8 |
| 2029 | Sept. 29-30 AND Oct. 6-7 |

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes to proposal:

1. Modify the season dates from “five consecutive days beginning on the first Saturday of October” to “9 consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the third Saturday of October”. See season dates in table below.

| Year | Youth Pheasant Season Dates |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 2020 | Sept. 26 - Oct. 4 |
| 2021 | Sept. 25 - Oct. 3 |
| 2022 | Sept. 24 - Oct. 2 |
| 2023 | Sept. 30 - Oct. 8 |
| 2024 | Sept. 28 - Oct. 6 |
| 2025 | Sept. 27 - Oct. 5 |
| 2026 | Sept. 26 - Oct. 4 |
| 2027 | Sept. 25 - Oct. 3 |
| 2028 | Sept. 30 - Oct. 8 |
| 2029 | Sept. 29 - Oct. 7 |

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

A petition was adopted as written by the Commission as a proposal to include two full weekends for the youth pheasant hunting season. Public comment is encouraged, and the Commission will take final action on this proposal at the May 7-8 Commission in Custer State Park.

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?
 - The proposed change is the result of a petition that was adopted by the Commission as a formal proposal to obtain public comment.
 - Logical change to include two weekends as requested by the petitioner would be conduct the first weekend three weeks prior to the third Saturday in October.
2. Historical Considerations
 - The current youth pheasant hunting season began in 1999 and the mentored hunting program for residents began in 2008. Season was established to provide a standalone opportunity and recruitment tool for youth pheasant hunters.
3. Biological Considerations
 - What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations?
 - Could be somewhat more challenging in identifying rooster pheasants as juvenile pheasants will be one week younger and for juvenile pheasants from successful late nests. No biological effect is expected.
4. Social Considerations
 - Would provide additional opportunities for youth during non-school days to participate in the youth pheasant season.
5. Financial considerations
 - Any change to Department revenue is expected to be minimal.

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate?
 - No. This regulation provides additional opportunity for youth to participate in the youth pheasant season.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - Yes, youth would have an additional weekend to be able to pheasant hunt without competition in the field.
 - Youth currently must take off from school to participate in week-day hunts, participate during daytime hours after school when other school activities conflict, or during the one weekend allowed for youth only pheasant hunting.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?
 - This allows for additional time for families to teach and encourage safe hunting practices without competition from experienced hunters in the field.
 - This regulation would provide an additional weekend to allow youth to hunt pheasants during a time of year when school activities can be difficult to work around.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?
 - The youth season is historically under-utilized by youth and families. If the appropriate marketing/advertising/outreach strategies were under-taken, the extension of the youth season has the potential to increase youth and family participation in pheasant hunting.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____