



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2024 | OUTDOOR CAMPUS - RAPID CITY

MEETING INFO

This agenda is subject to change without prior notice.

Date and Time: September 5, 2024, from 1-5 pm MT | September 6, 2024, from 8 am-12 pm MT

Meeting Location: Outdoor Campus – Rapid City, 4130 Adventure Trail, Rapid City, SD 57702

Webinar Info: We will be using Zoom Webinar® for this meeting. As a participant, you will not have audio or video capabilities by default. During the open forum and public hearing, if you'd like to testify, please 'Raise Your Hand' using the button at the bottom of the screen, or by pressing *9 on your phone. To lower your hand via phone, press *9 again. When it's your turn to speak, the meeting host will unmute you, allowing you to have audio but no video. If your phone is muted when called upon, press *6 to unmute.

- *9 to 'Raise Your Hand' or 'Lower Your Hand.'
- *6 to Unmute or Mute

Please inform Liz Kierl at liz.kierl@state.sd.us by 1 pm MT if you plan to speak during the meeting. This helps us to accurately identify and call on speakers during the session. Thank you for your cooperation!

Zoom Webinar: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 912 6417 6710

Passcode: 970458

Call In: +16699009128,,91264176710# US

Video Conference ID: 91264176710@zoomcrc.com

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order (1 pm MT / 2 pm CST)

Division of Administration

Action Items

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives>
3. Additional Commissioner Salary Days
4. License List Request

Informational Items

5. Staff Introductions

Public Hearing (2 pm MT / 3 pm CST)

The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment finalizations.

Open Forum – following the conclusion of the Public Hearing

The portion of the meeting is designated for public comment on petitions, proposals, and other items of interest not on the agenda.

Petition

6. #222 – Spring Turkey Hunting Season

Proposals

7. License Fee Package

Finalizations

8. Fishing Regulations
9. Bobcat Status Update and Hunting Season
10. Spring Turkey Hunting Season



SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2024 | OUTDOOR CAMPUS - RAPID CITY

Division of Parks and Recreation

Informational Items

11. Black Hills Playhouse
12. Reel in the Memories Campaign Update
13. LWCF & RTP Board Award Selections
14. Pringle Land Acquisition for Mickelson Trail
15. Camping Unit and Revenue Reports

Division of Wildlife

Action Items

16. Elk Contingency Licenses
 - a. Elk Forage Update
17. Antelope Action Plan
18. Mountain Lion Action Plan

Informational Items

19. Elk Virtual Reality Video
20. Threatened & Endangered Species Review
21. Deerfield Land Management
22. License Sales Reports

Solicitation of Agenda Items

Now is the time to submit agenda items for the Commission to consider at a following commission meeting.

Adjourn

The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on October 3-4, 2024, starting at 1 pm CST at the Huron Event Center in Huron, SD.



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

July 11-12, 2024 | Good Earth State Park, Sioux Falls, SD

Agenda Item #2

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Call Meeting to Order

Chair Rissler called the meeting to order at 1 pm CST at the Good Earth State Park in Sioux Falls, SD on July 11, 2024. Commissioners Stephanie Rissler, Julie Bartling, Jim White, Robert Whitmyre, Jon Locken, Travis Bies, and Bruce Cull were present, with Travis Theel joining virtually. Commissioner Theel was available virtually on July 12, but did not vote as reception was not reliable. With eight commission members present or online, a quorum was established. The public and staff could listen via SDPB Livestream and participate via conference or in person, with approximately 105 total participants attending via Zoom or in person.

1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure [Action Item]

Chair Rissler requested the disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest, but none were brought forward.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes [Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for any additions or corrections to the regular minutes of June 2024 meeting. Minutes are available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/archives/>.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2024 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Additional Salary Days [Action Item]

Chair Rissler called for additional salary days from the Commissioners. No additional salary days were submitted for approval.

4. Staff Introductions [Info Item]

Parks and Recreation Director VanMeeteren introduced department employees from the two nearby Southeast Park District #7 (Palisades district) & #8 (Newton Hills District) along with Southeast Regional Park Supervisor Derek Dorr. All these staff members were impacted by flood related issues in their local parks over the past couple of weeks and they were thanked for their responses.

The second day of the meeting, GFP Law Enforcement staff were recognized for the incredible efforts and assistance provided to other law enforcement and rescue agencies. Secretary Robling shared comments and accolades to our officers, then turning over comments to Lieutenant Governor Rhoden. Lieutenant Gov Rhoden shared thanks and accolades for the efforts and work conducted by law staff.

5. Department Fiscal Update [Info Item]

Deputy Secretary Scott Simpson presented the Department Fiscal Update to the Commissioners.

Public Hearing

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor at 2:04 pm CST for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda as a finalization.

Agenda Item #10: Annual Park Entrance License Options

No testimony provided by the public.

Agenda Item #11: Air Gun Hunting

No testimony provided by the public.

Agenda Item #12: Antelope Hunting Seasons

No testimony provided by the public.



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

July 11-12, 2024 | Good Earth State Park, Sioux Falls, SD

Agenda Item #13: Fall Turkey Hunting Seasons

No testimony provided by the public.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the Public Hearing at 2:06 pm CST.

Open Forum

Senior Staff Attorney Nick Michels opened the floor following the conclusion of the public hearing at 2:06 pm CST for discussion from those in attendance in matters of importance to them that are listed on the agenda not as a finalization or may not be on the agenda.

2:06 pm: Cody Hodson of Rapid City, SD representing the Black Hills Sportsman's Club testified in support of the spring turkey hunting season petition.

2:08 pm: Rob Mahaffey of Rapid City, SD testified in support of the spring turkey hunting season petition.

2:11 pm: Justin Wills of Rapid City, SD testified in support of the spring turkey hunting season petition.

2:12 pm: Chad Scholten of Spearfish, SD testified in support of the spring turkey hunting season petition.

2:14 pm: Ron Kolbeck of Salem, SD representing the South Dakota Bowhunters Inc testified in opposition to the spring turkey hunting season proposal. He testified in favor of the spring turkey hunting season petition.

2:17 pm: Ron Kolbeck of Salem, SD testified on his personal behalf on the Elk Raffle license action item.

2:18 pm: Patrick Weimer of Spearfish, SD testified in opposition of the Mountain Lion Action Plan due to not being able to hunt mountain lions with hounds.

2:21 pm: Nancy Hilding of Black Hawk, SD representing the Prairie Hills Audubon Society testified in support of not using hounds to take mountain lions, and in opposition of Objective Two.

Senior Staff Attorney Michels closed the Open Forum at 2:26 pm CST.

6. Petition #221: Spring Turkey Hunting Season

[Action Item: Petition]

Dana Rogers of Hill City, SD representing the South Dakota Wildlife Federation submitted petition #221 in which requested the Commission reduce the Black Hills Spring Turkey non-resident licenses to 661 limited draw permits.

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann provided information from the department and a recommendation to deny the petition as the suggested reduction in nonresident licenses is extreme. The commission voted to deny the petition, but also mentioned to the department that based on concerns shared by the petitioner and individuals that the number of nonresident turkey hunter numbers should be closely evaluated and to bring recommendations that could help address the concerns. Secretary Robling offered the department would bring a recommendation to the commission on the second day of meeting. Friday of the July Commission meeting the department brought forward a recommendation of limiting the nonresident Black Hills turkey licenses to 2,225, a 30% reduction from the number of licenses sold in 2024. The commission adopted the recommendation and will go out for public comment with a finalization set for the September meeting.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO DENY PETITION #221. Yea Votes (7) Rissler, Bartling, Cull, Locken, Theel, White, and Whitmyre. Nay Votes (1) Bies. Motion carried.



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

July 11-12, 2024 | Good Earth State Park, Sioux Falls, SD

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-15 TO DENYING PETITION #221. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Fishing Regulations

[Action Item: Proposal]

Jake Davis, Fisheries Program Administrator, brought for the Department proposals from the Wildlife Division. These included proposals about snagging of salmon, bait, fish limits and private hatcheries. Specifically, they include modifications to the walleye harvest regulation on Belle Fourche Reservoir and species of salmon that may be snagged on Lake Oahe, as well as updates to scientific names of crayfish species and reporting requirements for private hatcheries.

7a. Bait

Jake Davis brought forth the department proposal on bait that would correct scientific names for certain species of crayfish to reflect updates in taxonomic classification.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR SEPTEMBER FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

7b. Fish Limits

Jake Davis brought forth the department proposal on fish limits that would modify the existing harvest regulation on Belle Fourche Reservoir where currently only those walleye less than 15 inches in length or 18 inches or greater in length may be taken. And also, of the walleye taken daily, no more than one may be 18 inches greater in length, to a two fish daily limit with a 15-inch minimum.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR SEPTEMBER FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

7c. Private Fish Hatcheries

Jake Davis brought forth the department proposal on the private fish hatcheries. The proposal would modify annual reporting requirement for private hatcheries by requiring an annual summary to be submitted rather than individual records.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY WHITE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR SEPTEMBER FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

7d. Snagging of Salmon

Jake Davis brought forth the department proposal on snagging salmon. The proposal would allow snagging of all salmon species during the months of October and November on Lake Oahe.

MOTIONED BY LOCKEN, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR SEPTEMBER FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Bobcat Trapping and Hunting Seasons

[Action Item: Proposal]

Brady Neiles, Wildlife Biologist, presented the department recommends no change to the West River and East River seasons. The West River season being an unlimited 52-day season and East River season being a one bobcat per hunter or trapper 52-day season. The department recommends moving from a moderate to a low harvest strategy in the Black Hills zone, allowing one bobcat per hunter or trapper.

Our 6-year study in the Black Hills supports this low harvest strategy with a declining population. Low juvenile-to-adult ratios suggest low recruitment and negative population growth rates. The juvenile-to-adult ratio has been below our 10% management threshold for 3 out of the past 4 years. Female harvest in the Black Hills zone has been high, with harvest close to 50% female-to-male. We have also seen a 23-24% harvest rate of our abundance estimate (129-160 bobcats). With our low juvenile and kitten survival



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

July 11-12, 2024 | Good Earth State Park, Sioux Falls, SD

observed in the Black Hills, we would need to reduce harvest from the current 23% to 7-9% for a positive mean growth rate.

Andrew Norton, Wildlife Program Administrator, brought for the department proposal on bobcat trapping and hunting season. This proposal would edit § 41:08:01:08.01 to limit the number of bobcats harvested to one per hunter or trapper in the Black Hills management zone.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR SEPTEMBER FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Spring Turkey Hunting Seasons

[Action Item: Proposal]

Andrew Norton, Wildlife Program Administrator, brought forth the Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season proposals for a second reading.

9a. Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Andrew Norton presented the Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season proposal which would (1) Edit § 41:06:13:02 to change Unit PST-18A to PST-10A to have the unit label represent one of the counties (Aurora) contained in the unit that includes Aurora and Douglas counties. Clark County is county number 18. (2) Edit § 41:06:13:02 to expand the archery statewide turkey hunting unit to include the portion of Lake County south of State Highway 34 and specify archery hunting is valid in any unit that has limited issue spring turkey licenses available.

The department offered this change from proposal to edit § 41:06:13:01 to create a cap of 2,225 one-tag male turkey licenses for nonresidents in the Black Hills Turkey unit.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY CULL TO ADOPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION TO THE PROPOSAL. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADOPT THE AMENDED FINALIZATION TO THE SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON. The motion carried unanimously.

9b. Custer State Park Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Andrew Norton presented the Custer State Park Wild Turkey Hunting Season to the Commission.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AS THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PROPOSAL. FINALIZATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER 2024.

10. Annual Park Entrance License Options

[Action Item: Finalization]

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff VanMeeteren presented a rule finalization that would remove § 41:03:03:05 which authorizes the provision of a discounted half price second annual license, and the provisions for securing multiple discounted additional licenses through common vehicle registration. The proposal also amends § 41:03:03:06 to formalize the availability of a double license option (one full price license and one-half price license when purchased together). There are no limits on how many double licenses may be purchased. Over the 60-day public comment period, no comments were received.

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY CULL TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL PARK ENTRANCE LICENSE FEES FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Air Gun Hunting

[Action Item: Finalization]

Sam Schelhaas, Law Enforcement Section Chief, brought for the hunting requirements and prohibited methods commission proposal in which would edit § 41:06:04:17 to reduce the air gun muzzle velocity minimum from 1,000 feet per second to 600 feet per second to hunt cottontail rabbit, red squirrel, grey squirrel, and any species defined as a predator/varmint in § 41-1-1(21). Predator/varmints listed in § 41-1-



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

July 11-12, 2024 | Good Earth State Park, Sioux Falls, SD

1 include coyote, wolf, gray fox, red fox, skunk, gopher, ground squirrel, chipmunk, jackrabbit, marmot, opossum, porcupine, crow, and prairie dog.

MOTIONED BY LOCKEN, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADOPT THE FINALIZATION TO ALLOW AIR GUN HUNTING. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Antelope Hunting Seasons

[Action Item: Finalization]

Andrew Norton, Wildlife Program Administrator, brought forth the Antelope Hunting Season commission proposals for finalization.

12a. Archery Antelope Hunting Season

Andrew Norton presented the Archery Antelope Hunting Seasons proposal to the Commission for finalization in which would edit § 41:06:24:01 to remove five access permits for Custer and Pennington Counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

The department recommended editing § 41:06:24.01 to require access permits, available only to residents, to hunt during the archery antelope season in Fort Pierre National Grassland (PRA-45B).

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENT TO THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADOPT THE AMENDED ARCHERY ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

12b. Antelope Firearm Hunting Season

Andrew Norton presented the Antelope Firearm Hunting Season proposal to the Commission which would edit § 41:06:23:01 to allow an individual that applies for a “special antelope” license to apply for another antelope license in the second lottery drawing instead of the third lottery drawing. It would also edit § 41:06:23:02 with a minor unit boundary adjustment to use Interstate 90 instead of the Black Hills National Forest as the boundary for unit PRA-15B in Butte County. And provide a rule clean-up for unit boundary descriptions to exclude unit PRA-45B (Ft. Pierre National Grasslands) from PRA-41A (Jones County) and PRA-58A (Stanley County).

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITE TO ADOPT THE ANTELOPE FIREARM HUNTING SEASON FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

12c. Antelope Firearm Hunting Season License Allocation

Andrew Norton presented the recommended license allocations to the Commission. No changes were made to the special antelope licenses and archery licenses available to residents and nonresidents. Custer State Park season remained closed. Five archery access permits were removed from portions of Custer and Pennington counties within the Black Hills Fire Protection District and ten archery access permits were added to Fort Pierre National Grasslands (PRA-45B). No changes were made to the number of landowner own land licenses available. However, they were restricted to single-tag buck only licenses. The mentor youth season was closed.

MOTIONED BY WHITMYRE, SECONDED BY BIES TO ADOPT THE ANTELOPE FIREARM HUNTING SEASON LICENSE ALLOCATIONS. The motion carried unanimously.

12d. Landowner Own Land Antelope and Mentored Youth Antelope Licenses

Andrew Norton presented the Landowner Own Land Antelope and Mentored Youth Antelope Licenses proposal for finalization to the Commission. Proposed changes from last year are to restrict landowner own land license types from one “any antelope” or one two-tag “any antelope” and “any doe-fawn antelope” to one “buck antelope” only (§ 41:06:01:07.03). And to close mentored youth antelope season (§ 41:06:01:12).



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

July 11-12, 2024 | Good Earth State Park, Sioux Falls, SD

MOTIONED BY BARTLING, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO APPROVE LANDOWNER OWN LAND ANTELOPE AND MENTORED YOUTH ANTELOPE LICENSES THE FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Fall Turkey Hunting Seasons

[Action Item: Finalization]

Andrew Norton, Wildlife Program Administrator, brought forth the Fall Turkey Hunting proposals before the Commission for finalization.

13a. Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Andrew Norton brought for the Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season proposal for finalization. The recommended changes from last year include to edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to exclude Douglas County from Unit PFT-17A (Charles Mix County). As well as to edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to change Unit PFT-18A to PFT-10A to have the unit label represent one of the counties (Aurora) contained in the unit that includes Aurora and Douglas counties. Clark County is county number 18. And, to edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to add Unit PFT-58A Stanley County.

The department did bring forth one change from proposal for the Commission's consideration in which would edit § 41:06:14:02.01 to expand the PFT-06A (Brookings County) turkey hunting unit to include the portion of Brookings County west of Interstate 29.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENT TO THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTIONED BY WHITE, SECONDED BY WHITMYRE TO ADOPT THE FALL WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON FINALIZATION. The motion carried unanimously.

13b. Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons

Andrew Norton brought for the Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Season License Allocations. An additional 8% of the licenses will be available to nonresidents for the Black Hills and West River prairie units.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY BARTLING TO ADOPT THE FALL WILD TURKEY HUNTING LICENSE ALLOCATION. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Flood Event Update

[Info Item: Parks & Recreation]

Derek Dorr, Parks Regional Supervisor, provided a short presentation with the Commission explaining where the Southeast parks are presently at with damages caused by flood event. The presentation briefly touched on the major areas affected by flooding and discuss lessor known areas that were dealt with as well. Discussion expressed gratitude to staff for quick clean up and repair to get things back online for guests as quickly as possible.

15. Education Events and Reel in Memories

[Info Item: Parks & Recreation]

Lydia Austin, Visitor Services Program Manager, and Lacy Elrod, Outdoor Campus West Coordinator, gave a joint presentation on the educational events and 'Reel in Memories' campaign.

16. Fort Sisseton Festival Update

[Info Item: Parks & Recreation]

Ali Tonsfeldt, Park Manager, gave a presentation on the Fort Sisseton Festival.

17. Palisades Development Update

[Info Item: Parks & Recreation]

District Park Supervisor Luke Dreckman, assisted by Regional Park Supervisor Derek Dorr, talked about the expansion at Palisades State Park. Topics discussed were construction to date, such as shelters, campground, camping cabins, trails, and more. The presentation then went into future construction items



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

July 11-12, 2024 | Good Earth State Park, Sioux Falls, SD

that covered an archery range, disc golf, more/improved trails, among others. It was mentioned that this was all made possible by cooperative landowners and generous donors.

18. George S. Mickelson Trail Survey

[Info Item: Parks & Recreation]

Al Nedved, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation, informed the Commission that park staff are conducting a survey to gain data on electric bike use on the trail. Goals will be to determine percentages of ebike use compared to regular bikes, and differences in speed to be collected through a radar device. Trail users, both ebike and traditional bike users will be also interviewed at trailheads to gain information about their perceptions, opinions, and level of support for any ebike regulation in the future including speed limits. Survey will be conducted throughout the summer and early fall with a completion in late fall or winter.

19. Revenue and Camping Reports

[Info Item: Parks & Recreation]

Parks & Recreation Director VanMeeteren presented the camping and revenue reports for the month of June and YTD. Camping unit numbers remain strong YTD with an overall increase of 1% or 1,300 camping units from last year at this same time. Flooding in several SE parks did impact camping unit numbers for the month of June. Park entrance permit revenues remain strong and are up 5% in June and 8% YTD.

20. Elk Raffle Selection

[Action Item: Wildlife]

John Kanta, Terrestrial Section Chief, reported that each year the Commission could make one elk license available for raffle to a nonprofit organization. That organization must have goals and objectives related to big game management among other requirements. The organization awarded the license must draw for the successful entrant on or before July 15. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) drew for the 2024 elk raffle license recently. They sold just under 600 licenses for a total funds raised of \$59,300. This year GFP received three applications from RMEF, the Mule Deer Foundation and Pheasants Forever.

MOTIONED BY CULL, SECONDED BY WHITE TO SELECT ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION (RMEF) TO RAFFLE THE 2025 ELK RAFFLE LICENSE. The motion carried unanimously.

21. Mountain Lion Action Plan

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Stephanie Buckley, Human Dimensions Specialist, presented results from the 2024 Mountain Lion Public Opinion Survey. The purpose of this study was to collect social science data from Black Hills residents and Big Game Hunters to help inform the mountain lion population objective in South Dakota. It was presented the attitudes respondents held about three topical areas. Respondents indicated the existence value of mountain lions in SD is valued, mountain lion hunting is supported as a tool for management, and respondents were mostly neutral about the risks of living with mountain lions on the landscape. Additionally, information presented perceptions of the mountain lion population objective. Results indicated the average resident and hunter believed the mountain lion population should stay the same in Custer State Park, the Black Hills Fire Protection District, and Statewide.

Byron Buckley, Senior Big Game Biologist, presented to the commission the use of the Lincoln-Petersen estimator and Chapman estimator for a small sample size, in estimating the mountain lion population in the Black Hills Fire Protection District of western South Dakota. Staff provided an example of a hypothetical unknown mountain lion population, and the methods staff would use to estimate the population abundance with the Lincoln-Petersen estimator. He provided the commission with the current mountain lion abundance estimate for the Black Hills Fire Protection District. He also provided a population trend for the Black Hills from 2010 – 2024 and incorporated a 3-year population projection of what to expect, if all biological and harvest metrics remain constant, until 2027.

Andy Lindbloom, Senior Big Game Biologist, presented the South Dakota Mountain Lion Action Plan outlines priorities, objectives, and management strategies to focus GFP's efforts over the next 4 years. The current objectives of the draft action plan focus on strategies to 1) monitor and assess mountain lion



Commission Meeting Minutes

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

523 E Capitol Avenue | Pierre, South Dakota 57501

July 11-12, 2024 | Good Earth State Park, Sioux Falls, SD

populations by conducting scientifically based biological surveys, 2) manage mountain lion populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities while considering all social and biological inputs, and 3) cooperatively work with private landowners, municipalities, and the general public to resolve mountain lion depredation to livestock, human safety concerns, and urban mountain lion conflicts. The draft of the action plan was presented to the GFP Commission and made available for public comment.

22. Nest Predator Bounty Program

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Jacque Ermer, Regional Wildlife Supervisor, shared results from 2024 Nest Predator Bounty Program. The maximum of \$500,000 was reached on June 25 which closed the program for the year. A total of 2,237 residents participated with youth making up 46% of those participating. Overall, 50,136 eligible nest predators were submitted. That breaks down to 40,711 raccoons, 4,618 opossum, 4,041 striped skunk, 404 badger, and 362 red foxes. Over 90% of the submissions came from counties east of the Missouri River, namely Minnehaha, Beadle, and Brookings counties. Additionally, 710 free live traps were given to participating youth that did not receive a trap last year and 15 weekly drawings were conducted for the Benton Howe Youth Trap Giveaway.

23. Outdoor Campus East Expansion

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Kip Rounds, Regional Wildlife Supervisor, provided a brief update on the status of the Outdoor Campus Sioux Falls expansion project. Since opening in 1997, the Outdoor Campus has provided outdoor-related classes to over 500,000 individuals. One of the most popular of those classes is archery. To meet increasing demand for archery classes, the Outdoor Campus is working on an expansion project that will consist of two phases. The first phase, which will involve the construction of an outdoor archery range, officially broke ground following the July GFP Commission meeting. The anticipated completion date is October 2024. Phase 2 will involve an indoor archery range and expanded classroom space. This second phase is in the final design and planning phase and is anticipated to start in 2025.

24. License Sales Report

[Info Item: Wildlife]

Wildlife Director Kirschenmann provided a brief report on license sales. In general, license sales for fishing, small game, and habitat stamp remain strong. Many license types are like last year and above the 3-year average. The department anticipates small game licenses sales to begin increasing in August and September as we approach the fall seasons. Big game application information was also provided as a reference for the commissioners.

25. Adjourn

[Action Item]

A Regular Commission Meeting will be held on September 5-6, 2024, starting at 1 pm MT at the Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City, South Dakota.

MOTIONED BY BIES, SECONDED BY LOCKEN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:18 AM CST ON JULY 12, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted respectfully,

Kevin Robling, Department Secretary

GAME, FISH & PARKS
523 East Capital
Pierre, SD 57501
(605)773-3396

Chris.Petersen@state.sd.us

REQUEST FOR LISTS OF LICENSE HOLDERS

Application

Type of List Requested ELK (W/B)

Number of licenses in list _____

Name of Person, Entity, or Organization requesting list:
South Dakota Access - Chad Cadwell

Address of Person, Entity, or Organization:
2501 Anthony Ave, Mitchell SD 57301

www.southdakotaaccessguide.service.com

How would you like your list sent to you: (email or disk)
email - cccadventure@gmail.com

Phone Number
2

Purpose for which list will be used:
Deer hunt solicitation via mail

This list is Names and Mailing Addresses ONLY

The sale of lists by the Department of Game, Fish & Parks is authorized by SDCL 1-27-1 and ARSD 41:06:02:04, 05 and 06. The fee for a Game, Fish & Parks Commission approved exception is \$100, otherwise the fee is \$100 per thousand names or a minimum of \$100 whichever is greater.

Unless requested and approved as part of this request, the license list will not include anyone under eighteen years of age. Names are for one-time use only and are to be used only by the person, entity or organization approved per this request.

Chad Cadwell
Authorized Signature of Purchaser

8/20/24
Date

Date of Commission Action

Petition for Rule Change Form

info@gfp.sd.us <info@gfp.sd.us>

Mon 8/26/2024 9:20 AM

To:pat.west@meadecounty.org <pat.west@meadecounty.org>

Cc:Kierl, Liz <Liz.Kierl@state.sd.us>;Harrington, Nick <Nick.Harrington@state.sd.us>

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: 222

Petitioner Name: Pat West

Address: 3990 Drolc Ln
Piedmont , SD 57769

Email: pat.west@meadecounty.org

Phone: 605-381-4440

Rule Identification: Prairie Spring Turkey Season

Describe Change: Proposal for Prairie Spring Turkey Application Adjustment First Deadline - Application rules stay as they currently are. Second Deadline - Application rules stay as they currently are. Third Deadline - After the second deadline drawing, licenses remaining are pooled and available to both residents and nonresidents. Residents and nonresidents may apply for one additional license in this drawing, even if they do not already possess a license from the first or second drawings. Leftover Licenses - Application rules stay as they currently are. Currently all Prairie Spring Turkey units are one male wild turkey licenses with the exception of three units: 31A-35 - quota of 250 resident and 20 nonresident 49A-35 - quota of 350 resident and 28 nonresident 53A-35 - quota of 100 resident and 8 nonresident Make these three units one male wild turkey licenses to align with the rest of the Prairie Spring Turkey units in the state and adjust quotas accordingly. As example: 31A-35 - quota of 500 resident and 40 nonresident 49A-35 - quota of 700 resident and 56 nonresident 53A-35 - quota of 200 resident and 16 nonresident By far and away the majority of land involved in the Prairie Spring Turkey season is private land, where permission to hunt is required. These changes to the application process would allow multiple drawing opportunities of a Prairie Spring Turkey license for every South Dakota resident applicant, while still allowing licenses to far more sportsmen and sportswomen that have permission to hunt the private land within each of these units.

Reason for Change: Simplification and fairness

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Department Fee Adjustments

Chapters 41:01:03, 41:03:03, 41:03:04, 41:03:05, 41:06:02, 41:07:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	Sept 5-6, 2024	Rapid City
	Public Hearing	Oct 3, 2024	Huron
	Finalization	Oct 3-4, 2024	Huron

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE INFORMATION

The Department is recommending adjustments to multiple fees within the both the Division of Parks and Recreation and the Division of Wildlife. Following documents outline the details of each license or fee that is being recommended for an increase.

Rules are also being created to implement nonresident Park Entrance Licenses and associated fees as well as establishing fees for the sale of habitat conservation plate emblems for both vehicles and motorcycles.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

1. Adjust fees according to recommendations lined out in the following documents associated to Parks and Recreation Division.
2. Create rule(s) to establish nonresident Park Entrance licenses and associated fees.
3. Adjust fees according to recommendations lined out in the following documents associated to Wildlife Division hunting and fishing fees.
4. Create rule for the department to sell habitat conservation plate emblems at \$50 per vehicle set and \$30 per motorcycle.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The Division of Parks and Recreation and Wildlife Division have evaluated current fees for camping, park entrance license, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities and on-going expenditures with providing programs, services, and opportunities for residents and nonresident outdoor enthusiasts. From this evaluation and the current trend of growing expenses related to conducting business, it has been determined that it is necessary to adjust fees. The Division of Parks and Recreation last adjusted fees in 2019 and the Wildlife Division in 2014. Revenue generated from these fee adjustments will allow the Parks and Recreation Division to assure services and facilities are meeting the expectations of users of the state’s park system and for Wildlife assure services, programs, operations, and staffing are meeting current and future needs/expectations.



South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
Parks and Recreation Fees and Permits

License Type

Park Entrance Licenses	Current Fee	Fee Increase	Recommended Fee
Annual	\$36	\$4	\$40
Nonresident Annual	\$36	\$24	\$60
Double	\$54	\$6	\$60
Nonresident Double	\$54	\$36	\$90
Transferable (Resident Only)	\$80	\$10	\$90
Daily	\$8	\$2	\$10
Nonresident Daily	\$8	\$7	\$15
George S. Mickelson Trail Annual Pass	\$15	\$5	\$20
George S. Mickelson Trail Daily Pass	\$4	\$1	\$5
Motorcoach, per person	\$3	\$1	\$4
One-Day Special Event, per 50 people	\$50	\$50	\$100
Custer State Park 7-day/vehicle	\$20	\$5	\$25
Custer State Unattended Vehicle PEL	\$20	\$5	\$25
Unattended Vehicle PEL	\$15	\$5	\$20

Camping

	Current Fee	Fee Increase	Recommended Fee
Custer State Park Equestrian	\$36	\$1	\$37
Custer State Park Modern	\$26	\$1	\$27
Statewide Modern	\$16-\$22	\$1-\$7	\$23
Statewide Basic	\$11	\$5	\$16
Tent Only Non-electric	\$15	\$1	\$16
CSP French Creek Natural Area	\$7	\$1	\$8
CSP Game Lodge and Stockade Group	\$7	\$1	\$8
Camping Cabins	\$55	\$5	\$60
Modern Cabin and Suites	\$85-\$205	\$45	\$85-\$250
Group Lodge - Shadehill	\$280	\$20	\$300
Group Meeting Lodge - Oahe Downstream	\$125	\$25	\$150
Electrical Fee	\$4	\$3	\$7

Miscellaneous Fees

	Current Fee	Fee Increase	Recommended Fee
Firewood	\$6	\$0.72	\$6.72
Nonresident online reservation fee	\$7.70	\$2.30	\$10
Nonresident call center reservation fee	\$9.70	\$6.30	\$16
Resident call center reservation fee	\$2	\$4	\$6
Lewis and Clark catamaran dry storage fee	\$325	\$25	\$350
Angostura catermaran dry storage fee	\$175	\$25	\$200

Boat Licenses

	Current Fee	Fee Increase	Recommended Fee
1-year under 19 ft motorized	\$25	\$5	\$30
1-year 19 ft and over motorized	\$45	\$10	\$55
1-year non-motorized/electric	\$15	\$3	\$18

Revenue Projection

\$4,386,283



South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
RESIDENT LICENSE FEES

License Type	Current Fee	Fee Increase	Recommended Fee
Fishing			
Annual	\$28	\$3	\$31
Senior	\$12	\$5	\$17
One-Day	\$8	\$2	\$10
Paddlefish Tag	\$25	\$5	\$30
Combination			
Combination	\$49	\$5	\$54
Combination Senior	\$34	\$3	\$37
Small Game			
Annual	\$27	\$3	\$30
One-day	\$12	\$3	\$15
Waterfowl			
Canada Goose Special Tags	\$10	\$5	\$15
Tundra Swan Tag	\$12	\$3	\$15
Turkey			
Spring One-tag	\$19	\$3	\$22
Spring Two-tag	\$29	\$5	\$34
Fall One-tag	\$9	\$5	\$14
Fall Two-tag	\$14	\$5	\$19
Deer			
One-tag "Any"	\$34	\$5	\$39
Two-tag "Any+Antlerless"	\$44	\$10	\$54
Three-Tag "Any+Two Antlerless"	\$44	\$10	\$54
Three-Tag "Any WT+Two Antlerless WT"	\$44	\$10	\$54
One-tag Antlerless	\$14	\$4	\$18
Two-tag Antlerless	\$24	\$6	\$30
Three-Tag Antlerless	\$24	\$6	\$30
Three-Tag Antlerless WT	\$24	\$6	\$30
Special Buck	\$169	\$25	\$194
Antelope			
One-Tag "Buck"	\$34	\$5	\$39
Two-Tag "Any+Doe-Fawn"	\$44	\$10	\$54
Three-Tag "Any+Two Doe-Fawn"	\$44	\$10	\$54
One-Tag "Doe-Fawn"	\$14	\$4	\$18
Two-Tag "Doe-Fawn"	\$24	\$6	\$30
Three-Tag "Doe-Fawn"	\$24	\$6	\$30
Special Antelope	\$169	\$25	\$194
Elk			
Any Elk	\$169	\$20	\$189
Antlerless	\$110	\$11	\$121
Mountain Goat			
	\$274	\$20	\$294
Bighorn Sheep			
	\$274	\$20	\$294
Mountain Lion			
	\$22	\$2	\$24
Furbearer			
	\$30	\$1	\$31
Predator / Varmint			
	\$5	\$1	\$6
Revenue Projection			\$1,140,669



South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks NON RESIDENT LICENSE FEES

License Type	Current Fee	Fee Increase	Recommended Fee
Fishing			
Annual	\$67	\$13	\$80
One-Day	\$16	\$10	\$26
Three-Day	\$37	\$8	\$45
Paddlefish Tag	\$25	\$25	\$50
Small Game			
Ten-Day	\$115	\$21	\$136
Waterfowl			
Ten-Day or Annual	\$110	\$29	\$139
Three-Day	\$75	\$25	\$100
Spring Light Goose	\$39	\$16	\$55
Early Fall Canada Goose	\$39	\$6	\$45
Tundra Swan Tag	\$19	\$15	\$34
Turkey			
Spring One-tag	\$94	\$21	\$115
Spring Two-tag	\$119	\$26	\$145
Fall One-tag	\$84	\$16	\$100
Fall Two-tag	\$94	\$31	\$125
Deer			
One-tag "Any"	\$280	\$89	\$369
Two-tag "Any+Antlerless"	\$330	\$89	\$419
Three-Tag "Any+Two Antlerless"	\$330	\$89	\$419
Three-Tag "Any WT+Two Antlerless WT"	\$330	\$89	\$419
One-tag Antlerless	\$74	\$20	\$94
Two-tag Antlerless	\$114	\$30	\$144
Three-Tag Antlerless	\$114	\$30	\$144
Three-Tag Antlerless WT	\$114	\$30	\$144
Special Buck	\$554	\$90	\$644
Antelope			
One-Tag "Buck"	\$280	\$89	\$369
Two-Tag "Any+Doe-Fawn"	\$330	\$89	\$419
Three-Tag "Any+Two Doe-Fawn"	\$330	\$89	\$419
One-Tag "Doe-Fawn"	\$74	\$20	\$94
Two-Tag "Doe-Fawn"	\$114	\$30	\$144
Three-Tag "Doe-Fawn"	\$114	\$30	\$144
Special Antelope	\$554	\$90	\$644
Shooting Preserve			
One-Day	\$40	\$4	\$44
Five-Day	\$70	\$20	\$90
Annual	\$115	\$25	\$140
Furbearer			
	\$275	\$50	\$325
Predator / Varmint			
	\$40	\$6	\$46
Preference Points			
	\$10	\$10	\$20
Revenue Projection			\$4,249,635

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
---------------	--------------	--------------	-----------------

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

BAIT
Chapter 41:09:04

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11,2024	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	Sept. 5,2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept. 5-6,2024	Rapid City

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Proposed changes:

1. Correct scientific names for certain species of crayfish to reflect updates in taxonomic classification.

Department recommended changes to proposal:

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. Updated classification of freshwater crayfishes resulted in multiple scientific name changes for genus of crayfish listed in South Dakota Administrative Rule.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:09:04:02.02. Species that may be taken as bait for commercial use. Species that may be taken and sold by any licensed resident bait dealer or sold by any licensed nonresident bait dealer are: fathead minnow, white sucker, creek chub, golden shiner, emerald shiner, spottail shiner, flathead chub, ~~Western western~~ silvery minnow, plains minnow, all subspecies of tiger salamander ~~(all subspecies)~~, all subspecies of leopard frog ~~(all subspecies)~~, crayfish (~~Cambarus Lacunicambarus~~ diogenes, ~~Oreconectes Faxonius~~ immunis, ~~Oreconectes Faxonius~~ virilis, and ~~Oreconectes Faxonius~~ causeyi), freshwater shrimp, and leeches.

41:09:04:02.04 Species that may be taken as bait for noncommercial use. Species that may be taken as bait by legal anglers for noncommercial use, by methods described in § 41:09:04:04, are: flathead chub, western silvery minnow, plains minnow, fathead minnow, white sucker, creek chub, golden shiner, emerald shiner, spottail shiner, gizzard shad, all subspecies of tiger salamander, all subspecies of leopard frog, freshwater shrimp, leeches, and the following types of crayfish:

- (1) ~~Cambarus Lacunicambarus~~ diogenes;
- (2) ~~Oreconectes Faxonius~~ immunis;
- (3) ~~Oreconectes Faxonius~~ virilis; and
- (4) ~~Oreconectes Faxonius~~ causeyi.

Live gizzard shad may not be transported away from the water in which they were taken.

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? NA
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
----------------------	---------------------	---------------------	------------------------

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

FISH LIMITS Chapter 41:07:03

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11,2024	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	Sept. 5,2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept. 5-6,2024	Rapid City

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Proposed changes:

1. Modify the existing harvest regulation on Belle Fourche Reservoir where currently only those walleye less than 15 inches in length or 18 inches or greater in length may be taken, and of the walleye taken daily, no more than one may be 18 inches or greater in length, to a two fish daily limit with a 15-inch minimum.

Department recommended changes to proposal:

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. Current harvest regulation is a 15–18-inch protected slot, with only one fish 18 inches or greater in length being allowed in the daily limit and has been in place at Belle Fourche Reservoir since 2005.
2. Annual lake surveys have documented a lack of younger age classes, resulting in few fish available to anglers under 15 inches.
3. The majority of the adult walleye population is currently within the protected slot, making few fish available for harvest.
4. Presence of large fish is likely suppressing recruitment of younger year classes into the population through cannibalism. A reduction in abundance of walleye in older year classes could result in increased survival of younger fish.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:07:03:03. Daily, possession, and length limit restrictions on special management waters -- Additional restrictions described. Daily limit, possession limit, length limit, and additional restrictions on special management waters are as follows:

- (1) Catfish may be taken without limit on the Grand, Moreau, Cheyenne, Belle Fourche, Bad, White, and Little Missouri Rivers; and in the inland waters of the Missouri River and its impoundments;
- (2) In the waters of Lake Yankton in Yankton County and Lake Mitchell in Davison County, the minimum length limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is ~~45~~ fifteen inches;

- (3) In New Wall Dam in Pennington County, only those largemouth and smallmouth bass less than ~~14~~ fourteen inches in length or ~~18~~ eighteen inches or greater in length may be taken, and of the largemouth and smallmouth bass taken daily no more than one may be ~~18~~ eighteen inches or greater in length;
- (4) In the Black Hills Fish Management Area:
- (a) The areas described in subsections (b), (c), and (d) are restricted to artificial lures only and the use or possession of worms, baitfish, salmon eggs, corn, marshmallows, insects, moldable scented bait or ~~naturally-occurring~~ naturally occurring or man-made food intended to be used as bait, within ~~100~~ one hundred feet of the water in those areas, is prohibited;
- (b) Rapid Creek, including the Pactola Stilling Basin below Pactola Dam to the foot bridge at Placerville Camp and Upper and Lower Yates Ponds at Cheyenne Crossing, are restricted to catch and release;
- (c) Rapid Creek in Rapid City from Jackson Boulevard upstream to Park Drive is restricted to catch and release;
- (d) Spearfish Creek from Homestake Hydro Dam No. 2 to Maurice Dam is restricted to catch and release for rainbow trout. Other trout species may be retained within established limits; and
- (e) Only one trout ~~14~~ fourteen inches or greater in length, regardless of species, may be taken daily from streams within the Black Hills Fish Management Area. However, in the Black Hills Fish Management Area, the minimum length limit for lake trout or brook trout-lake trout (splake) cross is ~~24~~ twenty-four inches or greater ~~in length~~ and the daily limit is one;
- (5) All waters statewide are restricted to catch and release only for muskellunge and northern-muskellunge (tiger) cross;
- (6) The season on paddlefish is closed, except as provided in §§ 41:07:05:02 and ~~41:07:06:03.04~~;
- (7) In inland waters, only one walleye ~~20~~ twenty inches or greater in length may be taken daily, except as provided in subdivisions (10) and ~~(11)~~ (13) of this section;
- (8) In Lakes Francis Case and Sharpe, the minimum length limit for walleye is ~~15~~ fifteen inches, from September ~~1~~ first through June ~~30~~ thirtieth;
- (9) In Angostura Reservoir, Shadehill Reservoir, and from the Ft. Randall Dam downstream to the South Dakota-Nebraska state line on the Missouri River, the minimum length limit for walleye is ~~15~~ fifteen inches;
- ~~(10) In Belle Fourche Reservoir and all waters contiguous thereto, including the terminal drop inlet canal, only those walleye less than 15 inches in length or 18 inches or greater in length may be taken, and of the walleye taken daily no more than one may be 18 inches or greater in length;~~
- ~~(11) In Twin Lakes in Minnehaha County and Horseshoe Lake in Day County, the daily limit for walleye of any species is one, ~~28~~ twenty-eight inches or greater in length;~~
- ~~(12) (11) In Lynn and Middle Lynn Lakes in Day County, Opitz Lake in Day and Marshall Counties, Newell Lake and Belle Fourche Reservoir, including the terminal drop canal, in Butte County, and Curlew Lake in Meade County, the daily limit for walleye of any species combined is two and the minimum length limit is ~~15~~ fifteen inches;~~
- ~~(13) (12) From the Ft. Randall Dam downstream to the South Dakota-Nebraska state line on the Missouri River, the daily limit for white bass is ~~15~~ fifteen and the possession limit ~~30~~ is thirty; and~~
- ~~(14) (13) In Reetz Lake in Day County, the daily limit is: one walleye ~~28~~ twenty-eight inches or greater in length; one yellow perch ~~14~~ fourteen inches or greater in length; one black crappie ~~15~~ fifteen inches or greater in length; and one bluegill ~~10~~ ten inches or greater in length, from May ~~1~~ first through September ~~30~~ thirtieth.~~

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? NA
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
----------------------	---------------------	---------------------	------------------------

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

PRIVATE FISH HATCHERIES

Chapter 41:09:07

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11,2024	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	Sept. 5,2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept. 5-6,2024	Rapid City

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Proposed changes:

1. Modify annual reporting requirements for private hatcheries by requiring an annual summary to be submitted rather than individual records.

Department recommended changes to proposal:

None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. By requiring an annual summary rather than individual records it makes the reporting process easier.
2. An annual summary rather than individual records is more compatible with online submission platforms utilized by the Department.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:09:07:05. Records required. ~~The A private fish hatchery licensee shall keep a permanent record of all transactions. If the transaction involves the purchase or receipt of fish or any fish reproductive product, the record shall must contain the number, size, and species of fish; the date of the transaction; the importation permit number, if applicable; and the name and address of the source.~~

~~If the transaction involves the sale or gift of fish or any fish reproductive product, the record shall must contain the number, size, and species of fish; and the date of the transaction. Each record shall be made available for inspection by a department representative during normal business hours at the physical location for the business where the record is kept as indicated on the license application. Each record, or a legible copy thereof, shall be submitted. Each record must be kept current and available for inspection by department personnel during normal business hours, at the physical location of the business where the record is kept. Each record must be kept for a period of three years beginning on the January thirty-first after the transaction. Each licensee shall submit a summary of transactions from the previous calendar year to the department by January 31 thirty-first of the following calendar year, inclusive.~~

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? NA
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
----------------------	---------------------	---------------------	------------------------

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

SNAGGING OF SALMON

Chapter 41:07:04

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11,2024	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	Sept. 5,2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept. 5-6,2024	Rapid City

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Proposed changes:

1. Allow snagging of all salmon species during the months of October and November on Lake Oahe.

Department recommended changes to proposal: None

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

1. Only Chinook salmon may currently be snagged on Lake Oahe from October 1 through November 30.
2. Additional species of salmon have or could potentially be stocked into Lake Oahe and could be encountered by users.
3. Some of these species may exhibit similar life history strategies as Chinook salmon where they die after spawning and allowing take by snagging may increase utilization of these fish.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the changes recommended for Commission proposal.

41:07:04:01. Snagging season in special management waters. The snagging season for ~~Chinook~~ all species of salmon is open on Lake Oahe from October ~~4th~~ first through November ~~30th~~ thirtieth.

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? NA
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, by allowing users to target additional salmon species during the specified period.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
----------------------	---------------------	---------------------	------------------------

**GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION**

**Bobcat Trapping and Hunting Season
Chapter 41:08:01**

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11-12, 2024	Sioux Falls
	Public Hearing	Sept 5, 2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept 5-6, 2024	Rapid City

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

Residents: December 26, 2024 – February 15, 2025
 Nonresidents: January 11 – February 15, 2025

Residents: December 26, 2025 – February 15, 2026
 Nonresidents: January 10 – February 15, 2026

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: Unlimited. A furbearer license is required for all nonresidents and residents over 18 years of age. Residents under age 18 are not required to have a license.

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Hunters or trappers who participate in the East River management zone are limited to one bobcat per season and there is no limit per hunter or trapper in the West River and Black Hills management zones.
2. A bobcat taken must be presented to a department representative for registration and tagging of the pelt, within five days of harvest. Once the season has closed, a person has 24 hours to notify a department representative of any untagged bobcats harvested during the season.
3. The pelt must be removed from the carcass and the carcass must be surrendered to the department representative. After the pelt has been tagged, it must be returned to the hunter or trapper. Upon request, the carcass may be returned to the hunter or trapper after the carcass has been inspected and the lower jaw has been removed.
4. A person may only possess, purchase, or sell raw bobcat pelts that are tagged through the eyeholes with a tag provided by the department or if taken from another jurisdiction, properly and securely tagged with a tag supplied by the governmental entity issuing the license. If the governmental entity issuing the license does not issue a tag, other proof that the animal has been lawfully taken is necessary.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Modify § 41:08:01:08.01 to limit the number of bobcats harvested to one per hunter or trapper in the Black Hills management zone.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

1. Modify zone descriptions and reporting and registration requirements in § 41:08:01:08.01 to improve clarity.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Age structure data from harvested bobcats has suggested low juvenile recruitment rates in the Black Hills. The South Dakota Bobcat Action Plan 2024-2028 states that if the juvenile-to-adult harvest ratio falls below 10% for two or more consecutive years the Black Hills management zone will enter into a “Low Harvest” strategy. The “Low Harvest Strategy” allows for the harvest of only one bobcat per trapper or hunter during the 52-day season. In three of the last four years in the Black Hills, the juvenile-to-adult harvest ratio has been below 10%. If harvest ratios during the 2024-2025 or 2025-2026 hunting and trapping season are above 10% juveniles-to-adult in the Black Hills management zone, the “Moderate Harvest” strategy may be recommended which allows an unlimited number of bobcats per hunter or trapper per season.

During the 2022-2023 season, five of 14 individuals harvested more than one bobcat and during the 2023-2024 season, six of 14 individuals harvested more than one bobcat in the Black Hills management zone. Limiting hunters and trappers to one bobcat in the Black Hills will reduce harvest of females which are critically important to population growth. In 2023-24 51% of the harvest was composed of females.

Figure 1. Map of bobcat management zones from the South Dakota Bobcat Action Plan 2024-2028.

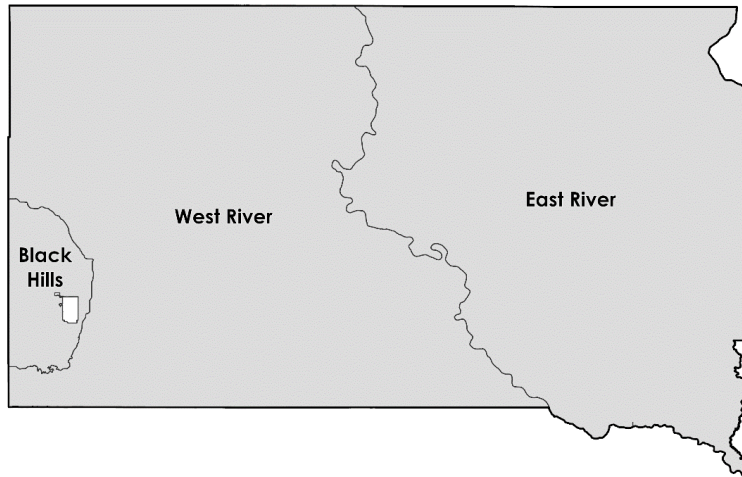


Table 1. Bobcat trapper and harvest summary by method from 2014 to 2024.

Year	Number of Unique Successful Trappers/Hunters	Harvest						Total
		Trapped	Snared	Shot	Hounds	Unknown		
2013-2014	139	186	53	32	10	66	347	
2014-2015	88	150	33	21	9	1	214	
2015-2016	123	116	62	32	4	40	254	
2016-2017	103	135	24	34	3	22	218	
2017-2018	215	272	88	64	31	7	462	
2018-2019	164	190	66	54	15	10	335	
2019-2020	133	140	64	43	12	8	267	
2020-2021	184	180	56	48	11	9	304	
2021-2022	151	153	48	44	3	13	261	
2022-2023	100	95	27	34	12	1	169	
2023-2024	122	172	31	26	8	1	238	

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:08:01:08.01. Bobcat trapping and hunting season established -- Hunting restrictions -- Tagging requirements. The bobcat trapping and hunting season is open statewide from sunrise on December ~~26~~ twenty-sixth through sunset on February ~~15~~ fifteenth. Any trapper or hunter participating in the bobcat season east of the Missouri River is limited to harvesting ~~one bobcat per trapper or hunter~~.

Any trapper or hunter participating in the bobcat season in the Black Hills may not harvest more than one bobcat per trapper or hunter in the area comprising:

- (1) That portion of Lawrence County south of Interstate 90;
- (2) That portion of Meade County west and south of Interstate 90;
- (3) Those portions of Pennington and Custer Counties west of State Highway 79; and
- (4) That portion of Fall River County north and west of a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 18, then east along U.S. Highway 18 to its junction with the Cheyenne River, then east along the Cheyenne River to its junction with State Highway 79, then north along State Highway 79 to its junction with the Custer County line.

A harvested bobcat ~~taken~~ must be presented to a department representative for registration and tagging of the pelt, within five days of harvest during the season. Once the season has closed, a person has ~~24~~ twenty-four hours to notify a department representative of any untagged bobcats harvested ~~during the season~~ and arrange a time for registration and tagging of the pelt. The pelt must be removed from the carcass and the carcass must be surrendered to the department representative. After the pelt has been tagged, it must be returned to the hunter or trapper. Upon request, the carcass may be returned to the hunter or trapper after the carcass has been inspected and the lower jaw has been removed.

A person may only possess, purchase, or sell raw bobcat pelts that are tagged through the eyeholes with a tag provided by the department, or, if taken from another jurisdiction, properly and securely tagged with a tag supplied by the governmental entity issuing the license. If the governmental entity issuing the license does not issue a tag, other proof that the animal has been lawfully taken is necessary.

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? Yes, some hunters or trappers will have less opportunity because they can only harvest one bobcat in the Black Hills.
- 2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? NA
- 3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
- 4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

None

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
---------------	--------------	--------------	-----------------

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
FINALIZATION

Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season
Chapter 41:06:13

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	June 6-7, 2024	Yankton
	Public Hearing	Sept 5, 2024	Rapid City
	Finalization	Sept 5-6, 2024	Rapid City

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2025 and 2026 hunting seasons

Season Dates:

April 12 – May 31, 2025 Single-season prairie units
 April 26 – May 31, 2025 Black Hills and Black Hills archery
 April 12 – 30, 2025 Split-season early prairie units (08A and 44A) and unit 58B
 May 1 – 31, 2025 Split-season late prairie units (08B and 44B)
 April 12 –30, 2025 Access Permit Areas

April 11 – May 31, 2026 Single-season prairie units
 April 25 – May 31, 2026 Black Hills and Black Hills archery
 April 11 – 30, 2026 Split-season early prairie units (08A and 44A) and unit 58B
 May 1 – 31, 2026 Split-season late prairie units (08B and 44B)
 April 11 –30, 2026 Access Permit Areas

* Depending on the geographic area being hunted, the Mentored and Archery spring turkey seasons align with the Prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively.

Open Area: See Figure 1.

Licenses: During Spring 2024 there were:
 Black Hills: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
 Prairie: 6,357 resident and 262 nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
 700 resident and 56 nonresident two-tag “male turkey” licenses
 Archery: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses
 Mentored: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag “male turkey” licenses

* Specific license numbers by unit will be recommended during the July and September Commission meetings.

Access permits:

Good Earth State Park: 5 archery
 Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve: 30 archery; 20 mentored youth

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. No more than 10,000 one-tag male turkey and 2,500 two-tag male turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the prairie spring turkey hunting season. Specific license numbers will be recommended during the July and September Commission meetings.
2. A person may apply for and receive one license in the prairie season in the first and second lottery drawings.
3. A person may apply for one license in the third drawing and apply for an unlimited number of licenses on a first-come first-served basis in the fourth, leftover license drawing. In the third and fourth drawings, resident and nonresident licenses are pooled.
4. A person may purchase only one Black Hills and one Archery male turkey license and the license number for these seasons is unlimited.
5. One-half of the limited licenses in each unit are available for landowner/operator preference.
6. No person may shoot a turkey in a tree or roost.
7. A person may use only bow and arrow, a shotgun using shot shells, or a muzzleloading shotgun to hunt turkeys during the spring turkey season.
8. The season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day of an open season.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Modify § 41:06:13:01 to create a cap of 2,225 one-tag male turkey licenses for nonresidents in the Black Hills Turkey unit.
2. Modify § 41:06:13:02 to change Unit PST-18A to PST-10A to have the unit label represent one of the counties (Aurora) contained in the unit that includes Aurora and Douglas counties. Clark County is county number 18.
3. Modify § 41:06:13:02 to expand the statewide Archery Spring turkey hunting unit to include the portion of Lake County south of State Highway 34.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM PROPOSAL

1. Modify § 41:06:13:01 to clean-up rule to describe three Spring Turkey hunting seasons, Prairie, Black Hills, and Archery.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Nonresident turkey licenses are currently unlimited in the Black Hills and hunter numbers have consistently increased over the past 10 years. Nonresident hunters outnumbered resident hunters in 2024 and some resident hunters have expressed concerns of overcrowding in the Black Hills.

The unit number rule change would make the unit number for Aurora and Douglas counties more logical because it will now include the county number for one of the counties (Aurora; 10) contained within the unit.

The proposal to include the portion of Lake County south of State Highway 34 will open archery turkey hunting in all of Lake County. Archery hunting for male only turkeys during this season is not expected to

have a negative effect on potential turkey population growth rates in Lake County and this would increase hunter opportunity.

Specific license numbers by unit will be recommended during the September Commission meeting and finalized via administrative action.

Figure 1. Map of proposed 2025 and 2026 spring wild turkey hunting season units. Archery hunting is proposed to be open statewide, except Custer State Park. Licenses in prairie units bordering the Cheyenne or White Rivers, excluding that portion of Fall River County within Unit PST-27A, may hunt within one mile of either side of the river boundary, as well as in the remainder of the unit for which the license is issued. The department recommendation is to open all of Lake County to archery hunting.

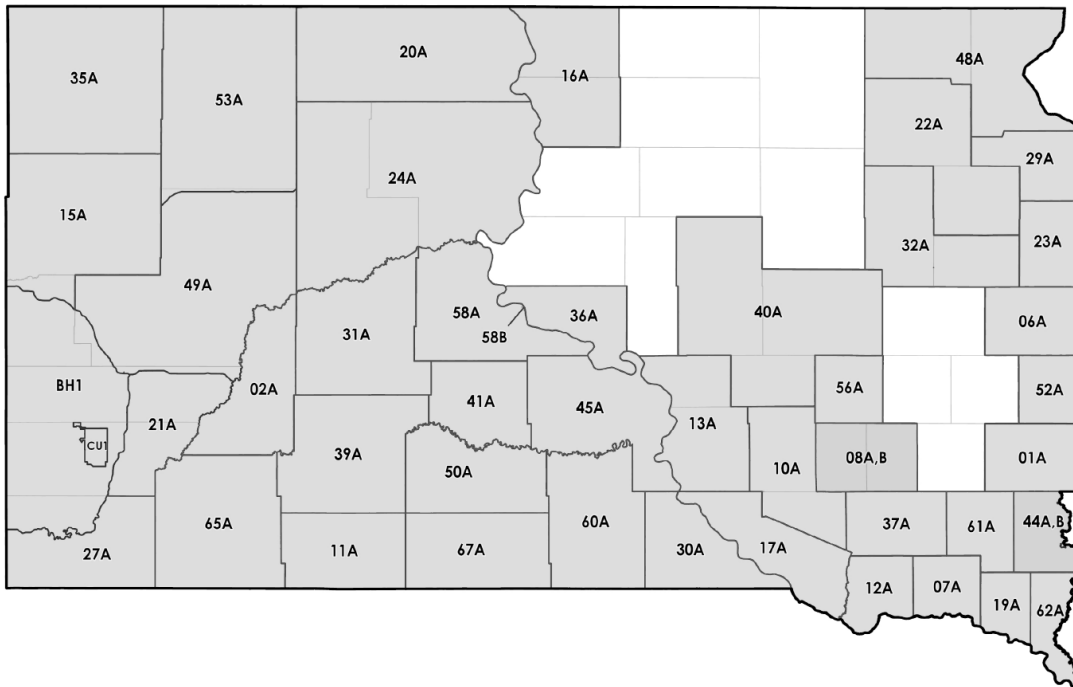


Table 1. Spring prairie turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2024.

Year	Resident Licenses	Nonres Licenses	Tags	Harvest		Success	Avg Days Hunted	Satisf
				Males	Hens			
2015	5,604	1,357	8,470	3,555	10	42%	2.64	5.34
2016	5,648	1,202	7,907	2,482	4	31%	2.72	5.49
2017	5,364	1,213	7,371	3,323	5	45%	2.50	5.55
2018	5,364	1,146	7,287	2,724	9	38%	2.18	5.49
2019	5,250	1,125	6,977	2,722	5	39%	2.14	5.39
2020	5,500	955	7,103	3,107	6	44%	2.70	5.48
2021	5,444	1,255	7,348	3,748	0	51%	2.57	5.75
2022	4,834	1,824	7,305	3,725	2	51%	2.69	5.61
2023	5,878	1,432	8,048	3,647	0	45%	2.65	5.40
2024	5,848	1,490	8,074	4,024	0	50%	2.63	5.53

Table 2. Spring Black Hills turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2024.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Licenses Issued</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Tag Success</i>	<i>Avg Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Satisfaction</i>
2015	3,877	1,258	32%	3.44	4.89
2016	4,056	1,575	39%	3.38	5.21
2017	4,401	1,701	39%	3.48	5.30
2018	4,567	1,441	32%	3.38	5.15
2019	4,545	1,365	30%	3.61	4.93
2020	4,733	1,287	27%	3.64	4.90
2021	6,303	1,776	28%	3.44	4.87
2022	5,133	1,563	30%	3.46	4.92
2023	5,328	2,073	39%	3.37	5.20
2024	5,994	2,156	36%	3.35	4.94

Table 3. Spring archery turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2024.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Licenses Sold</i>		<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Avg Days Hunted</i>	<i>Satisfaction</i>
	<i>Resident</i>	<i>Nonresident</i>				
2015	2,604	315	790	27%	3.59	5.36
2016	2,844	358	885	28%	3.90	5.39
2017	2,925	373	912	28%	3.87	5.47
2018	2,914	350	719	22%	3.43	5.33
2019	3,129	338	915	26%	3.47	5.51
2020	4,063	396	1,340	30%	4.10	5.47
2021	4,306	593	1,607	33%	4.23	5.42
2022	4,181	570	1,310	28%	3.60	5.37
2023	4,276	676	1,247	25%	3.26	5.19
2024	4,398	701	1,373	27%	3.32	5.35

Table 4. Spring mentor turkey harvest summary from 2014 to 2024.

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>Licenses Sold</i>	<i>HARVEST</i>				<i>%Success</i>	<i>Avg Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Satisfaction</i>
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Hens</i>	<i>Total</i>				
2015	654	205	0	205	31%	2.41	5.70	
2016	734	277	0	277	38%	2.68	5.78	
2017	799	310	0	310	39%	2.70	5.85	
2018	735	261	0	261	35%	2.32	5.82	
2019	1,024	295	0	295	29%	2.03	5.63	
2020	1,356	507	2	508	37%	3.04	5.76	
2021	1,422	523	0	523	37%	2.54	5.71	
2022	1,632	558	0	558	34%	2.47	5.55	
2023	1,702	489	2	491	29%	2.52	5.53	
2024	1,849	710	4	714	39%	2.13	5.77	

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:13:01. Spring wild turkey hunting seasons established -- Number and type of licenses available. The spring prairie wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the second Saturday of April through May ~~31~~ thirty-first. The spring Black Hills wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the fourth Saturday of April through May ~~31~~ thirty-first. The spring archery wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day during the open dates of the prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively. The number of one-tag male turkey licenses issued is unlimited for residents and nonresidents in ~~both the Black Hills and archery spring turkey hunting seasons.~~ The number of one-tag male turkey licenses issued in the Black Hills turkey hunting season to residents is unlimited. No more than two thousand two hundred twenty-five one-tag male turkey licenses in the Black Hills turkey hunting season may be issued to nonresidents. No more than 10,000 ten thousand one-tag male turkey and 2,500 two thousand five hundred two-tag male turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the prairie spring turkey hunting season.

41:06:13:02. Open units -- Exceptions. The following is a description of the open spring turkey hunting units:

- (1) Unit BST-BH1: excluding Custer State Park, Wind Cave National Park, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and Jewel Cave National Monument, that portion of Lawrence County south of Interstate 90; that portion of Meade County west and south of Interstate 90; those portions of Pennington and Custer Counties west of State Highway 79; that portion of Fall River County north and west of a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 18, then east along U.S. Highway 18 to its junction with the Cheyenne River. then east along the Cheyenne River to its junction with State Highway 79; then north along State Highway 79 to its junction with the Custer County line;
- (2) Unit PST-01A: Minnehaha County;
- (3) Unit PST-02A: that portion of Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River;
- (4) Unit PST-06A: Brookings County;
- (5) Unit PST-07A: Yankton County;
- (6) Unit PST-08A: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April ~~30~~ thirtieth;
- (7) Unit PST-08B: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08B is open beginning on May ~~4~~ first through May ~~31~~ thirty-first;
- (8) Unit PST-10A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;
- (9) Unit PST-11A: Bennett County;
- ~~(9)~~(10) Unit PST-12A: Bon Homme County;
- ~~(10)~~(11) Unit PST-13A: Brule and Buffalo Counties;
- ~~(11)~~(12) Unit PST-15A: Butte County and that portion of Lawrence County north of Interstate 90;
- ~~(12)~~(13) Unit PST-16A: Campbell and Walworth Counties;
- ~~(13)~~(14) Unit PST-17A: Charles Mix County;
- ~~(14)~~ Unit PST ~~18A: Aurora and Douglas Counties;~~
- (15) Unit PST-19A: Clay County;
- (16) Unit PST-20A: Corson County;
- (17) Unit PST-21A: that portion of Custer County east of State Highway 79 and that portion of Pennington County south of Interstate 90 between State Highway 79 and the Cheyenne River;
- (18) Unit PST-22A: Day and Codington Counties;
- (19) Unit PST-23A: Deuel County;
- (20) Unit PST-24A: Dewey and Ziebach Counties;
- (21) Unit PST-27A: that portion of Fall River County not included in Unit BST-BH1;
- (22) Unit PST-29A: Grant County;
- (23) Unit PST-30A: Gregory County;
- (24) Unit PST-31A: Haakon County;
- (25) Unit PST-32A: Hamlin and Clark Counties;
- (26) Unit PST-35A: Harding County;
- (27) Unit PST-36A: Hughes County;
- (28) Unit PST-37A: Hutchinson County;
- (29) Unit PST-39A: Jackson County;
- (30) Unit PST-40A: Beadle, Hand, and Jerauld Counties;

- (31) Unit PST-41A: Jones County;
- (32) Unit PST-44A: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April-~~30~~ thirtieth;
- (33) Unit PST-44B: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44B is open beginning on May-~~4~~ first through May-~~34~~ thirty-first;
- (34) Unit PST-45A: Lyman County;
- (35) Unit PST-48A: Marshall County and Roberts County;
- (36) Unit PST-49A: those portions of Meade County not included in Units BST-BH1 and PST-53A, and that portion of Pennington County north of Interstate 90, west of the Cheyenne River;
- (37) Unit PST-50A: Mellette County;
- (38) Unit PST-52A: Moody County;
- (39) Unit PST-53A: Perkins County and that portion of Meade County north of U.S. Highway 212;
- (40) Unit PST-56A: Sanborn County;
- (41) Unit PST-58A: Stanley County;
- (42) Unit PST-58B: that portion of Stanley County located at the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area to include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Land ~~which that~~ is east and southeast of Powerhouse Road. This unit is bordered by the Missouri River to the east and the emergency spillway canal to the south. Unit PST-58B-is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April-~~30~~ thirtieth, but only to licensed persons who use a wheelchair;
- (43) Unit PST-60A: Tripp County;
- (44) Unit PST-61A: Turner County;
- (45) Unit PST-62A: Union County;
- (46) Unit PST-65A: Oglala Lakota County;
- (47) Unit PST-67A: Todd County; and
- (48) Unit AST-ST1: statewide for archery turkey, except in Custer State Park ~~and south of state Highway 34 in Lake County~~.

Excluding that portion of Fall River County within Unit PST-27A, licensees in prairie units that utilize the Cheyenne or White Rivers as unit boundaries may hunt within one mile of either side of the river boundary, as well as in the remainder of the unit for which the license is issued.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue – Concern of spring turkey firearm hunter crowding in the Black Hills.
2. Historical Considerations – Historically, the number of resident and nonresident spring turkey firearm hunters in the Black Hills has been unlimited compared to prairie units where license numbers were limited.
3. Biological Considerations – There is expected to be a minimal effect on turkey population numbers from male turkey hunting.
4. Social Considerations – There will be less hunting opportunity for nonresidents and less hunter numbers in the Black Hills.
5. Financial considerations – There will be reduced revenue from fewer licenses being available for nonresidents.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? Less nonresidents will be able to purchase a license in the Black Hills.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? The change will open a new area to archery turkey hunting.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor recreationists? NA
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? NA

FISCAL IMPACT

A reduction in nonresident license sales will reduce revenue.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Custer State Park and Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:13 and 41:06:15

Commission Meeting Dates: **Public Hearing** **Sept 5, 2024** **Huron**
 Finalization **Sept 5-6, 2024** **Huron**

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Recommended license numbers for the prairie spring wild turkey hunting season units. License number changes are included in supportive information.

Unit #	Unit Name	Resident		Nonresident		Resident		Nonresident		
		TomT 32	2 TomT 35	TomT 32	2 TomT 35	Licenses	Tags	Licenses	Tags	
BH1	Black Hills	UNL		2,225		UNL	UNL	2,225	2,225	
01A	Minnehaha	100				100	100			
02A	Pennington	250		20		250	250	20	20	
06A	Brookings	60				60	60			
07A	Yankton	300				300	300			
08A	Davison/Hanson	100				100	100			
08B	Davison/Hanson	100				100	100			
10A	Aurora/Douglas	50				50	50			
11A	Bennett	10		1		10	10	1	1	
12A	Bon Homme	300				300	300			
13A	Brule/Buffalo	175				175	175			
15A	Butte/Lawrence	400		32		400	400	32	32	
16A	Campbell/Walworth	20				20	20			
17A	Charles Mix	350				350	350			
19A	Clay	120				120	120			
20A	Corson	100		8		100	100	8	8	
21A	Custer	125		10		125	125	10	10	
22A	Day/Codington	175				175	175			
23A	Deuel	200				200	200			
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	150		12		150	150	12	12	
27A	Fall River	100		8		100	100	8	8	
29A	Grant	375				375	375			
30A	Gregory	650		52		650	650	52	52	
31A	Haakon		250		20	250	500	20	40	
32A	Hamlin/Clark	30				30	30			
35A	Harding	150		12		150	150	12	12	
36A	Hughes	30				30	30			
37A	Hutchinson	70				70	70			
39A	Jackson	200		16		200	200	16	16	
40A	Jerauld/Beadle/Hand	20				20	20			
41A	Jones	75		6		75	75	6	6	
44A	Lincoln	50				50	50			
44B	Lincoln	50				50	50			
45A	Lyman	150		12		150	150	12	12	
48A	Marshall/Roberts	450				450	450			
49A	Meade		400		32	400	800	32	64	
50A	Mellette	300		24		300	300	24	24	
52A	Moody	60				60	60			
53A	Perkins		100		8	100	200	8	16	
56A	Sanborn	10				10	10			
58A	Stanley	40		4		40	40	4	4	
58B	Stanley	2		1		2	2	1	1	
60A	Tripp	400		32		400	400	32	32	
61A	Turner	30				30	30			
62A	Union	120				120	120			
65A	Oglala Lakota	40		4		40	40	4	4	
67A	Todd	50		4		50	50	4	4	
	TOTAL	6,537	750	2,483	60	7,287	8,037	2,543	2,603	
	Unit	TomT 32	2 TomT 35	TomT 32	2 TomT 35	RES Licenses	RES Tags	NR Lic	NR Tags	
		RES & NR:				9,830	10,640			

Note: An additional 8% of licenses are available to nonresidents for the West River prairie units. 2025-2026 license numbers for other seasons.

- Archery and mentor youth “male turkey” access permits.
 - Good Earth State Park: 5 archery.
 - Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve: 30 archery and 20 mentored youth.
- Custer State Park: One-hundred “male turkey” licenses.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

License number changes from 2023-2024 to 2025-2026.

Unit #	Unit Name	2023-2024 Resident Licenses	2025-2026 Resident Licenses	# Change	% Change	2023-2024 Resident Tags	2025-2026 Resident Tags	# Change	% Change
BH1	Black Hills	UNL	UNL	NA	NA	UNL	UNL	0	0%
01A	Minnehaha	80	100	20	25%	80	100	20	25%
02A	Pennington	250	250	0	0%	250	250	0	0%
06A	Brookings	40	60	20	50%	40	60	20	50%
07A	Yankton	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
08A	Davison/Hanson	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
08B	Davison/Hanson	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
10A	Aurora/Douglas	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
11A	Bennett	30	10	-20	-67%	30	10	-20	-67%
12A	Bon Homme	300	300	0	0%	300	300	0	0%
13A	Brule/Buffalo	175	175	0	0%	175	175	0	0%
15A	Butte/Lawrence	350	400	50	14%	350	400	50	14%
16A	Campbell/Walworth	20	20	0	0%	20	20	0	0%
17A	Charles Mix	350	350	0	0%	350	350	0	0%
19A	Clay	120	120	0	0%	120	120	0	0%
20A	Corson	75	100	25	33%	75	100	25	33%
21A	Custer	150	125	-25	-17%	150	125	-25	-17%
22A	Day/Codington	125	175	50	40%	125	175	50	40%
23A	Deuel	150	200	50	33%	150	200	50	33%
24A	Dewey/Ziebach	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
27A	Fall River	100	100	0	0%	100	100	0	0%
29A	Grant	300	375	75	25%	300	375	75	25%
30A	Gregory	700	650	-50	-7%	700	650	-50	-7%
31A	Haakon	250	250	0	0%	500	500	0	0%
32A	Hamlin/Clark	20	30	10	50%	20	30	10	50%
35A	Harding	100	150	50	50%	100	150	50	50%
36A	Hughes	30	30	0	0%	30	30	0	0%
37A	Hutchinson	70	70	0	0%	70	70	0	0%
39A	Jackson	200	200	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
40A	Jerauld/Beadle/Hand	20	20	0	0%	20	20	0	0%
41A	Jones	75	75	0	0%	75	75	0	0%
44A	Lincoln	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
44B	Lincoln	50	50	0	0%	50	50	0	0%
45A	Lyman	150	150	0	0%	150	150	0	0%
48A	Marshall/Roberts	450	450	0	0%	450	450	0	0%
49A	Meade	350	400	50	14%	700	800	100	14%
50A	Mellette	350	300	-50	-14%	350	300	-50	-14%
52A	Moody	60	60	0	0%	60	60	0	0%
53A	Perkins	100	100	0	0%	200	200	0	0%
56A	Sanborn	10	10	0	0%	10	10	0	0%
58A	Stanley	40	40	0	0%	40	40	0	0%
58B	Stanley	2	2	0	0%	2	2	0	0%
60A	Tripp	400	400	0	0%	400	400	0	0%
61A	Turner	30	30	0	0%	30	30	0	0%
62A	Union	120	120	0	0%	120	120	0	0%
65A	Oglala Lakota	40	40	0	0%	40	40	0	0%
67A	Todd	75	50	-25	-33%	75	50	-25	-33%
TOTAL		7,057	7,287	230	3.3%	7,757	8,037	280	3.6%

No license changes are recommended for the archery and mentor youth access permits, and the Custer State Park season.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____



Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

These funds come from the gas tax for motorized trail use from the Federal Highway Administration. Grants up to 80/20 match requirement and come in the form of a reimbursement.

Motorized Projects:

Oahe Downstream Recreation Area – Install OHV Area perimeter fence.

\$48,000 grant \$60,000 total project cost

Black Hills Snowmobile Trails – Replace Tucker Sno-Cat snowmobile trail groomer.

\$240,000 grant \$300,000 total project cost

Black Hills Snowmobile Trails – Snowmobile Trail Easements.

\$119,726 grant \$149,658 total project cost

Non-Motorized/Diversified Projects:

George S. Mickelson Trail – Trail Surface Maintenance.

\$108,000 grant \$135,000 total project cost

Oahe Downstream Recreation Area – Trail Extension and Repair

\$296,000 grant \$370,000 total project cost

City of Aberdeen – Install 28 solar lights along Moccasin Creek Trail, between Melgaard Rd & Sixth Ave.

\$180,000 grant \$253,500 total project cost

City of Mobridge – Resurface Mobridge Walking Trail with new asphalt surface.

\$171,344 grant \$285,858 total project cost

City of Springfield – Resurface Delightful Prospects trail with new asphalt surface and updated signage.

\$77,799 grant \$97,249 total project cost

City of Tyndall – Construct extension to the trail in the city park.

\$150,000 grant \$219,455 total project cost

City of Watertown – Resurface Eastwoods Trail on the east side of town.

\$160,000 grant \$377,500 total project cost

Western Dakota Technical College, Rapid City – Construct 3 aggregate trail connections on campus to improve walkability on campus and connect to city sidewalk system.

\$33,818 grant \$59,233 total project cost

2024 RTP Grant Awards:	City projects	\$772,961
	State projects	\$811,726
	Total grants awarded	\$1,584,687





Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

These funds come from royalties paid on offshore oil leases in the Gulf of Mexico. The National Park Service (NPS) is the Federal agency that administers these funds. Grants up to 50/50 match requirement and come in the form of a reimbursement.

- City of Aberdeen – Install splash pad at Storybook Land, next to inclusive playground.
\$75,000 grant \$150,000 total project cost
- City of Beresford – Install playground at Ballfield Complex north side of town.
\$50,000 grant \$100,000 total project cost
- City of Bryant – Construct picnic shelter in the city park.
\$100,000 grant \$200,000 total project cost
- City of Corsica – Install pool liner in city swimming pool.
\$40,000 grant \$80,000 total project cost
- City of Faulkton – Install playground and construct picnic shelter at the baseball field.
\$31,500 grant \$63,000 total project cost
- City of Huron – Replace playground equipment at Winter Park.
\$18,000 grant \$36,000 total project cost
- City of Lead – Replace playground equipment and make improvements at Par Course Park.
\$135,000 grant \$270,000 total project cost
- City of Mitchell – Replace playground equipment at Gainer Park.
\$95,000 grant \$190,000 total project cost
- City of Tea – Install playground equipment in newly created Pinnacle Park, the first city park on the east side of Heritage Parkway.
\$100,000 grant \$200,000 total project cost
- City of Watertown – Construct inclusive playground at McKinley Park.
\$250,000 grant \$500,000 total project cost

2024 LWCF Grant Awards:	City projects	\$898,000
	State projects	<u>\$1,865,690</u>
	Total grants awarded	\$2,527,380





August Camping

8/1/2023 - 8/31/2023	8/1/2024 - 8/31/2024
Nights	Nights
62674	67565

District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	203	130	-36%
	Pickerel Lake Recreation Area	939	1178	25%
	Roy Lake State Park	1525	1718	13%
	Sica Hollow State Park	19	62	226%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	68	68	0%
	Fisher Grove State Park	259	212	-18%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	431	421	-2%
2	Mina Lake Recreation Area	642	663	3%
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	360	359	0%
	Hartford Beach State Park	1293	1329	3%
3	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	455	451	-1%
	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	1325	1218	-8%
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	350	362	3%
4	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	1511	1582	5%
	Oakwood Lakes State Park	1534	1929	26%
5	Lake Herman State Park	1235	1326	7%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	1493	1442	-3%
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	576	688	19%
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	7	13	86%
	Buryanek Recreation Area	440	441	0%
6	Dude Ranch Lakeside Use Area	50	32	-36%
	Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area	2	0	-100%
	Platte Creek Recreation Area	137	209	53%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	1235	1350	9%
	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	1268	1169	-8%
	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	2128	2270	7%
7	Palisades State Park	1042	1855	78%
	Good Earth State Park	1	1	0%
8	Newton Hills State Park	2003	2085	4%
	Union Grove State Park	243	243	0%
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	2302	2461	7%
	Clay County Park	345	432	25%
9	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	7999	8816	10%
	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	880	972	10%
	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	17	10	-41%
	Springfield Recreation Area	182	222	22%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	13	13	0%
	North Point Recreation Area	1800	1976	10%
	North Wheeler Recreation Area	92	84	-9%
	Pease Creek Recreation Area	227	286	26%
	Randall Creek Recreation Area	909	1151	27%
	South Shore Lakeside Use Area	51	70	37%
Star Valley Lakeside Use Area	6	5	-17%	
Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	32	48	50%	

10	White Swan Lakeside Use Area	45	18	-60%
	Farm Island Recreation Area	1317	1406	7%
11	West Bend Recreation Area	743	797	7%
	Cow Creek Recreation Area	409	557	36%
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	2223	2625	18%
	Okobojo Point Recreation Area	230	174	-24%
12	Spring Creek Recreation Area	114	241	111%
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	2	10	400%
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	1004	1288	28%
	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	21	41	95%
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	54	104	93%
	Walth Bay Lakeside Use Area	1	7	600%
	West Pollock Recreation Area	119	128	8%
13	West Whitlock Recreation Area	560	704	26%
14	Bear Butte State Park	539	389	-28%
	Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area	113	120	6%
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	1406	1445	3%
15	Shadehill Recreation Area	1276	1316	3%
16	Custer State Park	11126	10828	-3%
	Angostura Recreation Area	3333	3648	9%
17	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	410	367	-10%
Total:		62674	67565	8%



August YTD Camping

1/1/2023 - 8/31/2023	1/1/2024 - 8/31/2024
Nights	Nights
284335	286880

District	Facility Name	Camping Units	Camping Units	%
1	Fort Sisseton State Park	1444	1329	-9%
	Pickereel Lake Recreation Area	4518	4987	9%
	Roy Lake State Park	6822	7154	5%
	Sica Hollow State Park	120	167	28%
	Amsden Dam Lakeside Use Area	296	335	12%
	Fisher Grove State Park	1116	888	-26%
	Lake Louise Recreation Area	1852	1797	-3%
2	Mina Lake Recreation Area	2603	2619	1%
	Richmond Lake Recreation Area	1462	1365	-7%
3	Hartford Beach State Park	5342	5456	2%
	Lake Cochrane Recreation Area	1870	1847	-1%
	Pelican Lake Recreation Area	5337	5298	-1%
	Sandy Shore Recreation Area	1421	1480	4%
4	Lake Poinsett Recreation Area	7001	6507	-8%
	Oakwood Lakes State Park	7490	7541	1%
5	Lake Herman State Park	4907	4617	-6%
	Lake Thompson Recreation Area	6614	6283	-5%
	Walkers Point Recreation Area	2409	2527	5%
	Burke Lake Recreation Area	47	70	33%
	Buryanek Recreation Area	2579	2539	-2%
6	Dude Ranch Lakeside Use Area	260	182	-43%
	Elm Creek Lakeside Use Area	56	48	-17%
	Platte Creek Recreation Area	1420	1414	0%
	Snake Creek Recreation Area	7094	7128	0%
	Big Sioux State Recreation Area	5824	5016	-16%
	Lake Vermillion Recreation Area	9473	8980	-5%
7	Palisades State Park	4600	6986	34%
	Good Earth State Park	1	1	0%
	Newton Hills State Park	8101	7662	-6%
8	Union Grove State Park	1125	1003	-12%
	Chief White Crane Recreation Area	10068	9865	-2%
9	Clay County Park	1482	1543	4%
	Lewis and Clark Recreation Area	34420	34578	0%
	Pierson Ranch Recreation Area	3856	3945	2%
	Sand Creek Lakeside Use Area	89	50	-78%
	Springfield Recreation Area	982	1146	14%
	Tabor Lakeside Use Area	79	58	-36%
	North Point Recreation Area	8186	8691	6%
	North Wheeler Recreation Area	987	810	-22%
	Pease Creek Recreation Area	1621	1640	1%

	Randall Creek Recreation Area	5682		5259	-8%
	South Shore Lakeside Use Area	382		265	-44%
	Star Valley Lakeside Use Area	98		46	-113%
	Whetstone Bay Lakeside Use Area	406		355	-14%
10	White Swan Lakeside Use Area	212		120	-77%
	Farm Island Recreation Area	6349		6417	1%
11	West Bend Recreation Area	6903		6729	-3%
	Cow Creek Recreation Area	2543		2721	7%
	Oahe Downstream Recreation Area	10848		11449	5%
	Okobojo Point Recreation Area	1211		1317	8%
12	Spring Creek Recreation Area	746		1005	26%
	East Whitlock Lakeside Use Area	45		49	8%
	Indian Creek Recreation Area	6238		6774	8%
	Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area	104		152	32%
	Swan Creek Recreation Area	742		824	10%
	Walth Bay Lakeside Use Area	34		31	-10%
	West Pollock Recreation Area	967		1014	5%
13	West Whitlock Recreation Area	3991		4263	6%
14	Bear Butte State Park	1410		1123	-26%
	Llewellyn Johns Recreation Area	363		346	-5%
	Rocky Point Recreation Area	5615		5916	5%
15	Shadehill Recreation Area	5936		6151	3%
16	Custer State Park	41217		41662	1%
	Angostura Recreation Area	15274		15281	0%
17	Sheps Canyon Recreation Area	2045		2059	1%
	Total:	284335		286880	1%

Division of Parks and Recreation					
August 2024 Revenue by Item					
	2023		2024		% Change
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Annual	4,885	\$ 170,431	5,160	\$ 181,396	6%
2nd Annual	1,147	\$ 17,326	692	\$ 9,144	-47%
Double	1,276	\$ 66,820	1,223	\$ 65,134	-3%
Transferable	57	\$ 4,560	46	\$ 3,528	-23%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	510	\$ 7,635	576	\$ 8,625	13%
Annual Licenses	7,875	\$ 266,772	7,697	\$ 267,827	0%
Daily License	19,063	\$ 151,923	22,446	\$ 179,208	18%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	171	\$ 2,565	237	\$ 3,555	39%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	2,184	\$ 8,736	2,288	\$ 9,152	5%
Motorcoach Permit	2,331	\$ 6,993	2,688	\$ 8,064	15%
CSP 7 Day Pass	41,415	\$ 828,210	35,129	\$ 700,496	-15%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	7,374	\$ 149,300	4,946	\$ 92,060	-38%
Rally Bike Band	27,257	\$ 524,520	26,426	\$ 528,512	1%
One-Day Special Event	30	\$ 1,500	13	\$ 650	-57%
Daily Licenses	99,825	\$ 1,673,747	94,173	\$ 1,521,697	-9%
Licenses	107,700	\$ 1,940,519	101,870	\$ 1,789,524	-8%
Camping Services		\$ 824,948		\$ 872,461	6%
Pet Fees	79	\$ 790	178	\$ 1,768	124%
LODGING		\$ 825,738		\$ 874,229	6%
Picnic Shelters		\$ 2,620		\$ 1,510	-42%
Boat Rentals		\$ 1,618		\$ 2,615	62%
Firewood	6,019	\$ 35,969	8,007	\$ 46,102	28%
Gift Card	5	\$ 525	5	\$ 337	-36%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ 90		\$ 850	844%
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 7,620		\$ 9,206	21%
Retail		\$ 33,487		\$ 49,393	47%
Call Center Fee	3036	\$ 6,042	2,465	\$ 4,910	-19%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ -		\$ 165	
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 87,971		\$ 115,089	31%
TOTAL		\$ 2,854,228		\$ 2,778,842	-3%

Division of Parks and Recreation					
August YTD 2024 Revenue by Item					
	2023		2024		% Change
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar	
Annual	52,291	\$ 1,849,848	54,548	\$ 1,936,011	5%
2nd Annual	9,573	\$ 156,204	7,901	\$ 126,270	-19%
Double	32,385	\$ 1,730,751	34,256	\$ 1,837,952	6%
Transferable	2,480	\$ 199,977	2,610	\$ 207,006	4%
GSM Annual Trail Pass	4,417	\$ 66,225	5,262	\$ 78,825	19%
Annual Licenses	101,146	\$ 4,003,005	104,577	\$ 4,186,064	5%
Daily License	87,976	\$ 694,787	92,980	\$ 735,596	6%
Unattended Vehicle Daily	715	\$ 10,695	832	\$ 12,480	17%
GSM Daily Trail Pass	11,860	\$ 47,440	12,849	\$ 51,396	8%
Motorcoach Permit	10,965	\$ 32,895	12,334	\$ 37,002	12%
CSP 7 Day Pass	141,620	\$ 2,831,606	149,335	\$ 2,982,656	5%
CSP 7 Day Bike Band	16,224	\$ 326,120	17,434	\$ 341,384	5%
Rally Bike Band	27,264	\$ 524,660	26,426	\$ 528,512	1%
One-Day Special Event	95	\$ 4,750	92	\$ 4,599	-3%
Daily Licenses	296,719	\$ 4,472,953	312,282	\$ 4,693,625	5%
Licenses	397,865	\$ 8,475,958	416,859	\$ 8,879,689	5%
Camping Services		\$ 8,642,894		\$ 8,626,193	0%
Pet Fees	230	\$ 2,300	1253	\$ 12,492	443%
LODGING		\$ 8,645,194		\$ 8,638,685	0%
Picnic Shelter		\$ 13,030		\$ 15,019	15%
Boat Rentals		\$ 5,149		\$ 9,864	92%
Firewood	30,932	\$ 185,188	33,884	\$ 195,245	5%
Gift Card	96	\$ 9,264	120	\$ 10,671	15%
Spring Creek Boat Slips		\$ 173,830		\$ 156,746	-10%
Recreational Equipment Rentals		\$ 35,269		\$ 35,410	0%
Retail		\$ 172,407		\$ 205,743	19%
Call Center Fee	16,312	\$ 34,988	15,479	\$ 30,742	-12%
Cabin/Trailer Lease Permits		\$ 13,006		\$ 143,953	1007%
MISCELLANEOUS		\$ 642,131		\$ 803,393	25%
TOTAL		\$ 17,763,283		\$ 18,321,767	3%

**SOUTH DAKOTA
PRONGHORN ACTION PLAN
2024 – 2028**



**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA**

**WILDLIFE DIVISION REPORT 2024-02
September 2024**

This document is for general, strategic guidance for the Division of Wildlife and serves to identify what we strive to accomplish related to Pronghorn Management. This process will emphasize working cooperatively with interested publics in both the planning process and the regular program activities related to pronghorn management.

This action plan will be utilized by Department staff on an annual basis and will be formally evaluated at least every 5 years. Plan updates and changes, however, may occur more frequently as needed.

All text and data contained within this document are subject to revision for corrections, updates, and data analyses.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This action plan is a product of substantial discussion and input from many wildlife professionals. In addition, those comments and suggestions received from private landowners, hunters, and those who recognized the value of pronghorn and their associated habitats were also considered.

Action Plan Coordinator – Andy Lindbloom, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP).

GFP Pronghorn Action Plan Team that assisted with plan writing, data review and analyses, critical reviews and/or edits to the South Dakota Pronghorn Action Plan, 2024 - 2028 – Nathan Baker, Byron Buckley, Stephanie Buckley, Steve Griffin, Trenton Haffley, John Kanta, Julie Lindstrom, Andrew Norton, Dan Sternhagen, and Lauren Wiechmann.

Recommended Citation:

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. 2024. South Dakota Pronghorn Action Plan, 2024 – 2028. Completion Report 2024-02. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.



INTRODUCTION

The pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) is the only member of the family Antilocapridae and is native only to North America. South Dakota's diverse landscapes of grassland, rangeland, and cropland areas are home to pronghorn across areas primarily adjacent to and west of the Missouri River. It has been estimated that over 700,000 pronghorn ranged in South Dakota prior to 1800 (Bever undated), but pronghorn were nearly extirpated due to unregulated harvest and market hunting by the turn of the 20th century. Legislation created in the 1900s and hunting seasons established by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) Commission allowed pronghorn populations to recover from historic lows. Pronghorn hunting seasons have occurred regularly since the 1940s, with pronghorn hunters harvesting approximately 18,000 pronghorn during the recent record year of 2008.

South Dakota has the 5th largest pronghorn population in North America with an estimated 41,533 animals in 2021 (Norton and Lindbloom 2024). Pronghorn hunting is a popular and much-awaited outdoor activity for many sportsmen and women in South Dakota. Within South Dakota, approximately 4,785 residents and 950 non-residents hunted pronghorn in 2023, with a recent peak pronghorn hunter participation occurring in 2008 when approximately 13,000 residents and non-residents pursued pronghorn. Hunting remains the number one tool for managing pronghorn populations across South Dakota and harvest strategies are intended to ensure the well-being of the species and its habitat while maintaining populations at levels compatible with human activity and land use.

The GFP manages wildlife and associated habitats for their sustained and equitable use, and the benefit, welfare and enjoyment of the citizens of this state and its visitors. South Dakota's pronghorn resources demand prudent and increasingly intensive management to accommodate numerous and varied public demands and growing impacts from people. The "*South Dakota Pronghorn Action Plan, 2024-2028*" will serve as the guiding document for decision making and implementation of actions to ensure pronghorn populations and their habitats are managed appropriately, addressing both biological and social tolerances, while considering the needs of all stakeholders. Additional information regarding pronghorn management, research, and history can be found in the *South Dakota Pronghorn Management plan, 2019-2029*" (SDGFP 2019; https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/docs/PronghornPlan_FINAL.pdf.)

POPULATION MONITORING

Numerous surveys are completed by GFP to manage pronghorn populations for both consumptive and non-consumptive users. Pronghorn surveys in South Dakota include hunter harvest surveys, aerial surveys, herd composition surveys, survival monitoring, disease monitoring, winter severity evaluation, and population modeling for 27 pronghorn game management units within seven Data Analysis Units (DAUs) that comprise the state's pronghorn range (Figure 1). A DAU is an aggregate of management units that serves as the definition of

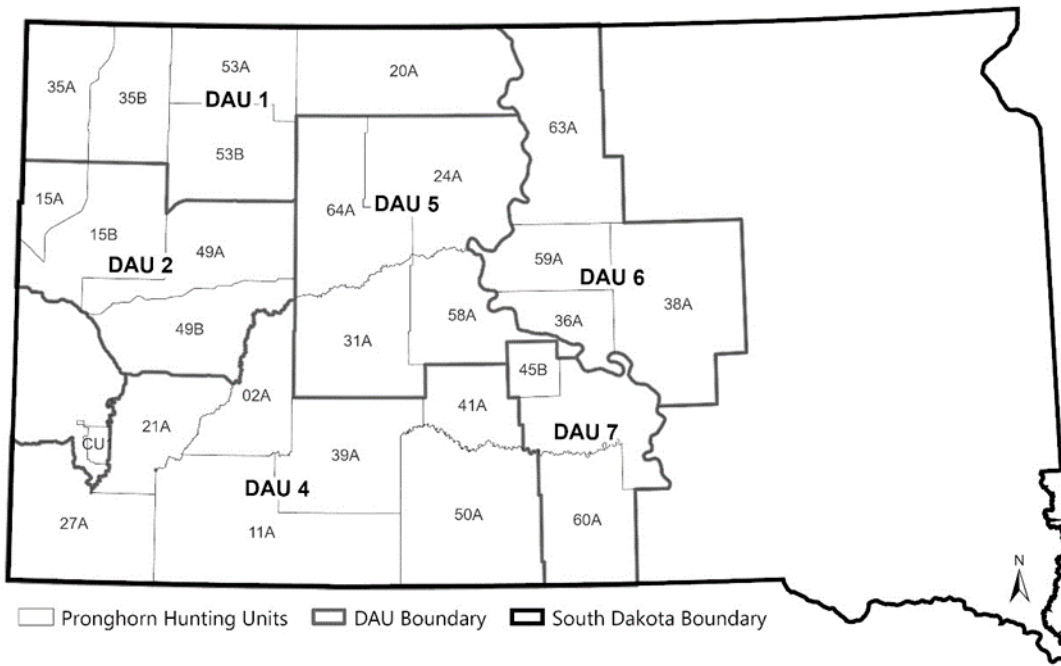


Figure 1. Data Analysis Units (DAUs) and firearm hunting units in South Dakota, 2024.

the geographic extent of a biological population, but potentially large amounts of heterogeneity may exist in animal abundance within a DAU. For the latest survey data and population updates, see GFP’s Biennial Status Updates (Lindbloom et al. 2024).

Harvest Surveys

The pronghorn hunter harvest survey is conducted annually via emailed surveys. Currently, hunters are surveyed for each pronghorn season available; firearm, archery, landowner, mentored youth, and CSP. Prior to 2019, hunters were sampled using mail and email mixed-mode methodology. Post 2019, 100% of license holders are sampled via email, which has substantially increased hunter samples.

Aerial Surveys

Spring adult pronghorn estimates are generated biennially using a fixed-winged aircraft flown at speeds <100 mph and altitudes between 100 to 200 feet above ground level. In units west of the Missouri River, aerial strip transects are flown 1.5 miles apart, with transect widths of 0.5 miles. Results from sampled areas (an approximate systematic third of each unit) are used to estimate pronghorn densities in un-sampled areas (Figure 2). In units east of the Missouri River, the entire area is surveyed, but transect widths are increased to 1 mile. No sightability correction factor is used to account for potential pronghorn missed during the survey, resulting in an assumption of 100% detection probability. Assuming independence among hunting units, the total statewide and DAU spring population estimates are calculated by summing the total population and variance across hunting units (Thompson 2002).

2024 Spring Pronghorn Density

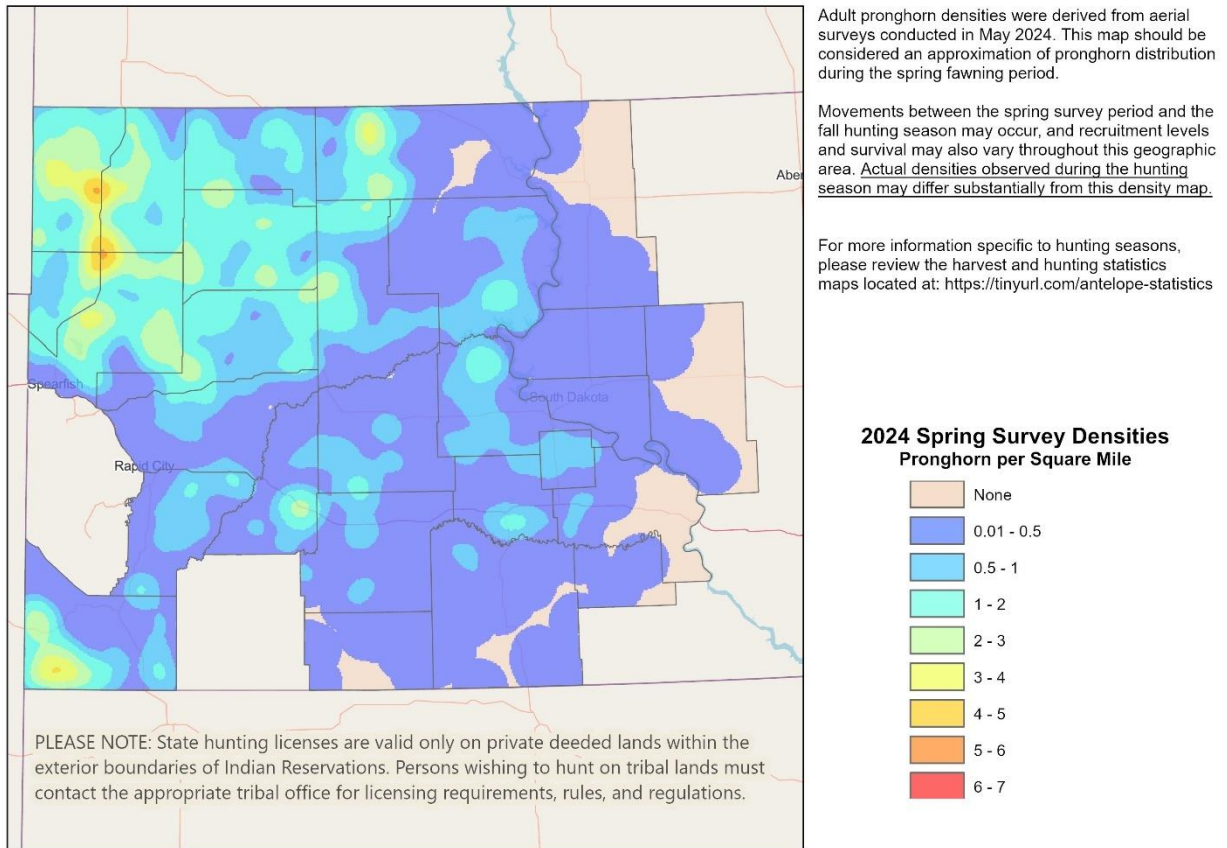


Figure 2. Adult pronghorn density estimates derived from spring aerial surveys in South Dakota, 2024.

Herd Composition Surveys

Pre-season herd composition ground surveys are completed by driving roads or hiking in areas of known pronghorn concentrations in September. All pronghorn herds that are observed in their entirety are classified to numbers of fawns, does, and bucks. A minimum sample size of 200-400 independent group observations per DAU is currently the goal to ensure sufficient precision in herd composition estimates.

Survival Monitoring

Understanding population dynamics of pronghorn and determining annual rates of population change (λ) requires knowledge of juvenile and adult survival rates. Annual rates of change within a pronghorn population are influenced primarily by adult survival and the number of fawns that reach one year of age. GFP staff are currently monitoring GPS-collared pronghorn in DAUs 1 and 6. Survival studies have been instrumental in providing area specific biological data for GFP to use in evaluating pronghorn populations and management options.

Disease

Pronghorn, as with other wildlife species, have the potential to acquire and transmit diseases from other wildlife or domestic species. In South Dakota, there are few diseases documented within pronghorn herds, and most diseases do not cause major concerns regarding the sustainability of pronghorn populations within the State. The most common disease that could likely affect pronghorn in South Dakota is hemorrhagic disease. Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) and bluetongue (BT), collectively called Hemorrhagic Disease, are caused by *orbiviruses* that are spread by biting flies of the genus *Culicoides* (Davidson 2006). Hemorrhagic disease is the most commonly found disease in white-tailed deer in South Dakota and has occasionally been documented in pronghorn and no significant die-offs have been reported.

Winter Severity Evaluation

Winter severity is an important metric that can impact survival of pronghorn across South Dakota. Weather data are obtained through an annual data request via the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Program R, a statistical software package (R Core Team 2015), is used to extrapolate weather data across all pronghorn units using an inverse distance weighted interpolation function. In addition, GFP collects and maintains a database of pronghorn mortalities reported to staff from the public during hard winters. Weather and mortality data combined provide a relative assessment of overwinter mortalities and represent an approximate spatial distribution of where those losses occur.

Population Modeling

Biennial DAU pre-hunt pronghorn estimates are projected from adult spring aerial survey estimates using fall herd composition data from the most recent 3 years available. Assuming no adult mortality occurs between the spring survey to the hunting season, fall pre-hunt adult male and female cohorts are projected by multiplying the spring estimate by adult sex ratios, calculated from the most recent 3-year average of herd composition data. Pre-hunt fawns are estimated by multiplying pre-hunt adult females by fawns per adult female (age ratio), calculated from the most recent 3-year average of herd composition data. Male and female recruitment from birth to fall is assumed to be equal. Because aerial surveys for pronghorn are conducted biennially, pre-hunt population abundance and trends for DAUs are projected during years without surveys using herd composition and winter severity data.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

Effective decision-making by wildlife agencies necessitates the need to consider public perceptions, opinions, and potential responses to management policies. Along with hunter harvest and biological data collected, public involvement is an important component in developing and implementing a Pronghorn Management Plan in South Dakota. Public participation helps ensure decisions are made in consideration of public needs and preferences. It can help resolve conflicts, build trust, and inform the public about pronghorn management in South Dakota. Successful public participation is a continuous process, consisting of a series of activities and actions to inform the public and stakeholders, as well as obtain input regarding

decisions that affect them. Public involvement strategies provide more value when they are open, relevant, timely, and appropriate to the intended goal of the process. It is important to provide a balanced approach with representation of all stakeholders. A combination of informal and formal techniques reaches a broader segment of the public; therefore, when possible, combining different techniques is preferred to using a single public involvement approach.

When it comes to public involvement, one-size does not fit all. Every situation is different and each approach to a specific situation will be unique. No single citizen or group of citizens can represent the views of all citizens. Multiple avenues for public involvement and outreach were used in the development of the Pronghorn Management Plan. These approaches were designed to involve the public at various stages of plan development and to ensure opportunities for participation were accessible to all citizens. Specific strategies to gather public input in the future are outlined in the *Management Objectives and Strategies* section.

POPULATION OBJECTIVES

GFP manages pronghorn populations and habitats consistent with ecological, social, aesthetic, and economic values of South Dakota citizens while addressing the concerns and issues of both residents and visitors of South Dakota. Multiple sources of public opinion are used to assess management objectives and include personal contacts with landowners and hunters, open houses, hunter and landowner opinion surveys, hunter harvest surveys quantifying success and satisfaction ratings, and other submitted comments. GFP also considers pronghorn population abundance levels, pronghorn depredation issues, landowner tolerance, hunter comments, and harvest results from the previous season to set quantitative management objectives for each firearm management unit (Appendix A). Staff then evaluate current pronghorn abundance estimates and define a qualitative management objective direction (i.e., substantially decrease, slightly decrease, maintain current level, slightly increase, substantially increase). The development of objective directions is important in better defining management intentions with the public and provides more transparency (Figure 3).

The current statewide population objective is approximately 69,000 total pre-season pronghorn, but actual population abundance may range from 59,000 to 80,000. The statewide objective is a summation of all hunting unit objectives. The GFP will adopt harvest strategies that will allow the pronghorn population to stay within the objective range.



South Dakota Pronghorn Unit Objectives (2024-2025)

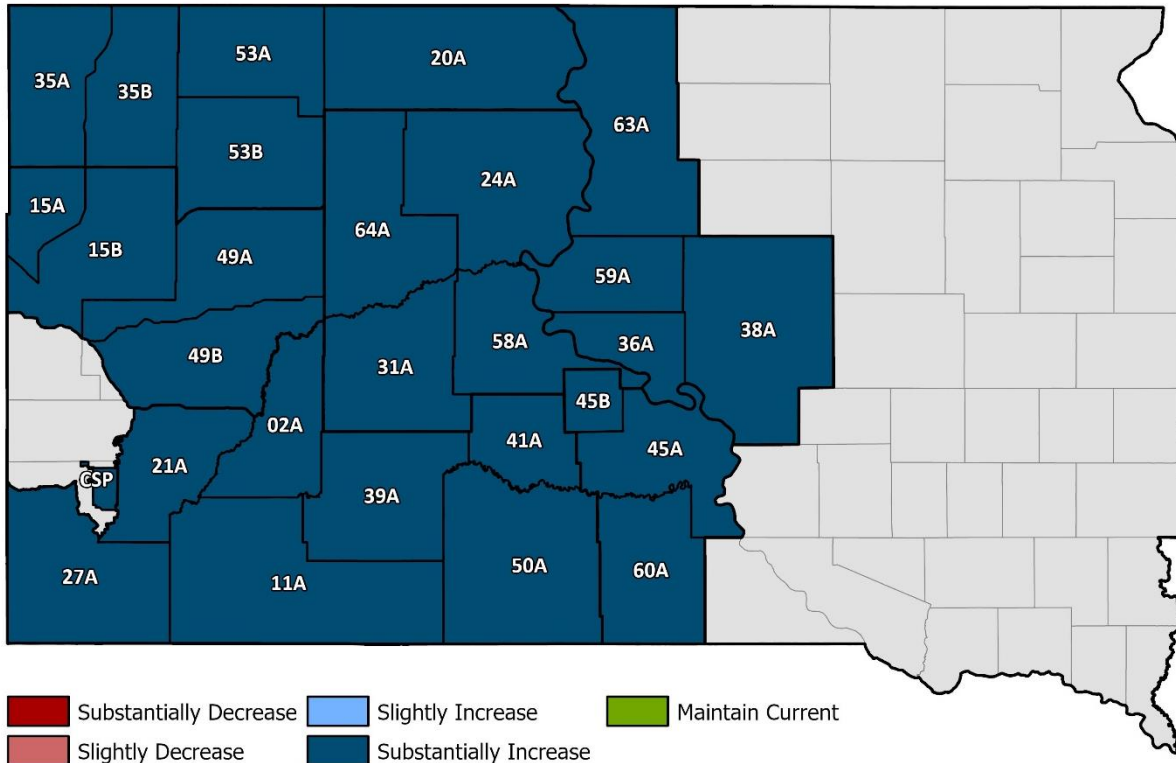


Figure 3. South Dakota pronghorn hunting unit population objectives, 2024-2025.

HARVEST STRATEGIES

Once population objectives are defined, GFP staff develop season recommendations that strive to provide the most hunting opportunity, while shifting the population towards management objectives. Depending on population densities and objectives within each pronghorn management unit, GFP staff uses harvest strategies to guide management decisions (Table 1). This table is presented as a guide to appropriate harvest options available for local herds based on unit objectives and herd status. This table defines harvest strategies presently available and will be modified as needed if other options become available in the future.

Table 1. Harvest management strategies dependent on unit objectives and population estimates.

	RESTRICTIVE	MODERATE	LIBERAL
“TOOLS”	Objective: Increase Population	Objective: Maintain Population	Objective: Decrease Population
Doe harvest rate ¹	0-10% of adult doe population	10-20% of adult doe population	20-40% of adult doe population
License numbers	None – limited	Moderate	Liberal
License types	Any antelope Buck only Single tag	Any antelope Doe/kid Single/double tag	Any antelope Doe/kid Single/double/triple tags
Firearm license eligibility	Residents and Nonresidents (2%)	Residents and Nonresidents (4%)	Residents and Nonresidents (8%)
Season structure	Single season Closed season	Single season	Single season Split seasons
Extra seasons	None	None	Doe/kid legal during deer season
Archery ²	Limited archery ^{3,4}	Limited archery ^{3,4}	Limited archery ^{3,4}
Mentored Youth ²	Limited youth ⁴	Limited youth ⁴	Limited youth ⁴

¹ See population growth table for more specific harvest rates (SDGFP 2019; Table 12).

² Archery and mentored youth seasons will be closed in units closed to firearm.

³ Archery hunters currently limited to 1 single-tag (buck-only) antelope license.

⁴ Additional archery and mentored youth restrictions will be considered.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Objective 1: Manage for biologically and socially acceptable pronghorn populations in each firearm management unit within South Dakota.

- a) Where habitat and social tolerances allow, manage pronghorn in South Dakota for a pre-season population abundance of approximately 68,350 (58,000-79,000) pronghorn.
- b) Gather hunter input on pronghorn population unit objectives.
 - Annually survey hunters to assess objectives as desired by hunters.
- c) Gather input from landowners and the general public on pronghorn population unit objectives.
 - Evaluate the current database for contacts, sampling strategies, and costs needed to collect data at the unit level.
 - Biennially survey landowners and the general public to further evaluate pronghorn populations, objectives, management needs, and social tolerance.
- d) Survey hunters to estimate annual pronghorn harvest statistics.
- e) Biennially conduct spring aerial surveys in all management units.
- f) Annually model pronghorn abundance and growth rates.
- g) Conduct and assess annual fall herd composition surveys in each Data Analysis Unit.
- h) Investigate and collect biological samples from reported or observed sick and/or dead pronghorn demonstrating symptoms of concern.

Objective 2: Manage pronghorn populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs.

- a) Modify and adopt future hunting season structure as needed to maximize hunting opportunities for unique hunters, minimize regulation complexity, and maximize population growth to meet objectives as soon as possible.
- b) Manage pronghorn in Custer State Park (CSP) to balance quality wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities as follows:
 - “Buck-only” licenses will be set at a base percentage of the pre-season CSP pronghorn population estimate.
 - “Doe/kid” licenses will be set at 3% of the pre-season CSP pronghorn population estimate. No licenses will be issued if the CSP pre-season population estimate is < 250 pronghorn.

Objective 3: Cooperatively work with private landowners, organizations, and other agencies to resolve pronghorn depredation to agricultural crops and other social conflict issues.

- a) Respond to all pronghorn depredation concerns on private land promptly.
- b) Encourage the enrollment of willing landowners who are experiencing chronic pronghorn depredation issues into Walk-In Area and Controlled Hunting Access Programs to allow public hunting access.
- c) Utilize pool hunts when warranted to address pronghorn depredation concerns.
- d) Expand hunting opportunities, when possible, to address depredation on private lands.
- e) Where needed, evaluate additional depredation management strategies to increase acceptance of pronghorn population goals.

Objective 4: Cooperatively work with private landowners and public land managers to create, enhance, restore, and protect pronghorn habitat.

- a) Develop program options to restore pronghorn forage and security cover in shrub-steppe habitats through plantings and management assistance.
 - Investigate and identify forb and browse enhancement options that are specific to pronghorn.
- b) Annually strive to restore and establish 1,000 acres of new grassland habitat west of the Missouri River.
- c) Annually strive to improve and enhance 50,000 acres of grassland habitat in western South Dakota by supporting improved grazing systems on private lands.
- d) Annually strive to replace a minimum of 40 miles of woven wire or other non-wildlife-friendly fences with wildlife-friendly fences.

Objective 5: Cooperatively work with private landowners and public land managers to provide and enhance hunting access for pronghorn.

- a) Annually lease an additional 20,000 acres of private land for pronghorn hunting opportunities through GFP access programs.

LITERATURE CITED

- Bever, W., undated. The Pronghorn in South Dakota. South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Davidson, W. R. 2006. Field manual of diseases in the Southeastern United States, Third Edition. Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study. Athens, Georgia, USA.
- Lindbloom, A. J., B. R. Buckley, S. L. Griffin, and L. M. Wiechmann. 2024 *in progress*. Pronghorn population status update. 2024 Biennial Report. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Norton, A. S. and A. J. Lindbloom. 2024. Western States and Provinces Pronghorn Status Report, 2022. Pages 37-50 *in* Lindbloom, A. J., Wiechmann, L. M., and A. S. Norton, editors. Proceedings of the Western States and Provinces 29th Biennial Pronghorn Workshop, 2022. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota. USA. 127pp.
- R Core Team. 2015. R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R foundation for statistical computing, Vienna, Austria. <http://www.R-project.org>
- South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. 2019. South Dakota Pronghorn Management Plan, 2019 – 2029. Completion Report 2019-05. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Thompson, S. K. 2002. Sampling. Second edition. John Wiley & Sons, New York, New York, USA.

Appendix A. Population objectives for pronghorn management units in South Dakota, 2024-2025.

Unit	Unit#	sq mi	Population Objective			
			Objective	Range (+/- 15%)		Density/sq mi
Pennington	02A	1,263	2,000	1,700	2,300	1.58
Bennett/Oglala Lakota*	11A	1,191	200	170	230	0.17
NW Butte	15A	624	2,500	2,130	2,880	4.01
Butte	15B	1,808	8,000	6,800	9,200	4.42
Corson	20A	2,529	2,500	2,130	2,880	0.99
Custer	21A	1,322	2,500	2,130	2,880	1.89
Dewey	24A	1,657	2,500	2,130	2,880	1.51
Fall River	27A	2,213	5,000	4,250	5,750	2.26
Haakon	31A	1,828	2,000	1,700	2,300	1.09
West Harding	35A	1,351	8,000	6,800	9,200	5.92
East Harding	35B	1,332	6,000	5,100	6,900	4.50
Hughes	36A	1,666	400	340	460	0.24
Hyde/Hand/Buffalo	38A	2,796	150	130	170	0.05
Jackson	39A	1,872	1,500	1,280	1,730	0.80
Jones	41A	924	800	680	920	0.87
Lyman	45A	1,499	400	340	460	0.27
FPNG	45B	373	500	430	580	1.34
North Meade	49A	1,722	6,000	5,100	6,900	3.48
South Meade	49B	1,706	2,000	1,700	2,300	1.17
Mellette/Todd	50A	1,309	900	770	1,040	0.69
North Perkins	53A	1,359	4,000	3,400	4,600	2.94
South Perkins	53B	1,599	5,000	4,250	5,750	3.13
Stanley	58A	1,398	1,300	1,110	1,500	0.93
Sully	59A	1,070	400	340	460	0.37
Tripp	60A	1,616	150	130	170	0.09
Walworth/Potter/Campbe	63A	1,642	300	260	350	0.18
Ziebach	64A	1,972	3,000	2,550	3,450	1.52
CSP	CSP	110	350	300	400	3.18
Total		41,751	68,350	58,000	79,000	1.64

*flight area reduced to Bennett county only, objective reduced

Data pull from 6/1/2024 - 8/14/2024 (Antelope Action Plan)

topiccategory1	FirstName
Antelope Action Plan	Jana Haecherl

Antelope Action Plan Tim Burckhard

Antelope Action Plan Jason Gorr

Antelope Action Plan Nick Korhnak

Antelope Action Plan Ron Johnson

Antelope Action Plan Paul Lepisto

<p><u>Break down</u> 6 comments 5 support (no changes suggested, just want more pronghorn 1 NR not supportive of NR allocation.</p>

Full comments can be found in the Public Comments at the end of the Commission Book.

SOUTH DAKOTA MOUNTAIN LION ACTION PLAN *2024-2028*



**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA**

WILDLIFE DIVISION REPORT 2024-03

SEPTEMBER 2024

This document is for general, strategic guidance for the Division of Wildlife and serves to identify what we strive to accomplish related to mountain lion management. This action plan will be utilized by Department staff on an annual basis and will be formally evaluated at least every 5 years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan is a product of substantial discussion and input from many wildlife professionals. Comments and suggestions received from members of the South Dakota Mountain Lion Stakeholder Group, private landowners, hunters, and those who recognize the value of mountain lions and their associated habitats were also considered.

Action Plan Coordinator – Andy Lindbloom, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP).

GFP Mountain Lion Action Plan Team that assisted with plan writing, data review and analyses, critical reviews and/or edits to the South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan, 2019-2029 – Nathan Baker, Byron Buckley, Stephanie Buckley, Steve Griffin, Trenton Haffley, John Kanta, Mike Klosowski, Julie Lindstrom, Chad Lehman, Jim McCormick, Andrew Norton, Dan Sternhagen, and Lauren Wiechmann.

Those who served on the South Dakota Mountain Lion Stakeholder Group during this planning process included: Brian Dail (Greater Dacotah SCI); Sean Fulton (Black Hills Sportsmen Club); Nancy Hilding (Prairie Hills Audubon Society); Chad Kiel (Predator Hunter Association); Chase Larson (Black Hills Mountain Lion Hunters); Suzanne Martley (SD Chapter of the Sierra Club); Dana Rodgers (SD Wildlife Federation); Todd Russell (US Forest Service); Matt Tucker (Rosebud Sioux Tribe); Jeremy Wells (SD Houndsmen Association). In addition to those citizens that volunteered for the stakeholder group, Commissioner Travis Theel of the GFP Commission also attended and participated in the meeting.

Recommended Citation:

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. 2024. South Dakota Mountain Lion Action Plan, 2024-2028. Completion Report 2024-03. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.



INTRODUCTION

Mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) historically occurred throughout South Dakota and were considered numerous in the Black Hills. However, the population declined in the early 1900s due to unregulated hunting and bounties that were placed on mountain lions until 1966. In 1978, mountain lions were listed as a state threatened species. With a breeding population established in the Black Hills and a better understanding of population dynamics within the Black Hills, the mountain lion was removed from the state threatened species list and classified as a big game animal in 2003 with protection under a year-round closed season. The first regulated mountain lion hunting season in South Dakota was established in 2005 and continues today to provide hunting opportunities and manage populations towards desired social and biological objectives.

Overall, South Dakota residents have a positive attitude towards mountain lions. Public opinions on mountain lions vary, however, and there will always be a certain level of controversy surrounding the management of large carnivores. With the use of science-based knowledge to make management decisions, this plan will ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population of mountain lions in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The current Black Hills population objective is 200-300 total mountain lions, but actual population abundance may range depending on a multitude of factors. Population objectives for mountain lions on the prairie habitats of South Dakota have not been established as these areas are managed primarily to abate potential livestock losses on private property, minimize human conflicts, and maximize hunter opportunity.

The “*South Dakota Mountain Lion Action Plan, 2024-2028*” will serve as the guiding document for decision making and implementation of actions to ensure mountain lion populations are managed appropriately, addressing both biological and social tolerances, while considering the needs of all stakeholders. Additional information regarding mountain lion management, research, and history can be found in the *South Dakota Mountain Lion Management plan, 2019-2029* (South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks 2019; https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/docs/LionPlan_FINAL_2019.pdf).

POPULATION MONITORING

In general, mountain lions exhibit secretive behavior, occur in low densities, and occupy habitats with relatively dense vegetative cover and rough topography. These characteristics make estimates of population abundance and trends difficult. GFP uses numerous trend indicators to assess the mountain lion population in the Black Hills. The primary surveys and data used to assess trends include: 1) hunting season data, 2) documented mortalities, and 3) mark/recapture surveys. Analyses, results and detailed summaries of all mountain lion surveys and monitoring efforts are reported biennially (Lindbloom et al. 2023; https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/mountain_lion_status_report_2023.pdf).

Hunting Season Data

Hunting season dates and harvest limits are currently used to manage mountain lions in the Black Hills Fire Protection District (BHFPD), and a year-round season with no limit exists in the remainder of South Dakota. Harvest limits are established to ensure harvest does not exceed management objectives.

All harvested mountain lions in South Dakota must be presented to a GFP representative within 24 hours of harvest for inspection. Information is recorded about the harvest and tissue samples are collected from harvested mountain lions for genetic analyses used in mark/recapture population estimates. Trends in harvest age and sex proportions are evaluated annually in the Black Hills. Furthermore, harvest surveys are also sent to all licensed hunters to collect hunter effort (# days hunted) which is used to estimate harvest per unit effort.

Documented Mortalities

All known mountain lion mortalities in South Dakota are recorded and the BHFPD mortalities are evaluated for population trend assessments. For trend assessments of mountain lions in the BHFPD of South Dakota, GFP primarily evaluates total, harvest, non-harvest, and removal mortalities. Variation in recovery or detection probability among cause-specific mortalities prevents comparison among categories.

Harvest mortalities can be influenced by hunting season regulations, weather, and other factors. Non-harvest mortality trends may reflect increases or decreases in the mountain lion population. However, factors influencing non-harvest mortality can be variable and may influence trend assessments.

Population Estimation

Abundance of mountain lions in the Black Hills is estimated using the Lincoln-Petersen mark-recapture Chapman model. GFP uses biopsy-darting as the primary method to mark mountain lions immediately prior to the season, while the hunting season is considered the recapture event. DNA analyses are conducted by the USFS National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation, Missoula, MT.

Vital rates from radio-collared individuals and recruitment data from previous research studies in the Black Hills (e.g., Thompson 2009, Jansen 2011) are used as input variables to calculate the total mountain lion population. Age and sex composition of starting populations are based on the 3-year average composition of harvested mountain lions.

Population trajectories are an important management tool that enables a better understanding of harvest strategies dependent upon management objectives. Growth rates of mountain lion populations are primarily dependent on female survival and kitten recruitment. Understanding population rates of change allows managers to implement proactive management recommendations while practicing adaptive management techniques.

DEPREDAATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Mountain lion management in South Dakota is a complex and adaptive process that must include careful consideration of the biological, social, economic, and political impacts. Overall, the demand for mountain lion depredation services from GFP is low. The most significant factor that likely affects social tolerance and the demand for mountain lion depredation services in South Dakota are population levels and landowners' financial dependency on livestock or other personal property. Fortunately, few landowners have interactions with mountain lions because of the animal's secretive nature and relatively low densities.

Conflicts with mountain lions may occur any time of the year but more frequently in areas with more people, more mountain lions, more livestock production, and less available habitat. Outside of the Black Hills, mountain lion habitat is limited and the potential for an incident increases. All reported mountain lion observations from the public in areas outside of the Black Hills are recorded in a centralized database. Observations of mountain lions within the Black Hills that occur in a municipality, urban, or other area/situation of current or future potential conflict are also recorded.

In South Dakota, mountain lions may be removed by GFP due to livestock depredation, attacks on pets, or in situations where a mountain lion poses a substantial threat to public safety. GFP will remove a mountain lion for attacking domestic animals. However, GFP may not remove a mountain lion in conflict situations where a pet provoked a mountain lion or where domestic animals could be protected using exclusionary fencing. GFP will not relocate a mountain lion that previously attacked livestock to another area, because it may impact another livestock producer. In these situations, it is GFP's current position to utilize lethal removal as the most appropriate management technique. However, GFP does provide technical advice to livestock producers and homeowners regarding non-lethal techniques (e.g., protective fencing and additional livestock husbandry practices) to be proactive and hopefully minimize mountain lion conflicts with livestock and pets. Feeding of prey species, such as deer and turkey, in urban areas or near rural homes is discouraged as it can lead to an increased presence of mountain lions.

Lethal control is conducted exclusively by GFP staff when deemed appropriate. However, in certain circumstances, citizens may kill a mountain lion if necessary. Under SDCL § 41-6-29.2, killing of a mountain lion is permitted if reasonably necessary to protect the life of a person or if a mountain lion is posing an imminent threat to a person's livestock or pets. If a person kills a mountain lion pursuant to state law, they must contact GFP within twenty-four hours of killing the mountain lion.

While GFP management techniques and strategies have proven successful over the past 20 years, mountain lion depredation and the associated conflicts will continue to be a challenge. To help minimize these conflicts when possible, GFP must ensure that mountain lion populations are managed proactively and that management goals are being met. Defined

wildlife population objectives, management goals, and stakeholder opinions are critical to effectively manage wildlife populations (Leopold 1933, Riley and Decker 2000).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

Effective decision-making by wildlife agencies necessitates the need to consider public perceptions and opinions, as well as potential responses to management policies. Along with hunter harvest and biological data collected, public involvement is an important component in developing and implementing wildlife management plans. Public participation helps ensure decisions are made in consideration of public needs and preferences. It can help resolve conflicts, build trust, and inform the public about wildlife management in South Dakota. Successful public participation is a continuous process, consisting of a series of activities and actions to inform the public and stakeholders, as well as obtain input regarding decisions which affect them. No single citizen or group of citizens can represent the views of all citizens. Multiple avenues for public involvement and outreach, therefore, are used in the development of the Mountain Lion Management Plan. These approaches are designed to involve the public at various stages of plan development and to ensure opportunities for participation are accessible to all citizens.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks first began collecting public opinion information related to mountain lion management in 2002, at which time mountain lions were listed as a state threatened species (Gigliotti et al. 2002). Since that time GFP has administered multiple surveys regarding mountain lions in South Dakota: five state resident surveys (Longmire 2019, Gigliotti 2012, Gigliotti et al. 2009, Gigliotti 2002, and Gigliotti et al. 2002); three Black Hills deer hunter surveys (Gigliotti 2007a, 2006a, and 2005a); one elk hunter survey (Gigliotti 2006b); and 13 mountain lion hunter surveys (Huxoll 2018, Longmire 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012a, Gigliotti 2011, 2010a, 2009, 2008, 2007b, and 2006c). In addition to surveys, GFP has held multiple public meetings/open houses in 2005, 2010, and 2012 designed to provide information to the public and gather public input about mountain lion management in South Dakota. Additional public comment has been collected over the years in conjunction with management plan revisions; GFP Commission public hearings, open forums, and petition processes; and via informal avenues such as emails and phone calls to the Department. A stakeholder group was established in conjunction with the 2024 management plan revision process as an additional means for gathering input related to mountain lion management. Additionally, a public opinion survey was administered to both hunters (i.e., the most recent season resident applicants for statewide and Black Hills mountain lion hunting and Black Hills big game hunting) and Black Hills residents (i.e., residents within municipalities in and around the Black Hills and residents outside of municipalities within 15 miles of the BHFPD) in the spring of 2024 (Buckley 2024).

Attitudes toward Mountain Lion Hunting Season

Over the years South Dakota residents have been supportive of a mountain lion hunting season (Longmire 2019, Gigliotti 2012, Gigliotti et al. 2009, Gigliotti 2002 and Gigliotti et al. 2002). In the 2024 public opinion survey, hunters and residents were provided with a preamble detailing the Custer State Park (CSP), Black Hills Fire Protection District (BHFPD), and Statewide mountain

lion hunting season characteristics. Participants were asked how satisfied they were with the structure of the mountain lion season in 2022 – 2023. Approximately half of hunters (51%) and residents (59%) were neutral about the CSP season, half of hunters (46%) and residents (55%) were neutral about the BHFPD season, and half of hunters (49%) reported some level of satisfaction with the statewide season outside BHFPD, while half of residents (57%) were neutral about the statewide season (Buckley 2024).

There is varied support for various mountain lion harvest strategies (Buckley 2024). Survey respondents were asked to report their level of support for different strategies that could be used if GFP needed to increase mountain lion harvest beyond current levels. Residents most favored expanding boot hunting opportunities (60%), allowing mountain lion harvest during deer season (45%), and allowing pursuit where multiple tracks are present (39%). Hunters most favored allowing mountain lion harvest during deer season (72%), expanding boot hunting opportunities (67%), and expanding hunting opportunities using dogs (62%). Residents were most opposed to allowing trapping/snaring (65%). Currently, state law and administrative rule do not allow the taking of any big game animal (including mountain lions) with traps or snares. Previous survey results showed resident opposition to this method (59%) (Longmire 2019). Finally, hunters were most opposed to allowing non-resident harvest (68%).

Social Tolerance

Research into the acceptance of wildlife indicates both objective and subjective factors shape beliefs about wildlife populations (Zinn et al. 2000; Decker and Purdy 1988). In addition to objectively measured population levels, risks, and benefits factors such as value orientations and perceptions of population levels, risks, and benefits have been found to be important in determining stakeholder acceptance capacity for wildlife (Zinn et al. 2000). Understanding attitudes is important since they can influence and predict behavior, and the more specific the attitude is toward a certain behavior the stronger the relationship between attitude and behavior (Vaske 2008, Fishbein and Manfredo 2003, Ajzen and Fishbein 1980).

The attitudes and beliefs about mountain lions held by SD residents are complex. Over the past 16 years surveys have consistently shown the full range of attitudes towards mountain lions is present among South Dakota residents, ranging from strong support to strong opposition toward mountain lions. Attitudinal statements have been used to measure SD residents' beliefs regarding mountain lions (Longmire 2019, Gigliotti 2012 and Gigliotti et al. 2002).

In the 2024 study, three items measured existence and environmental value of mountain lions. Over half of hunters (56%) and the majority of residents (74%) agreed that the presence of mountain lions was a sign of a healthy environment (Buckley 2024). The majority of residents in 2002 (72%) agreed that the presence of mountain lions was a sign of a healthy environment, while 12 percent disagreed and 16 percent neither agreed nor disagreed with it (Gigliotti et al. 2002). In 2018, a smaller majority (57%) agreed that the presence of mountain lions was sign of a healthy environment, 20 percent disagreed, and 23 percent neither agreed nor disagreed with it. Additionally, in the 2024 study, most hunters (61%) and residents (76%) agreed it is important to them that mountain lions persist in South Dakota for future generations. Most

hunters (66%) and residents (80%) also agreed it is important to them to know that mountain lions exist, whether they ever see one in the wild or not (Buckley 2024).

Attitudes towards mountain lion hunting were also assessed in the 2024 survey. Over half of hunters (63%) and a little less than half of residents (47%) agreed mountain lion hunting is an important tradition in South Dakota. The vast majority of hunters (96%) and residents (83%) agreed hunting is an acceptable way of managing mountain lion populations. Interestingly, 38% of hunters and 40% of residents were neutral that mountain lion hunting is important for South Dakota's economy (Buckley 2024).

The risks and threats of having mountain lions on the landscape were also captured in the 2024 survey (Buckley 2024). Hunters and residents were divided on many of these items. A little less than half of hunters (42%) agreed mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to livestock, 40% of residents disagreed. Similarly, a little less than half of hunters (42%) agreed mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to pets, while residents disagreed (42%). Half of hunters (50%) and over half of residents (55%) disagreed mountain lions pose an unacceptable risk to people. In previous surveys, the majority of SD residents disagreed that having mountain lions in SD is too dangerous a risk to people. In 2002, 62 percent of SD residents disagreed mountain lions were too dangerous a risk to people, 25 percent agreed with it, and 13 percent neither agreed nor disagreed (Gigliotti et al. 2002). Similarly in 2012, 57 percent disagreed that mountain lions were too dangerous a risk to people, 27 percent agreed and 16 percent neither agreed nor disagreed (Gigliotti 2012). More recently, in 2018, 53 percent disagreed with this statement, 28 percent agreed and 19 percent neither agreed nor disagreed. Over half of hunters (53%) agreed mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to ungulates, while over half of residents disagreed (52%).

South Dakota residents' concerns about mountain lions killing too many game animals have fluctuated over the years. This fluctuation is likely due, in part, to fluctuations in mountain lion, deer, and elk populations in the Black Hills over the last 16 years. In 2002, a slight majority of SD residents (52%) disagreed with the statement that they were concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals. One-quarter (25%) were concerned about this and 24 percent neither agreed nor disagreed with this statement (Gigliotti et al. 2002). The proportion of SD residents who indicated they were concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals jumped to nearly half (45%) in 2012, while one-third (33%) were unconcerned and 22 percent neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement (Gigliotti 2012). In 2018, the proportion of residents who were concerned about this dropped to 33 percent, 42 percent indicated they were unconcerned, and one-quarter (25%) neither agreed nor disagreed that they were concerned about mountain lions killing too many game animals. Black Hills residents were more likely than residents on the prairie (52% compared to 39%) to disagree with this statement (Longmire 2019). In the 2024 study, over half of residents (53%) disagreed that mountain lions pose an unacceptable threat to ungulates, while over half of hunters (53%) agreed that they do.

Respondents were also asked whether they would prefer to see the mountain lion population in South Dakota decrease, stay the same or increase over the next five years in the following locations: Custer State Park [CSP], Black Hills Fire Protection District (excluding CSP) [BHFPD], and Statewide, outside of BHFPD (Buckley 2024). In CSP, 46% of hunters and 56% of residents wanted the population objective to stay about the same. In BHFPD, 46% of hunters wanted it to decrease to some degree, while 52% of residents wanted it to stay about the same. Statewide, 47% of hunters and 56% of residents wanted the population to stay about the same. In 2002, when mountain lions were still listed as a state threatened species, one-quarter (25%) of residents wanted the mountain lion population to increase to some degree, less than one-third (30%) wanted it to stay about the same, and 17 percent indicated they would like to see the population decrease to some degree. Over one-quarter (28%) were unsure about what the population goal should be (Gigliotti et al. 2002). In 2018 (13 years after the first mountain lion hunting season) residents were asked the direction they would prefer to see mountain lion populations go over the next five years within the Black Hills Fire Protection District and statewide (outside the fire protection district). Over one-third (39%) of residents preferred to see the population in the Black Hills Fire Protection District stay about the same, and 35 percent of residents would like to see the population statewide stay about the same (Longmire 2019). Over one-quarter (29%) of residents would like to see the population decrease to some extent over the next five years statewide, and 21 percent would like to see the population in the Black Hills decrease. A similar proportion of residents would like to see the population in the Black Hills and statewide increase (20% and 17%, respectively). About 20 percent of residents indicated they were unsure about mountain lion population goals over the next five years (Longmire 2019).

Survey results over the past 16 years have consistently shown that the full range of attitudes toward mountain lions exist in South Dakota. This finding is significant in it means managing mountain lions can be controversial, and mountain lion incidents have the potential to become contentious depending on how they are addressed. Understanding how various stakeholders perceive mountain lions in South Dakota is an important component of overall mountain lion management that is responsive to public values.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Mountain lions are a topic of interest and conversation throughout the state. GFP staff provide education and information in both formal and informal settings. This includes, but is not limited to, the Outdoor Campuses (Rapid City & Sioux Falls), GFP offices and parks, teacher trainings, and other staff presentations. While presentations occur throughout the state, they are more frequent in the western portion of the state, especially in and around the Black Hills. GFP will continue to be active in educating area residents, schools, and visitors about mountain lions.

Additional education materials are provided in the form of a GFP brochure entitled “Living with Mountain Lions”. This brochure has information about mountain lions in South Dakota along with general information about the species. A hunter educational brochure entitled “Mountain

Lion Identification and Methods of Determining Sex and Age” has also been created to inform hunters in South Dakota about mountain lions, and to assist with field identification of sex and age. Furthermore, GFP is currently working on an informational brochure which demonstrates successful techniques used to protect chicken and other domestic animals from mountain lions.

POPULATION GOALS

The GFP will manage mountain lion populations and habitats consistent with ecological, social, aesthetic, and economic values of South Dakota citizens while addressing the concerns and issues of both residents and visitors of South Dakota.

The Black Hills population objective is 200-300 total mountain lions, but actual population abundance may vary depending on a multitude of factors such as mountain lion vital rates, prey species population densities, mortality factors, public input, and the precision and accuracy of biological monitoring. This population objective range was developed and updated after thorough analyses of mountain lion population data, prey availability, recreational opportunities, livestock depredation issues, human safety and conflict issues, and substantial input from a wide variety of publics with an interest in mountain lion management in South Dakota. GFP will adopt harvest strategies that will allow the mountain lion population to stay within the objective range.

Population objectives for mountain lions on the prairie habitats of South Dakota have not been established. Survey data are lacking for mountain lions on the prairie and these areas are managed primarily to abate potential livestock losses on private property while at the same time to provide recreational hunting opportunity.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

Objective 1: Monitor and assess mountain lion populations by conducting scientifically based biological surveys within South Dakota.

- a) Annually survey hunters to estimate harvest statistics.
- b) Annually conduct mandatory checks for all harvested mountain lions to collect and assess harvest and other biological data.
- c) Annually collect and evaluate reported mountain lion mortalities.
- d) Estimate abundance of mountain lion population in the Black Hills.
 - Evaluate alternative methods to improve estimate of abundance.
 - Evaluate alternative indices to improve detection of population trend.
- e) Investigate, document, and collect biological samples from sick and/or dead mountain lions demonstrating symptoms of concern.

Objective 2: Manage mountain lion populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs.

- a) Manage for a sustainable population of mountain lions within the Black Hills of South Dakota.
 - The winter population objective will be 200-300 total mountain lions.
 - Collect scientific-based public input from hunters, landowners, and the general public during every management plan revision to assess public perceptions regarding mountain lion management, better define social tolerance levels, and re-evaluate objectives and strategies.
- b) Modify and adopt hunting season structure as needed to minimize regulation complexity:
 - In the Black Hills Fire Protection District (BHFPD), excluding Custer State Park (CSP): maximize hunting opportunity for unique hunters allowing unlimited boot hunting with harvest regulated primarily through restricted season lengths and harvest limits.
 - In CSP: maximize hunting opportunity for hunters with dogs with harvest regulated primarily through limited permits and restricted season lengths.
 - Outside BHFPD: emphasis to minimize potential human conflicts with mountain lions and maximize hunting opportunity for hunters with dogs allowing unlimited permits and a year-round season.

Objective 3: Cooperatively work with private landowners, municipalities, and the general public to resolve mountain lion depredation to livestock, human safety concerns, and urban mountain lion conflicts.

- a) Continue to document and respond to all mountain lion depredation and human safety concerns in a timely manner.
- b) Educate the public and public municipalities on the potential for increased mountain lion human safety issues from feeding deer and other wildlife.
- c) Utilize mountain lion kill permit authority (see *Depredation Management* section) when warranted, to address mountain lion depredation and human safety concerns.
- d) Provide technical assistance to municipalities regarding mountain lion-human conflict management.
- e) Annually collect and evaluate reported mountain lion observations in areas of potential human and/or livestock conflict.

LITERATURE CITED

- Ajzen, I. and M. Fishbein. 1980. Understanding attitudes and predicting social behavior. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hill.
- Buckley, S. 2024. South Dakota Mountain Lion Management: Public Opinion Survey Results. Report ID: 2024-10. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota.
- Decker, D. J. and K. G. Purdy. 1988. Toward a concept of wildlife acceptance capacity in wildlife management. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 16:53-57.
- Fishbein, M. and M. J. Manfredo. 2003. A theory of behavior change. Pages 29-50 *in* M. J. Manfredo, editor. *Influencing human behavior*. Sagamore Publishing. Champaign, Illinois, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2002. Wildlife values and beliefs of South Dakota residents. Report # HD-10-02.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2005a. 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report # HD-3-05.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2006a. 2005 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report # HD-4-06.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2006b. 2005 Black Hills rifle elk hunter survey. Report # HD-6-06.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2006c. Evaluation of the 2005 mountain lion season: Hunter survey. Report # HD-3-06.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2007a. 2006 Black Hills deer hunter survey report. Report # HD-3-07.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2007b. Evaluation of the 2006 mountain lion season: Hunter survey. Report # HD-3-06.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2008. Evaluation of the 2007 mountain lion season: Hunter survey. Report # HD-4-08.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2009. Evaluation of the 2009 mountain lion season: Hunter survey. Report # HD-3-09.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.

- Gigliotti, L. M. 2010a. Evaluation of the 2010 Mountain Lion Season: Hunter Survey. Report ID#: HD-8-10.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2011. Evaluation of the 2011 Mountain Lion Season: Hunter Survey. Report ID#: HD-8-11.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M. 2012. Wildlife and environmental attitudes of South Dakota citizens: A 2012 survey. Progress Report: 1-2012. U.S. Geological Survey, South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Brookings, SD: Department of Natural Resource Management, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M., D. Fecske, J. Jenks. 2002. Mountain lions in South Dakota: A public opinion survey – 2002. Report # HD-9-02.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Gigliotti, L. M., T. L. Teel, and A. Dietsch. 2009. Black Hills residents' attitudes towards place and wildlife: Preview of selected results. Report # HD-9-09.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Huxoll, C. 2018. Big game harvest projections. South Dakota Game Report # 2018-05. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Jansen, B. D. 2011. Anthropogenic factors affecting mountain lions in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Dissertation, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota, USA.
- Leopold, A. 1933. Game management. Charles Scribner's Sons, eds., New York, New York, USA.
- Lindbloom, A. J., S. L. Griffin, L. Wiechmann, B. Buckley. 2023. Mountain lion population status update. 2023 Biennial Report. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Longmire, C. L. 2012a. Evaluation of the 2012 mountain lion season: Hunter survey results. Report # HD-3a-12.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Longmire, C. L. 2013. Black Hills mountain lion season: Hunter survey results. Report # HD-6-13.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Longmire, C. L. 2014. Black Hills mountain lion season: Hunter survey results. Report # HD-3-14.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Longmire, C. L. 2015. Black Hills mountain lion season: Hunter survey results. Report # HD-4-15.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.

- Longmire, C. L. 2016. Black Hills mountain lion season: Hunter survey results. Report # HD-4-16.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Longmire, C. L. 2017. Black Hills Mountain lion season: Hunter survey results. Report # HD-3-17.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Longmire, C. L. 2019. Mountain lion management in South Dakota: Public opinion survey results. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Riley, S. J. and D. J. Decker. 2000. Wildlife stakeholder acceptance capacity for cougars in Montana. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 28:931-939.
- South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. 2019. South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan 2019-2029. Wildlife Division Report 2019-06. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota, USA.
- Thompson, D. J. 2009. Population demographics of cougars in the Black Hills: survival, dispersal, morphometry, genetic structure, and associated interactions with density dependence. Dissertation, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota, USA.
- Vaske, J. J. 2008. Survey research and analysis: Application in parks, recreation and human dimensions. Venture Publishing, Inc., State College, Pennsylvania, USA.
- Zinn, H. C., M. J. Manfredo, and J. J. Vaske. 2000. Social psychological basis for stakeholder acceptance capacity. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 5:20-33.

South Dakota Deerfield Reservoir Study: 2024 Public Opinion Survey Results



Stephanie Buckley, Ph.D.

Human Dimensions Specialist

Buckley, S. (2024). South Dakota Deerfield Reservoir Study: 2024 Public Opinion Survey Results. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota.

Executive Summary

- The sampling frame for the angler survey included resident and nonresident 2023 anglers with an email address on file. There were 167,024 unique individuals who held an eligible license type. The sampling frame for recreationists included Black Hills parks users which was developed based on park entrance license purchases, camping reservations, and resident zip codes for Rapid City and Hot Springs. There were 24,293 individuals on this list, and so the research team randomly sampled 3,500 individuals who had an email address on file. After correcting for undeliverable email addresses, the adjusted sample size was 6,807. The adjusted response rate was 10% ($n = 679/6807$).
- The majority of anglers (83.5%) and recreationists (59.1%) did not fish at Deerfield in 2023.
- On average, both anglers ($M = 3.80$) and recreationists ($M = 3.89$) used a spinning/casting rod most often when fishing in Black Hills reservoirs. Mean values indicated both samples reported that they “often” use this type of equipment.
- Of those who fished at Deerfield Reservoir in 2023, on average, anglers fished at Deerfield for about 9 days, and recreationists fished at Deerfield for about 8 days.
- Anglers lived farther away from Deerfield than the recreationist sample. Anglers, on average, reported living approximately 197 miles from Deerfield Reservoir, while recreationists lived approximately 53 miles away.
- Trout were the highest rated fish for anglers ($M = 3.00$) and recreationists ($M = 2.83$) fishing Deerfield in 2023. Mean values indicated the quality of trout were “good.” Yellow perch and rock bass, however, were considered “fair.”
- Fishing at Deerfield Reservoir was reported as “important” to both anglers ($M = 3.92$) and recreationists ($M = 3.97$).
- While only 12.1% of anglers visited Deerfield in 2023 to participate in other recreational activities other than fishing, approximately one-quarter of recreationists (26.8%) reported that they did.
- For those who visited to participate in additional recreational activities, anglers most often reported visiting Deerfield Reservoir in 2023 to participate in hiking (56.4%), camping (46.2%), non-motorized boat use (28.2%) and picnicking (29.2%). Recreationists most often reported hiking (53.3%), camping (43.5%), and non-motorized boat use (34.8%).
- When reporting their primary recreational activity at Deerfield in 2023, anglers (40.5%) and recreationists (44.8%) most often reported fishing.
- Other than fishing, the average angler ($M = 3.70$) and recreationist ($M = 3.77$) reported that pursuing other recreational activities at Deerfield as “important” to them.
- When asked about their level of support for stocking Walleye in an attempt to improve the Yellow Perch fishing in Deerfield, both anglers ($M = 4.17$) and recreationists ($M = 4.29$) indicated they “support” this management action.

Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Introduction	4
Methods.....	4
Results.....	4
References.....	23
Appendix A: Survey Instrument	24

Introduction

Human dimensions inquiries can help lend credibility to natural resources decision making and guide management decisions. The present study aims to identify what actions taken by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks may be supported by the public regarding the management of fish populations in Deerfield Reservoir. The purpose of this study is to collect anglers' and other recreationists' attitudes towards stocking Walleye into Deerfield Reservoir to help improve the quality of the Yellow Perch population. This report summarizes the results from the 2024 South Dakota Deerfield Reservoir survey.

Methods

The sampling frame for the angler survey included resident and nonresident 2023 anglers with an email address on file. There were 167,024 unique individuals who held an eligible license type. The researchers randomly sampled 3,500 individuals using a single-mode email study following the Tailored Design Method (Dillman et al., 2014). Participants were mailed up to 6 study invitations.

The sampling frame for recreationists included Black Hills parks users which was developed based on park entrance license purchases, camping reservations, and resident zip codes for Rapid City and Hot Springs. There were 24,293 individuals on this list, and so the research team randomly sampled 3,500 individuals who had an email address on file. A single-mode email study was used. The Tailored Design Method was followed, and participants received up to 6 study invitations throughout the data collection process (Dillman et al., 2014).

After correcting for undeliverable email addresses, the adjusted sample size was 6,807. The adjusted response rate was 10% ($n = 679/6807$). Analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 27 software package. Data cleaning was completed before running analyses (i.e., removal of blank surveys that had been opened but not completed, coding missing data). Summary statistics were conducted, including percentages, mean values, and standard deviations. The survey instrument is provided in Appendix A.

Results

Respondents were asked whether they fished at Deerfield Reservoir in 2023 (Table 1). The majority of anglers (83.5%) and recreationists (59.1%) indicated that they had not.

Table 1. 2023 Deerfield Reservoir fishing participation

	Angler		Recreationist	
	N	%	N	%
No	273	83.5	207	59.1
Yes	54	16.5	143	40.9
Total	327	100.0	350	100.0

Study participants were asked how often they used various types of equipment when they fished in Black Hills reservoirs (Table 2). On average, anglers ($M = 2.30$) and Recreationists ($M = 3.89$) indicated they often used spinning/casting rods. Anglers ($M = 2.49$) and recreationists ($M = 3.02$) sometimes used ice fishing gear (e.g., Tip-ups). While fly rods were rarely used by anglers ($M = 2.30$) and recreationists ($M = 2.01$), spears/spearguns/bows were never used on average by anglers ($M = 1.25$) and recreationists ($M = 1.16$).

Table 2. Equipment use while fishing in Black Hills reservoirs

				Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Anglers	N	Mean	SD	%	%	%	%	%
Fly rod	47	2.30	1.334	40.4	17.0	23.4	10.6	8.5
Spinning/casting rod	51	3.80	1.217	9.8	3.9	13.7	41.2	31.4
Spear/speargun/bow	40	1.25	0.588	82.5	10.0	7.5	0.0	0.0
Ice fishing gear (e.g., Tip-ups)	47	2.49	1.516	42.6	10.6	14.9	19.1	12.8

				Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Recreationists	N	Mean	SD	%	%	%	%	%
Fly rod	128	2.01	1.226	50.0	18.0	18.8	7.8	5.5
Spinning/casting rod	132	3.89	1.193	7.6	4.5	17.4	31.8	38.6
Spear/speargun/bow	120	1.16	0.580	91.7	3.3	2.5	2.5	0.0
Ice fishing gear (e.g., Tip-ups)	130	3.02	1.378	23.1	9.2	24.6	28.5	14.6

Scale: 1 = Never, 3 = Sometimes, 5 = Always

The survey also captured how many days participants fished at Deerfield Reservoir in 2023 (Table 3). Of those who fished at Deerfield reservoir in 2023, anglers fished for approximately 9 days, and recreationists fished for approximately 8 days.

Table 3. Number of days fished at Deerfield Reservoir in 2023

	Angler			Recreationist		
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
Days	51	8.61	14.600	136	7.63	10.602

Study participants were asked about how far from their home Deerfield Reservoir was (Table 4). While the average angler lived approximately 197 miles away, the average recreationist lived about 53 miles from the reservoir.

Table 4. Distance of participants' homes from Deerfield Reservoir

	Angler			Recreationist		
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
Miles	51	197.24	302.942	136	53.01	53.544

Anglers and recreationists were asked to consider the number of fish caught, sizes of fish caught, and species caught while they fished in Deerfield Reservoir in 2023 (Table 5). They then reported on the quality of yellow perch, rock bass, and trout. Those who answered “not applicable” were removed from the analysis. Trout was the highest-rated fish for anglers (M = 3.00) and recreationists (M = 2.83); both groups rated trout as “good.” However, yellow perch (Anglers, M = 2.21; Recreationists, M = 2.01) and rock bass (Anglers, M = 2.33; Recreationists, M = 2.09) received ratings of “fair” on average.

Table 5. Fish species ratings for Deerfield Reservoir in 2023

		N	Mean	SD	Poor (1) %	Fair (2) %	Good (3) %	Very good (4) %	Excellent (5) %
Yellow perch	Angler	29	2.21	1.292	34.5	37.9	10.3	6.9	10.3
	Recreationist	115	2.01	0.913	32.2	42.6	18.3	6.1	0.9
Rock bass	Angler	27	2.33	1.330	29.6	37.0	18.5	0.0	14.8
	Recreationist	80	2.09	1.093	36.3	33.8	18.8	7.5	3.8
Trout	Angler	38	3.00	0.870	5.3	21.1	42.1	31.6	0.0
	Recreationist	126	2.83	0.947	8.7	24.6	46.0	16.7	4.0

Scale: 1 = Poor, 3 = Good, 5 = Excellent

Next, study participants were asked to consider all of the recreational activities they participate in, and then rate how important or unimportant fishing at Deerfield Reservoir is to them (Table 6). Fishing at Deerfield Reservoir was rated as “important” to both anglers (M = 3.92) and recreationists (M = 3.79).

Table 6. Importance of fishing at Deerfield Reservoir

		N	Mean	SD	Very unimportant (1) %	Unimportant (2) %	Neutral (3) %	Important (4) %	Very important (5) %
Angler		50	3.92	1.192	6.0	4.0	26.0	22.0	44.0
Recreationist		136	3.79	0.962	5.1	1.5	23.5	49.3	20.6

Scale: 1 = Very unimportant, 3 = Neutral, 5 = Very important

Participation in other recreational activities other than fishing was also captured (Table 7). While only 12.1% of anglers visited Deerfield in 2023 to participate in other recreational activities other than fishing, approximately one-quarter of recreationists (26.8%) reported that they did.

Table 7. Visitation to Deerfield Reservoir in 2023 to participate in any recreational activities other than fishing

	Angler		Recreationist	
	N	%	N	%
No	283	87.9	251	73.2
Yes	39	12.1	92	26.8
Total	322	100.0	343	100.0

For those who indicated they did participate in recreational activities other than fishing at Deerfield Reservoir in 2023, they were asked to indicate what those activities were (Table 8). For those who visited to participate in additional recreational activities, anglers most often reported visiting Deerfield Reservoir in 2023 to participate in hiking (56.4%), camping (46.2%), non-motorized boat use (28.2%) and picnicking (29.2%). Recreationists most often reported hiking (53.3%), camping (43.5%), and non-motorized boat use (34.8%).

Table 8. Other recreational activities other than fishing respondents participated in at Deerfield Reservoir in 2023

	Angler				Recreationist			
	Not selected		Selected		Not selected		Selected	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Motorized boat use	35	89.7	4	10.3	89	96.7	3	3.3
Non-motorized boat use	28	71.8	11	28.2	60	65.2	32	34.8
Snowmobiling	37	94.9	2	5.1	88	95.7	4	4.3
Picnicking	28	71.8	11	28.2	67	72.8	25	27.2
Ice skating	39	100.0	0	0.0	91	98.9	1	1.1
Cross-country skiing	38	97.4	1	2.6	90	97.8	2	2.2
Snowshoeing	38	97.4	1	2.6	90	97.8	2	2.2
Camping	21	53.8	18	46.2	52	56.5	40	43.5
Hiking	17	43.6	22	56.4	43	46.7	49	53.3
Bicycling	33	84.6	6	15.4	80	87.0	12	13.0
Other	34	87.2	5	12.8	78	84.8	14	15.2

Note: Survey question formatted as select all that apply. No overall total provided.

Table 9. "Other" open ended responses for recreational activities

Angler
Deer hunting in the area is great
Eagle watching
Jeep
swimming
UTV
Recreationist
4wheel
ATV and UTV riding
four wheeling
Kayaking
None
Paddleboarding
Photography
Stand up paddle boarding
Swimming
SXS
SXS riding.
Swimming

Participants were asked to select their primary recreational activity while visiting Deerfield Reservoir in 2023 (Table 10). Anglers (40.5%) and recreationists (44.8%) most often reported fishing (40.5%).

Table 10. Primary recreational activity while visiting Deerfield Reservoir in 2023

	Angler		Recreationist	
	N	%	N	%
Fishing	15	40.5	39	44.8
Motorized boat use	1	2.7	0	0.0
Non-motorized boat use	3	8.1	3	3.4
Snowmobiling	0	0.0	0	0.0
Picnicking	2	5.4	6	6.9
Ice skating	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cross-country skiing	0	0.0	1	1.1
Snowshoeing	0	0.0	0	0.0
Camping	7	18.9	21	24.1
Hiking	6	16.2	10	11.5
Bicycling	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	3	8.1	7	8.0
Total	37	100.0	87	100.0

Table 11. "Other" open ended responses for primary recreational activities

Angler
atv on area trails
Swimming
Trail Riding
Recreationist
Four wheeling
Kayaking
Paddle Board
Photography
SXS riding.

Study participants were asked to rate how important or unimportant pursuing other recreational activities at Deerfield Reservoir was to them, when considering all of their recreational activities other than fishing (Table 12). Anglers (M = 3.70) and recreationists (M = 3.77) rated pursuing other recreational activities as "important."

Table 12. Importance of pursuing other recreational activities at Deerfield Reservoir other than fishing

	N	Mean	SD	Very unimportant	Unimportant	Neutral	Important	Very important
				(1) %	(2) %	(3) %	(4) %	(5) %
Angler	37	3.70	1.127	8.1	2.7	24.3	40.5	24.3
Recreationist	87	3.77	1.086	5.7	4.6	24.1	37.9	27.6

Scale: 1 = Very unimportant, 3 = Neutral, 5 = Very important

Survey participants were given the following prompt:

Due to an overabundant Yellow Perch population in Deerfield Reservoir, the growth and condition of perch and other sportfish species have declined over the last few years. The introduction of a predator has been identified by Game, Fish and Parks as a preferred option to improve Yellow Perch quality in the reservoir. After considering many different potential fish predators, Walleye were identified as the preferred option. This decision was based on availability, documented ability to impact Yellow Perch abundance, and minimal anticipated impacts to the trout population.

How strongly do you support or oppose South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks stocking Walleye in an attempt to improve Yellow Perch fishing on Deerfield Reservoir?

They were then asked to rate their level of support or opposition for this management action. Both anglers (M = 4.17) and recreationists (M = 4.29) indicated they “support” this scenario. Additionally, respondents were asked to report the factors that impact their opinion of the proposed management action. Those qualitative, open-ended response are presented in Table 14.

Table 13. Support for South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks stocking Walleye in Deerfield Reservoir

	N	Mean	SD	Strongly oppose (1) %	Oppose (2) %	Neutral (3) %	Support (4) %	Strongly support (5) %
Angler	308	4.17	0.920	1.9	1.0	20.5	31.2	45.5
Recreationist	334	4.29	0.994	3.3	1.2	15.6	22.8	57.2

Scale: 1 = Strongly oppose, 3 = Neutral, 5 = Strongly support

Table 14. Factors that impact opinions of the proposed management action

Angler
I would just like to see more walleye fisheries in the area
Another species to harvest
Be harassed by over abundant emails by predatory gfp. And walleye is where it's at!
Being able to catch quality walleye in a lake near my residence.
Best management for optimal outcome for fishing enjoyment
Bigger fish
Both perch and walleye are good eating. Walleye won't decimate the perch population like some of the other predators would
Deerfield is loaded with rock bass Sdgifp has reduced their stocking rates of rainbow trout in recent years and the trout are skinny by mid- summer- I like fishing at Deerfield because it's quiet and serene- it's the last hills lake of solitude Please keep it that way, add walleyes if you want- but keep it a no-wake lake (no jet skis, no wakeboard boats and no party boats)
Do not know the lakes potential
Do NOT put northern pike in this res. we dont want them..walleye are awesome they are hard to catch grow well and taste good yes walleye YES!!
Fish health
Have not been to Deerfield in over 30 years. Native fish are better than stocking.

Help improve perch size and control population

help the quality of fishing

How the population of small perch and rock bass has taken off in my lifetime. I'm 26 and fish constantly and have learned a lot in my lifetime and have seen the fisheries in the hills have their ups and downs and I'm seeing this in all of the major 3 being Deerfield, Stockade, and Sheridan. I love the push to add walleye to these lakes. My biggest concern is keeping the walleye population up after stocking. So if there could be a catch and release regulation in the first 3-5 years that would be a very good test for the walleye in seeing how the population of the perch and rock bass take effect. Also growing a better population of walleye before the people start to catch them and harvest them.

I agree that there is an overpopulation of Perch in Deerfield lake. This overpopulation provides large numbers of Perch that can be moved and used to restock other SD lakes, however it also means that the quality of Perch in Deerfield is low. Most Perch are in the 4"-8" range. I fully support the introduction of Walleye into Deerfield lake.

I am cautious in making decisions that could impact the reservoir negatively. I wonder about long term impacts of human intervention on the environment. It looks like you have really thought this through and Walleye are fun to catch, but that alone cannot be the deciding factor in changing an environment.

I am confident the biologists have the knowledge to deal with the situation properly.

I and my family go fishing but not anywhere on state waters. If walleye would decrease the amount of perch and you feel this is the best decision then I strongly support it

I can't make an educated guess at this point I don't have enough information, I just simply love walleye, and I love walleye fishing.

I do not like when a predatory fish is introduced into a fishery because of an overabundant fish population. But it is better than a fish die off which will likely happen if not taken care of.

I don't know the pop. dynamics of this body of water.

I don't fish often

I don't live or fish in this part of the State so don't feel I should have an opinion one way or the other.

I don't fish much but I hope the GFP is still doing the right thing so my kids can

I enjoy fishing but also believe that it's our responsibility to leave this place better for the future

I feel like the perch have gotten out of hand in Deerfield. It would be different if they were all decently sized, but you have to throw a lot back to catch any that are big enough to eat. I may be a little biased because I've been hoping that walleye would be introduced into that lake for a long time. I think there are some lakes in the Black Hills that could make for great walleye fisheries, and Deerfield is at the top of the list.

I fish for walleye

I have never fished Deerfield

I have not been there so I have no opinion

I have seen the introduction of walleye be very beneficial in lakes that had the same issue including one I have a cabin on. Anglers seem to prefer this over Northern Pike as well.

I have trout fished Deerfield Reservoir, just not in 2023, and would like to see it remain as a trout fishery. With that being said, a numerous small perch population also hinders fishing in general. I'd rather catch a decent sized perch or trout, than have a gamefish population of numerous small perch. I don't anticipate introducing walleye into the lake will have a dramatic negative effect on the trout population as I'm sure this is a concern. A healthy fishery of Trout, perch, and a few walleye seems to be logical to me.

I like eating Walleye and would like to fish it more often

I like to fish and eat walleye, too.

i like to fish for walleye

I like to walleye fish

I like Walleye

I live in Rapid City and there are little walleye fishing oportunites in the Black Hills. I'd love an opportunity to target walleye and trout in the same lake.

I live in Roberts Co. about 450 miles away.

I love fishing at Deerfield but like the issue states all I catch is yellow perch and would like the other opportunity to catch other fish.

I mainly fish for walleye, crappie, then perch. So improving those species is good.

I support the addition of predator fish to help cull the overpopulation of perch. It typically works but I have also seen in MN lakes where the walleye decimate the trout so I believe there will need to be close monitoring and limited introduction over a few years to ensure the populations are in check and not impacting the non targeted species.

I support the idea as long as it does not have a negative impact on the trout population

I think both walleye and perch are great fish to catch

I think it will attract more anglers! Personal I love fishing. But when I go to the Black Hills I feel there isn't enough variety of fish to fish for, so I just don't go fishing. Now with this at play, it just might have to become a must stop spot.

I think it would be an excellent choice for the state.

I think walleye is also a good species to stock because it will bring more recreation

I trust you guys. If you say it's the right move, then I have confidence in that decision.

i trust you know what action is best to support the viability of the fish.

I usually fish for trout but I'd rather eat perch or walleye.

I would enjoy having more options to fish for walleye in and around the black hills.

I'm no expert, my opinion would be just that - and uneducated opinion

I've fished many perch dams through the years. Perch have a tendency to overpopulate a body of water. When this happens all you catch are small fish too small to consume. Walleyes are a good choice. Walleyes are a predatory fish that are desired by fisherman due to ease of filleting. Northerns are less desirable predatory fish due to the number of bones in their skeleton.

ldk man

if it would help the perch population improve i would not oppose

If they help control the population...with no ill effects on anything else...why not...and walleye are fun to catch

if you think adding walleye to the fish mixture will reduce the perch population and the depredationgo with of other game species then go thru with it. and walleye is a favorite fish to fish for anyway.

Improve the fishing and another species of fish

Improving the quality of fish in lakes.

In my experience as a walleye tournament angler, perch are a natural forage for walleyes. This would be a win - win for the recreation and health of this reservoir.

It is the best predator as a complimentary game fish to put with Perch.

It's a natural way to make change.

just that it needs to be done if it will help

just trust SDGF and P

Leave the biological questions to the biologists. They are the ones best able to make those professional decisions.

Like fishing for walleye, better eating.

Like to fish.

NA

Need to increase size of fish. Desire to see increase in population of fish other than trout. Nothing against trout, just would like more variety.

Never been there.

Never fish or use this body of water

never fish there

none

None

Not knowing enough about this.

Not opposed to them in the lake. What impacts do they have once they get out of the lake?

Of the fish at Deerfield I prefer walleye for eating. The rest are all catch and release

Over supply of perch

Overpopulation of a specific fish species.

Perch fishing is great for young fishermen learning how to fish

Pike would be too much. Walleye is probably the perfect predator to balance the healthy populations needed for a healthy ecosystem at Deerfield. I'm am on board 100%. Also this will increase the will spend at the lake. Makes it much more attractive to the avid angler!!

Possible negative impact on the trout population.

Proven methods seem to be more favorable in the long run.

Provide another good walleye habitat. Natural approach.

Science

Seems like a good fit to stock a natural predator

Seems like a good idea to make the whole fishery better.

Seems reasonable without negative environmental repercussions

Sounds good

Sounds like a good plan.

That would be a great introduction in the lake.

The ability to catch walleye in more than 3 spots west of the river and the possibility to catch an actual eater perch.

The best of both worlds walleye fishing and perch fishing.

the limited size and quality of yellow perch, that are hooked and landed, well fun but are not big enough to keep, and get in the way of catching trout, will the walleye also target the rock bass ?

The Minnesota DNR has experimented with this and found that Yellow Perch numbers were controlled by the controlled stocking of Walleye. If Yellow Perch are overly abundant in the Deerfield Reservoir, then it's necessary to control that population with the introduction of a predatory fish.

The Missouri river is the only part of South Dakota that I've ever fished. I am support in Walleye population anywhere it works.

The small size of the perch population and it would be nice to have another potential place to fish for walleye in the area.

The walleye introduction in numbers may positively affect the perch population as discribed, but it will also seriously affect the trout population, which are the reason I fish there at all. The constant push by the SD G,F&P and the local knobheads to convert natural trout lakes in the Black Hills to non-native walleye & bass is reprehensible. They apparently are too lazy to travel to the Missouri River or the eastern SD lakes where walleye & bass are abundant. Why this constant press to erradicate trout fishing in the Black Hills ? It does noit make sense. And it is insulting to guise these changes as improvements to the waters.

The walleye is an excellent sport and eating fish for sportsmen!

The walleye will eliminate perch and there won't enough walleye worth fishing so no fishing. Where will the walleye spawn.

They eat trout and lots of them.

This is a cold-water fishery. Best to stick with Trout and Char.

This reservoir acts as a perch hatchery for the rest of the state. The positive effects on Orman are already being seen and i would love to see continued stocking from deerfield into other lakes to help those lakes as well.

This will impact the yellow perch population but will also impact the trout population.

To help the quality of the perch.

TO IMPROVE FISHING

To provide another walleye fishery to what is currently a limited resource in the Black Hills area. And as you mentioned, the quality of the Perch catch as well as the Trout catch for that matter at Deerfield has gotten to the point that something needs to be done!

Too many fish will not grow to expected size if they don't have enough food, pike and walleye will thin out the small fish and grow into trophy size fish in a short time.

Trust that the fisheries staff knows how to best manage the system. Belief that it will not negatively impact the trout fishery.

Utilize the science. Improving perch quality would aid in bring more people use the area.

Walleye also have the benefit of being a strong draw for fisherman.

Walleye are a desirable predator, but do not think it will hurt the perch fishing that much. The Walleye is probably more desirable that Northern Pike who are voracious predators and not as good eating as walleye.

walleye are a game fish and I don't anticipate any negative impact on the reservoir.

Walleye are a highly desired pan fish for all anglers and they do not over-populate lakes.

Walleye are a more desirable fish from a sportsman's view.

Walleye are a preferred game fish in our household

Walleye are better than pike.

Walleye are delicious and fun to fish for

walleye are my favorite

Walleye fishing will increase my interest in fishing at Deerfield. I absolutely love to fish for Perch at Deerfield and enjoy a challenge but the fish are simply too small to keep and enjoy. I hate having to throw them back knowing their survival rate after catching is decreased especially at their current size.

Walleye in hills lakes would be good!

Walleye is a good choice. They are good fighting fish and taste great, too.

walleye is a popular and great fish

Walleye is a very popular game fish in the state, and in my opinion would do well in the reservoir

Walleye is the preferred predator fish to catch by most.

Walleye will do very well in that lake. The perch will grow larger, and will also benefit the trout population as well.

Walleye will improve the fishing experience

Walleye would add a sport fish to the lake and balance to the diversity of the population of all species in Deerfield lake

Walleyes are a sought after fish so if they would help the perch population it looks like a win-win for the people that fish there.

walleyes are an good choice and sportfish

Walleyes are the preferred fish for most South Dakotans.
We do not need a walleye fishery in the Black Hills. Walleye fishing is great many other places in SD. There is no need to start another one in the Black Hills. Keep it trout.
We need to control so not to have an over abundance of one species. Walleye is a good choice as it is a fish that also will bring in people to fish, if that will be allowed.
While I really enjoy kayaking at Deerfield Lake, I enjoy fishing and eating walleye more. The addition of walleye would certainly increase motorized boats, and would make it harder and more dangerous for kayakers and other recreationists. Since it's a much smaller lake than Angostaura, I would definitely fish there, even in the winter. And if it helps the perch population, I'm ok with it.
Will stocking walleyes effect the quality of the trout and the population of them this is the only lake that we trout fish we fish it one time in the fall we also keep the perch we catch any other questions I would be happy to answer thanks
Would be nice to get some walleye close to wear I live.
Would be nice to have more walleye fishing opportunities closer to rapid city
Would be nice to have walleye in deerfeild as it would help with the perch.
Would like the opportunity to catch some nice sized perch in the Black Hills area. Currently travel to Devils Lake in ND and Cascade Lake in Idaho during the winter to catch jumbo sized perch.
Would love to catch Walleye at Deerfield
Yellow perch and walleye coexist in most all of sd waters and as long as the balance is there it should t negatively impact anything.
Yellow perch are delicious and so are walleye, trout are fun to catch but dont really eat them
You are the experts.
You know best, but many decisions have gone the wrong way so be cautious of the outcome
Total
Recreationist
#1) I assume you know what you are doing and I support that.
1. I consider Walleye and Perch sport and game fish, in that both are desirable to eat. 2. I fish for Walleye on the Missouri River a lot, and believe many anglers would welcome the opportunity in that beautiful setting to catch 2 quality species besides trout. 3. I'm intrigued by the prospect of fishing for walleye in an unfamiliar setting- I assume you would fish from shore, or a canoe or paddle boat of some type for them. 4. Without predation, the perch are probably overpopulated, small, and are inviting disease into the population, so I see it as a win- win-.win prospect for both species of fish and anglers.
A natural predator makes good sense to help control the population of Yellow Perch, however you should be prepared and have an improved infrastructure to handle the increase in fishing activity once word is out that walleye are available to catch. I think you will see a much higher amount of usage (fishing) on the lake due to the fact that walleye will be available.
Ability to fish walleye while helping to maintain and grow a healthier perch population. I would prefer to drive to Deerfield to fish walleye over any other species.
adding walleye would be a benefit to all
Always enjoyed walleye. The hills could potentially benefit from stocking
AN INCREASE IN WALLEYE WOULD ATTRACT MANY MORE ANGELERS TO DEERFIELD AND HILL CITY.
Another walleye fishing option in the Black Hills. Keeping my fishing time and money in the Hills. Deerfield Lake is a beautiful destination in the Hills. It also has camping availability that I intend to take advantage of this fall and forward after my health improves.

As with any type animal/fish in the Black Hills if there are too many their number will decline because the food source will not be enough. I support the works that GFP does and believe they know what's best for each situation.

Better fish manage practice

better fishing

Both great to eat,

Concern that there is limited impact on the trout

Decline in perch size. More walleye fishing opportunities would also be great!

Decline in sportfish species.

Deerfield has always been a trout lake and unsure if walleye won't negatively impact that population.

Deerfield is a great lake for ice fishing. Freezes up early and has a longer season. Anything to increase the size of the perch we are in full support of and introducing walleyes could give anglers another species to target.

Do not want it to impact trout fishing.

Don't want the trout fishery to be impacted by the introduction of a "new" predator. The rock bass have been taking over the near shore fishing so having a predator that would reduce their numbers would be beneficial.

Every time I Ice fish at Deerfield I get stuck only catching very small Perch

Every trip caught small 5-to-7-inch Perch. Every location we went where the same size. Walleye or Lake trout would reduce numbers and increase quality

Excellent management decision

Favorite species to fish

Fishing for yellow perch is great but when you catch 100 in a morning all roughly 5-7 inches something needs to be done.

Fishing is one of the many outdoor activities the Black Hills has to offer. It is extremely important to maintain and improve fishing as it is a big hit for kids just getting into the out doors activities. Improving fishing at Deerfield, where many fish from shore, is vital in maintaining and improving the out of doors experience.

Fix one problem cause another.

Game quality and the amount of yellow perch we caught

Get the people from RC area some where to fish other than any use to be a good fishery but not so much anymore

GF and P know what they are doing. they wanna stock walleye in Deerfield &lets do it!

Has there been any consideration for how the introduction of walleye will affect the populations of fish native to the Deerfield Reservoir watershed? A predator as aggressive as walleye could do serious damage if this angle isn't considered. I would be more supportive of walleye introduction if they were shown to not negatively impact nongame fish as well, not just sport fish like trout.

Have a cabin within a mile of the lake, it is nice that the lake has so many perch you can get a limit very quickly almost whenever you want if you know where they are grouped up, and is a great opportunity for kids to learn to fish without having to wait long times in between bites or reeling something up. That being said the size leaves a lot to be desired and a limit of 15 doesn't go very far with the bite sized fillets on the average deerfield perch. If walleye are introduced and allowed to be targeted, it would drive more traffic to the lake which is good, however the small and limited boat launches may be overwhelmed by this increased traffic. Just last weekend I had to wait 45 minutes to load my boat out since there were kayaks and 4 other boats launching/loading when we got to the dutchman ramp. So despite my love for walleye, I see both pros and cons to their introduction into the lake.

Heck Yea

How will that affect the trout population?

I believe the experts are the most qualified to make these decisions.

I catch a lot of perch, but they are usually very small. However, I have great concern that the introduction of walleye into Deerfield will have a negative impact on user experience. You will see many more anglers who currently do not fish there, and there will likely be a significant increase in violations of the No Wake Rule.

I caught so many tiny perch I had to throw back, especially from the shore. I felt like I couldn't escape them unless I was on the kayak out in the middle. It was difficult to manage unhooking and returning such small fish back into the lake.

I do not feel qualified to have an opinion on walleye in Deerfield. If the science supports it then I'm for it as long as the lake stays no-wake.

I do not see a negative to stocking walleye. They are a desired fish species and they would help the lake i feel.

I don't fish at Deerfield Lake.

I don't normally target walleye, but I have caught them, normally in less than 20 feet of water. When I fish Deerfield from a kayak its normally less than 20 foot deep or ice fishing it is normally by the dam in 60 foot of water or more. However, I have caught perch all over Deerfield. First, I don't know what to look for when fishing for walleye, but I will say introducing walleye to a NO WAKE LAKE may bring some challenges among those who do target walleye. I have experienced and reported folks for breaking wakes out there. But that is not what this survey is for and that would be between the anglers and GFP. Second, I feel walleye is the better predator option which I support. Northern Pike would destroy that lake. Lastly, walleye is another fun species to catch. I think deerfield lake would be an even more extraordinary fishery with them.

I don't know

I enjoy fishing for walleyes.

I enjoy fishing for yellow perch. Unfortunately the majority of them are too small to keep. Walleye is a very popular species to fish for. I feel it's a win win situation.

I fish at Cascade reservoir in Idaho where perch eat their own and have massive growth rates. There are no larger predators on Cascade except small mouth bass.

I fish Deerfield for perch every winter and really enjoy the fishing (catching). The perch are always small and seem to be getting smaller. I think the Walleye could help, maybe(?).

I fish Deerfield very little because of the perch.

I fully believe that we need more walleye in the black hills. Where ever they can be introduced with minimal impacts on other species they should.

I have ice fished Deerfield several times in the past and it wasn't hard at all to get 15 in a short time. The problem is they are very tiny. They need thinned out. Walleye will get that done. You make that a walleye lake and you'll have more traffic! I am walleye fishing in Minnesota as we speak.

I know nothing about the scientific/biological impact of walleye on a lake system but I like to fish and eat walleye.

I like eating walleye

I like it being a trout lake and we already have plenty of walleye lakes

I like the idea of bigger perch and walleye are a great sport fish.

I like to eat walleye.

I like to fish both walleye and perch

I like to fish for Walleye and I would love to see a more vibrant Perch population. I feel the walleye would enhance the environment of the lake whereas Northern Pike would decimate the lake trout population.

I like to fish for walleyes

I like to fish walleye

I like walleye

I like Walleye as a fish to catch. Nice to have that option available.

I love eating walleye

I love fishing for Walleye

I love to catch quality perch. And so far Deerfield seems to be the only lake left in the hills with minimal worms. In the perch

I love walleye

I LOVE walleye

I normally ice fish at Deerfield and have noticed a decline in decent sized perch. If the GFP thinks by introducing walleye it would help the perch population, I'm all for it.

I strongly oppose right now without seeing some scientific monitoring and research. Walleye have been planted in Pactola and Sheridan, how are they doing, are goals being met there. We have walleye in so many other places... can we work to keep a trout cold water fishery and Deerfield is a good place for that....

I support if it stays a no wake lake and keep it non commercial, no guides, no live bait.

I support the research of GFP and availability of another game fish.

I think its a good idea

I think stocking of walleye would be beneficial to both reduce the yellow perch population and increase the relative size of yellow perch.

I think Walleye is a good choice considering the typical population of fish in the area. However, Walleye fishing may attract more anglers to Deerfield, hurting your attempts to cull the Perch population.

I trust GFP to do what is the best for the fishery and sportsman

I understand humans tendencies to intervene with the natural order of, in this case, a reservoir but also feel that an ecosystem has the ability to and will self regulate even though that may not align with our want for its purpose such as sport fishing.

I wonder if the trout population will decline with walleye introduction

I worry that the introduction of walleye would lead to changes in boating regulations and ultimately compromise the recreational value of the reservoir. It is the only lake of its kind in the area. The perch don't bother me, but a bunch of walleye boats would.

I would fish Deerfield lake if walleye were present. Walleye are my favorite species to fish and eat. Please do this. Bob

I would fish more at Deerfield if there were opportunities to catch walleye.

I would have to say keep the fish population up in the lakes and streams

I would like multiple options to fish for walleye West River if it were possible thanks

I would like to fish for walleye in the Black Hills more so than perch or trout.

I would like to read published scientific papers on the predator/prey relationship between walleye and trout before I could support or oppose such an introduction of walleye into Deerfield Lake.

I would love to see more opportunities for walleye. I think Deerfield will be a great lake for it. The only problem would be boat ramp access.

I would love to see more walleye in the Black Hills area lakes.

I would not mind having walleye in this lake but the first sentence is not very clear. "overabundant Yellow Perch" and "condition of perch.....have declined" seem to be in conflict. Are you saying that there are far too many small yellow perch?

I would prefer size/quality over abundance in the yellow perch population and also would not mind the addition of another sport fish into the lake.

I would prefer walleye in Deerfield over all the above listed species!

I would rather catch less fish if they are quality fish.

I'd like another walleye fishery opportunity in the Black Hills. Driving to Orman, the Missouri River and Angostura are getting to be too far and too expensive in gas.

I'm sorry I don't fish

I've been fishing the western side of the state all of my childhood and have watched multiple lakes grow with the introduction of a predator species such as walleye

If walleye would help balance the ecosystem without creating some other problem then I would support it. However, I would not support changing the no power boat rule. Deerfield needs to stay power boat free.

If you put walleye in then everyone will be out there and before you know it someone will throw a fit about no-wake and be successful at changing it. That will ruin one of the last remaining decent places to go without wake boats and pleasure boats.

Im a horrible fisherman so none of this impacts my opinion. I fish with my daughters who enjoy catching anything. They enjoy catching the small crappie and bass.

Improve the fishing

It is a reasonable solution to managing the population and size of yellow perch populations and the opportunity to catch a different gamefish from Deerfield would be welcome.

it is hard to catch perch of a edible size

It makes sense.

It needs to be managed.

It would be nice if there were larger fish to catch at deerfield and also another spot to catch walleye west river.

it would be nice to see larger yellow perch and who wouldn't like to catch Walleye

It would diminish the fly fishing experience from the lake bringing in more gear anglers that are there just for walleye.

it's a better fish for catching and eating.

Just need more Yellow Perch in Deerfield. I ice fish there more than any other lakes in the Black Hill

Keeping the yellow perch from overpopulation is important

Last quiet lake in the hills. Please leave us be. Your utv riders have ruined my life. I don't want walleye or flatlanders crowding out my lake

Less of a perch fisher - and more about bringing walleye to the Hill's reservoirs.

Like to fish for walleye and perch

Like to fish for walleye but dont like orman dam because of the slot limit and hate angastora because of the jet skis and water skiers

Like Walleye

Maintaining a healthy ecosystem is very important to me and the services of the lake.

Maintaining strong trout population and health.

Manage it for trout! It's one of the few cold water lakes we have. We have walleye fishing everywhere. Have walleye really controlled perch in any other reservoir? NO.

Managed well.

Management criteria make sense

More walleye
N/a
Natural selection
Need an additional lake for walleye fishing. Would be great to improve the size of Perch.
Need more and quality walleye close to black hills area
Need more walleye fisheries close to RC to eliminate pressure on other walleye lakes
Need more walleye lakes in the area.
Not only are the Yellow Perch overpopulated, the Rock Bass are very overpopulated as well. I think you should not only stock Walleye but should stock a solid number of Tiger Musky as well.
Of all of the possible predators, the introduction of walleyes would have the least detrimental impact on the trout fishery.
Other than natural reproduction of brook trout in Castle Creek walleyes probably won't be detrimental to the quality of the rainbow trout fishery because of the larger stocking size. Smallmouth bass and possibly brown trout might be additional options to look at for controlling the rock bass population.
Over population can become very serious for the ecosystem and if need be adding a predator too help protect the ecosystem is smart and I support protecting ecosystem's
Perch size is extremely important, weeding through 100s of small perch is the main detractor from fishing Deerfield, especially through the ice. Since this lake appears to not suffer from the flat worms like stockade and other hills impoundments, improving the size of the stock is very important. Was Burbot ever considered? They are sucker predators (also an issue in Deerfield) and would add an exciting new opportunity to the lake and region that should not impact the trout fishery.
Perch sizes have declined in the past few years. Another walleye lake in the hills would be nice.
Please stock with yellow perch and walleye
Prefer to see the perch get bigger. If this is suppose to help then I'm ok with it.
Prefer Walleye to Northern Pike as predator. Walleye taste a lot better!
Proper fisheries management decisions should be supported as long as they are backed by proof and science. Walleyes typically will eat down a stunted perch population if enough "of size" walleyes are in the system.
Provide variety to anglers and recreational individuals
Quality of fish (perch) Quality of Walleye Deerfield is an awesome reservoir and should include walleyes .
Quality of other species. Walleye fishing in another west river lake.
Reducing the # of small perch and rock bass would be nice. Put some tiger musky in with the walleyes would also be nice. Thanks
Relying on your expertise
Seems like a good management idea.
Seems like a well thought out plan
Size and numbers of perch and the option to have more available lakes to fish for walleye.
Size of perch
Sounds like a good idea, I guess.
Stocking walleye that won't be able to reproduce seems counterintuitive. Knowing how eastern South Dakota regards the walleye as a prized game fish will continue to take away from the game fish in deerfeild that the lake is known for .
Stunted perch growth and more opportunities in the hills to catch Walleye. Please keep Deerfield a no wake lake.
The health of the fish. And the ability to catch another species of fish.

The more bass / walleye fishing we can generate in west river, the better. :)

The need for Walleye to impact the perch growth

The opportunity to catch walleyes and reduction of perch for other fish to regain the populations back

The option of fishing walleyes in Deerfield would be awesome! It would take some pressure off of Angostura and Orman dam's walleye pressure. Deerfield is my favorite reservoir, but it's frustrating having the small perch up there. I really like trout fishing, but I love the option of catching trout and walleye at Sheridan Lake. That has been awesome and I thank your efforts towards that! Deerfield would be similar to the Sheridan Lake success in my opinion.

The over abundance of extremely small perch. Hopefully adding this species will increase their size and also provide another to improve the overall fishery. At some point having shad as a food source would be beneficial to all species

The perch are abundant, bite aggressively, and are fun to catch but much too small (mostly 7-8 inches). Some of the specimens I caught ice fishing last year in Gold Run were extremely thin and looked emaciated. If walleyes might cull the herd, so to speak, and thereby help improve perch length and weight, I'm for stocking them.

The perch population does seem to be stunted. Walleyes would be a great addition.

The perch population is far too abundant, and their growth is stunted. Having walleyes or additional predators would help improve the overall health of population and growth of perch and also provide additional fishing opportunities for anglers in the Black Hills area who greatly enjoy catching and eating non-trout species.

The perch suck

The potential for a good walleye fishery.

The trout fishing should be improved. This should include brook trout.

This is good management of the lake and species

This is sound management that will improve fishing in Deerfield and increase populations of targeted fish species

This may work as a potential controller of the perch population but will have adverse consequences as more people head to Deerfield to fish walleyes. Although the walleye may have a bigger impact, I believe it will be offset by the taking of walleye. Perhaps a less popular predator to the fisherman could be introduced to manage the perch. I believe there is some natural reproduction of the trout in Deerfield and Walleye will be tough on that production. Maybe a non-reproducing predator like a tiger muskie or Saugeye would be preferred. One final option is more lake trout. Perhaps not as good at controlling the perch population, but it certainly matches the feel of Black Hills fishing.. Much better than the walleye. Walleye should be a last resort.

Tiny perch

Too many small perch and rock bass

Trout do not reproduce well in our lakes...if walleyes will do better, im for placing them in Deerfield...and even Pactola. Trout in my opinion are for the tourists....they're not particularly good to eat and assume it costs our GFP a lit of money to raise and stock them. West river has very limited suitable walkeye waters... I would also support stiffening the penalties for illegally introducing fish in our waters....we shouldn't even have to be dealing with oearch at Deerfield Lake. Stock the hell out of the Walleyes in every BH lakes they can thrive in.

Walleye are a gamefish that many enjoy. I believe it will also be a good addition to this Black Hills lake.

Walleye are a great game fish as well as we love to eat them. They also seem pretty resilient. They are doing well in Sheridan and we primarily fish Sheridan because of the panfish and now Walleye. Hoping you do NOT put Northern Pike in there. We'd fish there if Walleye were available.

Walleye are a great tasting fish, we caught a great number of perch, but most of them were small. Anything to increase size would be great.

Walleye are a much better fish than perch. Knowing this may occur will make me want to go fish there more than I have in the past.

Walleye are better all around Good to eat fun to catch.

Walleye are bigger in weight and better eating. For a sport fish that could draw in out of staters to fish the reservoir and help South Dakota 's economy

Walleye are fun to fish. Deerfield is primarily a fishing only lake thus allowing sportsman a good lake to fish with little to no interruptions from jetskis or boats pulling tube's. Also Walleye are a high targeted fish increasing the amount of people fishing would increase the amount of revenue as well.

Walleye are good eating and so are perch. So having a healthy population of both to fish is a good thing. Also what about lake trout? Can they also be stocked to help control the perch? Rainbow trout are okay but taste like a dirty diaper unless you smoke them.

Walleye are in enough lakes already and would destroy the fishing experience we have there. We love trout fishing. Walleye is a different type of fishing and fine for the larger lakess and those that allow wakes. Introducing them here would change the peaceful no wake fishing area that deerfield is known and loved for

Walleye are my preferred choice a fish, a fish for consumption as a food source.

Walleye are still a fine game fish.

Walleye are the best freshwater ish to catch and eat

Walleye are the way to go

Walleye destroy any trout population, every time in my life walleye are added the lake totally changes the whole lake, and the trout are gone for good. Sheridan lake sucks for fishing for trout, that's why I go to Deerfield lake it's the only trout lake that's decent to fish.

Walleye fishing is excellent

Walleye fishing is the best!

walleye have been a good management tool for perch populations elsewhere. Walleye are also another target species of high quality for anglers.

Walleye is a great sport fish and would be a welcome addition, also added incentive for friends to go back and enjoy Deerfield Lake.

Walleye is the most wonderful tasting freshwater fish in existence. I have never caught one, even though I have caught 10+ trout this year from Sheridan. I would fish Deerfield if it had Walleye in it.

Walleye taste good.

Walleye will definitely help the perch but also add another sought after option for many anglers. I think the walleye will thrive.

Walleye will take care of the minnows but not bait fish.

Walleye would seem to fair better than other predators in Deerfield.

Walleyes are fun to catch also so it feels like a win win situation

Walleyes are very good to eat

Way to many perch

Way too many small perch in Deerfield, and another option for walleye, especially at Deerfield, would be excellent. Keep it no wake!

Way too many small perch in Deerfield. The addition of perch may help bring those numbers down. Also, in years to come this may take fishing pressure off of Angastora and Orman and give those out west another place to fish walleyes. Same reason I agreed with stocking walleye in Sheridan. People are catching eyes there now! Why not remove more perch from Deerfield and add them to Orman?

Way too many under-sized perch in the lake

We have few walleyes stocked in Black Hills lakes.

We have several places to fish for Walleye. We do not need the additional competition that will come with walleye anglers seeking to over use the lake. The lake needs to stay a no wake lake. I say this as an avid walleye fishermen. This lake in my opinion should remain trout centric.

We love to fish for walleye I grew up here in the rapid city area and have said it would be nice to see SDGFP stock them in all the lakes in the black hills area

We need more options for walleye fishing in western SD. If we had a few more decent sized lakes with fishable walleye population it could take some of the fishing pressure off Orman and Angustora.

We primarily fish for trout using fly rods. If introducing walleye does not affect or improves trout fishing in Deerfield and the adjoining tributaries, then I would probably support. We also enjoy Deerfield because it is less trafficked and hope Walleye would not increase the amount of boaters or others on Deerfield.

We west river folks need a place to fish for walleye

Would be great to have a lake with large perch and walleye. Would benefit the SDGFP and bring alot of people to deer field lake for fishing.

Would be great to have another lake in the hills with Walleye . Option the options you have the more people come

would love to see more walleye lakes in the hills vs trout

Would rather catch walleye than trout.

Yellow perch don't care about this needs to be a premier trout lake

Yet another walleye lake? Really? Can we consider other predatory species that may be better for sportfishing rather than put and take? Large mouth, small mouth, stripers? Walleye fishermen have different mindset than typical sportfishermen who focus on catch and release. In any case I hope that there is a focus on sustainability rather than a focus on put and take. How about create a trophy lake for a particular species?

You can't keep the little perch off your line and clearly the Lakers aren't eating them. Rock bass + stunted perch is unfortunately ruining the lake! Walleye would be awesome.

you need to improve the fishstocks in deerfield period...might consider saugeyes as a predator that would be easy to control...walleyes will be fine if the population will survive long enough to impact the small fish/perch...

References

Dillman, D. A., Smyth, J., D., & Christian, L. M. (2014). *Internet, Phone, Mail, and Mixed-Mode Surveys:*

The Tailored Design Method (4th ed.). Wiley.

Appendix A: Survey Instrument

Deerfield Reservoir Survey

1. Did you fish at Deerfield Reservoir in 2023?

- No → Skip to Q7
- Yes

2. How often do you use the following equipment when fishing in Deerfield Reservoir?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
Fly rod	1	2	3	4	5
Spinning/casting rod	1	2	3	4	5
Spear/speargun/bow	1	2	3	4	5
Ice fishing gear (e.g., Tip-ups)	1	2	3	4	5

3. About how many days did you fish at Deerfield Reservoir in 2023?

_____ days

4. About how far from your home is Deerfield Reservoir?

_____ miles

5. Considering the number of fish caught, sizes of fish caught, and species caught, how would you rate the fishing in Deerfield Reservoir during 2023?

	Not Applicable	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
Yellow perch	0	1	2	3	4	5
Rock bass	0	1	2	3	4	5
Trout	0	1	2	3	4	5

6. Considering all of your recreational activities, how important or unimportant to you is **fishing** at Deerfield Reservoir?

Very unimportant	Unimportant	Neutral	Important	Very important
1	2	3	4	5

7. Did you visit Deerfield Reservoir in 2023 to participate in any recreational activities **other than fishing**?

- No → Skip to Q11
- Yes

8. What other recreational activities **other than fishing** did you participate in while visiting Deerfield Reservoir in 2023? (Select **all that apply**).

- Motorized boat use
- Non-motorized boat use
- Snowmobiling
- Picnicking
- Ice skating
- Cross-country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Camping
- Hiking
- Bicycling
- Other: _____

9. What is the **primary** recreational activity you participated in while visiting Deerfield Reservoir in 2023? (Select **only one**).

- Fishing
- Motorized boat use
- Non-motorized boat use
- Snowmobiling
- Picnicking
- Ice skating
- Cross-country skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Camping
- Hiking
- Bicycling
- Other: _____

10. Considering all of your recreational activities **other than fishing**, how important or unimportant to you is pursuing other recreational activities at Deerfield Reservoir?

Very unimportant	Unimportant	Neutral	Important	Very important
1	2	3	4	5

11. Due to an overabundant Yellow Perch population in Deerfield Reservoir, the growth and condition of perch and other sportfish species have declined over the last few years. The introduction of a predator has been identified by Game, Fish and Parks as a preferred option to improve Yellow Perch quality in the reservoir. After considering many different potential fish predators, Walleye were identified as the preferred option. This decision was based on availability, documented ability to impact Yellow Perch abundance, and minimal anticipated impacts to the trout population.

How strongly do you support or oppose South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks stocking Walleye in an attempt to improve Yellow Perch fishing on Deerfield Reservoir?

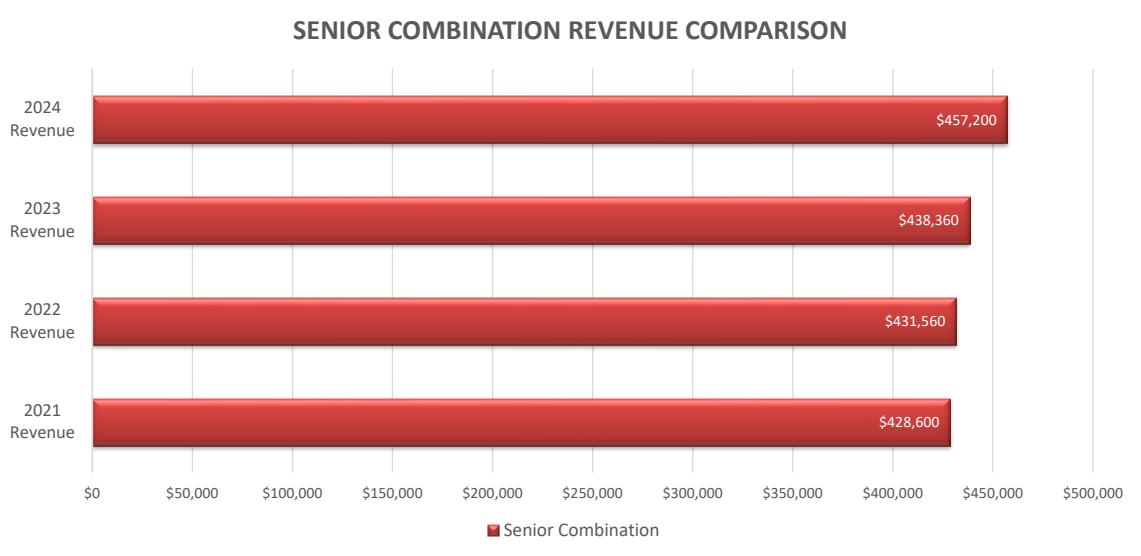
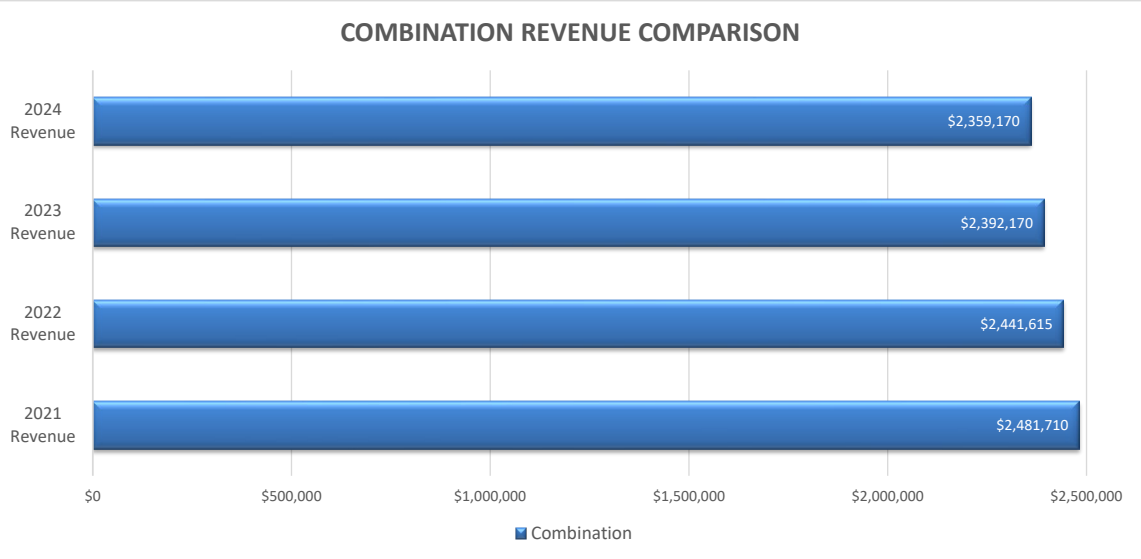
Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neutral	Support	Strongly support
1	2	3	4	5

12. What factors impact your opinion of this proposed management action?

COMBINATION LICENSES

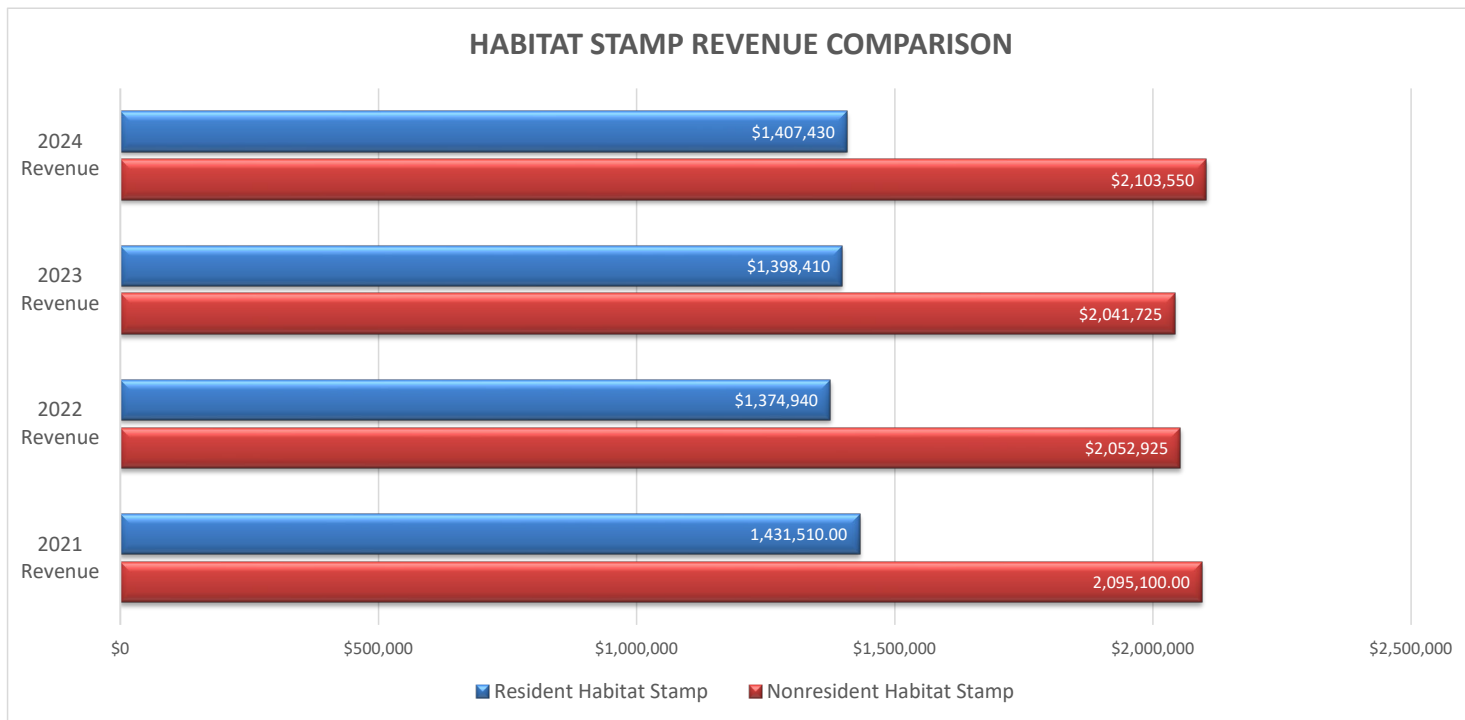
December 15 - August 31

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	from 3 Yr. Avg
Combination	45,122	44,393	43,494	44,336	42,894	\$2,359,170	(600)	(1,442)	(\$33,000)	(\$79,328)	-3%
Senior Combination	10,715	10,789	10,959	10,821	11,430	\$457,200	471	609	\$18,840	\$24,360	6%
Combination License Totals	55,837	55,182	54,453	55,157	54,324	\$2,816,370	(129)	(833)	(\$14,160)	(\$54,968)	-1.51%



HABITAT STAMP December 15 - August 31

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	from 3 Yr. Avg
Resident Habitat Stamp	143,151	137,494	139,841	140,162	140,743	\$1,407,430	902	581	\$49,610	\$31,955	0%
Nonresident Habitat Stamp	83,804	82,117	81,669	82,530	84,142	\$2,103,550	2,473	1,612	\$98,920	\$64,480	2%
Habitat Stamp Totals	226,955	219,611	221,510	222,692	224,885	\$3,510,980	3,375	2,193	\$148,530	\$96,435	1%

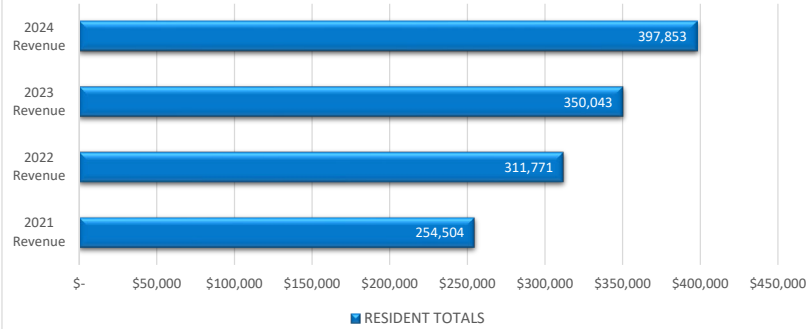


SMALL GAME LICENSES

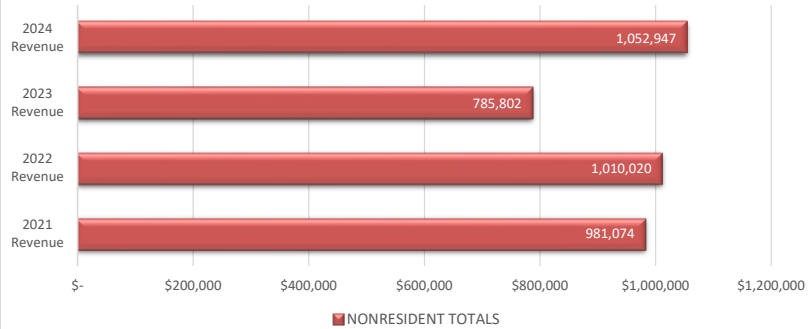
December 15 - August 31

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
Small Game	2,351	3,960	5,784	4,032	7,049	\$232,617	1,265	3,017	\$41,745	\$99,572	75%
1-Day Small Game	377	168	103	216	213	\$2,556	110	(3)	\$1,320	(\$36)	-1%
Youth Small Game	1,445	2,217	2,047	1,903	2,266	\$11,330	219	363	\$1,095	\$4,356	19%
Furbearer	3,530	3,217	2,949	3,232	3,145	\$94,350	196	(87)	\$5,880	(\$2,610)	-3%
Predator/Varmint	1,098	1,727	1,593	1,473	1,388	\$6,940	(205)	(85)	(\$1,025)	(\$423)	-6%
Res Migratory Bird Cert - 3 Duck	117	511	718	449	581	\$2,905	(137)	132	(\$685)	\$662	29%
Res Migratory Bird Cert - Traditional	15,713	12,058	9,535	12,435	9,431	\$47,155	(104)	(3,004)	(\$520)	(\$15,022)	-24%
RESIDENT TOTALS	24,631	23,858	22,729	23,739	24,073	397,853	1,344	334	\$47,810	\$86,499	1.41%
Small Game	6,002	5,898	4,250	5,383	6,352	\$768,592	2,102	969	\$254,342	\$117,209	18%
Youth Small Game	267	380	260	302	409	\$4,090	149	107	\$1,490	\$1,067	35%
Shooting Preserve 1-Day Nonresident	182	232	111	175	183	\$8,418	72	8	\$3,312	\$368	5%
Shooting Preserve 5-Day Nonresident	1,047	1,495	994	1,179	1,100	\$83,600	106	(79)	\$8,056	(\$5,979)	-7%
Shooting Preserve Annual Nonresident	80	112	75	89	71	\$8,591	(4)	(18)	(\$484)	(\$2,178)	-20%
Furbearer	4	3	2	3	5	\$1,375	3	2	\$825	\$550	67%
Predator/Varmint	3,436	3,479	3,691	3,535	3,717	\$148,680	26	182	\$1,040	\$7,267	5%
NR Migratory Bird Cert - 3 Duck	44	48	179	90	166	\$830	(13)	76	(\$65)	\$378	84%
NR Migratory Bird Cert - Traditional	1,202	1,297	4,638	2,379	5,191	\$25,955	553	2,812	\$2,765	\$14,060	118%
Nonresident September Goose	222	182	158	187	64	\$2,880	(94)	(123)	(\$4,230)	(\$5,550)	-66%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	12,486	13,126	14,358	13,136	17,258	\$1,053,011	2,900	4,122	\$271,281	\$132,742	31.38%
COMBINED TOTALS	37,117	36,984	37,087	36,875	41,331	\$1,450,864	4,244	4,456	\$319,091	\$219,240	12.08%

RESIDENT SMALL GAME REVENUE COMPARISON



NONRESIDENT SMALL GAME REVENUE COMPARISON



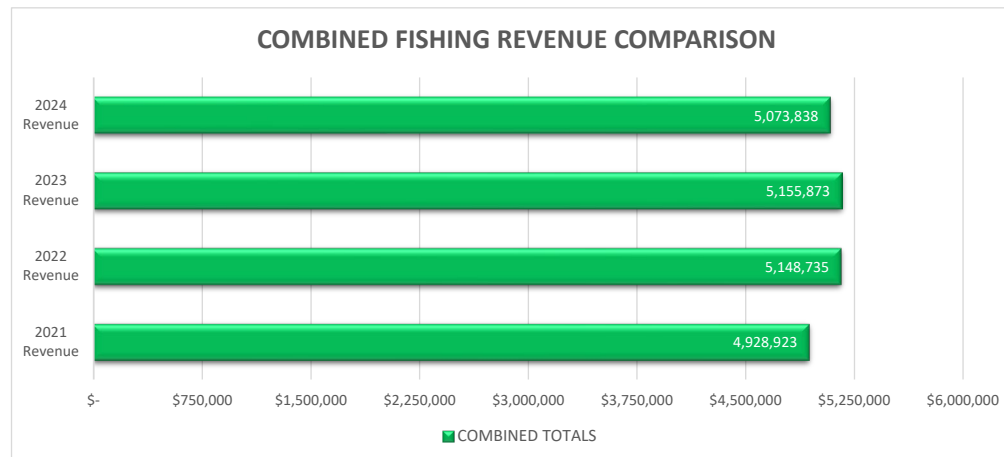
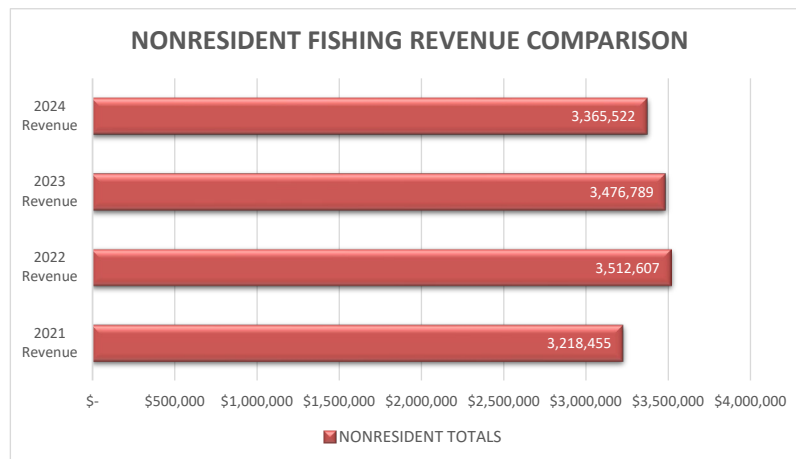
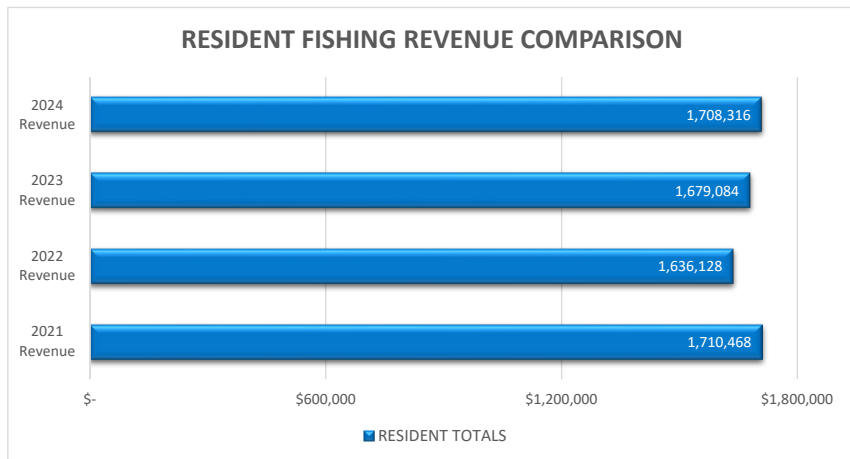
COMBINED SMALL GAME REVENUE COMPARISON



FISHING LICENSES

December 15 - August 31

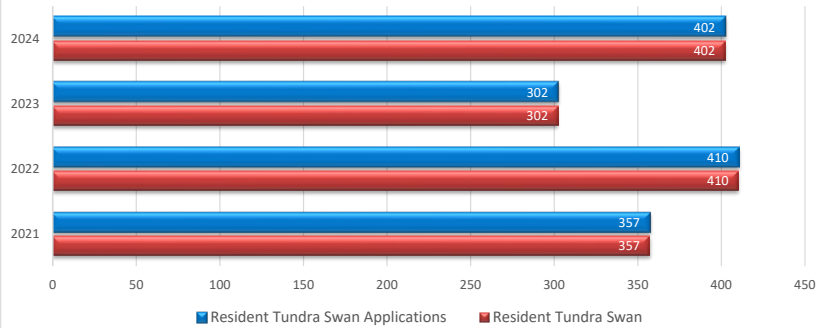
License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
1-Day Fishing	5,260	5,055	5,742	5,352	6,255	\$50,040	513	903	\$4,104	\$7,221	17%
Annual Fishing	53,812	51,375	52,514	52,567	53,297	\$1,492,316	783	730	\$21,924	\$20,440	1%
Senior Fishing	13,471	13,099	13,563	13,378	13,830	\$165,960	267	452	\$3,204	\$5,428	3%
RESIDENT TOTALS	72,543	69,529	71,819	71,297	73,382	\$1,708,316	1,563	2,085	\$29,232	\$33,089	2.92%
1-Day Fishing	35,524	30,471	30,057	32,017	29,873	\$477,968	(184)	(2,144)	(\$2,944)	(\$34,309)	-7%
3-Day Fishing	16,392	15,550	15,804	15,915	15,196	\$562,252	(608)	(719)	(\$22,496)	(\$26,615)	-5%
Annual Fishing	30,501	36,563	35,987	34,350	34,706	\$2,325,302	(1,281)	356	(\$85,827)	\$23,830	1%
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	82,417	82,584	81,848	82,283	79,775	\$3,365,522	(2,073)	(2,508)	(\$111,267)	(\$37,095)	-3.05%
COMBINED TOTALS	154,960	152,113	153,667	153,580	153,157	\$5,073,838	(510)	(423)	(\$82,035)	(\$4,006)	-0.28%



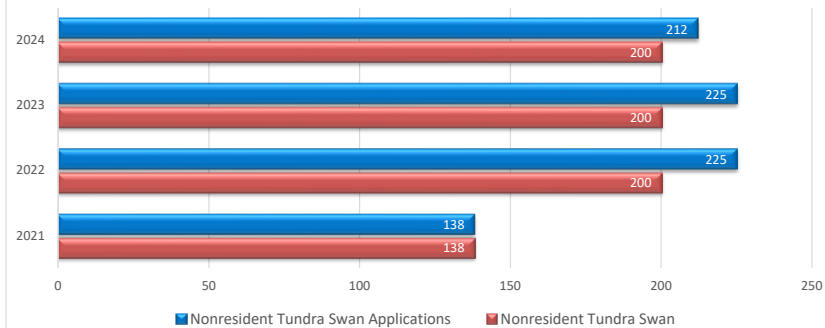
2024 BIG GAME LICENSES

License Type	2021	2022	2023	3-yr Avg	2024	2024 Revenue	+/- Licenses		+/- Revenue		% Change from 3 Yr. Avg
							2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	2023 vs 2024	3 Yr. Avg vs 2024	
Resident Tundra Swan	357	410	302	356	402	\$7,236	100	46	\$1,800	\$822	13%
Nonresident Tundra Swan	138	200	200	179	200	\$5,000	0	21	\$0	\$517	12%
Resident Prairie Antelope	4,450	2,290	2,212	2,984	1,971	\$78,840	(241)	(1013)	(\$9,640)	(\$40,520)	-34%
Nonresident Prairie Antelope	136	47	49	77	48	\$13,728	(1)	(29)	(\$286)	(\$77)	-38%
Resident Mentored Deer	1,765	2,336	2,243	2,115	2,602	\$13,010	359	487	\$1,795	n/a	n/a
Nonresident Mentored Deer	168	66	83	106	97	\$970	14	(9)	\$140	n/a	n/a
Resident Archery Deer	20,449	18,193	18,453	19,032	18,144	\$667,260	(309)	(888)	(\$10,020)	(\$32,293)	-5%
Resident Archery Antelope	1,874	1,579	1,915	1,789	1,940	\$77,600	25	151	\$1,000	\$6,027	8%
Nonresident Archery Deer Private Only	n/a	1,051	984	n/a	1,017	\$290,862	33	n/a	\$9,438	n/a	n/a
Nonresident Archery Antelope Private Only	n/a	n/a	333	n/a	349	\$99,814	16	n/a	\$4,576	n/a	n/a
Nonresident Archery Deer Public & Private	n/a	n/a	2,200	n/a	2,200	\$629,200	0	n/a		n/a	n/a
Nonresident Archery Antelope Private Only	n/a	n/a	450	n/a	450	\$128,700	0				
1st Draw Applications Submitted											
Resident Tundra Swan Applications	357	410	302	356	402		100	46			13%
Nonresident Tundra Swan Applications	138	225	225	196	212		(13)	16			8%
Resident Prairie Antelope Applications	8,650	7,345	7,467	7,821	7,689		222	(132)			-2%
NR Prairie Antelope Applications	971	997	1,019	996	1,235		216	239			24%
NR Archery Deer Public & Private Applications	n/a	n/a	2,858	n/a	3,537		679	n/a			n/a
NR Archery Antelope Private Only Applications	n/a	n/a	584	n/a	841		257	n/a			n/a

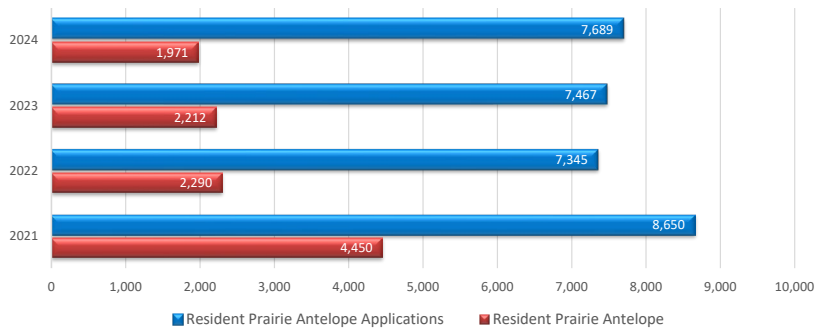
RESIDENT TUNDRA SWAN APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VS LICENSES ISSUED



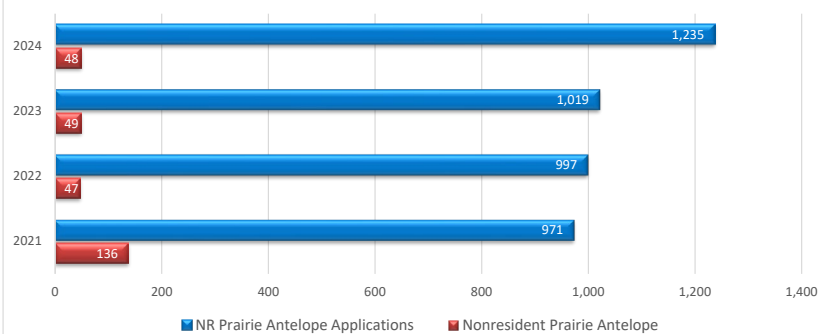
NONRESIDENT TUNDRA SWAN APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VS LICENSES ISSUED



RESIDENT PRAIRIE ANTELOPE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VS LICENSES ISSUED



NONRESIDENT PRAIRIE ANTELOPE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED VS LICENSES ISSUED



Public Comments - July 8 - 12 am to September 2, 2024 - 1 pm CST

Antelope Action Plan

Jana Haecherl

Custer SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the action plan and am very supportive of the habitat restoration initiative and wildlife-friendly fence initiative for Pronghorn.

I would like more information on the described "pronghorn depredation to agricultural crops and other social conflict issues" - what are some examples of these issues? Pronghorns should not typically cause problems for private landowners. In instances where an issue arises, can non-lethal methods be taken to resolve these issues to help restore the Pronghorn population? Dogs, for example, are very effective at scaring away Pronghorns, and would help move a herd along so that more breeding groups can be established throughout the state without landowner conflict.

Tim Burckhard

Bison SD

Position: support

Comment:

south perkins antelope population levels have been falling for years. would be good to see more in the future.

Jason Gorr

Breezy Point MN

Position: other

Comment:

I find it very unfair as a long-time supporter of SD's hunting programs, both vocally and financially, that the best rate for NR tags would be 2%, 4%, or 8% of the total...

Nick Korhnaek

Watertown SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support a plan trying to increase the Pronghorn population. I do not know the impact of closing the Antelope season for 1-2 years, but I would support that if it would give an initial boost to the population. I would also support eliminating non-resident hunting for Pronghorn. Just my two ideas. I appreciate what you're trying to do.

Ron Johnson
Egan, Sd 57024 SD
Position: support

Comment:

I have always thought that if there was a management plan in action that would help with our numbers, even though antelope will migrate a very long range for wintering. If we have a strong management plan and stick with plan it will improve numbers providing vegetation and water is available. Water tank program benefit all wildlife and livestock.

Paul Lepisto
Pierre, Sd SD
Position: support

Attachment #12814

Comment:

Please see the attached comments.

Bobcat

Steve Cherkas
Edgemont SD
Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose finalizing the bobcat change for 25-26 limit of 1 cat per trapper/hunter in black hills.

- 1) The bobcat action plan just came out few months ago and it is not fair to base the reduction from unlimited to 1 on old data (20-21, 21-22)
- 2) rabbit numbers have returned and shows in 22-23 numbers (14% juvenile harvest)
- 3) The reason 23-24 was 8% is because I prefer to release this years cats when foot not frozen (so they can live on and grow up). Had I not released them (3 cats) the percentage for black hills would have been 13.6% (if all 3 juvenile) or 11.3% (2 of 3 juvenile).

Had I known of the bobcat action plan I would have harvested these cats and the last 2 seasons would both be above the 10% threshold

Rory Halverson

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose the bobcat management plan for the Black Hills. Basing the season on a 10% harvest rate of juvenile bobcats is ridiculous given the way a bobcat is deemed to be a juvenile. With the current season dates starting in late December a going into February, the only bobcats that can possibly be deemed a juvenile are the kittens born this spring just a couple of months ago according to the tooth analysis. According to the data these kittens, "juveniles", will be considered adults by the time the next season comes around. Nobody wants to harvest these little cats. Most trappers release them if possible. From what I understand there will be no consideration of these released "juveniles " when it comes to harvest numbers. The management plans doesn't appear to take into account the rabbit population either. The rabbit population for the last several years has been down which affected the population more than trapping and hunting. In the last 3 years the rabbit population has completely rebounded and is now flourishing. Trappers and hunters would be forced to make a decision to harvest these small cats instead of releasing them meet the 10% harvest rate to keep the season as it is. Nobody wants to do that. I fear that if the Black Hills season were to become a 1 cat limit, the 10% threshold will never be met because of this. Everyone will try to fill their 1 cat quota with a larger male like the goal always has been. A few years ago the season was shortened by 2 weeks and we haven't gotten them back. If this trapping privilege is taken away, I fear we will never get it back again either. It will be one step closer to making our great state of South Dakota like California where bobcat trapping is banned. Don't let that happen! Mother Nature is already fixing the issue naturally with an abundance of rabbits. Please keep the bobcat season as it is.

Debra Perkins

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Elk

Robert Eddy

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please decline the request from Mule Deer Foundation and Pheasants forever for a raffle elk tag in CSP. The RME Foundation may obtain one but not other entities that focus on other game species. MDF should apply for a Mule Deer tag in CSP. PF has many other options other than elk and other big game.

Fishing Regulations

Dennis Campbell

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

What's happened to the fishery in Frances case the last three years are we getting fished out or what? This year it is a Dead Sea! Something has to be done. Start stocking , close Walleye fishing down from December 1st to May 15th? It seems like every time there is a major snow melt in Montana that causes a over flooding. We have fantastic fishing for a few years? Maybe GFP should start stocking fish and not rely on a natural spawning? Use some of that habitat, money that we pay when buying a fishing license ?

Joseph Loll

Whitewood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Joseph Loll

Whitewood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

For the proposed changes for Orman dam , I believe there are better options.

Angela Lutz

Summerset SD

Position: other

Comment:

RE: Belle Fourche Reservoir fishing limit regulation change. I agree that the limits should be changed, especially removing the slot. However, I believe there should be a 3 fish limit as many people come from Rapid City and surrounding areas, 2 fish seems too low for the travel distance.

Kevin Vaughn

Sturgis SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the change of the slot limits on the Belle Fourche Reservoir

Tess Malo

Beulah WY

Position: other

Comment:

It is a good idea in hopes to boost the smaller fish numbers. Something needs to be adjusted as the walleye are skinny with many slot fish. But a 2 fish limit would not make it worth the drive out to Orman. Could the limit be 3 or 4?

Lonny Kracht

Sturgis SD

Position: support

Comment:

I fish Orman dam (Belle Fourche Reservoir) often and support the regulation change to a 2 walleye fish limit. The limit change will allow the larger fish to be harvested allowing the younger walleyes to thrive. With the HEAVY fishing pressure that Orman dam has anymore than a 2 walleye limit will devastate the walleye population. Let the yearly fishery studies determine when the walleye limit can be increased to 3 or 4 walleyes.

Steve Kozel

Spearfish SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the change in walleye regulations to Belle Fourche Reservoir. I have lived in Spearfish since 2002 prior to the existing regulation. At that time you could catch many fish in the 14-15 inch range with no fish over 16-17 inches. Fishing pressure was lower as compared to 2024 because access and camping on the lake was primitive. Since the regulation change fish size has increased and the quality of the experience has also greatly improved. The proposed change will reduce the size and quality of the fishing experience because fishing pressure has substantially increased since the mid 2000's due to access and camping improvements to the reservoir. This change would occur rapidly (likely within one year) because of fishing pressure and would take several years to recover due to the slow growth rate of walleye in the reservoir. The proposed change would devastate my experience of fishing on the reservoir. The change is purportedly needed to reduce cannibalism on young walleye improving recruitment. This is due to lack of forage fish. GFP has tried to improve forage fish availability through stocking of gizzard shad and perch. I thank them for their efforts but I believe it is not intensive enough to improve the forage base. Effort should match intensity of use. Changing regulations is a passive not active approach to management. Lastly GFP has no recent estimate of fishing pressure on the reservoir. I would submit they need to conduct at least 2 years of creel survey to determine fishing pressure catch rates and angler satisfaction. This would inform an approach to future management. I have a BS in wildlife and fisheries science from SDSU and a MS in Zoology from the University of Wyoming. I worked as a fishery biologist for a federal agency for 13 years. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please do not change the regulations on the reservoir. More information needs to be collected while increasing the effort to stock bait fish. Sincerely Steve Kozel

Jon Olson

Madison SD

Position: other

Comment:

There is no reason to keep Lynn and Opitz at 2 walleye limit. I understand those regulations were put in place 25 years ago to keep harvest from getting crazy. But, it seems like GFP forgot that it was still in place.

Mountain Lion Action Plan

Joseph Lista

Englishtown NJ

Position: support

Comment:

I support using hounds to pursue mountain lion because that's the only practical way to manage their numbers. Houndsman can also be selective by passing up females or cubs.

Patrick Johnson

Racine WI

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the fire protection district.

Nicole Walker

Rochester WY

Position: support

Comment:

I support allowing hounds.

Ronnie Gaskins

Tifton GA

Position: support

Comment:

Please allow the Hunting of mountain lions with hounds.

Jeff Lenards

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would like to the use of dogs for mt. Lions in the black hills. In my my opinion cwd is a percentage of the lower deer numbers in the hills. Mountain lion numbers are increasing due to the fact that there is getting fewer people interested in hunting them due to the mild winters and fewer snow in order to track and its getting harder to hunt them

Tim Lohse

Buffalo WY

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the Fire Protection District of the Black Hills.

Braden Simkins

Rocksprings WY

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Casey Koch

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

Let us hunt with dogs in the hills

Logan Julander

Cody WY

Position: support

Comment:

Management of lions is essential in a quality game herd
Use of electronic calls and spot and stalk are not the most effective proven way to sex an animal or to see if it is a female with kittens
Hound hunting is effective in both areas and allows the hunter to o be selective in there harvest

Jason Butler

Lolo MT

Position: support

Comment:

Thank you for your time.

Jill Fredrickson

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Teah Homsey-Pray

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please take a close look at the science behind this A-pex predator. Mountain lions are needed to balance nature. Some of the practices to hunt these animals are cruel and certainly give the hunter the advantage. Please inform yourselves on both sides of this issue.

Kathy Steffen

Hot Springs SD

Position: support

Comment:

We need to keep them protected so they are not killed unless necessary.

D S

Eagle Bute SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Marsha Seas

Brookings SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population. They should not be hunted.

Lisa Savonrn

Aberdeen SD

Position: other

Comment:

I'm not sure what the action plan is but I oppose shooting mountain lions for sport/trophy hunting. These apex predators are necessary to maintain the delicate balance of our ecosystems! Believe me I am not a crazy liberal and this really isn't a political thing/ if you want to have our beautiful wildlife available for generations to come, please leave the cougars alone ! Also if you kill a mother cougar you are also killing her kittens because they can't survive without their mother! It's very cruel. Please do not make it legal for these creatures to be trophy hunted! In California this is banned and thus the cougar populations are growing.

Linda Palzkill

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident and one who lives in the Black Hills, I truly oppose and hope that the lion season will come to an end. The senseless slaughter of these beautiful animals needs to stop. I miss the female lion that used to live next to us in the national forest. She would bring her cubs by our house every year so we could see them. It was such a beautiful sight to see. We haven't seen her or any other lion since the second year of the season opening. She and her cubs would keep the deer population down around the neighborhood but not anymore. Although I like having deer around, I don't like them eating everything in my yard. Please stop killing these beautiful animals.

Connie Ryan

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Eric Magnuson

Deadwood SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I currently oppose the Mtn Lion Action Plan in SD. We have had little trouble with them and livestock. As a Deadwood resident, we have had no issues with the local cats. Here in the Presidential neighborhood, we had one last Spring that made several camera appearances. No pets were harmed. The deer in town are not as bad as they used to be either. We do not have in town deer hunting, like Lead does. Anyways, keep the cat population healthy until there are issues. Thanks.

Eric Magnuson
MAJ, US ARMY (RET)

Janel Mikkelson

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population.

Donna Handley

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Elizabeth Perkins

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a SD resident, I am writing to urge GFPD to end or significantly reduce or end trophy hunting of mountain lions as well as hunting with hounds.as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated.

Kevin Perkins

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Kristofer Kotelman

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population

James Tirey

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a lifelong resident of South Dakota, I have to say I oppose the legislated killing of a precious natural predator that calls parts of our state home, mountain lions. While there are very few females left, there are even fewer male mountain lions surviving today in what was their natural habitat. Now, of course, with any mammal, both sexes are required to produce a pride or offspring, meaning the chances that they reproduce is very limited with such a small population. I think hunting on any endangered species' natural habitats should be criminalized. It does a lot more than hurting said species. It leaves a devastating ecological footprint that affects many animals and hurts our image as a kind, generous, and thoughtful community.

Laural Bidwell

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population. The hunting program drives the lions out of their dens and into close range with human habitation. South Dakota has a habit and reputation for killing off all prey animals and for that matter all hunted wild animals and it's time to stop that practice. Please, at the very least reduce significantly the allowable lion kill off.

Barb Wright

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

You can say: "As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population."

Manuela Cappellini

Piombino AA

Position: other

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population."

Janet Krause

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Simplest answer...stop mountain lion hunting!

Joseph Kosel

Lead SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not approve expanded hound hunting for mountain lions. It is not sporting and if hunters are unable to fairly stalk and take a lion then they shouldn't be allowed to kill the animal. Clearly, concerns about the population are heightened by difficulty in location.

Julie Hansen

Freeman SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Pls do NOT allow such aggressive hunting methods and quota limits on S. Dakota mountain lions. I would like them to be protected and NOT hunted to extinction in our state. They have a right to exist in our state, too. They were here before we were. Thank you, Julie H.

Joyce Ramsey

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population."

Louise McGannon

Mitchell SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population."

Andreea Picioroaga

Vermillion SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population.

Dave Green

Lead SD

Position: other

Comment:

What is WRONG with you guys? Are you going to hunt them to extinction? Knock it off and get your shit together!

Mitchell Fee

Burbank SD

Position: support

Comment:

No hound hunting at all.
This isn't even a sport with hounds.
Anyone can tree a cat with a pack of hounds and run down other animals as well. That's not sportsmanship.

Debra Reub

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Kim Giles-Smith

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion hunting and stop hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. I believe hunting mountain lions with dogs is not hunting, it's just slaughter. Hunting used to be pitting your intelligence with that of the animal your hunting. Hunting with dogs is like walking up to an animal in a cage and shooting it. Where is the hunting in that? Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for a healthy ecosystem. With only a few hundred remaining, crucial to protect their population.

Shari Bradstream

Box Elder SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Mountain lion territory is quickly disintegrating due to rapid widespread development of residential homes and developer buy-outs. I believe South Dakotans choosing to live close to wildlife territories must be more responsible for their pets and take proper precautions in preparation for wild cats moving through their territory and come upon a domesticated human site. Use your money to educate the humans, put up deterrents and STOP killing the wild animals!

Susie Warner

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

"As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population."

Mary Jassman

Belle Fourche SD

Position: other

Comment:

As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population.

Julie Anderson

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the Mountain Lion Action Plan, specifically on the following points:

1. I oppose hunting 365 on the Statewide/Prairie Unit
2. I oppose hunting in Custer State Park
3. I vehemently oppose hound hunting on the Prairie Unit and Custer State Park. Hunting in a State Park should be abolished, because as the name suggests, it is owned by all the people in the state and should not be turned into an elitist hunting ground. Hound hunting on the prairie invites conflicts of the worst kind when lions have no trees to escape a pack of dogs.
4. I request that connectivity corridors be introduced from the prairie unit to the reservations in order to give lions the ability to refresh population genetics.
5. I oppose the Objective #2 listed on page 11 of the plan:

Manage mountain lion populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs.”

Wildlife watchers exceed hunters, yet there is no provision to maximize recreational opportunities for the majority of the public.

The locally generated statistics the SDGFP uses (Southwick study) for number of wildlife watchers vs. hunters in SD, does not count wildlife watchers at home, while it counts hunters at home - thus it is unfairly biased/inadequate. SD-Fish-Wildlife-Boating-Economics-Southwick-6-30-22.pdf
6. I oppose to the phrase: “minimize regulation complexity”. The Department uses the goal of simplifying regulations to oppose changes designed to address animal cruelty issues.
7. Lastly, I oppose trophy hunting mountain lions. Trophy hunting is why this "management" plan was initiated in the first place, as SDGFP had the ability to respond to any mountain lion conflicts with people before this management was put in place. The senseless cruelty for the bloodlust of a few is needs to end. Again, the majority of the public does not approve of trophy hunting any animal, and the killing of an apex predator with and without hounds for bragging rights is an abomination against nature.

Annette Hof

Crooks SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Diane Holman

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please, let's stop the killing and learn to live with these beautiful creatures.

Diane Holman

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

"As a South Dakota resident, I am writing to urge the Game, Fish and Parks Department to end or significantly reduce mountain lion trophy hunting and hunting with hounds as the Mountain Lion Action Plan is updated. Maintaining stable mountain lion social structures is known to reduce conflicts with livestock, and mountain lions are vital for healthy ecosystems. With only a few hundred remaining, it is crucial to protect their population."

Story Warren

Attachment #12887

Bend OR

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please see attached PDF. Thank you.

Sara Parker

Attachment #12889

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

Please see attached pdf for comments.

Dean Parker

Sioux Falls SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I urge South Dakota Game Fish & Parks to make the following changes to the 2024-2028 South Dakota Mountain Lion Plan:

Remove the entire "Modify and adopt hunting season structure as needed to minimize regulation complexity" line from the plan.

Remove "maximum" from "Manage mountain lion populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities" from the plan.

Also concerning mountain lions in South Dakota, I ask GFP to eliminate hound hunting - it is inhumane and unsporting.

Nancy Hilding

Attachment #12891

Black Hawk SD

Position: other

Comment:

Prairie Hills Audubon Society attaches our comment letter on Draft Mt Lion Action Plan

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: other

Comment:

Nancy Hilding to SDGFP

I am very grateful you decided to keep the population objective for the mt lions between 200-300 mt lions. I am very grateful you did not add hound hunting to the BHFPD outside of CSP.

I however find you objectives for mountain lions to be to maximize hunting experience really unfortunate...& that you would feel confident to admit to that in so blatantly in public is extremely interesting.

Susie Warner

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please save our Mountain Lions ! We are encroaching on their habitat! Stop growth in the mountains!

Harv Weis

Lecanto FL

Position: support

Comment:

Stop the killing! The majority of Americans value mountain lions alive rather than as trophies.

Tate Wells

Prairie City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of Hounds in the Black Hills and fire protection district in South Dakota. .

Terry Sherwood

Black Hawk SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Melissa Sherwood

Black Hawk SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Stacey Sherwood

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds within the fire protection district as a management tool and to allow those who enjoy hounds to per-sue their passion.

Ezra Ahrendt

Black Hawk SD

Position: support

Comment:

I beg u to let us help you manage our Mt lion population plz let us help keep them healthy so we can continue this tradition of hunting w dogs. Thank you for your time

William Wise

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Luke Steinmetz

Hot Spring SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

This will be a very good control it has worked in other states very well

Garrett Medley

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Mike Medley

Hermosa SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of dogs/ hounds with in the boundaries of the BH National Forest and everywhere else they can be hunted.

Matthew Moyes

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Clay Robinson

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Kyla Medley

Hermosa SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of Hounds for the harvest of Mt. Lions in the Black Hills National Forest and all other areas where there is a Lion season in SD

Kevin Good

Black Hawk SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Wade Engle

Sturgis SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in support of hounds being used in the hunting of mountain lions in the black hills fire protection district. The quotas have not been met for several years and this would help keep the mountain lion population in check

Shane Delbridge

Sturgis SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in support of using dogs to track mountain lions during the hunting seasons.

Courtney Ahrendt

Black Hawk SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please let us help you manage the Mt lion population.

Trenton Aker

Black Hawk SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please let us help you manage the Mountain Lion population responsibility. Thank you for your time.

Michael Neville

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

Please let us help you manage the lion population responsibly.

Thank you,

Jenna Wells

Prairie City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the use of hounds in the fire protection district

Barbara Joyce

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jeff Ulvestad

Blackhawk SD

Position: support

Comment:

In favor of hounds inside the fire protection district

Lance Ordal

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in support of using hounds in the black hills fire protection district

Kenny Guy

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Nancy Hilding

Black Hawk SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Nancy Hilding
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

I attach our second comment letter on the draft Mt Lion Action Plan

Attachment #13018

Other

Josh Nelson

Lennox SD

Position: other

Comment:

Recommend changing the rule for giving deer licenses to members who are deployed during the application period. The rule should included those deployed over the season. You can still apply while deployed. Folks should get a license in 2025, If deployed in 2024 over the deer seasons. Is this being considered?

John Ptak

Central City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I don't think any big game licenses should be issued to any non residents until all legal residents of South Dakota have the opportunity to be a successful applicant. Then if there are any left over licenses non residents can apply.

Joshua Nelson

Lennox SD

Position: other

Comment:

Greetings,

I am writing the commission to ask they consider extending the benefit of granting deer licenses to those resident members of the armed forces who are deployed DURING deer season. The current guidance only applies to members who are deployed during the application period. Deployed members can still apply during the application period, where as deployed members have NO chance of hunting due to being deployed. So, if a member is deployed over a deer season in 2024, I am requesting they are afford a deer license in 2025. Again, most/all members who are deployed over the application period can apply via mail or the internet. Those deployed have zero chance of deer hunting. This makes better sense to me. A good policy would include affording both of these scenarios a deer license.

I'm looking forward to hearing the commissions thoughts on the subject.

Thank you for your time,

Joshua Nelson

Scott Loer

Webster WI

Position: oppose

Comment:

Bad bad idea

Cameron Bruhn

Madison SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

We need to start duck season later and have it run through mid December or have a split and run it till the end of December every year for the past 7 years there are ducks everywhere after season closes

Spring Turkey

Charles Rokusek

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Black Hills Turkey Petition being brought forward from the South Dakota Wildlife Federation. I support this petition which is brought forward from the SDWF.

Charles Rokusek
731 E. 73rd St.
S. F., SD 57108

John Moisan

Fort Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I STRONGLY support the petition brought forth by the SD Wildlife Federation to limited the number of Spring Wild Turkey licenses in the Black Hill hunting unit. Since the introduction of social media, BH Spring Turkey has turned into free-for-all, mostly from non-residents. Nonresidents outnumber resident sportsmen by three to one. The sheer numbers of licenses and hunters is damaging the resource and dramatically reduces the quality of the hunting experience. Thank you.

Jeffrey Clow

Harrisburg SD

Position: support

Comment:

Black Hills Turkey Petition

Charles Rokusek

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Today, at the 29 - 90 Sportsman's Club Noon Meeting, we voted to Support the SDWF Black Hills Turkey Petition which will be brought to your July GF&P Commission meeting.
Sincerely,

Charles Rokusek
Sec. - Treas.
29-90 Sportsman's Club
731 E. 73rd St.
SF, SD 57108

Toby Hinckley

Sturgis SD

Position: support

Comment:

I 100% support the proposal to limit non-resident spring turkey tags

Jim Dahlberg

Hot Springs SD

Position: support

Comment:

I am in full support of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation petition to limit nonresident spring turkey tags in the Black Hills.
I would have registered to be on the Zoom presentation but have had so many problems trying to sign on in the past that I am emailing my comments instead.
It is time to treat turkeys the same as all other big game animals in our state.

Seth Mulvehill

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

This comment is in regards/support to upcoming discussions about putting a hard cap on NR turkey hunters in the Black Hills Fire Protection District. Also, minor piece on MANDATORY harvest surveys, which I would also be in full support of.

I have had the privilege of hunting turkeys in our sacred national forests coming up on 20 years. In the early 2000s to early 20-teens, numbers seemed to abound, almost each ridgeline and switchback held the audible promise of toms to come. But a drastic and very apparent decline in numbers came post 2015ish from my personal observation. This seemed to result from a combination of harsh winters and blizzard infested springs that made hatches less likely to thrive. But on top of those natural tribulations, UNLIMITED nonresidents in a social media marketed age began to flood these already “uphill” climbing turkey populations. The fact that we still have an unlimited big game quota for out of state folk after what we’ve seen with our antelope and mule deer populations frankly is irresponsible. Ridges that used to have a plethora of birds on them back when I was in high school have now sat quiet for entire spring seasons, when it comes to turkeys that is. These same areas I’ve seen 5 to 1 ratios of NR to residents running the roads/trails. Far to many hunters for places that would be lucky to see or even hear one Tom these last several springs. I spend more than the average hunter out in the woods during spring season and from the observations I’ve made on turkey flocks and hunter numbers it simply seems to be heavy on the demand side and the opposite for the supply.

With the mild winter and easier spring as far as heavy wet snows go, the numbers did seem to have an uptick this year. Between actual sightings, camera triggers, and amounts of gobbling it seemed we had a better crop going into 2024 season when compared to the last decade. But the ridiculous numbers of hunters that followed were sure to shore up any sort of headway that could be made to become a shadow of what these hills used to be.

Simply put, a hard cap on NR needs to be established at a minimum to somewhat try and manage the flocks moving forward. Also, keeping residents to a 1 black hills bird limit as well seems to be the right move. And I’d push to make harvest reports mandatory for resident and NR alike, if surveys are what we are modeling management plans on why are we not getting more accurate info back!?

It doesn’t take a biologist’s eyes to see harvest reports on all the different species in our state and know the numbers are more like a shot in the dark than actual hard numbers/facts. Make them mandatory or people aren’t eligible for the following application seasons. This may seem like it will create a large uproar and displeasure from public and for sure will have plenty of sour opinions, but in this state I believe it would only weed out the individuals who aren’t serious/responsible hunters. The majority of loyal and passionate outdoorsman will gladly fill the void, leading to more accurate information and better overall experiences while afield. A con this could create potentially would be illegal harvests/poaching. But with the before mentioned more loyal outdoorsmen/women afield reporting, I think the citation numbers of illegal activity would also go up, and double down on removing the cancerous minorities from the sport.

In closing, I fully understand that my opinion is only that, singular. But I do full heartedly believe that when it comes to turkeys in this “neck of the woods” my experiences would rival any towards the top. Make the NR black hills tags even more sought after by limiting numbers, potential tag price increase on top of that would make the financial hit even less noticeable if at all. Same could be said for other NR big game license fees, but that’s a whole different discussion. Finally, a firmer stance on harvest surveys would be a welcomed sight from this conservationist. It seems that the old way of doing things seems to be out of date, and this sort of change may be just what is needed to stay ahead and revolutionize big game management in our little hunting haven of South Dakota.

Jeffrey Boulais

Winchester VA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am an out of state hunter who was lucky enough to hunt South Dakota this spring in the Black Hills. Saw 100+ turkeys and probably 30 or so were gobblers. Hunted 5 days, heard 1 turkey gobble 5 times. I have hunted turkey for 40+ years. It's ever changing and weather affected. I understand the locals concerns, I am not well off but any extra money goes to turkey hunting. Your state is beautiful and thank you for letting me enjoy it. Would love to be able to do again. Please do not restrict liscensing to 661. If you decide to limit liscences please consider previous liscense holders. Increased fees would be a better start to weed out the opportunists not the dedicated diehards who understand the ethics involved in hunting public lands. Thank you for your time.

Joel Nelson

Custer SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Subject: nonresident spring turkey hunting in the black hills. I do support limiting the number of nonresident tags, however. The number to high. It should be less 1500. I am retired and have the opportunity to be in the field most days during and before the opening week. This is often when nonresident hunters are here. The hunting pressure is extremely high during that time. Every turkey I roasted leading up to opening day was covered by 4:00am. At the very least nonresident season should open one week after resident season. On another matter I find it very frustrating as a bow hunter that archery season opens the same day as firearm season in the Black Hills. Bow hunters have always been given a few days to hunt before the big wave of hunters hit the field. With out this it makes taking a turkey with a bow very frustrating. Thank you for your consideration. Joel Nelson.

Jim Lane

Yankton SD

Position: other

Comment:

The turkey debate is a good example of our public access today. Demand exceeds the resource. Over pressured public ground diminishes the experience for everyone and forces wildlife onto private land . That increases conflict, removes opportunity and opens the door for privatization of our public resource.

This is true of all species.

I was fortunate enough to enjoy deer hunting in the Black Hills when you could buy a tag at any gas station. That was fun, but it wasn't good management and it would be unthinkable today.

Reasonable, equitable limitations are on turkeys, bow hunting, beaver trapping and everything else is just necessary.

The task of deciding what that will look like falls to you guys and I appreciate your service.

Dalton Ewing

Box Elder SD

Position: support

Comment:

I'm am in full support of non resident turkey opportunities becoming a draw instead of over the counter. As a tax paying resident of this beautiful state my opinion on the matter is non resident tags should not be as readily available as those who live here year round at the very least drop the number of tags available to out of state hunters or open the season for residents weeks earlier before non resident. For example with last years season opening so late we could open up for resident beginning of April and have non resident start at the end of April. If true conservation is important to regaining bird numbers lowering and limiting out of state tags could be a great way to achieve this goal because of non resident tags being sold more than resident tags. Thank you for the opportunity to use this platform and put in opinions and statements on this issue hopefully this helps with the decision making that it should be more about residents and conservation instead of money from those out of state.

Mark Malone

Pierre SD

Position: other

Comment:

Comment on Black Hills Non-resident Turkeys:

Thank you for limiting the number of non-resident turkey tags in the Black Hills. I do believe the number is still high though. Last season I would see 3 or 4 out of staters to every resident in popular hunting areas. At this point, it would be nice to even see that as 1:1. Please consider reducing that number to a similar ratio as that of deer. They are both big game and should be treated as such.

Resident May tags:

If my memory serves, the turkey management plan states that if harvest statistics support it, the 2nd resident May tag would be reinstated. From what I have heard, these thresholds have been met so please follow the management plan and allow a 2nd BH turkey tag for residents.

Thank you.

Roger Dekok

Mount Vernon SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

The commission proposed to limit 2,225 nonresident licenses in the Black Hills district. While I commend the lower number than last year. I think it should be lower AND should be spread out evenly over the 5 weeks of the season. For example; 350 in each week of the season to spread the pressure from non resident turkey hunters out. This would insure residents and nonresident pressure would not overwhelm this limited big game resource.

Dan Feaster

Manns Choice Pa PA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Nonresident turkey tag reduction .

I have hunted the black hills national Forest 3 out of the last 4 years. It's a beautiful area, and I bring my family out, although I'm the only one who hunts. I realize turkey hunting has gotten very popular the last few years. Probably because of YouTube and the like, (which I disagree with) seems everyone has to show off these days.

I read the comments of some residents, complaining of nonresidents parked everywhere they went turkey hunting.

If I'm not mistaken, the black hills national Forest is 1.2 million acres, with most of that in South Dakota. I don't buy that . That's A LOT of territory.

I've had no trouble whatsoever finding a place to hunt on the national Forest when I put my legs to work.

I hunt a lot of different states, and it's sad to say, that when a (FEW) local hunters have a bad season, they blame the nonresidents. I've heard this many times.

If your going to cut back on nonresident turkey tags, base it on sound management, not the complaints because some (I'm not saying all) local hunters can't find a spot to hunt on almost a million acres. That's pretty hard to believe!

Thank you.

Tom Kuck

Aberdeen SD

Position: support

Comment:

My comments relate to the discussion on limiting non-resident turkey hunters in the Black Hills. I am very familiar with spring and fall turkey hunting in the hills, I have been hunting turkey in the Moon area since 1968, I also have property and 2 cabins in that area. Turkey numbers have decreased significantly over the past 25 years in the Moon area. During that period nonresident hunters have increased. Outdoor writers have identified the area along the Wyoming Border as a place to hunt 2 states, licenses are unlimited in both states. This past season 6 people spring turkey hunted and stayed in my cabins, 2 were residents, 4 were nonresidents. In addition I encountered hunters from Minnesota, Iowa, Colorado and Wisconsin hunting in the vicinity.

I would like to see the number of nonresident turkey licenses limited to no more that 1,000 for the entire Black Hills. Your responsibility is to the residents of South Dakota, and the resource, not to promote tourism. Keep in mind that only residents are allowed to hunt elk in South Dakota.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment. I am 82 years old, I have 2 degrees in Wildlife Biology from SDSU, I was employed by SD Game Fish and Parks as Migratory Bird Specialist from 1968-1982 and Ducks Unlimited from 1982-2002.

Thank You, Tom Kuck

Rich Widman

Brookings SD

Position: support

Comment:

I would support limiting Black Hills Non resident Turkey licenses.

I would hope that the commission would listen to the people they represent and limit Turkey licenses in the Black Hills to 600-650. My brother and I have quit hunting because we couldn't find any Turkeys outside the city limits of Custer and Hill City and with the huge number of Non residents coming, that makes it more and more unlikely that the Turkey population will recover. You have ruined duck & goose hunting in the NE by picking dollars over residents and not listening to those who know best. Yes the GF&P should know best along with the sportsmen and Women, but can't tell the truth as they will be punished by the Governor who puts non residents before her own constituents!

Gary Colbath

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the proposal to limit non-resident turkey licenses for Black Hills spring turkey. Non-residents contribute greatly to the economy, don't hurt resident odds any worse than local competition and deserve the same chance to hunt as local people.

Bryan Mccurdy

Greenville WV

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have vacationed and toured the Black Hills several years in conjunction with a Spring Turkey hunt. I have spent thousands of dollars at motels, tourist attractions and restaurants in several SD towns such as Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Chamberlain, Murdo, Wall, Box Elder, Rapid City, Sturgis, Spearfish, Belle Fouché, Lead, Hill City, Deadwood, Keystone, Custer, Hot Springs and Rockerville. I am planning on being in SD in May, 2025 for another hunt and vacation where I will likely spend another \$4-5 thousand. If I am not assured of being able to hunt as opposed to waiting on a draw result my money will be spent in another state that appreciates my business.

Bryan Mccurdy

Greenville WV

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have vacationed and toured the Black Hills several years in conjunction with a Spring Turkey hunt. I have spent thousands of dollars at motels, tourist attractions and restaurants in several SD towns such as Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Chamberlain, Murdo, Wall, Box Elder, Rapid City, Sturgis, Spearfish, Belle Fouché, Lead, Hill City, Deadwood, Keystone, Custer, Hot Springs and Rockerville. I am planning on being in SD in May, 2025 for another hunt and vacation where I will likely spend another \$4-5 thousand. If I am not assured of being able to hunt as opposed to waiting on a draw result my money will be spent in another state that appreciates my business.

Debra White

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the proposal to restrict non-resident hunting licenses for the black hills spring turkeys which would economically impact businesses and lost revenue for SD Game and Fish Department.

Andrew Piller

Bemidji MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I enjoy wild turkeys in the Black Hills, collectively owned by all Americans, and I introduce my kids, my nephews, and their friends to this activity. PS I spend lots of money in SD for this annual tradition for my family.

John Trimble

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose limiting nonresident black hills spring turkey licenses.

Noah Piller

Bemidji MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I look forward to the family tradition of Turkey Hunting every year

Zachary Williams

Bemidji MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I look forward to hunting turkeys in the Black Hills with my family. Please keep this open to non-residents.

Mark Roiger

Granite Falls MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

Me and my son have hunted the Black Hills for years. Its quality family time. Reducing non resident tags will result in lost revenue for SD.

Hunter Wilson

Springfield TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am not in support of the proposal to limit nonresidents from black hills spring turkey hunting.

Austin Burdette

Gardendale AL

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not support Limiting non resident black Hill Turkey hunting

Eric Sutley

Goodlettsville TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am against the proposal to limit non-resident spring turkey hunting tags. I have been traveling with family and friends to the state for over 30 years each spring and want to continue to have that opportunity.

Gay Sutley

Goodlettsville TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

please do not limit the non-resident tags for spring turkey. I am against the current proposal.

Ron Schara

Ramsey MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am strongly opposed to efforts to limit non-resident spring turkey licenses in the Black Hills. Why is this being proposed? There's no biological reason; shooting male birds has no impact on future population. Ask your own GFand P staff about that. Why does the state want to lose \$thousands in license revenue, not to mention what non-residents spend at local businesses while chasing turkeys. Lastly, the Black Hills belongs to all Americans. It's not the hunting grounds for residents only. Thanks for listening.

Steven Smith

Ashland City TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am not for the current proposal to limit Non-Resident Spring Turkey Tags.

Kimberly Johnson-Knapp

Pleasant View TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am not for the current proposal to limit Non-Resident Spring Turkey Tags.

Daniel Nation

Earlsville VA

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have been doing a father/son turkey hunt in the Black Hills along with 5 other father /son pairs for the last 7 years. If a lottery for tags is implemented , we will have to go to another state if there is no guarantee of a tag. Additionally, if it were enacted for the 2025 season, we will not have place to hunt as all of the quality outfitters book 1 or more years in advance. There is also a severe negative impact on the local economies that this would create if enacted . I would estimate conservatively a loss of \$3000-4000 per hunter . Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinion and I hope be hunting in the black hills again in 2025.

Lanson Hyde

Brentwood TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose legislation limiting tags for non resident spring turkey hunting. My 10 friends and I probably spent \$30k in the community with local businesses including local outfitters this year. Many brought their families who did not hunt. Some who hunted didn't shoot a bird. Why should the local communities and dedicated guides suffer when out of staters bring in so much money into the community with so little impact. Not to mention higher license and tag sales for the department. Thank you for your consideration.

Billy McNichols

Cadiz KY

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Billy McNichols

Cadiz KY

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Tristan Jones

Springfield TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

“ I do not support limiting non resident black hill turkey hunting”

David Aust

Hendersonville TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am an avid turkey hunter and always enjoy the Black Hills every opportunity I can.

Billy Ray Caldwell

Nashville TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have been hunting the Spring Black Hills Turkey season over the last 20 years and have used this to introduce my children to turkey hunting and want to continue the tradition with my grandkids.

Olivia Caldwell

Nashville TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I absolutely love having the opportunity to visit SD, learn more about the area, contribute to the state economy, and work with Turkey Track Club and all the amazing people that work there. Limiting the number of tags may put them out of business and not only do they create amazing experiences for out of towners, but they also contribute to protecting the nature in the area and they give back by offering opportunities to the Wounded Warrior program and people. It would be a huge loss to the community if this change were to put them out of business.

Kenny Buelterman

Saint Charles MO

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the bill

Ralph Jones

Humboldt TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

The proposal will have a highly negative impact on outfitters with whom we rely on to hunt in South Dakota. The proposal will have a significant economic impact on the state of South Dakota via reduced tourism dollars spent.

Doug Nation

Alexandria VA

Position: oppose

Comment:

Hi - My father and I, along with several other hunters, go to the Black Hills every spring to turkey hunt. This is the best turkey hunting I've ever experienced and we come back every year due to the friendly people, the quality of the guides at the Turkey Track Club, and the healthy population of gobblers.

We each spend thousands of dollars on hiring and tipping the guides, while supporting other aspects of the local economy by eating at restaurants, staying in hotels, visiting the state and national parks, and shopping at outdoor gear stores in Rapid City.

The impact to the tax base and to the business community by effectively banning out of state hunters through a lottery turkey tag system would be harmful to all aspects of the local economy.

Furthermore, according to an article in the Rapid City Journal dated July 25, 2024, "the population in the plains may be dropping, but numbers in the Black Hills continue to look strong." Ignoring scientific data when making policy is extremely worrisome and begs the question of who this policy is really intended to benefit?

Thank you for your consideration,
Douglas Nation

Ty Sutley

Goodlettsville TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Maria Caldwell

Nashville TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Robert Weir

Calgary AB

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to limiting non resident turkey licenses in the Black Hills

Colin Caldwell

Chicago IL

Position: oppose

Comment:

Were it not for the spring turkey hunting, I don't know that I would have every been to South Dakota, and as of today I have been there for several hunting trips. It would be a major loss to limit the number of non-resident permits that attract people like me to come and support businesses within South Dakota.

Matt Hall

Springfield TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I do not support limiting nonresident black hill turkey hunting.

David Hight

Sunset Beach NC

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed of the lottery that is proposed for Black Hills turkey hunting for out of state hunting. I bring my son and son in law foe a three day hunt with an outfitter in South Dakota. If we do not have opportunity to come to South Dakota then our money is lost. I spend in excess of \$8000 for this trip. Hotels, food, outfitters, auto rental, restaurants, Shopping for hunting attire (We do not have the cold weather you provide) day trips to Deadwood, Custer park.

David D Lauriski

Florissant CO

Position: oppose

Comment:

The rational for limiting non-resident permits is weak at best. Other than making a statement that Black Hills non-resident permits have been increasing in recent years and are now outpacing resident licenses. None of the data in the tables shown in the proposal show resident v. non-resident license numbers and as such fail to support the proposed change.. In fact in looking at the tables for the prairie turkey licenses, resident licenses substantially outnumber non-resident licenses. There is also no economic data supporting a cap on non-resident licenses.

Ryan Hight

Greer SC

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed lottery system for out-of-state hunters by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks department. This proposal threatens not only the economic vitality of this state but also the livelihood of numerous businesses that depend on non-resident hunters. Outfitting businesses, which bring important tourism revenue, will be particularly hard hit. Many of these businesses rely heavily on non-resident clients, and a restriction of this magnitude will put them at risk of closing their doors, costing jobs and weakening South Dakota's rural economies.

It is important to note that there is no scientific data to suggest that the current levels of non-resident hunting are having a negative impact on turkey populations. This proposal appears to be driven more by personal preferences of a few commissioners rather than any legitimate wildlife management concern. Limiting non-resident access without a solid biological foundation undermines the trust between hunters, landowners, and the department.

Instead of moving forward with a plan that could cause significant economic harm, I urge the department to reconsider and focus on policies that are backed by science and benefit the entire state. South Dakota's hunting economy has long been a draw for people across the country, and restricting that access will only hurt the very communities and ecosystems which the SDGFP strives to protect.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Kyle Dahl

Bemidji MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Hanna Blume

Duluth MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I think it's important for nonresidents to be able to hunt turkeys in South Dakota.

Omar Almosa

Duluth SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Samuel Wishard

Clearbrook MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Xavier Piller

Duluth MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

It is family tradition for my cousin, brother, my dad and myself to hunt in the Black Hills once a year.

Emily Piller

Bemidji MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

This has been a very important tradition for my husband and his family to travel to South Dakota to hunt turkeys in the spring.

Riley Schollett

Bemidji MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have enjoyed hunting spring turkeys in South Dakota and would like to do it again.

Jacob Helgeson

Bemidji MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Kevin Castaneda

Duluth MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Tayden Brown

Bemidji MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Leslie Barnes

Grand Junction CO

Position: oppose

Comment:

I have been hunting the Black Hills for spring turkey over 15 yrs as a tradition. My family is from SD however I don't reside there. It would sadden me that I could not hunt.

David Leonard

Grand Junction CO

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose - I have hunted turkeys in SD for the past 15 years. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience hunting the magical Black Hills. It would be a shame not to be able to hunt spring turkey annually

Chans Weber

Kirkwood MO

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a hunter who comes to your state for both waterfowl in the eastern part of the state, and the black hills for turkey season I am strongly opposing this proposed change. I bring 8 guys plus myself and spend thousands of dollars every year while respecting your hunting laws and respecting the land. It would be heartbreaking to not be able to come harvest a turkey this coming spring.

William Frist

Nashville TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

It is my understanding that it is being considered to limit Black Hills non-resident turkey tags. As a non-resident who has visited the state to hunt turkeys I think 6-7 times, I of course am oppose to such measure. As much as I have loved visited your state and Rapid City area, I have only been to SD once outside of turkey hunting (and that was because of my favorable experiences turkey hunting there). I would be disappointed if I and my other Tennessean friends would be limited in our ability to participate in future hunts.

Tyler Stox

Charlotte NC

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am a nonresident who has plans to visit SD to hunt in the Black Hills for the first time next season. I strongly oppose limiting nonresident access due to the fact that the data over the past 5 years has not shown a significant population impact in the Black Hills from increased harvest. Harvest rates (tag success) are remaining stable and even increasing in recent years; therefore, the state should not limit nonresidents but rather welcome them and use their license sales revenue to support the resource.

Isaac Turner

Manchester TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Raymond Croissant

Edina MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to limiting nonresident Black Hills spring turkey licenses. I have hunted there for the last few years and there were lots of turkeys. Furthermore, I'm afraid limiting the licenses would have a tough economic impact on the guides, resorts, restaurants, etc out there.

Mara Croissant

Edina MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please do not limit these licenses. We have a wonderful family tradition of spring turkey hunting in the hills. I should think this could hurt local businesses.

Mitch Petrie

Plymouth MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose restrictions on over-the-counter tags for Black Hills Turkey. I regularly hunt in SD and have brought large groups there. I work in the outdoor media industry and the over-the-counter permit assures I can schedule groups and know they will have tags. If you go to a draw I will look at Wyoming as an alternative and move my tourism dollars west.

Durk Stark

Buffalo SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

It's getting harder for outfitters to make a living if everything becomes a draw..

Eric Schoenfelder

Lake Andes SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Harry Chism

Indianola MS

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to limiting non resident black hills turkey license.

Roger Schara

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

As a long time resident of South Dakota, I have family members that have come to the Black Hills for years. Limiting the licenses really makes little sense. We are harvesting male birds that has little impact to the population. Springtime nesting has more to do with the population in my opinion. Please consider leaving the Spring Turkey season as is! I actually moved to South Dakota because of the turkey hunting as a non resident. I have been here ever since. That was in 1980. Thank you for considering no change.

Simone Schara

Ramsey MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

This decision is definitely one that will impact the state of South Dakota as well as many businesses in the Black Hills.

Turkey population is effected by weather as well as predators which effect resident and non resident hunters.

Edward Ohaire

Wilkes Barre PA

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Marc Enge

Maple Grove MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I frequently hunt and fish in the great state of South Dakota. On those trips I spend money in your state on gas, motels, cafes, grocery stores, sporting good stores, etc. I hope you don't limit non-resident turkey licenses and reduce the number of times I can visit your state.

Mike Kottke

Minnetonka MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

Keep it up and I'll do ALL of my out of state hunting in Nebraska.

Jackson Oberg

Rapid W SD

Position: support

Comment:

Black hills turkey numbers have sharply declined, like many areas in western sd. This is a start

Seth Mulvehill

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

I have written a more lengthy response before on this matter of decreasing NR turkey tags, in the black hills specifically. Fully in support of that, would even go a step further to continue with limiting residents to one BH tag for the foreseeable future and even if numbers do blow up exponentially, still limiting. In todays world with technological advancements on about every hunting tactic and weapon, the resources are at such a disadvantage that being proactive will always be the correct choice over reactive management response.

I am aware that no decision will ever please everyone and that political polluting makes these things much more difficult than they should be. Thank you for all you do and continue to do.

Alex Kane

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support limiting NR Black Hills turkey tags as well as Resident Tags.

Phil Hudson

Huron SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support restricting nonresident turkey licenses in the black hills.

Merina Engel

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Hunter Serfoss

Aberdeen SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Christopher Horsley

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support eliminating non resident tags for turkey

Justin Allen

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the reduction of spring turkey licenses and opportunities for Non-Residents in the Black Hills. Residents sportsman should always come first. Tag/license numbers should never be greater than 10-15 percent of the resident allocated licenses.

Dustin Sperlich

Lennox SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support limited non resident turkey licenses in the Black Hills. The population has taken a huge decline. Most spots in which thousands could be seen have dwindled down to zero. Some of this is due to the license structure and some is due to predators/nature. I feel we need to limit this for 5-10 years to see the population rebound.

Brad Forbus

Junction City KS

Position: other

Comment:

Subject: Input on Proposed Limits for Non-Resident Spring Turkey Hunting

Dear South Dakota Department of Natural Resources,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Brad Forbus, and I am an avid turkey hunter with a long-standing appreciation for South Dakota's hunting opportunities. I am writing in response to the recent discussions about limiting non-resident licenses for spring turkey hunting due to concerns over population numbers.

While I understand and respect the need for conservation and management of turkey populations, I would like to suggest a consideration regarding the differentiation between hunting on public and private lands. As someone who primarily hunts on private land with abundant turkey numbers, I believe that imposing limitations on non-residents should focus on public land hunting. Private land, where access is often controlled by landowners, does not typically contribute to the same pressures on turkey populations as public lands.

By separating regulations for non-resident hunters on public land from those hunting on private land, it could provide a balanced approach that addresses population management while also recognizing the significant investment and commitment made by hunters who have established private land hunting practices.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and hope that my input can contribute to a fair and effective policy. Thank you for your dedication to preserving South Dakota's rich hunting heritage.

Sincerely,

Brad Forbus

Ronald Kolbeck

Attachment #12953

Salem SD

Position: other

Comment:

I am writing on behalf of the South Dakota Bowhunters Association to ask that the currently proposed Spring Wild Turkey Season be amended to reflect the archery season to open one week prior to the Prairie and Black Hills regular seasons, as it was prior to 2023.

For reference, I have attached the published finalization that was approved in October, 2022 to move the start of the archery season back to start on the same date as the regular Black Hills and Prairie seasons. This finalization also moved the Black Hills season back one week to open the fourth Saturday in April. The vast majority of supportive information provided by staff to justify these changes was centered around poor reproduction. The proposal stated, "the recommendation to start seasons later is to increase population performance." Based on what appeared to be a clear scientific approach to management, most sportsmen (including bowhunters) were supportive of these changes to hopefully improve turkey populations and thus you saw very little opposition.

Two years later we are now re-evaluating the earlier decision to determine seasons for the coming two years. Since 2022, there has been new scientific research conducted that suggests that hunting season start dates has little to no impact on turkey reproduction. This research has led to sportsmen across the country, including South Dakota, lobbying to bring back their traditional season start dates. Representatives of the South Dakota Bowhunters Association met with Game, Fish, & Parks leadership to discuss the new research findings and the possibility of bringing back the traditional one week early start for the archery season. GF&P staff indicated that while they would like to see more research in South Dakota, they believe there is no biological impact from the season start date. However, GF&P staff is not supportive of bringing back the archery season dates, stating instead a desire to simplify season complexity. This position has created frustration amongst bowhunters as they would not have been supportive of the changes in 2022 if they had known this was the motivation. Hunting turkeys with a bow and arrow remains a significant challenge which generally requires calling gobblers in to within a 20-yard effective range. Yes, the equipment is lethal well beyond this range, but ethical bowhunters would never take shots out to 50 yards and further that today's shotgun equipment has made common place. It is this distinct difference that we believe warrants providing archery hunters an opportunity before the turkeys are educated each season.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration to this request!

Ronald J Kolbeck
South Dakota Bowhunters Association
(605) 471-9976
koolbeck4@triotel.net

Jayden Lightner

Yankton SD

Position: support

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Luke Gotta
Rapid City SD
Position: support

Comment:

I am in favor of restricting nonresident spring turkey license for the Black Hills.

Jamie Mertins
Willow Lake SD
Position: oppose

Comment:

Please reduce number of black hills turkey license. Residents and nonresidents if nessasary

Gary Korsgaden
Park Rapids MN
Position: support

Comment:

The Black Hills has become overcrowded, reducing the quality of turkey. Limiting nonresidents is a good plan by the SDGFP

Lonny Kracht
Sturgis SD
Position: other

Comment:

The SDGFP has good reason to delay the start of the Spring Turkey season to allow more time for hens to get bred. I also support the archery turkey season opening one week before the shotgun season starts. Please consider delaying the shotgun season one week later than it started last spring to allow archery hunters a week without the competition from shotgun hunters. The season is plenty long enough where there is no need to extend the season end date to give shotgun hunters another week. Thank you

Jeanne Heitz
Rapid City SD
Position: support

Comment:

I support restrictions on non resident turkey hunting

Daniel Rottluff

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

The youth/bow season needs to start 1 week earlier than shotgun.

Seth Mulvehill

Piedmont SD

Position: support

Comment:

This comment is in regards to opening archery spring turkey (Prairie&Black Hills) up one week prior to the shotgun seasons, respectively. There is a reason we have archery open before rifle deer/antelope/elk seasons. Archery hunting is a more intimate, soul-enriching style of hunting. And if pursuing turkeys on the ground, without the use of a groundblind, it can be one of the harder hunts to find success on because of their superior eyes. Throw in birds that have already been shot at with shotguns or pushed around simply due to the added pressure from the mixing of archery/shotgun hunters on opening weeks now and the once great experience of chasing turkeys with a stick and string had become much less peaceful.

My own experience this last spring was almost a disaster as I had two groups to go after and luckily chose the right one as the other group could not have been far out of their roosts (if at all) before a parade of shotgun fire woke the prairie. Something that was never a concern for seasons past, at least for that first week. That big group that did get tee'd off on never did return to that main roost area for an entire month. My personal story is just the tip of tales I heard from archery guys last spring.

Simply put, overall it is much easier to fill a tag with a shotgun over a bow on spring gobblers. Just as archery tackle has advanced so have the super-shooting spread guns that can flop a Tom at 80 yards these days. And having those out in parallel with archers is off putting and feels wrong to the vast majority of the turkey hunting gurus I've discussed this topic with. Whenever I've swapped from a bow to a shotgun (although nothing is ever a slam dunk) a huge feeling of relief and confidence follow me afield. That all said, I'd trade for that week of a more peaceful spring woods experience (now in hand) over a successful tag any day.

As usual, thanks for all you do and continue to do.

Rick Schara

Fergus Falls MN

Position: oppose

Comment:

An article I read about limiting the number of nonresident spring turkey hunting licenses was interesting. I think the logic is flawed in that there is an assumption if the number of nonresident licenses is slashed, the number of resident licenses will rise accordingly. But now, the number of resident licenses sold isn't restricted, right? If there are 2,000 less nonresident licenses sold, that doesn't mean there will be 2000 more resident licenses. Comparing the numbers doesn't make sense because residents are free to purchase all the licenses they want. Another point is that the turkey population is down. One reason is the encroachment of human housing. I lived in Rapid City in the 1980s and most if not all of the foothill places I hunted are now off limits and many other places in the mountains have houses. There isn't as much habitat. And climate change isn't helping (heavier rains, big late spring blizzard, etc.). One other point...the Black Hills belongs to everyone; it is not the domain of someone who happens to live in South Dakota (in my humble opinion).

Colton Sherman

Sioux Falls SD

Position: support

Comment:

Residents should always be prioritized over non residents, this is standard practice in most places. If our turkey numbers were higher I would hunt them in the hills again. Non residents crushed our mule deer population during the covid times. Protect our resources please.

Thomas Brokken

Southwest Ranches FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

We come to South Dakota to hunt a Merriam turkey which we don't have. But also we bring family and friends to see the great parks and landscapes. The Badlands and Custer NP along with Mount Rushmore. Please consider for us

John Keeton

Lanesville IN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposed to selling Black Hills non-resident spring turkey license on a lottery basis and limiting non-resident licenses.

Robert Keeton

New Albany IN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposed to selling Black Hills non-resident spring turkey license on a lottery basis and limiting non-resident licenses.

Jacob Keeton

Louisville KY

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposed to selling Black Hills non-resident spring turkey license on a lottery basis and limiting non-resident licenses.

Joseph Hutchins
Mt Washington KY

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to a spring Turkey lottery system for non resident Turkey hunting .

John Hutchins
Mount Washington KY

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposed to Black Hills non-resident spring turkey license being selected on a lottery basis and limiting non-resident licenses.

This typically makes the process of turkey hunting in a different state not so attractive, because the process cannot tell you immediately, if you are selected.

Obviously because of needing to schedule a trip like this ahead of time, lottery draws makes planning even harder.

The economics of loosing hunting and tourism dollars, most likely makes no sense either.

Of all the turkey hunts I've ever been on, the black hills and hunting turkeys there was and remains the favored place to go.

Hope to come back in the near future and enjoy the opportunity of seeing / hunting turkeys in the black hills.

Wilton Davis
Clarksville TN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose restricting NR licenses at a percentage any greater than Res licenses for the Black Hills. If there must be reductions, do it equally across the board.

Pat West
Piedmont SD

Position: other

Comment:

SDLOA Response to Proposal of Limiting Nonresident Black Hills Turkey Licenses

If the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission is going to endorse limiting the Black Hills Spring Turkey Season to a quota of 2,225 nonresident licenses, we are requesting that this be amended to include public land only in the Black Hills spring turkey unit and any private land in the unit is not to be included in this quota. This is a compromise limiting the number of nonresident licenses, while at the same time not limiting access to private land where permission is required to hunt.

Richard Rossow

Palm Harbor FL

Position: oppose

Comment:

I understand residents wanting to limit nonresident turkey hunters, but proposal is draconian to say the least. What about dividing season into 7 day periods for no residents and even out pressure that way?

Andy Vandel

Pierre SD

Position: other

Comment:

I support a set number of non-resident BH spring turkey licenses. It should be closer to 22% of resident licenses, like the petition submitted by the SDWF in July. 22% is excepted for prairie, which shouldn't be different for the BH.

If there is no room for compromise for the proposed NR license number, then a different compromise would be with the NR season dates. There are staggered opening days in similar seasons with an abundance of NR use on public land. NR archery on public land opens on October 1st where residents it's September 1st. Pheasant hunting for residents on public land starts the weekend before the traditional pheasant season (3-day season). A similar approach could be used for NR BH spring turkey to ease the pressure on resident hunters on public land. Two options include:

Resident only opens on the last Saturday of April through May 31. NR season opens the first Saturday of May through May 31.

Residents and NR on private land are open from the last Saturday in April through May 31. Residents only on public land from the last Saturday in April, continuing for 7 days. Residents and NR open on public land from first Saturday in May through May 31st.

Either option would significantly reduce pressure on public land for residents, giving them a full week to hunt before the NRs show up.

Benjamin Brown

Pierre SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support the petition to reduce the number of nonresident Black Hills Spring Turkey licenses. Although the 2,225 nonresident tags is still too many. Based off of all other big game licenses (excluding elk) there is an 8% nonresident license allocation. The original proposal of a 22% nonresident tag allocation was generous.

Jeffrey Olson

Attachment #12986

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

I support the move from unlimited licenses but the number of non-resident tags is still way too high. Please consider lowering the number.

Jeffrey Olson

Rapid City SD

Position: other

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jesse Kurtenbach

Spearfish SD

Position: other

Comment:

I strongly support limiting the NR turkey tag quota to 8-10% of the allotted resident tags. Especially in the Black Hills.

Mark Dumont

Spruce Grove AB

Position: oppose

Comment:

I OPPOSE LIMITING BLACK HILLS TURKEY LICENSES TO NON RESIDENTS.

WE'VE TRAVELLED DOWN EVERY YEAR FOR 20 YEARS TO HUNT WITH A LOCAL OUTFITTER. THIS ELIMINATES A LONG TRADITION OF HUNTING FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND CREATES MAJOR FINANCIAL COLLAPSE OF A LONG STANDING TURKEY HUNTING CLUB IN THE BLACK HILLS.

Eugene Dumont

Spruce Grove AB

Position: oppose

Comment:

I strongly oppose limiting non-resident Black Hill Turkey licenses. I've been hunting in the hills for over 20 years with my friends, sons, and grand children. We support guiding and hotel services in the hills. This will end these guides business if these licenses are no longer being issued.

Gustavo Acosta

Westerville OH

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the non-resident turkey tag in the Black Hills to be sold as a lottery. I go to the Black Hills every year to hunt there with my three girls and friends since 2002, and I spend between \$5,000 and \$10,000 every year just for my family alone. With my group of friends, we draw to SD more than \$50 K per year between tags, plane, hotel, food, etc. Doing a lottery will impact us to go together as a group and forcing us pursuing the amazing turkey hunting into another state.

Sabrina Acosta-Munoz

Westerville OH

Position: oppose

Comment:

I oppose the lottery tags for hunting turkeys as this will impact me for hunting with dad if we both do not draw tags. I have been hunting with dad since I was 12 years old and it will be very upsetting not being able to go to South Dakota to hunt with him.

Ana Munoz-Espada

Westerville OH

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposing the lottery tag draw because we enjoy going to South Dakota as a group and this will limit the people going. If this happens, we will have to find another state to go turkey hunting.

Jeffrey Clow

Harrisburg SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

2,225 NR permits is still to many

Seth Vant Hof

Dell Rapids SD

Position: other

Comment:

I have hunted black hills turkey for the past 15 years most years. Over the years it's been apparent the number of turkeys is not what it used to be. The number of times the last few times I've been out there that I have been to a spot I know hold turkey that there is a nonresident hunted at the spot already has increased dramatically. This past season out of the 25 hunters I encountered I only saw one resident hunter. Please look at keeping our resources to the resident hunters of our state. The further pushing to use our hunting resources to push for tourism in our state is not benefiting who the resource should be for, the residents who live here. With the increased of online presence of people who post about coming here, the numbers are only going to go up and continue to decrease our resource. Please consider the original proposal of 600 or so tags which is going to help a lot to help our black hills turkey population.

Thanks you for reading this and please consider the original proposal number .

Jacob Halonen

Hermosa SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am oppose to limiting out of state hunting. My son in law comes every spring to hunt with me and my son's for a week and we have a blast. We have never had a problem with other hunters.

Jacob Halonen

Hermosa SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am oppose to limiting out of state hunting. My son in law comes every spring to hunt with me and my son's for a week and we have a blast. We have never had a problem with other hunters.

Brock Halonen

Hermosa SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposed to making so nonresidents can't turkey hunt the spring my brother in law comes out every spring to hunt

Bill Young

Rapid City SD

Position: support

Comment:

I support a radical reduction in out-of-state Spring turkey licenses. I further support a significant increase in out-of-state license fees. Look at surrounding states. We do not need the additional pressure from out-of-state hunters. Finally, consider a model that any out-of-state hunter must purchase a South Dakota Small Game License AND Habitat Stamp PRIOR to being able to apply for ANY SD limited draw licenses.

Douglas Donovan

Belding MI

Position: oppose

Comment:

Being from out of state , a generally more passionate ethical and professional hunter goes thru the expense and commitment to travel, lodge, and guide a hunt for the opportunity, bringing peak ethics and increased \$ for SD management programs

Paul Lepisto

Attachment #13003

Pierre, Sd SD

Position: other

Comment:

Please see the attached comments from the South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America. Thank you.

Renee Allen

Pierre SD

Position: other

Comment:

I support the reduction in Non- Resident turkey licenses in the Black Hills. Lets protect hunting opportunities for the great residents of South Dakota. If there is overharvest and competition of game in SD non-resident should always be the ones that have a reduction in outdoor opportunities.

Thank you for your time
Renee Allen
Pierre, SD

Brock Hillukka

Hermosa SD

Position: support

Comment:

My thoughts are that there are to many Non-Residents in the Black Hills region. I would like the tags reduced.

Richard Keranen

Hermosa SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

In my opinion we need to cut out of state turkey hunting all together I tried to go out last year and everywhere I went there was out of state hunters

Chris Gukeisen

Pierre SD

Position: other

Comment:

I believe the non-resident cap of 2,225 Black Hills Turkey tags is still way to high. SD residents should be the main beneficiary of this resource. It should be nowhere near 50%. I believe the original petition of 22% is already reasonable as to compared to the typical 8%. The cut seeming extreme is the result of this not happening year ago. We shouldn't be stuck with a higher number just because it wasn't previously addressed. If 661 is ultimately too low, a compromise should be met less than 2,225. Maybe meet at 1,000. 2,225 is to many, and the Black Hills have become way to crowded and sometimes unsafe. The non-resident cap needs to be lower.

Jon Tippman

Bristol WI

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Ben Hoperich

Galena OH

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Alexandra Acosta-Munoz

Westerville OH

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

John Keeton

Jeffersonville IN

Position: oppose

Comment:

I am opposed to limiting non resident licenses and selling on a lottery basis

Archibald Alexander

Friendswood TX

Position: oppose

Comment:

I go with friends every year to the black hills turkey hunting. We hire local guides and would have to find another state to hunt if we couldn't get a license. I also wonder how this would affect our guides ability to get hunters to camp each year.

John Freeman

Columbus OH

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

Jay Ingram

Shelbyville KY

Position: oppose

Comment:

My family has taken regular trips to hunt turkey in South Dakota. Having a lottery system would be a burden and affect our quality of planning.

Ryan Gossom

Shelbyville KY

Position: oppose

Comment:

I'm opposed to selling Black Hills non-resident spring turkey license on a lottery basis and limiting non-resident licenses.

Francisco Guzmán

Rapid City SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

No comment text provided.

South Dakota Division



The Izaak Walton League of America

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters, and Wildlife

8/12/2024

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: SD IWLA Comments on the Draft Pronghorn Antelope Action Plan

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America (Division) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Draft Pronghorn Antelope Action Plan 2024-2028.

Division members enjoy hunting, fishing, and the many other outdoor recreational activities South Dakota offers. Many of our members also enjoy hunting pronghorn antelope.

This plan will guide pronghorn antelope management in South Dakota. The plan is subject to a formal evaluation within 5 years of its adoption with any needed updates and changes occurring prior to that date. The plan hopes to ensure that the state's pronghorn population and their habitat are appropriately managed.

The Division supports the efforts by the GFP to gather thoughts and opinions of hunters, landowners, and other stakeholders in the planning and program activities related to pronghorn management. Antelope hunting is extremely popular in South Dakota. We agree that hunting is the best management tool for pronghorn populations across the state.

The Division urges GFP to continue all the pronghorn surveys in South Dakota. This includes the harvest, aerial, and herd composition surveys. We support conducting survival and disease monitoring, especially for epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) and bluetongue.

We also support doing surveys on the impacts of winter severity and drought in the 27 pronghorn management units.

The Division supports using pronghorn abundance, depredation, landowner tolerance, hunter surveys, and the previous harvest numbers to set management objectives for each unit.

The Division agrees with all five objectives in the draft plan, and we strongly support the following:

Objective 1: Manage for biologically and socially acceptable pronghorn populations in each firearm management unit within South Dakota.

- c) Gather input from landowners and the public on pronghorn population unit objectives.

- h) Investigate and collect biological samples from reported or observed sick or dead pronghorn demonstrating symptoms of concern.

Objective 2: Manage pronghorn populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs.

- Modify and adopt future hunting season structure as needed to maximize hunting opportunities for unique hunters, minimize regulation complexity, and maximize population growth to meet objectives as soon as possible.

Objective 3: Cooperatively work with private landowners, organizations, and other agencies to resolve pronghorn depredation to agricultural crops and other social conflict issues.

- Respond to all pronghorn depredation concerns on private land promptly.
- Encourage the enrollment of willing landowners who are experiencing chronic pronghorn depredation issues into Walk-In Area and Controlled Hunting Access Programs to allow public hunting access.
- Utilize pool hunts when warranted to address pronghorn depredation concerns.
- Expand hunting opportunities, when possible, to address depredation on private lands.
- Where needed, evaluate additional depredation management strategies to increase acceptance of pronghorn population goals.

Objective 4: Cooperatively work with private landowners and public land managers to create, enhance, restore, and protect pronghorn habitat.

- Develop program options to restore pronghorn forage and security cover in shrub steppe habitats through plantings and management assistance.
- Annually strive to restore and establish 1,000 acres of new grassland habitat west of the Missouri River.
- Annually strive to improve and enhance 50,000 acres of grassland habitat in western South Dakota by supporting improved grazing systems on private lands.
- Annually strive to replace a minimum of 40 miles of woven wire or other non-wildlife friendly fences with wildlife-friendly fences.

Objective 5: Cooperatively work with private landowners and public land managers to provide and enhance hunting access for pronghorn.

- Annually lease an additional 20,000 acres of private land for pronghorn hunting opportunities through GFP access programs.

The pronghorn antelope is an iconic prairie species, native only to North America. The Division believes we must diligently work to preserve, protect, enhance, and restore grassland and rangeland habitat that a healthy pronghorn antelope population requires.

We encourage management efforts that result in healthy pronghorn populations that provide a quality hunting experience while also meeting landowners' tolerance.

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America thanks you for this opportunity to comment on the Draft Pronghorn Antelope Action Plan 2024-2028 and for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Lepisto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Paul Lepisto
Regional Conservation Coordinator
Izaak Walton League of America
1115 South Cleveland Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
plepisto@iwla.org
605-220-1219



August 16, 2024

Stephanie Rissler, Commission Chair
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
501 Bulow Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

Tom Kirschenmann, Director of Wildlife
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
523 East Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Draft 2024-2028 Mountain Lion Action Plan

Dear Chair Rissler, Director Kirschenmann and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and our supporters in South Dakota, I thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' (GFP) Draft 2024-2028 Mountain Lion Action Plan. We oppose the use of hounding to pursue mountain lions, the arbitrary population objective, and the year-round season outside of the Black Hills Fire Protection District (BHFPD). These practices harm the small mountain lion population in South Dakota and potentially increase conflicts with livestock. We urge you to revise the Draft Action Plan to end, or at the very least significantly reduce, these practices so that hunting opportunity is not privileged to the detriment of conflict reduction and the ecological and social value of mountain lions.

The Humane Society of the United States is categorically opposed to the trophy hunting of mountain lions in South Dakota. This practice is not only cruel and unnecessary, but researchers have found that excessive hunting of mountain lions leads to increased conflicts with humans, pets and livestock.¹ Furthermore, trophy hunting and predator control of mountain lions indirectly harms ungulates because predators target sick animals, including those with chronic wasting disease.² Finally, a national survey conducted by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and Responsive Management show that only 29% of Americans approve of trophy hunting.³

For these reasons, and those outlined in Appendix A of these comments, we request that SDGFP revise the Draft Mountain Lion Action Plan, end the use of hounds to pursue or hunt mountain lions, and protect mountain lions from trophy hunting now and in perpetuity.

If GFP is to continue allowing the trophy hunting of mountain lions, we request the agency limit the practice to sustainable levels (defined below) to protect South Dakota's iconic mountain lion population from excessive killing and to limit conflicts caused by indiscriminate hunting of these native cats. Specifically, we request the following changes:

1.) Lift the arbitrary population objective of 200-300 total mountain lions. The annual hunting limit should not exceed 14% of South Dakota's adult and subadult mountain lion population. This amounts to no more than 38 mountain lions based on GFP's recent – and quite imprecise – population count, as is acknowledged by GFP itself in the 2023 Mountain Lion Status report.⁴ GFP currently allows 40 females or 60 total mountain lions to be killed; 47 have been killed so far in 2024. GFP estimates that 275 adult and subadult lions live in South Dakota. GFP should count its lions using contemporary methods and not allow hunters to kill more than South Dakota's mountain lion population growth rate. Non-spatial population models



overestimate mountain lion populations by an average of 63%, and many jurisdictions count dependent kittens in their estimates.⁵

Beausoliel et al. (2013) suggest that in the absence of population data, agencies should not set quotas that exceed 14% of the mountain lion population to avoid harm.⁶ Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) recently adopted a cap of 14% on mountain lion hunting quotas as part of their new West Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan.⁷ Additionally, CPW has adopted a cap of 16% on total human-caused mortality to account for other sources of lion deaths. Washington state has also recently adopted a conservative more conservative mountain lion quota in order to maintain stable mountain lion social structures to minimize conflicts.⁸

GFP's Draft Action Plan continues to authorize trophy hunting of mountain lions that exceed sustainable levels, threatening the stability of South Dakota's mountain lion population as well as their range expansion to their historic range where they had been extirpated. GFP's own Andy Lindbloom acknowledged of South Dakota's current hunting limit at the July 2023 Commission meeting, "If we met this every year, we would not be able to manage for our management objective of two- to three-hundred lions. We just don't have enough lions that could meet that every year."⁹ If current hunter kill rates continue, South Dakota's mountain lion population is projected to come dangerously close to falling below GFP's population objective. Any additional mortality of female mountain lions would likely lead to a disastrous decline below GFP's objectives. To quote directly from materials provided by GFP itself to the Commission at its July 2023 meeting:

If the four-year average of 26 females is harvested next year, the population is expected to decrease to just over 200 by December of 2024.... Alternatively, if the harvest limit is achieved and 40 females are harvested next year, the population is expected to decrease to under 200 mountain lions, and below the population objective of 200 to 300.¹⁰

As of August 14, 2024, 30 female mountain lions have been killed in South Dakota during the 2024 season, as well as 17 males. We therefore call on the agency to count South Dakota's mountain lions using contemporary spatial-model methods, implement a 14% cap on hunting mortality and a 16% cap on total human-caused mortality based on adult/subadult population estimates while doing away with the agency's arbitrary population objective of 200-300 total mountain lions.

2.) Implement a 20% sublimit on female hunting mortality as a proportion of total hunting mortality. Multiple studies across the western U.S. demonstrate that limiting female mortality to approximately 20% of total hunting mortality is necessary to ensure a stable population.¹¹ Based on the current adult/subadult population and an estimated sustainable hunting limit of 38 total mountain lions, GFP must limit the female hunting limit to no more than eight individuals.

As the biological bank account of the population, GFP must take steps to protect resident females and ensure hunting of females does not exceed sustainable levels. The current subquota of 40 female mountain lions out of a total hunting limit of 60 lions is far too high.

3.) Prohibit the hunting of mountain lions with hounds throughout South Dakota and reject any proposed rule that would expand hound hunting.



As detailed in Appendix A, using radio-collared hounds to chase mountain lions and bay them into trees or rock ledges so a trophy hunter can shoot at close range is unsporting, unethical and inhumane.¹² Hounds kill kittens, and mountain lions often injure or kill hounds.¹³ The practice is exceedingly stressful and energetically taxing to mountain lions.¹⁴ Furthermore, hound hunting is not considered “fair chase” hunting by most.¹⁵ Hounds also chase and stress non-target wildlife, from porcupines to deer,¹⁶ trespass onto private lands,¹⁷ and have adverse interactions with the public.¹⁸ If GFP is to continue allowing the hunting of mountain lions, the agency must prohibit the use of hounds and reject hound hunting in the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

In conclusion, the Humane Society of the United States strongly urges GFP to revise its Draft Mountain Lion Action Plan as it seeks only to maximize trophy hunting opportunities, not conserve mountain lions. South Dakota’s mountain lions are a vital component of our natural wild heritage and deserve reasoned management for long-term conservation.¹⁹ If GFP is to continue allowing hunting of mountain lions, the agency must limit the practice to no more than 14% of the adult/subadult population so that it does not exceed sustainable levels and implement a female sublimit of 20% of total hunting mortality. Additionally, total human-caused mortality must be limited to no more than 16% of the mountain lion population. Lastly, hound hunting of mountain lions must be prohibited throughout South Dakota. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Story Warren
Program Manager, Wildlife Protection
The Humane Society of the United States
swarren@humanesociety.org



Appendix A

1. Mountain lion trophy hunting is unsustainable, cruel and harmful to family groups

Trophy hunting is the greatest source of mortality for mountain lions throughout their range in the United States.²⁰ The practice is harmful to more than just the wild cats who are killed. Conservation biologists have condemned this practice as unnecessary and wasteful. Batavia et al. (2018) write that compelling evidence shows that the animals hunted as trophies have sophisticated levels of “intelligence, emotion and sociality,” which is “profoundly disrupted” by trophy hunting.²¹ For these reasons, GFP must not allow trophy hunting of mountain lions in South Dakota.

- A. *Trophy hunting is unsustainable and cruel:* Large-bodied carnivores are sparsely populated across vast areas, invest in few offspring, provide extended parental care to their young, have a tendency towards infanticide, females limit reproduction and social stability promotes their resiliency.²² Human persecution affects their social structure,²³ and harms their persistence.²⁴

Conservation biologists have shown that trophy hunting results in *additive mortality*, meaning that trophy hunting and even other human-caused mortality increases the total mortality to levels that far exceed what would occur in nature.²⁵ In fact, the effect of human persecution is “super additive,” meaning that hunter kill rates on large carnivores has a multiplier effect on the ultimate increase in total mortality over what would occur in nature due to breeder loss, social disruption and its indirect effects including increased infanticide and decreased recruitment of their young.²⁶ When trophy hunters remove the stable adult mountain lions from a population, it encourages subadult males to immigrate, leading to greater aggression between cats and mortalities to adult females and subsequent infanticide.²⁷

Biologists Wolfe et al. (2015) recommend that states manage mountain lions at a metapopulation level rather than at the single population level—which is critical for South Dakota’s tiny mountain lion population that is reliant on dispersers from Wyoming. They further add, “We recommend a conservative management approach be adopted to preclude potential over-harvest in future years.”²⁸ Instead, South Dakota’s mountain lions experience *additive* levels of mortality.²⁹ Extensive research shows that this additive mortality caused by high levels of hunting results in population sinks.³⁰ High hunting mortality does not result in decreased numbers and densities of mountain lions because of compensatory emigration and immigration responses, typically by dispersing subadult males.³¹

- B. *Trophy hunting is particularly harmful to kittens and their mothers:* In heavily hunted populations, female mountain lions experience higher levels of intraspecific aggression (fights with other cats) resulting in predation on themselves and their kittens.³² Over-hunting harms a population’s ability to recruit new members if too many adult females are removed.³³ A Utah study shows that trophy hunting adult females orphans their kittens, leaving them to die of dehydration, malnutrition, and/or exposure.³⁴ Kittens are reliant upon their mothers beyond 12 months of age.³⁵
- C. *Trophy hunting harms entire mountain lion communities:* A recent study on mountain lions shows that mountain lions are quite social and live in “communities,” with females sharing kills with other females, their kittens and even with the territorial males. In return for these meals, the adult males



protect the females and their kittens from incoming males.³⁶ Disrupting these communities leads to deadly intraspecific strife, including infanticide and social chaos within the family groups.³⁷ Trophy hunting destabilizes mountain lion populations, which may cause increased conflicts with humans, pets and livestock.³⁸

- D. *Trophy hunting is unnecessary, as mountain lions are a self-regulating species.* Mountain lions occur at low densities relative to their primary prey, making them sensitive to bottom-up (prey declines) and top-down (human persecution) influences.³⁹ Their populations necessarily stay at a much smaller size relative to their prey's biomass or risk starvation.⁴⁰ They do this by regulating their own numbers.⁴¹ When prey populations decline, so do mountain lion populations.⁴² Mountain lion populations also require expansive habitat, with individual cats maintaining large home ranges that overlap with one another.⁴³
- E. *Killing large numbers of mountain lions halts their ability to create trophic cascades in their ecosystems, which benefits a wide range of flora, fauna and people:* Mountain lions serve important ecological roles, including providing a variety of ecosystem services.⁴⁴ As such, conserving these large cats on the landscape creates a socio-ecological benefit that far offsets any societal costs.⁴⁵ Their protection and conservation has ripple effects throughout their natural communities. Researchers have found that by modulating deer populations, mountain lions prevented overgrazing near fragile riparian systems, resulting in greater biodiversity.⁴⁶ Additionally, carrion left from mountain lion kills feeds scavengers, beetles, foxes, bears and other wildlife species, further enhancing biodiversity.⁴⁷
- F. *Hound hunting is harmful to mountain lions, hounds and non-target wildlife:* Using radio-collared trailing hounds to chase mountain lions and bay them into trees or rock ledges so a trophy hunter can shoot them at close range is unsporting, unethical and inhumane.⁴⁸ Hounds kill kittens, and mountain lions often injure or kill hounds.⁴⁹ The practice is exceedingly stressful and energetically taxing to mountain lions.⁵⁰

To escape from the hounds, mountain lions use evasive maneuvers such as running in figure eights, scrambling up trees or steep hillsides and using quick turns to evade the pursuing pack of barking hounds. As a result, mountain lions could exceed their aerobic budgets causing their muscles to go anaerobic—while hounds are capable of running a steady pace with little ill effect.⁵¹ For every one minute the hounds chased a mountain lion, it cost the cat approximately five times what would have been expended if the cat had been hunting. A 3.5-minute chase, according to Bryce et al. (2017), likely equaled 18 minutes of energy the mountain lion would have expended on hunting activities necessary to find prey.⁵²

Hounding is not considered “fair chase” hunting by most.⁵³ Fair chase hunting is predicated upon giving the animal an equal opportunity to escape from the hunter.⁵⁴ The use of hounds provides an unfair advantage to trophy hunters who rely on hounds to do the bulk of the work in finding and baying a mountain lion. GFP Wildlife Program Administrator Andrew Norton stated to the Commission in 2023, “As you can imagine, success is much higher with hounds. We see on average about twenty times as high success when hounds are used compared to boot hunting in South Dakota.”⁵⁵ In Custer State Park, hunters relying on hounds experience an astounding 63% success rate in killing mountain lions, compared to a success rate of 3.5% for boot hunters.⁵⁶ Hounds also chase



and stress non-target wildlife, from porcupines to deer,⁵⁷ cause adverse interactions with bystanders, and trespass onto private lands.⁵⁸

Grignolio et al. (2011) found that hounding was highly costly to non-target deer. Hounding changed deer behaviors, including deer inside a protected refuge.⁵⁹ While the hounds were chasing other species, they caused non-target deer, especially younger animals, to panic and huddle in an inferior habitat (in this case: a protected, high-elevation, snow-covered reserve during the wintertime hunting season when foraging was difficult). Hounds also significantly increased deer home range sizes—meaning deer had to expend extra energy to distance themselves from the hounds. Furthermore, Grignolio et al. (2011), citing several others, indicated that hounding highly disturbs deer, likely reducing individual fitness and reproductive success while harming deer populations on the whole. If GFP’s conservation goals include conserving deer populations, then unleashing packs of loose dogs in their habitat to spook, harass, and chase wildlife during a sensitive time of the year is quite counter to that goal.

2. Hunting mountain lions does not boost prey populations

Research shows that ungulates are ultimately limited more by their food resources and other habitat factors (“bottom-up” limitations) than by their predators (“top down” regulators).⁶⁰ However, when herds lose their predators, they suffer poorer health and body condition, as well as more degraded habitats.⁶¹ With a healthy assemblage of native carnivores, ecosystems enjoy the benefits from top-down regulation, which increases the health of ungulate herds with which they are integrally coevolved.⁶²

The best available science demonstrates that killing native carnivores to increase ungulate populations is unlikely to produce positive results. Numerous recent studies demonstrate that predator removal actions “generally had no effect” in the long term on ungulate populations.⁶³ Because ecological systems are complex, heavily persecuting mountain lions will fail to address the underlying malnutrition problems that deer face. Research also shows that disruption by oil and gas drilling does, in fact, greatly harm mule deer populations.⁶⁴ If South Dakota wants to grow its ungulate populations, then GFP must foster survival of adult female mule deer and elk to stem declines; and it must improve nutritional conditions for ungulates as these factors are the most important for mule deer survival.⁶⁵ It must also eliminate hound hunting of mountains lions as it is an unnatural stressor on deer.⁶⁶

Persecuting mountain lions will not help bighorn sheep recruitment, either. It is clear from the literature that bighorn sheep populations are in decline in the U.S. because of unregulated market hunting, trophy hunting, disease from domestic sheep,⁶⁷ resource competition by livestock, and loss of habitat.⁶⁸ Sawyer and Lindzey (2002) surveyed more than 60 peer-reviewed articles concerning predator-prey relationships involving bighorn sheep and mountain lions, concluding that while predator control is often politically expedient, it often does not address underlying environmental issues including habitat loss, loss of migration corridors, and inadequate nutrition.⁶⁹ The best available science suggests that persecuting mountain lion populations is not a solution for enhancing bighorn sheep numbers. That is because mountain lion predation upon bighorn sheep is a learned behavior conducted by a few individuals who may not repeat their behavior.⁷⁰ Similar behavior has been documented on endangered mountain caribou in the southern Selkirk Mountains, where trophy hunting disrupted sensitive mountain lion communities, female lions took to higher altitudes to avoid incoming, infanticidal young males, and preyed upon mountain caribou there.⁷¹



South Dakota can better plan for bighorn sheep management by selecting relocation sites for bighorn sheep that have little stalking cover.⁷² Escape terrain that contains cliffs, rocks, and foliage makes excellent ambush cover for a mountain lion and should be avoided.⁷³ The amount of mountain lion predation is also generally greater on small-sized bighorn sheep populations (those with fewer than 100 individuals) than on other larger bighorn sheep populations.⁷⁴ A host of authors reviewed by McKinney et al. (2006) and Ruth and Murphy (2010) recommend only limited mountain lion removals to benefit bighorn sheep populations.⁷⁵

3. Mountain lions provide significant ecosystem benefits to their prey and other wildlife, as well as economic benefits to South Dakotans

Mountain lions help prevent deadly deer-vehicle strikes⁷⁶ that can result in numerous human mortalities and pose significant financial and ecological costs to society.⁷⁷ In fact, by reducing vehicle collisions with deer, mountain lions saved drivers \$1.1 million in collision costs annually in South Dakota.⁷⁸ Additionally, highways fragment wildlife habitats, which can lead to both genetic inbreeding problems and direct mortality from vehicle collisions.⁷⁹ The cost of vehicle-animal collisions can be mitigated with the construction of highway structures that are designed to draw specific species such as deer across them, not only preventing vehicle strikes but protecting species and people while saving millions of dollars annually.⁸⁰

Moreover, mountain lions help maintain the health and viability of ungulate populations by preying on sick individuals, reducing the spread of disease such as chronic wasting disease (CWD) and brucellosis.⁸¹ For example, during a study in Rocky Mountain National Park, researchers found mountain lions preyed on deer infected with CWD.⁸² The study concluded that adult deer preyed upon by mountain lions were more likely to have CWD than deer shot by hunters. According to the study, “The subtle behaviour changes in prion-infected deer may be better signals of vulnerability than body condition, and these cues may occur well before body condition noticeably declines.”⁸³ This demonstrates that mountain lions select for infected prey and may be more effective at culling animals with CWD, including during the early stages of the disease when they are less infectious, than hunters who rely on more obvious signs of emaciation that occur in later stages of the disease, when they are more infectious. Moreover, the mountain lions consumed more than 85% of carcasses, thereby removing a significant amount of the disease from the environment.⁸⁴

This ecosystem benefit is increasingly important as CWD infection continues to grow in prevalence and distribution in South Dakota⁸⁵ and neighboring states. Hammering our state’s mountain lion population through extremely high and irresponsible levels of trophy hunting relative to the estimated population, and the setting of an arbitrarily low population objective for mountain lions, undermine one of our best defenses against the spread of this deadly disease.

4. Trophy hunting increases human-mountain lion conflict and livestock losses

Trophy hunting and predator control of mountain lions results in increased conflicts because lions’ social structure are destabilized.⁸⁶ A review of predator-removal studies found that the practice is “typically an ineffective and costly approach to conflicts between humans and predators” and, as a long-term strategy, will result in failure.⁸⁷ Instead, the authors concluded, non-lethal alternatives to predator removal, coupled with coexistence (husbandry techniques) may resolve conflicts.⁸⁸



A Washington state study shows that as mountain lion complaints increased, wildlife officials lengthened seasons and increased quotas to respond to what they believed was a growing lion population. However, the public's perception of an increasing population and greater number of livestock depredations was actually the result of a declining female and increasing male population.⁸⁹ Heavy hunting of mountain lions skewed the ratio of young males in the population by causing compensatory immigration and emigration, even though it resulted in no net change in the population.⁹⁰

Study authors found that the trophy hunting of mountain lions to reduce complaints and livestock losses had the opposite effect. Killing mountain lions disrupts their social structure and increases both complaints and livestock losses.⁹¹ Peebles et al. (2013) write:

... each additional cougar [i.e. mountain lion] on the landscape increased the odds of a complaint of livestock depredation by about 5%. However, contrary to expectations, each additional cougar killed on the landscape increased the odds by about 50%, or an order of magnitude higher. By far, hunting of cougars had the greatest effects, but not as expected. Very heavy hunting (100% removal of resident adults in 1 year) increased the odds of complaints and depredations in year 2 by 150% to 340%.⁹²

Similarly, a study published recently shows the very same result – lethal removal of mountain lions is associated with increased conflicts, especially on small hoofstock including sheep and goats.⁹³ Dellinger et al. (2021) state:

Removals can thus create a negative-feedback loop that leads to increasing conflict and lethal removal, which could begin to negatively impact the mountain lion population via reduced gene flow and population viability (Hiller et al. 2015, Vickers et al. 2015, Benson et al. 2019). Thus, maintaining an older age structure by reducing lethal removal of resident adults could mitigate depredations (Logan 2019).⁹⁴

Hunting disrupts mountain lions' sex-age structure and tilts a population to one that is composed of younger males, who are more likely to engage in livestock predation than animals in stable, older populations.⁹⁵ In 2019, the Humane Society of the United States published a report on livestock losses from mountain lions using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's data.⁹⁶ For South Dakota's cattle and sheep ranchers, 2015 data show that most livestock losses came from illnesses, birthing problems, weather and theft, with far fewer losses coming from native carnivores and domestic dogs combined.⁹⁷ In 2015, nearly 96% of unwanted cattle losses in South Dakota were from maladies with only 0.17% coming from mountain lions, according to the USDA.⁹⁸ And USDA data show that in 2014, zero sheep were lost to mountain lions in South Dakota.⁹⁹

Rather than allowing mountain lion trophy hunting, GFP must make a concerted effort to utilize non-lethal methods (described below) when rare conflicts occur, prioritizing these tools above lethal removal of mountain lions. The current reliance on lethal removal of mountain lions that enter a human community is cruel, unsustainable, and not in line with best management practices for mountain lion conservation.¹⁰⁰ A recent Utah study found that mountain lions selected for native prey even within urban-wildland interface habitat, with only 2% of 540 prey animals consisting of domestic animals.¹⁰¹ Techniques such as hazing and relocation are viable options that prevent unnecessary killing and are largely supported by the majority of South Dakotans, as detailed within the Plan.¹⁰² According to surveys of South Dakota residents in 2018, public



education, relocation and hazing are by far the most widely supported methods for addressing human, pet and livestock conflicts with mountain lions.¹⁰³

Furthermore, GFP must work with livestock owners to ensure they are adequately and appropriately employing nonlethal predator deterrence techniques. Installing predator-proof enclosures, using livestock guardian animals, or utilizing frightening devices are all effective strategies to prevent conflicts with mountain lions and other carnivores. Other livestock husbandry practices are also essential at reducing conflicts with carnivores. Livestock operators should:

- Practice sanitary livestock carcass removal to avoid scavenging and habituation.
- Keep livestock, especially in maternity pastures, away from areas where wild cats have access to ambush cover.¹⁰⁴
- Keep livestock, especially the most vulnerable—young animals, mothers during birthing seasons and hobby-farm animals—behind barriers such as electric fencing and/or in barns or pens, or kennels with a top.¹⁰⁵ The type of enclosure needs to be specific to the native carnivore to prevent climbing, digging or jumping.¹⁰⁶
- Move calves from pastures with chronic predation problems and replace them with older, less vulnerable animals.¹⁰⁷
- Concentrate calving season (i.e., via artificial insemination) to synchronize births with wild ungulate birth periods.¹⁰⁸
- In large landscapes, use human herders, range riders and/or guard animals.¹⁰⁹ Guard dogs work better when sheep and lambs are contained in a fenced enclosure rather than on open range lands where they can wander unrestrained.¹¹⁰
- Suspended human clothing, LED flashing lights (sold as “Foxlights”) and radio alarm boxes set off to make alarm sounds/noises near pastures are some of the low-cost sound and/or visual equipment that deters wild cats.¹¹¹
- Studded leather collars can be very effective at protecting cattle from big cats.¹¹²

According to USDA data from 2015, only an estimated 11.2% of cattle and calf operations in South Dakota used any nonlethal predator control methods.¹¹³ Expanding the use of suitable techniques that are landscape and animal specific is essential to reducing conflicts and preventing the death of livestock as well as wild carnivores. We urge GFP to focus resources on further educating the public on how to share the landscape with carnivores, rather than only attempting to maximize trophy hunting opportunity.

5. Trophy hunting of mountain lions is not economically sound or supported by the majority of Americans who want to see wildlife protected

Trophy hunting of mountain lions is not in the best interest of this iconic species, nor does it represent the interests of the public majority. The practice deprives citizens of their ability to see, view tracks of, or photograph wild mountain lions, and deprives them of the important ecosystem services mountain lions provide in our landscapes. Nonconsumptive users are a rapidly growing stakeholder group that provides



immense economic contributions to the communities in which they visit.¹¹⁴ The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s 2016 survey on wildlife recreation indicates that wildlife watchers nationwide have increased 20 percent from 2011, numbering 86 million and spending \$75.9 billion, while all hunters declined by 16 percent, with the biggest decline in big game hunter numbers, from 11.6 million in 2011 to 9.2 million in 2016.¹¹⁵ Altogether, hunters spent \$25.6 billion in 2016, about one-third that spent by wildlife watchers (Fig. 2).¹¹⁶

Figure 2: Wildlife recreation participation & expenditures, 2011 vs. 2016 data			
Numbers	2011	2016	Change
Wildlife watchers	71.8M	86.0M	+14.2M (+20%)
All hunters	13.7M	11.5M	-2.2M (-16%)
Big game	11.6M	9.2M	-2.4M (-20%)
Small game	4.5M	3.5M	-1M (-22%)
Migratory birds	2.6M	2.4M	-0.2M (-8%)
Other animals	2.2M	1.3M	-0.9M (-41%)
Expenditures	2011	2016	Change
Wildlife watchers	\$59.1B	\$75.9B	+\$16.8B (+28%)
All hunters	\$36.3B	\$25.6B	-\$10.7B (-29%)

The public values mountain lions and views them as an indicator of healthy environments while posing little risk to people living near them.¹¹⁷ A new study indicates that Americans highly value wildlife, including top carnivores such as mountain lions, and are concerned about their welfare and conservation.¹¹⁸ The landmark America’s Wildlife Values report found that the percentage of South Dakotans who fall into the traditionalist values system – those who view wildlife as a resource to be used for human benefit – decreased by four percent between 2004 and 2018, while the percent of mutualists – those who value living alongside wildlife - rose significantly, with an increase of 7.5% in the same time period.¹¹⁹ South Dakotans increasingly value their wildlife alive and thriving. Surveys also show that the majority of Americans do not support trophy hunting.¹²⁰ An additional study showed that most believe mountain lions are the best representative of the Southern Rockies heritage and landscape.¹²¹ A continued trophy hunting and hounding season is not in the best interest of South Dakotans who prefer that these large cats remain on the landscape, without threat of persecution.

Andelt, W. F. "Effectiveness of Livestock Guarding Dogs for Reducing Predation on Domestic Sheep." *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 20 (1992): 55-62.

Andelt, W. F., and S. N. Hopper. "Livestock Guard Dogs Reduce Predation on Domestic Sheep in Colorado." *Journal of Range Management* (2000): 259-67.

Andelt, William F. "Carnivores." In *Rangeland Wildlife*, edited by P. R. Krausman, 133-55. Denver: Society for Range Management, 1996.

Anderson, C. R., and F. G. Lindzey. "Experimental Evaluation of Population Trend and Harvest Composition in a Wyoming Cougar Population." *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 33, no. 1 (Spr 2005): 179-88.



- Arizona Game & Fish Department. "Hunt Arizona, 2017 Edition: Survey, Harvest and Hunt Data for Big and Small Game." 153-54, 2017.
- Ausband, D. E., C. R. Stansbury, J. L. Stenglein, J. L. Struthers, and L. P. Waits. "Recruitment in a Social Carnivore before and after Harvest." [In English]. *Animal Conservation* 18, no. 5 (Oct 2015): 415-23.
- Beausoleil, R. A., G. M. Koehler, B.T. Maletzke, B.N. Kertson, and R.G. Wielgus. "Research to Regulation: Cougar Social Behavior as a Guide for Management." *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 37, no. 3 (2013): 680-88.
- Beschta, R., and W. Ripple. "Large Predators and Trophic Cascades in Terrestrial Ecosystems of the Western United States." *Biological Conservation* 42, no. 11 (2009): 2401-14.
- Bonier, F., H. Quigley, and S. N. Austad. "A Technique for Non-Invasively Detecting Stress Response in Cougars." *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 32, no. 3 (2004): 711-17.
- Brandell, Ellen E., Paul C. Cross, Douglas W. Smith, Will Rogers, Nathan L. Galloway, Daniel R. MacNulty, Daniel R. Stahler, John Treanor, and Peter J. Hudson. "Examination of the Interaction between Age-Specific Predation and Chronic Disease in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem." *Journal of Animal Ecology* (2022).
- Bryce, C. M., C. C. Wilmers, and T. M. Williams. "Energetics and Evasion Dynamics of Large Predators and Prey: Pumas Vs. Hounds." *PeerJ* e3701 (2017).
- Cooley, H. S., R. B. Wielgus, G. M. Koehler, H. S. Robinson, and B. T. Maletzke. "Does Hunting Regulate Cougar Populations? A Test of the Compensatory Mortality Hypothesis." *Ecology* 90, no. 10 (Oct 2009): 2913-21.
- Cooley, H. S., R. B. Wielgus, G. Koehler, and B. Maletzke. "Source Populations in Carnivore Management: Cougar Demography and Emigration in a Lightly Hunted Population." *Animal Conservation* 12, no. 4 (Aug 2009): 321-28.
- Cougar Management Guidelines. *Cougar Management Guidelines*. Bainbridge Island, WA: WildFutures, 2005.
- Creel, S., M. Becker, D. Christianson, E. Droge, N. Hammerschlag, M. W. Hayward, U. Karanth, et al. "Questionable Policy for Large Carnivore Hunting." *Science* 350, no. 6267 (Dec 2015): 1473-75.
- Creel, Scott, and Jay Rotella. "Meta-Analysis of Relationships between Human Offtake, Total Mortality and Population Dynamics of Gray Wolves (*Canis Lupus*)." *PLoS ONE* 5, no. 9 (2010).
- Darimont, C. T., S. M. Carlson, M. T. Kinnison, P. C. Paquet, T. E. Reimchen, and C. C. Wilmers. "Human Predators Outpace Other Agents of Trait Change in the Wild." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 106, no. 3 (Jan 2009): 952-54.
- Darimont, Chris T., Caroline H. Fox, Heather M. Bryan, and Thomas E. Reimchen. "The Unique Ecology of Human Predators." *Science* 349, no. 6250 (2015): 858-60.
- Decision Research. "Southern Rockies Wildlife and Wilderness Survey Report." (2001).
- Dellinger, J. A., D. K. Macon, J. L. Rudd, D. L. Clifford, and S. G. Torres. "Temporal Trends and Drivers of Mountain Lion Depredation in California, USA ". *Human-Wildlife Interactions* 15, no. 1 (2021).
- Downs, J., M. Horner, R. Loraamm, J. Anderson, H. Kim, and D. Onorato. "Strategically Locating Wildlife Crossing Structures for Florida Panthers Using Maximal Covering Approaches." [In English]. *Transactions in Gis* 18, no. 1 (Feb 2014): 46-65.
- Eberhardt, L. L., P. J. White, R. A. Garrott, and D. B. Houston. "A Seventy-Year History of Trends in Yellowstone's Northern Elk Herd." *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71, no. 2 (Apr 2007): 594-602.
- Eklund, A., J. V. Lopez-Bao, M. Tourani, G. Chapron, and J. Frank. "Limited Evidence on the Effectiveness of Interventions to Reduce Livestock Predation by Large Carnivores." *Scientific Reports* 7 (May 2017).
- Elbroch, L. M., B. D. Jansen, M. M. Grigione, R. J. Sarno, and H. U. Wittmer. "Trailing Hounds Vs Foot Snares: Comparing Injuries to Pumas Puma Concolor Captured in Chilean Patagonia." *Wildlife Biology* 19, no. 2 (Jun 2013): 210-16.



- Elbroch, L. M., C. O'Malley, M. Peziol, and H. B. Quigley. "Vertebrate Diversity Benefiting from Carrion Provided by Pumas and Other Subordinate Apex Felids." *Biological Conservation* 215 (2017): 123-31.
- Elbroch, L. M., and H. Quigley. "Observations of Wild Cougar (Puma Concolor) Kittens with Live Prey: Implications for Learning and Survival." *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 126, no. 4 (Oct-Dec 2012): 333-35.
- Elbroch, L. Mark, Jennifer Feltner, and H. B. Quigley. "Stage-Dependent Puma Predation on Dangerous Prey." *Journal of Zoology* 302 (07/01 2017).
- Elbroch, L. Mark, Patrick E. Lendrum, Maximilian L. Allen, and Heiko U. Wittmer. "Nowhere to Hide: Pumas, Black Bears, and Competition Refuges." [In English]. *Behavioral Ecology* 26, no. 1 (2015): 247-54.
- Elbroch, L. Mark, Michael Levy, Mark Lubell, Howard Quigley, and Anthony Caragiulo. "Adaptive Social Strategies in a Solitary Carnivore." *Science Advances* 3, no. 10 (2017).
- Elbroch, L. Mark, and Howard Quigley. "Social Interactions in a Solitary Carnivore." *Current Zoology* 63, no. 4 (2017): 357-62.
- Elbroch, L. Mark, and Heiko U. Wittmer. "Table Scraps: Inter-Trophic Food Provisioning by Pumas." [In English]. *Biology letters* 8, no. 5 (2012 Oct 23 2012): 776-79.
- Elbroch, M. L., L. Robertson, K. Combs, and J. Fitzgerald. "Contrasting Bobcat Values." *Biodiversity and Conservation* (2017).
- Estes, J. A., J. Terborgh, J. S. Brashares, M. E. Power, J. Berger, W. J. Bond, S. R. Carpenter, et al. "Trophic Downgrading of Planet Earth." *Science* 333, no. 6040 (Jul 2011): 301-06.
- Forrester, T. D., and H. U. Wittmer. "A Review of the Population Dynamics of Mule Deer and Black-Tailed Deer *Odocoileus Hemionus* in North America." *Mammal Review* 43, no. 4 (Oct 2013): 292-308.
- George, Kelly A., Kristina M. Slagle, Robyn S. Wilson, Steven J. Moeller, and Jeremy T. Bruskotter. "Changes in Attitudes toward Animals in the United States from 1978 to 2014." *Biological Conservation* 201 (9// 2016): 237-42.
- Gilbert, Sophie L., Kelly J. Sivy, Casey B. Pozzanghera, Adam DuBour, Kelly Overduijn, Matthew M. Smith, Jiakie Zhou, Joseph M. Little, and Laura R. Prugh. "Socioeconomic Benefits of Large Carnivore Recolonization through Reduced Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions." *Conservation Letters* (2016): n/a-n/a.
- . "Socioeconomic Benefits of Large Carnivore Recolonization through Reduced Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions." *Conservation Letters* (2016).
- Grignolio, S., E. Merli, P. Bongi, S. Ciuti, and M. Apollonio. "Effects of Hunting with Hounds on a Non-Target Species Living on the Edge of a Protected Area." *Biological Conservation* 144, no. 1 (2011): 641-49.
- Hansen, K. *Cougar: The American Lion*. Flagstaff, AZ: Northland Publishing, 1992.
- Harlow, H. J., F. G. Lindzey, W. D. Van Sickle, and W. A. Gern. "Stress Response of Cougars to Nonlethal Pursuit by Hunters." *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 70, no. 1 (1992): 136-39.
- Hatton, I. A., K. S. McCann, J. M. Fryxell, T. J. Davies, M. Smerlak, A. R. E. Sinclair, and M. Loreau. "The Predator-Prey Power Law: Biomass Scaling across Terrestrial and Aquatic Biomes." *Science* 349, no. 6252 (2015): doi:<http://0-dx.doi.org/libraries.colorado.edu/10.1126/science.aac6284>.
- Hristienko, Hank, and Jr. McDonald, John E. "Going into the 21st Century: A Perspective on Trends and Controversies in the Management of the Black Bear ". *Ursus* 18, no. 1 (2007): 72-88.
- Jacobson, Cynthia, John F. Organ, Daniel Decker, Gordon R. Batcheller, and Len Carpenter. "A Conservation Institution for the 21st Century: Implications for State Wildlife Agencies." *Journal of Wildlife Management* 74, no. 2 (2010): 203-09.
- Johnson, Heather E., Jessica R. Sushinsky, Andrew Holland, Eric J. Bergman, Trevor Balzer, James Garner, and Sarah E. Reed. "Increases in Residential and Energy Development Are Associated with Reductions in Recruitment for a Large Ungulate." *Global Change Biology* (2016).



- Katnik, D. D. "Predation and Habitat Ecology of Mountain Lions (*Puma Concolor*) in the Southern Selkirk Mountains [Dissertation]." Washington State University, 2002.
- Kitchener, A. . *The Natural History of the Wild Cats*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1991.
- Krumm, C. E., M. M. Conner, N. T. Hobbs, D. O. Hunter, and M. W. Miller. "Mountain Lions Prey Selectively on Prion-Infected Mule Deer." *Biology Letters* 6, no. 2 (2009): 209-11.
- Lambert, C. M. S., R.B. Wielgus, H.S. Robinson, D.D. Katnik, H.S. Cruickshank, R. Clarke, and J. Almack. "Cougar Population Dynamics and Viability in the Pacific Northwest." *Journal of Wildlife Management* 70 (2006): 246-54.
- Lance, N. J., S. W. Breck, C. Sime, P. Callahan, and J. A. Shivik. "Biological, Technical, and Social Aspects of Applying Electrified Fladry for Livestock Protection from Wolves (*Canis Lupus*)." [In English]. *Wildlife Research* 37, no. 8 (2010): 708-14.
- Lennox, R. J., A. J. Gallagher, S. Cooke, and E. G. Ritchie. "Evaluating the Efficacy of Predator Removal in a Conflict-Prone World." *Biological Conservation* 224 (2018): 277-89.
- Lindzey, F. G., W. D. Vansickle, S. P. Laing, and C. S. Mecham. "Cougar Population Response to Manipulation in Southern Utah." *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 20, no. 2 (Sum 1992): 224-27.
- Logan, Kenneth A., and Linda L. Sweanor. *Desert Puma: Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation of an Enduring Carnivore*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2001.
- Lomax, Becky. "Tracking the Bighorns." *Smithsonian* 38, no. 12 (2008): 21-24.
- McCollister, M. F., and F. T. van Manen. "Effectiveness of Wildlife Underpasses and Fencing to Reduce Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions." *Journal of Wildlife Management* 74, no. 8 (Nov 2010): 1722-31.
- McKinney, Ted, James C. deVOS, Warren B. Ballard, and Sue R. Boe. "Mountain Lion Predation of Translocated Desert Bighorn Sheep in Arizona." *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 34, no. 5 (2006): 1255-63.
- McKinney, Ted, Thorry W. Smith, and James C. deVOS. "Evaluation of Factors Potentially Influencing a Desert Bighorn Sheep Population." *Wildlife Monographs* 164 (2006): 1-36.
- Miller, Sterling D., John W. Schoen, Jim Faro, and David R. Klein. "Trends in Intensive Management of Alaska's Grizzly Bears, 1980-2010." [In English]. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 75, no. 6 (Aug 2011): 1243-52.
- Monteith, K. L., V. C. Bleich, T. R. Stephenson, B. M. Pierce, M. M. Conner, J. G. Kie, and R. T. Bowyer. "Life-History Characteristics of Mule Deer: Effects of Nutrition in a Variable Environment." *Wildlife Monographs* 186, no. 1 (Jul 2014): 1-62.
- Monteith, K. L., R. A. Long, V. C. Bleich, J. R. Heffelfinger, P. R. Krausman, and R. T. Bowyer. "Effects of Harvest, Culture, and Climate on Trends in Size of Horn-Like Structures in Trophy Ungulates." *Wildlife Monographs* 183, no. 1 (Feb 2013): 1-28.
- Mori, E. "Porcupines in the Landscape of Fear: Effect of Hunting with Dogs on the Behaviour of a Non-Target Species." *Mammal Research* 62, no. 3 (2017): 251-58.
- Murphy, Kerry, and Toni Ruth. "Diet and Prey Selection of a Perfect Predator." Chap. 9 In *Cougar: Ecology and Conservation*, edited by Maurice Hornocker and Sharon Negri, 118-37. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2010.
- Nelson, Michael P., J.A. Vucetich, P.C. Paquet, and JK Bump. "An Inadequate Construct? North American Model: What's Missing, What's Needed." *The Wildlife Professional*, no. Summer 2011 (2011): 58-60.
- O'Malley, Connor, L. Mark Elbroch, Patrick E. Lendrum, and Howard Quigley. "Motion-Triggered Video Cameras Reveal Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Red Fox Foraging on Carrion Provided by Mountain Lions." [In eng]. *PeerJ* 6 (2018): e5324-e24.



- O'Bryan, Christopher J., Alexander R. Braczkowski, Hawthorne L. Beyer, Neil H. Carter, James E. M. Watson, and Eve McDonald-Madden. "The Contribution of Predators and Scavengers to Human Well-Being." *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 2, no. 2 (2018/02/01 2018): 229-36.
- Parks, M., and T. Messmer. "Participant Perceptions of Range Rider Programs Operating to Mitigate Wolf-Livestock Conflicts in the Western United States." *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 40, no. 3 (Sep 2016): 514-24.
- Peebles, Kaylie A., Robert B. Wielgus, Benjamin T. Maletzke, and Mark E. Swanson. "Effects of Remedial Sport Hunting on Cougar Complaints and Livestock Depredations." *Plos One* 8, no. 11 (Nov 19 2013).
- Polisar, J., I. Matix, D. Scognamillo, L. Farrell, M. E. Sunquist, and J. F. Eisenberg. "Jaguars, Pumas, Their Prey Base, and Cattle Ranching: Ecological Interpretations of a Management Problem." *Biol Conserv* 109 (2003).
- Posewitz, J. *Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting*. Helena, Montana: Falcon Press, 1994.
- Raynor, Jennifer L., Corbett A. Grainger, and Dominic P. Parker. "Wolves Make Roadways Safer, Generating Large Economic Returns to Predator Conservation." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118, no. 22 (2021): e2023251118.
- Remington Research Group. "Trophy Hunting: U.S. National Survey." (2015).
- Riley, S. P. D., L. E. K. Serieys, J. P. Pollinger, J. A. Sikich, L. Dalbeck, R. K. Wayne, and H. B. Ernest. "Individual Behaviors Dominate the Dynamics of an Urban Mountain Lion Population Isolated by Roads." [In English]. *Current Biology* 24, no. 17 (Sep 2014): 1989-94.
- Ripple, W.J., and R.L. Beschta. "Linking a Cougar Decline, Trophic Cascade, and Catastrophic Regime Shift in Zion National Park." *Biological Conservation* 133 (2006): 397-408.
- Robinson, H. S., and R. Desimone. "The Garnet Range Mountain Lion Study: Characteristics of a Hunted Population in West-Central Montana: Final Report." *Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks* (2011): 102pp.
- Robinson, H. S., R. Desimone, C. Hartway, J. A. Gude, M. J. Thompson, M. S. Mitchell, and M. Hebblewhite. "A Test of the Compensatory Mortality Hypothesis in Mountain Lions: A Management Experiment in West-Central Montana." *Journal of Wildlife Management* 78, no. 5 (Jul 2014): 791-807.
- Robinson, H. S., R. B. Wielgus, H. S. Cooley, and S. W. Cooley. "Sink Populations in Carnivore Management: Cougar Demography and Immigration in a Hunted Population." *Ecological Applications* 18, no. 4 (Jun 2008): 1028-37.
- Robinson, K. F., D. R. Diefenbach, A. K. Fuller, J. E. Hurst, and C. S. Rosenberry. "Can Managers Compensate for Coyote Predation of White-Tailed Deer?." *Journal of Wildlife Management* 78, no. 4 (May 2014): 571-79.
- Ruth, Toni, and Kerry Murphy. "Cougar-Prey Relationships." In *Cougar: Ecology and Conservation*, edited by Maurice Hornocker and Sharon Negri, 138-62. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2010.
- S. M. Murphy, D. T. Wilckens, B. C. Augustine, M. A. Peyton and G. C. Harper. "Improving Estimation of Puma (Puma Concolor) Population Density: Clustered Camera-Trapping, Telemetry Data, and Generalized Spatial Mark-Resight Models." *Scientific Reports* 9, no. 1 (2019): 4590.
- S. M. Murphy, R. A. Beausoleil, H. Stewart and J. J. Cox. "Review of Puma Density Estimates Reveals Sources of Bias and Variation, and the Need for Standardization." *Global Ecology and Conservation* 35 (2022).
- Sawyer, Hall, Nicole M. Korfanta, Ryan M. Nielson, Kevin L. Monteith, and Dale Strickland. "Mule Deer and Energy Development—Long-Term Trends of Habituation and Abundance." *Global Change Biology* (2017): n/a-n/a.
- Sawyer, Hall, and Frederick Lindzey. "Review of Predation on Bighorn Sheep (Ovis Canadensis)." *Prepared for Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board, Wyoming Domestic Sheep and Bighorn Sheep Interaction Working Group, Wyoming Game and Fish Department.* (2002).



- Shivik, J. A., A. Treves, and P. Callahan. "Nonlethal Techniques for Managing Predation: Primary and Secondary Repellents." [In English]. *Conservation Biology* 17, no. 6 (Dec 2003): 1531-37.
- South Dakota Game Fish and Parks. "South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan, 2019-2029, Draft." Pierre, South Dakota, 2019.
- Stone, S. A., S. W. Breck, J. Timberlake, P. M. Haswell, F. Najera, B. S. Bean, and D. J. Thornhill. "Adaptive Use of Nonlethal Strategies for Minimizing Wolf-Sheep Conflict in Idaho." *Journal of Mammalogy* 98, no. 1 (Feb 2017): 33-44.
- Stoner, D. C., M. L. Wolfe, C. Mecham, M. B. Mecham, S. L. Durham, and D. M. Choate. "Dispersal Behaviour of a Polygynous Carnivore: Do Cougars Puma Concolor Follow Source-Sink Predictions?". *Wildlife Biology* 19, no. 3 (Sep 2013): 289-301.
- Stoner, D., M. L. Wolfe, and D. Choate. "Cougar Exploitation Levels in Utah: Implications for Demographic Structure, Population Recovery, and Metapopulation Dynamics." *Journal of Wildlife Management* 70 (2006): 1588-600.
- Teel, T. L., R. S. Krannich, and R. H. Schmidt. "Utah Stakeholders' Attitudes toward Selected Cougar and Black Bear Management Practices." *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 30, no. 1 (Spr 2002): 2-15.
- Teichman, Kristine J., Bogdan Cristescu, and Chris T. Darimont. "Hunting as a Management Tool? Cougar-Human Conflict Is Positively Related to Trophy Hunting." *BMC Ecology* 16, no. 1 (2016): 44.
- The Economist/YouGov. "Moral Acceptability of Various Behaviors - Hunting Animals for Sport." edited by The Economist, 2018.
- The Humane Society of the United States. "Government Data Confirm That Cougars Have a Negligible Effect on U.S. Cattle & Sheep Industries." 2019.
- . "New Poll Reveals Majority of Americans Oppose Trophy Hunting Following Death of Cecil the Lion." news release, 2015, http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2015/10/poll-americans-oppose-trophy-hunting-100715.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/.
- . "State of the Mountain Lion: A Call to End Trophy Hunting of America's Lion." Washington, DC, 2017.
- Treves, A., and K. U. Karanth. "Human-Carnivore Conflict and Perspectives on Carnivore Management Worldwide." *Conservation Biology* 17, no. 6 (Dec 2003): 1491-99.
- . "Special Section: Human-Carnivore Conflict: Local Solutions with Global Applications." *Conservation Biology* 17, no. 6 (Dec 2003): 1489-90.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "Death Loss in U.S. Cattle and Calves Due to Predator and Nonpredator Causes, 2015." edited by National Animal Health Monitoring System. Fort Collins, CO, 2017.
- U.S. Department of Transportation. "Wildlife-Vehicle Reduction Study: Report to Congress." <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/08034/08034.pdf> (2008).
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation." edited by U.S. Department of the Interior, 2011.
- . "2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation." edited by U.S. Department of the Interior, 2016.
- . "2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation: National Overview." edited by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2017.
- Vucetich, J. A., D. W. Smith, and D. R. Stahler. "Influence of Harvest, Climate and Wolf Predation on Yellowstone Elk, 1961-2004." *Oikos* 111, no. 2 (Nov 2005): 259-70.
- Wallach, A. D., I. Izhaki, J. D. Toms, W. J. Ripple, and U. Shanas. "What Is an Apex Predator?". *Oikos* 124, no. 11 (Nov 2015): 1453-61.



- Warren, Luis S. *The Hunter's Game: Poachers and Conservationists in Twentieth-Century America*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997.
- Weaver, J. L., P. C. Paquet, and L. F. Ruggiero. "Resilience and Conservation of Large Carnivores in the Rocky Mountains." *Conservation Biology* 10, no. 4 (Aug 1996): 964-76.
- Wielgus, R. B., D. E. Morrison, H. S. Cooley, and B. Maletzke. "Effects of Male Trophy Hunting on Female Carnivore Population Growth and Persistence." [In English]. *Biological Conservation* 167 (Nov 2013): 69-75.
- Wolfe, M. L., D.N. Koons, D. C. Stoner, P. Terletzky, E.M Gese, D. M. Choate, and L.M. Aubry. "Is Anthropogenic Cougar Mortality Compensated by Changes in Natural Mortality in Utah? Insight from Long-Term Studies." *Biological Conservation* 182 (2015): 187-96.
- Wright, G. J., R. O. Peterson, D. W. Smith, and T. O. Lemke. "Selection of Northern Yellowstone Elk by Gray Wolves and Hunters." *Journal of Wildlife Management* 70, no. 4 (Aug 2006): 1070-78.
- Zarco-Gonzalez, M. M., and O. Monroy-Vilchis. "Effectiveness of Low-Cost Deterrents in Decreasing Livestock Predation by Felids: A Case in Central Mexico." *Animal Conservation* 17, no. 4 (Aug 2014): 371-78.
- Zinn, Harry C., Michael J. Manfredo, Jim Jones, and Linda Sikorowski. "Societal Preferences for Mountain Lion Management Along Colorado's Front Range. Colorado State University, Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Unit." *5th Mountain Lion Workshop Proceedings* (1996).

¹ Elbroch et al, "Perspective: Why might removing carnivores maintain or increase risks for domestic animals?" *Biological Conservation*, Volume 283 (2023); J. A. Dellinger et al., "Temporal Trends and Drivers of Mountain Lion Depredation in California, USA" *Human-Wildlife Interactions* 15, no. 1 (2021); Kaylie A. Peebles et al., "Effects of Remedial Sport Hunting on Cougar Complaints and Livestock Depredations," *Plos One* 8, no. 11 (2013); Kristine J. Teichman, Bogdan Cristescu, and Chris T. Darimont, "Hunting as a Management Tool? Cougar-Human Conflict Is Positively Related to Trophy Hunting," *BMC Ecology* 16, no. 1 (2016); H. S. Robinson and R. Desimone, "The Garnet Range Mountain Lion Study: Characteristics of a Hunted Population in West-Central Montana: Final Report," *Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks* (2011).

² Ellen E. Brandell et al., "Examination of the Interaction between Age-Specific Predation and Chronic Disease in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem," *Journal of Animal Ecology* (2022); C. E. Krumm et al., "Mountain Lions Prey Selectively on Prion-Infected Mule Deer," *Biology Letters* 6, no. 2 (2009).; Escobar LE, Pritzkow S, Winter SN, Grear DA, Kirchgessner MS, Dominguez-Villegas E, Machado G, Townsend Peterson A, Soto C. The ecology of chronic wasting disease in wildlife. *Biol Rev Camb Philos Soc*. 2020 Apr;95(2):393-408. doi: 10.1111/brv.12568. Epub 2019 Nov 21. PMID: 31750623; PMID: PMC7085120; Barrile, G. M., Cross, P. C., Stewart, C., Malmberg, J., Jakopak, R. P., Binfet, J., Monteith, K. L., Werner, B., Jennings-Gaines, J., & Merkle, J. A. (2024). Chronic wasting disease alters the movement behavior and habitat use of mule deer during clinical stages of infection. *Ecology and Evolution*, 14, e11418. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.11418>

³ National Shooting Sports Foundation and Responsive Management. "Americans' Attitudes toward Hunting, Fishing, Sport Shooting and Trapping 2019." <https://asafishing.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Americans-Attitudes-Survey-Report-2019.pdf> (2019).

⁴ *Mountain Lion Population Status Update 2023 Biennial Report*, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (July 2023). https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/mountain_lion_status_report_2023.pdf

⁵ R. A. Beausoleil S. M. Murphy, H. Stewart and J. J. Cox, "Review of Puma Density Estimates Reveals Sources of Bias and Variation, and the Need for Standardization," *Global Ecology and Conservation* 35 (2022); D. T. Wilckens S. M. Murphy, B. C. Augustine, M. A. Peyton and G. C. Harper, "Improving Estimation of Puma (Puma Concolor) Population Density: Clustered Camera-Trapping, Telemetry Data, and Generalized Spatial Mark-Resight Models," *Scientific Reports* 9, no. 1 (2019).

⁶ R. A. Beausoleil et al., "Research to Regulation: Cougar Social Behavior as a Guide for Management," *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 37, no. 3 (2013).

⁷ Colorado Parks & Wildlife, "Colorado West Slope Mountain Lion (Puma Concolor) Management Plan: Northwest and Southwest Regions," ed. Colorado Department of Natural Resources (2020).

⁸ Cougar Hunting Seasons 2024, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/adopted/2024/cougar-hunting-seasons>



⁹ GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL, Mountain Lion Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:61, Commission Meeting July 20, 2023 Chamberlain, South Dakota. https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/PRO_2023_Mountain_Lion_BHdogs.pdf

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ {Laundre, 2007 #1606}{Logan, 2015 #953}{Logan, 2021 #1603}C. R. Anderson and F. G. Lindzey, "Experimental Evaluation of Population Trend and Harvest Composition in a Wyoming Cougar Population," *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 33, no. 1 (2005).

¹² T. L. Teel, R. S. Krannich, and R. H. Schmidt, "Utah Stakeholders' Attitudes toward Selected Cougar and Black Bear Management Practices," *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 30, no. 1 (2002).

¹³ F. G. Lindzey et al., "Cougar Population Response to Manipulation in Southern Utah," *ibid.* 20, no. 2 (1992); Kenneth A. Logan and Linda L. Sweaner, *Desert Puma: Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation of an Enduring Carnivore* (Washington, DC: Island Press, 2001); L. M. Elbroch et al., "Trailing Hounds Vs Foot Snares: Comparing Injuries to Pumas Puma Concolor Captured in Chilean Patagonia," *Wildlife Biology* 19, no. 2 (2013).

¹⁴ H. J. Harlow et al., "Stress Response of Cougars to Nonlethal Pursuit by Hunters," *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 70, no. 1 (1992); C. M. Bryce, C. C. Wilmers, and T. M. Williams, "Energetics and Evasion Dynamics of Large Predators and Prey: Pumas Vs. Hounds," *PeerJ* e3701 (2017); F. Bonier, H. Quigley, and S. N. Austad, "A Technique for Non-Invasively Detecting Stress Response in Cougars," *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 32, no. 3 (2004).

¹⁵ J. Posewitz, *Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting* (Helena, Montana: Falcon Press, 1994); Teel, Krannich, and Schmidt, "Utah Stakeholders' Attitudes toward Selected Cougar and Black Bear Management Practices.," *Cougar Management Guidelines, Cougar Management Guidelines* (Bainbridge Island, WA: WildFutures, 2005).

¹⁶ S. Grignolio et al., "Effects of Hunting with Hounds on a Non-Target Species Living on the Edge of a Protected Area," *Biological Conservation* 144, no. 1 (2011); E. Mori, "Porcupines in the Landscape of Fear: Effect of Hunting with Dogs on the Behaviour of a Non-Target Species," *Mammal Research* 62, no. 3 (2017).

¹⁷ Hank Hristienko and Jr. McDonald, John E., "Going into the 21st Century: A Perspective on Trends and Controversies in the Management of the Black Bear " *Ursus* 18, no. 1 (2007).

¹⁸ Treves, Adrian, and Laura Menefee. "Adverse Effects of Hunting with Hounds on Participants and Bystanders." *bioRxiv* (2022).

¹⁹ Cynthia Jacobson et al., "A Conservation Institution for the 21st Century: Implications for State Wildlife Agencies," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 74, no. 2 (2010); Michael P. Nelson et al., "An Inadequate Construct? North American Model: What's Missing, What's Needed," *The Wildlife Professional*, no. Summer 2011 (2011).

²⁰ See e.g., The Humane Society of the United States, "State of the Mountain Lion: A Call to End Trophy Hunting of America's Lion," (Washington, DC 2017); *Cougar Management Guidelines, Cougar Management Guidelines*.

²¹ Batavia et al. (2018) write: "...nonhuman animals are not only physically, socially, and emotionally disrupted [by trophy hunters], but also debased by the act of trophy hunting. Commoditized, killed, and dismembered, these individuals are relegated to the sphere of mere things when they are turned into souvenirs, oddities, and collectibles. We argue this is morally indefensible. Nonhuman animals are not mere objects but living beings with interests of their own, to whom we owe at least some basic modicum of respect (Regan, 1983). To transform them into trophies of human conquest is a violation of duty and common decency; and to accept, affirm, and even institutionalize trophy hunting, as the international conservation community seems to have done, is to aid and abet an immoral practice." Authors then argue that trophy hunting cannot be "presumed [to be] integral to conservation success."

²² e.g., A. D. Wallach et al., "What Is an Apex Predator?," *Oikos* 124, no. 11 (2015); R. B. Wielgus et al., "Effects of Male Trophy Hunting on Female Carnivore Population Growth and Persistence," *Biological Conservation* 167 (2013); D. Stoner, M. , M.L. Wolfe, and D. Choate, "Cougar Exploitation Levels in Utah: Implications for Demographic Structure, Population Recovery, and Metapopulation Dynamics," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 70 (2006); S. Creel et al., "Questionable Policy for Large Carnivore Hunting," *Science* 350, no. 6267 (2015); J. L. Weaver, P. C. Paquet, and L. F. Ruggiero, "Resilience and Conservation of Large Carnivores in the Rocky Mountains," *Conservation Biology* 10, no. 4 (1996).

²³ Benson, John F., et al. "The ecology of human-caused mortality for a protected large carnivore." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 120.13 (2023): e2220030120; Stoner, Wolfe, and Choate, "Cougar Exploitation Levels in Utah: Implications for Demographic Structure, Population Recovery, and Metapopulation Dynamics.," Peebles et al., "Effects of Remedial Sport Hunting on Cougar Complaints and Livestock Depredations.," Wallach et al., "What Is an Apex Predator?," C. T. Darimont et al., "Human Predators Outpace Other Agents of Trait Change in the Wild," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 106, no. 3 (2009); Sterling D. Miller et al., "Trends in Intensive Management of Alaska's Grizzly Bears, 1980-2010," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 75, no. 6 (2011); L. Mark Elbroch et al., "Adaptive Social Strategies in a Solitary Carnivore," *Science Advances* 3, no. 10 (2017).

²⁴ Chris T. Darimont et al., "The Unique Ecology of Human Predators," *Science* 349, no. 6250 (2015).



- ²⁵ Benson, John F., et al. "The ecology of human-caused mortality for a protected large carnivore." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 120.13 (2023): e2220030120; J. A. Vucetich, D. W. Smith, and D. R. Stahler, "Influence of Harvest, Climate and Wolf Predation on Yellowstone Elk, 1961-2004," *Oikos* 111, no. 2 (2005); G. J. Wright et al., "Selection of Northern Yellowstone Elk by Gray Wolves and Hunters," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 70, no. 4 (2006); L. L. Eberhardt et al., "A Seventy-Year History of Trends in Yellowstone's Northern Elk Herd," *ibid.* 71, no. 2 (2007); Darimont et al., "The Unique Ecology of Human Predators."
- ²⁶ Scott Creel and Jay Rotella, "Meta-Analysis of Relationships between Human Offtake, Total Mortality and Population Dynamics of Gray Wolves (*Canis Lupus*)," *PLoS ONE* 5, no. 9 (2010); D. E. Ausband et al., "Recruitment in a Social Carnivore before and after Harvest," *Animal Conservation* 18, no. 5 (2015); Darimont et al., "The Unique Ecology of Human Predators."
- ²⁷ Robinson and Desimone, "The Garnet Range Mountain Lion Study: Characteristics of a Hunted Population in West-Central Montana: Final Report.;" H. S. Robinson et al., "A Test of the Compensatory Mortality Hypothesis in Mountain Lions: A Management Experiment in West-Central Montana," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 78, no. 5 (2014); H. S. Cooley et al., "Does Hunting Regulate Cougar Populations? A Test of the Compensatory Mortality Hypothesis," *Ecology* 90, no. 10 (2009); Wielgus et al., "Effects of Male Trophy Hunting on Female Carnivore Population Growth and Persistence.;" C. M. S. Lambert et al., "Cougar Population Dynamics and Viability in the Pacific Northwest," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 70 (2006); Teichman, Cristescu, and Darimont, "Hunting as a Management Tool? Cougar-Human Conflict Is Positively Related to Trophy Hunting."
- ²⁸ M. L. Wolfe et al., "Is Anthropogenic Cougar Mortality Compensated by Changes in Natural Mortality in Utah? Insight from Long-Term Studies," *Biological Conservation* 182 (2015), p. 195
- ²⁹ *Ibid.*; Robinson and Desimone, "The Garnet Range Mountain Lion Study: Characteristics of a Hunted Population in West-Central Montana: Final Report.;" Robinson et al., "A Test of the Compensatory Mortality Hypothesis in Mountain Lions: A Management Experiment in West-Central Montana.;" H. S. Robinson et al., "Sink Populations in Carnivore Management: Cougar Demography and Immigration in a Hunted Population," *Ecological Applications* 18, no. 4 (2008).
- ³⁰ Wolfe et al., "Is Anthropogenic Cougar Mortality Compensated by Changes in Natural Mortality in Utah? Insight from Long-Term Studies.;" Robinson et al., "Sink Populations in Carnivore Management: Cougar Demography and Immigration in a Hunted Population.;" H. S. Cooley et al., "Source Populations in Carnivore Management: Cougar Demography and Emigration in a Lightly Hunted Population," *Animal Conservation* 12, no. 4 (2009); Cooley et al., "Does Hunting Regulate Cougar Populations? A Test of the Compensatory Mortality Hypothesis."
- ³¹ Cooley et al., "Source Populations in Carnivore Management: Cougar Demography and Emigration in a Lightly Hunted Population.;" Robinson et al., "Sink Populations in Carnivore Management: Cougar Demography and Immigration in a Hunted Population."
- ³² D. C. Stoner et al., "Dispersal Behaviour of a Polygynous Carnivore: Do Cougars Puma Concolor Follow Source-Sink Predictions?," *Wildlife Biology* 19, no. 3 (2013); Wielgus et al., "Effects of Male Trophy Hunting on Female Carnivore Population Growth and Persistence.;" Stoner et al., "Dispersal Behaviour of a Polygynous Carnivore: Do Cougars Puma Concolor Follow Source-Sink Predictions?."
- ³³ Anderson and Lindzey, "Experimental Evaluation of Population Trend and Harvest Composition in a Wyoming Cougar Population."
- ³⁴ Stoner, Wolfe, and Choate, "Cougar Exploitation Levels in Utah: Implications for Demographic Structure, Population Recovery, and Metapopulation Dynamics."
- ³⁵ L. M. Elbroch and H. Quigley, "Observations of Wild Cougar (Puma Concolor) Kittens with Live Prey: Implications for Learning and Survival," *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 126, no. 4 (2012); Elbroch et al., "Adaptive Social Strategies in a Solitary Carnivore.;" L. Mark Elbroch, Jennifer Feltner, and H. B. Quigley, "Stage-Dependent Puma Predation on Dangerous Prey," *Journal of Zoology* 302 (2017).
- ³⁶ Elbroch et al., "Adaptive Social Strategies in a Solitary Carnivore."
- ³⁷ Robinson and Desimone, "The Garnet Range Mountain Lion Study: Characteristics of a Hunted Population in West-Central Montana: Final Report.;" Robinson et al., "A Test of the Compensatory Mortality Hypothesis in Mountain Lions: A Management Experiment in West-Central Montana.;" Cooley et al., "Does Hunting Regulate Cougar Populations? A Test of the Compensatory Mortality Hypothesis.;" Wielgus et al., "Effects of Male Trophy Hunting on Female Carnivore Population Growth and Persistence.;" Lambert et al., "Cougar Population Dynamics and Viability in the Pacific Northwest.;" Creel et al., "Questionable Policy for Large Carnivore Hunting.;" Ausband et al., "Recruitment in a Social Carnivore before and after Harvest.;" Darimont et al., "The Unique Ecology of Human Predators."
- ³⁸ Elbroch et al., "Perspective: Why might removing carnivores maintain or increase risks for domestic animals?" *Biological Conservation*, Volume 283 (2023); Peebles et al., "Effects of Remedial Sport Hunting on Cougar Complaints and Livestock Depredations.;" Teichman, Cristescu, and Darimont, "Hunting as a Management Tool? Cougar-Human Conflict Is Positively Related to Trophy Hunting."
- ³⁹ Stoner, Wolfe, and Choate, "Cougar Exploitation Levels in Utah: Implications for Demographic Structure, Population Recovery, and Metapopulation Dynamics."



-
- ⁴⁰ I. A. Hatton et al., "The Predator-Prey Power Law: Biomass Scaling across Terrestrial and Aquatic Biomes," *Science* 349, no. 6252 (2015).
- ⁴¹ Wallach et al., "What Is an Apex Predator?."
- ⁴² Stoner, Wolfe, and Choate, "Cougar Exploitation Levels in Utah: Implications for Demographic Structure, Population Recovery, and Metapopulation Dynamics."
- ⁴³ K. Hansen, *Cougar: The American Lion* (Flagstaff, AZ: Northland Publishing, 1992); A. Kitchener, *The Natural History of the Wild Cats* (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1991).
- ⁴⁴ e.g., Weaver, Paquet, and Ruggiero, "Resilience and Conservation of Large Carnivores in the Rocky Mountains.," W.J. Ripple and R.L. Beschta, "Linking a Cougar Decline, Trophic Cascade, and Catastrophic Regime Shift in Zion National Park," *Biological Conservation* 133 (2006); J. A. Estes et al., "Trophic Downgrading of Planet Earth," *Science* 333, no. 6040 (2011); L. Mark Elbroch and Heiko U. Wittmer, "Table Scraps: Inter-Trophic Food Provisioning by Pumas," *Biology Letters* 8, no. 5 (2012); L. Mark Elbroch et al., "Nowhere to Hide: Pumas, Black Bears, and Competition Refuges," *Behavioral Ecology* 26, no. 1 (2015); L. M. Elbroch et al., "Vertebrate Diversity Benefiting from Carrion Provided by Pumas and Other Subordinate Apex Felids," *Biological Conservation* 215 (2017); Christopher J. O'Bryan et al., "The Contribution of Predators and Scavengers to Human Well-Being," *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 2, no. 2 (2018).
- ⁴⁵ Sophie L. Gilbert et al., "Socioeconomic Benefits of Large Carnivore Recolonization through Reduced Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions," *Conservation Letters* (2016); O'Bryan et al., "The Contribution of Predators and Scavengers to Human Well-Being."
- ⁴⁶ Ripple and Beschta, "Linking a Cougar Decline, Trophic Cascade, and Catastrophic Regime Shift in Zion National Park.," Elbroch and Wittmer, "Table Scraps: Inter-Trophic Food Provisioning by Pumas."
- ⁴⁷ Elbroch et al., "Vertebrate Diversity Benefiting from Carrion Provided by Pumas and Other Subordinate Apex Felids." Connor O'Malley et al., "Motion-Triggered Video Cameras Reveal Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Red Fox Foraging on Carrion Provided by Mountain Lions," *PeerJ* 6 (2018); Elbroch and Wittmer, "Table Scraps: Inter-Trophic Food Provisioning by Pumas." Peziol, M., Elbroch, L.M., Shipley, L.A. et al. Large carnivore foraging contributes to heterogeneity in nutrient cycling. *Landsc Ecol* 38, 1497–1509 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10980-023-01630-0>
- [Download citation](#)
- ⁴⁸ Teel, Krannich, and Schmidt, "Utah Stakeholders' Attitudes toward Selected Cougar and Black Bear Management Practices."
- ⁴⁹ Lindzey et al., "Cougar Population Response to Manipulation in Southern Utah.," Logan and Sweanor, *Desert Puma: Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation of an Enduring Carnivore*; Elbroch et al., "Trailing Hounds Vs Foot Snares: Comparing Injuries to Pumas Puma Concolor Captured in Chilean Patagonia."
- ⁵⁰ Harlow et al., "Stress Response of Cougars to Nonlethal Pursuit by Hunters.," Bryce, Wilmers, and Williams, "Energetics and Evasion Dynamics of Large Predators and Prey: Pumas Vs. Hounds.," Bonier, Quigley, and Austad, "A Technique for Non-Invasively Detecting Stress Response in Cougars."
- ⁵¹ Bryce, Wilmers, and Williams, "Energetics and Evasion Dynamics of Large Predators and Prey: Pumas Vs. Hounds."
- ⁵² Ibid.
- ⁵³ Posewitz, *Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting*; Teel, Krannich, and Schmidt, "Utah Stakeholders' Attitudes toward Selected Cougar and Black Bear Management Practices.," Cougar Management Guidelines, *Cougar Management Guidelines*.
- ⁵⁴ Posewitz, *Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting*.
- ⁵⁵ "GFP commission denies expanding mountain lion hunting for hound hunters," SDPB Radio, September 8, 2023 <https://www.sdpb.org/sports-rec/2023-09-08/gfp-commission-denies-expanding-mountain-lion-hunting-for-hound-hunters>
- ⁵⁶ GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL, Mountain Lion Hunting Season Chapter 41:06:61, Commission Meeting July 20, 2023 Chamberlain, South Dakota. https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/PRO_2023_Mountain_Lion_BHdogs.pdf
- ⁵⁷ Grignolio et al., "Effects of Hunting with Hounds on a Non-Target Species Living on the Edge of a Protected Area.," Mori, "Porcupines in the Landscape of Fear: Effect of Hunting with Dogs on the Behaviour of a Non-Target Species."
- ⁵⁸ Treves, Adrian, and Laura Menefee. "Adverse Effects of Hunting with Hounds on Participants and Bystanders." bioRxiv (2022); Hristienko and McDonald, "Going into the 21st Century: A Perspective on Trends and Controversies in the Management of the Black Bear ".
- ⁵⁹ Stefano Grignolio et al., "Effects of Hunting with Hounds on a Non-Target Species Living on the Edge of a Protected Area," *Biological Conservation* 144, no. 1 (2011), <http://dx.doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2010.10.022>.
- ⁶⁰ R. J. Lennox et al., "Evaluating the Efficacy of Predator Removal in a Conflict-Prone World," *Biological Conservation* 224 (2018).
- ⁶¹ R. Beschta and W. Ripple, "Large Predators and Trophic Cascades in Terrestrial Ecosystems of the Western United States," *ibid.* 42, no. 11 (2009); T. D. Forrester and H. U. Wittmer, "A Review of the Population Dynamics of Mule Deer and Black-Tailed Deer *Odocoileus Hemionus* in North America," *Mammal Review* 43, no. 4 (2013).
- ⁶² Beschta and Ripple, "Large Predators and Trophic Cascades in Terrestrial Ecosystems of the Western United States."



- ⁶³ Trump, T., K. Knopff, A. Morehouse, and M. Boyce. "Sustainable Elk Harvests in Alberta with Increasing Predator Populations." *PLoS ONE* 17, no. 10 (2022). <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0269407>; Clark, T. J., and Mark Hebblewhite. "Predator Control May Not Increase Ungulate Populations in the Future: A Formal Meta-Analysis." *Journal of Applied Ecology* 58, no. 4 (2021): 812-24. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.13810>; Forrester and Wittmer, "A Review of the Population Dynamics of Mule Deer and Black-Tailed Deer *Odocoileus Hemionus* in North America.", p. 300, Lennox et al., "Evaluating the Efficacy of Predator Removal in a Conflict-Prone World."
- ⁶⁴ Hall Sawyer et al., "Mule Deer and Energy Development—Long-Term Trends of Habituation and Abundance," *Global Change Biology* (2017). Heather E. Johnson et al., "Increases in Residential and Energy Development Are Associated with Reductions in Recruitment for a Large Ungulate," *ibid.* (2016).
- ⁶⁵ e.g. K. L. Monteith et al., "Life-History Characteristics of Mule Deer: Effects of Nutrition in a Variable Environment," *Wildlife Monographs* 186, no. 1 (2014); Forrester and Wittmer, "A Review of the Population Dynamics of Mule Deer and Black-Tailed Deer *Odocoileus Hemionus* in North America.," K. F. Robinson et al., "Can Managers Compensate for Coyote Predation of White-Tailed Deer?," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 78, no. 4 (2014).
- ⁶⁶ Stefano Grignolio et al., "Effects of Hunting with Hounds on a Non-Target Species Living on the Edge of a Protected Area," *Biological Conservation* 144, no. 1 (2011), <http://dx.doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2010.10.022>.
- ⁶⁷ "Severe pneumonia outbreak kills bighorn sheep: Lamb survival to be closely monitored for several years" <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/may10/100501c.asp>
- ⁶⁸ Kerry Murphy and Toni Ruth, "Diet and Prey Selection of a Perfect Predator," in *Cougar: Ecology and Conservation*, ed. Maurice Hornocker and Sharon Negri (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2010); Logan and Sweanor, *Desert Puma: Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation of an Enduring Carnivore*; K. L. Monteith et al., "Effects of Harvest, Culture, and Climate on Trends in Size of Horn-Like Structures in Trophy Ungulates," *Wildlife Monographs* 183, no. 1 (2013); Becky Lomax, "Tracking the Bighorns," *Smithsonian* 38, no. 12 (2008); Luis S. Warren, *The Hunter's Game: Poachers and Conservationists in Twentieth-Century America* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997).
- ⁶⁹ Hall Sawyer and Frederick Lindzey, "Review of Predation on Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis Canadensis*)," *Prepared for Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board, Wyoming Domestic Sheep and Bighorn Sheep Interaction Working Group, Wyoming Game and Fish Department.* (2002).
- ⁷⁰ Logan and Sweanor, *Desert Puma: Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation of an Enduring Carnivore*; Ted McKinney, Thorry W. Smith, and James C. deVOS, "Evaluation of Factors Potentially Influencing a Desert Bighorn Sheep Population," *Wildlife Monographs* 164 (2006); Toni Ruth and Kerry Murphy, "Cougar-Prey Relationships," in *Cougar: Ecology and Conservation*, ed. Maurice Hornocker and Sharon Negri (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2010).
- ⁷¹ D. D. Katnik, "Predation and Habitat Ecology of Mountain Lions (*Puma Concolor*) in the Southern Selkirk Mountains [Dissertation]" (Washington State University, 2002).
- ⁷² Murphy and Ruth, "Diet and Prey Selection of a Perfect Predator.," McKinney, Smith, and deVOS, "Evaluation of Factors Potentially Influencing a Desert Bighorn Sheep Population.," Sawyer et al., "Mule Deer and Energy Development—Long-Term Trends of Habituation and Abundance."
- ⁷³ Ted McKinney et al., "Mountain Lion Predation of Translocated Desert Bighorn Sheep in Arizona," *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 34, no. 5 (2006).
- ⁷⁴ Sawyer and Lindzey, "Review of Predation on Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis Canadensis*).," McKinney, Smith, and deVOS, "Evaluation of Factors Potentially Influencing a Desert Bighorn Sheep Population.," Ruth and Murphy, "Cougar-Prey Relationships."
- ⁷⁵ "Cougar-Prey Relationships.," McKinney, Smith, and deVOS, "Evaluation of Factors Potentially Influencing a Desert Bighorn Sheep Population.," McKinney et al., "Mountain Lion Predation of Translocated Desert Bighorn Sheep in Arizona."
- ⁷⁶ Jennifer L. Raynor, Corbett A. Grainger, and Dominic P. Parker, "Wolves Make Roadways Safer, Generating Large Economic Returns to Predator Conservation," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118, no. 22 (2021); Sophie L. Gilbert et al., "Socioeconomic Benefits of Large Carnivore Recolonization through Reduced Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions," *Conservation Letters* (2016).
- ⁷⁷ U.S. Department of Transportation, "Wildlife-Vehicle Reduction Study: Report to Congress," <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/08034/08034.pdf> (2008); M. F. McCollister and F. T. van Manen, "Effectiveness of Wildlife Underpasses and Fencing to Reduce Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 74, no. 8 (2010).
- ⁷⁸ Gilbert et al., "Socioeconomic Benefits of Large Carnivore Recolonization through Reduced Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions."
- ⁷⁹ J. Downs et al., "Strategically Locating Wildlife Crossing Structures for Florida Panthers Using Maximal Covering Approaches," *Transactions in Gis* 18, no. 1 (2014); S. P. D. Riley et al., "Individual Behaviors Dominate the Dynamics of an Urban Mountain Lion Population Isolated by Roads," *Current Biology* 24, no. 17 (2014).



- ⁸⁰ U.S. Department of Transportation, "Wildlife-Vehicle Reduction Study: Report to Congress."
- ⁸¹ Ellen E. Brandell et al., "Examination of the interaction between age-specific predation and chronic disease in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem," *Journal of Animal Ecology* (2022); Escobar LE, Pritzkow S, Winter SN, Grear DA, Kirchgessner MS, Dominguez-Villegas E, Machado G, Townsend Peterson A, Soto C. The ecology of chronic wasting disease in wildlife. *Biol Rev Camb Philos Soc.* 2020 Apr;95(2):393-408. doi: 10.1111/brv.12568. Epub 2019 Nov 21. PMID: 31750623; PMCID: PMC7085120; Barrile, G. M., Cross, P. C., Stewart, C., Malmberg, J., Jakopak, R. P., Binfet, J., Monteith, K. L., Werner, B., Jennings-Gaines, J., & Merkle, J. A. (2024). Chronic wasting disease alters the movement behavior and habitat use of mule deer during clinical stages of infection. *Ecology and Evolution*, 14, e11418. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.11418>
- ⁸² Krumm et al., "Mountain Lions Prey Selectively on Prion-Infected Mule Deer."
- ⁸³ Ibid., p. 210
- ⁸⁴ Krumm et al.
- ⁸⁵ Nebraska Game and Parks. 2017. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Retrieved from <http://outdoornebraska.gov/cwd/>.
- ⁸⁶ Elbroch et al, "Perspective: Why might removing carnivores maintain or increase risks for domestic animals?" *Biological Conservation*, Volume 283 (2023); Peebles et al., "Effects of Remedial Sport Hunting on Cougar Complaints and Livestock Depredations."; Teichman, Cristescu, and Darimont, "Hunting as a Management Tool? Cougar-Human Conflict Is Positively Related to Trophy Hunting."; L. Mark Elbroch and Howard Quigley, "Social Interactions in a Solitary Carnivore," *Current Zoology* 63, no. 4 (2017); Dellinger et al., "Temporal Trends and Drivers of Mountain Lion Depredation in California, USA".
- ⁸⁷ Lennox et al., "Evaluating the Efficacy of Predator Removal in a Conflict-Prone World."
- ⁸⁸ Lennox et al.
- ⁸⁹ Peebles et al., "Effects of Remedial Sport Hunting on Cougar Complaints and Livestock Depredations.", citing Lambert et al. 2006 and Robinson et al. 2008
- ⁹⁰ Teichman, Cristescu, and Darimont, "Hunting as a Management Tool? Cougar-Human Conflict Is Positively Related to Trophy Hunting."
- ⁹¹ Peebles et al., "Effects of Remedial Sport Hunting on Cougar Complaints and Livestock Depredations."
- ⁹² Peebles et al., p.6
- ⁹³ Dellinger et al.
- ⁹⁴ Dellinger et al.
- ⁹⁵ Peebles et al.
- ⁹⁶ The Humane Society of the United States, "Government Data Confirm That Cougars Have a Negligible Effect on U.S. Cattle & Sheep Industries," (2019).
- ⁹⁷ Ibid.
- ⁹⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰⁰ Stoner, D.C., M.A. Ditmer, D.L. Mitchell, J.K. Young, and M.L. Wolfe. 2021. Conflict, coexistence, or both? Cougar habitat selection, prey composition, and mortality in a multiple-use landscape. *California Fish and Wildlife* 107(3):147-172, doi: 10.51492/cfwj.hwisi.2
- ¹⁰¹ Stoner, D.C., M.A. Ditmer, D.L. Mitchell, J.K. Young, and M.L. Wolfe. 2021. Conflict, coexistence, or both? Cougar habitat selection, prey composition, and mortality in a multiple-use landscape. *California Fish and Wildlife* 107(3):147-172, doi: 10.51492/cfwj.hwisi.2
- ¹⁰² South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, "South Dakota Mountain Lion Management Plan, 2019-2029, Draft," (Pierre, South Dakota 2019).
- ¹⁰³ Ibid.
- ¹⁰⁴ J. Polisar et al., "Jaguars, Pumas, Their Prey Base, and Cattle Ranching: Ecological Interpretations of a Management Problem," *Biol Conserv* 109 (2003); J. A. Shivik, A. Treves, and P. Callahan, "Nonlethal Techniques for Managing Predation: Primary and Secondary Repellents," *Conservation Biology* 17, no. 6 (2003); A. Treves and K. U. Karanth, "Special Section: Human-Carnivore Conflict: Local Solutions with Global Applications," *ibid.*; "Human-Carnivore Conflict and Perspectives on Carnivore Management Worldwide," *Conservation Biology* 17, no. 6 (2003).
- ¹⁰⁵ S. A. Stone et al., "Adaptive Use of Nonlethal Strategies for Minimizing Wolf-Sheep Conflict in Idaho," *Journal of Mammalogy* 98, no. 1 (2017); Treves and Karanth, "Human-Carnivore Conflict and Perspectives on Carnivore Management Worldwide."; William F. Andelt, "Carnivores," in *Rangeland Wildlife*, ed. P. R. Krausman (Denver: Society for Range Management, 1996).
- ¹⁰⁶ A. Eklund et al., "Limited Evidence on the Effectiveness of Interventions to Reduce Livestock Predation by Large Carnivores," *Scientific Reports* 7 (2017).
- ¹⁰⁷ Polisar, J., I. Matix, D. Scognamillo, L. Farrell, M. E. Sunquist, and J. F. Eisenberg. 2003. Jaguars, pumas, their prey base, and cattle ranching: ecological interpretations of a management problem. *Biol Conserv* 109



¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Treves and Karanth, "Special Section: Human-Carnivore Conflict: Local Solutions with Global Applications.;" "Human-Carnivore Conflict and Perspectives on Carnivore Management Worldwide." Eklund et al., "Limited Evidence on the Effectiveness of Interventions to Reduce Livestock Predation by Large Carnivores." Stone et al., "Adaptive Use of Nonlethal Strategies for Minimizing Wolf-Sheep Conflict in Idaho." M. Parks and T. Messmer, "Participant Perceptions of Range Rider Programs Operating to Mitigate Wolf-Livestock Conflicts in the Western United States," *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 40, no. 3 (2016); W. F. Andelt, "Effectiveness of Livestock Guarding Dogs for Reducing Predation on Domestic Sheep," *ibid.* 20 (1992); W. F. Andelt and S. N. Hopper, "Livestock Guard Dogs Reduce Predation on Domestic Sheep in Colorado," *Journal of Range Management* (2000).

¹¹⁰ Eklund et al., "Limited Evidence on the Effectiveness of Interventions to Reduce Livestock Predation by Large Carnivores."

¹¹¹ M. M. Zarco-Gonzalez and O. Monroy-Vilchis, "Effectiveness of Low-Cost Deterrents in Decreasing Livestock Predation by Felids: A Case in Central Mexico," *Animal Conservation* 17, no. 4 (2014). Stone et al., "Adaptive Use of Nonlethal Strategies for Minimizing Wolf-Sheep Conflict in Idaho." N. J. Lance et al., "Biological, Technical, and Social Aspects of Applying Electrified Fladry for Livestock Protection from Wolves (*Canis Lupus*)," *Wildlife Research* 37, no. 8 (2010); Shivik, Treves, and Callahan, "Nonlethal Techniques for Managing Predation: Primary and Secondary Repellents."

¹¹² Khorozyan I, Ghoddousi S, Soufi M, Soofi M, Waltert M. Studded leather collars are very effective in protecting cattle from leopard (*Panthera pardus*) attacks. *Ecol Solut Evidence*. 2020;00:e12013. <https://doi.org/10.1002/eso3.12013>

¹¹³ U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, "Death Loss in U.S. Cattle and Calves Due to Predator and Nonpredator Causes, 2015," ed. National Animal Health Monitoring System (Fort Collins, CO2017).

¹¹⁴ M. L. Elbroch et al., "Contrasting Bobcat Values," *Biodiversity and Conservation* (2017); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation: National Overview," ed. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2017).

¹¹⁵ "2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation," ed. U.S. Department of the Interior (2016); "2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation," ed. U.S. Department of the Interior (2011).

¹¹⁶ Ibid

¹¹⁷ Harry C. Zinn et al., "Societal Preferences for Mountain Lion Management Along Colorado's Front Range. Colorado State University, Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Unit," *5th Mountain Lion Workshop Proceedings* (1996).

¹¹⁸ Kelly A. George et al., "Changes in Attitudes toward Animals in the United States from 1978 to 2014," *Biological Conservation* 201 (2016).

¹¹⁹ J. A. Dellinger et al., "Temporal Trends and Drivers of Mountain Lion Depredation in California, USA " *Human-Wildlife Interactions* 15, no. 1 (2021)

¹²⁰ Remington Research Group, "Trophy Hunting: U.S. National Survey," (2015); The Humane Society of the United States, "State of the Mountain Lion: A Call to End Trophy Hunting of America's Lion.;" "New Poll Reveals Majority of Americans Oppose Trophy Hunting Following Death of Cecil the Lion," news release, 2015, http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2015/10/poll-americans-oppose-trophy-hunting-100715.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/; The Economist/YouGov, "Moral Acceptability of Various Behaviors - Hunting Animals for Sport," ed. The Economist (2018).

¹²¹ Decision Research, "Southern Rockies Wildlife and Wilderness Survey Report," (2001).

I'm writing with feedback on the 2024-2028 South Dakota Mountain Lion Plan, as a life-long resident of South Dakota:

- 1) **Remove “maximum” from “Manage mountain lion populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities.”** Providing recreational hunting opportunities must be balanced with ecology and keeping a sustainable mountain lion population. Care should be taken that hunting does not impede the public's enjoyment of public lands. Wildlife watchers exceed hunters in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service studies that count wildlife associated recreators nationwide at-home and away from home. A hunted lion or its tracks are not available for watching. The locally generated statistics the SDGFP uses for number of wildlife watchers vs. hunters in SD does not count wildlife watchers at home, while it counts hunters at home - thus it is unfairly biased and inadequate.
- 2) **Remove “Modify and adopt hunting season structure as needed to minimize regulation complexity.** Simplifying regulations should not take priority over letting the public have a voice in regulations that affect public lands and animals.

In addition to the above two items from the draft plan, **I object to hound hunting on any lands in South Dakota:**

- 1) Hound hunting is inhumane – it not only results in the injury and death of the wild animal, but sometimes the dogs themselves. Animals are run to exhaustion and can be mauled if unable to climb a tree in time. Hound hunting of raccoons is animal cruelty, and hound hunting by groups of hunters in competitions creates cumulative cruelty.
- 2) Packs of dogs chasing wild animals are also a public safety and private property issue - dogs can run miles away from their handlers and are not under their control.

Please don't let the agenda of a special interest group dictate the policy of our wildlife. South Dakota wildlife and public lands belong to all South Dakotans to enjoy, not just a select few.

Sara Parker
Sioux Falls, SD

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society (PHAS)
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
phas.wsd@rapidnet.com
nhilshat@rapidnet.com,
605-787-6466
August 16th, 2024

SD Game, Fish and Parks
523 E. Capitol Ave.,
Pierre, S.D. 57501,
<https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>

Comments on SDGFP's Mountain Lion Action Plan – Draft July 2024.

The Department had a mt lion stakeholder meeting on Mt Lion Plan Amendments – May 28th, 2024 and invited attendees, who included PHAS. The invitees were skewed towards hunters -- invited were 8 hunter groups, 2 environmentalists, 1 landowner, 1 Rosebud Sioux Tribe Wildlife Biologist & 1 BHNH biologist. This is an unfair concentration of one type of interest group.

Page 6-page 9, Summary of surveys

Hunters are a subgroup of the general public. Why do you just limit interest groups surveyed to hunters? Why not also survey tourists, wildlife watchers, hikers, nature observers, nature photographers, OHVers, homeowners, & livestock owners? Tourism is a very important economic engine in South Dakota.

You write at page 10:

“The Black Hills population objective is 200-300 total mountain lions”

We thank you for keeping the population objectives in the Black Hills Fire Protection District at 200-300.

You write at page 10:

“Population objectives for mountain lions on the prairie habitats of South Dakota have not been established. Survey data are lacking for mountain lions on the prairie and these areas are managed primarily to abate potential livestock losses on private property while at the same time to provide recreational hunting opportunity.”

We completely disagree on your objectives for the prairie/statewide unit. We believe that Rosebud Sioux Tribe and Oglala Sioux Tribe have habitats to support small populations of lions. There may be habitat over by the Missouri River, near Yankton Sioux Tribe or along the Cheyenne River at Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe or at Custer-Gallatin National Forest lands. You need to develop a better attitude & concern toward tribal lions.

=====

We specifically focus our comments on pages 10-11 on Strategies and Objectives.

Please refer to page 10:

You write for Objective 1:

“Monitor and assess mountain lion populations by conducting scientifically based

biological surveys within South Dakota.....

d) Estimate abundance of mountain lion population in the Black Hills.

- Evaluate alternative methods to improve estimate of abundance.*

- Evaluate alternative indices to improve detection of population*

trend.”

Please Collect Population Data on Tribal Mt. Lions.

We believe there are breeding populations on Rosebud Sioux Tribe (RST) and Oglala Sioux Tribe’s (OST) lands. Both allow hunting of mountain lions. We believe both Tribes wish to keep mt. lions and don’t seek to extirpate them.

In the late 19th Century and early 20th Century various Allotment Acts were passed that allowed Native American Reservations to be broken up, with pieces of them kept for tribal members and pieces given to Caucasian settlers. The Native’s unfamiliarity with taxes and Caucasian ways

contributed to even further & substantial transfers of Native owned lands to Caucasians.

Reservations in SD can have checker boarded area's with jurisdictions mixed. Take Mellette County, which is about half Native and half Caucasian. A female lion with proof of lactation was killed there in Mellette just over the border from Todd County. The management of mountain lions in and around Reservations, would ideally require cooperation and SDGP has more resources for collection of population data than tribes do.

You should have an objective to work with tribes to collect population data, especially in any checker board ownership areas or in nearby areas, if the tribes request or want such.

Connectivity Corridors

GFP should provide for connectivity corridors between the Black Hills with Reservation properties -- because small populations need immigrant mt. lions to refresh their population genetics

Transparency

There should be an objective to be transparent with population and mortality data you have collected. This should be especially true for the prairie/statewide unit, where you have less population data.

=====

Please refer to page 11:

You write for the title of Objective 2:

“Manage mountain lion populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs.”

We find this sentence to be deeply offensive. Hunting means death. You are managing lions to be killed by people – recreational sacrifice is their purpose to your agency.

Mountain lions are an apex predator and as such they are a keystone species. They are an iconic & symbolic species. They deserve more respect. You need a more balanced statement -- that you manage for mountain lions to serve their vital function in the ecosystem as an apex predator, while providing for quality recreational experiences for wildlife watchers and for hunters and being sensitive to the social tolerance. The social and biological inputs should not be secondary to recreation use of hunting but rather the multiple uses should be more balanced. At the very least, the word maximum needs to be dropped.

Wildlife watchers exceed hunters in USFWS studies that counts wildlife associated recreators nationwide at-home and away from home. (<https://digitalmedia.fws.gov/digital/collection/document/id/2321/>). A “harvested” lion or its’ tracks are not available for watching. The locally derived statistics the SDGFP uses for number of wildlife watchers vs. hunters in SD, does not count wildlife watchers at home, while it counts hunters at home – thus it is unfairly biased & is inadequate. (Southwick Study - [SD-Fish-Wildlife-Boating-Economics-Southwick-6-30-22.pdf](#))

Various studies show that intense and maximized hunting of lions can increase young male lion ratios and increase conflicts with livestock/humans. Maximizing hunting can lead to greater social intolerance. We refer you to Wielgus’s video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_ZD-PAKhSo You should not have an objective to maximize hunting.

You write for part b) of Objective 2:

“b) Modify and adopt hunting season structure as needed to minimize regulation complexity.”

This is another clause that displays your absolute and total bias towards hunting/hunters. When Prairie Hills Audubon Society (PHAS) proposes rule changes designed to mitigate cruelty to animals related to hunting, staff normally objects -- because any new complexity is a constraint on hunting!

State statutes on animal welfare allow that any hunting practices approved by SDGFP are not animal cruelty. You have a fiduciary duty to wildlife to

create mitigations that make hunting/trapping less cruel – those mitigations might make hunting regulations more complex.

You write for part b) of Objective 2:

- *In the Black Hills Fire Protection District (BHFPD), excluding Custer State Park (CSP): maximize hunting opportunity for unique hunters allowing unlimited boot hunting with harvest regulated primarily through restricted season lengths and harvest limits.*

Thanks

We opposed allowing hound hunting of lions in the rest of the BHFPD. Here is a link to PHAS reasons for opposing hound hunting: <https://phas-wsd.org/wp-content/uploads/Hound-hunting-objections.pdf>

We would like to thank staff and the Commission for deciding to oppose adding hound hunting of mountain lions to the Black Hills Fire Protection District outside of CSP.

Your harvest limit for female lions in the BHFPD is too high and needs to be lowered.

You write for part b) of Objective 2:

- *In CSP: maximize hunting opportunity for hunters with dogs with harvest regulated primarily through limited permits and restricted season lengths.*

We object to hound hunting of lions, so we disagree with an objective to maximize hound hunting opportunity. Custer State Park is a State Park and serves recreators some who don't hunt and some of whom will object to hunting wildlife with hounds.

You write for part b) of Objective 2:

- *Outside BHFPD: emphasis to minimize potential human conflicts with mountain*

lions and maximize hunting opportunity for hunters with dogs allowing unlimited permits and a year-round season.

We totally disagree with your prairie/statewide unit's objectives. We object to the 365-day hunting season.

We object to the use of dogs, especially in areas where there may be few trees or rock out-cropping for the lions to escape the dogs. Lions are not designed for long runs and need to escape dogs by climbing above them.

We believe the prairie unit needs to be divided up into smaller sets -- in areas with better cougar habitat, a different hunting season would be approved. For example, the Caucasian areas in and around RST and OST Reservations could have different harvest limits and season length than the rest of prairie/statewide unit. Custer-Gallatin National Forest or banks of the Missouri River could have different harvest limits and season lengths. You could recognize the better cougar habitat in some areas in the prairie/statewide unit and manage those sub-sets differently.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hilding". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small flourish at the end.

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION FINALIZATION

Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Season

Chapter 41:06:13; 41:03:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 7-8, 2022	
	Public Hearing	October 6, 2022	Spearfish
	Finalization	October 6-7, 2022	Rapid City
			Rapid City

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Duration of Proposal: 2023 and 2024 seasons (only 2023 season dates listed below)

Season Dates:	April 8 – May 31, 2023	Single-season Prairie units
	April 22 – May 31, 2023	Black Hills
	April 8 – April 30, 2023	Split-season early Prairie units
	May 1 – May 31, 2023	Split-season late Prairie units

*Depending on the geographic area being hunted, the mentored and archery spring seasons align with the prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively.

Licenses:	Black Hills: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag "male turkey" licenses
	Prairie: 6,332 resident and 700 nonresident one-tag "male turkey" licenses 260 resident and 56 nonresident two-tag "male turkey" licenses
	Archery: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag "male turkey" licenses
	Mentored: Unlimited resident and nonresident one-tag "male turkey" licenses

Access Permits:	Access permits valid April 8-30
	Good Earth State Park: 5 archery turkey access permits
	Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve: 30 archery turkey access permits
	Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve: 20 mentored turkey access permits

Requirements and Restrictions:

1. Turkey hunters may apply for and receive one license in each of the Black Hills, Prairie, and Archery Units in the first and second lottery drawings.
2. Turkey hunters may purchase only one Black Hills and one archery turkey license.
3. One-half of the licenses in each prairie unit are available for landowner/operator preference.
4. Excluding that portion of Fall River County within Unit PST-27A, prairie units adjoining the White River and Cheyenne River also include an adjacent area one mile wide on the opposite side of the river.
5. No person may shoot a turkey in a tree or roost.
6. A person may use only bow and arrow, a shotgun using shot shells or a muzzleloading shotgun to hunt turkeys during the spring turkey season.

Proposed changes from last year:

1. Adjust the maximum number of licenses available in administrative rule from no more than 5,807 to 10,000 one-tag "male turkey" licenses and from no more than 600 to 2,500 two-tag "male turkey" licenses.
2. Change the proposed season start date from the 3rd Saturday in April to the 4th Saturday in April for the Black Hills spring turkey season.
 - a. April 22 – May 31, 2023
 - b. April 27 – May 31, 2024
3. Eliminate Unit BST-BH2, which provides for a second Black Hills spring turkey licenses for resident hunters.
4. For archery and mentored spring turkey licenses, season start dates would align with the prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively.
5. For the Fall River prairie hunting unit, remove the allowance to hunt within one mile of the Cheyenne River in the Black Hills hunting unit.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
---------------	--------------	--------------	-----------------

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Recommended changes from proposal: None.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

Results from recent research indicates poor reproduction, primarily within the Black Hills (central and northern Hills) but is difficult to ascertain the direct cause/s due to numerous variables involved, such as predation, nutrition, weather, grouse dominance/behavior. Based on nesting chronology and gobbling activity, the recommendation to start seasons later is to increase population performance. In addition, negative feedback from hunters regarding their hunting experience (i.e., lack of gobbling activity, difficult time finding turkeys) is a justification for this recommendation. See below for other supportive information to justify recommendation:

- Post-breeding management is the primary strategy that should be imposed for wild turkey management (i.e., start spring hunting seasons at median incubation dates).
- Median incubation dates range from May 10-16 in the Black Hills. Many hens start incubation around May 1-3rd in the southern Black Hills.
- Modeling suggests that harvesting ≤30% of the male population allows for continued population growth and higher quality hunting.
- Research in the Black Hills indicates that annual survival of radio-collared adult males was 42% and spring harvest was the primary mortality factor in the Black Hills.
- Intensive hunting in southern Alabama caused a shortage of males and lowered female turkey productivity through infertile clutches.
- Current unpublished research in Georgia and Tennessee indicates dominance hierarchies in adult gobblers may be important in maintaining for turkey productivity. Disruptions in these dominance hierarchies can delay nesting and reduce nest survival in the southeast.
- Harvest management should try to not disrupt breeding of older males until they have a chance to breed which should be around median incubation dates.
- Less than 5% of younger male turkeys will breed under normal dominance hierarchies.

The alignment of all turkey seasons seems appropriate to meet the objectives of the change. Since the elimination of rifles for spring turkey hunting, archers have no disadvantage to shotgun hunters when it comes to the distance, etc. and it's difficult to justify one week only available to archery turkey hunters.

Unit BST-BH2 is currently closed via administrative rule and under the low abundance harvest strategy found within the wild turkey management plan. With a shortened season and increasing sales of unlimited archery turkey licenses, it is difficult to justify this second turkey license for South Dakota residents in the future.

The proposed maximum number of turkey licenses will be established in administrative rule and the GFP Commission via administrative action will determine specific number of licenses by tag types and allocation amongst hunting units.

Year	Licenses			Harvest			Success		
	BH	Prairie	Archery	BH	Prairie	Archery	BH	Prairie	Archery
2017	4,401	6,577	3,847	1,701	3,328	912	39%	45%	28%
2018	4,274	6,510	3,264	1,441	2,733	719	32%	38%	22%
2019	4,545	6,375	3,467	1,365	2,727	915	30%	39%	26%
2020	4,733	6,455	4,459	1,287	3,113	1,340	27%	44%	30%
2021	6,303	6,699	4,899	1,776	3,748	1,607	28%	51%	33%

*Includes both resident and nonresident harvest statistics.

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

The following are proposed draft changes that are intended to incorporate the recommended changes adopted by the Commission.

41:06:13:01. Spring wild turkey hunting season established -- Number and type of licenses available. The spring prairie wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the ~~first~~ second Saturday of April through May 31. The spring Black Hills wild turkey hunting season is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the fourth Saturday of April through May 31. The spring archery and mentored wild turkey hunting seasons are open from on-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day and the season dates align with the prairie and Black Hills, respectively. ~~in Unit AST-ST1, and from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day from the second third Saturday of April through May 31, or as otherwise provided in § 41:06:13:02, in all other units. Units BST-BH1 is and BST-BH2 are the Black Hills units. Unit AST-ST1 is the archery unit. All other units are prairie units.~~ The number of one-tag male turkey licenses issued is unlimited for residents and nonresidents in both the Black Hills and archery spring turkey hunting seasons. No more than ~~5,807~~ 10,000 one-tag male turkey and ~~600~~ 2,500 two-tag male turkey licenses may be issued to residents for the prairie spring turkey hunting season.

41:06:13:02. Open units -- Exceptions. The following is a description of the open spring turkey hunting units:

(1) Unit BST-BH1: excluding Custer State Park, Wind Cave National Park, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and Jewel Cave National Monument, that portion of Lawrence County south of Interstate 90; that portion of Meade County west and south of Interstate 90; those portions of Pennington and Custer Counties west of State Highway 79; that portion of Fall River County north and west of a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming border and U.S. Highway 18, then east along U.S. Highway 18 to its junction with the Cheyenne River, then east along the Cheyenne River to its junction with State Highway 79, then north along State Highway 79 to its junction with the Custer County line;

~~(2) Unit BST-BH2: the same boundaries as Unit BST-BH1; Unit BST-BH2 is closed;~~

(7) Unit PST-08A: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April 30;

(8) Unit PST-08B: Davison and Hanson Counties; Unit PST-08B is open beginning on May 1 through May 31;

(33) Unit PST-44A: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44A is open beginning on the second Saturday of April through April 30;

(34) Unit PST-44B: Lincoln County; Unit PST-44B is open beginning on May 1 through May 31;

(43) Unit PST-58B: that portion of Stanley County located at the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area to include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Land which is east and southeast of Powerhouse Road. This unit is bordered by the Missouri River to the east and the emergency spillway canal to the south. Unit PST-58B-is open beginning on the second Saturday of April ~~5~~ through April 30, but only to licensed persons who use a wheelchair;

~~Licensees~~ Excluding that portion of Fall River County within Unit PST-27A, licensees in prairie units that utilize the Cheyenne or White Rivers as unit boundaries may hunt within one mile of either side of the river boundary, as well as in the remainder of the unit for which the license is issued.

41:06:13:04. Application requirements and restrictions. The following apply to all applications for license and licenses issued under this chapter:

(1) A resident may apply for no more than one prairie unit license, one Unit BST-BH1 license, ~~one Unit BST-BH2,~~ and one Unit AST-ST1 license during the first license application period. A resident

APPROVE _____ **MODIFY** _____ **REJECT** _____ **NO ACTION** _____

may not apply for or receive more than one Unit BST-BH1 license, ~~one Unit BST-BH2~~, or one Unit AST-ST1 license;

(5) Good Earth State Park is closed to spring turkey hunting except for five turkey licensees who possess a valid spring turkey archery license and an archery turkey access permit. Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve is closed to spring turkey hunting except for 30 licensees who possess a valid spring turkey archery license and an archery turkey access permit and 20 licensees who possess a valid mentored spring turkey archery license and access permit. The access permits may be issued by lottery drawing. Each access permit is valid from the second ~~first~~ Saturday of April through April 30.

41:03:01:16. Restrictions on use of firearms, air guns, crossbows, and bows in the state park system -- Exceptions. Uncased firearms, air guns, crossbows, and bows are prohibited in the state park system with the following exceptions:

(5) From October 1 through April 30, uncased firearms, air guns, crossbows, and bows are authorized for licensed hunters in the state park system during established hunting seasons with the following restrictions:

(d) A person who possesses a valid turkey license for Unit PST-48A, as described in chapter 41:06:13, is permitted to have an uncased shotgun using shotshells, a crossbow, a bow, or a muzzleloading shotgun within the boundary of Sica Hollow State Park from the second ~~first~~ Saturday of April through May 31; and

41:06:13:05. Turkey hunting recruitment license -- Open area and eligibility. A turkey hunting recruitment license is valid statewide, excluding Custer State Park, and is open from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day beginning on ~~the first Saturday of April through May 31 during the spring turkey hunting seasons~~ the open dates for the prairie and Black Hills seasons, respectively. A turkey hunting recruitment license is for a designated mentored youth as provided in SDCL 41-6-81.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
---------------	--------------	--------------	-----------------

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue
 - Why make the change, what are the change alternatives, how will public/stakeholder input be solicited, and how will the change be evaluated if implemented?
 - i. While the effect of the change is unknown, the objectives are to increase turkey population performance and to increase hunter satisfaction.
 - ii. Input will be solicited during the public comment period and GFP Commission public hearing.
2. Historical Considerations – Not Applicable
3. Biological Considerations
 - What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations?
 - i. Turkey populations are stable across most of South Dakota, but not observing the reproduction level desired in the central and northern Black Hills and a few prairie units.
4. Social Considerations
 - Shortened season.
5. Financial considerations – Not Applicable

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user’s ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users?
 - The recommended changes would shorten length of seasons, with objectives to increase turkey population performance and to increase hunter satisfaction.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists?
 - Not applicable.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact is expected to the Department.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
----------------------	---------------------	---------------------	------------------------

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the commission meeting. I want to take the time to talk about the art of turkey hunters for those who do not turkey hunt.

Turkeys roost in trees at night. They gobble when they are in the tree, sometimes for a half hour in the morning before they fly down and for a half an hour after they fly up. This makes them easy to locate. You can hear them from miles away. There are many lodges that advertise “non-guided” turkey hunts. They simply circle the trees where turkeys roost on a map and send the non-resident hunter on their way. You can imagine with an unlimited number of hunters and not many turkeys what can happen around those roost trees in the dark in the morning. I have stopped hunting public land because of the overcrowding of this resource.

Unlimited tags are no way to manage a resource. While game numbers should help dictate the number of tags available, the quality of the hunt must also be considered. Please drastically reduce the number of hunters in the woods to provide a good hunt for our resident and non-resident hunter.

Jeff Olson

Rapid City

South Dakota Division



The Izaak Walton League of America

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters, and Wildlife

8/30/2024

Re: Support Proposed Change to Rule 41:06:13:01

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
Foss Building
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Commissioners,

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America (Division) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the proposed change to rule 41:06:13:01.

This rule pertains to the allocation of nonresident licenses for the Black Hills spring wild turkey hunting season. Currently the number of one-tag male turkey licenses issued is unlimited for residents and nonresidents in the Black Hills spring turkey hunting seasons.

The proposed change would allow no more than 2,225 nonresident one-tag male turkey to be issued in the Black Hills turkey hunting unit. This represents only a 7% reduction in tags that were sold to nonresident hunters last year.

While the Division believes the proposed change is a step in the right direction, we respectfully request that this change go further.

We urge the Commission to adopt one of the following four options:

- Limit nonresident Black Hills licenses to 50% of the number of the preceding years resident tags. If the sale of resident tags go up, based on turkey populations, so will the number of available nonresident licenses.
- Limit nonresident licenses to 50% of the average of the last three years of the nonresident licenses purchased.
- Each year establish a science-based harvest number for male turkeys in the Black Hills. Then, based on the projected harvest number, split the number of tags with 75% going to residents and 25% to nonresident hunters.
- Allocate only 8% of each season’s available Black Hills tags to non-residents. This would treat turkeys on the same level as many other of the state’s big game animals.

Adopting this much-needed change to the allocation of nonresident turkey licenses will help to assure a high-quality hunting experience, for residents and nonresidents, in the Black Hills unit.

The population of turkeys in the Black Hills is declining. Unlimited permits for nonresidents causes a legitimate concern for many South Dakota turkey hunters, including Division members.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, the Black Hills in SD are 125 miles long and cover over 8,400 square miles. Obviously not all that area is suitable turkey habitat. With the unlimited number of licenses allocated under the current system, it's easy to understand the current overcrowding problem for both resident and nonresident Black Hills turkey hunters.

Couple that with the rapidly expanding development in the lower elevations of the Hills to subdivisions with private housing, small hobby ranches, and commercial businesses, the overcrowding situation is magnified even more.

The recent development and urban growth may be contributing to the loss of critical wintering turkey habitat which may be factoring into the decline of the birds.

The South Dakota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America urges the Commission to adopt one of the four options above in the allocation of nonresident turkey licenses in the Black Hills unit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul Lepisto
Regional Conservation Coordinator
Izaak Walton League of America
1115 South Cleveland Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-4456
plepisto@iwla.org
605-220-1219

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
Sept 1st. 2024

SD Game, Fish and Parks Commission
SD Game, Fish and Parks
523 E. Capitol Ave.,
Pierre, S.D. 57501,
<https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>

Comments on SDGFP's Mountain Lion Action Plan – Draft July 2024 – PHAS letter number 2.

The draft Action Plan has the following **title for Objective 2**:

“Manage mountain lion populations for both maximum and quality recreational hunting opportunities, considering all social and biological inputs.”

We find this sentence to be deeply offensive. We believe that SDGFP unjustly and unfairly focuses on providing opportunity to hunters/fishers/trappers while neglecting the impacts of such activities on wildlife watching. When the hunting “harvest” is not compensatory, it results in fewer fish/wildlife in the world, thus there are less wildlife/fish for wildlife watcher to watch.

The word “maximum” should be dropped and/or the entire sentence rewritten. We suggest this clause makes human recreation dominant over ecology. It does not adequately balance the ecological benefits of mountain lions, an apex predator and keystone species with benefits of human recreation. SD has an endangered species act and thus the legislature does not wish for populations of any native species to become extirpated.

Wildlife watchers exceed hunters in USFWS studies and a “harvested” lion or its’ tracks are not available for watching. Wildlife watchers exceed

hunters in USFWS study that counts wildlife associated recreators nationwide at-home and away from home. To download the study visit: <https://digitalmedia.fws.gov/digital/collection/document/id/2321/> and go to Table 2 on page 48 & Table 6 on page 51.

SD is in the West North Central area, which has 16,677,887 persons, who are 16 years or older. 9% of these folks (or 1,518,281 persons) hunted. 58% of these folks (or 9,744,740 persons) wildlife watched. Some people did both. Of the wildlife watchers – 4,624,145 wildlife watched away from home (28% of all persons) & 9,664,190 wildlife watched around home (58% of all persons). Some people did both.

The locally generated statistics the SDGFP uses for number of wildlife watchers vs. hunters in SD, does not count wildlife watchers at home, while it counts hunters at home – **thus it is an unfairly biased/inadequate study**. Here is the link to the Southwick study: [SD-Fish-Wildlife-Boating-Economics-Southwick-6-30-22.pdf](#). This 2017 study at page 25, table 29 shows 173,825 wildlife watchers (residents – 89,277 persons & non-resident -84,548 persons). All are only watching away from home. At page 8, table 1 the study shows 103,619 resident hunters & 112,174 non-resident hunters or 215,793 total hunters. It does not delete at home hunting.

So the USFWS finds the number of hunters are only 15% of the number of wildlife watchers but the 2017 Southwick study found wildlife watchers are just 80% of the hunters. USFWS is only counting the west north central region's people and Southwick is counting SD residents and non-residents. Southwick does not count at home wildlife watchers, but USFWS does and in so doing more than doubles the hunters.

We believe SDGFP with its' devotion to hunters is using biased data to continue to justify that devotion.

Thanks,



Nancy Hilding, President, Prairie Hills Audubon Society

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS**

A Public Hearing will be held at The Outdoor Campus – West, 4130 Adventure Trail, Rapid City, September 5th, 1:00 (MDT), to consider adoption, amendment and repeal of Rules pertaining to:

1. 41:06:13:02. Open units -- Exceptions.

Effect: Modify the statewide Archery Spring turkey hunting units

Reason: The rule change would make it more logical as well as increase hunter opportunity.

2. 41:07:03:03. Daily, possession, and length limit restrictions on special management waters.

Effect: Modify the existing fish harvest regulation on Belle Fourche Reservoir.

Reason: Annual lake surveys have documented a lack of younger age classes, resulting in few fish available to anglers under 15 inches.

3. 41:07:04:01. Snagging season in special management waters.

Effect: Modify snagging on Lake Oahe.

Reason: Other salmon species may exhibit similar life history strategies as Chinook salmon where they die after spawning and allowing take by snagging may increase utilization of these fish.

4. 41:08:01:08:01. Bobcat trapping and hunting season established -- Hunting restrictions -- Tagging requirements.

Effect: Modify bobcat trapping and hunting.

Reason: Follows The South Dakota Bobcat Action Plan 2024-2028 including harvest strategies.

5. 41:09:04:02.02. Species that may be taken as bait for commercial use.

Effect: Modify scientific names for certain species of crayfish to reflect updates in

taxonomic classification.

Reason: Updated classification of freshwater crayfishes resulted in multiple scientific name changes for genus of crayfish.

6. 41:09:04:02.04. Species that may be taken as bait for noncommercial use.

Effect: Modify species of crayfish that could be taken.

Reason: Updated classification of freshwater crayfishes.

7. 41:09:07:05. Records required.

Effect: Modify annual reporting requirements for private hatcheries by requiring an annual summary to be submitted rather than individual records

Reason: By requiring an annual summary rather than individual records it makes the reporting process easier. An annual summary rather than individual records is more compatible with online submission platforms utilized by the Department.

Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) at the hearing. Persons unable to attend the hearing may mail amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views to the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501, or by going to the GFP website at <http://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions>. All persons who desire to submit written amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views by mail or email are encouraged to mail or transmit the same in sufficient time so that it is received by and in the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks 72 hours prior to the date of the hearing. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit amendments, data, opinions, arguments, and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) to the Commission for their consideration. All written and email comments must include the name, home town/city, and state of the person submitting the comments.

The above rule proposals are available for review on the internet by going to <https://rules.sd.gov/> and copies of the proposed rules may be requested from the office of the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks, Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. Notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that this hearing is being held in a physically accessible place. Any individuals with disabilities who will require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the hearing should submit a request to the undersigned at 605.773.3718 or 605.223.7684 (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf).

Dated this 8th day of Aug., 2024.

(SEAL)



Kevin Robling, Secretary

This Notice of Public Hearing is published at the approximate cost of \$_____.

DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The September 2024 South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Regular Commission Meeting will be held September 5-6, 2024, at the Outdoor Campus – Rapid City located at 4130 Adventure Trail in Rapid City, SD 57702. This meeting will be held in person, Zoom Webinar, and Livestream.

Listen to the meeting beginning September 5, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. MT via Livestream at <https://www.sd.net/remote1/> or join via Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link below. Depending on your application, you may be required to enter the Zoom Webinar ID and password. Meeting attendees will not be able to have video and will be muted upon entry.

Meeting Dates and Times:

- **Thursday, September 5, 2024, starting at 1:00 p.m. MT**
- **Friday, September 6, 2024, starting at 8:00 a.m. MT**

Zoom Webinar Link: <https://state-sd.zoom.us/j/91264176710?pwd=Vm00NEowdGV6N09lb1hnVUkMUF3Zz09>

Or join via phone:

- **Dial:** 1-669-900-9128
- **Webinar ID:** 912 6417 6710
- **Passcode:** 970458

Public Input: To provide comments, join the meeting in person, via Zoom, or via conference call using the information above. To ensure an efficient public hearing and/or open forum, those wishing to testify should register by 1:00 p.m. MT on the day of the meeting by emailing Liz Kierl at liz.kierl@state.sd.us. Testifiers should provide their full names, whom they represent, their city of residence, and the topic they will address.

Online and Phone Testimony: Testifiers wishing to speak online during the commission meeting will be asked to ‘raise their hands’ during the public hearing and open forum if they’d like to testify. The meeting hosts will call your name and give you permission to unmute when it is your turn to speak. Those joining online will not be able to share video and will be granted audio only. Those joining via phone can raise and lower their hands by pressing *9 and unmute or mute by pressing *6.

Written Comments: Written comments can be submitted at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record, comments must include the complete name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of seventy-two hours before the meeting (not including the day of the meeting).

Dated this 29th day of August 2024.

Stephanie Rissler

Stephanie Rissler, GFP Commission Chair