

Dear SDGFP,

Please do not allow more out of state waterfowl licensing in the state of South Dakota. I am 20 years old and have lived and hunted here my entire life. The out of staters have already taken a good portion away from our pheasant hunting and waterfowl is decreasing. The number of birds are there but it is extremely difficult to get permission without a heavy checkbook (which I do not have) I have been an avid hunter since the age of 4, decoys blinds trailer and all. My family is big into the outdoors and as time has passed it gets harder and harder to be honest outdoors men with the rapid influx of outa staters. They are slowly ruining it for us; please do not allow more of them

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I have hunted the Eureka area for 25 years.  
About every other year for ducks and every year for pheasants.  
The every other year for waterfowl is due to the license allocation system in SD.  
In off years we go to ND just 12 miles north of us and hunt ducks there.  
Those are the same ducks that will be in SD a few days later.  
The SD NR license restrictions have nothing to do with preserving duck populations.

In the 25 years of hunting an area within 25 miles of Eureka my party has run into another duck hunter exactly once.  
That is the real number once; we chose not to hunt in a preselected place because someone got there in the morning before we did.  
We simply went down the road a few miles to the next pot hole and set up.  
The NR licenses have essentially had no effect on hunter numbers anywhere near where I hunt. There are literally 100 places to hunt for every hunter.

What the NR waterfowl license restrictions do is encourage hunters to hunt in other states in the off years where they are not guaranteed a waterfowl license.

Please look into the rational of restrictive licenses in part of the state where apparently nobody hunts ducks based upon my 25 years in the field near Eureka.  
In our group of 10 hunters about ½ are out of sequence with the other half on the license draw in any given year.  
To create predictable hunting opportunities for waterfowl the whole group is researching hunting birds in Idaho next year.  
This is a significant decision for us because we have private ground that the group has manicured for pheasant production for the past 10 years.  
The property produces and holds literally hundreds of pheasants even in though years.  
We are considering giving that up over the unpredictability of duck license draws. That's 10 long time Eureka hunters leaving after 25 years.  
As a group we put in 80 hunting days annually.

If we are thinking that way I would assume thousands of mixed bag hunters shun SD every year and have for decades because of the NR waterfowl license situation. If hunting does not start until noon which is a unique SD special law which I actually like,  
What do the hunters do from dawn to noon W/O a duck license?  
The state needs to fix this crazy law that only drives hunters away from SD.  
Thank you for looking into correcting this situation,

David J. Dybdahl  
Office 608-836-9567  
Mobile 608 513 6101

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Ms. Kiel,

I have truly enjoyed hunting waterfowl in your state for a decade now. The reason I have enjoyed it so immensely is due to limited hunting pressure by Non-Residents. I truly believe that your current Draw system is extremely fair and the NUMBER OF OUT OF STATE permits are perfect in its count. Please DO NOT INCREASE the number of permits as it will increase hunting pressure and push the Ducks and Geese south quickly and will decrease my excitement in hunting in South Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration to maintain the current numbers of Non-Resident Licenses for the 2015 Waterfowl Season.

Sincerely,  
Steve Draganis

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Dear Sirs:

Please DO NOT INCREASE the Non-Resident Licenses for the upcoming 2015 Waterfowl Season. As a Non-Resident I feel the number of permits issued for out of staters is perfect in number and limits the hunting pressure. Are grouped has been blessed over the years to hunt your State and truly appreciate your limits and limitations. We spend upwards of \$5,000 a season in your State for our trip and hope you will continue the Status Quo moving forward.

Sincerely,  
Steve DRAGINIS  
2807 Hawk Ridge Road

Prior Lake, MN 55372

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I am NOT in favor of increasing the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses!

Mark Carda  
4907 Raven Circle  
Rapid City, SD 57702

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One idea would be to allow non-residence to be able to purchase a license at will on an every other year basis. The non-eligible years would still be application. This could be a 4 to 6 year trial basis to see how it works for revenue and duck populations.

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Good day. If I were to understand the new statute, SD will be increasing NR license's no more than 5% per year? I'm not so sure I'm for that.

Can they expand the Pierre unit to include public land? Expand that unit North and South. Market the area for late season mallard hunting. Not just geese. That might increase sales for that unit.

Gentlemen, I have hunted waterfowl from Sask to Kansas. There is no better waterfowling on a more consistent basis than here in SD. WE have something everybody wants. Let's use that to our advantage to generate more money for the GFP and wildlife habitat☺. I feel GFP is missing the boat in one aspect. I have family that comes out to waterfowl hunt and they would gladly pay up to 200.00 for a license. In their words" it's worth it to have a quality hunt" They want quality over quantity. If you break down that 200.00 it equals out to 20 bucks a day. That's cheap for world class waterfowling!

Thank you gentlemen for your time and effort into this issue. Please keep in mind the wishes of our fellow SD waterfowlers. I think we all want what is best for not only our budgets but our wildlife. With kind regards, Duke Remitz.

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I am writing to express my concern over future Non Resident waterfowl hunting allocations. I have been hunting SD for a number of years now and have been more than satisfied with the quality of hunting and resident hospitality. I am concerned that both of these assets will be compromised with increased nonresident waterfowl permits. I have accepted the fact that I may not be drawn every year; however I know that when I am drawn my experience will be magnificent. I have also hunted North Dakota for years and have quit visiting because of hunting pressure and a literal takeover of lands from guides and outfitters. Please consider remaining status quo with nonresident permits. I am willing to pay increases fees if it means I will have the same quality hunting experience. Thank you for your consideration.

Jason Bailey  
627 Castle Wynd Drive

Loves Park. IL. 61111  
815-509-1466

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To whom it may concern,

I write you this email in hopes that you will reconsider the possibility of increasing the number of non resident waterfowl licenses. The current allotment is adequate for all nonresidents. If the license numbers were increased, the quality of hunts would significantly decrease. As it is now, I have noticed an increase of leased land and available guides and outfitters throughout the northeast part of the state. This is something that is not welcomed by this nonresident hunter.

Over the years, accessing private land was relatively easy. This past season, our group knocked on 14 doors, spoke with 8 landowners and was allowed hunting access to 2 farms. In years past, we averaged a 75% success rate. The area is already beginning to turn for the worse and nonresident license numbers have been limited. If you increase the number of licenses available, this issue will only worsen.

Lucky for me, I have been able to hunt South Dakota 5 out of the last 6 years. I, as well as the rest of my group, understand that we are at the mercy of the lottery. So be it. If that creates a more quality hunt then that's the way it should remain. We hunted North Dakota for close to 10 consecutive seasons prior to hunting South Dakota. We decided to stop hunting North Dakota for the above reasons....too many hunters.

Please, do NOT increase the number of available nonresident waterfowl licenses.

Thank you,

Gregory Hansen  
6627 Lindbloom Ln  
Cherry Valley, IL 61016  
(815)222-1463

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Joshua Carda  
4907 Raven Circle  
Rapid City, SD 57702

I am emailing to voice my opinion against the raising of nonresident waterfowl licenses. Many of the nonresidents who come to SD to hunt and spend their \$\$\$ here year after year are doing so because it is a quality experience. Most people feel this quality experience would be ruined by increasing the number of hunters in the field. Since most non-resident hunters can get a license 9 out of 10 years for their area I don't see the value in ruining a good thing for everyone because someone wants to hunt 10 out of 10 years in the same town. There are lots of places around the country people can run a

business based on highly variable, unreliable non-resident hunting dollars. The reason someone chooses to waterfowl hunt in SD is for a superior experience to our boarder states that may have more birds, but have a low quality hunt because they fail to control their hunter density. Everyone in South Dakota has experienced how unlimited nonresidents can turn pheasant hunting into a circus, and the vast majority of us would prefer not to see Waterfowl hunting head down the same path. I know the dozens of non-resident hunters that I have hunted with over the years support this system. Let's not ruin waterfowl hunting like we have Pheasant hunting in South Dakota.

Thanks

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Greetings:

I am a SD duck hunter that hunts strictly on public land. It has been difficult hunting the past two years for sure. I would rather not have to compete for hunting spots on marshes with large numbers of out of state duck hunters. Many of them may not give the WPA & GPA lands the same respect residents do. I have a brother in MN who is an avid hunter and DNR biologist. We have hunted together in SD three years ago. It would be nice if he didn't have to do the lottery, but I am still against not having a lottery for non-resident duck hunters.

Thanks,

**Steven Hier**

Project Manager

shier@mwmech.com

direct 605.444.9224

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To SD GF&P Committee,

I haven't been able to get to your state to hunt waterfowl the last few years, but did regularly from 2000 thru 2010. While I didn't always draw, even when I didn't, I felt the low limit on nonresident waterfowl licenses was a good thing, as the quality of the experience was so high when I did draw.

I still feel that way and would rather not draw than have it so easy for nonresidents to get waterfowl licenses that the quality of the hunting experience deteriorates.

I'd hope you would keep the numbers where they are. I thoroughly enjoyed every trip to hunt in SD those years and usually went three times a years, for doves in Sept, for waterfowl, pheasants and grouse in December and spring snow geese in March. I was always very impressed with all the GF&P people I came in contact with. Good luck in working through a thorny issue.

Sincerely,  
Rich Carpenter  
2005 Charro Ave.  
Longmont, CO 80504

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Matt Barnard  
42566 SD Hwy#38  
Alexandria, SD 57311

Dear sirs:

I am writing this letter concerning the non-res. waterfowl license issue. I am not in favor of increasing the non-res. allotment for waterfowl hunting in any way, shape, or form. I was a non-res hunter for 5 years before I decided I like SD so much, I moved here. I live here year round, farm here, pay taxes here, and enjoy hunting here. When I was a non-res. waterfowl hunter, I never failed to draw a license. Some of my friends did. I was fortunate enough to always get a license. Even if I had missed, the most I would have to have waited was until the next year. You get the preference point, and are most assured of getting a license. It is better odds than anything in Vegas. I believe there are 3700 licenses available in the regular season waterfowl drawing, with around 5200 applicants. That's not too shabby. Please do not increase the number for non res. waterfowl hunters.

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Dear Sirs-

I have hunted SD each year since the 1990's for pheasants. I would like to combine pheasants with waterfowl hunting. I have never understood the reasoning for limiting the waterfowl license. With SD resident waterfowl hunters in decline I would like to see nonresidents being able to hunt waterfowl in SD. It would bring more revenue to SD along with giving your visitors a better experience for their time spent in SD.

Best regards,

Robert Lowe  
PO Box 3443  
Idaho Falls, ID 83403

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The idea that you want to open up duck hunting to nonresidents without the lottery is a terrible idea. The pheasant hunting has already been completely ruined to the point where if you don't pay for hunting or know someone with private land it is pretty much worthless. The state already over sells the pheasant hunting to the point where residents even on the residence on the weekend have trouble finding birds on public land. Until something is done about all the drain tile that the farmers are doing and getting rid of the wetlands maybe you should think about putting some money into the

waterfowl hunting areas. I have hunted South Dakota my entire life and the hunting is gotten worse almost every year especially the last three years pheasant hunting but duck hunting is virtually impossible to do on public grounds. Now you want to open it up to sell more licenses to fit your own agenda and that has nothing to do with actually making the waterfowl hunting better. Maybe somebody at the state will finally come up with the idea of charging the farmers that sell pheasant hunting a tax or make them put birds out like they do the private bird farms to do something about the pheasant hunting and actually try to grow business rather than drive all your hunting right into the ground. I don't think the farmers should be subsidized by the taxpayer and also be able to sell hunting to out-of-state hunters and then not have to pay something back to the state or help the hunting situation.

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Good Morning,

I am hoping to provide you a point of view on this topic from a die-hard resident water fowler who has also spent several years living outside of the South Dakota, and therefore has a perspective as a non-resident as well.

I am strongly against the increase in non-resident license for several reasons. First, the limited number of licenses enables a higher probability to a more successful hunt. The two largest factors to duck migration are hunting pressure and weather, in that order. The impact to hunting pressure can be evidenced most recently by the earlier opening of the Canada Goose season. Even though the number of days have increased, the overall harvest numbers have not. It has merely pushed the harvest numbers up earlier in the year.

Secondly, the increase in non-resident licenses would also have an impact on the overall quality of the hunt. The average water fowler of today is much different than those of yesterday. With the impact of the internet and such, the availability of information as to what areas are holding significant numbers of birds congregates large numbers of hunters in rather small numbers of areas. Sadly, this creates tensions between fellow hunters as they vie for the most opportune spots. An increase in hunters will only exacerbate the issues, and local wardens will continue to have to deal with such trivial matters.

Lastly, and in my opinion the most important, is the impact to landowners. There are several landowners I have spoken to over the last couple of years who comment on the number of folks that come knocking on their door or call their home asking for permission to hunt, to the point where it has become a nuisance to them. This in turns reduces that opportunity to establish some sort of relationship with that landowner, and instead they simply deny everyone permission on their grounds. The other impact to this issue is the increase in "pay to play", or leasing ground. The amount of new ground that is have seen with signs indicating they land is leased for hunting in north central South Dakota the past few years is mind blowing. My fear is that if this trend continues, it will be the end of free-lance hunting.

In summary, if there is that much of a need for additional revenue, I (as well as many non-resident hunters I know) would much rather pay a higher price for a license to keep the quality of hunting they are all love so dearly, than to open it up to more hunters that will ultimately continue to degrade the hunting opportunities we have here.

Thanks Much,

Derek Wyszynski

Tel 605-413-9199 | Fax 877-475-5311

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As an avid resident hunter, I would recommend not limiting the number of out of state waterfowl hunting licenses available. I would make it just like pheasant hunting for out of state hunters. Also I would recommend out of staters being able to purchase their waterfowl license at the same places where they purchase the general hunting license and pheasant license.

Having been a guide for a number of years, it is very frustrating for a group of hunters coming as a group and some get a license and others do not.

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Dr. Jack L. Wilson  
605-553-6451

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Hi,

I'm 42 years old and I've been coming to South Dakota waterfowl hunting for over 15 years. I love it. What makes it so special is the lack of hunting pressure. You can hunt public water without worry of other hunters being around, that is a rare thing these days. Please keep South Dakota the way it is. Opening it up to more non-resident hunters would spoil a good thing. This is coming from a non-resident, on the years I don't draw I know the following year I will.

Regards

Steve Hansen  
13941 Woodridge Path  
Savage, MN 55378

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I believe we need to reduce non-resident waterfowl licenses. They hunt the bird's roosts and screw up hunting for guys with a lot of time and money invested in scouting,

decoys, and time spent in the field trying to decoy even more educated birds. I am disappointed with the numbers of hunts I have had botched in recent years due to non-residents hunting birds I have studied for weeks on end waiting for the perfect hunt. Please consider the residents who appreciate our hunting rights in this state far more than non-residents.

Thank you,  
Jon Heintzman

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The regulations currently in place appear to be working and acceptable to residents. Why change it?

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To whom it may concern,

I have been a nonresident and resident of South Dakota. I grew up in Minnesota and bought nonresident South Dakota hunting licenses during that time. Then as a college student in South Dakota I had resident hunting privileges. After college I moved to Missouri and again purchased nonresident licenses. I moved back to South Dakota a year and a half ago and now enjoy all the benefits of being a resident again.

A big reason I moved back to South Dakota was for the extensive hunting and fishing opportunities. My biggest passion is hunting waterfowl. I have hunted waterfowl in many states and provinces. South Dakota offers some of the best waterfowling in the world. The diversity and abundance of waterfowl, access to hunting areas, extent of the year that waterfowl can be hunted, and the overall quality of the hunting opportunities are what makes waterfowling in South Dakota special.

Many people that I have talked to over the years that live in other states think that because there aren't that many licenses available that it is impossible to get drawn so they don't bother applying. However, as you all know the odds of being drawn are actually pretty good in recent years. I'm afraid that by raising the number of licenses available it will actually increase the number of people that apply to the point that the odds of being drawn will actually decrease.

I greatly value being able to hunt with my dad. He has applied for a license and been drawn in the river zone along the Nebraska border the last couple years. It has been great to have him be able to hunt throughout the entire season in my neck of the woods. However, I wish he didn't have to choose between 10 consecutive days in the rest of the state or all season in my area. It would be nice if we could travel to other parts of the state. For example, if there was good numbers of mallards in flooded corn around Aberdeen and nothing around Lake Andes it would be nice to go there instead of having mediocre hunting around home. It's not just him. I have many friends that I enjoy hunting with that it would be nice to have more days and not be limited where we can go. Essentially by limiting my dad and other friends that apply for nonresident licenses to this zone or limiting the number of days in the other zone you have also limited my opportunities as a resident. I want my dad to be able to get a license as many years as possible and have as much time as possible within each year he does get a license to spend hunting with me in South Dakota. Any options with South Dakota's nonresident

waterfowl licenses that allow me to spend more time hunting with my dad in the state of South Dakota while maintaining the quality of waterfowl hunting in South Dakota is a positive option to me.

That being said here is my input on nonresident waterfowl licenses in South Dakota: Waterfowl are a migratory species so a part of me does not think that it is right to limit anyone's opportunities to hunt them in any state just because they are a nonresident. However, my love for waterfowl hunting is part of what has brought me back to South Dakota and all people have the choice to live here.

I think that the limited number of nonresidents is why the quality of waterfowling has maintained such high standards in South Dakota while other states like North Dakota have seen a decrease in quality with the increase in nonresident waterfowl licenses sold. I don't just say this because I'm a resident. This was my feeling when I lived in Missouri and didn't know if my job would ever allow me to move back to the state.

To summarize, my suggestions would be that the number of nonresident waterfowl licenses in South Dakota remain at a similar number but those that receive a license should be allowed more leniency in their time and area that they are allowed to hunt in. I would like to see at a minimal that they could split the 10 days into two 5 day periods but even better than that would be that they could hunt more than ten consecutive days throughout the season. I'd also like to see the different zones for nonresidents be reevaluated.

I hope that the committee will consider all these aspects when exploring the options for the future of nonresident waterfowl licenses in the state of South Dakota.

I apologize for my extensive response but I wanted to express the importance of this issue to me and the future of waterfowl hunting in the state of South Dakota. Thank you for your time and considerations in this matter, Mick

Mick Hanan  
38680 291st St.  
Lake Andes, SD 57356  
(605) 695-1025

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I live in Brookings with my address correct below. I am retiring after 29 years with Landolakes this coming Friday. My new e mail address will be [Leonardskovly@outlook.com](mailto:Leonardskovly@outlook.com).

I hunt waterfowl from Canada to Arkansas all fall and will be doing more now after retiring. I was born and raised in eastern SD and hunted since I was big enough to carry a gun. If I can help u in any way feel free to call me. I would suggest we don't open up our state to the world for waterfowl hunting like others have. I hear them complain about how bad their hunting is and the challenges with other hunters. Also that they r having less people hunting each year because of the extreme pressure they created by hunters from every state coming in. I would say increase our Lic. Fees if we need more money rather than get it from other states. Just my thoughts. Thank You.

Leonard Skovly  
C: 605 690 1666  
Mail: 1627 Sioux Trail  
Brookings S.D. 57006  
Hello,

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I absolutely love hunting the state of SD. Being from SC we don't have pheasants at all and nowhere near the duck numbers. Myself and a group of friends have made the trip for close to 20 years now. There is one aspect I would like to see a change in. Why can't SD, like ND, go to an over the counter NR license sale? I think it would increase revenues. Our crew is large and some of us get drawn and others aren't so lucky. We end up splitting up and hunting different areas/game. This is our annual trip and some don't see each other except for this time of year, and we hate to split up when we get there. We hunt both pheasant and ducks. Many guys from here go to ND instead just because of the draw hunt. Thank you for your time, and we are already counting the days until our arrival in November.

K Crimminger  
803-609-3236

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I am opposed to changing the current lottery system for nonresident waterfowl license.

Most of the proponents are only seeking more money at the expense of waterfowl and resident hunters. We don't have the number of birds seen in Arkansas nor the long hunting season they enjoy.

The current system works well. Please don't change it.

Dave Lyon  
29690 482<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Hudson, SD 57034  
605/310-4143

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Hunting waterfowl for non-residents would make a lot more sense if the non-res could plan a year ahead of time to hunt waterfowl. By increasing the cost for the license to a higher cost, the amount of hunters would probably be less, and the amount of ducks taken would probably be reduced. The motels, and businesses associated with duck hunters would be able to plan their cost and expenses also. We no longer try to hunt in S.D. because of the lottery program.....hopefully it will change so we can plan a trip today for the Fall hunting season.....Thanks for having the ability to voice an opinion...Jim

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Hi. As a non-resident, but property owner in South Dakota I have the following opinions to submit.

Reduce the cost of a NR waterfowl license.

Keep seasons as they are.

Continue with the regulated drawing system with the non drawn applicants going to the top of the list for the next year's drawing. Guess the preference points would apply here.

Do away with the paying for additional preference point system.

Do not increase permit numbers.

Thank you. George Nast 44 Shake Rag St. Mineral Point, WI. 53565 608-987-2466

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My name is Tyler grunwald my phone number is 6052144352. I am bagging to not do that I drive through ND and its crazy the amount of hunters that go there surprised any can find a field to hunt if any just up the drawing on people. I moved to this great state because of the fact that not just any one can come and hunt. Stick to the drawing just pick more people if anything.

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I have a few thoughts regarding non-resident waterfowl licenses. I have been traveling from Michigan to hunt in South Dakota once, and sometimes twice each year since 1990. Our trips are usually for a full week, but I will occasionally drive out to hunt for three days. Most of that time has been spent hunting pheasants in Miner County, but as of late, we have been spending more time hunting prairie grouse west of Pierre. I have purchased a waterfowl license on several occasions but not within the last ten years.

If the license fee were to remain the same, and they were available over the counter, I would probably buy one every year. We don't come to specifically hunt ducks or geese but I would be more than happy to shoot one now and then by jumping them off a stock dam or taking a shot at a low flying bird encountered while pheasant hunting with non-toxic shot. I expect that many other upland hunters would do the same. I suspect that this would result in a significant increase in license sales and revenue given the relatively low volume of licenses currently available in most areas.

I do not think it would result in any significant conflict for the currently available public hunting areas for two reasons. First, it is exhausting to try to duck hunt over decoys and pheasant hunt in the same day. That's not to say that it doesn't happen, but I don't think it happens much. I've tried and found that the effort was simply not worth the exhaustion. My guess is that you would continue to get a relatively consistent number

of dedicated waterfowl hunters who may shoot a rooster or two if they happen to see one. These are guys that are focused on ducks and/or geese and will scout them and get up well before daylight to set decoys and so forth. Your new group of license holders are more likely to fit my description. That is, they will jump shoot the occasional bird and may spend one morning or evening over the course of a week waiting for birds to come into a slough or field but that is about the extent of it. They may also focus more on waterfowl should the weather turn wet and become disagreeable for pheasant hunting.

The other reason I don't think that increased non-resident license availability would be a problem is that the current usage of public waterfowl areas where I have hunted is practically zero. In all my years of upland hunting in South Dakota, I can count on one hand the number of times I've seen anyone hunting waterfowl on either public or private land in both Miner and Sanborn counties. It seems unlikely to me that allowing an unlimited number of non-resident licenses to be sold in this area would have any discernible effect on hunting pressure or the quality of the hunting experience. This may not be true for the counties that border Minnesota, but not having hunted there, I cannot say.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my views and I look forward to having more non-resident waterfowl hunting options available in South Dakota in the future.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Brenton  
Northville, MI

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I would urge you to greatly liberalize the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses. Better yet, do away with the quota system together and just let non-residents buy a license.

I have spent a week or more for the past seven years pheasant hunting in your state. I have never applied for a waterfowl tag because (a) I think it's stupid and (b) it was too much of a hassle. Had I been able to buy a tag I would have. Even though I probably would have hunted maybe once each year. And the way I shoot I can assure you the impact on your waterfowl population would have been negligible. You are missing out on a lot of non-resident dollars with the quota system.

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Good Morning Gary:

I note from a recent GFP news release that you and Paul Dennert have been given the honerous task of serving on the Non-resident Waterfowl Licensing Work Group. While it is likely that you and the remainder of the working group will receive some of the historic details of non-resident licensing policy, I strongly suspect that the single most important influence on not only non-resident waterfowl hunting but non-resident hunting in general will be left out of the discussion.. I post here, a web URL to

the case of State of South Dakota vs. Kemp **44 N.W.2d 214 (1950)** 9168 **Supreme Court of South Dakota** October 3, 1950. <http://law.justia.com/cases/south-dakota/supreme-court/1950/9168-1.html> which represents the single greatest influence affecting non-resident hunting in the State of South Dakota. If you research this case even modestly, you will note it has been used as collateral authority in numerous cases of similar impression across the country, not the least of which is Baldwin vs. Fish and Game Commission of Montana; a case which also establishes well-articulated cause and reasoning for the licensing of non-residents. Sadly, over the years, the State of South Dakota has become much more interested in revenue generation and hunting privilege from hunting based recreation than it has adherence to the theme of conservation and protection of this states resources so eloquently state in the dictum and opinion of State vs. Kemp.

I do not wish to appear presumptuous here but these topics- which flow into the larger theme of "privatization of wildlife and public lands access" are near and dear to my heart and have occupied more of my time since producing a white paper on the topic for The South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society in 1985 than I care to admit. From a wildlife professional's point of view, if we are to salvage anything of our wildlife and hunting heritage in this state, we cannot continue to avoid the realities of being forced to choose between policy that favors quantitative recreational demand rather than bonafide conservation of wildlife resources for the benefit of the "entire" public of South Dakota..... It should be plainly evident what "commercialization and defacto privatization" of both wildlife and private lands has achieved for our residents who are, in every respect, the owners of our wildlife assets..... Our governor has said that there must be balance between agricultural, commercial and interests of the "commons" and I submit that there has been little or no balance in policy promulgated in the last 25 years in SD. We are hungry for the non-resident license dollar and its multiplier yet ignorant of the net result of that hunger game.

I am hopeful that reading this case from beginning to end, will serve to illustrate where our recent failures in wildlife have come from. I believe that history repeats itself. Proponents of these non-resident hunting license expansions do not consider that we do not allow non-residents to hunt elk, big horn sheep, Mt. Goats and Mt lions, but yet insist that the state has a "duty" to optimize non-resident waterfowl licensing as some sort of tourism promotion or economic windfall that is beneficial to society and government..... Where is the consideration for/benefit to the resource itself that is held up to sustain all of these "additional" recreational man days? What assurances are there that non-resident money and political influence won't quickly encumber otherwise public, resident opportunities at their leisure at the expense of long term species management..... Everybody needs to look closely at what happened with the commercialization of the Central Plains Canada Goose Flock that spent much of its winter between Gettysburg and Platte until the pressure became untenable. How much of that opportunity is left for residents and non-residents after all the political argument in legislative sessions from the early 1970's through the late 1990's. The absence of long term thinking and planning is starkly evident.

There is a very good comparison to be made in this regard when one looks at the liberal, politically inspired, nearly unrestricted, commercialized influence of waterfowl hunting in the Pierre area as compared to management of the Western Prairie giant

Canada goose flock in Bennett County over the same time frame. Unquestionably, the carefully managed, restrictive resident/non-resident licensing policy in Bennett County over the past 25 years has sustained a viable and consistently productive goose population right along with a consistent and quality amount of hunting opportunity that Western SD hunters and landowners enjoy. One has to ask why the rest of the State of South Dakota has to be different than Bennett County management in the area surrounding LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge. Just some food for thought. Your comments and additional discussion are welcome. One thing about South Dakota -- We are consistently inconsistent and there is only one reason for that..... special interest lobby that is more concerned about its opportunity than it is the resource upon which that opportunity depends.....

Thanks  
John

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I am opposed to more nonresident waterfowl licenses. We already have too much hunting pressure which is beginning to ruin the waterfowl hunting in South Dakota.

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I believe we should keep it somewhat the same. Outfitters are already taking up a majority of the private ground and if we allow more out-of-staters in the outfitters will have more money to lease more ground. The way it is set up now it's hard for the average guy to get good ground to hunt unless you luck out and get a decent hunt on public ground. Keep it the same.

Eric Mergen  
320 West 10th Apt 4  
Dell Rapids SD 57022

---

My name is Clint Hay. I reside at 807 Rapid Valley St Brookings, SD 57006

I have been waterfowl hunting for a few years in SD. The main things that concern me are:

Gaining access to private land gets harder and harder each year. I scout/hunt a 5 county area around Brookings. This year was the worst for gaining access to hunt. I marked down how many times I was turned down for fields and it added up to around 30. Adding more licenses will only make that number increase.

I also think nonresident college students that come here for school should have to apply for a lottery just like every other nonresident instead of being "godfathered" in. There are a TON of kids who come to school in SD just because of the hunting. Another reason why it's harder to get permission. They tear up fields and leave trash.

Also, due to the disrespect most nonresidents have for land. Leaving trash, shell casings, etc. I have talked to more than a handful of landowners that have not let me hunt because of those reasons.

The increase of licenses will only hurt the waterfowl hunting in South Dakota. It's getting to well known in social media, hunting shows, etc.

I can promise that within 5 years, the day of waterfowl hunting without owning land, lease, guide or paying the farmer to hunt the freelance style of hunting in this state will be over!!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If there are questions please feel free to email me or call me at 605-251-7482

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To whom it may concern,

I am of the opinion the law concerning non-res waterfowl license should remain the same.

I was a nonresident for many years and abided by the regulations set forth by SD GF&P.

The current conditions set forth are one of the primary reasons the state & its residents enjoy the waterfowl opportunities.

If the state considers or is pressured to bending or changing the current regulations & rules, we very well will see those opportunities vanish or severely diminish.

I as a long time water fowler, resident and landowner strongly encourage no changes be made to the current nonresident regulations.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,  
Thomas Skinner  
Pierre, SD

---

My comments concerning Non-Resident Waterfowl Licenses are as follows:

I think that the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses should be increased to say 5,000. This would not satisfy all applicants, but would cover most.

It would be nice if the applicant could split the season as an option. Say 2 five day periods or the 1 ten day period. Or maybe say 1 ten day period or 2 seven day periods if a split license.

An option if a group is applying and has been accepted, and a licensed person cannot hunt for health, personal reasons, etc.; that person could be dropped and another person added within that group for that year. The new person would have to buy a new license, but would be included in the group so the group would be whole again.

Also, if the main group changes as far as 1 member, but the rest are the same. It would be nice if the group is not considered a new group if the main group leader is the same, or can be transferred within the group.

Other comments pertaining to non-residents that are not suggestions. We read how the resident hunters dislike the non-resident hunters. Where we hunt in the NE areas, we are always welcomed by the locals, business and private individuals. They don't like resident hunters because they are the ones who do not spend money with them! Sure we buy are shells and clothes back home, but when we get to our hunting locations, we pay for housing, food, fuel, drinks, and any repairs that may be needed.

Also, we never see any local hunters. In the 6 to 7 years we have been hunting South Dakota, we have only seen 4 to 8 local hunters. That is why we are always welcomed. The resident hunters don't spend money like we do, so we feel that we do have somewhat of a say, especially since we are licensed to hunt. Our tax dollars also are be spent, state and federal.

Thank you.

David A. Gomulka  
1186 Harrison Street  
Shakopee, MN 55379

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Your notes from your first meeting indicated a number of items that were presented to the committee that were in a power point format or other similar presentations or documents. I would recommend that any item (document, presentation or summary) that is presented to the committee be made available on your website for review by the public. This allows us to have equal information to that received by the committee as we follow the committee's efforts and formulate our responses. Please let me know your thoughts and what if any action you may take on this request.

Regards,

Lloyd Hodgins  
2603 Bobbie Dr.  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
605-380-1722

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I am writing to let it be known that I oppose changing the NR license allocations. I believe it will take away from the quality of the hunt we have come to enjoy. The average freelance hunter has very few places left where permission can be easily and cheaply obtained. Please consider this when making your decision.

Thanks for your time, Dave Gill  
2310 Coolidge St  
Madison Wi 53704

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James Haynes – 711 N. 4th St., Marshall, MN 56258

I am writing w/ a few comments/inquires. I guess I am just curious as to why the number of licenses allowed is so limited, I can't say I'm terribly informed but from my perspective it seems odd how contradictory the pheasant policies Vs. waterfowl are. The state campaigns and relies heavily on out of state/tourism for pheasant hunting which applies to a much more finite # of birds which for the most part are born and raised within the state, as opposed to waterfowl, which in the case of South Dakota, huge numbers of birds that get hunted during the fall are passing through for a relatively short period of time. That said I understand during the early season many more of the birds are 'locals', and too much pressure could be detrimental to future breeding, okay so licenses could certainly be limited during the first portion of the year, but in reality most out of state hunters, and in my case, want to experience the massive number of birds that are present during more peak migration periods, thus we wouldn't be nearly as interested in hunting the earlier, or 'local' period anyway.

Lastly, it would certainly be more convenient for a hunter who did draw a license to not have to use it over a 10 consecutive day period, rather maybe 3 3 day periods, etc. I realize a 10 day consecutive is easier to regulate and also estimate pressure, but I guess it doesn't seem too complicated to me to expand that system a bit, hunters would still have to claim their days in which ever periods would be allowed, (1 day, 2 day 3 day periods, etc.) which could be restricted as to how many can claim a period on a first come/serve basis in order to keep pressure at a controlled and estimated level. I'm sure there are reasons for the 10 day consecutive that I don't know, don't understand or agree with but I guess long story short, your average hunter, even those avid enough to get out to SD, can't really utilize 10 days of hunting consecutively due to the obvious obligations of life, and maybe that's that point.

Anyway, there's one person's \$0.02 for ya.

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I have purchased a NR License for close to 20 years. I have been drawn all but 2 years. I have always thought the licenses available are too low. Every year we sweat it out on the draw and try to come up with an alternative plan, but we seem to always get drawn. I have seen an increase in activity from other hunters in the Eureka area we hunt the last few years. I think many are NR. After rethinking this, I like the allotment low. I could see raising up a thousand or 2, but raising too much will diminish the experience. Who will the increase in revenue on license sale help? I would argue farmers will post their property more and relationships could erode. Of course we hunt pheasants too and it gets tougher to find ground. We/you don't need eroding relationships.

We drive a long ways and hunting is getting tougher on all fronts. We love going and supporting the community. I'm afraid this could end up being a negative if it is open or raised too high.

Sincerely  
Brad Watts

Brad Watts  
Valley Nursery Inc.  
20882 Bond Rd NE  
Poulsbo WA 98370  
360 779-3806

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Good Morning ! My name is Bruce Hodek, and I reside in Roseville, Minnesota, a suburb of the metropolitan area. I hunt pheasants every year in South Dakota and appreciate the opportunity to do so. I grew up duck hunting in northern Minnesota, and I often wonder why there were limits and restrictions to hunting geese/ducks in South Dakota. First, I understand that ducks/geese are 'regulated' through federal involvement (which is different than pheasants); and second, for the most part, ducks/geese are going to fly through as they migrate south. So for those reasons, I don't get the connection why make it difficult for non-residence to hunt ducks/geese. From my perspective, it will attract more hunters to visit your State, and spend their monies to help with your economy especially with the reduction of pheasant hunters. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts. Bruce Hodek

---

As a nonresident I hunted pheasants in South Dakota 4 separate years. Each **guided** trip cost between \$2000 and \$2500, not including motels, transportation, meals, fuel, gratuities, veterinary bills and supplies.

Let's not overthink this license situation, our group could have (gladly) spent more time and money in South Dakota, but couldn't because of the current license situation.

Some of us older hunters simply can't chase upland birds all day, and would be more than happy to sit over some decoys in a blind before or after the upland hunt is done for the day.

M A Lohuis  
Sequim WA, Jackson WY and Green Valley AZ.

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FWIW - we have had quite a number of OOS in the past that have supported the limited license quota that SD has because they prefer a quality hunt even though they may not be drawn every year!

Those of us who chose to live and work in SD even though that choice ended up in

lower wages for the most part have worked here, raised our families here, and aren't terribly upset by the idea that we have some of the best hunting and fishing in the country here in SD. SD is 51st in teacher salaries. I taught here in SD for 35+ years and am not sorry at all for my decision.

One of the main reasons for sacrificing a chance for higher wages and a more comfortable retirement portfolio (at least for me) was the hunting and fishing opportunities and a chance to raise my children here. Two of my sons are still classified as residents (one is a chiropractor in eastern SD and the other is in the military) and they continue to reap the benefits of the outdoor activities here.

The number of resident waterfowl hunters has declined in the NE corner of the state, quite possibly because of the increased pressure from the number of OOS hunters that are already allowed to hunt here in this corner and as far as I am concerned, we sure don't need more pressure than we already have.

Jerry Larsen  
419 East Chestnut Street  
Sisseton, SD 57262

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Committee Members,

It has never made much sense to me why South Dakota limits the number of waterfowl hunters wanting to hunt in South Dakota. If you are worried about too many hunters do what North Dakota does and limit the number of days the license is good for. I would love to hunt South Dakota for waterfowl but because of the drawing I go to North Dakota. Increased income for your Agency on a migratory resource just makes sense. Thanks for letting hunters have some input.

Gregory Atchley  
Hixson, Tennessee

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January 20, 2015

Re: Nonresident Waterfowl Hunter License Allocations  
**GF&P**

The article doesn't disclose more about what you are considering other than what is stated in the subject line. My statement is the quality of hunting is inversely proportional to the number of hunters. That is especially true in waterfowl hunting where locations to hunt is so limited. I am opposed to increasing the number of non-resident waterfowl hunting licenses. In fact it should be as it was years ago – no nonresident waterfowl licenses. Generally, the case is resident hunters cannot compete financially with out-of-state money for places to hunt. You have to decide if your function as a governmental

entity of the State of South Dakota is to cater to wealthy nonresidents, or have an allegiance to the residents of this state to which you are to serve.

Thank you. "In God We Trust." Respectfully,

James Elsing  
906 West 2nd Avenue  
Lemmon, South Dakota 57638  
Phone: (605) 374-5840

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Hello,

This is my second input email on this topic (original below).

I just noticed that Chris Hesla is one of the members of this work group. I'm just curious why you would include a member of the work group that is one of the most vocal opponents in SD of issuing any additional NR waterfowl licenses. His venomous tirades against NR hunters in SD is the main reason I quit supporting the South Dakota Wildlife Federation years ago. I have not seen such a viewpoint so strongly expressed by any other sportsman's groups in any of the other states I hunt. Most states' sportsman's groups and wildlife agencies welcome NR hunters, including NR waterfowl hunters, with open arms. Not Mr. Hesla and the South Dakota Wildlife Federation.

So, the viewpoint/input of Mr. Hesla to this work group is quite well known in advance, perhaps this work group is just another smoke and mirrors exercise to appease those calling for SD FG&P to leave the 1930s and enter this century with respect to NR waterfowl hunting. North Dakota does quite a nice job of collecting those NR waterfowl license fees that would otherwise be spent in SD.

Regards,

Eric Smith

Previous email below:

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Hello,

Some input:

I have hunted waterfowl as a NR in SD since 1990. In that time, I continue to be amazed how a state that does such a fine job in managing wildlife resources, hunting tag allocations/management for big game, and general small game/hunter management can cling to bad memories from the 1930s/40s as the basis for their management of NR

Waterfowl licenses. Are you nuts? Please come forward to 2015 and leave 1934 behind.

You have a tremendous resource of migrating waterfowl in the fall. I hunt NE SD, mostly west of Hwy 281 to the Missouri River north to ND and south to the south edge of Edmunds County. In that part of the state we NEVER run into resident waterfowl hunters, only an occasional NR waterfowl hunter. Almost every SD landowner that we ask for waterfowl hunting permission grants it, usually with a quizzical look and the question "you hunt those things?".

You have a tremendous resource, and a large base of Nonresidents that would travel to SD every season to hunt. Given that your CRP acreage is diminishing along with your pheasants and pheasant hunters, inviting more NR waterfowl hunters and their dollars to SD would be a wise thing indeed.

Regards,

Eric Smith

December-April Address:  
1212 Autumn Creek Circle  
Westerville, Ohio 43081

May-November address:  
1011 Main St  
Gay, MI 49945

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To Whom It May Concern:

Speaking as both a resident who wishes to protect South Dakotan's ability to find good waterfowling opportunities without having to know someone or win the lottery and as a transplant who has out of state friends who love to have the opportunity to waterfowl hunt in SD, I feel that the lottery system with limited licenses is a great idea, but for those fortunate enough to get a license, reward them with the opportunity to make a couple of trips by splitting up the 10 day season. Neither I nor my friends are young anymore, at least not young enough to make numerous hunting trips over such a short time frame. Similarly to the non-resident pheasant season, let the non-resident split up the 10 days.

However, please do not overly increase the licenses or do away with the lottery system unless you want to force many residents right out of waterfowling. Cases in point, the inability to find pheasant land that isn't leased out by non-residents or lodges, and the mass of waterfowl ears hunting Springfield coming in flocks (pun intended) from Nebraska.

Thank you for listening to the rants of a transplant who now calls SD his home and loves the waterfowling opportunities this state provides. You guys do a great job.

Keith Allenstein

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Here is my input on the NR license allocation system.

I am a fan of the way the license structure and allocations are today.

I have been on both side of the fence from NR to Resident.

If you open up license allocations it will just increase the amount of land that is leased by outfitters. This will not only make it difficult to get permission on fields for NR and Residents alike, but will also put added pressure on the public waters. This will in turn give the waterfowl fewer places to rest.

The meandered waters legislation also could have a significant impact on the ability for waterfowl to have places to rest.

If allocations are opened up to NR you are going to need to control pressure in some way.

This year I scouted a lot and asked for permission 22 times to hunt fields. I was turned down 20 times.

I have hunted ND and will never hunt there again. The pressure was so intense when we quit hunting there that the birds would NEVER get a chance to sit in a field more than one day in a row and it wasn't uncommon for 2 or 3 trucks to be watching a field.

I really think SD would be dropping the ball on management of this resource if they increase the NR allocation. The only people it would benefit would be the outfitters, and no one else.

Jeremy Von Glahn  
PO Box 1143  
Watertown, SD 57201

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I would be very concerned if the nonresident license would increase. South Dakota has some of the best waterfowl hunting a guy could ask for and a lot of that has to do with the amount of hunting pressure we have in South Dakota. if you start allowing every Tom Dick and Harry come on to state the pressure is going to go through the roof. Another reason I would be concerned is it could turn in to be commercialized just like the pheasant hunting it's going to open up to a lot of new guide services taking away opportunities of residence hunting private ground it will all get leased by Guide services.

Even the public ground where there might be a couple different hunting groups on it will turn into 4, 5 or six groups on them. I have seen on quite a few different forums on the Internet that even the nonresidents would like to see it stay the same because the quality of hunting is so great in South Dakota. A lot of them guys say I would much rather hunt every other year then try and go every year and have the quality gone.

Thanks for reading my email  
Lance Nogelmeier  
299 W Sanborn  
Parker SD 57053

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I have been a resident of South Dakota for 20 years, moving here after completing a career in the United States Navy.

In my 20 years I have been an ardent hunter.

Most of my hunting has been in and around Eureka SD. I have long wondered why the waterfowl resources in the area are extremely underutilized by both residents and nonresidents. Having friends, nonresidents that have come to hunt with me over the years experience rejection for waterfowl permits year after year is frustrating.

I believe you should allocate more permits to nonresidents. The nonresident permits generate significant revenue and enable a underutilized resource to be more effectively used.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Langdell, CDR USN (Retired)  
1615 Branding Iron Dr  
Spearfish SD 57783  
605-645-6268

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Hi,  
I am for an increase in nonresident waterfowl license in South Dakota.  
Thank you,  
Tommy Mckim

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The following comments relate to discussions in regard to non-resident waterfowl licenses and seasons. For most of the past 12 years my son has either gone to college or lived, as a resident, in the State of South Dakota. Over those years I have enjoyed the opportunity to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota. During this same period of time I have hunted in my home state as well in several other states and providences. I have very much enjoyed the people that I have met and the hunting opportunities that I have

had, both public opportunities as well as opportunities on private land. That said, I have a couple of comments; I have over the years had mixed feelings about the limitations in regard to non-resident waterfowl hunters. I have considered and understand both sides of the issue and I do feel that there should be some opportunities to increase non-resident licenses available. I am not sure to what degree but potentially somewhat. More than the issue of increased licenses, I hope that the committee will consider allowing non-resident waterfowl hunters to split their days much as is done with non-resident upland bird hunters. The most important issue that I see affecting long term waterfowl hunting in the State of South Dakota (residents and non-residents alike) is the existing public waters laws and the current attack on the definition and ultimately the access to these (currently) public waters. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and good luck with your committee review and discussion.

Michael Hanan  
30635 153rd Avenue  
Elizabeth, Minnesota 56533  
218-736-3611

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Why is North Dakota over the counter and sodak is a drawing? Seems like the state and its businesses are missing out on a lot of revenue! if I don't get drawn in South Dakota I hunt North Dakota!! Thank you for giving me the opportunity....Andrew Monson 5340 Hwy 212 Granite Falls, MN 56241

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To Whom it may concern,  
I am very much against issuing more out of state waterfowl licenses. I feel we are already getting enough waterfowl hunters in the state and we want to make it enjoyable for those that are here. Talking to an out of state hunter last fall, he said he thinks SD is issuing enough licenses and if his name gets drawn he knows he will have a place to hunt.

Thank you,  
Don R. Roehr  
42160 – 117<sup>th</sup> St.  
Britton, SD 57430

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My name is Ed Barker, I live Iowa and have been coming to South Dakota for a number of years to hunt waterfowl.  
I support the current system of non-resident licenses.  
Please do not change the current system by raising the number of nonresident licenses. More licenses issued will have a negative effect on the waterfowl hunting experience in South Dakota.  
Thank you for allowing me to weigh in on the issue.

Ed Barker

2680 Taft Ave  
Garner, Iowa 50438

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South Dakota are always looking for ways to get their grads to donate to help their programs. As I graduate of USD I speak from experience. I think that it is counter productive for the game and fish people to not allow us to hunt in South Dakota without winning a lottery. A better plan would be to grant honorary residence to alums who donated XXXX or at least guaranteed winning the lottery. Keep in mind that money received as a donation is probably money that can be offset against a future expense to the state.

1. You could give free licenses to donors of XXX to the college or high school of their choice.
2. You could make all college grads of South Dakota colleges extra winners of the lottery.
3. You could make the parents of South Dakota residents honorary winners of the lottery.
- 4 You could make children of South Dakota residents honorary winners of the lottery.
5. Better yet you could make students who graduated from South Dakota schools eligible for licenses without regard to their current residence.

Norman F. Torrison  
Age 82  
USD grad class of 1955  
Called to the Korean War while a student at USD (1950)

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Why can't the nonresidents just buy an over the counter goose tag while we are pheasant hunting? Given the over population, it can't possibly hurt. This is the case in many states, for all kinds of hunting. The current application for this license has to be done in July, I think, doesn't make sense. I have no idea what the weather will be when we get there or if the geese are even flying yet. Currently I go to the reservation, if I go at all.

**THINK OF THE REVENUE!**

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Greetings to you;  
I appreciate all you do for South Dakota and for the residence of South Dakota.

Today there is very limited opportunity for young pheasant hunters to begin in the sport. Public lands are hunted very heavy and the cost to pay for a youngster to hunt pheasants in areas of good habitat is out of reach for most families. Waterfowl hunting has been a real opportunity for our South Dakota sportsman to hunt without the intense pressure or the cost per gun to hunt ducks & geese. I have two sons who live out of

state and many out of state friends that waterfowl hunt. I have shared with all that I am very opposed to increasing the numbers of out of state licenses. More and more ground is being leased by a few lodges to gain control of the flocks as they come through. I understand it is economic development for a few but it is only decreasing the numbers of South Dakota sportsmen & women who have access to hunt in their own state. Waterfowl production areas sure drive by these after two weekend and they are void of ducks. I ask that you vote no to increasing the numbers of out of state licenses. Thank you  
Jerry

Jerry Soholt  
President  
Avera Foundation  
212 E. 11th Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
605-322-4750

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All,

Nicholas Nice  
N4679 Rustic Lane  
Medford WI 54451

I've been waterfowl hunting for 11+ years in South Dakota and have been denied a license 3 times during this period. I am willing to forgo a license and wait a year to continue to have the quality hunting that I have experienced. I've hunted in North Dakota during the years I was unsuccessful and experienced the overcrowding that continues to grow there.

I hope that the state of South Dakota continues the reduced NR license numbers to ensure the quality hunt that is provided now.

Thank you, Nick

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Dear GFP,

I am writing you to tell you my opinion on the nonresident draw. I am in favor of keeping the current system as it is. The current system lets nonresidents and residents both have a quality hunting experience. My fear of opening up the draw to unlimited sales is that waterfowl hunting in South Dakota will turn into what pheasant hunting has become – a money game. Outfitters are already leasing up land and if the draw is lifted there will be 10x the outfitters in Northeast South Dakota. I think I speak for the majority when I say I cannot afford to give landowners \$100 per gun to hunt and can't justify it either. I am formerly from Iowa and I put my father into the draw every year. He has drawn two out of the three years I have been up here and the year he wasn't drawn I

was not upset at all, as I know it is for the better of all. He can always come up and do many of the plethora of outstanding outdoor activities that we have in South Dakota. Thanks for your time and help!

Chris Daniels  
Huff Construction – Project Manager  
11 N Dakota St  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: 605-226-0052 X 15  
Cell: 605-216-5606

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I am definitely against more nonresident waterfowl duck licenses being issued. Unlike upland game, duck hunting areas are much more limited in both acreage and locations and the number of areas available in the state for duck hunting is decreasing every year due to the state's farming practices. By increasing the number of nonresident licenses, I predict the inevitable increase in commercialization which will restrict resident opportunities even more. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

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Please do what's right for the quality of waterfowl hunting in our state. Last year 70% of nonresident waterfowl applications were chosen. 100% next year for those who weren't chosen. Increasing license number will ruin our great hunting. It has occurred in other states and the quality has lowered. Economic benefits are 5% for communities. There are now too many guides operating in our state now. We don't need the problems that they are bringing. Land taken away from the average hunter. We have this problem already in my area. Do not increase the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses.

Bruce Brittain  
10367 457th Ave.  
New Effington, SD 57255

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As a resident waterfowler, I recommend either leaving nonresident license allotments at existing levels or decreasing them. The pressure for waterfowl hunting locations is fierce already. The number of resident hunters has decreased over the last decade, much a result of the increase in hunting pressure (competition) and reduced access to both private and public lands. Folks pushing to increase the nonresident license numbers are catering to a small segment of our population interested in commercializing migratory species and not to the desires of South Dakota resident hunters.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Ben Burris  
1602 Windermere Way  
Brookings, SD 57006

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I respectfully ask that you keep the issuance of waterfowl licenses at your current levels. Do we have to sell our hunting heritage for all species of game within South Dakota? Without doubt pheasant hunting because of the commercialization is no longer a family or local resident past-time. Please don't expend the number of out of state waterfowl licenses to push the local residents out of another hunting privilege. Lynn Lander

---

To whom it may concern,

I am an avid South Dakota outdoorsman. I love hunting and my favorite game to pursue is waterfowl. I understand the need or want to generate more income from out of state hunters but I believe this would be a big mistake.

Waterfowl is not pheasant hunting. Waterfowl are limited to very specific areas where water is present. Allowing more out of state hunters would put added pressure on the ducks and geese and with limited public hunting areas already pressured birds are forced to move on. Where does this leave the South Dakota hunter who has no private land to hunt. As pheasant hunting has shown us once out of state hunters are allowed in on an unlimited license system there is nowhere left for the South Dakota outdoorsman to go with no private land contacts. As an outdoorsman I would hope that the GFP would care more about keeping the hunting experience positive to the local hunters instead of introduce ideas to make more money. I believe this is really losing sight of what GFP is all about. I would ask that if you do allow more out of state hunters you would do it on a basis that they would need to go through a hunting guide. Not only would out of state hunters put more pressure on the birds on public hunting spots, they would reduce the land owners that are nice enough to let local's hunt. As pheasant hunting has shown if you let out of state hunters in in large numbers the amount of land owner that allow locals to hunt for free decreases. This is simple economics, and who could blame farmers for letting paying out of state hunters hunt instead of letting the locals on for free. I believe that the current amount of out of state hunters is a good number. Drawing success is not that bad and there is still room for local hunters. I do not believe we should go the route of North Dakota. Waterfowl hunting is not about money, GFP was not formed to make money. GFP was formed preserve our outdoors and our hunting heritage.

In that spirit I would ask that you leave the numbers were they are. I don't believe your proposal includes unlimited licenses but it is growing closer and closer to that outcome if we keep allowing more out of state hunters. I would ask that you keep in mind the local hunters. Think how much pheasant hunting has changed with every year more and more out of state hunters arriving. I don't want to sound like a hunter who wants every spot for himself, but pheasant hunting isn't enjoyable anymore when you have 5 groups

of people lined up on a single public hunting ground. I would hate to see the same become of duck hunting.

Sincerely,

Kyle Couchey PO Box 562 Ipswich, SD 57451

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To Whom it may concern: From what I have been told by reasonably reliable sources, I think you better be careful on the non-resident licenses. Apparently in the north-eastern corner of the state there has been a problem with wealthy people from Minnesota buying up the land and keeping SD hunters out. I have personally witnessed this type of thing in Illinois, Texas and to a considerable extent in S.D. on land for pheasant hunting. It is not just a S.D. problem. Let's not let it get out of control.

Jim LeMar

23756 Arena Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

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To Whom...

In reply to your solicitation for comments I offer the following...

First let me comment on what a superb time I have had in South Dakota hunting the past few years. The fish and game management simply seems to my observations to be superb. Absolutely superb. I always rave to friends about the excellent conditions and fine hunting. I hope to continue to return in future years.

My comments and observations:

- The lottery system seems odd to me given that the waterfowl, primarily ducks and geese, are flying down from Canada and are not a resident flock. Assuming that lotteries are intended to limit the take I wonder why South Dakota employs that when other states do not. Are not all states theoretically hunting the same flock coming down from the north (I live in Washington. A waterfowl license can be purchased if you want to hunt...no lottery/draw).
- I have been hunting in South Dakota for the past 8 or so years. It is the highlight of my year although it is certainly not inexpensive. It would be nice if waterfowl could also be hunted while I was in SD hunting deer and pheasant. Might you consider a combination license for both pheasant and waterfowl? Or a reduced cost for waterfowl? The cost of a pheasant license, a deer license and waterfowl license is prohibitive so usually I hunt only one or two (deer – only or pheasant and deer both).

Thank you for considering this...I hope you find it helpful,  
Stan

**Stan Lucas**  
Sales & Account Mgmt  
425-301-9141 – cell

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Recommend we set up a nonresident waterfowl allocation system the same as we have for pheasant hunters....why would we treat it any differently.....unlimited number!

AND SD is always looking for ways to increase income.....HEY.....this is a no-brainer.....

Kermit Born  
1124 Birchwood Ln  
Aberdeen, SD  
605-225-2510  
[kdborn@nvc.net](mailto:kdborn@nvc.net)

Thank you for asking and allowing input from citizens of SD.

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01/20/15

To the Panel:

I and friends would like to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota. Please make non-resident licenses available and affordable.

See the rules and regulations for your sister state of North Dakota. Members of our duck and goose hunting group come from Colorado, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Virginia. The fees are reasonable. There are PLOTS lands ("private land open to sportsmen") available to nonresidents. We can knock on doors to obtain permission to hunt other private land. There are public lands and water available to hunters. We can hunt pheasants and ducks in a later 7-day period.

We'd like to hunt both in South Dakota. Give us the chance. Your current waterfowl restrictions and fees remind me of those facing non-residents in Colorado who want to hunt moose.

Thank you.

Frank Slaninger

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Why oh why wouldn't we set up the same system as we do for pheasant hunters.....

SD needs to take advantage of another income source.....Quite frankly, we would be pretty STUPID not to.....

Kermit Born  
1124 Birchwood Ln  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
[kdborn@nvc.net](mailto:kdborn@nvc.net)  
605-225-2510

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Hello,

I have been applying for SD nonresident licenses since 1999. I appreciate the quality of the hunt provided by SD. I would ask that you do not change the license structure/totals. I think the current system works well and limits pressure increasing the quality of the hunt.

However, I would ask that if you do change the structure to limit pressure that you consider using a calendar application rather than a geographic region to spread pressure. For instance allow a third of the licenses between season opening and October 15th. Allow a third of the licenses between October 15 and October 31. Finally, allow a third of licenses between November 1st and the end of the season. Obviously, I do not have access to see what times are the highest requested under the current system. So, these dates may have to be changed somewhat. However, you get the idea. Spread the pressure out over the calendar, rather than by region. I personally would rather be able to hunt the same region I am familiar with than trying to learn a new region I am not familiar with.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jay Ronning  
9124 Prestwick Court North  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443  
763 229 3826

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In regard to the nonresident waterfowl issue, what worries me is that it will be like pheasant hunting and deer hunting (is getting to be) if you got money you get the best areas. I understand the need for out of state hunters. Realize that it is necessary to keep the revenue flowing as the resident hunting licenses are in decline as I understand it. You do realize that a lot of resident hunters have just given up because there are

fewer and fewer places to hunt. Yes we have a lot of GF&P, Federal and walk in areas to hunt but out of staters hunt them to death. I fear the same will happen to our waterfowl hunting. As we know waterfowl are subject to major swings depending on amount of nesting and resting areas. Yes we can knock on doors and probably get a place to hunt. But how long will it be before the pay to hunt crowd will snatch up all the good duck hunting sloughs and, like pheasants, charge a prohibitive fee to hunt?

Our hunting heritage depends on the youth. they can't afford to pay the kind of fees that will follow. If you look at the "hunting clubs" in other states you will see that they build there duck hunting sloughs, and in low water years where will the ducks be? They will lease the fields around their hunting clubs throw out a few hundred field mallard decoys guess where the feeding ducks go?

South Dakota raises a large percentage of ducks that fly south. Our hunting experience is limited with the weather. An early freeze up and our ducks are gone.

I hope you will research this, do we want to allow guides/outfitter to take control of our waterfowl hunting as they have with a large percentage of pheasant hunting and deer hunting. I am 66 years old and have been hunting in South Dakota since I was hold enough to hold a BB gun. I know my hunting is on the downhill. But want to do it as long as I can. I have Grandkids that I hope will be able to hunt and have a place to hunt...

We have the northward migration of snow geese come through South Dakota. These flocks of geese are hunted from Louisiana to Canada. It takes an enormous amount of dekes to draw them in. There are outfitters who have clients that hunt with them from Louisiana to Canada. Yes they put a lot of effort and expense into hunting the "Snows" they follow the flocks up see where they feed and rest. Give the landowner x amount of dollars to hunt their land and if you're a local you are priced out of knocking on the farmers door and asking if you can go sit in their drainage ditch and pass shoot. I have checked into the price of doing one of these hunts. \$250 a day. I can't afford that!

Please put some consideration into this before you allow more out of staters into hunt that will only benefit a few guides/outfitters...I doubt I or my Grandsons will benefit by it

Thank you for taking the time to read this John D. DeNeui  
1408 E 60th St N  
Sioux Falls, SD  
605-366-6364

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Nonresident waterfowl members.

Two things come to mind on this subject. One, care should be taken in allotting too many nonresident lic. , all one has to do is look at North Dakota, land is leased, mainly by outfitters, and nonresidents who lay claim to hunting locations throughout the state, limiting the possibility for resident hunters...we all know that the number of Minnesota sportsman would quickly load the state, similar to the pheasant hunting season...and most prime locations would disappear to the general public.

I would like to see the chance for family members living outside the state given a better chance of securing a license.. as is now, the chances are slim and not likely to happen but once in maybe four years... just a thought... I would love to be able to hunt with my two out of state sons a few more times in my lifetime... thank you jim gruber 148 sunset park dr. Estelline s.d. 57234 605 873 2017 [jgruber148@yahoo.com](mailto:jgruber148@yahoo.com)

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Hi,

I would like to see some consideration given to something similar to the come home to hunt proposal that was mentioned last year. I now live in Mn., born in S.Dak. , still have relatives and farmland there. I would like to receive consideration for that.

Thanks,

Jeff Davis

3831 W. Linden Blvd.

Nisswa, Mn. 56468

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Hello NR Waterfowl workgroup I want to thank you for your work on this issue.

I am a resident of Lincoln County but spend between 2 & 4 days a week in the Brown/Marshall/Roberts counties during the waterfowl season and very much enjoy the opportunity presented to SD waterfowlers.

Early on in my SD waterfowling (I became a SD resident in 1999 – in large part for the outdoor opportunities presented) days I was very confused by the NR Quota system and wasn't pleased when friends and family didn't get drawn to hunt with me. Over the last few years however my opinions, thoughts and beliefs have matured and I now am very fearful of increasing the NR quota.

Only a person experienced with hunting in NE SD can comment on the pressure put on the migration – and the hunters chasing fowl in that area. We spend countless hours scouting harvested fields every evening looking for the right spot to hunt the next morning. When we do “find a field” I can almost guarantee you there are 2-6 other groups of hunters also with eyes on the birds – then it's a race to find the landowner and try to obtain permission. We all realize the fact of this and it's just part of the experience, but increasing the NR quota will only amplify the existing challenge with all of the detriment going to the migrating birds and quality of hunting experience.

As a small business owner I understand the right and desire to have freedoms to pursue a business and increase its size and revenue and I've always been torn by the guiding business in SD. This year my opinion has changed based on what I personally experienced. Pheasant hunting operations acquire and release birds in many instances – and they also hunt & lease smaller tracts of private land. I had experiences with waterfowling guides in the 2014 season and their mode of operation is – exactly like ours – to put eyes on the birds for the next morning, however they have something we don't....

## MONEY

The outfitters I had interaction with are leasing ground before the migration starts and when birds are working fields they don't already have leased they are approaching landowners to rent or lease the hunting rights from them. Now again I have no issue with the outfitter leasing the ground or the landowner/farmer taking the payment – it's the American way – but realize you are absolutely shutting out the opportunities for the local guy trying to do it yourself (DIY).

Additionally I experienced outfitters getting permission for a field “for tomorrow” then claiming to have rights to hunt that ground for the entire migration. In this case the landowner gave permission for the day and was not paid – but the guide told other DIY scouts he had that field and would be hunting it tomorrow – which he did not have permission or hunt the field.

If the NR quota is increased in NE SD the experience for EVERYONE would be negatively affected but the SD Resident DIY guys would be impacted the most. This NR quota increase includes splitting the 10 consecutive days into two 5 day periods.

I do not support an increase to the NR waterfowling quota.

Again, thank you for your time and I'm more than willing and able to testify or speak if asked.

Shane Olean, owner Smoken Dakota Kennels  
46573 269<sup>th</sup> St  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
605-201-1200  
[shane@smokendakotakennels.com](mailto:shane@smokendakotakennels.com)

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Dear Committee Members:

I have hunted in South Dakota for upland game birds on a regular basis since 1980 and have always been surprised that South Dakota makes it so difficult for nonresident hunters to obtain a waterfowl license. In Michigan, where I live, I hunt waterfowl every year and have since I was a twelve-year-old boy. Also in Michigan, with a population of about ten million (10,000,000) people, we can purchase both the Federal waterfowl stamp and the Michigan waterfowl stamp over the counter. Despite this fact, and the fact that the land area of Michigan is much smaller than that of South Dakota, the resource does not appear to be damaged by overshooting. Frankly, I would rather attempt hunting waterfowl in east central South Dakota than in Michigan. Even though the land is mostly privately held, as it is most areas of Michigan where waterfowl are hunted, I never have been able to figure out why South Dakota makes it so difficult to hunt waterfowl in the state for nonresidents. I would think that the resource would be

very marginally effected, if at all, and the state and local economies would benefit from the dollars that would be generated.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Basom P.O. Box 131  
Stanton, Michigan 48888

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I have been fortunate to draw a nonresident waterfowl permit for the past several years. We typically hunt in the Eureka area and we are able to scratch out some quality waterfowl hunting. And best of all we are usually able to access private ground more easily for waterfowl hunting vs. pheasant hunting. If the current nonresident draw process is necessary to maintain this high quality level – then I would be a strong supporter of continuing the current allocation system.

I would offer up a couple of improvements. 1) it would be great to be able to designate 5 day hunting periods – just as I am able to do today with the out-of-state small game license. This would allow out-of-staters to hunt late season during those years when the weather cooperates. 2) I would also recommend that anyone drawing (and paying) the hefty non-resident waterfowl permit, be allowed to purchase a nonresident small game license at a reduced rate. Or simply allow the option of combining both waterfowl and small game on one permit – and provide some sort of a small discount. Paying \$246 for a waterfowl permit and a small game license is a pretty hefty chunk of money for the common working man. I think a \$160-175 combination permit provides good income to the good folks of the State of South Dakota, and good value to nonresidents who will spend plenty of cash on lodging, food, and other essentials.

Thank you for considering these recommendations...

Rick Haun  
7105 Mullen Rd.  
Shawnee, KS 66216  
(913) 634-4999

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In response to your call for public input, I would like to suggest you reduce the restrictions to non-residents and allow purchase of a license without the lottery. Also would suggest 2 -5 day license similar to pheasant licenses in-lieu of a single 10 day span

**Tim McMullen**  
President

Cosney Corporation | [www.cosney.com](http://www.cosney.com)  
Tel: 952.249.0616, ext 204 | Fax: 952.249.0615

PO Box 391  
Long Lake, MN 55356

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Each fall I visit your lovely state to chase pheasants and attempt to wear out my dog. I used to be an avid waterfowl hunter (15 years ago), and I still marvel at the amount of waterfowl in SD when walking your sloughs and such chasing ringnecks.

I would love to be able to hunt pheasants AND ducks during my visits. Back in the day my friends and I always considered applying for waterfowl licenses in SD but the process was too complicated and left too much uncertainty.

Apply separately?

What if one of us doesn't get drawn?

Apply as a party?

Did everyone apply on time (not easy to find 100% responsible friends).

Don't know whether to put in for vacation time at work because of the lottery process.

I'm not sure what the SD regulations for non-residents look like today. We stopped looking many years ago and chose to waterfowl hunt in ND where the process was simpler.

You have plenty of water and countless WPA's so access and hunter numbers I would think wouldn't be a problem.

If the idea was to protect against over harvest. I say ask yourself why are we saving ducks and geese only to be pounded by hunters further south.

An ideal solution for me would be the ability to purchase my non-resident small game license, and the ability to add a waterfowl license and stamps at the same time. Both licenses would be subject to the Two, 5-day hunting periods provisions.

While I understand the importance of the noon pheasant start for the first part of the season, I would look forward to being able to hunt waterfowl from sun up until pheasants are open.

I'd be willing to pay an additional \$50 for the opportunity to put a couple ducks in my bag each year.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Good luck with your evaluations.

Chuck Bosell  
3801 Crescent View Ave.  
Duluth, MN 55804

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Sirs,

Being born in South Dakota (SD) some 60 years ago, but due to death of my parents, I moved away when I was very young. I have however been returning to SD to hunt for the past 40 years. In that time we have enjoyed great pheasant hunting and world class waterfowl hunting, when we draw a non-resident waterfowl license. (I use "we", as I return each fall with several friends from Ohio to hunt).

We have not drawn a license each year. And the years we are not successful in drawing a license, we travel to North Dakota to hunt ducks. The hunting in ND is fine. The extra travel is not an inconvenience.

BUT, I can tell you we would much rather hunt in SD! There is a lot less hunting pressure in SD. And I for one do not want to see any changes in the non-resident waterfowl license system. It's not broke, so please don't try and fix something that isn't broke.

If changes are wanted by waterfowl "guides", that is, more licenses, for more paying clients, well I say that will only help ruin the world class waterfowling in SD. Please don't change it for a few who want to make more money.

Respectfully,

Duane Ganser  
5728 Highland Rd  
Highland Hts. OH 44143  
440-460-0986

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Don't change NR

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The Charles Mix licenses and seasons (resident and nonresident) should run the same dates as the Pierre licenses. Ducks just do not come down to Lake Andes anymore until the season is over. The early season should either be delayed or run it as a split season. The cost of a nonresident license is expensive and my two boys and I have shot less than 5 ducks over the past 5 years. At some point I can just say enough is enough on this kind of spending if it is not going to be worth it.

William J. O'Brien  
Attorney  
Ph: 612-305-1462  
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1400 AT&T Tower  
901 Marquette Ave.

Minneapolis, MN 55402

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Gary,

In regards to the waterfowl license for out of state hunters. I have been hunting for the last 10 years in the Springfield area. I have seen the competition for hunting spots increase dramatically with the out of staters, especially from Iowa, Mn, and Nebraska. We have encountered hunters that do not respect the laws concerning permanent blinds. We have had some of these O of S hunters encroach on our blind without regard to the distance requirements. Every year we have to go out on the river earlier, sometimes 2 hours before sunrise just to have a place to hunt. Most of the time hunters are forced to encroach on the distance requirements just to have a hunt. This does not benefit anybody involved. Being a lifetime resident of South Dakota I urge you to not increase the allotment of licenses to out of staters.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Gorman

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To all: I am writing with regard to proposed changes to the number of permits issued for the Springfield Marsh area.

I have been fortunate enough to have drawn a permit for this area numerous times over the last 20 years.

I feel that additional issuance of permits would degrade the quality of the hunt with overcrowding. Increased permits would also put more pressure on the ducks and may cause them to leave the marsh.

I noticed the change in 2004 when the permits were increase from 200 to 250.

Additional permits on top of the 250 currently issued would cause severe crowding issues and create an atmosphere of the shoulder to shoulder hunting of public marshes around the country.

I travel from Iowa annually to enjoy the fishing and waterfowl opportunities of South Dakota.

I would probably skip my trips for hunting and opt to find an area with less pressure on the waterfowl and less competition for hunting spots.

Thanks for your consideration: Steve Bott

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Dear Mr. Jensen:

I believe the issue of considering structure and number of SD out-of-state waterfowl licensing is now business before the Commission. First, I am in concurrence that these extremely important decisions should, and are now, the responsibility of the Commission instead of the State Legislature. I am very strongly opposed to any increase to the number of out-of-state (OOS) waterfowl licenses and further advocate reconsideration to eliminate the current season-long licenses available to OOS hunters in Unit 3.-primarily the Springfield Bottoms.

I have a very long tenure as a waterfowl hunter on the river near Springfield. I grew up there and began enjoying quality hunting opportunity in 1966. I have hunted there each year since. The huge concern I have is the steady deterioration of quality opportunities & the hunting experience due to overcrowding. There are just too many hunters for the limited habitat available. So many of those hunters are from out of state. This has especially been evident since 2004, when the number of out-of-state licenses increased from 200 to 250. However, deterioration of quality hunting or even marginal quality, has been evident ever since licensing for OOS hunters began. Unless one is out on the river, it would be hard to imagine just how disappointing, frustrating, chaotic, and Yes, even dangerous, the situation has deteriorated to. Consideration and good hunting ethic is all but absent. Because, Unit 3 has always had season long licenses for OOS hunters, (instead of limited day licenses typical in the rest of the State), Unit 3 attracts professional or semi-professional hunters, many who run guiding services, make hunting videos, or are sponsored by sporting good companies. They very often hunt in packs, surrounding large areas of the river with multiple boats and blinds-in effect staking claim and running anyone else out through intimidation. Many, perhaps most, hunt practically every day of the season from legal shooting time (of before) to sun down. Almost all have the most sophisticated mud motor boats, capable of entry to the most backwater areas. There is no sanctuary for the birds, they are pounded relentlessly. Hunting pressure quickly pushes out new migrations in a matter of 2-3 days or less. Should not we care about the resource?

Why do many residents decide to stay in SD? There is much talk about the "SD quality of life" being of value and something worthy of to forsake higher wages and employment opportunities available elsewhere. To many of us, the hunting tradition, and especially waterfowl hunting, is a major part of our quality of life in SD. I have seen, in my lifetime, the waterfowl hunting quality, thus opportunity, drastically diminish in the Springfield area in direct proportion to the entry of OOS hunters. I request that you and the Commission weigh into your decision your obligation to protect hunting opportunities for our resident hunters and protection of the resource, first and foremost. Thank you kindly for your consideration.

*Jim Kirk*

SVP Residential Real Estate | Yankton Downtown | 605.665.4914

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Gary I am writing you this note just to let you know that I am opposed to giving out more non-resident waterfowl tags. In the state of SD we have enough pressure the way it is. I think most nonresidents would appreciate drawing a tag 4 out of 5 years and enjoy quality waterfowl hunting versus a huge influx of hunters and having poor opportunity and less ground to hunt. Just wanted to drop you a note and give you my opinion on this issue coming up. My boys are just getting to the hunting age and really enjoy the outdoors. I would like to be able to treasure that with them for the next 30 years.

Thanks for your time.

Tye Kjeldgaard  
Pioneer Hi-Bred  
Account Manager  
Northern Business Unit KA  
605-491-2211  
[tye.kjeldgaard@pioneer.com](mailto:tye.kjeldgaard@pioneer.com)  
39334 Moon Meadow Drive  
Wagner, SD 57380

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Commissioner Jensen:

Thank you for taking your time to visit with me about South Dakota nonresident waterfowl licenses.

As I indicated, I have hunted the Springfield area on the Missouri River for over 20 years. Despite what may appear as "unlimited spots to hunt", huntable, and locations preferred by waterfowl, are not that plentiful. "Huntable" means a spot has the right water depth, access, and bottom consistency. This being the case, competition for these spots has become more intense in recent years.

When I hunted from Nebraska in my early years, the ramp was an overcrowded mess with impatient hunters yelling at each other. Competition near the Santee, Nebraska ramp was extremely crowded with arguments also occurring on the water.

I have seen overcrowding issues from the South Dakota side as well. In years past, I have constructed "permanent" blinds (regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers) only to have them ignored (other hunters set up adjacent to the blind), vandalized and run over. I now only hunt out of my boat blind. On one of my last hunts this year, in the middle of the week in late November, I settled on a 4th spot because there were hunters in the other 3.

It is interesting that individuals from Springfield would be requesting additional nonresident licenses. During their testimony to our state legislature last year, they mentioned that it was difficult to get hunters to stay in Springfield due to competition with Niobrara and Yankton. I don't disagree that hunters don't stay in Springfield. Overnight rooms and eating choices are not plentiful nor appealing. Is adding more licenses going to solve this problem?

The resource that needs to be managed is not "waterfowl" (a federally managed resource). It is the habitat and HUNTER OPPORTUNITY given limited, on the ground resources. I have not talked or heard from ANY nonresident waterfowl hunter that doesn't prefer the quality of a SD hunt versus the unlimited opportunity found in surrounding states like ND, NE or MN; and in the last year, I have heard from a lot of

nonresident waterfowl hunters. Other states are struggling with lack of hunter opportunities and their hunt quality has suffered because of the crowds. Many people from Iowa and Minnesota hunt South Dakota to get away from the people. I think if you did a survey, the overwhelming majority of nonresident hunters would say that they prefer the current number of licenses and the current system. Most of them are successful 3 out of 4 years, I have heard from some of them that are successful 8 out of 9 years. Friends of mine don't get a license every year, but we are all ok with that.

I am very concerned that in order to appease a few guides and local business owners, a "few" licenses will be added. This is what has happened each time in the past when this issue has been brought up by these same groups. It seems to be a purely political decision to reach a compromise rather than one that seeks to manage for the resource and the impact of the additional hunters on the resource. In the Springfield area, annual nonresident licenses went from 150 to 200 to 250. Where does it end? We have reached the point of hunter saturation in this area. The quality of the hunt has decreased significantly especially since 2004 when nonresident licenses went from 200 to 250. None of the nonresident hunters I have hunted with or talk to would like to see an increase in nonresident licenses. They do not want to see the chaos in South Dakota that Nebraska is seeing at their ramps and spilling out to the river.

With the exploding popularity of waterfowl shows and waterfowl hunting videos, many states are seeing waterfowl guiding operations leasing private land in the best areas limiting access to the average person. Public areas are extremely crowded and issues arise as a result. These issues ARE happening in SD. On any given day during the waterfowl season, and especially during the peak time in November, there are more nonresident hunters at the South Dakota boat ramps at Springfield and Appletree than residents. And, if you want a good hunting spot, you better be there early (and earlier, and earlier...)!

For additional insight on how crowding in the Springfield area has impacted the quality of the hunting and created numerous issues, I would suggest that the commission contact the local conservation officers.

I respectfully request that you leave the number of NR licenses in our state unchanged for the sake of resident and nonresident waterfowlers that appreciate quality over quantity. Changing annual to 10 day and adding more will also not solve the problem of overcrowding during the peak migration period. In our information age, the majority of the hunters will still try to hunt during the peak 2-3 week period. With more licenses, there will be even more hunters during that time.

Please forward this to fellow Nonresident Waterfowl License Committee members and commissioners as you feel appropriate.

Again, thank you for your time and interest in this topic for South Dakota. Please do what you can to keep our South Dakota waterfowl tradition; Quality Opportunities = Quality Experience.

Sincerely,

Tom Curran  
Yankton

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As a nonresident hunter I am writing in hopes that you will NOT vote to support an increase in nonresident sales of waterfowl licenses. I feel that what is offered by SoDak at this time is a quality hunting opportunity unlike anyplace else I have been. I fear that an increase will only result in lost access and decreasing quality for freelance hunters.

Thanks for your time, Dave Gill  
Madison, Wi

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Hi,

I was given your emails you write to you in regards to raising the NR waterfowl licenses. I've wrote for years to different legislators and am obviously fighting a losing battle. It comes up every year. I now learn that a committee has been formed to decide the fate and the committee is made up of 2/3 supporters. Kind of sneaky huh?

What else can one say? I guess I'll ask...why? What is the reason that the state wants to raise NR waterfowl licenses? Why...can anyone answer a logical answer besides money? Surely not. I have never heard a reason, not one as to why the state wants this. Someone's pockets must be getting fat.

I live in SD for the hunting and fishing opportunities. I as well as thousands of others could make potentially better livings elsewhere but we chose here for our hobbies. Soon our hobbies will be gone hence, so will the people. Look at ND. The state has dropped in population. I have read many forum discussions on the topic. Outdoor activities became limited and the treasured hobbies dissipated. So did the people. We (SD) currently gives out approx 100k non res pheasant licenses and probably triple that in non res fishing licenses. We are over-run with non res traffic!! What we have left is a few pockets of waterfowl and big game (which is shrinking) and the states goal is to take every last biscuit.

Why?? I really want an answer as to why. I want it published as to why SD wants to raise the NR waterfowl licenses? We all know its greed but I want to hear someone say it.

Our state can't handle a huge number of non res waterfowlers because our state only has a few areas of decent hunting. Most non res hunters either go to the river or come to the northeast part of the state. West of the river isn't good hunting. We aren't like ND where 2/3 of the state holds birds. We have the northern 1/3 of east river and the Missouri late in year. Also late the very southeast. These are small areas. Many south dakotans travel to these areas to hunt, now all the NRs will too. Everything will be leased up and opportunities will be taken away from kids.

Outfitters will lease up one farmers land, then all the locals who hunted that land will not be able to waterfowl, pheasant or deer hunt because of that lease. It affects other game species too not just ducks. This needs to be made aware. My son is just getting of age

to hunt and is so excited. I don't want to tell him I am ready to give up, and that he will have few opportunities to do as I did. It is so very frustrating and quite honestly depressing. Again, why do out of state outfitters get to dictate what we do in SD. Please answer.

I sincerely beg not to allow this to pass. We have local traditions that are falling into past memories. We have given everything to big money and thrown our own tax paying people under the bus. With no answer as to why. No one can admit it's all about money.

Do your research and read different outdoor forums. SD is commended time and time again by outdoors men/women for not selling our soul to big money. They all mention that they wish their state would do the same. There is usually only one group of complainers that blog about it and don't like what we have and that is the out of state outfitters. They want their piece of the pie. Sadly, their voice is more valuable than some local guy who teaches third grade IN the state.

Please be a voice for the small people and our children.

Feel free to share with others. Thank you for your time

Jared Vergeldt  
3rd Grade  
Varsity Girls Basketball  
Webster Area School Dist.  
Webster, SD  
605-345-4651

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Dear commissioner,

As a concerned resident waterfowl hunter I'm just writing you a quick email regarding NR waterfowl licenses. I understand you have placed on a committee that will make recommendations toward NR waterfowl license numbers and structure. I will first say that I was extremely disappointed to see legislation pass the bill giving GFP/GFP commission authority of NR waterfowl. I'm also against the commercialization of hunting and fishing in South Dakota. I really feel that increasing NR waterfowl licenses will ultimately increase the commercialization of waterfowl hunting. We already have many guides/outfitters that offer waterfowl hunts and I know for fact they are huge supporters of increasing NR licenses. They would love to see the increase of the max 5% every year. As a rule the only folks wanting the increase are people profit, money wise, off the increase in NR waterfowl hunters. Is that the way to manage license numbers? On the other side we have the vast majority of resident and non-resident waterfowl hunters that want the NR numbers to stay the same. I can tell you even large percentages of the NR waterfowl hunters that come here now do not want license number to change. They understand part of the reason why portions of SD enjoy great waterfowl hunting is because the area is not overrun with other hunters. I hunt every year with a dozen plus NR hunters and they all love the current system. They also used to come to SD to pheasant hunt too but no long do because of the commercialization of the sport, lack of access to private land and over run public lands. The bottom line is

if/when GFP increases NR waterfowl license the vast majority of residents and non-residents lose out. As licenses numbers increase so does the leasing of land by outfitters, non-residents and even residents as hunting spots become a premium. We already have a few outfitters in SD lease large amounts land in NE SD pushing locals out.

I could go on this subject forever and at some point I'm sure we will talk over the phone but please make sure you are making decisions based on what the majority waterfowl hunters of this state want. Please do not further commercialize South Dakota waterfowl hunting by increasing non-resident waterfowl licenses for any part of the state

Thank you for your time  
Justin Allen  
Pierre, SD

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Mr. Jensen, Mr. Dennert and Mr. Cooper,  
I wanted to contact you in regards to the upcoming committee that will be making decisions and recommendations about non-resident waterfowl licenses. Twelve years ago I moved to this great state purely based on the non-resident restrictions on waterfowl. In the three years previous I had been successful with the lottery draw twice and the third year failed which led me to the decision that this was the place I wanted to call home. As a result of that move, sincerely and honestly based on waterfowl hunting, I now own a thriving business providing specialty veterinary care, and jobs to SD residents that previously did not exist in the state. I have attracted other veterinary specialists to the state and expanded an industry not directly related to waterfowl hunting. I bring this up because I know I'm not the only educated professional that calls this state home purely based on the hunting opportunities the state provides. From a career standpoint there are other areas of the country that are much more progressive in my field and places that professionally would make much more sense to practice.

The impact of increasing license numbers could have an impact far beyond just a hunting numbers game. If the quality of hunting decreases and the ability to obtain licenses become easier, what incentive is there for business owners like myself to stay in the state? While it may make sense to have the increased revenue in the short term, the long-term impact of changing the dynamics of waterfowl hunting in this state could have wider impacts outside of the hunting industry. One only has to take a look at many of the small town restaurants and motels that thrived on the business on out-of-state pheasant hunters only to have the business disappear when more all-inclusive lodges started to become the norm. I think when we look at economic impact of decisions it is easy to look at the initial tally in one column and not whether we are robbing Peter to pay Paul.

I almost hesitate to make the comparison to pheasant hunting, as so often gets made when this non-resident waterfowl discussion is had, because I truly feel the limited waterfowl license decision has a greater precedent, based on the rich heritage and

tradition of waterfowling in this country. We have treaties with other countries to protect our migrating waterfowl, we have an extensive local, state and national refuge system to protect our migrating waterfowl and one of the most successful conservation programs in history, the Federal Duck Stamp program, is designed to protect waterfowl. I think there are plenty of precedents to say why we limit the numbers of non-residents in this waterfowl rich state. One only has to stop by the landings on the Nebraska side of the river to see the chaos that would ensue, and likely incredible numbers of waterfowl taken, if the state's non-resident hunting restrictions were lessened. This isn't about greed or economics, it is about doing what is right for an international resource . These aren't imported birds that have become a successful invasive species, these are magnificent creatures deeply rooted in our heritage, that we have historically made wide reaching decisions, as a country, to protect.

At the end of the day I feel this is a decision that needs to be made with great care and thought. It isn't a matter of caving to a handful of local guiding and out-of-state interests. There are wider reaching implications of this decision that impact other business owners and residents of the state who also play a vital role in the South Dakota economy. In addition, the precedent has been set in this country that we, as a nation, value our waterfowl resources and have gone to great lengths to protect them and ensure their existence for future generations. As residents of this great state we have an obligation to look at all the potential impacts of our decisions and not just at one column on a balance sheet.

I wholeheartedly support continued restrictions in non-resident waterfowl license numbers and would be very much against raising the current numbers.

I would welcome you to share my thoughts with the other committee members and I would welcome the opportunity to give my opinion in person if the committee feels it would be best to have such a discussion in person.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Joe

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Joe Spoo DVM, CCRT  
Resident ACVSMR  
Best Care Pet Hospital

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Hello, I am writing to you as a member of the Nonresident waterfowl group in regards to increasing the number of nonresident licenses. As a lifelong SD resident I am against any further licensing as this will have and has had a deleterious effect on the quality of waterfowl hunting in the state, especially on those of us who don't pay to play so to speak.

Although SD is a large state we duck/goose hunters know that 90% of the birds congregate in probably 10% of the land, and the historical 'hot spots' always hold the most birds. The onslaught of OOS hunters and guides overhunts these relatively small areas which severely limits the quality of hunts and access to land for us regular guys. The only reason we don't have Duck Clubs like down south limits we have.

I have experienced this decline in my own hunting in NE SD over the past 15 years and it has been directly linked to the additional licenses supplied in that region. The public areas that historically held good duck numbers are so pressured by Minn and Wis hunters that we don't even bother anymore. And this year for the first time the landowners were turning us down left and right, leased is what we have heard more and more.

Next year don't know what I will do or where will go but won't be the traditional waterfowl destinations we have historically frequented, they just are not the same now. I would like my son to have the same experiences I have had in this state and I don't mean to be a cry baby about it but I'm telling you it aint what it used to be for me at least.

Thanks for listening to the rant.

Leo Flynn

PS: the Lower Oahe waterfowl access program is amazing!

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Sirs:

I happen to read about the meeting concerning the allocation of NR duck licenses and just had to email you about our past waterfowl hunts in SD.

Our group (4-5) have hunted ducks in SD for a number of years and the limited number of licenses available has never set well with us. First of all we're not able to confirm a return trip as far as motel reservations when we don't know if we're assured of coming back.

But, the number one thing that really upsets us is this crap of the over crowding of duck waters due to the large number of NR resident duck hunters. We normally hunt the Clear Lake area or over by Wessington Springs and have ALWAYS hunted public waters.

I believe in ALL the years we maybe once ran into other duck hunters on the same waters we were on. Yes, it's nice to have a limited number of hunters in a certain area but you need hunters to move birds around. Without a number of hunters on the water the birds tent to land and stay put. Oh, ya you do get the normal sunrise-sun set shooting but it's between those times it's good to have hunters on the water moving birds around.

Your State doesn't have a problem selling all the pheasant licenses it can and over running the landscape with hunters and dogs so it's about time to loosen up on the duck licenses.

I realize you have residents that are crying about ALL the NR resident hunter, why is it we NEVER run into any in the field.

Back prior to 1996 you had a number of resident deer hunters who cried about not being able to shot a buck (road hunting basically) in the Black Hills. So, what happen, the lottery. The lottery was to improve the quality if the deer hunt in the Hills and look where you're at today.

Ducks just don't tend to fly around all day. We need numbers in the waters to keep them moving. Please get into the real world and increase the number of duck licenses available for the NR. I don't know if those whiners have a "resident only duck" opener. If not give it to them and I'll bet you'll see just about as many that take advantage of it as those who part take of the NR early pheasant opener (as I said we hunt public land-waters so we about know how many do come out early to hunt).

Don J. Mackey  
302 Weston Ave N  
St. James, Mn. 56081

A long time NR hunter

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GFP

As a lottery winner and loser over the last 10 years, and having watched the drawing statistics for the last few years coupled with the loss of resident hunters. The stats show increasing the number to 5-6 thousand licensees per year, would probably take care of 99% of all the applicants and should not have any effect on the resident hunter.

Best regards,  
Thomas Knase  
2000 west 7<sup>th</sup> st  
St Paul MN 55116

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Dear SDGFP,

I have been hunting waterfowl in the state of South Dakota since 2004 actively. Every year with the added pressure with resident waterfowl hunters with the popularity of the sport and with Nonresident hunters makes it about impossible to hunt. I have had more wasted trips in the past three years due to pressure in the north part of the state and not

being able to get permission and pressured birds. The secret is out that the state of South Dakota has GREAT waterfowling. With adding Nonresident hunters it would make it about impossible for residents to even hunt (it's about to that point already). Nonresident hunters also don't respect land owners like a resident hunt that has been hunting in the state for 10 years. This takes opportunities away due to landowners not letting anyone hunt because someone from out of state didn't respect the land owners property. Please consider the residents of the state of south Dakota when you make a decision on this issue. I would like to see the price of license go up for Nonresidents to create more revenue. Adding more numbers of Nonresidents will drive residents out of the sport due to the difficulty getting permission and pressure to the birds. Please take this into consideration. Thanks

Kevin Brockmueller  
717 Royal Ave Crooks SD 57020

Kevin Brockmueller  
Superintendent  
Journey Group Companies  
Cell: 605-201-6575  
Office: 605-332-5968  
Fax: 605-334-9342

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I was born and raised in Watertown, South Dakota and enjoyed waterfowl hunting as a youth.

Upon returning fro Viet Nam, I met my wife and now live in her hometown, Hartington, NE. which is 23 miles south of Yankton where my Outdoorsmen Productions offices are located.

I'm the Producer/Host, of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series which has been on the air for 20 seasons. Outdoorsmen Adventures airs through the year in the upper Midwest.

I have had numerous offers to film waterfowl shows in Northeast South Dakota, but because of the limited number of NR waterfowl permits, numerous filming opportunities have been missed where we would have been able to promote my hometown and the Glacial Lakes of South Dakota.

Gary Howey  
President, Outdoorsmen Productions LLC [www.outdoorsmenproductions.com](http://www.outdoorsmenproductions.com)  
Producer/Host: Outdoorsmen Adventures TV [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com)  
Producer/Co-Host: Outdoors Adventures Radio, KVHT-Classic Hits 106.3 FM, KVTK-ESPN Radio 1570 AM & KCHE Classic Hits 92.1 FM  
Syndicated Columnist "Of the Outdoors" Nebraska, South Dakota & Iowa  
Active member Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW)

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I do not believe non-resident licenses should be increased. If they are they should be restricted to parts of the State other than the northeast where there already is too much pressure on the resource.

Richard Pearson  
43623 132nd St  
Webster,SD 57274

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Gentlemen:

I have been a non-resident pheasant hunter in South Dakota for over 20+ years and hunted ducks last year near Eureka, South Dakota. All of my hunting has been in and around McPherson County, but having spent so much time up there and gotten to know the populace and countryside I think I can give you a fresh perspective I hope will be helpful.

I am an avid duck hunter, long time Ducks Unlimited member as well, so I have had the opportunity to hunt all over the USA and witness how other states administer their non-resident programs with an eye to what seems to work and what doesn't.

My overall comment is that the lottery system you now use is hurting the State of South Dakota in many ways but primarily causing many of these smaller farming communities to totally lose out on a huge economic base they just don't even get to experience without having any meaningful impact on the current duck populations we've witnessed for 20+ years now. Let me explain.

Again, please keep in mind, most of my experience is in one single area as we've hunted pheasant around Eureka for many years, but many in our party regularly have hunted ducks every morning prior to getting ready for stalking pheasants later that afternoon. So here's my take.

The lottery system you use makes no sense to most of us who are used to travelling to states like Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas with regularity to hunt waterfowl and merely purchase a license on-line ("at will") or at any sporting goods department. We normally see multi-day passes for non-resident hunters as the easiest alternative and I've seen prices from \$50 to \$150 as the norm. Most of these states have a state duck stamp and we all have our federal duck stamp so it is quite easy to become legal. I can tell you that non-resident hunters are normally there for a 3+ day hunt and spend quite a lot of cash in the local communities where they are. Food, booze, shells, gasoline as well as, on a personal level, our group always made the local DU banquet in Eureka and dropped another \$300+ on silent and live auction items. Heck I bought the \$1,500 DU 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary shotgun in 2013 from their chapter simply because I could get it for less at the Eureka DU Banquet than Austin, Texas, where I live! A win-win for both of us! It truly adds up as well as provides the local farmer's kids excellent ability to interact with out of state hunters by acting as guides when farming duties are minimal. That capital all stays

local in those communities and if you study the rice belt in Arkansas, the coastal prairie in Texas and the central flyway of Louisiana you'd be shocked what a huge impact those dollars make.

The crazy thing is, being where South Dakota is geographically located, if you designed an "at will" licensing program and used the slightest bit of self-promotion, you'd have hunters from the southern states placing South Dakota on their **must-do** of places to hunt every year because your season can start so much earlier than the southern states below you! That is a huge advantage you're not even taking advantage of! Right now the state is not even in the running because nobody can guarantee you can get a license which causes a domino effect in that you have no guiding services that can consistently reach out to big out of state duck hunters and offer non-residents a comprehensive duck hunt, or even a duck & pheasant package for the same reason. It's sad really; it just doesn't make economic sense to me. I have finished many a pheasant hunt watching thousands of ducks settling down for the night's roost knowing they are quite safe from any non-resident hunters nearby.

And that's another point I'd like to make, and being I've been visiting your state for 20+ years I can say this. And please I mean this in the nicest context, but what we've found is the local guys don't really hunt ducks much. They're all crazy about pheasant! I don't blame them, I love pheasant hunting myself, and it's a blast. But our local group has noticed for all these years, they never, and I'm not kidding here, they never see the local guys out hunting ducks. We know them all now, they tell us they're not that interested. And even if they did, or do in other areas of the state, the impact of going to an "at will" system for non-resident hunters would have such a small impact on the local duck populations, I'd bet you'd hardly be able to see it statistically! But the economic impact to the state of having an early full duck & goose season would be huge in these small communities. Heck most of us fly into Aberdeen where we stop in at Kessler's first thing and spend an average of \$150 a piece buying stuff for the trip! Then we go get our shells because with airlines regulations now, it doesn't pay to ship them in our luggage anymore.

If I were you, I'd design an "at will" system for the non-resident hunters and open the season 30 days before the seasons in the south. The proliferation of guides that would spring up offering combination "duck & pheasant" hunts would explode overnight! They'd advertise SD hunts where you do morning duck hunts and then afternoon pheasant and they'd do the heavy lifting for their respective communities. Do you guys really understand what a huge untapped concept that is?! I love hunting in Stuttgart, AR but the problem is that once you kill your limit (in 5 minutes!) what exactly are you supposed to do now for the rest of the day? In South Dakota, we get back, have late breakfast and then go pheasant hunting all afternoon! Sure beats shooting skeet or watching TV! You might offer the local guides a rebate program with a varying degree or sliding scale for their guiding licensure based on the number of hunts they book. That's just one idea, but the combination of the changed law working with an economic incentive would be a magic elixir for the well-being of the state with a minimal impact on duck and goose populations from what I've seen.

Let me end by explaining how a positive move like this can have extended consequences. In 2007 I was working on a start-up here in Austin, Texas. On one of my trips into Aberdeen I was having lunch with a local lawyer who was explaining how the State of South Dakota has no state income tax and actually had a very favorable law for foreign (out-of state) corporations. So we decided to base both entities out of South Dakota which I did. Every time I fly in to hunt, Uncle Sam gets to share in my costs, which is good news for me and a nice feather in South Dakota's hat as well!

I hope this helps! I love your state, and I love the people! You in South Dakota and me as a native Texan share a love of the land and being outdoors that is hard to explain to a lot of the rests of the USA. Standing with the guys, sharing the end of the day's hunt, laughing about how in the world we missed "that shot", all under one of the most beautiful sunsets you'll ever see, that is what it means to hunt South Dakota. The time is right to share it with other responsible hunters across the country. Trust me, if you make the changes, they will come and the long term impact for South Dakota will be much better.

**Joe Williams**

**JW Development**

7801 North Capital of Texas, Ste 390

Austin, TX 78731

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I've hunted pheasant in SD for the past two years. Before that I hunted Iowa for many years but the pheasant population crashed. You are a state populated by a gracious and welcoming people, and by an abundance of game. My group has been debating a move to ND. We recognize that perhaps pheasant won't be as plentiful but some of the guys want the option of a morning waterfowl hunt. It is very difficult to plan and time a hunt in SD and still compete for a non resident waterfowl license. And yet, we are asked to contribute and do contribute to the quality of SD waterfowl hunting through our purchase of federal waterfowl stamps. Fairness and convenience would be served best by allowing flexibility in the purchase of waterfowl licenses.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely

Bob Schiavoni

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I would like to see the NR waterfowl licenses available over the counter just like every other state. It would be better to be able to go when I can go and buy the license when I get there. Buying the license ahead of time is financially risky. Vacations cancelled, health issues and a multitude of reasons that someone's trip gets voided at the last minute. I used to live in SD and didn't like the NR lottery then, nor do I like it

now. Worse now that I have to draw. My daughter still lives in SD and I take an annual trip to visit her. It would be nice to be able to just go buy a license while I am visiting her and go hunt for a day or two. Do away with the restrictions and let everybody enjoy it.



MAKING YOUR WORLD STRONGER

**Murrall Stark**

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: JBS Plainwell  
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Moving here from Arizona my eyes were opened with the amount of water this state has. Increasing the amount of nonresident licences would be the wrong thing to do. The quality of duck and goose hunting this state has is what attracts all of the out of state hunters. The sportsmen and women who get in the lottery know OK with this also. I had the privilege to host my father who was fortunate enough to be drawn for my zone. We enjoyed light pressure on the resource with quality hunts until the early freeze.

With an increase in the number's what will the extra revenue be used for? With the amount of tiling being done in my county this is going to become a major threat to seasonal wetlands that our ducks are raised on.

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Let me first say that I am totally against how non-residents hunt ducks in northeastern South Dakota. The reason for this is that non-resident hunters come for 7 days at a time and put intense pressure on the birds in a small area (and they hunt roosts because they don't care if the birds stick around) causing the birds to abandon that area. Residents hunt mostly only on weekends and it allows the birds some rest time. I would like to see nonresidents restricted to field-only hunting or at least not allowed to use boats. One other solution would be to designate a large number of wetlands (especially in the Northeast as refuges). Secondly, I would approve of reducing the amount of time on the licenses to fewer days. Thirdly, I would like to see any guide service that provides services to nonresidents to not be allowed to guide on any state-owned or leased or federal lands. Fourth, I think nonresidents should always be allowed to hunt depredation type hunts (spring snow and resident Canada) at low costs like are in place now.

I just want to state that I really don't want South Dakota to turn in to North Dakota. The season doesn't really get good in South Dakota until the nonresidents have had about 5 days to blow the birds out of North Dakota.

Feel free to contact me by email or phone at:

Respectfully yours,

Barry Parkin  
[nun2brite2002@gmail.com](mailto:nun2brite2002@gmail.com)  
605-216-4707

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We currently have way too many nonresident waterfowl (duck) hunters in SD as it is. Every year I have at least one of my public land/water duck hunts ruined by a group of nonresidents. Last fall on a meandered lake in Walworth Co. a group of nonresidents started to set up less than 50 yds. from where we had already set up. When we informed the group that we were already set up and asked them to move they refused stating that they had hunted the same spot for 7 days. We found out later that they had left their decoys out overnight to keep "their" spot (the Antelope Island decoy restriction needs to be expanded to include all GPAs, WPAs, WIAs and meandered lakes). I know that a few decent nonresident duck hunters would not exhibit this type of obnoxious behavior, but its far more common that it should be. I used to hunt in the NE every year, spending lots of \$ on gas, food, motels, etc. but got tired of competing with nonresidents and all of us chasing the same flock of mallards. I quit going to the NE due to the excessive nonresident pressure and their rude and demanding behavior – they came all this way and thus they hunt where and how they want.

The claim that SD has all these sloughs with nobody hunting them is a myth – both resident and nonresident hunters are trying to shoot mallards and opportunities for a good mallard hunt are limited and hard to find. If duck hunting in SD becomes more commercialized, and it will with any increase in nonresident permits, more private land will be leased by guides and outfitters, public land will become increasingly crowded and our current, relatively good SD duck hunting will end – for both residents and the current numbers of nonresident duck hunters. It has in every other place in the US where ducks concentrate and they have good duck hunting. Hunting opportunity becomes a marketable entity and easy to acquire if you have enough money.

The claim that we have lost all our resident duck hunters is also a myth – although numbers may have declined, as they have for all hunters, we still have 30,000 licensed resident waterfowl/migratory bird hunters – probably the highest number per capita in the US! The greatest decline in resident hunter numbers are pheasant hunters and the decline directly corresponds to the rise in our commercial pheasant hunting industry. If you want to reduce or cause a significant decline in the number of resident duck hunters – just increase the number of nonresident licenses.

The number of nonresident waterfowl permits should be reduced and for sure, not increased. Every nonresident duck hunter basically displaces one resident duck hunter. We have allowed the commercialization of our pheasant resources and west

river deer resources – we should not and cannot allow our high quality duck hunting to be commercialized.

I have a few specific suggestions – 1) eliminate the 500 3-day permits in the NE. As stated above, we have too many nonresident duck hunters in these few counties already. 2) zone or split the dates on the remaining nonresident waterfowl permits to reduce their pressure on the area - but don't just create zones that push the nonresident duck hunters from the NE to other parts of the state 4) keep the 3-day Mo. River licenses in the Mo. River counties as it is. It was never intended to be a "license pool" to be moved around in response to nonresident hunter demand. This license was established specifically for the Mo. River area as a compromise swapping nonresident licenses on private land for resident hunter access – it has worked very well so don't mess with it. 5) no increase in nonresident waterfowl licenses period – there is no compromise that can be made to benefit the resident duck hunter – the only benefit comes to those few who hope to financially gain from more nonresident duck hunters 6) nonresident duck guides are the lowest form of scum hunters to roam the face of the earth – prevent them from guiding in SD.

George Vandell  
Pierre, SD

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Hello,

My name is Andy Larson and I am a Minnesota resident that frequently hunts waterfowl in South Dakota. I am begging you to keep the lottery as it currently is now. This makes for a quality hunt when drawn.

Andy Larson

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I'm a huge duck hunter in South Dakota. Mainly hunt around Epiphany and Bridgewater. I would be open to there being no lottery for duck hunting, but I would say we should keep the 10 day limit for nonresidents. Otherwise we're going to have the same problems we do with pheasant hunting. Lots of pheasants to kill, but no where to kill them. Public land gets hit hard, and landowners will begin to hold their spots for pay hunters. I understand more money in the economy is helpful, but sometimes its right to say no to the money for the better of wildlife and the state residents which own the wildlife.

I would be open to letting nonresident duck hunters split their 10 day license into 2 seperate 5 days like they can with pheasants. To come up ten days straight is tough to do. I have family in Iowa that like to come up and I would think the GFP would rather the ducks get shot in South Dakota than in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas or Missouri. Either way what I'm saying is the ducks will be shot regardless, let's shoot them in South

Dakota and make it easier for nonresidents to come up and spend money. A ten day license that you can't break up into two weekends is often only used one weekend.

Ryan Horn  
Hartford, SD

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Would love to see something done to open the permits up, trying to find places to stay, in July is crazy if you doubled the permits for us and maybe had a 5 day permit instead of 10 to ease the pressure, it is hard to believe that something can't be done. The money lost to the small towns can be critical, if our group, like a lot of other groups, don't come to South Dakota because of not getting a waterfowl permit you're turning away lots of money, the waterfowl hunting in surrounding states is open to over the counter, if you have a bad pheasant year uplanders won't come if you had more waterfowl permits we and a lot of others would still come. Just my 2cents, (tired of not getting drawn, every other year sucks) thanks Tom Felton.440/364/9660ph 2499 west Sprague road Broadview hts Ohio 44147

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I think the length and quantity of nonresident waterfowl license sold should be change. There should only be a 7 day license available for all state. By changing the length of the nonresident hunters stay you could increase the amount of licenses without increasing the actual number of hunting days nonresidents would hunt. I would keep the price the same. More people hunting, more money for you and retailers and no negative impact on the resource. This is just a thought. Sorry if it's hard to read I did this on my phone. If you have questions please feel free to contact me.

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Just a quick note to let you know we continue to hunt waterfowl and spend money in ND rather than SD because of the ease of getting waterfowl licenses in ND compared to SD. We have hunted ND for about 15 years and will continue to do so, unless SD eases the non-resident waterfowl license application process, i.e. early deadline. If SD would change this restriction, we would certainly consider a waterfowl trip to your state.

Thank you,  
Eugene Krueger  
1311 Riverton Dr.  
Mukwonago, Wi. 53149

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Dear Committee Members-

Thank you for taking public comments on your future decisions regarding the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses issued in South Dakota. I am a South Dakota native who recently moved to Montana so I represent both sides of license issue. I still have parents, relatives and great friends who reside in SD and I try to make it home to hunt with them on our land near Parkston whenever I can. Despite my desire to hunt

waterfowl with my family and friends each year, I am strongly opposed to increasing the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses.

We already know what has happened to freelance pheasant hunting in South Dakota as the commercial operation and pay-to-hunt farms have all but squeezed out resident hunters in favor of the out-of-state dollars. Unless you own land or have a friend who does, you don't hunt private land for pheasants much anymore. I would hate to see waterfowl hunting go down the same path where only the wealthy can hunt private land.

I spent several years guiding waterfowl hunters in South Dakota and have a couple friends who still do. Our clients applied in the drawing like everyone else and had excellent success getting licenses. They enjoyed great hunting and in the odd year they didn't get drawn, they just kept their powder dry for the next year. To a man, they all loved the current draw system and were thrilled with the opportunity to hunt ducks and geese in South Dakota without the pressure, the expensive leases, and intense competition that they were used to in their home states. I have traveled to many states hunting ducks and geese and South Dakota is one of the few places left where you can knock on a landowner's door and stand a good to excellent chance of getting permission to hunt their land. You will see this wonderful opportunity erode if the number of non-resident licenses is increased.

I remember when the commercial goose guides in the Pierre area made their big push to increase non-resident licenses in their area. They said they were missing out on big bucks because they couldn't capitalize on the waterfowl hunting opportunities on their land. The Commission gave in and they were allocated the 3-Day private land licenses for the Missouri river corridor counties. Since the licenses were added, I don't think they ever sold out once. In fact, in just a few years, 500 of the now "surplus" licenses were re-allocated to the Northeast corner of the state. Please don't give in to the myth that these licenses will create huge economic opportunities for outfitters in South Dakota. A very few will benefit but more the most part, any additional licenses will be purchased by Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin freelance hunters who will spend a relatively small amount of money in South Dakota. Spend a day looking at license plates at the Springfield or Appletree boat accesses on the Missouri river and you will see what I mean. North Dakota issues many more non-resident waterfowl licenses than South Dakota yet they have very few viable waterfowl outfitting businesses. The vast majority of their non-resident licenses are sold to freelance waterfowl hunters from neighboring states. Unlimited licenses do not create an economic boom, they destroy the opportunity for average hunters to enjoy fantastic hunting opportunities while enjoying a tradition-rich relationship with private landowners unique to this great state.

Thank you again for considering my comments.

Regards,

Steve Bierle  
PO Box 903

Gardiner, MT 59030  
406-223-2651

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Don't change a thing here in Kansas we have been sold out by our state legislature by using our wildlife as a money making machine not even thinking about the resources they are exploiting please don't do it to your wonderful states wildlife once it starts the genie is out of the bottle things will never be the same again here in Ks a lot of residents are quitting because of all the leasing by nonresidents who will spend more than locals can afford ie: this year we lost 750 acres to a group that paid the landowner 50,000 dollars for a 10 year lease. It will destroy the hunting in SD just like it has in my home state Ed Vanderbeck Columbus Ks [evanderbeck62@gmail.com](mailto:evanderbeck62@gmail.com). 620-704-4471 cell

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I feel that it is an inconvenience and troublesome to try and plan a Fall waterfowl hunt in South Dakota when I don't know if or when I'll be given a few day license.

It's not that I would be hunting waterfowl that belongs to South Dakota, although you do have a duck factory. They are migratory birds that could migrate through early, late, or push through in a few days. It's hard to freelance and receive permission to hunt and not know if the birds are there or not. The weather is a big driving force. If I have the ability to extend my hunting opportunity because of the weather, would bring more dollars to your state.

I'm allowed and presently have a nonresident fishing license and have purchased the spring snow goose license. These permits allow me to schedule or change my schedule to fish or hunt as needed for the whole year not just a few days, If I'm able to get a permit to hunt waterfowl.

The numbers game doesn't make sense to me. I get the impression that South Dakota doesn't like non residents. If you add up what we as non residents give your state in tourist dollars, it's kind of mind boggling.

Your present regulations are holding back your promoting waterfowl hunting and are outdated at best. We as sportsmen should be expanding the opportunities, not putting an unnecessary burden on the waterfowl hunting community. I agree that the non resident needs to pay their fair share for the privilege to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota, but shouldn't be segregated / earmarked because they aren't residents.

What purpose does restricting the number of non resident waterfowl hunters that hunt the Fall migration have? It is hard enough to be saddled with restrictions on where we can hunt because of the loss on habitat. I feel we need to be expanding the opportunities not restricting them.

Thank-you for hearing my opinions.

Frank Reifenrath  
58365 860 Road  
Wakefield, NE 68784  
Home: 402-287-1028  
email: [fowlfer@yahoo.com](mailto:fowlfer@yahoo.com)

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As a nonresident waterfowl hunter that has had the good fortune of hunting ducks in South Dakota, North Dakota, Saskatchewan, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri & Arkansas, I can say that my most cherished license is the one I receive from South Dakota even though on a limited basis. The quality of the experience is the highest because of the limited number of hunters. I'd even like to see MORE restriction as it's getting congested in certain counties.

In other states with unlimited licenses and unlimited guides and outfitters the hunting is degraded to the point of no return and will never be back to the quality prior to commercial operations. Guides and outfitters will also take away the dollars spent in small towns because their operations will likely not require any dollars be spent outside their 'all inclusive' packages.

I'd like to go on record as 1 voice that would be STRONGLY AGAINST any changes to the current NR waterfowl license system.

Regards-

Jeff Smith  
18912 Pennington Ave  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

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I have been hunting in South Dakota since the 90s. I have been shut out on the draw numerous times as has many others in our group. The preference point system helped insure it didn't happen two years in a row but last year I was shut out again! Now we can buy preference points so I guess this will solve the issue. Why go through all of this? It was a law passed for good intent to protect game limits for veterans returning at the end of WWII. Just increase the cost of a conservation stamp or the out of State license. Eliminate the cost of administering the program, you increase the revenue and those from outside the State that support your conservation programs and the local economy will not have to deal with this annual aggravation. I am pleased you are reviewing this since I am not getting any younger. Tom Lakin Sent from my iPad

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As a lifelong resident of South Dakota, I **do not** support a raise in non-resident waterfowl licenses. Seeing how guides and outfitters have transformed pheasant hunting in SD to a rich man's sport, it does not take a genius to see how waterfowling would become. Please help keep SD's hunting traditions possible to the common man.

Phil Hudson  
104 W Washington Ave

PO Box 284  
Howard, SD 57349

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Name is Andrew S. Dolney 888 Slowacki Grenville SD 57239. There is a serious need for nonresident water fowl licenses. It does not make sense to fence slough areas to keep water fowl from crop land. The GFP's own newspaper releases states that the only way to really control water fowl is by hunting. So why is it so hard to get the license to be purchased over the counter for nonresidents. This should be a no brain issue. Then talk about the money that is spent by the hunters its very good for the area so what is the hold up. There farmers asking you to shoot all you what we just need more hunters. the state needs to take the action that is need. This has been way too long in coming to pass  
Andrew S. Dolney

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Ladies & Gentleman,  
Please do NOT allow any more non-resident licenses. The current system works well and provides more than enough opportunity for non-residents and residents alike. Quality hunting is better for all and that is want we currently have today. Waterfowl hunting will not have the same economic impact as pheasant hunting....it's too unpredictable.  
Look at what has happened in SD with the pheasant hunting. We don't want to steal away the waterfowl hunting from the residents of this great state too.  
Please protect this precious resource for all citizen residents and non-residents.

Thank You.  
Regards,  
Derek Schiefelbein

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There are many choices for hunting trips in the Midwest. Kansas has been bombarding Ohio hunters with their pheasant opportunities. My chance to book a pheasant/duck hunt makes South Dakota my first choice. Losing the opportunity to hunt ducks really impacts my pheasant hunting plans. Please keep this opportunity available. Thanks.  
Paul Rosen, 13040 N.Old 3C RD. Sunbury, Ohio 43074

**Paul Rosen** | President & CEO  
M/I Financial Corp.  
Office: (614) 418-8655 | Mobile: (614) 531-0468 | Fax: (614) 418-8686  
3 Easton Oval | 340 | Columbus, OH | 43219  
[prosen@mihomes.com](mailto:prosen@mihomes.com)  
Company NMLS #50684

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I am not a SD resident. However, I own a company (partnership) that owns or manages more than 2000 acres of farmland in Clark, SD. The majority is in CRP or some other form of wildlife conservation. I have more than 4 million dollars invested in SD and have

winter habitat and wetlands for thousands of birds without getting any real return on my investments. All I wanted was some good hunting. By restricting out of state licenses, you are going to force me to put my land back into farming or to sell it and go to a more welcoming state. When I came to SD more than 20 years ago, it was a good place to be. It is becoming less so. Are you sure you are doing the right thing?

Imad Patrick Saoud, PhD  
Aquaculture and Aquatic Science  
Dept. of Biology  
American University of Beirut, Bliss St., Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel: +961 1 350000 x-3913  
<http://staff.aub.edu.lb/~is08/>

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As a taxpayer, landowner and resident sportsmen I urge you to not increase non resident waterfowl licenses. If you feel you must increase them, go ahead and have unlimited licenses but they can only hunt Rep Dick Werners land at no charge since he has such a soft spot for out of state hunters.

Thank you for your time,  
Wade Harkema  
423 Hansina Ave  
Volga, SD 57071

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Martin Hesby  
1408 Sheridan Circle  
Brookings SD 57006

I am writing as a resident hunter from South Dakota, and an avid waterfowl hunter, to file my comments on record in opposition to any new non-resident waterfowl licenses. In fact I believe we need a reduction in the overall number. Waterfowl hunting over the past 20 years has changed and pressure has increased as waterfowl hunters are more skilled, and area all competing for the same places to hunt as our waterfowl resource is ever moving and changing from day to day. With pressure the quality of the hunt diminishes, and I believe with a limited number of non-resident waterfowl hunters, we will improve the quality of the hunt for all, residents and nonresidents alike.

I would ask GFP and the commission to support the resident hunter on this issue, as well as the below points:

- 1) No new/additional non-resident waterfowl licenses.
- 2) Overall reduction in the existing number of non-resident licenses.
- 3) Reallocation of existing number of non-resident licenses, allocating them to specific zones and timeframes in which non-residents can apply for (this would spread out

hunting pressure into all zones, and all timeframes from the beginning of the season to the end.

4) Non-Resident Outfitter licenses- This needs to be explored as non-residents are increasing hunting pressure, leasing lands for guiding operations, and further commercializing the resource for financial gains- Pressure to increase non-resident licenses are mainly coming from the commercialization side-outfitters or those with interests and ties to outfitters, not the common folk of South Dakota. Outfitters need to be monitored, licenses, and pay taxes in South Dakota.

5) Consider all changes with non-commercialization in mind, as the resource is being pressured more and more by commercialization (mostly from non-resident outfitting groups).

Thank you for your consideration to support the resident waterfowl hunter, and protect the resident hunter interests.

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Senator Van Gerpen, Representative Hawley, Representative Werner, Commissioner Jensen and Commissioner Dennert.

I understand there is a work group in place and you have met with the intent of discussing concerns and discussing the current number of waterfowl licenses that are being sold and are available in the state. I currently am a resident of Springfield, the Treasurer of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and an avid waterfowl hunter. My input is from both sides of the fence in regards to this issue. I am going to provide you with my two cents worth as a hunter but also from the business and economic side of this issue. My comments would mostly involve the most southern zone that includes Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Yankton, Clay and Union counties. We would ask for consideration to add another 50 season long licenses to this area. The economic impact on the local area would be significant and I feel it should be a consideration. I will start out by offering input in regards to the concerns that I am sure you have heard as to why this is a bad idea. I am offering this from my perspective as a waterfowl hunter.

*If more licenses are allowed it will add more hunters to an already crowded field.* I don't believe this to be the case. I am very aware of what takes place on the river and the number hunters. I predominantly launch from the Apple Creek boat basin but hunt closer to the Nebraska side of the river. This is not due to hunting pressure but because of personal preference. I also am close enough to watch hunters come out of the Santee boat basing and motor to the South Dakota side to hunt. What happens is there are a limited number of licenses allowed for this area. The past few years has seen a number of hunters (less than 50) who have been unable to draw a license. They still hunt this area but have to stay and put in on the Nebraska side. It does not add more hunters only changes where they launch their boats from. The Game Fish and Parks could gain more revenue from the sale of these licenses rather than having the large numbers of licenses that go unsold in the other parts of the state.

Due to there already being too many hunters in the area there are problems that exist that cause friction and create animosity. Some have gone as far to say the concern is that there is a very good chance of severe verbal and physical confrontations. We don't believe this to be the case either. My experience shown that the only severe verbal confrontations that I have observed or been on the receiving end were from locals (SD Residents) and Nebraska hunters who are allowed to launch from this side due to the agreement with the SD GFP and the NE DENR. I have never witnessed nor experienced any concerning confrontations form out of state hunters. My son and some of his friends experienced this a year ago where they were up earlier, set up earlier and hunting an area. A group of Nebraska hunters came in to that area and became very verbal with my son and his friends (all kids under 23 years old). They then set up within 200 yards of my son and were shooting at ducks that were over the top of my boat which was being used by my son. I knew who these hunters were and when I confronted them the following weekend at the landing they told me that my son should have never been there because this is where they always have hunted.

They will argue that the Nebraska hunters launch over here because of the large number of hunters that launch on that side of the river. There may be some truth in that but the main issue is that their boat landings, ramps and docks are not in good condition. It is my belief they launch here because it is safer, more convenient and there is more room to launch. This is a credit to the great job our GFP has done in maintaining these areas.

They may also say that we already have too many hunters on the river hunting waterfowl. This is not true either as rule of thumb is that hunters should allow at least 300 yards between each other when setting up to hunt. They may also say there is too much hunting pressure on the ducks and geese and that creates issues and will cause low numbers coming into the river. The waterfowl are hunted from the time they leave Canada and until they reach, LA, AL, FL, AR and other southern states where they winter. That massive hunter pressure has been managed very well. Our GFP would not allow hunting pressure to damage numbers or cause an adverse situation for the number of birds. I am aware of some of the input that is coming from this area and have had these discussions with several fellow hunters in the past. The bottom line is that we have a handful of people who want exclusive access and hunting rights to the river.

Here is some input from the business perspective and implications for the community of Springfield.

- If there were 50 licenses added that would at the most add 20 boats to be launched. There is enough room at Running Water, Springfield Marina and Apple Tree to accommodate that. Most hunters hunt in groups and 50 more licenses would not mean 50 more boats.
- If there were additional hunters staying in the area there would be a significant impact on the local economy. In talking with people that provide lodging, meals, food, gas and other items purchased by hunters I would conservatively guess the average waterfowl hunter would contribute a minimum of \$2500 to the local

economy. With an additional 50 hunters Bon Homme County would stand to gain \$125,000 in revenue. Studies show that for every dollar spent locally multiplies up to 7 times and that would mean an impact of \$875,000 per year. If at least half of that would remain in local communities we would be looking at sales tax receipts of nearly \$10,000 for the communities and over \$40,000 for the state. We have hunters now that will pay the additional \$40 + per year for a South Dakota license over a Nebraska one due to the facilities on the river provided by the GFP and accommodations that they would have available.

- This may cause some of the Nebraska hunters who launch on this side to stay on their side and deal with poor facilities. That in turn would take care of the argument of too many boats to launch. The state and area see little or no revenue from these folks. They come over with the goods and services they purchased in Nebraska and go back home. They have licenses purchased in Nebraska and all we can hope for is a handful of park sticker sales.
- Some will disagree with me but I also think this could have an impact on our properties in town as well. There are a few what I would call “older” houses in town that have been bought by people from out of town to use as summer and hunting type homes. They have done some work on them and made improvements which I think has been a good thing. Many of these “older homes” would have been purchased cheap and used for rental property and there are several rentals in town now that are eyesores and not well kept. We would be better off with this type of ownership to maintain our property tax base than what we get with the landlords in this community. Some would argue where is the impact for the state? As a City Councilman, Past Mayor and past School Board Member and Board Chairman I believe that I have seen enough in the budget processes and our tax base to say there would be an impact at all levels of government.

As I mentioned earlier, I am an avid waterfowl hunter myself and have lost some friends due to the position that I take on this matter. I still feel very strongly that we also have a commitment to our communities and local businesses and due to that I will hold firm on my position.

I know there is no chance of public testimony on this issue but I would very much enjoy having a conversation with any of you in regards to this matter. I can be reached at 605-369-2105 (office—days) or 605-464-1100 (evenings and other times.)

**Steve Green** | Account Executive  
[steve@ercjobs.com](mailto:steve@ercjobs.com) | direct 605.369.2105 |

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My name is Devin Reuer I live in Henry South Dakota at 302 3rd St. I understand that the number of NR licenses is up for debate right now and would like to give my opinion on this matter. In my opinion the waterfowl hunting in South Dakota is becoming crowded with the loss of habitat and the drop in numbers of Canada geese. The

aggressive bag limits the last few years coupled with the aggressive nest destruction techniques by the GFP have led to less quality hunting opportunity for the resident South Dakota waterfowler. The thought of issuing more NR licenses is very concerning to me. And in my opinion should be lowered instead of increased. The odds of finding a place to hunt these days are increasingly harder to come by, especially a quality hunt that our resident hunters deserve. Please don't jeopardize the quality of hunting any further than it has already been subjected to. Lower the numbers of NR licenses for the sake of our residents who would like to continue a lifestyle that allows us to enjoy waterfowling with our family and friends who choose to live in South Dakota year round.

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,  
Devin Reuer

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Hi,

My name is Tim Brown and I live in Watertown at 1628 Northridge drive. I understand that the number of NR licenses is up for debate right now and would like to give my opinion on this matter. In my opinion the waterfowl hunting in South Dakota is becoming crowded with the loss of habitat and and the drop in numbers of Canada geese. The aggressive bag limits the last few years coupled with the aggressive nest destruction techniques by the GFP have led to less quality hunting opportunity for the resident South Dakota waterfowler. The thought of issuing more NR licenses is very concerning to me. And in my opinion should be lowered instead of increased. The odds of finding a place to hunt these days are increasingly harder to come by, especially a quality hunt that our resident hunters deserve. Please don't jeopardize the quality of hunting any further than it has already been subjected to. Lower the numbers of NR licenses for the sake of our residents who would like to continue a lifestyle that allows us to enjoy waterfowling with our family and friends who choose to live in South Dakota year round.

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,  
Tim Brown

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Gentlemen:

I understand there is discussions that are aimed at reducing the number of non-resident waterfowl permits in coming years.

The 2014 season was the first time my son and I visited SD and we enjoyed both a three day waterfowl hunt and pheasant hunt. We were so pleased with our experience in north east SD that we are planning to return to SD this year come next October.

If it becomes difficult to not get drawn for a non-resident waterfowl licenses, we will head to ND or Canada. And, the cost / benefit for us to come to SD only for Pheasant doesn't payoff. We will base our visit in 2015 to getting the waterfowl license so we can do both ducks and pheasant.

Please consider the economic value to SD when deciding on the number of non-resident licenses to make available. We sincerely hope we get drawn in 2015 and can enjoy another waterfowl hunt in SD this year.

Bob

Robert Brumbaugh MBA, MCMEA, SBA  
Master Certified Machinery and Equipment Appraiser  
8601 Six Forks Road  
Suite 400  
Raleigh, NC 27615  
(Office) 919.870.8258  
(Fax) 919.861.0064

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Good day again Gentlemen:)

I forgot to mention one other idea regarding the NR waterfowl license. That is...market it as a Trophy license. Because, I feel it is truly a Trophy opportunity:) Thanks again. Duke Remitz. Frederick SD.

On Thu, Jan 22, 2015 at 9:37 PM, <[dukeremitz@gmail.com](mailto:dukeremitz@gmail.com)> wrote:

Good day. If I were to understand the new statute, SD will be increasing NR license's no more than 5% per year? I'm not so sure I'm for that.

Can they expand the Pierre unit to include public land. Expand that unit North and South. Market the area for late season mallard hunting. Not just geese. That might increase sales for that unit.

Gentlemen. I have hunted waterfowl from Sask to Kansas. There is no better waterfowling on a more consistent basis than here in SD. WE have something everybody wants. Let's use that to our advantage to generate more money for the GFP and wildlife habitat 😊. I feel GFP is missing the boat in one aspect. I have family that come out to waterfowl hunt and they would gladly pay up to 200.00 for a license. In their words" it's worth it to have a quality hunt" They want quality over quantity. If you break down that 200.00 it equals out to 20 bucks a day. That's cheap for world class waterfowling!

Thank you gentlemen for your time and effort into this issue. Please keep in mind the wishes of our fellow SD waterfowlers. I think we all want what is best for not only our budgets but our wildlife. With kind regards, Duke Remitz.

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To whom it my concern,

My name is Jon Pike I live at 202 love joy Lane in Aurora, SD and am an avid waterfowl hunter. I am 43 years old and have been hunting all of my life and feel like I should express my concern with increasing nonresident waterfowl licenses.

In South Dakota over the last several years we have seen a large loss of habitat due to the crp loss, tiling issues, places that shouldn't be farmed now farmed due to the high grain prices. All of this has made finding places to hunt much harder. I mainly hunt public waters for waterfowl hunting and with increased nonresident hunters coming into the state it will be that much harder and competitive to find places to hunt.

Recently I have started to hunt in the northeast part of the state and I cannot believe the number of out of state hunters in this area. It is already hard enough to find quality places to hunt and if you increase the number of licenses it will just make it that much more worse; and it will even get to the point where you will start to lose interest from residents in this sport if they can't find good quality places to hunt.

The current processes is not broke other than there have been too many out of state waterfowl licenses given out already. If this continues all that will happen is outfitters will come in lease up the land and turn this into a Rich Mans Sport more so than it already it. Kids are the future of this sport and if the normal (not rich) person isn't able to take their kids hunting because they can't find any place to go the sport will start to die off and that would be such a tragedy.

I love the sport of waterfowl hunting please do not increase the number of out of state license in fact please look at decreasing it if possible.

I have friends from MN that apply every year and they have enjoyed the quality hunting we have here, which they understand would not be near as good with more pressure than we already have.

Thank you,  
Jon Pike

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Recently, when I received an email the state was discussing waterfowl hunting regarding non-resident hunters. I said then, and I say now, the same thing. If your object is to reduce the number of non-res waterfowl hunters, RAISE THE PRICE OF THE LICENSE ! Go to \$500.00 dollars for a two week license ! You will see the numbers drop like a stone.....it's as simple as that....please let me know what you think of that idea....Thanks....Capt. JIm [jplungis@gmail.com](mailto:jplungis@gmail.com)

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I hunt in NE South Dakota and have had a few "run ins" with out of state hunters for the past couple years. If the state of SD was to issue more licenses to out of state waterfowl hunters these "run ins" would be all too common to the resident hunter. Eventually the average SD resident would no longer hunt waterfowl due to the

extreme competition with out of state hunters & the guides that would start commercializing this natural resource.

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**Joel Knopf**  
Controller



Phone: 800-780-6912  
Fax: 605-339-4325

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Good afternoon,

I live in Yankton and have hunted waterfowl my entire life. There are definitely areas that have experienced substantial increased pressure over the years from not only resident waterfowl hunters but non-resident hunters. These areas are the NE glacial lake region, Lake Thompson area, and the Springfield area all the way down the river to the SD/Iowa border. There are many other areas but these are well known areas for most duck hunters as you should know.

With Nebraska allowing anyone and everyone to purchase a nonresident waterfowl license it has essentially ruined the Springfield and downriver areas with substantial, increased hunting pressure.

Most of the non-resident license holders are hunting in the more popular, staging areas in SD which makes it even more difficult for residents to get permission.

In places, the pressure is already overwhelming so with additional licenses it would, for a lack of a better word, destroy the hunting.

If anything I would consider a couple more refuges for the waterfowl to stage as in the SE part of the state there are very few for ducks and geese to rest as the entire river section from the NE/SD border down river to Sioux City can be hunted.

I have hunted the Springfield area for years beginning in 1995 to 2007. I quit hunting there after 2007 due to the massive amount of hunting pressure on the water. I decided that I would try it again in 2014 so a couple of buddies and I put out a blind only to realize that it was another complete disaster out there due to the number of hunters. Many out of staters are coming to the Springfield area since it is the last open water in the state. This does not help with hunter traffic and it simply has gotten out of hand.

I am against increasing the number of out of state licenses.

Thank you,

Matt Tereshinski  
Yankton, SD

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Thank you for receiving public input and considering my thoughts. I am a non-resident hunter with yearly interest in the NR Waterfowl tag application. I reviewed the license history and distribution summary which has some valuable and interesting information. First of all, my hope is that SD does not eliminate the NR lottery and open it to an unlimited over the counter process. Although this would eliminate my annual uncertainty of this trip, I fear it would bring larger problems to SD regarding enforcement, resident pressure for access, bird pressure from hunter density, all leading to a decreased quality outdoor experience. The 2 issues I do hope are considered paramount in any consideration for change is 1) the preservation and improvement of the habitat for the resource and experience for the hunter, and 2) the economic benefits and woes for the state.

My perspective will be focused on the NE unit numbers. I have only applied for the NR-00B license as I travel a distance and plan my visit for 6 days and realize there are more licenses issued (3725) for this application. However, the 3 day NR-00Y license would still allow me a truncated visit and experience even though the current allotment (500) restricts my chances of getting drawn yearly. A reasonable increase might be to consider the 00Y license number at 700, and the OOB number at 4000, or 4500. This would raise the total in these 2 categories by 475 to 975 licenses. One can't ignore the economic benefit this would generate to the G&FD as well as the state and local economies for necessary trip commodities (gas, lodging, food, entertainment, etc). However this must be considered hand in hand with the calendar distribution and geographical densities of the hunts as shown by the trend graphs. The last 2 weekends of Oct. and first 2 weekends of Nov appear to be the priority times for NR hunters to set their visit dates, and rightfully so considering the migration patterns and bird populations during these periods (weather permitting). And similarly, the most welcoming habitat and population centers to draw and accommodate hunters appear to be the NE SD region.

With that said, I do hunt primarily private land and find the residents polite and welcoming. I caution however the potential frustration of increased land owner request pressure and possible land abuse if these numbers are not monitored, and the hunting population not checked in the field regardless of the hunter numbers and areas of focus. I very much anticipate my adventures to SD for waterfowl hunting every year because of this exact atmosphere.

Please consider increasing the licenses as the recent 5 yr application history shows a demand for this opportunity, and the recent resource populations have supported the quality experience. But please keep in mind the needed commitment to enforce, police, monitor, review and possibly modify and adjust the applications and awarded license numbers regularly based on demand, land condition, bird population trends,

resident responses, and enforcement feedback to maintain the quality of this SD experience.

Thank you kindly.

Mike Piercy  
233 Somerset Drive  
Sugar Grove, IL 60554

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To whom it may concern:

I enjoy the pheasant hunting opportunities in North East South Dakota and would like to couple the pheasant hunt with a combined waterfowl hunt.

I have applied for a non-resident waterfowl license for 4 years and was only drawn once!!

Last year only 2 members of our party of 8 drew non-resident waterfowl licenses, so 5 non-residents in our group chose not to South Dakota to hunt at all! **That was lost revenue for your state!!!**

For 2015 I am putting together a corporate pheasant/waterfowl hunt for 15 non-residents and have chosen to move the trip to Kansas where we will be guaranteed waterfowl licenses!! So how much revenue will South Dakota lose because of your overly limited non-resident waterfowl license program!

Doubt I will ever come to hunt in South Dakota again! Doubt any of my colleagues and friends will either!!

Sincerely,

Otto Biasio

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Members of the non-resident waterfowl hunting working group.

My name is Lucien P. Laborde, Jr., currently of Baton Rouge, LA. I am an avid waterfowler, and have been hunting annually in Eureka, McPherson County South Dakota the last week in October for pheasant and ducks since 1988; missing only a year or 2 in that span. We typically hunt 5-7 days based on other personal commitments, hunting ducks in the morning early, then proceeding to hunt pheasants which usually open up at noon during that week. We rarely see another waterfowler in our trips, and only 2 in over 20 years have we ended up in competition for a hunting location. In both cases, a quick conversation worked out reasonable hunting for both parties. Driving around the town of Eureka, we typically see only 1-2 other parties looking for waterfowl. This is very good waterfowling territory, but the competition is all

about pheasant hunting. From afar, the restriction on waterfowl hunting licenses is misplaced. There is more than adequate waterfowl hunting habitat on both public and private property. The competition is for pheasant habitat in this area. When we are unable to draw a waterfowl permit, we cross the border and hunt in North Dakota where there is no restriction.

We have supported SDGFP for many years and continue to do so. We have supported the McPherson County chapter of Ducks Unlimited at their annual event in Eureka for many years. At least in that county, there is little competition for waterfowl hunting and we would be very grateful if you would increase the quota, make it more area specific, or eliminate it as you do for the non-resident small game license.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucien P. Laborde, Jr.

313 East Woodstone Court

Baton Rouge, LA 70808

(225) 281-0711

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I come to South Dakota every year to pheasant hunt, and every couple years I am able to waterfowl. I spend a fair amount of money, and bring several others with me.

We buy our shells in South Dakota, meals, lodging, etc., and typically hunt for two or three days.

This is a minimal impact on waterfowling for residents, while bringing in valuable dollars to the local economy.

There should be more licenses available to non residents.

Donn Fresard

1751 Lochmoor

Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

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I appreciate the time and effort put forth on this all important issue for the people of South Dakota. The waterfowl heritage in this state is very important. It is a difficult process balancing resident and non-resident hunters. I feel many good strides have been made over the years. We were probably at a good spot a few compromises ago however. Please do not consider offering more non-resident licenses. Habitat should be the basis for all wildlife decisions. We are seeing a decline in quality habitat and at the current rate that does not bode well for the future. Waterfowl cannot be compared to pheasants. Ducks and geese take a little pressure and they are gone. We just cannot put the hunting pressure on them with huge numbers of hunters like you can with roosters. At the very least, keep the numbers the same if not lower them in high pressure areas and declining habitat locations.

Thanks for your time

Jeff Olson

Rapid City SD

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To whom it may concern. As a resident waterfowl hunter, I strongly encourage the work group to keep the number of statewide non-resident licenses issued at the same levels they have been in the past. South Dakota enjoys some of the finest waterfowl hunting in North America and we enjoy that privilege due to limited numbers of waterfowl hunters being allowed to enter the state to hunt. License numbers must be carefully managed in order to avoid an overabundance of hunters. Unlike pheasants, waterfowl numbers cannot be increased by releasing birds to provide more opportunity. Nor can we control the droughts that occur on the prairie which negatively affect waterfowl hunting from year to year.

I also ask you to carefully consider any request to increase non-resident waterfowl licenses in the Lower Missouri unit and resist any attempts to increase non-resident license numbers solely based on economic development purposes or requests. The area commonly referred to as the "marsh area" near Springfield is already overcrowded by hunters from both Nebraska and South Dakota as hunters can enter the area from either state. Increasing license numbers in that unit would only make the current problem of overcrowding worse, and in my opinion, degrade the quality of waterfowl hunting near Springfield.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ron Freeman  
1420 Pebble Beach Rd.  
Mitchell, SD 57301  
605-999-9189

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I hope that the non-resident waterfowl licenses aren't opened up much. It's nice being a resident and know that at least on waterfowl you're not fighting with a million non-residents to hunt the public lands and stand a chance to obtain permission on private property.

What's good for the commercial operations doesn't mean it's good for the rest of us. The big money that can afford to come in and lock up acres makes it tough for the rest of us to try and compete against it. We're seeing it all over the state on big game and pheasants; compounded with the loss of habitat acres has caused the hunting to deteriorate over the past 4 years in my opinion.

Create a Habitat Stamp and charge us \$10-15 for it, earmark those dollars to be spent on things for the hunters only. I'd have no issue with that.

Rich Henderson  
30286 SD HWY 34  
Pierre, SD 57501

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As a South Dakota resident I am opposed to the non-resident waterfowl license increase. I'm concerned that the resource will suffer and quality of hunting will decrease.  
Thank you  
Aaron@ WheelWright  
Corsica SD

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I see increased competition for duck and goose hunting in North eastern South Dakota. It is becoming more difficult to hunt due to numerous out of state waterfowl hunters in South Dakota. I believe that the number of nonresident duck and goose license should be reduced because of the popularity of the sport and the many out of state licenses I see on vehicles in South Dakota especially in North Central and North eastern South Dakota. Enough is enough and we are there. Joe Barnett 1612 North Kline Street Aberdeen SD 57401.

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Sirs:

As a 57 year old, 3rd generation resident waterfowl hunter, I plead with you not to allow further expansion of non-resident license numbers in South Dakota. In fact lowering the number of non-resident licenses currently allowed can be easily justified. I hunt both in eastern South Dakota and along the Missouri River and have seen the results of excessive commercialization due to non-resident hunters. The promotion and commercialization of pheasant hunting in eastern South Dakota has led directly to shutting out the average income South Dakota resident from waterfowl hunting both on public and private land. Private land is now reserved for visiting pheasant hunters and no longer available for waterfowl hunting. Non-residents who cannot afford to or do not wish to pay commercial operators further crowd public lands and push out residents. Along the Missouri River, this issue has long been debated as previously the only option for average income residents was hunting in the right of ways. That is increasingly the case in eastern South Dakota as private wetlands are reserved for well-to-do pheasant hunters and increasingly non-resident waterfowl hunters.

Many in the economic development circle will no doubt argue about the income they could realize if we commercialize waterfowl hunting like we have pheasant hunting. Please remember that we already export to other states the vast majority of ducks and geese raised here in South Dakota because our relatively short season due to wetlands freezing up earlier than southern states. This year was a classic example of that with the Veterans Day cold spell.

Also know that this is quality of life issue for South Dakota residents. The first group of resident hunters to have their opportunities to hunt waterfowl diminished is the youth of this state; who cannot afford and who do not wish to hunt via commercial operators. I am also aware of many in my generation who stayed in South Dakota because of the opportunities available here including waterfowl hunting instead of leaving for higher incomes elsewhere. The vast majority of South Dakota residents do not live here

because it offers the highest income we could receive. If that was the case, nearly everybody would leave. We live here because of opportunities to enjoy life despite a lower income and waterfowl hunting is an important opportunity for many.

Thank you for the chance to comment on this issue that is so important to many resident hunters.

Dave Jacobson  
Pierre, SD

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Hello,

I would like to ask the commission to re-frame from adding any additional Non-resident license for 2015. With the loss of habitat and competition for prime hunting areas, I find it harder and harder to hunt waterfowl in this state. The Non-residents that I know, enjoy the way the system works right now as they usually get their license 2 out of every 3 years. They are happy to come to a state where overcrowding and pay for hunts are minimal, it allows for a gratifying hunting trip. I do not believe the number of Non-residents waterfowl hunters that come to South Dakota actually have that big of an impact or would have that big of an impact economically. The areas of the state that are asking for more license already see a tremendous out of state revenue impact from our tremendous fisheries.

Thank you for your time,  
Scott Christopherson, Volga, SD

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GFP Committee,

I appreciate you taking the time to read this. I'll try not to make it too long, but I am writing to you about the current waterfowl licenses and how we manage waterfowl hunting in South Dakota.

As a HuntSAFE Instructor for the SD GF&P, a Pro-Staffer Manager for Lynch Mob Calls, Pro-Staffer for DOA Decoys & Big Al's Decoy, and an avid responsible hunter and outdoorsman in SD, I oppose any increase in non-resident waterfowl licenses. In fact, due to decreasing wetland issues, the NR licenses should decrease with it.

The number of non-resident (NR) licenses needs to decrease. The primary reason people want to increase the number of NR waterfowl hunters is to **commercialize the resource** so a few people can make big money and the rest of us will lose our waterfowl hunting heritage. Increasing NR licenses only expands commercialization of our natural resources, when that happens the resident hunters are displaced by non-residents who can afford to pay for a place to hunt.

I understand that increasing licenses sounds good in theory for the economy of SD but you need to look at the big picture for the long run. Quality hunting opportunities will be diminished for all waterfowl hunters, resident and nonresidents included.

In the last year, we have lost hundreds of thousands of acres of grasslands as CRP and native prairie is being plowed up. That means there are fewer nesting areas for ducks, thus reducing the population. Just look what is happening to the pheasant population.

In addition, we have lost thousands of acres of wetlands due to tile drainage. This is a newer trend and is increasing at a rapid rate. These wetlands no longer produce ducks and the loss of wetlands reduces the number of hunting spots as well as breeding grounds for growth in duck numbers.

In recent years, waterfowl hunting in South Dakota has become increasingly crowded because of an increase in non-resident hunters. Areas of the state are already crowded and competition for good waterfowl hunting spots is already intense. The problem is not only the number of ducks but also the number of **places** to hunt. An increase in the number of non-resident licenses will only cause more competition and reduce the opportunities for resident hunters as well as the quality of each hunt not only for residents but also non-residents.

***When commercialization of waterfowl occurs, residents will lose out just like we have on pheasant hunting.*** According to data from SDGFP, in 1960 about 80% of the pheasant hunters on the landscape were South Dakota residents, while in 2010 only 40% of pheasant hunters in SD were residents. This is due to the commercialization and out of state hunters that have taken over pheasant hunting. Residents have limited success now because everyone wants them to pay to hunt, strict competition on public land, which we fight NR's for...So where exactly is Grandpa supposed to take his grandson pheasant hunting exactly?

So to summarize, increasing NR licenses will have a negative effect on residents as well as NR due to fierce competition, overpopulated hunting areas which will result in lower quality of hunts for residents and NR due to hunting pressure and the more pressure, the birds just move out. I'm pretty sure when NR come to the state they want to be successful, and that will not happen any more if licenses increase. On top of all that, we have the drain tiling, reduction in wetlands, etc continuing to happen.....So if we increase licenses and are losing wetlands, There will be no waterfowl hunting for anyone in the future.

The goal is to have Quality Waterfowl hunting for both Residents and Non-Residents. I have numerous people that come here to hunt out of state and we want them to keep coming and have successful hunts, if it turns into nothing but unsuccessful hunts because of too much pressure and no wetlands, do you think they will continue to come back to the state?

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Richard Visker  
Sioux Falls, SD

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Non-Resident waterfowl licenses should NOT be increased because:

I've noticed a drastic reduction of "hunt-able" Canada geese in the Pierre area.

The reduced numbers of geese that are in the area are attracted to the huge piles of grain stockpiled on the ground.

The geese that do fly to the fields are "hunt-able geese"; therefore, are fewer.

This is not a good time to increase hunting pressure, forcing out resident hunters.

Dean Hyde  
703 N Madison  
Pierre, SD 57501

(605) 224-5443

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Each year at this time I always have a concern for what's going to happen to our quality of hunting. I have hunted for 48 years, always took my sons, and now my grandson goes also. But, it has become a big problem finding a place to go. There usually is about a 3 week period of quality hunting in N.E. SD, and out of staters know this and they know the areas. So, over the past few years there just are not enough places to go. Please reduce the number of licenses, and at worst don't add any. I have visited with fellow hunters, landowners and they are in agreement. The only people I have visited

with are in favor of more licenses are commercial pheasant hunting operators. Let's not sell our waterfowl hunting.



**MARK V JORGENSEN, AGENT | AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE**

518 Moccasin Dr | Aberdeen, SD 57401

Office: 605.225.7970 | Fax: 605.226.2071

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I am concerned for the resident waterfowl hunters of the state. One only needs to look to SD Pheasant hunting commercialization, SD west river deer hunting commercialization, SD antelope hunting commercialization and right around Pierre at waterfowl commercialization to see the local people being squeezed out. I understand landowner rights issues with fee hunting and guiding operations that are argued ad nauseam. The fact is the game animals are not property of landowners to exploit and profit from. This was the concern of the founding fathers that put forth special effort in the constitution protecting animals as public property.

As a resident sportsman of South Dakota I oppose any increase in nonresident waterfowl licenses. I also demand a decrease in the allotted nonresident waterfowl licenses due to the well documented loss of habitat and irresponsible farming practice of drain tiling.

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Non Resident Waterfowl committee

Please do not change the current way nonresident waterfowl license are issued. The current way works and the only reason some people want to change it is not to help waterfowl or the residents of South Dakota but for their own personal gain.

Thank you  
Jeff Clow  
27193 Pine Cir  
Harrisburg SD 57032

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I feel the waterfowl system and the license numbers we have had in the past have worked well for the state and the people that use it. I have family that draw most years and come for what they call a true outdoor experience they say they wouldn't change. We sometimes are a little crowded in the lower Missouri river area around Lewis and Clark lake but we share this area with Nebraska.  
I thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Dan Fleming  
611 E. Pleasant St.  
Elk Point SD. 57025  
605-670-1497

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My son and I hunt waterfowl in the NE Zone. I was wondering why we can't split the 10 day hunts into two five day hunts. Ten days is too long. I would even go for two four day hunts. We like hunting early and late season. Are there any options we are missing? Thanks?  
Jim Lilienthal

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First off I'd like to thank you for having a public forum regarding nonresident waterfowl licenses.

What you have done because of the restrictions on the number of nonresident waterfowl licenses is to take away a family hunt. I have one son who lives in Minneapolis and one who lives in Lincoln County and I live in Codington but it is very difficult for the three of us to have a family duck hunt because of the restriction on the number of nonresident waterfowl licenses.

We do have a family hunt for pheasants with me, my two sons, my two brothers, and their sons. In fact, my son from Minnesota usually buys two licenses for pheasants. But duck hunting is our favorite type of hunting and we like to put the decoys, waders, etc. in my old Tahoe with a Vietnam Veteran license plate on it and go duck hunting.

I also think we are losing a lot of income for the state of South Dakota not only for license sales but taxes on nonresident hunter purchases in gas stations, sporting goods stores, restaurants, bars, motels, and purchases for hosts.

I think it would be worthwhile to investigate the number of nonresident licenses for surrounding states: North Dakota primarily but also Nebraska, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. My son has gone to ND to hunt waterfowl and he knows a lot of Minnesota residents who go to North Dakota to hunt waterfowl. I'm not sure about Wisconsin but we are losing a lot of income for residents of South Dakota by our very restrictive numbers of nonresident waterfowl licenses.

Waterfowl hunting is so weather dependent it would be ideal to be able to split the out of state licenses into two 5 day segments as you have for pheasant hunters. It seems a little strange that we have such restrictions on waterfowl but basically no restrictions on pheasant hunting and pheasant hunting is the more lucrative of the two entities regarding state income.

Again, I thank you for your time and your interest in this venture and wish you well.

James R. Horning MD

1008 36<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Watertown SD 57201-7248

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My name is Brion and my three sons and I live in Colorado. First of all I want to thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinion on this topic. We are avid waterfowlers and are grateful for the chance to come to your state and enjoy it's bountiful wing shooting. Both of my parents where born and raised near Redfield and Frankfort and we are fortunate enough to have relation there and are able to hunt. Honestly it has been very frustrating having to wait for all three of my sons to reach 12 years old in order to hunt legally in your state, especially since they have all passed their Hunter's Safety requirements for Colorado at age 8 and have had licenses for several years before coming there to hunt. Now that they are of age we come to pheasant hunt and are excited to try waterfowl as well. I do think that after spending quite a lot on small game licenses to hunt pheasant, I find that the extra cost for nonresident waterfowl for the 4 of us is beyond my budget. My suggestion is to allocate a certain number of nonresident waterfowl licenses for youth and to set the price for this license more sensibly as you now do for nonresident youth small game licenses. Also, the time frame for the application process for nonresidents is problematic. It is somewhat confusing and very hard to try and plan for something that may or may not happen 5-7 months from that time. As I'm sure you are aware, we are able to go to Kansas and buy nonresident small game licenses that allow for 4 pheasants a day, are good for the entire season, and are approximately 65% the cost of your nonresident licenses. Also in Kansas nonresidents can buy waterfowl licenses over the counter and they are good for the whole season. I think it's very important to instill the waterfowling tradition in my sons and the more options I have to do this the better in order to ensure that they carry on our great sport. Please don't take this email in the wrong way. South Dakota is truly a unique and amazing place to hunt and there is no other place like it in the world. I applaud your state and the importance you have put on hunting and our right to bear arms. I wish my home state of Colorado was more like yours. Thank you again for the opportunity to voice our comments, and we are already counting the days until our return.

Sincerely,

Brion Gavette  
Gill, Colorado

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Dear Game, Fish and Parks;

I moved to South Dakota in 1971 from Minnesota, two of my nephews followed. Hunting and fishing were a small part of us moving here and played a **big** part in us staying here. I have a fairly large family and the rest of them are still in Minnesota. Years ago they used to be able to not only get one 10 day non-resident waterfowl license, but obtain another left over one. Demand for those licenses increased over the years to the point that they did get one in the first drawing. We then had a vote: the question posed was "would you like for us to join the groups pushing for more licenses or would you like to keep it as is and just miss out on some years?". It was unanimous, keep it as is. They said, do not let it turn into commercialized pheasant hunting, only worse, because as every waterfowler knows, not every body of water has ducks or cornfield attracts mallards. You have to scout and locations are limited.

Tom Yseth

Brookings, South Dakota

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Gentlemen; I hunt pheasants each year in South Dakota in the Kimball and Tulare areas. I always apply for a non-resident waterfowl permit so I can hunt in the mornings before pheasant hunting in the afternoon. My success in the application process runs approx. 50%, which means I cannot hunt for waterfowl on half of my trips. I have always questioned the need for a random lottery to gain a permit, as I have rarely encountered resident (or non-resident) waterfowl hunters when I have been able to hunt. Secondly, if the pressure is not there from resident hunters, why have the lottery at all? Given the welcome we receive as pheasant hunters, it is difficult to understand why the Game and Fish Commission makes it so difficult for non-residents to hunt waterfowl. My suggestion is to remove the lottery and use cost as a limiting or deterrent factor for non-resident hunters. If we are willing to spend the dollars to come hunt pheasants, why not let us spend a few more and hunt the waterfowl also. Larry W. Solley, 51 Chenal Circle, Little Rock, AR 72223.

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SD Fish & Wildlife,

I am a resident of Tennessee and have traveled to Eureka, SD the fourth week of October for the past 20 years. Our group of about 8 hunters, who are like family now, stay and eat with residents of the town. We pheasant hunt most of the day and waterfowl hunt for a couple of hours in the morning. I would strongly encourage South Dakota to change the non-resident waterfowl license strategy. The current program limits the number of hunters and the license fees collected by the state.

Instead of issuing a 10 day license to “lottery winners”, I recommend selling a shorter license to all applicants. This would not change the overall harvest, but would increase hunters and license revenue. Most people don’t stay for the current license time of 10 days. Selling a 5 day license would greatly increase revenue, not just in license sales, but more people would travel into the state while spending money on lodging, fuel, food, shells and equipment. This would be an economic windfall to the state. Also, the license fees collected are put back into critically important habitat and wildlife programs, which go to benefit everyone.

Over the years, we have seen the pheasant population decline while waterfowl numbers seem to be enjoying a welcomed increase. We hunt on private land and Waterfowl Production Areas around McPherson County. Collecting more license revenue would only help the critically needed habitat.

Thanks for allowing the public to provide input. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Sam Jones  
Clarksville, TN  
(931) 494-3528  
[samcjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:samcjones@bellsouth.net)

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I am writing to voice my opinion on increasing the numbers of out of state waterfowl hunting licenses. I **adamantly oppose** such an action. I believe it will inevitably lead to decreased hunting opportunities for in-state hunters as more out of state hunters and guides inundate our state. Of course, they will lease all of the good land and aggressively compete for the best fields/sloughs. We have already seen what this can do in North Dakota where it is much harder for in-state hunters to find good land to hunt.

This is a bona fide quality of life issue for us as South Dakota hunters. We have a lifetime of waterfowl hunting traditions that will be lost if we increase the number of out of state hunters. Your first responsibility as a commission is to the residents of South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Ronan, Ph.D.

Research Scientist  
Research Service  
Sioux Falls VA Healthcare System

Assistant Professor  
Psychiatry and Basic Biomedical Sciences  
USD School of Medicine

R&D, Bldg. 28  
2501 W. 22nd St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
605-332-3079 (office)  
605-336-3230 #96505 (lab)

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Hello,

My opinion as a nearly lifelong SD resident and longtime duck hunter is we should not offer any further increase in out of state waterfowl licenses. This will further degrade the access and opportunities we as residents have now. I have experienced a dramatic decrease in available hunting over the last 10 years already due to increased OOS hunters and leasing of land directly related to the extra licenses for the NE SD counties that became available. It is very difficult and discouraging to hunt the prime areas during the 2 weeks of prime hunting with increased competition and decreased access. Public hunting opportunities are limited as they are typically heavily hunted chasing birds onto private ground, and as you might guess these are locked up or leased more and more.

If you do not know most all OOS hunters will come the first 2 weeks of November to hunt and in the prime areas. I feel that 90% of waterfowl occupy 10% of available areas that are considered the best. This is no secret. Those of us who do not live in these areas (like Rapid City where I live) have to drive a long distance and hope to find birds and places to hunt. As mentioned I no longer have any confidence in having a quality hunt in SD. Further increases will make the situation worse to the primary benefit of a few guides and select OOS hunters.

To summarize I am **strongly against** any further increase in the SD out of state waterfowl licenses.

Thank you,  
Leo Flynn MD  
Rapid City, SD

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Dear GFP and fellows,

We do not want **no new licenses** and that **we actually want a reduction in the number of licenses** due to habitat loss and crowded hunting conditions. Its the worst he's seen in 30 years of hunting. With all the tiling we are losing more waterfowl habitat. We have half the ponds where we used to hunt 15 years ago. I've already seen out of state hunters come in and hunt places we've been hunting privately. Enough is Enough.

Thanks,

Gene Visker  
3901 S Cathy #208  
SFSD 57106

---

I am an avid waterfowl hunter and resident of South Dakota. I feel the out of state licenses need to be cut back. I hunt the eastern portion of the state, and I feel I see more people from out of state than I do locals. This is really discouraging to me a lot of the people I hunt with and talk to are not pleased with them, there are also a lot of landowners that are not pleased with them. Please do something about this!

KC De Vos

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As a resident waterfowl hunter in South Dakota, I value the current management plan for waterfowl. I do not support selling additional non-resident licenses for waterfowl hunting. Current hunting pressure on waterfowl is at a level that is sustainable and provides a balance between waterfowl migration rest opportunities and hunting pressure. I am a supporter of public lands and I refuse to "pay" for access to private lands when the current mentality on private lands is annual crop production and agricultural drainage. I would be very disappointed should this state choose to become another Texas where the common wage earner has a difficult time finding quality

hunting opportunities. I work in this state, pay taxes in this state, live in this state, raise my kids in this state and feel that I deserve the opportunity to benefit from the rich bounty of wildlife that this state provides. The pheasant hunting pressure in this state provides significant income to this state. I realize that increasing non-resident waterfowl hunting opportunities could provide financial benefits to this state = to pheasant hunting, however, is this mentality (greed) any different from the short sighted benefits of private landowners desiring to drain wetlands for financial gain while compromising the welfare of those living downstream. I would hope we can provide a balance between state financial income and providing quality hunting opportunities for the residents of this state. I grew up in Iowa (18 years) and left the state because of the lack of quality hunting opportunities. I have resided in South Dakota (24 years) because that opportunity currently exists. As mentioned earlier I raise my kids here and they are likely to stay here (because they like to hunt waterfowl) and changing the dynamics of the hunting opportunities in this state will impact their decisions as to whether they stay or go as adults.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Sincerely

Rod Voss

South Dakota resident, tax payer, father, hunter, conservationist

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Over the years we have seen pheasant hunting and deer hunting have become more commercialized. It gets so crowded, hard to get permission to hunt, or the walk in areas are picked over from out of state hunters. Please do not add more out of state licenses, for this is the only season that isn't overly commercialized in our state. And it's enjoyable because of it. If anything I would like to see less out of state licenses. Up the limit if need be for the local guys if you're worried about the population. If it's revenue add another dollar to the migratory bird certificate. I think speak for many when I say that I be happy to pay more for my license to keep out of state tags down or take more away. Thanks for your time.

Shoot straight,

Marc Hamiel

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Good morning, I am writing this letter to address the issue of non-resident waterfowl licenses in the state of South Dakota. I live in Aberdeen and am an avid waterfowl hunter, yet again this year I saw more pressure from out of state hunters. It is becoming more and more difficult to get landowners permission due to the significant loss of waterfowl habitat and, obviously, the crowded hunting conditions. I am strongly opposed to increasing the number of non-resident licenses and, in fact, believe we need a reduction of them. If the conditions continue to worsen i fear that my 2-year old son will not be able to have the amount of fun I've had in the duck blind.

Thank you,

Dr. T.J. Johnson  
Aberdeen, SD  
605-380-1599

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As a retailer and avid waterfowl hunter – I would encourage you not to increase, but decrease number of out of state licenses for waterfowl - The argument of economic impact is silly when it comes to Waterfowl with the exception of an area around Pierre. Pierre has open water and a much longer season. Living in Brown County, I come across many more out of state plates using programs such as crep. The season is limited and it should provide value to our citizens for that reason. My oldest son will be able to hunt this season for the first time, I am now feeling forced to lease land for the right to duck hunt due to the expansion of the last five years and seeing what the crep program did to local hunting versus out of state.

If its economics, open pheasant season up one week earlier and that would do hundreds of times difference. Would love to see how the private preserves would handle that? Versus taking advantage of our waterfowl hunting they are trying to tie down to become all inclusive in their packages, which encourages them to tie up adjacent land.

Thanks for opportunity of my opinion – feel free to call and discuss further detail.

Michael Carrels  
CExpress Convenience Stores  
PO Box 1825  
Aberdeen, SD 57402  
605-725-3401

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Please do not change the current nonresident laws and policies that is currently being used based on my reasoning;

1. Please preserve the quality of the hunt that it is now. Limit the number of hunters which we all know raises the quality of the waterfowl hunting for nonresidents that we have today. I have no problem if I don't get drawn every year. It is the years that I do get drawn I have become to expect a very great hunt!

2. I didn't get drawn last year but drove to northeast corner of South Dakota just to witness the great waterfowl migrations I have a chance to see. It still excites and amazes me to just to see the sheer numbers. **BUT what does concern me is all the road closures not allowing a licensed waterfowl hunter access to areas that are designated WIA. I'm just a nonresident and don't like what I see, I can't imagine the anger that the residents must feel not able to hunt and fish these areas.** I have to ask is the road closures legal by the townships? After these roads are closed will there be guided hunts and fishing trips be offered?

3. The years that I have drawn a license I have only shot one goose. I have more than enough geese here in Iowa to hunt and shoot. Shooting a goose in S.D., is not a bonus to me. Iowa does not have the waterfowl migrations that we used to have.

4. Also do not allow the moving of nonresident licenses allocations from one area to another area of the state.

5. I do have a concern if nonresident allocations is increased, I feel there is a great chance for local waterfowl guiding operations to pop up and lock up all the good hunting areas, this costing a nonresident \$300.00 per day or more PLUS the license fee we have already paid. It could become only the ones with money that could afford to hunt. This could also have the same effect on residents as well.

Glenn and Mary Rasmus  
Concerned Nonresident Waterfowl Hunter from Iowa

I forgot to add one other concern, as water levels fall such as they have near Britton, this forces more hunters into a smaller area. Imagine what happens if you increase these allocations, putting more hunters into a smaller area around smaller sloughs and then you have a potential for injury/fatality.

Glenn and Mary Rasmus  
Concerned Nonresident Waterfowl Hunter from Iowa

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Dear GFP, GFP Commission & NR Waterfowl Work Group,

My family and I have lived in near Pierre for the last 6 years; we moved to Pierre from Florence in NE SD. My wife, two daughters (6 and 4), son (2) and I hunt waterfowl near Pierre and in the NE portion of state several times a year. We do not support an increase in non-resident waterfowl licenses and any portion of the state; we would like to see the numbers stay the same or even decrease slightly. Leave the way it is, don't fix what is not broken. Once again like the last several years there is pressure by a small group of people to increase the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses in South Dakota. Again like every other year the vast majority of waterfowl hunter's resident and non-resident do not support the increase in any shape or form. 2015 is no different

Pressure in the eastern portion of the state is already very high from residents and NRs. Unlike pheasants, migratory birds cannot withstand day in and day out pressure. Over hunting will move birds out of a region entirely. Over the last five years NR waterfowl hunters received a fall 10 (00B) or 3 (00Y) day licenses at a success rate of roughly 75%. I hunt with NRs that have successfully drawn a waterfowl license the last 8 years, many 3-5 years in a row. Despite what anyone states it is impossible not to get a license at least every other year. I hunt with a dozen plus NRs in NE SD every October and November. I can tell you they are all against an increase in any way to NR waterfowl license numbers, I'm sure some will even sent email or called expressing this. They all come to SD for the quality of the hunt and are perfectly content with the possibility of not drawing a license every year for the exchange of a great hunt. They realize, as I hope you do, that if more NRs licenses are made available the SD experience and quality of hunting decreases. As more NR waterfowl hunters gain access to SD, leasing of land will become more prevalent without a doubt. As more NR waterfowl hunters come to SD, waterfowl guides and outfitters will become increasingly prevalent as well. Waterfowl unlike pheasant change patterns and location often thus will be the need by guides and outfitters to lease up large tracts of land in order to guarantee their clients places to hunt and opportunities to kill birds. (Leasing of land for waterfowl hunting has already become a big problem in NE and NC SD as well the Pierre area). It is no rocket science to know every time ground is leased it takes the opportunity away from locals, South Dakotan's and even non-residents that had previously hunted that very ground. One can say hunters need to build relationships with landowners and they will be able to hunt. While that is partial true money talks and

friends walk. When large tract/areas of land are tied up for paid hunting it pushes the remaining hunters onto other private and public ground which likely was already hunted by some else. It is snowball effect, everyone wants a place to hunt so leasing of land continues and public ground is over hunted. If this sounds familiar that because that is exactly how pheasant hunting is in SD.....Totally commercialized. It is very unfortunate that even though the vast majority of resident and even non-resident waterfowl hunters that enjoy SD do not want additionally license that it is still pushed year in and year out by a small group of folks that would like nothing more than to see waterfowl become increasing commercialized such as pheasant hunting in SD.

My wife, family and I are like a lot of other sportsman in South Dakota. We are well educated with lots to offer. We have turned down countless offers and prospects of making considerably more money in neighboring state to stay in SD to enjoy our great outdoors while raising a family. We are fine having nonresidents enjoy our state but we also do not want SD to follow the path of commercializing our hunting and fishing like so many other states have. When residents are losing opportunities because of nonresidents (prospect of someone making money off them) we have a huge problem. Unfortunately, in my opinion we are slowly going down that path. Money isn't everything believe it or not. Please protect South Dakota's waterfowl hunting against the commercialization of the sport and do not increase non-resident waterfowl licenses in any shape or form. A small decrease would even be welcome.

Thanks for your time,

Justin Allen  
303 Merry Road  
Pierre, SD

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First off I'd like to thank you for having a public forum regarding nonresident waterfowl licenses.

What you have done because of the restrictions on the number of nonresident waterfowl licenses is to take away a family hunt. I have one son who lives in Minneapolis and one who lives in Lincoln County and I live in Codington but it is very difficult for the three of us to have a family duck hunt because of the restriction on the number of nonresident waterfowl licenses.

We do have a family hunt for pheasants with me, my two sons, my two brothers, and their sons. In fact, my son from Minnesota usually buys two licenses for pheasants. But duck hunting is our favorite type of hunting and we like to put the decoys, waders, etc. in my old Tahoe with a Vietnam Veteran license plate on it and go duck hunting.

I also think we are losing a lot of income for the state of South Dakota not only for license sales and but taxes on nonresident hunter purchases in gas stations, sporting good stores, restaurants, bars, motels, and purchases for hosts.

I think it would be worthwhile to investigate the number of nonresident licenses for surrounding states: North Dakota primarily but also Nebraska, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. My son has gone to ND to hunt waterfowl and he knows of a lot of Minnesota residents who go to North Dakota to hunt waterfowl. I'm not sure about Wisconsin but we are losing a lot of income for residents of South Dakota by our very restrictive numbers of nonresident waterfowl licenses.

Waterfowl hunting is so weather dependent it would be ideal to be able to split the out of state license into two 5 days segments as you have for pheasant hunters. It seems a little strange that we have such restrictions on waterfowl but basically no restrictions on pheasant hunting and pheasant hunting is the more lucrative of the two entities regarding state income.

Again, I thank you for your time and your interest in this venture and wish you well.

James R Horning MD  
1008 36th ST NW  
WATERTOWN SD 57201-7248

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Nonresident Waterfowl License Workgroup-

I am writing to express my opinion on the increase of nonresident waterfowl licenses. I do NOT support any increase in nonresident waterfowl license numbers. I would like to see the numbers and geographic allocations remain the same. An increase in these licenses would cause increased pressure, overcrowding of public land, increased leasing of private land, and an overall degradation of South Dakota waterfowling as we know it. Most nonresidents who hunt waterfowl in South Dakota agree with the current system and understand that limiting nonresident hunters is the key in providing a quality

hunting experience for residents and nonresidents alike. Please help us uphold our tradition of waterfowl excellence and uncrowded opportunities.

Thank you,

Mike Stenson  
2104 Waldron Street  
Fort Pierre, SD 57532

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Dear Sirs,

With the decline of waterfowl hunter numbers in SD, Minnesota and nationwide, it is ridiculous for you continue to be so restrictive with nonresident waterfowl licenses. Also, the single 10-day license is a mistake...they should at least offer two 5-day licenses, like they do for pheasant licenses.

This gives hunters the ability to hunt in different weather patterns and possibly pheasant hunt in the same period of 5 days ... giving the State a sale on 2 licenses.

Mike Porter  
5414 Edgewater Blvd  
Mpls, MN 55417

Office: 651-558-5772  
Cell: 612-597-3341  
[mphunts@gmail.com](mailto:mphunts@gmail.com)

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It is of my opinion that there should be no change to the current non-resident waterfowl license structure. The only thing that would result in would be a decrease in the quality of hunting and opportunities for resident waterfowl hunters. As the continuing degradation of habitat continues in the prairie pothole region due to draining, and farming practices, opportunity for residents continues to decline in both quality habitat and permission on private land becomes harder to get.

South Dakota is already awash with non-resident pheasant and turkey hunters. If it is revenue you are after, which I suspect could be the only thing driving this, raise the rates for non-resident pheasant and turkey hunters. The endless stream of those non-residents have already deteriorated the quality of hunting and opportunities for residents

as the availability of accessible land has declined. Why would you want to spread that virus to the resident waterfowl opportunity as well.

One only has to look north of our border and see the diminished opportunity for resident North Dakotan's to fully understand why we should keep South Dakota as it is. Anyone of you that have ever set in a duck blind would surely understand the frustration of having a less than caring person set up near you, sky bust, call unscrupulously and encroach on a hard earned opportunity to know that letting more non-resident hunters the opportunity would only make things worse

Unless your desire is to push waterfowling in South Dakota the way pheasant hunting has gone, commercialized, unaffordable for the resident, and the king's sport, let's leave at least one thing a little more protected for the resident.

Terry

Terry & Debbie Liddick  
[td7400@hotmail.com](mailto:td7400@hotmail.com)  
605-484-5485 (C)

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To whom it may concern -

Thank you for the opportunity to add my thoughts to the conversation regarding nonresident waterfowl licenses in South Dakota. I suspect that you are hearing from many hunters - both residents and nonresidents - on the issue.

Save for two years of graduate school, I have lived in South Dakota my entire life, and having the ability to enjoy tremendous hunting opportunities has played a large role in why I have continued to make the state my home in spite of it having the nation's lowest salaries in my profession. I have hunted waterfowl across the continent, but South Dakota - on the whole - provides an experience that stands alone, largely because of the quality of the hunt.

What makes a good hunt? Having ducks to decoy plays a big role. While North Dakota contains a significantly higher amount of the "best-of-the-best" nesting habitat for ducks, eastern South Dakota is also home to a portion of the Prairie Pothole Region. Because of this there are typically great opportunities to hunt locally raised ducks before they migrate south. This has been especially true in recent years when wetland conditions have been excellent.

Having access to these birds, however, is a bigger piece of the puzzle. South Dakota is home to a tremendous amount of public hunting land, but after the first few days of heavy hunting pressure the quality of the hunt on these areas diminishes. That is not to say that public hunting opportunities do not exist later into the season, but the overwhelming majority of my hunts in east-central, north-east, and north-central South Dakota take place on private land after the birds react to the pressure and shift locations. For what it's worth, I shoot more pheasants on federal waterfowl production areas each year than I do ducks.

Thus, access to private ground becomes an important part to enjoying a quality hunt throughout much of the season. I do not have the resources to own land or lease land; I depend on having the ability to make a phone call or stop in to a farm or ranch and gain access with a handshake. South Dakota is one of the only states where this is still possible, and I'd love to see it stay that way. The ability to find ducks, gain permission to access the ground, and hunt the birds the next morning all on my own contributes to a quality of life in the state that is hard to find anywhere else.

Gaining access to ground has become more difficult in recent years, however. Some of that is due to changes that have been made to the allocation of nonresident licenses. The shift of 500 3-day licenses from the Pierre area to the north-east corner of the state has had an unfortunate impact on the competition faced by hunters - resident and nonresident alike - while trying to gain permission. I'm attaching a picture of a conversation on Twitter from last fall that illustrates just how much hunting pressure exists in those counties. In two hours, the landowner received six phone calls from hunters from six different states, all wanting permission to hunt the same quarter-section of ground. This pressure has gotten so bad that I have abandoned some of my hunting areas in recent years. I don't see the bird numbers that I normally do, but I don't have to battle with hundreds of other hunters.

Not only has the number of hunters increased in the north-east corner of the state, but they all seem to target the same 10-15 day period when the migration of ducks through the state is usually at its peak (October 25-November 10 or so). This only exacerbates the hunting pressure-related problems that have accompanied the addition of 500 3-day licenses in this part of the state.

For these reasons, I am opposed to any increase in the number of nonresident licenses, and I would favor a change to the system that returns the 500 3-day licenses to the Pierre area where they belong. In addition, I would support the creation of a nonresident zone or split-season system, which would help mitigate hunting pressure.

I love South Dakota and the duck hunting opportunities that can be found here. I have been fortunate to meet a number of nonresident hunters who feel the same way - men and women who love to come here and hunt because of the quality of the experience. I know there are those in this work group who want to see an increase in licenses, but they are in the minority. I am not in favor of an increase, and I can honestly say that I have never met a hunter from another state who wants to see an increase, either.

John Pollmann  
309 E 8th Street  
Dell Rapids, SD 57022

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Dear Tony,

There are three goals that future South Dakota NR waterfowl policy needs to target:

- Loss of critical habitat in Prairie Pothole Region especially ephemeral wetlands and upland nesting
- Boosting and diversifying local businesses
- Increasing hunter recruitment

Managing a resource for fewer and fewer opposes these goals.

- There will be even less reason for a landowner to restore vital wetlands and nesting habitat.
- It will decrease NR visitors to local business.
- Youth that would like to try a waterfowl hunt won't, because they live in the wrong state.

Arguments that were applied decades ago to restrict NR hunters are no longer valid. Overcrowding? What overcrowding.? Based on what evidence? We have a residence directly across the road from a waterfowl production area. If someone is duck hunting on it, we know it. This year we heard shots one morning the entire season. There are always birds on it.

**CROWDING?**

Have the numbers of resident hunters increased over the past decades?  
Are there more birds now or then?  
Is it crowded? Where? Over water? In fields? What is the evidence?  
How many birds are residents harvesting? Non-residents?  
If a hunters shoots over a 100 birds per season is that too much? 200? 300?

### **SPORTSMAN AGAINST HUNTER PROGRAM**

Is the Sportsman Against Hunger program working as effectively as it can?  
When birds are thrown away, are they being registered?  
Should there be a donation limit per hunter?  
Were there hunters that donated 50 birds? 100 birds? 200 birds?

### **LEG TAG SYSTEM FOR WATERFOWL**

Would a tagging system be a better way to monitor and regulate waterfowl hunting?

The current licensing system was implemented years ago. Technology has changed considerably since then. Now it is feasible to utilize tags to monitor harvest. It would allow for near real-time monitoring of harvest and help alleviate enforcement and transportation issues.

NR could be awarded as tags not time-periods.

Landowners doing meaning conservation would be awarded NR tags that could be used on their property only. As long waterfowl production exceeds the number of tags this wouldn't it be a better alternative to tiling and draining?

### **YOUTH HUNTING**

I think everyone would agree that youth recruitment is not just a South Dakota problem. A youth that experiences a successful hunt is more likely to embrace hunting and most importantly conservation. There are members of the group that exert a tremendous effort recruiting SD youth into hunting. Would they be opposed to extending this effort to NR youth?

Would the members be open to allowing a limited number NR youth participation in the youth-only waterfowl season?

I would love to host under-privileged youth during the youth-only hunt. Not only could these kids experience a great hunt, they would learn about the Prairie Pothole ecosystem and why it is so important we conserve it – an experience they would otherwise never get.

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Hello,

My name is Alex Hatzell and I am a South Dakota resident and avid waterfowl hunter. In regards to future allocations nonresident waterfowl licenses I have a couple suggestions and thoughts. For one I believe that there are too many being issued in certain SD counties (northern counties in particular Brown, Marshall ect). I spend a lot of time in the northern part of the state during waterfowl season and I continue to be amazed at the amount of nonresident hunting pressure. It seems that every spot has a nonresident hunter on it at all times. This pressure causes poor hunting and as a resident I am getting frustrated. There is not enough public hunting access to be giving away so many out of state licenses. I know the Dakotas have the best waterfowl hunting in the country and it is a popular place for nonresidents to come, and they should come, just in the appropriate numbers. The quality of waterfowl hunting for SD residents should not be diminished as a result of high hunting pressure just because there is a high demand for nonresident waterfowl licenses. Thank you for hearing my thoughts.

Best regards,

Alex Hatzell

Alex Hatzel  
4524 S River Oaks Dr  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

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To whom it concerns,

I am writing you in regards to the allocation of nonresident waterfowl hunting licenses in the state of South Dakota. After much thought and consideration I would like to provide you with my input.

We have a tremendous resource of land, water and availability to these resources. My two sons and I have been avid waterfowl hunters in the state of South Dakota for many years. The memories we have are many and priceless. Our ability to access waterfowl hunting on private land is almost unlimited. I am very concerned that the addition of

more nonresident waterfowl licenses will jeopardize our ability to access these private lands. Past history has proven that when nonresident hunters in other hunting seasons enter our state, the access to private land decreases.

With that being said, I believe the work group put together to review the allocation of nonresident waterfowl licenses should consider not to increase the number of nonresident licenses. I believe that our resources within our state should be shared but limited to the current amount of nonresident licenses. Those of us who live within our great state very much enjoy our opportunities to hunt and share some of our resources, but we have a chance to limit licenses and preserve the access we have now.

Please consider limiting nonresident waterfowl licenses and learn from our past.

Thanks so much!!

Scott Gilbertson  
16708 455<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Watertown, SD 57201

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To whom it may concern:

I wanted to voice my opinion on the topic of increasing out of state waterfowl licenses. My perspective comes from a citizen born & raised in south Dakota, who alongside my cousin was taught to hunt waterfowl by our grandfather. It also comes from the perspective of a highly successful business leader who has gone to great lengths to stay in the state of South Dakota, truly at times because the freedom to hunt waterfowl for a couple of months can be world class and a step away from everything commercialized. In the past 10 years, I personally influenced decisions to bring around 100 jobs back to the state with a prior employer.

Why does it matter? The access to waterfowl hunting is a key criteria for me personally. It is a throwback away that takes me away from high pressure situations. Does it matter really if I stay in the state for the state's best interest... in the overall scheme of things, one person = likely no vs. straight license income/other ED activity, however how many more like me are there. What really is the value of those of us that are heavily influence by waterfowl hunting? We are out there learning skills not available in the state, sharing them with local leaders, investing money in the local community, volunteering with youth and of course keeping gas stations and hotels open everywhere during the hunting season.

I also think it is critically important the leadership of the state understand waterfowl hunting dynamics vs. upland game. I grew up on a farm and shot plenty of

pheasants. Funny thing was I only needed to go another mile or two if I had done too good of a job on a section, more birds were there...all season. Waterfowl – wow, even small numbers make a difference. I have spent a week in Aberdeen each year for the past 15 years. Before the incremental out of state licenses, yes even that small amount it was a different game. One public shooting area consistently held 10K mallards in the hard to reach areas, at times many, many more. Now it stocks 3 trucks with Wisconsin plates, canoes and 5% of the ducks. Where might those ducks go? To the next big water where, again, the one or two out of state hunters who keeps the area pressured. Lastly, I just love it when an “aggressive” out of state hunter does the following – 1) locks up 10 active corn fields for the next day, then races back & forth to see which will be best. Guess what, those of us raised true waterfowl hunters would pick one, ask the farmer, offer to help around the place for a while and do so if it would help. I get plenty of competition during work and coaching youth softball, it is not appreciated in waterfowl hunting. 2) Upset farmers to the extent they won't let people hunt. Again in the Aberdeen area it is happening, this area has been hunted pretty hard over time due to sand lake, but pre-out of state license additions, the vast majority of farmers were very accommodating. Even if they said no which is fine, it was logical in that they hunted it, or had relatives etc.... Trust me, some of these folks are still out there but when I walk up to a farmer and hear stories of guys tearing up fields, leaving garbage, setting up right next to a house in the area it makes me want to throw up. Yes, I suppose there are irresponsible people everywhere, but.... The folks who apply for licenses and are here for 5 or 10 days have much less skin in the game and in my observed, actual experience are changing the dynamic of duck hunting already in this area.

#### Key points:

- 1) Water fowl hunting without tons of pressure is a key reason some people live in this state.
- 2) Getting the right talent to lead our state – below zero temps, land prices increasing dramatically etc... What's our pitch? We are different, it is beautiful and there is no better place to enjoy the great outdoors.
- 3) Longevity & culture – I love to make a buck as much as anyone, trust me, but landowner/hunter relationships have been part of our state's culture for a long, long time. Short term aggressive, do whatever it takes so they can take a good picture out of state hunters make this worse. If we take this road, I wouldn't expect a successful U turn if we don't like the results.

I also understand the real world and that economic development is key. I could probably argue this one either way, but it certainly isn't a simple as  $X \text{ new license} = Y + \text{hotel/food/other services activity}$ . The **Game fish & parks has done some flat out**

**wonderful things in the past 10 years with access to better public hunting in Pierre, increases in walk in access, decoy walk in access etc.... It makes me believe our leadership understands this is a unique & differentiating feature of our state and it should be cared for.**

In summary, in business **we all try to create differentiation that makes us unique.** It is **the “wedge”** we can use to **attract customers, talent etc.... Rarely is a competitive advantage sold** out to be monetized because the **value of the differentiation is exponential vs. what we can see on paper.**

I won't pretend to understand the dynamics of the state budget, nor the perceived economic development from guides etc.... I will say this. We stand to lose one of few true differentiators vs. other states. A feature which cannot be re-purchased, which is unique to our state. If you asked me to sell that feature in my business, I would tell you to go pound sand. Would only consider it if I could generate enough cash to change the game for my company. Guess what, our weather isn't going to change. Adding more out of state licenses serves a very small portion of the citizens in our state and degrades the value of living here for substantially more.

I have been hunting ducks & geese in our state for the past 30 years. Through thick and thin it has always been the single best reason for me to live here outside of family of course. We all live our lives with a checkbook. **Those that are most successful also carry a compass.** This is a compass decision I believe.

**Please protect our heritage, it is far deeper and more important than license income or guides etc... This is a big part of what makes our state unique.**

I am willing to share thoughts if anyone is interested. Glad to help problem solve etc... if any inputs could be of value.

Thank you,  
Josh Wood  
605.659.5212

**Example of a duck hunting south Dakota family**

Gen 4: Josh Wood, VP General Electric / Summer & High School Coach

Gen 3: Robert Wood Jr., 30+ year Professor, University of South Dakota

Gen 2: Robert Wood Sr., Electrician, High School Coach, community leader

Gen 1: Howard Wood, Hall of fame South Dakota High School Coach

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Paul Roling  
1100 south Joliet avenue  
Sioux falls, SD 57110  
Lifetime waterfowler and hunter

I am a born and raised in south Dakota and very proud of our state, I have hunted all my life and live in this great state because of the opportunities outdoors for me and my family. The opportunity to hunt is a great privilege and should be kept at a quality hunt level rather than quantity hunt level.

Nonresidents have a very good chance at drawing for a license, 70% chance. I personally hunt with 2 nonresidents 1 has been coming out for 10 years and he has drawn 9 out of 10 years which is amazing draw stats. If I lived out of state I would like the chance to hunt in South Dakota to because we have the best freelance water fowling anywhere. WE allow 6000 nonresident licenses every year for waterfowl and that is enough, if you want to improve dollars on some line on a sheet increase the nonresident fees NOT the number of licenses.

South Dakotans keep true to their morals and do the right thing do not commercialize water fowling based on a couple of guides or dollars. I have always thought when it comes to hunting opportunities we treat our RESIDENTS the best and share the rest. Please don't push out the residents because of guides and outfitters are leasing up land for their clients.

I wanted to make sure these comments made it to the committee with the rest of the emails that come into the NRWaterfowlLicense email address. I sent the following directly to several of the members and to Mr. Tony Lief. Thank you.

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Thank you for taking your time to visit with me about South Dakota nonresident waterfowl licenses.

As I indicated, I have hunted the Springfield area on the Missouri River for over 20 years. Despite what may appear as "unlimited spots to hunt", huntable, and locations preferred by waterfowl, are not that plentiful. "Huntable" means a spot has the right water depth, access, and bottom consistency. This being the case, competition for these spots has become more intense in recent years.

When I hunted from Nebraska in my early years, the ramp was an overcrowded mess with impatient hunters yelling at each other. Competition near the Santee, Nebraska ramp was extremely crowded with arguments also occurring on the water.

I have seen overcrowding issues from the South Dakota side as well. In years past, I have constructed "permanent" blinds (regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers) only to have them ignored (other hunters set up adjacent to the blind), vandalized and run over. I now only hunt out of my boat blind. On one of my last hunts this year, in the middle of the week in late November, I settled on a 4th spot because there were hunters in the other 3.

It is interesting that individuals from Springfield would be requesting additional nonresident licenses. During their testimony to our state legislature last year, they mentioned that it was difficult to get hunters to stay in Springfield due to competition with Niobrara and Yankton. I don't disagree that hunters don't stay in Springfield. Overnight rooms and eating choices are not plentiful nor appealing. Is adding more licenses going to solve this problem?

The resource that needs to be managed is not "waterfowl" (a federally managed resource). It is the habitat and HUNTER OPPORTUNITY given limited, on the ground resources. I have not talked or heard from ANY nonresident waterfowl hunter that doesn't prefer the quality of a SD hunt versus the unlimited opportunity found in surrounding states like ND, NE or MN; and in the last year, I have heard from a lot of nonresident waterfowl hunters. Other states are struggling with lack of hunter opportunities and their hunt quality has suffered because of the crowds. Many people from Iowa and Minnesota hunt South Dakota to get away from the people. I think if you did a survey, the overwhelming majority of nonresident hunters would say that they prefer the current number of licenses and the current system. Most of them are successful 3 out of 4 years, I have heard from some of them that are successful 8 out of 9 years. Friends of mine don't get a license every year, but we are all ok with that.

I am very concerned that in order to appease a few guides and local business owners, a "few" licenses will be added. This is what has happened each time in the past when this issue has been brought up by these same groups. It seems to be a purely political decision to reach a compromise rather than one that seeks to manage for the resource and the impact of the additional hunters on the resource. In the Springfield area, annual nonresident licenses went from 150 to 200 to 250. Where does it end? We have reached the point of hunter saturation in this area. The quality of the hunt has decreased significantly especially since 2004 when nonresident licenses went from 200

to 250. None of the nonresident hunters I have hunted with or talk to would like to see an increase in nonresident licenses. They do not want to see the chaos in South Dakota that Nebraska is seeing at their ramps and spilling out to the river.

With the exploding popularity of waterfowl shows and waterfowl hunting videos, many states are seeing waterfowl guiding operations leasing private land in the best areas limiting access to the average person. Public areas are extremely crowded and issues arise as a result. These issues ARE happening in SD. On any given day during the waterfowl season, and especially during the peak time in November, there are more nonresident hunters at the South Dakota boat ramps at Springfield and Appletree than residents. And, if you want a good hunting spot, you better be there early (and earlier, and earlier...)!

For additional insight on how crowding in the Springfield area has impacted the quality of the hunting and created numerous issues, I would suggest that the commission contact the local conservation officers.

I respectfully request that you leave the number of NR licenses in our state unchanged. For the sake of resident and nonresident waterfowlers that appreciate quality over quantity.

Please forward this to fellow Nonresident Waterfowl License Committee members and commissioners as you feel appropriate.

Again, thank you for your time and interest in this topic for South Dakota. Please do what you can to keep our South Dakota waterfowl tradition; Quality Opportunities = Quality Experience.

Sincerely,

Tom Curran  
Yankton

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NR Waterfowl Committee,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my email and for looking for ways to make the licensing and allocation process easier for non-resident waterfowl hunters.

I have hunted pheasants and waterfowl in South Dakota since 1991. We hunt primarily in Faulk/Edmunds/Potter county area. I have also hunted spring snow geese for the past 5 years in the Clark/Henry area.

I have always been frustrated with SD waterfowl licensing for 2 main reasons:

First the lottery, though I have been drawn all years except 2, it makes no sense to me why you would limit the licenses on a migratory resource that is mainly just flying through your state. I don't believe any other state in the flyway does this. Clearly the law was passed only to protect resident hunting and not as a waterfowl management tool. I can honestly say that in ALL my years of waterfowl hunting on mostly public (Federal) lands I have only seen one other waterfowl hunter from South Dakota! Except of course spring snow goose season.

Second is the 10-consecutive day license! Who can hunt for 10 days straight and especially when there is a 2-day possession limit on ducks! My group and I usually will pick one of our pheasant hunts and hunt ducks/geese for 3-4 days along with our pheasant hunting so the other days are basically wasted. We also may have missed a migration or picked bad weather time etc. If the license was seasonal or at worst case 2- 5 day hunts to match small game licenses, we would be able to hunt waterfowl more than one trip and be more in control of the hunt timing. I typically will hunt pheasants 4 or more times each year in South Dakota because we own a hunting shack and lease private land. That means I buy 2 or more small game license each year. If the best you came up with was to match small game licensing with 2- 5 day NR waterfowl hunts on one license, but made it over the counter, groups like mine may buy the second license if the migration is late or weather dictates ducks are around late in the season. Today we can't because of the lottery, and we have to have our plans made in July.

Here are my reasons why I believe you should strongly consider changing the current 10 Day, statewide lottery (3,750 MAX) license to an over the counter (no lottery, no limit to number of NR licenses) full season license.

1) Waterfowl are a migratory resource. Though SD is a great producer of waterfowl, the majority are produced in Canada and North Dakota and fly through SD on the way south. NR Hunters can go to Canada, North Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas etc and get a license. Only SD limits the # and duration of NR hunters. It really makes no sense from a management or economic perspective. The waterfowl will be hunted down the entire flyway regardless of whether you have more NR hunters or not, why have SD miss out on the hunter revenue and economic impact it would have.

2) Much of the public land that grows waterfowl in South Dakota are federal lands (WPA's,etc.) that are purchased by funds from me (the Non-Resident) and others through our tax dollars and excise taxes on hunting supplies we buy. It is not right that I should be unable to hunt a Federally managed, migratory resource on federal public lands. Charge what ever license fees you see fit, but please don't continue to limit NR access to these lands. Even the "over the counter" 3-day Missouri river \$75 license is no good on public land!! Makes no sense except for bad politics.

3) I believe the statistics show that if you did go to a seasonal over the counter NR Waterfowl license that hunter numbers may double to as many as 8,000 or so. At current pricing of \$125, that is an additional \$500,000 in revenue for GFP. In addition, I am sure your stats would also show that the economic impact is probably 5 times that to local economies. I know that local motels, diners, bars and gas stations, etc LOVE pheasant season and spring snow goose season. Every time my group is in SD we spend money locally. It is a win/win for GFP, local economy's and NR hunters.

Again, thank you so much for taking this project on , it is long overdue! I appreciate your time and am hopeful you will create a seasonal over the counter license that will benefit all parties!

Thanks!

Eric Marquardt  
13550 26th Ave N #100  
Plymouth, MN 55441  
(763) 228-1632  
[insuranceeric@aol.com](mailto:insuranceeric@aol.com)

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Dear GFP,

I'm writing in regards to nonresident waterfowl licenses in South Dakota. I am against any increase in licenses or any structure change to the current system and would like to see a decrease in fall licenses in NE SD, central SD and eastern SD spring snows. My 3 kids, husband and I enjoy our great waterfowl hunting in SD. I was born and raised on a rural South Dakota farm and despite the prospects of greener pastures across our borders I have chosen to raise my family in SD largely because of our hunting and fishing opportunities. It has been unfortunate to slowly watch the opportunities residents once had fade away in the name of paid hunting. Every year it becomes increasingly

harder to gain access to quality private land, this is especially true gaining waterfowl access in the last 5 years. It seems to me our state's hunting is becoming more commercialized every year. I see increasing nonresident licenses as just another attempt to ruin what we have here in South Dakota. Why give the best resources that we have to out of staters, who don't care of live here? I firmly believe that if GFP increases nonresident waterfowl licenses it will increase paid hunting across the areas. Just like in other states waterfowl guides and outfitters lease huge amounts of land which closes the door to anyone that ever had hunted that ground. At the same time it increases competition for the remaining areas. As a resident hunter of SD I fail to see how my family should sacrifice our quality hunting opportunities, so an outfitter or guide can run paid nonresident hunters or watch a nonresident take hunting opportunities away from my kids today or in their future! Let's preserve this state's hunting heritage for the residents that reside here year. Let's protect our residents for once! We have to be an example for the future of hunting in South Dakota and say no to selling out to guides and big money.

Thanks  
Renee Allen  
303 Merry Road  
Pierre, SD

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To whom it may concern:

I am sending this email in regards to the nonresident waterfowl license increase. Please keep the number the same with no additional license added. If the numbers are increased there will be less opportunities for everyone. We do not need waterfowl hunting turning into pheasant hunting and everything is commercialized and only chances to hunt is to pay.

Thanks  
  
Paul Bohls  
Watertown, SD

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To: Nonresident Waterfowl License Workgroup  
From: Cody Warner  
43470 129<sup>th</sup> Street  
Roslyn, SD 57261

605-590-0001

First off, I appreciate the opportunity that the SDGFP Commission coupled with the SDGFP has given me to provide my opinion towards the nonresident licensing process. In my opinion, I believe you will get far more emails with the opinion that the licensing should stay the same so I will highlight a few points and make this short. I would like to state that I don't believe license numbers should be increased in any part of the state. Please don't put the interests of a few in front of the interest of the many.

**Waterfowl Populations:**

This argument has been used by the proponents of license increases for years. While waterfowl populations are above average at the moment, the trend will not continue. First off, the 2014 Farm Bill cut CRP acres by nearly 10 million in the Prairie Pothole Region. That's a lot of acres that will be converted to cropland thus not producing any waterfowl. Farming practices that utilize every acre of farmable ground is also occurring. Something fairly new to SD is tiling and water management. Hundreds of thousands of feet of drain tile have been installed in SD in the last few years. This will drain wetlands and reduce waterfowl populations. As an agency, we must look into the future and realize that our current waterfowl populations are not sustainable.

**Economy Boosts:**

Since I live in Day County, I looked up the main source of economy and focused on tourism. Not surprising to me, tourism was only 5% of the yearly economy. Plus, that focuses on year round tourism and I can assure you that fisherman far outweigh hunters. This proves my point that license increases will do very little for the well-being of small communities. Small communities are supported mostly by the year round residents. A few extra hunters a year will not make or break our communities.

**No Pressure:**

I've heard many people say that there is no hunting pressure where they live... well, I can assure you that there's a reason for that. Nonresident hunters will go to where they have the best chance to have successful hunts. This puts a lot of hunters in a small area. This area is basically a 5 county area around Webster. If you want to see hunting pressure, drive through Webster on a weekend in early November. Locals are struggling to find places to hunt as more nonresidents flock to this area.

**Equal Opportunity:**

At this point, most nonresidents coming to SD will have the chance for a very quality hunt. There are many nonresidents that hope you never allocate more

licenses. However, by increasing licenses, you make the chances better for nonresidents to come back year after year. This will ultimately lead to leasing and more guides. I have seen the leasing and guiding increase in the last few years. We know what has happened to pheasant hunting in SD and waterfowl will follow if licenses are increased. I urge you to not make hunting a rich man's sport in SD. Multiple guiding operations have already begun leasing land in northeast SD and as this continues opportunities will be taken away from locals.

While this is a short list of the many drawbacks of increasing NR license numbers, I believe it highlights some of the many concerns that I have. Please listen to the majority of your constituents. Thanks, Cody

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Dear SDGFP,

I have been actively hunting waterfowl in the state of South Dakota since about 2003. With the popularity of the sport growing leaps and bound in the past 5 years it has added additional pressure to South Dakota waterfowl. It has been extremely difficult to gain access to great hunting especially around the higher populated areas and with increased Nonresident hunters it will make it about impossible to hunt. I have had more wasted trips scouting resulting in unsuccessful hunting in the past 3-4 years due to high pressured areas in the state. I feel the nonresidents are already wrecking our good recourse of waterfowl by using deep pocket books to gain permission, which allows residents not being able to get permission. There is no secret about our state of South Dakota to have one of the GREATEST water fowling around! Nonresident hunters also don't respect land owners like a resident hunter who has been trying to make great relations between the hunter and land owner over the past years. One thing is money talks and all it takes is one out of state hunter to ruin a great thing to make the land owner decide his recourse is worth money! Please consider the residents of the state of South Dakota when you make a decision on this issue. Instead of increased licenses I would like to see a price increase of license go up for Nonresidents to create more revenue. Adding more numbers of Nonresidents will drive residents out of the sport due to the difficulty getting permission and added pressure to the birds. Please take all this into consideration and help protect this great natural recourse of the South Dakota residences.

Thanks,  
Andrew Nielson

27643 465th Ave.  
Lennox, SD 57039

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I have hunted the lower Missouri area for 15+ years and have witnessed the duck population decrease every year. The area on the river to hunt is too small for the number of rigs that populate it on a given weekend. The fact that this is one of the only areas in the state that NR hunters can buy a season long license is absurd. Ducks that do show up are usually gone in a couple days because they get blown out by the pressure. Please consider the fact that we share these waters with Nebraska, which also has NR licenses on top of resident licenses. The area does not have enough real estate to handle all the hunters that use it. The ducks have nowhere to go but south.

I think the ability to buy season long licenses should be eliminated and set to the 3 day option at most. If we control the number of hunters, maybe the bird population will recover to the point licenses could be increased. But not to the point they are now.

Thanks,

Monte Vande Kop

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Lower them! as a land owner in the ne part of the state, I am tired of out of staters trespassing, being it for pheasant, ducks, geese, both spring and fall. if it continues no one will be allowed to hunt on my land. the reason you are doing this is to sell our wildlife to out of staters. you are already screwing up the pheasant hunting and the fishing. Everything GF&P does is just trying to sell our wildlife. South Dakota wildlife is for South Dakota residents.

There are many choices for hunting trips in the Midwest. Kansas has been bombarding Non-resident hunters with their pheasant opportunities. My chance to book a pheasant/duck hunt makes South Dakota my first choice. Losing the opportunity to hunt ducks really impacts my pheasant hunting plans. Please keep this opportunity available. Thanks. Larry Kershner 2570 Halle Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017

Regards,

Larry Kershner

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Hello,

I grew up in the great state of South Dakota, but my job has now moved me to Michigan. I come back to South Dakota every year to hunt waterfowl with my dad. There has only been one year were I did not draw a license to hunt waterfowl. We lived in Rapid City and hunted from Wall east and north towards Pierre. I'm not even sure why there is a limit on the number of licenses that are allowed. I know in the area we hunt in the 25 + years of hunting waterfowl, there has only been a handful of times were we came across another group of duck hunters. I would think the money non-residents brought into and around the area they are hunting would be a benefit for that community. Waterfowl hunting is different than big game or upland birds, as they come and go. I know there's no limit on upland bird NR licenses that are sold and I would think that being the huge resource that pheasant hunting is for South Dakota, that it would have a limit on the licenses being sold to protect the resource and keep the numbers up. Looking at the chart of the number of applicants to the amount sold, I would think you could accommodate everyone. Especially with the huge goose (both snows and Canadians) problem you have. I would think selling NR licenses for the state wide area at least could be sold over the counter. Could also make it were state born applicants are guaranteed a license at a reduced rate from the NR applicants fee. I hope to soon move back to the state, but until then I will continue to apply and keep my fingers crossed until the results are in. Thank You

Michael Detoy  
1828 Helen st.  
Garden City MI 48135

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Thank you for the opportunity to put my "two cents" worth in on this matter. Being from out-of-state but having my son and his family residing in SD I love to hunt waterfowl with him and especially with my 10 year old grandson. But due to your non-resident limited licenses I do not have an opportunity to do that very often. Every year I apply for a non-resident license but have not been all that successful. I don't completely understand your thinking on this issue??? Do you not want money to be pumped into your State's economy? I have been a waterfowl hunter for the better part of 60 years. 4 years ago, when the then 6 year old showed a big interest, I spent over \$15,000.00 having a custom made waterfowl cargo trailer made that is kept in SD, which will be passed on to him. I outfitted it with all the necessary equipment to enjoy with my son and especially my grandson. But I have only been chosen once for a non-resident waterfowl

license. Without a valid license I do not go into the field as I do not want to set a bad example for the 10 year old. Sorry, but I'm from the old school. I have a difficult time believing that increasing the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses in SD would be a detriment to your state in any way. Yes, as of November 1st I can purchase a license over the counter, but that time of the season has a lot to do with the 'northern flight' cooperating and the possibility of a 10 year old losing interest to hunt with his grandpa in some very inclement weather at that time of the year. Folks, I'm not that well educated but have worked hard all of my life and have abided by all the laws, rules and regulations, but not having that many years left to share with my son and especially my grandson in the field, I can honestly tell you that under your present lottery system, you are probably going to make an 'outlaw' out of me before I retire to boot hill. I don't want it to come to that, but you are leaving me with little choice if you don't give me better odds of securing a non-resident waterfowl opportunity prior to November 1.

Respectfully,

Jim Turck

Sorry, but looking back I see where I failed to include my complete address as requested with my prior e-mail regarding non-resident waterfowl licenses. It is as follows:

Jim Turck  
1502 14th Ave So.  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

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Hi my name is Quintin Biermann and I am a resident of Day county South Dakota. I am writing in to inform you that I would like the current license to stay the same as it is with no further license sales or draws being made available. I think we can all learn a lesson from our dwindling pheasant population as well as deer when it comes to commercialization of hunting. Further sales will only allow waterfowl guides to market hunts on a pay to play basis, thus taking away opportunities from small town South Dakota residents as well as up and coming youth. Thanks for your time, -Quintin Biermann

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I think there should be a one day license for waterfowl and upland, I feel we are losing money around the holidays from people that only have one day to hunt so they just take a chance on getting caught and get away with it. I also feel that it should not be a lottery

anymore, my buddy works at a pheasant preserve and he always has guys that see ducks or geese fly over and they want to get a waterfowl license and can't. There certainly would be more people coming up from the south to hunt ducks.

Finally, I the reason we are even thinking about changing the license is because of the Canada geese population we should take a good look at opening up landowner land that doesn't have the landowners name and number on it. Many, many times I've wanted to hunt a field with 500 or so geese in it and would spend a long time trying to get ahold of someone and never do.

Thanks,  
Drew Headrick  
403 west park ave  
Flandreau sd 57028

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Here are a few suggestions:

- Resident "sponsoring" non-resident relative. Read about this being discussed last year.
- Let hunter pick what days to hunt, not a 10 day block. Could be done with license validation notches or through the website with a validation code per day.
- Licenses available over the counter not through drawings.
- ( I will send more if anything else comes to mind ).

+ Bonus teal was great last fall. Thanks for allowing it! I was looking forward to it here in Minnesota but it was "SHOT-DOWN " by a DNR "specialist".

Steve Underwood  
13760 Jade Ave.  
Lamberton, MN 56152  
507-993-5786

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I would like to see an actual transcript rather than a summary of what was discussed. Is there any way you can provide that....its really hard to give feedback based on summaries and I cant get to the meetings as they are during the week and 160 miles away.

Thank You  
Barry Parkin  
Aberdeen  
[nun2brite2002@gmail.com](mailto:nun2brite2002@gmail.com)

please use this email

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Nonresident Waterfowl License Work Group,

I am not in favor of increasing the number of nonresident waterfowl hunting licenses. South Dakota resident hunters should not have their quality of life experience in waterfowl hunting be decreased by an increase in nonresident licenses.

Mark Lawrensen  
1904 Flag Mt. Dr.  
Pierre, SD 57501

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to encourage you to increase the SD non-resident waterfowl hunting opportunities.

I live in Virginia and made my first trip to SD to hunt pheasant and waterfowl in November 2012. Our group of 5 (4 from Virginia, 1 from Louisiana) were fortunate enough to have drawn non-resident waterfowl licenses on our first try without any preference points. We enjoyed 3 days of pheasant and waterfowl hunting near Clark. We were the only waterfowl hunters at the lodge during our stay and we did not observe any other waterfowl hunters in the field during our trip.

I have worked with our group during the last 2 years to set up another trip to SD to hunt pheasants and waterfowl. For 4 of the 5 hunters, the availability of non-resident waterfowl licenses is the single most important factor in whether they will make another trip or not. The uncertainty of drawing a non-resident waterfowl license impacts the overall desire to travel, and the timing of making travel and lodge reservations, and has resulted in our group not being able to put another trip together.

Several of us took advantage of the opportunity to purchase preference points this year for next year's drawing, but that does not appear to offer a significant advantage; my perception is most interested hunters will purchase preference points every year and the odds of drawing a non-resident license will remain unchanged.

Having an increased opportunity to obtain a non-resident waterfowl license would increase the likelihood of us making another trip. We have already discussed the

possibility of making pheasant and waterfowl trips to other states, and a reduction in the non-resident waterfowl hunting opportunity in South Dakota would decrease the likelihood we would return to South Dakota.

Again, I encourage you to increase the SD non-resident waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John Finch  
2215 Somerset Place  
Newport News, VA 23602

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Two years ago I hunted Double P for both Pheasant and waterfowl. The hunt was outstanding. However, to travel from Louisiana to South Dakota for just Pheasant is difficult. When waterfowl is added that makes the trip! The ability to obtain a NR Waterfowl permit for South Dakota WOULD and is a deciding positive factor in making a hunting trip to South Dakota.

Pat Attaway  
102 Yorkshire Pl  
Lafayette, La 70508

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I wanted to contact you in regards to the upcoming committee that will be making decisions and recommendations about non-resident waterfowl licenses.

Twelve years ago I moved to this great state purely based on the non-resident restrictions on waterfowl. In the three years previous I had been successful with the lottery draw twice and the third year failed which led me to the decision that this was the place I wanted to call home. As a result of that move, sincerely and honestly based on waterfowl hunting, I now own a thriving business providing specialty veterinary care, and jobs to SD residents, that previously did not exist in the state. I have attracted other veterinary specialists to the state and expanded an industry not directly related to waterfowl hunting. I bring this up because I know I'm not the only educated professional that calls this state home purely based on the hunting opportunities the state provides. From a career standpoint there are other areas of the country that are much more progressive in my field and places that professionally would make much more sense to

practice.

The impact of increasing license numbers could have an impact far beyond just a hunting numbers game. If the quality of hunting decreases and the ability to obtain licenses become easier, what incentive is there for business owners like myself to stay in the state? While it may make sense to have the increased revenue in the short term, the long-term impact of changing the dynamics of waterfowl hunting in this state could have wider impacts outside of the hunting industry. One only has to take a look at many of the small town restaurants and motels that thrived on the business on out-of-state pheasant hunters only to have the business disappear when more all-inclusive lodges started to become the norm. I think when we look at economic impact of decisions it is easy to look at the initial tally in one column and not whether we are robbing Peter to pay Paul.

I almost hesitate to make the comparison to pheasant hunting, as so often gets made when this non-resident waterfowl discussion is had, because I truly feel the limited waterfowl license decision has a greater precedent, based on the rich heritage and tradition of water fowling in this country. We have treaties with other countries to protect our migrating waterfowl, we have an extensive local, state and national refuge system to protect our migrating waterfowl and one of the most successful conservation programs in history, the Federal Duck Stamp program, is designed to protect waterfowl. I think there are plenty of precedents to say why we limit the numbers of non-residents in this waterfowl rich state. One only has to stop by the landings on the Nebraska side of the river to see the chaos that would ensue, and likely incredible numbers of waterfowl taken, if the state's non-resident hunting restrictions were lessened. This isn't about greed or economics, it is about doing what is right for an international resource. These aren't imported birds that have become a successful invasive species, these are magnificent creatures deeply rooted in our heritage, that we have historically made wide reaching decisions, as a country, to protect.

At the end of the day I feel this is a decision that needs to be made with great care and thought. It isn't a matter of caving to a handful of local guiding and out-of-state interests. There are wider reaching implications of this decision that impact other business owners and residents of the state who also play a vital role in the South Dakota economy. In addition, the precedent has been set in this country that we, as a nation, value our waterfowl resources and have gone to great lengths to protect them and ensure their existence for future generations. As residents of this great state we have an obligation to look at all the potential impacts of our decisions and not just at one column on a balance sheet.

I wholeheartedly support continued restrictions in non-resident waterfowl license numbers and would be very much against raising the current numbers.

I would welcome you to share my thoughts with the other committee members and I would welcome the opportunity to give my opinion in person if the committee feels it would be best to have such a discussion in person.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Joe

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Joe Spoo DVM, CCRT  
Diplomate ACVSMR  
Best Care Pet Hospital  
[www.bestcarepethospital.com](http://www.bestcarepethospital.com)  
[www.gundogdoc.com](http://www.gundogdoc.com)

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1. Please do not increase the allocations in the N.E. for nonresident waterfowl hunters. Leave the hunt as a quality hunt the can get. If these changes are made you can run the risk of putting hunters shoulder to shoulder and have a greater risks of accidents.
  2. I have concerns that if you increase allocations it may lead to guide services leasing all the ground, thus forcing nonresidents to pay big dollars to hunt ducks. I'm sorry but if this happens I will be force to go somewhere else to hunt waterfowl.
  3. The one area I prefer is Britton and with water levels at an all-time low I'm having concerns about going into smaller areas where I have to deal with the crowds.
  4. The closing of the roads which access the WIA has to stop and turned around. Allowing access to this public hunting to areas that they were intended for. Last time I got to hunt I saw thousands and thousands of waterfowl that was not able to hunt.
  5. I really enjoy the duck hunting up here in South Dakota. Now don't get me wrong the goose hunting is good but I have geese here. The experience I got to live on my first hunt in 09 was something you can't forget. Please don't make this difficult for us.

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To the 2015 Nonresident Waterfowl Work Group:

I'm a 30 plus year SD Resident Waterfowl Hunter. I've hunted the creeks of the Northern Black Hills, the Missouri River, Springfield Bottoms, and the Eastern SD counties from Sioux Falls to the ND border.

I have reviewed the information posted on the State Game Fish & Parks website regarding this topic and see some suggestions but specific proposals appear to be in development at this time. HB 1185 allows increases in license sales so it seems logical this will be considered by the group. You have requested comments so I am offering mine here. Thanks in advance for considering my input.

We have quality waterfowl hunting in SD because of the minimal hunting pressure. Increasing numbers of hunters will diminish this. Crowds and waterfowl hunting do not go hand in hand. I remember the ditch hunting north of Pierre in the 80's & 90's and have seen Springfield Bottoms lit up like a small city with flashlights, headlamps, and lanterns predawn as examples. It is also, now, not out of the question to leave a little earlier than necessary in the morning to be certain you are the first at your chosen spot when hunting in Northeast SD.

Non-residents currently have opportunities to hunt waterfowl in SD. A non-resident could hunt here every year if they wished between state and tribal licenses along with border opportunities. Obviously, the State could easily sell more licenses if more were available. The hunting economy could be expanded accordingly, but it would be at the expense of the experience for our resident hunters and the non-residents utilizing currently available options. The compounding effect of seemingly small percentage increases in the waterfowl licenses sold will impact waterfowl hunting in SD. The waterfowl hunting opportunity for SD residents is a special privilege because of the limited competition for the resource from all hunters non-resident and resident.

I encourage you to recommend no increases in the number of nonresident waterfowl licenses offered for sale.

Best Regards,  
Justin DeBerg  
6813 East Archstone Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110.

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Good Morning -- I wanted to let all of you know that I am a strong supporter to get more licenses added to this area. I know for a fact that we lose a lot of business across the river in NE because they have an unlimited number of licenses offered.

I have two small businesses in Springfield, SD. Players Sports Grill & Casino and a 24 hour fitness center Club Fit. The impact and traffic from this season has a huge impact on trying to keep these mom and pop business going.

I appreciate your time and if there is anything I can do please feel free to email me or give me a call anytime.

Thank You,  
Chris

**Christopher J. Libis**

Partner (Ag Division)

[chris@ercjobs.com](mailto:chris@ercjobs.com) | Direct: 605.369.2110

**Executive Recruiting Consultants, Inc.** | 807 8th Street | Suite #201 | Springfield, SD 57062

fax 605.369.2114 | Connect with us  | [www.ercjobs.com](http://www.ercjobs.com)

[Meet Me](#)

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I'm a long-time waterfowl hunter who opposes any increase in Nonresident waterfowl licenses. The fact is Nonresidents currently have an excellent chance of drawing a license and for sure will draw with one preference point. Maintaining the status quo for the number of NR licenses will also maintain a quality hunt for both resident and nonresident hunters. I'm not opposed to considering spatial (zone boundaries) or temporal (early season versus late season) modifications in an effort to spread out hunting pressure. Remember, competition for quality hunting spots is intense and more NR licenses will only make it worse.

Spencer Vaa  
1819 Olwien Street  
Brookings, SD 57006

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Hello, my name is Ben Schopp and I live in Cannon Falls, MN. I would like to give you my views on nonresident hunting in SD.

I have been hunting waterfowl for 39 years and enjoy coming over to South Dakota to hunt. However, opening up unlimited licenses along the borders of South Dakota would

be detrimental for the hunters who live along the borders. Minnesotans would flood the borders and farmers would be overwhelmed with the amount of hunters. The quality of hunting would go down in SD as it has in MN. Lack of areas to hunt, competition etc. I believe your glacial lakes area would be over run and push the ducks out of the area. I have been to places along the Mississippi river where the line to get to the boat ramp was literally a mile long with cars.

Solutions: Allow more hunters to hunt the interior of the state, they would have to travel longer and spend more money in your state.

Move the license dates to 2 five day periods. Again more travel time and spending of money, because many people can't take 10 days off.

Be more liberal with licenses after Nov.1st as many local ducks are gone due to freeze up and snowy weather. Migrating geese are moving in so hunters would be spending money in your state but not shooting as many local birds.

Please look at the number of local hunters in your state for the past 10 years. If the numbers are down then you could balance out those numbers with extra licenses issued to areas within the center of the state.

I know I missed the Feb. meeting but would like you to consider some of these options for future meetings. Thank you

Schopp

n Falls, MN 55009

Ben

Canno

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I believe that issuing more nonresident waterfowl tags could be a very detrimental thing to our resident hunters I have previously hunted in states that have over the counter sales similar to our NR pheasant license and it is not a good thing Arkansas for example is overrun with NR hunters and the locals just wish they had a draw like we have here and I also have NR hunters who come up to hunt with me in the fall and if they didn't draw regular season tags they come up in September and hunt in the conservation goose season and that works well for us and our group but the fields we have are already full with resident hunters it is a growing sport and more South Dakota youth are getting into waterfowl hunting and the last thing we want to do is discourage them from hunting because every time they go out to scout and spend the little bit of money they do have to pay for fuel they get turned down by a land owner because NR hunters have permission to hunt let's put on more youth hunts and activities for the and encourage

them to hunt like the youth hunt in Pierre we also have seen a great decline in habitat for breeding waterfowl in the state over the past few years with the decline of CRP and drain tilling of the wetlands if you ask this avid waterfowl hunter keep the license numbers where they are and if you would like to increase them do nothing drastic if you want to add 100 more tags for the 10 day state wide fine but don't open it up to unlimited or even add more than 200 because the South Dakota resident hunters will feel that impact I promise

Josh Craig  
504 28th St NW  
Watertown SD  
57201

Thank You  
Josh Craig  
#1 Welding  
(605)-868-1042  
[josh1welding@gmail.com](mailto:josh1welding@gmail.com)

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I do not mind the draw, only because I can provide retrieving for other hunters but because I come for waterfowl, does it make sense to divide geese from ducks or in some way provide more opportunity for nonresidents. The explanation given about WW2 veterans was illogical and I hope not true.

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We have hunted SD for the past 16 years.....were unlucky for the first time last year. We've talked many times about how nice it would be to be able to split the license....say two 5-day segments. 10 days is almost a moot point.....if ducks are around, possession limits are filled in 3 or 4 days. We've made many friends out there over the years and it'd be nice to get two chances to travel there in the fall. Just my .02. Thanks

*Boyd A. Hengel*  
*West Central Sanitation*  
[boydhengel@wcsanitation.com](mailto:boydhengel@wcsanitation.com)  
800-246-7630  
320-235-7630

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Hi,

My name is Tim Foerster and I live in Aberdeen at 122 Gorder Drive. I understand that the number of NR licenses is up for debate right now and would like to give my opinion on this matter. In my opinion the waterfowl hunting in South Dakota is becoming crowded with the loss of habitat and the drop in numbers of Canada geese. The aggressive bag limits the last few years coupled with the aggressive nest destruction techniques by the GFP have led to less quality hunting opportunity for the resident South Dakota waterfowler. The thought of issuing more NR licenses is very concerning to me. And in my opinion should be lowered instead of increased. The odds of finding a place to hunt these days are increasingly harder to come by; especially a quality hunt that our resident hunters deserve. Please don't jeopardize the quality of hunting any further than it has already been subjected to. Lower the numbers of NR licenses for the sake of our residents who would like to continue a lifestyle that allows us to enjoy waterfowling with our family and friends who choose to live in South Dakota year round.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tim Foerster

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February 3, 2015

To the Members of the Non-resident Waterfowl Work Group:

There is an assumption that the driver for successful duck hunting in South Dakota is the same as the driver for pheasant hunting—the more birds the better the hunting. Unfortunately, that isn't the case. Unlike pheasant hunting, increased duck numbers do not translate into a comparable increase in harvest. According to GFP data, while mallard production varies dramatically from year to year, harvest numbers remain relatively flat regardless of increases or decreases in the number of birds.

The real determinant for successful duck hunting in South Dakota is opportunity, which requires two factors: birds plus the chance to hunt them. For example, over 350,000 mallards spent weeks on the lower Oahe reservoir in 2014. But because ninety nine-percent of those mallards were in refuges and fed at night, those large numbers didn't translate into opportunities to hunt.

For every wetland that is drained in South Dakota (and the numbers are staggering), for every commercial guide who leases up fields and sloughs for the exclusive use of his paying customers, for every new out-of-state duck license that is issued, opportunity for South Dakotans is diminished. And for that matter, so is the opportunity of the 4,000

current out-of-state duck hunters. In short, duck hunting is a zero sum game--what you give to an out-of-state hunter you take away from a South Dakota hunter. Some suggest that an annual 5 per cent increase in out-of-state licenses will be insignificant. I disagree. By the time a five-year-old South Dakotan is ready to hunt there would be 50 percent more out-of-state hunters than there are today. Therefore, before any consideration is given to increasing the number of out-of-state hunters, I urge the commission to initiate a GFP study that will identify ways to increase opportunity for current duck hunters—both South Dakotans and those from out-of-state. That study might include

- cataloguing and analyzing current duck hunting opportunities on public land and water
- increasing license fees and using the dollars to provide access to currently unreachable public water.
- making hunting opportunity equal consideration to game production potential when evaluating the purchase of land and water easements
- developing strategies for habitat improvement specifically targeted to ducks
- reviewing the purpose of refuges on Lake Francis Case and Lake Sharp

Only after opportunities increase should the commission consider increasing out-of-state licenses.

Finally, commercialization of duck hunting in South Dakota represents a major threat to the average duck hunter. The weekend hunter cannot compete for duck hunting opportunities with businesses that use cash to lease large swaths of land to exclude other hunters. Unlike commercial pheasant hunting, planting pen-raised ducks isn't an option—every duck killed by a commercial operator is taken from a common, public resource.

Sincerely,

William Koupal  
117 South Monroe Ave  
Pierre, SD

---

Hello,

I have hunted waterfowl in SD for at least 35 years and would like to provide my feedback for nonresident hunters. Nonresident licenses should be carefully controlled to specific areas within the state. The issue really isn't about how many licenses the state offers but rather the access hunters have to quality waterfowl hunting locations. Having hunted all over the state, I see no problem offering a large number of nonresident licenses along the Missouri River Corridor in the central part of the state. Nonresidents

must travel some distance to hunt this location and there are plenty of hunting opportunities. The biggest concern I have is the areas around the Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska borders. If additional opportunities for nonresidents to hunt in South Dakota are opened up in these areas, they will be treated as a "local" hunt for those that live close to the border.

Currently the shared waters of the Missouri River along the Nebraska border from Springfield past Vermillion are overrun by too many waterfowl hunters. I understand that those are shared waters but opening up more licenses for longer time periods is going to bring additional hunters into the state beyond the border waters and further pressure the few places there are to hunt. Although the southeast corner of the state is a concern the bigger concern should be the northeast corner of the state.

I have hunted in the northeast most every fall for the past 30 years and can tell you that things are changing. Even though there is a considerable amount of public land, since the number of nonresident licenses was increased some years back, I find it harder and harder to find quality public hunting areas. Observing the other hunters in this area, I would say the vast majority are from MN. If the committee were to open this area up to additional nonresidents by allowing licenses to be purchased for longer than a 10 day period it will be treated as a "local" hunt by nonresidents living near the border and put even greater hunting pressure on this area. The proximity for western MN residents to come to SD on a regular basis will only make our state hunting opportunities similar to what has happened in MN - there are not enough hunting locations for the number of hunters . That is the reason so many Minnesotans want to hunt in SD, because they can't find places to hunt in MN.

I would urge the committee to limit the number of nonresident licenses and keep the length of the license at 10 days. If you compare our nonresident license costs to other states, South Dakota is very reasonable. The nonresident hunter traveling over 250 miles is still going to come regardless of the length of his license and his cost. He is a serious water-fowler and knows he is getting a bargain when hunting in South Dakota. If we increase the number of licenses or the length of the license, it's the local residents of bordering states that will purchase the nonresident license and treat it as a "local" hunt. They will drive to South Dakota, hunt for the day and return home that night. That model just does not seem fair to those of us that live here in the state.

Respectfully,

Whitney Driscoll  
10189 Homestake Rd.

Spearfish, SD 57783

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In regards to letting more out of states in for waterfowling. I am 30 years old and I was born and raised on a farm north of Watertown, that being said hunting has been a part of my life passed on by many generations, I held my first duck with my grandfather at age 3, I now have two sons (age 5 and age 8) as an avid Waterfowler hunting has become very tough due to the increase of residents hunting, getting permission is tough, finding a field is tough, and the biggest thing that is the toughest is the guys that come from out of state hop in their boat and decide to hunt the water and blow the roost! The roost is a safe haven for waterfowl it's a place where they go and guys like us wait patiently for them to lift to hit a field

Take it a bit further! Look at the crowded states that surround us the hunting pressure is enormous! The Waterfowling in South Dakota is already pressured! Due to the fact that the land has changed due to farming practices the waterfowling is a challenge its self already! I want to go even further do you think by overcrowding north eastern South Dakota with more licenses is going to give our future generation a chance to even like the sport or perhaps even have a spot to go!

The pheasant hunting is already messed up here in our area!! Why would you even think that this is good!!? Perhaps a DOLLAR SIGN!!! \$\$\$ !!! I REPEAT DO NOT INCREASE THE LICENESSES ITS ALL READY OVER CROWDED DURING THE FALL WITH RESIDENCE AND THE OUT OF STATERS! LOOK AT NORTH DAKOTA ITS A ISSUE!!! TO MANY PEOPLE! CANADA IS BECOMING THE SAME WAY!!! STUGGART ARKANSAS YOU HAVE TO WAIT THREE HOURS TO GET YOUR BOAT WET!!! WE HAVE SOMETHING THAT NO ONE ELSE HAS INCREASED THE PRICE FOR OUT OF STATE WATERFOWL LICENESSES AND KEEP THE SAME AS WHAT WE ARE DOING AS FAR AS NUMBERS!! WANNA RUIN SOMETHING THAT OUR GRANDFATHERS PUT IN THE BOOK A VERY LONG TIME AGO THIS IS A SURE WAY OF DOING IT! WANNA RUIN THE GROWING YOUTH OF HUNTING THIS IS A SURE WAY OF DOING IT! QUIT THINKING DOLLAR SIGNS AND REVENUE AND THINK THE YOUTH AND WHAT WE HAVE!! WE ALL READY HAVE ISSUES WITH WATERFOWL PRESSURE AND OUT OF STATE HUNTER AND FISHERMAN PUSHING WATERFOWL!! LOOK AT THE LAKES DURING WINTER FULL OF TRASH EVERYWHERE!!

DO NOT INCREASE THE NUMBER OF OUT OF STATE LICENSES!!

JOE SEARS  
211 5TH AVE SW  
WATERTOWN,SD 57201  
605-868-1123

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To whom it may concern:

Finding ground to hunt now is tough enough without having to fight for it with NR hunters. Things are fine the way it is. I for one do not want waterfowl hunting to turn into the ZOO of pheasant hunting. You have to remember why, we limit the NR tags in the first place. During WWII while the boys were fighting the NR from all across the country leased up the hunting land. Well when the boys came home they had no place to hunt. The legislature acted swiftly in that matter. History will repeat itself. NO NO NO, to NR hunters.

Tim Amy  
352 8th St NE  
Watertown, SD 57201  
605-310-7457

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Waterfowl hunting is a large passion of mine, and of many other South Dakota residents. It's already hard to find a good waterfowl spot to hunt with almost zero non-residents around. Think about all the resident kids who won't be able to hunt geese because there's too much pressure on the birds. In my opinion, the non-resident waterfowl license should stay the way it is. If the state wants more money, it should just raise the small game license. If we change the non-resident waterfowl license so the out of state hunters can hunt anywhere and everywhere, whenever they want, the state will see a good number of upset residents. Waterfowl hunting means more than anything in the world to me. It's the last thing we have to ourselves. Why take it away from us?

- Brady Johnke

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Mr. Lief,

I want to thank you for your work on behalf of South Dakota as it relates to Waterfowl Licenses. I want to convey my deep disappointment however on where things seem to be headed. While I have great respect for our avid South Dakota Hunters (My family and friends are part of this group) I have to question the validity of any conversation resulting in the reduction of access to licenses in the Northeast quadrant of the state when demand for resident licenses seems to be dwindling. Our neighbors in North Dakota seem to have no such objections and often site the economic impact Non-resident hunting has on their state as a predominant consideration in how it devises its ability to issue licenses, while I'm equally certain they too work to manage wildlife and resident hunting rights. With as many revenue challenges as the state currently faces I'm astounded that in South Dakota the non-resident hunter revenue seems to be a minor consideration. I'd welcome your insight and correction if I am materially misunderstanding where we are at in the process.

The issue for GF&P as well as Resident and Non-resident hunters is huge and while I understand it is a resource management issue I am hopeful we can find a balance that has considerable deference for the revenue a Non-Resident hunter contributes to our economy.

Best Regards,

Randy J. Grismer  
General Manager  
Best Western Ramkota Hotel  
Aberdeen, SD  
Phone: 605-229-4040  
Fax: 605-229-0480

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Senator Van Gerpen, Representative Hawley, Representative Werner, Commissioner Jensen and Commissioner Dennert:

It has come to my attention that talks have started regarding the current number of waterfowl licenses that are available in the state and are actually being sold. To introduce myself: I own an art studio and am managing a business in Tyndall, the Art & Antique Gallery. I am currently President of the Tyndall Chamber, a committee member of DISCOVER BON HOMME ( a grass roots project to promote tourism in our county), and a big supporter of shopping local. I am keenly aware of the need for tourism in this area, as I also served three years on the Southeast South Dakota Tourism Association Board of Directors, where I learned that the small towns have to

Speak up a little more loudly if we want to see improvements in our local economy and quality of life.

My comments concern the area which includes Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Yankton, Clay and Union Counties, and the businesses and services that benefit when we are a destination for hunters and other visitors.

It is my opinion that this area should be considered for 50 more season long licenses for waterfowl - there is no such thing as too many hunters or too many visitors or too many customers. If these licenses are not being sold in other areas, as I understand that this is happening, then it is really in the best interest of everyone involved to have those licenses available where they are needed. The economic impact of the additional hunting traffic here would be significant, not only to those businesses nearest to the waterfowl hunting areas, but also for the businesses in towns close by....restaurants, lodging, gas, groceries, auto repairs, hunting supplies, shopping, and the list goes on.

Please consider these comments as you negotiate through the next meetings and take into account the need for these changes to be made regarding number of licenses available, as they would certainly benefit us here in Bon Homme County.

Thank you for your attention.

Judy Mace, Business Owner  
Tyndall SD

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Dear SD GFP Commission Member;

I am writing to provide my input, opinion, and raise questions for review regarding the rules for SD nonresident waterfowl licenses in unit 00A86. Below are 3 points I want to address. The ultimate solution to all concerns below is to do away with the 250 nonresident license limit in unit 00A86 and offer unlimited nonresident licenses.

**250 NONRESIDENT LICENSE LIMIT IN UNIT 00A86** - The predominant number of nonresident hunters applying for this unit hunt the Missouri River. Nebraska, which shares the river, does not limit the number of non-resident licenses to hunt the very same water. By you limiting the number, you are just limiting the number of licenses you sell and causing hunters to buy a NE license by default and hunt the same water they would hunt if they possessed a SD nonresident license.

In 2013 there were 385 applications for the 250 nonresident licenses, so 135 applicants were turned down. Everyone I know who was in that group turned around and bought a NE license as their second choice.

**MIGRATORY WATERFOWL.** South Dakota has a good nesting population of waterfowl, providing a good number of local birds to hunt. I have no idea of percentages, but that number pales in comparison to the number of migrating waterfowl passing through. Why do you limit the number of licenses to hunt birds that are not even raised in SD?

**BOAT RAMP ACCESS** – You prohibit the use of your boat ramps by nonresident waterfowl hunters unless they possess a SD nonresident waterfowl hunting license. The catch here is with your 250 license limit you refuse to sell a license to everyone who wants one. A significant number of unsuccessful SD license applicants resort to buying a NE license so they can still hunt the same water but you won't let them use your boat ramps.

I understand not wanting non-resident hunters by choice purchasing the cheaper and broader NE license and then turning around and using your boat ramps. But to limit the number of licenses and then refuse unsuccessful license applicants from using your boat ramps just does not smell right.

If you continue to limit the number of non-resident licenses, I propose either:

1) An "unsuccessful draw" letter for a nonresident SD Waterfowl license serve as a SD shore or boat ramp access permit for that season.

2) Sell to unsuccessful license applicants a shore or boat ramp access permit for \$50.

Thank you for your time and attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Joe Uran

3812 Jones St

Sioux City IA 51104-1448

712-277-3812

[t08051@yahoo.com](mailto:t08051@yahoo.com)

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My name is Greg McCann. I have lived in Southern Bon Homme County, on the shores of the Missouri River and Lewis and Clark Reservoir, for over 65 years. I have been an avid hunter and fisherman for almost all of that time, hold a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Zoology and used that education to manage wildlife on my farm with great success.

It has come to my attention from Senator Van Gerpen that there have been allegations by a few individuals that out of state waterfowl hunters have made the Lewis and Clark area too crowded. They allege that out of state hunters leave decoys and blinds on the lake, and are generally undesirable. It has been my experience over the last 40 years that these allegations are completely unfounded. From the deck of my house I can see and count blinds for about 36 square miles. We watch the activity closely almost every day. The highest number of blinds I have counted was 18. This would equate to 1 blind per 2 square miles, certainly not overcrowded. I also spend a large amount of time on this area of water. If there are decoys or blinds being left on the water, they are few and far between. Also, these abandoned decoys would eventually wash up on shore. I frequently travel over 3 miles of shoreline, and rarely find a decoy. The out of state hunters I have encountered over my time here have been courteous and law abiding.

On the other hand, myself, other local hunters, and land owners have had problem encounters with South Dakota hunters mainly from the towns of Pickstown, Yankton, and Vermillion along with a few Nebraska hunters. During one of these encounters several years ago I was shot at when unknowingly got too close to one of their blinds. I have also caught some of them hunting on my land without permission in a field where I had cattle grazing corn stalks. Last year, a South Dakota hunter tried to run off hunters I had given permission to by telling them they owned the land, and not me. This is just a sampling of the problems some of these problem hunters have caused, in addition to throwing their empty beer cans and garbage, including cleaned duck remains along Apple Tree Road East of Springfield where I live.

The addition of more Waterfowl permits seems to me to be a winning situation for the local businesses, as well as the State and local government. The facilities at Springfield, Sand Creek lake use area, Charlie Creek, and other launch areas are certainly not over crowded. On the busiest days there is plenty of room for additional boats and their occupants. The revenue created by the additional permits could be substantial. This raises the question, have these facilities been created and maintained for just a select few, or can they be used by more hunters and sportsmen to raise money for the state? South Dakota is now losing hunters who would rather stay and hunt out of our state to Nebraska. The hunters hunt wherever they wish on the lake regardless of which side they

launch their boat from. Why not sell the South Dakota waterfowl tags that generate money for the state, especially when the additional hunters will have very little, if any, impact on waterfowl hunting on the Lewis and Clark Reservoir?

As a lifelong resident of South Dakota and Southern Bon Homme County, a hunting enthusiast, Wildlife Zoologist, and farmer I feel our wildlife should be controlled for their benefit first and enjoyed by all people. Not just a few who wish to restrict others and keep hunting areas for themselves.

I would be more than happy to discuss any of these issues with you at any time. I can be reached at (605)-464-1279. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Greg McCann  
31133 Bon Homme Road  
Tabor, SD 57063  
6054641279  
[greg@thecoganhouse.com](mailto:greg@thecoganhouse.com)

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Thank you for posting the workgroup information from the first meeting. I found it helpful. I presume that the February second meeting took place. I look forward to the minutes and also the copies of information made available to the members for this meeting also being posted to this site. .

Regards,

LLoyd Hodgin, Aberdeen.

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Kelly Hepler  
SD GFP  
523 East Capital Ave  
Pierre SD 57501  
Dear Mr. Hepler;

I am writing to provide my input, opinion, and raise questions for review regarding the rules for SD nonresident waterfowl licenses in unit 00486. Below are 3 points I want to address. The ultimate solution to all concerns below is to do away with the 250 nonresident license limit in unit 00A86 and offer unlimited nonresident licenses.

**250 NONRESIDENT LICENSE LIMIT IN UNIT 00A86** - The predominant number of nonresident hunters applying for this Unit, hunt the Missouri River. Nebraska, which shares the river, does not limit the number of non-resident licenses to hunt the very same water. By you limiting the number, you are just limiting the number of licenses you sell and causing hunters to buy a NE license by default and hunt the same water they would hunt if they possessed a SD nonresident license.

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**BOAT RAMP ACCESS** - You prohibit the use of your boat ramps by nonresident waterfowl hunters unless they possess a SD nonresident waterfowl hunting license. The catch here is with your 250 license limit you refuse to sell a license to everyone who wants one. A significant number of unsuccessful SD license applicants resort to buying a NE license so they can still hunt the same water but you won't let them use your boat ramps. I understand not wanting non-resident hunters by choice purchasing the cheaper and broader NE license and then turning around and using your boat ramps. But to limit the number of licenses and then refuse unsuccessful license applicants from using your boat ramps just does not smell right.

If you continue to limit the number of non-resident licenses, I propose either:

- 1) An 'unsuccessful draw' letter for a non-resident SD waterfowl license serve as a SD boat ramp access permit for

that season.

2I Sell to unsuccessful license applicants a boat ramp access permit for \$50.

Thank you for your time and attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Y Joe Uran

3812 Jones St

Sioux City IA 51104-1448

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I am not sure why you need a lottery system in place for waterfowl licenses? I grew up in Peever, SD and now live in Mandan, ND. North Dakota allows all nonresident hunters the opportunity to hunt within the state. In my opinion, the waterfowl hunting is better in North Dakota. Is there not enough land for everyone to hunt in South Dakota? Why does South Dakota make it so difficult to get an out-of-state waterfowl license? Many of the birds harvested in South Dakota are migratory. It would be beneficial to SDGFP financially to allow more non-residents to harvest these migratory birds. Please respond to my questions and let me know economically how the SDGFP comes out ahead by limiting the number of non-resident licenses. I am sure there are many former South Dakotans who would like to come back occasionally to hunt with family members, but having a lottery system eliminates this possibility for some of them.

Thanks,

Justin Fryer

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Dear Work Group,

I have been closely following the discussion regarding the NR waterfowl work group. I feel that the current system allows a quality experience for all. I do think that license numbers could be very slightly increased. But, with that increase I would like to see more defined zones to better spread pressure during peak migration/hunting times. The biggest issue that I have heard of is the discussion of lack of money (through license sales) to fund the Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Area. And furthermore the thought that we need to sell more NR waterfowl licenses to pay for this area. As a resident sportsman who LOVES the LOWAA I do not believe we need to sell our resources to NR hunters to pay for this area. Resident hunters would gladly pay an additional yearly access fee to help pay for the area. It is unfair to place the burden of this access area on others. Those who use it should be a big part in paying for it. The LOWAA is a great thing that has opened access to incredible goose hunting in an area

that used to be heavily commercialized. A \$10-20 per year fee, per hunter, would be more than acceptable.

I would also like express my disappointment that community tourism agencies have been allowed to testify at the discussions while no resident hunters have been allowed in. Though we have representation through the work group I feel it is wrong to let one group in while not allowing another.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Eric Anderson  
Spearfish, SD

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Dear Sirs, Each fall we have waterfall hunters that stay at our lodge and drive 25 miles to North Dakota to hunt waterfowl. We have over 50 public hunting areas within 25 miles of our lodge, owned by South Dakota that does not have hunters on them! We have many spots to hunt but no hunters to keep the ducks and geese moving. South Dakota Game Fish and Parks called and asked me if they could come and drill holes in the goose eggs on our property because there are too many geese in our area. I said no! I feel they should be harvested and not aborted! If South Dakota is so scared of commercialized waterfall hunting then restrict the out of state hunters to public hunting areas only. South Dakota is missing out big time on an opportunity that could bring in millions of dollars! South Dakota is way behind on this issue! Sincerely, Lorrie C. Sanderson owner and manager of Hidden Hill Lodge Roslyn S.D.

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Tony Leif:

Please increase our number of non-resident waterfowl hunting licenses, especially the 3 day type.

Locals are worried that Out-of –State Hunters will take all our waterfowl and they will use big money to buy our wetlands.

The 3 day type will be a win win for us. Out of Staters can come and enjoy our State, and we the taxpayers can be Thankful that we have some extra monies in the coffers, so we don't have to put so much in. Plus waterfowl is a resource that moves thru our State.

One more point, stop, cease, quit, pithing waterfowl eggs. That is the dumbest thing I've ever heard of. We the sportsmen will pay to hunt those birds!

Dana Randall

Life time Hunter  
Mina, SD

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iPhoneGood day sir. As I understand it there is a push to lower the lic number. While I was not in favor of raising the number I feel it would not be good at all to lower the number. I do not guide or have anything to do with the bios mess end of it though I use to. I feel very strongly that no residents should have as much opportunity as possible to come back and visit relatives and friends participating in this great sport. From listening to and interviewing people on this subject the complaint of over pressure is limited to weekends and many say they see very few hunting during the week which is also what I see and experience living here in the NE corner. If you find that you need to reduce the number of licenses for our area I would highly recommend making that number that you reduce it by, available in lic that would only be valid mom- thur. Talking to people that prioritize their money and time on the sport they love, they would be glad to see that option. The state would get the license money they badly need and it would not hurt commerce in this out state area that needs it. It also would be something people on both sides could understand so as not to make the problem solving look like a selfish power grab on the part of the state of sd. Thanks. Any questions feel free to contact me at this email. Joe

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Thanks for the opportunity for feedback on the nonresident waterfowl licenses. It appears in the NE area, an increase of 250 licenses could easily be sold over the 500 currently allocated. These could be 3 day licenses. Much revenue is being lost for GFP plus the economic impact to area business.

Also harvest information should be published to see the actual numbers of waterfowl harvested based on the number of licenses weighed against the lost revenue. Much like the pheasant harvest per hunter. The annual harvest would never reach full limits/hunter and the state is losing huge amounts of revenue.

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We are displaced dairy farmers because of the water in the late 90's. We rose above the challenges, and began a lodging business on our Day County farm. We have been through the good and the bad with this business, the most recent being that drastic reduction in the pheasant population. We were fortunate enough to replace our pheasant hunters with NR waterfowl hunters. Please do not allow the number of

licenses for this area to be reduced. Our well-being depends on it for survival. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Paul and Karen Johnson, Webster, SD

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Good afternoon.

When will the February 2 meeting summary be available to review on the website like the 12/29 meeting?

**Mike Piercy, P.E.**

Project Manager, Water Resources

**LAYNE** | water + mineral + energy

**721 W. Illinois Ave. | Aurora, IL | 60506**

Office: 630-897-6941 | Cell: 708-514-1433 | Fax: 630-897-6976

[mike.piercy@layne.com](mailto:mike.piercy@layne.com) | [layne.com](http://layne.com)

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where are the minutes of the last meeting? I'm waiting to comment until I see those; thanks

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Here is a breakdown of just one group of 9 hunters that elected to hunt Kansas this season because they could get waterfowl tags in terms of lost licensing revenue alone.

These numbers are based on what this group purchased in 2012.

- (9) NR small game licenses = \$990
- (5) NR Waterfowl = \$550
- (4) NR fishing = \$240
- (4) NR anydeer archery tags = \$1140
- (4) NR antlerless tags = \$240

Loss licensing revenue from one single group = \$3160! Repeated at least 20 times a year just with us.

This money could be utilized for badly needed renovation and restoration of public hunting land and landowner programs targeting public hunting throughout the state. Instead we have public hunting land that is overgrown with brome grass and noxious weeds, pastures and CRP being plowed under, and a few resident hunters shooting hundreds of birds a season that get dropped off a local meat lockers.

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Have you cut down on the number of non-resident license over the past few years. Our group of 3 or 4 has not drawn 2 of the last 3 years. Hunting Pheasant in S.D. over the past few years has not been very good with the loss of CRP ground. For a non-resident who hunts waterfowl and pheasant, and not getting a waterfowl license may be a deterrent to hunting in South Dakota.

I live on the shores of Green Bay in Wisconsin and our Department of Natural Resources has finally starting to eradicate an invasive species called Phragmites along our wetlands. Over the past few years I have seen a large increase in the growth of Phragmites in the wet lands I hunt in McPherson County. S.D..This invasive species will take over your wetlands and crowd out native plants. This will become a large threat to waterfowl and pheasant in your great State.

Jeff Zeratsky  
2524 Redpath Dr.  
Marinette Wi.  
54143  
[jdzeratsky@hotmail.com](mailto:jdzeratsky@hotmail.com)

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Hello,

I am pleased to see the communication channel to this work group now open – perhaps I missed it in the past. I am writing to express my deep concern on the policy with regard to Non-resident waterfowl licenses, specifically, how this applies to current out of state landowners who are former residents. First, I must acknowledge the practice of limiting the quantity of NR licenses is, in my opinion, good policy. There are many advantages – most notably to the resident waterfowler. I have seen firsthand the effect of 'opening' the door to NR hunters in the state of Oklahoma – where I do most of my waterfowl hunting. While the revenue to the State of OK is obviously good, the effect of hunting pressure on the birds is quite high which causes less than ideal hunting experiences. The policy on NR licenses in SD is good and I appreciate that.

However, I must admit that my concern, and frustration, lies with the aforementioned categories: Current NR landowners that were born, raised, and attended college in SD. I am in that category. There is nothing more I enjoy than returning to SD from TX (my current residence) each weekend in the Fall to hunt on my property (320 acres in Brule County) with my siblings and the entire family that still resides in Sioux Falls. Pheasant and Waterfowl. My pheasant license, however, is limited and I cannot hunt waterfowl...as you know. So my waterfowl hunting experience boils down to

accompanying the family on hunts, which is tremendous in itself. I don't apply for the NR waterfowl license because I think it's contradictory to current NR landowners who are 'Favorite Sons' and frankly, in my opinion, just not right. I pay taxes in the great State of SD. I bring revenue to the State when I bring clients to hunt on my land – I am not a guide or have a commercial lodge, however. I am just a former resident who was born, raised, and attended school in SD that wants to hunt Waterfowl with my family.

I implore this work group to revisit this policy and perhaps make some adjustments in order to provide the licensing policy a bit more flexible for people like me. I love the State of SD and believe the SDGFP is among the leaders across all other State wildlife departments.

Thank You,

Mike Rogers  
Triple R Farms  
972-333-4886

---

Hello, I am a non resident hunter who purchased a house and small acreage in SD in 2000. I hunt small game and waterfowl when I am successfully drawn, and bring many friends and family to introduce them to SD way of life. Generally a good experience. When I talk about waterfowl hunting and specifically the NR waterfowl lottery system and ten consecutive day license along with the cost, I usually hear a response that goes one of two ways. Either they don't believe what I am telling them, or they say "not interested". Never do I hear, show me how to apply.

I understand you sell out of the statewide every year (00B) and short of adding more licenses or increasing the price, the GFP won't generate more money. However, if you allow 2 five day increments similar to the NR small game license you would unquestionably see more people willing to spend money to make a second trip! And that generates a good deal of money to local economies. SD could also generate more GFP money. For example; if you are drawn successfully you have a choice of 1 ten day license at the current rate or 2 five day license for an addition \$50. I think you would get a very positive response. As everyone understands, no NR can hunt 10 consecutive days, it is a fallacy to even suggest the normal NR has a 10 day waterfowl license.

In the area that I hunt (mostly Douglas and Aurora counties) I normally don't see another waterfowl hunter on Public land and some days don't even hear another shot. I don't think overcrowding is an issue at this point.

Thanks for the avenue to have my input heard, and hopefully you can give some thoughts around my suggestions.

I would love to hear a response from someone on this committee if possible.

Sincerely,  
Steve McLain

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Hello –

I speak against raising the number of out of state waterfowl licenses. In the areas I hunt in Eastern SD, primarily Lake, Kingsbury, Miner, Clark, Brookings Roberts, Day, McPherson and others, a common response from a landowner when I knock on their door is “your about the 10<sup>th</sup> guy that has called”. So the hunting pressure is very high where the birds are. When I scout birds and find a field with birds in it, I do not even usually stop and look, I immediately keep driving until I find the landowner, and often there is a hunter in a pickup already turning into the yard or just pulling out. More out of state hunters will make this even worse than it already is.

I understand the comments already received on this issue break down as follows:

- 90% of SD residents against raising the number of out of state licenses
- 40% of non-residents against raising the number of out of state licenses.

These numbers are significant, especially the out of state hunters. The issue for the vast ***majority*** of hunters who commented is finding a quality hunt. The issue for the ***minority*** who want more licenses is money for pay to hunt commercial operations. An increase in out of state waterfowl licenses will lead to more commercialization of waterfowl hunting and less opportunity for resident waterfowl hunters. More out of state licenses will mean even more hunters knocking on doors, and landowners, who already getting many calls during the busy harvest time, may not be happy with getting even more. Protect the quality of the hunt, do not degrade it with increased commercialization. Do not increase the number of out of state licenses just to benefit commercial hunting operators.

Sincerely  
Jeff Rud  
814 S Grant Avenue  
Madison, SD

---

I would like to see a season long license for West River. I would buy one. Lots of ducks on the prairie and not a lot of hunters

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I would hope that South Dakota keeps licenses to people who live outside our state to a very limited number. As we continue to lose areas to hunt each year due to farming practices, those of us who live in South Dakota year round should not have to be in competition with those from other states who have a much higher income and want to hunt here a few days a year.

People who set the limits on bag limits continue to raise the limit in hopes of attracting more hunters. Hunting becomes more expensive each year, the cost is what is discouraging new younger hunters as well as current hunters to hunt.

We used to have great goose hunting in Grant and Day counties that I like to hunt, but the early season has turned October and November into extremely difficult hunting. In the last couple of years, I have noticed much fewer Canadian geese in these areas as well.

GFP promotes people to get into fishing with a free fishing weekend. How about a free hunting weekend if there really is a Canadian goose problem? This would be for residents only. I would also like to see any hunting at all in August and September be for residents only.

Please keep our South Dakota hunting heritage something that people who live here year round ours. Letting a few come in and hunt for a limited time will show them how good it is to live in South Dakota and they can move to our state if they want to hunt.

Kevin Cantine  
48026 148th Street  
Milbank, SD 57252

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I had the privilege of hunting South Dakota 3 of the last 4 waterfowl seasons. I very much enjoy hunting South Dakota with the following remarks. Many of the land owners allow waterfowl hunting in the sloughs and potholes on their property. However there are some WPA and WMA areas surrounded by private property and they do not allow

access across their property or parking on their property. Many WPA/WMA areas have limited parking areas on the WPA/WMA. It will help to have more or better access. I love hunting in South Dakota. It is beautiful land and most of the folks are friendly to out of state hunters. I really appreciate the South Dakota State Game, Fish and Parks department. They provide the best information resources, documentation, guides on hunting than I have seen from any other state. It is a great department and I commend them.

This year I headed North and hunted waterfowl in North Dakota and Canada. North Dakota has a better access system than South Dakota. They have open for hunting land unless otherwise posted. IT is a much more enjoyable and convenient way to hunt and I suggest South Dakota take a look at North Dakota's policy. They seem to **encourage out of state hunters** (I think they realize the money we bring to the state) where I get the impression **South Dakota allows out of state hunting**.

Regards,  
Phil Howard from Kentucky  
270-924-3632

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Dear Work Group,

I grew up in South Dakota, moved out of state, and have been returning as a nonresident waterfowl hunter since 1997. My comments are as follows;

- 1) I would not like to see the number of NR licenses increase/change too much. While I understand there are years I may not have a successful draw, I appreciate the opportunity to hunt with limited hunting pressure. I don't want to see South Dakota go the way of North Dakota.
- 2) I would like to see an option to break up the 10 day license into two 5 day periods.

I was glad to see that the above work group was formed, and I appreciate the opportunity to provide my thoughts.

Thank You,

**Joel Carlson**  
16163 Pinkney Street

Omaha NE 68116  
402-680-4216

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I understand that a South Game, Fish & Parks Commission meeting will be held April 1-2 at Brookings, SD to formulate possible changes in Non-Resident Waterfowl allocations for this and future years.

I have hunted small game in South Dakota continuously since 1970 traveling from Wisconsin and now Colorado. My family and I have been treated as family by owners of a family farm near Redfield all those years--providing pheasant hunting that has been most enjoyable and memorable!

ONE VERY DISAPPOINTING ASPECT OF OUR ANNUAL SOUTH DAKOTA HUNTS HAS BEEN WHAT SEEMS TO US AND OTHER SD SMALL GAME HUNTERS IS WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE ARBITRARY AND LESS THAN FRIENDLY WATERFOWL ALLOCATIONS SOUTH DAKOTA IMPOSES ON WE OUT OF STATE HUNTERS.

I know of no other state where hunters purchasing FEDERAL WATERFOWL STAMPS plus over \$100 for a SD Waterfowl Permit are routinely denied the opportunity to hunt MIGRATORY WATERFOWL THAT BREED IN CANADA, NORTH DAKOTA AND SOUTH DAKOTA. During the many years I've hunted in SD in only a few have I even seen any waterfowl hunters--yet in the exceptionally good waterfowl years like the last several we've watched thousands of ducks and geese WITHOUT A LEGAL OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT THEM!

It is most interesting to me that I know of NO LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF PHEASANT LICENSES SOLD IN SD TO NON-RESIDENTS, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO WATERFOWL THAT ARE AN INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE WE WHO PURCHASE 'DUCK STAMPS' ARE OFTEN WATCHING ANOTHER YEAR GO BY WITHOUT DUCK HUNTING IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

MEANWHILE WATERFOWL HUNTERS IN THE STATES SOUTH OF SOUTH DAKOTA HARVEST DUCKS AND GEESE ALL THE WAY THROUGH TEXAS AND INTO THE COUNTRY OF MEXICO!

MY FAMILY AND I URGE YOU TO CHANGE THIS WATERFOWL HUNTING POLICY TO ALLOW WE OUT-OF-STATERS TO SHARE IN ONE OF THE ATTRIBUTES THAT WOULD LEND CREDENCE TO SOUTH DAKOTA'S MOTO "GREAT FACES, GREAT PLACES!"

If important I am willing to travel to Brookings to testify at the GFP Commission Meeting in April.

Thank you, Howard Goetsch, 4115 County Road 16, Cotopaxi, CO 81223 Phone: (719) 942-5188

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The State of South Dakota would not see any benefit. In fact the increased hunting pressure will decrease the number of huntable birds as they will migrate south faster and then instead of hunting South Dakota if I have been lucky enough to be chosen in the draw – I will hunt down south. Please DO NOT increase the number of non-resident licenses.

DON'T TURN INTO NORTH DAKOTA!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It's no longer a great waterfowl state.

*Steve Draginis*  
Territory Business Manager  
Prior Lake, MN

Cell: (612) 437-3925

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I am glad to hear the SDPGF is considering amendments to allow youth waterfowl licenses. The cost of a South Dakota license is cost prohibitive for many non-residents who may wish to include their children in South Dakota waterfowl hunting. I have been coming to SD for 15+ years to hunt the Missouri river near Springfield and would love to see a more child-friendly system. Good luck in your discussions.

**David J. Brehm**, Attorney At Law  
Firestone, Brehm, Wolf, Whitney & Young LLP  
6 S. Vernon St.  
P.O. Box 321  
Sunbury, Ohio 43074  
(740)- 965-2226  
(740) 965- 2505 fax  
[dbrehm@fbylaw.com](mailto:dbrehm@fbylaw.com)

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First, thank you for the small concession in the possession limit. It was getting hard to eat as you hunt.....BUT how about (2) 5 day periods so I'd come back to the state again. Most I know now do a weekend and it's over. Many would return, spend \$, and smile a lot.

Marty Ahrendt - President  
Finkbiner Equipment Co., Inc.  
Phone 630-654-3700 Fax 630-654-3792  
[mahrendt@finkbinerequipment.com](mailto:mahrendt@finkbinerequipment.com)

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First we do not need any more NR Waterfowl hunters. If you are looking for more revenue, why not raise NR fishing, hunting and trapping licenses? We need to have a license for all outfitters operating in SD, plus all guides should have a license, plus maybe take a test, have at least a current CPR plus a First Aid Card. Pay a yearly fee for licenses. This would be a good source of income plus have some restrictions like lose your license if you have any hunting/fishing violations. Also, guides should not carry a gun while guiding. Guide only, not hunt. Although we have an abundance of WPA game production areas that are good for raising waterfowl and pheasants etc. they are good for pheasant hunting but not that conducive for waterfowl hunting. Example: Park Here No Vehicles Beyond This Point. No way to haul in decoys, boat, lunch, or use your dog because you are parked at the sign with no access to the water except by walking in so you are standing in the mud without a place for your dog, lunch, coffee. Any place with boat access which means usually dragging the boat and equipment from a gravel road all the other duck hunters will also be there competing for a spot. We sure do not need more NR duck hunters there too. Do we need more nonresidents leasing land or buying for hunting? Lessons learned from 1947. Thank You Life Long SD Resident and Duck Hunter for 51 Years. Richard Carlson 112 N Pasque Flower Trail Brandon SD 57005 Phone 605-582-2158

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My son and I hunted year in your great state. We hunted around Eureka the third week of October. After hunting that week my 12 year old son wanted to renounce his Ohio citizenship and defect to South Dakota. We has an awesome time. I was rather pleasantly surprised on the overall opportunities on public and private land for waterfowl. Also I am surprised on the fact that NR waterfowl license are to be drawn for, given the fact we saw only one other waterfowler all week. I do realize that it's a big state and we may not have been in a high pressure area. However, I could see a larger allotment of NR waterfowl licenses for the area we hunt. Not that I would want to see a bunch more people, but we got permission to hunt ponds right near the road that had scores of ducks in plain sight. Yet, no one was hunting them. With the popularity of deer hunting waterfowler numbers have remained fairly constant. Additionally when the federal duck stamp increases to \$25 there will be a decline in the

number of duck hunters. These aren't die hard hunters that would likely travel to your state, but there will be less waterfowlers nationwide.

To sum up, I feel your state could handle a larger influx of NR waterfowl hunters. How much more, I couldn't answer that. If a youth NR waterfowl license is offered my son will be the first in line.

Regards,

Daniel W. Milo

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To whom it may concern:

I wanted to pass on the opinion of either offering more zones to distribute hunting pressure. For example, I like to hunt in Brule County. I have yet to see another waterfowl hunter in all the years of hunting this area (locals and Nonresident included). Yet it seems like I get drawn every other year. Given the pressure in this area, it would be nice to have the licenses for areas of low pressure. I believe SD would sell more nonresident licenses without impacting the pressure of the main areas like the NE Corner.

In addition, I have a 14 and 12 year old daughters that i am getting into hunting. A way to get them licenses that would be more of a guarantee would be great.

I love the state of SD and value my hunting rights. I appreciate the committee looking for suggestions.

My number is 612-799-4142 if you want to reach me.

Sincerely,

Jim Bunkers

---

Hello,

I have been an avid waterfowl and pheasant hunter in South Dakota for the past 20 years. I am s resident of Minnesota but I have purchased two properties in South Dakota to enjoy the hunting opportunity your state provides.

I have always been challenged with the number of lottery licenses available for nonresident waterfowl hunters. I don't understand the logic behind limiting the number of hunters to such a low number when SD has an abundance of waterfowl hunting opportunities. This is revenue the state is passing on. Pheasant hunting is open to non residents without any restriction on the number of hunters and the number of licenses each hunter wishes to purchase.

In addition, the license restriction to 1 each 10 day consecutive hunt is inhibiting when scheduling a migratory hunt. I would like to see at a minimum the license be split into 2 separate 5 day hunts, similar to the pheasant license.

I do appreciate the fact that SD has initiated this work group approach to gathering input from your customer base. I look forward to proactive actions being taken in the future to accommodate the non-resident hunter without compromising the integrity of your available resources.

John A. Anderson  
8424 Vagabond Court  
Maple Grove, MN 55311

Regards,  
John A. Anderson  
Tapco Circuit Supply  
Sr. Account Manager  
Office: 763-390-1094  
Cell: 763-360-7606

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I just hope that you guys consider all the Outfitters that will flood the state as they do in other states that do not restrict the number of license. I do not have a problem with more tags being offered but I do not want to lose my spots because some clown is offering money to hunt especially if they are not even from the state. Hunters here in Lake Preston already put up with these people. In many cases they do not even tell the land owners what they are doing. Please consider ways that limit how many guides can ransack an area.

Thanks,  
Jason Paul

Lake Preston

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Greetings,

I have been a long time non-resident water-fowler to the great state of South Dakota and am trying to understand what exactly will be different , as far as the application or licensing process, for me this year in 2015. I do not want to lose the chance to continue this great tradition.

My group (3-4 guys) has always applied for the three-day license in the northeast (Webster and Waubay 00Y) area. Our schedules and budgets just hasn't allowed us to make multiple hunting trips. Recently our draw rate has been less than 50% so we only get to hunt about every 3rd year.

Is there a way to increase our draw rate? Would applying statewide for a 10 day license improve our chances of being drawn? If we did that , would we be able to hunt in Day county?

Any information or advice would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mike Sasser ( New Ulm, Minnesota)

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Thank you for the time that the group has put into this. I live in Unit B near Claire City. The end of October this year was a circus. Hunters were everywhere. I try to get out every day and saw this first hand. There was trespassing and trickery. One person would ask permission and when it was received many vehicles would enter fields. What bothered me the most was the trash that was left.

Weekend hunting is a joke. There are too many hunters. I would like to see the number of 3 day licenses reduced. Yes this would affect friends that hunt these licenses.

Please take into consideration how your recommendations affect resident hunters.

I'm starting to see too many guiding operations. One outfitter near me was charge with trespassing twice. I wonder how many times more it occurs.

Keep September goose the same.

Thanks again for the work you are putting into this.

Bruce Brittain

10367 457th Ave

New Effington, SD 57255

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I'm very concerned with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks assuming authority over licenses for non-residential waterfowl. I've witnessed an influx of out of state hunters and fisherman that this state simply cannot sustain.

For example; our fisheries experience incredible pressure for their relatively small size – not to mention the generous creel limits.

Lack of visible policing and the agencies inability to follow actionable leads on game violations does not give me a sense of comfort when it comes to the possibility of allocating more license to out of state pressure. More pressure on birds means fewer birds that make stop – pretty simple.

Big money from out of state has trumped the common sense of game management in my opinion. Giving the commission the means to incrementally increase the license up to 5% a year would certainly spell disaster. I hope I'm misunderstanding the reasons behind this move, but I'd be willing to be I'm spot on. \$\$\$\$

Things do not look good for this state's resources.

~Bryan

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I think it is a good idea to make the very limited number of nr permits usable state wide.

Regarding what you're now calling c-1, why not make it public lands? It his so hard to get to the center area of state, why limit nr hunters? They are only there 3 days. Given the high cost to get there and trying to time the trip, hardly see much risk that people are going to overrun the public areas.

What's in it for residents? The super high cost paid by non residents discounts funding all these hunting opportunities and Gpf. SD should be promoting itself as a waterfowl destination. The state and local hunters all benefit from out of state bucks!

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It would be nice to have a "split" license possible for waterfowl -- the same way you do for pheasants.

1. Migration patterns continue to evolve and it would be nice to hunt locals and early migrants toward the beginning of the season and then hunt the actual northern flight when it occurs in November.
2. And it's easier to get the kids to go when the weather's generally nicer.
3. Which would allow you to dump the youth hunts that, in my opinion--after watching my nephews & nieces and the children of my friends--aren't really bringing new hunters on board. (They provide an opportunity for dads to get their dogs ready however!!)

Keep up the great work. Hunted Roberts and Marshall last October and it was fabulous.

Sincerely,  
Mike Mahling  
186 Grasshopper Ln  
Fredericksburg, TX 78724

Formerly: Pierz, MN

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I would very much like to see a youth (12-15) nonresident waterfowl license available, similar the small game youth nonresident license that would be very low cost. It is important for the sport to get youth involved. It is unlikely that great numbers of youth hunters would buy this license so it would not significantly increase hunting pressure or make public hunting areas crowded.

Daniel Schaal  
Brookings

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Is the discussion on reducing or increasing non resident licenses? I was born in SD and lived there 48 years of my life and would be in favor of a lifetime non-resident license as ND does for about \$800! I know you don't want too many out of staters hunting waterfowl but you don't limit for pheasants; and ND doesn't limit for duck hunters either! I would appreciate your input!

Thanks in advance!  
Marv Jones

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I have watched with interest this argument for or against non-resident waterfowl license increases (or decreases). Having lived in many other states with much more elaborate hunting season structures, I think there are opportunities to increase hunter opportunity for non-residents while also minimizing (or reducing) the pressure (real or perceived) from non-residents. For example, the zones for non-residents could be reduced to a specific county, the non-resident license could be reduced to five days, and the non-resident applicant could be required to decide which five day period he wanted to hunt at the time of application, rather than waiting until "the birds are here". The hunting season could be split into consecutive five day intervals. So, when a non-resident

applies for a license, he would have to pick, as his first choice for example, the 2<sup>nd</sup> five day period of the season, or the 3<sup>rd</sup> five day period of the season and so forth. Plus, he could be required to pick which county he will hunt in.

This creates a lot of opportunity, but greatly limits non-resident pressure and potentially reduces pressure in certain areas and during certain periods of the season.

There are 44 counties east of the Missouri River. A 70 day season cut into five day periods creates 14 consecutive "seasons" for potential non-resident hunters. 44 counties X 14 "seasons" = 616 potential "season/units" for non-residents to pick from. If you limit the number of non-residents that can be selected for a particular "season/unit" to 15, that's a total of 9,240 potential non-resident licenses east of the Missouri River. That's a much bigger number of licenses than is currently available to non-residents. However, at the very most, there would be a total of 15 non-residents hunting on any given day in any given county in eastern South Dakota. 15 hunters spread out across a county is not a lot and, I would think, be an acceptable number to most resident hunters who are concerned about the impact of pressure from non-resident hunters.

I am fairly certain that very few non-residents hunt for 10 days in a row. Reduce that to five days and increase the cost of the non-resident license. If folks want to come here to hunt they will be willing to pay more and we could sure use the money to increase habitat in this state. Thank you.

S. Patrick Donovan  
710 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, SD 57212

---

I am from Chattanooga, Tennessee. I have been fortunate in my license draws and have hunted waterfowl in South Dakota every year since 2010. As an avid outdoor writer, I have written numerous articles about South Dakota and my attraction to your state.

There is no doubt that one of the attractions has been the lack of waterfowl hunting competition. It is a rare day indeed when I have ever laid eyes on another duck hunter during my visits.

I will say however, that I am growing tired of the need to apply for a license long in advance, potentially having to spend \$120, yet not make the trip.

Every year North Dakota (where non-resident licenses are sold over-the-counter) grows more and more appealing. I have many friends who visit North Dakota and experience excellent waterfowling and little hunting competition without the hassles of having to commit to a license application/purchase far in advance.

I believe the day has come to relax your iron grip on non-resident waterfowl hunting licenses.

--

Richard Simms

[www.ScenicCityFishing.com](http://www.ScenicCityFishing.com)

[Scenic City Fishing on Trip Advisor](#)

[NewsChannel 9 Outdoors](#)

[RheaReview.com Outdoors](#)

423-509-4655 (cell)

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3 Words Come to Mind:

**Commercialized Waterfowl Hunting**

Just like spring snow goose hunting, the out of state guides will push out the average SD residents. Try to compete with a commercial grade decoy spread as an independent hunter.

--

**Joel Knopf**

Controller



Phone: 800-780-6912

Fax: 605-339-4325

Email: [joelk@nawfi.com](mailto:joelk@nawfi.com)

Web: [www.nawfi.com](http://www.nawfi.com)

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my suggestion is that you sell nonresident waterfowl license across the counter, the states revenue would likely go up with not much damage to waterfowl population , maybe you can explain why South Dakota is on a lottery and adjoining states aren't , maybe do a study from other states , I know I would buy a duck license when I buy a pheasant license whether or not I was going to duck hunt , , , , , , , , thank you

scot Hamilton  
246 orchard st  
gray , tn 37615

4237914771

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The last meeting proposal show the statewide licenses at 1700 which seems like an extreme cut. I have been coming back to SD for the last 34 years to hunt with the same group from SD. I grew up and worked in SD until I was 27 and the company that I work for has sent me to other states for work. I would like to see the license numbers at the 3600 range where they have been. I was back in December of 2014 and we hunted in the Pierre area. We did not see one other vehicle from out of state in the 6 days that we hunted. The hunting pressure was low on the dates that I was back.

---

Hi, I'm a concerned resident water fowler from NE part of SD(brown county Marshall county area) I grew up in Marshall county most my life(farmed most my early life) and I feel the increase in number of licenses for NON residence has dramatically hurt the waterfowl migration and hunting opportunities for locals and residence in NE SD. Last year alone it was next to impossible to hunt ducks without having 2-4 out of state pickups with huge trailers or motorize duck boats(which in my opinion should be banned, boats that is unless you have permission from land owner(which I thought you had to do anyway) on CREP and walk in areas because they have left huge tire ruts in fields/ditches and they scare off all the local ducks when they buzz around the water) setting on the same area that your ALREADY setup on. The last couple years the out of stators have become rude in thinking they are entitled to hunt wherever they want without respect for other hunters that are already setup. With the lack of refuges for safe harbor for ducks and geese now(which is a big mistake)its hard for a duck to rest on its flight south when you have duck boats buzzing around the little CREP/walk in sloughs, I have personally seen this happen several times while we were in the rush's setup. I feel reducing the numbers of licenses would be the right direction in NE SD because we have a chance now to grow the duck population with decent grasses coming back with CREP and other ways, don't ruin it by increasing numbers of hunters that chase out the local ducks. If you want to increase revenue of the GPF's, create a "pheasant stamp" program that is 10 or less bucks(80kx10=800000)(youth is 2) and put over 75% of that towards public hunting habitat(grasses and weeds, trees) and the rest for administration of the stamp cost. We need to stop thinking non residences are the answer to revenue woes. We need to focus on habitat and resident hunters. Please reduce the non

residence licenses and help grow the duck population for the youth of SD. Thank you for your time. Ryan

---

Dear Game Fish & Parks,

I understand the difficulty with setting allocations for non-resident hunting licenses. It cannot be an easy task! I'm writing because I would like to ask that the 10 day non-resident waterfowl license be allowed to be split into 2 five day license. The last few years it seems weather conditions have destroyed the goose hunting and my hunts have either been unsuccessful or completely unable to get to the hunting grounds. Dividing the license into a possible 2 hunts would give non-residents hunters a second chance to hit decent weather and birds. Very few non-resident hunters actually hunt for 10 days, so businesses lose out on possible revenue. I have always scheduled my hunting in November to avoid the worst of winter, so I have only harvested Hutch and very few Honkers. It would be nice to be able to hunt once in November and later in the season when the larger honkers arrive. Pheasant season is split for this reason and should give good information for utilization of second hunting trips. Thank you for your time.

Jeff L Muehl DDS

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To whom it may concern,

As a long time non-resident waterfowl hunter I would like to express my gratitude in your endeavor to increase the number of licenses especially in the glacial lakes area of South Dakota. I can tell you the resorts and hotels we stay at would applaud your decision. I spend on average \$ 1,000.00 on lodging and food every year I get lucky enough to get a 10 day license, this does not include the additional revenue that is gained in gas, food, adult beverages etcetera.

I also feel that it makes a lot of sense to limit the number so that waterfowling does not become a rich man's sport only, like it has become with non-resident pheasant hunting, leasing up all the land so the regular person cannot afford to do it, I feel we can open it up some however so people do not have to wait Two years to have a chance to explore a sportsman's paradise.

Thank you,

Chris Campe

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As a nonresident waterfowl hunter that applies every year to hunt waterfowl, I missed that chance this year due to a snow storm, and had to return home without using my paid for permit. It would be great if something could be done to help those who buy, but never get to use them. Waterfowl hunters spend great sums of money to take the chance, to hunt in your state. Ask or research the state of Iowa, who because of the lack of grasslands, Pheasant numbers have been so down, nonresidents have stopped hunting there. The state now shows loss of income in permit sales, around 17 million in revenue. Can South Dakota afford that? Over the counter permit hunting should be looked at, or a combination Waterfowl – Small game permit should be considered. Thank you J. Hadzinski

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I feel that unit A should not be changed from 2014. The hunting pressure in the Bon Homme county-Apple tree area gets hit very hard and the hunting seems to get worse every year. There is also a lot of hunting pressure coming from the Santee , Ne dock because Nebraska has unlimited waterfowl permit's. Adding more permit's for this area is not a good idea and I will probably quit hunting waterfowl if more tags are added.

Thank You  
Steve Frick  
Yankton SD

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Out of state waterfowl hunters deserve privileges the same as in state hunters. These ducks are migratory meaning we all have rights to hunt. Early seasons for residents, limits on hunting days on out of staters is unconstitutional. I have hunted SD for 20 plus years. I get a 10 day license about half of the time. When I do not get the license I travel to ND and spend my tourism dollars there.

Please consider allowing parity amongst all hunters.

Please consider allowing more days than three if we don't win the lottery. 5 days would allow me to take a nice hunting vacation in SD without having to travel to another state. The special permit that is for the counties around Potter never seems to be given out in the lottery. Please consider allowing that permit to out of staters for 5 days instead of 3.

Thanks you.

Representative Phillip Lowe

South Carolina

[lowesttherapy@cs.com](mailto:lowesttherapy@cs.com)

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Dear Work Group;

Thank you for doing a thankless job to improve waterfowl opportunities for all. Having made application to hunt with family members since 1983, I have felt the impact of every changing facet of SD water fowling.

I would ask you to consider that as your resident waterfowl hunters decrease the issue is not crowding or access, but one of culture. Our sport is being pummeled on all sides by the culture and we need to fight this with a youth that is brought up finding the unfiltered joy of a morning with a family of sportsmen and women. Because both my children and I were raised as waterfowl hunters; we are now waterfowl hunters.

The time has come for me to bring my grandchildren with me to hunt. I am a 56 year old NR shareholder in a family farm with 8 grandchildren. My request is simple. There has been a decline of resident waterfowl hunters of almost 10,000 in the last decade alone. Add more NR licenses or make it easier for NR youth to join their respective families with a simplified process or an add-on tag for youth. Sometimes mom needs to review report cards to see if my grandsons can miss school!

I can guarantee you that we will add multiple pheasant license purchases, gas, groceries, restaurant, hotel and hospitality dollars to the state's economy.

We don't really need to save money, but it sure helps us plan our fall when we know what to expect.

Thanks for listening!

Jim Tracy

*James M. Tracy (formerly of Watertown)*

*Cell (253) 686-0250*

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I would like to suggest that if a resident has nonresident family members that would like to hunt waterfowl be given a preference over nonresident hunters that have no ties to South Dakota.

Peter Yovetich

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**To the Nonresident Waterfowl License Work Group;**

First of all I wish to thank you for taking the time to look at the nonresident waterfowl allocations and current relevant issues. I have been hunting with South Dakota resident relatives in Northeastern South Dakota for waterfowl since 1999. I have been traveling to South Dakota yearly since 1986. Our duck hunting tradition has recently been impeded by the higher demand (more hunters being entered in the lottery) and minimal apparent change to nonresident waterfowl allocation. I try to visit the state twice a year but the increased demand of the nonresident license has resulted in this being inconsistent most recently with a few of us nonresidents in the group. The recent addition of the purchase of Points is also an unfortunate change that does not really help other than to add \$10 extra dollars to SDGFP.

My suggestion is to add some flexibility to the allocation and type of license:

- Make the 3 day license a 5 day.
- Make the 10 day license able to be split into two five day licenses.

Increase the allocation closer to the recent demand. The success rate has clearly gone down in recent years.

Again thank you for addressing these issues that concern many of us that are “regular” attendees to a Great State!

Sincerely,

Greg Locy  
111 Amber Woods Drive  
Canonsburg, PA 15317

---

I have been hunting waterfowl in South Dakota since 1973 so I have a perspective of a variety of seasons. I understand you would like to continue limiting the number of nonresident hunting licenses which is fine but I suggest you continue to do so in a way that would be a win, win deal for both the state and hunter. My recommendation is for the 10 day licenses you give the hunter the option of selecting 10 days continuously or 2 separate five day periods. That in my opinion would provide a boost to the economy as

I believe few hunters can come for 10 consecutive days but would be open to such an option. In addition, I believe it would spread out the hunting pressure and provide more balance to the success.

Thank you in advance for considering my suggestion.

Al Dubiak  
Shoreview, Minnesota

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Hi, per the email just sent to me, I thought I'd try and provide some input on out of state waterfowl license.

Thanks for the opportunity.

I grew up near Redfield, graduated from SDSU but work has caused me to live in multiple states. I'm currently in Wisconsin.

I love coming "home" to hunt in the fall. The standard plan is 2 days near Rosholt to hunt waterfowl with a college roommate and 2 days in near Redfield to hunting pheasants with family and relatives.

It started out just me and a friend from Wisconsin, who had never seen hunting like we have in SD.

Then I brought my son, and now 2 son-in-laws and my son brings another friend from WI. So when we come home, we now have 6 hunters and 6 dogs.

We generate a lot of income for SD residents and are happy to. J

We don't hunt the Missouri River and don't care to drive that far.

**It has been very disappointing that of the 5-6 guys applying we seldom all get a license. Usually only maybe 3 guys can hunt ducks, and 2-3 guys have to watch. We hardly ever see any other hunters where we hunt in Roberts County. I've always wondered why we can't get more permits for this area. There are tons of birds there and not many hunters.** For us a 3 day license, would be great as we don't come back to hunt later. I think you might have this now, but there have been times that we wanted to hunt ducks around Redfield or Mansfield where we hunt pheasants. So I guess I'm saying could the area be expanded where you can get a 3 day license?

I'm assuming that you limit the permits based on the number of people hunting "the river". **Would it be possible to have more permits for the eastern counties??**

**Thanks for allowing me to provide some input.**

**FYI, an option we have considered is to hunt in North Dakota because we can buy our license over the counter there. If we did that, SD would lose half our revenue over the 4 day hunt. Thanks.**

Greg Borchard  
Director of Business Development  
Avastone Technologies

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Dear Work Group

What is the work groups goal and what are they trying to accomplish? Increase the Non Resident license allotment

The state of South Dakota started out with 1350 nonresident licenses and now it is up to 4000 with additional 2000 temporary licenses, isn't that enough.

If I'm reading the Tag Allocation correctly the GF&P isn't even selling out of the tags they have.

Is the reason for the work group is to increase the allotment, the only people that will benefit from this is the so call "DUCK HUNTING GUIDES" trying to make some money off the resource.

Yes a few local restaurants and gas station will make some money, but at the expense of the resident duck hunter.

Just take a look at Pheasant hunting, It is big business, but it has just about eliminated the resident pheasant hunter. If you don't know a farmer or have land, good luck just knocking on a door to ask permission to hunt. This is what will happen with duck hunting if you keep expanding the number of Non Resident waterfowl license. The limited number of sloughs and potholes will be leased by the "GUIDES" or Non Residents with the money to do so, or every Public Shooting Area will have so many hunters in them the hunting won't be worth a damn.

If I remember the history of closing the waterfowl season to Non Residents in the 1940s correctly, it was because they were leasing all the slough and potholes up and pushing out the locals.

Please don't increase the license allotment for the Non Resident.

Thank You for your time on this matter.

A concerned South Dakota Duck Hunter

Mark Heck

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Personally, I see little to be gained from any of this action as a resident. Guiding and securing land for paid hunting is becoming more and more of a problem for the average hunter trying to gain permission . Increasing the number of hunters only enhances this. I do feel charging a fee to guide would be a plus for all in the long run. As a spring snow goose hunter, all one has to do is look at all the guides sewing up land for this season alone, time to start putting a fee on this operation. How about giving out of state family members a break, a preference point in the draw. It would be nice to see family allowed to hunt more than once every 3 or 4 years..

By creating boundaries all you do is create an enforcement nightmare.. it is hard enough as is, trying to limit hunters to county lines is almost impossible to figure out.. jim gruber 148 sunset park dr. Estelline sd. 57234

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I think it's a mistake to change anything about the NR waterfowl structure. The changes purposed will make it crowded and more restrictive in where you can go to find and follow ducks. Your Charts show as a non-resident you should get a license every other year - that's fair.

Under the current structure I like to get the 10 day license. I hunt the first weekend in NE Brown County. The last 4 days I hunt both NE Brown, South central McPherson, and Eastern Campbell. The new proposal will shoot that all to hell.

Mike Olmstead  
7273 Jensen Ave S  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016  
651 459 7652

---

Dear Sirs:

The one thing I see is most of these licenses are on the Missouri in Hughes and Stanley counties. Next it will be Sully County. What I am getting at here is overcrowding. I am sure a lot of these people go to the pay to hunt industries. And that also limits the local's places to hunt. Because as the out of state hunters numbers get higher the pay to hunt people will pull more land from resident use.

So I think these licenses issued to out of state hunters are going to have to be issued to the eastern flyway. So the hunting pressure is not high in only a couple of counties in the state. But I also know the commercial hunting people will not like this

idea. But I feel commercial hunting has its place. But the general public has its rights as well. And I don't feel pay to hunt should be the point that they have a monopoly on hunting wildlife that belongs to all the people.

So please just keep this in your minds when making these decisions. We are not just catering to the people with big pocketbooks. Greed is getting out of control in this country. (Think freedom for all not just a select group of people.)

Concerned resident  
David Bechard  
1608 Hilltop Dr.  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-224-8169

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My question to the committee:

Why are non-residents so restricted to a 3 Day or 10 day license?

Like other states why can't nonresidents purchase a SD Waterfowl License that is valid for the entire waterfowl season without a limited number of license available?

Please consider – (are you saving waterfowl for other states!!)

Thank you very much!!

Jeff Flood  
No. Mankato, MN  
507-947-3956

---

My name is Gary Dubridge, 21350 Monroe Rd, Morley Michigan 49336. I would love to see a 1 day over the counter waterfowl license. I put in for my license every year and get a draw about every other year. On the off years I still come out for pheasant hunting. I would pay \$50 for a 1 day license just so I would have the chance to hunt when my pheasant hunt aligned with the duck migration. I think this would be a good source of revenue with little effect on the resource.

Thanks for the opportunity to have some input.

Gary

---

I am a little disappointed in the number of licenses allocated for the NE, unit B. and the fact that there will not be a State Wide License. I am from SD and we have hunted ducks in Beadle, Kingsbury, as well as Day and Codington County. Under the new rules this would not be possible.

If the State makes it difficult for out of State hunters there will be a point when some decide it is just not worth applying and spending the money coming out. I love South Dakota, its people and hunting opportunities. I hunt primarily Bitter Lake and I see about 3 to 4 boats out there during late season. A few more licenses would be desirable. I am confident you are using hunting pressure and duck populations as a guide.

Thanks for the opportunity for input,

Don Hansen  
842 west street  
Taylors Falls, MN 55084

612.201.1086

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Hello. I believe that we as SD residents and the non- Resident Waterfowl hunters that get drawn to hunt here are lucky we are not over run with to many hunters like ND and other top waterfowl states.

Only so many birds and only so much land to be hunted, with that in mind, think of all the people including the youth hunters that would miss out on some of the best opportunities we have in this state due to people fighting for spots to hunt.

I think eventually there would be problems between landowners and hunters, most hunters are going to want to here during the migration which in typical years happens during harvest, with the fact that SD is not a state ( if not posted hunt it) hunters would have to ask landowners and during harvest the last thing landowners want to deal with is people asking to hunt!

Thanks  
Andrew Richwalski  
214 f ave  
Pollock SD

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Make sure you protect the roost waters from us Minnesota hunters, we have ruined our rest areas by our traditions of hunting with boats on the roost area.

Also be aware that all the great walleye and perch fishing will have an effect on the ducks migrating to South Dakota. The fish eat the freshwater shrimp and the ducks lose a food source.

We have seen it happen in Mn as the DNR uses shallow prairie lakes for raising walleye soon the duck no longer use the lakes.

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Dear Sirs,

First off, let me thank you for the opportunity to give my thoughts on this subject. That's what makes this country what it is.

I have been following your meetings and as a non-resident hunter let me give my 2 cents worth.

I live in Minnesota and have been visiting your state to waterfowl hunt the last 3 years. I am part of a group of 20 that has been visiting for some 20 years. The group has members from all over and as far east as Washington, DC. We all grew up in the same area of Minnesota and enjoy the getting away and hunting the northeast part of your state in Marshall and Day counties. We hunt around the 17th -27th of October depending on where the days fall.

As one of those involved in our scouting group let me say that over the course of our 10 day stay which includes 2 weekends, we maybe see one or two other groups hunting. Therefore when I see the comment made that there are too many hunters in that area I wonder what agenda is on the table.

Frankly, if it were me, open it up like your neighboring states with no limits for nonresidents. If people want to come from where ever and spend their money in your state, your small communities, your local gas stations, resorts, motels, cafes, bar, shops....let them. Why would you not welcome the people for waterfowl hunting as you do for pheasants and fish, after all, waterfowl is a migratory bird so what is the reasoning behind treating it more strictly than pheasants or fish which you raise in state.

Last year, 2014, 1177 people, wanted to visit/hunt in the northeast part of the state and who would have pumped money into your local economies were kicked to the curb and

told stay away. Would those 1100 or even it was another 2000 really hurt the waterfowl situation or do more good for your small community business?

The private landowners still can say no to hunting their land whether it's 2500 or 5000 nonresident licenses that you issue and if people decide it's too crowded, they can try another area or live with the situation.

Let me say that for the most part, I would say about 90% of the landowners we talk to have no issues with us hunting their land and they are some of the nicest people to talk to when we stop. One guy this year told us to give him a call before we come next year and he'll let us know what day would work best for what waterfowl is in the area. Can't beat that and all we have to do is not lose the phone number.

To put a limit on this just boggles my mind.

What would happen if Minnesota told all nonresidents that wanted to come and fish in Minnesota that we are limiting it to only 2500?

Our resort industry would sure see to it that those making that decision were no longer in that decision making process.

Hopefully you can see my concerns and at the very least, the current limits remain the same or increase. I can only hope to see the day when SD is like ND and has it open for all.

NOTE: I also hunted North Dakota last year and would rather hunt SD if I had to pick. But sooner or later the choice will be made for me and I will be in North Dakota that season shooting at the same migratory bird that will pass through South Dakota, unless I hit it, but spending my dollars in the small North Dakota community business.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to respond.

Tom Hanson  
3968 15th Avenue SE  
Willmar, MN. 56201  
320-235-0746

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Thanks I would like to be updated as this progresses.

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Dear Work Group Members,

I would like to get right to the point. Mr. Dieter is a very intelligent man but I don't think he has any clue about the amount of revenue nonresidents bring to South Dakota year round. I am one of them and I do not appreciate any of his comments.

Most Waterfowl, depending on weather, are not local after October. Why not encourage a 3 day License after October that could be sold over the counter at a higher price which would generate more revenue for the state and businesses in South Dakota.

Limiting the License in the N.E. to approximately half of the current is ridiculous.

All of you that are involved in this are not think outside the box.

There is a much better way to handle this than to reduce the number of nonresident licenses. I know you have a tough job but try to think about how to bring more revenue to the state but balance the flow so that everyone wins.

Dan Cleland

---

I have hunted SD waterfowl for several years. I also hunt pheasants in SD. I would like to suggest you split the 10 day license into 2 - 5 day periods like you allow for pheasant hunting. This would allow for some early and late season hunting and would help spread out the number of hunters hunting at any given time during the season. It would also generate more money for motels, gas, eating, etc. because I would make more trips. Right now I do not hunt 10 days in a row. I have also hunted early Sept. goose and liked the suggestion that we be allowed to hunt 3 days after the September season for Canada geese. Thank you.

My name is: Robert Mahling

35619 Moraine Drive

Cushing MN 56443

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Hi,

I was fortunate enough to get a nonresident license for waterfowl last year. I had a 10 day license. I hunted for 4 days and hoped to return but could not make it the next weekend. I would be happy to buy more than one license if it meant being able to come back. If it was two 5 day periods it would be better than one 10 day. The ability to purchase more days would be excellent.

Thanks.

Steve Iseminger

---

We have plenty waterfowl hunters in SD I think. I don't think anyone is complaining about there being to many ducks around. If you are looking for more money which I am sure is the case charge a few dollars more for our license. Let's not bring in more out of state hunters.

If there were hunters involved with setting up the spring Canada goose season which I thought was designed to eliminate over population and start to limit destruction the geese were doing we know that decoys would be allowed and other real hunting tactics. Just my thoughts. If you need more money just charge more. Bringing in out of state hunters money will end up doing the same thing to SD as has happened to their states. It just got so over run with hunters that they quit going out. I think you wanted our address etc. Thank You.-- 1627 Sioux Trail-- Brookings SD 57006

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I would like to comment or propose what I feel might help me and my group and be disused for approval. We have been applying for about the last 20 years and our group rose beyond the 6 person limit on an application.

Would it be possible to change from 6 people to 8 or more?

2nd, is there a possibility of offering a lifetime nonresident waterfowl license? I would even be interested in a lifetime nonresident fishing license as well.

3rd, It would be nice to not have to worry about a lottery and to be able to buy a license over the counter. It will probably stop the migration of nonresident hunters from going to ND instead and bring in more out of state dollars.

I know that these might be far- fetched, but you are looking for feedback and this is what I would like to propose.

Thanks,  
Paul Dolezal  
651-775-6480  
[Pauldolezal21@yahoo.com](mailto:Pauldolezal21@yahoo.com)

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I'm a 58 year old third generation South Dakotan now living in Minnesota. My grandfather was one of the first veterinarians in South Dakota; my father one of the first

Board certified family physicians in South Dakota who practiced his entire career in SD and still (at age 91) lives in South Dakota. I've been hunting my entire life and a highlight of my fall is an annual waterfowl hunt with high school friends and college friends and now many of their sons and daughters. The bogey is always whether or not those of us who live out of state will be successful in our draw. In the last several years that hasn't always happened. I would like to see preference given to former residents-- and the number of licenses doubled by eliminating the 10 day license and making them 5 days. Eliminate the 3 day license and take the number of three day licenses and simply convert them to 5 day licenses.

I believe that the current ability to purchase preference points is patently unfair--it's no longer a lottery as there is an unequal chance of "winning". I'm okay if someone doesn't draw a license one year that they be given one preference point for the next year, but to allow folks to buy points would be similar to allowing folks to "buy" numbers in a lottery-- "for an extra hundred dollars we'll give you two of the five numbers."

If you want to make more money on non-residents, allow unlimited licenses or double the number of licenses or do something that doesn't unfairly advantage or disadvantage people based on their wealth. I believe that some of the original rationale for prohibiting non-residents from purchasing licenses was a desire to prevent the very wealthy from competing unfairly with residents. The buying of preference points allows the wealthy to buy their way into securing a license to the detriment of the majority of those of us who aren't wealthy--the wealthy don't need any more advantages.

Please consider the idea of doubling the licenses by eliminating the 10 day and offering twice as many 5 day licenses. Thanks.

Dr. Douglas W. Allen

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A group of us come there to pheasant hunt for twenty five years now.

I have been applying for and mostly drawing a general license B86 for several years and would like to offer a few suggestions/

1. Many licenses are taken by pheasant hunters who may or may not duck hunt and most are there for five days or less. I have done this several years when no ducks in my area. Offer county or multiple county three day licenses.
2. Five day license at same price this would allow more licenses to be offered thus more income to State. A few ten day licenses at higher prices for general areas as always for people in nearby states who can get to SD more often..

This should bring in more money for state and keep same number of total hunt days by out of staters which I know is a issue, but I have not ever seen many other duck hunters after nov.1 when I generally come there.

Elmo Ziebach Monroeville, Alabama

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I would like to see Haakon County added to the counties that are eligible for the 3 day license as Lyman County. For a nonresident it is difficult to plan for the drawing for the 10 day license. I own property in Haakon County and know some of my friends that pheasant hunt on my ranch would buy a water fowl license if the rules allowed them to buy a license on line when they visit. This convenience would encourage increased revenue for the state in not only license fees, but nonresident hunters visiting South Dakota with the possibility of maybe shooting a duck or goose when visiting. 3 pheasant per day needs a sweetener to encourage some of these nonresident hunters to come visit the great state of South Dakota.

--

R. Lee Smith  
9995 Gate Parkway North, Suite 330  
Jacksonville, FL 32246  
904 993 6118  
fax 904 393 9003

Cottonwood Borco Ranch and Cedar Breaks Ranch  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jixCpxwCVKs>

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on proposed changes to the SD non-resident waterfowl seasons and license numbers. Below are some suggestions.

1. It would be nice to list the number of non-resident licenses available on all of the maps showing various license options so that folks don't have to go back to other pages of the SD G&F website.
2. Is it codified in SD statue that the 10-day license for non-residents cannot be split? From my perspective I would likely visit SD in mid October and again in the 2nd week of

November if I could split my time in state. At this time, I shoot for the time frame between October 27 and November 5th to cover the peak mallard migration in the NE corner of the state. However, if I have to go during that time frame due to hotel reservations I sometimes (2014) miss the migration.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please keep me informed of upcoming meetings and the results of those meeting.

Sincerely,

Jim Sehl

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The boundaries for Unit B are so restrictive that an early freeze-up, during a 3 or 10 day season, allows the hunter no flexibility to follow the migration.

Casey J. DeJong  
122 George St. NW  
Alexandria, MN 56308  
320-763-4578  
[casey.jan@hotmail.com](mailto:casey.jan@hotmail.com)

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Will there be an opportunity to comment on the working group's suggestions before they are implemented?

I don't want to see a repeat of the pheasant where SD hunters become 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens for waterfowl hunting just to benefit the large hunting operations.

Dave Lyon  
29690 482<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Hudson, SD 57034

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Hello,

My suggestion is to allow the non-resident to split his license into two 5 day periods.

10 successive days is a long time to be away from home and staying in a motel.

Because of the 10 days, in a row, we had to coordinate busy schedules and rent motel rooms a long time in advance. As a result we missed the entire migration and harvested zero waterfowl this season.

We did move to the river, at Pierre and tried our hand at the awesome State blinds, north of town. Only two flocks left the refuge in two days.

Thank you for allowing my input.

Jim Erickson  
Chaska, MN 55318

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Sirs

I do not understand why you limit the number of licenses for Non Residents. There is no Federal limit on the number of ducks per season that legally can be harvested in South Dakota.

I can understand why you might limit the total number of days that a Non Resident can hunt but wish that the number selected (10?) could be divided into two different time periods. In several years, my sons and I have come to South Dakota to visit friends with the primary hunting objective of pheasants or deer (bow) hunting but also wanted the opportunity to duck hunt, particularly if we successful in our primary objective.

Because some years we were not drawn for waterfowl, we elected to come only once when we otherwise would have visited twice. It seems like the amount of total revenue lost by the State for your restrictive waterfowl hunting rules cannot be in the best interest of the state. Since this is a state law and not a federal law, it appears to be the result of a strong non-resident lobbying group. While I do not understand limiting the number of licenses on Public Land, it is even harder to understand why you would limit on Private Land. The great majority of the waterfowl hunting that we have done in South Dakota has been done on Private Land.

I look forward to seeing what changes if any that you elect to make for 2015.

Thomas J. Parker  
1044 Tyne Blvd  
Nashville TN 37220  
615-210-2957

Thomas J. Parker  
President  
Thoroughbred Financial Services, LLC  
P: 615.371.0001  
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My ancestors homesteaded SD in covered wagons in the 1880s with survivors of the Gettysburg battle. I now live in VA. I've been coming out for pheasant for 13 years and its a great time. Unfortunately, trying to waterfowl hunt is the opposite experience. The rules that prevent me from hunting waterfowl on public land make me feel very unwelcome. This struck home when one of my friends said wouldn't go there again because of the laws. This is someone that spent \$1000 to go there for 3 days.

In MD, the state charges \$139 for all season. With all the people in the northeast, its not a problem. There's only so many waterfowlers dedicated enough to get out there in the dead of winter. Everyone's season is about the same time. I think SD could accommodate nonresidents on public land without a big impact.

Money collected could be used to make waterfowl hunting better for everyone and the economic benefits would far outweigh any down side.

---

Hi,

I come out to South Dakota every year with my son to hunt pheasants. Three years ago we recognized how great your waterfowl hunting is. We have put in for permits each year. I was the only one to draw a permit. My son who is now 14 has not been able to draw. Last year I had one of his buddies with him and he didn't draw either.

I think a youth should be able to get a permit automatically. Hunting is a dying sport when it comes to youths. Why do we want to deter them or lose their interest. What a better way to get them hooked on hunting. Let them have a great waterfowl hunt in South Dakota and they could be hooked for life!

The second thing I would like to point out is allowing a larger number of permits to get issued to nonresident hunters would be great. For me to travel out there is very costly and to find out that I didn't get a permit in the middle of the summer is tough. We already have all our plans set for that October. If we don't get the draw, then, half of our hunt is taken away. Please give it consideration. Thank you

---

I have said it for years...no more NR licenses. In Roberts County, we get inundated by guys coming over the border from Mn....and going back at night. They hunt areas for 10 straight days and burn them out! I am not opposed to more licenses... but not for Roberts. Thank you for your hard work in this area.

Dorry Larson

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As a former nonresident myself I greatly enjoyed the years when I was drawn to come hunt SD and luckily had family and friends to put me on awesome hunts. It was a true privilege to come hunt some of the best waterfowling area in the United States. With that being said, I made a choice at 18 years of age to enroll in school at LATI in Watertown. I could have saved money and stayed in Minnesota and got a similar degree and lived for free and not have to work as hard, but my love for waterfowl hunting is so great that I chose to move to South Dakota. I truly do think our State has the best Water fowling compared to any other state. Therefore to ensure great hunting for our residents I would suggest a decrease in licenses issued to ensure less pressure and more chances for locals and the nearby communities. Hunting is a privilege just like drawing a SD waterfowl license it shouldn't be expected yet respected when drawn. Don't think people should complain about not drawing every year when you get to hunt some of the best land there is. If they want to hunt SD more make a sacrifice like I did and move here not complain and tell us to let more people in what would ultimately ruin SD waterfowl over the long term.

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I would like to make a comment on nonresident water fowl license lottery. For the last 12 years I have been applying for a nonresident water fowl with my son. We hunt with resident hunters from the Grover SD area. I understand the need to limit the no of tags but we cannot really plan any hunt with the gang until we have heard if we have tags. There have not been too many years where at least one of us got one. Then the planning with our family vacation time (resident hunters) there should be a way where if we apply and win a tag, we can come at any time without calling ahead to change hunt days. This year due to the extreme cold even with we could see this and move our time back once to early time. we still would be out of luck to hunt during the main migration. The state of South Dakota is a great state for hunting I been ask to take first time duck hunters to show them what the true meaning of waterfowl hunting is but (young Hunters) I have tell they are late for this year. I hope this make some sense of what I'm trying to say. Please open more times and tag's and more flex times.

Thanks

James L. Jones

1335 co hwy ff  
brule wi 54820  
cell 218 340 3910  
715 372 8315

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I am a landowner in Brule county and have hunted in that county over 20 years. It makes no sense to me that you do not make duck and goose hunting more available therefore generating substantial sums of money for the Game And Fish, business owners, sales taxes, etc that are all badly needed in our small towns trying to survive.

I live in Tennessee and shoot the ducks and the geese that come from South Dakota when they fly south. I feel a property owner should be able to use and enjoy his land when you buy 880 acres as I have. Also, I wish you would express my wish that a landowner be allowed to kill a buck on land owned by the landowner.

The lottery system should be applied to people that do not own land.

Respectfully,

Norman Brown III  
10636 Shelton Rd.  
Collierville, TN 38017

---

I have been hunting waterfowl in South Dakota since 1988 and understand preserving residence hunting and concerns of out of states putting pressure on waterfowl . I think the 10 day state wide is too many days in a row it would be nice to split this up for two 5 day licenses. I have noticed that the now state runs the decoy fields lands north of Pierre it has become harder to hunt It seems the birds get a lot of pressure shooting into large flocks and shooting high birds not giving the birds the field in the afternoon thanks for the opportunity to respond Mark Vogt

---

I hunt Clark county and your map shows I can only hunt north of 212 . That will cut my hunting in half. I still think this is all about the clubs and leases will just increase with this type of spitting into more zones.

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I enjoy hunting in McPherson County, typically during the early part of the season. Seldom do I run across other hunters with the exception of occasional goose field hunters.

a- I don't know why SD is so restrictive on NR licenses. I also hunt in ND with the same lack of completion and they don't restrict NR hunters

b- I would likely spend more time and dollars in SD if I was able to split my season into two 5-day sessions

c- I think SD does a much better job of managing walk-in areas than ND and you have my compliments on that activity

d- I have asked this question before without a response: There are WPA areas that have had corn and beans planted for several years. I understand the occasional mowing to control weeds and trees, but why is someone farming the land my dollars went to purchase?

William Reilly  
2613 3 Place NE  
Rochester MN 55906

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To whom it may concern,

After reading your studies and notes I find myself at a real loss for words. While most of the country is ramping UP things for the waterfowl hunter, to my dismay South Dakota is / has decided to restrict waterfowl hunters in the NE portion of your state. A sport, by the way, that has lost significant numbers over the last 2 decades. What signal does that bring to the youth we are bringing into the sport. I am an avid waterfowler and am bringing 2 youth into this wonderful sport. My Brother has 2 youth, our buddies total another 6 youth we have now grown to bring into this tradition we humbly share.

The message I am getting is rather than expand the possibility of more opportunities you are preparing to take them away. It is crystal clear to me the lack of "getting with the times" South Dakota has decided to do. You have painfully stuck with your either 10 continuous day Non-Resident license or the 3 day alternative with no certainty of be awarded either. Ten days is almost impossible to utilize unless you are fortunate enough to be able to take off that much time from work and family activities and is rather wasteful with the majority of users only being able to hunt a few of the 10 days. A 3 day license is rather short. My thought is to make more licenses available for a split 10 day season, selecting 5 days at a time, more consistent to you neighboring states. Just a simple 5 day license would be more useful in my opinion, due to the ability for more

hunters to fully utilize the wonderful experience of your states offering. I would be supportive of making the issued licenses used by November 1<sup>st</sup> as that is usually when you can hunt the “water” there anyway. Usually frozen after that date.

I, as well as my family and hunting partners, have all invested our time into the support of organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and many others that have been huge to your states duck production and habitat preservation. Now your direction of limiting Non Resident hunting opportunities rather than expanding them, in my opinion, will resonate to those organizations as well. What is the point of continued support on a national level if it does not benefit any others than South Dakota Residents. Believe me, I intend to share this very message to the DU officials as well. There seems to be a lack of partnership going forward by your proposed actions. There will be an economic hit your South Dakota communities will feel as well. My father, as well many others like him, passed along the notion of buying locally for food, equipment and lodging when on the out of state hunts. It seems to me the commitment to your own states economy is in question as well.

Lastly, being from Minnesota, I find we are a welcoming state for the Non-Resident to come and “Purchase” a variety of hunting licenses at very reasonable costs. Your proposed license changes to the Non-Resident waterfowler seem very anti Non Resident. I have been frustrated for some time with your outdated format sticking with a consecutive 10 day license. This news of reduction in license offerings in the NE portion of your state has now got me to the point of making your actions known to others and organizations that have typically support your state. My suggestion is you rethink your planned changes and add to rather than retract opportunities.

**Jeff Conrad**  
**Eastern Regional Sales Manager**



14650 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.  
Plymouth, MN 55447-4821

Ph: 763-231-0100  
Cell: 612-719-4040  
Fax: 763-231-0101  
[www.hamerinc.com](http://www.hamerinc.com)

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To whom it may concern:

I am a Non-resident and have hunted in the state of South Dakota over the last 20 years. I agree that NR waterfowl license opportunities should be limited for Non-residents but those limited draws/opportunities should only apply to areas that are highly pressured. As an example, I hunt in Brule county and never see another out of state waterfowl hunter while I'm there hunting pheasants or waterfowl (if I drew a permit).

If the state of South Dakota were to open up certain parts of the state to Non-resident hunters (over the counter license- similar to small game), that are not "highly pressured areas", I would see this as a benefit to the NR hunter, state of South Dakota (license fees) and small towns as their will be additional dollars spent.

One other question... is it possible to split the 10 day season for NR into two 5 days periods? This option may be better suited to the non- "heavily" pressured areas.

Mike Bunkers  
4561 Palmgren LN NE  
St. Michael, MN 55376

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Dear: SD waterfowl work group

Thank you for allowing discussion on this process.

I grew up in Aberdeen and have been in the field starting at about the age of 5 with my father and older brothers, and now with my 14 year old son. We have and still do hunt areas from Claremont to Scatterwood. The boundaries of highways (281 and 212 ) just adds more confusion to the whole process of planning this hunt. I think that this really limits people to the whole experience of these crazy birds. I have always hunted late season, usually starting after November 7th. We just don't see that many hunters out in the field this time in the season, unless birds are really concentrated like last November with the quick freeze and limited open water. Our hunt lasted only about 4 days due to the weather conditions, you just have to take the good with the bad when you hunt these silly birds. I just hope that you do not make this more difficult than it needs to be, for the simple fact of keeping people interested in waterfowling. We are all trying to get youth involved in the outdoors these days, but making it harder for adults to plan hunting trips be it ducks, pheasants etc. I think is going to make dad stay home and play on the computer too.

Enough rambling, there already is a limited number of licenses available each season. Please still offer a statewide license, the birds and the weather are always unpredictable sometimes you need to travel a little further down the rode.

I really appreciate the opportunity to have some input on these issues that matter greatly to me.

I am not crazy, just a duck hunter.

Please feel free to call at the number below.

PS I was help by an agent on the phone last year with license questions and I have to say SD is still a nice place and someday I will probably be back.

Sent from my iPad

Thank you

Chuck Sterzinger

President

Apple Property Services Inc.

GreenLineLawn Inc.

[www.chuck@appleproperty.com](http://www.chuck@appleproperty.com)

612-382-8852

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I own land in South Dakota, Kingsbury County. I also hunt in Marshall County. I am a Minnesota resident because of a career path. I would like the option to hunt either place during the same 10 day season. Would you please consider raising the license fee to support the demand. That might solve any problems that you have. I would be willing to pay a lot more for the privilege to hunt there.

Thanks, Drew Schellpeper.

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Commission,

Again, thank you for tackling this issue and as a non-resident waterfowl hunter, I appreciate the opportunity to provide you some input from my perspective. This is the second email I am sending, my background is, I have hunted pheasants and waterfowl in South Dakota since 1991 and have hunted spring snow geese in South Dakota for the past few years as well. I do not hunt at all commercially or with any guides. We do lease ground from a farmer and also hunt a lot of public (federal) land for both pheasants and especially waterfowl.

I have been following the issue and I was relieved to see the commission recognize that this is a social issue and not one based at all in biology, management or economics. Quite frankly, purely political. I also know that there are members of this commission who are on it to stop any increased opportunity for the non-resident hunter. That is unfortunate, and I wish they would see the bigger picture of their protectionist agenda and how it hurts all of us.

Some feel pressure is the main issue. I would argue it is not a big part of it, waterfowl are migratory. Sure if you over hunt a slough you may push the ducks off it, especially locals that were born there, but they don't change their migration pattern because of it. It is more about the habitat you create. I hunt Canada geese in Rochester, MN. There are tons and tons of guides, leased land and huge pressure every day of the season yet every year the harvest is huge and in fact Rochester's famed Silver Lake was changed to try and get some geese to leave the area! Having 7,000 NR hunters in SD for a season WILL NOT diminish the opportunities for the resident hunter in the least. In all my years hunting public land in Faulk/Edmunds County area I have seen 1 South Dakota Resident hunter except of course during spring snow goose season.

I live in Minnesota. I don't begrudge a non-resident if they want to fish walleyes or muskies on Mille Lacs or Lake of the Woods or come shoot a deer or ruffed grouse or shoot divers or mallards or geese here, I welcome my brothers and sisters from other states that enjoy what I enjoy. The state charges more for an NR license and we should because residents pay taxes, just as you should charge me more to hunt ducks and pheasants in SD, but don't limit my access so extremely as you do now.

The very people who want to limit access to me in SD are the same people who go hunt in Canada, ND and Arkansas as an NR...I bet they are thankful that these states/provinces don't feel the same way. I think it is hypocritical!

My other main concern is that Non-Residents pour millions and millions of dollars into South Dakota conservation every year through federal funding of CRP, CREP, DU, PF, public lands like WPA's and other programs that benefit waterfowl, etc. Yet some don't want us anywhere near these lands we all pay for...THAT'S WHY THE DUCKS ARE THERE!!

Perhaps we Non-Residents should lobby all the groups we are members of DU, PF, and the USDA, etc. and ask them to stop funding South Dakota with our money until we can have reasonable access to federal lands.

OK done venting....

How do I feel you should proceed based upon what it looks like you already plan to do?

-Increase the overall licenses 5% as you are allowed to do to 6,300.

-Add the 300 to the Unit C 10-day allocation making it equal to the Unit B allocation of 2,000.

-Reduce the "Private land only" Unit C-1 to 400 as it never even comes close to selling 700 and in my opinion eliminate it all together! Reallocate those to 300 licenses to Unit C 3-Day Licenses taking them to 1,000 or better yet just have all the 3-Day licenses be anywhere in Unit C, public or private same as Unit B

Use county lines for Unit B not highways

Summary

Unit A Same as proposed

Unit B Same as proposed, with county boundaries

Unit C 2,000 10-Day 1,450 3-Day (no distinction for public vs. private and anywhere in Unit C) Eliminate Unit C-1.

Thanks again for reading this and considering my opinion. I hope that some day South Dakota provides licenses to Non-Residents in the same way as most of the flyway does...over the counter and seasonal!!

Eric Marquardt  
13550 26th Ave N #100  
Plymouth, MN 55441  
(763) 228-1632 Cell  
[insuranceeric@aol.com](mailto:insuranceeric@aol.com)

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After reading the minutes it seems this is nothing but a sham and a way to sell more out of state licenses. What is it going to take to get it through to you people and GF&P to roll back this bs. S.D. used to be a great place to hunt and fish, keep it up and my and others land will be locked out as this seems to be the only recourse we will have!!!!!!!!!!!!

---

I HAVE BEEN COMING TO SOUTH DAKOTA EVERY YEAR SINCE 1996 TO HUNT WATERFOWL FOR THE MOST PART I HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN DRAWING A NON RESIDENT LICENSE, HOWEVER, I FEEL IT IS BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT TO DO SO. I USUALLY STAY ABOUT 7-10 DAYS AND COME WITH A BUDDY. MAYBE HAVING MORE LICENSE'S AVAILABLE WOULD BE HELPFUL EVEN IF THEY WERE TO BE 10 DAY LICENSE'S WE HUNT IN BONHOMME COUNTY AND THER HAS BEEN ONLY 250 YEARLY LICENSE'S AVAILABLE FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.LOVE TO COME AND STAY IN YOUR STATE, BUT IT IS VERY EASY TO GET A LICENSE OVER THE COUNTER IN NEBRASKA TO HUNT THE SAME WATERS. HOPEFULLY THERE WILL BE SOME SORT OF COMPROMISE IN THIS MATTER TO KEEP HUNTERS COMING TO YOUR STATE AND GENERATING THE REVENUE IT TAKES TO KEEP THE PROGRAM GOING AND IMPROVING.

SINCERLY, KEVIN  
COLLETT ST. PETERS, MISSOURI

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Good morning: Emily

I have sent a letter to the work group nonresident waterfowl issue, hoping that everyone will read. I just want to say that I am quite passionate about these issues, because I just don't think hunting pressure is that great especially with us hardcore late season hunters who love to hunt ducks these days.  
Please read and thank you for allowing us to have a voice on these issues.

Sent from my iPad  
Thank you  
Chuck Sterzinger  
President  
Apple Property Services Inc.  
GreenLineLawn Inc.  
[www.chuck@appleproperty.com](mailto:www.chuck@appleproperty.com)  
612-382-8852

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As far as you're thinking about splitting Clark county at highway 212, that is very unfair for the locals that are trying to bring in and show hunters a good hunt. We hunt both sides of the highway from day to day and as far as the amount of out of state hunters they are the ones that spend money in our local small towns to help keep them going.

They support our motels or supper clubs and or convenience stores very well for the short time they're here.

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Good morning,

After reading thru the Nonresident Waterfowl License Work Group's report from it's second meeting 2 Feb 2015 I have some concerns. I am a SD resident who hunts waterfowl and I am concerned how many Non Resident (NR) hunters we are allowing to hunt in the state and where they are hunting. I understand that economically we now have to let NR hunters into the state to hunt but the idea is that we allow some, not too many, in to harvest our resources. This flood gate has been opened and there is no going back so let us not make it worse for the SD residents who try to enjoy our hunting heritage by crowding our limited lands to hunt upon.

Statistics show that our resident waterfowlers are decreasing in number while the number of NR hunters is increasing. I think one is creating the other's decrease. Duck populations can and will fluctuate but the areas in which these populations live and breed in are going away or are being destroyed (CRP removal and drain-tiling). This is concerning because the powers that be seemingly want to commercialize our resources and hand them to the highest bidder (NR hunters & outfitters). There are NO regulations on outfitters or guides in SD. Why can't the state or GFP charge the outfitters and guides a fee to provide their services in our state and heavily fine the ones who operate here in SD without proper documentation of paying said fees. This seems like an easy source of income for the state.

My main concern is the number of NR licenses the state issues. We need not issue any more licenses to NR hunters than we are already issuing because overcrowding is a major problem in many areas like Unit B (NE corner of the state). I support the idea of the new boundaries of Unit B being Hwy 281 and 212, that makes sense. It also makes sense to split the 2,000 10-day and 500 3-day licenses into an early and late season for the unit. Ideally unit B should have far less hunting pressure not more. But the reality is that the number of NR licenses available will never be reduced, so they should be spread out.

In the end I don't want to see SD residents, like myself and my kids, to lose our freedom to hunt waterfowl in our state to NR hunters who are directly competing with this tax paying SD citizen.

Thank you for your time.

Andy Ellis  
1610 Derald drive  
Brookings, SD 57006

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Hi. I am a past resident of N. Dakota and now a nonresident hunter of S. Dakota. Because of the migratory nature of waterfowl through the mid-west and fluctuating temperatures after November 1 that can freeze most roosting water, I would like to see nonresident waterfowl licenses sold over the counter [no lottery] after November 1.

Thank you  
Dennis Beich  
20548 rd 22 ne  
Marlin Wa

---

I don't like the proposed zones. When we have to apply in July it is pretty tough to have an idea of where we need to hunt in the fall. We have hunted as far west as near Mobridge one year to by Webster another. I have seen small numbers in one area to large the next. If this is way you want split the state then split the 10 day period into 2 five day periods and make it so you can't hunt the same zone twice. My feelings are this just makes us roll the dice in July which I feel is a tough thing to do. I guess I would rather see the zones stay where it is at last season then your proposed changes.

Josh Revier

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I don't hunt waterfall in SD because it's difficult to make good use of a 10 day season. I would be more inclined to hunt SD if the season were to allow TWO five day hunts like your pheasant season.

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Dear Game, Fish and Parks,

**Map:**

**If** it is necessary to change the unit map I just noticed that you are going to make a lot of people unhappy along US Highway 212. Residents with nonresident guests and nonresidents on their own hunting that area will not be happy that they have to choose between Unit B and Unit C. Watertown is a very large city with a lot of resident and nonresident hunters and it would be better to have a region that surrounds Watertown. You could say the same about Aberdeen. Waterfowl hunters rarely travel more than 50 to 70 miles from where they are staying to hunt, primarily because of the need to scout. I just do not hear people hunting around Watertown saying lets go scout Aberdeen for tomorrow's hunt or vice a versa. I am not sure what to do with the North

East area of SD, have it free standing or incorporate it with Aberdeen or Watertown. I am not sure you need to change the units anyway.

**Number of licenses:**

I grew up in Minnesota and I have a lot of friends and relatives who love to come to SD to hunt. At least we haven't drained everything, yet. My two nephews who have moved to SD and I ask our Minnesota hunters several times if they could chose; would you want to always get a license or would you like to have the competition for hunting remain the same as it is now? They said, **THEY WOULD RATHER MISS A SEASON THAN HAVE IT LIKE PHEASANT HUNTING IS NOW, BUT IT WOULD BE WORSE TO DUE TO THE NATURE OF WATERFOWL HUNTING!!**

Thank you,  
Tom Yseth,  
Brookings, SD; former Game, Fish and Parks Commissioner.

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Hello,

Thank you for offering the opportunity to comment. I have serious concerns about increasing out of state waterfowl hunting licenses. If this occurs, we will see access to waterfowl land diminished just as what has happened with pheasant and deer hunting. I no longer hunt pheasants and deer. Landowners will see it as a profit-making endeavor and lock out South Dakota hunters for out of state pay to hunt people. This is devastating for SD residents who want to hunt who make a humble living. By selling out for out of state money, it will cause local hunters to hunt less, stop buying hunting gear, guns, ammunition, hotels, restaurants. Please don't increase out of state access to waterfowl hunting.

Sincerely,

Bob Beyer  
13823 Peaceful Pines Court  
Hermosa, SD 57744  
605-484-7639

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I hunted South Dakota waterfowl for the past two years. First of all, thank you for your efforts in the state of South Dakota for habitat conservation! I see other states that have abandoned putting money toward preserving habitat, and seemingly the residents have an attitude to disregard the degradation of their habitat. It seems as though South

Dakota is doing a better job of trying to preserve habitat, and that makes it a much more attractive state to hunt. It makes it a much more attractive state to spend my money. I will definitely be applying to hunt SD every year for waterfowl.

I enjoy the fact that the pressure is less in some areas of South Dakota. It's nice to be able to hunt where there is less pressure, even if I don't get a license every year. It would seem beneficial to continue to regulate the pressure and keep nonresident license numbers at current levels.

There has been damage done by the youth waterfowl hunt in MN. By the time the general public (not qualified for the youth hunt) gets to the marshes the birds are weary. It really discourages the general public from buying licenses based on the conversations I have had with other hunters. I'm not sure a nonresident youth hunt is the best idea.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment,

Mike Stangler  
901 Heritage Drive apt 226  
Sartell MN 56377

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I and three others are land owners of almost a section which is farmed but designed to support upland and waterfowl production. We are enrolled in many of the State and Federal programs. We have paid taxes for over 20 years.

My perennial problem is the lottery for a nonresident license...I get it, few and far between ...I see the application has a spot for the land owner to ID the property they own. Is this given the preference it should have?? And if not why???

We pay all the typical resident costs, taxes, hire local farmers, buy supplies, seed, and improve the land for game production with food plots ,water dugouts, shelter belts ....Yet we are assigned the same license privileges as some coming in for a weekend hunt...

Please consider giving a landowner a license every year ...especially ones who do as much for the land and support habitat that provides the game we both need for our jobs and recreation .

Alan Pesch  
[apesch@secondwindracing.net](mailto:apesch@secondwindracing.net)  
352 209 0633

11 point view place  
Cocoa , Fl 32926

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I have enjoyed hunting in your state for several years now, and will continue to do so. However, I must comment on any changes you may make to decrease my time allowed to hunt or restrict my areas. Most of my 10 day hunts I spend the first two days driving and finding a spot to hunt. Most of us have to do our homework, collecting plat books and scouting bird patterns. During a ten day hunt (if I can afford to stay that long) I have averaged 3 good shoots per ten days, perfect. For me and many NR's I have talked to, not many stay the full ten days, an interesting chart would be to survey us and find out how many stay the full course. I hunt NE, SD early to mid-November, when the mallards are in numbers. As far as pressure, yes there is, but that is no different than a migration through any other state, it is just the way it is now. Also, noticed that the number of resident hunters is decreasing for some reason. I doubt this reason is due to land access limitations because the nonresidents have it all spoken for. Waterfowling is a fad sport like muskie fishing here in MN. When numbers and size are up, people do it, when it is tough, the diehards are left to their heaven. We want to hunt the migration, everyone does. South Dakota is a migration state, thats the attraction. I like the limited draw for nonresidents, one year I didn't get drawn, I was crushed but I understand and took my measly thousand dollar allowance to ND. Some consideration towards a guy and his dog driving hundreds of miles into another state, searching for a spot with birds, gain permission and execute a hunt successfully needs to be acknowledged. It really isn't that easy, if I saw Iowa license plates in Minnesota scouting geese I would have to shake a guy's hand, a true passionate sportsman. In fact I have had lengthy discussions with landowners who feel sorry for us, and think we are nuts for "going up against" the local boys scrapping for a good shoot. A three day hunt means I drive to SD, scout for a day maybe two before my season starts, and get a good hunt my first day and probably never duplicate it the next two. I might as well hire a guide, something I am absolutely against. If I was denied a 10 day hunt and offered a 3 day, the gas and time off work versus the reward would not align, I wouldn't go and would feel like I wasted money on a license that is a trick to get me to try and spend money chasing my tail. In my experience what ruins an area for hunting opportunity is guiding and leasing. If none of what I have written takes any action, I can live with it, but I have seen the guides absolutely destroy areas with leases and money that I cannot compete with and won't try. Some examples of these areas, Rochester, MN, Lac Qui Parle, MN, Devils Lake, ND, Squaw Valley area, MO. I see this happening in the Sand Lake area more and more every year. Those areas are basically off limits to DIY hunting. Obviously refuges attract that kind of attention and there will be a few people always

trying to capitalize on them. Serious discussion needs to be had about the possibility of the guide force that is coming, when it hits you will have residents and nonresidents alike unhappy, and landowners involved in disputes, nobody wins. For the record, I think the current setup is fine and needs no adjusting, but I am not involved like you are and probably don't see all the issues. Success has never come easy for me, please don't make it any harder. Thanks for reading.

B. Morris  
Minnesota

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As a current resident and waterfowl enthusiast in the state of SD I have seen a lot of changes since I moved to South Dakota in 2006. In the past three years there has been a vast growing amount of pressure east river SD. I began hunting Kingsbury County in 2006 until 2009. During this time SD public lands areas were a real pleasure to hunt due to limited out of state pressure and locals hunting various different areas. In 2009 I moved to Aberdeen and the waterfowl hunting was some of the best I have ever seen. With that being said I never had an issue with out of state hunters during the fall season with great success and abundant opportunities for public land hunting. As of recent I am aware that the sport and technology have made waterfowl hunting much more feasible with better results on harvesting waterfowl. In 2011 with higher water and increased migration numbers it has become apparent that public land opportunities are becoming less for resident waterfowl enthusiasts. In 2011 I moved back to Brookings for work and have continued to hunt waterfowl. To my surprise Kingsbury county public land opportunities have become almost nonexistent due to a rapid increase in pressure. Public lands that were once a pleasure to enjoy, have now become plugged up with multiple out of state hunters hunting the same spots that I find myself the first person to. On multiple occasions on south brush lake and south Lake Thompson there have been times where out of state hunters set up on the same spot or show up during shooting time and ruin the experience all together. I understand that it is public land and it's there for everyone to enjoy, but as a waterfowl enthusiast there is an unwritten code of ethic to let the person that put in the work to set up and hunt the area hunt and enjoy the spot and move on to another. Once again while moving to another spot it is more often than not full of hunters. I would like to see an increased effort in limiting the number of out of state hunters so that residents can enjoy South Dakota public land opportunities once again. Most of the out of state hunters in our area or out of state students at SDSU from Minnesota have no regard to resident hunters. It would be beneficial to limit the amount of out of state student licenses in my opinion. To make up for lost revenue for licenses for out of staters I as well as others that I know would be willing to pay more in

resident fees. We would do this not with the price in mind, but rather for love of the sport, conservation, and South Dakota outdoors.

Thanks

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Thank you for considering my comments.

As background, last year (2014) was the first time I applied for a SD non-resident waterfowl license. I was part of a group of 4 hunters. We applied, and successfully received a 3-day license in unit 00Y. We hunted 10/30-11/1. We chose 00Y because we have an acquaintance who lives in Sisseton and is knowledgeable of the area. We hunted the first day on public land and the last two days on two separate private properties that we gained permission. Our harvest totaled about 30 ducks of different species. We also spent some time hunting pheasants on public land harvesting 4 roosters. All totaled, we probably spent (in SD specifically) at least \$2000 in license fees, gasoline, motel, food and beverage. We felt the hunt to be very enjoyable and successful. We are planning to return in 2015 for a similar hunt assuming we are successful in the lottery process.

My comments follow. First, I'm perplexed as to why SD even has a lottery process for the non-resident waterfowl hunter. Personally, I've hunted waterfowl in Ne, Ia, Ks, Nd, Ar, and Tx. I'm also familiar with license requirements in several other states, and SD is the only state, that I'm aware, which has a lottery process for non-resident waterfowl licensing. I assume the purpose is to limit non-residents in order to supply more opportunity for residents. But, based on my admittedly limited experience last year, the lack of opportunity for resident SD waterfowl hunters would seem to be a small issue. We encountered only two groups of non-resident hunters while in SD, and that's only because they were staying in the same motel. We neither saw, nor encountered other hunters in the field, either resident or non-resident. Compared to my home state Nebraska, SD seems blessed with a commendable and enviable wealth of publicly available lands open to hunting. Add to that the immense amount of private property potential, and it's hard to imagine an opportunity problem for anyone. Second, I know SD is an important waterfowl production state, but I assume the vast majority of production is migratory out of the state. Also, I imagine that a fair amount of the waterfowl harvested in SD originates in areas further north of SD, which also, eventually migrate to southern states. Therefore, it seems to me the lottery serves mainly to limit non-resident revenue for the private and public sectors of SD, and to provide a slightly larger waterfowl population for hunters in states further south. Third, although not prohibitive, the lottery process does complicate the planning process for the non-

resident hunter. Not being assured of a license, adds uncertainty to inviting a client or potential customer you might want to entertain, and being unsuccessful in the lottery, I'm sure would be personally disappointing and frustrating.

Again, thank you for considering my comments, and I thank you for the hunting we experienced last year. You have a beautiful state, and assuming our success in the lottery, we look forward to visiting you again next year and in the future. Otherwise, thank you for saving me money and sending more ducks south.

Dan Kloock  
1412 N. 145th Plz  
Omaha, Ne 68154  
402-990-5927  
[dkloock01@gmail.com](mailto:dkloock01@gmail.com)

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The only people that want more nonresidents are guides. With the low water levels, we had an extremely hard time getting on public land the first month of the season. Every public area looked like disco balls with all the spinners going!

Talk with Non Residents that actually come here to hunt, they would rather keep it the way it is vs overcrowding even more. Maybe have them do a survey when they buy their license and see what they want. They like QUALITY hunting, that's why they come here, not to line some big operations pockets.

Look at the people pushing this...has not one thing to do with "under-utilized" land- they are getting their pockets lined.

We can't even find any geese in the Eastern part of the state thanks to all the oiling, stomping, and smashing. It is a natural resource that needs to be kept from raping like what happened with the pheasants.

My lord, I quit hunting pheasant because I couldn't get access to land, but it is much easier with ducks....if you do this we won't be able to get on private land for ducks, either.

I know this is falling on deaf ears, you already are seeing \$\$\$\$ signs and the waterfowlers are going pay for it. Thanks for keeping an open mind...

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Gentlemen and Ladies,

I have been coming to South Dakota dating back to over twelve years. We generally come as a group of at least 4 people. When we have more we always run the risk of someone not getting a license. I would like to see more of an effort to have a group lottery system and the odds being more in favor of this type of group. Groups bring more money to the state and put it right into the local economy. It makes it more fun when you are a group and tends to bring the same people back in the years to come.

Second point, I know you have a set number of licenses. We hunt the area around Pierre for both waterfowl and pheasants. However, I have never witnessed to many waterfowl hunters from out of state. Maybe one year you could try and have over the counter licenses issued. I really think it would spread out the hunters and bring more overall people in.

Thank you for your hard work, I think your department does a great job and they are always very helpful. This type of communication is a fine example of listening to what hunters want to see.

Joel Summers  
3520 Admiralty Bay Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99515  
907-522-6416

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I have been hunting ducks in northeastern SD since the early 90s. The only years I've missed were years where I didn't draw a license. My hunting ranges from Aberdeen to Webster and Watertown to Clark. I think the proposed Unit B using HWY 281 and 212 as boundaries is an effort to fix something that doesn't need to be fixed. Having to choose a license to hunt the north side of HWY 212 versus the south side of it is silly. We go where the birds are. That can't be predicted in July at the time of our applications. I would encourage you to keep the boundaries the way they are.

The only thing you should consider changing is the 10 day period. I've talked to SD Game and Fish agents as well as several SD legislators and nobody can articulate a good reason why it remains a 10 consecutive day license rather than a license that can be split into 2 five day licenses, as with pheasants. Split waterfowl seasons would presumably generate more revenue for South Dakota and improve the hunting experience for nonresidents. Most people can only make one trip to hunt ducks. They rarely hunt all 10 days. They usually just hunt 5 or 6 days. Most hunters would return for

a second trip if you allowed them to split the seasons. This would lead to more hotels, more meals in restaurants,... etc.

Matt Hanzel, J.D.  
Mayo Clinic Legal Department  
200 1st St. SW; Plummer 7  
Rochester, MN 55905  
Phone: 507-284-0001 Fax: 507-284-0929

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the reports from the committee on Nonresident Waterfowl License Work Group.

Concerning the boundaries of Unit B, I would like to see it include all of Brown County. Having the county line be the western edge vs. highway 281

Thank you

Mark Haglin  
14752 Three Mile Road  
Brainerd, MN 56401

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Steve Calkins  
4472 Sunnymeade Drive  
Saint Joseph, MI 49085

As non-resident waterfowl hunter who has applied and come to South Dakota for several years, each time I enjoyed a high quality waterfowl experience. Each time I and my group (usually 4-8) enlisted an outfitter to enhance our experience and show us around. After reading some of the proposed maps and allotments for 10 day or 3 days licenses my only comment is that many times you don't know which area (or outfitter) you are going to hunt until after you draw a permit. It seems like this makes to choice of area more difficult and potentially confusing. Example one of the outfitters I have hunted with is in area B but has land on both sides of Hwy 281, which if I understand is in area C. You would only be able to hunt half their land holdings. This would make this process far more confusing than it already is. I would not be in favor of this type of change.

I would be in favor of offering of a limited number of 3 day licenses vs 10 days as some hunters can only come for a long weekend.

Thank you,

Steve Calkins

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1. Why has the NR unit around the Missouri river in central SD been restricted to private land? This would be the newly proposed unit C-1. I think this was done back in the day when goose guiding/outfitters was more prominent but that doesn't seem to be the case anymore. I don't see that it would matter if non-residents were allowed to hunt on public or private land.

There is almost no interest in that license any more (based on #'s of applications) and currently only about 1/3 of the licenses are even sold (400 out of 1,500). Why not just combine Unit C and Unit C-1 and allow 1,750 10 day licenses and 1,400 3 day licenses (good on public or private land) and call it Unit C.

2. Has there been any discussion on splitting the 10 day license into 2 5 day periods like is currently done with the pheasant license? Do you know the average # of days spent hunting by 10 day license holders? I'm assuming it's probably ~5 days. It actually could spread pressure out a bit more and may not even increase pressure. For example, 1 trip for 5-7 consecutive days vs. 2 trips for 3-4 days. Motel owners/businesses etc. would favor the 2nd option. Most hunters probably would not come back for a 2nd trip regardless. If it would spread effort out, that seems like it would be positive.

3. Have you considered allocating NR licenses using the existing duck zones? Low Plains north, low Plains south, and remainder of the state (if Unit C and Unit C-1 were combined). That wouldn't look a lot different than the maps in Attachment 4 and seems to make more sense since there are slight differences in season dates etc. in each zone.

4. SD has lost large numbers of resident waterfowl hunters. There are ~15,000 now which is 10,000 fewer than just a decade ago (40% decline) and considerably less than the 1970s-1980s when there were ~35,000 resident hunters. Was hunting pressure ever "too high" under those conditions? If not, it seems like continuing to increase the NR licenses should be done. It seems strange that the state promotes non-resident pheasant hunting (where you now sell more non-resident licenses than resident

licenses) but remains extremely restrictive with waterfowl licenses, despite large declines in resident waterfowl hunters. Every motel/restaurant welcomes our business every year that we are drawn for a non-resident license.

Steve Smith  
Mankato, MN

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I understand you are reconsidering the extent and availability of non-resident licenses. I have two brothers who have both moved out of state but grew up with me hunting ducks. A long standing tradition of a "brother's weekend" hunting ducks but unfortunately has not happened in recent years due to the high cost of licenses and the necessity of selecting dates so early. I hope that you might find a way to have reduce cost and possibly relaxed requirements for documented former South Dakota residents.

I think it would be great to encourage former South Dakotans to return to hunt.

Thanks for your consideration.

--

*Wayne & Cindy Steinhauer*  
*26581 East Shore Place*  
*Hartford SD 57033*  
*605-526-4269*

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I am 74 years old. For many years, I have hunted ducks with my nonresident sons and grandsons in Robert's county because my son's father-in-law is a resident there. We stay at their home and usually hunt 6 days over two week ends. Up until about 10 years ago, our group usually was drawn. But with all of the attention about the northeast corner published by the SD Fish and Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, and the advent of 3 day licenses, I usually only get drawn every other year, (except the last two years we were drawn). In the off years, we buy Tribal Licenses, which have now increased to \$225. and hunting sites are limited.

Also, the amount of private land formerly available to us is being acquired by outfitters, both local and out-of-state. When something is good, it is commercialized, just like the SD pheasant hunting.

We are fortunate however, as our access to private land, although greatly diminished, is still enough to have quality hunts.

I don't think I would come to SD any longer if my license had many more restrictions as to regions to hunt or dates. For example, I believe the ducks were gone this year in our hunting area by the first of November, so why buy a license in July restricted to a late date. Some years are good late and others are bad. Lowering the number of licenses in a region, such as where we hunt in the northeast, will only make the probability of being drawn lower. Also, I will have to find other lodging and new places to hunt.

It is another subject, but I would urge SD F&G to show some preference to us seniors in getting drawn or in region selection.

I won't quite hunting, but will go to North Dakota where my son lives and to southern Manitoba where I have a good friend. But I love to come to South Dakota, it is my favorite place. I grew up on the Illinois River and hunted there growing up, then I hunted for many years in Minnesota until the ducks quit coming through there. I also have gone to California for about 10 years.

But South Dakota is my favorite of all of these. I hope you can come up with a solution to your problem.

You have a difficult job. Good luck.

Jim Bonham  
Lake Elmo, MN  
651-245-7156

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As a resident hunter and member of many conservation and hunting advocacy organizations, I want to make it CLEAR that any increases in the number of nonresident waterfowl hunting licenses will be viewed unfavorably (I'm trying very hard to be polite about this). The GFP is not publicly viewed as having a particularly good record in recent decades in forecasting wildlife conditions. For example, I am privy to advice and conversations that were provided to the GFP regarding pheasant hunting at least a decade ago of changing habitat conditions that were ignored or discounted and have now left us with a poor present and future. Public trust, particularly by landowners and hunters (and their advocacy groups), in the GFP is not at favorable levels.

Increasing the number of nonresident waterfowl licenses is an ill-conceived idea to increase funding for the GFP. It is grossly short-sighted and does not have the public's interests at the forefront.

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To whom it may concern,

I am continually boggled by the fact that each year I do not know if I am going to be able to hunt in South Dakota. Since the early 90's my step-dad and myself have been taking annual trips to both North and South Dakota to hunt for a full week at a time. We also hunt in our home state of Minnesota, also Wisconsin and make the trip to Utah from time to time and occasionally Nebraska. By far South Dakota ALWAYS proves to be the most difficult state to obtain a license. You do by far have the best and most abundant state/federal/public lands-and information about these lands is so detailed and accessed so easily. I just wish accessing the licenses were as easy as you make everything else in your wonderful state. With the duck populations, waters, and breeding populations I do not understand why we continually have to push off making any sort of reservations or taking time off of work due to the fact that we have to apply for a license. We pay for licenses, license fees, stay in your hotels and rental properties, buy your food and drinks, use your gas stations and come home with wonderful memories. We hunt in the northeast portion of the state and very rarely even come across other hunters and most residents are happy to let us onto their land to hunt waterfowl. I could understand if lands were drastically reduced, or the water was disappearing, or hoards of non-residents were taking all the ducks-but none of these things seem true. I rarely see other hunters and even more infrequently see resident hunters. The birds are more than plentiful and there is great access to lands. We NEVER have problems in North Dakota-we can ALWAYS count on being able to spend a week there-and so we do, with deposits down and a place for us to stay is held from year to year, this has been going on for more than 2 decades now. It is that easy in the state to your North. We have however had years where only one of us or neither has drawn a South Dakota license-leading us to seek alternatives in other states. I just don't understand why the state makes it MORE difficult for people from out of state to come and hunt waterfowl. You don't put those kind of restrictions on your pheasant hunting. Why on waterfowl. Especially with the number of waterfowl hunters across this nation continually seeing a decline and the average age of said waterfowlers continually rising-meaning youth and younger adults are a decreasing population of hunters. I can buy as many pheasant licenses as I want in a year-so as long as I pay for a new one each time the days run out. Why is it so difficult for waterfowl. It makes it very hard to have standing reservations with lodges, hotels, private renters-as you do not decide and inform the hunter until summer. Most work places-mine in healthcare-need at least 2-3 months'

notice to take that time off. Plus-having to make last minute reservations each year is frustrating and difficult trying to plan having a family and taking the time off. I love the state, the scenery, the people, the birds-but the hoops we have to jump through is getting to the point that we are looking at other states to take our 2<sup>nd</sup> trip each year. We know we can count on one state and that is North Dakota, I truly wish that something would change so that I knew I could count on South Dakota each year-but sadly I just cannot.

**Peter J. Knudson, M.S.**

Neuropsychometrist  
HealthPartners Neuropsychology &  
Center for Memory & Aging

2220 Riverside Ave, Mailstop 31700a  
Minneapolis, MN 55454  
(612) 341-4887

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Dear Workgroup:

Thank you for taking the time to seriously consider this issue and to consider public comment in your deliberations.

I am a native South Dakotan and grew up in a small town in Clark County. Like many of my friends and relatives, I began waterfowl hunting as soon as the law allowed, and have continued to do so all of my life (I am now 60). Generally speaking, I think the GFP and other policy makers have done a good job of regulating waterfowl hunting (and all hunting for that matter) over my lifetime.

I have been against expanding the number and opportunity for out of state waterfowl licenses. My wife says that is because I am selfish, and to some degree, she is correct. However, I don't feel that there is an over-abundance of waterfowl hunting opportunities for in-state residents at this time, and that naturally leads to some competition for areas to hunt. For example, the local Canada goose numbers have fallen significantly in the last 2-3 years. I think (just my opinion) this is a result of (1) loss of habitat due to reduced rainfall and increased tiling, (2) the spring depredation season, and (3) local producers pretty much thinning out the flocks as they see fit. Also, for the last three years at least, the duck and goose migrations from Canada and North Dakota have basically blown through in a few days when severe weather has hit. I think

they are staying further north longer because of the expansion of corn and soybeans in those northern areas.

Because of the falling bird numbers and the increasingly tight time frame when they are in the area, I feel there is a concentration of hunters in the best areas at the best times. Often this includes out of state hunters who basically are on vacation and are hunting fulltime. They end up tying up both private and public lands because they have the time to be out and about while the locals are at work or school.

I was glad to see in your minutes that you acknowledged this is a social issue and not a biological issue. Having said that, I did not see explained anywhere what the driving force is behind this work group and this subject. What are we looking to change in terms of out of state licenses, and why are we looking at any change at all? If it's a money issue, then I am skeptical. If it is some kind of fairness issue, I am more willing to listen.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to comment, and I would hope you could respond to questions above.

Sincerely,

Randy Hoffman  
Madison, SD

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To the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Nonresident Waterfowl License Work Group:

My name is Dave Sabrowsky and I am or have been a nonresident (formerly Wisconsin now Georgia) waterfowl hunter in South Dakota. My current mailing address is 4028 Cannon Creek Trail, Gainesville, Georgia 30504. I received your e-mail yesterday and immediately read the information available at the work group site.

You have asked for suggestions or comments on the structure of nonresident waterfowl license allocations and unit boundaries discussed. Before I can comment on anything I really do need to know **why** there is a group discussing changing the present format and unit boundaries and what are the goals? Have there been complaints from resident and/or nonresident waterfowl hunters concerning the present system? If so, what are the concerns? I'd certainly appreciate knowing the impetus for the committee because from my groups experience, we have truly enjoyed our waterfowl hunting in South

Dakota, and cannot understand the need for change. When we draw, we normally hunt Brown and Marshall Counties on the opening 3 or 4 days, and appreciate the quality hunting opportunities South Dakota has to offer. When I refer to quality, I refer to plenty of water to hunt with very little other hunters present. That is all we ask. Apparently that isn't the case for everyone so I'd love to hear "the rest of the story".

Thank you for the opportunity to get involved.

Appreciatively,

Dave Sabrowsky

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I would like an explanation as to why there is not season long license in units other than unit A. I would prefer if there were some season long licenses in unit C as well. Thank you.

Jake Weier  
44238 287th St  
Freeman, SD 57029

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Hi Folks!

Thanks for providing a look at the brief history and the proposals for changes to the NR waterfowl framework. I guess what I wish you had included is information on why the changes are being considered and what are you trying to accomplish with the changes. After looking at the maps and charts I'm going to guess that it has something to do with the concentration of effort in the NE corner of the state, primarily during the last 2 weeks of October and the first week of November.

My experience has been being fortunate enough to draw a 10 day license for the past 4 years. Our group of 6 consists of "old guys" so we chose not to try to hunt pheasants and ducks on the same hunt. Many folks like to hunt ducks in the morning and pheasants in the PM. I'm 71 and that is too much for me. So we always start our 10 day license on opening day and hunt for 4 days. We all have dogs and prefer to hunt over water rather than stubbleing mallards later in the fall. And we like the variety of duck species available. Identifying the birds on the wing just adds to the enjoyment.

I'd rate our hunts as excellent. We hunt eastern Brown and Marshall Counties. Plenty of birds and liberal limits with the bonus BW teal and 3x possession limit. No need to eat ducks every day to stay within the possession limit and with each hunter having the possibility of bring home 24 ducks, we are not disappointed if we don't fill up. Hunter crowding has not been a problem. This past year we did encounter a group of "locals" on a very large pond on opening morning and that was it for seeing other hunters.

I assume attachment #4 is what you are going with. I favor that over Attachment #2 that splits Brown County from Marshall County and creates 6 zones. Why be so complicated with so many zones? Attachment #3 is more like #4 and I would favor that over #2. Attachment #1 is similar to #4 except that it uses counties lines as boundaries. As a NR hunter not overly familiar with the area, I much prefer highway boundaries.

So, in the end, I'm guessing you wish to limit the hunters in the NE corner of the state and it makes sense then, that the license allocation you have given to that area would do that. From my standpoint, anything that decreases our group's chance of getting drawn is a change I'd rather not see, especially since we have not experienced any crowding during those first 4 days of the duck season.

Thanks,

Jim Blankenheim  
W3752 Spring Creek Drive  
Tomahawk, WI 54487  
Phone 715 453-9465

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Please do not allow more out of state duck hunting Licenses. This will only make duck hunting like pheasant hunting. We have already lost our grouse hunting and most of our pheasant hunting to pay hunters. I enjoy going hunting with my children and friends at state and federal waterfowl areas.

I don't want out of state hunters competing for what little area we have.

They can hunt the ducks in there state when they travel thru. I am an active member of DU and the state president elect. This could cause a large loss of grass roots money raised in South Dakota to preserve wet lands and nesting habitat. Why would I want to raise money so hunting lodges can make more money hunting ducks.

Thank You

Harold R. Bickner  
PO Box 189

Kimball, SD  
57355-0189

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Mike Piercy  
233 Somerset Drive  
Sugar Grove, IL 60554

Greetings.

I have reviewed the discussion notes and maps pertaining to the waterfowl work group as it relates to nonresident licenses. I have particular interest as this is an adventure I anticipate yearly. The reallocation and revised unit boundaries may indeed accomplish the group goals to better disperse nonresident pressure, but the Alternate 4 boundary map and license allocation certainly create significant complications to the non-resident planning a trip to certain areas. Specifically, the NE portion of the state. The proposal would force the hunter at the time of application to select options not knowing the habitat conditions (which I realize are never known or given by the July deadline for the upcoming season). However, I'll present the specifics in my particular instance as an example. Aberdeen is a top 3-5 population center in SD and a social and economic hub in the NE area in question. As a hunter on a 3-10 day trip basing in Aberdeen for accommodations, they would have to determine whether to travel east or west from 281 as the Unit B boundary now restricts free access that the statewide permit allowed. Essentially, the value of the 3-10 day statewide license is being devalued for the nonresident as it does not allow freedom to scout and hunt previously available areas. Is the SD GFP going to reduce this application fee since the value has been reduced?

As I mentioned, perhaps this restriction was the intention of the group, but it may also result in frustrated hunters who cannot gain private access when other public areas may not be productive, to possibly hunt roosts or violate boundaries to harvest birds on this committed trip which hurts all hunters, residents and nonresidents. If the change is desired, it seems more logical to address the density and hunting pressure by allowing a radius or reasonable shaped range from a significant economic center (ie Aberdeen) where waterfowlers could scout and travel all directions and disperse the pressure rather than force them certain directions based on the new boundary and possibly focus pressure. Perhaps there is merit to maintaining the statewide access and adjusting when a set amount of nonresident licenses could be scheduled on the calendar to alleviate the pressure spikes rather than confining access.

I'm curious what the complaints were and from who, and what exactly the impacts were? Was there a real tangible problem, or a perceived issue from a limited population of people? I understand the loyalty of the SD GFP should be to the residents that pay taxes, but do the nonresidents really alter the local hunter opportunities? The system and licenses and boundaries have been in place for 10 plus years, and bird populations have strengthened in recent years as well. As a nonresident that has been fortunate to hunt numerous years in the recent past and hunt with other residents as well as solo, I have never encountered a conflict or problem with local or other nonresident hunters that spoiled a hunt.

Is there really a need for change? Does it have to be permanent?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Mike Piercy

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Dear Sirs,

As long time nonresident SD pheasant and waterfowl hunter the current system could be enhanced to provide more opportunities for nonresidents to enjoy SD waterfowl hunting. I've read the minutes of the meeting and my suggestions are:

1) create a 4 day non-state land waterfowl permit. This permit would be valid to hunt only on private property. I think that this would help the social issue related to nonresident hunting on state funded properties, since it would not compete with resident hunters on state land. This permit should be available over the counter for all nonresident hunters any time during the season.

2) A 12 day nonresident waterfowl permit that is valid on both state and private property and is by lottery based on the quotas for each zone. The 12 days could be divided into 3 four day periods. This would allow for hunters more flexibility to come to SD when the waterfowl hunting is at its best. The quotas should be set annually based in part on the number of applicants from the previous year and on the DNR analysis of the available hunting areas to maximize use and provide a good experience for both resident and nonresident hunters.

South Dakota can become a leading waterfowl hunting destination and that would provide substantial contributions to the SD economy.

Sincerely,

Cliff Lawson  
3539 Hwy T  
Labadie, MO 63055

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Hello,

I have spent the last 24 hours thinking over my thoughts on this topic after I initially read all the information. I feel there is an opportunity here for this committee and South Dakota to do the right thing for all waterfowl hunters that wish to enjoy South Dakota.

I have applied each and every year for the last 15 - 20 years to obtain a non-resident license to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota. It is very disappointing when you open your drawing results to find that you were unsuccessful. It is really tough to tell your children we can't hunt ducks in South Dakota this year. Every time this occurs I think my goodness we are talking about migratory birds. These birds that I pursue may not even be in the area I hunt for the 3 or 10 days that I choose to pick for my hunting days.

In comparison, South Dakota allows non-resident pheasant hunters to purchase as many licenses as they wish. This is for a non-migratory bird that can easily be depleted with over hunting, weather, etc. The number of pheasant licenses is not restricted and any hunter that wishes to hunt just buys a license over the counter.

There are less than 5000 waterfowl non-resident applicants wishing for a 10 consecutive day license to hunt in SD (the entire state of SD). Of these 3750 successful applicants you know that most of these hunters probably hunt at most 5 of the 10 days at best. Much of that 10 days are days not hunted. Why not grant licenses to everyone that applies but limit the number of days?

Say 1500 are 10 day licenses

1000 are 5 day licenses and

Allow the rest to hold 3 day licenses.

This way everyone that wishes to come and hunt and spend money in South Dakota gets to do so. At least they would get one trip to your state to enjoy the sport they love in South Dakota. This adds no extra hunting pressure for migratory birds.

Information shows that duck populations are not at all damaged or depleted by over hunting in South Dakota. Their numbers are hurt by loss of nesting area, too many predators, diseases, weather, etc. Their numbers are not hurt by say an extra 1000 - 2000 hunter's for a 3 day period of time.

SDGF&P is illustrating that the majority of non-resident licenses are used in the NE part of SD. The idea of limiting the non-resident licenses to 2000 will make it much more difficult to obtain a non-resident license in the future if that is true. Why tell anyone NO that wants to hunt migratory birds in your state. There is no guarantee the ducks and geese are even there to hunt as they may have left due to weather or may not have migrated south from Canada yet.

There is no reason to limit the number of waterfowl hunters in an area. At most you are talking about 5 days of hunting from these hunters not an entire season. Why say NO to anyone that wants to enjoy your state.

My last thought. These same hunters, me included, spend hundreds and thousands of dollars with conservation organizations such as Ducks Unlimited. You understand what these organizations are about and I'm quite sure their work is not meant just for residents. Their work is to preserve Ducks, Geese, animals and wetlands for all to enjoy.

Thank you for reading my note and taking my thoughts into consideration.

Respectfully,  
Scott Conrad

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To whom it may concern,

I have been as resident of South Dakota on and off in my life. My family moved out here in 1984. I moved back to Minnesota for 10 years. And when the chance to move back to SD came, I jumped. Being away made me realize how much I missed what SD has to offer, the outdoors. I missed hunting in SD. I also work in an industry that relies on out of state hunting and fishing business. So I know how much of an impact that side of the business can be.

Working in the lodging and restaurant business, I have come to meet a great deal of people to travel 10 plus hours to enjoy what the Glacial Lakes region has to offer. Whether it's hunting or fishing, there are two types of people. Those who enjoy it no matter what they get, or those who are here to get there limit no matter what. The people who enjoy what the area has to offer are way better to deal with.

I know you can't tell what type of people are by an application, I also know there are residents who are out to get there limit too. What I as a resident would like to see, is work towards a balance. Don't over sell out of state where the pressure is so bad the residents who live here year round don't enjoy going out, but don't under cut it where businesses suffer. Living in NE South Dakota, there is a lot of pressure in the fall. From Residents of the state traveling up here to hunt, to out of state hunters coming for the time allowed, I know this area has a lot of land enrolled in the walk in program that makes this area really great, plus with all the lakes and water. But I also have noticed a shift in the fly patterns too. With so much pressure it's here today gone tomorrow. The local birds aren't staying around long either.

Basically what I'm saying is. I moved back to enjoy what SD has to offer, and I know people come here for what we have to offer. I would just like to see a system put in place where the area can support (x) amount of hunters, resident and nonresident. So that everyone can enjoy the hunts, enjoy the fishing, enjoy what the area has to offer. I have seen what mother-nature can do to this corner when it comes to pheasant hunting, I hate to see it go through a spell of bad waterfowl hunting and fishing.

I know for residents there are zones, I don't know for sure if the same zones apply to nonresidents. My suggestion would be making smaller zones for nonresidents, make Roberts, Grant, Marshall, Day counties a zone, etc. Get four or five counties in a zone, Manage it like deer. There is x amount licenses available per zone. Some may have more some may have less, given bird counts, migration, land etc. After the 1st drawing if there are still spots available for a zone, let them apply again. You do it for deer, turkey, etc. run it the same way, If one guy is drawn in zone 3, and wants to apply for zone 1 in the redraw, great.

That is just my idea, I'm all for taking those out of state guys money when they are here, But I don't want see it miss managed to the point where no one enjoys residents and non.

Thank You  
Neil Fischer  
Webster SD

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These are migratory birds and no residents deserve as u h access as South Dakota deserves access to the beach.

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Attn: Non-resident waterfowl hunting committee,

As a non-resident waterfowl hunter from Wisconsin I received your e-mail this week seeking comments on hunting waterfowl in South Dakota.

They are as follows:

- 1) The past 5 years of waterfowl hunting in South Dakota have been some of the best hunting memories in my 45 years of hunting and fishing in this great nation of ours.
- 2) South Dakota has provided outstanding opportunities in both species and types of hunts
- 3) Season as currently structured with generous bag limits is wonderful

- 4) Hunting pressure in the Brown/Marshal area has been minimal hunting the first 4 to 5 days of the season each year.
- 5) Local residents and interfacing with them has been one of the most enjoyable parts of the hunt
- 6) As a hunter with dogs, the many opportunities to hunt over water and available locations are tremendous
- 7) Maps to the areas open are excellent and local wardens have been awesome in assisting
- 8) I understand that pressure later in the season might be much greater than what I see in late September and early October
- 9) I have loved the simple zones we currently hunt under and hope you are able to make the modifications you deem necessary without making new regulations or boundaries too difficult to understand

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment and I hope we can enjoy more time in South Dakota.

Sincerely,

John Gatton  
432 County Road F  
Antigo, WI 54409  
Phone: 920 -450-8514

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Dear GFP, GFP Commission & NR Waterfowl Work Group,

As a resident waterfowl hunter I do not support the proposed changes after meeting #2. I do not support changing 3-day licenses that were allocated for private land only near the Upper Missouri River to other portions of the state to be used on public or private land. I also strongly do not support changing the current allocation or structure of the September goose licenses in any way shape or form. I do not support NR youth licenses as well. I also do not support 10-day licenses being valid for public land in Unit C-1, you have not seen pressure until you spend a week in the Pierre Area in Dec. or Jan. The proposed Units and license numbers after meeting 2 does nothing to spread out hunting pressure but will actually increase competition for quality hunting areas in all units proposed. Increased competition leads to leasing of land and less opportunity for many. Increasing NR licenses leads to more commercial hunting operations and the majority loose out when that occurs.

I'm disheartened by lack of respect to the wishes of the waterfowl hunters of SD, be it residents or non-residents, during these work group meetings. I know for a fact increasing licenses is not wanted by hunters. It was agreed on by legislative action that licenses would not be raised by more than 5% each year, which was and now even more an unpopular move with waterfowl hunters. Moving these "unused licenses" to what some feel would be used areas in essential creating a new license. It is a sneaky way of saying you are not raising license but in reality you are and it is a slap in face to folks that truly want to protect our quality of waterfowl hunting in SD. By moving 700 licenses to Unit C and 100 to unit A you are essentially raising licenses by nearly 20%. It is a bold move and basically an outright lie on what would happen with NR waterfowl licenses. Statue says at most 5% and it is proposed to increase licenses sold by at least 20% (not accounting for what some commercial interests would love to do with Sept. licenses). That is basically when no resident waterfowl hunters and I would guess at least 50% of non-resident waterfowl hunters do not want any changes at all.

I always love how South Dakota talks about retaining our youth and young families to stay in South Dakota. Outdoors and hunting activities are a huge draw for our residents to stay here and live their lives but yet we continue to put the wishes of a few non-resident hunters and commercial hunting interests first. Why is that? When will you be happy? Never? Please think about that for a moment. The current proposal after meeting #2 does nothing for resident hunters, period. It does nothing but hurt the quality of the hunting for residents and non-residents alike. Raising license numbers or moving them to areas in which they were not created for is not supported by the hunters that truly care about the quality of the resource. Once again commercial hunting appears to be ruling SD, what a shame. I do not support license changes after meeting #2. I do not support any actions that would increase non-resident licenses sold.

Thank you for your time,  
Justin Allen  
303 Merry Rd.  
Pierre, SD

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To whom it concerns:

I'm sending this email in regards for not being in favor of the proposals after meeting #2. I do not support changes to current licenses numbers or allocations that would create additional licenses being sold. Also I do not support altering non-resident Sept. goose licenses in any shape of form. I am not in favor of any additional licenses being sold anywhere in the state. Keep things the same as they are now. We do not need to start

paying to hunt waterfowl as the commercialized pheasant hunting has already taken that away from residents of South Dakota.

Thanks for your time

Paul Bohls  
Watertown SD

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I am writing to voice my concern regarding nonresident waterfowl licensing in South Dakota. In my opinion, the number of licenses issued to out of state hunters should not be increased, rather decreased, due to the number of active sportsmen in South Dakota. As it stands, finding suitable hunting opportunities in our state is becoming increasingly difficult. Recent history has shown surrounding states have allowed increased numbers of nonresident hunters, and their current population has been phased out of their passion for the lifestyle passed on through the generations. Over the past few years of using unethical tactics, such as destroying nests, the goose population has been overly decreased, to the point where passionate sportsmen are becoming discouraged. Obtaining ample areas to harvest is becoming increasingly difficult due to the increase of nonresident hunters moving into Northeast South Dakota. I was born and raised as a South Dakota waterfowl hunter, and I continue to reside here for the opportunity to raise my family to possess my passion for hunting. In closing, I feel the proposed increase of Northeast South Dakota nonresident licenses should be denied, in fact decreased, due to the limited opportunities resident sportsmen are presently allowed .

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Weeks  
1009 7th Avenue NE  
Watertown, SD 57201  
(605) 520-2233

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Hi,

As a non-resident hunter who enjoys coming to SD every fall, I would like to email my support of rezoning Map #4 for nonresident water fowling and also support the NR youth opportunities.

Sincerely,

Nick Bilava

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Gentlemen

I support implementation of Map #4 which will allow more tags for Non-residents.... also allowing more non-resident youth hunters.

*Thomas Nielsen*

*President*

*Mo-tech Corp.*

*2920 Granada Ave. N.*

*Oakdale, Mn 55128*

*651-770-1515 ext. 206*

*612-963-8037 cell*

[tom\\_nielsen@mo-tech.com](mailto:tom_nielsen@mo-tech.com)

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I support the rezoning of map #4 and the NR youth hunting. South Dakota has wonderful duck hunting and I would come back annually if I could guarantee I could hunt!

**Channing Walker | Supply Chain Administrator**

**Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc.**

**447 Highway 346 W | Ecrú, MS 38841**

**p 662-489-5655 ext. 134309 | c 662-397-7419 | [CWalker@Ashleyfurniture.com](mailto:CWalker@Ashleyfurniture.com)**

**[www.ashleyfurniturehomestore.com](http://www.ashleyfurniturehomestore.com) | [www.ashleyfurniture.com](http://www.ashleyfurniture.com)**

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As a non-residence SD hunter, I support re zoning map 4 Tks Jim

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I am in support of the above the rezoning of map # 4 as well as the application of same to the youth only waterfowl weekend.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jim Lisk  
1551 Withers Drive  
Denver, NC 28037  
(704) 966-0770 (O)  
(803 )417-9002 (M)  
(704) 966-0770 (F)  
[JLisk@Charter.net](mailto:JLisk@Charter.net)

---

Hello

I saw the proposed boundary changes for the non-resident waterfowl applicants. I would like to voice my opinion on that.

I have been waterfowl hunting in NE South Dakota for approx. 20yrs. in that time, the only time I didn't hunt in SoDak was when I didn't get drawn. I/we mostly hunt between Watertown and Clark and points North and South of 212. Sometimes we will go as far as Aberdeen, other times closer to Webster. I/we typically hunt mid/late October into November. All depending on the migration, weather, habitat, water levels (flooded fields/drought conditions), food sources etc.. Most of our hunting is over water, but sometimes fields. Often times, what we hunted previous years(ponds/sloughs/fields) may not exist in the current season. Conditions seem to change/shift yearly depending on water levels, cover & food sources which will dictate where the birds will be resulting in shifting hunting pressure. Making us choose in the Spring of the year to decide to hunt North or South of 212 is a tough choice that I prefer not to make prior to knowing the 'conditions' that will exist in the Fall.

On another note, with the extremely limited nonresident waterfowl licenses that are available (comparing to unlimited over the counter licenses available in North Dakota), I don't see the issue that is trying to be solved? As a non-resident South Dakota waterfowl hunter for over 20yrs, I see very little competition when it comes to hunting over water. Hunting fields can be more competitive, but certainly manageable. These proposed changes appear to be trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist??

Change: the one thing I would change is the option to split a 10 day license into (2) 5 day seasons. I would think it's hard to get the average guy to make 2 extended weekend trips back to back. Allowing for an earlier season trip and then a trip when the northern birds are down is attractive. 2 different types of hunting (early and late) is very appealing. And I'm sure the local economy/ bars, restaurants and lodges/motels would appreciate more business that could come from this change.

All this being said, I prefer to see the boundaries stay as is and be able to split a 10day license in half to 2 5day licenses. and maybe make the 3day license statewide(except for the 'river' boundaries)

Let me know if you would like to discuss or need clarification.

Thanks for listening!

John Sturgeski  
non resident waterfowl hunter from Minnesota  
612-310-4846 cell

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SDGFP:

It would be great to have the waterfowl license to reflect the Pheasant out of state license (2 five day periods). Another thought is to lower the price of waterfowl licenses for areas that underutilized. The challenge is the historical flyways dictate where the hunters want to be.

Brad Snell

Marshall, MN 56258

507-537-8117

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My name is Bob Olson, I live in Aberdeen and have been a lifelong resident of S.D. I am writing to you because of my sincere concern as to the GFP potential plan on increasing the number of nonresident waterfowl licenses. As you are all aware 90% of the residents in our state are against raising the number of outstate licenses and most are in favor of reducing the current number. Those that are in favor of more are either guides or non-hunters that want to generate more money from the sales. NE South Dakota currently receives so much hunting pressure it is getting nearly impossible to get access to land to hunt. When out scouting you see a flock of ducks there will be anywhere from 5-7 trucks watching the same flock with plate maps and cells phones calling the farmer to get permission. I can't recall the number of times last season I would contact a farmer for permission to hunt but would be told that his land is being rented to a commercial operation. Many of my hunting buddies have given up the sport

because of the issues stated above which is really too bad. We need to protect our hunting opportunities in our state and see to it that we pass these great experiences on to our youth. Thank you. Bob Olson

---

Dear Commissioners,

I would encourage you to decrease, not increase the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses for the coming and future years. Unlike pheasants, increased hunting pressure for waterfowl, does not increase yield but instead moves them out of the state faster offering reduced hunting opportunity. In Walworth county where I live the number of sloughs is limited to the snowmelt/rainfall for that year. As the small sloughs dry up in the summer, waterfowl are concentrated in the deeper sloughs which are limited. Increased pressure just moves them south sooner. Ten years ago, I never met an out of state waterfowl hunter, now it is quite common. They're nice guys and they spend money here but we have pushed that number too far.

Thanks for your attention to my concerns – please decrease the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses for 2015.

Brian Liedtke

13007 Blue Blanket Ct.

Glenham, SD 57631

[liedtke@valleytel.net](mailto:liedtke@valleytel.net)

605-762-3311

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Dear Folks:

Some of us out-of-state Non-resident Waterfowl hunters has noticed that South Dakota Waterfowl hunting has become more difficult and less productive. I began waterfowl hunting in SD nearly 30 years ago. Some years I failed to draw a license but on the whole have been successful at least 85% of the draws. I have also noted that the habitat preservation programs in SD have become a lessor priority and subsequently waterfowl are less abundant and open hunting locations sparse to find.

If Georgia State had the bird resource you all have I'd guard it with my life! The concept of a few commercial businessmen and women putting this resource "up for sale" would offend me beyond words - especially when I faced my children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren about their legacy. The following comments reflect my opinion in this matter!

Non Resident Waterfowl Licenses

The Game Fish and Parks Commission will be deciding the fate of the quality of Waterfowling here in SD very soon and the next meeting of the NR Waterfowl License Advisory board is March 2nd. They are debating raising the number of NR waterfowl licenses. The goose and duck hunting in South Dakota is already overcrowded. NR licenses need to be lowered not increased. A few commercial hunters are pushing for the increase in NR licenses so they can book more hunts and lease more ground, ground that residents will no longer be able to hunt. That coupled with the staggering loss of habitat is leading to less hunting opportunity. We surely don't need more out of state licenses to compound this. By keeping the number the same or lowering it we can continue to have the quality hunting that has been protected and passed on to our generation, and hopefully we can continue to protect and preserve it for generations to come.

Sincerely,  
David Newberry, CEO  
Global Consultants, Inc  
2927 Harcourt Drive  
Decatur, Georgia  
404-934-3400

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Dear committee members

PLEASE do not raise non-resident waterfowl licenses yet again. A lot of time and effort has gone into getting the number where it is today.

I also do not understand the reasoning of making Units when we already have zones. This will be quite confusing for everyone. It appears to me that you are trying to make units just to appease the few who want more non-resident license numbers. Has the Central Flyway board weighed in on this issue? I know it is difficult to change the boundary on zones but if anything that should be the way to do this. On another note, including western South Dakota in the Missouri system or any east river area also makes little sense to me. The habitat, seasonal flights and the ducks are just very different and should be managed as such.

Thanks for your time

Jeff Olson

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To whom it May concern,

It is of the utmost importance that we remain at the same number, or lower the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses. An increase in non-resident licenses would directly harm the quality of hunting that SD residents currently enjoy. It's already enough of a challenge to find good un-pressured ground to hunt on, let alone obtain permission to do so. Let's not turn waterfowl hunting into a monopolized commercial operation like we see pheasant hunting in this state. If you asked any waterfowl hunter they would gladly pay more for resident licenses and stamps to increase revenue "since that's the only reason Non-resident licenses are being asked to get bumped up". Let's ensure that our generations and many to come enjoy the benefits of being a resident waterfowl hunter of South Dakota.

Mason Winterboer  
Project Manager  
Daktronics, Inc.

Tel 605.692.0200 Ext 57936  
Mobile 605. 691.1663 Website [www.daktronics.com](http://www.daktronics.com)

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I am a hunter from North Carolina and I visit SD every hunting season. Please accept this email in support of Map #4 and non-resident youth hunting.

Thank you,

**Dan Mayo**



**Dillon Yarn Corporation**

Tel: 704-813-7091

e-mail: [dmayo@dillonyarn.com](mailto:dmayo@dillonyarn.com)

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Hello, My name is Trevor Sporrer and I live at 1405 s Lloyd street in Aberdeen, South Dakota. I am writing you to ask that you do not raise the number of nonresident licenses, and if anything you lower the number of NRs that hunt waterfowl in the state. As it is, the state is already overcrowded with waterfowl hunters, and by increasing the

number of nonresident hunters you'd be ruining one of the last great waterfowl states in the United States.

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Dear Sirs,

We already have too many out of state hunters in SD. Allowing youth duck hunters would be just another wreck. Just keep it up and there will be no resident hunters buying tags, shells and firearms.

Garlan Bigge

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Dear Game Fish and Parks Commission,

I appreciate the opportunity to offer my comments on the issue of non-resident waterfowl licenses in South Dakota. I have been hunting waterfowl for over 20 years. I grew up in Aberdeen and now live in Pierre and hunt in central SD as well as north-central SD. When I lived in Aberdeen I hunted extensively in the northeast counties in SD and as result have a fairly decent perspective on this issue. As a resident sportsman who now lives in central SD and choses to hunt less birds in north-central South Dakota in exchange for the benefit of there being less hunting pressure, I want to go on record and state that I am 100% against the effort to push hunting pressure from the northeast corner of the state to the north-central part of the state. The solution to one area's problems is not to diminish or degrade the hunting experience of people in another part of the state.

The issue of overcrowding from my perspective comes down to the number of licenses issued. The non-resident hunters are going to go where the water and waterfowl are located and they are going to try to go there at the time when the peak number of birds are in the state. No one blames them for that. The northeast corner of the state has the most water and as a result has the most waterfowl and is closer to Minnesota and Iowa.

Please do not make this situation worse by adding more non-resident waterfowl licenses to the current limits. If there is too much hunting pressure in a certain area, improve that situation by reducing the hunting pressure in that area by reducing the number of non-resident licenses in that area, not by pushing those hunters somewhere else.

I realize that this is a difficult issue and mine is just one opinion amongst many. I look forward to learning more as this process moves forward and would be interested in helping in any way that I can. This really is the heyday of waterfowl hunting in our great state and there has to be a way that we can provide some opportunity to those that do not live here while protecting the right and privilege of those that do live here to pass on this important tradition to their children and grandchildren.

Thank you,

Bret Afdahl  
Pierre

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## Preserving South Dakota Waterfowl Hunting

I began hunting in South Dakota in 1985. That was a good year to be a non-resident hunter as I was able to draw one of the 4000 NR permits—a large increase over previous years. Fortunately, I have been successful in drawing a NR license for all but 2 of the 25 years I have applied since then. There always seemed to be enough game and enough space in the public hunting areas frequented by my fellow hunters. It felt like I was a lone hunter in the vastness of what are South Dakota fields and farms. I felt “once again” the joy of hunting waterfowl in your unique state.

I say-“again” because I experienced the decline in quail hunting in south Georgia, as farmers planted to the edge of the woods. The birds migrated to the woods and then began to disappear as cover near food disappeared. (This is happening to pheasant cover in South Dakota too, But that is a matter for another time). Now quail hunting is done on plantations, affordable by a much smaller number of hunters. And the experience is hardly realistic. Many times the dogs pick up the pen-raised birds before they even rise to the gun! Sad.

I had hunted honkers, ducks, and swan at Lake Mattamuskeet in North Carolina in 1983, 1984, and 1985. It was pleasant, but highly regulated as the boom of NC hunting was being diminished. Farmers in New Jersey and Maryland had been planting large crops that were overtime shortstopping the birds on their traditional migration to NC feeding and resting areas.

I jumped at the chance to hunt in South Dakota. It was no easy decision. I have lived in Georgia since the late 1960s. Travel to SD would be by auto and would have to be done with at least one other avid hunter. For the first 15 years my buddy and I traveled 2 days to SD, hunted for 7 days, and then drove 2 days back to GA. Over the next 10 years we added 1-2 new hunting partners to share driving and expenses. The joy of hunting in South Dakota for waterfowl and upland game is one of my great life experiences. I have introduced my son to this adventure and hope he also has the opportunity to enjoy decades of successful hunting.

But I am concerned to learn that pressure from commercial interests may impact adversely on waterfowl hunters who primarily access public lands. Unbounded increases in NR licenses would eventually reduce available hunting resources—both land and game.

Conrad P. Ferrara  
915 Foxfire Dr  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044  
770/ 490-1848

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Of course this is self- serving but since we travel to Clark each year we are drawn to hunt ducks it would seriously suck if 218 became the zone boundary. We like to hunt water south of the highway east of Clark and have gotten to know several farmers north and east of Clark. I hope you consider another zone boundary than hwy 218.

Thanks,  
Mike Woods

Michael R. Woods, Senior Vice President, Wealth Advisor  
The Woods Beier Henderson Group  
**Morgan Stanley Wealth Management**  
505 Market Street, Suite 300 | West Des Moines, IA 50266  
Direct: 515/224-5543  
Fax: 515/224-5559  
[michael.woods@morganstanley.com](mailto:michael.woods@morganstanley.com)  
Please visit our website:  
[www.morganstanleyfa.com/woodsbeierhenderson](http://www.morganstanleyfa.com/woodsbeierhenderson)

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Please DO NOT increase the number of out of state licenses. It is already hard enough to get quality hunts in the fall, let alone if the flood gates are open to out of staters and more guides. I have buddies who come in from out of state that are also against this issue, because they know the way the draw is set up that at least the quality of hunts will be good if they can't draw every year. Once again, I oppose this increase as much as one man can, and hope that is taken into consideration, as I am a lifetime South Dakotan, and I remember the good ole days, and increasing out of state licenses those days will not come back any sooner.

Casey Rorvick  
4721 S. Klein Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

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Comments:

How many members of the work group are non-residents, either voting or non-voting? We typically duck hunt in a two or three county area (Sanborn, Miner, Davidson) when we are drawn. This is in conjunction with a 5 day pheasant hunting trip. Many years the time when we hunt, typically the first week of November, there is no water and no ducks to hunt. Some years we get lucky and have some hunting available. Maybe a license that can be purchased for a particular county or counties where there is low hunting pressure would work. We never see any other duck hunters when we are there. Realizing there is more pressure in the northeast and along the MO maybe a draw for those areas and then licenses sold in other areas (counties) that have less pressure on an individual basis. It appears that this has the potential to increase income to the GFP division as the same numbers could be sold in the draw areas and additional licenses sold for the other areas (counties) without effecting the hunting pressure very much in either of the areas.

Also give a preference for drawing duck license to those who purchase a Nonresident Early Fall Canada goose license. This may help your sale of Nonresident Early Fall Canada goose license since that seems to be lagging according to the discussion in the Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Tom Fell, DVM  
6112 Hampton Oaks Drive  
Mobile, AL 36693

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February 16, 2015

29 – 90 Sportsman's Club  
Charles Rokusek, Sec. – Trea.  
5208 W. Emmitt Circle  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106

Dear SD Nonresident Waterfowl License Advisory Group:

The 29 – 90 Sportsman's Club would like to go on record that protecting the rights of South Dakota hunters should be a priority and we are opposed to the current proposal of the Advisory Group.

Transferring 700 licenses to Southeast South Dakota would be a big mistake for the following reasons:

When the first proposal was made for the Early Fall Canada Goose Season we came out against the proposal that included non-resident hunters in the southeast part of South Dakota or Region 3 of G F & P for the following reasons:

- This part of the state is the most densely populated and has the largest percent of the state's waterfowl hunters.
- Since the proposal of the Early Fall Canada Season this part of the state has seen a major change in how the landscape is being managed.
- More land is being converted from grasslands to croplands.
- More acres of row crops (corn & soybeans) are being planted and fewer acres of small grains.
- This area has also seen an increasing in tiling and draining which is resulting in fewer wetlands.

All of these changes in landscape have resulted in a major loss of available areas for sports men and women to access for pursuing waterfowl (ducks & geese). Therefore, we object to the transfer of the 700 licenses to Southeast South Dakota for the same reasons. Circumstances have not changed.

If you really want to address hunting pressure consider creating a unit in North Central South Dakota.

Finally, we understand from the first meeting that public input during meetings of the Advisory Group was not going to be permitted, but we know that two groups were allowed to participate during the February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 meeting. If two groups can give public input, then any group interested should be given the same opportunity. The chair

needs to abide by the ground rules, and since that has not happened, a date and time needs to be made available for other groups to give public input.

Sincerely,

Charles Rokusek  
Sec. – Trea.  
605-362-9827

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I am writing in support of the proposal for rezoning of non-resident waterfowl units and licenses as depicted in Attachment #4 on the GFP Non-Resident Waterfowl Work Group web page, as well as the proposal to use the 5% maximum non-resident increase toward non-resident youth hunting.

I am a Virginia resident and look forward to increased non-resident waterfowl hunting opportunities and a return trip to SD to hunt pheasants and waterfowl.

Thank you.

John Finch  
2215 Somerset Place  
Newport News, VA 23602

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No more out-of-staters! My children are not going to be able to take advantage of their own states natural resources without paying. This is the last thing to be commercialized up here. I cannot hunt pheasants and deer because of the land being locked up. If you push for more out of state waterfowl license it will officially kiss it goodbye for my boys.

Jason Bear  
115 arnie drive  
Sisseton, SD 57262

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To: Non-resident waterfowl license work group, South Dakota.

Dear madam or sir, I am a landowner and hunter in Clarke county, SD. I am writing to state that I fully support the implementation of Map #4 and limited participation of non-resident youth during the youth-only waterfowl weekend.

Imad Patrick Saoud, PhD  
Aquaculture and Aquatic Science  
Dept. of Biology  
American University, Dag Hammerchold Plaza, New York  
Lebanon campus  
Tel: +961 1 350000 x-3913  
<http://staff.aub.edu.lb/~is08/>  
TED: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9wbgS-k-tE&sns=fb>

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my concern over the proposed increase in NR licenses. I have concerns this will only further commercialize hunting in SD which in turn negatively affects the biggest supporters of hunting and conservation, the local resident hunters.

I can say there are a lot of great things about South Dakota but by far the biggest reason that I have stayed here and not looked at moving to another state is the hunting opportunities that are offered to me because I'm a resident. If the hunting were to become more crowded to the point that I was no longer able to enjoy this great sport, I would likely look to move.

Our priorities should be on looking out for the majority of our residents, not the few who could make more money by us selling more licenses to out of staters.

Thank you for your attention.

Derrick Houdek  
514 S Jackson St  
Aberdeen, SD 57401

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I received an e-mail from Aberdeen CVB regarding waterfowl licensing in South Dakota and feel compelled to comment. I own and operate Northern Kross Lodge here in rural McPherson County. The business has been good because of the facility itself, SD beauty and charm and good old South Dakota hospitality. I absolutely have nothing to

complain about. There is one issue, however, that comes up frequently and that is waterfowl licensing in SD. I cannot tell you how many times bird hunters have called to book a stay at Northern Cross and mentioned wanting to duck hunt early morning, come back to the lodge, switch gears and get into the fields for pheasant hunting. When I ask if they have applied for a SD waterfowl license, 99% of them will tell me "No!", and are totally frustrated with our waterfowl license lottery. Of course, by the time they know they have to apply, the application period is over and they tell me they will probably go to ND for both waterfowl and pheasant hunting. Has it occurred to us that we are probably "shooting ourselves in the foot" by having a lottery system and that we are in essence eliminating visitors to our fair state and also giving ourselves a bad reputation? Here's another dilemma that has occurred because of the lottery. The scenario starts 12 years ago in my very first year of business. I had an out of state group book the lodge. They were duck hunters at heart but hunted pheasants in the afternoon. They were well acquainted with the lottery system and knew that not all 8 of them would be getting the coveted SD waterfowl license. They asked me to hold the lodge for them for the next year and they would call and let me know how many of them had scored a license and how many would be coming in October. I had several calls from other groups wanting the lodge at the same time but because I decided early on that returning clients took precedence over new clients I turned them down due to the promise I had made to pencil the first group in for the allotted time frame. Are you still with me? I got the call in January about the SD waterfowl licensing lottery and just a few of the guys got their licenses, so they decided not to make the trip because they liked duck hunting best and pheasant hunting was just something to fill out their days. Needless to say, I lost their business and the business of prospective hunters along the way. I can imagine that none of this makes a difference to you and it shouldn't but it makes a huge difference to the hunting/lodging industry, as a whole, here in South Dakota. We are people who provide services that can't be found elsewhere, we run our businesses professionally, make friends with many who grace our doors and we have a great deal of pride in our state and what we have to offer. My feeling is that the waterfowl licensing lottery makes a mockery of our South Dakota ingenuity and hospitality. I am asking you to please reconsider the method we use to "grant" waterfowl licenses to out of state hunters.

It's time we moved forward. I don't know exactly how the lottery is held. Maybe it's the old reach in the ice cream bucket and pull out the winner type of lottery and that may be a sensational and exciting time for those pulling out the winners, but it's also frustrating and disappointing for those who aren't the "winners". I can understand why many of them simply choose not to make the trek to South Dakota at all.

Yes, those who are lucky enough to get the licenses have a wonderful time here in SD but they would like to return year after year and we deny them the privilege to that.

They want to spend their money in our state and we, in all of our wisdom, tell them we

don't need or want them to open their wallets. We tell them maybe we aren't as kind and friendly as they and we thought.

I thank you for allowing me to air my opinion.

Nina Kunz  
Northern Kross Lodge  
10857 343 Avenue  
Eureka, SD 57437

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To Whom It May Concern:

I'll be as brief and to the point as possible here and I will apologize in advance for my relatively short and quickly created statement on such an important issue. I am a game warden of 20 years in the state of Ohio. I grew up on the shores of Lake Erie in a waterfowl hunting community. I am the lead instructor for Ohio's waterfowl law enforcement academy and have had the opportunity to have worked for and around some of this country's most prominent and prestigious waterfowl hunting clubs. I am also fortunate enough to have traveled to the Dakota's to hunt waterfowl for more than 15 years. I make reference to these facts simply to illustrate my background and experience in the world of waterfowling.

I have watched waterfowling opportunities over the past 30 years dwindle to nearly nothing in my home state. Access to private wetlands is nearly impossible. Public lands are overcrowded and state waterfowl lands hunted by permit or drawing see too many guns to afford as many people as possible the "opportunity" to hunt. I have seen North Dakota transform from a waterfowler's dream into another hunting nightmare. Hours of scouting and hundreds of miles driving would nearly always reward a hunter with good opportunities even during the toughest years. Today is no different but access to those opportunities has become limited. It can be difficult to find a private pothole to hunt in North Dakota. Hunting South Dakota was a breath of fresh air and again instilled optimism my 67 year old father and I. We still find it difficult to find permission on private land, but your walk-in and public hunting areas offer good quality hunting opportunities. I believe there currently exists a good balance between the number of hunters and accessible ground. Again, you now offer a premier waterfowl hunting opportunity. Protect it with a vengeance and don't let the almighty dollar destroy a true treasure. Although disappointing, I have no issue not being a successful applicant for a NR waterfowl license every year. I'll wait my turn. I thank you for the opportunities I have had and look forward to the ones that await us!

Brian Baker  
62990 Joe Jeffers Rd.

Barnesville, Ohio 43713

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To whom this may concern if anyone,

As I read the post on the social media Facebook I just become furious. Why would we give out more licenses to non-residents? Oh yeah "Money". I would think the way you have raised the resident license in the last few years that would be good enough but No. That's alright though you will have to give out more non-resident license because us residents that will not or don't have the money to pay to hunt will not have anywhere to hunt anymore and will not buy licenses. I have introduced 3 kids to waterfowl hunting in the last 5-6 years. Why.....1- Take a kid hunting and you won't have to hunt for your kid. 2-We don't pheasant hunt because we have nowhere to hunt because all the out-of-stater's pay to hunt or over crowd the public ground. 3 – They have coming in and taken over and pay to deer hunt (bow) where we did and now have nowhere to hunt. My passion was bow hunting until then. 2 of these kids are not even mine; they are friends of ours that don't have a father figure anymore. What about Tradition in hunting anymore. I have taught these kids a way of life. They love it and have saved money and bought waterfowl equipment to hunt with (not drugs and alcohol). On the weekend these kids are up early hunting and scouting not in bed hung over. They go to bed early just to get up early to hunt waterfowl. It is now a way of life for us. Last year we lost some ground thanks to NR hunters paying landowner to hunt then he said after they left that they left a bunch of garbage in approach. That's how they treat our land and landowners. Only good thing I got land back to hunt. I just hope someday I can take my son and hopefully grandson hunting and have somewhere to go. These out of stater's have already wrecked pheasant hunting and deer hunting. We are the ones that take care of the land and feed the animals and pay taxes and now we will not even be able to hunt them. I could on forever about NR hunters but I don't think it matters to anyone. The SDGFP just wants the money and that's all that matters to them. Us residents opinion doesn't matter. I am so pissed I can't type anymore.

A concerned Father (figure) of future Waterfowlers  
Don Herman  
19240 SD HWY 45  
Miller, S.D. 57362

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Hi , my name is Mike Nolting and I am a Resident of South Sioux City , Nebraska . I also have a home in Springfield, South Dakota which I have had for about 20 years . Being a resident of Nebraska , I am are able to enter the Missouri river on the

Nebraska or South Dakota side . Every year, for the past 20 years, I have had friends and family from Iowa, Missouri, Colorado and California that come up to the house in Springfield during waterfowl season to hunt . They all try to get Non Resident license. They are successful about every other year now. This is mainly because the number of people applying for the 250 license in our area have greatly increased due to the increased popularity of duck hunting and all the DVD's made in this area . The area (00A86) that we hunt on the Missouri river goes from Union County ,by Sioux City ,Iowa , all the way up to Charlie's Mix county ,so it is a big area . You have a lot of residents that live in Sioux City , Iowa , that hunt the Missouri River applying for the nonresident licenses , along with all the other people that apply . My point is , that I don't think that it would hurt to increase the number of nonresident entire season licenses in this area . If you do not want to increase the number of entire season licenses , maybe add more 10 day licenses , like they have for pheasant hunters , so people can come back a hunt a couple of weeks if they want too . If people that hunt the Missouri river in area 00A86 do not get a Non Res SD license , they can just go across the river , over into Nebraska , and buy an over the counter licenses and still hunt the same area of the Missouri River . That is what my friends and family have to do if they do not get a license . Then we just drive over to Nebraska and put in on the other side of the river . This just takes away income that could be generated in South Dakota and moves it to Nebraska. You can see how much income this generates in Nebraska, because all of the motels and restaurant in Niobrara and Santee are full during waterfowl season and the hotel in Springfield is empty. That is probably why the hotel in Springfield up for sale now. Again my point is that it will not increase the hunting pressure in the Missouri River by increasing the number of nonresident licenses. I know a lot of SD residents are concerned about guides moving in and taking over all the areas to hunt. The guides are already putting in on the Nebraska side, so limiting license will not affect hunting in the river. If the residents are concerned about guides hunting on the ground and tying up land, band guides in South Dakota. Also, if residents are concerned about nonresident using the boat ramps, raise the nonresident licenses fees. Hopefully I did not get to windy and thank you for your time. . [mnolting@landolakes.com](mailto:mnolting@landolakes.com)

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Good morning,

After looking very carefully at the proposed changes to the new non-resident waterfowl boundaries, as a Resident Waterfowl Hunter, I am not happy with the proposal. In doing the math, you are adding 725 non-residents into the area of the state and outside of those Missouri River counties. The only result of this is going to be more crowding, especially in areas like Kingsbury, Codington, Deuel and Brookings counties, where there are plenty of non-residents who pound the public lands from the beginning of the

season to the end. Who are these non-residents? They are Minnesota college students.

I moved here in 2005, and learned very quickly that opening day duck hunting around Brookings is a challenge, because every public slough is occupied. I could not believe it, as I dealt over-crowding all the time when I lived in Minnesota and did not think it would happen here. Now, a father of 3 very young kids, I will not even take them out on opening day because of the fear of having to deal with finding a different spot in the dark because some non-residents have been camped on a slough since 3 AM in the morning. And now you are thinking of adding more into the pool?

Also lost in this discussion is the fact that the eastern part of the state has seen unprecedented habitat and wetland loss. Folks in agriculture will deny that day in and day out, but the amount of tile that has eliminated countless seasonal wetlands will have an effect on ducks in the long run. So, again, adding more into the pool that will end up in the eastern part of the state is a bad idea.

Finally, I understand at the last meeting, a couple of groups representing travel and tourism were allowed to speak at your last meeting. Why? This was not appropriate and has put a political spin on this that is disrespectful to the resident hunters who have a vested interest in maintaining a top notch waterfowl experience in this state.

Thanks,

Dan Svobodny

Brookings, SD

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Hello,

My name is McCord Stowater and I live at 1743 8<sup>th</sup> St in Brookings, SD. I'm writing this to voice my strong opinion that the amount of nonresident waterfowl licenses needs to be reduced, not increased. The want of a few business owners to raise the NR licenses is a result of greed to increase their own businesses. Their own interests do not warrant the mindset that decisions like this affect others and even more important, the natural resources themselves. The amount of licenses distributed should be decided based on conservation, not commercialization and economic benefit to a few. Increasing the licenses just fuels more commercialism of the sport which reduces the already slim opportunities for residents through leasing land, increased bad relations with landowners, and more individuals hunting public land. I'm asking that you at the bare minimum keep the amount of nonresident licenses the same. An even better solution would be to actually reduce the amount of nonresident licenses.

I hope you take my message and the messages of every other conservationist seriously. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
McCord Stowater

**McCord Stowater**  
**Energy Scheduler**  
**Heartland Consumers Power District**  
432 SE 12th St  
Madison, SD 57042  
Office: 605-256-6536  
Cell: 605-759-4439

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Committee Members,

I recently read your meeting summaries re: proposals for changes to the non- resident waterfowl framework. Though specific reasons for the discussed proposals weren't provided, it appears hunting pressure during the late season in NE South Dakota is a concern. I have been waterfowl hunting for nearly sixty years. For the past few years I have been hunting with a small group of guys in NE South Dakota who share my great passion. We have chosen to hunt early in the season when local birds abound and are not pressured vs gambling on the weather and the movement of birds south from Canada. We have enjoyed wonderful opportunities with little or no other hunting pressure. We have drawn ten day licenses but hunt only a few day. We are not field hunters but enjoy hunting with our dogs over decoys. Currently the regulations and zone demarcations are easy to interpret and uncomplicated. Since we hunt different counties, zone changes would affect us.

History in some areas of Wisconsin clearly demonstrate that excessive hunting pressure reduces the experience and quality of the hunting experience. However, efforts to alleviate the perceived problem often results in reduced opportunities for hunters. I wonder if the later increases in hunting pressure is brought on by the opening of the pheasant season and hunters attempts to capitalize on both? Perhaps shortening the ten day license to four to five days would cause hunters to make choices yet still provide ample time for a meaningful experience.

Having fewer opportunities at this stage of my hunting life would be a disappointment. I wish you sound judgement in your most difficult task.

Sincerely,  
Richard Panke

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Dear SD GFP Commission,

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I believe that that the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses needs to be lowered, NOT increased. Raising the number of NR licenses poses problems to resident waterfowl hunters by giving them less opportunity to hunt because of the bigger guide services leasing more land so they are able to take NR hunters out. This in return could discourage resident waterfowl hunters from continue the sport which would mean less licenses bought, and less money spent in-state on things such as gas and ammunition. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope the committee reconsiders raising the number of NR licenses.

Sincerely,

Tanner Johnson  
1117 South Arch St.  
Aberdeen, SD 57401

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To whom it may concern:

My name is Eric Paulson. I currently live in Pierre, SD and I grew up and primarily hunt in the Aberdeen area. I want to start off with saying I have no problems with out of state hunters. In fact my old college roommate's dad and another guy come up every year they get a license and hunt with us. We've had friends from Minnesota and Oklahoma come to hunt as well. So just so the record is straight I don't oppose all NR hunters but there is a line that needs to be drawn somewhere.

Currently, as others have pointed out in other comments, the northeast part of the state gets hammered with hunters, primarily duck hunters. And anyone who knows hunting knows people try to target the peak of the migration, thus a majority of out of state hunters hunt in about a 3-5 week stretch in October/November. We've all seen the stats pointing out how many NR hunters there are per square mile and what not. What none of those "studies" take into account, that I've seen, is that 1)the location of hunters is not equally distributed throughout a study area and 2)they don't take into account that NR hunters primarily target the mid-October to early-November time frame. You add those 2 variables into the mix and you have a whole new story. When those are added in there you have many more hunters, in state and out of state, that are pressuring the same birds in the same area at the same time. And everyone knows birds move until they can avoid pressure. So they just pick up and move to a new area and when the migration is in full swing that direction is out of state to the south.

Something needs to be done to 1) reduce the number of nonresident licenses and 2) distribute the licenses in such a way that pressure is kept as low as possible. I've seen recommendations of carving out geographic areas, county line boundaries, that licenses are valid in. I think this may be a good approach, assuming licenses are distributed fairly amongst each area and not unfairly loaded in the Brown/Marshall/Day/Clark county areas or other northeastern counties. During the peak migration it is nothing to see 10+ out of state vehicles driving around and 5+ in state vehicles scouting within a 15-20 mile radius. Now that may seem like a good sized area but consider this, a lot of the little potholes are drying up forcing birds to congregate on bigger water. Large sloughs are a lot fewer and farther between and when birds go out to feed they tend to group up in certain fields. Now you have 15+ vehicles competing/pressuring say 5 fields of birds. Birds are only going to stick around for so long getting pounded every day and not getting to find a safe haven for a day or two.

One thing that I have noticed first hand in my time hunting around Pierre the last couple of years versus around Aberdeen is the commercialization of the sport. Out here in Pierre if you don't pay to play odds are you aren't getting on private land. Luckily around Pierre there is a lot of good public land, which nonresidents are not allowed to waterfowl hunt might I add. Guides and other people, resident and nonresident, have the private land leased up. Back by Aberdeen it is still possible to go door to door and get permission, although that too is starting to become more difficult as guides are starting to move into the area with the increases in NR licenses. A few are permanently located there with lodges but a majority are just around for the season and then take their gear and go back home whether that be a different part of the state or some even from out of state. If nonresident licenses are increased that will only contribute to the expansion of commercializing waterfowl hunting in the northeast and the rest of South Dakota further limiting opportunities for residents and nonresidents that can't or won't pay for a guide. A decrease would actually be best to preserve quality hunting opportunities in the state.

One last thing for you all to consider when reading the comments: Are the people who are writing them your typical South Dakota resident hunter who hunts for sport and as a hobby? Or are they a guide or tourism employee whose job it is to make sure there are as many out of state hunters as possible regardless of the effects it may have to resident hunters and the waterfowl and are getting paid to do so? I understand those people want to be heard too, it's their job. But your average Joe Resident Hunter is the one who feels the negative affects the most from any decisions that get made.

As I stated before, I hunt with out of state hunters just about every year, whether it be in the fall or the spring, so I am not anti-out of stater. But there needs to be limits and precautions taken to preserve hunting in South Dakota for everyone, residents and

nonresidents alike. The path the licensing has been going down is not a good path for South Dakota and future hunting and hunters. A decrease in nonresident licenses is needed to insure that quality waterfowl hunting will be around for years to come.

Thank you for your time,

Eric Paulson  
[2412 E 4th St. Apt 217](#)  
[Pierre, SD 57501](#)

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Our family has been goose hunting in the Pierre area for the last 20 years. My concern is the 10 day license on public land. My son who has hunted with us for 14 years prior to moving to Wyoming has received this license a couple times since moving. The concern is the restriction to use the license in one 10 day consecutive period - especially since the 2 day possession rule applies.

It would make more sense to break this into smaller increments say three 3 day periods or five 2 day periods. This would result in the hunters making additional trips to SD benefitting the tourism industry.

My son comes hunting every year he gets a license. If he could come three or five times he would. We always stay in motels when we hunt in the Pierre area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ken Hauser  
7404 Red Ridge Dr  
Black Hawk, SD 57718

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Sirs:

I've read the information on the GFP website (thank you GFP) and would offer the following additional comments.

Why is it that almost every time an issue such as this comes up, it is the resident sportsman that is the losing party? One has to ask, where is the fairness in pushing out a much larger number of resident waterfowl hunters in favor of a small number of wealthy non-resident customers of those exploiting public resources for personal

monetary gain? Does anybody seriously think that the outspoken commercial interests pushing this issue will be satisfied with this proposal for any length of time? The history shown on the GFP website offers the answer.

I ask you consider what overwhelming commercial hunting did to the Pierre area. Before the Lower Oahe hunting program, There was no access to private land outside of expensive hunting clubs, leasing land for use by a very few, or in a couple of cases, organized slaughter of waterfowl by large numbers of hunters on certain commercial operations. The last resort for public hunting were a very few public areas next to private land refuges created to hoard waterfowl, and right of ways. Year after year, the commercial interests in the Pierre area ran to the legislature and tried to take away even right of way waterfowl hunting, clearly in an attempt to create a near monopoly on waterfowl hunting and force everybody to pay them for waterfowl hunting access. Only with the advent of the Lower Oahe hunting program (by those leaders who clearly saw this situation as unfair) was reasonable access to private land accomplished. In case you think this type of behavior would be limited to the Missouri River area, one has to only look at the non-resident landowner by Clark and others like him that are trying to kick the public off now public waters both by legislative and court actions. Exactly the same behavior that commercial interests have shown in the past.

Please.....no more non-residents either now or in the future.

Thank you for your consideration]

David Jacobson  
216 W. 8th Street  
Pierre, SD 57501

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It would be helpful if a few licenses were available yet late in the year for relatives or friends visiting during the holidays. Most are former residents that visit and have not made plans early enough for the application period.

If areas such as Fall River County had a dozen licenses held back into mid-November, folks I have described could get in on the hunt. Those licenses remaining after mid-November would easily be sold to hunters looking to hunt the reservoir areas.

I have heard similar comments from friends of mine and from sportsmen while I was still working here. I understand it would be an extra effort for the Department's planning but that is, among many reasons, why the agency exists.

Thanks

Owen Meadows  
Box 423  
Hot Springs, S.D. 57747

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Our family has been goose hunting in the Pierre area for the last 20 years. My concern is the 10 day license on public land. My son who has hunted with us for 14 years prior to moving to Wyoming has received this license a couple times since moving. The concern is the restriction to use the license in one 10 day consecutive period - especially since the 2 day possession rule applies.

It would make more sense to break this into smaller increments say three 3 day periods or five 2 day periods. This would result in the hunters making additional trips to SD benefitting the tourism industry.

My son comes hunting every year he gets a license. If he could come three or five times he would. We always stay in motels when we hunt in the Pierre area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ken Hauser  
7404 Red Ridge Dr  
Black Hawk, SD 57718

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Hello,

My name is Gary Lang from Maple Grove MN. I've been hunting waterfowl as a non-resident in South Dakota since 1999. I am very happy to have the opportunity to hunt ducks and geese in your state over the past 15 years. We've as a group have always applied for a 10 day NRW-00B-86 license. Applying as a group has given us the best opportunity to be drawn in the lottery system. Our hunting party are based out of Clark SD. We typically hunt in a 40 to 75 mile radius from Clark depending waterfowl numbers and movement. We enjoy the flexibility to be able to move around the eastern counties scouting and hunting for the best opportunities to find birds.

Reading the minutes from your February meeting I'm I am in agreement with Norb Barrie.

Norb believes that 10-day license holders should be able to go anywhere in the state outside of the Lower Missouri unit described in statute.

If the Waterfowl Group uses hwy. 212 as a unit boundary that would drastically limit our hunting area.

I would like to see the unit boundaries stay the same.

Or maybe S.D. could add 5 day non-resident licenses to unit B if it's created. Hunters could buy a 5 day licenses for \$100.00

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary Lang

[glang@mcit.org](mailto:glang@mcit.org)

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To whom it may concern,

As a South Dakota property owner who resides out of state, I find the limitations placed upon out of state waterfowl hunters to be particularly egregious. I am placed into a lottery for the out-of-state license when I am a SD property owner. For this reason, I no longer attempt to hunt waterfowl in SD when I make my annual pheasant hunt.

Why are out-of-state pheasant hunters welcomed with "open arms" yet waterfowl hunters appear to be told to hunt elsewhere?

South Dakota is a huge recipient of money from Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl and the federal government all for wetland improvement. I contribute heavily to all three yet, residing out of state, I receive a disproportionately small return from my contributions while SD residents reap a disproportionately large return.

While waterfowl are migratory and my state MAY receive some waterfowl raised in SD, enhanced SD wetlands also over-winter huge populations of waterfowl from North Dakota and Canada, many birds which never complete

the journey south, again giving SD residents a disproportionate hunting opportunity.

Out-of-state hunters willing pay license and stamp fees many times the cost of resident waterfowl hunters. To artificially limit the non-resident hunters and therefore cap the fees generated which could and should be directed to further enhancement of the wetland and waterfowl resources, I believe is both short-sighted and inherently unfair.

Thank you for considering my comments.

John M. McDonald  
2405 Meadow Ln.  
Taylor, Tx. 76574

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SDGFP Commission,

The goose and duck hunting in South Dakota is already overcrowded. NR licenses need to be lowered, not increased. A few commercial hunters are pushing for the increase in NR licenses so they can book more hunts and lease more ground, ground that residents will no longer be able to hunt. That coupled with the staggering loss of habitat is leading to less hunting opportunity. We surely don't need more out of state licenses to compound this issue. By keeping the number the same, or even lowering it, we can continue to have the quality hunting that has been protected and passed on to our generation, and hopefully we can continue to protect and preserve it for generations to come.

Pheasant & deer hunting is already commercialized and taken over by big leases and out of state hunters. Waterfowl hunting is the last perk that residents have. Please do not sell that away from us.

Eric Hamiel  
817 N High St  
Aberdeen, SD

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Working Group,

I am 100% not in favor for any increase in the non-resident waterfowl licenses. Currently there are plenty of opportunities for NR's to draw every other year at a minimum. We

have many friends that come to SD to hunt that are opposed to any increase in the licenses also. Adding more people will just hurt the overall hunting experience.

Again, **NO INCREASED LICENSES FOR NON RESIDENTS!**

Thanks,

Paul Bezdicek  
Sioux Falls, SD

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Hi,

I just wanted to thank you for all your work. I am a nonresident hunter who hunts ducks with family in Brown County. I think the number of licenses you currently have available is adequate. Your system is fair. I worry about hunting pressure. I would rather have a quality hunt (without a ton of hunter competition) even if that means that I am occasionally not drawn. Ducks are a precious resource and hunting pressure does affect their behavior.

Best wishes,  
C. Grant

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I am writing to provide my input, opinion, and raise questions for review regarding the rules for SD nonresident waterfowl licenses in unit 00A86. Below are 3 points I want to address. The ultimate solution to all concerns below is to do away with the 250 nonresident license limit in unit 00A86 and offer unlimited nonresident licenses.

**250 NONRESIDENT LICENSE LIMIT IN UNIT 00A86** - The predominant number of nonresident hunters applying for this unit hunt the Missouri River. Nebraska, which shares the river, does not limit the number of non-resident licenses to hunt the very same water. By you limiting the number, you are just limiting the number of licenses you sell and causing hunters to buy a NE license by default and hunt the same water they would hunt if they possessed a SD nonresident license.

In 2013 there were 385 applications for the 250 nonresident licenses. So 135 applicants were turned down. Everyone I personally knew who was in that group turned around and bought a NE license as their second choice.

**MIGRATORY WATERFOWL.** South Dakota has a good nesting population of waterfowl, providing a good number of local birds to hunt. I have no idea of percentages, but that number pales in comparison to the number of migrating waterfowl passing through. Why do you limit the number of licenses to hunt birds that are not even raised in SD?

**BOAT RAMP ACCESS** – You prohibit the use of your shore or boat ramps by nonresident waterfowl hunters unless they possess a SD nonresident waterfowl hunting license. The catch here is with your 250 license limit you refuse to sell a license to everyone who wants one. A significant number of unsuccessful SD license applicants resort to buying a NE license so they can still hunt the same water but you won't let them use your shore or boat ramps.

I understand not wanting non-resident hunters by choice purchasing the cheaper and broader NE license and then turning around and using your boat ramps. But to limit the number of licenses and then refuse unsuccessful license applicants from using your shore or boat ramps just does not smell right.

If you continue to limit the number of non-resident licenses, I propose either:

1. An 'unsuccessful draw' letter for a non-resident SD waterfowl license serve as a SD shore or boat ramp access permit for that season.
2. Sell to unsuccessful license applicants a shore or boat ramp access permit for \$50

Thank you for your time and attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Joe Uran  
3812 Jones St  
Sioux City IA 51104-1448  
712-898-4916

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My name is Fred McCall and I am a 55 year old non-resident waterfowl hunter from Missouri. I have been to SD waterfowl hunting about 9-10 times out of the past 12 or 13 years. I "missed" in the lottery the couple of years I did not make the trip. Most years, I travel and hunt by myself but I have brought a partner 2 or 3 times. My trips to SD have been life changing for me.....I have had some fabulous hunting trips (some busts too), have seen great country, have enjoyed and fought all kinds of weather, and have made some very good landowner friends. My early trips were more of a combination waterfowl/pheasant trip...but now it is more of a waterfowl only trip.

More facts about my trips.

- a. I usually stage out of Webster, Britton, Desmet, and Eureka. I go where the birds are and where habitat is the best, for that year.
- b. I usually stay for the full 10 days.
- c. I predominantly hunt public land. With the introduction of the CREP lands over the past several years, there is really very little need to pursue private ground.

- d. I have never paid to hunt in South Dakota. I have given dozens of gifts and dozens of Ducks Unlimited Memberships to all sorts of people in South Dakota.
- e. I usually go during “prime time” according to your graphs and charts. Around the first of November.
- f. Even going on “the cheap” my 10 day trip usually costs between \$1,500 and \$2,000. All to local motels, restaurants, sporting goods stores, etc.
- g. I have never felt pressured on public ground, and can count on one hand the number of times I have had to change my plans due to hunting pressure or other hunters.
- h. I rarely encounter resident waterfowl hunters...at all. The areas I hunt are so sparsely populated, and have so much prime hunting ground (private and public) it has never been an issue. I assume most residents hunt only on the best days and weekends...and probably have better private ground. You really never see 55 year old resident hunters.

#### My observations and comments

- a. Your chart suggests “under 20,000” resident waterfowl hunters for almost the past 10 years.....scattered widely over the eastern part of the state. Heavier use closer to Sioux Falls...in areas not used heavily by non-residents. I know the people of South Dakota like the wide open spaces, but this really doesn’t seem like the non-residents are taking over.
- b. Those 3 day tags are for the Minnesota weekend warriors who jump into Roberts, Marshall and Day County on opening weekend or when the big push of flight birds arrive. With a 3 day tag, you bet non-resident hunters will go only when they think it will be best....adding pressure for everyone. These are the weekends when residents want to be out and probably cause them the most heartburn. A 3 day tag is really not a good option for anyone wanting to waterfowl hunt South Dakota unless they are coming from Minnesota, or maybe Northern Nebraska or Iowa.
- c. If you want to disperse non-resident waterfowl hunters let them be nomads...like me. South Dakota is a big state for 3,000 or 4,000 non-resident hunters. If you create zones like some of those suggested it will force people to stay in those zones...and thereby eliminate any benefit to reducing the total number of tags. It also hurts the non-resident hunter’s chances and overall experience if they get stuck with a bad year, in a bad zone.
- d. More zones really hurts the non-resident who wants a combo pheasant/waterfowl hunt. As you know, those NE counties usually have weaker pheasant populations than some of the other counties like Brown, or McPherson. If you are stuck in Day County...and you can’t find pheasants...you will be chasing waterfowl both at dawn and dusk. More waterfowl pressure.

- e. I love South Dakota....but migratory waterfowl do not really belong to the state of South Dakota. One could argue the pheasants belong to South Dakota...but not the waterfowl, even if a bunch of them nest there. South Dakota residents benefit greatly from the federal conservation and farming subsidies which enhance/maintain the habitat for all species and protect the livelihood of the farmer. States like Missouri...which is a vital state for waterfowl during their migrations and also has some storied waterfowl hunting areas...remain unrestricted. Without the money and resources of duck hunters and conservationists from all across the US, the public grounds and economy of South Dakota would suffer. Please, keep the big picture in mind.
- f. South Dakota promotes, and encourages non-residents to pheasant hunt in South Dakota....and they come by the “hundreds of thousands” every year. There is no doubt that the pheasant hunter is a much bigger nuisance to the residents and every bird they take was born and bred on South Dakota ground. I have always thought it a bit ironic that non-resident waterfowl tags are so controlled and limited.....when South Dakota will take every pheasant hunter it can. Obviously, it is all about the money. South Dakota cured their angst over pheasant hunting pressure by commercializing the heck out of it.
- g. I think requiring non-residents to apply in June for their tag (and pay for it if drawn) is a pretty good measure to keep hunting pressure down. It certainly kills the opportunistic non-resident from a quick weekend trip and effectively kills the really big hunter groups. You have a fantastic thing going and still only get around 5,000 non-resident statewide applications. Missing a tag every couple of years is not good....but it is not the end of the world. Missing a tag a couple years in a row or having to take a tag in an area you don't want to be in, would really stink.

#### Suggestions

- a. Do nothing to the statewide licenses. NO MORE ZONES. NO MORE RESTRICTIONS ON WHERE YOU CAN GO. NO REDUCTIONS IN LICENSE AVAILABILITY.
- b. If the 3 day tags are popular, leave them alone too. More zoning is appropriate for a 3 day tag, because those guys have only enough time to hit a specific destination.

Thank you for allowing comments and please recognize how good the residents of South Dakota have it with regard to waterfowl hunting.

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I understand you are reviewing your past and present waterfowl hunting quotas. I have been hunting South Dakota since 1997. We as a group hunted pheasants. There were some bleak years so we decided to apply for waterfowl licenses . We were lucky enough to draw leftover 3 day. Since that time we or myself have had excellent luck drawing. Now we feel we may get one every year the bottom dropped out. We as of two of (all that is left in our party) us had to give up our long lasting trailer rent not knowing if we will receive another license. Because so many farmers have went for so much per gun for pheasants we found out most land owners receive water fowlers with open arms. We hunt Clark co. and hardly ever seen another hunter. Even the residents are frustrated about the lottery, and told us to contact their legislators. We went to North Dakota and it was not the same. I am 72 yrs. and still look to hunt your state. We have made lots of friends. Thank you for listening. [saxmans03@aol.com](mailto:saxmans03@aol.com) Jim  
Saxman 31870 m-60 Leonidas mi 49066 269-816-0154

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Allowing more nonresidents to purchase waterfowl license for the fall duck and Canada goose seasons would bring more money to the local businesses. Obviously a lot more money to the GFP and which will benefit them to support our wildlife. As you must know, waterfowl hunting is becoming more and more popular and will bring a lot of people here to pursue them. Increasing the amount of nonresident license will also help me out as a guide, allowing me to bring in more clients.

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I am a veteran of the Vietnam War, I was wounded , I have a Purple Heart, I am hundred percent disabled and I would love to come to your state and pay whatever it is you need to be able duck hunt every year. I consider South Dakota to be the most beautiful state in the Union and if I could live there I would. Thank you for taking the time.

Stand in the door,  
Larry dabney,  
2nd/502 parachute airborne infantry,  
101st airborne division

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I would really like to see a reduced price youth nonresident license and an opportunity to split to 10 day license into 2 different dates.  
Thanks Dustin Carlson

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My name is Carl Madsen. I live in Brookings. I've been a duck hunter for 63 years, and a student of waterfowl and their habitats for more than fifty years

As I see it, the issue of more non-resident waterfowl licenses in South Dakota is about mallards. It's about a small area of the state, where ever the best duck hunting is, the North East.

But most of all it's about money. Money gained from selling dead ducks to people who would come to South Dakota to shoot ducks. And that would ruin duck hunting as we know it for most South Dakotans as the best spots would be sold out to visiting hunters. This is what has already happened to pheasant hunting here. The commercial operators have gobbled up most of the best part of the state, leaving Joe Walmart to the crowded fringe areas.

With waterfowl, those best spots will move over time because of weather and water conditions. My early hunting years were in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota where there is a hunter behind every cattail on every water body.

There are few ducks, and the competition for a shot is severe. A good day in those eastern states, if your're lucky, might be 1 or 2 ducks and they'd not be mallards.

Let's not make that happen here.

Do not increase non-resident waterfowl hunter numbers.

Work to spread out hunting in time and space.

I know this is an economic issue designed to bring in more dollars. But what is the ultimate objective? 5,00 licenses, 10,000 30,000 like North Dakota.

I used to live in North Dakota and enjoyed very good duck hunting there.

That has all changed with commercial hunting outfits grabbing up vast areas of the best water fowling places, locking out the rest of us leaving only the fringe areas few ducks for guys like me.

Please don't do that to South Dakota. The reason we have good duck hunting here now, for residents and no residents alike is we are relatively un-crowded. Don't spoil that with more non-resident licenses that would feed the commercial gunners at the expense of resident hunting opportunity.

---

SDGFP Commission,

The goose and duck hunting in South Dakota is already overcrowded. NR licenses need to be lowered, not increased. A few commercial hunters are pushing for the increase in NR licenses so they can book more hunts and lease more ground, ground that residents will no longer be able to hunt. That coupled with the staggering loss of habitat is leading to less hunting opportunity. We surely don't need more out of state licenses to compound this issue. By keeping the number the same, or even lowering it, we can continue to have the quality hunting that has been protected and passed on to our generation, and hopefully we can continue to protect and preserve it for generations to come.

Pheasant & deer hunting is already commercialized and taken over by big leases and out of state hunters. Waterfowl hunting is the last perk that residents have. Please do not sell that away from us. I would much rather see our cost for migratory bird license go up for the residents than see more NR licenses be issued.

Marc Hamiel  
38326 129<sup>th</sup> St  
Aberdeen, SD 57401

**Marc Hamiel | Butler Machinery Company | Diesel Service Technician**  
4950 E Highway 12 | Aberdeen, SD, 57401 | P 605-225-6240  
**Butler Values | Our Team • Customer Driven • Accountability • Integrity • Excellence**  
[www.butlermachinery.com](http://www.butlermachinery.com)



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Good Day,  
I'd like to first thank South Dakota for the wonderful hospitality that my family and I receive when we get the chance to hunt waterfowl. My thoughts are:  
The 3 day tag option is great as is.  
Why not have a split 10 day tag? 3 & 7 day? Two 5 day tags? I enjoy working my dogs and the 2- 5 day would go hand in hand with pheasants. I would also like to see a slight increase in non resident tags, I believe the lottery is a good way to provide the tags.

*"I have a fear that commercial interests will become a problem with leasing lands for hunting rights and deny hunters, both resident and non resident availability to lands. Not that much can be done with this opinion"*

Thank You for allowing me to make a statement.

Don Beans  
Jasper Company

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**Don Beans**

**Jasper Company**

**"Your Retreat into Northern Hospitality"**

**Website: [www.jaspercompany.com](http://www.jaspercompany.com)**

**Address: 36 West Sheridan, Ely, MN 55731**

**Telephone: (218)365-6010**

**Email: [don@jaspercompany.com](mailto:don@jaspercompany.com)**

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Good morning,

My name is Charles Hutchko and am a resident of PA. I have owned property in SD, Roscoe, for over 7 years and have been hunting both waterfowl and pheasants in your state for over 20 years. I understand your concern on giving full hunting privilege to non-resident land owners but I seriously doubt that this issue would dramatically change the dynamics of both waterfowl and pheasants populations. ND has much friendlier hunting regs for non-residents and it does not appear that their residents or even the wildlife production suffers from them.

I would like to see SD move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and relax the hunting regs for non-resident land owners.

Thank you for listening to a concerned non-resident land owner.

C. M. Hutchko

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Committee members:

Last week I sent an e-mail requesting some more information concerning your committees reason for considering changing the nonresident waterfowl hunting format, primarily the distribution of licenses and altering the unit boundaries. Since I haven't been provided any additional information I can only speculate that the impetus for the

proposed changes is to relieve some of the hunting pressure in the northeast and spread it out to the new and much larger unit C.

Admittedly my concerns are selfish, because our small group is quite satisfied with the current system and would hate to see that compromised by changes that ultimately would not achieve those goals. But since you have invited comments from non-resident hunters please let me submit my two cents worth.

If it is your goal to spread out the hunting or at least take the pressure out of that 5-6 county area to the NE, then there has to be incentive for those hunters to go elsewhere. In Iowa, there are a limited number of non-resident turkey permits. Iowa has four turkey periods divided into five zones. The first period is 4 days long, second period 5 days, third period is 7 days long, and the fourth period is 18 days. Historically (and I've been hunting Iowa since 1992), the most popular and annually oversubscribed season is the fourth, and the next in popularity is the 3rd. The first and second periods are undersubscribed. Even though the turkey is often better during the first two periods the non-residents want the longer but later periods. In Missouri, they have a 21 day turkey season with a two bird limit but only one bird for the first seven days. There is no cap on turkey licenses, both for resident and non-resident hunters, but there just aren't hunters during the first seven days, at least compared to the last two weeks. Hunters want the two bird/day opportunity. Wisconsin has six periods for turkey hunting, all for seven day periods, with a limited number of permits/period. Because there is no difference in period length or bag limits, the early seasons are oversubscribed (unlike Iowa) while the later periods eventually sell out after the initial draw. Hunters want to at least feel they are getting the most for their license.

I understand that duck hunting is different than turkey hunting, but the people that hunt them are the same. They want to maximize the opportunity offered by that permit or license. If you wish to get people to move out of that NE block of counties than one way you might accomplish that is to limit those licenses in Zone B to 3 or 4 day licenses, and expand those licenses in Zone C to 10-15 day licenses, or something similar to that. Maybe shorten those waterfowl license to 3 or 4 or 5 in Zone B during the period when it is most crowded.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to send in my comments. I wish you the best of luck because you have a difficult goal to achieve.

Sincerely,

Dave Sabrowsky  
4028 Cannon Creek Trail  
Gainesville, Georgia 30504

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After reviewing all the information presented at the meetings, it is plain to see this effort is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to increase Non-resident licenses for the commercial interests in areas of Eastern, SD. According to the numbers, not all the licenses available are even being applied for. Historically, every time we approach the limit on NR licenses, the numbers are raised by pressure from commercial interests.

As the charts showed you, the number of resident water fowlers continues to decline. There are probably many reasons, but a major one is access to the waterfowl. The size of farming operations is growing exponentially, and many large operators turn their hunting rights over to commercial operations run by family, friends, employees or lessees. Many more acres are locked up by commercial operators that have no land and just rent up hunting rights. Many times in the past we have tried to get commercial hunting operations registered or licensed with the GF&P, but those efforts have been beaten back by their lobby.

When we ask how many commercial hunting operations there are in the state, there is no solid information, especially when we are asking about waterfowl. I once asked about how many hunting preserves had sales tax licenses in SD, and no one knew, but they estimated it would be very small because most of the preserves run their income through another business ----- what could go wrong with that situation?

Many other states, including some neighbors, have drained and destroyed their waterfowl habitat, and they have little or no waterfowl. Now, they are clamoring to get a share of our resources, and every day they are pressuring our Legislature and GF&P to pass rules or laws to allow them more access to the waterfowl of SD. Many non-resident groups are actually buying up SD land and trying to exclude resident sportsmen from our own wildlife resources, as evidenced by lawsuits now pending in our courts.

Resident sportsmen have been almost pressured out of the Pheasant hunting industry, buy the same issues I have outlined about waterfowl hunting. We now have far more non-resident phasant hunters than we do residents in SD. Commercializing the wildlife industry is a real threat to resident hunters, and if want to continue down the same path for waterfowl that we have in the pheasant industry, then keep increasing waterfowl licenses for non-residents in the name of "economic development". The residents of SD

deserve a fair shot at our resources. We live here and pay taxes here. We should not sell our children's wildlife resources to the highest bidder.

Chuck Clayton  
President, Prairie Pothole Consulting (PPC)  
Past President, SDWF, SD Division IWLA, Izaak Walton League of America.  
798 11th St SW  
Huron, SD 57350  
605-354-0955

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Dear State of S Dakota wildlife managers, as an annual out of state pheasant, duck and deer hunter, I want you to know that I support giving out NR youth tags, which is good for the future of hunting and the rezoning of map # 4 so that there will be more tags available, thank you

**Jim MacConnachie**

U S Financial Services, Inc.  
21599 W 11 Mile Road, Suite 100  
Southfield, MI 48076

Work: 248-356-4500  
Fax: 248-356-4707  
Cell: 248-255-8652  
[jim@usfleasing.com](mailto:jim@usfleasing.com)  
[-www.usfleasing.com](http://www.usfleasing.com)

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Hello,

First and foremost I'd like to thank South Dakota for producing such excellent wildlife areas. You guys do such a wonderful job..thanks!!

Anyways, I'd like to throw my two cents into the non-resident waterfowl license. I've had the opportunity to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota for the past 8 years (only once not being selected). All of our hunts have been a blast!! First, if you're selected through the drawing how about the opportunity to split the 10 day license – just like you can for

pheasants. I would love to hunt 10 consecutive days but I'm married and I'm lucky enough to swing seven days out of the ten. If hunters were given the option to either spilt the license into two five day periods or run them consecutively would be nice.

Second, I like the idea of adding new zones and the proposed numbers.

My last idea would be to have a season long license available – I know this is possible in the southern part of the state, but why not in the rest of the state? This license could be \$500 and only 20 licenses are available. Just a thought..

Thanks again!!

Jeff Rose  
15942 Falcon Avenue N  
Hugo, MN 55038  
651-214-1550

---

Hello,

I am a non-resident hunter and would like to keep the number of licenses for non-residents as they are now. When you are drawn for a license you know you will have a quality experience, as the

competition for public and private spots is a lot less than other states. If to many hunters get licenses it will take away from this quality experience and will lead to less people applying for said licenses.

Thanks,

Andy

**Andy Larson**  
*Senior Buyer*



**Birchwood Casey**  
952-388-6713 (Direct) | 952-388-6714 (Fax)

7887 Fuller Road, Suite 100  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
[www.BirchwoodCasey.com](http://www.BirchwoodCasey.com)

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State of South Dakota:

I am a 15 year non-resident waterfowl (ducks only) hunter from Minnesota with 300 acres (great duck and pheasant habitat) in Sanborn County. I am the sole owner and in coordination with US Fish and Wildlife (Chuck Pyle, Huron) on the habitat plan which is my own "give back" to my passion which is mallards and pheasants. WHEN SELECTED, South Dakota is the BEST duck hunting experience in the USA given the convenience, great habitat, low hunting pressure, good duck counts, great migration pattern, robust public hunting acres and welcoming farmers/ranchers.

You are all to be complimented on the quality of the hunt in South Dakota! You are to be challenged on what seem to be antiquated non-resident waterfowl hunting access. You as the policy setter may believe your limited access drives the great experience; but waterfowl (unlike Pheasants) is an InterContinental resource mostly passing through; not domiciled in the state.

I cherish being picked for duck hunting; and I am very, very disappointed when I am not selected. I could go on for months to you on my ideas; but in short, here is what I observe and recommend.

1. South Dakota residents have very limited duck hunting pressure due to low people population and avid/trumping hunting interests in pheasants and deer.
2. Non-residents hunt the Watertown/Waubay areas hard and not much elsewhere in mainland S Dakota; so hunting pressure dispersion needs to occur.
3. Non-resident duck hunting access in S Dakota needs to also improve as ducks are an Inter-Continental and State of South Dakota resource. See Migration....
4. Non-resident waterfowl Licenses and Cost of License need to be notably increased; ever declining Pheasant revenues are a concern for public land acquisition/maintenance it seems.
5. **Increase to 5,000 or 6,000 Licenses; 2,500 in Watertown/Waubay zone; 2,500 other Statewide and a cost of \$200 per License.** The State won't even notice such a small hunting pressure increase!
6. Too many non-resident pheasant hunters lock up duck licenses in passing through and are NOT really serious about waterfowling. This is evident in your license date distribution which is surprisingly tied to pheasant hunting opener and

early season and not really high during well documented normal peak migration from Nov 10 to Nov 20<sup>th</sup>; So to remedy this;

7. Make cost much higher to eliminate the “passerby” pheasant hunter turned duck hunter for a day. I understand tension to not make non-resident hunting only a “rich man’s sport”; however, I would use license price to weed out some applicants to get to the real non-resident waterfowl hunting base. \$200 is not off market to other states and non-resident species (big game) for a 10 day experience.

I would like the opportunity to share my views in more detail as I am a passionate bird hunter that has invested much into habitat. My phone is 612-303-6392. Thanks for your consideration. Bob.

---

Waterfowl License Workgroup-

I am again writing to voice my opinion on nonresident waterfowl licenses. I do NOT support any increase in nonresident licenses or in the moving of licenses to other units.

I don't agree with "reallocating" 3 day September licenses to be used statewide during other seasons. The September season and tag numbers were intended for depredation caused by local geese. These licenses were definitely not intended for nonresidents to hunt migrant geese later in the season across the state.

I feel any increases in nonresident waterfowl licenses will lead to increased hunting pressure, increased leasing of private lands, and an overall degradation of South Dakota waterfowling for residents and nonresidents alike.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for protecting our waterfowl resources.

Sincerely,

Mike Stenson  
2104 Waldron Street  
Fort Pierre, SD 57532

---

Your minutes from the most recent meeting indicated that there were over 100 pages of comments submitted to the work group since the beginning. I'd like to have those

pages that are provided to the work group posted on the website for review by the public. Its important that those who take the time to comment have the opportunity to see what the counts are both for and against change and be able to read other arguments being made by other stakeholders that may agree or disagree with their views. Whatever is being offered that will inform the opinion and eventually the recommendations from this group should be public.

Thanks for your time in reading this. I'd like a response regarding my request.

Regards,

LLoyd Hodgkin  
Aberdeen

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Your minutes from the most recent meeting indicated that there were over 100 pages of comments submitted to the work group since the beginning. I'd like to have those pages that are provided to the work group posted on the website for review by the public. Its important that those who take the time to comment have the opportunity to see what the counts are both for and against change and be able to read other arguments being made by other stakeholders that may agree or disagree with their views. Whatever is being offered that will inform the opinion and eventually the recommendations from this group should be public.

Thanks for your time in reading this. I'd like a response regarding my request.

Regards,

LLoyd Hodgkin  
Aberdeen

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Non-resident waterfowl license work group,

I would like to strongly oppose any non-resident waterfowl license increase. Most public land non-resident waterfowl hunters would agree with me. They are able to acquire a 10 day license two out of three years on average and enjoy a quality hunt. By increasing licenses, public hunting areas will become increasingly overcrowded.

Most people think that the quality of waterfowl hunting is directly proportional to the waterfowl population. Unlike pheasants, this is not true. Most of the best waterfowl hunting takes place during a three week period of the waterfowl migration. This past

hunting season was even worse for timing of the migration. Temperatures were above average which delayed the migration until an unseasonably cold snap jumpstarted the migration which took just days.

Most waterfowl hunters would agree with me not to increase non-resident waterfowl licenses. The commercial outfitters would disagree with me.

As you know, a lot of resident hunters of South Dakota live here because of the unmatched quality hunting opportunities. This would include waterfowl hunting. We have already relaxed more than we would have liked on non-resident waterfowl license. Please do not take from us anymore.

Pheasant hunting has already been commercialized enough in this state. Please do not make waterfowl hunting the same way.

Andy Vandell  
308 N. Johnson Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501

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SD DNR,

As a non-resident I would rather come every other year and have good hunting than come every year and find most of the land leased like it's getting to be in certain areas now. If you allow too many licenses you will open the door for guides to come in and lease all the prime land. This will make it a lot harder to get permission to hunt or make it too expensive to come to your state. I feel it is a privilege to come to your state and have great waterfowl hunting. It would be a shame for this to end.

Thanks,  
Bryan Sorenson

---

I oppose any increase in the number of Nonresident waterfowl licenses in South Dakota. The idea of taking 700 3-day licenses from Unit C-1 and sending them to Unit C is especially egregious. The current system, including the number of licenses, is promoting a quality waterfowl hunting experience for both resident and NR hunters. Draw odds for NR hunters are very good, as a single preference point guarantees a license. I suggest you stay with the current system, one that promotes a quality hunting experience for both resident and NR hunters.

Sincerely,  
Spencer Vaa  
1819 Olwien Street

Brookings, SD 57006

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Dear GFP Working Group,

I am writing in response to your invitation to offer comments or suggestions regarding your discussions on nonresident waterfowl licenses. Attached is a specific proposal for your consideration. As a life-long South Dakota hunter, I appreciate this opportunity for such input and commend you for the work being done.

With appreciation,

Merrill Morse  
1016 Island Lake Ave.  
Shoreview, MN 55126

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To whom it may concern,

In regards to the upcoming meeting to be held on March 2, 2015 in Pierre concerning the proposed changes to the SD nonresident licensing regulations and seasons:

I protest that some members of this committee derive personal income and benefit from increased nonresident privilege.

The committee should be comprised of totally neutral residents that have no interest in commercialized hunting.

Being a former nonresident of the state of SD, I personally spent many years abiding & living with the regulations set forth by this state.

It helped guarantee the excellent hunting opportunities for all people both residents & nonresidents alike to enjoy & cherish.

In my humble opinion of over 50 years of hunting small game & waterfowl, I believe it is in the best interest of both the residents, hunting public & above all the wildlife to leave SD regulations alone as they currently exist.

There is no need to change them.

In the future perhaps, the GF&P will consider organizing a public forum or meeting for opinions, outlooks & viewpoints to be discussed & shared.

I appreciate your time & effort.

thank you,  
Thomas Skinner

[tom.skinner@mncomm.com](mailto:tom.skinner@mncomm.com)

Pierre, South Dakota

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February 24, 2015

South Dakota Game Fish and Parks  
Attn: Non-Resident Waterfowl Work Group  
523 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: License Allocations and Re-Districting

Gentlemen:

As a long-time resident and property owner in Northeast South Dakota, I have been closely following the progress of your group as it reviews the existing protocols for non-resident license allocations.

Before I progress any further however, I would like to give you a little background on myself and my family as it relates to your efforts as members of this work group. In 1949 my grandfather purchased a quarter section of land directly adjacent to Sand Lake Refuge in Brown County. He went on to purchase many additional parcels of land in other areas of Northeast SD but it was the quarter section next to Sand Lake that our family developed and has hunted for the past 65 years.

Several years ago, while deployed by the Marine Corp in Afghanistan, my youngest son made the decision to come back to South Dakota and start a waterfowl hunting guide service. Since his return, our family has invested substantial time and financial resources to help him make this a reality. Late last fall, we completed construction on a hunting lodge we hope will not only bolster the incredible resource which is South Dakota hunting, but also help to enhance the financial impact on the area derived from a top tier hunting operation.

As I am sure you would all recognize, the success of an operation such as ours will be highly dependent upon our ability to attract and host out-of-state hunters. In our short time in operation we have found it quite easy to attract hunters to South Dakota and our lodge, the challenge has been, as you would expect, acquiring Non-Resident Waterfowl Hunting Licenses.

The issue we have discovered does not lie with your licensing division, they are in fact, very efficient. The issue for us has been the timing required in order to obtain the license. Unlike what has been put in place for hunters and guides along the Missouri River, we are not able to by-pass the lottery feature currently in place for non-residents. In order for non-residents to participate in hunting in our area, they need to have planned their hunt months in advance of the actual season.

That being said, we have a very vested interest into the current efforts of your work group. Not only are we concerned about the existing process by which non-resident licenses are issued, we are also concerned about the plans to re-district licensing units within the State.

I plan to be in attendance at your April meeting in Brookings. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss further with all of you just how important the efforts of your work group is to the future success of my sons business, Flatland Flyways. I encourage you all to visit our web-site [www.flatlandflyways.com](http://www.flatlandflyways.com) to view for yourselves the investment in South Dakota our family has made.

Kindest Regards,

Arthur Russo

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Would be helpful to split the license into two five days like the pheasant license

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I'm writing in to express my distaste of the most recent proposals set forth from the working group. I cannot understand how this working group can continue to be oblivious to the wishes of its residents. According to the hundreds of emails that you've gotten, the residents and many nonresidents do not want to see license increases.

The zone in the north east corner of the state is entirely too small. This is where most people will want to go. Why make this area so small? If you want to see overcrowding come to Webster in early November.

Another large issue I have is with the September nonresident Canada goose licenses. These licenses were created to help control a burgeoning population. I believe it would be a travesty to allow these licenses to be used all year.

Once again, I do not support the current licensing structure that your working group has set forth.

Thanks, Cody Warner  
Roslyn, SD  
6055900001  
Sent from my iPhone

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Hello,

My name Tom Fuller and I am a resident of South Dakota and an avid waterfowl hunter. I was fortunate enough to secure a good job in Sioux Falls in June of 2000 and I relocated from Iowa. One of the things I quickly fell in love with in South Dakota was the wonderful waterfowl hunting opportunities. Compared to the over-crowded public hunting areas I grew up hunting in Iowa, South Dakota was a dream come true.

However since 2000 this has changed. Many of the my favorite public hunting lakes in the Northeast corner of the state are jam packed with hunters and 80%+ are from out of state. This occurs because so many avid waterfowl hunters wait for the peak migration to happen resulting in over-crowded public hunting areas.

I strongly encourage you to not increase the number of nonresident licenses. In fact I would encourage either a reduction in the number of nonresident licenses or keeping the number the same but spreading the licenses out over each week of the season. Finally I have several friends from both Iowa and Arizona who come waterfowl hunting here in South Dakota following the process. They are just fine periodically not getting a license knowing they get a preference point and a license the next year vs. hunting overcrowded public areas.

Thanks for asking my views.

Tom Fuller  
[Tom.fuller@hotmail.com](mailto:Tom.fuller@hotmail.com)

3204 south grace Ave  
Sioux Falls SD 57103

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After reading the notes from the last meeting I am very disappointed to hear that special interest groups were allowed to speak. It was also disheartening to hear that some members in the work group think "why do we have to listen to public input". Also moving around tags from units that don't sell out is really just a tricky way to raise tags in more popular units. Again I do not support any raise in NR licenses or relocating licenses from other units.

Phil Hudson  
104 Washington ave  
Howard sd 57349

---

Dear sir, I support rezoning #4 and NR youth hunting, W.E. Yeager Jr. Newton, IOWA

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To whom it may concern,  
I am a resident of South Dakota and an active hunter. Hunting waterfowl is one of my primary interests. I would like to voice my opposition to any increase in Nonresident waterfowl licenses. Increases in nonresident licensees will result in increased commercial activity and guiding in South Dakota. It will result in more fields being leased by commercial operations and will reduce opportunities for South Dakota

residents. Any increases in nonresident licenses will have a direct and negative impact on opportunities for both residents and non residents alike.

We need only look at examples in North Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, etc to see the loss of hunting opportunities for residents that have occurred from increased competition from non residents and commercial guiding operations. I hope south Dakota will not follow this disturbing trend of sacrificing quality hunting for both residents and non residents in the pursuit of additional revenue.

Please vote against any increase in non resident licenses of any form

Regards,

Conor McMahon

1733 Mountain View Rd

Rapid City, SD 57702

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Hi,

First off, I want to commend the South Dakota GFP for being so transparent during the license allocation process, as an avid waterfowl hunter and employee at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Student Assistant for the state Waterfowl Specialist) I can really appreciate your efforts.

I've hunted the past 2 years in SD (in the drawing for 3 years), primarily within 2 hours north and west of Sioux Falls (My sister's family lives there) and absolutely love the hunts I have out there. This past year we had a hunting party of 3 that drew non-resident licenses for 10-day statewide. My two hunting buddies, having never hunted outside the state of Michigan, had the time of their life.

I like where you have allocated licenses, and they seemed to align closely to where the perceived hunting pressure is, and I'm sure the resident hunters will appreciate limiting the number of non-residents on those potholes to the north. For me personally, I probably wouldn't hunt north of Watertown anyways, and I rarely encounter any other hunters when hunting south and west of Watertown on public land. So, am I clear in my thinking that there isn't a reduction in licenses overall, and that the commission could choose to increase licenses each year but by no more than 5%?

The one downfall to hunting South Dakota for ducks is not being able to plan the trip until we see if we are successful in the draw, which could leave us scrambling to line up another trip elsewhere. So, my only comment would be to move the draw earlier in the year.

Again, I applaud the work you guys do, and SD is unmatched in productive public waterfowl hunting lands.

Thanks again,

Corey Lucas

---

I have heard and read that you are considering increasing the number of non-resident waterfowl licenses along the Missouri River in SE South Dakota. I am absolutely against any increase in the numbers of non-resident licenses issued for this area. SDGF&P no more then gets control of these numbers and wants an increase right off the bat. We have more then enough non-resident hunters crowding into these areas. If you need more money, charge more for the licenses you sell now. Don't short change the sportsmen and women of South Dakota who you serve.

David Mines  
104 Robin St  
Yankton, SD 57078

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Dear Nonresident Waterfowl License Work Group:

I debated about sending yet another letter to the nonresident waterfowl license work group (and the SD GF&P) reiterating issues with raising nonresident license numbers in the northeast and southeast portions of the state because they have been ignored to this point. As disheartening as that is, this is such an important issue for our South Dakota waterfowling heritage that I feel compelled to help the process as best as I can.

Unfortunately it appears that the majority of the nonresident waterfowl license work group (and the SD GF&P) are not considering important what the vast majority of resident and a large percentage of nonresident waterfowl hunters are saying about the northeast and southeast areas of the state: 1) that these areas are extremely overcrowded and 2) that we should protect hunt quality for both residents and nonresidents, and 3) "please do not increase the numbers of nonresident licenses in these parts of the state". This is about hunt quality for everyone, please do not compromise away more of what has already been taken; that is, decreased opportunities for everyone, people giving up hunting, stress, and overcrowding issues like arguments and fights.

I mentioned in a previous letter, that the work group should seek input from the Conservation Officers in the areas of our state that have already been impacted by overcrowding (and are proposed to have license numbers increased, further increasing problems in these areas). I implore you to not just seek input, but listen. There is maybe one person on the working group that is close to being a passionate waterfowler? Without that passion, experience, or understanding, it is all the more important to listen to those that are. Any decision will impact 100's or 1000's of waterfowl hunters. Has the working group solicited input from appropriate CO's?

Also disheartening was the decision by Mr. Tony Leif to allow commercial interests to attend and participate in the February 2<sup>nd</sup> working group meeting, despite objections from group members, while specifically denying attendance and requests by South Dakota hunters to do the same.

I ask that you please listen and consider the experiences and warnings from the people you are representing – South Dakota's sportsmen and women.

Respectfully,

Tom Curran  
Yankton, SD

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Dear Work Group:

I have read the posted meeting minutes and notes and I must say they look incomplete or at least abbreviated, I would propose video taping the proceedings and posting them so we can have a more complete understanding of the proposals. This would be beneficial for those of us that cannot afford to take a day off work and/or the expense of traveling to Pierre for the meetings.

I am a lifetime resident of SD and 2014 marked the completion 50 seasons creeping around in the cattails, the last 30 of those years I have been joined by 2-4 lifelong friends that have lived out of state for some time. In that length of time I can think that two of them were unsuccessful in the draw, one time each, pretty good odds in my book! Personally I would favor an overall reduction in the number of available licenses but if we cannot come to a consensus in the regard, I would leave as is, including the current boundaries. What I am saying is "if it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Individual SD residents need to be given special account in these matters as we are the folks that live here, work here, and support the entire spectrum of local economies on a DAILY basis, not 3-5 or 10 days a year!

Sincerely,

Dan Thayer  
127257 West Bridge Road  
Aberdeen, SD 57401

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To the committee working on Waterfowl Hunting changes for Non Residents:

I have just reviewed the materials on potential changes to the distribution of non-resident licenses in the North East part of your state. I just wanted to pass on my comments on my experience waterfowl hunting in your state. I have hunted the NE portion of ND the past few years and it has always been for the opener. Our group likes to hunt four days. We have had some very good hunts in the past couple of years and would hate to see things change very much. We hunt over water on both public and private land. We have had plenty of birds available and little other hunting pressure, even on public lands. We do not shoot a lot of mallards during that time of the year but still feel we have a quality hunt with the dogs getting some good work, which may be the #1 reason I waterfowl hunt. It looks like the pressure from non-residents comes later in the season when the migrating mallards come down. Obviously your group needs to

look at the big picture but I hope you can make your changes without jeopardizing the hunts for us non-residents that are hunting during times of low pressure.

The only suggestion I would have would be to change three day licenses to four or five day licenses as it appears you can do with without a statutory change . When you are driving a day to get to South Dakota and a day back, a three day license just seems to not give enough time to hunt and make the trip worth it. I have duck hunted in a number of states and in Canada and we usually like four day hunts. Us and the dogs tend to be wore out after four days of hunting. At the same time if you went with more four of five day licenses and less ten day licenses you may be able to reduce some of the pressure during the mallard flight as groups that do hunt longer than four of five days would have to quit after that time period.

Thanks, Randy Falstad, Mosinee, WI

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I would like to make a suggestion for your consideration. I am 68 yrs. old and have been waterfowl hunting in SD for 27 years at the same location. I have made good friends there and look forward to going every year. The last 5 years, I've only been able to draw a permit every other year. Being a senior, you can't count on the physical condition you'll be in every waterfowl season. I would like to see a license for seniors 65 and over. This license would be available every year. It would be good for 5 consecutive days at a cost of \$100. Most of us seniors aren't concerned about killing a lot of ducks. We are more concerned about being able to get out with our hunting buddies and our dogs, and enjoying the waterfowl hunting tradition. Would you know what percentage of nr waterfowl license go to those 65 and over? Thanks for allowing me to put my 2 cents in. Wally Butler, 517 Sportsman Rd., Murphysboro, Il.

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GFP,

I am writing to you to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** the possibility of increasing nonresident licenses, period. I encourage you to do some field research on the subject before you make any decisions, rather than just looking at pure #'s and spreadsheets. Go out to a popular hunting area and just see the competition there is for good hunting when the birds are here. Remember, the bulk of the migratory birds are here for 2-3 weeks usually and everyone knows that. So that is when nonresidents plan their trips, **AND** that's when the local hunters get out and hunt too. The freelance hunting we have enjoyed for years and a privilege of living in SD will go by the wayside if waterfowl hunting goes down the same path as Pheasant hunting. If it's the pure economics of

getting more revenue, start pheasant hunting a week earlier. The average pheasant hunter is going to spend much more money than a waterfowl hunter. If you think increasing licenses for nonresidents is a good idea, ask any hunter or land owner in North Dakota and see how they feel about the way their system works.

With the direction the CRP program has gone the pheasant numbers are down drastically along with the # of acres to hunt. Leaving the common resident SD hunter less opportunity to hunt. Let's not send waterfowl into that category for a quick buck.

My biggest fear with all this is our South Dakota generational hunter. I have grown up in SD, lived here my whole life and learned the ethics and traditions of waterfowl hunting with my father. I have had many opportunities to leave SD and I have never acted on one of them because I enjoy the fringe benefits of living here. I want my kids to enjoy that exact same life if at all possible.

Thanks you for listening,  
Brian Jorgensen, 34 yrs. old  
Aberdeen, SD lifelong resident, hunter, conservationists, tax payer

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My name is Bobby Cox and I am 56 years old. I have a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries science and I have published roughly 50 peer-reviewed scientific publications on ducks. I moved here to South Dakota from North Dakota in 2002 because of overabundant and uncontrolled nonresident waterfowl hunters in North Dakota. Despite what many duck hunters will claim, I am one of the very few duck hunters on this planet who will put my money and my physical presence where my mouth is and actually move myself and my family to a place with good duck hunting. I'd much rather drive a long distance to work or do almost anything else than to hunt.

Unlike pheasants and other resident birds, waterfowl are highly mobile, and they will not stay in an area that doesn't give them the food and sanctuary that they require to function in a healthy state. Hunting disturbance moves ducks, often hundreds of miles, and I have documented and published papers on this (references available upon request). During the fall when ducks are here, it's a much different situation for ducks than it is at the same time of year after they have traveled to a winter destination. And that's because ducks here not only have to have food adequate to maintain weight, but they also need to put on body fat to fuel migration. They also need fat reserves to weather brief winter storms when food may not be available at times before they have gained enough weight to migrate south. And they need to have enough sanctuary available to access the food resources they need. It doesn't do them any good to have

corn fields knee-deep in waste grain if they get shot at every time they try to access those resources. So while the arguments to limit nonresident waterfowl hunters has not been approached thus far as a biological issue, there are biological considerations because we know that at the extreme, if we don't give ducks in the prairies and other northern staging areas enough sanctuary to access food to put on fat, they won't be migrating south, they won't be surviving the winter, and they definitely won't be producing any more ducks the next spring. While no one is arguing that we're anywhere near reaching that level now, it is common sense to recognize that low disturbance of ducks is better than

high disturbance and any move toward increased disturbance is not good and will have a negligible deleterious effect at best.

The decision on whether or not to allow more nonresident duck hunters in South Dakota is not a question of right or wrong. Rather, it is philosophical question based on personal beliefs about what duck hunting should be like in this state. If we would like to see and maintain high quality duck hunting, where the average hunter and his friends or family can go out and in a reasonable amount of time, locate and secure permission to access what he considers a good duck hunt, then we need to maintain or reduce the current number of nonresident hunters. If we are willing to trade good duck hunting for economic benefits, then increasing the number of nonresident duck hunters or concentrating them in the better duck hunting areas will do that. The quality of duck hunting for the average person will suffer because ducks will become more gregarious and eventually move out of heavily hunted areas, but business interests such as residents who own motels and restaurants will benefit economically. And guides and outfitters will exacerbate the situation because they'll lease land to ensure access to good duck hunting for their paying clients, which makes hunting quality even poorer for the average resident duck hunter.

I've had several friends apply to hunt ducks as nonresidents in South Dakota and come and hunt with me since I've lived here. Every one of them is grateful for the opportunity to hunt here and they have thoroughly enjoyed the hunting. And they all fully support the nonresident restrictions because they know that the high duck hunting quality they've experienced here would not exist without the restrictions, even though this means they won't be drawn every year. I hope that those charged with the decision of whether or not to increase nonresident hunters will recognize the importance of this decision both to ducks and to those hunters who truly value quality duck hunting and not do anything to detract from the quality of waterfowl hunting we have now. My wife probably has one more move left in her, but I'd really like to not have to ask her to move again if y'all screw up the duck hunting in South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert R. Cox, Jr.  
Ipswich, SD

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I have been a lifelong duck and pheasant hunter (73 years old) and still hunt actively in your state for both birds. I have looked at your data and most of it seems to be to the point in the area that I have hunted. It has been fun hunting in your state and I have been treated, for the most part, well by local landowners. It is always a guess as to when " the mallards are going to come down" and I appreciated the ability to pick my own dates.

Without a lot of other comment, there are two things that I think could enhance non-resident hunting. The first is an issue that is always before you and that is the ability to split the 10 day season into two fives. like we can for pheasants. (I think that you would spread the hunting out over the season far more than you have occurring at present. (I for one would hunt a lot later in the season with one of my five day stints, when most people have quit) You have heard enough arguments pro and con on this, so I am not going to digress more on this subject.

The second issue is more important and I think that you can do something about it. That is, the tremendous increase in outfitters that are tying up land so that a lot of hunters cannot gain access to it by talking to farmers. (This has to be occurring to local hunters too) I am not referring to "game farms". I know the arguments about a landowner being able to make a buck for his land, however what is happening is that hunting is becoming a sport that only the rich can afford. I think that you can limit outfitters within geographical areas and I would hope that you would take a look at this.

Thanks for allowing me to comment.

**Dick Scherman**  
**612-750-6635**

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Game Fish and parks Commission and NR Waterfowl License Advisory Board:

As a South Dakota Resident, I strongly oppose increasing nonresident licenses. A license increase would greatly affect the average SD hunter while only benefiting the commercialization of the hunting industry of SD and non-residents (NR).

After discussing this issue with NR friends, that enjoy waterfowl hunting in SD, they all oppose increasing licenses due to the fact it will lead to further commercialization to the hunting industry in SD, make private land even more difficult to access and crowd the public land even more, which will decrease the enjoyment and quality of the outdoor experience/hunt when they do get a license. Add this to the increasing habitat loss and the gaining popularity of waterfowl hunting, it is all ready getting harder for SD residence to enjoy waterfowl hunting in SD.

As a current SD resident, that grew up in SW MN, which didn't have these great natural resources, I decided to live and raise my family here in SD because of what SD had to offer. This was my choice, I could of went elsewhere with my education and lived in a different state and made more money, but I liked what SD had to offer and some of it was the hunting opportunities for my family. Ask yourselves this question - Will SD youth that enjoy outdoor recreation activities such as waterfowl hunting remain in SD or move to a better destination after they graduates, if residents continue to take the back seat? I personally wouldn't expect any other state to guarantee me a hunting license and privileges like those of its residence, since they live and work there supporting their state. Please respect the wishes of your resident hunters and don't increase waterfowl license.

Concern SD resident

Jason Gilb  
Mitchell SD

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Martin Hesby  
1408 Sheridan Circle  
Brookings SD, 57006

Hello,

I am writing to adamantly oppose any increase of non-resident waterfowl licenses whatsoever, in fact, it would make sense to reduce the existing number of licenses. As a resident and avid waterfowl hunter here in South Dakota, I see the impacts of increasing non-resident licenses which will simply apply additional pressure to sell out resident interests, for the interests of a few. I have read all testimony that I could get my hands on, and this debate is between those who want commercialization of the resource (a few), and an overwhelming majority of resident and non-residents alike that oppose any such increases, as this is already a pressured resource and the quality of the hunt is in

jeopardy. Unless this is another “agenda” pushed onto the residents by Tony Leif and GFP, it would be clear that GFP should support the majority of resident interests, which in this case is clear- NO INCREASE and NO COMMERCIALIZATION- If this gets slammed through by Tony Leif and GFP agendas to push it through at all costs, I would argue that Tony and the GFP are not acting to serve the resident interests of this state. Residents are advocating the preservation of the quality of waterfowling in South Dakota, and taking a stand against further commercialization to serve the interests of a few over the majority of residents.

I know many non-resident hunters who feel the same way as our residents do, and view this as a quality of the hunt issue. They support the current draw, and stand a 70% chance of drawing a non-resident license every year. If they are not drawn one year, they are all but guaranteed to draw the next year. They fully support this as they know they will have a quality hunt when they draw, 7 out of 10 years respectively.

I also have concerns with the shifting of the number of non-resident licenses from current zones to new proposed zones. The legislature has stipulations that no increases of non-resident licenses, more than 5 percent a year, could happen- By shifting licenses from one zone to the next, inflating the number of non-resident licenses dramatically in these zones, is in fact increasing the numbers more than 5%, even though the overall number may not increase as a whole. I would imagine this would be a legal issue and such increases or shifting from current zones to another would be in violation of this 5% increase.

The legislature put this in the hands of the GFP Commission with the intent that an advisory board would be created to ensure the residents of SD had representation at the table, and the interests of the resident waterfowl hunters would be heard. You are hearing feedback, and the majority stands for no increase. Furthermore, the majority of residents weighing in on this are overwhelming against any increase. With that said, one would think GFP would naturally support those resident interests and stand with the residents of your state, that live here, work here, pay taxes here, and contribute to the economy of SD full time throughout every day of the year.

One would argue that if this agenda gets “pushed” through by Tony Leif, without the support from the majority of resident hunters, it would speak volumes as to where Tony and the department view the opinions of the residents of SD, and where their loyalties lay. I would then be inclined to believe that Mr. Leif has no place in a leadership position within a department of the State of South Dakota, if in fact this gets pushed through. If the majority say nay, let it be nay. Serving the interests of the majority of the residents

of South Dakota has got to take presidents over the minority, as well as nonresident views, especially when dealing with quality of life issue, such as this.

Respectfully, these are my personal views- I would urge you to listen to the residents of South Dakota, and have no shifting or increases. GFP has a fantastic opportunity here, to stand with the people of South Dakota, will they?

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Dear Non Resident waterfowl work group:

First off I want to thank for the opportunity to be involved in this discussion. I'm 54 year old lifelong water fowler from Minnesota. Seven years ago on the suggestion from a friend I applied for a SD Non Res license and was successful. My party of four hunters did not have too much success but we were overwhelmed by the hospitality of the local residents in particular the land owners. We were also very impressed with the access to State land and Walk in land. So impressed were my brother and I that in 2013 we purchased a home in the town of Eden. Needless to say we love the area love the people.

My opinion for what it's worth is the 10 day permit is the best approach. As I stated I've hunted in and around the Eden SD area and in the years I've hunted the hunting pressure is minimal. Very seldom do we have competition for hunting areas. After reading the meeting summaries I'm concerned we are looking for a solution to a problem that doesn't exist. I'm in NE South Dakota from Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> and the area is not under that much hunting pressure. 2000 10- day and 500 3- day is way too limiting.

I read the online forms and the opinion of a few very passionate people is not the same as the residents of towns like Eden, Langford, Lake City, and Britton. My suggestion is talk to Dan the owner of Dan's gas station, talk to the owners of Charlie's resort or Jan at Roy Lake resort. Talk to Joe Horner the guide in the area, ask Joe if he thinks the area is under too much pressure. Talk to Curt Sampson, The Steiner family . I assure you they will tell you their land is not over run with waterfowl hunters. Also very few 10 day license holders hunt the full 10 days most people don't have the luxury of taking 10 days off from work and family I'm not a mathematician

But 2000-10 day permits equals less time in the field than people realize. We have friend's use our place and they show up on Thursday, hunt Friday-Monday go home and come back and hunt Thursday –Saturday. Most people are lucky if they use 7 out of their 10 days.

Thanks for the opportunity to give you my 2 cents

Dave Knase  
219 4<sup>th</sup> st  
Eden SD, 57232

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I say no to open up NRwaterfowl permits. Leave the way it is by lottery. Look to ND all private land is being leased by outfitters and residents are having difficulties finding places to hunt                      concerned SD waterfowler

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Good morning Gentlemen. I'd like to add one more "issue" to last letter. I read Chuck Dieters article in Dakota magazine. What he states is true. More guides are tying up more and more land locking residents out. Residents are getting squeezed out of opportunities. I'm afraid what my father told me 30 years ago is happening...."hunting will become a rich man's sport" Thanks for your good work on this issue. Duke Remitz. Frederick SD.

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I know these comments are a waste of time?I've seen "working groups" for the S.D GF&P do their "work" many times. The result is always the same: policy changes which forever negatively effect South Dakotans' hunting while undermining the GF&P's role in protecting our opportunities. e.g. the private shooting preserve task force...the west river deer task force?the captive wildlife task force?the results of which always give landowners/businessmen privileges and immunities unavailable to anyone else. The almighty dollar always winning. Our wildlife increasingly privatized.

We had a good line drawn to protect our (and our nonresidents') waterfowl hunting?but Dick Werner, the GF&P and others who care little about the average South Dakotan worked together?behind-the scenes to get a doomed HB1185 hoghoused at the last minute of the 2014 legislature...surprising and fooling SD sportsmen and lobbyists in Pierre to support it. Thus, more nonresident waterfowl hunters can be licensed?every year?forever?if the GFP Commission approves them. Very sneaky legislation in my opinion.

Have you not seen the ditches everywhere which have drained our sloughs? The thousands of miles of drain tile plowed into the grasslands where pheasants, ducks and other birds nest? Our lakes, sloughs and rivers become storm sewers? Pastures plowed up, doused with roundup and planted to beans or corn? Highly erodible

pasturelands plowed up? The wind and water erosion? The shelter belts torn out? Sloughs burned and drained? We are losing wildlife habitat at an unprecedented rate. We all know wild pheasants will be an increasingly uncommon bird, and the same thing will happen to waterfowl because our wetlands and associated grasslands (and those of ND and Canada too) are being destroyed. We are witnessing a complete transformation of our prairie pothole region?and it is sad and depressing to me and others.

Decreasing habitat yields less wildlife?fewer places to hunt, and even fewer places with good hunting where one has a decent chance of bagging some birds. More hunters on those areas diminishes the good hunting.

Of course there are the "guides", who really aren't guides. They are businessmen, usually hunters themselves, brokers in dead wildlife, never getting enough hunting themselves nor happy with the money they make. So they lease all the land they possibly can so they can hunt more, kill more, and make more money?likely cash and unreported to the IRS.

As you are aware, the majority of nonresident waterfowl applicants get their license each year?and they ALL get them them with one year of preference. If someone is really serious about duck hunting in S.D. every year, they are allowed to move here and become a resident?it's very simple.

Sincerely,

Richard Barnett  
2409 s. van eps ave. SFSD 57105

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Dear Committee Members,

I moved to NE South Dakota about 25 years ago. My primary reason for moving to South Dakota was to have resident hunting privileges, an important part being waterfowl hunting. I live in Roberts County. Over those years there has been a considerable decline in the quality of that hunting due to the increased nonresident pressure. The biggest change came when the 3 day licenses that were intended for the Missouri River were transferred to the NE. These licenses were never intended to be used this way. This was a pure money grab by GFP. Look at your own data that shows how bad Roberts County is getting hammered by nonresidents. Most of these "hunters" are what

I call day hunters. They come over from Minnesota, go out before daylight chasing all the birds off the water, stay out there all day shooting at anything that resembles a duck, then go back to Minnesota. The net result being that the birds are never allowed to settle in and they just leave. You may not believe this, but often times that particular water or slough is ruined for the rest of the season.

Please, "NO MORE NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL HUNTERS". We've already sold out our pheasant hunting for the sake of the almighty dollar, let's not do the same for waterfowl. Let's have some consideration for the resident hunter.

If we feel we must have those (3) day licenses, please consider removing Robert County from there area where they are valid.

Bill Antonides wrote an excellent article on this that was published in the Sept., 2008 issue of Out Of Doors. I asked Chris Hesla to see if he could get copies of that article to the members. I have a copy of that paper, but do not have an easy way to reproduce it.

Thank you,  
Curt Tesch  
Associated Production Services  
10527 469TH AV  
Rosholt, SD 57260  
605-537-4565

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In an earlier email I referred to an article by Bill Antonides. I managed to copy that article. See attached

# Nonresident Waterfowl Licenses

By Bill Antonides

About a decade ago, then Senator Michael Rounds and landowners with commercial hunting operations brokered a deal with the legislature to allow special nonresident waterfowl tags to be made available in a handful of counties in the Pierre area. The tags were valid only on private land, and were primarily for the benefit of commercial hunting operations whose land attracted significant numbers of migrating Canada geese. The South Dakota Wildlife Federation made sure that as part of the agreement, large tracts of private land were rented to the Game, Fish and Parks for use by the general public. A substantial number of licenses were allowed to be issued, as no one really knew how many would be needed to fill demand.

As time passed, demand for the special licenses dropped, and it became apparent not all of the licenses were needed to satisfy the original intent. Licenses not sold were considered by some to be "leftover" licenses, which they felt should be made available to other portions of the state. The facts that these licenses were for the commercial hunting of migratory Canada geese on the Missouri River and that nearby private land was made available for free use by the public were ignored. Some of the licenses were transferred to other portions of the state, and were made valid on both public and private land. Now there is demand for even more of these licenses to be transferred to northeastern South Dakota.

The net effect of bringing in more nonresident waterfowl hunters will be the same as what has happened with pheasant hunting. The days are gone when the average hunter can knock on a farmhouse door and get permission to hunt pheasants for free. Pheasants have a dollar value now, and that dollar value can be well beyond the means of most South Dakota sportsmen. Many nonresidents who travel long distances are not especially bothered by paying a hundred or even several hundred dollars per day to hunt. Some lease tracts of land for their private use. Other private land is leased by guides, who cater primarily to nonresident hunters.

The thousands of nonresident and resident hunters who can't afford to pay fees go to public land, which is often very heavily hunted. At times, one party of hunters essentially follows another through the field. Pheasant hunting has been commercialized, pure and simple. It has been commercialized because we have the birds, there is no control on the number of licenses issued, and even with a considerable amount of public land available, there are not enough public hunting areas to meet demand. (It is interesting, but not surprising, that many of the folks who want to see more nonresident licenses issued are also those who oppose the purchase of public land by Game, Fish and Parks.) There is no question that as the number of nonresident waterfowl licenses increase, commercialization will flourish and more and more resident hunters will be forced out. Waterfowl hunting in virtually every state with unlimited nonresident licenses is heavily commercialized. South Dakota will be

Waterfowl populations cannot be managed the same as other species. Leftover big game tags are sold to prevent overpopulation and depredation, not to make money. The tags are good only for a specific area where population control is needed. Waterfowl are migratory, and with very few exceptions, do not need to be controlled like big game herds do. With the possible exception of some localized giant Canada goose populations, waterfowl populations are not in danger of overpopulating themselves. The idea of using non-resident pheasant hunters to reduce the number of depredating giant Canada geese doesn't hold enough water to float a goose. The locally-raised populations which do the damage to crops migrate early and are mostly long gone by the time the pheasant season starts on the third Saturday of October. The Canada geese seen later in the fall were hundreds of miles north when their South Dakota cousins committed their culinary crimes. This is why we have a September season for the birds; the geese responsible for the damage are the geese which are killed.

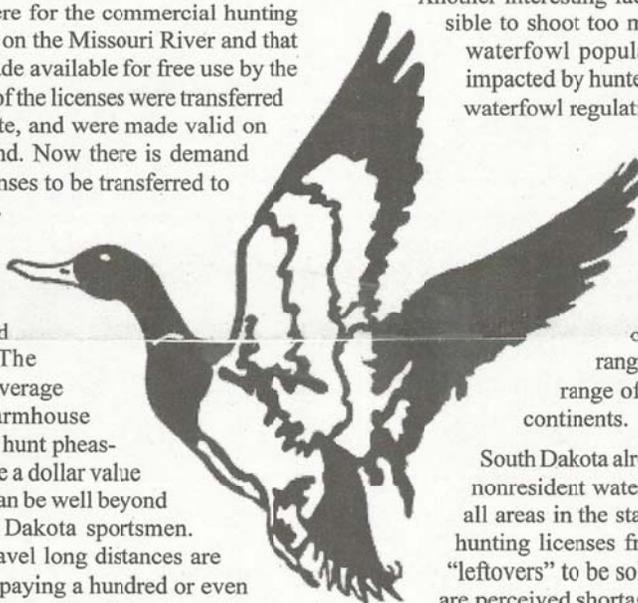
Another interesting fact is that it is nearly impossible to shoot too many rooster pheasants, but waterfowl populations can and have been impacted by hunters (hence the complexity of waterfowl regulations). Also unlike

pheasants, waterfowl cannot be heavily hunted and be expected to stay in the same general area. It only takes one hunter to clear a wetland of ducks for a considerable period of time. A pheasant's home range is within a mile or two. The range of a duck or goose may span continents.

South Dakota already has a limited number of nonresident waterfowl licenses available for all areas in the state. The unsold commercial hunting licenses from the Pierre area are not "leftovers" to be sold and bartered where there are perceived shortages of licenses. Using these licenses elsewhere will negatively impact waterfowl hunting, not only for resident hunters, but for the non-resident hunters who do get licenses. Commercialization of wildlife resources and tourism money are the driving forces behind this issue, not hunting opportunity, not depredation control, and certainly not wildlife management.

South Dakota is one of the last great places for the average sportsman and woman to hunt waterfowl. There are reasons so many nonresidents want to come here to hunt. If we add too many hunters, those reasons will simply spread their wings and fly away.

Bill Antonides is a retired wildlife conservation officer, a certified wildlife biologist, and a lifelong sportsman and conservationist. He is also an officer in the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, which works to preserve hunting and fishing opportunities for all. He can be reached at [billantonides@abe.midco.net](mailto:billantonides@abe.midco.net)



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Please do not raise the number of Non Resident (NR) SD waterfowl licenses or change the hunting periods. The reasons are many but for both NR and residents the state currently offers the opportunity for quality hunting. Try hunting NE SD in early November. If you do your scouting, find some birds on public access lands, you very often are not alone. Frequently you are sharing the opportunity with a licensed NR.

Please do not convert ten day licenses to two five day licenses as this will just increase the pressure and competition added by NR hunters. While I understand the economic value of this tactic, it will backfire in the long run making it less desirable to come to SD to hunt waterfowl. Listen to the people of our state that can only hunt on weekends and must compete with the NR hunters from MN in the Northeast.

My sons are NR and many friends are NR. They are happy to participate in the draw believing that when drawn they will have a quality hunt. Let's keep it that way.

Regards,  
David Bankers  
Lake City, SD

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Good morning

The only comment that I have is that if we allow the concentration of hunters we will burn the waterfowl out of the areas hunted. Hunting pressure has major impacts on migration routes and patterns.

Example:

- 1) Snow geese – They use to be here and North Dakota by mid October. Now they show up after the first major cold front and then push thru.
- 2) Canadians – Missouri River. By mid January they do not fly until 1 hour before dark. Once the season is closed they are flying all day. Numbers have been declining

for years. Migration has been later and later. They use to be at Pierre by mid November. Lately they start showing up late December.

If we continue to add more and more pressure we will not have a northern flight. The boats and pressure will continue to send them south.

These birds are not local. They are migratory.

In my opinion we not only need to control it geographically but weekly.

Hunters follow the birds by the internet and show up at peak migration periods.

Final comment.

Deer are down, pheasants are down and if we allow too much hunting pressure we lose the waterfowl!

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My name is Ronald Fonken. I currently reside in Minnesota but I consider my roots in a small town of Willow Lake South Dakota, Clark County. I was born and raised in that small town and will always consider it home. My brothers and I are all military disabled veterans who have served our country enabling it to preserve its way of living for future generations. Our generation is winding its way down and again we are looking at changes that will affect it some ways. We always look forward to the fall time, getting together and enjoying the time of hunting waterfowl together and always going over the times in our youth.

I not only speak for myself and my brothers but for all veterans who have served their country and their roots are in South Dakota. I believe this might be the time to possibly look how preference points could be used when apply for out of states waterfowl licenses. Maybe veterans who are over a certain age in their lives should be given a little better chance at obtaining a licenses again to enjoy what they love to do. Changes are something that no one likes but over time we have all been through this and learn to accept whatever the outcome is.

Thank you for your time. Veterans never die, they always fight!

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Interested in nonresident waterfowl permit info.

bob Jenkins  
601 Monarch St.  
Eagle, ID 83616

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To: Whom it may concern  
From: Jeff Smyrak  
815 Roberts Ave. #5

Brookings, SD 57006

Please leave the waterfowl season AS IS as it relates to the number of non-resident licenses. You'll create mass confusion and make the already overburdened conservation officers' jobs even harder by increasing per county or any of the other misguided ideas the commission may be considering.

On a side note, I would be in favor of starting our resident season 2 weeks later and extending the season two weeks longer. I see way too many hens being shot during the first part of the season with hunters relaying that they can not tell the difference because of immature birds' plumage being non-distinct.

Respectfully submitted-

JEFF SMYRAK/South Dakotan

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As a resident SD duck & goose hunter I strongly oppose ANY increase in the number of non-resident waterfowl hunting licenses. Born & raised in ND I've hunted waterfowl there since 1949, and since 1973 as a non-resident. ND essentially has no restriction on the # of non-res. H2O fowl licenses. In the last 40+ years of hunting there the # of hunters has dramatically increased, the competition for hunting spots has equally increased, the number of non-resident purchases and leases of private land has increased even more, and average hunter success has plummeted. Our state should be proud of all its quality hunting, including waterfowl. Increasing the # of non-res. H2O fowl licenses will result in poorer hunting success for BOTH residents & non-residents. If anything we should consider reducing the allowed #. Please include my name as a resident waterfowl hunter opposed to any increase in non-res. H2O fowl licenses. Thanks, John R. Simpson, Pierre.

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On the boundary units, it does not make sense to include much of high plains region as has been traditionally done with a later season than the low plains. Hunting on the Missouri River with a late season makes sense but having a later season for most of the rest of the unit does not. Ducks are long gone from the potholes and dams by around Thanksgiving while hunting on the river is certainly viable later in the year. The season for the areas not adjacent to the Missouri River should be all similar.

Randy Moses  
112 Bluebell

Pierre, SD

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Good afternoon,

I am sending this E-mail in response to some of the proposals coming from the Nonresident Waterfowl Work Group. The issue that concerns me is the limiting of the number of nonresident 10 day waterfowl licenses to 2,000 in the northeast section of the state. I am a nonresident, from Wisconsin, that hunts waterfowl in South Dakota when I am fortunate enough to draw a license in your state's lottery. Due to the limited number of nonresident licenses that the state issues, it is becoming more difficult each year to draw a license as more hunters from out of state are applying. I started hunting waterfowl in South Dakota in 1990 and nonresident licenses didn't even sell out on the initial drawing.

I hunted the first week of the season in the Britton area in 2014 and stayed at the Northern Lites Inn. The only nonresident hunters there were me and a group of five from Minnesota. They hunted the first weekend and then returned to Minnesota. They indicated to me that they would be coming back for the second weekend hunt. I hunted from the opening Saturday thru Thursday (6 days). After the first weekend of hunting, I didn't see another hunter either resident or nonresident. I wish there had been other hunters to move the birds around as it was really slow other than the first 15 minutes of shooting. In the area I hunted northwest of Britton, there certainly wasn't a crowd of nonresident hunters. Most of the hunters on the opening weekend were resident hunters.

In past years, I have also hunted the area during the first week of the nonresident pheasant season and observed very few nonresident waterfowl hunters. I certainly have never observed, in this area, any large number of nonresident waterfowl hunters. I have always hunted in the northeast counties of the state and am familiar with it and would like the opportunity to continue to do so, however by substantially reducing the number of nonresident licenses available, my odds will become greater in drawing that license. Between nonresident licenses, lodging, fuel, and food I spend approximately \$1,000 in South Dakota each fall. If I am unable to draw a license, I will go to Manitoba province in Canada. I also hunt the Devils Lake region in North Dakota each year and have never had an issue obtaining a North Dakota nonresident license. I am urging the GFP to maintain the current number of 3,725 nonresident licenses that can be used in the northeast corner of the state and not limit it to 2,000. Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Sincerely,  
John Heh  
E-mail: [jhheh50@yahoo.com](mailto:jhheh50@yahoo.com)

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Good Evening,

I was reading the latest updates regarding the meetings you are holding in regards to the non resident waterfowl licenses and boundaries. I am in favor of limiting the number of licenses. But I am very my opposed to the new northern county area (area B). Here is my reasoning; ducks migrate and South Dakota can freeze over in a matter of 1-2 days. This past year was a prime example, I was hunting in North Dakota during the big freeze that happened in early November. When I left North Dakota, it was -14 at Sand Lake and virtually no waterfowl were left in the area. Everything from North Dakota and northern South Dakota moved to Southern SD and Nebraska within a few days! What if my South Dakota License was only valid for this new zone B? I would have been out of luck unless I could attract a few ducks to my ice fishing hole!!!!

Because you limit licenses to only one consecutive 10 day period, any hunters who hunts the northern flight (late season) faces the very real possibility of having to move from the northern part of the state to the southern part of the state based upon the weather. Why would you want the limited number of hunters to not have the best possible experience when they are in the state hunting waterfowl? One of your published comments was "the hunters come when the mallards show up". No kidding! Well the mallards can be here and gone from zone B in a couple of days. Part of the experience is moving to where the birds are located... often called scouting. You can limit the pressure by maintaining restrictions on the number of licenses, but don't do it by making a bunch of zones. That is a bad idea.

The 1400 3-day licenses on private land in C-1 is a shameful appeasement to a few self interest groups. You should be ashamed of yourself for allowing this to continue. Tons of Corp land but very limited licenses because of all the "goose guides" in that area.

Thank you for letting me express my thoughts.

Jeff Ostendorf

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Gary Ladner  
4418 Bellewood Dr.

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By increasing the number of non-resident licenses you are inviting non-residents to purchase prime hunting areas at inflated prices as money is no object for 'deep pocket' investors.

At present it is all but impossible to hunt waterfowl unless one pays more than a wage earner earns for a day's work.

Wages earners are not represented in South Dakota. The legislature and Game Commission is comprised of land and business owners or professional occupations (lawyers, doctors, etc.).

Let's work to purchase 'prime' hunting land for resident hunting instead of worrying about non-residents. But then it is all about 'money'. Wage earners are just supposed to stare out of their windows for their hunting entertainment.

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I'd like to comment on one the proposals discussed at the final meeting of the workgroup, but I would like to see the report from that meeting before making any comments. Is it possible to get the minutes or other report from the most recent meeting of the group?

Paul Knecht  
Pierre

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