

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Grouse Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:09

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal Public Hearing Finalization	March 4-5, 2021 May 6, 2021 May 6-7, 2021	Pierre Custer State Park Custer State Park
----------------------------------	---	--	---

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2021, 2022 and 2023 hunting seasons

Season Dates: September 18, 2021 – January 31, 2022
September 17, 2022 – January 31, 2023
September 16, 2023 – January 31, 2024

Open Area: Statewide

Daily Limit: 3 (any combination of sharp-tailed grouse, prairie chickens and ruffed grouse)

Possession Limit: 15 (any combination)

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset.

Recommended changes from last year:

1. For Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, modify the season start date from the third Saturday of October to the third Saturday of September.
2. Modify the season end date from the first Sunday of January to January 31.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge staff were unaware of this season restriction and have requested their grouse season to align with the statewide season dates.

After further discussion on season dates for other upland game birds, the Department recommends extending the grouse hunting season end date to January 31. With the pheasant hunting season end date extended to January 31 during the 2020 hunting season, hunting opportunity for prairie grouse could also be extended without having any negative impact on the population. South Dakota is one of just a few other states that offer an opportunity to harvest ring-necked pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, and greater prairie-chicken. When evaluating harvest estimates from South Dakota and surrounding states, it is estimated that nearly 90% of the total grouse harvest occurs during the months of September of October. While limited harvest is expected to occur into January, it will provide an opportunity for pheasant hunters to opportunistically harvest prairie grouse.

Year	Resident Hunters	Nonresident Hunters	Grouse Harvest
2015	7,866	5,032	49,894
2016	7,199	5,203	42,905
2017	5,703	3,645	22,153
2018	5,868	3,979	23,860
2019	5,583	4,637	30,053

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
---------------	--------------	--------------	-----------------

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not applicable.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

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

FISCAL IMPACT

No recommended changes; not applicable.

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____