

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission Governance Meeting
June 4, 2014

Chairman Cooper called the Governance meeting to order at 3:10 PM CDT at the Grand Lodge within the Lewis and Clark Resort east of Yankton, South Dakota. Commissioners John Cooper, Cathy Peterson, Jim Spies, Barry Jensen, Gary Jensen, Duane Sather, Paul Dennert, and Scot Phillips were present. Secretary Jeff Vonk was present along the Division of Parks and Recreation Director Doug Hofer, Division of Wildlife Director Tony Leif, and Executive Secretary Debra Ascher. Bob Mercer was also present.

The purpose of the governance meeting was to discuss administrative issues responding to letters, calls, and emails from the public. The July 9th meeting was discussed and changed to a two-day meeting beginning on July 8th. Commission representation to the Parks and Wildlife Foundation Board, the GFP Access Committee, and the Waterfowl Working Group were discussed.

Discussion included “pressures” put upon the Commissioners, the WMI Report and Implementation, and review of the Commission Guidebook and rule making authority.

The Governance meeting concluded at 6:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
June 5-6, 2014

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 1 PM CDT at the Grand Lodge located at the Lewis and Clark Resort west of Yankton, South Dakota. Commissioners John Cooper, Cathy Peterson, Jim Spies, Barry Jensen, Gary Jensen, Duane Sather, Paul Dennert, and Scott Phillips were present. Secretary Jeff Vonk was present along with approximately forty public, media, and staff.

Chairman Cooper stated they had a great experience seeing the Asian Carp on the James River and a tour of the National Archery Center yesterday, June 4th prior to the Governance meeting.

Cooper thanked Jeff VanMeeteren for the information and tour of the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area Complex, the Federal Fish Hatchery, and other projects located in the area this morning.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Approve Minutes

Chairman Cooper called for the approval of the May 1-2, 2014, minutes.

Motion by Peterson with second by Gary Jensen TO APPROVE THE MAY 1-2, 2014, MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Cooper called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 22, 2014, Teleconference meeting.

Motion by Peterson with second by Barry Jensen TO APPROVE THE MAY 22, 2014, TELECONFERENCE MEETING AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Commissioner Salary Days

Chairman Cooper asked for any additional Commissioner Salary Days and Gary Jensen requested one for evening meetings he attended in the Rapid City area.

Motion by Dennert with second by Spies TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL SALARY DAY REQUESTED BY GARY JENSEN. Motion carried unanimously.

License List Requests

Director of Administration Chris Petersen presented a license list request from Patricia Myers of William-Neil Associates for Cabela's, Inc. requesting a list of the 2013 resident and nonresident small game license holders to promote the South Dakota Pheasant Classic. This is a full fee request.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Sather TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FOR CABELA'S INC. AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Petersen presented four license list requests from Rock Communications for 5,000 license holders each for waterfowl, archery, upland game [resident small game], and deer near the Rapid City and Sioux Falls areas in South Dakota. The lists would be used to mail a brochure from Scheels Sports. These list requests would be at the full fee.

Motion by Spies with second by Dennert TO APPROVE THE FOUR LICENSE LIST REQUESTS FROM ROCK COMMUNICATIONS AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Petersen presented a list request from the South Dakota Wildlife Federation for 50,000 license holders of the 2013 nonresident small game license to send a survey. This would be at the reduced fee.

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

FY15 Budget

Director Chris Petersen presented the FY2015 Budget that included the salary package and health insurance adjustment as approved by the 2014 Legislature. Petersen indicated the FY15 budget for the Department is \$79,659,402. The Division of Administration FY15 budget is \$4,348,290 including the state salary package and health insurance adjustment. This is an information item for the Commission.

The Parks Division budget is an information item with a FY15 Maintenance & Operations Budget of \$21,301,845 with 243.2 FTE. This budget was recommended by the Governor and approved by the Legislature including the salary package and health insurance adjustments.

The Parks Development and Improvement budget was accepted as submitted to the Governor and does not have salary increases as there are no employees within the \$6,786,200 budget.

The Snowmobile Trails budget is an action item with 9.1 full time employees and a FY15 Budget request of \$1,426,332 in spending authority and requires Commission approval.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Peterson TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REQUEST OF \$1,426,332.00 OF SPENDING AUTHORITY FOR THE FY15 SNOWMOBILE TRAILS BUDGET AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

The Division of Wildlife FY15 Operations budget recommendation is for \$44,284,735 of spending authority including the salary package and health insurance adjustments for 290.0 FTE. The budget includes \$16,091,250 of federal funds and \$28,203,485 of other funds. The Division of Wildlife Development and Improvement FY15 budget recommendation is for \$1,512,000 with no FTE. This includes \$1,093,750 of federal funds and \$418,250 of other funds and requires Commission approval.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Barry Jensen TO APPROVE THE FY15 DIVISION OF WILDLIFE BUDGET REQUEST OF \$44,284,735.00 OF SPENDING

AUTHORITY WITH 290 FTE; and THE SPENDING AUTHORITY OF \$1,512,000.00 FOR THE WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT BUDGET AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Petersen stated the FY14 fiscal year ends on June 30, 2014, and the game fund reserve at 11 months into the budget year sits at \$7.7 million which is up from the \$6.6 million for FY13. Petersen indicated this is a good place to be.

Secretary Vonk stated the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) included coverage changes for part time employees working 30 hours or more and the one year extension to postpone this portion of the Act will expire at the end of the calendar year; at which time there may be a discussion with the Commission on the impact it will have on the FY15 budget.

License Sales Report

Director Petersen presented the May 29, 2014, License Sales Totals for over the counter license sales showing an increase of 5.9% over the May 2013 report. Petersen shared that fishing license sales remain strong and may generate an additional \$6-\$7,000,000 in additional projected revenue for calendar year 2014.

Open Forum

Jan Nicolay of Chester, SD, shared her gratitude for the Department's support with the Sportsmen Against Hunger Program and her concerns about funding from the Department. Nicolay wishes to keep things flexible to allow hunters to take meat to a processor and to continue working with nonprofits to feed the hungry of South Dakota.

Frank Kloucek of Scotland, SD, shared his concern to provide the use of crossbows as approved during the 2014 Legislative Session. He believes Bon Homme County has plenty of geese and wants more tags. Road hunting continues to be big issue as is abandon roads and he now questions his belief about road hunting due to changes with current farming practices.

PUBLIC HEARING - FINALIZATIONS

The Public Hearing began at 2 PM and concluded at 2:14 PM and minutes follow these regular minutes. Cooper called for a recess and meeting resumed at 2:31 PM.

East River Deer Hunting Season 41:06:21

Chief Tom Kirschenmann indicated weather conditions, deer disease, and habitat changes were considered in making the changes to license allocations. Sportsmen and landowners share a desire to increase the deer herd and hunter success and hunter satisfaction are the indicators currently used when adjusting the number of antlerless tags.

Chad Switzer presented the proposed changes to the East River Deer Hunting Season with no recommended changes to the proposal. Discussion included larger management units with ranges of herd size and allowances within the unit for changing

environment or weather conditions. Lowering the antlerless tags should show an increase in herd size within a couple of years.

1. Offer 3,280 more one-tag licenses, 7,720 less two-tag licenses (15,440 tags), and 2,800 less three-tag licenses (8,400 tags) compared to 2013.
2. Repeal Unit ERD-ZZ1.
3. Repeal Unit ESD-ZZ1.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Dennert TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE EAST RIVER DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:21 AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

West River Deer Hunting Season 41:06:20

Switzer presented the proposed changes to the West River Deer Hunting Season with an 86% decrease of antlerless tags which is an aggressive and significant change in tags. There were no recommended changes to proposal. Units that have no antlerless tags are not open for the nine-day extended season.

Motion by Phillips with second by Gary Jensen TO ELIMINATE THE LATE ANTLERLESS SEASON DATES FOR THE WEST RIVER DEER HUNTING SEASON. Discussion included the impact of closing the late season and staff indicated there would be no biological impact to the herd. Roll call vote: Dennert-no; Barry Jensen-yes; Gary Jensen-yes; Peterson-no; Phillips-yes; Sather-no; Spies-no; Cooper-no. Motion failed with three yes votes and five no votes.

1. Adjust resident license numbers by increasing one-tag licenses by 13,825, decreasing two-tag licenses by 13,855 (27,710 tags), and decreasing three-tag licenses by 3,745 (11,235 tags) compared to 2013.
2. Adjust nonresident license numbers by increasing one-tag licenses by 1,107, decreasing two-tag licenses by 1,110 (2,220 tags), and decreasing three-tag licenses by 300 (900 tags) compared to 2013.
3. Eliminate 53L (limited access unit) and include with 53A (Perkins North).
4. Eliminate Unit WRD-ZZ1.
5. Eliminate Unit WSD-ZZ1.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Sather TO FINALIZE CHANGES FOR WEST RIVER DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:20 AS PROPOSED. Roll call vote: Dennert-yes; Barry Jensen-yes; Gary Jensen-yes; Peterson-yes; Phillips-no; Sather-yes; Spies-yes; Cooper-yes. Motion carried with seven yes votes and one no vote.

Application for License 41:06:01

Switzer presented the proposed changes for a new rule requiring archery, muzzleloader, and youth or mentor license holders to obtain a free access permit for three specific units to assist with harvest data and hunter use on those units.

Establish an administrative rule that requires all deer hunters possessing an archery, muzzleloader, youth or mentor deer license to obtain a free access permit to hunt on the Hill Ranch Game Production Area (Unit 27L), Custer National Forest (Unit 35L), and Little Moreau Game Production Area (24B).

Motion by Sather with second by Peterson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO APPLICATION FOR LICENSE 41:16:01 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Black Hills Deer Hunting Season 41:06:19

Chad Switzer presented the proposed changes to the Black Hills Deer Hunting Season with no recommended changes.

1. Offer no "Antlerless Whitetail" deer licenses. In 2013, 100 resident and 8 nonresident "Antlerless Whitetail" deer licenses were offered in Unit BHD-BD1.
2. Repeal Unit BHD-ZZ1.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Peterson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:19 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Archery Deer Hunting Season 41:06:22

Kirschenmann presented and reviewed the proposed changes to the Archery Deer Hunting Season indicating a change is recommended to allow hunters who draw an access permit for the Sioux Falls Antlerless Area to use their archery unit license ARD-LM1.

Allow those hunters who are successful in drawing an access permit for the Sioux Falls Antlerless Area to use the Unit ARD-LM1 "antlerless whitetail deer" license.

Motion by Dennert with second by Spies TO AMEND THE PROPOSED CHANGES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Change unlimited "Any Antlerless Deer" licenses to unlimited "Antlerless Whitetail Deer" licenses.
2. For Unit ARD-LM1, "Antlerless Whitetail Deer" licenses are not valid in the following deer management units: BH1, 01A, 02C, 05A, 06A, 07A, 08A, 11A, 11B, 12A, 17A, 18A, 19A, 20A, 21A, 21B, 27A, 27B, 27L, 22A, 23A, 25A, 29A, 32A, 34A, 35A, 35C, 35L, 37A, 39B, 43A, 44A, 45D, 49A, 49B, 46A, 48A, 52A, 53A, 55A, 61A, 62A, 64A, 65A, and 67A.
3. Allow those hunters who are successful in drawing an access permit for the Sioux Falls Antlerless Area to use the Unit ARD-LM1 "antlerless whitetail deer" license.
4. Remove from the list of "restricted areas" that portion of Union County north of the Missouri River, west of Interstate 29, south of Union County Road 23, and east of the west boundary of the Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve.
5. Reduce the number of "Any Deer" archery access permits from 10 to 5 for the Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve.
6. Repeal Unit ARD-LM2.
7. No person may apply for and receive more than 3 archery deer licenses, of which only one can be an "antlerless whitetail deer" license.
8. Change the end date from January 15 to December 31 for Sand Lake NWR.

Motion by Peterson with second by Spies TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE ARCHERY DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:22 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Season 41:06:45

Kirschenmann presented and reviewed the proposed changes to the Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Season with no recommended changes.

1. Change unlimited "Any Antlerless Deer" licenses to unlimited "Antlerless Whitetail Deer" licenses.
2. For Unit MZD-LM1, "Antlerless Whitetail Deer" licenses are not valid in the following deer management units: BH1, 01A, 02C, 05A, 06A, 07A, 08A, 11A, 11B, 12A, 17A, 18A, 19A, 20A, 21A, 21B, 27A, 27B, 27L, 22A, 23A, 25A, 29A, 32A, 34A, 35A, 35C, 35L, 37A, 39B, 43A, 44A, 45D, 49A, 49B, 46A, 48A, 52A, 53A, 55A, 61A, 62A, 64A, 65A, and 67A.
3. Repeal Unit MZD-LM2.
4. Repeal Unit MZD-ZZ1.
5. No person may apply for and receive more than 2 muzzleloader deer licenses, of which only one can be an "antlerless whitetail deer" license.

Motion by Sather with second by Gary Jensen TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE MUZZLELOADER DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:45 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Deer Hunting Season 41:06:44

Chief Kirschenmann presented and reviewed the proposed changes to the Youth Deer Hunting Season with no recommended changes to proposal.

1. Repeal Unit YOD-LM2.
2. Limit youth deer hunters to one single tag "any antlerless deer" license.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Peterson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE YOUTH DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:44 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Refuge Deer Hunting Season 41:06:36

Kirschenmann presented and reviewed the proposed changes to the Refuge Deer Hunting Season 41:06:36 with no recommended changes.

1. Change unlimited "Any Antlerless Deer" licenses to unlimited "Antlerless Whitetail Deer" licenses.
2. For Unit MZD-LM1, "Antlerless Whitetail Deer" licenses are not valid in the following deer management units: BH1, 01A, 02C, 05A, 06A, 07A, 08A, 11A, 11B, 12A, 17A, 18A, 19A, 20A, 21A, 21B, 27A, 27B, 27L, 22A, 23A, 25A, 29A, 32A, 34A, 35A, 35C, 35L, 37A, 39B, 43A, 44A, 45D, 49A, 49B, 46A, 48A, 52A, 53A, 55A, 61A, 62A, 64A, 65A, and 67A.
3. Repeal Unit MZD-LM2.
4. Repeal Unit MZD-ZZ1.
5. No person may apply for and receive more than 2 muzzleloader deer licenses, of which only one can be an "antlerless whitetail deer" license.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Dennert TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DEER HUNTING SEASON 41:06:36 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion included the relationship with tribes and Kirschenmann indicated the Regional Supervisors do visit with the various tribal leaders and have formal discussion regarding the management of deer especially on lands adjacent to tribal lands.

Trapping Prohibitions 41:08:02

Keith Fisk presented the proposed changes to Trapping Prohibitions with no recommended changes.

1. Prohibit the use of live mammals or live birds to aid in the taking of furbearers, predators, and varmints via traps and snares.
2. Clarify that all trapping equipment needs to be removed from public lands and public road right-of-ways prior to May 1. This includes traps and snares (set and unset), stakes, cables, chains, wires, or other devices used for the purpose of attaching a trap or snare.

Motion by Phillips and second by Spies TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO TRAPPING PROHIBITIONS 41:08:02 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

August Management Take - Canada Goose 41:06:16

Chief Kirschenmann presented the proposed change with no recommended changes to proposal.

Modify the season dates to the third Saturday of August to August 31. Currently starts the first Saturday of August.

Motion by Peterson and second by Sather TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE AUGUST MANAGEMENT TAKE OF CANADA GOOSE 41:06:16 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Archery Equipment Restrictions 41:06:05

Chief Scott Simpson presented the proposed changes along with a handout showing archery restrictions in the surrounding states and a handout from the Archery Trade Association showing the archery equipment requirements for each state. Simpson stated that he worked with South Dakota Bowhunters Inc., Bruce Cull of the National Field Archery Association, and other organizations in South Dakota to compile the recommended changes presented last month. Simpson shared a concern that archery hunters often carry a blunt arrow when in the field and wanted some clarification in rule. Simpson presented a recommended change to proposal.

(11) An arrow without a broadhead (fixed or mechanical) that has at least two metal cutting edges when hunting big game animals, except blunt points may be used when hunting turkeys and both field points and blunt points may be used when hunting small game or when possessed and used as practice arrows at anytime; or

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Dennert TO AMEND THE PROPOSED CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued about the pounds of pull needed for elk and other big game and differences with fixed and mechanical broadheads. A motion was made, second,

and withdrawn in order to allow time to review and clarify the proposal and was tabled until the next morning.

(12) A bow that measures less than 50 pounds pull when hunting elk or 40 pounds pull when hunting other big game animals, with an expandable broadhead.

(13) A bow that measures less than 40 pounds pull when hunting elk, or 30 pounds pull hunting other big game animals with a fixed blade broadhead.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Spies TO AMEND CHANGES TO ARCHERY RESTRICTIONS TO CLARIFY (12) AND ADD (13) TO THE PROPOSAL. Motion carried unanimously.

Modify archery equipment restrictions as amended as follows:

ARSD 41:06:05:01. Archery equipment restrictions. A person hunting with bow and arrow may not use or possess any of the following:

(1) Explosive, poisonous, hydraulic, or pneumatic points;

~~(2) Barbed points except for taking fish and frogs;~~

~~(3) Crossbows and draw-lock devices that hold the bow at partial or full draw except as provided in chapter 41:09:12;~~

~~(4) Bolts or darts;~~

~~(5) Arrow rests that have more than three inches of continuous contact with the arrow;~~

~~(6) Electronic devices mounted to the bow that aid in the taking of game, except that cameras, video cameras or cell phones used exclusively for photographic purposes, lighted sight pins and illuminated arrow nocks may be used;~~

~~(7) Electronic arrow or electronic string releases;~~

~~(8) Compound bows with a let off of more than 80 percent;~~

~~(9) Compound bows shorter than 28 inches as measured from axle to axle the top of the upper wheel or cam to the bottom of the lower wheel or cam;~~

~~(10) Mechanical broadheads while hunting elk;~~

~~(11) Mechanical broadheads with a cutting diameter greater than two inches; or~~

~~(12) Telescopic sights and electronically lighted sight pins.;~~

~~(9) An arrow, including the attached broadhead, weighing less than 275 grains when hunting big game animals;~~

~~(10) An arrow that is less than 26 inches long when measured from the notch of the nock to the end of the shaft, not including the blunt or broadhead;~~

~~(11) An arrow without a broadhead (fixed or mechanical) that has at least two metal cutting edges, except blunt points may be used when hunting turkeys; or~~

~~(12) A bow that measures less than 50 pounds pull when hunting elk or 40 pounds pull when hunting other big game animals, with an expandable broadhead.~~

~~(13) A bow that measures less than 40 pounds pull when hunting elk, or 30 pounds pull hunting other big game animals with a fixed blade broadhead.~~

~~Repeal 41:06:05:02. Minimum size of bow and arrows. Big game licensees hunting with bow and arrow shall be equipped with a bow of not less than 40 pounds pull. The broadheads shall be of metal, have a cutting diameter of at least 7/8 inch wide, have at least two cutting edges, and except for turkey hunting shall be at least as long as it is wide. An arrow and attached broadhead shall weigh at least 275 grains when used for hunting big game animals. Blunt points at least 9/16 inch wide may be used for hunting turkeys. The arrow measured from the notch of the nock to the end of the shaft not including the tip or broadhead may not be less than 26 inches long.~~

Motion by Sather with second by Gary Jensen TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO ARCHERY RESTRICTIONS 41:06:05 AS AMENDED TWICE. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSALS

Fall Turkey Hunting Season

Chad Switzer gave the turkey population update prior to presenting the season dates, licenses, requirements, and restrictions for the Fall Turkey Hunting Season. Switzer indicated weather conditions, decreasing population, and loss of habitat were considered when drafting the recommended changes.

1. Offer 205 more one-tag licenses and 650 less two-tag licenses for resident hunters on the East River Prairie Units.
2. Offer 750 fewer one-tag licenses for resident hunters and 60 fewer one-tag licenses for nonresident hunters for Unit BH1.
3. Change the season dates from the October 1 – January 31 to November 1 – January 31.
4. Modify Unit BH1 unit to include those portions of Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade, and Pennington counties within a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Hwy. 85 and Interstate 90 at exit 17; south on U.S. Hwy. 85 to U.S. Hwy. 385; south on U.S. Hwy. 385 to S.D. Hwy. 89; south on S.D. Hwy. 89 to Pilger Mountain Road; west on Pilger Mountain Road to Dewey Road; west on Dewey Road to the WY/SD line; south on the WY/SD line to U.S. Hwy. 18; east on U.S. Hwy. 18 to the Cheyenne River; east along the Cheyenne River to S.D. Hwy. 79; north on S.D. Hwy. 79 to Interstate 90; north and west on Interstate 90 to exit 17, the point of beginning (see attached map).
5. Change the unlimited WR Prairie licenses from a two-tag license to a single tag license.
6. Close Bennett, Corson, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Jackson, Meade, Pennington, Shannon and Ziebach counties to fall turkey hunting in the West River Prairie Unit.

Motion by Sather with second by Spies TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO FALL WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Antelope Hunting Season

Andy Lindbloom gave an antelope population update prior to recommendations.

Switzer presented the season dates, open areas, licenses, requirements, and restrictions of the Antelope Hunting Season. Low recruitment, hunter success rates, and the management plan were considerations when making recommendations.

1. Offer resident hunters 115 less one-tag licenses (115 tags) and 405 less two-tag licenses (810 tags) than 2013.
2. Offer nonresident hunters 61 more one-tag licenses (61 tags) than 2013.
3. Unit 60A (Tripp) will be issued zero firearm licenses. Therefore, Unit 60A will also be closed to archery antelope hunting.

Motion by Spies with second by Barry Jensen TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Custer State Park Antelope Hunting Season

Switzer presented season dates, licenses, requirements, and restrictions for the Custer State Park Antelope Hunting Season with no recommended changes.

Early Fall Canada Goose Hunting Season

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented season dates, open areas, daily limit, possession limit, requirements, and restrictions for the Early Fall Canada Goose Hunting Season. Kirschenmann indicated the Perkins County Sportsmen were involved in discussions about the recommended unit boundary changes.

Amend 41:06:16:07 to modify the boundaries of Units 1 and 2 by: 1) adding all of Custer, Fall River, and Pennington counties into Unit 2, and 2) adding that portion of Perkins County west of S.D. Highway 75 and south of S.D. Highway 20 to Unit 1 (area open to Early Fall Canada Goose Hunting Season).

Motion by Spies with second by Phillips TO PROPOSE CHANGES IN THE EARLY CANADA GOOSE AND WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented the season dates, open areas, daily limit, possession limit, requirements, and restrictions for the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season with no recommended changes.

Sage Grouse Hunting Season

Chief Kirschenmann presented the Department recommendation to keep the Sage Grouse Hunting Season closed. The continued decline in the number of male sage grouse observed during the spring lek survey led to the recommendation that the season remain closed.

Abandoned game at wildlife processing facilities

Emmett Keyser presented the recommendation to create a new rule to define the terms and legal process under which a wildlife processing facility may determine when game left at their facility could be considered 'abandoned'. The new rule would provide guidelines under which the wildlife processing facility could turn over possession of the abandoned, processed game to a non-profit organization or to any charitable organization that distributes food or other services to the needy. Keyser indicated each processing facility would be able to define the terms they are comfortable with and have them written in a statement which will be signed by the sportsman when the game is left at their facility for processing.

Establish a new rule: **41:06:03:13. Process of abandonment for game left at a wildlife processing facility.** A wildlife processing facility and a person who deposits lawfully taken game with the facility for processing may agree upon a period of time following which the facility may consider the game to be abandoned by the person. With the exception of waterfowl, the facility may donate abandoned game to a non-profit organization or to any charitable organization that distributes food or other services to the needy. At no time shall any abandoned game be considered the property of the wildlife processing facility.

Motion by Sather with second by Peterson TO PROPOSE THE NEW RULE AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Replacement of lost or destroyed licenses

Director Chris Petersen presented the recommended changes to establish a process to allow big game hunters to acquire their licenses immediately from the license office or an eligible license agent; and provide rule for agent fees to be consistent at all locations and for all license types to be \$20 .

Amend 41:06:02:01:03. Replacement of lost or destroyed license, permit, or game tag.

1. The current rule establishes the process and fee for replacing a lost or destroyed license. The proposed change would include replacement of a license where:
 - a. "through licensee's oversight the license is not in the licensee's possession" (left at home).
 - b. "a licensee is requesting a replacement license for a license that has been issued, but not received" (in the mail).
2. The current rule would be amended to require the licensee to return the original license ("left at home" or "in the mail") to the department within 10 days.
3. The Administrative Fee for replacing a license would be set at \$20 for all license types.
4. The proposed change would require the department to charge the license agent's fee established by SDCL 41-6-66.1.

Motion by Spies with second by Sather TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO LICENSE FORMS AND FEES AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Restrictions on use of firearms and bows in parks

Assistant Parks Director Bob Schneider presented recommended changes as a result of House Bill 1130 from the 2014 Legislative Session which allows big game hunters to use a crossbow during firearm seasons.

41:03:01:16. Restrictions on use of firearms, crossbows and bows -- Exceptions. Uncased firearms, crossbows and bows are prohibited in all state parks, state recreation areas, state nature areas, and state lakeside use areas with the following exceptions:

(1) Uncased firearms, crossbows and bows are permitted on designated rifle and archery ranges the year around and as provided in § 41:03:01:16.01;

(2) Hunters licensed for the special Custer State Park hunting seasons may have uncased firearms, crossbows, and bows in Custer State Park during the season for which they are licensed;

(3) Only shotguns using shot shells, muzzleloading shotguns, crossbows, and bows ~~and arrow~~ are permitted in Custer State Park during the Custer State Park spring turkey season as described in chapter 41:06:15;

(4) Uncased firearms, crossbows, and bows are permitted from September 1 to May 21, inclusive, within the ~~Cheyenne River~~ Sheps Canyon Lakeside Use Area;

(5) From October 1 to April 30, inclusive, uncased firearms, crossbows, 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, crossbows, 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;

(b) Only crossbows and bows and ~~arrow~~ are permitted in Big Sioux State Recreation Area, the Forest Drive Unit of Richmond Lake State Recreation Area, Palisades State Park, LaFramboise Island, Chief White Crane, Clay County Recreation Area, and the mouth of Spearfish Canyon;

(c) Only shotguns using shot shells, crossbows, and bows and ~~arrow~~ are permitted in West Whitlock State Recreation Area, West Pickerel Recreation Area, Mina Recreation Area, Okobojo Recreation Area, Farm Island Recreation Area, Angostura Recreation Area, Cow Creek State Recreation Area, and that portion of North Point State Recreation Area which is situated to the west of 381st Street and north of 297th Avenue;

(d) Only shotguns using shot shells for the wild turkey hunting seasons, crossbows and bows and ~~arrow~~ for archery deer and wild turkey hunting seasons are permitted in that portion of Newton Hills State Park which is situated to the west of County Road 135 and north of County Road 140;

(e) From October 1 to January 31, inclusive, deer hunting with a firearm, crossbow, or a bow is permitted in all state parks, state recreation areas, and state nature areas during established hunting seasons according to the provisions and restrictions set forth in this section, except for LaFramboise Island Nature Area and Farm Island Recreation Area where archery deer hunting is allowed to December 31, inclusive;

(f) A person who possesses a valid turkey license for Unit PST-48A as described in chapter 41:06:13 is permitted to have an crossbow, an uncased bow and ~~arrow~~, a shotgun using shotshells, or a muzzleloading shotgun within the boundary of Sica Hollow State Park to the eighth day before Memorial Day, inclusive; and

(6) A person who possesses a valid concealed pistol permit as provided in SDCL chapter 23-7 may carry a concealed pistol at any time.

41:03:01:16.02. Restrictions on use or possession of firearms on lake and fishing access areas and game production areas -- Exceptions. Uncased firearms are prohibited in the following areas:

- (1) East Pelican Lake Access Area in Codington County;
- (2) That portion of the Beilage Game Production Area north of Christensen Drive located in sections 24 and 25, township 6 north, range 2 east, in Lawrence County;
- (3) Hazel's Haven Fishing Access Area in Moody County;
- (4) That portion of the Marcotte Game Production Area in section 16, township 5 north, range 5, east in Meade County;
- (5) Kelley's Cove Fishing Access Area in Yankton County;
- (6) Highway 38/James River Fishing Access Area in Davison County;
- (7) New Underwood Lake Access Area in Pennington County except any licensed hunter while lawfully engaged in hunting;
- (8) Rollings Game Production Area in Lincoln County except any licensed hunter, using a shotgun with shotshells only, while hunting small game or wild turkey during an open season and any person using a firearm on the shooting range located on the game production area when the range is open; and
- (9) Lake Henry Fishing Access Area in Bon Homme County except any licensed hunter, using a shotgun with shotshells only, while hunting small game or wild turkey during an open season.

Only shotguns using shot shells, crossbows and bows and ~~arrow~~ are permitted on lands owned by the Otter Tail Power Company and leased by the department as a game production area in Grant County and the Lake Andes Unit's game production areas in Charles Mix County.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Dennert TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE USES OF PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Definition of licensing agents

Schneider presented the recommended change to add park entrance licenses to the list of licenses a license agent may sell on behalf of the Department.

Modify 41:02:01.11 to defines an agent that can sell licenses on behalf of the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks to include the selling of Park Entrance Licenses.

Motion by Spies with second by Sather TO PROPOSE THE CHANGE TO THE DEFINITION OF LICENSING AGENTS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Peterson with second by Barry Jensen TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SDCL 1-25-2(3) TO CONSULT WITH LEGAL COUNSEL ABOUT CONTRACTUAL MATTERS.

The Executive Session began at 4:49 PM with Commissioners Cooper, Peterson, Spies, Jensen, Sather, Phillips, and Dennert present. Secretary Jeff Vonk, Staff Attorney Richard Neill, Parks Director Doug Hofer, Assistant Parks Director Al Nedved, Parks Regional Supervisor Jeff VanMeeteren, and Executive Secretary Debra Ascher were present.

Discussion was regarding the Request for Proposal and legal issues associated with the Lewis and Clark Marina and Resort Concession Lease.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Sather to end the Executive Session. Motion carried and executive session ended at 5:12 PM.

Cooper recessed the regular meeting at 5:12 PM with meeting to resume at 8 AM the next morning.

The regular Commission meeting resumed at 8:03 AM on Friday, June 6, 2014, at the same location with all Commissioner present along with Secretary Vonk and media, staff, and public numbering approximately thirty.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks Regional Supervisor Jeff VanMeeteren introduced Shane Bertsch the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area Manager to the Commission. Bertsch introduced the local staff that maintains the park and assists the park users.

Mount Rushmore Trail Environmental Impact Statement

Assistant Director Al Nedved indicated the Forest Service has agreed to use a Consultant to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 15.5 mile Mount Rushmore Connector trail to the Mickelson Trail. The EIS process will take approximately two years and the cost will be at the Department's expense with Forest

Service Supervisor approval required. The National Park Service and Federal Highway Administration will be involved in the EIS process.

Spearfish Falls update

Director Hofer presented a map of the Spearfish Canyon Nature Area Proposed Improvement Plan showing the property currently owned by the Department and possible addition available from the Homestake Mining Company. The Spearfish Canyon Foundation has made an offer to purchase 72 acres near Savoy that contains the Spearfish Falls. The hiking trail to Spearfish Falls is currently maintained by the Spearfish Canyon Foundation under an easement with Homestake that is about to expire. The trail is closed due to storm damage from the October blizzard. Should the offer be accepted, the Spearfish Canyon Foundation would donate the property to Game, Fish, and Parks and it would become a priority to repair and open the trail as quickly as possible for public use.

Director Leif indicated the Division of Wildlife is interested in the 33 acres of the Hydro #2 Homestake property as it would make a great access area to the U.S. Forest Service property adjacent to it. Funds for the acquisition would come from a trust fund and Pitman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson federal aid funds.

May Revenue and Visitation Report

Director Hofer presented the Revenue and Visitation Report for May 2014 showing an increase of 19% in revenue. Memorial Day weekend was outstanding and has the parks system off to a great start. Two-thirds of the camping revenue for the season has already been collected and online reservations are up 22% with 68% of camping reservations made online. Camping units utilizing the parks through the end of May are up 17% and camping reservations for the entire summer are up 13% over last year with more than 200,000 nights reserved for 2014. Visitation is up 5% so far this year.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

State Wildlife Action Plan

Eileen Stukel presented a PowerPoint indicating the Revised State Wildlife Action Plan was provided to the Commissioners at the May meeting for review and consideration. The Wildlife Action Plan emphasizes a voluntary partnership approach to help provide for the needs of all fish and wildlife species and the habitats they depend on to help prevent future endangered species listings while maintaining or improving the status of species and habitats within the State of South Dakota. The plan was first approved in 2006 and GFP has received \$8.1 million toward projects. Public comment ends this week on the revision and following review of the comments and Commission approval the plan will be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Motion by Barry Jensen with second by Sather TO ADOPT THE 2014 REVISED STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Sportsmen Against Hunger

Chief Tom Kirschenmann presented background information on the 2013 antlerless harvest along with the number of East and West River antlerless licenses available for 2014. The projected cost of the program for 2014 is about \$71,000 with \$16,000 already available with check-off dollars. Kirschenmann met with the SAH Board in May and they were receptive to the Departments suggested commitment of up to \$50,000 for 2014.

Kirschenmann presented Resolution 14-06 for Commission consideration to continue support for the Sportsmen Against Hunger Program and recommended Commission approval.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Peterson TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 14-06 AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Turkey population update

Chad Switzer provided a PowerPoint Presentation that included the season objectives, the turkey population counts and modeling, feather collection, brood survey count, and justification for recommended changes. The southern Black Hills population is increasing, the central hills population is decreasing, and the northern hills population is stable. Prairie populations are showing poor recruitment. Additional information and research results will be presented at the July meeting.

Antelope population update

Andy Lindbloom gave a PowerPoint Presentation prior to the antelope recommendations that included current surveys and management plan. The report included history recruitment surveys, aerial surveys, population models, and winter severity models, population estimates, population objectives, and the management plan which includes nonresident license allocations.

Spring Canada Goose Management Take Report

Keith Fisk shared that 280 individuals were permitted for the Spring Canada Goose Management Take Season with three designees each. Fisk indicated 643 birds were harvested while last year 820 geese were harvested during bad weather. Staff did not see the harvest desired; yet are confident the hunters targeted the local geese. Staff surveyed 90% of the individuals permitted and 65% of them actually hunted. Fisk stated all birds had to be given to processors for SAH and that hunters were very limited to the types of techniques allowed to harvest these birds. Staff will continue to evaluate the program and results of the harvest. Fisk indicated that it may not be desirable to continue the program.

Brook Brown Boating Safety Officer Award

Brandon Gust presented the Brook Brown Boating Safety Officer Award to Conservation Officer Tony Stokely. Officer Stokely covers Union County that contains boundary lines for Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota and waters on the Missouri River. Stokely's nomination will be forwarded to the National Boating Safety Officer Committee for consideration.

Pheasant lead study results

This item was moved to the July Commission meeting.

WMI Big Game Action Plan update

Human Dimensions Specialist Cindy Longmire presented the use of human dimensions in management plans, wildlife management, and standardized use of information gathered by conservation officer contacts with landowners using a new smart phone app.

Kirschenmann shared about the development of a template for future management plans that includes process and content considerations.

Switzer indicated the wildlife staff will use 44 different survey protocols and methods this year.

2014-15 Private Shooting Preserves

Emmett Keyser presented the Private Shooting Preserve Report indicating the 2014-2015 Private Shooting Preserves will number 197 preserves with 166 operators and 194,885 acres available for hunters. Last year 434,000 birds were released and only 10% of the birds harvested on preserves were wild birds.

Statewide angler survey results

This item was moved to the July Commission meeting.

Limited draw license application system upgrade

Director Chris Petersen indicated the limited draw big game license application system will upgrade and roll out in mid-June. Petersen showed how the system will look on the website and indicated there will be a welcome screen and tutorial video.

Miscellaneous updates

Secretary Vonk stated the July Commission meeting would be a regular two-day meeting beginning on Tuesday, July 8 and continuing on Wednesday, July 9.

Vonk indicated there will be a change on the GFP organizational chart in the next couple of weeks moving the Licensing program under the Wildlife Division.

Vonk indicated a field trip to view Forest Service lands is scheduled for June 26th and Commissioners are welcome to participate and Vonk will get the info to the Commissioners.

Chairman John Cooper appointed Gary Jensen to the Building Committee and the Public Access Committee. Copper appointed Cathy Peterson to the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation Board.

Motion by Gary Jensen with second by Peterson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at 12:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary

Appendix A

RESOLUTION 14-06

WHEREAS, in a continued effort to meet harvest objectives of deer and resident Canada geese in South Dakota, the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department (Department) recommends that the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission (Commission) and Department enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (a true and correct copy of which is attached to this Resolution) for a ninth year with an incorporated non-profit organization entitled Sportsmen Against Hunger, Inc. (a South Dakota corporation referred to as SDSAH) for the joint and mutual purpose of managing the antlerless deer and Canada goose population and providing assistance in facilitating payment towards expenses incurred in processing, packaging, and freezing of antlerless deer and Canada goose meat donated by hunters for distribution to needy persons and families free of charge; and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department desire to participate in this worthwhile program in conjunction and alliance with SDSAH.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in an effort to assist in the management of antlerless deer and resident Canada goose populations in South Dakota, the Commission endorses the Department's participation in this program with SDSAH for a ninth year and hereby authorizes the Department, acting by and through Anthony P. Leif, Wildlife Division Director, to execute the Memorandum of Agreement in substantially the same form as is attached to this Resolution. In providing this endorsement, the Commission recognizes the Department's participation in this program will involve providing partial financial assistance utilizing Division of Wildlife license revenue and implementing a voluntary check-off on license applications whereby applicants could elect to financially participate therein by donating money towards the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department negotiate with and participate with SDSAH in efforts of the Commission and the Department to assist in the management of antlerless deer and resident Canada geese and the efforts of SDSAH to encourage and facilitate delivery of harvested antlerless deer and Canada geese by hunters to meat processors in South Dakota for donation, processing of the donated deer and goose meat, and distribution of the processed meat to needy families through charitable food distributors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department shall, from time to time, report to the Commission and furnish information and results of the program as the same relates to over-all success of the program, data, statistics, and information regarding harvest of antlerless deer and Canada geese, donations of antlerless deer and Canada geese for the stated purpose, monetary donations received from the license application check-off, and expenses incurred therein. The Commission shall during the ninth year of the program fund the Department's agreed contribution to the project (if required and deemed necessary), make budget adjustments thereto, and make recommendations to the Department relative to administration of the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that prior to the conclusion of the ninth year of the program the Department shall report to the Commission which report shall include a review of the over-all success of the program and any recommendations that the Department might have as to continuation of the program.

Public Hearing minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission
June 5, 2014

Public Hearing Officer Scott Simpson began the hearing at 2:00 PM at the Grand Lodge located at the Lewis and Clark Resort near Yankton, South Dakota. Simpson indicated the written and email public testimony received prior to June 4th was provided to Commissioners for consideration prior to the hearing and additional testimony received would be shared at this time.

East River Deer Hunting Season

Wayne Shanks of Colton, SD, emailed: "concerned about the low number of deer and requesting no doe tags in his part of the county."

Carl Prahl of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I normally hunt Jones County. I would like to suggest that when deer season is opened in November that it runs without a break until the end of the season in January. My reason is that some of the landowners allow only family/friends to hunt the first weekend. One weekend is Thanksgiving which is spent with family. That leaves only one weekend to hunt and that is dependent on the weather. As I try to bring up another generation in hunting, good weather and working around school & church activities would make a more positive & safe hunt."

Vicky Wahl called to say that in Miner County where they are there are too many deer."

H. T. Bosworth of Mitchell, SD, emailed: "I feel the available food has more to do with the wildlife numbers than disease and hunting. My wife & I both hunt and eat what we kill. Our family live out of state so they shoot does. The last 4 years they all filled there tags. It has become a all girl hunt Last year they hunted 2 days shot 4 deer in less than 40 min. with 1 rifle the year before same deal but only 3 hunted so 3 deer. I hate to see an end to this even though I get stuck dressing out the deer."

Chad Ringgenberg of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: ". I am in total agreement on lowering the tags due to blue tongue, habitat loss, etc. I have noticed substantial changes to the population due to more acres being changed into production for farming purposes."

Justin Allen of Pierre, SD, emailed: "I'm in support of proposed west and east river deer licenses and tags numbers, especially in central SD which I'm familiar with the most. It is great to see the reduction and even elimination of any antlerless deer licenses/tags in central SD. Mule deer numbers along the Missouri River/Lake Oahe, Haakon Co. and Stanley Co. are decreasing fast. Combination of increased fall crops, loss of habitat, increased predators, competition with whitetails and over harvest of mule deer does vs. fawn production/survivorship is likely to blame. GFP needs to protect and watch closely over Mule Deer numbers in Central SD and reducing the number of Mule Deer does harvested is great to see. I'm certain in my lifetime Mule Deer will be a rare site to see on the east side of the Missouri so please protect the resource and eliminate the harvest of Mule Deer does."

Clayton Siegfried of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "Has anyone from the state game and fish driven along the interstates lately there are hit deer all over the place just like any other year. I hunted all winter last winter through that nasty December we had and

I saw more deer than I had seen in years in December in Lincoln county. I have no idea how you are judging the need to reduce the tags or where your guys are doing the surveys but in my opinion they are wrong this time.”

Rory Johannsen of Madison, SD, emailed: “Being a deer hunter for many years I think it's a good idea to cut back rifle licenses. But wondering why they have not considered reducing bow tags.”

Ryan Roehr of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: “I looked at your proposals for deer management and how to increase the herd size and health, I agree with some of them, but you keep on forgetting the major issue, why do you keep on letting people harvest a deer after rifle season in the “special season for rifle” (convert rifle to antlerless) after Jan. 1? We have seen many bucks that have dropped their horns by then over the years, and some years the snow is deep and when you start to hunt young deer in deep snow, they don't have a chance to survive the long winter and thus die from coyotes or loss of body fat. We do not see any logic to have this “extra” season, loss of habitat, loss of trees, and bad winters equals loss of deer. Plus have a 3 weekend rifle period is not a good idea either, I would go back to the original season from many years ago. Maybe these ideas are already being thought of, but as a hunter of over 25 years and hunting is in our family and we have a family farm in NE SD. We have been wishing for these rules changes for a long time.”

Jay Fredrich of Pierre, SD, emailed: “The die off two years ago in the south east part of the state you still issued several doe tags last year in counties that should have been closed to hunting. If there was low numbers why did you issue all those doe tags to shoot deer in city of Pierre. You did the same with the antelope you issued several doe tags even double doe tags and after that we can't even get a tag because their numbers are way down...”

James Cantaloupe of Eureka, SD, emailed: “Archery deer, nonresidents should have one tag every three years to rebuild deer population and limit nonresident archery tags. Secondly, for landowner preference should have priority over rental land owners to be eligible for the landowner tags.”

Rep. David L. Anderson of Hudson, SD, emailed: “I have visited with several people in Lincoln County that opposed to any reduction in the number of deer licenses issued. There is considerable crop damage in a number of areas around Newton Hills State Park and along the Big Sioux River. As an insurance agent we also have plenty of claims involving auto collisions with deer.”

Tim Almich of Tea, SD, emailed: “would like to see the dates stay the way they were in 2013 works really good for my work schedule, November 22 opener weekend.”

Janet Hanson of Minneapolis, MN, emailed: “As a land owner, I pay taxes to S.D. I feel I should be able to get a deer tag at the same time as residents of S.D. Penalizing those who own property, as they are (out of staters) is not right! I can see taking licenses away from those who do not own property. But not to those who do own property. Also, why do you allow us to take two doe??? One is great plenty! We have never shot over one per person. Also, only allowing us to shoot doe greatly decreases the herds as the breeders are shot. With no does the buck has nothing to breed, therefore no young to help grow the herds. My property is in Labelle and Dumarce townships in Marshall County. Thank you for listening to my comments. I hope you

understand where I'm coming from. I am a land owner and sportsman in S.D. and hope you will be able to solve this deer hunting problem.”

Mike Stavick of Veblen, SD, emailed: “You should coincide season dates with tribal dates. We live in an area of checkerboard tribal and landowner land. The tribe starts hunting a couple of weeks before we do and makes hunting difficult as many deer are shot and are very wild by the time our season starts.”

Bruce Behm of Minneapolis, MN, emailed: “As an out of state landowner who pay taxes and uses very little service, doesn't it make sense that I should be able to purchase a landowner - any deer tag?

Shane Waikel of Oldham, SD, emailed: “If you want to cut tag numbers you should also if not start with land owner tags.”

Clint of Beresford, SD, emailed: “...From what I've observed over the past two seasons is that our deer numbers are down tremendously due to the EHD outbreak. I believe that deer seasons should be close for Clay, Lincoln, and Union counties. There may be other too but these are the three that I travel around and hunt regularly.”

Kent DeJong of Lennox, SD, emailed: “I am happy to see some science and management being applied to east river deer management. The regional wildlife managers are very hard workers and are under paid.”

Cory Mallon of Tulare, SD, emailed: “...I have seen more deer this spring than I have ever seen. I don't know how you come up with your numbers but maybe they need to hang out with a farmer for a couple of weeks...I can't imagine decreasing the amount of tags. I would rather see hunters getting them and using their meat than cars taking damage and vultures eating them on the side of the road.”

Keith Eidam of Gettysburg, SD, emailed: “My family farms and runs cattle in Potter and Sully Counties. As of late May we are still seeing large herds of does and yearling fawns all across the region. I feel your proposed reduction in tag # is ridiculous and unwarranted. The harvest last fall was down because of late harvested crops and extremely wet conditions...”

Joe Edelen of Vermillion, SD, emailed: “I would like to comment against reducing the # of deer tags for the upcoming season...Keep the # of licenses up so hunters can enjoy the hunt, so out-of-staters continue to come and spend \$\$ here to hunt, and to keep the number of deer down at this reduced level...”

Carl W. Clausen of Harrold, SD, emailed: “I am writing to give my opinion on the upcoming reductions in east river deer tags for the upcoming season, perhaps there has been a die off or reduction in deer numbers in some parts of east river, I am only familiar with the Harrold area. Here we have experienced wintering herds of 150 to as high as 300 deer all winter long. Last fall during our rifle season we seemed to see as many deer as in years past, some of these deer were concentrated on farms due either to crop preference or the landowner restricting or banning hunting.”

Richard Smith of Hutchinson County, SD, emailed: “I see that the department is offering 20 licenses for the entire county. I also understand that many counties have been severely impacted by drought and disease. Why bother having a season in these drastically reduced counties. There will be more deer lost to road kill than hunters. This applies not only to rifle but also archery and muzzle loaders. It is beyond me how the Department did not see this coming especially on a state wide basis. I will continue to apply for licenses for selected areas and seasons but do not hold out much hope.”

Ron Sckerl of Brookings, SD, emailed: "I am a farmer in Brookings County and cannot understand why the number of deer licenses should be reduced for Zone 06A. My observation is that we have more deer than in the last 25 years. Too many deer for landowners to tolerate. Relying on hunter success rates to estimate deer populations is not correct. Many factors contribute to success rates, not just deer population."

Jere Hieb of Brookings, SD, emailed: "It is no surprise to me to see the need to greatly reduce the tags issued this coming season and probably for some years to come. What is frustrating is that the GFP has been warned that the deer numbers have not been there for some time now and finally drastic action is needed. The GFP seems to act in such wild swings of issuing tag numbers, just a few years ago the GFP couldn't sell enough tags, it was issuing hundreds of doe tags, double and even triple tags in some areas, now it is time to pay the piper. I and other veteran hunters told GFP personnel what we believed was going on in the field, seeing fewer deer during other fall hunts, carcasses of dead deer found during pheasant season, etc. I have talked personally with GFP personnel, written and called but I am convinced the GFP has it's own mind set and will not take seriously public comment. The GFP would be well served if it listened to veteran hunters and their opinions; many of us can give you 40-50 years of past situations and advice. You want to know why your regional meetings are not better attended, it is because comments for the most part fall on deaf ears, you hear but don't really listen, and that is unfortunate. I believe the GFP has downplayed the seriousness of the outbreak of disease in the deer herd, it is far more widespread than admitted, and has been for some time. I've talked to landowners who see deer in the spring and by harvest virtually none can be found, carcasses laying in corn fields and slough edges are more common."

Larry Singrey of Hamlin County, SD, emailed: "In regards to the deer season in the Hamlin County east of hazel we have an abundance of deer. I am disappointed that it looks like Hamlin County won't be open to muzzle loader for antlerless deer. I see lots of deer when I am working in the fields. They have killed several trees we planted in my mother's yard. They are thick enough they do some damage to my crops. There have been lots of deer killed on the roads in Hamlin County. Last year I filled all my tags with no trouble. I think the reason success was down was the weather. When I was out hunting it was nasty hunting weather and I saw very few hunters out. If you check the sheriff's reports it will show lots of deer being killed on Hamlin County roads. Thanks for all the work you do on the commission."

Brad Schnabel of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: "I think reducing the number of tags to manage deer is ok but you should not reduce the number of license. More single license rather than less licenses and still having multiple licenses is limiting the number of hunters."

Deb Haak of Plankinton, SD, emailed: "We would like to see the December-January season omitted. We would like to see an increase in the number of landowner/operator licenses. We would like to see #6 of the Requirements-deleted. We would like to see no three tag and limited two tag issued licenses."

Dan Meier of Brule County, SD, emailed: "We have an overabundance of deer here in northeastern Brule County and in northwestern Aurora County. They are hazardous on the roads at night and you see a lot of them almost any time of the day. They need to be hunted more or they will probably die off like they did in other parts of

the region. They are very hard on young trees and gardens besides the corn crops!! Please allow enough tags for our area to help remedy the problem.”

Chris Hesla, Executive Director of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, Pierre, SD, emailed: “I regret the SDWF cannot make it to the GF&P Commission meeting in Yankton to testify in person. SDWF is in support of GFP’s proposed cut to antlerless tags for the 2014 East and West River Deer seasons. It’s enlightening and reassuring to see such cuts when our natural resources (deer herd) cannot continue to support past levels of license sales. I want to thank GF&P staff for their current proposal. SDWF supports the current proposal and urges the Commission to adopt the proposed cuts in antlerless tags. We believe it will allow time for the deer herd to re-bounce; increase in size and regain its health, which would allow future increase in licenses and harvesting opportunities.”

Scott Koelewyn of Harrisburg, SD, emailed: “I would like to see the elimination of the antlerless deer season in January. I know in the past if you had an antlerless tag and did not fill it during the regular firearm season then you could try and fill it in the January season. I believe that this practice over the years has cut into our deer numbers and now it is one reason we are seeing a reduction in tag numbers and I also think buck numbers. Please consider elimination of this season.”

Joe Uckert of Clear Lake, SD, emailed: “I farm northwest of Clear Lake. Last winter (2014) a herd of 70+ deer was just north of Clear Lake. Another herd of 100+ deer was three miles north and two miles west of Clear Lake. The deer did not come into our feed yard this past winter like they did in 2013. The proposal to reduce licenses by 1/3 for Deuel County is too much of a reduction. Last fall cold weather during the season reduced hunting activity.”

Jeff Hanisch of Montrose, SD, emailed: “I am sure there are some counties or portions of that are experiencing low deer populations. Just keep in mind that not all are. And some areas still seem to have too many deer with all the deer that are being hit on the roadways in Eastern McCook and Western Minnehaha County. I do not feel there is a shortage here. Seems to also be an overabundance of deer in and or near the city limits of Sioux Falls, maybe relocation of some of these deer to counties experiencing low numbers would be appropriate?”

Kevin Severy of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: “I would like you to know that I am in support of the recommendation of having no any antlerless or mule doe tags for the West River archery, muzzleloader, and especially rifle season.”

Reid A. Vander Veen of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: “As both, a bow and gun hunter, harvesting deer primarily in Day County, I support this decision to reduce the amount of licenses and tags. While I appreciate the easy access to tags of recent years, conservation efforts need to be taken seriously in order to ensure we will all be able to continue experiencing the joys of hunting for the foreseeable future. On our properties, we’ve seen little or no decrease in population. In fact, the deer population in our hunting areas has likely increased, if it has changed at all. As with all conservation efforts around the state, maintaining this healthy herd of deer is by design.”

Larry L. Larson, Huron, SD, emailed: “I think the number of deer licenses available should be evaluated by county and not across the board for east river and west river.”

Larry Christensen of Lennox, SD, emailed: "Please do not cut the number of deer license. I live in Lincoln County near Lennox. I have so many problems with deer in my CRP trees. I have to replant every year because they either rub the trees or break them off. I also see a lot on the road being hit. My wife was coming home from Lennox and one ran into the side of her car. If anything we need to increase the number to lower the population. I have had several people hunting on my land, but still see too many deer."

Eloise and Dale DeBeer of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "It is fine with us if the number of tags are reduced, but lets allow at least as many hunters try. My son owns 137 acres in McCook County, and has deer on his land, but could not get a license last year. Yet other people are allowed to harvest 2 or 3 deer. Why not let them just get one deer each? My husband owns 160 acres in Turner County, and was able to get a landowner license for one deer on his land, but our son was not allowed to hunt with him, due to not winning the license lottery."

Matt Foley of Kingsbury County emailed: "We're in Kingsbury county where deer are heavily populated....too populated. Bucks are everyone's first choice. When you draw 'Doe only' tags year after year...it reduces the desire to hunt. Have you thought about issuing doe tags first...where you have to tag/register a doe before you can get a buck tag? Reduction of tags in this county would be a mistake."

Rich Nickerson of Pierre, SD, emailed: "Reducing the deer tags available is a good idea to increase the herd. No non-resident tags should be issued until all resident's applying receive requested tags, in their desired units."

Travis Kohlen of Hitchcock, SD, emailed: "I have been hunting deer since I was 12. I'm now 35. It's a passion that I share with my father and mother my wife and my 3 boys all of which can hunt. Around my area which is Spink and Beadle County's I don't think there is a need to reduce the licenses. I haven't read up on how the SDGFP is going to or where you are going to reduce the licenses but I think if you're going to reduce them it should be on a county by county not overall east and west river. My family has farmed here for over 100 years. We have put land in CRP and put in food plots and shelter belts. We did it manly for the animals to get the deer and pheasants back in our area which it worked. We always get our deer licenses threw the landowner preference the one where we have to hunt on our own land not the general drawing. If you do reduce the licenses I would like to see the land owner get a license no matter what, before the out of county hunters. Us as farmers are the ones who feed the deer and pheasants and ducks year round so it would be nice to see the land owner get a little pat on the back by getting a license no matter what if they want one to hunt on their own land. Not free of course we don't mind paying for the license. I know it would break my boy's heart if they couldn't get a license. They look forward to November every year."

Jason Johns, of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I am struggling with the idea of cutting the amount of deer tags as drastically as you are recommending. I feel it is hard enough to get tags in some counties especially without land owner preference. From what I could tell last year there does not seem to be that much of a drop in the deer population. The largest problem was the extreme decrease in habitat and available areas to hunt. There were large herds that we watched for four days located on private land without the ability to hunt them. When landowners are feeding them and attempting to gouge hunters for the ability to hunt private land is where the problem lies."

Mark Oswald of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "The decision to decrease numbers is well overdue. I have been hunting for year and the number of deer keeps dropping every year. Also there are way too many seasons."

Deb Heyd of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: "We live in the Aberdeen area and have land in McPherson County. We cannot believe how ridiculous the idea of reducing deer licenses is. All you have to do is drive along the highways around here and see all the deer lying from vehicles hitting them. There are so many deer in this area and now you are thinking of reducing the number of tags? Wouldn't it make more sense to have these deer in peoples freezers rather than hit by a vehicle lying on the side of the road? Maybe if the deer licenses are reduced, we should get reimbursed for our deductible when we have to fix our vehicles of the damage done by hitting so many deer on the highway. There are so many herds of deer in McPherson County that they are destroying winter feed for the livestock."

Mark Olson of Mitchell, SD, emailed: "I deer hunt in Day County on land owned by family for 4 generations. It is difficult enough getting deer tags and there are always plenty of deer to go around. The number of tags available was cut in half last year and is now being proposed to be cut in half again to be a quarter of what it was 2 years ago. I am concerned that the family tradition of deer hunting there and the providing of deer meat for my family will be sacrificed for no reason. I have yet to witness a case of chronic wasting disease in the area and the population there is thriving to the point that deer are constantly on the highway and affecting crops. Further, my family and I value the meat harvested from deer hunting because it is lean and free from additives and hormones found in store bought meat. No one cries for a furlough of the pheasant hunting seasons even though little meat is harvested from the bird and 90% of the hunting of pheasants is for game. I can only deduce that pheasants aren't spared because of the income brought to the state. When it all boils down to it, income for the GFP is what separates the differences in the handling of the pheasant and deer seasons."

Adam Golay of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "When it comes to Jerauld County the 200 double antlerless whitetail tags are unnecessary. There was EHD in 2012 & the deer haven't fully bounced back yet from that. Aurora County probably doesn't need the 200 double antlerless tags either. The EHD hit there even worse in 2012. The 200 double antlerless tags should be removed from the harvest this year in these counties. Take this advice from someone who hunts there year after year & sees the deer populations. We can tell when the numbers are down & they are down right now. Lincoln County where my home is probably has more deer than Jerauld County & there are only 200 single tags total for that county. It doesn't make sense. I'm not sure where you get your tag numbers from but they don't coincide with deer populations for those zones."

Ryan Roehr of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: "Just wondering if a shortened rifle season (back to the 2 weekend season, the original one) is part of the plan to help the deer population, it should be. And getting rid of the late season for rifle (that is one of the worse things ever done to young deer)? Changing and getting rid of these seasons would help the deer population a lot in the long run, especially on bad winters."

Nick Klosterman of Dell Rapids, SD, emailed: "I have seen a definite reduction in the deer population in recent years and I do agree with the reduction of licenses and

tags issued for the east and west river deer seasons. I also agree with not issuing antlerless tags for the Black Hills season. I believe the reduction of the deer population statewide is contributed to several factors from several harsh winters, EHD/blue tongue, predation, and hunting pressure. So, in order to see the deer populations back to healthy levels I believe that a reduction in the number of rifle tags issued would benefit the states herd of both whitetail and mule deer.”

Michael Christians of Watertown, SD, emailed: “I would like to see the number of permits maintained at current levels. The roads for motorcycles are much safer today than when the deer population was high. I would encourage the powers at be to make saving lives the top priority by maintaining permits at the current levels.”

Mike Kula of Gettysburg, SD, emailed: “I like to meet the guy that counted the deer, numbers are not down. I had a herd of over 200 this winter destroying my trees.”

Kay Thomas of Herrold, SD emailed: “I am so disappointed to hear that the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission is contemplating decreasing the East River deer licenses and also the tags. I don’t know how they are taking the deer count but I can assure you we have noticed no decline in the deer population on our farm and ranch. We live East of Onida, SD and are being run over by deer...We ask the commission to reconsider this proposal and continue issuing the regular number of licenses and tags for East River 2014 deer season.”

Austin Earley of Brookings, SD, emailed: “I strongly support a no antlerless season everywhere in SD.”

Oral testimony:

Frank Kloucek of Scotland, SD, stated he believes Yankton, Hutchison, Bon Homme, and Charles Mix counties should have additional licenses and has hit many with auto. He believes EHD is over and deer are rebounding. He does not want problem with elk like in Montana and he does not want wolves introduced into the wild.

Chad Savey of Harrisburg, SD, emailed: “I 110% support the cut in deer tags!!...”

West River Deer Hunting Season

Written comments:

Darrel Kjerstad of Quinn, SD, emailed: “I’m not seeing the low numbers, might be more deer. I think it was more the unusual year, it was more that the deer where displaced not low numbers. I finally found them in the middle of large corn fields. I’m counting as many or more deer this spring vs last year. At least allow for extra hunting where the numbers are high. (Eastern Pennington County)

Dave Kauer of Witten, SD, emailed: “I still feel Tripp County licenses is a little high on total available. I have observed the deer herd on our farm south of Witten six miles down about 75% from 2012 to 2013. I haven’t noticed a great increase this year so far.”

Bruce Behm of Minneapolis, MN, emailed: “As an out of state landowner who pay taxes and uses very little service, doesn’t it make sense that I should be able to purchase a landowner - any deer tag?

Cory L. of Hereford, SD, emailed: “I am a landowner and a hunter. From the landowners perspective I would like to see the season changed from January to December because we are already dealing with our normal deer hunting season. I feel that this would make easier for all landowners to manage their hunters and the hunting

season. From the hunting perspective I would like to see the season moved from January to December because it would reduce the number of mature bucks that have lost their horns being shot accidentally.

Lance Barber of Orlando, FL, emailed: "...I respectfully submit on behalf of my friends and family our combined disagreement with a reduction in deer hunting licenses in the West River Area. WE wish to introduce another generation to all that SD has to offer and hope to do so with our annual pilgrimage for the fall 2014 deer hunting season.

Wayne Frederick emailed: "Please stop or hold off the mule doe season! West river or for sure Todd County."

James B. MacDougall of Aberdeen, SD, emailed: "I am a west river landowner and avid deer hunter. This email is to support the GFP proposal to markedly reduce or eliminate mule deer doe or any doe tags this season and in the future as needed."

Don Massa of Edgemont, SD, emailed: "I recommend that you follow recommendations set forth by the Game, Fish and Parks staff and not issue the Any Antlerless Deer Tags for any seasons in SD for the 2014 season. Mule Deer numbers have plummeted throughout SD and these numbers need to be corrected before harvesting Antlerless Mule Deer can continue."

Chance Wooden Knife of White River, SD, emailed: "I support the SD GF&P's staff recommendation of having no any antlerless or mule doe tags for the West River archery, muzzleloader, and especially rifle season."

Bill Dodge of Pierre, SD, emailed: "I'm all for cutting back on tags. If you're a meat hunter you will feel he inch. If you're a trophy hunter you'll probably feel the pinch. One thing for sure, if you don't make some sacrifices now it will only add to the decline in deer population. I say cut the number of tags!"

Matt Rippentrop of Oelrichs, SD, emailed: "I support the SD GF&P's staff recommendation of having no any antlerless or mule doe tags for the West River archery, muzzleloader, and especially rifle season. After speaking with numerous ranchers across Tripp, Mellette, Jones, Todd, and Fall River County, they are also in favor of no mule doe tags. Please consider this for the next 2-3 upcoming years to allow the mule deer population to rebound in South Dakota."

L.K. Williams of Fairfax, SD, emailed: "I read with interest your statistics of only two deer being lost to EHD in Gregory Co. This of course is highly inaccurate. You relied on citizen reports of deaths of deer, apparently no one reported to you possibly because of the many commercial interests associated with the deer hunting business in Gregory Co. Whatever the case, a significantly larger number of deer died during the EHD epidemic. I own a 76 acres surrounded by corn/ soybean fields and pastures. My little plot of land had 6 deaths by itself. Most farmers I spoke to experienced 6-10 dead deer per section of tall corn, around ponds or shady cool draws where the infected deer went in an attempt to stay cool (due to their fever). Many long time residents are estimating 50-60 % of the population as killed by EHD. I realize my just my experience is scientifically not significant, but I hope you have employed other more sound methodology in evaluating the true impact the EHD on the deer population so that appropriate management action may be taken."

Harry Mitchell of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: "I have not seen a decrease in whitetail deer numbers where I hunt that would warrant such a drastic decrease in tags,

if you really believe numbers of does are so low, why issue unlimited youth tags with overly long season? Definitely oppose the proposed change.”

Scott Johnson of Fort Pierre, SD, emailed: “I don’t agree with setting aside eight percent of the West River licenses to out of staters with such drastic drops in tags which includes many “any deer” or “any whitetail” tags. We should lower the percentage available to 2 or 3% this year or maybe suspend them like GFP did with the antelope tags when their numbers dropped. That would allow more opportunities at drawing a tag for the residents of this state who choose to live here because of our hunting opportunities. Of course, when numbers rebound then increase the gats allowed back to the current 8%.”

Gary English of Rapid City, SD, emailed that he wants the antlerless season closed Dec. 31 and is concerned about number of bucks harvested during the January season.

Delwyn Newman of Lemmon, SD, wrote in support of the reduction of deer tags.

James O’Neill of Martin, SD, emailed: “We have found 60 to 80% of the whitetail population gone due to the hemorrhagic disease... If this year continues as last, it’s going to be 5 years to a decade before we reach what was lost. Being a landowner and constantly monitoring, conserving, and hunting wildlife, I would like to see a massive decrease in deer tags specifically whitetail, until they reach a sustainable number once again.”

Application for license

No written and no oral testimony was received.

Black Hills Deer Hunting Season

No oral testimony was received.

Sam Hunter of Custer County, SD, emailed: “I would like to request that as long as in state residents are denied a deer license during the any deer draw that the deer season be closed to out of state hunters. I have been denied several times and still see lots of out of state deer hunters in the Black Hills area.”

Neil Hawthorne of Rapid City, SD, emailed twice indicating he has seen a lot of deer along Highway 385 in the Nemo area and does not believe there is a shortage of deer there.”

Mike Jarding of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: “Living in the far southern hills, we have noticed a drastic decline in the deer population, especially mule deer. I have talked with numerous hunters and ranchers, and they all agree that something needs to be done and this proposal is a good first step. Listening to your last meeting I heard the words “times have changed in hunting” a few times. They have changed, a lot in the last 10 years, but not for the better. People want to see wildlife when they go hiking or hunting, and hunters want mature-aged animals. With the current deer proposals, I believe GF&P are in the right direction and encourage you to continue to consider what hunters and wildlife enthusiasts want to see in the deer population.”

Don Schmidt of Woonsocket, SD, emailed: “I feel with the numbers that I have seen out there, that there should be “NO” antlerless deer tags issued for the Black Hills in 2014. The best hunting that I have seen in the Hills was some years back when there were more deer, and there was a "limited amount" of antlerless deer that could be

taken, and the biggest improvement had been the taking of bucks that were 2 points or better. Just my opinion after hunting the Hills for many years.”

Archery Deer Hunting Season

Brian Fritz of Brookings, SD, emailed: “I see there are drastic cuts proposed for rifle tags. How about limiting the number of archery tags. There are more and more archery hunters every year, and their equipment is getting better every year leading to improved success. The rifle tags have been cut continually the last few years. These cuts are another reason pushing people to archery hunt because they know they can get an any deer tag each and every year, and many get an antler less archery as well. So my proposal is to put a cap on archery tags. Antlerless archery by county only and a limited number. Raise the price of the statewide archery tag to coincide with the rate of firearm tag! Limiting the number of "any deer" tags one hunter may have; perhaps limiting any deer tags like you do on elk. A hunter puts in they want an archery any deer, muzzleloader, special buck or a county specific rifle tag.”

Derrick Boomsma of Wolsey, SD, emailed: “There’s no way u guys have any idea how many people bow hunt. And now they r so good with bows u don’t know kill rates. There needs to be reduction in archery tags too. Deer herds at all time lows where I hunt. Stop givin unlimited bow tags. 2 at most is plenty.”

Scott Johnson of Fort Pierre, SD, emailed: “I agree with the proposal to only allow one antlerless archery whitetail tag per year.”

Dale Penning of Harrisburg, SD, emailed: “I really feel it is in the best interest of the deer herds to end December 31. Once the bucks start dropping their horns they could be shot as an antlerless deer. It would also put less stress on the does that are caring fawns at that point. They can go into winter survival mode, without being chased.”

Zane Williams of Irene, SD, emailed: “In your decision today to cut rifle licenses, I feel you should get them down to the number of landowners that usually apply. We live by Marindahl Lake and 2 evenings this week checking cows at dusk saw one doe... Usually maybe would see 3 to 4. The other piece that to my knowledge that you have unlimited archery tags in this county. Very wrong as people that feel they can't get rifle tags will become an archer. I know that there are many excellent archers in this county but have shot and found wounded deer with arrows stuck thru them. So I feel if you limit one you should also limit everyone.”

Hugh Toenjes of Custer, SD, emailed: “I am a disabled senior who has hunt for many years in the Black Hills. I am fully aware of the "over kill" on deer and elk in recent years. However this is not entirely due to the human hunter but also due to the increasing numbers of mountain lions in the area. Having said that I want you to consider allowing me to continue hunting in the Black Hills by amending the Archery season. This would mean instituting a "primitive weapons" season instead of just "archery" which include "flintlock" rifle using a patched round ball no smaller than .440", and only open sights. Using a "percussion" loaded with a round ball no smaller than .440" and only open sights. All "inline" muzzle loaders to used in regular rifle season or regular rifle season as they do not employ a handicap when hunting. This new rule should only be available to those who are disabled and only apply if they are using a

rifle which is a "flintlock" or "percussion" as described above. Also you might want limit the choice of "archery", "regular rifle" or "muzzle loader" to just one choice per hunter.

Instituting the preceding recommendations would mean that those of us who are disabled could once again hunt in the Black Hills without impacting the number tags that are being allotted."

No oral testimony was received.

Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Season

No oral testimony was received.

Scott Johnson of Fort Pierre, SD, emailed: "I agree with muzzle loader proposal allowing only one antlerless whitetail tag."

Youth Deer Hunting Season

No oral testimony was received.

Scott Johnson of Fort Pierre, SD, emailed: "I agree with limiting youth hunters to one antlerless tag and it should be for either mule or whitetail deer to provide a great hunting experience to beginning hunters."

Mark Schlosser of Brandon, SD, emailed: "I hope the decision will be made to cut adult tags, and still allow the kids to hunt via the mentor and youth hunting programs. The future of our sport and heritage depends on the younger generation continuing to have opportunities to be outside in our great state. The competition for their time is great with video games, TV, phones, etc. Let's not take an activity away from them that offers so many benefits."

Refuge Deer Hunting Season

No oral or written testimony was received.

Trapping Prohibitions

No oral testimony was received.

John Hauge of Deadwood, SD, emailed a letter stating: "I am writing to you to ask that you deal harshly and firmly with the ruling on using live animals, pets and birds for bait in traps..."

Nancy Hilding, President of Prairie Hills Audubon Society, Black Hawk, SD emailed a letter stating with the following comments.

-Live animals as bait: Thanks for proposed restrictions on live birds and mammals as bait. Additionally reptiles, amphibians, crustaceans and fish should be added to the list of prohibited live animals to be used as bait in traps, or you should just preclude the use of any live animal as bait.

-Leaving trapping materials after season closed on public lands/right of ways: Thank you for this proposed rule change.

Kerry Bowers of Pierre, SD, emailed: "The fact that this is not already a restriction and that trappers are obviously doing it will certainly not do the sport of trapping any good - not to mention with the newly passed felony anti-cruelty bill, it is most likely illegal! I would ask that you put into place a restriction on the use of live bait as soon as possible! I plan on keeping up to date on this issue and sharing any

information I find with others who are interested in seeing this inhumane practice ended.”

Harriet Young of Rapid City, SD, emailed: “This is a horrible, cruel practice and needs to be banned. Please consider banning all trapping as it is also cruel...”

Mike and Roseanne Pahl of Custer, SD, emailed: “We urge you to prohibit the use of live animals or live birds in traps and snare. We urge you to clarify that all trapping equipment be removed from public lands and roads prior to May 1.”

Mollie A. Crain of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: “Please do not allow hunters to use live animals as “bait”.”

Brian Reynolds of Monroe, SD, emailed a letter stating his opposition with reasons as he had not seen the rule mark ups showing the changes proposed.

Julie Anderson of Rapid City, SD, emailed: “Using live bait to trap animals is inhumane and should be outlawed. Trapping animals then strangling, shooting or bludgeoning them to their deaths purely for vanity’s sake in a coat is despicable enough, but using another animal to accomplish this is unacceptable. Do the right thing and outlaw the practice of using any live animal for bait.”

August Management Take - Canada Goose

No oral or written testimony was received.

Archery Equipment Restrictions

Oral testimony:

Ron Kolbeck of Salem, SD, stated he sent written testimony earlier and has had an opportunity to visit with instructors and hunters about ethical killing of an animal. He indicated this season was established as primitive hunting season and acknowledged the changes in technologies. He requested the Commission take a close look to educate young hunters about new products on the market.

Commissioner Cooper asked questions about bow requirements for fixed broadheads and mechanical broadheads to achieve a clean harvest of deer. Kolbeck indicated it takes 60 pounds of kinetic energy to open a mechanical broadhead to make a clean hit and a hunter will need a fixed blade on bows with less kinetic energy of pull.

Scott Johnson of Fort Pierre, SD, emailed: “I agree with the new archery proposals on equipment.”

Delwyn Newman of Lemmon, SD, wrote indicating: 1) I do not want barb point restrictions removed from existing rules. 2) I do not want mechanical broadhead allowed for elk hunting. 3) I do not want the restriction on mechanical broad heads with a cutting diameter greater than 2 inches removed. 4) I want the minimum pull of 40 pounds for bows to remain as is. 5) Leave the archery requirements as is and allow no more technology.

Nick Klosterman of Dell Rapids, SD, emailed regarding changes to archery equipment:

-Remove the barbed point broadhead restriction.

"There is no reason to use a barbed broadhead unless you are bow fishing. A big game broadhead should not need or have barbed points. "

-Allow the use of cameras, video cameras and cell phones provided they are used strictly for photographic purposes and allow for the use of lighted sight pins and arrow nocks.

"I agree with allowing Bow mounted cameras and cell phone brackets to film the hunt as long as it does not aid in the taking of the animal such as laser pointers etc...Lighted knocks are also beneficial in this manner and agree with verbage to allow their use. In my opinion if you need a light on a fiber optic pin set up to see your pins in a lot of cases, it is probably too dark to shoot anyway. They however could be beneficial in a ground blind where light is low to begin with. I see no harm in allowing a light on the sight, I personally would choose not to use them anyway."

-Allow compound bows that measure 28 inches from the top of the upper wheel or cam to the bottom of the lower wheel or cam to be legal.

"Not a fan of this proposal. Bows with a very short A2A such as this are mostly children's bows and or are very unstable. I see no functional reason a hunting bow should be this short."

-Clarify that electronic string releases would be illegal.

"I agree they should be documented as illegal."

-Allow hunters to use mechanical broadheads for elk hunting.

"This is the one topic that I strongly oppose!.. I am a firm believer that only a solid fixed blade broadhead should continue to be allowed on elk... I will stress this point and please do not allow mechanicals on elk. It will in my opinion only lead to lost/wounded animals and damage to this limited precious resource."

-Remove the restriction on mechanical broadheads with a cutting diameter greater than 2 inches.

"I believe mechanicals should not be used regardless. However people will continue to use them. I believe a 2 or more inch wide broadhead is going to be extremely prone to damage/ blade breakage and improper blade deployment, especially when it encounters heavy bone..."

-Clarify that a metal broadhead (fixed or mechanical) must be used and that hunters may use blunt points when hunting turkeys.

"I guess it can't hurt to include the verbage "metal". I am Not a fan of blunt points on turkeys however. The feathers on a turkeys breast and wings are thick and only a head shot would be certainly lethal. The head on a turkey is small. I personally feel it would only lead to wounded birds. Please do not change this regulation."

-Provide for a minimum bow draw weight of 40 pounds for individuals hunting elk and 30 pounds for individuals hunting all other big game.

"I'm not a fan of this proposal either. As I stated in my commentary regarding mechanicals it is difficult to get a perfect shot and even more difficult to do that with a lower poundage bow and get enough penetration to get an ethical kill. I feel minimum poundage should remain 40# for deer/turkey and 50# for elk. Anything less than that has no business being fielded in my opinion. If you are unable to draw 40# even with today's more efficient bows then you are not hunting ethically, and your chances for wounding an animal increase exponentially."

Harry Globstad of Rapid City, SD, emailed a letter stating: "I see most of these proposed changes as unnecessary and some to be counterproductive to our sport..."

Globstad expounded on barbed points, expandable broadheads on elk and the 2 inch maximum cutting diameter, lighted sight pins, carrying broadheads only, draw weight, definition of a broadhead and blunt.

Seth Vant Hof of Dell Rapids, SD, emailed: "Please go forward with allowing lighted pins and knocks on archer equipment. In order to be ethical you need to either legalize the use of lighted pins or make it illegal to shoot after sunset. There have been several times that I haven't been able to shoot during legal shooting light due to not being able to see my pins, especially while using a ground blind. Any law that is set in place in order to stop someone from breaking another law is a waste of time. If I choose to shoot after shooting light, I am already someone breaking the law. If I am that type of a person I will have no problem having lighted pins to do that even if it is against the law to do that also."

Jim Dahlberg of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: "I am opposed to allowing mechanical broadheads for elk hunting. Large big game animals with heavier hides, bones and body structure are much less susceptible to these types of equipment."

Robert Miller of Hot Springs, SD, emailed: "Now at 60, I have gotten to the point that a crossbow and permit are necessary. In researching into the purchase of a crossbow, I see there is nothing on the market that fits under the rules of South Dakota. All are delivered with scopes of more than 1x power, or are configured in such a way that a pin sight system cannot be mounted and used. A 1x scope I'm presuming is a "none magnifying sight" as per State Law..."

Kevin J. Hansen of Zell, SD, emailed: "The only archery reg I think is a bad one is the one that says a person hunting with a bow cannot possess an arrow that doesn't have a broadhead on it... My problem with this is I interpret it to mean I cannot carry a blunt in my quiver and take a practice shot with it right after I climb into my stand, or if it's a morning stand take a practice shot before climbing down? Or while antelope hunting I can't carry some blunts with me and take practice shots as I rove across the prairie? Roving, stump shooting, whatever you want to call it, is an integral part of my hunting. I think this regulation should be reworded to allow for practice arrows to be carried in the quiver."

Mike McKnight of Sioux Falls, SD, emailed: "I am writing to support the proposed changes to the archery regulations with one exception that I will mention below. I was personally involved in working with GFP, SDAA, and NFAA on these changes and I believe what is proposed is fair and understandable by all. We worked hard on this proposal and I would urge passage. Number 11 however arguably prohibits a big game hunter from carrying a blunt or judo type point in his or her quiver. This was NOT ever discussed as a group, was NEVER intended by the group and should be removed or otherwise fixed. Many bowhunters (myself included) carry blunt or judo type points while big game hunting to use for practice on stumps or clumps etc. It keeps my eye sharp and in practice and makes me a more ethical hunter. I also use that type of point for small game from time to time as well. I would ask that this portion of the rule be fixed."

Dana R. Rogers of Box Elder, SD, emailed: "As a member of SDBI I was involved in the discussion at the state convention regarding most of these rule change submissions. I fully support the removal of restriction on lighted sights, broadhead diameter, elk hunting with expandables and the draw length and weight measurement

reductions. All changes will help make fewer rules and help with recruitment. The more efficient energy producing technology also makes the equipment changes a wise choice and ensures far fewer pro-crossbow arguments as most all individuals can draw a 30 pound bow.

Although the season change was unanimously voted down I ask that be reconsidered at the next available opportunity. An earlier opening for Archery deer would really make for a more enjoyable west river archery season. They could be combined with archery antelope to allow for more opportunity. In most of the eastern part of the state the impact would be minimal at best as most of the deer are secluded in fields and all crops are still standing in September. I continue to request the closure of all deer hunting in January to allow the deer to rest and protect against the harvest of bucks who've already shed."

Tom Braun of Hot Springs, SD, wrote a letter stating background on the current season and states: "Please do not drop the equipment restrictions...Be the first state game commission to say "NO" to any additional tech in archery seasons."

Jim Tawmley of Parker, SD, emailed a six page letter supporting this statement: "I am providing you with this information so to help explain why I feel that the following proposed changes to the Archery Restriction will be a detriment to bow hunting within our state. Therefore I hope that these proposed restriction modifications are defeated I am sending this to you with as much advanced notice as possible because of the number of issues that I have with the entire proposal and to give you reasoning for my concerns. I also hope to be present to testify at the June commission meeting in Yankton if my work schedule permits."

Tim Olson of Pierre, SD, emailed: "...I have been a committed traditional bowhunter for 20 years and believe that bowhunting should remain a relatively "Primitive" pursuit not reliant on ever-increasing technology..."

Officer Simpson concluded the Public Hearing of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission at 2:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary