

# Public Comments

## Deer License Allocation

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**Gordon Doyle**

**Madison SD**

**Comment:**

In Reference to proposed deer apps and draws. Have a separate draw date for each season. If a person draws Black Hills - probably won't send in for West River - vise versa. I would rather see archery deer go to Oct 1 opener. Is too early now for does with fawns and interfere with Hills elk bow hunters. You could put a drawing for archery tags to limit the number of bow hunters and a specific area or county that license is valid for limit number of non-resident Hills bow hunters. This would help increase the quality of the game and hunt. Hunters can then choose what area they want. Hills, West River etc once they draw a tag and not have a Hills and West River tag both.

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**Tracy Nelson**

**Aberdeen SD**

**Comment:**

Leave the current system in place, please do not make any changes.

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**Matt Norton**

**Hot Springs SD**

**mn3318@k12.sd.us**

**Comment:**

I want drawing structure to remain the same .

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**Lance Gerth**

**Brandt SD**

**lancegerth@outlook.com**

**Comment:**

Do we need even more change without giving the cubed preference point system a chance. Remember that not getting your 1st choice this year gets you 8 preference points next year. (This years point plus last years =  $2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$ ) This seems like a large advantage.

Even if Alternative#2 is implemented there will still be 17,053 applicants who don't get their preferred tag.

From GFP presentation, Draw Projections-Alternative #2

Projected Applicants 52,575

2017 Successful Applicants - 35,522

Applicants Without Preferred Tag = 17,053

And why aren't archery hunters included? 80% also apply for firearms buck licenses. They are also multiple tag holders. (2014 Deer Allocation Survey, Page 10)

This proposal doesn't do anything to increase the amount of tags available. It will only appease a vocal percentage of the community and they still won't get their preferred tag every year.

Thank you and feel free to contact us .

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**Samuel Young**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**slyoung87@outlook.com**

**Comment:**

I am opposed to both proposed alternative A and B as changes to the current deer drawing structure. I enjoy having the opportunity to put in for multiple deer hunting seasons to engage in the different types of deer hunting afforded me by living in the state of South Dakota. As an east river resident I believe the proposed changes to the deer season drawing structures would severely limit my opportunity to engage in deer hunts in west river or the Black Hills. Under the new system I would be forced to select an east river unit as my first choice if I wanted to engage in the deer hunting near home with family members, while being forced to fight for leftover tags in the west river and black hills units. I believe I would have far less opportunity to draw the west river or black hills tags (as my second tag) in this leftover 3rd draw pool than I do in the current system of accumulating preference points and putting in for my first choice in each season each year. With this limited opportunity to draw, I am afraid I will have much less opportunity to get out and enjoy the deer hunting on the great public lands available to me in the western regions of the state. If I wanted to partake in these great western public land deer hunts I would be forced to sacrifice the opportunity to hunt near home with my family by fighting for a tag in the leftover 3rd east river draw, which is not acceptable. All in all, I feel as though these changes only serve to benefit the masses of people who apply for a single season and engage in the deer hunt on a unit near home. Meanwhile, individuals who previously enjoyed engaging in the various types of deer hunting available in the state by applying for multiple seasons and traveling across the state to engage in deer hunting will only have these opportunities further limited. While the goal of getting more people out enjoying the deer hunt is noble, the subsequent limited opportunity for those willing to travel and engage in public land hunting for multiple seasons is not something I can endorse.

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**Dan Ackerwold**

**Volga SD**

**dan@kingfisher-enterprises.com**

**Comment:**

I have been an avid hunter and conservationist in South Dakota for over twenty years. I believe South Dakota has one of the finest deer management, licences drawing systems in place. I find it hard to see how changing the current system will become a better benefit to wildlife or the hunter. I believe that the current system gives world class opportunities to the hunter and the game and any adjustments will only give benefit to a handful of fair weather outdoorsman and will negatively affect the hunting opportunities of everyone who plans to hunt more than four days a year. I am not a wildlife/ people management expert but I spend over 300 days a year a field prosueing wildlife and fish and have a degree in wildlife and fisheries management with over twenty years of recreational and commercial experience. If you can educate me as to how the new legislation will benefit more than 10% of the hunters or the wildlife I may support it. If not, don't fix it if it isn't broken, its world class....I believe the current changes should be dismissed.

Sincerely,  
Dan Ackerwold

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**Clint Danforth**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**clintdanforth@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

First I would like to thank you for all of the work you've put into this effort. I was not aware of the discussion groups or I would have attended. I happened to run across the meeting video on the website and I have some thoughts/concerns I'd like to share.

I apply for several tags every year. In fact, several members of my family do so as well. Our goal isn't to draw several tags however, our goal is to draw one at a minimum and we feel this is a successful draw year when we do. My concerns with the proposals are as follows, I would love to hear your responses.

1. In your data you determined the success rate for each application but not at the applicant level. As I mentioned above, to my family, drawing either an ER or WR tag is considered a success. With the current system, we typically need 1 or more preference points to draw in either area, so we typically are able to draw every year, we just alternate between ER and WR. I would assume if you looked at the success rate for folks who do as we do, you will find that a much larger percentage of applicants are successful each year, though they are only able to hunt in their preferred unit in either ER or WR. Again, I feel this is a success, and I would assume others in our position would feel the same.

With the proposed change, we will only have the opportunity to apply with our first or second choice in one or the other each year, thus cutting our projected success rate by 50%. I understand by doing so it appears as though you're taking the remaining 50% of those tags and offering them to different individuals, thus boosting the perceived overall success rate per applicant, but all you've done is lowered the success rate for one group and increased it in another group, so the net of the overall success rate is a 0% change.

2. Concerning the high demand, low tag count units such as Custer State Park, Refuge Deer and Black Hills Deer, I feel these units will be impacted beyond what you are able to predict. If Option 2 is implemented, I cannot foresee any measurable percentage of hunters using their single application opportunity to apply for one of these options. These tags to me mean a real opportunity to take a mature deer and are highly sought after by many sportsmen and women. Ultimately, I will basically be forced to forfeit the dollars I have spent on preference points for these units, as I would rather apply for a tag I have more than a 7% chance of drawing. This will also eliminate any opportunity for my children (7 and 11) from being able to experience a hunt in any of these locations. The other result is the state will lose the vast majority of the dollars spent on preference points for these units. If I'll ever only have a 7% chance of drawing, and no other option to draw that year, there is no point in purchasing the points or applying.

3. What is your prediction for the short-term impact of this change? Specifically, I am concerned that by forcing applicants to choose only one option through the first 2 draws (statistically it was mentioned in the video there will be a very low likelihood of drawing a preferred unit as a 3rd draw option) this method will disrupt the entire draw process. The applicants who would generally only hunt one unit will have a slightly higher success rate, but are the applicants in this group going to send in for a tag for the 3rd draw in a different (less desirable) unit and be compelled to travel...not likely. Where will the additional tags go? I predict these tags will be a consolation prize for the dedicated group of hunters who will be rewarded by being forced to hunt the less desirable units. The result of this will likely be a drop in the total number of hunters willing to spend time and money on the sport which in-turn impacts the entire state. I travel every year for deer hunting for both ER or WR. I spend dollars for gas, hotel and food. Again, I just don't see there being a positive impact to the economy.

4. Lastly I feel as though this change is meant to cater to applicants who are unwilling to travel in order to have an opportunity to hunt. I feel the majority of these applicants may be family members or friends of land owners who don't want to put in the effort to find land in other units to increase their odds of drawing. Or they simply may not value the opportunity to hunt enough to travel. Under the current lottery method, EVERYONE HAS THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THEIR ODDS OF DRAWING...PURCHASE PREFERENCE POINTS!!!! The GF&P does a great job of providing the proper number of tags based on the population of deer in the area. If someone lives in an area with a low population, it's going to be difficult for them to draw a tag so they have 2 options; 1)Look for a new unit to raise your odds or 2)Purchase your preference points and draw when your number is pulled.

I feel this change is going to have a greater impact on hunters such as myself and unfortunately my daughters by limiting our overall success rate, thus hindering my ability to keep them interested in the tradition. I understand the long term impact of this change is very difficult to predict. I fear though, it will be much more difficult to correct if a less than desirable outcome is achieved.

Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss.

605-351-7270

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**Chris Savey**  
**Beresford SD**  
**casavey@live.com**

**Comment:**

I am opposed to any change . I hunt east and west ever year for the last 33years . I own land in two different counties east river but not enough to qualify for land owner. I am a avid deer hunter. I feel this punishes us avid deer hunters . we are the ones spending money at conservation banquet to give back to conservation . I spend 100s of hours each year planting food plots to help increase numbers and my success in the field . i spend time helping ranchers out west where we hunt . if Im limited to one tag why would i want to continue doing these things . if you apply for the special buck and your normal county tags you should draw every other year or two. there are ways to be successful in them hard to get counties every 1 to3 years. I have run into NO ONE that is for this. Again i am opposed to punishing us avid hunters . thanks

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**Aaron Rogers**  
**Huron SD**  
**horngrabbers@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

Please do not change the current draw system. If people would just learn how to use the current PP system they can get a tag or two every year. If your buying points for all the deer seasons.

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**Lyle Bublitz**  
**Huron SD**  
**lsbublitz295@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I am 100% opposed to your proposed change to the manner in which deer licenses are to be drawn. Your own statistics on comments indicates to me that less than one half of the people who commented want this change. I feel it will complicate the process and personally have not discussed this with one hunter in my area that favors this change. Please leave the process exactly as it currently functions. Thank you.

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**Ethan Christensen**  
**Watertown SD**  
**Ethanman111@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

The current method of d tags allocation is fair and should not be changed, I strongly oppose any changes to the current model!

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**Andrew Krier**  
**Harrisburg SD**  
**Andrewckrier@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I prefer no change, keep the system as is.

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**Earl Quaken**  
**Castlewood SD**

**Comment:**

This proposed change is NOT needed. Please keep the current drawing system in place. Thank you

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**Jeffrey Peters**

**Pierre SD**

**jeffreypeters@pie.midco.net**

**Comment:**

I'm writing this note concerning the future of the deer application process. I understand this is a difficult task and it will be impossible to satisfy everyone. I am as passionate about deer hunting as anyone you will find and you can consider me a multiple deer applicant. I have been hunting deer since I was 12(52 yrs) and my dad and I hunted deer in the BH nearly 40 yrs in a row until we weren't able to get a license every year. I've hunted WR with family and friends as much as possible and ER with family as much as I can. I started hunting ER when I could only apply every third year. I have hunted archery deer since I graduated college so I guess you could call me a dedicated deer hunter.

I understand the effort to try and get preferred licenses to as many hunters as possible but I wonder if there are other options available. As a multiple applicant, I'm not sure the review process gave me equal consideration. Of course I know quite a few hunters that apply for more than one license and I am certain that the majority of them do not apply for "premium" licenses as first choice as they just wouldn't get a license very often.

(1) I think the hard to get licenses should be labeled "Premium" and the lottery could consider those...

(2) Treat ER and WR applicants in a way that if you get a "premium" license on those applications, then you must wait two or three years to apply for it again.

(3) I wouldn't consider the Black Hills, CSP, Refuges quite the same... as the majority of the land is public...

(4) Maybe some of the refuge hunts, CSP, etc. should be established as once in a life time hunts...they practically are anyway.

(5) I don't know if you have put a value on some of these preferred licenses but if they are premium maybe they should be priced that way.

(6) Most big game hunters in this state understand that our preference system isn't a true pref. system and that cubing won't appreciably increase the odds especially on premium licenses. I think waiting a couple of years after a successful draw is something most hunters understand in a limited draw.

I hunt mostly for bucks. You probably have projections on how many antlerless tags you will sell on the third draw but I imagine there will be leftovers...

Thank you for letting me speak my two cents.

Jeff Peters

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**Jack Diez**

**Winner SD**

**jdiez@gwtc.net**

**Comment:**

I understand what your purpose is to get tags to more people -which I appauld and support-however-I have applied numerous times for muzzleloader any deer and have drawn once-once again I understand how tough a draw this is and have no problem with this-with this proposed change I will be forced to choose between west river deer and muzzleloader any deer-not a hard decision there-in my opinion muzzleloader should not be in this mix because of the season dates and the limited tags-thanks for your time

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**Benjamin Kruse**  
**Brookings SD**  
**bkcckruse@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

I like having a chance at multiple tags. I usually only end up with one buck tag but I get to hunt west river where my family has been hunting on the same ranch since 1958. I like be able to choose muzzle loader buck as well as refuge deer. The systems now is easy to use if I get a west river tag I usually just apply for preference points for the other ones. I just started hunting archery again as my kids are now older and not in fall sports. The current systems lets a guy have the choice of where he wants to hunt in the state. I also feel like you guys are trying to push something no hunters want in the state by holding the meetings in low population towns. There should of been way more then 2 meetings especially on the eastern part of the state. Thanks

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**Dustin Degreeef**  
**Arlington SD**  
**dustin.degreeef@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

No comment text provided.

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**Josh Olson**  
**Lemmon SD**  
**joshthejeweler@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

We need this to happen to better the odds for everyone to get a tag. Left overs will be bought and 4th drawing non residents can draw generating more revenue for the parks.

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**Steve Eide**  
**Mount Vernon SD**  
**sd57328@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

We may not draw exactly what we want every year, but we have numerous opportunities to draw at least one tag if we choose to do so. Leave the drawing system the way it is.

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**Derrick Lonas**  
**Woksey SD**  
**Derrick.lonas@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

If you want too boost deer numbers 1st dont have the rifle seasons in the middle of the rut move it too later in the year, 2nd add a antler restriction so guys actually have too look at what they are shooting, 3rs dont have the doe season so late in the year after the rut is over a large percentage of does have been bread every doe shot that time of year is 1-4 less deer the following year



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**John Duffu**  
**Oldham SD**  
**jduffy03@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

I've tried to keep an open mind through this process and have collected as much information as I can through emails and phone calls with the GFP and others. I am still not in favor of changing to Alternative 1 or 2. Oppose Alternative 1 and 2. Support Alternative 3 (no change).

Thank you!

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**Richard Hanger**  
**Sioux Falls SD**  
**hangfire49@sio.midco.net**

**Comment:**

This proposal is inherently unfair. Anyone who hunts in a group and gives the group first pick will never get a chance at a desirable tag in any other unit as we all know the any deer tags will go in the first draw. Currently all hunters have the same chance at any tag. We are all South Dakota residents. This new proposal pits one group of hunters against another and reduces our chances of going afield to hunt deer. Appeasing a vocal minority with the "chance" of a tag in one season is in no way better than a chance in several seasons. GFP should be working to enhance hunter days afield, not restrict them.

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**Kyle Manning**  
**Pierre SD**  
**mooseman\_74@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

Please listen to the MAJORITY of South Dakota hunters when we ask for NO CHANGE to the current deer licensing / drawings. It is fine the way it is.

I've yet to see or meet anyone in favor of this change, this includes many CO I've been able to speak with regarding the matter.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

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**Shane Stewart**  
**Hot Springs SD**  
**Sstewieshane@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I am all for limiting first choice deer tags. I used to draw west river deer every other year if not every year, recently it has taken me 3 or 4 years

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**Marcus Dangel**

**Hurley SD**

**mdangel@eccsfsd.com**

**Comment:**

Please please do not the the way the drawing works! It is just fine the way it!! Every one has a chance at the tags once you have 2 years preference! If you apply for all of the tags you will draw a tag!! This gives you the thrill of not knowing!! Draws results are out plenty early to plan your hunt!! If you change it you will be stuck doing the same hunt over and over each year!

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**Jason Stone**

**Chamberlain SD**

**stonej88@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

Dear SD Game Fish & Parks and SD GF&P Commission,

I would like to oppose the two Options provided for the changes to the Deer License Allocation process that are being discussed. At this time, I would support NO CHANGE to the deer license allocation process. Although I understand that "statistically" speaking, the new options would potentially increase preferred tags to be drawn in a preferred unit, however based on the various small studies that have been conducted, I don't believe the statistical increase is enough to justify a complete overhaul of the deer license allocation process without further research and other options provided, also with research provided. For now, I feel the state needs to stick with the cubed preference process and let that play out, giving more time to come up with other options that may be more rounded and be able to compromise a little bit better on all of the hot topic issues this process has brought up.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jason Stone

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**Brian Drexler**

**Brookings SD**

**bdrexler@swiftel.net**

**Comment:**

I oppose a change in the Big Game hunting license drawings, They are separate uniq seasons.

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**Jeremy Wollman**

**Bonesteel SD**

**Jeremy.Wollman@k12.sd.us**

**Comment:**

I'm highly frustrated that I cannot draw a deer tag in my home county anymore. In 25 years I have only not drawn a tag 3 times. Two of three was last year and this year. I understand the proposal that is moving forward but will that be enough to ensure that locals can draw tags within their own county? There were 225 idle landowner tags just in 30B11 last year. Why can't those not be rolled over to the general public draw? What good is putting our county land into WIA if the locals can't draw a tag. Yes, I understand how the draw system works and the stats behind it, however, that does not lessen my frustration. I do hope the new proposal can help me draw a tag in the future.

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**Arnold Veen**

**Milbank SD**

**arnieveen@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

I was part of the Watertown focus group and I am opposed to the option #2 that you are currently voting on . My choice was and still is option #1 primarily to leave Refuge and Muzzleloader out of the choice.

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**Mark Watson**

**Spearfish SD**

**watson.photography@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

I am concerned that there may be unintended consequences of the proposed changes to deer hunting draws. I hunt in the Black Hills and have to wait 2 to 3 years to draw an any whitetail tag. My concern is that when people who don't normally hunt the Black Hills as their first choice, will now make it such making the time between tag draws even longer.

If memory serves correct, when the commission expanded the youth tags to 6, GF&P staffers were surprised how many of those young hunters traveled across the state to hunt does in the Hills. That drove the population down more than anticipated.

At the July commission meeting GF&P staffer Kevin Robling said "If something's broke and not working, we will do all we can to fix it." I don't believe the current system is broke. Why the proposed changes? Is there a region that is has a lower than sustainable population? My family relies on wild game for our supply of meat. We would rather not travel to other parts of the state to hunt that meat. A longer wait between drawing tags will be a financial hardship on our family

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**Ron Hulzebos**  
**Harrisburg SD**  
**ron2ponds@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I am not sure if this is the correct place to send my opinion concerning the proposed drawing structure change for deer licenses. First, I was pleasantly surprised with the cubing of preference points this year and would hope you would hold off on more changes until you see the results of that change. I would also suggest that if you do change the structure that you would leave Custer and muzzleloader deer out of the equation. I am sitting here with 20 preference points for Custer deer with long odds even with the cubing. What will I do next year? I would have to give up my first choice for long odds or just forget about the years I've waited for a chance of a Custer Park hunt. The same goes for muzzleloader with long odds, which cubing should help; but is what most guys consider a bonus Dec. hunt. If this is not the correct email address for input, I would greatly appreciate this being forwarded to who would address this concern. Thanks

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**Joe Henderson**  
**Madison SD**  
**jhenderson@eastriver.coop**

**Comment:**

So If option B is accepted, which I strongly oppose.... Do preference points even matter anymore? I have a lot of money tied up in preference points....Or is that money just down the drain now...

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**David Duffy**  
**Oldham SD**  
**dkduffy1980@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I am a farmer in Eastern SD and want to give you my thoughts on the Proposed Deer management options. #1, There is a opinion that some people are not getting the one license that they are applying for and think they should get that tag every year! Some are getting several licenses and people don't think that it is fair. I think the people that are not getting their first choice are ones that are only applying for just that single season only. Maybe these people need to apply for other areas of the state and different seasons to get more of a chance to get a tag. I personally get 1 to 3 tags a year between East River deer, West river deer( sometimes special Buck) and every few years a Mussel loader tag. From what I understand, the archery tags are Not in on this plan. #2 Where are these extra hunters going to hunt?? Public land is already over full in my area and I doubt any landowners are going to let the extra hunters on their private land. There is too much road hunting now and I am afraid this will only add to that problem. Trespassing will also become more of a problem than it is also!! #3 If land owners decide that they want a first choice West River or other tag other than the East River county that they live and farm on, they would not be able to apply for a tag until the 3rd drawing. That is NOT FAIR to landowners that normally would be guaranteed 1/2 of the tags. Even if they apply for a landowner only tag, that means they can't hunt the neighbors land that they have been able to hunt for many years. This is NOT FAIR to the landowners!! #4 The preference points were cubed this year. Why not give that plan a chance to work first before you change a system that, in my opinion, has been working just fine for many years!! It is only good business practice to only change one variable at a time so we can actually see if the cubing points works or not! #5 I don't think the deer herd can support the plan that you are proposing either. If landowners end up getting landowner tags only and the rest of the tags go to non-land owners. I believe there will be way too many deer harvested. If this plan goes thru, there needs to be a limit on archery tags then. I do NOT favor issuing extra tags to Non-residents either. PLEASE , DO NOT change the system to these new proposed plans as I believe it will cause more problems than it would solve. I thing the current point system works just fine in most cases. I understand that the Focus groups were slightly in favor of leaving the system the way it is. Majority rules!! Let's not try to fix something that isn't broken!! The unhappy people just need to wait until their preference points build enough to draw a tag . There have been lots of leftover tags in places also to apply for. They should consider this option also. We have!!

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**John Duffy**  
**Oldham SD**  
**jduffy03@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

I appreciate you taking the time to talk with me on the phone Friday about the new proposed deer license alternatives. I have also had a couple good discussions with Kevin Robling (cc'd on this email) on the phone over the last 2 weeks as well. After my discussions with him, and some time to share and process more of the information from our conversations, I am still in favor of leaving the current deer draw system as-is for several reasons.

I understand the main reason behind wanting to change to a new system to try to get more deer tags into more deer applicants hands, but I'm afraid Alternatives 1 and 2 don't necessarily do this without more negative consequences than good outcomes, or don't do this without taking too much away from the current system.

Here are a few points that I feel support leaving the current draw system as-is. As we discussed on the phone, I've also offered some suggestions for change at the bottom of this email.

1. Currently many leftover buck tags go into the 2nd drawings:
  - o There are always quality leftover firearm buck tags in the state every year so hunters that are not getting a firearm buck tag every year now are not exploring all the options that other deer hunters do when they get more than 1 firearm buck tag. If hunters from this group really wanted a firearm buck tag, they would apply for those firearm buck tags now and would likely be getting them as a 1st/2nd choice in the first drawing or leftover in the

2nd drawing; therefore, I'm not sure changing the current system would make most of the hunters from this group that much happier. There are already leftover buck tags out there that are not being taken until later drawings, so that leads me to think that this is not as big of a problem as some make it seem.

2. Not a balanced compromise:

- o Changing the drawing system to Alternatives 1 or 2 would be giving the group of hunters that only apply for 1 firearm unit 100% of the tags they want (1 tag) but it would very likely be taking away 1 or 2 preferred firearm buck tags from another large group of deer applicants that currently get those tags, which would be leaving this other group with only 33% or 50% of the tags they want that they are currently getting (1 of 3 tags, or 2 of 3 tags), so it is an extreme swing and I would hope that there could be more of a compromise and balance in the middle with some give and not all take.

3. Majority of deer hunters would not benefit from change:

- o Kevin said that roughly 70% of the deer applicants only apply for 1 firearm season so that is the reason the GFP is considering this change; to accommodate these hunters. However, roughly 45% of these 70% of deer applicants are getting the 1 firearm buck tag they apply for currently, which is 32% of the total deer applicants.
- o Also, of the 30% of the remaining deer applicants that are applying for MORE than 1 tag, there is a very good change they are getting at least 1-3 firearm buck tags.

- o So if you take 32% + 30% of successful deer firearm buck tag applicants, that is 62% of deer applicants that are getting 1 or more firearm buck tags every year, which means that these 62% should also be in favor of the current system over Alternatives 1 or 2 because these 62% would only be giving up tags or maintaining tags in Alternatives 1 or 2, not gaining tags.

- o There are very few advantages for this majority of deer tag applicants; mainly just disadvantages.

4. Small draw odds/chance increase not practically significant:

- o Kevin said that after running some draw simulations, the East River and West River deer draw odds went up roughly 10-20% under either Alternatives 1 or 2 (please correct me if I did not hear you correctly, Kevin), which are the 2 most popular and significant deer drawings in SD.

- o Last year in my home county of Kingsbury County, my draw odds with 1 preference point were 100%, but with 0 points were only 2%. To me, increasing my draw odds from 2% to roughly 12-22% for an East River rifle buck tag is not significant enough for me to give up 1-2 other quality and preferred firearm buck tags that would disappear in the 1st and 2nd drawings while I wait until the 3rd drawing to apply again under Alternatives 1 or 2.

- o 8 or 9 out of 10 years I would still not draw that tag with 0 preference points under Alternatives 1 or 2, so how would that significantly benefit others? That is, now I can likely get 2-3 preferred firearm buck tags every year by applying for 6 different deer seasons under 6 different drawings. Under Alternative 1, I would probably still get my 1st choice tag that I am currently getting anyway, with roughly a 10-20% higher chance, but then I would likely not get the 2nd and 3rd firearm tags I am getting now. I would have to wait until the 3rd drawing to apply for my 2nd firearm buck tag and then I MIGHT get a leftover buck tag for a unit that I probably don't even currently hunt or have permission to hunt on anyway.

- o Similarly, in Pennington county last year, an applicant with 1 preference point had 100% chance at an any deer tag and only a 37% chance at an any deer tag with 0 points. Increasing this to 47-57% under Alternatives 1 or 2 would still only allow that hunter to get any deer tag about every other year, but they can still get a whitetail buck tag with 100% odds every year, under the current system or the new proposed Alternatives 1 or 2.

- o These 2 examples perfectly illustrate how the slightly increased draw odds under Alternatives 1 or 2 would not practically help hunters the majority of years in the state's 2 largest deer seasons; East River and West River deer.

5. More hunters without a place to hunt:

- o Under Alternatives 1 or 2, landowners that want to hunt other deer seasons that they do not own land in, would likely want to apply for that unit in the 1st drawing as their 1st choice. If they draw that unit, there would likely not be a buck tag in their own home season/unit left by the time the 3rd drawing comes back around when they can apply again for a 2nd tag, meaning they would be forced to buy a landowner specific tag for their own unit. With this, more non-landowners would be getting more of the buck tags for that unit than before, tags that were historically allotted to landowners, who currently get 50% of the buck tag allocation in each unit, meaning that there will be more people with buck tags that may not have a place to hunt. This increase in non-landowner hunters with tags will lower success rates of other non-landowner hunters that rely on public land for hunting access. More non-landowner hunters will flock to the already over-populated public land, especially in East River units, and it will ruin the hunting experience for the other non-landowners hunters that usually waited 1-2 years to get that particular tag that can only hunt on public land. This will undoubtedly happen in Alternatives 1 or 2.

- o Most hunters would prefer to wait 1 extra year to get a quality buck tag with less hunting pressure in their hunting area than getting that tag maybe 1-2 more times in a 10 year period with more people hunting that area every time they do draw that tag.

o This will also mean that more buck tags will be given out in every unit because of landowners not taking as many tags out from the quota in the regular pool, so buck tag numbers should be reduced to offset this, but then that lowers the draw odds of the non-landowner hunters, which is the group that this change is trying to tailor to by increasing tag numbers. This doesn't make sense and is contradictory of the idea of deer management. Is the goal to sell more tags or to harvest the correct amount of deer?

o More hunters without a place to hunt leads to more poaching and "road hunting". I already see this in my home county for many of the people after they leave the public land opening morning because it is over-pressured.

6. Majority of deer hunters prefer current system:

o From what I have heard from Kevin and others, a majority of deer hunters polled prefer to leave the current system as-is. With Alternatives 1 and 2 being such a major change, I would hope that it would take at least a strong majority or 2/3 of the deer hunters polls wanting the change to actually change the system.

I have made several points of why I don't think Alternatives 1 or 2 are the best for South Dakota deer hunters, but not to sound just like I am against any change or just want to complain about potential changes without offering suggestions, here are some ideas to consider that I think would really work, without a lot of change at once:

My suggestions of alternative options:

1. Keep Special Buck drawings separate and not have tag count against applicant in 1st/2nd drawing of later combined drawings:

o If the state was to adopt one of the new alternatives, I would use some aspects of Alternative 1 with a blend and compromise between Alternatives 1 and 3.

o This compromise would exclude the East River Special Buck and West River Special Buck tags from Alternative 1. That is, if a person draws a Special Buck tag in the earlier Special Buck drawing as it is currently, the GFP would still allow that successful applicant to also apply in the 1st draw of East River/West River/Black Hills combined season of Alternative 1. That way the deer hunters that really want to hunt both East River and West River deer in the same year have a much higher chance of getting a tag, by applying for the higher-priced Special Buck tag. As the name implies, it would be a "special" tag that all deer applicants have an equal chance for without any landowner preference factoring in.

o The GF&P could even possibly raise the tag fee 25-50% (or any reasonable percentage) for more revenue to the state, which the very passionate and dedicated deer hunters in the state would be happy to pay if that meant they had a good chance at still hunting deer in both East River and West River.

o Otherwise under Alternatives 1 or 2, deer hunters will only likely get to hunt 1 of the 3 seasons between East River, West River, and Black Hills. Many people hunt all 3 currently. That is a lot to lose if you love deer hunting in SD.

o If you don't allow hunters that draw a special buck tag to even apply in the 1st drawing of the East River/West River/Black Hills combined season of Alternative 1, there really is no advantage of having a Special Buck tag if you cannot also apply for East River, West River, or Black Hills deer in the first 2 drawings.

o With this compromise, it would still help out those who only want to apply for 1 season, but it would also help some of the most passionate deer hunters apply in the Special Buck 1st drawing and East River/West River/Black Hills 1st drawing.

2. Combine some other deer seasons, but not East River/West River/Black Hills:

o I don't think the East River, West River, and Black Hills drawings should be the seasons that are combined, if any. I think they should all be separate; especially East River and West River seasons as they get almost 85% of the state's total deer applicants.

o However, if you want to combine units into one drawing, it should be seasons such as Refuge Deer/CSP Deer/Muzzleloader Deer/Black Hills Deer combined. The strong majority of SD deer hunters hunt East River and West River deer units.

o A good alternative would be to combined West River and Black Hills into one drawing since they are both units west of the Missouri River and especially the Black Hills are just another large "West River county", and then have the East River drawing separate. For example, the drawings would be as follows:

? East River Special Buck

? West River Special Buck

? Black Hills/West River Deer

? East River Deer

? Muzzleloader Deer

? CSP Deer/Refuge Deer

o This combines 4 of the seasons and is a compromise of Alternatives 1/2 and Alternative 2 (current system).

o Black Hills Deer runs the entire month of November and overlaps with both East River and West River deer

seasons, so if you have an East River tag and a West River tag, you probably don't have sufficient time to also hunt the Black Hills, maybe just 1 weekend. That is why I think combining West River Deer and Black Hills Deer drawings would be a fair compromise, and makes sense geographically.

Thank you very much for your time reading this email. I know it was lengthy, but I wanted to get my thoughts down "on paper" so that you had time to review it before the meeting this Wednesday. I know you may not agree with some of my points, and that is OK, but I wanted to give a voice to the other hunters out there that do not support a big change like this at this time. To be open-minded, I think I did list a couple reasonable alternatives that are not as extreme that would be more balanced and not as drastic as Alternatives 1 or 2 if you feel you must make some sort of change to our deer drawing system. Thanks again for all that you do for our wildlife!

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**Bill Soyland**

**Wentworth SD**

**billmsoyland@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

Dear Sir I have hunted deer across the state for over 50 years both rifle and archery. I do not believe the proposed changes should take place. I do believe the current system is working well. Please consider keeping it the same for future seasons.

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**James Twamley**

**Parker SD**

**jltmotors@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose any change to the Deer Application Process. As was presented at the last commission meeting, a majority of All Deer hunters who attending the focus group meetings ( I attended the one in Yankton) are against any changes to the current process that allows a hunter to apply for multiple separate seasons. In my case, I apply for West River deer along with my adult children and grand children so we can have a reasonable chance at having a family hunting adventure. We choose East Lyman county because of the large tracks of public land available to hunt on. The 7 of us apply separately knowing that all may not draw, but someone should be lucky so the rest can come out and participate. I apply for the Black Hills Any Deer tag (I currently have 8 Preference Points) knowing that my drawing this tag will take many years of applying before finally getting the opportunity to hunt out there for Mule Deer. I apply for Lincoln County East River Deer tag and it may take me 4 years preference to draw that tag, but as I have only access to a limited area, I am happy waiting on that possibility. I also always apply for the Muzzleloader deer tag knowing that it may take me up to 5 years Preference to draw that license as well. The proposed changes will make me decide whether to hunt with my kids and grandkids West River, or to hunt in the Black Hills, East River Deer, or Black Powder Deer which is not fair or right. The idea that the Proposals will more fairly distribute more tags to more people is the wrong approach if the goal is to have sustained hunters numbers in the field as the Department stated at the last Commission Meeting. I say this because in my case, I will apply for West River deer to be able to hunt with my kids, and as there will never be left over tags in the other seasons I normally apply for, not only does the State loose me as a licensee but you also will loose my application fees as there is no reason for me to apply for these other seasons. In closing, I want to state that when I first started deer hunting back in the early to late 1960's with my father, I had to wait 3 years from the time I drew my first tag and had to have a minimum of 3 years Preference points before I drew a deer tag in Hanson County. Hunters today have more opportunity to hunt than ever, however if the Department truly wants to have more participation in hunting, the key is providing good quality access to lands and not pitting hunters against one another or taking opportunities away from the people who are lucky enough to draw multiple tags.



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**Jim Wheeler**  
**Sioux Falls SD**

**Comment:**

Not sure why you are considering this change as the system works just fine the way it is. I urge commissioners to vote this proposal down and leave the current system in place.

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**Jordan Jacobsen**  
**Brookings SD**  
**jaj24@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to South Dakota's current draw process. There are other major underlying issues playing key roles in hunter draw success such as disease, declining deer numbers, and loss of habitat. These need to be addressed first to ensure a strong future for our state's deer and deer hunters. Thank you.

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**Philip Mccauley**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Philip.mccauley@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I had the opportunity to speak and meet with Josh Delger about this topic and I want to express my appreciation to what I felt was a productive conversation. After our meeting I want to make sure I sent in a comment to summarize what we discussed and my position to oppose the season change.

1. Revenue: The current model allows hunters to have the opportunity to have multiple hunts within the state of South Dakota on any given year. This promotes instate travel and instate revenue from populated areas of our state to smaller communities. Under the current proposal hunters will most likely have only 1 hunt instate deer hunt. I have had multiple conversations regarding this and the consensus has been that we would look going outside of South Dakota to neighboring states for hunts. It is not our preferred choice; but given only 1 opportunity it would be the most logical answer combat the deer season change.
2. Fairness vs Equal Opportunity: The proposal on the table is an attempt to create fairness and reduce equal opportunity. My position is that it shouldn't matter what season it is, you should have an equal opportunity to get a deer tag in the different hunting zones. We already have a fair system which allows people to accumulate preference points for a higher percentage opportunity to get a tag.
3. High Population Counties: The purposed change does not solve the problem of hunters wanting to only hunt a specific county. In high population counties it will always be difficult to draw a tag. This point also drives revenue as well for the state. If local hunters are only wanting to hunt in their county; instate tourism will decrease.
4. Percentages: We discussed that this change is looking to make a 5-10 percent shift if opportunity for a hunter's chance of drawing their desired tag. This seems like a very low margin to make a significant change to the manner which the public gets access to deer tags. Looking at the previous years deer hunting draw statistics; you will still need preference points to get tags in a desired county.
5. Preference Points: We weren't able to address what happens to the current preference points that have been accumulated in the systems as it is today. There are hunts that would never be my first choice that I have been getting preferences for so I would have the opportunity to hunt multiple times in South Dakota on a given year. Based off the numbers of applicants with draw preference; I don't see the ability to use them. Is the state willing to refund bought preference points for seasons which will not be a first choice?
6. Changes that have been already made: With the cubing changes that have been made to assist hunters with more preference points to get tags it seems like that should be played out further to understand the impact. The changes that were made to mentor hunting will also increase the deer hunting pool because it allows our youth to get involved quicker. I feel that the future of our sport is not the current hunters; but the investment into the next generation. Making smaller adjustments to our existing system and watching how it impacts the sport from year to year seems like a better solution than a overhaul of the current system.

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**Jason Taylor**  
**Fort Pierre SD**  
**taylorjd03@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

To SD GFP and Commission, I am against any changes to the deer license allocation. The current system works well and is not broken. If someone draws 3 to 4 tags in one year, then they are considered lucky, then next year they might only draw 1 tag. I have hunted WR and ER for 25 years with family and friends, which I have made many memories. But I also really enjoy the December muzzleloader season. So if a change is made, now you will make me choose between applying for WR and ER to hunt with family and making more memories with my kids (that just started to hunt) or apply for muzzleloader and hunt the muzzleloader season which I really enjoy.

Many landowner relationships that have been built over years, will now be lost, due to being successful in the 1st round and having to wait for the 3rd round to apply and no tags left in that unit. In the unit that I hunt ER, a person can get a tag in the first round and there is a less than good chance the 2nd round, and by the 3rd round the tags are always gone. So under the new proposal, if I apply for and get my WR tag there is a very good chance that there won't be any tags left for ER, where my family and I have built relationships with landowners for over the past 20 years. So then we can say goodbye to all of the work, that has been done and relationships built over those years. A lot of the issue comes from hunters that are applying in a high population unit with low number of deer/tags or highly sought after units with low number of tags. A lot of those hunters only want to hunt in their "backyard" instead of doing research for other units with higher draw success rates and maybe travel one or two counties over. The hunters that get multiple tags are willing to put in their time and do their "homework" for different units and pick up leftover tags and not hunt in their backyard. So why punish them? SD deer tags are allocated in lottery system and not an, everybody gets a tag system or a participation trophy/tag system, where everybody wins. Just because someone applies for a tag in a hard to draw unit and gets a tag every 2 to 3 years, doesn't mean that the system is broken and everything needs to be changed. The preference point system was just changed, so why not wait and see if that helps, before making major changes and messing everything up? The current deer population across the state is low (due to high predator population, bad winters, diseases, and over harvesting in certain units), which means fewer # of deer tags for hunters and a lower draw success rate. When the deer numbers come back up, so will the # of tags, and so will the draw success rate.

Why did the GFP recommend option 2 to the Commission, when the surveys show that the majority of the hunters are for option 3 (NO CHANGE)? Is it so the Commission can choose option 1 and then say that they had reached a compromise and met in the middle? How come in the Deer License Drawing Alternatives Presentation, that was presented during the July meeting, the GFP combined the survey results from option 1 & 2 and put those numbers up against option 3? Was it to make it look like more people wanted a change? If you look at each option independently, the majority of the hunters want NO CHANGE. There is no reason for muzzleloader deer to even be in this conversation, they are "bonus tags". There is such a small number of these tags that they shouldn't even be talked about in any of these conversations. No one should expect to get a muzzleloader tag every year. Thank you for your time and listening my thoughts. My vote is to leave at it currently is, Option 3 (No Change). Thanks Again, Jason Taylor

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**Chet Barney**  
**Vermillion SD**  
**chetbarney@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

Don't change the deer draw, other than changing the muzzleloader from a state tag to a unit draw tag.

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**Dillon Blaha**  
**Pierre SD**

**Comment:**

oppose

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**Travis Hardie**  
**Lennox SD**  
**travishardie@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

Why don't we keep Muzzleloader in archery out of The Proposal because the rest of them are all rifle... and by changing this proposal if one person ever wants to apply East River and West River and have a chance at shooting a deer on both sides of the state The Proposal will prohibit that... Along with that I myself hunt East River and would love to hunt West River and muzzleloader I will never be able to go west river and Muzzleloader ever again because I'm not going to give up my East River tag... so do I just lose all those dollars I put in for preference points of all these years for both of those...? if the state changes this and the proposal goes through the state should offer any dollars reimburse to all the people that wanted the preference points paid back to them since they will never be able to use them.. I'm sure I'm not the only person in this situation where if they do this those points will never be used. Again I'm going to make this a little clearer, I understand some ideas of making East River West River Black Hills dear and special block all one draw but Muzzleloader should be in its own classification as it is now anyways.

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**Jon Albers**  
**Rapid City SD**  
**albersjon@live.com**

**Comment:**

NR bowhunting absolutely needs to be regulated. Custer National Forest (CNF) is a treasure in our state. It is one of the few areas that is not only gorgeous but can provide an opportunity at a tremendous deer. NR bowhunter numbers have been rising tremendously. I am all for out of state hunters having an opportunity to come hunt deer in SD but to open it up to unlimited use is ridiculous. I would be for a tremendous limit in the number of NR Archery tags on public land and applying a stiff fee for public access to make up the difference. If they are hunting private land We are not CO or WY and do not have the game populations or land mass to support unfettered access for hunting purposes. I really like this opportunity to voice my opinion on a forum thank you for setting this up. The unfortunate reality is most people don't know or have the time to attend the meetings but if you are out talking to locals, watching the blogs etc. this is a huge concern and out of control. As a resident of South Dakota I would appreciate somewhat protecting the limited opportunities for truly great hunting lands even if it financially costs me more. Having every campsite full and somebody on every hill and ravine is not what a good experience is about.

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**Josh Dede**

**Brandon SD**

**Dede33114@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I do not support the new proposed change to the deer license draw. Although I don't like the new proposed draw change for any reason, One major reason is I do not agree that muzzleloader should be involved with this. Muzzleloader is already hard to find deer as it starts in the colder months and after many deer have been shot at and many harvested. Muzzleloader does not travel as far as a rifle so you have to be closure to the already shot at deer. Take all that, plus any deer tags already take many years to get. If archery is separate from this, so should muzzleloader. I am not in favor of this change. Thank you for your time in reading this, I understand there is a lot to consider, however I do feel the majority of hunters oppose this law, just look on the comment section on GFP website. Thank you again for your time.

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**Eric Botkin**

**Spearfish SD**

**Comment:**

It seems that even when I apply for more than one season I usually only get one tag anyway. I like to have at least one rifle tag per year along with my archery tag.

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**Ross Hudson**

**Tyndall SD**

**hudson@hcinet.net**

**Comment:**

Please don't cave to the loud minority. Last time I checked my math, 46% in favor of the change is not a majority. I understand it is a challenge to draw an East River tag in some counties. These hunters should find new places to hunt in other areas, West River, Hills, Muzzleloader, etc. Or maybe hunt a new species or maybe even a doe.... If they truly are about the hunt, meat, enjoyment, that should not be a terrible request. I also think it is very important to manage preference points appropriately. A person can get a pretty good idea of when they will draw a tag by looking at the past draw statistics. If done correctly, a person should be able to draw a buck tag in one of the seasons available to them each year.

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**Jade Konst**

**Hot Springs SD**

**Konst605@mitchelltech.edu**

**Comment:**

I am from Philip south dakota and have hunted haakon county my whole life. NEVER ONCE do any of us apply for east river tags. This year out of the group of 6 of us that hunt together only 1 of us drew a tag how is that right? We all only apply for haakon county. This has been an on going issue for us and many others. My dad hasnt drawn an any deer tag in the last 4 years and has been a haakon county resident for 52 years now. This is discouraging several people from going out and hunting and its harder to get young people into it when you can never get a tag for your home town. It is NOT right that there is more east river people hunting northern haakon county then haakon county residents. It is also not right that you will see people with 3 or 4 tags and some people not able to get 1. I STRONGLY support this passing. I live for hunting and am sick of only being able to get an archery tag. Lets pass this get more people involved in hunting and less people with 3 or 4 tags

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**Craig Hagemann**

**Winfred SD**

**Comment:**

I would like to comment on the proposed changes regarding the application process for Big game deer license. I am opposed to any changes. I would like the current system and application process to stay the same. I do not want to pick one season over another. Hunting for me means hunts with my family and friends. Whether it be East River, West River or Black Hills deer. and I want to chance to draw tags on all choices. Making me choose one over the other takes away cherished hunts that my family shares over the years. For me its deer hunting, not deer killing season. Of course everyone enjoys success but more important is the hunt which i cherish. And my family loves venison and that plays an important part as well. I attended the GF&O forum in Yankton a while back. And the overwhelming majority of the people there, was to keep things as they were. So I would say don't fix something thats not broken. Prehaps a good way to find out what the public prefers is to send out an old fashioned paper ballots to tall licensed hunters, and see what people want. That way the folks that don't have a computer and the internet can be heard from. Bottom line for me is, keep the application process as it is.

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**Dustin Belden**

**Elk Point SD**

**dbelden@trailing.com**

**Comment:**

oppose. I like the current system

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**Lisa Meyen**

**Rosholt SD**

**rosholt@venturecomm.net**

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose this new proposal. The system that is in place now works fine if people just aren't too lazy to use it correctly. It is NOT going to sell more licenses. The reason for the decline in hunters is a direct result in the mismanagement of the deer herd population in South Dakota. License quota are set for areas without any idea or care how many deer are there. 10 years ago South Dakota had a strong, quality deer herd, now you are lucky to see good deer. This is a direct result several things that have happened in the past few years. EHD and weather have taken their toll on the herd but instead of lowering tag numbers and shortening seasons you have continued to issue triple tags and also extended the season by allowing hunters to shoot a doe in January and February with their buck tags. You have also now passed a regulation that allows kids of any age to purchase a doe tag. You have no idea how many tags this will be or how many deer they will shoot. You also have no good way to tell how many they shoot and even if you did, the damage will be done. Tags should never be given to ANYONE who has not taken gun safety. I am all for letting kids hunt but this does nothing by hurt the deer herd. It would be like letting a 5 year old drive because they are going to be able to do it anyways later. This new proposal will not help anyone but the non resident hunters and outfitters that sell tags to non resident hunters so they can get 3 tags in South Dakota. Manage the deer herd and go back to the system that has worked for years. If there is a good quality deer herd, people will hunt. If they go to a walk in area that usually has lots of deer and don't see anything but 4 does, they will quit buying tags in South Dakota and hunt out of state. Do your real job and manage the herd.

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**Duane Lunne**  
**Dallas SD**  
**dlunne@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

I would like to leave a preposal or response to the deer alocation preposal that is out there. Why is there no talk or questions on the issue as to having all deer seasons open at the same exact date and allowing a hunter in first draw to only choose 1 unit or season to apply for? my example would be west river, east river, black hills deer, and refuge deer as the season to open on the same given day. this would make a hunter have to choose and pick which season is most important for them to draw in first draw but would not limit that hunter to not being able to hunt multiple seasons. basically in my thoughts most deer hunters will hunt opening weekend of west river and then hunt opening weekend of east river and that is it. why not for them people that hunt both make them choose a season for first draw and then in the third draw if succesful allow them to get a different season tag if tags still available. my opinion and knowledge of asking questions to other hunters is same season dates for all deer seasons will allow a greater chance at drawing your preferred first draw unit as there will be less applicants fighting for the same season and unit in that season which in turn will increase more hunters hunting the same allotted deer tags. My other question or statement is why not look into certain units and split them up into two or even three unit areas. Example I have is tripp county. One of the largest counties via square miles is one unit why not get back to the old way when it was split into a north and south unit? That can and would also narrow the field of applying and make more hunters choose which they want more aka allowing more applicants to get there first preffered tag unit and season. Other counties can be split too im sure just not as familiar as to what or any that would work for. Thanks for your time and as a dedicated hunter and landowner I agree we need a change just need to find the right way to approach it and possibly the best way is to make it in the hunters hand by having all deer seasons open same day then the hunter will have a say but also have more applicants able to be successful in this as well. I have already summited a comment on this issue and i forgot to add one thing to my original statement about having all deer seasons open at the same exact day. Any way another proposal would be to increase the cost of a buck license in any and all units and seasons. Reason for this in a few hunters thoughts is that if a license cost so much for one buck tag that allot of hunters wouldn't apply for a second different season for a buck without thinking about cost and this in turn may allow other hunters better or more chances to increase there odds of drawing a preferred unit in turn more different applicants drawing tags. Thanks again for your info and allowing public input to help make a tough difficult decisions

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**Jake Russell**  
**Bryant SD**  
**jgr256@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

Keep the drawing process tthat way iy currently is. Dont change it jusr because a couple people are complaining because they dont get a tag in their back yard every year. The 2 new proposal options will ruin a lot of hunting for many people qnd families. Also it would be good if these commisions the GFP puts together were voted for publicly and of the GFP would actually show their research data rather than just talk about it. Every pibloc poll i have seen about thos topic has been in favor of no changes, yet the GFP says otherwise. Also stop lying to the public, saying that this will be a trial for 3 years is plain and simple a lie. History has shown that the SDGFP never changes anything back to what it used to be amd now they are showing that the SD sportsmans voice does not matter If anyone from SDGFP would like to contact me about this to prove that these comments don't fall on deaf ears my number is (605)645-4545



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**Todd Gannon**  
**Lennox SD**  
**tgannon.40@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

Please do not change the deer drawing and leave it the way it is we have a fair draw for everyone and it's a great system ... the new system will therefore make a lot of young and old hunters quit hunting in our great state

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**Ryan Jons**  
**Huron SD**  
**ryanjons@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

Please leave the draw the way it is. Being able to apply west and east river is great. What worries me is what happens when I chose west river as my draw and don't draw I don't have a chance to harvest a deer east river. My family does not buy beef. We live on burger from 2 deer I hopefully get a year. (West river and east river). Please leave the draw as is. Thank you.

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**Jared Kaiser**  
**Sioux Falls SD**  
**pipersd16@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the deer tag application system. This change is not necessary and only hurts people who hunt multiple seasons within the state. Everyone has a choice whether or not they only want to hunt 1 season and not apply for other seasons. This is going to negatively impact a lot of hunters and is going to do nothing but make them spend their money out of state on hunting seasons.

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**Brian Cotten**  
**Watertown SD**  
**cottenb@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

I do not understand why the limited draw refuge such as sand lake or waubay are included in this proposed change. I like to hunt sand lake and have recently begin applying for muzzle loader. These seasons do not coincide with either the East River or West river seasons. I do not see any advantages to this new proposal except for a limited few that only apply for one county that will still be a hard draw anyways. Please leave the current system alone. Thank you

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**Trent Kuchta**  
**Parker SD**

**Comment:**

I am against the change of the current tag drawing structure

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**Ray Degreeef**

**Wilmot SD**

**Comment:**

oppose Proposal to the amount of deer license issued to residents

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**Curtis L. Kempf**

**Aberdeen SD**

**cclkempf@nrctv.com**

**Comment:**

Please please leave the drawing procedure the way it is.

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**Steven Chilson**

**Watertown SD**

**chlsn4ssc@aol.com**

**Comment:**

The deer application system we have in place now works just fine, is fair , and gives everyone an equal opportunity to draw a license. It was my understanding that one of the goals of the GFP was to create opportunity for the sportsmen and women of S Dakota to enjoy the outdoors. The current system gives everybody the opportunity to apply for as many tags as they can. Whether they apply for 1 tag or more, it is their decision. Don't restrict other peoples opportunity to apply for only 1 also. I hunt east river, west river, and muzzle loader deer. I do not hunt waterfowl, doves, or pheasants. I apply for 3 deer tags every year. I am a buck hunter and will shoot a doe on last day only if deer numbers are high. Some years I get 3 tags, some years none. Killing a deer is not the important part of my hunt. Its the opportunity to hunt and get outdoors. That opportunity would be cut by 66% at minimum. (I would only get 1 buck tag a year. Decreasing a persons opportunity to hunt goes against the GFP goal doesn't it?? I would have to make a choice between East and West river Deer. I would never get to hunt muzzleloader again because I would not risk taking a chance for 1 of the 1000 tags available statewide and then not getting any buck tags. (muzzleloader for sale?) I would probably hunt east river deer because of family. I would have to give up west river deer because there would be no buck tags left for the 3rd draw. Friendships with the ranchers out west that have been made over the years would be lost. (Landowner - sportsmens relations gone??? Didn't GFP promote this also? I'm sure a lot of West River Ranchers won't be happy with not having their normal east river friends coming out to visit and hunt in the fall. Why is this even being looked at when only 43% of the people though it was a problem. I'm guessing some people complain when they don't get a buck tag and someone else gets more than 1. (do these people complain when they don't win the lottery too?) Solution = quit complaining and apply for more than 1 yourself. The real solution is to increase the deer numbers so everyone has a better chance to draw one. Letting youth shoot up to 7 does each a few years ago probably was not the thing to do. (I'm all for the youth hunting, but 7? What more did they learn from shooting 7 than say 2)? Again, I am opposed to the new proposed app process. Don't fix what isn't broke. thanks again. Steve Chilson

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**Harry Decker**

**Pierre SD**

**harry.j.decker@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I fully support "Alternative B" to change the deer tag drawing system. I'm a public land hunter who likes to draw multiple tags and I think this new draw process will be great for me and many others. A process to allow more hunters a better chance of drawing at least one buck tag every year is a great idea. Thank you,  
Harry Decker

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**Charles Hamre**

**Canton SD**

**hamrec27@hotmail.com**

**Comment:**

oppose

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**Cory Olinger**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**Comment:**

oppose

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**Russ Roberts**

**Saint Onge SD**

**wgo@mato.com**

**Comment:**

In order to provide better opportunities to all hunters statewide in drawing their most preferred deer license on a yearly basis I very much support the commission adopting plan #2 of the 3 choices provided to include East River deer, West River deer, Black Hills deer, Muzzleloader, Refuge deer and Custer State Park in the first application process. This will provide more opportunity for all hunters drawing preferred licenses.

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**Sallie Doty**

**Pierre SD**

**sscollins1989@gmail.com**

**Comment:**

I strongly oppose changes to the deer tag allocation process.

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**Justin Murphy**

**Crooks SD**

**justintmurphy@outlook.com**

**Comment:**

Commission, I have started a petition in opposition of the proposed deer tag allocation. In less than 14 hours the petition has received over 2,200 signatures. Those signatures are sportsmen who agree that the proposal is not in our best interest. I hope you will see the strong opposition the people of this state have taken against the current proposal and leave the system as it currently is. If you care to see the petition it is located at <https://www.change.org/p/south-dakota-gfp-commission-south-dakota-deer-tag-allocation-opposition>. Thank you and hopefully the voices of South Dakota Sportsmen is heard and listened.

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**Richard Tieszen**

**Pierre SD**

**dickt@tieszenlaw.com**

**Comment:**

option 2 this best attempts to resolve the problem AND permits the sportsman to make priority decisions of application.

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**Benjamin Kaiser**

**Pierre SD**

**Comment:**

There is nothing wrong with the current system and the proposal was done with only a minimal survey without further consideration

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**Jason Herr**

**Sioux Falls SD**

**jasonherr30@yahoo.com**

**Comment:**

the proposed change to deer tag draw is not what most want. i have talked to 77 fellow hunters only 1 favors the new proposed change. that is 76 to 1 against.. the new system hurts the hunters that contribute the most to sdgfp. those who hunt east river,west,black hills etc.. the chances of them hunters getting there desired east river and west river tags is greatly diminished. this proposal favors the hunters who hunt only 1 unit. the majority is by far against this. the current system gives everybody a same chance at every draw. dont punish the hunters who hunt the most and contribute the most money. alot of people are saying we will hunt out of state or indian land if this goes through

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**Rick Hiltunen**

**Howard SD**

**rustysstore@alliancecom.net**

**Comment:**

I oppose any changes in the way SD deer licenses are drawn, leave it the way it is.

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**Rusty Hiltunen**

**Howard SD**

**rustysstore@alliancecom.net**

**Comment:**

Completely oppose this change !!