

GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Deer Hunting Seasons Drawing Structure Chapter 41:06:01

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal Public Hearing Public Hearing Finalization	July 11, 2018 September 6-7, 2018 October 4-5, 2018 October 4-5, 2018	Pierre Yankton Deadwood Deadwood
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DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Alternatives discussed at statewide Focus Group meetings and on-line video.

- A. Choose one from East River, West River, and Black Hills as a first choice in the first draw.
- B. Choose one from East River, West River, Black Hills, Custer State Park, Refuge, and Muzzleloader as a first choice in the first draw.
- C. No change from the current structure.

Recommended changes from the current drawing structure:

- 1. Alternative B which requires an individual to select their most preferred license from the six seasons in the first draw.

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

During the development of the statewide deer management plan, which was finalized in July 2017, several social management considerations were identified through stakeholder group meetings and public comments. One area which received considerable attention from the public was deer license allocation. As a result, the Commission tasked the Department to identify alternatives which would increase the number of hunters who draw their preferred deer license.

Department staff along with feedback from the deer stakeholder committee developed three alternatives to the current license allocation process, with the third alternative being no change to the current allocation system. An email invitation was then sent out to all 2017 resident deer applicants (18 years and older), requesting public involvement participation and attendance at one of the nine focus groups meetings held across the state. The meeting locations included; Pierre, Philip, Yankton, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Aberdeen, Rapid City, Belle Fourche, and Mitchell. Approximately 780 deer hunters responded to the request and a random draw was conducted to cap each focus group meeting to 45 participants. The main objectives of the focus groups include; 1) provide draw statistic and background information; 2) discuss the potential alternatives; 3) receive feedback on level of support or opposition for the alternatives; and 4) determine how participants would apply for deer licenses under each alternative using mock applications.

In an effort to allow broader participation from hunters and another opportunity to provide feedback, an online video was also posted on the Department's social media pages and website. The intentions of the video were to provide draw statistics and background information and receive feedback on level of support or opposition for the alternatives through an online survey. Over 600 hunters watched the online video and filled out the survey.

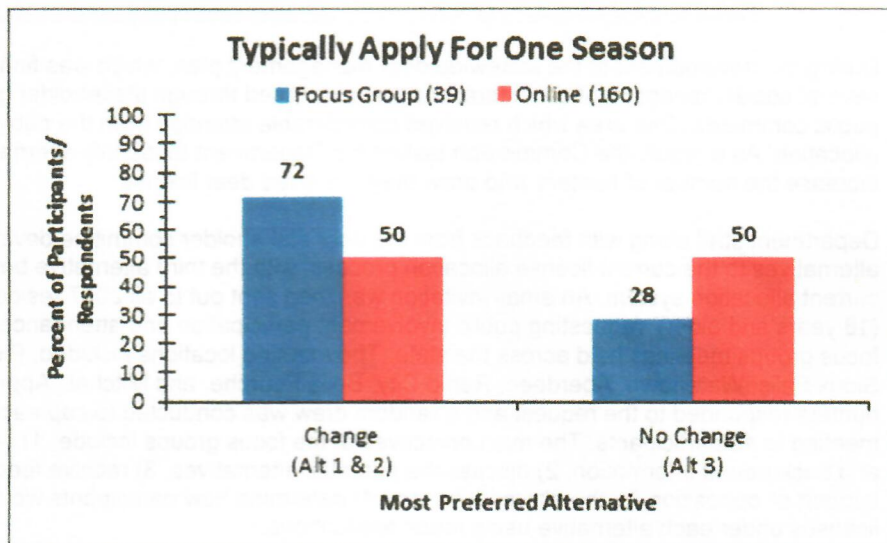
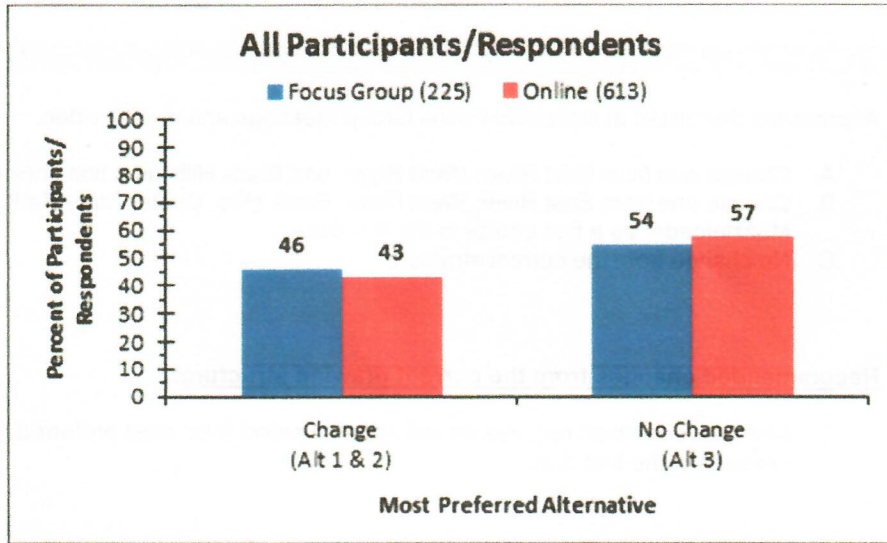
Results from the focus group meetings suggest approximately 46% of the participants preferred change. Of the online respondents, 43% preferred change. When looking at the number of hunters

APPROVE _____
 MODIFY _____
 REJECT _____
 NO ACTION _____

who typically apply for one deer season which in 2017 represented 70% of all deer applicants, 72% of the focus group participants preferred change and 50% of the online respondents preferred change.

Example:

In 2017, there were 57,689 individuals that applied for a limited draw deer license for one or more of the six limited draw seasons (ERD, WRD, BHD, MZD, RFD, and CSP). Of the 57,689 hunters, 40,317 (70%) applied for only one of the six seasons. In 2017, if alternative B was implemented, approximately 17,552 deer hunters that applied for more than one season would have to make a choice and choose a preferred season.



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GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Refuges and Boating Restrictions

Chapters 41:04:02 and 41:07:02

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	July 11, 2018	Pierre
	Public Hearing	September 6-7, 2018	Yankton
	Finalization	September 6-7, 2018	Yankton

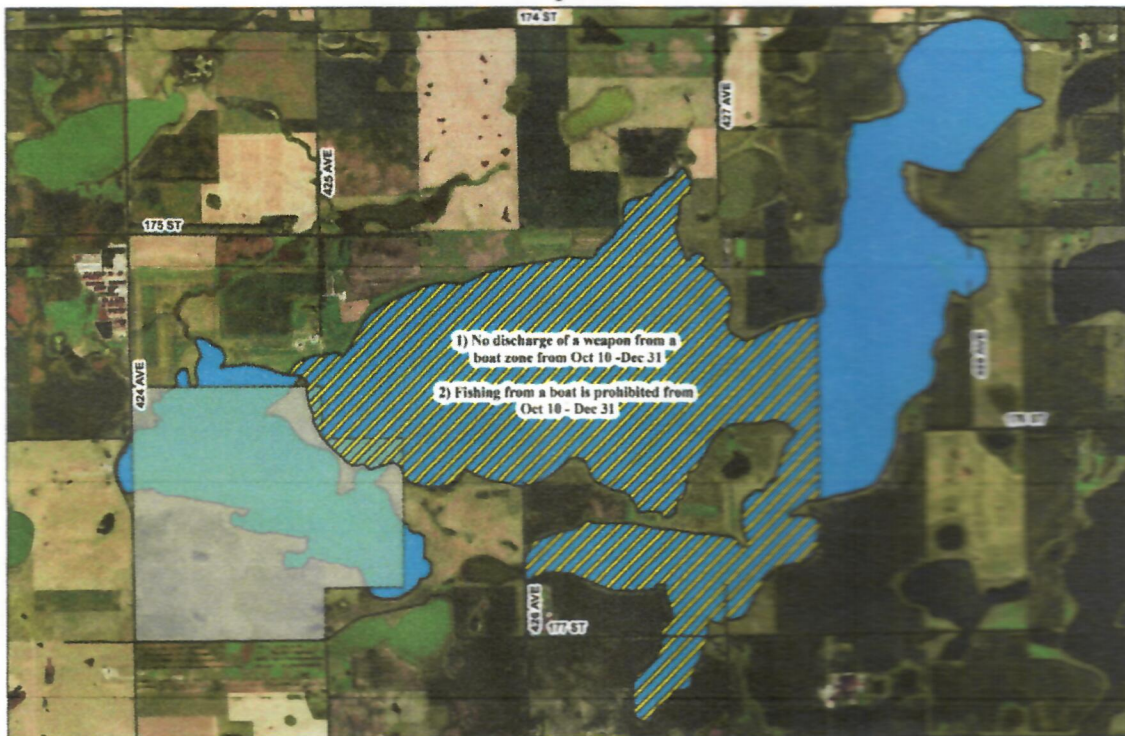
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended changes from last year:

- 1) Add a "no discharge of a weapon from a boat zone" on the waters west of a half mile east of 427th avenue within Indian Springs from October 10 to December 31.
- 2) Add fishing from a boat is prohibited on the waters west of a half mile east of 427th avenue within Indian Springs from October 10 to December 31.



Indian Springs, Clark Proposal



State Refuge Waterbody

0 1 2 Miles

STAFF COMMENTS

Indian Springs is a nonmeandered waterbody and as a result, numerous discussions regarding the continued allowance of recreational use on the waters of Indian Springs have occurred with the surrounding landowners. This change in rule would allow recreational users the opportunity to recreate on all portions of Indian Springs the vast majority of the year and would meet the requests of the landowners.

