

From: JAY FOGARTY [<mailto:fishingfogarty@msn.com>]

Sent: Friday, July 26, 2013 12:36 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Goose Limits

I would just like to say that I'M NOT IN FAVOR OF THE CANADA GOOSE LIMITS BEING RAISED from 3 to 5 at least here in Unit #2!!! I understand they have issues over east with resident geese and I think if the limit would be raised, I think that is where it should be then but not here in Unit #2!!!! I'm also against the use of unplugged guns also!!! Thanks for you time!

Jay Fogarty Pierre, SD.

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott Furchner [<mailto:scottfurchner@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2013 5:37 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Cc: JAY FOGARTY

Subject: Canadian goose limits

It is my understanding that you are considering raising the daily limit from 3 to 5 per day. I understand that you are trying to reduce the resident geese east river. Please consider we don't seem to have a problem on the river system. I live in fort Pierre I am against anything that would pressure our area geese. We would like to keep the geese for as long as we can in the area. More pressure would only upset the balance between having the geese feel comfortable. And a good hunting experience Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Furchner. Ft Pierre , sd

Sent from my iPhone

From: Paul Bezdicek [paul_bezdicek@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, July 29, 2013 10:27 AM

To: Jensen, Gary; Sather, Duane; Peterson, Cathy; barryj@gwtc.net; Spies, Jim; jlcoop11@aol.com

Subject: Comments on Aug. commission meeting/Canada Goose proposal

Dear GFP & GFP commission,

I'm writing in response to the proposed statewide Canada goose daily limit increase from current three to proposed five. As a hunter that hunts Canada Geese dozens of times a year in both Unit 1 and Unit 2 I'm opposed to the statewide increase.

I'm opposed to increasing the daily limit in specifically Unit 2 (Missouri River Corridor) because of two large reasons. First, very little resident geese nest in unit 2 and little landowner complaints exist. Birds wintering along the Missouri are largely Canada nesting birds. Increasing the daily limit in Unit 2 will do nothing in reducing SD resident population. Second and my biggest concern is the increase in hunting pressure that will surely result in the daily limit increase. Living near Pierre and decoy hunting geese in the Hughes, Sully and Stanley county area the hunting pressure is already extreme. If you're unaware of the pressure in the area, it is common to have 20-30 groups of decoy hunters on public, another 20-30 groups on private and double that pass shooting each Friday-Sunday within 15 miles of Pierre. As you can see land to hunt is at a premium already. Hunting private land without deep checkbook or family/friend ties is next to impossible. The GFP Lower Oahe Access area is a great unique public hunting program that currently gets heavy use. Nowhere else have I hunted in SD that receives half the pressure the Pierre area does. With the increase in the daily limit more hunters will hunt and those hunters will stay in the fields longer to kill an extra 2 geese. Hunter hours over the course of season will increase substantially. The public fields will take the hit the most and quality of hunts will decrease and hunter satisfaction will also decrease. Likely more public fields will be closed in order to give geese a chance to feed, decreasing opportunity of the public resource. Further pressure over years may affect the amount of birds that winter on Lower Oahe and in the Pierre area as well. Raising the limit in Unit 2 will only increase the hours spend in the field by each group hunting putting additional pressure on this resource.

We are all well aware of the increase in South Dakota resident breeding Canada Geese over the last 15 years. Tolerance of these resident geese by landowners in eastern SD has continued to decrease as commodity prices have increased. In my opinion questionable and unethical techniques are being used by GFP to reduce numbers, especially drilling of eggs on public lands. Even Waterfowl Production Area's purchased by migratory stamp dollar with the sole purpose of raising migratory birds are drilled. Is the GFP truly worried about carrying capacity of geese in the state or do landowners have GFP eating the last bread crumbs out their hands? That's another discussion in itself. Regardless, if we are trying to reduce the population of resident geese, raising the daily limit from 3 to 5 in eastern SD makes sense and I support. I would even support a unit 1 increase, which is largely the entire state except the Missouri River (Unit 2) corridor and a couple other counties. However, I do not support statewide increase which would include Unit 2.

In my opinion it would be great decision to increase the daily limit from 3 to 5 in Unit 1 and leave Unit 2 and 3 at 3 Canada geese per day. I believe the Unit 2 increase would decrease the quality of the hunting and hunter overall satisfaction for reason previously outlined. For those reasons amongst others do not support the increase in Unit 2.

Thank you for your time,

Justin Allen, 303 Merry Road, Pierre, SD,

From: Richard Simms [<mailto:richard@sceniccityfishing.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2013 4:25 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Comment (resend)

To whom it may concern:

I see in today's news release regarding South Dakota waterfowl hunting proposals, regulators are considering increasing the possession limit for ducks from "two times the daily limit," to "three times the daily limit."

I am strongly in favor of that change. I have visited South Dakota to duck and/or pheasant hunt for the last three years, and I am returning again in the coming October.

While stocking the freezer is not my goal, being limited to possessing to a two-day limit of ducks is problematic. I am typically in-state and hunting a minimum of four or five days, forcing me to either (A) limit my take, or (B) find individuals I can donate ducks to. Again, it's certainly not a deal-breaker but I would appreciate the option of possessing a three-day limit of ducks.

In closing, please accept my high praise for the incredible hunting opportunities in your great state... and for the tremendous service from game & fish employees. Every interaction I've ever had with SDGF personnel has been amazingly positive. I'm a former wildlife officer. I've been on that side of the fence and I understand full well what such service means to sportsmen. Thank you.

Richard Simms - Chattanooga TN

From: Dale Dauman [<mailto:goomba@nvc.net>]

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 9:20 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Comments

Methinks you ought to seriously reconsider you liberal Fall Canada Goose hunt in Northeast South Dakota. While driving hundreds of miles in the Couteau Hills I've noticed there are almost no Canada Geese on the hundreds of sloughs up there....Definitely no babies whatsoever.....Take a look yourselves! There must be reasons for this and have you also noticed the trapping and shooting of muskrats has totally destroyed that resource too.....No rat houses surely limits the nesting sites of those geese....Also, what has happened to the Coot population?.....please take a serious look at these problems. Let me hear your comments and I hope you give serious consideration to my observations.

Dale Dauman, Aberdeen

goomba@nvc.net

From: Curt Tesch [<mailto:curtaps@venturecomm.net>]
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2013 11:56 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Proposed Duck Hunting Season

Dear Commissioners,

I live in the NE part of the state. This is the Low Plains, North Zone. I would like to recommend moving the duck season later preferably two weeks, but certainly one week. There is really no reason to open duck season in September. We try to encourage shooting drake birds. That early many of the birds are still in late stages of molt and are hard to identify. Opening that early usually results in "burning out" the local ducks in about a week. Then there is nothing for several weeks until northern weather moves in some birds. The last couple of years we have lost some fabulous hunting on late season mature birds because the season closed. Sure some years we might get frozen out before the end of the season if it were later, but it would be well worth it for the years that we could have that great late season harvest.

Thank you for considering my comments,
Curt Tesch

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-----Original Message-----

From: weberc@sio.midco.net [mailto:weberc@sio.midco.net]

Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2013 1:42 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject:

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing with respect to the proposed Canada goose limit increase from 3 to 5 birds. I'm strongly opposed to this increase in Unit 2.

There is not a resident goose issue in this part of the state the the limit is not necessary. Specifically, the public area north of Pierre, Sheehans, is a special and very successful program for goose hunters. Hunters are appreciative of the program and very satisfied with how it is run. Lots of people use this area. This area can't take the additional pressure of people staying in the fields to harvest 5 geese a piece. Its already hunted hard and receives so much pressure. This would make things worse. The management of this area involves closing fields so birds have a place to rest. The limit increase would force more field closures. That is so frustrating now to drive 300 miles one way to hunt and not be able to hunt certain fields because they are closed. Closing more fields and increasing the hunting pressure here will result in unhappy hunters. This area is a special program and needs to be managed that way. The 5 bird limit isn't needed nor necessary. This program will be severely affected negatively. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chad Weber
108 N. Dewberry Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

My name is Tim Withers.

First off I would like to say I was glad to see that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service changed the possession limit from 2 to 3 days. The change in the possession limit is something that I know a lot of resident and nonresident waterfowl hunters have wanted to see for several years.

As a goose hunter in the Canada goose Unit 2 area that hunts primarily on public land I do have some comments and concerns about the proposal to increase the daily limit from 3 to 5 for Canada geese. Everyone that hunts public and private lands in the Unit 2 area knows the area sees a lot of pressure whether it be from private lands, pass shooters lined up in the fence lines, road ditches, trees above the dam or on the Lower Oahe Waterfowl Hunting Lands from the time the birds arrive in the area until the last day of the season. As the pressure increases the birds become harder and harder to hunt making it almost impossible at times to see a bird fly over within range if you are a pass shooter or to get a flock of geese into a decoy spread. The added increase in daily limit will increase the hunting pressure due to the hunters being in the field longer to attempt to harvest the extra birds and has the potential to make the hunting worse. We will then see more hunters becoming very frustrated and dissatisfied with their waterfowl hunting experience. These hunters will soon decide to not hunt as much as they had before since the pressure on the birds has made the hunting too hard and unproductive. I believe the Department is looking for ways to increase the number of waterfowl hunters and days hunted not see a decrease.

There was a rumor about how this increase in daily limit will help to decrease the population of resident waterfowl in the eastern part of the state, this may be so in that area however there are very few if any migrating geese coming into the Unit 2 area that come from the resident birds in the eastern part of South Dakota.

In closing I am asking the Department and Commission to not follow through with getting approval from the USFWS to increase the daily limit from 3 to 5 especially in the Unit 2 area.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and concerns.

Tim Withers
Pierre, South Dakota