COMMISSION PROPOSAL

**East River Deer Hunting Season**
Chapter 41:06:21

**Commission Meeting Dates:**
- Proposal: April 4-5, 2019, Rapid City
- Public Hearing: May 2, 2019, Custer State Park
- Finalization: May 2-3, 2019, Custer State Park

**Duration of Recommendation:** 2019 and 2020 hunting seasons

**Season Dates:**
- November 23 – December 8, 2019
  - December 14-22, 2019 – for antlerless deer tags only
- November 21 – December 6, 2020
  - December 12-20, 2020 – for antlerless deer tags only

**Open Area:** See the attached map

**Licenses:** 24,510 one-tag and 2,800 two-tag licenses (total of 30,110 tags)

**Requirements and Restrictions:**
1. One-half of the licenses allocated in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference.
2. In addition to these licenses, 500 “any deer” licenses are available through the “Special Buck” application.
3. Landowners not possessing a license that allows the harvest of a buck may purchase an “any deer” or a two-tag “any deer + antlerless deer” license that is valid on their property only.
4. Initially, all licenses are available only to residents. Nonresidents may apply for licenses remaining after the fourth lottery drawing.
5. A portion of southeastern Minnehaha County is closed to hunting with firearms other than muzzleloaders and shotguns using slugs.
6. Only unfilled “any antlerless deer” and “antlerless whitetail deer” tags are valid for 9 days beginning on the third Saturday after Thanksgiving.

**Proposed changes from last year:**
1. Adjust resident license numbers from no more than 21,075 one-tag and 5,250 two-tag deer licenses to no more than 24,510 one-tag and 2,800 two-tag tag deer licenses.
2. Establish Units 13P (Brule County), 33P (Hand County), 36P (Hughes County), and 38P (Hyde County). These units are for antlerless whitetail deer licenses and would be valid on private land only; all public lands are closed to license holders within these respective units, including Walk-in Areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Buck Tags</th>
<th>Doe Tags</th>
<th>Total Tags</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>18,855</td>
<td>12,715</td>
<td>31,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>19,085</td>
<td>11,025</td>
<td>30,110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Buck Tags (+5%)
Doe Tags (-13%)

APPROVE [ ]  MODIFY [ ]  REJECT [ ]  NO ACTION [ ]
SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The recommendation to establish private land-only units is a management tool that is being considered to meet deer management population objectives and focus the harvest of antlerless whitetail deer on private land.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Licenses</th>
<th>WT Bucks</th>
<th>WT Does</th>
<th>MD Bucks</th>
<th>MD Does</th>
<th>All Deer</th>
<th>Tag Success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sold</td>
<td>Harvested</td>
<td>Harvested</td>
<td>Harvested</td>
<td>Harvested</td>
<td>Harvested</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>25,171</td>
<td>9,679</td>
<td>5,864</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>15,845</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>26,752</td>
<td>10,041</td>
<td>6,413</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>16,759</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>25,479</td>
<td>8,755</td>
<td>7,207</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>16,319</td>
<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>25,406</td>
<td>9,143</td>
<td>5,485</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>14,879</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>26,375</td>
<td>9,087</td>
<td>5,470</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>14,853</td>
<td>48%</td>
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