

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
July 9, 2012

Chairman Jeff Olson called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM at the Ramkota RiverCentre in Pierre, South Dakota. Commissioners Jeff Olson, Susie Knippling, Jim Spies, Barry Jensen, John Cooper, Cathy Peterson, Duane Sather, and William Cerny were present. Secretary Jeff Vonk was present along with media, staff, and public numbering approximately sixty.

Division of Administration

Chairman Olson called for additions or corrections to the June 6-7 meeting or a motion for approval. Motion by Cooper with second by SPIES TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6-7 MEETING AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Olson called for additions or corrections to the June 18 Teleconference meeting. Motion by Cerny with second by Peterson TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 18 TELECONFERENCE AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Olson asked for any additional salary days from Commissioners and none were claimed.

License List Requests

Director Chris Petersen presented a license list request from Rebekah Craddock of Calamity Peak Lodge near Custer for a list of Unit H-3 and Custer State Park elk license holders to send a letter of invitation to stay at the Lodge. This would be a full fee request.

Motion by Jensen with second by Cooper TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM REBEKAH CRADDUCK AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Petersen presented a list request from Rhonda Else of Lee's Meats & Sausage, Inc. of Tea, SD, for a list of 4000, county specific, resident east river deer license holders to mail a Wild Game Processing Flyer. This would be a full fee request.

Motion by Spies with second by Jensen TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM RHONDA ELSE AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

License Sales Report

Director Petersen provided the License Sales Totals Report ending June 29 indicating fishing licenses sales are at 100% or above the total sales levels from last year.

Sheps Canyon Outdoor Recreation Complex development plan

The development plan for Sheps Canyon was presented by Directors Leif and Hofer including a map of the area showing the different types of property ownership including Federal property and potential development to the area. The complex will provide a variety of opportunities for residents and visitors year around.

Director Leif provided information about current and future projects at the Hill Ranch Game Production Area that include developing access and parking areas, irrigation improvements, marking the hiking trails, food plots, woody plantings, native grass planting, small dam repair, habitat development, horse trails, and boundary fencing.

Hofer indicated the focus in 2012 was the main road through the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) land and the campground development at Sheps Canyon. Boat ramp parking has been improved along with 22 campsites with electricity, a comfort station, and basic facilities for the campground. Trees were planted with drip irrigation and should grow well for future campground development. Projects identified for next year include an additional boat ramp lane at Sheps Canyon, primary water service, and develop the horse camp and trails to include amenities associated with ten campsites, water, vault toilets, and 14.25 miles of developed horse trail. The trail development will need to be coordinated with the Forest Service and the BOR and necessary permits secured before work can proceed. The goal is to begin work in July of 2013 on these projects.

Hofer indicated 2014 projects would include 40 lakeside campsites where primitive camping now exists. Future development will happen as public demand warrants and including the replacement of the comfort station at Sheps Canyon Recreation Area.

Discussion ensued about lakeshore primitive camping with boats on shore overnight on BOR property and at lakeside use areas along with primitive camping for overnight horseback trips on Forest Service land.

Director Leif provided a brief update on the Hill GPA indicating a joint effort is ongoing and with dry conditions irrigation is taking place. Grasshopper spraying has happened twice to insure a crop for fall hunting and efforts are going well. Fires are burning about ten miles away from this area.

Mountain Lion protocol

Emmett Keyser and Matt Snyder provided information from the lion management plan that outlines response protocol for mountain lion sightings or reports. Keyser indicated a form is completed for each event and defined the different types of events. It is important to educate the public and a brochure is used for education. Events are compiled and classified by action under different circumstances. Keyser explained personnel response and chain of communication, media guidelines, and protocol for radio-collared lions.

Snyder indicated Custer State Park has a protocol similar to the Wildlife Division and definitions are the same. CSP staff has opportunity for mountain lion safety education with the public especially with visiting campers on a daily

basis. Injured and sick lions are removed as they may cause problems. CSP staff follows guidelines for acceptable behavior of lions and complete a report on the lion's action when observed especially during the camping season.

Tom Kirschenmann indicated there are 43 active collared lions hills wide from Spearfish to Hot Springs and will provide more information at the August meeting including inactive collars. Discussion included kittens and if the public was involved in developing the protocol. This protocol will be revised following additional staff training and would be a great time for public comment and provides additional opportunity for educating the public. It was mentioned that "may be removed" should be clarified that the lions are not moved but are euthanized.

Comments from the Governor's office

Dusty Johnson Chief of Staff from the Governor's office stated the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks is a great wildlife agency with tremendously talented men and women doing a difficult job on many contentious issues. It is good news that South Dakotans care about these issues and in recent months there have been questions about what GFP has done. The public and staff have asked "Is there room for improvement?"

Johnson indicated that Secretary Vonk asked for a fresh set of eyes to validate "what we do really well and to identify areas that have room for improvement." This can be a really healthy thing and makes sense, Jason Glodt will lead the process as he has exposure and experience with this type of thing. The selection of "an independent set of eyes" will include: who it should be, issues to be studied, and what should the reviewer look for or at. Glodt will accept public input as well as input from staff. Dusty provided email and phone number for Jason Glodt and wants comments provided to Glodt by the end of July. This will not be successful without Commission involvement.

Jason Glodt, Policy Advisor for the Governor, provided an outline of the review process beginning with input received from the Commission, the public, and GFP staff and is to include topics for review such as management of certain wildlife, damage control issues, and management of the Department and stakeholder interests. An Request For Proposal (RFP) will be drafted in August, September will be reserved for questions from possible vendors regarding the submittal of a proposal, and proposals will be due in October with the selection of a provider in late fall. The review should begin the first of the year and take four to six months to complete.

Discussion and questions included input from commission as group or individually, staff, and input from the public. Glodt indicated all input or comments will remain private as it is a working document and the RFP will be presented to the Commission in mid-August with specific guidelines for work and responsibility of the vendor. The RFP will outline what the Department, Commission, and other stakeholders think is important and should be reviewed. Glodt will be the hub for this process and will cover issues of concern of the Commission and the final product for study, results, and final report will be a

public document. The Commission will need to approve the RFP and finance the review.

Open Forum

Chris Hesla Executive Director of the Wildlife Federation provided testimony about the sale of the Wall Lake property at the June meeting and wants the Commission to provide opportunity for the public to comment about the sale of land - similar to when land purchases are made.

Dr. Tom Huhnerkoch stated his concern when considering prey numbers, prey population growth rates, and prey population recovery. One cannot draw a straight line to predators as this is a multifaceted and complicated issue.

Public Hearing

The public hearing began at 10:14 AM and concluded at 10:26 AM complete minutes follow these minutes.

Finalizations

Antelope Hunting Season 41:06:23

Andy Lindbloom provided a PowerPoint presentation on antelope surveys and population status prior to action. Kirschenmann presented a recommended change to proposal adjusting the number of resident and nonresident licenses as a result of the completed surveys.

Offer resident hunters 80 less single-tag licenses and 500 less two-tag licenses (1,000 tags) than currently proposed. Overall, offer resident hunters 245 less single-tag licenses and 1,515 less two-tag licenses (3,030 tags) than 2011.

Motion by Knippling with second by Spies TO AMEND CHANGES TO PROPOSAL ADJUSTING LICENSES AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Offer resident hunters 80 less single-tag licenses and 500 less two-tag licenses (1,000 tags) than currently proposed. Overall, offer resident hunters 245 less single-tag licenses and 1,515 less two-tag licenses (3,030 tags) than 2011.
2. Antelope hunting season open to residents only.

Motion by Knippling with second by Spies TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON 41:06:23 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

East River Deer Hunting Season 41:06:21

Chad Switzer presented proposed changes with no recommended changes to proposal.

1. Offer 170 more one-tag, 1,740 less two-tag licenses, and 4,350 less three-tag licenses (overall decrease of 16,360 tags) than 2011.
2. Only unfilled "antlerless deer" and "antlerless whitetail deer" tags are valid during the antlerless deer season extension beginning on the Saturday after Christmas.

Motion by Jensen with second by Cerny TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE EAST RIVER DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:21 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Refuge Deer Hunting Season 41:06:36

Switzer presented the proposed changes with no additional recommendations.

1. Issue zero licenses for the 4th deer season for the Sand Lake NWR rifle season.
2. Replace the 150 "any deer + any antlerless deer" licenses and the 50 2-tag "any antlerless deer" licenses issued in 2011 with 80 "any deer" licenses and 40 "any antlerless deer" licenses for resident hunters hunting at Sand Lake NWR.
3. Replace the 15 "any deer + any antlerless deer" licenses and the 5 2-tag "any antlerless deer" licenses issued in 2011 with 8 "any deer" and 4 "any antlerless deer" licenses for nonresident hunters hunting at Sand Lake NWR.
4. Offer resident hunters 10 more "antlerless whitetail deer + antlerless whitetail deer" for Lacreek NWR than 2011.
5. Offer resident hunters 15 less "any deer" licenses for Waubay NWR than 2011.

Motion by Peterson with second by Cooper TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO REFUGE DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:36 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Early Fall Canada Goose Hunting Season 41:06:50 and 41:06:16

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented the proposed changes indicating the US Fish and Wildlife Service approved an increase of the daily bag limit of 15 and a possession limit of 30 to the states of South Dakota and North Dakota only.

Increase the daily bag limit to 15 and the possession limit to 30.

Motion by Cooper with second by Spies TO AMEND THE PROPOSED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Increase the daily bag limit to 15 and the possession limit to 30.

Motion by Cooper with second by Peterson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE HUNTING SEASON 41:06:50 AND 41:06:16 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season 41:06:49

Kirschenmann presented the proposed change with the recommendation to keep the current season start date as the US Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that geese can only be donated to Sportsmen Against Hunger (SAH) when no other seasons are occurring. Therefore, to maximize the time period

allowed for geese to be donated to SAH and increase harvest it is recommended to keep the youth season as currently in rule.

Motion by Spies with second by Sather TO REJECT THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON 41:06:49. Motion carried unanimously.

Elk License Raffle 41:06:26

Kirschenmann presented the proposed change with a recommendation to indicate the change would take effect for the 2013 hunting season.

Kirschenmann stated the Rocky Elk Mountain Foundation supports the rule changes.

This rule would go into effect for the 2013 elk hunting season.

Motion by Cooper with second by Knippling TO AMEND THE PROPOSAL TO REFLECT THE ADDITIONAL HUNTING AREA FOR THE ELK LICENSE RAFFLE WOULD TAKE AFFECT FOR THE 2013 SEASON. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Create a rule within the Black Hills elk Hunting Season that would validate the winner of the annual Elk License Raffle to also hunt in any unit within the Black Hills where "Any Elk" licenses are issued.
2. This rule would go into effect for the 2013 elk hunting season.

Motion by Cooper with second by Knippling TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS ELK HUNTING SEASON 41:06:26 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Dog Training 41:09:13

Andy Alban presented the four proposed changes to dog training indicating the department has no changes to proposal.

Eliminate dog training daily bag and possession limit requirements that are currently imposed during hunting seasons and amend additional rules to differentiate between captive game birds that are taken by hunters and those taken during dog training, field trials, and similar events/contests.

Motion by Jensen with second by Peterson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO DOG TRAINING 41:09:13 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Hunting Requirements and Prohibitions 41:06:04

Alban presented the proposed changes with no changes. Discussion included salt licks used in farming operations and "the zone of influence".

Amend 41:06:04:03 to further define "bait station" and place additional restrictions on the times when they are prohibited for attracting big game for the purpose of hunting.

Motion by Cooper with second by Sather TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO HUNTING REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITED METHODS 41:06:04 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Pet Prohibition Amendment (Big Sioux dog training area) 41:03:01

Bob Schneider presented the proposed rule with no changes recommended and this would provide for future dog training areas should more be developed.

Modify 41:03:01 to add: A person may allow or possess a dog or dogs that are not on a leash, while maintaining reasonable control of the dog(s), within any designated dog training area.

Motion by Knippling with second by Spies TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO USES OF PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS 41:03:01 FOR DOG TRAINING AREAS AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheps Canyon Campground Fee 41:03:03 Park Licenses

Schneider presented the proposed rule changes to include Sheps Canyon added to the list of parks where the park entrance license and camping fees are required.

Modify 41:03:03:03 Park entrance license required for admission to state parks and certain recreation areas and lakeside use areas; and 41:03:04:03 Camping permit fees.

Motion by Sather with second by Cerny TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO PARK LICENSES 41:03:03 FOR CAMPING FEES AND PARK ENTRANCE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AT SHEPS CANYON AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

August Management Take Emergency Rule

Chief Kirschenmann presented the Emergency Rule to allow for the increased harvest of resident Canada geese and to begin on the first Saturday of August due to changes granted from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Early Fall September Season. The rule remains in effect for 90 days and will be consistent with other season harvest limits, assist with crop depredation, and reduce resident geese populations. To date there have been 945 goose depredation complaints from 500 landowners with 30 staff focused on this work.

Motion by Peterson with second by Spies TO ADOPT THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT EMERGENCY RULE AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Hunting Season Proposals

Duck Hunting Seasons

Kirschenmann presented a recommended change following the waterfowl population status report given by Rocco Murano to increase the daily limit of

redhead from 2 to 3 as discussed with Central Flyway and will require approval of the US Fish and Wildlife Agency prior to the August meeting. Discussion included the different zones, seasons, and season dates.

Increase the redhead daily limit from 2 to 3.

Motion by Knippling with second by Spies TO PROPOSE INCREASING THE REDHEAD DAILY LIMIT TO 3 AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Goose Hunting Seasons

Kirschenmann presented changes to the goose season to increase the daily and possession limits and correct a boundary description. The limits are contingent upon approval from the Central Flyway Council and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

1. Increase the Canada goose daily bag limit from 3 to 5 and the possession limit from 6 to 10.
2. Correct boundary descriptions for Unit 1 removing Perkins and Unit 2 correct the Highway number.

Motion by Knippling with second by Spies TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE GOOSE HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Division of Parks and Recreation

Blood Run update

Director Doug Hofer indicated the Blood Run Nature Area was designated in 1995 and with additional property added to the area, improvements include temporary parking, signage, special events, and a seasonal naturalist. The area is open for public use on trails. Governor Dugaard toured the area last week and the Parks and Wildlife Foundation continue to give tours to potential donors to raise an additional \$2 million to implement Phase 1 of the Master Plan. Hofer indicated negotiations continue with adjacent landowners.

Angostura Private Trailer Sewer Project

Director Hofer presented survey results from the private trailer owners at Angostura with 59 of the 86 owners indicating a willingness to participate in the centralized sewer system that includes a bond package with a 20-year repayment period. The next step is to develop final estimates for construction for the participating trailer owners and to prepare for a bond package before the 2014 Legislature convenes. An in-depth presentation will be given at the August meeting.

Chairman Olson called for a recess at 12:09 PM and meeting resumed at 1:20 PM with all Commissioners present along with Secretary Vonk and public, staff, and media numbering approximately forty.

Sean Blanchette indicated the Angostura Concession Contract is due to expire at the end of this year. A new proposed contract has been drafted and will go out for bid following the appraisal of personal property that will transfer with a new concessionaire. Blanchette will present a request for Commission approval to move forward with a Request for Proposal at the August meeting.

June Visitation and Revenue Report

Hofer provided the January-June Revenue Report indicating a “banner year” is on tap with 16% increase of revenue over the best year ever 2010. Camping units are 14% above 2010 and 27% above 2011. Visitation in the parks is up 19.6% above the June 2011 totals.

Director Hofer indicated Leisure International was selected as the new vendor for park reservations and they have subcontracted with Lawrence & Schiller as their instate call center.

Division of Wildlife

Proposals

Closure of waters to the taking of bait

Chief John Lott presented a recommendation to make the emergency rule closing the East Vermillion River, West Vermillion River, and Firesteel Creek below Lake Mitchell to the taking of bait a permanent rule to prevent the spread of Asian carp to other waters of the state.

Modify 41:09:04:03 Waters open to taking of bait to include the East Vermillion River, the West Vermillion River and Firesteel Creek below Lake Mitchell in the list of waters that are closed to the commercial and noncommercial taking of bait.

Motion by Cerny with second by Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO CLOSURE OF WATERS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Muzzleloading restrictions

Andy Alban presented a recommended change allowing additional types of sights for the muzzleloader season only. The Department continues to receive requests for use of additional types of sights during the muzzleloader season that do not magnify but do provide for additional light other than just open sights which are the only type of sight currently allowed in rule.

Amend 41:06:04:14 to allow for the use of smokeless powder and peep sights and other optics that do not employ magnification during seasons restricted to muzzleloading rifles.

Motion by Sather with second by Cooper TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO MUZZLELOADING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Hunting accompaniment

Alban presented a change that would place responsibility for adherence to rules on the unlicensed big game hunter when accompanying another hunter that does have a big game license. Small game hunters accompanying big game hunters must use a shotgun with shotshells and cannot use dogs.

Amend 41:06:04:04 to create accompaniment allowances for big game hunters and place the responsibility for adherence to the rule on the unlicensed big game hunter.

Motion by Peterson with second by Sather TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO HUNTING ACCOMPANIMENT AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Wildlife rehabilitators permit and rules

Chief Kirschenmann indicated the Department often gets requests by individuals wanting to rehab injured animals. Chad Switzer indicated this is a new rule for wildlife species that are non-migratory species. Staff began in 2009 by researching what other states do and this permit will provide for the temporary care and release of certain species. The rule defines terms and a permitting process that includes inspection and veterinary involvement. This is to rehabilitate resident species and release them back into the wild by South Dakota residents using an annual permit. It is a requirement that a report is provided to the Department annually and these changes could begin in January of 2013.

To initiate a formalized Resident Wildlife Rehabilitation Program for the temporary care, rehabilitation, and release of certain resident wildlife species.

Motion by Cooper with second by Peterson TO PROPOSE THE NEW RULE FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Possession of live furbearers

Chad Switzer presented a recommendation to repeal the rule allowing for the possession of one live furbearers or raccoon, rabbit, skunk, fox, or coyote per household. This was discussed with furbearers, trappers, and health professionals and Switzer provided two letters of support for the repeal of the rule from the SD Animal Industry Board and the SD Department of Health.

Motion by Spies with second by Sather TO PROPOSE THE REPEAL OF POSSESSION OF LIVE FURBEARERS. Verbal response had a no vote. Discussion ensued about landowners, farmers, and ranchers having rabbits, coons, and other small animals in their possession. Roll call vote: Cerny-no; Cooper-no; Jensen-no; Knippling-no; Peterson-no; Sather-no; Spies-no; Olson-no. Motion failed unanimously.

Depredation Hunts

Keith Fisk presented information about depredation permits and hunts as they are used as a type of hazing permit for big game from December until March

31. Fisk indicated no hunts were permitted during January, February, and March of this year and had no recommended changes to the rule. Two elk depredation hunts occurred during the winter of 2011-2012 resulting in the harvested of two cow elk by unsuccessful elk license holders. Fisk had no recommended changes to the rule.

Depredation Hunt Resolutions

Fisk presented Resolutions 12-09 and 12-10 that allow Secretary Vonk to issue depredation hunt permits within the established depredation hunt guidelines.

Motion by Jensen with second by Cerny TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS 12-09 AND 12-10 AS PRESENTED (Appendix A and B). Motion carried unanimously.

Land Acquisition Resolutions

PWF land donation in Lyman County Salzman GPA

Paul Coughlin presented Resolution 12-11 to accept a donation of 160 acres in Lyman County from the Parks and Wildlife Foundation (PWF) known as the Salzman property to be used as a Game Production Area and to acknowledge the PWF for their generosity. This donation was presented at the December 2011 meeting and upon review of the original donor's intended use, this area will provide hunting and fishing opportunities similar to all Game Production Areas under Department management. The structures have been removed and the Wildlife Division will reimburse the Foundation for approximately \$4,000 of expenses incurred that include real estate taxes, weed control, and renovations.

Motion by Knippling with second by Cerny TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-11 AS PRESENTED (Appendix C). Motion carried unanimously.

Zdenek Property in Bon Homme County

Coughlin presented information and Resolution 12-12 requesting authorization for the Department to complete negotiations to purchase 199 acres in Bon Homme County from Joseph G. Zdenek as part of the Tony Dean initiative. The property has farmland, grassland, trees, wetland, and two ponds that provide fishing and hunting opportunities to be managed as a Game Production Area.

Motion by Cooper with second by Spies TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-12 AS PRESENTED (Appendix D). Motion carried unanimously.

Rocky Mountain Elk Annual Report

Tom Slowey Regional Director for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation provide a handout showing raffle results for the last ten years that included tickets sold and expenses from eighteen chapters in South Dakota. Slowey thanked the Commission for the change to open all the Black Hills elk units for

the 2013 tag as it will bring additional interest from sportsmen and increase ticket sales.

Antelope Surveys And Population Status

Andy Lindbloom gave a PowerPoint presentation indicating how recruitment surveys are conducted and information gleaned from the survey. Aerial surveys were conducted on a third of each of the management unit and information obtained from the survey. Should the recruitment be similar to last year the 2012 herd would be about 32,000 with a management objective of 60,000.

Waterfowl Population Status Report

Rocco Murano gave a PowerPoint presentation showing another banner year for waterfowl production and reviewed habitat conditions and population status including all duck species population estimates and breeding duck populations. The report included Canada goose breeding index, 2011 harvest estimates, and bird banding programs to determine survival rates across the Central Flyway.

Duck hunters have leveled off the last few years, habitat conditions are down 46% yet well above the national average. Water conditions are good, yet there is a 2% loss of grassland for waterfowl, and we are trying to hold onto the million acres we currently have in light of all the new drainage and tiling going on. The Canada pond data indicated good production in Canada as well as in South Dakota.

2012-2013 Private Shooting Preserve permits

Janelle Blaha presented the annual Private Shooting Preserve Report indicating 203 permits were issued with 175 operators and 203,168 acres of private shooting preserve available for the fall season. Last season 243,196 birds were harvested and three preserves utilized the additional harvest opportunity of 16 or more birds on a single day with 65.3 days of additional harvest taken.

2012 Antler Auction report

Andy Alban indicated the Antler Auction at the Outdoor Expo in Huron on June 9th had approximately 85 bidders for deer and elk antlers, bighorn sheep skulls and horns, trees stands, bobcat pelts, and mountain lion skulls and hides to raise \$28,165.

Missouri River reservoir fisher update

Chief John Lott reported fish kill reports in northeast South Dakota were due to oxygen depleted water and included carp at Roy Lake, northern pike on the James River near the North Dakota border, Lake Norden, Marion, and John lakes lost some perch and pike.

Mark Fincel gave a PowerPoint presentation on Lakes Sharpe and Oahe that outlined TV and newspaper interviews, coffee talk sessions, and cooperation with tourism and outfitters.

Fincel shared larval survey results, creel survey results, angling pressure, and harvest numbers for Lake Sharpe and Lake Oahe. Lake Oahe salmon harvest is better than expected with most of the salmon coming from North Dakota. Prey fish in Lake Oahe is good with reports of clouds of bait fish and gizzard shad were stocked as well. Anglers and walleye harvest on Lake Oahe are at record levels even above the 400,000 in 2001 when there was a walleye limit of 14 on Lake Oahe.

Elk Calf Survival Study Update

Chad Switzer and Andy Lindbloom gave a PowerPoint that provided the movement patterns of forty Custer State Park collared elk with 95% pregnancy rates and 36 collared calves with three cows yet to deliver calves. Eight of the calves have been taken by lions, two by coyotes, one died at birth, and one lost its collar when crossing a fence; thus leaving 24 calves to monitor. Staff continues to monitor three collared lions in the park on a daily basis and document their eating habits. One collared male lion has killed four elk calves.

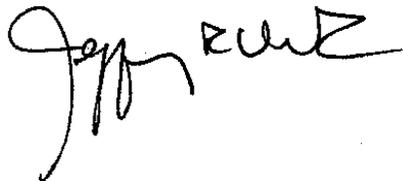
The Jewel Cave study area in Unit 2 have similar numbers with forty cows collared with a 95% pregnancy rate and 36 collared calves with two cows yet to deliver. Three calves were taken by lions and two calves slipped their collars.

The Bighorn Sheep survey currently has a 48% response rate with a third reminder scheduled tomorrow.

The July 25-26 dates reserved for the Commission for hearings are not needed and the next meeting will be in Milbank on August 2-3.

Motion by Sather with second by Spies to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Vonk". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

Appendix A

RESOLUTION 12-09

**BIG GAME OTHER THAN ELK AND MOUNTAIN LION
DEPREDAION HUNTER POOL**

WHEREAS, the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission has promulgated rules to provide for a big game depredation pool of hunters designed to assist in reducing wildlife damage to property by big game species other than elk and mountain lion, and;

WHEREAS, applications for depredation pool permits have been received and a random drawing held to establish the lists of depredation pool hunters for each county, and;

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that high populations of game animals coupled with severe winter weather conditions may cause property damage, which in some instances cannot be resolved by any other method except by reducing the number of game animals in a specific geographic area;

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks or his designee to issue no more than the maximum number (600 permits plus an additional 200 landowner/operator permits) of depredation pool permits to depredation pool hunters to respond to property damage caused by game animals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in issuance of the depredation pool permits, the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks or his designee is authorized to establish when and where each permit is valid and the number, species and sex of the game animals other than elk and mountain lion permitted to be taken by the holder of each depredation pool permit.

Appendix B

RESOLUTION 12-10

ELK DEPREDATION HUNTS

WHEREAS, the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission has promulgated rules to provide for elk depredation hunts designed to assist in reducing wildlife damage to property, and;

WHEREAS, applications for elk permits have been received and a list of elk applicants is available in Game, Fish, and Parks license application records, and;

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that high populations of elk have caused property damage, which in some instances cannot be resolved by any other method except by reducing the number of animals in a specific geographic area;

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks or his designee to issue up to 50 elk depredation permits (as approved in rule) to respond to property damage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in issuance of the elk depredation permits, the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks or his designee is authorized to establish when and where each permit is valid and the number, species and sex of the game animals permitted to be taken by the holder of each elk depredation permit.

Appendix C

RESOLUTION 12-11

WHEREAS, South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation owns real estate (Property) described as:

The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Section Twelve (12), Township One Hundred-one (101) North, Range Seventy-Two (72) West of the 5th P.M., Lyman County, South Dakota.

WHEREAS, South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation desires to gift to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (Department) the Property for use as a Game Production Area; and

WHEREAS, the Department has evaluated and determined that the Property would serve very well as a Game Production Area, offering wildlife habitat and public hunting and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Department is authorized to accept gifts of property for Game Production Area as per SDCL 41-2-19; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission desires to acknowledge the Department's acceptance of this gift of property from the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation, as a Game Production Area, and further acknowledge the extreme generosity of South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission does hereby confirm the decision by the Department to accept the gift of the Property from South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation, to be used as a Game Production Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission, on behalf of the citizens and sportspersons of South Dakota, does hereby acknowledge and express its deepest appreciation and gratitude to South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation for its generosity, and further acknowledge the outdoor recreation opportunities this gift will provide to South Dakotans for many years to come.

Appendix D

RESOLUTION 12-12

WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) has expressed an interest in acquiring real property presently owned by Joseph G. Zdenek, 43028 303rd Street, Lesterville, SD 57040, which property is described as:

Southwest one quarter (SW $\frac{1}{4}$) and South half of the South half of the Northwest quarter (S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$) in Section two (2) of Township Ninety-four North (T94N) Range fifty-eight West (R58W) of the 5th P.M., Bon Homme County, South Dakota.

WHEREAS, said property is to be acquired by and utilized by the Division of Wildlife as a Game Production Area; and

WHEREAS, SDCL 41-4-1.1 requires that before GFP acquires and purchases property, GFP must notify owners of land located adjacent to the property sought to be acquired by publishing notice of the same once in each legal newspaper of the county in which the property to be purchased is located; and

WHEREAS, GFP has published the required legal notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of action by the Commission authorizing the intended purchase, which notice included the time and location of the meeting at which Commission action is expected and by giving notice of instructions for presenting oral and written comments to the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed any and all comments that may have been received relative to the intended purchase and after consideration of the same, the Commission approves of the purchase of said property for use as a Game Production Area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that GFP is authorized to complete negotiations for the purchase of the above described real property and execute and consummate an agreement with Joseph G. Zdenek, which is acceptable to GFP to acquire by purchase, at the price of \$500,000.00, the above described real property for use as a Game Production Area.

Public Hearing Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
July 9, 2012

Public Hearing Officer Chuck Schlueter welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing at 10:14 AM. Schlueter indicated testimony will be received in the order of items 9-18 listed under Finalizations on the agenda. Written comments were provided to the Commissioners last week and anyone wanting to share oral testimony today will need to provide their name and address when addressing the Commission.

Antelope Hunting Season

John Hafley of Dassel, MN, emailed: "I am very much opposed to closing antelope hunting to non-residents. If there are tags available to residents, there should be at least 1 or 2 % available to non-residents and this should still meet your hunting opportunity objectives."

Kelly Hourscht of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I would like to state my opposition to the proposal to eliminate non-resident antelope licenses. I realize the antelope population is low right now but I don't think eliminating non-resident licenses is the answer. Instead, keep the proposed number of licenses the same, offer some non-resident tags like in the past, and reduce the resident licenses accordingly. More money comes from the sale of non-resident tags. Also, because they are not here to scout I would have to assume that the success rate for non-residents is lower than for residents. Each year we have been bringing non-resident youth antelope hunters into our camp. It is a great way to expose them to their first western big game hunt. I would hate to lose the opportunity to expose them to hunting in South Dakota."

Robert Fox of Oda, Ohio, emailed: "I have been coming to South Dakota for the past two years to hunt antelope with a resident party of three or four hunters. In both of the previous years our party has been successful in filling our double tags with the exception of two doe / fawns in 2010. These same hunters have had similar success rates in the several years before 2010 as well. The point I want to make here is that at no time since 2008 has your department contacted any of these hunters regarding their harvest of antelope. Why would your commission completely cut off all of the out of state revenue you get from licenses, not to mention all of the other revenue that non residents bring to your state, when there is a less drastic means of easing the hunting pressure? Why not issue a reasonable number of both resident and non resident "single animal" tags in proportion to the populations in each area? You should consider the loss of future revenues and the related management problems when many of the non resident hunters that you force to alternative states decide they are as well off there, and don't come back to South Dakota when the antelope population comes back."

No oral testimony was received.

East River Deer Hunting Season

Ryan Johnson of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "Please consider starting the rifle season after the peak of the rut. It would be a great opportunity to improve the quality of the bow hunting season while maintaining the quality of the rifle season."

David Wegleitner of Lake City, SD, emailed: "The deer herd in Marshall county has been diminished greatly, harsh winters, over abundance of coyotes, disease over harvest, tribal tags without limit, youth tags to non residents without limit, It just appears that because Marshall co. has so much GFP land as well as federal production area the whole world has decided this is where we will hunt because there is ample access. The right to hunt is to be cherished, but lets not over sale tags to keep bugets at all time highs and end up killing off the deer. Please consider reducing double tags, limit out of state tags , limit youth doe tags to 1 tag eliminate the special buck tag, If drastic measures are not taken in the near future there will be no deer left to harvest."

Barc Smith emailed: "I would like to see the east river rifle deer season later in November as the mature deer are very vulnerable (in rut) during the earlier season. As you know, mature deer are very important in passing the best genetics on to future generations of deer and deer hunters."

Mike Bakken of Watertown, SD, emailed: "Due to the reduced population of Whitetail deer in the eastern part of South Dakota I feel the East River Rifle season should be moved back to the weekend after Thanksgiving as it was years ago."

Justin Broughton of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I feel it is unnecessary to continue with the January antlerless season extension. This season puts unnecessary stress on the herd during harsh winters and increases buck harvest after they have shed their antlers. Antlerless deer numbers are at targeted levels in most east river counties or slightly below. The antlerless extension was a good season when deer numbers were high however now that management goals have been met in reducing herd size it is time to eliminate this season."

No oral testimony received.

Refuge Deer Hunting Season

No written or oral comments were received.

Early Fall Canada Goose Hunting Season

Tony Leonard emailed: "I support the idea of increasing the Canada goose limit from 8 to 10. What about increasing the limit from 3 to 4 in the later part of the season?"

Don Doty of Woodland Park, CO, emailed: "I live in Colorado but own property in Charles Mix County. I just don't understand and NOT in support of the season closing date North of Hwy 50? I have been applying and receiving my out of state Waterfowl licenses for over 25 years. I am not able to return until after January 1 every year. I am not in favor of this date change and would like to have it changed to match the season date of South of HWY 50. Even it you would

move the boundary line North to HWY 18 this would allow me to hunt my own property. Please hear my frustration.”

No oral testimony was received.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season

No oral or written testimony was received.

Elk License Raffle

Steven Atkins of Sioux Falls, SD, phoned and emailed: “The proposal Black Hills Elk Season / Chapter 41:06:26 would be unfair to those that hold non-Custer State Park Elk License Raffle Tag. Unless the G.F.P Commission made it fare for an Any Elk License Tag holder to hunt inside the Custer State Park due the declining numbers of Elk on outside of the park also.”

No oral testimony was received.

Dog Training

Jeff Bickel of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: “the proposed rules on dog training has several elements that I...find objectionable ! first the requirement that all game bird be purchased from a SD Game Bird License holder ? Many times early in the spring there are not sufficient Chukar or Quail in the upper midwest states (because of the cold weather) and they must be found farther south to conduct feild trials, hunt tests, and sporting dog events in early spring. I further reviewed the administrative rules regarding game preserves and did **not** find similar wording as to the requirement for purchasing from only SD Game Bird License holders, we are only asking for equal standing. Second a club with over 100 menbers purchases many birds at one time to facilitate training by all its members therefore the club holds the receipt and individuals are left liable to this rule, I would suggest that all game birds that are propeerly marked or tagged be considered safe to posess. Finally administrative rule 41;09;02;04 exempts Chukar Partridge & Quail from toe clipping for game preserves but the rule is different for dog training and again we are asking only for equal standing, Many other states have leg bands that are attached on young chicks to mark pen raised birds.”

No oral testimony received.

Hunting Requirements and Prohibitions Bait stations

No written and no oral testimony was received.

Pet Prohibition Amendment Big Sioux dog training area

No written or oral testimony was received.

Sheps Canyon Campground Fees

Georgia Byram emailed: “I do have a trailer spot at Shep's canyon. We have all the amenities we need without the help of the state. Please take us off the list of this proposed change”.

No oral testimony was received.

August Management Take Emergency Rule

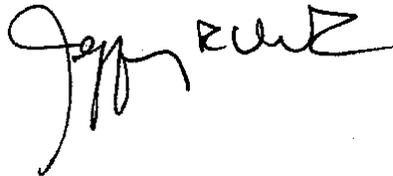
Heath Stone emailed: "What is the emergency rule for the august management season about? If the commission is considering opening the season earlier, I am opposed. I feel the season should start with the initial date of August 11, but go until August 31. I have heard arguments that the week off between seasons give the birds a break and gives hunters a chance to pattern them for the opener of September, but it is unnecessary because hunting pressure is minimal during the week anyways, and geese seem to pattern quickly after the weekend hunts. I would like to hear your opinion on the issue and discuss it further."

Zendek Property

Letters of support for the purchase of the Zdenek property in Bon Homme County were received from Eric Shoemaker of Sioux Falls, SD; Jeff Young of West Fargo, ND; and Kevin Heiman of Yankton, SD.

The public hearing concluded 10:26 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Vonk". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary