

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
December 5, 2013

Chairwoman Susie Knippling called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM Central Time at the Plains Ballroom, in Huron, South Dakota. Commissioners Susie Knippling, John Cooper, Cathy Peterson, Jim Spies, Duane Sather, and Gary Jensen were present. Barry Jensen was absent. Department Secretary Jeff Vonk was present along with approximately forty, public, staff, and media.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Approve Minutes

Knippling called for additions or corrections to the November 7-8, 2013, minutes or a motion for approval.

Motion by Cooper with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7-8, 2013, MEETING AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Knippling called for any additional Commissioner salary day requests and none were received.

License List Requests

Director Chris Petersen presented two license list requests at the reduced fee of \$100 per list.

The SD Ag Unity requested a list of the 2013 resident fishing license holders to mail information about flooded private lands and the legislation that may affect it.

Motion by Peterson with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM SD AG UNITY AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

The SD Wildlife Federation requested a list of 2013 Black Hills elk hunters, resident West River deer, resident antelope, and resident East River deer hunters to recruit membership to the organization and to sell gun tickets.

Motion by Sather with second by Gary Jensen TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM THE SD WILDLIFE FEDERATION AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

License Sales Report

Petersen presented the License Sales Report as of November 25 indicating the over-the-counter sales for 2013 end on December 15. The report showed an over all decrease in sales of 5.7% with resident small game sales down about 7,000 and nonresident small game license sales were down 19.6%.

Open Forum

Lee Peterson of Huron is a hunter and does not understand big and small game rules for retrieving deer on private land and wants to better understand why a small

game hunter can do unarmed retrieval and a deer hunter cannot retrieve deer in the same manner; as a landowner would not let him retrieve a buck. Cooper provided insight on property rights of landowners in regards to game retrieval. Cooper explained the difference with road right-of-way hunting of small game and that road right-of-way hunting is not allowed for big game.

Matt Rippentrop of Oelrichs, SD, expressed the bighorn sheep herd improvement has been great. The Bighorn Working Committee has met twice and had good discussion on some great ideas of where to spend the proceeds from the auction tag. Midwest Wild Sheep would encourage another auction tag for 2014 and the convention will be in Minneapolis in March.

Public Hearing Minutes

Public Hearing Officer Chuck Schlueter began the hearing at 2:01 PM Central Time by indicating there were no written comments received on the Spring Turkey Hunting Season, the Private Shooting Preserves, or the Captive Game Birds proposed changes. Schlueter invited oral comment on the items listed under Finalizations on the Agenda from those attending the public hearing. Anyone interested could approach the microphone and provide their name and address. No oral testimony was received and the public hearing ended at 2:03 PM.

FINALIZATIONS

Spring Turkey Hunting Season 41:06:13; 41:03:01

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented and reviewed the proposed Spring Turkey Hunting Season changes and indicated a recommended change would be to adjust the unit number for the Oahe Downstream season to be consistent with the deer season number to WRD-58D.

Motion by Cooper with second by Jensen TO AMEND PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE UNIT NAME CHANGE FOR OAHE DOWNSTREAM TO WRD-58D AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Convert license types in 10 units from 2-tag "any turkey" licenses to 2-tag "male turkey" licenses, convert license type in 8 units from 2-tag "any turkey" licenses to 1-tag "male turkey" licenses, and adjust the number of licenses in 5 units. Overall, these changes and adjustments result in 186 fewer licenses and 2,976 fewer tags for resident hunters. For nonresident hunters these changes result in 15 fewer licenses and 207 fewer tags.
2. Establish Unit PST-58D: Stanley County, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Land and the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area from April 5-30 (see attached map). Allow 4 resident "male turkey" licenses and 1 non-resident "male turkey" license to persons who use a wheelchair for mobility.
3. Modify 41:03:01:16. Restrictions on use of firearms and bows -- Exceptions. Uncased firearms and bows are prohibited in all state parks, state recreation areas, state nature areas, and state lakeside use areas with the following exceptions:

(5) From October 1 to April 30, inclusive, uncased firearms and bows are authorized for licensed hunters in all state parks, state recreation areas, nature areas, and lakeside use areas during established hunting seasons with the following restrictions:

(a) Uncased firearms and bows are prohibited the year around in all established campgrounds, designated day use areas, and at Beaver Creek Nature Area, Lake Herman State Park, Spring Creek Recreation Area, Spirit Mound Historic Prairie, Bear Butte State Park east of State Highway 79, Oahe Downstream Recreation Area except for a hunter who possesses a valid deer license for Unit WRD-58D as described in chapter 41:06:20 or a valid turkey license for Unit PST-58B as described in chapter 41:06:13, and Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve and Good Earth State Park except for a resident hunter who possesses a valid archery deer license and an access permit as described in chapter 41:06:22 or except for a resident hunter who possesses a valid archery spring turkey license and an access permit as described in chapter 41:06:13;

4. Modify 41:06:13:04. Application requirements and restrictions. The following applies to all applications for license and licenses issued under this chapter:

(5) Good Earth State Park is closed to spring turkey hunting except for ten 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 ten licensees who possess a valid spring turkey archery license and an archery turkey access permit. The access permits may be issued by lottery drawing. Each access permit is valid from the first Saturday of April to April 30, inclusive.

Motion by Peterson with second by Spies TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON 41:06:13 AND 41:03:01 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Partridge allowed for release 41:09:01; 41:09:02

Chad Switzer presented the proposed changes to allow for all species of partridge to be released into the wild and on private shooting preserves. This change is to remove the names "Hungarian" and "Chukar" from rule and all other criteria for Private Shooting Preserves and Captive Game Birds remain the same. Staff has determined there is no biological reason to limit the release of these species of partridge. Switzer indicated there were no recommended changes to proposal.

Delete the words "Chukar" and "Hungarian" from rules 41:09:01:03; 41:09:02:04; and 41:09:02:06.1

Motion by Sather with second by Cooper TO FINALIZE THE DELETION OF THE WORDS CHUKAR AND HUNGARIAN FROM RULE AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Hunting Season Proposals

Director Leif requested Bighorn Sheep Management and Research Update PowerPoint by Lindbloom and Kanta be presented prior to recommendations and Chair Knipping granted the request.

Chief Kirschenmann presented the season dates, open area, licenses, requirements, and restrictions. The recommended changes are to modify the boundary in Unit 1 and for the auction tag to be valid in Unit 2 only.

1. Auction license is valid only in Unit 2.
2. Modify the current boundary description for Unit 1 to include the geographic area of the Rapid Creek bighorn sheep sub-herd population.

Motion by Jensen with second by Sather TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Sheps Canyon Lodge

Director Doug Hofer handed out a map showing the two-acre parcel of land where the Sheps Canyon Lodge is located. Hofer then presented Resolution 13-16 designating the two acres for park and recreation use managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation. This resolution will allow the property to be recorded in the Fall River County Register of Deeds as exempt from property tax.

Motion by Peterson with second by Sather TO APPROVED RESOLUTION 13-16 AS PRESENTED (Appendix A). Motion carried unanimously.

Buffalo Auction Results

Director Hofer presented the 48th Annual Custer State Park Fall Classic Bison Auction results indicating 325 buffalo were sold for a total of \$478,150. The report showed the different classes, numbers of bison in each class, and average price per bison.

CSP Buffalo Hunts

Hofer provided information about the 2013 Custer State Park Bison Hunts showing the number of applications for residents and nonresident hunters, the number of licenses issued. Hofer believes better marketing resulted in the 1,424 applications received.

Chair Knippling called for a recess at 2:17 and meeting resumed at 2:35 PM.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Bighorn Sheep Auction Tag

Chief Kirschenmann presented Resolution 13-17 indicating an application for the Bighorn Sheep Auction Tag was received from The Wild Sheep Foundation and meets all criteria for the auction tag.

Motion by Spies with second by Sather TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 13-17 AS PRESENTED (Appendix B). Motion carried unanimously.

2014 Season Setting Schedule

Director Leif presented the 2014 Season Setting Schedule showing the dates the Commission will be consider rule changes and the meeting where Finalization of

changes take place for hunting seasons. Changes from the 2013 schedule were moving the spring turkey and spring light goose recommendations to October, no recommendations in the November meeting, and move the December meeting a week later for the bighorn sheep recommendations. Commission accepted changes by consensus.

Bighorn Sheep update

Andy Lindbloom provided history and locations of the current bighorn sheep herds. Population survey data, harvest data, winter ground counts, and winter mark-resight survey information was presented. License applications for 2000-2013 had grown and showed additional demand for the new unit. Harvest data was preliminary for two herds showing that two rams were harvested so far. One license holder is still hunting. Wyoming has had one ram harvested this year. Lindbloom show the average score of harvested rams since 2000 and their age. The winter ground counts showed minimum number of rams in each of the different herds along with a diagram on how ram classification is arrived. Population estimation of the Elk Mountain herd is about 100 and the Rapid Creek herd has an estimate of 45.

John Kanta provided the history and future of program of the bighorn sheep transplant program. The Chippewa Creek herd at Rocky Boy in Central Montana have 40 sheep available and half will to go to the Elk Mountain herd and the other half go to Pine Ridge Reservation with the ewes to be collared. Sheep from Alberta is still in the works and in Jan or Feb 2015 plan to move sheep to form a new Deadwood herd and the paperwork is in process.

Disease concerns are the number one factor in SD and across the west especially with contact between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep and goats. A brochure has been developed about disease between the domestic sheep and bighorn sheep herds to help educate public and landowners in hopes to minimize risk to bighorn sheep herds.

Lindbloom shared current goals and action plan for about 250 sheep in the Rapid City herd and 200 sheep in the Hill City herd.

Land acquisition update

Paul Coughlin presented information about the purchase of an in-holding at the Chain Lakes Game Production Area in southeast Brule County. The 160 acres will consolidate the GPA to provide additional hunting opportunity. The funding comes from the Tony Dean's Acres NAWCA grant and may be ready for Commission consideration at the next meeting. Coughlin has extended an invitation to present this acquisition to the Brule County Commission and is waiting for a response.

Pheasant Habitat Summit update

Director Leif handed out the Governor's Pheasant Habitat Summit Agenda scheduled for December 6th. Game, Fish, and Parks staff met weekly, secured sponsors, and mapped out logistics for the Crossroads and Huron Arena. More than 550 individuals have registered for the event and each will receive a portfolio, a sack lunch, and a pheasant book. The Governor will be attending the entire Summit and

Senator Thune will be arriving during the plenary session. SD Public Broadcasting will be airing the summit along with other media in attendance.

Miscellaneous updates

Knippling asked for an update on elk calf survival in Custer State Park and Lehman indicated no change since last report. The calves are getting bigger and stronger and no more have been lost.

Lehman indicated the Wind Cave elk are moving away from the fence and that is encouraging.

Kintigh shared that a few deer were lost in the October blizzard and they were found in ravines where it would have been difficult for them to move out of. The antelope moved northward.

Lion mortality is down as are reports from landowners and currently 26 are collared.

Vonk indicated the action plan in response to the WMI review will be arranged in a manner that will show when action is to be completed and when each action item will be presented to the Commission for discussion.

Adjourn

Motion by Jensen with second by Peterson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

Appendix A

RESOLUTION 13-16

Whereas, on October 31, 2012, the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) acquired for both wildlife and parks purposes the following described real property pursuant to a deed recorded in Book 138 of Deeds, Pages 541 and 542 office of Register of Deeds in Fall River County, South Dakota, to wit:

Hill Ranch Tract as recorded in Book of Plats 25, Page 3 office of the register of Deeds, Fall River County, South Dakota, located in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25, and in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26, Township Eight (8) South, Range Five (5) East, Black Hills Meridian, Fall River County, South Dakota, containing 52.11 acres, more or less.

Whereas, a two acre parcel within said property was purchased by the Parks and Recreation Division for the Sheps Canyon Lodge facility; and

Whereas, properties utilized by the Division of Parks and Recreation for public parks purposes are exempt from property tax per Article XI, § 5 of the South Dakota Constitution ; and

Whereas, the Commission recognizes this facility will be managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation as part of the Sheps Canyon Recreation Area; and,

Whereas, the two acre parcel has been platted and the plat, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, has been recorded with the office of the Fall River County Register of Deeds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission does hereby designate the above described two acre Sheps Canyon Lodge parcel for use by the Division of Parks and Recreation for public parks and recreation purposes.

Appendix B

RESOLUTION 13-17

BIGHORN SHEEP AUCTION LICENSE APPROVAL

Whereas, the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission has promulgated rules to provide for a bighorn sheep license to be auctioned by a nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to big game management providing that at least three bighorn sheep licenses are made available; and

WHEREAS, applications submitted by nonprofit conservation organizations to auction a bighorn sheep license must meet the criteria and requirements outlined in rule established by the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Wild Sheep Foundation – Midwest Chapter has submitted a letter of application and supportive information which meets the requirements outlined by the Commission in the Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season rules (ARSD Chapter 41:06:56);

Now, therefore let it be resolved that, the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission accept and approve the application submitted by the Wild Sheep Foundation – Midwest Chapter.

Be it further resolved, that the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission approves and authorizes the Department Secretary to issue one bighorn sheep auction license to the successful purchaser as submitted by the Wild Sheep Foundation – Midwest Chapter to the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks.