Public Comments

Deer License Allocation

Paul Pitlick

Pierre SD

pdp1946@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Seth Bonnema

Brookings SD

Comment:

I think hunters should only be able to draw one firearm deer tag. The bucks get wiped out around my area with rifles and muzzleloaders. Give the deer a chance to grow!

Harvey Jensen

Oldham SD

furbuster69ner@yahoo.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose changing the application process. I didn’t receive a single rifle tag last year, but that’s the luck of the lottery.

Ethan Smith

Sioux Falls SD

Ethan.smith@jacks.sdstate.com

Comment:

oppose

Peter Bergmann

Brookings SD

pjbergmann67@gmail.com

Comment:

I can see no logical reason for restricting the ability of an individual to obtain multiple liscenses throughout the state. Leave the current system on place.

Todd Pfitzer

Glenham SD

toddpfitzer@yahoo.com

Comment:

I feel like the current system is fine the way it is. If you hunt in high demand counties like I do, you should just accept that you are not going to draw the tag you prefer or any tag at all some years. These changes aren't going to change that for me in the counties I hunt and may actually result in not drawing a tag for either county if I have to pick one or the other the first draw. Both Walworth and Corson sell out buck tags first draw with many people drawing nothing. I'm sure there's changes coming no matter how people feel so I have some suggestions to consider that might still allow hunters more success.
-pool east river and west river special buck into a single draw. If the regular hunter has to pick a side of the river, special buck should too.
-only pool east river, west river, and black hills tags together. Leave Custer, Refuge, and Muzzleloader as individual draws.
-after 1st drawing, any unsold nonresident tags are pooled with resident leftovers
-nonresidents ineligible for second drawing
-all residents, including those successful in first drawing, are eligible for 2nd drawing. Those successful in first drawing cannot apply for same unit/county as successful first drawing
-nonresidents and residents all eligible for any leftover tags starting with third drawing

Or
No nonresident can apply until the third drawing

Please don't make it easier for the nonresident hunter to get more of the tags. Residents should get priority. Thank you

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Chad Blaha

Rapid City SD

blakeprimer1@rap.midco.net

Comment:

support

Blaine Marlow

Watertown SD

bmarlow34@gmail.com

Comment:

Trying to understand how this license change would benefit anyone. Seems like it should be voted on by the sportsman of South Dakota.

Caleb Yeigh

Aberdeen SD

Comment:

Between East and West river seasons it is hard enough to draw an any deer tag now having to choose an any deer tag east or west river not cool South Dakota not cool if this is going to be the case why have an east or west river drawing or any other special named part of the state why not just do a deer drawing and not specify a county just do a statewide good for deer tag

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Jackson Metz

Ashton SD

jacksonmetz8@icloud.com

Comment:

I am all for the new proposal. I grew up in Roberts county which is a very low in numbers as far as tags givin out and My dad and I didn't get drawn for several years. But yet I knew of west river or even out of state guys getting drawn. I was upset that I couldn't draw a tag in the county I lived in. Now I live in spink county and get drawn every year but also know spink county residents that don't but out of staters do. Just think you should have the best possible chance to draw a tag in your own county as possible and I guess if people are willing to apply in a county they aren't living in then so be it but they won't have the option to apply west river and here which I fully think is fair.

John Grams

Plankinton SD

Jgrams2 @yajoo.com

Comment:

I attended the forum in Mitchell and still are looking for someone who is in favor on changing the current system other than outfitters and non residents. The program presented by Kevin Robling was not an open discussion but an attempt to tilt statistics to support an unwanted change to South Dakota deer seasons. It's hard to support the data given by your special projects coordinator when he was unaware of a large die off of mule deer in mellette and jones county. His arrogance was laughable and blamed it on over harvest. When I relayed this information to ranchers that experienced the die off they said it was another example of Game Fish and Parks not knowing what is going on. Keeping the ranchers out of the informational loop is a huge mistake of understanding the deer herd. Example of this is changing mellette county seasons dates and not informing ranchers. By talking to ranchers you will get information about the health of the deer herd on their ranches who is hunting and harvest numbers but no one asks I guess it's more fun to fly around in a helicopter and collar random deer. It is unfounded by any data that these poorly considered changes will be even slightly effective. This is an east river issue and trying to make it a state wide issue is ludicrous. The demographics of the state will continue to dictate east river draw success. East river land owners and ranchers are managing the deer herds GFP is only in charge of season dates and tag numbers. It's time to look at common sense approaches to managing the deer herd.
L

David Vogel

Mobridge SD

dvogel@webwater.org

Comment:

I believe when the public came to you about more opportunity it was for the high demand areas. This new system you speak of does not help for the high demand areas it hurts the high demand areas because now I have to pick one high demand area and wont have a chance at another area which in the end will be tough to even get a tag that I want at all. this to me is the opposite of more chance it totally eliminates it. The old way I had a chance when applying for all the seasons to hopefully get 1 tag I wanted. If you go with this you should also make archery tags to go with this system since I don't archery hunt I believe my chances would be even more improved. It seems like there is more deer getting killed by bow these days I think it also needs a drawing where you don't just get one. I AM APPOSED TO THE NEW SYSTEM.

Justin Hagemann

Montrose SD

Comment:

oppose

Raymond Semmler

Rapid City SD

raymondsemmler28@gmail.com

Comment:

First draw Black hills deer then second draw would be west and east ever deer then muzzleloader tag. I know government and common sense are difficult but that's common cents

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Mary Palo

Hot Springs SD

palosrus@gwtc.net

Comment:

I am very much in favor of this proposed change. Our family has struggled for years to draw deer tags in our area. We would like to hunt near our home, and I think this would give us more of a chance to draw these tags since most residents would put their 1st choice as their own "back yard"!

Jason Bierman

Sioux Falls SD

jasonbier@yahoo.com

Comment:

Not needed

Jeremy Larson

Rapid City SD

Comment:

As an outdoorsman that applies for most of the deer tags that SD has to offer, I am satisfied with the current system, building preference points, waiting my turn and being able to enjoy different deer hunting opportunities in a given year.

Michael Larson

Gettysburg SD

larson.michaelc@gmail.com

Comment:

Strongly oppose the proposed changes. Please reconsider this proposal.

Robby Beyer

Winifred SD

farmerbob65@hotmail.com

Comment:

I feel the system is fair the way it is. The only way you will get more youth to hunt is get rid of the video games. It's just the way our youth is being raised and by changing the way to draw a tag will not help this. I feel it will make it worse.

Mark Smedsrud

Sioux Falls SD

Maksmedsrud@msn.com

Comment:

I have deer hunted for over 35 years in our state. I do apply for multiple deer tags. I believe the current system with cubed preference and staged draws Is fair for everyone. We all have equal chances to draw if you study the statistics and purchase preference points. I am completely happy with how the current system has operated and I am realistic in the fact that I may not draw the tags I want in every unit. Reality is more people hunt in today’s seasons and there are only so many tags available. My vote is to leave the current system in place with the cubed preference points. Thank you for your time.

Randy Schaffer

Aberdeen SD

rschaffer199@gmail.com

Comment:

bad idea

Travis Everson

Castlewood SD

Travis.everson@hotmail.com

Comment:

I have lived in four different states that have a draw system and SD is far and away the best experience I've had. I have never had to sit out a season, I feel like you are flexible and do a little research you can get a buck tag if you desire. My worry is that this change will have unintended outcomes. I personally don't mind getting my first choice ever few years. Some of my most memorable hunts have on my second and third choice hunts. I feel the friction is people want buck tags in their preference area. I feel a couple changes could help in this area. First have a 115 inch minimum for bucks, if this was done it would allow for more buck tags because the small bucks would be able make it to the next year. I don't think you would need to make this a crime, just make 50 dollar fee if you shoot a lesser buck. Secondly could allow party hunting, if one person has a buck tag and three guys go out west hunting it would keep interest if they know if they see a trophy they can shoot it. Of course this could be abused, but a true sportsman will work within the rules.

Ronny Hulzebos

Harrisburg SD

ron2ponds@gmail.com

Comment:

I strongly disagree with the proposed changes to the deer license draw. I have 20 preference points for Custer deer and 8 for muzzleloader. If the proposed changes go through, I'll have to give up any chance of drawing those tags and use my first choice for better odds east or west river. Leaving muzzleloader and Custer deer out of the changes would eliminate my problem and I am sure that of a lot of other hunters. Thank you.
P.S. Cubing preference points is great; give it a couple of years before making any other major changes.

Ivan Visser

Brandon SD

Comment:

oppose

Steve Ingram

Fort Pierre SD

bugsbgone@pie.midco.net

Comment:

I feel that there should be no restriction on applying for a West River deer tag as well as in East River deer tag or other areas like the Black Hills.

Trent Merkwan

Pierre SD

trentmerkwan@yahoo.com

Comment:

I don’t think this works for people with a passion for deer hunting.

Erick Okeson

Tea SD

Wildoak1@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Gary Schmitgen

Pierre SD

gschmitgen@yahoo.com

Comment:

This rule change would not only hinder the hunters that put in for licenses but also restrict young Hunters to want to hunt I believe the system we have now has worked for many years and it's fair to all Hunters the new change would only benefit a few

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Starla Graves

Rapid City SD

starla.mayer1983@gmail.com

Comment:

Every South Dakota resident should be able to get 1 tag every year to supply food for their family. My freezer is empty and since I've only lived in SD 1 year I didn't draw a tag. Make it easier for residents please. Some of us live off meat from the land.

Tyler Larson

Canton SD

Comment:

oppose

Hudson Rohrbach

Pierre SD

huddyfootball@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Tiffany Sanchez

Fort Pierre SD

Gyrmama@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Adam Severson

Yankton SD

Atseverson15@gmail.com

Comment:

This plan is ludicrous, it only benefits the people who wrote and developed it (butt hurt hunting outfitters) who are upset that they can not grow a buck that is worth $5000 to their clients due to too many hunters with too many buck tags hunting on their neighbors adjacent properties. If this plan goes forward I can make a promise to you that I will no longer be spending my hard earned money on preference points just so that I can be guaranteed ONE tag. My money will be spent elsewhere such as other states natural resource departments. Which leads to my next concern; how are you going to regenerate that loss in revenue? Raise the price of tags? You are out of you're minds. I'll quit hunting my home state all together.

John Andrus

Yankton SD

Johnandrus10@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Chad Paklin

Sturgis SD

Capaklin@gmail.com

Comment:

Leave it how it is.

Greg Peterson

Clear Lake SD

petegang@itctel.com

Comment:

I believe the proposal is overly complicated and not beneficial to applicants like myself that have diligently applied for hard to draw units for many years. I understand that preference points would be maintained, but do not understand how that will work when preference points were accumulated in various license units that are now being combined. I would however support a proposal to allow a hunter to have a buck tag to be taken with any method they wish (i.e. archery, rifle, muzzleloader) and limiting them to one tag for that area (i.e. east river).

Allen Haiar

Tea SD

ahaiar49@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Ryan Fliehs

Corsica SD

rrfliehs@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Alexander Gray

Aberdeen SD

Comment:

oppose

Don Aarstad

Watertown SD

dona@midco.net

Comment:

This is a short-sided reaction to a very vocal minority primarily interested in drawing a buck tag for their preferred unit. For people that like to hunt multiple areas of the state it is a bad deal. We are more interested in drawing a tag for a unit - not necessarily a "buck" tag but always happy when we do but understand that it may not always be the case.

Cody Paul

Sturgis SD

codypaul34@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Ken Thompson

Wall SD

sdakota1970@gmail.com

Comment:

Another way to mess with us hunters. The current system is working, except the Elk hunting season.

Tavis Little

Whitewood SD

tavis.little@gmail.com

Comment:

The logic is sound and the plan to make hunters choose will improve hunter's opportunities consistently and equally. Don't let the loud minority cloud your judgment.

Kristi Meyer

Montrose SD

Kristihagemann@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Dirk Byers

White SD

Bnbautos@yahoo.com

Comment:

There is no need to change the system when there are tags available. You may not be able to hunt where you want but are able to hunt. I assume most the issues are with hard to draw areas but as long as you have to have 2 Nd and 3 rd drawings there is no need to change it. With all the walk in areas and public areas there is someplace to hunt every year

Riley Steffensen

Madison SD

Rileysteffensen@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Brett Stekl

Letcher SD

Comment:

oppose

John Egge

Watertown SD

johnandnyla@gmail.com

Comment:

A landowner in SD should always be able to get the any deer tag and knowing this, and this being the first draw, the person will always be ineligible to apply and get to go somewhere else like the Black Hills. You can not say that one should apply for the BH license on the second or third draw when the Black Hills tags are gone and sold out on the first draw, as just what happened again this year. So this new idea needs modification and yes, we have a lot of landowners who will have this problem.

Greg Zerfas

Sioux Falls SD

Zerfasgl@msn.com

Comment:

This is another attempt by the west river landowners to sell a bill of goods to the public so they can get their hunting licenses to bring hunters into their property for big money, paid hunting. There is nothing wrong with the present system. It's as fair for them as it is for me. The only people it helps is the big money hunters who can afford to pay the outrageous prices the big landowners ask. It's another step to eliminate the little guy who doesn't have the money to pay for hunting. If it turns to that I'm going to vote with the greenies to ban hunting and then we'll see what their land is worth!

Lee Shoup

Spearfish SD

lee_shoup@yahoo.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose the change in draw process that makes the entire state one draw. Who is really going to benefit from this change? The majority of the people wanting this are still going to be applying for the same unit they are now as first choice. This will at best shave one required preference point off those hunters wait between tags. I know a lot of seasoned hunters and have yet to hear anyone who supports this change. If these people really wanted to hunt there are units with plenty of tags and public ground. I travel 3 hours to hunt both east and west river because that is where I can count on getting a tag every year. I was one of the lucky few selected to participate in the forum in Belle Fourche back in May. While I really wanted to attend I was held up assisting with a terrible rollover accident outside Butte MT on my way home that day and didn't get to town until 10pm. I doubt being in attendance that day would have made a difference but wish I could have at least been heard. Why is this change being pushed forward when the over whelming majority of hunters is against it? Is there some benefit to wildlife management or active sportsmen that I have not yet been informed of?

Kenneth Daugherty

Rapid City SD

kdeagle45@gmail.com

Comment:

It's already difficult for a person to get one license, now you want to change it to where a person can only choose one. I oppose. SD already does not honor their disabled veterans by having a special time for disabled vets to go deer or elk hunting.

Caleb Meyer

Cavour SD

jmeyer@santel.net

Comment:

I hunt all seasons, and do not support this. It seems like my opportunity to be in the field hunting will be affected greatly. please just let us hunt

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Camden Meyer

Cavour SD

jmeyer@premiereqsd.com

Comment:

I apply for almost every season every year. I love to hunt, and it seems like this proposal will not allow me hunt all across south dakota. I probably spend 3 weeks in the field, traveling all across our great state. The preference system we have now is fair, it seems like this proposed draw system is more regulated, tailored to a certain crowd that always wants to hunt in 1 area. That is the beauty of the public hunting areas across our state, we can hunt all of them.

Kurt Kowaleski

Summerset SD

kurt_kowaleski@hotmail.com

Comment:

I don't see how by combining all the deer seasons into one draw can be a benefit to us hunters, you say the possible change comes down to recruiting new deer hunters and retaining current deer hunters, I watched the video of the July 11 Commission meeting and there is no data that supports that current system is affecting the number of hunters, I don't see an issue with the number of hunters SD receives every year, it was also stated that currently supply cannot meet demand. For a passionate SD hunter, the proposal puts a limit on our hunting opportunities and I am not for the change.
A) I have had the privilege of establishing the trust and relationship with a West River land owner. I dedicate a minimum of 10 days of labor during the year to have permission to hunt his property. Because I am committed to the land owner and for applying for this West River unit as my 1st choice I am 100% sure I will never draw a Black Hills, CSP, or Muzzleloader as my 2nd choice under this new proposal. With the current system at least I have an opportunity to apply, build PP for multiple seasons and the higher probability of drawing anyone of the seasons in first round draws in the same year. Theoretically speaking it's safe to say if this proposal 2(B) stands and I apply for WRD as my 1st choice and BH any whitetail deer as my 2nd choice and I don't draw my WRD I will not have a chance at either season because it's safe to say there will not be any BHD deer tags remaining for a second choice. How does this benefit me as a dedicated and passionate hunter that normally applies for 4 out of the 6 seasons?

B) I am huge advocate for conservation and understand it takes a budget. If I am looking at this correctly you are reducing the number of application that are submitted and are going to reduce the budget and I can foresee the cost of the application, PP's and licensing fees going up ever more.
If you are passionate about hunting the current system provides more options and seasons to hunt even if you cannot hunt a certain season every year. SD has so much diversity when it comes to big game you are going to draw a season of choice if you stay persistent, do your homework and remain flexible. Watching the video, it looks like the decision is being based off the minority of the hunts that apply for only one season, I don't think its fare to most us hunters. Each season is unique, by combining the season into a single draw you limit us hunters to a single season. At the minimum Muzzleloader should be removed and be its own season, it is still considered a primitive weapon and the number of tag available needs to be increased even if you had to draw muzzleloader later so leftover WRD tags could be reallocated, it was stated in the video that a lot of WRD units have left over any whitetail deer licenses. Why not look at this and provide more muzzleloader opportunities? SD is one of the few states to have such a restriction on muzzleloader tags.
Not happy with the proposed changes.

Brandon Peil

White SD

Comment:

I find nothing wrong with the current deer tag draw system. Seems as though a few people are trying to move our state into commercialized deer hunting.

Travis Rude

Aberdeen SD

203rude@gmail.com

Comment:

I would like to see the drawing for deer to stay the same I hunt with friends and we like hunting west river deer and east river deer your proposal will make you have to pick one or the other and you might not get both tages and I like the chance that you can draw a muzzleloader deer tag for late season with your proposal I will never get another tag because I won't put in for it first choice and there will never be left over tags for that

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Gregory Hubbard

Lake Andes SD

greghubbard77@gmail.com

Comment:

After considering your disseminated data AND attending your focus group session in Yankton - I've come to the conclusion you are manipulating the data to support the changes. I sincerely hope this is not intentional!! Two specific contributing factors concern me most.
1. Aggregating application and tag (success) data at the highest levels - e.g East River v. Zones distorts the analysis because of the extreme diversity of zones being combined.
2. Especially in the counties severely impacted by hemorrhagic fever you have adjusted tag levels. This reduction in tags seriously impacts success levels and IS NOT representative of more normal years. Making this "proposed" change now will have long term impacts. Again - it appears to me you are considering major long term changes to address a short term condition that could be best managed with adjusting tag levels down in zones with low herd levels.
One last comment - disguising this change by constantly saying it's to give more hunters their "preferred tag" is misleading at best. I sincerely hope commissioners solve this temporary situation (low herd levels in popular hunting zones) with short term adjustments v. making a significant long term change!
Thank- you for considering my comments.

Paul Dehaan

Custer SD

Comment:

Your proposed deer draw system is too complicated and should be scrapped. A much easier method is to fill the individuals with the most preference points first before you draw any lower point individuals. Example: Unit 1 has 100 deer licenses and has 25 individuals with 10 preference points – they all get a license. There are 50 individuals with 9 points – they all get a license. You allot the remaining 25 licenses to the individuals with 8 points. If you want to limit individuals to one deer license then scrap East River deer, West River deer, Black Hills deer, Muzzle loader deer, CSP deer and refuge deer designations. Just list it South Dakota Deer license. The individual would choose the one unit in the state they would apply for. You can keep 2nd & 3rd choices as well as multiple draws for units with left over tags. They could apply their current preference points from any one unit they have now. You need to consider that your preference point revenue will dip dramatically if you only allow individuals to apply for one deer tag statewide.

Mike Haugan

Pierre SD

Comment:

oppose

Lucas Schroeder

Sioux Falls SD

Schroeder3457@gmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Tyson Gau

Alexandria SD

tcgau09@ole.augie.edu

Comment:

oppose

Anthony Blake

Pierre SD

tblakeocw@gmail.com

Comment:

I am opposed to the changes. I understand not everyone gets their first choice, but that is why preference points are in use. I apply for an any deer every year first choice and whitetail as a second choice. I average getting my first choice West River every other year, but I understand that Muley numbers are down so my first choice is a limited draw. Changing the system will not change that and will only limit my ability to get an any deer tag on years I decided to apply for a more coveted tag, such as Hughes County or the Black Hills. I also think the Black Hills tags will be severely affected by this proposal as many guys I know look at these as just a bonus tag they get every 2 or 3 years. I think these guys will only try for these tags on a 3rd draw or as left overs.

Jason Stone

Chamberlain SD

stonej88@gmail.com

Comment:

Dear GF&P Commission, Please read my comments in full and I appreciate the consideration. I currently oppose the proposed changes to the deer license allocation process as currently presented, although I am definitely not against change. I feel that the current cubed system, if given the opportunity to adjust through a few years of drawings will closely reach the goal you are striving for, without having to completely revamp the entire process. I think it also must be noted that "preferred tag in a preferred unit" be amended to say "preferred buck tag in a preferred unit". However, if the commission is set on reworking this system, I think you may find more support with the following amendments:
1. Leave the Refuge, Statewide any deer Muzzleloader, and Black Hills Deer Seasons alone and continue to run these as separate drawings and still combine the ER/WR units into one drawing. The Refuge/Muzzleloader/BHD tags are coveted deer tags and a very unique and special opportunity that if included in the normal deer draw, will greatly reduce the number of applicants in each as the average deer hunter will not want to give up their normal "preferred" deer tag opportunity where they hunt east/west river to risk possibly drawing a refuge/muzzleloader/Black Hills tag, unless they are a landowner who is able to hunt on their own property via landowner tag in a West River/East River unit and isn't worried about the chance of not drawing a buck at all because they gambled trying to draw a Refuge/muzz/BHD within the current changes you propose. This would be a very unfortunate change for the State of South Dakota as this instance, would be a loss of a hunter for the state for that year, and possibly the loss of a youth hunter being exposed to deer hunting if the applicant was a father. I understand that Refuge/Statewide Muzzeloader/BHD IS the preferred tag for many hunters, however the cubing of the preference point system will still provide a fair opportunity for all in these units and not limit somebody an opportunity to draw a buck tag.
2. My second suggestion would be to limit all Non-Resident hunters to ONE deer tag per year, whether that be a bow or firearms tag. I would much rather see the Residents of our state with more opportunity rather than Non-Residents and based on many conversations and public forums, this seems to be a very common theme.

Based on all of the previous public comments, online forums, and Focus group conversations, it is likely that you would see much more support (or a lot less opposition) if these two amendments were considered. I appreciate all of the work the GF&P and you as a commission do for our great State. Good luck with your decision. Thank you,

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Kacy Ostwald

Baltic SD

Kacyostwald23@gmail.com

Comment:

I sat down with a large group of individuals to try and better understand the suggested changes. The general consensus is that the only real reason would be so that there are more out of state licenses available. I don't know of anyone who has trouble drawing tags other than the any deer tag in the Black hills which we know is hard to get and it should be. We also talked to several guide services that said they have tried for some time to get more non resident tags so they can bring in more pay hunters. I see there point but residents should not have to pick and choose our tags so it works for them. I truly believe that this change will make more people stop hunting and to my knowledge thats opposite of your intentions. Good luck in the outdoors . North Dakota isn't that far away.

Willie Werdel

Hurley SD

WILLIE@SIGNATURECOMPANIES LLC.COM

Comment:

You are limiting the hunting opportunities for the guys who love to hunt and are willing to put in the work to do the hunting. Yes they can still get 5 tags after 3rd draw but it will be no different than in the pass were the only thing left is unwanted/ mostly private land or paid hunting units. If you want to increase license #'s pool East river, West river and the Black Hills. Leave the hard to draw CSP, Refuge and Muzzleloader tags out of it. I think your statistics for increasing the CSP deer tag draw from 3% to 7% is a long shot and don't believe it to be possible.

Hayden Werdel

Hurley SD

WILLIE@SIGNATURECOMPANIES LLC.COM

Comment:

oppose

Bruce Keppen

Sioux Falls SD

bkeppen@hotmail.com

Comment:

It is the old, established hunter that bring our children, nieces, nephews, and friends into the field. The proposed change attacks us. We are the ones that apply for multiple seasons. This change may look good as a proposal, but will not work in the real world

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Trevor Davis

Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

I continue to have mixed emotions despite 3hrs and 15 minutes on the phone with GFP as well as over an hour on the phone with a couple other very sharp individuals who I greatly respect. One of my motivations for talking to these ppl is that there some things that we don't agree on which is in part why I value their opinion bc I want to understand it! My biggest issue is the principle of it all, whether any of the ppl I talked to yesterday agreed with that notion or not is irrelevant, but I still respect their opinion.
If my first statement doesn't pertain to you, please disregard as I intend no offense where it isn't due, but there are some that need to quit being stubborn and wake up.
**** Please continue reading as there are questions here that pertain to all of us aside from the few that only the first couple pertain to. These questions need to be asked to and answered by the GFP, as well. The questions that will be intriguing to those that dislike my first few questions come further down the line. Again, I'm not trying to piss anyone off, just asking questions that have important answers for which I don't have. I am posing these questions to you all to ask yourselves and come up with your own answers. More importantly, I still think GFP needs to answer all of them.
****This proposal does nothing to make ppl accountable for their own role in their lack of draw success. We're rewarding those that can't be bothered to even spend 5 extra minutes looking into anything to increase their

odds or even buy a $5 preference point which is the #1 driving factor in whether or not you get a tag. ******The most important detail here is that they have made it very clear that they ARE NOT interested in anything leftover after the 1st draw. I'll come back around to why this is so important later!********

At the end of the day, this proposal doesn't add any tags to the areas that people aren't drawing tags. The multi tag guys aren't hunting the ER units where ppl complain bc they want to hunt and will travel to do it. Therefore, the ppl you're taking tags away from isn't contributing much to the complainers, except in the hills. Where I have it on good information is where most of the loudest whiners reside. All goes back to this absurd notion I keep running into that goes something like this :
" I live out here (***but own no land***) so I should get to hunt it more than people that don't live here. You city slickers should be grateful that you get to come out here at all. Blah, blah, blah. Me, me, me, I, I, I." I may be one of the last of a dying breed, but the notion of rewarding ppl not for complaining, which really isn't happening here and is more so just an extravagant gesture that's sold as help but is really just a pacifier to sooth the _____s (fill in the blank) I still see the ER complainers(not meant to be derogatory here)ending up as dissatisfied as they were before if not worse, since I see many getting their expectations up far higher than they should, which GFP has also warned about.

******You have to think about the ppl that are hunting multiple seasons.... what are those guys doing and where are they going? If the answer isn't the unit that you hunt OR your unit would still be their 1st choice, then this proposal wont do much of anything for you. Period.

The complaints GFP are getting are not about deer hunting as a whole or the draw system as a whole. They're complaining about their own circumstances, not those of others. They're upset about the unit THEY hunt. Seems logical. That's fine bc that's what their experience is based off of so that's what they know. Totally fine. Buuuuut, with that being said, would it not also be true that IF the multi season folks are not hunting those units bc they'd rather hunt than wait to hunt, which I strongly believe is the case, that they are not effecting the ER folks that aren't getting their tags, or at least not to the extent that they are believed to be impacting those who are not getting their tags? How many tags are the multi season guys actually getting? Not more than we have time for as 99% of us are just avid hunters, not tag hoarders. Tags we don't have time to try to fill do us no good. We couldn't get more tags than we have time to try to fill without picking them up in late draws where those complaining have already shown that they're not interested in looking for tags anyway!

IF that theory holds true, aside from taking care of some of the BH complaints bc this proposal only "helps" ppl in the first draw and if your preferred tag is high demand you're still shit out of luck, then the only thing this change will do no matter what is push more tags back to further draws where most of those complaining have already proven that they are not interested in looking into for tags in alternative units. Read it twice, if need be… its sound logic. So, is this proposal more geared at the hills residents that I'm told are the largest source of the loudest complaints? Not all of them obviously bc in my opinion some of the greatest individuals this state has to offer call the BH home! If so, how much will it really help them? Don't get me wrong, I totally get it. I have nothing against them and totally understand that it would be difficult to see 100 deer a day and not get to kill as many as you'd like! How many complaints from BH stem from putting in for Any deer instead of Any Whitetail? Not trying to single anyone out. Just trying to look at this from all sides of the lantern and try to look at it as objectively as possible. Aside of my disdain for whining, of course ?? "Complaining without offering a thoughtful solution, is whining by definition."

In closing, how many ppl will be satisfied with the REAL results as opposed to the perceived results??? Being that I believe it will go through whether we like it or not, I truly hope that it will satisfy the ones that brought this about. But, what if it doesn't? ?? Then what? ?? How many will still be dissatisfied???? I'd be willing to bet that the number of ppl still dissatisfied will be more than you think and the complaints will continue. In addition to that, now the public reeeeaaaaally doesn't trust the state bc they feel ignored, furthering the notion of a hidden agenda regardless of whether or not there is or ever even was another less public agenda.

Last thought: IF ppl continue to not show interest in later draws and, as the GFP admitted, pushes more tags to later draws and the multi season guys only scoop up as many tags as they have time to hunt to fill, where do the rest go? Is it more tags for NR regardless of how far they push them back in the pecking order? OR Is it not more tags fir NR but just "better" tags for NR? I don't know. The more I think about it, the second makes more sense. But I'll admit, this is speculation. Honest speculation, nonetheless. What I do know is that if I was a NR hunter, I certainly wouldn't shell out a bunch of money, time, and gas to shoot a doe! These are real questions we all need to ask ourselves.

This probably needs more editing to make the flow easier to follow, but my brain is mush bc I'm an idiot and

typed all of this on my phone instead of being smart and using a computer or at least talk to text! ??

Tom Mathiesen

Hudson SD

mlc@valyousat.net

Comment:

who are you trying to please? a good start would be to limit number of tags per household. many get multiple youth and mentor tags and not utilize the meat. I am lucky to get a tag every other year for either east river or Black Hills. you have succeeded in breaking up family hunts. that's a shame

---

Jeremy Forrest

Worthing SD

jeremyforrest@hotmail.com

Comment:

Leave it alone no reason to chang something that works

Thomas Larson

Parker SD

tjs651@hotmail.com

Comment:

Needs to stay the way it is.

Brian Atwood

Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

oppose

Steve Gray

Fort Pierre SD

stevegray2475@yahoo.com

Comment:

oppose

Bruce Lowe

Long Lake SD

twogunbruce@gmail.com

Comment:

I would like to know why, after three emails to you, when I have offered to explain how a new, revolutionary idea for a change to your current draw system does not deserve a response. Are you all so arrogant that if an idea did not originate in your bureaucracy, it's not worthy of consideration? Why not at least listen, and then make your decision? As a hunter, I have experienced how wonderful the system works, and found it to be the most fair to participants in all of the many States that I have hunted. None can even remotely compare.

Amber Larson

Parker SD

runt_100@hotmail.com

Comment:

oppose

Elizabeth Atwood

Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

oppose

Jeff Monroe

Pierre SD

dckter@yahoo.com

Comment:

oppose

Thomas Frankenstein

Tea SD

Tfstein07@yahoo.com

Comment:

This is not fair to tax paying outdoorsman. Most multiple tags that are purchased are not filled anyway.

Matt Bones

Parker SD

mjbones2007@yahoo.com

Comment:

The draw system for deer should be left alone! The system works great as you can get a tag every year if you want to, might not be the exact spot you would like to go but you can hunt every year!!! Leave it alone!

Clarence Bowman

Fairburn SD

Comment:

I believe it should be changed to only 1 first choice. It take some of the locals in Fall River, and Custer County way to long to draw a tag.

Caleb Gilkerson

Pierre SD

caleb@steamboatgf.com

Comment:

My company processes anywhere from 400 to 1500 deer a season and believe this would not only affect business negatively but also many hunters and hunters families. Please continue to use the current system that works extremely well. Dont fix it when its not broke

---

Clifton Stone

Chamberlain SD

cc_stonesd@hotmail.com

Comment:

Currently opposed, I think you need to give the new cubed preference point system the chance (3 to 4 years) to see if it will solve much of the allocation issue.

Ted Williams

Fairburn SD

Comment:

You should have only one first choice. Takes the locales way to long to draw a tag in west river and the black hills.

Benjamin Bowman

Fairburn SD

Comment:

You should have only 1 first choice not 6.

Andrew Van Zee

Brookings SD

Andyvanzee@hotmail.com

Comment:

I don't like the new ideas for the deer licensing. The GFP has done an excellent job in recent years with deer management and would like to keep it the way it is

---

Halle Kuck

Aberdeen SD

Smkuck@abe.midco.net

Comment:

Please leave the deer license system the way it has always been. It does not need to be fixed. It is not broken!

Hannah Kuck

Aberdeen SD

Smkuck@abe.midco.net

Comment:

I would ask that you not change the deer tag drawing system. I think this is a horrible idea.

Rusty Schmidt

Rapid City SD

Rrschmidt777@gmail.com

Comment:

Why not just increase tags for all units but have a 4x4 minimum requirment, and have all does submitted and when enough does get shot the doe season stops, like mountain lion hunting is done,and you can only shoot one or the other, so those whom want meat can shoot there doe and those whom want to hunt for horns have to find a a4 x4 or better this will give gfp more revenue and keep deer harvest to a minimum, I like the old way, I know I can apply for several tags and usually always get one, most years two especially if I have to go for a second draw, I like the idea that I have a chance to rifle hunt and muzzleload hunt, if you change it it looks like odd are you never get to do both,

David Braun

Pierre SD

trackertarga2002@yahoo.com

Comment:

I am an avid hunter and have strong feelings of disagreement with this proposal. Our current system has been in place for years and serves sportsman well. I apply for different licenses each year and sometimes draw and sometimes not...but the current system does work and hunters are comfortable with it..DO NOT CHANGE WHAT IS NOT BROKEN AND LISTEN TO THOSE WHO HUNT. Thank you DB

Kevin Holter

Estelline SD

kevinholter62@gmail.com

Comment:

Limit first draw deer application. It states it will not limit the number of tag that I can get. This is not true. I can not apply for a West river and East river the same year. The system is not broke so don't try to fix it. All the hunters I talk

---

Justin Smith

De Smet SD

justinsmith_99@hotmail.com

Comment:

Please do not make these changes! you have made the draw stats very user friendly and the preference point system is also very easy to understand. if people aren't drawing tags because they aren't using this info is no reason to punish the rest of us. This isn't just a hobby for me it's a way of life please don't change it!

Waylon Torticill

Stickney SD

waytort@gmail.com

Comment:

support

Paul Knecht

Pierre SD

knecht4@pie.midco.net

Comment:

I support the proposal, but it would make sense to leave the muzzleloader and refuge draw separate.

Julie Schommer

Oelrichs SD

jschommer708@gmail.com

Comment:

Chances of drawing are hard, this would make it more likely to draw

---

Marty Schommer

Oelrichs SD

Martys1148@hotmail.com

Comment:

Me and my kids hunt in fall river county I learned to hunt from my family as a tradition. my family homesteaded in this area, and I have lived here my whole life and now can't get a deer license because so many east river people applied I think this would be great to help us locals keep hunting. My family is a hunting family and will always be but tired of seeing people with three tags and I can't get one in my home town Option 2 would make a difference

---

Donald Johnson

Lennox SD

drjohnson@smithfield.com

Comment:

oppose

Brian Kringstad

Sioux Falls SD

ponyk@yahoo.com

Comment:

First of all I do not believe 47% of the population is actually in favor of this. That number seems a little high. I have yet to speak to anyone who is in favor of this. Even if that number is correct why would you push through a change that is not supported by at least 50% of the population? This whole change absolutely reeks of politics.
Hunting is becoming difficult enough with out big $. We don't need our own commission making it even harder.

Doug George

Mitchell SD

doug.george@highpointnetworks.com

Comment:

I think the changes are a terrible idea for the residents of South Dakota. It has worked well for so many years. We look forward to the time we send together as a family deer hunting. I think the changes are more geared to pay per hunt for people to make money and ruin it for the "average" hunter whom cannot afford the license and to pay a business for the privilege to shoot a deer.

Pierce Smith

Alexandria SD

pierce.smith65@yahoo.com

Comment:

I strongly OPPOSE the proposal for the new deer drawing structure.

Randy Carlson

Lake City SD

rlc.mcsportsman@gmail.com

Comment:

I strongly oppose the deer license allocation proposal and have not found any other deer hunter that supports this proposal. The current allocation system provides maximum opportunity for the average deer hunter and should be left as-is.

Michael Durick

Fort Pierre SD

Durickm@msn.com

Comment:

I feel the current system works good for the majority. Last year I applied for both east and west river but didn't get either. That's ok because that's the system.
I oppose the changes being proposed. Thanks Mike durick

Garrett Knock

Davis SD

gk3056@k12.sd.us

Comment:

support

Gary Lacompte

Tyndall SD

Kholasapa@gmail.com

Comment:

Leave the application process for big game hunting with the current application process. If you do get more applications for a certain unit, where will they hunt? Is this change being proposed so the large hunting lodges and guide services can attract more big money? The "normal" SD hunter will still have a terrible time finding an area to hunt big game species in the state of SD.

Jaime Peralez-Segura

Brookings SD

Jperalez_segura@yahoo.com

Comment:

I oppose this proposal because it does not afford mope the ability to hunt multiple large game animals. I use these hunts to provide for my family and friends who cannot afford to hunt themselves. This would present an undue burdensome regulation to hunting in different sections of the state. The system is not broken, so there is no need to place supposed fix to minority amount of complainers.

Dean Ritter

Harrold SD

Ritter8275@yahoo.com

Comment:

I don’t think nonresidents should be able to apply in the first draw.

Richard Waldera

Alexandria SD

rjw@triotel.net

Comment:

This is by far the most stupid plan the GFP has come up with in recent years.

Jim Meyer

Rapid City SD

Jimmym03@yahoo.com

Comment:

Hard enough to draw a tag for the unit of my choice. Maybe this will eliminate someone drawing consecutive years when I’m waiting 3+years to successfully in the BHD and WRD license

Mark Buchholz

Watertown SD

Mark.e.buchholz@gmail.com

Comment:

Please leave the deer license allocations as they presently are. I strongly oppose the proposed changes.

Indian Springs Boating Restrictions

Jim Gruber

Estelline SD

jgruber148@yahoo.com

Comment:

look, this is a can of worms the state legislature created... throw it back at them... why not offer a fishing /hunting lic. that charges a fee to fish or hunt meandering or non meandering. the sportsman can choose to buy the stamp or fee.. and then distribute the funds amongst the land owners affected by water flooding.. lower their tax base to zero.. i think we are the only state with such a goofy law. you let this go through and it opens the can for all lakes affected.....

Casey Flatten

Clark SD

cflatten@hotmail.com

Comment:

Our local GF&P Kyle this spring told us this is still a meandered lake and probably always will. The Bunning family has been doing everything in their power to separate Antelope and Indian Springs. They built a road in the deepest channel between the lakes. Threatened that they will have GF&P continue to milk walleye eggs from this lake, something they said they could stop it if the Black Claw Bait and Tavern cooperated with their demands. It makes me sick that a family from Chicago gets more support than a local family thats lived in this area for years. We are all wondering how this lake has changed from meandered to non meandered so quickly with no official proof how or why. Federal and state laws state that this should be a meandered lake according to their regulations. I completely oppose this!

Gavin Flatten

Clark SD

Whitehawkx29@hotmail.com

Comment:

I feel like we should all be able to fish the lake it is open water and there is access and it is not surrounded by one owner

Tom Wight

Watertown SD

Comment:

When’s this going to stop? One by one you restrict more bodies of water. Whomever is allowing this to happen, isn’t good for SD. You should be finding more ways to increase available fisheries to all. We’re all very disappointed with where things are going. The resident from out of state that lives on Indian Springs doesn’t own the lake. No matter how much money they’re throwing at this all.