

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

**HUNTING REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITED METHODS
CHAPTER 41:06:04**

Commission Meeting Dates:	Public Hearing	July 9, 2012	Pierre
	Finalization	July 9, 2012	Pierre

COMMISSION PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS

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.

Recommended changes:

41:06:04:03. Methods prohibited. A person may not ~~use~~ establish, utilize, or maintain a bait station ~~when hunting from August 15 to February 1, inclusive, to attract any big game animal, including wild turkey, and a person may not use an electronic call when hunting any big game animal except a mountain lion. A bait station is a place where edible foodstuffs or minerals are~~ location where grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay, minerals, or any other natural food materials, commercial products containing natural food materials, or by-products of such materials are placed or maintained as an attractant to big game animals for the purpose of hunting. The use of scents alone does not constitute a bait station.

This restriction does not apply to foods that have not been placed or gathered by an individual and result from normal environmental conditions or accepted farming, forest management, wildlife food plantings, orchard management, or similar land management activities.

Persons are exempt from the bait station requirements while participating in depredation management activities directed by the Department.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The Department proposes amending the definition of a bait station and creating additional restrictions on the times when bait stations are prohibited for attracting big game animals for the purpose of hunting. Conservation officers receive numerous calls each year on the legality of bait stations. In its current form, 41:06:04:03 allows for hunters to bait big game with corn piles, apple piles, and other bait stations provided all of the materials are cleaned up prior to hunting. There is no waiting period involved once the bait station is removed. Bait stations tend to alter the natural movement patterns of big game animals, often causing them to go nocturnal. They can also cause a delay in the dispersal from wintering grounds, concentrate herds on the property of those maintaining a bait station, and create refuges that can hamper population control efforts. Bait stations are not necessary to sustain healthy big game populations and can create vulnerability for opportunistic poaching of big game animals.