

Comes, Rachel

From: info@gfp.sd.us
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Subject: Petition for Rule Change Form

Categories: Commission

South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

Petition for Rule Change

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:

ID: 106

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Rule Identification: Preference point system

Describe Change: Change the designation of preference points by big game season type to big game species type.

Reason for Change: Preference point systems are there to give a better opportunity to draw future licenses. The current system does work for this generally, yet there are some areas where "point creep" is happening due to high demand of a limited resource. Examples of this would be any elk licenses, refuge and muzzleloader deer, select numbers of rifle deer units. For some, these may end up being once in a lifetime opportunities and others may never see the opportunity if the "point creep" grows at current rates. Layout the points for elk as an example. Right now one hunter can apply for and accumulate points in 5 different elk seasons. Applicants are reaching into 20+ years of points and still coming up unsuccessful. Changing points to be species specific would help with this. Will there still be point creep, yes, as long as demand outweighs the product. Narrowing the field of choices will help reduce rate of creep though. Deer tags are not to the extreme of elk demand but in a lot of areas what was once an every other year experience is now becoming 3+. The pick 2 applications was an attempt to fix this issue and does address it slightly but there are still 6 options for accumulating deer points. I would propose an "Any deer" point and a "whitetail deer" point. This still gives deer applicants options. (may also require the licence for some counties, east river, to change to a whitetail tag instead of an any deer tag) What do we do with everyone's existing points? Combining them could lead to large banks of points, but every one has paid for them. This is the tricky dilemma. Some licence draws could be skewed for years while some would work themselves out in just a few years. I would leave this up for further conversation to determine what is most fair. Deer points could be divided in the first year of transition, applicant can choose how many points to put in the Any deer or whitetail category. Maybe cap 80% max for one category leaving 20% in the other. Elk points could be averaged among current point categories. If someone has points in all 5 categories add up total and divide by 5. Three categories, divide by three. Or take the current point category with highest points and add in the average from other categories. South Dakota is a wonderful place for the outdoors and I am grateful for the bounty of opportunity that is already in place. I think this change will be a benefit to more frequent participation by everyone, and reduce the burden on high demand opportunities.