

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

A Public Hearing will be held at the Best Western Ramkota Conference Center, 920 West Sioux Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota, on Monday, July 8, 2013, at 2:00 o'clock P.M. (CDT), to consider adoption, amendment and repeal of Rules pertaining to:

1. ARSD 41:06:04 – Hunting Requirements and Prohibited Methods.

Effect: Establish a new rule requiring any person who harvests a wolf to notify a conservation officer within 24 hours of the kill and submit the wolf for inspection by a conservation officer or other department representative no later than 48 hours following the kill.

Reason: During the 2013 legislative session, SB 205 was passed and signed into law to take effect July 1, 2013. SB 205 adds wolves to the list of animals designated as "predator/varmints" and authorizes wolves to be hunted, taken, or killed in any area of the state in which the State of South Dakota has preeminent authority over the management of wolves, which currently is East of the Missouri River in South Dakota. Wolves remain a protected species West of the Missouri River in South Dakota under the Endangered Species Act and may not be hunted, taken, or killed west of the Missouri River. For this reason, it is necessary for the department to monitor the harvest of wolves.

2. ARSD 41:06:10 – Sage Grouse Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendment would close the sage grouse hunting season.

Reason: As a result of a continual decline in the number of male sage grouse observed during the spring lek survey and after evaluating biological data and harvest strategies, the department is recommending season closure.

3. ARSD 41:06:23 – Antelope Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would adjust the number of licenses/tags

available to include offering resident hunters 165 less one-tag licenses (165 tags) and 345 less two-tag licenses (690 tags) than were authorized in 2012; and no firearm licenses would be issued in Units 45A (Lyman County) and 45B (Ft. Pierre National Grasslands) which also would result in the closure of Units 45A and 45B to archery antelope hunting.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

4. ARSD 41:06:50 – Early Fall Canada Goose Hunting Season and ARSD 41:06:16 – Waterfowl Hunting Seasons.

Effect: The proposed amendments would change the opening date of the season from the first Saturday in September to September 1; and modify the boundaries of Units 1 and 2 near the Missouri River to remove all of Tripp County and that portion of Charles Mix County east of Highway 281 and north of S.D. Highway 46 from Unit 1 (area open to Early Fall Canada Goose Hunting Season) and place these portions in Unit 2.

Reason: Provide hunting opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

5. ARSD 41:08:01 – Bobcat Trapping and Hunting Season.

Effect: The proposed amendments would change the west river season dates from sunrise on the second Saturday of December through sunset on February 15, inclusive, to sunrise on December 26 through sunset on March 1, inclusive; implement a harvest limit of 600 bobcats west of the Missouri River with the season to close prior to March 1 if the harvest limit is reached; and change the east river season dates from sunrise on the second Saturday of December through sunset on December 30, inclusive, to sunrise on December 26 through sunset on the third Sunday of January, inclusive.

Reason: Provide bobcat hunting and trapping opportunity consistent with wildlife management objectives.

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 P.M. 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013.

(SEAL)



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

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

