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Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form
Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 4:24:05 PM

South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

Petition for Rule Change

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:

ID: 221

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Rule Identification: 41:06:13:01 Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Describe Change: SDWF Black Hills Spring Turkey non-resident draw petition The South Dakota Wildlife Federation submits this petition to request the SD GF&P Commission approve a change to the Black Hills Spring Turkey non-resident licensing process. South Dakota already limits Prairie Spring Turkey non-resident permits via a drawing system that historically allocates an average of 22% of each units Spring Turkey permits to non-resident sportsmen. With Black Hills turkey numbers down and a continually larger number of unlimited non-resident permits being sold, this is a huge concern to many South Dakota Resident Black Hills turkey hunters. Note that in 2023 more non-resident permits were sold than resident permits. In 2024 that trend continued with 53% of permits sold going to non-residents in the current unlimited allocation. Our petition requests that the unlimited allocation be changed to a drawing for non-residents in the same average they are allocated in the prairie units at 22%. According to GFP permit sales stats, the 3-yr running average on resident permits is 3,007. 22% of which is 661. Our petition is to create a NR BH Spring Turkey draw limited to 661 permits. (GF&P Supporting information attached) Applicable Administrative Rule 41:06:13:01. Spring wild turkey hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available. The spring prairie wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the second Saturday of April through May 31. The spring Black Hills wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the fourth Saturday of April through May 31. The spring archery wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day during the open dates of the prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively. The number of one-tag male turkey licenses issued is unlimited for residents and nonresidents in both the Black Hills and archery spring turkey hunting seasons. Non-Residents would be limited to one turkey license in the Black Hills Spring season with a drawing limited to 22% of the 3-yr resident permit average. No more than 10,000 one-tag male turkey and 2,500 two-tag male turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the prairie spring turkey hunting season.

Reason for Change: South Dakota already limits Prairie Spring Turkey non-resident permits via a drawing system that historically allocates an average of 22% of each units Spring Turkey permits to non-resident sportsmen. With Black Hills turkey numbers down and a continually larger number of unlimited non-resident permits being sold, this is a huge concern to many South Dakota Resident Black Hills turkey hunters. Note that in 2023 more non-resident permits were sold than resident permits. In 2024 that trend continued with 53% of permits sold going to non-residents in the current unlimited allocation. The continual increase of non-residents is having a significant impact on the quality of experience for our resident South Dakota Turkey hunters. Transitioning from unlimited to the already in place 22% allocation used in the prairie spring turkey permit draws reduces pressure on the resource, crowding in the field and increases the quality of experience for Residents as well as those non-residents that are successful in the draw.