

Public Comments

Mountain Lion Hunting Season

Elena Murphy

Wall SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hound hunting is a cruel & unsporting practice where packs dogs chase an animal until it's too exhausted to run, allowing a hunter to shoot it at close range. When dogs catch them before a hunter arrives, lions can be mauled, kittens killed and dogs seriously injured.

Hound hunting on the prairie is especially inhumane. The lack of trees can make these encounters even more violent, as there is no place for the lion to escape the dogs until the hunter can shoot it. To make things even worse, hunters are allowed to kill lactating females, which results in kittens starving after their mother is killed.

This proposed change is unacceptable. Public lands belong to ALL of us, not just a small group of special interest trophy hunters. Expanding these practices makes survival even harder for South Dakota's already vulnerable wildlife. The vast majority of South Dakotans do not support hound hunting. But

Yvette Rubery

Pittsford NY

Position: oppose

Comment:

It's time to stop these senseless and brutal killings of these mountain lions!

Dale Kringen

Belle Fourche SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This is not hunting. It's time for South Dakota to start being better.

David Williams

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Science based mountain lion management is greatly lacking in our state, and hounds are the only way to ensure proper mountain lion management.

**Bureau Of Land Management
South Dakota Field Office**

Belle Fourche SD

Position: other

Comment:

Would like verbiage added to prohibit starting dogs on FT. Meade Recreation area South Unit.

Jake Williams
BLM South Dakota Field office Manager.

Nathaniel Alexander

Hermosa SD

Position: support

Comment:

As.
A resident of south dakota I support hunting with hounds. It's the right way to manage lions.

North American River Otter Action Plan

Russell Townsend

Canton SD

Position: other

Comment:

I support the conservation plans that include increases to river shed habitat. I do not believe that there should be an increase in harvest numbers. This species is already elusive, and I would like to see the numbers grow substantially before increases are made. I am appreciative of the efforts to return this species to any sort of prevalence in our state. It is powerful to see what good management can do!

Michael Bryan

Highmore SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Otters have a very tight knit family community. When observing them, after each dive , they come up and touch noses. They play with each other and are THE most enjoyable creatures to watch. I've hunted. I've even trapped in my life but otters would never be my quarry. NEVER!!

John Gillaspie

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

"Hey! River otters just came off the protected list! Quick, let's start killing them!" What is it with you guys anyway?!? BTW, lifetime FAIR CHASE hunter here...

Rosanne Bryan

Highmore SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Are you kidding me??? Of course I am OPPOSED! Where is the necessity? What? That it is even being considered is absolutely ridiculous. How about we leave them to their families and not kill an animal for its skin.

Mike Rhodes

South East Todd County SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The ponds along the Niobrara river south of Valentine, NE have been about wiped out by otters. Most of the smaller streams along the Niobrara don't have trout anymore because of the otters. The trout in the Snake river south of Valentine are being wiped out. My opinion is they should have never been introduced, they are nothing but a viscous predator.

Martin Hunt

Hill City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I see no reason to allow any trapping of River Otters. What would be the purpose? Are you going to sell Otter furs? No. Do they eat too many fish? Not even close to what people kill. Let River Otters live in nature undisturbed.

Makai Obregon

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jeff Anderson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the plan to move to er otters to western South Dakota. Otters will help stream and riparian habitat.

Other

Joshua Harvey

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

please move the archery spring turkey season back so we may have an week without shotgun hunters in the fields with us.

Thanks

Annette Hof

Crooks SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

John (Jack) Freidel Freidel

Chamberlain SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose the regulation change to the "Dredge Hole" area on Lake Francis Case. Prior to this regulation hundreds of walleyes were killed due to their taking in deep water when anglers tried to release them due to their short size. As a rule, this regulation has been well accepted by the public. Very few violations occurred after the first couple years of the regulations inception. You can check the past arrest and/or warning tickets issued in your records to prove this point. Most people, GFP staff included, were not around when this regulation was initiated so they don't understand what occurred prior to the regulation. This particular area is easily defined by visible landmarks and enforcement is not an issue. Please consider leaving the regulation as is. Why fix it if it ain't broke? Thanks.

John (Jack) Freidel Freidel

Chamberlain SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose the regulation change to the "Dredge Hole" area on Lake Francis Case. Prior to this regulation hundreds of walleyes were killed due to their taking in deep water when anglers tried to release them due to their short size. As a rule, this regulation has been well accepted by the public. Very few violations occurred after the first couple years of the regulations inception. You can check the past arrest and/or warning tickets issued in your records to prove this point. Most people, GFP staff included, were not around when this regulation was initiated so they don't understand what occurred prior to the regulation. This particular area is easily defined by visible landmarks and enforcement is not an issue. Please consider leaving the regulation as is. Why fix it if it ain't broke? Thanks.

Clarence Belitz

Chamberlain SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Dredge hole chamberlain sd I can remember late 70s and early 80s there were a lot of small fish in dredge hole many being caught and released with many dead fish floating on surface but now I don't think the area is holding that many small fish any more since it is closed now I think it should be kept closed because people are used to it being closed I think we have other problems to be solved I don't think biologists are basing there research on the correct sources I think they should be talking to people who have fished the system for many years and not fishing guides and store owners although I know these people have to make a living we have gotten to a point where now we cannot satisfy both sides so I guess nature will have to sacrifice

Clifton Stone

Chamberlain SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

GFP Commissioners: My name is Cliff Stone, I was the Lake Francis Case (LFC) fisheries biologist at the time that the area known as the "Dredge Hole" was closed to fishing during the late fall/winter. The Dredge Hole in most winters attracted and held many, mostly smaller walleye and a very intense fishery developed each year, late fall/winter – either by boat or through the ice depending upon weather conditions. Large numbers of small fish were released – many not surviving being because of the depths at which they were caught. The anglers who fished this area developed concerns over the waste and impact to the overall LFC walleye fishery. In my career as the LFC Senior Fisheries Biologist, this was one of the only regulations that I was involved with that came from and was supported by the anglers who were fishing this deep- water area. What makes this regulation unique, successful and relatively easy to enforce is the well-defined location where it occurs – between the I-90 causeway and the railroad bridge. A modification was made to this regulation after its implementation, to allow shore fishing on the Brule County side of this area, where the water is not as deep. It is also important to understand that this regulation is not a "stand-alone" regulation, but an important part of the overall package of regulations that manage the LFC walleye fishery. Other regulations in the LFC walleye regulation package include the daily limit and the partial year minimum length limit. With a few modifications, this regulation package has stood the test of time, successfully managing this fishery for over 30 years. Please reject this proposal and not begin the break-down of the LFC walleye regulation management package. Thank you.

Brian Hertling

New Ulm MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

My concern is the purpose of the habitat stamp. I feel as though it's unfair to have to pay \$25 for a stamp to apply for a limited draw, and if not selected lose the \$25 when I'm not hunting in SD. I would like to know WHY it's required and where does the money go. CONTACT NUMBER +1 507-382-3025

Jerrad Adams

Chamberlain SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Proposal to keep the dredge hole open year round. I would like to voice my opinion on this, I strongly disagree with the dredge hole being open year round. This area holds a high amount of fish in the closed time. A big majority of the fish are smaller, or under the size limit. It almost always kills the fish when they are caught in the depths of the dredge hole. This would be a huge detriment to the health and population of the fish. I actually can't believe this is even being considered.

Jennifer Wingler

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I wanted to get my hunting and fishing license to and I am 100% disabled as determined by law, but I am not qualified to apply for this license according to your rules because my disability isn't bad enough? Isn't that discrimination against the disabled? Asinine.

Jennifer Wingler

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am sorry, this is public comment #2 to specify I was going to apply for my disability hunting and fishing permit. I believe that I accidentally erased the disability part. I am appalled and so upset I cannot get a disability permit. Unreal.

Bill Meyers

Pierre SD

Position: other

Comment:

McCook Lake: Heard an invitation for comment on SDPR. This was the only place I could find to provide comments. The State does not have any public access to the lake, the City owned ramp is accessed with a fee. The lake shorelines are privately owned. I don't see where any investment in the lake improves public access or is a good expenditure. The press release should state where the funding is coming from; that may generate the public interest this deserves.

Bill Meyers, Pierre

Dave Simpson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support a 3 year moratorium on commercial/ recreational beaver trapping in the Black Hills.

Joelle Simpson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support a 3-year moratorium on commercial/ recreational beaver trapping in the Black Hills.

Val Simpson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support a 3 year moratorium on commercial/ recreational beaver trapping in the Black Hills.

Delaney Marsden-Loetscher

Colorado Spgs CO

Position: support

Comment:

I support a 3 year moratorium on recreational/commercial trapping of beavers in the black hills. As keystone species that are critical to ecosystems and ecosystem services, this species needs to be protected not hunted

Makai Obregon

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support a 3 year moratorium on recreational/commercial beaver trapping in the Black Hills.

Thomas Haar

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support a 3 year moratorium on recreational/commercial beaver trapping in the Black Hills.

Anna Lagrange

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support a 3 year moratorium on recreational/commercial beaver trapping in the Black Hills.

J. S.

Mitchell SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support a 3 year moratorium on recreational/commercial beaver trapping in the Black Hills.

Kevin Swenson

Chamberlain SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

See attached file.

Rick Hargens
Chamberlain SD

Position: other

Comment:

To whom it may concern,

These comments are in opposition to the petition filed to open the dredge hole to public fishing year around. I have lived in Chamberlain for the past 43 years. In my time here I have witnessed and participated in the fishing of the dredge hole. As a young man in the 80's I really never gave much thought to the conservation of the young walleyes that called the dredge hole home for the winter months. Now that I look into the past what a needless killing of fish that was. It was so common to see fisherman slide fatally injured walleyes back into the lake, only to see the too short fish float back up to the bottom of the ice.

When the dredge hole was closed to fishing for those five months it was one of the best decisions the SDGFP has made concerning Lake Francis Case. I am sure a few people may have complained at the time but being a local I have not heard of one complaint concerning not being able to fish this area for years. My hope is that people will use good judgement in regards to opening the dredge hole area again.

One last thought. People can be crazy at times concerning their ice fishing. They will do some crazy things to get on that ice to catch a fish. The winter months on Francis Case can fluctuate so much as can the ice with the current. Please take this into consideration as many people will wander onto the ice only to find out when they come off in the dark that the current has ate away inches of ice. Take it from a young man who found out the hard way.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Rick Hargens
Chamberlain

Keaton Fierro
Rapid City SD
Position: support

Comment:

I support a 3-year moratorium on recreational/commercial beaver trapping in the Black Hills.

Phil Lentz
Sioux Falls SD
Position: other

Comment:

We need to address the massive deer kill off from last year. The populations are critically low and yet the license proposal has not reduced any tags? Why not close effected counties? OR just end doe harvest so they can recover. The pressure is very high and the disease impact has been great. The population needs some time to recover and recoup. I thought the mission was to manage the population and not just sell tags, then

later do a buyback? This isn't management this is sales. Please help the wildlife!

Mary Zimmerman

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Support for moratorium on beaver trapping and hunting in the Black Hills. Letter attached.

Jon Olson

Madison SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Deer tag allocations need to be reduced in many areas with low populations due to EHD. I have been speaking out for a while about more protection for mule deer. Eliminating the east/west river tag options for a single state wide archery deer tag is a good start.

Chris Stover

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fully support and encourage the South Dakota Game Commission to enact a moratorium on lethal beaver trapping within the Black Hills Fire Protection District. I also support and would encourage a reduced season and take limit for beaver in West River.

Stacey Juhnke

Chamberlain SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose opening the Dredge Hole in Chamberlain secondary to damage that will occur to fish caught and brought up from that depth.

Patty Juhnke

Chamberlain SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the opening of the dredge hole in Chamberlain, SD

Natalie Ketelhut

Pukwana SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose of the opening of the dredge hole in Chamberlain SD

Rick And Valerie Moore

Chamberlain SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

It has come to our attention there has been a request to remove seasonal fishing restrictions from the area known locally as the Dredge Hole located between the I-90 and Railroad bridges at Chamberlain, SD. We wish to state our firm opposition to any changes to the current regulations.

During the season when the Dredge Hole is closed a huge population of fish congregate in this small, deep area as a refuge to spend the winter/early spring months. Opening the Dredge Hole to fishing during this time will result in the death of nearly any fish caught at this location due to the water depth. Many of those fish will be smaller than legal length to keep but will die nonetheless.

There are many other areas near Chamberlain which provide ample opportunity for fishing with the ability to release viable fish back into the habitat.

In comparison, waterfowl have refuges where no hunting is allowed. Please protect the Dredge Hole near Chamberlain by not changing the current regulations and continue to protect this area as the refuge is it during the restricted season. All signage regarding the restrictions are currently in place and making no changes will cost the GF&P department nothing. Because of the Dredge Hole's prominent location, patrol and enforcement of fishing restrictions should not be a burden to department staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rick and Valerie Moore
Chamberlain, SD

Public Lands and Waters

Bret Brown

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the opening up of the "Dredge Hole" on Lake Francis Case. The reason is that I feel protecting the large breeding females during staging and pre spawn, is vital to the ecosystem of the river. The pressure on our river system has increased to the point that parking on most weekends when it's nice, has become very difficult

for the people that want to have a nice leisurely day and not be out at the crack of dawn. Another important reason is that I've sat out there and watched people pull "shorts under 15", one after another. I leave when they are too small to harvest. How many fish are dying there then from the "bends"? It's no longer like the old days when maybe 2 boats were out there on a 50 degree day in November, there are 50-100 now. I'm not sure who proposed this change, but I hope common sense will prevail and keep the area closed and the future of our resources safe. Please vote NO! Thank you

Billy Hansen

Chamberlain SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in support of opening the area of discussion. Though I am not an avid walleye fisherman I am a huge catfisherman and would love to be able to fish that area at first ice out.

Thank you for the consideration

Billy Hansen