

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS**

A Public Hearing will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 1360 SD Hwy 44, Winner, South Dakota, on April 4, 2013, at 2:00 o'clock PM(CDT), to consider adoption, amendment, and repeal of Rules pertaining to:

1. ARSD 41:03:04 – Camping Permits and Rules.

Effect: The proposed amendments would add Sheps Canyon Recreation Area to the list of areas that require a group lodging fee and establish the fee at \$240 a night for the first 8 persons age 12 and over plus \$17 for each additional person age 12 and older.

Reason: Group lodges are extremely popular state park facilities and receive heavy use year round. A ranch residence was included in the department's acquisition of the Hill Ranch property on the west side of Angostura Reservoir. The house, which is in close proximity to the reservoir, and the Sheps Canyon campground, boat ramp and planned horse trail system, is being converted to a group lodge. The department expects the Sheps Canyon Lodge to be equally popular due to its proximity to other recreational offerings and its picturesque setting. The \$240 nightly fee is consistent with the fee for other state park lodges of similar size.

2. ARSD 41:06:26 – Black Hills Elk Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would adjust the number of licenses available from 395 "any elk" and 175 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 570 licenses) to 380 "any elk" and 165 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 545 licenses).

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

3. ARSD 41:06:27 – Custer State Park Elk Hunting Season (Any Elk)

Effect: The Game, Fish, and Parks Commission did not propose any changes to the Custer State Park Elk Hunting Season, although the Commission intends to consider adjustments to the season rules including but not limited to the number of licenses to be

allocated. The current number of licenses available is 4 “any elk”.

Reason: No changes were proposed by the Commission due to on-going efforts by the Department to complete a Black Hills elk aerial survey and elk herding efforts from Wind Cave National Park to Custer State Park. Both management activities will be concluded and analyzed prior to the April Commission meeting and will provide the basis for any recommended adjustments. Adjustments will be to provide hunting opportunities consistent with wildlife management objectives.

4. ARSD 41:06:28 – Custer State Park Early Archery Elk Hunting Season.

Effect: The Game, Fish, and Parks Commission did not propose any changes to the Custer State Park Early Archery Elk Hunting Season, although the Commission intends to consider adjustments to the season rules including but not limited to the number of licenses to be allocated. The current number of licenses available is 3 “any elk”.

Reason: No changes were proposed by the Commission due to on-going efforts by the Department to complete a Black Hills elk aerial survey and elk herding efforts from Wind Cave National Park to Custer State Park. Both management activities will be concluded and analyzed prior to the April Commission meeting and will provide the basis for any recommended adjustments. Adjustments will be to provide hunting opportunities consistent with wildlife management objectives.

5. ARSD 41:06:42 – Custer State Park Trophy Bison Bull Harvest.

Effect: The proposed amendments would change the number of licenses from “no more than 10” to “8”, modify preference so license applicants accrue an additional preference point for each successive year they are unsuccessful in the draw; change reference from “permit and permit holder” to “license and licensee” and allocate two trophy bison licenses to residents in a first draw with leftover licenses to be available in a second draw for all applicants.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with herd management objectives. Changing the number of licenses available from a maximum number to a specific number provides the public with better information and is consistent with other hunting seasons managed by the department. Modifying the current single preference system to a lottery (accumulated points) system will provide more opportunity for repeat applicants. Allocating two of the licenses to South Dakota residents will give residents a better chance of being drawn for this trophy hunt while still recognizing the high demand from non-resident hunters.

6. ARSD 41:06:43 – Archery Elk Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would adjust the number of licenses available from 82 “any elk” and 15 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 97 licenses) to 77 “any elk” and 15 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 92 licenses).

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

7. ARSD 41:06:59 - Prairie Elk Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would adjust the number of licenses available from 47 “any elk” and 53 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 100 licenses) to 45 “any elk” and 51 “antlerless elk” licenses (total of 96 licenses); modify Unit 30 (Gregory County) by removing that portion of the unit located in Boyd County, Nebraska; adjust the season dates for Unit 30 (Gregory County) from September 29 - October 28 and December 1 – 31 to September 1 - December 31; adjust the season dates for Unit 11B (Bennett County and portions of Mellette County) from September 1 to the second Sunday of October to September 1 to the Friday before the third Saturday in October; and add Unit 11D (Bennett County and portions of Mellette County) with season dates of September 1 – December 31.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

8. ARSD 41:06:60 – Custer State Park Non-Trophy Bison Harvest; ARSD 41:06:02 – License Forms and Fees; and ARSD 41:06:07 – Custer State Park Restrictions.

Effect: The proposed amendments would change the number of licenses from “no more than 30 non-trophy bull bison and 30 cow bison” to “15 non-trophy bull bison and 10 cow bison”, modify preference so applicants accrue an additional point for each successive year they are unsuccessful in the draw and allocate 7 non-trophy bull bison licenses and 5 cow bison licenses to residents in a first draw with leftover licenses after the first draw to be available in a second draw for all applicants (ARSD 41:06:60); increase the license fee from \$1,500 to \$2,250 for a non-trophy bison bull and from \$1,000 to \$1,750 for a cow bison (ARSD 41:06:02); and add reference to non-trophy bison harvest as seasons in CSP available to non-residents. (ARSD 41:06:07).

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with herd management objectives. Changing the number of licenses available from a maximum number to a specific number provides the public with better information and is consistent with other hunting seasons managed by the department. Non-trophy bison hunt license fees have not been adjusted from the season’s inception nine years ago. The bison market has improved and current live sales significantly exceed the current costs for these hunts. In recognition of the growing demand for these hunts, the current single preference system should be modified to a lottery (accumulated points) system to provide more opportunity for repeat applicants. Allocating 15 non-trophy bull bison and 10 cow bison licenses to South Dakota residents will give residents a better chance of being drawn for this trophy hunt while still recognizing the high demand from non-resident hunters.

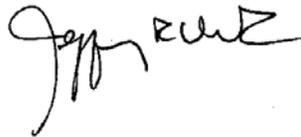
The above rule proposals may be modified or amended following receipt of public comment at the hearing to include or exclude matters that are described in this Notice of Hearing. The hearing may be continued from time to time until its business has been completed and may be rescheduled.

Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit data, opinions,

arguments, and their views, either orally or in writing (or both) at the hearing. Persons unable to attend the hearing may mail 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 transmit by email to Wildinfo@state.sd.us. All persons who desire to submit written 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 on or before 12:00 o'clock PM three (3) days prior to the date of hearing. Interested persons will be given reasonable opportunity to submit 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.

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. Handicapped persons may contact the undersigned for assistance.

Dated this 11th day of March, 2013.



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Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

This Notice of Public Hearing is published at the approximate cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_.