



AGENDA *Revised*

Game, Fish and Parks Commission

December 6-7, 2018
Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center
920 W Sioux Ave, Pierre, SD
Livestream link <http://www.sd.net/home/>

Call to order 1:00 PM

Division of Administration

Action Items:

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approve Minutes of the November 2018 Meeting
<https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
4. Code of Conduct

Information Items:

5. Non-meandered Waters
6. Ag Forum
7. Resident Nonresident Discussion
8. Strategic Plan Update
9. Communications Staff Overview
10. Deer License Allocation

Open Forum

Division of Wildlife

Action Items:

11. Transfer of Schurman Property from Parks and Wildlife Foundation
12. Bighorn Sheep Auction License

Information Items:

13. Missouri River Refuge Review Update
14. Statewide Fisheries Plan Revision
15. AIS Surface Water User Summit
16. Black-footed Ferret Update
17. Environmental Review Program Update
18. Walk-In Area Program Review
19. River Otter Update
20. License Sales Update

Division of Parks and Recreation

Action Items:

21. Lewis and Clark Resort Concession Lease
22. Roy Lake Resort Prospectus
23. Palisades State Park Land Transfer

Information Items:

24. Volunteer Program Overview
25. CSP Resort Repair and Maintenance Update
26. CSP Buffalo Auction Results
27. Revenue, Camping and Visitation Report
28. Spring Creek Prospectus – Action Item

Solicitation of Agenda Items from Commissioners

Adjourn

Next meeting information:

January 10-11, 2018

RedRossa Convention Center

808 W Sioux Ave, Pierre, SD

GFP Commission Meeting Archives <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/4/>

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
November 1-2, 2018

Vice Chairman Gary Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. CT at Good Earth State Park in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Cathy Petersen, Scott Phillips, Russell Olson and Douglas Sharp and approximately 40 public, staff, and media were present.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Vice chairman G Jensen called for conflicts of interest to be disclosed. None were presented.

Approval of Minutes

G. Jensen called for any additions or corrections to the October 4-5, 2018 minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Olson with second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4-5, 2018 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Commissioner Peterson requested one additional salary day for participating in the turkey management workgroup, Phillips requested one additional salary day for the participating in the GPA Habitat Tour and Locken requested on additional salary day for participating in the CWD workgroup.

Motion by Boyd with second by Olson TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS AS REQUESTED. Motion carried unanimously.

License List Request

Chris Petersen, administration division director, presented a license list requests to the Commission from Christine Hamilton on behalf of the South Dakota Habitat Conservation Foundation, Pierre, SD for a full fee license list request for 2018 small game license holders. It was noted this request is for one-time to distribute informational materials regarding the mission of the Foundation.

Motioned by Boyd, second by Olson TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST. Motion carried unanimously.

Sioux Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau

Jackie Wentworth, sales manager with Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau, welcomed the Commission to Sioux Falls and thanked them for their work on the Commission. Wentworth explained the visitor/tourism industry would not be what it is without Game fish and Parks. She said the local parks are gems to showcase to visitors. Wentworth thanked Jim, Jen and the rest of the staff at Good Earth State Park for being so helpful and accommodating.

Code of Conduct

Chris Petersen presented a draft code of conduct and conflict of interest policy for use by all state boards and commissions. He explained the executive branch of state government has been working through this document and are now looking for boards and commissions to adopt or adopt with modifications. Petersen said the document establishes a set of minimum ethical principles and provides general guidance on, contractual consideration, such as conflicts of interest which that Commission currently addresses at each meeting. He noted the document also addresses consequences for violations of conflict of interest law, retaliation for reporting and anti-harassment/discrimination policy. He asked the Commission review the document, provided any recommended modifications and vote to adopt at next meeting.

Jon Kotilnek, senior staff attorney, noted the policy articulates the three areas the commission deals with on a daily basis pertaining to administrative actions such as additional salary days, quasi-judicial actions such as contested case hearings and quasi-legislative actions such as the rule making authority.

Non-meandered Waters

Kevin Robling, special projects coordinator, provided an update on non-meandered waters stating 3,795 acres have been marked closed to public recreational use. This is less than 2 percent of the publicly-accessible nonmeandered water acres across the state and down from the peak of over 5,000 nonmeandered water acres closed in March 2018. An access agreement was signed that offers year-round free public access on Indian Springs in Clark County. The department's goal is to continue providing recreational opportunities for families and outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy South Dakota's great outdoor resources, while also addressing concerns of landowners who own the land under the water. The "Recreation and Respect" campaign and the "Adopt-a-Lake" program have been front and center. With ice fishing season around the corner the department has been strongly encouraging recreational users to "leave no trace" and pick up all garbage.

Wildlife and Nature Forum

Robling provided information on the Wildlife and Nature Forum that was held in Pierre on October 11th. Forty six groups/organizations were invited and 8 attended. Even though attendance was light, the department received several comments thanking GFP for providing this opportunity for input. The main discussion topics were public land access and management, outdoor recreational opportunities, funding sustainable wildlife habitat, balancing landowner rights and resolving land use conflicts and lastly creating a collective unified voice.

Resident Nonresident Discussion

Scott Simpson, wildlife administration chief, provided an update on the resident/nonresident opportunity allocation discussion. Staff have been working with Commissioner G. Jensen to identify individuals to participate in a workgroup on this topic as well as a charter outlining the goals and responsibilities of the workgroup. Simpson advised that 13 individuals, some representing interested groups, had been invited to participate and that all had accepted. Simpson also provided a copy of the charter drafted by staff in cooperation with Commissioner G. Jensen. Barring any edits by the commission, Simpson will distribute the charter to the workgroup and finalize meeting dates for early December.

G. Jensen noted there will be a workgroup but public input will not be limited. The Commission wants people to submit their comments and ideas to be reviewed by the workgroup. He explained criteria will be established through a meaningful and thoughtful discussion.

Sharp said it is important to have discussion on this. There is not a commissioner that doesn't hear concerns about these issues. He noted this is an advisory board not a popular vote tally for broad based discussion with all comments being considered and taken into account. He is looking forward to future discussions and thanked Jensen for his work thus far and for pushing the matter forward.

Future Commission Discussion on Public Input

Secretary Kelly Hepler explained there has been lots of a discussion in regards to public involvement. He said some members of the public choose to engage while others do not and some feel we should take action via the popular vote. He explained how public concern is difficult for staff when their job is to what is best for the majority of the people. He explained there are often multiple views with no right or wrong. Hepler recommend sitting down with key staff to further discuss these issues.

Jensen said we are fortunate that we have subject matter experts within the department and he would like to meet with them to further explain different ways to obtain public input, how different input should be weighted. Now that the Commission has had several issues with a large volume of public input to draw experience from need to further discuss what does it mean and how do we use it.

Sharp said there is opportunity for input, but people forget there are two sides to every issue and various things are taken into consideration to make things better. There will be varying degrees on how to determine which decisions are the right decisions. Input is needed along with their reasoning, not just that they don't like it. People need to read information on the issues and ask questions prior to making their decision. Then their responses should be if you are going to do this I recommend this as a possible better way to do it which is better than just don't do that because I don't like it.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 2:00 p.m. and concluded at 2:57 p.m. The minutes follow these Commission meeting minutes.

FINALIZATIONS

Park Fees

Katie Ceroll, parks and recreation division director, presented the recommended creation of rule to establish a fee for use of modern cabins and the Good Earth State Park amphitheater with no recommended changes from proposal. She explained that currently, state park campgrounds offer campsites, camping cabins and group lodges as overnight lodging options. A demand has been expressed for a cabin option having modern amenities (heat/AC, bathroom & kitchen) designed primarily for a family. The proposed fee is \$150 per night. Ceroll noted they are currently expanding a popular group lodge at Shadehill Recreation Area by adding another bedroom and a 2nd bathroom. The added capacity warrants a fee increase. An outdoor amphitheater was constructed at Good Earth State Park this summer. The amphitheater has seating for 150 individuals with capacity

for up to 500 on the ground. A special event fee needs to be established for public use of the facility.

1. A definition is needed in administrative rule to define a new service offering and to establish a fee - "Modern cabin – a structure provided by the department furnished with beds, electricity, sewer and water."
2. Establish a per night fee of \$150 for a modern cabin.
3. Change the per night fee for the lodge at Shadehill Recreation Area from \$205 to \$280.
4. Establish fees for use of the Good Earth State Park amphitheater of \$300 for 4 hours and \$600 for all day (6:00 a.m. to 11 p.m. from May 1 to September 30, and 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. from October 1 to April 30).

Motioned by Sharp, second by Boyd TO FINALIZE THE CREATION OF A RULE TO DEFINE AND ESTABLISH A FEE FOR USE OF MODERN CABINS AND THE GOOD EARTH STATE PARK AMPHITHEATER 41:03:04. Motion carried unanimously.

Spring Turkey Hunting Seasons (Black Hills, Prairie, Archery and CSP)

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife deputy director, presented the recommended changes to the 2019 and 2020 spring wild turkey hunting season. He noted the recommended change from proposal to clarify that removing the allowance of rifles to hunt turkeys during the spring turkey season applies to rimfire, centerfire and muzzleloading rifles.

1. Offer residents 55 more one-tag "male turkey" licenses and 150 less two-tag "male turkey" licenses for the Prairie Units than 2018 for an overall decrease of 245 tags. Offer nonresidents 2 more one-tag "male turkey" licenses and 12 less two-tag "male turkey" licenses for the Prairie Units than 2018 for an overall decrease of 78 tags.
2. Modify the season end date for all turkey seasons from the eighth day prior to Memorial Day weekend to May 31.
3. Adjust hunting season end date for Sica Hollow in unit 48A to end on May 31.
4. Remove the allowance of rifles to hunt turkeys during spring turkey season.

Jensen asked Kirschenmann to describe changes for the hunting practices for this proposal.

Kirschenmann explained full body size decoys that are being used now or how people are fanning by having a turkey tail on the end of their firearm and people being in close proximity of the birds is causing concern for people being mistaken as a real life bird especially with distance shot taken with a rifle.

Philips asked if the changes are biological or just about safety issues which could possibly be viewed differently in different locations of the state.

Kirschenmann responded it is a safety concern explaining eastern units are more restricted and confined, western are typically private land and the Black Hills units are private and public land. In efforts to be consistent with restriction it was proposed statewide, but could certainly have discussions for different landscapes.

Hepler said safety concerns are higher on prairie. He said this has been discussed in other states and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) has discussed the issue on a national level. Some decoys are really that good and while we want to offer opportunity safety should come first in these situation. If we do not address it today we would need to if/when someone gets hurt.

Jensen inquired what the resident nonresident allocation of the licenses.

Kirschenmann said it is 8 percent and calculated the same way as nonresident licenses for deer and antelope.

Jensen asked if this would be part of the discussion for fair criteria for resident nonresident discussions.

Locken said turkey hunting is a game of skill to bring the bird in not just shooting ability.

Kirschenmann said spring turkey is the most sought after season. There is a thrill in the challenge to bring the birds in while others prefer a rifle. He said it depends on the individual hunter and their perspective.

Phillips said as a private landowner in western South Dakota he prefers to shoot a turkey with a rifle and asked if there is a way to do this by making an exception for private west river landowner.

Kirschenmann responded any of those details is a possibility in the scope of this proposal and fall within the authority of the commission. He would not recommend making a change at finalization today as that would be a significant change would want to request additional public comment.

Motion by Olson, second by Sharp TO AMEND CLARIFYING REMOVING ALLOWANCE OF RIFLES TO HUNT SPRING TURKEY APPLIES TO RIMFIRE, CENTERFIRE AND MUZZLELOADING RIFLES. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Phillips TO AMEND THE SPRING TURKEY HUNTING SEASON ALLOWING THE USE OF RIFLES IN WEST RIVER PRAIRIE UNITS.

Peterson questioned the practicality of implementation of rifle units for specific units.

Kirschenmann said an amendment to retain use of rifle for west river prairie units in regards to public notice standpoint would be allowable, but consistency is typically better, but can implement as such if the commission so chooses.

Kotilnek confirmed the public notice Kirschenmann referenced is broad enough to cover the amendment.

Phillips said if it is considered impractical he withdraws the motion.

Motion by Olson, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Kirschenmann presented the recommended change in administrative action to allocate spring turkey hunting licenses by unit.

Motioned by Peterson, second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ALLOCATING SPRING TURKEY LICENSES. (Appendix A). Motion carried unanimously.

Waterfowl Hunting Seasons

Chad Switzer, wildlife administrator, presented the recommended change to the duck hunting season to decrease the pintail daily bag limit from 2 to 1 with no changes from proposal. He noted the federal framework is taken into consideration when making these recommendations.

Motion by Phillips, second by Olson TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO REDUCE THE PINTAIL DAILY BAG LIMIT TO 1 FOR THE DUCK HUNTING SEASON 41:06:16. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the recommended change to the goose hunting season to modify the white-fronted goose season from 86 days (2 bird daily limit) to 74 days (3 bird daily limit) with no changes from proposal.

Motion by Boyd, second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO MODIFY THE GOOSE HUNTING SEASON TO BE 74 DAYS 41:06:16. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the recommended change to the sandhill crane hunting season to modify the open unit from that portion of the state lying west of U.S. Highway 281 to that portion of the state lying west of a line beginning at the South Dakota-North Dakota border and State Highway 25, south on State Highway 25 to its junction with State Highway 34, east on State Highway 34 to its junction with U.S. Highway 81, then south on U.S. Highway 81 to the South Dakota-Nebraska border.

Motion by Peterson, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO THE SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING SEASON 41:06:18. Motion carried unanimously.

Spring Light Goose Conservation Order

Switzer presented the recommended change to the spring light goose conservation order season dates to be from "79 days beginning the day after the Unit 2 dark goose season" to "the day after the Unit 2 dark goose season to May 15" with no recommended changes from proposal.

Motion by Phillips, second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO THE SPRING LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER. Motion carried unanimously.

Black Hills Elk Raffle

Kirschenmann presented the finalization for the Black Hills Elk Raffle License. He explained a petition was submitted to the GFP Commission requesting another elk license be made available for a raffle for one wildlife conservation organization per year to be used to generate funds for wildlife management. The petition requested the license be made available in any unit where an "any" elk license is allocated within the Black Hills elk hunting season, but not to include Custer State Park. Kirschenmann noted recommended

changes from the proposal to make it clear the raffle license would only be valid in hunting units within the Black Hills elk hunting season where "any" elk licenses are allocated and funds raised are to be held within an account that can specifically identify and track the revenues and expenditures of the raffle to assure funds generated are spent on wildlife management activities enhancing SD natural resources. He also presented proposed rules to include:

1. Establish an Elk Raffle License in the Black Hills Elk Hunting Season to be valid in any unit where an Any Elk license is allocated.
2. Elk Raffle License would not be valid in Custer State Park.
3. Raffle license only available to qualifying residents.
4. Raffle license would be available to any 501(c)3 non-profit conservation organization dedicated to wildlife management.
5. Make it clear the raffle license would only be valid in hunting units within the Black Hills elk hunting season where "any" elk licenses are allocated.
6. Funds raised are to be held within an account that can specifically identify and track the revenues and expenditures of the raffle to assure funds generated are spent on wildlife management activities enhancing SD natural resources.

And noted the specific rules developed for this raffle license follow the same format as the rules currently in place for the Custer State Park elk raffle license found in 41:06:27.

Sharp noted he received a lot of communication on this issue. It can generate a lot of interest and income, but has trouble getting to a support level at the current time. We do not want to diminish what the applicants and our other conservation partners do, but wants to analyze what this can do to us or will it cause another conservation group come to us with another request. Sharp stated he is not at a support level yet.

Phillips asked if the current one that goes to RMEF is it specifically for them.

Kirschenmann responded it is not designated for a specific entity. There is a need to apply for license and there are requirements, but is open to others. We do not have the ability to specify one entity to receive any raffle tags.

Olson said a month ago when we began this conversation we had reservations about passing without minimum, and Olympic averages. How do we establish criteria without putting it in the rules?

Kirschenmann responded existing administrative rule for the existing raffle license there is not a minimum or average that needs to be reached. This item could be addressed through the agreement made with the entity awarded the opportunity to raffle the elk license by including criteria and performance standards if necessary.

Motioned by Olson TO FINALIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BLACK HILLS ELK RAFFLE LICENSE. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion by Phillips second by Sharp TO REJECT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BLACK HILLS ELK RAFFLE LICENSE. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Vice Chairman G. Jensen opened the floor for discussion from those in attendance on matters of importance to them that may not be on the agenda.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Monarch Management Plan Adoption

Kirschenmann presented the monarch management plan for adoption by the Commission. He explained for the last year or so the department has been working with multiple partners to compile a state Monarch Butterfly and pollinator plan. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has established November 16 as the deadline for submitting and providing important information that will be used in their listing decision to occur next spring. Kirschenmann noted the importance of the plan; not only does it provide guidance within SD, but will also be considered in a larger effort through the MidAmerican Monarch Butterfly Initiative spearheaded by the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO ADOPT THE MONARCH MANAGEMENT PLAN. Motion carried unanimously.

Law Enforcement Annual Report Overview and Body Camera Update

Andy Alban, wildlife law enforcement administrator, provided an overview of the 2017 law enforcement annual report noting highlights of the 2017 calendar year and violation statistics for 2017. Alban also mentioned 2018 was the 125th anniversary of wildlife law enforcement in South Dakota and presented the Commission with a couple items commemorating this.

Brandon Gust, wildlife law enforcement training officer, presented an update on the use of body camera by GFP law enforcement. He noted the reasons why cameras are utilized and spoke to initial observations/findings after implementing the body camera program and showed some footage of our officers in action.

Chronic Wasting Disease Workgroup Update

Switzer presented an update to the Commission on the chronic wasting disease workgroup. He provided the list of accomplishments today including: three internal meetings, meeting with the animal industry board, compiling a list of frequently asked questions, attending the CWD symposium, drafting the outreach and communications sections of the action plan, developing an interactive map of landfills accepting carcasses and confirmed samples, communicating with other state wildlife biologists and veterinarians, reviewing other state CWD plans, discussing assistance on communication and outreach with SD Public Health, compiled list of game processors that are permitted by USDA and AIB, drafted annotated bibliography of human dimensions of CWD research, and provided training on sample collection to tribal staff. He provided information on the composition of the stakeholder workgroup and explained how they will work directly with the public and stakeholders throughout the process to ensure issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.

Resident Canada Goose Management Plan Update

Rocco Murano, senior waterfowl biologist, gave a short presentation highlighting activities and accomplishments associated with the 2016 Giant Canada Goose Management Plan. He first explained some history and timeline of past and current management plan updates, public involvement, and stakeholder group. Next he went over the management plans overarching goal: GFP will manage giant Canada goose populations breeding in South Dakota for maximum recreational opportunity consistent

with the welfare of the population, habitat constraints, and social tolerance. Murano then went over three objectives for Canada goose management associated with population levels, hunting opportunity, and Canada goose conflict management. He outlined past and current population levels, population objectives, and harvest and hunter numbers. In addition, Murano explained the operational Canada goose banding program and how that relates to the management plan. To wrap up the update Murano went over past and current levels of Canada goose landowner complaints and how that relates to population and department expenditures.

Turkey Management Plan

Chad Switzer, presented information on the turkey management plan specifically current unit objectives, strategies, and plan implementation. Harvest data going back to 2002 was provided for each unit and spoke to current harvest success rates and explained how they are used in future harvest strategies.

Sharp asked what would be considered proper habitat in eastern South Dakota that would need to be increased.

Switzer responded woody habitat is needed and without it population growth is difficult,

Olson spoke in regards to work with local chapter of SDWTF to catch and release seven toms last year and asked how this will assist in population efforts.

Switzer said the department is working with Iowa DENR to bring in females.

Aquatics Data Management System Overview

Geno Adams, fisheries administrator and Chelsea Krause, GIS division staff specialist, provided the Commission an overview of the aquatics data management system that began more than 5 years ago with staff working to standardize aquatics data. Historically, individual fisheries offices around the state had stored, analyzed and dispersed data utilizing varying methods. Analysis tools being utilized are no longer compatible with current operating systems used by the State of South Dakota. The GIS company, ESRI out of California was contracted to create a new data management system to help provide better information in a more timely manner to all interested parties.

Work on the data management system is nearing completion. A new report viewer is currently being populated with standardized reports created at the click of a button. Both internal and external publics will be able to search for information in this report viewer or within a GIS map. After all of the bugs are worked out of the new system, much more fisheries information will be at anglers fingertips each year. And, as we found out during phases of this project when fisheries information was not available, it is highly sought after by many anglers!

South Dakota Mussel Conference Info Item

John Lott, fisheries chief, provided information on the one-day conference on December 13th in Yankton on mitigating impacts of invasive zebra and quagga mussels being hosted by GFP. He explained the most direct impact of zebra and quagga mussels is on infrastructure that pumps surface water, as mussels easily clog pumps and pipes. The cost of mitigating impacts of mussels can be in the millions of dollars for some surface

water users. Many states and provinces have been dealing with impacts of zebra mussels, and their cousins, the quagga mussel, for decades. This conference will provide attendees with information on potential mussel impacts to surface water systems and methods that have been used to address these impacts, some of which have been successful and others unsuccessful.

While the agenda is still being finalized, the following presentations have been confirmed:

1. Mussel biology, research, and raw water operational solutions
2. Zebra mussel impacts at Gavins Point Dam
3. Zebra mussel treatment efforts at Cunningham and Zorinsky Lakes in Nebraska
4. Impacts of mussels on power production in western states
5. Mussel impacts on the Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station in Kansas
6. Mussel impacts on municipal water systems in South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska
7. Mitigating impacts of mussels for irrigators
8. A variety of other presentations on mussel impacts and mitigation

One of the objectives of the conference is to broaden the support base for AIS management efforts in South Dakota to surface water users, in addition to anglers and boaters. Commissioners will receive an invitation within the next week for the conference and were encouraged to attend.

James River Catfish Project Overview

BJ Schall, fisheries biologist, provided a presentation on the James River Catfish Project. He explained a group of anglers has long been concerned about the potential over-harvest of trophy catfish, especially Flathead Catfish, on the James and Big Sioux Rivers and has inquired about more restrictive regulations. However, catfish in the lower James River have not been formally studied since 2000. Up to date information on catfish population dynamics (e.g. growth, age structure, total annual mortality, and recruitment) was needed to model the effects of various regulations on these riverine catfish populations.

In May, fisheries staff from the Southeast Fisheries Management Area (SEFMA) started electrofishing and setting trotlines to catch Flathead Catfish and baited hoop nets to catch Channel Catfish on the lower James River from Olivet down to where it enters the Missouri River. We have also collected information from fish caught during catfish tournaments in 2017 and 2018. We sampled until early September and collected a total of 1,148 Flathead Catfish and 852 Channel Catfish. Pectoral spines were removed from about 400 fish of each species to determine fish age. We are currently processing and aging these spines, which will provide valuable information on growth rates, age structure, and mortality. We also tagged 388 Channel Catfish and 567 Flathead Catfish to evaluate angler harvest, estimate abundance, and assess movement. A total of 13 tags have been reported by anglers to date.

Next summer, we will collect additional spines and tag more fish in order to improve our estimates of mortality, population size, and angler harvest. Evaluation of angler tag returns will continue through 2020. We believe that information collected to date has already provided us with a better understanding of the population dynamics of catfish on the lower James River, and we have developed a better understanding of the needs and desires of our catfish anglers during our interactions at meetings, our presence at tournaments, and with anglers who have volunteered during our field work.

Shooting Range Updates (Watertown & Rapid City)

Simpson and Mike Klosowski, wildlife regional supervisor, provided an update on two recently completed shooting range projects. The first project, at the Outdoor Campus West, included both a traditional archery range and 3-D walking archery course that will be open to the public from dawn to dusk. The project also included a multipurpose building that will be utilized for archery/BB gun classes as well as many other activities. The ranges opened on October 30 and the first classes were held in the building on November 1. This project will allow the campus to expand hunting and recreational shooting classes and provide Rapid City with a much needed facility for archers to hone their skills. This project included both GFP and private funding and Simpson thanked the Outdoor Campus Advisory Board for their financial support for this project (\$200,000).

The second recently completed project was a cooperative effort between GFP and the City of Watertown. GFP provided the engineering on the range as well as 75% of the construction costs, with 25% of the construction cost supplied by the City of Watertown. This facility, built within city limits on the south end of Watertown, has 2 pistol bays, 22 lanes of 50-100 yd. shooting and 5 lanes each at 200 and 300 yds. The project will be a great asset to the community, support recreational shooting in the area and provide a safe and structured opportunity for individuals to further their shooting interests. GFP hopes this range can serve as a model for other communities and counties to further recreational shooting opportunities. Secretary Hepler was able to attend the opening of the range on October 30th and fired the ceremonial first shots on the range with the Mayor of Watertown.

License Sales Update

Simpson provided an update on license sales. While the opportunity to harvest pheasants has increased this fall, hunter participation has not followed suit. Nonresident small game sales through October 29 are holding at the same level as 2017, with less than a 1% increase. Resident small game licenses are up slightly (+3.71%) while resident combination licenses are down slightly (-3.76%). Numbers may increase with good weather through the fall and increased opportunity as the harvest progresses, however, a large percentage of annual licenses have already been sold at this point in the year.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Lewis and Clark Concessionaire Prospectus

Sean Blanchette, concessionaire manager, presented a Purchase Agreement for Lewis and Clark Resort and informed the Commission that resort owner Jeff Wahl has reached an agreement for the sale of the Resort with a buyer. Blanchette explained that in order to issue a new lease for the Resort opportunity, a prospectus must be publicly advertised in order to provide public opportunity. The proposed sale price for the purchase of the structures, personal property and intangible items to which all interested parties must agree was established by Wahl at \$3,550,000. Blanchette explained that the lease to be advertised to the public would contain the same level of required services as exist today which are 17 total rental cabins, 24 motel type room units, group lodge, guest laundry, swimming pool, picnic shelters, playground, park entrance license sales. The existing Franchise Fee of 5% of Gross Receipts will remain the same as will the existing 3% Promotion Fee. A Repair and Maintenance reserve of 2% of Gross Receipts will also be required in the new Concession Agreement. The Concession Agreement will be updated to be subject to the 2005 version of ARSD 41:13. The prospectus would be issued for roughly 30 days and the Department would likely return to the December

meeting with additional action. Blanchette requested approval of the purchase agreement as well as authorization to issue a new prospectus for Lewis and Clark Resort at the price indicated in the Purchase Agreement and in accordance with the lease terms presented to the Commission.

Motion by Olson, second by Peterson TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE AND ADVERTISE A PROSPECTUS FOR THE SALE OF LEWIS AND CLARK CONCESSION LEASE BASED ON TERMS. Motion carried unanimously.

Black Hills Playhouse Lease

Katie Ceroll, parks and recreation division director, presented the Black Hills Playhouse lease agreement for Commission approval. Ceroll provided history noting that since 1946 the Black Hills Playhouse has provided Summer Theater at Custer State Park and has done so by terms described in a lease with the Department and with direction from 5 specific statutes. Then, in 2010, the SD Legislature passed a bill that continued the Black Hills Playhouse lease through September 30, 2019. In preparation of that lease expiration, the lease the Commission has in front of them today would be effective October 1, 2019. State Statute 41-17-11.1 gives the Commission the authority to negotiate a lease agreement with the playhouse.

Ceroll introduced Linda Anderson, executive director of the Black Hills Playhouse explaining she has been very involved in working through the details of the proposed lease. She then provided some general information about the playhouse. Black Hills Playhouse, Inc., a non-profit corporation, and is associated with the University of South Dakota. The Playhouse provides employment for artists in South Dakota and college-aged or recently graduated students a professional training opportunity. In return, the Black Hills Playhouse promotes USD and employs USD faculty and students each season. In the recent past the playhouse has expanded its educational efforts to include a children's theatre company. Through Dakota Players, the Playhouse serves children in South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, North Dakota and Minnesota through touring theatre programs, camps and workshops. Game, Fish and Parks is a long-standing partner of the Black Hills Playhouse. Each year, park fees help support infrastructure and environmental needs. The State owns the theater and snack shop while the Playhouse owns the remaining outbuildings. The Playhouse pays the state one dollar annually for use and all patrons to the playhouse must purchase a park entrance license.

Ceroll noted specific lease terms beginning with three main purposes of the lease to define terms and conditions, outline rights and obligations in regards to the structures, and defines responsibilities for the infrastructure systems serving the Playhouse. The lease is for 10 years with a 10 year renewal. She noted special conditions, state insurance requirements and insurance options, and termination which can be done with at least 365 day notice by either party before the expiration of the initial 10 year term, by default or by mutual agreement. She explained it also defines building ownership, outlines the process for maintenance, repair and development which is the set forth in State Statute 41-17-11.5 and address security interests, removal of property, assignment, and notices.

Olson asked if the 5 percent maintenance and repair is established through industry or legislator.

Ceroll answered by legislation.

Motion by Olson, second by Phillips TO APPROVE THE BLACK HILLS PLAYHOUSE LEASE. Motion carried unanimously.

Good Earth State Park Updates

Jim Henning, park manager, gave an update on Good Earth State Park. Included in the presentation was the status of park projects such as, the new amphitheater, nature play area, Peace sculpture and the parks' maintenance building. Also part of the discussion was information about park programming and visitation, as well as an update regarding other park use. Other information included in this presentation includes natural resource projects and Good Earth's volunteers.

Phillips inquired if the parking concerns due to increases use had been addressed.

Henning responded that a field is utilized for overflow parking to avoid people parking along the entrance road and blocking traffic.

Winter Outdoor Recreational Opportunities

Jody Moats, park manager and Jen Nuncio, naturalist, provided an update on winter activities provided in South Dakota State Parks. Activities include cross country skiing, snowshoeing and first day hikes. Other winter activities and special events include Christmas events, fishing derbies, snowmobiling, bird/animal watching and school group visits.

Revenue, Camping and Visitation Report

Ceroll presented the year to date revenue noting an increase of 2% over last year this same time. She explained that when the revenue is broke down along geographic location; you will notice that the Pierre Office Revenue is up 45% year to date. This is due to online Park Entrance License sales because all online sales are fulfilled through the Pierre Office. Year to date camping units are down 2% and visitation is down 3%. With 4% of camping numbers happening in April and about 4% happening in October and everything else of significance happening between these months, these numbers should be about where we end the year with camping.

Solicitation of Agenda Items from Commissioners

No agenda items were recommended

Adjourn

Motioned by Phillips, second by Body TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Appendix A 2019 and 2020 Spring Turkey

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident		Nonresident		License Totals							
		Tom T 32	2 TomT 35	Tom T 32	2 TomT 35	RES 1-tag	RES 2-tag	RES Licenses	RES Tags	NR 1-tag	NR 2-tag	NR Licenses	NR Tags
01A	Minnehaha	80	0	0	0	80	0	80	80	0	0	0	0
02A	Pennington	200	0	16	0	200	0	200	200	16	0	16	16
06A	Brookings	20	0	0	0	20	0	20	20	0	0	0	0
07A	Yankton	260	0	0	0	260	0	260	260	0	0	0	0
08A	Davson/Hanson	80	0	0	0	80	0	80	80	0	0	0	0
08B	Davson/Hanson	80	0	0	0	80	0	80	80	0	0	0	0
11A	Bennett	30	0	3	0	30	0	30	30	3	0	3	3
12A	Bon Homme	250	0	0	0	250	0	250	250	0	0	0	0
13A	Brule	150	0	0	0	150	0	150	150	0	0	0	0
15A	Butte/Lawrence	350	0	28	0	350	0	350	350	28	0	28	28
16A	Campbell/Walworth	10	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	0	0	0	0
17A	Charles Mix/Douglas	350	0	0	0	350	0	350	350	0	0	0	0
19A	Clay	120	0	0	0	120	0	120	120	0	0	0	0
19B	Clay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20A	Corson	50	0	4	0	50	0	50	50	4	0	4	4
21A	Custer	150	0	12	0	150	0	150	150	12	0	12	12
22A	Day/Codington	80	0	0	0	80	0	80	80	0	0	0	0
23A	Deuel	100	0	0	0	100	0	100	100	0	0	0	0
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	150	0	12	0	150	0	150	150	12	0	12	12
27A	Fall River	75	0	6	0	75	0	75	75	6	0	6	6
29A	Grant	220	0	0	0	220	0	220	220	0	0	0	0
30A	Gregory	700	0	56	0	700	0	700	700	56	0	56	56
31A	Haakon	0	200	0	16	0	200	200	400	0	16	16	32
32A	Hamlin	10	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	0	0	0	0
35A	Harding	100	0	8	0	100	0	100	100	8	0	8	8
36A	Hughes	30	0	0	0	30	0	30	30	0	0	0	0
37A	Hutchinson	60	0	0	0	60	0	60	60	0	0	0	0
39A	Jackson	150	0	12	0	150	0	150	150	12	0	12	12
40A	Jerauld	10	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	0	0	0	0
41A	Jones	75	0	6	0	75	0	75	75	6	0	6	6
44A	Lincoln	50	0	0	0	50	0	50	50	0	0	0	0
44B	Lincoln	50	0	0	0	50	0	50	50	0	0	0	0
45A	Lyman	100	0	8	0	100	0	100	100	8	0	8	8
48A	Marshall/Roberts	400	0	0	0	400	0	400	400	0	0	0	0
49A	Meade	0	300	0	24	0	300	300	600	0	24	24	48
50A	Mellette	350	0	28	0	350	0	350	350	28	0	28	28
52A	Moody	60	0	0	0	60	0	60	60	0	0	0	0
53A	Perkins	0	100	0	8	0	100	100	200	0	8	8	16
56A	Sanborn	10	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	0	0	0	0
58A	Stanley	40	0	4	0	40	0	40	40	4	0	4	4
58B	Stanley	2	0	1	0	2	0	2	2	1	0	1	1
60A	Tripp	400	0	32	0	400	0	400	400	32	0	32	32
61A	Turner	20	0	0	0	20	0	20	20	0	0	0	0
62A	Union	120	0	0	0	120	0	120	120	0	0	0	0
62B	Union	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65A	Oglala Lakota	40	0	4	0	40	0	40	40	4	0	4	4
67A	Todd	75	0	6	0	75	0	75	75	6	0	6	6
	TOTAL	5,657	600	246	48	5,657	600	6,257	6,857	246	48	294	342
	Unit	Tom T 32	2 TomT 35	Tom T 32	2 TomT 35	RES 1-tag	RES 2-tag	RES Licenses	RES Tags	NR 1-tag	NR 2-tag	NR Lic	NR Tags
						RES & NR:	5,903	648	6,551	7,199			

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission
November 1, 2018

The Public Hearing Officer Scott Phillips began the public hearing at 2:00 p.m. at Good Earth State Park in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Cathy Petersen, Scott Phillips, Russell Olson and Douglas Sharp were present. Vice Chairman Jensen indicated written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes. Phillips then invited the public to come forward with oral testimony.

Park Fees

No verbal or written comments

Spring Turkey Hunting Seasons (Black Hills, Prairie, Archery and CSP)

No verbal comments

Waterfowl Hunting Seasons

No verbal comments

Spring Light Goose Conservation Order

No verbal or written comments

Black Hills Elk License Raffle

Bill Marketon, Ducks Unlimited, Hartford, SD, Thanked the Commission for accepting the petition as avenue to raise funds. He said South Dakota does not have an established revenue source for conservation and elk is state asset currently utilized by RMEF. Marketon is hoping to look at other conservation resources by raffling a second license. If DU had an opportunity to raise money in the state it will raise money in the state to be utilized for conservation. Recognize need to compete with other organizations. Currently approx. 7,000 members and feel they can actively sell tickets and generate the necessary revenue to be competitive to receive this raffle license. Thanks for hearing petition, thanks for allowing for opportunity and thanks for working to create funds for conservation. Need to secure and dedicate lands for opportunity for the heritage of SD. Marketon said they would look to raise \$35,000-50,000.

Maynard Izaccson, Ducks Unlimited, Sioux Falls, SD, spoke in support of the Black Hills Elk License Raffle echoing comments made by Marketon. Izaccson said he has been a member of DU for year. Habitat is so important to SD and DU and everyone in wildlife. This is a proposal that could raise \$35,000 to \$50,000 should be taken seriously. And any support the commission can provide to that effort is important.

Steve Donovan, Ducks Unlimited, Arlington, SD, as conservation programs manager for DU in SD he is very supportive of this opportunity. Thinks this would be wonderful for conservation work in SD. As bill mentioned typically unable to restrict or earmark raffle dollars, but CEO Dale Hall has exercised the authority for exception to that rule for DU a few days ago. DU tracks how all those dollars are spent so if proposal approved and if DU received the raffle license through the competitive process and understands need to select the organization that can do the most and mean the most for habitat in SD.

See attached public comments submitted prior to the public hearing

The public Hearing concluded at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly R Hepler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "K".

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

Public Comments

Black Hills Elk License Raffle

Bob Brandt
Rapid City SD
bob@cms-sd.com

Comment:

Please DO NOT give DU an CSP elk tag to raffle off . When the GF&P and the RMEF set the guidelines for the raffle we stipulated that all the money raised would go to enhance the elk population and big game habitat. If you allow this it would set a bad precedent that could allow other organizations the same opportunity. Mothers Against Drunk Driving is also a good group but they should not get a tag and neither should DU

Todd West
Florence SD
grand_west@hotmail.com

Comment:

I would like to express my concern about the possible SD GFP Commission issuing a SD Elk Tag to Ducks Unlimited to raffle. As a life member of the RMEF and an active chapter chair I would be concerned that a second SD Elk Tag raffled by another organization may adversely affect the revenue the RMEF has been able to generate since the first Elk Tag we were granted. All of which has come back to the state for elk and their habitat. I am definitely not against any conservation for the state of South Dakota. However, I would hate to see something effect what has been a positive for the state of South Dakota.

Thank-You for your time and consideration,

Monarch Plan

Craig Olson
Brookings SD

Comment:

Does anybody wonder if August Soybean Aphid spraying might be hurting the Monarch butterfly population during their migration especially insecticide spraying on soybeans the last two weeks of August.

Alicia Hofer
Sioux Falls SD
thehoferfam@gmail.com

Comment:

This is amazing. I have been waiting for environmental awareness of this level; 100% support from me!

Deborah Graham
Canton SD

Comment:

I'm glad that some action will be taken. Last year my two little sedums were covered in monarchs. This year I only had two.

Jamie Hintz
Clear Lake SD
deuelhwy@itctel.com

Comment:

I was the county weed and pest supervisor for one year and made sure my spray guys knew the difference between weeds and wildflowers and also milkweed. Area farmers were upset that I would not blanket spray the R-O-W's and that was the biggest challenge. Big ag is a huge problem as they have so much power. They don't care about anything but themselves and their wallet. There are a few concerned producers out there but not near enough. And it's my observation that milkweed is not doing well on game land that is pastured, but that's another subject and I'm sure you know my opinion on that. Thank You, Jamie Hintz, Clear Lake.

Brandie Frankman
Sioux Falls SD

Comment:

support

Kay Mehrer
Sioux Falls SD
Kmmehrer@gmail.com

Comment:

Plant small native shrubs and wild flowers in the road ditches. They are short so they won't cause an obstruction. They provide food and habitat for bees and butterflies. We won't have to spray harmful chemicals anymore! An investment in some seeds will eventually save money from not spraying. It's worked in other states it talks about it in the book 'silent spring'

Jennifer Tiehen
Harrisburg SD
Gjtjrt92@gmail.com

Comment:

Help protect them. They are needed.

Martin Toepke-Floyd

Redfield SD

mttoepke@midco.net

Comment:

I have let milkweed grow in my vegetable garden. This year I found 5 monarch caterpillars feeding on the plants in June. I hope more people allow milkweed to grow and bring back more of these iconic butterflies.

Verna Kay Boyd

Garretson SD

vkboyd.1956@gmail.com

Comment:

I am a speaker with the South Dakota Humanities Council. Monarchs are one of my programs. I raise approximately 80-100 each summer. I have several dozen milkweed plants on my acreage. I also collect milkweed plants that have been cut in ditches and rescue any eggs/caterpillars. I support the position and would like to help in any way.

Kelly Kistner

Mccook Lake SD

iwlasdpresident@outlook.com

Comment:

SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION

The Izaak Walton League of America
DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE

October 23, 2018

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

The South Dakota Division (Division) of the Izaak Walton League of America appreciates this opportunity to provide comments on the 2018 Monarch Plan by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department (GFP).

The Division agrees that the monarch butterfly is a keystone or flagship specie. We urge the GFP to continue its collaboration with our neighboring states, federal agencies, the agricultural community and the general public to ensure success of this important recovery effort.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) received a petition in 2014 to list the eastern subspecies of the monarch as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Subsequently working with the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, GFP developed a habitat goal to provide 68 million milkweed stems within a landscape with suitable nectar sources during the next 20 years. Sadly pollinators across the continent are becoming species of concern including honeybees. Bees are important biologically and economically to South Dakota with an economic impact of more than \$34 million.

Residents of South Dakota are very familiar with the iconic monarch butterfly in both rural and urban settings. Many scientists believe the recent population decline is the result of the loss of milkweed. It's estimated there has been nearly a 60% decline in milkweeds in the Midwest. This is thought to have contributed to the over 80% decline in the monarch production between 1999 and 2010. At the same time there has been a

tremendous increase in the use of glyphosate herbicides and an increased planting of genetically-modified crops. The Division supports more research on monarch breeding habitat and milkweed abundance and distribution while recognizing future research efforts depend on GFP's ability to fund the personnel and expenses for the work.

The Division supports efforts outlined in the strategic plan that include:

- ? Public and private habitat conservation and management
- ? Public and private rights-of-way habitat enhancement - including mowing practices
- ? Urban land habitat enhancement
- ? Education, outreach and additional research
- ? Monitoring, data management, and plan assessment

The Division also supports the goals, objectives and associated strategies outlined in the strategic plan. We especially encourage engaging communities throughout the state in the role they can play in monarch and pollinator conservation. We also strongly support the use federal and state habitat programs to increase milkweed and nectar plants on private lands. This includes the GFP Private Lands Habitat Program and the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

We also support the plan's provision of assessing the milkweed stem goal of 68 million additional milkweed stems in 5 years. We believe to be successful the plan will need to incorporate new and additional data as it becomes available.

Many of the Division's chapters and members have been taking steps to improve and increase pollinator habitat. This includes the pollinator plot planted by the McCook Lake Chapter near North Sioux City. Also at the national Izaak Walton League convention in Fredericksburg, VA this past July our members passed a resolution. The resolution states that the League: "supports all efforts to encourage all rights-of-way managers, both public and private, to prioritize the presence and health of local native plants with their right-of-way management, with the primary goal of such management to support healthy populations of pollinating insects".

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the 2018 Monarch Plan. We ask that we be informed on all future developments, meetings and comment periods on this effort as it proceeds.

Sincerely,

Kelly Kistner
President of the South Dakota Division and National President-elect
Izaak Walton League of America
603 Lakeshore Drive
McCook Lake, SD 57049
605-232-2030 – 712-490-1726
iwlasdpresident@outlook.com

Thea Miller Ryan
Sioux Falls SD
thea.ryan@state.sd.us

Comment:

I am excited to see the increased use of citizen science and look forward to contributing to the curriculum outlined in the plan.

Dustin Long

Bozeman MT

dustin.long@retranches.com

Comment:

As a first step in monarch conservation/restoration in SD I think the plan looks good. I think more emphasis should be placed on how we find ourselves in a situation where monarch butterflies may become a listed species. As with all management plans the real challenge will be finding the resources necessary to complete the on-the-ground work necessary to meet the stated strategies and goals.

I think the most important thing the State can do at this point is standardize and provide for review the milkweed/wildflower/monarch survey techniques it intends to use. The sooner this task is completed--hopefully in time for the 2019 field season-- the sooner the State will know where it is and where it needs to be in terms of monarch conservation.

Since 2015 Bad River Ranches (west river) has been investigating methods to expand extant *A. speciosa* stands and establish new ones in support of monarchs and other native pollinators. It's been a slow process and results have been mixed but we've narrowed down what seems to work best when it comes to milkweed restoration on those landscapes and we'd be happy to share our findings with you.

Lastly, I'd like the opportunity to attend any working group or other public meetings the State intends to sponsor so will you please add my email to the State's monarch listserv?

Thanks for the opportunity to comment and fingers crossed for the monarch.

Other

Justin Allen

Pierre SD

Comment:

Please, please address the NR over the counter antelope and deer tags. Both have gotten out of control over the last 5 years. This is year is simply out of control on public ground along the Missouri River and western SD for deer. Nothing worse than working all week and showing up hunt public ground and it looks like a Wal-Mart parking lot. Lets make some changes that are supported by residents of SD... I think they deserve it after the last 18 months.

Adam Golay

Sioux Falls SD

adamgolay@yahoo.com

Comment:

Mule deer are on the decline in western states. A big reason is excessive predators that are out of control & also the one we can control is OVERHARVEST & POACHING. We need to protect our mule deer herd in South Dakota as best we can & not over issue tags for any deer. We need to keep those tags to a minimum. I think we should ban shooting mule deer does for a while also until the herd comes back. It is so hard to shoot a big mule deer buck, it's probably the hardest big game trophies to successfully harvest because of the reasons mentioned above. I know everyone & their dog loves to drive around in their truck & shoot mule deer. But the fact is that South Dakota should be harvesting way less mule deer than we are currently. We are over harvesting them right now & the gfp knows it but they want that money anyways. I can tell you how to make up for the revenue but that's another topic. Please consider reducing the any deer tags to protect mule deer for our future generations & when they bounce back (no pun intended) then we can look at increasing tags & if this works like it should can you imagine be able to pitch to non residents & residents alike that we have 200"+ muleys in this state would be heart racing & exciting.

Larry Enright
Central City SD
larrye@tbcfoodsales.com

Comment:

Hello,

I have been a resident in the state of SD for the majority of my life and have hunted and fished each season. Every time I have been in the offices in Ft Pierre and Rapid City to get a license, the "my you are a good customer" comment has been made. I am in the retail grocery business on the sales side, and I understand the difference between customers and good customers. Basically, it boils down to money spent on the goods and services I offer. The store that buys more, is often treated a bit better than the store that buys only a marginal amount. When I hear a comment about being a good customer from SD GF&P it reminds me of the hard earned money I spend each year supporting the GF&P.

Over the past several years, I have been stopped for "compliance" checks, or reports from landowners about trespassing, or some other possible hunting violations. Not one time have I been cited for a violation of the law. In this same time, I have called and reported a few violations of harassment while in the legal pursuit of wild game, with little or no response. Once in Lyman county I was told that these cases are most often impossible to follow up on and it was left at that.

Now, here we are in 2018 and the GF&P has decided to limit the number of draw tags for certain species that a "good customer" can apply for and allow for application of special buck tags and landowner tags without much change.

It seems that GF&P has slowly evolved from a state agency with the goal of promoting hunting for everyone, to an agency beholden to landowners and their demands and expectations. As a "good customer" of the GF&P I feel as though I am being screwed. I mean, what does a landowner provide to the GF&P of value? Walk in land? You guys pay for that. Access? It is under attack every single day by landowners trying to prevent legal access to public lands and the GF&P has to use resources that come from "good customers" like me to fight it. Revenue? No, landowners can hunt small game without a license on their own land AND they actually benefit from the Special Buck tag because that tag can only be used on private land that MANY have to pay for access on. I am not exactly sure what the SD GF&P mission statement is in , but it certainly appears to be less of a mission for the hunter and a bit more beholden to the landowner in this state.

I realize that this observation will fall upon deaf ears, blind eyes, and closed minds, but, as a lifelong customer of the GF&P, I felt it necessary to do share my thoughts today.

On a side note, I have spent nearly \$5k on hunting licenses in Co, NE, ID, and Wyoming the past 6 or 7 years. They seem to encourage public access and freedom to hunt in those states. I guess, as the trend to reward landowners and pay hunters continues in SD, I do have other options, and unfortunately, will probably be forced to spend that \$. The business plan you are currently operating under, may not be the best long term solution to a healthy and vibrant budget that allows SD GF&P to act arbitrarily without concern for the revenue source itself. It's my professional businessman advice to reconsider the current path of operations as the day may come when you have no choice to but to backtrack. However, by the time that happens, it may be too late.

--
Larry Enright
TBC, LLC
605-645-8310

Ron Van Straten
De Pere WI
ronald.vanstraten@graef-usa.com

Comment:

Had I known that South Dakota charges an \$8 agent fee for the purchase of a small game license I would have cancelled my trip to South Dakota. That fee is unreasonable!

Mark Constantine

Mankato MN

mark.constantine@mnsu.edu

Comment:

Hitting us non-residents with a \$8 "tax" is really sad. Aren't we already spending thousands of dollars per a five day trip to your State for pheasants. It just doesn't sit well with me and my buddies. We love SD, but these are the types of things which turn folks off!!! The \$4 fee like everyone else is one things, but gouging the non-resident is tough to swallow.

Resident Nonresident

Dana Rogers

Hill City SD

dana.rogers.1@hotmail.com

Comment:

Commissioners and GFP staff,

I respectfully request that the commission takes action ASAP on the ever increasing numbers of non-residents that are taking advantage of our unlimited archery permits for antelope and deer. The GFP staff offered a reasonable plan to limit non-resident archery permits in April that would limit pressure on large public tracts. Unfortunately, the commission tabled that and wanted to take time to have a larger and deeper discussion on the overall non-resident issue and impact. Then when the earlier archery opener date of September 1 for archery deer was passed it exponentially compounded the problem, which was predictable.

In October a GFP staff member informed me that we have already seen a 30% increase on non-resident archery deer permits for 2018. How do you think this effects our SD resident bowhunters? Particularly on public lands that already saw way too much pressure in many areas.

South Dakota residents live here, often specifically because of the outdoor opportunities. Habitat is shrinking, opportunities to access private lands are also shrinking as a result along with increased population. There are many SD residents that depend on our public lands to recreate on. To see these public lands absolutely over-run by non-residents is tough to take.

Eastern SD sportsmen have experienced much loss in their recreational opportunities as a result of the commercialization of pheasant hunting; the legislative end around in non-resident waterfowl licenses (increasing commercialization) as well as the loss of access due to the legislatures failure to act on non-meandered waters and fishing access. Certainly a lot of that isn't necessarily directly within your control. However, the direct impact of unregulated non-resident numbers on upland game, fishing and archery hunting pressure is within your control.

I respectfully ask that you act on behalf of the resident SD sportsmen and help to protect our opportunities. Whether that is an 8% of resident archery permit sales; an overall cap with a specific number of permits like 1,500; a specific cap of a finite amount of "public land" archery permits (ex 500); or a mandatory NR hunting license fee directed to public land and walk in habitat enhancement. I'm not cemented in on any one aspect. I just know that it's high time NR archery permits are limited, particularly in the Black Hills, Custer National Forest, National Grasslands, Missouri River Corridor and even east river GPAs.

Thank You!

Eric Paulson

Pierre SD

epaulson@nvc.net

Comment:

First I'd like to say I had no idea this request for input on the Resident vs Non Resident questionnaire existed until the October 4th meeting when I was able to tune in briefly. And I had to dig back to the May meeting to even find the questionnaire for the discussion. The GFP has a Facebook page and what not that I follow and as I've seen they do plenty of sharing of things on there, share things like this that you want responses too. I've seen more posts about beer and brewery stuff on the SD GFP Facebook page lately than important things such as this. Not everyone can listen in on every GFP meeting but things like this survey would be wonderful to have shared on Facebook or part of your new releases or something. You'd have hundreds of responses if it was there. Just go look at all the comments on deer allocation related things on the GFP page and other pages.

And before you read my attachment I want to preface this by saying I am in no way against non-resident waterfowling, pheasant hunting, etc. Some non-resident hunting is just fine and South Dakota can support certain levels of non-resident hunting before things become "commercialized" or "overcrowded". I've had friends who've come from out of state to hunt with us before I and I'm glad they have the opportunity to do that if they so choose. 1) Resident - "living in a place for some length of time", "non migratory" – Merriam-Webster - Someone who resides, lives, and has a South Dakota driver's license. Think of a similar way that the South Dakota State colleges determine if a student is or isn't a resident of South Dakota – my definition/interpretation Nonresident - "not residing in a particular place" – Merriam-Webster - Someone who resides, lives, and has a driver's license for anywhere outside of South Dakota. Similarly, think of a similar way that the South Dakota State colleges determine if a student is or isn't a resident of South Dakota – my definition/interpretation Based on your website as an answer under the FAQs as to what makes you a resident:

You must have a fixed and permanent domicile in the state and have lived in the state for at least 90 consecutive days prior to making application. You must make no claims of residency in any other state or foreign country and have transferred your driver's license and all your motor vehicle registrations to South Dakota.

This is a pretty definitive definition on what makes you a resident in the eyes of the GFP in my opinion and I wouldn't change from this definition other than to maybe make it 180 days rather than 90. 2) Nonresidents are anyone who is not a South Dakota resident, by definition. Doesn't matter if they are family, friends, former residents, customers, etc. If you are not a South Dakota resident you are by default a nonresident. 3) Why propose restrictions on nonresidents? Give people incentive to live in the state. If you get the same privileges to those living out of state where there are better paying jobs as someone who chooses to live in state, you will lose residents in the state which will have a detrimental impact on the communities these people move from. You will have a harder time keeping younger hunters to remain as residents in the state if they can move away without losing any hunting privileges. People like myself who could very easily job shop outside of the state for a better paying job could do just that, yet I'd maintain all the same privileges as I have now and that's just not right. What incentive would there be to live in South Dakota in terms of hunting?? Residents pay property taxes in this state, eat out at restaurants more than nonresidents, buy pretty much all their groceries in this state, buy more gas in state, live in the state, work in the state, overall just allow for the economy of the state to prosper. Without residents there is no economy, there are no workers, there are no gas stations. Residents should be given advantages over nonresidents. Again, it gets back to my previous point where if a nonresident wants the same privileges as a resident then they should live in this state.

Take income taxes for example, if someone from Minnesota doesn't want to pay income taxes they move to a non-income taxing state. They don't just get to choose to stay in Minnesota and not pay taxes. Not paying income taxes is an incentive to be a South Dakota resident. Having the ability to draw an east river deer tag or hunt for more than 3-10 days for birds is an incentive to live in South Dakota. 4) Commission should consider factors including but not limited to, hunter satisfaction (if declining, maybe pressure is too high or bird numbers are too low), average daily bag (if daily bag drops then maybe bird numbers are too low and licenses need to be cut), average days hunted (if nonresidents are hunting less than before, obviously they are leaving early for a reason and it would be safe to bet success is low or hunting is tough, maybe licenses should be reevaluated). Comments from the public also need to be considered. Now comments need to be taken with a grain of salt, some residents want no nonresident hunters, I am not in that camp. I'm fine with nonresident hunting. But you also have to take what outfitters and guides are saying with a grain of salt too. One waterfowl outfitter who has been very vocal has many people out scouting and they lease land. So naturally they will have more consistent success, 5 scouters for a guide vs 1 for a normal hunter is a very large disparity. Guiding is in it for the money where freelance hunters are in it for a good time and to preserve the sport for everyone, specifically the average hunter, not just people willing to shell out big money to just show up and shoot something. 5) As far as I know of no. But it's a slippery slope if you group residents and nonresidents in the same category. The incentive to live in the state greatly diminishes if you are a hunter and you can live out of state and have the same privileges as a resident. 6) No clue what the true nonresident fiscal impact is. But be careful listening to guides and tourism folks who say that nonresident hunters are vital to small communities. Guides typically have full service operations; their clients DO NOT support the small town cafes like they may claim. Their clients eat and drink at the lodges, not the mom and pops restaurant on main street. Granted some do, but from my experiences in

talking to people and researching outfitters online, it's not going to be as drastic as they say. Also, a lot of nonresidents will bring coolers of drinks and food with them. That part always seems to be forgotten as well when nonresident issues get brought up. Typically, they are packing for their hunt in their home town and that includes everything from sandwiches to shells they'll buy before they get to South Dakota because you cannot risk planning the trip and driving to small town SD and showing up and they are out of bullets or have no sandwich meat or Gatorade left. 7) SD residents become nonresidents as soon as their permanent home/apartment or place of living becomes some place other than somewhere in South Dakota. 8) A lot of it should be just listening to the public. A lot of people felt stabbed in the back with the last waterfowl reallocation deal that passed the GFP. The only ones for it were one guide and their clients. Everyone else was against it yet it passed. At the time hunter satisfaction was down, if I remember right average daily bag was down. So, I would say yes statistics need to be included but public comments also need a very significant weight. There's things number just can't tell. Pressure is one of them. It's hard to put a number on pressure. When 5 trucks are watching one field how do I assign that a number vs providing a comment on in the field findings? 9) Meetings after 5 pm would be huge in my opinion. Most hunters have jobs and cannot take vacation time go to 2 pm meetings on Thursdays. Use social media to relay meeting agendas, etc., its already used for some things, use it to promote your meeting agendas to get people curious and get them searching your website to become more educated. Looking at the 2019 GFP calendar it's disappointing. 4 of the meetings are in Central SD (Pierre/Fort Pierre), 4 are West river, and only 2 are east river. Yet an overwhelming majority of sportsman in south Dakota live east river. There should be as many if not more meetings east river than any other part of the state. And no meetings in Aberdeen? That's where all your issues with the duck allocations were a few years ago yet meetings don't get held there regularly, why? What about Sioux Falls? The biggest city in the state! One meeting a year should be held in the state's 1st and/or 3rd largest city. Are you trying to avoid the majority of the population for some reason next year? What is brewing in the background for changes that we've not yet heard about yet? These are the thoughts that go through people's minds when common sense meeting places are brushed off. Like the deer thing, all major decisions were made at meetings west river! What the heck?!

Spring Turkey Hunting Seasons

Eric Reisenweber

Sioux Falls SD

Ereiser13@hotmail.com

Comment:

I strongly support removing rifles from the legal weapon list to take turkeys with. Turkey hunting should be about getting close to the birds and decoying them in. Or spot and stalk methods with decoys and fans. Taking a bird with a rifle is not challenging or sporting. It is also dangerous to hunt them with rifles, as decoys are becoming more and more realistic. Please strongly consider banning rifles from the sport of turkey hunting.

Brian Lee

Pierre SD

Bdlee@pie.midco.net

Comment:

According to the Pierre paper only 6.8% of use rifles for spring turkey hunting so I imagine we won't have much input on the GFP proposal. And I say GFP proposal and not the commision. There is no real reason to ban there use. Using realistic decoys is a very lame excuse. As much as 'not many hunters use rifles so let's ban them'. No logic there at all. The last time I heard of anyone being injured by a rifle while turkey hunting was over 30 years ago. If you want to use that logic, shotguns should be banned immediately for pheasant hunting! Please don't take this aspect of turkey hunting a few of us enjoy! You have already taken enough away. Have these public comments ever prevented a proposal from being passed? Thank You

Jerrad Swier

Brookings SD

Jerradswier1982@gmail.com

Comment:

I believe the turkey numbers in the hills are way down. I feel u need to consider limiting the number of hunters. Starting with the nonresident.

Jay Hauer

Wrenshall MN

jayhauer@aes04.com

Comment:

I have been hunting turkeys in South Dakota for 38 years because you can hunt with a rifle. In that time I have never felt unsafe or in danger while out hunting turkeys. The only times I felt unsafe or in danger was driving from my home to the area I was turkey hunting. Had to be very alert and avoid a few unsafe situations while driving but never out hunting turkeys. Do not restrict turkey hunters from using rifles because a few life like decoys are being use. Have the hunters using life like decoys put orange ribbons on there decoys and ware orange hats. Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Scott Hokeness

Lakeville MN

shokeness@gmail.com

Comment:

I have hunted turkeys in the Black Hills for over a decade and have never been concerned for my safety due to the use of rifles.

David Brown

Magnolia TX

brownklan7@gmail.com

Comment:

I grew up in South Dakota, hunted in SD, graduated from college in SD, worked for the State of SD for nearly five years. I return nearly every year, am an out-of-state hunter, to hunt Spring Turkey. I am very opposed to banning rifles (I do use one) for turkey hunting. Never had, never seen, nor heard of a safety problem while using a rifle for over 40+ years hunting turkeys. Decoys are 99.9999% hens not gobblers, and if someone is clueless about using a gobbler decoy they shouldn't be in the woods hunting. Ban decoys before you ban rifles. Rifles are more humane (less lost birds) than shotguns. It is my opinion that this proposed rifle ban is about the bigger issue of limiting the use of firearms, not a safety issue. If rifles result in a higher harvest rate (concerned about population numbers), the solution is to reduce the number of licenses available for harvesting turkeys. This spring was horrible for turkey numbers in the southern Black Hills because a) incredibly cold winter and related die off, and b) trapped birds were relocated. Ban rifles, and SD will lose turkey hunters.

Buddy Shearer

Sioux Falls SD

anita.louise@sio.midco.net

Comment:

There is no more danger in the spring than in the fall!!! If there is publish it!!!

Paul Roghair

Kadoka SD

tallpaulr@hotmail.com

Comment:

I do not feel like it matters much what is said here, however i will take the time just to let you know that i would be very dissatisfied if the use of rifles was removed from the west river spring turkey hunting season. i realize i might be in the minority and thats "not how real hunters hunt turkey" but i have enjoyed it for years to stalk and take turkey with a rifle. If the rules change I would not participate in the season. Thank you for your time.

Scott Schroeder

Foley MN

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Comment:

I just read a newsletter that said the GFP Commission is proposing that rifles no longer be a legal firearm for spring turkey.
I'd like to go on record as opposed to this proposal. As a non resident I don't expect that my opinion carries much weight but I can tell you that a primary reason that I buy the non-resident license and leave money spread from Souix Falls to Custer and back is for the opportunity to use a rifle for the spring hunt.
From my view behind the rifle scope I fail to see how someone can mistake a motionless or nearly motionless decoy with a live turkey. I have not heard of any hunters being shot by rifle bullets turkey hunting but unfortunately I've heard of far too many hunters shot by shotgun hunters as they call from a blind. Clearly more hunter safety training would be a bEtter focus of the Commission.
In a time when we struggle to maintain hunter numbers and recruit new ones this is an unnecessary change and I'll advised.

Bruce Endris

Hills IA

bendris@sharontc.net

Comment:

I hunt in the NW part of the state with a rifle and shotgun; usually taking both afield and use the one most applicable to the situation. On public land a restriction might be useful for safety but not on private land with a limited number of hunters.

Waterfowl Hunting Seasons

Larry Minter

Jefferson SD

lrminter@longlines.com

Comment:

I would like the state to reconsider the duck and goose season dates for the Low Plains South Zone, especially Union Co. I live and hunt west of Elk Point on the Missouri River. Most hunters I've heard of from Springfield on down purchase non-resident Nebr. Waterfowl permits and they enter and exit the river from the S.D. side, which I understand is legal. But the state is only kidding itself to think these hunters are waiting for our dates, Nebr. makes more money. Nebr. goose Oct. 6th. S.D. goose Nov. 5th. Nebr. duck Oct. 6th. S.D. duck Oct. 27th. Whats even more confusing on the East side of I29 (Low Plains Middle Zone) the duck season starts Sept.29th. There,s nowhere to hunt waterfowl this far south. My hunting partner and myself are getting older and tired of fighting the river and our late season dates. I can see why younger hunters down here have no interest in Waterfowl hunting. Please reconsider our season dates down here. Thank You Larry Minter

Joe Jares

Sioux Falls SD

Joe.Jares@gmail.com

Comment:

I oppose the proposed 2019 hunting season dates. I would like to see some thought given to a split season - i.e. Season begins September 28 and runs for 2 weeks, then closes for 2 weeks, then reopens. This would provide hunters more opportunities for hunting larger migrating birds later in the season. This could also potentially deflect any issues with hunting pressure overlap on public hunting ground for pheasant hunters and duck hunters for the opening weekend of pheasant hunting if timed correctly.