

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Spring Turkey Hunting Season

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	November 7-8	Watertown
	Public Hearing	January 16	Pierre
	Finalization	January 16-17	Pierre

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Current Rule

- A person is not allowed to use a rimfire, centerfire or muzzleloading rifle during the spring turkey season.

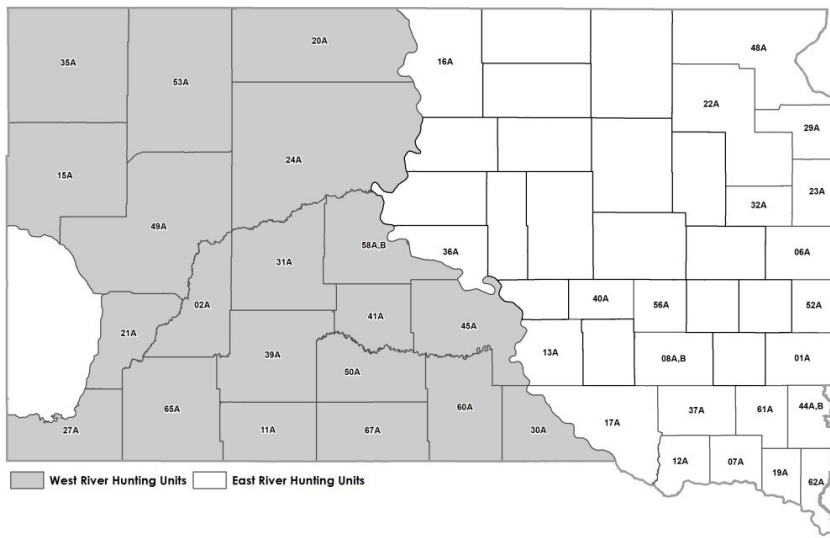
Proposed changes:

1. Allow the use of rifles (rimfire, centerfire, and muzzleloading) on private land (excluding private land leased by GFP for public hunting access through the Walk-In Area program) for West River spring prairie hunting units.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Some individuals have contacted the department and commissioners on the topic of no longer allowing the use of rifles for hunting turkeys during the spring season. The commission believes it is appropriate to consider this change and provide some level of opportunity for the use of rifles, in particular on private land. A reasonable compromise seems to be the allowance of rifles on the west river prairie hunting units, but retain the prohibition of rifles in the Black Hills unit.

Spring Turkey Hunting Units



APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

Not Applicable

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate?
 - There are hunters who choose to use rifles to hunt turkeys in the spring and the current prohibition may inhibit them from participating.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - Should the prohibition of rifles be removed, it would allow existing turkey hunters who have historically used rifles to continue a method of preference.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors?
 - For those who desire to hunt with a rifle, it is assumed the allowance to use a rifle would have a positive impact on their hunting experience.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____