

Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Areas: Survey Report

HD-2-17.AMS

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WALK-IN AREA *FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY*

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funds for your enjoyment.

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Walk-In Areas; Habitat; Economic Contribution; Hunting

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Introduction

With approximately 80 percent of South Dakota's land base in private ownership, the majority of hunting across the state occurs on private land. For 30 years the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has worked with landowners to lease public hunting access on privately owned lands. The Walk-In Area (WIA) program was developed in 1988, and leases private land with reasonable hunting opportunity for unlimited public hunting access (foot-traffic only) in exchange for an annual payment and immunity from non-negligent liability. The program has grown from access agreements with 26 landowners covering approximately 23,000 acres to partnering with 1,458 landowners in 2017 who provided access to over 1.2 million acres of private land (SDGFP 2018a).

The primary goal of the WIA program is to provide the best possible access to high quality habitat on private land. Historically the program has focused on providing access to lands west of the Missouri River (West River) for big game hunting opportunities; however, recently the focus has also included enrollments east of the Missouri River (East River) where additional public access for pheasant hunting is needed (SDGFP 2018b). Beginning in 1999 GFP periodically conducts hunter surveys to evaluate the WIA program (Gigliotti 2000, 2006, and 2010). The purpose of this is to measure the use of the different land types for various kinds of hunting, and if they hunted WIAs, to obtain hunters' assessment of habitat on WIAs, and the

role they play in hunters' ability to hunt. This report summarizes results from the 2015 hunter evaluation of WIAs in South Dakota.

This study falls under the following GFP Strategic Plan and Pheasant Management Plan objectives:

GFP Strategic Plan 2016-2020

- Opportunities Goal/Objective B: Enhance hunting and trapping opportunities;
- Resources Goal/Objective B: Manage wildlife within social, fiscal, and biological constraints;
- Confidence Goal/Objective C: Provide opportunities for meaningful public input

GFP Pheasant Management Plan 2016-2020

- 4.1.2a: Monitor hunter perception of habitat quality using future hunter evaluation surveys

Methods

A disproportionate stratified random sample of resident and non-resident hunters was used to provide representative data at both the statewide and species hunted levels. In disproportionate stratified sampling the sizes of the different subgroups (strata) may vary and not represent the percentage of the subgroup within the larger population. This type of sampling provides the advantage of being able to examine responses of subgroups, particularly in cases where some subgroups are small and a proportionate sample might include only a few individuals with a particular subgroup.

A sample of 6,000 resident hunters (antelope, deer, migratory bird, small game, and turkey) and 2,500 non-resident hunters (small game and waterfowl) was drawn from the 2015 GFP license database for a total sample size of 8,500. Weighting was used for all combined analyses to ensure a proportional representation of hunters at the statewide level. The survey was administered using the Tailored Design Method (Dillman et al. 2014). Five contacts were made: three email and two mail contacts. Three email invitations were sent to hunters inviting

them to participate in the survey via the internet using Qualtrics Insights Platform. The online survey was designed to be accessible by invitation only, as recipients were sent an initial email containing a unique link. Individuals who had not completed the survey were sent 2 follow-up emails asking for their participation approximately one week apart. Three weeks after the initial email invitation was sent all non-respondents were mailed a copy of the survey and cover letter explaining the purpose of the research. This initial mailing was followed by a reminder postcard 10 days later. All survey data was analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics 20 software package.

Results

A total of 3,736 responses were received. Correcting for undeliverable addresses, the adjusted sample size was 8,136 hunters, resulting in a total survey response rate of 46 percent and a margin of sampling error of ± 2 percent overall. The margin of sampling error at the strata level ranged from ± 3.7 percent to ± 4.6 percent (table 1). Normalized weights were calculated for each strata and applied in combined analyzes.¹

Table 1: Margin of Sampling Error and Weights

Strata	Population Size	Useable Response	Margin of Sampling Error	Normalized Weight
Resident Antelope Hunters	4,050	587	3.7	0.10
Resident Deer Hunters	53,041	441	4.6	1.71
Resident Migratory Bird Hunters	25,641	490	4.4	0.75
Resident Small Game Hunters	78,274	451	4.6	2.47
Resident Wild Turkey Hunters	9,269	496	4.3	0.27
Non-Resident Waterfowl Hunters	4,860	591	3.8	0.12
Non-Resident Small Game Hunters	83,321	630	3.9	1.88

Overall Evaluation of Walk-In Areas

Approximately 40 percent of hunters (39% of residents and 41% of non-residents) reported spending some time hunting on WIAs during the 2015 hunting seasons. When asked

¹ Normalized weights were calculated by taking the raw weight (Proportion of population ÷ Proportion of Sample) and dividing by the mean weight.

what their most preferred species to hunt on WIAs was, the majority of WIA hunters preferred pheasant hunting (figure 1).

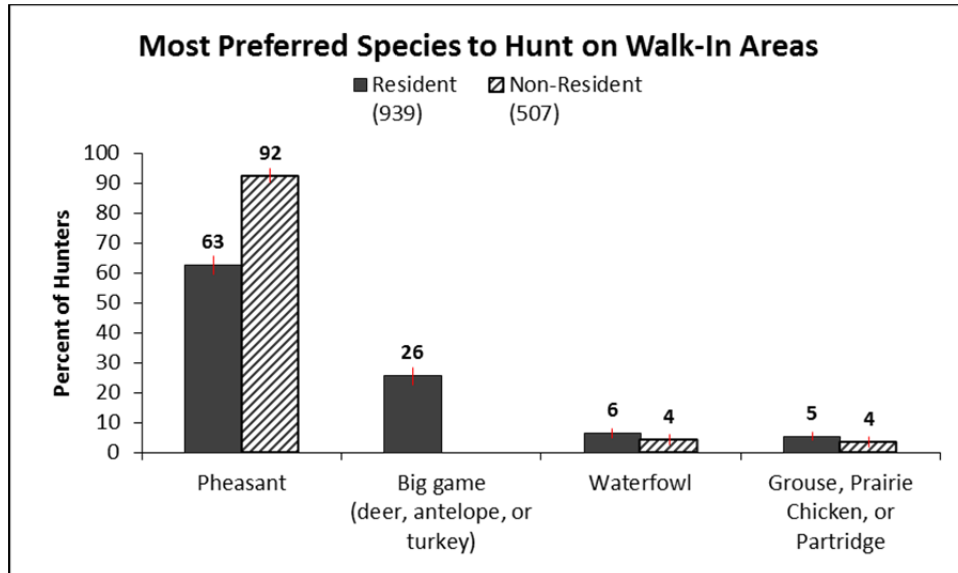


Figure 1: Most preferred hunt when hunting Walk-In Areas
NOTE: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval

Overall, nearly three-quarters (73%) of WIA hunters indicated they were satisfied with the 2015 WIA Program, while 16 percent stated they were dissatisfied (figure 2). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in terms of overall satisfaction with the program ($\chi^2=7.082$ (6, N=1,449) $p=3.13$).²

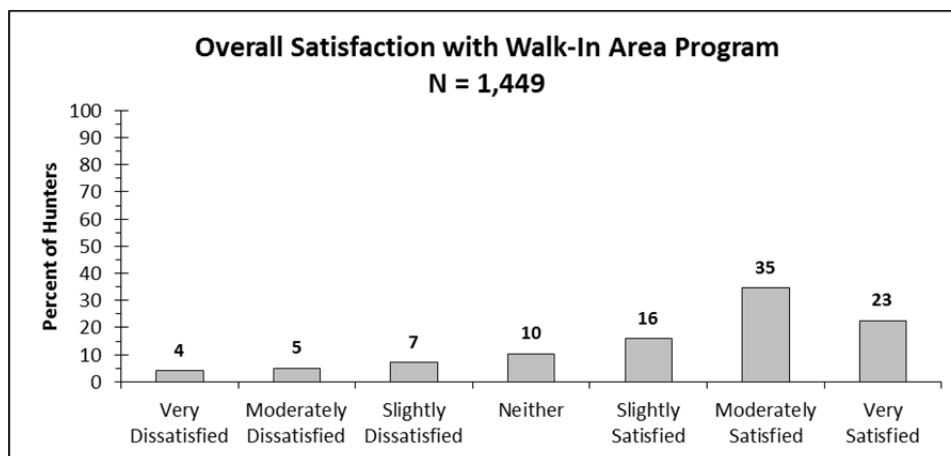


Figure 2: WIA hunters' overall satisfaction with the WIA Program

² Statistical significance is determined by a chi-square statistic p value of ≤ 0.05 .

On average, hunters took a total of 5 trips to hunt WIAs in South Dakota during 2015 ($\bar{x} = 5.01$, $SE = 0.24$), and nearly all the hunters who hunted WIAs in 2015 (98%) indicated they plan to hunt on WIAs in South Dakota in the future. The top three reasons hunters chose to hunt on WIAs in 2015 (figure 3) were: 1) difficult or no private land access (52%); 2) ease and simplicity (36%); and 3) good hunting on these lands (32%). While difficult or no private land access was the top reason for choosing to hunt WIAs for both residents and non-residents, residents were more likely to indicate they hunted WIAs for convenience than non-residents; whereas, non-residents were more likely to indicate it was incidental (figure 4). Not surprisingly, residents were more likely than non-residents to hunt WIAs because of close proximity to their home ($\chi^2=175.015$ (1, $N=1,437$) $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.35$).³ Residents were also more likely than non-residents to have hunted WIAs because of having a limited amount of time ($\chi^2=22.440$ (1, $N=1,437$) $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.13$). Non-resident WIA hunters were more likely than residents to hunt WIAs because they just happened to come across the land ($\chi^2=37.213$ (1, $N=1,437$) $p<0.001$; Cramer's $V=0.16$).

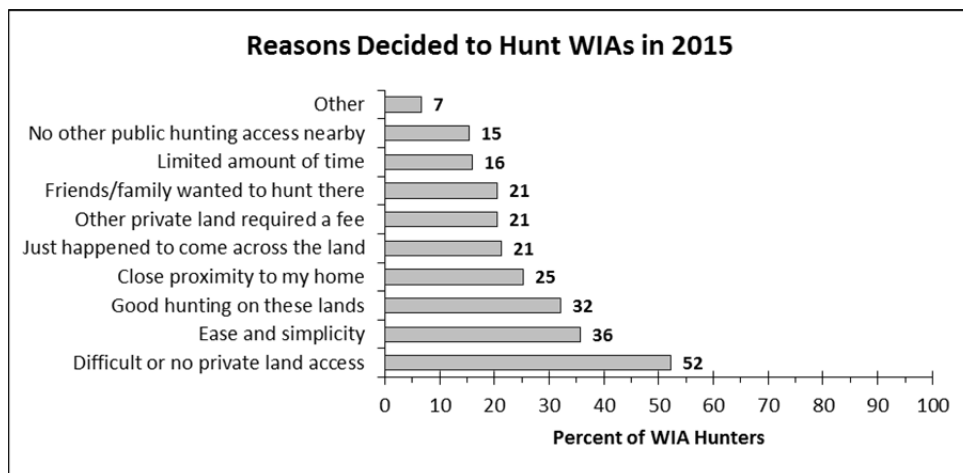


Figure 3: Reasons chose to hunt WIAs in 2015

³ Cramer's V is a statistic used to determine the strength of relationships determined by the chi-square statistic to be significant. The strength of association interpretation for Cramer's V follows: Negligible Association = 0.0 to 0.10; Minimal Association = 0.11 to 0.30; Moderate Association = 0.31 to 0.50; and Substantial Association >0.50 (Cohen 1988; Vaske 2008).

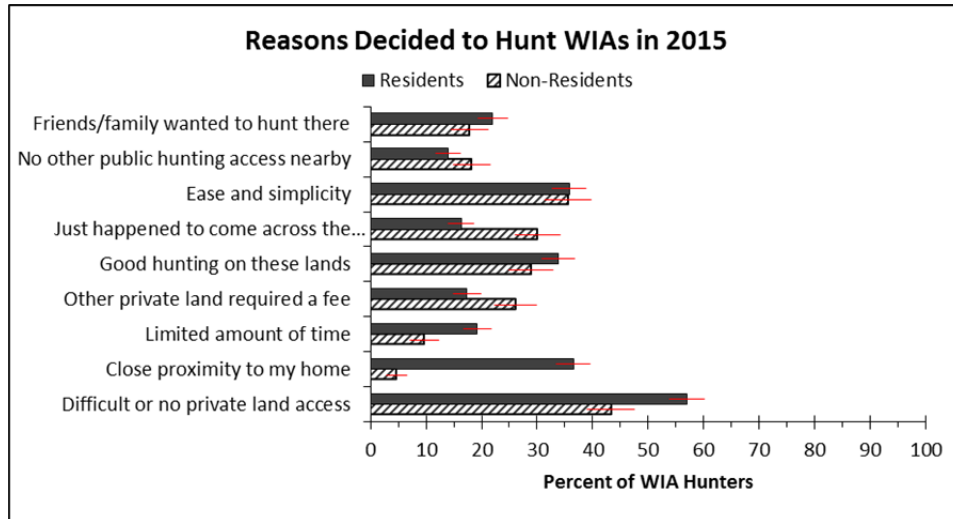


Figure 4: Reasons chose to hunt WIAs in 2015 by residency
 NOTE: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval

When asked the importance of six factors to their overall hunting on WIAs, the majority of hunters said improving habitat (81%) and increasing the number of WIAs (79%) was moderately to very important (figure 5). Over one third of hunters indicated increased marketing (39%), limiting the number of users (38%) and improved access and parking (37%) was not important to their overall hunting experience. Over half (56%) of hunters, however, said improved access and parking was at least slightly important to their experience.

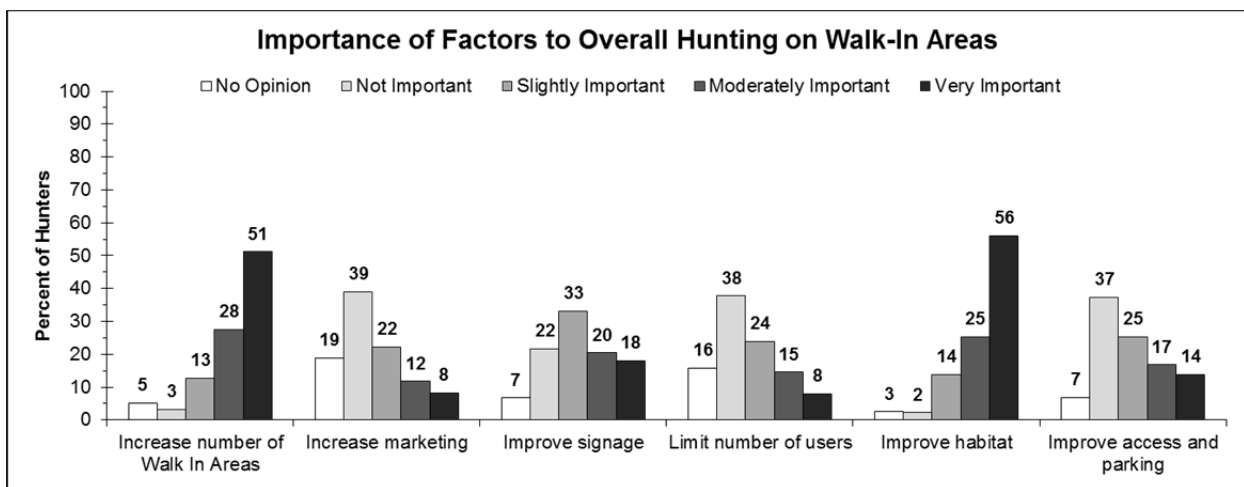


Figure 5: Importance to overall hunting experience on WIAs

Upland Game Hunting

Grouse, Prairie Chicken and Partridge

Overall, 14 percent of respondents (15% non-residents and 13% residents) hunted grouse, prairie chicken or partridge in South Dakota during 2015 (figure 6). The 2015 estimated number of prairie grouse hunters was 7,866 residents and 5,032 non-residents (Huxoll 2016a). Residents reported hunting an average of 6 days and non-residents hunted an average of 4 days. The estimated total number of days hunting grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge for 2015 was 50,028 for residents and 20,933 for non-residents (table 2).

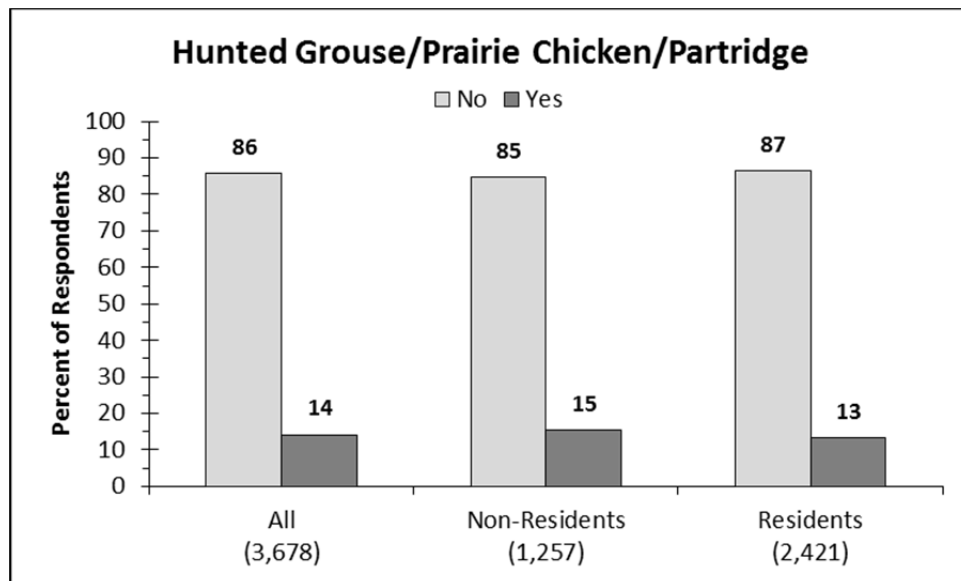


Figure 6: Proportion of grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge hunters

Table 2: Grouse, prairie chicken, partridge hunting participation

Grouse/Prairie Chicken/Partridge	Number in Sample	% in Sample Hunted	Mean Days Hunted	Estimated Participants	Estimated Days of Hunting
Residents	2,421	13.4	6.36	7,866	50,028
Non-Residents	1,257	15.4	4.16	5,032	20,933

NOTE: Estimated number of participants based on 2015 small game harvest survey statistics.

The majority of grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge hunters spent at least some time hunting on private land (66%) and WIAs (58%). Nearly half (49%) spent some time hunting on public lands, such as game production areas, waterfowl production areas, national grasslands, etc. (figure 7). A little over one-third of hunters (36%) indicated they spent all their time hunting grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge on a single type of land. The majority of hunters who only hunted grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge on one type of land (64%) hunted on private land (figure 8). There were no statistically significant differences between residents and non-residents in type of land hunted.

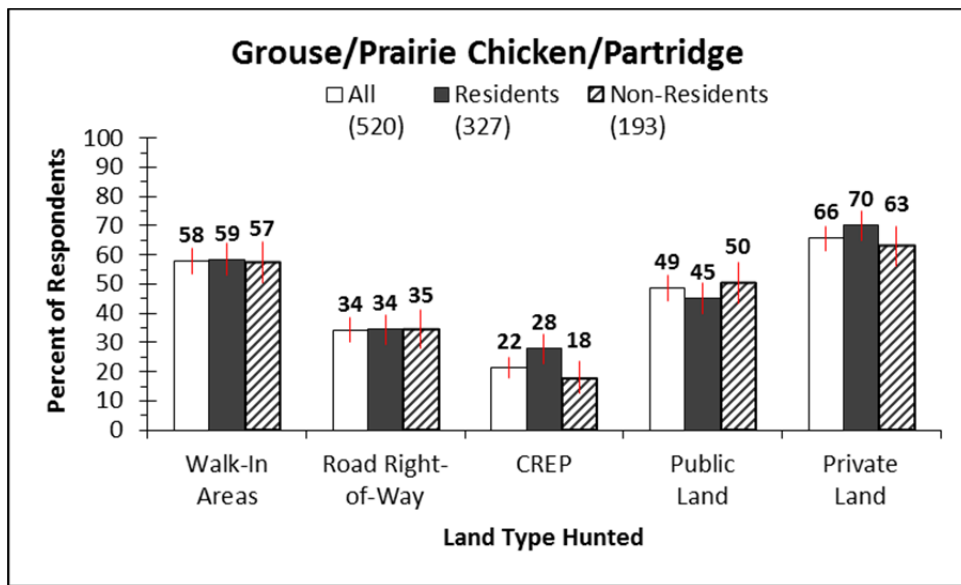


Figure 7: Type of land hunted - grouse/prairie chicken/partridge
 NOTE: Percentages do not sum to 100 as respondents could have hunted more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval

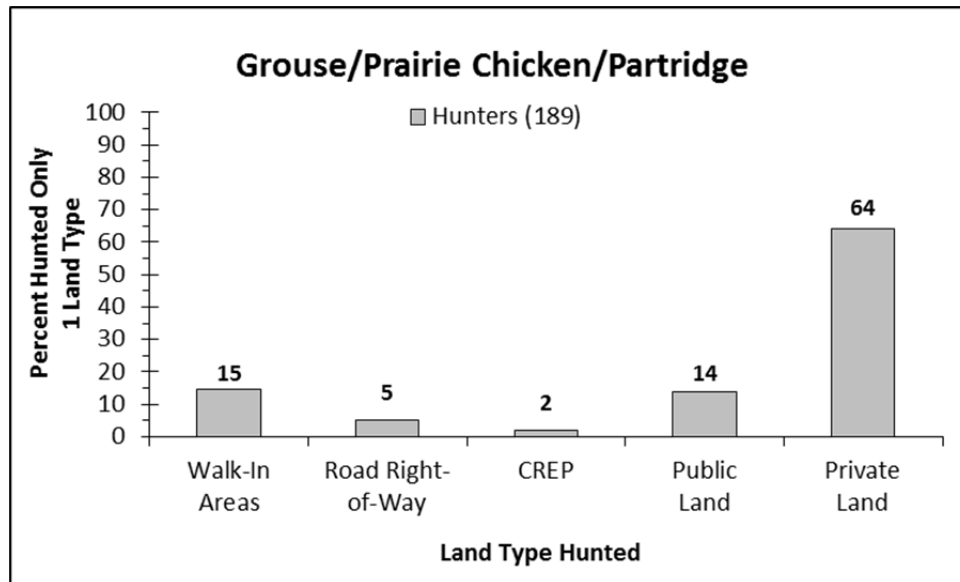


Figure 8: Hunters who only hunted one land type - grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge

In addition, there were no statistically significant differences between residents and non-residents in the percentage of the total amount of time they spent hunting grouse, prairie chicken and/or partridge on the various land types. On average, respondents spent the greatest percentage of their time hunting these species on private land (figure 9). Residents hunted an estimated 21,012 days and non-residents hunted an estimated 10,257 days for grouse, prairie chicken and/or partridge on private lands (table 3). Respondents spent one-fifth of their total time hunting these species on WIAs. Residents hunted an estimated 11,256 days and non-residents an estimated 3,768 days on WIAs. Similarly, residents hunted an estimated 10,356 days for these species on public lands, and non-residents hunted an estimated 3,768 days. On average, respondents spent the least amount of time hunting grouse, prairie chicken and/or partridge on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands. Residents hunted these species on CREP lands for an estimated 2,201 days and non-residents hunted an estimated 1,256 days.

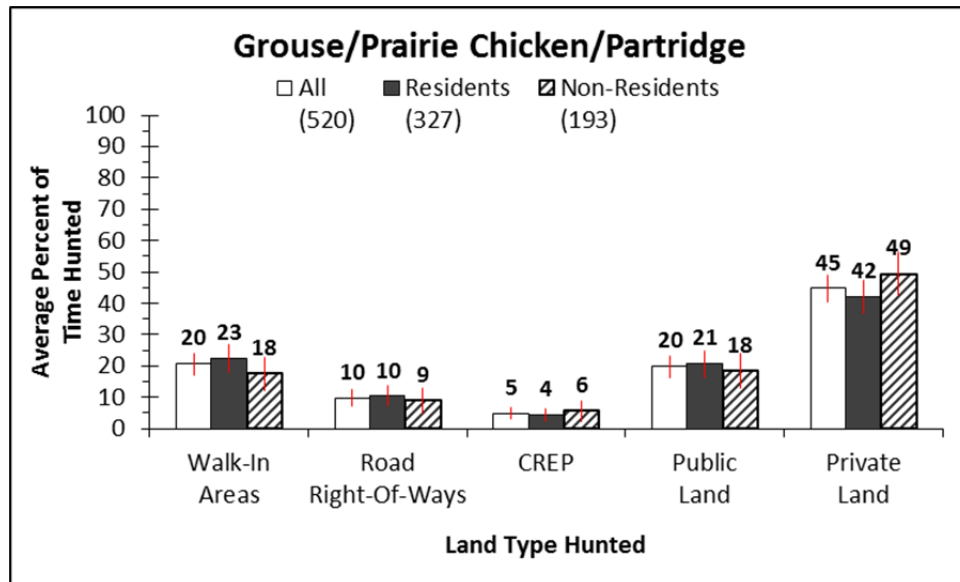


Figure 9: Mean percent of time by land type - grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge

NOTE: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval

Table 3: Estimated days hunted by land type - grouse, prairie chicken, and/or partridge

Grouse Prairie Chicken Partridge	Estimated Days Hunted					
	Walk-In Areas	Road Right- Of-Ways	CREP	Public Land	Private Land	Total Days
Residents	11,256	5,203	2,201	10,356	21,012	50,028
Non-Residents	3,768	1,884	1,256	3,768	10,257	20,933

Pheasants

The majority of respondents (96% non-residents and 70% residents) hunted pheasants (figure 10). The 2015 estimated number of pheasant hunters was 65,135 residents and 84,901 non-residents (Huxoll 2016a). Resident reported hunting an average of 8 days for an estimated total of 503,494 days, and non-residents reported an average of 5 days for an estimated total of 400,733 days (table 4).

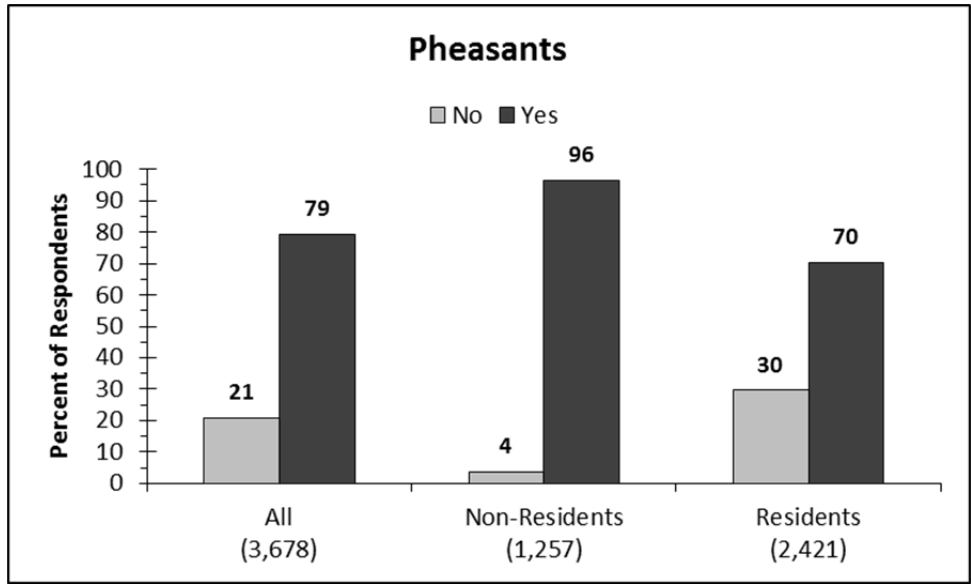


Figure 10: Proportion of pheasant hunters

Table 4: Pheasant hunting participation

Pheasant	Number in Sample	% in Sample Hunted	Mean Days Hunted	Estimated Participants	Estimated Days of Hunting
Residents	2,421	70.4	7.73	65,135	503,494
Non-Residents	1,257	96.4	4.72	84,901	400,733

NOTE: Estimated number of participants based on 2015 small game harvest survey statistics.

The majority of pheasant hunters spent at least some time hunting on private land (85%). Less than half (43%) of pheasant hunters spent some time pheasant hunting on WIAs (figure 11). There were statistically significant but negligible differences between residency and type of land hunted (Cramer's *V* ranged from 0.01 to 0.07). Slightly more than one-third (37%) of pheasant hunters spent all their time hunting pheasants on a single type of land. The majority of these hunters (89%) hunted on private land (figure 12).

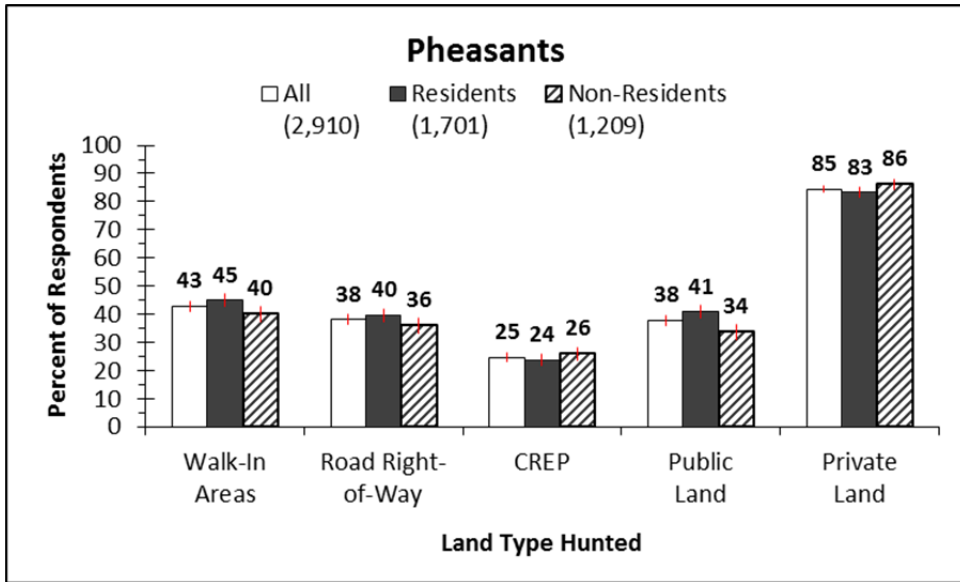


Figure 11: Type of land hunted - pheasant
 NOTE: Percentages do not sum to 100 as respondents could have hunted more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval

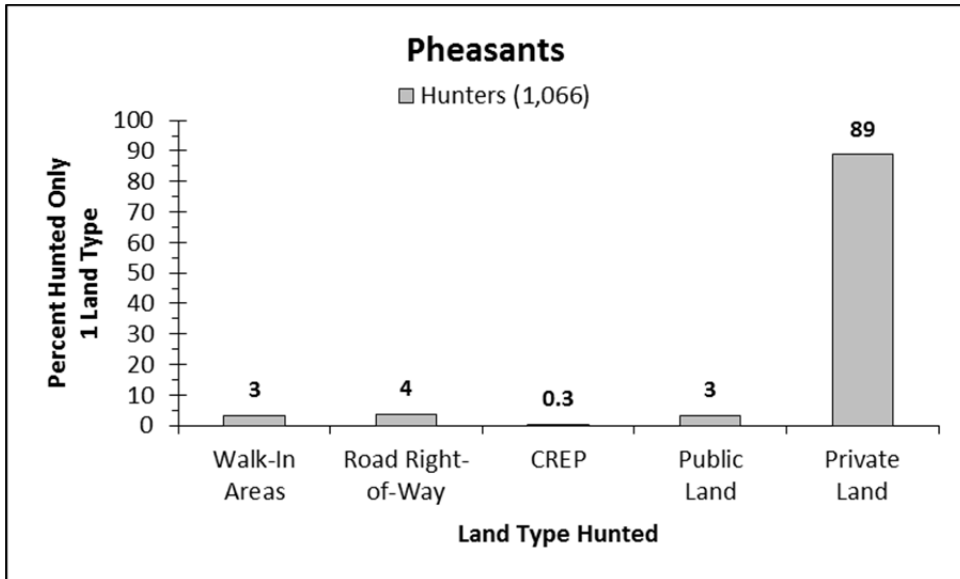


Figure 12: Hunters who only hunted one land type - pheasant

On average, pheasant hunters spent sixty-two percent of their time hunting pheasants on private land (figure 13). There was a statistically significant but minimal relationship between residency and amount of time spent hunting pheasants on private land [$F(1, 2908) = 58.38$,

$p < 0.001$; $\text{Eta} = 0.14$].⁴ Non-residents reported spending an average of 69 percent of their time hunting pheasants on private land, compared with residents who spent 58 percent of their pheasant hunting time on private land. Non-residents pheasant hunted an estimated 276,506 days on private lands and residents hunted an estimated 290,013 days (table 5). Respondents spent 12 percent of their total time hunting pheasants on WIAs. While there was a statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents percentage of time on WIAs, this relationship was not practically significant [$F(1, 2908) = 16.97$, $p < 0.001$; $\text{Eta} = 0.76$]. Residents spent an estimated 65,454 days hunting pheasants on WIAs in 2015, and non-residents indicated an estimated 40,073 days. Approximately 10 percent of pheasant hunters' time was spent hunting in road right-of-ways. A statistically significant but minimal relationship was found between residency and percent of time hunting road right-of-ways [$F(1, 2908) = 33.42$, $p < 0.001$; $\text{Eta} = 0.11$]. Residents indicated they spent 11 percent of their total pheasant hunting time (an estimated 57,398 days) hunting in road right-of-ways, compared with 7 percent (an estimated 28,051 days) of non-residents' time. Respondents indicated they spent 11 percent of their time hunting pheasants on public land (e.g. game production areas, waterfowl production areas, National Grasslands, etc.). Similarly to time spent hunting WIAs, there was a statistical difference in the proportion of time residents and non-residents spent hunting pheasants on public land; however, this relationship was not practically significant [$F(1, 2908) = 26.02$, $p < 0.001$; $\text{Eta} = 0.09$]. Residents spent an estimated 64,951 days hunting pheasants on public land, and non-residents spent an estimated 36,066 days hunting public lands.

⁴ Statistical significance is determined by an F statistic p value of ≤ 0.05 . Eta is a measure of strength of relationship. The strength of relationship interpretation for Eta follows: Negligible Association = 0.0 to 0.10; Minimal Association = 0.11 to 0.30; Moderate Association = 0.31 to 0.50; and Substantial Association > 0.50 (Cohen 1988; Vaske 2008).

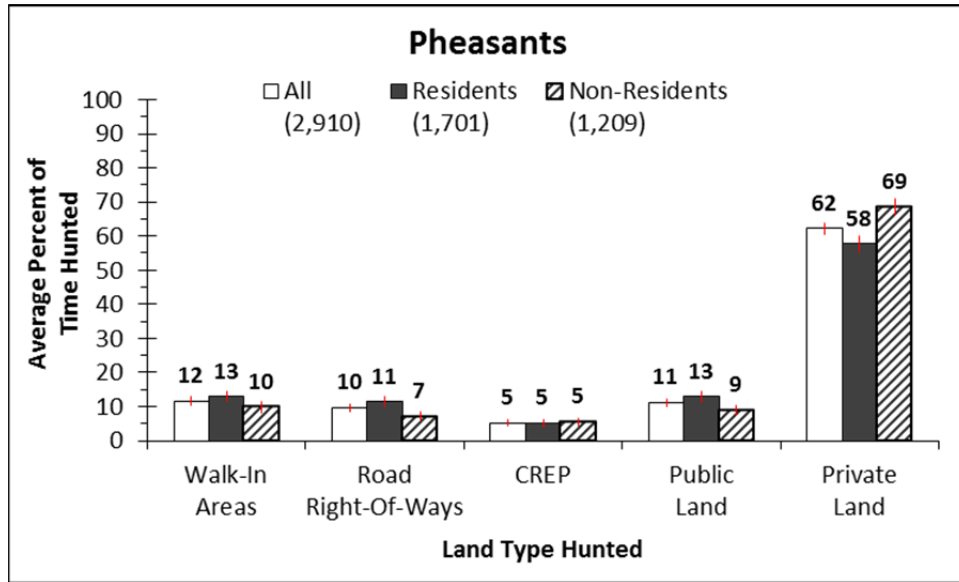


Figure 13: Mean percent of time by land type – pheasants
 NOTE: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval

Table 5: Estimated days hunted by land type - pheasants

Pheasants	Estimated Days Hunted					Total Days
	Walk-In Areas	Road Right-Of-Ways	CREP	Public Land	Private Land	
Residents	65,454	57,398	25,678	64,951	290,013	503,494
Non-Residents	40,073	28,051	20,037	36,066	276,506	400,733

Walk-In Area Evaluations

The majority of respondents (80%) indicated they had hunted upland game in South Dakota during 2015 (figure 14). Approximately 44 percent of upland game hunters reported spending some time hunting on WIAs. Of those who hunted upland game (grouse, prairie chicken, partridge, and/or pheasant) on WIAs in 2015, nearly half (48%) rated the overall habitat quality for upland game on the WIAs they hunted as good or excellent (figure 15). Another 40 percent rated the upland game habitat quality as fair. About 12 percent rated the habitat quality as poor (8%) or very poor (4%). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in their habitat quality evaluations on WIAs [$\chi^2 = 5.57$ (1, 1258) $p=0.35$].

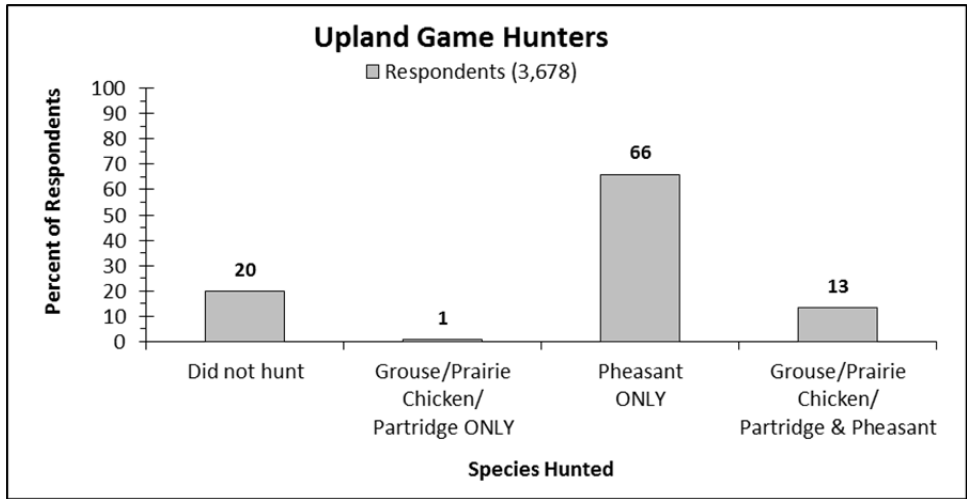


Figure 14: Proportion of upland game hunters by species hunted

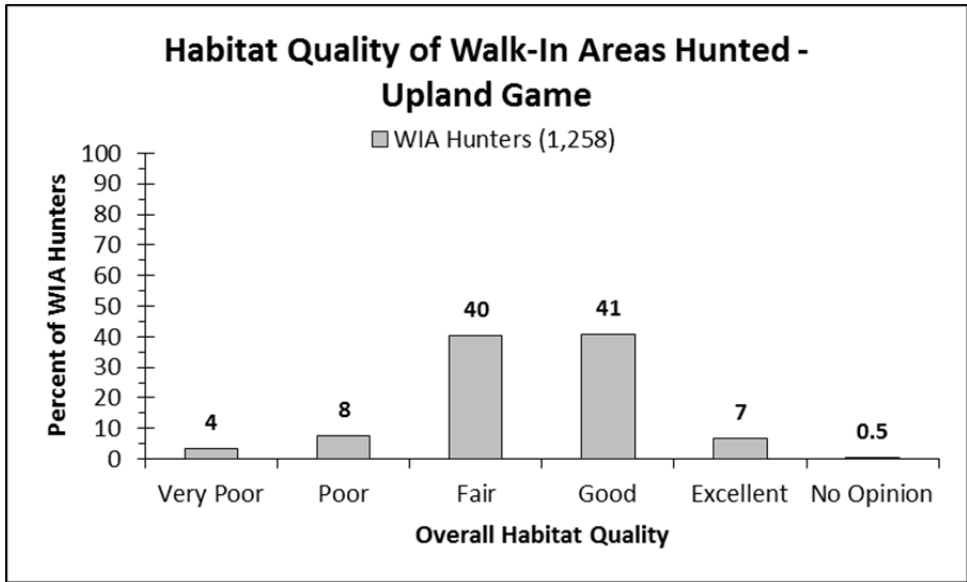


Figure 15: WIA hunters' evaluation of habitat quality - upland game

WIA upland game hunters were also asked to indicate how important walk-in areas were to their upland game hunting (grouse, prairie chicken, partridge, and/or pheasant). Just over half (52%) of hunters indicated WIAs were very important to their upland game hunting (figure 16). Only two percent said walk-in areas were not important to their upland game hunting. Nearly one-fifth (19%) of upland game hunters indicated WIAs were critical and that they probably would not hunt if not for the WIA Program. There were statistically significant and moderate

strength of association between the levels of importance hunters placed on WIAs and the proportion of time hunting upland game on WIAs [$F(5, 1263) = 61.89, p < 0.001; \text{Eta} = 0.444$]⁵. On average, hunters who indicated WIAs were critical to their upland game hunting spent a greater proportion of their time hunting WIAs than those who did not consider them critical (figure 17). Hunters who considered WIAs critical spent 45 percent of their time hunting upland game on WIAs, nearly 5 times the proportion of time hunters who considered them not important (9%) spent hunting upland game on WIAs. There was no statistically significant difference in importance of WIAs between residents and non-residents [$\chi^2 = 9.38(5, 1264) p = 0.095$].

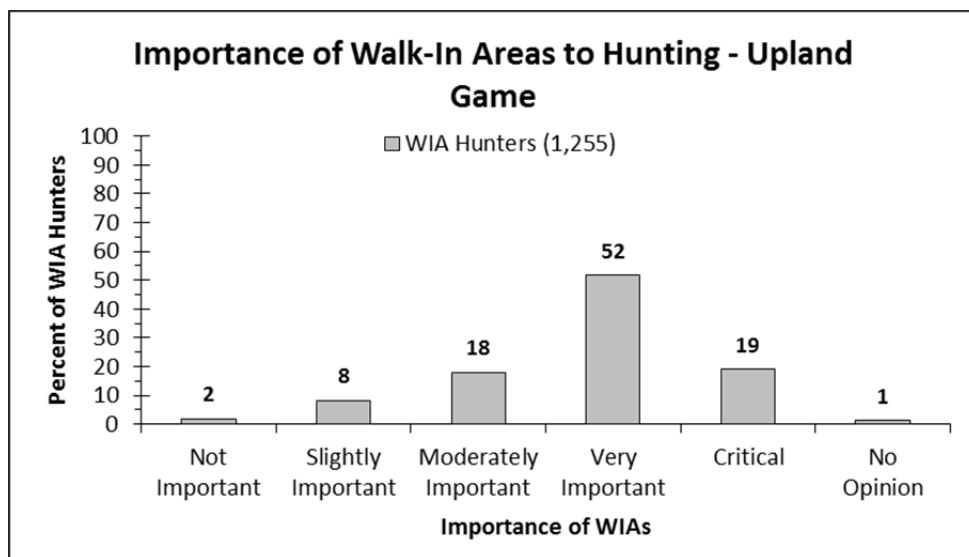


Figure 16: Importance of walk-in areas to upland game hunting

⁵ Tamhane's T2 post hoc test (appropriate when variances are unequal) was performed to determine the statistical significance ($p \leq 0.05$) of the difference in means for each level of importance.

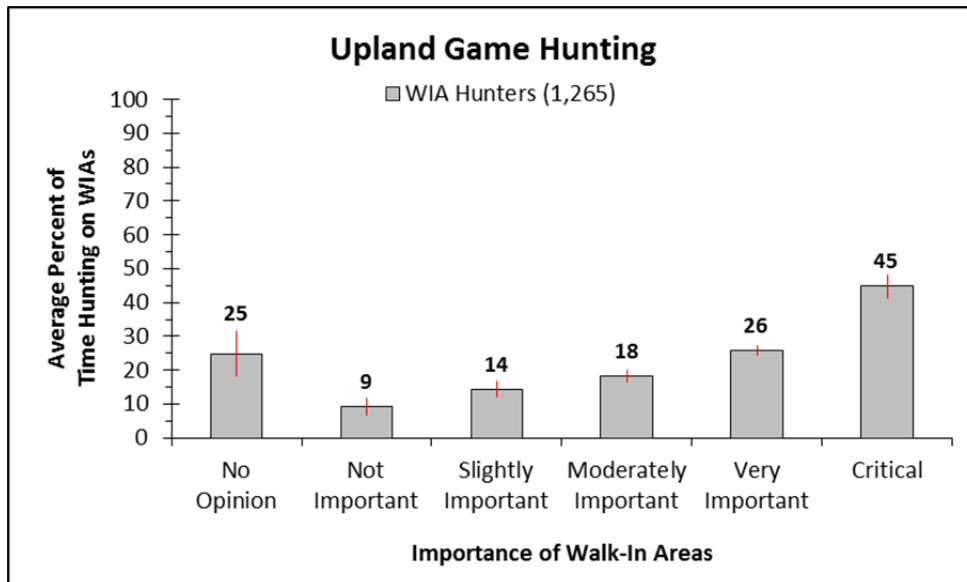


Figure 17: Proportion of time hunting WIAs by importance of WIAs - upland game
 NOTE: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval

Approximately one-quarter (25%) of upland game hunters spent some time hunting on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands in 2015. Only one percent of CREP hunters indicated CREP lands were not important to their ability to hunt upland game (figure 18). Nearly half (49%) of CREP hunters said CREP lands were very important to their ability to hunt upland game. An additional 17 percent said these lands were critical and they probably would not hunt upland game if it were not for the CREP program. There was a statistically significant and moderate strength of association between the level of importance hunters placed on CREP lands and the proportion of time hunting upland game on CREP [F (5, 722) = 24.33, $p < 0.001$; $\eta^2 = 0.381$]⁶. On average hunters who indicated CREP lands were critical to their upland game hunting spent a greater proportion of their time hunting CREP than those who did not consider them critical (figure 19). Hunters who considered CREP lands critical spent about one-third (31%) of their time upland game hunting on CREP, nearly 3 times the proportion of time spent by hunters who indicated CREP was slightly important. There was a

⁶ Tamhane's T2 post hoc test (appropriate when variances are unequal) was performed to determine the statistical significance ($p \leq 0.05$) of the difference in means for each level of importance.

statistically significant but minimal association between residency and importance of CREP lands for upland game hunting [$\chi^2 = 28.91$ (5, 722) $p < 0.001$; Cramer's $V = 0.20$]. Non-residents were more likely than residents to indicate CREP lands were critical to their ability to hunt upland game (25% and 12%, respectively). There was no statistically significant difference in proportion of time hunted on CREP and residency [$F(5, 733) = 0.338$, $p = 0.561$].

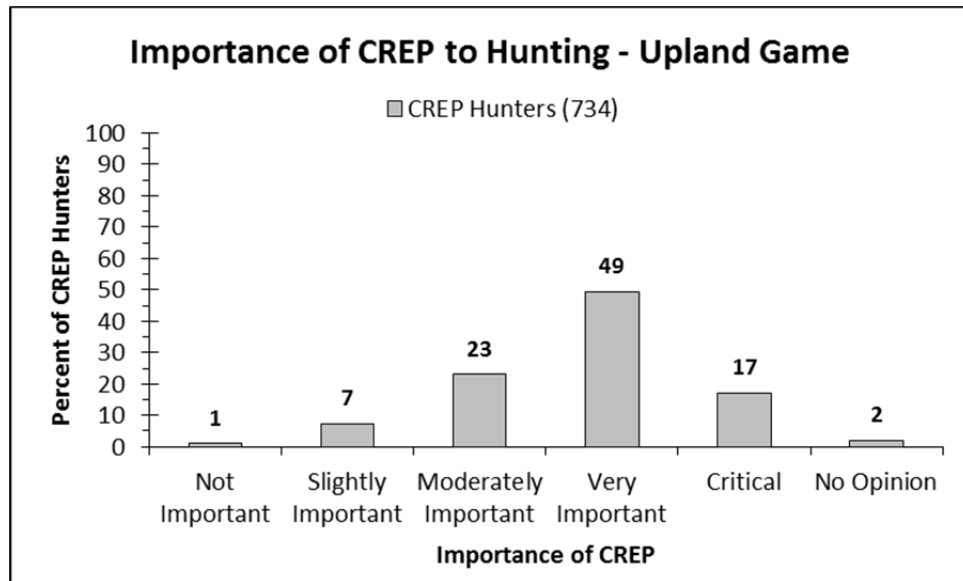


Figure 18: Importance of CREP lands to upland game hunting

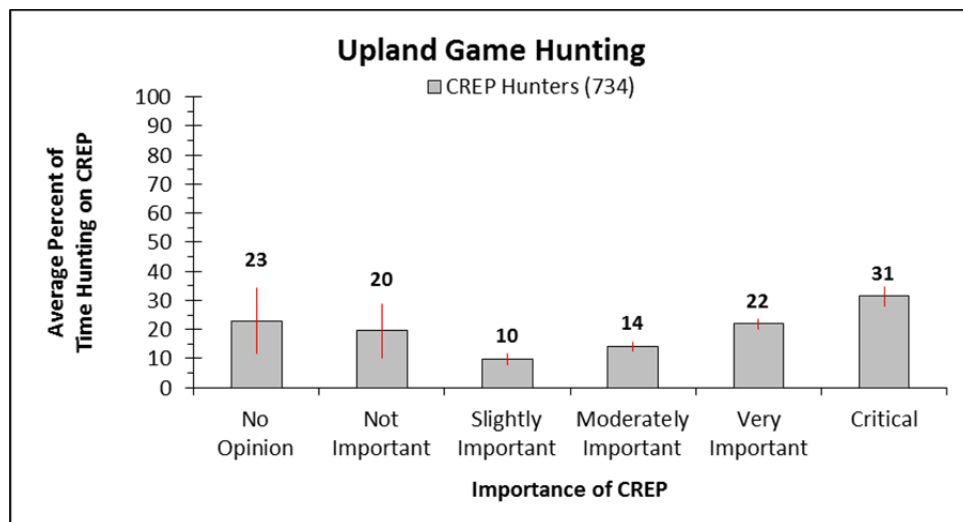


Figure 19: Importance of CREP to upland game hunting by % of time hunted
NOTE: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval

Waterfowl

The majority of respondents (95% non-residents and 81% resident) did not hunt waterfowl in South Dakota during the 2015 seasons (figure 20). The 2015 estimated number of waterfowl hunters was 14,579 residents and 4,195 non-residents (Huxoll 2016a). Resident waterfowl hunters reported hunting an average of 10 days for an estimated total of 144,915 days, and non-residents reported an average of 5 days for an estimated total of 400,733 days (table 6).

More than three-quarters of waterfowl hunters (78%) spent at least some time hunting on private land, and a little more than half (59%) spent time hunting for waterfowl on public land (figure 21). Approximately 21 percent of waterfowl hunters spent some time hunting on WIAs in 2015. Caution should be used in interpreting differences in land type hunted between residents and non-residents due to the small number of non-resident respondents who hunted waterfowl. Just over half (57%) of waterfowl hunters spent all their time hunting waterfowl on a single type of land. The majority of these hunters (62%) hunted on private land (figure 22).

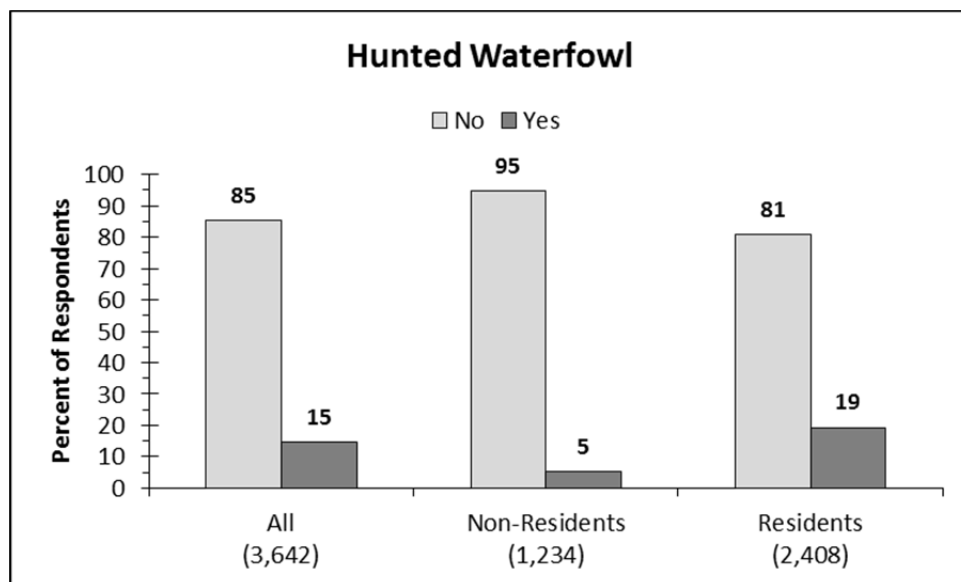


Figure 20: Proportion of waterfowl hunters

Table 6: Waterfowl hunting participation

Waterfowl	Number in Sample	% in Sample Hunted	Mean Days Hunted	Estimated Participants	Estimated Days of Hunting
Residents	2,408	19.3	9.94	14,579	144,915
Non-Residents	1,234	5.3	4.95	4,195	20,765

NOTE: Estimated number of participants based on 2015 small game harvest survey statistics.

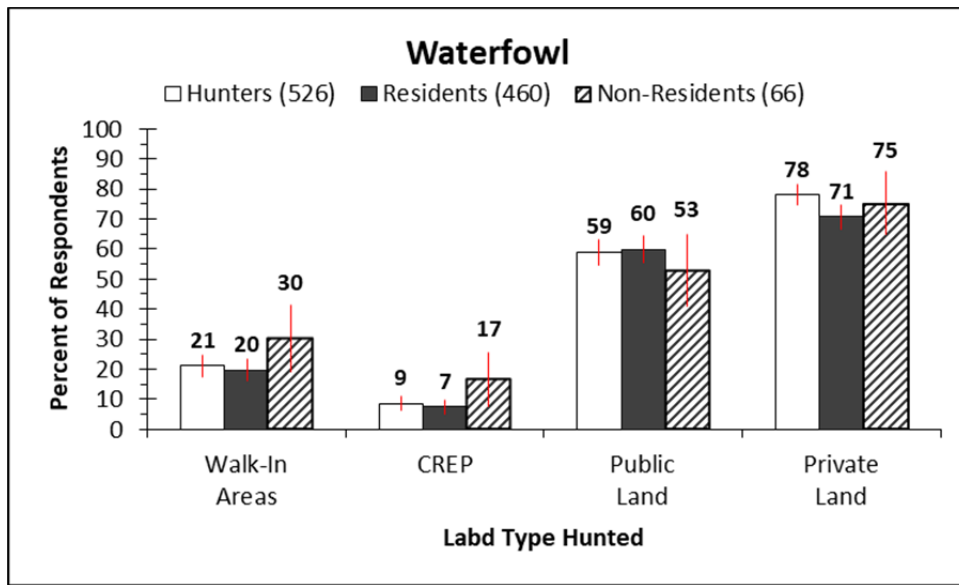


Figure 21: Type of land hunted – waterfowl

NOTE: Percentages do not sum to 100 as respondents could have hunted more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval

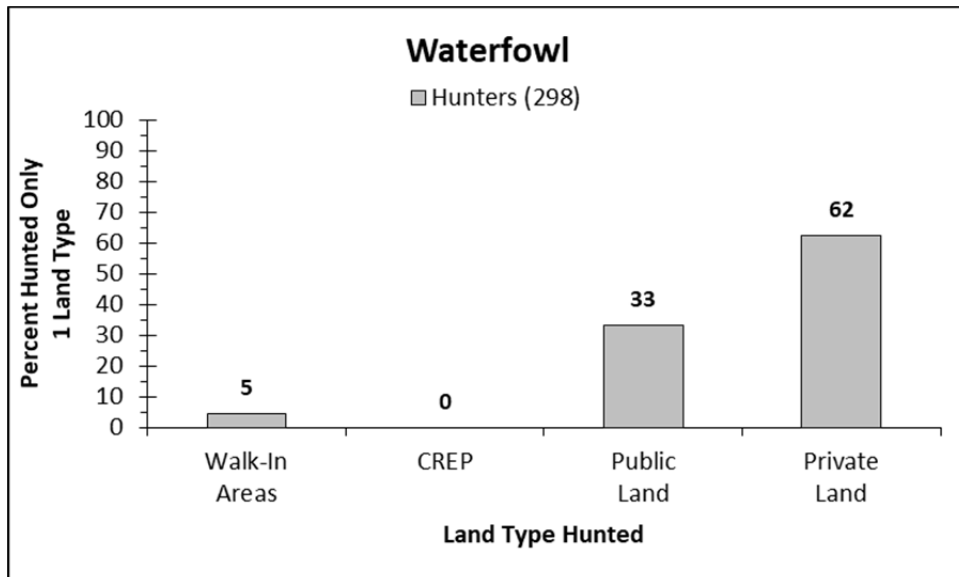


Figure 22: Hunters who only hunted one land type - waterfowl

Caution should be used in interpreting differences between residents and non-residents in the amount of time they waterfowl hunted on each land type due to the small number of non-resident respondents who hunted waterfowl in the sample. In addition, when examining the estimated number of days hunted, it should be noted that the number of days non-residents can hunt waterfowl in South Dakota is limited to 3 or 10 depending on the license they hold. Residents are not limited to the number of days they can hunt waterfowl, except by overall season length.

Overall, waterfowl hunters spent 54 percent (54% residents; 58% non-residents) of their time hunting waterfowl on private land (figure 23). Residents hunted an estimated 76,805 days on private lands and non-residents hunted an estimated 12,044 days (table 7). Waterfowl hunters spent a little over one-third (37%) of their time hunting waterfowl on public land (38% residents; 28% non-residents). Residents hunted an estimated 55,068 days hunting waterfowl on public land, and non-residents spent an estimated 5,814 days. Overall, waterfowl hunters only spent about 7 percent of their time hunting waterfowl on WIAs (7% residents; 10% non-residents). Residents hunted an estimated 10,144 days, and non-residents hunted an estimated 2,077 days on WIAs.

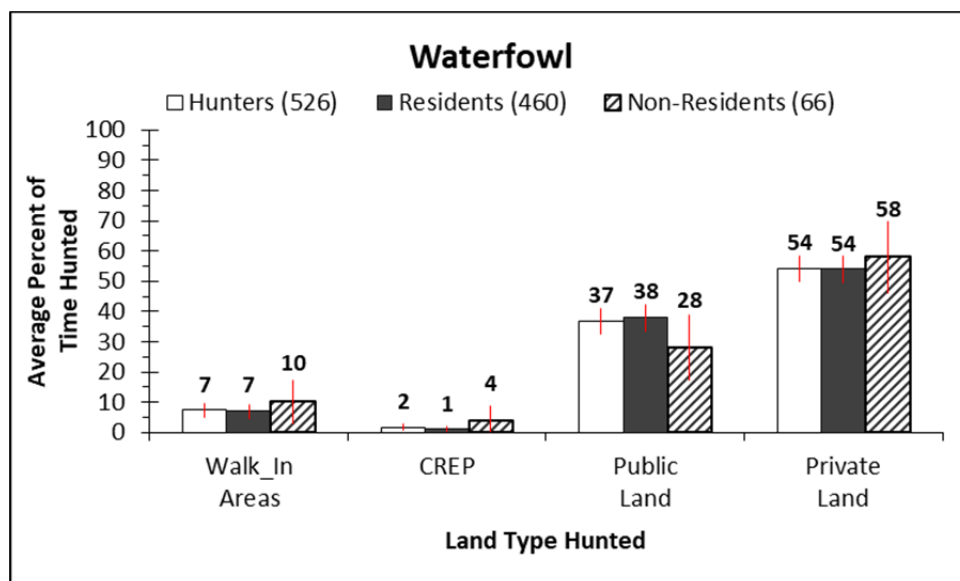


Figure 23: Mean percent of time by land type - waterfowl
 NOTE: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval

Table 7: Estimated days hunted by land type - waterfowl

Waterfowl	Estimated Days Hunted				Total Days
	Walk-In Areas	CREP	Public Land	Private Land	
Residents	10,144	2,898	55,068	76,805	144,915
Non-Residents	2,077	831	5,814	12,044	20,765

Walk-In Area Evaluations

Approximately 21 percent of waterfowl hunters reported spending some time hunting on WIAs. Of those who hunted waterfowl on WIAs in 2015, nearly three-quarters (73%) rated the overall habitat quality of WIAs they hunted for waterfowl as fair or good (figure 24). Another 12 percent rated the overall waterfowl habitat as excellent. About 13 percent rated the overall habitat quality as poor (6%) or very poor (7%). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in their habitat quality evaluations [$\chi^2 = 2.94$ (5, 110) $p=0.710$].

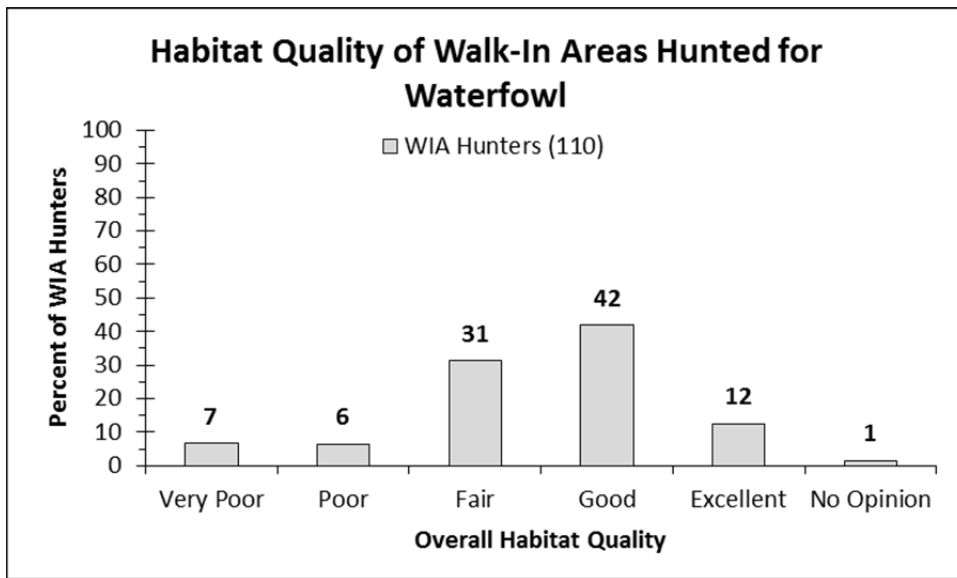


Figure 24: WIA hunters' evaluation of habitat quality - waterfowl

WIA waterfowl hunters were also asked to indicate how important walk-in areas were to their waterfowl hunting. Just over half of these hunters (54%) indicated WIAs were very important to their waterfowl hunting (figure 25). Only two percent said WIAs were not important. Nearly one-quarter (24%) indicated WIAs were critical and they probably would not waterfowl hunt if not for the WIA Program. Caution should be used when examining differences in evaluations and importance of WIAs for waterfowl hunting due to the small sample size of hunters who hunted waterfowl on walk-in areas. There was no statistically significant difference, however, between the levels of importance hunters placed on WIAs for waterfowl hunting and the proportion of time hunting waterfowl on WIAs [$F(5, 109) = 1.893, p = 0.102$]. In addition, there was no statistically significant difference in importance of WIAs for hunting waterfowl between residents and non-residents [$\chi^2 = 1.106(5, 109) p = 0.954$].

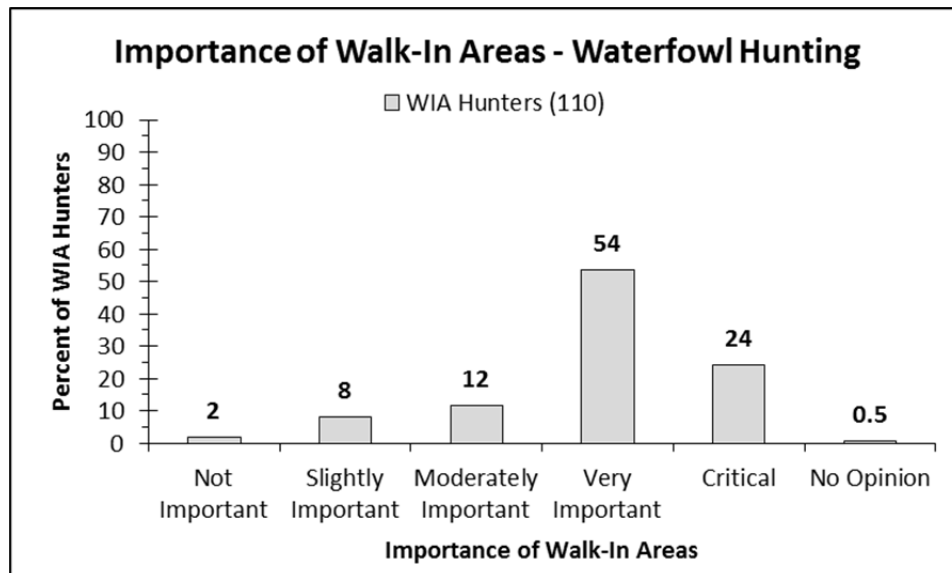


Figure 25: Importance of walk-in areas to waterfowl hunting
 NOTE: Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding

Approximately 9 percent of waterfowl hunters spent some time hunting on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands in 2015. Nearly two-thirds of these hunters (63%) said CREP lands were very important to their waterfowl hunting, while 3 percent indicated

they were not important (figure 26). An additional 12 percent said these lands were critical and they probably would not hunt waterfowl if not for the CREP Program. Caution should be used when examining differences in importance of CREP to waterfowl hunting due to the small sample size of hunters who hunted waterfowl on CREP. There was no statistically significant difference, however, between the levels of importance hunters placed on WIAs for waterfowl hunting and the proportion of time hunting waterfowl on WIAs [$F(5, 44) = 1.409, p = 0.243$]. In addition, there was no statistically significant difference in importance of CREP for hunting waterfowl between residents and non-residents [$\chi^2 = 1.346(5, 44) p = 0.930$].

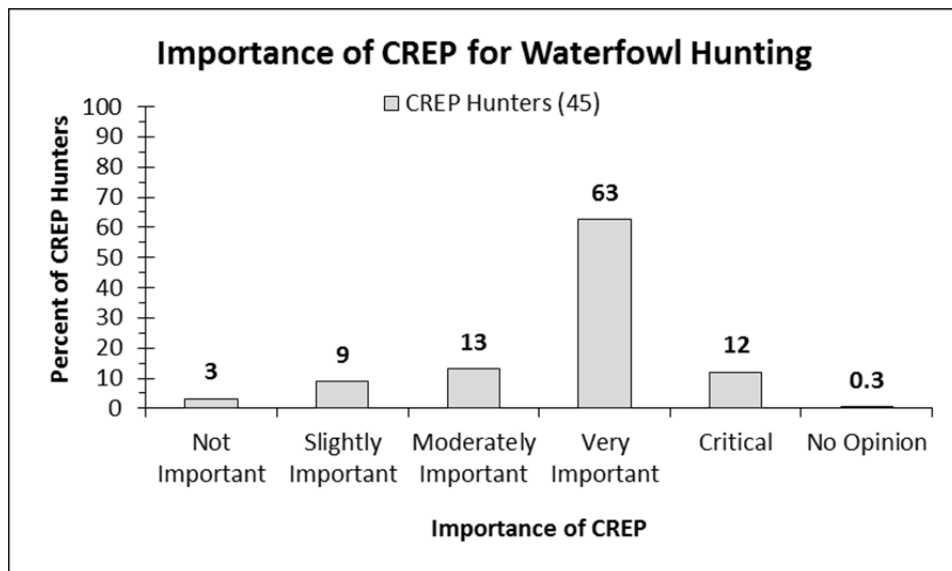


Figure 26: Importance of CREP to waterfowl hunting
 NOTE: Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding

Big Game Hunting

Antelope

Overall, two percent of resident hunters indicated they hunted antelope in South Dakota during 2015 (figure 27). The 2015 estimated number of resident antelope hunters was 4,632 (Huxoll 2016b). Residents reported hunting an average of 3 days, making the estimated total number of days hunting antelope 14,822 (table 8).

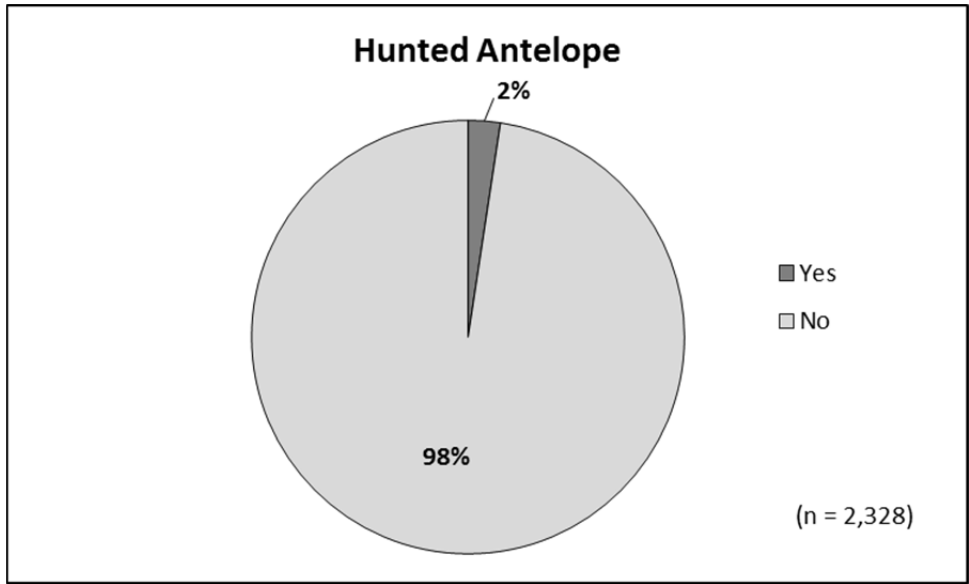


Figure 27: Proportion of antelope hunters - residents

Table 8: Antelope hunting participation

Antelope	Number in Sample	% in Sample Hunted	Mean Days Hunted	Estimated Participants	Estimated Days of Hunting
Residents	2,387	2.4	3.2	4,632	14,822

NOTE: Estimated number of participants based on 2015 big game harvest survey statistics.

The majority of resident antelope hunters (59%) spent at least some time hunting on private land. Over one-third of antelope hunters (39%) spent some time hunting on WIAs, and 39 percent spent time hunting on public lands, such as National Grasslands, Schools and Public Lands, and Bureau of Land Management lands (figure 28). Approximately two-thirds of hunters (67%) indicated they spent all of their time hunting antelope on a single type of land. The majority of these hunters (60%) hunted on private land (figure 29).

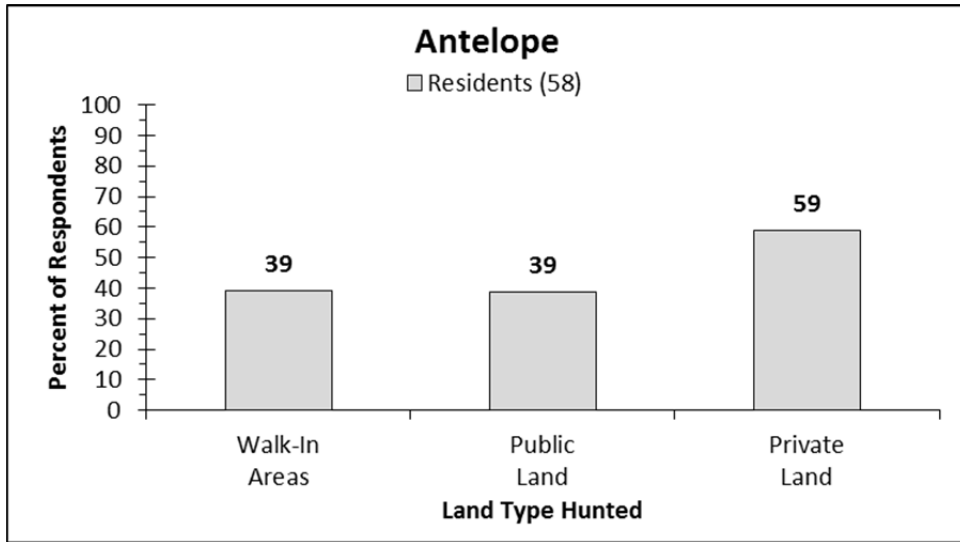


Figure 28: Type of land hunted – antelope
 NOTE: Percentages do not sum to 100 as respondents could have hunted more than one land type.

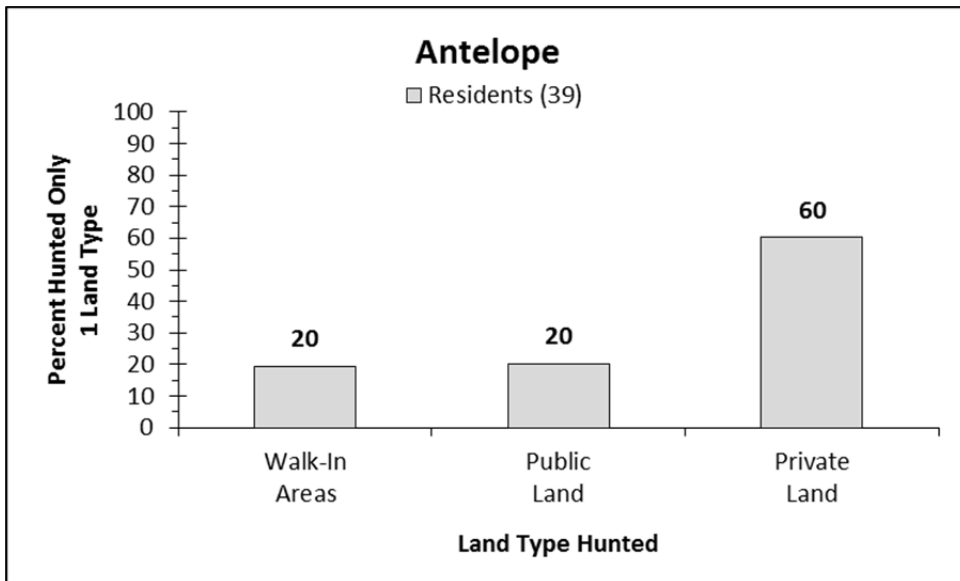


Figure 29: Hunters who only hunted one type of land - antelope

On average, resident antelope hunters spent about half (51%) of their time hunting antelope on private land (figure 30). Residents hunted antelope for an estimated 7,559 days on private land (table 9). Antelope hunters spent one-quarter (25%) of their antelope hunting time

on WIAs for an estimated 3,706 days, and 24 percent of their antelope hunting time on other public lands for an estimated 3,557 days.

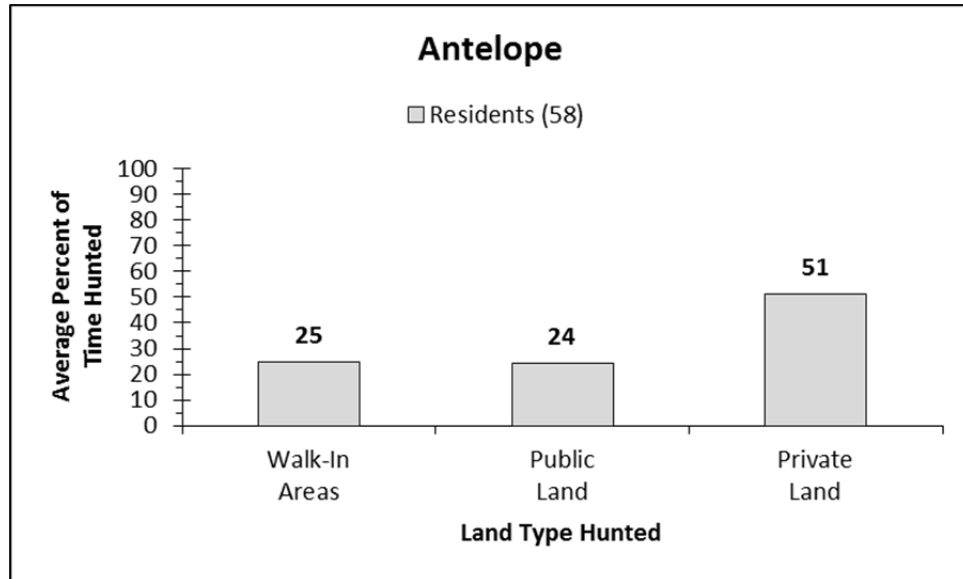


Figure 30: Mean percent of time by land type - antelope

Table 9: Estimated days hunted by land type - antelope

Antelope	Estimated Days Hunted			Total Days
	Walk-In Areas	Public Land	Private Land	
Residents	3,706	3,557	7,559	14,822

Wild Turkey

Overall, 6 percent of resident hunters indicated they hunted wild turkey in South Dakota during 2015 (figure 31). The 2015 estimated number of resident wild turkey hunters was 6,905 (Huxoll 2016b). Residents reported hunting an average of nearly 5 days, making the estimated total number of days hunting wild turkey 32,177 (table 10).

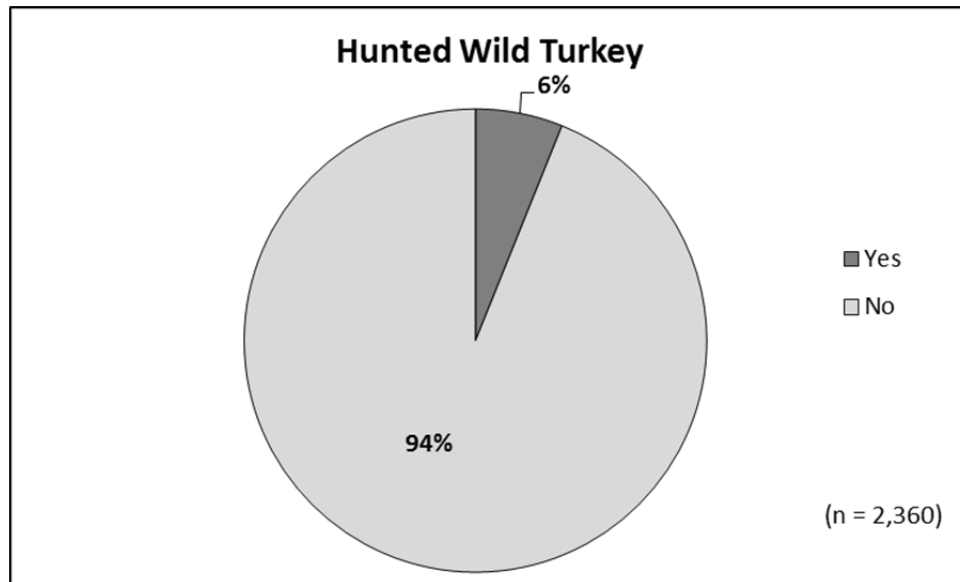


Figure 31: Proportion of wild turkey hunters

Table 10: Wild turkey hunting participation

Wild Turkey	Number in Sample	% in Sample Hunted	Mean Days Hunted	Estimated Participants	Estimated Days of Hunting
Residents	2,360	6.1	4.66	6,905	32,177

NOTE: Estimated number of participants based on 2015 big game harvest survey statistics.

The majority of resident wild turkey hunters (69%) spent at least some time hunting on private land. Over one-third of resident turkey hunters (38%) spent some time turkey hunting on public land (National Grassland, School and Public Land, etc.). Approximately 16 percent hunted turkey on WIAs and only 2 percent hunted turkey on CREP lands in 2015 (figure 32). The majority of turkey hunters (80%) indicated they spent all of their time hunting wild turkey on a single type of land. The majority of turkey hunters (80%) indicated they spent all of their time hunting wild turkey on a single type of land. Two-thirds of these hunters (66%) hunted on private land (figure 33).

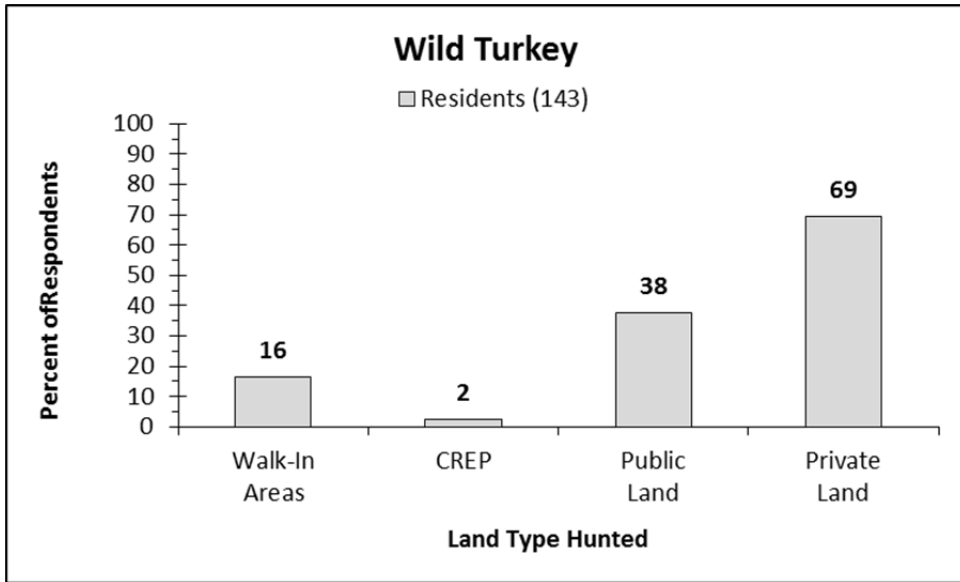


Figure 32: Type of land hunted - wild turkey
 NOTE: Percentages do not sum to 100 as respondents could have hunted more than one land type.

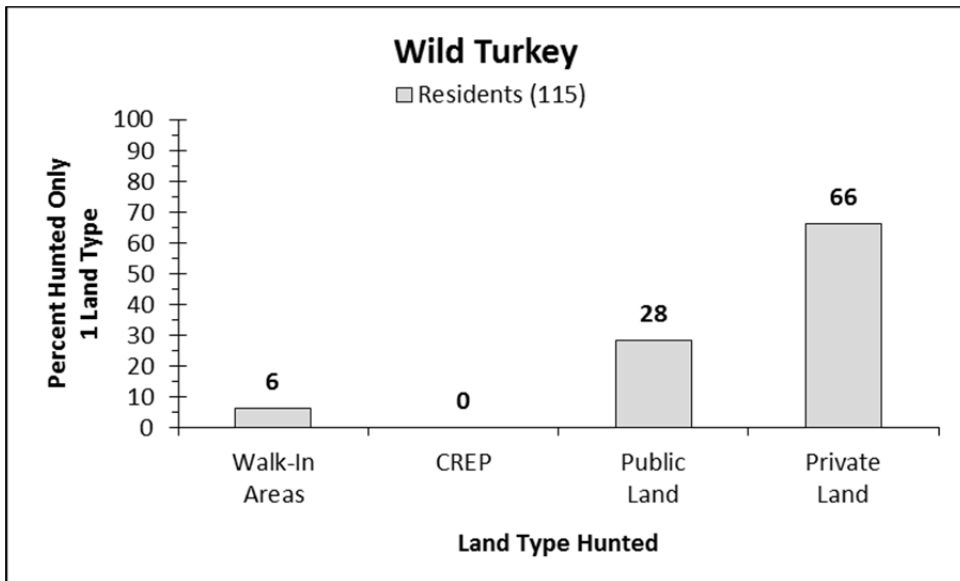


Figure 33: Hunters who only hunted one land type - wild turkey

On average, resident turkey hunters spent (61%) of their time hunting wild turkey on private land (figure 34). Residents hunted turkey for an estimated 19,628 days on private land (table 11). Turkey hunters spent 30 percent of their time hunting turkeys on public lands for an

estimated 9,653 days, and 8 percent of their turkey hunting time on WIAs for an estimated 2,574 days.

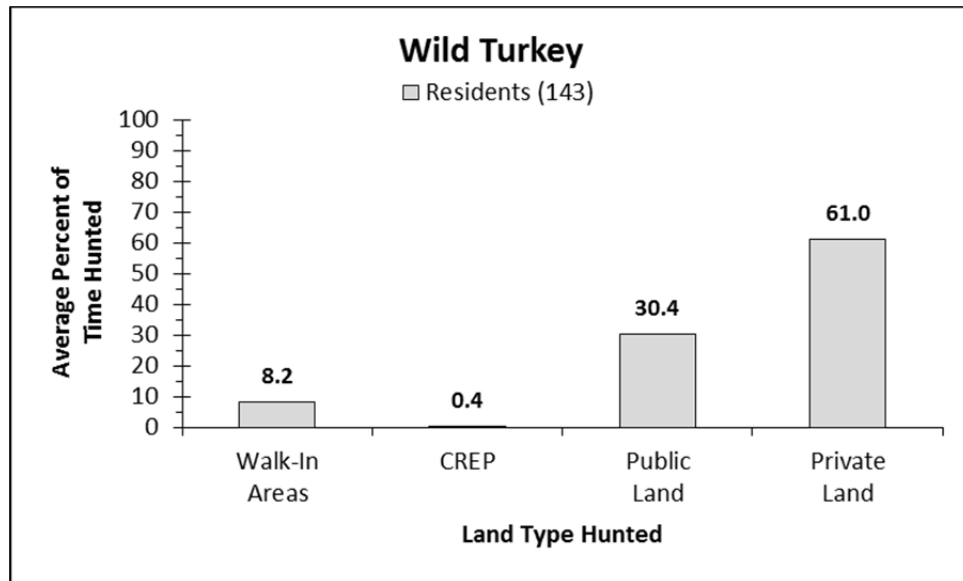


Figure 34: Mean percent of time by land type - wild turkey

Table 11: Estimated days hunted by land type - wild turkey

Wild Turkey	Estimated Days Hunted				Total Days
	Walk-In Areas	CREP	Public Land	Private Land	
Residents	2,574	322	9,653	19,628	32,177

Deer

Overall, 42 percent of resident hunters indicated they hunted deer in South Dakota during 2015 (figure 35). The 2015 estimated number of resident deer hunters was 67,395 (Huxoll 2016b). Residents reported hunting an average of nearly 7 days, making the estimated total number of days hunting deer 454,916 (table 12).

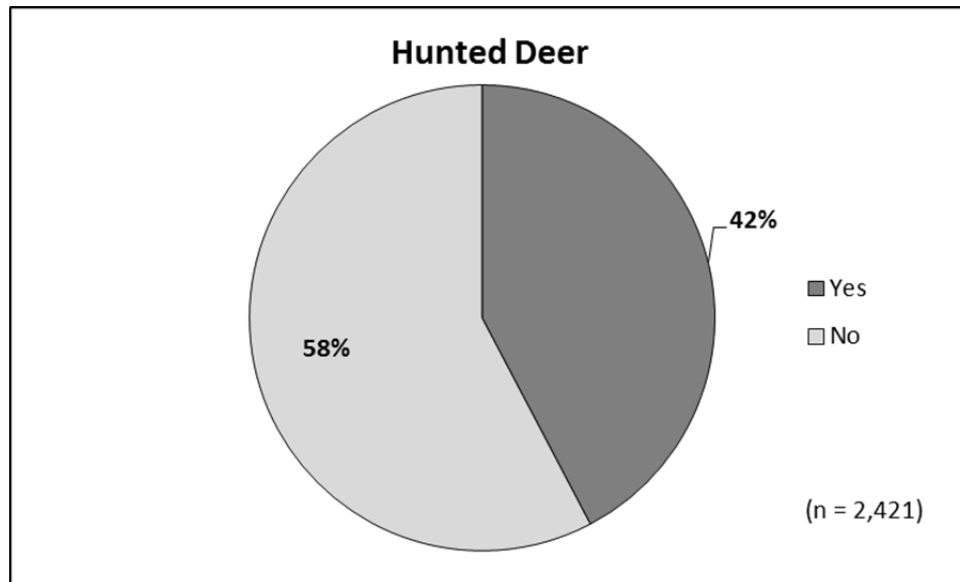


Figure 35: Proportion of deer hunters

Table 12: Deer hunting participation

Deer	Number in Sample	% in Sample Hunted	Mean Days Hunted	Estimated Participants	Estimated Days of Hunting
Residents	2,421	42.3	6.75	67,395	454,916

Of those who hunted deer in South Dakota during 2015, more than half (58%) spent all of their time deer hunting east of the Missouri River (figure 36). One-third (33%) spent all of their time hunting west of the Missouri River, and 9 percent hunted statewide (both sides of Missouri River). The majority of deer hunters spent at least some of their time deer hunting on private land. The vast majority of those who hunted deer east of the Missouri River (87%) and 65 percent of hunters who hunted west of the Missouri River spent time on private land (figure 37). Two-thirds of hunters who deer hunted west of the river (67%) and more than two-thirds of deer hunters who hunted east of the river (70%) spent all of their time deer hunting on a single type of land. The vast majority of deer hunters east of the river (91%) spent all of their time hunting on private land, compared with 63 percent of deer hunters west of the river (figure 38). Thirteen percent of deer hunters west of the river spent all of their time hunting on WIAs compared to 3 percent of deer hunters east of the river.

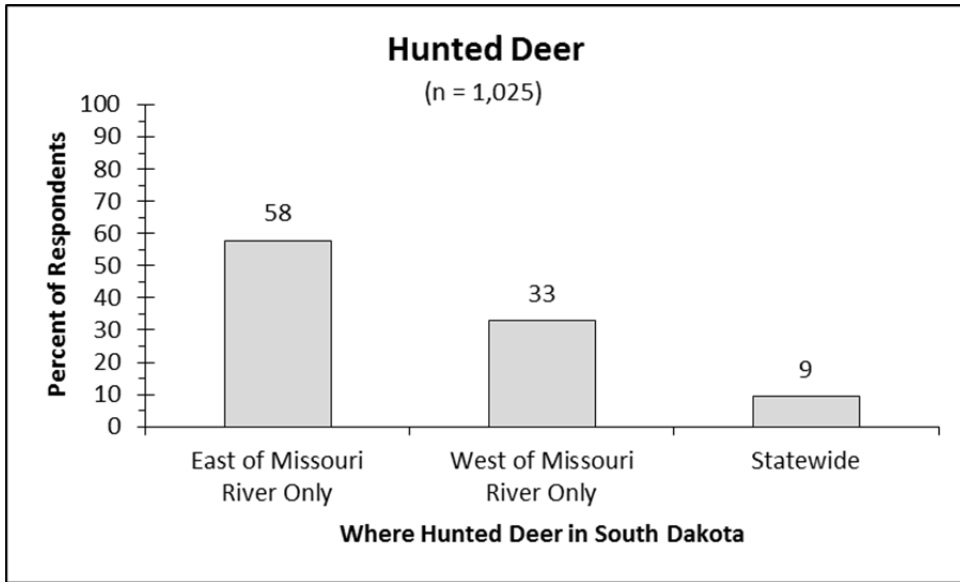


Figure 36: Proportion of deer hunters

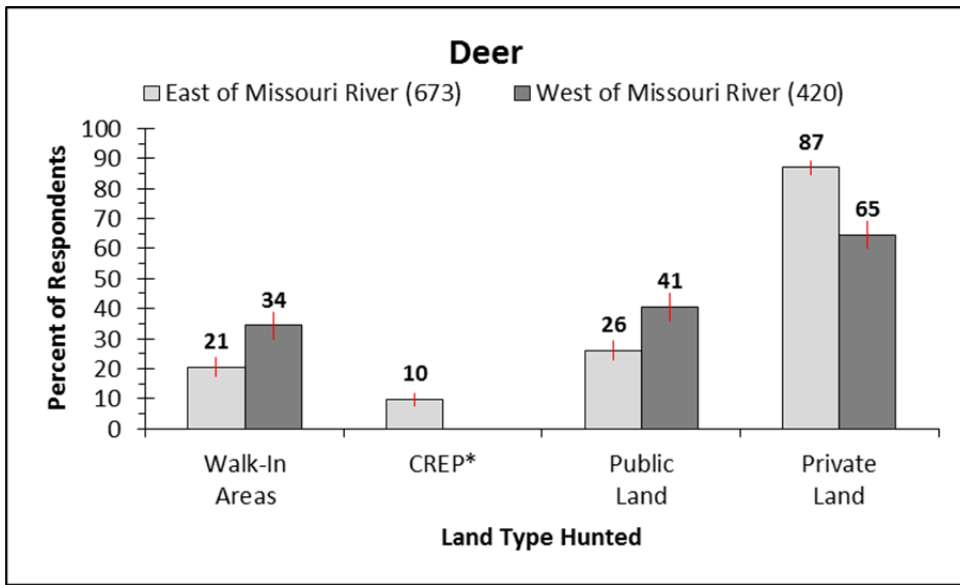


Figure 37: Type of land hunted - deer

NOTE: Percentages do not sum to 100 as respondents could have hunted more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. *Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands (CREP) are all located east of the Missouri River.

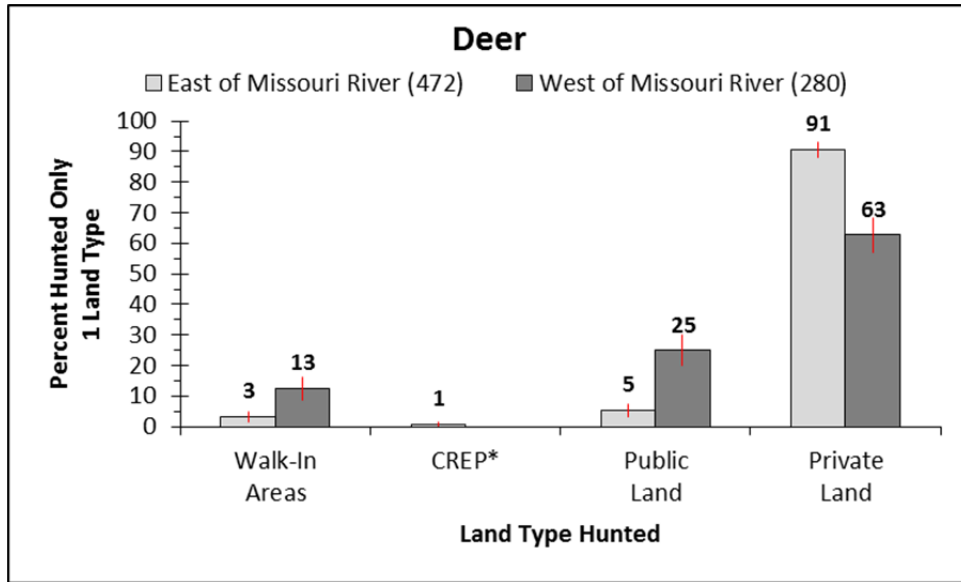


Figure 38: Hunters who only hunted one land type - deer

NOTE: * Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands (CREP) are all located east of the Missouri River.

On average, hunters spent the greatest percentage of their time hunting deer east of the Missouri River (78%) and west of the river (54%) on private land (figure 39). When hunting west of the Missouri River deer hunters spent, on average, 18 percent of their time on WIAs, compared with 7 percent of time for hunters east of the river. In 2015, deer hunters spent nearly three-quarters of their total time deer hunting (71%), regardless of where in state they were located, on private land for an estimated 322,990 days (figure 40; table 13). Respondents spent nearly one-fifth of their time deer hunting (17%) on public lands for an estimated 77,336 days, and 10 percent of their total time deer hunting on WIAs for an estimated 45,492 days.

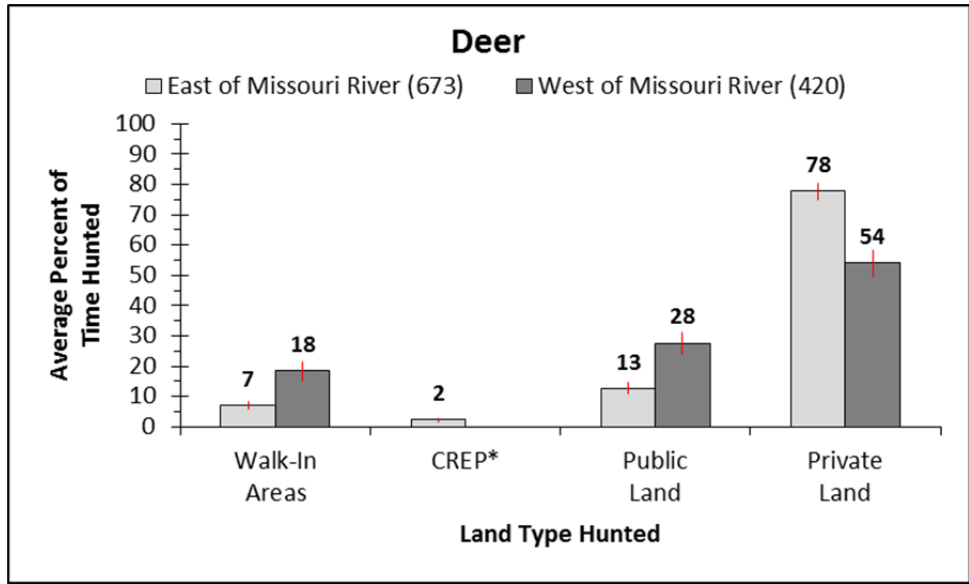


Figure 39: Mean percent of time by land type - Deer east/west of Missouri River
 NOTE: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. *Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands (CREP) are all located east of the Missouri River.

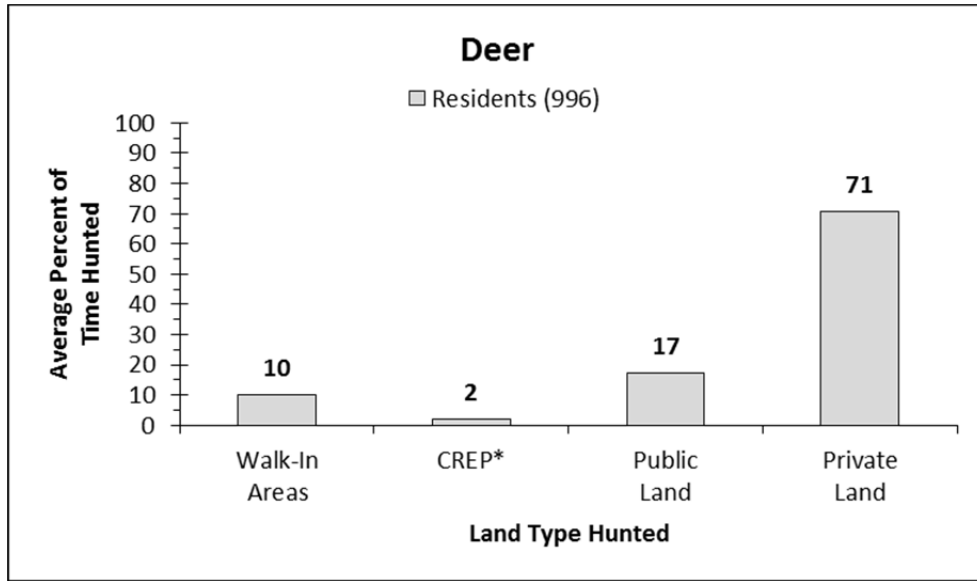


Figure 40: Mean percent of time by land type - Deer statewide
 NOTE: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. *Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands (CREP) are all located east of the Missouri River.

Table 13: Estimated days hunted by land type - deer

Deer	Estimated Days Hunted				
	Walk-In Areas	CREP*	Public Land	Private Land	Total Days
Residents	45,492	9,098	77,336	322,990	454,916

Walk-In Area Evaluations

Nearly half of respondents (45%) indicated they had hunted big game (deer, antelope, and/or wild turkey) in South Dakota during 2015 (figure 41). The majority of those who hunted big game (83%) indicated they hunted deer but not antelope and turkey (figure 42). About 10 percent of big game hunters indicated they hunted 2 of the 3 big game species measured, and 1 percent hunted all 3 species. A little over one-quarter of big game hunters (27%) indicated they spent some time hunting big game on WIAs in South Dakota. Of those who hunted big game on WIAs in 2015, approximately half (52%) rated the overall habitat quality for big game on the WIAs they hunted as good or excellent (figure 43). Another 31 percent rated the overall habitat quality as fair, and 15 percent rated it as poor or very poor.

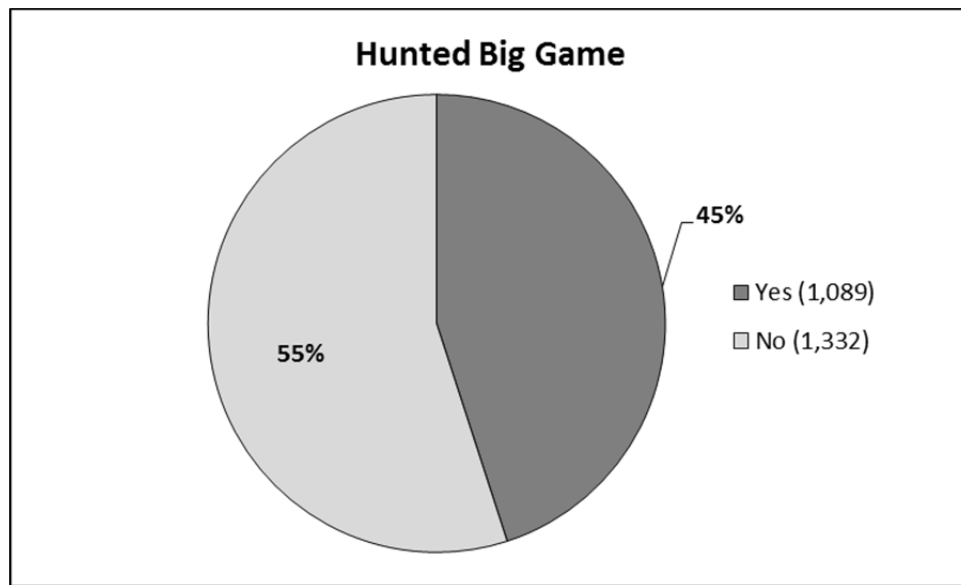


Figure 41: Proportion of big game hunters

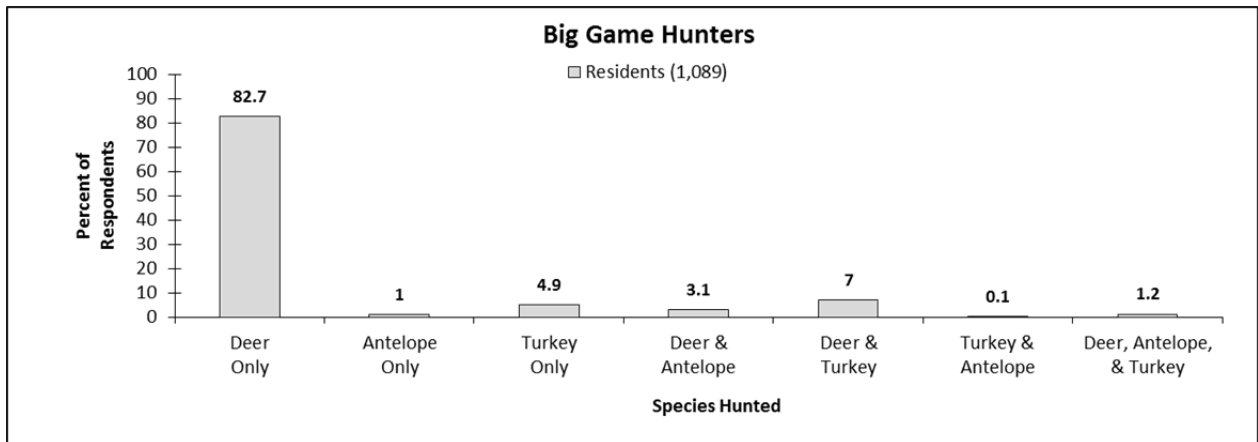


Figure 42: Proportion of big game hunters by species hunted

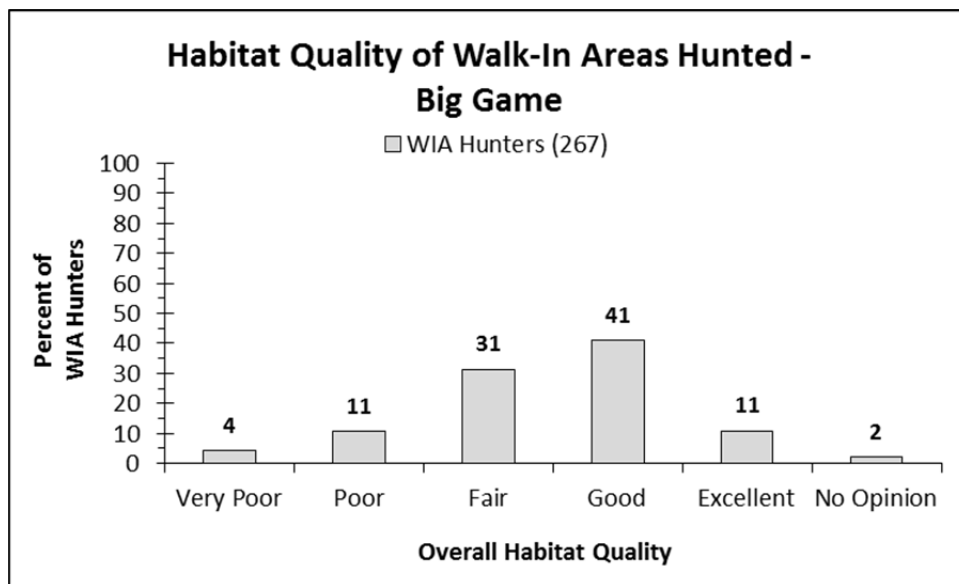


Figure 43: WIA hunters' evaluation of habitat quality - big game

WIA big game hunters were also asked to indicate how important walk-in areas were to their big game hunting (deer, antelope, and turkey). Only 5 percent of WIA big game hunters indicated that walk-in areas were not important to their big game hunting (figure 44). The majority of WIA big game hunters indicated walk-in areas were either very important (43%) or critical (31%) to their big game hunting. On average, hunters who indicated WIAs were critical spent about half (52%) of their time hunting big game on WIAs (figure 45). Caution should be

used in interpreting significance of differences between importance levels due to the small sample sizes for several of the groups.

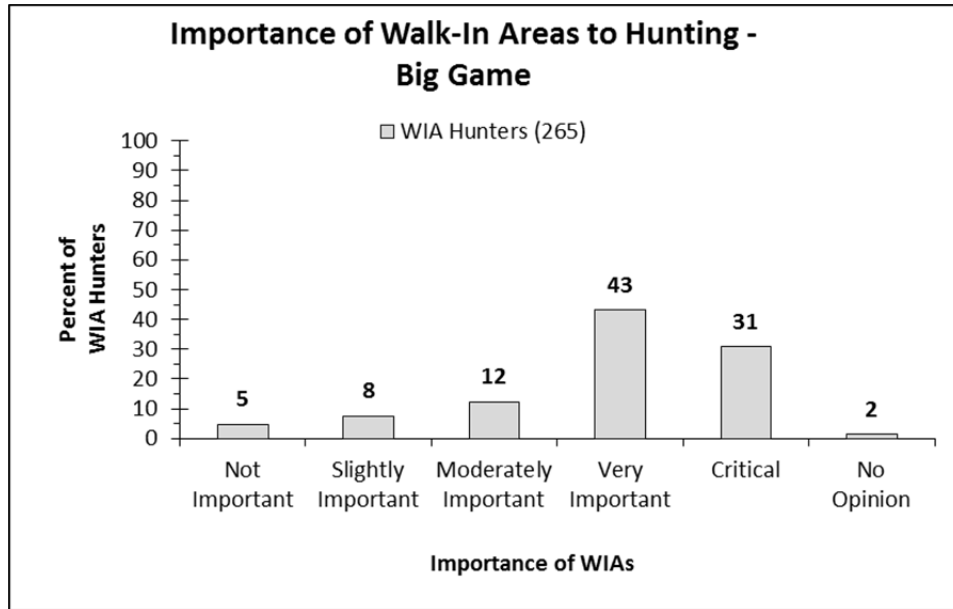


Figure 44: Importance of walk-in areas to big game hunting

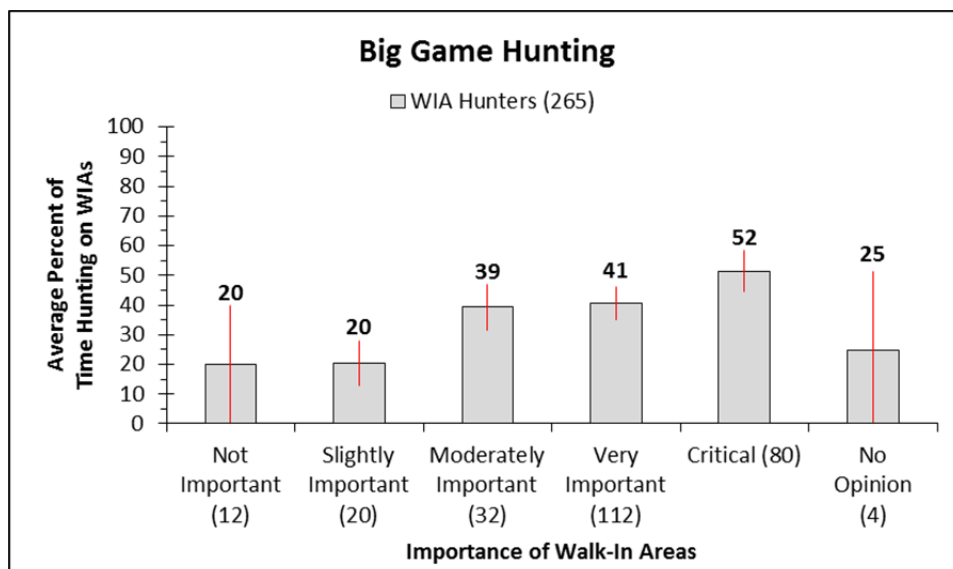


Figure 45: Proportion of time hunting WIAs by importance of WIAs - big game
NOTE: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Approximately 9 percent of big game hunters (deer and turkey) spent some time hunting on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP lands) in 2015. Approximately 8 percent of these hunters indicated that CREP was not important to their big game hunting (figure 46). Nearly one-third (32%) indicated CREP lands were moderately important and another 28 percent said they were very important to their big game hunting. Nearly one-fifth (18%) indicated that CREP was critical and they probably would not hunt big game if it were not for the CREP program. Due to the relatively small sample size of big game hunters on CREP lands, no analysis was run looking at potential differences between level of importance and amount of time spent on CREP lands.

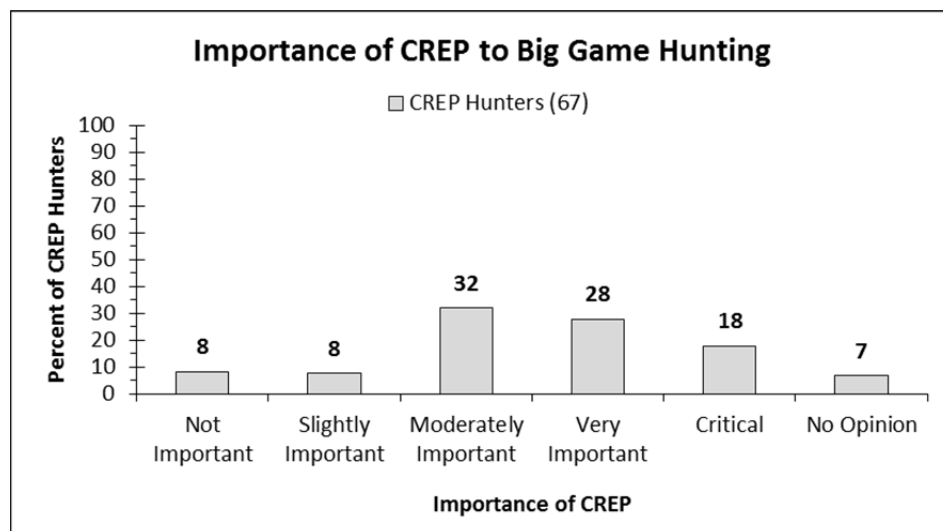


Figure 46: Importance of CREP to big game hunting

Economic Contribution of WIAs

Economic contribution is defined as the gross change in economic activity associated with an industry, event, or policy in an existing regional economy (Watson et al. 2007). It includes all forms of employment income, value added (wages, rents and profits), and employment supported in the state due to hunter expenditures, regardless of whether the hunter is a state resident (Loomis et al. 2015). The purpose of this section is to quantify the economic

contribution provided by WIA lands from waterfowl, upland game, and big game hunting in South Dakota. The following describes the statewide estimates of effort (in days), per person equipment and trip expenditures, statewide equipment and trip expenditures, and economic contributions for hunting on Walk-In Areas in South Dakota.

The value of hunter in-state expenditures, estimated from survey responses, was summarized and then aggregated to state levels. Statewide estimates of economic contribution were further analyzed using an input-output modeling framework to characterize the contribution of hunting on WIAs in terms of employment, income, and state GDP. Input-output models consist of a system of equations that describe the flow of money in exchange for goods and services into, out of, and within a given area (Richardson 1972). The economic contribution of hunting on WIAs in South Dakota was calculated using multiplier effects: direct effects, indirect effects, and induced effects. Direct effects equal hunter expenditures on trip related items and equipment estimated using the survey data. The indirect effects would be the effects of money spent by WIA hunters as it works its way through the local economy (wages, rent, inventory, etc.), and induced effects refer to the effects of employee household spending (a portion of money spent by hunters goes to pay employee wages, which recirculates in the local economy in the form of purchases such as groceries). The underlying assumption of calculating economic contribution with input-output modeling is that every dollar generated by an activity ripples through the regional economy and creates additional economic activity (Poudyal et al. 2017). IMPLAN is the most commonly used input-output analysis software, and was used to conduct this analysis.

The dollar amount of hunting expenditures was first estimated by calculating the average trip expenses for hunting on WIAs in South Dakota. The amount of dollars spent reported was weighted based on the degree that hunting was the primary destination of the trip from their

residence.⁷ The average for annual equipment expenses relative to hunting on WIAs in South Dakota was calculated by summing the reported dollar amounts spent on equipment such as guns, ammo, bows, arrows; accessories (e.g. decoys, calls, binoculars, safety equipment, cameras, day packs, etc.); apparel (camouflage, blaze orange, vests, foul weather gear, etc.); and licenses and permits. Expenses for special equipment such as campers and ATVs were excluded from the analysis as their use is not allowed on WIAs. Since hunters may use purchased equipment to hunt areas other than WIAs, the dollar amount hunters reported spending on equipment was multiplied by the proportion of time they reported hunting on WIAs. To extrapolate the sample estimate to the state level, the mean dollar amount (USD) for total trip and equipment expenses per day was calculated and then multiplied by the total number of recreational days for WIAs in South Dakota.

Residents reported hunting in 2015 an estimated 138,626 recreational days on WIAs in South Dakota, while non-residents reported an estimated 45,918 recreational days (Table 14). On average, resident hunters spent \$42.18 per day hunting on WIAs in 2015, which equals an estimated total of \$5.8 million dollars (table 15). The average amount spent per day for equipment and other expenditures by resident hunters was \$42.30, for an estimated total of \$5.9 million. The total estimated expenditures by resident hunters for hunting South Dakota WIAs in 2015 was \$11.7 million dollars. Non-resident hunters averaged \$45.56 per day in trip related expenditures, for an estimated total of \$2 million. The average dollar amount non-residents spent in-state on equipment and other expenses was \$47.59 per day, for an estimated total of \$2.2 million. The total estimated expenditures by non-resident hunters hunting South Dakota WIAs in 2015 was \$4.3 million.

⁷ For respondents who indicate hunting on WIAs was the primary or sole destination of the trip from their residence, 100% of the expenditures reported from their most recent trip hunting on WIAs were applied toward WIA hunting. For those who indicated hunting on WIAs was not the primary destination, but was one of equally important destinations on trip from residence, 33% of the expenditures reported from their most recent trip hunting on WIAs were put toward WIA hunting. None of the reported expenditures were applied toward WIA hunting for respondents who indicated hunting on WIAs was an incidental stop on a trip to another destination.

Table 14: Estimated total days hunting on South Dakota WIAs in 2015

Species Hunted	South Dakota Residents		South Dakota Non-Residents	
	Estimated Days Hunting Species	Estimated Days Hunting on WIAs	Estimated Days Hunting Species	Estimated Days Hunting on WIAs
Grouse/prairie chicken/partridge	50,028	11,256	20,933	3,768
Pheasant	503,494	65,454	400,733	40,073
Deer	454,916	45,492	--	--
Antelope	14,822	3,706	--	--
Turkey	32,177	2,574	--	--
Waterfowl	144,915	10,144	20,765	2,077
TOTAL	1,200,352	138,626	442,431	45,918

Table 15: Walk-In Area hunters' South Dakota direct spending for 2015

Hunter Type	Recreational Days	Trip Expenditures		Equipment & Other Expenditures		Total Expenditures
		Mean \$ Per Day	Trip Expenses	Mean \$ Per Day	Equipment Expenses	
Residents	138,626	\$42.18	\$5,847,785.32	\$42.30	\$5,864,337.27	\$11,712,122.59
Nonresidents	45,918	\$45.56	\$2,091,932.24	\$47.59	\$2,185,251.40	\$4,277,183.64
TOTAL			\$7,939,717.57		\$8,049,588.66	\$15,989,306.23

Altogether, hunting on WIAs in South Dakota generated nearly \$16 million in retail sales in 2015. Non-residents contributed a significant proportion (27%) of the WIA hunting related spending; an important source of new dollars for the South Dakota economy. The economic contributions generated by hunters' spending were determined by applying their expenditures to IMPLAN. The direct, indirect, induced, and total effects of WIA hunting in South Dakota are reported in table 16. The direct effect of \$7.8 million is less than the total hunter expenditures of \$15.9 million calculated from the survey results. This difference is due to leakage, and reflects the fact that not all initial expenditures stay in the state; the retail margin only includes the amount of expenditures that stay in South Dakota.

The money spent by hunters hunting WIAs resulted in a total economic activity estimate of \$13.3 million. This includes the hunter expenditures that stay within South Dakota's economy (\$7.8 million) plus \$5.5 million of additional economic production.⁸ For every dollar of hunter

⁸ Output multiplier = total output ÷ direct output

spending that stays within the South Dakota economy an additional \$0.70 of total economic activity within the state's economy is generated. Walk-In Area hunting supported approximately 177 jobs⁹ in the South Dakota economy and approximately \$5.6 million of income (salaries, wages, and business earnings). The total effect on South Dakota's GDP resulting from WIA hunters' expenditures in 2015 was \$8.2 million. The value added multiplier is 1.58, meaning that each dollar adds an additional \$0.58 to South Dakota's GDP.¹⁰ Approximately one-third (35%) of WIA hunters in South Dakota are non-residents. The total value added (GDP) economic impact¹¹ of non-resident hunters hunting WIA in South Dakota is \$2.9 million. Non-resident WIA hunting also contributes 59 jobs to the South Dakota economy.

Table 16: Economic contribution of resident and non-resident WIA hunters in South Dakota¹²

Combined South Dakota WIA Hunters				
	Employment	Labor Income	Value Added	Output
Direct Effect	138.2	\$3,978,252.62	\$5,205,884.51	\$7,849,930.75
Indirect Effect	12.8	\$582,518.08	\$1,075,516.52	\$1,989,402.18
Induced Effect	26.6	\$1,042,483.22	\$1,939,604.21	\$3,508,420.32
Total Effect	177.6	\$5,603,253.92	\$8,221,005.24	\$13,347,753.25
South Dakota Resident WIA Hunters				
	Employment	Labor Income	Value Added	Output
Direct Effect	96.66	\$2,503,803.35	\$3,301,409.10	\$5,109,099.32
Indirect Effect	8.68	\$398,280.20	\$750,434.17	\$1,374,746.92
Induced Effect	16.94	\$663,355.78	\$1,234,212.70	\$2,232,486.14
Total Effect	118.28	\$3,565,439.33	\$5,286,055.97	\$8,716,332.38
South Dakota Non-Resident WIA Hunters				
	Employment	Labor Income	Value Added	Output
Direct Effect	45.51	\$1,474,449.27	\$1,904,475.42	\$2,740,831.43
Indirect Effect	4.12	\$184,237.88	\$325,082.35	\$614,655.26
Induced Effect	9.68	\$379,127.44	\$705,391.51	\$1,275,934.18
Total Effect	59.31	\$2,034,814.59	\$2,934,949.27	\$4,631,420.87

⁹ IMPLAN employment is defined to include full and part-time annual average jobs for both employees and self-employed workers. Because this is based on annual average employment, seasonal workers are also accounted for in the employment numbers (Day 2009).

¹⁰ Value added multiplier = total value added ÷ direct value added

¹¹ Economic impacts are defined as the income and employment in South Dakota due to the inflow of non-resident WIA hunter expenditures. This non-resident inflow is considered new money to the state and would not occur if non-residents did not hunt WIAs in South Dakota (Loomis et al. 2015).

¹² Labor income = all forms of employment income, including wages, benefits and proprietor income. Value added (GDP) = labor income + payment to business owners, investors, landlords and government. Since it includes labor income, value added and labor income cannot be added together (Loomis et al. 2015; Day 2009)

Overall, WIA hunting generates a significant level of economic activity in South Dakota. In addition to the economic contributions discussed above, the Walk-In Area program administered by GFP made approximately \$2 million in direct payments to participating landowners. The effects that these direct payments have on South Dakota's economy were not included in this analysis. In 2015, the cost to GFP to administer and implement the WIA program (including the direct payments to landowners) was \$2.1 million. Relative to the total effect of WIA hunters' expenditures in 2015 on South Dakota's GDP (\$8.2 million) the WIA program resulted in a 285% return on investment.¹³

Comments

Respondents' comments did not have to be specific to any question asked on the survey but rather they were free to provide additional comments at the end. Text which appears inside brackets [] has been added to clarify respondents' reference to specific survey questions, identify parts of comments which were illegible, or in some cases to indicate where personally identifying information or expletives has been omitted.

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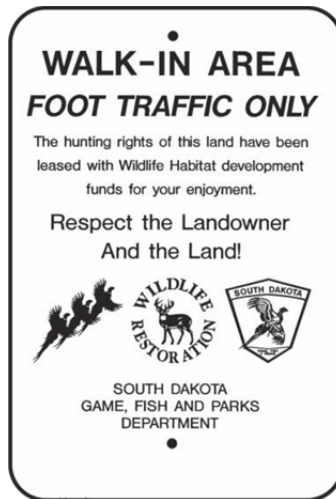
¹³ ROI = $((\$8,221,005.24 - \$2,133,114.32) \div \$2,133,114.32) * 100\%$

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Appendix A
Survey Instrument (format adjusted)

Hunter Evaluation of Walk-In Areas in South Dakota – 2015

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks



Please take a few minutes to tell us about your experiences hunting in South Dakota during the 2015 hunting seasons. The purpose of this survey is to measure the use of the different land types for various kinds of hunting, and if you hunted Walk-In Areas, to get your assessment of the Walk-In Area Program. The information you provide is an important part of the decision- making process for South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' Walk-In Area Program.

All information you provide will be treated confidentially and will not be linked to your name.

Important Definitions

Walk-In Areas – refers to private land in the Walk-In Area Program that is specifically posted with signs similar to the one above.

CREP – refers to private land enrolled in the James River Watershed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Public Land – refers to lands owned by the state or federal government such as Game Production Areas (GPA), State Parks and Recreation Areas, Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA), National Forests and Grasslands, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands, Bureau of Land Management lands, School and Public Lands, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lands.

Upland Game Hunting

First, we would like to ask you some questions about your experiences hunting upland game species in South Dakota during 2015.

Q1a. In 2015, did you hunt **grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge** in South Dakota?

- No
- Yes, how many days did you hunt? Number of days

Q1b. If YES, approximately what percentage of your total time hunting grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge in South Dakota was spent on each of the following land types?

____% Walk-In Areas

____% CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program)

____% Public Land (Game Production Areas, Waterfowl Production Areas, National Grassland, etc.)

____% Private Land

____% Road Rights-of-Way

Q2a. In 2015, did you hunt **pheasants** in South Dakota?

- No
- Yes, how many days did you hunt? Number of days

Q2b. If YES, approximately what percentage of your total time hunting pheasants in South Dakota was spent on each of the following land types?

____% Walk-In Areas

____% CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program)

____% Public Land (Game Production Areas, Waterfowl Production Areas, National Grassland, etc.)

____% Private Land

____% Road Rights-of-Way

If you did NOT hunt upland game on Walk-In Areas or CREP in 2015, please SKIP AHEAD to Q6a below. If you hunted grouse, prairie chicken, partridge, or pheasants on Walk-In Areas or CREP lands this year please answer the questions in Box A.

Box A

Q3. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the Walk-In Areas you hunted for upland game (grouse, prairie chicken, partridge, or pheasants) in 2015?

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| No Opinion | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q4. How would you rate the importance of the 2015 Walk-In Area Program for your upland game hunting (grouse, prairie chicken, partridge, or pheasant)?

- No Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical → probably would not hunt if it were not for the Walk-In Areas Program

Q5. How would you rate the importance of the 2015 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for your upland game hunting (grouse, prairie chicken, partridge, or pheasants)?

- No Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical → probably would not hunt if it were not for the CREP Program

Big Game Hunting

Next, we would like to ask you some questions about your 2015 experiences hunting deer, antelope, and turkey in South Dakota.

Q6a. In 2015, did you hunt **deer** in South Dakota?

No → If NO, please SKIP AHEAD to Q7 on page 3.

Yes, how many days did you hunt? Number of days

Q6b. If YES, approximately what percentage of your total time hunting deer in South Dakota was spent on each of the following land types?

	East of Missouri River	West of Missouri River
Walk-In Areas	_____ %	_____ %
CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program)	_____ %	N/A
Public Land	_____ %	_____ %
Private Land	_____ %	_____ %

Q6c. If you spent anytime deer hunting on *public land*, which of the following types of public land did you deer hunt in 2015?

Please select all that apply:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Did not hunt public land | <input type="checkbox"/> State Park and Recreation Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Game Production Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> National Forest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Grassland | <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Land Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corps of Engineers | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfowl Production Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Wildlife Refuge | |

Q7a. In 2015, did you hunt **antelope** in South Dakota?

- No
- Yes, how many days did you hunt? Number of days

Q7b. If YES, approximately what percentage of your total time hunting antelope in South Dakota was spent on each of the following land types?

_____ % Walk-In Areas

_____ % CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program)

_____ % Public Land (National Grassland, School and Public Land, Bureau of Land Management, etc.)

_____ % Private Land

Q8a. In 2015, did you hunt **turkey** in South Dakota?

- No
- Yes, how many days did you hunt? Number of days

Q8b. If YES, approximately what percentage of your total time hunting turkey in South Dakota was spent on each of the following land types?

____% Walk-In Areas

____% CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program)

____% Public Land (National Grassland, School and Public Land, National Grasslands, etc.)

____% Private Land

*If you did NOT hunt big game on Walk-In Areas or CREP in 2015, please SKIP AHEAD to Q12a on page 5. **If you hunted deer, antelope, or turkey on Walk-In Areas or CREP lands this year please answer the questions in Box B.***

Box B

Q9. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the Walk-In Areas you hunted for big game (deer, antelope, or turkey) in 2015?

No Opinion	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q10. How would you rate the importance of the 2015 Walk-In Area Program for your big game hunting (deer, antelope, or turkey)?

- No Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical → probably would not hunt if it were not for the Walk-In Areas Program

Q11. How would you rate the importance of the 2015 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for your big game hunting (deer, antelope, or turkey)?

- No Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical → probably would not hunt if it were not for the CREP Program

Waterfowl Hunting

Next, we would like to ask you some questions about your 2015 experiences hunting waterfowl in South Dakota.

Q12a. In 2015, did you hunt **waterfowl** in South Dakota?

- No
- Yes, how many days did you hunt? Number of days

Q12b. If YES, approximately what percentage of your total time hunting waterfowl in South Dakota was spent on each of the following land types?

____% Walk-In Areas

____% CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program)

____% Public Land (Game Production Areas, Waterfowl Production Areas, etc.)

____% Private Land

*If you did NOT hunt waterfowl on Walk-In Areas or CREP in 2015, please SKIP AHEAD to the next section (Overall Evaluation of Walk-In Areas) on page 6. **If you hunted waterfowl on Walk-In Areas or CREP lands this year please answer the questions in Box C.***

Box C

Q13. How would you rate the overall habitat quality of the Walk-In Areas you hunted for waterfowl in 2015?

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| No Opinion | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q14. How would you rate the importance of the 2015 Walk-In Area Program for your waterfowl hunting?

- No Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical - probably would not hunt if it were not for the Walk In Areas Program

Box C cont.

Q15. How would you rate the importance of the 2015 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for your waterfowl hunting?

- No Opinion
- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- Critical → probably would not hunt if it were not for the CREP Program

Overall Evaluation of Walk-In Areas

*Finally, we would like to ask you some questions about your overall evaluation of Walk-In Areas in South Dakota. **If you did not hunt Walk-In Areas in 2015 please STOP HERE and return your survey in the envelope provided. If you have additional comments, please use the space at the end of the survey to share your thoughts.***

Q16. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the 2015 Walk-In Area Program?

Please select one:

- | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Very
Dissatisfied | Moderately
Dissatisfied | Slightly
Dissatisfied | Neutral | Slightly
Satisfied | Moderately
Satisfied | Very
Satisfied |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q17. How many total trips did you make to hunt Walk-In Areas in South Dakota during 2015?
Trip is defined as the time from when you left your permanent residence to when you returned to it.

_____ Number of trips

Q18. Why did you choose to hunt Walk-In Areas in 2015?

Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult or no private land access | <input type="checkbox"/> Just happened to come across the land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close proximity to my home | <input type="checkbox"/> Ease and simplicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited amount of time | <input type="checkbox"/> No other public land nearby |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other private land required a fee | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends/family wanted to hunt there |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good hunting on these lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, <i>please specify:</i> |

Q19. How would you rate the importance of each of the following to your overall hunting experience on Walk-In Areas?

Please select one for each item:

	No Opinion	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important
Increase number of Walk-In Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase marketing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limit number of users	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve access and parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q20. In the future, do you plan to hunt on Walk-In Areas in South Dakota?

- No
- Yes

Q21. Which of the following is your **most preferred** hunt when hunting on Walk-In Areas?

Please select only one:

- Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge
- Pheasant
- Big game (deer, antelope, or turkey)
- Waterfowl

*The remaining questions ask about your **most recent** trip for your **most preferred** hunt on Walk-In Areas in South Dakota.*

Q22. On your most recent hunting trip to Walk-In Areas, how many people were in your party?

_____ Number of people (including yourself)

Q23. Did your party include any youth or mentored hunters?

- No
- Yes

Q24. How many total nights away from your permanent place of residence did this trip include?

_____ Number of nights

Q25. Approximately how far did you travel (one-way) from your permanent residence on your most recent hunting trip on Walk-In Areas in South Dakota?

_____Miles (one-way)

Q26. Was hunting on Walk-In Areas the primary destination of this trip?

- Yes, primary or sole destination of trip from residence
- No, one of equally important destinations of trip from residence
- No, primary destination was not suitable so went here instead
- No, just an incidental stop on a trip to other destination

The last 2 questions are used to collect information on the overall value of the Walk-In Area Program to the state of South Dakota and local economies, and will be used in SDGFP's planning for and management of the Walk-In Area Program. All of your responses are confidential and only a summary of results will be reported.

Q33. On your most recent hunting trip to Walk-In Areas, please estimate how much you spent on the following items for this trip only.

Please provide your best estimate for each item below:

Trip Expenditure Items	Spent Inside South Dakota	Spent Outside South Dakota
Food & Drink	\$	\$
Lodging	\$	\$
Transportation (e.g. gasoline, oil, airline tickets, etc.)	\$	\$

Q34. In all of 2015, approximately how much did you spend on equipment and other items for hunting your most preferred species on Walk-In Areas?

Please provide your best estimate for each item below:

Annual Expenditure Items	Spent Inside South Dakota	Spent Outside South Dakota
Equipment (e.g. guns, ammo, bows, arrows, etc.)	\$	\$
Accessories (e.g. decoys, calls, binoculars, safety equipment, cameras, day packs, etc.)	\$	\$
Apparel (e.g. camouflage, blaze orange, vests, foul weather gear, etc.)	\$	\$
Special Equipment (e.g. campers, ATVs, etc.)	\$	\$
Licenses or permits	\$	\$

Thank You for your valuable time completing this survey!

Those are all the questions we have for you. If you have additional comments about SDGFP's Walk-In Area program or CREP, please use the space below to share your ideas. These comments will be compiled and given to the GFP Commissioners, staff biologists, administrators, and made available to the public.

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks reserves the right, but not the obligation, to remove at its discretion any language which discloses personally identifiable information about yourself or any other individual, as well as language which is obscene, profane, offensive, malicious, discriminatory, defamatory or otherwise unlawful

Appendix B Comments

The views expressed in survey comments are the views of the commenting respondent(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks or the author(s) of this report. Neither the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks nor the author(s) guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of any opinion or view expressed in respondents' comments. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks reserves the right, but not obligation, to remove at its discretion any language which discloses personally identifiable information about respondents or any other individual, as well as language which is obscene, profane, offensive, malicious, discriminatory, defamatory or otherwise unlawful.

* Note – Respondents' comments did not have to be specific to any question asked on the survey but rather they were free to provide additional comments at the end. Text which appears inside brackets [] has been added to indicate where personally identifying information or expletives has been omitted.

Like to see more food plots predator control.

The public ground by us is terrible. They put over 100 head of cattle on these during the prime nesting for pheasants. Every year now for the last 3 years. They leave the electric fence out there year round. They have alfalfa planted in the crop ground and of course they cut it in prime nesting season for the pheasants, and they got more cuttings off than I do. Wish I could have that kind of cuttings off of mine. It is the worst management of ground I have seen in my life. Just a big joke. It's the one Northeast of Mount Vernon. The biggest joke of hunting land I have ever seen in my life.

1009 I do truly enjoy the public lands here in South Dakota, the opportunities are excellent for big game hunting. However, some ranchers out west seem to believe that they can land lock access to these public lands. Specifically in the county that my group antelope hunted this year. Not a pleasant experience to go through.

1031 I think you should cut rifle tags in most counties for deer and antelope, most people are not seeing the numbers they use to.

1038 I believe that South Dakota residents should have more of a right and opportunity to hunt walk in areas than the out of state people for Pheasants, grouse, waterfowl, partridge, etc. Big game is different as you know. In my local counties Dewey and Ziebach, the walk in areas were overworked by out of state pheasant hunters and during scouting for archery deer season and during the season, that deer were forced out of walk in areas and did not return because of dogs used by hunters. There were always out of state pheasant hunters in walk in areas during November which made it difficult to hunt deer in those areas. Please consider changing the pheasant and grouse seasons to include Nonresident and resident hunters to begin hunting pheasants and grouse the last weekend in September to the first week of November. where it would be closed to out of state hunters. December 1st or the first weekend pheasant and grouse would be open to out of state hunters to the end of the day on the 3rd Sunday in January. the following year. This way, or a schedule like it would limit dogs being in walk in areas scaring off big game from those areas during November when those seasons are open. My hunting party had filled all the deer tags on private lands in 2015 because no deer were found on

walk in areas and it was observed that out of state hunters had been consistently on those walk in areas during November. Hunting dogs do flush deer out of areas and they do not come back because of the dog scent left in the area. A lot of years of observation have observed that to be true. I hunted pheasants up to the last day of the season and there were opportunities that there could have been hunting of them further into January, so not having November hunted heavily by out of state hunters would still allow time for hunters to hunt in South Dakota the same amount of time, just not during November where deer hunting seasons open. I have driven 50 + miles to walk in areas to find out of state vehicles parked by the area at sunrise waiting for the shooting hours to start and the dogs are out and running about the area. That totally ruins hunting for that walk in area. I don't hunt with dogs at all and I get just as many birds or more than people who hunt with dogs. I know it helps the sport and all, but it also makes hunting other species difficult if dogs have been in the walk in areas, deer won't stay in the walk in areas after dogs have been there. .

- 1044 I would rather see SD follow Montana's program for limited access on private lands. It seems that once a walk in area is opened here that the quality of hunting on these lands becomes useless due to excessive pressure. Thanks
- 1046 Not enough walk-in areas in my location. Walk-in areas in the eastern part of the state tend to get hammered by pheasant hunters frequently throughout the day making them almost worthless for other types of hunting.
- 1048 I moved to SD from Wisconsin 9 years ago because I love to hunt. Living in Chamberlain is a dream for hunting and fishing. I do not have private land to hunt so spend my time on public. Thanks you for the opportunity for the hunting grounds and access. Thank you for providing folks to monitor these grounds for us.
- 1053 Please add more public access areas.
- 1054 To many of the walk in areas I did look at to hunt had been overgrazed with little to no cover. The CRP ground I hunted isn't being maintained properly. Over abundance of thistle and other junk weeds. Good programs but need to be monitored better.
- 1063 ALL walking needs to be posted as such. Particularly west river. It's nice to know that you are hunting legally.
- 1068 i think walk in areas should be color coded as pasture or crop land. One would think that large tracts of wia would be pasture and then after driving to it, the land is a 2000 acre harvested bean field that couldn't hide a mouse. I would also like to see ore tracts of WIA spread out. Large areas get too crowded with people during the rifle seasons. Large tracts of WIA are hard to access and are not being used efficiently. I am an young athlete full of piss and vinegar and I don't want to shoot a deer one-wo mile from the truck again. Maybe we should make retrieval exceptions. As for other public areas such as blm and school land that is land locked by private land, we need to make public on whether these lands are accessible via section lines. Federal lans School lands need to be signed and accessible.
- 1094 some areas around Martin SD were almost bare, with very limited habitat
- 1105 I think these prorams are very important to people who do not have private land to hunt on. A lot of walk-in areas are pastures, would be nice if there would be more farm ground wih sloughs with cattails or something with more cover. Maybe consider raising the amount paid to farmers will help.

- 1109 The only time I hunt WIA's is resident only. Due to way too much resident & nonresident pressure during regular season. Tourism needs to slow down!
- 1113 I would like to see pheasant hunting disallowed at least 2 weeks prior to the opening of Deer hunting on all walk in areas. this would allow the Deer an opportunity to settle in these areas. as it is now pheasant hunters chase all the Deer out before theseason opens.
- 1115 places that I have hunted my whole life with family that's are favorite places to go is no longer now people are not walking in there just going to other people's favorite places and its crazy places I have hunted I would spend the whole week hunting and not see one person then no one shut it down make it walk in now if someone gets one A to far to get it out and people are too lazy to get it out so they will leave it I don't see shutting it down for this long it's never been a problem and now it is I don't get it
- 1125 Although I did not hunt walk in areas this year, I have in the past and believe these areas are critical enhancement to the South Dakota hunting experience and hope they continue in the future.
- 1132 Overall state Walk in Areas are great places to hunt big game. The challenge many times is signage. If I did not have my gps with the land marked, you would never know they were for public hunting. I hunt in Harding county a lot. Many ranchers post no huning signs on walk in, school and public lands. They also limit access by closing gates and posting no hunting signs. I have been challenged by some ranchers when accessing lands, but once they know I am clear I'm on public lands they leave us alone. Is here any thing GFP can do to ensure access to some public lands that don't have roads to them. There are many public areas north of camp crooks that have no identifiable access. The ranch gets paid to put into public hunting, but it ends up being their ow private hunting area, paid for by sportsman and woman in SD. Can you include access points on the GPS maps? The state does a good job with the resources it has. I appreciate what you do for the SD sportsman. Without these lands I wouldn't hunt. I refuset to pay to hunt a natural resource on private land.
- 1135 out west conditions were good east river lots of no cover plots
- 1143 I really like the WIA program. It gives hunters more opportunity. Keep trying to improve the habitat on them.
- 1146 If they are walk in areas the farmers can not cut and bail the whole thing and have grass that is 3 inches tall and get paid for it. There is no habitat and it is not fair to pay them for their hay fields which they sell the hay for profit. As a whole yo need to get more land into CRP, our numbers of game animals have really suffered during the loss of valuable CRP land.
- 1151 The walk-in areas that we now have are great.It would be nice to have some more areas to hunt of this quality.
- 1154 Have good habitat. Don't pay for poor walk in areas.
- 1162 live stock should be kept of state leased land!
- 1171 The walkin land in Clark Co. isnot very good land to hunt . Most of it is plowed up before the seasons begin. And most of the land has been in the program for many years.I thought these lands were only allowed to be in the program for 3yrs..We need betterland enrolled in the program.
- 1180 Please keep this program alive

- 1183 For 25 to 30 years I went Black Hills deer hunting with a group of 5 or 6 guys, family & friends. We did not shoot trophy deer and frequently did not fill our tags. But we did stay in motels, buy our meals and hunting supplies and enjoyed the time spent together. Now tags have become so difficult to draw that we gave up on BH deer hunting completely. For 25 to 30 years I spent 5 or 6 weekends a year taking young kids prairie dog hunting in the grasslands and deer and antelope hunting. I am now a senior citizen and am not able to carry a varmint rifle and gear a couple miles and sit in the sun all afternoon so when driving in the grasslands became forbidden even to retrieve, I no longer have a place to hunt prairie dogs, deer or antelope. I can now understand why a growing number of people are opposed to letting the government own or control more land. Gov't regulations seem to eventually take away our ability to enjoy the land.
- 1184 The CREP ground is outstanding cover. Please keep this program in place and expand it if possible.
- 1193 The digital maps that can be downloaded for GPS are awesome! The process to download them is not awesome.
- 1203 1, Most walk in land is grazed to nothing 2. There is not enough grassland parking access for Red Shirt Canyon west of Red Shirt Village 3. If your going to lease grassland to ranchers for little of nothing . At least fence off the spring, draws so it dont get destroyed. The cows pack it down to nothing, beak off all the bushes & brush, leaving no good habitat. 4. If we cant drive on grassland, ranchers should have to check cattle on horseback
- 1204 I'll say this till I'm blue in the face - the GFP needs to change the rifle deer/antelope seasons. They need to cut the tags for rifle to 50 or so per county, depending on the year. You need to make a rifle buck tag a "special thing." To control populaions use rifle for doe tags. Then introduce 250 or "whatever the average" is on deer number of muzzleloader tags with scope. Put more of the rifle buck tags in muzzleloader. 1. People can't hunt from a pickup as easily. 2. Bigger bucks, entice more pople over the years. 3. People will have to "plan" a hunt & spend more money. Lodging, blinds, clothes, accessories. It's not as easy as rifle hunting. 4. Also might transition people into gun hunting to bow. Where they actually hunt. Where even mor money will be spent on SD hunting. Trust me I have hunted all big game every way in SD. I am not biased on anything just want to make hunting better.
- 1230 South Dakota Game Fish & Parks. I would like to make a comment on your mountain lion hunting in the Black Hills of South Dakota. I have close to 20 yrs preference in Custer State Park for Elk. All I get on information & pictures on my cell phone is that o elk killed by lions. Why can't mountain lion season open when elk season and deer seasons are going on. Thank you, Rod Holin Ps. My Friends agree
- 1252 I do have a concern about how you select Walk-In Areas. My neighbor has a Walk-In that is land locked by my land. No one ever asked me for public easement for access to this Walk-In. Hunters started driving across my land leaving many large ruts when it ws wet. NOT HAPPY!!! I contacted my Conservation Officer who basically dismissed it and stuck up a foot traffic only sign which got shot up and knocked down the first night. So, I still have hunters trespassing on my land just to get to your Walk-In. Is tht right? Can you just do whatever you want with regards to adjoining landowners? Wouldn't hurt to at least ask. That's what I taught my kids to do!
- 1255 SD has great public hunting opportunities, can't beat it.

- 1264 The Walk in areas lack cover or food for birds and they are way overgrazed there should be a rule about this before the state pays for barren ground thank you and the game production areas are the same problem there used to be crops left on these for wildlife but havnt seen any lately
- 1271 Thank you for allowing the access to so much land.. Yea the hunting is tougher but it's a very rewarding challenge.. Also how do you gain access to landlocked areas why have them if you can not have access..
- 1281 An injury stop me from hunting most of this year
- 1282 For the most part the CREP has some habitat for game hunting. In the case of a SDGF's walk in areas that I have seen there is very little or not habitat for game hunting. Why is the state paying land owners for walk in areas with no habitat for hunting Land owners should use a portion of the money from SDGF to establish game habitat in walk in areas. I appreciate the effort SDGFP is making to improve hunting and fishing in SD.
- 1290 My largest complaint is spending the time to scout an area for good habitat and signs of grouse Then when the season opens ..going back to that same area only to find the farmer/rancher cut the wheat field down to the dirt and removed any reason for bird to be in the area .
- 1294 Access to BLM land is also very important and should be marked better. If you are hunting without a GPS, it is easy to trespass.
- 1295 stop ATV, trucks driving on closed roads or open it back up to all. It's not fair to those who follow the rules. Rules you have on this land. Where are the GFP on opening deer season, people are all over and most of them are off roading.
- 1296 Please stop using funds to buy land and use it to either help in paying teachers or lowering the costs of camping and hunting for residents in SD. Thanks.
- 1302 love the gps app!
- 1317 I recently moved to the Black Hills area and noticed that besides the National Forrest ground, there lacks very little walk in areas especially near Rapid City. I have traveled to Butte County by Belle Fourche and thought about applying for antelope therebut there is hardly any public land, but tons of antelope. I have also done research on some BLM and School Land where one can't access it unless you trespass through private ground. I'm sure I could find out who the landowner is but I'm just curious if smething can be done to fix this problem.
- 1318 I feel that all of the programs are important, including walk ins. State and federal lands with walk in opportunities provide lots of good hunting in SD. My biggest concern about walk ins are lots seem to be over grazed and lacking substantial habitat t maintain quality hunting!
- 1320 The walk-in program is great. Not everybody has access to or can afford to hunt expensive private land. If you want youth to be involved in hunting, they need quality places to hunt, otherwise they will be hunting on their cell phone.
- 1323 I'm 67 years old I walk in and get a 4x4 mule buck, how do I get it out. Please let me know.
- 1327 Please monitor the Walk-in areas.Ex. My experience in past years in central Lyman county was far different then other areas. Seem that some cattle operators on those lands leased for walk-in are allowed to graze vast amounts of cattle during season date. This makes it nearly impossible to hunt these leased pastures during the season legally.

- In the same county there are several walk-in areas that are grazed to the point that vegetation is nearly non-existent. Ranch or farm ground that has no habitat and is not near ground that has habitat should not be considered for lease. I feel like a poor investment and that sportsman tax dollars are being taken advantage of. Ex. Several pieces of ground in central Lyman County.
- 1336 We need to raise the out of state prices on licence. Every time I go to one of my favorite spots to hunt or fish an out of state person is where I want to go. Why should I pay more for a non resident to take my game?
- 1340 I think the Walk-in program is very useful as a landowner. I can have hunters on the property and unless they contact me or are doing something wrong, I don't know they are there. I have had very good results from my Walk-in area and hunt them in the neighborhood whenever possible.
- 1358 If we lose walk in or road hunting, hunting will die for the average South Dakotan! It is important to keep these aspects, because the commercial folks have taken over the sport! All the land owners can see is the quick cash that doesn't get reported on the IRS!
- 1362 would like to see more walk-in in Perkins county. it seems like 70% Of the hunters hunt walk-in. wouldn't mind paying higher tag fees if we could get more walk-in state wide
- 1363 Open blm and grassland and national forest back to open drive. Public land should be open to the public as it was intended for. Your discriminating against those without four wheelers. Open to all or closed to all. Do it right.
- 1373 I'll never hunt west river again!!! It was a totally bullshit experience I'm disabled and retired. I was hunting [name omitted] and a lessee was driving around in a pick-up and hunting and shooting . I called the game warden and he did absolutely nothing! I have to walk and hunt by the rules!!! That [expletive] is perfectly healthy and doesn't even get a fine. Kind of a one sided system----- screw the hunter and kiss the ass of the landowner! You can call me any time ! [name and number removed]
- 1377 Found walk in areas that had cattle grazing in them and found that to be a conflict of interest.
- 1395 Q18. We have a school section near our farm that holds some game. Occasionally, we investigate, it's pretty cool!
- 1410 Even though I did not hunt public land in 2015 I have used it much in the past and feel it is a great program.
- 1412 Appreciate walk in areas, although most walk in areas are poor wildlife habitats.
- 1419 Stop getting land that you can see everything from road it a waste of time and money that's just stupid really
- 1455 Seems like a lot of these areas are devoid of cover, harvested fields open pasture and such and have little feed value for targeted game. I think if you are paying a landowner for access with GFP moneys there should be more accountability that there is something to hunt on the lands. Some areas had food plots and this is highly desirable, there has to be something there to hold game. Thanks for your efforts.
- 1465 I don't believe there is no excuse that we can't drive on the main road in the Quinn allotments grass lands I've been hunting that for 20 years and always drove the main roads in got out and walked now if you want to hunt it if you shoot a deer your day is gone by the time you go back to your vehicle to get game carrier

- 1467 Out of state waterfowl guides should lose their license if they get caught trespassing on private land.
- 1470 Need CREP in western SD. Turkey licenses are too high - maybe get more hunters interested if costs were about 8 to 10 dollars each. It looks to me like the reason you have 2 gobblers for the price of \$35 is to make it look like a good deal. Why didn't you have more mentor tags when you know you would not get rid of all tags in popular or densely populated areas. Need to get rid of more mountain lions as they kill too many elk. Keep or get lion licenses at a low cost. Probably impossible, but if SD had Wind Cave to regulate management we could offer elk hunting in Wind Cave. The elk resource since it is over populated. Also, there should be a separate lottery on elk hunting for people with 15 plus preference points. Older hunters 60 and over may never get a chance to hunt an elk in the Hills.
- 1471 Unit 49a for WRD has a decent amount of public land however, the land is small, land locked by private or in an area that doesn't hold deer. Yes some deer may wander through it but with the amount of road hunters and private land so close why would they. The buffalo gap national grassland has a lot of potential to produce some really big mule deer. I chased several bucks there during archery season and thankfully they made it through WRD season. Again like all the other public land in SD it appeared as though the Indianapolis 500 took place there. Vehicle access should be limited to this area and it will do several things, 1. It will produce bigger deer and keep people from shooting from roads 2. It will reduce the number of lazy people who hunt there and it will keep people from driving wherever they want when the season opens. I understand some hunters may have mobility issues so maybe designated areas for handicapped people would be a benefit. There is nothing more frustrating than walking to an area to actually hunt then to have some lazy "hunter" drive up to within 200 yards of you. I realize I may be different in the way I hunt but everyone can agree that driving around and shooting from roads isn't hunting. There is no respect in the sport that way
- 1485 Would like to see more walk in areas with habitat that is suitable for what you are hunting. I know most public walk in areas are home to multiple small and big game animals and draw multiple types of hunters. DO not know what the percentages are for hunters hunting public or private but have hunted rifle season West River and East River both and archery hunted big game East and West River. When I go hunting I'm sure everyone has safety in mind as much as me when heading out. My one and only rifle hunt West River I walked into public ground in the dark to where I wanted to sit. When day light broke I had orange all around me on every ridge there was orange and then guns started going off. I waited a while for everything to slow down then left staying on ridges in full view. Archery had another incident sitting in tree on public land East River when shotgun went off and pellets were hitting tree branches around me got out of tree as fast as I could. This leads me to the limit number of people and why I ask the percentages that hunt public versus private. I know that limiting the number of people on public land is probably not possible but if the percent that hunt public versus hunting private land is out of line one way higher or lower can we issue more tags in the lower percentage and less in the higher? For archery I do not hunt public when multiple seasons are open. Rifle I do not hunt public at all. Do we need more public land? I'm not writing this because I'm mad or angry. I'm just concerned about making hunting as safe as we can and what I personally have experienced hunting on public ground and maybe others have also.
- 1495 Actually survey the lands. So we don't get over grazed pastures to hunt in

- 1496 Several landowners in Harding County will take down their walk-in signs and then patrol the roads claiming that we cannot hunt on their land ,,,,, even with the GPS they will fight you until it's just not worth it . I am sick of that, wished there was away to fix it, thanks
- 1510 The forest service & public grounds down by Hot Springs (the H2 unit) need to be more accessible. There were only a few spots we could access during my cow elk hunt. I would say that 80-90% was inaccessible because it was in the middle of private propert. There needs to be roads or at least trails that the public can use to access these areas. This goes for all public ground in SD. There are a number of areas weather it be walk in, school ground etc. What is the point of having these areas if you cannot get to them anyway.
- 1517 Thanks you SDGFP
- 1520 Some of the walk in areas are very good habitat and offer a good opportunity to take game animals, other areas are very poor and the odds of even seeing a game animal on them is low. I hope compensation for the areas are based on the quality of the habita.
- 1522 The walk in program is one of the besr programs that GFP has put together. My only real critique is that the quality of some of land enrolled is wildlife is poor, I mean really poor. A bit more focus on the quality of possible land enrollments not just th quantity. I would travel much farther to hunt a quality spot than to go to a marginal one nearby. By quality I mean habitat that has real potential to hold game. I will hunt a spot that im sure will give me one opportunity rather than one that may mightgive me several. Quality over quantity everytime. Thanks guys and gals of GFP.
- 1523 For those of us who are disabled not driving into grassland areas have prevented myself and my wife from hunting on grasslands, we try to walk into walkin areas but it is extremely difficult for both of us. Disabled people should be able to have better was to use these lands.
- 1526 I did not have time to hunt grouse last year, but in prior years I've had some good grouse hunting on WIA's West of the river. Overcrowded during antelope season. Ever since the split was taken out of Fall River County the hunting has been terrible. Reall don't care if I go or not anymore.
- 1527 I do believe walk ins are important. However, alot of the walk ins that are in crop are pretty pointless.
- 1528 Habitat, habitat, habitat
- 1533 I didn't hunt ducks this year because my dog is lame. Normally I would spend 3 or 4 days on the grasslands hunting ducks. Having walk-in areas close number to the grasslands makes the hunting experience much better as it spreads out the people so there is't as much traffic.
- 1546 We are lucky enough to be able to hunt on our own lands or with our friends on their lands sharing experiences with them. It is a family activity at our house. Our kids enjoy hunting and 4-H shooting sports. Thank you for partnership between the two enities.
- 1575 Have some form or crop to hunt thru is vital. Also there are ground that are being paid for that have no reason to be part of the program. I would say pay for better land and do less of it. I appreciate having this form of hunting available!
- 1576 I did all of my archery deer hunts on state walk in land awsome time lot of big deer only part that messed me up was pheasant hunts came in to play mid to late season but share the land with the out of state people makes a good view on the state.

- 1586 Train your enforcement officers to aid hunters not harass them.
- 1594 Q34. Don't tell my wife. Haha. Kudos to State Staff! We have a great resource in SD outdoors although pheasants in the SE area of SD has been limited due to pressure. I live near a WPA/GPA which has 3 - 4 out of state parties go through it 90% of the days during open season. Very low survival rate for pheasants there. Still enjoy getting out. Thanks.
- 1600 Keep up the good work you do
- 1609 Some walk in areas have absolutely no cover or habitat for game. Should require a minimum amount of cover left in field for payment. Some are getting paid for bare plowed fields. Thanks
- 1616 If land is going to be placed in CREP or Walk In, then the farmer should not be able to take the cover down to the bare dirt when he harvests it. Especially since alot of harvesting is done before hunting season. Not worse than driving up to a Public Hunting opportunity and its nothing more than a bare field. Not to mention all the farmers that plant to the road or right of way, leaving no cover what so ever in the name of eaking out an extra bushel or two. Also no public land should be landlocked or srrounded by private land, thus making it unaccessible unless you are dropped off my helicopter. Why would I want to use tax dollars for land that is only accessible by the landowner.
- 1619 Landowners put their worst ground in as walk ins for a check. People abuse the walk in program and lead on to private land and ruin the hunt for the trust worthy people who enjoy it. Make your signs for the species available to hunt. It's not open to camping and other events. Access is also a problem if it is surrounded by private, how can it be a walk in? Or if they have to walk a mile to get to it, they don't take their animal.
- 1627 In western and eastern SD it is vital to keep the program going. Hunters that do not have access to private ground nor can afford private ground fees need this so generations can experience what we have to offer. SD is a very rich state for wide life. want to teach my kids and grand kids the value of what we have. The Walk-In and other programs will enable that as I cannot afford trespassing fees.
- 1635 [name omitted] needs to be set straight when it comes to hunting public land north of Wasta. He attempts to run public land hunters off the land each year. He confronted me and it almost ended in a fist fight. Instead I took the high road and left because I wan't able to get a Warden in the area to respond. When this happens in the future, because I know it will, I will be calling a Sherriff. Hunter harassment is not a given right that he has.
- 1636 My biggest concern is that a significant number of the enrolled WIAs (especially East River) have marginal hunting habitat at best. Many have little residual cover after harvest, or have been extensively overgrazed. Many are also lacking significant surace water resources for waterfowl hunting. Small size of many East River WIA's severely limits big game hunting opportunities. Many of the West River WIAs have sufficient size and diversity to support better Big Game hunting, as well as upland game. I ould like to see efforts to secure additional WIAs contiguous with existing public lands, to further enhance both properties.
- 1641 Food plots would be nice to see. I understand the cost and up keep also for this. Maybe someday.
- 1646 a lot of the walk in areas are completely barren land no cover even for a mouse-really someone needs to evaluate these lands that are being paid for!!

- 1657 i didnt hunt any walk areas in 2015 over the past few years ive talked to a lot of west river deer hunters that claim the land owners or outfitters adjacent to walk in areas run through them mainly with 4-wheelers to chase the game out for their clients o hunters.about ten yrs ago i hunted some walk-in areas out west [deer] for as far as i couldsee and walked a gopher could not have hidden.that keeps me from going west river. im sure there r better places than i was at,but i cant keep up with the atvs nutvs im sure u have heard it before.thanks a friend with private land is PRICELESS
- 1658 The walk-in areas in our area are usually heavily hunted, especially during deer season. I have checked a couple of walk-in areas in the past seasons and they seemed to be well used by out of state and out of county hunters.
- 1670 The walk in between New Underwood and Union Center is very poor
- 1680 I believe Walk-In Areas and/or CREP are critical to the future of hunting in SD. With the continued reduction of habitat on private land and the increasing difficulty in getting permission to hunt, having these areas is crucial for wildlife and for huntres. I must admit that it has been frustrating in several instances to see Walk-In areas that really do not offer any habitat for wildlife due to having been grazed off or dug up for farming purposes; honestly this feels like the landowner is having his cae and eating it too and the only benefit to a sportsman would be if an animal was pushed onto this land from somewhere else with habitat and that you could then access this land.
- 1681 SD is my place of residency bc of what the public hunting Access provides. Taking way or limiting any of the current programs in place will make it hard on those who utilize what is offered.
- 1683 The walk-in program is a valuable asset for hunters and a great means to increase access to land for public use. However, having hunted in the state for 16 years what I have noticed is that the quality of much of the land I see West River (Harding, Butte,Perkins, Meade counties) is lacking. Many areas I see that are enlisted/renewed in the walk-in program do not show a decent quality of hunting habitat, I would recommend more focus on quality areas.
- 1690 The walk in program is absolutely critical for many sportsmen. Private land is impossible to secure for big game due to ever increasing paid hunting leases and landowners concerned with liability issues. I live close to some of the largest tracks of wal in anywhere and without it there would be little point to even apply for the tags. Having said that 90% or more of those walk in acres are rolling short grass pastures which offers mediocre big game opportunities. Another concern is over crowding oftenduring deer season the walk in are covered in blaze orange and little game is taken because of the over crowding. Lots of landowners enrolled in the program are not nice and treat you like shit for being on the land, regardless if you're following all th rules. It's their land I get that however, if they are going to treat the sportsmen who use it that way, why even enroll in the program?
- 1691 I would like to thank the SD GFP for all they do for us sportsmen. The walk in program is critical to my antelope hunting success for the last 10 years. It is always comforting to know there is a place to hunt that provides excellent opportunity (I typically hunt near Lemmon). I am also thankful that license numbers are adjusted to match game populations. I am very hopeful that something can be done to help the pheasant populations. Current farming practices, economics and trends are severely impactig the pheasant numbers. I am certainly pro farming but I also enjoy hunting pheasants. I wish I had the magic solution. it appears that loss of nesting habitat is probably the driving

- force. I'm not sure how farmers can be adequately incentivized to either save or plant grassland but would love to see some attempts. That's it for me. Again, I feel very lucky to live and hunt in SD. Thanks!
- 1696 Walk-In Areas and CREP Lands are the best thing to happen since sliced bread!!!! Wished we had more!
- 1702 Really would like to see more walkins
- 1706 Walk in and creep are pounded to death by locals and out of staters with nowhere else to go. We have made it a point over the last 30 years to establish relationships. By the way. Walk in areas that are picked bean fields may boost your acres to advertse as available to hunt. But come on guys. it's not cover. It's not a food source and not huntable
- 1719 had privilege to hunt on private land, but wound certainly hunt pubic if needed to. have been times when i did. occasionally road hunt but not this year-think there was not 40%^ in pheasants this year as indicated.
- 1733 Contrary to estimated antelope numbers for west river, I seem to see them in greater numbers. Perhaps I am just lucky but it seems there are more then documented.
- 1749 Email would be cheaper and easier to perse your data
- 1755 Many walk ins were passed by simply because they have no value for hunting, ie picked bean or wheat fields. Others are very good and would travel over an hour to hunt.
- 1756 It seems wasteful to be leasing lands that are clear cut with no beneficial habitat for pheasants and other upland birds. West River it can be ok for grouse hunting but East River, why would we pay a landowner to put signs on his/her land that has 3-6" o grass and clearly no habitat. A person can't hunt standing crops in WIA's. When harvested, these fields rarely hold waterfowl. We are essentially paying farmers to farm their land, and provides no additional benefit to hunters.
- 1761 When you get walk in areas make it so it is not tillable. Except for food plots. Lot of the walk in areas are bare except for a small area.
- 1765 The west River walkin hunting areas seam real good but there are some east river with crops like beans that I think might be a waste of money cause nothing to hunt on a plane bean field.
- 1766 Additional Signage depicting where BLM property begins and ends is highly needed. Without the luxury of spending money for GPS devices it is almost impossible to locate 75%90% of BLM property, even with the annual map guidebook. Too many times have I ben on private property unknowingly. Fortunately, without incident. The same is needed for school/public land particularly in the units 49A, 53B, 53A antelope season.
- 1772 The reason I don't hunt walk in is quality of habitat and the fact we pay to use several farmers and there is nothing to hunt.
- 1775 some walk in that we saw but didn't hunt was harvested and had no cover
- 1781 Wia acres and other public ground is absolutely vital to promote the sport of hunting. Having a place to hunt is the first need for hunting. Availability to all people regardless of financial status helps ensure that hunting can be passed on from geneation to generation.
- 1785 keep it up, need more walk in. state needs to buy more land. need to manage for older deer and bulls

- 1791 Maps need to be more user friendly they are a little confusing.
- 1797 Please make sure walk in area is in place and is not subtracted from after the application period. Hunters plan based off of preapplication land that is available.
- 1802 Keep up the good work, some of the walk in areas are hard to access. All of the predator hunting is on Walk in land, most of the land is good land. I use walk in land 100% for archery antelope. West River at times I have discovered carcuses in the back of walk in with hindquarters, back straps, and head gone. I understand because some is some remote it is very tough to carry it out, but it is frustrating to see.
- 1810 The Walk in program is great. Getting on private land is always a problem, don't know the land owners, which land that they own, etc.
Having the walk in areas available to down load onto a GPS is very handy. We always know where we are and where the boudries are. Thank you.
- 1821 Could all public lands on west river Prarie get mark to say. Walk in or grassland or something to let hunters know that it is public land instead of just trusting the map reading.
- 1824 Why does the state of SD have all the school land out west that is basically in accessible? Why not sell it and buy land easier to access. I've had bad experiences trying to get to them spots. The landowners that surround that small piece of property prety much run the show on it. Thanks.
- 1828 Good deal, push it a little.
- 1849 Like the ground but out west seems like it's grazed down to nothing, east river is great but out of staters pretty much run us locals that deer hunt it out
- 1858 The walkin area is a great idea if there would be enough habitat to hold game. I know the farmer rancher had the right to do as he pleases. But to over graze and run cattle on the walkin durng hunting seasonand get paid for it that is just wasting money.
- 1861 need more of it , with better cover so the game would be there if you hunt it . a lot of are walk-in in western sd is only good for antelope and a few mule deer. but its nice to have so when you draw a license you got some where to go .
- 1864 I am 73 years old and like to hunt walk ins but would like to be able to use a horse to retrieve my deer or antelope .You can use them in Nat. forest why not walk-ins?
- 1868 Too many nonresidents to compete with.....wish we could hunt our own state
- 1892 The Walk in Area and Crep are way over hunted. We have just moved here and have no private land to hunt. All the residents hunt the walk in areas and Crep right away. That leaves little for friends coming from other states to hunt that hasn't been over unted. Some local residents told me they hunt the walk in and crep areas first and save the private land for later in the season. If it wasn't for hunting ditches I think many people on a budget from other states would not come here to hunt. I would not dvise it, for all public land is way over hunted.
- 1896 If it were not for the walk in program I would have very few places to hunt in SD. Some of the Walk Ins are great habitat but others are marginal at best. You have to spend a lot of time and effort and money to find ones that have the habitat that will sutain a population of the species you are looking for. Last year was extremely disappointing because of the limited number of tags that are available to resident hunters. I have hunted in South Dakota for 45 years and its frustrating now that my hunting caeer is winding down, I am allowed fewer and fewer opportunities to hunt in South Dakota. You

- have to wait 3 to 5 years to draw a Black Hills deer tag. Every November 1st I used to watch the sun come up on opening day. Not anymore.
- 1900 I did not hunt on walk in areas in 2015 but I have hunted them in years past and find that you pay them to allow hunting but you get to some of these areas they are running cattle on them and that moves the game animals out onto private land. Not all do tis but some do.
- 1910 For clarification, I was a resident of South Dakota when purchasing 2015 hunting/fishing licenses, but moved to Wisconsin, hence the 700 mile 1-way trip to hunt antelope near Sturgis, SD.
- 1912 During a recent visit to the Grass Lake Public Access boat ramp/area, I discovered a bag full of deer hides, numerous empty shotgun shells, various other things including empty beer cans, candy wrappers, empty ammo boxes, broken glass, and cigarette butts I was wondering if it would be possible for there to be more signs posted about picking up after yourself. Also, it may be beneficial to have a dumpster or garbage receptacle onsite a long with the extra signs.
- 1915 Your survey suggested the idea of limiting the number of people per walk-in area. How exactly would the state enforce such a policy? In short, that is a bad idea.
- 1919 none specifically, popular
- 1920 The walk-in area or CREP program is awesome. I have hunted on them for years and have been very successful in filling my big game tags, even shooting trophy deer!! One thing that I think can be improved in the amount of habitat/cover on the walk-in area. I understand that most of this land is pasture land for the ranchers and then when hunting season comes around it becomes walk-in areas. The cover is null when this happens and it is disappointing to drive 400 miles to a public area to hunt and find ot there isn't enough cover on it to hide a mouse.
- 1930 most of the walk-in areas in my area are over grazed pasture that no one would hunt rabbits
- 1935 Skip the sliding bars next time. They really suck!
- 1943 I am a South Dakota hunter who lives in a area with much Walk-In and Public Land locally. It is very important for the local hunter and it also helps attract other South Dakota hunters and out of state hunters.
- 1950 What about a sign in sheet on the walk in area's. That's how the landowner gets paid. If no one accesses the land due to poor habitat then zero payment. Fine anyone who is caught on the land without signing in. Tired of seeing land that is being paid for e are not able to hunt do to cattle in the pasture or chewed down to dirt.
- 1956 A lot of the land in walk in is pretty bare with nothing on it. Sometimes too many cows on it also.
- 1959 Pheasant hunting is very important to South Dakotans. I would like to see are dollar spent hunting buying land that comes available for the sportsman.
- 1964 thank you for managing all that land and giving us such great places to hunt. I greatly appreciate it.
- 1965 I have hunted public land in SD for nearly all my life. The opportunities to hunt public land in this state are fairly numerous, however, in my opinion good habitat is lacking in most public hunting areas. As a pheasant hunter, I personally target the CRP program

- lands because I know the habitat is better therefore the chance of my lab finding a few birds is typically better too. As a duck hunter, I appreciate the waterfowl hunting areas. Without them I probably wouldn't have an opportunity to duck/goose hunt.
- 1968 While some walk-in areas are good and actually have some game on them, there are some walk in areas that contain no game, entire tracts that are valueless for hunting ground and should be evaluated and pulled from the program.
- 1969 In my opinion, I grew up in a large hunting family and have spent nearly eight percent of my time in the outdoors of South Dakota hunting/fishing public land. Whether it be waterfowl production, walk-in, national grasslands or etc. The availability of public land for South Dakota residents to access is of great importance to keep South Dakota residents active and positive towards the outdoors in the Rushmore state.
- 1973 Improving the habitat of many of the walk-in areas is very important. I had come across a number of walk-in areas that are bare fields (such as harvested soybean fields), or highly grazed pastures. There should be some type of requirement that there is some suitable habitat available for game in order for the land to be eligible for payment under the walk-in program. I just see too many walk-in areas that are totally bare ground where you could sight a snake at 100+ yards with the naked eye.
- 1978 The quality of habitat on the walk-ins. Some of the walk-ins have very little to no cover which equals very little to no game.
- 1979 Although I did not hunt walk in areas in 2015, I have hunted them virtually every year in the past and will continue to do so in the future. Please strive to keep this program going and improving on it.
- 1985 It is a great program. Some of the areas in Haakon county are fairly inaccessible due to the acreage involved and no public access roads to them.
- 1995 Some of the walk-in areas were cut with very little area to hunt. I would recommend if at all possible that should be restricted to 50% or make payment reduction on the percentage cut. The more cut, the higher the reduction.
- 2019 These are great programs. I have hunted these areas heavily in the past, but other issues got in the way of my hunting this year.
- 2030 Make sure they take care of their thistles cuz I have ground next to some Crp and I have to work my ass off to keep my thistles down, but those guys get paid to seed my pastures. And another thing I have had farmable ground taken away from me to get seeded into creep or Crp for more cash rent than I was paying how is a young farmer supposed to compete with the state? [name and number removed]
- 2057 I don't do much walk in hunting anymore.
- 2071 The Average person is losing area to hunt every year. Without Public hunting area to hunt its all about fees to hunt. Its all about owning land, know someone who will let you hunt, friends and relatives or just hang it up!!!! I will give South Dakota GameFish and Parks have worked hard to provide public area's. One of my favorite hunting area's that you have provide for goose hunting is the Mail Shack area.
- 2111 Deer tags should be cut back. I have ranches for 25 years and this is the lowest deer numbers in unit 02A.
- 2141 Please limit the number of non resident hunters in SD. I was deferred to hunt multiple times by the actions of people with Minnesota and Iowa license plates. The state

- legislature should be ashamed of themselves for their self-serving actions to increase out of state hunters to the detriment of their resident constituents.
- 2142 We try to nor hunt the public land as we have land of our own. We do let other people hunt our land.
- 2162 Thanks for giving the extra property and habitats in South Dakota
- 2171 Not enough big deer in my area of South Dakota, Roberts County.
- 2174 I Was unable to hunt due to health. I Have however hunted walk in areas in the past and am a strong supporter of all programs that provide public access.
- 2176 I very much appreciate all the CREP & walk in areas, if not for them I wouldn't be able to take my dog out to pheasant hunt because without them it would be virtually impossible for me to hunt private land. If not for public land CREP & Walk in, it would be very difficult for me to hunt rifle deer. Those lands are all I hunt for rifle deer. The one thing that would be nice is if during rifle season for at least the first weekend you could shut down pheasant hunting on public land. I've had lots of interence from inconsiderate people coming in to hunt pheasants when they could clearly see we were deer hunting. But all in all, I really like the public lands.
- 2183 quite dissapointed that stugelmeyer walk-in area was posted no hunting in edmunds county!!!
- 2186 Over the years I've had very good experiences on walk in areas, for all game. However, every once and awhile, I'll come across an area that has been cut for hay or has cattle on it, during the hunting season. Overall, I think it's a great program that gves me opportunities to hunt all around the state, that I would not have had.
- 2195 I haven't used walk in areas. But glad you have them because it takes a lot of traffic off of private land which I do hunt.
- 2203 Many of the walk-in area I have been to seemed more like a farm field, that once harvested had little to no cover to provide the wildlife. Even some of the grassland type fields had little grass taller than 6 inches.
- 2224 CREP where I live the CREP land that you are paying for, you are wasting your money because all crops are harvested and there is no habitat! This is a bad program, you need to manage your money better! Walk in Areas - which are better, there is some habtat, you need to get out in the field and scout!
- 2229 Separate deer season from pheasant season
- 2252 Q2b. Some friends of mine got harassed & threatened in Spink County for walking road ditches by the jerk landowner. They will NEVER come back to SD. Way to go.
- 2258 Please do not open turkey hunting East river in SD.
- 2279 I love the idea of walk-in for all areas and types of hunting (as in no vehicles off any roads) and feel that would be feasible east river. I hunt School land for deer and there were vehicle tracks thru the snow on virtually all the school land in northwestern Edmunds county. School land appeals to me because it is supposed to be foot traffic only and that is disappointing that it may be ruined by a few who feel they can get away with it or are entitled to drive on it or are ignorant of the laws. Pleasekeep the school lands open to public hunting - and by foot traffic only. My biggest issue with public land hunting is the competition for the land by so many hunters. The promotion and recruitment of hunters has been way more successful than the acquistion and access to land. And competition

- with pheasant hunters makes deer hunting on public land very difficult (and dangerous). No easy answers as all everyone really wants is the hunters money and that is the simple truth.
- 2285 Please stop the pheasant season by Dec. 1. As landowners we get tired of the long season and with the wrong weather we could lose a lot of birds. Heavy snow and they group to gather in shelter belts and some hunters take advantage of this and not only kill a lot birds but scare them out of the shelter that they need to stay alive. Thank you
- 2293 public shooting water ways should have water edge access for boat launching.
- 2300 I think the programs are a great idea and a valuable asset to hunters that don't have access to private land.
- 2311 I would really like to see the pheasant season end before the start of the antlerless season at the end of December. I realize that more people hunt pheasants but they also run the big game off public hunting areas and a lot of us do not have access to private land to hunt.
- 2318 I like the walk-in idea; however the habitat is often deplorable and I don't even stop to try it.
- 2348 I believe we need to do a better job of improving the walk-in area's. Many of the grass's are dead or just not planted like they should have been.
- 2358 There is a large waterfowl area in northern McPherson County. The area is gigantic and to get to a spot you have to walk a very long distance. It almost deters me from going there because if I shoot a deer, it takes hours to get back. No atvs or vehicles re allowed after a certain area. Maybe if there was a way to make a few extra driving paths, it would bring more people to this giant area of land because as of right now, a buddy and I have been the only ones there for the past couple years. That's a lot of land to cover for 2 people.
- 2373 The walk in areas are a great plan, thank you for providing them. If private lands had not been available to me, I would have utilized both public lands and walk in areas.
- 2376 Appreciate the online maps!
- 2397 I did not use any walk in areas this year. In the past I have hunted antelope almost entirely on walk in areas and found them to be very well adapted to that type of hunt because of the size of the walk in area and also the habitat that was on it. Great pogram especially for West River hunting. I have hunted pheasants and deer on walk in areas East River with limited success mostly because the areas are smaller and also have less habitat on some of them. Overall I believe the walk in program is very beneficial especially if it contained CRP acres on it.
- 2401 Q34. More than I am prepared to admit.
- 2403 The hunting I did was with a tribal lic. on walk in areas within the reservation.
- 2415 Many of the walk-in area in my area are stubble fields, with little or no cover. These area are in east central SD away from any major waterfowl hunting. The ones I have hunted in the past west river were mostly over grazed pasture with little cover. Many of the areas look like they were chosen to get more acres not good hunting lands.
- 2450 It bothers me that there are walk in areas that GFP allows cattle on which results in no habitat.
- 2454 Q16. Need more signage on the inside to mark the borders.

- 2457 I hunt deer mostly because I need the meat for food. I am on disability and can't walk very far so I hunt close to the parking spot so it's easier to retrieve my deer, if I get one. I think it would be good to be able to retrieve these animals on like 4 wheelers at certain times. This way I would hunt deeper into the fields of these areas.
- 2467 As you will see I bought fishing & hunting permits but did not hunt.
- 2471 Note: I spent too much time in the hospital this year.
- 2475 I have hunted walk-in areas for years in southern Kingsbury and it is a great program but the population of upland game is so very poor. It is truly a shame. I am not sure what the answers are. Great steps have been achieved in habitat. We must continue though and determine what the factors are affecting pheasant populations whether it is predation or whatever.
- 2484 Much of walk-in is pasture that is grazed down to bare earth and has little cover for game to hide. Most cropland that is in walk-in does not allow hunting until after the crop is harvested then the field is worked and again no cover is available for game.
- 2491 As a GFP law officer, my views could be labeled as biases. The WIA program in SD is one of the most valuable programs we have. I say that not only as a WIA user, but one who discusses using the programs regularly with WIA users as they are using the areas. Habitat and access are the keys to our continuing success in this agency. We must prioritize both to secure a desirable future. I would like to see us expand the CREP program, if possible. One item I would like to see addressed: a few of our current WIA's have virtually no habitat on them. I understand that some of these areas are part of a larger access contract, and that we may not be paying anything more for their inclusion. However, many hunters complain about these areas, and I do wonder whether we should even be signing these for public access.
- 2517 I would like to see a lot more walk-in Areas available to hunters in South Dakota. I prefer walk-in Area that is not restricted to a certain amount of people per day, and I also like Walk-in areas that do not require landowner permission or Sign In. I have witnessed on several occasions Walk-in Area that is strictly a Chisel plowed field and Nothing else. I think that the Game Fish and Parks should Aggressively pursue more walk-in areas with better Habitat. I believe the Areas/Habitat I am able to hunt in South Dakotas Walk-In Program have the biggest effect on my hunts outcome/success. Therefore I believe more of the GF&P budget should go toward more/higher quality Walk-In areas, and even State Land areas that are available to hunters. The GF&P will most likely have to pay Producers more per acre for High Quality Deer Hunting Habitat. Thank You.
- 2525 We found that two of the walk-in areas in Meade county had posted access land so you could not legally get to the area or the gates were shut and posted for no hunting.
- 2527 Too many coyotes, coon, skunk & possum. Way too many coyotes! Lifetime sportsman, we have never had this many coyotes. 1. Bring back bounty on varmints. 2. Allow landowners use of night vision. 3. Walk in and other areas are crucial for sportsman, would pay more for a license to purchase more walk in areas. A lot of kids have no place to hunt with any quality. Families can't afford pay hunting. Youth hunt programs of SD are great!
- 2532 Great Programs. Proud my home state is so involved and supportive.
- 2534 I did not hunt on walk-in areas this year. I have hunted them in other years. Some of them were like hunting on plowed farm land. Not much game on them. I wondered why the owners were paid for such useless land to hunt on! I am sure that some walk-in and is

good when it can be found and it does not have several other hunters there already. Sorry that I cannot offer more help in your efforts to keep making SD a good place to hunt.

- 2539 The only problem I see with the program is that once you find a great piece of CREP or Walk In, it gets over hunted so bad it blows everything out of the area. I live up by Hecla, and the pheasant hunters have the deer blown out of the property before they have a chance to hunt with a rifle. That is the only frustration with the program, but it has really changed our hunting areas with all off the pressure from pheasant hunters on this land.
- 2564 Some of the access for a few of the walk in areas were not accessible due to private land owners. I consider the money I spend to very important for my hunting as we use the meat as food for the year. I was not able to fill my tags in 2015 due to limited access to these areas. Something needs to be done about that or I will be limiting my hunting.
- 2567 GREAT Programs!!!!
- 2569 Your walk-in areas are a joke because out of state hunters use lead shot and do not abide by the rules whereas locals do but are the ones harassed by LEO's
- 2589 I think it's a good thing. I am an older hunter so I don't do a whole lot of walking. It would be nice if you had areas where we could drive in at least part way.
- 2599 Just wait till you people get to 65/70 see how far you would walk, to say nothing about carting out a deer yes I still love to hunt, just seems like you have to spend too much time finding a place to walk then drag the carcass back six miles.
- 2603 As a landowner: I did not hunt any CREP walk-in areas, but as a landowner that has property adjacent to CREP I was disappointed with the amount of trespassing on my property to either get to or get out of the CREP areas. While this is not a major problem, it nevertheless, is happening more and more as additional CREP acres are popping up. Maybe some signage needs to be added that private property is not to be used to exit walk-in areas. Thanks, [name and address removed]
- 2604 It is very important to the future of hunting to be able to access private land to hunt deer without being charged a lot of money, because I know that landowners are starting to charge fees for hunting and lower income people can't afford the extra cost. Walk-in areas and public hunting areas are very important to a large percentage of hunters.
- 2616 West River Deer walk in land little or no cover.
- 2624 There needs to be more deer licenses issued in Tripp County, just look at the number of accidents caused by deer. I got my deer the first day and could have got more. Helped drive my Grand daughter to the place she shot hers.
- 2640 There is some walk in areas close to me - some of the signs are old and can't even read them anymore or they have fallen down. The one area I know for sure is the walk in area at Fishers Grove east of Redfield. The walk in area on the west side of the James River there are no signs anymore. That would be the furthest NW corner of the walk in land. You have to drive a mile west, one north and one east of the Fisher Grove entrance to get there.
- 2653 I own 50 acres that is in the CREP area. It has been in the family since 1930. I hunted it for many years but the last 10 years I hunted elsewhere because there were no birds. I did hunt deep in corn. I live 90 miles from CREP land. I was in the area and it was being hunted. I stopped and visited the hunters and they had 3 pheasants which I thought was

- good. By the way, I am 76 years old and during my younger years all free time was spent hunting all over SD
- 2656 I do a lot of upland bird hunting and the biggest problem with the walkin is no cover. The are cut a d very little areas to hunt upland birds. It is fine for big game.
- 2677 FOOD, COVER, AND WATER, CRP, FOOD PLOT, AND FRESH WATER..MAKES GOOD HUNTING AND WILDLIFE COVER AS WELL AS SHELTERBELTS....NOT BROME GRASS THAT IS [expletive removed] DISC THIS [expletive removed] CRAP UNDER AND PLANT SOMETHING WITH COVER AND HABITAT ON IT..
- 2694 I believe there is great effort to improved enhance public access. I purposely hunt very little on public property because I have a tremendous amount of private land available. Typically, the only public land that I go to is the grasslands to shoot some pairie dogs and coyotes. Thank you. Keep up the good work.
- 2759 We really need to increase the amount of walk in areas in the eastern part of SD
- 2807 I would like to see more crop planted on these areas. Am wondering why coyote hunters can drive on these areas when it's illegal for other hunting? Why can pheasant and dove hunters pull inside the fence lines? I would like to see parking areas on thisland. People park on the road right of ways and you can't get by with equipment in Sanborn County.
- 2812 the area around Angostura is great, but way to many people. Please make more available there. [name removed]
- 2831 I feel we need to expand the walk-in areas to include walk-in areas set-aside just for youth or family hunting with the youth. The only way to get kid into hunting is by giving them a opportunity to hunt in a positive atmosphere and safe and covenant area This could be done by the use of permits and could be work-in with working with land owners for private land.
- 2840 Hunting wouldn't hardly be possible without public lands. Just wish we had the opportunities east river like we do west river. Keep on adding them and I'll keep hunting on them. Thank you!
- 2848 Just an opinion, mainly because I do not hunt pheasants anymore. But why do we pay landowners anything for habitat that they disc or burn off? See a lot of walk in or CREP that is a pasture.
- 2853 Walk-In areas do me no good, I'm 100% combat related disabled and use oxygen, I can not walk and hunt without my tank. Walk-In areas are discrimitory. Oh well.....just the price of war. Fight so someone else can have more freedom than you.....Freedom s NOT Free!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- 2868 I have been hunting in Hyde County for many years. I'm a bow hunter and spend many days hunting there. I don't understand: the farmers around my game production areas, they harass me when I'm hunting there, they drive around there and run the deer out ofthem. They honk their horns in their trucks, they don't even like you driving down roads out there, they act like they own everything out there, it makes it very bad. I even wanted to call the sheriff on them, I don't. Do they own the game production aeas or the people that buy hunting licenses?
- 2870 I am lucky I have friends with farmland so I have a lot of area to hunt most town people do not have that so CRP is very important to them. I think more crop land would help more people hunt in SD. Plus it leaves more ground that does not get fertilizaton or pesticides on it, more natural habitat for game.

- 2871 Better posting once in walk in areas as to end of walking areas as to private land owners property's . More accessible for hunters with disabilities.
- 2876 My only suggestion would be to make sure the Walk-In areas have the right habitat to sustain wildlife. Some of it is so bare you can see a gopher a half a mile away. Just no huntable wildlife would find this type of habitat suitable to live in. Also overall we have a lot of nice Public Lands with water to hunt on so more Walk-In will avail the common person a better chance to experience a satisfying outdoor experience. Thanks for all you do because as a 66 years old, life long resident/hunter, I am concerned that we are slowly losing our hunting tradition to the pay for hunting business interests.
- 2877 Brown co should be closed to hunting deer east of hwy 37. I farm 7 north and 2 east. We have zero deer left in our part of county. Needs a break from hunting, everybody hunts there because There's less cover and easier access.
- 2894 The CREP signs were confusing as you look at CREP sign and see normal growing crops and wonder if this is an old sign that was not taken down. Wonder where the CREP acres were located. Or CREP acres were totally blocked or cut off with bales or pasture land.
- 2917 Q4. They mow no cover. Q5. They mow and no cover and let animals graze. National grass lands - Cattle eat down to nothing for birds and deer. Ranches do not allow us to hunt their land - that was plenty of grass & cover and graze their cattle on public land. Should be easier to hunt ranch land if they take public money for any game they do not give permission.
- 2919 walk in areas are a must. since most farmers are cutting out tree claims and wind breaks to gain more farm ground. keep it up . thanks [name removed]
- 2921 I really feel that Walk-In Areas are important but some of the habitat is not good for hunting and needs to be evaluated better. The usage level is concern but not as important as habitat. We need to keep this program in South Dakota.
- 2929 FEED BACK = some CREP areas/ are farmed right to fence line and no cover for birds. Thanks for working the Walk-in and CREP programs.
- 2965 It seems that a lot of the walk in areas are not the correct habitat. I.e. A plowed up field or no cover for birds. Often times we drive by a walk in area and say... Are you kidding me why would a bird even think about being out there. I get it that some of it is great for deer and antelope.
- 3056 We hunted Chamberlain area Walk In Areas as well as Management areas, it seemed that we would only see pheasants in the management areas.
- 3058 I have hunted walk-in and CRP lands in the past with some success, however, this last year we hunted in the NW corner (Bison area) on primarily private land. Our group actually looked for some walk-in areas, but couldn't find any up that way. Our hunting in the past was more in the central part of the state, Oneida and Gettysburg areas.
- 3060 Overall, pheasant population was extremely poor. I hunted Redfield, Mobridge, the number of birds stunk. I would also hunt waterfowl in SD, but the licensing is too hit or miss. Pheasant populations may be up 50% but 50% of zero is still zero!
- 3061 I wasn't aware of walk in areas. Also, would there be a map that shows these areas?
- 3067 I am tired of landowners giving out-of-staters a hard time when we road hunt near their land. I don't like them telling us we are not welcome hunting their roads near their land. South Dakota gets a lot of revenue from out-of-staters and that is a real boost to your

- state economy. If you don't stop the land owners who only want hunters who pay them for the right to hunt; you will turn out to be just like all the other states who don't have any revenue coming in because you give in to the greed of landowner.
- 3090 Better signage for these areas but I think the locals like it this way which I don't blame them. Very good pheasant hunting in South Dakota, excellent job.
- 3097 Keep up the good work! Pheasant hunting in SD is incredible and has been for the 20+ years I have been doing so.
- 3101 See you in Nov '16
- 3103 Walk in Area has never been a good experience, if that is all I had to hunt I would not come to South Dakota. Most walk in hunting has not feed or water supply near the hunting area rendering it mostly useless except for a stray bird.
- 3104 Out of state deer bow license too high, for senior citizens.
- 3113 Turkeys: The five of us from Oklahoma have enjoyed harvesting turkeys when we have come up each year. You have moved the date off 2 weeks so we have not been able to enjoy the sport on opening weekend of pheasant. Have missed a big part of our enjoyment the last two years. When we called to ask if it had been changed back last year, we were told "it never came up".
- 3124 NA
- 3128 You have millions of road ditch in SD pheasants use it. Don't let people mow the ditches. If you would police the people from mowing the ditch you would have a lot more pheasants. And you need to change the season to all year like Iowa & Minnesota. You don't have a lot of pheasants like you did 10 years ago. You can't just hunt 10 days and get your limits. Or change the time to hunt longer. Like 8:00am to sunset. You don't have enough pheasants to hunt 12:00-6:00 and get your limit. Thank You!! [name and address removed]
- 3132 The survey link is not working very well, the only game hunted in SD were pheasants. For the most part I was left with much disappointment on the availability of walk in areas or even conservation areas to hunt birds on, what walk in areas we did find we seen more hunters than birds. Where one would park was evidence of birds being there at one time due to all the carcasses that had been breasted and left lying and littered around the parking area. Most birds seen were those that had been pushed off to private ground which very few owners allow hunting without an additional expense to an already costly trip. Never the less it was an experience and the best part, I was outdoors with my dogs and good friends. Respectfully, [name removed]
- 3133 Would really enjoy a chance to draw a buck tag for out of staters with a rifle.
- 3162 When arriving at some of the walk-in and CREP areas found they were either mowed or over grazed or cattle in it nothing to hunt. Spending hunting time driving from spot to spot looking for some cover to hunt. If meant for hunting sould have hunttable habitt in it at least a % left for habitat
- 3168 Why so much of your walk in is hayed, mowed, or otherwise left use less to hunt? You should have an outside audit and get sued for blatant fraud. You claim all these acres for hunting walk in, then when I get there, the walk in areas are terrible withno pheasant to possibly hunt. Someone should go to jail for this, Maybe the Governor for false statements. South Dakota should be ashamed for self promotion of these walk in areas that cannot be hunted and hold ZERO pheasants. [name removed]

- 3175 I have hunted walk in areas in the past. Did as lot of waling and saw very few birds. I will say that the habitat in some public/walk in areas look good. Much better than here in MN. I applaud the efforts of the state of SD to have this program. I hnt private and pay. Don't blame the farmers either. There is a market for pheasants and they raise them. I am seeing more mowed ditches too.
- 3220 Great Hunt Thanks
- 3238 Most walk in's are great. one area we hunted was not clearly marked were it ended. Another area was a grazed pasture- terrible habitat. You should check them out and not pay for these obviously unproductive areas.
- 3271 In 2015 had a hard time finding WIA and CRP that wasn't mowed, drove to Gregory SD and was so disappointed that I drove north all the way to Aberdeen SD to find any good areas that weren't mowed, even north a lot of public areas were mowed. Also, I startd hunting waterfowl in ND because they offer 2 periods to hunt instead of 1 10 day period like SD, why not make waterfowl 2 periods like pheasant.
- 3274 LIVE IN ARKANSAS, HUNT SD SINCE 1990'S. ALWAYS USE OUTFITTER & BEEN VERY PLEASED. WE HUNT IN OLA & STAY IN CHAMBERLAIN. LOVE THE TRIP & EXPERIENCE. SEE YOU IN 2016!
- 3277 we enjoy the ability to in your state, the thing that would help us is to have the walk on land area maps available before we have to send in our applications. Our primary hunting is for deer in the west river.
- 3283 The problem with walk-in areas are farmers picked the crop from the fields by the time of our trip. (December first week)
- 3319 Very little of the walk-in property has enough cover to support pheasants. Most of the land that I saw was wide open prairie without cover. I compare land from year to year, I see worse land being enrolled. As I travel around I look at the walk-in maps an cross off land as I go by. Most of the areas are marked off when I am done indicating not worth hunting. As you lose the CRP you lose nesting cover and you are losing birds, hunters and money being spent. 80% of the areas you enroll are not capable of spporting pheasants & even minimal hunting.
- 3321 Many of the walk in areas the farmer has removed all the crops and cover basically leaving the walk in area barren this was a very common practice out by Akaska it looked like they actually planned it. Others closer to Aberdeen were much better but heavil used. I also don't like the fact it's so hard to get waterfowl tags? When I do get them I hunt for days and never see another hunter which is great but there so hard to get. I went to North Dakota this year because I didn't get a waterfowl tag in SD had great week long hunt. Love south dakota make more waterfowl tags available.
- 3334 The habitat and cover were excellent but we didn't see too many birds on the walk in area we hunted. I assume they got pushed out to private land. We only hunted one area because it was so large. The costs I put down were split 6 ways. So we spent a fair mount in South Dakota. Getting more walk in areas and CRP should be a priority. It costs so much when you have to pay to hunt that it's not affordable for most. Good hunting should be for everyone. Even if I had to pay a small fee it would be worth it forbetter hunting.
- 3339 This last year (2015) I saw more WIA's with a crop on it. I think this is vital for the hunters. I have always been impressed with the amount of land available to hunters. Thank you [name removed]

- 3359 Get rid of the lottery for waterfowl licenses. Make licences available over the counter like North Dakota.
- 3369 Public land is very important to me because I have no where else to hunt. I would not come to South Dakota without the availability of public land. The state game areas are awesome habitat and are managed well. CREP lands are also pretty nice. Waterfowl poduction areas were noticeably better in 2015 due to the fact that the cattle have been removed and the haying and farming has been reduced. I wrote many letters expressing my feelings about the poor management of waterfowl production areas during 2015. I hink the waterfowl production areas were in better shape for hunting during the fall of 2015 (Maybe they are listening to the voice of the hunters). Walk-In areas are few and far between, they are also marginal for hunting. I understand that walk-in land akes money but... I would be willing to pay alittle more to actually expand the program and have better walk-in areas. Keeping trying to make a difference and I'll be back again next year. Thank you
- 3371 Surveys showed increase in Pheasant numbers, however numbers seemed way down from previous years. I've been hunting Chamberlain area for 20 years and this was one of the worst. South Dakota has to be more up front with the survey numbers.....very disapponting!
- 3372 Only concern, drove several miles (30 - 60) to hunt walk in. Only to find it cut short. No cover, no place to hunt. Driving takes a large part of the day. It would be nice if there was a good place to hunt when you got there. We were using the public land book.
- 3379 I don't hunt Walk-In for two reasons, we hunt in December because access is better for non-residents and by then Walk-in properties are generally hunted out. By and large there is not a lot of Walk-In near Chamberlain and most of it is poor for pheasants In my opinion better quality control should be exercised in sign-ups, it appears to be too much of a landowner relations program where anything is accepted by COs as long as a pronghorn might walk across it someday.
- 3390 The walk-in areas and roadside ditches have proven valuable places to hunt in the past, it just happens in 2015 I did not hunt these areas, but will again in the future.
- 3395 I hunted 1 day for pheasants near Gregory, SD. I killed 3 birds despite the weather..it was a good hunt. Time and weather didn't allow for another trip. I applied for, but was not drawn for the NorthEastern SD waterfowl license. I fished in SD thru Octobr and into November and saw a lot of ducks and virtually no hunters. I bought a preference point in hopes of being luckier in the 2016 drawing.
- 3429 Recommend that the 2, 5 day periods for small game licenses be extended to 10 any day periods... For example, I would take an additional 3 day trip to SD if I wasn't forced to buy another license... I think if this 10 day license was more flexible, adjcent out of state hunters would more frequently SD and spend \$\$ on hotels, gas, supplies, etc...
- 3440 Love coming to South Dakota - great pheasant hunting & nice people
- 3455 In the areas we hunt there are very few walk in areas that hold any birds. There are very few WIA at all for that matter. Years ago there were more but now they have been all taken away.
- 3473 I was 100% new to SD. A friend invited me and I am originally from southern Illinois and currently reside in SW Missouri. I was highly impressed and excited to hunt Pheasant in SD. The walk in area produced the 2nd most number of birds out of all the prive land I hunted during the trip. I will return next season and bring others with me. Hunting and

- wildlife is critical in my opinion for future generations to participate in and it is up to all of us to continue to market it and fund it into the future.
- 3502 Walk in land in the areas I hunted were completely void on vegetation. There was just crops picked to bare ground. I think this program is a complete waste of money.
- 3507 2015 was the best and most fun we have had hunting in south Dakota in a long time and we have been making this trip every year for the past 25 years. Honestly the people were starting to get rude and good land was getting so hard to find to hunt we were aout ready to stop going to south Dakota and was going to look else where. 2015 was so good we will be back for 2016!! please keep on getting great walk in land and we will keep coming back and spending our money in SD!!
- 3518 More habitat is the key.
- 3525 Why are you letting farmers put cows into the public lands and hay these lands? This destroys the habitat for the fall pheasant hunter. Burn these areas instead in the early spring. A lot more bang for habitat improvement and wildlife value. Your peasant count was way off for the land north of Aberdeen. I would say there was 2/3 less birds than last year. How can your count be that far off?
- 3535 I appreciate the availability of WIHA. Would be nice to know in advance what crops were planted/harvested from a WIHA area before driving to it, since some are fairly far apart and remote. (Some harvested area types are not very productive.) Don't knowhow you could possibly to that, but it would help in not wasting time trying to find an area that isn't going to be productive. Would be nice to have more WIHA.
- 3568 Most of the walk in is not worth hunting no cover just bare ground
- 3582 The land that we hunted was mostly CREP. The owner of the land is expected to put the land back into production next year. We will be looking for a new location to hunt next year. Possibly in South Dakota, Minnesota or Iowa.
- 3586 Why do the local's get to graze puplic hunting land?
- 3587 I would like to see the entirety of South Dakota taken up in Walk-In and CREP areas. Until then, I will be satisfied with what you've already done. It's wonderful. More is better, though. Keep it up!
- 3638 I've been pheasant hunting in SD for 28 years. I wait for the return of CRP. Without CRP we have very little walk in areas. Until the CRP returns I'm afraid we won't see the plentiful habitat and great opportunities that come with walk in areas. Pleas keep trying and promoting this great program. Everyday the acreage will return as will the pheasants.
- 3645 - Loss of CRP land is SD (largely due to ethanol industry) is killing pheasant hunting in your state. Hunting is nowhere as good as it once was before the ethanol boom. - If you made the out of state small game license two seven day periods, I would strngly consider coming out on a second late season hunt. With the current five day periods, I'd have to buy a whole second license because I burn up more than 5 days with my early season hunt. In other words, I'd be spending a lot more money in your stateeach year if you did this.
- 3658 I have been hunting pheasants in the area from Yankton to Tripp for the past 25 years, the majority of time hunting on private land within 10 miles of Tripp. As expected, I have noticed a significant decrease in bird numbers with the loss of CRP acreage. hile I haven't hunted a lot of CREP acreage, I think it is a terrific addition/option for pheasant

- hunters. The CREP areas I have hunted, around Scotland, have been fairly productive and I have enjoyed this option very much. Hope it continues for the foreseeable future.
- 3681 Access to huntable land is the most important element necessary for hunters coming from out of state. Out of state hunters do not know the property owners, farmers or where to hunt. Our party never hires guides or hunting lodges and prefers to do it yourself. Consuming a lot of time finding good hunting locations. The other problem is, you need to stop the pheasants from running away from my pointing dogs, a joke. For out of state hunters, your duck hunting regulations are too involved to deal with, obviously for a reason.
- 3683 Hunted CREP lands the previous 2 years and found them valuable. Harvested some birds but mainly allowed us an option for a place to hunt.
- 3684 Increase acres and improve habitat. Too many WIA's are harvested and provide little to no cover. I don't understand why the State would pay farmers for walk-in access to crop fields that are likely to see little to no hunter traffic.
- 3685 We have been Traveling from Texas to hunt in SD since 2008?, when populations declined in Iowa and Kansas. As these populations increase in other closer states, and continue to decline in SD it will be harder to convince my party that it is that much better such that we need to drive the additional distance to get to SD.
- 3696 I had a most enjoyable experience hunting in South Dakota.
- 3712 Family lives in SD. While we periodically have land access to hunt.... I totally depend on SD walk-in areas. I am an avid pheasant hunter. I make many trips to SD each year. My walk-in atlas is my fall bible. Thanks for all you do!
- 3738 Much of the "outer" cover on Waterfowl Management Areas was great for Pheasant hunting and largely un-hunted. Reason: Heart attack inducing. Go walk it yourself some time - I dare you. Thin it out !
- 3750 Keep up the great work, if not for all the opportunities available to non residents I never would have tried pheasant hunting in South Dakota . The first year I hunt your state was 2006 haven't missed a year since!
- 3753 If they get more public land and not so much private and then you'll be able to hunt the public land and get some birds vs it's all turning commercial where the only good spots to hunt and where all the birds are you have to pay \$100 a gun at a minimum in that's getting out of hand so it's going more and more for paying that it is for public
- 3768 My hunting experience in south Dakota has always been enjoyable and my group and I always look forward to our next adventure. We have never shot a limit of roosters but always flush plenty of hens. I like to watch my dogs work the birds but I also enjoy a well prepared meal. Would a very limited bag of hens ever be a consideration.
- 3778 It was hard to figure out what kind of shot, lead or steel, I needed to use in the different areas we hunted (crep, walk-in areas ect). I was checked by the DNR officer and used steel shot the entire time because I wasn't sure what to use. Spent money on expensive lead that I didn't use because not sure what was legal. Just put on the signs what is legal would have made it real easy.
- 3779 The walk on areas will be more effective if the surrounding properties also contain some level of species cover. The area we were on was surrounded by heavily farmed and completely tilled ag land.

- 3783 The section of walk-in land that has decent cover in the area is usually hunted very hard in the weekend prior in the local hunt so we usually have very little success. We have hunted the same area for about 20 years. We get a group together and lease a section of land to hunt but if the price to lease goes up any higher it would be difficult find enough land in our area to hunt.
- 3788 Some walk in areas are just pasture. Absolutely nothing there.
- 3802 Would be good to have a web site where hunters could sign-on and indicate where they had hunted down to the physical location. Indicating results at the locations would help as well. This could then be used to weigh in on where to hunt the next several ays. OBV, that site could be open for those that want to discourage hunting in an area. Using your license number though could better the quality of the information and keep the non-hunters from polluting the data. Thx
- 3864 Walkins are great if they have decent habitat. For pheasant hunting you have to really scout them. Most have not very good cover. In areas that I hunt they aren't many .The land is used for aggressive row crop farming.
- 3868 Pheasant hunting was good.I did not notice any walk-in areas where we hunted.
- 3869 Very disappointed in the SD DNR estimating pheasant bird population to be up 40%, when actual numbers were down from year to year! I feel that you are doing a disservice to your hunting community. Our group will not be making a 2nd trip this year...th overall cost is too great when hunting is poor. Far more cost effective to go to a game preserve in Minnesota. Please be more direct and honest in the future...or the number of hunters will continue to decline.
- 3898 Walkin areas- We tried some of these areas and it seemed as though they were grazed with cattle leaving no grass or cover for pheasants. They were long walks with no birds as they had no habitat to be in. Would suggest getting cover planted and no cttle grazing. Thanks
- 3907 I pray the pheasant population and habitat in SD is maintained in the short & long term future. I hope to take my annual SD pheasant hunting trip with my kids and grandkids over the next 40-50 years! My 5 year old is already looking forward to it.
- 3916 Don't think the hunting was as good as last year, for pheasant anyway. We did see a lot of hens, hopefully the winter weather conditions help as well.
- 3944 In years past (lot), SD merchants seem to go "all out" for pheasant hunters during opening weekend and there seem to be more hunters. I don't see this anymore.
- 3952 Keep up the good work it's nice to see that a state cares about hunters and hunting thank you
- 3984 This year was my first trip from Pittsburgh PA to South Dakota, and I have nothing but great memories of our trip. My buddy and I stayed in Pierre and hunted all public opportunities for pheasant and had an outstanding time. From the hunting, areas we hnted, quality of birds and the generosity of the local residence and other hunters we met, I could not asked for a better time. I cant wait to schedule my next hunting trim back to your state, keep up the great work!
- 3991 Would be nice to know what time of game the walk in land is suppose to be used for. We drove around a lot to find out that the walk on land was grazed out or not suitable for Pheasants. That would be a draw for hunters so you are not wasting valuable

- timechecking out areas that is not for what you want to be hunting!! (Exp: Walk In Land for small land animals. Walk in land for deer. Walk in land for fowl.)
- 4005 Given the cost and complexity of bringing a group of 8 hunters, (grandfathers, fathers and sons) a very great distance, the quality of the hunting is important. You cant count on the walk in areas for a great experience. The cover is marginal, you neverknow when or how often they get hunted, and generally the hunting doesn't compare to private land. That being said much of the private land I use to have access to is disappearing as guides lock it up. Walk in areaa are critical to the future of the sel guided hunter but you need to address the quality and consistency of the experience.
- 4011 My friends and I have been going to SD pheasant hunting for over 15 years. It's hard for the average person to pay \$120 for two, 5 day licenses, then swallow a \$200 day fee just to hunt private land. So the Walk In Areas and other public hunting lands ae the reason we drive 400 miles each way to SD. The only negative we found is that a lot of Walk in Areas were just pasture land, especially in certain areas. It was all pasture type land, so we had to drive farther and farther to get out of those areas Plus, some of the designated "Walk in Areas," the farmers had their cattle grazing in there. Especially the Watertown area, so we have been going farther west. A lot of people think we are crazy because we could go to a local game farm for a quarter o the total cost and time off of work and get guaranteed results. If you keep improving the Walk in Areas, Game production areas, and make a change for a one time fee for a whole season, myself and many others will keep coming, and coming back more often..
- 4014 Q12. Tried but failed to get a license as a non-resident.
- 4028 Very few walk in areas where we hunt. We need more.
- 4048 Many of the walk in area were grazed or have cattle on them therefore no cover or habitate, nothing for good bird reproduction or quality hunting. I see over all cover has deminished both public and private it is getting to be no placeto hunt anymore
- 4051 Because we are out of state hunters, by the time we arrive usually the second weekend end after the regular season for everyone opens. The CREP areas are usually pretty much worked over. Though we see what appears to be nice cover we don't see the bird so speculate that these areas get hit hard in the early seasons and by the time we have a chance the birds have either been bagged or pushed out do to the pressure or are so wild they are flying out the back of the field into private property as we exit ur vehicles. This has seemed to go with the implementation of the youth hunt weekend, then the resident hunt weekend and then opening weekend so the season is a month in by the time arrive. Road hunting isn't as successful as it was several years ago ether.
- 4065 Walk in area's are great!!!. One problem I know of is that Guides/Outfitters use the walk in area opening day, then go hunt their private land. This takes away from the purpose of the program and public hunting. There should be a ban on guides/outfitttrs using these areas!!!! They are making money on the public hunting areas keeping the wildlife and area away from hunters who do not have this money and this is not the purpose of the program.
- 4069 I love the program. I would like to see more grassland available for grouse and prairie chicken hunting.
- 4075 Lots of wias just mowed or grazed fields that don't benefit any wildlife. Gpa are always good for phez. Could use more of those.

- 4079 I think the walk in program is a lot of false advertising. It all looks good on a map, but when you get to the walk in areas there is nothing there a plowed field, bad cover, no birds. When you drive 300-400 miles to get to you destination and the walk-inareas are junk you end driving from public land to public wasting time and gas, it just becomes stressful and no fun. And your start time in the morning is ridiculous, all the birds are gone when shooting time comes around, move it up an hour or so! We loe it in South Dakota, but it has been disappointing the last couple years. You need to make your waterfowl nonresident license easier to obtain. When we are driving around for pheasants all we see are these great waterfowl hunt opportunities and no one isever hunting them, residents must not like to duck and goose hunt, us non-residents would love it to waterfowl hunt but it is so difficult. Also don't give false estimates about pheasant numbers, you make it sound like it is going to be a great pheasant sason and then when we show up for hunting birds are scarce! You get us to commit to buying the license and spending the money for very little birds. When every bird you shoot is worth \$75.00 dollars you might as well stay in Minnesota and go to a game far for \$20.00 a bird.
- 4080 Change the non-resident license from two - 5 day hunts to three - 3 day hunts. Very few people and dogs can hunt five days in a row. I would come back to South Dakota another time each year if the license would allow three day hunts. I would spend more\$\$\$ in South Dakota and do not increase the license fee.
- 4125 Roads poorly marked, map poorly marked, poor habitat, and the right of ways this year were mowed much more so than the previous years!!! The locals seemed to be very unfriendly!!!
- 4172 Habitat improvement and maintenance is the single most important factor to sustaining wildlife populations and therefore hunter opportunity. That equals revenue for fish and game agencies. With the low commodity prices we will likely see more acres going ack into CREP. This will be good for wildlife. During those rare stretches of time when commodity prices are high and land comes out of CREP innovative measures to build lasting and meaningful relationships with farmers will be critical. The state can not sustain their pheasant hunting legacy on public land alone.
- 4182 Your state offers out-of-state hunters the best place and opportunity for a quality pheasant hunt. Please do everything you can to keep it that way.
- 4187 95% of walk ins I saw were cut or grazed by cattle, waste of time and my money.
- 4214 Wish there were more.
- 4235 The small game license should be available in a 3 and 7 day option as to the two five day periods
- 4239 We have found far too many walk-in areas to be pastured or hayed leaving no place to hunt. Seems to make no difference if it's a dry year or a normal year. Too many times the SDGFP has given into the landowners and allowed the cover to be hayed. It is touh to drive 500 miles to centralize, then 50 miles to a place on a walk-in map to find the property completely hayed off.
- 4260 Finding less walk in area to hunt each year along with more hunters. Very surprised to see more area being mowed prior to season too.
- 4261 Feel Free to contact me anytime for these surveys. WV doesn't gather information this way, only public meetings in which working individuals can't participate. I thoroughly enjoy hunting in your state.

- 4275 Loved it. Keep up the good work!
- 4296 We own land in Tripp County and others in our hunting party own land in Tripp as well as Lyman & Jones County. We hunt primarily pheasants, but do shoot a few prairie chickens and sharptails when the opportunity is presented. We always check out walk inland which is near the private land we hunt. Seldom do we find habitat which is worth hunting for pheasants, it seems all grass has been mowed for hay, cropland is all planted wheat, and pastures are grazed short. There may be crop stubble, but all private land nearby usually has food plots left uncut which draws the birds. I feel a few \$\$ spent to leave some crops as food plots would add greatly to quality of hunting.
- 4305 A Haiku Pheasants Taste So Good Bam Bam Shoot Them on the Wing That's A Good Doggie
- 4331 I have never had a bad hunting experience in SD. Always near Mitchell and Artesian on private land. "The yearly hunt" is a highlight of my and my friends year.
- 4332 I only hunted pheasants for two days, but formed the opinion that SD is a wildlife paradise!
- 4340 Keep up the good work!
- 4367 Please increase the number of walk in areas around Jones and Lyman counties, they have decreased significantly in recent years. Probably about half as many as 3 to 8 years ago. Some of the habitat quality was terrible as well (they were hayed). We did find a couple that had fantastic cover, however, the pressure was great due to there being so few of this quality. In years past, including the drought years, the quality on average was better and there were many more to choose from. Without the walk in program we would not come to S.D. to hunt, since, we do not have private land access and cannot afford private hunts. Thanks for your time and this survey.
- 4429 the only comment I have is this: I believe out of state landowners should be able to draw a deer tag every year. I do not mind paying the out of state license fee. Why would South Dakota Game and Fish have so many resident tags leftover when out of state tags were gone?? The economic gain to SD is significant if out of state hunters come to the state.
- 4451 When we hunted south of I90, it was pretty hunted out. Only when we started hunting north of I90 did we get roosters.. Seems like the locals week that preceded out of state week got most of the roosters south of I90.
- 4460 Q4. Especially as more private land is put into crop production.
- 4507 We have a lot of land we intended to hunt but had no access forever signs posted. I also hope SD will limit agriculture tilling so it doesn't turn into what Minnesota is.
- 4511 I think you should have someone go to these lands in the end of November and December to see what benefits The Pheasants other wild game get from these lands. Some are completely worthless to the wildlife in that time zone .
- 4527 Keep up the good work. It is important to keep the act of hunting available to the average person who does not have the financial resources to pursue this sport on private lands.
- 4529 You probably have more Public Land in Day Co , Spink Co. than all of it in the state of Maryland
- 4530 I have used public and walk in lands a lot in the past. Many of those walk in places are no longer available in the area I hunt and sorely missed.

- 4534 Great program Keep it and enhance it
- 4548 Walk-in and Public Access are critical to hunting in SD. Tourism seems to be highly affected by the locations of these areas. Signage and an ample number of guides available are important.
- 4555 The walk in areas that we hunted waterfowl - primarily harvested agricultural fields, were large acre tracts. Attempting to only "walk in" on these fields for setting decoys is very difficult. Access to drive in only to set decoys on these harvested fields is needed. A high majority of these fields were chisel plowed corn and were not going to attract any other wildlife other than waterfowl. The SDGFP spending \$ on these tracts should try to get more drive in placement of decoys only access. We hunted in Day and Brown counties primarily.
- 4559 only problem was that the birds had not come south yet
- 4563 you can't set aside enough quality cover. You feel free to limit the number of hunters, raise the license fee if you have to, but keep the hunting experience enjoyable.
- 4564 The WIA that I typically hunt was totally hayed which was a huge disappointment to me as it provided little or no habitat. It is a very nice parcel adjacent to a federal WPA but there was no cover left! This was in Bon Homme County. Hopefully, it will stay in this program but not be hayed! There was nothing but a hayed field with no cover left ... nothing! Typically, it is a native grass mix ... switch grass, big blue, forbes, etc. and is really nice for pheasants, deer, etc. The other private properties adjacent are Posted but this WIA does adjoin a WPA on one side. Although I was disappointed that it was lacking any pheasant cover, I hope this parcel can be retained in this program but not be hayed. It was barren.
- 4579 The walk in program is great. I grew up in SD and then moved and have been coming back for 35 years. I believe the hunting is better now than it has ever been due to the access to hunting land offered by the walk in program.
- 4597 Walk in areas need much better habitat. Not much cover!
- 4601 Give out more nonresident waterfowl license your missing out on a lot of revenue for your state. I would pay more for less days. Like \$150 for a 5 day licence any where in the state. There are a lot of areas not being hunted.
- 4605 Please keep the Walk-In program. It is excellent. Continue to limit hunters for waterfowl.
- 4612 I think SoDak does a very good job of making lands available. I am in Minnesota and it is harder here. Previously we went to NoDak but began waterfowling in SoDak about 10 years ago due to it being easier to find places to go. The numbers I put on what we spend is just me so once all 5 of us are included we have spent over \$30,000 in South Dakota over the last 10 years. That's real money! Keep up the good work. Your maps that I have on my phone are awesome as well.
- 4615 We came to duck hunt bodies of water out of a boat. Found that good boat access to larger (still potholes) bodies of water was very primitive at best for boats launched off of their trailers. Even in small boats (the ones you can drag) access needs to be greatly improved, i.e. so you can drive up to the water to unload your boats & gear. The older duck hunters are being managed out of the game due to excessive walking distances etc. Plan your access around an average 70 year old man and you will have it covered for everyone; the elderly, kids, women and of course young men. By access, I mean good boat ramps with good parking lots for trailers etc. not having to back boats off of county roads and not being able to park within 50 yards of the launch sites.

- 4623 I think the most important thing that SD should be looking at is the current regulations regarding non-resident waterfowl licenses. Waterfowl hunting by non-residents (if the licenses were available) would generate a tremendous amount of revenue not only for the state but also for the local merchants. Waterfowl hunters typically spend much more money on equipment than pheasant hunters. I have hunted all over the world and my most difficult permit to obtain is my SD waterfowl. I was born and raised in D; however I now live in California and used to bring 10 to 12 people every year to SD to hunt waterfowl. That was when we could pull into the hardware or sporting goods store and make them legal hunters.
- 4628 There was NO WIHA in the main area we normally hunt, around and in McPherson county. This is very different from previous trips. This trip we only hunted legal road ditches and waterfowl areas. We have been traveling to SD for 10-12 years and will NOT be back as there are so few public hunting places now. All non local hunters were forced onto these areas. Additionally, I estimate 50% of local road ditches were mowed and therefore unhuntable. Big disappointment. We will NOT be back.
- 4632 We hunted WIA north and northwest of Webster. One land owner was very gruff and very put out that hunters were actually going to walk across his land that was in a WIA to hunt waterfowl. He was very rude and made it clear that he likes the money received per acre, but wants nothing to do with hunters or people actually using the WIA. We were even neatly and rightfully parked along a minimum maintenance road and not blocking any passage of other vehicles or farm equipment and we heard all about the hunters damaging the roads. On the plus side, we found some really great waterfowl opportunities on WIAs without much other hunting pressure that provided some great hunts and great memories. Hoping to be successful again in the non-resident lottery.
- 4636 Would have hunted in South Dakota but lakes were frozen. Drove around but couldn't find open water.
- 4640 The farmers around Lily are very unhappy with SDGFP and would not allow anyone to hunt on their property, this made hunting tough in that area.
- 4641 I'm from KY and our public land access is horrible. SD has an awesome public access hunting strategy. Thanks for all you do!
- 4642 More Distinct Signing, labeling & Mapping between Private Waterfowl Land and CREP land need to be in Place. Also, Better clarification on hunting on water over private land when accessing from CREP land???
- 4644 Without Walk In we would probably not hunt waterfowl in SD. In Day County where we hunt the farmers got together and shut down 4 sq. townships to all hunting right in the area we usually hunt. Some dispute about closing roads with the state. Years back it was far less crowded the land owners more willing to let you hunt waterfowl than now. SD hunters have discovered hunting ducks is really fun. Many now save their land for relation etc. it was great while it lasted. We will apply one more time to see if things turn around. Seems ag and hunters are at odds now. Thank You for letting me vent.
- 4657 We are talking about no longer duck hunting in SD because we hunt the Missouri River out of Springfield and SD allows Federal blinds which is no more than pre-empting a spot on the river, no one hunts these blinds and it only leads to confrontations and hunter harassment from the locals that preempt these spots the Missouri River is a federal waterway and does not belong to a handful of SD Hunters, Mn eliminated these private blind spots and SD should too. We are senior citizens and are fed up with these confrontations. Thank you for hearing my concerns.

- 4659 I travel from Florida each year and stay 2 or 3 months at house I own in Spink County, SD. I purchase 4-6 10day non-resident licenses each year and a waterfowl license. The numerous walk-in areas and CREP areas around the Redfield area was a factor in purchasing a home in SD. The CREP lands have been a great addition to public hunting lands and generally have good habitat. I would like to see some sort of seasonal non-resident license for people like me who own homes/land in SD and pay property taxes, and wn vehicles there. Would like to see more walk-in lands in grouse country.
- 4665 Q14. Due to lack of accessibility to land by landowners this program appears to be abused by the landowners in many areas.
- 4669 South Dakota is a great place to hunt waterfowl. Our group has been hunting there for about 10 years. It's a great trip
- 4674 when asked about walk in area I told you I did not use them but you kept asking questions about them ? thanks
- 4679 Have been to SD for about 7 years now principally in pursuit of Pheasant on private land, with some public ground mixed in. Attempt waterfowl when time/energy allow and if I get a lottery draw. Unfortunately my trip timing and weather limited duck hunting opportunity this year. SDGFP does a great job with supporting quality habitat and good hunting access. Took our first vacation to Black Hills/Custer State Park in August as well. My wife enjoyed the black hills trip, and if she would let me I would g back every year for that as well. And South Dakota folks are always very nice and courteous to out of state visitors.
- 4688 Too many walk in areas are just a bare ag field. It would be one thing if it were corn stubble that provides cover for pheasants and food for waterfowl rather that a bare soybean or no cover field. We see so many wasted dollars on ground that will never hld a bird. There needs to be some cooperation between farmers and managers to provide huntable ground before money is spent. If it is for pheasants it should include edge or low areas that provide cover. No cover, no pay!!
- 4690 Split the out of state waterfowl up to two 5 day periods like the out of state pheasants!!!
- 4691 - Enhance habitat on waterfowl production areas. - Make the waterfowl license a split 2/5 day season. Would help the local economy too. - If you own a house in SD make it eligible to us to get resident licenses, we pay taxes to the state to.
- 4694 I am happy to have so much CREP and Walk-In Areas in South Dakota.
- 4698 SD is the benchmark for use of public lands. I wish my state was as supportive for tourism and wildlife.
- 4699 I think the Walk-In access areas are a great idea.
- 4716 Very poor goose hunting experience. Migration was off this year. Never saw a pheasant on the road. One goose. One goose one duck not recovered. Loss of mail shack was very disappointing.
- 4722 We hunted WIA so little because we stayed in the Plankinton area and there was virtually no WIA around us. We would specifically target pheasant & duck hunting on WIA if there were spots near us with good habitat. We plan to return to this area in 2016, ad beyond...
- 4724 Walk-in-areas is a great program. Thanks for investing in this important opportunity for hunters.

- 4728 We hunted five days in early November near Arlington, SD. Of the five people in our party we flushed exactly three roosters and shot those. Although we flushed numerous hens, even their number was low. Although the camaraderie was excellent amongst our party, cocktails and dinner at day's end etc., it hardly paid to drive out there. We would have done better hunting at a game farm in Wisconsin. This was the worst year ever in terms of cock rooster pheasant numbers. We are five gents ranging in age from 56 to 72 and we had three dogs - all professionally trained.
- 4731 I can't quite understand why a fair number of walk-in areas still get mowed off. This is critical nesting habitat not only for small game and waterfowl but also for a lot of non-game animals and pollinating insects. It would be nice to see farmers who receive billions in subsidies to be better stewards of the land.
- 4762 While not hunting on walk-in areas in 2015 - I have hunted them for pheasants in the past. Had a little success but probably hunted them after they had been heavily pressured already. When it comes to pheasants especially these lands are sometimes the only option for non-resident hunters in certain areas of the state.
- 4764 Eliminate Non-Resident waterfowl lottery. Waterfowl are federally managed, South Dakota's actions specific to non-resident waterfowl hunters hurt the long-term viability of the sport. My state allows your residents to pursue game without a lottery, how would your residents feel if we did a lottery for them? Quid Pro Quo.
- 4771 Just because I did not hunt WI or CREP areas, I spent a lot on food/drink/lodging and equipment. Would like to see expanded non-resident waterfowl licenses. Issued for a migratory bird not owned by SD, i.e. Pheasant. Best migration hunting opportunities in North America.
- 4775 Walk-in/CREP land Webster Area: Have hunted yearly, 20 years, ducks in South Dakota. In the last 5 years I have watched prior pothole sloughs go away. Stop drain tilling. This has got to stop. South Dakota is becoming like Minnesota. A wasteland of dry farm ground. No wetlands = no waterfowl & no pheasants.
- 4784 At least half of the walk-in land that I encounter is worthless for hunting. The other half, I would call marginal for hunting purposes. Walk-in land is a great idea, but I wish the state of South Dakota would do a better job of evaluating these properties before hunting season before paying the land owners. There is no cover left on most of the land for waterfowl or upland wildlife.
- 4798 Leaving adequate upland habitat for upland game birds and nesting habitat for waterfowl will not happen until the value of leaving set-aside land reaches the value, or close to it, the value of producing agricultural crops. The farmers I spoke with are willing to leave habitat for wildlife, but need to be compensated at a rate close to that of producing a crop. Until that happens I do not see agricultural production being given up for wildlife habitat. Currently, the best way to produce revenue from set-aside land is to charge a trespass fee. Where I hunted there is a lot of friction between the farming landowners and the Fish and Game. Until that friction is diminished cooperation to benefit habitat will never happen! Fish and Game needs to "mend the fence" and see the landowners as partners. Listen to the farmers, they have a whole lot of fantastic ideas and in their own way really enjoy seeing wildlife on the landscape.
- 4801 It would be nice if non-resident hunters could get an annual license.
- 4805 I don't think the estimate of pheasants was even close to accurate. As for ducks they just were not in yet.

- 4807 Would like to hunt waterfowl without restriction, ie. draw, # of day's allowed....We were only picked for 3 day's....Heard other shooting but never saw another group of waterfowl hunter's in the 6 day's we hunted...Only saw 2 other group's of Pheasant hunte's in same amount of time....Stayed at [name removed]in Webster...Nice place,nice people...Would like to return for more Duck hunting but traveling so far for 3 day's is hard to swallow...Thank's again,,,, [name removed]
- 4808 It would be nice to see an increase in grass land areas in the NE portion of the state. There is nothing for suitable cover in some areas.
- 4811 Nicest walk-in areas in the upper midwest. Super Job
- 4812 My group has been hunting walk in areas since there inception. Have noticed a bit of quality decline the past 3-4 years. Crep areas do not have good holding cover. Main hunting areas have been GPA's and WPA's. We are planning to come in 2016!
- 4819 I think they are valuable. I hunted in an area of the state that did not have any of those areas available but I've hunted them in the past. Those programs make it possible for someone to come to SD for a hunting trip without knowing landowners.
- 4838 I wish it was easier to get a waterfowl license in South Dakota I'm a former resident and like going back home for waterfowl hunting I would assume there is a reason for the lottery system, where some areas that seems appropriate.
- 4839 The CREP program is much appreciated by this hunter!
- 4857 The outfitters who charge to hunt need to be a little more civil to hunters who freelance no need for conformation if I'm hunting on public land and the outside of your pay to play fields.
- 4866 tough last year due to the drought for Ducks were blessed by the good people of SD to hunt private land for free !
- 4872 Please come to Illinois and teach the morons how to properly manage lands. Can't say enough good things about how good you guys and gals do it. Keep up the great work.
- 4877 I have never experienced such good land and hunting habitat as I did in the walk in areas..the waterfowl hunting was outstanding in some of those areas.
- 4883 The habitat for birds on public lands is pretty bleak. Public lands we came across tend to be just prairie grass with minimal shelter belts, cattails, crops surrounding the area, etc. so in turn very few birds are using the areas. Have to have private lad if you want to get birds
- 4902 Although as an out of state hunter I only hunted waterfowl on private crop lands in SD. I do believe that walk in areas are an invaluable resource to in state and out of state hunters of upland game. With the inability to access private property for uplnd game in SD the walk in program must be retained in order to spread out hunting pressure and allow for quality hunting land for the thousands of hunters who do not have access to private land.
- 4903 in the areas, sec. 8 , we hunted, there seemed to be a large number of hen pheasants. According to our daily records of "flushes" the ratio was 13 hens to one rooster
- 4912 We lost a lot of quality hunting opportunities around Lily because those people were so angry at the GFP. Nice people, they ALL just told us that until your policy changes, they won't let anyone hunt.
- 4913 I had a kidney stone and could not go

- 4923 You need to regulate outfitters. They are ruining the waterfowl hunting over there.
- 4930 Parking areas were a bit scarce so we just pulled off the road gingerly, maybe a gravel pad for just a couple trucks designated for walk in area close but not right on the hunting spots would be nice not to spook the game. Signage would have been much mor helpful as we used the iPhone app and a guide but a few areas weren't well marked and we caused a stir with a land owner because we were on the wrong side of a fence that appeared to be a walk in area but it wasn't. It's hard to come by spots so we try t do the right thing and he was fine once we showed him the maps and he understood our confusion.
- 4937 There are not many options to hunt, dry season. Only stayed 2 nights in SD - very disappointed in waterfowl opportunities. Q20. Won't be back unless improvements/access. Surprisingly poor habitat/opportunities for waterfowl in NE SD, not for good areasin ND. Little or no help from several DNR personnel I talked with prior to trip. Live and learn - won't be back.
- 4941 Fix the Day County water issues before you anger every landowner in the state. It is spilling into the Watertown, Aberdeen and Sand Lake/Brittan area. Not good for NR and the Game and Fish.
- 4949 We mostly hunt the [name removed]. Finding walk-in areas is a nice bonus area to hunt if birds are located! We also fish when we can and Love your wonderful state! Thanks for having us!
- 4952 Some kind of update to sportsmen about public areas that have been tilled or raked or barren prior to driving there only to find out it is un-huntable.
- 4957 Some of the areas we looked at were way too large for group of hunters even with dogs, it would very helpful to have some cut. Thank you for all the good you are doing.
- 4964 I'm concerned about the attitude of private land owners. 2015 was the 1st year we did not receive permission and asked 5 different farmers. Most of their reasoning was discontent with SD's mgmt. of accessible land and the impact on farmers. Also, most of he walk-In Area was land that had been disked over and was useless to any type of hunter. I hope they are not getting tax breaks for offering worthless hunting land. Also, you really need to step up permission to drive in and out of land for decoy placemet only (extra tax incentive). Land with birds is useless if the hunters have to risk heart attacks carrying several dozen decoys 2 miles one-way. These are becoming serious issues if SD wants to attract out of state hunters and the revenue they bring in te future. Thanks for the survey.
- 4967 I have been hunting in South Dakota for 47 years consecutively. I have not missed a year. I am deeply concerned about the extinguishing of CRP land as the State of South Dakota is taking this CRP out of the system of land management for (Ethanol) productin. Your screwing the Farmers and Ranchers by not paying them enough to keep this land whole. It is the backbone of wildlife reproduction. Once you take it away from the farmers, you will never re-create it. Your gradually making a big mistake. The mistakeis counter productive to land management and conservation as we all know it. Please re-think your motives and quit turning the land into Ethanol, when gas prices have fallen 50%.
- 4968 Would like to say "THANK YOU" for the opportunity to waterfowl hunt the South Dakota state, federal, crep and walkin areas while on my annual fall hunting trip. Never have a

- problem with too many hunters and no matter what the weather conditions, always have a place to hunt on some type of public land in the Lake City, SD area.
- 4989 Im from MN and I love hunting in SD due to there being more game and hunting opportunities and of course less hunting pressure. I hunt waterfowl so I have to apply for the lottery which I don't like since it is not guaranteed but until things change I will have to deal with that. Great state to hunt in overall!
- 4993 Didn't harvest a white tail due to numbers remain down. Practice selective harvest and only saw one deer over 4+ years of age. Still only wintering 24 animals where four years ago we wintered over 100 animals.
- 4995 Why won't they make the waterfowl license good for 2- 5 day periods so it's easier to use the whole license. Hard for lot of people to get 10 consecutive days off?
- 5004 SD has great habitat, access, and game numbers. I really enjoy my time there. the people of your state are always friendly and welcoming as well.
- 5009 If our group did not have leased private land to hunt on, the above programs would be very important to our hunting experience. We are just lucky to have the private land available to us that we do. Many other out state hunters depend on public land.
- 5013 Q4. Private land is scarce large grass walk in areas produce the most birds, which travel to adjacent private tracts we hunt. Q6a. I want to! Q7a. I want to! Q8a. I want to! Q12b. Usually 50/50 walk in area and private land. Have spots in all choice though. This year only walk in area. Q16. When the grass is mowed, the pheasant numbers drop. Our best spot has not ever been mowed! Q23. Had 2 new hunters/5. The other 3 are 20+ year veterans. Q25. Driving from CA. Q34. Includes private land hunting. I'm a 3rd(technically 4th, but never hunted with my great grandpa) generation, 20 year veteran bird hunter in SD, from out of state. It's a tradition I plan to uphold one day as well. My 90 year old Grandpa, 60 year old Father, and I 30 years old, all hunted last year. We usually, and did bring along a few friends and dogs. I took the survey seriously, and hope it helps. I was born in Sioux Falls and my Grandpa grew up where we hunt in Mobridge, SD. He had hunted there with his father since he was born. Almost 100 years of continual hunting there, even now that most of us come from out of state. I will always love that area, and walk in areas are key to game production/protection. Feel free to contact me with any questions. [name and number removed]
- 5017 too much of your ground was plowed field, what a joke , its bad that you only allow 10 days hunting for such a great price. all other states want me to hunt when the game is there, not your state, If we had all season to hunt you would get a lot more money out of the hunters, and maybe we would get some shooting. two years in a row I hunted and never seen a goose to shoot, the season is changing and I only can make one trip, money, vacation time,birds. give me a break
- 5026 As walk-ins become sunflower fields and 'flower fields become (king) corn fields and cattails are burned, sprayed with round-up, or mowed & round -baled for bedding -- following the end of CRP acres that have also become corn acres, I worry about where South Dakota, it's pheasants, & other game animals is really headed. I know we can't change drought or the rains of the 90s but, as a former MN resident & sportsman who has hunted in SD since 1980, I know what the answer is--no matter how the questions are asked: HABITAT, which is disappearing way too fast.
- 5029 Overall the ability of an out of state hunter to come to South Dakota and hunt is outstanding. Obviously, the loss of habitat is a concern and while I understand the

farmers desiring to make use of every piece of the land they own, I can only hope that the CRP and other programs will again be funded at higher levels to ensure quality hunting. I thank the people of South Dakota for the opportunity presented and truly do appreciate it. Thanks!!!

- 5031 I come to South Dakota yearly for 2 reasons. World class public access and good bird hunting. Please continue to provide the same or more acreage for public hunting.
- 5036 Great Experience. I wish I could draw a waterfowl license every year but, unfortunately, your state has a lottery pick system.
- 5069 I may have error end with my answers. We hunted ducks and pheasants about 50/50 each day on private land.
- 5077 I put down that CREP areas and other walk ins or waterfowl production areas are very important because they are same type of habitat. Hopefully some ducks or geese were hatched and raised in those areas in 2015. I did not happen to hunt any walk ins or REP areas this past year, but I have many other years since 2000.
- 5085 Good public land hunting in SD. Keep up the good work.
- 5086 These areas are very important and are key to habitat. They have grasses that are needed during the spring & also water that is a key factor! Thanks for all you do in the great state of SD. Don't let "Big AG" take over. Come to MN to see what they have done to habitat!
- 5091 Your out of state waterfowl limitations on the number of days are too restrictive. Unless it changes we will be hunting in North Dakota in the future.
- 5096 What happened to the DuckS this year?
- 5106 Although I didn't hunt any walk-in areas I think they are a valuable asset to South Dakota hunters, and I really enjoy hunting in the great state of South Dakota!
- 5108 I think South Dakota has a great public access program. Additionally, the land owners are very open to letting people hunt ducks/geese on their land. That will never, ever be the case in this state. I was away from home hunting water fowl this fall for two months. I hunted in Nevada, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Idaho and Montana. South Dakota was, by FAR, the most accessible for waterfowl hunting. Your hunter's atlas was an outstanding publication and I used it a lot. As far as I'm concerned it was a dream come true. I am a retired fireman here in California, and one of the purposes of my trip was to look for a place to relocate. As of now our home is on the market here and we will be relocating to NE South Dakota before fall. My intention is to be there in plenty of time to qualify for my resident licensing.
- 5115 I have hunted in South Dakota the last 5 years. My brother and I meet in Pierre SD to celebrate the success of a bone marrow transplant in Oct 1988. We both love SD Hunting. Keep up the Great Management Program... [name removed]
- 5116 Less ditching, tiling, draining wetlands and tree cutting down. Pretty soon it will look like MN/IA and I'll have no reason to come hunt in SD.
- 5119 walk in areas need some food and cover for winter along with nesting cover. cover overall lacking in walk in areas
- 5127 I don't understand why farmers mow CREP to a nub. There's little cover in CREP. Very disappointing. Even worse, I finally draw a waterfowl permit but it was before northern

- birds came down. I wasted my money. Very disappointing. Doubt I'll do that again unless you change your season.
- 5130 Great trip not a lot of luck this year...pheasant hunting was decent, waterfowl terrible...all locked up in refuge and no weather to get them moving but will give it another shot
- 5156 I would like to thank the Department for all that they do. South Dakota is truly a sportsman's paradise. I would hope that the phone line application for securing a license would be further simplified for a person such as myself who is challenged by techno gadgets such as my own phone. I had sort of a hard time navigating the site and it took quite a while and I needed help to figure it out. Could the site be simplified in some manner?? I purchased 2 licenses and when I received my credit card billing I had to call and request a refund for the price of one of the applications. The person who answered my call was gracious, straight forward and a pleasure to talk to. My request was quickly satisfied and I can't wait to come back again next year and try the system all over again. Maybe I'll be better at it the second time? Thank you again for all that your Department accomplishes. Respectfully, [name removed]
- 5165 I had a waterfowl permit but there was none to hunt as the weather was too nice.
- 5166 Even though I hunted private land this year, in the previous decade I've predominately relied on publicly-accessible lands, and probably will if I'm to visit in the future. More permanent conservation efforts in S.D (new Game Production Areas) would be helpful. I'd also like to see funding restored for the James River CREPs, and some new CREPs established. More permanent conservation funding in South Dakota (like Minnesota has) is going to need to become a reality fast to enact the Pheasant Plan and keep waterfowling top notch. I, for one, would be willing to pay even more, with more \$ going towards habitat improvement, but other avenues should be explored as well.
- 5169 Good idea and should be continued.
- 5178 You're doing a great job of opening up lands for out of state hunters to utilize the grounds you have open for hunters to enjoy.
- 5189 I applied for out-state waterfowl lottery and was selected. Due to unseasonably mild weather in the fall and scheduling conflicts, I was unable to use that license. I find your system for waterfowl license to be difficult to manage and inflexible for out-state hunters. Please consider allowing splitting into 2 5-day periods or giving the option of not using the license and deferring or issuing a refund. Your current process leaves several key issues for waterfowlers to chance: weather, migration and calendar. Thank you!
- 5197 Great time will do again.
- 5202 Walk in areas with minimal tillage are valuable cover for wildlife. Those plowed or completely stripped haven't any cover for birds and other animals. No reason to offer those as walk ins in my opinion. Thank you.
- 5206 The waterfowl lottery is a significant impediment to my hunting days in South Dakota. When I don't get drawn, the money spent in SD described in this survey is spent in North Dakota. If I get the draw it is always in South Dakota as we have more access to land, more friends drawing us there, and it is a shorter distance from home. The Waterfowl lottery is a significant impediment to your economic success. I would gladly pay \$200 if I could be assured of a license. One more thing. If the waterfowl license were two five day stints instead of a single 10 day, there is a 90% chance I would make an additional trip to South Dakota.
- 5208 Bad year for Pheasants in the area where I hunted

- 5216 Just a little information from an out of state hunter, you need to have a little better relationship with your landowners. We are contemplating not returning to your state because nobody that owns private land will let us hunt. Kind of hard to spend all o that money and not get the opportunity to hunt large numbers of birds parks are suing the counties to repair washed out roads. If you can patch up the relationship with landowners my hunting party will gladly come and hunt in your state! It is an excellet place for wildlife to thrive.
- 5227 We have been hunting the Webster area for 14 years. We field hunt in November. This year all of the concentrations of birds were South of Hwy. 12. Every place we asked for permission to hunt we were turned down. In every case we were told, "we normally let anyone hunt who asks for permission but we need to close some roads because the townships cannot afford to maintain them. The state will not let us close them so until they give us permission to do so we landowners have banded together and are not letting anyone hunt." I just want you to know that your decision makers totally ruined our hunt over a stupid political battle. Five of us spent hard earned money in your state all for a very frustrating week long windshield tour. Shame on those responsible! Please share this with them. We will not return until this mess is resolved. [name removed]
- 5248 My friends and I regularly hunt SD for ducks and pheasants. Last year I applied online in the lottery for a Nonresident group waterfowl license and got drawn. I gave my friends the group number to use and they entered it as instructed. But for some reaon they were notified they weren't drawn and their notification showed a different group number than mine. I checked my email to them to make sure I had given them the correct number and everything was in order on our side. For some reason the system chnged their number. I was a "one man group" so we skipped hunting in SD last year and went to ND instead where we don't have to enter a lottery to hunt ducks. We hunted ducks and pheasants and huns there and did pretty good on all of them.
- 5253 More pheasant habitat
- 5258 It makes little sense to me that farmers are paid for walk in land when they are able to harvest to bare ground, whether it is cutting hay of harvesting sunflower seeds etc. Pheasants need habitat and hunters need habitat to hunt pheasants. Since the chane in the CRP program there is far less habitat and far fewer pheasants in SD. IN 2015 the pheasant hunting was better in western MN than it was in SD. Something I never expected to see. If you want hunters to keep coming to SD. Figure out a way to improvethe habitat.
- 5259 I was not able to make the trip to hunt in South Dakota due to a party member not correctly applying for the license. We ended up going to North Missouri so we could hunt together.
- 5264 Walk in areas are great for pheasants, turkey, quail..etc. However when scouting ducks and finding swarms over these walk in areas which are fields also I think driving on NON tilled acres should be allowed to get equipment into the fields..decoys, peopleout there and then park on gravel roads or parking areas. We had lots of trouble finding farmers to get permission thus forcing us to return home early..very disappointing after 8 amazing years in ND where permission is not necessary although we always tred. Would love better farmer contacts...even bought a plat book. Down but not giving up we fished most of the trip and caught fish for an additional \$60 per person but birds were very stale over Halloween weekend with 70's for temps.

- 5277 Most of the WIA's on the maps in the past have been poor range land or bare ground. We did hunt on a better quality one this year. Many times in the past we have looked at them and decided not to hunt because of no habitat. I hope that it has improved, because within our group at least, it has become a joke that the WIA donation on our license is just a give-away to landowners with no benefit. That is a shame because the idea is great. I hope in the future the money only goes to land that has good habitat, at the very least good habitat for part of the life cycle of birds. It seems like this is part of your plan, so thank you for that and for this opportunity to express my opinion. Also, thanks for the fantastic Atlas and GPS download!
- 5297 A better mobile map. So you can check boundaries while hunting. An I phone map like on web site would cut down on questions about being on state land! I did not hunt areas due to worry of getting off state or Fed land.
- 5298 Please offer non resident waterfowl hunters the chance to split the 10 license into two 5 day periods.
- 5312 The biggest draw to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota as a non resident is the limited number of permits. This leads to less pressure and I have experienced increased permission to hunt private lands for waterfowl then in other states I have hunted.
- 5323 I missed 2015 hunting season. I have hunted in the past 20 years. I think the walk in and CREP & public lands are a very good thing. I like hunting in South Dakota.
- 5330 I did not not hunt more in South Dakota due to the lack of non-resident licenses. I would definitely spend more time for waterfowl and most definitely for mule deer and antelope if licenses were available.
- 5331 I have been traveling to South Dakota from Ohio almost every year since 1991. I am very concerned at the loss of habitat the last few years. Every year we see more CREP converted to crops. It is vital you add walking in areas or retain CREP for Habitat. We hunt in the Onida area. We have started to combine a day of waterfowl hunting because we can't find enough land to pheasant hunt for the week. The problem is the "group" has to commit in March for the waterfowl draw, and you limit the number in a group. expand the number for out of state hunters to 7 or 8 for waterfowl group. We have bought the "private land only" limited county waterfowl license for last minute add ons to group. Good luck, We appreciate all you do to preserve habitat. David Wesel
- 5340 I had a 2015 waterfowl license, but didn't hunt in SD. I hunt turkeys in the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Reservation. Walk-in areas for waterfowl in past years were much appreciated!
- 5345 I think this is a great program and hope it grows. we use the walkins every year and are very grateful to the land owners that offer them.
- 5348 Walk in areas are great, I would like to see more drive on to bring out blinds and decoys. This past June I had congested heart failure, it was very hard for me to hunt with having to carry everything. Sometime over a half mile. The guys I hunted with pulled our stuff out on sleds. I would like to see more drive on for waterfowl hunters. I will not be going back this year. Instead I will be making two trips to Canada. Thanks [name removed]
- 5353 we have hunted south dakota for 10 years and this was the worst experience we found our selfs driving way to much and then when we found a walk in it looked like a golf coarse and not a green one. more like a cut bean fieldthe road hunting cover in any areas had been mowed short so no cover and I am not talking about areas near homes some of these mowed roads were miles from homes it was unbelievable.... the message

- we got was we don't want you to hunt in our state! I can not imagine who has the balls to take payment from the state for a walking area like many of the ones we found....it is a great idea but if you are not going out and looking at the properties you should save your money!!!! we are now trying to find a paid hunt that has private access that we can afford that really sucks.but that maybe what SD has become hunting for the rich. I drive for a living at home so spending lots of time driving around SD looking for walk ins that actually have cover and some birds turned out this year to be T MUCH.
- 5366 Walk-in program is great, please do everything you can to preserve and expand it. Without it we would probably not hunt waterfowl in S. Dakota. please rethink your drawing system for out of state hunting as we enjoy it but it makes it hard to plan when you cannot be sure of getting a draw. possibly make us look at other destinations.
- 5373 I recommend improving/requiring food habitat on public land for pheasants to winter on.
- 5374 I have a huge issue with farmers receiving payment for walk in that turn their field black the day after harvest! In my opinion they should not be allowed to fall till if they are receiving walk in money. Black fields do nothing for wildlife or hunters. I seen a pile of black walk in areas in the Britton area this past fall. This needs to be addressed. There are 100's of walk in acres that are black from fence line to fence line, no cover, no food for wildlife yet they are getting paid for it.
- 5383 More non resident deer tags east river would allow more money to lease walk in areas.
- 5386 The residence of South Dakota were very friendly, hospitable and helpful. Enjoyed our hunt and plan to come back in 2016. You've done a great job!
- 5389 We enjoyed using these areas as a place to hunt between our morning and evening Waterfowl hunt. They were productive and enjoyable. Not a lot of pressure from other hunters
- 5414 We will probably not be hunting South Dakota in the future because of your unique Duck hunting lottery and the lack of signs of ownership for private property....We have already made our reservation in North Dakota because we can buy a duck hunting license when we feel the ducks will be flying and because of the "if not posted open to hunting law". It is also easier contacting land owners in ND because they have to post their land with their name and phone number...South Dakota needs to sell Duck hunting license and dump the draw. We would have gone back later but couldn't because we couldn't buy another duck license so we went to ND and now will continue to go to ND....To bad
- 5432 Really enjoyed what SD has to offer and has created through their private/public partnerships for sportsmen. I was truly impressed with the level of habitat conservation and hunting opportunities available and look forward to coming back again.
- 5434 Please bring back more of the WIP and Crep areas that are not harvested or mowed. It was very disappointing to see the reduced number of birds and after seeing how much grass and cattail swamps that were burned. The birds need more grass!!!!!!!!!!!!
- 5437 South Dakota is a Great state! I could live there! maybe some day!
- 5438 Most of the walk in areas in SD have disappeared , as have most of the CRP acres. These temporary solutions to habitat are a waste of time and money. Most of our hunting was done on public land because it had the best habitat, and we knew it was going to be there. The pheasant hunting in SD this year was about like Minnesotas 20 years ago, nothing to brag about, and the trajectory seems to be downward. Most of the talk on our trips home were about the calculation if its worth it any more. We have a lot more public

- land in Minnesota because of legacy dollars. SD has made a fortune on Pheasant hunting and has done nothing to support it other than talk.
- 5442 Suggestions: Send this soon after the previous season rather than 6 months later. My memory doesn't serve me that well so my answers aren't super accurate. Q34. Be more clear in questioning. I've spent thousands in my life on supplies, guns, etc. that I use.
- 5443 I HAVE BEEN HUNTING SD ALOT OF YEARS IN THE PAST AND I SHALL NOT RETURN FOR PHEASANTS FOR QUITE SOME TIME IT WAS A HORRIFIC YEAR. DUCK HUNTING CAME AND WENT WITH NO NORTHERN FLIGHT WASTE OF MONEY I NEVER EVEN ACTIVATED MY LICENSE. WE WILL SEE IF SNOW GEESEPANS OUT OR NOT!
- 5457 Non Resident Youth under age 12 should be able to hunt with licensed adult parent.
- 5458 I like seeing the numerous walk in areas. For what I've seen they all seem to have very good habitat conditions for all types of game. The waterfowl production areas seem to be the most wildlife friendly.
- 5466 Just wanted to thank South Dakota for it's outstanding hunting opportunities that it provides. The Walk In Program is great and it would be nice to have more land enrolled in this program, but overall it's a great program. Thanks for all that you guys do. Keep up the good work!!
- 5473 Thank you ---South Dakota for allowing us to draw a license and be able to hunt waterfowl in your State!!
- 5476 I like your lottery idea. It keeps the waterfowl hunters at a manageable level. In North Dakota too many out of state waterfowl hunters have invaded, causing many problems including posting of most land. Several waterfowl hunters I know stopped going to North Dakota because of too many out-of-state waterfowl hunters. Your system is much better. Please keep using your lottery system to protect the waterfowl resource and the way of life. Thank you. P.S. I would also like to see all motorized decoys prohibited. They are not necessary and provide the hunter an unfair advantage.
- 5483 We hunted in the Springfield bottoms. on several hunts we had conflicts with hunters who have Federal blinds. I feel all these blinds do is provide private hunting blinds on public land. Many of these blinds were floating and were being moved around as the winds changed.
- 5496 none
- 5499 Thanks for asking. The app which loads on cell phones & help keep a hunter on land with access is awesome!
- 5502 We spend 90% of our time hunting public land. It would be helpful if they marked school & public lands & did not allow it to be grazed to the ground. The state does a great job caring for GFA & WPA's. We value the opportunity to have a place to hunt on public lands.
- 5584 Have always been very pleased with our GF&P. Have lived in SD all my life. I primarily hunt Geese. There are plenty of areas to hunt them in the Pierre area; however, I'm from Sioux Falls and there are very few landowners/places that will allow you to hunt them. Essentially you need to be 20 miles away or more before people are willing to let you hunt their land. Be nice to have some easements of some kind. Thanks, [name removed]
- 5653 Thanks for all the hard work you do to improve the hunting experience in South Dakota

- 5681 We are fortunate to live close to these areas, but we have many friends and family who come from, Rapid City, Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and North Carolina. These people do spend a lot of money getting here, on equipment and ammo and their things. They all truly enjoy the great pheasant and duck hunting we do on these areas. Why do you offer 1000's of pheasant licenses to out of states? When we have a limited number of them and the numbers are declining in our area. And with the migratory bird license you limit the number and we have way to many snow geese and honkers. They are here for a short amount of time and you make the hunters choose when they want to come in the spring. It should be an over the counter license. A lot of our friends are getting a ND license because it's easy and they can hunt when the waterfowl are here. I think you have the pheasant and duck license applications mixed up.
- 5694 I didn't go hunting this year.
- 5815 Mark walk-ins better or replace faded signs. Some walk-in signs were gone, that were in the walk-in map book. Keep doing a wonderful job (Far better than MN).
- 5864 I am a senior living on a fixed income. It is too expensive to hunt now.
- 5880 Keep cattle and crops out! This is why the birds can't reproduce. Keep farmers from cutting the grass.
- 5881 I have used SDGFP Walk-In areas quite a bit for hunting and calling coyotes.
- 5883 I think the WIA and CREP programs are extremely important and valuable to hunters in SD. I encourage the department to continue and expand the program in the future. However I would also encourage the department to set a higher criteria for lands enrolled into the program. I have seen many of the WIAs that have been mowed or tilled and offer absolutely no cover for wildlife and no hunting opportunities for the sportsmen's dollars. I realize the department makes arrangements with a landowner and sometimes to get a good area they will take additional acres from that landowner. If that is the case, I would recommend that you don't sign the poor habitat area unless it meets a higher cover and habitat criteria. It's very disappointing to travel to an area you see in the atlas only to find the area with shorter grass than most golf courses in the state or an area that has been tilled and is completely black.
- 5891 Q9. The land out in Fall River has a lot of weeds.
- 5940 WPA hunting habitat very poor, either grazed off or farmed. Some walk-in are decent habitat but over hunted. Some walk-in are now not walk-in areas. It is all about habitat bottomline.
- 5948 While I did not hunt WIA lands this year, I have in the past. I appreciate the opportunity that WIA affords, and encourage you to continue and expand the program. Sometimes the areas are better than others. It's disappointing to arrive at a WIA that has been mowed to stubble for acres. But I understand there must be balance in the economics for the landowner.
- 5961 Need more aerators to keep birds around the Madison area. Birds were gone 2 weeks before the end of the season
- 5974 I do not like pastures in walk ins.
- 5980 I've hunted WIA areas over the years. Always have a WIA atlas with me. Luckily I still have family with private land, but eyeball all WIA I pass on my trips to hunt. Truly feel it's a valuable asset to have WIA & CREP. Know I will hunt some of them again.

- 5994 The GFP is no better than the people who want to commercialize hunting, your organization are in my eyes are worse, your not god, you don't own SOUTH DAKOTA, you sure act like it. Your making it a rich man sport, I know everything takes money, and its really not that much, but it sure is a turn off. That is why I quit hunting deer. I do want a muzzle loader tag. GFP doesn't know good thing when its right in front of your data. I suggest that GFP start a UNLIMITED TAGS muzzle loader season before rifle season, cut back on rifle tags than we might actually see a trophy buck. I am a true bowhunter
- 6011 I now live very close to the Hill Ranch Game Production area. I want to thank the state and the GFP for your efforts to acquire and develop this property. I see many people enjoying the Hill Ranch at Angostura all year long.
- 6020 improvements to habitat are needed pheasants need a kitchen and a bedroom just like us!
- 6024 I do almost all of my hunting on public land so am very appreciative of the Walk-in Program. I do wonder at times at some of the sites I have visited that appear to have very little cover such as large cut sunflower fields or pasture land that is heavily razed. Overall though I think the program is very successful in providing hunting opportunity. Thank you for that opportunity.
- 6032 Need to pay landowners more money for CRP.
- 6033 Thank you to all the people at SDGFP for doing such a great job! With all the great resources and opportunities to hunt and fish w the people of SD are very blessed! One way I think improvement is needed is the marking and access to school lands. Awareness and acknowledgement to the people that it is there for public use and owned by the public. Not for the renter to act like they own it.
- 6046 Q20. Hopefully more than last year! Q22. And my Birthday! Enjoy watching! I love walk in areas! It almost feels like hunting on your own private property! would be nice to see more birds, but I enjoy going for a walk and watching my birthday hunting. If I get a shot it's a bonus! Keep up the good work and thanks for the opportunity to be able to grab your gun (freedom) and your best 4 legged buddy and enjoy the beauty of SD!
- 6060 I am 62 and in good shape but some of my buddies are older and not so lucky. Should have some trails to drive on so they can get picked up when they can't go no more.
- 6086 I have not participated in the walk-in program as of yet, but I think its an excellent program.
- 6090 If you don't have relatives with land, there is no where else to hunt. The practices in farming leave little habitat. I feel sorry for the 12 year old kid that has limited resources. Their parents can't take them hunting. Without these young hunters w will all pay a price for our future hunting. It will also affect gun rights.
- 6106 Very disappointed with the quality of the walk in areas. Many of the areas were overgrazed or barren ground or located next to major roads. These lands were not fit for hunting anything. A closer look needs to be made as to why money was spent on many of these walk ins. Its very disheartening to arrive at a spot that no one would want to hunt and then think we helped pay for it. An example would be south of Harrisburg at a crossroads of 2 main highways is a small area (20 acres?) with zero habitat and it shouldn't even be hunted anyway because of traffic. It would be helpful if a legend was created to show what type of hunting could be expected on the different areas (pheasant, waterfowl, deer, etc). I have not spent much time hunting west river but the

est river walk ins are, for the most part, a waste. I love the concept and would definitely use them but they currently are wholly inadequate. Reevaluate the sites and criteria then keep the few usable ones. It would be better to have a dozen quality spots than a hundred garbage areas. Lastly, what do the landowners get for opening up their land? How is it managed? What are they supposed to do and what does the state do? Why are there so many walkins on garbage land? Walk in is a great idea but right now it is an experiment in frustration for the hunter.

- 6120 I intend to spend much more time & money hunting in SD this year. Terrific state, great utilization of resources.
- 6148 It really stinks when on deer archery and rifle seasons public land gets over populated with people from the Eastern cities. It ruins your day when people go crazy for a deer or when you hear bullets whiz over your head. I pretty much plan all public land hunting when I know city folk have to work.
- 6158 We as a whole need to get better cover back for the upland bird population. We need to get more acres put back into CRP and out of production. We need to take a SERIOUS look at sprays and insecticides and what it is doing to our wildlife. We used to be able to grab a dog and gun and be hunting within 30 minutes or less from our home and be able to find wild pheasants and at least have the opportunity to shoot 1 and possibly get your limit of 3. Now if we go out and try to hunt and we happen to come across rooster you feel guilty if you do shoot it because he might be the last one left in county. We have to increase the non-resident hunting & fishing license to help purchase more acres for public use. Our state is hurting overall for the survival of the upland bird. Keep going like it is and we will not have any
- 6205 The biggest issue that I have had with any of the walk-in areas or CREP lands is parking. Most WIA are marked with designated parking areas but I did not see this with CREP lands. I have in the past had bad experiences with a land owner because I did not park where he thought I should even though there was nothing marked. I have also had to take down a fence to get to a parking area that was marked which I did not think was appropriate. These issues have deterred me from hunting very many WIA or CREP areas because of the uncertainty I have. I do believe that these WIA and CREP areas are a vital habitat and they create a great opportunity for people to be able to hunt, especially Youth.
- 6246 I also used the walk-in areas for calling coyotes.
- 6267 I recently heard that there is a bill going through legislation that is virtually trying to eliminate our public access to water for fishing and hunting. This must not pass!!! The natural resources in South Dakota are commodities to our state that not only generate funds for the state of South Dakota but is also a place where the next generation will learn to respect, and love the outdoors. In passing this legislation, voters are essentially saying that the outdoors don't matter!!! Tell that to the hundreds of thousands of fishermen and hunters that come to OUR STATE to do these things. [name removed]
- 6288 I enjoy the walk in areas a great deal. I hope it continues to expand. It gives SD residents the ability to keep hunting with all the marketing going on. I fear from some of the questions that some want it to be promoted even more. We keep losing resident hunters, let's not drive even more out by overcrowding these lands with commercials.
- 6306 I think CREP program is great! It gives the birds a great nesting area and also a great wintering cover to serve SD winters. If I didn't have a lot of family and friends that farm

- private owned ground. I am very fortunate. There are a lot of hunters that do not! If I didn't have the access to private ground I know I certainly would hunt CREP walk in area!
- 6311 I was deployed for the fall of 2015. However my brothers and dad hunted a lot of walk-in and public land and did well and enjoyed the times they were out!
- 6312 There is a significant absence of wildlife on walk-in areas and all other public land in eastern South Dakota. My hunting experiences in eastern South Dakota amount to just taking my dog and my gun for a walk!
- 6324 No questions. I am thankful for the job GF&P does in procuring and managing public land and maintaining the opportunity to hunt on public right of ways. Thank you for the job that your department is doing.
- 6337 I've noticed some of the walk in areas at times are pretty void of cover. Some of the cover in the CREPs area is pretty short on cover. I think payment for walk in areas and CREPs should reflect the amount of cover. There have been a few walk in areas here the landowner has mowed most of the grass or has beans planted. I'm sorry but I think it is a total waste of money to pay a farmer "x" amount for huntable land when there isn't cover to hunt.
- 6352 Too much of walk in areas in western SD are just nearly barren overgrazed land
- 6361 it is extremely hard to get on private land for hunting without paying. in the past I have used walk in areas for pheasant, ducks and deer hunting. I am very grateful to the landowners that put their in this program.
- 6363 Waterfowl habitats could be improved by getting some smaller reedy ponds. I understand crop rotations but it seems there are a lot of bean fields around public shooting areas and farmers like to put corn near a little more corn around public shooting area.
- 6397 GF& P should focus more on Walk In Areas that have good habitat for upland birds and waterfowl. I have come across significant areas of Walk-In that are either pasture land with limited hunting opportunities or harvested crops with limited hunting opportunities. Focus should be placed on grassland and water.
- 6444 Over the last 4 years the big game hunting in my part of SD has been very poor. Low numbers because of severe winters 2011, 2012 or in there somewhere. They've never really come back. Another thing that I believe should be changed is allowing group hunting to be done. My father was mostly blind and had difficulty in waling (96) but loved to get out with his boys on our annual antelope hunt. The right thing to do in my opinion, was simply allow one of us to take his game for him instead of going through all these forms and procedures to get "permission" to do so. If all parties involved are legal license carriers, it should be alright to take and file license for all involved.
- 6459 There is a lot of public land that you can not access. If gfp spends money to lease the land then the people should be able to access the land for what it is leased for.
- 6483 The Walk-in areas & CREP areas, similar to the publicly managed lands need improvements in vegetative condition. I would personally like to see more Walk-in, CREP, and public land but at the same time, publicly-accessible lands need to be managed better. I see far too many open water marshes with little desirable vegetation, uplands dominated by short stature mono-culture cool season grasses. Improvements are needed across the board in habitat quantity and quality of publicly-accessible lands.

- 6496 In te walk in areas you need to include some food plots. Most areas are to large to cover.
- 6511 Did not hunt any walking areas. Appreciate that they are available.
- 6513 Even though I hunt most of the time on private land, I think the walk-in program is great to provide hunting opportunities for those who do not live in the rural areas like I do. I hunt within 20 miles of home.
- 6514 Predator control would be a great help!
- 6517 I believe with last years number of resident to non-resident big game licenses is starting to favor the non-resident. I have two children eligible this year for mentored hunting and don't want to see their first experience catered to the non-resident whenwe have so many up and coming hunters here in SD. Yes it is nice for revenue, if you want to call it that, but for a child's first hunt; why put a bad taste in their mouth and ask why can they hunt and we/you can't? We fight for our country and our huntig privileges!
- 6521 The problem I have found with the walk-in areas is vast acres of farm ground with no cover. Usually same landowner has private land in the same area with great cover and all posted no hunting. Well it is obvious where the pheasants & grouse are going to b. To me it looks like a lot of acres is wasted money because of no cover, especially around the Pierre area.
- 6530 The reason didn't hunt walk in areas is that they have gone down hill in our area. I know it is hard to get them but I feel some of the areas are just wasting money.
- 6546 I could be wrong on my dollar figures so it's give or take. It be nice to see more walk in areas that are designated strictly for hunting instead of bad farm ground that farmers give away for walk ins... Just an idea
- 6561 I wish the GFP would categorize (scale of 1 to 5 for available habitat) walk in based on the habitat available. Also, less walk - in areas would be five if quality improved. I don't feel tax dollars should be spent on marginal land. For example, I hunted quarter section of land near Sorum with only 10 acres or less with any game habitat. Would GFP consider publishing the contracts with landowners including the price paid for the walk in. I think GFP should spend less on marginal walk in areas, save the mney, and buy land to create habitat. Perhaps GFP could add a component to the phone app which lets hunters know when someone hunted public lands last, so hunters don't over pressure game and don't waste time. The GFP app for smart phones is great.
- 6584 Pay more for land that actually helps wildlife population like crick lines, slews, and trees. Don't pay more for land that makes good cropland. Birds aren't in big fields of grass they are in the trees, along the cricks, and in the slews.
- 6631 I am very limited as to how far I can walk, so my excursions are short. I am fortunate to live in a state that provides some help in providing access to hunting opportunities.Thanks SD.
- 6637 Clear walk in boundaries/signs More food plots Better habitat
- 6659 As a landowner, I have noticed many times hunters on walk-in areas tend to go outside the boundary to private land - not designated as walk-in. Most of the time I believe this practice is intentional, because most walk-ins are clearly marked where the boundries are located. As an avid sportsman, I dislike the trespassing which occurs, leaving little game for my family and I to pursue. I don't have a good impression of walk-ins because too many people who claim to be true sportsmen do not abide by the law!

- 6664 Within many of the walk in and CREP areas the cover is very (or to) thin. With added years and yearly good climate this will probably improve.
- 6670 GFP is doing a fantastic job - the hunting program for waterfowl north of Pierre is very nice - please keep it going. It was also nice when we could hunt coyote in Custer State Park - perhaps we could do it again?
- 6671 Guides and preserves should not be allowed to let clients use walk in areas. Many times I have witnessed guides/preserves sending clients to walk in areas first, then the clients will hunt the guide/preserve land. This is very unfair to the sportsmen wh cannot afford to pay to hunt. We spend our money locally as well, all year long. We support local pheasant forever, Ducks Unlimited and other programs to enhance wildlife throughout the year. Thanks for all you do for the local sportsman. It is greatly appreciated.
- 6707 I'm very proud of the amount of land our state makes available to hunters for all types of hunting. I am fortunate to have plenty of private farmland and sloughs to provide me with wonderful hunting. For big game I hunt public land. For waterfowl and pheasants I hunt almost exclusively private land. I'm in my 80's and so are several of my hunting companions. We're very fortunate and because we have an abundance of private hunting available. We try to avoid walk in etc. so it can be used by the many hunters not as fortunate as me. Thank you!
- 6721 I am very concerned about the number of out of state waterfowl hunters in northeastern South Dakota. The hunting pressure, the lack of hunting knowledge, rude and inconsiderate behavior of the out of state hunters has reduced the enjoyment of my hunt. There are fewer birds to hunt and finding a place to hunt has become more difficult. As a lifelong South Dakota resident who has enjoyed hunting and fishing for a number of decades, I don't understand why the hunt areas that my state's money has acquired are being overrun by out state hunters. It may be time for me to stop the hunting, which I have enjoyed for some many years. It is time for the state of South Dakota to reduce the number of out of state residents allowed to hunt waterfowl. Thank you,
- 6744 Q1 & 2 - Falconry permit
- 6747 I hunt with my 2 daughters and we use only walk in areas to hunt because it's very difficult in Grant County to find private land to hunt deer. A couple years ago when the Abby closed we lost huge walk in areas to people who leased all that land and it was all the best deer hunting land in Grant County! Between losing that land or to the deer numbers dropping badly in the county due to coyote over population it is almost impossible to kill a deer in Grant County if you have only the walk in areas to hunt. Both my daughters are ready to give up deer hunting because you hunt your butt off for days and may never even see a deer! Grant County went from the best deer hunting county 10 years ago to the bottom today! Good walk in areas will be the only way to bring that back - I'm ready to start hunting in Minnesota again only 15 miles to thousands of acres of refuge land and plenty of deer. Hopefully Grant County can be great again someday if GFP can bring in more land.
- 6761 Hello there, my name is [name removed] from the University of North Dakota. I'm a senior biology major and have been studying populations of ring-necked pheasant in a majority of class projects dealing with my classes and have found the importance Walk-in Area Programs and CREP on the development of populations. These areas offer optimal coverage from harsh winter conditions that would otherwise be scares due to over cultivation by farmers. I feel that these areas need to remain funded to ensure populations of pheasants continue to grow.

- 6764 Did not hunt
- 6771 Need more pheasants in Day Co.
- 6800 I thought that the quality of habitat in the walk in areas looked good, but I did not scare up a single rooster on 7 different trips in the areas around Brookings.
- 6802 Have been an avid hunter for 50+ yrs. Health issues have forced me to stop hunting like I used to do. It would be nice to have some handycap designated areas . Thank you for the handycap fishing docks.
- 6803 Because of age I don't hunt much any more but do enjoy the walk in area for hiking and wildlife viewing. I think they are an excellent idea, receive plenty of use, and should be increased in number most places.
- 6810 To many of the walk in areas are wheat fields, if they are going to be in the program they should have to have habitat on enough acreage in the fields to hold birds.
- 6819 Would be nice to have a log in book at walk-in area locations perhaps at parking areas so if I pull up to a walk in area I could check to see the last time someone was out on the land and wht they hunted for! No sense in walking for a pheasant if another party just got finished walking it or deer, grouse, etc.
- 6831 I only road hunted coyotes south and east of Brandon.
- 6843 State sponsor group hunts
- 6846 i really would like to see more walkin areas and crep areas . i do not have a lot of time to scout and these areas allow me to have a place to hunt and do very well at times . thank you for your commitment in helping the hunter have a place to hunt. keepup the great work !!!!
- 6850 I think it's a good idea. I do not hunt upland game or waterfowl, I really do not see or hear pheasants, partridge around eastern SD where I live. I enjoy hunting, but I like it when they come up behind my house to feed on birdseed & corn.
- 6860 Need more State owned land to hunt
- 6884 Did not deer hunting this year it is just my preference
- 6890 walk in areas with sloughs should have a path mowed down to the slough so duck hunters can drop off their boats and gear and then head back to the parking area... making it easier for duck hunters to get to a spot could greatly increase the number of duckhunters and more duck hunters equal more revenue for the state
- 6929 you dont need to know how much money i spend
- 6955 Why are so many CREP areas still going forward, there are signs up in bare fields. This has been going on for years. Especially in NE South Dakota. Why are we paying for no habitat?
- 6961 The biggest item that generally seems to be missing from SD land that would improve the quality of the hunting experience is food sources/food plots.
- 6966 Keep up the good work!!!
- 6967 I didn't hunt in 2015, because one grandson started college and is in sports. This was the first time I didn't hunt since I was twelve, and I am 73 years old. I have hunted pheasants, ducks, deer, antelope and geese. I hunt on my own land, and have hunted antelope, West River. I also did hunt deer in the Black Hill's up to the time they

changed to drawings. So Walk in areas, public land for 2015 I can not give fair rating on survey. I plant some plots and cover for upland birds on my land. Try to provide hunting for grandkids and family members and close friends, all is for having fun no money takes place.

- 6979 I have hunted the vast public land in the Black Hills with both generations before me! With two young sons I plan to utilize the Black Hill's Public land for decades to come! Posting is very clear. Selfishly, being from Rapid City, pheasants are at least hours away. Anything worth the expense (more than two birds) anyway. If public/production land could begin to spread the pheasant population west of the river and allow it to survive, I'd hunt pheasants more than my annual trip to McPherson County. SouthDakota is an outdoorsman's paradise from Elk to Trout! I believe public land, WIA, and right of way possibilities will keep opportunities plenty for another three generations!
- 7043 The hunting for handicapped people is a joke at best no public land to hunt from moving vehicle quad or pickup road hunting is the only access that is afforded me.
- 7057 Was denied a big game license.
- 7092 I hunt prairie dogs mostly on private land and some public land, but finding places to hunt are becoming extremely difficult. On private land it seems the landowners poison way to often and when they do they kill any animal on the dog town. I would like to see more places on public land to hunt prairie dogs. I also realized this is a fools argument with ranchers! Some areas on the grass lands have been chosen for years, maybe some of this public land could be reopened.
- 7213 Most of the walk-in areas are over grazed or still had cattle on them. No cover after cattle are permitted to graze in them.
- 7243 I would like to see funds dedicated to getting walk in areas next to land locked (inaccessible) BLM or state lands so they can be easily used by the public.
- 7256 yes we need to close some deer and pheasant hunting for a couple years in the eastern counties so the numbers can come back up..I hunted deer in wyo.this year and seen more in three hours that is probably in the state. we need to get our s..t together peopl...THANK YOU.
- 7258 While I've hunted walk in areas I've never harvested a bird on them. Habitat ranges from good, to poor with inch tall grass or even plowed fields. Good habitat is often an island surrounded by area that is not good pheasant habitat. Game production areas also tend to be on the poorly managed side and are often grazed or mowed flat. Of the public access acres, a large percent do not have good habitat. *** state should also consider releasing birds weekly on public access areas ***
- 7275 I have been living out of state for the past two years and have recently returned to South Dakota. Before leaving, I relied entirely on walk in land for hunting deer and antelope. This is one of the best programs that you have. Other states have given in to the for profit lodges, which just runs against my grain. Please keep working with land owners to keep the small hunter going.
- 7337 1. The walk-in areas are very large unless you have a large group of hunters. Maybe cut strips for smaller groups or for a single hunter. 2. The walk-in areas are void of any pheasants. Maybe stack the fields in these areas to encourage hunting.
- 7339 Walk-In Areas as well as all other public lands are very important to the future of hunting. I hope the State of South Dakota continues to work hard to attain and maintain public lands for future generations to enjoy.

- 7363 my biggest complaint for the walk-ins are 1.) that on the maps they show it in the middle of a ranchers land and then have no trespassing sign how are hunters suppose to get to those areas. 2.)if some of walk-ins that you cant actually get to the land ownrs have live stock on it the last complaint is that mot of the walk-ins that I have looked for don't even have signs to telling you if you are on walk-in areas
- 7449 My hunting came to an end due to a back inury 3 years ago.
- 7469 I usually hunt deer, but in recent years it is difficult to draw for the black hills. My son wanted to try pheasant hunting this year but I was unsure of the walk in areas. I obtained a map of these areas, but was not sure of some of the boundaries.
- 7488 Did not hunt
- 7491 The more, the better, I have 20 acres of CRP, next to 20 acres of old ponds, gravel pit. I am amazed at all the wildlife that uses the CRP habitat (deer, coyotes, turkeys, etc.). I mainly trap, Eastern SD. Pheasants seem to be coming back. Seen 1 covey ofpartridge by Hendricks seeing more and more turkeys all over.
- 7506 Q18A. Golf courses had more cover than 3 walk in areas we looked at. They were hayed to the ground or had livestock on them. Other walk in areas were to large and you couldn't begin to hunt them.
- 7518 Waterfowl refuges are impacted by boaters. Late season....it would be good to protect the waterfowl refuges.
- 7527 I have hunted the walk-in areas in the recent past, though I didn't see anything, much less bag anything. I also have not hunted deer in the last 3 years, because I did not receive a tag. Sad because in Custer County we have an over abundance of deer. My wife and I have counted as many as 300 just driving the highway between Custer and Wind Cave Park. We desperately need to clean them out and basing tags on availability in other areas is not helping. Deer are regularly killed by cars on the highways. Shoudn't we look at having a special hunt along the highways the way we have them in the towns that have too many deer? You can contact me at [name and number removed]
- 7539 Although I did not hunt 2015 (had a new baby), I think that GF&P has done an excellent job in providing WIA opportunities and hope that you continue to support and expand this program.
- 7595 While I did not hunt any public land last year, we have land in CREP adjacent to our land and I think this program is very valuable in providing habitat for wildlife and making it possible for hunters to have place where they can experience quality huntin.
- 7624 I feel the importance of these areas to me would be better qualified if I knew what the owners was getting paid for the season of letting others onto their land?
- 7635 Walk in areas mostly a waste of time. Some have good habitat and conditions but all are excessively hunted. Multiple times per day every day, results no birds or game.
- 7637 I'm a life long SD resident, raised on a farm in Faulk Co.. Grandfather and Father fostered strong pheasant hunting traditions, we even raised and released pheasants for many years. I have worked in the crop production industry for over 30 years. Most AL farmers that I know and work for are in favor of pheasant and wildlife habitat. Existing drainage laws (on wildlife easement parcels & other lands) are HURTING both pheasant & waterfowl and farm crop production. And if that's not BAD enough... the samelaws also produce more resistant and NOXIOUS weeds. Please wake up... Simple sound solutions are needed. [name and number removed]

- 7651 Hunted coyotes on private land in Gregory County sat and called and had a very good turn out. On the average 3 came in at a time. Had fishing license but did not use but one time on a dam. Ice fishing in Gregory County also a good turn out. Mostly caught crappie, 1-2 bluegill.
- 7723 Lyman county walk in areas are a joke. Granted an antelope or deer could accidently run across them but as far as pheasant, grouse or pick your species, there is nothing there for them. Most if not all that we came across have been baled or grazed. Don't understand??
- 7730 The WIA program is a good program. There is just too much of it that has no habitat. Yes, someone may occasionally catch a deer crossing it - but that's it. Often times, GF&P has large chunks of WIA that essentially has no habitat. Those large pieces raw lots of attention from out-of-state hunters. When they get there to hunt, they find there is nothing to hunt on that large piece. After driving around the country looking for somewhere to hunt, they eventually find the one piece in the area that has suitable habitat and it gets pounded by everyone. If more time and effort was put into finding land with better habitat, it would benefit everyone. The CREP program leasing land in the James River basin is far superior to the general WIAs. GF&P should also raise the fee for both in-state and out-of-state hunters to be used only for leasing better land for hunting. I'll gladly pay more if I have better places to hunt. The out-of-state license should also be increased. \$110 is cheap. Last time I checked, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe was charging \$400 for their upland bird license and the Tribe has far fewer options for hunting. As a comparison, an elk license in Wyoming can cost you over \$1,000. A nonresident may hunt elk 10 days - but most will hunt less than 10 days. The SD upland game license gives them 10 days of hunting - that's about \$11/day. That's cheap entertainment. Try doing anything for \$11/day It's ridiculously low compared to what I'm paying in other state's nonresident fees. Finally, while not related to WIA directly but is related to pressure put on many WIAs, GF&P should completely stop the bird counts in August. It's a meaningless exercise. The information is of no use to anyone other than it concentrates hunters in specific areas of the state and those WIAs in that area get pounded whether there are pheasants there or not. GF&P also uses the information for no biological reason. If there are lots of pheasants - GF&P doesn't raise the limit and when there are fewer pheasants, GF&P doesn't lower the limit. Not that I would ever advocate GF&P changing the daily limit - but the counts are simply a tourism plug. Plus, half the time, the counts are wrong anyway. GF&P should release a general report each year like other states that gives general information on pheasant populations and expected hunting conditions. Let hunters then decide where to go without basing their hunt solely on some bird count that may or may not be correct. GF&P should also start purchasing more land when willing landowners come forward. GPAs are typically the best habitat around and is good for any type of hunting. Governor Dugaard needs to be educated that GF&P land ownership is a good thing not only for hunters - but is a big benefit to the overall state's economy. Thanks for the opportunity to comment
- 7749 I am 28 years old born and raised in SD! I grew up in rural farm in Gregory County SD I moved to Yankton while I was in middle school. Once in Yankton I realized not everyone had access to the outdoors like I did growing up. My first waterfowl hunt was a walk in area and have hunted them ever since, of course not as much as I would like. I have watched hunting get very commercialized over the years. Walk-in or any set aside lands are vital to all the folks that simply just don't have access. I went on two evening pheasant hunts both to walk in and CREP land and was successful both times.

- 7758 Although I didn't hunt the walk in areas for pheasants. I have seen the big boost they have done for the pheasant population. An 80 acre walk in is within a 1/2 mile and the pheasants winter in our shelterbelt. BONUS! We have another 480 acre walk in 1 1/ miles away and is fun to watch what they have done for the wildlife population. I have not been hunting them because of the hunting pressure they already receive. Thanks for the good work!
- 7768 Many walk ins don't have enough cover to even bother hunting them. I've checked out walk in areas as far as Firesteel area. Driving 100 miles round trip and very disappointed after looking for cover. Some in that area are fairly good. Walk in money dos not seem well spent on bare fields.
- 7773 The walk in areas are great, just have not had the time to use them yet. Need to work on being able to get a hold of a CO easier. In Brookings County it may take days to get a response back after you leave a message which is too long if you have an issu that needs attention ASAP. Yes, you can call 911 or the Sheriff's Office but that is very time consuming and you get thrown from one department to another.
- 7784 big concern is the fenced in walk areas that have been added to the sdgfp land in the last few years, I understand the thinking behind the grazing of the land but the timing is destroying the bird reproduction in the spring along with the heavy grazing which is making the deer and other wildlife relocate away from the land and not returning . I have seen less and less each year of the wildlife in the game fish and parks land due to the heavy grazing in the spring also I have seen other hunters in the sprin wondering if hunting is allowed in these areas due to the fencing and gates that are closed for the cattle to graze upon. This practice is no use to the wildlife , especially to the bird reproduction when the nesting season is when these areas are being razed heavy by livestock ... Also may walk in areas do not have a place to park a vehicle without being in a ditch or side of the road.....Walk in areas are very important to the hunter and fisherman who doesn't have a private area to hunt with.We thank te Game fish and Parks for having walk in areas very much..
- 7812 I appreciate walk-in and other public lands and how it is cheap and easy for anyone to access. It's important to keep hunting available for all not just the wealthy.
- 7814 Walk in areas are often over hunted and crowded. Hunting is a family past time for me and we use walk in areas less and less because they don't produce game often and rarely have adequate ability to sustain wildlife populations.
- 7827 I have in the past looked for walk on land west river and find they are not well marked and existing signs are in bad shape hardly legible most of the time.
- 7829 keep up the good work!
- 7830 Sorry, I have great access to private land for pheasant hunting.
- 7856 I hope SD can improve the number and quality of public hunting areas. With the amount of money people pay to hunt I see it becoming harder and harder for south dakotans to be able to hunt public lands. I hope we can put south dakotans before the non resdents as far as priority and quality of hunting.
- 7907 I don't think the number of walk in areas is the problem. When we pay landowners to turn their property into a walk in area and they mow the entire habitat down to nothing, makes it very difficult to find pheasants on this property. We need to set higher egulations on the landowner so when they take money for walk in areas they keep the

property natural and full of food, cover and protection for all animals. Drive around Pierre and look at the walk in areas. You will find little cover or protection on the land.

- 7911 The Walk-in program in SD has been a wonderful resource for both resident and non-resident hunters in SD. The group of hunters I hunt with come from out of state and they are impressed by the program. We have been hunting Walk-in for 15 years and have seen the number of acres steadily decrease. Every year we anxiously wait for the Atlas to be published to see where we will be able to hunt. I live in central SD, I see the pheasant population is directly impacted by the number of acres of CRP grass on Walk-in areas. Acres in the program up = pheasant population up. I understand the tough job the GFP has convincing landowners to put their land into the program. Especially when competing with rising grain prices and land values, like we experienced a couple of years ago. Walk-in area hunting is some of the greatest hunting in SD, at times. I hope to see the opportunity to hunt Walk-in areas in SD remains an option. Many Thanks to the SDGFP for making it possible.
- 8008 Keep up the great work
- 8009 Dang shame you permitted pocket sloughs to be drained all over East River and allowed bulldozing of so many shelter belts.....all for 3 dollar a bushel corn.
- 8012 The walk in areas & game production areas are vital to the local sportsman! GFP does a great job in developing & maintaining these areas. Keep up the good & great work.
- 8016 To whom it may concern: I was born, raised and have spent my entire life in South Dakota. I was taught to shoot by father at a very young age and still enjoy hunting, though of late I only hunt pheasants. I live in Brookings, and do most of my hunting within 30 mile radius of Brookings. I hunt alone and depend upon access to public land and walk in areas. I strongly support the walk-in area program. With respect to the economic impact that I provided in 2015, it should be noted that I am well outfitted, but all my equipment has been purchased in earlier years, I am 71 years old. I look forward to a rebound in the pheasant population and hope to walk the fields several more years.
[name removed]
- 8019 tried to hunt pheasants west of Sioux Falls in Lake Vermillion, birds almost none existent due to lack of cover due in large part (I believe) to tiling practices.
- 8026 Had licenses but unable to hunt
- 8028 I did accompany 2 grandsons on mentored hunt in McNeeney walk-in area. we only hunted one day. conditions were good but we did not see a single deer and not many signs (tracks in snow). we did hunt late (Dec. 15) in season.
- 8032 Why not leave a portion of public school lands in natural habitat? In south central South Dakota pheasants have become the modern day equivalent of the King's deer. When an average person can't take his kids hunting with a reasonable expectation they will get some action, hunting will disappear. That's where we're at now in south central South Dakota. An average person can't afford what the commercialized hunting lodges and outfits charge. It's time to look out for the future of hunting.
- 8036 As a landowner I always hunt on my ground. I do see a lot of use of the walk-in areas near me and have participated in the past with ground that was in the CRP.
- 8060 I have stopped hunting because of the failure of the walk in program. It is impossible to identify which fields can be hunted. I do not have the money to pay some government subsidized landowner to hunt game which they do not own.

- 8062 I think the walk in areas are an excellent item and we need more of them. Thanks for what you have done for the hunters.
- 8064 We need more so common folks kids have a place to hunt.
- 8076 GFP needs to spend less on this type of programs and more on the future of our sport! Case in point, I have been trying to get my granddaughter into a hunter safety program for the last six years and have not been able to find one that is compatible with a Junior high schedule in the Northern hills area. I KNOW that there is available officer time certain times of the year so this should not be the problem. When I was in 8th grade in Pierre in the late '50s Baird Crance the math teacher made arrangements to use the city range to put on the program (with school support). He was responsible for most of the young hunters in the Pierre area for many many years. If we are going to save our sport we MUST find a way to include the kids!!! Thanks, [name removed]
- 8092 CREP is a great program--expand it!!
- 8093 In previous years when I had an antelope license some of the walk in areas north of Newell, SD were pretty over grazed and not much habitat that would attract wildlife, food, shelter, water.
- 8109 I personally didn't spend as much time hunting this year as past years due to health problems (torn car cartilage in both knees). I consider Walk-In Area and Crep important part of enjoying a good day hunting. Thanks
- 8120 I am disabled & not able to walk. I think walk in's are good for anyone that does not have private land to hunt on.
- 8128 I hunt pheasants. It seems to me that about (guess) 50% of the walk in areas are really nothing more than pasture land. I can not imagine why SDFG spends money on these lands. Some do not look like they would even hold antelope.
- 8132 Would just easier to get my deer tags even if one can get one deer each year.
- 8136 Please pass legislation preventing individual and corporate farmers from drain tiling land draining essential seasonal potholes essential for all wildlife simply to increase crop land for production. It destroys natural habitat for the preservation of wildlife. Farmers operating solely for optimizing crop production at the expense of natural habitat and wildlife robs all South Dakotans of their rightful wildlife habitat. Those kind of farmers are not true environmentalists as they hold themselves out to be
- 8161 I believe walk in areas are a very important thing they give hunters a chance to exercise and give game a sporting chance. In my eyes it makes a true hunter out of people. Sometimes you have to work for what you want.
- 8162 Hunted in walk in areas in 2014 found some pheasants, in NW area in state. Need to make payments to landowners to put their land into walk in areas same as those paid closer to Pierre.
- 8168 I have hunted public land in the past few years but not in 2015. The land I did hunt wasn't productive and some of the areas were sparse for cover and I question their use as walk in hunting areas. A review and upgrade of areas appears necessary.
- 8205 During the 2016 hunting season I do plan on hunting east river and west river deer if I am a successful applicant. I also plan on hunting for grouse, and partridge during the upcoming 2016 hunting season along with pheasant hunting.
- 8279 Q34. Cost of 3 licenses

- 8312 There are a lot of rules that are ever changing and difficult to follow. We quit hunting as a family about 7 years ago because of a couple violations where rules violated nothing other than rules that were made. We will still get a fishing permit for our ids, and small game permits, maybe even apply for a deer permit to thin out our overpopulated town deer, but leave the hunting to others who like to study the rule books and wear camo out as town attire. That's my 2 cents. [name removed]
- 8335 I did not hunt any walk in areas because I do not even know where they are. You need to improve this.
- 8360 The areas of walk-in I hunt are near Trail City. Some of the walk-ins would be good only for perhaps 1 deer hunter. One area almost straight south of Trail City is a joke and the access in most conditions is very limited or non-existent. Lots of bare acre may look good on paper but does me no good.
- 8364 I do not have any where to hunt other than public lands and find it hard to even find wild game on public grounds. Need to find ways to boost numbers on public grounds. I believe planting food sources would be a good way to do this.
- 8445 Keep up the good work to allow me the opportunity to continue to hunt for free in South Dakota.
- 8449 The amount of money that is pissed away on these worthless walk in areas is disturbing. Rent thousands of acres of private land that has little to no wildlife so you can sell non-resident pheasant licenses to unknowing victims? After they figure out the walk ins are a scam they spend the rest of the trip trying to poach deer and roosters out of my shelter belts and farm yard off the road. Just keep driving the wedge between the hunters and landowners by encouraging slob road hunting. If you don't put a bounty on these Coyotes or get the planes flying, your not going to have anything left to hunt in this state for the next generation. When you have 10-20% fawn recruitment, you will finally run out of deer, it's just simple math. Quit wasting money on collectng "data" from coyote eaten collared fawns and use that helicopter time to shoot coyotes. Most Wildlife can survive in a parking lot if there isn't a predator there trying to eat it. You don't need as much habitat if you decrease the predator numbers.
- 8506 Keep up the good work, I love the new opportunities!
- 8508 Walk in areas should not include row-crop land, which is not accessible til after harvest, then is devoid of cover and game. It is a waste of public funds at best and dishonest at worst.
- 8509 Enjoyed almost every WIA, CREP, GPA, and WPA I hunted this season. All these lands seemed to hold pheasants at the present time of the hunt or sign of birds being in the area at some point. The only issue I had at times was cover for the birds varied significantly from one to the next. Obviously I understand certain areas produce better cover than others, but at times the CRP grasses were very sparse in areas that were labeled for public use. If certain areas would draw more attention to SDGFP they could be better managed to sustain a healthier cover which in turn would improve bird numbers in these areas. Surprisingly enough most of the public lands I hunted did not seem to be over hunted or crowded at any time I hunted them. In my opinion this is wh it is important for these programs to become more plentiful in our state. If these public lands are available and continue to grow it allows for more hunting opportunities to the general public and prevents from over hunting any one piece of public land South Dakota has done a great job in establishing these public land opportunities thus far and can still continue to create more public opportunities to help sustain an abundance of

land for these lands for future generations. Thanks for the hard work and I hope SD continues to do so for many years to come.

- 8515 would like to be able to access walk in or public areas without having to cross fences or gates that are locked, and not have to get permission to enter public areas because they are surrounded by private land..
- 8540 He has had a stroke and does not hunt any more, but did a lot of it before that. He has many good experiences hunting antelope in Harding Co. and pheasants in Bon Homme.
- 8574 The walk-in areas and CREP areas are vital to the hunting public as they provided needed habitat and access for the sporting men and women. In some areas of the state this is the only viable habitat for wildlife that is available, and it benefits adjoining lands.
- 8584 I am thankful for the walk in areas and public lands in south Dakota. they make this state a destination for many people. without them it would not be the great hunting destination it is. if you want to keep the people coming more public land is necessary with more and more land being taken out of habitat it is the states responsibility to make the effects of that less harsh for the sportsman. more money needs to be put into the access to new public lands and land acquisitions. the Aberdeen area does an xceptional job of managing state land
- 8587 Some of the walkin areas in western south Dakota are so large that to walk out 3 miles plus and shoot a deer is a big issue. There needs to be more access to get hunters deeper in to the very large units. Some of the areas cover up to 9 connected sections and is really hard to get to. Also some of the land is grazed down so bad by fall you can spot a rattlesnake at 100yrds. I don't know what the land owner is paid for that, but it doesn't provide any cover at all for wildlife. That money could be put to beter use on land that actually has some habitat. I think the walkin program should be reevaluated.
- 8597 These areas are great. I hope we can continue to secure areas to hunt. It is a great program to teach youth how to hunt the proper way. (Get out of the damn truck and walk!) Learning how to hunt on foot is such a lost experience today. So much can be leared by walking in the open areas that cannot be duplicated from the cab of a vehicle. Even simple things like direction orientation, tracks, terrain nuances, and spending quality time with your kids! That's why I love these areas so much even though I have't hunted them in a few years. I don't mind not getting tags, but the time I get to spend with the boys is so much better anyways than hunting alone.
- 8611 Most of the walk-in areas are worthless in terms of habitat and holding game. there is a big waste of Walk-In money on land that never gets hunted because it doesn't hold any game.
- 8640 Walked in areas and CREP are the best way to preserve hunting and improve habitat for the state of South Dakota. People in South Dakota need to keep the landowner in high regard and respect his land. If you see anyone not respecting the walk-in or CREP areas you need to be responsible and turn them in. It is the only way to keep it available for the rest of us. Signed respectfully a South Dakota local Hunter.
- 8645 Do not allow farmers to take crop or grass
- 8648 This comment is to encourage you to provide drive in access routes to more state WMA's and federal WPA's. I am a 72 year old outdoors person who has hunted waterfowl for over 50 years. My husband is even older as are many of our friends. Duck hunting wth decoys requires more weighty equipment than other types of hunting we do and it is now impossible to walk in chest waders often hundreds of yards carrying a bag

of decoys as well as a gun and shells and then to be able to carry those items and hopefull a duck or two back to my vehicle after dark. I strongly encourage you to lay out more dive in trails and drop off points where older hunters could access favorable hunting spots on marshes and lakes Permitting vehicles to drive in and drop off equipmen and then park in prescribed locations as is currently done in some areas, would allow me and folks like me to continue to participate in a sport I have long loved.

- 8667 I would enjoy increased CREP acres in the Yankton County area. The Pheasant population in Yankton County has consistently decreased each year. As a result, I spend zero days pheasant hunting in my local area (YK County) and make the drive each year to te Gregory County area; habitat in that county is reflective of the higher bird numbers. I would pay a special South Dakota annual resident fee (\$25-\$50) in support of a pheasant re-stocking program in Yankton and surrounding East River Counties.
- 8673 it is a good program
- 8676 I think walk in areas are very important to future hunters. It gives us more options of places to go. I have hunted deer, antelope, turkey, waterfowl and upland game on walk in areas and I am grateful for the extra land to hunt that it provides.
- 8679 All the hunting I did this past year was taking my girlfriend out and introducing her to the outdoors. I didn't personally hunt after April.
- 8683 I think the walk-in program is valuable to the sportsman of SD. I just didn't happen to draw any license this year where it would have been of use to me. I have hunted both walk-in and CRP areas in the past and have found the experience to be excellent Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
- 8694 I approve of the public land provided by gf&p I'm just lucky to have private to hunt.
- 8740 As an outfitter. I manage my land for the wildlife by providing plenty of cover, planting crops for feed and water. I also only take as many deer as I see fit for the deer herd. I watch from some of my land the walkin areas. I believe this is a good idea ut is not manage as it should be. Too many hunters and not enough deer. South Dakota needs to have a separate draw for public and walkin areas. Too many does and fawns are being shot and any buck is shot regardless of size. If the game department is aboutmanagement then they should address this problem. If I ran my operation like this I would be out of business in 2 years. I have talked to several hunters on the walkin areas and all have seen more hunters than deer. I witnessed 2 hunters, while I was on m private land, on the walkin area shoot a muledeer fawn at about 20 yards away. They said they had a tag and not seeing any deer and on their last day filled it on this fawn. That is not a good management practice. Also why not on game department land plat plots of corn and alfalfa, I am talking at least 5 to 10 acres big? Feed brings in deer and other wildlife. Let the public hunting be good so people can experience this and not be disappointed. We have a west river and east river and a special deer tagsystem, why not have a public -walkin area tag also and keep it for the citizens of South Dakota. You have a magazine showing all the areas so have so many tags available just for this. Have these tags for the county of that public grounds so this can be anaged.
- 8742 Save the habitat save the hunt. I can't stress that enough!
- 8747 As hunters who rely almost completely on public lands for our hunting opportunities, we very often arrive at a mapped walk-in area or school land and find no GF&P signs, confusing gates and signs put up by ranchers who obviously don't want anyone on theirland. We have encountered this so many times that it gets discouraging to even go

out to a new area we aren't familiar with. These ranchers benefit from the state by participating in the program, yet often dissuade hunters by misleading gates, no trespassing signs, or by taking down the state markers. What can be done when we find such an area?

- 8784 Your turkey hunting land answer choices will give you a skewed answer. Not a problem unless you have an agenda.
- 8791 Keep up the good work. How about giving youth hunters a better chance at drawing a prairie license?
- 8817 The crep hunting areas have become very important to me and my son for hunting
- 8821 The reason I did not hunt in 2015 was due to health issues. Am planning to rebound in 2016!!!
- 8824 Not walk ins or CREP - but game production areas. I wish they would stop pasturing GPAs, especially during nesting and fawn birthing times. Also, stop removing trees (especially in Deuel County, NW corner). The grasses are usually level full of snow by January, and we need trees for wind protection and cover for deer, and same for pheasants, but also roosting areas where there is less available to predators like coyotes. Plant more crops on game & fish, not less. Not necessary to be corn every year.
- 8826 definitely need more public access. the more the better as it will spread the hunters out over the areas and not concentrate them on the 'best' walk ins. also improvement of habitat is critical. the better the habitat the more wild game you will have.
- 8841 it would be nice if more public ground had food plots on it.
- 8846 Not sure why walk in would be mowed like a golf course green but that's terrible for pheasant hunting. No food plots and most state land is pretty good but the big ones need to have vehicle access to get to parts of it or only young people can hunt them and it's hard on dogs to get too far from vehicle if emergency arises. Federal waterfowl has no food and are being sprayed which means no bugs for chicks to eat and they die. Why are trees being torn down in public hunting areas? Nobody is replacing them and I'm not talking about cedars. Public rights of way are also tearing trees down. Why are farmers mowing ditches and haying before the birds are old enough to fly? The last three years have been the worst in the last 40 years. State land plots should at last be removed in strips so they can be walked better.
- 8851 The walk in areas I have seen are pretty much barren without a lot of cover. There are some good ones but far fewer than the barren ones.
- 8860 Hunting in SD is becoming more and more for the wealthy. Access is a problem for most SD hunters. Pay to hunt is killing my desire to hunt anything in SD. I am 61 years old and would never have thought I would see this happen here, but it is. I am a lifetime resident and hunter, but the pay hunting and lack of quality access makes it almost impossible to find quality hunting anymore. You had better be really good friends with someone, own your own land or have a wad of money in your pocket or you just stay home. Public grounds are now overburdened with hunters because of this and it is very disheartening when you get to public grounds only to find they have been hunted 2 or 3 times a day. It is all about the money.....like it or not.
- 8862 To clarify the importance of WIA and CREP for deer hunting. East river, at least all the ones I have hunted there never seems to be deer on them. Especially since there never seems to be any trees or food plots. So we typically do minimal deer harvest if any on

- these. But the habitat is usually very good for pheasants. Food plots would help for pheasants as well but still nice to have the large parcels to hunt. Just with out food they tend to hold on the private land where there is food or was food. Again or the ones i have hunted.
- 8889 Seems to me that habitat for upland game has diminished in the last five years. Enough that my friends and I do not hunt as often and we rather go to Game Production areas instead. Some of the WIA's North of Philip used to be great but not its not worth te time.
- 8899 hard to know where the land is available. it would be helpful to have a more detailed map showing the exact location and rules to enter the land. most are afraid to walk on land unless we completely understand the rules. the more information, the bette. thanks.
- 8902 Having the walk in areas to deer hunt is great,however i would like to see limited tags in some of these units like they are in Harding county slim butts area. Several years in a row our hunts were interupted by the land owner driving hunters through the alk in. We walk the 7 miles one way and he drives in with a different hunter ever couple of days.This needs to be monitored better. My fees go to pay for the lease on these lands.If they can't honer the contract take the land out. i'll find some where ele to hunt.
- 8921 Please keep the Hunting and Fishing Areas in good shape for all of us here in South Dakota. I will hunt and fish until I breath my last breath. Also, please help keep our gun rights for hunting and shooting practice available for all of us of sound mind
- 8928 Habitat improvement is the most important thing to get done. Too many area's are getting overgrown with brome and reed canary. It would help if there was not so much red tape to doing a controlled burn so landowners could mimic mother nature more often inmanaging their land.
- 8932 I believe the idea of land conservation is crucial but I don't see it with the walk-in areas or the CREP half the CREPS were mowed to the ground and over hunted and the walk-in had no cover or tilled or WAY OVER HUNTED! Too many people using small tracts f properties and the game animals are just not there!
- 8941 Good concept should look at some of the land. Saw. Walk in that was bean fields that was so bare a mouse couldn't hide. Most of the walkin areas are over hunted and times are not safe.
- 8961 I do believe the walk in areas are a valuable opportunity, and give people like myself (tax payer in RC for home & other taxes) to be able to go hunting. I also believe this can be a great opportunity to teach our young hunters. I moved to Rapid City when my son was nearly out of high school, and frankly was not aware of the walk in area program and unfortunately didn't take him hunting only when a friend would offer to take us hunting. I had hunting locations before we moved and we used to go hunting a lot. I hope you continue to offer this program. I'm not sure how much you stock game, but stocking pheasant would likely help, especially the more hunted areas.
- 8962 The Sheenan area is really going down hill for pheasant hunting - getting worse not better. Too bad, this area used to be outstanding. With all the pattern tile drainage done this year, its toast for pheasants.
- 8971 It is pointless to lease walk in areas that get hayed in the fall. I live in, and hunt around the Brookings, SD area and there are at least 5 walk in areas within 10 miles of Brookings that get hayed every year prior to the hunting season. It is my opinion that if the grass is less than 12 inches tall (rendering it useless for hunting) that walk in area

- money should not be spent on it. Farmers are taking advantage of this program by enrolling pastures and hay fields that have no hunting potential in the first place.
- 8990 The walk in areas are incredibly important for access. I personally like chaps to limit numbers of hunters on particular days. I believe it is safer and allows for higher quality of experience. I have 2 children less than 5 and both enjoy hunting. I will be teaching them shortly and public access to land is critical.
- 8991 The 6-8 foot grass in walk in areas are impossible for kids and even my dogs to get through. It really makes for a crappy hunt especially for kids. How about a more manageable height for a grass species like 3-4 foot.
- 8992 Seems to me the only thing you care about is the money. You have forgotten about the landowners, game & habitat. There is walk in area adjacent to my land since it has become walk in a few years back, we have had nothing but trouble with trespassers that drive in and all over my land. Block my drive way during harvest etc. I have to call the sheriff because the Yankton Co. game warden either isn't on duty or cannot be reached.
- 8996 I am retiring in 2016 and would like to make more use of walk in areas as it is becoming harder to find habitat.
- 9002 I have hunted in South Dakota now for 50 years and without the walk in areas combined with public shooting areas and waterfowl production areas I would absolutely quit hunting. In the last 20 years the greed factor of landowners has hit an absolute peak. With outside money coming in, local hunters are being locked out of a tradition of hunting in this state. I would absolutely recommend severely limiting the number of non-resident licenses for all types of hunting including both archery and rifle as well as all seasons associated with shotguns. Local resident hunters are becoming bitter over living here all year, paying taxes on our property, vehicles, gas, groceries, etc. and then not being able to hunt our state. I am becoming very bitter about this subject and my feelings are shared with many resident hunters.
- 9013 I understand the necessity of keeping the area natural by preventing vehicle access but for those of us who have limited physical ability to carry decoys, packs, guns, ammo, etc. these areas are out of our reach. There is no access to the water for our hunting boats or atv's. I have gone to considerable expense to purchase and equip with a blind and an Argo so I can hunt lakes and sloughs that I can't otherwise access because of my age and physical abilities. But I am not "physically disabled" according to your measure so I am prevented from using these areas. The State and Federal areas, not covered in this survey, are all fenced so there also is no access for a hunter like me. I would like to see a permit to access these types of areas for those of us who are limited in physical abilities but not considered "disabled". A requirement of a Doctor's certification of our limited abilities would weed out the hunters who "claim" disabilities. Okay, I'm done venting. Nothing will be done but I feel better.
- 9020 I think that all public hunting areas whether it walk in or production or grass land areas should be foot traffic only.
- 9043 Really think the state (GF&P & Governor) should look at school land. This is public land set aside to fund schools. It is being non competitively rented in long term lease agreements below market value. Shorten up the lease agreements and open up the bidding process to conservation groups or even SD GF&P to bid on. It would generate more money for schools and create more habitat for wildlife. There is way too much abuse from current long term renters who neglect it, but treat public hunters like they can't access it. I keep my phone handy to call the Conservation Officer if I am confronted.

- Re-evaluation of school land as a public resource vs current management could be a win, win, win for public schools, wildlife habitat and public hunting access.
- 9044 A few walk-in areas appear to be hayed or harvested after agreements were made & paid for, leaving no habitat for birds or hunting.
- 9045 Sometimes wonder why the landowner was paid to place land in the program and then was allowed to mow that land, thus destroying the habitat. This was not a drought year or emergency mowing that I could see. Also grazing sometimes occurs, destroying the upland bird hunting possibilities.
- 9059 Walk-in areas are good, but there one year and maybe gone the next; or habitat there one year and gone the next. Gradually, these private lands will be harder to obtain as walk-in. In its long-range plans, to maintain public hunting opportunity, the FWP should fund its income towards owning land and manage as Game Production Areas. Over ten years of hunting pheasants in SD, I have found myself hunting right-of-ways more and more, not because I necessarily want to, but as a result of private landowners not letting me hunt their property and/or lack of habitat on nearby walk-in areas.
- 9072 The state needs to keep these public land going otherwise we will lose the pastime of hunting. Some of your public lands could use improvement, some are acres & acres of brome grass, no warm season grasses, trees or water or winter ever. I know this takes time and money!
- 9084 I think Walk-in areas are important. A lot of the walk-in areas that we see have very little cover. Some have been harvested Bean fields.
- 9089 grazing or haying of WPA, GFP prior to season opener seems counter productive to habitat production and probably a good place to hunt. Driving 100 miles to a favorite spot for opening day only to find it grazed down to stubble makes for a very disappointing day. Having hunted in SD for 43 years, it is getting increasingly difficult to find a place to hunt without paying to hunt and this isn't an option for most. Public lands are good but this overcrowding is getting to the point of not being worth it. or the young hunter on a limited budget I think the good days are gone.
- 9124 I would like to commend our GFP officers for keeping our public lands safe and keeping poachers to a minimum. I know several GFP officers and I know they are passionate about their jobs and keeping hunting safe and fun.
- 9140 Never got deer license this year or last 2 years. So I can't give any ideas.
- 9144 Walk in Areas and CREP areas are only good hunting areas if there is adequate land currently being farmed or good cover nearby that hold deer. The game never stay in many of the areas because they don't have a food source or roosting or bedding area.
- 9154 Couple of your questions were hard to answer - how do you define the goose hunting pit area N of Pierre? Guess I called it a WIA cause it was leased private land. Went there 1 time, hunted 2 days, stayed over in Pierre. Excellent trip. How do you define habitat on the cultivated fields we hunted in? It was crop stubble, lousy habitat but good feeding area for geese. I do believe more walk in areas are needed in Central and Eastern SD - esp where pheasants are found. Western SD WIAs are signed up for different reasons (big game) thought some excellent grouse and partridge can be found too. Some counties of WR could use some more WIAs - like central Pennington, Haakon, eastern Custer, northern Jackson, While I didn't hunt WIAs hardly at all, doing 99% of my hunting on private lands, I do feel the WIA is important and should be continued. The GFP staff,

- esp Region 1 staff, do an outstanding job with this program and it continues to be a model program for other states.
- 9172 Rethink your "preference point system" for big game. What you're offering now is not a preference point system. It's a lottery. A true preference point system means nobody draws a license with fewer points than someone else. Giving half our big game permits to landowners is total nonsense too. All SD residents should have an equal opportunity for limited big game tags. Fact: Landowners don't primarily hunt their own private land (especially in the Black Hills). They hunt the public land that belongs to us all. No way they should be receiving any special consideration (half the available licenses) over anybody else.
- 9181 I am "mobility impaired", I can't walk without some sort of walking device. I hunt both small game & big game from an action track chair (motorized all terrain track chair). If it was allowed, I would hunt all the applicable walk-in areas depending on what I'm hunting. Pheasant, antelope or deer. I am utilizing the disabled hunter permit offered by the SDGFP. I have permission to hunt public land with my track-chair from GFP on an annual basis. I would like permission to use my track chair in walk in areas for big game (deer & antelope).
- 9193 All of the stuff you constantly send is annoying! Condense it! Save Money!
- 9206 Many of the public/walk-in/CREP areas were plowed up with almost no cover.
- 9209 At least for pheasant hunting the quality of the habitat is often poor. Seems as though it is land that often won't hold any type of game.
- 9239 Habitat is so very important with the loss of tree groves and shelter belts in an effort to farm every acre. Even the loss of ditches and the cover that fence lines provided can't be overlooked. The need for winter and nesting cover is very important as most fields are scalped and leave nothing for wildlife, not to mention burning off sloughs. Bird farms only provide easy prey for predators, not a healthy and strong wild bird base. This also affects the deer population with equal concerns as to winter cover and food sources especially with the loss of tree groves and fence line cover..Thanks
- 9241 public land is overcrowded. Youth hunting for deer season is too long. Youth hunters need shorter season for rifle deer. They are screwing up archery season.
- 9243 Please continue to add ground to walk in areas. Please improve the ground with addition of more food strips inside the walk in area boundaries.
- 9254 Consider public land in future
- 9259 Hunted Pheasant for 3 days in 2014. Hunted on GPA & walk-ins-had good number of birds in units around Gettysburg.
- 9260 Thank you GFP for efforts in getting lands for public access. Too often walk in areas are mowed/grazed with little to none natural cover, and wildlife. Quality work in areas are the key.
- 9267 For the most part I solely hunt on public land, so anything that you can do to increase the amount of access is appreciated. We tend to get there very early to reserve a spot, since they tend to get a fair amount of use, and if you drive that distance, it's unfortunate to be the 2nd one there.
- 9269 Health conditions limited my hunting in 2015. I am hoping to be able to get back to more hunting and fishing in 2016. I think CREP is a very important program and I have used it in the past.

- 9283 Poor signage for walk in areas, can't tell where it ends, and private starts. Some land owners take signs down, maps aren't that specific. Very tough to Guage start and end of walk in area for west river deer.
- 9290 Some walk in area needs to work on habitat building. Many are empty fields. I appreciate the opportunity of walk in programs, but I think there needs to be better criteria in order to be apart of this program. Overall, I have had a positive experience n these lands.
- 9298 Note: on the last set of Questions I had put \$0 because we already had all Equipment and supply's need for the hunt from past years.
- 9303 I think they are good programs for people that don't have the option to hunt private land. It gives them a place to hunt. I have used some walkin areas in the past. Thank you for having these programs.
- 9310 Many of the walk-in areas provided little to no habitat for grouse or pheasant. In fact a few were just dirt fields. Please don't pay for these areas. Others walk-in areas where close to really good habitat but themselves provided little cover and there wuld be no way to get up on the birds.
- 9314 Thanks for all you do
- 9328 As you can see, I am privileged to be able to hunt on private land. In years past, I've done some hunting on CREP while pheasant hunting. those experiences were positive; the CREP areas were near the private land I hunt.
- 9335 Habitat destruction on public lands has become a huge problem due to fluctuating prices in corn and desire for more income from massive farming groups. Shelterbelts and other great big game and upland game cover is being lost to pave way for more row cros and these farmers seem to be paid the same amount for public hunting access. This should NOT happen. If farmers are going to destroy habitat to make room for crop, they should not receive funding from GFP or any South Dakota taxpayer source. Thanks fo all you do for our great state!
- 9346 I had limited time to hunt in 2015, so I was unable to visit any public land for hunts. I have hunted many walk in areas in the past and have been very satisfied. I do not have much access to private lands, so public lands allow a person like me to havemore opportunities to hunt.
- 9348 I really enjoy having walk-in areas in my area. So many private owners are now going to the pay to hunt. That takes away from the fun and importance of hunting and the ability of teaching the next generation to hunt propre and responsibly. It would be a same to loss these areas and a shame to limit their access. With proper management they are a valuable assest for animal control and hunting enjoyment. Thank You and thank you for helping us continue the right to hunt and the right to pass it along to our ext generation.
- 9358 It would be great to see some corn strips and sorghum planted in some of the walk ins and the public hunting areas. tree coverage is really good. Some more food sources in them areas would maybe see some higher bird numbers.
- 9378 Public access of utmost importance to keep interest in the sport - especially for teens and young adults.
- 9400 Keep the rancher that charge and [name removed]from taking there 4 wheeler's and horse's in there before season and chasing the deer and antelope off before season opens.

- 9402 don't get money hungry. if numbers are down, back off on tags. Put more surprise game checks in. people on purpose trying to cheat no matter if hunting or fishing is bad for all. Need higher fines. Sorry, hunting is getting harder and harder to do cause o lack of areas too hunt and game to get. Getting older and more disappointing. Values and morals out there, are not like they use to be.
- 9405 I have used Walk-in areas in the past and feel they are very beneficial. I just did not need to use any in 2015.
- 9409 If my grandpa did not have his own private land I would be using the Walk-In Areas provided by the GFP. I think these areas are very valuable to area hunters!
- 9415 I have hunted South Dakota for nearly 30 years now. The last 11 seasons I have hunted upland birds and deer and antelope and actually moved to SD because of hunting opportunities. I have over, and over, seen walk-in areas that I consider a complete wast of resources and in fact wondered about the reason certain lands would even warrant consideration for a walk in program. I wonder, is this a buddy system? Is it just so the GFP and tourism can say they have all these acres available so to attract licene buyers? I would like this money spent on quality habitat for game. Period.
- 9418 Would suggest making parents take a short quiz or test for mentor hunting. My brother came home to a bullet hole in his house & this was the only season open at the time. He lives right next a game production area. In that same place while archery hunting a mentor and his hunter kicked up a deer that was running across the top of a hill. The hunter then proceeded to fire multiple rounds at the running deer. It was definitely not a safe shot. Something like this happened many times last year & someone is ging to be killed if something like this isn't fixed.
- 9434 Quit paying for black dirt!
- 9438 Most of the walk ins that I would like to hunt were bailed for hay or grazed upon and provided no sustainable habitat for wild game.
- 9458 Usually do hunt in fall, had a total knee this fall so hunting was out. Will be ready for 2026!!! Getting in shape now!
- 9468 Unfortunately, public land access is severely limited in the area we hunt (McPherson County). Therefore, the CREP and walk in areas are heavily hunted. Increased land set aside for these programs would be beneficial to decrease pressure on wildlife tha has been brought on by more efficient farming. Understandably, competition for land is tough and certain conditions cannot be met by the state to maintain some areas of public land. In summation, I would love to see the continued use of these programs nd if possible, their expansion. Waterfowl Production Areas could be productive if there was a food source. Could food plots be added to federal WPAs? WPAs in McPherson County just doesn't have the upland birds one would expect with the cover. Coyotesare a big problem in our areas we hunt.
- 9478 I would like to see more walk in areas with water for waterfowl hunting and have the water more accessible (designated road to drive up to the water).
- 9480 The contract end dates or terminations on the walk in are badly timed! About a 1000 acres near me came out the week before pheasant season, we paid for it all year and got zero! Seems like about 70% of th WIA (at least Brown County) is of little consequence, it gets mowed or plowed up, a sparrow couldn't hide in it. Poor use of our \$\$.

- 9481 Every time I went to hunt public area it was full of out of state hunters except for resident weekend, it seems like we cater only to the out of state hunter. If this continues I will support limiting the number of out of state pheasant hunters like we do waterfowl.
- 9484 as I walked about in the huge area I realized how vital remoteness is for the survival and proliferation of game. I hunt for older deer with big racks and the walk-in areas are absolutely vital in my area which is on the standing rock reservation. I can roam free with the possibility of not only seeing lots of game but finding a big buck. Can't wait till next year. Any chance of getting the landowner to permit me to retrieve a deer with an ATV? I'm 71 yrs old.
- 9487 There have been a few walk-in areas over the past few years that have yielded some fair pheasant hunting. There have also been a few walk-in areas that have worked well for turkey for me. But for pheasant and waterfowl hunting the CREP areas seem to offer far better habitat and hunting opportunities. In all my traveling in the state I've run across an awful amount of walk-in acreage that was of absolutely no value to any hunter. No hunter in his or her right mind is going to walk out onto an 80 acre combined soy bean field or a pasture area that had been overgrazed right down to the soil. It would seem to me that if landowners are receiving payments for listing and posting their land as designated walk-in there should be a minimum amount of wildlife habitat on the land. As I said I have seen a few walk-in areas that do provide hunting potential but they seem to be in a minority. That is why I do most of my waterfowl, upland game, and big game hunting on CREP areas or permanent public land. Thank you for asking my opinion! I hope it helps somehow. [name removed]
- 9492 Good food plots and a year round source of food for pheasants would do some good for the pheasant population.
- 9494 Although I did not hunt on any CREP acres this year, I value their important role for providing habitat. The program is a great example of how federal and state agencies and private landowners can partner together to enhance habitat on the landscape while also providing public access.