



## COMMISSION AGENDA Game, Fish and Parks Commission

October 6-7, 2022

The Outdoor Campus – Rapid City  
4130 Adventure Trail | Rapid City, SD 57702

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### CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 1:00 PM MT / 2:00 PM CST – DAY 1, 11:56 MARK

Vice chairman Robert Whitmyre called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm MT at the Outdoor Campus in Rapid City, South Dakota. Commissioners Travis Bies, Jon Locken, Julie Bartling, Robert Whitmyre, and Chuck Spring were present. The public and staff could listen via SDPB Livestream, participate via video conference, or in person, with approximately 57 total participants via Zoom or in person.

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### DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

#### 1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE – DAY 1, 00:00:13 MARK

Vice chairman Whitmyre called for a conflict of interest to be disclosed. *None were present.*

#### 2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2022 MEETING – DAY 1, 00:00:30 MARK

Vice chairman Whitmyre called for any additions or corrections to the regular meeting minutes of August 31-September 1, 2022. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>. *Motion by Bartling with second by Locken to APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### 3. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER SALARY DAYS – DAY 1, 00:01:38 MARK

Vice chairman Whitmyre called for additional salary days. No additional commission salary days were submitted for approval.

#### 4. GO OUTDOORS SOUTH DAKOTA UPDATE - DAY 1, 00:02:21

Scott Simpson, Parks & Recreation Director, updated the commission on Go Outdoors South Dakota. Since launching, Go Outdoors South Dakota has recorded over 1.3 million users to the new website, resulting in over 20 million total page views and generating over \$25 million in system revenue by processing over two million items sold for parks, hunting, and fishing-related items. Most limited draws are complete for 2022. Staff processed, printed, and mailed over 15,000 landowner licenses for this fall's deer seasons. In addition, the department completed the Black Hills Elk Contingency licenses where over 2,000 applicants applied for 22 antlerless elk licenses. Preference points became available for all customers from October 4 to January 4. This open period is delayed from the historic September 15 to December 15 dates but was necessary to ensure that everything is accurate and correct for customers to purchase all applicable preference points for use in future hunting seasons in the new licensing system.

#### 5. MARKETING UPDATE FOR PHEASANT HUNTING – DAY 1, 00:12:51 MARK

Nick Harrington, Communications Manager, provided an update on the pheasant marketing efforts. GFP is in its third year of a pheasant marketing campaign with the South Dakota Department of Tourism that works to recruit, retain, and reactivate resident and nonresident pheasant hunters.

#### 6. NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS – DAY 1, 00:48:35 MARK

Commissioners were introduced to new staff.

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### PUBLIC HEARING – 2:00 PM MT / 1:00 PM CST – DAY 1, 00:59:58 MARK

Jon Kotilnek, senior staff attorney, opened the floor to testimony from those in attendance on matters of importance to them that may not be on the agenda. The public hearing started at 2:01 pm MT, with no persons testifying. The public hearing concluded at 2:02 pm CT. Public hearing minutes following these commission meeting minutes.

## OPEN FORUM – FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING – DAY 1, 01:01:09 MARK

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Jon Kotilnek, senior staff attorney, opened the floor for discussion from those in attendance on matters of importance to them that may not be on the agenda. The open forum started at 2:07 pm MT.

- Matthew Kammerer of Rapid City provided comment on the Rapid City Shooting Range.
- Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk representing the Prairie Hills Audubon Society provided comment on the beaver depredation program, the nest predator bounty program, mountain lions, and lead bullets at the Rapid City Shooting Range.
- Jamie Al-Haj of Rapid City provided comment on the nest predator bounty program.

The open forum concluded at 2:16 pm MT.

## PROPOSALS

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### 7. PET ALLOWANCE IN PARK FACILITIES – CHAPTERS 41:03:01 – DAY 1, 01:14:09 MARK, DAY 2- 02:00:15 MARK

Department proposed changes:

1. Current administrative rule does not allow for pets in department camping facilities except under certain circumstances.
2. The proposed rule change would allow for customers to pay a pet fee and have their pet stay in the cabin or suite.

*Day 1: Motioned by Locken, seconded by Bartling to APPROVE THE PROPOSAL. Voting Yes: Spring, Bartling, Locken, Whitmyre. Voting No: Bies. Motion failed due to the lack of a full commission majority.*

*Day 2: Motioned by Bies, seconded by Locken to RECONSIDER THE PET ALLOWANCE IN PARK FACILITIES PROPOSAL. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Motioned by Bartling, seconded to Spring to APPROVE THE AMENDED PROPOSAL WHICH UTILIZES THE WORDING 'CATS & DOGS' IN LIEU OF 'PETS'. Motion carried unanimously.*

### 8. PET ALLOWANCE FEE – CHAPTERS 41:03:01 - DAY 2, 00:04:13 MARK

Department proposed changes:

1. Current administrative rule does not allow for pets in department camping facilities except under certain circumstances.
2. the proposed rule change would establish a pet accommodation fee for pets that stay at cabins, lodges, or suites.

*Motioned by Bies, seconded by Bartling to APPROVE THE PROPOSAL. Motion carried unanimously.*

## FINALIZATIONS

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### 9. SPRING TURKEY – DAY 1, 01:28:22 MARK

#### 9A. CUSTER STATE PARK SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTER 41:06:15

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Change the season state date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in April to the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in April.
2. Format and style changes for maximum number of licenses and preference point unit.

Department recommended changes to proposal: None

*Motioned by Bies and seconded by Locken to APPROVE THE FINALIZATION. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### 9B. SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON – CHAPTERS 41:06:13 & 41:03:01

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Adjust the maximum number of licenses available in administrative rule from no more than 5,807 to 10,000 one-tag “male turkey” licenses and from no more than 600 to 2,500 two-tag “male turkey” licenses.
2. Change the proposed season start date from the 3rd Saturday in April to the 4th Saturday in April for the Black Hills spring turkey season.
  - a. April 22 – May 31, 2023
  - b. April 27 – May 31, 2024
3. Eliminate Unit BST-BH2, which provides for a second Black Hills spring turkey licenses for resident hunters.
4. For Archery and mentored spring turkey licenses, season start dates would align with the prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively.
5. For The Fall River prairie hunting unit, remove the allowance to hunt within one mile of the Cheyenne River in the Black Hills hunting unit.

Department recommended changes to proposal: None

*Motioned by Bies and seconded by Bartling to APPROVE THE FINALIZATION. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### FORMAL ADOPTION OF HUNTING UNIT LICENSE ALLOCATIONS – DAY 1, 01:34:14 MARK

*Motioned by Bartling, seconded by Locken to ADOPT THE PROPOSED SPRING TURKEY HUNTING SEASONS – HUNTING UNIT LICENSE ALLOCATIONS. Motion carried unanimously.*

## DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

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### 10. ANGOSTURA CONCESSION LEASE - DAY 1, 01:35:41 MARK

Sean Blanchette, Environment and Cultural Resource Specialist, provided an update on the Angostura concession prospectus which expired on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Department received one proposal, which was from the existing concessionaire and does meet the requirements in the prospectus and accepted the terms of the advertised draft lease. Blanchette stated that it is an acceptable proposal, and they intend to return at the November Commission meeting with a formal request to approve their selection as a concessionaire and to award a new ten-year concession lease.

### 11. MICKELSON TRAIL TREK AND GOVERNOR’S BUFFALO ROUNDUP UPDATE - DAY 1, 00:52:46 MARK

Matt Snyder, Parks Supervisor in Region 4, reported that the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Mickelson Trail Trek was held on September 16-18. The ride hosted participants from 24 states and Canada with a total of 600 riders. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Mickelson Trail Trek registration will open on December 14, 2022. This event has typically filled up within the first few hours of registration opening and we expect the same again this year.

The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Governors Buffalo Round Up and Art Festival was held on September 29-October 1. The Buffalo Round Up hosted 20,905 spectators. South Dakota Public Broadcasting once again streamed the event live with 22,885 watches on YouTube and 43,500 watches on Facebook. The Art Festival had 151 vendors with over 15,000 people attending the three-day event. The beautiful fall weather was welcomed by all participants and made for an enjoyable event.

### 12. 2023 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - DAY 1, 01:37:52 MARK

Adam Kulesa, Planning & Development Director, gave a brief PowerPoint presentation providing a summary of the major capital development projects that were completed in 2022, and an outlook on major projects looking to be completed in 2022 and into 2023.

### 13. HABITAT MANAGEMENT IN PARKS - DAY 1, 01:53:52 MARK

Ryan Persoon, District Supervisor at West Whitlock, provided a presentation based on grazing cattle around campgrounds and park wildlands in the spring, food plot management, and wildland restorations in Parks. The goal is to convert current smooth brome areas into sustainable habitats for wildlife viewing and hunting in our State Recreation Areas in Parks.

#### 14. **CAMPING, VISITATION, AND REVENUE REPORT - DAY 1, 02:13:24 MARK**

Al Nedved, Parks Deputy Director, provided documentation and reported verbally on the September 2022 camping, visitation, and revenue report.

### **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

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#### 15. **HUNTSAFE PROGRAM OVERVIEW - DAY 1, 02:30:24 MARK**

Brandon Maahs, HuntSAFE Coordinator, gave a presentation showing that close to 3,000 students have been certified in HuntSAFE as classes were back to full capacity in 2022. While we are grateful for the 30 new volunteer instructors this year, we are still looking to expand our volunteer numbers to further increase our HuntSAFE class opportunities. Additionally, further expansion of the HuntSAFE in the Schools program, the creation of an instructor map, and adding a South Dakota Law section in the online HuntSAFE course will continue to provide more opportunities for students and more consistency across the state.

#### 16. **WILDLIFE DISEASE UPDATE - DAY 1, 02:44:03 MARK**

Andy Lindbloom, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Hemorrhagic disease losses in white-tailed deer populations across South Dakota have been mostly minor in comparison to last year. In 2021 GFP received reports of approximately 1640 dead deer in 42 counties whereas in 2022 GFP has thus far received reports of 124 dead deer in 14 counties. Some localized areas have experienced losses and as a result, GFP pull 256 deer tags in Unit 49B. Chronic Wasting disease was detected in 3 new Counties last year- Perkins, Stanley, and Buffalo. GFP will conduct surveillance efforts in 11 Counties in central and eastern South Dakota to learn more about the distribution of the disease. In addition, GFP is sampling harvested elk in the Black Hills for CWD in conjunction with a research project that began this year.

#### 17. **ARCHERY ANTELOPE AND ARCHERY DEER PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS - DAY 2, 00:07:10 MARK**

Andrew Norton, Senior Wildlife Biologist, provided an input opportunity to deer and antelope hunters to determine their opinions and preferences regarding archery hunting in South Dakota. Ten thousand and fifty-two responses were received from 106,041 surveys. Most hunter groups chose to maintain current archery hunting regulations, but there were some concerns about too many archery hunters on public land and residents felt there were too many nonresident archery hunters.

#### 18. **WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA TROUT STOCKING UPDATE - DAY 2, 00:43:32 MARK**

Jeremy Kientz, Area Fisheries Supervisor, gave a report on the trout stocking in western South Dakota.

#### 19. **TRACK CHAIR UPDATE - DAY 2, 01:08:29 MARK**

Emmett Keyser, Region 3 Supervisor, provided the Commission with an update on department efforts being made in collaboration with Michael Samp and his family, as well as the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation, to help raise funds to purchase additional trackchairs. These trackchairs are available on loan for use by hunters, anglers, hikers, and other persons with disabilities to enable them to enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities more effectively. The long-term goal of the trackchair fundraising effort, termed "Operation Mobility," is to help raise funds to purchase up to 25 or more trackchairs and the associated enclosed trailers used to transport them. The concept is to place the fleet of trackchairs around the state at Wildlife Division Offices and State Park locations, where they would be made available on a short-term loan through the GFP website. Disabled individuals and their families would be able to use the chairs to enable them to participate as a family more effectively in various outdoor pursuits.

As part of the update, Kristina Coby, Development Director of the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation, reported that she has a donor who recently came forward and indicated a desire to help fund the first trackchair for Operation Mobility. This new trackchair trailer will be stationed in Sioux Falls at the Outdoor Campus and will join an existing trackchair previously made available to the Department through donors in western South Dakota. That trackchair is also stationed at the Outdoor Campus in Rapid City. These two trackchairs will be used by Michael Samp and his family, the SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation, and indeed the Department as a means

to help create increased public awareness of the availability of the trackchairs and help market and promote the Operation Mobility fundraising effort.

**20. RESIDENTIAL FISHING LICENSE RETENTION/REACTIVATION PLAN - DAY 2, 01:31:14 MARK**

Shala Larson, R3 and Relevancy Manager, presented on an action plan to reactivate resident anglers. She shared that an internal work group has been organized where the group will draft research questions to answer the “why” of these individuals who have lapsed. Once the research questions are drafted, Larson will take them to either the new human dimensions specialist if hired or go out for bid on an outside surveying company. Larson hopes that the information can be fully collected by the beginning of February in time to make changes needed before the spring fishing season.”

**21. LICENSE SALES UPDATE - DAY 2, 01:38:57 MARK**

Tom Kirschenmann, Wildlife Director, provided documentation and verbally updated the commission on the current license sales.

**ADJOURN**

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*Meeting ADJOURNED ON OCTOBER 7, 2022 AT 11:49 AM MT.*

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Robling, Department Secretary