

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Sage Grouse Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:10

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 8-9, 2023	Good Earth State Park
	Public Hearing	Sept 7, 2023	Watertown
	Finalization	Sept 7-8, 2023	Watertown

SEASON INFORMATION

Duration of Recommendation: 2023 and 2024 hunting seasons

Season Dates: Closed

Open unit: The sage grouse hunting unit is Butte County west of U.S. Highway 85 and Harding County. Only public land and private land leased for public hunting is included within this unit.

Season limit: The season limit is one sage grouse. Random drawing for up to 40 access permits.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from last year: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Retaining a season closure is being recommended based on the season recommendation guidelines found within the "South Dakota Greater Sage Grouse Action Plan, 2022-2026". Results from the 2023 spring lek surveys indicated 110 (111 in 2022) males counted on all on all leks in Harding and Butte counties.

Population Index

≥ 300 males counted on all leks in Butte and Harding counties for 2 consecutive years

Hunting Season Recommendation

Option for short (~2-4 day) hunting season in Harding County and Butte County west of US HWY 85, limit 1 sage-grouse per hunter per season. Random drawing for up to 40 access permits

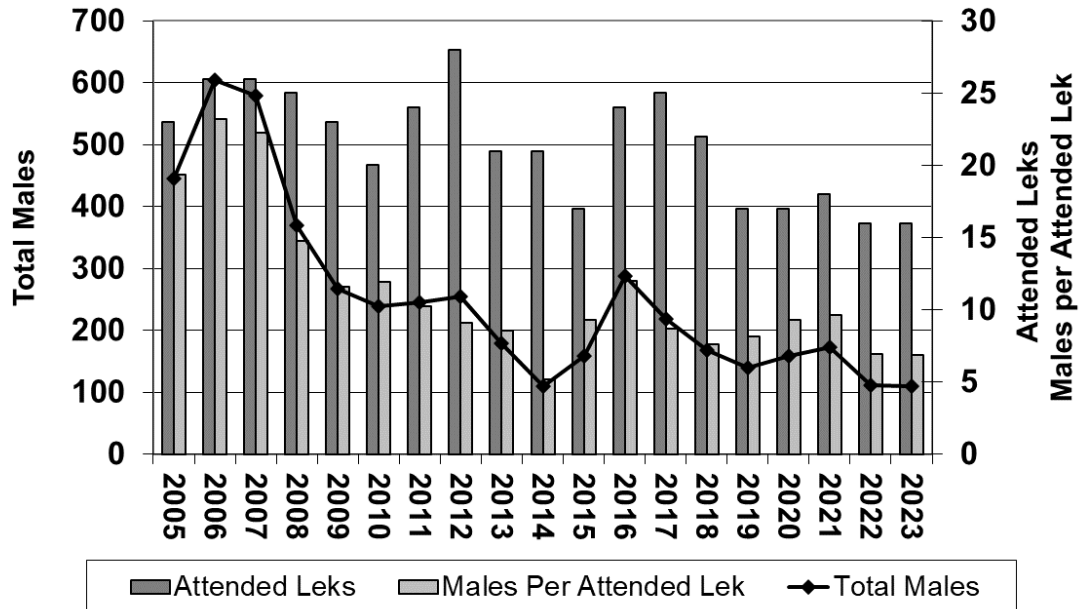
< 300 males counted on all leks in Butte and Harding counties OR ≥ 300 males counted on all leks in Butte and Harding counties for only 1 year

No Hunting Season

Year	Hunters	Sage Grouse Harvested
2004	53	25
2005	40	26
2006	46	15
2007	25	10
2008	24	17
2009	20	7
2010	26	12
2011	27	11
2012	35	9
2013	SEASON CLOSED	
2014	SEASON CLOSED	
2015	SEASON CLOSED	
2016*	28	10
2017-2022	SEASON CLOSED	

*Number of hunters and harvest based on hunter harvest survey results of those hunters who were successful in drawing a sage grouse hunting permit.

Sage Grouse Lek Survey Results, 2005-2023.



RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

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

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

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

FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____