



## **AGENDA**

### **Game, Fish and Parks Commission**

April 2-3, 2020

Good Earth State Park

26924 480<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD

Livestream link <https://www.sd.net/remotestream/>

Due to concerns regarding COVID-19, this meeting will be held via livestream with the Commission and staff participating via teleconference. To listen to the entire meeting at 1:00 p.m. CT on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, livestream can be found at <https://www.sdpb.org/>.

The public hearing will begin at 2:00 p.m. CT. The conference call number available for the public to call in starting at 2:00 p.m. CT to provide comments is 1-866-410-8397; Conference Code 5451787643#. The public is encouraged to call in from their home. Good Earth State Park will also be available to provide public comments in person; however, no more than 10 people will be allowed in the building at a time. There will not be additional remote public input sites.

We are asking that you provide your testimony and then hang up to allow other members of the public to access the line. When you call, the teleconference line may be busy. If you do not get through right away, please keep trying.

Written comments can still be submitted at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record comments must include full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of seventy-two hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing)

#### **Call to order 1:00 PM CT/ 12:00 PM MT**

#### **Division of Administration**

##### Action Items:

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approve Minutes of the March 2020 Meeting  
<https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days

#### **Petitions**

4. Lake Sharp Smallmouth Bass

#### **Proposals**

5. Fall Turkey
6. Lost License Replacement
7. Nonresident Waterfowl Season
8. Administrative Rules Review ARSD 41:08, 41:09, 41:10 and 41:13

### **Proposals (continued)**

9. River Otter Delisting (Proposed in March)
10. Flathead Catfish – Border Waters (Proposed in March)
11. Archery Deer Season (Proposed in March)
12. Landowner Elk License Applications (Proposed in March)
13. Youth Waterfowl Season (Proposed in March)
14. Youth Pheasant Season (Proposed in March)

### **Public Hearing 2:00 PM CT/ 1:00 PM MT**

Portion of the meeting designated for public comment on items pertaining to finalizations listed on the agenda (*Typically limited to 3 minutes per person.*)

### **Open Forum**

Portion of the meeting designated for public comment on other items of interest. (*Typically limited to 3 minutes per person*)

### **Finalizations**

15. Elk Hunting Seasons – population objective and tag allocation

### **Division of Parks and Recreation**

Action Items:

16. Spring Creek Concessions

### **Solicitation of Agenda Items from Commissioners**

### **Adjourn**

Next meeting information:

May 7-8, 2020

Custer State Park

US HWY 16A, Custer, SD

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

Donations can be made to honor former GFP Commissioner, Cathy Peterson, by visiting the SD Parks & Wildlife Foundation website at <https://parkswildlifefoundation.org/donate.aspx>. Select “Other” as the program you wish to contribute and note “Cathy Peterson” in the explanation box. The SD Parks & Wildlife Foundation and Cathy’s family will use the funds to honor her memory for future habitat projects.

## **Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission March 5-6, 2020**

Chairman Gary Jensen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. CT at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Travis Bies, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Russell Olson, Doug Sharp, Charles Spring, Robert Whitmyre and approximately 60 public, staff, and media were present.

### **DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Chair Jensen called for conflicts of interest to be disclosed. None were presented.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Jensen called for any additions or corrections to the January 16-17, 2020 meeting minutes and Special February 6, 2020 meeting minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Boyd with second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE January 16-17, 2020 MEETING AND SPECIAL FEBRUARY 6, 2020 MEETING. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Additional Commissioner Salary Days**

Jensen and Whitmyre each requested 1 day for the pheasant marketing work group meeting and Spring requested 1 day for a staff visit in Custer State Park.

Motion by Sharp, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS AS REQUESTED. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Commissioner Introductions**

Jensen began commissioner introductions by providing personal information about himself including his occupation and outdoor interests as well as his goals and challenges as a commissioner. The other commissioners followed suit.

#### **Second Century Initiatives and Fund Board Update**

Lisa Weyer, executive director, provided an update on the Second Century Habitat Fund Board. She stated Governor Noem has appointed Senator John Wiik and Representative Nancy York to sit on the Second Century Habitat Fund Board as Legislative Advisors. The Working Lands Habitat Program currently has a total of 41 landowners enrolled. 26 enrolled in 2019 and 15 enrolled to date in 2020. 2608 total acres is enrolled, so we are over half-way in reaching our goal of 5000 acres to be enrolled. \$391,334 has been paid out to landowners. 22 counties are represented in the program enrollment and the average acres enrolled per landowner is 63. The Second Century Habitat Fund Board has approved funding to assist with a Precision Ag & Conservation Specialist position. This is a cooperative agreement with Pheasants Forever and SDSU Extension. This position will be responsible for the field data analytics of the landowners who enroll into the Every Acre Counts program

## **Legislative Update**

Kevin Robling and Jon Kotilnek, staff attorney, provide a legislative update on bills introduced pertaining to GFP.

## **Marketing Update and Pheasant Hunting Marketing Workgroup Update**

Emily Kiel, GFP senior advisor, and Kirk Hulstein, industry, outreach and research director for the Dept. of Tourism updated the Commission on the work being done to develop a marketing plan focused on outdoor recreation in South Dakota. Emily set the stage for the big picture plan and provided an update on one component focused specifically on pheasant hunting marketing; initiated by the GFP Commission. This workgroup is made up of representation from the Commission (Gary Jensen, Russell Olson, Doug Sharp, Bob Whitmyre), Tourism (Kirk Hulstein, Katlyn Richter, Mike Gussiaas), GFP (Emily Kiel, Chad Switzer, Tom Kirschenmann, Taniya Bethke, Jona Ohm, Heather Villa and Lisa Weyer), the Governor's Office (Jason Simmons and Bailey Carlsen) and outside members from the SD Retailer's Association (Shuree Mortenson), Second Century Habitat Fund Board (Jim Scull) and the SD Wildlife Federation (Zach Hunke). The group first came together on Feb. 18 and will meet monthly through May 2020. Kirk then spoke about the next steps to continue marketing South Dakota's great outdoors. GFP and Tourism will use profiling software and secondary research studies to determine insights about each audience segment. This will include demographics, media preferences, population size, and travel behaviors. All of this will lead to a media strategy for each audience.

## **PETITIONS**

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division director, provided information on the petition process and options available for commission action.

## **Youth Pheasant Hunting Season**

Savanah Hendricks, explained her petition to change or increase the days that youth can hunt pheasant to include two full weekends would allow youth like her who are involved in extracurricular activities more opportunity. She noted this policy has not been examined since 2008 and technology has exploited our youth. It is crucial to instill a passion for hunting and outdoors in our youth at a very young age. Any youth who are either academically or athletically inclined are unable to utilize the Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of the current "Youth Pheasant Hunt Season. Savanah stated she feel it's necessary to our South Dakota hunting industry to support the R3 movement and by changing this policy we will not only do so but make an impact on the next generation of hunters by letting them know they are important to South Dakota.

Motion by Boyd with second by Bies TO APPROVE THE PETITION INCREASING THE DAYS AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH PHEASANT HUNTING. Motion carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Public Hearing began at 2:00 p.m. and concluded at 2:45 p.m. The minutes follow these Commission meeting minutes.

## **OPEN FORUM**

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

### **River Otter Delisting**

Nancy Hilding, Prairie Hills Audubon Society, Black Hawk, SD, has not had time to review the proposal, but opposes it. Has not seen population estimates. Nothing discusses threats.

### **Nest Predator Bounty Program**

Wayne Lloyd, Wentworth, SD, spoke in favor of the bounty program. Said it doesn't matter what govt program there is people will try and cheat the system therefore it should not be a reason to not do it.

Paul Lepisto, Izaak Walton League, Pierre, SD, noted written comments submitted by Ikes noting they oppose the next predator bounty program because it is not successful because it is done on such a wide scale to be effective for nesting. Does not want to see future GFP funds used on this program

Chris Hesla, SDWF, Pierre, SD opposes, but recommends only paying the bounty to kids.

Larry Fredrickson, Chamberlain, SD said he worked and biologist in the 60's. People say they can save a pheasant for each furbearer they trap. He explained how he said it should work and how many tails per species per square mile would be needed and it still would not work.

John Hauge, Deadwood, SD said he opposes this and wants to see data that shows people support this. Everything shows this is a waste of time and money. Hunters should be outraged. The goal is to increase pheasants and ducks and the only way to do that is to increase habitat. Said this was traded under cover of darkness last year. It is the commissions responsibility to make the decision and show the data.

Carol Merwin, Rapid City, SD opposes the program because for the money it costs, we could have habitat. Some of the predators eliminate rats and mice and spoke on behalf of the women in action group who oppose the program. It is more important to teach youth about caring and kindness and other outdoor recreational activities for the love of nature.

Jamie Al-haj, Rapid city, SD opposes the program stating it is barbaric. This money would be better applied to habitat improvements. Commission is responsible to make decisions for what is best for our wildlife and state.

Susan Braunstein, Rapid City, SD opposes program spoke with Keith Fisk asking if we have knowledge of how many targeted species there are in the state. How do we know if we have too many? It doesn't make sense. There are other outdoor activities families can enjoy and teach different lessons to their kids. Other states have proven bounty programs do not work.

Kathern Hess, Summerset, SD said pesticides and other things cause more of a decline. Killing for profit is wrong. Pheasants are a non-native species that is being promoted while native species are being shot or clubbed to death. Other states have rehabilitations programs while our state just kills what the politicians what killed. Has spoken to people who are not away and am asking them to spend their vacation dollars elsewhere.

Sondra Seberger, Rapid City, SD stated she is appalled and opposes the program.

Tom Krafka, Greater Dacotah Chapter of SCI, Rapid City, SD spoke on behalf of self and SDBI opposes the program. There is no scientific evidence to show this program works.

Douglas Traub, Rapid City, SD said he opposes the program because there is a lack of science and the proposal misdirects finances in the hunting world in an inappropriate way. Recommends the proposal be defeated and propose the 250,000 be coupled with retailors and promote hunting in SD.

Erika Harvey, Rapid City, SD professional nature photographer. Other states and countries spend money to repair ecosystems instead we murder for \$10 per tail. Times have changed and we need to adapt to them.

Julie Anderson, Rapid City, SD opposes as it is morally wrong and will put the eco system out of balance. This is cruelty disguised as tradition.

Nancy Hilding, Black Hawk, SD, Prairie Hills Audubon Society. Opposed as it is based on faulty science. Animal cruelty. Trap check times are utterly abominable. If the program worked, it would need to be focused. Habitat is a better option for SD funds. Says staff will get fired and the commission will not be reappointed if this does not pass. The resolution is a cop out. At least drop the opossum or do a scientific experiment like commission Gary Jensen suggested.

### **Landowner Elk License Applications**

Jess Wammen, Reva, SD said 2018 was the first year the season was held with 12 hunters the next year 20. Recommended how the department could improve the 500 elk days system instead of taking tags from the people who actually have tags. Said it shouldn't be that hard to prove the elk use and make it an application requirement. Also recommend splitting the unit down highway 85. Currently you can hunt all across the unit when you should be hunting in your own land if you have elk use.

Chance Lermeny, Reva SD. Believes Kanta will propose the split in the unit down highway 85 as Harding County is a large county. People say they have an abundance of evidence they shouldn't have to drive across the county. Need something put in writing to verify elk use.

## **Other**

Tom Frier, Sunset Lodge, Pierre, SD spoke in regards to Buses Landing boat ramp which is the 3rd most used boat ramp per GFP. Last year he spent own resources on the road to the ramp. He also went to Sully Co commission and didn't receive support. Have a lot of out of state money coming into Sunset Lodge and other lodge and this is a black eye. Wants to bring this to the commissions attentions to see if something can be done.

## **Nest Predator Bounty Program**

Kevin Robling, deputy secretary, an overview of the nest predator bounty program and presented the Department of Game, Fish and Parks' desire to conduct the Nest Predator Bounty Program for 2020 and proposes for public consideration the following: an expenditure for five dollars per tail not to exceed \$250,000 for the bounty of nest predators for the Commission's approval.

Motioned by Bies, second by Sharp TO IMPLEMENT THE 2020 NEST PREDATOR BOUNTY PROGRAM. Roll call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd-no; Locken – yes; Olson- yes; Sharp – yes; Spring- yes; Whitmyre - yes; Jensen-no. Motion carries with 6 yes votes and 2 no vote.

## **PROPOSALS**

### **River Otter Delisting**

Silka Kempema, wildlife biologist, presented information to remove the North American River Otter from the list of state threatened mammals. She explained several factors have allowed river otter populations to rebound across much of their former range, including reintroductions, improvements in wetland and river habitat management, and protections afforded under various state threatened and endangered species laws therefore the Department recommends that protection under the state endangered species law is no longer justified.

Motioned by Bies, second by Whitmyre TO DELIST THE RIVER OTTER. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Flathead Catfish – Border Waters**

John Lott, fisheries chief, presented the proposed change to limit the harvest of flathead catfish 30 inches or longer in length to at most, one fish daily, as part of the daily limit in the Nebraska/South Dakota border waters. Lott explained "One Over" regulations are effective at reducing harvest of fish when it is common for anglers to catch two or more fish above the specified length during a fishing trip. No negative impacts of a one- over-30" regulation on flathead catfish populations are anticipated, however, staff believe the regulation will not result in an increase in larger flathead catfish.

Motioned by Olson, second by Locken TO APPROVED THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE FLATHEAD CATFISH LIMITS AS PRESENTED. Motioned carried unanimously.

## **Archery Deer Season**

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, presented the recommended changes to archery deer season as follows:

1. Modify the season start date for Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge from the fourth Saturday of September to September 1.
2. Modify the season start date for Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge from the third Saturday of October to September 1.
3. In addition to the one "antlerless whitetail deer" license for residents and nonresidents for Unit ARD-LM1, make an allowance for no more than 500 single-tag "antlerless any deer" licenses that would be distributed amongst all municipal archer deer hunting units. Regular price of a single tag "any antlerless deer" resident license.
4. Establish municipal archery deer hunting units for the following city limits: Custer, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Sturgis. Season structure and specific regulations would be determined by the appropriate municipality within the requirements and restrictions of the South Dakota archery season.

Motioned by Bies, second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARCHERY DEER SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motioned carried unanimously.

## **Landowner Elk License Applications**

John Kanta, wildlife regional supervisor, presented the recommended change to the landowner elk license to clarify the intent of this rule as it relates to qualifying land, documentation and qualifying members of the family. Changes also eliminate the "500 elk use days" as this is not easily defined in the field and is left to some interpretation by a qualifying landowner and the Department. Changes to elk use should clarify the intent of the rule that a qualifying landowner-operator must demonstrate that elk use the qualifying property.

He explained there are landowners that qualify as landowner elk preference applicants but are not receiving an elk license in units where the Department is seeking to reduce the number of elk. The Department recommends establishing a limited landowner own-land elk license to ensure that landowners can hunt elk on agricultural lands they own or operate within elk units where the Department's management objective is to decrease the overall elk population. Landowner licenses help to build tolerance for elk and promote elk hunter access and serve to demonstrate the appreciation that the Department has for landowners and producers that help support elk populations, hunter access, the Department's mission and other wildlife management objectives.

Motioned by Bies, second by Sharp TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO LANDOWNER ELK LICENSES AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Youth Waterfowl Season**

Chad Switzer, wildlife program manager, presented the recommended change to the youth waterfowl season to modify the eligibility from youth who have not reached the age of 16 to youth who have not reached the age of 18.

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Locken TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO YOUTH WATERFOWL SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.



## **Elk – BH, Archery, CSP and Prairie**

Switzer explained the intent of the changes being recommended are to allow an opportunity for adjustments to be made at finalization during the Commission meeting in April and in administrative rule to maximize hunter opportunity based on the results of the upcoming aerial survey and to meet population objectives identified in the elk management plan.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Black Hills Elk Hunting Season to Adjust the total number of available licenses from 425 "any elk" and 700 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,125 licenses) to 450 "any elk" and 470 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 920 licenses).

Motioned by Olson, second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS ELK HUNTING SEASON LICENSE NUMBERS BY TYPE. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Archery Elk Hunting Season to adjust the number of licenses available from 142 "any elk" and 80 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 222 licenses) to 152 "any elk" and 75 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 227 licenses).

Motioned by Olson, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NUMBER OF LICENSES ALLOCATED FOR ARCHERY ELK. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the recommendation to retain the current allocation of 8 "any elk" licenses and retain 3 "any elk" archery licenses in Custer State Park.

Motioned by Olson, second by Whitmyre TO RETAIN THE CURRENT "ANY ELK" LICENSES AND ARCHERY LICENSES IN CUSTER STATE PARK. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Prairie Elk Hunting Season to

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 68 "any elk" and 73 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 141 licenses) to 78 "any elk" and 178 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 256 licenses).
2. Modify the proposed Unit PRE-WRA to also exclude the boundary of the Lower Brule Indian Reservation.
3. Establish two additional antlerless elk seasons for Unit 11 as follows: a. Unit 11E with season dates of November 1 – December 31  
b. Unit 11F with season dates of January 1 – February 28
4. In conjunction with the proposed unit boundary change to Unit 15A, establish Unit 15B for antlerless elk harvest and season dates of December 1 – January 31.
5. Modify Unit 35A that currently includes all of Harding County to the following: a. Unit 35A: that portion of Harding County west of US Hwy. 85  
b. Unit 35B: that portion of Harding County east of US Hwy. 85

Motioned by Sharp, second by Whitmyre TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE PRAIRIE ELK HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the administrative action for elk license allocation by unit. (see appendix D)

Motioned by Spring, second by Olson TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE ELK HUNTING SEASONS AND LICENSE ALLOCATIONS BY UNIT. Motion carried unanimously.

## **FINALIZATIONS**

### **Public Waters**

Mike Klosowski, wildlife regional supervisor, presented the recommended changes to remove the current water safety zone at Mina Lake on the southwest side of the dam and remove the current water safety zone at Lake Norden. Klosowski explained the request to remove these safety zones as the areas are not active swimming beaches in these locations and no public desire for buoyed safety zones in these locations.

Motioned by Locken, second by Olson TO REMOVE THE WATER SAFETY ZONES AT MINA LAKE AND LAKE NORDEN AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season**

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, presented the recommended changes to the Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season. He explained that due to the presence of pneumonia, low recruitment and low ram numbers, the Department recommends retaining the hunting closure for Unit 1. The establishment and availability of licenses for Unit 4 (Hell Canyon) is a result of a successful transplant and availability of quality rams. The establishment and availability of a license for Custer State Park is the result of management implemented from research findings and will not negatively affect the viewability of bighorn sheep for park visitors.

1. No more than 8 bighorn sheep licenses may be issued.
2. Modify Unit 2 to include that portion of Custer and Fall River counties within a line beginning at the junction of SD Hwy 16 and the WY state line, east on SD Hwy 16 to the intersection of SD Hwy 16 and Mann Rd (USFS Rd 270) then south along the Mann Rd to Pass Creek Rd (USFS Rd 272) then south on Pass Creek to Richardson Cutoff (USFS Rd 276) then east on Richardson Cutoff to Pleasant Valley Rd (USFS Rd 715) then south on Pleasant Valley Rd to Pilger Mountain Rd (USFS 317) then south on Pilger Mountain Rd to County Rd 15 then south on County Rd 15 to SD Hwy 18 then west on SD Hwy 18 to County Rd 16 then north on County Rd 16 to Dewey Rd (USFS Rd 769) then north and west on Dewey Rd to the Custer County line then west on the Custer county line to the WY state line then north on the WY state line to the point of origin.
3. Establish Unit 4 which includes those portions of Custer and Pennington counties beginning at the junction of the WY state line and Summit Ridge Rd (USFS Rd 265) then north on Summit Ridge Rd to Boles Canyon Rd (USFS 117) then north on Boles Canyon Rd to Six-Mile Rd (USFS 301) the east on Six-Mile Rd to Ditch Creek Rd (USFS Rd 291) then south on Ditch Creek Rd to the Custer/Pennington county line then east on the Custer/Pennington county line to SD Hwy 79 then south on SD Hwy 79 to the Custer/Fall River county line then west on the Custer/Fall River county line to Pilger Mountain Rd (USFS Rd 317) then north on Pilger Mountain Rd to Pleasant Valley Rd (USFS Rd 715) then north and east on Pleasant Valley Rd to Richardson Cutoff (USFS Rd 276) then north on Richardson Cutoff to Pass Creek Rd (USFS Rd 272) then west and north on Pass Creek Rd to Mann Rd (USFS Rd 270) then north on Mann Rd to SD Hwy 16 then west on SD Hwy

16 to the WY state line then north on the WY state line to the point of origin, excluding Jewel Cave National Monument (SEE UNIT MAP).

4. Establish Custer State Park unit which includes the fenced portion of Custer State Park (SEE UNIT MAP)

Motioned by Bies, second by Olson TO APPROVED THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Waterfowl: Duck, Youth Duck, Tundra Swan** Chad Switzer

##### **Duck**

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the duck hunting season to decrease the scaup daily bag limit from 3 to 1 and modify the start date of the Low Plains Middle and North Zones from beginning on the last Saturday of September to the Saturday closest to September 24.

Motion by Whitmyre, second by Sharp TO DECREASE THE SCAUP DAILY LIMIT TO 1 AND MODIFY THE START DATE FOR THE LOW PLAINS MIDDLE AND NORTH ZONES TO THE SATURDAY CLOSEST TO SEPTEMBER 24.

##### **Youth**

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, presented recommended changes to the youth waterfowl hunting season to modify the start date from beginning on the Saturday prior to the last Saturday of September to beginning 14 days prior to the Saturday closest to September 24.

Motion by Sharp, second by Olson TO MODIFY THE YOUTH WATERFOWL SEASON TO BEGIN 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SATURDAY CLOSEST TO SEPTEMBER 24. Motion carried unanimously.

##### **Tundra Swan**

Switzer presented the recommended changes to the Tundra Swan hunting season to reduce the total number of licenses from 1,675 to 1,300 and reduce the number of licenses available for nonresidents from 250 to 200.

Motion by Boyd, second by Olson TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF LICENSE FROM 1,675 TO 1,300 AND NONRESIDENT LICENSES FROM 250 TO 200. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Rules Review Chapters 41:06-41:07**

Jon Kotlinek, staff attorney, explained that during the 2019 Legislative Session HB 1162 was introduced by Representative Gosch. The intent of the bill was to have the Department conduct a systematic review of our administrative rules. During the review the Department was to identify rules that are irrelevant, inconsistent, illogically arranged, or unclear in their intent and direction. After discussions with Representative Gosch, the Department agreed to conduct the systematic review without legislation and to report its findings and corrective changes back to the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council. During the December meeting the Commission formally

proposed suggested changes to ARSD 41:06 and 41:07 to correct inconsistencies, remove unnecessary barriers and arrange rules logically thus promoting an administrative code that benefits current, former and new users.

The Department recommends the following rule changes for the following administrative rules in an effort to reduce redundancy, increase transparency and improve consistency:

Chapter 41:06

Motion by Sharp, second by Bies TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:06. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 41:07

Motion by Sharp, second by Boyd TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED TO RULES IN CHAPTER 41:07. Motion carried unanimously.

### **West River Spring Turkey – Use of Rifles**

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife deputy director, presented the proposed change to the spring turkey hunting season to allow the use of rifles (rimfire, centerfire, and muzzleloading) on private land (excluding private land leased by GFP for public hunting access through the Walk-In Area program) for West River spring prairie hunting units. He explained some individuals have contacted the department and commissioners on the topic of no longer allowing the use of rifles for hunting turkeys during the spring season. The department recommends retaining the current rule that prohibits the use of rifles.

Motion by Sharp, second by Whitmyre TO ALLOW THE USE OF RIFLES DURING THE WEST RIVER SPRING TURKEY HUNTING SEASON. Roll call vote: Bies – no; Boyd-no; Locken – no; Olson- no; Sharp – yes; Spring- yes; Whitmyre - yes; Jensen-yes. Motion fails with 4 yes votes and 4 no vote.

### **Flathead Catfish Trophy Regulations**

John Lott, fisheries chief, presented the recommended changes to modify the flathead catfish trophy regulations proposal to apply only to inland waters rather than statewide. The recommended change from proposal to modify the proposed change to flathead catfish regulation in inland waters to allow at most one flathead catfish 30 inches or longer as part of the daily limit

Motioned by Whitmyre, second by Bies TO AMEND THE PROPOSAL TO ALLOW ONE FLATHEAD CATFISH 30 INCHES OR LONGER AS PART OF THE DAILY LIMIT. Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Locken, second by Sharp TO APPROVED THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE FLATHEAD CATFISH TROPHY REGULATIONS ARE AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Nonresident East River Special Deer License**

Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife regional supervisor, presented the recommended changes to:

1. Establish a nonresident East River special "any whitetail" deer license and fee of \$554.
2. Annually allocate 500 nonresident East River special "any whitetail" deer licenses.
3. Applicants must have permission from an owner or lessee of private land before applying.
4. Applicants must also include the name and telephone number of the owner or lessee providing permission.

Motion by Bies, second by Spring TO ESTABLISH NONRESIDENT EAST RIVER SPECIAL DEER LICENSES. Roll call vote: Bies – yes; Boyd-no; Locken – no; Olson- no; Sharp – no; Spring- yes; Whitmyre - no; Jensen-yes. Motion fails with 2 yes votes and 6 no vote.

## **Hunting Requirements and Prohibited Methods – CWD Chad Switzer**

Switzer presented the recommended changes to chronic wasting disease endemic areas defined as listed.

1. Modify 41:06:03:15 (listed above) by adding the following deer hunting units: WRD-11B, WRD-15B, WRD-35A, WRD-35L within WRD-35A, WRD-31A, WRD-39B, WRD-49A, WRD-49B, WRD-60A, RFD-LC1 and RFD-LC2.
2. Modify 41:06:03:15 (listed above) by adding the following elk hunting units: BHE-H1, PRE-09A, PRE-11A, PRE-11B, PRE-11C, PRE-11D, PRE-35A and PRE-WRA.

He explained a CWD endemic area is defined as a hunting unit where CWD has been confirmed in wild cervids. Managing the transportation and disposal of carcasses or carcass parts outside of a known CWD endemic is critical in reducing the artificial spread of CWD. Hunting units identified as a CWD endemic area will automatically trigger intrastate transportation and carcass disposal requirements as outlined in 41:06:03:17, 41:06:03:18 and 41:06:03:19. Information regarding these new endemic areas and CWD regulations will be incorporated into all deer and elk applications so applicants are aware of these regulations for applicable hunting units.

He also presented the recommended change from proposal to modify 41:06:03:15 to define chronic wasting disease endemic areas to include any firearm deer or elk hunting unit, excluding prairie elk Unit PRE-WRA, that includes any portion of a county where chronic wasting disease has been confirmed. In addition, any deer harvested during the archery, muzzleloader and apprentice deer seasons and any elk harvested from Unit PRE-WRA within a county where chronic wasting disease has been confirmed would be subject to carcass transportation and disposal regulations.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Olson TO AMEND THE CWD AREAS TO EXCLUDE PRARIE ELK UNIT PRE-WRA. Motion carried unanimously.

Motioned by Locken, second by Bies TO MODIFY THE LISTED CWD ENDEMIC AREAS AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Switzer presented the recommended changes to repeal the mandatory submission of samples for chronic wasting disease testing. He explained the goal of surveillance strategies in South Dakota is to determine the likely spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) to new units where the disease has not been detected in wild, free-ranging cervids. Assuming natural movement of CWD by wild cervids will provide

the most predictable disease spread across the landscape, high surveillance sampling goals will be established for units with no known CWD positive wild cervids that are within the expected dispersal distance of a known, wild CWD positive cervid. Without pre-determined research design and management objectives, prevalence rates will not be quantified. If research objectives require prevalence rates or a management strategy will be implemented based on prevalence rate thresholds (i.e., implement management strategy X if prevalence exceeds Y%), prevalence will be estimated by collecting a representative sample with desired levels of precision.

Motioned by Sharp, second by Boyd TO REPEAL THE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE THAT REQUIRES THE MANDATORY SUBMISSION OF SAMPLES FOR CWD TESTING. Motion carried unanimously.

## **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

### **Black Hills Fisheries Plan Update**

John Lott, wildlife fisheries chief, informed the Commission that the draft South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks 2020-2024 Black Hills Fisheries Management Area Plan was available for public comment. A total of 17 public comments were received on the draft plan. The majority of the comments were in favor of the plan, with increasing management of smallmouth bass and walleye being the most common suggestions in other comments provided. Walleye stockings continue in Sheridan and Stockade Lakes, with a few fish being caught by anglers. Smallmouth bass are actively managed in Sheridan, Stockade, and Bismarck Lakes. The Rapid City Aquatics staff to discuss public comments received and believe standard management activities and the draft BHFMA plan cover topics submitted as part of the public comment process and no modifications to the draft plan are required.

Motion by Bies, second by Whitmyre TO ADOPT THE 2020-2024 BLACK HILLS FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Captive Cervid Herds and CWD – AIB**

Dr. Dustin Oedekoven provided an overview of the Animal Industry Board and an update on CWD in captive cervid herds. He explained the standards used for the herd certification program.

### **CWD Update**

Chad Switzer, wildlife program administrator, provided a brief update on chronic wasting disease (CWD)

### **Border Water State Agency Update**

John Lott, wildlife fisheries chief, explained GFP fisheries biologists and managers met with their counterparts in Iowa and Nebraska on February 13 to discuss border water catfish regulations. The meeting focused on catfish population updates, discussion of management philosophies, and opportunities for standardizing regulations on border waters. As a result of the meeting, the department recommended changing the current flathead catfish proposal of at most one flathead catfish 28 inches or longer, as part of the daily limit for inland waters, to one flathead catfish 30 inches or longer. In association with this finalization, the department recommended the Commission propose the same regulation for the South Dakota – Nebraska border waters.

## **Refuge Meeting Update**

Kevin Robling, deputy secretary, and Tom Kirschenmann, wildlife division director, provided a brief update on the refuge meeting held February 19, 2020 in Pierre.

## **Elk Aerial Survey Results**

Chad Switzer and Andy Lindbloom, wildlife senior biologist, provided a powerpoint presentation on elk aerial survey results. Elk populations are monitored and assessed primarily from evaluations of harvest surveys, herd composition surveys, survival monitoring, aerial surveys, and population modeling. In 2019, nearly 31,000 people applied for the 1336 elk licenses that were sold. Elk hunters in 2019 harvested a total of 802 elk in the Black Hills, with an overall tag success of 63%. Hunter success for those hunters with an “any elk” license average 71%, which meets the 60% minimum objective established in the Elk Management Plan. Approximately 74% of bulls harvested in the Black Hills were 4+ years or older, again exceeding minimum objectives established in the Elk Plan. Herd composition surveys documented 43 calves per 100 cows for recruitment in 2019, while bull ratios were 28 bulls per 100 cows. Survival monitoring efforts continue in the Black Hills with 35 cow elk captured and radio collared with GPS collars in the winter of 2020. Currently approximately 150 cows are being monitored, with annual survival rates of 85% (95% CI: 78-91) in 2019. Aerial surveys are conducted every 4 years and were completed this winter with 3 helicopters. The entire Black Hills in South Dakota and portions of Wyoming was flown, and abundance was estimated using research developed sightability models. The model estimate for all Black Hills hunting units was 6,483 (95% CI 6,098 - 7,958), Custer State Park was 457 (95% CI 442 - 544), and Wyoming Black Hills was 1,687 (95% CI 1,584 - 2,118). The number of elk in the Black Hills is on the lower elk of the objective range of 6,000 - 8,000 and Custer State Park is below the objective of 700 – 900. Recommendations for elk licenses for 2020 and 2021 hunting seasons will reflect overall reductions to allow the elk population in the Black Hills to slowly grow, while increases in some units will be made to address depredation concerns on private lands.

## **Elk Depredation Update**

John Kanta, wildlife division director updated the Commission. He explained a meeting was held on January 7, 2020 to discuss ideas on how GFP can improve current programs and services and ideas for new programs and services that GFP can offer to help address damage to private property caused by elk. An invite letter was sent to 87 landowners. Approximately 35 landowners attended the meeting and there was some good discussion. Some of the major topics of discussion were loss of forage and grass that will be harvested for hay, reimbursement rates for landowners’ labor expenses when fixing fence damaged from elk and a reduction in elk numbers where they continue to impact private property. Department staff have discussed the input from the meeting and are moving ahead with some changes to elk depredation programs and some additional assistance.

## **Creel Survey Enhancements**

Cameron Goble, wildlife fisheries biologist, presented information on the use of vehicle counters to estimate fishing pressure on Lakes Sharpe and Oahe. Beginning in 2018 the Upper Missouri River Fisheries Management Area began implementing a new survey design for measuring angler pressure, catch-rates, and harvest on Lakes Oahe

and Sharpe. Prior to this, angler use surveys were conducted using standardized methods requiring significant labor and monetary expense. Rough estimates suggest that costs for surveying each reservoir likely exceeded \$40,000 annually. Additionally, it was believed that traditional surveys on Lake Oahe (and perhaps Lake Sharpe) were likely producing inflated (but consistent) estimates of angling pressure, catch, and harvest due to factors out of the control of biologists (e.g. weather affecting flight surveys). By tapping into and expanding on an existing network of remote vehicle counters widely used by the Parks Division of GFP we have been able to dramatically increase the frequency and consistency of our angler counts for both reservoirs allowing for increased precision in our estimates of angling pressure, catch-rates, and harvest on both reservoirs with substantial cost-savings (> \$10,000 per year for each reservoir) to the department.

### **License Sales Update**

Heather Villa, wildlife administration chief, presented license sales as of March 1, 2020. License sales are up 19.7% over which equates to roughly \$400,000. We have a significant increase in resident combination licenses. Junior combination and Youth Small game licenses are trending higher sales than both 2018 and 2019 while our senior combination licenses are surpassing sales from 2016-2019. These license numbers give a glance at where we were at this time of year in previous years.

### **DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

#### **Custer State Park Private Cabin Transfer**

Matt Snyder, parks and recreation regional supervisor, presented three requests for private cabin transfers in Custer State Park.

Resolution 20-02 authorizes the department to execute consent to provide Adam Hoffman interest and site permittee of the private cabin permit in Custer State Park currently owned by Richard Hoffman.

Resolution 20-03 authorizes the department to execute consent to provide daughter Angela Leggate, and sons James Dahlberg and Peter Dahlberg interest and site permittee of the private cabin permit in Custer State Park currently owned by Mary Ellen Dahlberg.

Resolution 20-04 authorizes the department to execute consent to provide Justin Kane Nelson and Nicole Doneil Dave interest and site permittee of the private cabin permit in Custer State Park currently owned by Donna K. Nelson.

Motioned by Bies with second by Olson TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-02 (Appendix A) RESOLUTION 20-03 (Appendix B) and RESOLUTION 20-04 (Appendix C) as presented Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Spring Creek Concessions**

Scott Simpson, Parks and Recreation Division Director, provided the Commission with information on the status of the concessions at Spring Creek for the restaurant and convenience store.



Motion by Bies, second by Whitmyre TO EXTEND THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR PROPOSAL TO APRIL 6. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Preliminary Flooding Outlook**

Al Nedved, Deputy Director for the Division of Parks and Recreation and Andy Alban, Law Enforcement Administrator for the Department of Game, Fish and Parks presented a preliminary flooding outlook for the state that could affect GFP facilities and services. Flooding conditions in the fall presented a concern going into the winter. Soils throughout the state are saturated and rivers and lakes remain in very high stages of flooding categories. However, the mild winter especially in February has seen a retreat of snowpack on the plains and slow release of runoff into the rivers and lakes. Snowpack and moisture in the northern Black Hills is extremely high. Warm and sunny conditions in February with forecast outlooks for March are very favorable for minimal flooding. Runoff conditions on the Missouri River are tracking towards a lower year than in 2019 where the runoff amounts were nearly equal to that of 2011. Mountain snowpack is running approximately average, but peaks in mid-April. Mild conditions have allowed for higher releases in January and February making more room for flood storage. Preparations are in place for key parks that are most likely to be affected by flooding such as Lake Poinsett, Lake Thompson, Roy Lake, Lake Herman, Fisher Grove, Big Sioux, and Lake Vermillion. Parks are lower Lake Francis case tend to be affected the most by high river levels and releases from the mainstem dams.

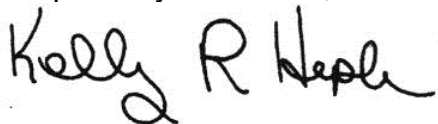
### **Revenue, Camping and Visitation Report**

Al Nedved, parks and recreation deputy director, provide the year to date revenue, camping and visitation reports for all parks and districts.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

**Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission  
January 16, 2020**

The Commission Vice chair Scott Phillips began the public hearing at 2:00 p.m. CT at Capitol Lake Visitors Center in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Gary Jensen, Mary Anne Boyd, Jon Locken, Charles Spring, and Robert Whitmyre were present. Olson indicated written comments were provided to the Commissioners prior to this time and will be reflected in the Public Hearing Minutes. Olson then invited the public to come forward with oral testimony.

**Public Waters**

Julie Johnson, Mina Lake, SD thanked GFP staff for work and partnership on repair of Mina Lake Dam. Want to be clear the press misinterpreted the rule stating it closes the swimming beach and this rule change does not.

**Elk** no verbal comments

**Rules Review** no verbal comments

**Flathead Catfish** no verbal comments

**Hunting Requirements – CWD** no verbal comments

**Bighorn Sheep** no verbal comments

**Waterfowl** no verbal comments

**West River Spring Turkey – Use of Rifles**

Dylan Alffallison, Watertown, SD, said he disagrees with rifle hunting for turkeys. If you use safety, you would know if it is a real turkey. Deer hunting with rifles seems more unsafe.

Barett Bauer, Hayti, SD speak in support of proposed change to allow the use of rifles on private land. Noted majority of comments are in support of the change. Comments in opposition were related to the Black Hills region. Has hunted turkey for 17 years and have yet to experience an unsafe situation. Feels this will limit potential license revenue that would be brought into the state. This would allow landowner the right to choose as it should be.

Randy Winge, Watertown, SD said he began hunting as a group with rifles a few years ago. Prefers using a rifle as a shotgun is not as quick of a kill. Feels there is opportunity for generations in the future and if it changes that will not happen.

Bridget Bauer, Watertown, SD thanked the commission for opportunity to comment. If the proposal is approved, it will allow older generations the opportunity to hunt spring turkey again as well as providing the younger generation the opportunity to choose. For families who only hunt big game animals they would prefer rifles.

Understand safety is a concern, but every rifle hunter is taught from the beginning is to focus on what is in front of and behind your target.

Bruce Bauer, Watertown, SD asked the commission to finalize and approve the rules change in a time of declining hunters and tag purchases you should expand opportunity not limit. Says there has never been an accident on the prairie. This is a landowner issue and a hunter preference issue. Thanked former Commissioner Phillips for proposing the rule change. 2018 Hunter spring turkey opinion survey of 939 said their preferred weapon rifle 657 said their 216 archery 64 shotgun of 939.

Danny Hubregtse, Rapid City, SD, as a lifelong hunter he expressed his support for the proposal and that the choice should be left up to the hunter. Also stressed the need to continue hunting safely and encouraging children to engage in the outdoors.

Francis Strohfus, Henry, SD supports one state one rule. Statistically we do not have accidents recorded but do talk about near misses and safety issues. Did get shot when he was younger by his hunt safe instructor. Safety is always a concern.

Jason Matthews, Sioux Falls, SD said he is paraplegic and in support of proposal and preferred it how it was before because it allowed him to shoot down into the valley. Has been shot at when deer hunting because he is 4 feet tall and moves in his wheelchair. Should not punish all because of the irresponsible few.

### **Nonresident East River Special Deer License**

Wayne Lloyd, Wentworth, SD if you allow 500 more licenses it will increase the revenue and they will open more land to this group and not the residents.

Doug Abraham, Pierre, SD represents SD Landowner Alliance 54 members. Group has never threatened a lockout. Expressed support for the proposal as it provides uniformity because their already special west river tags. This will allow landowners an additional revenue stream with this group having an emphasis on habitat development. Possible alternatives would be to consider an 8 percent allocation or allow a special tag to be drawn. These tags provide opportunity for the landowner and development of opportunity.

Chris Hesla, SDWF, Pierre, SD spoke in opposition and stated he continues to hear the 3R's from everyone who proposes something but think the commission should prioritize on residents.

Richard Phetze, Watertown, SD spoke regarding his concerns with nonresidents not knowing how they will be allowed to purchase a license and it's hard enough for a resident to find a deer. Has a good friend who comes over to hunt a doe tag. Disagrees with people being able to come over and hunt wherever they want. Opposes the proposal.

See attached written public comments submitted prior to the public hearing

The public Hearing concluded at 2:45 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 initial "K" and "H".

Kelly R. Hepler, Department Secretary

**Appendix A**  
**RESOLUTION 20-02**

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has been advised that Richard Hoffman is an owner of a cabin located in Custer State Park (Custer County) on property described as:

No.5 Pine Crest in the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section Twelve (12), Township Four (4) South, Range Five (5) East of the Black Hills Meridian, Custer County, South Dakota.

WHEREAS, the property upon which the cabin is located is owned by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks and has been leased to Richard Hoffman by permit by reason of a Stipulation of Settlement and Dismissal entered in Craft v. Wipf, Civil Action No. 85-5092, U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota, Western Division, and subsequent agreements and permits executed thereafter based on said Stipulation and Dismissal; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that Richard Hoffman is deceased and per the Estate desires to and have transferred and assigned all his joint interest in said cabin and cabin site permit to Adam Hoffman; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been requested to approve said Transfer and Assignment.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that in the event the Department receives an executed Agreement and Assignment of the cabin site permit and cabin and appurtenances located thereon and which further provides that said Assignee agrees to abide by all of the terms and conditions of the aforementioned Stipulation of Settlement and Dismissal and all subsequent agreements relative thereto, including but not limited to Cabin Site Permits, Addendums, and all agreements relative to establishing the lease or rental payments due the Department, then in that event, the Department is authorized to execute a Consent to the requested Assignment.

**Appendix B  
RESOLUTION 20-03**

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has been advised that Mary Ellen Dahlberg is an owner of a cabin located in Custer State Park (Custer County) on property described as:

No. 5 Sunkaka Humpa in the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section Twelve (12), Township Four (4) South, Range Five (5) East, of the Black Hills Meridian, Custer County, South Dakota.

WHEREAS, the property upon which the cabin is located is owned by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks and has been leased to Mary Ellen Dahlberg by permit by reason of a Stipulation of Settlement and Dismissal entered in Craft v. Wipf, Civil Action No. 85-5092, U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota, Western Division, and subsequent agreements and permits executed thereafter based on said Stipulation and Dismissal; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that Mary Ellen Dahlberg is deceased and per the Estate desires to and have transferred and assigned all of her interest in said cabin and cabin site permit to her daughter Angela Leggate, and sons James Dahlberg and Peter Dahlberg; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been requested to approve said Transfer and Assignment.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that in the event the Department receives an executed Agreement and Assignment of the cabin site permit and cabin and appurtenances located thereon and which further provides that said Assignee's agrees to abide by all of the terms and conditions of the aforementioned Stipulation of Settlement and Dismissal and all subsequent agreements relative thereto, including but not limited to Cabin Site Permits, Addendums, and all agreements relative to establishing the lease or rental payments due the Department, then in that event, the Department is authorized to execute a Consent to the requested Assignment.

**Appendix C**  
**RESOLUTION 20-04**

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has been advised that Donna K. Nelson is partial owner of a cabin located in Custer State Park (Custer County) on property described as:

The Oakes No. 2 in the SW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 20, Township 3 South, Range 6 East, of the Black Hills Meridian, Custer County, Custer South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the property upon which the cabin is located is owned by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks and has been leased to Donna K. Nelson and other joint owners by permit by reason of a Stipulation of Settlement and Dismissal entered in Craft v. Wipf, Civil Action No. 85-5092, U.S. District Court for the District of South Dakota, Western Division, and subsequent agreements and permits executed thereafter based on said Stipulation and Dismissal; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that Donna K. Nelson desires to and has transferred and assigned all of her interest in said cabin and cabin site permit to Justin Kane Nelson and Nicole Doneil Dave; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been requested to approve said Transfer and Assignment.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that in the event the Department receives an executed Agreement and Assignment of the cabin site permit and cabin and appurtenances located thereon and which further provides that said Assignee agrees to abide by all of the terms and conditions of the aforementioned Stipulation of Settlement and Dismissal and all subsequent agreements relative thereto, including but not limited to Cabin Site Permits, Addendums, and all agreements relative to establishing the lease or rental payments due the Department, then in that event, the Department is authorized to execute a Consent to the requested Assignment.

## Appendix D 2020-2021 Elk Hunting Seasons

2019			
Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	60		
H1B		20	
H2A	250		
H2B		75	
H2C		75	
H2D		25	
H2E		75	
H2F		75	
H2G		75	
H2H		15	
H2I		15	
H2J		15	
H3A	80		
H3B		15	
H3C		15	
H3D		15	
H3E		50	
H3F		50	
H3G		50	
H4A	10		
H4B		10	
H5A	5		
H7A	10		
H7B		10	
H9A	10		
H9B		20	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,125</b>
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>

2020-2021			
Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	50		
H1B		15	
H2A	240		
H2B		15	
H2C		10	
H2D			
H2E		25	
H2F		25	
H2G			
H2H		5	
H2I		15	
H2J		15	
H3A	100		
H3B		30	
H3C		30	
H3D		30	
H3E		60	
H3F		60	
H3G		60	
H4A	20		
H4B		40	
H5A	5		
H7A	20		
H7B		15	
H9A	15		
H9B		20	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>920</b>
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>94</b>

Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	20	10	
H2A	90	50	
H3A	25	20	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	5		
H9A			
30A			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>222</b>

Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	20	15	
H2A	95	40	
H3A	25	20	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	10		
H9A			
30A			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>227</b>



Prairie Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
9A	10	10	
11A		18	
11B	16		
11C	16		
11D		30	
11E	Not Applicable		
11F	Not Applicable		
15A	8	5	
15B	Not Applicable		
27A	10	10	
30A			
35A	8		
35B	Not Applicable		
WRA	Not Applicable		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>141</b>

Prairie Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
9A	10	15	
11A		18	
11B	16		
11C	16		
11D		30	
11E		30	
11F		30	
15A	8		
15B		5	
27A	10	10	
30A			
35A	4	8	
35B	4	12	
WRA	10	20	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>256</b>

Custer State Park			
Season	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
CEE-CU1	3		
CUE-CU1	9		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>12</b>

Custer State Park			
Season	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
CEE-CU1	3		
CUE-CU1	9		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>12</b>

# Public Comments

## Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

---

**Patrick Moore**

**Ellsworth Afb SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

If the herds in South Dakota can support the increased licenses without impact on sustainment, then this is a fantastic move. The health and numbers of the herd is the most important.

---

**Lynn Namminga**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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## Black Hills Fisheries Management Plan

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**Cody Parks**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Add more walleyes into Sheridan and stockade lakes. Enough to where people can actually target them and not catch them as just a bonus fish. The more walleye fisheries west river the better.

---

**Robert Eddy**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Additions to plan;

- Allow unrestricted harvest of Rock Bass and Northern Pike in BH lakes.

- Establish Lake/Splake trout their own daily/possession harvest. 1 daily with 2 possession, minimum 24".

-Continue trout/salmon limit at 5/10. Limit rainbow/brown harvest in streams 3/6.

Thank you!

---

**Scott Olson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Access to many of the smaller lakes can be an issue due to siltation build up and weed growth. Extra fishing docks would go a long way to helping alleviate this issue. I would support putting larger trout in many of the smaller lakes due to survivability as well as how much more fun they are to catch. However, these would be more apt to being kept so better management or decreasing the limit would be necessary to keep the lakes stocked with them. Also wouldn't mind seeing more wardens around or survey takers to keep people more honest.

---

**Richard Scheiber**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Re: stocking of larger 15" Rainbows in Deerfield, with larger fish come more anglers who seem to think catch and release is the way to go...I agree, but as I caught and released more larger Rainbows this past season, I've noticed many of these beautiful fish had 5 or 6 hook marks in their mouth areas. More education on how to release is obviously needed in my opinion. Also noticed more teeth marks on several of these larger fish this year. I hope you are monitoring the impact of those large Lakers on these Rainbows. After having caught and released a 30" and 2 26" Lakers last season, I'm getting more and more nervous about the impact these large Lakers may be having on ANY sized Rainbows. Thanks for your work.

---

**Dean Duncan**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Your slot limit on Waleye's in Orman sucks! You have to throw all the good eating ones back. You have said it's because of all the little one's. Saint some of the litter one's out and put in another lake.

---

**Justin Taylor**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jerry Meyer**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

This looks like a pretty good plan to me.

---

**Randy Hill**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

As an avid Trout Fisherman we applaud and support any effort to maintain or improve the fishery within the Black Hills.

Living at Hill City and fishing for every species and in every body of water within the Hills is important to me and my family and our future fishermen as well.

I can remember before the Flood fishing in Spearfish Canyon and having no problem catching a few nice fat Trout to eat....or Rapid Creek or Spring Creek.....as well as many of the lakes in the Hills and C.S.P. so we support and would be only too happy to volunteer to help these future projects in anyway we can.

Thanks for your time,

Randy, Tracie, Trevor and Brittney

The Hill Family.

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**Matthew Pickman**

**Box Elder SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

What are the chances of getting more Black Hills lakes/West river Walleye fishing areas? Driving over an hour out to the two main lakes seems kind of ridiculous, then on the East river side it seems like every lake over there has walleye.

I know Stockade lake had some fingerlings released a couple years ago and legend has it that Curlew has some as well(allegedly). But it would be nice for some Summertime walleye fun, and more importantly Wintertime Ice fishing walleye fun.

Thank you so much for your time and cooperation in this matter (and for reading this rant)!

---

**David Meyer**

**Hermosa SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Please consider stocking rainbow trout in lower Rapid Creek, in town. Please consider adding a size slot limit of none kept or speared over 30" to Northern Pike in the hills lakes to provide more large Northern Pike. Please also consider closing or limiting the amount of Norther Pike killed by spear-fisherman. The number of Pike in Pactola is way down compared to years past and I believe this is due to the Spear fisherman killing so many.

---

**Chris Horsley**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I myself along with many others, would appreciate it if GFP would continue the stocking of walleye in Sheridan Lake. I understand that there is Angostura or Orman, however they are both an hour away from Rapid. Also, my family enjoys the hills scenery. I can take the daughter out fishing in the morning while camping at our favorite lake. Please consider continuing the stock of walleye at Sheridan Lake.

---

**Tim Ferrell**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Has it ever been discussed to introduce Small Mouth Bass to Deerfield Lake or any of the other cold water fisheries in the Blackhills?

---

**Michael Schortzmann**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I would like to see a continued effort to stock walleye in Black Hills lakes. It would be nice to be able to fish for another type of fish in the hills. It might help the quality of fishing for other species as well some lakes are over populated with small perch, rock bass, and crappie.

---

**Michael Schortzmann**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I would like to see a continued effort to stock walleye in Black Hills lakes. It would be nice to be able to fish for another type of fish in the hills. It might help the quality of fishing for other species as well some lakes are over populated with small perch, rock bass, and crappie.

---

**Steven Stauffer**

**Rapid City, Sd SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I have always wondered why there was not more emphasis put on smallmouth bass in the Black Hills, especially at Pactola. It is cold, clear and deep and it would seem to me to be an ideal smallmouth lake. I never fish Sheridan or Pactola on weekends during the Memorial Day to Labor Day time frame due to over crowding and too many hot rod boats on the lakes.

---

**Steve Youngs**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Not everyone wants to fish for trout .  
There should be more places to fish for pike and walleye .  
GFP on the west side of the state have no clue  
On how manage the lakes in the BH .

Very disheartening to watch year after year  
Of people not knowing what the community wants .

---

**Ken Edel**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Restore water levels in Slate Creek Dam

Spring Creek deep pool project below Sheridan Lake. Downstream of Center Lake is a good example.

Include ice fishing in your BH management planning.

Snow removal plan for Pactola roads

Provide ice maps identifying hazards for Pactola & Sheridan Lake on GF&P website.

Identify initiatives that support ice accident prevention.

We have 3 large lakes in the Black Hills management area and are only using 2 of them. Its a GF&P issue and a updated management plan is needed that will benefit the public and address the over crowding issue.

Conduct a BH lake use survey to determine what activity there is and what effects those uses have on the reservoir.

Restore 15" bass minimum at Sheridan Lake and include Pactola.

Provide a Bass rescue plan prior to renovation of Stockade Lake.

Increase stocking facilities for cold & warm water facilities.

Orman Dam is outside the BH management area but would suggest two items.

Provide a ice ramp to accommodate ice anglers safe entry on & off the ice.

Create a concession pad to accommodate service groups fund raising opportunity.

Thank You the opportunity to comment.

---

## Elk Hunting Seasons

---

**Patrick Moore**

**Ellsworth Afb SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I support the continued use of aerial surveying to craft and adjust Elk seasons in order to gain truth data prior to the season.

---

**Patrick Glasford**

**Crooks SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

More of a suggestion.....Anyone with over 20 years preference in a unit should get extra points toward the draw. Anyone with 30 years should be given a tag before the lottery draw.

---

**Catlin Clifford**

**Porcupine SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I am writing about the prairie elk hunting seasons in Bennett County. The way they stand now with the first either-sex season starting on September 1st which is completely different from the Black Hills Elk and as a tribal archery elk hunter I find it rather disrespectful to overlap our seasons on the same elk in such a manner.

---

**Robert Eddy**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

The expanding prairie elk herds, which occupy a majority of private lands, unlike the BH units, do need further population control. I support the expansion of the prairie elk units BUT please expand the units in Butte, Meade and Lawrence Counties in this proposal. These small units reduce the opportunities hunters have due to their limited size. Many times the elk move or landowners are swamped with hunters when the elk are on their property. I would suggest Harding and Bennett counties remain their own separate units. The remaining west river be divided by I-90 north and south units. This allows some mobility for both hunters and for the elk. Thank you for the consideration.

---

**Douglas Traub**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Based on my observation of several large herds of elk in the park this fall, I support the proposal to increase elk hunting opportunities in the park.

---

**Chad Johnson**

**Harrisburg SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Leave Resident only tags



---

**Robert Eddy**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

In most areas of west river, elk are not a managed species. Eliminate these smaller units and allow a broader range for hunter so have an opportunity at the constantly moving herds. Keep Harding and Bennett counties their own units, combine the remainder of WR into one or two units. Give the hunters a chance at filling a tag. the opportunity doesn't comes around often.

---

**Tanner Eddy**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Yes to expanded elk in west river, but combine all units into one mega-unit to allow hunters a chance at finding the elk.

## Nest Predator Bounty Program

---

**Nicole Gonzalez**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Charlotte Petrick**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I've hunted & fished for over 50 years; I eat what I kill. I wear leather & fur; I have nothing against ethical trapping. I'm ashamed of South Dakota's Nest Predator Bounty Program. Wanton killing for profit is wrong.

Thousands of native animals are being killed & wasted to protect a non-native commodity. These animals can languish for up to 72 hours West River before being clubbed or shot. Thousands more dependent young are dying a slow death of starvation when mom is killed.

As predators are removed, their prey will increase. These lands will see a surge of mice, rabbits, rats, & moles. Pheasant habit (and crops) will suffer. The predators will rebound and pheasants will suffer. This insanity will have long term effects on the entire environment.

Hidden agendas, closed-door meetings, and my license fees spent for a special interest upset me. I'm upset that this program was implemented without the opportunity for public input. I'm upset that tail-less carcasses are being found by folks trying to enjoy the outdoors. I'm upset that South Dakota's well-earned reputation for conservation & stewardship is being tarnished.

Ethical sportsmen & wildlife biologists throughout the nation are appalled at this lame-brained plan that ignores science & research.

This isn't a Republican or Democratic issue. This is purely greed. I truly wish this whole program would be abolished. I would like to see our state's downward spiral in ethical behavior stopped.

Charlotte "Charlie" Petrick  
Rapid City SD

---

**Janine Kentfield**

**Garretson SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Although, I do not hunt or trap I have been around it all my life. I was taught gun safety and ethical hunting. I am FOR the balance of nature, survival of the fittest. This program teaches none of that to our kids. This program is unethical trapping and teaching our kids that one species is of greater value than another. For \$10? And in the spring? Of all times? Ethical trapping is done in the fall/winter when the coats are of greater value and there are not babies left to suffer! I understand the need to keep "predators" in check, however I feel that should be left up to the landowner. And NOT for a "bounty". This program and the fact that GF and P supports it makes me question what you stand for? Please, tell Kristy this is NOT the way to increase pheasant populations! Leave the wetlands! Save the habitat. Encourage farm raised and released pheasants. As my first line stated, I am not a hunter-per se-I hunt with a camera and I find no shortage of pheasants in this area! I have not seen a fox or a badger in years...this is personal observation from someone who is out almost daily!

---

**Rachel Hart**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program proports to preserve pheasant habitat by killing native predators of the non-native bird, so that hunters with money can come here and kill the birds..i guess they're predators too. The science behind this does not support that killing the opossums, raccoons, weasels, badgers, among other animals, does much, if anything to increase the pheasant numbers. And the cruelty of trapping and killing of these creatures cheapens the value of animals, especially in the eyes and minds of the children that our governor encourages to participate in this horrible activity. It's completely cruel, and the poor animals suffer so that a ten dollar bounty can be earned with their blood. Fifty thousand killed. Please disallow this cruel horror to ever happen again. Thank you for your consideration.

---

**Cindi Mullins**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not support this program. There is no reason to have it and is inhumane. The money spent can be used for teacher salaries.

---

**Klara Parks**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Stop this ridiculous, cruel and completely unnecessary program. It is a waste of money and has not proved to benefit the pheasant population as has been claimed. Please listen to the people this year. You ignored us last year, and I feel the majority of us opposed this program but you went ahead with it anyway. Shame on you!

---

**Klara Parks**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

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---

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**Piedmont SD**

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**Comment:**

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---

**Tina Startz**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Beverly Caserio**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sue Hayes**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I have been researching other states programs for population growth for pheasants and all of them have detailed means for increasing effective habitat for pheasants. The predator program has not shown any positive results so why keep doing what is not working? Other states have indicated that it is ineffective. I certainly would like to see my taxes go toward a program that shows promise. Come on.. let's do something that makes sense. In addition to the meth campaign, this program is making a mockery of our state. Please discontinue this program and research something with proven results.

---

**Sue Hayes**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

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---

**Margaret Mann**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Stop this barbaric practice for reasons too numerous to list. I will never vote for Noem again and I'm a die hard Republican. Shameful to do such cruelty and ruin our ecosystem.

---

**Christine Backens**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Highly oppose this program. It's extremely cruel to trap not only the species targeted, but anything else that helplessly encounters one...most especially domestic pets AND their owners who have to endure their cries of pain and struggle to release.

---

**Gregg Yonkovich**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I support this program, but personally would rather see the funds spent on additional land acquisition. If GF&P decides to provide traps again, I'd suggest charging a nominal fee for each trap, rather than giving them away \$10 or \$20/trap is still a bargain. Support change to allow shooting of predators, rather than just trapping.

---

**James Zeck**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This ranks right up there with the "We are on Meth" campaign. Lets take a limited resource (\$\$\$) and spend it on a program that will not increase the numbers of game bird species. A better use of those dollars would be to restore habitat and increase public access not by having a bunch of traps built and given away to only sit in some ones shop or garage.

---

**Cheryl Stone**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not renew this unnecessary and cruel program. Thank you.

---

**Connie Blair**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Scott Bakker**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not have this program anymore. This is very wasteful of animals. There is also benefits to having the animals that would be killed after being trapped.

---

**Tacy Paul**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There is no evidence this program increases the pheasant population. It is inhumane, unnecessary and expensive.

---

**Carolyn Ellington**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Do not run this program. This program is not based on scientific data. The data actually shows that loss of habitat is the reason for the declining quail population. It is an expensive program that is not needed, especially in a year where state funds are low.

---

**Denton Fastwhirlwind**

**Kyle SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please DO NOT choose another nesting program.

---

**Jacqui Hatzell**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I believe this is a horrific program and should be banned! Not only is it ecologically unsound... But there are far better things to use this money on. Just a couple ideas: fix the roads in town...especially West of West Blvd...they are horrible! Or new programs for the homeless in town that empower them to find ways to break through the poverty and find employment and safe housing.

---

**Heather Spaich**

**Lehigh KS**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am not opposed to responsible hunting. Such as for food. However, I am against the abhorrent act of hunting and trapping for no other reason than money and trophies. All animals have a right to live. This planet is their home as much as it is ours, if not more so, considering they were here first. Although, most humans are to selfish, greedy, and ignorant to believe that. I may not live in your state, but I care about animals everywhere. Please, don't kill innocent animals for inhumane reasons. Be a better human than most.

---

**Jared Wolf**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Chuck Ellington**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As I understand this program, hunters receive a bounty for each "predator" killed so as to preserve the quail population for quail hunters. The dropoff in the quail population is not due to their falling prey to carnivores, but to destruction of their habitat. This bounty program is ridiculous. Get rid of it.

---

**Kathleen Kroeger**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

You are the worst Governor SD has ever had. But hey, your husband and daughter are making money, right?

---

**Charlotte Bruce**

**Woonsocket SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Not enough data and research to justify this program. Use the \$ elsewhere! Education, research, habitat! Stop making South Dakota a joke across the nation. Posting photos in social media with children and caged animals is NOT educational!  
My family enjoys fishing, hunting and trapping, this is not encouraging trapping. It's encouraging cutting tails of road kill.

---

**Susan Fischer**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Renee Arnio**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Oppose!



---

**Angela Duvall**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not renew this in humane program!!!

---

**Marsha Howard**

**Menno SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Stop this horrible cruelty to animals! These traps are also dangerous for people too!

---

**Joe Kosel**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Ineffective, needlessly cruel and a huge waste of taxpayer dollars.

---

**Vicki Koebernick**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This a cruel and inhumane practice that is not effective and harmful to domestic animals as well. Trapping needs to be illegal.

---

**Claire Windle**

**Seward NE**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I'm a SD native living out of state. This is the most I'll conceived cruel and inhumane program I've ever heard of. SD you can and must do better. I'm ashamed to call SD home. I oppose.

---

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**Kelly Hanson**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Margaret Maloney**

**Edgemont SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am an avid hunter and angler here in SD. I don't believe this program is necessary at least in West River, SD. So many of these animals aren't even in areas where there is a problem with lack of pheasants. Also the open season for the program can leave offspring without a mother causing them to die. If you're going to implement a program like this it should be restricted to areas that really need it. As I understand it, this program didn't really make a positive impact on pheasant populations anyway. There are just too many unintended consequences of the program with domestic animals as well. Thank you for considering something different.

---

**Patty Larson**

**Nisland SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a cruel and unnecessary program that cost the state over a million dollars. Killing native wildlife to try to increase non-native Pheasant numbers is ridiculous. Killing our small predators will only increase numbers of rodents. Rodents who do much damage. Teaching children that killing an animal in a trap is "good" shows a complete lack of empathy and fails to set a example of responsible "hunting".

---

**Krisallen Bean**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Paula Demersseman**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Cruel and a ridiculous waste of resources. There are many better, positive ways to get children (and others) to out into and learn about nature.

---

**Andrea Helwig**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Rita -- Greslin**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

If this is implemented again, don't be surprised when Kristi Noem is not re elected. I am NOT an animal rights person, but there is so much wrong with this program! I voted for Kristi last time, if this is implemented again I will not vote for her again. Keep in mind for every one person who speaks up there are at least 20 who don't but think the same.

---

**Ray Hayes**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is alot of money that has PROVEN to have insignificant effects on the pheasant population. There are better ways to spend this money that would benefit SD. Please dont waste money or animals lives any further.

---

**Jack Morgan**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Cheryl Ulvestad**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I realize pheasant numbers are important to tourism and the sale of hunting licenses, but I believe using the money to improve pheasant habitat would do more good for their population. So far there's no conclusive proof that the bounty program increased the pheasant numbers, however it cost far more than what will ever be recouped, and upset numerous people turning them against GFP. I think there are other ways to get young people interested in hunting and the outdoors, such as offering more youth archery/shooting classes and making Hunt Safe classes more hands-on rather than mostly on-line. Thank you for allowing public input.

---

**Tonya Graham**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**David Graham**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Shari Ridgway**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

What a waste! This is an absolutely despicable "program". Over \$1.7 million spent on this. Where else could this money go? Giving teachers a MUCH DESERVED raise! The disgust I have with our state, it's current leadership, and the regression is more than I can put into words. End this disgusting program NOW! Use the funding for something that affects everyone in this state, NOT just those with children in school.

---

**Lori Wood**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Unproven, unnecessary, brutal, impotent attempt to manipulate populations for monetary gains masquerading as conservation management. Ecosystems are self-sustaining and dynamic. We need to get out of the way. Have we learned nothing from history?

---

**Rondi Torrence**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please abolish this barbaric program.

---

**Janet Olson**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Do not mess with Mother Nature. Let the ecosystem exist without mindless human action.

---

**Rachel Welch**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Unnecessary, waste of tax payers' dollars

---

**Rachel Welch**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Unnecessary, waste of tax payers' dollars

---

**Barry Betts**

**Oacoma SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Cara Feckers**

**Lennox SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is absolutely atrocious. There are other ways to control the population of this is such an issue. In my opinion all trapping should be illegal.

---

**Marnee Aschoff**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jeanette Williams**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

For God's sake please do not continue this program in any shape or form. It is wasteful and as cruel as cruel gets. South Dakotans are better than this.

---

**Kathryn Kling**

**Saint Onge SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a cruel program that is a waste of taxpayer money. I've already had two friends and their families from out-of-state who won't visit South Dakota because of this program. Another friend was thinking of relocating his business here, and now won't consider it. It's embarrassing.

---

**Jacqueline Burcham**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please stop inventing ridiculous laws and screwing with our ecosystem! You're leaving young animals to starve!

---

**Gary Lanphear**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

DO NOT VOTE FOR the Nest Predator Bounty Program!

---

**Gary Lanphear**  
**Belle Fourche SD**  
**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

DO NOT VOTE FOR the Nest Predator Bounty Program!

---

**Clay Schweitzer**  
**Rapid Citu SD**  
**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nature has always had its own ways of controlling populations. What a wasteful program with no real to kill these animals except for cash. They aren't consuming their meat etc just killing them and cutting off tails. I implore game fish and parks to remember their objective to protect the ecosystems nature has put together and the creatures residing in it. This program is not the answer.

---

**Gary Lanphear**  
**Belle Fourche SD**  
**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

DO NOT VOTE FOR the Nest Predator Bounty Program!

---

**Madonna Goodart**  
**Rapid City SD**  
**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This did not improve pheasant numbers. Please do not waste additional resources on a program that was not successful. Direct those dollars to habitat improvements. Get our children outside in a more positive way-teaching them to kill trapped animals will have negative effects long term. Listen to your voters.

---

**Kelly Banning**  
**Rapid City SD**  
**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Emelie Haigh**

**Volga SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These animals are necessary for a balanced ecosystem.  
Please do not renew this program. Thank you.

---

**Victoria Hinek**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tonia Wagoner**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Amanda Boyd**

**Hurley SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Susan Copeland**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Cindy Rains**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Wasteful, cruel and teaching children this cruelty is teaching them no respect for life. This cruelty teaches sociopathic behaviors. Killing for no reason , not using any part of these animals ....oh but the governor's pheasant business ! this wasteful cruel program did not help last year. Learn about the ecosystem, the experts told you truth last year you did not listen , STOP THE SENSELESS KILLING!

---

**Karen Pettigrew**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jenny Kozak**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Teena Otoole**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Voneta Neill**

**Box Elder SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Karen McGregor**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The results of this program last year proved that the loss of habitat is the biggest problem. Also the supposed intent was to get kids interested in hunting and that was a failure too. Use the money for other purposes.

---

**Laura Inman**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Waste of money. This is covered with the small game licenses already. I do not approve of trapping as many dogs end up in the traps.

---

**Kendra Ham**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is ridiculous. I'm ashamed that this is happened one time and now twice? Be smart. Be humane. You are acting like you uneducated bafoons. Stop this nonsense.

---

**Julie Mendelson**

**Summerset SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am a mother of two young children and an avid outdoorswoman. Time in and respect for nature are high values we instill in our children. I am vehemently opposed to the Nest Predator Bounty Program. This, and similar programs, are ineffective, cruel, and costly. Furthermore, I am opposed to teaching young children to torture, murder, and dismember animals. Please end this program.

---

**Teresa Degolier**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please stop the nest predator bounty program!

---

**Brenda Manning**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am highly opposed to this program. It was ridiculous that it was even started. We have no numbers on how many young were also killed when their mother was killed. What is this teaching kids - that an animal's life does not matter? Please do not have this program again!

---

**Jami Jones**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Dana Livermont**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jamie Conlon**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Laural Bidwell**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a waste of government funding. More funds should be put into habitat protection and not in a bounty program. Trapping on public lands is already not regulated enough for public safety. As an example there is no rule as to how close to hiking trails a trap can be set. Do not extend the season, do not pay bounties, do not continue the program. Thank you.

---

**Glenn Paul**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a hunter, I chose to respect our wildlife and not senselessly murder them so we can profit from another.

---

**Randee Huber**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It had no effect on pheasant numbers last year. It's a waste of money and a waste of life. It's immoral.

---

**Simone Wind**

**Newell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a terrible program. These animals are part of an ecosystem. Killing "predators" will unbalance the system. Do you really want an explosion of mice, voles, rabbits, etc.?

---

**Catherine Ratliff**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not do this again. Ecological balance is lost faster than you realize, and when animals are gone from an area they are gone. Witness the jackrabbit whose misfortune was to turn white in winter.

---

**Jacki Schoenrock**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Renee Ponzio**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Let us please be good stewards of the land, instead of always choosing to kill. Other living beings deserve to live too, not just us.

---

**Jenna Canaday**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Erica Harvey**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is revolting and unfounded. Besides killing thousands of NATIVE animals for a NON-NATIVE species, the killings of these innocent creatures for sport did nothing to improve pheasant numbers. I am opposed to killing animals to garner money from outside supports for political gain. I want what is best for my state and ALL her inhabitants. Please DO NOT bring this policy back it is not what SD residents want. Please listen to the voices of our people not the voices of outside investors.

---

**Miriam Wright**

**San Diego CA**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

My parents were South Dakotans, I have relatives in SD. This is a cruel program, not in the best interest of the environment.

---

**Roxanne Huber**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Inhumane program that does not stop decline of pheasants. Stop it now.

---

**Amber Christians**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please don't spend all this money on a failed program that is not good for the environment and is inhumane to animals. It is wasteful spending and will not accomplish the goal of helping pheasants. Pheasants need the proper environment and nature needs to maintain a balance.

---

**Maureen O'brien**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Karen Delicate**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Not only is this program an irresponsible and unnecessary use of tax payer funds, it has proven to be ineffective and egregious. I have live in Rapid City for 57 years and have never seen Pheasant in Western SD. Please stop this program.

---

**Daniel Bjerke**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Use the money budgeted for this program to invest in habitat. This program has been tried in the past and wasn't success in increasing pheasant or waterfowl numbers. Habitat is the key to increasing and maintaining successful hatches and to ensure pheasant survival rates over the winter months. Organizations like Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited focus on habitat rather than eliminating predators.

---

**Gail Saxonis**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**John Halverson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Until such time as SD GF&P can provide peer reviewed scientific research that this ridiculous indiscriminate slaughter of mammals has a positive net effect on nesting game birds, please suspend it! SD biologists proved time and again that indiscriminate killing of mammals has no appreciable effect on pheasant populations. This is a ridiculous boondoggle waste of MY license dollars. Spend that money on habitat and supporting actual science and quit this pandering to the fee-for-hunting crowd!

---

**Linda M. Hasselstrom**

**Hermosa SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am a rancher and landowner in Custer County. I ferociously oppose this wasteful program and will not allow any trapping under this program to occur on my land. Nor, while this program is in effect, will ANY hunters be allowed on my land. This program is completely the brainwave of Gov. Noem and is poorly considered.

---

**Mark Zimmerman**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Vernie Krogstad**

**Chamberlain SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am opposed to using traps. I feel these are cruel. Also people do not check them every day and the animal suffers in the trap.

---

**Eva Bareis**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This goes against what you very own programs teach about not harvesting when there could be possible orphaned young.

---

**Maggie Engler**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Scientific studies have repeatedly shown that bounty programs DO NOT work. What works is quality habitat. Quit wasting our hunting and fishing license dollars on this stupidity.

---

**Dan Ray**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Dana Rogers**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Commissioners,  
I have no issue with South Dakota putting a bounty on predators to encourage further take and management to benefit wildlife. What I do see as an issue is that our hunters dollars have been 'diverted' from needed programs like improving habitat and gaining more public lands for hunters to access.

If our Governor wants to continue to force SDGFP to use hunters dollars exclusively to buoy this program, I just can't support it. Trapping is already available as a season and most landowners allow predator hunting and trapping to ethical and responsible sportsmen.

If the elected politicians want to push this for further improved pheasant hunting tourism, fine. But then let the funds come from the direct benefactors like SD Tourism, SD Legislature, different businesses that specifically gain financially. Perhaps also any agriculture groups, farmers and landowner groups that wish to push the 'bounty' narrative.

Again, people can already trap and I encourage that. Getting more nest predators and coyotes reduced isn't a bad thing but past biological studies PROVE that for trapping and removing predators to actually have a measurable effect, they have to be targeted and constant. Otherwise, the predator reproduction will simply increase and natural dispersal will simply replace them in the next year.

GFP dollars are after all sportsmen dollars. I would hope the powers that be would understand what is really most critical. Habitat and access to that habitat that hunters need.

Thank you for your time and thought.



---

**Carolyn Behrens**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program had no impact on pheasant numbers last year. It is also supports cruelty to animals that is uncalled for

---

**James Bingham**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Matt Bones**

**Chancellor SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**William Anderson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Mary Clawson**

**Frederick SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

That was the largest waste of money that could have been conceived by anyone with half a brain. Bounties are a waste of money - money that could have spent improving habitat on state owned lands. Do NOT throw any more money down this rat hole.

---

**Candy Manthey**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a farmer/rancher, hunter, and avid outdoors person I strongly oppose this entire program. It mocks the very purpose of your office, IMHO. As caretakers of our natural resources it is a crying shame to think that this state program, which traps animals during nesting season when young animals are in the most vulnerable period, is being sponsored by your office. This is a cruel time to trap. The furs are worthless and it is simply a "killing field". You don't hunt deer or big game or birds during this time because it is cruel and inhumane to do so. So should it be considered for small mammals, regardless of their impact on pheasants, etc. Killing something in a limited area that is problematic is one thing. I shoot coon or badgers or skunks as needed when in my farmyard doing damage. But to trap like this is against anything I was taught as a kid by my parents and grandparents...real nature conservationists in their every day farming lifestyle. I hope someone will stand up to the East River, money hungry minds that support this awful program and say, "Enough!" Please look at the statistics and be honest about what you are promoting here and why. Thank you.

---

**Tammy Jungen**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please discontinue this horrendous and cruel program. It is doing nothing but damaging the ecosystem. It has hurt tourism, angered many and has done nothing to boost the pheasant population. Funds are better used for habitat.

---

**Steve Bareis**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Yeah, right. 80 percent are in support of this program because they cut raccoon tails off on the highways. Why don't you provide more habitat and cut pesticide use so the chicks have more food?

---

**Kevin Dorsman**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jessica Fenner**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is a tragic waste of life, money, and resources. Natural predators exist for a purpose.

---

**Brandy Petersen**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Wanton Waste

---

**Brandy Petersen**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Wanton Waste

---

**Kara Azevedo**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jessica Henrichsen**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

So much money spent that could be going else where far more important. Not to mention leaving wildlife without the care of their mother if she's trapped- heartless. We allow trapping while these critters are young but not the hunting of fowl and big game. What makes one animal, pheasant, more important than the other- money does- what a shame that that is what is boils down to.

---

**Lindsay Stephens**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please discontinue the ridiculous nest predator bounty program. It badly disrupts the ecosystem. Surely there are better and smarter ways to deal with a struggling pheasant population. But wiping out our predators is not the way to go about this. This program is a grave mistake.

---

**Joy Stevens**

**Billings MT**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The rest of the country is watching and is horrified at the ignorance of this program. We know these programs do NOT work. You will simply have larger litters of predators next year and that is a fact. What is also a fact is that you are teaching the youth of your state that needless killing of wild animals is acceptable. Shameful.

---

**Ruth Milne**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is an inhumane and wasteful program. Please don't approve another Nest Predator Bounty Program. Traps are dangerous to all creatures.

---

**Kelly Harnett**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program shows a blatant disregard for life. As an outdoors woman, hunter, and former wildlife biologist, I am appalled. Not only has this program killed countless young left to starve because their mom was killed, this program has also left beloved pets to die in traps. This program must not be allowed to continue.

---

**Courtney Huse Wika**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Studies show that loss of habitat is the main reason for pheasant decline in our area, and even national pheasant organizations do not support such a program.

The animals being trapped and killed—often painfully through elements or starvation, not to mention the orphaned animals who starve or succumb to the elements— are important to our ecosystem, which you know. This is institutionalized animal cruelty, in direct violation of your obligation as officers to protect our native animals.

---

**Hayley Bowen**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program will cause serious damage to the native species in South Dakota and will upset the ecosystem. Additionally, it's blatantly supportive of gross animal cruelty.

---

**Darsha Cecil**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Courtney Pierce**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose this unscientifically sound program that is cruel to animals and does nothing to help the pheasant population. Listen to science. For once. Please. Stop rewarding children and adults for animal cruelty.

---

**Sybil Rounds**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please stop this horrible program.

---

**Matthew Bauman**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please end the nest predator bounty program!

---

**Matthew Melanson**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It's a ridiculous program!

---

**Tracy Downs**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Timmi Bubac**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Science is not there to back this and it is cruel. Please don't ignore science, and cancel this cruel and ignorant program.

---

**Eric Roach**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It is a cruel and inhumane program.

---

**Susan Maynard**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sharon Kirkpatrick-Sanchez**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Comparing SD to MN data on 17% drop in pheasants this year - SD had predator program and MN did not - indicates no effect on pheasants, but where is your data on increase in moles, voles, and insects that the predators control? So trapping did no good to help the commercial pheasant farmers, did it?

---

**Annie Bussler**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Have more land used for habitat

---

**Richard Getting**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**April Oedekoven**

**Rapid City Sd SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Not necessary and cruel and doesn't work

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**Nico Pierce**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is extremely cruel. It is also unscientific. Pheasant loss is much more likely to be due to habitat loss than anything.

This is not the hunter's way of respecting the natural environment.

---

**Clara Crater**

**Cavour SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I believe that the decline in pheasant population is due to weather, not predators

---

**Jacob Jackson**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I support hunting and fishing but this is a ridiculous program. I hope SD doesn't actually employ a biologist who supports removing predators from an ecosystem to protect a non native species.

---

**Dorothy Young**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Bonnie Edwards**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is an unconscionable treatment of animals. I ask you to elim8nate this program.



---

**Wendy Parent-Johnson**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Trudy Schreiner**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Susan Towne**

**Delta CO**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a program which is very detrimental to the balance in nature and wildlife. I am horrified as to the ramifications and the pain and suffering this program is putting on wildlife and offspring, not to mention encouraging children to KILL, all for the love of revenue \$\$\$. It needs to STOP!

---

**Peggy Griffith**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a very cruel and inhumane program. I strongly oppose this and oppose using my tax money for it.

---

**Jason Cole**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Christian Lerback**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Waste of money, poorly regulated.

---

**Lynn Taylor Rick**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please end the next predator bounty program. It has been ineffective as noted in this article.  
[https://www.aberdeennews.com/news/opinion/other-voices-brood-counts-blow-holes-in-south-dakota-predator/article\\_80824b4a-f27d-5e68-8aef-49c96bb824c0.html](https://www.aberdeennews.com/news/opinion/other-voices-brood-counts-blow-holes-in-south-dakota-predator/article_80824b4a-f27d-5e68-8aef-49c96bb824c0.html)

Please do not use our tax money to continue this program.

---

**Donna Watson**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The fact that South Dakota established such a cruel program in the first place is unconscionable. Leaving animals in traps for three days is cruel enough, but leaving their offspring to starve is barbaric.

---

**Larry Kutz**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Senseless and wasteful destruction of resources that has shown no positive effects on brood counts. Wasteful spending in promoting and administering the program as well. We have better things to do with the GF&P budget.

---

**Anna Ball**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is barbaric and besides that--hey! it didn't even work! and btw--I am NOT anti-hunting

---

**Kelli Shaw**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is too broad. If there is a specific species to target that is one thing, this feels like a crapshoot. I find it inhumane as well, and would rather encourage other hunting techniques for youth.

---

**Joel Adams**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This has to be one of the dumbest programs ever implemented.

---

**Bob Wilson**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Waste of money, cruel, ineffective, terrible image of South Dakota.

---

**Brad Schneck**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The Nest Predator Bounty Program is not a policy of conservation designed to optimize the ecological balance in South Dakota. It is an invasive and destructive policy designed to support the economies of small hunting towns by destroying predator populations in order to promote the proliferation of one species. There are other ways to ensure the sustainability of hunting birds in South Dakota that would have much less impact on native species and the ecosystem they inhabit. This program needs to end.

---

**Karen Conley**

**Box Elder SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am writing once again to oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program. While I support hunting as a tool to manage wildlife, I cannot support the trapping. Trapping is cruel and not checking traps for up to three days causes undue suffering for any animal caught in a snare or trap. Additionally, the chances of family pets or even unsuspecting humans, being caught in a trap are very high and it should be banned. The needless suffering of any living creature for nothing more than a tail for a bounty, is barbaric and to not utilize the entire animal is a waste of a life. I suspect that this program was started by our governor to support hunting habitat for her friends and family. It needs to stop. The use of traps and snares should be illegal due to the barbaric nature of it and if it is done, traps need to be checked 2-3 times per day to eliminate suffering of animals. All lives matter.

---

**Marian Westbrook**

**Nisland SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I fully support it, but they should have to check the traps every day.

---

**Sandra Kant**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We need to teach our children compassion and respect for all living things. This is not the way.

---

**Cari Heupel**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a cruel & unnecessary program! We are living in 2020 where inhumane killing practices should be outlawed! Please stop spending money on a program that tells the world that South Dakota is a backwards, redneck state!

---

**Cari Heupel**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a cruel & unnecessary program! We are living in 2020 where inhumane killing practices should be outlawed! Please stop spending money on a program that tells the world that South Dakota is a backwards, redneck state!

---

**Debbie Renner**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please stop this program, we should be focused on habitat for the game birds instead of trapping. Young people should be encouraged to get outdoors but not to kill creatures that benefit our ecosystem.

---

**Kendra Koski**

**Winner SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is an expensive program that has had no impact on the declining pheasant population. The only way to increase the population is by increasing CRP and other programs to combat habitat loss. Trapping is cruel, and leaving animals to suffer for days to die of shock is a brutal death. This program needs to stop. Nest predators are not the problem, overhunting and habitat loss is the real culprit behind declining pheasant numbers.

---

**Debi Ulrey-Crosby**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is such a disgrace for the state of South Dakota! It reeks of cruelty to animals for something so disgusting - cutting off the animals' tail for money. Don't you think this goes beyond our state's reputation for hunting? I have friends who come here to hunt but decided not to last year because they thought this program was horrible - and they are hunters. They e also decided to hunt elsewhere next year - most likely Minnesota. PLEASE DO NOT RENEW THIS ARCHAIC PROGRAM!

---

**S.F. Lee**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is already proven to be unsuccessful. I may not like predators, but to wantonly waste their young (and they) through human predation of their parent(s) is unethical and unsportsmanslike. Opossums are definitely not on the same predation level as coyotes. Coyotes do not eat ticks. We are not seeing any research or results that show this being a beneficial program. Why not spend this money on introducing more pheasants if that is the goal? Or maybe just not waste over \$1.5 million and find better ways that are actually beneficial to our overall conservation efforts, rather than focused on just pheasants. Seems quite one-sided to me. I am firmly opposed to this program, it was not even sent through a scientific process. It's not just a waste of money, I feel it's an unethical program as well. Research shows that we need an even distribution of predator vs prey. I have been involved in local programs that bought & "seeded" with young pheasants (no predator control involved) and we had quite good luck. Why can't our great state look to the positive future and try to spend that money to try to populate (and why pheasant habitat only)?

---

**Vaughn Boyd**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a disgusting program and upsetting the balance of nature. The 1st year proved no gain for nesting birds. It is an embarrassment. And for the record, i am not opposed to hunting.

---

**Christy Rodgers**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Susan Hey**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The conservation page of SDGF&P website says that the agency is a steward of SD's variety of native habitats and that the habitats support a diverse collection of plants and animals.

Does targeting several small species of animals support diversity and balance?

I think the bounty program is in direct opposition to the Game Fish Mission as well as the Conservation aspect.

As a native South Dakotan, I am grateful for these small mammals who do their part in the balance of nature. I think the program is cruel and teaching children that it is OK to be cruel to any animal is wrong. There are many other ways for families to enjoy the outdoors rather than checking traps to see what creature has chewed its foot off this time.

No to the Bounty program.

---

**Sonja Bundy**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please, South Dakotans can be humane, as the laws require in nearly all other states!

---

**Chelsie Bauer**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not approve another year of this program, it's cruel and inhumane. This program will have devastating effects on South Dakota's environment in the future.

---

**Else Biesman**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tina Kunz**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please don't do this. Most pheasants actually come from pheasants farms. My friend Holly Christensen owns one of these farms. We need to keep a fair balance of animals and to make animals suffer at an expense to a few extra dollars to the state is just cruel.

---

**Dawn Erk**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Dusty Hirsch**

**Summerset SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Julie Anderson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Trapping is cruel and inhumane.

---

**Renee Lefthand**

**Freeman SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the trapping program and it should be stopped for many reasons

---

**Linda Torlay**

**Fort Myers FL**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Insane to live in such a beautiful wild state only to want to kill everything that lives in it.

---

**Annika Caneva**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Darci Adams**

**Hartford SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There is no scientific evidence the program increases pheasant & duck numbers! The program exists purely to promote the unnecessary and inhumane sport of trapping in S.D. Trapping causes needless suffering of animals left to languish in traps for days. Trapping is particularly inhumane in S.D. because trap check times are every 3 days west river and every 2 days east river (with exceptions for weather and illness of the trapper). Traps are indiscriminate so protected species and even family pets are being caught in traps. I urge SDGFP commission to reject the Nest Predator Bounty Program for 2020 and beyond. It is an embarrassment to our state.

---

**Darci Adams**

**Hartford SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There is no scientific evidence the program increases pheasant & duck numbers! The program exists purely to promote the unnecessary and inhumane sport of trapping in S.D. Trapping causes needless suffering of animals left to languish in traps for days. Trapping is particularly inhumane in S.D. because trap check times are every 3 days west river and every 2 days east river (with exceptions for weather and illness of the trapper). Traps are indiscriminate so protected species and even family pets are being caught in traps. I urge SDGFP commission to reject the Nest Predator Bounty Program for 2020 and beyond. It is an embarrassment to our state.



---

**Jeanette Williams**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I cannot believe I live in a state that teaches children to trap and kill innocent animals. And then pays them for it. And the fact that it is now going to be part of the 4-H program. Unbelievably cruel. Teaching our children to kill for food is one thing. But teaching them to kill for money. I'm disappointed in our state.

---

**Jan Humphrey**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The species that are targeted in this program are a vital link to the balance of the ecosystem here. Trapping is inhumane and unacceptable. I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS PROGRAM!!!!!!

---

**B. Radtke**

**Redfield SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please stop wasting taxpayer money on the cruelty of trapping. If you continue to waste my money on this, at the least require traps be checked every day! If predator control is truly needed, emphasizing the varmint shooting license would be preferable, as long as it requires the hunter to ascertain the animal is dead and not left to suffer like trapped animals. do.

---

**Shaun Grassel**

**Reliance SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Zero emperical data support this.

---

**Kristine Muko**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Waste of money, trapping is unsportsmanlike

---

**Laura Dressing**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Doug Simmons**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sheena Thomas**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Theresa Giannavola**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program did not result in more pheasants last year and in fact the only thing that will work is to increase habitat, and breed/release. Running this program again will further damage the ecological balance of SD aside from the fact that trapping in general is barbaric and outlawed in civilized states!

---

**Justin Herreman**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is a boondoggle and a significant waste of resources. The science shows this program will not improve pheasant numbers and has a high potential to in fact have the reverse effect, reducing pheasant numbers.

Please cancel this program and direct thee funds towards habitat creation and other scientifically backed programs that will positivly improve pheasant numbers.

---

**Kyle Kranz**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

---

**Susan Schlichenmayer**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kathy Gerash**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please spend the money on medical/public education to benefit children and adults most in need. Please allow the state agency that deals with wildlife to continue to manage the populations. This program, while I understand the attraction for some folks, is not aiding with learning respect for life due to the bounty payment. And do we want to get into parsing types of life? Please financially support medical and education programs instead. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

---

**Julie Anderson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The cruelty of the Nest Predator Bounty Program cannot be overstated and is morally wrong. It will also put the natural ecosystem out of balance, causing among other consequences a huge rise in the tick population. To kill all of these animals so that people can kill more pheasants is cruelty disguised as tradition. Abolish this abomination of a program permanently.

---

**Chandra Knowles**

**Tea SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Trapping is awful and cruel.

---

**Andy Dicus**

**Tea SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Opposing trapping because it is cruel.

---

**Terri Mccarty**

**Ramona SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

this is an unnecessary program, have kids do photography instead

---

**Denise Reed**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Wayne Thompson**

**Rapid Coty SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Rita Chapman**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not want state dollars going to the bounty program. There should not be a monetary offering

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**Barbara St. Clair**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not continue the Nest Predator Program. There are many reasons to stop this program, certainly it is inhumane and barbaric. But it is not even a successful way to maintain/enlarge the pheasant population. We live in a time where people are showing more and more respect for the ecological balances of the earth, and this program shows blatant disregard for those balances. Please do not let this program continue. I do not want to be ashamed when I tell people I am from South Dakota.

---

**Cindy Siebrecht**

**Redfield SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The money would be much better spent on enhancing habitat.

---

**Linda Greene**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is cruel and inhumane. We don't need it.

---

**Stacy Braun**

**1312 3Rd Ave Se SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please DO NOT continue the Nest Predator Bounty program. Thank you.

---

**Kathryn Hess**

**Summerset SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please stop this cruel and inhumane killing. Thousands were killed last year not counting the babies. I don't believe it helped the pheasant population. There are other causes if there really is a decline. Please stop.

---

**Denise Parker**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Rex Rhodes**

**Kalispell MT**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Badgers and the other targets of the bounty should not be killed for the reasons of the program. They deserve to live their lives as nature intended them to, not as targets for death just because they are born animals that some people do not like. They serve a vital function in the world and people should learn to accept them for the good they provide. Thank you for listening to me.

---

**Katherine Maccrimmon**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a barbaric practice that should never exist anywhere in today's world. Traps in SD are only required to be checked every 3 days west of the Missouri River and every 2 days east of the Missouri River (with exceptions for weather and illness). Animals caught in traps for several days may starve, dehydrate, be attacked by other animals, or mangle their mouths and limbs in futile efforts to free themselves. Traps are indiscriminate, and any wildlife or companion animal can fall victim.

---

**Heather Allmendinger**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I beg of you to oppose this inhumane program. These are all living beings. If you're killing a mother animal, all of her babies will also die when she does not return to the nest. This is animal cruelty. The money spent on this program could be spent doing some good for our state. Please consider my opinion when making this decision. thank you!

---

**Lori Linco**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

STRONGLY OPPOSE this barbaric practice. Nature takes care of nature and interfering with the natural order of things is WRONG. I especially despise this because it is done and promoted to "increase" the number of birds for people with fat wallets to pay for the privilege of killing. Just disgusting!

---

**Dale Kringen**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a complete waste of my tax dollars. We can't attract industry and our schools are suffering. We also have a serious meth problem. I think Governor Noem should be spending our tax dollars in areas that are far more important.

---

**Kurt Russow**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

To be frank, this is a waste of life and taxpayer dollars.

---

**Crystal Brock**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is inhumane. Please do the right thing.

---

**Trish Scriptor**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Cherrie Martenson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I beg you to stop this ridiculous atrocity of a program. There is no scientific reason to be doing this! All animals serve a Purpose in a healthy ecosystem and removing them for the sake of an imported animal is short sighted and ignorant. Value South Dakota wildlife- the native species that belong here!

---

**Heidi Herren**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not renew this ridiculous program. How is it of any benefit in any form?

The only things it succeeds in is torturing animals and teaching children that they don't need to respect animals (and encouraging possible future degradation of lives, be it animal or human)

Think about the reality of it and vote not to accept this program.

---

**Vicki Peterson**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

You are also killing the young who cannot survive on their own and starve to death. You have to look at the whole picture. Trapping a female may also have wiped out a litter . Wait a year and see how much of the species has already been reduced.

---

**Jason Shell**

**Council Bluffs IA**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sharon Rose**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.



---

**Deanna File-Kennedy**

**Blackwood NJ**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Leave the animals alone!!! Must you have murder these animals in such torturous ways!!!! It's inhumane and cruel and if you condone it you should be charged with animal abuse and cruelty and face jail time!!!!

---

**Rebecca Fleming**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There are better ways of managing predators.

---

**Kimberly Groszhans**

**Fargo ND**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not renew this cruelty

---

**Trista Polley**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Morgan Andenas**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I think this not only damages our ecosystems, but is a HUGE waste of taxpayer dollars that doesn't even have a significant impact on the problem it is stated to solve.

---

**Mary Fortin**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Leave these animals alone. You are destroying the entire ecosystem. Ignorance is too prevalent in Pierre. There are much more important issues you should be working to resolve.

---

**Michael Mendelson**

**Summerset SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a barbaric program.

---

**Richard Blechinger**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lynne Loverich**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I feel that native animals matter too and not just pheasants. I feel there are other opportunities and solutions that can better emphasize teaching the value of life and grow an appreciation for the great outdoors. Thank you for your support and the wonderful programs you offer!

---

**Gwyneth Fastnacht**

**Wessington Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Julie Blechinger**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Strongly oppose bounty program. Please don't renew in 2020!

---

**Kathy Petersen**

**Madison SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

it does not help the pheasant population all it does is kill animals that we need.

---

**Dean Parker**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am writing in opposition of renewing the "Nest Predator Bounty Program" for 2020. Not only is trapping an ineffective method of wildlife conflict management, but it is a cruel way for any animal to die – including pets and other non-targeted animals that will get caught in these traps.

Wildlife management professionals across the U.S. have long acknowledged the ineffectiveness of bounties and predator control, including South Dakota's own Habitat Work Group in its 2014 report to Governor Daugaard. To my knowledge, no science-based evidence has been presented to suggest that the species targeted by this "Nest Predator Bounty Program" (opossums, raccoons, skunks, badgers or red fox) are negatively impacting pheasant populations.

Furthermore, each native species plays an important role in our ecosystem. In particular, opossums are a great benefit to any area they inhabit. Their diet includes snails, mice, rats, and insects such as cockroaches, crickets, beetles and disease-carrying ticks.

This program is simply not backed by science-based wildlife management principles. If GFP wants more game birds for hunters, please focus on improving their habitat - not killing indigenous species that play an important role in that habitat.

---

**Kathryn Leuning**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

---

**Erica Cooper**

**Cavour SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is wrong!!!!

---

**Lucas Fischer**

**Hartford SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Five dollars a tail is not enough money cover the expenses. Ten dollars a tail is a good number.

---

**Paulette Krby**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Irrational. Supports poor human behavior. A poor use of money. Cruel .

---

**Lisa Aksamit**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Cynthia Christensen**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Stephanie Samavarchian**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We DO NOT support the program. It is inhumane and unnecessary.

---

**Stephanie Samavarchian**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We DO NOT support the program. It is inhumane and unnecessary.

---

**Emily Nimick**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please end this inhumane program

---

**Denise Etzkorn**

**Hill City, Sd SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is messing with the natural order of nature. Many control mice, ticks, etc. populations. The trapping requirements of checking every three days is cruel. I strongly oppose this program. Thank you for this opportunity to state my opinion.

---

**Douglas Traub**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Pheasant numbers are dependent upon 1) Adequate habitat. 2) weather.

The predator trapping and bounty programs provided free traps ( many of which went to trappers who already had many traps and to residents of municipalities, which is not pheasant habitat) and a bounty for tails. This effort was funded by an unethical raiding of the GFP license fee fund, paid for by hunters without public or GFP commission input.

I oppose funding this misguided program with license fees paid for by hunters.

I oppose the bounty program because it does not affect the two main determinants of pheasant numbers.

---

**Jason Berghammer**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I think the money could be better spent on habitat improvements and more WIA/public land access programs.

---

**Winta Horsa**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Furry friends should live in peace :(

---

**Sarah Stout**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**David Hagen**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I would like to see the results of your so called "Professional Scientific Survey" that stated that 83% of the general public supported the NPBP.

Please be good stewards of our tax dollars.

---

**Morgen Crawford**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program. I am asking the GFP Commission not to approve another Nest Predator Bounty Program. This is a wasteful, ill-conceived and cruel program!  
Traps in SD are only required to be checked every 3 days west of the Missouri River and every 2 days east of the Missouri River (with exceptions for weather and illness). Animals caught in traps for several days may starve, dehydrate, be attacked by other animals, or mangle their mouths and limbs in futile efforts to free themselves. Traps are indiscriminate, and any wildlife or companion animal can fall victim.

---

**Sandra Kringen**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please discontinue this bounty program. Thank you!

---

**Trish Anderson**

**Rapid Ciry SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Spend the \$\$ on taking kids to fabulous outdoor centers and teach them appreciate nature. Do not teach them how to kill animals senselessly.

---

**Erin Crawford**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Mahala Bach**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is nothing but the promotion of killing animals for no reason! No scientific data supports this insane government sponsored murder program. STOP THIS CRUELTY NOW!!!

---

**Jonas Hofer**

**Lake Andes SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

This program has drastically help get young kids on there feet and away from gadgets to go out the and trap these animals. I think it was a great idea and should be carried on.

---

**Charlotte Petrick**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I've hunted & fished for over 50 years; I eat what I kill. I wear leather & fur; I have nothing against ethical trapping. I'm ashamed of South Dakota's Nest Predator Bounty Program.

Wanton killing for profit is wrong. Thousands of native animals are being killed & wasted to protect a non-native commodity. These animals can languish for up to 72 hours West River before being clubbed or shot. Thousands more dependent young are dying a slow death of starvation when mom is killed.

As predators are removed, their prey will increase. These lands will see a surge of mice, rabbits, rats, & moles. Pheasant habit (and crops) will suffer. The predators will rebound and pheasants will suffer. This insanity will have long term effects on the entire environment.

Hidden agendas, closed-door meetings, and my license fees spent for a special interest upset me. I'm upset that this program was implemented without the opportunity for public input. I'm upset that tail-less carcasses are being found by folks trying to enjoy the outdoors. I'm upset that South Dakota's well-earned reputation for conservation & stewardship is being tarnished. Ethical sportsmen & wildlife biologists throughout the nation are appalled at this lame-brained plan that ignores science & research.

The Nest Predator Bounty Program has thrust South Dakota into the national spotlight as a cruel, redneck, backwards state and the decline in hunting license purchases reflect this.

This isn't a Republican or Democratic issue. This is purely greed. I truly wish this whole program would be abolished. I would like to see our state's downward spiral in ethical behavior stopped.

Charlotte "Charlie" Petrick, Rapid City SD

---

**Carolyn Stout**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Don't be stupid.

---

**Eliza Loughlin**

**Bison SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It's very frustrating that in 2020 folks whose job is to make regulations regarding wildlife still think radically reducing any part of an ecosystem (i.e. predators) isn't going to have unintended negative consequences for all of the species (including human) involved.



---

**Deborah Gangloff**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am appalled that the state is again considering this failed program. South Dakota should be better than this. Please do not go forward with this ineffective and counter-productive program. These "predators" help keep down the mice, vole and tick population. We need them.

---

**Deborah Gangloff**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a ps to my previous comment. What a waste of money! We can surely find a better use for these funds. To ignore the needs of the people to go forward with this useless bounty program shows an administration out of touch with the population. Please rethink this.

---

**John Halveraon**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please dump this boondoggle near predator bounty in the trash immediately! Thw science does NOT support it, and the money...MY.LICENSE DOLLARS...is better spent on what South Dakota GF&P has proven in study after study to be effective - HABITAT. End this or sportsmans groups will organize and boycott all funding g of GF&P.

---

**Suzanne Martley**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Pheasant declines are attributable to habitat loss. Obliterating species from an ecosystem will not bring back pheasants, but it sure opens the door to a population explosion of harmful vermin. And does little to educate young people about conservation.

---

**Kim Tysdal**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program proved unsuccessful last year. Why are we instituting such barbaric ways to get children outside. South Dakota is a beautiful state, with many out door activities for children. Let's teach our children how to respect the wild, or destroy it.

---

**Dede Farrar**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

One year of this is plenty. I think there are better ways to enhance pheasant habitat than to encourage trapping statewide. Please use our public tax payer dollars on something better. I am not opposed to hunting and trapping per se but I don't think trapping statewide should be promoted. Trying to eliminate predators ends up causing other problems. Enhance pheasant habitat at the site of pheasant habitat, and not statewide. I was caught, along with my dog, in a leg hold trap in the Black Hills set by a careless trapper. I don't want things like this to increase.

---

**Lonnette Olson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

For the second time, I wish to be on record that this is an insane program. We are not overrun with these predators and they are not consuming an abnormal amount of pheasants or eggs. Totally upsetting the balance of nature for the benefit of the money that pheasant hunters bring in will be a real problem in the future. How many thousands were killed last year? Are you trying to totally eliminate these native animals? Please, common sense!

---

**Louise Mcgannon**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I opposed this program last year and I oppose it this year. Stop wasting our tax dollars on animal cruelty. This program has proven that it did not work last year and it will not work this year. Habitat and weather is what is hurting pheasant numbers not predators. This is one stupid program that waste our dollars that could be well spent in so many places like education of our young people. Stop wasting our tax dollars for special interest groups!

---

**Margie Rosario**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a self serving program for the Gov. Pheasants are an introduced species, not native to SD. This is not sensible from any standpoint (biological, ethical or economic) except that it keeps the Gov family in business. Everyone who signs off on this should be ashamed.

---

**Carol Kendall**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am writing to implore Gov. Noem and our South Dakota politicians to please eliminate the Nest Predator Bounty Program. It is inhumane and serves to inflict damage to our fragile ecosystems.

Promoting the barbaric practice of wantonly killing animals and cutting off their tails for money is not a healthy nor ethical way to encourage families to spend time outside enjoying nature. When impressionable kids learn they can make Money by killing and Maiming a living creature, we have planted a very dark seed.

Please please end this program.

---

**Ronelle Thompson**

**Siouxfalls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Targeting these animals will have unintended consequences across the animal spectrum. For example, opossums consume enormous numbers of mosquitoes. This program will not save pheasants. It is the elimination of wetlands and protected land areas that have led to the decreased population.

---

**Karen Thunshelle**

**Minot ND**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I'm truly disgusted by South Dakota's " Nest predator " Annihilation plan. This is the most barbaric thing I've ever heard of. Every time I go through South Dakota the only thing I can think about is how many animals are suffering and how crappy you treat your wildlife.

---

**Deb Klebanoff**

**Baltic SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Ridiculous program that totally ignores the science of predators and prey. Not only that, the idea of encouraging children to take part in "hunting" animals to take only their tails for a lousy 10 bucks of my tax dollars is repugnant. Pheasants need habitat and this money would be much better spent on programs to improve natural habitat in ways that correlate to the most recent environmental research. Let South Dakota be seen as a powerful steward of our natural resources, not a barbaric state paying money to those enrolled in a program that makes no sense.

---

**Nancy Neumann**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is unbelievably barbaric and will have very negative consequences to SD wildlife. Not to mention a huge misuse of public funds

---

**Nancy Neumann**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is unbelievably barbaric and will have very negative consequences to SD wildlife. Not to mention a huge misuse of public funds

---

**Jeannie Farley**

**Baltic SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Linda M. Hasselstrom**

**Hermosa SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Game, Fish and Parks, encouraged by Gov. Kristi Noem is encouraging the state to continue the nest predator bounty program. As long as it is in effect, I will allow NO HUNTING AT ALL on land I own or control. On this land raccoons, skunks, red foxes and badgers are protected; I'd protect possums too if I'd ever seen one here. From Susan Braunstein: Update on the Nest Predator Bounty Program. The Game Fish and Parks Commission met in January. They are considering a draft resolution of support for a \$250,000 expenditure for a second year of the nest predator program targeting the same species as last year. This includes raccoons, opossums, striped skunks, red foxes and badgers. 50,000 of these animals were killed last year in this program. Our governor encouraged families to go out and trap animals, cut off their tails and mail them to the state to receive \$10.00 per tail. All in the name of outdoor family fun and creating better habitat for the pheasant population. In this latest resolution the bounty would be \$5.00 per tail, applicants must possess a hunting, fishing or trapping license (unless you are a youth or landowner on their own land)

The season would be April 1st to July 1st.

The commission will meet to discuss this resolution on March 5 and 6. There will be a communications hub established at the Rapid City Game Fish and Parks office so we won't have to drive to Pierre (where the actual meeting takes place)

The commission will meet from 1 to 5 p.m. on Thursday and 8 a.m. to noon on Friday. Please attend the meeting and voice your concerns if you can.

You can also contact Keith Fisk, who is the trapping director in Pierre. You can e-mail him at Keith.Fisk@state.sd.us. You can also write, or e-mail or call the commissioners and contact the governor's office. Jason Simmons is in charge of this issue.

The deadline for comments is midnight March 1. Please let them know how you feel. It is important that they hear from us. Thank you.

Linda M. Hasselstrom

LindaMHasselstrom@windbreakhouse.com

Windbreak House Writing Retreats

PO Box 169, Hermosa, SD 57744

Website: [www.WindbreakHouse.com](http://www.WindbreakHouse.com)

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/WindbreakHouse](http://www.Facebook.com/WindbreakHouse)

Blog: [WindbreakHouse.WordPress.com](http://WindbreakHouse.WordPress.com)

Author of:

Gathering from the Grassland: A Plains Journal

Dakota: Bones, Grass, Sky, collected and new poems

The Wheel of the Year: A Writer's Workbook

Dirt Songs: A Plains Duet, with Twyla M. Hansen; No Place Like Home: Notes from a Western Life, Between Grass and Sky, Feels Like Far, Bitter Creek Junction, Land Circle, Dakota Bones, Going Over East, Windbreak, Bison: Monarch of the Plains, When a Poet Dies, The Roadside History of South Dakota, Roadkill, Caught By One Wing.

Editor of Leaning into the Wind, Woven on the Wind, Crazy Woman Creek with Gaydell Collier and Nancy Curtis; also editor of Journal of a Mountain Man, by James Clyman.

---

**Joanne Marz**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is unnecessary. This state has many, many opportunities for hunting and trapping . To put a bounty on certain species is not in the interest of wildlife at large and it is only designed to protect a non- native species . I respectfully request that this program be discontinued immediately. Thank you.

---

**Tony Kellar**

**Gayville SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please stop the insanity.

---

**Joe Lapka**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Margaret Lane**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Traps are designed to crush animals in a vice like grip rather than kill them. In other words, traps are indiscriminate, catching the first animal (or human) to step on them. They are inhumane, exposing animals to psychological trauma, dehydration, excruciating pain, injury, self-amputation, depredation, and a slow death. This is an insanely barbaric way to deal with what is perceived as a danger to the pheasant population. I am appalled, ashamed, and embarrassed that my beloved state encourages this type of torture be inflicted on our wildlife.

---

**Kristen Levander**

**Hermosa SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tamara Rogers**

**Hermosa SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am writing to explain why I do not support trapping (or now apparently shooting at) our small-mammal (and marsupial) population in a misguided attempt at increasing the number of game birds in the state.

Please adhere to the scientific research on how to increase wildlife instead of following some old-fashioned knee-jerk views from the 1950s. Increasing habitat, especially along riparian areas will help waterfowl nesting numbers. Increasing diverse cover for nesting will help pheasants to survive in eastern SD. Cutting back on pesticides and herbicides that damage the birds and kill off insects and "weeds" that supply food for the birds will increase their numbers. Killing off scavengers and omnivores that keep our pest species (mice, voles, insects) in check is not the way to do this. It will only upset the balance of nature even more than it is already.

Please don't blame predators for declining ground-nesting bird numbers when we are having periodic climate change floods and downpours that drown nests and kill off pheasant chicks. Give the birds better habitat so they can withstand the climate chaos.

Trapping and shooting small mammals (and marsupials) indiscriminately in the spring months will leave the young of nursing mothers to die slowly of starvation. Perhaps some people aren't bothered by that thought, so let me remind you that when the babies come into contact with humans and their domestic animals (pets, livestock) as they desperately search for food, that is how diseases and parasites are spread.

I think if the goal is to give children in SD a lifelong love of nature, letting a few families across the state with kids kill animals for profit is not the way. Hundreds of thousands of dollars could be better spent giving ALL children in SD a chance to enjoy nature through school field trips or other programs put on by the SDGF&P. Instead of spending money on giving away traps and paying for animal parts, why not spend that money supervising kids outside, improving habitat.

I do not want my tax dollars spent teaching children that the way to interact with nature is to kill and dismember animals for money. Yes, I raise and butcher my own animals for food and I support ethical hunting for food-- I am not anti-hunting.

However, as long as this ill-conceived program continues I am closing my ranch to hunting and I will be sure to tell all the hunters who stop by just why I am doing so.

---

**Anne Fuehrer**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am writing in opposition of renewing the “Nest Predator Bounty Program” for 2020. This is an ineffective way to manage habitat which was your number one goal. Trapping an ineffective method of wildlife conflict management, it is a cruel way for any animal to die – including pets and other non-targeted animals that will get caught in these traps. Trapped animals will suffer from dehydration, starvation and exposure to the elements not to mention the young that starve to death as their mothers are trapped and killed. Not only is the Nest Predator Bounty Program a waste of state money and damaging to our ecosystem, it is inhuman. The state’s own recent results have shown that the program has not had a positive effect on the game bird population.

In addition, wildlife management professionals across the U.S. have long acknowledged the ineffectiveness of bounties and predator control, including South Dakota’s own Habitat Work Group in its 2014 report to Governor Daugaard. To my knowledge, no science-based evidence has been presented to suggest that the species targeted by this “Nest Predator Bounty Program” (opossums, raccoons, skunks, badgers or red fox) are negatively impacting pheasant populations.

In addition, the South Dakota Pheasant Brood Survey 2019 Report does NOT reflect that the Nest Predator Bounty Program was successful in increasing pheasant numbers last year. In fact, page 3 of the pdf says "the decline was significant for the Pierre, Mobridge, Huron, Mitchell, and Brookings local areas." Note that Beadle County (Huron) had the 2nd highest number of tailed submitted in the program.

Furthermore, each native species plays an important role in our ecosystem. In particular, opossums are a great benefit to any area they inhabit. Their diet includes snails, mice, rats, and insects such as cockroaches, crickets, beetles and disease-carrying ticks.

This program is simply not backed by science-based wildlife management principles. If GFP wants more game birds for hunters, please focus on improving their habitat - not killing indigenous species that play an important role in that habitat. Spending over \$1,700,000 on this program was not good stewardship of our states limited funds.

---

**Jeff Ruenz**

**Hecla SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.



---

**Douglas Traub**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

A Golden opportunity was missed in 2019 to determine if the trap give away program accomplished anything to justify its cost. People with predator tails received their bounty payment check in person (or a member of their family brought it in). Surveys taken from the trappers (or road kill recoverers) did not include any questions like "Did you use your free trap?" or,"Did you catch your predator with your free trap"

This would have helped determine if the free trap program worked or not.

I am in favor, if there is going to be a trapping for predators program, of reducing the bounty payment to 5 dollars and capping the payments.

---

**Shari Kosel**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Patrick Hybertson**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Please read the attached document.

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**Patrick Hybertson**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I submitted a Word document previously but to ensure that what I had to say is read I have included it in this comments box as well.

I am all for the Bounty Program again and thought that it was a great way to get the youth in SD involved in trapping. My only question is if there was truly consideration for a second year of a bounty program would halving everything from the first year still pull in the public's interest? I am asking from a trapping mindset where trappers are influenced by the fur prices of various species where one may be higher than the other and that's what is targeted for the year.

I myself got really into trapping when there was an average of ten to fifteen dollars for raccoon on carcass and sometimes a high of twenty five for a really nice raccoon. Then back in the fur boom of the seventies and eighties everybody was trapping and all sorts of people were getting involved because of the high prices that sparked interest in the activity. But once the fur market crashed plenty of people hung up their steel and never really looked back. Even in present day it's hard to find people trapping a whole lot since the only thing currently worth money is coyotes. But for the youth those are a tricky species to trap especially with footholds. Currently a raccoon on carcass is averaging probably around five dollars or less which doesn't pay for the traps, gas, and equipment invested in the process. Because of that kind of pricing for fur, people have lost interest and don't even consider bothering with the time put in the trap line knowing full well that not only are they not going to break even, but they are definitely going to lose money.

I believe that the listed nest predator species of raccoon, fox, badger, opossum, and skunk are excellent species to get our youth hooked into trapping. Raccoon, opossum, and skunk are some of the easiest species for kids to start trapping and gradually work their way up in the furbearers list. This leads to improving on the variety of sets, and being able to read sign and setting on it.

My main point from the previous paragraphs is that I believe to truly peak the public's interest especially the youth I would like to make a counter proposal of offering ten dollars a tail again like the previous year. If that is unreasonable then meet me in the middle at seven dollars and fifty cents. People are already not trapping like they used to due to fur prices. If you were to offer the same prices that fur buyers are offering, what would cause the public to start trapping all of a sudden? I believe if you would want a successful goal of outreaching to our youth and even getting their parents interested, you would need to offer better prices to spark that interest and excitement we have all felt when first selling fur with the possibility of making decent money from something that you worked hard for.

Overall I think the program is great on getting more people involved with trapping and helping with an increased localized game population. Educating the public on habitat and wildlife management is really commendable for increased support and the learning aspect as a whole.

I fully support the GF&P and just wanted to voice my opinions and concerns on making a successful outreach. If \$250,000 is for sure the cap then so be it. I am also for the possibility of increasing the sales of licenses within the state as mentioned in your proposal. The only thing I would like reconsidered is the price per tail, offer better prices than the fur buyers and maybe the public would fully consider investing time and money into a fading tradition that has run deep in our history.

---

**Dorothy Schulz**

**Pickstowrn SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Its so bad to teach young children its ok to trap an animal then kill it. Its like starting a class for serial killers. Totally disgusting.

---

**Larry Fredrickson**

**Chamberlain SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

See my uploaded paper.

---

**Jan Humphrey**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Predator Nest Program initiated by Gov. Noem. This is a cruel and inhumane practice for the apex species of indigenous animals to this state. Speak to any biologist and they will clarify that these animals are crucial to a good balance of the ecosystems. Her practice is also a waste to our tax payers. We will vote her and be sure to remember your actions as well.

---

**Seth Hill**

**Centerville SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**John Blackburn**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Nest predators defeat our State's goal of being a pheasant capitol of the world. A gentlemen told me before this program he trapped 62 raccoons in (memory) 2 quarters near Brookings. Evidence of excess nest predators is how many are killed along highways. PLEASE allow a bounty on next predators. Thanks!!! John P. Blackburn, Yankton, S. D.

---

**James Pace**

**Mina SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Robert Bye**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

How dumb can we be to mess with nature.

---

**Richard Bell**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

You need to stop this wasteful, ineffective and cruel killing program and reject the planned 2020 Nest Predator Bounty Program.

---

**Cyrus Rasmussen**

**Hudson SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**David Love**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

For the love of God, grow up and discard evil practices from the 18th century.

---

**Shane Rist**  
**Centerville SD**  
**Position:** support

**Comment:**  
No comment text provided.

---

**Russell Suda**  
**Custer SD**  
**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**  
No comment text provided.

---

**Danny Oswald**  
**Huron SD**  
**Position:** support

**Comment:**  
I think this is a good program. We also need a bounty on coyote . They are getting to be a problem.

---

**Laura Quam**  
**Watertown SD**  
**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**  
This program seems ineffective. In addition to that, anything that might encourage trapping is something that I am opposed to.

---

**Heather Philbrook**  
**Rapid City SD**  
**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**  
I find this program absolutely disgusting.

---

**Jodi Hildebrand**

**Wakonda SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jane Amiotte**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It has not proven to help the population of the non-native pheasant in SD. Use the money for habitat restoration (like the CRP program) which increased pheasant numbers. This is inhumane and just a way to try to increase hunting license income for the state and a few farmers that cater to pheasant hunting (aka Governor Noem). She chooses to govern on her personal pocketbook. If it doesn't do that (Hemp legalization) she is against it even though it could solve so many of the state's problems (building materials, textiles) and help the farmers and others in the state.

---

**Tammy Jungen**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do NOT renew the very much ineffective and cruel Nest Predator Bounty program. South Dakotan's do not support this program. What's more, the science of it does not support it either! Money better spent is on habitat.

This is NOT a family activity. Killing needlessly teaches nothing but cruelty. Worse yet, the animals were discarded like nothing. Living, breathing, feeling animals that do nothing but benefit our environment, left rotting on the roadsides.

Shame on South Dakota for supporting this cruel program in the first place, with no scientific findings to back this type of thing up.

For exhibit: [https://www.aberdeennews.com/news/opinion/other-voices-brood-counts-blow-holes-in-south-dakota-predator/article\\_80824b4a-f27d-5e68-8aef-49c96bb824c0.html](https://www.aberdeennews.com/news/opinion/other-voices-brood-counts-blow-holes-in-south-dakota-predator/article_80824b4a-f27d-5e68-8aef-49c96bb824c0.html)  
<https://listen.sdpb.org/post/bounty-program-ends-questions-linger-about-effectiveness>

How much has this program in 2019 hurt our state in loss of tourism, funding, and respect of our neighboring states? No body wants this. You are deluding yourselves on behalf of the slim majority that participated.

---

**Sandra Faltemier**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a dysfunctional inhumane program that kills wild animals and leaves their babies to die after trapping and I oppose it. Please remove this program from South Dakota this year what a waste of money. Thank you

---

**Beth Millard**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

ABSOLUTELY OPPOSE!!!!!!

---

**Linda Greene**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is cruel and inhumane and promoting it as "family entertainment" is sickening.

---

**Charlotte Bruce**

**Woonsocket SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Michael Stark**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Shana Huls**

**Lennox SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We live in a rural area and are worried our pets will end up in a trap, it happened to our neighbors dog. Traps are cruel.

---

**Gwyneth Fastnacht**

**Wessington Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please STOP the nest predator bounty program. It was not based in science, will have a negative impact on the healthy environment and Gov Noem did not include statistics that are supported by data collected by the GF&P.

I strongly urge the discontinuation of this program.

---

**Kris Stapelberg**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please, please, please, I beg you once again, do not approve another Nest Predator Bounty Program.

---

**Rich Nickerson**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Only suggestion would be to require the animal carcass, so there aren't any tail less critters running around. A friend has caught 2 raccoons that were tail less in his lice catch trap

---

**Erin Campbell**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose this cruel, expensive, useless program. I would like the money to be spent making more pheasant and wildlife habitat. This would much better support the pheasants. Habitat loss is the real reason pheasant populations are suffering not the predators who have always been in SD. This program is yet another assault on our wildlife.



---

**Denise Parker**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is both inhumane and provides no value added to the overall pheasant hunting population. Furthermore why is this program even in West River, we have no pheasant population. This program does nothing but kill needlessly thousands of animals cruelly. Many of these innocent animals play a significant role, like eating ticks, to our environment. I urge you please stop this horrific practice.

---

**Audrey Prince**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jerry Wilson**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

To South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks,

My wife and I just returned from a walk across our restored native prairie. We scared up a pheasant hen and nine deer. A bald eagle sailed overhead, looking for something to eat.

I am 74 years old, a rural resident most of my life except years in college and in the US Army during the Vietnam War. As a boy, I hunted and trapped. I am not proud that I killed fellow creatures like possums and raccoons for “sport,” and for the \$3 I could get for their hides, and that I then discarded their bodies. But gradually I did learn respect for fellow creatures, for their needs and their ways of life. I came to understand through careful observation that the key to every healthy ecosystem is natural balance.

Balance necessarily includes the presence of predators—that is predators besides human beings. I learned that human intervention in the form of eliminating certain threads negatively affects the entire fabric of life. For the past thirty years my wife and I have been actively engaged in native prairie restoration and other efforts to enhance natural habitat on the Missouri River Bluff in Clay County. From this perspective, I would like to offer a pair of observations about the SD GFP Nest Predator Survey, and by extension, about Gov. Noem’s misguided program to promote commercial ventures by making war against our native wildlife.

As every opinion researcher—and every propagandist—knows, responses to any question will be influenced by the language used, and by how the questions are posed. Surveys used by political campaigns, for example, are sometimes designed not to truly determine opinions, but to formulate or influence them. I find the present survey tinged with such a motive.

For example, the questionnaire uses loaded language, such as “harvesting” and “predators” (but never killing native wildlife, animals or species). “Harvesting” is a word loaded with positive connotations, while “predator” is laden with negative subtext. Both words are intended to influence perceptions, not to encourage critical thinking.

The questionnaire states as a given, “that a primary goal is to increase interest and participation in outdoor recreation and conservation among youth.” Who could be against encouraging outdoor recreation and conservation? But there is no hint that this “outdoor recreation” involves indiscriminate killing of native mammals, as well as cementing in young minds a lack of respect for those fellow creatures. A red fox is no longer a beautiful, elusive and wily fellow inhabitant, and an indispensable part of the ecosystem of which I am part, but a commodity to be “harvested” for ten bucks.

And what is the goal of “conservation”? True conservation means preservation and restoration of habitat—and of biological diversity—not the destruction of diversity in the interest of another commodity, in this case the money-generating non-native bird, the pheasant.

I understand that promoting hunting and fishing is part of the mission of Game, Fish and Parks. I do not condemn ethical hunting, and I don’t deny that these activities, which some adults still find attractive, can be compatible with larger conservation goals. That is why we have seasons, limits on how many individuals of some species can be killed, and regulations on which can be regarded as “game” rather than animals, mammals or fellow life forms. That is why we require that sportsmen and women purchase licenses, and why some of that money goes to maintaining scraps of our shrinking wildlife habitat.

But true conservation, a true “land ethic,” to use Aldo Leopold’s term, cannot be driven by commercial exploitation. “The old prairie lived by the diversity of its plants and animals,” Leopold says in *A Sand County Almanac*, “all of which were useful because the sum total of their cooperations and competitions achieved continuity.” That should be our goal, and our programs should reflect that goal.

I have tried to explore these and other themes of nature, rural life and conservation in two of my six published books, *Waiting for Coyote’s Call* and *Seasons of the Coyote: A Year on Prairie Bluff*. After a lifetime of observation and thought, I have concluded that I will go to my grave with very limited comprehension of the mysteries of the natural world of which I am part. But of one thing I feel certain. The possibilities of comprehension and appreciation, and of fostering healthy ecosystems instead of destroying them, begins with open eyes, open heart and respect for fellow creatures.

---

**Linda Hasselstrom**

**Hermosa SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The nest predator bounty program was a ridiculous waste of money the first time, as well as a threat to useful native predators that reduce the population of rats, mice and other vermin. It is unconscionable that the Gov. Noem is encouraging a second season. As long as this program is in effect, I will allow NO hunting at all on the ranch land I own and control, and will encourage my neighbors to resist it as well. I hope you will do all that you can to stop this ridiculous idea. I would be against it even if pheasants were common in West River, which they are not.

---

**Lonnie Jeffries**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am very concerned about the inhumane killing of the animals listed in your program. I don't care if it supports more pheasants as some suggest, I personally think killing these animals is so disgusting, I cannot begin to analyze the thought behind giving a "bounty" of 10 bucks per tail? What do they do with the rest of the animal? Let it die and rot where it is? Please stop this inhumane program from happening. There has got to be a better way. I do not agree with killing for sport. Find another way!

---

**William Schultze**

**Hendricks MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Ann Haber Stanton**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Part of why we love living in SD is being surrounded by nature. Our wildlife, including predators, is a huge and valuable part of the natural system. Disturbing that system throws everything off balance, and we are asking for unintended consequences. We're seeing that happen worldwide, and we don't want to see that in our beloved home state.

Furthermore, trapping is cruel and should be revisited as a legal method of killing wildlife. Cutting off the tails of trapped animals, dead or alive, is the very opposite of a family fun experience.

Thank you for reconsidering this seriously wrong bounty resolution. It should never have been introduced to begin with, and please include my name among those who strenuously object to it.

# Nonresident East River Special Deer License

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**Matt Eldridge**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Noem said it in her speech. South Dakota is open for business. What more is there to say about that. 500 tags think about the money it will bring into the state. The families that want to have their kids come home and deer hunt the family farm should be considered in this also. Let's stop splitting the state with the River.

---

**Jeffrey Flood**

**No. Mankato MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Please consider this Special Buck License good for "ANY BUCK" not just Whitetail. I hunt where there is a good MULE DEER population.

Thank you!!

---

**Lance Gerth**

**Brandt SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

After the recent hullabaloo recently about changing how we needed to change how we apply for deer tags and how this was necessary because of less tags available all of the sudden we find 500 tags available for non-residents. This a wonderful turn around, and so quickly too. Or will this merely be subtracted from residents opportunities. Either way it shows a willingness for our GFP to give in to the desires of the pay-to-hunt crowd at the expense of resident opportunities.

---

**Nicholas Gilmore**

**Milbank SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The goal of bringing money into the state from non resident hunters only serves to dishearten resident hunters and drive the continued downward spiral of resident license sales. I believe the quality of life for the common residents of our state should be more important than the continued push for the commercialization of hunting.

---

**Gregg Yonkovich**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I know many non-residents that already hunt with archery equipment. I don't see a problem giving them an opportunity to also hunt with a rifle. I appreciate limiting the number of tags to 500, and also limiting hunting to whitetail only.

---

**James Zeck**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

One could very much see this coming with the deer application changes. This will significantly decrease opportunities for residents on private land and open the door to fee for access which most South Dakotan's will not be able to afford. I strongly encourage the commission to not adopt these changes.

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**Drake Mohr**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Ernest Stirling**

**Miller SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I FEEL THAT THE PROPOSAL TO ISSUE 500 NONRESIDENT EAST RIVER SPECIAL DEER LICENSES IS TOO HIGH OF A NUMBER TO BEGIN WITH. I WOULD RATHER A NUMBER LIKE 150 TO BEGIN WITH UNTIL SEVERAL SEASONS HAVE PASSED TO SEE WHAT THE RAMIFICATIONS ARE OF MAKING THIS LICENSE AVAILABLE TO NONRESIDENTS. I AM CONCERNED THAT IF A NONRESIDENT IS WILLING AND CAPABLE OF PURCHASING THIS LICENSE THEN THEY MAY ALSO BE WILLING AND CAPABLE OF PAYING FOR HUNTING RIGHTS ON PRIVATE GROUND THEREBY MAKING LESS LAND AVAILABLE TO THE SD RESIDENT THAT CAN NOT AFFORD TO PAY A FEE FOR THE PRIVELEGE TO HUNT. THANK-YOU FOR LISTENING TO MY CONCERNS.. ERNIE STIRLING

---

**Adam Golay**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This proves that the 2019 deer allocation change was not about getting people their preferred deer license but what I've been preaching for the last 2 years & it's about the money. Some east river resident hunters will lose their hunting spots because some non residents who draw these \$554 east river special buck tags will lease up land for this hunt. Then GFP will once again be scratching their head trying to figure out how to get that 12 year old kid out in the field to hunt deer.

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**Ryan Fliehs**

**Corsica SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Cody Shoultz**

**Miller SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Matt Bones**

**Chancellor SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Patrick Glasford**

**Crooks SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

You guys just changed the whole drawing process because of tag allotment. Now all of a sudden we want to hand out tags to non residents. Please dont throw the out of state family card....This is all about outfitters.

---

**James Dahlberg**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Why is the commission considering allowing more nonresident tags at the same time discussing the possibility of curtailing some resident tags? Where is the logic in that?

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**Jeremey Backous**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Justin Allen**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I'm strongly opposed to any additional Non-Resident big game opportunities in SD. Additional Special buck licenses only further commercializes hunting in SD. As the state is rapidly seeing, in the decrease of hunting licenses sold (NR & Res.), commercial hunting limits access and opportunities for all others. Hunters are putting their guns away in masses and not passing on the tradition. It is a short sided approach for increase revenue with large lasting effects. Deer tag are already hard enough to draw as is. Many landowners will push residents/friends/family aside in the name of making a buck to allow a NR to hunt deer. Are we concerned about resident opportunities in SD or not? Please renew my dwindling faith that the SD GFP commission is here to represent the sportsman of SD. Thank you for your time. Justin

---

**Kyle Bye**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Don't let non residents hunt

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**Cyrus Mahmoodi**

**Woodbury MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I think this is a great idea. Giving more opportunities for hunters to visit South Dakota is the right decision. South Dakota needs to be proactive in doing it's part to continue hunter participation. This helps.

---

**Matthew Hines**

**Southlake TX**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I am a non-resident hunter, and i generally make at least one trip to SD each year. I support this license, because it would allow me to make another trip to SD in hopes of harvesting a mature whitetail buck with my firearm.

---

**Frank Reilly**

**Flower Mound TX**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Robert Eddy**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Do not support this proposal. Add a Non-resident license (8%) to the total, similar to WR seasons before adding to the special buck concept.

---

**Danny Limmer**

**Lake Norden SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please protect resident opportunity first. South Dakota is not a shooting preserve.



---

**Clayton Knudsen**

**Salem SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These licenses would lead to more difficulty for resident deer hunters to obtain private land to hunt on because the non-resident tags typically bring in out of state hunters willing to pay big money to hunt. And with if they are able to hunt any private land East of the river, outfitters will be out leasing up more ground so they can take hunters to whichever property has the best deer.

One of the biggest challenges to getting more people in the field hunting is the difficulty in finding permission to hunt so you don't have to deal with over-pressured public hunting areas. Pay hunting is one of the main causes for not being able to get permission, and nonresidents are by far more willing to pay for hunting privileges. If you want more youth hunters, we need to help give them an opportunity to deer hunt in a quality atmosphere with good opportunity to see and harvest a deer.

All you have to do is look to the pheasant hunting in South Dakota for support of my position. I find it is often easier to get permission East River to hunt deer than it is pheasants. - unless you are willing to pay the high fees of course.

I understand the situation with our pheasant hunting history and heritage and am okay with that. I just hope we can keep our deer hunting from going down the same path. I have five children - two boys and three girls and they all love to hunt and grew up hunting deer on private land we obtained permission on. I have warned them for years that the day would come when the State would allow non-resident tags for East River and eventually we would loose much or all of land we have permission to hunt deer on. And with it the annual family hunt we all enjoy together.

I respectfully ask you to not allow Non-resident East River Special deer tags.

Thank you.

---

**Robert Eddy**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not support additional Special Buck tags for ER Deer. Special Buck has taken the place of the Non-resident Deer licence process. The inclusion of the 8% NR ER Deer is first acceptable step. It is highly encouraged to eliminate the Special Buck completely, and compromise with an increase to 10% NR Deer statewide. This will disperse NR pressure throughout the state verses all in prime areas leased by outfitters who have eliminated opportunities for resident hunters.

---

**Douglas Traub**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This proposed rule supports paid guided deer hunting for non-residents at the expense of resident hunters deer hunting opportunities.

The opportunity to hunt deer for residents is already declining. A further sell out to the play for pay crowd will further hurt resident deer hunting opportunities.

I have read the complaints of resident's out of state relatives not being able to draw an East river deer tag every year. I feel this proposed rule change is not the proper approach, as it benefits the guiding industry, without positively affecting the desire for more family hunting opportunities.

I therefore oppose this rule change.

---

**Pierce Smith**

**Alexandria SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

2019 was the first time since I was 12 that I did not have one rifle deer tag. I strongly oppose giving non-residents tags on land that is already locked down to the average sportsmen already. If this passes, landowners who now give access to residents will now be trending to only letting non-residents come in because of the higher profit. One individual gains profit while hundreds of hunters take the hit. Why take residents out of the field and hurt a deer population that is already trending downwards?

---

**Pierce Smith**

**Alexandria SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

2019 was the first time since I was 12 years old that I did not draw a single rifle deer tag. I strongly oppose giving Non-residents tags on land that is already locked down to the average sportsmen. If this passes, landowners who now give access to residents will now trend to giving access to Non-Residents because of a higher profit. One individual gains profit while thousands of deer hunters take a hit. Why take residents out of the field and hurt a deer population that is already trending downwards?

---

**Brendan Gerth**

**Clear Lake SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

500more resident buck tags would meet the R3 requirements much better. If you need more money charge more money, the resident deer hunters will pay it. Buck only tags-private and or public land-will always sell good. Nonresidents can buy archery tags and hunt anywhere even during rifle season.

---

**Rena Eddy**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not support more Special Buck licenses. Add 8% NR to the normal draw, but no more Special tags catering to pay-to-hunt operations. It has gone way too far now!

---

**Tanner Eddy**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No to Special Buck License.

---

**Jay Groos**

**Colman SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Another attempt to commercialize hunting in our state. There has to be other ways to generate revenue rather than this.

---

**Ryan Mckinney**

**Champlin MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I am very supportive of the proposed 500 non-resident east river buck tags. I have access to hunt a ranch in Buffalo County and have only drawn a tag once in the last five years. My friend who is also a MN resident has owned the ranch for 30+ years. This past season, no non-residents drew tags in Buffalo County despite an abundant deer population. Apparently, residents were able to get five tags prior to non-residents having access to any. My friend pays significant taxes, has local ranchers using the land, routinely cooperates with Fish and Game on their projects and provides significant winter habitat. Not being able to hunt his own property seems unfair. Thank You for your consideration.

---

**Phil Kooima**

**Rock Valley IA**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Dear Sirs, I am a non resident deer hunter. I hunt the Bald Eagle Ranch in Buffalo county. Last year I had no opportunity to hunt deer b/c there was zero non resident deer licenses.

Please consider adding more Non- resident licenses for future years.

I spend about a week in South Dakota when I go to this ranch. I typically buy all my supplies and gas and food and entertainment in South Dakota during this trip.

# Other

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**Wendy Luedke**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program for the following OBVIOUS reasons:

1. It is not an ecologically sound plan. Killing the predators of pheasants does not solve the dwindling population, it just causes more ecological issues such as an overrun of other animals the predators eat. Providing more marshlands is how to solve this.
2. Our wildlife is not here for sacrifice to the few, seasonal businesses that thrive on the killing of animals. Our State needs a more solid economy and employment plan.
3. IT IS CRUEL AND INHUMANE and SENSELESS!
4. I am not a supporter of providing graft for our governor.

---

**Kris Stapelberg**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I cannot believe you are seriously considering having a Nest Predator Bounty again this year. It did nothing to help our Game Bird numbers and did everything to hinder the rest of our wildlife. It also cost the state a whole lot of money that could be better spent elsewhere. With all the negative media we got throughout the country last year (despite you trying so hard to show how wonderful it is for kids to kill animals on your Facebook page), you can bet a lot of people will be crossing South Dakota off the list to visit this year. And I don't blame them. I love this state, but I am thoroughly embarrassed by it right now.

---

**Dean Parker**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am writing in opposition of renewing the “Nest Predator Bounty Program” for 2020.

Not only is trapping an ineffective method of wildlife conflict management, but it is a cruel way for any animal to die – including pets and other non-targeted animals that will get caught in these traps.

Wildlife management professionals across the U.S. have long acknowledged the ineffectiveness of bounties and predator control, including South Dakota’s own Habitat Work Group in its 2014 report to Governor Daugaard. To my knowledge, no science-based evidence has been presented to suggest that the species targeted by this “Nest Predator Bounty Program” (opossums, raccoons, skunks, badgers or red fox) are negatively impacting pheasant populations.

Furthermore, each native species plays an important role in our ecosystem. In particular, opossums are a great benefit to any area they inhabit. Their diet includes snails, mice, rats, and insects such as cockroaches, crickets, beetles and disease-carrying ticks.

This program is simply not backed by science-based wildlife management principles. If GFP wants more game birds for hunters, please focus on improving their habitat - not killing indigenous species that play an important role in that habitat.

---

**Eva Bareis**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose another nest predator trapping season. The timing of the season ensures that orphaned young will starve and goes against the very ethics that Fish and Game teaches youth. I'm also unable to find any research to suggest that such a strategy works.

---

**Linda Zachow**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the nest predator program because I believe it messes with nature's normal ecological balance and as a psych nurse I think this promotes cruelty to animals as I don't see this related to normal hunting practices.

---

**Jamie Al-Haj**  
**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am greatly opposed to reinstating the Nest Predator Bounty Program! The financial cost of \$1 Million for this program benefits ONLY those who participate. The state of South Dakota and it's residents are the total losers when we decimate our native species and disrupt our ecosystem while using funds that could be used in many productive ways. It is the responsibility of Games Fish and Parks and it's commissioners to act as stewards of our wildlife. Where does allowing such a fatuous program fulfill this responsibility? Please respect the views of such a vast number of South Dakotans by not recommending the Nest Predator Bounty Program be reinstated in 2020!!!

---

**Nadine Thomas**  
**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am totally opposed to the Nest Predator Bounty Program. What an waste of my hard earned tax prayer money I give to the SD! I want my taxes to pay for programs that help all people. We need that money to be used on infrastructure, schools, healthcare, etc... not killing innocent animals to save the pheasant population! Plus it is not the predators reducing the number of pheasants but a loss of habitat! Spend the money on increasing habitat rather than killing innocent animals!

---

**Lucinda Gallagher**  
**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose bringing back the Nest Predator Bounty Program for 2020. This program did nothing to help the pheasant population and the money Game, Fish & Parks spent on it in 2019 would have been better spent improving habitat in known pheasant nesting areas. I have few objections to normal winter trapping practices, but I feel that trapping during the spring and summer when the animals have young that may lose their parents and die as a result, is needlessly cruel, and just collecting tails is a horrible waste and disrespectful to animals that have a valuable place in the ecosystem. Please do not bring this program back this year.

---

**Bryan Goeden**  
**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Considering that non resident hunters are already getting 10 percent of our special buck tags I strongly oppose giving out more tags. The result of these tags being given out will increase nonresident trying to buy or lease hunting ground making it harder to find land owners willing to give people permission an already increasing problem. Instead of focusing on more expensive nonresident tags we should try focusing on Hunter recruitment and retention.

---

**Karen Wallace**

**Newell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am against the Nest Predator Bounty Program. I don't think this should be allowed to go through with an additional \$1,000,000 in state spending when there is no money available for a raise in school teacher pay.

---

**Teah Homsey-Pray**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Regarding predator bounty program

Could a non-lethal engagement with wildlife for our children be a more productive activity versus a program that is not an answer to pheasant population? SD dollars may be better spent on equipment, books, and ID nature walks and the like versus traps that animals suffer in and then are killed. Mind you with our children doing the killing or watching it. Is this really what we want or should it be appreciation for nature, because the more we know about wildlife the more we know about ourselves. I'm a retired teacher who opposes the nest predator bounty program. I tried hard to teach compassion and respect for all living things to my students. What in God's name is this program teaching? And what are the results of this barbaric activity on our wildlife and youth?

---

**Laural Bidwell**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nest Predator Program: Please do not continue this program that wastes government funds "to get kids outside" when in fact there are plenty of ways for families to get outside. We all know this program does nothing to save pheasant habitat. I'm hearing that the state is looking to throw away another million dollars on a program that teaches children to kill and mutilate animals. Please please stop.

---

**Kris Norlin**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not implement the nest predator bounty program again. It is horrible to think of making a sport (for kids- there are so many other outdoor sports that can be taught) of trapping and cutting off the tails of opossum and other animals that are necessary to our ecosystem. What an awful way to spend that much money when it could have been put to better use keeping habitats viable.

---

**Tacy Paul**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am writing this letter to urge you to end the Nest Predator Bounty Program for a number of reasons.

One, the numbers of pheasants did not increase from this program last year and there is no scientific data that proves it will work. According to many experienced biologists, pheasant numbers have been decreasing in SD since the 1960's because of the decline of farmland.

Two, what part of children watching animals killed and mutilated accounts for quality outdoor family time?

This program is barbaric to say the least.

Three, animal cruelty is a felony in the state of South Dakota, and leaving the offspring of those trapped and slaughtered is about as cruel as you can get.

Four, it is a complete waste of money as there has been no proof or data collected that this is a solution to the dwindling population of pheasants.

There has been a LOT of discontent among the voters of SD on this program. I urge you to listen to the voters and the taxpayers, not just the wealthy out of state hunters.

Thank you.

Tacy Paul

South Dakota Resident, taxpayer & voter

---

**Cassandra Bockorny**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program. The funds spent on this program could be used to preserve or create habitat rather than devalue our native predators for a non-native species. There is no proof that the program results in an increase to the pheasant population. This money should be directed to help the state prepare for climate change by restoring more natural habitat.

---

**Sandra Seberger**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I would like to comment on the Bounty Program. I am opposed to the killing of native species to increase a non-native bird.

---

**Cheyne Cumming**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE NEST PREDATOR BOUNTY PROGRAM. NO SCIENCE IS INVOLVED. KILLING OUR WILDLIFE FOR A BOUNTY TAKES SD BACK TO THE 1800'S. TEACHING CHILDREN TO KILL ANIMALS IS WRONG!



---

**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk, SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a comment letter on pending proposal for a nest predator bounty program. Comment will be uploaded as a PDF letter, from Prairie Hills Audubon Society

---

**Carter Klatt**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This regards the "3 option" proposal convening nonresident waterfowl licenses. My vote is that we keep the licensing system the same way that it currently is for non residents. Each and every one of the 3 options proposed will severely impact and greatly decline the quality of waterfowl hunting in South Dakota for resident hunters.

---

**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk, SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nancy Hilding,

I submit this short comment in my own name, versus former letter on behalf of an organization.

I am opposed to the nest predator bounty program and to giving away free traps. Please don't do it again.

The wildlife ,whose lives you sell to hunter, fishers and trappers, belong to all the citizen's of SD. You raise much of your funding from these transactions, but the owner of the sale item (the wildlife) are all the citizens -- whether they are avid hunters or members of PETA. Hunters, fishers, wildlife watchers, photographers may all give donations to Game, Fish and Parks, but purchasing a hunting, fishing or trapping license is not a donation.

It is a consumptive use....an exchange of dollars for the opportunity to successfully capture meat or furs --- things of dollar value.

---

**Vickie Hauge**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am writing to ask you to oppose Governor Noems idea for the renewal of the nest predictor program. Our state does not have the money to put into this program & the concept of this program is flawed. God gave us these predictors for a purpose. The diversity of our wildlife is so important & nature takes care of over population in mice & voles, and so on. When you remove the important predators, everything goes out of balance. Our state has so many other things that need to be funded & the money taken from the state treasury last year to teach children the way to be cruel to animals & that is okay to feel that the animals are not worth anything, was a tremendous waste of our resources. It is not okay to use our state money to support the pheasant hunting lodges over our more important state needs. Use some of this money to get kids into nature & teach them how to appreciate the animals instead of teaching them to kill. Cruelty to animals is & has never been a healthy thing for a child or any age. Live trapping & then killing the animal or just leaving them in the trap to die, is Wrong.

Thank you for your attention & we hope you will consider not catering to the governor & her cronies.

---

**Carla Marshall**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the predator programs. This is not a family fun activity. It teaches children to kill those critters that are essential to these habitats.

---

**Kristina Garrett**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program. Please don't renew this program.

---

**Chad Taecker**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please  
Leave  
The non-resident  
Waterfowl  
Season alone. Everything is fine the way it is.

---

**Merle Bach**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

;Nest predator: That is prbably the worst program to ever come out of GFP I cant believe you would even consider it!!!!!!

---

**Nick Falj**

**Harrold SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

As a landowner conservationist I support the petition for rule change to allow 500 Nonresident East river rifle tags.

---

**Ken Carter**

**Woodland CA**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Leann Baloun**

**Highmore SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I support special buck tags for east river non resident for private land owners

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**Jason Taylor**

**Fort Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

To GFP & Commission, I writing this in reference to the NR East River Special Whitetail Buck Allocation Petition and letting you know that I strongly oppose the petition and hope that you deny it.

There is absolutely no biological reason behind this petition. The ones for this petition (the outfitters which came up with it) will say that it will bring in tax \$\$ to SD, but what you won't hear from them is that it will be at the expense of the average resident sportsmen. All this will do for hunting is boost up and expand the commercial hunting in South Dakota which is/has already taken over western SD. It is already hard for residents to find private land to hunt in western SD because outfitters are tying it up. Look at Stanley County, between Ted Turner's 2 ranches and all the land the Black Mountain Outfitters have tied up, a person that is lucky enough to draw a Stanley County tag has an extremely hard time finding private land to hunt, unless they have the \$\$, or their only other option is to hunt the highly pressured overcrowded public land. Now if this petition is accepted and then approved by the commission, those outfitters are going to start tying up the private land in eastern SD and force more resident sportsmen to the already overcrowded public lands East River.

I ask that the Commission thinks hard and look at what is best for the wildlife and the resident sportsmen not the Outfitters. All the public hears from the Commission and GF&P is how SD sportsmen numbers are dropping, that is because people don't have a place to hunt unless they PAY. I hope that the Commission will open their eyes and not be a yes man for the commercial outfitters and start looking out for the average SD sportsmen and deny this petition.

---

**Russ Roberts**

**Hulett WY**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I am writing regarding the East River Special Buck proposal for non-residents. It has been long overdue that there is a non-resident license allocation for east river deer hunting for a firearms season. There are many non-residents that are either family members of existing farms or grew up in the area that no longer have a chance to hunt deer there because they have no opportunity at licenses. This is a good proposal that should be passed.

---

**Shari Kosel**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nest Predator Bounty Program

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**Matt Eldridge**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I would like you to support the East River Special buck tag. This tag will help the people that move away from South Dakota to come home and hunt their home state.

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**Ronald Pringle**

**Norfolk VA**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I am currently a nonresident landowner who owns 4 quarters of farmland east river in SD. I grew up in SD and enjoy coming back home whenever I can. I feel that a season or program should be in place to afford the opportunity to people like myself or my children to be able to come home and spend time deer hunting. Living in another state, the only deer tag I can secure to hunt on my own land is limited to archery hunting. This being the only opportunity is unfortunate (as leftover rifle tags are virtually impossible for non-residents east river) and limits possibilities to create additional hunting memories for myself or my children on land that I cherish. I would like to convey my support for the establishment of the non-resident east river special deer tag. This would give non-residents the opportunity to hunt on east river private land. It would also not add to congestion on public land, as the tag would require the sponsorship of a private land owner whom has given permission to hunt. I believe this would be a positive step to bring home some South Dakotans even for a few days to spend quality time in the field with family. It would also allow a few other non-residents to come discover the beauty of SD and realize that east river hunting can be more than just pheasants for non-residents. The price of the tag as well as the income that these hunters would bring to the state would be substantial as well. Thank you for reading and listening to my comments.

---

**Mike Van Cleave**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose non resident deer hunting.

---

**Dillon Baloun**

**Highmore SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I strongly support the non resident east river special buck opportunities for private land. To consider that this does support land owner rights and is crucial in future wildlife management and conservation on private land.

---

**Vicki Honerkamp**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

To all concerned,I am a great lover of nature and our Black Hills. I also love to hunt and fish. To implement a bounty on selected predators has a negative affect on South Dakota's natural balance. Every animal has a purpose for keeping the land healthy. One million dollars could serve a much better purpose I am sure! The most disturbing fact of this predator program is the cruel and unnecessary slow and painful death of the young still in the nest...it makes physically ill to think of it! The other fact that I find disturbing is the thought of thousands of tail-less animal bodies laying all over the land rotting and creating an explosion of disease and germ carrying flies. Can not a better way be found to spend a million dollars?

Cordially,

Vicki L. Honerkamp

---

**Mark Trask**

**Wasta SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I am in support of nonresident east river special buck tags.

---

**Tom Trask**

**Wasta SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I support east river special buck tags for nonresidents

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**Patty Jenkinsi**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please convince our Governor the Bounty Trapping Program was a complete FLOP! TELL HER TO DIRECT THE MILLION\$\$\$ TO INCREASE THE STATE EDUCATORS SALARIES!

---

**Connie Ryan**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I absolutely oppose the predator bounty program. I believe this program is a waste of money and inhumane. I've uploaded a file with a letter from sdfacts.org regarding this program and I share their opinion.

---

**Kerma Cox**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am writing today to give my views on Ms Noem's nest predator program, which I strongly oppose. I am worried what this will do to our ecosystem. I don't think it's 'good family fun'. It teaches our children that animals don't need our respect or appreciation. I don't see why we should be so determined to protect the pheasant population. They are not a native species, they come from China. Please do NOT support her in this horrible idea.

---

**Lisa Jenson**

**Box Elder SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not renew the nest predator bounty program. Our money would be better spent improving habitat for game birds.

---

**Karen Haynes**

**Chamberlain SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not continue the Nest Predator Program for another year. It shows complete ignorance or willfully ignoring ecosystems. All of the animals senselessly slaughtered are part of a much larger system than simply pheasant nests. It's a very sad reason for "children to be outside" and a huge waste of money. Let's get on the right side of things. Work with some environmentally conscious people to deal with issues and quite going so overboard to maintain a species not native to this country.

---

**Pat West**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I am in support of increasing the East River and West River Special Buck tags for Non Residents.

This will have no impact on any of the public ground hunting in South Dakota and will allow more out of state hunting on Private Property. This will also increase the revenue for local businesses in the state.

Thanks for your consideration.

---

**Gail Saxonis**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am unequivocally opposed to the trapping of small game that the governor has instigated in order to "preserve pheasant habitat as I believe it leads to environmental imbalances for wildlife, etc.

---

**Cody Warne**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

East river NON-Resident special Buck.

Dear Commission , I am strongly in FAVOR of the special buck tags. As of now, we HAVE absolutely ZERO chance at a non resident rifle buck tag. Almost every farm and ranch family has kids that either move out of state or are NON residents while they attend college and cannot even come back and hunt their own family farm or ranch. As farm families, we all have NON-resident friends, family and yes, clients that we would like to be able to hunt our farms. We ARE NO different because we live on the east side of the river! The river should have NOTHING to do with NOT being able to have a small chance at a buck tag on OUR PRIVATE LAND. We deal with the slob road hunters for the whole pheasant, goose and deer seasons. This would finally be a good gesture for GF&P and landowner relations which are at an all time low. Wildlife has to have some kind of value or NOBODY will be able to plant habitat for wildlife. If a deer has value, people will take care of them instead of wanting them all killed off to protect their crops and stored livestock feed. 500 tags spread across the whole eastern side of the state is minimal. The people who complain about not having a place to hunt is because they don't take the time to foster a relationship with a landowner. Some people think just because they are a resident, they are just OWED a quality place to hunt in the name of "tradition" without contributing anything to actual habitat or helping PRODUCE wildlife. Thanks for your consideration.

Cody Warne

---

**Amy Poole**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I was born and raised in SD.

I am not anti hunting but I greatly oppose the NPBP program.

It is wrong to trap live bearing animals in the spring.

Their fur is no good and they are pregnant or raising their young.

This decision has many SD residents upset.

We are disgusted it is happening again.



---

**Cody Warne**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Please change my last post To SUPPORT. It accidentally hit oppose  
Thanks  
Cody Warne

---

**Bill Koupal**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am opposed to the addition of any non-resident deer licenses.

---

**Dan Thayer**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It's my understanding that the topic of adding 500 additional east river deer tags for non-residents will be discussed. I am not opposed to non-resident landowners applying for tags but not additional tags. The numbers of tags available need to be left to the biologists and the non-resident landowners need to be included in the draw, no additional tags above and beyond this.

---

**Alexander Russo**

**Hecla SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I support the idea of adding special east river deer tags for a couple reasons. I feel that the increase in Non-Resident opportunity to come to this state is always a positive for more reasons than one. It helps the department with funding, helps rural communities, and helps people want to come to our state. I think that there is an abundance of opportunities west river for big game, but we lack that same opportunity for non residents east river. The odds of shooting a whitetail deer are much larger east river than west river in most scenarios. I think this would help people wanting to run business off of this idea as well. Yes people will say it will ruin their deer hunting and will be selfish because they don't want to lose any opportunity themselves. The reality is they are private land tags and permission is up to the landowners. If people don't want them to hunt they don't have to let them, if a farmer allows them to hunt then thats the farmers choice and no one else.

---

**Darrel Reinke**

**Ft. Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please deny the petition to add 500 special buck tags EastRiver for non-residents. It is no more than another step to commercialize hunting. Any such move drives resident hunters to quit hunting which increases the problem of decreasing resident hunters. Thank you

---

**Darrel Reinke**

**Ft. Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please deny the petition to add 500 Special Buck rags for Non Residents in East River. This is no more than yet another attempt to commercialize hunting in our state. Each step we take in that directions further reduces the number of residents that hunt. We are losing resident hunters at an alarming rate. This is Avery slippery slope. Thank you.

---

**Anthony Carpino**

**Gainesville VA**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I strongly support the East River Special Buck proposal. As a nonresident with friends/family in South Dakota it is about time that nonresidents had a small chance to come and hunt on friends and families properties with a gun.

Hunting has always been a family tradition that needs to be encouraged, and the East River Special Buck proposal is one was to help encourage and support that tradition.

Please support that proposal.

Respectfully,  
Anthony Carpino

---

**Bruce Aughtry**

**Greenville Sc SC**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I strongly SUPPORT The East River Special Buck Proposal

---

**Jesse Ekeren**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

On the topic of 500 additional non resident landowner tags.

If non-resident landowners need or want tags lets address that directly instead of opening the door to commercialization of East River Deer tags to non-residents.

Thank you

---

**Cally Galloway**

**Greenville SC**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Support the east river special buck proposal and would love to have a chance to hunt my friends property during gun season.

---

**John Duffy**

**Oldham SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am in strong opposition to adding 500 East River special buck deer licenses to the 2020 season for nonresidents. I do NOT want to see the further commercialization of deer hunting in South Dakota. The demand for buck tags East River is already much too high as many residents have to wait several years to get a buck tag in the area they live. Not to mention the deer population is generally MUCH lower than it used to be, so we don't need to be adding more tags, even if it is "only 500". Rifle deer hunting has already degraded so much most of eastern South Dakota the last decade anyway.

Nonresidents should not get preference over residents even if they are willing to pay more for a special buck tag and to pay to hunt with an outfitter or a landowner that is leasing their land. This will take away existing private land hunting access to our current residents and force them to find new places to hunt, which is nearly impossible now and with the limited East River public land already being way too overpopulated.

If this were to pass then it would be very likely that a nonresident could get a buck tag EVERY year in the same area that it takes two or three years for a resident to get a buck tag. That is not right! South Dakota does not need this. Nonresidents have never been able to rifle hunt bucks East River to my knowledge and now is not the time to start. Please vote no on this petition!

Thank you!

---

**Cody Warne**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I just wanted to voice my SUPPORT for the nest predator bounty program. Finally the department is spending money on something that actually makes a difference. It's simple MATH, when predators are gone, nests and birds will survive. My dad had more fun and trapped countless skunks and coons last summer with his traps. We never even turned any in for the bounty which I'm sure hundreds of others were also trapped and never turned in which is great. I don't know of a single reason to have skunks around. The only thing I would do is add coyotes to the list. Absolutely no reason not to have them included. I'll promise as out of control they have become over the last decade, they do more damage and cover more ground than all of the others combined. Your outdated "biologists" studies that were done back in the 70's the claiming that coyotes don't eat pheasant nests are simply wrong. They will smell out and eat the hen AND the nest. My 12 year old fat Labrador will grab one a walk in the cattails during the fall. I'm positive a coyote is a way more efficient hunter. I hope you continue this program, it's also a great way to get kids outdoors. Thanks Cody Warne

---

**Mary Hawkins**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Dear commissioners, I strongly urge you support the east river special buck tags. It's finally time to be able to have friends, family members and our kids who have out of state residency for school to be able to hunt OUR FARM. It's simply NOT RIGHT that our kids work on the farm all summer and then go out of state to college and can't have any chance to deer hunt while back for thanksgiving. We feed this wildlife year round and should have some say if we want a non resident to hunt our farm. Thank you for listening and hopefully supporting this proposal.  
Mary Hawkins

---

**Danny Limmer**

**Lake Norden SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

East River nonresident deer. Please protect resident opportunity first. SD is not a shooting preserve.

---

**Tanner Bothwell**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I completely agree with the idea of issuing Non-Resident Special Buck tags East River. We have friends and family that are never able to come hunt the family farm, since they are Non Residents.

---

**Lon Sharp**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please vote no on the request for additional 500 East River deer licenses for 2020 as requested by the outfitter group. The commercialization of hunting is the slow death of family, friends and local community social hunting.

---

**Quintin Biermann**

**Groton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am writing in to strong oppose the 500 additional NR ER special buck licenses. I fear with this South Dakota will soon develop into what Texas has become, where the wildlife belong to the individual person or landowner and not the public. Walk in area recruitment will go down with the upswing in guided deer hunts. This will further separate those who have from those who have not, and will ultimately put South Dakota sportsman at the back of the line.

---

**Kathy Keys**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I am opposed to the Nest Predator Bounty Program. It is a waste of money. You are killing innocent animals and it hasn't proven to help. The animals being killed are keeping ticks, insects and other rodents in check. You are causing more of a problem than you are solving. Then there isn't any money for education, but you can give it away to trappers! If you are going to spend the money, repair the existing habitat for pheasants.

---

**Jim Scull**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The revised deer season draw process seemed to accomplish nothing. I talk to a lot of deer hunters and no one represented they thought it accomplished what it intended to and no one is in favor of continuing this deer season drawing method.

---

**William Graves**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Fish limits, especially slots, in the black hills and all over the state. Need to be enforced more properly. I hear stories daily if people keeping a limit of slot fish from orman in the morning, going out l, and keeping another limit of all or mostly slot fish in the afternoon. I constantly hear of people taking rainbows from unauthorized places in Spearfish canyon, and so many other issues across the state. Yes we can turn in poachers, and it's something that I as an angler in this state take very seriously, but when they eat the evidence or keep it in their freezer at home it's impossible to have the evidence to prove it. In 4 or 5 months worth of fishing I may run into a game warden once, and if so they check my license and that's it. If we want to keep fisheries alive and well there needs to be punishments for those who are damaging them.

---

**Joy Fricke**

**Greenfield WI**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Predator tail bounty is totally inhumane!

---

**Eric Bartels**

**Orange City IA**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I just heard on the radio that sales of hunting licenses are down. A recommendation to increase revenue would be to allow Non Residents to have the full season to hunt pheasants instead of two 5 day periods. The people that come for opener usually will not be back, but this would allow border state hunters more time to hunt and would then justify more of them purchasing small game licenses.

---

**Markie Scholz**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please take a much closer look at reinstating the bounty program for another year. Your mission statement states that you are stewards of the natural lands of South Dakota and that you are protecting ecosystems. Slaughter of "predators" in the most inhuman way imaginable does not do that. Please.

---

**Todd Magnuson**

**Trent SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the bounty program

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**Brayden Bingham**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I think it should be close to the same as last year

---

**Tom Frier**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Reasonable conditions for travel to Bushes Landing from Sunset Lodge down to the ramp

---

**Steve Cherkas**

**Edgemont SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I would like to see Lion Season open to trapping (at minimum on private ground) so that a lion trapped = a lion shot. Lion activity way up here on my land in southern Hills. Released 2 from coyote traps this season.

---

**Steve Cherkas**

**Edgemont SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I would like bobcat season extended (set back to what it was before it was shortened) so that it starts when cats fur is prime in early December. IMO any concern on cat population is unfounded as their numbers have more to do with rabbits than harvest.

---

**Alysha Goldsmith**

**Sate College PA**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I am writing as a South Dakota resident and a supporter of Born Free USA to express my opposition to the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Agency's decision to allow the killing of 60 mountain lions (or 40 female mountain lions) in the 2020 hunting season. Mountain lions are primarily hunted for sport and trophy hunting is a cruel and ineffective method of wildlife management, whether it happens overseas or here at home.

Mountain lions play a vital role in ecosystem management, which benefits humans and other animals alike. They primarily prey on deer and elk, which helps manage ungulate populations and deter the spread of illnesses such as chronic wasting disease. The species also preys on other animals, like rodents and rabbits, helping to keep "pest" populations under control, too.

Mountain lions are already under pressure from human population growth and habitat encroachment and trophy hunting will just be one more deadly pressure on this important species.

What is more, a growing number of Americans, including many South Dakotans like myself, are speaking out in opposition to trophy hunting and want laws and policies to reflect these anti-trophy hunting sentiments. In the U.S. House of Representatives, a recently reintroduced bill, the ProTECT Act (H.R. 4804), would amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to prohibit taking endangered or threatened species in the United States as a trophy and the importation of any endangered or threatened species as a trophy into the country.

I urge the Agency to reverse this harmful decision and to instead investigate compassionate means of wildlife management, such as translocating mountain lions from areas where their presence is problematic to other, more suitable locations.



---

**Aaron Lefever**

**Bartlett IL**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

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I urge the Agency to reverse this harmful decision and to instead investigate compassionate means of wildlife management, such as translocating mountain lions from areas where their presence is problematic to other, more suitable locations.

---

**Bob Miller**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

The allowing rifles for spring turkey season only on private land as safe. Thinking that your are the only hunter within rifle distance, is only an assumption.

Assumptions in the hunting world hardly ever to never work out well. While the Rancher did gave you permission to hunt, doesn't mean that he gave only YOU permission ! Or someone got lost and wondered in on this land. It could even be a member of your own hunt that got turned around and walked into you.

In the last Spring Turkey / Rifle fatal incident in 1999. That hunter too, assumed that what they saw though their scoped .223 rifle was a turkey that had a beard. And this at 48 yards.

While also on the subject. What is said about a rifle caliber being too small , or too large? A .22 rim fire is inadequate. While a high velocity center fire may damage too much of the bird to make for good table fare.

I can not support this rule change. The attached spreadsheet shows while there maybe have not been that many of incidents. All five turkey/rifle incidents have occurred during the Spring season ,and have been fatal.

# Public Waters

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**Scott Zieske**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I would very much like to see more specific emphasis on promoting, sustaining and improving populations of WILD trout on Black Hills streams. That effort should include special regulations where suitable to increase average fish size and reproduction. Depending on the scope of proposed stream improvements, perhaps more than two watersheds/tributaries should be considered and conducted annually. Finally, if funding is a continuing problem for such projects, perhaps a "Trout Stamp" program should be re-considered. Thanks you for GF&P's hard work and continuing commitment to the best quality fishing in the Black Hills.

---

**Sarah Stout**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

No gold or uranium mining.

# Rules Review Chapters 41:06-41:07

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**Jacob Herrick**

**Eagan MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The proposal in front of the game commission this week to have non resident, east river private land special buck deer tags. My Family lives and ranches in Britton, Langford, and Bristol SD. I work in the two cities to support my family. I have a son that is 7 and passionate about the outdoors. I also have another son due March 7. The family ranch is something we all cherish. We as a family find it frustrating that we can provide the love for the outdoors and food on our table at our own family ranch. Due to the fact we cannot rifle hunt deer. If passed it would give a nonresident the ability to possibly come home and hunt on the family farm. Currently there are zero non resident rifle deer tags east river, these would be the same as our special buck tags, landowner permission required, and good on private land only. My family has ranched in South Dakota for over a century. Traditions are important to keep the community strong. Even though we live out of town. We're apart of the South Dakota community and I feel that this rule or regulations are taking away from the South Dakota experience for my family.

---

**Jordan Nothdurft**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

All for allowing non-residents to apply for licenses in east river. This would allow my brother and I to hunt together again on our family land

---

**Mark Peterson**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We cannot provide enough opportunity for our residents so we came up with a new application system, that in my conversations with at least 50 hunters was unwanted and disliked, but now we are going to open east river deer to special nonresident tags. This is just another affront to pay hunting and guide services. Please start listening to your constituents and stop the assault on resident hunting and fishing opportunities.

---

**Mark Kisely**

**Volga SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Department of Game, Fish and Parks: Amend rules to eliminate unnecessary language; amend form and style; update authorities; amend language for the purposes of consistency; repeal 41:06:04:16, 41:06:11:02, 41:06:14:05, 41:06:15:04, 41:06:17:02, 41:06:34:02, 41:06:35:02, 41:06:39:02, 41:06:40:02, 41:06:41:05, 41:06:42:03, 41:06:47:05, 41:06:49:02, 41:06:60:03, and 41:07:02:05; consolidate rules; eliminate a public swimming area on Mina Lake; eliminate the no wake zone on Lake Norden; modify the endemic area by adding additional deer and elk hunting units; allow for the use of rifles to hunt turkeys in West River on private land; move the rifle restriction to ARSD 41:06:04:12; alter the start date for the low plains middle and north zones duck hunting season; decrease the daily bag limit of scaup ducks from three to one; create a nonresident East River special "any whitetail deer" license; increase the total "any elk" and "antlerless elk" in the Black Hills hunting season; modify the total number of "any elk" licenses for the Custer State Park elk hunting season and early archery elk hunting season; modify the total number of "any elk" and "antlerless elk" licenses available for the archery elk hunting season; modify the start date for the youth waterfowl hunting season; create two additional bighorn sheep units; modify the number of "any elk" and "antlerless elk" licenses issued during the prairie elk hunting season; add a new prairie elk unit and establish hunting dates; and restrict the

I would like to see this same rule for East River private land turkey Hunting.

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## Waterfowl Hunting Season-Duck

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**Tyler Richardson**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose any changes to the number of non resident waterfowl hunters in the state. With the current system there is already left over licenses and near a 100% draw rate for the 10 day licenses so there is not a need for increasing the tags. GFP has continuously catered to everyone but the resident outdoorsmen from nonmeandered water issue to screwing up the deer hunting opportunities in the state. You want to increase sportsman I. The field with the duck limit proposals and the apprentice deer but continually you choose to drive people away by catering to big money and out of state hunters. It's really a shame what is happening to the state that I grew up in.

---

**Robert Sayles**

**Beresford SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am not in favor of any of the new options to increase non-resident licenses for waterfowl. South Dakota does not need to commercialize hunting any more than it already is. The options presented cater to a select few and do not represent most SD residents.

---

**Chad Lade**

**Madison SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please keep south dakota a non commercialized waterdowl hunting state. I have children and will have grand children and i appreciate how this topic stands. We do not NEED the money we are doing just fine with the way we are right now. I trust the gfp and have never been given a reason to turn on them. Let the pheasant hunters bring us our money...

---

**Jerrod Looft**

**Fort Thompson SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not wish that our state's waterfowl resources be sold off to guides and out of state hunters like pheasants have. If you want to recruit and keep more in state hunters you can't make the resource worse and expect a positive result. I would vote no on all the proposed changes to non resident waterfowl license options.

---

**Zachary Sellin**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am a rather new resident of South Dakota, moved from Nebraska to go to college in Brookings. After being able to hunt ducks in South Dakota for the past two seasons I have had great success, the duck hunting is much better than Nebraska due to more water in this state. Recently, I saw the proposition to move the season back a couple more days. Rather than starting the big duck season September 26th, I propose moving the start date for the Low Plains North & Middle Zones to October 3rd, first Saturday in October and closing the season the 14th-16th of December. This would still give the central flyway season average of 74 days. Also I propose the thought of an early teal season running for one week starting September 7th the same day as Canada goose season would open up, and make the bag limit 6 teal. Plus moving the big duck season back a week would give the northern mallards and other big ducks a greater chance to make it into South Dakota in larger numbers. Nebraska's Zone 2 duck season closes the 16-20th of December every year and the ducks are all still in South Dakota. No big duck season in the central flyway besides in Canada needs to start in September. Traditionally it was always the first or third weekend in October. Also bag limits should remain at 6 total daily. There is no need to increase to 8 birds for the whole season as I heard a rumor about that happening, this isn't Canada. Being able to shoot two bonus teal for the first two weeks is fine.

---

**Randy Thaler**

**Lake Andes SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Request the southern duck unit have the early blue wing teal season instead of the 2 extra teal per day for first 16 days of season. Reason season opens late and all local blue wing have migrated out of the unit. Last year did not shoot or see a blue wing once the season opened but there were plenty in the unit until the end of Sep. and 1st couple weeks into Oct.

---

**Jim Kirk**

**Springfield SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The 3 year experiment of opening the low plains south zone in late October to first week of January has proven to be a huge error and I urge you to reconsider and move opening date back to where it was for years- 2 weeks after the rest of the low plains zones.. All the change accomplished has been to cut our hunting by two weeks. We hunt primarily on . Lewis & Clark Lake between Niobrara NE and down river from Springfield SD. There are few if any ducks left by Christmas let alone into January. By then, Lake is mostly froze in,, USACE reduces discharges & GF&P pulls boat landing docs first week of De cember Our ponds freeze over by mid November or earlier, My grand kids have little opportunity now to hunt those ponds, when the hunt is easier & still relatively warm mid October. We had only 11 days in 2018 & 9 days in 2019 to hunt pot holes below SD highway 50, as they froze over for the season. I have talked to dozens of other hunters who hunt south zone and have not found a one who likes the current later opening.

My sources indicate that the lobby for the delayed south zone season change came primarily from a hand full of folks who field hunt close to lower Frances Case, where apparently ducks must stage longer & into late December. Why don't you just redefine the high plains zone to include that portion of the south zone north of the dam at Pickstown?? You would continue to support those with field hunting interests around lower Francis Case and also satisfy those of us that hunt farther down river in the Springfield marsh area. Please reconsider. Thank you

## Waterfowl Hunting Season-Goose

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**Bruce Brittain**

**New Effington SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The regulations are perfect as they are. No need to change non-resident waterfowl hunting. Please think for your resident hunters. The hunting will be harmed by enacting changes.

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**Test Test**

**Test SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

test

---

## West River Spring Turkey-Use of Rifles

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**Paul Roghair**

**Kadoka SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I want to thank Scott, who is not longer on the commission for all for his help with this rule change, and hope that you as the commission will support and finish what was started here as a group effort to promote more people getting into the field, holding to what has traditionally been allowed in South Dakota and still takes into account the safety of the general hunting public. I view this proposal as an excellent example of protecting the rights of the few and still providing for the safety of the many. To give landowners a say, provides for their rights, to take the rifle away from the public lands provides for the fears of the general public who may not have a choice of where to go and keeps them in what is viewed to be a safer place, and still provides the maximum opportunity to get more people into the field and hunting. Thank you Scott for all you have done and I would ask the commission to approve and finalize this proposal. Thank you

---

**Don Doty**

**Divide CO**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I would like to express my support of the use of rifle during the spring turkey hunting season. I get the NWTF as other public hunting concerns. But it is my opinion that rifle hunting should be allowed on Private lands should the landowner permit it. This would offer a solution to each party's concerns. I would like others to voice their support of the use of rifles during the spring turkey hunting season. I hope the commission will hear our voices.  
DON

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**Dr Charles Anderson**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I have been hunting turkeys WR for 40 yrs and never had or heard of a person being mistaking for a turkey. For us seniors, it"s nice to still be able to go out and not hike 20 miles.

---

**Russ Hohn**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I support the use of rifles for spring turkey hunting on private land ONLY! I have enjoyed this season for decades with my children and youth from the Pierre area. The first 2 or 3 years of hunting are the most important with regards to keeping our youth interested. A bad experience at this age can discourage them from hunting again. One such experience is "sharp recoil" stemmed by a high performance shotshell. Even adults are discouraged from this recoil. The use of "small caliber rifles" eliminates the recoil. Hunters on private land have a much better idea of fellow hunter location which greatly reduces the chance of "stray bullet" accidents. I DO NOT support the use of rifles for turkey hunting on property that is open to public hunting.

---

**Paul Anderson**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Much too dangerous to allow rifles in any turkey season West or East. Hunting turkeys is a challenging endeavor; keep it that way. Allowing rifles would led to road hunting and ruin the experience.

---

**Brian Irvine**

**Clarkfield MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

If I remember right the reason they were banned was because decoys are getting so realistic. This should not be an issue on private property.

---

**Ron Schara**

**Ramsey MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Rifles for turkey hunting?  
Unsafe.  
Unsportsmanlike  
No fair chase  
Not hunting; just shooting.  
Disgraceful image for hunters  
I've been hunting SD turkeys for 50 years; shotgun and bow.  
Whoever suggested rifles ought to be ashamed.

---

**James Dahlberg**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Having been in situations where bullets were flying over my head during turkey season, I strongly oppose ANY use of rifles during a turkey season.

---

**Jason Mathews**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

The rifle season should go back to how it was. It is not right to punish responsible hunters because of morons, who negligently fire a gun at a decoy and hunter. I'm in a wheelchair, and the spring rifle turkey hunt in Charles Mix has been my favorite hunt. The ability to use a rifle allows me to be able to spot a turkey and be able to maneuver my wheelchair within a decent range to get a shot on them. My friends can see a Tom, in the bottom of river valley draw 150 yards straight down, and they can stalk it, whereas I can't. The rifle allows me to make up for my wheelchair.

---

**Stephen Dussinger**

**Windsor CO**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I fully support the use of rifles for Turkey hunting the West River season on private land. I am from out of state, and have limited time to hunt - usually just one weekend. Depending on the situation, using a rifle can increase my chances of harvesting a Turkey. In my past hunts, I have used a rifle to hunt about half of the time. I would love to have the option to use a rifle. On private land, I don't see any safety issues or other downsides of having the option. Thanks.

---

**Bruce Porisch**

**Flandreau SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I am getting old (72 years old) and mobility issues are just around the corner. I would like to continue to be able to hunt turkeys. I hunt in an area that has many, many rolling hills and turkeys abound. I use walking sticks more and more. I shot my turkey last year with a shotgun and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, but I have friends that simply cannot walk the hills and get into a position to shoot a bird with the shotgun. They can ride the ridges in a truck and take a position overlooking two or three draws. They can shoot using a bipod. So, in order to keep older hunters afield and to provide a safer mobility experience for them, I approve of the Firearms on Private Land Proposal.



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**Larry Fickel**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose this proposal for the following reasons: 1. South Dakota made a great step forward in banning the use of rifles in Spring Turkey Hunting . The safety issue of using rifles on private or public is a huge concern. A rifle can injure or kill someone in camo on adjacent public or private land that is not seen at a very long distance. 2. The issue of fair chase is my other concern. Spring turkey isnt supposed to be about just killing a turkey. Its a hunting sport. In my opinion , shooting a turkey with a rifle at a long distance is not sport in addition to usually destroying a good deal of the bird. If the argument for rifle hunting is depredation, then allow a hunt for that. If the argument is that it tests accuracy, then go target shooting in a safe area. Thank you for soliciting input on this issue. I trust that the most responsible decisions will be made.

---

**Bob Miller**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Private land or not. Spring Turkey hunting has a high danger factor in itself . First off, everyone is in full camo or a como tent blind.

Second, everyone is doing their best to sound like a turkey . Not a good situation.

Add in the rifle and there will be trouble. There will be longer shots taken than when a bird is called in to a shotgun baring hunter.

Spring turkey season also means thicker cover. Where seeing what is beyond your target even tougher.

The Springs rules that a "bearded" turkey is the only legal bird to harvest. Add in the thicker cover, and you need the bird close to be assured that there is a "beard" present or not.. If you try to guess, you are going to be wrong 50% of the time.

---

**Douglas Traub**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I think the lack of logic in the proposal to allow fully camouflaged hunters (some in blinds or with life like decoys) to hunt turkeys with rifles is obvious. The part of this proposed change to allow rifle turkey hunting "only on private ground "simply aides the ambulance in finding the wounded (or dead) hunter.

I have been shot at on private ground by a hunter on a neighboring parcel before. It is a stress test I don't wish to repeat His excuse was " he thought my decoys were real turkeys".

I had a close friend shot in the side of his head with a 30-06 accelerator round due to a deflection on private ground in the past. He lived, but was probably the luckiest man in the world.

I strongly oppose the use of rifles for turkey hunting and urge the commission to defeat this proposal

**Bob Miller**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The allowing rifles for spring turkey season only on private land as safe. thinking that your are the only hunter within rifle distance, is only an assumption.

Assumptions in the hunting world hardly ever to never work out well. While the Rancher did gave you permission to hunt, doesn't mean that he gave only YOU permission ! Or someone got lost and wondered in on this land. It could even be a member of your own hunt that got turned around and walked into you.

In the last Spring Turkey / Rifle fatal incident in 1999. That hunter too, assumed that what they saw though their scoped .223 rifle was a turkey that had a beard. And this at 48 yards.

While also on the subject. What is said about a rifle caliber being too small , or too large? A .22 rim fire is inadequate. While a high velocity center fire may damage too much of the bird to make for good table fare.

I can not support this rule change. While there maybe have not been that many of incidents. All five turkey/rifle incidents have occurred during the Spring season ,and have been fatal.

1/13/20

My name is Ken Carter and I am recommending SD Game Fish & Parks allow non-resident landowners to purchase deer tags under a similar set of criteria as resident landowners.

Our family has owned land in South Dakota for over 30 years. 2019 marks the 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive season we've hunted our ranch. I returned last week from an archery hunt, and will be there for the opening of west river deer season. My partners will be there for the first two weekends of pheasant season, totaling 10 days.

This year, we will host over 30 family and friends from California, Nevada, Louisiana and Colorado. In addition we allow over 10 of our local South Dakota friends to enjoy hunting deer, pheasant and predators. Allowing such a large group of people to hunt is directly proportional to our conservation and farming practices. I do not know any landowners near our ranch that invests in habitat as we do. While county numbers of deer and pheasants may be down, ours remain strong.

Annually, we invest in food plots and/or leave portions of crops unharvested to provide winter food and cover for wildlife. All of our dams have been repaired over the last decade. We currently have over 250 acres of lakes and reservoirs to support waterfowl and other wildlife. We are also starting to see the benefits of our tree planting program.

Half of our ranch is farmed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation (soon to be 4<sup>th</sup>) South Dakota farming family, while the balance is in the Conservation Reserve Program. For over a decade we allocated approximately 1,500 acres to the Walk-in-Program to allow locals hunting access. We recently sold that acreage to a local farmer.

We invest in habitat because hunting is part of our culture. This year three generations of our family will enjoy hunting in South Dakota. Hopefully, our efforts to conserve and expand habitat will allow future generations to enjoy our land as well.

Unfortunately, our family cannot enjoy our deer hunting traditions together due to the inability to draw tags. We should have the same opportunity to enjoy our hunting traditions as local landowners. Non-resident landowners pay the same amount of property taxes as resident landowners and have little to no impact on the local services such as schools and roads.

Criteria:

- Own a minimum of 500 acres
- Only 1 tag per landowner
- Tags can only be used by landowner on his/her private land
- No SD hunting or fishing violations in last 5 years

Respectfully submitted,



Ken W. Carter  
Woodland, CA

DO BOUNTIES WORK? 2-16-2020

By Larry Fredrickson, former Pheasant Research Biologist and State Furbearer Biologist (1960-1996).  
Chamberlain, SD

People think you can kill one predator and get one more pheasant. Sorry, but it does not work that way. You have to understand predator/furbearer population dynamics.

Do bounties work? I refer you to "Extermination of Noxious Animal by Bounties" written by T. S. Pauvier in 1896. This was an analysis of bounties for two and one half centuries in the United States, so bounties are not anything new. Indeed, bounties were put on wolves in Mass. in 1630 and in Virginia in 1632. Most states did not do research on these programs but only experimented by themselves.

1. South Dakota bountied coyotes from 1971-1976 and some other years. I believe we have as many coyotes in South Dakota as we ever had and they apparently control their populations themselves some by range and by territorial interactions. Many coyotes were turned in for bounty money on or near state lines. Coyotes can double their litter size when under harvest pressure and increase pregnancy rates and I believe survival as well. (I could not find data on survival). Our studies indicated nature abhors blank territories and predators soon fill in spaces where they are removed.

2. Pauvier concluded that bounties may have worked on coyotes, wolves and mountain lions only to stop the increases in their populations.

3. Bounties did not control rabbits, ground squirrels and gophers and the funds were soon exhausted from county treasuries.

I believe the general public promotes bounties because they do not know anything about furbearer biology or their population dynamics. We did not have opossums when we did our studies and few people realize they can have three litters per year (10 to 20 per litter). Badger can maintain their populations easy since they can breed any month of the year because they have delayed implantation. Red fox and coyotes can double their litter size when under harvest pressure (fox-our data). People know little about compensating factors in furbearer populations.

Our predator prey studies (1965-early 70's) indicated that by intensive predator control on three 100 square mile study areas (using poison drop baits, den litter control, trapping, shooting, aerial gunning and other methods) that you had to remove 80 to 90 percent of the predator populations to even effect the brood stock (reproductive part) of the predator population. So it would be impossible to have much effect by only trapping them. I went on to do another study on trapping effect on furbearers and found some pheasant increase but was this not significantly different (so was probably only a random event).

Let's look at the 2019 SD tail bounty program. There are 51,156 square miles in the SD pheasant range (Trautman, 1982). SDGFP paid for 54,470 total predator tails. This is only 1.07 total predators taken per square mile (all species) range wide, which would not be even one of each species taken. Raccoons: 43,779 or 0.86 animals per square mile. Striped skunk 6001 or 0.12 per square mile, Opossum 3,706 or 0.07, Red fox 494 or .0097, and badger 490

or .0096. I do not believe that this would make any difference on predation in the pheasant population.

Another thing we noted in our Predator pheasant studies was that nature abhors a predator vacuum. After many predators were killed in the interior of the predator control areas, the control agents spent most of their time killing predators coming into the study area from the outside. They then spent most of their time working on the outside two square miles on the edges of the study areas.

The other thing to consider is the unknown effect of feral cats, hawks and owls on pheasant predation. You remove the other ones and these can still have some effect. Another subject that needs a research study.

South Dakota GF&P has not done pheasant research for several years. Many of our facts no longer apply because so many things have changed (farming practices, use of chemicals, etc.). We have no idea of the effects of releasing genetically and behavior inferior game farm released pheasants, and the effect of using Roundup on habitat and birds.

Another thing that needs to be considered is what people want. After we found that you could better than quadruple the pheasant population by very intensive predator control using poison and all other means on very small study areas we had public hearings and the general public did not want us to kill other predator species (even skunks) to benefit pheasants. The most important tool we had was the use of poison and this was banned in 1972.

It was economically not feasible to spend the money we did on these areas to benefit pheasants on the whole pheasant range.

When Governor Deugaard's pheasant group met they ruled against using bounties because it was impossible to tell where the animals came from (Pierre Capitol Journal). Tails can come from road kills as well as from out of state, and we think they do.

The state should have set up study areas to evaluate their program and it's effect on pheasants to prevent continuing to waste thousands of the sportsmen's dollars on this program.

Game, Fish and Parks did not document the loss of jackrabbits, Hungarian Partridge and Quail in South Dakota because of lack of funds. Without more research on Pheasants, they also will not document the loss of our pheasant resource. Without more research we will never know what happened if they disappear

We concluded that from all research available considering predator population dynamics and compensating factors that there is no way to now feasibly kill enough predators to even cut into the brood stock (the producers) and we are positive that trapping and shooting can never remove enough predators to increase pheasant populations and this program would not even remove the population reproductive surplus. Therefore the only management tool left is to use soil bank or CRP cover to increase pheasant [populations. The idea is that such large masses of cover will provide protection to some nests (they cannot find them all) and provide protection for broods as well (Predators cannot get them all).

Please spend the sportsmen's money on habitat instead. This is proven by SD results during the Soil Bank program (1.8 million acres peak) and in 2008

with 1.4 million acres in the CRP program in 2007. SD had 8.6 pheasants per square mile in 2008 and we had only 2.04 pheasant per mile in 2019.

Several states get the federal funds from CRP and sometimes they cut the CRP budget so to get our 1.4 million acres we need a Game, Fish and Parks program of CRP to supplement the federal program to get to the 1.4 million acres. There were only 484,366 acres in CRP in South Dakota in 2019(USDA)so we are now about a million acres short.



February 14, 2020

**TO:** South Dakota Game Fish & Parks Commission

**FROM:** South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SD FACT)

**RE:** OPPOSE Nest Predator Bounty Program

Dear Sec. Hepler, Director Kirschenmann, Chairman Jensen, and Members of the Commission;

South Dakotans Fighting Animal Cruelty Together (SD FACT) again writes strongly in opposition to continuing the Nest Predator Bounty Program into the future and to any potential department sponsored legislation for 2020. With support from almost 5,000 members, we provide the following:

We remain vehemently opposed to the inhumane Nest Predator Bounty Program (NPBP). The long check-times, the lengthened season, and the unlimited numbers allowed all contribute to the inevitability of suffering for target animals and those that are indiscriminately trapped by happenstance.

There does not appear to be any scientific review of predator numbers and the effect of the bounty program upon these species. As a public resource, it is vital that accurate and unbiased information concerning predator numbers be researched. Also, given the vital role provided by these native species and their control of ticks and other disease-carrying varmints, a review of potential negative effects on human health is required.

**We are requesting the Commission reverse their position to forego an environmental impact assessment under SDCL 34A-9-4** on the bounty program given these serious concerns. Failure to gather information and conduct assessments concerning the continuation of this radical program would be knowingly negligent and a clearly unwarranted abuse of your discretion as a public entity in charge of preserving a public resource and maintaining public health.

Destruction of these species does not appear to have resulted in any pheasant population increase, according to the Commission's own 2019 pheasant population survey conducted during the end of last year's bounty program period.

[https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/PBR\\_2019FINAL.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/PBR_2019FINAL.pdf). This indication that the program is

unsuccessful matches the scientific consensus concerning these mass slaughter programs.

- 54,460 killed [not including maternally dependent offspring]
- \$1,732,264 taxpayer monies expended
- \$10/tail

We once again remind you that every animal has its role to play in an ecosystem & contributes to human health & quality of life. Here's why these varmints are so important to all of us:

#### Raccoon

Raccoons are scavengers and therefore are an important part of cleaning up carrion. They also dine on many other species we consider pests when numbers get out of control, including snakes, frogs, lizards, wasps and rats.

#### Striped skunk

Skunks do an amazing job at helping to keep insect populations in check, insects like grasshoppers, beetles, crickets and wasps. Skunks are one of the best examples of how an animal we really want to avoid is actually one we want to keep around.

#### Badger

Scientists call the badger a sentinel species, one that provides clues about the health of its ecosystem. They are excellent hunters of earth-dwelling prey including rabbits, groundhogs, ground squirrels, mice and snakes.

#### Opossum

The reality is, opossums are incredibly useful, and typically misunderstood. Ticks, particularly the black-legged ticks like deer ticks that are responsible for the spread of Lyme disease, appear to be a top item on the opossum's menu. Just one opossum eats, on average, 5,000 ticks each year.

#### Red fox

These varmints have a helpful side for farmers and ranchers. Like their larger canid cousin the coyote, red foxes are wonderful at keeping rodent populations down. They hunt chipmunks, rats, mice, voles and all sorts of other small rodents that can become more of a pest to humans than the fox themselves. They also eat carrion and like other supposed varmints on this list, are part of an important cleanup crew for their ecosystem.

Trapped animals can languish and die slowly from shock, dehydration, starvation and exposure to the elements. In addition, because the NPBP was initiated when these animals were rearing their young, those babies were left to die a cruel death when their mothers were killed...for their tail. Each year, traps in the United States injure and kill millions of "non-target" animals including companion animals and endangered species. Because of this cruel and unnecessary practice and the importance of the animals



involved, SD FACT strongly opposes the Nest Predator Bounty Program and urges the commission to consider all aspects of the ecosystem.

Finally, as tax paying citizens we vehemently object to the needless expenditure of state funds on this exercise. It is also your duty to spend public monies wisely and preserve our way of life for the “next century” by meeting our constitutional budgetary obligations of which this unscientific, ideological giveaway runs far afield.

Respectfully submitted,

**SD FACT Board of Directors**

Shari Kosel, Lead, SD

Sara Parker, Sioux Falls

Joe Kosel, Lead

[sdfact.org](http://sdfact.org)

Patrick Hybertson  
Sioux Falls, SD

I am all for the Bounty Program again and thought that it was a great way to get the youth in SD involved in trapping. My only question is if there was truly consideration for a second year of a bounty program would halving everything from the first year still pull in the public's interest? I am asking from a trapping mindset where trappers are influenced by the fur prices of various species where one may be higher than the other and that's what is targeted for the year.

I myself got really into trapping when there was an average of ten to fifteen dollars for raccoon on carcass and sometimes a high of twenty five for a really nice raccoon. Then back in the fur boom of the seventies and eighties everybody was trapping and all sorts of people were getting involved because of the high prices that sparked interest in the activity. But once the fur market crashed plenty of people hung up their steel and never really looked back. Even in present day it's hard to find people trapping a whole lot since the only thing currently worth money is coyotes. But for the youth those are a tricky species to trap especially with footholds. Currently a raccoon on carcass is averaging probably around five dollars or less which doesn't pay for the traps, gas, and equipment invested in the process. Because of that kind of pricing for fur, people have lost interest and don't even consider bothering with the time put in the trap line knowing full well that not only are they not going to break even, but they are definitely going to lose money.

I believe that the listed nest predator species of raccoon, fox, badger, opossum, and skunk are excellent species to get our youth hooked into trapping. Raccoon, opossum, and skunk are some of the easiest species for kids to start trapping and gradually work their way up in the furbearers list. This leads to improving on the variety of sets, and being able to read sign and setting on it.

My main point from the previous paragraphs is that I believe to truly peak the public's interest especially the youth I would like to make a counter proposal of offering ten dollars a tail again like the previous year. If that is unreasonable then meet me in the middle at seven dollars and fifty cents. People are already not trapping like they used to due to fur prices. If you were to offer the same prices that fur buyers are offering, what would cause the public to start trapping all of a sudden? I believe if you would want a successful goal of outreaching to our youth and even getting their parents interested, you would need to offer better prices to spark that interest and excitement we have all felt when first selling fur with the possibility of making decent money from something that you worked hard for.

Overall I think the program is great on getting more people involved with trapping and helping with an increased localized game population. Educating the public on habitat and wildlife management is really commendable for increased support and the learning aspect as a whole.

I fully support the GF&P and just wanted to voice my opinions and concerns on making a successful outreach. If \$250,000 is for sure the cap then so be it. I am also for the possibility of increasing the sales of licenses within the state as mentioned in your proposal. The only thing I would like reconsidered is the price per tail, offer better prices than the fur buyers and maybe the public would fully consider investing time and money into a fading tradition that has run deep in our history.

# Public Comments

## Nest Predator Bounty Program

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**Susan Braunstein**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am writing to strongly oppose the continuation of the Nest Predator Bounty Program. Last year 50,000 animals were killed in the name of "outdoor family fun." This is wrong on so many levels. The slaughter of our native animals will not help pheasants or other game birds. The low number of pheasants in the state is due to loss of habitat and wet weather. If the Game Fish and Parks wants to increase the number of game birds it must focus on habitat, primarily grasslands and wetlands, work with landowners to secure areas through incentives, provide hunter access through a strong walk-in program and raise suitable funding to get it done.

Hunters that I know cannot see any sense to decimating native wildlife species over non-native birds. Either the pheasant can survive the South Dakota ecosystem including, native wildlife, or we as a state have no business protecting and regulating them.

The bounty programs blames the wildlife when in reality humans want pheasants without providing enough shelter belts and grasslands to support a healthy population. When I contacted Keith Fish to ask if there have been and studies on the populations of the targeted predators he said there had not been any type of study. Numerous wildlife biologists have stated that bounty programs simply do not work.

Please don't do this again. The money could be better spent on habitat. Take the time to create a scientific, well-thought out, humane program to address this complex issue. Thank you for your time.

---

**Carol Merwin**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Roberta Cosby**

**Bruce SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Suzan Nolan**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I emphatically oppose the Bounty Nest Predator program on the basis of its cruelty to animals, and it is not necessary. What is important is to increase habitat, not kill animals. This is intolerable and I ask that you do not reinstate this program

---

**Jason Jensen**

**Henry SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Richard Lee**

**Rapid Coty SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

My position is anti-bounty. Spend the tax payers money on habitat purchases and/or habitat improvements at a reduced level and receive a portion of the cost from the Pittman Robertson funds.

---

**Paul Lepisto**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please see the attached comments from Kelly Kistner, president of the South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, on the Nest Predator Bounty Program.

---

**Janine Betts**

**Oacoma SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not add to the mistake of last years terrible decision to implement this Bounty Program. It is wrong on every level of caring for our wildlife populations and teaching our youth of the importance of every animal in the chain of survival. Use those funds to boost pheasant habitat, public hunting areas and education on helping them not by unmercifully killing the natural predators. This is wrong. SD deserves better leadership.

---

**John Hopple**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Terry Batchelder**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

"Please do not add to the mistake of last years terrible decision to implement this Bounty Program. It is wrong on every level of caring for our wildlife populations and teaching our youth of the importance of every animal in the chain of survival. Use those funds to boost pheasant habitat, public hunting areas and education on helping them not by unmercifully killing the natural predators. This is wrong. SD deserves better leadership."

---

**Donna Fisher**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Recommendation: Please derail these unwise uses of my tax dollars; use them to provide genuine incentives for pheasant habitat protection and development and training of professional trappers.

---

**Cara Feckers**

**Lennox SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jeanette Williams**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program was a disaster. I do not want you to spend my money to encourage children to kill innocent animals. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves. This is not what we hired you for.

---

**Kim Tysdal**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Cannot believe we are even revisiting this senseless act of cruelty. It has been proven that habitat is essential for a healthy pheasant population. What is wrong with the administration of South Dakota??? Please stop this inhumane destruction of our very helpful predators. They are God's clean up crew. SDGFP you, if anyone should know this!

---

**Sheryl Plagmann**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not do this again! It is not the answer that will solve the problem. Improved habitat is needed.

---

**Brenda Moss**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kathryn Hess**

**Summerset SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please don't kill all these wonderful animals. You are not only killing the adults, but the young in the dens. This is shameful. You can't attribute low number of pheasants to these animals. There are no pheasants on the western part of the state, yet you killed animals here needlessly. On the eastern part of the state it can be attributed to mowing ditches, pesticides and other things that farmers do now days.

---

**Brenda Verdon**

**Willow Lake SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am so against this cruel death of animal's ~ I believe every living thing on this earth has a purpose. It haunts me so much thinking of the killing of these animals and so many babies being starved to death because someone killed their mother for a tail!!!!!!

---

**Kim Benning**

**Redfield SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please stop this inhuman government funded animal abuse program.

---

**Annette Hof**

**Crooks SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Madonba Goodart**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This did nothing to improve pheasant numbers. Listen to SD - do not continue to waste our dollars on this!

---

**Teresa Hicks**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose this program. Complete waste of lives and money. And it won't increase the pheasant population.

---

**Brenda Thomas**

**Interior SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please stop the Nest Predator Bounty Program.

---

**Vicki Orris**

**Clark SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Its cruel and stupid and DOES NOT teach sportsmanship or any type of humain conservation.

---

**Jen Hubert**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

it's a waste of money vs the results  
better cheaper ways to help the birds, like habitat conservation

---

**Barbara Felderman**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There is absolutely no rational for this horrific program. It has been proven on many fronts that these animals are NOT the reason for reduced pheasant populations. AS YOU KNOW it is because of reduced habitats and weather...the wet conditions and flooding have decimated them.  
These animals are part of our ecosystem and keep things in balance. I fear ticks and Lyme disease more than these animals.  
The spending of tax payer money ( of which I am a part) is ludicrous when it could be spent on bridges, roads or education.  
Start thinking with your heads and not Noem's senseless. STOP THIS PROGRAM NOW!!!

---

**Deanna Leach**

**Jefferson SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Gena Parkhurst**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.



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**Brittany Kimball**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tracy Gilkyson**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Cheryl Stone**

**Fort Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please consider alternatives to this cruel practice.

---

**Carol Kendall**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please end this brutal program. I taught school for 35 years and know how impressionable young minds are. We can't have children equate good wholesome outdoor family time with the need to maim and kill. Please please stop this senseless program.

---

**Kathleen Anderson**

**Hot Springs, SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

SHAMEFUL and ignorant program. We all know it the habitat that needs addressing.

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**Eva Bareis**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This was horrific last year, biologists say it won't work, it's being done for a non native bird. As one who works with troubled youth, having kids participate in the trapping and killing of animals at a young age can be psychologically harmful.

---

**Sharon Donahoe**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Carlena Hart**

**Prescott AZ**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We already are losing so many species on this planet. Please stop this program

---

**Angela Schladoer**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is cruel and detrimental to the natural ecosystem. Please discontinue the program

---

**Lauren Long**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

In going forward with this program, we are working to wipe out natural predators that are important in the hierarchy of the environment. On top of that, we should be teaching children conservation through smart hunting practices or through appreciating and visiting our great parks throughout the state.

---

**Jamie Al-Haj**  
**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This Nest Predator Bounty Program has no place in South Dakota. For the 2nd year, you are hearing overwhelming opposition to the program. As stewards of South Dakota wildlife your responsibility as commissioners is to make decisions that are in the best interest of our wildlife and the people of our state. We are speaking out against a barbaric program that has NO scientific basis and hence has attempted to be sold as an outdoor activity for children's enjoyment. You are not listening! The governor's determination to implement this idiotic program again this year, makes absolutely no sense! We all know the money being spent could be beneficial if it was applied to habitat improvement. Your vote should weigh heavy on your conscience!!

---

**Elizabeth Skarin**  
**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please discontinue this program.

---

**Maia Moore**  
**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is embarrassing to South Dakota and ineffective. Please reconsider!

---

**Stacey Sturma**  
**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Cynthia Peterson**  
**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Seems unnecessary and trapping is an inhumane way of predator control.

---

**Melissa Mccauley**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please stop!

---

**Anne Chrisman**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is an unecessary program and cruel to the animals trapped. To leave them suffering in a trap waiting for days to die is not right.

---

**Joy Stevens**

**Billings MT**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

1. Trapping is inhumane, barbaric, and outdated.
  2. The SCIENCE shows that trapping does not reduce predator numbers. In fact, it increases predator births. Stop with the opinion based decisions and follow the SCIENCE.
  3. This is a black eye to the state of South Dakota. Although I live in Montana, I have family ties to the state and I am watching. I will NOT spend any money in the state until this changes.
  4. It is unfathomable to me that the state would encourage the teaching of this practice to children. Again, SCIENCE has shown that abuse of animals leads to the abuse of humans. Not all, but if even one child goes on to harm a human because of the seeds this practice plants, that's one too many and you own it.
- 

**George L. Heiserman**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program. I think it is cruel and a waste of money.

---

**Melody Dennis**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not do this again. Learn to be respectful of our wildlife. It didn't help the pheasant numbers. Just caused pain and suffering to defenseless animals. Please, for once do the right thing. Stop this cruelty

---

**Nancy Rosenbrahn**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I cannot believe that you are teaching children to trap live animals, kill them and cut off their tails. There is no rational for this. And you have to know that all those animals are not dead when the tails are removed. You have concocted a reason for this program that is full of holes and not based on truths. We are not stupid or unaware. Do your job right.

---

**Kari Hultgren**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Cameron Stalheim**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Carmen Toft**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Cory Ferguson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The nest predator program is fiscally irresponsible. The money is desperately needed on habitat programs that actually do provide a return on the investment.

Habitat improvements can be cost effective. Predation is much lower when sufficient habitat for nesting birds is established.

Successful nesting will not occur where there is not sufficient habitat, regardless if most predators are removed or not.

---

**Mardell Burckhard**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Stop this cruel killing of these animals.

---

**Dawn Perault**

**St. Paul MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a person who grew up on a ranch in western SD, went to SDSU, and continue to revisit my family ranch, I find the bounty program entirely against prairie land stewardship. By encouraging the young to hate and kill the very animal species that make our prairie state unique, you are denying SD its own identity and biodiversity. I have found that after leaving SD, I have come to value it so much more than when I lived there. The main thing I notice now many jackrabbits, grouse, foxes, badgers, and antelope--never is more like it. Why keep killing them for trying to survive in such a hostile state with no appreciation for these creatures that are here for a purpose.

---

**Michael Huber**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Brandon Miklos**

**Arlington SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

My opinion on tail bounty program would be to take the fox off list and add coyotes. Fox population is already low enough and coyotes are at an all time high! While shed hunting I've seen a lot pheasant feather patches where coyotes have killed them and even caught them on trail camera. They're also getting crazy brave coming closer to my farm after my birds almost every night.

---

**Anne Weyer**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program costs money that could be directed to better, more measurable programs for youth.

---

**Carmen Muessigmann**

**Clark SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a cruel and ineffective program. Maybe talk to all the land owners farming every inch of land they can thus destroying habitat and nesting grounds. That is your culprit!

---

**Bethany Brown**

**Limington ME**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sharon Blais**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is so cruel and inhumane. This program is nothing but a bunch of bull shit. Money should be spent on feeding the hungry in our state. As for the animals, we have invaded their territory I am so disappointed to even be a resident of this state. Get your shit together Noem and do what is right for our communities. If you can not fulfill your duties then get the hell out. So far you have done nothing in the states favor. Truly disappointed of your actions. Get the hell out of the office.

---

**Dana Wigg**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I have four years in the field of Humane Law Enforcement- and have always followed the laws and ethics of the laws. I recall finding traps containing animal skeletons because the owner didn't care to check for months. Every person who borrowed a trap from a Humane Society needed education in trapping; protecting the trap, checking it, baiting, and humane treatment of the animal. A majority did not follow the rules though they were provided protection and necessities for humane trapping (and releasing- according to the situation).

This bounty program is not a family-friendly program- this is a sick incentive; something I would never expect from a Governor.

In addition, a number of hunters come to the state to rent/buy hunting dogs and release them into rural areas during hunting seasons and end up tied up, shot, or are picked up by Humane Society workers (not AC city workers). I've dealt with far too many cases of traps with a contained animal (or the WRONG type of animal)- without protection from the elements. Even a single day is far too long for an animal to remain in a trap without some humane protection.

I support hunting, love my steaks, and love my state. Yet this program makes me sick. End it. End the happy family tail amputation promotions- I am ashamed that our Governor appears to be so interested in furs and national promotion that she also appears to be blind to the ethical issues surrounding this policy.

Our state will face further criticism for the tail bounty program if it's reenacted. And opposers will not give up the fight.

---

**Amanda Borchert**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I understand that Pheasant hunting brings in revenue. However, we need to focus on our native wildlife and habitat restoration.

Additionally, the predator prey cycle will only ensure a later burst of predators.

Use your science degrees.

---

**Patrice Williamson**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is unacceptable! And horrible! Stop the slaughter!



---

**Terasa Vancoppenolle**

**Tampa FL**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

After reading and hearing of this program, I am appalled at the humans that support such heinous acts against living creatures. Have you forgotten this land is their home?

As a tourist, this act alone will keep me from visiting and spending my dollars in your state.

Please rethink this effort and be supportive of a kind and compassionate world.

---

**Deb Zimmerman**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please listen to our own wildlife/ecology experts and quit destroying the ecological system for the advantage of one species( not a native one at that) and the folks who rent out their land for that species harvesting.

---

**Andrea Young**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I would like to see some concern and effort for developing the habits for the benefit of animals and those of us that actually loving being in the outdoors. The first thing you guys think of is killing...cyanide bombs, traps near trails, now this. Another decade and will lose the grandness of the Black Hills and the excitement when you see animals in the wild. Very short sided and a focus on hunting tourist dollars rather than the people who love the BH.

---

**Patty Jenkins**

**Brandon SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Foolish expensive program that only benefits a few. Cruelty to animals and offspring. Give it up, focus on something more beneficial to all.

---

**Antoinette Miller**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Douglas Hart**

**Huron SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please STOP this program. It is cruel and unjust. These animals have been around since the beginning of time and they need to survive also. This is a total waste and MISUSE of TAXPAYERS/MY money and it needs to STOP.

---

**Krista Knapp**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Protecting our natural wildlife should be our priority over pheasant which is not a natural element of wildlife in South Dakota. Pheasant for hunting can be bought as chicks and then added to the hunting environment.

---

**Judith Joba**

**Keystone SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am strongly opposed to the nest predator program. Nature knows far better than we do as humans as to the balance of all things. Why do we want to encourage children to KILL things!

---

**Lori Stephenson**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I'm asking the Commission to please reject the Nest Predator Bounty Program for 2020. This is a cruel and antiquated way to manage wildlife. Thank you.

---

**Barbara St Clair**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please discontinue this program. It is not what South Dakota needs to keep the pheasant populations up. It is inhumane and indiscriminate in the animals that are trapped and killed. Our ecosystems will be affected, and the pheasants may still not increase. Please do not let this Nest Predator Program continue.

---

**Kris Norlin**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not continue this horrible program. It is not necessary for wildlife management and promotes cruelty to animals in general. Cutting off tails for money is inhumane. Kids can do plenty of other things outdoors to care for our wildlife and environment.

---

**Kim Smith**

**Hartford SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The only thing out of control is the coyotes. The issue with birds is there is no crp ground anymore therefore no pheasants,ducks,geese. Pay to keep land into crp ground.

---

**Cheryl Feight**

**Burbank SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**John Koons**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I think this is a great program. I do believe that habitat is one of the best things that we can do to promote our Pheasant and Duck populations. As we know habitat is being lost daily and because of that we must do all we can to make sure that nesting is successful in what prime habitat is left. These predators are very efficient at destroying nests and it only makes sense to think the less predators around prime nesting areas the better the chances of success. It is easy to say we need more habitat but until people figure out a way to make that happen, I feel we have to make what we have as viable as possible. I think it would be more humane to shoot predators than to trap them, but that is easier said than done in my experience. I feel if trappers are following the laws and checking traps according to trapping guidelines why shouldn't they be able to trap them. I applaud Governor Noem for trying to do something for the problem. If it also gets a few more kids interested in the outdoors, that would be a bonus.

---

**Katherine Brown**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

China made the mistake of killing all the sparrows in the 40's because they were considered a pest. They suffered a great famine because the sparrows kept insects in check. What do you suppose will happen to our crops if we destroy our ecosystem just so out of state people can come shoot a few more pheasants? The pheasant isn't even a native species to South Dakota. It was imported from Japan and considered an invasive species.

---

**Eden Slate**

**Armour SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Anne Weiss**

**Madison SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a cruel program & an embarrassment to our state.

---

**Kasie Crisp**

**Colman SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Chandra Mengel**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a cruel program that does not increase the number of pheasants and wastes tax dollars.

---

**Susan Leach**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a short sighted and poorly implemented plan that does far more damage than good. The monies spent would be better used to support habitat for pheasant rather than wholesale torture and slaughter of native animals, updating the balance of nature.

According to Pheasantsforever.org, "Through the addition and management of habitat, we not only decrease the impact predators have on existing nests, but also increase the number of nests and population size in the area. This management comes at a fraction of the cost of other predator reduction methods."

Habitat improvements can be cost shared at a rate of 50% to over 75% through a variety of programs. GF&P receives 75% cost share on habitat purchases and improvements through Pittman Robertson funds.

Predation is much lower when sufficient habitat for nesting birds is provided.

Successful nesting will not occur where there is not sufficient habitat, regardless if most predators are removed or not.

What is truly heartbreaking is that your program takes place during the time when the animals are rearing their young, so the trapped parent is no longer available to care for the young, which starve to death. Under your parameters, the trapped animal can suffer for up to 3 days with a broken, mangled leg caught in a trap. This is inhumane.

I hope you will consider stopping the NPBP and apply those funds to better use in the rapeseed of our state.

Sincerely,

Susan Leach

---

**Rick Leach**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jessica Bergeron**

**Rapid Cith SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Suzanne Hodges**

**Rancho Cordova CA**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

---

**Bonni Hwang**

**Lake Norden SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please DO NOT pass this program!!!! I have seen no evidence that supports it being a beneficial program! The very animals the dnr are supposed to be protecting, they are being encouraged to help promote the killing of ! It's teaching kids that animals are there to kill, that they are pests and of no value to nature! It is truly an disturbing program! PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS PROGRAM!

---

**Nancy Dahme**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Enough using public money to torture and destroy creatures just to make more money from out of state hunters. Instead, use the money to create habitat or better yet, expand campgrounds where families can really get outdoors and spend QUALITY time together.

---

**Heidi Fowler**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**John Wrede**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Gentlemen: I mailed this letter of complaint to both the Department of Game, Fish and Parks and the US Fish and Wildlife Service on Saturday, February 29, 2019 but learn that it will not arrive before the comment deadline this evening so I attach it here and trust that it will be entered into the public record without error. Please note that copies have been sent to two GFP Commissioners as well. Thank you for the opportunity.  
JMW

---

**Roger Dietrich**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I think this is a wasteful program that is accomplishing nothing. This money could be better spent on improving our parks and habitat for birds which is what is needed in SD.

---

**Janna Farley**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Katie Cozine**

**Chamberlain SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

In regards to the duration of the NPBP in 2020, please consider running it 0 days.

According to an article, [www.pheasantsforever.org/Habitat/Pheasant-Facts/Effects-of-Predators](http://www.pheasantsforever.org/Habitat/Pheasant-Facts/Effects-of-Predators), predator removal and exclusion do not significantly increase the number of nesting birds over the long term. Through the addition and management of habitat, we decrease the impact predators have on existing nests and increase the number of nests and population in an area. 'Predators will continue to eat pheasants and their nests, but weather and habitat conditions will drive population fluctuations'.

Greatly reducing the population of the targeted predators leaves the ecosystem subject to imbalance with rodents and other pests able to flourish. If people chose to utilize poisons and other chemicals to control the pests the environment along with many other species, especially birds and birds of prey, will suffer increased harm.

Letting an animal suffer for days in a trap and then wasting it does not promote responsible hunting or respect for the outdoors and wildlife.

Please consider not running the Nest Predator Bounty Program in 2020.

Thank you for your time.

---

**Carol Amerson**

**Altoona IA**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Susan Besancon**

**Hermosa SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please, please, please do not continue this costly, ineffective and cruel program.

---

**Kathy Mills**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

If you want birds increase habitat.

---

**Amanda Hegg**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program (and its guidelines) is inhumane and cruel to nest predators and its proposed second year displays serious lack of regard for popular public opinion of the implementation and effectiveness of the program. The method in which you summarized the survey results was misleading to those not trained to interpret and draw conclusions from graphs and without knowledge of how the displayed results represent the actual data. Also, as a member of the scientific community who has read publications on nest predation dating back multiple decades, I can confidently say that this program is not based on conclusions drawn from general scientific literature on nest survival, covariates that impact survival, and relationships to bird populations, and although nest predation is the primary cause of nest failure, the maintenance of bird populations is not solely attributed to predation, but numerous habitat and landscape covariates have been shown to play just as large of a part (among many other time and space specific variables). Why not focus funding in these areas? The disregard of this academic foundation in conservation plans for SD game species by those planning and implementing this program, and the lack of scientific methodology in assessing the impacts of the program by monitoring and modeling nest survival, is disappointing and a very simplistic solution, and quite frankly, sounds like something that was drawn up by a self interested politician. SD- we can do better!!!!

---

**Matthew Anderson**

**Colman SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Bill Antonides**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.



---

**Rita Rauen**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Spring is when they have their babies. Is really cruel to let all those babies starve to death in there dens.

---

**Nina Ring**

**Scotland SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Strongly oppose a program that did not have any positive results, affects more than the animals killed (aka their young), and encourages children to maim animals for their tails and get paid for it.

---

**Jackie Vaith**

**Menno SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

My 8 and 10 year old sons participated in this last year. We thought it was a great program. Yes they were excited about the money they got, but more than anything they were happy to save nests. We made sure they understood they knew why we were doing it. It wasn't for fun and money. They've been asking for weeks if we can do it again.

---

**Kathleen Keys**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Shwena Thomas**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is a joke and does nothing more than promote animal cruelty. It did nothing for the pheasant population last year and it won't this year. There are better ways to spend our tax money than these nonsense programs that do absolutely no good.

---

**Angie Blansett**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Albert Chapman**

**Hill City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sharon Rose**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Amanda Johnson**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Hello, my name is Amanda Johnson and I am a voter from Yankton County. I am writing in strong opposition to the Nest Predator Bounty Program. The Nest Predator Bounty Program is a disgrace and an inhumane and cruel program that the majority of South Dakotans are against. If we the voters would have been given an opportunity last year to vote on this program there is no doubt it would not have passed. There are so many reasons this program should not exist. First off, mothers caught in live traps are kept from feeding dependent young so trappers are not just killing the mom, but also the litters of orphaned young they left at their nest to starve. Second, traps are not required to be checked often enough. I urge you to think of the animals trapped suffering from dehydration, starvation and exposure to the elements. Third, many non-target animals are being caught and languish in traps.

As elected officials, you have a duty to ensure the voting public is heard. The opposition to this program is strong so allowing this program to run for a second year is a blatant disregard to the people of this state. If we cannot come up with humane, rational ways to govern, we simply are not trying hard enough. Please stand up for the wildlife and animals in our state.

I hope you will do the right thing and reject this program.

---

**Amy Johnson**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sarah Ulmer**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Save our animals, save our money!

---

**Wayne Johnson**

**Yankton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is inhumane!! Trapping is torture and it needs to stop!!!!

---

**Ann Naber**

**Meckling SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

please end this ill-conceived and wasteful program

---

**Paula Radel**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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---

**Kristi Petersen**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These animals perform a great service to the human. They are part of our biological balance. They should not be destroyed purely to protect a few of an introduced species eggs.

---

**Megan Bordewyk**

**Fort Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There were no improvements that came from this program. This program did not benefit South Dakota.

---

**Julie Mendelson**

**Summerset SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am a South Dakota resident, a mom, and a lifelong outdoorswoman. I strongly oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program. These programs are ineffective, a gross misuse of funds, and disrupt native ecosystems. Furthermore, encouraging children to cruelly trap, murder, and dismember animals is horrid. Certainly not the South Dakota values I want to instill in my children.

---

**Lorin King**

**Mitchell NE**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These animals are necessary for the ecosystem to work properly.

---

**Vickie Hauge**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I would like you to think about the ramifications of this totally non scientific approach that the governor has implemented with your help. This is tipping the natural balance of predator verse mice & rats, etcetera. I have watched from my window coyotes diving into the snow & catching mice. I know that without the raccoons, foxes, coyotes & many other animals on the list to be trapped, the mice, rats & other rodents are going to be a real problem for all of us.

What are we teaching our precious little ones, when it is fun & games to live trap & kill to cut off tails. Isn't this type of behavior in children & adults looked on by most as abuse of animals? We try to make our children compassionate & kind to animals & people, so I really don't understand that this is okay?

Please take this issue to heart & do what is right.

Thank You,  
Vickie Hauge

---

**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk, Sd, 57718 SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

I am attaching a letter about the Nest Predator Bounty Program, which I have sent directly to Commissioners e-mail addresses. I now send it to the on-line form so that it ends up in the public record. It will have an attachment, that I will send in my next e-mail.

---

**Cheri Nino**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Cruel and useless program. Discusting teaching children to kill for sport rather than teaching conserved and preserve.

---

**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

On Nest Predator Bounty Program.

I just sent a letter that was supposed to have as attachment the Remington Research Group's public opinion survey. But you can only attach one document per sending... This is the attachment to that former letter.

---

**Amber Steiner**

**Summerset SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This program is cruel. It teaches no one about appropriate wildlife management, there's no incentive to treat the animal with respect and for all anyone knows people were also just chopping off tails and releasing the animal. Also it didn't improve the population of pheasants in any provable way.

---

**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nancy Hilding  
Prairie Hills Audubon

I attach our 3rd letter

# Nonresident East River Special Deer License

---

**Troy Noem**

**Fruita CO**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Would love to see a non-resident, any deer license in eastern SD. I moved from SD 15 years ago. Now have kids that are hunting age, and we go to NE or KS deer hunting. Hard to travel so far just to hunt antler less deer. Also, we already make the commitment to come and pheasant hunt. Would be great to be able to combine both deer and pheasants in 1 trip.

Would also be great for the state to keep my kids who do not grow up in the area to establish a tradition in SD, and keep it going as they grow.

If a fear is accessibility in private land areas, maybe create a requirement that has stated areas they will be hunting on their application. Since East river is so much private land, it could be a way to make sure that the applicant had a game plan and access prior to submitting the application.

I think this would be a win for SD.

---

**William Flood**

**Courtland MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

This is great news! We have been hunting private land east river as non residents for many years and have not been able to get a rifle "buck" tag in a long time. The only thing I would ask is why not make it any deer? in our area (Brule County) the whitetail numbers are very low. The Mule deer numbers are doing great. I would rather take a Mule deer and let the whitetail numbers rebound in our area. Thank you SG GFP for taking this into serious consideration. Non residents contribute to a large part in SD conservation funds every year and it is nice to see that being rewarded in proposals like this one.

---

**George Vandell**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am opposed to two proposals:

- 1) open up East river deer to nonresidents - many if not most of these any rifle deer/buck tags are really hard for residents to draw. Please don't allow nonresidents the ability to draw a tag while thousands of resident hunters are turned down every year. This "idea" is driven by commercial hunting interests desiring to make East river deer hunting a rich mans sport. Please vote no!
- 2) rifle turkey hunting. I hunt private land west river. I am now taking my grandchildren on their first turkey hunts. What do I do when we are leaned up against a tree w/ a turkey decoy in front of us and I see a pickup stop on a ridge? The newest rife fad is now long range shooting - totally incompatible w/ safe turkey hunting. Don't put me or my family in danger - please!

---

**Matt Behm**

**Willmar MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Commissioners,  
Over the past 30 years I have hunted in SD as a Resident and also as a non-resident. I currently reside in MN. I have owned farms in SD and currently have several friends that own farms in and around Buffalo County SD. The availability of non-resident deer licenses is a concern. For the past 24 of 25 years there have been Buck deer licenses available in Buffalo County for non-residents. In 2019 there were non available. At a minimum there should be a reasonable opportunity for non-residents to get a Buck license in the East River Zone. I support making 500 special buck licenses available for non-residents on private land east river.

---

**John Lindell**

**Greenfield MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I own land in Buffalo County. There are less and less non-resident deer licenses available every year and none were available in the 2019 draw. Meanwhile, it appears residents can have up to 9 licenses. There should be a reasonable opportunity for non-residents to get a buck license.

---

**Bruce Behm**

**Plymouth MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I own 1600 acres in Buffalo County for 30 years as a non-resident, the last three years our odds of getting rifle deer tag(s) are down to impossible - with none issued last year. I pay taxes, let GFP's net and monitor deer on my property and leave food plots to help the wildlife survive over the winter. Please do the right thing and restore/give non-residents a chance to hunt with our family and friends on our land.

---

**Ryan McKinney**

**Champlin MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I have the good fortune of having a friend in Buffalo County who owns 1,600 of excellent deer hunting property. Unfortunately, I have only drawn a license once in the last five years. His deer population is very strong and he is a good steward of the land. He has paid taxes for over 30 years, employed local farmers and their families, cooperated with SD game and fish with various projects and provides significant winter habitat. It would be great to once again have an opportunity to enjoy the property with friends and family. Thank you for your consideration.



---

**Randall Hedden**

**Hanover MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I have hunted deer for the last 15 years in Buffalo County on private land. The last three years have seen our chances of obtaining a license diminish and became unavailable last year. I have supported South Dakota conservation through my many hunting licenses and the general economy through purchases of while in the state. Please allow non residents the opportunity to continue enjoying and supporting SDFG efforts.  
Thanks you

---

**Ron Schara**

**Ramsey MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Please review your treatment of nonresident hunters as available licenses are near zero. Please review the economic losses to your department as well as local businesses because of your strange license allocation.

---

**Joe Sokolowski**

**Edina MN**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I write in support of the petition to issue 500 Nonresident East River Buck Licenses next season. I have travelled to South Dakota and hunted as a nonresident for close to 40 years now. I am grateful for the hunting opportunities that SD has offered, and am respectful of the thoughtful conservation initiatives that have protected the state's natural resources.

One of the true joys of my life has been raising my 2 sons and introducing them to the SD outdoors and the hunting traditions that run deep in my family.

I have a good friend, Bruce Behm, who owns a considerable tract of land in Buffalo County SD (East River) which he manages for wildlife habitat. Bruce has been extremely generous in inviting me and my sons to hunt with him on his property over the years. When he was of age, Bruce invited my son Nick to apply for a Nonresident Buck License so that he could shoot his first whitetail deer. While it didn't come quickly or easily, when my son Nick shot his first whitetail deer--a magnificent Buffalo County 8 point buck--a hunter/conservationist was born for life. Now age 24 Nick hunts snow geese with me in SD in the Spring, and waterfowl and pheasants in SD in the Fall. And he would most certainly hunt East River Deer again if provided the nonresident opportunity.

Bruce extended the same generous invitation to my younger son Jack--to shoot his first whitetail deer in Buffalo County SD--when Jack was of age. While Nick will tell you that his buck, a mount of which is proudly displayed in our home, is bigger than the one that Jack shot several years later on Bruce's farm, no one is quite sure. But Jack's East River deer mount, which is also on our wall and sports 8 impressive points, seems to be grinning at Nick's mount. I suspect that those magic moments I shared with Jack East River deer hunting helped him decide to attend college in Vermillion SD, where he is currently a Junior. Jack fishes the lakes and rivers of SD, and hunts SD snow geese, waterfowl, and pheasants with me and his brother with passionate enthusiasm--something rare in kids these days. Jack also would undoubtedly pursue East River whitetail if afforded the opportunity.

From my recent trips to Buffalo County, I can see the deer populations are robust.

Please help insure that other kids, like mine, get the opportunity to develop an appreciation of the outdoors and carry on our hunting heritage by allowing the issuance of East River Nonresident Buck licenses next year.

Thank you.

---

**Gary Wickre**

**Britton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Game and Fish officials have met in past years with sportsman's clubs and fellow hunters regarding the restructure of deer license allocation system to provide more resident hunters opportunity to draw a tag in the unit of their choice. Most sportsmen were against this as they were satisfied with the allocation process that was in place at the time. Game and Fish went against the sportsmen's wishes and made the changes. Adding 500 east river non-resident buck tags will decrease the chance for resident hunters to draw tags in the unit of their choice. I also feel that this will commercialize deer hunting and take private property from local hunters. Until you can assure that every resident can receive the tag of their choice, I am strongly opposed to any east river non-resident deer tags.

---

**Kevin Knudson**

**Britton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am strongly opposed to the Game and Fish issuing any non-resident east river deer tags as I am unable to be guaranteed the tag of my choice every year.

---

**Joshua Hagemann**

**Mission Hill SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Anthony Carpino**

**Gainesville VA**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I have family in SD and would like to be able to hunt with my family on there private land. Currently it is impossible for me to draw or to have my son draw a deer tag. Allowing some path for nonresidents to get a deer tag (even if restricted to private land) would promote hunting ( which is on the decline nationwide) and continue a tradition of family hunting together.

---

**Tyler Spomer**

**Bismarck ND**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please see my attached comments. I oppose this proposal. However, I support an option for non-resident landowners/operators to hunt deer on their own land.

---

**Anthony Filholm**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

All though some people have genuine wants to hunt the family farms, this would lead to more commercialization of the one resource you cannot control. Private Property. Lets not keep driving down the commercialization of public wildlife road. I feel the current leadership is leaning that way quite a bit. You are not helping bring new hunters into the field. We do not want to be the European model where only the wealthy and privileged can hunt.

## other

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**Susan Harmon**

**Beaumont TX**

**Position:**

**Comment:**

I am writing as a South Dakota resident and a supporter of Born Free USA to express my opposition to the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Agency's decision to allow the killing of 60 mountain lions (or 40 female mountain lions) in the 2020 hunting season. Mountain lions are primarily hunted for sport and trophy hunting is a cruel and ineffective method of wildlife management, whether it happens overseas or here at home.

Mountain lions play a vital role in ecosystem management, which benefits humans and other animals alike. They primarily prey on deer and elk, which helps manage ungulate populations and deter the spread of illnesses such as chronic wasting disease. The species also preys on other animals, like rodents and rabbits, helping to keep "pest" populations under control, too.

Mountain lions are already under pressure from human population growth and habitat encroachment and trophy hunting will just be one more deadly pressure on this important species.

What is more, a growing number of Americans, including many South Dakotans like myself, are speaking out in opposition to trophy hunting and want laws and policies to reflect these anti-trophy hunting sentiments. In the U.S. House of Representatives, a recently reintroduced bill, the ProTECT Act (H.R. 4804), would amend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to prohibit taking endangered or threatened species in the United States as a trophy and the importation of any endangered or threatened species as a trophy into the country.

I urge the Agency to reverse this harmful decision and to instead investigate compassionate means of wildlife management, such as translocating mountain lions from areas where their presence is problematic to other, more suitable locations.

---

**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk, SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nancy Hilding for Prairie Hills Audubon Society

I am attaching a letter saved as a PDF file.

This letter was to have 2 attachments - a HSUS fact sheet and a SD GFP Furbearer report. But it seems you can only attach 1 document at a time to this on-line comment system. So I will do a whole bunch of letters to attach all the attachments to the letters I am sending you tonight. I will send Rachel Gomez copies also, as this is kind of chaotic.

Thanks.

---

**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk, Sd, 57718 SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nancy Hilding  
President Prairie Hills Audubon Society

I just sent a letter to you that had 2 attachments, but you can only attach 1 document at a time - this is attachment # 1 - a Fact sheet from Humane Society of the US.

---

**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk, Sd, 57718 SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nancy Hilding.  
I earlier tonight sent a letter for Prairie Hills Audubon Society on the Nest Predator Bounty Program, but you can only attach one document at a time. That letter had 2 attachments. This is the second attachment to that letter. It is the SDGFPP 2017 Furbearer Report. I attach this so the public reading the public comments can compare the NPPB take to a previous years furbearer take.

---

**Nancy Hilding**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

To Rachel Comes,

I just tried to send via this system 3 sendings.  
The first was a formal letter and the second two sendings were attachments to the letter. I only got a receipt for one of the attachments and not the original letter. So I sent you the letter and the attachments directly to you by e-mail to try to prove I am trying to use this system. I don't know if they went through, if I did not get a receipt.

## West River Spring Turkey-Use of Rifles

---

**George Vandel**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I hunt turkey West River - I'm blessed to have developed a landowner relationship lasting over 30 years. I'm am now taking my grandchildren on these hunts. What do I do when I see a pickup stop on a distant ridge and we are huddled up against a tree w/ a turkey decoy in front of us? The latest rifle fad is long range shooting - out to 1,000 yds! Use of these rifles is totally incompatible w/ safe turkey hunting. Please don't put my grandchildren and I in such potential danger!

**Carol Merwin**

343-2786

*"Small acts, when multiplied by millions  
of people, can transform the world."*

- Howard Zinn, Grassroots International supporter

*Public Comment*

*I oppose a  
Predator Bounty Pro-  
gram. Those funds  
would be much  
better spent on  
increasing habitat  
for prairie chickens  
and pheasants.*

*Carol Merwin*



M

Carol Merwin  
1920 Fremont St Apt 100  
Rapid City, SD 57702

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S D Game Fish and Parks  
523 E Capitol Ave.,  
Pierre, SD 57501

To Whom This May Concern,

I am writing to comment on your decision to allow killing of 50,000 small predators this spring. These small animals are all native South Dakota species which help to control the small rodent and insect populations in the places they live. The time period which you wish to attack these animals is right during the time when they are raising litters themselves. Each raccoon or fox that you kill may have a litter they are trying to feed. It is wrong to exterminate several native South Dakota species just to save *pheasants* which are *a non-native species*. Small predators have been a useful part of our environment since Europeans first arrived in this area two hundred years ago. It is a serious crime to cause these species that do much environmental good to go extinct just so a bunch of rich hunters can come here in the fall and spend their money.

There is a better solution to this problem. If farmers and ranchers left more of their land to natural species (plants and animals) rather than tilling every acre up in the fall and letting the soil blow all winter with no vegetation for any animals to seek protection in. These same people then plant every inch of this land to corn or beans early in the spring. It's this greed that is causing loss of habitat for small predators as well as game birds. When natural habitat is increased so will the populations of these game birds. As we exterminate these small predators we will see an increase in undesirable small rodents and insects which these small animals help control. What will happen then? Will we have to use more hazardous chemicals to control these pests? We can best help all these species survive by giving them space to live their lives and raise their young in peace. These native species have a purpose in our environment. God did not make them without a purpose. **Stop the extermination of these wonderful animals!**

Sincerely,

Roberta Cosby



210 Schiller St. PO Box 366 Bruce, SD 57220 605-651-9010

PS Please consider the above comments  
before you kill animals!



February 21, 2020

**Mr. Steve Jose  
Chief, Wildlife and Sport Fisheries Restoration Program  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
Post Office Box 25486  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225**

**Dear Mr. Jose;**

**By means of this correspondence, I wish to notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as the administrator of the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of, what I believe to be, an inappropriate and potential misuse (Diversion) of Wildlife and Sport Fisheries Restoration program funds by the State of South Dakota and to request a full and complete inquiry into the circumstances as presented in the following paragraphs of this correspondence.**

**History:**

**On March 1, 2019, The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission accepted a proposal to promulgate rules to implement a Nest Predator Trapping and Bounty Program that would commence on April 1, 2019 and conclude on August 1, 2019. This program, eventually approved by the Commission and implemented by the SD Department of Game Fish and Parks officials, encumbered over \$950,000 dollars of license money for the purchase and give away free of charge, of 16,000 + live traps to 5,300 program participants and expended \$547,000 in bounty payments for the tails of over 54,000 omnivorous small mammals, (mostly furbearers by management definition) which required a license to trap prior to a change in statute law. There were additional costs to the program totaling over \$200,000 in salaries, benefits and ill-defined miscellaneous expenses. The primary goal of the referenced program was, allegedly, to reduce populations of racoons, skunks, opossums, red fox and badgers in an effort to improve pheasant and duck nesting success on public and private lands in South Dakota. A secondary goal, promoted after the program was operational, was to encourage families to “get outdoors” and recruit children and others into trapping. It is relevant to note that the administrative rules promulgated by the Commission to provide program oversight, exempted participants from paying any licensing fee which was required in South Dakota Codified Law prior to March 11, 2019.**

[http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified\\_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=41-6-23](http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=41-6-23)

A necessary question to be asked in these circumstances is; doesn't Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration eligibility require the payment of a "reasonable" fee to exercise enumerated privileges?

[https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/2020\\_Bounty\\_Information\\_-\\_Fisk\\_and\\_Robling.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/2020_Bounty_Information_-_Fisk_and_Robling.pdf)

This proposal was apparently advanced to the Commission as a part of Governor Kristi Noem's "Second Century Habitat Initiative" which is aimed specifically at increasing and improving pheasant and waterfowl nesting habitat, primarily east of the Missouri River in South Dakota. It is noteworthy that the preponderance of research on the topic of nesting success and recruitment of ground nesting birds indicates that habitat development; not the elimination of nest predators or reducing their impacts on nesting, is the most cost effective practice proven to encourage nesting and recruitment success in species such as pheasants, ducks and other ground nesters. SD Game Fish and Parks own historical literature is emphatic on the subject and a recent study conducted by South Dakota State University Students Pauly and White confirm what many have understood for decades. (<https://phys.org/news/2013-10-habitat-key-pheasant.html>)

It is also noteworthy to point out that this "Initiative" was designed and intended to primarily target habitat for the Chinese Ring neck Pheasant and no other species of wildlife in South Dakota. The "Initiative" is popularly understood to be motivated by a significant decline in pheasant populations across the state and the subsequent dramatic drop in non-resident participation in pheasant hunting, non-resident hunting license revenues, ancillary declines in tourism and business revenues and associated sales tax revenues to the State of South Dakota. Were it not for those economic considerations, it is likely that conservation of resources for their intrinsic and civic values would have received little attention. In other words, it appears as though the initiative is more about state economic woes than it is about honest conservation of natural resources for the public benefit.

[https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/Nest\\_Predator\\_Bounty\\_Program\\_Terms\\_and\\_Conditions\\_4-2019.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/Nest_Predator_Bounty_Program_Terms_and_Conditions_4-2019.pdf)

On March 1, 2019, the SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks announced that it would give away, free of charge, 5 live traps, on a first come, first served registration basis to parties interested. A red lettered addendum in the

announcement indicated that due to “overwhelming excitement and participation” in the program, the Department had to limit the trap give away to the first 5,500 applicants and that if participants had registered for 5 traps, they would only be allowed 3. How did they know there was so much excitement when the program hadn’t been fully vetted and authorized by the Commission? Clearly, money had been appropriated and spent for traps before the Commission authorized the expenditure. In addition, the appropriate and lingering question remains; were these expenditures for live traps and bounties specifically mentioned in the Federally approved Grant and Aid applications that apparently under wrote this program? If this program is to be considered legitimate, shouldn’t it be outlined within the parameters of federal grants?

<https://gfp.sd.gov/live-traps/>

Interestingly, in the same announcement, the Department indicated that traps would not be available until after April 1, 2019 and some applicants may have to wait “several months” before receiving the traps. It can be easily concluded, from the public information available, that hunting and fishing license funds had already been obligated to the purchase of traps and in all likely hood, traps had been ordered without budget adjustment or program concurrence by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission as inferred by South Dakota Administrative Rules 1-39-5. The timing, financing and implementation of this alleged “conservation program” is not only suspect but so is the assumption that the program is consistent with long standing goals and objectives of the Department, as well as those written into Long Range Management Plans and those planning documents currently prescribed under Federal Grants and Aid administered by the US. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Pittman-Robertson Act.

Clearly, there was, and still isn’t, any methodology or process available to determine the impacts of this program on the stated goal for which it was intended. The improvement of pheasant nesting success and brood recruitment. GFP officials themselves stated, on at least two occasions, that measurement of success of the program to achieve the program goal of increasing the nesting success of pheasants and ducks was difficult if not impossible. In other words, any effort or process used to measure the effects of removal of 54,000 plus furbearing animals in highly variable locations was, at best, a fool’s errand due entirely to completely unmanageable variability. One would think that if the Department of Game, Fish and Parks was to spend \$1.7 million dollars on a program vigorously opposed by the general public and license buyers who pay the bills, they would want to be able to fully evaluate the cost to benefit of the program to assure their constituents of program success and value to conservation.

What one can conclude, from even casual review of the program tracking information is 1.) The largest number of traps distributed to program participants occurred in localities with the highest density, human populations, 2.) 3 of the counties in the top 5 distribution localities have large urban areas with less suitable area for nesting pheasants, 3.) there is no consistent correlation between the number of traps issued and allegedly used in those areas and the number of tails submitted for bounty payments, 4.) the 2019 Pheasant Brood Survey Report: [https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/PBR\\_2019FINAL.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/PBR_2019FINAL.pdf) tends to show that the top five counties where traps were distributed represent some of the lowest, historical pheasant densities in the State over the past 10 years; and 5.) there is correlation between the number of bounties paid and the number of traps issued by broad location. A significant number of traps were issued in Counties west of the Missouri River that have no pheasants at all and haven't had for decades; Lawrence, Pennington, Custer, and Harding Counties being representative. In other circumstances, fewer traps were issued and bounties claimed in localities where pheasant densities were higher according to the 2019 survey; thusly better defining the variability in determining the success of nest predator removal or even recruiting new trappers in areas where they might be more effective. In other words, the program was poorly directed and came no where close to targeting higher pheasant and waterfowl nest density areas. Loose calculation reveals that over 2200 furbearers were taken in counties with few if any pheasants thereby affirming the stark reality that the program missed its mark entirely while at the same time wasting at least that many animals available for trapping and fur sale during late fall of the year.

The absence of any logical correlation between the number of tails submitted for bounty and the number of traps issued brings into question the number of animals that were actually trapped, euthanized in some fashion, had their tails removed and submitted for bounty. It was pointed out in public hearing by groups and individuals that this program would be defrauded by people submitting the tails from road killed animals, animals killed in unrelated areas and for unrelated reasons and even animals shot or killed in adjoining states. Those concerns were widely born out on social media. From FB postings to street corner remarks, it was apparent that people were stopping along roadways throughout the state, chopping off the tail of a racoon, fox pup, etc. and submitting it for bounty payment. The comment was made by an individual of my acquaintance and confirmed by others, that "I have yet to find a road killed critter that hasn't had the tail chopped off." It should be noted that not only do the number of tails submitted for bounty coincide significantly with human population density but they also coincide with the greatest amount of motor vehicle ownership and use in the state. Indeed, in my own experience traveling on SD's highways between May and August and encountering 7 road killed raccoons and 4 skunks, all of those animals had their tails cut off. It's a fair assumption where those tails wound up. Animals I stopped to look at during

hunting trips to the east of my home in Sept through November revealed several road killed animals with tails still attached. What are the probabilities that 16,000 live traps caught an average of 3.4 nest predators in or adjacent to pheasant nesting habitat in a 5-month period by mostly inexperienced trappers?

Once it became apparent that there was no statistical or scientific dimension available to measure the effects of trapping furbearing animals on pheasant nest success, proponents of the program seized on the secondary selling point. It suddenly became more important, apparently, to “market” the program as an educational opportunity to recruit young children into the outdoors and encourage them to learn how to trap and replenish the dwindling number of recreational trappers in the state than it was to improve pheasant and duck nesting success. The promotion begs the obvious question! If an agency or organization seeks to promote trapping, recruitment of new trappers, and trapper education, isn't it important and equally possible, if not more reasonable, to do so during the regular trapping seasons in late fall and winter when furs are prime and the real purposes, traditions and practices best benefit the trapper and the furbearer resources.

Bluntly, aren't trappers supposed to learn traditional/humane trapping methods, preparation, care and sale of furs to commercial buyers, rather than the immoral removal of furbearers for their tails, that are sold to the government for highly questionable purposes and the unused carcasses discarded in the landfill- or worse yet; left alongside the road, or tossed into the phragmites and cat tails on a GPA or WPA? Is there some value in killing a female adult raccoon or fox, with attendant young, thereby leaving them to either starve or become nuisances and pests in farm yards and urban trash cans? Does the latter practice actually demonstrate any respect for the wildlife that honest conservation mindedness is supposed to instill? Is this program sound conservation education and if it isn't should Pittman Robertson actually cost share it? Comparatively, I don't believe there is another program throughout the country that could legitimately be classified as conservation education. Where can this program be found in the SD Comprehensive Planning and Strategies responsive to 16 USC 669c?

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/16/669d>

The above commentary notwithstanding, I would like to point out yet another issue relevant to this program.

I direct your attention to South Dakota Codified Law 40-36-1 through 40-36-46

<https://www.animallaw.info/statute/sd-predator-control-chapter-40-36-predatory-animal-and-reptile-control#s15>

In consideration of the strict interpretation of this chapter of South Dakota statute law, it seems clear that the South Dakota legislature has reserved for itself, the sole authority to establish bounty policies and payments for wild animals allegedly doing damage as well as any program or effort to “control” what could be referred to as wild animals injurious to livestock, poultry, game, land and the public health. (SDCL 40-36-1) Correspondingly “the Game Fish and Parks Commission may adopt pursuant to chapter 1-26 necessary rules to control foxes, coyotes, feral dogs, prairie dogs, and other wild animals. The expense thereof shall be paid out of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks fund or the state animal damage control fund.”

[http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified\\_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=40-36-1](http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=40-36-1)

It should not go un-noticed that the legislature specifically mentions species of animals that have historic conflict with human endeavor such as foxes, coyotes and feral dogs. It is not therefore, coincidence that furbearing animals such as raccoons, badgers, and even skunks are not specifically mentioned but can be loosely inferred under the terms; “other wild animals” It should also be mentioned in this context, that the State of South Dakota has never “controlled or attempted to control” any other species of wild animal, save for the coyote, under any program in the state’s history. Assuredly, the state has responded professionally or through contract to address individual complaints about these “other wild animals” but those efforts cannot be construed to mean any measure of “population control” as these regulations suggest.

While the Department of Game, Fish and Parks has never published the legal or Statutory justification for this Nest Predator Bounty Program one could conclude, from the rather broad and inclusive language in SDCL 40-36-9, that the statute would authorize the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to promulgate rules establishing this non-traditional, trapping season and its associated logistics, methods and administration. The observation that there seems to be a conflict in law between Codified Titles 40 and 41 authorities of the SD Game, Fish and Parks Commission with regard to the instant Nest Predator/Bounty Program cannot explain its apparent illegality.

**SDCL 40-36-9.**

The Department of Game, Fish and Parks may direct or employ personnel and conduct programs and the Game, Fish and Parks Commission may adopt pursuant to chapter 1-26 necessary rules to control foxes, coyotes, feral dogs, prairie dogs, and other wild animals. The expense thereof shall be paid out of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks fund or the state animal damage

control fund.

I will argue that this statute, in the context of its language, authorizes the Department to employ its own personnel, or perhaps contract with private parties, to be supervised and directed by the Department, to control specific animals or local populations of animals that are injurious to persons or property. Admittedly, the Department does comply with this language. However, it is my sincere belief that this statute cannot be interpreted so broadly so as to authorize the Department to establish a “recreational trapping program” that cannot and did not control any population of animals identified as doing damage or causing harm; particularly to persons, real or personal property or even wildlife resources. By their own admission, SD Game, Fish and Parks sought the unquantified and poorly articulated “reduction” in 5 species of small mammals, on a statewide scale, for two reasons inconsistent with the language of this enabling statute; not any sort of control of those populations in response to valid damage complaints. To suggest, that these five species of animals cause irreparable harm and lasting damage to other wildlife resources to the degree that they require “control” by a loose collection of amateur trappers, acting randomly over a landscape encompassing 77,184 square miles is Pollyannaish.

In reference to SDCL 40-36-15, it is appropriate to point out that the South Dakota legislature intended to be specific in its unilateral intent to establish bounties, the qualifications of individuals to whom bounties were to be paid, the specific animals for which bounties were to be paid. The statute is stated below with operative language highlighted.

40-36-15. Bounties payable for coyotes--Restrictions on payments--Fraud as misdemeanor

The following bounties may be paid from the state animal damage control fund to any resident of this state who possesses a resident small game license or a resident predator/varmint license and who kills, within the boundaries of this state, including parks and monuments, the following animals:

(1) For each adult coyote, five dollars;

(2) For each coyote pup, five dollars.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission may not approve any bounty claim except during the months of April, May, and June. No bounty payments may be made under this section unless the commission determines that the average price of raw furs in the round for the preceding winter is below five dollars per animal.

Any person who exhibits to a county auditor the skin of an animal which was killed outside of the boundaries of that county, or who patches any skin or part of skin, for the purpose of defrauding the State of South Dakota, in any manner, is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

When applying the provisions of the above quoted statute, to the substance of the Nest Predator/ Bounty Program inferred through their provisions stated in ARSD 41-8 and SDCL 41-6-23, it seems clear that the Department of Game, Fish and Parks and its Commission erred in several respects.

1. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks paid bounties for animals not authorized in the above referenced statute;
2. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks paid bounties from Federal Aid Cost Share funding rather than the State's Animal Damage Control Fund;
3. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks paid bounties to at least some residents that did not have the prerequisite "small game license or resident predator/varmint licenses as required under this statute;
4. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks paid bounties to unlicensed individuals who presented tails from raccoons, skunks, foxes, badgers and opossums that are not stipulated specifically in SDCL 40-36-15.

(the operative language "the following animals" strongly demonstrates the legislative intent to specify those animals for which bounties are to be paid. Had the legislature intended that bounties should be paid for such things as raccoons, skunks, opossums, foxes and badgers, it would have so listed them.)

5. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission clearly approved bounty claims from people during the months of July, August and likely even September although it can't be determined if claims were paid during that month for animal tails accumulated during months prior to the end of the program on August 31, 2019.
6. With regard to the language in SDCL 41-1-4, it would appear that the Nest Predator Bounty Program conflicts the language and intent of the State's Wanton Waste statute which says;

41-1-4. Wanton waste or destruction of protected birds, animals and fish prohibited--Violation as misdemeanor. No person may wantonly waste or destroy any of the birds, animals, or fish of the kinds protected by the laws of this state. A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

[http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified\\_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=41-1-4](http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=41-1-4)

Is trapping a furbearing animal during a season when the fur is not prime or sellable, chopping off its tail, and discarding the remainder of the carcass



in a landfill or dumping it in open country to decompose, an act of Wanton Waste? I will argue here that it is from the perspective of traditional and ethical trapping that is supported by both science and professional wildlife management. Trappers have always conducted their activities in fall and winter when the pelts of animals are thickest and in prime condition. These “furbearers” are harvested specifically for the market value of their fur and refinement of their glands/body parts for lures and bait. The traditional, ethical trapper, does not simply cut off the tail of the animal taken in his sets but rather skins, cleans and stretches the hides to dry for later sale to a fur buyer in compensation for his work and associated expenses. The animal is properly respected and utilized in the strict ethics of the trapping heritage..... Trapping an animal, cutting off its tail, and discarding the remaining parts of seasonal value can't be considered either ethical trapping nor can it not be considered wanton destruction and wasteful.

I contend that the Department of Game, Fish and Parks negligently disregarded this statute and encouraged people to commit acts that are, at the very least, woefully unethical and/or literally, violative of state statute.

In review of the Eligibility Standards for Wildlife Restoration; 521 FW 1, as published by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, I can find no specific or suggestive language that infers that bounty payments are eligible for reimbursement under either the letter or intent of the language. In 16 USC 669 Chapter 5b §669a; Definitions (1), there appears to be no language which is consistent with payment of bounties as a “tool of conservation” that might warrant cost share reimbursement under the guidelines of the Pittman Robertson Act.

In a further search for clarification on the US Fish and Wildlife Services position on bounty payments or the authorization of payments thereof, I conducted a search and found the following testimony to Congress by Nathaniel P Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks in March of 1973 in testimony regarding S.887; A bill to Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to Assist the States in Controlling Damage Caused by predatory and Depredating Animals;

[https://books.google.com/books?id=2bxDQP24\\_VgC&pg=PA48&lpg=PA48&dq=Position+statements+on+wildlife+bounty+payments&source=bl&ots=oGjgn1C0D6&sig=ACfU3U3BvNUf5HKbGz6Hh3ybklhS9pQ8Bw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewj67pCxzobnAhUUUV80KHe\\_JAwkQ6AEwDHoECA0QAQ#v=onepage&q=Position%20statements%20on%20wildlife%20bounty%20payments&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=2bxDQP24_VgC&pg=PA48&lpg=PA48&dq=Position+statements+on+wildlife+bounty+payments&source=bl&ots=oGjgn1C0D6&sig=ACfU3U3BvNUf5HKbGz6Hh3ybklhS9pQ8Bw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewj67pCxzobnAhUUUV80KHe_JAwkQ6AEwDHoECA0QAQ#v=onepage&q=Position%20statements%20on%20wildlife%20bounty%20payments&f=false)

During the Hearing Before the Subcommittee on the Environment of the Committee on Commerce 93<sup>rd</sup> Congress 1<sup>st</sup> Session Mr. Reed states the following on page 48;

**“Many methods have been used to cope with predatory and depredating animals, including the payment of bounties. The bounty system is not an effective method of control. The Federal Government does not support bounty payments. This position is also maintained by most State Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Other control methods used over the years – with varying degrees of success – including shooting, denning, trapping, snaring and poisoning.”**

The testimony above does not appear to be antagonistic to the referenced Act passed by Congress although one could consider it a bit dated. The testimony of Mr. Reed notwithstanding, I could find no other reference to Federal policy that supports or rejects bounty payments as a viable alternative to wildlife damage management.

Gentlemen; I submit that there are several inconsistencies in the nest predator bounty program that depart from 521 FW 1 Eligibility Standards for Wildlife Restoration.

Specifically, 521 FW 1 Eligibility Standards 1.8 Sections B and C. seem to apply appropriately to the purchase of live traps to be given away, free of charge, to program participants. Section C declares ineligible for federal aid; *“Providing services or property of material value to individuals or groups for commercial purposes or to benefit such individuals or groups [50 CFR 80.5(a)(1), 50 CFR 80.14(c). This does not prohibit providing technical assistance to a private landowner or operator where a public benefit will be served. [50 CFR 80.5(a)(1)] (see 522 FW 14).*

Isn't providing up to 3 live traps each to 5300 people free of charge; “providing property of material value to individuals for commercial purposes when those individuals can deploy those traps during regular trapping seasons in future years to engage the commercial market for furs?

More specifically; the Eligibility Standards in 521 FW 1; 1.8 H subsection (1) specifically excludes wildlife damage management activities except under a variety of conditions. I contend that Subsection 1(d) of the excepted standards is operative in these circumstances... The SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks held this “Nest Predator Bounty Program” out to be a defacto wildlife damage issue on the premise that nest predator control was essential to improve pheasant and duck recruitment in the State. I can find no data or

information that would quantify or even qualify the notion conclusively. Factually, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks Wildlife Damage Management section supervisor acknowledged that the results of the program could not be quantified or qualified. The entire program was not based on well established wildlife conservation and science. I contend that it was based entirely on long since debunked social gossip promoted by political machinery more interested in image than conservation of wildlife. As such, it can't possibly be an "eligible activity in the Wildlife Restoration Program."

521 FW 1; 1.8 H subsection (1) d.

(d.) The primary purpose of the wildlife damage manage activity is not an eligible activity in the "Wildlife Restoration Program"

**Further, 521 FW 1; 1.8 H. subsection (2) states:** If conditions (a), (b),(c),or (d) apply, a State fish and wildlife agency may still use Federal Aid funds to monitor wildlife damage and provided technical guidance, exclusive of actual management activities, if the Federal Aid grant documents approves the activity. Payments for wildlife damages are not an eligible use of Federal Aid funds.

Since it's inception, this "Nest Predator Bounty Program" has been publicly promoted as a recreational endeavor to allegedly control predatory damage to two wildlife species. In this professional's opinion, such a measure cannot be married to any thought of traditional wildlife conservation. Nest predation is, apparently, held out to qualify under the provisions of SDCL 40-36-9. The previously mentioned program is neither wildlife damage monitoring nor is it technical guidance; (although there was trapping education and technical training provided to interested persons by Department Staff) and there has been no record shown to demonstrate that the activity was approved in Federal Aid grant documents.

**Finally; 521 FW 1; 1.10 subsection B states:** Even if one or more of the conditions in subparagraph A apply, State fish and wildlife agencies would not be in diversion if they use license fees to provide technical guidance, consultation, permitting, and monitoring of wildlife damage, exclusive of actual management activities such as "removal of animals." (quotation marks added for emphasis) We allow the use of fees for control of exotic species not under authority of the State fish and wildlife agency if necessary, to restore or maintain populations of species under the State agency's authority.

**It can easily be inferred from the above subsection of 521 that South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks maintained no provision of technical guidance, consultation, permitting or monitoring of wildlife damage but rather, actively promoted management activities involving the removal of animals that are indigenous to the state, to the detriment of those species, rather than any exotic species referred to in the subsection. It cannot be said, with any certainty, that there was necessity to restore or maintain the pheasant or duck populations under the State agency's authority; largely because it has historically been shown, without equivocation, that populations of pheasants, ducks and other wildlife tend to restore themselves when proper conservation strategies are implemented and homes for them are restored.**

**It should be noted that ducks and migratory waterfowl are not under the authority of the SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks but rather are regulated by the Federal Agency that also oversees the administration Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act funding. Claims were made by SD Game, Fish and Parks that "duck populations would also benefit from this program. I'm aware of only one experiment in SD involving professional removal of nest predators and electric fencing, done on Lake Albert in Hamlin County, SD that could apply in some loose measure to these claims.**

**How can this Nest Predator/Bounty Program be classified, in any circumstance, to be a viable and effective wildlife conservation effort deserving of Federal Aid Funding?**

**I defer to one of the 7 Sisters of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation; which the outdoorsmen/women of SD and the SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks used to endorse, to address the ethics and morality of this Program!**

**Wildlife can only be taken for "legitimate" purposes.**

**Above all, hunters must utilize the meat they harvest. The ethical reasoning speaks for itself, and most states have wanton waste laws on the books. We have an obligation to do everything in our power to waste as little of that animal as possible. Respect the resource, respect the land, and respect the life that was taken.**

**Does this program promote the taking of wildlife for legitimate purposes?  
Does this program promote the avoidance of waste and ravage of wildlife?  
Does this program promote respect for the resource, the land and the lives given?**

**Wildlife resources must be managed on scientific, not emotional basis**

**Perhaps the most important tenet, this stipulates that wildlife management and policy must be based on sound scientific evidence. Special interests and emotional/sentimental arguments are not grounds for consideration. Policy and practices must serve the best interests of the ecosystem, while taking into account the needs of the various stakeholders. A scientific basis also ensures that the management plan is adaptable as conditions change and as new data and research emerges. This directly influences hunting and fishing seasons, bag limits, manner of taking, and other regulations.**

**Unfortunately, though it is the most important, this is perhaps the least respected tenet. Whether through the naivete of the misinformed, or the greed of industry, conservation's pure roots are corrupted. We see this all the time in legislation that is driven by public outcry instead of hard science and balanced management.**

**I submit, gentlemen, that this Nest Predator/Bounty Program is an egregious and offensive affront to the above sisters of the North American Model and a corrupting political stunt that has no value to wildlife, the trapper, or the outdoor heritage that is rapidly losing credibility and civic favor. A return to science driven management is essential; right along with compliance with historical law, precedent and soundly vetted public policy.**

**In closing, I'd like to broach one more topic which I believe deserves more attention from Pittman-Robertson/Dingell Johnson Act administrators in the US Fish and Wildlife Service.**

**For many years; The State of South Dakota has implemented and maintained various programs of private land hunting access throughout the state. The State programs, cost shared under PR guidelines, contract with willing property owners to open parcels of private land to hunting, trapping, fishing etc. to the public without individual requisite permission from the landowner/lessor in the majority of circumstances. Specialized programs, such as the "Controlled Hunting Access Program" have differing management and regulatory guidelines but the fundamental theme is the same. Leasing land for public access.**

**The concern in many circumstances, with regard to these areas is the value of their contribution to wildlife conservation, wildlife's intrinsic value and the hunting heritage. Perhaps the best way to describe the concern is to point out the diversity of rental payments made to private landowners. In response to the question; "How much do farmers and ranchers get paid to put their land in the Walk-In-Area program?" – one can find the following response in the 2019**

## **WIA Guidebook.**

*“A. Annual payments range from \$.53 to \$10.00 per acre and are determined by numerous factors including amount and type of hunting opportunity, size of the area, habitat conditions, anticipated hunting use, and if it unlocks inaccessible public land. Land that contains CRP or similar habitat in high pheasant density areas or near Sioux Falls receives the highest payment rates.”*

**Does anyone else beside me see the absurd disparity, in this policy. Does anyone beside me see the fiscal impacts of this policy. Does anyone beside me question the comprehensive value of these rental expenditures to wildlife and the hunter? Has anyone, beside me, questioned the cost to benefit to wildlife conservation of these federally supported expenditures.**

**I.e. If the state contracts with a land owner to open 100 acres of land enrolled in CRP for an annual payment of \$1000.00 and at the same time contracts with another landowner for access to an 1,800 acre pasture that has been grazed flat for a decade, which parcel has appropriate value to both wildlife conservation and the hunting heritage? I've seen and hunted in both. One with a fair measure of satisfaction. In the other, complete disgust. Many others share these same feelings and emotions. If we're paying for something, shouldn't we expect good to high quality products for our money?**

**What is the honest purpose and objective of this program? Shouldn't money expressly set aside for Wildlife Conservation purposes be spent with better specifications, criteria, quality control and thriftiness. Shouldn't the criteria for leasing these private lands be a great deal more favorable to wildlife and its production; which is the goal stated in 521 FW 1 1.7 A.**

*521 FW 1; 1.7 A. (eligible grant purposes) Restoration, conservation, management, and enhancement of wild birds, and wild mammals, and provide for public use and benefit from these resources [WR Act Sec 2 and 50 CFR 80.5 (a)(1)].*

**I have, in past years, observed numerous WIA enrolled acreages that haven't been fit enough to raise a meadow vole much less find any huntable species of wildlife on them either during the fall and winter nor during the growing season. I have photos of a WIA that was literally a quarter section of wind-blown dirt with a dry stream bed and a few trees crossing one corner of the property. A lone corn stalk or two could be seen sticking out of the eroded soil in the middle of the field. Even the WIA sign posts at the corners of the field were partially covered with drifts of wind-blown soil. I have photos of a severely abused and overgrazed 600-acre pasture, with a periodically**

poisoned 2-5 acre prairie dog colony that couldn't produce any wildlife at all. What few hunters I've seen try to hunt on the property have quickly decided that their efforts are a waste of time and quickly leave. In 15 years, I've never seen a hunter take a game bird or animal from the property. Yet it's rented every year. Many of us have heard excuses such as; "if the state doesn't lease it, it will be leased to a private party and hunting access will be lost." "If the state doesn't lease it, then access to adjoining property won't be available". If there is no wildlife on the property, or it doesn't ever raise any, why would there be any hunting opportunity on it? The reasoning is lame at best.

These highly questionable areas are scattered all across South Dakota and one has to ask the question; "why are we spending money on these acreages when they have no value to wildlife conservation/wildlife production nor do they contribute anything to hunter success or enjoyment.

It is my contention that these hunting access programs need much better oversight and quality control criteria to assure their benefits to wildlife and the hunting heritage. Certainly, there are lands and landowners that are genuine stewards of their lands, wildlife and considerate of the hunting heritage that deserve the rental fees paid. There are, however, abundant lands, paid for with hunting license and PR dollars that are valueless to wildlife and the hunter. I contend that paying property owners for hunting access to these basic, biological deserts, amounts to nothing more than rewarding them for bad land stewardship. Even the USDA doesn't do that! I would hope that the US Fish and Wildlife Service would seek ways to assert better quality control in these programs and greater accountability for grant funding expenditures.

Thank you for indulging this lengthy correspondence. The courtesy of a response would be very much appreciated.

John Wrede

2802 Westgate Drive  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702  
(605) 718-0762  
[jmw225@midco.net](mailto:jmw225@midco.net)

cc: South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission





27 Feb 2020

To the SDGFP and SDGFP Commissioners

My name is John Hopple and I am the President of the South Dakota Trappers Association. I am writing this to the board for them to consider as they discuss the 2020 Bounty Program. I do apologize for not being there in person however I am currently traveling out of state.

On Feb 19, 2020 the Directors of the South Dakota Trappers Association held a telephone conference meeting. One item we discussed was the 2020 bounty program. As the outdoor organization who is most closely associated with this program (along with the Western South Dakota Fur Harvesters) we feel it is import to provide our inputs. First and foremost we feel this is a SDGFP program to manage. As other programs such as fish stocking or depredation concerns, it is the departments inherent right to establish this program and run it as they see the best way forward in obtaining the goals of the program.

As in 2019, we were not asked for inputs or consulted on how the bounty program should be run for 2020. We will however as we did last year, support the GFP 100% in assisting in as much educational information and training as possible for a successful and safe program to be properly implemented. This is in line with our By-Laws on file with the Sec of State, Article 1 (g) which states "to promote a program of continuing education". We believe this program no matter how it is set up and what restriction, rules or boundaries are on it can become a program of education. We have already proven that fact last year.

The SDTA was at the forefront of proper trapping education for the 2019 Bounty Program. No less than 3 full classes were taught to members of the public who wished to participate at the Outdoor Campus West. A wide variety of techniques and proper equipment use was made available. One item that stood out to us was that entire families took these classes together. A goal of this program was that and we can verify it became a reality. We have already committed to teach two more classes at the Outdoor Campus West in March of 2020 and will teach as many as GFP would like anywhere in the state.

Our goal is to see new trappers young and old alike enjoy the sport and do it properly. The bounty program gives families a chance to participate as a family unit. Children not in school and long summer days are a perfect blend for this to happen. Often it is hard to get a kid excited to be outdoors when it is cold or wet and snowing. The bounty program can be a bridge to the outdoors most would have not ventured into. It is only natural to assume other activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting and camping will follow next. We will never believe everyone who does this program will be trappers forever. But we want to ensure for the time they do participate they understand laws, ethics and utilize proper and safe techniques. This program can be a win-win for all involved.

Thank You for your time and consideration in this matter.

John Hopple, Black Hawk, SD  
President, South Dakota Trappers Association

February 29, 2020

To: South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Commission

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my concern and disappointment related to the continuation of the Nest Predator Bounty Program. Even though the cost of the program has been substantially reduced, my belief is that a significant amount of sportsman's dollars will be wasted. Yes, polling by the GF&P showed a majority of public supports a bounty program. I think we are all aware the majority of the public does not pay for the program, and for that matter, public opinion is not always based on science and established biological facts.

To date, the cost of the program, including oversight of the program, providing free live traps, meeting with trappers who have tails to turn in, filling out the electronic affidavits, submission of bounty forms, storage of tails, preparing reports, sending out checks, paying for polling and other expenditures is approaching two million dollars. This is money that could have improved habitat on a thousands of acres of public land, or used to purchase lands for the benefit of future generations in perpetuity. Instead, this money is gone, and more manpower and money may be expended on a short-term solution to a long-term problem. What is worse is the solution is not a solution at all. NO studies have shown that predator control on a random basis over a widespread area will successfully increase the survival of nesting hens and eggs. However, innumerable truly scientific studies have repeatedly shown that when suitable habitat is available and weather conditions are decent, pheasant populations can flourish without direct predator control.

It does seem the stated intent of the program is changing from predator control to introducing children to trapping. If that is in fact the case and the program goes forward, perhaps GF&P should consider only allowing payments to persons under the age of 18.

The sportsmen of this state have strongly supported our wildlife management system and have come to expect the GF&P Commission to make wise, scientifically sound decisions concerning our valuable natural resources. My hope is you continue to do so, and I thank the Commission for your time, service, and consideration of our concerns.

*Bill*

Bill Antonides  
Retired Wildlife Conservation Officer  
Certified Wildlife Biologist®  
514 North Arch Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401-2951

Phone 605-380-8586  
[billantonides@abe.midco.net](mailto:billantonides@abe.midco.net)

CC: GFP Secretary Kelly Hepler

## Nest Predator Bounty Program Comment

Submitted by

Donna M. Fisher

12311 White Tail Road

Deadwood, SD 57732

dmfisher@wildblue.net

### I. Pheasant industry interests should not be allowed to dominate management of our native ecosystems or our outdoor youth education programs.

Pheasant numbers have declined with the loss of habitat. From 2007-17, Conservation Reserve Program acreage was reduced 37 percent statewide, with some counties in western South Dakota seeing reductions of more than 75 percent. A study published by the South Dakota State University Extension Service in 2014 found that between 2006 and 2012, South Dakota lost 1.84 million acres of grassland primarily to corn and soybean production.

Developing the Nest Predator Bounty Program, cloaked in a youth outdoors promotion, is an expensive solution for the wrong problem. If Game, Fish and Parks must spend tax dollars to promote pheasant production, then spend those dollars protecting grasslands and habitat.

Most of South Dakota's youth population lives in the metropolitan corridors on either end of our state. The youth who live on eastern farms or western ranches don't need my tax dollars to promote a love of the outdoors. However, picture today's suburban families dealing with the trauma of their child's encounter with a dead or wounded and potentially dangerous animal badger or coyote.

Bounties are no incentive for spending time outdoors. I grew up on a farm and trapped for pocket gophers for spending money—pretty boring work after first week or two! Five dollars for fox tail is unlikely to motivate love of the outdoors given the work involved.

### II. Trapping so-called nest predators should be handled by licensed professional trappers.

Humane trapping by skilled adults can manage nest predators and avoid the collateral damage of indiscriminate killing that upsets nature's balance. According to Pheasants Unlimited, poorly-managed programs of predator eradication trigger increased birth rate of predators. The resulting population of young animals causes more random damage to nesting birds.

### III. Who developed this nesting predators list? Please consult wildlife experts.

Raccoons and coyotes are plentiful, but their unmanaged eradication may upset an ecosystem's balance.

Opossums are tick-eating machines, a quality that's particularly beneficial in areas like ours where Lyme disease is a real danger. Beyond their effectiveness at eradicating

ticks, they contribute to healthy environments, catching and eating cockroaches, rats and mice. They consume road kill and dead animals of all types. Take them off the list, please.

Badgers are candidates for removal from the bounty list, too. Their normal prey of voles, mice, rats and prairie dogs win them friendship from grain farmers. Their burrowing habits enhance long-term soil quality.

Foxes may plunder pheasant nesting populations, but their effectiveness in controlling voles, ground squirrels, rabbits and other small mammals makes them more valuable to the larger ecosystem picture. Please remove badgers and foxes from the list and leave selective trapping to professionals when necessary.

**Recommendation:** Please derail these unwise uses of my tax dollars; use them to provide genuine incentives for pheasant habitat protection and development and training of professional trappers.

To: Game Fish and Parks Commission

From: Tyler Spomer, Bismarck, ND

Re: Petition to establish an East River special Any Whitetail Deer License

Date: January 8, 2020

My wife and I were both born and raised in South Dakota and lived there our entire lives until we recently moved with our three daughters to Bismarck, ND. We still spend a significant amount of time in South Dakota as my wife manages the day to day operations of her family's cow/calf operation. The family farm is located on 1600 acres of land in Campbell County. The farmland is rented out. However, we do put up grass, alfalfa, and millet hay. Most of it is used for feed for our own cattle, with the remainder sold to other area farmers.

My wife and I spend time each year helping put up hay, managing the cow/calf herd, and overall farm management.

The farm has a direct economic impact on the local and state economy. Calves are sold at the local sale barn. Corn and soybeans are sold at the local elevator. Farm supplies and equipment purchases are made in town.

We've hunted the farm for many years. The last few years have been special as one of our daughters has taken an interest in hunting. We want to continue hunt deer on the family farm. However, the only member of our family eligible for a rifle tag is our daughter. My wife and I are not able to hunt deer with a rifle. We have no interest in hunting other private or public ground. Not once in all the years we've had Campbell County deer tags have we hunted other land. We've always hunted our farm as there was no reason to hunt other land.

The Proposal, as submitted, does offer an option for us to hunt. However, it comes at a high cost. A deer tag costing \$554 is too expensive. We can't afford to spend that kind of money for a deer tag. The regular non-resident deer tag cost of \$286 is more reasonable.

Overall, I object to the proposal as written. However, an option should be available for non-resident landowners/operators to obtain a rifle deer tag for their own land. This tag should not be transferrable.



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DIVISION

# The Izaak Walton League of America

DEFENDERS OF SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE

February 28, 2020

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

Dear Commissioners,

During their meeting in Pierre on February 1 the Directors of the South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America (Division) unanimously adopted a resolution in opposition to South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks endorsing, promoting or adopting any bounty programs that utilize expenditures of sportsmen or state funds.

While addressing the Legislature earlier this year Governor Noem announced that according to a recent survey the 2019 Predator Bounty Program was an overwhelming success. She indicated it is her intent to conduct the program again in 2020.

The Division would like to point out that the success the Governor referred was based on responses from participating trappers who received payment(s) for each fox, possum, badger, skunk or coon tail turned into the department. The survey results in no way represent any biological or scientific benefit of improved nesting success resulting from the elimination of 50,000 predators at the State's expenditure of \$500,000 and a total cost of the program at over \$1.7 million.

Based on the square miles of land in South Dakota, trapping 50,000 predators reduced the state's predator population by less than 1 animal for every 1,000 acres of land. The benefit of that minor a reduction towards improved nesting success is statically insignificant.

We support the provision that shortens the timeline. In 2019 bounties were paid into August. That was 2 to 3 months past the primary nesting season, and beyond the ability of predators to impact nest success. We suspect many of the tails turned in may have come from road kills, with some not even from South Dakota. As implemented, this program had no way to verify this, but there must be a reason why most of the road killed predators, observed by our members in South Dakota last year, had no tails. Furthermore, we believe that many of the predators turned in would have otherwise been trapped or shot with or without a state sponsored bounty program.

Bounty and nest predator trapping programs have been studied for years. It's widely known that trapping of predators must be conducted in a highly intensive manner to be effective. This must be done to consistently reduce the population below that animal's normal mortality rate, to achieve the desired results.

The Division strongly supports programs that encourage residents, especially our youth, to get engaged in outdoor activities including hunting and trapping. We would eagerly support programs that encourage and engage youth in the benefits that an intensive predator control and improved nesting program could achieve in areas of the state.

However, we do not support programs that give our youth a false perspective of bounty programs or the idea that they should expect to be paid to do what is simply “the right thing”. We also believe that the use of sportsmen’s dollars toward another nest predator bounty program is a violation of the public trust.

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America respectfully requests that the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission not authorize the use of any funds from the Department of Game, Fish and Parks for the Nest Predator Program in 2020.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kelly Kistner

National IWLA President and President of the South Dakota Division of the IWLA

603 Lakeshore Drive

McCook Lake, SD 57049

605-232-2030 (H) – 712-490-1726 (C)

[iwlasdpresident@outlook.com](mailto:iwlasdpresident@outlook.com)

February 25, 2020

Game, Fish & Parks Commission,

I am writing to share my views on the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program initiated in 2019. My address is Hendricks, MN, but I live in South Dakota and am a South Dakota resident. I have been involved with South Dakota wildlife issues for most of my life. I worked as a biological technician and wildlife biologist for the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service for over 38 years at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Much of my career involved working with and coordinating with Game, Fish & Parks personnel and the public.

I could tell from the start that there was “something different” about the bounty program. There were no public meetings or requests for input for a program that was sure to be controversial. Out of the blue, traps were being given away and the state was starting a bounty program, a practice that had been abandoned by the Game, Fish & Parks many years ago. License dollars were being used to fund a questionable program.

One of the primary goals of the program was to enhance nest success. My experience has shown that predator control can work with extensive trapping on relatively small areas that have limited predator access, but trapping over a large landscape has little chance of significantly increasing nest success. Other predators move in to take the place of those that are removed. If this program continues, some nest success research should be done to measure the program’s impact.

During the first season of the program, I heard conversations in the community of predator tails being collected and given to local teen-agers to turn in. Local landowners were doing most of the trapping/killing. Although road kills were not eligible to be included, every road kill I stopped and checked during the program did not have a tail. That includes road killed raccoons on Minnesota roads near the South Dakota border.

Our community also observed the disrespect of our wildlife resources with tailless carcasses thrown in the ditch & propped up in trees for all to see. (Figure 1-3) It seems the value of these wildlife species is minimized by the apparent “need” to kill them.

I read the “South Dakota Residents & Participants Perceptions of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program”. My first thought was just how much did this evaluation cost the sportsmen of South Dakota? I’d like to know what was paid for this evaluation. The survey indicated that 62% of South Dakota residents contacted were not aware of the program before they were contacted! That tells me the Game, Fish & Parks did a terrible job of introducing the program, as I referenced earlier in my letter. It also indicates why so many of these contacts approved of the program. They knew nothing about it, except as explained on the phone by the surveyors. With 62% of the only 418 residents contacted knowing nothing of the program, it is no surprise to me that the program was approved of in the survey. I believe that if more of those contacted had an avid interest in the South Dakota outdoors, your approval rating would drop drastically. The survey



also showed 91% of the participants approved of the program which would only make sense since they received monetary benefits. The information gathered by this study has little value in determining “real support” for this program. The license holders who have a stake and interest in this issue should be have been contacted for their opinions.

I do have several questions about the proposed 2020 program: (1) One of the goals of last year’s program was to cultivate more interest in trapping as a family event. This year, shooting is being added to the killing methods. Why is shooting predators included in this year’s proposed program? (2) One of the goals of this year’s program is to double participation in ETHICS SD. What is ETHICS SD? I cannot find anything about that on the GF&P website or in other GF&P literature.

In summary, I believe the Game, Fish & Parks Department lost a lot of credibility by initiating this program. Spending \$500,000 on a new program with no input from the sportsmen who buy the licenses was a mistake. I do not want my license fees used for this program. It should not be continued.

William A. Schultze  
Hendricks, MN



Figure 1. Tailless carcasses from the Nest Predator Bounty Program, April 21, 2019, Brookings County, SD.



Figure 2. Tailless raccoon carcass thrown in tree in road right-of-way, April 21, 2019, Brookings County, SD.



Figure 3. Tailless raccoon carcass propped up in tree in road right-of-way, April 21, 2019, Brookings County, SD.

Dear SDGFP Commissioners,

I have put a great deal of thought into this proposal. It has me torn on a few issues. After deep consideration of this proposal I have to oppose it for a few reasons.

I have quite a few family members and friends that are landowners. I understand wanting to give landowners the opportunity to increase income on their properties. It's not always easy to turn a profit in agriculture, especially for a small farmer. Allowing non-residents to draw Special Buck licenses would open up another avenue for these landowners to make some money by charging a fee to the non-resident hunter. My concern is what the unintended consequences might be.

Paid hunting operations are becoming more prevalent each year. My family has hunted in Perkins County for a number of years. There are two different ranches that we used to hunt on, but we are no longer able to. Both of those ranches have moved towards paid hunting. It's hard to blame them for wanting to make a little more money off of their land. At the same time, we have lost all of the private land that we used to have access to. Now, we hunt public land exclusively.

Thankfully, there's an abundance a public land in the western half of the state. However, there is not an abundance of public land in the eastern half of the state. While, in theory, these new special buck licenses for non-residents will not directly affect hunting pressure on public land, I feel there could be a secondary effect that increases pressure on those public lands.

Currently we have a neighboring landowner that gives us permission to hunt deer during the ERD season. He also gives other people permission to hunt on the same ground and some of his other pieces of ground. He probably gives access to 8-10 people. If he chooses to take on a non-resident hunter at \$5,000 for rifle season, it would displace all of us. One special buck license for a non-resident could displace 8 to 10 resident hunters.

If this happened to us we would only have so many options. Hopefully we would be able to find another chunk of private land to hunt. However, that's getting harder and harder to do. If we weren't able to find more private land to hunt, we would be pushed onto public land. As I stated, we currently hunt public land in Perkins County. There is a great deal more public land out there and there are still a lot of people on it. I know the non-residents won't be hunting the public ground, but the resident hunters that get displaced from private ground will have to go somewhere. I could see this greatly impacting the hunting pressure on public land.

Undoubtedly, some people will find all of this too much of a headache and quit hunting all together. They either won't be able to find a place to hunt or the public land they do find will be overrun by other hunters. Most people can't compete with \$5,000 to hunt deer. And sometimes the public areas are too crowded to hunt. If you can't afford to hunt and you don't have another place to go, you are pretty much done hunting.

This would be in complete opposition to your goal of increasing hunter recruitment and retention.

I know that part of the reasoning for this proposal was to make licenses available to non-resident landowners. I think that non-resident landowners should have access to hunt their own ground. As it is,

they already have access. In fact, every non-resident has access to hunt deer in our state through archery licenses.

I understand that the non-resident landowners may not want to hunt with archery equipment. They may want to use a rifle to hunt their own ground.

I don't want to oppose this proposal without offering a different option.

I think a better option than this proposal would be to allow non-resident landowners to get a landowner license for their own ground. I think it would be fair for them to get a license as long as they own at least 160 acres. If they want to have other family members/landowners hunt they need to have at least another 160 acres for each additional landowner tag that they wish to acquire.

If letting the general public of non-residents get licenses is the goal instead of just non-resident landowners then I have a solution I think would be better than the special buck proposal.

There were around 30,000 East River deer licenses last year. 500 tags is about 1.7% of that total. We could open up 2% of all East River anydeer licenses and 2% of East River antlerless tags within each county to non-resident deer licenses. There could be a minimum cap of at least two licenses for non-residents within each county for both anydeer and antlerless deer. Half of the licenses allocated for non-residents would be open to landowner preference first. For example if there were 100 anydeer tags and 100 antlerless tags available within a certain county, then 2 anydeer tags and 2 antlerless tags would be set aside for non-residents. Of those tags ½ would be set aside first for non-resident landowners. So 1 anydeer tag and 1 antlerless tag would be open to non-resident landowner preference. After that the remaining licenses of the 2% would be open to general non-resident applications. The tags would be valid on public and private ground within the county for which they apply. The fee could still be set at \$554.

This model would do many things.

It may slow the growth of paid hunting operations. Widespread paid hunting is on the way, but this may slow it more than the proposal in front of you.

It would create an opportunity for non-resident landowners to receive licenses.

It would also allow non-residents who do not own land to get licenses and have the option to hunt public land. This way, someone who could afford to pay for the license but cannot afford to pay \$5,000 for a hunting fee on private ground would still be able to hunt. Even if all of the non-resident hunters (2%) were to hunt on public ground it would not overpopulate those areas because they would be spread out amongst all of the East River counties.

If non-residents had the option to hunt public ground they would not displace resident hunters from private ground.

It may increase the possibility of non-resident hunter recruitment as well. If the non-residents can hunt public and bypass the big money of a paid hunt, they may apply for a license for their kids.

On the other hand, the non-residents that want to pay for a hunt with a guide would still be able to.

Finally if you keep the fee at \$554 the state would still make the same amount of money if not slightly more considering the licenses would account for 2% of the total instead of only 1.7%.

If, you as a commission, still plan to approve this proposal, I believe that all of the money generated through these special buck licenses needs to go towards public land acquisition or to provide huntable deer habitat on existing public lands in the eastern half of the state. This money should go towards buying public land. It should go towards acquiring walk-in areas with existing deer habitat. It should go towards building huntable deer habitat on existing public lands. I don't think the money should go towards any pheasant hunting habitat. There are plenty of areas that are good for pheasant hunting. There aren't nearly enough public hunting areas for deer. We need places to put tree stands and hunting blinds, not just grass and shrub belts.

I hope my comments are helpful and I would gladly speak more at length with anyone whom is interested.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Josh Hagemann

Mission Hill, SD

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 788, Black Hawk, SD 57718  
[nhilshat@rapidnet.com](mailto:nhilshat@rapidnet.com)  
605-787-6466, 605-877-2806, cell  
<http://www.phas-wsd.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/phas.wsd/>  
March 1st, 2020

SD Game Fish and Parks Commission  
c/o Rachel Comes  
Foss Building,  
523 East Capitol,  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Rachel Comes <Rachel.Comes@state.sd.us>

Comment letter on Nest Predator Bounty # 1

One of the "Whereas" items in your draft resolution on the Nest Predator Bounty Program (NPBP) is a reference to the 83% public support of the Nest Predator Bounty Program (NPBP) based on the public opinion survey conducted by Responsive Management on behalf of SD GFP: *"WHEREAS, Eighty-three percent of the general public supported the operation of the Nest Predator Bounty Program as demonstrated by a professional scientific survey;"* .

The Humane Society of the U.S. contracted for a larger and more in depth survey of 1000 random SD people (vs. GFP's 400) that was conducted by Remington Research Group. They asked more questions and got more metrics. Remington Research Group asked the public some of the same questions and some different questions than Responsive Management. After a series of questions 26% approved of NPBP and 53% disapproved. Link to HSUS report:

<https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/South-Dakota-General-Election-Survey.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0TzQSvscZeSc-C1dgSxBjt0sCzgSSX5jxks-wOtFMdjFHv4FgSQCvHKBI>

Link to the SDGFP's public opinion survey of 400 random people - GFP funded both a NPBP participants and a public opinion survey section (The public opinion survey is found in the second half of report).

Link to survey:

[https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/SD\\_2020\\_Nest\\_Predator\\_Bounty\\_PPT.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/SD_2020_Nest_Predator_Bounty_PPT.pdf)

GFP references this study in the resolution about 2020 NPBP. SD GFP's hired survey (of random people) found that 62% South Dakotans had no clue about the Nest Predator Bounty program and only 38% knew about it, of which 43% were mostly positive about it (which would be 16% of the population supported it, before being read GFP's description of program). (Page

44 of report). After being read a 3 sentence description over the phone, then 83% supported the NPBP. I have been told that those 3 sentences, were written by SD GFP.

The difference suggests that maybe you can determine the outcome of a public opinion survey depending on how you ask the questions.

Also please note that in the HSUS funded study, when the public was asked if they supported legal trapping -- 37% said they did, 31% said they did not and 32% were not sure. This reminds me of a vote done at SDGFP Stakeholder meeting on the SDGFP strategic plan...several years ago, in early September 2016, in Rapid City. The moderator (Nancy Surprenant) asked a similar question of the "stakeholders" and as I remember it...only thirty something percent of stakeholders approved of or valued trapping, while hunting and fishing were much more popular. I am sure SDGFP has a record of that vote someplace.

We believe that you must drop this clause of the resolution (about public support), as it is a best a totally controversial claim that is contradicted by a larger and more in depth survey

I hope you read the HSUS funded report and I attach it below to make it easier for you to read.

Nancy Hilding

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hilding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "g".

President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

1 attachment.

"SOUTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION, February 2020, Remington Research Group"

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 788, Black Hawk, SD 57718  
[nhilshat@rapidnet.com](mailto:nhilshat@rapidnet.com)  
605-787-6466, 605-877-2806, cell  
<http://www.phas-wsd.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/phas.wsd/>  
March 1st, 2020

SD Game Fish and Parks Commission  
c/o Rachel Comes  
Foss Building,  
523 East Capitol,  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Rachel Comes <Rachel.Comes@state.sd.us>

*The Nest Predator Bounty Program's (NPBP) rationale is based on faulty science and the Program is wasting huge amounts of SD GFP budget -- cumulatively 2 million dollars over 2 years! Trapping predators in the spring, when they are rearing their young, means that the young are orphaned and will die slow deaths. SD has excessively long trap check times. The Nest Predator Bounty Program (NPBP) will promote animal cruelty justified by a faulty scientific rationale. For nest predator control to actually work it must be very intense and in small areas and it is a very expensive effort. A statewide bounty program is too diffuse and won't work.*

*The Department's face saving spin on it -- is it serves to introduce children to nature and wildlife management via trapping. But it introduces them to our government justifying animal cruelty with a lie ("fake science"). Spending our 2 million dollars on habitat improvements or habitat purchase is a better option for using SD's budget to protect pheasants/ducks.*

*We believe that this program is promoted, by our Governor Kristi Noem and thus the SD GFP staff will have to support it, or risk losing their jobs. The Commission however is unsalaried & what you risk is Kristi Noem not reappointing you. We hope you have the courage to stand against this unwise and divisive program that wastes precious dollars and harms animals to serve a questionable purpose.*

This letter has three sections

1. History of 2019 past Nest Predator Bounty Program and 2020 proposed Nest Predator Bounty Program
2. Reasons to oppose the nest predator bounty program.
3. Links to other's alerts & references



## 1. History of 2019 past program and 2020 proposed program

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### 2019 NEST PREDATOR BOUNTY (NPBP) PROGRAM HISTORY

Last year, SD Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) approved a bounty program that started on April 1st and ended on August 12, 2019 when they ran out of money. It was supposed to provide \$500,000 for bounties. This program paid ten dollars each for 54,470 tails and killed: 43,779 raccoons, 6,001 striped skunk, 3,706 opossum, 494 red fox & 490 badgers. The bounty program had 3,151 participants of which 90% were from East River and 12% were under 17 years old. SDGFP also gave away live traps. They taught a trapping course to 603 participants of which 387 were youth & taught an ethics course to 50 youth. License sales increased by 6.7%. The live trap give-away program cost \$958,171, the payment for tails cost \$547,400, salaries/benefits cost \$190,915 & miscellaneous expenses cost \$35,778 - This has a total cost of \$1,732,264. The alleged purpose was to increase success of pheasant and duck nests and thus increase their populations and increase number of trappers, especially children and introduce children to outdoor recreation and conservation/wildlife management (via trapping).

Prior to April 2019 & before taking public comment on the program, the staff approved the expenditures and the program. The Commission also passed a rule to extend the deadline to remove live traps from public land and public right-of-ways from May 1st to September 1st. (As amended with "live traps" after the IRRC sent it back for review).

Despite the 2019 expenditure of 1.73 million on the NPBP, "South Dakota Pheasant Brood Survey 2019 Report" showed that the statewide Pheasants Per Mile (PPM) index for the 2019 pheasant brood survey decreased 17% (2.47 to 2.04, 90% confidence interval = -32 to 0%) compared to 2018. Link to SD GFP's 2019 Report:

[https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/2020\\_Bounty\\_Information\\_-\\_Fisk\\_and\\_Robling.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/2020_Bounty_Information_-_Fisk_and_Robling.pdf)

Thus there is no proof of success for the Nest Predator Bounty Program. However without a research area and control, we won't understand what is going on, no matter what the Brood Survey shows.

### 2020 PROPOSED NEST PREDATOR BOUNTY PROGRAM

On 1/16/2020, the SD GFP Commission & staff created a draft resolution for support of the 2020 Bounty program.

It includes: 1) A \$250,000 expenditure on a nest predator bounty, targeting the same species as last year. 2) This year the bounties will be \$5 each (not \$10). 3) Applicants for bounty must possess a hunting, fishing or trapping license (unless youth or landowner hunting on their own land). & 4) The time period will be shorter --from April 1st to July 1st (last year it was permitted till the end of August but ran out of funds & thus ended in mid August) & method of take can include shooting. There is no provision for giving away free traps this year.

To see the 2020 Nest Predator Bounty Program Approval Resolution - that you will be voting to approve (or not) at a meeting on March 5th - visit this link:

[https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/docs/2020\\_Draft\\_Resolution\\_Nest\\_Predator\\_Bounty\\_Program.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/docs/2020_Draft_Resolution_Nest_Predator_Bounty_Program.pdf)

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## 2. Reasons to oppose the nest predator bounty program.

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## WHY OPPOSE?

This killing of predators is not scientifically justified. ----

- Wildlife biologists agree that nest predator control is ineffective unless it is extremely intense and carried out annually.
  - Effective nest predator control may require hundreds of dollars & man-hours per year & per section of land. The Governor's budget might be enough to cover one township, or possibly even a county, but certainly not the state.
  - Even intense predator control has limitations. Those animals that escape capture or death often reproduce at a higher rate. This means more effort must be expended and more money must be appropriated each year.
  - Nature does not exist in a vacuum. When one animal is removed, others move in, including other species that may be more effective predators.
  - Nest predators also feed on rodents. Opossums also eat ticks. If these nest predators are successfully controlled, an explosion in rodents can be expected, with a huge and potentially devastating impact on farmers and ranchers. Rodents eat grain in the field, & infest grain bins, outbuildings and farmhouses. In SD rodents carry Hantavirus or fleas/ticks that can have bubonic plague, or Lyme disease. These costs must also be considered.
  - Some nest predators are protected by state and federal laws. This would include ALL raptors. (Hawks, owls and eagles are examples.)
  - The nest predator bounty may encourage illegal activity, from trespassing and unlawful night hunting to submitting tails collected out-of-state. NO funds have been allocated for the extra law enforcement.
  - The nest predator program is fiscally irresponsible. The money is desperately needed on habitat programs that actually do provide a return on the investment.
  - Habitat improvements can be cost shared at a rate of 50% to over 75% through a variety of programs. GF&P receives 75% cost share on habitat purchases and improvements through Pittman Robertson funds.
  - Predation is much lower when sufficient habitat for nesting birds is provided.
  - Successful nesting will not occur where there is not sufficient habitat, regardless if most predators are removed or not.
    - Good habitat also provides high-protein food sources, clean water and protection from the elements, all in a suitable arrangement. Habitat for pheasants/ducks also benefits various other wildlife & bird species.
  - This is a statewide program, but areas with pheasant and duck populations are much more limited West River. Why pay bounties for West River predator tails?
  - Much of SDGFP budget derives from sale of licenses and most hunters do not want GFP's limited budget spent on this program.
  - Pheasants are an exotic species that competes with a native species - the greater prairie chicken, whose range and population are declining -- losing half its' population every decade.
  - Accidental take of threatened and endangered species may occur. The swift fox is state listed. The black-footed ferret is listed federally. There is a petition before the USFWS to list the plains spotted skunk and the prairie grey fox under the Endangered Species Act.
- The American Martin is a "sensitive species" for the Black Hills National Forest.

- This program will result in animal cruelty. Some trappers will be trapping with leg-hold traps or snares, or body crushing traps. Some will use live traps. People should realize that in SD the law allows for animals to be left in traps West River for three and a partial day and East River for two and a partial day. Trapping can be cruel. Predators can attack a trapped animal held in a leg hold or snare, who attempts to defend itself while tied down. In high heat or bitter cold, an animal in a box can die in half a day. Animals in boxes or leg-hold traps can freak out and damage their bodies and/or teeth & thus not survive even if released. Dead animals or animals in boxes or traps can't feed their dependent young. Even via a "live trap" non-target species adults and their dependent young will die, in addition to target species.
- Part of the rationale/spin for the program is to introduce children to nature & trapping. Why not introduce children to nature via non-lethal interactions with wildlife such as wildlife watching and spend money on nature guidebooks, binoculars, cameras & not via bounties & traps?
- Empathetic children may encounter moral dilemmas -- such as how to kill the 12 or 13 babies in an opossum's pouch with bullets or arrow (see SDCL 41-8-31). If they are curious, they may later learn that they did this killing of babies, serving lies told them by SD GFP about effects of a bounty program on nesting success. How does this engage children with nature or give them trust in our government?

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### 3. Links to other alerts /references

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Much more information on this program is on our web site's home page; scroll down within the chronological events/deadline section to March 5th.

<http://phas-wsd.org/>

Here are links to SD HSUS & SD FACT's Facebook Pages. Both have alerts on this issue, you may wish to scroll down their pages

<https://www.facebook.com/SDFACT/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HSUSSouthDakota/>

The Humane Society of U.S. (HSUS) funded a public opinion survey on the NPBP of 1,000 random people and got much different responses, than SD GFP's funded public opinion survey. Remington Research Group (hired by HSUS) asked some of the same questions and asked some different questions than SDGFP's Responsive Management. After a series of questions, Remington Research Group found **that 26% approved of NPBP and 53% disapproved of the NPBP.** Link to HSUS report:

<https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/South-Dakota-General-Election-Survey.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0TzQSvscZeSc-C1dgSxBjt0sCzgSSX5jxks-wOtFMdjFHv4FgSQcVHKBI>

Link to the SDGFP's public opinion survey of 400 random people - GFP funded both a NPBP participants and a random public opinion survey (found in the second half of report). Link to survey: [https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/SD\\_2020\\_Nest\\_Predator\\_Bounty\\_PPT.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/SD_2020_Nest_Predator_Bounty_PPT.pdf)

GFP references this study in the resolution about 2020 NPBP. SD GFP's hired survey (of random people) found that 62% South Dakotans had no clue about the Nest Predator Bounty program and only 38% knew about it, of which 43% were mostly positive about it (which would be 16% of the population supported it, before being read GFP's description of program). (Page 44 of Responsive Management Report)

Responsive Management staff then read the respondents a short 3 sentence description of the program, which description convinced them to support it and the survey then claimed 83% of SD folks support the program. (Page 45 of Responsive Management Report). This is what GFP and Governor seem to brag about. HSUS found different results...Please compare GFP survey with HSUS's larger and more in depth survey.

For statements that predator control won't work well in large areas visit these links on predator control and pheasants/ducks:

We refer you to Pheasants Forever's web page on "Effects of Predators",

<https://www.pheasantsforever.org/Habitat/Pheasant-Facts/Effects-of-Predators.aspx>

& Ducks Unlimited's web page on "Ducks, Habitat Conservation & Predators":

[https://www.ducks.org/media/Conservation/Conservation\\_Documents/\\_documents/Ducks and Predators low res.pdf](https://www.ducks.org/media/Conservation/Conservation_Documents/_documents/Ducks_and_Predators_low_res.pdf)

Also see page 11 of SD GFP's Pheasant Management Plan, in the section on predators:

"Where predator control may be considered as a management option, managers should be aware that cost, logistics, and lack of effectiveness often limit success when compared to habitat management."

<https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/pheasant-mngmnt-planpdf.pdf>

SD's 2019 Pheasant Brood report

[https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/PBR\\_2019FINAL.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/PBR_2019FINAL.pdf)

Greater prairie chicken's IUCN Red List web page:

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22679514/92817099>

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22679514/92817099 - assessment-information>

We attach HSUS alert on this topic.

We also attach Game, Fish and Parks' 2017 Annual Report FURBEARER HARVEST PROJECTIONS. We attach this so folks reading public comment can compare the NPBP take to a recent year's annual furbearer take projections. For example via NPBR South Dakotans killed 43,779 raccoons. In the 2017 Report it was projected that South Dakotans and non-residents trapped 21,568 raccoons and hunted 5,737 raccoons. This was a total take of 27,305 raccoon, which is 62% of the raccoons taken by the Nest Predator Bounty. SD GFP Commission should ask Keith Fisk what the effect of the NPBP has been to the annual furbearer harvest both in numbers & prices. How much did furs sell for & how did 2019 Furbearer Harvest Projections compare with other years?

Nancy Hilding

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hilding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

2 Attachments

Humane Society of the United States, FACT SHEET  
Game, Fish and Parks' 2017 Annual Report FURBEARER HARVEST PROJECTIONS

Nancy Hilding  
President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 788, Black Hawk, SD 57718  
[nhilshat@rapidnet.com](mailto:nhilshat@rapidnet.com)  
605-787-6466, 605-877-2806, cell  
<http://www.phas-wsd.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/phas.wsd/>  
March 1st, 2020

SD Game Fish and Parks Commission  
c/o Rachel Comes  
Foss Building,  
523 East Capitol,  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Rachel Comes <Rachel.Comes@state.sd.us>

The proposed nest predator bounty program resolution has this resolution:

***"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nest Predator Bounty Program shall be operated from April 1 to July 1, 2020, to coincide with the primary nesting season of pheasants, ducks, and other ground nesting birds. The method of take is expanded to include shooting of nest predators in addition to trapping."***  
*(Emphasis added)*

The following law provides that game animals are to be shot by bullets or arrows or taken by falcons. Thus all trappers have to shoot a live trapped animal with a gun or bow. It is unnecessary to expand the preview of Nest Predator Bounty Program to include shooting, because if the trappers killed them by any other means it is technically a violation of SDCL 41-8-31.

*SDCL 41-1-1. Definition of terms. Terms used in this title mean:*

*(12) "Game," all wild mammals or birds;*

*SDCL 41-8-31. Hunting methods restricted--Violation as misdemeanor. No person may at any time hunt, catch, take, attempt to take, or kill any small game or game animal in any other manner than by shooting the same with a firearm, except:*

*(1) Game birds and animals may be taken with birds trained in falconry or with bow and arrow;*

*(1A) Cottontail rabbit, red squirrel, fox squirrel, grey squirrel, and any species defined as a predator/varmint in § 41-1-1 may be taken with an air gun*

*that complies with specifications established by rules promulgated by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission pursuant to chapter 1-26;*

*(2) A person with a permanent or temporary disability who is missing an upper limb, physically incapable of using an upper limb, or confined to a wheelchair may obtain a disabled hunter permit to use a crossbow or other legal bow equipped with a draw-lock device to take game birds and animals;*

*(3) A person who is legally blind, is legally licensed, possesses a disabled hunter permit, and is physically present and participates in the hunt but cannot safely discharge a firearm or bow and arrow, may claim game birds and animals taken by a designated hunter in accordance with the license possessed by the hunter who is legally blind;*

*(3A) A person who is quadriplegic, is legally licensed, possesses a disabled hunter permit, and is physically present and participates in the hunt but cannot safely discharge a firearm or bow and arrow, may claim game birds and animals taken by a designated hunter in accordance with the license possessed by the hunter who is quadriplegic; and*

*(4) A person with a permanent or temporary disability as defined in subdivision (2) of this section who is legally licensed for a youth big game hunting season, possesses a disabled hunter permit, and is physically present and participates in the hunt but is unable to safely discharge a firearm or bow and arrow, may claim any big game animal taken by a designated hunter in accordance with the youth big game license possessed by the person with a permanent or temporary disability.*

*A violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.*

*Thanks,*

*Nancy Hilding*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hilding". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a loop at the end.

*President  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society*

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# **South Dakota GAME REPORT**

**No. 2018 – 06**

---

## ***2017***

**Annual Report**

### **FURBEARER HARVEST PROJECTIONS**

**Corey Huxoll**

**Game Harvest Surveys Coordinator  
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks  
Division of Wildlife  
Joe Foss Building, 523 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182**





## PREFACE

Harvest estimates reported herein for the 2017-18 furbearer seasons were developed as described for other species in Wildlife Survey Manual, 2009-2015, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. If species specific methodologies are not reported there, they are presented within this report.

Corey Huxoll, (Division of Wildlife, Terrestrial Wildlife Section), was responsible for development of these harvest estimates as part of Federal Aid for Wildlife Restoration as Project W-95-R. Harvest survey responses were taken directly over the Internet using Qualtrics® or the SDGFP website, or were processed and encoded by Erin Boggs or Dana Ertz.

This report was funded in part by Federal Aid Project W-95-R



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# FURBEARER HARVEST SUMMARY

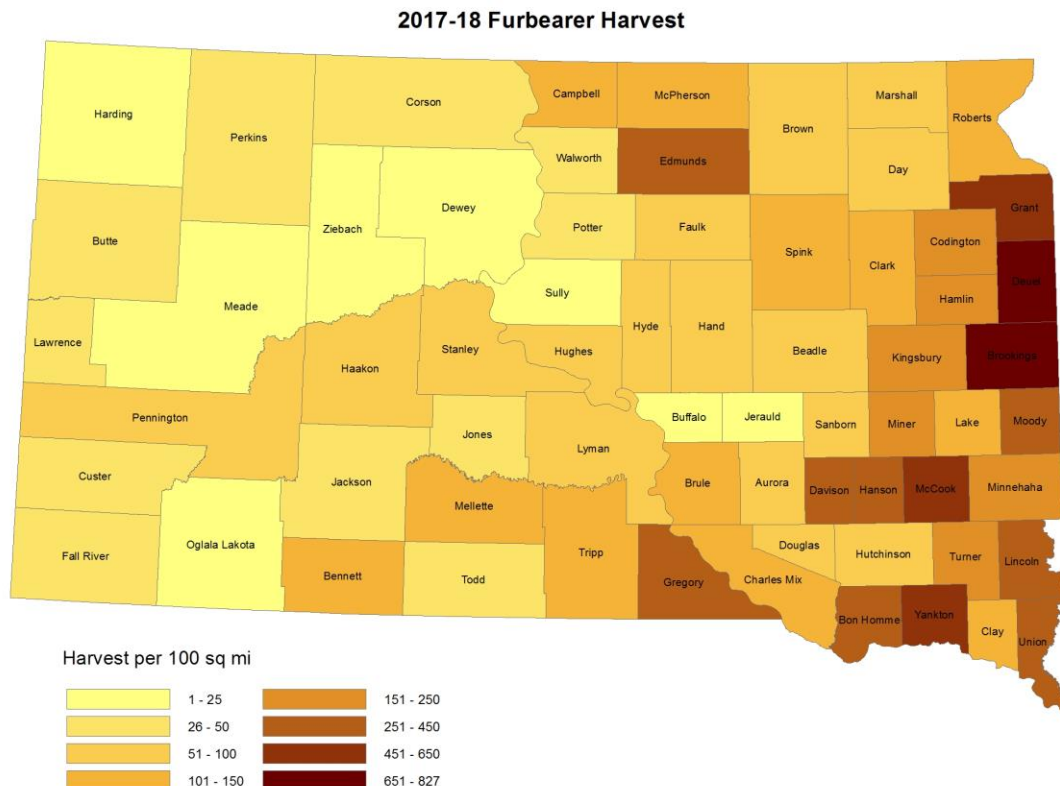
Individual furbearer seasons had different season dates, license requirements, and open areas within the state and are discussed later in separate sections. This report only includes harvest from furbearer license holders, therefore harvest for coyotes, red fox, skunks, raccoons and badgers are minimum estimates. Any resident or nonresident with a predator/varmint license or any type of hunting license was eligible to hunt those species. Rules restricted nonresidents to taking raccoon, beaver and muskrat from only Dec. 2 - March 15, and bobcats from Jan. 13 – Feb. 15, and mink and weasel from Dec. 2 – Jan. 31. Nonresidents were restricted from using dogs to aid in taking raccoon.

In the 2017-2018 seasons, there were approximately 230,000 resident and 110,000 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt furbearers. Of those, only 3,915 residents and 17 nonresidents had licenses that allowed trapping of furbearers. Some 2017 furbearer license holders also purchased 2018 licenses that were valid during the 2017 seasons. In addition to those who had both 2017 and 2018 licenses, 834 residents and 3 nonresidents purchased 2018 licenses prior to April 15, 2018 making them eligible to hunt or trap the 2017 seasons.

Harvest surveys were sent to resident and nonresident furbearer license holders who had a 2017 license or a 2018 license that was purchased prior to April 15, 2018. Response rates were 59% for residents and 53% for nonresidents. Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting or trapping furbearers, there were a projected 2,120 resident and 15 nonresident active hunters/trappers that held a furbearer license during the 2017 seasons. An estimated 440 furbearer license holders trapped/hunted on public-owned land East River and 285 hunted/trapped on public-owned land West River, and of those 34 hunted/trapped on public land both East and West River.

When asked their satisfaction on the seasons, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), resident hunters/trappers reported an average satisfaction level of 5.05 and nonresidents reported an average of 5.63.

The five counties with the highest total reported furbearer harvest densities per square mile were Deuel, Brookings, McCook, Yankton, and Grant.



***FURBEARER HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2017-18***

*Revised: 30 July 2018*

	Resident	Nonresident	Totals
<b>Licenses Sold*</b>	3,915	17	<b>3,932</b>
<b>Projected ACTIVE TRAPPERS/HUNTERS</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2,135</b>
<b>Trapping Harvest</b>			
Coyotes	15,574	661	16,234
Red Fox	1,520	0	1,520
Bobcat	N/A	N/A	367
Raccoon	21,522	46	21,568
Beaver	1,813	0	1,813
Muskrat	13,886	0	13,886
Mink	354	0	354
Weasel	64	0	64
Badger	1,494	6	1,499
Opossum	4,457	0	4,457
Striped Skunk	6,627	31	6,658
Spotted Skunk	169	0	169
<b>Hunting Harvest</b>			
Coyotes	7,978	96	8,074
Red Fox	341	0	341
Bobcat	N/A	N/A	95
Raccoon	5,734	3	5,737
Beaver	580	8	587
Muskrat	530	0	530
Mink	16	0	16
Weasel	2	0	2
Badger	366	0	366
Opossum	356	0	356
Striped Skunk	1,060	0	1,060
Spotted Skunk	70	0	70
<b>Total Harvest</b>			
Coyotes	23,552	756	24,308
Red Fox	1,861	0	1,861
Bobcat	N/A	N/A	462
Raccoon	27,256	49	27,305
Beaver	2,393	8	2,400
Muskrat	14,416	0	14,416
Mink	371	0	371
Weasel	66	0	66
Badger	1,859	6	1,865
Opossum	4,814	0	4,814
Striped Skunk	7,687	31	7,718
Spotted Skunk	240	0	240
<b>Furbearer Mean Satisfaction Score **</b>	5.05	5.63	

\* Licenses sold for the 2017 licensing year (15 Dec 2016 - 31 Jan 2018) and the 2018 licensing year (15 Dec 2017 - 31 Jan 2019) purchased prior to 16 April 2018

\*\* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections  
 Corey Huxoll

<b>Total Furbearer Harvest Distribution by County 2017-18</b>														
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>Coyote</b>	<b>Red Fox</b>	<b>Bobcat</b>	<b>Raccoon</b>	<b>Beaver</b>	<b>Muskrat</b>	<b>Mink</b>	<b>Weasel</b>	<b>Badger</b>	<b>Opossum</b>	<b>Striped Skunk</b>	<b>Spotted Skunk</b>	<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Minnehaha	140	54	0	757	145	373	23	5	13	206	57	0	1,773	2.1
Pennington	1,186	31	36	188	18	77	23	0	31	0	105	0	1,695	2.0
Brown	354	107	0	472	0	3	8	0	54	0	111	0	1,108	1.3
Beadle	300	10	0	445	3	0	8	0	13	49	48	5	881	1.0
Codington	371	23	0	322	15	612	5	5	13	0	35	0	1,403	1.6
Brookings	502	31	0	1,151	141	3,903	15	0	31	206	235	0	6,215	7.2
Yankton	340	21	3	2,046	28	0	0	0	38	286	143	0	2,906	3.4
Davison	180	3	0	695	5	15	0	0	10	167	133	70	1,278	1.5
Lawrence	81	0	15	90	23	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	230	0.3
Aurora	27	5	0	436	13	31	3	0	18	60	66	35	694	0.8
Bennett	1,201	3	1	82	0	0	0	0	13	0	30	0	1,330	1.5
Bon Homme	285	49	5	1,132	34	12	3	0	44	396	203	0	2,163	2.5
Brule	544	31	7	285	0	0	0	0	59	86	131	33	1,176	1.4
Buffalo	2	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	2	0	13	0	26	0.0
Butte	172	54	26	301	0	77	13	0	43	0	85	0	772	0.9
Campbell	0	0	0	204	0	0	0	0	0	0	907	0	1,111	1.3
Charles Mix	416	10	11	660	18	12	3	0	107	195	189	18	1,640	1.9
Clark	160	29	0	447	18	111	20	12	5	21	196	0	1,019	1.2
Clay	153	21	1	198	91	15	3	0	3	3	0	0	486	0.6
Corson	692	0	19	56	13	0	0	0	2	0	66	0	848	1.0
Custer	379	3	25	195	0	0	0	0	20	0	43	0	664	0.8
Day	190	42	0	337	0	262	8	0	7	0	50	0	896	1.0
Deuel	617	57	0	790	98	3,468	15	0	59	39	111	0	5,255	6.1
Dewey	357	0	10	13	46	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	501	0.6
Douglas	37	26	0	67	0	124	10	0	7	18	33	0	322	0.4
Edmunds	492	178	0	1,852	5	367	42	0	174	10	1,094	6	4,220	4.9
Fall River	315	31	43	145	28	52	0	0	13	0	88	0	716	0.8
Faulk	325	26	0	294	0	0	3	0	46	0	32	0	726	0.8
Grant	517	36	0	951	75	1,195	23	0	54	13	624	0	3,488	4.1
Gregory	1,172	52	54	1,160	44	120	3	0	44	167	257	3	3,074	3.6
Haakon	470	5	10	126	8	229	0	0	15	0	76	0	939	1.1
Hamlin	106	29	0	219	26	800	10	0	13	34	27	28	1,291	1.5
Hand	399	34	0	556	13	31	0	0	38	68	202	10	1,351	1.6
Hanson	317	18	0	384	10	6	10	7	67	193	80	0	1,093	1.3
Harding	121	3	39	15	21	0	0	0	7	0	30	0	236	0.3
Hughes	212	10	2	181	26	77	10	0	3	0	43	2	566	0.7
Hutchinson	167	18	0	370	0	0	0	0	8	70	46	0	679	0.8
Hyde	529	34	0	85	0	0	0	0	88	0	27	0	763	0.9
Jackson	515	3	26	67	0	15	0	0	28	0	22	0	675	0.8
Jerauld	0	0	0	70	0	0	0	0	0	36	12	0	119	0.1
Jones	337	0	1	62	0	0	0	0	36	3	22	0	461	0.5
Kingsbury	344	57	0	209	75	679	13	17	8	104	128	0	1,634	1.9
Lake	197	55	0	271	0	0	3	5	0	70	22	0	623	0.7
Lincoln	669	103	0	919	215	86	0	0	75	388	70	0	2,526	2.9
Lyman	409	31	19	314	15	0	0	0	13	5	64	0	870	1.0
McCook	239	8	0	1,663	3	247	10	12	28	917	212	0	3,340	3.9
McPherson	622	99	0	247	0	0	3	0	72	0	113	0	1,157	1.3
Marshall	204	10	0	187	196	3	0	0	18	0	88	0	706	0.8
Meade	345	18	21	127	33	12	5	0	23	0	23	0	607	0.7
Mellette	1,218	0	24	136	102	0	0	0	49	8	33	0	1,570	1.8
Miner	76	3	0	714	26	34	3	0	8	375	55	3	1,296	1.5
Moody	212	49	0	588	5	448	33	0	8	70	83	6	1,501	1.7
Perkins	861	34	17	160	110	25	3	0	23	0	41	0	1,272	1.5
Potter	44	0	0	131	28	0	0	0	0	0	43	3	249	0.3
Roberts	687	65	0	273	26	361	20	0	26	0	110	0	1,568	1.8
Sanborn	98	0	0	204	0	0	0	0	0	10	15	0	328	0.4
Spink	573	55	0	890	31	176	23	0	26	78	303	0	2,155	2.5
Stanley	935	57	6	3	81	124	0	0	5	0	2	0	1,213	1.4
Sully	155	8	0	38	10	0	0	0	26	0	15	0	252	0.3
Tripp	635	36	6	869	126	21	0	0	126	91	389	15	2,316	2.7
Turner	158	31	0	589	54	0	0	0	5	260	55	0	1,153	1.3
Union	349	49	3	710	156	40	3	0	41	102	68	0	1,520	1.8
Walworth	123	0	0	25	0	9	0	0	33	0	8	0	198	0.2
Ziebach	192	3	20	68	113	88	0	0	10	0	0	0	493	0.6
Oglala Lakota	66	0	9	5	0	0	0	0	13	0	30	0	124	0.1
Todd	212	3	1	51	31	0	0	0	5	8	55	0	365	0.4
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>24,308</b>	<b>1,861</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>27,305</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>14,416</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>4,814</b>	<b>7,718</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>85,824</b>	<b>100%</b>

Last Revised: 30 July 2018

\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.



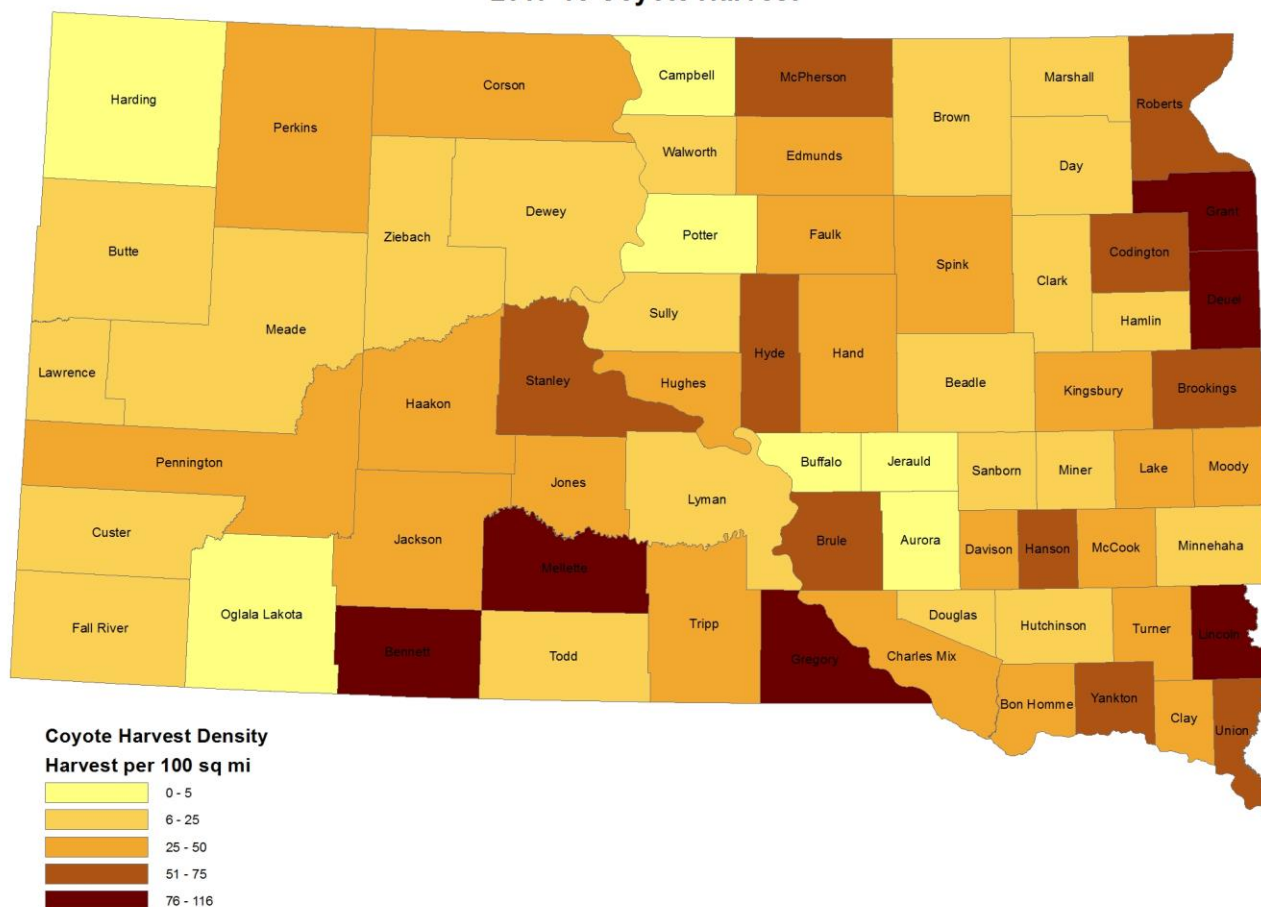
# COYOTE

The 2017 coyote season was open statewide and year-round. Residents age 16 and older holding a predator/varmint, furbearer or any type of hunting license were eligible to hunt coyotes and residents holding a furbearer license were eligible to trap coyotes. Resident youth under age 16 were not required to have any license to trap or hunt coyotes. Nonresidents holding a predator/varmint or any type of hunting license were eligible to hunt coyotes, and nonresidents holding a furbearer license were eligible to trap coyotes.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting or trapping furbearers, there were a projected 2,120 resident and 15 nonresident active hunters/trappers that held a furbearer license during the 2017 seasons. An estimated 24,308 coyotes were harvested during the 2017 season by furbearer license holders.

The five counties with the highest reported coyote harvest densities were Lincoln, Gregory, Deuel, Bennett, and Mellette.

2017-18 Coyote Harvest



South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections  
 Corey Huxoll

<b>Coyote Harvest Distribution by County 2017-18</b>											
COUNTY	HUNTING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				TRAPPING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Total Harvest	% of Total	
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *			
Minnehaha	15	36	0.5	37	42	99	0.6	103	140	0.6	
Pennington	120	287	3.7	296	362	854	5.5	890	1,186	4.9	
Brown	31	74	0.9	76	113	266	1.7	278	354	1.5	
Beadle	49	117	1.5	121	73	172	1.1	180	300	1.2	
Codington	20	48	0.6	49	131	309	2.0	322	371	1.5	
Brookings	40	96	1.2	99	164	387	2.5	403	502	2.1	
Yankton	43	103	1.3	106	95	224	1.4	234	340	1.4	
Davison	51	122	1.6	126	22	52	0.3	54	180	0.7	
Lawrence	16	38	0.5	39	17	40	0.3	42	81	0.3	
Aurora	7	17	0.2	17	4	9	0.1	10	27	0.1	
Bennett	205	491	6.3	505	283	667	4.3	696	1,201	4.9	
Bon Homme	16	38	0.5	39	100	236	1.5	246	285	1.2	
Brule	149	357	4.5	367	72	170	1.1	177	544	2.2	
Buffalo	1	2	0.0	2	0	0	0.0	0	2	0.0	
Butte	37	89	1.1	91	33	78	0.5	81	172	0.7	
Campbell	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Charles Mix	122	292	3.7	301	47	111	0.7	116	416	1.7	
Clark	12	29	0.4	30	53	125	0.8	130	160	0.7	
Clay	6	14	0.2	15	56	132	0.8	138	153	0.6	
Corson	95	227	2.9	234	186	439	2.8	457	692	2.8	
Custer	64	153	2.0	158	90	212	1.4	221	379	1.6	
Day	26	62	0.8	64	51	120	0.8	125	190	0.8	
Deuel	13	31	0.4	32	238	561	3.6	585	617	2.5	
Dewey	61	146	1.9	150	84	198	1.3	207	357	1.5	
Douglas	15	36	0.5	37	0	0	0.0	0	37	0.2	
Edmunds	79	189	2.4	195	121	285	1.8	298	492	2.0	
Fall River	45	108	1.4	111	83	196	1.3	204	315	1.3	
Faulk	5	12	0.2	12	127	299	1.9	312	325	1.3	
Grant	12	29	0.4	30	198	467	3.0	487	517	2.1	
Gregory	199	476	6.1	491	277	653	4.2	681	1,172	4.8	
Haakon	113	270	3.5	279	78	184	1.2	192	470	1.9	
Hamlin	31	74	0.9	76	12	28	0.2	30	106	0.4	
Hand	71	170	2.2	175	91	215	1.4	224	399	1.6	
Hanson	3	7	0.1	7	126	297	1.9	310	317	1.3	
Harding	15	36	0.5	37	34	80	0.5	84	121	0.5	
Hughes	37	89	1.1	91	49	116	0.7	121	212	0.9	
Hutchinson	34	81	1.0	84	34	80	0.5	84	167	0.7	
Hyde	32	77	1.0	79	183	432	2.8	450	529	2.2	
Jackson	166	397	5.1	409	43	101	0.7	106	515	2.1	
Jerauld	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jones	49	117	1.5	121	88	208	1.3	216	337	1.4	
Kingsbury	9	22	0.3	22	131	309	2.0	322	344	1.4	
Lake	10	24	0.3	25	70	165	1.1	172	197	0.8	
Lincoln	39	93	1.2	96	233	549	3.5	573	669	2.8	
Lyman	114	273	3.5	281	52	123	0.8	128	409	1.7	
McCook	17	41	0.5	42	80	189	1.2	197	239	1.0	
McPherson	41	98	1.3	101	212	500	3.2	521	622	2.6	
Marshall	15	36	0.5	37	68	160	1.0	167	204	0.8	
Meade	81	194	2.5	200	59	139	0.9	145	345	1.4	
Mellette	184	440	5.6	454	311	733	4.7	765	1,218	5.0	
Miner	10	24	0.3	25	21	50	0.3	52	76	0.3	
Moody	32	77	1.0	79	54	127	0.8	133	212	0.9	
Perkins	56	134	1.7	138	294	693	4.5	723	861	3.5	
Potter	15	36	0.5	37	3	7	0.0	7	44	0.2	
Roberts	67	160	2.0	165	212	500	3.2	521	687	2.8	
Sanborn	10	24	0.3	25	30	71	0.5	74	96	0.4	
Spink	26	62	0.8	64	207	488	3.1	509	573	2.4	
Stanley	133	318	4.1	328	247	582	3.7	607	935	3.8	
Sully	14	34	0.4	35	49	116	0.7	121	155	0.6	
Tripp	113	270	3.5	279	145	342	2.2	357	635	2.6	
Turner	18	43	0.5	44	46	108	0.7	113	158	0.6	
Union	1	2	0.0	2	141	333	2.1	347	349	1.4	
Walworth	29	69	0.9	71	21	50	0.3	52	123	0.5	
Ziebach	47	112	1.4	116	31	73	0.5	76	192	0.8	
Oglala Lakota	6	14	0.2	15	21	50	0.3	52	66	0.3	
Todd	83	199	2.5	205	3	7	0.0	7	212	0.9	
Unknown	98	235	-	-	283	667	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>3,373</b>	<b>8,074</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,074</b>	<b>6,884</b>	<b>16,234</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16,234</b>	<b>24,308</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Last Revised: 30 July 2018  
 \* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

# BOBCAT

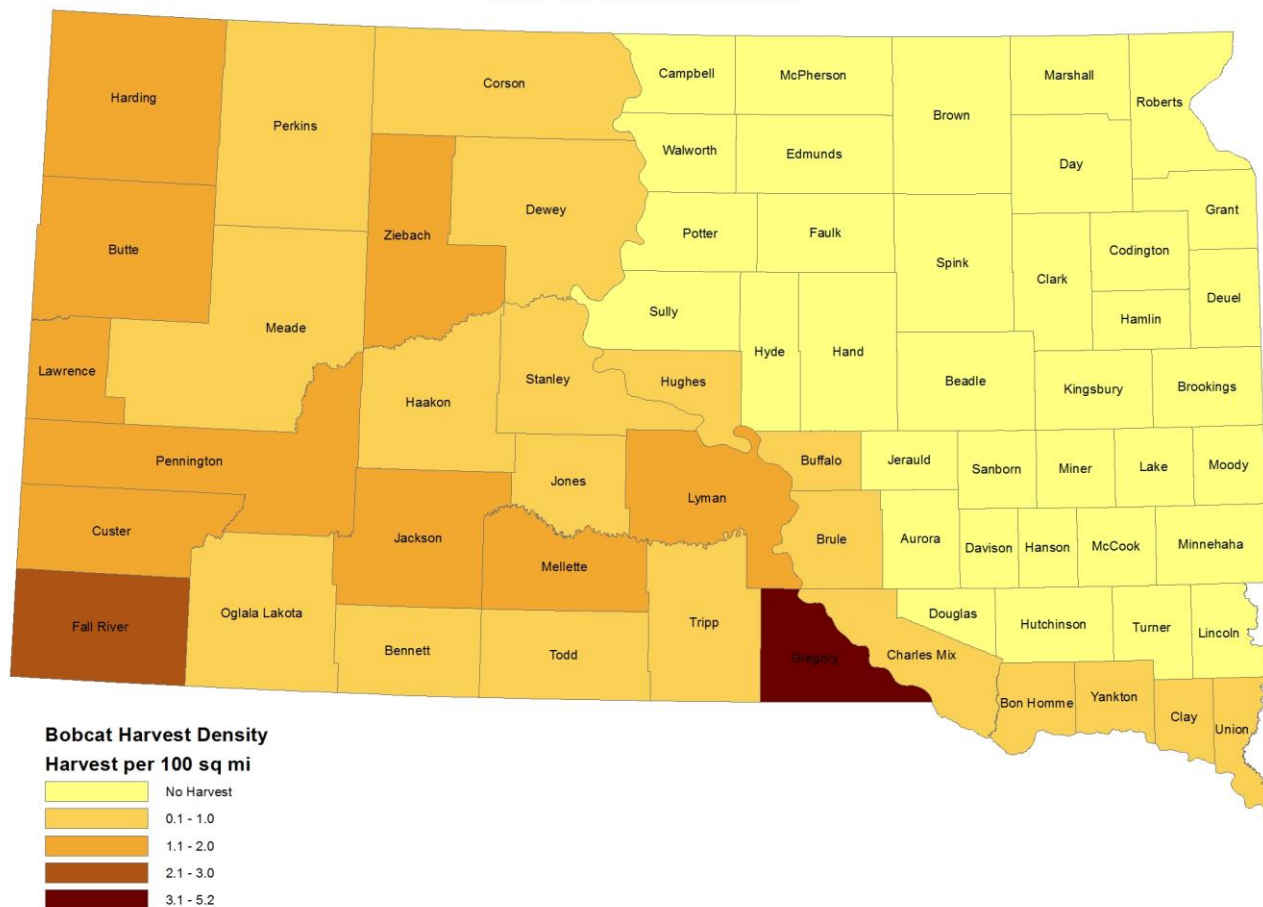
The 2017 resident bobcat season was open west of the Missouri River from December 26, 2017 through February 15, 2018 and east of the Missouri River in Buffalo, Brule, Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Hughes, Hutchinson, Hyde, Union, Clay, and Yankton counties from December 26, 2017 – January 21, 2018. The nonresident bobcat season was open from January 13 – February 15, 2018. Residents age 16 and older holding a furbearer license were eligible to hunt and trap bobcats. Resident youth under age 16 were not required to have any license to trap or hunt bobcats. Nonresidents holding a furbearer license were eligible to hunt and trap bobcats.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting or trapping furbearers, there were a projected 2,120 resident and 15 nonresident active hunters/trappers that held a furbearer license during the 2017 seasons. A total of 462 bobcats were checked in during the 2017 season by furbearer license holders.

A total of 205 respondents reported trapping/hunting bobcats an average of 16.3 days (SE=0.99). A total of 131 respondents reported the number of traps they set at one time for bobcats which averaged 13.2 traps (SE=1.15). Of those responding, 33 reported hunting/trapping for bobcats in the Black Hills which projected to 88 hunters/trappers. Check in results showed a total Black Hills harvest of 49 bobcats.

The five counties with the highest reported bobcat harvest densities were Gregory, Fall River, Lawrence, Mellette, and Custer.

2017-18 Bobcat Harvest



South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections  
Corey Huxoll

<b>Bobcat Harvest Distribution by County 2017-18</b>									
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>HUNTING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION</b>			<b>TRAPPING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION</b>			<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	
	<b># Reported</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b># Proj w/ Unk *</b>	<b># Reported</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b># Proj w/ Unk *</b>			
Pennington	3	3.2	3	33	9.0	33	36	7.8	
Yankton	2	2.1	2	1	0.3	1	3	0.6	
Lawrence	8	8.4	8	7	1.9	7	15	3.3	
Bennett	1	1.1	1	0	0.0	0	1	0.2	
Bon Homme	0	0.0	0	5	1.4	5	5	1.1	
Brule	2	2.1	2	5	1.4	5	7	1.5	
Buffalo	0	0.0	0	1	0.3	1	1	0.2	
Butte	8	8.4	8	18	4.9	18	26	5.6	
Charles Mix	3	3.2	3	8	2.2	8	11	2.4	
Clay	0	0.0	0	1	0.3	1	1	0.2	
Corson	6	6.3	6	13	3.6	13	19	4.1	
Custer	10	10.5	10	15	4.1	15	25	5.4	
Dewey	1	1.1	1	9	2.5	9	10	2.2	
Fall River	4	4.2	4	39	10.7	39	43	9.3	
Gregory	12	12.6	12	42	11.5	42	54	11.7	
Haakon	2	2.1	2	8	2.2	8	10	2.2	
Harding	5	5.3	5	34	9.3	34	39	8.5	
Hughes	0	0.0	0	2	0.5	2	2	0.4	
Jackson	4	4.2	4	22	6.0	22	26	5.6	
Jones	0	0.0	0	1	0.3	1	1	0.2	
Lyman	7	7.4	7	12	3.3	12	19	4.1	
Meade	5	5.3	5	16	4.4	16	21	4.6	
Mellette	3	3.2	3	21	5.7	21	24	5.2	
Perkins	2	2.1	2	15	4.1	15	17	3.7	
Stanley	0	0.0	0	6	1.6	6	6	1.3	
Tripp	2	2.1	2	4	1.1	4	6	1.3	
Union	0	0.0	0	3	0.8	3	3	0.7	
Ziebach	0	0.0	0	20	5.5	20	20	4.3	
Oglala Lakota	4	4.2	4	5	1.4	5	9	2.0	
Todd	1	1.1	1	0	0.0	0	1	0.2	
Unknown	0	0.0	-	1	0.3	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>100%</b>	

*Last Revised: 30 July 2018*

*\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.*

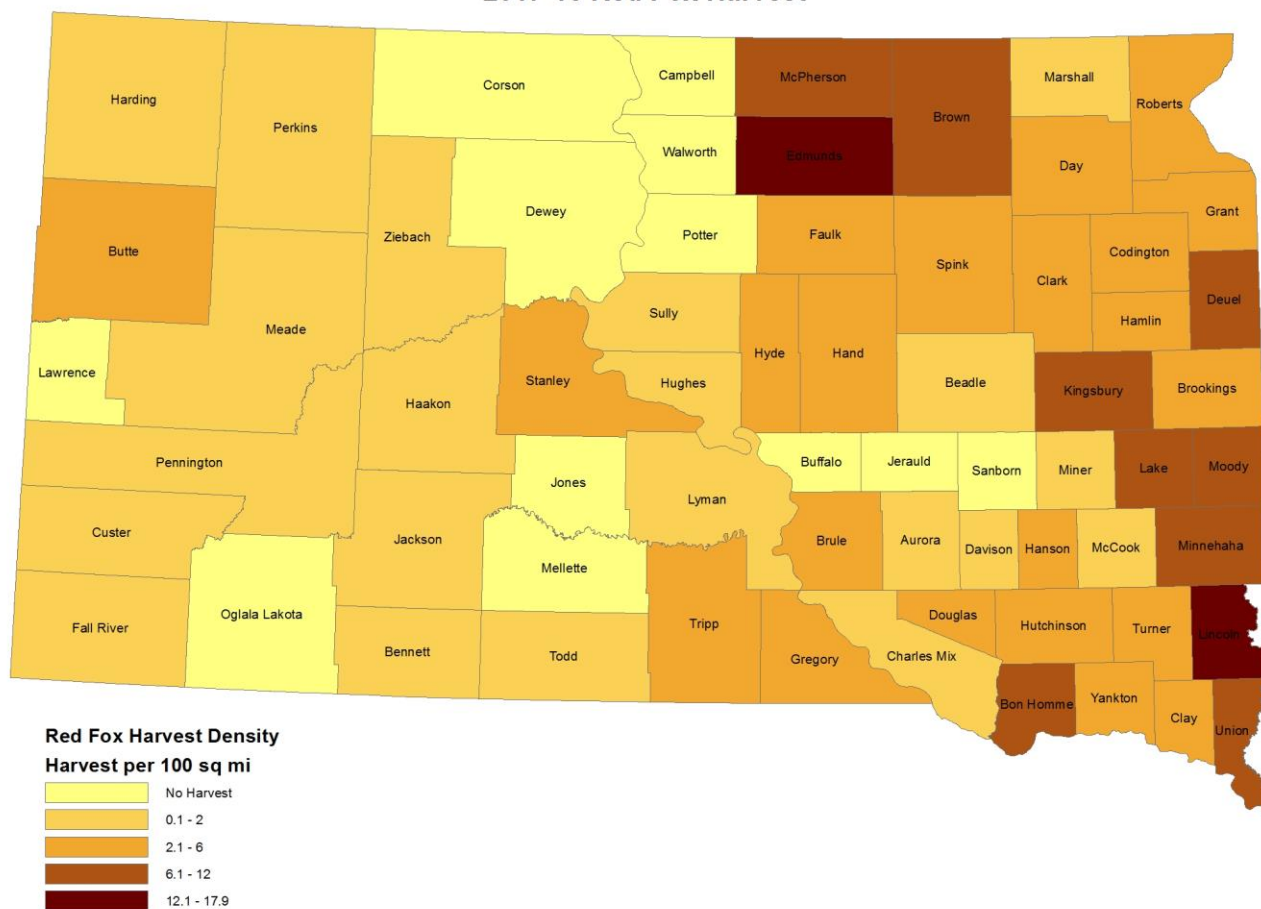
# RED FOX

The 2017 red fox season was open statewide and year-round. Residents age 16 and older holding a predator/varmint, furbearer or any type of hunting license were eligible to hunt fox and residents holding a furbearer license were eligible to trap fox. Resident youth under age 16 were not required to have any license to trap or hunt fox. Nonresidents holding a predator/varmint or any type of hunting license were eligible to hunt fox, and nonresidents holding a furbearer license were eligible to trap fox.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting or trapping furbearers, there were a projected 2,120 resident and 15 nonresident active hunters/trappers that held a furbearer license during the 2017 seasons. An estimated 1,861 red fox were harvested during the 2017 season by furbearer license holders.

The five counties with the highest reported red fox harvest densities were Union, Lincoln, Edmunds, Moody, and Lake.

2017-18 Red Fox Harvest



South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections  
Corey Huxoll

<b>Red Fox Harvest Distribution by County 2017-18</b>											
COUNTY	HUNTING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				TRAPPING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Total Harvest	% of Total	
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *			
Minnehaha	5	12	3.8	13	16	38	2.7	42	54	2.9	
Pennington	1	2	0.8	3	11	26	1.9	29	31	1.7	
Brown	0	0	0.0	0	41	97	7.0	107	107	5.7	
Beadle	1	2	0.8	3	3	7	0.5	8	10	0.6	
Codington	0	0	0.0	0	9	21	1.5	23	23	1.3	
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0	12	28	2.1	31	31	1.7	
Yankton	2	5	1.5	5	6	14	1.0	16	21	1.1	
Davison	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.2	3	3	0.1	
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Aurora	0	0	0.0	0	2	5	0.3	5	5	0.3	
Bennett	1	2	0.8	3	0	0	0.0	0	3	0.1	
Bon Homme	2	5	1.5	5	17	40	2.9	44	49	2.7	
Brule	0	0	0.0	0	12	28	2.1	31	31	1.7	
Buffalo	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Butte	9	21	6.8	23	12	28	2.1	31	54	2.9	
Campbell	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Charles Mix	3	7	2.3	8	1	2	0.2	3	10	0.6	
Clark	0	0	0.0	0	11	26	1.9	29	29	1.5	
Clay	4	9	3.0	10	4	9	0.7	10	21	1.1	
Corson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Custer	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.2	3	3	0.1	
Day	2	5	1.5	5	14	33	2.4	36	42	2.2	
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0	22	52	3.8	57	57	3.1	
Dewey	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Douglas	10	24	7.5	26	0	0	0.0	0	26	1.4	
Edmunds	31	74	23.3	80	38	90	6.5	99	178	9.6	
Fall River	2	5	1.5	5	10	24	1.7	26	31	1.7	
Faulk	0	0	0.0	0	10	24	1.7	26	26	1.4	
Grant	2	5	1.5	5	12	28	2.1	31	36	2.0	
Gregory	2	5	1.5	5	18	43	3.1	47	52	2.8	
Haakon	1	2	0.8	3	1	2	0.2	3	5	0.3	
Hamlin	0	0	0.0	0	11	26	1.9	29	29	1.5	
Hand	0	0	0.0	0	13	31	2.2	34	34	1.8	
Hanson	0	0	0.0	0	7	17	1.2	18	18	1.0	
Harding	1	2	0.8	3	0	0	0.0	0	3	0.1	
Hughes	0	0	0.0	0	4	9	0.7	10	10	0.6	
Hutchinson	0	0	0.0	0	7	17	1.2	18	18	1.0	
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0	13	31	2.2	34	34	1.8	
Jackson	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.2	3	3	0.1	
Jerauld	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jones	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Kingsbury	0	0	0.0	0	22	52	3.8	57	57	3.1	
Lake	0	0	0.0	0	21	50	3.6	55	55	2.9	
Lincoln	20	47	15.0	51	20	47	3.4	52	103	5.6	
Lyman	10	24	7.5	26	2	5	0.3	5	31	1.7	
McCook	0	0	0.0	0	3	7	0.5	8	8	0.4	
McPherson	2	5	1.5	5	36	85	6.2	94	99	5.3	
Marshall	0	0	0.0	0	4	9	0.7	10	10	0.6	
Meade	3	7	2.3	8	4	9	0.7	10	18	1.0	
Mellette	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Miner	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.2	3	3	0.1	
Moody	2	5	1.5	5	17	40	2.9	44	49	2.7	
Perkins	3	7	2.3	8	10	24	1.7	26	34	1.8	
Potter	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Roberts	0	0	0.0	0	25	59	4.3	65	65	3.5	
Sanborn	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Spink	0	0	0.0	0	21	50	3.6	55	55	2.9	
Stanley	13	31	9.8	33	9	21	1.5	23	57	3.1	
Sully	0	0	0.0	0	3	7	0.5	8	8	0.4	
Tripp	0	0	0.0	0	14	33	2.4	36	36	2.0	
Turner	0	0	0.0	0	12	28	2.1	31	31	1.7	
Union	0	0	0.0	0	19	45	3.3	49	49	2.7	
Walworth	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Ziebach	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.2	3	3	0.1	
Oglala Lakota	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Todd	1	2	0.8	3	0	0	0.0	0	3	0.1	
Unknown	11	26	-	-	59	139	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>1,861</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Last Revised: 30 July 2018  
\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

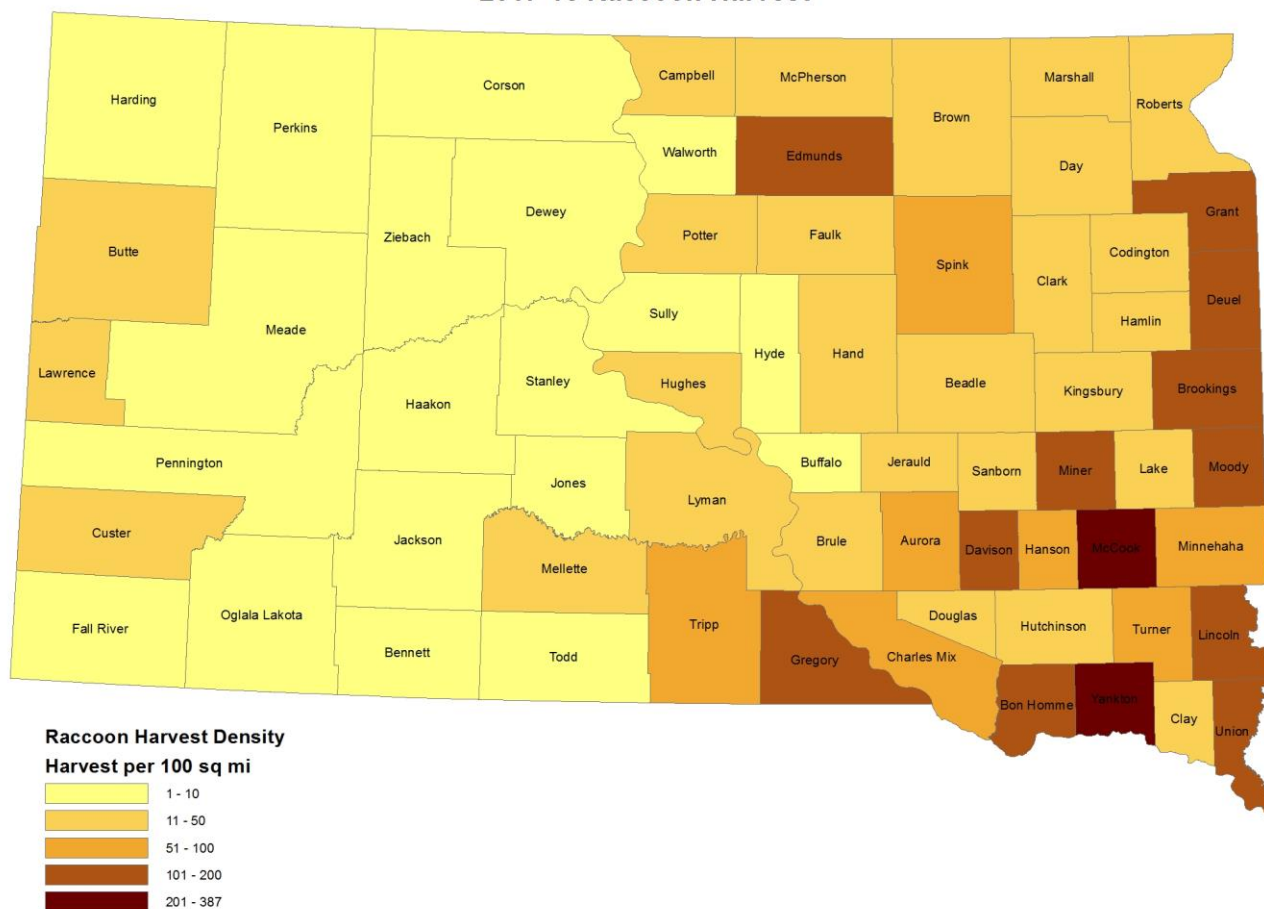
# RACCOON

The 2017 resident raccoon season was open statewide and year-round. The nonresident raccoon season was restricted to Dec. 2, 2017 - March 15, 2018. Residents age 16 and older holding a predator/varmint, furbearer or any type of hunting license were eligible to hunt raccoons and residents holding a furbearer license were eligible to trap raccoons. Resident youth under age 16 were not required to have any license to trap or hunt raccoons. Nonresidents holding a predator/varmint or any type of hunting license were eligible to hunt raccoons, and nonresidents holding a furbearer license were eligible to trap raccoons.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting or trapping furbearers, there were a projected 2,120 resident and 15 nonresident active hunters/trappers that held a furbearer license during the 2017 seasons. An estimated 27,305 raccoons were harvested during the 2017 season by furbearer license holders.

The five counties with the highest reported raccoon harvest densities were Yankton, McCook, Union, Bon Homme, and Edmunds.

**2017-18 Raccoon Harvest**



South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections

Corey Huxoll

<b>Raccoon Harvest Distribution by County 2017-18</b>										
COUNTY	HUNTING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				TRAPPING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Total Harvest	% of Total
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *		
Minnehaha	30	72	1.3	75	264	623	3.2	682	757	2.8
Pennington	3	7	0.1	8	70	165	0.8	181	188	0.7
Brown	41	98	1.8	103	143	338	1.7	369	472	1.7
Beadle	60	144	2.6	150	114	269	1.4	294	445	1.6
Codington	4	10	0.2	10	121	286	1.4	312	322	1.2
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0	446	1,053	5.3	1,151	1,151	4.2
Yankton	114	273	5.0	285	682	1,610	8.2	1,761	2,046	7.5
Davison	64	153	2.8	160	207	489	2.5	534	695	2.5
Lawrence	5	12	0.2	13	30	71	0.4	77	90	0.3
Aurora	69	165	3.0	173	102	241	1.2	263	436	1.6
Bennett	9	22	0.4	23	23	54	0.3	59	82	0.3
Bon Homme	113	271	4.9	283	329	777	3.9	849	1,132	4.1
Brule	19	46	0.8	48	92	217	1.1	238	285	1.0
Buffalo	3	7	0.1	8	0	0	0.0	0	8	0.0
Butte	80	192	3.5	200	39	92	0.5	101	301	1.1
Campbell	34	81	1.5	85	46	109	0.6	119	204	0.7
Charles Mix	81	194	3.5	203	177	418	2.1	457	660	2.4
Clark	29	69	1.3	73	145	342	1.7	374	447	1.6
Clay	16	38	0.7	40	61	144	0.7	157	198	0.7
Corson	4	10	0.2	10	18	42	0.2	46	56	0.2
Custer	55	132	2.4	138	22	52	0.3	57	195	0.7
Day	20	48	0.9	50	111	262	1.3	287	337	1.2
Deuel	28	67	1.2	70	279	659	3.3	720	790	2.9
Dewey	1	2	0.0	3	4	9	0.0	10	13	0.0
Douglas	8	19	0.3	20	18	42	0.2	46	67	0.2
Edmunds	293	702	12.8	734	433	1,022	5.2	1,118	1,852	6.8
Fall River	1	2	0.0	3	55	130	0.7	142	145	0.5
Faulk	5	12	0.2	13	109	257	1.3	281	294	1.1
Grant	118	283	5.2	295	254	600	3.0	656	951	3.5
Gregory	123	295	5.4	308	330	779	4.0	852	1,160	4.2
Haakon	6	14	0.3	15	43	102	0.5	111	126	0.5
Hamlin	9	22	0.4	23	76	179	0.9	196	219	0.8
Hand	54	129	2.4	135	163	385	2.0	421	556	2.0
Hanson	12	29	0.5	30	137	323	1.6	354	384	1.4
Harding	0	0	0.0	0	6	14	0.1	15	15	0.1
Hughes	25	60	1.1	63	46	109	0.6	119	181	0.7
Hutchinson	123	295	5.4	308	24	57	0.3	62	370	1.4
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0	33	78	0.4	85	85	0.3
Jackson	2	5	0.1	5	24	57	0.3	62	67	0.2
Jerauld	24	57	1.0	60	4	9	0.0	10	70	0.3
Jones	2	5	0.1	5	22	52	0.3	57	62	0.2
Kingsbury	4	10	0.2	10	77	182	0.9	199	209	0.8
Lake	0	0	0.0	0	105	248	1.3	271	271	1.0
Lincoln	68	163	3.0	170	290	685	3.5	749	919	3.4
Lyman	42	101	1.8	105	81	191	1.0	209	314	1.2
McCook	56	134	2.4	140	590	1,393	7.1	1,523	1,663	6.1
McPherson	39	93	1.7	98	58	137	0.7	150	247	0.9
Marshall	25	60	1.1	63	48	113	0.6	124	187	0.7
Meade	24	57	1.0	60	26	61	0.3	67	127	0.5
Mellette	10	24	0.4	25	43	102	0.5	111	136	0.5
Miner	45	108	2.0	113	233	550	2.8	602	714	2.6
Moody	10	24	0.4	25	218	515	2.6	563	588	2.2
Perkins	2	5	0.1	5	60	142	0.7	155	160	0.6
Potter	11	26	0.5	28	40	94	0.5	103	131	0.5
Roberts	39	93	1.7	98	68	161	0.8	176	273	1.0
Sanborn	65	156	2.8	163	16	38	0.2	41	204	0.7
Spink	7	17	0.3	18	338	798	4.0	873	890	3.3
Stanley	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.0	3	3	0.0
Sully	5	12	0.2	13	10	24	0.1	26	38	0.1
Tripp	77	184	3.4	193	262	619	3.1	676	869	3.2
Turner	29	69	1.3	73	200	472	2.4	516	589	2.2
Union	0	0	0.0	0	275	649	3.3	710	710	2.6
Walworth	10	24	0.4	25	0	0	0.0	0	25	0.1
Ziebach	27	65	1.2	68	0	0	0.0	0	68	0.2
Oglala Lakota	0	0	0.0	0	2	5	0.0	5	5	0.0
Todd	9	22	0.4	23	11	26	0.1	28	51	0.2
Unknown	104	249	-	-	781	1,844	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>5,737</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,737</b>	<b>9,135</b>	<b>21,568</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>21,568</b>	<b>27,305</b>	<b>100%</b>

Last Revised: 30 July 2018

\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.





South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections  
Corey Huxoll

<b>Badger Harvest Distribution by County 2017-18</b>											
COUNTY	HUNTING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				TRAPPING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Total Harvest	% of Total	
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *			
Minnehaha	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	0.9	13	13	0.7	
Pennington	1	2	0.7	2	11	26	1.9	28	31	1.7	
Brown	0	0	0.0	0	21	50	3.6	54	54	2.9	
Beadle	2	5	1.3	5	3	7	0.5	8	13	0.7	
Codington	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	0.9	13	13	0.7	
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0	12	28	2.1	31	31	1.7	
Yankton	4	10	2.7	10	11	26	1.9	28	38	2.0	
Davison	0	0	0.0	0	4	9	0.7	10	10	0.6	
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Aurora	2	5	1.3	5	5	12	0.9	13	18	1.0	
Bennett	1	2	0.7	2	4	9	0.7	10	13	0.7	
Bon Homme	0	0	0.0	0	17	40	2.9	44	44	2.4	
Brule	5	12	3.4	12	18	43	3.1	46	59	3.1	
Buffalo	1	2	0.7	2	0	0	0.0	0	2	0.1	
Butte	4	10	2.7	10	13	31	2.2	34	43	2.3	
Campbell	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Charles Mix	28	67	18.8	69	15	35	2.6	39	107	5.8	
Clark	0	0	0.0	0	2	5	0.3	5	5	0.3	
Clay	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.2	3	3	0.1	
Corson	1	2	0.7	2	0	0	0.0	0	2	0.1	
Custer	7	17	4.7	17	1	2	0.2	3	20	1.1	
Day	2	5	1.3	5	1	2	0.2	3	7	0.4	
Deuel	4	10	2.7	10	19	45	3.3	49	59	3.2	
Dewey	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Douglas	2	5	1.3	5	1	2	0.2	3	7	0.4	
Edmunds	30	72	20.1	74	39	92	6.7	101	174	9.3	
Fall River	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	0.9	13	13	0.7	
Faulk	0	0	0.0	0	18	43	3.1	46	46	2.5	
Grant	2	5	1.3	5	19	45	3.3	49	54	2.9	
Gregory	1	2	0.7	2	16	38	2.8	41	44	2.3	
Haakon	1	2	0.7	2	5	12	0.9	13	15	0.8	
Hamlin	2	5	1.3	5	3	7	0.5	8	13	0.7	
Hand	5	12	3.4	12	10	24	1.7	26	38	2.0	
Hanson	1	2	0.7	2	25	59	4.3	65	67	3.6	
Harding	3	7	2.0	7	0	0	0.0	0	7	0.4	
Hughes	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.2	3	3	0.1	
Hutchinson	1	2	0.7	2	2	5	0.3	5	8	0.4	
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0	34	80	5.9	88	88	4.7	
Jackson	6	14	4.0	15	5	12	0.9	13	28	1.5	
Jerauld	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jones	4	10	2.7	10	10	24	1.7	26	36	1.9	
Kingsbury	0	0	0.0	0	3	7	0.5	8	8	0.4	
Lake	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Lincoln	0	0	0.0	0	29	69	5.0	75	75	4.0	
Lyman	2	5	1.3	5	3	7	0.5	8	13	0.7	
McCook	0	0	0.0	0	11	26	1.9	28	28	1.5	
McPherson	1	2	0.7	2	27	64	4.6	70	72	3.9	
Marshall	0	0	0.0	0	7	17	1.2	18	18	1.0	
Meade	3	7	2.0	7	6	14	1.0	15	23	1.2	
Mellette	2	5	1.3	5	17	40	2.9	44	49	2.6	
Miner	0	0	0.0	0	3	7	0.5	8	8	0.4	
Moody	0	0	0.0	0	3	7	0.5	8	8	0.4	
Perkins	5	12	3.4	12	4	9	0.7	10	23	1.2	
Potter	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Roberts	2	5	1.3	5	8	19	1.4	21	26	1.4	
Sanborn	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Spink	0	0	0.0	0	10	24	1.7	26	26	1.4	
Stanley	1	2	0.7	2	1	2	0.2	3	5	0.3	
Sully	0	0	0.0	0	10	24	1.7	26	26	1.4	
Tripp	4	10	2.7	10	45	106	7.7	116	126	6.8	
Turner	0	0	0.0	0	2	5	0.3	5	5	0.3	
Union	1	2	0.7	2	15	35	2.6	39	41	2.2	
Walworth	2	5	1.3	5	11	26	1.9	28	33	1.8	
Ziebach	4	10	2.7	10	0	0	0.0	0	10	0.5	
Oglala Lakota	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	0.9	13	13	0.7	
Todd	2	5	1.3	5	0	0	0.0	0	5	0.3	
Unknown	4	10	-	-	53	125	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>1,865</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Last Revised: 30 July 2018

\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.



South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections  
Corey Huxoll

<b>Opossum Harvest Distribution by County 2017-18</b>											
COUNTY	HUNTING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				TRAPPING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Total Harvest	% of Total	
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *			
Minnehaha	0	0	0.0	0	79	187	4.6	206	206	4.3	
Pennington	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Brown	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Beadle	4	10	2.9	10	15	35	0.9	39	49	1.0	
Codington	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0	79	187	4.6	206	206	4.3	
Yankton	17	41	12.4	44	93	220	5.4	242	286	6.0	
Davison	10	24	7.3	26	54	128	3.2	141	167	3.5	
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Aurora	1	2	0.7	3	22	52	1.3	57	60	1.2	
Bennett	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Bon Homme	0	0	0.0	0	152	359	8.9	396	396	8.2	
Brule	6	14	4.4	16	27	64	1.6	70	86	1.8	
Buffalo	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Butte	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Campbell	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Charles Mix	20	48	14.6	52	55	130	3.2	143	195	4.1	
Clark	0	0	0.0	0	8	19	0.5	21	21	0.4	
Clay	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.1	3	3	0.1	
Corson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Custer	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Day	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0	15	35	0.9	39	39	0.8	
Dewey	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Douglas	4	10	2.9	10	3	7	0.2	8	18	0.4	
Edmunds	2	5	1.5	5	2	5	0.1	5	10	0.2	
Fall River	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Faulk	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Grant	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	0.3	13	13	0.3	
Gregory	5	12	3.6	13	59	139	3.4	154	167	3.5	
Haakon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hamlin	8	19	5.8	21	5	12	0.3	13	34	0.7	
Hand	6	14	4.4	16	20	47	1.2	52	68	1.4	
Hanson	10	24	7.3	26	64	151	3.7	167	193	4.0	
Harding	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hughes	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hutchinson	10	24	7.3	26	17	40	1.0	44	70	1.5	
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jackson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jerauld	0	0	0.0	0	14	33	0.8	36	36	0.8	
Jones	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.1	3	3	0.1	
Kingsbury	3	7	2.2	8	37	87	2.2	96	104	2.2	
Lake	1	2	0.7	3	26	61	1.5	68	70	1.5	
Lincoln	0	0	0.0	0	149	352	8.7	388	388	8.1	
Lyman	0	0	0.0	0	2	5	0.1	5	5	0.1	
McCook	2	5	1.5	5	350	827	20.5	912	917	19.1	
McPherson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Marshall	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Meade	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Mellette	0	0	0.0	0	3	7	0.2	8	8	0.2	
Miner	8	19	5.8	21	136	321	7.9	354	375	7.8	
Moody	2	5	1.5	5	25	59	1.5	65	70	1.5	
Perkins	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Potter	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Roberts	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Sanborn	2	5	1.5	5	2	5	0.1	5	10	0.2	
Spink	0	0	0.0	0	30	71	1.8	78	78	1.6	
Stanley	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Sully	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Tripp	9	22	6.6	23	26	61	1.5	68	91	1.9	
Turner	6	14	4.4	16	94	222	5.5	245	260	5.4	
Union	0	0	0.0	0	39	92	2.3	102	102	2.1	
Walworth	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Ziebach	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Oglala Lakota	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Todd	1	2	0.7	3	2	5	0.1	5	8	0.2	
Unknown	12	29	-	-	176	416	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>1,887</b>	<b>4,457</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,457</b>	<b>4,814</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Last Revised: 30 July 2018  
\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

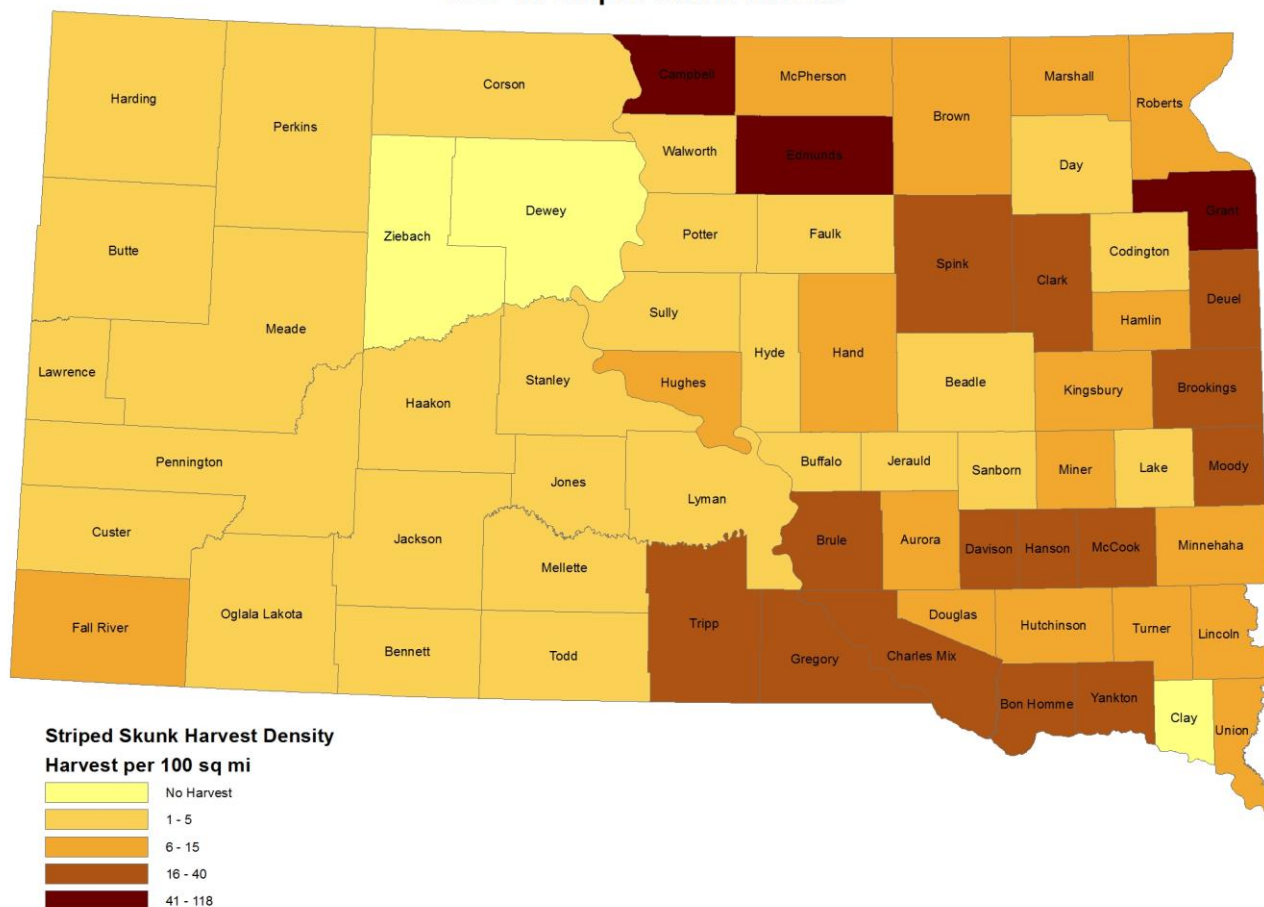
# STRIPED SKUNK

The 2017 striped skunk season was open statewide and year-round. Residents age 16 and older holding a predator/varmint, furbearer or any type of hunting license were eligible to hunt striped skunks and residents holding a furbearer license were eligible to trap striped skunks. Resident youth under age 16 were not required to have any license to trap or hunt striped skunks. Nonresidents holding a predator/varmint or any type of hunting license were eligible to hunt striped skunks, and nonresidents holding a furbearer license were eligible to trap striped skunks.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting or trapping furbearers, there were a projected 2,120 resident and 15 nonresident active hunters/trappers that held a furbearer license during the 2017 seasons. An estimated 7,718 striped skunks were harvested during the 2017 season by furbearer license holders.

The five counties with the highest reported striped skunk harvest densities were Campbell, Edmunds, Grant, McCook, and Bon Homme.

2017-18 Striped Skunk Harvest



South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections  
Corey Huxoll

<b>Striped Skunk Harvest Distribution by County 2017-18</b>											
COUNTY	HUNTING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				TRAPPING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Total Harvest	% of Total	
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *			
Minnehaha	0	0	0.0	0	23	54	0.9	57	57	0.7	
Pennington	2	5	0.5	5	40	94	1.5	100	105	1.4	
Brown	7	17	1.7	18	37	87	1.4	92	111	1.4	
Beadle	8	19	1.9	21	11	26	0.4	27	48	0.6	
Codington	5	12	1.2	13	9	21	0.3	22	35	0.5	
Brookings	2	5	0.5	5	92	217	3.5	230	235	3.0	
Yankton	12	28	2.9	31	45	106	1.7	112	143	1.9	
Davison	5	12	1.2	13	48	113	1.8	120	133	1.7	
Lawrence	4	9	1.0	10	9	9	0.2	10	20	0.3	
Aurora	10	24	2.4	26	16	38	0.6	40	66	0.9	
Bennett	2	5	0.5	5	10	24	0.4	25	30	0.4	
Bon Homme	1	2	0.2	3	80	189	3.0	200	203	2.6	
Brule	7	17	1.7	18	45	106	1.7	112	131	1.7	
Buffalo	5	12	1.2	13	0	0	0.0	0	13	0.2	
Butte	5	12	1.2	13	29	68	1.1	72	85	1.1	
Campbell	0	0	0.0	0	363	856	13.6	907	907	11.8	
Charles Mix	17	40	4.1	44	58	137	2.2	145	189	2.4	
Clark	9	21	2.2	23	69	163	2.6	172	196	2.5	
Clay	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Corson	10	24	2.4	26	16	38	0.6	40	66	0.9	
Custer	1	2	0.2	3	16	38	0.6	40	43	0.6	
Day	4	9	1.0	10	16	38	0.6	40	50	0.7	
Deuel	13	31	3.2	34	31	73	1.2	77	111	1.4	
Dewey	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Douglas	8	19	1.9	21	5	12	0.2	12	33	0.4	
Edmunds	48	114	11.7	124	388	915	14.6	970	1,094	14.2	
Fall River	5	12	1.2	13	30	71	1.1	75	88	1.1	
Faulk	0	0	0.0	0	13	31	0.5	32	32	0.4	
Grant	21	50	5.1	54	228	538	8.6	570	624	8.1	
Gregory	22	52	5.4	57	80	189	3.0	200	257	3.3	
Haakon	8	19	1.9	21	22	52	0.8	55	76	1.0	
Hamlin	0	0	0.0	0	11	26	0.4	27	27	0.4	
Hand	62	147	15.1	160	17	40	0.6	42	202	2.6	
Hanson	0	0	0.0	0	32	75	1.2	80	80	1.0	
Harding	0	0	0.0	0	12	28	0.5	30	30	0.4	
Hughes	1	2	0.2	3	16	38	0.6	40	43	0.6	
Hutchinson	11	26	2.7	28	7	17	0.3	17	46	0.6	
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0	11	26	0.4	27	27	0.4	
Jackson	0	0	0.0	0	9	21	0.3	22	22	0.3	
Jerauld	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	0.2	12	12	0.2	
Jones	0	0	0.0	0	9	21	0.3	22	22	0.3	
Kingsbury	4	9	1.0	10	47	111	1.8	117	128	1.7	
Lake	0	0	0.0	0	9	21	0.3	22	22	0.3	
Lincoln	0	0	0.0	0	28	66	1.1	70	70	0.9	
Lyman	17	40	4.1	44	8	19	0.3	20	64	0.8	
McCook	0	0	0.0	0	85	201	3.2	212	212	2.8	
McPherson	10	24	2.4	26	35	83	1.3	87	113	1.5	
Marshall	1	2	0.2	3	34	80	1.3	85	88	1.1	
Meade	5	12	1.2	13	4	9	0.2	10	23	0.3	
Mellette	1	2	0.2	3	12	28	0.5	30	33	0.4	
Miner	1	2	0.2	3	21	50	0.8	52	55	0.7	
Moody	4	9	1.0	10	29	68	1.1	72	83	1.1	
Perkins	7	17	1.7	18	9	21	0.3	22	41	0.5	
Potter	2	5	0.5	5	15	35	0.6	37	43	0.6	
Roberts	1	2	0.2	3	43	101	1.6	107	110	1.4	
Sanborn	3	7	0.7	8	3	7	0.1	7	15	0.2	
Spink	10	24	2.4	26	111	262	4.2	277	303	3.9	
Stanley	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.0	2	2	0.0	
Sully	0	0	0.0	0	6	14	0.2	15	15	0.2	
Tripp	24	57	5.8	62	131	309	4.9	327	389	5.0	
Turner	0	0	0.0	0	22	52	0.8	55	55	0.7	
Union	1	2	0.2	3	26	61	1.0	65	68	0.9	
Walworth	3	7	0.7	8	0	0	0.0	0	8	0.1	
Ziebach	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Oglala Lakota	0	0	0.0	0	12	28	0.5	30	30	0.4	
Todd	2	5	0.5	5	20	47	0.8	50	55	0.7	
Unknown	37	88	-	-	158	373	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>2,822</b>	<b>6,658</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,658</b>	<b>7,718</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Last Revised: 30 July 2018  
\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

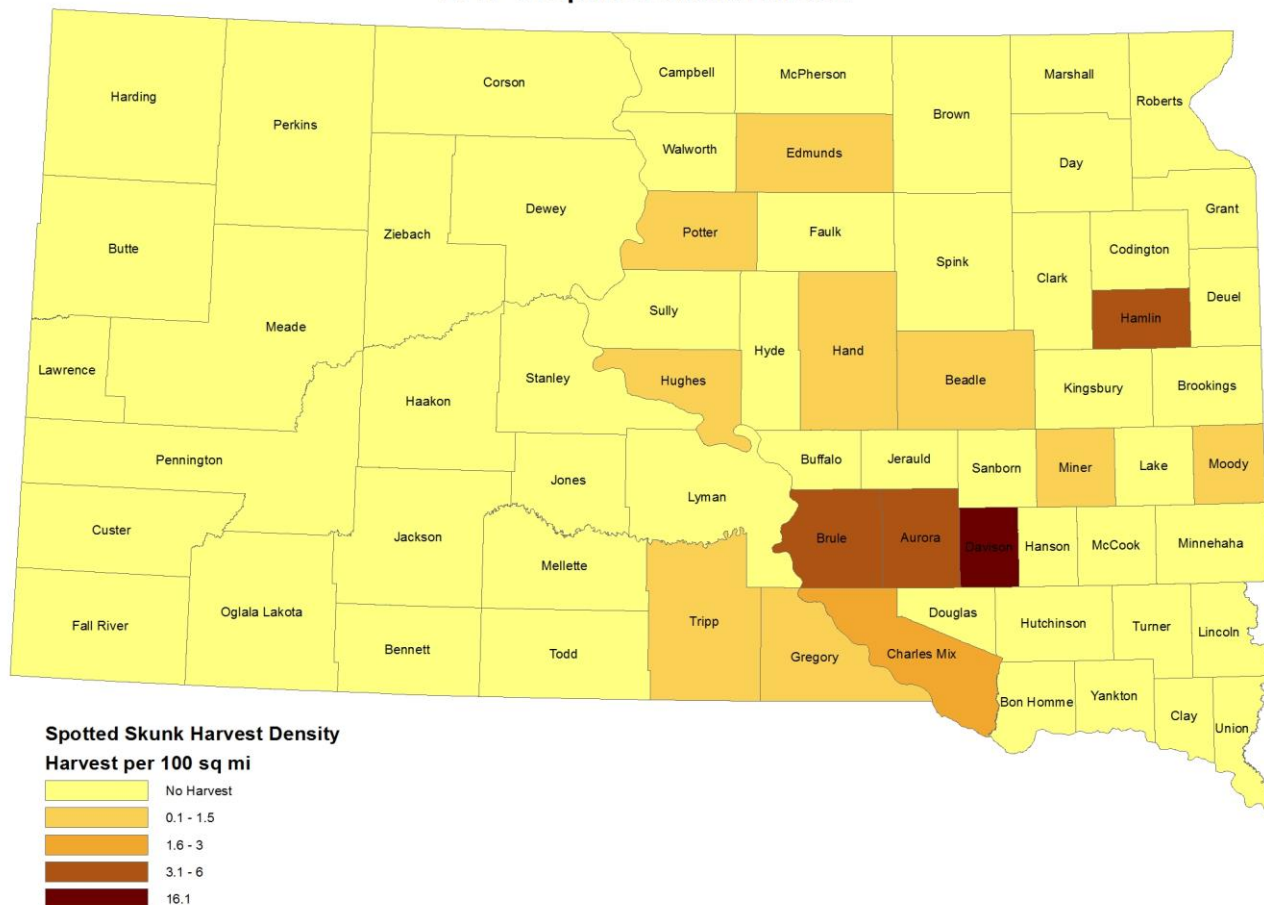
# SPOTTED SKUNK

The 2017 spotted skunk season was open statewide and year-round. Residents age 16 and older holding a predator/varmint, furbearer or any type of hunting license were eligible to hunt spotted skunks and residents holding a furbearer license were eligible to trap spotted skunks. Resident youth under age 16 were not required to have any license to trap or hunt spotted skunks. Nonresidents holding a predator/varmint or any type of hunting license were eligible to hunt spotted skunks, and nonresidents holding a furbearer license were eligible to trap spotted skunks.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting or trapping furbearers, there were a projected 2,120 resident and 15 nonresident active hunters/trappers that held a furbearer license during the 2017 seasons. An estimated 240 spotted skunks were harvested during the 2017 season by furbearer license holders.

The five counties with the highest reported spotted skunk harvest densities were Davison, Hamlin, Aurora, Charles Mix, and Brule.

2017-18 Spotted Skunk Harvest



South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections  
Corey Huxoll

<b>Spotted Skunk Harvest Distribution by County 2017-18</b>										
COUNTY	HUNTING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				TRAPPING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Total Harvest	% of Total
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *		
Minnehaha	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Pennington	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Brown	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Beadle	2	5	6.9	5	0	0.0	0	0	5	2.0
Codington	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Davison	10	24	34.5	24	15	27.3	46	70	29.4	29.4
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Aurora	7	17	24.1	17	6	10.9	18	35	14.8	14.8
Bennett	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Bon Homme	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Brule	1	2	3.4	2	10	18.2	31	33	13.9	13.9
Buffalo	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Butte	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Campbell	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Charles Mix	1	2	3.4	2	5	9.1	15	18	7.4	7.4
Clark	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Clay	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Corson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Custer	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Day	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Dewey	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Edmunds	0	0	0.0	0	2	3.6	6	6	2.6	2.6
Fall River	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Faulk	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Grant	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Gregory	0	0	0.0	0	1	1.8	3	3	1.3	1.3
Haakon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Hamlin	4	10	13.8	10	6	10.9	18	28	11.8	11.8
Hand	3	7	10.3	7	1	1.8	3	10	4.3	4.3
Hanson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Harding	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Hughes	1	2	3.4	2	0	0.0	0	2	1.0	1.0
Hutchinson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Jackson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Jerauld	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Jones	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Kingsbury	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Lake	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Lincoln	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Lyman	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
McCook	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
McPherson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Marshall	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Meade	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Mellette	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Miner	0	0	0.0	0	1	1.8	3	3	1.3	1.3
Moody	0	0	0.0	0	2	3.6	6	6	2.6	2.6
Perkins	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Potter	0	0	0.0	0	1	1.8	3	3	1.3	1.3
Roberts	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Sanborn	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Spink	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Stanley	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Sully	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Tripp	0	0	0.0	0	5	9.1	15	15	6.4	6.4
Turner	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Union	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Walworth	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Ziebach	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Oglala Lakota	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Todd	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Unknown	0	0	-	-	15	36	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100%</b>

Last Revised: 30 July 2018  
\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.



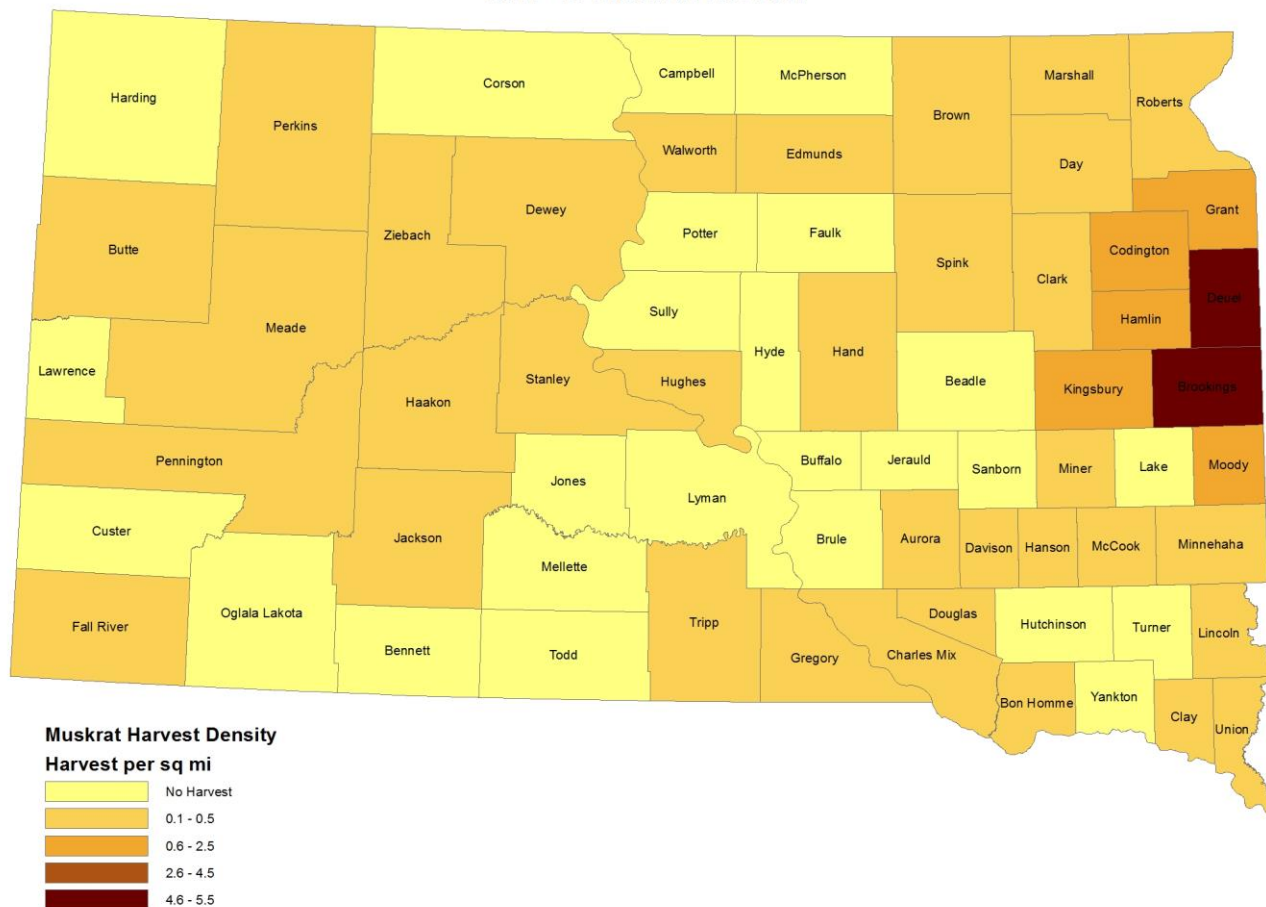
# MUSKRAT

The 2017 resident muskrat season was open year-round west of the Missouri River and from November 4, 2017 through April 30, 2018 east of the Missouri River and in the Black Hills. No trapping was allowed on or in muskrat houses of any size after March 15. The nonresident muskrat season was restricted to Dec. 2, 2017 - March 15, 2018. Residents age 16 and older holding a furbearer license were eligible to hunt or trap muskrats. Resident youth under age 16 were not required to have any license to trap or hunt muskrats. Nonresidents holding a furbearer license were eligible to hunt or trap muskrats. Shooting muskrats was allowed statewide only by landowners or lessees, including School and Public land surface lease holders, on land they own or operate and state, county or township highway officials within public road rights-of-way.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting or trapping furbearers, there were a projected 2,120 resident and 15 nonresident active hunters/trappers that held a furbearer license during the 2017 seasons. An estimated 14,416 muskrats were harvested during the 2017 season by furbearer license holders.

The five counties with the highest reported muskrat harvest densities were Deuel, Brookings, Hamlin, Grant, and Moody.

**2017-18 Muskrat Harvest**



South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections  
Corey Huxoll

COUNTY	HUNTING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				TRAPPING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Total Harvest	% of Total
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *		
	Minnehaha	1	2	0.6	3	120	294	2.7		
Pennington	0	0	0.0	0	25	61	0.6	77	77	0.5
Brown	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.0	3	3	0.0
Beadle	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Codington	56	136	30.9	164	145	356	3.2	448	612	4.2
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0	1264	3,100	28.1	3,903	3,903	27.1
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Davison	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	0.1	15	15	0.1
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Aurora	0	0	0.0	0	10	25	0.2	31	31	0.2
Bennett	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Bon Homme	0	0	0.0	0	4	10	0.1	12	12	0.1
Brule	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Buffalo	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Butte	4	10	2.2	12	21	51	0.5	65	77	0.5
Campbell	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Charles Mix	0	0	0.0	0	4	10	0.1	12	12	0.1
Clark	0	0	0.0	0	36	88	0.8	111	111	0.8
Clay	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	0.1	15	15	0.1
Corson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Custer	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Day	0	0	0.0	0	85	208	1.9	262	262	1.8
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0	1123	2,754	25.0	3,468	3,468	24.1
Dewey	15	36	8.3	44	10	25	0.2	31	75	0.5
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0	40	98	0.9	124	124	0.9
Edmunds	60	146	33.1	176	62	152	1.4	191	367	2.5
Fall River	0	0	0.0	0	17	42	0.4	52	52	0.4
Faulk	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Grant	0	0	0.0	0	387	949	8.6	1,195	1,195	8.3
Gregory	5	12	2.8	15	34	83	0.8	105	120	0.8
Haakon	0	0	0.0	0	74	181	1.6	229	229	1.6
Hamlin	0	0	0.0	0	259	635	5.8	800	800	5.5
Hand	0	0	0.0	0	10	25	0.2	31	31	0.2
Hanson	0	0	0.0	0	2	5	0.0	6	6	0.0
Harding	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Hughes	0	0	0.0	0	25	61	0.6	77	77	0.5
Hutchinson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Jackson	5	12	2.8	15	0	0	0.0	0	15	0.1
Jerauld	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Jones	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Kingsbury	0	0	0.0	0	220	539	4.9	679	679	4.7
Lake	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Lincoln	0	0	0.0	0	28	69	0.6	86	86	0.6
Lyman	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
McCook	0	0	0.0	0	80	196	1.8	247	247	1.7
McPherson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Marshall	1	2	0.6	3	0	0	0.0	0	3	0.0
Meade	3	7	1.7	9	1	2	0.0	3	12	0.1
Mellette	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Miner	0	0	0.0	0	11	27	0.2	34	34	0.2
Moody	0	0	0.0	0	145	356	3.2	448	448	3.1
Perkins	0	0	0.0	0	8	20	0.2	25	25	0.2
Potter	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Roberts	0	0	0.0	0	117	287	2.6	361	361	2.5
Sanborn	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Spink	0	0	0.0	0	57	140	1.3	176	176	1.2
Stanley	0	0	0.0	0	40	98	0.9	124	124	0.9
Sully	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Tripp	1	2	0.6	3	6	15	0.1	19	21	0.1
Turner	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Union	0	0	0.0	0	13	32	0.3	40	40	0.3
Walworth	0	0	0.0	0	3	7	0.1	9	9	0.1
Ziebach	30	73	16.6	88	0	0	0.0	0	88	0.6
Oglala Lakota	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Todd	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Unknown	37	90	-	-	1,166	2,859	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>5,663</b>	<b>13,886</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,886</b>	<b>14,416</b>	<b>100%</b>

Last Revised: 30 July 2018  
\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

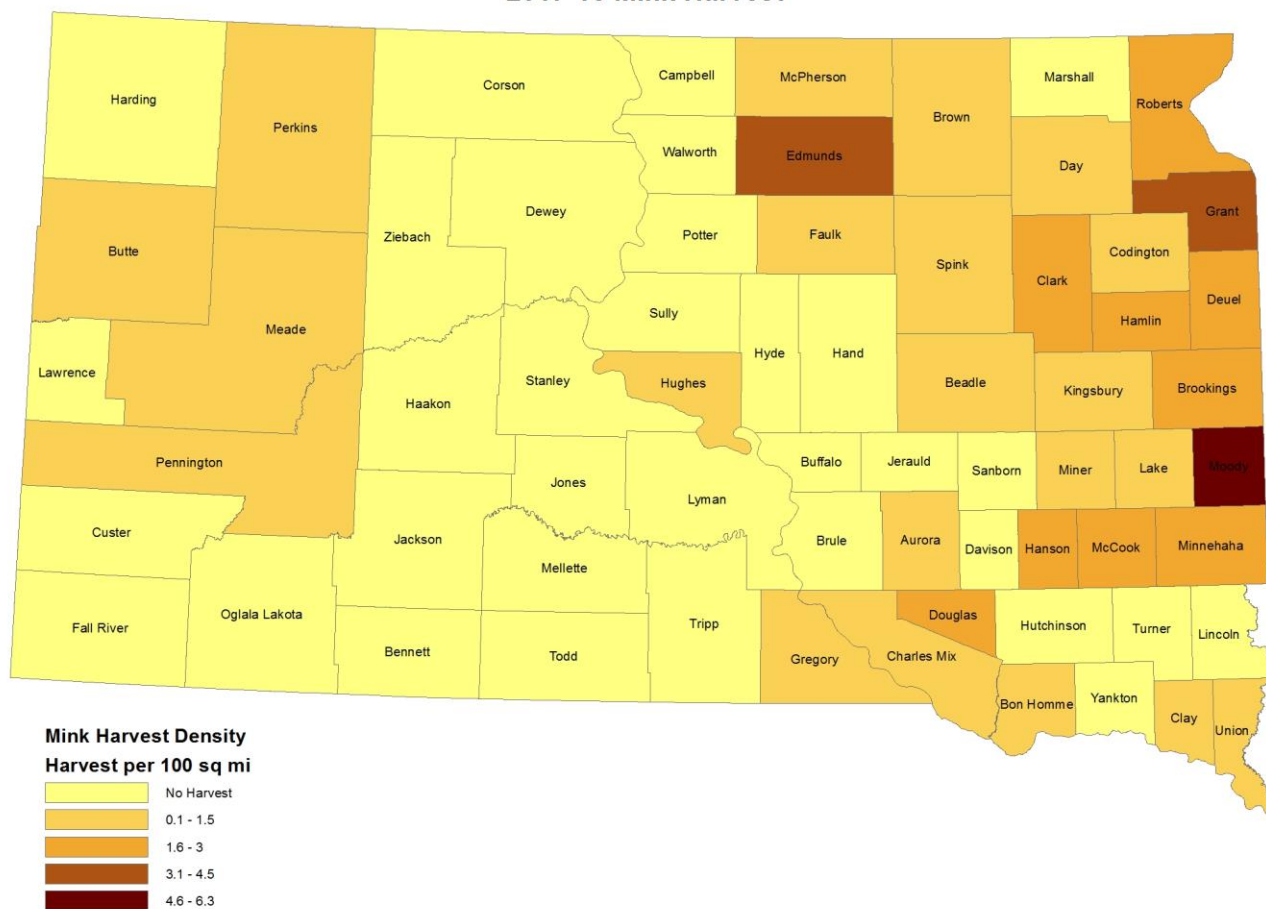
# MINK

The 2017 resident mink season was open November 4, 2017 through January 31, 2018 statewide. The nonresident mink season was restricted to December 2, 2017 - January 31, 2018. Residents age 16 and older holding a furbearer license were eligible to hunt or trap mink. Resident youth under age 16 were not required to have any license to trap or hunt mink. Nonresidents holding a furbearer license were eligible to hunt or trap mink.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting or trapping furbearers, there were a projected 2,120 resident and 15 nonresident active hunters/trappers that held a furbearer license during the 2017 seasons. An estimated 371 mink were harvested during the 2017 season by furbearer license holders.

The five counties with the highest reported mink harvest densities were Moody, Edmunds, Grant, Minnehaha, and Deuel.

**2017-18 Mink Harvest**



South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections  
Corey Huxoll

<b>Mink Harvest Distribution by County 2017-18</b>											
COUNTY	HUNTING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				TRAPPING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Total Harvest	% of Total	
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *			
Minnehaha	0	0	0.0	0	9	21	6.4	23	23	6.1	
Pennington	0	0	0.0	0	9	21	6.4	23	23	6.1	
Brown	0	0	0.0	0	3	7	2.1	8	8	2.0	
Beadle	0	0	0.0	0	3	7	2.1	8	8	2.0	
Codington	0	0	0.0	0	2	5	1.4	5	5	1.4	
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0	6	14	4.3	15	15	4.1	
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Davison	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Aurora	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.7	3	3	0.7	
Bennett	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Bon Homme	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.7	3	3	0.7	
Brule	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Buffalo	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Butte	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	3.5	13	13	3.4	
Campbell	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Charles Mix	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.7	3	3	0.7	
Clark	0	0	0.0	0	8	19	5.7	20	20	5.4	
Clay	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.7	3	3	0.7	
Corson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Custer	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Day	0	0	0.0	0	3	7	2.1	8	8	2.0	
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0	6	14	4.3	15	15	4.1	
Dewey	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0	4	9	2.8	10	10	2.7	
Edmunds	6	14	100.0	16	10	23	7.1	25	42	11.2	
Fall River	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Faulk	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.7	3	3	0.7	
Grant	0	0	0.0	0	9	21	6.4	23	23	6.1	
Gregory	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.7	3	3	0.7	
Haakon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hamlin	0	0	0.0	0	4	9	2.8	10	10	2.7	
Hand	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hanson	0	0	0.0	0	4	9	2.8	10	10	2.7	
Harding	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hughes	0	0	0.0	0	4	9	2.8	10	10	2.7	
Hutchinson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jackson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jerauld	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jones	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Kingsbury	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	3.5	13	13	3.4	
Lake	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.7	3	3	0.7	
Lincoln	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Lyman	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
McCook	0	0	0.0	0	4	9	2.8	10	10	2.7	
McPherson	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.7	3	3	0.7	
Marshall	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Meade	0	0	0.0	0	2	5	1.4	5	5	1.4	
Mellette	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Miner	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.7	3	3	0.7	
Moody	0	0	0.0	0	13	31	9.2	33	33	8.8	
Perkins	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.7	3	3	0.7	
Potter	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Roberts	0	0	0.0	0	8	19	5.7	20	20	5.4	
Sanborn	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Spink	0	0	0.0	0	9	21	6.4	23	23	6.1	
Stanley	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Sully	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Tripp	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Turner	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Union	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.7	3	3	0.7	
Walworth	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Ziebach	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Oglala Lakota	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Todd	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Unknown	1	2	-	-	10	23	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Last Revised: 30 July 2018  
\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

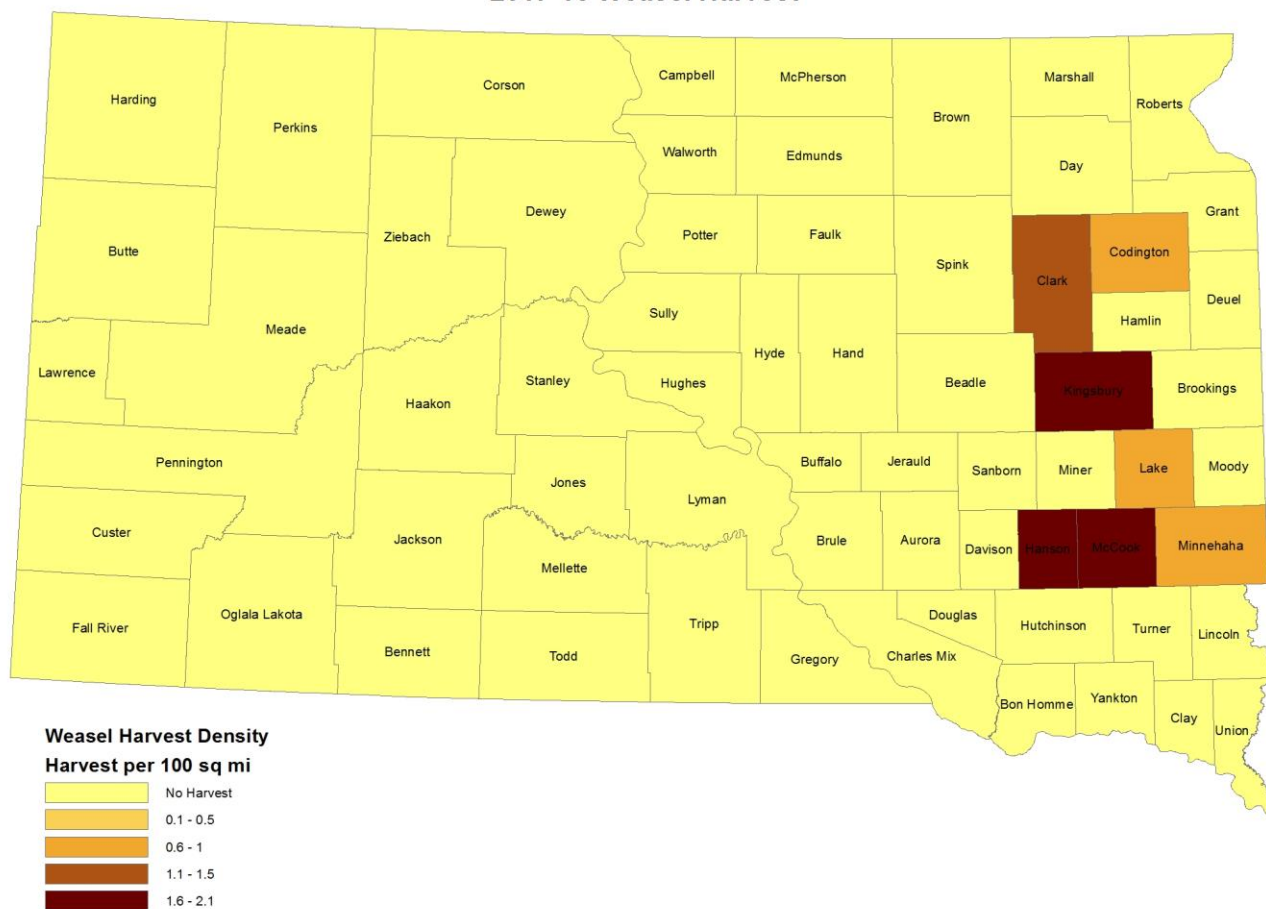
# WEASEL

The 2017 resident weasel season was open November 4, 2017 through January 31, 2018 statewide. The nonresident weasel season was restricted to December 2, 2017 - January 31, 2018. Residents age 16 and older holding a furbearer license were eligible to hunt or trap weasels. Resident youth under age 16 were not required to have any license to trap or hunt weasels. Nonresidents holding a furbearer license were eligible to hunt or trap weasels.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting or trapping furbearers, there were a projected 2,120 resident and 15 nonresident active hunters/trappers that held a furbearer license during the 2017 seasons. An estimated 66 weasels were harvested during the 2017 season by furbearer license holders.

The five counties with the highest reported weasel harvest densities were McCook, Kingsbury, Hanson, Clark, and Lake.

**2017-18 Weasel Harvest**



South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections  
Corey Huxoll

<b>Weasel Harvest Distribution by County 2017-18</b>											
COUNTY	HUNTING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				TRAPPING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Total Harvest	% of Total	
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *			
Minnehaha	0	0	0.0	0	2	5	7.7	5	5	7.4	
Pennington	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Brown	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Beadle	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Codington	0	0	0.0	0	2	5	7.7	5	5	7.4	
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Davison	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Aurora	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Bennett	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Bon Homme	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Brule	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Buffalo	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Butte	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Campbell	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Charles Mix	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Clark	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	19.2	12	12	18.6	
Clay	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Corson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Custer	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Day	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Dewey	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Edmunds	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Fall River	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Faulk	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Grant	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Gregory	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Haakon	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hamlin	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hand	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hanson	0	0	0.0	0	3	7	11.5	7	7	11.1	
Harding	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hughes	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hutchinson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jackson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jerauld	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jones	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Kingsbury	0	0	0.0	0	7	17	26.9	17	17	26.0	
Lake	0	0	0.0	0	2	5	7.7	5	5	7.4	
Lincoln	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Lyman	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
McCook	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	19.2	12	12	18.6	
McPherson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Marshall	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Meade	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Mellette	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Miner	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Moody	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Perkins	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Potter	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Roberts	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Sanborn	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Spink	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Stanley	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Sully	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Tripp	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Turner	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Union	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Walworth	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Ziebach	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Oglala Lakota	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Todd	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Unknown	1	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>96%</b>	

Last Revised: 30 July 2018  
\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

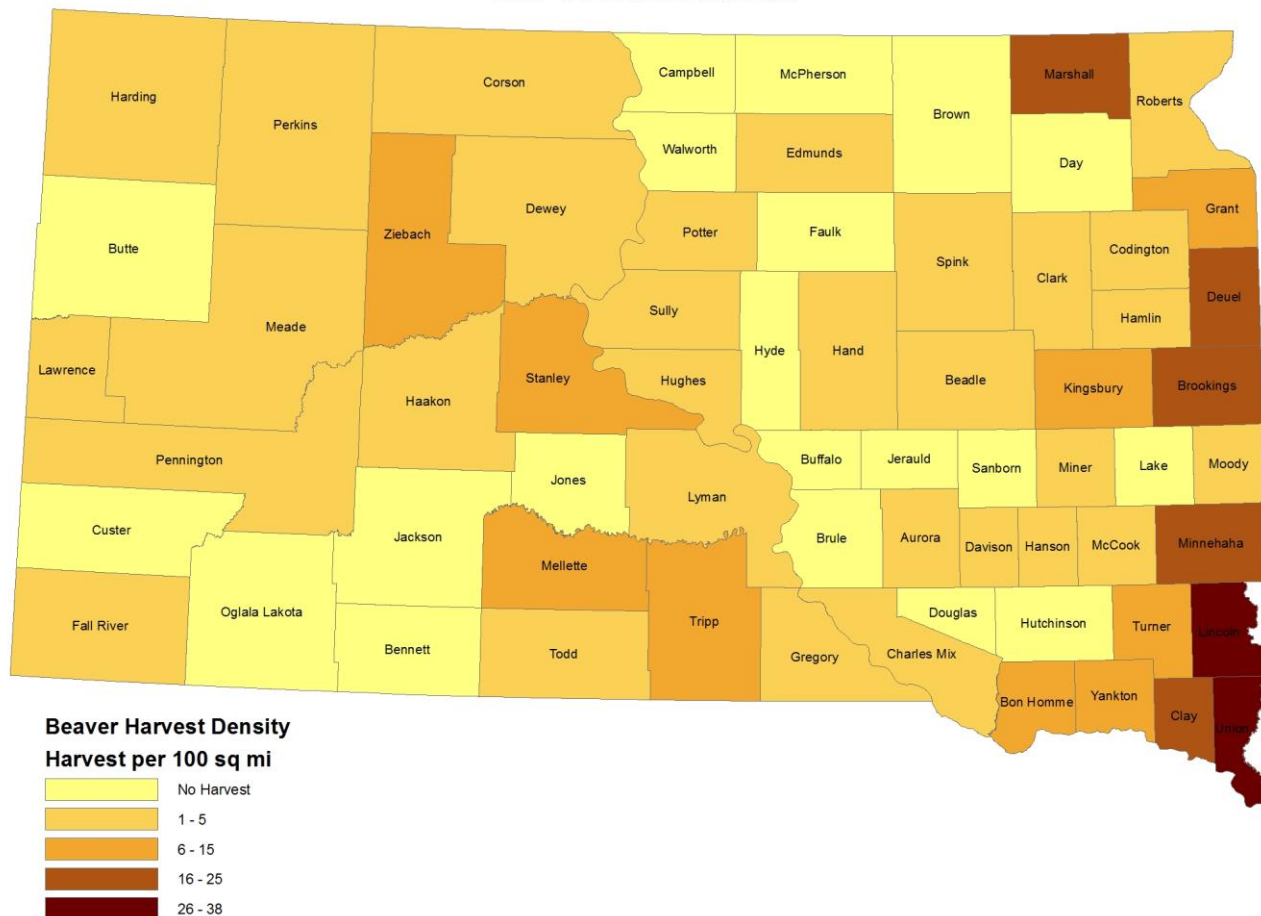
# BEAVER

The 2017 resident beaver season was open November 4, 2017 through April 30, 2018 east of the Missouri River, year-round west of the Missouri River except on Forest Service land in the Black Hills, where the season was open only January 1 through March 31. The nonresident beaver season was restricted to December 2, 2017 - March 15, 2018. Residents age 16 and older holding a furbearer license were eligible to hunt or trap beaver. Resident youth under age 16 were not required to have any license to trap or hunt beaver. Nonresidents holding a furbearer license were eligible to hunt or trap beaver.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting or trapping furbearers, there were a projected 2,120 resident and 15 nonresident active hunters/trappers that held a furbearer license during the 2017 seasons. An estimated 2,400 beaver were harvested during the 2017 season by furbearer license holders.

The five counties with the highest reported beaver harvest densities were Union, Lincoln, Marshall, Clay, and Minnehaha.

**2017-18 Beaver Harvest**



South Dakota Game Report No 2018-06 - 2017 Furbearer Harvest Projections  
Corey Huxoll

<b>Beaver Harvest Distribution by County 2017-18</b>											
COUNTY	HUNTING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				TRAPPING HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Total Harvest	% of Total	
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/Unk *			
Minnehaha	0	0	0.0	0	56	133	8.0	145	145	6.0	
Pennington	0	0	0.0	0	7	17	1.0	18	18	0.8	
Brown	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Beadle	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.1	3	3	0.1	
Codington	2	5	0.9	5	4	9	0.6	10	15	0.6	
Brookings	21	50	9.0	53	34	81	4.8	88	141	5.9	
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0	11	26	1.6	28	28	1.2	
Davison	0	0	0.0	0	2	5	0.3	5	5	0.2	
Lawrence	0	0	0.0	0	9	21	1.3	23	23	1.0	
Aurora	0	0	0.0	0	5	12	0.7	13	13	0.5	
Bennett	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Bon Homme	0	0	0.0	0	13	31	1.9	34	34	1.4	
Brule	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Buffalo	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Butte	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Campbell	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Charles Mix	0	0	0.0	0	7	17	1.0	18	18	0.8	
Clark	0	0	0.0	0	7	17	1.0	18	18	0.8	
Clay	25	60	10.7	63	11	26	1.6	28	91	3.8	
Corson	2	5	0.9	5	3	7	0.4	8	13	0.5	
Custer	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Day	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0	38	90	5.4	98	98	4.1	
Dewey	0	0	0.0	0	18	43	2.6	46	46	1.9	
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Edmunds	1	2	0.4	3	1	2	0.1	3	5	0.2	
Fall River	0	0	0.0	0	11	26	1.6	28	28	1.2	
Faulk	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Grant	0	0	0.0	0	29	69	4.1	75	75	3.1	
Gregory	5	12	2.1	13	12	28	1.7	31	44	1.8	
Haakon	3	7	1.3	8	0	0	0.0	0	8	0.3	
Hamlin	0	0	0.0	0	10	24	1.4	26	26	1.1	
Hand	3	7	1.3	8	2	5	0.3	5	13	0.5	
Hanson	3	7	1.3	8	1	2	0.1	3	10	0.4	
Harding	0	0	0.0	0	8	19	1.1	21	21	0.9	
Hughes	0	0	0.0	0	10	24	1.4	26	26	1.1	
Hutchinson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jackson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jerauld	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Jones	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Kingsbury	3	7	1.3	8	26	62	3.7	67	75	3.1	
Lake	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Lincoln	20	48	8.5	50	64	152	9.1	165	215	9.0	
Lyman	1	2	0.4	3	5	12	0.7	13	15	0.6	
McCook	0	0	0.0	0	1	2	0.1	3	3	0.1	
McPherson	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Marshall	0	0	0.0	0	76	180	10.8	196	196	8.2	
Meade	2	5	0.9	5	11	26	1.6	28	33	1.4	
Mellette	20	48	8.5	50	20	47	2.8	52	102	4.2	
Miner	0	0	0.0	0	10	24	1.4	26	26	1.1	
Moody	2	5	0.9	5	0	0	0.0	0	5	0.2	
Perkins	17	41	7.3	43	26	62	3.7	67	110	4.6	
Potter	0	0	0.0	0	11	26	1.6	28	28	1.2	
Roberts	0	0	0.0	0	10	24	1.4	26	26	1.1	
Sanborn	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Spink	0	0	0.0	0	12	28	1.7	31	31	1.3	
Stanley	25	60	10.7	63	7	17	1.0	18	81	3.4	
Sully	0	0	0.0	0	4	9	0.6	10	10	0.4	
Tripp	10	24	4.3	25	39	93	5.6	101	126	5.2	
Turner	0	0	0.0	0	21	50	3.0	54	54	2.3	
Union	24	57	10.3	60	37	88	5.3	96	156	6.5	
Walworth	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Ziebach	45	107	19.2	113	0	0	0.0	0	113	4.7	
Oglala Lakota	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	
Todd	0	0	0.0	0	12	28	1.7	31	31	1.3	
Unknown	12	29	-	-	62	147	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Last Revised: 30 July 2018  
\* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.





REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**STATEWIDE**

**2020 GENERAL ELECTION**

**February 2020**

Survey conducted February 10 through February 11, 2020. 1,001 likely 2020 General Election voters participated in the survey. Survey weighted to match expected turnout demographics for the 2020 General Election. Margin of Error is +/-3.1% with a 95% level of confidence. Totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.

800 W 47<sup>th</sup> Street · Kansas City, Missouri 64112 · 816-407-1222  
[www.RemingtonResearchGroup.com](http://www.RemingtonResearchGroup.com)



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q1: In general, do you approve or disapprove of legal trapping in South Dakota?

Approve: 37%  
Disapprove: 31%  
Not sure: 32%

Q2: How much have you seen, read or heard about the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

A lot: 15%  
Just some: 31%  
Nothing at all: 54%

Q3: Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Approve: 25%  
Disapprove: 25%  
Not sure: 50%

Q4: Do you think people are *illegally* trapping raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers, and red foxes in South Dakota?

Yes: 37%  
No: 28%  
Not sure: 35%

Q5: South Dakota's native wildlife species like raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers and red foxes increase biodiversity, protect crops, and control disease transmission by keeping rodent populations in check.

Do you agree or disagree that raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers, and red foxes are an important asset to South Dakota's ecosystems?

Agree: 68%  
Disagree: 16%  
Not sure: 16%



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q6: South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks touted its Nest Predator Bounty Program as providing trapping opportunities for state residents, while also removing species that they suggested might prey on pheasants during their nesting season. Program participants received a bounty of \$10 for each tail of a raccoon, striped skunk, badger, opossum or red fox they killed.

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the Nest Predator Bounty Program in South Dakota?

Approve: 37%  
Disapprove: 43%  
Not sure: 20%

Q7: The Nest Predator Bounty Program was launched in early 2019. This program was portrayed as an attempt to reduce predation on pheasant nests by native wildlife species. But while South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks estimates that they spent upwards of \$1.7 million on the program in 2019, they have yet to produce any evidence of an increase in pheasant numbers. Therefore, many have questioned why the agency has spent so much of the state's money on such a highly ineffective effort.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Support: 22%  
Oppose: 55%  
Undecided: 23%

Q8: Wildlife management professionals state that bounty programs for predator control are ineffective. Hunting groups like the South Dakota Wildlife Federation have advised against a bounty program, and instead urge a more science-based focus on habitat improvement to increase pheasant numbers.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Support: 28%  
Oppose: 47%  
Undecided: 25%

Q9: Animals caught in traps can languish and die slowly from shock, dehydration, starvation or exposure to the elements. Those who survive long enough for the trapper to return may be killed by inhumane methods. Additionally, nursing mother animals may be killed, leaving young animals to die; or those young animals may themselves be captured, killed, and their tails submitted for a bounty.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Support: 25%  
Oppose: 61%  
Undecided: 14%



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q10: Encouraging citizens, including children, to kill the state's native wildlife species for a cash reward is a slap in the face to South Dakota's hunting tradition of sportsmanship, fair chase and respect for wildlife. By allowing mass slaughter and inhumane deaths to our native species for a cash bounty, the state is abandoning our long-held tradition of sportsmanship.

Do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Support: 25%  
Oppose: 55%  
Undecided: 20%

Q11: Science shows that nest predator bounty programs are counterproductive to their stated goal of reducing the number of predatory species. Random killing of these species may stimulate the animals to adapt, which results in more predatory animals in the future.

Do you agree or disagree that South Dakota's Nest Predator Bounty Program will have unintended consequences for native wildlife in the state?

Agree: 46%  
Disagree: 28%  
Undecided: 26%

*Sometimes in a survey like this, people change their minds. I will now read you one of the original questions again. Please feel free to change your answer if you so choose.*

Q12: Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Approve: 26%  
Disapprove: 53%  
Not sure: 21%



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q1: In general, do you approve or disapprove of legal trapping in South Dakota?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
<b>Approve</b>	36%	37%
<b>Disapprove</b>	33%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	31%	33%

Table 1. Q1 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Approve</b>	43%	29%	33%
<b>Disapprove</b>	25%	39%	34%
<b>Not sure</b>	33%	32%	33%

Table 2. Q1 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Approve</b>	45%	30%	33%
<b>Disapprove</b>	25%	34%	42%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	37%	25%

Table 3. Q1 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Approve</b>	28%	47%
<b>Disapprove</b>	37%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	36%	29%

Table 4. Q1 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q2: How much have you seen, read or heard about the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
<b>A lot</b>	13%	15%
<b>Just some</b>	30%	32%
<b>Nothing</b>	58%	53%

Table 5. Q2 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>A lot</b>	15%	14%	14%
<b>Just some</b>	30%	31%	35%
<b>Nothing</b>	55%	54%	52%

Table 6. Q2 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>A lot</b>	16%	12%	19%
<b>Just some</b>	29%	36%	21%
<b>Nothing</b>	55%	51%	61%

Table 7. Q2 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>A lot</b>	12%	18%
<b>Just some</b>	28%	34%
<b>Nothing</b>	60%	48%

Table 8. Q2 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q3: Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
<b>Approve</b>	20%	27%
<b>Disapprove</b>	29%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	51%	48%

Table 9. Q3 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Approve</b>	30%	18%	25%
<b>Disapprove</b>	20%	35%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	51%	47%	49%

Table 10. Q3 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Approve</b>	32%	19%	23%
<b>Disapprove</b>	20%	29%	31%
<b>Not sure</b>	48%	52%	47%

Table 11. Q3 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Approve</b>	18%	34%
<b>Disapprove</b>	25%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	57%	40%

Table 12. Q3 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q4: Do you think people are *illegally* trapping raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers, and red foxes in South Dakota?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
<b>Yes</b>	37%	37%
<b>No</b>	25%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	38%	35%

Table 13. Q4 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Yes</b>	35%	37%	41%
<b>No</b>	28%	29%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	37%	34%	33%

Table 14. Q4 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Yes</b>	34%	41%	33%
<b>No</b>	29%	26%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	37%	32%	38%

Table 15. Q4 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Yes</b>	41%	32%
<b>No</b>	20%	37%
<b>Not sure</b>	40%	30%

Table 16. Q4 by GENDER





REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q5: South Dakota’s native wildlife species like raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers and red foxes increase biodiversity, protect crops, and control disease transmission by keeping rodent populations in check.

Do you agree or disagree that raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers, and red foxes are an important asset to South Dakota’s ecosystems?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
<b>Agree</b>	74%	66%
<b>Disagree</b>	13%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	13%	18%

Table 17. Q5 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Agree</b>	63%	77%	66%
<b>Disagree</b>	17%	13%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	9%	18%

Table 18. Q5 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Agree</b>	63%	73%	70%
<b>Disagree</b>	18%	13%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	13%	15%

Table 19. Q5 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Agree</b>	70%	65%
<b>Disagree</b>	12%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	15%

Table 20. Q5 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q6: South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks touted its Nest Predator Bounty Program as providing trapping opportunities for state residents, while also removing species that they suggested might prey on pheasants during their nesting season. Program participants received a bounty of \$10 for each tail of a raccoon, striped skunk, badger, opossum or red fox they killed.

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the Nest Predator Bounty Program in South Dakota?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
<b>Approve</b>	29%	39%
<b>Disapprove</b>	50%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	21%	20%

Table 21. Q6 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Approve</b>	45%	23%	35%
<b>Disapprove</b>	35%	58%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	19%	21%

Table 22. Q6 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Approve</b>	46%	28%	32%
<b>Disapprove</b>	34%	51%	51%
<b>Not sure</b>	19%	22%	17%

Table 23. Q6 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Approve</b>	26%	48%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	24%	15%

Table 24. Q6 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q7: The Nest Predator Bounty Program was launched in early 2019. This program was portrayed as an attempt to reduce predation on pheasant nests by native wildlife species. But while South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks estimates that they spent upwards of \$1.7 million on the program in 2019, they have yet to produce any evidence of an increase in pheasant numbers. Therefore, many have questioned why the agency has spent so much of the state’s money on such a highly ineffective effort.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLLS
<b>Support</b>	15%	24%
<b>Oppose</b>	64%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	24%

Table 25. Q7 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Support</b>	25%	15%	26%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	66%	52%
<b>Undecided</b>	26%	19%	23%

Table 26. Q7 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Support</b>	28%	17%	18%
<b>Oppose</b>	48%	60%	60%
<b>Undecided</b>	24%	22%	22%

Table 27. Q7 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Support</b>	15%	30%
<b>Oppose</b>	59%	50%
<b>Undecided</b>	26%	20%

Table 28. Q7 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q8: Wildlife management professionals state that bounty programs for predator control are ineffective. Hunting groups like the South Dakota Wildlife Federation have advised against a bounty program, and instead urge a more science-based focus on habitat improvement to increase pheasant numbers.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLLS
<b>Support</b>	22%	29%
<b>Oppose</b>	55%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	23%	26%

Table 29. Q8 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Support</b>	32%	19%	30%
<b>Oppose</b>	40%	60%	47%
<b>Undecided</b>	28%	21%	23%

Table 30. Q8 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Support</b>	35%	21%	23%
<b>Oppose</b>	39%	56%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	26%	23%	28%

Table 31. Q8 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Support</b>	21%	35%
<b>Oppose</b>	49%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	30%	20%

Table 32. Q8 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q9: Animals caught in traps can languish and die slowly from shock, dehydration, starvation or exposure to the elements. Those who survive long enough for the trapper to return may be killed by inhumane methods. Additionally, nursing mother animals may be killed, leaving young animals to die; or those young animals may themselves be captured, killed, and their tails submitted for a bounty.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLS
<b>Support</b>	20%	26%
<b>Oppose</b>	68%	58%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	15%

Table 33. Q9 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Support</b>	32%	13%	26%
<b>Oppose</b>	52%	79%	57%
<b>Undecided</b>	16%	8%	17%

Table 34. Q9 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Support</b>	34%	17%	18%
<b>Oppose</b>	52%	69%	66%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	13%	15%

Table 35. Q9 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Support</b>	18%	33%
<b>Oppose</b>	68%	54%
<b>Undecided</b>	15%	13%

Table 36. Q9 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q10: Encouraging citizens, including children, to kill the state’s native wildlife species for a cash reward is a slap in the face to South Dakota’s hunting tradition of sportsmanship, fair chase and respect for wildlife. By allowing mass slaughter and inhumane deaths to our native species for a cash bounty, the state is abandoning our long-held tradition of sportsmanship.

Do you support or oppose the Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FALLS
<b>Support</b>	23%	26%
<b>Oppose</b>	62%	53%
<b>Undecided</b>	15%	21%

Table 37. Q10 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Support</b>	31%	16%	25%
<b>Oppose</b>	46%	72%	54%
<b>Undecided</b>	23%	12%	21%

Table 38. Q10 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Support</b>	32%	20%	20%
<b>Oppose</b>	46%	65%	58%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	15%	22%

Table 39. Q10 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Support</b>	18%	34%
<b>Oppose</b>	62%	48%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	18%

Table 40. Q10 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Q11: Science shows that nest predator bounty programs are counterproductive to their stated goal of reducing the number of predatory species. Random killing of these species may stimulate the animals to adapt, which results in more predatory animals in the future.

Do you agree or disagree that South Dakota’s Nest Predator Bounty Program will have unintended consequences for native wildlife in the state?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLLS
<b>Agree</b>	51%	45%
<b>Disagree</b>	29%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	28%

Table 41. Q11 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
<b>Agree</b>	41%	56%	44%
<b>Disagree</b>	32%	22%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	27%	21%	30%

Table 42. Q11 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
<b>Agree</b>	40%	53%	47%
<b>Disagree</b>	33%	23%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	27%	24%	26%

Table 43. Q11 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
<b>Agree</b>	48%	44%
<b>Disagree</b>	24%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	28%	23%

Table 44. Q11 by GENDER



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

Sometimes in a survey like this, people change their minds. I will now read you one of the original questions again. Please feel free to change your answer if you so choose.

Q12: Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program?

Column %	RAPID CITY	SIOUX FLLS
Approve	21%	27%
Disapprove	60%	51%
Not sure	20%	22%

Table 45. Q12 by DMA - Categorical

Column %	Republican	Democrat	Non-Partisan
Approve	31%	15%	28%
Disapprove	43%	71%	52%
Not sure	26%	14%	20%

Table 46. Q12 by PARTY

Column %	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
Approve	34%	19%	18%
Disapprove	43%	61%	63%
Not sure	23%	21%	18%

Table 47. Q12 by IDEOLOGY

Column %	Female	Male
Approve	17%	35%
Disapprove	59%	46%
Not sure	24%	18%

Table 48. Q12 by GENDER





REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

## DEMOGRAPHICS

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	%
<b>RAPID CITY</b>	25%
<b>SIOUX FALLS</b>	72%

*Table 49. DMA - Categorical*

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	%
<b>Republican</b>	52%
<b>Democrat</b>	30%
<b>Non-Partisan</b>	18%

*Table 50. PARTY*

---

	%
<b>Conservative</b>	46%
<b>Moderate</b>	42%
<b>Liberal</b>	12%

*Table 51. IDEOLOGY*

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	%
<b>Female</b>	53%
<b>Male</b>	47%

*Table 52. GENDER*



FLPA/Alamy Stock

# Stop the South Dakota Nest Predator Bounty Program

*Cruel, wasteful, and pointless*

## Public opposition to the cruelty and waste

From its inception, South Dakotans have expressed outrage over the Nest Predator Bounty Program, with its related free trap giveaway and appalling body count. At the close of the program's first season in August 2019, more than 50,000 tails belonging to red foxes, raccoons, striped skunks, badgers and opossum had been submitted to South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) in exchange for a \$10 per tail bounty. Approximate program cost to date: upwards of \$1.7 million.<sup>1</sup>

Unsurprisingly, a new Remington Research poll found that only 25% of state residents who were even aware of the program support it. The poll also found that everyday South Dakotans have not realized any benefit from the program, and don't support its continuation. And once those who were polled were educated about the animal suffering the program involves, the amount of money spent on it, and the potential negative effects of removing vital native wildlife species from South Dakota's ecosystem, a majority indicated that they oppose it.

## Hunters and professional wildlife managers agree: bounties are pointless and ineffective

In its 2014 report to former Governor Dugaard, South Dakota's Habitat Work Group said, "Under a bounty system, predator control would not be targeted enough to be effective. Additionally, bounty systems in other states have been ineffective because the origin of the predators cannot be verified. Predators from other states could easily be imported for a bounty, which would be counterproductive."<sup>2</sup>

The Black Hills Sportsmen's Club also objected to the Nest Predator Bounty program, saying in a letter to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission: "Numerous studies have shown that the sustained low level removal of predators from a population often stimulates reproduction in those populations leading to higher predator densities.

Additionally, the resulting predator population is composed of a higher proportion of juveniles. These unestablished juvenile predators cover more territory, increasing the likelihood of encountering pheasant nests." The letter continued, "More importantly, numerous studies, several conducted in South Dakota by State and University personnel have shown the key to pheasant success is habitat."<sup>3</sup>

Similarly, in 2016 the Pennsylvania Game Commission reminded hunters, "After decades of using predator control (such as paying bounties) with no effect, and the emergence of wildlife management as a science, the agency finally accepted the reality that predator control does not work."<sup>4</sup> And in its new coyote management plan, the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources stresses that bounties are prone to corruption, expensive, do not increase the harvest of game species, and do not target problem animals.<sup>5</sup>

The Izaak Walton League of America concurs: "The League recognizes the intrinsic value of predatory species and their important ecological roles. ... There is no justification for widespread destruction of animals classified as predators."<sup>6</sup> And from Ducks Unlimited: "Predator control cannot result in meaningful increases in duck numbers or birds in the bag and threatens to undermine the broad coalition of public support on which modern waterfowl conservation depends."<sup>7</sup>

The Mississippi Flyway Council, established in 1952 to coordinate the management of migratory game birds in that region, "...does not support the practice of predator removal as a viable management practice to improve waterfowl recruitment over the long term or over large geographic areas," adding that, instead, habitat restoration is a priority for improving waterfowl recruitment.<sup>8</sup> And the National Wild Turkey Federation states, "Removing a random predator from the landscape has no impact

whatsoever on widespread turkey populations...Without good nesting habitat, eggs and poults are simply more vulnerable. Turkeys evolved to cope with predators. As long as they have a place to hide their nests and raise their young, they'll do just fine without predator control.”<sup>9</sup>

### No justification for removal of vital native species

No sound, science-based evidence has been presented to



suggest that raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, badgers or red foxes are adversely impacting pheasant populations in South Dakota. There is also no scientific justification for the random removal of those native species, each of whom plays a unique and important role in South Dakota's ecosystem. In particular, opossums are a tremendous benefit to any area they inhabit, helping to control unwanted, harmful garden pests. Their diet includes snails, mice, rats, and insects such as cockroaches, crickets, beetles, and—in large numbers—disease-carrying ticks.

### A waste of state funds

In March 2019, a GFP wildlife damage specialist estimated to *AgWeek* that as much as \$400,000 of South Dakota hunting license revenue would be used as payout for the Nest Predator Bounty Program. In the same article, however, GFP staff admitted that the real intent of the program is to recruit new people to hunting, fishing, and

trapping in the state—but added that the state does not have a specific budget for hunter recruitment efforts.<sup>10</sup> Why, then, was the state willing to commit hundreds of thousands of dollars of its hunting license revenue to a pointless and counterproductive bounty program?

### The key to more game birds is good habitat

The random killing of native species will not help pheasants and other game birds, whose numbers are primarily affected by weather and the availability of suitable habitat. In January 2019 the editorial board of the *Capital Journal* emphasized that if the state wants to advance pheasant hunting opportunities, it must “focus on habitat, primarily grasslands and wetlands, work with landowners to secure those habitat(s) through incentives, provide hunter access through a strong walk-in program and raise suitable funding to get it done.”<sup>11</sup> The *Rapid City Journal* editorial board agreed: “The three biggest factors affecting pheasant numbers are habitat, habitat and habitat, followed by weather and more weather.”<sup>12</sup>

**In summary, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks should cancel its plan to resume the Nest Predator Bounty Program, which is wasteful, ineffective and cruel.**



**For more information, contact Jocelyn Nickerson at [jnickerson@humanesociety.org](mailto:jnickerson@humanesociety.org).**



<sup>1</sup> “2020 Nest Predator Bounty Program,” staff presentation, pg. 10, February 17, 2010. [https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/2020\\_Bounty\\_Information\\_-\\_Fisk\\_and\\_Robling.pdf](https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/2020_Bounty_Information_-_Fisk_and_Robling.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> “South Dakota Governor’s Habitat Work Group 2014: Report to Governor Dugard,” pg. 20, September 2014. <https://habitat.sd.gov/resources/habitatsummitinfo/docs/PHWG%20Final%20Report.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Black Hills Sportsmen’s Club to South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission, April 2, 2019. <https://blackhillsportsmenclub.com/pages/hunting-film-tour-2018>

<sup>4</sup> Bob Frye, “Habitat, not predators, seen as key to wildlife populations,” *Trib Live*, July 25, 2016 <http://triblive.com/sports/outdoors/10756490-74/game-predator-predators>.

<sup>5</sup> North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, “Coyote Management Plan,” March 1, 2018 [https://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Learning/documents/Species/Coyote%20Management%20Plan\\_FINAL\\_030118.pdf](https://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Learning/documents/Species/Coyote%20Management%20Plan_FINAL_030118.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> The Izaak Walton League of America: “Conservation Policies 2019,” pg. 54 <https://www.iwla.org/docs/default-source/about-iwla/2019-policy-book.pdf?sfvrsn=44>

<sup>7</sup> Chuck Petrie: “Prairies Under Siege: Ducks, Habitat Conservation & Predators,” in the November/December 2003 *Ducks Unlimited* magazine. <https://www.ducks.org/conservation/where-ducks-unlimited-works/prairie-pothole-region/prairies-under-siege-ducks-habitat-conservation-predators>.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> The National Wild Turkey Federation: “Coexist with Predators” <http://www.nwtf.org/conservation/article/coexist-predators>

<sup>10</sup> Nick Lowrey: “South Dakota pheasant nest predator bounty program proposed.” *AgWeek*, March 4, 2019 <https://www.agweek.com/sports/outdoors/4579780-south-dakota-pheasant-nest-predator-bounty-program-proposed>

<sup>11</sup> *Capitol Journal* Editorial Board: “State dollars shouldn’t be used on predator bounties,” January 15, 2019 [https://www.capjournal.com/opinions/editorial/state-dollars-shouldn-t-be-used-on-predator-bounties/article\\_f999ddda-1941-11e9-97b2-afc846d80c64.html](https://www.capjournal.com/opinions/editorial/state-dollars-shouldn-t-be-used-on-predator-bounties/article_f999ddda-1941-11e9-97b2-afc846d80c64.html)

<sup>12</sup> *Rapid City Journal* Editorial Board: “OURS: Brood counts blow holes in predator bounty rationale,” September 13, 2019 [https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/opinion/editorial/ours-brood-counts-blow-holes-in-predator-bountyrationale/article\\_215b420d-5ca1-5230-b7d7-7bea814c662a.html](https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/opinion/editorial/ours-brood-counts-blow-holes-in-predator-bountyrationale/article_215b420d-5ca1-5230-b7d7-7bea814c662a.html)

## Comes, Rachel

---

**From:** info@gfp.sd.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 9:21 PM  
**To:** baumbergersteve@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** Petition for Rule Change Form

**Categories:** Commission

## South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

# Petition for Rule Change

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

**ID:** 87

**Petitioner Name:** Steve Baumberger

**Address:** 7000 W 22nd St  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

**Email:** baumbergersteve@gmail.com

**Phone:** 605-789-9988

**Rule Identification:** Lake Sharpe - Only one (1) smallmouth bass  $\geq 15"$  may be allowed in the daily bag limit.

**Describe Change:** The change I'm seeking is better size diversity and an overall healthier smallmouth fishery.

**Reason for Change:** Lake Sharpe is a relatively small reservoir with very high fishing pressure, with continuous pressure on smallmouth hangouts day after day during the open water season. Large smallmouths have declined greatly since the removal of the trophy fishery status in 2014, as a result of harvest during pre-spawn and spawning bass in shall waters. As anglers struggle to find legal size walleyes for harvest, more anglers, including guide services, are targeting larger smallmouth for harvest, and as the word spreads that they make good table fare, this trend will increase. Most anglers today do not like to go home without limits of fish. The implementation of this rule will improve the size distribution of smallmouths, improve the overall health of the fishery, and make for a better fishing experience for all, especially for those like myself who want a sustainable sport fishery.

**From:** info@gfp.sd.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 07, 2019 5:03 PM  
**To:** baumbergersteve@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** Petition for Rule Change Form

**South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks**

## **Petition for Rule Change**

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

**ID:** 67

**Petitioner Name:** Steve Baumberger

**Address:**

**Email:** [baumbergersteve@gmail.com](mailto:baumbergersteve@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 605-789-9988

**Rule Identification:** Statewide – change the daily and possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass from 5 to 4 and 10 to 8 respectively.

**Describe Change:** The change is self explanatory from the rule identification above.

**Reason for Change:** This is an outdated regulation, going back when very few anglers harvested largemouth and smallmouth bass, when fishing pressure was much less than it is today. Black bass, especially largemouth bass are the main predator fish in many bodies of water across the state where other species of sunfish are present. Over harvest of largemouths leads to a stunted population of other sunfish species such as bluegill and crappie, negatively impacting the entire fishery. The state's fisheries are shared by hundreds of thousands of anglers across the Midwest, and it grows every year. This rule will distribute the resources to more anglers, especially those South Dakotans who have very limited time to fish. This rule change also would coincide with the current regulation for the state's most popular fish, the walleye, which simplifies fishing regulations, especially for those waters where both species are present. Nobody needs to harvest 5 smallmouth or largemouth bass a day, or a combination thereof when several other species such as perch, bluegill, crappie, catfish and white bass are available to harvest.

## Comes, Rachel

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**From:** info@gfp.sd.us  
**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 1:17 PM  
**To:** mjarding@gwtc.net  
**Cc:** Comes, Rachel  
**Subject:** Petition for Rule Change Form

**Categories:** Commission

## South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

# Petition for Rule Change

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

**ID:** 89

**Petitioner Name:** Mike Jarding

**Address:** 27203 Valley Road  
Hot Springs, SD 57747

**Email:** mjarding@gwtc.net

**Phone:** 605-890-2422

**Rule Identification:** Amendment to Existing Elk Hunting Unit Boundary

**Describe Change:** Unit H3 Cow Boundary Change. Move the boundary H3 ,B, C, D to Co Road 18 Mile and Hwy 89 to go south on Hwy 89 to Minnekahta Jct. and then east on Hwy 18 to Hot Springs and then north on Hwy 385 to Wind Cave National Park boundary.

**Reason for Change:** To increase or maintain the population in this area. This area is 50% public property and the vast majority of private property owners in this area want the elk population to increase or maintain the same as it is now, not significantly decrease the population as GFP proposes.

# GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:14

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>April 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>June 4, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>June 4-5, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

**Duration of Recommendation:** 2020 and 2021 hunting seasons

**Season Dates:** November 1 – January 31

**Licenses:**

Black Hills:	200 resident and 16 nonresident single tag “any turkey” licenses
Prairie Units:	Residents: 400 single tag and 35 double tag “any turkey” licenses Nonresidents: 28 single and 3 double tag “any turkey” licenses

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. One-half of the fall turkey licenses are available for landowner preference applicants.
2. A person may not use any firearm on the south unit and the signed portion of the north unit of the Bureau of Land Management Fort Meade Recreation Area.
3. No person may shoot a turkey that is in a tree or roost.

**Recommended changes from last year:**

1. Offer 125 less resident single tag licenses and 35 more resident double tag licenses for Prairie Units compared to 2019.
2. Close prairie units 12A (Gregory County), 50A (Mellette County), and 60A (Tripp County).
3. Establish and open prairie unit 12A (Bon Homme County).

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Harvest management strategy table of the Wild Turkey Management Plan and updated unit-specific population objectives provided guidance for the recommended changes to the respective prairie units.

Year	Prairie				Black Hills			
	Licenses Sold	Tom Harvest	Hen Harvest	Success	Licenses Sold	Tom Harvest	Hen Harvest	Success
2014	1,910	422	224	33%	810	100	114	27%
2015	1,936	422	227	33%	433	66	62	29%
2016	908	173	72	26%	434	91	55	34%
2017	898	194	56	26%	433	87	52	32%
2018	548	142	52	35%	220	27	26	25%

### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

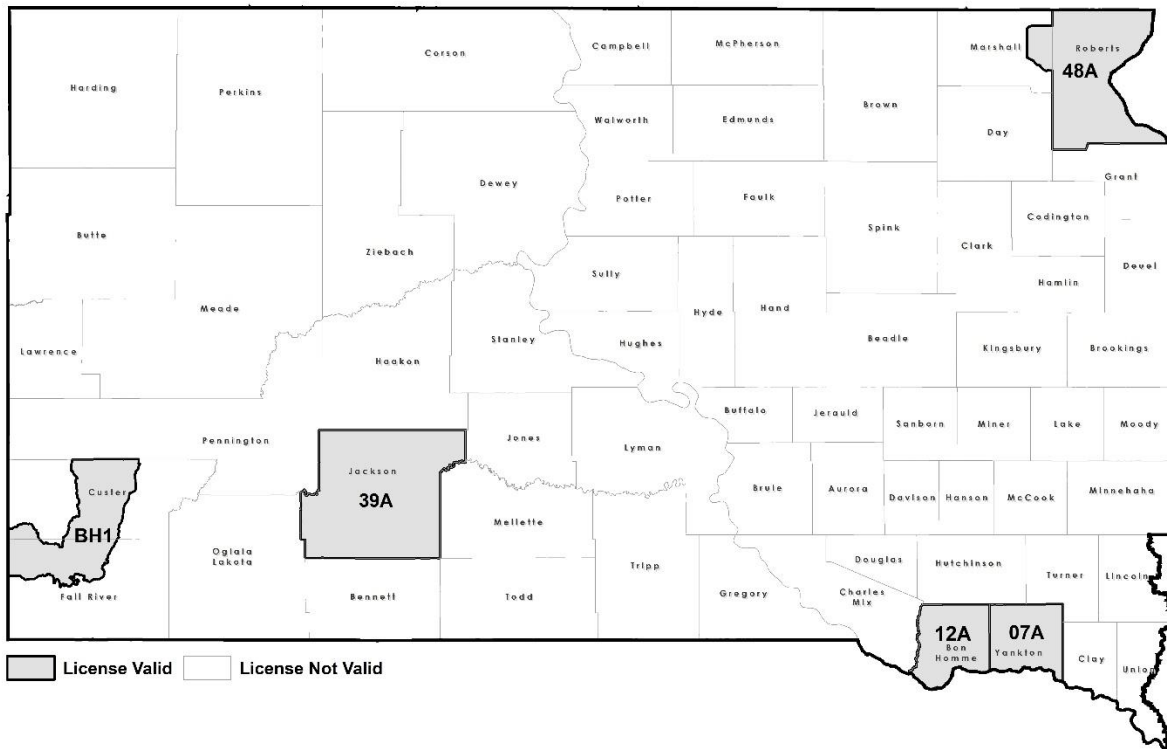
Not applicable.

### RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? No, but slightly less hunting opportunity.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Not applicable.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? No, but slightly less hunting opportunity.

<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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# FALL TURKEY UNITS



## 2020 & 2021 Fall Turkey Licenses

Unit	Licenses
07A	150
12A	150
39A	35
48A	100
BH1	200



**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

**Fall Turkey Hunting Seasons – Hunting Unit License Allocations**

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>April 2-3, 2000</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>June 4, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>June 4-5, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

**LICENSE ALLOCATION BY UNITS**

See Attached Spreadsheets

**APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_**

FALL TURKEY  
2019 vs. 2020-21

Unit #	Unit Name	2019 Resident Licenses	2020-21 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2019 Resident Tags	2020-21 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
07A	Yankton	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
12A	Bon Homme	0	150	150	#DIV/0!	0	150	150	#DIV/0!
30A	Gregory	150	0	-150	-100%	150	0	-150	-100%
39A	Jackson	25	35	10	40%	25	70	45	180%
48A	Marshall/Roberts	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
50A	Mellette	50	0	-50	-100%	50	0	-50	-100%
60A	Tripp	50	0	-50	-100%	50	0	-50	-100%
BH1	Black Hills	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
TOTAL		725	635	-90	-12%	725	670	-55	-8%

Note: An additional 8% of the number of licenses will be available to nonresidents for the Black Hills and West River prairie units.

2020-2021 Fall Turkey

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident		Nonresident		License Totals							
		AnyT 31	2 AnyT 37	AnyT 31	2 AnyT 37	RES 1-Tag	RES 2-Tag	RES Licenses	RES Tags	NR 1-Tag	NR 2-Tag	NR License	NR Tags
07A	Yankton	150				150		150	150				
12A	Bon Homme	150		12		150		150	150	12		12	12
39A	Jackson		35		3		35	35	70		3	3	6
48A	Marshall/Roberts	100				100		100	100				
BH1	Black Hills	200		16		200		200	200	16		16	16
TOTAL		600	35	28	3	600	35	635	670	28	3	31	34
		<b>RES &amp; NR:</b>		<b>628</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>704</b>						

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## License Forms and Fees

Chapter 41:06:02

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>April 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>June 4, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>June 4-5, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

#### **41:06:02:01.03. Replacement of lost or destroyed license, permit, or game tag.**

Administrative fees payable to the department to replace lost or destroyed licenses, permits, or game tags shall be \$20.

License agents may, and the department shall, charge the license agent's fee established by SDCL 41-6-66.1 in issuing a permit in lieu of a lost license and any other authorized replacement licenses, permits, or game tags.

#### **Recommended changes from last year:**

1. Remove the \$20 administrative fee for lost or destroyed licenses, permits or game tags. The license agent's fee established by SDCL 41-6-66.1 would still be charged by license agents and the Department.

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

After considering public comment and a review of this administrative fee for all license types, the Department recommends removing this administrative fee. Authorized license agents and the department as per SDCL 41-6-66.1 will charge a license agent's fee of \$4 for resident and \$8 for nonresident licenses.

### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not applicable.

### RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Not applicable.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? It might remove a financial barrier for those who have lost their licenses, permits, or game tags.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Not applicable.

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_

**GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION  
PROPOSAL**

**Waterfowl Hunting Seasons**  
Chapter 41:06:16

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>April 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>June 4, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>June 4-5, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

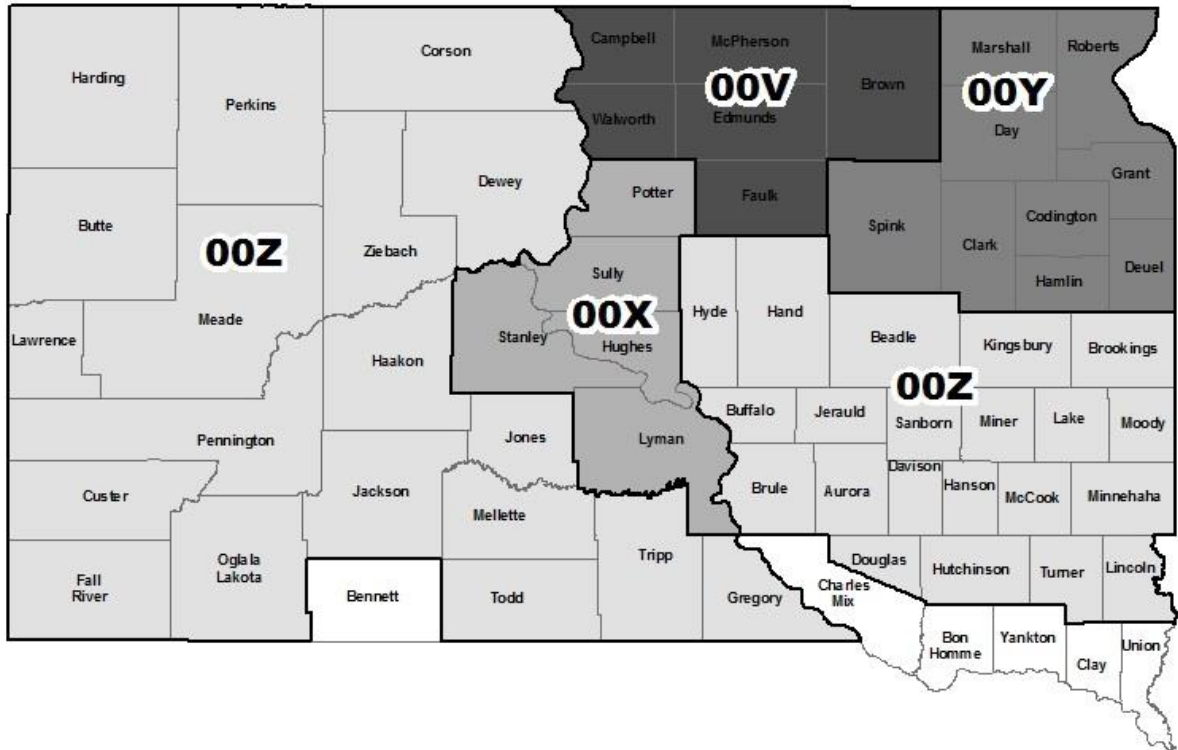
Recommended changes from last year:

1. Eliminate the Special Canada goose season for Bennett County, the 9 days of hunting in January, and all associated provisions and regulations associated specifically to Bennett County.
2. For goose hunting, incorporate Bennett County into Unit 2.
3. Eliminate the Bennett County nonresident duck hunting unit.
4. Eliminate all individual nonresident hunting units that are allocated the 3-day temporary licenses and make one state-wide hunting unit (excluding the 5-county unit in southeast SD) for the 2,000 3-day nonresident licenses to be valid on public and private lands.
5. Retain the statewide nonresident hunting unit (excluding the 5-county hunting unit in southeastern SD) for the two 5-day licenses with a total allocation of 3,750 licenses.
6. Retain the 2,000 3-day temporary licenses.
7. Retain the 3,750 two 5-day licenses.
8. Retain the 250 season-long licenses for Unit 00A.

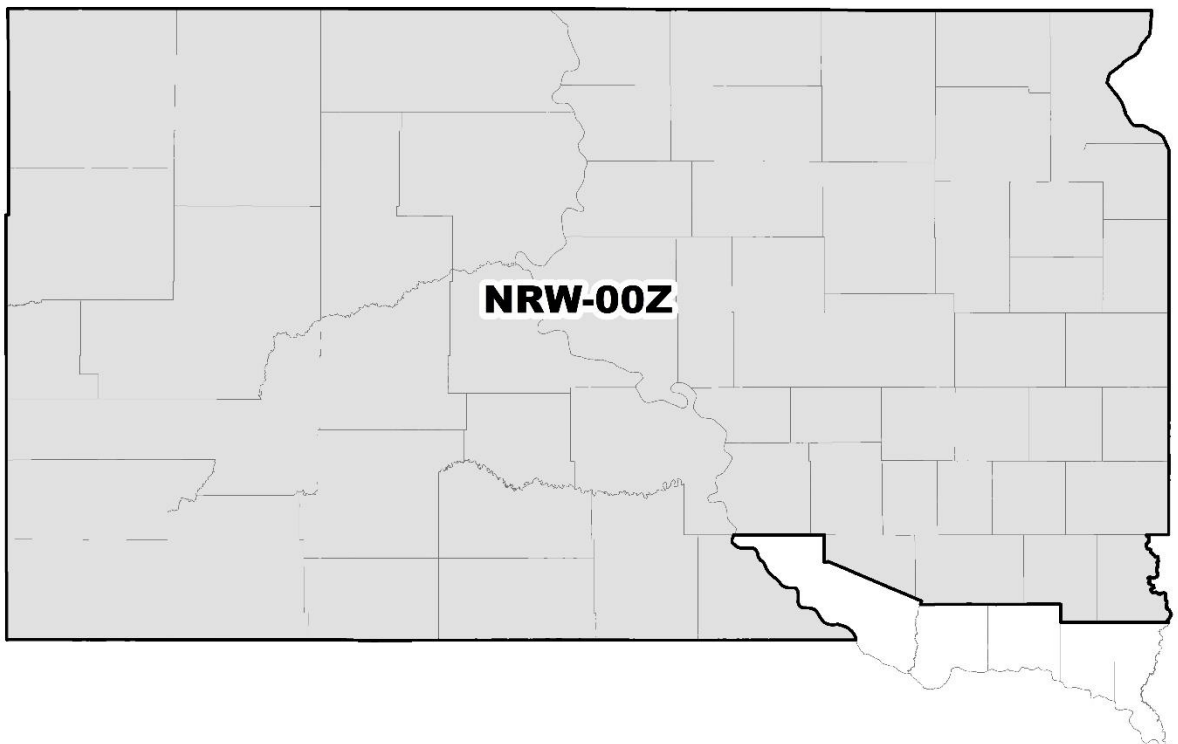
\*See following visuals that depict the above described recommended changes.

<b>APPROVE</b> ____	<b>MODIFY</b> ____	<b>REJECT</b> ____	<b>NO ACTION</b> ____
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Current 3-day License Unit System

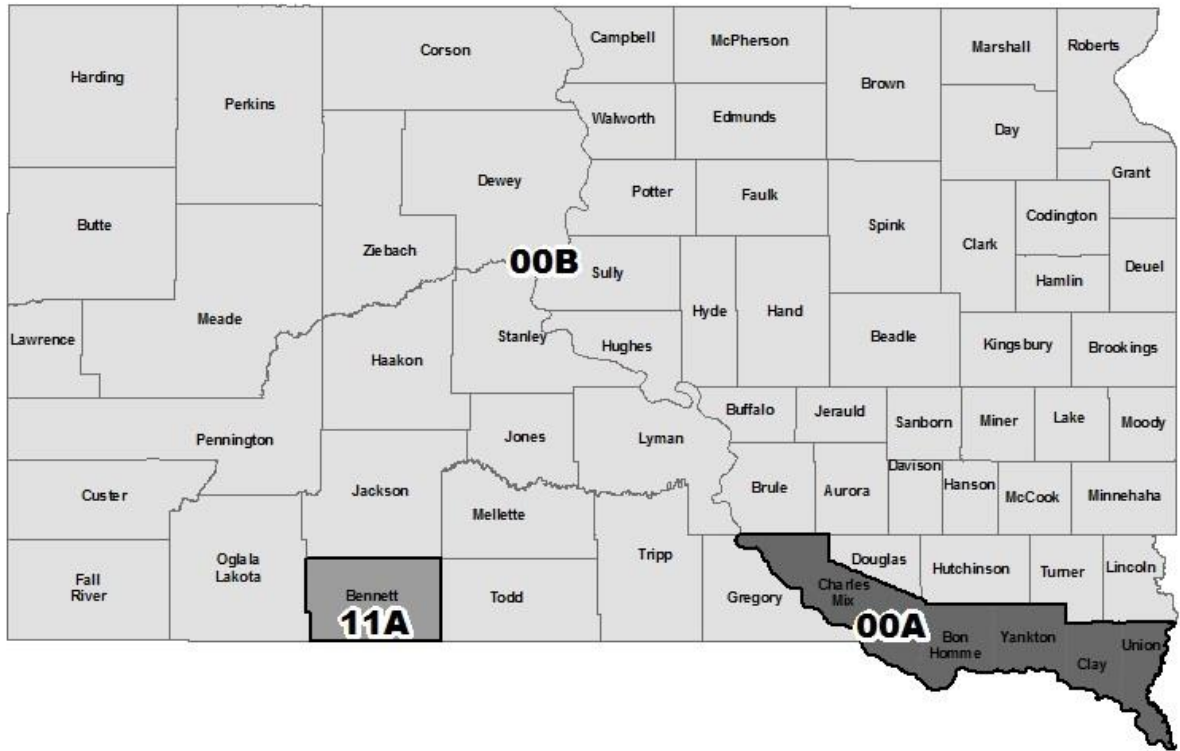


Recommended 3-day License Unit System

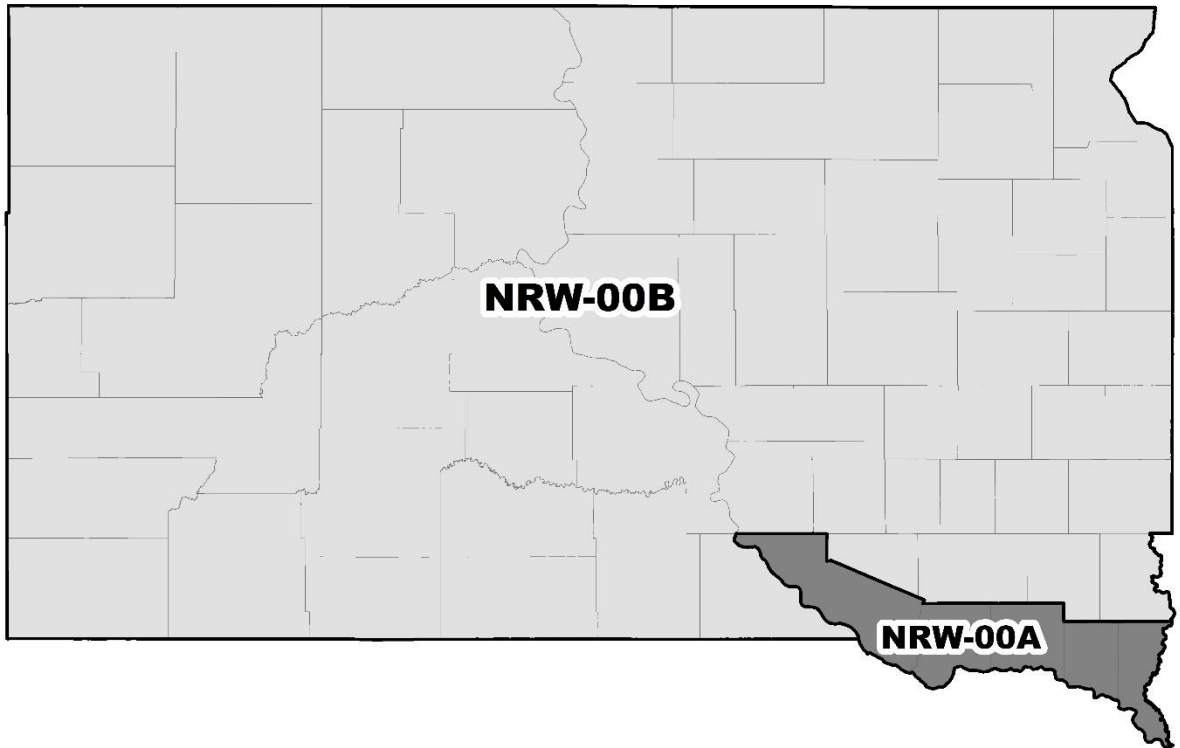


APPROVE  MODIFY  REJECT  NO ACTION

Current 10-day and Season-long License Unit System

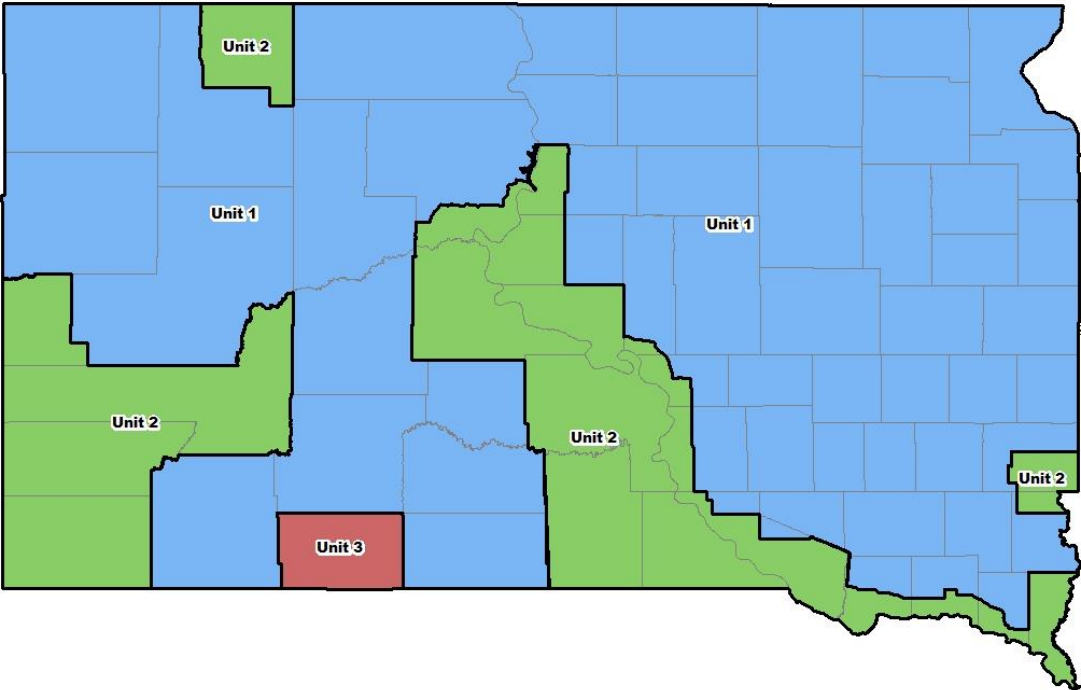


Recommended 10-day and Season-long License Unit System

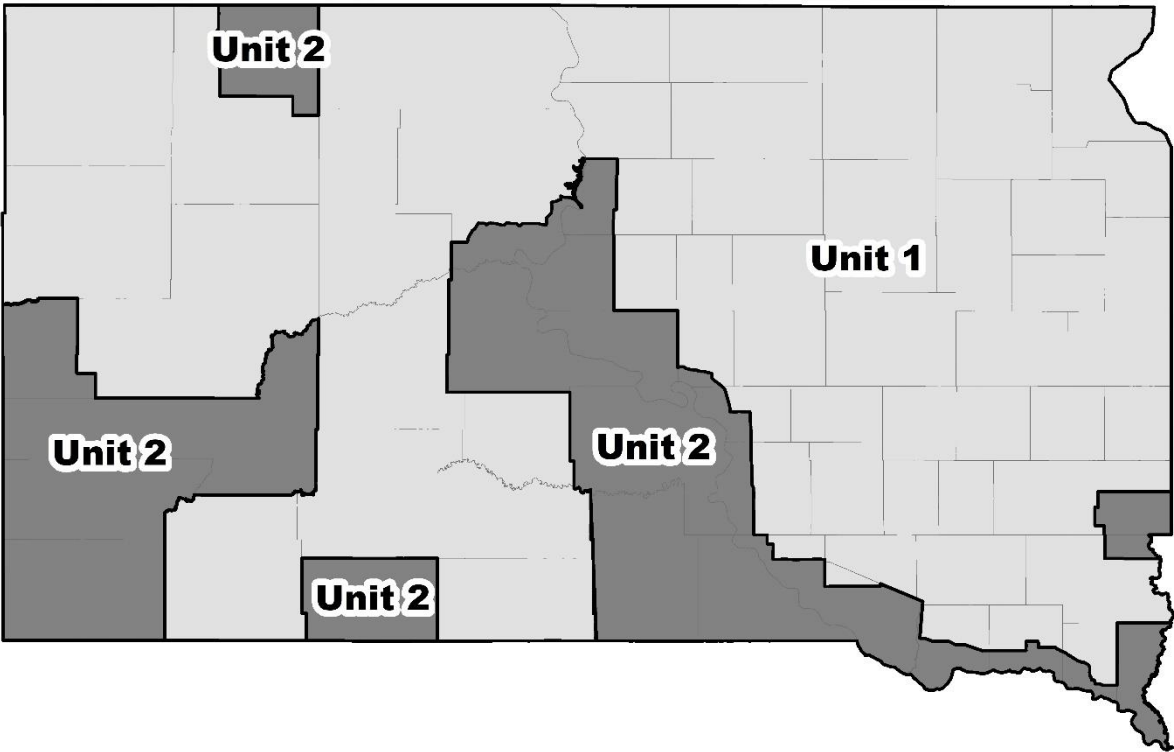


APPROVE \_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_

Current Canada Goose Hunting Units



Recommended Canada Goose Hunting Units



APPROVE \_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_



## SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

South Dakota's nonresident waterfowl system is unnecessarily complex and there is a strong desire to simplify this licensing structure in a way that will maximize waterfowl hunting opportunity and is socially acceptable based on supportive information and input from applicable stakeholders.

The continual decline in resident waterfowl hunters is a concern for the Department and in general across the nation. Efforts to increase and enhance public hunting areas, simplification of hunting regulations, R3 efforts and other strategies continue to be discussed and implemented where identified.

## RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

### 1. The Issue

- Why make the change, what are the change alternatives, how will public/stakeholder input be solicited, and how will the change be evaluated if implemented?
  - Simplification of hunting regulations is a priority for SDGFP. Over the years for a variety of reasons, unnecessary levels of complexity have developed. These recommended changes will reduce regulatory complexity for non-resident hunters. With the current number of resident hunters currently participating, increased opportunity for nonresident waterfowl hunting exists at the recommended levels without undue impact to hunters or the resource. Standard public input through the commission process will be solicited regarding these proposed changes. Alternatives of these proposed changes include no action or a modification of recommended alternatives. These changes will be evaluated through harvest surveys to gauge participation and satisfaction levels of both resident and nonresident hunters.

### 2. Historical Considerations

- Historically, regulatory complexity in nonresident waterfowl regulations was largely driven by a desire to spread pressure across the landscape and to reduce competition with resident hunters.

### 3. Biological Considerations

- What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations?
  - Waterfowl populations are generally strong in South Dakota and the Central Flyway. While breeding conditions across the prairie pothole region are constantly changing, current wetland habitat conditions in South Dakota are good to excellent. Resident giant Canada goose populations are currently above management objective with increases likely for the foreseeable future. Increased harvest rates will be needed to manage the population at desired levels in coming years. Several of these proposed changes will facilitate increased harvest of giant Canada geese in South Dakota.

### 4. Social Considerations

- The nonresident waterfowl issue is and will continue to be contentious issue.

### 5. Financial considerations

- As with most hunting activities, declining participation threatens funding for conservation, monitoring and management. While increases in financial return will be nominal, increased revenue through license sales is expected. Financial returns of the sporting goods and hospitality industry may also increase through these proposed changes.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, it simplifies the unit structure for waterfowl hunting and slightly increases the number of licenses available for the season.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? This regulation would provide a slight increase in opportunity for current and new waterfowl hunters.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Administrative Rule Review

Article 41:08

<b>Commission Meeting Dates: Proposal</b>	<b>April 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Good Earth State Park</b>
<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>May 7, 2020</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>
<b>Finalization</b>	<b>May 7-8, 2020</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the following rule changes for the following administrative rules in an effort to reduce redundancy, increase transparency and improve consistency:

#### Chapter 41:08:01 – Furbearer Seasons

41:08:01:01	Mink and weasel hunting and trapping season established
41:08:01:02	Muskrat trapping season established
41:08:01:07	Beaver trapping and hunting season established in East River and Black Hills Fire Protection District—Exception
41:08:01:08	Beaver trapping and hunting season established in West River—Exception
41:08:01:08.01	Bobcat trapping and hunting season established—Hunting restrictions—Tagging requirements
41:08:01:08.02	Skunk, opossum, fox, raccoon, and badger trapping and hunting season established
41:08:01:08.03	Jackrabbit hunting season established
41:08:01:09	Areas not open
41:08:01:11	Permit required to trap in parks and recreation areas—Time restriction
41:08:01:12	Nonresident restrictions

#### Chapter 41:08:02 – Trapping Prohibitions

41:08:02:01	Water-sets prohibited—Dates—Exceptions
41:08:02:02	Flagging of muskrat houses prohibited
41:08:02:04	Exposed bait prohibited
41:08:02:05	Snare restrictions
41:08:02:07	Possession and transportation of snares
41:08:02:10	Pole traps prohibited—Exception
41:08:02:13	Traps to be rendered inoperable—Removal of trapping devices
41:08:02:14	Traps and associated equipment prohibited on public lands open to trapping—Dates

#### Chapter 41:08:05 – Possession of Live Furbearers

41:08:05:01	Possession of live furbearer prohibited—Exception
41:08:05:03	Purchase of live furbearer prohibited
41:08:05:04	Killing or release of furbearer required—Exception for pet
41:08:05:05	Possession of physically altered furbearer prohibited—Exception
41:08:05:07	Seizure and disposition of live furbearer possessed unlawfully

#### Chapter 41:08:06 – Aerial Hunting

41:08:06:03	County permits—Selection
41:08:06:04	Expiration of permits
41:08:06:06	Hunting area limited

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_

41:08:06:07 Daily record required  
41:08:06:08 Quarterly reporting required  
41:08:06:09 Cancellation

#### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

During the 2019 Legislative Session HB 1162 was introduced by Representative Gosch. The intent of the bill was to have the Department conduct a systematic review of our administrative rules. During the review the Department was to identify rules that are irrelevant, inconsistent, illogically arranged, or unclear in their intent and direction. After discussions with Representative Gosch, the Department agreed to conduct the systematic review without legislation and to report its findings and corrective changes back to the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council.

#### NON-RESIDENT CRITERIA

Not Applicable

#### RETENTION, REACTIVATION, AND RECRUITMENT CONSIDERATIONS (R3)

The suggested changes correct inconsistencies, remove unnecessary barriers and arrange rules logically thus promoting an administrative code that benefits current, former and new users.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Administrative Rule Review

### Article 41:09

<b>Commission Meeting Dates: Proposal</b>	<b>April 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Good Earth State Park</b>
<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>May 7, 2020</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>
<b>Finalization</b>	<b>May 7-8, 2020</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the following rule changes for the following administrative rules in an effort to reduce redundancy, increase transparency and improve consistency:

Chapter 41:09:01 – Private Shooting Preserves

- 41:09:01:01      Operation plan to be submitted with application
- 41:09:01:02      Release of male birds required—Harvest limited
- 41:09:01:02.01    Notification required prior to release of birds
- 41:09:01:03      Birds that may be released—Minimum release age—Marking of birds
- 41:09:01:03.01    Daily bag limit—Shooting hours
- 41:09:01:04.01    Private shooting preserve processing permit—Exception
- 41:09:01:05      Fee for kill tags—Deadline
- 41:09:01:05.01    Game release and guest register records required—Deadlines
- 41:09:01:06      Applications-New and renewal—Single season and three-year season permits authorized—Fees
- 41:09:01:06.02    Issuance of permit for shooting preserve located within one mile of publicly owned shooting area
- 41:09:01:07      Minimum area of preserve
- 41:09:01:08      Definition of “other publicly owned shooting areas”
- 41:09:01:10      Adjustment to preserve acreage
- 41:09:01:11      Training required

Chapter 41:09:02 – Captive Game Birds

- 41:09:02:00      Definition of terms
- 41:09:02:01      Expiration date of license
- 41:09:02:02      Possession of captive game birds prohibited—Exceptions—License types and fees
- 41:09:02:02.01    License application
- 41:09:02:03      Captive waterfowl—Compliance with federal regulations
- 41:09:02:06.01    Release to the wild prohibited
- 41:09:02:08      Records required—Contents—Inspection—Submission of annual report
- 41:09:02:08.01    Premises to be open to inspection

Chapter 41:09:04 – Bait

- 41:09:04:02.01    License fees
- 41:09:04:02.05    Noncommercial limits defined
- 41:09:04:02.06    Eligibility for bait dealers, agents and employees
- 41:09:04:03      Waters closed to the taking of bait
- 41:09:04:04      Seines, nets, and traps limited
- 41:09:04:05      Trap spacing limited—Emptying required
- 41:09:04:16.01    Records required for bait taken in South Dakota waters

<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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- 41:09:04:16.02 Records required for bait imported into South Dakota
- 41:09:04:16.03 Records required for bait sold at retail in South Dakota
- 41:09:04:16.04 Records required for bait sold at wholesale in South Dakota
- 41:09:04:16.05 Records required for bait purchased and transported out of South Dakota
- 41:09:04:16.06 Records required for nonresident bait dealers for bait sold or purchased in South Dakota
- 41:09:04:17 Conviction for violation may be cause for revocation and non-renewal of bait dealer license

Chapter 41:09:06 – Raptors

- 41:09:06:17 Definitions
- 41:09:06:18 Application for falconry permit—Requirements—Limitations
- 41:09:06:20 Inspection of facilities
- 41:09:06:21 Taking or acquisition of raptors—Trapping requirements
- 41:09:06:22 Threatened and endangered species protected
- 41:09:06:28 Hunting by falconry—Requirements—Restrictions
- 41:09:06:29 Captive-bred raptors—Requirements—Restrictions
- 41:09:06:30 Annual reports
- 41:09:06:31 Suspension and revocation of permits
- 41:09:06:32 Standards for falconry

Chapter 41:09:07 – Private Fish Hatcheries

- 41:09:07:03.02 License approval criteria
- 41:09:07:05 Records required
- 41:09:07:06.01 Hatchery licenses available for inspection
- 41:09:07:06.02 Hatchery license in possession while transporting live fish or fish reproductive products
- 41:09:07:06.03 Inspection by department representative
- 41:09:07:06.04 Fish health inspection required

Chapter 41:09:08 – Importation of Fish

- 41:09:08:03.04 Importation requirements for fish or fish reproductive products

Chapter 41:09:10 – Fur Dealers

- 41:09:10:02 Resident fur dealers' records—Reporting
- 41:09:10:03 Grounds for refusal to issue fur dealer license
- 41:09:10:04 License fees

Chapter 41:09:11 – Taxidermists

- 41:09:11:01 License fee and validity
- 41:09:11:02 Definitions
- 41:09:11:06 Violation is cause for revocation of license—Immediate return of specimens—Exception

Chapter 41:09:12 – Persons with Disabilities

- 41:09:12:01 Special crossbow permit
- 41:09:12:02 Crossbow and bolt specifications
- 41:09:12:03.01 Definitions
- 41:09:12:03.02 Disabled hunter permit—Eligibility requirements
- 41:09:12:03.05 Denial of permit or revocation of existing permit—Reasons—Appeal process
- 41:09:12:04 License requirements, privileges, and restrictions

<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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- 41:09:12:06 Application procedure for licenses issued for a reduced fee based on total disability and other qualifications
- 41:09:12:06.01 Fee—Duration of validity of fishing and hunting licenses
- 41:09:12:07 Designated shooter permit
- 41:09:12:07.01 Permit authorities, limitations, and conditions

Chapter 41:09:13 – Dog Training

- 41:09:13:01 Sporting dog training and field trials
- 41:09:13:02 Bird marking required
- 41:09:13:03 Release traps or fluorescent streamers required for pheasants
- 41:09:13:05 Sporting dog trials permitted on public lands

Chapter 41:09:14 – Nursing Home Group Fishing

- 41:09:14:01 License fee—Expiration
- 41:09:14:02 Possession of license required

Chapter 41:09:15 – Fishing Tournaments

- 41:09:15:01 Definition
- 41:09:15:03 Application
- 41:09:15:04 Approval or denial of permit—Special conditions
- 41:09:15:07 Factors considered for issuance of a permit
- 41:09:15:08 Application period and issuance of permit
- 41:09:15:09 Restricted times of fishing tournaments
- 41:09:15:11 Violation of chapter

Chapter 41:09:16 – Scientific Collectors

- 41:09:16:03 Conditions of license
- 41:09:16:04 Reporting required
- 41:09:16:05 Violations

Chapter 41:09:18 – Wildlife Rehabilitation

- 41:09:18:05 Inspection of facilities
- 41:09:18:07 Release of wildlife
- 41:09:18:10 Indemnification and liability
- 41:09:18:11 Suspension and revocation of permits

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

During the 2019 Legislative Session HB 1162 was introduced by Representative Gosch. The intent of the bill was to have the Department conduct a systematic review of our administrative rules. During the review the Department was to identify rules that are irrelevant, inconsistent, illogically arranged, or unclear in their intent and direction. After discussions with Representative Gosch, the Department agreed to conduct the systematic review without legislation and to report its findings and corrective changes back to the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council.

**NON-RESIDENT CRITERIA**

Not Applicable

**RETENTION, REACTIVATION, AND RECRUITMENT CONSIDERATIONS (R3)**

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_

The suggested changes correct inconsistencies, remove unnecessary barriers and arrange rules logically thus promoting an administrative code that benefits current, former and new users.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION  
PROPOSAL**

**Administrative Rule Review**

Article 41:10

<b>Commission Meeting Dates: Proposal</b>	<b>April 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Good Earth State Park</b>
<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>May 7, 2020</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>
<b>Finalization</b>	<b>May 7-8, 2020</b>	<b>Custer State Park</b>

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends the following rule changes for the following administrative rules in an effort to reduce redundancy, increase transparency and improve consistency:

Chapter 41:10:02 – Endangered and Threatened Species

41:10:02:03	List of endangered mammals
41:10:02:05	List of endangered fish
41:10:02:06	List of threatened fish
41:10:02:07	List of endangered reptiles
41:10:02:17	Harassment defined
41:10:02:18	Harassment prohibited
41:10:02:19	Endangered species permit exemption

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

During the 2019 Legislative Session HB 1162 was introduced by Representative Gosch. The intent of the bill was to have the Department conduct a systematic review of our administrative rules. During the review the Department was to identify rules that are irrelevant, inconsistent, illogically arranged, or unclear in their intent and direction. After discussions with Representative Gosch, the Department agreed to conduct the systematic review without legislation and to report its findings and corrective changes back to the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council.

**NON-RESIDENT CRITERIA**

Not Applicable

**RETENTION, REACTIVATION, AND RECRUITMENT CONSIDERATIONS (R3)**

The suggested changes correct inconsistencies, remove unnecessary barriers and arrange rules logically thus promoting an administrative code that benefits current, former and new users.

<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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# GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## State Threatened and Endangered Species Listings Chapter 41:10:02:04

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

### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Proposed change: Remove North American River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) from list of state threatened mammals.

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes to proposal: None.

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

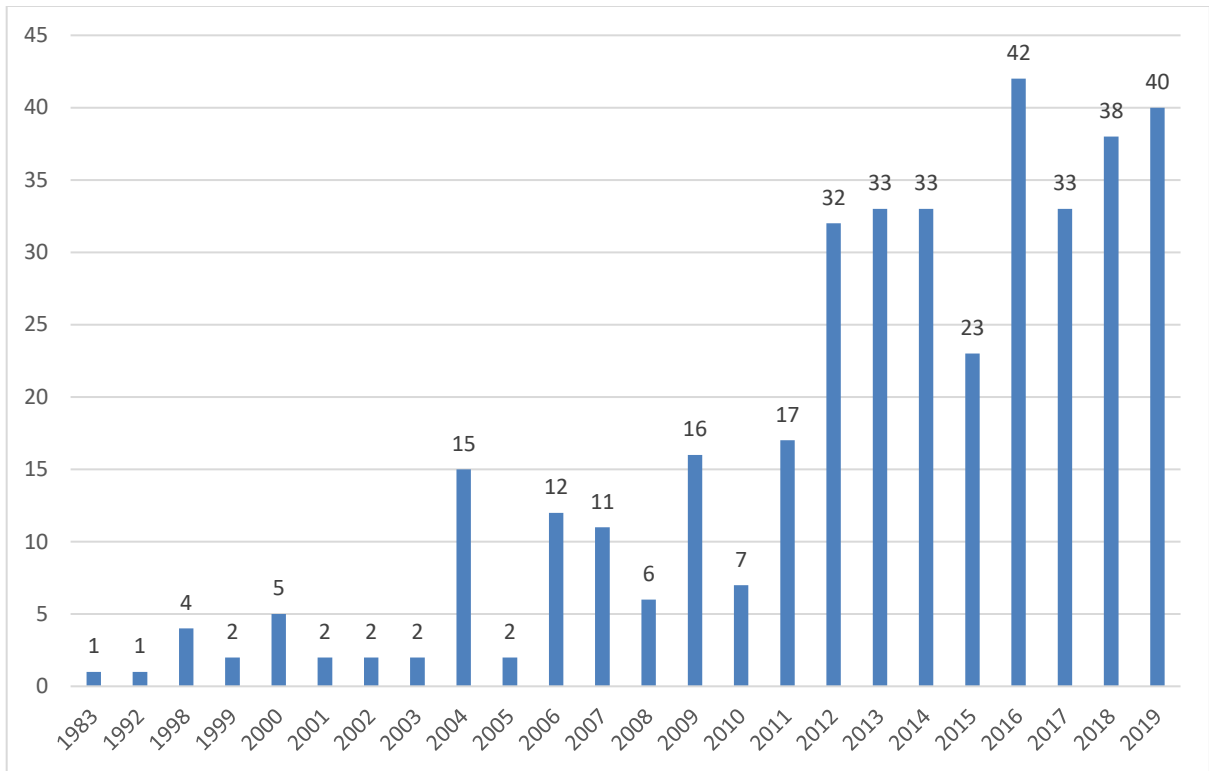
River otters were historically widespread across North America, including South Dakota in appropriate habitats. However, due to habitat loss and degradation and unregulated take during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, river otter populations were drastically reduced, including likely extirpation from South Dakota. In 1978, river otters were included on the first list of South Dakota state threatened mammals.

Several factors have allowed river otter populations to rebound across much of their former range, including reintroductions, improvements in wetland and river habitat management, and protections afforded under various state threatened and endangered species laws. In South Dakota, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe released 35 river otters along the Big Sioux River on tribal grounds in Moody County in 1998 and 1999. As part of a study to determine river otter distribution in the state, Kiesow and Dieter (2003) collected 34 confirmed reports of river otter in South Dakota. The majority (89%) of these reports occurred along the Big Sioux River; half occurred in Moody County. Melquist reported in 2015 that river otter distribution included the following: Big Sioux, Vermillion and James River drainages, Jorgenson River, Little Minnesota River, Whetstone River, Yellow Bank River, Jim Creek/Big Slough and the Missouri River downstream from Pierre (Melquist 2015).

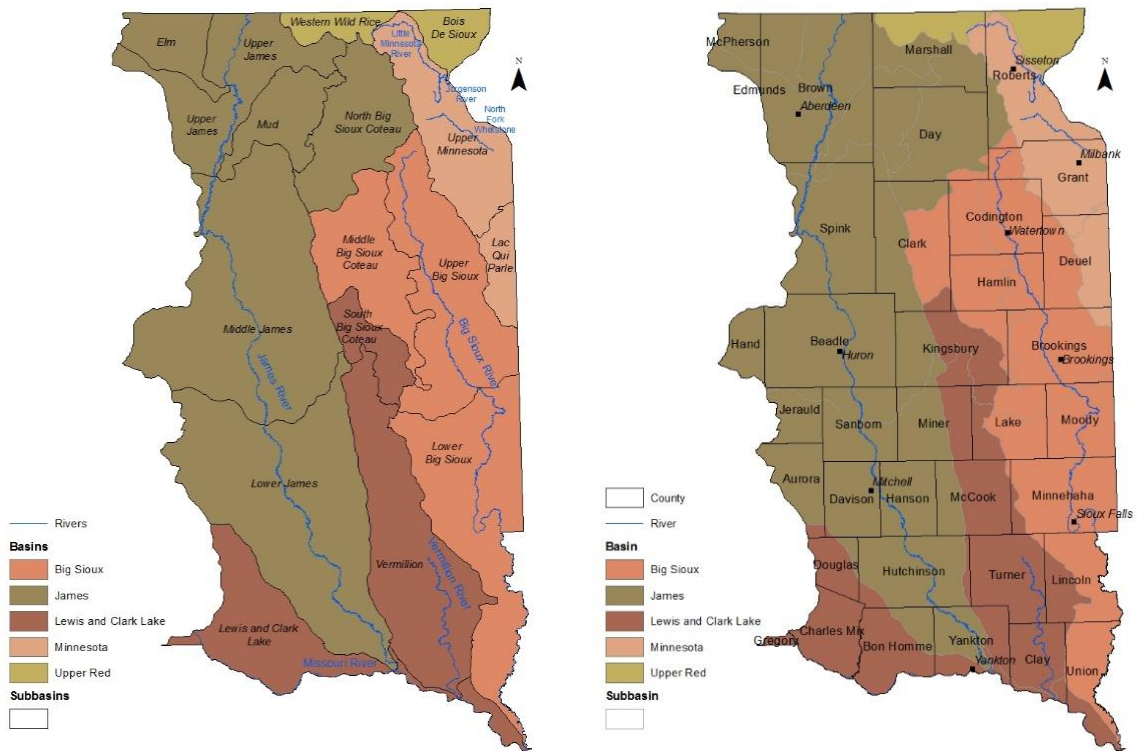
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP), through the South Dakota Natural Heritage Program, maintains a database of river otter reports from across the state. Data are from a variety of sources including universities, government wildlife agencies, private contractors, and the general public. Reports include the sighting of an otter, incidental catch, river otter sign (tracks, scat, or snow slide), or a vehicle kill. Not every river otter encounter is reported to SDGFP and not all reports are verified. The number of verified river otter reports has increased over time (Figure 1). Approximately half of these reports came from Grant, Roberts or Moody counties. The tribal reintroduction, along with natural recolonization from other areas has resulted in a growing river otter population in eastern South Dakota.

In 2012, a 5-year plan was written to provide general, strategic guidance for the recovery and sustained management of river otter. As directed in the plan, recovery criteria were developed to justify removing the species from the state threatened species list when appropriate. Delisting of the river otter will be recommended when the following conditions are met: 1) verified reports of reproduction are documented in three of the five basins (60%) within the recovery area (Figure 2), and 2) within each basin, the presence of river otters has been documented by verified reports in at least 40% of their subbasins. Both criteria shall be met during at least two of the five years prior to recommended delisting. These criteria were met in 2019 (Figure 3). Because protection under the state endangered species law is no longer justified, the Department recommends that the species be removed from the state list of threatened mammals.

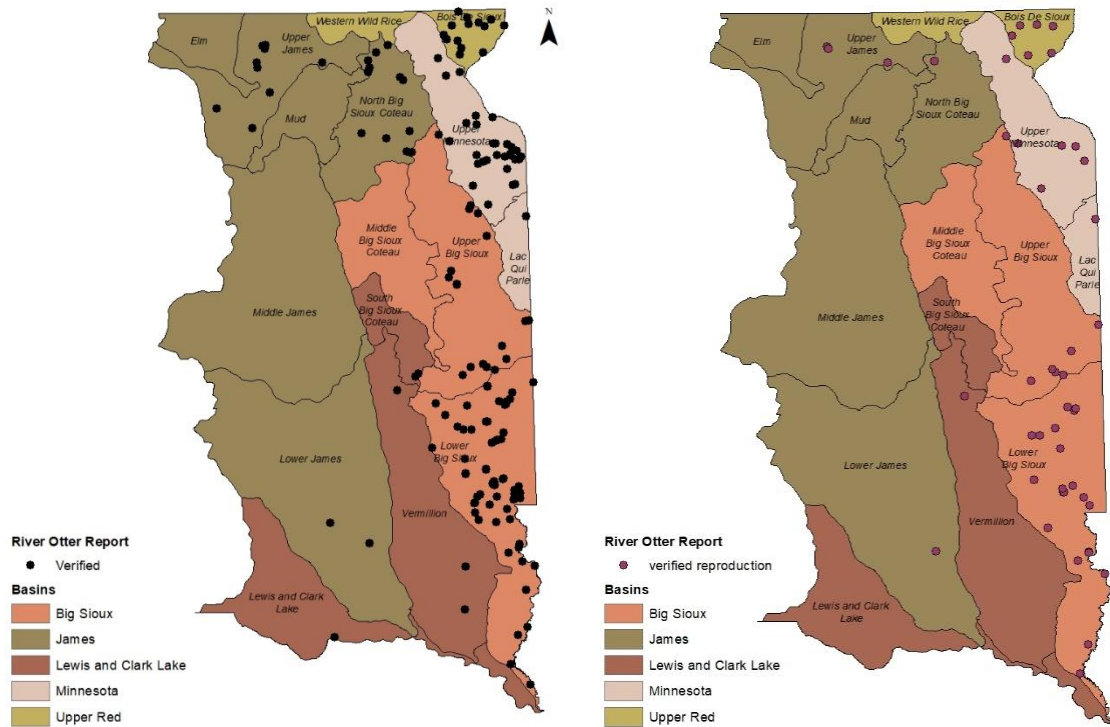
**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_



**Figure 1.** Verified reports of river otters in South Dakota from 1983 through 2019. Reports include the sighting of an otter, incidental catch, river otter sign (tracks, scat or sign) or vehicle kill.



**Figure 2.** Recovery area watershed basins and subbasins. Basins are hydrological unit level six watersheds while subbasins are hydrological unit level eight watersheds, as defined by the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Watershed Boundary Dataset.



**Figure 3.** Verified reports of river otters (left) and reproduction (right) across the recovery watersheds in eastern South Dakota from 2015 – 2019. These reports represent a conservative estimate because many reports come from the public, and it is reasonable to assume not every river otter encounter is reported to SDGFP.

### Literature Cited

- Kiesow, A. M. and C. D. Dieter. 2003. Status and distribution of river otters, *Lontra canadensis*, in South Dakota. Proceedings of the South Dakota Academy of Science 82:79-87.
- Melquist, W. E. 2015. Determination of river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) distribution and evaluation of potential sites for population expansion in South Dakota. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division Final Report, Pierre, SD.

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Fish Limits Chapter 41:07:03

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>March 5, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>May 7-8, 2020</b>	<b>Custer</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>May 7-8, 2020</b>	<b>Custer</b>

### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

#### Proposed Change:

1. In the Nebraska/South Dakota border waters, limit the harvest of flathead catfish 30 inches or longer in length to at most one fish daily, as part of the daily limit.

#### Background Information

- Administrative rules 41:07:03:01 through 41:07:03:03 list harvest restrictions for catfish for South Dakota inland and border waters.
- There are no daily or possession limits for catfish of any species for the inland waters of the Missouri River and the Grand, Moreau, Cheyenne, Belle Fourche, Bad, White, and Little Missouri Rivers.
- The daily and possession limits for all species of catfish, combined, for all other inland waters are 10 and 20 fish, respectively.
- At their March 2020 meeting, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission adopted a proposal to limit the harvest of flathead catfish 30 inches or longer to at most one fish daily, as part of the daily limit, for inland waters.
- No length restrictions are in place for catfish of any species for the South Dakota portion of the South Dakota-Nebraska border waters but at most one flathead catfish 30 inches or longer may be kept as part of the daily limit for the Nebraska portion.
- No length restrictions are currently in place for catfish of any species for the Iowa border waters with South Dakota.
- For the South Dakota-Minnesota border waters, at most one catfish 24 inches or longer may be kept as part of the daily limit.

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Department staff met with Iowa and Nebraska staff in February to discuss border water catfish regulations. To standardize regulations for anglers, all three states desire matching regulations between border waters of NE-SD and IA-SD.

To standardize South Dakota border water regulations with Nebraska regulations, the department recommends changing flathead catfish regulations on the border waters such that at most one flathead catfish 30 inches or longer may be included as part of the daily limit.

As anglers are already restricted to one flathead catfish 30" or longer in the daily limit on the Nebraska portion of NE-SD border waters, adding the same regulation to the South Dakota portion would make the regulations for both states the same.

The IA-SD border water regulations are currently the same for both states but lack any length restrictions. If the one flathead catfish 30" or longer regulation is moved forward for South Dakota's portion of the NE-SD border waters, Iowa will submit the same length restriction for consideration in their regulation process for addition on the IA-SD border waters. If that is accomplished, the Department would recommend adding the one flathead catfish 30" or longer in the daily limit restriction on the IA-SD border water at that time.

**APPROVE**\_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY**\_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT**\_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_

“One Over” regulations are effective at reducing harvest of fish when it is common for anglers to catch two or more fish above the specified length during a fishing trip. No negative impacts of a one-over-30” regulation on flathead catfish populations are anticipated, however, staff believe the regulation will not result in an increase in larger flathead catfish.

#### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not Applicable.

#### RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate?

There is no impact of the proposed regulation on an individual’s ability to participate.

2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?

The only impact on opportunities for new and existing users would be limiting individual anglers to only one larger flathead catfish per day.

3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?

Negligible impacts are anticipated.

4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?

Adding the proposed regulation to restrict the harvest of flathead catfish to at most one fish 30 inches or longer as part of the daily limit will add complexity to regulations. However, “one-over” regulations can, from a social perspective, increase value placed on larger fish for which harvest is limited. Increased awareness that flathead catfish above 30 inches exist may increase interest in this fishery. Also, addition of the same regulation on the Nebraska-South Dakota border waters will help standardized border water regulations.

# GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Archery Deer Hunting Season 41:06:22

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

## COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2020 hunting season

**Season Dates:** September 1, 2020 – January 1, 2021

**Open Area:** “Any Deer” Licenses: Statewide, East River, West River  
“Antlerless Whitetail Deer” Licenses: Unit ARD-LM1  
“Any Antlerless Deer” Licenses: Custer, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Sturgis city limits

**Licenses:** Unlimited “any deer” licenses  
Unlimited single tag “antlerless whitetail deer” licenses  
500 single-tag “any antlerless deer” resident licenses

### **Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Resident and nonresident hunters may purchase one (1) statewide “any deer” license or one (1) East River “any deer” license and one (1) West River “any deer” license.
2. Residents and nonresidents may purchase one (1) “antlerless whitetail deer” license for Unit ARD-LM1.
3. Residents may apply for and possess one (1) “any antlerless deer” license valid for a municipal deer unit.
4. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
5. Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge is through January 1, except during the refuge firearm deer seasons.
6. Waubay Lake State Game Refuge and Waubay National Wildlife Refuge in Day County are open through January 1, except during refuge firearm deer seasons.
7. Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge is open through January 1, except during the refuge firearm deer seasons.
8. Licensees must obtain an access permit from the Department issued by lottery drawing before hunting Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve and Good Earth State Park.

### **Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Modify the season start date for Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge from the fourth Saturday of September to September 1.
2. Modify the season start date for Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge from the third Saturday of October to September 1.
3. In addition to the one “antlerless whitetail deer” license for residents and nonresidents for Unit ARD-LM1, make an allowance for no more than 500 single-tag “antlerless any deer” licenses that would be distributed amongst all municipal archery deer hunting units. Regular price of a single tag “any antlerless deer” resident license.
4. Establish municipal archery deer hunting units for the following city limits: Custer, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Sturgis. Season structure and specific regulations would be determined by the appropriate municipality within the requirements and restrictions of the South Dakota archery season.

<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Deer associated with urban areas can cause property damage and increase vehicle deer collisions. The issuance and oversight of kill permits to manage urban deer populations does create additional workload for Department staff. Some municipalities have worked with the Department to develop urban deer management plans. Archery deer hunting within city limits can help address issues caused by urban deer populations and provide additional hunting opportunities. The above municipal governments are interested in implementing this management tool.

It is the desire of the respective USFWS wildlife refuges to align their archery deer hunting seasons with the statewide season.

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

Recommended changes to proposal:

1. Remove the proposed hunting unit for the City of Sturgis.
2. Resident “any antlerless deer” licenses will be allocated as follows:

Municipality	# Licenses
Custer	45
Rapid City	60
Sioux Falls	60

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

1. The Issue
  - Why make the change, what are the change alternatives, how will public/stakeholder input be solicited, and how will the change be evaluated if implemented?
    - i. Deer associated with urban areas can cause property damage and increase vehicle deer collisions. The issuance and oversight of kill permits to manage urban deer populations does create additional workload for Department staff. Some municipalities have worked with the Department to develop urban deer management plans. Archery deer hunting within city limits can help address issues caused by urban deer populations and provide additional hunting opportunities.
    - ii. At the request of the USFWS refuge system, it is the desire to align the opening dates of archery deer season with the statewide season.
2. Historical Considerations – Department has used access permits and issued kill permits for some municipalities to harvest urban deer.
3. Biological Considerations
  - What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations?
    - i. This management tool will assist local municipalities and the Department in managing deer populations within social tolerances.
4. Social Considerations
  - Will provide additional archery deer hunting opportunities.
5. Financial considerations – No significant financial benefit to Department but will improve efficiency of Department staff time.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No, provides additional opportunity.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Provides additional archery deer hunting opportunities.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_

# GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Application for License 41:06:01

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

## COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Modify 41:06:01:15 to read as follows:

**41:06:01:15. Elk application requirements.** The following requirements and restrictions apply to all applications for license for the Black Hills elk season, the archery elk hunting season, and the prairie elk hunting season: **(NO CHANGE)**

(1) Only a resident of the state may apply for a license; **(NO CHANGE)**

(2) Except for a qualifying landowner-operator applicant, and except as provided in § 41:06:01:09, a person who received an elk hunting license for this season in the first lottery drawing or the second drawing by using preference points in any of the nine preceding years may not apply for a license under this chapter for the next nine years; and **(NO CHANGE)**

(3) Fifty percent of the licenses are available to persons who qualify for landowner-operator preference under the provisions of SDCL [41-6-21](#). A minimum of 240 acres of land within an elk unit which has had at least 500 days of elk use since the last day of the previous application period is required to qualify. An elk use day is any day an elk feeds or waters on private land. For purposes of elk preference eligibility, members of the qualifying landowner-operator's family including grandparents, parents, spouse, children, children's spouse, or grandchildren who live on the ranch or in the closest community and have an active role in the ranch operation also qualify. Only one qualifying applicant per ranch unit per year may apply for a landowner-operator preference elk license in the first draw. A ranch unit is described as all private property owned and leased for agricultural purposes by written agreement by an individual qualifying landowner in the state. A ranch unit may not be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one landowner-operator preference. **(CURRENT RULE)**

(3) Fifty percent of the licenses are available to persons who must annually qualify for landowner-operator preference under the provisions of SDCL [41-6-21](#). For the purpose of qualification, the applicant must own or operate for agricultural purposes a minimum of 240 acres of land within one or more designated elk units for the respective elk hunting season applied for. The qualifying lands must have experienced habitual elk use since the last day of the previous application period to qualify. Habitual elk use is defined as land being regularly used by elk that are bedding, feeding, watering or causing damage on private land. Elk use must be documented by the landowner-operator or verified by a department representative in order to qualify. Members of the qualifying landowner-operator's family including grandparents, parents, spouse, children, children's spouse, or grandchildren who live on the ranch or in the closest community and have an active role in the day to day ranch operation may also qualify for landowner-operator elk preference. Only one qualifying applicant per ranch unit per year may apply for a landowner-operator preference elk license in the first draw. A ranch unit is described as all private property owned and leased for agricultural purposes by written agreement by an individual qualifying landowner-operator in the state. Landowner-operators with land parcels totaling 240 acres or more that are not located immediately adjacent to each other must demonstrate that each parcel is being used for agricultural purposes and at least one of the parcels has habitual elk use in that qualifying year. A contiguous parcel of land that falls within 2 or more elk units and is 240 acres or larger may qualify, however, the landowner-operator preference applicant would be required to select the one unit where he or she will hunt that license year in their application. A qualifying ranch unit cannot be subdivided for the purpose of qualifying for more than one landowner-operator elk preference. **(RECOMMENDED RULE)**

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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2. Establish new administrative rules for Landowner Own-land Elk licenses with the following requirements:
  1. The applicant for this license must own a minimum of 240 acres of land within one or more designated elk hunting units that comprise a respective elk hunting season in order to qualify.
  2. The applicant is limited to one any elk license per year and may only hunt on those lands owned and operated or leased and operated for agricultural purposes within the designated elk hunting units.
  3. The fee for the landowner own-land elk licenses would be half price of a regular resident elk license.
  4. Landowner own-land elk licenses are only valid for use in elk hunting units where the department has determined the elk population objective as "slightly decrease" or "substantially decrease".
  5. Season dates for this season will be August 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

Recommended changes to proposal: None.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Recommended changes to 41:06:01:15 are an effort to clarify the intent of this rule as it relates to qualifying land, documentation and qualifying members of the family. Changes also eliminate the "500 elk us days" as this is not easily defined in the field and is left to some interpretation by a qualifying landowner and the Department. Changes to elk use should clarify the intent of the rule that a qualifying landowner-operator must demonstrate that elk use the qualifying property.

Currently there are landowners that qualify as landowner elk preference applicants but are not receiving an elk license in units where the Department is seeking to reduce the number of elk. The Department recommends establishing a limited landowner own-land elk license to ensure that landowners can hunt elk on agricultural lands they own or operate within elk units where the Department's management objective is to decrease the overall elk population. Landowner licenses help to build tolerance for elk and promote elk hunter access and serve to demonstrate the appreciation that the Department has for landowners and producers that help support elk populations, hunter access, the Department's mission and other wildlife management objectives.

**Landowner Elk Comparison Table**

LICENSE COMPARISON	LANDOWNER PREFERENCE	LANDOWNER OWN-LAND
<b>Applicant Eligibility</b>	Available to qualifying resident landowners whose owned or leased property is used for agricultural purposes.	Available to qualifying resident landowners whose owned or leased property is used for agricultural purposes.
<b>Land Eligibility Requirements</b>	Applicant must own or operate a minimum of 240 acres of land within one or more units for a respective elk hunting season.	Applicant must own or operate a minimum of 240 acres of land within one or more units for a respective elk hunting season.
<b>Elk Use Requirement</b>	The qualifying land must have experienced habitual elk use since the last day of the previous application period.	Not applicable.
<b>Open Area</b>	License is valid anywhere on private and public land for the respective hunting unit.	Applicant's land that is owned or leased.
<b>Number of Licenses</b>	No more than one license per ranch unit whether a landowner preference or landowner own-land.	
<b>License Availability</b>	Available for hunting units with an allocation of elk licenses.	Only available for hunting units with a "slightly decrease" or "substantially decrease" population objective as determined by the Department.
<b>License Type</b>	Any elk or antlerless elk	Any elk
<b>License Fee</b>	50% of regular license fee	50% of regular license fee
<b>Season Dates</b>	Regular season dates for the respective season or hunting unit.	August - March

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_

**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION  
PROPOSAL**

**Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season**  
Chapter 41:06:49

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

**COMMISSION PROPOSAL**

**Duration of Proposal:** 2020 hunting season

**Season Dates:** September 12-13, 2020

**Open Area:** Statewide

**Daily Limit:** Same as for regular duck and goose seasons

**Possession Limit:** Same as for regular duck and goose seasons

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Residents and nonresidents who have not reached the age of 18 by the first day of the season may hunt in the youth waterfowl hunting season.
2. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.  
The youth hunter must be properly licensed to hunt waterfowl in the state, unless participating under a Mentored Hunt scenario as described in "Mentored Youth Hunting".
3. All other hunting restrictions will be the same as during the regular waterfowl seasons.

**Proposed change from last year:**

1. Modify the eligibility from youth who have not reached the age of 16 to youth who have not reached the age of 18.

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

Recommended changes to proposal: None.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

This amendment would align state regulations regarding the age definition of youth with federal regulations, which are less restrictive.

With this recommended change, youth ages 16-17 would be able to participate in the youth waterfowl season.

<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

Not applicable.

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate?
  - a. No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
  - a. Yes, waterfowl hunters ages 16-17 will now be able to participate in the youth waterfowl season.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?
  - a. This creates a new opportunity for 16-17-year-old waterfowl hunters who have historically not had access to the youth waterfowl season.
  - b. Recruitment for youth hunters under the age of 16 has been high, however a large percentage of youth lapse out of hunting through high school years as other activities compete with hunting. Allowing 16-17-year-old waterfowl hunters to participate in a youth waterfowl season would incentivize and potentially retain those lapsed hunters as well as provide an opportunity for recruiting a new age group.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?
  - a. Yes.

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Youth Pheasant Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:55

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

### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

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

**Open Area:** Statewide except road rights-of-way

**Daily Limit:** 3 cock pheasants

**Possession Limit:** 15 cock pheasants

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

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

**Proposed changes from last year:**

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

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

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

Recommended changes to proposal:

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

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

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

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

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

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

<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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## RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

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

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_



# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

## Black Hills Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:26

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b> <b>Public Hearing</b> <b>Finalization</b>	<b>January 16-17, 2020</b> <b>April 2, 2020</b> <b>April 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b> <b>Sioux Falls</b> <b>Sioux Falls</b>
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### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2020 and 2021 hunting seasons.

**Season Dates:**

Units	2020 Hunting Season Dates	2021 Hunting Season Dates
Any Elk Units	October 1 - 31	October 1 - 31
Antlerless Elk Units: H1B, H7B and H9B	October 15 - 31 AND December 1 - 16	October 15 - 31 AND December 1 - 16
Antlerless Elk Units: H2B, H2E, H2H, H3B and H3E	October 15 - 31	October 15 - 31
Antlerless Elk Units: H2C, H2F, H2I, H3C and H3F	December 1 - 16	December 1 - 16
Antlerless Elk Units: H2D, H2G, H2J, H2D and H3G	December 17 - 31	December 17 - 31

**Open Area:** See attached maps.

**Licenses:** 450 "any elk" and 470 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 920 licenses)

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
2. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
3. Except for landowner/operator preference applicants, no person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season shall be eligible to apply for a Black Hills elk license in first drawings for the next 9 years.
4. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference. One member of each qualifying landowner/operator household may apply every year.
5. Each elk harvested must be inspected by a Conservation Officer or designee within 24 hours after kill.

**Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Adjust the total number of available licenses from 425 "any elk" and 700 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,125 licenses) to 450 "any elk" and 470 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 920 licenses).

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

**Recommended changes from proposal:**

1. Adjust the total number of available licenses from 425 "any elk" and 700 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,125 licenses) to 450 "any elk" and 490 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 940 licenses).
2. Modify the season dates for antlerless elk units BHE-H2B and BHE-H2E from October 15-31 to October 15-31 and December 1-16.

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_   
 **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_   
 **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_   
 **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

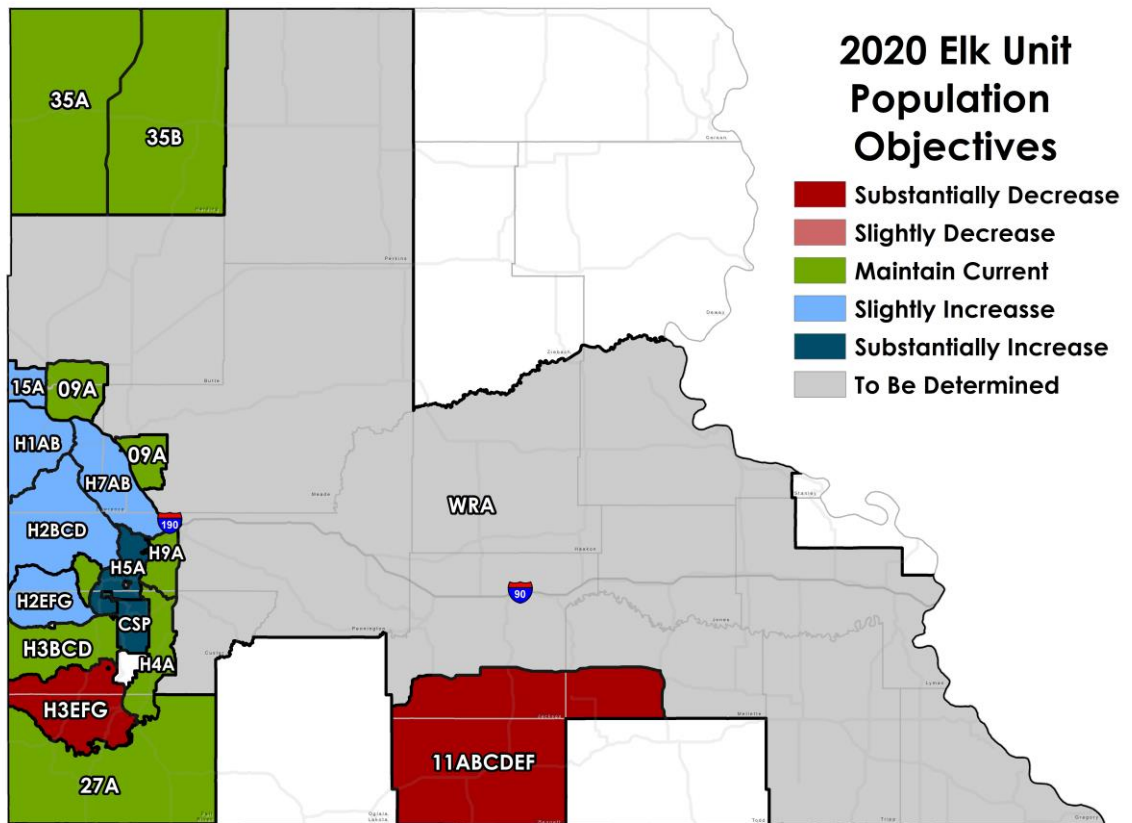
The intent of the changes being recommended are to allow an opportunity for adjustments to be made at finalization during the Commission meeting in April and in administrative rule to maximize hunter opportunity based on the results of the upcoming aerial survey and to meet population objectives identified in the elk management plan.

The proposed change to season dates for antlerless elk units BHE-H2B and BHE-H2E is based on the decreased allocation of licenses and density of hunters.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Hunter Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	664	71%	299	174
2015	922	71%	312	345
2016	1,745	62%	363	724
2017	1,581	66%	366	684
2018	1,124	64%	315	402

2018	"Any Elk"					"Antlerless Elk" (All Units Combined)				
Unit	Appl.1st Choice	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested	Appl.1st Choice	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
H1	1,131	60	73%	44	0	53	20	33%	0	7
H2	8,534	249	77%	179	13	453	445	62%	5	269
H3	1,190	80	77%	58	3	55	195	48%	3	90
H4	54	10	90%	9	0	3	10	70%	0	7
H5	58	5	60%	3	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
H7	278	10	90%	9	0	8	10	40%	0	4
H9	51	10	40%	3	1	3	20	45%	1	8

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_



**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

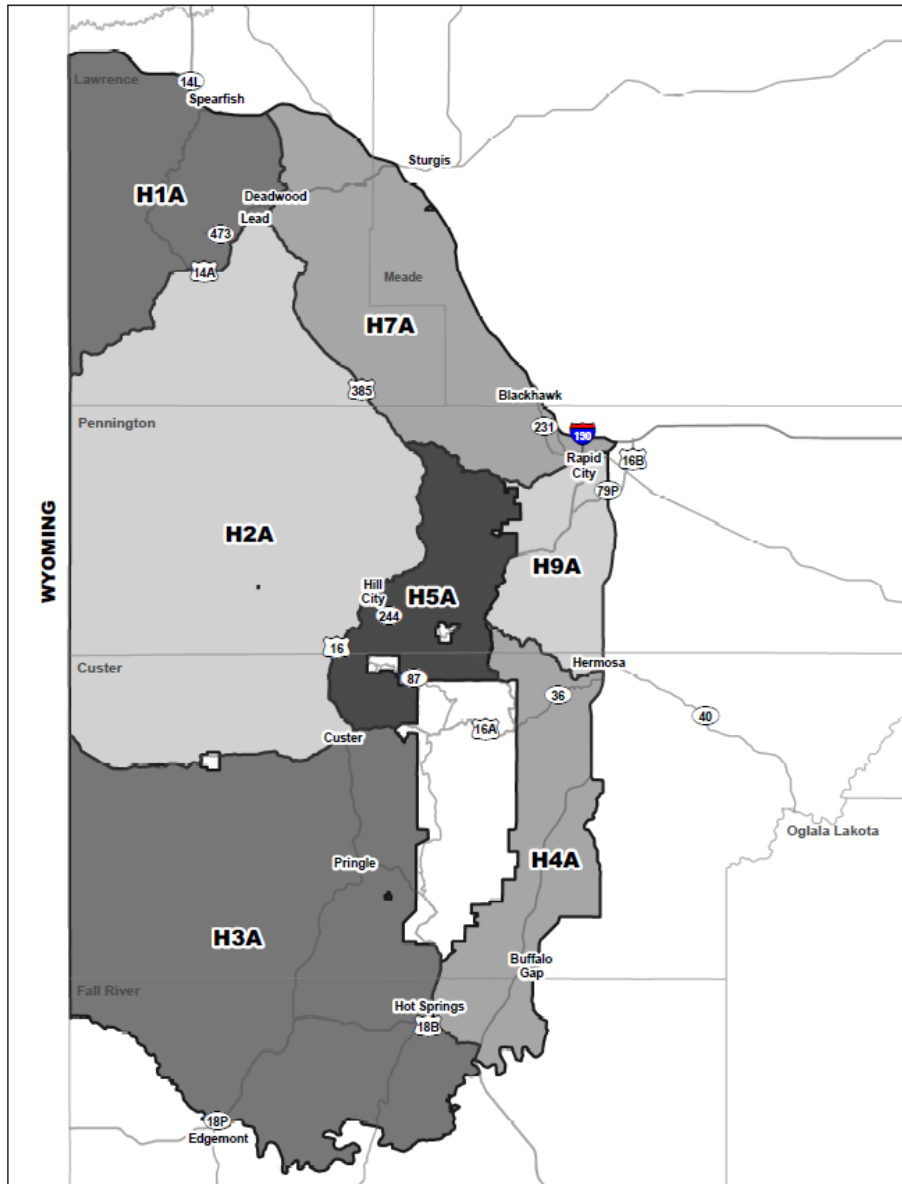
Not applicable.

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

- Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? Not applicable.
- Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
  - The proposed changes to license allocation would slightly increase any elk and decrease antlerless elk hunting opportunities.
- How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Not applicable.
- Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Not applicable.

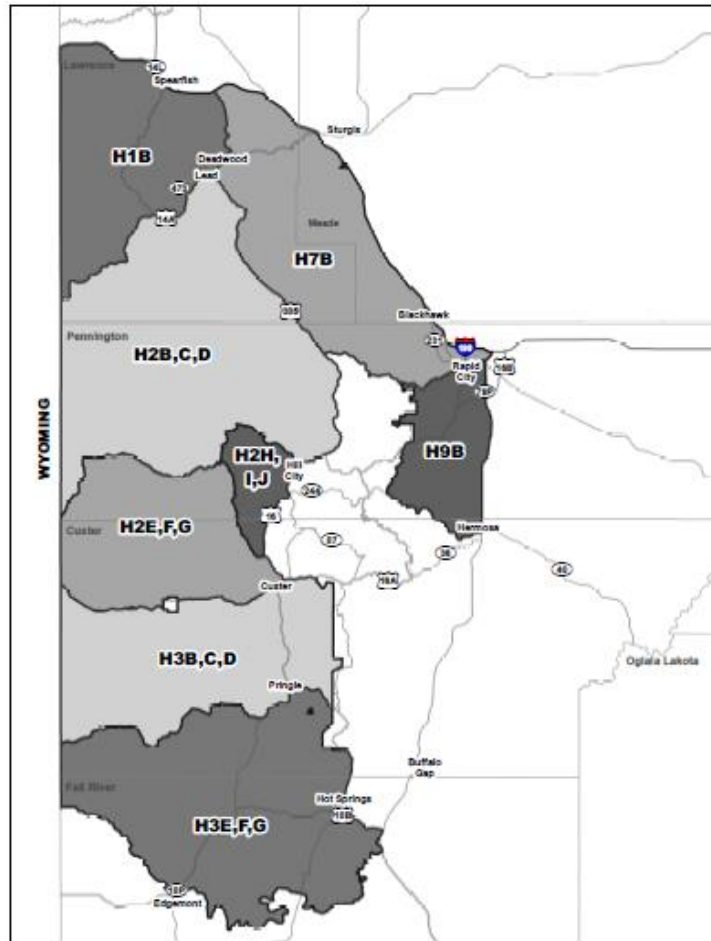
APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

# BLACK HILLS “ANY” ELK UNITS



2020 & 2021	
Unit	“Any” Elk Licenses
H1A	50
H2A	240
H3A	100
H4A	20
H5A	5
H7A	20
H9A	15
Total	450

# BLACK HILLS “ANTLERLESS” ELK UNITS



2020 & 2021	
Unit	“Antlerless” Elk Licenses
H1B	15
H2B	25
H2C	0
H2D	0
H2E	50
H2F	0
H2G	0
H2H	5
H2I	15
H2J	15
H3B	30
H3C	30
H3D	30
H3E	60
H3F	60
H3G	60
H4B	40
H7B	15
H9B	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>490</b>

**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION  
FINALIZATION**

**Archery Elk Hunting Season  
Chapter 41:06:43**

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 16-17, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 2, 2020</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>

**COMMISSION PROPOSAL**

**Duration of Proposal:** 2020 and 2021 hunting seasons.

**Season Dates:** Black Hills Units: September 1-30, 2020  
September 1-30, 2021

**Open Area:** See attached map

**Licenses:** 152 “any elk” and 75 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 227 licenses)

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
2. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
3. Except for landowner/operator preference applicants, no person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season shall be eligible to apply for an archery elk license in first drawings for the next 9 years.
4. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference application. One member of each qualifying landowner/operator household may apply every year.
5. Each elk harvested must be inspected by a Conservation Officer or designee within 24 hours after kill.

**Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 142 “any elk” and 80 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 222 licenses) to 152 “any elk” and 75 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 227 licenses).

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

Recommended changes from proposal:

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 142 “any elk” and 80 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 222 licenses) to 147 “any elk” and 70 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 217 licenses).

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

The intent of the changes being recommended are to allow an opportunity for adjustments to be made at finalization during the Commission meeting in April and in administrative rule to maximize hunter opportunity based on the results of the upcoming aerial survey and to meet population objectives identified in the elk management plan.

<b>APPROVE</b> _____	<b>MODIFY</b> _____	<b>REJECT</b> _____	<b>NO ACTION</b> _____
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Year	Licensed Hunters	Hunter Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	106	39%	38	4
2015	196	34%	54	12
2016	280	29%	57	25
2017	269	27%	48	23
2018	219	38%	65	19

2018	"Any Elk"					"Antlerless Elk"				
	Unit	Appl.1st Choice	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested	Appl.1st Choice	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested
H1	660	19	33%	6	0	11	10	40%	1	3
H2	3,671	88	57%	49	1	42	50	27%	0	13
H3	446	25	26%	7	0	10	20	6%	0	1
H4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
H5	40	2	0%	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
H7	126	5	60%	3	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
H9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

#### **RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

Not Applicable.

#### **RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? Not applicable.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? The proposed changes to license allocation would slightly decrease elk hunting opportunities.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Not applicable.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Not applicable.

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_

**GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION  
FINALIZATION**

**Custer State Park Elk Hunting Season (Any Elk)**

Chapter 41:06:27

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 16-17, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 2, 2020</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>

**COMMISSION PROPOSAL**

**Duration of Proposal:** 2020 and 2021 hunting seasons.

**Season Dates:** October 1-31, 2020  
October 1-31, 2021

**Licenses:** 8 resident "Any Elk" licenses

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. The unit is open within the boundaries of Custer State Park.
2. Harvested elk must be inspected within 24 hours.

**Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Retain current allocation of 8 "any elk" licenses.

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

Recommended changes from proposal:

1. Retain current allocation of 9 "any elk" licenses. This is to address an error on the Department's original recommendation as one of these licenses is available for the elk raffle license.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

The intent of the changes being recommended are to allow an opportunity for adjustments to be made at finalization during the Commission meeting in April and in administrative rule to maximize hunter opportunity based on the results of the upcoming aerial survey and to meet population objectives identified in the elk management plan.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Licenses</b>	<b>Applicants</b>	<b>Success Rate</b>
2006	41	11,709	95%
2007	41	12,768	93%
2008	36	12,572	97%
2009	36	13,063	86%
2010	21	13,065	80%
2011	11	12,060	91%
2012	4	11,133	100%
2013	4	12,888	100%
2014	4	11,762	100%
2015	8	9,136	100%
2016	9	8,951	89%
2017	9	8,828	89%
2018	9	8,670	89%

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

Not Applicable.

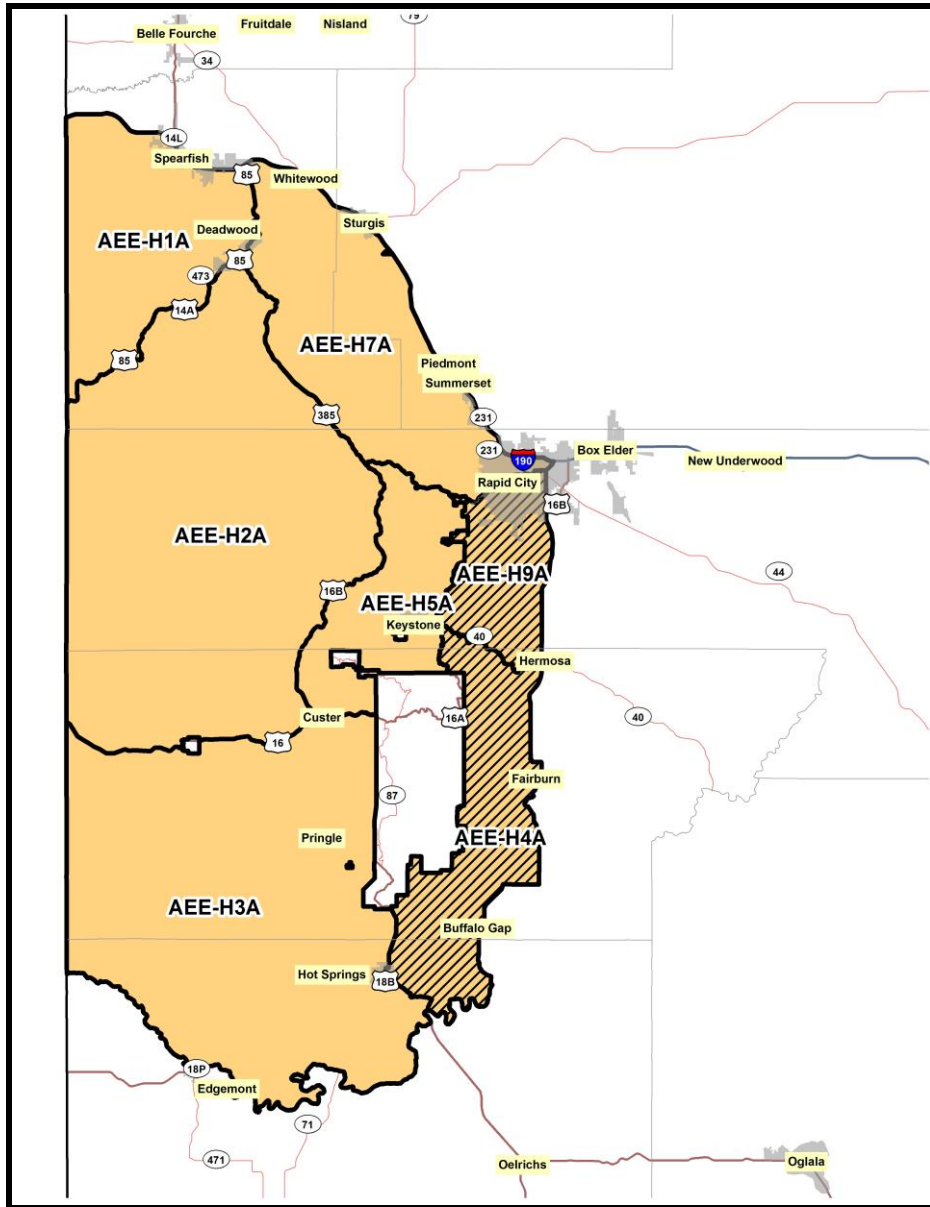
**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

Not Applicable.

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_



# BLACK HILLS ARCHERY ELK UNITS



Unit	2020 & 2021		Total Tags
	"Any" Elk Tags	"Antlerless" Elk Tags	
H1	20	10	30
H2	80	40	120
H3	35	20	55
H4	0	0	0
H5	2	0	2
H7	10	0	10
H9	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>217</b>

**GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION  
FINALIZATION**

**Custer State Park Early Archery Elk Hunting Season**

**Chapter 41:06:28**

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 16-17, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 2, 2020</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>

**COMMISSION PROPOSAL**

**Duration of Proposal:** 2020 and 2021 hunting seasons.

**Season Dates:** September 1-30, 2020  
September 1-30, 2021

**Licenses:** 3 "Any Elk" licenses

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Harvested elk must be inspected within 24 hours.

**Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Retain current allocation of 3 "any elk" licenses.

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

Recommended changes from proposal: None.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

The intent of the changes being recommended are to allow an opportunity for adjustments to be made at finalization during the Commission meeting in April and in administrative rule to maximize hunter opportunity based on the results of the upcoming aerial survey and to meet population objectives identified in the elk management plan.

Year	Licensed Hunters	1st Choice Applicants	Success Rate	Elk Harvested
2008	8	3,084	25%	2 bulls
2009	8	3,134	25%	2 bulls
2010	5	3,031	0%	None
2011	3	2,000	33%	1 bull
2012	3	2,078	0%	0
2013	3	2,740	100%	3 bulls
2014	4	3,023	100%	4 bulls
2015	4	3,600	75%	3 bulls
2016	3	3,707	33%	1 bull
2017	3	3,704	33%	1 bull
2018	3	3,772	67%	2 bulls

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

Not Applicable.

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

Not Applicable.

**APPROVE** \_\_\_\_\_ **MODIFY** \_\_\_\_\_ **REJECT** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO ACTION** \_\_\_\_\_

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

## Prairie Elk Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:59

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b> <b>Public Hearing</b> <b>Finalization</b>	<b>January 16-17, 2020</b> <b>April 2, 2020</b> <b>April 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b> <b>Sioux Falls</b> <b>Sioux Falls</b>
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### COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**Duration of Proposal:** 2020 and 2021 hunting seasons.

**Season Dates:**

Unit	2020 Hunting Season Dates	2021 Hunting Season Dates
9A	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1 - 31	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1 - 31
11A	July 15 - August 31	July 15 - August 31
11B	September 1 - October 16	September 1 - October 15
11C	October 17 - November 30	October 16 - November 30
11D	September 1 - October 31	September 1 - October 31
11E	November 1 - December 31	November 1 - December 31
11F	January 1 - February 28	January 1 - February 28
15A	September 1 - October 31 AND December 1 - 31	September 1 - October 31 AND December 1 - 31
15B	December 1 - January 31	December 1 - January 31
27A	October 1 - 31 AND December 1 - 31	October 1 - 31 AND December 1 - 31
35A	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1 - 31	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1 - 31
35B	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1 - 31	September 15 - October 31 AND December 1 - 31
WRA	September 1 - December 31	September 1 - December 31

<b><u>Open Area:</u></b>	Unit 09A Unit 11A-F Unit 15A and B Unit 27A Unit 35A Unit 35B Unit WRA	Portions of Butte, Lawrence and Meade counties Bennett County; portions of Jackson and Mellette counties Portions of Butte and Lawrence counties Portions of Fall River County Harding County west of US Hwy. 85 Harding County east of US Hwy. 85 Those portions of South Dakota west of the Missouri River not associated with another prairie elk unit, excluding Corson, Dewey, Oglala Lakota, Todd and Ziebach counties and the Lower Brule Indian Reservation.
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**Licenses:** 78 "any elk" and 75 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 153 licenses)

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
2. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
3. Except for landowner/operator preference applicants, no person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season shall be eligible to apply for a prairie elk license in first drawings for the next 9 years.
4. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference. One member of each qualifying landowner/operator household may apply every year.
5. Each elk harvested must be inspected by a Conservation Officer or designee within 24 hours after kill.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_
MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_
REJECT \_\_\_\_\_
NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 68 “any elk” and 73 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 141 licenses) to 78 “any elk” and 178 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 256 licenses).
2. Establish a new unit (PRE-WRA) for those portions of South Dakota west of the Missouri River not associated with another prairie elk unit, excluding Corson, Dewey, Oglala Lakota, Todd and Ziebach counties and the boundary of the Lower Brule Indian Reservation with season dates of September 1 to December 1-31 (see attached map).
3. Modify those portions of Unit 9 in Butte and Lawrence counties to include that area within a line beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highways 85 and 212, then east on Highway 212 to Whitewood Valley Road, then south on Whitewood Valley Road to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to U.S. Highway 85, then north on U.S. Highway 85 to point of origin. That portion of Unit 9 in Meade County would remain unchanged.
4. Establish two additional antlerless elk seasons for Unit 11 as follows:
  - a. Unit 11E with season dates of November 1 – December 31
  - b. Unit 11F with season dates of January 1 – February 28
5. Modify Unit 15A to include those portions of Butte and Lawrence counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border, east on Sourdough Road to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then north to the point of origin.
6. In conjunction with the proposed unit boundary change to Unit 15A, establish Unit 15B for antlerless elk harvest and season dates of December 1 – January 31.
7. Modify Unit 27A to include all of Fall River County not included in BHE-H3.
8. Eliminate Unit 30A (portions of Gregory County) and include this geographic area into the West River prairie unit.
9. Modify Unit 35A that currently includes all of Harding County to the following:
  - a. Unit 35A: that portion of Harding County west of US Hwy. 85
  - b. Unit 35B: that portion of Harding County east of US Hwy. 85

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

Recommended changes from proposal: None.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

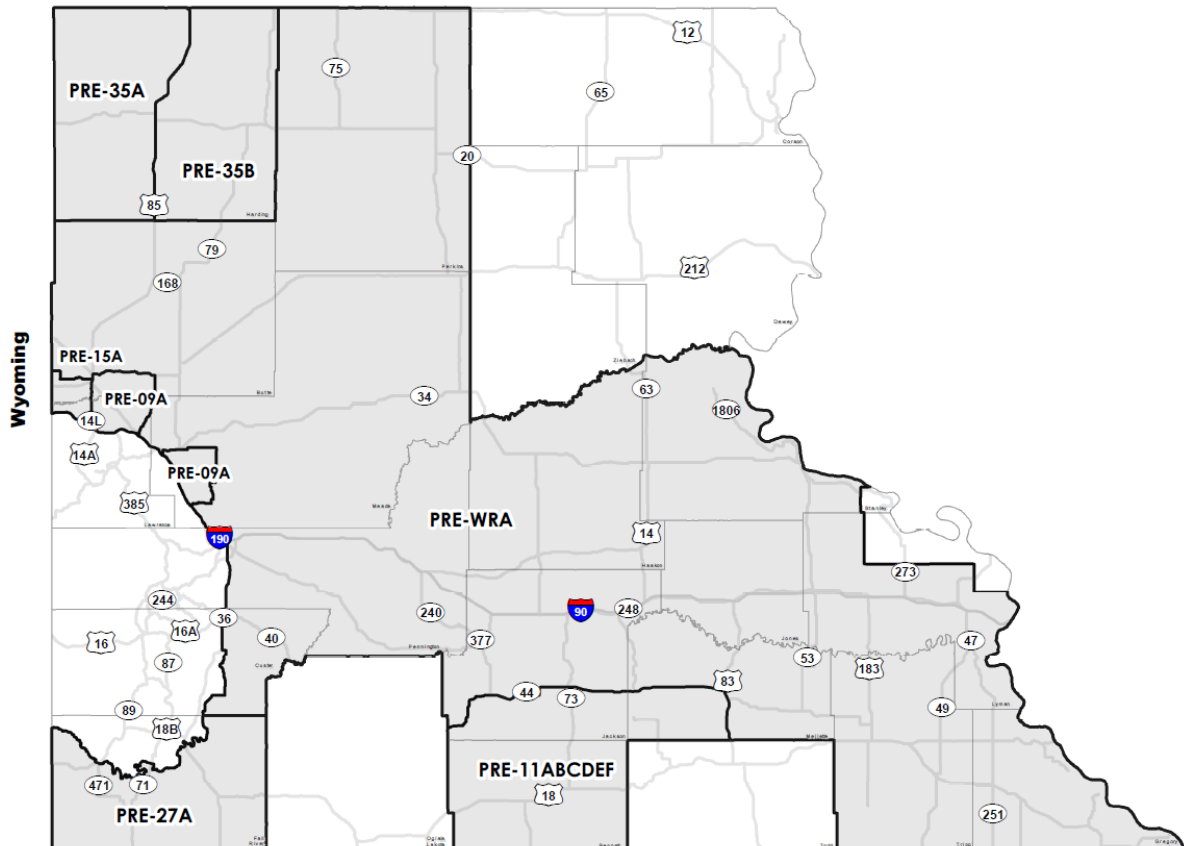
The intent of the changes being recommended are to allow an opportunity for adjustments to be made at finalization during the Commission meeting in April and in administrative rule to maximize hunter opportunity based on the results of the upcoming aerial survey and to meet population objectives identified in the elk management plan.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Hunter Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	92	68%	30	31
2015	98	55%	29	25
2016	148	40%	32	27
2017	149	54%	41	39
2018	139	79%	59	51

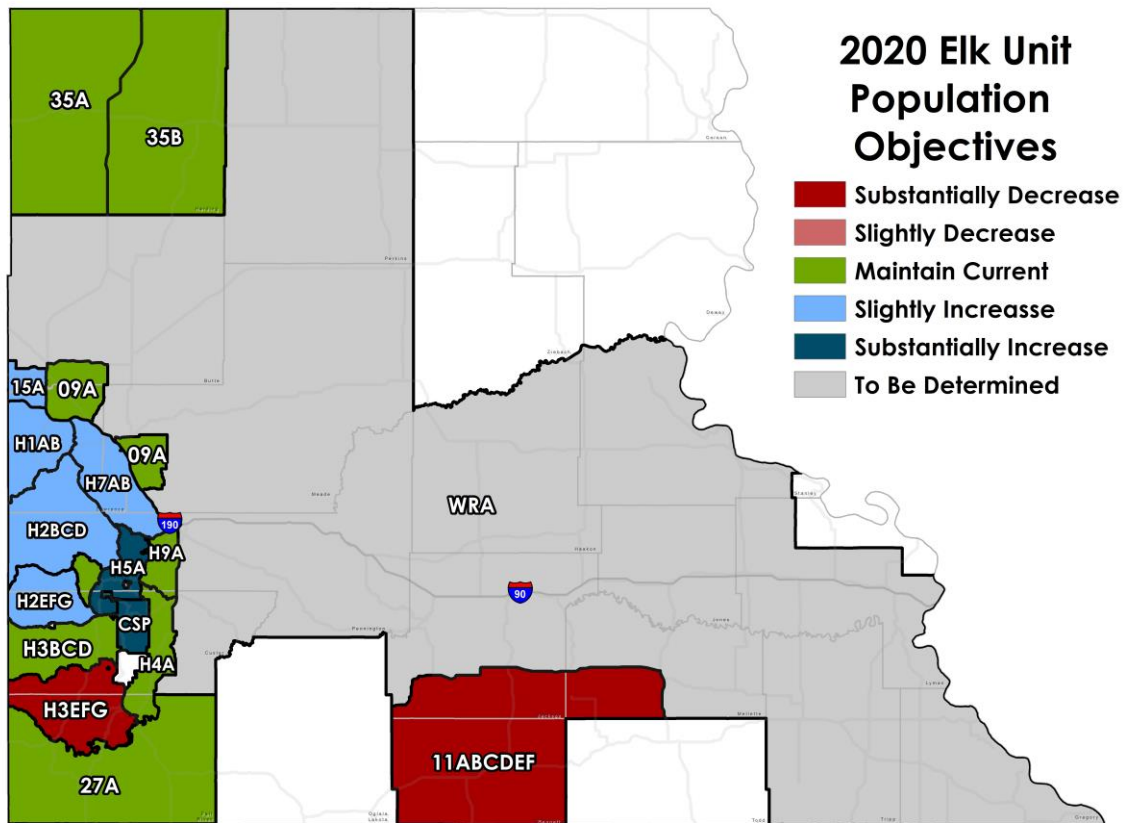
**APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_**

2018	"Any Elk"				"Antlerless Elk"			
Unit	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested	Licensed Hunters	Harvest Success	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
09A	10	80%	8	0	10	50%	0	5
11A	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	93%	0	16
11B	16	100%	16	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
11C	16	69%	10	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
11D	NA	NA	NA	NA	30	70%	0	26
15A	8	100%	8	0	10	0%	0	0
27A	10	80%	8	0	10	40%	1	3
30A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
35A	8	100%	8	0	NA	NA	NA	NA

### Prairie Elk Units



APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_



**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

Not Applicable.

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

- Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No. With the recommended West River prairie elk unit (PRE-WRA), the Department is also recommending modifying the unit boundaries of some other units to simplify their respective unit boundary descriptions.
- Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
  - The proposed changes to license allocation would slightly increase elk hunting opportunities.
- How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? Increases opportunity for elk hunting in western South Dakota and simplifies prairie elk hunting units.
- Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Increases opportunity for elk hunting in western South Dakota.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

**Elk Hunting Seasons – Hunting Unit License Allocations**

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 16-17, 2020</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 2, 2020</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 2-3, 2020</b>	<b>Sioux Falls</b>

**LICENSE ALLOCATION BY SEASONS AND UNITS**

See Attached Spreadsheet

2020-2021 Elk Hunting Seasons

2019 Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	60		
H1B		20	
H2A	250		
H2B		75	
H2C		75	
H2D		25	
H2E		75	
H2F		75	
H2G		75	
H2H		15	
H2I		15	
H2J		15	
H3A	80		
H3B		15	
H3C		15	
H3D		15	
H3E		50	
H3F		50	
H3G		50	
H4A	10		
H4B		10	
H5A	5		
H7A	10		
H7B		10	
H9A	10		
H9B		20	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,125</b>
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>

2020-2021 Black Hills Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	50		
H1B		15	
H2A	240		
H2B		25	
H2C			
H2D			
H2E		50	
H2F			
H2G			
H2H		5	
H2I		15	
H2J		15	
H3A	100		
H3B		30	
H3C		30	
H3D		30	
H3E		60	
H3F		60	
H3G		60	
H4A	20		
H4B		40	
H5A	5		
H7A	20		
H7B		15	
H9A	15		
H9B		40	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>940</b>
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>

Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	20	10	
H2A	90	50	
H3A	25	20	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	5		
H9A			
30A			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>222</b>

Archery Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
H1A	20	10	
H2A	80	40	
H3A	35	20	
H4A			
H5A	2		
H7A	10		
H9A			
30A			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>217</b>

Prairie Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
9A	10	10	
11A		18	
11B	16		
11C	16		
11D		30	
11E	Not Applicable		
11F	Not Applicable		
15A	8	5	
15B	Not Applicable		
27A	10	10	
30A			
35A	8		
35B	Not Applicable		
WRA	Not Applicable		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>141</b>

Prairie Elk			
Unit	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
9A	10	15	
11A		18	
11B	16		
11C	16		
11D		30	
11E		30	
11F		30	
15A	8		
15B		5	
27A	10	10	
30A			
35A	4	8	
35B	4	12	
WRA	10	20	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>256</b>

Custer State Park			
Season	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
CEE-CU1	3		
CUE-CU1	9		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>12</b>

Custer State Park			
Season	Resident Licenses		
	Any Elk 21	Atl Elk 23	
CEE-CU1	3		
CUE-CU1	9		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>12</b>