



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

OCTOBER 9, 2025 | LEMMON, SD
BEELER COMMUNITY CENTER

MEETING INFO

This agenda is subject to change without prior notice.

Date and Time: October 9, 2025, from 1-5 pm MT

Meeting Location: Beeler Community Center, 203 Main Avenue, Lemmon, SD 57638

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 by 1 pm MT 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

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order (2 pm CST / 1 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. Staff Introductions

Open Forum

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

Proposals

5. Custer State Park Trophy Bison Bull Harvest – Number of Licenses
6. Custer State Park Non-trophy Bull Harvest – Number of Licenses

Division of Parks and Recreation

Informational Items

7. Custer State Park 60th Buffalo Roundup and Tourism Promotional Videos
8. Custer State Park Resort Lease Update
9. 2026 Marketing Theme
10. September Park Camping Unit and Revenue Reports



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Division of Wildlife

Informational Items

- 11. Mentored Hunting
- 12. Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Sports Complex
- 13. Pheasant Hunting Outreach Efforts
- 14. Public Access Areas
- 15. License Sales Update

Solicitation of Agenda Items

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

Adjourn

The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on November 6, 2025, starting at 1 pm MT at the Outdoor Campus West, Rapid City, SD.



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Agenda Item #2

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 1 pm MT at the Outdoor Campus West, in Rapid City, SD on September 4, 2025. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Jon Locken, Travis Theel, Jim White, Travis Bies, and Julie Bartling were in attendance. With six commission members present, a quorum was established. The public and staff could listen via SDPB Livestream and participate via conference or in person, with approximately 134 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 the July 2025 meeting. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO APPROVE THE JULY 2025 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Additional Salary Days

[Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for additional salary days from the Commissioners. No additional days were submitted for approval.

4. Staff Introductions

[Info Item]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation, introduced one new employee, Laura Connelly who serves as the Cultural & Environmental Resource Specialist for the Parks Division.

Director Kirschenmann introduced new staff for the Division of Wildlife. Those staff included Kailey Meacham, Ft. Pierre; Chuck Mordhorst, Rapid City; Kenny Jimmerson, Webster; Paul Gilbert, Rapid City; Aaron Schone, Rapid City; Dan Barrow, Ft. Pierre; Tyler Bartels, Ft. Pierre; Blaine Henderson, Sioux Falls; and Cody Donnelly, Mitchell.

5. McCook Lake Cleanup

[Info Item]

Kip Rounds, Regional Wildlife Supervisor, provided a summary of the McCook Lake sediment and debris removal project that took place during the summer of 2025. McCook Lake was impacted by a severe flood in June 2024, which caused damage to homes and properties and introduced sediment and debris to the lake. This project was intended to remove that introduced material and restore recreation to McCook Lake. The project was completed prior to the deadline of August 1, 2025 and the no-wake restriction will be removed from McCook Lake in Spring 2026.

Public Hearing

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor at 2:01 pm MT for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda as finalization. After hearing comments on finalization items, the Public Hearing was closed at 3:07 pm MT.

Agenda Item #7: AIS Species List and Exemptions

No Testimony Provided



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Agenda #8: Mountain Lion Hunting Season

2:05 pm: Tatyana Novikova of the Black Hills area in SD, testified virtually in opposition of the Mountain Lion hunting season.

2:07 pm: David Goodwin of Piedmont, SD representing the Black Hills Mountain Lion Foundation, testified in person opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:08 pm: Cody Johnson of Belle Fourche SD, testified in person supporting the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:10 pm: Bret Robertson of Box Elder, SD, representing the South Dakota Houndsmen Association testified in person supporting the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:11 pm: Colin Craft of Gehring, NE, testified in person opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:15 pm: Kevin Thom of Rapid City, SD, testified in person opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:17 pm: Story Warren representing Humane World for Animals, testified virtually opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:20 pm: Ian Bell of Rapid City, SD, testified in person opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:22 pm: Sean Fulton of Deadwood, SD, testified in person opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season.

2:25 pm: Jim Scherrer, landowner in Hill City, SD, testified in person opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:29 pm: Nancy Hilding of Blackhawk, SD, representing the Prairie Hills Audubon Society, testified in person opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:33 pm: Julie Anderson of Rapid City, SD, representing Signs of Hope, testified in person opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:36 pm: Carol Merwin of Rapid City, SD, testified in person opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:36 pm: Tate Wells of Ft. Pierre, SD, representing the South Dakota Houndsmen Association testified in person supporting the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:37 pm: Jeremy Wells of Sturgis, SD, representing the South Dakota Houndsmen Association testified in person supporting the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:39 pm: Mike Jarding of Hot Springs, SD, testified in person supporting the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:41 pm: Shey Littau of Colome, SD, representing the South Dakota Houndsmen Association testified in person supporting the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:43 pm: Loren Lippert of Rapid City, SD, landowner representing the South Dakota Houndsmen Association testified in person supporting the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.



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2:45 pm: Tim Goodwin of Hill City, SD, representing the Black Hills Lion Hunters, testified in person opposing the Mountain Lion Hunting Season.

2:45 pm: Matt Roberts of Sacramento, CA, representing AdInfusion, testified in person opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:47 pm: Kathleen Schmidt of the Vanocker Canyon, SD area, testified virtually opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:49 pm: Brad Tisdall of Rapid City, SD, landowner representing the South Dakota Houndsmen Association testified in person supporting the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:53 pm: Melissa Clemetson of Keystone, SD, representing the Black Hills Mountain Lion Foundation, testified in person opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:54 pm: Jenna Wells, representing the South Dakota Houndsmen Association, testified in person supporting the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:55 pm: Justin Sherwood, representing the South Dakota Houndsmen Association, testified virtually supporting the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:56 pm: Heath Weavill, representing the Black Hills Mountain Lion Foundation, testified virtually opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

2:58 pm: Paula Von Weller of the Northern Hills in SD testified virtually opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

3:00 pm: Chase Larsen of Hill City, SD testified virtually opposing the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

3:04 pm: Amanda Wells of Sturgis, SD representing the South Dakota Houndsmen Association, testified virtually supporting the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

3:06 pm: Bobbi Wells, representing the South Dakota Houndsmen Association, testified virtually supporting the Mountain Lion hunting season finalization.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the public hearing closed at 3:07 pm MT.

Open Forum

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor at 3:07 pm MT for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda, not as a finalization or may not be on the agenda.

3:07 pm: Bill Waeckerle of Pierre, SD representing the Lake Oahe Walleye Restoration Coalition spoke in person on updates from the coalition regarding walleye. He thanked Game, Fish and Parks staff and the Commission for their work.

3:11 pm: Michael Whalen of Rapid City, SD testified in person regarding Pactola fish management.

3:15 pm: Paul Whalen of Rapid City, SD testified in person regarding Pactola fish management.

3:19 pm: Jeff Olson of Rapid City, SD representing several groups including the South Dakota Wildlife Foundation, spoke in person offering thanks to the Game, Fish and Parks Region I staff for working with local Conservation Groups.



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3:21 pm: Dana Rogers of Hill City, SD testified in person to discuss the resident Bison permit price and offered kudos to the Game, Fish and Parks staff.

3:24 pm: Robert Mahaffey, Julie Mahaffey, Micah Mesman, Nicole Craig, and Todd Craig of Rapid City, SD representing the South Dakota Antelope Foundation spoke in person to speak about current projects and conservation interests.

3:28 pm: Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD representing the Prairie Hills Audubon Society testified in person in opposition of mountain lion hunting locations.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the open forum at 3:33 pm MT.

6. #245 – Resident Bison Tags

[Action Item: Petition]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation presented a petition regarding resident bison tags submitted by Kyle Couchey from Mina, SD. The petition would make Custer State Park Trophy Bison and Non-Trophy Bison licenses available with 60% of licenses available for residents, then the remaining 40% of the licenses available to both residents and nonresidents.

MOTIONED BY LOCKEN, SECONDED BY WHITE TO ACCEPT THE PETITION. The motion carried unanimously.

7. AIS Species List and Exemptions

[Action Item: Finalization]

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Administrator, covered finalizations that included recommended changes to the Aquatic Invasive Species chapter of Administrative Rules. Specifically, they include adding Prussian carp to the current list of Aquatic Invasive Species. Additionally, adding an exemption that Red Swamp Crayfish may be imported, possessed and transported alive if solely for human consumption, but can't be possessed alive at a location that sells bait. The final recommendation was that the "European rudd" was modified to "rudd" to reflect changes in common names and the snakehead species were grouped in the genus Channa.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADOPT THE CHANGES TO THE AIS CHAPTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Mountain Lion Hunting Season

[Action Item: Finalization]

GFP staff reviewed the Commission proposal to modify the Mountain Lion Hunting Season and recommended no changes to the proposal. The Commission finalized the proposal to expand the season dates for hunting intervals allowing the use of dogs and increased the unit size where hunting with dogs is allowed in the Black Hills Fire Protection District. Hunters with an access permit to use dogs will now be allowed to hunt during a 3-week interval in an area including Custer State Park and portions of the Black Hills east and south of Custer State Park. The number of access permits to hunt mountain lions remains at 15. The Commission also eliminated the requirement for access permits to hunt mountain lions in Custer State Park without the use of dogs.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY WHITE TO APPROVE THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER THEEL RECUSED HIMSELF FROM VOTING DUE TO PUBLIC CONCERNS OF A POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST.



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9. Spring Creek Restaurant Lease

[Action Item: Parks]

Sean Blanchette, Parks Division Business Administrator updated the Commission on the Spring Creek Restaurant lease prospectus issued in May 2025 that resulted in one proposal which was accepted by the Department. Since the July 25, 2025 prospectus deadline, the Department has been negotiating final lease terms with the responding party, Dock Side, LLC., for operations to commence in the Fall of 2025. Blanchette provided background information on Dock Side, LLC., and discussed the final lease, a copy of which was provided in the Commission book. Particular terms discussed were those modified from the draft lease advertised in the prospectus in response to Dock Side's proposal. Blanchette requested approval of the selection of Dock Side, LLC as Concessionaire, as well as approval of the provided lease document and further to authorize Parks Director Jeff VanMeeteren to sign the lease on the Department's behalf.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY THEEL TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL. Motion carried unanimously.

10. CSP Resort Concession Agreement Update

[Info Item: Parks]

Sean Blanchette, Parks Division Business Administrator updated the Commission on the RFP preparation process for the Custer State Park Resort lease which expires on January 31, 2027. Information on an upcoming facilities condition assessment, Possessory Interest appraisal, and personal property evaluation was shared with the Commission. Blanchette explained that the outcomes of these three projects would be incorporated into the upcoming RFP and draft lease, and further provided a future target timeline for RFP issuance, proposal receipt, and contact award for the Concession opportunity at Custer State Park. Blanchette also indicated that periodic updates would be provided to the Commission on the process.

11. Dock 44 Concession Lease Update

[Info Item: Parks]

Sean Blanchette, Parks Division Business Administrator provided a PowerPoint presentation to inform the Commission of the lease expiration process of the Dock 44 concession located at Snake Creek Recreation Area. Blanchette provided an overview of the concession operation and current lease and explained the timeline for an upcoming appraisal in fall of 2025, and RFP issuance for the Concession opportunity in 2026. The Commission was also briefed on an upcoming major highway bridge replacement project which may impact visitation to Snake Creek Recreation Area for a span of 3 to 5 years.

12. Black Hills Playhouse Facility

[Info Item: Parks]

The Black Hills Playhouse and Game, Fish and Parks hired Arc International to conduct a facility assessment of all the facilities within the Playhouse campus. The report focused on three areas: Life Safety Improvements and Code compliance, General Safety Improvements and Accessibility Improvements. The report lays groundwork for a future Master Plan and prioritizes life safety, accessibility, and facility modernization.

13. Recreational Trail Program 2025 Project Selections

[Info Item: Parks]

Kerri Richards, Grant Specialist with the Parks Division, presented an update on the 2025 Recreational Trails Program (RTP), highlighting current and upcoming trail development projects across South Dakota. The presentation detailed the program's federal funding structure, budget allocations, and the 80/20 cost-share model. It showcased projects both motorized and nonmotorized projects that will be funded through RTP, including both state park projects and local community projects. The presentation included a funding summary showing over \$1.4 million in RTP awards, supporting more than \$1.7 million in total trail development statewide. The update emphasized the program's role in enhancing recreational infrastructure and community connectivity through strategic investments in trail systems.



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14. Fall Capital Development Projects in the West Region

[Info Item: Parks]

Matt Snyder Regional Park Supervisor gave a presentation showcasing current development projects throughout West Parks Region. The presentation included projects completed by park staff as well as contractors. Also, focused on upcoming development improvement projects that will be led by staff and/or contractors.

15. Rally Update, Mickelson Trail Trek, and 60th Annual Buffalo Roundup Schedule

[Info

Item: Parks]

Lydia Austin Visitor Services Program Manager and Matt Snyder Regional Supervisors shared the results of some major events the west region conducted this past year including the 5th Summer Mickelson Trail Trek, 85th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, the upcoming 27th Mickelson Fall Trail Trek and 60th Buffalo Round Up and 32nd Arts Festival. The Summer Trek and Rally were up, compared to the past year. A large crowd is expected for the 60th Buffalo Round Up.

16. Upcoming Fall Park Events

[Info Items: Parks]

April Larson, Marketing Coordinator, presented an update on fall events happening across the state park system. Highlights included the Homesteader Day at Beaver Creek on September 7, Indigenous Artists of the Prairie at Good Earth State Park on September 13, Harvest Festival at Fort Sisseton Historic State Park on September 20, and Fall in the Park at Lewis and Clark Recreation Area on September 27. She also previewed additional October events such as the Fall Festival at Newton Hills State Park on October 4, Haunted Fort and Maze at Fort Sisseton Historic State Park on October 17-18, and additional trick-or-treat events happening. A new event this fall is the Autumn in the Hollow at Sica Hollow State Park on October 11. Regular programming continues this fall, including the Make a Splash activity, and the tagged fish. To view all upcoming events, visit gfp.sd.gov/events.

17. July and August Camping Unit and Revenue Report

[Info Item: Parks]

Jeff VanMeeteren, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the July and August monthly and year-to-date report numbers for the Division of Parks & Recreation related to camping units and revenue. July's wet weather affected the camping units which were down 4% for the month. August camping units were stronger but still down 1% for the month and 3% YTD. Parks are optimistic that with favorable weather the Divisions camping units will see a strong fall which tourism indicators are suggesting. The Parks Division revenue is up 22% overall for the month of July, 20% for the month of August and 18% YTD. Park entrance license sales remain very strong especially daily license sales in general and at Custer State Park specifically. The standard graphs and charts were shared with the Commission to depict how park revenue has come in for the Division overall and the impact of the new non-resident park entrance license fees as compared to other entrance fees. Park modern lodging goals were also shared indicating a 6% growth over last year.

18. Elk Contingency Licenses

[Action Item: Wildlife]

GFP staff presented information about forage production in the Black Hills and how that information was used to determine the elk contingency license recommendation. The Commission adopted a resolution to make fifty-four antlerless elk contingency licenses available during the Black Hills Elk Hunting Season. These licenses will be available to residents during various seasons in Black Hills Elk Hunting Season Units 2, 3, and 4.

RESOLUTION 25-11

WHEREAS, pursuant to ARSD § 41:06:26:06 (Antlerless elk contingency licenses) and § 41:06:26:07 (Eligibility for antlerless elk contingency licenses) the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission may



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issue antlerless elk contingency licenses up to 20 percent of all “antlerless elk” licenses available for all combined Black Hills elk hunting units.

WHEREAS, residents who were not issued an elk license for any elk drawing may apply for a contingency license. Landowner preference or preference points do not apply, and the purchase and receipt of a contingency license does not affect eligibility or preference in future lottery drawings for elk seasons; and

WHEREAS, Game, Fish and Parks has reviewed and discussed US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service forage production models for the Black Hills with US Forest Service staff, in addition to elk population objectives and antlerless elk licenses; and

WHEREAS, Game, Fish and Parks has followed the decision support table in the Game, Fish and Parks elk action plan to provide a recommended number of antlerless elk contingency licenses; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, for the 2025 Black Hills Elk Hunting Season the Game, Fish and Parks Commission authorizes fifty-four antlerless elk contingency licenses to be made available. Among the fifty-four licenses; nineteen will be available in BHE-H2EFG, five will be available in BHE-H2HIJ, seven will be available in BHE-H3BCD, eighteen will be available in BHE-H3EFG, and five will be available in BHE-H4B.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution and a record of the Commission’s discussions concerning same be made a part of the Minutes of the Commission meeting at which this Resolution is adopted.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY THEEL TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION FOR ANTERLESS ELK CONTINGENCY LICENSES. The motion carried unanimously.

19. GPA Auction Results

[\[Info Item: Wildlife\]](#)

Ryan Wendinger, Habitat Program Administrator, provided a summary of the results of the GPA property in Faulk and Spink Counties that was publicly auctioned on June 7th. A total of 37 in-person and 27 online registered bidders attended the auction. There were 11 unique successful buyers and closings were completed in early August to deed the property over to them. A total of 26.26 acres were sold generating \$343,871.19 that will return to the GFP account to be reserved for future land acquisitions of property that better fit our GPA public lands program.

20. Pete Lien and Sons Shooting Sports Complex Update

[\[Info Item: Wildlife\]](#)

John Kanta, Section Chief with GFP and project lead for the Pete Lien & Sons Shooting Sports Complex gave an update on construction progress and upcoming events. It is estimated that the entire project is about 85% complete. GFP will open the north range on a limited basis in mid-September. GFP will host the USPSA Area 3 Championship September 25 – 28, 2025. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be November 7th. The entire complex will be open to the public on November 8, 2025.

21. Lakeshore Toolkit: Resources, Tips and Permits

[\[Info Item: Wildlife\]](#)

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Administrator, presented to the Commission an update on the addition of information to the website that may be useful for users that may own lakeshore property. This information covers topics that may require permitting, such as aquatic vegetation management, shoreline alterations or dock variances. Additionally, information on the topics of Aquatic Invasive Species, harmful algae blooms and fish kills are included.

22. Upland Game Bird Outlook

[\[Info Item: Wildlife\]](#)

Alex Solem, Senior Wildlife Biologist, presented on the hunting outlook for pheasants and prairie grouse. Weather during the nesting season can have major influences on interannual variation in



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abundance of pheasants and prairie grouse. In both primary pheasant range, and prairie grouse range, weather conditions were ideal for producing optimal habitat conditions for production.

23. License Sales Update

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Director Kirschenmann provided a summary of license sales for the current license year through the end of August. It has been a strong year for fishing license sales and the agency will now see changes in small game license sales as bird hunting seasons begin. Grouse opens the third weekend of September and the regular pheasant opener the third weekend of October. All indications lead to a great fall for bird hunting.

24. Adjourn

[Action Item]

A Regular Commission Meeting will be held on October 9, 2025, at the Beeler Center, in Lemmon, SD starting at 1 pm MT.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:46 AM MT ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,

Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Custer State Park Bison Chapter 41:06:42 and 41:06:60

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	October 9, 2025	Lemmon
	Public Hearing	November 6, 2025	Rapid City
	Finalization	November 6, 2025	Rapid City

PROPOSED CHANGES

Duration: 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 hunting seasons.

Season Dates:

Trophy: a licensee is restricted to two consecutive days for the hunt*

November 16, 2026 – January 15, 2027

November 15, 2027 – January 14, 2028

Non-trophy: a licensee is restricted to one day for the hunt*

October 5 – November 13, 2026

October 4 – November 12, 2027

*all licensees shall be accompanied by an authorized Custer State Park official while hunting.

Open Area: Custer State Park

Licenses:

Ten trophy bull licenses available by lottery.*

Two licenses allocated to residents in a first draw.*

One trophy bull license available by raffle. § 41:06:62:03

Twenty non-trophy bull licenses available by lottery.*

Seven allocated to residents in a first draw.*

Zero non-trophy cow licenses

* *License allocation changes and total number of licenses issued addressed in proposed changes.*

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Open to residents and nonresidents.
2. No person may hunt bison within 200 yards of any public access road or building in Custer State Park.
3. Bison may be hunted with a weapon which is at least .270 caliber and which produces at least 2,200 foot-pounds of muzzle energy. Bison may also be harvested with archery equipment as described in [41:06:05](#).

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Establish a resident allocation of 60% of first draw licenses for both Trophy and Non-trophy bison bull licenses.
2. Modify administrative rule to create a maximum number of “trophy bull bison” licenses of 15.

3. Modify administrative rule to create a maximum number of “non-trophy bull bison” licenses of 30.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Increase the annual trophy and non-trophy bull licenses allocation numbers to allow for additional hunting opportunities.

Additionally, a resident submitted a petition which the GFP Commission adopted as a proposal for public comment requiring that 60% of both Trophy and Non-trophy first draw licenses would be allocated to residents only.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:42:02. Number of licenses. ~~Ten~~ No more than fifteen trophy bull bison licenses ~~are available~~ may be issued by lottery, with ~~two~~ 60% of the trophy bull bison licenses allocated to residents in a first draw.

41:06:60:02. Number and type of licenses. ~~Twenty~~ No more than thirty non-trophy bull bison licenses ~~are available~~ may be issued by lottery, with ~~seven~~ 60% of the non-trophy bull bison licenses allocated to residents in a first draw. No cow bison licenses may be issued.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Concern of license allocation between residents and nonresidents..
2. Historical Considerations – Historically, the number of resident trophy bull licenses was set at two and non-trophy bull licenses was set at seven.
3. Biological Considerations – There is expected to be a no effect on bison populations based on the change in resident versus nonresident license allocation.
4. Social Considerations – There will be relatively more opportunity for residents and less for nonresidents based on historic draw success.
5. Financial considerations – There will be a positive financial change based on increasing the total number of license opportunities in the rule change.

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, hunting opportunity will be expanded.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? More individuals will be able to hunt bison with minimal impact to population numbers.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes, this change increases sustainable hunting opportunity.

FISCAL IMPACT

The sale of 2 additional trophy bull licenses and 5 additional non-trophy bull licenses will increase revenue from license sales. Those license numbers are recommended by administrative action on the following action sheet.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____



September Camping

Agenda Item #11

9/1/2024 - 9/30/2024	9/1/2025 - 9/30/2025
Nights	Nights
43986	37887

District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	122	110	-10%
	Pickrel Lake Recreation Area	606	517	-15%
	Roy Lake State Park	927	726	-22%
	Sica Hollow State Park	58	55	-5%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	45	32	-29%
2	Fisher Grove State Park	186	59	-68%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	262	188	-28%
	Mina Lake Recreation Area	400	290	-28%
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	251	179	-29%
	Hartford Beach State Park	983	708	-28%
3	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	261	124	-52%
	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	855	681	-20%
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	212	180	-15%
	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	720	613	-15%
	Oakwood Lakes State Park	1215	894	-26%
4	Lake Carthage Lakeside Use Area	127	115	-9%
	Lake Herman State Park	781	675	-14%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	843	652	-23%
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	339	302	-11%
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	13	1	-92%
5	Buryanek Recreation Area	184	192	4%
	Dude Ranch Lakeside Use Area	9	13	44%
	Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area	0	0	
	Platte Creek Recreation Area	80	34	-58%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	616	580	-6%
6	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	1077	1044	-3%
	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	1618	1522	-6%
	Palisades State Park	1618	1397	-14%
	Twin Lake Lakeside Use Area	0	5	NA
	Newton Hills State Park	1576	1292	-18%
7	Union Grove State Park	203	180	-11%
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	1360	1185	-13%
	Clay County Park	363	237	-35%
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	4218	3871	-8%
	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	475	239	-50%
8	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	25	13	-48%
	Springfield Recreation Area	242	161	-33%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	12	8	-33%
	North Point Recreation Area	859	859	0%
	North Wheeler Recreation Area	18	34	89%
9	Pease Creek Recreation Area	124	108	-13%
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	577	25	-96%
	South Shore Lakeside Use Area	15	9	-40%
	Star Valley Lakeside Use Area	2	1	-50%
	Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	36	28	-22%
10	White Swan Lakeside Use Area	2	9	350%
	Farm Island Recreation Area	884	917	4%
	West Bend Recreation Area	381	279	-27%
	Cow Creek Recreation Area	313	269	-14%
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	1614	1364	-15%
11	Okobojo Point Recreation Area	53	15	-72%
	Spring Creek Recreation Area	110	143	30%
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	2	10	400%
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	759	620	-18%
	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	20	11	-45%
12	Little Bend Lakeside Use Area	0	1	
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	52	51	-2%
	Walth Bay Lakeside Use Area	2	0	-100%
	West Pollock Recreation Area	83	52	-37%
	West Whitlock Recreation Area	331	256	-23%
13	Bear Butte State Park	162	111	-31%
	Hugh Glass Lakeside Use Area	0	90	
	Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area	71	96	35%
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	835	666	-20%
	Shadehill Recreation Area	818	750	-8%
14	Custer State Park	10284	10136	-1%
	Angostura Recreation Area	2444	1743	-29%
	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	253	160	-37%
	Total:	43986	37887	-14%



September YTD Camping

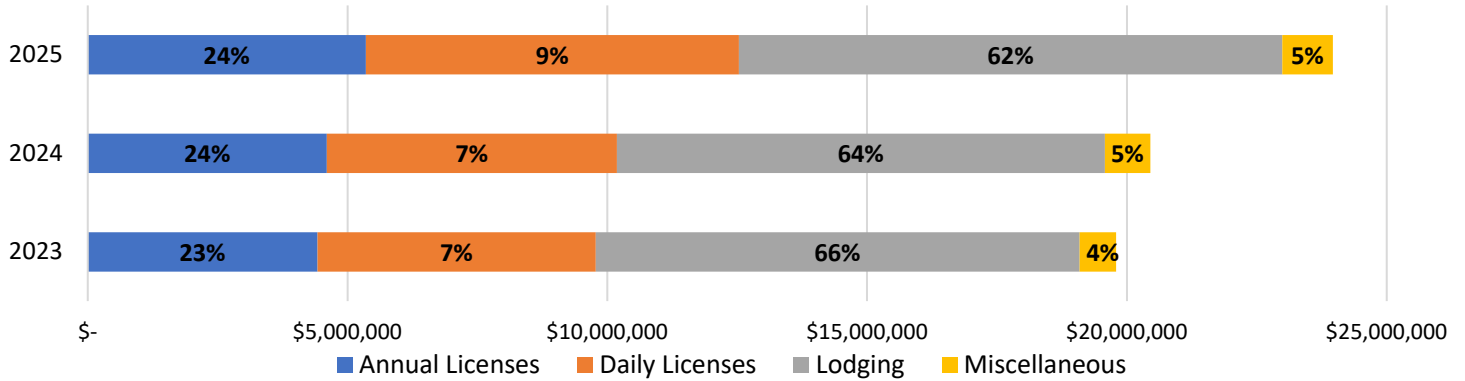
1/1/2024 - 9/30/2024	1/1/2025 - 9/30/2025
Nights	Nights
331649	316578

District	Facility Name	Units	Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	1451	1428	-2%
	Pickereel Lake Recreation Area	5593	5008	-10%
	Roy Lake State Park	8081	7830	-3%
	Sica Hollow State Park	225	225	0%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	380	241	-37%
	Fisher Grove State Park	1074	858	-20%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	2059	2039	-1%
2	Mina Lake Recreation Area	3019	2987	-1%
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	1616	1628	1%
	Hartford Beach State Park	6441	6160	-4%
3	Lake Cochran Recreation Area	2108	1916	-9%
	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	6153	5857	-5%
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	1692	1634	-3%
4	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	7227	6936	-4%
	Oakwood Lakes State Park	8756	8322	-5%
5	Lake Carthage Lakeside Use Area	840	756	-10%
	Lake Herman State Park	5398	5381	0%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	7126	6556	-8%
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	2866	2507	-13%
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	87	48	-45%
6	Buryanek Recreation Area	2723	2482	-9%
	Dude Ranch Lakeside Use Area	203	142	-30%
	Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area	48	75	56%
	Platte Creek Recreation Area	1494	1247	-17%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	7744	6778	-12%
7	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	6089	6198	2%
	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	10598	10457	-1%
	Palisades State Park	8604	9368	9%
	Twin Lake Lakeside Use Area	0	20	NA
	Good Earth State Park	1	0	-100%
8	Newton Hills State Park	9238	8727	-6%
	Union Grove State Park	1206	1149	-5%
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	11225	10536	-6%
	Clay County Park	1906	1609	-16%
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	38796	37063	-4%
9	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	4420	4026	-9%
	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	75	138	84%
	Springfield Recreation Area	1388	1189	-14%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	70	50	-29%
	North Point Recreation Area	9546	9384	-2%
10	North Wheeler Recreation Area	874	925	6%
	Pease Creek Recreation Area	1764	1596	-10%
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	5836	4800	-18%
	South Shore Lakeside Use Area	282	261	-7%
	Star Valley Lakeside Use Area	48	20	-58%
11	Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	391	400	2%
	White Swan Lakeside Use Area	122	143	17%
	Farm Island Recreation Area	7301	6713	-8%
	West Bend Recreation Area	7116	6413	-10%
	Cow Creek Recreation Area	3034	2955	-3%
12	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	13065	12493	-4%
	Okobojo Point Recreation Area	1370	1150	-16%
	Spring Creek Recreation Area	1115	1040	-7%
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	51	49	-4%
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	7533	7345	-2%
13	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	172	179	4%
	Little Bend Lakeside Use Area	0	7	NA
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	876	1007	15%
	Walth Bay Lakeside Use Area	33	25	-24%
	West Pollock Recreation Area	1097	1100	0%
14	West Whitlock Recreation Area	4594	4557	-1%
	Bear Butte State Park	1285	1104	-14%
	Hugh Glass Lakeside Use Area	0	319	NA
	Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area	417	419	0%
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	6751	6261	-7%
15	Shadehill Recreation Area	6969	6584	-6%
	Custer State Park	51948	51180	-1%
16	Angostura Recreation Area	17725	16372	-8%
	Bailey's Lakeside Use Area	0	51	NA
	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	2314	2155	-7%
Total:		331649	316578	-5%

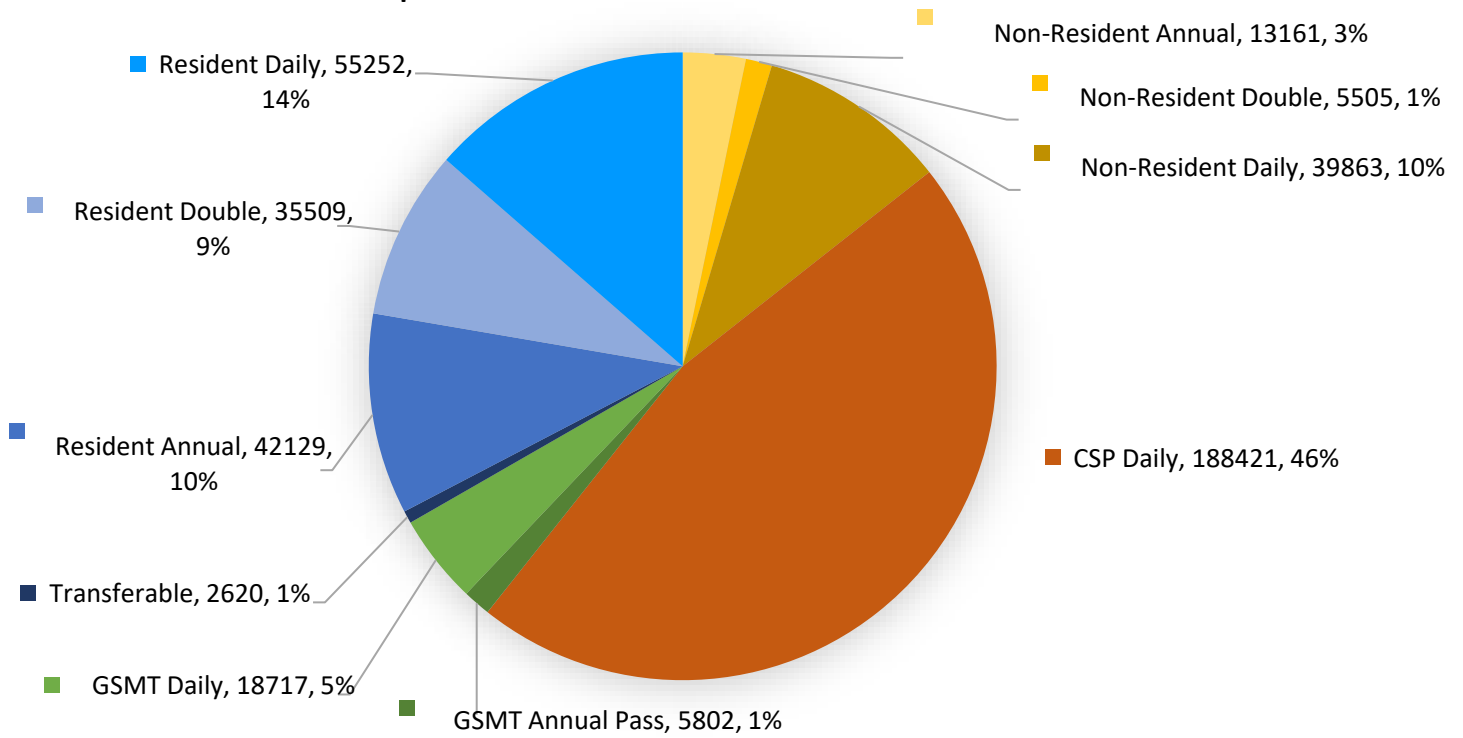
Division of Parks and Recreation					
September 2025 Revenue by Item					
	2024		2025		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	Change
Resident Annual	5,840	\$ 206,134	4,043	\$ 153,419	
Non-Resident Annual	-	\$ -	880	\$ 49,700	
Resident Double	3,545	\$ 189,688	2,775	\$ 165,680	
Non-Resident Double	-	\$ -	166	\$ 14,645	
Transferable	29	\$ 2,300	32	\$ 2,740	
GSM Annual Trail Pass	847	\$ 12,705	813	\$ 16,200	
2nd Annual	504	\$ 5,544	-	\$ -	
Annual Licenses	10,765	\$ 416,371	8,709	\$ 402,384	-3%
Resident Daily License	15,894	\$ 126,944	5,603	\$ 55,800	
Non-Resident Daily License	-	\$ -	4,493	\$ 67,320	
Unattended Vehicle Daily	230	\$ 3,450	90	\$ 1,800	
GSM Daily Trail Pass	4,325	\$ 17,282	4,941	\$ 24,705	
Motorcoach Permit	3,568	\$ 10,701	3,193	\$ 11,748	
CSP 7 Day Pass	34,109	\$ 681,216	34,695	\$ 864,065	
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	2,325	\$ 46,360	3,282	\$ 65,440	
Rally Bike Band	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
One-Day Special Event	44	\$ 2,150	9	\$ 900	
Festival Daily	-	\$ -	-	\$ -	
Daily Licenses	60,495	\$ 888,103	56,306	\$ 1,091,778	23%
Licenses	71,260	\$ 1,304,474	65,015	\$ 1,494,162	15%
Camping Services		\$ 750,034		\$ 783,823	5%
Pet Fees	137	\$ 1,363	170	\$ 1,693	24%
LODGING		\$ 751,396		\$ 785,516	5%
Picnic Shelters		\$ 680		\$ 680	0%
Boat Rentals		\$ 1,437		\$ 792	-45%
Firewood	5,488	\$ 31,604	4,230	\$ 28,376	-10%
Gift Card	7	\$ 585	16	\$ 335	-43%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ 200		\$ -	
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 4,356		\$ 1,948	-55%
Retail		\$ 21,519		\$ 19,453	-10%
Call Center Fee	2,470	\$ 4,930	1,870	\$ 11,102	125%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ -		\$ -	
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 65,311		\$ 62,685	-4%
TOTAL		\$ 2,121,181		\$ 2,342,363	10%

Division of Parks and Recreation					
September YTD 2025 Revenue by Item					
	2024		2025		%
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	Change
Resident Annual	60,388	\$ 2,142,289	42,129	\$ 1,646,626	
Non-Resident Annual	-	\$ -	13,161	\$ 755,927	
Resident Double	37,801	\$ 2,027,640	35,509	\$ 2,110,064	
Non-Resident Double	-	\$ -	5,505	\$ 489,748	
Transferable	2,639	\$ 209,306	2,620	\$ 234,013	
GSM Annual Trail Pass	6,109	\$ 91,530	5,802	\$ 115,515	
2nd Annual	8,405	\$ 131,814	-	\$ -	
Annual Licenses	115,342	\$ 4,602,579	104,726	\$ 5,351,893	16%
Resident Daily License	108,874	\$ 862,540	55,252	\$ 550,368	
Non-Resident Daily License	-	\$ -	39,863	\$ 597,435	
Unattended Vehicle Daily	1,062	\$ 15,930	1,268	\$ 25,260	
GSM Daily Trail Pass	17,174	\$ 68,678	18,717	\$ 93,441	
Motorcoach Permit	15,902	\$ 47,703	22,439	\$ 68,533	
CSP 7 Day Pass	183,444	\$ 3,665,612	188,421	\$ 4,678,215	
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	19,759	\$ 381,684	23,680	\$ 471,690	
Rally Bike Band	26,426	\$ 534,252	33,780	\$ 675,595	
One-Day Special Event	136	\$ 6,749	84	\$ 8,400	
Festival Daily			2,427	\$ 11,475	
Daily Licenses	372,777	\$ 5,583,148	385,931	\$ 7,180,412	29%
Licenses	488,119	\$ 10,185,727	490,657	\$ 12,532,305	23%
Camping Services		\$ 9,376,883		\$ 10,443,842	11%
Pet Fees	1390	\$ 13,855	1620	\$ 16,153	17%
LODGING		\$ 9,390,738		\$ 10,459,996	11%
Picnic Shelter		\$ 15,699		\$ 13,845	-12%
Boat Rentals		\$ 13,916		\$ 16,660	20%
Firewood	39,372	\$ 226,849	33,884	\$ 227,096	0%
Gift Card	127	\$ 11,256	122	\$ 9,331	-17%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ 156,946		\$ 155,768	-1%
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 39,766		\$ 34,863	-12%
Retail		\$ 227,378		\$ 214,381	-6%
Call Center Fee	17,949	\$ 35,672	14,027	\$ 83,406	134%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ 143,953		\$ 217,969	51%
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 871,435		\$ 973,320	12%
TOTAL		\$ 20,447,900		\$ 23,965,620	17%

September 2025 YTD Revenue Comparison

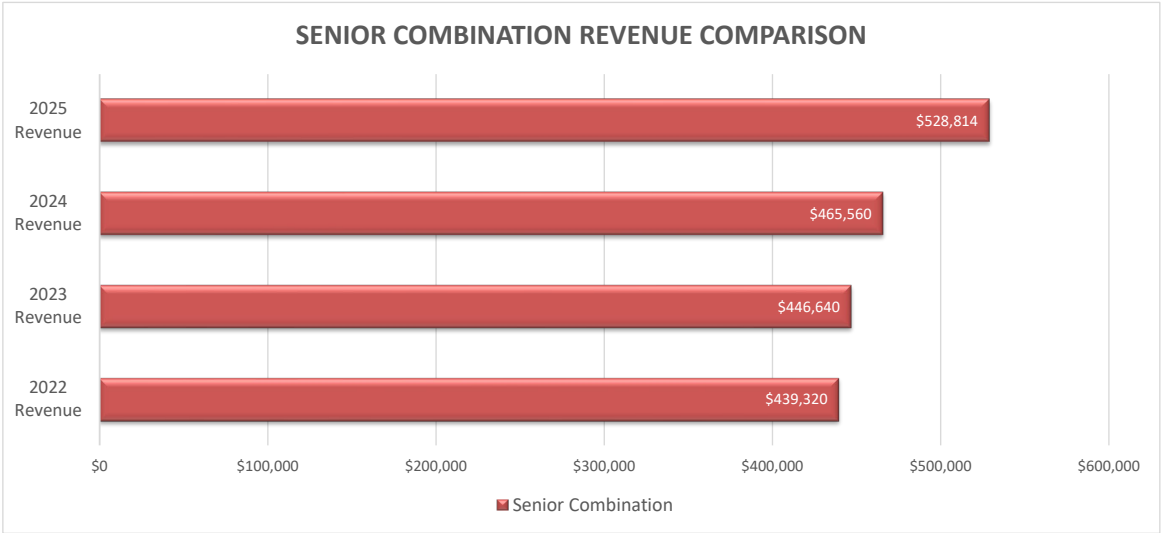
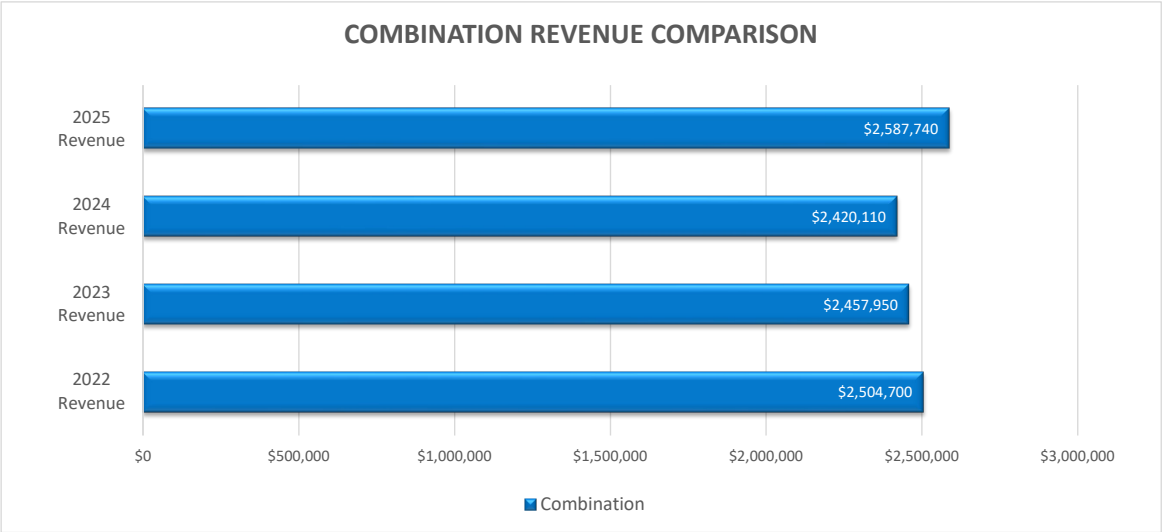


September 2025 YTD License Sales



COMBINATION LICENSES
December 15 - September 30

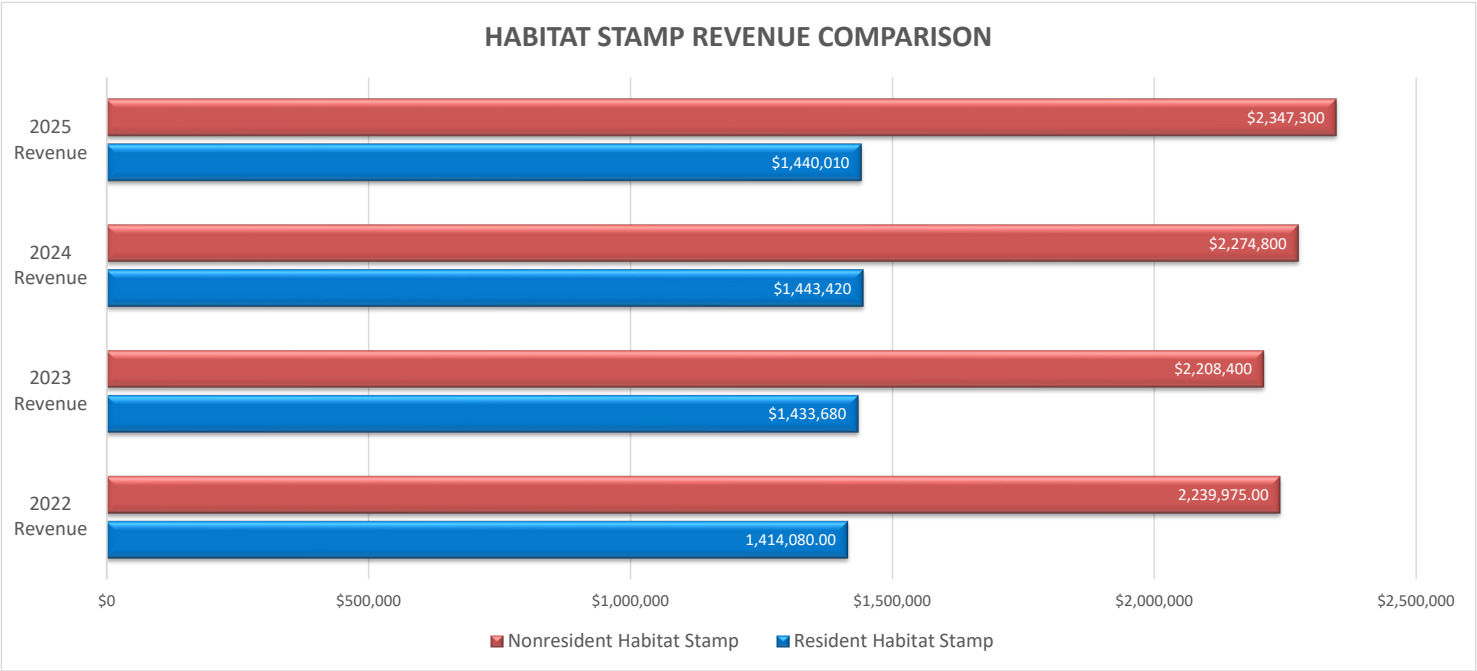
License Type	2022	2023	2024	3-yr Avg	2025	2025 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	
Combination	45,540	44,690	44,002	44,744	43,129	\$2,587,740	(873)	(1,615)	\$167,630	\$126,820	-4%
Senior Combination	10,983	11,166	11,639	11,263	12,298	\$528,814	659	1,035	\$63,254	\$78,307	9%
Combination License Totals	56,523	55,856	55,641	56,007	55,427	\$3,116,554	(214)	(580)	\$230,884	\$205,127	-1%



HABITAT STAMP

December 15 - September 30

License Type						+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3	
	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	Yr. Avg
Resident Habitat Stamp	141,408	143,368	144,342	143,039	144,001	\$1,440,010	(341)	962	(\$18,755)	\$52,892	1%
Nonresident Habitat Stamp	89,599	88,336	90,992	89,642	93,892	\$2,347,300	2,900	4,250	\$116,000	\$169,987	5%
Habitat Stamp Totals	231,007	231,704	235,334	232,682	237,893	\$3,787,310	2,559	5,211	\$97,245	\$222,878	2%

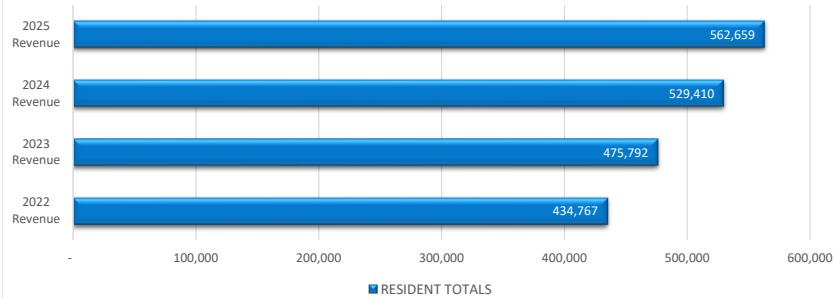


SMALL GAME LICENSES

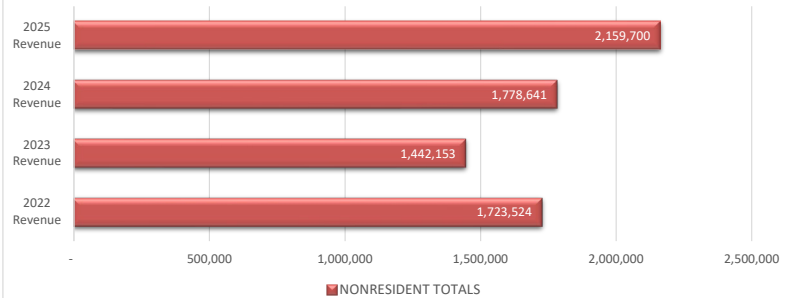
December 15 - September 30

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	6,332	8,002	9,371	7,902	9,484	\$341,424	113	1,582	\$32,181	\$80,669	20%
1-Day Small Game	213	133	231	192	254	\$3,810	23	62	\$1,038	\$1,502	32%
Youth Small Game	3,470	3,355	3,595	3,473	3,362	\$16,810	(233)	(111)	(\$1,165)	(\$1,336)	-3%
Mentor Small Game	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	470	\$2,350	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Furbearer	3,327	3,044	3,227	3,199	3,337	\$103,447	110	138	\$6,637	\$7,467	4%
Predator/Varmint	1,807	1,656	1,438	1,634	1,243	\$7,458	(195)	(391)	\$268	(\$710)	-24%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck	1,013	1,259	1,103	1,125	722	\$3,610	(381)	(403)	(\$1,905)	(\$2,015)	-36%
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	18,399	17,492	17,981	17,957	16,750	\$83,750	(1,231)	(1,207)	(\$6,155)	(\$6,037)	-7%
RESIDENT TOTALS	34,561	34,941	36,946	35,483	35,622	\$562,659	(1,324)	72	\$30,899	\$79,540	0.20%
Small Game	9,776	7,865	10,521	9,387	10,686	\$1,517,412	165	1,299	\$244,371	\$381,545	14%
Youth Small Game	551	427	580	519	572	\$5,720	(8)	53	(\$80)	\$527	10%
Mentor Small Game	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	45	\$450	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shooting Preserve 1-Day Nonresident	479	316	397	397	529	\$26,450	132	132	\$8,188	\$8,173	33%
Shooting Preserve 5-Day Nonresident	4,237	3,474	3,564	3,758	3,733	\$358,368	169	(25)	\$87,504	\$72,735	-1%
Shooting Preserve Annual Nonresident	222	168	129	173	160	\$23,360	31	(13)	\$7,751	\$2,427	-8%
Furbearer	3	2	5	3	3	\$975	(2)	(0)	(\$400)	\$58	-10%
Predator/Varmint	3,802	3,947	3,980	3,910	4,360	\$200,560	380	450	\$41,360	\$44,173	12%
Migratory Bird Certificate: 3-Duck	106	263	297	222	183	\$915	(114)	(39)	(\$570)	(\$195)	-18%
Migratory Bird Certificate: Traditional	2,155	5,517	6,601	4,758	5,143	\$25,715	(1,458)	385	(\$7,290)	\$1,927	8%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	21,331	21,979	26,074	23,128	25,414	\$2,159,925	(660)	2,241	\$380,834	\$511,369	9.69%
COMBINED TOTALS	55,892	56,920	63,020	58,611	61,036	\$2,722,584	(1,984)	2,425	\$411,733	\$590,909	4.14%

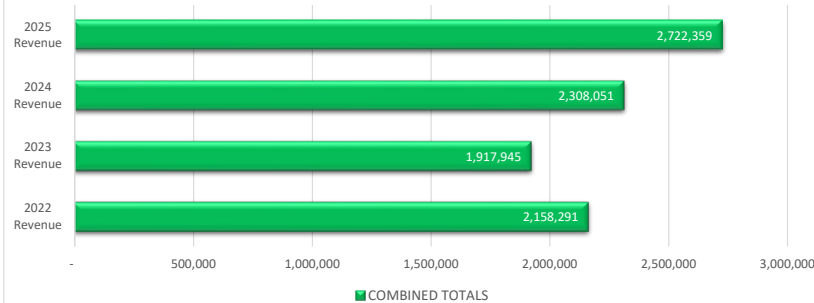
RESIDENT HUNTING REVENUE COMPARISON



NONRESIDENT HUNTING REVENUE COMPARISON



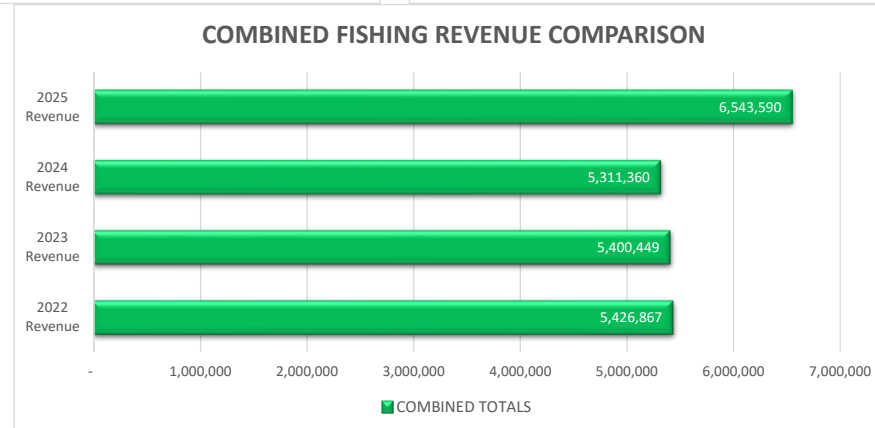
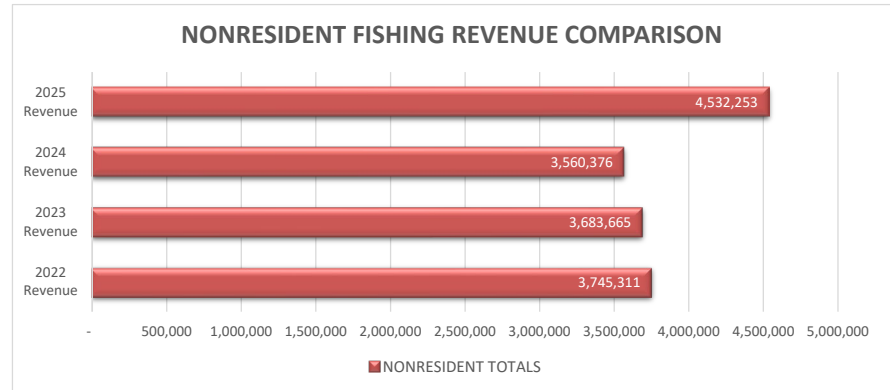
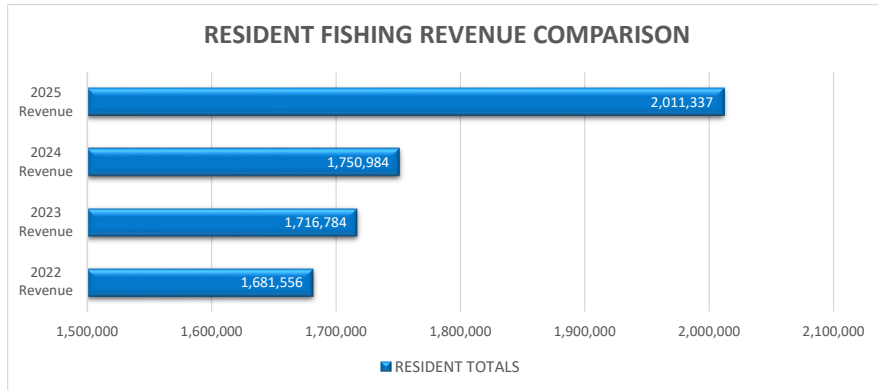
COMBINED HUNTING REVENUE COMPARISON



FISHING LICENSES

December 15 - September 30

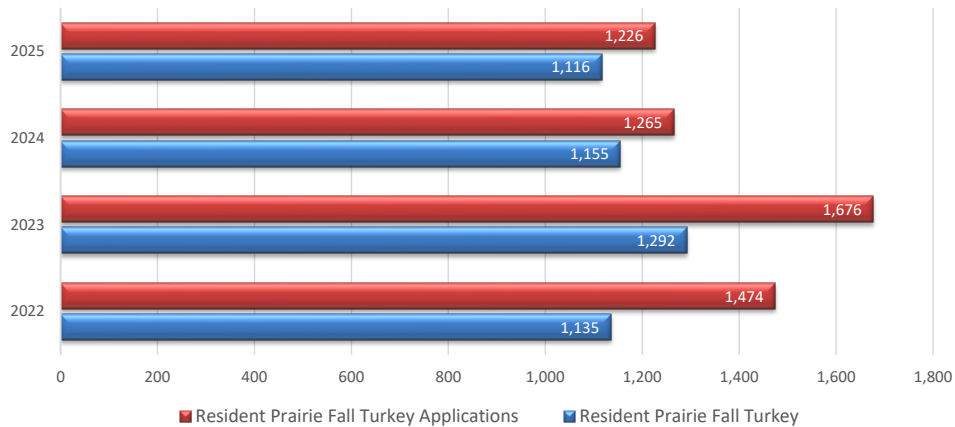
License Type	2022	2023	2024	3-yr Avg	2025	2025 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	2024 vs 2025	3 Yr. Avg vs 2025	
1-Day Fishing	6,003	6,565	7,308	6,625	6,757	\$67,570	(551)	132	\$9,106	\$14,567	2%
Annual Fishing	52,580	53,519	54,400	53,500	55,124	\$1,708,844	724	1,624	\$185,644	\$210,853	3%
Senior Fishing	13,441	13,811	14,110	13,787	13,819	\$234,923	(291)	32	\$65,603	\$69,475	0%
RESIDENT TOTALS	72,024	73,895	75,818	73,912	75,700	\$2,011,337	-118	1,788	\$260,353	\$294,896	2.42%
1-Day Fishing	35,017	34,393	33,860	34,423	24,678	\$641,628	(9,182)	(9,745)	\$99,868	\$90,855	-28%
3-Day Fishing	17,619	17,541	16,893	17,351	19,637	\$883,665	2,744	2,286	\$258,624	\$241,678	13%
Annual Fishing	37,808	37,080	35,725	36,871	37,587	\$3,006,960	1,862	716	\$613,385	\$536,603	2%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	90,444	89,014	86,478	88,645	81,902	\$4,532,253	(4,576)	(6,743)	\$971,877	\$869,136	-7.61%
COMBINED TOTALS	162,468	162,909	162,296	162,558	157,602	\$6,543,590	(4,694)	(4,956)	\$1,232,230	\$1,164,031	-3.05%



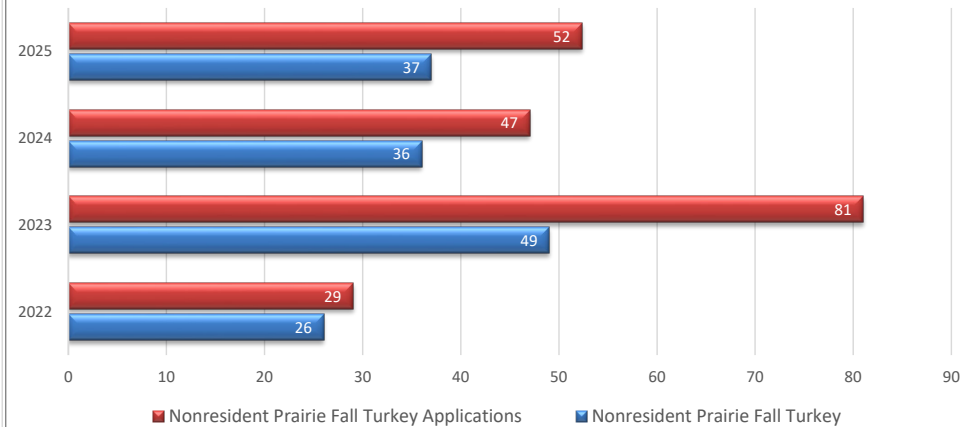
2025 BIG GAME LICENSES

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	
Resident Prairie Fall Turkey	1,135	1,292	1,155	1,194	1,116	\$22,605	(39)	(78)	\$4,850	\$4,463	-7%
Nonresident Prairie Fall Turkey	26	49	36	37	47	\$5,182	11	10	\$1,872	\$1,819	27%
Resident Custer Trophy Bison	2	2	2	2	2	\$13,012	0	0	\$0	\$0	0%
Nonresident Custer Trophy Bison	5	6	8	6	8	\$52,048	0	2	\$0	\$10,843	26%
Resident Custer NonTrophy Bison	9	11	7	9	7	\$22,792	0	(2)	\$0	(\$6,512)	-22%
Nonresident Custer NonTrophy Bison	6	4	12	7	13	\$42,328	1	6	\$3,256	\$18,451	77%
Resident Mentored Fall Turkey	191	319	296	269	289	\$1,445	(7)	20	(\$35)	\$102	8%
Nonresident Mentored Fall Turkey	7	7	10	8	16	\$160	6	8	\$60	\$80	100%
Resident Mentored Deer	3,649	3,863	3,795	3,769	1,985	\$9,925	(1810)	(1784)	(\$9,050)	(\$8,920)	-47%
Nonresident Mentored Deer	96	131	163	130	198	\$1,980	35	68	\$350	\$680	52%
Resident Archery Deer	24,463	24,186	23,521	24,057	21,914	\$917,774	(1607)	(2143)	\$53,434	\$36,547	-9%
Resident Archery Antelope	1,570	2,113	2,146	1,943	2,252	\$101,340	106	309	\$15,500	\$23,620	16%
Nonresident Archery Deer Private Only	n/a	1,459	1,478	n/a	1,267	\$474,413	(211)	n/a	\$51,705	n/a	n/a
Nonresident Archery Antelope Private Only	n/a	395	384	n/a	410	\$153,750	26	n/a	\$7,436	n/a	n/a
1st Draw Applications Submitted											
Resident Prairie Fall Turkey Applications	1,474	1,676	1,265	1,472	1,226		(39)	(246)			-17%
Nonresident Prairie Fall Turkey Applications	29	81	47	52	54		7	2			3%
Resident Custer Trophy Bison Applications	172	460	468	367	464		(4)	97			27%
Nonresident Custer Trophy Bison Applications	670	971	981	874	1,174		193	300			34%
Resident Custer NonTrophy Bison Applications	200	410	463	358	452		(11)	94			26%
NR Custer NonTrophy Bison Applications	520	752	784	685	890		106	205			30%

RESIDENT PRAIRIE FALL TURKEY APPLICATIONS & LICENSES ISSUED



NONRESIDENT PRAIRIE FALL TURKEY APPLICATIONS & LICENSES ISSUED



Public Comments

Eliminate Closed Area on Lake Francis Case

Qsdsq Dsqd

Ca SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

dqsdsq

Hrtr Hrth

Rth SD

Position: support

Comment:

sdgvehth

Furbearer Hunting and Trapping Seasons

Ehrt Rtrtj

Rtj SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ehrt Rtrtj

Rtj SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Steve Cherkas

Edgemont SD

Position: other

Comment:

Will GFP commit to reinstating unlimited bobcat harvest in black hills for 26-27 season? The bobcat management plane called for a change (to unlimited or 1) when juvenile percentage was above or below 10% for 2 years. It did NOT meet that criteria yet they limited the black hills to 1 anyway (knowing that some

juveniles were released which would have raised the 23-24 season above 10%). 24-25 season was 18.5% juvenile well above the threshold. When you limit to 1 hunters will not shoot juveniles and trappers will release them so they can keep trying for a big cat which distorts data analysis. We will have already lost 2 seasons due to this so I ask you to commit to reinstating unlimited for 2026-2027 season.

Mountain Lion Season

Starla Graves

Whitewood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am against the expansion of hounds

Zachary Heller

Whitewood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the expansion of using hounds in the black hills.

Margaret Egan

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Expanding mountain lion season is a mistake. We need to conserve and improve populations for this keystone species.

Marcy Barber

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jean Matthesen

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

How many people have been killed or injured by mountains lions in SD? NONE! Is a license still only \$10? They are being killed specifi-cally for sports people! Do they eat this meat? Are their offspring dying because of this? YES! Are reliable authorities opposing a mountain lion mountain season. YES! Whenever a moose wanders into SD, some jerk usually kills it--killing just for killing. STOP IT--let the lions live!!!! Most people living here have not even seen a mountain lion in this state! LET THEM & THEIR KITTENS LIVE!!!! Jean Matthesen, Custer

John Griffith

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Beth Morey

Belle Fourche SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose hunting of mountain lions using dogs. Also, I am disgusted by the term "harvesting" when it refers to animals instead of crops. These beautiful creatures have feelings and should be left alone!

Jett Blakeman

Belle Fourche SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support any expansion of hound hunting because it provides more science based wildlife management, better and more opportunities for hunters.

Paula Roskens

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I wish to oppose hunting of these beautiful animals. GFP lists the count for mountain lions in the Black Hills as 277, they are issuing 60 tags, 40 for females. With them raising their cubs to hunt and survive in the forest for 2 yrs, it is cruel and unwarranted to allow trophy hunting of these animals. Why would you allow dogs to further this inhumane practice to run this animal to exhaustion then come in and make the kill when it is too tired to move, to get the perfect shot so as not to ruin the coat so they can stuff and exhibit this dead animal, how very

sad, unethical, and immoral. We have the knowledge and intelligence to know this. Please do not allow this, and allow greed to sway your vote. Mountain lion s are native to the Black Hills, we aren't. Let's learn to live with and not destroy these beautiful wild incredible animals.

Ryan Wiechmann

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hounds were used to keep the lion population isolated to the hills in the surrounding areas. If lions are used within the hills on regular basis, fair chase is no longer used. Houndsman should not profit from this public resource.

Bailey Konvalin

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Daniel Nisse

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

William Mcallister

Midland SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jenna Wells

Fort Peirre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hound dogs in the fire district area as a young woman

Samantha Magnus

Black Hawk SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the continuation and responsible regulation of mountain lion hunting as an essential tool for wildlife management and ecosystem balance.

Mountain lions are apex predators with few natural threats, and in areas where their populations are not managed, they can have significant impacts on prey species such as deer, elk, and bighorn sheep.

Overpopulation can also lead to increased human-wildlife conflicts, livestock depredation, and the encroachment of lions into suburban and rural communities.

Nelda Holden

Brooneldahilkings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please pretect them.

Nelda Jjolden

Brokings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please save them.

Aspen Rittgarn

Fort Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

Hound hunting is tradtional and requires skill. When done responsibly, it helps manage predator populations. Running hounds works with nature better.

John Grillo

Los Angeles CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Mountain Lions should remain protected at all costs. Hunting a species that has already greatly diminished in population is not ecologically ethical. Coexistence is critical and hunting mountain lions in any area should be considered illegal. We cannot risk the extinction of these animals because of sport, or fear of their presence. Their survival is dependent on our actions.

Jim Hagen

Britton SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Paula Roskens

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Why??? How cruel, and unnecessary. GFP list count 277 in SD issuing 60 tags 40 of which are for females. These animals are just trying to survive. They keep nature in balance. A Female will keep her cubs with her up to 2 years teaching them the way to hunt, now you kill her leaving young to fend on their own to learn all the wrong ways. Think of trying to hunt and feed herself plus her cubs, the energy it requires. Then to unleash dogs to run them to pure exhaustion to get the perfect shot as to not "damage their fur". This is inhumane and disgusting. What are we to torture these animals who belong in Nature, what is left of it. History will look back and ask Why, How was this allowed, and Shame. TROPHY hunting is a sin, and should be illegal. Stop this now.

Gwen Oberholtzer

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Lorraine Finazzo

Six Mile SC

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose hound hunting which is cruel to both mountain lions and dogs and do not want it to be expanded in South Dakota.

Annette Hof

Crooks SD

Position: other

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jeffrey Edwards

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hunting for mountain lions with hounds is cruel and inhumane. It should be banned not expanded. Very bad for existing and any future lion population.

Ashley Passino

Lakewood WA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am against the hunting of animals with hounds. This is the exact same as fox hunting with hounds in the UK. It makes it extremely unfair for the prey and has no purpose here.

Sonal Swaroop

Brentwood TN

Position: other

Comment:

Stop mountain lion hunting. They are shrinking population.

Sheila Metcalf Tobin

Berkeley CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing to urge the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission to reverse their decision and permanently ban the cruel practice of hound hunting mountain lions.

Shari D

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose the proposed expansion of mountain lion hunting with hounds.

?? Procedural Failure: This proposal directly violates the SDGFP's own 2024 Mountain Lion Action Plan, which was developed with public input and adopted just last year. Approving this change would undermine public trust and set a dangerous precedent of ignoring established management policies.

?? Willful Ignorance: The Department's own proposal acknowledges that their population data can be "misleading" and even admits that the harvest plan "may reduce the population." Making policy decisions while admitting the science is uncertain is reckless and irresponsible.

Mountain lions are a keystone species, vital to the balance of South Dakota's ecosystems. Hounding is inhumane, disrupts family groups, and puts unnecessary stress on both lions and non-target wildlife. The commission should honor its own plan and the best available science by rejecting this proposal.

Sherry Wu

Ann Arbor MI

Position: oppose

Comment:

Are we going to kill everything until they're endangered then protect them? When will these meaningless exploitation stop?

Lisa Bobbitt

Sterling Heights MI

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is cruel and unnecessary.

Aoife Hart

Seattle WA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I sincerely plead with you to reconsider the barbaric and cruel practice of using dogs to chase down and butcher alive our precious wildlife, including mountain lions. Please consider alternative messages which are more humane and will not endanger the dogs nor create scenarios of extreme pain for the mountain lions. This is a blood sport, akin to the travesty of British fox hunting, rather than wildlife management.

Robert Curl

Hot Springs SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I believe a healthy population of mountain lions allows for an ecosystem and lifecycles to exist that balances out deer populations and all animals affected naturally. Therefore I think mountain lions are overly hunted and extending time limits, using hounds to do so is cruel, encroches on too much land, and serves no need for game meat, or any other purpose.

Susan Clark

Barnstable MA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I like many others oppose the culling of the mountain lion! This is yet again humans running to kill off a species instead of protecting its habitat. We kill, we disrupt the ecosystem. It's wrong. It's not 21st century thinking. Humans are the only species to view other species with this action. End the hunting of the cougar

Ilse Singer

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The expansion of one of the most inhumane hunting practices: chasing mountain lions with dogs, is unconscionable and a stain on South Dakota! I am ashamed.

The decision to allow hunters to use hounds to pursue terrified mountain lions across more of the Black Hills Fire Protection District, including newly opened stretches of privately owned land, is barbaric!

This change is not only cruel but also indefensible. Mountain lions, already under intense pressure from shrinking habitats and human encroachment, now face even more brutal odds.

The kill limit remains set at 60 mountain lions or 40 females. Every mountain lion killed represents a disruption to an already delicate ecosystem, and the loss of a mother could lead to the gradual demise of her dependent cubs.

I URGE you, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission to reverse your decision and permanently ban hound hunting!

Mira Kovacic

Miami Beach FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please prohibit mountain lions hunt all together. Mountain lions are endangered and essential part of nature. Hunting for 'sport', with hounds is particularly cruel, wicked, compassionless. Targeting females predominantly, it's particularly damaging to the species. Please, let us steward the nature, not rape it. Humans can choose compassion. Thank you.

Clay Baumung

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The hunting of cougars should be stopped ASAP. The population is too low

Mary Shabbott

Arkadelphia AR

Position: oppose

Comment:

This species is struggling to survive because of habitat loss, hunting and climate change. What do you do to help this keystone species survive? You tell trophy hunters it's fine to use dogs to brutally chase down these animals. This is disgustingly wrong and it's clear this commission works for trophy hunters and doesn't care anything about wildlife or the non consumptive majority.

Ivan Nikolenko

Toronto ON

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please ban the hound hunting. Using dogs to chase Mountain lions to exhaustion and then killing them, is cruel and inhumane. Mountain lions are already struggling to survive due to habitat loss. These animals need protection and help, not killing. These are sentient individuals just like us with lives and families. We, humans, who say we know right from wrong and can spread compassion and empathy, know that harming, or killing others, like Mountain lions, for sport or management is wrong. Killing is never right or the answer. Please mountain lions don't deserve this cruelty. Plus if more of them die, the ecosystem will start collapsing with prey

species increasing significantly and being overcrowded. So please, the Mountain lions are counting on you, ban hound hunting and stop the harming of animals for any reason under your watch. The animals can't speak English but they will thank you for saving them.

Thank you.

Have a great day.

Anthony Casella

Seaford NY

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ivan Nikolenko

Toronto ON

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please ban the hound hunting. Using dogs to chase Mountain lions to exhaustion and then killing them, is cruel and inhumane. Mountain lions are already struggling to survive due to habitat loss. These animals need protection and help, not killing. These are sentient individuals just like us with lives and families. We, humans, who say we know right from wrong and can spread compassion and empathy, know that harming, or killing others, like Mountain lions, for sport or management is wrong. Killing is never right or the answer. Please mountain lions don't deserve this cruelty. Plus if more of them die, the ecosystem will start collapsing with prey species increasing significantly and being overcrowded. So please, the Mountain lions are counting on you, ban hound hunting and stop the harming of animals for any reason under your watch. The animals can't speak English but they will thank you for saving them.

Thank you.

Have a great day.

Brianna Aguilar

Kearns UT

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing to express my deep concern about the recent decision to allow 60 mountain lions to be killed this season. Mountain lions are essential apex predators that help keep ecosystems in balance by controlling prey populations like deer. Killing these animals especially females who are raising young cubs risks devastating the population and leaving orphaned cubs to starve. This practice is not only inhumane, but it also threatens the long-term health of the species and the natural environment. Once a population is pushed to collapse, it is incredibly difficult and sometimes impossible to restore. I urge you to reconsider this decision and prioritize non-lethal wildlife management strategies that respect the crucial role mountain lions play in South Dakota's ecosystem. Please stand for conservation and compassion by ending this unnecessary hunt and protecting these majestic animals for future generations

Chit Dhan

Irvine SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Candi Ausman

Fremont CA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do NOT allow one of the most inhumane hunting practices still legal in the US: chasing mountain lions with dogs.

Thank you.

Antoinette Ubaldi

Portland OR

Position: oppose

Comment:

Why allow mountain lions to be abused by hounds. What is the purpose? And the people who own the hounds. Leave the mountain lions alone. Why do you hate them.

Laura Cavazza

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

To the Government of South Dakota,

I am writing to strongly urge you to cancel the upcoming mountain lion hunting season. Mountain lions are an essential part of South Dakota's natural heritage and ecosystem, yet they are being subjected to unnecessary and inhumane practices that threaten their survival.

One of the most troubling aspects of the hunt is the use of dogs to track and corner these animals. This method is not only cruel, but it also strips mountain lions of any fair chance of escape, turning the hunt into a practice of harassment and brutality rather than responsible wildlife management. Extending hunting time under these conditions is not a matter of conservation—it is an unnecessary expansion that only serves a handful of hunters at the expense of already vulnerable wild populations.

South Dakota's wildlife belongs to all its people, not just to those who seek to exploit it for sport. Mountain lions are apex predators with vital ecological roles, helping to balance prey populations and maintain healthy ecosystems. Allowing their persecution undermines both the stability of our natural environment and our state's reputation as a steward of wildlife.

We should be working to protect and preserve these magnificent animals, not subject them to suffering and

decline. I urge you to cancel the mountain lion hunting season and instead invest in science-based conservation measures that ensure their continued survival.

Respectfully, Laura Cavazza

Cindy Kreiman

Bentonville VA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Good Afternoon,

Please Ban Hound Hunting

I am writing to you on behalf of our mountain lions, as they are paramount to the health and wellbeing of our ecosystems, keep wild herds healthy and help control CWD.

They are all too often overlooked and unheard, trying to live, survive and care for their young in a world being overrun by "humans".

They have enough setbacks with habitat loss, climate change, vehicular hits, trapping, snaring, poaching, mismanagement and more. Their numbers are already low, with slow reproductive rates. To chase these mountain lions with hounds and expanding the length of time and areas, especially their sanctuary, is horrific and cruel. This is not hunting, this is down right murder of innocent animals. It is fear, anger, hate, greed and ignorance, it is misconceptions, myths and lies, it is special interest groups, power, money and politics that are taking control.

The public's opinions are not being acknowledged and taken into consideration.

Please hear their cries, see their tears, feel their pain and be the change to make a difference for all our sakes...

Thank you for your time

Margarita Skrinnik

Montreal PQ

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Miriam Garcia

Aurora IL

Position: oppose

Comment:

Protect the mountain lions and stop cruel hunting practice of allowing dogs to hunt them.

Tracey Chan

Chippenham SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please dont kill mountain lions. If females are killed kits starve. It's cruel to chase them to exhaustion with dogs when their population is facing loss of habitat. As an apex predator they are important for the ecosystem and can control pests.

Thank you
Tracey Chan

Katherine Emery

Tampa FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

I cannot believe that any rational human would think it's a good idea to use dogs to terrorize mountain lions, just so hunters can then move in for kill on exhausted cat. Please don't let this continue. I don't want this species to go extinct. This is a cruel practice that needs to stop.

Other

Tad Roccaro

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

I currently came in to buy a couple of mentor tags for my two sons. I was informed that some things have chanhed since last spring. According to the front desk clerk. My children need their own email addresses. We as many parents do not allow our young children certain technologies. Emails being one of those technologies. I am greatly apposed to this as my children are not ready for these things. This opens the doors to harmful people towards children. I would like to see this policy changed back to the way it was.

Wendy Carroll

911 Preston PI SD

Position: other

Comment:

I am very disappointed at how my past camping trip out at West Bend Recreation area. The phone calls that I had received while camping, one of them I totally understand but the other phone call I was asked how many people were camping with me and I didn't have a camp sticker for my vehicle that was down at the boat dock they said was from Nebraska. I am NOT from Nebraska.

Then was approached on the day before our reservations were to expire and told that we were to be out of there that day. I said no, we have this cabin for another day and was asked if I could prove that. I said yep. The girl then went to her little I-pad and said no, you are suppose to be gone isn't this so and so? I said No! The person she was looking at was in a different cabin all together and went on to say did I screw up again.

Seriously!!!!!! The cabins are numbered and before you tell me that we have to be gone, learn how to read and get your crap straight before you approach people. We have been using the cabins for years and I think that I would know if we had to be gone. Also, I have never been in a cabin that was filthy as these ones. We had friends out there as well and they said the same thing about their cabin. The cobwebs and the dead bugs in the screens and window wells was disgusting!!

Was a very disappointing trip!!! Was suppose to be a place to where my husband and I could go and relax after not having time off of work for the longest time!!! I know we won't be going to West Bend again. I know a couple other areas that have Cabins have been slacking on fixing them up and getting them cleaned. You raise the pricing to stay in them and you would think that you could do a little better on repairing at least the small things on some of them

Robert Thiel

Brookings SD

Position: other

Comment:

WHO the heck is running things in this department? Not a single facebook post or email notifying hunters that leftover deer licenses were available. Now most licenses are gone! This is absolutely unacceptable. My license dollars are funding this operation and someone needs to step up and start to notify hunters of these license opportunities. This is the second time this summer/fall I have missed out on applications because the GFP never announces the deadline to the public. Probably because their piece of crap website goes down every year when the licenses become available. Commissioners better get involved and start monitoring this stuff because its the public's department and right now is getting a "F"-rating. I hope some commissioners read this and start to do something to help hunters. The communication between the department and the hunters has to change. My group of 13 hunters are frustrated and upset to say the least.

Ben Torrent

Harrisburg SD

Position: other

Comment:

Since when did the GFP stop notifying the public that west river leftovers were available to purchase? Unfortunate now as I won't be able to make the trip west because all the tags for my unit are gone and I've been going for the last 9 years. Piss poor announcement for the public.

Bob Gradner

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Are you kidding me? Leftover West River licenses are nearly all gone and the GF&P didn't even send an email. Is this a joke? My step son and I go and shoot does every year on leftover licenses and now I find out they are all gone. Every year the system crashes or now you guys just quite making the hunters aware. This is maddening to me and I am not very happy. Whoever is running this outfit better pull their head out of their rump. You guys are so busy with your 20million dollar gun range you forgot about who pays the bills. Get off your butts and start doing the job that hunters pay you to do!

Matt Christopherson

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support more of the Custer State Park Buffalo tags being reserved for residents, I also feel that non residents should pay much more for the tag than they are being charged today.

Wildlife Action Plan

Abbagale Morgan

Tavernier FL

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Connie Burris

Springfield IL

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hound hunting is cruel for the Mountain lions and the dogs. Mountain Lions are already under intense pressure from shrinking habitats and human encroachment, now they will face even more brutal odds of stress and cruelty . Every mountain lion killed represents a disruption to an already delicate ecosystem, and the loss of a mother could lead to the gradual demise of her dependent cubs. Please do the right thing and BAN this CRUEL SPORT .
I OPPOSE the hunt please BAN

Amanda Seissian

Dunedin FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

To use dogs to hunt mountain lions is obscene and cruel. This action needs to be stopped.

Adrian Mason

Goonview SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

From: Kathy Khoshfahm <katz101@comcast.net>

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 10:30 PM

To: GFP Wild Info <WildInfo@state.sd.us>

Subject: [EXT] Hunting Mountain Lions

GF&P Commission -

I had a Petition cross my desk today that was titled "Stop South Dakota From Letting Hunters Chase Mountain Lions With Dogs". The Petition states, in part, that South Dakota's Game, Fish, & Parks Commission has approved *more* land where hounds can be unleashed to pursue terrified mountain lions until they collapse from exhaustion or climb a tree, only to be shot at close range.

Is there any truth to this Petition?

Please, say it ain't so!

I find it hard to believe that any state would allow this type of treatment towards its wildlife.

The average life span of a mountain lion in the wild is approximately 12 years. To date, South Dakota has already harvested over 40 mountain lions, most under the age of 5. Why? Why is this happening? How are they harvested? It's not like there is an overabundance of mountain lions. It seems to me they are being murdered for the crime of being 'surplus'. WTH???

The Animal Kingdom has just as much a right as we do to live their lives in peace on this planet, free from torture and murder at the hands of humans. Hunting is nothing more than a legalized form of murder...

Kathy Khoshfahm

katz101@comcast.net

Dear Commission,

Mountain lions are among North America's most vulnerable species, yet South Dakota has just expanded one of the [cruelest hunting practices](#): chasing these wild cats with dogs. The state's Game, Fish and Parks Commission has approved more land where hounds can be unleashed to pursue terrified mountain lions until they collapse from exhaustion or climb a tree, only to be shot at close range.

This expansion doesn't just sanction cruelty, it devastates fragile ecosystems. Mountain lions already face shrinking habitats, slow reproduction rates, and human encroachment.

The kill limits are now 60 mountain lions or 40 females. Each death can mean orphaned cubs slowly starving to death. Mountain lions are vital apex predators, maintaining ecosystem balance and regulating prey populations. Allowing them to be chased and gunned down is not "sport." It is cruelty, plain and simple.

We demand that South Dakota reverse this reckless expansion of mountain lion hunts with dogs.

Sincerely,

Louis

lgauc8@gmail.com

Sent 9/25/25