



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

DECEMBER 5, 2024 | SD STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 414

MEETING INFO

This agenda is subject to change without prior notice.

Date and Time: December 5, 2024, from 1-5 pm CST

Meeting Location: SD Capitol Building, Room 414, 500 E Capitol Ave, Pierre, SD 57501

Webinar Info: We will be using Zoom Webinar® for this meeting. As a participant, you will not have audio or video capabilities by default. During the open forum and public hearing, if you'd like to testify, please 'Raise Your Hand' using the button at the bottom of the screen, or by pressing *9 on your phone. To lower your hand via phone, press *9 again. When it's your turn to speak, the meeting host will unmute you, allowing you to have audio but no video. If your phone is muted when called upon, press *6 to unmute.

- *9 to 'Raise Your Hand' or 'Lower Your Hand.'
- *6 to Unmute or Mute

Please inform Liz Kierl at liz.kierl@state.sd.us by 1 pm CST if you plan to speak during the meeting. This helps us to accurately identify and call on speakers during the session. Thank you for your cooperation!

Zoom Webinar: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 912 6417 6710

Passcode: 970458

Call In: +16699009128,,91264176710# US

Video Conference ID: 91264176710@zoomcrc.com

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order (1 pm CST / 12 pm MT)

Division of Administration

Action Items

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
4. 2025 Commission Meeting Schedule

Open Forum (2 pm CST / 1 pm MT)

The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment on petitions, proposals, and other items of interest not on the agenda.

Petition

5. #227 – Mandatory Big Game Harvest Report
6. #230 – Paddlefish Snagging at Gavins Point

Division of Parks and Recreation

Informational Items

7. Volunteer Report for the 2024 Season
8. CSP Buffalo Auction Results
9. CSP Resort Repairs & Maintenance Fund
10. Oahe Downstream Deer Hunt
11. 2025 Construction Projects
12. November Camping Unit and Revenue Reports



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

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Division of Wildlife

Action Items

13. Charles Mix County Game Production Area Land Donation
14. Cotton Slough Land Exchange

Informational Items

15. Mountain Goat Action Plan
16. Chinook Salmon Spawning Overview
17. Third-Party Shooting Range Grants
18. Outdoor Campus East Expansion Update
19. License Sales Reports

Solicitation of Agenda Items

Now is the time to submit agenda items for the Commission to consider at a following commission meeting.

Adjourn

The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on January 9-10, 2025, starting at 1 pm CST at the Ramkota Convention Center, in Pierre, SD.



Commission Meeting Minutes

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Agenda Item #2

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 1 pm CST at the SD State Capitol Building in Pierre, SD on November 7, 2024. On November 7, 2024, Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Jim White, Robert Whitmyre, Jon Locken, Travis Bies, Bruce Cull, Travis Theel, and Julie Bartling were present. With eight commission members present, a quorum was established. The public and staff could listen via SDPB Livestream and participate via conference or in person, with approximately 46 total participants attending via Zoom or in person.

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

[Action Item]

Chair Rissler requested the disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest, but none were brought forward.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

[Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for any additions or corrections to the regular minutes of October 2024 meeting. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>.

MOTIONED BY LOCKEN, SECONDED BY WHITE TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 2024 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Additional Salary Days

[Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for additional salary days from the Commissioners. One additional salary day were submitted for approval for Bartling and Rissler. Two additional salary days were submitted for approval for White.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY THEEL TO APPROVED THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAYS. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Staff Introductions

[Info Item]

Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Director, Jeff VanMeeteren, Parks & Recreation Director, and Scott Simpson, Deputy Secretary, introduced staff to the commission.

5. 2025 Commission Schedule Review

[Info Item]

Chair Rissler presented the commission with a proposed 2025 schedule for commission meetings.

6. South Dakota Parks & Wildlife Foundation

[Info Item]

Pat Wyss, President, and Kristina Koby, Executive Director of the South Dakota Parks & Wildlife Foundation gave a brief presentation on what the SDPWF has been focusing on in the previous year and their future projects.

Open Forum

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor at 2:03 pm CST for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda not as a finalization or may not be on the agenda. No comments were provided. The open forum closed at 2:05 pm CST.

7. Petition #225: Removal of Nonresident Restrictions for Furbearer Participation

[Action Item: Petition]

Steve Cherkas of Edgemont, SD submitted petition #225 in which requested the Commission remove trapping restrictions to increase nonresident furbearer participation.



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Director Kirschenmann introduced the first petition requested by Mr. Steve Cherkas asking the Commission to align nonresident trapping privileges with residents. This would include removing restrictive season dates for nonresidents. One of the primary reasons for the request was to provide better opportunities to trap in other states by the petitioner as reciprocity is followed by many states. The commission determined to deny per the recommendation of the department. Primary reasons included the current structure appears to be working well, resident trappers have expressed concerns in the past over the influx of nonresident trappers when fur markets escalate, and a trapping organization from the state expressed opposition to this request.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BIES TO DENY PETITION #225. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 24-17

WHEREAS, Steve Cherkas of Edgemont, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated October 11, 2024, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission repeal ARSD § 41:08:01:12 (Nonresident Restrictions) – in order to allow nonresidents the same privileges with respect to trapping as residents; and

WHEREAS, all members of the Commission have been furnished with and have reviewed a copy of the Petition; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that a copy of the Petition has been served on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council as required by SDCL § 1-26-13; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that SDCL § 1-26-13 requires that within thirty (30) days of submission of a Petition, the Commission shall either “deny the petition in writing (stating its reasons for the denials) or shall initiate rule-making proceedings in accordance with SDCL 1-26-4.”; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised and is of the opinion that a hearing on the Petition is neither statutorily required nor necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed and carefully considered the requirements and procedures set out in SDCL §1-26-13 and the contents of the Petition, including the reasons advanced by Petitioner to allow nonresidents the same privileges with respect to trapping as residents; and

WHEREAS, current regulations provide residents more opportunity than nonresidents based on resident-only seasons (e.g., river otter), reduced fee licenses, and more available licenses, in addition to longer season length; and

WHEREAS, resident trappers have expressed concern over the influx of nonresident trappers when fur markets escalate and create high levels of competition for South Dakota fur resources; and

WHEREAS, it is believed by the majority of resident trappers that the current season structures for residents and nonresidents is fair and functioning very well.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby deny the Petition for the reasons hereinabove stated in this Resolution, which said Resolution as adopted by the Commission shall constitute the Commission’s written denial of the Petition and its reasons therefore.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Petition, a record of the Commission’s discussions concerning same, and this Resolution be made a part of the Minutes of the Commission meeting at which this Resolution is adopted, and further, that the Department is hereby authorized and directed in compliance with SDCL §1-26-13 to serve, a copy of an extract of that portion of the Commission minutes which pertain to the Commission’s discussion of the Petition and its adoption of this Resolution, including a copy of the



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Resolution, on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council with copies also to be provided to the Petitioner, Steve Cherkas of Edgemont, South Dakota.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-17. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Petition #226: Coyote Bounty Program in Black Hills

[Action Item: Petition]

Director Kirschenmann introduced the first petition requested by Mr. Steve Cherkas asking the Commission to align nonresident trapping privileges with residents. This would include removing restrictive season dates for nonresidents. One of the primary reasons for the request was to provide better opportunities to trap in other states by the petitioner as reciprocity is followed by many states. The commission determined to deny per the recommendation of the department. Primary reasons included the current structure appears to be working well, resident trappers have expressed concerns in the past over the influx of nonresident trappers when fur markets escalate, and a trapping organization from the state expressed opposition to this request.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY WHITE TO DENY PETITION #226. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 24-18

WHEREAS, Steve Cherkas of Edgemont, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated October 11, 2024, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission establish a rule implementing a \$100 bounty on coyotes; and

WHEREAS, all members of the Commission have been furnished with and have reviewed a copy of the Petition; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that a copy of the Petition has been served on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council as required by SDCL § 1-26-13; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that SDCL § 1-26-13 requires that within thirty (30) days of submission of a Petition, the Commission shall either “deny the petition in writing (stating its reasons for the denials) or shall initiate rule-making proceedings in accordance with SDCL 1-26-4.”; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised and is of the opinion that a hearing on the Petition is neither statutorily required nor necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed and carefully considered the requirements and procedures set out in SDCL §1-26-13 and the contents of the Petition, including the reasons advanced by Petitioner to implement a \$100 bounty on coyotes; and

WHEREAS, current regulations provide year-round, 24-hours per day hunting opportunity for coyotes in most of South Dakota, and the Commission recently extended the coyote season in Custer State Park to start on November 1 to include the deer hunting season and increase harvest; and

WHEREAS, there is no limit to the number of coyotes that can be harvested or the number of resident and nonresident coyote hunters.; and

WHEREAS, confirming that coyotes were harvested within the Black Hills will be an enforcement challenge; and

WHEREAS, the department does not have the financial resources set aside or available for a coyote bounty program for the Black Hills.



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby deny the Petition for the reasons hereinabove stated in this Resolution, which said Resolution as adopted by the Commission shall constitute the Commission's written denial of the Petition and its reasons therefore.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Petition, a record of the Commission's discussions concerning same, and this Resolution be made a part of the Minutes of the Commission meeting at which this Resolution is adopted, and further, that the Department is hereby authorized and directed in compliance with SDCL §1-26-13 to serve a copy of an extract of that portion of the Commission minutes which pertain to the Commission's discussion of the Petition and its adoption of this Resolution, including a copy of the Resolution, on all members of the Interim Rules Review Committee and Director of the Legislative Research Council with copies also to be provided to the Petitioner, Steve Cherkas of Edgemont, South Dakota.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY BARLTING TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-18. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Two Property Acquisitions for Mickelson Trail [Parks & Recreation: Action Item]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation asked the Commission to approve and authorize the Dept. of GFP to purchase two separate properties that are adjoined to serve as a new trailhead for the Mickelson Trail in the community of Pringle. Property 1 is owned by Ronald Eastep and is 0.052 acres and was appraised at \$4,500 and Property 2 is owned by Beverly and Robert Morgan and is 0.43 acres and was appraised at \$37,500. Both parties were willing sellers, and the department met the requirements for public notice with no public comments received. Donation funds earmarked for the Mickelson Trail will be used to purchase these properties through the SD Parks & Wildlife Foundation.

RESOLUTION 24-19

WHEREAS, Ronald Eastep ("Eastep") is the owner of certain real property in Custer County consisting of .052 acres, more or less, and described as the Station Subd a portion of TR 1 in SE4SW4 Sec 13 T5S R4E, Custer County, South Dakota ("Property 1"); and

WHEREAS, Eastep desires to sell, and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department ("Department") desires to purchase Property 1; and

WHEREAS, Eastep and the Department have agreed to a purchase price of four thousand, five hundred dollars (\$4,500) for Property 1, and have drafted an Agreement to that effect; and

WHEREAS, Beverly and Robert Morgan ("Morgans") are the owner of certain real property in Custer County consisting of .43 acres, more or less, and described as the Lots A, B, C, D, E, F of the Sunny Slope Addition to the Town of Pringle, all in the Black Hills Meridian, Custer County, South Dakota ("Property 2"); and

WHEREAS, the Morgans desire to sell, and the Department desires to purchase Property 2; and

WHEREAS, the Morgans and the Department have agreed to a purchase price of thirty-seven thousand, five hundred dollars (\$37,500) for Property 2, and have executed an Agreement to that effect; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that, pursuant to SDCL § 41-4-1.1, the Department is required to notify the owners of any land, which is located adjacent to the land sought to be purchased by the Department, that the Department is seeking to purchase such land, that such notice must be by publishing notice of the same once in each legal newspaper of the county in which the property to be purchased is located, and that the notification must be made at least thirty days prior to the date of action by the Commission authorizing the intended purchase; and



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WHEREAS the Commission has been advised that the Department notified the owners of land adjacent to Property 1 and Property 2 that the Department is seeking to purchase Property 1 and Property 2, and that such notification was made on October 2, 2024, in the Custer Chronicle Public Notice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby recognize, approve, and authorize the Department's purchase of Property 1 and Property 2, and that such authorization permits the Department to execute the Agreements drafted with both Eastep and the Morgans, respectively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be made a part of the Minutes of the Commission meeting at which this Resolution is adopted.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY CULL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-19. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Wounded Warrior Project at Rocky Point [\[Parks & Recreation: Info Item\]](#)

Brad Nelson the Park Manager at Rocky Point Recreation Area informed the commission about the 2nd Annual Wounded Warrior in Action Archery Antelope Hunt that took place 9-18-24 to 9-23-24 at Rocky Point. Four Purple Heart recipients spent five nights at the Rocky Point cabins while archery hunting antelope on neighboring private lands. Numerous local outdoor clubs, volunteers, and donations made this event possible at no cost to the veterans.

11. Hunting Opportunities on State Park Lands [\[Parks & Recreation: Info Item\]](#)

Heather Berg, Parks Division GIS Program Specialist, highlighted state park hunting opportunities within the interactive Public Hunt Atlas. As visitors zoom in on parks, colored areas appear indicating which areas are closed to hunting and which areas have season or equipment restrictions. Clicking on areas within the park will generate a pop-up window that includes additional information on hunting restrictions.

12. Division Award Recipients [\[Parks & Recreation: Info Item\]](#)

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation informed the Commission of the 2024 Parks Division Award recipients that were honored at the Oct. 8th Annual Division meeting held in Chamberlain, SD.

13. October Camping Unit and Revenue Reports [\[Parks & Recreation: Info Item\]](#)

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation provided the Commission with an overview of camping units for October and YTD. Camping was up 24% in the month of October and was the second highest amount on record with YTD camping up 1% overall or 2,226 units over last years numbers. Weather and cross-marketing of camping with hunting and fishing were credited for these increases. Revenue was also great in the month of October and was up 39%. YTD Revenue is 5% above last year with much of this increase due to expanded entrance license sales of 5-7%.

14. State Threatened and Endangered Species [\[Wildlife: Action Item\]](#)

Andrew Norton, Program Manager, presented a summary of the State Threatened and Endangered Species List review process and comments received regarding the process. The Department's recommendation of no change to the list was supported by the GFP Commission and no changes were considered. The list will be reviewed again in two years.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY THEEL TO APPROVE THE STATE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Reports from the Field [\[Wildlife: Info Item\]](#)

Tom Kirschenmann, Director of Wildlife Division, provided a short presentation on how the pheasant season is progressing. Kirschenmann discussed hunter's success on opening weekend, crop harvest across the



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state, and observations made by landowners from across the state. In all, the pheasant season was described as going very well with high pheasant numbers. Access was also discussed and shared with the commission that the department has exceeded 1.6M acres of private land enrolled into public access.

16. Charles Mix County Game Production Area Land Donation [\[Wildlife: Info Item\]](#)

Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, presented Curtis R. Kaberna willed GFP 80 acres of property located near Delmont in Charles Mix County. Per the will the property must be used for wildlife management and public hunting purposes and be identified as the Curtis R. Kaberna Game Production Area. The property currently has 75 acres enrolled in CRP through 2032 and has great habitat cover. Public notices have been issued regarding the 30 day public comment period. The Commission will be asked to take action at the December meeting to accept the property donation.

17. Cotton Slough Land Exchange [\[Wildlife: Info Item\]](#)

Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, gave an overview of the Cotton Slough Game Production Area is located northeast of Lake Kampeska by Watertown. The department has worked with local landowners on an exchange that would trade 12.32 acres that is difficult for the public to access and use for 21.64 acres of property. These properties are of equal value determined by an appraiser. The 21.64 acres that the department would acquire in the trade would be very accessible by users and allow for a GPA boundary that is located in a place it can be better maintained. The current boundary runs through some wetlands and is difficult to identify with fencing and signage for users. The 30 day comment period is open following the public notices that went out and the Commission will be asked to take action at the December meeting to approve the exchange.

18. Introduction of Newton Hills Game Production Area [\[Wildlife: Info Item\]](#)

Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, provided an overview on how the department along side The Conservation Fund worked together to acquire 222 acres from the Boy Scouts of America near Newton Hills State Park back in 2021. The Conservation Fund has been holding the property since then and aiding the department in applications for the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program Grant. After two years of applying for the grant, we were successful in an award of \$1.49 million towards the acquisition. Closing took place in September deeding the property over to GFP from The Conservation Fund. The Parks Division acquired around 46 acres to adjoin the Newton Hills State Park and the Wildlife Division acquired the remaining 176 acres to serve as a game production area that will adjoin the Johnson and McKee GPAs. Many thanks were given to all the agencies involved that include the Boy Scouts of America, SD DANR, U.S. Forest Service, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and The Conservation Fund who we can't thank enough for all their help in this acquisition.

19. Bighorn Sheep Herd Health Update [\[Wildlife: Info Item\]](#)

John Kanta, Administrator, gave a brief presentation on how GFP is currently managing or cooperatively managing six bighorn sheep herds in South Dakota. The current minimum population estimate is 400 bighorn sheep across all herds. The Hell Canyon herd suffered a pneumonia die off early in 2024 and lost approximately 50% of the animals in the herd. The good news is that since March no bighorn sheep have died, and lamb recruitment has been good indicating that pneumonia is not persisting in the herd.

20. Aquatic Invasive Species Update [\[Wildlife: Info Item\]](#)

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Administrator, presented to the Commission a summary of the 2024 AIS program. Outreach and education efforts remain the primary tool to slow the spread of AIS by providing users with information needed to practice Clean, Drain, Dry. In total, 22,165 watercraft inspections occurred from May-October. Partnerships also continued with federal and state agencies, as well as NGO's and Lake



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Associations. New zebra mussel confirmed water in 2024 included Pelican Lake, North Rush/Minnewasta complex and Bullhead Lake (Marshall Co.).

21. Department Organized Youth Hunts

[Wildlife: Info Item]

Law Enforcement Section Chief Sam Schelhaas provided information on youth hunts that are hosted by the Department. Primarily hunts that are organized and spearheaded by conservation officers. Schelhaas shared information and pictures on 3 youth waterfowl hunts that took place and what the process is like. Schelhaas also talked about some spring turkey hunts and youth deer hunts that are done around the state targeting youth that have never hunted those species.

22. License Sales Reports

[Wildlife: Info Item]

Director Kirschenmann provided the Commission an update on license sales. From the beginning of the license year (December 15, 2024) through the end of the October, licenses sales for both small game and fishing remain strong. Resident licenses which provide the opportunity to harvest pheasants continues to grow and at the highest levels in the past five years. Nonresident small game licenses are higher than last year's sales.

23. Adjourn

[Action Item]

A Regular Commission Meeting will be held on December 5, 2024, at the South Dakota State Capitol Building, Room 414, starting at 1 pm CST.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:59 PM CST ON NOVEMBER 7, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Robling". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kevin Robling, Department Secretary



COMMISSION MEETINGS 2025

JAN **PIERRE**
9 - 10 RAMKOTA CONVENTION CENTER

JUL **YANKTON**
10 - 11 NFAA EASTON YANKTON ARCHERY

FEB **NO MEETING**

AUG **NO MEETING**

MAR **PIERRE**
6 - 7 RAMKOTA CONVENTION CENTER

SEPT **RAPID CITY**
4 - 5 OUTDOOR CAMPUS

APR **PIERRE**
3 - 4 MATTHEWS TRAINING CENTER

OCT **LEMMON**
9 - 10 TBA

MAY **CUSTER STATE PARK**
8 - 9 EVENT BARN

NOV **PIERRE**
6 - 7 CAPITOL BUILDING - ROOM 414

JUN **ABERDEEN**
5 - 6 TBA

DEC **PIERRE**
4 - 5 CAPITOL BUILDING - ROOM 414

For more details or previous meeting archives,
visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/>

**All dates and locations subject to change with 30 days prior notice.*



Petition for Rule Change Form

From info@gfp.sd.us <info@gfp.sd.us>
 Date Tue 11/26/2024 12:11 PM
 To koolbeck4@triotel.net <koolbeck4@triotel.net>
 Cc Kierl, Liz <Liz.Kierl@state.sd.us>; Harrington, Nick <Nick.Harrington@state.sd.us>

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: 227

Petitioner Name: Ronald Kolbeck

Address: 24343 443rd Ave.
Salem, SD 57058

Email: koolbeck4@triotel.net

Phone: 605-471-9976

Rule Identification: A new rule to be developed.

Describe Change: Promulgate rules that require that all licensed big-game hunters submit a harvest report. Failure to complete a harvest report by the established deadline would preclude the individual from applying for a similar license until the report is submitted.

Reason for Change: This petition is being submitted on behalf of the South Dakota Bowhunters Association as unanimously approved by its membership. Many of the current game management plans administered by The Department of Game, Fish & Parks utilize hunter success rates or harvest reports to estimate current populations and recommend license allocations for the following years. GF&P has been using voluntary surveys to gather this information for many years. In recent years the response rates have declined to less than 50% in many of the surveys the department has sent out. The department has also not completed nonresponse bias surveys recently on the non-responding surveys. These results are making it difficult to obtain an accurate total harvest. These surveys have also produced delays in survey results which lead to the potential for uninformed decision making in managing our wildlife resources for our commissioners and biologists. Our pronghorn and mule deer populations are suffering at the current time, with pronghorn numbers estimated at only half of the stated management objective and mule deer below objective in every management unit. We want GF&P biologists and the public to have access to the best data available to make the decisions necessary to manage these populations. It is important for the public to have access to these numbers to garner support for any proposed management changes. Sportsmen have always wanted what is best for our wildlife resources and overwhelming support mandatory harvest reporting as a management tool. Current technologies exist to make it easy and affordable to gather hunter harvest reports on a real-time basis. As of this hunting season, 45 out of 50 states have adopted some form of mandatory big-game harvest reporting. Reporting can be as easy as making a phone call, accessing a mobile application, or logging on to a website to complete the necessary information. Many other states that utilize the "GoOutdoors" platform also require mandatory harvest reporting. Most sportsmen want to be involved in the management of our wildlife resources and support providing this data to the department to assist in the management of our big game resources.



Petition for Rule Change Form

From info@gfp.sd.us <info@gfp.sd.us>
Date Mon 12/2/2024 1:31 PM
To tad_95@live.com <tad_95@live.com>
Cc Kierl, Liz <Liz.Kierl@state.sd.us>; Harrington, Nick <Nick.Harrington@state.sd.us>

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: 230
Petitioner Name: Tad Reiner
Address: 25935 459th ave. Humboldt, SD 57035
Email: tad_95@live.com
Phone: 605-941-0623
Rule Identification: South Dakota Gavins Point Paddlefish Snagging
Describe Change: Allowing south dakota residents that aquire a gavins point paddlefish snagging permit to be allow to snag paddlefish beyond the mouth of the James River up to the the highway 50 bridge.
Reason for Change: Reasoning is there is no definite writing stating that I can or can not go up the James River to snag paddlefish as a south dakota resident. Would like a distinct line on where an where I can't be among the entrance of the James River from the Missouri River.

59th Custer State Park Fall Classic Bison Auction

	2024				2023				2022
	Actual # Sold	% Change in Avg. 2024 to 2023	2024 Average	2024 Total \$ Actual	Actual # Sold	% Change in Avg. 2023 to 2022	2023 Average	2023 Total \$ Actual	
MATURE BRED COWS	36	28%	\$ 2,438.89	\$ 87,800.00	37	52%	\$ 1,905.41	\$ 70,500.00	\$ 1,251.16
MATURE OPEN COWS	38	77%	\$ 2,496.05	\$ 94,850.00	36	17%	\$ 1,408.33	\$ 50,700.00	\$ 1,207.41
2 YEAR OLD BRED HEIFERS	11	-10%	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 20,900.00	11	58%	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 23,100.00	\$ 1,331.03
2 YEAR OLD OPEN HEIFERS	9	39%	\$ 2,277.78	\$ 20,500.00	16	8%	\$ 1,643.75	\$ 26,300.00	\$ 1,525.00
YEARLING HEIFERS	38	19%	\$ 1,726.32	\$ 65,600.00	46	76%	\$ 1,452.17	\$ 66,800.00	\$ 825.58
HEIFER CALVES - LIGHT	104	75%	\$ 1,204.57	\$ 125,275.00	92	45%	\$ 690.22	\$ 63,500.00	\$ 475.00
HEIFER CALVES - HEAVY	10	75%	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 14,000.00	10	30%	\$ 800.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 615.00
BULL CALVES - LIGHT	160	53%	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 252,000.00	87	28%	\$ 1,027.01	\$ 89,350.00	\$ 800.00
BULL CALVES - HEAVY	10	26%	\$ 1,545.00	\$ 15,450.00	91	54%	\$ 1,230.22	\$ 111,950.00	\$ 800.00
CINNAMON CALVES		-100%	\$ -	\$ -	11	0%	\$ 400.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 400.00
YEARLING BULLS	42	20%	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 92,400.00	54	31%	\$ 1,825.93	\$ 98,600.00	\$ 1,391.30
2 YR OLD BREEDING BULLS	8	63%	\$ 5,450.00	\$ 43,600.00	5	50%	\$ 3,340.00	\$ 16,700.00	\$ 2,230.00
2 YEAR GRADE BULLS	16	75%	\$ 3,315.63	\$ 53,050.00	2	52%	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 1,250.00
MATURE BULLS		NA	\$ -	\$ -		NA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	482	44%	\$ 1,836.98	\$ 885,425.00	498	30%	\$ 1,272.49	\$ 633,700.00	\$982.21

2024

Of the 80 registered bidders we had 32 in-person and 48 online

7 online bidders made a purchase

16 on-site bidders made a purchase

Bison went to buyers from South Dakota (8), Nebraska (3), Wyoming (3), Iowa (2), North Dakota (2), Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas

**Completed
Custer State Park Resort
FYE 2024 R & M Projects**

2024 Expenditures

Actual

STATE GAME LODGE

Game Lodge Irrigation	\$	54,772.55
Hotel Wings Room Renovation	\$	271,461.08
Upgrade Door Lock System	\$	47,072.79
HVAC Historical Rooms	\$	13,184.72
Event Barn Ceiling Insulation and Bugwood	\$	65,000.00
POS Upgrade	\$	31,525.46
Emergency Repairs	\$	78,319.39

*HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, Building Repairs,
Communications*

STATE GAME LODGE TOTAL **\$ 561,335.99**

LEGION LAKE LODGE

Dorm/House new exterior	\$	25,301.20
Kayak Launch at Dock	\$	2,915.90
Upgrade Door Lock System	\$	19,186.75
POS Upgrade	\$	12,218.48
Emergency Repairs	\$	15,089.08

*HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, Building Repairs,
Communications*

LEGION LAKE LODGE TOTAL **\$ 74,711.41**

BLUE BELL LODGE

Store Siding and Gutters	\$	94,150.00
Manager Dorm Floors	\$	8,444.51
Upgrade Door Lock System	\$	18,401.28
Log Replacement/Cabin Staining and Chinking	\$	37,347.01
POS Upgrade	\$	23,895.39
Emergency Repairs	\$	58,196.41

*HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, Building Repairs,
Communications*

BLUE BELL LODGE TOTAL **\$ 240,434.60**

COOLIDGE STORE

Retail Inventory System (Yellow Dog)	\$	12,251.86
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COOLIDGE STORE TOTAL **\$ 12,251.86**

SYLVAN LAKE LODGE

Water Heater Laundry	\$	22,250.00
Lodge Repairs	\$	54,793.73
Upgrade Door Lock System	\$	28,088.12
HVAC Kitchen	\$	12,315.33
Shoreline Dock	\$	13,419.19
POS Upgrade	\$	20,393.34
Auditorium Floor Refinish and Great Room Lodge	\$	53,601.35
Emergency Repairs	\$	24,929.37

*HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, Building Repairs,
Communications*

SYLVAN LAKE LODGE TOTAL **\$ 229,790.43**

BISON CENTER

POS Upgrade	\$	7,996.39
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BISON CENTER TOTAL **\$ 7,996.39**

All Resorts

POS Upgrade	\$	2,652.09
ALL RESORTS TOTAL	\$	2,652.09
TOTAL FOR CSP RESORT	\$	1,129,172.77
Expected 2024 Revenue	\$	22,110,327.00
5% R & M Fee	\$	1,105,516.35
Carry over from 2023 (actual)	\$	(131,312.05)
Actual balance at end of 2024	\$	(154,968.47)



2025 Capital Development Improvements

Road Projects

Bear Butte Bridge Replacement - \$1,000,000
Center Lake Bridge Replacement - \$600,000
Roy Lake cabin parking expansion/paving- \$250,000
Gavins Point Road Reconstruction (paving) \$500,000
North Point 381st Street Asphalt surfacing- \$164,000
Roy Lake Connector Road FDR and pave- \$2,000,000
Shadehill Recreation Area AST & repairs- \$550,000
Big Sioux Recreation Area AST & repairs- \$270,000
Palisades State Park AST & Repairs - \$500,000
Platte Creek Mainline Road reconstruction- \$350,000
Platte Creek Boat Ramp Road Stabilization- \$450,000
Platte Creek Boat Ramp parking lot AST & Repairs - \$160,000
Snake Creek Recreation Area AST & Repairs - \$575,000
Custer State Park Sylvan Lake AST & Repairs - \$375,000
Lake Thompson Recreation Area AST & Repairs- \$430,000
Walker's Point Boat Ramp Parking Expansion- \$600,000
Total: \$8,774,000

Park Structures

Roy Lake Shop and Cold Storage Replacement- \$1,000,000
Pelican Lake Welcome Center- \$700,000
West Bend Comfort Station Expansion- \$200,000
Custer State Park Event Barn Renovations- \$500,000
Total: \$2,400,000



Utility Projects

Lake Herman Waterline Upgrades - \$610,000

Lake Vermillion comfort station drain field and lift station upgrades - \$100,000

Newton Hills waterline upgrades and sewer upgrades - \$1,500,000

Randall Creek dump station and waterline upgrades - \$1,600,000

Farm Island Lagoon and Sewer Upgrades- \$1,000,000

Oahe Downstream Dump Station Construction - \$700,000

Platte Creek Sewer System Repairs- \$400,000

West Bend comfort station drain field replacement- \$100,000

Lewis and Clark Gavins & Midway Electrical Upgrades- \$600,000

Custer State Park Playhouse Sewer System Upgrades – \$3,000,000

Hartford Beach dump station drain field and sewer upgrades - \$400,000

Fort Sisseton Lagoon repairs and sewer utility upgrades - \$1,200,000

Rocky Point main line water replacement - \$350,000

Total: \$11,560,000

Other Projects

George Mickelson Trail Rapid Creek Bank Stabilization- \$155,000

Sylvan Lake Trail Renovations- \$515,000

Johnson's Point Trail Renovations- \$100,000

George Mickelson Trail Tunnel Repairs - \$200,000

Custer State Park Projector Replacement at Game Lodge Visitor Center- \$170,000

George Mickelson Trail Bridge #74 replace caps and decking/railing- \$300,000

Total: \$1,440,000



November Camping

11/1/2023 - 11/30/2023	11/1/2024 - 11/30/2024
Camping Units	Camping Units
2539	3171

District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	9	29	222%
	Pickerel Lake Recreation Area	34	41	21%
	Roy Lake State Park	62	96	55%
	Sica Hollow State Park	10	13	30%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	7	21	200%
	Fisher Grove State Park	12	25	108%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	35	69	97%
	Mina Lake Recreation Area	95	39	-59%
2	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	28	28	0%
	Hartford Beach State Park	3	15	400%
	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	7	2	-71%
3	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	35	34	-3%
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	4	20	400%
4	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	34	30	-12%
	Oakwood Lakes State Park	33	47	42%
5	Lake Herman State Park	30	33	10%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	34	68	100%
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	23	35	52%
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	3	0	-100%
6	Buryanek Recreation Area	74	60	-19%
	Platte Creek Recreation Area	7	5	-29%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	136	127	-7%
	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	98	91	-7%
	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	34	42	24%
	Palisades State Park	97	113	16%
7	Newton Hills State Park	101	144	43%
	Union Grove State Park	16	11	-31%
8	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	27	66	144%
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	95	149	57%
	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	6	6	0%
	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	3	14	100%
	Springfield Recreation Area	0	2	100%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	16	2	-88%
	North Point Recreation Area	34	43	26%
	North Wheeler Recreation Area	11	0	-100%
	Pease Creek Recreation Area	17	6	-65%
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	45	14	-69%
9	Star Valley Lakeside Use Area	7	13	86%
	Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	28	14	-50%
	Farm Island Recreation Area	65	103	58%

11	West Bend Recreation Area	68	52	-24%
	Cow Creek Recreation Area	26	48	85%
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	102	170	67%
12	Spring Creek Recreation Area	20	23	15%
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	0	1	100%
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	60	84	40%
	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	18	11	-39%
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	15	26	73%
	West Pollock Recreation Area	10	23	130%
13	West Whitlock Recreation Area	48	76	58%
14	Bear Butte State Park	5	51	920%
	Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area	25	37	48%
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	57	47	-18%
15	Shadehill Recreation Area	374	438	17%
16	Custer State Park	232	312	34%
	Angostura Recreation Area	50	52	4%
17	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	14	50	257%
	Total:	2539	3171	25%



November YTD Camping

1/1/2023 - 11/30/2023	1/1/2024 - 11/30/2024
Camping Units	Camping Units
350589	356925

District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	1800	1597	-11%
	Pickerel Lake Recreation Area	5434	5922	9%
	Roy Lake State Park	8087	8555	6%
	Sica Hollow State Park	356	301	-15%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	375	428	14%
	Fisher Grove State Park	1379	1157	-16%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	2276	2296	1%
2	Mina Lake Recreation Area	3322	3271	-2%
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	1853	1730	-7%
	Hartford Beach State Park	6832	6794	-1%
3	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	2127	2151	1%
	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	6375	6502	2%
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	2068	1767	-15%
4	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	8149	7462	-8%
	Oakwood Lakes State Park	9234	9351	1%
5	Lake Herman State Park	6072	5815	-4%
	Lake Carthage	1032	869	-16%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	7830	7524	-4%
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	2979	3018	1%
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	37	97	162%
	Buryanek Recreation Area	2951	2847	-4%
	Dude Ranch Lakeside Use Area	214	256	20%
6	Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area	56	52	-7%
	Platte Creek Recreation Area	1626	1515	-7%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	8190	8309	1%
	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	7956	6958	-13%
7	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	12283	11409	-7%
	Palisades State Park	6117	9737	59%
	Good Earth State Park	0	1	-
8	Newton Hills State Park	11083	10728	-3%
	Union Grove State Park	1489	1348	-9%
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	12300	12707	3%
	Clay County Park	1972	2077	5%
9	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	40774	41086	1%
	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	4543	4755	5%
	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	77	98	27%
	Springfield Recreation Area	1199	1438	20%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	64	77	20%
	North Point Recreation Area	9454	9893	5%
	North Wheeler Recreation Area	1140	892	-22%

	Pease Creek Recreation Area	1911	1826	-4%
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	6762	6061	-10%
	South Shore Lakeside Use Area	433	302	-30%
	Star Valley Lakeside Use Area	97	63	-35%
10	Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	416	411	-1%
	White Swan Lakeside Use Area	194	141	-27%
	Farm Island Recreation Area	7782	7944	2%
11	West Bend Recreation Area	7710	7498	-3%
	Cow Creek Recreation Area	2908	3190	10%
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	13568	14097	4%
	Okobojo Point Recreation Area	1337	1386	4%
12	Spring Creek Recreation Area	856	1173	37%
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	63	63	0%
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	7595	8008	5%
	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	231	215	-7%
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	782	953	22%
	Walth Bay Lakeside Use Area	117	33	-72%
	West Pollock Recreation Area	1137	1139	0%
13	West Whitlock Recreation Area	4749	4899	3%
14	Bear Butte State Park	1498	1457	-3%
	Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area	565	510	-10%
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	6813	7133	5%
15	Shadehill Recreation Area	7437	8221	11%
16	Custer State Park	55560	56473	2%
	Angostura Recreation Area	17113	18516	8%
17	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	2120	2423	14%
	Total:	350589	356925	2%

Division of Parks and Recreation
November 2024 Revenue by Item

	2023		2024		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	Change
Annual	660	\$ 23,302	620	\$ 21,610	-7%
2nd Annual	59	\$ 684	-	\$ -	-100%
Double	707	\$ 38,026	1,203	\$ 64,518	70%
Transferable	33	\$ 2,640	79	\$ 6,240	136%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	88	\$ 1,320	348	\$ 5,205	294%
Annual Licenses	1,547	\$ 65,972	2,250	\$ 97,573	48%
Daily License	1,594	\$ 12,688	1,645	\$ 13,152	4%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	44	\$ 660	54	\$ 780	18%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	152	\$ 608	347	\$ 1,388	128%
Motorcoach Permit	5,270	\$ 15,809	3,620	\$ 10,860	-31%
CSP 7 Day Pass	3,473	\$ 69,450	1,938	\$ 38,760	-44%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
One-Day Special Event	156	\$ 7,800	176	\$ 8,750	12%
Daily Licenses	10,689	\$ 107,015	7,780	\$ 73,690	-31%
Licenses	12,236	\$ 172,987	10,030	\$ 171,263	-1%
Camping Services		\$ 142,996		\$ 145,044	1%
Pet Fees	7	\$ 70	34	\$ 329	370%
LODGING		\$ 143,066		\$ 145,373	2%
Picnic Shelters		\$ 100		\$ 70	-30%
Boat Rentals		\$ -		\$ -	
Firewood	268	\$ 1,608	-	\$ 1,382	-14%
Gift Card	40	\$ 3,863	21	\$ 1,741	-55%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ -		\$ -	
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 47		\$ 32	-33%
Retail		\$ 773		\$ 473	-39%
Call Center Fee	290	\$ 548	268	\$ 516	-6%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ -		\$ -	
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 6,939		\$ 4,214	-39%
TOTAL		\$ 322,992		\$ 320,850	-1%

Division of Parks and Recreation
November YTD 2024 Revenue by Item

	2023		2024		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Annual	61,011	\$ 2,156,478	63,644	\$ 2,254,759	5%
2nd Annual	10,540	\$ 169,247	8,409	\$ 131,886	-22%
Double	37,570	\$ 2,003,451	40,353	\$ 2,164,424	8%
Transferable	2,626	\$ 211,557	2,779	\$ 220,390	4%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	6,304	\$ 94,455	7,624	\$ 114,240	21%
Annual Licenses	118,051	\$ 4,635,188	122,809	\$ 4,885,699	5%
Daily License	112,168	\$ 887,737	119,158	\$ 944,748	6%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	1,038	\$ 15,540	1,249	\$ 18,705	20%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	19,344	\$ 77,376	22,414	\$ 89,638	16%
Motorcoach Permit	20,479	\$ 61,436	20,022	\$ 60,063	-2%
CSP 7 Day Pass	190,971	\$ 3,818,396	201,919	\$ 4,034,660	6%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	18,663	\$ 374,880	20,071	\$ 387,924	3%
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ 524,660	-	\$ 534,252	2%
One-Day Special Event	301	\$ 15,050	319	\$ 15,799	5%
Daily Licenses	362,964	\$ 5,775,075	385,152	\$ 6,085,789	5%
Licenses	481,015	\$ 10,410,263	507,961	\$ 10,971,488	5%
Camping Services		\$ 9,725,170		\$ 9,930,756	2%
Pet Fees	316	\$ 3,160	1508	\$ 15,017	375%
LODGING		\$ 9,728,330		\$ 9,945,773	2%
Picnic Shelter		\$ 14,225		\$ 15,989	12%
Boat Rentals		\$ 6,296		\$ 14,203	126%
Firewood	38,245	\$ 228,947	42,487	\$ 246,232	8%
Gift Card	155	\$ 15,434	174	\$ 16,352	6%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ 173,960		\$ 156,946	-10%
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 40,875		\$ 40,769	0%
Retail		\$ 197,103		\$ 234,101	19%
Call Center Fee	20,562	\$ 43,374	19,379	\$ 38,506	-11%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ 15,148		\$ 143,954	850%
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 735,363		\$ 907,051	23%
TOTAL		\$ 20,873,956		\$ 21,824,313	5%

**South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks - Wildlife Division
Land Acquisition and Disposal Report
December 2024**

Informational Items:

Charles Mix County Land Donation (Charles Mix County)

Location: Approximately 4 miles west and 6 miles south of Delmont.

Size: 80 Acres (75 acres CRP, remaining acres wetlands).

Management Objective: Game Production Area – Provide additional habitat and hunting access in the area.

Easements: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – 75 Acres under contract through 2032

Previous Use: Historically had cropping history, in CRP currently.

Appraised Value: Not appraised.

Acquisition Cost: Donation to GFP by Last Will and Testament of Curtis R. Kaberna

Commission Acquisition Priorities: Parcels containing significant habitat and hunting opportunities for pheasants and parcels containing significant wetland habitat complexes.

Additional Information: If acquired by GFP, the area must be named after Curtis R. Kaberna at the property and on any maps or publications. Will states the property to be used exclusively for wildlife management and public hunting purposes.

Expected Closing: Within the next 6 months.

Requested Commission Action: To adopt RESOLUTION 24–21 confirming the decision by the Department to accept the property and acknowledging appreciation to the late Curtis R. Kaberna and family for their generosity.

Property Map



RESOLUTION 24-21

WHEREAS, Curtis R. Kaberna Estate owns real property (Property) described as:

The Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW1/4NW1/4), and the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE1/4NW1/4), all in Section Thirty-six (36) in Township Ninety-seven (97) North, Range Sixty-three (63) West of the 5th P.M., in Charles Mix County, South Dakota, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Curtis's wishes and will, Curtis desired to gift and transfer title to the Property to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (Department) for use as a Game Production Area; and

WHEREAS, the Department has evaluated and determined that the Property would serve very well as a Game Production Area, offering wildlife habitat, public hunting, and other wildlife related outdoor recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Department is authorized to accept gifts of property for a Game Production Area as per SDCL 41-2-19 and desires to accept the gift of the Property upon confirmation of the gift by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission desires to acknowledge the Department's acceptance of this gift of property from the Curtis R. Kaberna Estate for use as a Game Production Area, and further acknowledge the extreme generosity by the late Curtis R. Kaberna and family; and

WHEREAS, the Department will title the Property the Curtis R. Kaberna Game Production Area use it exclusively for wildlife management and public hunting access.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission does hereby confirm the decision by the Department to accept the transfer and gift of the Property from the Curtis R. Kaberna Estate to be used as a Game Production Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission, on behalf of the citizens and sportspersons of South Dakota, does hereby acknowledge and express its deepest appreciation and gratitude to the late Curtis R. Kaberna and family for their generosity, and further acknowledge the outdoor recreation opportunities this gift will provide to South Dakotans for many years to come.

Cotton Slough GPA Exchange (Codington County)

Location: Across Hwy 20 near Lake Kampeska by Watertown

Size: GFP exchange 12.32 acres of current GPA for 21.64 acres of private land.

Management Objective: Improve user access, opportunities, and boundary fence location.

Easements: None

Previous Use: All land being exchanged is upland, wetlands, or water.

Appraised Value: Appraised value is equal for both parcels being exchanged (\$17,900)

Acquisition Cost: Closing fees, appraisal cost, split 50/50 with other party.

Commission Acquisition Priorities: Parcels that improve public use on and access to existing Department lands; parcels that facilitate more efficient and effective wildlife habitat or recreation management and development activities on existing Department lands; and parcels containing significant wetland habitat complexes.

Additional Information: Clay Schuchard would need to purchase/acquire 21.64 acres from Gayla Surgent. Its our understanding that Clay and Gayla have already discussed and are in agreement. Clay would then trade the 21.64 acres he acquired with GFP and get 12.32 acres from GFP in return. This will improve boundary locations for all parties, improve land that can be used and accessed by the public, and reduce trespass issues.

Expected Closing: 3 to 6 months.

Requested Commission Action: To adopt RESOLUTION 24–22 authorizing and confirming the exchange of part of Cotton Slough GPA with Clay Schuchard.

Property Map

Current ownership and exchange



Final ownership



RESOLUTION 24-22

WHEREAS, the State of South Dakota (held by and for the use and benefit of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) owns an interest in real estate described as:

Lot 1 of Cotton Slough Addition in Government Lot 5 in Section 33, Township 118 North, Range 52 West, of the 5th P.M, in the Sisseton and Wahpeton Indian Reservation, Codington County, South Dakota.; containing 12.32 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as GFP PROPERTY, which is valued at\$17,900.00; and

WHEREAS, Clay Schuchard (SCHUCHARD), of 16755 452 Ave., WATERTOWN SD 57201, owns an interest in real estate described as:

Lot 2 of Cotton Slough Addition in Government Lot 3 and 4 in Section 10, Township 117 North, Range 53 West, of the 5th P.M, in Codington County, South Dakota, containing 21.64 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as SCHUCHARD PROPERTY, which is valued at \$17,900.00; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota law (SDCL 41-2-29.2) provides that GFP has the power, authority, and duty to trade or exchange real property owned by the State and held by GFP if the GFP Commission shall first determine that real property more suitable to GFP purposes may be obtained by an exchange, provided the parcels of real property to be exchanged are of equal value; and

WHEREAS, GFP and SCHUCHARD desire to exchange interests in GFP PROPERTY and SCHUCHARD PROPERTY, and the GFP Commission having determined that SCHUCHARD PROPERTY is more suitable to GFP for GFP purposes than GFP PROPERTY, and that GFP PROPERTY and SCHUCHARD PROPERTY are of equal value as determined by a qualified appraiser; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota law requires that the conveyance of GFP PROPERTY be approved and executed in the manner provided by SDCL 5-2-11.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the GFP Commission hereby takes final action on and approves the above referenced exchanges of the above described parcels of real property and hereby directs GFP to take all steps necessary to effectuate the exchange of GFP PROPERTY for SCHUCHARD PROPERTY under procedures mandated by statute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GFP Commission does hereby ratify and confirm the Department's designation of the SCHUCHARD PROPERTY being acquired pursuant to the exchange authorized by this Resolution for utilization by the Division of Wildlife for the purpose of game production and, further, does hereby expressly designate and classify the SCHUCHARD PROPERTY being acquired pursuant to the exchange authorized by this Resolution for use as a game production area.

SOUTH DAKOTA MOUNTAIN GOAT ACTION PLAN 2024–2028



**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA**

WILDLIFE DIVISION REPORT 2024–02AP

DECEMBER 2024

This document is for general, strategic guidance for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and serves to identify what we strive to accomplish related to mountain goat management. By itself this document is of little value; the value is in its implementation. This process will emphasize working cooperatively with interested publics in both the planning process and the regular program activities related to mountain goat management. This plan will be used by Department staff and Commission on an annual basis and will be formally evaluated at least every five years. Plan updates and changes, however, may occur more frequently as needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan is a product of substantial discussion and input from many wildlife professionals and the South Dakota public sector. In addition, those comments and suggestions received from private landowners, hunters, and those who recognize the value of mountain goats and their associated habitats were also considered.

Management Plan Coordinator – Chad Lehman, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP).

SDGFP Mountain Goat Management Plan Team that assisted with plan writing, data review and analyses, critical reviews and/or edits to the South Dakota Mountain Goat Management Plan – Trenton Haffley, John Kanta, Chad Switzer, Brady Neiles, Mandy Pearson, and Andrew Norton.

All text and data contained within this document are subject to revision for corrections, updates, and data analyses.

Cover photo was provided by Chad Lehman (SDGFP).

Recommended Citation:

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. 2024. South Dakota Mountain Goat Action Plan 2024–2028. Completion Report 2024–02AP. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Peter Norbeck was instrumental in introducing the mountain goat into the Black Hills in the 1920s. Throughout the early 1900s, mountain goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) were introduced outside of their endemic range into new areas of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada. The mountain goat is an impressive mountain ungulate in its ability to negotiate steep terrain and cliffs and it provides hunting and viewing opportunities across the highest elevations of the Black Hills.

This management plan provides important historical background and relevant biological information for the sustainable management of mountain goats. Current mountain goat survey methodology and relevant biological literature are presented, along with a thorough discussion of objectives and strategies to guide management of this important resource into the future. This plan is intended to guide managers and biologists over the next five years, but should be considered a working document that will be amended as new biological and social data provide opportunities to improve management of mountain goat resources in South Dakota.

The management of mountain goats and their habitats can be challenging for wildlife and habitat managers. One challenge facing managers is maintaining open landscapes around granite outcroppings in a heavily forested ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) ecosystem. Using tools such as prescribed burning and timber management in these landscapes can enhance mountain goat habitat. Additionally, the mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae* Hopkins), a native insect, provides a natural disturbance creating habitat. Disease initiated by *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* can occur in bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goats (*Capra hircus*), and mountain goats in the Black Hills leading to possible deaths from pneumonia for both bighorn sheep and mountain goats. This pathogen has been linked to limiting recruitment of mountain goats in other areas of the west and is a concern for managers.

For the management of mountain goats the following objectives have been identified: 1) maintain, manage, and protect existing mountain goat habitat in the Black Hills; 2) determine status of mountain goat populations; 3) bi-annually review and set mountain goat management objectives; use harvest strategies to manage the population with the available resource; 4) management and monitoring of disease pathogens in mountain goat herds in the Black Hills; 5) continue to use science-based research, habitat inventories, and surveys to answer questions related to mountain goat ecology and public attitudes towards mountain goat management; and 6) inform and educate the public on mountain goat ecology, management, research, and provide viewing opportunities.

The “*South Dakota Mountain Goat Action 2024–2028*” will serve as the guiding document for decision making and implementation of actions to ensure mountain goat populations and their habitats are managed appropriately. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks will work closely with Black Hills National Forest, National Park Service, and sportsmen and women to overcome the challenges and take advantage of opportunities regarding the future management of mountain goats in South Dakota.

INTRODUCTION

The mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) is not native to South Dakota and was first introduced in 1924. Peter Norbeck was instrumental in introducing the mountain goat into the Black Hills as Custer State Park (CSP) obtained six animals from Alberta, Canada and placed them in an enclosure, or zoo, at CSP (Table 1). The mountain goats did not stay in captivity long, as two of the goats, an adult female and a yearling male, escaped the first night. By 1929, all remaining goats had escaped. These goats moved approximately 10 miles northwest onto the Black Elk Peak range (formerly known as Harney Peak). The introduced goats did very well in the granite outcroppings around Black Elk Peak and by the early 1950s there were an estimated 300 to 400 mountain goats. The population remained stable through the 1950s and 60s. From 1954 to 1968, 40 mountain goats were transplanted to Spearfish Canyon in the Black Hills and to the states of Wyoming and Colorado. The population declined through the 1970s likely due to overharvest and transplants. Hunter observations and department surveys conducted in 1981–1982 indicated a substantial decrease in the mountain goat population and by 1983 the mountain goat population was reported to be approximately 80 animals (Benzon and Rice 1987). By the 1990s the mountain goat population increased to an estimated 150 to 170 animals. In the early 2000s the mountain goat population started to decline again in the Black Hills and therefore South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) captured and translocated 19 mountain goats from Colorado in 2006 and 21 mountain goats from Utah in 2013 (Table 1).

Table 1. History of mountain goat translocations in South Dakota, 1924–2024.

Year	Number Translocated	Capture Location	Release Location
1924	6	Alberta, Canada	Custer State Park, Black Hills, South Dakota
1954	6	Black Hills, South Dakota	Spearfish Canyon, Black Hills, South Dakota
1960	8	Black Hills, South Dakota	Wyoming
1961-1968	26	Black Hills, South Dakota	Colorado
2006	19	Colorado	Black Hills, South Dakota
2013	21	Utah	Black Hills, South Dakota
Totals	86		

SURVEYS AND MONITORING

Population estimates prior to 2007 surveys indicate the Black Hills population has fluctuated greatly from 80–400 animals from the 1940s through the 1980s (Richardson 1971, Benzon and Rice 1987). Mountain goat abundance estimates have been generated through aerial surveys using helicopters and radio-collared mountain goats since 2007 (Table 2). If the radiomarked sample size of mountain goats get so small as to preclude estimating population size using mark-resight, managers will utilize minimum counts and occupancy modeling data to set seasons.

Additionally, mountain goat age and gender ratio estimates have been collected by department staff and volunteers from the ground using binoculars to count mountain goats in the core area of their range in 2014–2018 and 2024. Ground surveys were conducted in late April 2014–2018 and late June 2024. In 2022–2024, ratio counts were conducted via helicopter. Mature billy:mature nanny ratios have varied from 0.19–0.69, and the kid:mature nanny ratios have varied from 0.23–0.93 (Table 3).

Occupancy estimates have also been generated with data collected during helicopter aerial surveys from 2013–2024 (Table 4). We provide estimates across 2 time periods for both detection probability (ψ) and also for occupancy lambda, or growth in occupancy (λ). Occupancy lambda of mountain goats was positive from 2013–2018, and occupancy estimates then declined from 2018–2024.

MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNTING- HISTORICAL HARVEST AND LICENSES

Mountain goats have been hunted in the Black Hills with season dates ranging from September 1–December 31 in recent years (Figure 1). The first season for mountain goats was held in 1967 and 25 licenses were offered (Table 5). Harvest and season closures have varied through time, and in recent years there have been 2 licenses offered each year to hunters. In 2016, the mark-resight mountain goat population estimate was 133, and a harvest of 2 males was 1.5% of the population, a conservative harvest based on recommendations for harvest in native populations (Côté and Festa-Bianchet 2003, Rice and Gay 2010). Surveys in 2022 indicated a minimum count of 42 animals and therefore the hunting season was closed in 2023. Management of mountain goats is closely monitored and population growth is closely tied to nanny survival and reproduction. If females are removed by harvest at a higher rate the response from the population can be negative growth due to fewer kids being recruited back into the population (Figure 2). It is important that hunters only harvest males from this population to ensure a sustainable population of mountain goats for everyone to enjoy.

HARVEST STRATEGY

For the management of mountain goats, it is recommended that harvest will not exceed 4% of the minimum number counted within the mountain goat core area as determined during bi-annual surveys. When the minimum number counted reaches less than 50 individuals the

season will be closed. Other demographic data can be used in assessing season closures and the season can be closed with minimum counts of greater than 50.

Table 2. Survey data for estimating abundance for mountain goats in the Black Hills, South Dakota, 1948–2022.

Year	Minimum Count	Population Estimate	95% Confidence Interval	Method ^a
1948	-	64	NA	Ground count
1951	-	337	NA	Ground count
1983	41	-	NA	Helicopter
1984	12	-	NA	Helicopter
1985	34	-	NA	Helicopter
1986	26	115	NA	Helicopter
1987	31	125	NA	Helicopter
1988-1990	-	-	-	-
1991	-	150-170	NA	Ground count
1992-1993	-	-	-	-
1994	54	157-234	NA	Helicopter
1995	68	213	NA	Helicopter
1996	43	197	NA	Helicopter
1997	38	170-190	NA	Helicopter
1998	18	140-180	NA	Helicopter
1999	32	140-180	NA	Helicopter
2000	47	140-180	NA	Helicopter
2001	15	140-180	NA	Helicopter
2002	25	160	NA	Helicopter
2003	26	150	NA	Helicopter
2004	15	125	NA	Helicopter
2005	21	90	NA	Helicopter
2006	20	70	NA	Helicopter
2007	15	62	53-71	Helicopter-Sightability
2008	23	71	60-81	Helicopter-Sightability
2009	20	56	48-65	Helicopter-Sightability
2010	23	76	64-88	Helicopter-Sightability
2011	18	55	46-63	Helicopter-Sightability
2012	34	104	89-120	Helicopter-Sightability
2013	37	111	95-127	Helicopter-Sightability
2014	99	121	99-207	Helicopter-Log-normal Mark-Resight
2016	106	133	106-236	Helicopter-Log-normal Mark-Resight
2018	95	135	95-373	Helicopter-Log-normal Mark-Resight
2022	42	NA	NA	Helicopter-Minimum Count
2024	29	NA	NA	Helicopter-Minimum Count

^aGround counts were used from 1948–1951. A helicopter survey was used from 1983–2006 using a mix of mark-resight and detection probability adjustments. Using helicopters, a sightability model was used to estimate population size using radio-collars and the mean detection rate from several flights conducted from 2007–2013. Using helicopters from 2014–2018, a Poisson log-normal mark-resight estimate was used to estimate population size from radio-marked mountain goats.

Table 3. Ratio data for mountain goats in the Black Hills, South Dakota, 2014–2024.

Year	Mature Billy:Mature Nanny Ratio	Kid:Mature Nanny Ratio	Method
2014	0.19	0.23	Ground Counts
2015	0.44	0.93	Ground Counts
2016	0.39	0.31	Ground Counts
2018	0.38	0.25	Ground Counts
2022	0.48	0.33	Helicopter
2024	0.69	0.39	Helicopter

Table 4. Occupancy estimates using aerial surveys for mountain goats in the Black Hills, South Dakota, 2013–2024.

Time Period	PSI (Detection Probability) (95% CI)	Lambda (Occupancy Estimate) (95% CI)
2013-2014	0.39 (0.29-0.49)	1.30 (0.93-1.68)
2014-2016	0.45 (0.32-0.57)	1.15 (1.01-1.29)
2016-2018	0.49 (0.36-0.61)	1.18 (0.81-1.54)
2018-2022	0.30 (0.18-0.43)	0.55 (0.35-0.75)
2022-2024	0.31 (0.13-0.49)	0.77 (0.39-1.15)

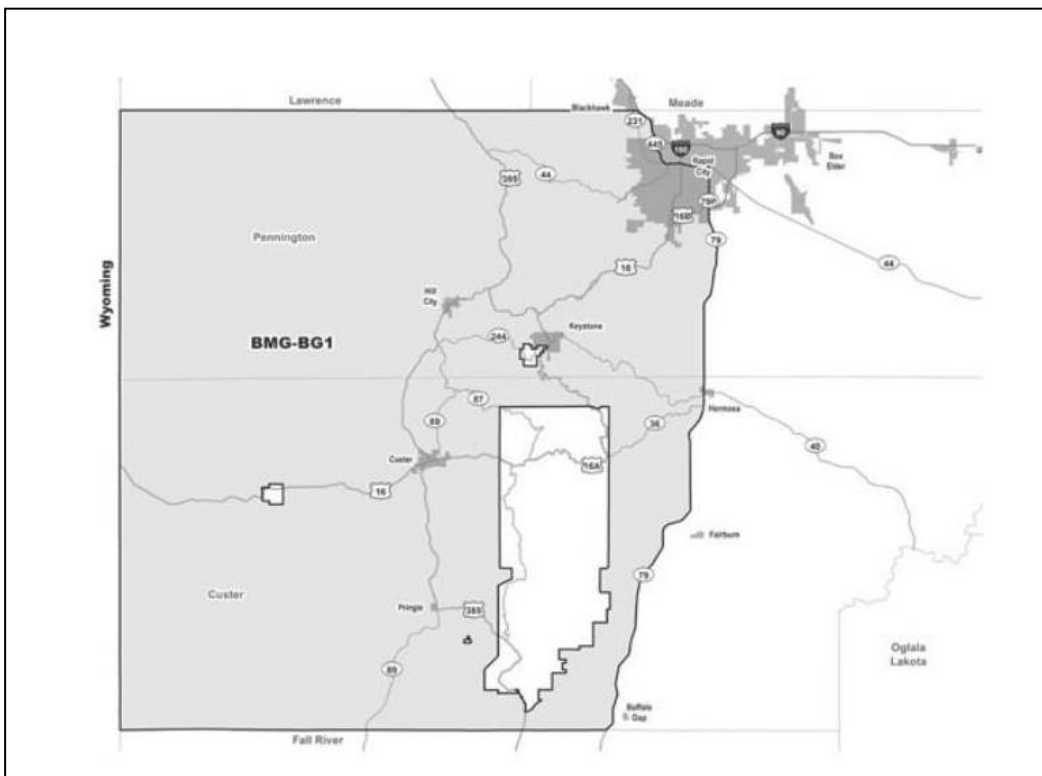


Figure 1. Mountain Goat Hunting Unit Map for South Dakota in 2022.

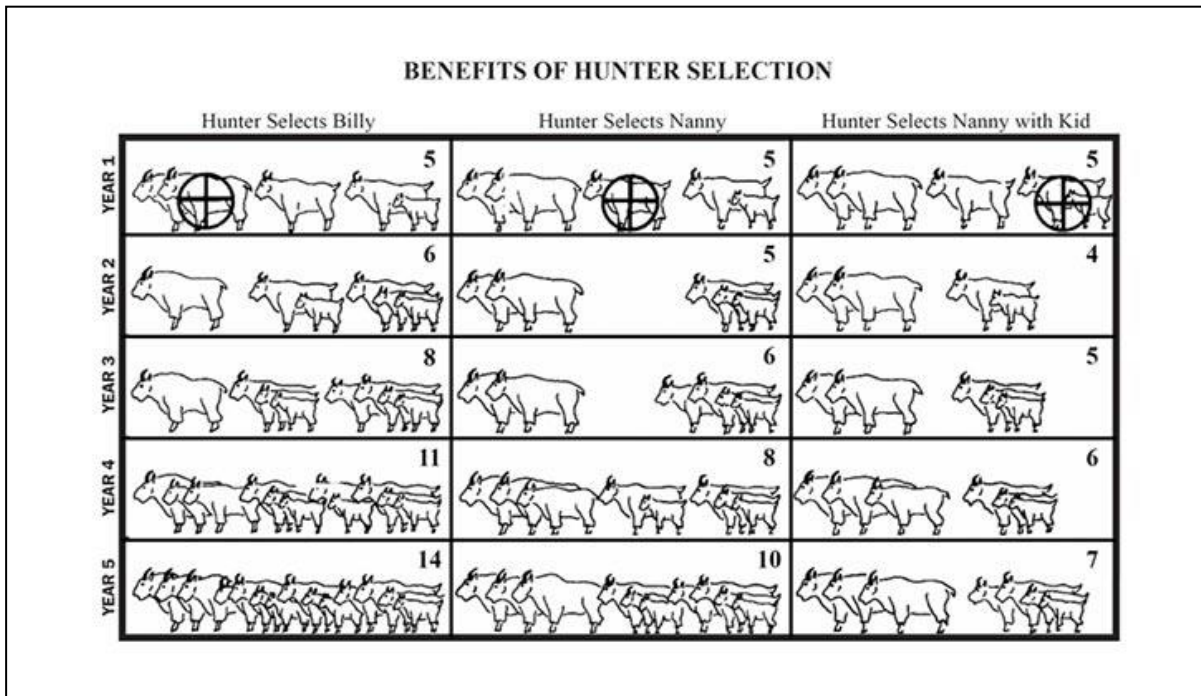


Figure 2. Five-year trend which exemplifies the benefits of harvesting males and passing up females; if hunters take the time to select males instead of females, more goats will be available for future harvest and viewing by the public. Figure credit Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Table 5. Historical harvest of mountain goats in the Black Hills, South Dakota, 1967–2024.

Year	Licenses Issued	Total Harvest	Male	Female	Unknown
1967	25	24	13	11	0
1968	25	21	13	8	0
1969	25	24	19	5	0
1970	25	24	14	10	0
1971	15	12	5	7	0
1972			No Season		
1973	15	12	3	9	0
1974-1975			No Season		
1976	15	12	4	8	0
1977	10	9	1	1	7
1978	10	9	4	5	0
1979	10	10	6	4	0
1980	10	10	6	4	0
1981	10	10	8	2	0
1982-1984			No Season		
1985	4	4	3	1	0
1986	3	3	2	1	0
1987	5	5	5	0	0
1988	5	5	4	1	0
1989	5	5	1	4	0
1990	4	4	3	1	0
1991	4	4	4	0	0
1992	4	4	2	2	0
1993	4	4	3	1	0
1994	4	4	3	1	0
1995	4	4	3	1	0
1996	5	5	1	4	0
1997	4	4	3	1	0
1998	4	4	4	0	0
1999	4	4	4	0	0
2000	4	3	3	0	0
2001	4	4	2	2	0
2002	3	3	2	1	0
2003	3	3	1	2	0
2004	3	3	1	2	0
2005	2	2	0	2	0
2006	2	1	0	1	0
2007-2014			No Season		
2015	2	2	1	1	0
2016	2	2	2	0	0
2017	2	2	2	0	0
2018	2	2	1	1	0
2019	2	2	1	1	0
2020	2	2	2	0	0
2021	2	2	1	1	0
2022	2	2	2	0	0
2023-2024			No Season		
Total	295	275	162	106	7

Disease

A potentially concerning threat is respiratory disease initiated by *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* which can occur in bighorn sheep, domestics, and mountain goats in the Black Hills leading to possible deaths from pneumonia for both bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Pneumonia deaths related to *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* and other forms of bacteria have been the primary mortality factor limiting bighorn sheep herds in the Black Hills (Smith et al. 2014, Garwood et al. 2020) and throughout the west (Besser et al. 2013, Cassirer et al. 2018). This pathogen has been linked to limiting recruitment of kids in a population of mountain goats in Nevada (P. Wolff, Nevada Department of Wildlife, personal communication). A mountain goat tested positive for a new strain of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* in the Black Hills in 2016 and we will continue to monitor the influence such pathogens may have on mountain goats in the Black Hills. Unfortunately, mountain goats may be a reservoir for transmission of a new strain of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* to populations of bighorn sheep, and vice-versa, and is a concern for wildlife managers. Continued monitoring and research of the disease, and its various strains in the Black Hills, may provide insights into potential for disease transfer and implications for population growth for both species.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

Guiding Principles

The following statements have guided the development of the mountain goat management plan goals and objectives and reflect the collective values of the SDGFP in relation to management of mountain goats in South Dakota:

- that wildlife, including mountain goats, contributes significantly to the quality of life in South Dakota and therefore must be sustained for future generations.
- that recreational hunting is a legitimate use of mountain goats and must be encouraged and preserved.
- that the collaboration among various agencies, including the NPS, USFS and the State, is critical for the future of mountain goats and their habitats in the Black Hills, and is deserving of recognition and respect.
- that reasonable regulations are necessary for equitable distribution of the benefits of wildlife, including mountain goats, and to promote ethical and safe behavior.
- that the future of wildlife, including mountain goats, depends on a public that appreciates, understands, and supports wildlife and in the public's right to participate in decisions related to wildlife issues.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

The goal for mountain goat management in South Dakota is to maximize user opportunity while maintaining populations consistent with ecological, social, aesthetic, and economic values of the people of South Dakota and our visitors.

Objectives and Strategies

Objective 1. Maintain, manage, and protect existing mountain goat habitat in the Black Hills.

Strategy A: Maintain existing partnerships with the USFS, NPS, and other state, local, and private conservation partners to support programs and practices encouraging proper mountain goat habitat management on public and private lands.

Strategy B: Avoid disturbance during critically sensitive parturition and nursery periods. Parturition for nannies can occur from May 1–June 15. Nursery groups can be raising kids in sensitive areas during May 1–August 31.

Objective 2. Determine status of mountain goat populations.

Strategy A: Annually implement surveys including ground and hunter harvest.

Strategy B: Bi-annually conduct helicopter aerial surveys to obtain minimum counts and generate occupancy estimates.

Strategy C: Supplement survey data with research findings when available.

Objective 3. Bi-annually review and set mountain goat management objectives; use harvest strategies to manage the population with the available resource.

Strategy A: Bi-annually review mountain goat harvest strategies, license allocation, hunting unit boundaries, and develop 2-year hunting recommendations based on available biological data, public input, and staff recommendations.

Strategy B: Harvest will not exceed 4% of the minimum number counted within the mountain goat core area as determined during bi-annual surveys. When the minimum number counted reaches less than 50 individuals the season will be closed. Other demographic data can be used in assessing season closures and the season can be closed with minimum counts of greater than 50.

Objective 4. Manage and monitor disease pathogens in mountain goat herds in the Black Hills.

Strategy A: Continue to inventory and document domestic sheep and goats in areas adjacent to mountain goat herds.

Strategy B: Work with conservation organizations to develop cooperative programs to discourage domestic sheep and goat ownership in areas adjacent to mountain goat herds.

Strategy C: Manage and monitor mountain goat disease events and attempt to mitigate losses of goats through disease mitigation management when feasible; implement testing and removal of mountain goats that are identified as shedders of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* in populations that are experiencing pneumonia die-offs in an attempt to recover these populations at a faster rate.

Objective 5. Continue to use science-based research, habitat inventories, and surveys to answer questions related to mountain goat ecology and public attitudes towards mountain goat management.

Strategy A: Annually evaluate and prioritize research/survey needs. Develop research/survey proposals and seek funding opportunities.

Strategy B: Use research/survey findings to guide mountain goat management where available and feasible.

Objective 6. Inform and educate the public on mountain goat ecology, management, research, and provide viewing opportunities.

Strategy A: Provide an electronic copy of the “South Dakota Mountain Goat Action Plan 2024–2028” on the department’s website. Printed copies will be available upon request by March 2025.

Strategy B: Use all available media to educate and inform the public regarding mountain goat status, ecology, and harvest.

Strategy C: Brief mountain goat hunters annually in accurately determining gender of mountain goats and encourage harvest of males as harvest of females contributes to additive mortality.

Strategy D: Promote viewability of mountain goats for the enjoyment of the public. Opportunities exist where tourism viewsheds such as Mount Rushmore and the Needles Eye provide the public a unique setting to observe their behavior as a quality experience.

Table 6. Implementation schedule and primary responsibility.

Goals, Objectives & Strategies	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Primary Responsibility
GOAL: The goal for mountain goat management in South Dakota is to maximize user opportunity while maintaining populations consistent with ecological, social, aesthetic, and economic values of the people of South Dakota and our visitors.						
OBJECTIVE 1: Maintain, manage, and protect existing mountain goat habitat in the Black Hills.						
Strategies						
Strategy A: Maintain existing partnerships with the US Forest Service, NPS, and other state, local, and private conservation partners to support programs and practices encouraging proper mountain goat habitat management on public and private lands.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Senior Biologist Regional Wildlife Manager Administration Habitat Program Administrator USFS–SDGFP liaison
Strategy B: Avoid disturbance during critically sensitive parturition and nursery periods. Parturition for nannies can occur from May 1–June 15. Nursery groups can be raising kids in sensitive areas during May 1–August 31.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Administration Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor Habitat Program Administrator USFS–SDGFP liaison
OBJECTIVE 2: Determine status of mountain goat populations.						
Strategies						
Strategy A: Annually implement surveys including ground and hunter harvest.						
Strategy B: Bi-annually conduct helicopter aerial surveys to obtain minimum counts and generate occupancy estimates.	✓		✓		✓	Regional Wildlife Manager Senior Biologist Harvest Survey Coordinator
Strategy C: Supplement survey data with research findings when available.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Senior Biologist Regional Wildlife Manager
OBJECTIVE 3: Bi-annually review and set mountain goat management objectives; use harvest strategies to manage the population with the available resource.						
Strategies						

Strategy A: Bi-annually review mountain goat harvest strategies, license allocation, hunting unit boundaries, and develop 2-year hunting recommendations based on available biological data, public input, and staff recommendations.		✓		✓		Senior Biologist Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor Regional Wildlife Manager Administration
Strategy B: Harvest will not exceed 4% of the minimum number counted within the mountain goat core area as determined during bi-annual surveys. When the minimum number counted reaches less than 50 individuals the season will be closed. Other demographic data can be used in assessing season closures and the season can be closed with minimum counts of greater than 50.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Senior Biologist Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor Regional Wildlife Manager Administration
OBJECTIVE 4: Management and monitoring of disease pathogens in mountain goat herds in the Black Hills.						
Strategies						
Strategy A: Continue to inventory and document domestic sheep and goats in areas adjacent to mountain goat herds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Regional Wildlife Manager Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor
Strategy B. Work with conservation organizations to develop cooperative programs to discourage domestic sheep and goat ownership in areas adjacent to mountain goat herds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Regional Wildlife Manager Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor
Strategy C. Manage and monitor mountain goat disease events and attempt to mitigate losses of goats through disease mitigation management when feasible; implement testing and removal of mountain goats that are identified as shedders of <i>Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae</i> in populations that are experiencing pneumonia die-offs in an attempt to recover these populations at a faster rate.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Senior Biologist Regional Wildlife Manager Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor
OBJECTIVE 5: Continue to use science-based research, habitat inventories, and surveys to answer questions related to mountain goat ecology and public attitudes towards mountain goat management.						
Strategies						
Strategy A: Annually evaluate and prioritize research/survey needs. Develop research/survey proposals and seek funding opportunities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor Regional Wildlife Manager Senior Biologist

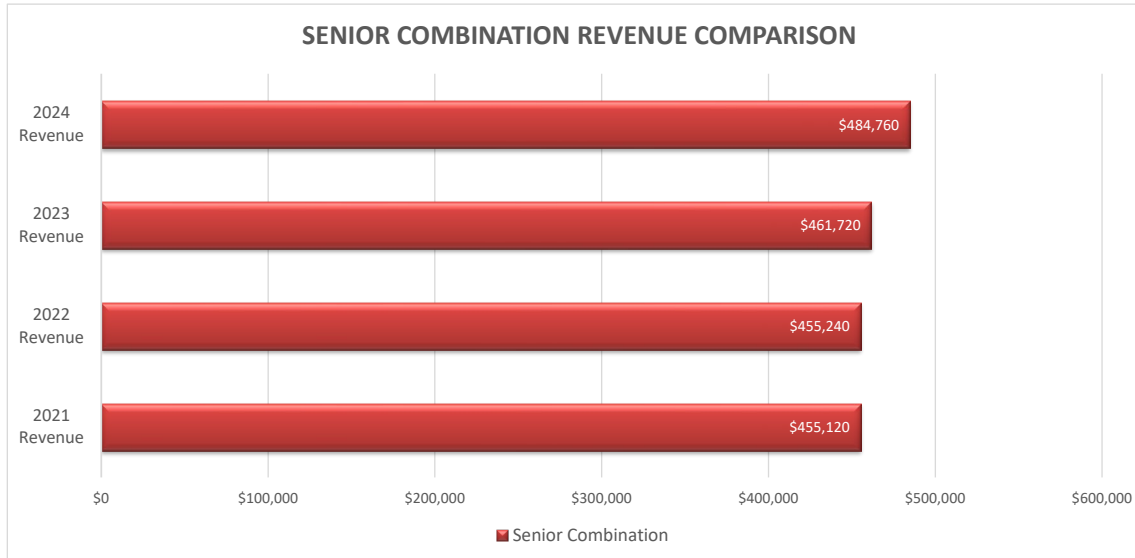
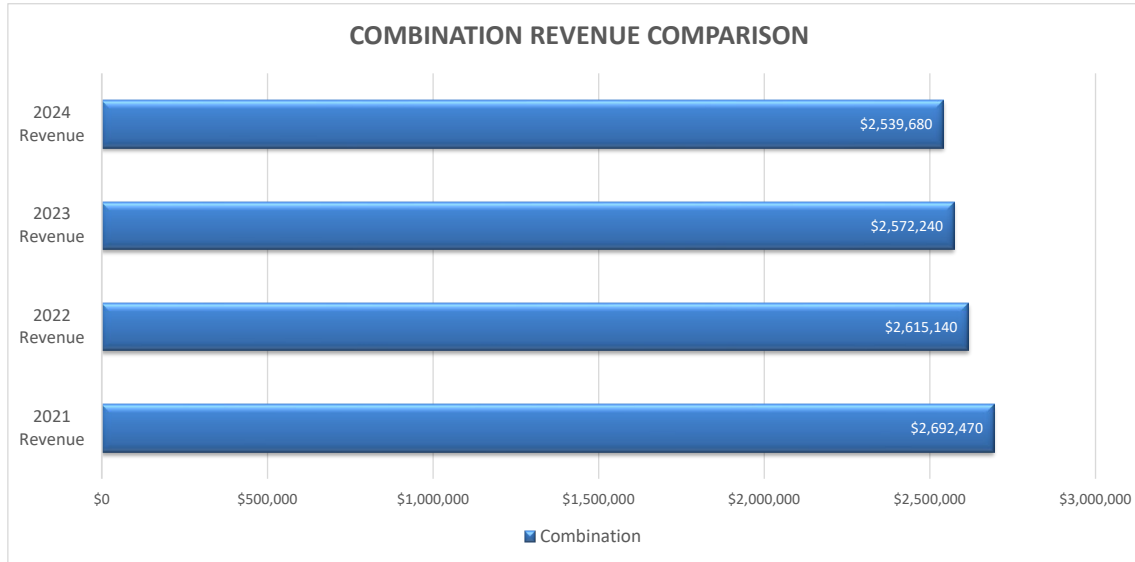
Strategy B: Use research/survey findings to guide mountain goat management where available and feasible.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Reg. Terrestrial Res. Supervisor Regional Wildlife Manager Senior Biologist
OBJECTIVE 6: Inform and educate the public on mountain goat ecology, management, research, and provide viewing opportunities.						
Strategies						
Strategy A: Provide an electronic copy of the “South Dakota Mountain Goat Action Plan 2024–2028” on the department’s website. Printed copies will be available upon request by March 2025.	✓					Communications Staff
Strategy B: Use all available media to educate and inform the public regarding mountain goat status, ecology, and harvest.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Communication Staff
Strategy C: Brief mountain goat hunters annually in accurately determining gender of mountain goats and encourage harvest of males as harvest of females contributes to additive mortality.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Regional Wildlife Manager Regional Staff
Strategy D: Promote viewability of mountain goats for the enjoyment of the public. Opportunities exist where tourism viewsheds such as Mount Rushmore and the Needles Eye provide the public a unique setting to observe their behavior as a quality experience.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Regional Wildlife Manager Regional Staff

COMBINATION LICENSES

December 15 - November 30

Agenda Item #19

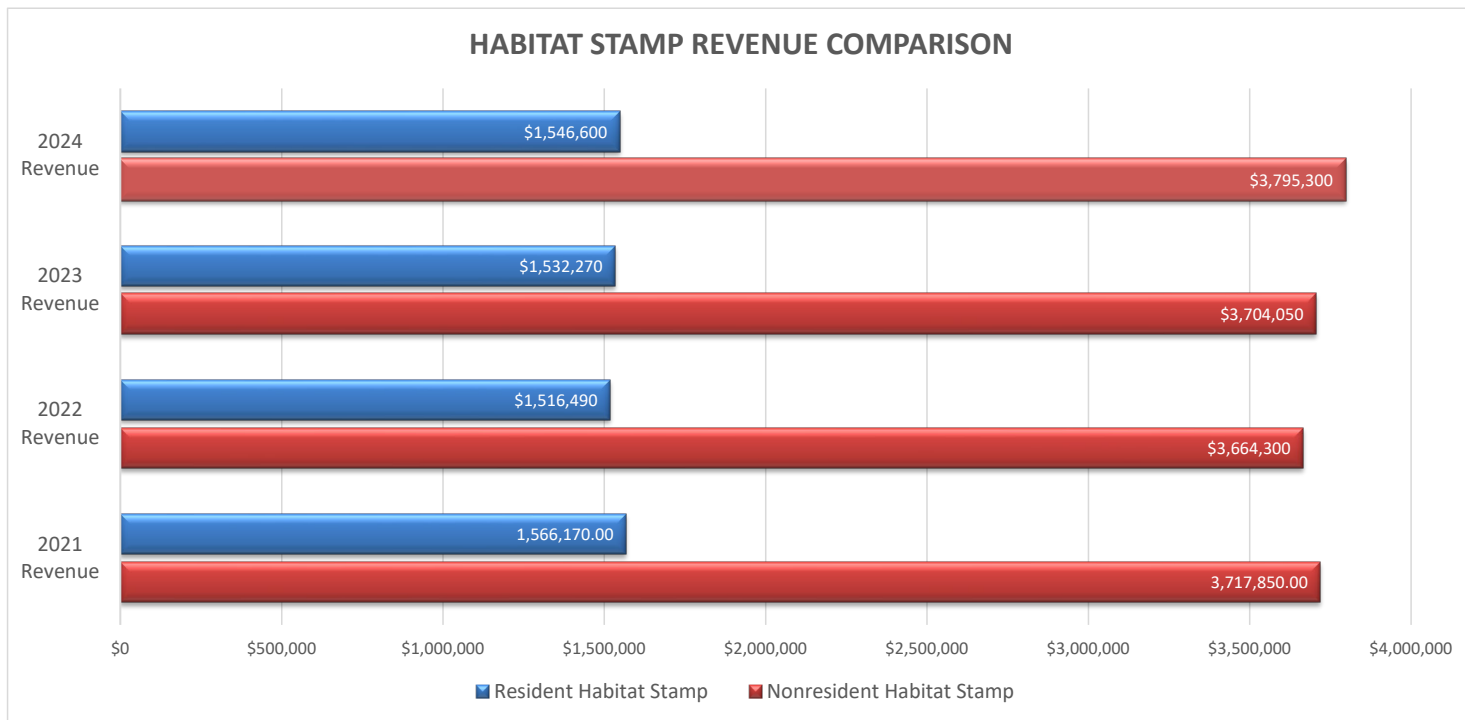
License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	from 3 Yr. Avg
Combination	48,954	47,548	46,768	47,757	46,176	\$2,539,680	(592)	(1,581)	(\$32,560)	(\$86,937)	-3%
Senior Combination	11,378	11,381	11,543	11,434	12,119	\$484,760	576	685	\$23,040	\$27,400	6%
Combination License Totals	60,332	58,929	58,311	59,191	58,295	\$3,024,440	(16)	(896)	(\$9,520)	(\$59,537)	-1.51%



HABITAT STAMP

December 15 - November 30

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	from 3 Yr. Avg
Resident Habitat Stamp	156,617	151,649	153,227	153,831	154,660	\$1,546,600	1,433	829	\$78,815	\$45,595	1%
Nonresident Habitat Stamp	148,714	146,572	148,162	147,816	151,812	\$3,795,300	3,650	3,996	\$146,000	\$159,840	3%
Habitat Stamp Totals	305,331	298,221	301,389	301,647	306,472	\$5,341,900	5,083	4,825	\$224,815	\$205,435	2%



SMALL GAME LICENSES

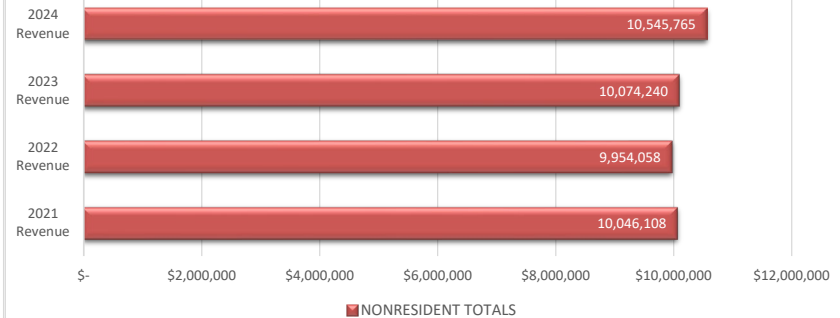
December 15 - November 30

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
Small Game	14,463	18,097	19,648	17,403	21,233	\$700,689	1,585	3,830	\$52,305	\$126,401	22%
1-Day Small Game	1,241	864	782	962	849	\$10,188	67	(113)	\$804	(\$1,360)	-12%
Youth Small Game	4,738	5,963	5,984	5,562	6,256	\$31,280	272	694	\$1,360	\$8,332	12%
Furbearer	3,991	3,599	3,327	3,639	3,511	\$105,330	184	(128)	\$5,520	(\$3,840)	-4%
Predator/Varmint	1,355	2,004	1,866	1,742	1,632	\$8,160	(234)	(110)	(\$1,170)	(\$548)	-6%
Res Migratory Bird Cert - 3 Duck	525	1,408	1,759	1,231	1,453	\$7,265	(306)	222	(\$1,530)	\$1,112	18%
Res Migratory Bird Cert - Traditional	24,386	22,582	22,160	23,043	22,653	\$113,265	493	(390)	\$2,465	(\$1,948)	-2%
RESIDENT TOTALS	50,699	54,517	55,526	53,581	57,587	976,177	2,061	4,006	\$59,754	\$128,148	7.48%
Small Game	72,116	71,151	72,485	71,917	76,333	\$9,236,293	3,848	4,416	\$465,608	\$534,296	6%
Youth Small Game	3,068	3,052	3,100	3,073	3,257	\$32,570	157	184	\$1,570	\$1,837	6%
Shooting Preserve 1-Day Nonresident	1,260	1,122	1,013	1,132	1,007	\$46,322	(6)	(125)	(\$276)	(\$5,735)	-11%
Shooting Preserve 5-Day Nonresident	12,933	13,576	12,907	13,139	12,873	\$978,348	(34)	(266)	(\$2,584)	(\$20,191)	-2%
Shooting Preserve Annual Nonresident	374	359	295	343	272	\$32,912	(23)	(71)	(\$2,783)	(\$8,551)	-21%
Furbearer	12	4	3	6	6	\$1,650	3	(0)	\$825	(\$92)	-5%
Predator/Varmint	4,337	4,145	4,244	4,242	4,281	\$171,240	37	39	\$1,480	\$1,560	1%
NR Migratory Bird Cert - 3 Duck	310	370	544	408	540	\$2,700	(4)	132	(\$20)	\$660	32%
NR Migratory Bird Cert - Traditional	4,988	3,738	7,205	5,310	8,746	\$43,730	1,541	3,436	\$7,705	\$17,178	65%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	99,398	97,517	101,796	99,570	107,315	\$10,545,765	5,519	7,745	\$471,525	\$520,963	7.78%
COMBINED TOTALS	150,097	152,034	157,322	153,151	164,902	\$11,521,942	7,580	11,751	\$531,279	\$649,111	7.67%

RESIDENT SMALL GAME REVENUE COMPARISON



NONRESIDENT SMALL GAME REVENUE COMPARISON



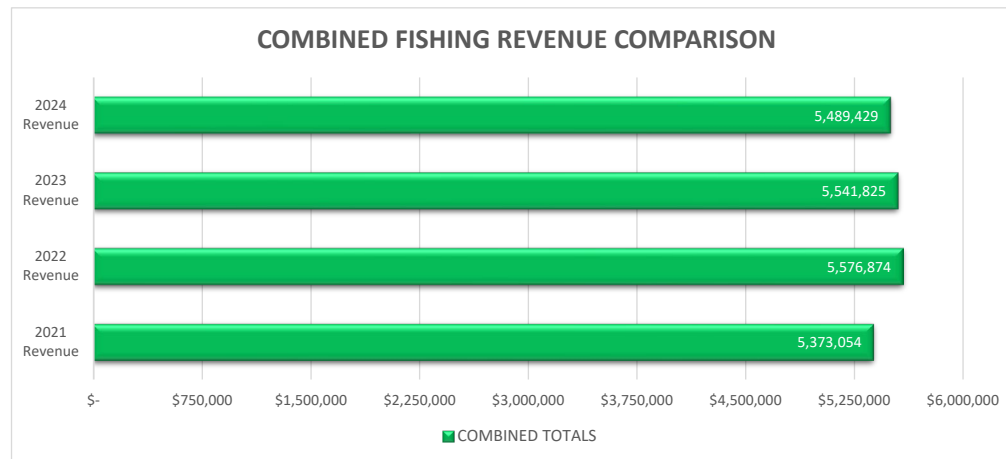
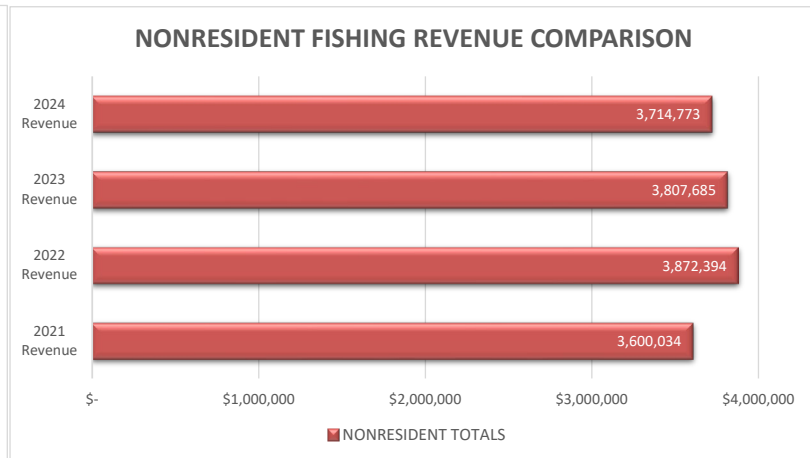
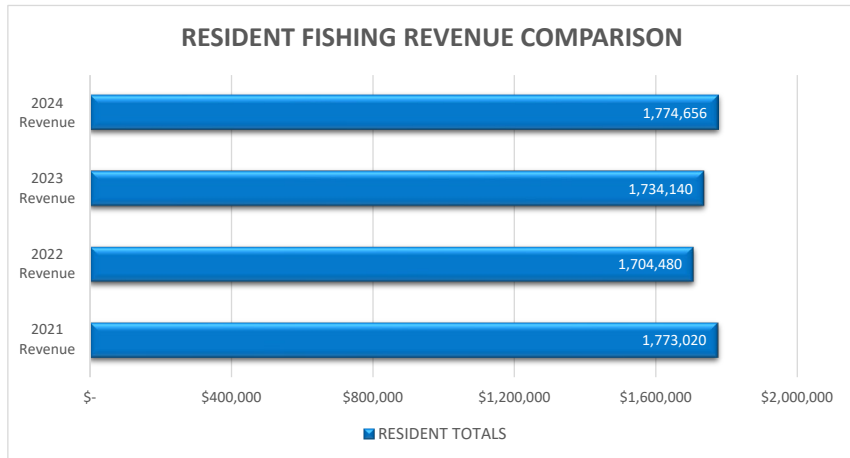
COMBINED SMALL GAME REVENUE COMPARISON



FISHING LICENSES

December 15 - November 30

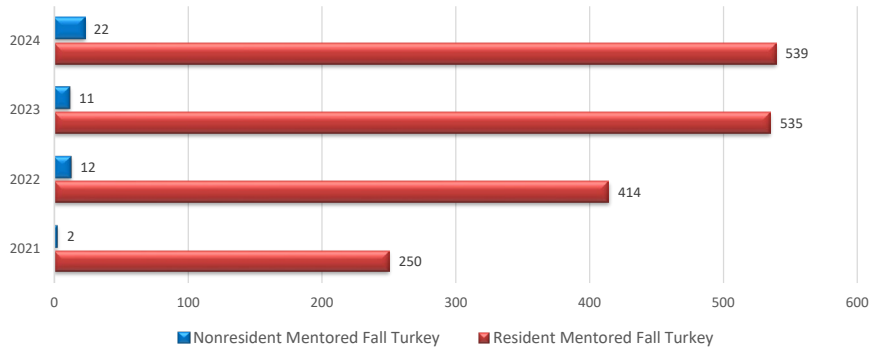
License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
1-Day Fishing	6,618	6,535	7,041	6,731	7,875	\$63,000	834	1,144	\$6,672	\$9,149	17%
Annual Fishing	55,472	53,194	53,951	54,206	55,023	\$1,540,644	1,072	817	\$30,016	\$22,885	2%
Senior Fishing	13,905	13,564	13,932	13,800	14,251	\$171,012	319	451	\$3,828	\$5,408	3%
RESIDENT TOTALS	75,995	73,293	74,924	74,737	77,149	\$1,774,656	2,225	2,412	\$40,516	\$37,443	3.23%
1-Day Fishing	43,834	37,682	36,908	39,475	37,012	\$592,192	104	(2,463)	\$1,664	(\$39,403)	-6%
3-Day Fishing	19,823	18,822	18,679	19,108	18,352	\$679,024	(327)	(756)	(\$12,099)	(\$27,972)	-4%
Annual Fishing	32,317	38,404	37,702	36,141	36,471	\$2,443,557	(1,231)	330	(\$82,477)	\$22,110	1%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	95,974	94,908	93,289	94,724	91,835	\$3,714,773	(1,454)	(2,889)	(\$92,912)	(\$45,265)	-3.05%
COMBINED TOTALS	171,969	168,201	168,213	169,461	168,984	\$5,489,429	771	(477)	(\$52,396)	(\$7,822)	-0.28%



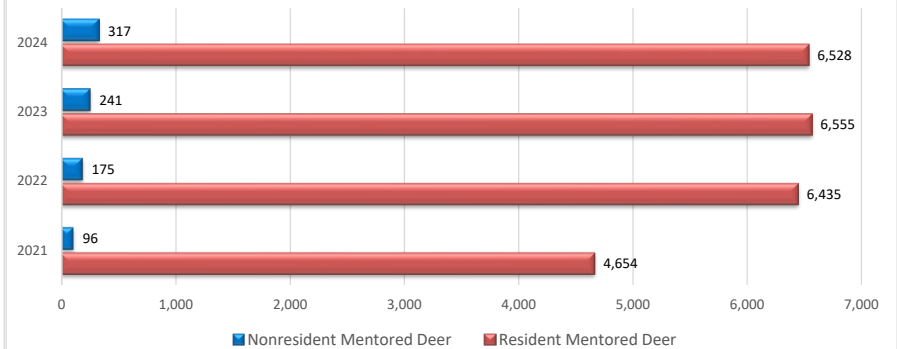
2024 BIG GAME LICENSES

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
Resident Mentored Fall Turkey	250	414	535	400	539	\$2,695	4	139	\$20	\$697	35%
Nonresident Mentored Fall Turkey	2	12	11	8	22	\$220	11	14	\$110	\$137	164%
Resident Mentored Deer	4,654	6,435	6,555	5,881	6,528	\$32,640	(27)	647	(\$135)	\$3,233	11%
Nonresident Mentored Deer	96	175	241	171	317	\$3,170	76	146	\$760	\$1,463	86%
Resident Archery Deer	30,494	29,670	29,657	29,940	29,272	1,072,880	(385)	(668)	(\$10,320)	(\$24,487)	-2%
Resident Archery Antelope	2,142	1,830	2,127	2,033	2,165	86,600	38	132	\$1,520	\$5,280	6%
Nonresident Archery Deer Private Only	n/a	n/a	2,237	n/a	2,376	679,536	139	n/a	\$39,754	n/a	n/a
Nonresident Archery Antelope Private Only	n/a	n/a	395	n/a	389	111,254	(6)	n/a	(\$1,716)	n/a	n/a

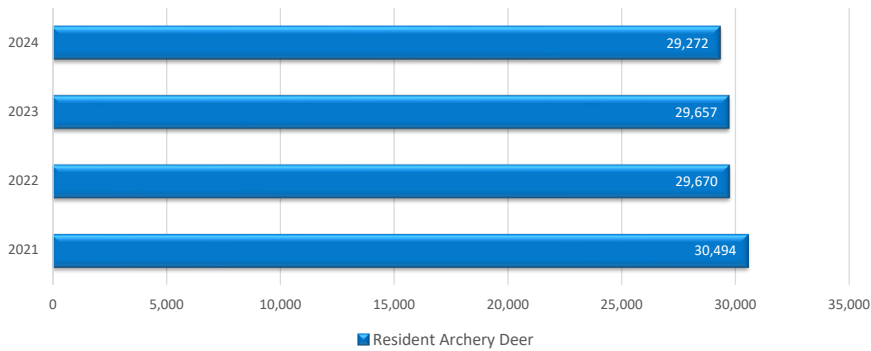
MENTORED FALL TURKEY LICENSES ISSUED



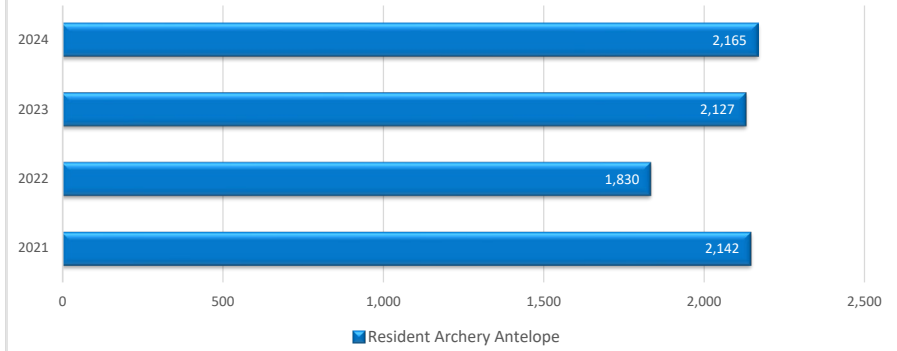
MENTORED DEER LICENSES ISSUED



RESIDENT ARCHERY DEER LICENSES ISSUED



RESIDENT ARCHERY ANTELOPE LICENSES ISSUED



Public Comments

Other

Kim Thompson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hello,

I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the South Dakota Trapper's Association. It was brought to our attention very recently that there was a petition brought forward for the Removal of Nonresident Restrictions for Furbearer Participation.

While the request was to remove the restrictions placed on non-resident trappers with the intended outcome being to increase non-resident participation in the harvesting of South Dakota's furbearing animals, we are not in support of making these changes to the trapping regulations.

Vince Logue

Oelrichs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am the president of the Western SD Fur Harvesters and as a group we oppose Petition #226 to place a bounty on coyotes in the Black Hills. We feel if there were to be a bounty placed on coyotes it should properly be a statewide bounty.

Cory Hansen

Brandon SD

Position: other

Comment:

I'm 54 years old. Homes deer my whole life. I have a couple questions/comments.

I was rest river hunting and the ranchers brought up a great question. If the sdgfp decides the number of tags issued for deer, why do they care who shoots the deer? Ex...my 89 year old father and 22 year old son were hunting there. What difference does it make who harvested the deer? You know the amount of deer that you believe should be taken. The ranchers don't care, the hunters don't care, but you care. Why? A long time ago it wasn't this way. We all want less government regulations in our lives.

Also, I have a question about the physical tags themselves. Requiring hunters to sign the tag only after the deer is harvested is ridiculous. What is the reasoning behind this? When it's far below zero and the only pen you have carried in the field for hours won't work, you become illegal if you can not sign it. I personally years ago received a fine for not having mine signed. I had it notched for the date, but not signed. The wardens response was "a sharpie won't freeze". You've issued the tag, with our info on it, so why does this matter?

Kids aren't hunting as much anymore. Please physically look at just the regulations that are required just for deer hunting. From applying, to harvesting, to transportation. It's set up for failure from the start to finish. I'd like to see 50% less regulations look at the fishing regulations.....different lakes, different species, how you can fish, when you can fish, who can fish, boat regulations.....why would the younger people want to get into an activity where the never know the "rules" of the game?

Thanks
Cory hansen.

Christian Hagen

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the petition for mandatory big game harvest reporting by licensees.

Tim Weltzin

Clear Lake SD

Position: support

Comment:

As a member of SDBA, I wish to voice my support for mandatory reporting of big game harvests in South Dakota. It is my understanding the GFP has in the past conducted surveys, with less then 50% participation. This does not allow for correct and valid information to the Department. Again, I wish to voice my support for mandatory harvest reporting of SD's big game.
Thank you

Keith Pullins

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I strongly support the mandatory harvest reporting! These requirement will only help improve overall game management.

Todd Craig

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Hello all.

I am stating my support for the proposed mandatory harvest reporting.

I believe that the mandatory harvest report would help with the management of our wildlife, by providing more accurate harvest reports.

I would also encourage a strong penalty for those that don't report, so we could get swift and total compliance. I would hope that all parties would be onboard with this for the benefit of wildlife.

Ashley Kurtenbach

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reporting of all big game license.

We simply can not rely on sub par submitting for accurate biology information. Boots on the ground is some of the best free information for wildlife management there is. In the State of South Dakota we have seen a decrease in a number of species. Instead of being reactive as a commission when numbers hit low and non-residents are dissatisfied. I ask you become proactive, this is one step in doing so. In South Dakota we don't have the funding available to utilize extra studies to ensure healthy populations of certain wildlife, this is a simple and easy way to capitalize on information. I ask you to support mandatory surveys.

Lawrence Wold

Armour SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like to see mandatory implementation of harvest reporting of all gig game harvests in South Dakota. Minnesota has this implemented with an easy "call-in" data system and it needs to be done to accurately count the harvest data in order to set quotas for future harvest.

Lawrence Sasaki

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I think this would be great for the health of all the herds.

Dawson Wade

Britton SD

Position: support

Comment:

Dear SDGF&P, I support mandatory harvest reporting. To have the most accurate data on harvested big game, those with a tag should be required to report whether they harvested a big game animal or not. With the decrease in population we have seen this fall, this will help ensure the population stays sufficient for the future. Therefore, I hope you consider and fully support mandatory harvest reporting of big game. Feel free to contact me with any questions. Thanks for your time, Dawson Wade.

Jeremiah Schultz

Elk Point SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory Harvest Reporting

Bryce Geraets

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

We need to do mandatory harvest reporting.

Dustin Boehm

Watertown SD

Position: other

Comment:

I am in support of making harvest surveys mandatory for licensed hunters. We need to get the most accurate data possible in order to manage the herds of big game animals in South Dakota. Without accurate harvest data it is merely a guessing game.

Kyle Weeg

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting.

Robert Eddy

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory game check-ins to better manage our resources. Thank you!

Anthony Hanto

Brandon SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the mandatory reporting of big game harvest.

Jon Olson

Madison SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in full favor of mandatory harvest reports.

Nate Gubbels

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory big game harvest is needed in SD.

Dustin Sperlich

Lennox SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting. I hunt several midwest states and the data take minutes to submit. I think we do a good job sending out post season data, however, post harvest mandatory could help with license allocation in the future. Conservation is always the most important and this can play a vital role.

John White

Elk Point SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Thomas Kleinvachter

Humboldt SD

Position: support

Comment:

I've seen so few deer in NW Minnehaha that I'm worried about the future. A requirement for big game hunters to let SDGFP know of their success is a good start to help determine future tags, etc....

Greg Heier

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

mandatory harvest reporting

Aaron Punt

Armour SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reports are a must if you want to be able to manage game correctly. Thanks

Garret Kriz

Claire City SD

Position: other

Comment:

Mandatory Big Game Harvest Report

I think it would be beneficial not only for proper management and releasing a more accurate amount of tags but also give a better idea for hunters as to what is out there for when applying next year.

For example if there was a question on the harvest report such as if that person has hunted that unit previously to answer if they felt the population numbers were up or down to get a tally on hunters opinions for what's out there.

I do believe if this becomes a mandatory thing that the public should have access to this data in a way that's efficient and easy to read. I think the most common question among our big game hunters here is they want to know what to expect before applying for units when it comes to herd populations.

I think we've done a great job managing with the tags so far in our great state my only concern is we make this mandatory and adjust the numbers so drastically that folks don't get a hunt or the public land is flooded with twice as many hunters. Don't fix what isn't broke and there's more depth to this question than just the amount of animals harvested and that's something to rightly consider when deciding to change what's been working. I think it's for the better in my opinion if all things considered when doing so. Feel free to reach out to me on any discussion regarding our conservation here in South Dakota. After all, a conservationist is simply an environmentalist with a gun.

Douglas Harr

Valley Spgs SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reporting

Paul Paul

Lennox SD

Position: support

Comment:

Making harvest reports mandatory or loss of eligibility for the next hunting season

Malachi Nolletti

Ashland OR

Position: support

Comment:

I am writing in support of the petition being brought to make hunt reporting mandatory in the state of South Dakota. As a nonresident that builds points in multiple states each year, accurate harvest reporting is extremely helpful in decision-making on where to put my application energy. We have it here in Oregon, it's a win-win. Game agencies get very sound info that help with direct management of species to ensure their continued abundance and health, while we as hunters get to see these results and use it to guide our research. I ask that you move this petition forward and adopt mandatory reporting for all who buy licenses in the state of South Dakota.

Thank you,
Malachi Nolletti

Mitch Hoffmann

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support Mandatory harvest reporting for big game

Craig Bowman

Madison SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ben Krueger

Aberdeen SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting. This is long overdue. Our deer population needs this ASAP.

Jordan Spier

Kimball SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Seth Wietgreffe

North Pole AK

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reporting for big game

Stephen Wietgreffe

Pembroke Pines FL

Position: support

Comment:

I support the requirement to record harvest.

Orbin Biltoft

Harrisburg SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the idea of making hunting/harvest surveys mandatory.

Philip Carlson

Oacoma SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reporting

Brandon McGillivray

Whitewood SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Tyler Madsen

Wakonda SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reports to ensure better quality, and correct numbers of big game animals.

Will Hansen

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory, electronic harvest surveys for big game in South Dakota.

Barry Smith

Groton SD

Position: support

Comment:

I believe this is a very good idea

Patrick O'Connell

Valley Spgs SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory reporting on big game harvest

Steve Flamming

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reporting and deer check stations.

Antler point restrictions for mule deer bucks. (i.e. 4 points on one side to be a legal buck)

Brendan Farrell

Tea SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest report

Rylan Watembach

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory Harvest Reporting

Tommy Patton

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory Harvest Reporting

Thayer Ronfeldt

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reporting.

Jack Lembcke

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest submission at end of season. Deer numbers are down and more pressure on public land then ever before. We need to do something in south dakota

Amanda Peterson

Beresford SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting.

Bobby Lewis

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory deer harvest reporting.

Jacob Anderson

Gayville SD

Position: other

Comment:

Mandatory big game harvest reporting

Tim Tracy

Hamburg MN

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting for all big game, regardless of residency.

Tylar Solomon

North Sioux City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory field harvest reports or check in stations

Curt Holland

Badger SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest report requirement!

Tyler Kennedy

Fort Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting with big game licenses

Owen Mccann

Delano MN

Position: support

Comment:

I wholeheartedly support mandatory big game harvest reporting. Respectfully, I think there has been some negligence in the conservation of multiple big game species, but specifically whitetail deer, as a result of the lack of a reporting system. We simply cannot know population data without the aid of harvest data. Having hunters report their kills creates crucial data to more accurately estimate population numbers so that updated limits and regulations can be made. The creation of a harvest system, preferably by call-in or mobile/online means for ease of access, would provide the GFP valuable information and support the conservation of multiple big game species. I think there are many other hunters who, if identifying as stewards of the land and conservationists, would agree with this stance and support a motion to create a harvest reporting system.

Ty Fitzler

Hartford SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory big game harvest check

Keith Paulsen

Salem SD

Position: other

Comment:

I support mandatory big game harvest reporting.

Jeffrey Brown

Estelline SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like to see archery and rifle season be more separate, us archery hunters put in a lot of work to get a deer just for it to be ruined by rifle hunters

John Warner

Yankton SD

Position: other

Comment:

I support the petition for reporting big game for harvest reports in each county/SD. This is crucial data that should be collected and used in accordance for setting limits on tags and out of state hunters.

Kevin Piper

Huron SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory big game reporting
Yes

Gary Pedersen

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

It is critical that we have mandatory harvest reporting to be able to know our stateside deer numbers.

Allen Buttke

Wilmot SD

Position: support

Comment:

They need to limit tags for bow hunter's. They all get tags and with the technology of bows now and other accessories makes it alot easier for them and the rifle hunter's get less tags. Hunted west river and public land has alot of hunter's and where it isn't you can't hardly walk thru it and if you could you would never be able to shoot.

Brandon Ofarrell

Clear Lake SD

Position: support

Comment:

I think their should be mandatory harvest reports on deer as numbers the last few years have definitely decreased

Jon Barthel

Castlewood SD

Position: support

Comment:

As a South Dakota Resident, I was blessed with a West River whitetail tag and East River any deer tag. I found that out west it was a disappoint to go out there and hunt. We saw a total of 10 whitetail, 8 of which were on private ground. We traveled throughout the entire county, and found nothing. It makes no sense to give out tags, when there are no deer around to hunt. I spoke to several hunters who were in the same situation. We need to do better at managing our deer in this state, before it's too late.

Mike Rasmussen

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

Land owner elk tags should not be a unit wide tag, they should either be good only on the owned land or if they are a unit wide tag land owners should have to wait the 9 year period everyone else waits, they are currently drawing with 3-4 points and can apply every year without the 9 year wait,

Certain units like h4 are mostly private land and landowners are collecting checks from the state for damages caused by elk but not allowing hunters because they have tags themselves. And in some cases denying access for hunters to access neighbors land preventing hunting on land they don't own.

Also landowners have someone in the household that is drawing a tag every while the rest apply for points and will draw the next. I support land owners and hunting their own land, but they should be getting half the left over cow tags every year, not unit wide bull tags every year, and if they are receiving money from the state they should have to allow hunters and or access, make land owner elk tags either on owned land only or wait the time the general draw waits,

Bill Hawkins

Colman SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support Mandatory deer reporting

Sean Fulton

Deadwood SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support requiring hunters to report their harvests. I think it would be nice to have tooth samples done like elk too. Especially on bucks.

Chase Hopkins

Pukwana SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jared Mengenhausen

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting

Tye Schneider

Volga SD

Position: support

Comment:

Submitting in support of mandatory reporting for all big game species in our state as an effort to provide improvements in data collection for the biologists to continue to maintain and improve our wild resources!

Matthew Krier

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory big game harvest reporting

Nolan Burchill

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please approve mandatory reporting on big game licenses each year to help support accurate numbers of our wildlife.

Randy Albright

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the petition submitted by South Dakota Bowhunters Association to propose mandatory big game harvest reporting. Reported harvests would give a more accurate data set for wildlife managers to assess populations after hunting seasons.

Randy Albright.

William Brown

Vermillion SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory reporting. I also believe that there should be penalty to those that do not report. I feel the penalty should reflect that of other western states in that a person should be barred from application in the particular season the following year if they neglect participation in the harvest survey. This will help to incentivize participation.

On another note, I believe South Dakota needs to do away with unlimited archery tags for both deer and pronghorn. I believe that the state should be split into regions with individual quotas for hunters. The whole state and all the units that it is split into should fall under one preference point. This would allow for more appropriate control of hunter impact on deer and pronghorn. The quota would have to be set at a biologically acceptable amount rather than the current free-for-all. I believe that it should emulate the current quota for other big game seasons. Residents receive a set quota and non-residents get allocated 8% of that amount. The mule deer and pronghorn need protection in South Dakota! The current unlimited hunting is not beneficial to their recovery from harsh winters and drought.

Luke Loecker

Lennox SD

Position: other

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reporting

Paul Hanson

Gettysburg SD

Position: other

Comment:

In my opinion, non resident archery permits are too high. With 2200 nonresident tags issued in 2024 (a +60% success rate) our public lands are over-run by out of state archery hunters. Let's reduce the number of non resident tags and save some public lands for SD residents who rely on public lands for archery hunting. This will also help the deer populations that appear to be down in my county.

Logan Schafer

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

Harvest Reports. ????????

Sam Kezar

Lennox SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please consider and support mandatory harvest reporting. I have hunted in several other states with mandatory harvest reporting. The apps they have for it is simple and as easy as making this request. Many of the systems even have protocols and ways to collect harvest information without cell reception and then report once back to reception.

SD wildlife deserve to be managed with quality and accurate information and mandatory reporting can help do this.

Drew Roskam

Brookings SD

Position: support

Comment:

I want to advocate my support for mandatory harvest reporting within the state of South Dakota. Coming from a state where it was mandatory (Iowa), I understand what a simple process it is with today's technology. Let's help the state biologist at GFP get accurate data to help them best manage the deer herds within this great state.

Chad Lueders

Dell Rapids SD

Position: other

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Chris Chapman

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reports after season closes.

Chris Chapman

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Use of magnified optics for muzzleloader season.

Derek Berg

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory big game reporting

Kevin Schlueter

Lake City SD

Position: other

Comment:

I've been bow hunting Whitetail, Mule Deer, and Pronghorn in South Dakota for over 40 years. Deer and Pronghorn numbers are clearly down where I do most of my hunting. I feel strongly that a system for hunters to report their harvest results would help our big game managers with valuable information.

Kyler Walton

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the move to mandate harvest reporting of all big game licenses.

Logan Fowler

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in support of mandatory harvest reporting for the future seasons. From my time spent hunting I have noticed a severe decline in population the last three years on private land only. I believe cutting back on tags and monitoring the season outcomes would be beneficial.

Ben Druckenmiller

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory Harvest Reporting

Mike Kluth

Mount Vernon SD

Position: support

Comment:

Require people to have all big games checked once shot. Deer numbers are down at least 60% from the last 10 years.

And move the seasons back until after the rut.

Randall Hess

Dell Rapids SD

Position: support

Comment:

Deer numbers seem to be lower in moody county where I hunt public land

Troy Soukup

Wagner SD

Position: other

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting

Andy Reimer

Huron SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reporting. Too many unknowns without having accurate harvest reports.

Ian Williams

Whitewood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm not in favor of it

John Doe

South Dakota SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Take non resident archery tags to a draw system by county like we do with rifle. The amount of non residents harvesting deer of any sex and size is sickening for us residents. They travel here and do not take into account our deer numbers or how to manage the deer to get a better population. They have a tag and they feel they must harvest a deer no matter what, they are putting a giant dent in our herd shooting nonmature deer and does. As a resident I make sure that if I shoot a buck it's mature and not just a deer to harvest.

Kevin Hansen

Zell SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am writing to offer my whole hearted support for the Mandatory Harvest Reporting petition submitted by the South Dakota Bowhunters.

I also hunt in MN, ID, and AK, all three states with mandatory harvest reporting. It is simple and quick. In MN, because I hunt in an area with cell reception, I submit my report right from the field before I even begin processing my deer.

To reiterate my position, I support mandatory harvest reporting and respectfully ask that you enact the necessary rules to implement it.

Thank you.

Guy Bennett

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

We need mandatory harvest reporting.

Riley Peters

Vermillion SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory big game reporting. This will help South Dakota keep track of our deer population (and other big game) and also hopefully prevent hunters from over harvesting.

Ramsey Johnsen

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

It would be extremely beneficial for the state of SD to implement mandatory harvest surveys. It is important to the know the amount of animals that get harvest in order to better manage population.

Matt Weiss

Parkston SD

Position: support

Comment:

Need to provide harvest info including county and township of harvest for all big game.

Daniel Zirpel

Parkston SD

Position: support

Comment:

I strongly support mandatory harvest reports

Dylan Stein

Spearfish SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting for big game.

Braden Miller

Columbia SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Justin Newton

Lennox SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting for 'in' and 'out' of state hunters. EHD and out of state hunter increases have been terrible for areas of SD. We need to take population harvest surveillance seriously. I know people that say "if it's not mandatory I'm not reporting." - Big problem

Roger Dekok

Mount Vernon SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reporting for all big game licenses is needed. The state needs to know the current condition of it's herd and a mandatory harvest report from each hunter would be a low cost way to do this. Every year I see things that indicate changing conditions whether it be disease, loss of habitat, or whatever. This year I don't believe I have received a single big game survey this year. Not sure what is going on. I always fill them out. This year for archery deer I noticed an extraordinary low number of does and almost no fawns both on camera and while hunting. Flood? Disease? Predators? Normally I always buy an anysex archery license. Not this year.

Braden Miller

Columbia SD

Position: support

Comment:

Support mandatory harvest reports

Justin Seaba

Summerset SD

Position: support

Comment:

i support mandatory harvest reporting, such as petitioned to the commission from the SD bow hunters Association.

Andrew Seymour

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting in order to provide your department more accurate data. Thanks! Andy

Mark Smedsrud

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am writing to support the petition submitted by the SD bowhunting group that will require a new set of rules for mandatory reporting of big game licensing. In today's world of technology, it would be nice to see our biologist utilizing a mandatory reporting system to more accurately base wildlife decisions for future tag allocation. Other states have followed with this model, and I feel it is time we re-introduce better science to guide our decisions instead of revenue and tourism. I has been shown in other states that it can be implemented and partially funded by fees for non-compliance on future applications. This is just one example of how other states have implemented mandatory reporting and penalty for non-compliance. I hope you take the time to consider and have future discussions to a much needed change.

Mandatory reporting requirement for all tags. Kills need to be reported online within 30 days of harvest and there is mandatory reporting for all tags (even if unsuccessful) by 1/31. If the reporting requirement is not met, there is a \$20 fee imposed that needs to be paid before you can buy your tags for the next year. The state sends out reminder emails prior to the reporting deadline as a reminder.

Derick Sommers

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory Harvest Reporting

Jerry Barthel

Lake Norden SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Mitchell Gregg

Sundance WY

Position: support

Comment:

Need harvest reporting, especially for archery mule deer harvest numbers

Dakota Flint

Viborg SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reports

Dwight Patterson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory Harvest reports on Deer are needed. Walked 8.1 miles during West River Deer season and saw three fawns. I also own a work a section of land in Pennington County where the deer numbers are less than half of historical numbers. Not sure what is affecting numbers but I can testify I have a section of school land next to me and opening morning there were 9 pickups parked at the gate and four hunters sitting the edge of our private property. They seem to shoot anything that moves. Makes hunting no longer enjoyable.

Jeff Brown

Vermillion SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ashlynn Smith

Hawarden IA

Position: support

Comment:

i support having mandatory harvest reports

Mark Nielsen

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting

Justin Hansen

Mott SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the mandatory harvest report

Matt Schrader

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support mandatory reporting of harvest information. Failure to enact this is a huge missed opportunity to help the GFP manage our wildlife.

Michael Eck

Rogers AR

Position: other

Comment:

In 10 + years this is the worst deer hunting I've had here, ehd and rifle season during the rutt has done a number on the overall deer population.

Cade Kollars

Harrisburg SD

Position: support

Comment:

Supporting the mandatory harvest survey

Jeff Jackson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest data especially for BHNF

Lew Culberson

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Time to stop putting residents last in tags! Three years is way to long to make a resident of the Black Hills wait to hunt a deer!! If deer numbers are down?? Then the hills were overpopulated!!! Make hunting easier for the hunter Not harder!! If you are unsure try using antler restrictions! Not making tags harder and harder to get!!!

Lew Culberson

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Time to stop putting residents last in tags! Three years is way to long to make a resident of the Black Hills wait to hunt a deer!! If deer numbers are down?? Then the hills were overpopulated!!! Make hunting easier for the hunter Not harder!! If you are unsure try using antler restrictions! Not making tags harder and harder to get!!!

Gary Schmidt

Renner SD

Position: support

Comment:

Start by killing more coyotes as that is the real problem in South Dakota!

Robert Allen

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

Harvest Reporting of Harvest

Eric Sharpe

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory Reporting

Ty Stender

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting in order to better understand population dynamics, hunter success, and help with management of our wild game population.

Alexey Egorov

Attachment #13450

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Dear GFP members. Please, accept my voice against Nest Predator Bounty Program (NPBP), which has been operating in South Dakota since 2019. I encourage you to terminate NPBP in 2024. In the document (attached) I provide 10 reasons, why NPBP should be terminated in 2024. Some of reasons are new and were not take into account previously. Some reasons were already mentioned earlier - I present a fresh view of them from a different angle. Also I collected voices against NPBP on change.org platform. Please accept our voices in addition to those, who voted against NPBP previously.

Gary French

Cavour SD

Position: other

Comment:

It's not that it needs to be mandatory but it needs to be addressed ! If out of state hunters get them and don't fill it out and send them back it's still going to be hard to know the answer!!

Stephen Parker

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting to support wildlife management with necessary needed data that us as hunters can easily supply.
Thank you.

Abigaul Lien

Hartford SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory harvest reporting

Richard Hentges

Milbank SD

Position: support

Comment:

I will support mandatory harvest reporting as long as you quit using that information to not only use the rifle hunters to regulate your herd. All hunting methods for deer should be used to regulate the herd.

Robert Frederick

Oacoma SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory deer check ins.

Robert Frederick

Oacoma SD

Position: support

Comment:

Support of mandatory big game check ins.

Richard G Barnett

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

I believe Hunters should be REQUIRED to report what they kill...or DON'T kill. Even if some hunters would lie, most would not...thus giving the GF&P better harvest data.

Daniel Liane

Buffalo SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory big game reporting.

Jake Oberloh

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support a mandatory license harvest report on all big game animals

Jared Kaiser

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I strongly support mandatory harvest reporting for all big game hunting. This is crucial to the proper management of our big game species and allows for accurate tag distribution throughout the state. This is just a no brainer, will be extremely disappointed if this proposal is turned down by our Commissioners.

Jordan Loecker

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

Mandatory Reporting is much needed in this state. As a state who brings in a lot of revenue through hunting and the outdoors, mandatory report is a necessity. The volunteer report is helpful but how many people actually fill it out. Year after year people are always saying deer numbers are down. I hope that with the mandatory reporting we can get enough information obtained to know how many tags can be issued or not issued. I have four kids and I hope that they are able to hunt like we do. It starts with us.

Tyler Hovis

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support mandatory harvest reporting to help track accurate and total harvest numbers.

Derek Bille

Clear Lake SD

Position: other

Comment:

There needs to be a mandatory harvest report on big game

Jeff Harlow

Lead SD

Position: support

Comment:

As a hunter myself I think having a mandatory registration of all big game animals and Wild Turkey whether in person or by phone is crucial for proper management and it will keep most hunters honest. How can there be an accurate count of how many of each species and sex of species, etc etc. It's crucial for conservation and for setting more accurate license availability and population goals!

Petr Skaroupka

Eagle Butte SD

Position: support

Comment:

Petition #227-Mandatory Big-Game Harvest Report

Threatened and Endangered Species Review

Kyle Ramynke

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

All whitetail harvests to be reported.

David Prohl

Castlewood SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

To the governor of South Dakota, Kristi Noem
copy to the Game Fish & Park of South Dakota
copy to the representative Dusty Johnson
copy to change.org <https://chng.it/c4KnXJDhZd>

Dear GFP members

I am writing to you regarding the Nest Predator Bounty Program (hereinafter NPBP¹), first implemented in South Dakota in 2019 in the frame of the Second Century Initiative. Please, accept my voice against NPBP. I encourage you to terminate NPBP in 2024 due to lack of support from professionals, its cruelty, pointless waste of money, untimeliness, conflict of interest, no scientific evidence of its effectiveness, etc. In support of my arguments, I provide references to science papers in peer-reviewed journals, and media publications. Also, I've collected voices against NPBP on the Change.org platform. Please review my arguments in detail below.

Lack of support from professionals. Today, most Americans, including hunters, wildlife biologists, managers and officials across the country understand the intrinsic value of healthy ecosystems that include predators, and all agree that bounty programs 'devalue the predator', are 'prone to corruption', 'expensive', 'counterproductive' and 'totally ineffective'². Recently, the raccoon bounty bill failed in neighboring Iowa due to its cruelty³.

- Bounty programs are not supported by the expert community.

There is a link between animal cruelty and human violence. The South Dakota NPBP is implemented in the most cruel way possible. The massive statewide massacre of indigenous animals starts every year on March 1st, at the peak of gestation season and when newborn kits and pups are born. Blind and helpless, they are completely dependent on their mother's care for the first 3–4 months. They have no chance of surviving and are doomed to death if their mother is killed. 290,841 indigenous animals have been killed since 2019 in the frame of NPBP⁴. Assuming that half of them were female, and the average litter is 4 kits/pups, >580,000 cubs were condemned to a long and painful death from dehydration, hunger and cold without their mother's care. A growing body of scientific research ^{5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12} indicates a strong correlation (co-called 'Link') between cruelty to animals and subsequent cruelty to humans, suggesting that acts of animal abuse is an indicator of future violent behavior towards people. Nowadays, we are seeing an increase in cruelty around the world (multiple conflicts, including armed clashes), and NPBP contributes to the cruelty among people. Terminating NPBP in 2024 will contribute to reducing the amount of violence in the world.

- NPBP promotes human-directed cruelty among South Dakotans.

There is no scientific evidence that NPBP is increasing wild pheasant populations. Despite requests from the public, Game Fish & Park¹³ (GFP) of South Dakota ended the annual pheasant brood count in 2019¹⁴, the year when NPBP was adopted, to not discourage out-of-state hunters. Without consistent long-term time series of brood count data, as is done in neighboring states^{15,16,17}, GFP cannot provide any scientific evidence of NPBP effectiveness. Non-systematic visual assessments and personal feelings on pheasant abundance, that are not statistically confirmed, as well as indirect metrics, such as number of hunters, number of pheasants harvested or hunters' satisfaction cannot substitute consistent brood counting, because they can be easily manipulated, e.g., via aggressive advertisement — the more hunters, the more pheasants harvested¹⁸ and are not comparable with brood count data, consistently collected in previous years. A science paper, reviewing 12 bounty programs¹⁹ concluded: “We recommend that policymakers suspend predator control efforts that lack evidence for functional effectiveness”. A science research aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of increasing duck and pheasant

nest success in South Dakota with the aid of trapping, concluded: “there were no differences at the 95% level between control sites and treatment sites”²⁰. GFP secretary K. Robling, testifying to the state House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on Jan. 16, 2024, confirmed that there is no data to show that a predator trapping program has increased the state’s pheasant population²¹.

- There is no scientific evidence that NPBP is working to increase the pheasant population statewide.

Untimeliness. We do not live in the second century. Now is the third millennium. We have no shortage of food, and pheasant hunting is not essential for the survival of the human population. Pheasants are non-native and not endangered species, and there is no any urgent need for their protection. We have no shortage of warm clothes. Animals, killed in the frame of NPBP, are not used for fur production — trappers simply throw away animal carcasses after cutting off tails for \$10. There is no sense to refer to traditions. Traditions come and go. Many archaic traditions have sunk into oblivion and look absurd now. E.g., there was a tradition of “hunting by rail” (excursions for killing buffaloes from trains) — it is gone. Interracial marriages have been illegal in many states for decades — gone. Slavery — gone. Mandingo fight — gone. Dog and cock fighting — illegal. We no longer crucify on stakes, burn witches on fire, or have gladiator fights. It doesn’t occur to anyone to maintain these traditions now, although they existed for many decades or centuries. NPBP is on the same page with the aforementioned barbarian traditions.

- NPBP takes us back to the mores of the rude, uneducated medieval wild-wild-west epoch.

The social survey in support of NPBP is manipulative, prejudiced and irrelevant. The social survey²² conducted in 2019, does not appear to be an objective study designed to measure real public opinion, but rather a commission aimed at achieving a pre-planned result. Questionnaires were developed cooperatively by the commercial firm Responsive Management²³ and GFP¹³, funded by trappers and hunters. Independent experts, who could have provided alternatives, another point of view and advocate indigenous animals were not involved. Questions are manipulative, the published report contains error, and the conclusion “83% of South Dakota residents approved of the program” is biased, prejudicial and irrelevant.

- Lack of alternative. The NPBP alternatives were not put to a vote and were not mentioned at all, so respondents essentially 'chose' from one option, wrapped in manipulative questions.
- Prejudgment. Less than a quarter (23%) of residents indicated knowing a great deal or a moderate amount about NPBP (Q13), i.e., the majority of residents heard about NPBP for the first time at the time of the survey, and their judgments were based on what was explained by a pollster.
- Manipulation. Among those residents who were aware of NPBP prior to the survey, the minority (43%) heard positive things about NPBP (Q16). The percentage of residents who had a positive attitude and approved NPBP magically increased to 83% (Q18) after NPBP was explained by a pollster to those who were unaware of NPBP prior to the survey.
- Aggregation bias. 63% of residents heard nothing at all, and another 14% knew only a little about NPBP at the time of the survey (Q13). The survey does not provide a breakdown of those residents who approved of NPBP (Q18) by level of awareness, which obscures the effect of learning about NPBP fully or predominantly from a pollster.
- Error. Q16 was asked only to those residents who were aware of NPBP prior to the survey. Responses to Q12 show that $418 \times 38\% = 159$ residents were aware. However, Q16 states the sample of size 177 instead. While the actual number can be potentially smaller than 159 due to not all respondents providing an answer, it is logically impossible to have a sample larger than 159 in Q16. Errors in published results cast doubt on survey credibility as a whole.
- Irrelevantness. Deciding to commit a statewide indiscriminate killing of indigenous animals in favor of non-native species at a cost of millions of dollars cannot rely on commercial surveys of randomly selected residents and financially motivated trappers. Complicated questions such as ecosystem

functioning and species interactions should be resolved with the involvement of an independent professional community.

- The social survey²² doesn't inspire confidence and, in principle, cannot be used for NPBP justification.

Indiscriminate killing is ineffective or counterproductive in reducing predator populations.

According to the NPBP tail tracker⁴, the number of killed indigenous animals reaches 50,000 every year (limited to \$500,000 in allocated funds), and has no signs of decrease after 6 years. Several studies demonstrate a backfire effect — increasing the population of targeted or replacement (more reproductively aggressive) species due to increasing food availability, the proportion of females, litter size, survival rates, etc.²⁴. In Missouri, predator populations increased dramatically and spread to the southern and eastern parts of the state during the period while a bounty program was in place²⁵. In Georgia, field surveys indicated that wild pig density rates and number of juveniles per adult female increased by 130% and 219% respectively, during the course of the bounty program²⁶. In Kansas, after 80+ years, operating the bounty program proved ineffective, i.e., did not lead to a real decrease in predators populations, and collapsed under its own financial weight²⁷. North Dakota implemented a bounty system in 1896 and was having no real effect on fox and coyote numbers, so the program was discontinued in 1961 due to its ineffectiveness; in Nebraska, predator's population continued to rise, although a bounty system had been in place for 68 years²⁸. In Montana and Colorado, the bounty program had no effect — the predator population remained stable²⁹. Predator management programs can be successful for a short period of time if they are carefully designed, implemented in a small or isolated area (e.g., island) and when employing a dedicated team, or using non-lethal methods^{19,30,31}. Indiscriminate killing does not appear to be an effective preventative and remedial method for reducing depredations³². Implementation of the bounty program in an area as large as South Dakota is indiscriminate killing. Performed by random residents, in randomly selected locations chosen by trappers, in an area as large as South Dakota, NPBP looks like scooping water out of a pond with a sieve. Nature abhors a vacuum, and the vacant niche is filled by another species with a more aggressive compensatory reproduction mechanisms and by migration from adjacent sites, multiplying multi-million-dollar investments by zero.

- GFP is repeating the mistakes of the previous millennium made in other states.

Wrong target. Nest predators eat eggs, just like we eat meat, cats prey on mice, and birds catch insects, because this is the natural predator-prey interaction that has developed over eons of evolution. But predators don't eat habitats. Habitat loss is far and away the biggest reason why pheasant populations decline. Confined to small parcels of habitat, birds and their nests become easy prey for predators. Less-expensive methods to improve game bird populations have focused on increasing area and diversity of habitats, including tall grass communities and forest patches as winter shelters that increase winter survival and nesting success by reducing the effectiveness of predators by up to 80 percent^{33,34}) rather than exterminating the latter. The money allocated to the NPBP for just one year would be enough to restore the prairie ecosystem over an area equivalent to 200 football fields. In contrast to bounty programs, native plant communities are sustainable and do not require recurring multi-million-dollar investments. Funding habitat restoration projects with savings from the NPBP would create additional jobs for local farmers involved in restoration projects.

- NPBP does not address the underlying cause of pheasant population decline.

Pheasants are not native to North America. Ring-necked pheasants were introduced from Asia at the end of 19th century. NPBP aims to exterminate indigenous animals^{35,36} in favor of introduced species, while the generally accepted practice is the opposite — protecting native species from introduced ones.

- Exterminating native animals in favor of introduced species is a ridiculous wildlife management practice.

There are non-cruel forms of outdoor recreation. Massive statewide murders of pregnant/nursing mothers during the peak of gestation/birthing season as a form of outdoor recreation sounds insane to say the least. There are a great many other forms of outdoor recreation to encourage people to get outside without instilling cruelty in them, e.g., cycling, hiking, jogging, kayaking, outdoor photography, horseback riding, bird watching, fruit picking, etc.

- Senseless killing indigenous animals for fun as a form of outdoor activity sounds insane.

Conflict of interest. Despite of i) strong opposition from professionals, ii) negative attitude in the media iii) hundreds of negative comments against NPBP in the governor's office in March 2020, iv) numerous proofs of bounty ineffectiveness in scientific research, and v) no evidence that NPBP is working to increase the pheasant population statewide..., GFP continues implementing NPBP in South Dakota (why?). Renowned pheasant hunter K. Noem would personally benefit from increased pheasant numbers and increased hunting enjoyment, if the NPBP were effective. Not only is the NPBP ineffective, allocating millions of dollars from the state budget in favor of a personal hobby has signs of the abuse of entrusted power for private gains.

- NPBP shows signs of corruption.

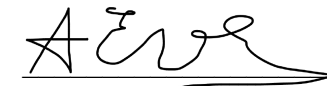
In support of my statements, I provide references to science papers in peer-reviewed journals and media publications. In addition, I collected signatures against NPBP under my petition on the change.org platform: <https://chng.it/c4KnXJDhZd>. Please, consider these signatures in addition to voices who voted against the NPBP earlier. I hereby call upon...

Governor Kristy Noem, please, terminate NPBP in 2024.

Game Fish and Park members, please, terminate the NPBP in 2024 and focus efforts on habitat restoration projects.

Representative Dusty Johnson, you could answer: “it's none of my business”, or “it is up to state government”. But, you recently voted for the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act³⁷ in the 116th Congress. Here is the cruelty: NPBP. Please, take a moment away from solving the world's problems and take a look at the mess that is going on in your state. Show you voters, that laws passed at the federal level are not just words on paper. Your message to GFP and governor's office against NPBP may have a great impact on protecting indigenous inhabitants of South Dakota, who have been living on these lands since the early Pleistocene^{35,36}.

Alexey V. Egorov, biologist, Brookings, South Dakota,



11/29/2024

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From: Lentz, Philip <Philip.Lentz@state.sd.us>

Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2024 9:12 AM

To: Theel, Travis <Travis.Theel@state.sd.us>; Bartling, Julie A (GFP) <JulieA.Bartling@state.sd.us>; Cull, Bruce <Bruce.Cull@state.sd.us>; White, Jim <Jim.White@state.sd.us>; Whitmyre, Robert <Robert.Whitmyre@state.sd.us>; Locken, Jon <Jon.Locken@state.sd.us>; Bies, Travis <Travis.Bies@state.sd.us>; Rissler, Stephanie <Stephanie.Rissler@state.sd.us>

Subject: Big Game Mandatory Reporting Petition

Dear Commissioners:

You are probably aware the South Dakota Bowhunters Association has created a petition to require mandatory big game hunting. I feel like this is way overdue. Almost all states are already doing this, and it is a requirement to maintain good standing in their licensing systems. Most also use the same platform go outdoors as well. This transition for South Dakota should be easy and its just time!

While I am not a biologist, I would be willing to bet they would love to have the data to handle the current population of our wildlife. The sort of guessing off the few surveys you do get now and with the animal counts that are done every few years are just not doing it anymore. This year I have seen more wildlife decline than ever before. Antelope population is at an all time low from what I have seen in my lifetime I feel. Accurate management is based off accurate data, and we just don't have that in our current state of operation. I would hope you would want the same accurate data to be utilized.

I know the GFP is a self-funded agency, that is a double edge sword in my opinion. The good is you can control your expenditures, but the negative is your generally prone to selling more tags and license to make more money, I get that but that is not wildlife management, that is creating revenues. I know the balance is VERY fine, but it should always be in the favor of protecting the wildlife. I think our commission does a fantastic job but this some times you think they are chasing revenue as the main goal.

I would also hope along with this you implement e-tagging very soon. That would save the GFP staff time and money I have no doubt. No printing or mailing of tags is a cost savings and they staff could focus on other job duties. I know the first few seasons or year going to this process with be a difficult one but in the end, it would be well worth it. I know Mr. Robling has made comments on the status of go outdoors isn't the greatest tool, but other states use it, and use it very successfully. I use in a handful of other states will zero issues. To be honest I have zero issues using it here in SD. I find it pretty straight forward from the user perspective. I can control my own tags/info as well as my youth son's tags.

I am not going to ramble on here but please consider the petition, SDBA isn't working against you, they are very open to working with you and have shown that more than ever in the last year. They were a strong voice promoting your fee increase package if you recall.

Thank you,
Phil Lentz
South Dakota Sportsman

DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The December 2024 South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Regular Commission Meeting will be held December 5, 2024, at the South Dakota State Capitol located at 500 E Capitol Ave, Pierre, SD 57501 in Room 414. This meeting will be held in person, Zoom Webinar, and Livestream.

Listen to the meeting beginning December 5, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. CST via Livestream at <https://www.sd.net/remote1/> or join via Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link below. Depending on your application, you may be required to enter the Zoom Webinar ID and password. Meeting attendees will not be able to have video and will be muted upon entry.

Meeting Dates and Times:

- **Thursday, December 5, 2024, starting at 1:00 p.m. CST**

Zoom Webinar Link: <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/91264176710?pwd=Vm00NEowdGV6N09lb1hnVUkMUF3Zz09>

Or join via phone:

- **Dial:** 1-669-900-9128
- **Webinar ID:** 912 6417 6710
- **Passcode:** 970458

Public Input: To provide comments, join the meeting in person, via Zoom, or via conference call using the information above. The public hearing (if there is one) and the open forum will begin promptly at 2 pm CST. To ensure an efficient public hearing and/or open forum, those wishing to testify should register by 1:00 p.m. CST on the day of the meeting by emailing Liz Kierl at liz.kierl@state.sd.us. Testifiers should provide their full names, whom they represent, their city of residence, and the topic they will address.

Online and Phone Testimony: Testifiers wishing to speak online during the commission meeting will be asked to ‘raise their hands’ during the public hearing and open forum if they’d like to testify. The meeting hosts will call your name and give you permission to unmute when it is your turn to speak. Those joining online will not be able to share video and will be granted audio only. Those joining via phone can raise and lower their hands by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.

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

Dated this 27th day of November 2024.

Stephanie Rissler

Stephanie Rissler, GFP Commission Chair

**DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS
PUBLIC NOTICE**

This NOTICE is provided pursuant to SDCL 41-4-1.1. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is proposing acquisition through a donation of approximately 80 acres of property in Charles Mix County, South Dakota described as:

The Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW1/4NW1/4), and the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SE1/4NW1/4), all in Section Thirty-six (36) in Township Ninety-seven (97) North, Range Sixty-three (63) West of the 5th P.M., in Charles Mix County, South Dakota.

The property is located approximately 4 miles west and 6 miles south of Delmont, South Dakota.

The GFP Commission will be conducting a commission meeting on December 5th and 6th, 2024, commencing at 1:00 PM CST on December 5th and continuing to adjournment in Room 414 of the Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave, Pierre, South Dakota 57501.

Sometime during the GFP Commission meeting, the Commission is expected to act on the proposed property donation. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity during the open forum beginning at 2:00 PM CT on December 5th to provide oral comment in person or virtually prior to action by the Commission on the intended donation. Any person unable to participate in the meeting may mail or email their comments to: Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, Department of Game, Fish and Parks, 4500 South Oxbow Ave, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106 or Ryan.Wendinger@state.sd.us with comments to be received prior by 12:00 AM CT on December 5th, 2024.

Date this 16th day of October 2024.



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

**DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS
PUBLIC NOTICE**

This NOTICE is provided pursuant to SDCL 41-4-1.1. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is proposing acquisition of approximately 21.64 acres of property in Codington County, South Dakota described as:

Lot 2 of Cotton Slough Addition in Government Lot 3 and 4 in Section 10, Township 117 North, Range 53 West, of the 5th P.M, in Codington County, South Dakota.

Through an exchange of 12.32 acres in Codington County, South Dakota described as:

Lot 1 of Cotton Slough Addition in Government Lot 5 in Section 33, Township 118 North, Range 52 West, of the 5th P.M, in the Sisseton and Wahpeton Indian Reservation, Codington County, South Dakota.

The properties to be exchanged are of equal value determined by an appraisal and are located approximately a 1/4 mile northeast of Lake Kampeska near Watertown, South Dakota in Codington County, South Dakota.

The GFP Commission will be conducting a commission meeting on December 5th and 6th, 2024, commencing at 1:00 PM CST on December 5th and continuing to adjournment in Room 414 of the Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave, Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Sometime during the GFP Commission meeting, the Commission is expected to act on the proposed property exchange. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity during the open forum beginning at 2:00 PM CT on December 5th to provide oral comment in person or virtually prior to action by the Commission on the intended exchange. Any person unable to participate in the meeting may mail or email their comments to: Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, Department of Game, Fish and Parks, 4500 South Oxbow Ave, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106 or Ryan.Wendinger@state.sd.us with comments to be received prior by 12:00 AM CT on December 5th, 2024.

Date this 16th day of October 2024.



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary