



# SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

MARCH 6-7, 2025 | RAMKOTA CONVENTION CENTER - PIERRE

## MEETING INFO

*This agenda is subject to change without prior notice.*

**Date and Time:** March 6, 2025, from 1-5 pm CST | March 7, 2025, from 8 am-12 pm CST

**Meeting Location:** Ramkota Convention Center, Gallery C, 920 West Sioux Avenue, 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 Gail Buus at [gail.buus@state.sd.us](mailto:gail.buus@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

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**Video Conference ID:** [91264176710@zoomcrc.com](mailto: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

#### Informational Items

4. New Staff Introductions
5. Legislative Session Update
6. Habitat Plate

### Public Hearing (2pm CST / 1pm MT)

*The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment finalizations.*

### Open Forum – following the conclusion of the Public Hearing

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

#### Petitions

7. #234 – To Implement a Regulated Season on Jack Rabbits

#### Finalizations

8. Bear Butte Public Use Restriction



# SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

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## Proposals

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9. Waterfowl Hunting Season
10. Prairie Mountain Lion Hunting
11. Boating Safety
12. Big Horn Sheep Hunting Season & Population Status Report
13. Prairie Elk Hunting Season

## Division of Wildlife

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### Action Items

14. Mountain Goat Action Plan
15. Swan Lake (Walworth Co.) Land Exchange
16. Faulk County Land Disposal
17. Spink County Land Disposal

### Informational Items

18. Lake Francis Case Fishery Update
19. Southeast SD Fisheries Management
20. Nest Predator Bounty Program
21. Outdoor Campus East Expansion
22. E-Tagging
23. License Sales Update

## Division of Parks and Recreation

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### Action Items

24. Custer State Park Private Cabin Transfer
25. Spring Creek Restaurant Lease

### Informational Items

26. 2025 Marketing Plan and Theme Update
27. DOT Collector Road Projects Report
28. Snake Creek Recreation Area Project Update
29. February Camping Units and Revenue Reports

## Solicitation of Agenda Items

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

## Adjourn

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The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on April 3-4, 2025, starting at 1 pm CST at the Matthews Training Center, in Pierre, SD.



# Commission Meeting Minutes

## South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

January 9-10, 2025 | Ramkota Convention Center | Pierre, SD

### REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

#### Call Meeting to Order

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 1 pm CST at the Ramkota Convention Center in Pierre, SD on January 9, 2025. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Jim White, Travis Bies, Jon Locken, Bruce Cull, Travis Theel were present, with Robert Whitmyre joining virtually. Commissioner Julie Bartling was absent excused. With seven commission members present or online, a quorum was established. The public and staff could listen via SDPB Livestream and participate via conference or in person, with approximately 83 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 December 2024 meeting. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY BIES TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 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, but none were brought forward.

#### 4. Election of Officers [Action Item]

Chair Rissler opened the floor to nominations for the Commission Officer Positions.

MOTIONED BY LOCKEN, SECONDED BY THEEL TO NOMINATE BIES FOR VICE-CHAIR. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY THEEL TO NOMINATE RISSLER FOR CHAIR. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 5. 2025 Legislative Session [Info Item]

Deputy Secretary Simpson gave a brief update on the legislative items being brought during the 2025 legislative session.

#### 6. Staff Introductions [Info Item]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation, introduced Kerri Richards the new Division Grant Specialist who will oversee the LWCF and RTP grant programs.

Director Kirschenmann introduced Daniel Cox, new Schools Coordinator at the Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City. Daniel has a bachelor's degree in Outdoor Recreation and a master's degree in business administration.

#### 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.

2:05 pm: Julie Anderson of Rapid City, SD testified virtually in opposition to mountain lion hunting season.



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2:07 pm: Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD representing Prairie Hills Audubon Society testified virtually in opposition mountain lion hunting season and the nest predator bounty program.

2:11 pm: Bill Waeckerle of Pierre, SD testified in person in support of the walleye update.

The open forum closed at 2:15 pm CST.

### **7. Petition #231: Change East River Rifle Season to Muzzleloader** [Action Item: Petition]

Deon Entringer of Colman, SD submitted petition #231 in which requested the Commission require the change of East River rifle season to East River muzzleloader.

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann introduced the petitioner and Mr. Entringer provided a summary of reasons why he desires the East River deer season to be changed and only allow muzzleloaders and shotguns, no rifles. Kirschenmann then provided some background information and shared a few explanations why the department is providing a recommendation of denial. Those included population management measures, the season is meeting the deer action plan goals, potential crowding due to increased licenses where situations will require a higher harvest, and the fact that this change would require some deer hunters to go purchase equipment they currently do not have. The commission voted unanimously to deny the petition.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY THEEL TO DENY PETITION #231. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **RESOLUTION 25-01**

WHEREAS, Deon Entringer of Colman, South Dakota, submitted a Petition to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission (Commission) dated December 12, 2024, requesting that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission create a new rule in ARSD § 41:06:21 (East River Deer Hunting Season) – to eliminate the use of rifles and only allow for muzzleloaders during the East River deer hunting season (hereinafter referred to as “the Petition”); 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 eliminate the use of rifles and only allow for muzzleloaders during the East River deer hunting season; and

WHEREAS, there is no evidence of East River Deer firearm harvest limiting the ability to manage deer at desired population levels, and these license numbers can be changed at the hunting unit level; and

WHEREAS, harvest data suggests nearly 60% of East River Firearm Deer hunting units met or exceeded the 50% “buck” tag harvest success objective with an average success rate of 51%; and



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WHEREAS, in order to achieve the same harvest with a less efficient weapon like a muzzleloader or shotgun, license numbers would need to be increased, resulting in more hunter crowding; and

WHEREAS, each year, over 30,000 licenses are sold for the East River Firearm Deer season, and many of these hunters would have to purchase a new weapon and equipment if they could no longer use their high-powered rifle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby deny the Petition for the reasons herein above 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 be and it 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, Deon Entringer of Colman, South Dakota.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-01. The motion carried unanimously.

### **8. Bear Butte Public Use Restriction**

[Action Item: Proposal]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented a rule prohibiting the leaving of human remains at Bear Butte. In 2002, at the request of the tribal groups representing the Bear Butte forum, the Commission approved this same rule as proposed. In 2019 as part of a Dept. rule cleanup process this rule was inadvertently repealed. Bear Butte is viewed as a spiritual worship area by the various tribal groups, and they desire that death is not represented in any form at this site.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR MARCH FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

### **9. Public Lands and Waters**

[Action Item: Proposal]

Law enforcement section chief Sam Schelhaas presented a proposal to adjust two boating rules. The first rule addressed was 41:04:05:02.01 which pertains to special use personal floatation devices. The second rule addressed was 41:04:05:03 which pertains to fire extinguishers on boats. Both proposed changes would harmonize the administrative rule with the Federal regulations.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY BIES TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR MARCH FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

### **10. Prairie Elk Hunting Season**

[Action Item: Proposal]

Andrew Norton, Senior Wildlife Biologist, presented the two-year recommendations for elk hunting seasons, which will be addressed in 2026. Due to landowner concerns about elk depredation, there is a push to expand hunting opportunities in certain West River counties for 2025. The Commission approved a proposal that includes: expanding the PRE-WRA unit to cover all counties west of the Missouri River that currently do not have an elk hunting season; extending the elk hunting season in PRE-27A (Fall River County) by two months, with season dates set from September 1 to December 31; and offering resident-only antlerless elk licenses to qualifying landowners and operators in PRE-27A.



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MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADOPT THE PROPOSAL FOR APRIL FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

### **11. Bighorn Sheep Season** [Action Item: Proposal]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, presented changes to bighorn sheep hunting to expand the unit boundary for BHS-BH4 and clean up unit descriptions.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADOPT THE PROPOSAL FOR APRIL FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

### **12. Mountain Goat Hunting Season** [Action Item: Proposal]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, spoke on mountain goat hunting season for 2025-2026.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL. FINALIZATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN APRIL 2025.

### **13. Special Deer and Special Antelope** [Action Item: Proposal]

Andrew Norton, Senior Wildlife Biologist, presented about the special deer and special antelope hunting seasons and no changes were recommended for 2025 and 2026.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL. FINALIZATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN APRIL 2025.

### **14. Waterfowl Hunting Seasons** [Action Item: Proposal]

Andrew Norton, Senior Wildlife Biologist, brought forward proposals on waterfowl hunting seasons.

#### **14a. Duck Hunting Seasons**

Andrew Norton described based on US Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Waterfowl Register regulation changes, there was a recommendation to increase the Northern Pintail daily bag from 1 to 3 and reduce the number of days for the bonus Teal hunting season from 16 to 9 days.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY THEEL TO ADOPT THE PROPOSAL FOR APRIL FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **14b. August Management Take**

Andrew Norton presented season information on August management take.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL. FINALIZATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN APRIL 2025.

#### **14c. Early Fall Canada Goose, Goose Hunting Season, Special Canada Goose Hunting**

Andrew Norton also shared information about the recommendation to remove goose hunting seasons specific to Bennett County and integrate goose hunting opportunity in Bennett County into the larger goose Unit 2. This would result in an increased number of days individuals can hunt Canada geese in Bennett County and hunters would no longer be required to obtain a permit to hunt in Bennett County.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADOPT THE EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE PROPOSAL FOR APRIL FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.





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MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADOPT THE GOOSE HUNTING PROPOSAL FOR APRIL FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADOPT THE SPECIAL CANADA GOOSE HUNTING PROPOSAL FOR APRIL FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

### **14d. Spring Light Goose Hunting Seasons**

Andrew Norton presented season information on spring light goose conservation order.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL. FINALIZATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN APRIL 2025.

### **14e. Sandhill Crane Hunting Season**

Andrew Norton shared season information on sandhill crane hunting.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL. FINALIZATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN APRIL 2025.

### **14f. Tundra Swan Hunting Season**

Andrew Norton presented information on the tundra swan hunting season.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL. FINALIZATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN APRIL 2025.

### **14g. Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season**

Andrew Norton spoke on the youth waterfowl hunting season.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL. FINALIZATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN APRIL 2025.

### **14h. Nonresident Waterfowl Hunting Season**

Andrew Norton presented changes proposed to the nonresident waterfowl hunting season.

MOTIONED BY LOCKEN, SECONDED BY THEEL TO ADOPT THE NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON PROPOSAL FOR APRIL FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

## **15. Mountain Lion Hunting Season**

[Action Item: Proposal]

Terrestrial Section Chief, John Kanta, spoke on changes to the mountain lion hunting season.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADOPT THE PROPOSAL FOR MARCH FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

## **16. Spring Creek Restaurant Prospectus**

[Action Item: Parks & Recreation]

Sean Blanchette, State Parks Business Administrator, presented a request for authorization to advertise a prospectus for the restaurant operation at Spring Creek Recreation Area. Blanchette provided a history of past operations and previous lease terms. New terms proposed for future operations include a base term of 3 years with renewal options for up to 5 years total, as well as the implementation of a Franchise Fee of 4% of Gross Receipts. Blanchette also indicated that the convenience store, which is currently self-operated by Park staff, will be offered as an optional opportunity. The prospectus will be advertised for a minimum of 30 days with the intent to receive proposals and make an approval recommendation at the March 2025 GFP Commission Meeting.



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MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY THEEL TO ADVERTISE PROSPECTUS FOR APPROVAL IN MARCH. The motion carried unanimously.

### **17. Snowmobile Season Forecast** [Info Item: Parks & Recreation]

Ryan Raynor, Snowmobile Trails Coordinator, provided an overview of Snowmobile Program budget, operations and projects being discussed. GFP staff work closely with a Governor Appointed Snowmobile Advisory Council and the South Dakota Snowmobile Association to make sure snowmobiler's best interests are being considered when making decisions on budgets, trail reroutes, projects and more. Shoulder season operations keep staff busy as both the Black Hills and East River operations require year-round responsibilities including trail and equipment maintenance and working with landowners, along with the Black Hills National Forest Service. GFP staff are looking to update an Economic Impact Study, work with Black Hills Badlands and Tourism to help promote the 350-mile trail system in the Black Hills and explore different options to collect data on trail use in the Black Hills.

### **18. 2024 Outreach Programs and Event Numbers** [Info Item: Parks & Recreation]

April Larson, Marketing Coordinator, Rachel Comes, Volunteer Coordinator, and Brandon Maas, HuntSAFE Coordinator, shared updates on 2024 South Dakota State Parks events and outreach, highlighting the 3,752 programs held with 127,435 participants. Parks staff led 2,031 of these events, reaching 91,570 attendees and strengthening partnerships between the Wildlife and Parks Divisions. HuntSAFE saw growth through additional classes and a new free online course, while park entrance license programs like Library Checkout, Go Fourth, and Park Rx continued to connect new audiences to outdoor experiences.

### **19. State Park Maintenance Skills Education Training** [Info Item: Parks & Recreation]

Derek Dorr, SE Regional Supervisor, presented an informational item explaining some maintenance training made available to GFP staff on basic trade skills needed within the department. The course curriculum is set up for 32 hours of trades education consisting of, 16-hour general construction, 2 hours of plumbing, 2 hours of diesel/small engines, 8 hours of electrical, and 4 hours of welding. To date 54 employees have attended training with 19 more planning to attend this February.

### **20. Year End Reports** [Info Item: Parks & Recreation]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the December monthly and final year-end report numbers for the Division of Parks & Recreation related to revenue, visitation and camping units. The Parks Division had a great year with revenue up 13% in December and over 5% for CY2024. Visitation was down 8% for the month of Dec. but overall, for CY2024 visitations were nearly 8 million strong representing a 10% increase over the last 13-year average. Camping units continue to be strong with December numbers being up 18% for the month and the CY2024 numbers up 2% which is nearly 6,500 additional camping units for the year. The 2025 Division goals were also shared with the Commission at the end of the presentation.

### **21. Bighorn Sheep Auction License** [Action Item: Wildlife]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, shared starting in 2013 GFP has made a bighorn sheep license available for auction by a non-profit organization. Administrative rule states that if three or more bighorn sheep licenses are offered by the commission, one of those licenses shall be made available for auction. The entity auctioning the license must agree to give 100% of the proceeds back to GFP. This year GFP received four applications for the auction license. The commission selected the Midwest Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation to auction the license.

MOTIONED BY THEEL, SECONDED BY WHITE TO AWARD MIDWEST WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION A BIGHORN SHEEP LICENSE FOR AUCTION. The motion carried unanimously.





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### **22. Turkey Hunter Recruitment License**

[Action Item: Wildlife]

Terrestrial Section Chief, John Kanta spoke about starting in 2023 the commission adopted rules to offer the opportunity for non-profit organizations to sponsor youth turkey hunters on turkey hunts. The organizations can select up to two youth to sponsor on a mentor turkey hunt. The commission may issue no more than ten turkey recruitment licenses. This year GFP received three applications for turkey hunter recruitment licenses. The commission approved all three.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BIES TO AWARD THREE TURKEY HUNTER RECRUITMENT LICENSES. The motion carried unanimously.

### **23. Walworth County Swan Lake Land Exchange**

[Info Item: Wildlife]

A proposed land exchange was shared by Ryan Wendinger, habitat program administrator, at Swan Lake in Walworth County. The proposal is for GFP to exchange 1/3 of an acre with an adjoining private landowner in return for acquiring a 1/3 of an acre. This exchange is of mutual interest and would shift an access lane to the south away from a hunting lodge building site and improve access to GFP and our users by avoiding a wetland. The properties were evaluated by a certified appraiser and determined to be of equal value. The Commission will be asked at the March meeting to approve or deny the exchange.

### **24. Lake Faulkton and Twin Lake Diversion Land Disposals**

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Ryan Wendinger, habitat program administrator, shared a proposal to dispose of property at Lake Faulkton in Faulk County and the Twin Lakes Diversion Ditch in Spink County. The property to be disposed of at Lake Faulkton includes approximately 56 lake lots that have been grouped into 19 parcels that combined equal around 25 acres. The total combined appraised value of these parcels is \$248,000. The Twin Lakes Diversion Ditch, originally acquired to as part of a project to divert water to Twin Lakes, is located in Spink County approximately 2.5 miles southwest of Twin Lakes. The diversion structures have been removed as they were need of major repairs/replacement and the ditch was no longer functioning. There are two parcels, one at 2.28 and one at 15.4 acres, that are to be disposed of as they are no longer needed by the department. The total appraised value of both is \$45,000. The Commission will be asked at the March meeting to approve or deny the disposals of these properties, upon approval, parcels will be sold at public auction with bids starting at appraised value.

### **25. Ice Fishing Access**

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Administrator, presented to the Commission a summary of efforts made by the Department to provide ice fishing access. Across the state, 240 areas are maintained for ice fishing access. Information on locations of maintained ice fishing access areas can be found on the Public Fishing Access map under the "Ice Fish" tab on the Department website.

### **26. Lake Oahe Fishery Update**

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Dylan Gravenhof, wildlife biologist, presented walleye relative abundance on the lower end of Lake Oahe was up in 2024 compared to the previous year and the highest abundance observed over the last eight years. Walleye growth on lower Lake Oahe continues to be good and is above objective and walleye condition continues to be good. Walleye abundance on upper Lake Oahe was down slightly in 2024 but still substantially higher than 2017 – 2022. Walleye growth on upper Oahe is still below objective but continues to improve the last 2 years. Walleye condition on upper Oahe is still considered good. Approximately 2.9 million fingerling walleyes were stocked on lower Oahe in 2024 and 2,226 adult prespawm Gizzard Shad were stocked across all of Lake Oahe. The stocking plans for Lake Oahe in 2025 include goals of stocking 1,750 (or more) adult Gizzard shad across the whole lake and 3.2 million walleye fingerlings on upper Oahe. Angling pressure on Oahe was up slightly in 2024 compared to the previous year.



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### 27. Mountain Goat Action Plan

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Chad Lehman, Senior Wildlife Biologist, presented information on the Mountain Goat Action Plan. A brief history summarizing surveys and harvest was presented. 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. Currently the season for mountain goats is closed and the commission will now take comments during the comment period before the Mountain Goat Action Plan can be adopted.

### 28. Waterfowl Status Update

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Senior Waterfowl Biologist, Rocco Murano gave a brief overview of migratory birds management authority and the Flyway system of cooperative management. Rocco then outlined the federal framework for duck season lengths and daily bag limits with regards to current population levels. Staff recommended waterfowl season structure was explained and Commission members had an opportunity to ask questions. Rocco explained the reasoning for the proposed changes in northern pintail daily bag and bonus blue winged teal season length. Next, Rocco outlined recommended goose regulations and articulated the need for proposed changes to Unit 3 and Special Canada goose hunting seasons.

### 29. Public Lands Available for Big Game Hunting

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Andrew Norton, Senior Wildlife Biologist, presented information about deer hunter numbers and available land to hunt that is publicly accessible.

### 30. 2024 Habitat Stamp Update

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Program Administrators Ryan Wendinger and Jake Davis presented updates on 2024 Habitat Stamp projects. Terrestrial projects focused on both Game Production Area habitat improvements and funding Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program payments. Aquatics projects focused on dam maintenance, angler access and fish habitat. Expenditures totaled nearly 2.7 million dollars in 2024 and information on completed projects can be found on the Habitat Stamp Projects Dashboard.

### 31. License Sales Reports

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Director Kirschenmann ended the January meeting with a brief summary of the 2024 license year sales report. In all, licenses numbers were strong for both upland game and fishing. Trends continue in a positive direction and is a result of South Dakota resources and opportunities.

### 32. Adjourn

[Action Item]

A Regular Commission Meeting will be held on March 6-7, 2025, at the Ramkota Convention Center, in Pierre, starting at 1 pm CST.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:59 AM CST ON JANUARY 10, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,

Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

**From:** info@gfp.sd.us <info@gfp.sd.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:46 AM  
**To:** riddleandsons@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Gail.Buss@state.sd.us; Harrington, Nick <Nick.Harrington@state.sd.us>  
**Subject:** Petition for Rule Change Form

## South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

# Petition for Rule Change

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

ID: 234

Petitioner Name: Tom Riddle

Address: 519 e 15  
Mitchell, SD 57301

Email: [riddleandsons@gmail.com](mailto:riddleandsons@gmail.com)

Phone: 605-999-4453

Rule Identification: To implement a regulated season on Jack Rabbits

Describe Change: To use the current cottontail season and include Jack Rabbits to same season dates, with a limit of 2 per day and possession limit of 5 day 10 rabbits

Reason for Change: To bring awareness of decreasing numbers of Jack Rabbits. This- through a season would start conservation. This was a topic that the Jerauld Fish Game Club wanted to initiate and support.

**GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION  
FINALIZATION**

**Leaving of human remains at Bear Butte State Park prohibited.  
Chapter 41:03:01:33**

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 9-10, 2025	Pierre
	Public Hearing	March 6, 2025	Pierre
	Finalization	March 6-7, 2025	Pierre

**INFORMATION**

At the August 2002, Game, Fish and Parks Commission meeting, the Commission approved an administrative rule prohibiting the leaving of human remains at Bear Butte State Park. The rule was inadvertently repealed in December of 2019 during an administrative rule cleanup process.

**COMMISSION PROPOSAL**

This proposal would reinstate the rule prohibiting the leaving of human remains at Bear Butte State Park.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Bear Butte has spiritual, historical, and cultural significance for the Lakota, Cheyenne, and several other tribes. The Bear Butte Forum was established in 1997 to provide a process by which spiritual practitioners and other stakeholders to provide input on the management of Bear Butte State Park. At the Bear Butte Forum in April of 2002, the Forum provided a recommendation to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to promulgate a rule to prohibit the leaving or dispersal of human remains at Bear Butte State Park. Spreading of human remains at Bear Butte is not in accordance with acceptable spiritual and cultural practices. Spreading of human remains is not restricted on lands managed by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. This rule proposal would only apply to Bear Butte State Park, and is necessary to preserve the spiritual sanctity of the park.

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

**41:03:01:33. Leaving of human remains at Bear Butte State Park prohibited.** ~~Repealed~~ No person may leave, scatter, or bury any human remains, including cremated remains, within the boundaries of Bear Butte State Park.

**Source:** 29 SDR 29, effective September 8, 2002; 46 SDR 74, effective December 2, 2019.

**General Authority:** SDCL 41-17-1.1(1).

Law Implemented: SDCL 41-17-1.1.

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – NA
3. Biological Considerations – NA
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There are no fiscal impacts associate with this proposal.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Duck Hunting Season

### Chapter 41:06:16

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 9-10, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 3, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 3-4, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

### PROPOSED CHANGES

**Duration:** 2025/2026 hunting season

**Season Dates and Open Areas:**

High Plains Zone:	October 11, 2025 – January 15, 2026
Low Plains North & Low Plains Middle Zone:	September 27 – December 9, 2025
Low Plains South Zone:	October 25, 2025 – January 6, 2026

**2025 Daily Limits:**

**Tier 1 Option (Traditional Daily Bag Limit)**

Ducks: 6     The duck daily limit (including mergansers) may be comprised of no more than: 5 mallards (which may include no more than 2 hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 3 pintail\* and 1 scaup.

- 2     Bonus blue-winged teal (first 9 days of the season only)\*
  - Low Plains North & Low Plains Middle Zones: September 27 – October 5, 2025
  - Low Plains South Zone: October 25 – November 2, 2025
  - High Plains Zone: October 11 – 19, 2025

\* Increase in pintail bag from 1 to 3 and reduce bonus blue-winged teal season from 16 to 9 days.

Coots: 15

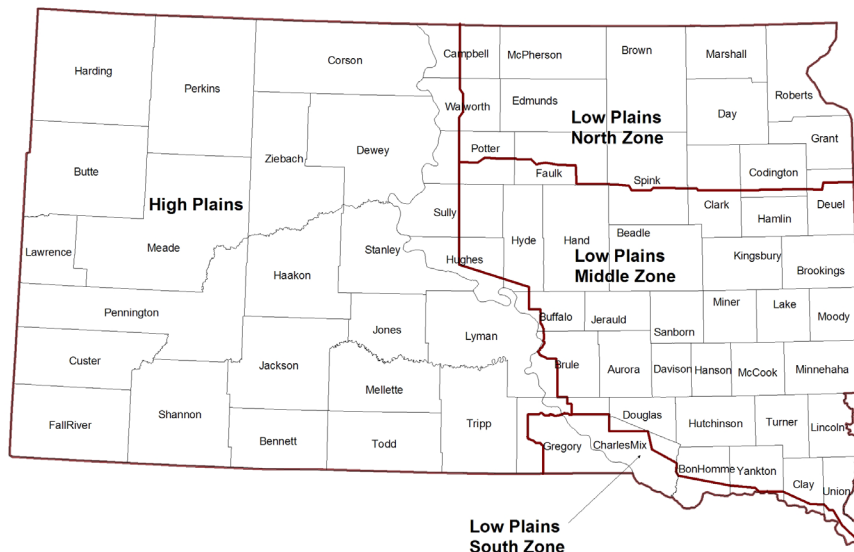
**Tier 2 Option (3-Splash Daily Bag Limit)**

Ducks: 3     The duck daily limit (including mergansers) may be comprised of three of any species or gender.

Coots: 15

**Possession Limits:** Three times the daily bag limits.

### Duck Hunting Zones





**Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Modify § 41:06:16:03 to increase the daily limit of pintail from one to three and reduce the bonus blue-winged teal season from sixteen to nine days.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

South Dakota GFP works cooperatively with US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to establish waterfowl hunting season structures. The FWS develops an annual Federal Register that imposes regulatory oversight. Within the Federal Register structure, GFP can impose more conservative hunting seasons, but cannot make hunting seasons more liberal. Some regulations are duck and goose unit boundaries, days that species can be hunted, and bag limits. These rules are established by input from cooperative groups called Flyways. South Dakota is included in the Central Flyway with GFP representation.

In the most recent Federal Register, the daily bag limit for pintail was increased from one to three and the bonus blue-winged teal season, occurring at the beginning of the duck season which allows the harvest of two additional teal, was decreased from sixteen to nine days. The pintail bag limit increase is experimental and is designed to evaluate how much pintail harvest affects their populations, which will be closely monitored over the next few years. The teal season was reduced in length because population estimates fell below 5 million which triggers the more conservative season.

Comparison of the 2018 - 2023 duck season statistics

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2018	10,271	134,307	6.88	13.08	4.99	4,051	41,515	4.31	10.25	5.11
2019	11,295	176,885	7.30	15.66	5.17	4,423	52,225	4.47	11.81	5.38
2020	12,285	190,515	7.75	15.51	5.15	4,274	51,169	4.36	11.97	5.38
2021	10,634	151,207	7.37	14.22	5.10	4,442	47,802	4.28	10.76	5.18
2022	10,417	158,173	7.40	15.18	5.10	4,267	52,082	4.34	12.21	5.40
2023	11,726	189,983	7.40	16.20	5.07	4,594	59,912	4.40	13.04	5.51

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:16:03. Daily bag limit. For purposes of this section, the term "ducks" includes "mergansers." The daily bag limit is six ducks, unless the person chooses the second-tier option at which the daily bag limit is an aggregate of three ducks or mergansers of any species or gender. The total daily limit of six ducks may include no more than two redheads, one scaup, three wood ducks, ~~one~~ three pintail, two canvasback, and five mallards, of which no more than two may be hen mallards.

During the first ~~16~~ nine days of the season an additional two blue-winged teal may be harvested in addition to the daily bag limit.

The daily bag limit for coots is ~~15~~ fifteen.

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

None.

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

None.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

APPROVE	_____	MODIFY	_____	REJECT	_____	NO ACTION	_____
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# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Early Fall Canada Goose Chapters 41:06:50

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 9-10, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 3, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 3-4, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

### PROPOSED CHANGES

**Duration:** 2025 hunting season

**Season Dates:** September 1 - 30, 2025      **Open Area:** Unit 1 (see map below)

**Daily Limit:** 15 Canada Geese      **Possession Limit:** 45 Canada Geese

#### **Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

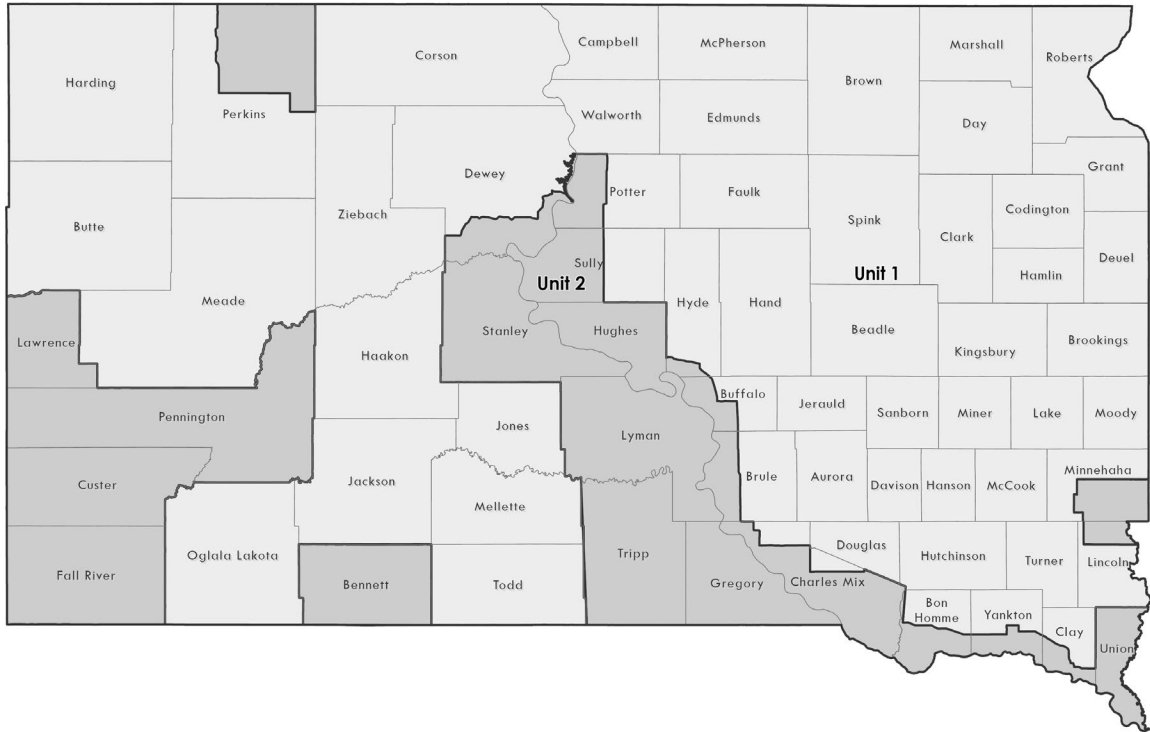
#### **Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Modify § 41:06:50:02 to no longer reference Unit 3.

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Provided the recommended change to align Canada geese season dates in Unit 3 with Unit 2 is proposed, Unit 3 (Bennett County) would no longer need to be described in rule. The Early Fall Canada Goose season does not occur in Unit 3. However, Unit 3 is referenced in administrative rule for this season. Relevant information regarding Bennett County goose hunting seasons are included below.

Currently goose seasons in Bennett County are open for 65 days from mid-October to late December (Special Canada Goose), 2 days during the early youth waterfowl season, and again for 9 days in January during the regular goose hunting season for a total of 76 days. These season dates are a holdover from when Canada geese were not abundant or widely distributed across South Dakota. The recommendation to incorporate Unit 3 for the regular goose season and Special Canada goose into the current goose Unit 2 will reduce regulatory complexity, remove tagging requirements, and increase opportunity by 31 days. In addition, goose migrations are occurring later and adding Bennett County into Unit 2 begins the goose season at the latest dates authorized under the Federal goose hunting Frameworks.



Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 Early Fall Canada goose harvest statistics

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number Hunters</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Average Season Bag</b>
2014	5,106	28,814	5.64
2015	3,883	20,735	5.34
2016	3,366	27,660	8.22
2017	3,226	25,808	8.00
2018	2,716	17,904	6.59
2019	3,000	21,054	7.02
2020	3,857	33,769	8.76
2021	3,671	33,179	9.04
2022	3,034	28,547	9.41
2023	3,008	25,764	8.57

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:50:02. Open unit and season dates. Early fall Canada goose hunting season is open September 1 through September 30. This season is open statewide except in Units 2 and 3 as described in § 41:06:16:07.

**RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

None.

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

None.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

APPROVE  MODIFY  REJECT  NO ACTION

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Goose Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:16:07

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 9-10, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 3, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 3-4, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

**PROPOSED CHANGES**

**Duration:** 2025/2026 waterfowl hunting seasons

**Season Dates:**

Canada Geese (and Brant)

Unit 1: October 1 – December 16, 2025

Unit 2: November 3, 2025 – February 15, 2026

Light Geese

Statewide: September 27, 2025 – January 9, 2026

White-fronted Geese

Statewide: September 27 - December 9, 2025

**Daily Limits:**

Canada geese

Unit 1: 8

Unit 2: 4

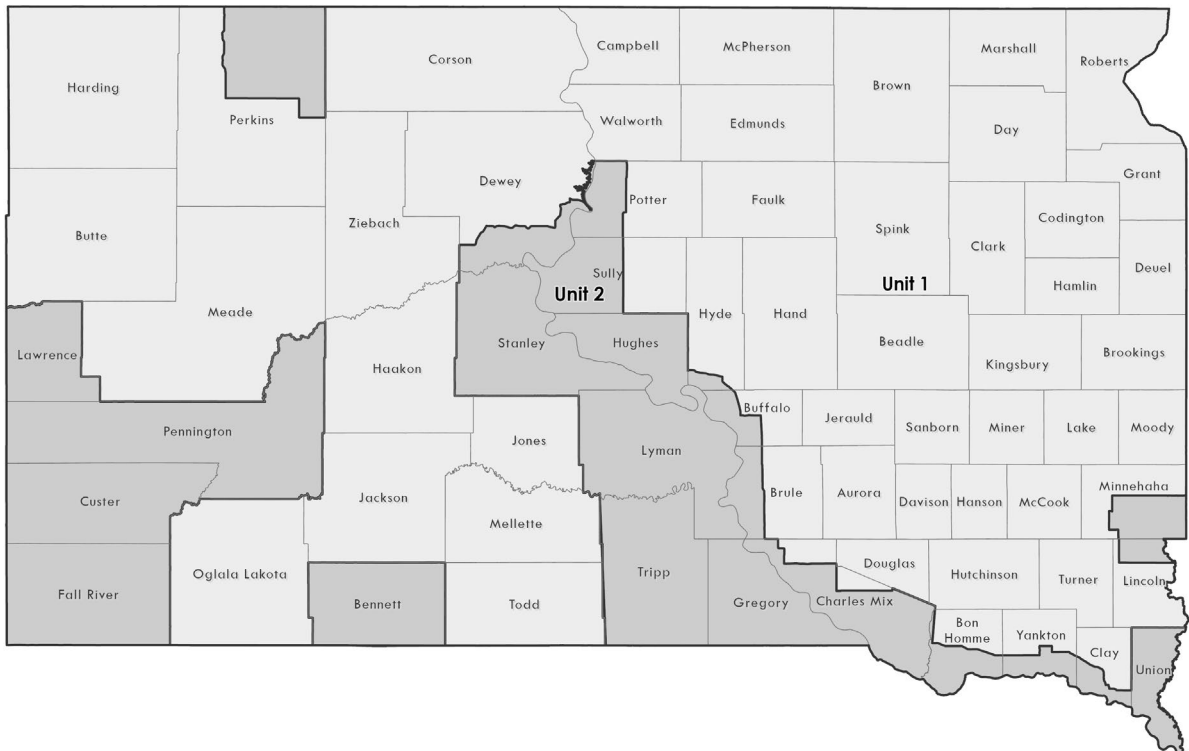
**Possession Limits:**

Light geese: Unlimited

All other geese: Three times the daily limit

Light geese: 50

White-fronted goose: 3



**Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Modify § 41:06:16:07 season dates in Unit 3 to match the season dates in Unit 2 for Canada geese.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

The proposed change would modify season dates for Canada geese in Unit 3 to align with Unit 2. This would add 31 days of Canada goose hunting opportunity in Bennett County compared to the currently available 76 days which includes the statewide youth 2-day season, Special Canada Goose Unit 3 65-day season, and January Unit 3 9-day season. While hunters would have more season days to hunt, with nonresidents still restricted to two 5-day periods within the season, the adjustment would no longer permit individuals to hunt from the third Saturday of October through early-November, because the Unit 2 season only initiates in early-November. Per § 41:06:16:07, Unit 2 season dates are for 105 consecutive days preceding and including the Sunday closest to February fifteenth, in addition to the early 2-day youth waterfowl season.

Provided the recommended changes to repeal the Special Canada Goose season in Bennett County Unit 3 and modifications to nonresident waterfowl 10-day unit boundaries are accepted, waterfowl hunters would no longer be required to draw a permit with 3-tags to hunt Canada geese in Bennett County. Rather, nonresidents successful in drawing an NRW-00B license would be able to hunt in Bennett County for the two 5-day periods they choose, provided they fall within the season dates for Unit 2. Likewise, an unlimited number of residents would be able to hunt in Bennett County during the Unit 2 season dates. Canada goose hunters in Bennett County would be restricted to daily and possession limits rather than a 3-goose limit per permit. Previously, hunters in Bennett County were restricted to 800 resident 65-day season-long and 25 nonresident two 5-day period permits. The last time these resident licenses were all sold was in 2021. Since that time, there have been unsold licenses at the end of the season, which explains that the demand for these licenses is limited.

**2025 Season Dates in Unit 3:** January 11 – 19

Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 Canada goose harvest statistics

Year	<i>Resident Hunters</i>					<i>Nonresident Hunters</i>				
	<i>Number Hunters</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Ave Days Hunted</i>	<i>Ave Bag</i>	<i>Satisfaction</i>	<i>Number Hunters</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Ave Days Hunted</i>	<i>Ave Bag</i>	<i>Satisfaction</i>
2014	12,130	97,956	6.92	8.08	4.96	1,969	5,193	4.31	2.76	5.22
2015	10,228	73,471	7.00	7.18	4.78	2,104	5,482	4.30	2.70	4.98
2016	9,964	85,809	6.98	8.61	4.87	2,046	5,485	4.51	2.77	4.86
2017	9,762	76,827	6.95	7.87	5.06	2,428	6,601	4.19	2.74	5.18
2018	8,633	63,848	6.67	7.40	4.93	2,289	5,638	4.17	2.52	5.11
2019	9,264	78,143	6.85	8.44	5.09	2,209	5,995	4.05	2.82	5.41
2020	10,356	93,682	6.96	9.05	5.07	2,199	6,924	3.96	3.15	5.38
2021	9,997	104,693	7.20	10.47	5.14	2,357	6,736	4.14	2.89	5.27
2022	8,973	90,680	6.96	10.11	5.07	2,327	8,209	4.11	3.55	5.51
2023	9,361	78,633	6.70	8.40	4.97	2,295	5,925	4.02	2.59	5.48

Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 regular season light goose harvests

Year	Residents					Nonresidents				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2014	3,572	49,460	5.34	13.85	4.92	514	4,355	4.58	8.47	5.02
2015	3,096	37,266	5.66	12.04	4.78	519	3,492	4.71	6.72	4.83
2016	3,206	39,841	5.41	12.43	4.85	515	5,263	5.40	10.22	4.77
2017	4,159	70,772	6.05	17.02	5.09	1,013	13,972	4.27	13.80	5.22
2018	3,099	39,624	5.40	12.79	4.93	883	6,644	4.39	7.53	4.85
2019	3,060	41,524	4.85	13.57	5.18	774	5,714	4.61	7.38	5.55
2020	3,415	43,499	5.61	12.74	5.17	761	5,473	3.92	7.20	5.27
2021	2,799	50,282	5.51	17.97	5.26	788	8,980	4.15	11.40	5.38
2022	3,182	72,756	5.83	22.87	5.06	852	10,267	4.01	12.05	5.64
2023	3,781	74,048	5.64	19.58	5.13	1,224	18,692	3.97	15.27	5.58

Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 white-fronted goose harvests

Year	Residents				Nonresidents			
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag, Season	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Days Hunted	Ave Bag, Season
2014	951	1,378	6.13	1.45	244	151	4.80	0.62
2015	1,097	1,618	5.93	1.47	275	201	5.20	0.73
2016	992	1,707	6.43	1.72	295	176	5.52	0.60
2017	1,185	2,286	6.30	1.93	354	292	5.00	0.83
2018	1,262	2,428	5.67	1.92	426	293	4.83	0.69
2019	1,015	2,176	4.60	2.14	358	601	4.78	1.68
2020	1,256	2,804	7.05	2.23	283	359	4.26	1.27
2021	1,358	3,748	5.61	2.76	466	1,071	4.33	2.30
2022	1,494	3,939	6.64	2.64	470	935	3.88	1.99
2023	2,117	6,392	5.92	3.02	642	1,484	4.14	2.31

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:16:07. Goose hunting season, Conservation Order, and August Management Take established -- Shooting hours -- Exceptions -- Open units -- Closed areas. The light goose hunting season is open statewide for one hundred and five consecutive days beginning on the last Saturday of September. A Conservation Order is open statewide from the day after Unit 2 dark goose season ends to May fifteenth. Only light geese, as defined in § 41:06:16:06.01, may be taken during a Conservation Order.

As used in this article, a Conservation Order is a Congressional Order which amends the Fish and Wildlife Service regulations based on a 1999 Congressional action (Pub. L. No. 106-108,) effectively reinstating regulations intended to reduce the population of mid-continent light geese.

Additionally, an August Management Take for the taking of Canada geese is open to South Dakota residents beginning on the third Saturday of August through August thirty-first in Meade County south of South Dakota Highway 34, Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River, and the counties of Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Hamlin, Grant, Marshall, McPherson, Roberts, and Spink.

The white-fronted goose season is open statewide for seventy-four consecutive days beginning on the last Saturday of September.



The dark goose season is open statewide as specifically provided for in this section ~~and the special Canada goose hunting units in § 41:06:16:08:~~

(1) Unit 1: the counties of Aurora, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Butte, Campbell, Clark, Codington, Corson, Davison, Day, Deuel, Douglas, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Haakon, Hamlin, Hand, Hanson, Harding, Hutchinson, Jackson, Jerauld, Jones, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, McPherson, Marshall, Meade, Mellette, Moody, Miner, Oglala Lakota, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Todd, Turner, Walworth, and Ziebach; that portion of Dewey County north of Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 8, Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 9, and the section of U.S. Highway 212 east of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 8 junction; that portion of Potter County east of U.S. Highway 83; that portion of Sully County east of U.S. Highway 83; portions of Hyde, Buffalo, Brule, Charles Mix, and Bon Homme counties north and east of a line beginning at the Hughes-Hyde county line on State Highway 34, east to Lees Boulevard, southeast to the State Highway 34, east seven miles to 350<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south to Interstate 90 on 350<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south and east on State Highway 50 to Geddes, east on 285<sup>th</sup> Street to U.S. Highway 281, north on U.S. Highway 281 to the Charles Mix-Douglas county boundary; the portion of Bon Homme County north of State Highway 50, the portions of Yankton and Clay counties north of County Highway 585 (306<sup>th</sup> Street) to U.S. Highway 81, then north on U.S. Highway 81 to 303<sup>rd</sup> Street, then east on 303<sup>rd</sup> Street to 444<sup>th</sup> Avenue, then south on 444<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 305<sup>th</sup> Street, then east on Bluff Road (305<sup>th</sup> Street) to County Highway 19, south to State Highway 50 and east to the Clay/Union County line; the portion of Perkins County west of State Highway 75 and south of State Highway 20; that portion of Lincoln County west of State Highway 17 and south of County Highway 116 (Klondike Road); and the portion of Minnehaha County north of a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Minnesota state line and County Highway 122 (254<sup>th</sup> Street) west to its junction with County Highway 149 (464<sup>th</sup> Avenue), the portion west of County Highway 149 (464<sup>th</sup> Avenue) to Hartford, the portion west of County Highway 151 (463<sup>rd</sup> Avenue) to State Highway 42, the portion south of State Highway 42 to State Highway 17, and the portion west of State Highway 17 to the Minnehaha-Lincoln county boundary. The season is open for one hundred and seven consecutive days, less the number of days set aside for the Early Fall Canada Goose season established in chapter 41:06:50 ~~that begins on October first;~~

(2) Unit 2: those portions of the state not described in Unit 1 ~~and Unit 3~~. The season is open for one hundred and five consecutive days preceding and including the Sunday closest to February fifteenth; and

~~(3) Unit 3: Bennett County. The season is open for nine consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday of January.~~

Except for the light goose Conservation Order, shooting hours for geese are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily. The shooting hours for the light goose Conservation Order are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset daily.

#### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Regulation complexity and requirements to obtain Canada goose permits to harvest geese in Bennett County, Unit 3.
2. Historical Considerations – This was originally established to limit Canada goose harvest and hunters. However, there is no longer a concern of overharvest in this area and permits for this unit do not sell out.
3. Biological Considerations – There is no concern this will result in a biological impact to the Canada goose population in the area.
4. Social Considerations – This will increase hunting opportunity and simplify regulation complexity for waterfowl hunters.
5. Financial considerations – NA.

## RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No, it increases their ability to participate.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Provides more hunting opportunity without compromising the resource or hunting experience.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

## FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

# GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Special Canada Goose Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:16, 41:06:03

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 9-10, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 3, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 3-4, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

### PROPOSED CHANGES

**Duration:** Beginning in 2025 hunting season

#### **Proposed changes from last year:**

- (1) Repeal § 41:06:16:08 to allow hunting in this area with an appropriate waterfowl license without the requirement to obtain a permit specific to Bennett County.
- (2) Modify § 41:06:16:09 to remove language describing bag limits, permit requirements, and application process for CGW-11A Special Canada Goose. Bennett County would default to Canada Goose season dates and bag limits for Unit 2.
- (3) Modify § 41:06:03:01 to remove the reference to a locking seal requirement for Canada geese based on repealing this season, which had required goose tags.

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Waterfowl hunters would no longer be required to draw a goose permit with 3-tags per permit to hunt Canada geese in Bennett County. Rather, nonresidents successful in drawing an NRW-00B license would be able to hunt in Bennett County for the two 5-day periods they choose, provided they fall within the season dates for Unit 2 and they adhere to the daily and possession bag limits. Likewise, an unlimited number of residents would be able to hunt in Bennett County during the Unit 2 season dates and allowed to harvest Canada geese according to the daily and possession bag limits. Previously, hunters in Bennett County were restricted to 800 resident 65-day season-long and 25 nonresident two 5-day period permits.

Provided the recommended change to align Canada geese season dates in Unit 3 with Unit 2 is accepted, this would also add 31 days of hunting opportunity in Bennett County compared to the currently available 76 days which include the statewide youth 2-day season, Special Canada Goose Unit 3 65-day season, and January Unit 3 9-day season. While hunters would have more season days to hunt, with nonresidents still restricted to two 5-day periods within the season, the adjustment would no longer permit individuals to hunt from the third Saturday of October through early November, when the Unit 2 season initiates. Per § 41:06:16:07, Unit 2 season dates are for 105 consecutive days preceding and including the Sunday closest to February fifteenth, in addition to the early 2-day youth waterfowl season.

#### **2024 Season Information:**

**Season Dates:** October 19 – December 22, 2024

**Open Area:** Bennett County (Unit 3)

**Licenses:** 800 permits with 3-tags per permit

Table 1. License and harvest data from resident Special Canada Goose season.

Year	Licenses Available	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice Applicants	Licenses Sold	Geese Harvested
2005	800	754	797	884
2006	800	799	800	1,136
2007	800	828	800	1,016
2008	800	740	800	720
2009	800	665	800	589
2010	800	524	800	810
2011	800	429	800	952
2012	800	406	800	1,139
2013	800	468	799	671
2014	800	412	800	585
2015	800	390	801	635
2016	800	370	799	410
2017	800	289	800	933
2018	800	241	799	598
2019	800	241	789	676
2020	800	188	754	731
2021	800	169	799	779
2022	800	170	666	480
2023	800	160	647	408
2024	800	178	560	NA

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

~~41:06:16:08. Special Canada goose hunting unit established -- Limited permits -- Application. Repealed. Unit CGW-11A: Bennett County, including tribal trust lands, is open for the special Canada goose hunting season for 65 consecutive days beginning on the third Saturday of October; 800 permits with three tags per permit.~~

~~— A person may not hunt Canada geese unless the person has been issued a special permit and tags. Each tag is valid for taking one Canada goose consistent with the provisions of § 41:06:16:09. Each goose must be tagged immediately upon retrieval.~~

~~— Half of the permits are available to persons with land-occupant preference. If licenses remain unsold following an initial first-come, first-served period, a person already holding a license may apply for up to two additional licenses.~~

~~41:06:16:09. Bag and possession limits on geese. The daily bag limit in the special Canada goose hunting unit established in § 41:06:16:08 may include no more than 50 light geese, three geese that may be a combination of Canada geese and black Brant, and three white-fronted geese.~~

The daily bag limit in Unit 1 during the goose hunting season may include no more than 50 light geese, eight geese that may be a combination of Canada geese and black Brant, and three white-fronted geese. The daily bag limit in Unit 2 during the goose hunting season may include no more than 50 light geese, four geese that may be a combination of Canada geese and black Brant, and three white-fronted geese. ~~The daily bag limit in Unit 3 during the goose hunting season may include no more than 50 light geese, and four geese that may be a combination of Canada geese and black Brant.~~ The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit, except there is no possession limit for light geese.

There is no daily bag or possession limit for light geese taken during a Conservation Order.

During the August Management Take, the daily bag limit is 15 Canada geese. There is no possession limit for Canada geese during the August Management Take.

41:06:03:01. Tagging required. The locking seal issued with each big game license, or swan license, ~~or special Canada goose license~~ is an adhesive tag. The licensee shall sign the tag and date it by cutting out completely the month and day of the date of kill only. The licensee shall attach the tag securely around one leg of a mountain lion, turkey, or swan, ~~or goose~~. The licensee shall attach the tag securely to all hoofed big game animals:

- (1) Around one hind leg between the hoof and ankle joint;
- (2) Around the hock tendon directly above the ankle joint on one hind leg; or
- (3) Around the base of the antler or horn.

#### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Regulation complexity and requirements to obtain a 3-tag Canada goose permit to harvest geese in Bennett County, Unit 3.
2. Historical Considerations – This was originally established to limit Canada goose harvest and hunters. However, there is no longer a concern of overharvest in this area and permits for this unit do not sell out.
3. Biological Considerations – There is no concern this will result in a biological impact to the Canada goose population in the area.
4. Social Considerations – This will increase hunting opportunity and simplify regulation complexity for waterfowl hunters.
5. Financial considerations – Permits will not be sold for Bennett County.

#### RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No, it increases their ability to participate.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Provides more hunting opportunity without compromising the resource or hunting experience.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Permits will not be sold for Bennett County Unit 3 Special Canada Goose Hunting season.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

# GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Nonresident Waterfowl Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:16:11

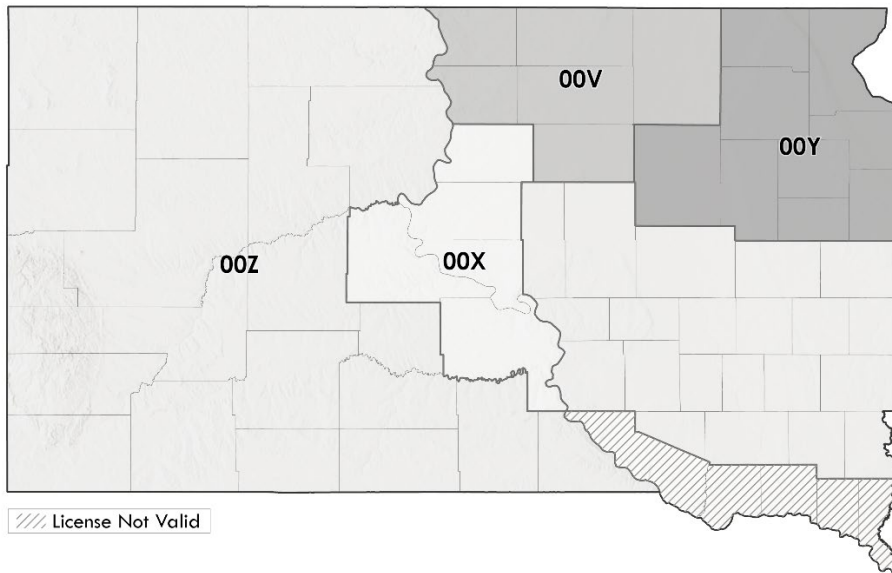
<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 9-10, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 3, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 3-4, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

### PROPOSED CHANGES

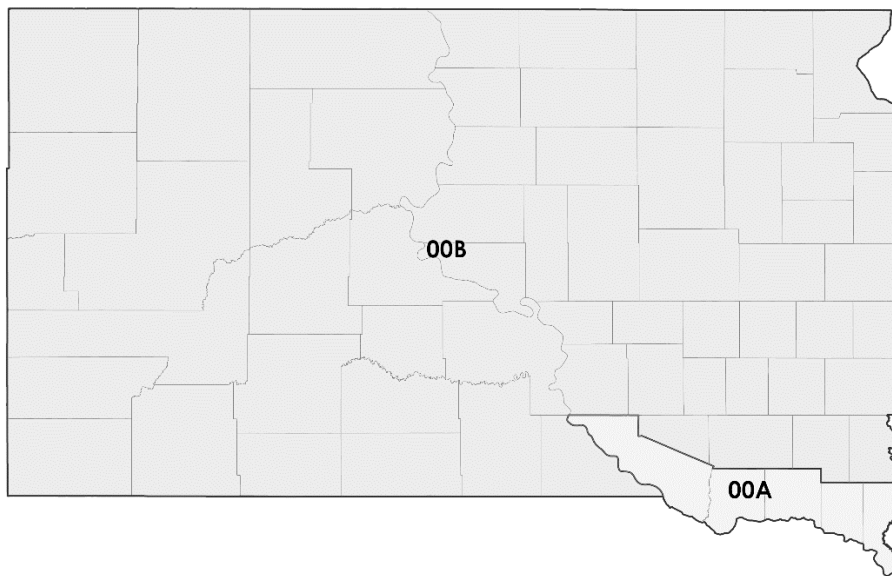
**Duration:** 2025/2026 waterfowl hunting seasons

**Licenses:** Nonresidents: Limited in all units and seasons. 6,300 licenses.

Current 3-day Nonresident Waterfowl Units



Current 10-day Nonresident Waterfowl Units





**Proposed changes from last year:**

Move 25 nonresident licenses from NRW-11A to NRW-00B to accommodate repealing Special Canada Goose Hunting Season (Unit 3; 11A).

**Nonresident Waterfowl System**

Season/Unit	Private/Public	Length	Description	2024 Licenses	Recommended 2025 Licenses
<b>NRW-00A</b>	Public and Private	Season long	Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Union, and Yankton counties	250	250
<b>NRW-00B</b>	Public and Private	Two 5-day periods	Statewide except 00A and 11A	3,925	3,950
<del><b>NRW-11A</b></del>	<del>Public and Private</del>	<del>Two 5-day periods</del>	<del>Bennett County</del>	<del>25</del>	<del>0</del>
<b>NRW-00V</b>	Private	3 day	Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson and Walworth counties	550	550
<b>NRW-00X</b>	Private	3 day	Hughes, Lyman, Potter, Stanley and Sully counties	750	750
<b>NRW-00Y</b>	Public and Private	3 day	Clark, Codington, Day, Duel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts and Spink counties	500	500
<b>NRW-00Z</b>	Private	3 day	Statewide except Unit 00A, 00X, 00V, and 00Y. <del>and 11A</del>	300	300
<b>Total</b>				<b>6,300</b>	<b>6,300</b>

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Provided the recommended changes to align Canada geese season dates in Unit 3 with Unit 2 and repeal the Special Canada Goose Hunting Season are accepted, 25 nonresident licenses are recommended to be moved from NRW-11A to nonresident hunting unit NRW-00B. This recommended change will not result in a change to the total number of nonresident waterfowl hunters/licenses.

## DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:16:11. Maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses -- Open units -- Dates -- License restrictions. The maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses to be issued by lottery is four thousand two hundred special nonresident waterfowl licenses, two thousand early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident licenses, two thousand one hundred fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses, one hundred nonresident youth waterfowl licenses, and ten thousand spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses divided for administrative purposes as follows:

(1) Unit NRW-00A: the counties of Union, Clay, Yankton, Bon Homme, and Charles Mix. No more than two hundred and fifty special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(2) Unit NRW-00B: all open counties not in Units NRW-00A or ~~NRW-11A~~. No more than three thousand, nine hundred and ~~twenty-five~~ fifty special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(3) Unit NRW-00C: those units as described in § 41:06:50:02. No more than two thousand early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

~~(4) Unit NRW-11A: Bennett County. No more than twenty-five special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The season in this unit is open for sixty-five consecutive days beginning on the third Saturday of October and during any period that Bennett County is open in January as described in subdivision 41:06:16:07(3);~~

~~(5)~~ (4) Unit NRW-00X: the counties of Potter, Stanley, Sully, Hughes, and Lyman. No more than seven hundred and fifty fall three-day, temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;

~~(6)~~ (5) Unit NRW-OOV: the counties of Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, and Walworth. No more than five hundred and fifty fall three-day, temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;

~~(7)~~ (6) Unit NRW-00Y: the counties of Spink, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Grant, Clark, Codington, Deuel, and Hamlin. No more than five hundred three-day, temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

~~(8)~~ (7) Unit NRW-OOZ: statewide except the counties in Units NRW-OOA, ~~NRW-11A~~, NRW-OOV, NRW-OOX and NRW-OOY. No more than three hundred fall three-day, temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;

~~(9)~~ (8) Unit NRW-ST1: statewide. No more than ten thousand spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only during a Conservation Order issued pursuant to 50 CFR § 21.180;

~~(10)~~ (9) Unit NYW-YW1: statewide. No more than one hundred nonresident youth waterfowl licenses may be issued for the youth waterfowl season established in § 41:06:49:01. A nonresident youth may also hunt during the youth waterfowl season, with a valid waterfowl hunting license, as provided for in this section.

Licenses issued under this section are valid only in the unit for which they are issued. ~~Licenses for Unit NRW-11A include two tags for Canada geese. Each tag is valid for taking one Canada goose, consistent with the provisions of § 41:06:16:09. Each goose must be tagged immediately upon retrieval.~~

## RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Regulation complexity and requirements to obtain Canada goose permits to harvest geese in Bennett County, Unit 3.
2. Historical Considerations – This was originally established to limit Canada goose harvest and hunters. However, there is no longer a concern of overharvest in this area and permits for this unit do not sell out.
3. Biological Considerations – There is no concern this will result in a biological impact to the Canada goose population in the area.
4. Social Considerations – This will increase hunting opportunity and simplify regulation complexity for waterfowl hunters.
5. Financial considerations – NA.

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

None

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

## GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

### Mountain Lion Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:61

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 9-10, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 3, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 3-4, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

#### PROPOSED CHANGES

**Duration:** Beginning in 2025

**Season Dates:** Black Hills Fire Protection District:  
December 26, 2024 – April 30, 2025  
December 26, 2025 – April 30, 2026

Outside Black Hills Fire Protection District:  
December 26, 2024 - December 25, 2025  
December 26, 2025 – December 25, 2026

**Open unit:** Statewide

**Licenses:** Unlimited (1 license per individual), residents only

**Harvest Limit:** Black Hills Fire Protection District: 60 mountain lions or 40 female mountain lions (includes Custer State Park)

#### **Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. No person may harvest more than one (1) mountain lion in a season.
2. No person may hunt mountain lions with the aid of traps or bait.
3. Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
4. No mountain lion with a spotted coat (kitten) and no mountain lion accompanying another mountain lion may be harvested.
5. A person may use an electronic call to hunt mountain lions.
6. All firearms, muzzleloaders, and archery equipment must meet the same minimum requirements as established in administrative rule for deer hunting.
7. The Game, Fish and Parks Commission, by resolution, may authorize the mountain lion season to extend beyond April 30.
8. The use of dogs to hunt mountain lions is only allowed during those specified hunting intervals in Custer State Park that permit the use of dogs, and year-round outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District.
9. In Custer State Park, a person using dogs shall attempt to harvest the first legal mountain lion they have a reasonable opportunity to harvest, except under the condition where the lion pursued shows obvious signs of lactation.
10. Licensed hunters must accompany the dog handler when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt thereafter until the hunt is completed.
11. Custer State Park is closed to mountain lion hunting except for 75 mountain lion licensees who possess a valid mountain lion license and a temporary access permit structured to include:
  - (a) Four hunting intervals each having 15 access permits in which hunting with dogs is not allowed.
  - (b) Five hunting intervals each having three access permits in which hunting with dogs is allowed.

- (c) Hunting in Custer State Park shall begin with an interval that allows the use of dogs and rotate every 14 days with an interval that does not allow the use of dogs until the lion season closes in the Black Hills Fire Protection District. The temporary access permits are issued free-of-cost and may be issued by a random drawing.
12. All mountain lions harvested within the Black Hills must be presented to a department representative at the Rapid City Regional Office or Custer State Park Headquarters within 24 hours of harvest for inspection. Any person who harvests a mountain lion outside of the Black Hills region must present the mountain lion to a department representative within 24 hours of harvest.

**Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Modify § 41:06:61:06 to allow the initiation of the pursuit of a mountain lion with dogs outside the Black Hills Fire Protection District to occur anywhere, where permitted by the landowner.
2. \*New\* Modify § 41:06:61:06 to exclude examples of closed areas Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Park, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

The rule change would allow more mountain lion hunting opportunity on the prairie because the restriction of where the pursuit may initiate outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District will be removed. This may result in increased harvest of mountain lions on the prairie of South Dakota.

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:61:06. Application requirements -- License and season restrictions -- Special conditions -- Carcass check-in procedures. The following requirements, restrictions, special conditions, and procedures apply to all applications for license and to all licenses issued under this chapter:

- (1) Only residents of the state may apply for a license;
- (2) No person may harvest more than one mountain lion in a season;
- (3) No person may harvest or attempt to harvest a mountain lion with a spotted coat or any mountain lion accompanying another mountain lion;
- (4) No person may hunt mountain lions with the aid of traps or bait;
- (5) The use of dogs to hunt mountain lions is allowed only during those specified hunting intervals in Custer State Park that allow the use of dogs; and year-round outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District ~~when on private land, with permission of the landowner or lessee. However, a pursuit of a mountain lion by dogs that originates on private land may cross over or culminate on private land, with permission from the landowner or lessee, or on public land, unless expressly prohibited by the managing entity;~~
- (6) No person may release dogs on tracks indicating multiple mountain lions traveling together;
- (7) In Custer State Park, a person using dogs shall attempt to harvest the first legal mountain lion the person has a reasonable opportunity to harvest, except under the condition in which the lion pursued shows obvious signs of lactation;
- (8) Licensed hunters must accompany the dog handler when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt until the hunt is completed;
- (9) A person may use any firearm, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow established by statute or administrative rule as legal implements for the taking of deer; and
- ~~(10) Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Park, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial are closed to mountain lion hunting; and~~
- (11) (10) All mountain lions harvested must be presented to a department representative within 24 hours of harvest for inspection.

## RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – NA
2. Historical Considerations – Historically, mountain lion hunting outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District was established to mitigate mountain lion depredation on private land and there was concern with hounds originating on public land potentially causing conflict with other users.
3. Biological Considerations – More mountain lions may be harvested because pursuit of mountain lions can initiate anywhere on the prairie, with permission.
4. Social Considerations – NA
5. Financial considerations – NA

## RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? The change will remove restrictions where a chase for hunting lions may initiate.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

## FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_



**GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION  
PROPOSAL**

**Boating Regulations  
Chapter 41:04:05.02 and 41:04:05.03**

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Jan 9-10, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 3-4, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 3-4, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

**COMMISSION PROPOSAL**

Amend two boating rules to be in harmony with the current United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). This was a recommendation made to the Department by the US Coast Guard (USCG) upon completion of their audit of the Departments use of Federal funds.

**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL**

None.

**SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

First, there has been a change in the language at the Federal level to provide more clarity for users and law enforcement officers in regard to personal flotation devices that must be worn. Second, there was some clarifying language at the Federal level to ensure that required fire extinguishers be in serviceable condition and not expired. These changes will place South Dakota rules ARSD 41:04:05.02.01 and ARSD 41:04:05.03 in compliance with 33 CFR 175.15 (a) (2) and (3) and 33 CFR 175.310 (3) and (4). The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct another review in three years (2027) to ensure appropriate changes were made.

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:04:05:02.01. Personal flotation device use required. If a boat is operated at greater than no-wake speed, personal flotation device use on the boat is required as follows:

(1) The operator of the boat shall assure that each child on board under seven years of age is wearing a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device unless such child is within a cabin or below deck; and

(2) Any person who claims a ~~Type V Hybrid~~ hybrid or Inflatable personal flotation device as his or her life jacket of choice shall ~~wear the device unless the person is within a cabin or below deck~~ use that personal floatation device in accordance with any requirements on the approval label or owner’s manual.

Source: 29 SDR 21, effective August 26, 2002.

General Authority: SDCL 32-3A-1(1). Law Implemented: SDCL 32-3A-1(1).

41:04:05:03. Fire extinguishers required -- Exception. A working fire extinguisher with the stamp of approval of the U.S. Coast Guard that is in serviceable condition and not expired is required on boats operated on public waters as follows:

- (1) Each Class A or Class 1 motorboat must carry at least one fire extinguisher of B-I type or larger;
- (2) Each Class 2 motorboat must carry at least two fire extinguishers of B-I type or larger;
- (3) Each Class 3 motorboat must carry at least one B-II type and one B-I type or three B-I type fire extinguishers; or
- (4) A motorboat less than 26 feet long and not carrying passengers for hire is exempt from the requirements of this section if the construction of the boat will not permit the entrapment of explosive or flammable gases or vapors.

Source: SL 1975, ch 16, § 1; 10 SDR 76, 10 SDR 102, effective July 1, 1984; 16 SDR 32, effective August 20, 1989; 23 SDR 197, effective May 27, 1997; 38 SDR 178, effective April 30, 2012; 46 SDR 74, effective December 2, 2019.

General Authority: SDCL 32-3A-1(1). Law Implemented: SDCL 32-3A-1(1).

Cross-Reference: Classification of boats for equipment purposes, SDCL 32-3A-18.

#### **RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA**

None.

#### **RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA**

None.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

# GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season

### Chapter 41:06:56

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>January 9-10, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>April 3, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>
	<b>Finalization</b>	<b>April 3-4, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b>

### PROPOSED CHANGES

**Duration:** 2025 hunting season

**Season Dates:** September 1 – December 31

**Open unit:** Units 2, 4, and Custer State Park. See unit map for boundaries.

**Licenses:** 2025 license numbers are recommended on following agenda item.

10 “ram bighorn sheep” licenses were available in 2024.

One of the licenses shall be an auction “ram bighorn sheep” license if a minimum of three total bighorn sheep licenses are allocated.

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. Except for the auction license, application for a license may be made by any resident hunter who has not been previously issued a bighorn sheep license in South Dakota.
2. Landowner - operator preference is not applicable to these licenses.
3. All licensees are required to attend an orientation meeting prior to the first day of hunting by the license holder at the regional office in Rapid City.
4. One bighorn sheep license may be allocated as an auction license if a minimum of three bighorn licenses are approved by the Commission. The Commission shall determine in which unit or units the auction license is valid.
5. All successful hunters must submit their bighorn sheep to a designated department representative for inspection and marking within 24 hours after the kill.

**Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Modify § 41:06:56:02 to expand the unit boundary for BHS-BH4 to include those portions of Lawrence and Meade counties west of Interstate 90 (Figures 1 and 2) and clean-up unit descriptions.

### DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

None.

### SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The Hell Canyon unit (BHS-BH4) bighorn sheep herd is currently experiencing a *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* related die-off and only seven rams have been documented in this herd in November and December 2024 compared to 22 ewes and 7 lambs. For the 2024 hunting season, the BHS-BH4

unit was expanded to include bighorn sheep near Rapid City. Like Rapid City, bighorn sheep in Deadwood may not be available for harvest, depending on their location and land ownership. The Department's recommendation is to again expand BHS-BH4 to include additional areas to hunt in 2025. Specifically, the recommendation is to expand the unit into Lawrence and Meade counties west of I-90 to encompass the Deadwood bighorn sheep population.

Reports of sheep with symptoms indicative of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* in Custer State Park have been documented, although the disease related die-off is not perceived to be as significant of that in Hell Canyon. However, only 9 of 60 bighorn sheep in Custer State Park were rams in 2024 compared to 47 ewes and 4 lambs. It is unknown whether these low ram counts are the result of disease, harvest, migration, inability to detect animals, or a combination of all four. Regardless, the recommendation will be conservative to ensure adequate adult ram survival in this herd.

Table 1. Minimum bighorn sheep counts by hunting unit.

Season	Unit	Herd	2023 Min. Count	2024 Min. Count
Custer State Park (CBS)	CU1	CSP	61	60
Bighorn Sheep (BHS)	BH2	Elk Mountain	58	70
	BH3	Badlands	66	65
	BH4	Hell Canyon and Rapid City	130	67
No Current Hunting Unit		Deadwood	26	23
Auction	All	All	NA	NA
<b>Total</b>			<b>341</b>	<b>285</b>

Figure 1. Custer State Park (CBS-CU1) and bighorn sheep units (BHS-BH2, BHS-BH3, BHS-BH4).

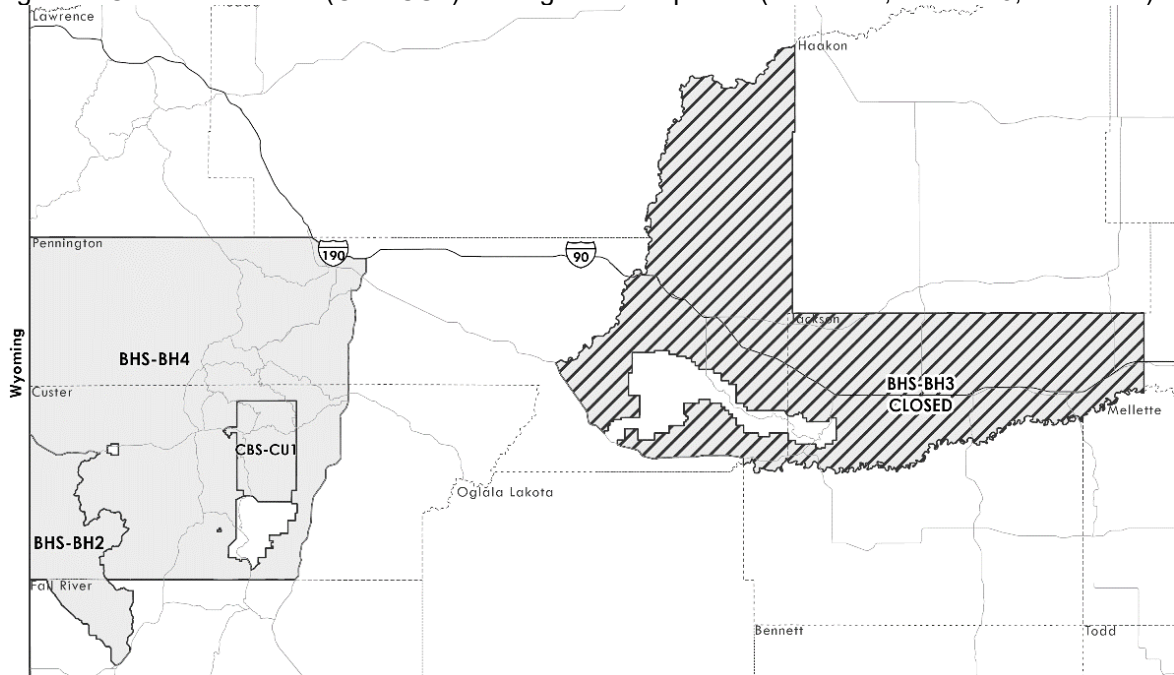
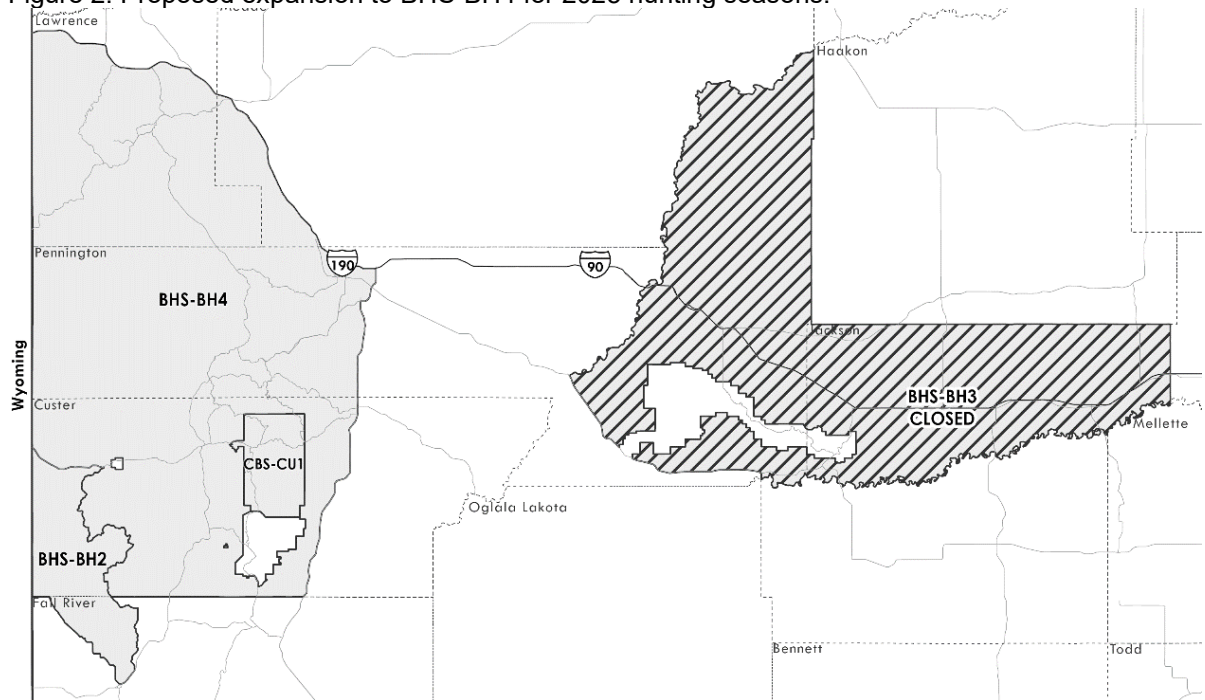


Figure 2. Proposed expansion to BHS-BH4 for 2025 hunting seasons.



**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES**

41:06:56:02. Open units. The open units for the bighorn sheep hunting season are as follows:

- (1) Unit BHS-BH2: that portion of Custer and Fall River Counties within a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 16 and the Wyoming state line, east on U.S. Highway 16 to the intersection of U.S. Highway 16 and Mann Road (USFS Road 270) then south along Mann Road to Pass Creek Road (USFS Road 272) then south on Pass Creek Road to Richardson Cutoff (USFS Road 276) then east on Richardson Cutoff to Pleasant Valley Road (USFS Road 715) then south on Pleasant Valley Road to Pilger Mountain Road (USFS Road 317) then south on Pilger Mountain Road to County Road 15 then south on County Road 15 to U.S. Highway 18 then west on U.S. Highway 18 to County Road 16 then north on County Road 16 to Dewey Road (USFS Road 769) then north and west on Dewey Road to the Custer County line then west on the Custer County line to the Wyoming state line then north on the Wyoming state line to the point of origin;
- (2) Unit BHS-BH3: that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River and north of Highway 44 and that portion of Jackson County north of the White River, ~~excluding the Badlands National Park;~~
- (3) Unit BHS-BH4: that portion of Custer, ~~Meade, Lawrence,~~ and Pennington Counties beginning at the junction of the Wyoming/~~South Dakota~~ state line ~~and Interstate 90, Lawrence County line,~~ and Pennington County line then east on the Pennington County line to Interstate 90 then south on Interstate 90 to Elk Vale Road then south on Elk Vale Road to SD Highway 79 then south on SD Highway 79 to the Custer/Fall River County line then west on the Custer/Fall River County line to Pilger Mountain Road then north on Pilger Mountain Road to Pleasant Valley Road then north and east on Pleasant Valley Road to Richardson Cutoff then north on Richardson Cutoff to Pass Creek Road then west and north on Pass Creek Road to Mann Road

then north on Mann Road to U.S. Highway 16 then west on U.S. Highway 16 to the Wyoming state line, then north on the Wyoming state line to the point of origin, excluding ~~Jewel Cave National Monument, Wind Cave National Park, and Custer State Park~~; and

- (4) Unit BHS-CSP: the fenced portion of Custer State Park.

#### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None.

#### RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, this will open new areas to bighorn sheep hunting.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? This will increase hunting opportunity.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes, by increasing opportunity.

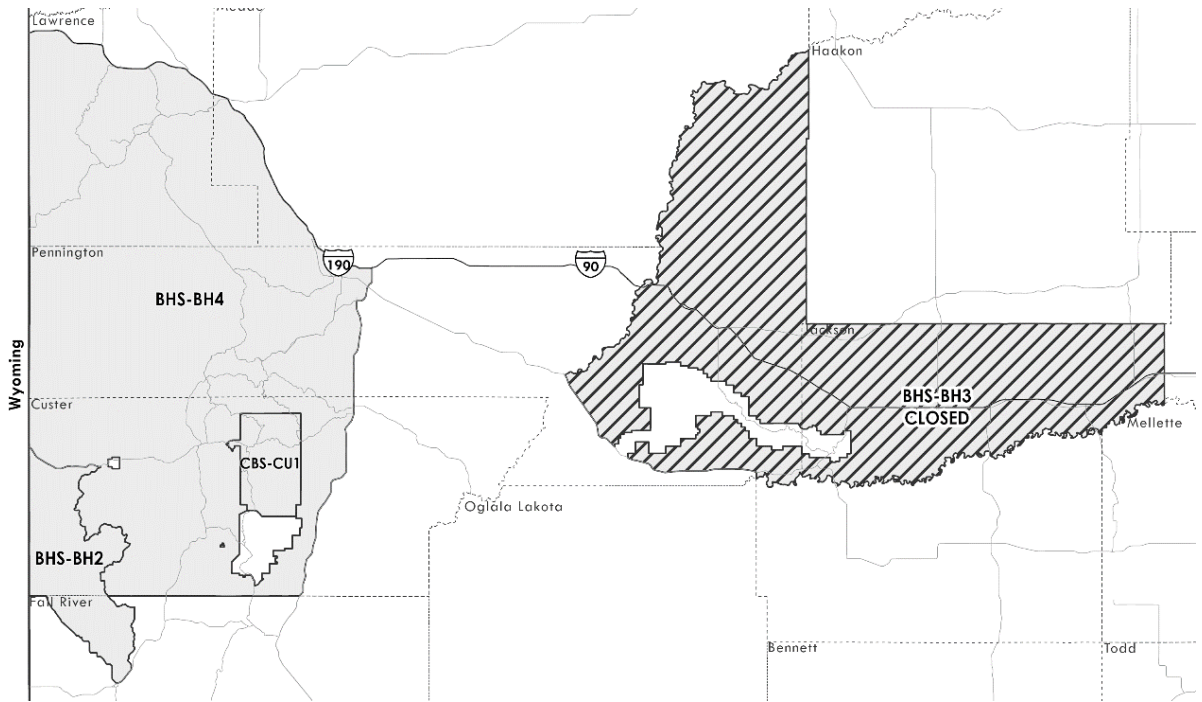
#### FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_



Figure 1. Custer State Park (CBS-CU1), Black Hills bighorn sheep units (BHS-BH2, BHS-BH3, and , BHS-BH4).



APPROVE  MODIFY  REJECT  NO ACTION



# GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

## Prairie Elk Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:01, 41:06:59

<b>Commission Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Proposal</b> <b>January 9-10, 2025</b> <b>Public Hearing</b> <b>April 3, 2025</b> <b>Finalization</b> <b>April 3-4, 2025</b>	<b>Pierre</b> <b>Pierre</b> <b>Pierre</b>
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**PROPOSED CHANGES**

**Duration:** 2025 hunting season

**2025 Season Dates:**

Units	License Types	Season Dates
PRE-09A	Both	Sep 1 - Dec 31*
PRE-11B	Any Elk	Sep 1 - Oct 15
PRE-11C	Any Elk	Oct 16 - Nov 30
PRE-11D	Antlerless Elk	Sep 1 - Oct 31
PRE-11E	Antlerless Elk	Nov 1 - Dec 31
PRE-15A	Both	Sep 1 - Dec 31
PRE-27A	Both	Sep 1 - Dec 31*
PRE-35A	Both	Sep 15 - Dec 31
PRE-35B	Both	Sep 15 - Dec 31
PRE-49A	Both	Sep 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-WRA	Both	Sep 1 - Dec 31

*\* Proposal is to change these season dates*

**Licenses:** Last year there were 126 resident “Any Elk” licenses and 210 “Antlerless Elk” licenses for the Prairie Elk seasons.

The Department’s recommendation for a specific number of licenses by tag types for 2025 hunting season is on the following action sheet.

**Open Areas:** See Figure 1.

**Requirements and Restrictions:**

1. No person may possess more than one (1) elk license of any type in a year.
2. No more than two persons may submit applications together.
3. Except for landowner/operator preference applicants, no person who receives a license in the first drawing for this season shall be eligible to apply for a Prairie elk license in first drawings for the next nine years.
4. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference application. Only one member of each qualifying landowner/operator household may apply every year.
5. Any elk that is harvested must be inspected by a Department representative within 24 hours after kill.

### **Proposed changes from last year:**

1. Modify § 41:06:59:02 to expand PRE-WRA to include all counties west of the Missouri River not currently in a Prairie Elk or Black Hills Elk hunting unit.
2. Modify § 41:06:59:01 to expand PRE-27A season dates from Oct. 1 to Oct. 31 and Dec. 1 to Dec. 31 to Sep. 1 to Dec. 31.
3. Modify § 41:06:01:07.03 to include PRE-27A in Prairie Elk Hunting Season units eligible for a landowner-own-land resident only antlerless elk license.
4. \*New\* Modify § 41:06:59:01 to expand PRE-09A season dates from Sep. 15 to Oct. 31 and Dec. 1 to Dec. 31 to Sep. 1 to Dec. 31.
5. \*New\* Modify § 41:06:01:07.03 to include PRE-09A in Prairie Elk Hunting Season units eligible for a landowner-own-land resident only antlerless elk license.

### **SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

Elk have expanded into new areas and there is hunting opportunity in new counties. On the prairie there are increasing depredation concerns and complaints from landowners, especially where there is agriculture such as corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. Expanding the PRE-WRA hunting unit will allow landowners in additional counties to harvest elk on their own property with landowner-own-land antlerless resident only elk licenses, in addition to more counties open to hunting using a limited draw PRE-WRA any elk or antlerless elk hunting license. The Department's recommendation is to increase license numbers to a level that allows management of elk at a very low density. Because most of the land in PRE-WRA is privately owned, landowners will ultimately determine if elk are harvested on their property, because they control hunter access. As such, they will have the choice to not harvest elk on their property or use hunters with PRE-WRA licenses or their landowner-own-land antlerless licenses to reduce the local population.

The Departments' recommendation will be to increase license numbers in PRE-WRA. This is expected to decrease antlerless harvest success rates in PRE-WRA, and elk will be managed at a lower population to minimize depredation concerns, as opposed to other prairie units where elk populations are managed at densities that also consider increased recreational opportunity and harvest success.

Elk in PRE-09A and PRE-27A are managed towards social tolerance of landowners and optimizing harvest success. There is a desire from landowners to make landowner-own-land antlerless resident only elk licenses available and allow elk hunting during September and November in PRE-09A and PRE-27A.

Figure 1. Map of 2024 Prairie elk season hunting units.

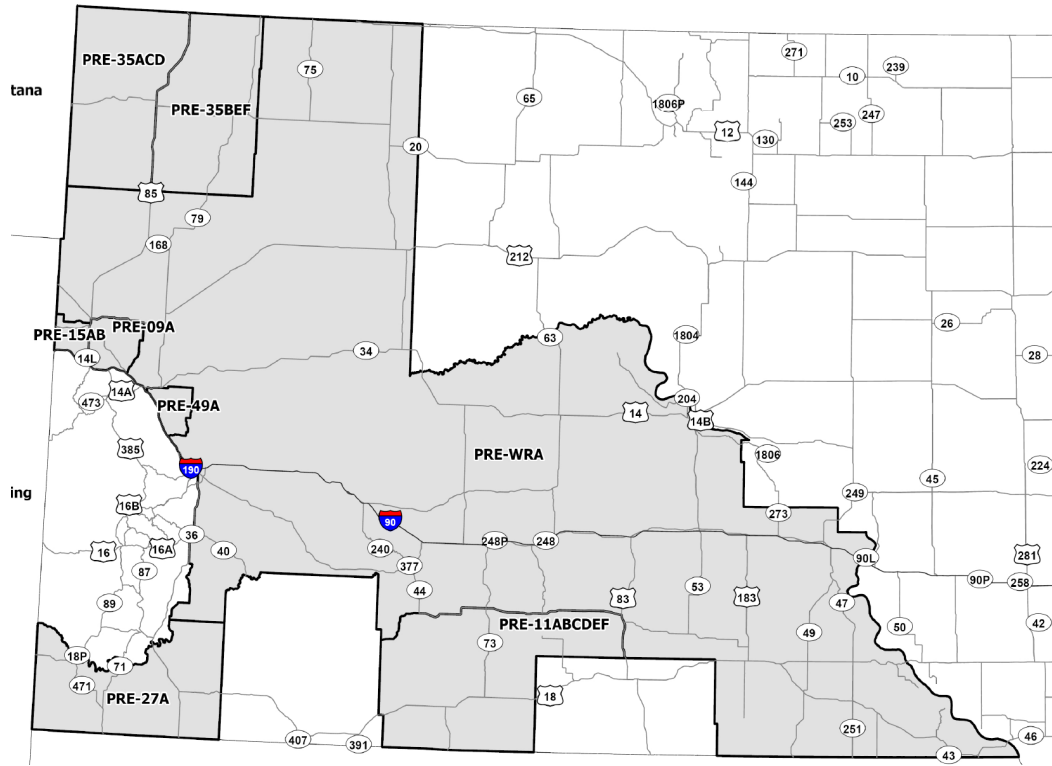


Figure 2. Map of proposed 2025 Prairie elk season hunting units.

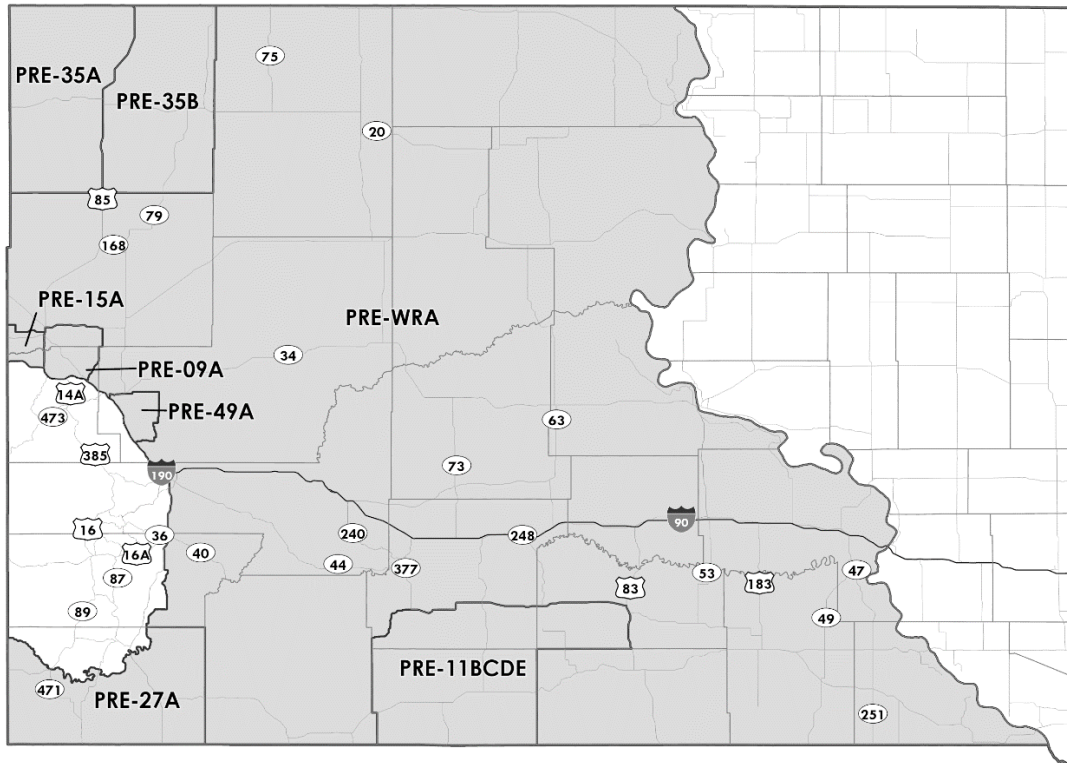


Table 1. Proposed changes to season dates.

Units	License Types	Season Dates
PRE-09A	Both	<del>Sep 15 – Oct 31 AND Dec 1 – 31</del> Sep 1 - Dec 31
PRE-11B	Any Elk	Sep 1 - Oct 15
PRE-11C	Any Elk	Oct 16 - Nov 30
PRE-11D	Antlerless Elk	Sep 1 - Oct 31
PRE-11E	Antlerless Elk	Nov 1 - Dec 31
PRE-15A	Both	Sep 1 - Dec 31
PRE-27A	Both	<del>Oct 1 – 31 AND Dec 1 – 31</del> Sep 1 - Dec 31
PRE-35A	Both	Sep 15 - Dec - 31
PRE-35B	Both	Sep 15 - Dec - 31
PRE-49A	Both	Sep 15 - Oct 31 AND Dec 1 - 31
PRE-WRA	Both	Sep 1 - Dec - 31

Table 2. Prairie elk hunters, applicants, harvest success, and harvest by year.

Year	Licensed Hunters	Applicants	Harvest Success Rate	Bulls Harvested	Cows Harvested
2014	92	1,725	64%	33	25
2015	98	2,119	55%	29	25
2016	148	2,272	40%	32	27
2017	149	2,249	50%	41	34
2018	139	3,080	79%	59	51
2019	140	3,831	65%	41	50
2020	251	4,532	57%	56	87
2021	257	4,912	50%	57	71
2022	270	5,037	48%	74	55
2023	258	5,438	51%	78	53
2024	334	6,212	49%	91	73

### DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:59:01. Prairie elk hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available -- Season dates. The prairie elk hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset each day of the season. No more than two hundred "any elk" licenses and no more than four hundred "antlerless elk" licenses may be issued for the prairie elk hunting season. The prairie elk hunting seasons are as follows:

- (1) Unit PRE-09A is open from September ~~fifteenth~~ first through ~~October thirty-first~~ and from ~~December first~~ through December thirty-first;
- (2) Unit PRE-11A is open from July fifteenth through August thirty-first;
- (3) Unit PRE-11B is open from September first through October fifteenth;
- (4) Unit PRE-11C is open from October sixteenth through November thirtieth;
- (5) Unit PRE-11D is open from September first through October thirty-first;
- (6) Unit PRE-11E is open from November first through December thirty-first;
- (7) Unit PRE-11F is open from January first through the last day of February;
- (8) Unit PRE-15A is open from September first through December thirty-first;
- (9) Unit PRE-15B is open from December first through January thirty-first;

- (10) Unit PRE-27A is open from ~~October~~ September first through ~~October thirty-first~~ and from ~~December first~~ through December thirty-first;
- (11) Unit PRE-35A is open from September fifteenth through December thirty-first;
- (12) Unit PRE-35B is open from September fifteenth through December thirty-first;
- (13) Unit PRE-35C is open from October first through November fifteenth;
- (14) Unit PRE-35D is open from November sixteenth through December thirty-first;
- (15) Unit PRE-35E is open from October first through November fifteenth;
- (16) Unit PRE-35F is open from November sixteenth through December thirty-first;
- (17) Unit PRE-49A is open from September fifteenth through October thirty-first and from December first through December thirty-first; and
- (18) Unit PRE-WRA is open from September first through December thirty-first.

41:06:59:02. Open units. The open units for the prairie elk hunting season are as follows:

- (1) Unit PRE-09A: those portions of Lawrence and Butte Counties within a line beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highways 85 and 212, then east on Highway 212 to Whitewood Valley Road, then south on Whitewood Valley Road to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to U.S. Highway 85, then north on U.S. Highway 85 to the point of beginning;
- (2) Unit PRE-11A: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (3) Unit PRE-11B: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (4) Unit PRE-11C: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (5) Unit PRE-11D: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (6) Unit PRE-11E: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (7) Unit PRE-11F: Bennett County, the portion of Jackson County south of State Highway 44 and Bureau of Indian Affairs Highway 2, and those portions of Mellette County south of State Highway 44 and west of U.S. Highway 83;
- (8) Unit PRE-15A: the portion of Butte County beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border, east on Sourdough Road to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then north to the point of beginning;
- (9) Unit PRE-15B: the portion of Butte County beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border, east on Sourdough Road to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to Interstate 90, then west on Interstate 90 to the South Dakota-Wyoming border, then north to the point of beginning;
- (10) Unit PRE-27A: the portion of Fall River County not included in BHE-H3 or BHE-H4;
- (11) Units PRE-35A, PRE-35C, and PRE-35D: the portion of Harding County west of U.S. Highway 85;
- (12) Units PRE-35B, PRE-35E, and PRE-35F: the portion of Harding County east of U.S. Highway 85;
- (13) Unit PRE-49A: the portion of Meade County within a line beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and Elk Creek Road, then east on Elk Creek Road to Ricard Road, then north on Ricard Road to Tilford Road, then east on Tilford Road to Middle Alkalai Road, then north on Middle Alkalai Road to

Alkalai Road, then west on Alkalai Road to SD Highway 34, then west on SD Highway 34 to Interstate 90, then south on Interstate 90 to the point of beginning; and

(14) Unit PRE-WRA: the portion of the state west of the Missouri River not associated with another prairie elk unit, Custer State Park, or any Black Hills elk unit described in 41:06:26., ~~excluding the Lower Brule Indian Reservation and Corson, Dewey, Oglala Lakota, Todd, and Ziebach Counties.~~

41:06:01:07.03. Landowner own land license types. For the West River, East River, and Black Hills firearm deer hunting seasons, a qualifying landowner or owner-operator may purchase one "any deer" license or one two-tag "any deer" and "any antlerless deer" license. For the antelope firearm hunting season, a qualifying landowner or owner-operator may purchase one "any antelope" license or one two-tag "any antelope" and "any doe-fawn antelope" license. For the prairie elk hunting season units PRE-09A, PRE-11D, PRE-11E, PRE-27A, PRE-35A, PRE-35B, and PRE-WRA, as described in chapter 41:06:59, a qualifying landowner or lessee, as described in subdivision 41:06:01:15(4), may purchase one "antlerless elk" license.

#### RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

None.

#### RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, this will result in additional hunting opportunity.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? Additional hunting opportunity.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes, by providing additional hunting opportunity.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

None.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_



# 2024 Prairie Firearm Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 18 Feb 2025

Unit/Type	Resident Licenses					Harvest Projections							Avg	Avg	Land Hunted Most					
	Appl. 1st					Bull	Cow	Total Elk		Elk Shot Not Recovered	Satisfctn	Days	Public	Own	Private					
	Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Calves		Harvested	Cl (95%)				Score	Hunted			
09A-21	176	8	8	63%	100%	8	0	0	0	8	+/-0	0	7.0	2.4	0	5	3			
11A-23	6	10	9	56%	20%	0	2	0	0	2	+/-2	0	5.5	2.5	0	0	7			
11B-21	467	16	16	75%	75%	12	0	0	0	12	+/-2	1	6.0	7.2	3	7	7			
11C-21	208	16	16	69%	64%	10	0	0	0	10	+/-3	0	5.3	5.0	0	7	9			
11D-23	58	30	30	63%	58%	0	13	2	3	17	+/-4	0	5.4	4.2	2	0	24			
11E-23	26	10	10	70%	29%	0	3	0	0	3	+/-2	0	4.4	2.4	0	0	7			
15A-21	123	8	8	50%	75%	4	2	0	0	6	+/-2	0	5.7	16.7	0	0	6			
15A-23	2	5	5	60%	33%	0	2	0	0	2	+/-2	0	4.0	4.0	0	0	2			
27A-21	834	30	30	57%	65%	18	2	0	0	19	+/-5	2	4.2	8.9	7	9	14			
27A-23	41	30	30	60%	50%	0	12	0	3	15	+/-4	0	5.0	4.5	8	0	18			
35A-21	1,038	10	10	60%	50%	5	0	0	0	5	+/-3	0	4.7	19.5	8	2	0			
35A-23	61	30	30	63%	16%	0	5	0	0	5	+/-3	0	3.3	10.1	17	0	9			
35B-21	1,579	8	8	50%	100%	8	0	0	0	8	+/-0	0	6.0	7.5	6	0	2			
35B-23	107	40	39	63%	46%	0	15	0	3	18	+/-5	2	4.4	6.1	28	0	10			
49A-21	138	10	10	60%	100%	10	0	0	0	10	+/-0	2	5.2	23.8	0	0	10			
49A-23	12	15	15	60%	11%	0	2	0	0	2	+/-2	0	3.6	13.4	0	0	8			
WRA-21	1,245	20	20	55%	73%	15	0	0	0	15	+/-4	0	5.3	15.1	4	5	11			
WRA-23	91	40	40	75%	20%	0	8	0	0	8	+/-3	0	3.9	7.6	4	4	27			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,212</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>334</b>	63.1%	49.1%	89	63	2	10	<b>164</b>	<b>+/- 44</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4.68</b>	<b>8.34</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>175</b>			
The response rate for all units combined is:					63.1%													28%	13%	59%
Satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied.																				
* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.																				

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ MODIFY \_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ NO ACTION \_\_\_\_\_



**South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks - Wildlife Division  
Land Acquisition and Disposal Report  
March 2025**

**Informational Items: None**

**Action Items:**

**Swan Lake GPA Exchange (Walworth County)**

**Location:** 3 miles northwest of Hoven on Swan Lake.

**Size:** GFP exchange 1/3 of an acre of current GPA for 1/3 of acre of private land.

**Management Objective:** Improve access for users and staff, provide parking area.

**Easements:** None

**Previous Use:** All land being exchanged is upland (mowed yard/pasture)

**Appraised Value:** Appraised value is equal for both parcels – Appraiser didn't provide actual value due to difficulty finding comparable sales. Looked at the properties for differences that would change values.

**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 and parcels that facilitate more efficient and effective wildlife habitat or recreation management and development activities on existing Department lands.

**Additional Information:** Moving access lane further south will improve access for staff to manage the GPA as well as improve access for users. It will avoid a wetland on the east end. Eliminate issues with hunters in the front yard of lodge.

**Expected Closing:** 3 to 6 months.

**Requested Commission Action:** To adopt RESOLUTION 25-03 authorizing and confirming the exchange of 1/3 of acre of Swan Lake GPA in Walworth County, SD.

**Property Map**



## **Faulk County Property Disposal**

**Location:** Just west of the city of Faulkton

**Size:** 25 Acres total to dispose, 19 lot groups

**Total Appraised Value:** \$248,000

**Requested Commission Action:** To adopt RESOLUTION 25–04 authorizing and confirming the disposal through public auction 19 groups of lots at Lake Faulkton in Faulk County, SD.

### **Parcel Descriptions & Separate Parcel Values**

**Group 1:** Lots 10 & 11 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 16,250 SqFt of land with rural water and electricity available. 120 Front Feet (94' Along Road) x 152' Average Depth

Estimated 107 Effective Front Feet x \$150/FF = **\$16,000**

**Group 2:** Lots 24, 25 & 26 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 20,150 SqFt of land with rural water and electricity available. 153 Front Feet (150' Along Road) x 133' Average Depth

Estimated 150 Effective Front Feet x \$150/FF = **\$22,500**

**Group 3:** Lot 43 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 5,550 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 58 Front Feet (50' Along Road) x 108' Average Depth

\*The cabin on Lot 42 is noted to encroach 6' onto Lot 43\* Estimated 50 Effective Front Feet x \$50/FF = **\$2,500**

**Group 4:** Lots 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 & 54 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision This parcel contains approximately 136,000 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 677 Front Feet (650' Along Road) x 225' Average Depth (Approximately 3.10 Acres) Estimated 650 Effective Front Feet x \$50/FF = **\$32,000**

**Group 5:** Lots 55, 57 & 58 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 40,550 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 172 Front Feet (150' Along Road) x 268' Average Depth

\*The wood deck on Lot 56 is noted to encroach 4.4' onto Lot 57\*

Estimated 150 Effective Front Feet x \$60/FF = **\$9,000**

**Group 6:** Lots 59, 60, 61, 62, 63 & 64 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 78,250 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 302 Front Feet (300' Along Road) x 264' Average Depth (Approximately 1.80 Acres)

Estimated 300 Effective Front Feet x \$60/FF = **\$18,000**

**Group 7:** Lots 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 & 75 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision and Lot A of Lake Faulkton Second Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 74,600 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 771 Front Feet (679' Along Road) x 113' Average Depth along 163rd Street (Gravel Road) Approximately 1.70 Acres x

\$10,000/Acre = **\$17,000**

**Group 8:** Lot B of Lake Faulkton Second Subdivision and Lot 76 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision This parcel contains approximately 49,500 SqFt of land with only electricity available.

234 Front Feet (420' Along Road) x 257' Average Depth along 163rd Street (Gravel Road)

Approximately 1.1 Acres x \$10,000/Acre = **\$11,000**

**Group 9:** Lots 77 x 78 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 35,800 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 121 Front Feet (100' Along Road) x 352' Average Depth

\*There are 3 sheds located on and encroaching on this parcel along with 1"-2" of the cabin located on Lot 79\*

Estimated 100 Effective Front Feet x \$50 = **\$5,000**

**Group 10:** Lot 82 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 15,650 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 52 Front Feet (50' Along Road) x 313' Average Depth

Estimated 50 Effective Front Feet x \$60/FF = **\$3,000**

**Group 11:** Lot 83 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 14,800 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 52 Front Feet (50' Along Road) x 296 Average Depth

\*A 16' portion of the cabin on Lot 84 is noted to encroach onto Lot 83\*

Estimated 50 Effective Front Feet x \$50/FF = **\$2,500**

**Group 12:** Lot 86 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 11,600 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 53 Front Feet (50' Along Road) x 231' Average Depth

Estimated 50 Effective Front Feet x \$60/FF = **\$3,000**

**Group 13:** Lots 90, 91, 92, 93, 94 & 95 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision and Lot C of Lake Faulkton Second subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 51,300 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 740 Front Feet (750' Along Road) x 85' Average Depth (Approximately 1.2 Acres) Estimated 750 Effective Front Feet (Narrow) x \$15/FF or \$10,000/Acre = **\$12,000**

**Group 14:** Lots 97 & 98 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 11,250 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 53 Front Feet (100' Along Road) x 146' Average Depth

Estimated 76.5 Effective Front Feet x \$65/FF = **\$5,000**

**Group 15:** Lot F of Lake Faulkton Second Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 77,000 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 226 Front Feet (65' Along Road) - Peninsula Habitat Area

Approximately 1.8 Acres x \$5,000/Acre = **\$9,000**

**Group 16:** Lot G of Lake Faulkton Second Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 87,550 SqFt of land with no utilities available. All island area with boat access only.

Approximately 2 acres x \$1,500/Acre = **\$3,000**

**Group 17:** Lots 110, 111 & 112 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision and Lot E of Lake Faulkton Second Subdivision.

This parcel contains approximately 35,500 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 274 Front Feet (170' Along Road) x 182' Average Depth

Estimated 220 Effective Front Feet x \$55/FF = **\$12,000**

**Group 18:** Lots 118, 119, 120, 121, 122 & 123 of Lake Faulkton Subdivision and Lot D of Lake Faulkton Second Subdivision

This parcel contains approximately 96,900 SqFt of land with only electricity available. 860' Front Feet (730' Along Road) x 130' Average Depth (Approximately 2.25 Acres) Estimated 770 Effective Front Feet x Approx. \$35/FF or \$12,500/Acre = **\$28,000**

**Group 19:** Outlot A and Lot 1 of Outlot B of Lake Faulkton Subdivision

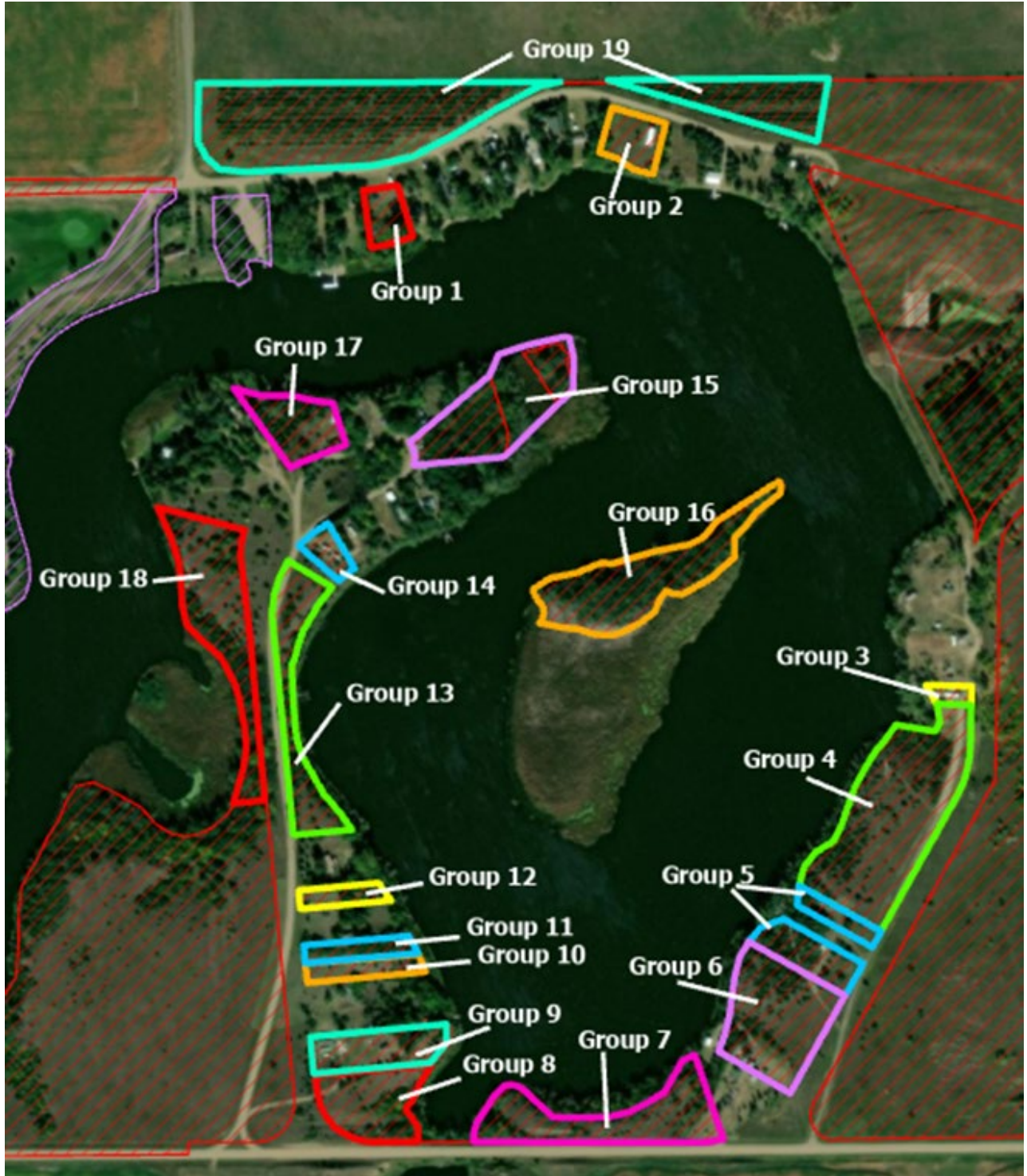
This parcel contains approximately 220,000 SqFt of land with rural water and electricity available.

5.04 Acres, More or Less of wooded backlot area at the north end of the property 5 Acres x \$7,000/Acre = **\$37,500**

***\$248,000 Total Appraised Value***



# Property Map



**Spink County Property Disposal**

**Location:** North and west a few miles from Tulare.

**Size:** 3.34 Acres, two parcels, west piece is 2.28 acres and east piece is 1.06 acres.

**Total Appraised Value:** \$4,500, \$3,500 for west piece and \$1,000 for east piece.

**Requested Commission Action:** To adopt RESOLUTION 25-05 authorizing and confirming the disposal through public auction 2 parcels of land in Spink County, SD.

**Property Map**



### RESOLUTION 25-03

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:

The 33 foot wide access lane as part of Lot 1 in the SW1/4NW1/4 of section 23, Township 121 North, Range 75 West of the 5th P.M., Walworth County, South Dakota; containing .30 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as GFP PROPERTY; and

WHEREAS, Jason Klocker (KLOCKER), of 6013 W. WHISTLER CT., SIOUX FALLS SD 57101, owns an interest in real estate described as:

A 31 foot wide access lane across the north end of Lot 1, Thuente Addition located in the SW1/4NW1/4 in Section 23, Township 121 North, Range 75 West of the 5th P.M., Walworth County, South Dakota, containing .30 acres, more or less, hereinafter referred to as KLOCKER PROPERTY; 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 KLOCKER desire to exchange interests in GFP PROPERTY and KLOCKER PROPERTY, and the GFP Commission having determined that KLOCKER PROPERTY is more suitable to GFP for GFP purposes than GFP PROPERTY, and that GFP PROPERTY and KLOCKER 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 KLOCKER 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 KLOCKER 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 KLOCKER PROPERTY being acquired pursuant to the exchange authorized by this Resolution for use as a game production area.



**RESOLUTION 25 - 04**

WHEREAS, the State of South Dakota (for the use and benefit of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks) (DEPARTMENT) owns the following described property in Faulk County South Dakota:

Lots 10, 11, 24, 25, 26, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 82, 83, 86, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 97, 98, 110, 111, 112, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, Outlot A, and Lot 1 of Outlot B located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 17, Township 118 North, Range 69 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Faulk County, South Dakota.

WHEREAS, SDCL § 41-2-29.1 provides the DEPARTMENT shall sell real property owned by the state and held by the DEPARTMENT if such real property is no longer needed for game, fish, or parks purposes, with such sale to be conducted pursuant to the procedure more fully set out in SDCL § 41-2-29.1; and

WHEREAS, these portions of the Lake Faulkton GPA were acquired by the DEPARTMENT to provide wildlife habitat and public hunting opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the DEPARTMENT has determined these portions of Lake Faulkton GPA provide limited value as wildlife habitat and for public hunting opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission hereby determines these portions of the Lake Faulkton GPA no longer serve the purposes for which they were originally acquired and are no longer needed for game, fish, or park purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission hereby directs the DEPARTMENT to sell and transfer title to these portions of Lake Faulkton GPA according to the procedures provided for in SDCL § 41-2-29.1, and authorizes the DEPARTMENT to execute and consummate agreements relative to the sales deemed appropriate by the Department, with proceeds from the sales dedicated to future GPA acquisitions.

**RESOLUTION 25 - 05**

WHEREAS, the State of South Dakota (for the use and benefit of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks) (DEPARTMENT) owns the following described land in Spink County:

A strip of land Nine (9) rods wide in Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section Twenty Four (24), Township One Hundred Fifteen (115), Range Sixty Five (65) West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., the centerline of which is described as follows: Beginning at a point 1455.7' South and 274.5' East of the Northwest corner of the above mentioned Section Twenty Four (24), thence East for 670 feet, more or less, according to the survey thereof, containing 2.28 acres.

A strip of land Fourteen (14) rods wide in in Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section Twenty Four (24), Township One Hundred Fifteen (115), Range Sixty Five (65) West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., the centerline of which is described as follows: Beginning at a point 467.7' north of the center of Section Twenty Four (24), thence 200 feet, more or less, west containing 1.06 acres, more or less.

WHEREAS, SDCL § 41-2-29.1 provides the DEPARTMENT shall sell real property owned by the state and held by the DEPARTMENT if such real property is no longer needed for game, fish, or parks purposes, with such sale to be conducted pursuant to the procedure more fully set out in SDCL § 41-2-29.1; and

WHEREAS, these portions of the Twin Lakes Diversion Ditch GPA were acquired by the DEPARTMENT to provide wildlife habitat and public hunting opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the DEPARTMENT has determined these portions of Twin Lakes Diversion Ditch GPA provide limited value as wildlife habitat and for public hunting opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission hereby determines these portions of the Twin Lakes Diversion Ditch GPA no longer serve the purposes for which they were originally acquired and are no longer needed for game, fish, or park purposes.

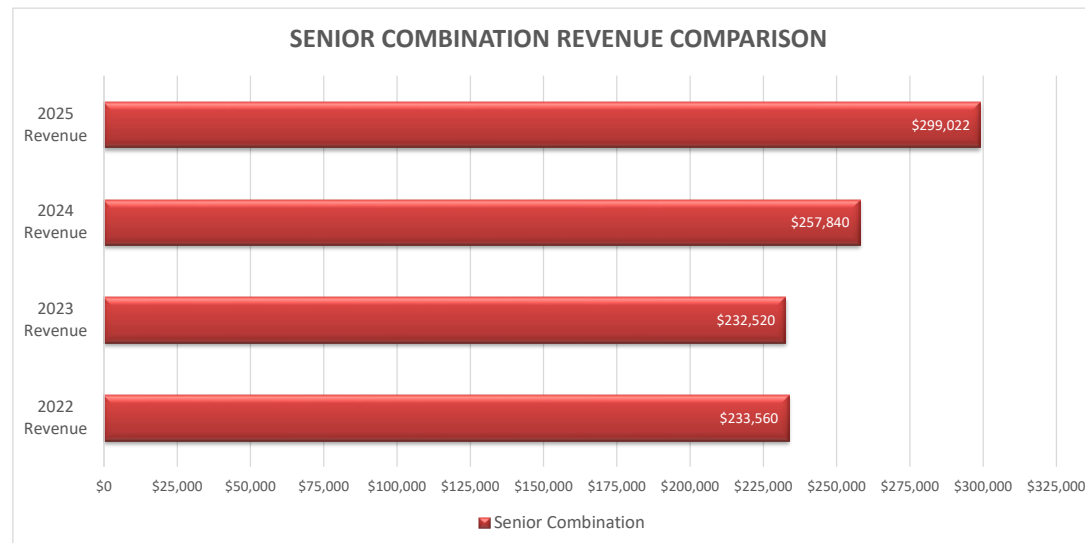
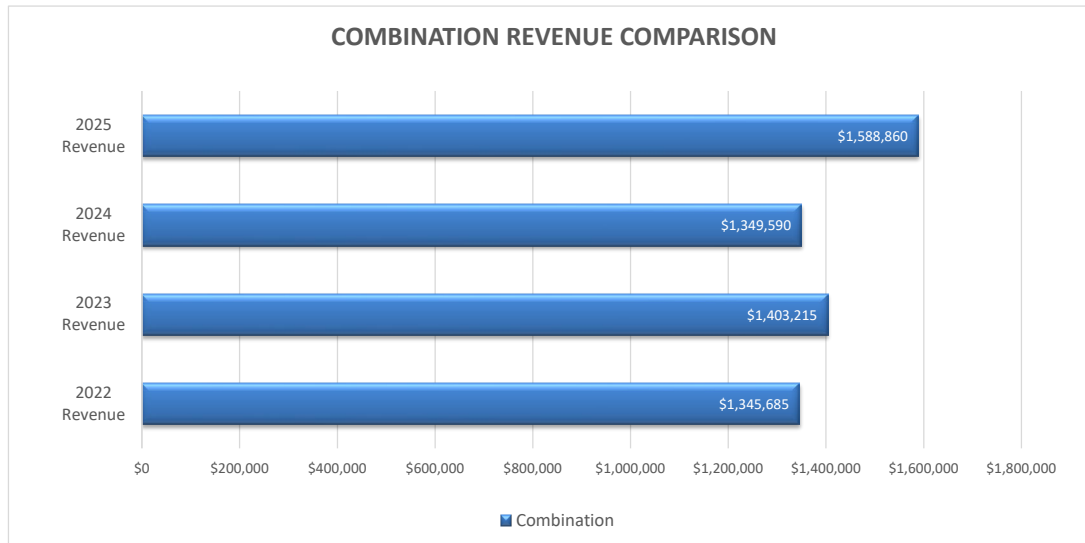
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Game, Fish and Parks Commission hereby directs the DEPARTMENT to sell and transfer title to these portions of Twin Lakes Diversion Ditch GPA according to the procedures provided for in SDCL § 41-2-29.1, and authorizes the DEPARTMENT to execute and consummate agreements relative to the sales deemed appropriate by the Department, with proceeds from the sales dedicated to future GPA acquisitions.



### COMBINATION LICENSES

December 15 - February 28

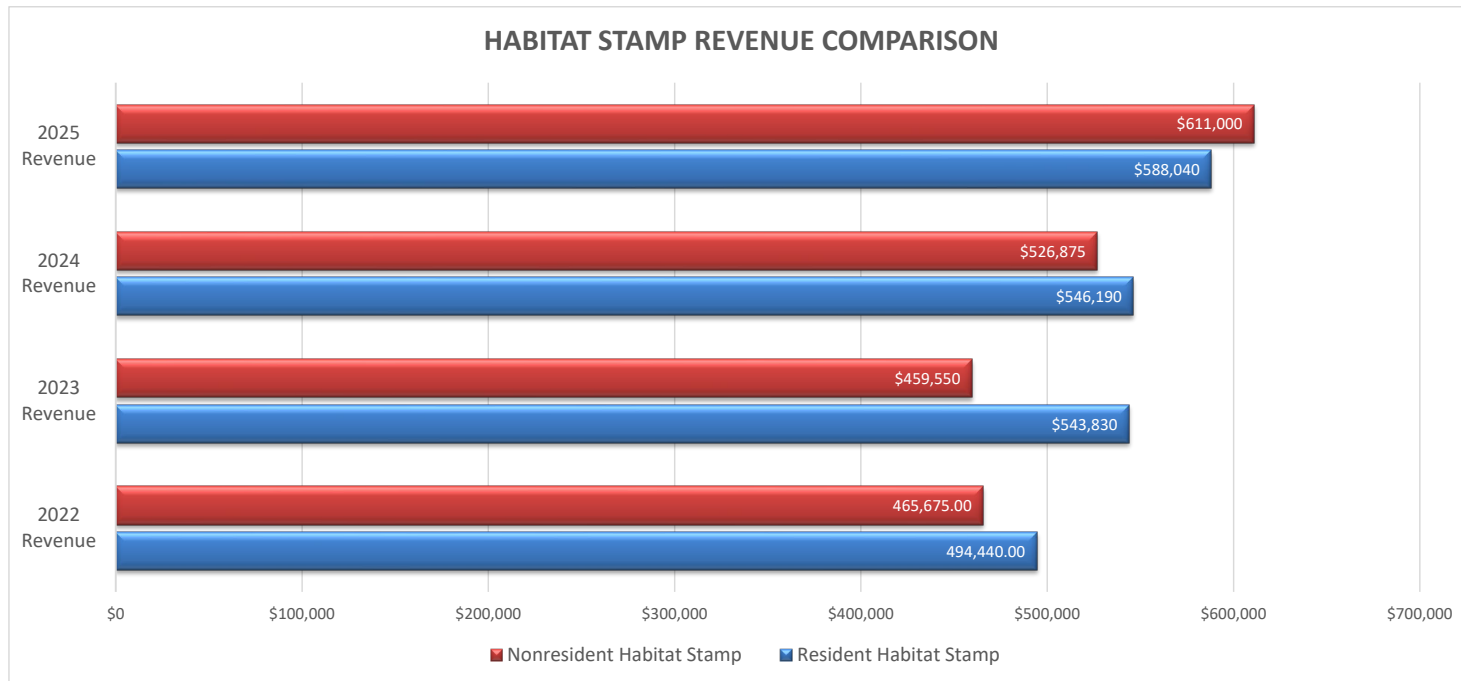
License Type	2022	2023	2024	3-yr Avg	2025	2025 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	
Combination	24,467	25,513	24,538	24,839	26,481	\$ 1,588,860	1,943	1,642	\$239,270	\$222,697	7%
Senior Combination	5,839	5,813	6,446	6,033	6,954	\$ 299,022	508	921	\$41,182	\$57,715	15%
<b>Combination License Totals</b>	<b>30,306</b>	<b>31,326</b>	<b>30,984</b>	<b>30,872</b>	<b>33,435</b>	<b>\$ 1,887,882</b>	<b>2,451</b>	<b>2,563</b>	<b>\$280,452</b>	<b>\$280,412</b>	<b>22%</b>



## HABITAT STAMP

December 15 - February 28

License Type	2022	2023	2024	3-yr Avg	2025	2025 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	
Resident Habitat Stamp	49,444	54,383	54,619	52,815	58,804	\$ 588,040	4,185	5,989	\$230,175	329,377	11%
Nonresident Habitat Stamp	18,627	18,382	21,075	19,361	24,440	\$ 611,000	3,365	5,079	\$134,600	203,147	26%
<b>Habitat Stamp Totals</b>	<b>68,071</b>	<b>72,765</b>	<b>75,694</b>	<b>72,177</b>	<b>83,244</b>	<b>\$ 1,199,040</b>	<b>7,550</b>	<b>11,067</b>	<b>\$364,775</b>	<b>532,523</b>	<b>15%</b>

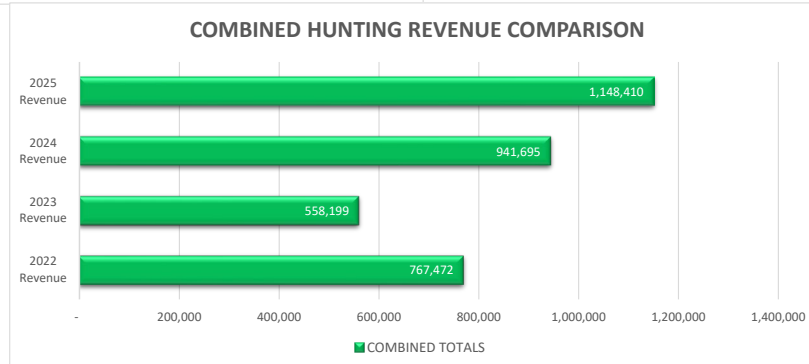
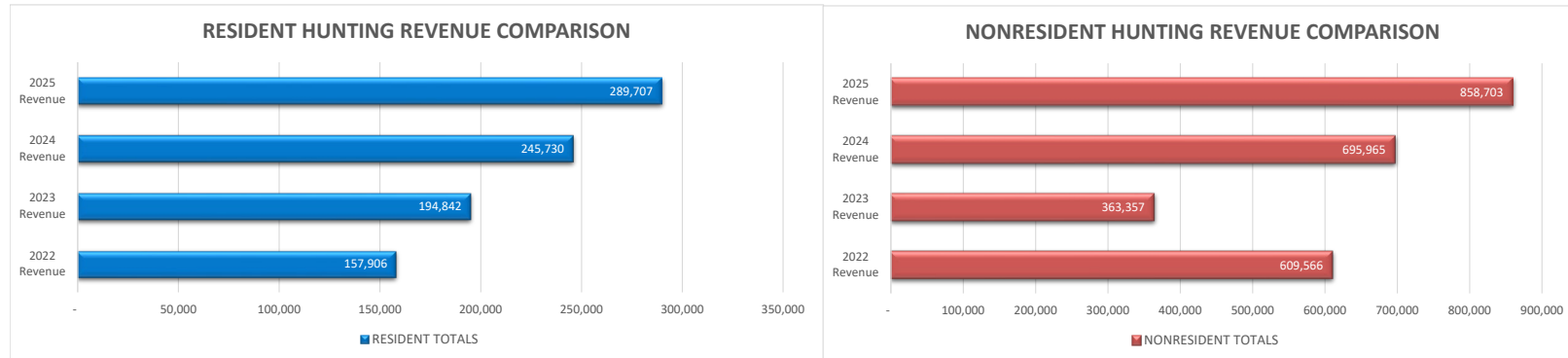


# SMALL GAME LICENSES

December 15 - February 28

License Type						+/- Licenses			+/- Revenue		% Change
	2022	2023	2024	3-yr Avg	2025	2025 Revenue	2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	from 3 Yr. Avg
Small Game	1,821	3,363	4,627	3,270	5,276	\$ 189,936	649	2,006	\$37,245	\$82,015	61%
1-Day Small Game	144	79	187	137	179	\$ 2,685	(8)	42	\$441	\$1,045	31%
Youth Small Game	616	524	678	606	575	\$ 2,875	(103)	(31)	(\$515)	(\$372)	-5%
Furbearer	2,321	2,300	2,507	2,376	2,696	\$ 83,576	189	320	\$8,366	\$12,296	13%
Predator/Varmint	992	1,029	824	948	600	\$ 3,600	(224)	(348)	(\$520)	(\$1,142)	-37%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck	99	122	96	106	60	\$ 300	(36)	(46)	(\$180)	(\$228)	-43%
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	3,584	1,108	1,519	2,070	1,347	\$ 6,735	(172)	(723)	(\$860)	(\$3,617)	-35%
<b>RESIDENT TOTALS</b>	<b>9,577</b>	<b>8,525</b>	<b>10,438</b>	<b>9,513</b>	<b>10,733</b>	<b>289,707</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>\$ 43,977</b>	<b>\$ 89,997</b>	<b>13.30%</b>
Small Game	4,111	2,325	4,603	3,680	5,011	\$ 711,562	408	1,331	\$ 154,599	\$ 266,322	36%
Youth Small Game	269	145	294	236	312	\$ 3,120	18	76	\$ 180	\$ 760	32%
Shooting Preserve 1-Day Nonresident	154	72	131	119	150	\$ 7,500	19	31	\$ 1,474	\$ 2,026	26%
Shooting Preserve 5-Day Nonresident	776	452	658	629	793	\$ 76,128	135	164	\$ 26,120	\$ 28,349	26%
Shooting Preserve Annual Nonresident	53	44	42	46	48	\$ 7,008	6	2	\$ 1,926	\$ 1,402	4%
Furbearer	3	0	4	2	1	\$ 325	(3)	(1)	(\$ 775)	(\$ 317)	-57%
Predator/Varmint	523	641	753	639	821	\$ 37,766	68	182	\$ 7,646	\$ 12,206	28%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck	2	8	13	8	18	\$ 90	5	10	\$ 25	\$ 52	135%
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	75	56	886	339	345	\$ 1,725	(541)	6	(\$ 2,705)	\$ 30	2%
Spring Light Goose	288	228	834	450	286	\$ 12,870	(548)	(164)	(\$ 30,140)	(\$ 7,380)	-36%
Youth Spring Light Goose	17	9	81	36	29	\$ 609	(52)	(7)	(\$ 1,092)	(\$ 140)	-19%
<b>NONRESIDENT TOTALS</b>	<b>6,271</b>	<b>3,980</b>	<b>8,299</b>	<b>6,183</b>	<b>7,814</b>	<b>858,703</b>	<b>(485)</b>	<b>1,631</b>	<b>\$157,258</b>	<b>\$303,310</b>	<b>26.37%</b>
<b>COMBINED TOTALS</b>	<b>15,848</b>	<b>12,505</b>	<b>18,737</b>	<b>15,697</b>	<b>18,547</b>	<b>1,148,410</b>	<b>(190)</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>\$201,235</b>	<b>\$393,308</b>	<b>18.16%</b>

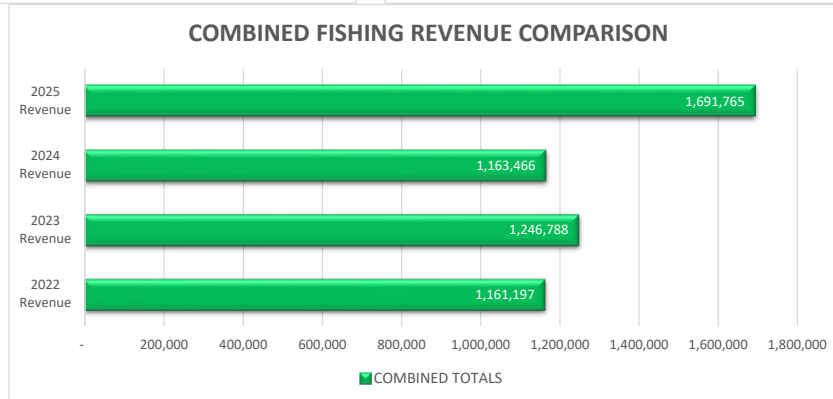
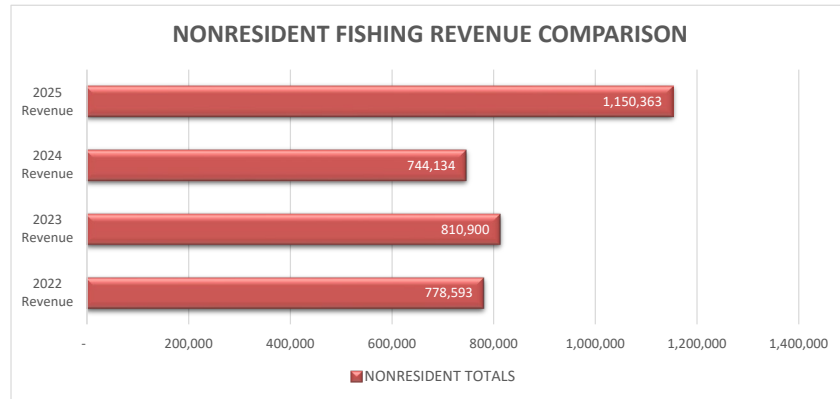
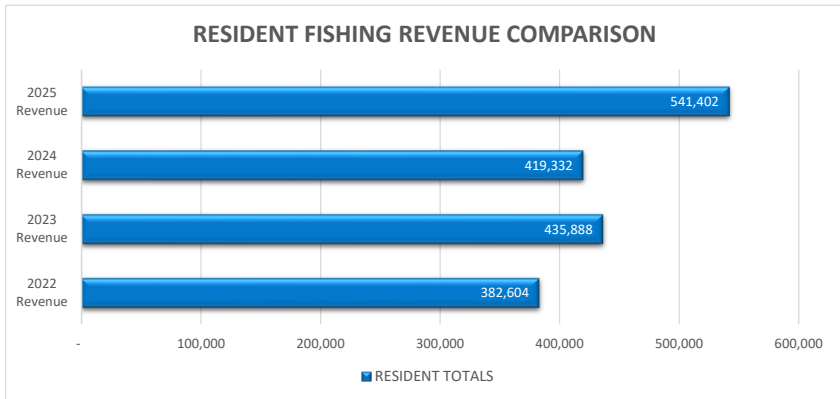
\*Spring Light Goose decreased by \$5 when the migratory bird certificate was no longer included.



## FISHING LICENSES

December 15 - February 28

License Type					+/- Licenses			+/- Revenue		% Change	
	2022	2023	2024	3-yr Avg	2025	2025 Revenue	2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	from 3 Yr. Avg
1-Day Fishing	454	570	387	470	652	\$ 6,520	265	182	\$3,424	\$2,757	39%
Annual Fishing	12,288	14,070	13,279	13,212	15,132	\$ 469,092	1,853	1,920	\$97,280	\$99,147	15%
Senior Fishing	2,909	3,114	3,702	3,242	3,870	\$ 65,790	168	628	\$21,366	\$26,890	19%
<b>RESIDENT TOTALS</b>	<b>15,651</b>	<b>17,754</b>	<b>17,368</b>	<b>16,924</b>	<b>19,654</b>	<b>541,402</b>	<b>2,286</b>	<b>2,730</b>	<b>\$122,070</b>	<b>\$128,794</b>	<b>16.13%</b>
1-Day Fishing	3,822	3,375	2,823	3,340	2,643	\$ 68,718	(180)	(697)	\$23,550	\$15,278	-21%
3-Day Fishing	2,825	2,977	1,978	2,593	3,617	\$ 162,765	1,639	1,024	\$89,579	\$66,812	39%
Annual Fishing	9,148	9,653	9,340	9,380	11,486	\$ 918,880	2,146	2,106	\$293,100	\$290,398	22%
<b>NONRESIDENT TOTALS</b>	<b>15,795</b>	<b>16,005</b>	<b>14,141</b>	<b>15,314</b>	<b>17,746</b>	<b>1,150,363</b>	<b>3,605</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>\$406,229</b>	<b>\$372,487</b>	<b>15.88%</b>
<b>COMBINED TOTALS</b>	<b>31,446</b>	<b>33,759</b>	<b>31,509</b>	<b>32,238</b>	<b>37,400</b>	<b>1,691,765</b>	<b>5,891</b>	<b>5,162</b>	<b>\$528,299</b>	<b>\$501,281</b>	<b>16.01%</b>



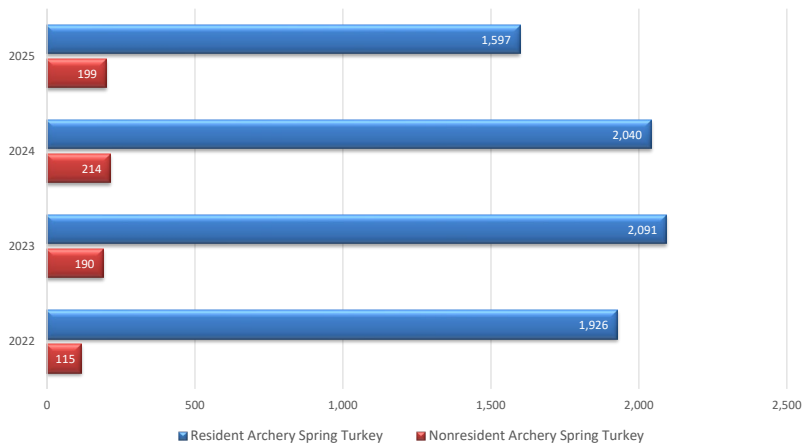
## 2025 BIG GAME LICENSES

License Type	2022	2023	2024	3-yr Avg	2025	2025 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	
Mountain Lion	2,711	2,370	2,568	2,550	2,617	\$ 78,510	49	67	\$392	\$539	3%
Lake Francis Case Paddlefish Snagging	350	350	500	400	500	\$ 15,000	0	100	\$2,500	\$5,000	25%
Custer Spring Turkey	102	100	100	101	100	\$ 2,800	0	(1)	\$300	\$283	-1%
Resident Archery Spring Turkey	1,926	2,091	2,040	2,019	1,597	\$ 44,716	(443)	(422)	(\$6,284)	(\$5,759)	-21%
Nonresident Archery Spring Turkey	115	190	214	173	199	\$ 24,079	(15)	26	\$2,679	\$6,779	15%
Resident Black Hills Spring Turkey	1,230	1,185	1,311	1,242	1,197	\$ 33,516	(114)	(45)	\$741	\$2,466	-4%
Resident Prairie Spring Turkey	3,960	4,405	4,246	4,204	4,264	\$ 121,756	18	60	\$ 13,456	\$ 14,544	1%
Nonresident Prairie Spring Turkey	282	316	317	305	317	\$ 40,157	0	12	\$ 7,082	\$ 8,332	4%

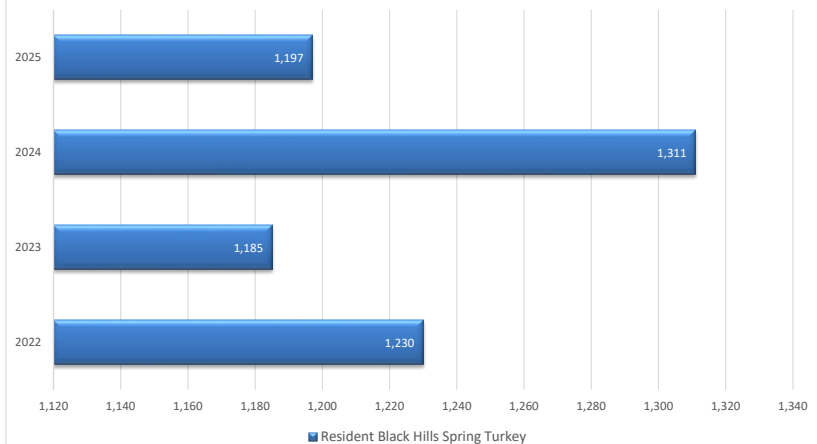
### Applications Submitted

Res Prairie Spring Turkey 1st Draw Applications	4,448	4,915	4,724	4,696	4,615	n/a	(109)	(81)	n/a	n/a	-2%
NR Prairie Spring Turkey 1st Draw Applications	996	1,117	1,277	1,130	1,368	n/a	91	238	n/a	n/a	21%
Lake Francis Case Paddlefish Snagging Applications	2,054	2,510	1,914	2,159	1,676	n/a	(238)	(483)	n/a	n/a	-22%
Custer Spring Turkey Applications	622	703	608	644	617	n/a	9	(27)	n/a	n/a	-4%

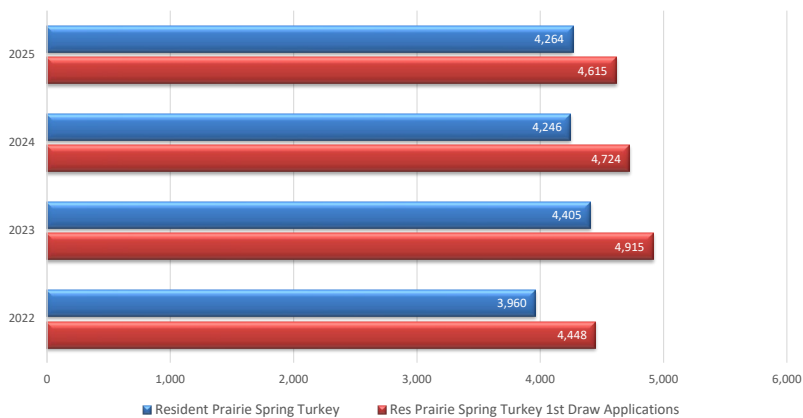
#### ARCHERY SPRING TURKEY LICENSES ISSUED



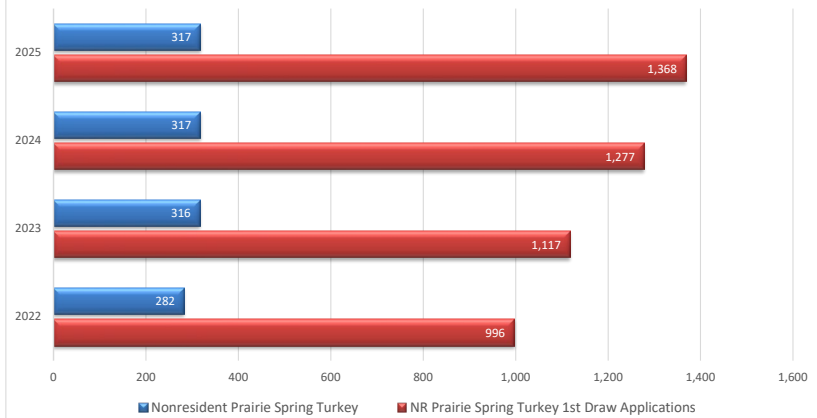
#### RESIDENT BLACK HILLS SPRING TURKEY LICENSES ISSUED



#### RESIDENT PRAIRIE SPRING TURKEY APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VS PERMITS ISSUED



#### NONRESIDENT PRAIRIE SPRING TURKEY APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VS PERMITS ISSUED



**RESOLUTION NO. 25-02**

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks Commission has been advised that Richard K. Tobias Living Trust is the owner of a cabin located in Custer State Park (Custer County) on property described as:

No. 7 Pine Crest in the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼) of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section (12), Township Four (4) South, Range Five (5) East, of the Black Hills Meridian, Custer County, South Dakota; and

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

WHEREAS, the Commission has been advised that Richard K. Tobias Living Trust desires to and has transferred and assigned all of his interest in said cabin and cabin site permit to Archies Bunker LLC, owned by the children of Richard K. Tobias; and

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

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

Attachment A

<b>FY25 DOT Collector Road Funding Projects</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>County, Township, Park</b>
North Point Rec Area 381st Avenue Shape and Resurface	\$279,780.50	White Swan Township
North Point Rec Area 381st Avenue Shape and Resurface Engineering Oversight	\$11,083.75	White Swan Township
Bush's Landing Lakeside Use Area Mag Chloride	\$16,838.49	Sully County
Custer State Park Collector Road Mag Chloride	\$33,824.65	Custer County
Custer State Park Interior Collector Roads Gravel Lift	\$159,999.99	Custer State Park
Custer State Park Replace Bridge #17-359-109	\$497,435.67	Custer State Park
Custer State Park Wildlife Loop Road AST & Repair	\$698,192.11	Custer State Park
Oakwood State Park Interior Collector Road AST & Repair	\$191,531.96	Oakwood State Park
Shep's Canyon Mag Chloride	\$22,000.00	Fall River County
Roughlock Falls Mag Chloride	\$7,983.74	Lawrence County
Rocky Point Recreation Area Collector Road AST & Repairs	\$186,942.50	Rocky Point Recreation Area
Spring Creek Recreation Area Interior Collector Road Construction	\$50,589.00	Spring Creek Recreation Area
Pelican Lake Recreation Area Collector Road AST & Repair	\$21,012.42	Codington County
Cow Creek Recreation Area Collector Road AST & Repair	\$17,748.96	Sully County
Lewis & Clark Recreation Area Interior Collector Road FDR and Rebuild	\$2,129.02	Lewis & Clark Recreation Area
Buryanek Recreation Area Mag Chloride and Gravel Improvements		Gregory County
North Point Rec Area 381st Avenue Asphalt Mat Design		North Point Recreation Area
North Point Rec Area 297th Street Overlay Design		North Point Recreation Area
	\$2,194,963.74	
<b>First reimbursement made at \$2,194,963.74 Remaining balance of \$ will be requested before the end of the state fiscal year.</b>		
<b>FY26 DOT Collector Road Projected Funding</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>County, Township, Park</b>
Buryanek Recreation Area Collector Road Gravel and Mag Chloride	\$10,000.00	Gregor County
Bush's Landing Lakeside Use Area Collector Road Mag Chloride	\$45,000.00	Sully County
Custer State Park Interior Collector Road Bridge #17-292-105 Repairs	\$20,000.00	Custer State Park
Custer State Park Collector Road Mag Chloride	\$55,000.00	Custer County
Custer State Park Interior Collector Road AST & Repairs on Playhouse Road	\$180,000.00	Custer State Park
Custer State Park Interior Collector Road Bridge #17-314-043 Surfacing	\$30,000.00	Custer State Park
North Point Recreation Area 381st Ave Asphalt Mat Construction	\$164,000.00	North Point Recreation Area
Palisades State Park Collector Road AST & Repair on 256th Street	\$26,000.00	Palisades Township
Roy Lake State Park Collector Road FDR and Hard Surface	\$1,936,000.00	Marshall County
Shadehill Recreation Area Interior Collector Road AST & Repair	\$180,000.00	Shadehill Recreation Area
Shep's Canyon Recreation Area Collector Road Mag Chloride	\$24,000.00	Fall River County
Spearfish Canyon Natura Area Collector Road Mag Chloride and Gravel Lift	\$80,000.00	Lawrence County
Walker's Point Recreation Area Collector Road AST & Repair	\$20,000.00	Lakeview Township
Swan Creek RA Collector Road AST & Repair	\$30,000.00	Walworth County
	<b>\$2,800,000.00</b>	
<b>FY26 Alternate Projects</b>		
Custer State Park Badger Clark Interior Collector Road AST & Repair	\$55,000.00	Custer State Park
Shadehill Recreation Area Collector Road AST & Repair	\$40,000.00	Perkins County
Rapid City Shooting Sports Complex Mag Water	\$30,000.00	Meade County
Kanago Lakeside Use Area Collector Road Improvements	\$50,000.00	Day County
North Point Recreation Area 297th Street Overlay	\$570,000.00	North Point Recreation Area

# Public Comments

## Bighorn Sheep Season

---

**Alexandra Stetter**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Danielle Osloond**

**Central City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The sheep were not brought here to be hunted.

---

**Lori Riehle**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not approve of a hunting season for the Big Horn Sheep! They are a treasured part of Deadwood! Leave them alone!

---

**Debbie Waldner**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We have had them go through our property on Crook City Road. Such a cool thing to see! My horses were curious.... We love seeing them in Deadwood when we're up there too. Please do not allow hunting these beautiful animals.

---

**Destiny Maynard**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.



---

**Jennifer N Miller**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

You stated half the herd was lost to pneumonia and the herd has been dwindling so you decide to do an open hunting season? How is this good management of a species that had to be reintroduced?

---

**Kathi Erickson**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sarah Kerber**

**Manson WA**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I'm from Lead (grew up and graduated HS there) and know the bighorn sheep are so special and already at so much risk of illegal hunting as well as getting hit by a vehicle on or near roadways. Please protect them.

---

**Melvin And Debbie Maynard**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The bighorn sheep provide pure entertainment around our community, the people who live in Deadwood and visitors. Very disappointed this was even given consideration. No hunting season for bighorn sheep!!!!

---

**Kenzie Bailey**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The Bighorn Sheep in the Deadwood area have become a beloved group and iconic of our little mountain town. Conservation is key, but there are other ways to monitor and control populations without hunting.

---

**Lori Keehn**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The thought of this is infuriating and I'm against a hunting season that would allow some egocentric human to

---

kill one of these animals so that he can have a trophy on his wall. Absolutely deplorable.

---

**Jeff Smith**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Eve Kerber**

**Shoreline WA**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jordan Oster**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

That's not hunting. They are to domesticated here.

---

**Brianne Hutchison**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kristin Duprel**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Brandon Maser**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Breanna Warnecke**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Winter Edinger**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Pam Millard**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Leave them alone!

---

**Pam Millard**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Eilissa Atkins**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kara Olson**

**57732 SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The deadwood population of bighorn sheep should not be included in the hunting season!!! What was the point of introducing them in the first place ?! It's a small herd! People love seeing them. It's stupid to think of them as game. They are residents too! Im disappointed that this even came into fruition.

---

**Kevin Moore**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I have not seen any sheep hit by cars, have never seen them cross the highway, and see no evidence there is an abundance of these animals. They should not be hunted for sport.

---

**Steven Page**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Steven Page**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Charlie Petrick**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Marguerite Hayes**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jayson Scholten**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

You guys don't need the revenue from selling the tags. This is ridiculous.

---

**Whitney Walton**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

You shipped them in, put collars on them. Made them a tourist attraction and now you want to kill them. The hell are you thinking

---

**Arica Fairbanks**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Dave Ruth**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

In opposition to the inclusion of the Deadwood Sheep in any hunting programs

---

**Jesse Allen**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is not hunting.

---

**Cindy Kruse**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Larissa Oyen**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lexi Strickland**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

In Deadwood? No!!!! There's no reason for it.

---

**Vicki Strickland**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Derek Lucero**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Carsey Clement**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Heidi Gurwell**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is ridiculous

---

**Julie Garreau**

**Eagle Butte SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I wouldn't call it hunting at all. Why would we hunt these animals. It's not hunting. It's just killing.

---

**Lacrisha Garness**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Ingrid Hayward**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

They are basically domesticated. This would be like having a Doodle season. Pneumonia almost killed the entire herd not that long ago.  
Leave them and the sheep in the Canyon alone.

---

**Blanca Sirignano**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not support the proposed expansion of big horn sheep hunting in Lawrence county.

---

**Echo Bauer**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Absolutely repulsive and reprehensible to "hunt" locally beloved and defenseless animals and call it "sport."

---

**Alise Liebl**

**Gary MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Megie Martens**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kristin Pavon**

**Summerset SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Megan Quinn**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kendra Shoup**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The Deadwood heard should not be included in this hunting season.

---

**Justin James**

**Central City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.



---

**Katie Tieman**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jeremy Eckman**

**East Grand Forks MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Do not open a season on the biggiensherp around SD. This is just ridiculous. People want them around.

---

**Jennifer Yackley**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jan Bloom**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There's a reason the sheep were relocated to the Deadwood area. It's a small herd. Leave them alone.

---

**John Fitzgerald**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Do not kill any big horn sheep in the Black Hills.

---

**Mclayne Hochstetler**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Cathie Aberle**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Deadwood big horn sheep? You could sit I. The bleachers at the football field and get one. That is not sport

---

**Alexandria Hayward**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Zoe Frauen**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lisa Sihrer**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I absolutely oppose allowing people to hunt the bighorn sheep. They are part of what makes the area so special, and there isn't exactly an overabundance of them.

---

**Alex Hamann**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I live in Lead, SD and I'm opposed to a hunting for Bighorn Sheep in the Deadwood Area. I need to see some information about the population status of the herd, along with how many would be harvested. I maybe willing to change my mind if there is a need to maintain the current herd by harvesting some of them.

---

**Genine Tveidt**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It is not right to bring those sheep to Deadwood, put a collar and eartag on them only to let someone kill them. I enjoy watching then any chance I get.

---

**Jenifer James**

**Central City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The Big Horn sheep are basically domesticated at this point and hunting them would be wrong.

---

**Katie Washnok**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Bernadette Phillips**

**Nemo SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Including the Deadwood sheep in the hunt is a terrible idea for many reasons not the least of which is horrible public relations. 26 sheep were imported and now there are 25-30? These animals are tame as can be evidenced by their non-reaction to people and traffic. The "hunt" would be akin to shooting fish in a barrel. I am a hunter (deer, cougar, turkey, waterfowl) but I strongly oppose this idea.

---

**Phyllis Fleming**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I cannot imagine why anyone would want to hunt these animals and especially within the City Limits of Deadwood or any other municipality. NO NO NO

---

**Marlene Todd**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose this. These sheep are a wonderful addition to our Hills. They come so close to humans all the time that they would be like sitting ducks for hunters. Please do NOT allow this.

---

**Jason Fisher**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

the "deadwood" herd is growing strong in numbers, which will eventually lead to disease from over population. Being that there is so much private land adjacent to the city limits of Deadwood & no hunting within city limits, a hunter would most likely be unsuccessful anyways. I support the idea, but with a very limited # of tags as a test run, male sheep only.

---

**Wayne Karpinen**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kim Keehn**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

They are very well liked in the community and with the tourist they come to town enough that we think they're like family I think it's an awful idea??

---

**Donna Watson**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These sheep are so tame you can walk right up to them. They provide entertainment for residents and tourists. They should NOT need to be killed for sport/fun. We have enough animals being killed in the Hills as it is.

---

---

**Tina Porterfield**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kassandra Hase**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These heards are not that big leave them alone!!! This is sickening

---

**Sheila Schell**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Emily Tuininga**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kelcey Harkin**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**James Sprecher**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Leave the small herd of Bighorn Sheep in the Northern hills alone. They are no threat to the environment.

---

**Mike Rogers**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Yvonne Erb**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Let them roam and let them be. Do not allow them to be hunted.

---

**Sharon Jacobs**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Why?

There is not an over population problem here. The only place anyone ever sees them is coming into Deadwood. It's part of the charm! The Tourist that patronize all of the businesses enjoy them. They are just one more glorious site that bring people here.

I feel like every time I turn around, someone/group is trying to make the beautiful Black Hills look like Gillette.

---

**Brooke Alley**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Bridget Gostola**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tessa Allen**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Dustin Floyd**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I've lived in Rapid City for about four years now, but I was a Deadwood resident for the prior 10 years - and I continue to recreate in the Northern Hills frequently, not least because I have a lot of family in Deadwood and Lead. I feel strongly that including the Deadwood herd in the current bighorn sheep season is a terrible idea, for several reasons.

For starters, it's unsportsmanlike. Anyone who's spent time observing the Deadwood herd understands that the animals have very little fear of human activity. They forage frequently inside city limits, often licking salt from the sides of the road along US 85 and US 14A. I see them most often in the Stage Run neighborhood, where they're known to bed down on lawns and browse the hillsides above the houses. Barking dogs, vehicle traffic, and loud construction noises do nothing to deter them. While many residents appreciate the current status quo, I'm sure some would argue for hazing them from city limits, and that argument might be valid. But even then, hunting wouldn't be the immediate answer. Hunting these animals now wouldn't be much different from hunting a domesticated animal. Every hunter I know would be repulsed by that idea, and correctly so. No proper sportsman is excited about shooting fish in a barrel.

In addition, the justification for the change seems poorly reasoned at best. Local reporting suggests the proposed inclusion of the Deadwood herd is to offer hunters more opportunity because of a significant die-off in the existing Hell Canyon herd, which experienced mortality from pneumonia as high as 50%. I'm not opposed to offering hunters more opportunity, but allowing hunters to harvest from the 25-30 animals in the relatively small Deadwood herd - which has experienced its own share of health challenges over the years - seems like it's asking for trouble. With a herd that small, there would be very little room for error. All it takes is a small confluence of factors beyond GFP's control (accidental over-harvest coupled with excessive mortality from car collisions or disease, for example) to push it well below the point of minimum viable population.

There's also a marketing and PR angle here, which can't be discounted in a town that generates a considerable amount of tourism revenue for the state. Visitors to Deadwood LOVE the bighorn sheep. Scores of photos of the herd inevitably wind up on social media feeds at the height of every tourist season, creating countless organic engagement opportunities that simply can't be purchased. Opening the Deadwood herd to hunting will almost certainly drive the animals further from town and reduce their numbers, limiting chances for visitors to observe them, share photos, and introduce the Black Hills as a tourist destination to new markets. For many, these sheep function as mascots and brand ambassadors for the area. Opening them to hunting will certainly have some negative impact on the local tourism industry.

There may be a point in the future when it makes sense to include the Deadwood herd in the hunting season, but that time isn't now.

---

**Sharon Martinisko**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The big horns in the Deadwood area are all but domesticated!!! Hunting them would not be a sport! Do not include this herd!!!

---

**Brenda Morris**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is not a hunt!! They are literally hanging out in town and are not spooked. It would be inhumane!!

---

**Laurie Jacobs**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These animals have become part of Deadwood! Please don't let them be "hunted".

---

**Tera Dey**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These sheep are not hurting anyone, they are a staple just like the elk in Estes Park!!!  
Dumb idea to open this season in Deadwood, shame on you!!

---

**Weeden Huber**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No reason to hunt sheep ??

---

**Darcy Harbott**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The bighorn sheep population is not big enough yet for hunting. I oppose a hunting season at this time. I am open to a hunting season once the population increases in size and abundance. There is no harm in waiting another 2 to 4 years to consider a hunting season at that time. Let the citizens of the Black Hills enjoy the



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beauty of the rarely seen Big Horn sheep while they're alive. A dead bighorn sheep satisfies one person...the hunter. A living, bighorn, sheep provides beauty, joy, and impactful memories to many. Until they become so abundant that they are a nuisance...Let us enjoy them as they roam our Black Hills.

---

**Sue Hayes**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These animals in Deadwood are an attraction and are pretty tame. Absolutely NO to hunt them.

---

**Karla Dower**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Shame on whomever thinks this is ok!!! NO! NO! And NO!!  
AWFUL!!

---

**Teah Homsey-Pray**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Gee, what a challenge those bighorn sheep would pose for a hunter! If this is sport I question what a real hunter would think. You can darn near reach out and touch the ones who live in and around Deadwood. Good luck hunters being proud of your kill.

---

**Jennifer Widener**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Joella Uehling**

**Hartford SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Michelle Essink**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jodi Harbott**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Leave the big horn sheep alone!!!

---

**Jim Williams**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As an avid outdoors hunting enthusiasts and a resident of the area with the greatest connection to the Deadwood population, I oppose the addition of this Big Horn population to the hunting and harvest list. The area with well over 100 houses is not conducive to hunting nor is the population of sheep out of control.

---

**Linda Hehn**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

What a horrendous idea!!! We live 3 miles east of Deadwood in Boulder Canyon. The Bighorn Sheep have been a most welcome addition to our Deadwood area! They cause no problems. People love and enjoy them. The Bighorn Sheep have every bit as much right to live there peacefully as we do. Do you always have to view wildlife as something for humans to shoot and kill...just for sport??? What a sickening idea!!!

---

**Suzi Ryan**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There is not enough in the deadwood herd and they are generally in a residential area.

---

**Ian Williams Williams**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Starla Heller**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Becky Binder**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The Deadwood Big Horns are pretty much domesticated now. Unafraid of humans/traffic. We love them and leave them alone. They absolutely should not be hunted!!!

---

**Patricia Yanzick**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is ridiculous! Are the Bighorn sheep a problem? Is this a push by people that get so worked up by the animals on the highway and streets? The herd is becoming stronger and hardier. LEAVE THEM ALONE!

---

**Brenda Thomas**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Charlie Struble-Mook**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

They are like our town pet. This would be terrible.

---

**Kathy Kirby Eide**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please don't do this. They are really just establishing their home. It has not been that long since they were reinstated in our region. I would equate this hunting season of hunting BHS to hunting the mountain goats in Spearfish canyon.

---

**Jeanna Dewey**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Leave them alone

---

**Hanna Chachanko**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Darcy Latuseck**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Mallorie Rang**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose.

---

**Lenessa Keehn**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Elizabeth Carbo**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Hunting Deadwood's Big Horn sheep would be like shooting fish in a barrel. Strongly oppose this issue!

---

**Molly Brown**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We do not want our Big Horns being hunted!

---

**Mark Carbo**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

NO, NO, NO!!!!

---

**Karen Ballert**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please leave the Deadwood alone

---

**Jill Weber**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No hunting of the bighorns in the Deadwood area!

---

**Candy Winans**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kathy Mills**

**Box Elder SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Is it all about the \$\$\$\$

---

**Kerry Ruth**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The bighorn sheep in Deadwood are beloved by residents and visitors, alike. Please do not include them in the season.

---

**Janet Rau**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The bighorn sheep in the Black Hills are an important draw for tourists and hikers. We have to quit the idea that the state is all hunting focused.

---

**Joseph Vandenberg**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Barbara Harlan**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Richard Laderer**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The bighorn sheep should be left alone in Deadwood. They are iconic and bring so much excitement to our community. Why would you think about even possibly taking this away.

---

**Anna Ball**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Hideous idea. Like shooting fish in a fishbowl. They wander around and don't care about humans. This would be a travesty.

---

**Brandon Harvey**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Darla Aspen**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Wendy Marty**

**Mounds View MN**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Julie Reinert**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please leave our bighorn sheep in the black hills alone! I strongly oppose this!

---

**Misty Miller**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Leave our Sheep Alone!! It's bad enough that we have Mountain Lion Season!!

---

**Barbara Neubaum**

**Magnolia TX**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We stay in Deadwood for 3-4 months every summer and oppose hunting these beautiful animals. Us and our friends enjoy watching these beautiful animals.

---

**Sue Seykora**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sue Seykora**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Katelyn Johnson**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Amanda Farmer**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.



---

**Aryca Baumberger**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Madison Lukomski**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Dwayne Gilbert**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I work in Deadwood the sheep come and lay on the mat at the front door of Travelodge and stare inside, they have no fear of us and get within a few feet of employees and guest, would be like walking up the Fence in Newell and shooting sheep there absolutely no sport in it.

---

**Courtne Laudanskas**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Melinda Sweet**

**Hyannis NE**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kelly Harnett**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

If we are going to introduce them back into the area, we need to manage them responsibly. Stop seeing dollar signs so soon. The Deadwood herd was introduced in 2015 with 26 sheep. We had a 50% natural cull due to

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pneumonia and now have 25-30 in this unit. Ewes reach sexual maturity after 2 years and have one lamb per year. At this time, I oppose adding the Deadwood sheep to the hunting season. Now it now the time.

---

**Robert Wrigby**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Heather Tripp**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Randy Larson**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This hunt would be like going into a farmers field and shooting one of his cows.

---

**Robin Lucero**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Not the deadwood herd

---

**Sue Schwaneke**

**Rochford SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tabitha Espinoza**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The sheep are loved around Deadwood and are definitely not a nuisance or overpopulated. They are a beautiful feature to this area and cause no harm. And furthermore stay close to populated areas in the hills where shooting or hunting of any kind should not be legal. They are a wonderment in the Black hills.

---

**Missy John**

**Montrose SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tiffany Mckee**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Do you guys have other solutions besides to kill everything? Surely, someone there must have other ideas once in a while.

---

**Karolea Schnabel**

**Central City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Taylor Albright**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Stop killing stuff.

---

**Linda Lueders**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not allow hunting the Deadwood Big Horn sheep

---

**Mike Tripp**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

They are just now coming back, why take them away?

---

**Linda Mack**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I work in Deadwood and have also lived in Dwd/Lead where I raised my children. We Always enjoy seeing the Big horn sheep in Deadwood! The tourists Love seeing them as well! It has become part of Deadwood! They are not afraid of people and are not aggressive! I completely oppose of the hunting of our Big horn sheep in Deadwood! The thought of this makes me very upset and very sad!

---

**Andrea Parker**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It would be horrific if it was allowed to hunt the very animals that were brought to this area by choice. People love to see the Bighorn Sheep, please do not allow them to be hunted!!

---

**Garrett Kohler**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Stupid idea. Just because people are inconvenienced by them doesn't mean they should be killed for it.

---

**Kris Kinney**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Shelley Ebel**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Robin Cochran-Dirksen**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lori Fredericksen**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The sheep in Deadwood are too used to people and traffic to be a fair hunt. Nothing about them are wild.

---

**Tona Bergstrom**

**Longview WA**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Rules are confusing and considering the historical issues the herd have faced this is not the time

---

**Kelly Millard**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Beverly Posey**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These sheep were imported, nursed, and raised here in Deadwood. We fought through the virus killing them and prevailed. These Big Horn Sheep are a part of our community, they are 'domesticated' in any sense of the word and shooting them (for sport???) would be equivalent to shooting your milk cow!

---

**Tracey Charles**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Darcy Campbell**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lesley Jeffords**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Hunting the sheep would be a non-sports activity. I work at a hotel in Deadwood, the sheep will come up to the front door and look in! They will walk into traffic they have no fear of the human population. So where is the sport of hunting when they come up right to you. These sheep were brought here. So, if the population is too much then move the sheep to a safer location, like Custer or either of the Badlands, Devils tower. Please do not allow this.

---

**Anna Callahan**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Gwen Martin**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Shannon Zopp**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please leave the bighorn sheep alone

---

**Shannon Zopp**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please leave the bighorn sheep alone

---

**Liz Henneman**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

They are more like tame domesticated animals in Deadwood. Please don't allow a season on our big horns we have been watching grow for years.

---

**Lynn Bradley**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Rachel Williams**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Emily James**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These are pretty much domesticated and they shouldn't be allowed to hunt. It's not hunting when you can shoot an animal that you can walk up to and touch and it doesn't run away. Not ok at all.

---

**Carol Oolman**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

They are so cool to have near deadwood. Don't understand why they would do a season.

---

**Chris Rodriguez**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please Dont

---

**Wayne Gilbert**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Wayne Gilbert**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a bad idea. Those sheep don't need to be culled. Instead they need to be encouraged. They don't hunt the Elk who graze in downtown Estes Park.

---

**Nyla Griffith**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

What a ridiculous idea! This herd of Big Horn Sheep are near to pets in the Deadwood area. I live on Stage Run Rd and they live most of the time in our neighborhood. They are not very afraid of humans and will get within a few feet of us while we are outside, even while walking our dogs. This would be akin to shooting a cow in a



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farmers field. Please do not approve a Big Horn season especially on this herd in Deadwood!

---

**Dawn Paul**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The residents of lead and Deadwood South Dakota enjoy seeing the Sheep, their babies, and their antics. They're fun to watch they pose no immediate threat to anyone I think it's ridiculous that we are now after moving them here to our state that now we're going to have hunting season on them! This is truly truly wrong

---

**Donald Gifford**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kathryn Larsen**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Natasha Guilbert Fuller**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Like shooting an animal in a petting zoo.

---

**Jessie Young**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the Big Horn Sheep Season for a couple of reasons, based off of the very limited information I have read in the local newspapers.

I am sick and tired of humans playing God with animals. Animals are not on this planet to provide entertainment for humans. I feel like the people who feel like they are in charge like to introduce animals to an area and then

---

get annoyed if the animals don't behave as they expected them to. Or if an animal tries to introduce itself to the Black Hills or is just passing through people LOSE THEIR MINDS and it ends up getting shot.  
I realize a bighorn sheep Season is not going to make or break this particular population, I guess I am just deeply disappointed at how the people who are supposed to understand animals and respect wildlife the most, seem to care more about creating an opportunity for humans to kill them.

---

**Deb Fisher**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The bighorn sheep in Deadwood are a wonderful local, & tourist, attraction. To hunt an animal for sport is disgusting and not necessary for all animal species! Do not kill our bighorn sheep!

---

**Jane Staples**

**Central City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We moved them here now let them be

---

**Ronald Staples**

**Central City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No, no no

---

**Michelle Andresen**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There's no need to include this particular herd near Deadwood. Tourists and locals enjoy their visits near Deadwood.

---

**Drucella Thomas**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Dawn Coolley**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lauri Coolley**

**Marion IA**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These animals are harmless!!!! And domesticated!!!

PUT A MASSIVE SEASON ON MOUNTAIN LIONS and leave the mountain sheep ALONE!!!!

Respectfully, a former resident, now tourist who recommends the hills to a lot of people to see the longhorn sheep!!!!

---

**Robyn Kyte**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

They weren't brought here to hunt!! They are beautiful creatures and only need to be looked at

---

**Becca Vandine**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lester Robert**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The sheep have become a source of pride in the community. Maybe when the herd expands a bit more I might change my mind.

---

**Jane Hallberg**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Marcella Frye**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kimberly Davis**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Ethan Keehn**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lynette Kirkeby**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sam Hart**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Give them a couple more years to breed more then suggest a season

---

**Travis Floyd**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a ridiculous proposition seeing as how most big horns live and graze inside Deadwood city limits and the heard is not big enough for "management". This heard was brought here from out of state and collared, why would we want to kill them now?

I also foresee too much hunting too close to housing developments and city limits as the Big Horns literally live inside the city of Deadwood.

They are not a nuisance to any residents and are in fact an asset.

Lastly, Deadwood is and has been a tourist town and has become quite the family vacation destination year round. We don't want Deadwood to become a "hunters town" or hunting destination.

---

**Lesley Warren**

**Nemo SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am opposed to including this herd in the hunting permits/season. They're too tame to be hunted.

---

**Krista Morrison**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Too small a herd that doesn't require harvesting for disease and population control. Unnecessary hunt.

---

**Jami Morrison**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Not a food harvest, not a trophy hunt caliber animal. Not necessary.

---

**Melanie Bond**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Thank you for proactively managing the herds. I love viewing them and hope they stay healthy.

---

**Angela Bergman**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Talli Nauman**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

As a Lawrence County resident for more than 2 decades and a Black Hills based conservation advocate for more than 60 years, I see no reason to kill the Bighorn sheep here. You brought them here. Let them live.

---

**Lori Messner**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jessie Carsten**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Why bring them back to the area, just to kill them off again? If you don't like the sheep then don't look at them. If you want some to hunt go over and hunt them in some other place or country.

---

**Debbie Renner**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Many people enjoy seeing these amazing creatures.

---

**Randy, Sandy Aldrich**

**St. Onge SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Re: Big Horn Sheep in Deadwood SD.

It makes no sense to include this small herd into a larger hunting unit. The total herd count has dropped to almost half of the original herd that was transplanted here. It would take only ONE die-off issue to totally wipe

---

out the little group that's left. This little herd needs to be allowed to increase in numbers before inflicting any hunting pressure on them. It is unfair to this small, fragile herd to group them in with a bigger hunting unit for the sole purpose of "hunting revenues"! Please allow this Deadwood herd a few years to recover and increase from the horrible die-off of a few years ago.  
Thank you.

---

**Dan Ray**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These are still recovering from the sheep fu

---

**Gloria Harr**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Big Horn Sheep are not plentiful here in the Black Hills. If more money is needed to operate your department raise fees, not death to wildlife.

---

**Deb Rawlins**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Robert Hobernicht**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose bighorn sheep hunting

---

**Sarah Canida**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kaitlyn Martin**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Douglas Taylor**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Strongly oppose. What are you people thinking?!?!?!

---

**Brandi Pickering**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Michelle Jacobs**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Leave them alone, its not like people would eat the meat

---

**Linda Soderberg**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Growing up in the Northern Black Hills, I didn't ever have the thrill of seeing a Big Horn Sheep in the wild there. They have now reappeared around Lead-Deadwood, and no pun intended, but we must not jump the gun on hunting them. If there is any hunting allowed for herd management purposes, it must be very closely monitored, perhaps even carried out only by DNR personnel. Allowing open hunting of these special creatures would be a shame because having the sheep more prevalent in the Hills has added to the special allure and beauty of my birthplace. It has restored us to a past era of our history. They are a treasure so please protect and manage them appropriately. Thank you!



---

**Ken Motzko**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please leave them alone

The numbers are not that large and same with the goats

WE NEED OUR WILDLIFE

It's all about getting the money and I'am so sick of our wildlife always getting the short end so we can have more rich people come .

Now cities are killing the Deer because they harm people's vegetation or they are getting hit by cars that are speeding and not paying attention

I drive through the Spearfish Canyon at about 5 am

I have had people pass me going at least 60 miles an hour, believe me they don't have Deer or wildlife on their mind

But do I ever see anyone getting pulled over. NO

And now we are letting big money come in and destroy our beautiful black hills and Wildlife with their mansions  
PRETTY SAD

Where does it end ????

---

**Kelsey Isaak**

**Sturgia SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Collin Duprel**

**Vale SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Susan Deyer**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tacy Paul**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jennifer Dorrell**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Joshua Dittus**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please leave the black hills sheep alone

---

**Sharon Woodle**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Shad Brown**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am opposed to permitting the Deadwood herd to be hunted. There is no reason to allow this small herd to be hunted except for sport. They are far more valuable in our community as a tourist attraction.

---

**Rhonda Mcgrath**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Amaiya Sirignano**

**Blackhawk SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lisa Magelky**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Plus don't hunt these beautiful animals. They were brought on here please don't kill them. Enjoy seeing them all.

---

**Mary Hall**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I think this is a crying shame to even consider having these beautiful animals hunted down and killed!!

---

**Jacie Essink**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kitty Gregory**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Barbara Atchison**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

please relocate to reduce herd numbers, not hunt

---

**Sonya Papousek**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Bighorn sheep hunting season should be prevented for several important reasons, including the conservation of species, the ecological balance, and the ethical concerns surrounding hunting. Bighorn sheep, with their majestic horns and unique adaptations, are not only a symbol of wilderness but also a vital part of their ecosystem. Protecting them from hunting is essential to ensure their survival and the health of their habitat.

Bighorn sheep play a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance of their habitats. They help to shape the vegetation and provide food for predators. When hunting is allowed, it can disrupt the natural balance and lead to unintended consequences, such as the overpopulation of certain plant species or the decline of other animals that rely on bighorn sheep for balance in the food chain. Keeping hunting seasons closed until populations are stable can help maintain the health of the entire ecosystem. The herd in the Lead/Deadwood area is minimal.

Furthermore, ethical concerns arise when considering hunting as a sport. Many people believe that hunting for recreation is inhumane, especially when it targets a species that is already struggling. There is a growing awareness and opposition to hunting as society shifts towards more conservation-focused values. Instead of hunting, people can engage in wildlife watching, which not only supports tourism but also raises awareness about the importance of bighorn sheep and their habitats. The bighorn sheep frequent the areas of Lead and Deadwood bringing tons of photos, smiles, and lessons by parents to children about what this animal is. This alternative provides a moral high ground and supports local economies without the harm caused by hunting.

Preventing bighorn sheep hunting season is a necessary step towards ensuring the survival of this iconic species and maintaining the health of their ecosystems. With declining populations, potential ecological disruption, and ethical considerations, it is clear that hunting poses a risk that we should avoid. By prioritizing conservation and alternative forms of wildlife engagement, we can protect bighorn sheep and celebrate their presence in nature for future generations to come.

---

**Susan Winn**

**Douglas WY**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not include the Deadwood area in the hunting season. As someone who visits often, I consider it a special treat to see the sheep. According to the article, the herd is very small. Allowing them to be hunted would decimate the population.

---

**Kara Azevedo**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Ellen Fockler**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Bighorn Sheep in the wild (and especially at Mt. Rushmore) are a huge tourist draw.

---

**Ellen Fockler**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lindsay Thomas**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Emily Thomas**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Maxine Rappana**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Sherry Scherer**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Katie Tieman**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Charles Rappana**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Daniel Thomas**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Randall Mcgruder**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Herd is not large enough to have a season.

---

**Jacque Fuller**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Matt Klein**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Maria D**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lindsey Tinnell**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The big horn sheep are a beloved icon in the area. LEAVE THEM ALONE

---

**Wayne Kaip**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Amanda Hamak-Leon**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Robert Radensleben**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Brenda Belmonte**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

PLEASE do not include the Deadwood herd in the Bighorn sheep season. They are part of what makes Deadwood the amazing town it is! To open the herd up to hunting would diminish one of Deadwood's most popular attractions!

---

**David Ross**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

With Lawrence County Public Safety and The Lodge in Deadwood being right in their habitat let alone in Deadwood, a rifle season would be unsafe. Archery would be ok but it's not much of a hunt. They're basically tame to the area.

---

**Marisa Singer**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Louie Lalonde**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The Big Horn Sheep are a big part of what makes Deadwood so unique and visited by thousands. Please don't harm our sheep.

---

**Kaylene Herrman**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lita Westbrook**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Stop this from moving forward

---

**Tarah Myran**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.



---

**Chuck Wallin**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Joel Ellis**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This can't be serious? Why would we relocate animals to the area only to hunt them years later? They're far from overpopulated. Yall are ridiculous for even considering this measure.

---

**Misty Asermely**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

These guys are an icon to our town and area. We don't need to be putting them on walls.

---

**Douglas Asermely**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There's enough trophy hunting in this state. We don't need to add to it with an animal that is iconic to Deadwood and the area.

---

**Stephanie Farrokhi**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Amber Abernathy**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tammy Ring-Gjerde**

**Vale SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lori Middlemas**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kristi Sutton**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Charlotte Abernathy**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Amanda Nehmer**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tina Murray Murray**

**Eugene, Or (Eug-Mahlon Sweet  
Field) SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Nancy Haney**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kate Denoma**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Elise Hilt**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Holly Arlaud**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Do not open hunting near Deadwood for the bighorn sheep!!!

---

**Jaydah Wickenhagen**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**David Belmonte**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There has been recent news coverage of possible permission for hunting of the Deadwood bighorn sheep herd. As a resident of the area I am opposed to any hurting of this herd for several reasons. First, this has become a tourist attraction to the area. It is one of the many reasons people come to this area and contribute to the tourism industry. Second, the intent of this herd was to repopulate the area. We should continue to allow for the herd to grow and relocate as needed. Lastly, with the proximity to town, we should avoid hunting in this immediate area. Areas of the badlands would be far more appropriate for this type of hunting. Thank you for your consideration and opportunity to comment.

---

**Jaclyn Smith**

**St.Onge SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Barbara Peterson**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There are so few here. Please don't kill any of them.

---

**Lynda Duckett**

**Homosassa FL**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kaycee Konvalin**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Leave them babies alone. They chillin <3

---

**Amber Webb**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We don't have a large population of bighorn. Hunting at this stage is unnecessary. They are in no danger of starvation due to overpopulation. This is nothing more than a money grab.

---

**Alana Murray-Janssen**

**Parmelee SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Charla Smith**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Opposed

---

**Rick Engle**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please leave the big horn sheep around Deadwood and Spearfish Canyon area. Public and tourist love watching and it's so exciting when you go that area that you actually get to see them

---

**Tanya Heller**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No hunting leave these animals alone

---

**James Hieft**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Leave the sheep alone!

---

**Deb King**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Why would you want to do this? EVERYTHING about this is WRONG and stupid. they are doing harm, and People enjoy watching and seeing them. Please leave them alone.

---

**Mitchel Roemer**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Not in deadwood area

---

**Chloe Ager**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a Deadwood resident I am STRONGLY against bighorn sheep season for a couple reasons:  
- They have become a staple here in Deadwood for everyone, residents and tourists alike. They're Deadwood pets that were transported here as a protected heard and now they're a target for hunters? Defeats the purpose of a protected and TAGGED HERD. THESE ANIMALS ARE TAGGED. TAGGED.  
-As a Deadwood resident and employee, I have seen a wide array of people who partake in different activities around this hills. Hunting in this area is not safe as it can have dense foot traffic from hikers, bikers, cross country skiers, snowmobilers, trail riders with horses, atvs and side by sides driving everywhere during the summer ITS SIMPLY NOT SAFE. anyone could be anywhere in the hills at any time.

---

**Jill Olson**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Toms Stephanie**

**Middleburg FL**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a person who grew up in the Lead-Deadwood area, the thought of the sheep not welcoming me home when I visit is appalling. There are many other hunting opportunities in the state i ask that they not be one.

---

**Marianna Morrison**

**Dayton OH**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kathy Gott**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

They were here first, let them be.

---

**Jim Simbeck**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Some of nature's most majestic beauty should be saved as nature has intended. I have never seen the numbers of either Bighorn sheep or even Mt Goats anywhere near the numbers that need to be thinned out just for sport

---

**Sue Hohenthauer**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Connie Schlepp**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The Deadwood sheep are no longer wild and would be like shooting neighborhood dogs. They are part of the tourist experience.

---

**Connie Schlepp**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

The Deadwood sheep are no longer wild and would be like shooting neighborhood dogs. They are part of the tourist experience.

---

**Colleen Hyde**

**Houston TX**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Todd Madsen**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Rayetta Johnson**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am strongly against this.

---

**Sarina Strickland**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Olivia Wulff**

**Watertown SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.



---

**Sj Addington**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Why on earth would you do this? Please leave the sheep alone.

---

**Bob Wilson**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Shari Kosel**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please see the attached letter and photos in opposition to the Deadwood Bighorn Sheep hunting proposal.

---

**Paulette Kirby**

**Silver City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Nyla Griffith**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This herd of Big Horns living in the Deadwood area has been welcomed into the community and are very nearly tame. A hunter would simply walk up to one and shoot it from a distance of 5 feet. This is not sport but slaughter!

---

**Rose Speirs**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please oppose this idea. It is not a good in any way, shape, or form for Deadwood or Lawrence County in general.

---

**George (Les) Heiserman**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose including the Deadwood herd to the Hell Canyon numbers. This would put the Hell Canyon bighorns at risk of being hunted, when their numbers are already admittedly low. I don't think it's appropriate to 'move the goalposts' from standards already set. If there aren't enough bighorns in a designated area, there aren't enough bighorns.

---

**Heather Nash**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lynelle Houwman**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We are just getting the herd built up. Sickness could reduce the herd to nothing. So please no hunting.

---

**Peggy Dibbern**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not believe the two herd numbers should be combined to achieve a hunting quota.

---

**Sandra Mahan**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Absolutely think inclusion of the Deadwood sheep is a NO No. I am totally against it

---

**William Trewhella**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lisa Sihrer**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Patricia Simpson**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not combine the Deadwood herd with the others and open a hunting season!!! Please realize many of us enjoy the beautiful wildlife ALIVE.... and HUNTING is NOT the only tourism to be nurtured!!!!!!

---

**Valerie Kohlmeyer**

**Wolsey SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There is no reason to include the Canyon sheep in this count. There should be NO open season on these sheep. The numbers are low, so there should be no hunting at all. Is this being done to bring the money in from the license? Sorry not a good enough reason!

---

**Sue Schaefer**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Nancy Mcguigan**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Nancy Fixen**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Loren Schaefer**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Catherine Raye**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Deadwood bighorns should not be used to increase numbers for Hells Canyon herd.

---

**Donna Moe**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Please do not include Deadwod sheep in the hunt area.

---

**Diane Mckelvey**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not include the Big Horn Sheep of Deadwood to hunt

---

**Elizabeth Spawn**

**Geddes SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Pamela Merrell**

**Black Hawk SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Deadwood sheep Should NOT BE Included in this Hunt, or any Sheep in the Black Hills. People Love to watch them along side the road ways. They are use to people/ vehicles. You think this is actually gonna be a Hunt. Well, it won't be hard to get one. Thwy are not very timid at all.

---

**Louisa Stone**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Amanda Kille**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I am not opposed to hunting or the management of a wild animal population. However, a bighorn sheep hunting season in Lawrence County, South Dakota is morally wrong because these animals have lost their natural fear of humans and vehicles, making them easy targets for hunters. Rather than engaging in a challenging and ethical pursuit, the hunt becomes a slaughter, devoid of the respect and skill that should characterize responsible hunting practices. The bighorn sheep, once wild and elusive, have been reduced to sitting ducks in a spectacle that is neither sporting nor fair, undermining the essence of conservation and ethical hunting. These animals are practically pets.

---

**Jensen Cj**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Gloria Harr**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tacy Paul**

**Punta Gorda FL**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Is South Dakota so broke that it's trying to scrape money from murdering animals that you can practically walk to and pet? That's not hunting, that's slaughter. I was born and raised in the Black Hills and am tired of Game Fish & Parks cavalier attitude toward wildlife. Your job is also to protect and preserve South Dakota's wildlife, not just slaughter it! Do your job for once.

---

**Anita Gould**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose including Deadwood big horn sheep numbers with hells canyon big horn sheep .

---

**Julie Anderson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

To expand where you can kill bighorn sheep, whose population continues to struggle, makes no sense. According to a GPF official, the reason for this amendment is to be able to kill one of these healthy animals before they die of disease or old age. This justification alone makes this amendment unacceptable.

---

## Mountain Goat Action Plan/Season

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**Dillon Morris**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kassandra Hase**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lori Tetreault**

**Whitewood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Gun crazy state! Why eliminate another innocent species just to adorn a prize head on their bragging wall! Sad and pathetic that this is even considered.

---

**Missy John**

**Montrose SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jill Nelson**

**New York SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I've followed the lives and antics of these sheep. Their family relationships, new babies, and activities. I used to live in the hills and am planning to visit so I can see them and photograph them. The idea that you want to shoot them is disturbing

---

**Kelly Millard**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Shannon Zopp**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Ingrid Hayward**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Becca Vandine**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Becca Vandine**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Lynette Kirkeby**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Starlett Reed**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please leave the Deadwood Mountain Goats alone! There aren't that many of them, the tourists love them, and so do all of us locals.



---

**Jodi Harbott**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Absolutely oppose!!! The population of sheep is few compared to the the enjoyment they bring to thousands of people every year.  
Leave them alone!!!

---

**Cheryl Ausmann-Moreno**

**Milwaukie OR**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

My folks are both from there and we have many relatives still living there. It would be a shame to risk losing them.

---

**John Singer**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Trinity Conrad**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jon Olson**

**Madison SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

It's time to give up on mt. goats. They're not native, they constantly getting pneumonia, at best, you get 4 tags when the lions don't feast on them. Not to mention the fact that they're now all inbred, which means big money to bring fresh goats. Let them go.

---

**Gregg Yonkovich**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I believe GF&P should allow residents to apply for a Mtn Goat preference point every year, regardless of license availability. I would love to build preference points in the event there's a season in the future. \$10 for a preference point is well worth it. Chances of drawing when there is a season are so slim that I'm pretty much making a donation regardless of hunting season status. Preference point funds could be used to help with Mtn Goat management program.

---

**Stephanie Lee**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I would like to see the current plan stay in effect. I think the mountain goats are definitely helping with tourist- and local- attention increasing.

---

**Mary Mickley**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I would like to see the goats in Soearfish Canyon left alone. I'd also like to see people fined for harassing them with drones and excessive speed in the canyon. We love seeing them in their natural form and watching them as they scale the cliffs and eat near the byway. Please do not disturb what nature is giving us by moving any portion of this herd and letting all of us enjoy them!

---

**Vicki Strickland**

**Lead SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please leave the Spearfish Canyon Mountain Goats alone!!!

---

**Debra L Lynn**

**Bend OR**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

As a frequent visitor from Oregon to your beautiful area, I want to implore you to do whatever is necessary to protect the herd of mountain goats in Spearfish Canyon. These beautiful beings are such a delight to observe for locals and visitors alike. Your protection of the herd will be a significant addition when folks like my family decide to return again and again to watch them grow in their wild environment. They are always a big draw for us as we decide what activities to schedule for our time in the Black Hills. If tourists and their dollars are important to you, I think a wise decision would be to support this herd in whatever ways you can. Thank you for considering my opinion and my concerns and hopes.

---

**George (Les) Heiserman**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Generally, I'd like to see the mountain goat management plan stay as it is. I am concerned any proposed changes may open the door for a hunting season, when the number are so low.

I've seen it proposed to relocate mountain goats to big game area #1 to get the numbers up. This shouldn't be the Spearfish Canyon mountain goats, I think the mountain goats in Spearfish Canyon should be left alone, they seem to be doing fine there. The mountain goats there are thriving, and spreading out. They've become a popular attraction, maybe Spearfish Canyon has become the most accessible place to view them. One of the objectives of the current management plan is:

"Promote viewability of mountain goats for the enjoyment of the public."

and that's being achieved.

Another objective from the current management plan is:

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

It'd be nice to inform the public better on how to act around mountain goats, keeping their distance, and not trying to feed them.

I'd like to see the current plan stay in effect. If, and when, the numbers come back to justify a hunting season, so be it. But the mountain goats in Spearfish Canyon should not be moved or hunted, they are more valuable to more of the public just the way they are.

---

**Kurt Austad**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

In general, the Action Plan was well done. I did not see anything about population objectives or how to achieve them if nature doesn't cooperate (like transplant strategy, etc.). It seemed like the approach is to monitor the herd and hope for the best. Thanks for all the work that was put into the plan and for your support of mountain goats in SD. I live in prime goat country and enjoy seeing them on a regular basis.

---

**Donna Trimble**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Spearfish canyon should not become a hunting unit for the mountain goat herd or any other wild game. It should be a preserve. A place where the public can enjoy the wildlife as well as the scenic beauty it offers.

---

**Heide Drolc**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please leave the Spearfish Canyon heard alone. We enjoy then tremendously and don't believe that the monies earned is worth the loss of theses beautiful creatures that bring so much excitement and joy to everyone who travels the canyon. Thank you

---

## Mountain Lion Hunting Season

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**Jane Staples**

**Central City S.D SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

We moved into there land . Leave them be don't kill them

---

**Anna Ball**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Enough is enough. I have lived in the Hills for 30 years and with hiking, mountain biking and running I have NEVER seen a lion. Just stop.

---

**Missy John**

**Montrose SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Shannon Zopp**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Collin Duprel**

**Vale SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Jim Hagen**

**Britton SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Makes sense to be able to start a track on public ground.

---

**Taylor Custis**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Support hound use 100%.

---

**Cody Johnson**

**Belle Fourche SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I support MORE hunting rights on "public" land. Even with hounds. It's public. Hound hunters should have the same rights as everyone else.

---

**Tate Wells**

**Prairie City SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

As a South Dakota Houndsman, I am in favor of the verbiage change to the rules, starting a track on public land. This is a great opportunity for Houndsman.

---

**Jeffrey Krolkowski**

**Winner SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I believe this is important not only to be just to our use of public lands but also I see it as necessary in the very near future for controlling a population that is rising fast outside the fire district. I know this because I personally have seen the population of lions moving east from the hills now as far as the Missouri River . And I mean

---

breeding populations.

---

**Jeremy Wells**

**Sturgis SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I strongly support the use of hounds on public lands and to be able to start the track there as well

---

**Cody Schultz**

**Tulare SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Management with hounds is very understand rated. Being able to judge what you're shooting with the control of hounds is the best method! Being able to start a track with hounds on public would be a huge step in the right direction. Next is to open a hounds season in the black hills!

---

**Sherri Vig**

**Vale SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Corey Jonas**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Michael Buckingham**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose allowing dogs outside of the BH Fire Protection District for hunting Mt. Lions. Keep it to CSP

---

**Justin Sherwood**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I support the use of hounds on public land for the pursuit of mountain lions. Public lands should be open to those who want to use this space to recreate in all forms of hunting where seasons are in place.

I further more support the use of hounds within in the fire protection district. Not only is use of hounds the most effective tool to properly manage the species, this land should also be open to other forms of take where seasons are already in place.

---

**Stacey Sherwood**

**Piedmont SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Tel Koan**

**Buffalo SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Let us use hounds ANYWHERE outside the fire district so we can get a better control on the population, while also a better selective harvest taking the time to judge a treed cat.

---

**Bret Robertson**

**Box Elder SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

Allow the use of starting a track on public ground, not having to start on private first!

---

**Christian Hagen**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I support houndsmen being allowed to utilize public lands that they pay just as much for as any other sportsmen.

---

**Kim Stroppel**

**Box Elder SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Think they should be able to start on gov land

---

**Zane Lewis**

**Fort Pierre SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Mike Rogers**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Zaine Wood**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Patrick Weimer**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** support

**Comment:**

I support the changes proposed by the department for lion season changes. Our public land should be use by the public and and not land locked for the use by a very small group of individuals.

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**Renee Lefthand**

**Freeman SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.



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**Renee Lefthand**

**Freeman SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Trisha Rasmussen**

**Summerset SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Denise Maher**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I do not support use of hounds for hunting. Too much private land is intermingled with public land. As a property with horses and livestock, backed up to forest land, I do NOT want hounds chasing a big cat across my property. Private land owners have rights.

---

**Alexey Egorov**

**Brookings SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Leave animals alone. Let them live their lives on their land. Go shoot at a shooting range or at clay pigeons. Shame to GFP.

---

**Samantha Slocum**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Leisa Bailey**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

An outdated barbaric way to hunt.  
I oppose.

---

**Susan Schlichenmayer**

**Pierre SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Patricia Winter**

**Custer SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Public lands belong to ALL of us not just a few trophy hunters! Expanding these practices makes survival even harder for our SD already vulnerable wildlife! I DO NOT support mounting lion hunting period!!! Vote it DOWN!!

---

**Ann Tweedy**

**Vermillion SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not authorize mountain lion hunting with dogs. This is cruel and inhumane to dogs and lions. It will also interfere with boot hunting. It is not supported by sound science. Has the mountain lion population been studied to demonstrate that there are too many? There is a grave danger of disrupting the ecological balance by engaging in this activity. It is archaic to simply view wildlife as the enemy that must be exterminated.

---

**Janine Love**

**Temecula CA**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Too much room is already given-NO MORE!!!

---

**Louise McGannon**

**9999 SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose this bill. We do not need more mountain lion hunting. They are an important piece of our ecosystem and humans shoot and do not understand how nature works. It is obvious that we don't. Otherwise

---

towns wouldn't be overrun with deer. You are killing the predators. The public already laments about deer, killing more mountain lions will compound the problem.

---

**Nancy Evans**

**Lincoln SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Stop this cruelty!!

---

**Kathy Gerash**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Instead of expanding the area for this cruel and completely unnecessary activity to encourage a minority percentage of the SD pop with "hunting licenses" you should protect the wildlife remaining in beautiful South Dakota for the other 75% ++ of the pop to enjoy knowing that wildlife may live without cruel torture endorsed by the state. This is 2025, can we please move towards protection of our natural resources for the benefit of everyone? Blowing the brains out of a creature made helpless by virtue of a rubberstamp by the state and probably in front of children dressed in their new hunting gear does not make a guy or girl tough, just makes them fakes.

---

**Amy Carr**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Cruel. Unnecessary. Counter-productive .

---

**Amy Carr**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Cruel unnecessary counter-productive

---

**Paula Pillatzki**

**Labolt SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Kelly Harmett**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a former wildlife biologist who believes hunting is an important tool for managing wildlife to express my strong opposition to the use of hounds for hunting mountain lions in South Dakota. Allowing this practice poses significant ethical, ecological, and public safety concerns that outweigh any perceived benefits.

1. Ethical Concerns

Hound hunting is widely regarded as an inhumane and unnecessary method of pursuit. It subjects mountain lions to extreme stress and exhaustion, often leading to prolonged chases that can result in injury or even death from overheating and exertion. Additionally, dependent kittens can be orphaned, drastically reducing their chances of survival.

2. Ecological Balance and Conservation

Mountain lions play a critical role in maintaining the health of South Dakota's ecosystems by regulating prey populations, such as deer. Overharvesting these apex predators can lead to an imbalance in the natural food chain, causing unintended consequences for other wildlife species. South Dakota's mountain lion population is already limited, and excessive hunting—especially with hounds—risks pushing the species toward unsustainable levels.

3. Public Safety and Landowner Concerns

The use of hounds in mountain lion hunting increases the likelihood of conflicts between hunters, private landowners, and the general public. Dogs may trespass onto private property, disrupting livestock, disturbing other wildlife, and creating unnecessary risks. Furthermore, pursuing a cornered or distressed mountain lion increases the chance of dangerous encounters, not only for hunters but also for non-hunters who may be recreating in the area.

4. Fair Chase and Sportsmanship

Using hounds to pursue mountain lions removes the principles of fair chase, which are fundamental to ethical hunting. Unlike traditional spot-and-stalk methods, hound hunting gives hunters an unfair advantage by exhausting the animal until it is too weak to escape, which is not in line with responsible wildlife management or ethical hunting traditions.

Given these concerns, I strongly urge South Dakota policymakers and wildlife officials to reject any proposals allowing hound hunting of mountain lions. Sustainable wildlife management should be based on science, ethics, and respect for the natural balance of our ecosystems, rather than on controversial and inhumane hunting methods.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

---

**Andrea Parker**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This is a cruel and unacceptable practice. Please don't allow it to expand even further than it already has.

---

**Peggy Mann**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Strongly oppose.  
They need protection.

---

**Debra Taylor**

**Denver CO**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose hunting of any predators! Nature designed them to control diseases! I am a prion diseases researcher and killing predators got you all the CWD.

---

**Nastaran Rahnema**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

My name is Nastaran Rahnema, I am a documentary filmmaker and have been following the situation of the hunting mountain lions. I am opposed to this cruel and unethical behaviour that a small group of people and their wrong activity are doing for money making. This is a public land and it is discussing seeing hounding and any other forms of destroying our environment and the wildlife, it is embarrassing from an international perspective how badly the wildlife is protected. These animals are a part of the ecosystem and are crucial to maintaining our healthy ecosystem. Please stop!

---

**Jennifer Haskell**

**Dell Rapids SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

There is no data or current science that shows cougars are adversely affecting ungulate populations in South Dakota. There is; however, plenty of science showing that hunting cougars negatively affects cougar population dynamics. This same science shows that cougar hunting increases the likelihood of conflict with livestock, pets and people. The science is also clear that cougar populations are self regulated by territorial defense, i.e. they regulate themselves.

By extending trophy hunting there becomes more risk to both cougars and the dogs (which I am vehemently opposed to hunting with dogs). Hunters cannot guarantee lions don't have cubs (reference the science regarding conflict if a mother cougar is killed and kittens are left abandoned).

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This is a horrible idea in general but an even worse one to extend the season. Please oppose this action.  
Reference: Dr Mark Elbroch - Cougar Biologist

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**Carolyn Larson**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This practice is cruel and barbaric to both the lions and dogs, especially on the prairie where there are no trees or other means for the lions to escape. It is not sport. Public lands and wildlife belong to all of us, not just a few trophy hunters. A Majority of South Dakotans oppose hound hunting. What do we teach our children ? Be Kind. Please Be Kind.

---

**Lori Hubert**

**Elkton SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Please do not allow mountain lion hunting with hounds. How do you expect the lions to get away? There are fewer trees for them to climb up, no really good way to get away. Do we really need "blood money" to hunt these animals?? I would believe it to be a danger to the hounds also . If the were to corner a big cat the dogs could get hurt. If a person wants to hunt them, it's my belief it should be done with dogs. A hunter can track on their own with out dogs!

---

**Sue Hayes**

**Deadwood SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

---

**Dean Parker**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to item number 11 on your March meeting agenda — the proposal to expand the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting. Hound hunting is a cruel and unsporting practice. Using dogs to chase mountain lions down to exhaustion is cruel to the lion and unsafe for the dogs. Hound hunting on the prairie is especially dangerous – fewer trees can make encounters especially violent, as there is no place for the lion to escape the dogs until the hunter can shoot it. Public lands belong to all of us, not just a small special interest group. Please vote against expanding hound hunting opportunities in our state.

---

**Sara Parker**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

As a lifelong resident of South Dakota, I'm writing to strongly oppose the Mountain Lion Hunting Season proposal, which would allow for increased use of dogs for hunting mountain lions in our state.

Hound hunting is an inhumane and dangerous practice. It not only results in the injury and death of the wild animal, but often puts the dogs at serious risk. Mountain lions are run to the point of exhaustion — and if they're unable to escape by climbing a tree, any of the animals involved can be mauled or killed.

Hound hunting on the prairie is especially dangerous — with fewer trees and natural cover, mountain lions have nowhere to escape. This can lead to prolonged, violent encounters where the animal is cornered and attacked by dogs until the hunter arrives to shoot it.

Beyond the cruelty, this practice also raises serious public safety and private property concerns. Packs of dogs can chase animals for miles, often far beyond their handler's control. These dogs don't recognize property boundaries or "No Trespassing" signs, creating conflicts for landowners and threats to other animals.

Please don't let the agenda of a small special interest group dictate the policy towards our wildlife. South Dakota wildlife and public lands belong to all South Dakotans to enjoy, not just a select few.

I urge you to reject this proposal and prioritize responsible, humane wildlife management practices.

---

**Amy Cerwick**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Oppose! This is disgusting and inhumane! Absolutely awful for dogs and the cats alike. Hunters should be ashamed! Lets do better South Dakota!

---

**Julie Anderson**

**Rapid City SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

Hound hunters are not entitled to more land to hunt mountain lions, most especially on our public lands, which belong to everyone. Public lands on the prairie are especially vulnerable to violent confrontations between dog packs and mountain lions due to lack of trees and make this amendment unacceptable.

---

**Dustin Wiseman**

**Bryant SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I'm in support of mt lion hunting. I'm opposed to expanding the use of dogs. I think it should be fair chase/luck. I appreciate the training efforts that people put into their hunting dogs. In the case of pheasant hunting for example...dogs help find and retrieve the birds, but this does not affect those who hunt pheasant without dogs. Any area that hounds are allowed for mt lion hunting, would destroy the chances for someone like me hunting

---

without dogs. IF the mt lion population needs to be reduced and the current season isn't getting it done, maybe have a short window, late in the season that dogs are allowed. That would still give the hunters without dogs a chance to fill a tag.

---

**John Buxton**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Story Warren**

**Bend OR**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

## Other

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**Robert Eddy**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I encourage the commission to establish a license allocation formula for the Special Buck tags. Currently, it is a content Resident 500 Any and 500 Whitetail, Non-Resident 500 Any and 500 Whitetail. This number does not account for population fluctuations and disregards wildlife management practices. Allocations should be based on percentage of tags allowed to general public (WR & ER). Thank you!

---

**Jon Olson**

**Madison SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I'm not sure when deer management plan is set to expire, I believe, there are somethings that must be addressed regardless.

- 1) no reason for a person to have 4 any deer tags. 2 is enough.
  - 2) manage mule deer as trophy species like sheep and elk. NR will not be allowed to take mule deer on public land any weapon.
  - 3) make all land touching missouri river a limited access unit for archery.
  - 4) CNF will be either 500 res & 125 NR or 400 res & 100 NR
- Not the BS you snuck in last year of 400 res & 125 NR.



---

Jon Olson  
Madison

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**Terry Roper**  
**Rapid City SD**  
**Position:** other

**Comment:**

I feel it is discriminatory not being able to apply for all deer licenses on the first drawing and then it is the luck of the draw whether you achieve a license or not. Last year I did not draw any rifle deer licenses. Because of your laws you are being discriminatory and limiting hunters opportunities.

---

**Terry Roper**  
**Rapid City SD**  
**Position:** other

**Comment:**

Why are landowners getting the first opportunity for Elk licenses out of the pool. That is discriminatory. They should have to apply the same time as everyone else. Because you own land and have elk on your property so many days of the year you get preference? It is very similar to all the pay hunting. The public land is overcrowded, and it seems hunting is becoming nothing but a rich person's opportunity.

---

**William Ball**  
**Tyndall SD**  
**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the expansion of hounding in any form

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**Georgiaann Ball**  
**Tyndall SD**  
**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

I oppose the expansion of hounding in any form

---

**Jon Kludt**

**Mitchell SD**

**Position:** other

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

## Public Lands and Waters

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**Joseph Vandenberg**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

## Special Deer and Special Antelope

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**Robert Eddy**

**Spearfish SD**

**Position:** oppose

**Comment:**

This license has a specific number set every year despite wildlife populations fluctuating. This creates an unfair distribution of licenses to the general draw recipients when unit allocation varies. Please base the number of licenses on current or previous years general tag distribution to better manage wildlife numbers in leaner years and to more fairly show that the GFP values general sportsmen/women the same as outfitters/guides. Thank you!

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

The March 2025 South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Regular Commission Meeting will be held March 6-7, 2025, at the Ramkota Convention Center located at 920 W Sioux Ave, Pierre, SD 57501. This meeting will be held in person, Zoom Webinar, and Livestream.

Listen to the meeting beginning March 6, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. CST via Livestream at <https://www.sd.net/remotetv/> 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, March 6, 2025, starting at 1:00 p.m. CST**
- **Friday, March 7, 2025, starting at 8:00 a.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 Gail Buus at [gail.buus@state.sd.us](mailto:gail.buus@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 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.**

  
[Stephanie Rissler \(Feb 28, 2025 11:33 CST\)](#)

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Stephanie Rissler, GFP Commission Chair